

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/44/25

Title: 27th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/44/25



27 Battalion A.I.F.

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Summary of Events and Information

VOLUME 18

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Renescure	Sept	1	Training Major Devonshire DSO rejoined from Supernumary list.	
		2	Church Parade.	
		3	Bn Route March 28 Kilos Lt. Coombe W.S. rejoined from 7th T.B.	
		4	Training	
		5	Training Brigade in Attack.	
		6	Wood fighting Scheme Under Supervision of 2nd Army Commander.	
		7	Training	
		8	do	
		9	Church Parade.	
		10	Gas Practice.	
		11	Training Brigade in Attack	
		12		
			Party of 11 Officers + 180 O.R. under Lt. W.L. Davies MC. marched to 2nd DIV.	
			reinforcement camp near Tletre. (Party. men to stay out of line).	
Steenwoorde		13	Bn. left Steenwoorde at 8.15 am + marched to Montreal Camp near Reninghelst.	
Montreal Camp.		14	Bn. Resting. 2nd Lt Devonshire. Evacuated sick from Reinforcement Camp.	



27th Battr. A.I.F.

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
Montreal Camp Reninghelst	Sept	15	1. Platoon carrying ammunition to front line	
		16.	1 boy carrying ammunition to front line.	
Ypres.		17	Bn moved to Ypres Ramparts + came under command of G.O. 66th Bde. A.I.F.	
		18	Fatigue party of 240 men under Lt McLean with 7th Field Coy. Engis.	
			Operation orders arrived at 8pm.	
		19.	Preparations for moving into line.	



Army Form C. 2118.

27th Battalion

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
YPRES and WESTHOEK RIDGE	Sept. 19 th	20	<p><u>Narrative Report on operations</u> 19. 20 + 21st Sept 1917.</p> <p>1. The approach march and arrangements for forming up. The unit moved from to WESTHOEK from YPRES by platoons in single file with 100 yds distance between platoons; led by guides who had been previously taken over the route selected. A considerable amount of artillery fire was experienced in CHATEAU WOOD but no casualties occurred. On arriving at the western slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE some congestion occurred, due to the fourth platoon of each company (carrying parties) having to pick up their loads from the dumps; there was very little confusion however. An advanced party consisting of 1 man per platoon under 2/Lieut JURY had laid out assembly position on the East side of the ridge and had taped off each platoon frontage. These men rejoined their platoons on the West side of the ridge, and led (each man his own platoon) to its assembly</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a. Forms/C/2118/14



WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

27th Battalion

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES + WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Sept	19 th 20 th 21 st	<p><u>narrative Report on operations 19 20 21st Sept. (Contd)</u></p> <p>position on the tape without any confusion.</p> <p>The Battalion was in position and in touch with the 12th (right) and 18th (left) by 3.50am on 20th.</p> <p>Capt J D ELDER MC sustained a painful wound while getting his company into position. He went to the Aid Post for a dressing and rejoined his company well before Zero hour.</p> <p>The manner in which 2nd Lieut J. FURY carried out the duties of laying out the ground and superintending the occupation of the position is worthy of special consideration and I cannot speak too highly of the valuable technical assistance given him by Sapper ELTIS of the 7th Field Company Australian Engineers.</p>	
		2.	<p><u>The Artillery and machine Gun Barrages and the Infantry Advance</u></p> <p>Punctually at 5.40 A.M. on the 20th (Zero hour) the most intense and accurate Barrage I have ever witnessed was put</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.



27th Battalion IIF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
YPRES	Sept	19 th	Narrative Report On Operations 19 th 20 th 21 st Sept. (contd) para 2 (contd)	
+		20 th	down by the Artillery and Machine Gun Companies, to whom these	
WESTHOEK		21 st	duties had been allotted.	
RIDGE			The Battalion well concealed in very muddy shell-holes fired bayonets and advanced behind the 25 th Bn, and was well under weigh before the Enemies guns and responded to his S.O.S signal The distances between waves were not accurately kept, the keenness and enthusiasm of the men proving rather a stronger factor than their discipline.	
			At zero, plus 88 when the barrage commenced to move forward for the second phase, the first wave moved practically with it, many of the men arriving at the hostile positions actually with the Barrage itself. In no instance was the Enemy allowed to get out of his Pill "Boxes" in time to use his rifles or machine guns. Resistance where encountered was feeble, about 80 of the enemy surrendering themselves to our men.	



27th Battalion

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
Ypres	Sept	19th	Narrative Report on Operations 19th, 20th + 21st Sept. (Contd)	
+		20th	The number of enemy killed in the zone between the RED + BLUE lines was roughly from 80-100, this is if anything a	
Westhoek Ridge		21st	low estimate. The second objective was reached without difficulties and exactly on time.	
			There was some disorganization due to loss of direction by some platoons and also to men of other units having lost their way and gone forward with this Bn.	
			I personally arrived at the new position about 9 am, and found my right flank overlapping the left flank of 12th Bn and intermixed with men of 25th, 9th, 10th, 11th + 12th Bns.	
			My left flank had reached its objective and was in touch with Colonel Murphy's right, but was isolated from its own unit by the morass which lies between ALBERT	
			and IRON CROSS REDOUBTS.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.



