

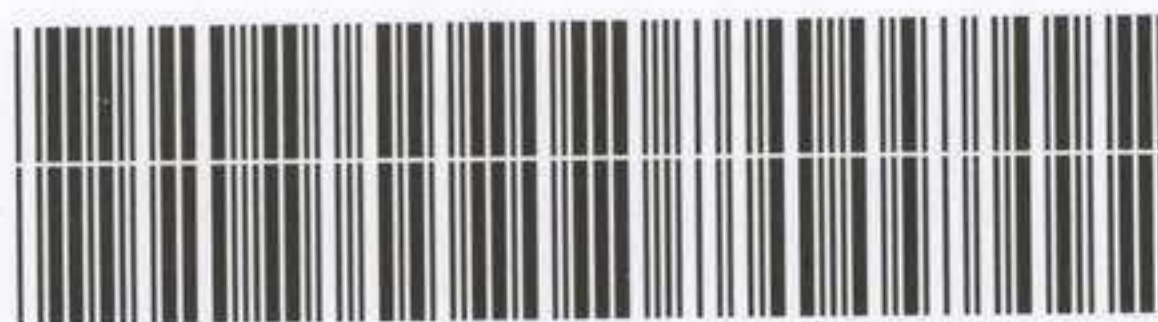
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/9

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/62/9

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WAR DIARY.

45th BATTALION, A.I.F. - MONTH ENDING 30th NOVEMBER, 1916

- November, 1st. Battalion left BRUCAMPS and marched to VIGNACOURT and billeted there. Billets not at all satisfactory, being very dirty and in many cases damp.
- November, 2nd. Left VIGNACOURT and marched to VAUX and billeted there. Billets good. A large number of bunks being available for the men.
- November, 3/5th. Organization and completing equipment of men. Training carried on. Two Companies practiced attacks on trenches at ST VAAST.
- November, 6th. Marched to FLESSELLES Railway Station, where the Bn embussed on motor busses for DERNANCOURT. at 10 30 am. Arrival DERNANCOURT 3 p.m. and billeted there. Billets very dirty, damp and wholly inefficient.
- November, 7/10th. 7th inst.- Training Carried on, this considerably ~~impaired~~ impeded owing to the inclemency of the weather. Corps Baths MEAULT were used.
8th inst.- Brigade Commander presented Congratulatory Cards for the Divisional Commander to 2 Officers and 8 Other Ranks for good work done in the YPRES Sector of line.
- November, 11th. Battalion marched forward to FRICOURT and camped there in huts. Accomodation was good.
- November, 12th. Battalion marched to BERNAFAY WOODS and bivouaced, there being no ~~accomodation~~ accomodation for the Battalion.
Brig-Gnl Glasfurd becoming a casualty, Lt-Col S.C.E. Herring temporarily took charge of the Brigade.
Major J.E. Lee temporarily took charge of the Bn.
- November, 13th. Major J.E. Lee being evacuated ill, Capt G.E. Knox temporarily took command of the Bn.
- November 13/17th. Battalion doing Divisional fatigues and also carrying parties for front line were supplied. A road was also made from BERNAFAY CAMP to the main LONGUEVAL ROAD., enabling Transport to come right in to the camp.
- November, 16th. Two Companies less one platoon each relieved 2 Companies of the 46th Bn in the front line GREASE TRENCH, N 21 d 27 to N 20 d 98. Also GOODWINS POST N 20 d 98 to N 20 b 70. Front line trench in very bad condition, being very wet and muddy, draining and improvement commenced.
Casualties - Nil.
- November, 19th. Remainder of the Bn relieved the 46th Bn in the front line. Bn H.Q. N 26 c 81. Two support companies in the vicinity of N 26 c. Dug out and shelter accomodation for men being insufficient, and trenches in very bad order.
Lt-Col S.C.E. Herring resumed command of the Battalion.
Casualties - Killed - Nil.
Wounded - 3 Other ranks.
- November, 20th. Still holding line. 3 support companies relieved the 2 companies in the front line. Drainage and improvement of front and support lines carried on.
Casualties - Killed - 1 Officer. (Lt E.V. Dolton).
2 Other ranks.
Wounded.- 1 Officer. (Capt S.J. Abel).
6 Other ranks.



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November, 21st. Still holding the line. Enemy artillery very active, specially shelling GUEUDECOURT.
 1 Wounded prisoner was taken and 3 others were killed by our snipers.
 Casualties - Killed - 1 Other rank.
 Wounded - 5 Other ranks.

November, 22nd. Conditions normal during the day. At 5 p.m. ~~xxxx~~ two support companies relieved the two companies in the front line. After relief was complete and the two companies just relieved returning enemy opened ~~xxxx~~ an intense bombardment just in rear of the front line. He probably saw inter-company relief being carried out, and assumed we were massing for an attack. Taking into consideration the heavy barrage our casualties were slight, being, Killed - 3 Other ranks.
 Wounded - 2 Other ranks.

November, 25rd. Dug outs and kitchens being built. Ground cleaned in the vicinity of support trenches. Bodies which were found in the open were buried. Our heavy artillery considerably knocked about enemy trenches at N 20 d 48.
 Casualties - Killed - 1 Officer. (Lt H. Barter).
 1 Other rank.
 Wounded - 11 Other ranks.

November 24/26th. Still holding line and improving same. Inter-company relief carried out on evening of 24th. Owing to rain on 25th improvement to area was considerably interfered with. Rain greatly damaged trenches which in many cases fell in. Men had a hard time being wet through but their spirit was excellent.

November, 26th. Two companies of the 47th En relieved our two companies in the front line and were attached to us for discipline. Our two companies from front line went back to trenches evacuated by ~~xxxxxx~~ two companies of the 47th En. and were attached to the 47th En for discipline. Relief carried out without any casualties and complete by 6 p.m.
 Casualties - Nil.

November, 27th. 13th En relieved two companies of the 47th En in the front line and also remainder of 45th En. Relief complete by 7 p.m. The two companies of the 47th En moved to BERNAFAY WOOD and ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ rejoined their En. 45th Battalion moved to NEW CARLTON CAMP, BAZENTIN. Our casualties - Nil.

November, 28th. Men employed in cleaning the camp, also cleaning rifles and equipment, also whale oiling feet.

November 29/30th. Working parties supplied to the 4th Pioneer En doing Railway work, 3 off 150 O.Rs. To Engineers 4 Officers 250 Other ranks. New tents and huts being erected in the camp.

G. J. ...

Lt-Col.
 C.O. 45th Battalion, A.I.F.