

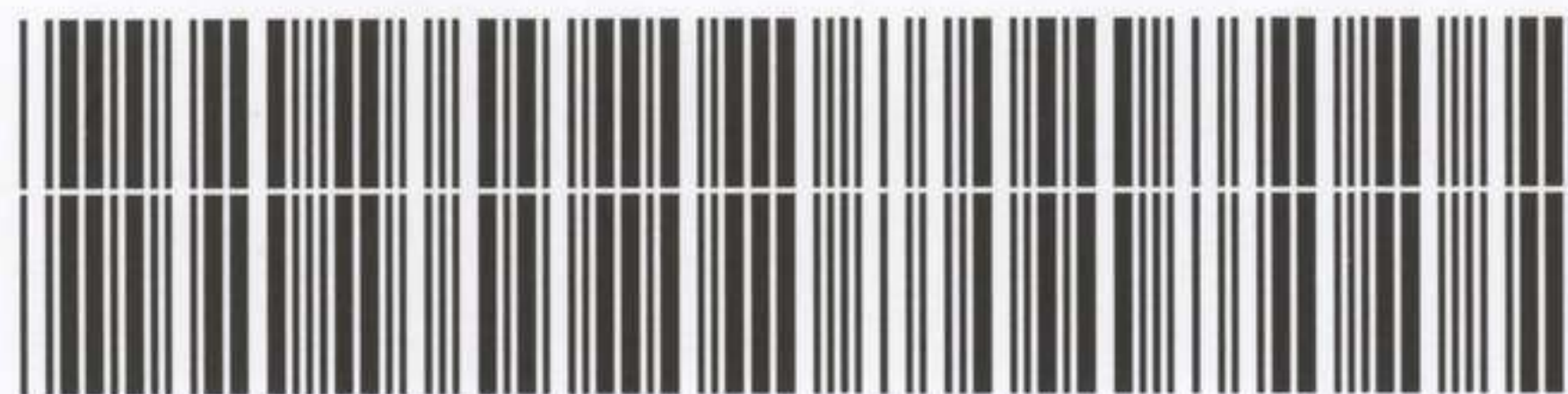
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/26/33

**Title:** 9th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/26/33



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 80

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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
VIEUX BERQUIN.	1-9-17.		Training as follows carried out :- Close Order Drill- Gas Drill and inspection of Anti-Gas equipment - Bayonet fighting- Musketry & Recreational training. Riflemen of C and B Coys received instruction on the Lewis Gun on Rifle Range. "B" Coy and Scout Platoon carried out practice in throwing live grenades. Lt. F.W.PERRETT returned from leave. Intelligence Officer proceeded to front line to reconnoitre.	
do	2-9-17.		Owing to rain Church Parade was cancelled. 2/Lt. J.T.MURRAY proceeded on leave to PARIS.	
do	3-9-17.		ROUTE MARCH of approximate 15 miles carried out by the Battalion and proved satisfactory. The men of the Battalion appear to be very fit. Lieut. P.G. WALSH proceeded on leave to U.K. 2/Lt. J.H.BRYSON proceeded to Lewis Gun Course at G.H.Q. School.	
do	4-9-17.		Coy and Specialist training continued during the day & night training from 8 to 10 p.m.-	
do	5-9-17.		Battalion Drill in the morning with Specialist training in the afternoon.	
do	6-9-17.		Competitions for a cup presented by Mr J.R. MILLS of LONDON for Battalion Drill took place to-day - 9th Battalion drilled at 0930. Night march from 8 to 10 p.m. carried out.	
do	7-9-17.		In addition usual training each man of the Battalion bathed and was supplied with a clean change of underclothing.	
do	8-9-17.		Training in close order Drill and Specialist work was carried out to-day and a full Kit inspection was also held.	
do	9-9-17.		Church Parade under Chaplain Capt. MACAULEY.	
do	10-9-17.		Training continued. 2/Lt. B. PUMFREY sent to Intelligence Course at Corps School and Lieut. C.H.RYAN to Stokes Gun Course.	
do	11-9-17.		Brigade attack practice carried out to-day and proved most instructive. Battalion returned to Billets at about 1600. Capt. W.A.COLLIN rejoined from Base.	
do	12-9-17.		Usual training carried out and in addition the Commanding Officer lectured to each Company in turn in connection with pending operations - using a large map painted on calico of the Area where such operations are contemplated.	
do	13-9-17.		Q.M.carried out demonstration in the method of use of the YUKON PACK for carrying S.A.A. The Battalion proceeded by Route march to THIEUSHOUK Area passing through MERRIS - STRAZEELE - ROUGE CROIX and CASTRE. The night was spent in a tented Camp. Details to be left out of the line were today detached from the Battalion and proceeded to 1st.Div.Reinf.Camp.	
ABEELE.	14-9-17.		Battalion moved by Route march to ABEELE District and occupied Tented Camp, CASTRE - KEMNELHEP and GODEWAERSVELDE were passed through en route.	
do.	15-9-17.		A proportion of Officers of the Battalion proceeded by Motor lorry at 4a.m. to visit the front line and returned during the afternoon. Officers and N.C.O's.also paid a visit to a Model of the Front on which forthcoming operations are to take place. Lieut.C.A. WITTKOPP,"M.C" rejoined from 2nd.Army School.	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 30

