

**AWM4**

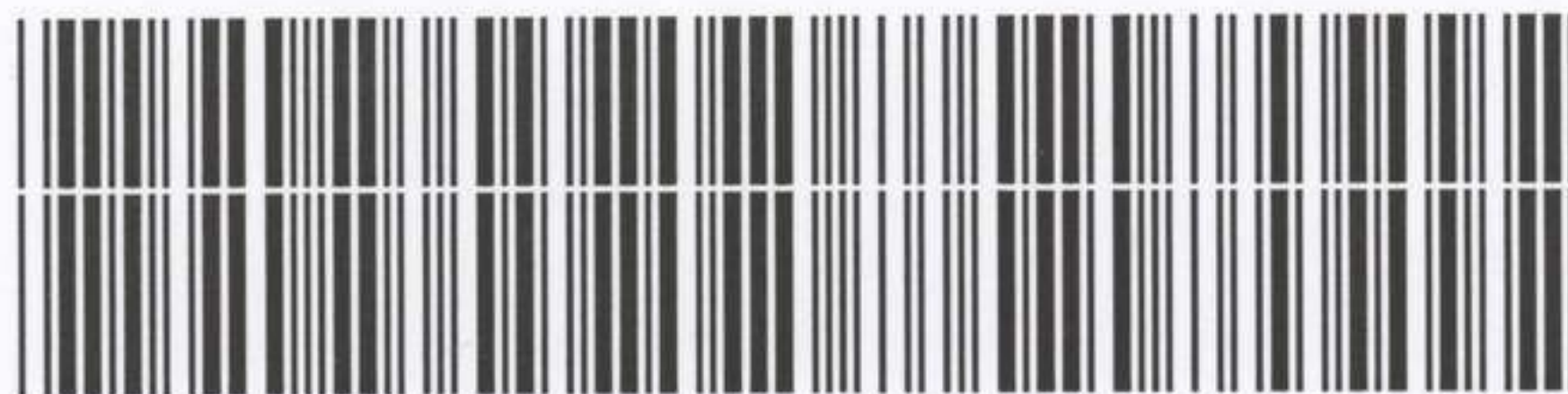
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number: 23/45/19**

**Title: 28th Infantry Battalion**

October 1916



AWM4-23/45/19



ORIGINAL

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

October 1916

VOLUME VII

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1st to 4th Oct. 1916		In billets at STEENVOORDE	
	5th Oct.		Detained at GODIVERSVELDE for YPRES. Detained at the Army Camp YPRES and marched to ZILLEBEKE-BUND taking over billets from 18th Bn.	
	6th Oct.		Look over front line trenches from 20th Bn. Position from I 24.1 to I 24.6 known as centre sub-section. Relief complete by 8.25 pm. No casualties. Hqs. were established at DORMY HOUSE.	
	7th Oct.		A quiet day. Some minenwerfers and a little shelling. We had 3 casualties all wounded.	
	8th to 10th Oct.		Very little activity except in retaliation for our wire cutting. We suffered minor casualties.	
	12th Oct.	6.30 pm	We carried out a very successful Raid on the enemy trenches and were successful in securing two prisoners of 106th Saxon Regiment. Orders and report of raid are attached hereto. Only two of the raiding party were wounded & not seriously.	Report Appendix A orders Appendix B



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	10/16 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct		We were relieved in front line by 26 <sup>th</sup> Bn and took up position in support at the BUND	
	14 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Remained at BUND. Supplied fatigue pants for work in forward area.	
	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Relieved at BUND by 12 <sup>th</sup> DURHAM Light Infantry. After relief marched to YPRES + then proceeded by rail to TORONTO CAMP. POPERINGHE.	
	17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Remained at TORONTO CAMP.	
	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Marched to billets near WATOU.	
	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Remained in billets at WATOU	
	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct		Marched to billets at ARNEKE	
	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct		Marched to billets at GANSPETTE	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct		Remained at GANSPETTE	
	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct		At 10.45 pm marched to + entrained at ARQUES. Entraining time 4.39 am	
	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Arrived at STRIVIES at 3 pm, detrained and marched to billets at BUIGNY L'ABBE	



