

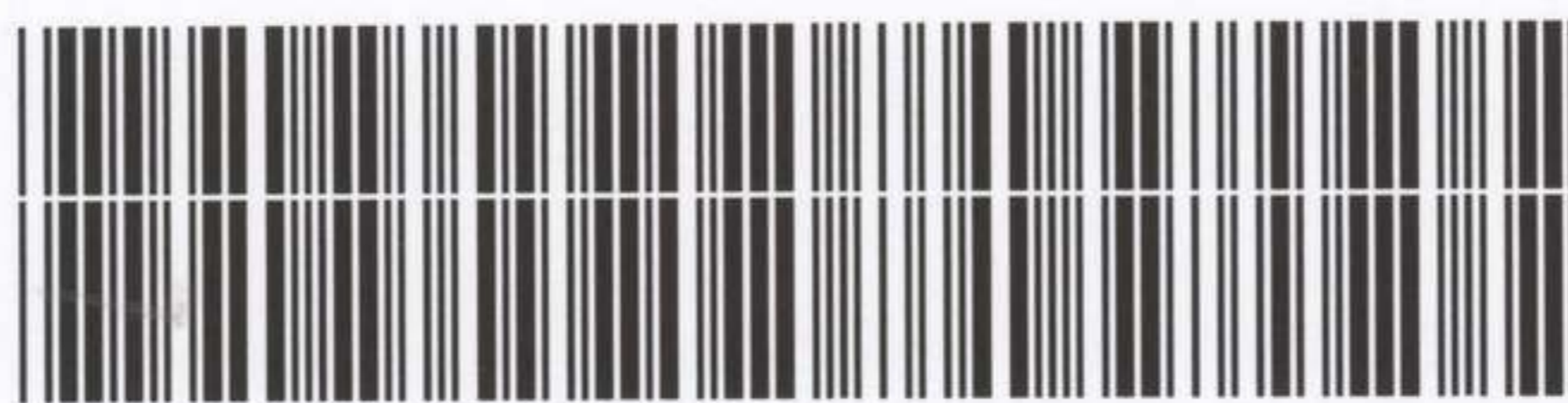
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/67/13

Title: 50th Infantry Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-23/67/13

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

VOLUME 14

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50th BN AIF. Page 49

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near DESUELE CAMP	1917 July	1st 15 7th	<p>Bn still in tents near De Suele Camp west of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD in Divisional Reserve. 4th Aust Inf Bde holding front line 12th Aust Inf Bde in support. Close order drill, bayonet fighting, rapid wiring, specialist training + route marching carried on.</p> <p>Two days spent on construction of 30 yards range beside camp. Range practice commenced towards end of week.</p> <p>Further honours awarded for Messines operations - Military Cross - Lieut J. Waime, 2nd Lt. ^{ERM} Noblet, Capt W. Powell (A.A.M.C. attached 50th Bn) also D.C.M. for two sergeants.</p> <p>Drafts totalling 220 received since Messines operations to date also four officers.</p> <p>Battalion has worked as two platoons per Coy since completion of operations. A + B Coys now three platoons each. C + D almost ready to reform a third platoon each.</p> <p>Bn Int-Officer Coy Comd'rs + Scouts have visited sector held by 4th Aust Inf Bde.</p> <p>A few guns + teams attached Div Amm. Col for anti aircraft work.</p>	<p>H. Calverley W.C.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th Bn AIF Page 50

