

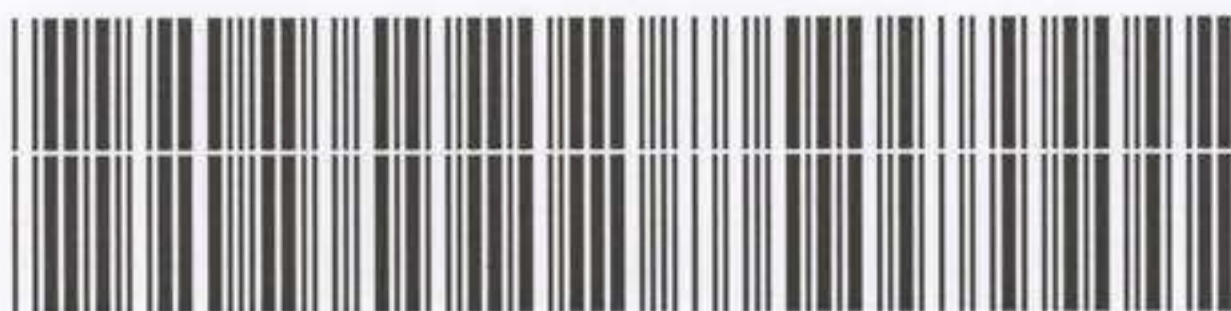
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/42/12

Title: 25th Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/42/12

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Lawson Major
25th Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RED LODGE	July	1	Bn in reserve at Red Lodge. All available men employed on fatigue in front and support lines MESSINES defences. Enemy shelled MONT FARM from 10 am to noon with heavy H.E. causing following casualties. Killed 285 Pte Anderson E. Wounded 1991 Pte Roberts (since died from wounds) and 1905 Pte Maddocks P.M. also 3 Head Quarters horses. (2 nd) Enemy shelled RED LODGE with shrapnel. Casualties 1949 Pte McHershannt wounded in leg with shrapnel. 344 Pte Clauson P.M. leg. Released 27 th Bn in trenches at MESSINES. Relief completed 12.15 am. Own patrol under Lt Jm Brown met and dispersed enemy patrol on MESSINES LAND with bombs	
		4	Enemy bombed Trench C2 with H.E. weapons and shelled front line with shrapnel and H.E. Casualties:- 3509 Pte Greaves J.A. and 3077 Ford W.F. killed. 1654 Brandon J.H. 306 Benwell J. 811 Blake P. 3193 Patten J. bomb wounds. 868 Galbraith W. 3089 Green S. J. 42 Buggy P.L. 3698 Brock A. wounded by shrapnel 124 Steber J.P. gassed - not fatal.	
		6	Except for usual enemy shelling - a quiet day. (7 th) officers from along Bn inspect front lines.	
		8	Enemy shelled front line with shrapnel and H.E. at 10 a.m. causing following casualties. Killed Supt Benson J.A. and 3137 Pte Maguire. Wounded:- 3499 Pte Dundas A. 130 Howe J. 3242 White A.D. 1917 Green R.W. Released by 8 th Bn (Queens) of 72 nd Bde 2 nd Division. Relief completed at 2.30 am and Bn moved into billets near BAILLEUL	
IN THE FIELD		10	Bn on march from BAILLEUL to ST OMER via STRAZELLE + ERBBINGHEIM	
		12	Arrived ST OMER at 2 p.m. and entrained for ARMEINS at 7.15 pm	
		13	Arrived ARMEINS at 6.15 am and detrained and marched to billets in VAUX arriving 2.30 pm	
VAUX		16	Bn in billets at VAUX, training for offensive on Somme	
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Robert Major
25th. Battalion, 11th. Infantry Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAUX	July	20	Bn left VAUX at 9 am. for HERISSART via RUBEMPRE arriving at billets at 3.30 pm.	
		21	In billets at HERISSART	
		22	Orders from Brigade at 7.15 pm. to leave HERISSART at 8 pm for WARLOY	
		5	Bn assembled and moved off at 8 pm complete not a man missing.	
		25	Arrived at billets WARLOY 12 midnight	
		26	In billets WARLOY, training continued.	
		26	5 pm Orders received from Brigade that Bn will move from WARLOY	
		27	to ALBERT at 6 pm. Arrived at BRICKFIELDS on outskirts of ALBERT	
		27	at 9.30 pm and bivouaced	
		27	Left bivouac at 5.45 pm for TARRA HILL in rear of firing line	
		27	and bivouaced in open	
POZIERES		28	C.O. and unit commanders visit front line trenches in morning returning at 2.30 pm. 7th Brigade ordered to make night attack on enemy positions opposite POZIERES. Bn left TARRA HILL at 7.30 pm and got into position at jumping off point at five minutes to twelve. Attack timed to start at 12 midnight 28 th /29 th . 25 th Battalion allotted Centre Sector. Attack preceded by heavy bombardment from our artillery. Objectives Enemy trenches OG 1 and OG 2 on POZIERES RIDGE. The attack was launched at 12 mid - night. The Bn was sent over in 5 waves. The lines moved up towards enemy position in splendid order. Right Coy (A) encountered heavy machine gun fire from and had considerable difficulty with wire in front of first objective. The other three Coy had no difficulty with enemy first line. They found no wire and no enemy machine gun fire from first line. Enemy first line not sprung by both. The third and fourth waves passed over first objective and moved towards second objective. As soon as first objective was left we were met with heavy machine gun fire from enemy second line trenches which caused us fairly heavy casualties. The enemy also	

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Lawson Major
5th. Battalion, 1st. Infantry Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POLIERES	July 28/29		<p>opened heavy artillery fire and trench mortar bombs on first objective causing a number of casualties. On our reaching the second objective we found the wire had not been well cut from previous artillery preparation and owing to our losses the Coy were not sufficiently strong to force the second objective. Several men tried to cut their way through the enemy wire but were mown down by enemy machine guns. Lieuts V.T. HARRY and J.L. SMITH showed great courage in rallying their men in front of the enemy wire. A small party of men from C Coy actually entered the enemy second line (2nd objective) through gaps that had been cut in the wire. On hearing that the rest of the line had not entered they withdrew suffering a number of casualties. The 2nd objective was strongly held by the enemy and well manned with machine guns. As it was impossible from the state of the enemy's wire to enter the second objective, and owing to the number of casualties the order was given to fall back on the first objective. On reaching^{withdrawing to} the first objective owing to the heavy casualties suffered and there not being sufficient men left to hold the first objective the order was given to withdraw to our own lines. So far as is known the enemy casualties opposite our sector are as follows 2 officers killed and about 40 other ranks. This does not include enemy casualties in second objective from our shell fire. Our casualties are as follows: Killed Lieuts V.T. HARRY. 2/Lts J.M. BROWN, T.J. CAREY, and J.T. HOCKIN. other ranks 28. Wounded: Captains J.E. NIX V.F. DONNISON C.M. JOHNSON other ranks 129. Missing 2/Lieuts J.L. SMITH, L. TEITZEL, A. MCINTYRE O'HEA other ranks 175. The remainder of the Bn returned to bivouac at THARRA HILL.</p>	
	30		<p>2nd in command and officers from each Coy toured first line trenches for purpose of taking observations of enemy's positions.</p>	
	31		<p>Bn bivouaced at THARRA HILL and men used as fatigue and carrying parties to front lines. At night a patrol with Lieut Conroy with 10 men to ROMANS LAND.</p>	

