

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/21/25

Title: 4th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/21/25

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

4th Aust Bn.
March 1917

499

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE BARQUE TRENCHES	1/3/17		CO visited front line at 0500. Orders received to take over part of line at front held by 2nd Div. CO visited CO 17th Bn arranged same. Senior Major visited CO 3rd Bn arranged to hand over right part of line to them at 2000 HQ shelled at intervals during day - no damage. Very clear day. D Coy took over posts from 17th Bn + advanced the line, B Coy took up advanced line - Bn line thus consisting of posts situated on a line running E-W	
	2/3/17		between points N1A03 + M6A13. A Coy relieved by 3rd Bn by 2000 C Coy relieved B Coy by 0615. Enemy heavily shelled front line, village + BLUE CUT from 0530 - 0630. Raiding parties of enemy entered our lines at 0635. One party reached + bombed C Coy HQ, taking some prisoners which were all released owing to party being heavily fired on by C Coy reinforcements. Posts, assisted by 3rd Bn posts. In D Coy line 3 posts were attacked. Left post under Lt. VV BROWN drove off enemy after fighting heavily. In other posts enemy after fighting took four prisoners, wounding remainder of garrison. One LMG was captured by enemy. 6 enemy prisoners taken by this Bn + about 30 enemy killed. Lt. C in C Coy lines taken by enemy was recaptured. Our casualties 31 including Lt. M LANE killed. Lt. CARBOLEAU of W ACKENZIE wounded. Both posts in D Coy of whom prisoner above made casualties immediately re-established + everything was normal by 0800. Platoon of D Coy was moved forward to village. Platoon of B Coy moved into WHEAT TRENCH.	Heavy fog came about 05-15 + started till 11.00.
	3/3/17		Major DR BROWN reported for duty + took command of A Coy. Digging party of 100 was engaged on linking up front line posts. Reinforcements reported to Bn. J.P. POWER, FREEMAN + HILL returned from DIV. SCHOOL. Digging party of 100 engaged on linking up front line. C Coy line was completed, D Coy posts were greatly strengthened.	
	4/3/17		A Coy relieved D Coy after dusk. Digging continued. Wire put out on night Coy sector + across valley in left Coy sector. CO visited line at dawn. Dargents in LE BARQUE exploded, one found fit for Bn HQ after clearing out.	
	5/3/17		Snow started to fall at 0100 + continued till 0900. Brigadier called. Orders for relief received. CO 23rd Bn called arranged relief. A Coy post shelled 6 casualties resulting. Front line Coys relieved by 23rd Bn by 1145. Support Coy of 23rd Bn. Reserve Coy of 21st Bn. Bn marched - relief by BAZENTIN.	
FRICOURT CAMP B	6/3/17		Bn marched to FRICOURT CAMP B. Major Genl HIS WALKER made an inspection of camp at 1500. Strength - A Coy 5ff 165 B 6ff 176 C 4ff 160 D 7ff 166 Sigs 14 HQ 5ff 120 Pion 5 SB 15 Inft 19 Total 29ff 775 of.	
	7/3/17		Bn cleaning up, restoring deficiencies of C. 8 Reinforcements 10 med.	
	8/3/17		Bn bathed. Officers attended a lecture by Col. FOOT on Administration.	
	9/3/17		Bn training - Specialist work - Heavy snowstorm in afternoon. Lt. Col. J. H. MACKAY on leave.	
	10/3/17		Bn training yesterday - Heavy fog in morning - Brigadier inspected camp at 1600.	

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FRICOVRT CAMP	11/3/17		Church Parade. 26 Reinforcements arrived. Lt WILKINSON to Intelligence Course at DIVISION	
	12/3/17		Battalion training - Specialist sections training	
	13/3/17		Bn CO's conference at Brigade H.Q. - Specialist training carried out. Lt MACALPINE to Gas Course.	
	14/3/17		Training continued. Bn CO's conference at Bde. 2/Lt BENNETT to Sniping School	
	15/3/17		Training continued. Captain LEHMAYER + 3 off + 211 OT reported to 15th Bde for work under angle light Rhine.	
	16/3/17		Training continued. Lt G R MCKEOWN was wounded near LUISENHOF FARM, also 1 of Lt MACALPINE returned.	
	17/3/17		Training continued - Bright day. Ground rapidly drying.	
	18/3/17		Bde Church Parade. Lt Col BIRDWOOD presented ribbons to Major BROWN + Capt MATTHEWS + Cpl HAWKE. Military Medals presented to Cpl MARTIN + FLACK. Strength of Coy A 4 off 188. B 5 off 175	
			C 4 off 180 D 4 off 156. Lt WILKINSON returned	
	19/3/17		Training carried out according to programme	
	20/3/17		Bn training & specialist training. Plt I.G. Tachay returned from leave.	
	21/3/17		Training continued. Coy Advanced Guards in Semi-open Warfare. 2/Lt Nicholson	Heavy Rain
			proceeded to Ribemont to arrange for 1st billeting	
	22/3/17		Bn marched out at 9.30 a.m. for Ribemont. Camp left in good order. The	
			Marching good 1 man fell out through being knocked over by an	
			ambulance car. Snowstorm during the march. Arrived Ribemont 1.30 p.m.	
			& occupied billets which were fair. 2/Lt Freeman left the Bn to	
			report to Salisbury for duty	
			C/O Sam Taylor	

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212 RIBEMONT	23/3/17		13 th training continued. Fair open ground to work on. Major Stacy leaves the 13 th promoted Lt Col to Command the 1 st Bn. Major C. S. Lane & Co attached to the 13 th for duty as senior major.	
	24/3/17		13 th training continued as laid down; 13 th in attack in the afternoon a satisfactory exercise Brigadier present.	
	25/3/17		Brigade Church Parade at 10 a.m. Time went on one hour from 11 a.m. Saturday evening. Lt Brown rejoins 13 th from Corps School.	
	26/3/17		Training in billets, on account of rainy weather.	
	27/3/17		Training continued. The 13 th in attack one objective carried out in the afternoon. Lt Bennet rejoined from Div School.	
	28/3/17		Training continued; 13 th outposts carried out in the afternoon	
	29/3/17		Brigade Training day. The 13 th marched to Albert; then acted as advanced guard to the Brigade & attacked Demancourt. Operation satisfactory but very bad weather heavy rain. Capt. Judge returned to the 13 th from 5 th Army School. A	C. S. Lane

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29/3/17	29/3/17		Boxing tournament was held in the evening. Captain Judge returned to the B ⁿ from the 5 th Army School at DOMART.	
RISBYMONT	30/3/17		B ⁿ training continued; practice in Artillery formations and Musketry. Lt. Hay left the B ⁿ to proceed to Salisbury to join the 6 th Division	
	31/3/17		B ⁿ training continued; bad weather heavy rain & hail. Major Brown proceeded to England on leave. Finals for the Boxing tournament held at MERICOURT. THEATRE	
	1/4/17		Brigade Church Parade. In order to commemorate the landing of the B ⁿ last year in France good to the value of £46-18-2 including Beer, Cakes, Chocolate, Tomatoes & Biscuits were issued to the men free. On the 30 th /3/17 goods to the value of £10-15/2 were sent to the working party at BULLS. R ^d . Strength of the B ⁿ to date 24 officers & 888 other ranks.	J. G. Mackay Lt. Col. Commanding 4 th Div. Det. Bn. C. P. Jones Major