

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/41

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/35/41

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

18th BATTALION. A.I.F.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

H. W. Lint

Signature of Officer Commanding

Geo. J. Murphy

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRISCHES.	1/12/18.		Map Sheet - VALENCIENNES 12. 1/100000.	
		0900	Weather Fine.	
			Battalion strength:- 45 officers and 703 Other ranks.	
		1130	Battalion paraded and moved by route march to the vicinity of MAROILLES. The column was headed by the Battalion Band and the Australian and Regimental Flags.	
		1330	Battalion formed up in field alongside MAROILLES-LANDRECIES Road.	
		1415	Arrival of His Majesty the King. The C.O. was introduced by the Corps Commander and His Majesty then inspected the Battalion and later all officers and other ranks with two or more decorations. After the inspection Three Cheers were given by the Battalion for His Majesty as he drove off. <i>His Majesty was accompanied by the Prince of Wales & Prince Albert.</i>	
		1700	Battalion returned to billets.	
		2200	Telephone message received from Division instructing Lieut.L.C.Robson,M.C.(Adjutant) to report to A.I.F.Headquarters, LONDON for termination of appointment. Lieut.Robson is proceeding to London OXFORD for continuation of his studies. - He was N.S.W.Rhodes Scholar for 1916 and will be leaving us on 2nd.inst.	
	2/12/18			
		0900	Weather Fine.	
			At C.O's request all officers and N.C.O's met at H.Q.Mess for the purpose of bidding farewell to Lieut.Robson. The C.O. in a few well chosen words spoke on the sterling qualities of and the work of Lieut.Robson during his time with the Battalion, Mr.Robson having at all times the interests of the Battalion and its personnel at heart and pointed out to all what a very great loss he would be to us all. All Company Commanders spoke on behalf of the Coys. they commanded and R.S.M.Wright spoke on behalf of the senior N.C.O's. Lieut.Robson replied suitably and it was very evident that he was a s sorry to leave us as we were to lose him.	
		0930	Lieut.Robson left by car taking with him the good wishes from all for his future career.	
		1400	Meeting of the Soccer Committee held in "A" Company's Mess. Inter company competitions were arranged as follows :- H.Q. v "B" --- "A" v "D" --- "B" v "C". Points in the competition to count 2 for a win and one for a draw. Lieut.W.E.Sansom was elected as Brigade Selector - the Soccer sub-committee to form Battalion selectors.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut.L.C.Robson,M.C. proceeded to A.I.F.H.Q. LONDON.	
	3/12/18.			
		0900	Weather changed and wet throughout the day.	

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PRISCHE.	3/12/18.	0900	Baths have been allotted to this Battalion from 1300 to 1500. Education classes are being carried on under Company arrangements - Lieut.N.K.Bushell, Bn. Education Officer supervising.	
		2000	Bn.Routine Order No.93 issued. - Promotion of T/C.S.M. R.J.Morgan,M.M. to C.S.M. approved by G.O.C. 5th.Aust.Inf.Bde. dated 9/11/18. A meeting of the Rugby sub-committee was held in Q.M's billet at 1500. Lieut.-Colonel G.F.Murphy,C.M.G.,D.S.O. in the Chair. Inter-company competitions were arranged - the following selection committee being elected - Capt.J.B.Lane,D.S.O., Capt.A.Paine, Lieut.P.D.Jones,M.C.,D.C.M. All sporting material was placed in the charge of L/Cpl.McLeod, (H.Q.Observers Section).	
	4/12/18.	0900	Weather wet. Education classes were carried on during the day.	
		1400	Meeting of the Hockey Sub-Committee - Arrangements were made for Company competitions on the lines of the Rugby and Soccer Competitions.	
		1500	Meeting of the Education Committee.- Lieut.N.K.Bushell in the Chair. - Resolved that an 18th.Battalion Parliament be instituted and also that the representatives submit names of lecturers and subjects.	
		2000	Routine Order No.94 issued. - Meeting of the General Management Committee ordered for 1500 on 5th.inst.	
	5/12/18.	0900	Weather Dull but fine.	
		1000	Meeting of the Sports Committee, Capt.J.B.Lane,D.S.O. in the Chair. Reports of the Soccer, Rugby and Hockey Sub-Committees were received and adopted. It was resolved to recommend to the General Management Committee that an Australian Rules Sub-Committee be appointed.	
		1500	Meeting of the General Management Committee of the Regimental Institute. - Lt-Col.G.F.Murphy, C.M.G.,D.S.O. in the Chair. Present were - Major Robertson,M.C., Capt.Paine, Capt.Lane,D.S.O., Capt.Doyle, Capt.Sadler, Capt.Beddie, M.C., Lieut.Willis, Lieut.Sansom, Lieut.Belcher,M.C., Lieut.Redgrave, R.S.M.Wright,M.M., Pte.Jefferies, 2/Lt.R.Hendy (Secretary),C.Q.M.S.McMahon, (Asst.Secretary). Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Canteen Committee reported :- That the Bn.Canteen had been taken over by the Canteen Committee as and from 28/11/18. Report received.	

