

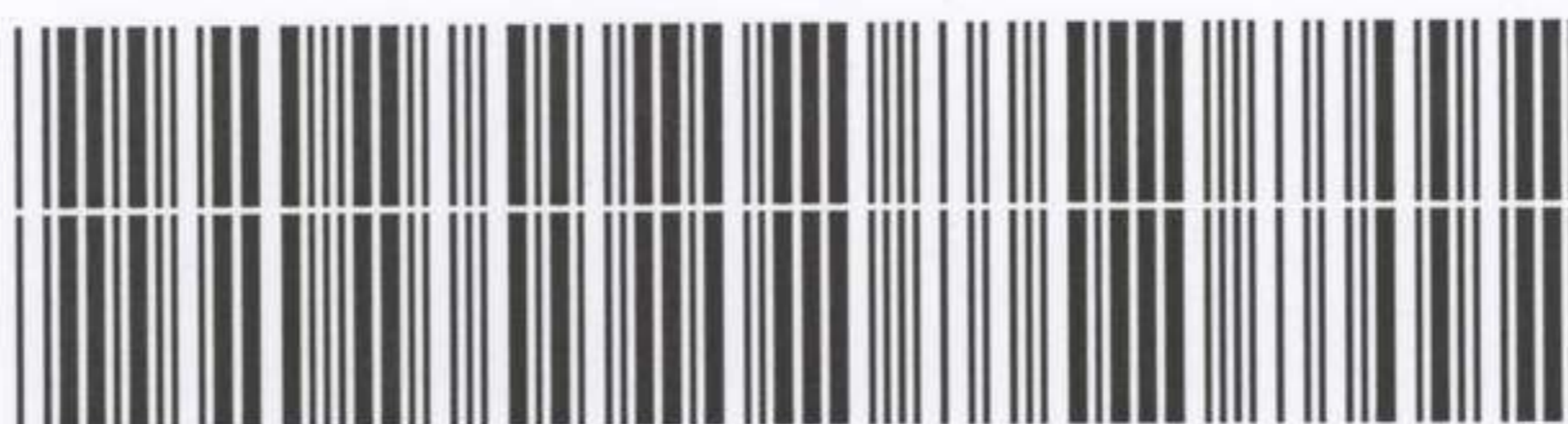
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/43/9

Title: 26th Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/43/9

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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.)

26th Bn. A.I.F. Vol II 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Morbecque	1/4/16		Company Training: Physical Training 0930-1015. Musketry Instruction 1030-1130. Afternoon 1500-1730 Battalion Route March with full packs, about 6 miles through Hazebrouck. M/G, Bombas, signallers on specialising	
	2/4/16		Physical Exercises 0930-1015. Raining slightly. Route March by Companies 1300 to 1730. All Ranks warned that use of Cameras is prohibited to British troops. Officers & P.O. found in possession of Cameras after 7/4/16 to be tried by Court Martial.	
	3/4/16		Received instructions to leave Morbecque tomorrow by Route March.	
	4/4/16		Moved from Morbecque 1015, passed through Hazebrouck, BORRE, Stazeete, Merris, arriving at Outtersteene at 1800. & billeted for the night. Hot meals prepared on kitchens during march & in billets.	
	5/4/16		Left Outtarsteene 1030. Marched through La Verrier, Stenwick, La Menagale to L' Hallerbeau, where the men were provided with tents & Officers were billeted. Arrived at 4:30 p.m.	
	6/4/16		Billeted at L' Hallebeau. Bn Commanders met G.O.C. and then went to Rue Marie & inspected new billets we will take over. Received notice to march tomorrow. Men billeted until 7 p.m.	
	7/4/16		when march commenced by Companies to Armentiers, via Erquinham, Lys and took up billeting area of "D" reserve Bn from Scottish Bn (H. Tyneside) at 10 p.m.	
	8/4/16		All men in billets. Defence scheme formulated & discussed with Officers. Received notice to go into trenches on night of 12 th /13 th .	Gen J. Ferguson C/o 26 th Bn

