AWM4

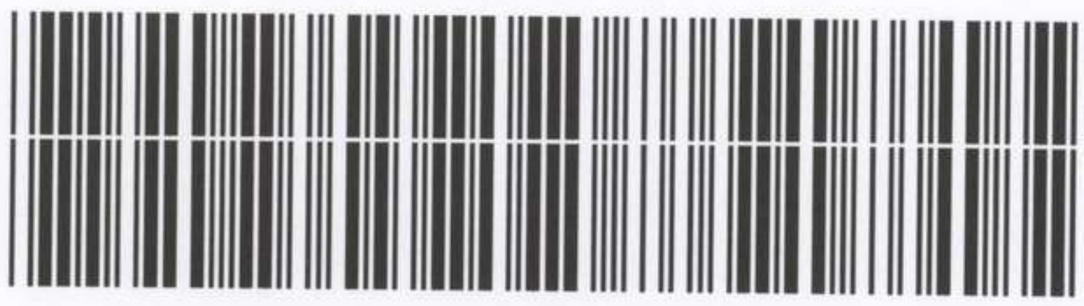
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/76/6

Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/76/6

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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.

WAR DIARY 59th Battn.
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~.
(*Erase heading not required.*)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EN ROUTE	1/7/16		First stop at 4am, breakfast, proceeded 5am. 7.15am stopped for 1 hour at MACON. one man injured by passing express. Stop for lunch 3pm left 4.50pm	
	2/7/16	7am	arrived at STEINBEQUE. Battn move to close bivouac one mile from STEINBEQUE station.	
	3/7/16		Syllabus of training commenced. weather wet.	
	5/7/16	3pm	Inspection by Lieut-General Birdwood. Battn marches past	
	6/7/16		Training particularly in the use of gas helmets.	
	7/7/16	0945	march to Morbeque to undergo gas practice. The effect of tear shells also demonstrated. weather wet.	
	8/7/16	0430	15 Inf Bgde moves from STEINBEQUE to ESTAIRES VIA. MORBEQUE arriving MORBEQUE 6pm. Lieut General Godley inspects column en route.	
		5pm		
	9/7/16	2pm	march continues to SAILLY SUR LA LYS 59th Battn billetted in town	
	10/7/16	10pm	Battn leaves SAILLY. SUR LA LYS. moves to support position 1000 yards EAST of FLEURBAIX relieves 50th Battn. Pets Croix BLANCHE, WINTER NIGHT, AU. CYCLISTE, JUNCTION P. occupied	

T2134. Wt. W708—776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

P R Cowley Capt.

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WAR DIARY 59th Battn.
or
INTELLIGENCE ~~SUMMARY~~.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11/7/16	10am	Party of offrs visit front line trenches held by 58th battn.	
SAILLY	14/7/16	9pm	59th Battn moves back to billets in vicinity of SAILLY. preparatory to supporting new front.	
	18/7/16	4pm	59th Battn relieves 57th battn in firing line. Front from PINNEY'S AVENUE to V.C. AVENUE. Front bombarded during afternoon and our artillery gave retaliation	
	19/7/16	12noon	Heavy bombardment of enemy lines. 60th Battn relieved half our our front from PINNEY AVENUE inclusive	
		7pm	59th Battn attacked enemy position in four waves. First wave going over parapet at 6.45 pm other three waves following at five minute intervals. attack did not penetrate enemy trenches being held up by intense rifle and machine gun fire approximately 100 yds from enemy front line.	attack not pressed and casualties attached.
	20/7/16	8am	Enemy shelled heavily during early morning. Battn relieved by 57th battn at 8am. muster roll called in BOIS DE BOIS. 4 officers and 90 other ranks answered. Battn moved to billets	

T2134. Wt. W708—776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

A.A. Lowe Capt

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15th

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WAR DIARY 59th Battn
or
INTELLIGENCE ~~SUMMARY~~.

(*Erase heading not required.*)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAILLY	20/7/16	9.30am	near SAILLY.	
"	21/7/16	11.30pm	Muster roll called. answered by 8 officers and 202 other ranks.	
		4pm	including details. 490 other ranks arrived as reinforcements.	
"	22/7/16		Officers visited clearing stations and Field ambulances for information re casualities.	
	23/7/16	5pm	Reinforcements 1 officer 61 O.Rs. arrived.	
			Battn. being used on front line and other fatigues	
SAILLY	24/7/16		Situation and routine unaltered, Battn in reserve supplying	
"	~~25/7/16~~		garrison at CHARRED POST and WINDY POST.	
	30/7/16	11pm	59th Battn. in conjunction with 60th battn relieve 58th battn of	
			sector of front. 58th Battn in firing line, and supports 60th battn act as reserve company.	
"	30/7/16		Front quiet. Work in hand, repairing parapets, clearing trenches of debris.	
	31/7/16		Situation unaltered.	

A. Brady Capt.

T2134. Wt. W708—776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

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APPENDIX A.

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59th Battalion Order No 8 (Copy)

18th July 1916.

Information. 1. The 15th Infantry Brigade has been ordered to assault and capture the enemy's firing line and Support Trenches opposite our front where the River Layes cuts the German front Line((N 8 D 8 1/2 - 1 1/4) to N 9 C 7 - 1.

