

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/70/12

**Title:** 53rd Infantry Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-23/70/12



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.)

53<sup>rd</sup> Bn. A.I.F.  
July 1914.

261

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUZINCOURT	July 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup>		During period 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> July Bn. Training was carried out under exceptionally fine weather conditions. Companies were also practised in Field Firing on the THIEPVAL RANGE.	
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Walker, Pettifer & Ridley & 49 other ranks joined from England.	
			A lecture was given by ARCHDEACON WARD & Lt. Col. TEBBUTT, D.S.O. at which the whole Bn. was in attendance.	
		5 <sup>th</sup>	Boys at full strength attended bathing parties.	
		BOLTON CAMP	6 <sup>th</sup>	The Bn. marched to BOLTON CAMP, MAILLEY-MAILLET, leaving starting point (Chursch) at 8.30 am. March discipline was well carried out.
"	8 <sup>th</sup>	Bn. & B <sup>de</sup> schemes carried out near BEAUMONT HAMEL.		
"	11 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Col. Croshaw arrived from Hospital & resumed command of Bn.		
"	12 <sup>th</sup>	Bn. marched to HENENCOURT WOOD Sports Ground where 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. Sports were held. HIS MAJESTY THE KING was present.		
"	"	Obstacle Race Team from Bn. under Captain Smith took part in Demonstration. Bn. marched back to BOLTON CAMP in the afternoon.		
"	13 <sup>th</sup>	Bn. on light. Outpost. Scheme in conjunction with 14 <sup>th</sup> Lf. B <sup>de</sup> .		



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1261

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53<sup>rd</sup> Bn. A.I.F.  
July 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOLTON CAMP.	July 16 <sup>th</sup>		The Bn. marched to RUBEMPRE via, FORCEVILLE, VARENNES, HARPONVILLE, TOUTENCOURT & HERISSART, leaving BOLTON CAMP at 7.30 am & arriving at RUBEMPRE at 1.30 pm. Although the heat was intense the march discipline was excellent. Roads excellent.	
RUBEMPRE	18 <sup>th</sup>		The Bn. proceeded to CORBIE by route-march leaving RUBEMPRE at 7 am. The marching was again well carried out. A light lunch was served to all ranks en-route. On arrival at CORBIE the Bn, including all Transport, crossed two pontoon bridges which were constructed beforehand by the Engineers & Pioneers, after which they marched back through the town & billeted for the night at LA NEUVILLE.	
"	19 <sup>th</sup>		Bn. marched back to billets at RUBEMPRE, arriving about 1 pm. This being the first anniversary of the first engagement in which this Bn. took part in France, it was duly celebrated by each man receiving a free quart issue of beer. A Concert was also given in the evening.	
"	20 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>		The training during this period was confined mostly to complete organization of Coy's & platoons, no ground in this vicinity being available for -	



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1  
261

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUEMPRE	July 20 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>		<p>- for other, or more advanced training. Platoons, completely organized, were thoroughly inspected &amp; examined by the Comm<sup>d</sup>s Officer. Specialist's Training was also extensively carried out. On the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> the Bn marched to PUCHVILLERS at 9.15 pm. &amp; there entrained at 11 pm for 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Area.</p>	
LYNDE	30 <sup>th</sup>		<p>After travelling all night the Bn. arrived at ARQUES at 6. am. where breakfast was served. At 7.30 am. Bn. marched off for LYNDE, their final destination, arriving here about mid-day. Although the weather was unfavourable for marching, the march was completed without a hitch. The condition of the roads was all that could be desired.</p>	
"	31 <sup>st</sup>		<p>The billets the Bn. took over were clean &amp; in better order than those in which <del>the</del> we have been accustomed to in other Areas. This day was set apart for general cleaning up. The health of the troops during the month continued to improve. The number of cases of 'Trench Fever' showed a decrease in number &amp; in severity of type.</p>	



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261

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>In the opinion of the R.M.O. the occurrence of Trench Fever is largely dependent upon the hygiene of the men. Frequent bathing is desirable. The number of men evacuated during the month was - 55 other ranks. The number taken on the strength was - Officers 7, other ranks 95. Total strength - Officers - 40, other ranks 846.</p>	

Thomas Major  
53<sup>rd</sup> Bn. A.I.F.