

AWM4

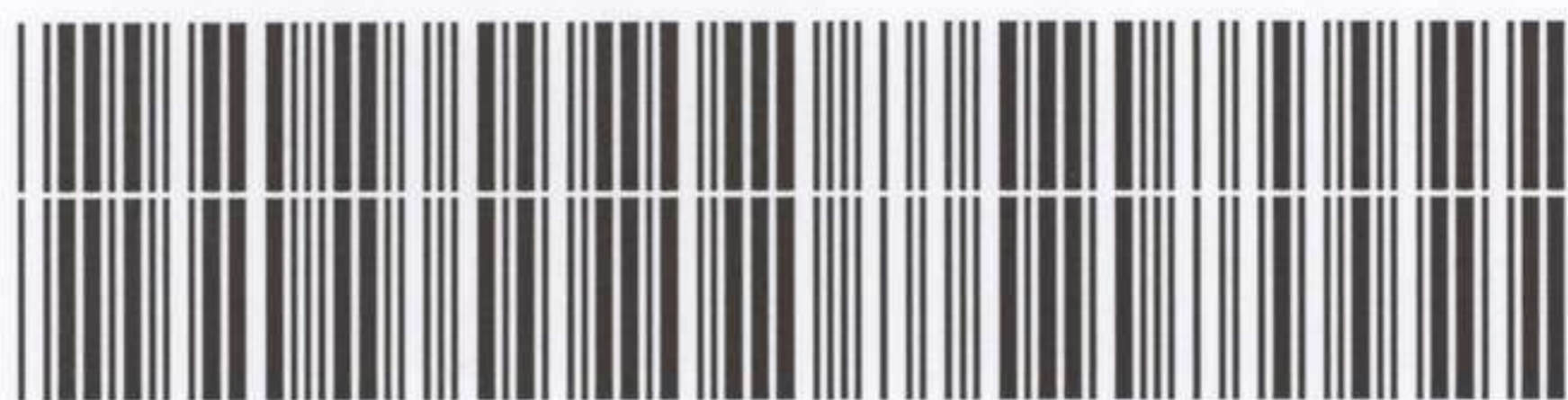
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/45/17

Title: 28th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/45/17

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Original Army Form C. 2118. 629

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.

28th Bn. 7th Div Bde A.I.F

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------------|--|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | August 1916 | | VOLUME 5 | |
| TARA VALLEY | 1/8/16 3/8/16 | | In Bivouac. Working parties supplied to dig communicating and assembly trenches for attack. | |
| POZIERES | Aug 4 to Aug 6 | 8.20 pm | Attack on trenches north of POZIERES. At 8.20 pm on Aug 6th, Bn returned to TARA HILL. | Report on Operations attached |
| TARA HILL | " 7 th | | Marched to bivouac at ALBERT. | |
| ALBERT | " 8 | 3.30 pm | Marched to billets at WARLOY. arrived 6.30 pm. | |
| WARLOY | " 11 | 5 am | Marched to bivouac at LA VICOQNE. | |
| LA VICOQNE | " 12 | | " " billets at FIEFFES. | |
| FIEFFES | " 15 | | " " " BONVILLE. | |
| BONVILLE | " 20 | | " " " TOUTENCOURT. | |
| TOUTENCOURT | " 21 | | " " " VADENCOURT WOODS. | |
| VADENCOURT WOODS | " 22 | | " " " bivouac " BRICKFIELDS. ALBERT. | |
| ALBERT | " 23 | 6 am | " " " " TARA HILL. | |
| TARA HILL | " 23 " 27 " 27 th " 29 th | | At TARA HILL. Working parties supplied to Engineers for road work and new trenches in forward areas. Relieved 15th Bn in trenches north west of POZIERES. Except for heavy and continuous artillery fire the period of occupation was uneventful. At 9.30 am on the 29th the battalion was relieved. | |

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| TRENCHES. | Aug 29th | | in the trenches by the 46th Bn, 12th Bde, and marched to trenches at the head of SAUSAGE VALLEY. At 7 pm. 2 Coys were sent to occupy trenches at LONG DRIVE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAUSAGE VALLEY | " 31 | | Bn marched to billets at ALBERT. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><u>Casualties for AUGUST. 1916</u></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>KILLED.</th> <th>WOUNDED.</th> <th>DIED OF WOUNDS.</th> <th>MISSING.</th> <th>SICK to Hospital.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Officers.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Ranks.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">160.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">61.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>23</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>167</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>16</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>62</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">279 Total Casualties.</p> | | | | | | KILLED. | WOUNDED. | DIED OF WOUNDS. | MISSING. | SICK to Hospital. | Officers. | 2. | 7. | 3. | - | 1 | Other Ranks. | 21. | 160. | 8. | 16. | 61. | | <u>23</u> | <u>167</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>62</u> |
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| Officers. | 2. | 7. | 3. | - | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Ranks. | 21. | 160. | 8. | 16. | 61. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>23</u> | <u>167</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>62</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Profane Gentl Chz 28th Bn 7th Bde.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

829
Headquarters
7th Brigade A.I.F.

I have the honor to report the action taken by the 28th Batt during the attack on German trenches O.G.1 and O.G.2 North of POZIERES on the night of the 4th/5th August, and subsequent operation until relieved on the 6th inst.