# WAR DIARY

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
Somme	1916 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct.		<p>Remained at BUIGNY L'ABBYE. Transport moved to DERNA COURT.</p> <p>Marched to MOUFLERS and embarked at 10 am to RIEBEMONT and marched from there to DERNA COURT.</p> <p>Remained in billets at DERNA COURT. Troops were occupied on general fatigue work.</p> <p>The casualties for the month were as under:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Killed</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">~</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Officers</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">4</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Other ranks</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>~</td> <td>"</td> <td>14</td> <td>"</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td>~</td> <td>"</td> <td>-</td> <td>"</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospital sick</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>104</td> <td>"</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">1</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">122</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">Other ranks</td> </tr> </table> <p>During the month 1 Officer and 44 other ranks (reinforcements &amp; details) joined up. 44 other ranks reported on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.</p>	Killed	~	Officers	4	Other ranks		Wounded	~	"	14	"		Missing	~	"	-	"		Hospital sick	1	"	104	"					1	122	Other ranks	
Killed	~	Officers	4	Other ranks																														
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			<p><i>[Signature]</i> 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F.</p>																															



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Appendix A

Oct 12th 1916.

Headquarters 7th Brigade.

At 5.15 p.m. the Raiding Party was examined at H/qrs.

At this time the wire on the left on Enemys T head Sap had not been cut. O.C. Attack was instructed that if the Left Party was unable to get through the wire they were to return to CROSS SAP, while the Right Party carried through the enterprise. Right Party was detailed afresh on this alternative.

At 6.15. p.m. message came through "A.C." signifying raiders ready to go over.

At 6.20.p.m. Mortars opened fire.

At 6.25.p.m. message received from "A" Coy Heavy Mortars falling short.

At 6.31.p.m. received message "R.T."

Raiders in Enemys trench. This was repeated by visual at 6.34.p.m.

At 6.36.p.m. two green rockets were seen.

At 6.40.p.m. Message "R.D." was received, signifying Raiders ha-ve returned. This was repeated by visual at 6.42.p.m.

At 6.45.p.m. O.C. Attack phoned that attack was successful Both parties reached trench. Two prisoners captured. Our casualties two slightly injured wounded.

This message was sent to Brigade at 6.49.p.m.

Enemys bomba-rdment principally Minewerfer, started at 6.40.p.m. and continued fairly heavy.

At 7.6.p.m. enemy's bombardment began to slacken.

At 7.13.p.m. enemys bombardment very feeble.

At 7.24.p.m. message received from O.C. Centre Company "Everything is now quiet"

At 7.30.p.m. O.C. Attack reported at Battn Hqrs. He says punctually at 6.30.p.m. we left our Trenches both parties arrived simultaneously in the enemy's trench. Our artillery was ke-eping upm a perfect barrage. The only opposition that came under my notice was from one man who fired at Lt Brown



and my self. He was wounded and captured. The first line trench was in very good repair and about 6'6" below ground level. Trench was not duckboarded but was dry. The commu-ni-cating trench to the T head was much damaged by our Mortars, but the T head was in good order.

Their revetments were of the Wattle variety.

All trenches were traversed. The only dugout seen was in the right of the T head Sap.

This point was demolished by the Sappers from enquiries. engineers.

No machine gun activity was noticed from the enemys side but rifle fire was continous. Both prisoners were wounded and are being forwarded under escort as soon as their wounds are dressed by our R.M.O.

SIGNED A.W.Leane. Lt Col.

<sup>n</sup>  
Cdg 28th Battn



Appendix B  
" 28th Battalion, 7th Brigade, A.I.F.

Attack Order by L5. Col. A.W. Leane.

10th October 1916.

Reference ZILLEBEKE Trench Map 1/10,000.

