

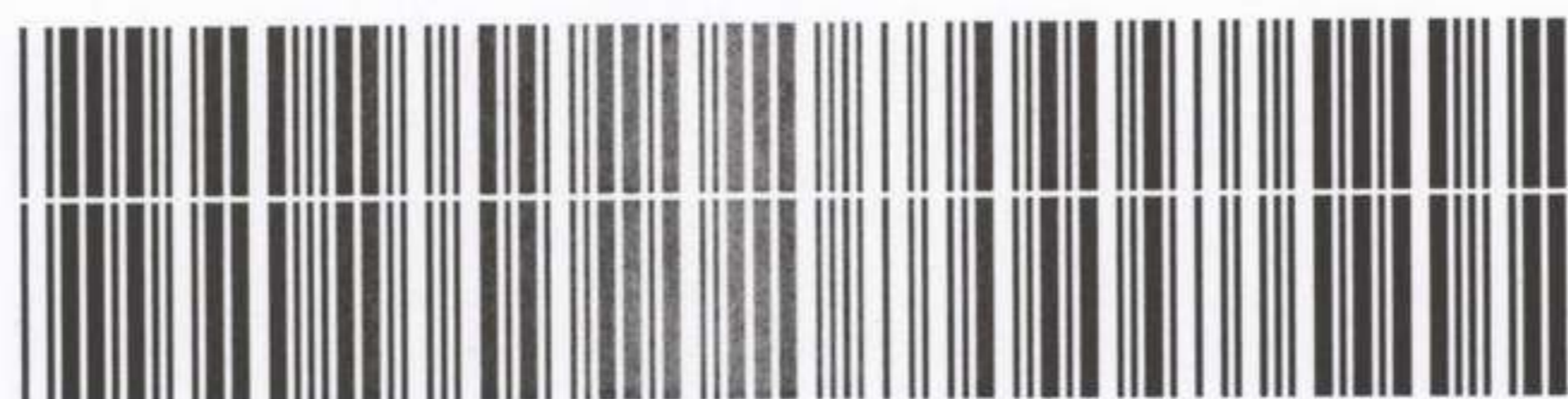
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1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/22/46

Title: 5th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/22/46

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WAR DIARY

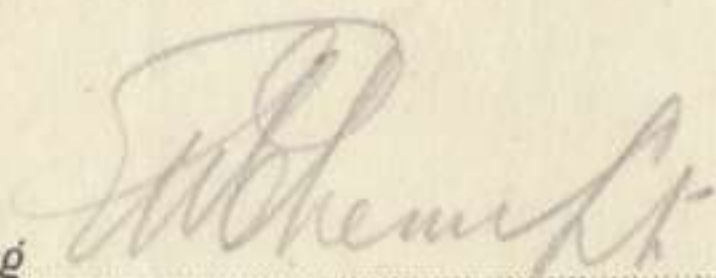
OF

5th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

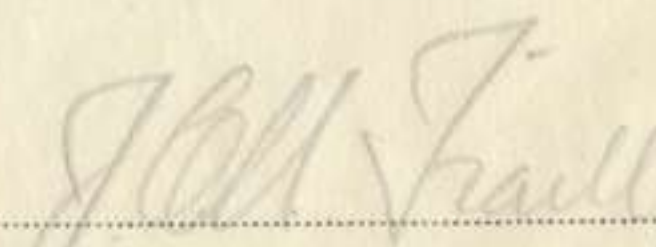
FOR

DECEMBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling



Signature of Officer Commanding



Lieut.-Col.
Commanding, 5th Battalion, A.I.F.

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.)

29

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Valenciennes 12) Namur 8) 1/100,000	1		(Battalion billeted at Sars Poteries.) In the morning a special parade was held, in honor of His Majesty the King. (see appendix No.1) In the afternoon a bathing parade was held. The 5th Battalion Transport played a football match against the 6th Battalion Transport and won easily.	
	2		Training carried out under Company Commanders. Recreational Training carried out in the afternoon. (see appendix No.2) 2/Lieut. E. R. DRAPER joined the Battalion from the BASE.	
	3		Battalion Parade was held in the morning, and usual recreational training in the afternoon.	
	4		Owing to inclement weather outdoor parade was cancelled, and indoor parade was held in the Billets. In the afternoon a football match was played between the 5th and 8th Battalions "B" grade teams. A very good game resulted in a win for the 5th Battalion. Scores - 5th Battalion 3 . 5 and 8th Battalion 1 . 6 Lieuts. C. C. HANSON, D. B. HARRIS and C. F. HENDERSON and 75 O.Rs. marched in from the Base.	
	5		Company Route Marches formed the training for the morning. In the afternoon the "C" Grade Football Team played the 8th Battalion "C" Grade Team, and won a very exciting match by 5 . 5 to 4 . 5.	
	6.		Training was carried out under Company arrangements in the morning. In the afternoon "B" and "C" Companies played at football - "C" Coy. winning by 6 . 6 to 2 . 4. Lieut. M. E. THOMPSON proceeded to U.K. on 75 days leave. Lieut. E. A. WILLIAMS joined the Battalion, from the BASE.	
	7		Route marches were carried out under Company arrangements. In the afternoon a football match was played between the "B" grade Team and Brigade "B" grade Team. Scores were - 5th Battalion 6 . 7 Brigade 2 . 8.	