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
OUDERDOM.	16-9-17.		The Battalion moved by route march to OUDERDOM Area to-day and occupied a hutted Camp known as OTTAWA Camp, passing through RENINGHELST en route. A further number of the Battalion Officers proceeded to the front line at 4a.m. this morning and rejoined the Battalion at OTTAWA Camp. 2/Lieut. A.W. WHEATLEY proceed to the 2nd. Army Grenade School.	
do.	17-9-17.		Another proportion of Officers and N.C.O.'s. visited model of Front line to-day for instructional purposes and remained of Officers visited the Line returning in the afternoon.	
	18-9-17.		Thorough inspections of Rifles, Ammunition, Gas helmets, etc., carried out this morning. At about 8p.m. the Battalion moved from the Camp and proceeded by Route march to CHATEAU SEGARD and occupied dugouts and trench shelters.	
	19-9-17.		Final preparation made before the Battalion moved into the Line; extra material issued and packs and blankets dumped for conveyance to Transport Lines. At 2345 Battalion moved to Front Line.	
	19/20/21, -9-17.		Narrative of Operations from 19th./21st. Sept. 1917 is attached hereto. Casualties Sustained by the Battalion during this period are - <u>Killed</u> Lieut. F.B. SCUGALL - Lieut. R.M. MCKENZIE - 2/Lieut. H.M. FLYNN and 36 Other Ranks. <u>Missing.</u> 20 Other Ranks. <u>Wounded.</u> Capt. C.J. CARROLL - Capt. J.F. McNAUGHT - Lieut. R. CARSON - Lieut. R.G. HAMILTON - Lieut. H.L. NORRIS - Lieut. W.A. SHREWSBURY - 178 Other Ranks.	
	22-9-17.		The Battalion on relief returned to DICKEBUSCH Area and bivouaced. The whole of the day was given to rest. Lieuts. W. MORGAN, C.N. CHESTER, HENZELL and KOCH rejoined from Brigade School, 2/Lieut. BRYSON from Lewis Guns School, Capt. MONTEITH, M.C. from Base and Lieuts. STENHOUSE and E.J. CHESTER from Reinforcements.	
	23-9-17.		The Battalion moved by Bus to STEENVORDE Area and occupied billets which are scattered a good deal and the men are fairly crowded. Lieut. B. NICHOLLS left for Signalling School, DUNSTABLE, ENGLAND.	
	24-9-17.		Inspections and reorganization are the order of the day. Details left out of the line rejoined the Battalion here. 2/Lieut. KNOWLES joined from Reinforcements and 2/Lieut. CLAY from 2nd. Battalion.	
	25-9-17.		Reorganization still proceeding and in addition Companies carried out Specialist and Company Training.	
	26-9-17.		The following training was carried out to-day:- Close Order Drill, Gas Helmet Inspection and Drill, Specialist Training and Recreational Training.	



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
27- STEENVORDE AREA.	27-9-17.		Battalion Parade and Inspection and Instruction in "Battalion in Attack" was included in this mornings training programme.	
	28-9-17.		Recreational Training indulged in during the afternoon. Battalion Route March of approximately 5 miles carried out. Hqrs. and Company Signallers carried on independently with Specialist work and the Lewis Gunners of "A" Company were given Musketry instruction on Range. 2 Officers and 3 Other Ranks proceeded at 4 a.m. to reconnoitre Front line and Routes thereto. Blankets were disinfected to-day by means of the Foden Lorry. Lieut. H. FINTER proceeded to 2nd. Army Infantry School.	
	29-9-17.		The Battalion moved by March Route and Motor Bus to CHATEAU SEGARD Area in accordance with Battalion Order No. 15. -(Copy attached). 5 Officers from the Battalion and a proportion of N.C.O's. proceeded to the Line in order to become familiar with our position and to act as Guides for the Battalion to-morrow.	
	30-9-17.		Battalion moved from Camp at 1915 to the Line and relieved the 47th. Battalion (in Support). Copy of Battalion Order No. 16 in this connexion is attached. Relief complete by 2300 without any casualties. Lieut. Roy H. BROWN returned to Battalion. Capt. R. G. BRENNAN rejoined from 3rd. A. L. T. M. Battery.	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>

*[Signature]*  
Lieut. Col.  
Commanding 9th. Battalion. A. I. F.



