

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/74/8

Title: 57th Infantry Battalion

September 1916



AWM4-23/74/8

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.)

57th Battalion A.I.F.

16

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE DU BOIS	1.9.16	1700	French mortar traps under cover of Artillery. Retaliation slight.	
	2.9.16	1730	French mortar traps which drew a lot of Retaliation, no damage however was done	
		2100	The Battalion less two Companies was relieved from the trenches into billets at 929a 93b. See Appendix 6 attached	Appendix 6
	3.9.16	0900	Military Cross Ribbons & D.C.M. Ribbons were presented to Lieut Salmon, Capt. Rayson and 2 Lieut Thorburn at the Divisional Bombing School by General Plumer.	
	4.9.16		all H.Q. Details including Grenadiers, Snipers etc were sent to Sully Baths. The remainder of the Battalion were used in Fatigue Work.	
	5.9.16		All 'C' Company were sent to Sully baths throughout the day. 3 men per Company were practised with the Barr & Stroud Range finders.	
	6.9.16		All the Battalion were on Fatigue Work.	
	7.9.16		70 men from D Coy were sent to Sully Baths.	
		2200	A & B Companies moved from the Support Trenches & Billets back into billets in Square	Appendix 7.
	8.9.16	1800	D Coy moved from billets up to the Firing Line in Support of 58 th Batt.	
	9.9.16		Firing line working parties supplied as usual.	
	10.9.16		Working and Swimming parties as usual.	
	11.9.16		First issue of Small hoc Respirators, about 40% only were available. Commencing today officers and N.C.O.'s were sent to attend daily lectures and demonstrations in its use at Divisional Gas School	
	12.9.16		9 officers attended a lecture at Baillieux on the "Balken Tangle".	
	13.9.16		A lecture on the "Strategy of Goffe" was delivered at Sully and attended by 9 officers	
	14.9.16		All the Battalion were on Fatigue Work.	
	15.9.16		The day was very quiet. Working parties as usual. The strength of the Battalion was increased by the addition of 4 men from ETAPLES.	
	16.9.16		Working parties as usual. 9 officers attended lecture at Sully on "Esprit de Corps"	
	17.9.16		The Battalion was on Fatigue duty. 10 men from the Battalion reported to the Divisional Bomb School	
	18.9.16	1500	Between 1500 and 2000 the Battalion moved from the Bois Grenier line and Billets to take over French length as per Appendix 7. 2 N.C.O.'s attended Div. Gas school.	Appendix 8
	19.9.16	0630	Our trench mortars bombarded enemy lines and drew slight retaliation. No damage sustained. It rained heavily and continuously all day. There was very little artillery activity.	

H. D. Capt. 1

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

57th BATTALION A.I.F.

17

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROE DU BOIS	20.9.16	0630	We put 50 Stokes bombs over on to Enemy Front line. Our Artillery were very active all day on Enemy earthworks. Our Sniping was very active and several Rifle Grenades were fired. A scheme was tried whereby every man could daily be issued with a pair of socks. The 57 th Battalion was the last Battalion for the scheme.	
	21.9.16	0645	Usual morning Stokes Gun Strafe. The day was very quiet.	
	22.9.16		Artillery Registration. We put over several Stokes bombs and Rifle Grenades. There was no enemy retaliation. Lieut E. B. Sutherland was killed by enemy sniper. One officer left to attend a school at Le Touquet and one for a school at Elorbecque.	
	23.9.16		Artillery and Trench Mortars active. Enemy retaliated, but did no damage. C Coy with 2 officers and 141 O.R. withdrawn from the line and attached to 60 th Batt ⁿ who went back in billets.	
	24.9.16		Artillery very active firing over 400 shells. Very little retaliation from the enemy. 1 officer and 80 O.R. attended presentation of MOSCAR Sports Cup.	
	25.9.16		Quiet day. Our Artillery only fired about 150 rounds and the enemy reply was very slight.	
	26.9.16		Bathing was commenced under Battalion arrangements in tub baths near RIFLE VILLA. Cleanly underclothing was provided for the men. The baths are capable of putting through about 80 men per day. The enemy gun fire was slightly increased but no damage was done. The enemy put over a few chummunwafers but they all fell well behind the parapet. Their gun appears to be in a very narrow emplacement as it did not traverse at all, all projectiles falling about the same place.	
	27.9.16		The day was quiet. Bathing was carried on and was much appreciated by all ranks.	
	28.9.16	0615	Capt R. V. Linton proceeded to ETAPLES to take charge of Divisional Base Details for 2 months. Our 4.5" Howitzers got some direct hits on ammunition emplacements but as no damage was done it is thought that they are of concrete.	
	29.9.16		Lieut Col J. C. Stewart took temp. command of the Brigade during the absence on leave of Brig Genl H. E. Elliott. Major N. Marshall assumed temporary command of the Battalion.	
	30.9.16		There was increased enemy artillery activity but it was quenched by our batteries. An enemy 4.2" shell penetrated a telephone dugout killing 1 man & wounding two others.	
	1430		The Battalion was relieved by the 60 th Batt ⁿ and moved into billets at 9369 P24.	

