

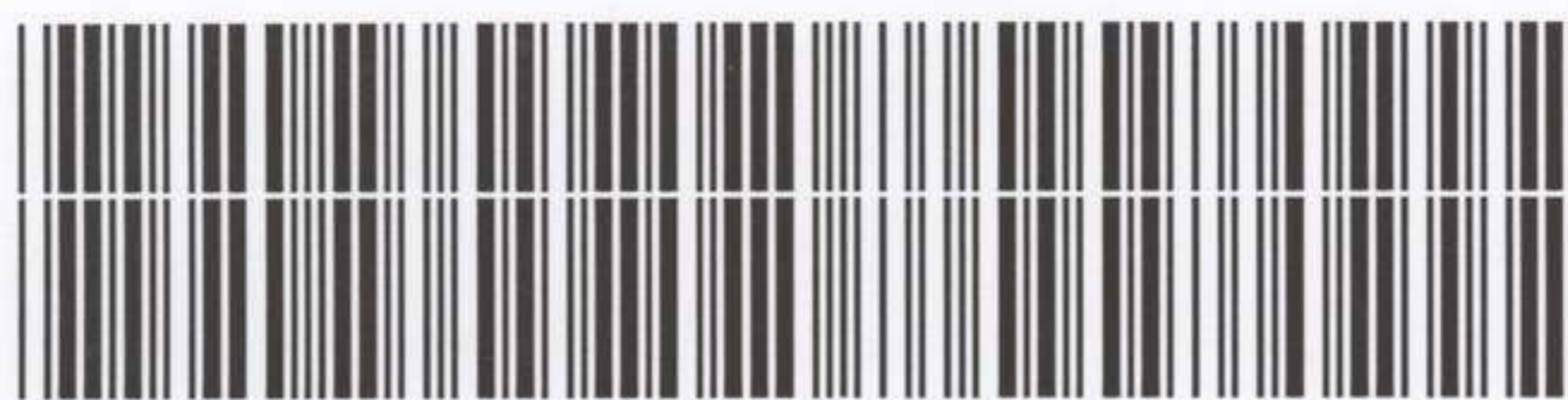
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/44/28

Title: 27th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/44/28

27 Bn

98

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
New-eglise	Dec. 1 st		Very cold and frosty, strong cold winds. Bn in training. Morning Ceremonial Parade Commanding Officers Inspection. "Afternoon" half holiday.	
"	Dec. 2 nd		Sunday. sharp frost, cold winds. Bn Church parade. 4 Officers and 50 other ranks to raiding Camp. T.G.d. Sheet 28. SW. { Capt Willshire N.S. --- Lieut Judge J.O. } 50.0 Ranks { Lieut Horwood R.G. --- " Mc Cann }	
"	Dec. 3 rd		Frosty, very cold. Bn in training. Morning Musketry, Physical training, Close Order Drill. Rifle Exercises. Afternoon. Recreational training, Musketry snap shooting. Lieut Galley J.E. from 1 st Anzac Corp School.	
"	Dec. 4 th		Frosty, sharp cold winds. Bn in training. "Morning" Ceremonial Parade, Physical training, Musketry snap shooting. Close Order drill, Anti Gas drill. "Afternoon" Recreational training, Musketry, 5yds snap shooting, 10yds rapid. Capt Southern R.D.M.C. to 1 st Anzac. Section "ROUEN". Lieut Laphorne J.H. M.C. to Flying Corp School. Lieut Parkes L.V. from Flying Corp School.	
"	Dec. 5 th		Frosty, cold, but clear. Bn in training. "Morning" Ceremonial parade, Musketry, Physical training, Anti Gas drill, Saluting. "Afternoon" Half holiday. Football Match 27 th Bn v 7 th Bde. M.G.s - 27 th Bn won -	

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.

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Dec 5 th Contin ^d .	
New Eglise	Dec	5 th	Lieut A.M. Moore, commenced four days Intelligence Course at 2 nd Div ^{al} H.Q. L ^t Col. Slane J.C.F. V.D. returned from English leave. L ^t Dowling D.A. & L ^t Reid W. to 184 th Tunnelling Coy.	
"	Dec.	6 th	Show set in, very mild. Bn, in training. "Morning" Bn, route march (12-14 miles). 9.A.M. - 3.P.M. Capt Gallash A.W. attached Bde, from English leave. Lieut Pellew C.E. from English leave.	
"	Dec.	7 th	Very mild, drizzling rain at intervals during the day. Bn, in training. "Morning". Ceremonial parade, Physical training, Bayonette fighting course, Close Order drill, Rifle Exercises, Lectures by Coy. Officers, Musketry, snuff shooting, 10 yds rapid. Saluting. Lieut Ward G. from seconded list.	
"	Dec	8 th	Drizzling rain, very misty and cold. Bn in training. Ceremonial parade, Commanding Officers, Inspection. "Afternoon" Half holiday. Football match 27 th Bn. v 7 th Bde H.Q.s, 27 th Bn. won. Lieut Laphorne J.H.M.C., from Flying Corps School Lieut Durdin A.B. M.C. from 8 th A.F.A. Lieut Newell, J. B. from English leave.	

