

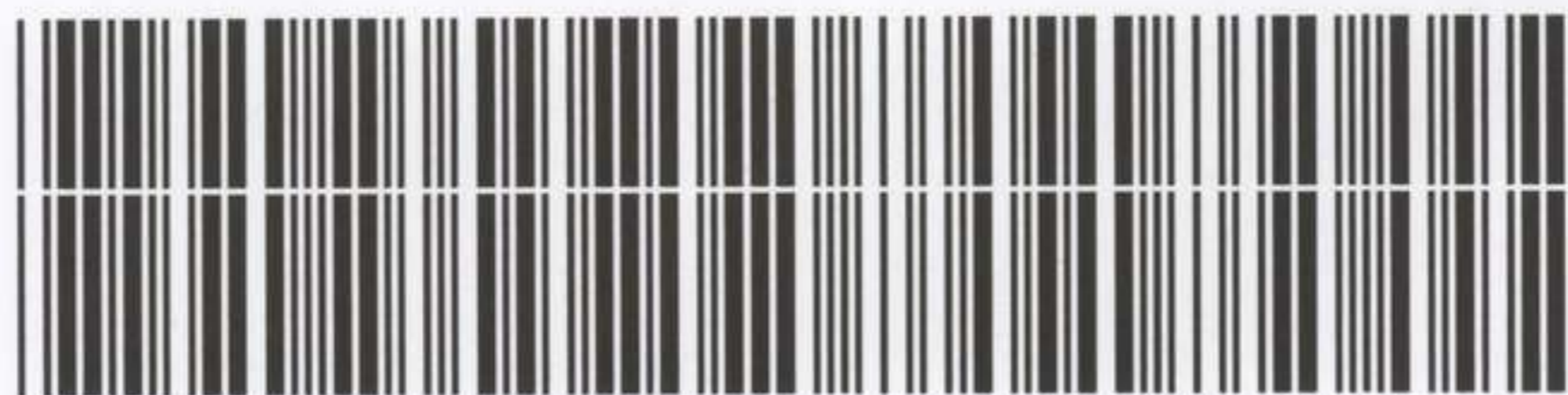
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/26/32

**Title:** 9th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/26/32

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

9<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F. Army Form, C. 2118.  
France

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AFFRINS.	1-8-17		Heavy rain fell all day and it was impossible to carry on with the outdoor training. Lectures delivered to men in Billets.	J.M.
do	2-8-17.		Rain continued to-day. Bn carried out small route march and training in Billets.	J.M.
do	3-8-17.		Route march again carried out. The weather being too wet to permit of practice "Trench to Trench-Attack" as was intended.	J.M.
do	4-8-17.		Trench to Trench attack carried out in accordance with 9th Aust. Inf. Bn. Order No. 15 dated 31-7-17 (copy attached).	J.M.
do	5-8-17.		Trench to Trench attack on similar lines to that of yesterday again carried out, no live ammunition, however, being used. 55 men joined from Base. 2/Lt. W.MORGAN proceeded on leave.	J.M.
do	6-8-17.		The Bn. moved back to previous billets occupied at Staple by Bus to ARQUES, thence per rpute march (copy of movement order attached). 2/Lt. J.T.MURRAY proceeded to Lewis Gun Sch.	J.M.
STAPIE.	7-8-17.		Training to-day included close order drill, gas drill, specialist and recreational training. 7 men joined from Base.	J.M.
do	8-8-17.		Training to-day similar to yesterday. Lt. F.J.BIGGS rejoined from Army School.	J.M.
do	9-8-17.		The Bn. moved by Route march to VIEUX-BERQUIN AREA - approximately 14 miles (copy of movement orders attached). The march throughout was excellent only one man falling out on the way. Billets occupied are fair and much closer together than in last area.	J.M.
VIEUX BERQUIN.	10-8-17.		Foot inspection carried out at 0800 after which the Bn. carried on with Coy. and Specialist Training. Recreational training for 2 hours in the afternoon and portion of the Bn. used Baths. 10 O. Ranks joined Bn. from Base.	J.M.
do	11-8-17.		Training- morning: Coy. and Gas drill- specialist training. Afternoon: lecture by Div. Gas Officer on the new German Gas. and inspection of Gas apparatus. Remainder of Bn. bathed. 26 O.Ranks joined from Base.	J.M.
do	12-8-17.		Bn. Church Parade held at 0945. Lieut. C.A.WITTKOPP, M.C. proceeded to 2nd Army Sch. of Inst.	J.M.
do	13-8-17.		Route march of approximately 5 miles carried out by Companies independently in addition to Specialist and Recreational training. "A" Coy's Lewis Gunners carried out Musketry on Miniture range.	J.M.
do	14-8-17.		Coy. and Specialist training continued. "B" Coys. Lewis Gunners occupied Rifle range.	J.M.
do	15-8-17.		Route march, Coy. Drill, Gas drill, Specialist and Recreational training constituted the days work, "C" Coys Lewis Gunners being on Rifle range.	J.M.
do	16-8-17.		In addition to usual training the whole of the Bn. was enabled to bath to-day. Lt. J.F. Mc.NAUGHT joined Bn. from Base. Lt. W.C.HENZELL, M.C., C.N.CHESTER, G.H.KOCH & 2/Lt. W.MORGAN proceeded to 3rd Inf. Bde. Sch. of Inst. 2/Lt. W.MORGAN rejoined from Leave.	J.M.

