

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/34/29

Title: 17th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/34/29

Fragment



①

86

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LEMENEGATE	1917			
	Dec.			
STEENWERCK	4		Lieut Col. E.F. Martin D.S.O. rejoined Bn from Brig Hqs.	
	4		No 6862 Pte G. K. Richmond + No 6874 Pte A. S. West promoted 2nd Lieuts dated 1.12.17.	
	6		S.O.C. 5th A.I. Brigade inspected the Battalion. This Battalion supplied a Guard of Honor for the new Governor of N.S.W.	
	9		Chaplain General took Brigade Church Parade today. Capt E.J. HARNETT + 2nd Lieuts J.A. MAILLER + F.W. TINDALE joined Battalion from reinforcements.	
	12		This Battalion won the 5th Brigade Football Competition.	
	15		Battalion left LEMENEGATE camp at 2.30 PM + marched to PONT de NIEPPE arriving there at 4 P.M. D Coy then moved on to Subsidiary Line near WEST HOOK.	O.D. No 46
	19		Lieuts W.R. HAIGH MC + R.W. PETTIT rejoined from Seconded List. B Coy relieved D Coy in Subsidiary Line, relief completed by 7 P.M.	
	20		A Coy took over Support Line from 20th Bn at 7 P.M. + returned at 3 A.M. 21st Inst.	
	21		Lieut R.C. WORTHINGTON evacuated sick to Field Ambulance.	
	22		D Coy took over Support Line from 20 Bn at 7.15 P.M. + returned at 1 A.M. 23rd Inst.	
	23		Battalion relieved 20th Bn in front line opposite PRELINGHIEN relief complete 9.25 P.M. O.D. No 47	
	24		Very quiet day; it snowed a little last night.	

2

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.



Army Form C. 2118.

86

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place 1917	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Dec 25		Very quiet day + night; there was a little snow	
	26		There was a little more artillery activity today. 1 O.R. wounded. Lieut HAM W.J. rejoined from Seconded List, 2nd Lieuts TAYLOR E.D., MCKENZIE L.G., EDMONDSON J.G. FITZ-ALAN R.A. rejoined Bn from Schools. Lieut HAM evacuated.	
	27		A+B coys relieved C+D coys in front line. Relief complete by 7.40 P.M. 2 O.R. wounded.	O.O. No 50
	28		Enemy rather more active than usual - shelled near our posts during afternoon 1 O.R. wounded.	
	29		Still very quiet.	
	30		1 O.R. wounded	
	31		Relieved by 20th Bn + marched back to billets in PONT de NIEPPE. Relief complete by 8.45 P.M.	O.O. No 51.
			Operation Orders No. 548 + 549 cancelled.	
				J.G. Burchett Capt + Adj. 17th Pns A.I.F. 2.1.18.

86 ✓

OPERATION ORDER NO. 46.

A.F.C.A.F.I.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

14/12/19.

Reference maps:-

- Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.
- Sheet 30 - 1/40,000.

1. (a) The FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE will relieve the NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE in the Right Brigade sector of the Divisional front.
The 17TH BATTALION will move to PONT de SIEPPE (Support Right) on the 15th instant, and will leave present Camp at a time to be notified later; it will probably be between 8 and 9 p.m.
- (b) The following distances will be maintained on the march:-
100 yards between companies.
100 yards between Battalion and Transport.
- (c) On arrival in the new area, "C" and "D" companies will take over the Subsidiary Line, and give receipts as may be required, duplicates being forwarded to Battalion Headquarters. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by "M.A.F." Code.
2. "B" Company will detail a Bear Party of 1 Officer and 20 Other Ranks to clean the Camp, and hand over to the incoming Battalion, and obtain receipts to the effect that the Camp was left in a satisfactory condition.
3. Advance Parties of 1 Officer and 2 M.C.O.'s, Per Company and 1 A.S.C. detail, will report to Battalion orderly Room at 9 a.m. on the 15th instant, and will march to the new area.
Parties from "C" and "D" Companies will reconnoitre the Subsidiary Line, and return to PONT de SIEPPE to guide their Companies in.
4. Two Luggage Wagons will report to Transport Lines at 9 a.m. on the 15th instant.
5. Blankets will be carried on the man, and will be rolled inside the V. P. Sheet, and laced fixed horse-shoe fashion on the pack.
"C" and "D" Companies will take into the Subsidiary Line - 1 Blanket, V. P. Sheet, shaving Gear. The packs will be stored in the M. C. S. Store.
6. Battalion Headquarters will be at B. 23. b. 2. 3. (Brewery) PONT de SIEPPE.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. J. M. Avel Captain.
Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. File.
2. C.O.
3. War Diary.
4. "A" Company.
5. "B" Company.
6. "C" Company.
7. "D" Company.
8. Quarter Master.
9. Transport Officer.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 47.17TH BATTALION, A. I. F.21/12/17.Reference Maps:-Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000.

