

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/34/43

**Title:** 17th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/34/43



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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

17th Battalion

FOR

February 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. B. Palmer Lt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*L. M. Sadler Col*



# 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.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALCOURT	1919 Feb. 1		Settling down in WALCOURT. Still very cold, and snowing. Draft of 68 General Reinforcements joined Battalion. Lieut. A. J. R. Davison returned from U. K. Leave.	
		2	Amalgamation with 18th Battalion A.I.F. New formation known as 17/18th Battalion A.I.F., consisting of 4 Companies, each former Unit being re-organised into 2 Companies. Lieut.-Colonel G. F. MURPHY, C.M.G., D.S.O. in Command of 17/18th Battalion. Lieut.-Colonel R. M. SADLER, M.C., still nominally in Command of 17th Battalion - "K" and "Q" Companies. Lieutenants V. J. SULLIVAN, M.C., E. W. DARK, M.C., and B. H. HEMBROW, and 53 other ranks proceeded on Draft to AUSTRALIA.	
		3	Weather still very cold; new reinforcements find it very severe. Lieut. F. W. CROFT, M.C., proceeded to ENGLAND under Educational Scheme. Lieut. R. C. WORTHINGTON proceeded on leave to PARIS and NICE.	
		4	Heavy fall of snow. Battalion Recreation Room opened, providing amusements and comforts for the men. 2nd Lieutenants E. G. POWELL, J. A. BARNIER, M.M., and R. P. FORD, joined Battalion from Reinforcements (ex Cadet Battalion).	
		5	Very cold. Instructions received for move to MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL on 6th instant. Joint Movement Order issued for 17/18th Battalion, troops proceeding by rail, transport by road. Letter of appreciation from Mayor of WALCOURT, expressing the good feeling between civilians and soldiers.	
MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL		6	Moved to MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL. Entrained at WALCOURT 0945 hours, detrained BOMEREE at 1145. Short march from train, made very difficult by frozen roads. Transport arrived about 2000 hours after a hard journey - no accidents.	
		7	Severe frost. Snow fight in Village Square, Civilians versus Soldiers. All ranks comfortably billeted, and Civilians most hospitable.	
		8	Settling down. Usual inspection parades held.	
		9	All preparations being made to hand in Mobilisation Stores. Report by Quarter-Master	Appendix "A"



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MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL	Feb. 10		Captain W. L. TRENERRY, M.C. returned from U. K. Leave. Captain W. J. NEWING (R.M.O), returned from PARIS Leave. Euchre tournament held in Battalion Recreation Room. Lecture by Chap.-Captain CRAWFORD, subject "PARIS". Transport prepared to hand in to D.A.D.O.S. - awaiting final instructions.	
	11		Lieut. W. R. McCOURT returned from U. K. Leave. Canvassing in progress by Candidates for 5th Brigade Parliament. Weather becoming warmer through day, but still very cold at night.	
	12		Lieuts. F. G. RAE, R. J. FITZROY, M.C., and A. F. GILBERT, proceeded on leave to ROME. Lecture by Mr. H. W. ROBERTS, subject "Drawing and Sketching". Attendance very good. Final Election Speeches by 12 Candidates in Battalion Recreation Room.	
	13		Lecture by Private MURRAY, subject "Town Planning". Good attendance. Weather warming rapidly: beginning to thaw. Polling for Elections. 6 Members elected.	
	14		Lieut. W. R. McCOURT evacuated to hospital, suffering from influenza. Whist Drive in Recreation Room.	
	15		Chap.-Captain F. W. TUGWELL proceeded on leave to PARIS. 5th Brigade Parliament opening Bill "Total Prohibition" defeated. Weather warm and fine. Pay satisfactory.	
	16		2nd Lieut. L. LLOYD joined Battalion from Reinforcements (ex Cadet Battalion). Lieut. R. C. WORTHINGTON admitted to hospital ex PARIS Leave. Captain W. J. NEWING (R.M.O), A.A.M.C., rejoined 5th Field Ambulance.	
	17		Lecture by Major-General A. A. MONTGOMERY, K.C.M.G., C.B., P.S.C., MGGS., to Officers and N. C. O's., subject "Waterloo". Attendance good. Lieut. E. D. MILLER proceeded on leave to PARIS and NICE.	
	18		Lecture by Sapper HALL, subject "Modern Europe". Attendance good. 17/18th Battalion Officers' Ball.	
	19		Lieut. C. J. SAMS, M.C., proceeded to U.K. for Investiture by His Majesty the KING. 5th Brigade Parliament Bill "Bachelor Tax" passed. Weather still warm and fine.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL	1919 Feb. 20		Rugby Football, 5th versus 7th Brigade. Result - 5th Brigade 23, 7th Brigade 3. Weather cold and wet. Whist Drive in Recreation Room.	
	21		5th Brigade N. C. O's. Ball; very successful. Transport returned to D.A.D.O.S., everything satisfactory. Lieut. A. J. R. DAVISON promoted Temporary Captain.	
	22		Mr. W. M. HUGHES, P.C., Prime Minister of AUSTRALIA, addressed Officers and Men of the 2nd Division at MARCINELLE. In the course of his remarks, he emphasised the excellent work done by Australians in the Field, and also gave a brief outline of the latest developments of the Peace Conference, and Demobilisation and Repatriation Departments. 5th Brigade Parliament Bill "White Australia" before the House. 2nd Lieut. L. LLOYD proceeded to Australian Corps P. & R.T. School, BARBENCON.	
	23		2nd Lieut. E. G. POWELL proceeded to BONN, GERMANY, for Chemistry Course under Educational Scheme. Soccer Football - Charleroi Sporting Club versus 5th Brigade. Result - Charleroi Sporting Club 3 goals; 5th Brigade 2. Weather fine and warm.	
	24		Transport horses and mules "Z" Class concentrated at MARCHIENNE-au-PONT for sale. Transport Officer's Report attached. Lecture by Private BRAMELD, subject "Talk on Books" - attendance good. Corps Order issued prohibiting all meetings, as a precaution against influenza. The 17th Battalion "Diggers' Dance" had been arranged, and had to be cancelled in accordance with Corps Order. Rugby Football, 5th Brigade versus Artillery. Result - 5th Brigade 20; Artillery Nil.	Appendix "B"
	25		Lecture by Captain PULSFORD, subject "Co-operation". Attendance good. Number of horses returned unsold - 47.	
	26		Raining slightly. Both Companies paraded to R.M.O. for completion of A.I.F. Form No. 536.	
	27		Chap. - Captain F. W. TUGWELL reported back from PARIS leave.	
	28		Weather fine and warm. Practice Match, Divisional Rugby Football Team, under management of Lieut. L. BUHL. During the month, two specially conducted tours to BRUSSELS have been made under the Educational Scheme.	



