

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/42/37

**Title:** 25th Infantry Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-23/42/37



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96

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918



Signature of Officer compiling

*Harrison*

Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Tom Davis*

Lieut-Colonel,

C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.



# 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

(Erase heading not required.)

25th A. I. Battalion

C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

Lieut-Colonel,

96

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Sept. 1st 1918.		<p>Strength of Bn. 44 Officers 706 O/Rs. including detached but effective 20 Off. &amp; 196 O/Rs. Continuations of Operations from August 31st. Weather: Raining. Bn. ordered to move at 1/2 hour's notice to I. 8, 14 &amp; 20. 11 a.m. Orders to move to I. 14 - At noon positions still unsettled. 1 p.m. Weather fine. 2 p.m. Weather still fine. 5.40 p.m. Orders to move to I. 15 a &amp; c. 6.50 p.m. Bn. moves to I. 15 a &amp; c. 8 p.m. Bn. in position. 10 p.m. C.O. called to Bde. H. Qs.</p>	Ref. map sheet 62c.
	2nd		<p>Returned at 2 a.m. 3 a.m. Meeting of Company Commanders who were given verbal instructions as to the operations. 5 a.m. Battalion moves to Jumping Off Positions. Zero hour 5.30 am. Report of Operations attached - see Appendix "A"</p>	
	3rd		<p>Situation normal except in the left flank where the situation was cleared up by 3 p.m. Machine Gun Battery reported firing from J.7.c.15 - dealt with about 3 p.m. 8.30 p.m. Heavy enemy shell fire on back area. Midnight - very quiet.</p>	
	4th		<p>3 a.m. situation normal and very quiet. 9 a.m. Visibility good - situation normal 3 p.m. Very quiet.</p>	
	5th		<p>Relieved by 32nd Battalion Relief complete by 12.15 a.m. Bn moved to Transport Lines at H.14.d. where it arrived at 2555 am 2 p.m. move to CAPPY AREA as per Appendix "B" attached. Arrived 3.45 p.m. Weather - Raining. - Bn. comfortably billeted in dug-outs and bivouacs.</p>	
	6th		<p>Bn. cleaning up - Baths for 400 men.</p>	
	7th		<p>Bn cleaning up and reorganising - Weather fine.</p>	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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*Wm Davis*

Lieut-Colonel,

C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

96

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8th	Sept	Brigade church Parade 10 a.m. C.O.'s Inspection at noon.	
	9th	Sept.	G.O.C's Inspection.	
	10th	Sept	Preparing Ground for Brigade Sports - 120 O/s Employed	
	11th	Sept	Preparing ground for Battalion Sports.	
	12th	Sept	Weather wet - Sports postponed.	
	13th	Sept	Training in Morning - Showery. Expected visit by Mr. W.M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, who arrived at 6 p.m. Bn. Sports - Horse events, Buck Jumping. Concert in evening.	
	14th	Sept	Training in morning. Brigade Horse Sports in afternoon.	
	15th	Sept	Bde Church Parade - Fine Day.	
	16th	Sept	Divisional Sports - Thunderstorm.	
	17th	Sept	to) Training as per Training Syllabus attached - "Appendix "C".	
	21st	Sept)	)	
	17th	Sept	Training in morning. Afternoon: Cricket Match between Officers and men. Weather fine - rain at night.	
	18th	Sept	Bn. Parade. Inspection by C.O. in morning. In afternoon Cricket match Officers v. O/Ranks - won by latter by an innings and 45 runs. Weather fine.	
	19th	Sept	Training in morning. Recreation in afternoon.	
	20th	Sept	Training in morning. In afternoon Cricket Match - H.Qs. & "C" Coy. v. "A" Coy. H.Qs. won by 50 runs.	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

25th A. I. Battalion.

(Erase heading not required.)

