

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

Provost

Item number: 3/4/20

Title: Assistant Provost Marshal, 3rd
Australian Division

February 1919



AWM4-3/4/20

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Australian Provost Corps (attached 3rd Aust Divn)

FOR

February 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

Walter Cooper Marshall

*Assistant Provost Marshal,
3rd Australian Divn.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

Walter Cooper Marshall

*Assistant Provost Marshal,
3rd Australian Divn.*

W.A.P.M. 3rd Aust Div

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.)

February 1919. 122

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------|--------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Greboult Mesnil | 1/2/19 | | <p>15 Men of Traffic Control were returned to their respective units for Demobilization</p> <p>On the 1st inst the W.A.P.M. accompanied by 4 M.M.P. proceeded to BOULOGNE for the purpose of rounding up Australian Deserters and Absentees in conjunction with D.A.P.M. BOULOGNE.</p> <p>Weekly report sent A.P.M. Aust Corps Absentees 9th Inf Bde 27. 10th Inf Bde 23. 11th Inf Bde 35 Artillery 3 Other units 5 TOTAL 93.</p> | inc inc inc |
| | 4-2-19 | | <p>T.C.O. investigated case of Fire at BENAPRE. No Result</p> <p>On the 4th inst the D.A.P.M. returned from BOULOGNE. The result of round up of Australian Deserters and Absentees being six</p> <p>In addition two Maoris were arrested. These men had originally been arrested by D.A.P.M. BOULOGNE. on a charge of rape and were sentenced to 5 yrs I.H.L. They escaped whilst on the way to prison</p> | inc inc |
| | 7/2/19 | | <p>3 M.M.P. referred to above. returned from from Special Duty at BOULOGNE. The 4th man proceeding direct to CHARLEROI to give evidence on Court-Martial case.</p> | inc |
| | 8/2/19 | | <p>Weekly Report sent to A.P.M. Aust Corps Absentees 9th Inf Bde 16. 10th Inf Bde 14. 11th Inf Bde 27 Other units 18 Total of 75.</p> | inc |

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WAR DIARY

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or

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| Grebault-Mesnil | 10 ² / ₁₉ | - | Large aeroplane belonging to 110 th Squadron R.F.C. made forced landing near Grebault-Mesnil. Aviators name is 2 nd Lieut. Walker who had with him as passenger Chaplain Capt Newcombe. A Guard was furnished from the 41 st Batt to look after the plane. Both aviators were accommodated with billets and rations by me at Grebault-Mesnil. A Church service was held in the Estaminet at night conducted by Capt Newcombe. | inc |
| " | 12 ² / ₁₉ | | Lt Stuckbury KP 33 rd Batt reported here for duty as Traffic Officer. W.A.P.M.'s office closed at Grebault Mesnil at noon reopening in the Square at Blangy at the same hour. M.M.P. and Traffic control Personnel moved from Grebault-Mesnil to Blangy. | inc |
| Blangy | 13 ² / ₁₉ | | 3 rd Aust Divn Hdqrs. moved from Ousemont to Blangy. One traffic post was established in Blangy. The traffic post in Ousemont was taken off. 2 M.M.P. who were on duty at Ousemont moved to Blangy 2 attached M.M.P. were left in Ousemont for duty. | inc |
| | 13 ² / ₁₉ | | Spr Kean G.V. returned from giving evidence at F.G.C.M. at Chatelet. The house of Margaret Baudelley of St. Mascent was put "Out of Bounds" for one month the reason being that she was keeping a disorderly house and selling coffee to troops without a licence. | inc |

