

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/32/48

Title: 15th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/32/48

ORIGINALCONFIDENTIALDUPLICATETRIPPLICATEA U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .W A R D I A R Y .

o f

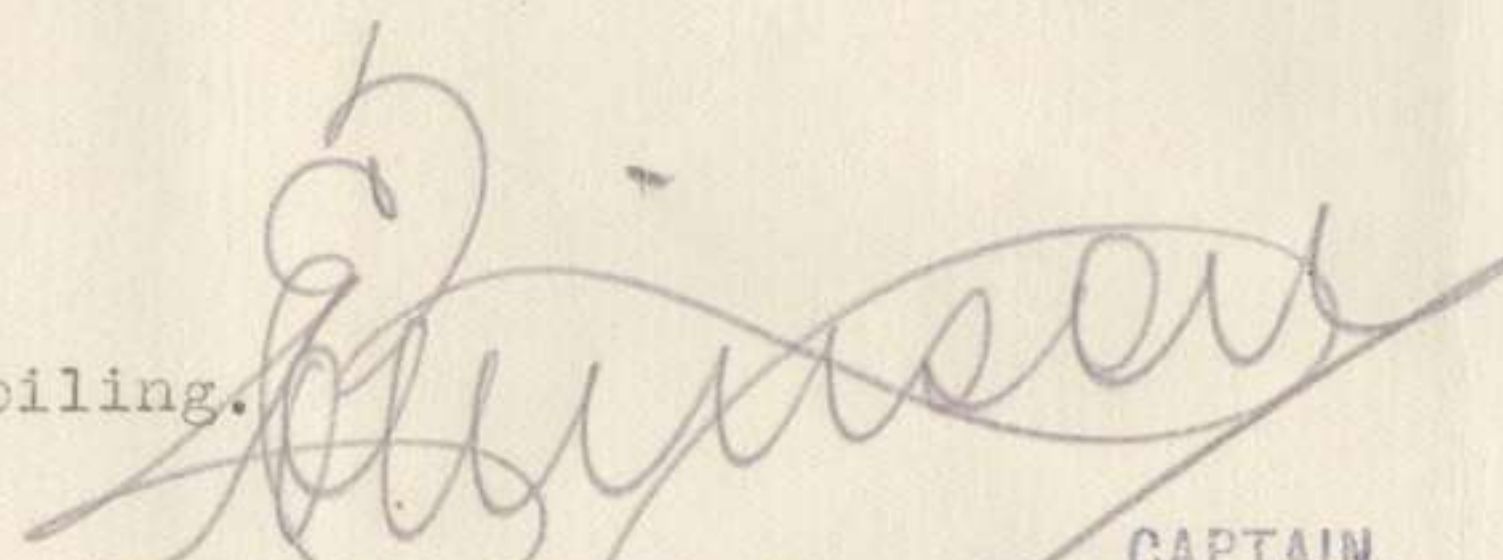

15th Battalion

f o r

March

1 9 1 9 .

Signature of Officer compiling.


CAPTAIN,
ADJUTANT, 15th BATTALION A. I. F.Signature of Officer Commanding ~~Commanding~~ 15th. Battalion. *Capt.*

Original

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

201

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PHILIPPEVILLE	1st March 1919		Strength of Battalion including detached personnel 32 Officers and 545 Other Ranks. Fine day. Everyone is anxious to know when we are likely to move. Companies are indulging in route marching each morning and thus keeping fit. We are in the happy state of having no one in the Guard Room and our guard of 1 Corporal and 3 men is the smallest ever seen in the Battalion. In walking around the companies I find that the general opinion is that the workers of the United Kingdom have chosen a most inopportune time for a strike.	
	2nd		Usual Church Parades were held. Very bad weather today, inclined to rain and is very cold. During the afternoon a series of interesting football matches was played against the civilians of PHILIPPEVILLE. The Soccer match was very amusing and the civilians performed ably against the Battalion Team. The game resulted in a draw. The civilians then played the Battalion Rugby. Perhaps no more amusing sight than this had ever been seen in PHILIPPEVILLE. The civilians knew but little about the game but entered into it with vim and dash that earned the plaudits of the crowd. The result was never in doubt. The Battalion winning handsomely. In the evening at the Cafe Liberale a very successful dance was held in aid of the aged people of PHILIPPEVILLE. The hall was packed, dancing indulged in till a late hour, the Battalion Band supplying the music. I estimate the nett proceeds will be about 280 Francs for this laudable object.	
	3rd.		Raining very heavily at times during the day with the result that no parades were held.	
	4th		Weather very dull and showery throughout day which interfered with parades again.	
	5th		Dull and cloudy. Training under company arrangements.	
	6th		Weather is still dull. Training under company arrangements.	
	7th		Orders were received in reference to the Battalion moving to a new area. Everyone is down hearted at the idea of moving from PHILIPPEVILLE after the good times they have had.	
	8th		Fine weather but cold. 130 Men examined by Medical Board of 4th. Field Ambulance. Training under company arrangements.	

Original
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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2113.