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PRISCHEs.	5/12/18.		<p>The Education Committee reported:- That it had been resolved to institute as soon as possible on arrival at WALCOURT a Battalion Parliament and also to provide regularly lectures, debates, etc. - Report received.</p> <p>The Sports Committee reported:- (1) That the competition draw in each Rugby, Soccer and Hockey had been completed, a win to count 2 points and a draw 1 point.</p> <p>(2) That the following days had been allotted to the various sports -</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rugby</td><td>-----</td><td>Mondays and Thursdays.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Soccer</td><td>-----</td><td>Tuesdays and Fridays.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hockey</td><td>-----</td><td>Wednesdays and Saturdays.</td></tr> </table> <p>The Committee recommended :- (1) That an Indoor Sports Sub Committee be formed and the President requested to appoint a Chairman. Report received. Carried.</p> <p>The President appointed Lieut. E.S. Bonham as Chairman. The following were nominated and appointed on Sub Committee -</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>H.Q. - Sgt. WHITLOCK.</td><td>"A" Coy. - Lieut. BOLGER.</td><td>"B" Coy. - Lieut. GREENWOOD.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>"C" Coy. - Pte. P.H. FALCONER.</td><td>"D" Coy. - Lieut. BELCHER, M.C.</td></tr> </table> <p>(2) That an Australian Rules Sub Committee be formed and the President requested to appoint a Chairman.</p> <p>It was resolved that officers commanding Companies forward to the Secretary names of representatives after which the President stated he would appoint a chairman.</p> <p>(3) That the sporting material of the Battalion be placed in the charge of one man.</p> <p>(4) That L/Cpl. McLeod (H.Q.) be appointed to the position, subject to the approval of the C.O. - The C.O. expressed his approval.</p> <p>(5) That the appointment of Lieut. Jones, M.C., D.C.M. as Brigade Rugby Selector be confirmed.</p> <p>(6) That the appointment of Lieut. Sansom as Brigade Soccer Selector be confirmed. Report adopted.</p> <p>Secretary's Reports:- The Secretary reported :-</p> <p>(1) That the C.O. had approved of the purchase from Regimental Funds of Sporting material recommended by the Sporting Committee, valued at £ 55-6-6.</p> <p>(2) That in accordance with resolution of 29/11/18 the following had been appointed on the Education Committee :- Lieut. N.K. Bushell (Chairman)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>H.Q. - Pte. E.G. HYNES,</td><td>Pte. H.W. HANSEN,</td><td>"A" Coy. Lieut. WILLIAMS,</td><td>"B" Coy. Lieut. BOTHAM,</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>"C" Coy. Sgt. WODLLEY.</td><td>"D" Coy. Cpl. NEWMAN.</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Report received.</p>	Rugby	-----	Mondays and Thursdays.	Soccer	-----	Tuesdays and Fridays.	Hockey	-----	Wednesdays and Saturdays.	H.Q. - Sgt. WHITLOCK.	"A" Coy. - Lieut. BOLGER.	"B" Coy. - Lieut. GREENWOOD.		"C" Coy. - Pte. P.H. FALCONER.	"D" Coy. - Lieut. BELCHER, M.C.	H.Q. - Pte. E.G. HYNES,	Pte. H.W. HANSEN,	"A" Coy. Lieut. WILLIAMS,	"B" Coy. Lieut. BOTHAM,		"C" Coy. Sgt. WODLLEY.	"D" Coy. Cpl. NEWMAN.		
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRISCHES.	5/12/18.	1800	Routine Order No.95 issued. Baths allotted to the Battalion from 0900 to 1100 on 6th.inst.	
	6/12/18.	0900	Weather fine. "A" "B" & H.Q.Coys. at the Baths, and received a change of underclothing.	
		1800	Education classes continued throughout the day. Routine Order No.96 issued. - Battalion will route march during the morning of the 7th.inst.	
	7/12/18.	0910	Battalion paraded in the Rue d'Avesnes and moved off at 0915. Route, N.17.d.00.10. - N.23.b. to Cross roads in O.9.a. thence road through O.8.d. to PRISCHES.	
		1145	Battalion returned to billets and inspection of feet and boots carried out.	
		1600	Routine Order No.97 issued. - Court of Enquiry into matter concerning claims received from VIGNACOURT to assemble at 1630 on 8th.inst. President: Capt.J.B.Lane, D.S.O. Members: Lieut.H.S.Williams, Lieut.E.Belcher, M.C.	
		2000	Changes in Officers: Lieut.J.R.Nield rejoined the Battalion from Seconded List. Routine Order No.98 issued. - Detailing Church Parades for Sunday 8th.inst.	
	8/12/18.	0900	Sunday - Divine Services - Weather Dull and showery. Divine Services - Roman Catholic - Mass in the Village Church at 1100. - Chaplain Clune, M.C. All Protestant Denominations - In the Church Army Recreation Room at 1000 - Chaplain King.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Capt.A.Paine proceeded to Officers Rest House PARIS PLAGE. Capt.C.G.Walklate, M.C. rejoined from the Instructional Staff at the Corps School. Capt.C.H.Kaepfel, M.C. rejoined from Seconded List and took over duties of Battn.Adjutant.	
	9/12/18.	0900	Weather Fine.	
		1200	Education classes continued throughout the day.	
		1100	Meeting of the Rugby Sub Committee - Secretary's report received and adopted. Referees:- Names of the undermentioned were submitted:- H.Q. - Pte.KNIGHT. Pte.D.M.DUDGEON. "A" Coy. - Sgt.KNIGHT. "B" Coy. - Lt.REDGRAVE, Sgt.ROWLEY. "C" Coy. Sgt.RUSSELL, Capt.LANE, D.S.O. "D" Coy. - Lieut.JONES, M.C., D.C.M.	