Narrative of Operation of 19/20th and 21st SEPTEMBER 1917

19-9-17.

1st Phase.

2345.

Battalion moved off from CHATEAU SEGARD Camp through SHRAPNEL CORNER, WARRINGTON ROAD thence 3rd Brigade Route to point of Assembly. A, C and D. Companies reached Assembly point at 0540 on the 20th. B Coy. arriving 20 minutes later 0600; being held up by Enemy Barrage and Battalion in front. Enemy Barrage came down on old Front Line and in rear at about 0500 causing many casualties to Officers and men; all Company Commanders being casualties before Zero hour.

2nd Phase.

LOCATION OF BATTALION AT ZERO HOUR.

"A" Coy. J.S.C.3.4. to J.S.C.3.1.
"B" Coy. J.S.C.3.1. to J.14.A.4.8.
"D" Coy. J.S.C.3.4. to J.14.A.4.8.
"B" Coy. On move from HOOGE GATES to jumping off Trench.
Bn. Hdqrs. CLAPHAM JUNCTION.
Bn. Transport. H.27.A.1.7.
Map Reference. WESTHOEK 1/10000.

ADVANCE TO RED . BLUE AND GREEN LINES.

ZERO HOUR.

At 0540 the Battalion moved forward in rear of Troops for 1st and 2nd Objectives.
0625. 1st Objective captured, 9th Battalion in position in rear of 1st Objective. In touch with 10th on right and 28th on left.
0708. troops allotted 2nd Objective moved forward followed by 9th Battalion until reaching 100 yards in rear of BLUE Line. During the capture and consolidation of BLUE Line Battalion was reorganised ready for advance on GREEN Line; some difficulty was encountered owing to the Troops having been caught by the Enemy Barrage at forming up tape, and during the advance and the troops for the BLUE and GREEN Lines having become mixed. This difficulty was got over by the excellent work done by the Platoon Commanders and N.C.O's.
0953. Troops for the GREEN Line moved forward towards the GREEN Line.
1015. GREEN LINE captured. Consolidation commenced. Touch with UNITS on flanks maintained throughout.

CONSOLIDATION.

1125. Progressing favourably with Consolidation. Strong Point at J.9. Central commenced.
1300. Carrying Parties to the rear organised for material. German Wire Dump found in rear of GREEN Line, this is being used.
1410. Support Lines progressing with consolidation.
1510. Continuous Trench along GREEN LINE has been dug and wired.
1600. STRONG POST at J.9. Central fit for Defensive purposes and wired.
STRONG POINTS constructed and M.G. Posts established at J. B.25.60., J.9.B.30.30., and J.9.D.20.70.
VICKERS MACHINE GUNS in position in rear of GREEN LINE at J.9.C.75.90., J.9.C.6.5., J.9.C.4.5., and J.9.C.8.3.
From here on consolidation and improvement of existing defence was continued.
21-9-17. 0700. Wiring completed on the whole of the front and support lines and Strong Posts. About 600 yards of wire being put out forming a very good obstacle.

Handwritten initials/signature



COUNTER ATTACKS.  
-----

No COUNTER ATTACKS eventuated excepting a slight massing at 1200 and 1800 on the 20th. These were dealt with by Artillery Fire and Machine Guns. PATROLS were seen several times moving towards the Mound. These were fired on and dispersed.

RELIEF.  
-----

21-9-17. Relief by 2nd Battalion was commenced at 1830 and was completed by 2300. The in-coming Battalion had a good many casualties owing to Enemy Barrage being put down presumably for Counter Attack. This was neutralised by our fire. 9th Battalion had few casualties coming out. Road built by Pioneers through GLENCORSE WOOD thence to CHATEAU WOOD being of immense assistance.

LESSONS LEARNT.  
-----

1. Carrying Parties should be a separate organisation altogether, say one Battalion being detailed for Carrying work only and that they should not pass the jumping off trench till 2 or 3 hours have elapsed from ZERO hour. The reason being that Carrying parties become involved in the fight and dump the material carried when moving in rear of the attacking troops. Also when troops for the final objective are dependant on troops allotted Objectives in rear for material there is far too much delay in getting it forward as the troops for the other Objectives have the task of getting their own Objectives consolidated.
2. It is suggested in country over which the recent attacks took place four sandbags per man should be attached to the Soldiers equipment. This would save a good deal of work as they could be used for revetting sandy loam soil.
3. Training in the use of German Machine Guns by all Lewis Gunners.
4. Barrage on the whole was too slow between objectives only the time could easily have been reduced by an hour.