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| Blangy | 16 ² / ₁₉ | | A Picquet furnished by the 39 th Batt consisting of 1 Offr 2 sqts 2 cpts + 12 men reported for duty at Ousemont. The first quota of men for Australia from the 40 th Batt. marched through Blangy this afternoon and were billeted in a camp at the sawmill for the night. One MMP from each Bde. reported to the APM for 24 hours duty in Blangy. | inc. |
| " | 17 ² / ₁₉ | | The first quota of men to leave the Division for Australia entrained at Blangy this morning. Three MMP were on Special Patrol duty in the town. A P/B was on duty at 8 AM. The picquet from the 39 th reported here + then proceeded back to their unit. | inc. |
| " | 18 ² / ₁₉ | | Cafe de Voyageurs at Villiers sur Moriel owned by Bouffant Jolly was placed "Out of Bounds" for 15 days for selling drink to troops after hours. The 3 MMP's who were reported for 24 hrs special duty returned to their respective Bdes this morning. An Officers control was held in Blangy in order to enforce thaw precautions. No irregularities came under notice. | inc. |
| " | 19 ² / ₁₉ | | Lieut. Thutchbury KD acting Traffic Offr. accompanied by Sgt MAJ Lawson MMP. proceeded to Ousemont to investigate case of alleged theft of supplies from ration dump at Ousemont Railway Station, but without any result. A serious shooting affair took place at Fricourt on the night of the 19/2/19 in which Pte J Moffat 41 st Battalion was shot in chest. He died of the wounds next day. | inc. |
| " | 20 ² / ₁₉ | | An Officers Control was held in Blangy in accordance with G.R.O. 5163. No irregularities came under notice. | inc. |

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| BLANGY | 20 ² / ₁₉ | | <p>W.A.P.M. accompanied by a French Gendarme, proceeded to ^{Oisemont to} investigate case of alleged theft of supplies from Ration Dump at the Oisemont Railway Station on the night of the 18.2.19. Copy of report attached.</p> <p>From Oisemont W.A.P.M. and French Gendarme proceeded by to Froucourt to investigate case of shooting by French civilian. Copy of my report attached.</p> <p>Troopers Kean G.V. & Sgt Mc Glynmont N.C. MMP's proceeded to Oisemont Amiens for a round up of Aust Absentees and deserters.</p> | inc |
| | 21 ² / ₁₉ | | W.A.P.M. proceeded to Amiens. Lieut Thompson R.D. reported back for duty as Traffic Officer this afternoon. | inc |
| | 22 ² / ₁₉ | | Lt Hutchbury K.P. proceeded on leave to Rome. W.A.P.M. returned from Amiens. The two MMP referred to above remained in Amiens for special duty. | inc |
| | 23 ² / ₁₉ | | The Traffic Officer & Sgt Maj Lowson MMP. patrolled Blangy from 1700 till 1830 and from 2000 till 2230 for purpose of checking passes and taking names of men of outlying units in town without a pass. No names were taken. | inc |
| | | | Traffic Officer and Sgt Murdoch MMP proceeded to Gamaches to patrol that town. Everything was in order. Sgt Kenny G.L. MMP proceeded to DOURLERS to give evidence in 790M case. The picket for the town of Blangy supplied by 10 th BDE. reported at A.P.M.'s office for duty. | inc |

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| Blangy | 24 ² / ₁₉ | — | <p>A Prisoner of war belonging to 49th Coy P.O.W. at Blangy reported that an Aust soldier stole watch & chain from him & an identification parade was held at this office this morning and one soldier was picked out and identified by 3 Germans as the one who stole the watch & chain. The was sent The soldier concerned was sent to his unit under an escort, his particulars being No 5659 Pte J Guiney. 39th Battalion AIF.</p> <p>The party proceeded to Signacourt by motor borry to collect a load of machinery. Returned at night on the case of Capt Hartley of 2nd Aust MT Coy as posted in my war diary of 28.12.18.</p> | Arc |
| " | 26 ² / ₁₉ | | <p>General Birdwood visited these Divisional Headquarters this morning at 9 o'clock and met all Staff Officers of 3rd D.H.Q.</p> | Arc |
| " | 27 ² / ₁₉ | | <p>All horses of MMP on Headquarters were inoculated this morning.</p> | Arc |

J. Martin
Assistant Provost Marshal,
3rd Australian Divn:

12 (copy)

D. A. A. G.
3rd Army
D. P. M.
3rd Army

M.P. 676.
21. 2. 19

Alleged theft of supplies from dump at Ousemont.

