

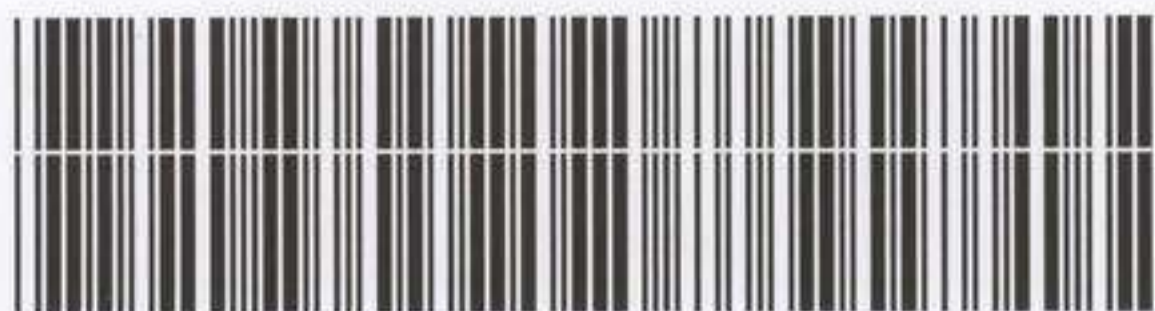
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/74/6

Title: 57th Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/74/6

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

57th Battalion A.I.F.

(7)

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STENBECQUE	1.7.16		The water in our camping ground ran out and had to be procured from surrounding farms houses was often a difficult matter.	
	4.7.16	1000	The Battalion transport rejoined after being refitted at Abbeville	
	5.7.16	1700	The Battalion was inspected by Prince ARTHUR of CONNAUGHT and General BIRDWOOD	
	6.7.16.		Two gas helmets per man were issued to the Battalion.	
	7.7.16	1000	The Battalion was put through a practical gas attack test, after a lecture by an expert. They were marched with helmets on through a gas cloud and later on through the fumes from 'tear shells' bombs.	
	8.7.16.	0100	Received orders to prepare to move.	
		1100	Moved by route march from STENBECQUE and arrived at billets at ESTAIRES at 1830	
ESTAIRES.	9.7.16	1410	Moving by route march from STENBECQUE and arrived at billets at ESTAIRES at 1830 During the march several men fell out - mostly with sore feet. The column moved out in Column of Companies at five minute intervals. There was a block in the traffic and the Battalion was held up for a considerable time. Arrived at billets near SAITHY at 1615	
		2115	Senior officers & Specialist officers visited the trenches preparatory to taking over the following day.	
	10.7.16	0900	Specialists and H.Q. details under Major DENCHY moved out to the trenches	
		1945	Battalion, less Specialists and H.Q. details commenced its march to the trenches advancing in column of Platoons and later in column of half sections, at 100 yds distance. Commenced relieving at 2200	
	11.7.16	0400	The Battalion took over completely from 51 st Battalion without any casualties. During the day Companies settled down to the new surroundings	
		1355	Slight shelling	
		1500	Heavy shelling. We sustained 5 killed & five wounded.	
		1300	The enemy again shelled us heavily, our casualties being three wounded.	
	12.7.16		The day passed quietly. The damage done by previous shelling was repaired.	
	13.7.16		The day again passed quietly only two casualties being sustained.	
	14.7.16		Four carrier pigeons from Div. H.Q. were attached to the Bn.	
	15.7.16	0630	Enemy commenced shelling our position. This was continued until 1230. The shelling was mostly high explosive and did considerable damage to our parapets.	
		2030	The Battalion on our right made a gas attack which started the enemy shelling. About 2115 the fire shifted on to our 'B' & 'C' Plays and we suffered severe shelling till about 2330. Our communication trenches and firing line were damaged. Casualties for the day were 1 officer (2nd Lt. E. Keys) wounded 9 other ranks killed, 1 died of wounds and 18 other ranks wounded.	

