

AWM4

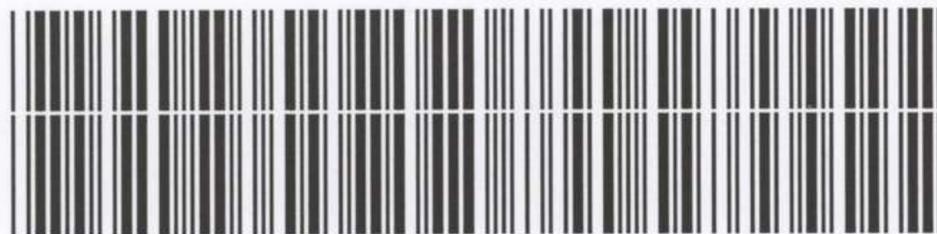
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/54/14

Title: 37th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/54/14

37TH
AUSTRALIAN
BATTALION.

No. 5407
Date: 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.

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. 149

CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|---------|------|--|--|
| IRISH FARM U.70. 40.70. | 1-8-17 | - | NO ENTRY | |
| | 3-8-17 | - | A draft of 24 reinforcements arrived from STEENWERCK Camp, almost all wounded men returning to their unit. | |
| | 4-8-17 | | 11 Reinforcements arrived. News received that Capt R.C. GRIEVE had been awarded the V.C. The Divisional Commander and Brigade Commander forwarded to the Battalion a congratulatory telegram (Capt R.C. Grieve gained first VC in the 3rd Australian Division (Telegram and Battalion Orders attached as in Appendix I.) Order received that the Brigade was to move back to position of Reserve Divisional area at Sub Ground | BATTN. ORDER attached Appendix II S.P.C. Central. |
| Reference Map PROEGSTEERT 420000 S. 12.C. | 5-8-17 | | March from U. 70 40.70 commenced 10 am all Companies were in position at S.P.C. (Central) by 2 pm. Battalion under canvas and undergoing training in Skill at Arms. NCO's School in progress. | |
| | 6/8/17 | | Training syllabus attached. | Appendix III |
| | 8/8/17 | | Lieut. F. MORLEY joined from 3rd DAC, Capt W.F. ROBERTSON to be T/MANOR, Sgt J.A. MCKEMORE to be 2/Lieut. AIF List 212 dated 31-7-17 | |
| | 10/8/17 | | Rehearsal of Ceremonial Parade for Inspection by General Sir Herbert PUNER GOC 2nd ARMY. Lieut. J.A. SIMPSON struck off strength to 10th Training Battalion, 2/Lieut. P.R. MAPLESON | |

37TH
AUSTRALIAN
BATTALION.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 5 sheet. 8
Date: 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.)

CONFIDENTIAL
ORIGINAL

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|------|-----|---|
| BLEQUIN | 25/8/17 | | Promoted to 1 st Lieutenants - 2 nd Lieut C. J. TAYLOR, 2 nd Lieut W. B. KING, 2 nd Lieut E. B. HAMILTON 2 nd Lieut L. L. ROBERTSON, 2 nd Lieut A. FOWLER - AIF List 217 dated 14/8/17. | 25/8/17 26/8/17 27/8/17 28/8/17 29/8/17 30/8/17 31/8/17 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 26/8/17 | | Course of Lectures for Officers given under Brigade organisation. Battalion Lectures twice per week given by Officers of Battalion 2 nd Lieut F. R. MAPLESON rejoined from Hospital Sergeant P. L. ISHERWOOD promoted 2 nd Lieutenant as from 10/8/17 - AIF List No 218 of 17/8/17. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 27/8/17 | | Major (Comp. Lieut. Col.) F. KNOX KNIGHT to be Lieut. Colonel - AIF List No 220 of 21/8/17 Training - Platoon Tactical Exercises. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 28/8/17 | | Training - Platoon Tactical Exercises and Route March | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 29/8/17 | | NO ENTRY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30/8/17 | | NO ENTRY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 31/8/17 | | Capt J. A. CLAREBROUGH and 5 NCOs left Unit for 10 th Training Battalion England. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Note: During the month Casualties & Evacuations & drafts as under - | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Killed Wounded Evac Sick Rejoined from Hospital Drafts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> <td>OFFS. OR.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>- 39</td> <td>113</td> <td>3</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </table> | | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | NIL | NIL | - 39 | 113 | 3 |
| OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | OFFS. OR. | | | | | | | | | | |
| NIL | NIL | - 39 | 113 | 3 | 40 | | | | | | | | | | |

- APPENDICES
- ① BATTN. RO 258-10/8/17 and attached WIRE from G.O.C.
 - ② BATTN. ORDER No. 35 4/8/17
 - ③ SYLLABUS OF TRAINING 5/8/17
- (Copies in list of APPENDICES attached to ORIGINAL ONLY.)