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Valenciennes 12) Namur 8)	8		Church Parade was held, after which the Corps Commander inspected the Billets. Pay was issued in the afternoon.	
1/100,000	9		Owing to rain, training was carried out in Billets. Educational Classes were formed in the Battalion, under Battalion Instructors. (see appendix No.3) In the afternoon a football match, "A" Grade, was played between the 5th and Brigade Details Details. A very good game resulted in a win for the 5th Battalion. Scores - 5th Battalion 6 .11 Brigade Details 3 . 2 Lieut. F. TURNER proceeded on U.K. Leave for 75 days.	
	10		Route marches were carried out under Company arrangements. In the afternoon rain prevented Recreational Training.	
	11		Route marches were carried out under Company arrangements. In the afternoon a football match was played between the 5th Battalion and Brigade Details - "C" Grade Teams - Scores - 5th Battalion 5 .15 Brigade Details 2 . 3 2/Lieut. D. SMITH joined the Unit from, Corps School.	
	12		Owing to rain outdoor parades were cancelled, and training was carried out in Billets. In the afternoon a football match was played against the Brigade "B" Grade - Scores 5th Battalion 4 .13 Brigade N I L The Soccer team also had a win against the Field Ambulance - Scores - 5th Battalion 4 goals 2nd Field Amb. 2 goals Lieut. W. R. VOLUM proceeded to U.K. on 75 days leave.	
	13		Outdoor parades were again cancelled owing to inclement weather. All football matches were also cancelled. Bathing parade was held in the afternoon. Lieut. J.H. CRICHTON proceeded to CHARLEROI AREA to do duty as Town Major.	

