

**AWM4**

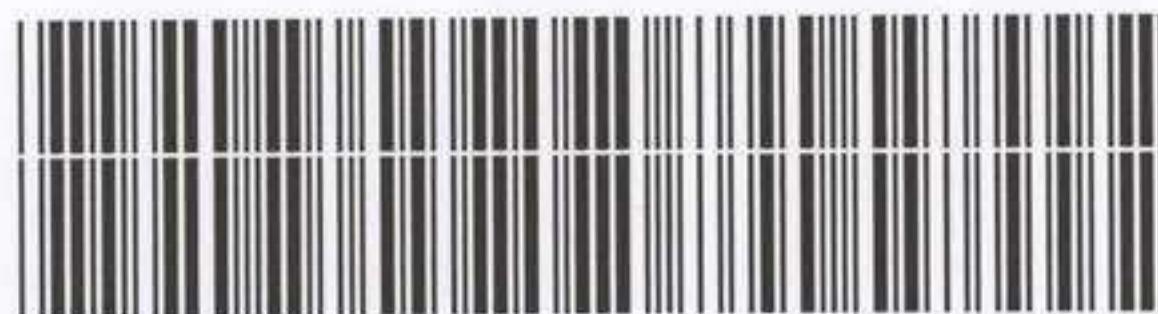
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number: 23/54/8**

**Title: 37th Infantry Battalion**

February 1917



AWM4-23/54/8

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
do	30.1.17	5 p.m.	<p>Particulars now to hand of Raid by Composite party of 8 officers and 216 OR<sup>s</sup>. Reference Sheet 36. N.W. - 2. 1/10.000</p> <p>OBJECTIVE - Enemy first, second &amp; 3rd line trenches in C.29. a &amp; b. - ZERO HOUR - 6 p.m. night 28/29 JAN. 1917.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION. At 5 mins. before zero hour Artillery diversion on left sub-section. Enemy opened light barrage on left sub-section. At zero our artillery barrage opened &amp; the raiders went forward, reaching the outer edge of the enemy wire before the barrage lifted to second objective.</p> <p>RIGHT PARTY - 2 Lieut Parker - wire partially cut. Came under direct M.G. fire at very close range. failed to enter enemy trench. All but five of this party were killed before reaching Bosch wire.</p> <p>LEFT PARTY. Lieut C.H. Peters M.C. 38<sup>th</sup>. Could not find gap in wire. Endeavoured to enter for 25 mins. unsuccessful returned to own trench. One man wounded.</p> <p>CENTRE PARTY. Lieut S.I. Suter 40<sup>th</sup> &amp; Lieut. E. Fleiter 39<sup>th</sup> found wire well cut. A party of about 20 were found in enemy front line. These fled. Lieut. Fleiter shot one Bosch. This party blew up several dug-outs containing Germans. The second line was reached also the 3rd. Dug-outs were blown up en route. Enemy party counter-attacked but were forced to retire. At zero + 40 minutes, party recalled. Party was checked over enemy parapet by Suter &amp; Fleiter. One wounded German was brought back. 7.25 gas fire was ordered. at 1.30 a.m. Lieut Gronzoni went out to try recover the bodies of some of the RIGHT PARTY which had failed to return. This party was composed entirely of men of the 37<sup>th</sup>. Of this party 12 were killed. Missing (Lieut Parker &amp; one other) wounded. 19 other ranks. Nine dug-outs were destroyed and one lost store. Subsequently.</p>	
	3d. 1.17	6 p.m.	<p>Relief commenced of 39<sup>th</sup> Batta. The 37<sup>th</sup> Specialists relieved as part of "X" Battalion. The remainder of the 37<sup>th</sup> relieved as part of X. Batta. Just as relief commenced enemy bargaged front line of 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>. This delayed relief and completion was not effected until 2 a.m. 37<sup>th</sup> had no casualties.</p> <p>Enemy minor works active on our front. One casualty.</p> <p>Enemy quiet - no casualties</p> <p>Two members counter-manned No 2046 PTE Collic 7. W. and No 2184 PTE Campbell DWA.</p> <p>Enemy minor works &amp; artillery active - No casualties</p> <p>Lieut. Col. W. Smith took over "X" Batta. also C.O. 37<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Quiet all day. - Our artillery &amp; enemy inactive. Issue of Bay books in hand.</p> <p>Received 46 reinforcements, some were members of the original 1st &amp; 2nd reinforcements</p> <p>40<sup>th</sup> Specialists came in. We bombarded enemy front &amp; support lines at 12 MIDNIGHT</p> <p>our artillery active. Relief by 40<sup>th</sup> completed at 10.30 p.m. 37<sup>th</sup> 142nd Coy in billets at RUE. MARLE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">J. A. Clarendon Capt - Adj 137</p>
	1.2.17		Enemy minor works active on our front. One casualty.	
	2.2.17		Enemy quiet - no casualties	
	3.2.17		Two members counter-manned No 2046 PTE Collic 7. W. and No 2184 PTE Campbell DWA.	
	4.2.17		Enemy minor works & artillery active - No casualties	
	5.2.17		Lieut. Col. W. Smith took over "X" Batta. also C.O. 37 <sup>th</sup> .	
	6.2.17		Quiet all day. - Our artillery & enemy inactive. Issue of Bay books in hand.	
	7.2.17		Received 46 reinforcements, some were members of the original 1st & 2nd reinforcements	
	8.2.17		40 <sup>th</sup> Specialists came in. We bombarded enemy front & support lines at 12 MIDNIGHT	
	9.2.17		our artillery active. Relief by 40 <sup>th</sup> completed at 10.30 p.m. 37 <sup>th</sup> 142nd Coy in billets at RUE. MARLE	
	10.2.17			