201

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PHILIPPEVILLE	9th		Dry but cold. Church of England services held in the Barracks. In the evening the Battalion held a dance at the Cafe Liberale. A number of young ladies were present and a very pleasant evening was spent. No charge for admission.	
	10th		Fairly fine day, occasional patches of sunshine. Tidying and cleaning up of billets preparatory to move the next day to ^{from} PHILIPPEVILLE. In the afternoon the Officers invited the ladies of the town to afternoon tea. The C.O. of the Battalion (Lieut. Col. C. M. Johnston D.S.O.) who is at present Acting-Brigadier, was also present and took the opportunity of thanking, in French, the ladies for their unfailing kindness and good will to us all. The general preparation for the function reflected great credit on the mess staff. In the evening, after mess the Colonel announced that His Majesty the King intended to present his colours to the Battalion. It was suggested by the Colonel that a corresponding Battalion Flag should be procured, also that an annual re-union of members of the Battalion should take place at BRISBANE. The following committee was appointed to deal with the points raised :- The C.O. (Lieut. Col. C. M. Johnston D.S.O.), Major J. F. Richardson, Capt. J. Francis (Secretary), Capt. E. M. Bradley M.C., Capt. W. Murdoch D.C.M., Lieut. H. J. Bowers, R.S.M. J.W. Armitage.	
LANEFFE	11th		Fine day on the whole, at times cloudy. The Battalion left PHILIPPEVILLE at 8.30 a.m. A large crowd of civilians assembled in the Square to wish us "bon voyage". Unfeigned regret was evinced by all at our departure and it was with heavy hearts that we, too, marched out from the town where for over three months, we enjoyed unbounded hospitality. At FRAIRE about 3 Kilos, this side of LANEFFE, a draft of 89 men, (Officers and Other ranks) left us to billet there owing to lack of accommodation at our new quarters. These men will shortly leave us to be demobilized. Laneffe, a little over 10 K. from PHILIPPEVILLE was reached about 11.15 a.m. and the men went into billets. These are not nearly so comfortable as our former billets and congestion is caused by the fact that there are other troops in the village - a Canadian Forestry party also a party of the R.A.F. The men xxx spent the afternoon settling down in their new quarters.	
	12th		Dull, threatening day. The men were occupied in the morning in cleaning up billets. The Acting-Brigadier (Lieut. Col. C. M. Johnston D.S.O.) and the Brigade Major (Major R. W. Tovell D.S.O.) visited us in the morning.	

Original
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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2113. 201

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LANEFFE	March 13th		Bright clear day. The R.A.F. Party left here this morning and their rooms are now available for us. Companies carried on under their own arrangements.	
	14th		Another bright clear day. Companies tidied up generally and carried on independently under their own arrangements.	
	15th		Dull day. In the afternoon, a very exciting and well contested Soccer Match for the Cup Championship took place. Our opponents were the 4th Coy. Aust. Field Engineers, and the match ended in a draw, one goal each. As we were leading in the Competition by $\frac{1}{2}$ a point, we are thus the winners of the Cup. Despite the threatening weather, a large number of Officers and men made their way into PHILIPPEVILLE for the week end. There they were right royally welcomed and were soon again "at home".	
	16th		Bright, clear day, cold in the afternoon. The usual Church Parades were held. The Canadian Forestry Corps left us yesterday and to day and consequently there is now available better accommodation for our troops. A large number of the men are still on leave at PHILIPPEVILLE.	
	17th		Dull day. Many of the men returned early this morning from PHILIPPEVILLE. Companies carried on under their own arrangements.	
	18th		Dull day. Bathing parades. In afternoon the usual football practice and games.	
	19th		Bright clear day with cold wind blowing. Companies carried on under their own arrangements.	
	20th		Snowing most of the day, cold, bleak wind. Companies carried on under their own arrangements. In the evening, at the Officers Mess, the opportunity was taken by the C.O. to wish "bon voyage" to Lieut. C. M. Brook D.C.M. and Lieut. G. Jamieson M.M. who are stationed at FRAIRE and who leave in the morning with the draft for ENGLAND and AUSTRALIA.	

Original
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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