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Neuve-Eglise	Dec.	9 th	Sunday, raining very cold. Church parade cancelled, bath parade cancelled. Lieut Riggs V. A.M. from seconded list. Lieut Reid W. to P. E. dump DESEULE.	
"	Dec.	10 th	Fine day, but cold. Bn. in training. "Morning" Physical training, Close Order drill Musketry at Range. Specialists at their own particular training.	
"	Dec.	11 th	Very cold winds, Bn. scheme. Attack upon enemy's line and establishment of out-posts. Training Area. T. 5... T. 11... T. 17... T. 23... T. 24. SHEET 28. SW. Commenced voting throughout Bn. on "Conscription"	
"	Dec	12 th	Very cold but fine. Bn. in training. Morning Ceremonial Parade. A ^{Co.} and B ^{Co.} Musketry at Range. Physical training, Close Order drill, Anti Gas drill, and saluting. At noon, about 10 enemy planes were observed flying immediately above NEUVE- EGLIS. They were engaged by our AA Guns and Machine-Guns. They dropped bombs, inflicting casualties in 3 rd Div. Camp and 5 th Div. Artillery Camp. Lieut Durdin A.B. MC to School.	
"	Dec.	13 th	Dull, cold day. Bn in training, Musketry Range, snap shooting. Voting on "Conscription" finished. C ^{Co.} and D ^{Co.} supplied fatigue of 1 Officer and 90 Other Ranks to DRANOUE. RAILWAY-SIDING, 6 hrs work for Canadian Tramway Coy.	

98

93

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>Dec. Contin...</i>	
<i>NEUYE-EGLIS</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Dull, very cold. Bn pay Day. Bn Football Match. Officers v Other Banks. Officers won by, 9 Gs 6 Bs. to 6 Gs, 4 Bs. Pianos returned to BAIZEUZE, from Bn Officers Mess. Lieut Mitchell and Lieut Barthe reported to 39th Bn. PLOEGSTEERT-AREA, to await 27th Bn relief, the following day.</i>	
<i>PLOEGSTEERT-AREA</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Beautiful Day. Bn moved out of billets NEUYE-EGLIS 2.30 P.M. to relieve 39th Bn U.I. in the PLOEGSTEERT-AREA. Order of march H.Q.s, A-B-C-D boys. Route by way of LEINSTER-ROAD, QUARRY ROAD, to RED-LODGE: ... 3.30 PM the Bn had tea issued. 4-15 P.M. the Bn again moved forward, order of march H.Q.s B-D-A-C boys, via HYDE-PARK CORNER, MUD-LANE, LOOK-SLIPPY LANE, ST-YVES AVENUE, ULTIMO AVENUE. Relief complete 9 P.M. no casualties. { B Coy Right Sector, D Coy Left Sector, A Coy supports, } { C Coy reserves. }</i>	
			<i>A patrol of 1 Sgt and 3 men went out at 6 P.M. from N^o 9 post U.11.d.9.0, moving in the direction of WARNETON, and examined enemy's wire from U.12.c.1.0. to U.11.d.9.3. The patrol, after close examination found two thin belts of wire about 15 yds apart at 20 yds distant from enemy's front line. Several men were seen to run from a trench near the wire, to a ruin near RAILWAY-LINE at U.11.d.9.4. From this point a machine gun was active from WARNETON - LABASSEVILLE, enfilading RAILWAY-LINE.</i>	

WAR DIARY

98
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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Dec. Continues --	
PLOEGSTEERT-AREA	Dec.	15 th	The patrol moved forward to the ROAD at a point U18. a 1.8 and from there to our line, entering our post at U17. b. 7.4. --- Lieut Parker LV. acting AREA-COMMANDANT. at DRANOUTRE	
"	Dec.	16 th	Dull and cold. Enemy shelling normal, C Coy carried rations forward to both front line Companies. No casualties during the day. A Coy, supports, relieved D Coy in front line, left Sector 6.30 P.M. Posts in left sector cleared of mud and Duck-boarded. Lateral Communication trench dug in rear of forward posts in left sector. Lieut Col Slave J.C.F. VD. to England. Lieut Hosking H.L. to School. Lieut Wood A.E. to English leave.	
"	Dec.	17 th	Sharp frost, very cold. Improvements to front line posts, and wiring continued in front of posts. Situation normal. Some Minen-Werfers near front line posts. no casualties. Lieut Holloway E. from school. Lieut Sells. M.F.D.G. from school, Lieut Davies W.H. from school.	
"	Dec.	18 th	Sharp frost, very cold. Wiring continued for defensive purposes. A patrol of 1 Plt and 3 men went out from our post at U17 b. 8.4 and proceeded along road in the direction of WARNETON to a point on the road, ^{where} the SPINNEY commencing from U18 a 1.5 joins the road, about 30 yds long. Owing to the darkness of the night & the absence of enemy flares, very little could be seen. none of the enemy were encountered.	

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.

