

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/61/10

**Title:** 44th Infantry Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-23/61/10

## 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
	July 1917		<p>1st to 5th inst Battalion engaged on working parties in front line, MESSINES sector.</p> <p>night of the 5th/6th July Battalion relieved 42nd Battalion in front line.</p> <p>6th Desultory firing throughout the day. Aeroplanes active on both sides, one enemy aeroplane driven down by our aeroplanes in enemy lines. Patrols sent out at night, no opposition. Dead German found number "98" worked in red on light grey shoulder straps.</p> <p>7th Our artillery fairly quiet. Enemy artillery active. Aeroplanes active on both sides. Patrols sent out at night, a few bombs exchanged with one patrol, but no casualties on our side. During digging operations in front of centre company two very large <del>mines</del> explosions were heard and a quantity of earth thrown up near strong point, apparently land mines.</p> <p>8th Intermittent artillery fire on both sides during the day. At night enemy put up his S.O.S. and brought down heavy barrage for an hour, evidently expecting an attack. Aircraft quiet, poor visibility. Patrols found mine crater of previous night manned by enemy Machine Guns. They did not however get sufficiently near to take any action. Enemy patrols seen in NO MAN'S LAND.</p> <p>9th Artillery fairly quiet during the day. Our guns opened an intense bombardment on enemy Firing Line and Supports at night. Aircraft fairly quiet throughout the day. Seven patrols sent out at night Nos. 3 4 and 5 encountered two enemy patrols, opened rifle fire, obtained several hits and dispersed patrols.</p> <p>10th Our artillery active. Fired on enemy Strong Points and Front Line. Enemy shelled STEIGNAST FARM and support line with 5.9s and 4.2s also gas shells near our supports at night. Aircraft active on both sides. Enemy snipers severely wounded one of our officers. Our snipers obtained several hits. One of our patrols dispersed enemy working party with rifle fire.</p> <p>11th Brigade relieved by the 9th Brigade on night of 10th/11th July and Battalion marched into camp at MONT KEMMEL.</p> <p>Battalion took over a series of strong points in front of MESSINES from 42nd Battalion and held</p>	

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 157

or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;">2.</p> <p>same until relieved by 16th Battalion A I F. During the whole period the weather conditions were extremely bad, men being up to their waists in water and mud.</p>	
30th			<p>Artillery active on both sides. Patrols sent out at night, one enemy patrol seen. No action taken and patrol returned. One German found in our lines Name ALVIS DEGIN 28th Prussian Regt. Two enemy aeroplanes flew low over our front and support lines, engaged by Lewis Guns but returned safely.</p>	
31st			<p>Heavy artillery fire especially at night. S O S sent up three times during the night. Sniping prevalent at long range by enemy during advance by British Troops on our left. Our defences badly damaged by enemy fire and weather. Patrols report everything quiet. Enemy aeroplanes flew over our front line and posts.</p> <p>Total casualties for month of July</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Killed 21 other ranks</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wounded 3 Officers and 67 other ranks.</p>	

*W. A. Beckett Major*  
*4th Bn AIF*