149

3RD BATTALION A.I.F.

ROUTINE ORDER No 258

10.8.17

HONOURS
AWARDS
BDE. RD.
NO 117
7/8/17

His Majesty the King approves of the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to the following dated 2/8/1917
CAPTAIN ROBERT CUTHBERT GRIEVE 3RD BATTALION A.I.F.
On the 7th June 1917 at MESSINES, for most conspicuous gallantry in action during an attack on the enemy's position. He led his Company to the attack on the enemy's third line position in the face of heavy artillery and machine gun fire. After all his officers had been wounded and his company had suffered very heavy casualties he located in a house two hostile machine guns which were holding up his advance and causing most of the casualties. He ran forward alone a distance of 50 yards in the open and under the constant fire from the two machine guns, he, single handed, hunted and killed the machine gun crews. He then with great coolness and ability, reorganised the remnants of his Company and succeeded in capturing his objective. It was his action alone that enabled the advance to be continued and the objective reached. By his utter disregard for dangers, his coolness under fire and his magnificent conduct, he set a splendid example to his NCO's and men and when he finally fell wounded the position was securely in our hands and the few remaining enemies were in flight.
The ARMY, CORPS, DIVISIONAL, BRIGADE, and BATTALION COMMANDERS desire that their congratulations be conveyed to the recipient.

SELF
INFLECTED
WOUNDS

2nd Army RD. No. 433. 2/8/1916 is republished for information
No. 433. CLEANING RIFLES 2nd Army RD. 191. 7/15/16 republished for information under No 329 5/15/16 is republished for information.
* (19) NO MAN is on any account to clean a rifle either outside or inside while there is a cartridge either in the chamber or the magazine. The bolt will therefore be removed and the magazine detached before any cleaning takes place.
This order is to be read out on three (3) company parades and to all drafts as they form.
During the month of July 1917 there were 17 cases of S.I.W's in the Div. of which 13 happened while the men were cleaning rifles. Such occurrences bring discredit on the individual, upon his company, upon his Battalion, his Brigade, and upon the Division. They must be prevented by attention to training routines and strict discipline. The wounded man brings disgrace and punishment upon himself, but the odium of his act touches also those responsible for his conduct.

SCHOOLS
RESULTS

DIVISIONAL GAS SCHOOL 4/17
4/16 Wm WHITTINGHAM FAIR
" NB. PREST FAIRLY GOOD
2nd ANZAC CORPS BOMBING & T.M. SCHOOL 27-7-17
Cpl R. M. LINDSAY, Progress - Very Good, Interest and Keenness - Very Keen, General Ability - Above Average, Note Book - Very Clean
trained as a Bombing Sergeant and instructor.

(over)

149 ROUTINE ORDER No. 258 CONTINUED

SCHOOLS
Results
2nd ARMY CORPS BOMBING and T.M. SCHOOL
Cpl. CULMOUR A.G. - Progress - Good - Interest and Keenness - Keen
General Ability - Average. Note book - Good. Trained as a Bombing
N.I.P. - Not an instructor.

DIVISIONAL GAS SCHOOL 28/1/17
Pte FRASER R.N. Good

2nd ARMY SCHOOL OF SCOUTING, OBSERVATION, SWIMMING July 8th 1917.

| Rank | Name | Scouting + Patrolling | USE OF MAPS - Compass & Sighting Bearings | Visual Observation | SWIMMING 100 yds 500 " | Swimming & Observation 100 yds | Use of Sighting Compass |
|-------|--------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lieut | McNICOL | Good | Good | Good | V. Good | Good | Good |
| Lt Pl | WATKINS G.E. | Good | Good | V. Good | Good | Good | V. Good |

DISCIPLINE,
SALUTING
It does not seem to be understood that all Cars flying
after ARMY, CORPS, or DIVISIONAL GENERALS FLAGS, must be
saluted by all ranks, whether the car is open
or closed. It must be clearly explained to all
ranks, especially to newly joined drafts, that
the object of flying the flag is to denote that
GENERAL OFFICER not below the rank of
DIVISIONAL COMMANDER is in the Car.
The colours of the flag show the rank as follows:-
The UNION JACK Commander in Chief.
RED + BLACK ARMY Commander
RED + WHITE CORPS Commander
RED DIVISIONAL Commander
Every Officer and man is to make acquainted with
these orders.

CLEANLINESS
OF
LINES
ETC.
The inspection of the lines this morning showed
that efforts had been made to gain uniformity.
D Coy. lines were easily best, while the other of
other companies was B. A. C. the Sergeant tent
in C Company line was the worst in the Battalion.
Broom tins must be cleaned and placed in
their covers, knives, forks and spoons will be kept
out of sight. Coffee for bread etc may be kept,
provided it is securely covered. Tent doors must
be opened as wide as possible. There is still need for all round improvement and
it is sincerely hoped that this matter will not
again need to be referred to.

