

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/46/29

Title: 29th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/46/29

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WULVERGHEM	1-12-17 to 6-12-17		Battn. in Reserve. Various working and carrying parties supplied daily for work in Front Line System.	
MESSINES	7-12-17	4.30 pm 10.10 "	Relief by "C" Coy of Reserve Coy, of 32nd Bn, completed	
GAPAARD	8-12-17	2.55 am	"A", "B" & "D" Coys, left camp at WULVERGHEM and moved via MESSINES to relieve 32nd Bn, near GAPAARD - Very dark night - showery and muddy	
	8-12-17	2.55 am	Relief of 32nd Bn completed - "B" Coy, in Support, "A" and "D" Coys, in front line	
	9-12-17		Enemy machine guns active during night 7th/8th - intermittent shelling. During night 8th/9th light rain fell continuously - front line trenches very wet and muddy. Enemy machine guns active, but artillery fairly quiet.	
	9-12-17		Enemy fairly active with artillery and trench mortars. Enemy aircraft made several unsuccessful attempts to cross our line, but were driven back by ours.	
	10-12-17	9.45 pm	Light rain all day and during night till about 2 am. - poor visibility. Our Artillery, Stokes mortars, machine and Lewis Guns active during day and night.	
	10-12-17		During day and night of 10th/11th following activity:-	
			Our Artillery fired at intervals, Stokes mortars fired 70 rounds, Lewis Guns very active.	
			Enemy Artillery very quiet till 11 am, then fairly active till 1.20 am, but none fell on front line. Enemy attitude very quiet, especially machine guns.	
			Letter company relief completed - "B" and "C" Coys, in front line, "D" Coy, in Support, "A" Coy, in Reserve.	

(A7092) Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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GAPAARD	11/12/17		<p>During day and night 11th/12th:- Enemy attitude quiet on front area. Artillery of both sides quiet during day, but active during night, especially ours. Machine guns on both sides and our Lewis Guns very active all night. Weather fine - visibility poor during morning, but improved later. Night very dark - ground and trenches improving in condition.</p>	
"	12/12/17		<p>Enemy attitude fairly quiet. During night 12th/13th enemy M.G.s and T.M.s. very active. Weather fine and frosty - ground hardening. Winds light but very changeable.</p>	
"	13/12/17		<p>Enemy attitude quiet, but more active with artillery - usual M.G. and T.M. activity during night. Our Artillery and Stokes mortars active. Day dull, very misty.</p>	
"	14/12/17		<p>Enemy fairly quiet. Our Artillery active. Usual enemy M.G. activity during night. Inter-company relief completed by 9.15 p.m. Dispositions on completion of Relief:- "A" & "D" Coy, in Front Line. "B" Coy, in Reserve "C" " " Support. Weather very misty till about 11 a.m., when wind freshened. Fine night - ground improving</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">M.B.</p>

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GAPAARD	15/12/17		Our own and enemy Artillery very active, also our Stokes mortars and enemy trench mortars. Enemy machine guns showed normal activity during night. Increased number of "duds" noticed amongst enemy 47 com. shells. Visibility only fair - no rain.	
"	16/12/17		Enemy attitude quiet up to time of relief, but our artillery very active. Clear morning - afternoon dull - light snow fell about 3 pm. Relief by 9th Batta, completed by 8 am. Several casualties sustained on way out of line when near WULVERGHEM, owing to enemy shell bursting in front of line - all bay. H.Q. of "A" Coy, wounded, including Captain N. L. JOHNSTON, who subsequently died of wounds.	
"	17/12/17		Batta, marched to RAMILLIES CAMP (near KEMMEL) and left for DESVRES by road and transport (less 4 cooks, and mess cart and one water cart) and arrived at DESVRES at about 8 pm, and proceeded to billets. Batta, (less transport) and left RAMILLIES CAMP at 10 am, entrained at DE KENNEBEK, arrived at DESVRES at about 8 pm, and proceeded to billets.	arrived at STRAZEELE.
"	18/12/17		Four cooks, mess cart and one water cart entrained at BAILLEUL and left at 8 pm for WIZERNES, thence by road to DESVRES. Transport proceeding, by road arrived at STRAZEELE area. RENESCURE area.	
"	18/12/17		Batta, resting. Cooks, mess cart and cooks arrived DESVRES. Remainder of transport arrived at THIEMBRONNE area.	
DESVRES	19/12/17		Batta, resting and cleaning up. Transport (by road arrived)	MB

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FSVRES	20/12/17		Bathn, cleaning arms, clothing and equipment - otherwise resting.	
"	21/12/17		"Skill at Arms" training commenced.	
"	22/12/17		Special classes for Lewis Gunners, Signallers, stretcher Bearers, Chiropodists, and	
"	23/12/17		Musketry Instructors.	
"	24/12/17		Dinne Service 10.30 am Holiday - light rain during afternoon and night caused snow to melt.	
"	25/12/17		Xmas Day. Fine, sunny day - heavy fall of snow during night.	
"	26/12/17		Holiday. Snow fell all day.	
"	27/12/17		"Skill at Arms" training continued as for 21 st and 22 nd inst., owing to deep	
"	28/12/17		snow no outside training possible.	
"	29/12/17		"Skill at Arms" training continued - S.B.R's inspected. Too much snow on	
"	30/12/17		ground for outside training. Day fine, but wind cold.	
"	31/12/17		Sunday - too cold for Dinne Service	
"	31/12/17		"Skill at Arms" training continued.	

*Boyer. Lt.-Col.
C.O., 29th Bn., A.I.F.*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																
			<p>Casualties etc, during month ended 31-12-17</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Ranks</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned to Australia</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>do. (accidentally)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Hospital (sick)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">102 83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died of Wounds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">*</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transferred to other units</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" " Seconded List</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" " O. T. C.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From O. T. C.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Seconded List</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Hospital</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Reinforcements</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 8th T. Bn.</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Other units.</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	Returned to Australia	1	-	Killed	1	6	Wounded	-	26	do. (accidentally)	-	1	To Hospital (sick)	2	102 83	Died of Wounds	*	2	Transferred to other units	-	1	" " Seconded List	2	-	" " O. T. C.	-	1	From O. T. C.	1		" Seconded List	3		" Hospital	1	137	" Reinforcements	2	16	" 8th T. Bn.		1	" Other units.		3	
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			Strength of <u>Battn</u> , at 31/1/11.								
			<u>With Bn.</u>		<u>On Detached Duties</u>		<u>In Hospital</u>		<u>Total Strength</u>		
			<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O. R.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O. R.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O. R.</u>	
			34	792	13	90	1	47	48	929	
											<u>MR</u>