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOEGSTEERT - AREA -	Dec.	18 th	Continued. At 3.10 P.M. our machine guns, upon our right sector was directed upon enemy aircraft, apparently without success. Throughout the night M.G. fire was directed against suspected enemy M.G. emplacements. Our artillery. Our 18 pounders appeared to be carrying out a registration on U12.C at 3.30 P.M. Shelling otherwise normal throughout the day. Throughout the night desultory shelling, principally on WARNETON and WICART FARM. ^{Capt J.D. Elder M.C. seconded list}	
"	Dec.	19 th	Frosty & misty early morning. Our heavy batteries left of our Divisional sector were registering in the vicinity of O 36 & P. 31. From 3.30 P.M. until 3.40 P.M. our 18 pounders appeared to be registering on U 12 a. & b. shells bursting 50 yds from GASOMETER, again active at 7.55 P.M. Throughout the night spasmodic bursts of a few rounds by our batteries were observed. Our M.G.s and T.M.s. quiet. Operations Nil. Our patrols. Throughout the night Liaison Patrols kept constant touch with neighbouring posts on our Sector, and with right & left flanks of adjoining units. Our planes. During the morning between 10. & 10-30 A.M. four of our planes flew over in the direction of COMINES apparently on a bombing stunt, they returned safely over our lines 20 minutes later. Many enemy M.G.s & AA Guns were directed against them.	
"	"	"		

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOEGSTEERT -AREA-	Dec.	19 th	<p>Dec. 19th Contind.</p> <p>attempts were made by our planes to patrol enemy's defences in WARNETON, which drew considerable MG and AA Gun fire. At 11.10 AM. one of our planes crossed the enemy's lines between DEULEMONT & LA-BASSE-VILLE and dropped 2 bombs returning immediately. When above our Reserve line a light was visible from the plane: Enemy's M.G.s and T.M.s. Throughout the night day MGs were actively engaging our planes whenever within range, but without effect. T.M.s silent during the day. During the night enemy MGs were very active, bringing sweeping fire to bear on Support lines, WARNETON-LA-BASSE-VILLE Railway, and along the 30 Contour in U16. b. T. Mortars fired 6 rounds from U.11 D95. 40 no damage done. Enemy Infantry Activity. At 7.5 AM. party of 2 observed moving from edge of scrub U18. a. 65. 06, disappearing through wire at U12. c. During the day small parties have been seen moving along their trenches in U18a & U12. c. Enemy patrols - Pil-Enemy Planes etc. Absence of enemy Tite balloons during the day was noticeable. Several attempts to patrol our front lines were made by enemy reconnaissance planes. They were driven off by our MG fire and AA Gun fire. No low flying machines were observed.</p> <p>2nd Lt. Coleman from O.T.C.</p>	
"	"	"		
"	"	"		

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

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.

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOEGSTEERT -AREA-	Dec.	20 th	<p><u>Frosty very cold day.</u> Our Artillery. During the day our 18 pounders and 4.5 batteries have shelled enemy defences in U12a & U.12.C. At 5-15 P.M. - 10.-P.M. & 1.30-AM our artillery fired several salvos of Gas-Shells on the enemy back areas & in WARNETON. Intermittant shelling continued throughout the night. --- Our M.G.s & T.M.s --- During the day our MGs were quiet. During the night several MGs kept up intermittent fire on enemy front line defences & suspected machine gun positions. --- Our Operations: Front line posts have been duck-boarded throughout, and wiring is being continued every night both in front of support line & front line posts. Our patrols. Liason patrols kept touch with each flank & with posts on our Bn Sector throughout the night. --- Our Aircraft. During the morning, our aircraft was very active, patrol & fighting planes were very aggressive, keeping the front line in our Sector clear of enemy planes. Several aerial fights took place well over our lines, in each case our planes drove the enemy away. No aircraft passed over our sector during the night. Heavy mist settled down at midnight.</p>	
"	"	"	<p>Enemy Artillery. Shelling table sent in. Gas Shells were fired into PLOEGSTEERT-WOOD apparently intended for our Batteries, the firing was very searching, covering a large area.</p>	

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

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.

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOEGSTEERT - AREA -	Dec. 20 th	-	Dec. 20 th Contain -	
"	"	"	principally PHOSGENE-GAS used. The gas still hangs in the valley & in the trenches, but not further forward than U15a & C. on our front, too thin to cause harm, except for a slight irritation to the eyes. - - - - Enemy MG's & T.M's. Enemy machine guns exceptionally quiet throughout the day, not even firing at our planes when well over ^{his} lines, this was due no doubt to the peculiar light, and the great difficulty of seeing aircraft when over 3,000 ft high. During the night the usual M.C activity was observed, about 6 enemy guns firing bursts on our Support Line, ULTIMO-LANE & the 30 Contour in U. 16. b. No damage was done, & in no way disturbed the relief of our front line posts during the night. Across the river in front of our right Coy, a machine gun was active during the night its position being constantly changed after a few bursts of fire. About a dozen Gas projectiles of the MININWERFER type were fired from T Mortars from the direction of the SPINNING-MILL and the SPINNEY in U18a. 2.6. falling in the vicinity of No 7 & 8 posts left Sector. These projectiles came through the air with a considerable roar, and exploded with a loud detonation, they might easily have been mistaken for the ordinary Mininwerfer. No troops in the vicinity were effected, all wore respirators, until the wind carried the Gas away.	
"	"	"		
"	"	"		
"	"	"		
"	"	"		

WAR DIARY.

