

**AWM4**

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

Infantry

**Item number: 23/34/45**

**Title: 17th Infantry Battalion**

April 1919



AWM4-23/34/45

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

17<sup>th</sup> BATTALION. AUST. IMP. FORCE.

FOR

Month Of April 191<sup>9</sup>

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. H. D. Palmer Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*E. J. Hammett. Per W. H. D.*

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.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Montigny & Tilluel	11			
	APRIL 1919			
		1st	All troops requisitioned to make room for 2nd Machine Gun Battalion to move into the village Weather - Fine and warm	
		2nd	Education Platoon formed under the direction of the 5th Brigade Battalion Education Officer. Members of this platoon to be exempt from all regimental duties when practicable. Classes to be held regularly from 16,00 to 18,00 hours daily	
		3rd	Lecture in Cinema Hall by W. O. MCLeod - Subject - "Finance and Business Organisation" Attendance good. Three O/Rs marched out to Sutton Veny for educational purposes.	
		4th	Whist-Drive in Battalion Recreation Room - 40 Players present. Weather - Cold and wet. Everything very quiet.	
		5th	Preliminary orders received for Quota 33 to leave the Unit on or about 13th Inst This Unit received an allotment of six Officers, One Sergeant and Fifteen O/Rs Orders received for a special Census Return from the Unit of all personnel in France and Belgium, to be taken at Midnight 6/7th Instant. Battalion Dance - A great success, having about 250 Civilians and Soldiers present including Brigadier General MARTIN C.M.C. D.S.O. and Staff	
		6th	Euchre Tournament in the Recreation Room - 30 Competitors. Education Platoon progressing satisfactorily.	
		7th	An Educational Film shown in Cinema Hall entitled "Whatsoever a man Soweth" attendance good. One Other Rank marched out to U. K. for non-military employment. Everything very quiet, weather improving.	

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Montigny Le	Tilluel	.	BELGIUM.	86
APRIL 1919.	8 <sup>th</sup>		One O/R marched out to U. K. for nonmilitary employment. "Whist Drive" in	
			Battalion Recreation Room, about 30 Competitors. From this date the Recreation	
			Room, which formerly has only been a 17 <sup>th</sup> Battalion concern will become a 5 <sup>th</sup>	
			Brigade Battalion Recreation Room. Since the date of formation the Recreation	
			Room has been entirely under the management of Capt. Chaplain F. W. Turwell and it	
			it has been greatly appreciated by all ranks as it afforded many happy hours	
			which would have otherwise made our time of waiting drag very heavily.	
			Preliminary list issued of Officers proceeding on Quota 33.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Special order issued referring to reduction of Units to "Cadre B", as laid down	
			in General Instructions. This Unit will be reduced to "Cadre B" as from the 11 <sup>th</sup>	
			Inst. From that date all personnel still remaining with the Unit will be attached	
			to 20 <sup>th</sup> Battalion and "Cadre B" will prepare records in readiness to proceed	
			on draft to U.K. on or about 20 <sup>th</sup> Instants.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		All leave to U.K. or France not to be granted where Applicant is due for repatriation	
			within one month. Comforts consisting of writing material received from Australian	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Montigny-Le-Tilluel,	April 1919.	Belgium.		
	10th	(continued)	Comforts Fund and 2 cases of cigarettes from Overseas Club. Both were greatly appreciated. Meeting of "Cadre B" Adjutants for purpose of explaining the routine for concluding records while at A.I.F. Headquarters.	
	11th		All personnel, excepting "Cadre B" attached to 20th Battalion, but Men not moved from their present billets. Three O/Rs <del>marched out to</del> evacuated to hospital. Lieut. W. Moore discharged in U.K. Battalion Dance again a great success. This was final dance held by this Unit in Montigny -Le-Tilluel. 2nd Lieut. E.G. Powell who was included on list for Quota 33 made application for <del>permission</del> permission to remain for more advanced course of Chemistry at Bonn (Germany) which was granted. Final orders issued for Quota 33.	
	12th		Lieut F.W. Tindale recalled to U.K. for non-military employment. Church parades as usual. Weather cold and wet. Lieut L.Lloyd returned from Paris leave.	
	13th		Four Prisoners evacuated from the Guard-room. Quota 33 proceeded and were accorded a hearty send-off by the Civilians and remaining Troops. To an Onlooker it would have appeared that many of the seeing Civilians were Relatives instead of only being acquaintances of two months standing. 2nd Lieuts, J.H. Murphy D.C.M. R.P. Ford, L.Lloyd, R. McFadden, proceeded with Quota 33.	
	14th		Weather fine and warm. Nothing unusual occurred.	
	15th		Brigade Y.M.C.A. Canteen closed down. Lieut. W.R. McCourt to relieve 2nd Lieut Barnier as Town Major. One O/R. evacuated to hospital.	
	16th		Preliminary orders received for Quota 38, to proceed on or about the 20th Inst. An allotment of four Officers, and 134 Other Ranks for this Unit. It was found necessary to recall several men from detached jobs in order to fill our allotment. One O/R. proceeded to Sutton Veny for early repatriation.	