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Valenciennes 12) Namur 8) 1/100,000	14		Parades were carried out under Company arrangements. In expectation of an early move the morning was devoted to preparing for marching out. In the afternoon a Soccer Match was played against the 6th Battalion - scores 5th Battalion 5 goals, 6th Bn. 1 goal Lieut. C. F. HENDERSON & Lieut. C. C. HANSON went forward to arrange Billets on the line of March to new area.	
	15		Church Parade was held in the morning in conjunction with the 6th Battalion. Chaplain Petherick officiating. Brigade Commander attended the Church Parade. Afternoon was a half holiday. Capt. O. J. ELLIS (RMO) proceeded to U.K. on 14 days leave, his place being taken by Captain K. FLOOK from 2nd Field Ambulance.	
Namur 8 1/100,000	16.		The Battalion proceeded by March Route to BARBENCON, leaving at 0915, and arriving at destination at 1530 (see appendix No. 4) and Rain commenced at start of march and continued throughout, the road being very muddy. H.R.H. Prince of Wales, with Corps, Division and Brigade Generals in attendance, watched the Battalion as it passed about half a mile out from SOLRE ST CHATEAU.	
	17		The Battalion proceeded by march route to WALCOURT, leaving at 0820, and arriving at destination at 1140, stopping for midday meal (40 minutes). Rain was incessant throughout except at meal time.	
	18		The day was devoted to resting and cleaning up generally.	
	19		The Battalion concluded its march by proceeding to BOUFFIOLX, leaving at 0905 and arriving at 1430. Just before the Battalion left WALCOURT Lieut. J. A. CATPO MM, in trying to stop a bolted double team of mules with limber, was knocked down and sustained severe internal injuries. He was evacuated to Hospital. Lieut. R. KOPKE rejoined the Unit from the BASE.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Namur 8	20		The day was spent in settling down and improving the Bille ts as far as possible. A Medical Inspection of feet was held.	
1/100,000	21		No parades were held. The Bille ts allotted to two Companies, being very unsanitary and dark with no conveniences for cookers or latrine, other accommodation was found for them. The whole day was taken up in making the men comfortable.	
	22		Church Parade was held at 1000, Chaplain PETHERICK officiating. In the afternoon pay was issued. Mr. Brown gave a lecture on "Stamp through AUSTRIA" Capt. A.O.RIGG rejoined Unit from U.K. Leave. Lieut. W.J.ELLISON proceeded on 14 days leave to U.K	
	23		Training was carried out as per syllabus (see appendix No. 5). In the afternoon the Battalion attended a lecture on "Wild Animal Life" by Capt. CHERRY KEARTON, which was much appreciated by the men.	
	24		Training was carried out as per syllabus. Capt. C. McE. LILLIE DSO and 2/Lieut. J. ANDREW joined the Unit from the BASE. Capt LILLIE took up duties as Second in Command of the Battalion.	
	25		(Xmas Day) Church Parade was held at 1000. 5th and 8th Battalions combined for the parade and Chaplain IRWIN (attached to the 8th Bn) officiated, and the Brigade Staff were present. An excellent Xmas Dinner was partaken of by the men at midday, and the Brigade Commander visited the men during the dinner.	
	26		No parades were held, the day being observed as a holiday. The Battalion Band played to the men in Bille ts. Lieut. J.H.CRITCHON went to Division to take up the duties of Divisional Baths Officer.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Namur 8 1/100,000	27		In the morning training was carried out as per syllabus till stopped by rain. Education Classes were also held. The C.O. attended a lunch at Brigade in honor of the Prince of Wales. The afternoon was set apart for a football match to be played between the 5th and 8th Battalions in presence of the Prince of Wales, but this was cancelled owing to the weather. The Prince of Wales, in company with Corps, Division, and Brigade Commanders, paid a visit to "D" Company's Billets.	
	28		All outdoor parades were cancelled owing to rain, which lasted all day. Men were employed at indoor games etc, and Education classes were proceeded with.	
	29		Combined Church Parade, 5th Battalion and 8th Battalion, was held in Cinema Hall, Chaplain E. G. PETHERICK officiating. The Battalion Band played in the afternoon at the men's billets. Capt. G.L. FINLAY MC proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
	30		In the morning training was carried out as per syllabus (see appendix No. 6). Recreational training was carried out in the afternoon and impromptu football matches were held.	
	31		Training was carried out as per syllabus. In the afternoon a football match was played between the "C" grade teams of 5th and 8th Bns. - scores 5th Battalion 8 . 7 8th Battalion 3 . 3. In the evening a concert and dance were formed ^{provided} for the Battalion to which some of the Civilians attended. Lieut. R.C.G. HAMILTON proceeded to U.K. on 14 days leave. Commanding Officer's report (see appendix No.7). The Transport Officer's report (see appendix No.8) The Quartermaster's Report (see appendix No.9)/ Strength etc. (see Appendix B No.10)	

J. H. Hall Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding, 5th Battalion, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

OF

~~5th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION~~

FOR

~~D E C E M B E R~~

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Operation Order re visit His Majesty the King
2	Training Syllabus
3	" "
4	Operation Order re move to CHARLEROI AREA
5	Training Syllabus
6	" "
7	C. O's. Report for Month
8	Quartermaster's Report for Month
9	Transport Officer's Report for Month
10	Evacuations, Strength etc. of Unit for Month

SECRET

5th BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 57

Ref. Sheets t- VALENCIENNES)
 NAMUR) 1/100,000 30/11/1918

1. B.R.O. 554 para 1927. Protestant and Roman Catholic Church Pdes. are cancelled.
2. His Majesty the King will visit the Australian Corps Area on 1st Dec. The King will arrive at AVESNES at 1230 entering the Town by MAUBERGE AVESNES ROAD.
3. The 2nd and 3rd A.I.Bdes with their Field Ambulances will represent the 1st Aust. Division in lining the Road North of CENSE-a-LONGE with a single rank on either side of the Road.
4. The 5th Battalion will move as under:-
 Battalion will form up in column of Route with Head of Column at Cross Roads opposite B.H.Q. at 0915 in the following order:-
 Hdqrs, Details; Sigs.; and Intell.; Band; "C", "D" and "B" Coys.
 Company Commanders will be mounted. Transport Officer will arrange for Officers' Chargers to be at starting point by 0915.
5. DRESS - Officers will wear Hats, Sam Browne Belts, and British Warmes.
 Other Ranks - Belts and sidearms over greatcoats (no rifles).
6. MIDDAY MEAL - Midday Meal will be carried in the pocket.
7. ADVANCE PARTY - Lieut. H. L. Simpson and Sgt. A. LAMPARD will report to Staff Captain at Junction of MONT-DOUCLERS - AVESNES ROAD at 1000.
8. When drawn up -
 - (a) The following intervals will be maintained
 1. 5 yards between Companies
 2. 10 " " Battalion
 3. 20 " " Brigades
 - (b) Dismounted Officers will be formed in line 1 yard in front of their Units and distributed evenly.
 - (c) Mounted Officers will take post on the North of their Commands, on Eastern side of the Road in line with other Officers.
 - (d) Bands will be formed up on the North of their Units on the Eastern side of the Road.
 - (e) All other personnel will be in the main line of Troops.

