

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/61/15

Title: 44th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



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From. 1st December 1917. to 31st December.

December 1st. BULFORD CAMP
Ref Sheet 28.SW.
T.26.a.2.8.

Battalion continued Training doing 3½ Hours parade work on the "Bull Ring" system during the forenoon. Subjects included Bayonet Fighting, Lewis Gun, Bombing, Wiring, Close Order Drill, Musketry, Anti-Gas Practices, A Route March was undertaken each Saturday morning. Each afternoon was set apart for Recreational Training, all Games being organised so that everyone could take part. A large area of Ground was available, and Football (Australian Game) Soccer, Hockey and Mobbing were played, Mathes were arranged and played with 28th Battalion and other adjacent Units.

December 11th.

Enemy aircraft came over and dropped a number of Bombs in the vicinity of the Camp. Six men of the Battalion were slightly wounded.

December 12th.

Battalion was ordered to occupy "Corps defence Line" with a nucleus garrison of 16 Lewis Guns and 2 Companies Riflemen, from River Douve to River Lys. Occupation of this Line was carried out by 6.30.am. on 13th.

December 14th.

The above Garrison was relieved by 2 Companies 21st Battalion at 11.am. Battalion moved to Wakefield Camp (Sheet 28.-M.29.c.) on Dranoutre-Loere Road.

December 15th. WAKEFIELD CAMP.

Brigade Church Parade held today at which General Birdwood presented several medals which had been previously won by men of the Brigade.

Recipients of 44th Battalion were:-

- 2nd Lieut (late C.S.M.) Andrews R.G.D. Military Medal.
- 2nd Lieut (late Corporal) Davies C.R. " "
- Corporal Davies.F.W. Distinguished Conduct Medal.
- No 88 Pte Herd R.J. Military Medal.
- No 105 Pte O'Brien.W.J. " "

December 19th.

Battalion moved to Waterlands Camp (Ref Sheet 36., B.19.b.6.7.) and rested there one night.

December 20th.

Battalion moved to BOIS GRENIER Sector, and was disposed as follows:-

Battalion Headquarters ARTILLERY FARM Sheet 36 NW. H.17.d.4.4.

- A. Company RUE FLEURIE -LA VESEE.
- C. Company CANTEEN FARM H17.d.2.3.
- B. Company) Subsidiary Line I.14.b. to I.19.b. attached
- C. Company) to 42nd Battalion.

December 21st ARTILLERY FARM. Ref Sheet 36 NW.1/20,000 (H.17.d.4.3.)

Companies engaged as Working parties on improvement of Forward system.

December 22nd

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do Weather Frosty.

December 23rd.

Nothing to report. Front very quiet.

December 24th

79 Reinforcements arrived, Front very quiet.



December 25th 1917. ARTILLEY FARM.

Working parties did not go out, Xmas services were held by Chaplain. Rations were supplemented by food brought from Battalion Funds and from Comforts Funds, and an excellent Xmas dinner was partaken by all. A thaw has set in and snow has fallen.

December 26th Two Companies in Subsidiary Line relieved by two Companies in reserve. Relief had to be conducted via "Overland Routes" on account of Bosche Artillery Fire on Roads, Relief completed without casualties. 3 Reinforcements taken on Strength.

December 27th. Working parties reorganised following on relief of previous night. Transport very difficult on account of all roads veing frozen. Working parties in HAYSTACK AVENUE were fired on by Bosche Artillery -No casualties.

December 28th. Battalion Band greatly augmented, bandsmen to the number of 12 arriving with reinforcements. Working parties moved out as usual to respective tasks "CORPS LINE" wiring shewing a great improvement since Working parties commenced on same, Sector very quiet throughout the day.

December 29th Baths at ERQUINGHAM arranged for 2 Companies. Enemy Aeroplane flew very low over "B" Companies Billats, no enemy action followed.

December 30th. Usual Working Parties proceed to tasks, Bosche Artillery carried out a small shoot on new works, no casualties.

December 31st. Lieut Roger and four (4) Other Ranks proceeded to 10th Training Battalion England for tour of Duty with that Unit, Working parties as usual. Our Artillery supporting us carried out a shoot on enemy territory at Midnight.

J. P. Clark
Lt. Col. Cundy