

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/18/9

Title: 1st Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/18/9

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).

1 Bn AIF

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Vol 3

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
2100 1-3 July Fleurbaix	In support 47th Bn started relief. Relief completed. Bn moved to billets at Cul de Sac farm.	
0400 4 - "	Training	
0700 4-8 - "	Commenced route march to Outtersteene. Arrived there 0830 where we went into billets.	
1400 9 - "	D Co transport left for Bailleul, remainder of Bn at 1600 Bn entrained for South.	
1830 10 - " - Outtersteene	Detrained at DOULLENS and route marched to DOMART arriving there at 0900 where we went into billets. Two officers and one hundred men were left at Doullens as a fatigue party.	
0030 11 - " - Doullens	Route marched to VIGNACOURT, arriving there at 1100. Here Lt Collier and 37 joined us from the entrenching Bn.	
0830 12 - " - DOMART	Route marched to ALLONVILLE, arrived there at 1730.	
1930 13 - " - VIGNACOURT	Training	
1130 14 - " - ALLONVILLE	Lt Col J. Heane D.S.O. with other Co's visited Fricourt & MAMETZ and inspected the German trenches taken.	
0945 15 - " - " - "	Route marched to WARLOY arriving there at 1300. Major LINDEMAN and Captain A.K. MACKENZIE visited Fricourt.	
0800 16 - " - Warloy	Captains P.L. HOWELL-PRICE and A.C. MACKENZIE visited FRICOURT.	
0830 17 - " - " - "	Training	
0830 18 - " - " - "	Lt Col Jas HEANE DSO. left with other Co's for the front line CONTALMAISON, where he arranged for the relief of the 12th D.L.I. by the 1st Bn. AIF.	
0830 19 - " - " - "		

J. Mackenzie - Col

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1600 19 th July WARLOY	Route marched to CONTALMAISON, where A & B Coy took over the front line from the 12 th D.L.I. C & D Coy in close support.	
0200 20 th - " - CONTALMAISON	Relief completed. While relief going on, we were bombarded by gas shells, which caused many casualties. Lieut WHITE, B-G. and GRAHAM, F.A. and men were gassed. Lieut EVERETT was wounded, and died on the way to the dressing station. The effects of these gas shells was not felt in many cases until 24 hours later. Arrangements made during the day for an attack on POZIERES for that night, but cancelled in favour of a bigger operation later on. Fairly heavy shelling by the enemy. During the day did not appear to be directed by the enemy against anything in particular.	
1700 21 st - " - "	Meeting of CO's with Brigadier at 1 st Bn Headquarters, where arrangements were made for an attack on POZIERES the following night. Large parties deepened communication trenches towards the German trenches. Patrol visited the German wire, describing it as very thick in places, thin in others. Two trenches, 150' and 170' in length were dug.	
22 nd - " - "	Arrangements made for attack. Operation order attached. Extra stores of bombs, ammunition, water & stores were brought to the firing line. Officer sent back, MAJOR LINDEMAN, Lieut MCGREGOR, MESHANE and BEAVIS, during while the attack took place. Bn Headquarters moved at 17 ³⁰ to position in the (handwritten note: position selected within the trench) trench.	
1730 - " - "	A & B Coy left trench at 20 ¹⁵ , C & D followed suit when ground was clear. Artillery barrage for 2 minutes started.	

As arranged

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0028	23 rd July, COVTHALPANSION	(Erase heading not required) <i>in charge of German line</i> <i>from May</i>
0130	- - -	
<p>at 0028 and at 0055 a message received from Lt. BURSTALL that German trenches on the right were taken at 0100. A message then received that German 2nd line trenches were taken but no particulars were forthcoming. 60 prisoners were brought into the old firing line and sent back to the A.P.M. at ALBERT at 0130. Satisfactory information was not forthcoming so Lt. Col. J. HEANE D.S.O. with Bombers H.Q. Staff and Signallers went to German first line leaving Lt. Col. O.G. HOWELL-PRICE in charge of old Bn. Hdqrs dugout. A message was then sent to the Brigadier that the line was taken. Col. HEANE met Lt. BURSTALL in German 1st line, and sent him immediately for information about the 2nd and 3rd lines. Word received that 3rd line was taken about 0145. Work at consolidating the 1st line commenced. Signallers obtained communication with 3rd Bn. Wires were run to D. Coy. in the 2nd line. Lt. Col. HEANE inspected the 2nd + 3rd German lines and found them running like a construction. Our right was found to have progressed too far to the right as the 3rd Bde had not come sufficiently close to us. The 3rd line ran in & out close to the BAPAUME Road. A communication trench was then dug between the 1st + 2nd lines under heavy shell fire. Captain A.C. MACKENZIE and Lts COLLIER, ATKINS and BLACKMORE were killed and Captain MACVEAN & Lts ALFORD, McCONNEL and a BECKETT wounded during the attack. The German 2nd + 3rd lines were much damaged & had to be reconstructed. The first line was little better. The dugouts were not good - scooped out shelters only. Consolidation of position continued during the day. Instructions were received from Brigade to detail</p>		
		<i>J. H. H. H.</i>