*Wm Davis* Lieut-Colonel,  
C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
	21st Sept		Reorganisation of Bn. from 4 Coys to 3 coys. "B" Coy split up and distributed amongst the remaining three. Afternoon - Cricket match between H.Qs & "C" Coy. v. "A" Coy. "A" Coy. won.	
	22nd Sept		Church Parades - Weather wet.	
	23rd Sept		Baths. Route March.	
	24th Sept		Carried out experiment signalling to aeroplanes with flap of S.B.Rs painted white.	
	25th Sept		Training with Tanks at HERERILLE. Bn. left the billets at 6.45 a.m. and carried out Practice at 9.30 a.m. - returned to billets at 2 p.m. Preparations made for breaking up the Battalion. Orders received 6 p.m. breaking-up postponed until after forthcoming operations.	
	26th Sept.		Fumigation of Blankets. Bn. Gas Helmet Inspection by pde. Gas Officer.	
	27th Sept		Received orders for Bn. to move to PERONNE AREA and all necessary arrangements made. At 6.30 p.m. Bn. moved off by march route in marching order and arrived at I.30.b.4.9 at 12.30 a.m., 22.9.18. Bn. H.Qs was situated at I.30.b.4.9. Coys. Transport and Q.M. Stores were in close proximity. The night was clear and cool and the march was good. Three men only falling out en route. Copy of Order attached as per Appendix "D".	
	28th Sept		Bn. billeted in huts and comfortable. Had blankets 27th and 28th insts. All packs and valises etc. collected and dumped at Kit Store PERONNE. At 7.30 p.m. Bn. moved by march route to J.18a.17 and arrived at 9.15 p.m. There was but little accommodation here - 7 Nissen huts only being allotted for use of Bn. Remainder of Bn made shelters for themselves. The day and night were showery. Copy of Order attached - as per Appendix "E".	
	29th Sept		Bn. in J.18.a standing by ready to move forward at 1/2 hour's notice. Showery weather throughout day and night.	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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*Wm Davis* Lieut-Colonel,  
C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

96

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																				
	1918. Sept 30th		<p>Still standing by in J. 18.a and weather cold and showery. Men had one blanket each.</p> <p>Strength 34 Officers - 618 O/Ranks including 11 Officers and 176 O/Ranks detached but effective.</p> <p>Casualties: -----</p> <p>Officers who <del>have</del> became casualties during the month:--</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>H. H. Page (M.C.)</td> <td>Wounded</td> <td>2.9.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt</td> <td>H. Cross (M.C.)</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut.</td> <td>J. W. Annat (M.M)</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>J. I. Graham</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>J. K. Hoge</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>F. B. Norman</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>C. L. McLaughlin</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>D. K. Paine</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lt.</td> <td>C.V. Izdebski</td> <td>K.I.A.</td> <td>2.9.18 - Buried 62C. I.10.b.1.3</td> </tr> </table> <p>Decoration: TOTAL CASUALTIES: 1 Off. &amp; 26 O/Rs. Killed; 8 Off. &amp; 116 O/Rs Wounded.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The following decoration was awarded for operations in August not published until last monthly Diary submitted:--</p> <p>Lieut. W. Harrison, M.M. awarded "Military Cross" - dated 10.8.18.</p> <p>Recommendations for Operations 1st/5th September not yet published.</p>	Major	H. H. Page (M.C.)	Wounded	2.9.18	Capt	H. Cross (M.C.)	do	do	Lieut.	J. W. Annat (M.M)	do	do	2nd Lt.	J. I. Graham	do	do	2nd Lt.	J. K. Hoge	do	do	2nd Lt.	F. B. Norman	do	do	2nd Lt.	C. L. McLaughlin	do	do	2nd Lt.	D. K. Paine	do	do	2nd Lt.	C.V. Izdebski	K.I.A.	2.9.18 - Buried 62C. I.10.b.1.3	
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## WAR DIARY

OF

25th A. I. BATTALION

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
"A"	Report on Operations on Mt. St. QUENTIN - 2.9.18.
"B"	Operation Order No. 63. - 5.9.18
"C"	Training Programme for week ending 21st Sept. 1918.
"D"	Operation Order No. 64 -- 27. 9.18
"E"	Operation Order No. 65 -- 28.9.18.



## REPORT ON OPERATIONS ON MOUNT St. QUENTIN on 2nd SEPT 1918

Reference Map Sheet 62C.N.W. 1/20,000.

Prior to Attack:

The Battalion was bivouaced in trenches in I.14.b & d. and I.15.c. Bn. H.Q's was situated at I.14.d.45.60.

At 10 p.m. the acting C. O. (Major H.H. PAGE, M.C.) was called to Brigade H. Q's for a conference, returning to Bn. H. Q's at 2.15 a.m. on 2nd instant.

A meeting of Company Commanders was called at 3 a.m., and plan of attack discussed and verbal instructions for the attack given by the C.O.

Dispositions for Attack:

The Bn. was disposed for the attack as follows:-- "A" Coy. on Right from I.15.b.19 to I.9.c.64; "C" Company on Left from I.9.c.64 to I.9.a.41; "D" Company in echelon 100 yards behind the centre of the two front Companies; "B" Company in Support 100 yds. behind "D" Company.