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near De Selve de Selve Camp	1917 July 8 15 July 12		<p>Training continued in musketry (30 yd. range) Rapid wiring, Specialist Lecture to N.C.O.s on discipline + care of arms clothing + equipt. Lecture to Officers on reports while in front line - trench duties - - responsibility of officers in charge of working parties. Presentation of ribbons by Corps Comdr on Divisional parade (10th July) to Officers NCOs + men for gallant conduct at Messines. Officers NCO + Scouts visited front line during week</p>	
near PLOEGSTEERT WOOD	13 14		<p>Bn moved into support near Ploegsteert-Wood (LAURENCE FARM Bn HQ) and took over from 16th Bn A.I.F. at 11.45 am. 49th Bn to take over front line from 13th Bn A.I.F. on night 13/14th July. Distribution of 50th Bn as follows :- A Coy - "MAISON 1875" B + C Coys in PLOEGSTEERT WOOD, D Coy near LAURENCE FARM Bn HQ at LAURANCE FARM. Relief completed without any casualties. 7am. During previous 24 hours, our artillery quiet. Our planes very active during afternoon + evening. They were heavily fired on by hostile A.A. + m.g. fire. Enemy fired about 120 4.2" shells into Ploegsteert- between 11 am + 2 pm. Western part of Ploegsteert-Wood shelled with heavy hostile artillery between</p>	<p>Operation Order N^o 27 attached</p>

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By Salisbury H.Q.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th Bn A.I.F.

Page 51

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR PLOEGSTEEERT WOOD	1917 July		5 + 10 pm. A little hostile shelling in a few other places during day. Hostile aircraft dropped about 50 bombs west of Ploegsteert Wood + near Maison 1895 about 3 am. on 14th July. Enemy attempted to raid a post on the left sector of Bde front held by 51st Bn, but were driven off. Casualties in Bn during past 24 hours - Nil.	
NEAR PLOEGSTEEERT WOOD	July 15	7 am	During previous 24 hours our artillery quiet. a little retaliation was carried out in reply to enemy bombardments about 8.40 + 10.35 pm. our aircraft active + were engaged by hostile AA + M Guns. Enemy's artillery was quieter than previous day. Ploegsteert village + wood + SW of wood received attention. About 8.40 pm enemy bombarded vicinity of front line at same time a heavier bombardment was being carried out about half a mile to the right. About 10.35 pm the enemy again shelled forward area for 15 minutes. Hostile aircraft less active. Eight Officers + 366 men of Bn used on working parties. Casualties for 24 hours - Nil.	
	July 16	7 am	During previous 24 hours our artillery lightly shelled enemy during day + night. our planes again active + engaged as usual by enemy fire. The new type of hostile AA shell was noticed bursting with the brown + white smoke	M. Talbot Hobart

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th Bn A.I.F. Page 52

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR PLOEGSTEERT WOOD	July 17		<p>Hostile artillery was much below normal. Southern edge of Ploegsteert Wood shelled by heavies between 6.30 am on 15th + again at 6 am on 16th. About 2 am enemy opened brisk bombardment to the right of our sector. It lasted 15 minutes. At 4.45 pm enemy planes attempted to cross our lines N.E. of Wood but were driven back. This was repeated at 5.30 pm 9 pm + 4.15 am. From 5.15 to 5.50 am four hostile planes patrolled vicinity of our front line. Eight officers + 377 men employed on improving defences. Casualties - One man wounded by shell fire.</p> <p>During previous 24 hours our artillery quiet in morning, fairly active in afternoon + occasional shelling at night. Our aircraft carried on in usual way. Enemy carried on shelling in scattered way usual places receiving attention. At 1.15 pm an enemy shell exploded a small H.E. dump in Ploegsteert Wood. A number of gas shells were fired into the wood during the evening. Hostile planes frequently patrolled our forward lines. At 4.30 pm two machines attempted to destroy our balloons but were driven off. They returned at 5.10 pm + burnt one balloon.</p> <p>Eight officers + 377 men employed on improving defences. Casualties 3 wounded 1 sick. Officers from 1st Canterbury</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th Bn A.I.F Page 53

