

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/54/11

Title: 37th Infantry Battalion

May 1917



AWM4-23/54/11

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
PLOEGSTEERT	8.5.17.		Situation normal	
Catacombs	5.5.17	9.10pm	- Enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of roads and back areas then lasted intermittently until 3.30am. The front line was successively bombarded in segments from SOUTH to NORTH.	
	7.5.17	-	Shots by Corps Artillery - all guns on the Corps front bombarded the enemy back areas from 10.55 to 11pm and from 2.55 - 3pm.	
	11.5.17	-	Artillery fairly active and increasing daily. Medium Trench mortar shoots two or three times a day.	
	12.5.17	-	Our artillery is paying particular attention to Messines Anstrutzel Farm and other strong points. Order to relieve the 39th Ploegsteert Wood received.	
	13.5.17	-	Relieved 39th at RIFLE HOUSE. Relief completed by 12 Noon.	
	14.5.17	-	"Magnam Opus" occupying all our attention. Second draft of Preliminary Instructions ready. Artillery fire active. Order received to relieve the Battalion in Line 40th at HOPE HOUSE. Relief completed at 10.45 pm.	
	15.5.17	-	Our own and enemy artillery very active - 5 Casualties, 1 C.S.M. and 2 Cpls killed. M.T.M's. very active. Enemy wire receives much attention. Lieut. Graves & Canopus promoted Captains	
	16.5.17	-	Conference at Pde. HQ. particulars of "Magnam Opus" received.	
	17.5.17	-	Our artillery very active & increasing daily. Mines are dealing with all strong points. Enemy raided right of the Bn & left Bn of 9th Pde. was badly repulsed leaving 5 dead in our lines - more than 20 dead in No Mans Land many wounded. Hardly a man of the enemy 119 escaped.	
	18.5.17	-	Artillery active. M.T.M's. active cutting enemy wire. Enemy retaliation heavy.	
	20.5.17	-	Carried out a silent raid under Lieut. L.F. Little. met with opposition in enemy trench, wire successfully cut. Our party failed to enter and returned without casualties.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOGSTERT	22.5.17	-	Order received that 38th Bateria. would relieve me & 7th Coy moved back to Rifle House for one night only. Instructions received from Pde. HQ that a raid was to be put over on the night of the 31 st May / 1 st June.	
	23.5.17	-	Moved from RIFLE HOUSE to Regina. F.M.C.	
	25.5.17	-	Sgt. C. Johns awarded M.M. for valour on night of 17 th inst. D.R.O. 222.	
	27.5.17	2 a.m.	Gas alarm - No cloud reached bullets of this unit - Probably false.	
	28.5.17	-	Raid by 38th Bateria.	
	31.5.17	-	Moved to RUE DU SAC. CAMP. Raid on enemy trenches. Two parties each of 10 officers & 300 RA. Enemy bargaged his own front line. Raiders returned with one casualty.	

*W. J. Smith
CO 37th Bn*

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1st May 1917.

MEMORANDUM

to the

Officers, Non Commissioned Officers, and men of the

10th Australian Infantry Brigade

I desire to make all ranks acquainted with the very high opinion I hold of the fighting qualities of the Brigade.

We have now completed 5 months service in close contact with the enemy. During that time the enemy has attempted to carry out carefully-planned raids against us on nine different occasions. On not one occasion has he achieved the least success. The garrison has always stood up to the most severe bombardment and driven the Boche back with considerable losses to himself. On the other hand the Brigade has carried out with irresistible dash eight raids on the enemy's lines, the results of which have brought congratulations from Divisional, Corps, and Army Commanders, and from the Commander in Chief.

The spirit of the Brigade, as shown in the skill, leadership, and personal example of Officers and Non Commissioned Officers and the courage, devotion to duty, and initiative displayed by the men in the ranks, is wholly admirable, and I desire to express the pride I feel in having under my command such a fine body of fighting men.

W. Ramsey Macnicoll.

Brigadier-General

Commanding 10th Australian Infantry Brigade