Enemy's NEW DISPOSITIONS.

It was observed and has been verified since by the 2nd Bn. that the Enemy under cover of his Barrage on the night 21/22nd had dug a trench about 200 yards in front of the Mound. This appeared to be the only new system of defence in our Sector.

ENEMY MORALE.

The Prisoners captured were no criterion as to the Enemy's Morale as they had been subjected to a terrific test by bombardment ~~and~~ Barrage. The enemy was well clothed, well fed and equipped.

*(Signature)*  
Lieut. Col.

Commanding. 9th Battalion.  
-----

*(Handwritten initials)*



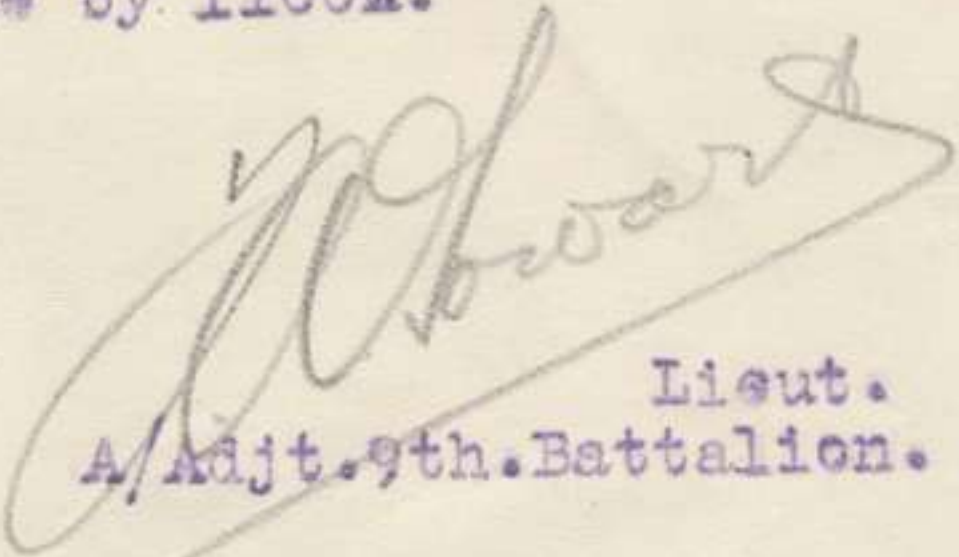
SECRET.


NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,  
29th. Sept. 1917.

ADDENDA TO NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 15.

1. Head of Column will pass starting point at 1330 today, 29th. instant.
2. All Details remaining out of the line will remain in present area and will report to Major C.F. ROSS, M.C. at Hqrs. Coy. billet at 1400 to-day fully equipped. Party from each Company will go through the billets occupied by their Company immediately same are vacated and return all salvage to Q.M. Store.
3. Officer's valises will be stacked at Company Hqrs. at 1000.
4. Cookers will be ready to move off at 1245; officers mess boxes will be placed on cookers.
5. All tents and shelters will be struck immediately and stacked at Company Hqrs. Q.M. will arrange for them to be returned to Area Commandant's store, STEENVORDE, forthwith.
6. All surplus stores etc., will be dumped at Q.M. Store by 1000.
7. Personal detailed for Engineers party will march out with the Battalion reporting to Sgt. PUTTICK at the embussing point, where they will embus as a separate party.
8. Companies will march out organized in parties of 1 Officer and 25 other ranks.
9. Marching out States showing accurately the number marching out will be forwarded to Battalion Office by 1100.

  
Lieut.  
A/Adjt. 9th. Battalion.





30

## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO 16.

REFERENCE MAP. BECELEARE.

