

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/33/11

Title: 16th Infantry Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-23/33/11

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 12.

16th Bn

VOLUME ✓

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SPOIL BANK 4/10/1916			The enemy after a violent bombardment that lasted for about an hour and a half raided our trenches the description of which is fully dealt with in the intelligence report of the 5th October which forms War Diary Appendix 7	W.A.D. 7
SPOIL BANK 7/10/1916			The 16th Battalion was relieved by the 52nd Battalion (13th Australian Infantry Brigade) A.I.F. on the morning of the 7th October. The relief started at 7.30 a.m. The 52nd Battalion sent two Companies in via SCOTTISH WOOD and CONVENT LANE into OLD FRENCH TRENCH. This enabled A Coy (16th) at ARUNDEL HOUSE and D Coy (16th) at LOCK HOUSE to move out via SPOIL BANK, KING'S WAY ECLUSE TRENCH CERMOOZELE CAPE BEIGE and DICKEBUSCH - the two 52nd Companies acting as supports to the firing line. At 9 a.m. the two 52nd companies moved into the firing line. The one to relieve the right subsector moving via ESTAMINET LANE, OLD KENT ROAD to FRONT LINE. and the other to relieve the left subsector via ESTAMINET LANE to FRONT LINE. Thus the two front line companies (B and C) were relieved and moved out via SPOIL BANK KING'S WAY ECLUSE TRENCH CAPE BEIGE to DICKEBUSCH. The relief of the Battalion was completed at 11.20 a.m. The Battalion was en route for CHIPPEVA Camp Reninhurlst and arrived at camp at 6 p.m. having marched past the G.O.C. 2nd Army (General Sir Herbert Plummer) at 5 p.m.	
RENINGHURLST 7/10/1916 to 11/10/1916			The Battalion was engaged in such re-organisation as was possible after the men had been rested and the short time available.	
RENINGHURLST 12/10/1916			The Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion A.I.F. plus one company of the 1st Battalion A.I.F. (1st Australian Infantry Brigade) in the reserve lines at the YPRES SALIENT. The Battalion was distributed as follows - Battalion Head Quarters, B Company Scouting Section and Details at WOODCOTE FARM A Company at the CANAL DUG OUTS. 2 platoons of C Company at Strong Points 7 and 8 2 platoons of C Company at BEDFORD HOUSE. D Company, Bombing Platoon and Lewis Machine Gun Section at SEGARD CHATEAU. It was originally intended to do the relief in daylight but the arrangements were delayed owing to a review of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade by General Sir H. Plumer. It was however completed at about 9 p.m.	



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 3


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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Page 13.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WOODCOTE FARM 13/10/1916			The distribution of the Battalion was slightly altered by the two platoons of C Company at BEDFORD HOUSE moving to the strong points 7 and 8. The Bombing Platoon moved to BEDFORD HOUSE and the Lewis Machine Gun Section to WOODCOTE FARM.	
WOODCOTE FARM 13-18/10/1916			The Battalion being in the reserve lines did fatigues which were principally working parties engaged in carrying rations, munitions, engineer stores and maintenance of the support lines of the left sub sector of the 4th Brigade line.	
WOODCOTE FARM 19/10/1916			The 16th Battalion A.I.F. was relieved by the 15th Battalion London Regiment. The London Regiment arrived at CAPE BEIGE at 7 p.m. and the relief was complete by 9.30 p.m. The 16th Battalion was en route for Chippewa Camp REMINGHURST where the last party arrived at 2 a.m. on the 20/10/1916.	
REHINGHURST 21/10/1916			The 16th Battalion (as part of the 4th Brigade) moved to 1st Anzac Rest Area (GODESWAERSVEIDE) via ABBELE arriving there at about 2 p.m.	
GODESWAERSVEIDE 26/10/1916			The Battalion entrained at CAESTRE on the night of the 26/27th. After a march of 5 miles arrived at the Railway Station CAESTRE at 10 p.m. The train moved out at 11.33 p.m. for PONT REMY.	
PONT REMY 27/10/1916			The Battalion arrived at 9 a.m. and were billeted in the village.	
PONT REMY 27-31/10/1916			The Battalion was engaged in training in attack practice during the stay at PONT REMY.	


 Captain,
 Adjutant 16th Battalion, A.I.F.
 For Commanding Officer 16th Battn. A.I.F.

Intelligence Report.

4th October, 1916.

OUR INFORMATION.

Owing to the exceptional nature of the damage done to our own trenches patrols were cancelled and used as working parties.

Yesterday enemy more or less active with Trench Mortars which culminated with an intense bombardment by shell and mortar of our frontline from right of 24 to left at 5 p.m. Our reply was feeble in the extreme.

Trench 24 is obliterated 25 very badly damaged 26 and 27 also very badly knocked about; visual cover to the left of 24 has however been attained permitting of daylight improvement. It will be a 48 hour's job to reclaim from Birdcage (right 24) to right of 25.

OLD KENT ROAD was also knocked about in several places but visual cover has been obtained also Estaminet Lane.

Our casualties were not heavy 6 killed and 8 wounded.

Enemy attempted to raid in 2 places 27 and 28 and 24 25 but only a very half hearted attempt was made and was easily beaten off.