

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/41/12

Title: 24th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/41/12

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

24 Bn AIF Volume 8
A2
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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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24 Bn AIF

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a/60.

Monday 31 August 1916

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sausage Valley	1 August		Bn resting in Sausage Valley after tour in Poziers Tr 28/30 July Fatigue parties to Engineers Dump and carrying parties to front line. Strength of Bn in Poziers Tr 95% reinforcements from 2 A.D.B.D. Strength available for trenches 21 of 635 %	Plot
	2		Bn resting in Sausage Valley. Fatigue parties to dump	Plot
	3		39 % reinforcements from 2 A.D.B.D.	Plot
	4	6 pm	Bn moved to Poziers Trenches. A Comp occupying trench R 34 a 22 - R 34 c 75; D Comp occupying R 34 c 75 - 58 as reinforcements to 22 Bn in their attack on OG1. OG2 B Comp x + 95 - R 34 c 51. C Comp 34 c 44 - 22 in reserve. A + D Coys went to assist unit of 22 Bn and formed part of the garrison of OG1. Lt John Ross Clark killed.	Map Ref Moquet Form 1/5000
	5	9:30 pm	A Comp returns from OG1 to jump off trench R 34 a 22. R 34 c 75 D Comp returned to rest quietly. Sausage Valley Lt Frank Reginald HAYS killed in action.	Plot
		6 pm	B Comp relieved 22 Bn in OG2 in trenches Sq 34 b 12 to 34 d 69. 7 Bde on right left flank exposed. A Comp relieves 22 Bn in OG2 Sq 34 a 91 to 34 a 77. 7 Bde on right left flank exposed. Measures taken by means of blocks to guard left flanks. C Comp in trenches 34 c 44 to 34 c 80. Heavy shelling by enemy on 1	Lt Hays recommended for gallantry on morning of 31/8.
	6	5 am	At daybreak enemy noticed in numbers scattered parties from 300 to 700 yds to our front. Enemy scattered by Lewis Machine Gun rifle fire. Enemy seen limbering up artillery and taking it away. Enemy appears to be in confusion. One German walker unceremoniously towards our trenches. He was shot when attempting to move back. Heavy shelling of HE + Shrapnel from Coorecellette. Enemy gun firing H.E. Shrapnel from a position 28 d 58.	Plot
		8 pm	Bn relieved by 15 Bn. Bn moved to Tara Hill for bivouac. Casualties since 4 th inst 27 of 76 killed 121 of 76 wounded 79 missing	Plot

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24th AIF

August

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tara Hill Map 57 D. SE W 24. d.	7	1 am.	Major Chas Edge Manning; Capt Frederick Hood Plant AMC.; Capt William Henry Totnall. Lieut James Bruce North Carvick. M.C. Killed by a shell which entered the gun pit in which they were sleeping. L'Col Wm Walter Russell Watson C.B. VD C.O. 24th Bn wounded. The four officers killed were buried in the Cemetery Beecourt Wood. L' Col Watson evacuated to Hosp.	Plot
Warloy Battalion	8 ^a	9 am	Bn moved from Tara Hill to Warloy Battalion. Major George Watson Nicholas DSO assumed temporary Command of the Bn. Bn resting - preparatory to moving back to Red Area. Rom Strength of Bn 27 of 748 % R Sigs . . . 13 of 630 % R 53% reinforcements from 2 AOB.	Plot
	9			Plot
	10	2 pm	Bn moved to La Vieonne via Contay. Hennissart. Talmas. The Bde when it was formed up along the Warloy - Contay Road. His Majesty the King inspected the Bn.	Plot
Berleaucourt Map R 1 Scale 1/100000 C. 5.	11	10.30 am	Bn moved to Berleaucourt via Canaples Halloy. arrival destination 6 pm	Plot
	12		Bn in Berleaucourt Swimming parade.	Plot
	13		Church Swimming parade. L' Colonel Marchant left for 2 AOB for short period of duty at the Base. Major Flecker H. reported for temporary duty as M.O.	Plot
	14		Training from 8.30 - 11.30 am 2 - 4.30 pm	Squad drill, rifle exercises Marking instruction, Comp Drums bombing of MGs & NCOs classes

