

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/56/9

Title: 39th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/56/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

2107

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.)

| Hour, Date, Place | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| HOUPLINES (billets) 3/1/17. | Battalion mostly engaged on working parties in trenches or cleaning billets. | |
| | (Original of above written on same sheet as entries for Dec. 1916 and filed with volume for that month). | |

VOLUME 3

39th Bn

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|--|---|
| 3.1.17 | | Relieved 37 th Bn. in the line, as A. battery. Enemy's artillery activity, very much greater | |
| 4.1.17 | 6pm | Intense enemy bombardment on left of our sector - enemy attempting to raid - unsuccessful. Enemy shelled transport routes using gas shells. | 18. Pte H. Barker died of wounds. |
| 5.1.17 | | Enemy artillery + munitions constant, more active - much damage done to trenches on right + centre. | |
| 6.1.17 | | | |
| 7.1.17 | | Heavy bombardment of B Coy's sector - many casualties + much damage to supports. | 414 Sgt Carter C.H. 421 Pte Costelloe J.L.R. 610 Pte Thomas M.H. killed in action. |

D.898/9.14.-C.11056.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached |
|---------|-----------------|---|--|
| 8.1.17 | | Enemy bombardment severe; all along support line especially on right and centre Enemy using very brilliant lights | 6045 Pte Jamieson J.A. died of wounds 400 Sgt. Baillie M.D. 639 Pte Paterson G. killed in action |
| 9.1.17 | | Relieved by 37 th Bn; 39 th becoming D. bn. | 1874 Pte Mabbitt N.B. died of wounds |
| | 5.45 pm | Successful raid carried out by party of 50 supported by Artillery. Our casualties 1 off 17 etc. Enemy lost at least 8 killed. | 796 Cpl. Barclay died of wounds |
| 10.1.17 | | Working parties by day & by night supplied for new work in trenches | 21. W. S. JEWKES died of wounds |
| 11.1.17 | | As above: | |
| | | Notification received of disposition of Bn. on relief - 11 days 1st Ruc Sadi Combr. | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|
| 12.1.17 | ARMENTIERES | R.E. operations in trenches expected: all working parties cancelled. | |
| 13.1.17 | " | Relief of 37 th Pm in trenches commenced by specialists | |
| 14.1.17 | 2pm | Relief completed. Very little activity in line: except for machine gun fire. Very lights numerous. Patrols hindered by sharp frost making sounds too audible. | |
| 15.1.17. | | Enemy artillery active about 2.30pm in reply to our bombardment. Draft 43 reinforcements (including 13 men returned from hospitals) arrived. Patrol taking Lewis Gun into N.M.L. | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|
| 15.1.17 | | <p>used it with considerable effect on enemy working party - at least 4 men falling apparently killed - managed to get within 30 yds.</p> <p>Day & night otherwise quiet. Snow prevented patrols later at night.</p> | |
| 16.1.17. | | <p>Enemy retaliated with murremureps & N.G. for our artillery fire: otherwise quiet.</p> <p>Heavy snow fall all night making observation in N.M.L. too easy & hindering patrols which were used for observation in front-line.</p> | |
| 17.1.17. | | <p>Relief by 35th Bn. Commenced: 25% of specialists being replaced by equal</p> | |

D.398/9.14.—C.11056.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|
| 17.1.17. | | number from relieving battalion. | |
| 18.1.17 | | Half battalion (exclusion of specialists) 25% specialists relieved by similar | |
| | | no. of 35 th Bn. - no casualties enemy | |
| 19.1.17 | | artillery active on subsidiary line Relief of Remains of Bn. completed | * 20.1.17. |
| | | This battery billeted in ARMENTIERES Rue de COLLEGE + RUE des PATURES. | Party of 150 with 2 cols |
| | | Hdqrs. 14 Rue Sadi Carnot. | Commenced |
| 22.1.17 | ARMENTIERES | Violent artillery bombardment by our batteries commencing early | cable laying by night. |
| | | in afternoon + increasing towards 5 p.m. By order of Bde Hdqrs | |
| | | all men of this unit recalled from the town + returned to billets at 5.30pm | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------|-----------------|---|---|
| 22-1-17 | | artillery ceased at about 6.30pm + night quiet. Cable laying party cancelled for the night. | |
| 23-1-17. | | Situation normal | |
| 25-1-17 | | C.O. inspected sector of trenches held by 25 th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers in view of possibility of relief of that position | |
| 26-1-17 | 12.30 | Notification that this Bn. to relieve as above, received. | |
| | | Advance parties moved 3.30pm from Rue Nationale Bayard. | |
| | | Remainder relief commenced 8pm from Rly. St ARMENTIERES. All Companies reported completely relieved by | |

D.308/9.14.—C.11056.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| | | 12.50 am on 27th. | |
| 27.1.17 | RUE DU BOIS | Night unusually quiet. Enemy's Artillery very active from 11.30 am. - 5.9" Whizzbangs being sent over continuously till 3.30 pm. | |
| | | WELLINGTON AV. near STURT Trench badly damaged; BURNT FARM vicinity, & to left of RUE DU BOIS salient also. | |
| | | 8 minor casualties inflicted. | |
| | | Damaged trenches repaired during night. | |
| | | Shrapnel was sent over damaged localities at half hour intervals during night searching for repairing parties. C.O. evacuated trench | |
| 28.1.17 | " | Artillery much less active: quiet afternoon | |

D.398/9.14.—C.11056.

| Date. | Place and Time. | 39 th Battalion AIF. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|---------------------|---|---|
| 28.1.17 | RUE du BOIS Sector. | Heavy artillery - fire well on left | |
| | | from 6 p.m. to 7.20 p.m. (Raid by | |
| | | members of this Bde near Pont Ballot) | |
| 29.1.17 | " | Enemy activity in artillery increased, | |
| 30.1.17 | " | mostly shrapnel used. | |
| 30.1.17 | " | lot of relief on 31 st by X. (Composite) | |
| | | Battn. 50% Specialists came in. | |
| 31.1.17 | " | Quiet up till 6.15 p.m. at 6.15 Heavy | |
| | | Bombardment of whole of our front. | |
| | | Attempted raid by enemy taken off. | |
| | | Relief by X Battn complete at 11.30 p.m. | |
| 1.2.17 | " | Battalions in Bunkers. 2 platoons A | |
| | | Coy RUE ALLEE, 2 platoons RUE MARLE | |
| | | B+C Coys RUE MARLE D Coy LAYESEE | |

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