

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/32/17

Title: 15th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/32/17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2 18. 389

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Harloy	Aug 1 st to Aug 4 th		<p>Very busy preparing and training for class of fighting we will have to do emphasising and drilling into all ranks necessity for good alignments Squ parallel to objectives, good direction each man to know it and schooling every man as to what we hope to do. Have done this work as a Battalion and with the Brigade.</p> <p>Teaching every man Grenade throwing and training Scouts & runners also training in digging at night rapidly and silently as possible</p>	
	Aug 4 th		<p>Moved from Harloy passing starting point at 9 P.M. via Senlis for Brickfields adjacent to Albert and bivouacked at 11-45 P.M.</p>	
	5 th		<p>References in operations from 5th to 11th August inclusive Demy de Mouquet and Martinpuich maps Received orders at 3 P.M. to move out of Bivouac at 6 P.M. and proceed via Albert Parahill Sausage Valley and take over position occupied by 22nd Battalion, R 34 b and d</p> <p>All transport, Quartermasters and Reserve officers left behind at Brickfields awaiting further orders.</p>	

T.M. Harvey Lt Col
Co 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 1. 1. 20

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 Aug 5 th		<p>Passed starting point at 6 p.m. and proceeded by route ordered to CHALK PIT. (X10 C44) At this point enemy had heavy artillery barrage and Battalion turned back and proceeded via WIRE TRENCH (X14 B) to head of Centre Way (X4 C) and was blocked by another enemy barrage but succeeded in getting four sections of Lewis Machine gunners and two platoons of B Company through into front line. Battalion less two platoons and machine gunners above mentioned then moved back a short distance and by moving through small parties had two companies into front line about 5 a.m., remaining two companies completing occupation of line by 2 p.m.</p>	
	Aug 6 th		<p>The delay in completing this relief emphasizes the necessity of relieving by day in small parties and also that it is imperative for our own Battalion scouts to have a thorough knowledge of all and every route into firing line. On completion of the relief my Battalion occupied the following trenches - R 33 D 85 to R 34 b 12 to R 34 b 60 in front line with supports in R 34 e 12 to R 34 D 09 and R 34 A 91 to R 34 D 77 and R 34 e 20 to R 33 D 85. On taking over trenches work on improving them was at once commenced, and was vigorously continued during entire period of occupation, our troops all the time being subjected to continuous heavy enemy shelling.</p>	
	Aug 7 th		<p>At 4.30 am. an enemy attack was launched against the fronts of the 14th Battalion and a Battalion of the 12th Brigade on our right flank, penetrating their first line trenches. Our grenades and one platoon of e Coy under Lieut Dunworth advanced from our trenches and attacked enemy's right flank, and materially assisted in crushing the attack. Enemy fell back in a north-</p>	

J.M. Sharkey Lt Col
C.O. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 Aug 7 th		easterly direction, leaving 20 prisoners in our hands. Observation of enemy's movements showed he intended attacking my right centre, but the slow barrage of our artillery, which was protecting our digging, had the effect of diverting enemy's infantry attack further to our right, thereby throwing him into confusion, and causing him to lose direction. In addition to prisoners above mentioned it is estimated that this Battalion accounted for the following enemy losses:-	
	and Aug 8 th		Killed, 100; wounded, who got back to their own lines, 150. Enemy shelling heavy and continuous throughout day and night. A small number of our own shells bursting on our trench near R 34 A 91 The 14 th Battalion relieved part of our line from R 34 B 12 to R 34 B 60 and we temporarily vacated trench R 33 D 85 to R 33 d 95 to allow the Suffolk Regiment to extend and obtain a better jumping off place from which to launch their attack. Enemy shelling heavy and continuous throughout the day & night. Operation order issued by Brigade Headquarters to 15 th Battalion to take enemy position R 33 d 89 to R 34 a 53 to R 34 a 95, one company of 16 th Battalion in support. The Suffolk Battalion to cooperate on our left and take trenches R 33 d 86 to 96 and R 33 d 26, 78 and 89 and R 33 d 86 to 78.	
			Our attack was launched at 9.20 pm. under cover of our intense artillery bombardment. Attack was launched in three waves - 2 platoons of each Coy. in first wave, one platoon of each company in second wave and third wave. First wave was accompanied by a proportion of Lewis guns and preceded by slouts. First two waves were in "No Man's Land" on an alignment parallel to objective prior to commencement of our intense bombardment, and during hours of daylight a careful reconnaissance of position to be attacked was made by all officers and all ranks were thoroughly acquainted with landmarks.	