VOLUME 17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 00

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
			"D" Coy Lewis Gunners carried out Musketry on Rifle range.	
VIEUX BERQUIN.	17-8-17.		Bn. Route march for about 5 miles and Coy. Specialist training carried out to-day. Coy Sports in the afternoon. 2 Officers per Coy. received instructions on Lewis Gun at Rifle range during the morning.	Jm
"	18-8-17.		Bn. Sports carried out to-day. (copy of programme attached). A most enjoyable and beneficial day was spent. Winners of Bn. events take part in Bde. Sports to be held on 22nd Inst. Lt. P.DEVINE and 10 men joined from Base.	Jm
"	19-8-17.		Bn. Church parade. Lt. F.W. PERRETT proceeded on leave to U.K.	Jm
"	20-8-17.		Bn. Route march of 5 miles in addition to Coy. and Specialist training carried out. "A" Coys Lewis Gunners occupied rifle range during the morning and "B" Coys in the afternoon for teams Competitions. 29 men joined from base.	Jm
"	21-8-17.		Training to-day consisted of Close order drill, Gas drill, Specialist and Recreational training. "C" Coys Lewis Gunners carried out Lewis Gun practice on Bn. Rifle range. Lt. W.S.MACTAGGART returned from Musketry School.	Jm
"	22-8-17.		Brigade Sports held to-day. The Bn. marched to Sports Ground carrying mid-day meal, a most enjoyable day was spent; this Bn. winning the Brigade Cup. The Bn. now holds Cups for both the Military and Sporting events of the B Brigade. Prior to the Sports, representative Units of the Bde. marched past the G.O.C. A.I.F.- One Coy. and Hdqrs of this Bn. taking part.	Jm
"	23-8-17.		Usual training continued to-day. 2/Lt's GALE, FOOTE, WHEATLEY and FLYNN joined the Bn. from Cadet Bn. England. Lieut. J.S. YOUNG and Capt. R.K.RAE ( R.M.O.) proceeded on leave to PARIS.	Jm
"	24-8-17.		In addition to Close Order Drill and Gas Drill the Bn. carried out a Route march of approximately 5 miles to-day. 2/Lieut. J.H.BRYSON joined Bn. from Cadet Bn. Lieut.J.W.KING proceeded on leave to U.K. Lieut. W.S.MACTAGGART detached as Bde. Musketry Officer.	Jm
"	25-8-17.		Usual training continued & in addition the whole Bn. bathed & received change of underclothing. The following Officers proceeded to Corps School :- Lieut's C.H.RYAN, (Stokes Gun Course) Lieut. P. DEVINE, D.BAILEY (Infantry Course), 2/Lt. B.L.PUMFREY (Intelligence Course).	Jm
"	26-8-17.		Church Parade held to-day. Lt. BLUETT C.W. & 2/Lt. MURRAY returned from Corps Sch.	Jm
"	27-8-17.		Usual training continued to-day.	Jm
"	28-8-17.		Representatives of the 3rd Bde. marched past the Army Com'd. this morning. The 9th Bn. was represented as per Special Order issued in connection with same, (copy of which is attached). Training was continued.	Jm
"	29-8-17.		Inspection of Bn. by G.O.C. Bde. Training continued. Capt. N.G.ARMSTRONG proceeded to 3rd T.B. ENG. Lt. L.H.KEWELL proceeded to ENG. in connection with appointment to Aust. Flying Corps.	Jm
"	30-8-17.		Training continued. Kit inspection carried out by Platoon Commanders.	Jm
"	31-8-17.		Coy. and Specialist training continued.-	Jm

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*L. A. Nathan  
Co. 9th Bn*

SECRET.

