

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/54/10

Title: 37th Infantry Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-23/54/10

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
La Roche	1-4-17		Practice attack in vicinity of Quelmes	
ZUDAUSQUÉS	3-4-17		Order received to march on the 5th inst to SERCUS - thence on the 6th to ARMENTIERES.	
	4-4-17		Exercise in attack & contact patrol work with aeroplanes -	
	5-4-17	8 a.m.	Commenced march to SERCUS. Extreme adverse conditions owing to snowed-up roads. Length of march 19 1/2 miles.	
	6-4-17	8 a.m.	Commenced march to ARMENTIERES, march via ST. OMER, BORRÉ, PRADELLES, BAILLEUL to ARMENTIERES - Total distance twenty-two miles. Arrived ARMENTIERES at 8 p.m. Battalion billeted in 'B' GROUP HQS. NO. 6, RUE STRASBOURG.	
	7-4-17	-	This unit 'D' taken divisional Reserve. Enemy threw a few shells into the town in the vicinity of billets.	
	8-4-17	-	Specialist training & training of platoons & troops in offensive action - Enemy shelling town.	
	9-4-17	-	39th + 40th Battalions work over HOUPLINES & L'EPINETTE sections from 9th Bde.	
	10-4-17	-	Normal - Battalions engaged in training.	
	12-4-17	-	Order received to relieve the 39th Battalion in the L'EPINETTE subsection.	
	13-4-17	-	Specialists went in to relieve 39th. during the relief enemy opened heavy barrage on Ploegstreet.	
	14-3-17	-	and HOUPLINES. Situation Normal on L'EPINETTE subsection.	
	15-4-17	7 p.m.	Relief of 39th Battalion completed. Situation Normal throughout.	
	16-4-17	12 MIDN.	Enemy artillery active and apparent registration in progress. 'C' Coy HQS. receiving particular attention	
	17-4-17	2 p.m.	Enemy artillery fairly active. Many principles used. Proposal to send over a gas attack followed by two raiding patrols. weather conditions, stopped the project. Enemy machine guns very active during the day & patrol hundred.	
	22-4-17	-	Considerable movement on enemy roads during the day - everything points to a raid	
	23-4-17	-	At 12.35 a.m. the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on our front support lines & C.T. Report attached.	
	24-4-17	-	Enemy plane brought down and fell in sub-section South of Epinette	
	25-4-17	-	much movement during the night in rear of enemy lines. Noise of motor transport horse vehicles. At 9.30 pm we opened a bombardment of their lines of communication. No sound was heard for about seven hours after & then it was greatly reduced. Relief by 215 Kings Liverpool Regiment commenced	
	27-4-17	-	Relief completed at 12 MIDNIGHT. 137th moved into billets in B. Group Armentieres	
	28-4-17	-	Enemy shelled Nappe Bridge & Road - Route to Ploegstreet. Now billeted in Catacombs Hill 63.	
	29-4-17	-	Battalion moved out at 10 a.m. to billets of 'E' Battalion at Ploegstreet. Great Lieut. Mc Nicol mentioned in D.R.O. of 26-4-17	
	30-4-17	12-30 a.m.	Gas was discharged, apparently with good results - Aerial activity great. The enemy were driven out	
			Scud. Stuffs reformed from Staples. At 4.17 a.m. this morning the 39th were relieved. The enemy were driven out	

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W. J. Smith
CO. 325/1000

23-4-19

10th Infantry Brig.Report on attempted Enemy Raid.

at 4:35 AM the enemy laid down a heavy barrage on the front and support lines of C and D Coys. As B Coy had casualties in its front line portion of the barrage must have ~~been~~ extended to locality 4.

S.O.S. commenced at 12:40 A.M. and had reached its height at 12:45 A.M.

at 12:38 am OC 'A' Coy reported all correct on his portion of the line - 'B' Coy line was reported O.K. at 12:40 and OC 'D' Coy reported that enemy was heavily barraging his front and support line in his localities at the same time. OC 'D' Coy asked for more retaliations as the fire on his line was increasing in intensity. This was applied for by telephone through Brigade and was received. Reports were received that an enemy party of about 50 approached this line in the vicinity of 'F' Gap between 'C' and 'D' Companies, but that no enemy party entered the trenches. A party was sent out from 'D' Coy as soon as a favorable opportunity offered to ascertain if any casualties had been inflicted on the enemy. This party was still out at the time of submitting his report. Should any further particulars be obtained same will be submitted in due course:-

Total Casualties.

	Killed		Wounded.		
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
A					
B	-	2	-	5	
C	1	2	-	6	Lieut R.W. HUNTER (Killed)
D	-	2	1	6	

Killed 1 of bar. Wounded 4 of 17 of.

Further reports from OC 'D' Coy proved that an enemy party was assembled in his own wire. This was repelled by Lewis Gun fire. The party which went out to estimate any damage was done could obtain no observation.

SIGNED.

W.J. SMITH

Lieut Col

CO. 37th Battalion

A.I.F.

ROUTINE ORDER No 207.

By

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN MONASH C.B. V.D.
 COMMANDING 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DIVISIONAL HQ
 26-4-17.

ADMINISTRATION.

AUDATORY. 1057. The Divisional Commander has pleasure in highly commending Serjeant McNICOL, 37th Battalion for meritorious and gallant service rendered viz:-
 During the bombardment of four trenches on the night 22nd/23rd instant and on the occasion of an attempted enemy raid, Serjeant McNICOL, though wounded, led his platoon overland to the strong point S.P.Y. Finding the existing position heavily barraged he directed his platoon clear of the barrage and reached his objective - he himself being the only casualty. This action undoubtedly saved heavy casualties to his platoon and brought them into an excellent position to withstand any attack.