(Sgd) F. LANGFORD, Lieut.
 A/Adjutant.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Copy No.	To whom	Method
1	File	
2 - 4	Diary	
5	Brigade	Runner
6	C.O.	"
7	O.C. "B" Coy	"
8	" "C" "	"
9	" "D" "	"
10	Signalling Off.	"
11	R.S.M.	"

ROUTINE FOR TOMORROW WILL BE -

Reveille 0700, Breakfast 0720, Sick Parade 0800, Dress for Parade 0835, Quarter Call 0850, Advance 0905

(Sgd) F. LANGFORD, Lieut.
 A/Adjutant.

TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR WEEK ENDING 7th December 1918

MORNINGAFTERNOON

Monday 2nd,
Battalion & Company Drill,
Guards and Sentry Drill.

Recreational Training

Tuesday 3rd
Battalion Parade. Coy. &
Platoon Drill.

Recreational Training

Wednesday 4th
Battalion Route March

Football Match "B" Grade Teams
5th Bn v 8th Bn

Thursday 5th
Battalion Parade, and
Company Route Marches for
not less than 1 hour

Football Match "C" Grade Teams
5th Bn v 8th Bn

Friday 6th
Training under Coy. Cmdrs.

Football Match - inter Companies
"B" Coy v "C" Coy

Saturday 7th
Battalion Parade, and
Route March of not less than
1 hour

Football Match - "B" Grade teams
5th Bn v Brigade

COPY NO. -----

**5TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION -
OPERATION ORDER No. 57**

Ref. Sheet NATURE 8 - 1/100,000

14/12/18

1. MOVE. (a) The 2nd A.I.B.C. will move by March Route to the following areas on dates as under -

(b) 5th Battalion will move as follows -

16th December from SARS POTERIES to BARBENCON, SOLRE ST GERY area

17th December from BARBENCON, SOLRE-ST-GERY to TEY-LE-CHATEAU area

18th December from TEY-LE-CHATEAU area to COUILLET area.

2. STARTING POINT & ROUTE.

Date	Starting Point	Time of Passing	Route
16th Dec.	Road Junction South of first 'S' in SARS	0917	SARS POTERIES SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU GRANDRIEU LORRIOR BARBENCON
17th Dec.	Cross-roads South of '38' NE of BARBENCON	0830	BARBENCON CASTILLON FONTREUILLE WALCOURT TEY-LE-CHATEAU
18th Dec.	Cross-roads S.W. of 'Q' in COURMAYEUR	0842	TEY-LE-CHATEAU NAINNES LA FAISANDERIE LOVIRVAL BOUFFIOULE

3. ORDER OF MARCH. For 16th December - H.Q. Sigs, Intell; & Details; Band; "B", "C", & "D" Companies; Transport.

4. DISTANCES. The following distances will be maintained - between Battalions 500 yds - Between Companies 100 yards - Between Battalion and Transport 100 yards - 50 yards between each section of 12 Vehicles.

5. HALTS. There will be the usual 10 minutes halt at each 10 minutes to the Clock Hour, after passing the Starting Point. On the 16th Dec the Battalion will halt for 40 minutes at 1220 for lunch.

6. DRESS. Marching Order, Water Bottles to be filled, unexpended portion of day's Rations to be carried. Waterproof Sheets to be carried under the flap of the Pack. Mess Tins to be carried under Steel Helmet.

7. TRANSPORT. Transport will accompany Battalion. 1 man ONLY will march in rear of each Vehicle, who will act as Brakesman. Other dismounted personnel will march in rear as a formed party. COOKERS will move in rear of their respective Companies.

8. ADVANCE PARTY. This has already been arranged.

9. BLANKETS & PACKS OF BAND. All Blankets will be rolled in bundle of 10, clearly marked, and stacked outside Billets at times to be notified later. Packs and S.B.A.'s of Band will be stacked outside Pioneers Billet with I.Q. Details' Blankets. For the 16th December, ~~blankets will be placed outside ready for~~ loading at 0730.

P.T.O.