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Hour, Date, Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

1930 28th July POZIERES

patrols to occupy certain position. Lt. Col. HEANE instructed Captain HARRIS ^{3rd Bn} personally to send them out at 1730. At this time we were rather mixed, 2 Coys. of the 3rd Bn in 1st line, the next two lines (1st & 2nd German lines) occupied by 1st Bn and the German 3rd line by 2 Coys. of the 3rd Bn. Lt. Col. HEANE asked Bde. to allot the first two lines to one Bn and the next two to another. Instructions were received later for the 3rd Bn to take the two front lines and for the 1st Bn to take the ~~2nd & 3rd German~~ ^{two} lines, and for the whole to be known as the brigade right sub sector, under the command of Lt. Colonel T. HEANE D.S.O. This was carried out during the evening. Later Lt. Col. HEANE went over a scheme with the Brigadier for a further advance, which was to be made by the 8th Bn. who would be supported by the 3rd Bn. if necessary, and the 1st Bn. would occupy the trenches left by the 3rd Bn. Our losses to 12 noon on the 24th July were 5 officers and 67 ~~other~~ ^{other} ranks killed, 6 officers and 107 other ranks wounded, 47 other ranks missing and 1 officer died of wounds.

20th July —

0500 (0300) 25th July —

Information received about 0300 that the 3rd Bn had advanced from the 2 front lines, so A+B Coys 1st Bn were sent to take over the trenches, the C.O. following found ~~establishment in~~ ^{the} two trenches practically obliterated, and necessitated the making of new trenches out of shell craters. POZIERES at this time and during the day was under exceptionally heavy shell fire of all calibres. After the advance through the village new trenches were dug 150' North of it, the work the whole time being under enemy observation from high ground who failed to make use of their advantage & confined their shelling to POZIERES village. — Most of the killed in the first action were buried

J. M. Mearns

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<p>1600 25th July POZIERES</p>	<p>Trouble was experienced in evacuating wounded on account of shortage of stretchers and the number of wounded. In some cases 24 hrs elapsed before they could be sent to the Dressing Station. At 1600 the C.O. went to 2nd Bn Head^{qrs} to meet the Co. 7th Bn who were to relieve us that night. Arrangements were completed and guides sent to bring them up. Relief completed. Bn proceeded to 10th Gordon's dump where a hot meal was provided by our travelling kitchens. We then proceeded to TARA HILL at ALBERT, arriving at 0200 and went into bivouac for the night. In spite of having had practically no sleep or rest since the 22nd inst, the men were in good spirit and sang on the march. Our losses to 12 noon on the 26th July were 7 Officers and 100 ^{other} ranks killed, 4 Officers and 376 other ranks wounded, 48 other ranks missing and 2 officers died of wounds. This was the total loss ^{in personnel} of the Bn during the fighting in POZIERES. List of names of officers and men recommended for distinction attached are as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>OFFICERS</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>OTHER RANKS</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>LIEUT BURSTALL (Killed)</td> <td>No 198 L/Cpl MCTACKETT A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MACGREGOR RLC.</td> <td>511 Sign^r LUDERS. E.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAPT HOWELL-PRICE. PL.</td> <td>2244 Pte. MILES. J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>249 --- MACKLEY. T.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1014 Sgt. BELLCHAMBERS. W.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3746 Pte GREEN. F.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2895 --- PEARCE. W.T.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1582 L/Cpl OTTER. R.W.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1744 L/Cpl WILESMITH. E.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS</u>	LIEUT BURSTALL (Killed)	No 198 L/Cpl MCTACKETT A.	MACGREGOR RLC.	511 Sign ^r LUDERS. E.M.	CAPT HOWELL-PRICE. PL.	2244 Pte. MILES. J.		249 --- MACKLEY. T.		1014 Sgt. BELLCHAMBERS. W.		3746 Pte GREEN. F.		2895 --- PEARCE. W.T.		1582 L/Cpl OTTER. R.W.		1744 L/Cpl WILESMITH. E.	<p>1200 --- ---</p>
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<p>1200 26th July ALBERT</p>																						

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ALBERT	26/7/16		Rested during the day. Captain P.S.S. WOODFORDE reported from ENGLAND at 1500.	
—	—	1730	Moved through ALBERT to rest bivouac just North of the town.	
—	27/7/16		Cleaning bivouac which was taken over in a dirty state.	
VARDENCOURT	—	1630	Moved to VARDENCOURT: arrived at 2030 and encamped in huts in the wood. Here	
		2100	at 2100 we received 77 O.R. reinforcements from Etaples. They were distributed to Coy.	
	28/7/16		Resting. Moved for LAVICOGNE at 2000, and arrived there at 0030 29/7/16. Mentored	
LAVICOGNE	29/7/16	0030	Billets here cramped; the men camped out. Hot tea served from cookers on arrival.	
		0900	Moved to BONNEVILLE, arrived at 1230, and gave the men a hot dinner. The travelling	
			kitchens have proved themselves invaluable in cooking on the march, so that directly the	
			halts a hot meal is ready. Went into billets.	
BONNEVILLE	30/7/16	1020	Parade had been arranged, but instructions were received to move to HALLOY at 1020. We	
HALLOY			arrived at 11.30 and went into billets. Commenced sorting kits of killed and wounded	
			officers and men. Training & reorganisation.	
HALLOY.	31/7/16		Training and reorganisation.	