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Berteau court	15.		Ran training in Berteau court Nom St 33 off 7750R Right St 22 off 626 0/R	Plot
	16		30 9/R reinforcements from 2400B.	Plot
	17		Night operation. assault by two companies on section of trench. Trench assault consists of 2 lines. Mine has to be dug as 30 yds ahead of 2 nd objectives. Bombing parties had to work up C.T.	Plot
	18	10 am	Left for La Vieonne arrived 3 pm. Capt Marcus Joyce, Lt P.G. Fethers & T.J. O'Brien left for England. Lt Fethers to take up duty at 6 th Bn of 6 th A.I.F. Lt Robinson to hospital. night 18/19 no work. men bivouacked in Orchard.	Plot
	19	8 am	Left for Toutencourt. Arrived 11.5 am.	
	20	10.15	Harponville Comp Parage for shortage. 18 9/R from 2400B	Plot
	21		Buckfields - Albert	Plot
	22	3 pm	Ran at Bfields making first equipment	Plot
		5.30	Orders to move to Sausage Valley. Ran arrived in Sausage Valley. proceeded to Poziers to relieve the 9112 Bn who were holding trenches 12 Bn was to be replaced by 9112 Bn 9 B was to be replaced by 9112 Bn	Plot

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mouquet Farm.	22		<p>B Comp. R. 27 d 91 - R 336 59 ; R 27 d 91 - R 336 56 ; R 27 d 91 - R 336 55. 9 1/2 5 ; R 336 55 - Quarries A Comp R 33 a 81 - 70. Heavy casualties owing to barrage. Men had to move across open for 500 yds men took shelter in shell holes. Lt William Aubrey Coward killed during relief fighting. Savage 598 0/R. Capt Trow, Of D Coy Capt Carr 2nd Lt Conn C Comp Lt Hitches remained in Savage Valley</p>	G 101
	23		<p>Bn in Mouquet Farm. Relief completed 5 am. Hearing shelling throughout the whole day. Patrols along frontage & towards left flank to the English Lines. Advance posts established at 55; 59; 91; Trenches 3' deep 2 1/2' wide dug 40 yds from 59 towards 48. Firing branches deepened -</p>	G 101
	24	4 pm	<p>Bn changed over with 21st Bn - B Comp remaining in position C Comp took over trench 28 c 92 - 62 ; A Comp 62 - 21. D Comp 21 - 91. Relief completed without casualties by 6 pm. B Comp held 2 bombing posts within 17 yds of the ruins of Mouquet Farm in which numbers of Boche were seen. Boche (Prussian Swords) in front of us - Between 300 and 400 enemy passed from 28 c 24 along low trench through 03. 73 to 31 when they disappeared into Mouquet Farm which must consist of a series of deep underground tunnels and dug-outs. The passing Boches were fired on & casualties to the extent of about 50.</p>	G 101
	25		<p>Heavy shelling all day. Boche noticed carrying cylinders on their backs - somewhat similar to the cylinders of a Vermorel 3 prajer. One cylinder when struck exploded & blew the man to pieces - another when struck fell went up in a dense cloud of black smoke.</p>	G 101