COPY NO. 12...

9th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY ORDER NO.15.Battalion Headquarters,  
31st. JULY 1917.

Reference Map:- Sketch map attached.

1. INFORMATION. The 9th Battalion plus one section of tanks, and one section of 3rd. Aus. Machine Gun Coy., and one section of 3rd. Aus. T.M. Battery will attack enemy trenches as per attached sketch.
2. ORDER OF BATTLE AT ZERO HOUR.

"A", "B", and "C" Companies in ~~trenches~~ imaginary jumping off trench in square G. H. and I.

"D" Company in trench on road in rear of jumping off trench.

TANKS at starting point in rear of jumping off trenches

One section of Aus. T.M. Battery.	) in jumping off
One section of 3rd. M.G. Company	

trench square G.H. and I.
3. METHOD OF ATTACK. "A", "B" and "C" Companies will attack enemy first and second line trenches in two waves, "A" Company on right, "B" in centre "C" on left. Two tanks will move forward with second wave to help capture and consolidate the second objective, and when second objective is captured will patrol in front of captured ground. Half a section of 3rd. Aus. M.G. Company and one section 3rd. T.M. Battery will move forward in rear of second wave to first objective, and when second objective is captured move forward to positions to be selected. "D" Company less two platoons detailed as carrying parties will remain in reserve. Half a section of tanks will remain in reserve. Half a section of 3rd. Aus. M.G. Company will be emplaced in rear of jumping off trench to give covering fire.
4. ARTILLERY.

At zero the artillery barrage will be placed on first objective, At zero plus 5 minutes, The barrage will then move forward at the rate of 50 yards per minute until reaching 2nd. objective where it will remain until zero plus 7 minutes then lift forward at the rate of 25 yards per minute to 300 yards in front of second objective and remain.
5. <sup>ARMING</sup> OF UNITS.

Riflemen. 200 rds. S.A.A. and 4 bombs.  
Bombers: 120 rounds S.A.A. and 12 bombs.  
Grenadiers: 120 rds. S.A.A., 50 blanks and one box of grenades.  
Lewis Gunners: Normal equipment.
6. DUMPS.

At jumping off trench and places to be selected at 1st and 2nd. objective.
7. CARRYING PARTIES.

Carrying parties will be furnished by 2 platoons of "D" Company.
8. COMMUNICATIONS.

Signalling Officer will arrange to link up Coys. with Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after objectives have been captured.
9. LINKING UP.

Battalion Mining Section will dig communication trench between 1st and 2nd. objectives.
10. MEDICAL.

Aid Post will be established on road near road junction on right of "A" Company

- DRESS. 11. Dress: "Fighting Order plus 2 sandbags per man to be attached behind entrenching carrier.
- RATIONS. 12. The Quartermaster will make arrangements for 48 hours rations and water for all ranks to be placed on Battalion Dump. In addition all ranks will carry 48 hours rations and full waterbottles irrespective of current day.
- H.O.S. 13. All Officers and 2 men per Lewis Gun team will carry each 2 S.O.S. signals. In addition each Officer will carry a 1" Vary pistol and 5 cartridges.

CONTACT PLANES. All advanced troops will carry one signal flare for use in conjunction with contact aeroplanes.  
 14. Time Contact planes will fly will be notified later.

ZERO HOUR. Date and time will be notified later.  
 15.

TOOLS. 16. 25% of each wave will either carry a pick or a shovel.

WATCHES. 17. All watches will be synchronized on the day previous to the attack at 1000 and the day of the attack at 0600 by means of a watch sent from Battalion Headquarters to all Officers concerned.

GENERAL. 18. (a) Constant communication must be maintained between leaders and Battalion Commander whenever possible by means of written memorandum. All Officers and H.O.S.'s who forward information must bear in mind that negative information is of great importance.  
 (b) All leaders must carefully explain to all ranks under their command the objectives of attack and the action of juniors in the event of seniors becoming casualties.

