

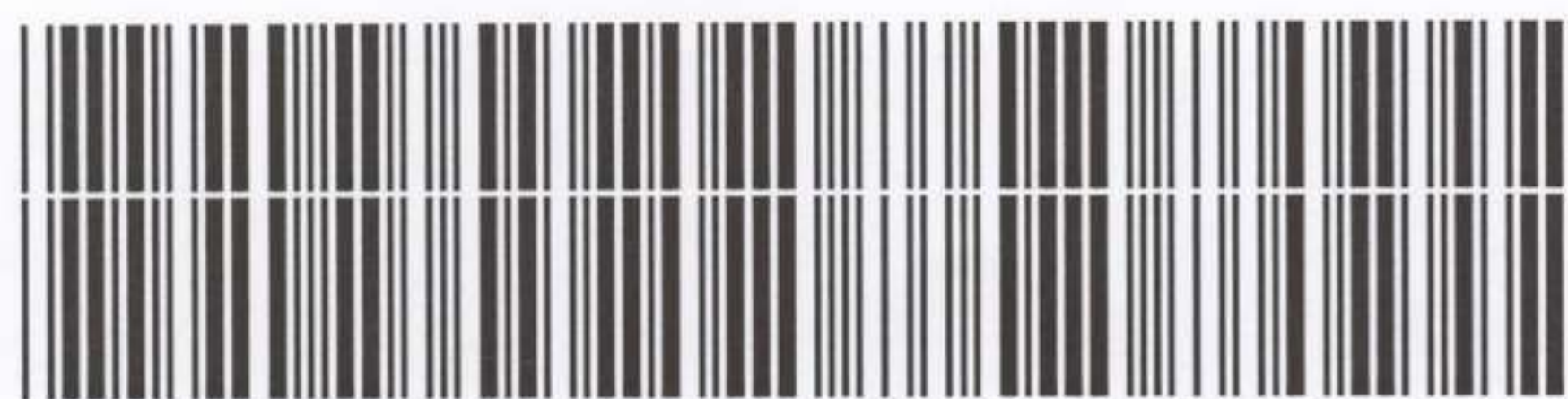
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/43/21

**Title:** 26th Infantry Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-23/43/21



# WAR DIARY

26 Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

26 Bn

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		1917		
Contalmaison	April	1-13	Between these dates the battalion was training & refitting in Hut Camp (Scott's Redoubt North) near CONTALMAISON (X21 d 5.7)	
Beugnâtre		14	Battalion moved to tent camp near BEUGNATRE (H. II. c)	
Vaulx		15	Battalion moved up & bivouaced in old trenches about 1/2 mile S.W. of VAULX. (I. I. c)	
Noreuil		19	" " " " in sunken road through NOREUIL (C9a, C10c, C16a)	
			This formed part of the LONGATTE - NOREUIL - LAGNICOURT line of defence & was garrisoned by Bugaa Reserve.	
		25/27	The battalion relieved the 26th Bn in the front line. The position occupied was the railway embankment opposite the Hindenburg line. Left boundary U 28 c 0.4 a point on the embankment due south of BULLECOURT. Right boundary c 5 a 5.3 intersection of Road & railway. The embankment on our left was held by an English Division & on our right by the 27th A.I. Bn.	I
			3 Companies occupied the embankment with 1 Coy in support in sunken roads about 200 yards in rear (C4 c 5.9, C4 c 3.04 C4 d 5.2) (See Sketch)	
		30th	The battalion remained in this position & was engaged in improving <sup>its</sup> position & making positions for ammunition dumps in view of the pending divisional attacks on the Hindenburg line. Artillery fire was also withheld at certain periods during the night to allow wire reconnaissance <sup>to</sup> being carried out.	II



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 325

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																									
<u>APRIL</u>			<p style="text-align: right;">Strength on March 31st</p> <p>ARRIVALS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">From Hospital</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">OR 126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remnants</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28th Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Just Appointment</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALTB</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> </table> <p>Departures</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">To Hospital</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.P.M.</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anzac Railways</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O.T.C.</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th T. Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Just appointment</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9th Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </table>	From Hospital	2	OR 126	Remnants	1	3	25th Bn	5	0	28th Bn	4	0	Just Appointment	5	0	ALTB	-	1			17	To Hospital		53	A.P.M.		2	Anzac Railways		11	O.T.C.		2	7th T. Bn	1	2	Just appointment		5	9th Bn	1	-	Wounded			Killed	3	42	Missing	-	7	25th Bn	1	1			6	<p style="text-align: right;">20      OR 712</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17      158</p> <p style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">37      870</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6      125</p> <p style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">31      745</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Strength on April 30th</p>
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STANLEY  
 Lieut Col  
 26th Bn



April 25<sup>th</sup> 17Reference Map. O 31 - D 24 / 1/20000  
49/45.

