

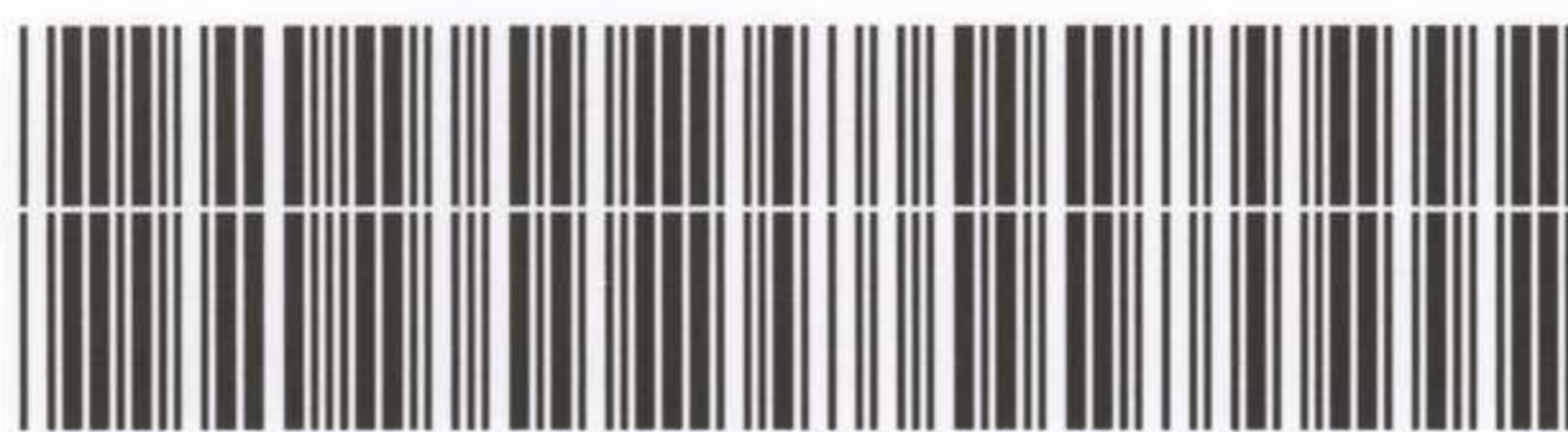
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/40/18

**Title:** 51st Highland Division

September 1916



AWM4-1/40/18

Confidential

7 Vol 16

— War Diary —

of  
1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Gordon Highlanders

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916

(Volume 26)

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

17 Bn. Gordon Bns

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.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>September</u>				
HOUPLINES to TRENCHES.	1		The battalion occupied the subsidiary line in the left sector, battalion headquarters being at Chateau Rose in the town of Houplines.	
		1 am	Enemy began an intensive bombardment of our positions, lasting nearly an hour in retaliation for the gas which we emitted from this front last night. Houplines & Bormontiers suffered a heavy shelling which resulted in no casualties to our side.	
		2 pm	There was a change-over this afternoon, the 17th Gordons taking over the Right subsector from 4th Black Watch. Leading from the Right companies were located in the order A, D, C, B being in support in VANCOUVER.	RPR
		4 pm	we fired 40 trench mortars, no reply being induced.	
TRENCHES.	2	6-12 pm	our artillery bombarded selected points behind the enemy's line to which he made a feeble reply at 11 pm.	
		Night 1/2 Sept.	quiet.	
		2-5 pm	our artillery bombarded Les H Hallots Farm.	
		5 pm	our 60-pounders smashed German front line opposite F131. The enemy did not respond as was his custom with menenwefer.	RPR
			Gas alert.	86+

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

*107 Bn Gordon*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES	3	3pm	During the night of Septbr. patrols went out. Discovered a Germany party examining his wire. wire opposite PONT BALLOT was severely shelled by our artillery. all shots were either plus or correct. Then were no minus shots. Parapet struck often and wire badly damaged. 60. pounders again fired on trenches opposite FITI. further damaging the trench. Enemy retaliated with 5 minenwerfer on ORCHARD and some whizzbangs. on account of its exposure to trench mortar fire the ORCHARD has been evacuated by the centre Coy, platoons moving to either flank.	RAM
		11pm	last night's gas alert off.	
D.	4	11-11:10 am	During night of 4 Septbr. our patrols were reduced to a minimum owing to the emission of gas on our right. our artillery assisted the Bde on right in a bombardment scheme. Trench mortars & Stokes Gun joined in.	RAM
B.	5	10 am	15 60. pounders fired with good effect opposite FITI & PONT BALLOT. NO retaliation beyond a few "Pineapples" in the Orchard.	RAM
D.	6		Lieut. Meldrum to LE TOUQUET on M.G. course. Lieut. McDonald took over duties of Lewis Gun officer. During the night of 6 Sept we erected a sign board in low gap announcing the entry of Roumania on the other side and the recent allied successes.	RAM