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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26th Bn. A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rue Marle	9.4.16	--	In billets. Raining. 2 nd in Command & Asst. Adjutant to visit trenches on 10/4/16.	
	10.4.16	--	Proportion of Officers and men N.C.Os. visited trenches to see portion Bn is taking over of the firing line.	
	11.4.16		I visited sector of firing line to be taken over by 26 th Bn. (A Bn.) Adjutant also attended.	
Trenches 57-61	12.4.16		Specialists, m/c. took over during daylight. Bn. moved into sector 57 to 61. Took over from C.O. 28 th Bn.	
	13.4.16		Generals Sir H.P. Birdwood, J.B. Legge, and J. Paton visited trenches. We commenced repairs to beach boards, trenches & drainage communication trenches, repairing parapets. Our Artillery active 3 to 14 pm., three shells dropped short into our salient. Our wire in front of 59 requires attention. Recd notice to move out of trenches next 17/18.	
	14.4.16		Enemy opened artillery on communication trench, Park Row Avenue. One 77 mm. came right through front parapet into dugout killing Capt Jackson, wounding Sgt. Fielding both m/c. section.	
	15.4.16		Party of Officers & N.C.Os. proceeded to take over billets from 27 th Bn. Handed over to 28 th Bn. B. Coy less 2 platoons proceeded to Zone De Berg and Paradise Alley & Coy to Bois Grenier line. 'C' Coy to billets Park Marle.	
	16.4.16		In billets. I inspected D Company in Bois Grenier lines & 2 Platoons of B Coy. Zone De Berg & Paradise Alley.	
	17.4.16		2 nd in Command inspected billeting areas.	
	18.4.16		In billets. 22/4/16. Visited to Berthens by 2 nd in Command for 240 French Mortar and silence demonstration	
	19.4.16		Recd notice to take over same trenches 57 to 61 on night of 25/26 inst. 25/4/16. Took over without a hitch.	
	20.4.16		Artillery demonstration by batteries supporting 7 th Australian Infantry Brigade at 12.10 pm. French Mortar Batteries carried out ranging simultaneously with the Artillery fire. Enemy retaliated on salient & communications without result.	
	21.4.16		Gas alarm reported from our left first by sounding of Gas Alarms and by telegraph. Our Artillery opened violent fusillade on enemy's parapets. All ranks acted promptly in adjusting Gas helmets. First signal at 10.15 pm. Stopped artillery 10.30 pm.	
	22.4.16		Generals Russell Johnston (N.Z.) & B.E. Paton inspected trenches.	
	23.4.16			
	24.4.16			
	25.4.16			
	26.4.16			

Lt. Col. H. Ferguson
 40 26th Bn. A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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26th Battalion A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches 57. 611	29.4.16		Gas attack reported North of Armentieres 12.20 am. Artillery "standing by" on order of Brigadier Artillery. 3 am to 4 am. enemy shelled salient, also lively bombing. No casualties.	
do.	30.4.16		Gas again reported North of Armentieres at 2 am. No trace on our front. Wind unfavourable on salient. Alarms not used as information came by wire. All ranks duly warned.	
			Officers seconded during month on dates as shown below. see List No 2. Appointments & Promotions, 2 nd Inf Div.	
			Lieut Murdoch, W ^m seconded whilst on duty with 7 th A. I. Trench Mortar Battery dated 19.4.16	
			2 Lieut Leslie, Ronald A. do " " " Z 2 A " " " " 19.4.16	
			2 Lieut Murphy, Joseph Kean do " " " V. 2 A " " " " 26.4.16	
			<u>Parade State.</u>	
			Effective Strength Last Month	Officers. 29.
			Add.	Others 974 53 94
			Recd from Hospital	
			Reinforcements rec'd.	
			from duties. (Lt. Hamman)	1
			" " Brig. (Lt. Woods)	1
			<u>Deduct.</u>	31
			Evacuated Sick - 48 28.	1302 1102
			Wounded to A.P.H.	
			Wounded to A.P.H.	
			Delach Temply - 4	4
			Wounded - 4	8
			Killed - 4	4
			Dead of wounds - 2	2
			Disease - 1	1
			4-158	4 27
			158	944 = Effective strength 30/4/16

Geo. H. Ferguson
90 26 16