98

Dec. 20th continued

DATE	PLACE	HOURLY	REMARKS.
Dec 20 th	PLOGSTEERT AREA		<p>Enemy activity, during the day very little movement was seen in rear of enemy's lines. Several of the enemy were seen moving in rear of GASOMETER in WARNETON, too misty to observe nature of work being carried on. Enemy aircraft, quiet during day & night. Only one enemy balloon ascended during the day at bearing 110° T.B. Enemy flares & signals. Fewer flares were fired during the night. No enemy signals observed.</p> <p>Our artillery. At intervals during the day our artillery have shelled enemy lines on our immediate front & left of our sector. Too misty to observe results of shelling or exact Co-ordinates. During the night our artillery carried on intermittent shelling (Lieut E. Ward to hospital, Lieut Coombes to School, Lieut E. Earp to English leave)</p>
Dec. 21 st	PLOGSTEERT - AREA -		<p>Very frosty & cold, misty early morning. During the day, intermittent shelling by our heavies of enemy back areas. At 11^{PM} our 18 pounders & 4.5 howitzers. The shells burst high over enemy's trenches & wire. Our operations, wiring in front of our forward posts was continued last night. Our patrols, a patrol of 1 Lt & 4 men went out at 5 P.M. from U 17. v. 9.3. They reached the river & moved along its banks towards the enemy's lines for 100 yds. From this point, they saw an enemy working party putting out wire at U 18. a. 5.3, also a party at U 18. a. 35.40. Whilst watching these parties our 4.5 batteries dropped 4 shells right amongst the enemy. One man was heard to cry out in pain. Both wiring parties dispersed. Being very moonlight, the visibility of forms against the frost was very easy. Our patrols returned to our lines at 8.30 P.M.</p> <p>Nothing more was seen of the enemy. Enemy Artillery, it has been very noticeable today that with the exception of a few Gas Shells sent over by field guns during the morning that all Howitzers (5.9 & 4.25) have been used. During the night enemy artillery was much quieter.</p>

10

DATE	PLACE	HOUR	Dec. 21 st Contn Summary of EVENTS.
Dec 21 st	PLOEGSTEERT -AREA-		<p>Enemy MGs & TMs. Enemy machine guns were much quieter during the day, but displayed usual activity at night, sweeping the vicinity of U11d. & the 27 Contour in U11c. No concentrated fire was experienced in any place & our all night working parties were little disturbed, anywhere on our Sector. Between 10.30 AM. & 11-AM. TMs again fired MINENWERFERS from the direction of the SPINNING MILL & WARNETON, fire of these projectiles fell in the vicinity of No 8 & 9 posts in U.17.b. They were however far enough away not to disturb the garrisons. During the night several heavy Minenwerfers were fired from the direction of SPINNING MILL & WICART-FARM. No damage done & no casualties. --- Enemy Infantry activity, very little observation possible owing to mist. At 11-AM. several of the enemy observed in trench in U.18.a. Enemy patrols Nil --- Enemy Aircraft, four or five enemy planes were heard overhead in the mist at 1.30 P.M. They seemed very uncertain of their bearings, and after flying about in several directions finally passed out of hearing going due South. Nothing definite could be seen. Re type of planes, only distinguished from our planes by the noise of the engines. No enemy aerial activity during the night, and no enemy balloons observed during the day. --- Enemy defences, too misty to observe any fresh work. --- Enemy flares. Usual Very lights were fired by the enemy at intervals during the night. No strange signals were observed.</p> <p>Miscellaneous. --- 6 AM. The mist has now cleared, Observation should be good today. Wind from the North, 5 or 6 miles an hour.</p>

DATE.	PLACE	HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION.
Dec. 22 nd	FLOEGSTEERT - AREA -		<p>Frosty & cold, misty morning. Enemy artillery. From 9 AM. to 1.30 PM there was increased activity by enemy artillery. The vicinity of U16. b. ULTIMO-AVENUE was shelled with 5.9 HE & 4.2 HE also portion of Support line, Sugar REFINERY & La TRUIE-FARM. The shooting was rather wide of the mark & no damage was done to defences. Enemy AA Guns have been unusually active strafing those of our planes that came within range. Machine guns quiet.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft. Very active. Enemy reconnaissance & patrol planes passing backward & forward over our front posts & on 3 occasions over our support lines. No aerial fights observed.</p>
"	"	"	<p>Our artillery. Observation being better our artillery has been more active than usual. Assisted by aerial observation our heavy & light batteries have shelled the vicinities of U.12.a & U.12.b. shells bursting near light & heavy RAILWAYS & enemy front line in U18.a & b. A quantity of gas shells were also fired during the day.</p> <p>Our M.G.s & T.M.s. During the day our machine guns were quiet. At night bursts of fire from several guns were directed against enemy trenches & suspected machine gun positions. Our operations, wiring & strengthening of front line positions and support line has been continued during the night.</p>
"	"	"	<p>Our patrols. A patrol of 1 Sgt & 8 men went out from No 3 post proceeding along the River bank towards enemy's lines & wire. U.18.a.3.2. An enemy party was heard across the River. It was too dark to observe nature of work. No enemy were seen. The patrol returned to our lines at 5.15 A.M.</p>

War Diary

DATE	PLACE	HOUR	Summary of Events
------	-------	------	-------------------

Dec. 22 nd	PLOEGSTEERT -AREA-		
-----------------------	-----------------------	--	--

Dec. 22nd Contin^d.