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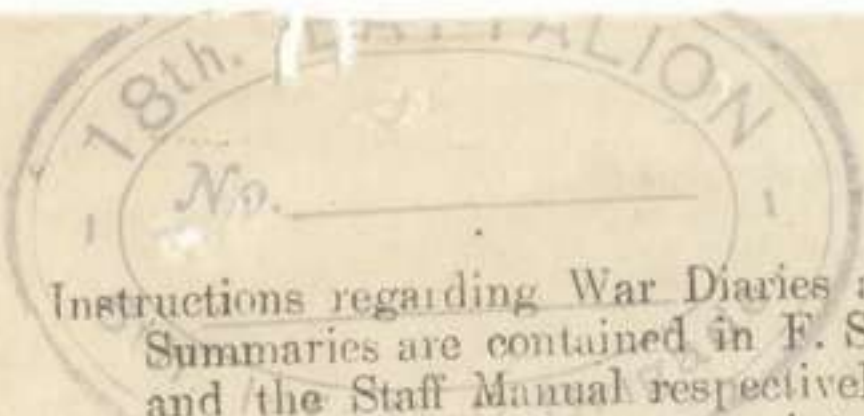
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PRISCHES.	9/12/18.	1400	Conference of Chairmen of Sports Committee and Sub-Committees. Programme of Sports arranged as follows :- <div> <div>TUESDAY, 10/12/18 - RUGBY - "A" Coy. versus "C" Coy. at 1300. Referee Sgt. Rowley.</div> <div>SOCCKER- "A" Coy. versus "B" Coy. Referee Lt. O'SULLIVAN.</div> <div>WEDNESDAY, 11/12/18 - HOCKEY- "A" Coy. versus "C" Coy. at 1300.</div> <div>H.Q. Coy. versus "D" Coy. at 1400.</div> <div>THURSDAY, 12/12/18 - RUGBY - "B" Coy. versus "D" Coy. at 1400. Referee Pte. DUDGEON.</div> <div>FRIDAY 13/12/18 - SOCCER- "C" Coy. versus "D" Coy. at 1400.</div> </div>	
		1600	Changes in Officers: The C.O. left on a tour of the industrial districts of BELGIUM in connection with the Education Scheme. Major W.R.C. Robertson, M.C. now Temp. C.O.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 99 issued:- Court of Inquiry, under A.A. Sec. 72, to assemble at 1000 on 10th. inst. to inquire into the alleged absence of two members of the Battalion. <div> <div>President: Capt. J.N. Doyle.</div> <div>Members: Lieut. R.E. Dryden, M.C., D.C.M.</div> <div>Lieut. H.S. Williams.</div> </div>	
	10/12/18.	0900	Weather dull but fine.	
		0900	Baths allotted to the Battalion until 1100. - Personnel of "A" "B" & "C" Coys. had baths and change of underclothing. Education classes continued. - The undermentioned officers are relieved from Regimental duties and are appointed Company Educational Officers :- <div> <div>"A" Coy. - Lieut. H.S. WILLIAMS. --- "B" Coy. Lieut. L.J. BOTHAM.</div> <div>"C" Coy. - Lieut. G.F. FOOTE, M.C. --- "D" Coy. 2/Lt. F.P. QUIRK.</div> <div>H.Q. - Lieut. W.C.C. SATCHELL, M.C.</div> </div>	
		1000	Meeting of Australian Rules Sub Committee - Lieut. F.P. Quirk in the Chair. Those present were - Sgt. Flower, Pte. G. McIntyre, Lieut. Hendy (secretary) The Committee resolved:- <div> <div>(1) That an Australian Rules Football Team be selected within the Battalion.</div> <div>(2) That the Sub-Committee constitute the Selection Committee.</div> <div>(3) That the Sports Committee be requested to allot a day for Australian Rules Football.</div> <div>(4) That the Sports Committee be requested to recommend to the Brigade Sports Committee the advisability of arranging a Brigade Australian Rules Competition to commence at on arrival at WALCOURT. Recommended to Sports Committee.</div> </div>	