W. D. Capt

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57th BATTALION A.I.F.
Operation Order No.5.

Appendix 6.

2nd Sept. 1916.

Reference Trench Map Area L.

- RELIEF. 1. Headquarters and "C" and "D" Companies will be relieved at 9 p.m. this day by 58th Battalion.
"A" and "B" Companies will remain in the
b 300 yard Line and Billets in RUE DE POIS providing working parties on chits of Engineers as at present.
- ROUTES. 2. After relief "D" Company will leave trenches by V.C. AVENUE and "C" Company by PINNEYS AVENUE.
- ALLOTMENT. 3. "C" Company will garrison the under-mentioned posts:-
WINTERS NIGHT. 1 Off. 30 P.Rks
WINDY POST 1 Off. 30 O.Rks
CHARRED POST 1 Off 30 O.Rks
Careful check of stores taken over to be made. The remainder of Headquarters and "C" and "D" Coys will be guided to Billets indicated to Unit Commanders in Squares G.36 & 29.
- TAKING OVER RECEIPTS. 4. Receipts will be signed in triplicate for all trench stores taken over, one copy to be retained by incoming Unit and other 2 to Battn Headquarters. Arrangements already made between incoming Coy Commanders and Coys to be relieved to stand.
All Lines to be left scrupulously clean.

W. J. Robinson Captain
Adjutant.

Copy No.1. Filed
2 War Diary
3 "A" Coy
4 "B" Coy
5 "C" Coy
6 "D" Coy

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Appendix No. 7

57th BATTALION A.I.F.

Operation Order No. 6.

6th Sept. 1916.

MOVE

1. "A" and "B" Companies will move to billets allotted in Brigade Area on night of 7/8th September. An Officer of each of these Companies will report to Battalion billeting Officer at Battalion Head. Qrs at 12 noon, each with two N.C.O's as guides.

Companies will observe rules set out in Special Battalion Memo of 6th inst. during move.

H. I. Robinson Captain,
Adjutant.

Copy No. 1	War Diary
2	Filed
3	"A" Company
4	"B" Company
5	"C" Company
6	"D" Company.

57th BATTALION A.I.F.

Operation Order No. 7

17th Sept. 1916.

REFERENCE- Trench map Area L

MOVE. 1. The Battalion will take over the trench length BOND STREET to MINE AVENUE both exclusive on 18th inst.

	Company Frontages.	V.C.
"A" Company	BOND STREET exclusive to	KINNEY AVENUE inclusive.
"B" Company	V.C. AVENUE exclusive to	PINNEY AVENUE inclusive
"C" Company	PINNEY AVENUE exclusive to	left of N.9.d.4.
"D" Company	N.9.d.4. exclusive to	MINE AVENUE.

Reliefs will be made under Company Commanders arrangements.

TIMES. 2. "C" and "D" Companies will have completed reliefs by 6.45 p.m. "A" Company will start relief in trench at 7.15 p.m. "B" Company will start relief in trench at 8.p.m.

POSTS. 3. BOIS GRENIER LINE POSTS will be relieved at 3.p.m. by 59th Battalion, and O.C. "C" Company will arrange for them to move direct to Front Line.

SPECIALISTS. 4. All specialists will move to Firing Line before 10.a.m. on 18th inst.

TRAFFIC. 5. V.C. AVENUE will be used for up traffic and PINNEY AVENUE for down traffic.

TAKING & HANDING OVER. 6. All log books, defence schemes, trench stores, ammunition etc will be checked and taken over. Receipts in triplicate to be given. Rules laid down in D.R.O.711 to be observed and necessary certificates to be furnished.

PRECAUTIONS. 7. If wind is favorable for enemy gas attack, O.C.'s Companies will be responsible that "Gas Alert" is observed immediately on leaving billets. Absolute silence to be observed during relief.

REPORTS. 8. Reports to be sent to Battalion Headquarters V.C. HOUSE (N.2.D.1-3.) on completion of relief.

- Copy No.1 War Diary.
- 2. Filed.
- 3. "A" Coy
- 4. "B" Coy
- 5. "C" Coy
- 6. "D" Coy.

L. J. Howard Lieut.
Act. Adjutant.