The 184th Brigade will attack on our right and the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade on our left.
One section 15th Machine Gun Company and the Lewis Machine Gun Section of the 59th Battalion from position between "BOND STREET" and "THE TRAM LINE" will cover the advance with fire. The 15th A.L.T.M.Battery from selected positions inthe front trench will cover the advance from the time artillery fire lifts.
One section 15th Machine Gun Company from a position "JUNCTION POST" will use indirect fire onthe enemy's second line system.
Engineer dumps are established at "TRAM HEAD", "BEE POST" and "TRAIN BASE".

INTENTION 2. The 59th Battalion will attack the enemy's trenches on a frontage to be pointed out personally to Company Commanders advancing to the assualt in four "waves".

DISTRIBUTION "A" and "B" Companies will form the first two waves each
3. Company having two platoons in the first wave with two platoons in the second wave supporting them.
"C" and "D" Companies will form the third and fourth "wave" distributed the same as "A" and "B" Companies.
All platoons in the first "wave" and second "wave" will be made up to strength of 50.
The Lewis Machine Guns. Two guns each will be allotted to "C" and "D" Companies for the protection of their flanks and the remaining two will go forward independently in the centre of these two Companies, the whole moving forward with the third wave. One of the two independent guns to get into enemy's fire trench and assist in defence of "A" Company's right flank.
Signallers will be where they can best carry out instructions given personally to signalling officer.
Pioneers and Police will report to the R.S.M. and be used for carrying forward supplies.

INSTRUCTIONS Each man will carry 170 rounds S.A.A. Entrenching tool
4. will be carried in the belt. Each man will also carry a SAND BAG CONTAINING ONE SAND BAG AND TWO HAND GRENADES. When he reaches the trench in which he is intended to use his bayonet he will drop both sand bags and grenades in the trench these being collected into dumps by detailed parties. Each third man should carry a shovel or pick slung over the back with a piece of string.
Bombs will be carried in green canvas buckets.
Company Commanders will be responsible that they carry sufficient ladders for crossing ditches in "NO MANS LAND" and also for crossing enemy's fire trench, specially detailing which ladders are to be carried to enemy's trench. These ladders to be placed in position across enemy's trench before the men carrying them jump into them. They are intended to assist the following assualting lines to cross. Special canvases or failing these blankets fastened to poles will be carried to be used for crossing barbed wire, men to be instructed that this is for use on enemy's wire.
10 men per platoon will be detailed as wire cutters and will deal with uncut portions of enemy's wire.
1 N.C.O. and 4 men will be detailed by each Company for the purpose of collecting BOMBS AND SAND BAGS into dumps near enemy's communication trenches.

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APPENDIX "A"

INSTRUCTIONS 4. Continued

1 N.C.O. and 6 sappers (15th Field Company Engineers) will go forward with the third wave and a similar party with the fourth wave. The N.C.O. in charge will detail two of these men to search for wires and cut them immediately they arrive in the trenches. The remainder will be used to assist in blocking communication trenches. 6 runners per Battalion and 4 runners per Company will be detailed for communication. Wires will be run out to enemy's trenches as early as possible.

The first and second "waves" will enter and deal with the enemy's fire trench, particular attention being paid to dugouts. Should this prove an easy job these "waves" will then proceed towards enemy's second line, sufficient men being detailed by each Company to form a chain down ONE SAP for the purpose of passing supplies.

The third and fourth "waves" will pass over enemy's fire trench and deal with the enemy's support tbench. This support trench will when taken be immediately put into a condition to resist counter attack. No effort will be spared to make this trench as strong as possible in the short time that will probably be at their disposal.

Grenadiers. 10 teams will accompany the second wave and act under instructions from Grenade Officer. The remaining 6 teams will accompany the fourth wave. All teams will receive specific instructions from the Grenade Officer as to what their job is on reaching the enemy's trenches.

Dress. Fighting Order, one day's' ration and one iron ration will be carried by all ranks also waterproof sheet. Water bottles must be full.

(Signed) E. A. Harris Lieut Col.
Commanding 59th Battalion A.I.F.

PROGRAMME 19th JULY 1918.

Zero to 0.30	Registration by Divisional Artillery and Trench Mortars.
0.30 to 2.00	Registration and bombardment by heavy artillery (9.2 howitzer and upwards), also registration by 6 inch howitzers.
2.00 to 4.00	Wire cutting by 18 pdrs.
4.00 to 7.00	Wire cutting by 18 pdrs continued, wire cutting by trench mortar battery, bombardment by 18 pdrs, bompardment by 4.5 inch howitzers, bombardment by 6 inch howitzers.
5.00 to 7.00	Heavy artillery 9.2 howitzers and upwards (slow deliberate fire) Artillery lift to form barage.
At 7.00	Artillery left to form barage.

During bombardment fire will lift to barage line as under:-

4.25 to 4.29
5.04 to 5.09
5.29 to 5.36
6.21 to 6.31

On each lift to barage line infantry in the trenches show bayonets over the parapet, dummy heads and shoulders will be shown, Officers blow whistles, shout orders, in order to induce the enemy to man his parapets. At the end of each of these "lifts" artillery will shorten range on to enemy's front parapet and continue bombardment. The assualt will take place precicely at 7.00 after zero, working by the watch. Officers will not wait for an order but will signal the advance at the hour.

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APPENDIX "A2"

append.(a)2.

59th Battalion.A.I.F.

Casualties sustained in action of 19th/20th July 1916.

	Officers	Other Ranks.
Killed	0	13
Wounded.	13	381
Missing.	5	269
Died of Wounds.	2	11
Totals.	20	674

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