

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/44/19

**Title:** 27th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/44/19

## War Diary

28.2.17

LIEUT Parkes, C. Coy, of 65 ORs at 2-30 PM went up Loupard Rd to make an entry in MALT trench owing to mine being uncut & stout resistance from enemy enterprise had to be abandoned. Casualties on our side were 3 K & 200. Rs Wounded.

1-3-17

Quiet day orders for attack were issued by Bde 26<sup>th</sup> Bn to attack MALT trench frontally from intersection of Gampa Malt trenches to Loupard Rd. 1 Coy 27<sup>th</sup> Bn. Day Capt Judge to enter MALT trench at Loupard Rd & Bomb along to connect up with 17<sup>th</sup> Bn 5<sup>th</sup> Bde AIF on our right. Time 2-30 AM night of 1/2-3-17

2.3.17

At 3 AM our barrage was put down & at 3-7 it lifted to second phase & the men went over. The first 130 yds of objective was easily gained then the enemy flanked our men & turned them out & counter attack was immediately organised by Capt Devonshire led by Lieut Davies it was entirely

2-3-17

Successful, & the work of consolidating the position was hurried on a log was hanging over the position which was of immense value as it screened our men from view of the enemy in GREWILLERS line. By night a trench 500 yds long, well traversed & 6' deep was dug. During the engagement Capt Judge M.C. was severely wounded while Lieut R.H. Botter & Lucas were killed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Caldwell was also killed. 28 enemy prisoners were taken & over 60 ENEMY were killed. Our casualties in O.R.s were 22 killed & 95 Wounded.

3.3.17

Very quiet day with a little shelling by the enemy.

4.3.17 27<sup>th</sup> Bn was relieved in front line by 25<sup>th</sup> Aus Infy Bn relief complete by 10 PM.  
27<sup>th</sup> Bn went back to 26<sup>th</sup> LESARS & became B Battalion

5.3.17 Bn was at LESARS D & C Coys Scotland trench A & B Coys FLERS Support.

6.3.17 Bn was relieved by 25<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF & became C Battalion with

6-3-17 HQS C & D Coys in 26<sup>th</sup> AVENUE  
A & B Coys Gun Pitts Road

7.3.17 Still in 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue A & B Coys  
were heavily shelled with 5.9's  
2 O.R.s were killed & 4 wounded

8.3.17 Bn relieved 26<sup>th</sup> Bn in LESARS  
C. Coy Scotland Trench D Coy  
Acqueduct Rd. A & B Coys FLERS  
line

9.3.17 Still at LESARS as B Battalion

10.3.17 Still at LESARS " " "  
at night were relieved by  
17<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF & Bn marched out  
to BECOURT Hutments.

11-3-17 At Becourt Hutments reorganising

12 3 17 BECOURT. men sent to baths  
Pay day

13-3-17 Reorganising & practice of attack  
Germans evacuated & REVILLER  
Line

- 14-3-17 Training for Mobile Warfare at Becourt Camp
- 15-3-16 As Above
- 16-3-17 G.O.C 7<sup>th</sup> Aus Infy Bde inspected Bn good turn out everything up to the mark. Splendid
- 17-3-17 Training for Mobile Warfare  
Lts Purdine & McClean from Div School
- 18-3-17 Sunday Church Parades
- 19-3-17  
Bn moved forward to La Coupe Guel. & went into tented camp for the night very wet reached the camp at 9 pm.  
D Coy under Lieut Hosking went to Gordon Camp CANTALMAISON also details. 'D' Coy went on to Road work between L.F. SARRS & BAPUME.
- 20-3-17 The 27<sup>th</sup> Bn less 'D' Coy. moved up to BEUGNATRE & went into billets there still wet Major Devonshire Capt Fredericks & Mr Beddome rode forward & reconnoitred the forward line

21. 3. 17 Moved forward to VRAUCOWRT  
arriving there at 9pm. A Coy took  
over in front line from B Coy 26<sup>th</sup> Bn  
B Coy took over from C Coy 26<sup>th</sup> Bn  
C Coy took over from D Coy 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
H.Q.S. in Lunken Road near Crispice
22. 3. 17 Prince Charles of Prussia shot down by 32 R.F.  
Major Deunshire wounded by  
H.E. Shell not serious. 1 Man A Coy  
Killed 5 wounded SERG<sup>t</sup> Tisdale Killed
- 23 3 17. Post of B Coy surprised enemy  
Killing 3 + wounding several others  
our casualties 1 K 5 D.R. wounded  
2 observers also wounded  
Attack on LANGICOURT NOREWIL planned  
for 5 AM 24-3-17  
Our planes very active enemy artillery  
very active + shooting a bit wild
- 24 3 17 C Coy relieved A Coy in Trenches  
front line. 9 D.R's wounded by  
H.E. Schrapnell.
- 25 3 17. Still in Lunken Rd.  
25<sup>th</sup> Bn took over our left post  
which was held by 1 platoon  
of B Coy B Coy relieved C. Coy  
in front posts

26-3-17 C & A Coy's attacked objective  
 Dunker Road between HAGNICOURT  
 + NOREUIL at 5.15 AM. Objective  
 gained & prisoners sent back at  
 5.30 AM. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn & 2 Coy's 28<sup>th</sup> Bn  
 took HAGNICOURT  
 our casualties during 26<sup>th</sup>-3.17 operations  
 were 11 O.R.'s & 29 O.R.'s wounded  
 at 8 PM we were relieved by  
 the 20<sup>th</sup> Bn. AIF  
 B Coy Dunker Rd. A C & D Coy's HQ's  
 in Vrancovert

27-3-17 Bn marched back to Hutment  
 Camp at BEVER ROAD Camp. Long  
 march finishing in the rain

28-3-17 Bn marched at 11 AM to Hutment  
 Camp at SCOTS Redoubt South

29-3-17 Men to Baths started refitting

30-3-17 Coy's inspected by O.C.'s Coy's

31-3-17 Platoon drill exercises

1 4 17 Pay day Church parades  
 C.O. on leave to ENGLAND

## Summary for month MARCH. 14

Strength of Officers Sick at Wood, AF

Officers 3 Killed                      3 Wounded  
 Lt BOTTEN. R.H                      Capt JULGE. P.E.  
~~Lt~~ Lt CALDWELL. D.W              Mjr Devonshire W.P.  
 Lt Lucas. A.                      Capt GOND. E.S.  
 Total 7 officers

O.R.s Killed 42. MIA 95 Wounded 167

7<sup>th</sup> T.B. Salisbury, England 1 Officer  
 Lt COOMBS. W.S.

O.R.s Transferred to other units

	<u>19</u>
Taken on strength from	<u>99</u>
O.R.s	2
Reinforcements	15 <sup>th</sup>
Officers from	16 <sup>th</sup>
	14 <sup>th</sup>
Hospital Lt Dickens	5/50 <sup>th</sup>
50 <sup>th</sup> Bn Lt MCLEAN	9/10
Seconded list Lt Horwood	10 <sup>th</sup>
	5 <sup>th</sup>
Returned to Bn from Lt Burton	20/10 <sup>th</sup>
108 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy Lt Woods	7 <sup>th</sup>
Returned to Bn 108 <sup>th</sup> T. Coy	10 <sup>th</sup>
Officers 5.	<u>139</u> <sup>O.R.s</sup>