1. The 17TH BATTALION will relieve the 20TH BATTALION in Front and Support Line, on 23rd/24th instant.

"C" Company, 17th Battalion will relieve	"C" Company, 20th Bn.	Rt. Ent.
"D" " " " " " "	"D" " " "	Lt. "
"A" " " " " " "	"A" " " "	Rt. Spt.
"B" " " " " " "	"B" " " "	Lt. "

2. Companies will be ready to move off at 3.30 p.m., and Guides from 20th Battalion will meet "A" and "D" Companies at CHAPELLE ROMPUS at 4 p.m. Guides for "C" Company will report to Subsidiary Line at 4 p.m. The platoon from "B" Company which goes to Forward Line for work on morning 23rd instant, will on completion of their duty, report to Subsidiary Line, where the other two platoons from "B" Company are situated. Guides will meet them there at 2 p.m., and guide them to Left Support Line. The remaining platoon from "B" Company will move in the rear of the Battalion, and will proceed direct to Left Support Company's Headquarters.

3. (a) One Officer and Four N.C.O's. from each of "A" and "B" Companies will report to "A" and "B" Companies 20th Battalion at 3.30 p.m. 22nd instant, to go out on Patrol that night. They will remain in the Line.

(b) Nos. 1 of Lewis Gun teams will leave PONT de NIEPPE at 9 a.m. 23rd instant, and report to the Companies of 20th Battalion, which their Companies are relieving.

4. Rations for the 24th instant will be taken forward in bulk to Support Line. Companies in Support will detail parties to carry forward to Front Line Companies.

5. Receipts for all Maps, Aeroplane Photos., and Trench Stores, will be given, and the duplicates forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 10 p.m. 23rd instant.

6. R. A. P. is at C.9.d.4.1.

7. Battalion Headquarters is at C.3.c.7.5. near DESPIERRE FARM.

8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. G. Davet Captain.

Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

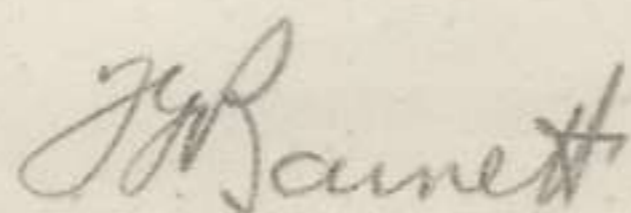
1. File.
2. C. O.
3. War Diary.
4. "A" Company.
5. "B" Company.
6. "C" Company.
7. "D" Company.
8. Quarter Master.
9. Transport Officer.

86
17th. Bn. A.I.F.