Our Planes. Our patrol & reconnaissance planes were hindered during their work over enemy lines, by enemy AA Guns, which were unusually active. At night several of our planes dropped bombs on WARNETON. --- Enemy artillery, table of shelling sent in. Enemy artillery has been unusually active over our support line, & in the vicinity of IRON-GATE. No damage was done to trench or wire. Principally 5.9 & 4.2 were used, no shells fell near our forward positions. --- Enemy M.G. & T.M.s. During the day, considerable M.G. fire was directed against our patrol & reconnaissance planes principally from the direction of WARNETON. Particular attention was paid to one of our Contact planes, which appeared to be directing the shooting of our heavies, which appeared to be shooting at target in rear of WARNETON. Despite the constant AA & MG fire he continued to carry on his work. During the night intermittent bursts of MG fire was directed on our support lines in U16.C. etc intervals during the day the enemy fired about 30 light Minenwerfers from the direction of WARNETON, most of which fell behind our forward posts & to our left on the 26th Bn sector. also in rear of their forward posts --- Enemy INF. activity. A large enemy working party between 50 & 100 men, fatigue dress were observed in the vicinity of V.7.C & V.13.C. at 9.15 AM. The artillery were immediately notified, and although the party continued to work until noon, no shots were fired. Three or four of the enemy were noticed behind trench near the SPINNING-MILL in the morning. Enemy Defences. trench in rear of enemy post U11 d. 75.80 appears to have been deepened, fresh earth noticed this morning.

Lieut D.H. Dowling, Lieut P.H. Harris } from School.
 " W. Roddicks " R.H. Hughes }

War Diary

Date Place How Summary of Events

Dec 23rd PLOEGSTEERT AREA.

Very cold and foggy. Several times during the day our heavy and light batteries shelled WARNETON, both in and beyond the village, too misty to observe effects of shelling. At intervals during the night our light batteries were directed against enemy wire & benches. Our Machine Guns were active at night, bursts of fire being directed against enemy M.G. positions. Wiring was continued in front of support lines and front posts. Sgt Robertson (Scout Sgt) and 5 men went out in front of our left post, and reconnoitred NO MAN'S LAND, nothing was seen of the enemy, and no working parties were heard. The Patrol returned to our lines at 4-45 AM. Enemy Artillery very quiet during the day, a few MINENWERFERS were fired from the direction of the SPINNING MILL and WARNETON, falling near our front posts, no damage was done & no casualties occurred. Lt R Read was slightly wounded in left leg by a fragment of shell, he was evacuated next day. General Sir William Birdwood paid a visit to our sector during the day.

Dec 24th PLOEGSTEERT AREA.

Cold & dull. Our heavy batteries were actively engaged against targets well in rear of enemy lines during the morning. Enemy artillery quiet. Great aerial activity was noticed during the afternoon, enemy's Anti aircraft guns particularly active. No aerial fights took place over our sector. The relief of the 27th Batta by the 35th Batta was commenced at 4-30 PM. Relief complete by 9-30^{PM} without any casualties. The Batta reached ROMARIN CAMP at 11^{PM}

War Diary

Date	Place	Place	Summary of Events
Dec. 25 th	ROMARIN ROMARIN	ROMARIN	<p>Very frosty, snowed during the night. Bn rested during morning. WORKS-REPORT. A party of 5 officers 20 NCOs & 255 men, in charge of Capt P.G. Bice proceeded by the 3.30 PM train to forward area, where they reported to Lieut CHRISTIAN 7th Field Coy Engrs. The party was divided into 3 as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Seven wiring parties of 2 NCOs and 14 men each (2) Digging party of 5 NCOs & 125 men. (3) Trucking party of 1 NCO. & 32 men <p>Wiring party Each section was divided up into 10 wires & 4 carriers. 400 yds of double Apron wire were completed in front of the new support line. When the work was nearly completed, the enemy shelled the position with 4.2^{HE} & 4 men were killed, 1 seriously wounded & 2 wounded. The party was withdrawn about 10.15 PM.</p>
Dec. 26 th	ROMARIN		<p>Very cold, but fine day. Bn works Report. --- A party of 5 officers 20 NCOs & 255 men, in charge of Capt G.D. ELDER. MC proceeded by the 3.30 PM. train to the forward area, where they reported to Lieut CHRISTIAN 7th Field Coy Engrs. The party was divided as follows. (1) Seven wiring parties of 2 NCOs & 14 men each. (2) Digging party of 5 NCOs & 125 men, (3) Trucking party of 1 NCO. & 32 men.</p> <p>Wiring party. About 700 yds of wire was put out in front of new support line. About 200 yds of this was incomplete as regards trip wire. Since none was available at the dump.</p> <p>Digging Party about 350 yds of trench was dug, and auxiliary fire step was formed. The work was done to the satisfaction of the Engr. Officer. TRUCKING-PARTY Worked between RACINE-DUMP and RAILHEAD & carried material under orders of the Engr Officer. The whole of the working parties completed their tasks early, & with entirely satisfactory results. No casualties were sustained & the men returned to camp about 10.30 PM.</p>
Dec. 27 th	ROMARIN		<p>Frosty, but fine day. Bn works Report. A party of 4 Officers and 200 Other Ranks. proceeded by the 3.30 PM train to the forward Area, where they reported to an Officer of the 7th Field Coy Engrs. The work done was as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 yds Double Apron wire from U.I.C. 5.0 to U.I.C. 7.6.

