

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/58/10

Title: 41st Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/58/10

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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~~

41st. Battalion. A.I.F.

41st. BATTALION
(2) 9 SEP 1917

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Map Ref. WARNETON.	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME 10	Remarks and references to Appendices
MESSINES	August 1st.			Post at U.5.b.85.10 (VII) re-occupied. Casualties O.R.5 Killed 18 wounded. Strengthn Off.42 O.R.947		
	August 2nd.			Consolidating Posts. 2 Platoon "C" Company digging C.T. Post VIII. At 10pm enemy counter attacked by was beaten off by M.G's and Artillery Barrage (68 M.G's covering Sector) Work of consolidation hindered by weather. Trenches in state of collapse and waiste deep in many places. Strengthn- Offs.42 O.R.934 (13 S.O.S) Casualties- Offs.1 wounded O.R.3 kid.6winded.		
	August 3rd.			Counter-attacks at 10.33pm and 2.30am driven off by M.G's and Artillery barrage. 7am enemy stretcher bearers in NO MANS LAND and who worked all morning collecting dead. Casualties. O.R. 7 Killed 18 wounded. Strengthn- Offs.42 O.R.931 (3 S.O.S)		
Night 4/5tn.	August.			Casualties O.R.11 wounded. Strengthn-Offs.42 O.R.951 (9 S.O.S. 29 T.O.S.) Relieved by New Zealand Brigade. Relief completed by 3am. Men conveyed to DE SEULE Camp by Mechanical Transports. Casualties O.R.Nil. Strengthn-Offs.39 O.R.947. (3 Offs.4 O.R.-S.O.S) General- Heavy rain, conditions bad. New Zealand Division held line on our right, and 44tn. Battn. A.I.F. on our left.		
DE SEULE	August 6tn.			Battalion re-organizing. Strengthn Offs.40 O.R.935. (1 Off.T.O.S. 12 O.R.S.O.S)		
	August 7tn.			Strengthn-Offs.41 O.R.863 (1 of f.T.O.S. 73 O.R.-S.O.S) Battalion comenced training in accordance with Syllabus laid down by C.O.		
	August 8tn.			Strengthn- 41 Offs. 836 O.R.) 27 O.R.-S.O.S)		
	August 9tn.			Strengthn- 41 Offs. 838 O.R.) 2 O.R.-T.O.S) Battalion placed in Reserve, vide Appendix 1.		①
	August 10tn.			Strengthn- 31 Offs. 803 O.R. (10 Off. 35 O.R.-S.O.S)		
	August 11tn.			Strengthn- 31 Offs. 840 O.R. (37 O.R.- T.O.S)		
	August 12tn.			Strengthn- 30 Offs. 856 O.R. (1 Off.S.O.S 16 O.R.- T.O.S.)		
	August 13tn.			Strengthn- 31 Offs. 867 O.R. (1 Off. 11 O.R. - T.O.S)		
	August 14tn.			Strengthn- 34 Offs. 868 O.R. (3 Offs. 1 O.R. - T.O.S)		
	August 15tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 865 O.R. (1 Off. 3 O.R. - S.O.S) Battalion moved from DE SEULE Camp to ST. MARIE CAPPELL into Billets. Billets good and clean.		
				General- Battalion Training carried out in accordance with Syllabus. Weather fine since leaving the line except for light showers.		
ST MARIE CAPPELL	August 16tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 871 O.R. (6 O.R. T.O.S)		
	August 17tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 873 O.R. (2 O.R. T.O.S)		
	August 18tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 870 O.R. (3 O.R. T.O.S)		
	August 19tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 906 O.R. (36 O.R. T.O.S) Six Military Medals awarded. to Battalion Appendix 2		
	August 20tn.			Strengthn- 33 Offs. 914 O.R. (8 O.R. T.O.S)		
	August 21st.			Strengthn- 41 Offs. 915 O.R. (8 Offs. 1 O.R. T.O.S)		