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR PLOEGSTEERT WOOD	July 18	7 am	Bn x 2nd Otago Bn (2nd New Zealand Infy Bde) reconnoitred our trenches with a view to relief.	
do	18	7 am	Occasional shelling by our artillery throughout the 24 hours. Our planes very active especially in the evening when large numbers of our machines could be seen behind the enemy lines. Enemy paid them the usual attention with AA & machine guns. A good deal of shrapnel was thrown over the wood at various intervals during the day. Between 12.35 & 2.50 am enemy kept up an intense bombardment of Ploegsteert Wood & area to south of it with gas shells. Very little activity by enemy planes. Any attempt to cross our lines was stopped by our AA & m guns. Eight officers & 377 men employed improving defences basaltics. - One man killed.	
do	19	7 am	Our artillery kept up the usual fire. Owing to wet & dull weather conditions no aeroplane work carried out. Enemy's artillery fairly active but shelling was scattered, a number of gas shells being used. Six officers & 222 men improving defences	

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G. J. Galsworthy
1918

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th Pw A.I.F. Page 54

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917			
	July	19	<p>2nd Pw Otago Regt (NZ Div) relieved A & D Corps + 1st Pw Canterbury Regt (NZ Div) relieved B & C Corps - relief completed by 2.15pm - cloudy day allowed relief to be completed by daylight unobserved by enemy - no casualties during relief. Total casualties during tour of six days: 1 officer wounded, 1 other rank killed, 1 other rank died of wounds, 5 other ranks wounded. Total 8.</p> <p>On relief Pw moved to old lines near De Seule</p>	<p>Operation order NO 28 attached</p>
near De Seule	July	20	Physical training, saluting drill & clearing up.	
		21	do Kit inspection Bathing parade to baths.	
NEAR STEENWERCK		22	Bde left De Seule camp & moved to billets further from front line. 50th Pw near STEENWERCK	

G. J. Lakebury hi-bol

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50th Bn A.I.F. Page 55

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>NEAR STEENWERCK</i>	<i>1917</i>	<i>July 23 to July 30</i>	<p>Recent drafts have brought Bn up to strength of 22 Officers 739 O.R. actually with unit. All corps now built up to three platoons each plus the Lewis gun section for the fourth platoon. All specialists well up to strength & are carrying on individual training under specialist officers. Other training - Musketry, Wiring, Bayonet Fighting & Ph. Training outpost & small tactical schemes, with three ten mile route marches per week. A Regt class for junior N.C.O.s is being conducted each afternoon. Frequent lectures to Officers. Leave for men with over 18 months continuous service has been more liberal - 69 of all ranks having been granted leave to United Kingdom during the month.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A. G. Salisbury Lt. Col 50th Bn</i></p>	

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OPERATION ORDER, No, 27,
By,
LIEUT COLONEL. A. G. SALISBURY. D.S.O.. COMMANDING,
50th, BATTALION.

In the Field,
12/7/17.

Reference Maps 1/20,000
1/40,000 (Sheet 28 & 36)

