AWM4

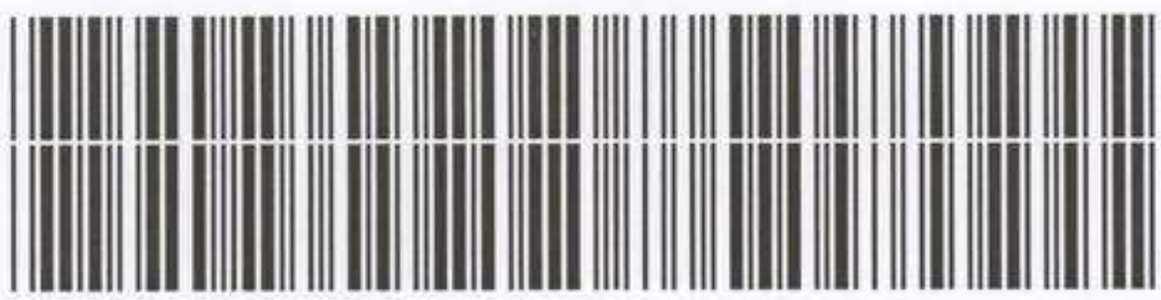
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/42/11

Title: 25th Infantry Battalion

June 1916



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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
AWM4 23/42/11

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

D. Davidson Major
O.C. 23rd. Battn., 7th. Inf. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE MARLE	June 6	1	Battalion in reserve at RUE MARLE. All available men employed on fatigue improving trenches, communication sops and digging trenches for telephone	
	"	6	cables	
	"	7	Relieved 27th Battalion in trenches. Relief completed at midnight. A. B and C Coys in front line and D Coy in support (8th) Enemy bombarded trenches 6 & 7 and 6.5. No casualties or material damage to trenches. 9th. Few shells from enemy otherwise quiet day.	
		10	Notification from Brigade HQ that Battalion will be relieved tomorrow night by 21st. Battalion 6th. Brigade. Officers from 21st. Battalion shown over trenches preparatory to relief. Except for usual shelling by enemy a quiet day. Rain set in in afternoon making trenches very slippery.	
		11	Quiet day. Weather showery. Relief by 21st. Bn completed by 12.30 am 12th. and Bn returned to billets at RUE MARLE and ERQUINGHEIM as reserve Bn to front line. Casualty: 3252 Pte Mellamphy died of wounds received in trench period last night.	
		12	Battalion in reserve. All available men employed on fatigue. Classes established	
	6		for specialists e.g. Bombers, Instructors in Bayonet fighting etc.	
		15	Orders from Brigade to take over portion of line opposite MESSINES. Preparation for move tomorrow morning. Necessary advance parties sent ahead. At 9.30 pm Bn addressed by Divisional Commander Maj Gen Legge C.M.G.	
KORDEPYP		16	Bn left ARMENTIERES at 9.30 am and arrived at KORDEPYP at 12.30 pm and occupied huts vacated by Battalion of 73rd Brigade. 12 midnight Gas attack on front line trenches but did not reach as far as our billets. Two separate clouds of gas passed over trenches on WOIVERGEM-MESSINS sector and position heavily bombarded by enemy. 5 officers and 40 other ranks of Bn were in trenches at the time. Casualties 2 dangerously wounded - No 1362 Pte Phillipot W.B and No 1610 Pte Mollison J.J both of whom have since died of wounds. Between 1 a.m. and 2 am on ~~the~~ morning of 17th three Zeppelins passed over our positions.	
MESSINS		17	Bn relieved 7th Bn of 73rd Brigade (Northamptons) in trenches opposite MESSINS. Relief completed 1 am 18th.	

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WAR DIARY
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Army Form C. 2118

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L. Lawson Major
25th. Battn., 7th. Inf. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MESSINES	June	18	Comparative quiet day. Capt R J Lewis O/C D Coy shot through head by enemy sniper at 10.30 am and died at 3.30 pm. Enemy shelled trenches 1&2 and 1&2. No casualties and no damage to trenches. A and D Coys in front line and B&C Coys in support at BARBARY COAST FORT OSBORNE and FORBES TERRACE	
		19	Trenches 1&1 and 1&2 heavily shelled by enemy. No casualties but some small damage to parapet. Patrol under Lt RW Phillips scouted HOMANS LAND from 11 pm to 1.30 am and found no trace of enemy. No fire by enemy at night observed. Casualties: 2128 Pte Cameron C.E. wounded by shell. 1611 Pte Ryan P.J.D. bullet wound in neck	
		20	Quiet day only few shells from enemy. Casualties:- 1592 Pte Adams F.J. bullet wound in shoulder. 3234 Pte Turner S.H. bullet wound thigh. 2078 Pte Meade W. bullet wound hip. Scouts under Lt RW Phillips patrolled HOMANS LAND but found no trace of enemy	
		21	Front trenches and supports heavily shelled by enemy for one hour doing some damage to trenches. No casualties from shelling. Scouts under Lt RW Phillips patrolled HOMANS LAND. No enemy patrols met with. Lt. Phillips severely wounded in both legs by enemy machine gun fire	
		22	Comparative quiet day. Enemy machine gun fire very active at night. Gas alarms from our right at 11.0 night but no gas on our front. Casualties:- 1920 Pte Goodrich W. shot by enemy sniper on Homans Land at 9.30 pm while doing communication work for linking post.	
		23	Enemy artillery very active. Positions in rear of front line heavily shelled during morning. At 8.15 pm enemy opened intense bombardment lasting until 10.45 pm guns of all calibre and trench mortars bombarded trenches with trench mortars until 3.30 am. Some damage to front trenches and communication saps. Casualties:- Killed. 3236 Pte Marsdell W.J. 619 Dunning J. 625 Dunlop W. Wounded 1536 Gee G. 762 Thorsell E. 1700 Kelly F.A. 1719 McDonald J.W. 3302 Sterhouse J.	
		24	Wet day. Few heavy H.E. shells from enemy on SMOLAND FARM, doing support lines. Casualties- 1671 Pte Gaynor H.A. shrapnel wound in leg.	
		25	Heavy rain throughout the day. Except for few shells from enemy on front and trenches nothing of importance to report. Scouts under Lieut J.H. Brown patrolled HOMANS LAND from 10.30 pm to 2 am. No enemy patrols met with but scouts report enemy busy in front line trenches.	

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E. Dawson Major
25th Battn., 7th. Inf. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MESSINS	June.	26	Front lines and supports heavily shelled by enemy resulting in small damage to parapet in trenches 1411 and 1412. Battalion relieved by 29th Bn Relief completed 1.30 am and Bn went into reserve at RED LODGE	
		27	Bn in reserve at RED LODGE. At night Bn employed on fatigue duty carrying up gas cylinders to trenches C2 and Diagonal for use in connection with raid on enemy trenches. Casualties:- 3221 Pte Smith G. A. shell shock from premature burst of one of our shells 1602 Cpl Griffith S. bullet wound in hand.	
		28	In reserve at RED LODGE. Bn employed on fatigue duty. Raiding enemy trenches by parties from 25th and 29th Bns under command of Capt H H Page and Lieut H Stewart. The raid which was preceded by intense artillery bombardment was completely successful resulting in a number of enemy being killed and 4 prisoners. Casualties:- Capt H H Page shrapnel wound in back 26 Sergt Bartlett. G. slight wound in knee. Cpl Blythe J 10309 slight wound in body 1708 Pte Smith R.B shrapnel wound in back. Party congratulated by C.O.C. on their excellent work	
		29 30	In reserve RED LODGE. All available men employed on fatigue in and in rear of front lines	

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