Aug 4
5 pm

Battalion Hqs was at 18th Bn Hqs at A+B boys with specialists were in their preparatory position at strong points in X10 at 8.15 pm and routes to the front were being reconnoitered by these companies.

8.15 pm

C+D boys were ordered to follow in the attacking and consolidating troops and to garrison TRAMWAY TRENCH. Their arrival at this point was greatly delayed by the Pioneer Battalion who blocked the saps instead of moving forward. Lieut Glyde of "D" Coy was held up in this way for 2 hours and in this connection I may state that I hold an order which was passed down the trench signed by Lieut J.A. Mortimer instructing Pioneers to move back 300 yards. It was actually 11.45 pm before these companies arrived in position. They reported few casualties and that wounded men coming in had stated we were in occupation of O.G.2 and that there was no sign of a counter attack.

11.45 pm

At 12.15 am 5/8/16. I received orders from Brigade (B.M. 77) to move Btn Hqs and one Company to TRAMWAY TRENCH. I moved "B" Coy and the Btn Pioneers under Capt

Aug 5
12.15 am

629

Foss to this position, picking up Engineers material at Brigade Dump and carrying it forward. Bn Hqs were at old 19th Bn Hqs at 3 am. It was found quite impossible to move by the POZIERES-COPSE AVENUE trenches, on account of the crowded condition of all the saps. Carrying parties of the 46th Batt were sitting down the whole length of the Trenches with their loads, and a straggling crowd of Pioneers was pushing its way out. A number of stretcher cases had also been allowed to get into COPSE AVENUE.

On arrival digging & carrying parties from D'Boy were sent forward with stones and all available tools and communicating trenches started on.

At 3.45 am Lieut Col Walker 25th Batt received a message from his first line that the enemy were coming up in strength in a counter attack. I moved into TRAMWAY TRENCH and from this position hand to hand fighting could be observed on the left front in O.G. 1.

At 4 am I launched a counter attack with 'B & C' Coys together with about 30 men of the other Battalions whom I found in TRAMWAY TRENCH. This attack was led by Capt Foss.

At 4.46 am this officer reported that he was in O.G. 1 a little to the left and in rear of the Windmill.

In the meantime a small party of about 25 men under 2nd Lieut King had reinforced O.G. 1 about 200 yards to the left. They found here a mere handful of men of the 27th Batt and one Vickers gun defending the position against a strong party of Germans who were about 50 yards in front of O.G. 1. 2nd Lieut King

Aug 5
1.25 am

3 am

3 am

3.45 am

4 am

4.46 am

629

Aug 5

immediately lined the trench and opened fire on the enemy, inflicting a considerable number of casualties, the balance of whom surrendered. 2nd Lieut King collected 27 prisoners from the shell holes & sent them back under escort. Rifle fire was coming from O.G. 2, but observing that there was no machine gun fire, 2nd Lieut King then charged this trench the garrison of which surrendered & a further 100 prisoners were taken and sent back.

Consolidation of this trench was commenced and at 5.30 am 2nd Lieut King reported to me the urgent need of the garrison and I sent the remaining Company forward, retaining only the Battr. Bombers as my reserve. Capt Foss had also reported that he had reached O.G. 2 and that he needed reinforcements badly. He stated that he was the only Officer in his front and I ordered Lieut Phillipps to reinforce Capt Foss with portion of the remaining Coy noted above.

At 6.18 am I reported situation to Brigade (A. 63) and requested that the remaining (A) Coy be sent forward from X10 Central to TRAMWAY TRENCH.

At 8 am I received orders from Brigade (B.M. 96) "If situation permits, your 2 Companies should be withdrawn from O.G. 1 and O.G. 2 to original front. In view of the very light hold we had in this sector, the wide front caused through the 26th & 27th Bns missing their direction and being much too far to the left the very few casualties we had suffered in holding this line, and after consultations

6.30 am

6.30 am

8 am

5 Aug

with Lieut Col Dollman & Lieut Col Walker
I decided that the situation did not permit
of this with a withdrawal. I sent a message
(A 67) to Brigade to this effect.

