

Handwritten text, possibly a name or title, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.

DIARY

ARMY BOCK 136.

(1034) Wt. 15512/M1397. 450m. Bks. 4/17. B M. & S.

The Official War Historian of the Commonwealth Government (Dr. C. E. W. Bean), after his study of the collection of private war records preserved in the Australian War Memorial Library, wrote:—

“The private diaries in this collection furnish some of its most valuable historical records, but, like all private memoirs which were not compiled with any historical purpose, they should not be regarded as first-hand evidence except where it is certain that they are so. The diarist is almost always sincere in his desire to record accurately, but he is subject to no obligation or inducement to indicate whether he is recording his own observations or incidents told him by friends or heard at third or fourth hand at the mess-table. Thus, in some of the diaries in this collection, scenes described with vivid detail, and without any warning that they are told at second or third hand, have been found to be completely inaccurate in important details. A certain number also have been written up or revised long after the events, though doubtless usually from notes made at the time. In most cases the student must rely on his experience and on internal evidence to guide him in judging what is and what is not likely to be historically accurate.”

Nov 23rd Arrived at
PRISCHES today having
marched from MAZINGHIEN
a village about 8 miles
W of Prisches. Marched
to Mazinghiem yesterday
from Bohain leaving
Bohain at 7 am.

Prisches is not damaged
at all as it had not
fighting around it, being
taken in the last days
before the armistice.

We move tomorrow to
the AVESNES area and
whether we go on from
there on to Germany we
do not yet know.

We understand that we
do not know.

The people in Prisches
are quite charming, their

houses being much cleaner
& better built than those
in the villages in the
Somme area.

All the civilians are
delighted to see us and
refuse to take money
for the numerous cups
of coffee which they insist
we drink. Today, we
were given three cabbages
by the woman in whose
house we are messing
but she would take
no money in payment
but accepted a couple
of puns of bulley in
exchange.

They have been and still
are very short of food
and according to one
notable Madame, lived
mainly upon the American
Relief Commission stuff.

when the Boche was
in occupation

Rices before we came
were extremely high sugar
costing 35 francs a kilo

we see no papers nowadays
Railroad being quite a
distance behind us still,
owing to the dislocation
of the railways. Letters
are scarce too.

Nov 25th

Marched from Busche
to Avennes yesterday
about 10 miles. Move
on to Sars Poteries (about
10 km) tomorrow. Avennes
quite a nice town.
Civil can not yet in
full possession.

Nov 26 - Arrived SARRS
POTERIES today at 3 p.m.

Battalion billeted in a large factory near the railway station at which is a huge dump of Bosch ammunition with which the French kiddies are having a great time blowing off their hands & legs.

Bullets are good. Am in a butcher's shop which boasts no meat.

People very kind and very glad to get rid of the Bosche, who practised all this little jokes such as making young girls work in the fields.

A number of girls were taken to Sam - St Quentin area & made to sleep in barracks with the men.

Expect to stay here 6-7 days.

Dec 16th Marched from
SARS POTIERIES to BARBENCON
in Belgium a village of
about 750 inhabitants.

Rather surprised to find
that they were rather sure
and that they had had
- apparently a good time
with the sun. A rather
little village. Distance of
march 13 miles. weather
extremely wet.

Quarry moved to Walcourt
7 1/2 miles from Barbencou
Very picturesque village
the old parkon being built
on a steep hill + wall
around. a rather ancient
church which had been
its tower knocked off
by the sun in '14 because
a French sniper used it

Dec 19th Stayed a day at
WALKCOURT + moved
onto BOUFFIOLLY a
suburb of CHARENTON
7 KM. out. Few thousand
inhabitants. Very
comfortable. weather damnable
Extremely cold yesterday.
Men marched well distance
13½ miles. People very kindly
disposed. Had a hard
time with the snow.

Dec 27th Prince of Wales. visited
bills today. Shook hands
with him. Very nice boy
unexpected.

Dec 29th Co on leave to England

Jan 17. Returned last night from England. Had a good time. Spent a lot of money. Saw a good deal of P. Returned to B. To find it reduced to two companies. Draft of 107 1915 men go on Sunday Australia. Expect to get away by march easily.

Jan 19th Today 3.5 to 13.0 o'clock marched out from the B. to return. This is the first big break and it was rather a rotten business saying good bye to men we have known & fought with for 2 1/2 years. A few tears were even shed by men who in their time have killed German

14
11
76
6

32

32
24

29
21

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27

Mess Tins
O'Coats & colour patches.
Iron Ration
Blankets

Lectures.
Changes in Strategy
& Tactics
System of Supply

Syllabus.

Inspection

}	hair	} 1/2 hr
	Boots	
	Equipment	
	Arms	
	Clothing Overcoats.	

27
1/2

P.T. in bullets
Rifle Exercises

1/2 hr.
1/2 hr.
<hr/>
1 hr
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