

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/71/14

**Title:** 54th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/71/14

# 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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Montauban	1/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of <del>MONTAUBAN CAMP</del> Companies engaged in working on defences.	
Trones Wood	2/3/17		54th Battalion moved to TRONES WOOD CAMP C.Camp.	
Trones Wood	3/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of TRONES WOOD CAMP. Working party on defences.	
Trones Wood	4/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of TRONES WOOD CAMP.	
Intermediate Line	5/3/17		54th Battalion relieved 32nd Battalion in intermediate line. Companies occupied NEEDLE and SWITCH TRENCHES.	
Intermediate Line	6/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of intermediate LINE. Companies engaged in improving and reconstructing trenches, Latrines, Shelters etc.	
Front Line	7/3/17		54th Battalion relieved 29th Battalion in FRONT LINE.	
Front Line	8/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of FRONT LINE.	
Front Line	9/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of FRONT LINE.	
FRONT Line	10/3/17		54th Battalion in occupation of FRONT LINE (SUNRAY TRENCH) Heavy enemy Shelling during the day. Trenches in bad condition owing to Shell Fire from enemy Batteries.	
Intermediate Line	11/3/17		55th Battalion relieved the 54th Battalion in FRONT LINE SYSTEM. 54th Battalion went into INTERMEDIATE LINE and (NEEDLE TRENCH). Our heavy Artillery very heavy all day on enemy front line. Enemy Artillery active on our Communications. Enemy used Minenweifers during the day.	

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NEEDLE and SWITCH TRENCH	12/3/17		54th Battalion engaged in trench maintenance NEEDLE and SWITCH trenches. Party 100 mensent to FRONT LINE to clean and improve CAMERON and CENTRAL ALLEY.	
NEEDLE TRENCH	13/3/17		Enemy Artillery active on NEEDLE TRENCH. Our counter Batteries subdued fire at 10-40 Pm.	
Front Line	14/3/17		54th Battalion relieved the 55th Battalion in FRONT LINE trenches on right of 14th/15th instant our patrols very active in vicinity of ATOM TRENCH, and found them strongly held.	
	15/3/17		Enemy Artillery quiet during last 24 hours. Effective counter battery work has no doubt accounted for this. our Patrols were active and reported enemy working party in front of ATOM.	
	16/3/17		During the day enemy fired number of "DUD" Shells. Our patrols active and reported trench "ATOM" held until about 5am 16th Instant.	
Atom and Fire Trench	17/3/17		At 7-45Am we occupied ATOM and FIRE Trenches of enemy system. At 10-15 we reached BEAULEN COURT. Little or no opposition was met with Machine Gun and Rifle fire only. One prisoner was taken. A fighting Patrol of 1 Off and 17 OR with Lewis Gun left BEAULEN COURT at 3pm and pushed forward to VILLIERS AU FLOS. The 56th Battalion relieved the 54th Battalion from new FRONT SYSTEM on night 15/16th.	
Rose trench and Millers Son	18/3/17		One Company remained in old FRONT LINE the remainder moved to ROSE TRENCH and MILLERS SON. Day quiet Salvage done by Battalion.	
	19/3/17		Battalion engaged in cleaning up, salvage work and road making.	
	20/3/17		Battalion engaged in consolidating and laying duck boards.	
	21/3/17		Battalion engaged in consolidating work under 5th Pioneers.	
	22/3/17		Battalion engaged in consolidating work under 5th Pioneers.	
	23/3/17		Battalion engaged in consolidating work and resting.	

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	24/3/17		Reconnaissances of Country VILLERS AU FIOS, HARLINCOURT, and BEAULENCOURT carried out by 2 Off.	
	25/3/17		Battalion moved to REINCOURT and occupied ruins of village. Accomodation good.	
	26/3/17		Battalion engaged in Battalion duties and cleaning up.	
	27/3/17		Battalion engaged in Road making under 15th A.E.	
	28/3/17		Battalion engaged in Road making under 15th A.E.	
	29/3/17		Battalion engaged in Road making and cleaning up. One Officer <sup>per company</sup> went forward to inspect outpost line beyond MORCHIES.	
	30/3/17		54th Battalion relieved 30th Battalion of 8th Bde from outpost line night 28/29th. Enemy Artillery and aircraft active.	
	31/3/17		One prisoner taken by our forward left post. Enemy Aircraft and Observation Baloons very active evidently screening movement.	

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*J.R. Gelfan Lieut. Adj.*  
*for*  
*CO. 54<sup>th</sup> Br.*