PUNISHMENTS
2144 Pte RYAN J.G. C. Coy. charged with being absent
from his billet after 9 pm. and not in possession
of a pass, contrary to G.D. 1599.
Awarded 14 days Field Punishment No 2.
2177 Pte BOLTON J.H.L. C. Coy charged with being absent
from his billet after 9 pm. and not in possession
of a pass, contrary to G.D. 1599.
Awarded 14 days Field Punishment No 2.
2091 Pte KEANE J.M. C. Coy charged with being absent
from his billet after 9 pm. and not in possession
of a pass, contrary to G.D. 1599.
Awarded 14 days Field Punishment No 2.

J. Hawthorn CAPT
ADJUTANT
37th BATTAL AIF

WAR DIARY

Appendix No. 7

"C" Form.

Army Form C 2123.
(In books of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| Prefix..... | Code..... | Words..... | Received | Sent, or sent out | Office Stamp. |
| | | £ s. d. | From..... | At.....m. | |
| Charges to collect | | | By..... | To..... | |
| Service Instructions. | | | | By..... | |

Handed in at..... Office..... m Received.....

TO *C. D. F. G. S. I.*

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| *Sender's Number | Day of Month | In reply to Number | AAA |
| <i>178 323</i> | <i>4TH</i> | | |

*Following message received from
 Please accept my congratulations
 for your Brigade and Major
 upon award of Capt BRUCE
 of the 1st Victoria Cross
 given by His Majesty
 the King to Major
 Bruce.*

*In confirmation of telephone message
 conversation this morning I
 desire to congratulate you
 and your unit on the high
 honor gained by Capt
 Bruce.*

FROM *MC*

PLACE & TIME *War Diary*

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (B 8188) Wt w. 7496 M857 250,000 Pads. 1/11 H & S (E489.) Form C 2123/5

Copy No 7 37th BATTALION AIF ORDER No 35

MAP REFERENCE - Sheet 28 SW. 56 NW. 120000 DATED 4-8-17

INFORMATION ① The 10th Australian Infantry Brigade will move back to a portion of a new reserve DIVISIONAL area. On completion HEADQUARTERS OF BRIGADE units will be located as follows: -

- BRIGADE H.Q.'s HILLSIDE CAMP -
- 38th BATTN. S. 12 C. Central
- 39th HILLSIDE CAMP
- 40th BATTN. T 20. G. 70. 70

MOVEMENT ② On the 5th August 1917 at 10.30am the 37th BATTALION will move to TANK GROUND S. 12. C. central. The Battalion will move in the order shown:

- 'A' Coy
- 'B' Coy
- 'C' Coy
- 'D' Coy

movement will commence at 10.30am.

ROUTES ③ The Battalion will move via the WULVERCHEM - NEUVE EGLISE ROAD as far as the latter town, thence via MAIN NEUVE-EGLISE - DRANOUTRE ROAD TO M 35. d. 33. 45. thence via CLAPHAM ROAD TO S. 12 C. central.

TIME ~~By companies at 300 yards intervals commencing at 11 am. but companies leaving at 11.15 am.~~

PRECAUTIONS. ④ Movement east of and along WULVERCHEM - NEUVE-EGLISE will be by Platoons at 300 yards distance, movement West of above ROAD will be by Companies 300 yards distance.

REPORTS ⑤ Report will be sent to Battalion H.Q. at S 12. C immediately movement is completed.

ACKNOWLEDGE

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No. 1 Q.C. 'A' Coy
- " " 2 " 'B' "
- " " 5 " 'C' "
- " " 4 " 'D' "
- " " 5 10th INF. BRIGADE H.Q.
- " " 6 Q.M.
- " " 7 FILE

Mauchrough Capt.
 Adjutant
 37th Battalion
 AIF.

Smoke 10.30 am to 10.45 am
 Lunch 12.15 pm to 1.45 pm
 Smoke 2.45 pm to 3 pm

34th Battalion A.I.F.

5-8-17

APPENDIX III

Syllabus of Training

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9 am to 9.45 am | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoon | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex Close Order Drill | L.C. |
| 9.45 am to 10.30 am | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoons | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill |
| 10.45 am to 11.30 am | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoon | P.I. + B.F. |
| 11.30 am to 12.15 pm | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoon |
| 1.45 pm to 2.15 pm | Tactical Ex Platoons | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry |
| 2.15 pm to 2.45 pm | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoons | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades | Gas |
| 3 pm to 3.30 pm | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoons | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing | Rifle Grenades |
| 3.30 pm to 4 pm | Rifle Grenades | Gas | Musketry | Tactical Ex Platoons | P.I. + B.F. | Rifle Ex + Close Order Drill | L.C. | Bombing |

Appendix No 3