1. The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion will relieve the 25<sup>th</sup> Battn in the left sector on the nights 25/26<sup>th</sup> and 26/27<sup>th</sup> inst.
2. On night 25/26<sup>th</sup> inst 2 Officers per Coy and 1 Sgt and 14 O.R. per platoon will relieve an equal number of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battn. These parties will come under the command of the C.O. 25<sup>th</sup> Bn those of the 25<sup>th</sup> Bn relieved will come under command of the C.O. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
Two platoons of "C" Coy 26<sup>th</sup> Bn will relieve two platoons of "C" Coy 25<sup>th</sup> Bn (in support) this afternoon. On completion of relief the two platoons of the 25<sup>th</sup> Bn will relieve the two platoons of "A" Coy 26<sup>th</sup> Bn on escort to G Group Artillery.  
On night 26/27<sup>th</sup> inst. the relief will be completed.
3. All trench stores dumps, Strombos Horns. S.O.S. signals defence schemes etc will be taken over and receipts given, duplicate copies to Bn H.Qs.
4. Water bottles will be filled, and 48 hours rations carried on the man, also 4 bombs and an extra 50 rounds. S.A.A.
5. "C" Coy of each Battalion will be rationed by their own Battalion. All other boys will arrange mutually to ration men temporarily attached for period 24 hrs ending 8 pm 26<sup>th</sup> inst.
6. Completion of relief each night will be wired to Battn H.Q. giving name of Officer commanding Coy this Murphy.
7. Guides 2 per Coy will be available at 25<sup>th</sup> Bn H.Qs at 8 pm tonight 25/26<sup>th</sup> inst.
8. On completion of relief the command of the left sector will pass to C.O. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn who will occupy H.Qs at present used by 25<sup>th</sup> Bn.
9. R.A.P.s are situated at H.Qs of both Battalions.
10. Acknowledge.



Order No. 95.

April 23rd 1917

Ref Map 1/20000

1. The 7th Field Coy Aust Engineers will carry out another set of "blows" of the hostile wire entanglements in front of the HINDENBURG Line (with mobile charges Bangalore Torpedoes) on the early morning of 24th inst at the following points

8 charges between C 29 a 8.4 + C 29 a 0.6

7 " " C 28 b 6.7 + C 28 b 0.5

2. Each charge will be carried by 3 men - 2 sappers + 1 infantryman
3. A warning signal (a succession of 3 green flares) will be fired from a point about C 4 b 5.8 at 2.14 $\frac{1}{2}$  am  
The signal for the firing of the charges will be a succession of Red + green flares fired alternately 2 green + 2 red + will be discharged from the same point at 2.15 am. (3 sec time)
4. A covering party of two riflemen + two bombers under a selected NCO or senior private will proceed with each party carrying mobile charges creeping until the wire is reached + the charge is laid.  
As soon as the first signal is fired the covering party + all except No. 1 of the carrying party will withdraw 100 yards into shell holes. When the second signal is fired No 1 will light the fuse + withdraw to the covering party. The whole party will then return to our front line.  
1 Officer of the 25th Bn will be put in charge of the covering parties + will be responsible for seeing that the Gruppe leaves the front line correctly + will fire the necessary warning + firing signals from our front line.
5. Covering parties will meet the parties of 7th Field Coy A E with mobile charges at the CRATER, MOREVIL at 10 pm (C 10 C 3.4)



6. The man or NCO in charge of the covering party will be responsible for guiding the mobile charge party from the rendezvous to our front line, & thence to the wire to be destroyed.
7. Covering parties will make a careful reconnaissance of their objective & the ground to be traversed, by daylight observation from our front line during the 23rd inst.
8. Covering parties & mobile charge parties will leave our front line at 1 am.
9. ARTILLERY. The arrangements for lifting of barrage made in my 203/2 of April 21st will be amended as follows.  
The barrage on the left sector will be lifted at 1.15 am & as stated will recommence at 2.25 am on the enemy front trench returning to the enemy wire at 2.35 am.  
The barrage will otherwise be normal unless an increased rate of fire is asked for to enable the parties to return.
10. All Infantry & M.G.s will be warned that the enterprise is taking place & every precaution taken to prevent our parties being fired on either during the operation or on their return.
11. The Co 2nd Bn will detail 4 Stretcher & complement of Stretcher Bearer to be in readiness in our front line to collect casualties should they occur.
12. All watches will be carefully synchronized with 2nd Aust Div. Signal time at 7 pm. The officer in charge of the covering parties will get the time from the 7th A.I. Bde HQ at 9.45 pm.
13. Instructions for the personnel of the parties carrying & firing mobile charges will be issued by O.C. 7th Field Coy A.E.
14. Acknowledge

(Signed) G. Rowan Hamilton  
Capt

B.M.

7th A.I. B.