1. An enterprise directed against the enemy opposite our Centre sub-sector will be carried out by a party from this Battalion on a night to be notified.
2. The objects of the enterprise are -
  - (a) To obtain prisoners for identification, or failing capture of prisoners other identifications.
  - (b) To inflict loss on the enemy.
  - (c) To capture any material possible.
  - (d) To decrease the morale of the enemy.
3. Composition of parties -
 

O.C. Attack	Lieut J. McIntyre.	
Right Assault Party	2/Lieut R. Brown and	14 O.Rs.
Right Blocking Party		4 O.Rs.
Left Assault Party	2/Lieut Moore and	14 O.Rs.
Left Blocking Party		4 O.Rs.
Rear - do -		6 O.Rs.
Mopping up Party.		9 O.Rs.
Telephonists		2 O.Rs.
Engineers (with explosives)		2 O.Rs.
Runners		2 O.Rs.
Intelligence Party		6 O.Rs.
Stretcher Bearers		4 O.Rs.
Total	3 Officers	69 O.Rs.
4. Points of entry - The attack will be made by two parties called the Right Party and the Left Party on the enemy's front line trench, J 19 c 1 5 to J 19 c 1 6, either side of enemy's forward sap running to the T head at J 19 c 1 5. Blocking parties will hold each flank of the front line 20 yards each side of the T head trench and the same distance down his communicating trench in rear at J 19 c 1 5. The mopping up Party will enter at J 19 c 1 5 and clear the forward trench and T head.
5. Raiding party will leave our CROSS TRENCH as per time table attached and in the following order from right to left.-
 

Right Party  
Right Blocking Party, Right Assault Party, Mopping up Party.

Left Party  
Rear Blocking Party, Left Assault Part, Left Blocking Party.

The following parties will follow the Right Party as soon as they are clear of CROSS TRENCH, and in the following order -  
Intelligence Party, Engineers, Stretcher Bearers, Telephonists will remain in CROSS TRENCH, Runners will follow the O.C. Attack.
6. Duties of Parties.

Right Blocking Party will hold trench at J 19 c 1 5.  
Right Assault Party will clear trench from J 19 c 1 5 to J 19 c 1 5.

Mopping up Party will clear T head.  
Rear Blocking Party will hold trench at J 19 c 1 5.

Left Assault Party will clear trench from J 19 c 1 5 to J 19 c 1 6.  
Left Blocking Party will hold trench at J 19 c 1 6.

Engineers will follow Mopping up Party and demolish emplacements in T head. Intelligence Party will search trenches and enemy dead, collecting identifications, letters, etc., and will take sandbags with them for this purpose. Sandbags will be secured at waist.

O.C. Attack will enter and remain at the junction of enemy's front line and communicating trench. Two men will be detailed from each

O V E R



Assaulting party to break down enemy's parapet and improve the points of egress. Shovels will be carried by these men.