I have to report having personally investigated this case yesterday. The facts are as follows -

About 11 p.m. on the 18th inst. P.O. 11251 Pte Stokes & was on sentry duty at the ration dump at Ousemont. When six men dressed in Australian uniforms approached him after being challenged they enquired the way to Hattencourt. and as their movements appeared suspicious the sentry watched them after they had left him. Shortly afterwards he saw some men carrying what appeared to be bags through the hedges opposite the dump. He challenged them and they fired a shot in the air, when the men ran off into the fields.

He is quite unable to give any detailed descriptions of the men he saw or of the colour patches worn by them.

He further states that he would not be able to identify the men again as it was dark at the time.

In the morning a check was made at the dump and it was then found that 13 bags of sugar (80 lbs) were missing. On making a search in the vicinity of where the men had been seen by the sentry, five bags of sugar were found alongside the hedge nearby.

I afterwards interviewed the acting O.C. of the 5th A.M.T. Coy. (supply officer) who informed me that two of his men had been absent from their billets that night.

I asked him if he had taken any disciplinary action and he replied, "No".

I then had the men paraded. Their names are P.O. 11111 Pte L. V. T. and P.O. 8644 Pte Bedford. L. both of the 5th A.L.T. Coy. I then gave instructions that these two men were to be placed under arrest and charged with being A.W.L. and the charge sheets to be sent to this office showing how the cases have been disposed of.

Both men denied all knowledge of the theft at the dump and there is no evidence to connect them with it.

The guard at the dump did not impress me favourably as I think they are not the right class of man for the job being 'B' class men of very poor physique.

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Continued.

21. 2. 19.

Alleged theft of supplies from dump at Ossemond.

At the same time the sentry certainly proved himself alert and vigilant, but would stand a very poor chance were men inclined to use violence. The other sentry, Pk Jackson, was of very much poorer physique. I would recommend that the guard be strengthened and I have arranged for extra M.P. patrols to visit the dump at frequent intervals, especially at night time.

(Signed) J Watson Colquhoun Major
D.A.P.M.
3rd Bush Div

D. A. A. G.

3rd Aust Div

Serious shooting affair at Trucourt. Feb. 19th 1919

I have to report for your information that No 554 Pte J Moffat 'D' Coy 4th Battalion A.I.F. was seriously wounded in the chest at Trucourt about 11 p.m. on the 19th inst.

The facts of the case as far as can be ascertained are as follows:-

Pte Moffat accompanied by five other soldiers belonging to the 4th Battalion whose names are No 1898 Pte Cranny T, No 2207 Pte Andrews J. G., No 2176 Pte Wheeler D. B., No 50697 Pte Riding J., and No 2557 Pte Chelland G. R. proceeded to house of a civilian about 11 p.m. when a woman of easy virtue resides.

Moffat entered the house while the five other soldiers remained at the gate outside. About ten minutes later a shot was heard coming from the direction of the house, followed by groans. The five other soldiers then entered the house through a window and found Moffat in a kneeling position with a terrible wound in the chest. No one else was in the room at the time but footsteps were heard in the loft above. Moffat was carried outside and afterwards attended to by the Medical Officers of the 6th Dorsets who are stationed at Trucourt.

He was afterwards taken to Hallencourt by an ambulance. The Medical Officers express the opinion that his chances of recovery are very remote.

The alleged assailant is a French civilian named PIEDECOQ. CYRILE. DESIRE, aged 66 years, cultivator, who owns and resides in the house where the affair took place.

The wound in the chest was caused by a shot gun both barrels having been discharged simultaneously by the accused.

The accused was placed under arrest by the French Gendarmes and an investigation was held yesterday evening at the house of the accused by the French authorities.

The five soldiers aforementioned were placed in the guard room after the affair and were charged with being AWL in due course. The house where the shooting took place is the filthiest and most disreputable looking place I have ever seen and it is unbelievable that soldiers would associate with a woman of such a stamp who carries her trade at prices of one franc each.

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Continued

Serious shooting affair at Trucourt Feb 19th 1919

Trucourt is in the 17th Divisional Area and the case is being further investigated by the A. P. M. of the Division concerned.

Signed, J. Watson Colpitts. Major
A. P. M.
3rd Aust Div

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