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mouquet Farm	25	9pm to 3 AM	Patrol along Battalion frontage. Patrols went out on right flank - towards 95 and established an Adv Post about 50yds from advance of our line. Patrols visited the wire the enemy was putting up between Sq. 28 c. 24 and 64 A Posts at 22 at 01 25yds towards 03. at 91 about 40yds towards 73. Sq. 27 a 31 reconnoitered a patrol from 59. Nothing discovered. An advanced Post established about 50yds from 59 and between 31. This was almost obliterated. 120yds of Sab. dug from 59 towards 59 33 b 27 - along the road to join up with 27. Party of 30 men worked for 6 hrs without interruption, though they made considerable noise when digging at amongst the metal of the road.	Get
		4:15 am	All parties W of line joining Sq 27 a 79 and 33 b 55 were withdrawn to reach our passage.	Get
		4:45 4:48	Shelling of German line - Sq 33 a. 47-77 - Sq 33 b 27 commences. Shelling lifts from OG. The 21 st Bn attacks this objective. 30 men under Lt JAMARON. reconnoiter the last R. of line up Sq. 27. Two bombing parties attempt to enter Mouquet Farm as a diversion. The Party of 8 men under Sgt Robinson, effects an entrance from the South, exhausts all their bombs but could not hold on when their supply was replenished. The other Party under Sgt Pollington attempts an entry from the NE corner. This party could not move over the debris of the Farm owing to the MG fire from the NE. They manage to throw several bombs among the Germans who were within the farm, but they were sent back by	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>a heavy fusillade of Potato Masher Bombs. Evidently the Boche has come to the surface in Mouquet Farm. His dug-outs had been bombed. The Boche had used flamethrowers thrown from Mouquet. Each flame thrower is protected by two rifle men.</p> <p>Mr Mahony receives word that the 21st was held up by the stout resistance of the Germans about 27. The Contingency has been ordered for and Mr Mahony had received instructions to take his party, which had plenty of bombs, to the assistance of the right flank of the 21st. Should it be held up. Mr Mahony moved his 30 men around the S.W. corner of the farm and bombed the Germans in the trenches leading from 12 to 27. Bombs were thrown into 3 large dugouts containing Boches. He joined up with a party of the 21st. Bn who were having a stout fight opposite along this trench. When the German resistance was overcome Mr Mahony went out towards 54 5927. c. to bring back the 21st. Bn men, who had over shot the objective and were straggling out 300 yds beyond the line they should have dug in. Mr Mahony brought these men back to where the 21st. was consolidating their position and returned with his party to the 21st. Bn Hq at The Quarry.</p> <p>It is more than probable that Mr Mahony passed between the strong German post at 27 and the edge of the farm. So that the German post was missed. though it had previously been reconnoitred and found to contain a large shell hole. Mr Mahony, at one time, was in a particularly large shell hole the bottom of which contained dead Germans, but he saw no trace of a strong post.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mouquet Farm	26	6:30 am	<p>Mr Mahony returns to 59 and attempts to continue with the Sals towards 27, but MGun fire, which appeared to come from the Reuler of Mouquet Farm, compelled prevention of continuance of this work.</p>	G101
			<p>Our Post towards 31 was driven back to about 12 yds from our left flank.</p>	
			<p>Strong German bombing attack from 73 onto our line at 91. Attack driven back by Mills Rifle Grenades. T. Mortars and L Gun fire.</p>	
		1 pm	<p>About 20 Australians seen being captured with the Germans. These men had evidently been gone before ahead when cut off.</p>	
		3 pm	<p>Our Artillery bombardment with heavy HE + 18 pd shrapnel the German line from 28c. 84 to the left. We suffered heavy casualties from our own fire 8 of R Rifle 20 wounded.</p>	
		4 pm	<p>Orders received for a bombing attack on Mouquet Farm. Two parties were consisting of 1 off INCO. 12 men the other 2 NCO + 12 men were to attempt an entry into the Farm from the E and the S. Artillery preparation could not be obtained. Relief the had to depend on T Mortars alone. Arrangements for bombardment of the Farm by the T Mortars took considerable time owing to the fact that new platforms had to be made for the guns. Before the attack came off orders came for the relief of the 24 Bn by the 15 Bn, so it did not eventuate.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Moquet Farm	26	9pm.	First relief by 15 th Bn arrived at Keys Trench. Relief Complete	G S S S S
	27	1am	Lieut Reginald Norman Thomas Killed.	
	27	5am	Relief Complete 15 th Bn taking over our sector of the line. Bn moved to Buckhead. Companies moving down independently. Top ^o reinforcements from 24080.	
	28	9am	Bn moved from Albert to Warloy.	
	29	9.30	Bn . . . Warloy to Herissart. Packs carried. Fight ^o Strength of Bn 22 off 499 0/100 99 ^o Reinforcements from Hospital 350/100 - 24080.	
Bonneville	30	7am	Bn moved to Bonneville arriving at 12:30 heavy rain during march	G S
		12:30	Bn billeted in Bonneville	
	31		• unfitting + taking shortages.	G S