*W. G. Stewart*  
 Lieut.  
 Adjutant 9th Battalion

ATTACHMENT BY NUMBER :-

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. File.               | 7. "D" Coy.           |
| 2. 3rd Aust Inf. Div.  | 8. "E" Coy.           |
| 3. Commanding Officer. | 9. "Hagers" Coy.      |
| 4. 2nd in Command.     | 10. 3rd M.C. Coy.     |
| 5. "A" Coy.            | 11. 3rd T.M. Battery. |
| 6. "B" Coy.            | 12. Spare.            |
|                        | 13. Spare.            |
|                        | 14. Spare.            |

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MOVEMENT ORDER NO.6

by  
LIEUT. COL. L. M. MULLEN, D.S.O. COMMANDING 9TH BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters,  
 5th August, 1917.

Map Reference HAZEBROUCK 5 A.

1. Battalion will move by Bus to ARQUES thence by route march to STAPLES tomorrow 6th August.
2. Companies will return to billets previously occupied by them in STARPLE Area.
3. Head of column to pass starting point at Railway crossing between AFFRINGUES and BAYNINGHAM LES - SENNINGHEM at 0930.
4. Order of march: Band, "C", "D", "A" ~~EMM~~ "B" and Hqrs. Companies
5. Dress: Full marching order less blanket - unexpended portion of days rations to be carried - water bottles to be filled.
6. Battalion Transport will move to STARPLES with remainder of Brigade Transport passing starting point, cross roads immediately east of ~~the~~ in LUMBRES at 0800.  
ORDER OF MARCH: Brigade Headquarters - Field Ambulance - 11th Bn. - 9th Bn. - 12th Bn. - 10th Bn. - 3rd. M.G. Coy.
7. Blankets to be rolled in bundles of 10 and stacked at the following places by 0800. (More care to be taken in rolling and labling of same)  
 All troops in AFFRINGUES at Q.M.s. store.  
 "A" and "D" Coys. at "D" Coys. Officers tents.  
 Two Platoons of "C" Coy. at the Chateau, and the two Platoons of "B" Coy. at their Hqrs. will form a dumps convenient for loading at their billets.  
Officers kits: to be ready at the above dumps by 0600. (Kits not there by this hour will be left behind).  
 Officers mess gear to be at dumps by 0800.
8. Cookers to be ready to move off - "A" and "D" Coys. at 0615, "B", "C" and Hqrs. at 0630.  
 One Cook per Company to proceed with cooker and act as brakeman.
9. On reaching embussing point on main road near BAYNINGHEM "C", "D" & "A" Companies are to be told off into parties of One Officer and 25 Other Ranks and "B" and Hqrs. Coy into 1 Officer and 23 Other Ranks.  
 Arrangements to be made between Coys. so as to complete each party.
10. Transport Officer to arrange for Officers hacks to be ready at ARQUES by 1200.
11. Lieut. RYAN will march in the rear of the column and collect all straglers.
12. O.C. "B" Coy. will furnish a loading party of One N.C.O. and 6 P.R. to report at Q.M.'s. Store at 0600.
13. All billets to be left in a thoroughly clean and tidy condition, a certificate to this effect to be rendered with marching out state.
14. Strict march discipline to be observed throughout the march.
15. Marching out States to be furnished to Battalion Office by 0845, and Marching in States immediately on arrival.

9th Battalion.

*Drablog*  
 Capt. & Adj.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 7.

## REFERENCE.

HAZEBROUCK 5A 1/100,000.Battalion Headquarters,  
8-8-17.