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21

1/7 Bn Gordon

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES to ARMENTIÈRES	6	2-4 pm.	we were relieved without mishap by the 1/7 <sup>th</sup> Black Watch Battalion went into Brigade Reserve, two Companies being in BREUVERT Factory and two Companies in HOUPLINES.	RBR
ARMENTIÈRES	7	1-5 pm.	Intermittent shelling of ARMENTIÈRES, mainly directed on the Rue Nationale. We suffered 3 casualties & R. wounded at Breuvert Factory.	RBR
50	8			
50	9		The Brigade was relieved today, Bde Hdqrs. going to STEENWERCK. & the other three battalions to camp near BAILLEUL. We were retained in ARMENTIÈRES for the purpose of fatigue carrying parties and on the 1/4 <sup>th</sup> Sept, taking over, our billets at Breuvert we shifted to the BLUEBLIND factory and removed our headqrs. to 80 Rue Sadi Carnot. Capt. Rennie, reinforcement, arrived tonight.	RBR
50	10		Battalion furnished carrying parties all day removing empty gas cylinders from right subsector, the routes being carefully policed.	RBR
50	11		Carrying parties continued.	RBR

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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17th Bn. Gordon

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARMENTIÈRES to BAILLEUL	12	4 pm	movement orders arrived. Battalion less B Coy moved away by platoons, assembling at PONT DE NIEPPE, to camp near BAILLEUL which was reached by 9 pm.	RBK
BAILLEUL	13		Company parades. Specialized with their various classes.	
D <sup>o</sup>	14		5 <sup>o</sup> .	
D <sup>o</sup>	15	9:55 pm	we furnished a raiding party to raid from Deadgap. a Bangalore torpedo was used to clear the way. Keith Scott's Lewis gun was the officer in charge. Zero 8:55. Torpedo failed to burst up wire and raid was a non-success. this raid was in conjunction with others on our right & left.	RBK
D <sup>o</sup>	16		Battalion route march via STEENNERCK in the forenoon.	RBK
D <sup>o</sup>	17	9 am	Presbyterian Church parade held in Church Street Mts.	RBK
		12 noon	Generals Harpe & Campbell addressed all officers on the subject - "Chain of Responsibility".	
BAILLEUL to ARMENTIÈRES	18	2 pm	Battalion left Bailleul and went into billets in Armentières preparatory to taking over trenches in the Right Sector from the 152 Bde. P.M. Hq. 132 Rue Nationale.	RBK

8897

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1/7 Bn. Gordon

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARMENTIÈRES TRENCHES	19.	8 am	Guides met at Rond Point, Armentières. We relieved the 1/6 Gordons in the Right Subsector at 10 am. Two Hqs. near & advanced, the former being at Square Farm, the latter at "5 Dugouts". Lt. RB Ron. sent to 3 days' course with 42 Sqd. R.F.C. for instruction in cooperation between aircraft & infantry.	RBR RBR
Trenches.	20		Enemy Balloon brought down on left of Sector. Quiet day.	Auk
D.	21		The 1/6 Bn. Gordon High: carried out a raid from the MUSHROOM which was unsuccessful the wire failing to be cut in front of enemy lines. Enemy retaliation feeble.	Auk
D.	22		Commanding Officer & Company officers of 27 <sup>th</sup> North Fusiliers went over the lines preparatory to taking over	Auk
D.	23		27 <sup>th</sup> North Fusiliers (Irish) relieved the 1/7 Gordon High who went into billets in Armentières.	KBR
D.	24		Battalion resumed march via Baillet-Latour to	RBR
D.	25	10 am - 4 pm	Battalion resumed march via Bailleul to COURTE CROIX.	RBR
D.	26		Battalion resting.	RBR

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1/7 Bn Gordon

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COURTE CROIX	27		Battalion resting. Training carried out for Gas attack Brigade route march. Reviewed by General Plummer. Cmdg. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army.	Amk.
"	28		Training continued. Brigade General Campbell addressed all officers and Platoon Sgt. at 11.30 am. Exercises in night patrols.	Amk.
"	29		Training continued. Batta. paraded at 2pm. + congratulatory cards for Gallantry signed by General Harper were presented by Lt. Col. Bruce.	Amk.
"	30		Training continued. Transport left for BAILLEUL (WEST STATION) at 8.15pm. and Batta. at 9.15pm. + there detrained for DOULENS leaving there at 0.28 hours. Time was changed back to GREENWICH time, an hour being "put in." at 12 mn.	Amk.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 1916

Robert Bruce Lieut Col  
Commanding 1/7 Bn Gordon

891+



APPENDIX No. 1.

8912x  
 JB  
 1/16/16

CASUALTIES DURING THE MONTH.

SEPTEMBER, 1916.

UNIT.	Killed in Action.		Wounded.		Missing.		Shell Shock.	
	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.
1/7th. Bn. Gordon Highlanders.	-	1	1	15	-	-	-	-

g. S/Lieut. C.P. HACKNESS (Attached 155th T.M. Battery), 7/9/16.

4. Includes 1 self-inflicted.

Robert Bruce Lieut-Colonel,

30th. September, 1916. Commanding 1/7th. Bn. Gordon Highlanders.