War Diary

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS
ROMARIN	Dec. 27 th 17	Continued ... Digging Party 80 yds of Communication trench in U.II.C starting from U.II.C.4.0 Carrying etc. 30 men were engaged in carrying Iron & revetments to front line. 1 Officer & 35 other ranks trucking party. Doing 2 trips from RACINE-DUMP to RAILHEAD. Sent J.C. Gately to School.
ROMARIN	Dec. 28 th 17	Cold, but fine day. Bn Works Report. A party of 4 Officers & 200 other ranks, proceeded by the 3.30 PM. train to the forward area. Work was carried out under the supervision of an Engineer Officer as follows. Wiring 3 NCOs and 18 men completed work left from the previous night, & erected 100 yds of wire at U.II.C.7.6. Digging Support line from U17.a 40.35 northwards was widened & deepened to take "A" Frames. 170 yds completed & 30 yds drained. New Saps to R.A.P. was commenced in U16.b.5.5. Carrying etc R.E. material was carried from LA-TRUIE FARM to front line. Ten truck loads were conveyed from RACINE DUMP to LA-TRUIE FARM. Owing to the line having been blown up by the enemy shell fire, trucking was hindered.
ROMARIN	Dec. 29 th 17	Very cold, but fine Bn. works Report. A party of 4 Officers & 200 other ranks, proceeded to the forward area by the 3.30 PM. train. Work was carried out as follows. Wiring Diagonal trip wires connecting the two belts of Apron wire, were put down in front of 400 yds from U17.a 5.4 Northwly. Digging at U17.a 40.35 excavation of 54 yds of new sap to take "A" frames, & 33 yds of wet sap was carried out. 150 yds of sap was widened & deepened to take "A" frames at U17.a 5.4 - Southwly. 20 yds of trench connecting new R.A.P. with ULTIMO AVENUE was excavated. TRUCKING and CARRYING Trucking party made two trips from RACINE-DUMP to RAILHEAD carrying parties conveyed material from RAILHEAD to ULTIMO. AVE at U17.a.5.3 and from RAILHEAD to R.A.P. post. Casualties. 6678 Pte Mager 86P. Killed. ... 3558 Pte Butler 86W. wounded.

- SUMMARY - OF - EVENTS -

PLACE

DATE

ROMARIN

Dec. 30th / 17

Very cold, but fine. Bn Works Report. A party of 4 Officers & 200 ORs proceeded to the forward area by the 3.30 PM train. The following work was carried out —

Wiring 12 coils of wire were run out, to complete two small gaps in front of left Support line at U17a 40.35. Northwards. --- Digging. 40 yds of drain 5' x 3 1/2' which will serve to drain 100 yds of trench at U17a.5.4. Southerly. 8 yds of trench dug to a depth of 5 feet leading toward new R.A.P and portion of R.A.P. built (location U.16a.8.2.) Carrying Party made 5 trips, carrying Iron, & "A" Frames & Duckboards. Lieut Woods S.S. from England School.

ROMARIN

Dec. 31st / 17.

Frosty, & windy very cold Bn Works Report. A party of 4 Officers & 200 ORs proceeded to the forward area by the 3.30 PM. train. Reported to an Officer of 7th Field Coy Engrs. The following work was carried out. 50 yds of trench at U11c.4.1 was cleaned out to bottom of "A" frames. 60 yds of trench drain at U.17c.35.90) was cleaned out, men were equipped with gum boots. No casualties. End of Report for year ending Dec. 31st / 1917

List of casualties during the 25th to 31st Dec. / 12 / 17.

{	Killed	25 th / 12 / 17 6059 Pte Cullen J.	}	Wounded	25 th / 6134 Pte Platterton H.G.
		3169 " Jennings C			1790 Sgt Solley G.G.G.
		6518 " Mann V.B.			
		6360 " Mc Guire J.D.			

Killed 29/12/17 6678 Pte Mayer H.P.
 Wounded " 3558 " Butler H.H.

AMMoun Lt.
 2 Bats
 I. O. 27
 for CO. 21st BN
 17

27th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

NARRATIVE OF 27th BATTALION, A.I.F. from 16th DEC. to 24th DEC.

15th December At 2.30 p.m. the Battalion marched out of its billets at NEUVE EGLISE to RED LODGE where it was provided with a hot meal from the cooks at 3.45 p.m. At 4.30 p.m., the Battalion commenced to pass HYDE PARK CORNER in the following order :-
 Battalion Headquarters.
 'B' Company
 'D' Company
 'A' Company
 'C' Company

and were all on the duck boards by 5.20 p.m. with distances of 200 yards between Companies and 100 yards between Platoons.

The 39th Battalion, A.I.F. were relieved by the 27th Battalion with 'B' and 'D' Coys on the right and left of the front line respectively, 'A' Coy in Support and 'C' Coy in reserve. The relief of the front line was complete at 7.20 p.m. and the 39th Infantry clear of the Sector at 9.30 p.m.