1. (a) The 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will relieve the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less 46th Battalion and Machine Gun Coy) in the line on the night of Sept. 30th/October 1st 1917.  
The 12th Inf. Bde will on relief move into a position of Support.
- (b) The 46th Bn. will remain in and hold the front north of the line GARTER POINT- ROMOLUS WOOD to their present left, until relieved by a Battalion of the 2nd Australian Division on the night October 1st/2nd.  
During this period the 46th Bn. will come under tactical control of the G.O.C. 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bde.
2. The 9th Battalion will relieve the 47th Bn. in Support Lines - left sector.  
Battalion Headquarters will be at GARTER POINT.
3. The Bn. will move from present camp to-day commencing at 1900: Order of march will be notified later.  
Move will be made in parties not exceeding 12 in number - a distance of 50 yards being maintained between parties after passing MENIN GATE.  
Guides will meet Coys. at BIRR CROSS ROADS.
4. All maps, information concerning the sector and trench and area stores will be taken over and receipts given to out going Units.
5. Completion of relief will be wired to Bn. Hdqrs in Code
6. Dress:- Fighting Order plus blanket and waterproof sheet. Waterproof sheet and blanket will be rolled and worn in banderol fashion: 24 hours rations and filled water bottles to be carried.
7. Packs, Officers valises and all spare gear will be stacked at Q.M. Store by 1700 to-day.
8. Shelters will be left standing for incoming Unit.

A/Adjutant.

Lieut.

9th Battalion.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 15.

Battalion Headquarters,  
29th SEPTEMBER 1917.

1. First Australian Division (less Artillery) will relieve the 4th Australian Division (less Artillery) on the night of Sept. 30th/October 1st from the present right of the 4th Australian Division in about J.4.d.45.65. as far north as a line drawn from GARTER POINT to North edge of ROMULUS WOOD.
2. A composite Brigade under the command of G.O.C. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. and composed as under:-
  - 3rd Brigade Headquarters,
  - 2nd Australian Battalion.
  - 5th " " "
  - 9th " " "
  - 10th " " "
  - 3rd Machine Gun Coy.
  - 3rd. A.L.T.M. Battery.

will relieve the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the line on the night Sept. 30th/October 1st 1917. The 2nd and 5th Battalions will take over the front line with the 2nd Battalion on the right, and the 9th and 10th Bns. will be in Support with the 10th Bn. on the right.

Detailed instructions for the relief will be issued later.
3. The above Composite Brigade will move by Bus on the 29th Instant to the ZILLEBEKE ~~AREA~~ and CHATEAU SEGARD AREAS.
4. 9th Battalion will embus on the main STEENVOORDE ~~ROAD~~ - ABEELLE ROAD to-morrow, 29th Instant at a time to be notified later
5. The head of Column will pass startingpoint- junction of Road on which "B" Coy. are billeted and STEENVOORDE ROAD at a time to be notified later.
6. Order of March :- Hdqrs, A, B, C, and D Coys.
7. Dress. Full Marching Order plus blanket: felt hats to be worn and steel helmets to be carried in back of packs; full waterbottles and unexpended portion of days rations to be carried.
8. 100 yards interval will be maintained between Companies on march to embussing point.
9. Billeting party consisting of Lieut. F.J. BIGGS and 1 N.C.O. from each Company will assemble at Battalion Headquarters at 0600 and proceed to Divisional Hdqrs - RUE CARNOT- STEENVOORDE reporting there by 0700. This party will meet busses on arrival of Bn. in new area.
10. All Billets must be left in a thoroughly clean and tidy condition, a certificate that this has been done to be furnished to Battalion Hdqrs.
11. Transport will move independently at a time to be notified later. ~~It~~

*A. Howard*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjutant. 9th Bn.

*A. Howard*



SECRET.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

ADDENDA TO NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO.16.

1. 9th. Battalion will move from present camp at 1915 in the following order:-

Hqrs. A, D, C, and B Coys.

2. Route: WARRINGTON Road - BIRR CROSS Roads - WESTHOEK Ridge.

3. The Battalion will move out in file. When SHRAPNEL CORNER is reached Companies will move forward in parties of 12 with 50 yards interval.

4. Details of Relief.

<u>9th. Battalion.</u>			<u>47th. Battalion.</u>	
"A" Company		will relieve	"A" Company.	
"D" "	"	" "	"D" "	
"C" "	"	" "	"C" "	
"B" "	"	" "	"B" "	

Guides will meet the Battalion at BIRR CROSS Roads.  
O.C. "B" Company will be responsible that the whole Battalion is clear of Camp.

5. Cooking arrangements.

3 Cooks per Company will report at Transport lines at 1830 to-day ready to proceed to line with limbers.

Q.M. will arrange for sufficient dixies for the Battalion to be sent forward on limber with these Cooks.

In addition each Company will detail one Runner to proceed with Cooks in order that Companies will have no difficulty when sending parties to the Cook house.

6. Lewis Guns.

Lewis guns will be transported to BIRR CROSS Roads by limbers. Companies will detail the Lewis gun N.C.O. of each team to report to Lewis gun Officer at Transport lines at 1855. Guns will be unloaded at BIRR CROSS Roads and picked up by Gun Teams en route.

*R. G. Howard*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjt. 9th. Battalion.

*[Handwritten initials]*