7. Raiding party will be examined at DORMY HOUSE at minus 1 hour 15 zero time, to ensure that no identification marks can be obtained by the enemy from their clothing, helmets or equipment, or from anything carried on their persons.
8. Raiding party will proceed to CROSS TRENCH by VINCE ST. - MAPLE COPSE - TORR TOP TRENCH in small parties and will return after the operation by the same route.
9. Party will have their faces and hands blackened and will wear gas helmets in the "ALERT" position. White bands will be sewn on each arm, covered ~~with~~ until just previous to entering the enemy's trenches by some dark material tacked lightly over the white. Bayonets will be painted.
10. Any prisoners captured should be hurried back to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible. From there they will be sent to Brigade Headquarters. Prisoners must not be questioned or allowed to talk among themselves. O.C. Coy will detail a guard to take charge of prisoners to be at Battalion Headquarters at - 0.50 zero time.
11. All men taking part in the raid will be warned that, if captured, they should give no information to the enemy other than their rank and name.
12. Men of each party will be known by numbers in order to facilitate identifications and for quick checking off when withdrawing from enemy's trench. Right Blocking Party will be numbered 1 to 4. Right Assault Party 5 to 19 and so on. Officers will be responsible for checking out the men of their party when the signal to withdraw has been given.
13. The signal for the raiders to withdraw will be Green Very lights fired obliquely by the O.C. Attack, or his representative, who will be detailed.
14. As soon as the raiders have reached the enemy's trench, telephonist will send the following message to Battalion Headquarters "R.T" and as soon as the raiders have returned to CROSS TRENCH "R.D".
15. O.C. B. Coy. will detail 2 N.C.Os. who will send up two Green rockets when raiders return from south end of CROSS TRENCH, I 24 d 9 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ , also two runners, who will report to the visual signalling stations at CRAB CRAWL and WIGO TRENCH, that the raiders have returned. Visual Signal Stations will send "R.D" on receipt of message from O.C. B. Coy.
16. O.C. Raid and Intelligence men will report to Battalion Headquarters on their way back to their trenches.
17. The Lewis gun officer will arrange to sweep the enemy's front line trenches and enfilade his communication trenches on each side of the objective, starting at - 0.10 zero and continuing until the signal that the raiders have returned is sent up. Lewis guns will not fire across the area within the following points -  
J 19 c 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to J 19 c 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
They will stand ready to engage hostile machine guns if they come into action, and to take advantage of hostile working parties repairing damage caused by our artillery fire after the operation.
18. O.C. 7th L/Gun Coy. will arrange to place a barrage by indirect fire on enemy's second line trench in rear of objective.

O V E R



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19. 7th Brigade Light Trench Mortar Battery will co-operate and will fire from their selected positions on targets as ordered by the C.R.A.
  20. Watches will be synchronised each day at Battalion Headquarters by every unit commander at 6 p.m. each day commencing 10th October. Zero time will be given to all concerned.
  21. Companies are warned that this enterprise may provoke retaliation. Unit Commanders in the front line will dispose their men in positions least vulnerable to shell fire. C. Coy. will stand to at alarm posts.
  22. O.C. B. Coy. will arrange for 6 stretchers and bearers to be in readiness at the South end of CROSS TRENCH. Stretchers will use the following route out.-

VANCOUVER STREET - NEW TORR TOP TRENCH and overland to TRAMWAY DUMP.

23. Acknowledge.

A. W. LEANE, Lt-Col.  
Commanding 28th Battalion.

1 7th LTM.B.

- |          |              |                         |        |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Copy No. | 1 & 2        | 7th Aus Inf Bde.        | L.G.O. |
|          | 3            | C.R.A..                 |        |
|          | 4            | 4th Art Bde.            |        |
|          | 5            | C.R.E.                  |        |
|          | 6            | 23rd Battalion.         |        |
|          | 7            | 25th ,,                 |        |
|          | 8            | 26th ,,                 |        |
|          | 9            | 27th ,,                 |        |
|          | 10           | O.C. A. Coy.            |        |
|          | 11           | O.C. B. Coy.            |        |
|          | 12           | O.C. C. Coy.            |        |
|          | 13           | O.C. D. Coy.            |        |
|          | 14           | O.C. Raiders.           |        |
|          | 15           | File                    |        |
|          | 16           | War Diary.              |        |
|          | 17           | Issued to 2nd Aust Div. |        |
|          | 18           | C.R.A.                  |        |
|          | 19 }<br>20 } | Returned by 7th Bde.    |        |



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TIME TABLE.

OPERATION

<u>TIME</u>	<u>OPERATION</u>
Minus 1.00	Raiding party leaves Battalion Headquarters and moves in small parties to CROSS TRENCH.
- 0.20	Telephonist at CROSS TRENCH sends message to Battalion Headquarters "A.C", signifying "all ready".
- 0.10	2" Trench Mortars open on enemy T head and wire. Artillery bombardment commences.
0.0 zero	2" trench mortars lift on to other targets. Raiding party advance on enemy's trench.
0.25 (about)	Artillery cease fire if message from Raiding party "R.D." is received.

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APPENDIX B