J. M. Sharkey Lt Col
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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
	1916 Aug 3/9		<p>which defined their objectives and direction of attack, also distances to objectives. At 10.30 p.m. messages received from Right flank (C Company) and Left flank (D Company) that they had reached their objectives and were digging in. Up to this time the position between R 34 a 12 and 53 had not been connected up but patrols reported "all clear of enemy". Patrols and bombers despatched from left flank towards point R 33 d 78 endeavoured to get touch with Suffolks on our left. Patrol also sent forward to R 33 d 86 and 96 to ascertain situation at this position, and reported that all these positions were occupied by the enemy, and that Suffolks up to that time had not made good their objectives.</p> <p>At 12.45 am. message sent to O/C Suffolks to push his attack in order to connect with and protect my left flank; received his reply at 2.30 am. stating that his attack on R 33 d 86 and 96 had failed but he was pushing reinforcements along Ration Trench and endeavouring to secure trench R 33 d 26, 77, 78 and 89.</p> <p>At 11 p.m. my left centre company (A Coy) reported they were digging in in vicinity of R 34 a 12, and at same hour the right company (C Coy) reported having collected my right centre company (B Coy) and started them digging from point R 34 a 53 towards R 34 a 12.</p> <p>Throughout the night reassuring messages continued to come in from the advanced position and consolidation of the captured line was continued in conjunction with the digging of following communication trenches: R 34 B 12 to R 34 a 95, R 34 a 91 to R 34 a 53, and R 34 e 48 to R 34 a 12. At 4 am. situation on left flank re Suffolks had not yet been cleaned up so despatched officer and</p>	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

W. J. Harvey Lt Col
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118/12 9

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 Aug 9		<p>20 men of 16th Battalion towards point R 33 d 89 to see if situation could be cleared up. At 5 am. definite information received from my left flank that Suffolk Regiment had not made good any of their objectives, and as I had enemy on my front, left, and rear of my left flank I was reluctantly compelled to withdraw from point R 33 D 89 to R 34 A 12, inclusive and information was sent to Suffolk Regiment accordingly. This retirement was successfully carried out without losses, and our own wounded and 23 German prisoners were brought back to our own lines.</p> <p>Throughout the day we continued in occupation of portion of communication trench R 34 c 48 to R 34 a 12 and thus commanded and held by fire trench R 34 a 12, 53, 74, 95 and R 34 b 24.</p> <p>During afternoon trenches R 33 d 85 to R 34 c 36 were vacated to allow of our heavy artillery bombarding strong point of enemy R 33 d 78, and we reoccupied the trenches upon completion of the bombardment.</p> <p>On night of 9th and 10th August 16th Battalion attacked enemy trenches R 33 d 78, 89 and 99 and R 34 A 12 and also trench 75 yards north of points R 33 d 85, 95. The 15th cooperated with 16th Battalion in this attack and joined up with their right flank and consolidated and held R 34 a 53, 74, 95 and R 34 b 24. By daylight this position was thoroughly consolidated and communication trenches R 34 a 91 to 53 and R 34 b 12 to R 34 a 95 were completed.</p> <p>During attacks on nights of 8/9th and 9th/10th August our patrols reconnoitred up to strong trench R 34 a 34, b 5, 9b. which enabled me to send to our Brigade Headquarters a detailed reconnaissance report of this position which was to</p>	
	Aug 10 th			

By Harry A. Col
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 1

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																				
	1916 Aug 10		<p>Attacked by 13th Battalion on night of 10th/11th August From mid-day on relief of 15th Battalion by 13th Battalion was conducted and continued until 8.30 pm. From 8 pm until 9 pm trenches R 34 a 53 74 95 were evacuated but command - ed and held by fire in order to allow of heavy bombardment of strong trench R 34 a 34, b5, 96. Throughout period of relief of 15th Battalion and during movement to new trench enemy shelled very heavily with 77 shells but relief was carried out with only one casualty. Casualties from 6 pm on 5th August, until arrival at Buckfields, Albert, at 9 am on August 12th were -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Killed</th> <th>Wounded</th> <th>Missing</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>3</td> <td>12</td> <td>-</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O/R.</td> <td>45</td> <td>325</td> <td>45</td> <td>415</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Total Casualties -</td> <td><u>430</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total	Officers	3	12	-	15	O/R.	45	325	45	415	Total Casualties -				<u>430</u>	
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total																				
Officers	3	12	-	15																				
O/R.	45	325	45	415																				
Total Casualties -				<u>430</u>																				

By Thavny Lt Col
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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
	1916 Aug 11 th		Battalion in reserve in New French busy making up casualty lists and re-organising as far as possible. Battalion standing by in event of being required to support front line.	
	12 th		Battalion marched to and bivouaced at Albert Brick fields	
	13 th		at Brickfields supplying fatigues for Divisions.	
	14 th		Left Brickfields at 3 p.m. and marched to Warloy arriving at 6 p.m. where we drew men's kits to give them change of clothing.	
	15 th		Left Contay at 9 a.m. and proceeded to march to La Vesque but at Contay we received orders to return to Warloy	
	16 th		at Warloy reorganising and generally cleaning up.	
	17 th		Left Warloy at 9 a.m. and proceeded to La Vesque arriving at 5 p.m.	
	18 th		Left La Vesque at 9 a.m. and marched to Halloy arriving at 2 p.m.	
	18 th to 22 nd		at Halloy training and reorganising	
	22 nd		Left Halloy at 2 p.m. marched to Dalmas, arriving at 5 p.m.	
	23 rd		Left Dalmas at 9 a.m. marched to Vadeneourt Wood, arriving at 3 p.m.	