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE MARLE.	11/2/17.		Capt. J.A.Lambden received M.C. D.R.O. 159, also Fleiter of 39th. J.A.L. attached to D.H.Q. for training as Brigade Major.	
CHAPELLE D' ARMENTIERES.	14/2/17	6 pm.	37th Specialists relieved 39th Specialists in left Subsection )	X Battn.
	15/2/17.	6 pm.	37th commenced relief of main body of 39th )	
	16/2/17.	9-30pm.	Relief of 39th by 37th completed.	
	17/2/17.		Enemy Minenwerfer fire active.	
	18/2/17 )		Enemy Minenwerfer fire active on Front and support Line.	
	19/2/17 )			
	23/2/17.	5-50am.	Enemy barraged our front and support line with Heavy T.M's Pineapples 4.2 77 cm H.E. & Shrapnel. 37th had 6 (casualties wounded) Enemy penetrated as far as parados of Battn. on right, but were at once ejected leaving 3 dead and two wounded prisoners.	
		5-30pm.	Tonight message received in connection with raid by composite Battn. Heavy bombardment to commence at 10-30 p.m. Enemy retaliated only little. Today is W. day Our Divisional Artillery in conjunction with Corps Heavy Artillery barraged enemy front line. Zero-hour 10-30 p.m.	
	24/2/17.		Our artillery active all day. Today X. day. A heavy bombardment to commence at 2 p.m. by Corps and Divisional Artillery.	
		10-30pm.	Heavy bombardment by Corps and Divi. Artillery at 10-30 p.m.	
	25/2/17.		Today Y. day quiet. Specialists from 40th came in to relieve X Battn.	
	26/2/17.		Zero day. Zero hour 12-30 am. on 27/2/17. Preparations on night of 26/27. Relief of X by 40th completed. Heavy preliminary bombardment commenced at 9-40 pm. lasted until 10 pm. Enemy retaliation severe. We had no casualties.	
RUE ALLEE BILLETS.	27/2/17.		Some details of raid available. We secured 17 prisoners 1 Machine Gun 1 Search-light & Medical officers equipment. Two minenwerfer emplacements were destroyed and many of enemy killed.	
	28/2/17.		Our casualties were slight.	
			All quiet. Presentation by General Plumer of Decorations to Officers & men of the 3rd Division.	

(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month).

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14