Plan of Attack:

Owing to the narrow frontage at the jumping off line and the widening as the attack proceeded the C.O.'s intentions were for the two front Companies to make the initial attack. Then as the attack proceeded the two front line companies automatically keeping liaison with Battalions on flanks a gap would be caused in the centre into which "D" company fed and built up the firing line. "B" Company was kept in close support to build up the attacking line as the necessity arose.

Formation adopted in Attack:

A platoon from each of the two front line coys. advanced as a line of skirmishers 50 yds. in front. The remainder of the Bn. advanced in sections in file in Artillery formation.

Bn. H. Q's moved immediately in front of Support company.

Objective:

Was Road from St. DENIS through squares I.17.a. & b., I.11.d. and I.12.a. or trenches along that line.

The Attack:

Zero hour was fixed at 5.30 a.m.

At 5.20 a.m. all Coys. reported in position on the Jumping Off Line.

At ~~Zero~~ the Artillery barrage opened; the barrage was good but light the shooting being excellent with a few exceptions.

Owing to the Infantry being temporarily held up by enemy M. G. fire the barrage soon outpaced the attacking troops.

From this point onwards the fight developed into an Infantry fight entirely.

The enemy M. G. fire by this time was extremely hot and the whole line was temporarily checked. All ranks shewed great dash and ~~initiative~~ initiative from now on.

The weaker enemy posts were selected and attacked first. This was done under fire from the flanks by small groups of men advancing in rushes and making use of any cover available until they were able to rush these posts and either capture or put out of action the garrison. The stronger posts were then attacked from the flanks at the same time they were engaged by rifle and L. G. fire from the front. These flanking movements were very successful in dealing with all posts. In every instance when fire was properly directed from the flank the enemy retired or endeavoured to do so in ones and twos from the stronger posts. As soon as this was noticed our troops rushed forward in a frontal attack and the remainder of the garrisons would immediately



surrender.

During the attack and at the time when a good bite into his line of resistance was made and while the flank posts were being dealt with a body of enemy, approximately 100 strong, were observed 500 yards away in column of fours making towards the breach. They were still in the barrage area and apparently were having casualties. Lewis guns were immediately turned on and caused them to turn about and flee in disorder.

A Vickers Gun which just then arrived was soon mounted and fired a few bursts before they were out of sight.

At one strong point apparently a mine crater on a hill in I.10.d.6.3 which was bristling with M. Gs it was found to be too strong to overcome by these tactics.

The Company Commander decided to move to the left under cover and then move forward and link up with the Bn. on his right on the reverse slope and surround the crater.

This movement proved highly successful but the enemy seeing a big gap still farther on our right vacated the crater leaving 17 M. Gs and 2 Trench Mortars behind in this post alone. When this line of resistance was overcome the whole of our line advanced following quickly on the heels of the retreating enemy and dealing with any individual posts en route until the objective was reached at 7.20 a.m.

#### Consolidation:

When the objective had been reached and consolidation was in progress attempts were made to get into touch with flank Bns. This was done and in the case of the Right Bn. was maintained throughout but with the Left Bn. although temporarily established was lost shortly afterwards through them apparently falling back to the rear of the objective. The position on this flank was obscure until next day when it was finally cleared up by a patrol of ours working along ATHENS ALLEY and ANTIGONE ALLEY and getting touch with both Bns. This position was then firmly established.

While the situation was obscure on this flank we established a S. P. with Lewis Gun on road in I.12.a.15.15 protecting our left flank and commanding road. At the same time a patrol of 1 Officer and 6 O/Rs. with L. G. patrolled the loop trench on our flank all night to make sure no enemy got a footing in it.

#### Signal Communications:

During the attack information was received by runner. After objectives had been reached the first despatch was forwarded to Brigade by mounted orderly and was a success from our point of view. Visual communication was at once tried to where Brigade Relay Station was expected to be but after 20 minutes fruitless effort it was decided to run a line back to where the first relay station was expected to be. Some little difficulty was experienced in locating the position and some little delay was caused in getting a line through. Once communication was established it was well maintained in the circumstances as the shell fire was fairly heavy. The linesmen did excellent work.

All Companies in Bn. were in telephonic communication within a few hours of consolidation.

#### Prisoners captured:

As far as can be ascertained and a conservative estimate made we captured at least 60 prisoners.