10. VALISES. For 16th December H.Q. and "B" Coy. Officers' Valises will be stacked outside B.H.Q. ready for loading at 0800, "C" & "D" Coys. Officers' Valises to be stacked outside "B" Coy. H.Q. at 0745. Punctuality to be observed, to enable transport to be formed up in time. Time and place for 17th and 18th December to be notified later.

11. REGTL. & COY. RECORD BOXES. For 16th December Regtl. Record Boxes will be placed outside B.H.Q. ready for loading at 0745. Coy. Record Boxes to be dumped at Q.M. Store by 0730.

12. CERTIFICATES & MARCHING OUT STATES. Certificates as to cleanliness and Marching out States to reach BOR by 0830 on 16th December.

13. REPORTS. Companies will report each day when established in new areas. Other Reports to head of Column.

(sgd) F. LANGFORD, Lieut.
A/Adjutant.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Copy No.	To Whom	Method
1	File	
2 - 4	War Diary	
5	Brigade	Runner
6	C.O.	"
7	O.C. "B" Coy	"
8	" " " "	"
9	" " " "	"
10	Q.M. & S.C.	"
11	Signalling Officer	"
12	R.S.M.	"
13	Adjutant	"

Appendix No. 5

Headquarters, 5th Battalion, A.I.F.
21/12/18

5TH BATTALION TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR WEEK ENDING 28TH DECEMBER 1918

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	MONDAY 0900 - 1130	AFTERNOON	1400 - 1530
Monday 23rd,	Battalion Parade, Ceremonial, Company, & Guards & Sentry Drills.	Lecture by Capt. Cherry Kearton on "Wild Animal Life".	Recreational Training.
Tuesday, 24th	Battalion Parade, Ceremonial, Battalion & Company & Platoon in Attack.		Recreational Training.
Wednesday, 25th (Xmas Day)	Church Parade		Half Holiday.
Thursday, 26th	Route March, for not less than 1 hour.		Recreational Training, Football Match.
Friday, 27th	Educational Classes in the following - Book-keeping, Shorthand, English, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Care of Horses, Tailoring.		Recreational Training.
Saturday, 28th	Brigade Parade		Half Holiday.

Football Matches in the Brigade Competition will cooperate with Recreational Training and Matches will be notified later.

122

Headquarters, 5th Battalion, A.I.F.

5TH BATTALION SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR
WEEK ENDING 4th JANUARY 1919

MORNING

AFTERNOON

Monday, 30th	Bn. Parade, Ceremonial, Guards & Sentry Drill	Recreational Training
Tuesday, 31st	Educational Classes in Shorthand, Bookkeeping, English, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Care of Horses, and Tailoring.	"C" Grade Football, 5th Bn. v 6th Bn. on 5th Bn. Ground.
Wednesday, 1st January 1919	H o l i d a y	Soccer Football Match, 6th Bn. v 5th Bn. on 6th Bn. Ground.
Thursday, 2nd	Educational Classes, as per 31st December 1918	"B" Grade Football Match, 6th Bn. v 5th Bn. on 6th Bn. Ground.
Friday, 3rd	Bn. Parade and Rouse March	Recreational Training
Saturday, 4th	Brigade Parade, or Educational Classes	"A" Grade Football Match, Brigade v 5th Bn. on Bdo Ground Tug-of-War Teams - Brigade v 5th Bn. at Brigade Football Ground

Lieut.-Colonel
Commanding, 5th Battalion, A.I.F.

Appendix No. 8

Quartermaster's Report for the month -

During the period under review the Rations were satisfactory, and Rum was issued twice weekly.

On Xmas Day pudding was issued at the rate of half a pound per man.

Xmas Gifts received from the Comforts Funds were issued to all Ranks and were much appreciated. Diaries and Xmas Cards were also issued.

-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-

Appendix No. 9

Transport Officer's Report for the month -

During the period under review the rations of both men and horses were satisfactory. The Route March from SANS POTERIES was carried out without any mishap to either horses or vehicles; horses standing the journey well.

The condition of both horses and vehicles were very good. The clipping of horses was carried out and completed during the month.

There were no evacuations of men or horses during the month.

-: -: -: -: -: -: -: -: -: -

EVACUATIONS & REINFORCEMENTS ETC
for
MONTH OF DECEMBER

29

Week ending	Evacuations		Reinforcements		Strength	
	Off.	O.Rs.	Off.	O.Rs.	Off.	O.Rs.
1	Strength With Unit				13	372
8		7	4	75	25	444
16		6		2	22	420
23		1		8	21	415
31	1	-	4	31	19	391