*Alex R. Heron Lt Col
Comdg 41st Bn A.I.F.*

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

41st. Battalion. A.I.F. (2)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST MARIE CAPPELL	August 22nd.		Strengtn- 42 Offs. 944 O.R. (10ff 39 O.R. - T.O.S) Battalion marched to NAZEBROUCK and entrained Detrained at WIZERNES, and mar cned to billets in CAMPAGNETTE and FOURDEBECQUE. Stragglers NIL. Billets poor and dirty. Weatne r fine.	
	August 23rd.		Strengtn- 42 Offs. 944 O.R. Battalion training resumed. Headquarters at CAMPAGNETTE.	
CAMPAGNETTE	August 24th.		Strengtn- 42 Offs. 939 O.R. (5 O.R. - S.O.S)	
	August 25th.		Strengtn- 41 Offs. 937 O.R. (1 Off. 2 O.R.- S.O.S) Battalion marched to billets in ASSINGHEM. Billets clean and compact at Weatner snowy.	
	August 26th.		Strengtn- 41 Offs. 938 O.R. (1 O.R.- T.O.S) 2/Lieut.W.M.McLEAN awarded tne MILITARY CROSS.	
	August 27th.		Strengtn- 43 Offs. 964 O.R. (2 Offs. 26 O.R.- T.O.S)	
	August 28th.		Strengtn- 43 Offs. 959 O.R (5 O.R. - S.O.S)	
	August 29th.		Strengtn- No cnange.	
	August 30th.		Strengtn- No cnange. Major A.R .NERON DSO promoted Temp.Lieut.Colonel whiie Administering Command	
	August 31st.		Strengtn- 42 Offs. 956 O.R. (1 Off. 3 O.R. - S.O.S) General- Battalion carried out training including Route March 16 miles in whicn there were no Stragglers. Weatner snowery.	

*Alex R Heron Lt Col
Comdg 41st Bn A.I.F.*

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917 August 5 th	LE SEULE	M.T. Raining + misty weather prevailed Resting + reorganization (Baytail muster) Weather fine.
6 th	"	150 men bathed. Companies reorganizing + making complete kit inspections Weather fine
7 th	"	300 men bathed. 3.30 pm battalion lecture on V.D. by Archdeacon Ward Weather fine - visibility poor
8 th	"	Battalion commenced training in accordance with syllabus laid down by C.O. Weather misty with light showers in afternoon

D.398/9.14.—C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917 9 th August	LE SEULE	Battalion training as laid down in syllabus. 11 th Brigade placed in reserve to 57 th Division which holds sector from LYS to FLEURBAIX 11 th Battalion in reserve to Left Brigade (170 th) of that division. Four hours notice given + our route if required is via ERQUINHEIM bridge. Weather fine.
10 th	"	Battalion training. Inspection of B + D Coys at 2 pm by C.O. Weather fine visibility good.

D.398/9.14.—C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917 Aug 11	DE SEULE	Bn training as per Syllabus A+C Coys inspected by CO 10 AM to 11.30 11.30 am. 11.50 AM. Inspection of Bn by Army Commander. Afternoon Holiday. Recreation Weather Showery Visibility Fair	
" 12	" "	Church Parade 9 AM. 2 nd in Command Bn, Adjutant, & two of C Coys reconnoitred Routes to Fleurybaix + Subs. Line of that Sector Weather Showery Visibility Fair	

D. 398/9.14.—C.11056.

Contd.

15/8/1917

C.O.	}	BOIS GRENIER SECTOR.
Lieute nant MURDOCH		
Captai n SWANSON		
Captain FRENCH		

16/8/1917

All Co y. Commanders and Major SWERIDAN-ARMENTIERES.

Reconn aissance will be for purpose of ascertaining positions and conditions of all approaced from present position to the Subsidiary line in the two sectors, special attention being paid to the bridges over River LYS.

It is recommended that each party take at least two ~~men~~ ~~men~~ Runners on bicycles.

8. Maps are to be at once studied and assistance in locating places may be obtained from up-to-date Map in Battalion Headquarte

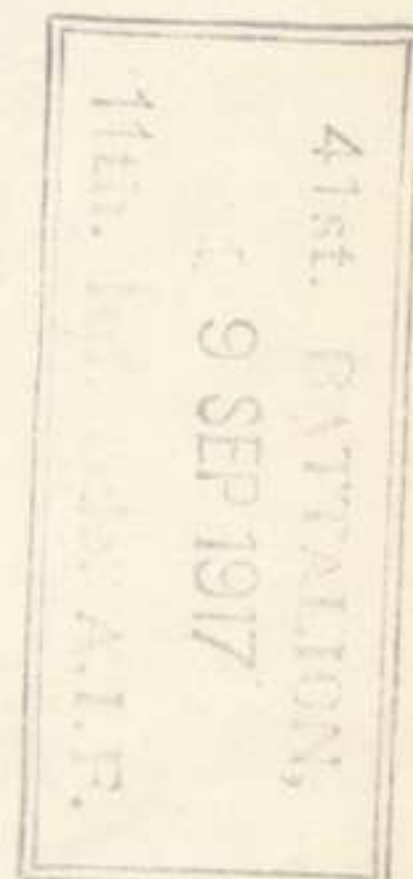
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) G.T. THOMAS. Captain.
A/Adjutant "AERIAL"