*Asst Quartermaster
Co. 1st M*

by
Lieut. Colonel J. HEANE D.S.O.
Commanding 1st Battalion A.I.F.

Reference Map. Trench 1.20.000 Sheet 57. D. S.E.4.

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- INTENTION 1. The 1st Australian Division is to attack the POZIERES position from the S. and S.E. on the night of July 22/23 at Zero time.
A General Attack by the French and 4th Army takes place this night.
The 145th Brigade is to co-operate on our left.
Zero time will be communicated later.
- INFORMATION 2. The garrison of POZIERES consists of the remnants of battalions which have lost heavily in the recent fighting. The cellars of the village are occupied and connected underground.
- FRONTAGE OF ATTACK. 3. The frontage of 1st Battalion is to be as follows:-
From X 4 d 4 3 to X 5 c 0 3.
- OBJECTIVES 4. First Objective Enemy trench from X 4 d 4 3 to X 5 c 0 3
Second Objective Trench line from X 4 d 3 7 to X 4 d 8 9 1/2
- METHOD OF ATTACK 5. The lines of advance will be as follows :-
The advance to each objective will be timed accordingly to the barrage map. ~~attached~~.
- 1st Line "A" and "B" Coys. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in two waves of 2 platoons each.
These companies will move to the selected position marked by patrols at about 100 yards in front of the enemy's position at 5 minutes before Zero. As soon as bombardment begins they will move forward as near as possible to the enemy's position.
- 2nd Line "C" and "D" Coys.
As soon as "A" and "B" Coys. have occupied their objective, "C" and "D" Coys. will move across, pass through "A" and "B" Coys., and move to as close as possible to the second objective while it is being bombarded, and rush the line as soon as the barrage lifts.
- CONSOLIDATION 6. As each line of trenches is captured, it must be immediately consolidated and put in a state of defence. For this purpose the second wave of each company will carry as many picks and shovels as possible, 3 men out of every 4 carrying picks and shovels, and the 4th man a bundle of sandbags.
- IDENTIFICATION 7. Colours will be issued before the attack. Every man will have his sleeves rolled up to the elbow. "A" and "B" Coys. will wear white in strips 6" X 1" on back of right shoulder tied on to the braces. "C" and "D" Coys. blue in strips 6" X 1" on right shoulder tied to the braces.
- S.A.A. and BOMBS. 8. Advanced dumps of these will be at junction of forward communication trench with front line trenches, at road between "A" and "B" Coys. and X10575.
R.S.M. and each C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S's. will be at advanced dumps to keep up supply of ammunition etc., to front line. The C.Q.M.S's. will go forward with first ration party to their companies.

P.T.O.

PRECAUTION

9. The word RETIRE will not be used or acted upon. In the ~~XXX~~ event of men having to be withdrawn from any point another word will be used.

TIME

10. Watches will be synchronised every hour from 1800 on 22nd Inst. ~~Brom~~ Bn, Headquarters.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATION

11. For work with contact aeroplanes, green flares only will be used. They will be lit when each objective is captured but will only be used after daybreak. They will be lit by all infantry in the front line at 0800, 1200, 1600 and 2000. O's.C. Companies must see communication is constantly maintained with Battalion Headquarters by means of lamps, flappers, or telephones.

EQUIPMENT, RATIONS etc.

12. Battle Order. 220 rounds of S.A.A. and 2 bombs on the man also 2 sandbags. Water bottles will be filled just prior to the operation. Men must be warned to deal very sparingly with this water.

REPORTS etc.

13. Reports must be sent back at regular intervals. If everything is normal and nothing to report a nil message will be sent. All urgent reports ~~and~~ or messages must be sent two ways.

HEADQUARTERS

14. Battalion Headquarters will be moved at 1700 to day. to X 1 0 6 7 5 ~~5~~. After both objectives have been taken Headquarters will move forward to a position approximately X 4 d 8 3 or X 4 d 5 4. Bombers, Intelligence, Pioneers will form Bn, Reserve (with signallers) and remain at Bn, Headquarters under orders from C.O. Bombers will carry 15 bombs per man.

ASSISTANCE TO OTHER UNITS.

- If necessary "C" and "D" Coys. will assist the 3rd Battalion in their attack.

HEALTH

16. Coy, Commanders should advise all ranks to urinate before the attack.

REPORTING

17. There must be accurate reporting. The time of the event is to be stated in the report.

*R Somerset Lt
Adjutant 1st Bn*