1. The 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade Group will move by March route to the VIEUX-BERQUIN Area to-morrow, 9th Instant.-
2. 9th Battalion will move in the following order :- Hdqrs, D, A, B, C. Head of column to pass starting point - Cross roads west of L in in LONGUE CROIX - at 1020.-
3. 100 yards interval will be maintained between Companies and Transport throughout the March.
4. Cookers will move in rear of their Companies.
5. DRESS. Full Marching Order - less blankets. Steel helmets will be worn and felt hats carried in pack; water bottles to be filled and unexpended portion of current days rations to be carried.-
6. ROUTE. Main Road on north edge of WALLON-CAPPEL- HAZEBROUCK- LA MOTTE- VIEUX BERGUIN.-
7. The Column will halt at 1320 for mid-day meal: Q.M. to make necessary arrangements for tea to be provided.
8. Each Company will form a dump near roadway convenient for loading, and the following will be stacked there by 0800 :-  
BLANKETS, tightly rolled in bundles of 10 and labelled with the name of Coy.  
OFFICERS KITS AND MESS GEAR and all tents in use by Companies.-  
Headquarters Coy. Dump will be formed at Q.M. Store.  
Bandsmen's packs ~~and~~ will be stacked on this dump.
9. Lt. D. BAILEY and 10 men of the mining section will remain behind and ensure that all Billets are left in a clean and sanitary condition, obtaining a certificate in duplicate from the Area Commandant, STAPLES that this has been done. He will then rejoin the Battalion ~~and~~ hand certificate to the Adjutant at first opportunity.
10. Lt. B.L. PUMFREY will march in rear of column and collect all Stragglers.
11. Strict March discipline must be maintained throughout the march. No man is permitted to fall out on the line of march without good cause. Should it be necessary for a man to fall out he will report to the Officer in rear of his Coy. who will hand him "falling out slip". The man will then report to the Medical Officer.
12. The Q.Master in conjunction with transport Officer will arrange for transport of all baggage, stores, etc to new area.
13. One motor lorry will be available for transport purpose. Q.M. will send a guide for same to Brigade Hdqrs at 0800 to-morrow.
14. Marching Out States will be furnished to Bn. Office by 0900 and Marching in States immediately on arrival at destination.-

A/Adjutant.

Lieut.

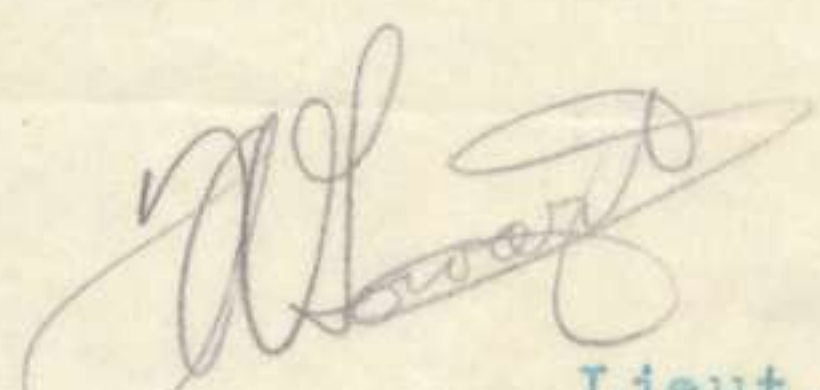
9th Battalion.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION SPECIAL ORDER.  
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Reference Sheet 36A N.E. 1/20,000

1. Representatives of the 3rd. Infantry Brigade will march past the Army Commander tomorrow, 28th. instant.
2. The Battalion Band, two Companies to be selected as under, and the Battalion Transport complete will represent the 9th. Battalion and form part of "A" Group Battalion:-
 

<u>No. 1 Company</u>	O/C., Capt. A.R.KNIGHTLEY, M.C. "C" Coy less two Platoons 2 Platoons of "B" Coy.
<u>No. 2 Company</u>	O/C., Capt. C.J.CARROLL "A" Coy. less 2 Platoons 2 Platoons of "D" Coy.
3. The saluting Point will be at Cross roads K.6.b.5.8.
4. "A" Group Battalion will form up on road with head of column at road junction F.26.d.1.9. at 1015 in the following order:- 9th. Battalion Band, two Coys. of the 12th. Battalion, two Coys. of the 9th. Battalion, and 9th. Battalion Transport.
5. Lieut. C. MORSE will march at the head of the column and check the pace and rate of march.
6. No. 1 and No. 2 Coys. of the 9th. Battalion and Battalion Transport complete will form up on the road between "A" Coy. and Battalion Headquarters with head of column at Rifle Range at 0915.
7. Dress:- Drill order; felt hats to be worn, turned up at the side, by all ranks. Small box respirators will be carried.
8. Transport vehicles will parade empty.
9. Order of march to starting point:- Battalion Band, No. 1 Coy., No. 2 Coy., Battalion Transport.
10. Capt. A.R.KNIGHTLEY, M.C. will take charge of 9th. Battalion representatives and march them to starting point.
11. The following distances will be maintained on the march:- In rear of each Company - 10 yards.
12. Transport Officer will arrange for hacks for Os.C. "A" and "C" Coys. to be at their billets at 0830.
13. Watches will be checked with Battalion Signals at 8 p.m. tonight and again at 8 a.m. tomorrow, 28th. instant.

  
 Lieut.,  
 A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.