201

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LANEFFE	21st		Bright clear day. A Quota of 2 Officers, (Lieut. C.M. Brook D.C.M. & Lieut. G. Jamieson M.M.) and 86 other ranks, who have been stationed at FRAIRE, passed through here this morning en route for CHARLEROI. There they will be joined by Lieut. R. V. Jackson. The draft was met outside the village by the rest of the Battalion and marched through headed by the Band. The rest of the men are now eagerly awaiting their turn for demobilization. Lieut. Col. C. M. Johnston D.S.O. who has been Acting-Brigadier, returned to his duties at the Battalion today.	
	22nd		Dull day, cold bleak wind. Bathing parades were held; the men marching to the Baths at THY-le-BAUDIN - about 4 K. away.	
	23rd		Clear sunny day. The usual Church Parades were held.	
	24th		Cold bleak day - snowing most of the time. Companies carried on under their own arrangements.	
	25th		Cold Bleak wind, otherwise fine. The C.O. (Lieut. Col. C. M. Johnston D.S.O.) left today on PARIS leave and Major J. F. Richardson on Leave to U.K. Captain E. M. Bradley ^{M.C.} is now acting as C.O. Most of the men were marched to THY-le-Baudin to the 4th. Aust. Field Ambulance, there to be boarded, so that their papers may be ready when their turn for repatriation arrives.	
	26th		Another cold, bleak day. An address on "What the Commonwealth is doing for its repatriated soldiers" was given to the men.	
	27th		Very cold bleak wind - a typical March wind. Other wise fine. As today the 15th. Battalion ceases to be administered as such, and is, in future, to be administered as a Company with 4 Platoons, opportunity was taken by the Officers to hold a final re-union. It was a rather curious coincidence that exactly 15 officers were present viz - Capt. E. M. Bradley ^{M.C.} acting C.O. - in the chair, Capt. W. Murdoch D.C.M., Chaplain Capt. M. I. O'Brien, Lieut. H. R. H. Lack M.C. (Acting Adjutant), Lieut. T. P. Chataway (Town Major), Lieut. H. J. Bowers (Q.M.), Lieut. W. P. Ryan M.M. (Transport Officer), Lieut. J. L. Drybrough, Lieut. K. H. Mackay, Lieut. E. H. Voss, Lieut. H. J. Englert, Lieut. R. C. Hamilton (Education Officer), 2/Lieut. A. E. Blackmur M.M., 2/Lieut. J. Lane and the Belgian Interpreter. Various toasts were given including "The Old Battalion", "Fallen Comrades" "Capt. Bradley", "Returned Comrades to Australia" The Adjutant (Capt. E. S. Robinson who unfortunately was absent on duty), (Lieut. H. J. Bowers) - "The Q.M." (rather a unique toast, for rarely is a Q.M. so popular as our present one!) special and touching references were made to	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original
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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LANEFFE (continued)	27th.		<p>the late Lieut. Col. T. P. McSharry C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C. and other fallen comrades. The gradual breaking of the old Battalion has been a great source of regret. This morning two more officers (Lieuts. P.R.A.G. Ohlson and T.J. Smith) left us. As our circle becomes smaller, those left behind miss the cheery faces of old friends - still we feel pleased to know that they have returned, or are returning, to sunny Australia and we look forward expectantly to our turn when we can once more renew old acquaintances on the other side and once more "fight our battles anew". Good luck to the Old Fifteenth.</p> <p>It is also especially interesting to know that we wind up as winners of the Brigade Cups for both Rugby and Association Football.</p> <p>Strength of Battalion including detached 26 Officers and 397 Other Ranks.</p>	

W. B. Masley
.....Captain.
COMMANDING 15th. BATTALION.

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A5004) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Battalion.

FOR

March 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Letter from Banque Nationale
de Belgique of Philipperville
 2. Letter from Bourgmestre
of Philipperville
 3. Bn Order No. 53.
-
-

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE BELGIQUE

Philippeville,

Bruxelles, le 5 Mars 1919

Monsieur le Colonel,

Je tiens à vous exprimer, au nom de la Banque Nationale de Belgique, toute ma reconnaissance pour le service que vous m'avez rendu en voulant bien me prêter un de vos camions automobiles, pour le transport des billets allemands de mon Agence.

Cette question de transport était particulièrement difficile pour moi. Je vous remercie donc aussi personnellement de m'avoir permis de la résoudre aussi facilement.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Colonel, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Lin Simon

Cluf

21

PROVINCE
DE
NAMUR

VILLE
DE
PHILIPPEVILLE

N°

ANNEXE

N. B. — On est prié de rap-
peler dans la réponse : la date et
le N° de la présente.

OBJET :

Je soussigné Bourgmestre de
la Ville de Philippeville
reconnais avoir reçu de M. le
Maréchal A.I.F. la somme
de deux cent cinquante francs
pour produits dans l'acte de
Charité organisée au profit
des Oeuvres de la Ville
Au nom du Bureau de
Bienfaisance de la Ville
Je remercie bien chaleureuse-
ment le Maréchal Australien
de la générosité et de la
déliée attention

Philippeville 6 Mars 1919

L. J. Jorans
Maire



War Diary

Chaplain

7.3.19

15th BATTALION ORDER No. 52.

Copy No. 3

Reference Map
NAMUR 1/100,000.

1. The 15th Battalion will move to LANEFFE by route march tomorrow.
2. Order of march ^{Band} - A/B Coy., C/D Coy., and Draft Coy.
3. Quarter Guard to comprise Rear Party.
4. ROUTE, :- PHILIPPEVILLE to LANEFFE
5. BATTALION STARTING POINT -. HOTEL-De-Ville.
6. Time to pass Starting Point - 0830.
7. ROUTINE. - REVEILLE 0600, BREAKFAST 0630.
8. Blankets must be rolled in bundles of 10, tied in three places. Officers Valises must be packed so as to occupy as little space as possible. All blankets and baggage to be at R.Q.M.S, at 0630.

Distribution.

Copy No.	1.	"A/B" Coy.
"	2.	"C/D" "
"	3.	War Dairy.
"	4.	File.

H. Chat Lieut.

A/ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

10th March 1919.