At 8.10 am the position was as follows
A rough line of trench had been started
from a point about 40 yds to the left
rear of the Windmill and running left
for about 100 yards. This was deepened
and improved into a strong point
only 4 casualties being sustained.

Shelling was scarce but practically
all of it falling 50 yards over.

At 8.30 am A Coy had arrived at
TRAMWAY TRENCH and were carrying
supplies forward to O.Y.I.

At 8.40 am I received
Brigade message (B.M. 104) "Thin line
as much as you can" to which I
replied (~~to this line~~) "not practical to
thin line or reorganise until new
trenches are made good" Sandbags,
tools, & S.A.A. were being freely pushed
to the front at this time and consolidation
of the captured trenches was going on
without attracting any attention from
the enemy.

At 11.40 am Brigade instructed (B.G. 112)
that Batts were to hold their sectors
of captured trenches with Lewis Guns
and a minimum number of men.

At 12.30 pm this withdrawal had been
completed on my front, Lewis Guns and
spare magazines sent forward from
TRAMWAY TRENCH, and arrangements
made for a quick reinforcement if
required.

Four Lewis Guns and crews & 2 NCOs

8.10 am

8.30 am

8.40 am

11.40 am

12.30 pm

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Aug 5th

and 12 men as escort remained in position in the jumping off trench, with orders to cover any withdrawal that might be necessary from O.G. 1, and to hold their position at any cost.

From this hour until 5.30 pm the garrison in TRAMWAY TRENCH were busily employed repairing breeches made by H.E shells in this trench and in constructing fire steps for its defence.

At 5.30 pm Brigade memo (B.M. 185) was delivered instructing me to take over the 25th Battalion front. Garrison of TRAMWAY TRENCH was moved forward at 6 pm under Lieut A Brown.

By 6.30 pm they were in position & found trenches flattened out. Patrols were sent out to the flanks & found ~~trenches~~ on the left but not on the right. At dusk Patrols were sent out

500 yards to the front and discovered a small number of Germans in various shell holes whom they despatched. Two Officers Patrols went over the ground between O.G. 1 & O.G. 2. They found the area simply littered with German dead, almost every shell hole containing 6 or 7 dead. They estimate this sector alone contained between 1 & 2,000 dead Germans. Evidence appeared to indicate that the garrison had taken refuge in these shell holes during our bombardment, and had been caught there by our shell fire.

By mid night a new trench had been dug.

5.30 Pm

6 pm

6.30 pm

8 pm

Aug 5th

midnight

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90 yards long by 4'6" deep. This was improved without interference from shell fire until dawn. At 4am about 150 men were observed to be approaching our trenches from a point about 1 mile in front of the Windmill. Five men were sent forward to reconnoitre and found it was a party of 48th Bn men who had lost themselves during the night.

At 5.30 am 2nd Lieut R. Brown + 2 men with 3 Lewis Guns + crews joined up + touch was obtained with 48th Bn on right. 4 Lewis guns were then in this position. Shelling was heavy throughout the day, but it was not until 5 pm that the enemy found the range of this trench. 2nd Lieut R. Brown was sent back with the Garrison to the jumping off trench + Lieut A. Brown remained with the 4 Lewis Guns.

At 6 pm shelling ceased here the new trench being levelled off by this time although the 4 Lewis Guns were intact + crews had only about 25% casualties + were able to carry on. At 7 pm relief from the 14th Bn arrived but without Lewis Guns. The position was taken over but our Lewis Guns + crews remained in position until 8.20 pm when they were relieved.

At 8.25 pm remainder of 28th Bn and Nigs moved off to Tara Hill arriving there at 10 pm.

In conclusion I would like to bring under the notice of the G.O.C. the Extreme Gallantry displayed by

Aug 6thAug 6
4 amAm
5.30

5 pm

6 pm

7 pm

pm
8.20pm
8.25

10 pm

6th Aug

629
 every group of this Battalion.

They held on doggedly to a very wide front & occupied what would otherwise have been a very wide gap in our front.

May I also emphasise the following points:

(1.) At 4 am on the 5th inst O.G. 2 had not been taken over, at least a frontage of 400 yards west of the Windmill.

(2.) Although I would gladly have complied with (B.M. 96) & (B.M. 104) the large frontage I was holding with a very small number of men, reduced the situation to a very thin outpost line, and I considered it my duty to report these facts & to hold on.

C. O'Leary.
 Major.

Commanding
 28th Batts
 A.I.F.

Warley 9/8/16.