27th Battrn AIF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
			Narrative Report on Operations of 19th, 20th + 21st Sept. (Cont)	
YPRES	Sept	19th	Para 3. The Consolidation of the Position.	
+		20th	This was carried out quickly and efficiently, a well sited	
WESTHOEK		21st	and continuous trench was dug from POLYGON WOOD to	
RIDGE			the morass north of ALBERT REDOUBT, and a strongly	
			entrenched post was established east of IRON CROSS REDOUBT.	
			M.G. and Lewis gun fire was provided for by MTR. DEVONSHIRE D.S.O.	
			to cover the morass itself diagonally from either flank.	
			The ground on the flanks did not admit of disposition in	
			very great depth, but full advantage was taken of the ground	
			available in the rear of the centre in this regard.	
			The average depth throughout being about 100 yds.	
			Above is a rough sketch of position.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Boh. 52a Form C/2118/14



WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

27th Battalion

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	Sept	19th	<u>Narrative Report on Operations (Contd)</u> The Platoon of 26th Bn. detailed for the construction of Strong Post	
+		20th	arrived on the scene very shortly after the capture of the objective	
WEST HDEK RIDGE		21st	and carried out its task simultaneously with the general consolidation. This platoon was commanded by Lieut WALKER and its work was most commendable.	
			<u>4. Action of attached Machine Guns and Light Trench Mortars.</u>	
			During the advance there was no opportunity for the above weapons to come into action, but the four M.G.s. commanded by Lieut THOMAS 7th M.G. Coy were mounted for Anti Aircraft purposes and were well handled whenever enemy aeroplanes put in an appearance.	
			The 2 T.M.s attached to the unit moved forward with the 28th Bn. during the third phase.	



WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
<u>Narrative Report on Operations of 19th, 20th + 21st Sept. (Cont)</u>				
YPRES	SEPT.	19th	5 <u>Enemy Action.</u>	
+		20th	The actions taken by the enemy so far as it affected this unit consisted mainly of irregular and erratic Artillery fire with some sniping from the direction of the Mound (POLYGON WOODS) during the 20th. His aircraft made several M.G. attacks on the BLUE LINE but casualties from this source were negligible.	
WESTHOEK.		+	6 <u>Morale and discipline of the troops.</u>	
RIDGE		21st.	The conduct of all ranks and the high spirits of both officers and men throughout the operation left nothing to be desired.	
			7 <u>Covering fire by our Artillery</u>	
			This was consistently good with one exception. This was probably a 9.2" or 8" Howitzer battery which repeatedly shot short, much of its fire falling on the BLUE LINE. Although this was reported several times, the shooting continued short, and had not been corrected on night of 21/22.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.



27th Bn A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
YPRES.	SEPT.	19th	<u>Narrative Report on Operations of 19th, 20th & 21st. Sept.</u> <u>Covering fire by our Artillery (cont).</u>	
+		20th	When one man was killed and two wounded by a shell	
WESTHOEK		*	from this battery. The M.P.I. of these shells was at about	
RIDGE.		21st.	J. 9. a. 80. 70 and the bearing of the battery from that point	
			was roughly 260° <u>MAG</u>	
			<u>Counter Attacks</u>	
			The enemy counter attacked at 11:0 am on 20th and again at 6 pm on 20th but in no instance did he reach our lines, being completely repulsed with heavy losses by our MG and Artillery Barrage.	
			At 7 pm on 21st the enemy counter attacked in force, but in no instance did he reach our lines, he was stopped by our MG and Artillery barrage and sustained very heavy casualties.	



27th Battr all

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
YPRES.	SEPT.	21	Orders that the Bn. would be relieved by the 23rd Bn A.I.F. were received at 11am on 21st. The relief to be complete by 3am on 22nd. About 1pm on 21st. Colonel of 23rd Bn A.I.F and an advance party of his Officers arrived to look at the Bn. sector. Advance parties of specialists and Officers of 23rd Bn visited the line throughout afternoon. The relief commenced about 10pm 21st, and was completed by 1am on 22nd.	
WESTHOEK.			The Bn. marched back to Montreal Camp. No Casualties were sustained on the way out.	
RIDGE.			23 Bn. Resting. Billeting Party under Mjr. Fredricks went to Reninghelst.	
			24 Bn. marched out of Montreal Camp to Reninghelst area. and went under canvas at G. 26. d. 1. 3. (Sheet 28).	
			25 Bn Resting and cleaning up. Details from 2nd Div. Rein. Camp under Lt W.L. Davies MC. reported at 3pm. 6 Details from Hare at 4pm.	



WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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	
KENNINGHELS AREA	SEPT	26	Reorganisation of Coys. Inspection by Coy. commanders.		
		27	Bn. Training.		
		28	Bn Training		
		29	Inspection of Bn by C.O. Preparations for going back to the line		
		28	The following men + N.C.O's have been awarded Military medals by the Corps Commander:-		
			1672 Pte CHAPPEL J.H.	5054 Pte PIKE J.D	
			4322 Sgt SPARROW R.G.B.	2234 " TOMICH J.	
			4741 Pte LUNDSTROM J.E.	93 " HARRISON M.R.	
			1626 " HARRIS W.J.	5402 " SUMMERTON G	
			619 L/C LAMBERT E.G.	2483 SGT. SMITH W.M.	
	28		CAPT. R.G. BURNARD from 7th Field Ambulance marched in.		
	29		Capt D.M. ROSS marched out to 7th " "		
			LIEUT L.V. PARKS " " 2nd ARMY SCHOOL.		
			2/LT J.E. GATLEY " " C.R.E.		
	30		Bn moves forward to banal Area		

K.R. Boxer 2/Lt.
A/Bn. I.O.