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Montigny-Le-Tilluel.	Belgium .			
PRIL 16/19	17th		Special order received fixing May 10th as the date for all A.I.F. leave in France to terminate . all men on detached jobs also have to rejoin their Units by that date . Pte Freddy re-arrested by the Horse Picquet of 22nd Battalion	
	18th		Special order received re Quota 38 . this Units allotment reduced to Four Officers , Four Sergeants , and 100 Other Ranks . Final Quota Order also received . Capt. Chaplain . F.W.Tugwell proceeded on leave to U.K. Weather, cold and windy.	
	19th		Final parade held of Quota 38 - eve rything correct and ready . All necessary papers referring to members of this Unit still remaining in Belgium, handed over to 20th Battalion . One Other Rank proceeded to U.K. for Non-military employment . Pte. Freddy tried by F.G.C.M. at Marcinelle .	
	20th		Quota 38 marched-out . Officers , Capt. E.T.Harnett , Lieut H.R.Booth, Lieut. W.H.B.Palmer , and 2nd Lieut. J.Aitken . Four Sergeants and 100 Other Ranks . The Quota assembled in Village Square and were addressed by Brigadier General Martin C.M.GD.S.O. before moving off at 1200 hours . This Quota was Practically the last of the 17th Battalion and was commended by Capt E.T.Harnett who was the only original Battalion Officer still with the Unit . Two Other Ranks marched out for duty with Australian Postal Corps. Quota arrived at "B Divisional Wing Camp " at Charleroi, and all Ranks were given general leave untill 7 A.M. on the 21st.	
	21st		Entrained at 8.30 A.M. with approximately 24 Men to a truck . A lot of comforts were supplied by the Australian Comforts Fund and Australian Y.M.C.A. Troops were supplied with a hot meal at <del>MONS</del> MONS .	
	22nd		After a very uneventful journey the Troops detrained at Harfleur and marched to the Reception Camp , Le Havre arriving there at 11.30 A.M. Nothing more was done for the remainder of the day	
	23rd		Troops paraded at 9.30 A.M. and went through the Camp routine - inspections etc . Moved from Reception Camp to No.3 Camp at 5 P.M. having handed in all equipment and being issued with new kit bags - Weather fine and warm.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A.P.O. Form C. 2118)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Montigny-Le-Tilluel APRIL 1919		Belgium		
	24 th		All Ranks assembled in Cinema Hall for a lecture on Repatriation and Procedure en route to Australia. Troops lectured by Major Fussel M.C. Concert given by one of Miss Lena Ashwell's Parties preceded by Cinema entertainment.	
	25 th		"ANZAC DAY", celebrated by Sports Meeting during the day and several entertainments at night including a Ball, Boxing and Wrestling Tournament, and several Concerts.	
	26 th		Orders received for Quota to stand-by at 10.00 hours. Moved out at 16.20 hours and proceeded by motor buses to Havre. Embarked on the Union Castle Liner "Prince Arthur", sailing at 19.00 hours. The sea was very rough and the majority suffered in consequence.	
	27 th		Arrived at Southampton at 04.30 hrs and disembarked at 08.00 hrs. Breakfast and train ration supplied by the Army and Navy Canteen Board prior to entraining. Troops entrained without delay leaving Southampton at 09.30 hrs and arriving at Warminster about 13.00 hrs. Marched from there to Sutton Veny Camp.	
	28 th		Innoculation parade held for all ranks against Influenza. No further record can be given from this date.	

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# WAR DIARY

OF

17 th Battalion A.I.F.

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FOR

APRIL

191<sup>9</sup>

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

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