

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/42/9

**Title:** 25th Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/42/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

302

or 25th. Battalion, 7th. Infantry Brigade  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Jas Walker Lt Col

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARSEILLES	1916			
	Nov 21		A.P.M. Marseilles stated that Br were the most orderly troops that had ever passed through his hands.	
	23		Train journey completed 9.30 pm. Detained at THIENNES and marched to Camp on Morbecque Road reaching there 1.30 am.	
MORBEQUE	24		Heavy fall of snow. Afternoon Br divided up and moved into billets at various farm houses.	
	27		Br inspected by General Haig C in C British Army in the field. Br complimented by the General on soldierly appearance and the good work done in Gallipoli.	
	29		Afternoon Br parade on Morbecque Rifle Range for practical demonstration of chlorine gas. Gas helmets were put on and all ranks walked through trench changed with chlorine gas and then through saps changed with exploded lacrymatory bombs. During stay at Morbecque Br exercised daily in route marching & musketry.	
apl	4		Br left Morbecque for trenches in vicinity Armentieres. Bde move from Morbecque - Hagelbrouck Road 9.30 am. Billeted in farms round MERIS for night 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> .	
	5		March resumed 9.30 am 5 <sup>th</sup> and reach STEENWACK 5 pm. Br billeted in farms on STEENWACK - ERQUINGHEIM Road. Br HQ. at JESUS FARM.	
	6		Lt Col Page 4th C Co and Snipers sent to trenches preparatory to Br taking over sector occupied by Br of 102 <sup>nd</sup> Bde Tyneside Scottish. Depuded grains from Bde in connection with taking over Sector of front from 102 <sup>nd</sup> Bde Tyneside Scottish.	

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Joe Walker Lt Col

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE MARLE	1916	7	Left billets 7.30 pm marching RUE MARLE 9.30 pm and returned billets of 102 <sup>nd</sup> Bde (Fynande South) Relief completed midnight. 25 <sup>th</sup> Bn close up scene. Bn complemented by GOC Division on their excellent march discipline. He was pleased to notice that 25 <sup>th</sup> Bn were the only Bn who did not have any men falling out on march from Marbecque. Mayor of Marbecque remarked on excellent conduct of Australian troops during their stay in that locality and offered on any future occasion to billet them free of charge.	
		11	Exchange of visits between officers of 27 <sup>th</sup> Bn preparatory to taking over sector of trench. Lt Col White appointed Bde Bomb Officer.	
TRENCHES		12	Moved out of billets 7.30 pm and returned 27 <sup>th</sup> Bn in trenches. Relief completed by 10 p.m. No casualties.	
		13	Enemy shelled S. S. trenches. One casualty. Pvt. Cantwell 18 Coy shot through head by German sniper. All ranks issued with steel helmets but apparently not with bullet proof. All ranks fully occupied improving trenches which are in bad state of repair. B, C & D Coy in front trenches A Coy in supports. Trench occupied about 1400 <sup>x</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> . Quiet day except for sniping. Enemy enemy bombed night of sector with trench mortar. One of bombs over trench all others fell from 5 <sup>th</sup> to 50 yards in front. No casualties. 15 <sup>th</sup> Increased <sup>artillery</sup> activity on both sides. Majority of enemy shells falling in vicinity of our own position in rear of our <del>position</del> trenches. 16 <sup>th</sup> Except for occasional sniping a quiet day. 8.30 pm Enemy bombed trenches night of sector but no casualties. All available men fully occupied steadily in improving trenches and preparing barbed wire entanglements. Several portions of entanglements in front of our lines strengthened. D Coy doing particularly good work in this respect. Nonnons Land patrolled nightly under Lt Col Carroll and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Corney. Lt Carroll and Private. Bodin. Sgt. Pegley S. J. and Private Ed. appeared permanent patrol. Lt Corney and Private Ruskland C, Swan J. H. Longley L and Mason D. appeared also. Intelligence Officer and permanent scouts respectively. Lt Col. Johnson appeared Bn Bomb Officer.	

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Jas Walker Lt Col

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916			
TRENCHES	opt	17	Very wet day. Except for occasional sniping and few shells from enemy other unimportant. Officers and NCOs of 2nd Coy exchange visits preparatory to relieving Bn in trenches. Relief complete 9.30 pm.	
RUE MARIE		18	Bn in reserve RUE MARIE. Bombers attend daily at bomb school for instruction under Brigade Bomb Officer. All available men employed on fatigue work <del>in</del> in trenches under supervision of Engineers.	
TRENCHES		25	Received 27th Bn in trenches. Occupation commenced 8 pm and continued 10.30 pm A.B. 4th and D Coy in front line C' Coy in S.S. line. Capt. McDonald B. Coy evacuated sick.	
		26	All available men in front line fully employed in improving trenches. Afternoon artillery on both sides very active. Enemy bombarded S.S. line between WINE AVENUE and RAILWAY AVENUE. Considerably damaged latter. One casualty. Corp'l St Douglas "C" Company killed by enemy shell exploding in dugout. Norman's Land patrolled by Lt Carroll and party. Left trenches 9.30 pm returning 1. am. No enemy patrol met with. Obtained much useful information.	
		27	12 noon to 1 p. m. enemy bombardment of support lines. One casualty. Pvt. Fieldman "C" Coy killed by H.E. shell in dugout. 10.10 pm gas alarm sounded on left sector our front. Helmets adjusted and front line trenches fully covered within 2 minutes of sounding of gas alarm. Our artillery opened fire immediately on enemy trenches. Shooting effective. Enemy's artillery retaliate. Bombardment lasts half an hour. No casualties from either gas or shells. Gas very mild on our front. Enemy using gas at St Eloi 14 of our position where heavy shelling was heard earlier in evening. More entanglements put in place in front of our parapet. Patrol returned 12.30 am. Was on Norman's Land during bombardment. Good observations as to effect of our shells on enemy's trenches. Nothing special to report.	