#### Enemy Casualties:

The number of enemy casualties were approximately between 50 and 60. A big percentage of these were killed by Artillery fire and of the remainder rifle and L. G. fire accounted for most and a few were killed with the bayonet.

#### Trophies Captured:

At least 42 M. Gs, 3 Anti-Tank Rifles and 2 Trench Mortars and large quantities of ammunition for each. A complete listening set with dynamo was taken.



(3)

Note:

Owing to the weakness of the Bn. only a very small proportion of the guns actually captured were able to be salved.

Our Casualties for the operation were:

Killed:	1 Officer	29 0/Ranks.
Wounded	8 Officers	106 0/Raks.

(signed) J. L. Fletcher, capt.,  
A/C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.



*B*

SECRET.

25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

COPY NO. 1

OPERATION ORDER NO. 63.

In the field, 5.9.18.

Reference Map Sheet 62C. 1/40,000:

1. 25th Battalion will move to CAPPY AREA by march route today 5th instant.
2. Battalion Billeting Area will be G.14.a & b.
3. Each Company will move out fully equipped.
4. Lewis Guns, Panniers, etc., blankets and Officers' gear will be dumped at Battalion Headquarters by 12 noon.  
Blankets to be rolled in Bundles of 10.
5. Order of march will be:--  
 Bn. H.Qs., "A", "B", "C" & "D" companies.  
 Starting point will be corner of Wood at H.14.c.3.8.  
 Head of column to pass starting point at 2 p.m.  
 Movement to be by Companies at 200 yards interval.  
 1st Line of Transport will move with Battalion.
6. On arrival in new Area protection will be taken against enemy bombing.
7. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) G. Carroll, Captain,  
 Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion



25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
 TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WEEK ENDING 21st SEPTEMBER 1918

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Date	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
16th	D I V I S I O N A L S P O R T S			
17th				
9-10 am	Platoon Drill	Route March	Platoon Drill	Route March
10-11 am	Hlf-hr Dummy Bmb. Throwing Hlf-hr. R.G. Practice	Musketry on 30 yds. Range	Hlf-hr. Dummy Bmb. Throwing Hlf-hr. R.G. Practice	Musketry, Rapid loading & aiming - $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. to be carried out with S.B.Rs
11-12 noon	Musketry on 30 yds. Rifle Range	Hlf-hr. Dummy Bmb. Throwing. Hlf-hr. R.G. Practice	Musketry, Rapid loading & aiming - $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. to be carried out with S.B.Rs	Hlf-hr. Bmb. throwing, Hlf-hr. R.G. practice
		AFTERNOON:	RECREATIONAL TRAINING	
18th				
9-10 am	B. Fighting - $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. to be carried out with S.B.Rs 10-11 am: Route March	9-11 am: Platoon Tctcl. exrcs. scheme to be submtd. by Pltn. Cmdrs by 6 p.m. 17th inst.	9-10 am: Route March 10-11 am: Musk. on 30 yds. Range	9-11 am: Pltn. tactical exrcs. - scheme to be submtd. by pltn cmdrs by 6 p.m. 17th inst.
11-12 noon	Musk., Rapid Ldgng. & Aiming	Platoon Drill	P.T. & B.F.	Musk. on 30 yds Range
		AFTERNOON:	BATTALION SPORTS.	
19th				
9-11 am	Platoon Tactical Exrcs. to be submtd by Pltn. Cmdrs. by 6 pm 17th inst. 11-noon: Musk. on 30 yds. Range	9-9.30 am: Gas Drill & Inspn. of S.B.Rs 9.30-noon: Coy. Tctcl. exrcs. - scheme to be skmtd. by Coy. Cmdr by 6 pm 19th inst.	9-11 am: Pltn. Tctcl. Exercises schm. to be submtd. by Coy. Cmdr. by 6 pm 17th inst. 11-noon: Musk. on 30 yds Range.	9.9.30 am: Gas Drill. 9.30-noon: Coy. Tctcl. Schm. to be skmtd. by Coy. Cmdr. by 6 p.m. 19th inst.
		AFTERNOON:	CRICKET - "A" Coy v. "C" Coy.	FOOTBALL: - "B" Coy v. "D" Coy.
20th				
9--noon	9-9.30 am: Gas Drill 9.30-noon: Coy. Tctcl. exrcs. - Scheme to be skmtd. by Coy. Cmdr. by 6 pm 18th	9-10 am: Coy Drill 10-12 noon: Musk. on 30 yds. Rifle Range	9-9.30 am: Gas Drill 9.30-noon: Coy. Tctcl. Exrcs. scheme to be skmtd. by Coy. Cmdr. by 6 pm 18th inst.	9-10 am: Coy. Drill 10-11 am: R.G. Practice 11-12: Musk. Rapid Ldg. & Aiming.
		AFTERNOON:	RECREATIONAL TRAINING	

APPENDIX. C.