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57th BATTALION A.I.F. (8)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16.7.16		The day was spent preparing for the attack on the following day. Our guns shelled consistently throughout the day; there was very little enemy fire in reply.	
	17.7.16		This was the day arranged for the attack.	
		0400	Zero time fixed. Zero time was postponed for 4 hours.	
		0800	Zero time again postponed. This was on account of a heavy fog that hung over the country. Zero time was later postponed until after 12 th hour.	
			There was a tremendous congestion of troops in rear of our lines. Large quantities of ammunition and Engineers stores were brought up at various places behind the firing line, support line and on the Roads in rear.	
			Our artillery shelled continually throughout the day.	
		2100	Look over the attack frontage from the 58 th Bn.	
	18.7.16		Our artillery shelled continually. The enemy replied with their heavy guns and did considerable damage shaking our men considerably.	
			Preparations for the attack were proceeded with.	
		1700	The 59 th Battalion commenced taking over our position from us by Companies. The change was completed by 2100. As our men were relieved they moved into billets in SAILLY. Our position was that of general Reserves. Major DENNEY took temporary command of the 58 th Bn.	
			after a good nights rest we made final preparations for the attack	
	19.7.16		Zero time fixed. Artillery bombardment commenced	
		1100	The Bn commenced to move to its position in small groups in single file at about	
		1540	50 yds distance. The position occupied was Street 36 N1938. The Battalion was completely installed in benches by 1735	
		2000	A+B Companies under Capt. Marshall moved up to the 300 yds line. This was reached without any casualties.	
		2135	Battalion HQ and C+D Coys moved up to WINDY POST. The night was spent there	
	20.7.16		C+D Coys moved up to 300 yds line. A+B Coys having taken over their old sector of firing line. Battalion HQ again moved to Rue de Pétition. Our position of the firing line being from BOND STREET to PINNEYS AVENUE. Artillery, machine guns and snipers on both sides were very quiet. Wounded men crawled in throughout the day.	
		0555	As soon as it became dusk several parties went out into No MAN'S LAND and throughout the night brought in wounded, the number for this Battalion being estimated at between three and four hundred. Rifles and machine guns were also recovered.	

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57th BATTALION A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20-7-16		Capt. W. P. TRAINOR received a shrapnel wound in the knee and had to be evacuated	
	21-7-16		Our frontage was increased taking in about 175 yds to the left of PINNEY AVENUE. making the total Battalion frontage about 1000 yds. Artillery and snipers were very quiet and several more wounded were recovered during the day.	
	22-7-16	1000	a few more wounded were got in. During the night a lot of rifles, equipment etc was collected and sent on through the Salvage Coy. 47 reinforcements from base at ETAPLES arrived and were taken on the strength. Machine guns and snipers were active throughout the night.	
	23-7-16		Capt. CAMERON and Lieut FERRES. were temporarily attached to 60 th & 58 th Battalns respectively. 90 more reinforcements arrived from ETAPLES and were taken on the Battalion strength. The work of trench repairs was carried on very satisfactorily.	
	24-7-16		The day & night were very quiet. Trench repairs were continued.	
	25-7-16		Work carried on as usual. Machine guns of the enemy were active by night.	
	26-7-16		The work of salvaging rifles equipment etc was completed. All salvage was returned to Ordnance through the Salvage Coy.	
	27-7-16	1500	Our howitzers opened fire. The enemy 5.9 guns replied. Three breeches were made in our parapets. otherwise no damage was done. The breeches were repaired during the night.	
	29-7-16		14 new Vermorel Sprays were distributed over the Battalion Area.	
	30-7-16		The day was very quiet but there was great activity on both sides with machine guns by night.	
	31-7-16		Atab Casualties to date 1 officer missing (2 Lt E. H. Anderson), 2 officers wounded (Capt W. P. TRAINOR and 2 Lt A. E. KEYS) 29 other Ranks killed, 4 died of wounds and 91 wounded.	

W. J. Deane