WAR DIARY

OF

17th Battalion,

FOR

February 1919

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

"A"

Quarter-Master's Report

"B"

Transport Officer's Report



Records from Q.M. 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion for month  
of February.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February the Battalion moved from  
Walcourt to the new billeting area in Montigny  
Lilleul. Billets were found very comfortable.  
Rations have been well up to standard. Shaw  
rations were consumed from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. on  
all Battalion Mobilization stores land transport  
have been handed in to D.A.D.O.S 2<sup>nd</sup> Div.  
Division and receipts and clearance obtained.  
Being the first Bn to hand in and the  
procedure being somewhat complicated  
considerable delay was experienced in  
making a start. Stores have now been  
despatched to Base.

Dawson Capt Q.M.



17th Battalion A.I.F.

February 1919.

Until the 6th instant, the Battalion was at WALCOURT, BELGIUM. The work done from the 1st to the 6th was confined to the drawing of rations from the Refilling Point.

On the 6th instant the Battalion moved to MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL. The roads were in a hard, frozen condition, which made the move a difficult matter for the animals especially as there were some rather heavy grades to be negotiated.

On arrival at MONTIGNY-les-TILLEUL, the Section was declared inoperative in order to allow of the harness and Mobilisation Stores being prepared to hand in to D.A.D.O.S. on the winding up of the Battalion. The handing over commenced on the 25th instant. The animals were in good health during the period. One mule was injured by an accident, and was sold on the 25th instant by the V.O. to a local butcher for 300 Francs.

On the 24th instant, a sale of horses and mules took place at MARCHIENNE-au-PONT on behalf of the 2nd Division A.I.F., "Z" Class animals being put on the market. The sale extended over three days - 500 animals were listed, and 241 sold. On the 24th instant, those belonging to the 5th Brigade Group were offered, and 84 were sold at an average price of 996 Francs, the highest price being 2,200 Francs paid for a H. D. mare. On the 25th instant the animals belonging to the 6th Brigade Group were offered - 77 being sold at an average price of 805 Francs, the highest price being 2000 Francs for a H. D. mare. On the 27th instant the 7th Brigade sold 80 animals at an average price of 948 Francs, the highest price being 2,025 Francs for a H. D. mare. The principal demand was for H. D. mares for breeding and work. Mules were not in great demand as they are not yet appreciated in BELGIUM. They brought prices ranging from 450 to 800 Francs. Bidding was slow for rides.

Captain.  
Transport Officer, 17th Battalion AIF.