- MOVE.** The Battalion will relieve the 16th Bn in Support in Right Sub Sector of Brigade occupying the line between the WARNAVE and the DOUVE on the morning of 13th inst. Relief to be completed by noon.
- "A" Coy will take over MASON 1875, TOUQUET BERTHE & TRENCHES adjoining these farms. Coy H.Qs at U.26.c.55.35.
- "B" Coy will take over Breastwork in HUNTER AVENUE. Coy H.Qs at U.21.c.6.6.
- "C" Coy will take over Breast work in BUN HILL ROW. Coy H.Qs at CLOUSTER HOUSE - U.20.c.45.85.
- "D" Coy will take over FUSLIER TERRACES. Coy H.Qs at U.27.c.45.85.
- Transport will take over Transport Lines of 16th Bn at ENGLISH FARM at T.21.b.4.0.
- Bn H.Qs and R.A.P. will be situated at LAWRENCE FARM at U.27.c.4.8.
- Coys will move from present Camp according to following details :-
- B & C Coys will leave Bn.H.Qs at 8 a.m., at intervals of 300 yds between Platoons & Coys.
- Route via ROMARIN, - T.30.d.55.50., - U.25.a.6.3., - STRAND AVENUE - to pass U.25.a.6.3. at 10.10 a.m. - on 13th inst. -
- D. Coy - H.Qs Details - & A. Coy. Route via ROMARIN - PLOEGSTREE at TOUQUET BERTHE along breastwork to MASON 1875, thence BORDER AVENUE.
- Dress :-** Fighting Order - Blanket to be carried.
- Trench Stores :-** One Officer & 1. N.C.O per Coy will move forward to arrive and take over Area Stores at 10 a.m. Copies of all receipts will be forwarded to Bn H.Qs without delay. Special care must be taken that all stores are carefully checked before receipts are given.
- Signallers :-** One relief of Signallers per Coy will take phones up and exchange them.
- Baggage -** All spare baggage will be left at Transport Lines. Officers valises will be dumped at Q.M.Store by 7.30 a.m. and will be taken to A.Coy H.Qs that night by Transport. Coys will draw same from there.
- Lewis Gunners Material :-** Lewis Gun Limbers will be loaded by 7.30 a.m., and will be taken to point U.25.d.7.8, where Guns etc will be unloaded. Gun cases & tin boxes will be sent back to Transport Lines.
One Lewis Gunner per Coy will remain with gear until all is removed.
- Cookers :-** One cook per Coy will remain with Dixies, which will be carted to U.25.d.7.8., where remainder of Cooks will pick them up and carry them forward.
- Rations :-** Unconsumed portion of day's rations will be carried on the man. Waterbottles to be filled.

(2)

SANITATION :- Coy Commanders will see that lines at present occupied by them are left perfectly clean. Orderly Officer will remain with Sanitary Section and see that everything is satisfactory and receive receipts for Stores handed over to 16th, Battalion.

L.P. Smith

Lieutenant,

A/Adjutant, 50th, Battalion.

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::	2.	Senior Major.
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::	5.)	War Diary.
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::	7.)	A. Coy.
::	8.)	B. :
::	9.)	C. :
::	10.)	D. :
::	11.	C.O., 16th, Bn A.I.F.

OPERATION ORDER, No, 28,
By,
LIEUT COLONEL A.G. DALISBURY, D.S.O., COMMANDING,
50th, BATTALION.

In the Field,
18/7/17.

Reference Map 1/40,000 - Sheets 28 & 36.

RELIEF. The Battalion will be relieved by the 1st Bn Canterbury Regiment and 2nd Bn Otago Regiment, 2nd New Zealand Brigade on the morning of the 19th and will move to CANTEEN CORNER & take over the same lines as before. Two Coys of the 1st Canterbury Bn will relieve C & D. Coys, and two Coys of 2nd Otago will relieve A & B Coys.

Order of March :- A, C, D, & B. Coys. A. Coy will move out at 6 a.m., C. Coy at 7 a.m., D. Coy at 8 a.m., and B. Coy will wait until relieved by incoming troops.

Coys will maintain distances of 200 yards between half platoons and will collect at ROMARIN and march into Camp by Coys.

Baggage :- A.C. & D. Coys Guns, Magazines etc, etc, to be at U.25.d.59.80. by 7 a.m.

Officers valises, Mess Boxes & B. Coy's Guns, Magazines etc to be there at 11 a.m.

One Lewis Gunner per Coy will remain with Coy Guns until they are taken by Coys at CANTEEN CORNER Camp.

Rear Party :- Coys will leave 1. Officer, 1. N.C.O. & 2 Sanitary men to hand over and see that trenches are left clean.

Receipts for Stores, Tools etc will be handed into Bn Orderly Room by 6 p.m. on 19th inst.

Cooks :- All Cooks & Cooking Utensils will be returned tonight by ration Limbers.

L. Blumh

Lieutenant,

A/Adjutant, 50th, Battalion.

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| :: | 9. | C. : |
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