Wm Harry Hol
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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
	1916 24 th to 25 th 26 th		<p>At Tadonecort, training. Did a Brigade exercise in attack emphasising methods of communication with aeroplanes. References in operations from 26th August to 2nd September inclusive Ferme du Mouquet and Martinpuich maps.</p> <p>Left Tadonecort at 9 am, marched to Breckfields, arriving at noon.</p> <p>Left Breckfields at 8.30 pm and marched via Albert, La Boiselle - Bapaume Road, 1st Avenue, Kay Trench, Goms Cut and relieved the 24th Battalion in trenches R 28 c 92, 21, 01, R 27 d 91 to R 33 b 49 completing relief by 3.45 am. on morning of 27th with few casualties.</p> <p>Line was occupied by C Coy on right and B Coy on left D Coy being in reserve in trench W 9 e 19 to 45 and A Coy in reserve - 2 platoons in trench W. 3 B 65 to D 35 and other 2 platoons in trench R 34 D 22 to E 75.</p> <p>We relieved the 23rd Battalion taking over trenches R 34 D 99, B 61, 44½, 27½, R 28 D 10 e 92 (relief complete at 2.30 p.m.) our D Coy holding right of position and A Coy the left. 14th Battalion at 8 p.m. completed relieving us of trench R 28 c 01 to 33 B 49. 28th Battalion relieved us in trenches R 34 D 99, B 60, 44½, 27½, 18 (relief complete 10.30 p.m.) our D going into reserve again in trench R 34 D 09 to E 75.</p> <p>Enemy shelling throughout night 26th/27th and during day of 27th normal and well distributed and without serious results to trenches or personnel but he put an extremely heavy barrage on communication trenches just north of Pozieres from 7.30 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. when it slackened slightly but continued heavy till midnight.</p>	
	27 th			

J. M. Sharry Lt Col
CO 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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
	1916 Aug 27 th		<p>The following enemy movements were observed during the day:- Party of 25 passed along trench from R 28 c 93 1/2 to 23 disappearing at latter point. Party of 150 to 200 passed along trench from R 27 d 73 to 31 and disappeared at latter point. Enemy observed in great strength at Mauguet Ferme. All trenches in our sector examined and no Man's Land observed from numerous points in front line and reported upon. During night of 27th/28th work on front line, support and communication trenches was very vigorously pushed on. Our whole front line trench was cleared up and earned down to a depth of 5 to 6 feet. 50 yards of sap leading from R 28 D 92 towards 95 was deepened to 5 feet to form part of a right flank communication trench to next objective. Trench R 34 A 9 1/2 7 to 65 was cleared up and deepened to 6 feet. Trench R 34 C 75, 58 A 53, 65, 38 R 28 c 01 was cleared up and deepened to average depth of 4 feet. No Man's Land up to enemy wire was energetically patrolled during night of 27th/28th and reported on. All trenches in sector were continuously shelled throughout night with medium intensity.</p> <p>From 4-30 am till midnight enemy shelling was well distributed and fairly heavy except as follows:- From 2-30 to 3 pm. enemy heavily shelled our front line doing much damage to trenches and inflicting many casualties. From 2-15 pm. to 3-30 pm. heavy enemy barrage on communication trenches just north of Pozieres, with little damage caused, also on all trenches in Western half of R 34 A with great damage to trenches considerable lengths of which were</p>	
	28 th			

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

J. M. Harvey Lt Col
Co. 15th Bn

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 28		<p>nearly levelled by heavy shells. At 3.45 pm three enemy planes came from a north easterly direction and cruised over our sector of front for half an hour subsequently returning in the direction from which they came. During our stay in the front line on numerous occasions enemy stretchers bearers were observed working in the open under cover of Red Cross flags. Our stretcher bearers were doing the same and were not fired on. During night of 28th/29th, until relieved, work on all trenches was resumed and carried on vigorously. Work was not at any time possible during the daytime as enemy shelled when he observed earth being thrown up. On the night of 28th/29th we, ^{less our D Coy} were relieved by the 13th Battalion (relief completed by 5 am.) and proceeded to Crater Trench as reserve. Our D Coy remained in reserve to 13th Battalion being situated in trench R 34 d 09 to C 75</p>	
	29		<p>In Crater Trench (near La Boisselle) cleaning up generally. Supplied carrying party from Chalk Pit to firing line with rations etc.</p>	
	30		<p>Furnished party of 150 men to dig assembly trenches 100 yards in rear of firing line we had just vacated for use by 13th Brigade in their attack but owing to relief of Battalions taking place that night trenches were so congested that the party arrived at the appointed spot in time to do only one hours work. Furnished other fatigue parties during day for carrying etc. on night of 30/31st our D Coy moved up into trench R 34 A 9 1/2 27 to b5 in close support to 13th Battalion, who attacked that night. D Coy remained here</p>	

J. M. Sharry Lt Col
Co. 15th Bn