

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/61/13

**Title:** 44th Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/61/13

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.

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POPERINGHE	Oct. 2.3.4.		<p>Battalion resting. Battalion moved up to Ypres night of 3rd/4th. Attacking troops moved up to point of assembly which was reached at 3-10 a.m. on 4th. Night was cloudy and overcast light rain falling during the three hours before zero hour (6 a.m. 4-10-17) Heavy enemy shelling took place prior to 6 a.m. but few casualties occurred. The 3rd. Division attacked with 11th. Brigade on right and 10th. Brigade on the left. The 11th. Brigade attacked with the 43rd. and 42nd. Battalions, the 42nd. leap frogging through during a 12 minutes halt of the barrage and halting on the RED LINE also the 44th. and 41st. Battalions the latter going through to the final BLUE LINE and consolidating. The 44th. Battalion attacked with "A" Coy. on right and "B" Coy. in centre, "D" Coy. on left and "C" Coy. were in reserve. The Battalion passed through 43rd. and 42nd. Battalions. After passing through 42nd. Battalion barrage halted for 47 minutes, during which time Companies and Battalion generally reorganised into attack formation. Battalion then moved forward keeping close up to the barrage. On arrival at DARING CROSSING ROAD we realised we were nearly on our objective, we then went forward another 100 yards, and commenced to consolidate, the 41st. Battalion passing through us for their final objective. During the advance we suffered very slightly from enemy shelling. Occasionally fights were put up by enemy machine guns and a good number of prisoners were taken and sent back under escort. After consolidation had started no rest enemy shelling was on DARING CROSSING ROAD 100x behind our front line. S.O.S. calls went up frequently during the day and promptly answered by artillery and machine guns. Hot food and rations arrived and were issued within 24 hours after gaining objective. On the night of the 5th/6th October the Battalion was relieved by the 2/6th. Manchester Regiment</p>	
EAST OF YPRES.	9.10.17		<p>At 10-15 a.m. on 9-10-17 the Battalion left ERIE CAMP on the way to the trenches, the Battalion less "B" Echelon and transport moved by platoons in single file at 100x interval in following order A.B.C.D. H.C. detail. Battalion bivouacked for the night at FRIENBERG RIDGE. On the afternoon of the 10th. the Battalion commenced on an approach march moving by F and J tracks and Railway. On arrival at the front line the Battalion relieved a mixed garrison of Lanes, Fusiliers and Manchesters. The approach march was carried out with only a few casualties. Early in the morning of the 11th. enemy snipers gave trouble but were quickly settled. During the afternoon one of the enemy gave himself up and was sent back under escort. At 3-30 a.m. on the 12th. word was received that the leading Battalion of the 9th. Brigade was in its assembly position. The front line garrison moved back to HILL 40 where they dug in. Weather very wet and cold all day and night. On the afternoon of 13th. the Battalion received orders to relieve the front line garrison. The morale of the men being splendid. Battalion was organised into 2 Serpe Coys. of about 110 men each, rations drawn for 48 hours and moved up via the Railway. Very few casualties</p>	



## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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			<p>during approach march..On taking over the F.L. we found we were about 200x in rear of Front Line which we left on morning of the 12th.inst., Relief complete by 8 p.m. and 9th. Brigade moved out. During night and following day(14th.inst.,) the enemy shelling of the cutting, Cemetery and our trenches very severe, but we suffered few casualties. During night daylight on 14th. some of our men went out several hundred yards and brought in wounded men of the 9th. Brigade. Patrols sent out at night did not come in contact with enemy. Heavy enemy shelling on the 15th. but casualties slight. At dusk some 33rd. Battalion troops came up and were placed in 6 posts a few hundred yards in front of our line. Later we were relieved by a Battalion of 9th. Brigade and moved back to HILL 40 into reserve. From 16th. to 20th. inst., inclusive, our troops rested in dugouts and shelters, socks, whale oil, rum and rations were regularly issued and health of troops improved. On the night of 19th/20th. enemy fired numerous gas shells. Aircraft were fairly active on both sides. E. Aeroplanes dropping bombs during daylight. On the 20th. inst., orders for relief were received and Battalion was relieved by Canadians next day. Return march was via F track YPRES-ZONNEBEKE ROAD thence to Asylum YPRES. Battalion met by guides and proceeded to VLAMERTINGE CAMP. On the 22nd. the Battalion moved to ST. PIERRE for reorganisation, rest and training. Remained at ST. PIERRE district to end of month. Total casualties for month-15 Officers 322 Men which includes 5 Officers and 80 Men killed and died of wounds. Officers killed- Capts., Bone, Young. Lieuts., Drummond, Pitman and Bond. Honours and awards received for YPRES operations:-</p> <table> <tr> <td>Major M.H.a'Beckett</td> <td>D.S.O.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. H.G. Bremner</td> <td>M.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" W.R. Maddeford</td> <td>M.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sergt. S.L. Ion.</td> <td>D.C.M.</td> </tr> </table>	Major M.H.a'Beckett	D.S.O.	Lieut. H.G. Bremner	M.C.	" W.R. Maddeford	M.C.	Sergt. S.L. Ion.	D.C.M.	
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