

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/63/10

Title: 46th Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/63/10

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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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
L'ETOILE	1		Marched to VIGNACOURT - 9 miles.	
VIGNACOURT	2		Marched to FLESSELLES - very wet.	
FLESSELLES	3-5		FLESSELLES.	
"	4		Battalion Scheme. 5 reinforcements received from 4th A.D.B.D.	
"	6		Conveyed by French Motor Bus Service to DERNANCOURT.	
DERNANCOURT	7-10		Billets at DERNANCOURT.	
"	11		Marched to FRICOURT.	
FRICOURT & FRONT LINE -	12 to 19		<p>Reference 1/20,000 - Trench Map 57C S.W. Battalion marched from FRICOURT at 8 a.m. and reached BERNAFAY WOOD at 11.30 a.m. where it rested and proceeded to front line at 1.30 p.m. marching in platoons via DELVILLE WOOD to positions N.W. and S.E. of GUERDECOURT and relieved 12th Battalion. Companies were led across the open in the dark to their positions, the going was very bad owing to many disused trenches, shell holes and wire. Intermittent shelling was experienced throughout operation but no less was sustained during actual advance and relief was completed without loss but some casualties were experienced, among which it is much regretted was Captain F.O.PURNELL, O.C. "C" Company an Officer of great promise, who was killed. Disposition of Battalion - FRONT LINE - A. and C. Companies holding GREASE TRENCH N.21.d.36 to GOODWINS POST N.20.b.51. SUPPORT LINE - B and D Companies in PIONEER TRENCH N 32 a BATTALION HEADQUARTERS - NEEDLE TRENCH N.26.C.32.</p> <p><u>RELIEFS</u> - Nov 14 A and C Companies relieved by B and D. " 17 B " D " " " A and C. " 18 A & C " " " 2 Companies 45th Battalion. " 19 Battalion relieved by 45th Battalion and proceeded to Camp at BERNAFAY WOOD.</p> <p><u>STATE OF TRENCHES</u> Very bad owing to recent wet. Only 2 C.T. for last 2000 yards and these were impassable at first but were gradually improved. No C.T. between front line and Support.</p>	

VOLUME X



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FRONT LINE	Nov. 12-19		<p>ENEMY - Very few seen except a few working parties.</p> <p>ENEMY SHELLING - Very active, a practically continuous barrage was maintained between Front Line and GUERDECOURT and on NEEDLE AND PIONEER TRENCH.</p> <p>PATROLS - Were sent out nightly, but only encountered enemy patrol on night of 17th.</p> <p>SNIPING - was energetically carried out and from GOODWINS POST on 16th six Germans were accounted for during the afternoon.</p> <p>WORK CARRIED OUT. Repairing, draining and improving of all trenches which by morning of 16th were in very fair condition. S.P. commenced at GOODWINS POST.</p> <p>COOKING & RATIONS - No cooking was possible in front line but a certain amount was done in Tommy Cookers and on Braziers in Support Lines. Owing to the fact that all supplies had to be brought 5 miles on pack animals nightly much difficulty was experienced in obtaining anything except actual rations and water. Charcoal was too bulky to be carried and the use of wood was not advisable as any smoke immediately caused hostile shelling, the whole position being under enemy observation.</p> <p>WEATHER - From 12th to 16th fine and dry with severe frost on nights of 15th and 16th. On the latter night there was a slight fall of snow which turned to sleet and rain early on 17th and the wet continued for 24 hours, making conditions in trenches very bad.</p> <p>HEALTH OF TROOPS - There were a large number of cases of sickness including bronchitis, influenza, rheumatism - but very few were serious. There being no accommodation for sick in the line a large number had to be evacuated but were only away for a few days. Sickness was caused by lack of shelter and hot food in most cases which was unfortunately unavoidable. Stringent precautions were taken to combat TRENCH FEET with satisfactory results. Number of cases of this was under 2%.</p>	

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FRONT LINE	Nov 12 -19		<p>CASUALTIES - KILLED - Officers 1. Captain PURNELL F.O. Other ranks 17. WOUNDED - Officers - 3. Capt J.J. MCPHERSON; Lieut COUTTIE V.J.G. 2nd Lieut R.E. JEFFES. Other ranks. 33. 2nd Lieut CORNWALL E.McI. returned from Hospital.</p> <p>PROMOTIONS - To be Lieutenants dated 1/10/16 - 2nd Lieut SPEER C.H. 2nd Lieut MURIEL A.J.C. " WALLACE A.H. " PENTLAND W.C. " STANTON J.A. " FORREST H.G. " BULL L. " HALL J.K.</p>	
BERNAFAY WOOD -	20-26		<p>Camped in BERNAFAY WOOD - supplying Fatigues each day. 17 reinforcements received from 4th A.D.B.D. Battalion moved to New Carlton Camp.</p>	
	27 -30		<p>Camped in NEW CARLTON CAMP. Supplying Roadmaking Fatigue to C. R. E.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>File</i> Lieut Colonel G O. 46th Battalion.</p>	