Operation Order No. 50

APPENDIX
SECRET.Reference DEULEMONT Parts of Sheets
28 and 36.Copy No. 2

1. There will be an inter-Company relief on night of 27/28th. inst. "A" Coy. will relieve "C" Coy. and "B" Coy will relieve "D" Coy. On completion of the relief the working parties supplied by "A" and "B" Companies will be taken over by "C" and "D" Companies.
2. The relief will be covered by a patrol from the Raiding Platoon.
3. "A" and "B" Companies will collect their own rations before moving off and "C" and "D" Companies will collect theirs on completion of the relief.
4. On the morning of the 27th. inst. No's 1 of Lewis Guns and 1 N.C.O per post from "A" and "B" Companies will report to Company Headquarters of the Company they are relieving and remain ~~xx~~ in the line.
5. Company Commanders will arrange mutually for guides.
6. "A" and "B" Companies will move off immediately their rations are drawn.
7. Receipts for all trench stores, maps etc. will be given and duplicates forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 9 a.m. 28th. inst.
8. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by code.
9. Acknowledge.



Captain & Adjt.

for C.O. 17th. Battalion, A.I.F.

<u>Distribution.</u>	1 File	5 "C" Coy.
	2 War Diary.	6 "D" Coy.
	3 "A" Coy.	7 5th. A.I. Brigade.
	4 "B" Coy.	8 Spare.

86

Operation Order No. 51

Copy No. 3

Reference Maps Sheet 28 1/40,000
" 35 1/40,000

1. (a) The 17th. Battalion will be relieved by the 20th. Battalion A.I.F. on the night of 31st. Decr - 1st. January.
 "A" Company 17th. Bn., will be relieved by "A" Coy. 20th. Bn.
 "B" " " " " " " " " " " " "
 "C" " " " " " " " " " " " "
 "D" " " " " " " " " " " " "
 (b) On relief Battalion Headquarters, "A", "C", and "D" Companies, less one platoon from "C" Company will occupy Billets previously occupied by 20th. Battalion, at PONT de NIEPPE.
 "B" Company and the one Platoon from "C" Company will occupy the Subsidiary Line and supply working parties for the Engineers.
 "C" Company will supply a working party of 2 Officers; 4 N.C.Os and 56 men to report to junction of Subsidiary Line and Tram Line at 4.30 p.m. on 31st. inst. for work with the Engineers. They will proceed to PONT de NIEPPE on completion of duty.
2. Two Guides per Company from "A", "C", and "D" Companies will assemble at CHAPELLE ROMPUE at 5 p.m. on 31st. inst.
 Two Guides from "B" Company will report to O.C., "B" Company, 20th. Battalion at junction of Tram Line and Subsidiary Line at 5 p.m. 31st. inst.
 Companies will arrange for Guides for Posts to be at Company Headquarters.
3. Receipts will be prepared in triplicate of all Trench Stores, Maps, Defence Schemes and Works policies, 1 copy will be handed to the relieving Unit and the remaining copies handed to B.O.R. immediately on arrival at PONT de NIEPPE.
 Gum Boots will NOT be handed over to the incoming Unit, but will be taken out. A return showing numbers of Gum Boots on hand will be forwarded to B.O.R. by 10 a.m., 1st. January and if there is any shortage an explanation will be required.
4. "A", "C", and "D" Companies will detail 1 N.C.O. each to report to Lieut. Gilbert at 11 a.m. 31st. inst. at Bn. H.Q. as billeting party.
5. Regimental Quartermaster will arrange for a hot meal on arrival at Billets.
6. Transport Officer will arrange to collect Officers' Mess Gear and Lewis Guns (other than "B" Coy and one Platoon from "C" Coy) at the following points at the following times :-
 H.Q. and Ord. Room at DESPIERRE FARM at 5 p.m.
 Left Coys at RESERVE FARM at 7.30 p.m.
 Right Coys at SURREY FARM. at 7.30 p.m.
7. Completion of relief will be wired in code and the arrival at Billets will be notified by Runner.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. Barrett Capt. & Adjt.

for C.O., 17th. Battalion, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. War Diary. | 6. "D" Company. |
| 2. File. | 7. 5th. A.I. Brigade. |
| 3. "A" Company. | 8. 20th. Bn., A.I.F. |
| 4. "B" Company. | 9. R.Q.M. |
| 5. "C" Company. | 10. T.O. |