(2)

96

Date	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
21st				
9--12 noon	9-10 am: Company Drill 10-12 noon: Musketry on 30 yds. Musk. Range.	9-11 am: Platoon Tactical Exercs. - scheme to be carried out by N.C.Os under Pltn. Officers 11-noon: Company Drill	9-10 am: company Drill 10-11 am: R.G. Practice 11-12 noon: Musketry, Rapid Loading, & Aiming	9-11 am: Platoon Tactl. exercs - scheme to be carried out by N.C.Os under supervsn. of Officers. 11-12 noon: coy. Drill.

AFTERNOON:

SPORTS TO BE ARRANGED.

Notes:

The 8 L. Gunners per company as detailed last week will report to L. G. Officer at 9 am., also at 2 p.m. for the purpose of firing on Range. These men will not be detailed for other duties.

Signallers: All Signallers will report to Battalion Sig. Sgt. at 9 a.m.

Arrangements will be made for Revolver practice for Officers and Lewis Gunners during the week.

Location of Parade Grounds:

"A" and "B" Coys:	H.14.d.
"C" and "D" Coys:	H.20.b
Rifle Range:	H.20.b.4.1

(sgd.) G. Carroll, Captain,  
Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

15 9.18

APPENDIX

C



27. 9.18. *D 12*

96

OPERATION ORDER NO. 64 -- Ref. Map. 62C.

1. 7th Brigade Group will move by march route to PERONNE Area tonight.
2. 25th Battalion will relieve 41st Battalion at I.30.b.5.6.
3. Advance Party of Lieut. Biden and 1 N.C.O. per company will report to H.Qs 41st Battalion at 10 am., 27th instant, as billeting Party.
4. Battalion will fall in on Battalion Parade Ground at *6.15 P.M.* ready to move off. 1st Line Transport will move with Battalion.
5. Order of March will be:  
H.Qs., "A", "C", "D" Coys. 1st Line Transport.
6. Intervals of 100 yds will be maintained between Companies and between rear Company and Transport.
7. Special attention will be paid to March discipline and Traffic Control.
8. Dress : Marching Order.
9. Transport Officer will detail 1 Limbered G. S. Wagon to report to Brigade Headquarters at 3 p.m. today. This Limber will move with Bde. H.Qs.
10. Blankets which will be rolled in bundles of 10, labelled, and dumped at Q.M. Stores by 12 noon today, will be carried on baggage wagons.
11. Officers' Kits and Mess Gear to be at Q.M. Store by 4 p.m.
12. All Trench Shelters, Area Stores, etc. in new Area will be taken over and receipts forwarded to Bn. H.Qs by 9 a.m., 28th instant.
13. Acknowledge.

*R. H. G. Crawford* 2nd Lieut.,  
A/Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

## Distribution:

*D*  
1 - 4 Companies  
5 T.O.  
6 Q.M.  
7 7th A.I. Bde.  
8 File  
9-11 War Diary.



SECRET.

25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Copy No.

13

OPERATION ORDER NO. 65

28. 9.18.

Reference Map Sheet 62C. --- 1/40,000.

1. The 25th A. I. Battalion will move by march route to J.17.b.9.8 tonight in order of H.Qs., "A", "C", "D" companies and 1st Line transport.
2. Head of column to pass starting point at Bn. H. Qs. at 7.30 p.m.
3. Advanced Parties under Lieut. H. E. Biden have gone ahead
4. Distance of 100 yards to be maintained between Companies and rear company and Transport.
5. Dress: Fighting Order.
6. Blankets will be carried on Baggage Wagons and Lewis Guns on limbers.
7. Officers' Mess Gear will be handed in at Q. M. stores by 6.30 p.m.
8. Battalion H.Qs will be located by companies on arrival at next area.
9. Acknowledge.

(Sgd.) E. W. Cleary, Lieut.,

Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

Issued at 5 p.m

Distribution:

1 - 4 Companies  
 5 File  
 6 T.O. & A.M.  
 7 - 9 War Diary.