Distributed as follows:-

Copy No.	1.....	C.O.
	2.....	2nd. in Command.
	3.....	O.C. "A" Company.
	4.....	O.C. "B" "
	5.....	O.C. "C" "
	6.....	O.C. "D" "
	7.....	Ede. H. qrs.
	8.....	War Diary.

*Alex R. Peteron Lt Col
Comdg 41st Bn A.I.F.*



APPENDIX II.

The Corps Commander has awarded the MILITARY MEDAL to the following:-

No. 2682 Sergeant Norman Alfred NEILSON.

On the night 31st. July/1st. August 1917 east of MESSINES, this N.C.O. showed great courage and devotion to duty during the assault. Upon his Platoon Commander (Lieut. JACKSON) becoming a casualty, he took charge and guided the men out of snelled areas, notwithstanding the fact that he was twice blown over by snell fire. He was eventually evacuated 24 hours later suffering from snell shock and exposure, but had refused to leave the line until he had to be actually carried out.

His determination and devotion to duty had an excellent effect upon his men.

No. 1869 Sergeant John Joseph MORIARTY.

On the morning of August 3rd. east of MESSINES, this N.C.O. showed great bravery and devotion to duty. ~~In~~ the front line his platoon Commander (Lieut. ROGERS) and Corporal MOTT, were completely buried by a snell during a heavy bombardment. He at once set to work and dug them both out, although the place was being heavily snelled at the time. By his prompt action he probably saved the lives of both the aforementioned who were evacuated suffering from snell shock.

No. 273 Private Norman RENDLE. (Runner)

From the 31st. July to 5th. August 1917, in the MESSINES Sector acted as Battalion Runner between forward posts and his Company. On repeated occasions successfully carrying messages through enemy barrages and under the worst possible weather conditions necessitating his travelling most of the way overland owing to the impassable nature of the trenches. When observed that he was becoming exhausted he was advised to take a rest, this he stoutly refused, continuing his duties until he completely collapsed and had to be taken away. His tenacity and devotion to duty was responsible for successfully keeping touch between posts and his Company, and set a splendid example to those with whom he was associated.

No. 230 Private John McCULLOCH.

From 31st. July to 5th. August 1917, in MESSINES Sector Private McCULLOCH was Battalion operator during the abovementioned period, operating on an O.L. Lamp, under most arduous and trying conditions. This man was in charge of the lamp at a forward post, and almost continuously for 60 hours remained in a very exposed condition under very heavy enemy Machine Gun and Artillery fire. Keeping his lamp correctly adjusted thereby successfully maintaining communication through that period with his Battalion Headquarters.

No. 276 Private Thomas SNEA.

From 31st. July to 5th. August 1917, in MESSINES Sector Private SNEA was engaged on ration carrying between his Coy and forward Posts. Under abnormally adverse weather conditions being compelled to travel overland owing to the impassable nature of the trenches, and through heavy enemy snell fire, he kept up an adequate supply of rations to his comrades, earning the highest appreciation from all the Post Commanders for his bravery and his unswerving devotion to duty.

No. 2678 Private John RUSSELL.

From the 31st. July to 5th. August 1917, in the MESSINES Sector, Private RUSSELL was engaged on ration carrying between his Coy and forward Posts. Under abnormally adverse weather conditions being compelled to travel overland owing to the impassable nature of the trenches and through heavy enemy snell fire he kept up an adequate supply of rations to his comrades.

Appendix No 2

Honors and Awards continued.

earning the highest appreciation from all the Post Commanders for his bravery and unswerving devotion to duty.

The following Officer was awarded the MILITARY CROSS.

2/Lieutenant W.M.MCLEAN.

41st. BATTALION,
9 SEP 1917
11th. Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

*Alex R Heron Lt Col
Comdg 4th Bn AIF*