

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/21/23

Title: 4th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/21/23

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

4th Bn. A.I.F.

497

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
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In TRENCHES 1/1/17

Relief last night of 3rd Bn. completed without mishap at 2000. Distribution — A Co + 4 Lewis M. Guns in Fritz's Folly dugouts 1 day post, remainder night posts; this Co. has blankets, 1 each for all ranks. B Co 2 platoons + 2 L.M. Y's in Frost Trench + outposts, 2 platoons + Co. H.Q. in Cheese Road. D Co in tunnel dug outs at Bulls Road. C Co in Support Trenches near Bulls Road. Brigadier (Lieut. Col. Blaney) gave preliminary notice that 4th Bn. would prepare to take over a company front (Goodwin's Post + portion Grease trench) from 1st Bn. on our right. Present front must then be held by 1 Co. + 3 L.M. Y's. Reconnaissance + all preliminary arrangements made. R.S.M. Stewart wounded also 4 others.

2/1/17

Before dawn C.O. + Senior Major explored No Man's Land + the position in FRITZ'S FOLLY + FROST TRENCH + readjusted posts, reducing number + going forward so as to cut out re-entrant near gun pits. D Co relieved 1 Co 1st Bn. at GOODWINS POST + GREASE TRENCH, relief complete at 1845. C Co took over FRITZ'S FOLLY with 3 platoons from A Co + now holds former line with 1 platoon. A Co has 2 platoons now in tunnel dug-outs + 2 in CHEESE ROAD. Mining Platoons of 3rd + 4th Bns. pushing ahead with sintering of tunnel dug-outs in BULL'S ROAD. Lieut. Wolff + Serjt. Keary to 4th Army School Flanders.

3/1/17

Daily strength 29 officers, 673 others, 52 horses. Today 13 killed + 6 wounded, one shell at Bn. A.Q. killed 10 + wounded 3. Cooks are now installed to cook for A + D Co's at PILGRIM'S WAY + for B + C Co. + rest of Bn. at FLERS. From both centres food is carried in hot food containers to companies in line at dawn + dusk — 3 men to each container carrying on reliefs on back, journey 2 hours + very exhausting. This work largely done by the untrained men forming 5th platoon in each Co. Tonight B Co relieved C Co, 2 platoons of A Co moved to tunnel dug outs from CHEESE ROAD while 2 platoons of C + Co H.Q. took over this accommodation, remaining 2 platoons occupying trenches near Bn. H.Q.

J.M.

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IN THE TRENCHES	4/1/17		Daily strength 28 officers, 644 others. Last night 2/Lieut. M. R. Shelley wounded & evacuated to Hospital. A Co. completed relief of D Co by 1820 latter returning to tunnel dug outs.	
	5/1/17		Strength 28 officers, 636 others. 8 men sent to hospital with inflamed feet, 13 others marked no duty same cause. Most of these from D Co. Received move order notifying of relief on 6 th & 7 th by 48 th Bn. Tonight C Co relieved B Co. Ventilation shaft opened up in tunnel dugouts BULL'S ROAD. Appreciation of situation in his sector sent to Brigade.	
	6/1/17		At night D Co relieved A Co in GOODWINS POST & I Co. 48 th Bn. relieved B Co. A & B Co's then marched to COOLGARDIE CAMP at BAZENTIN LE GRAND. I Co 48 th Bn. came to dug-outs BULL'S ROAD.	
	7/1/17		Strength 28 officers 592 others, 55 horses; 14 men to hospital today including 6 with inflamed feet. Relief of remainder of Bn. by 48 th Bn. complete at 1900. After relief marched to COOLGARDIE CAMP arriving about 2200. Total wastage while in Firing Line Dec. 31 - Jan 7 - killed 14, wounded 23, inflamed feet to hospital 23, to hospital other causes 55 total 115.	
	8/1/17		Marched at 1145 to Quarry Siding entrained for MEAULTE where arrived about 1430. Marched RIBEMONT arriving about 1700. Poor billets no suitable Bn H.Q. Transport moved by road from Coolgardie Camp to lines in RIBEMONT, 2 motor lorries to carry extra blankets & baggage. Received about 40 reinforcements.	
	9/1/17		Daily strength 29 officers 634 others. Arrangements made for men to be bathed at HEILLY, clean up & refit generally. By Divisional order no training to be commenced for 3 days. Lieut. Col. W. Mackay proceeded to Brigade to command in absence of Lieut. Col. Blaney on leave.	

J. Y. H.



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RIBEMONT.	10/1/17		Majors B. V. STACY in command during absence of Lt Col J. G. Macbray	
	10/1/17		Battalions resting - many men with tender feet - Sixteen reinforcements arrived 10/1/17	
	11/1/17		Inspection by Maj Genl Walker of reinforcements - Musketry carried out by reinforcements	
	12/1/17		Br marched to CONTAY - Lt N. Power went on leave	M.S. HURN, H.W. PHILLIPS
CONTAY	13/1/17		Snowing - no church parade.	Lt A.E. PASSMORE attached
	14/1/17		Training resumed - Lt CM BOILEAU went on leave. Strength of Coys. A Coy 5 off. 129. B. Co 3 off. 139	55th Bn.
	15/1/17		Training - Lt G. 13 off. 58. 15. 4. 3 off. 9. M.C.S. 1 off. 15. Sigs. 1 off. 13. Bombs 1 off. 35. Pipers 9. A.M.C. 1 off. 4. 2nd P. 20	
	16/1/17		Training in new attack formations - 2 off. 9 or. reinforcements arrived	
	17/1/17		Training in new attack formations.	
	18/1/17		Brigade Exercise in attack - 25 reinforcements arrived	
	19/1/17		Church Parade - Presentation of Medals by Lt Genl Birdwood to Lt G. H. Hill of Cpl	
	20/1/17		Buck. - 25 reinforcements arrived -	
	21/1/17		Training - Lt G. C. in vacated.	
	22/1/17		Br marched to BECOURT - Lt HOOPER vacated.	
	23/1/17		Hard frosts - Specialists Training.	
	24/1/17		Br marched to BAZENTIN CAMP. Site 5. Hard frost continues - Bright days	
BAZENTIN	25/1/17		Hard frosts continue. Specialists Training.	
	26/1/17		Relieved 3rd Bn in Support Trenches - C Coy remained at HIGH WOOD EAST Camp. BTD	
	27/1/17		Coy 2 to TRAKS AVENUE - NORTH ROAD, A Coy in rear of FLERS RESERVE on left. Relief completed	
	28/1/17		without incident by 9.45. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.	
SUPPORT TRENCHES	29/1/17			
	30/1/17			
	31/1/17			

B. V. Stacey Maj
 O.C. 4th Aust. Inf. Bn.