Weather: Cold, fine but hazy, and calm.

Work: Nos. 5 & 7 Post which had been destroyed by the enemy and vacated by the 39th Infantry were re-established on the night of the 15/16th and occupied by detachments of 'B' and 'D' Companies.

Enemy Attitude: Nothing unusual occurred.

6 a.m., 16th to 6 a.m., 17th December. The G.O.C., 7th Inf. Bde, A.I.F. arrived at Bn.H.Q. at 7.45 a.m. and reconnoitred the front line from the Support Line. Our planes were active over the enemy's lines observing at intervals during the day, and were engaged with enemy A.A. & M.G's. One machine was seen to fall but whether ours or enemy was not discernable.

Normal artillery activity was displayed by both sides.

Enemy M.G'S, estimated three in number, opposite our left front company opened occasionally with short bursts.

A patrol of 1 Sgt. and three men went out at 6.30 p.m. towards WARNETON and discovered some thick wire in front of the enemy position at U.17.b.8.5. Patrol returned at 11.30 p.m.

The following work was performed during the night :-

No. 7 Post revetted and duckboarded.

No. 8 " lengthened and partly duckboarded.

No. 9 " deepened.

Light wiring was put out in front of the left company. A party of 60 men dug a drain 70 yards long from Support Trench towards SUNKEN FARM.

Between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., 'A' Coy relieved 'D' Coy in the left of the front line and the latter company formed the Support for the next 24 hours.

No casualties occurred.

A party of the 25th Battalion were working on ULTIMO AVENUE from 5.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

6 a.m., 17th to 6 a.m., 18th December. The situation was normal throughout the day. 'D' Coy relieved 'A' Coy. on the left front, between 5.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. and the latter company went into Support again.

During the afternoon our planes were active over the enemy's lines, often flying low and using M.G. The enemy A.A. and M.G'S opened on the planes but without any visible effect.

Our M.G's fired intermittently throughout the night on suspected enemy M.G. position. Some enemy T.M. and M.G. fire was directed on the Sugar Refinery during the night but without doing any damage.

(2)

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Posts were duckboarded, 4 and 5 posts with revetments and duckboards. No. 5 ran out a T head for L.C. position and wired gap in front of post. 6, 7, 8 and 9 Posts duckboarded and further wired.

A Working Party was detailed to complete the drain from Support Trench to SUNKEN FARM, and excavated a length of 60 yards in the Support Trench ready for revetting.

6 a.m., 18th
to
6 a.m., 19th
December.

The position was quiet throughout the day. A Patrol of 1 Sgt. and 1 man went out before daylight and took up a position in an old ruin to observe the enemy front by daylight. The patrol returned at 7.30 p.m. and reported the Spinney well wired and concertina wire in rear of it. Two M.G. positions were located in rear of the spinney. The enemy wire was also reported to be pretty thick along most of this part of his front. The patrol was fired upon as they were returning but no casualty occurred.

Our Aircraft were active during the day over the enemy's trenches and were engaged by enemy A.A. and M.G. fire but without any visible result.

The artillery shelled supposed enemy T.M. positions and rendered them silent during the day. They however opened up again at night. A few Gas Shells were thrown over our rear during the night.

'A' Coy relieved 'D' Coy on the left front between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m.

Casualties : 6175 Pte. WORLEY, W.M., 'B' Coy, slightly wounded and evacuated.

Works : Nos. 1 and 2 posts work completed, 4 and 5 improved and further wiring in front. 6 and 7 further wired No. 8 post extended about 20 yards towards No. 9 and further wire put out. No. 9 deepened and further duckboarded and wired.

Support line extended 90 yards at depth of 6 feet.

6 a.m., 19th
to
6 a.m., 20th
December.

The Front was generally quiet except for Gas Shells which were exchanged between artilleries during the day and night. The enemy sent about 40 Gas Shells over the back area at 9.30 a.m. At 5.15 p.m. he opened up again, and immediately our guns replied vigorously with similar shells. After midnight we sent more Gas Shells into WARNETON and the back areas.

Our aircraft were very active in the forenoon over the enemy's front and drove back his machines well behind his lines.

Between 5.30 p.m. and 7 p.m., 'C' Coy relieved 'B' Coy in the Right Coy Front of the front line, the latter company going into Reserve at PROWSE'S POINT.

Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. the usual relief of 'A' Coy by 'D' Coy took place on the Left Coy Front.

The Normal M.G. activity was displayed by both sides.

During the night the enemy used his new type of Gas Shells, throwing them in the vicinity of Nos. 7 and 8 posts from the direction of the SPINNEY and SPINNING MILLS. No damage was done, the troops adjusting their Gas masks until the breeze had dispersed the gas. These shells came with a considerable roar and exploded with a loud noise, very similar to the Minenwerfer.

About midnight a thick mist settled down over the whole front limiting visibility to a very short range.

Works: The Posts on the Left Coy Sector were further improved and communication trenches started outwards. More wire was put out in front of the posts on the left and the posts further improved.

Support Line: 15 men formed Carrying Party from Rail Head to Support Trench

98

(3)

and 20 men dug 60 yards of the new switch from ULTIMO AVENUE to the Support Trench.

