

AWM4

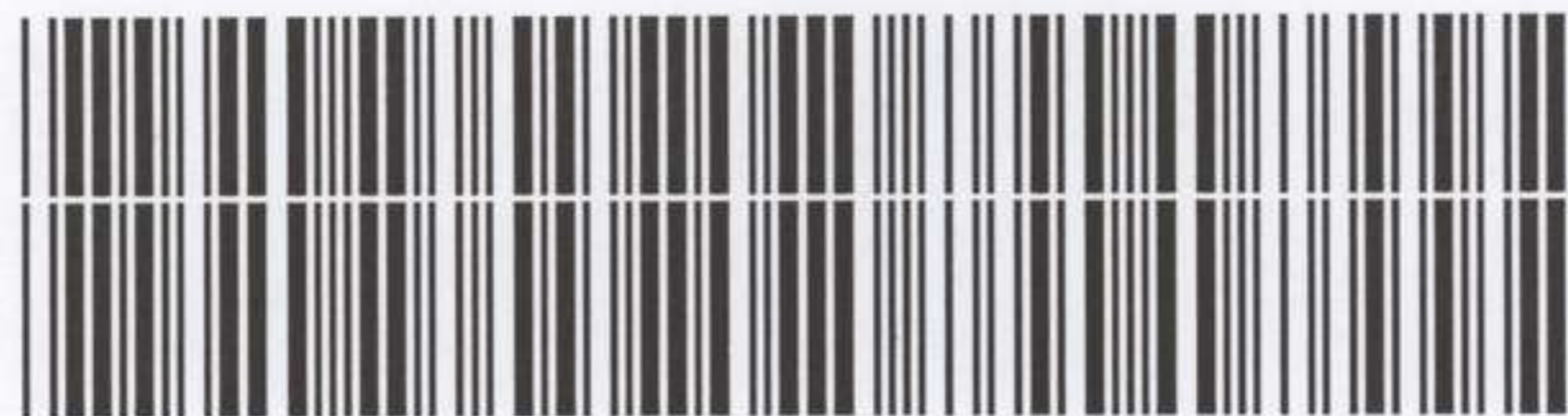
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/56/8

Title: 39th Infantry Battalion

December 1916



AWM4-23/56/8

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 96

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
MERRIS	27.11.16 1.12.16		Troops remained in billets in MERRIS resting for 2 days. Testing & fitting of Gas respirators. Instruction given re discipline under altered conditions of active service; bayonet fighting etc.	
Do. HOUPLINES & ARMENTIERES in billets	2.12.16 to 8.12.16	9am	Battalion (less rear party 1 off. 1 Sgt 20 or.) started on route march for ARMENTIERES. Arrived PONT DE NIEPPE about 2.45 p.m. where guides from N.Z. Brigade met and guided battalion to billets - As battalion in support. A. Coy to LOCK HOUSE & B. Coy near to CHATEAU ROSE - HOUPLINES. C & D Coys. in factory near BARBED Wire square. Batta. Adqrs. in error near latter places for one night removed to CHATEAU on following day. Working parties 450 men supplied on Sunday 3 rd inst. & succeeding days. 1 officer (Lt. B. WHITE) killed; 2 or. wounded while with working parties in the line.	3.12.16 First two casualties - accidental G.S. wounds.
"	5.12.16	6 p.m. 12.20 p.m.	Two alarms of Gas attack given at times stated both of which proved false.	
HOUPLINES	8.12.16	8am	Relief of 37 th Batta in Right subsector. Left sector of 3 rd Div. Trench area commenced 8am. by half strength of following specialists - Bombers, Snipers, scouts, Lewis gunners, signallers. Coy Commanders with a proportion of platoon officers & specialist officers.	
"	9.12.16	8am	Half the remainder of the battalion took over from half 37 th Bn.	
"	10.12.16	8am	Remainder of battalion occupied the line. C.O. & Coy. commanders of 37 th Bn. remaining for 24 hrs. Situation quiet.	
"	11.12.16	6.30 a.m. 2.30 p.m.	Situation quiet. Enemy artillery commenced: parapet & wire badly damaged at C.29.5. by mine warfare. No casualties. Patrols sent out between 6pm & 6am to examine German's land condition of wire, shell holes etc.	

WAR DIARY
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39th Battalion AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOUPLINES (trenches)	12.12.16	a.m.	Situation quiet.	
		6 pm	Small enemy raiding party attempted to enter trenches on left of B. Coy's Sector but were driven off. No casualties on our side. Enemy machine guns active.	
"	13.12.16	p.m.	Enemy artillery & munitions active in afternoon "Orchard" & Post Ballot sector suffering most severely. Patrols at night found wire damaged & also found bombs left by previous night's raiding party. Our snipers active.	
	14.12.16		Enemy activity (artillery) increasing.	
ARMENTIERES	15.12.16	8 am	50% Specialists 37 th Tn. replaced half those of 39 th Tn.	
	16.12.16	8 am	Remainder of battn relieved, becoming D. battalion in reserve occupying billets in Hospice on Rue des Retours, with Battn Hdqrs at MAIRIE rue BAGARD.	
	20.12.16		working parties to supplied daily & small amount B.F. training & marksmanship carried out.	
HOUPLINES (trenches)	20.12.16	8 am	Relief of trenches commenced - same sector as previously.	
	21.12.16	"	Relief of trenches completed. Situation quiet.	
	22.12.16		Munitions & machine guns active. Both our & enemy artillery more active.	
	24.12.16		Enemy using many searchlights. Patrols find enemy wire very strong. Our own wire weak & being repaired every night.	
	25.12.16		Our artillery very active cutting enemy wire.	
	27.12.16	8 am	Relief by 37 th Tn commenced	
	28.12.16	noon	Relief complete. This Battn becoming C. battn in support with Hdqrs. at CHATEAU ROSE.	
HOUPLINES (billets)	28.12.16		Battalion mostly engaged in working parties in trenches or cleaning billets.	
	3.1.17			