

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/61/7

**Title:** 44th Infantry Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-23/61/7

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part III and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

H<sup>m</sup> Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ploegsteert	1.4.17.		<p>Our L.T. M's fired 20 rounds on enemy wire + parapet under covering fire from Howitzers + 18 pdrs, M.T.M's fired on support line on right of sector. 18 pdrs silenced "Coalboxes". During morning enemy plane approached line flying low. Was fired on by one L-Gun immediately turned round &amp; made off. No Mans Land quiet. No enemy patrols seen or heard. Snow fell during night hampering our patrols. Enemy bombing his own wire right of sector. Hostile fire for the day. 30 H.E. + Strapnel. 35 4.2's 20 Pineapples 6 Coalboxes 1 Rummage. Considerable movement enemy lines in vicinity FACTORY FARM opposite Centre + left sector. Local relief apparently took place during morning. Sounds of steam engine working near of enemy's lines opposite centre sector. Aircraft not very active. At 8.50 Green flares sent up from enemy's support lines opposite centre sector, at 8.56 cluster of green flares went up. Nothing eventuated. Casualties - Nil.</p>	
	2.4.17		<p>L.T. M's fired 16 rounds on suspected M.C. position which was demolished. Our artillery not very active during the day. Owing to heavy snow on ground patrols were not sent out. Hostile fire for the day 30 H.E. shells in morning. 10 H.E. shells in afternoon. Enemy Artillery fire directed mostly against our batteries + dumps. Enemy opened fire with Howos shortly after dawn were assisted by their aeroplanes which remained above our lines observing + directing their fire without opposition. Our planes appeared after enemy fire ceased. Amongst casualties inflicted were several in Battalion. Transport considerably interrupted with. During the day one man was wounded by enemy sniper whilst working in F Cap. Casualties 3 killed 4 wounded.</p>	
	3.4.17		<p>L.T. M's fired 30 rounds with good effect on enemy F.L. wire. 18 pdrs operated against enemy support lines silencing Pineapple gun. Enemy O.P. located in steel tree or chimney. Enemy artillery quiet the day. Today on two previous occasions swarting complexioned men seen looking over parapet opposite Centre sector. An officers patrol consisting of 1 NCO + 6 O.R. under 2nd Lt. Angus left our lines at 9.30 pm at U. 21. 4. 38.69. + entered the enemy's trench at a point U. 21. 4. 65.51. Remained two hours in enemy's trench (F.L.) which was found to be unoccupied, &amp; examined communication trenches.</p>	Memo of Instr. 2.4.17.
	4.4.17		<p>Battalion relieved by 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion moved into billets at PONT DE NIEPPE, becoming "C" Battalion.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont de Nieppe	5.4.17		Platoon training Military Cross awarded Capt Lamb + 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Luntott.	
Catacombs	6.4.17		Battalion moved from billets at Pont de Nieppe to the Catacombs at Hill 63. Military Medal awarded to No 748 Sgt R. G. P. Andrews. 458 N. Leare 88 Pte R. J. Herd.	
	7.4.17.		Battalion on working parties (3 companies) / Company training	
	8.4.17		do	do
	9.4.17		do	do
	10.4.17		do	do
	11.4.17		do	do
	12.4.17		do	1 Casualty - Wounded (Shell fire).
	13.4.17		do	do
	14.4.17		do	2 Casualties - Wounded (Shell fire)
	15.4.17		do	do
	16.4.17		do	do
	17.4.17		do	2 Casualties - Wounded (Shell fire)
	18.4.17		The Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. W. O. Mansbridge assumed command (temp) of 11 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde during absence of Brig-General Cannon, on leave, Major R. W. Everett taking over command (temp) of the Battalion.	
	19.4.17		Working parties + training	

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PLOEGSTEERT	20.4.17		Battalion moved into Ploegsteert Wood relieving 43 <sup>rd</sup> Bn + became "B" Battalion engaged on Working parties. 2 Casualties (wounded) Shell fire.	
	21.4.17		Working parties	
	22.4.17		do	
	23.4.17		do 2 Casualties (wounded) Shell fire. 58 Reinforcements arrived 2 <sup>nd</sup> [to Hunt + Balme reported were posted to Companies.	
	24.4.17		Battalion on Working Parties.	
	25.4.17		do	
	26.4.17		do 2 Casualties (wounded) Shell fire	
	27.4.17		Battalion relieved by 40 <sup>th</sup> Bn + moved into billets in PRMENTIERES.	
	28.4.17		All boys training	
	29.4.17		do	
	30.4.17		do Lt Col. W.O. Mansbridge resumed command of the Battalion.	

*Lt Col. W.O. Mansbridge*  
Lt Col.

W  
Army Form C. 2112

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Reverse handling not required)

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References and Appendices	Summary of Events and Information	Date	Hour	Place
	Battalion moved into Headquarters West at 10.30 AM. 2 Companies (numbers) sent five	10/17		Plongster
	Working parties	11/17		
	"	12/17		
	"	13/17		
	2 Companies (numbers) sent five. 68 reinforcements sent 3 PM to 1st + 2nd	14/17		
	Working parties	15/17		
	"	16/17		
	2 Companies (numbers) sent five	17/17		
	Battalion moved by 10.30 AM to 1st + 2nd - ARMENTIERES	18/17		
	See log	19/17		
	"	20/17		
	1st Lt W. H. Mansfield moved command of the Battalion	21/17		

W. H. Mansfield

Army Form C. 2112 (Reverse handling not required)