6 a.m., 20th
to
6 a.m., 21st
December

The day was cold and misty, visibility being reduced to about 200 yards.

The front was quiet throughout the day. A report was received in the afternoon from the O.C. of the Left Coy that it was considered that Cloud Gas had been sent over between 11.15 p.m. and 3 a.m. from the direction of WARNETON. At 8 p.m. this was confirmed by the Officers who had been on duty at the Posts. Our artillery directed some fire on the SPINNEY during the evening and Gas Shells about 8.30 p.m. on WARNETON.

Several of our M.G.'s gave bursts on our front at various parts of the enemy's line.

Our scouts reconnoitred the left front towards WARNETON between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. and reported "All quiet".

The mist would not permit of observation of the enemy front during the day.

The usual relief of Companies on the Left Front took place, 'A' Coy going into the front line and 'D' Company going into Support for 24 hours.

Work: Further wiring in front of Nos. 4 and 5 posts on the Right Coy Front age also in front of posts of Left Coy Sector.

A party of 1 Officer and 25 O/Ranks wired a belt of 120 yards towards 18th Battalion on our right, wiring the interval between the two battalions. Party of 1 Officer and 80 O/Ranks carried material from Railhead to Support Line.

Casualties: Nil.

6 a.m., 21st.
to
6 a.m., 22nd.
December.

The enemy fired about 70 Gas Shells into PLOEGSTEERT WOOD during the day.

Our artillery (Howitzers and Field) gave occasional bursts of fire. A few MINNENWERFERS were sent over our front line from the direction of WARNETON, WICART FARM and the SPINNING MILL.

Between 7 and 8 p.m. some 4.5 shells from our guns fell amongst an enemy Working Party and caused them to disperse.

At 8.50 p.m. our artillery was particularly active for 10 minutes and Fritz sent up a large number of flares as a result. The mist was heavy throughout the day and observation practically nil. At night visibility improved.

The enemy's artillery was comparatively quiet throughout the day and night.

A patrol of 1 Col. and 4 men went out at 5 p.m. from U.17.b.9.3. to observe the river bank and saw two parties of the enemy wiring on the opposite bank. They were about to turn their M.G. on them when some of our shells dispersed the parties. Visibility had been good owing to frost and moonlight, and the scouts, not having white clothes, returned to the trenches.

Some enemy aircraft appear to have lost their direction in the fog as they steered an erratic course over our position for some minutes at about 1000 feet and then went off apparently in a Southerly direction. The machines could not be seen but were recognised by the sound of their engines.

The cold was not so intense during the night and there was every appearance of a thaw setting in.

Work :- 'D' Coy put out 4 rolls of wire in advance of No 9 post and 8 sheets of iron for revetting Nos. 8 and 9 posts 'A' Coy supplied 30 men for 6 hours to revet Support Trench. 7 coils of barbed wire were put out in front of Left Coy Sector.

(4)

98
6 a.m., 22nd
to
6 a.m., 23rd.
December.

The day opened fine and clear and resulted in considerable aerial and artillery activity. The enemy 'planes were particularly vigorous and observed all day over our lines and rear. The front line received considerable attention from enemy T.M. batteries but no damage was done. A considerable party of the enemy was observed working in the vicinity of V.7.c. and V.13.b. at 9.15 a.m. and the artillery were asked to direct their fire on them but they failed to do so although the party was still there at 12 noon.

The usual relief of the company in the left front trenches was effected between 5 and 6.30 p.m., 'A' Coy relieving 'D' Coy.

A patrol of 1 Sgt. and 8 men went out at 2.30 a.m. from No. 3 post moving along the river front towards WARNETON. An enemy working party was heard on the opposite side of the river but their work could not be seen in the darkness. The patrol returned at 5.15 a.m.

Work: Lateral communication between posts Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 and 8 was completed and progress made towards No. 9. The parapets and fire steps in these posts were also improved.

Support Line: Party of One Officer and 38 O/Ranks was occupied in revetting and duckboarding 50 yards of the Support Line.

6 a.m., 23rd.
to
6 a.m., 24th
December.

Our artillery showed normal activity during the day. Visibility improved considerably after noon, and a large number of ~~the enemy~~^{our} 'planes flew over the enemy lines until it was too dark to observe. Enemy anti-aircraft guns were very active, but it did not drive back our 'planes. Enemy 'planes attacked but were driven back by our A.A. guns. Two 'planes were seen to fall in the enemy lines, but they could not be recognised. An enemy working party was heard on the opposite bank of the river and the target given to the artillery who turned a number of guns on to the locality indicated and fired for several minutes. Bursts of M.G. fire were directed on points in the enemy's line during the night.

A patrol of 1 Sgt. and 5 men went out at 2.30 a.m. in front of our left Coy and reached the enemy's wire. All was quiet and the patrol returned at 4.45 a.m.

The usual relief of the left Coy front was carried out between 5 and 6.30 p.m., 'D' Coy going into the Trenches and 'A' Coy coming out.

Work: The wire between No.2 post and the Sugar Refinery was strengthened.

Support Line: Excavation, cleaning and revetting practically completed to the drain at U.11.c.4.1.