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PRISCHES.	10/12/18.	1600	Changes in Officers: Capt. W. H. Cullen rejoined from English leave.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 100 issued:- Sentences awarded by F. G. C. M. were promulgated. Chaplain Clune M. C. will lecture to all ranks on the Repatriation and Demobilisation Scheme at 1000 on 12th. inst. The rugby match, "A" Company versus "C" Company resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. Soccer match, "A" Company versus "B" Company, resulted in a win for "A" Company by 1 Goal to nil. Referee - Sgt. Rowley. Referee - Lieut. O' Sullivan.	
	11/12/18.		Weather wet.	
		1300	Education classes continued during the day. Hockey match - "A" Company versus "C" Company resulted in a win for "C" Coy. by 2 - Nil. H. Q. Company versus "D" Company resulted in a win for "D" Coy. by 1 - Nil. Otherwise the day was uneventful.	
	12/12/18.	1000	Chaplain Clune's lecture to all ranks on Repatriation and Demobilisation. Battalion paraded at 0950 and marched to the Church where the lecture was given.	
		1400	Rugby match, "B" Company versus "D" Company resulted in a win for "D" Coy. by 3 - 1. Referee - Pte. DUDGEON.	
		1800	Education classes continued throughout the day.	
	13/12/18.	0900	Weather Wet. Education classes continued.	
		1400	Soccer match, "C" Company versus "D" Company resulted in a draw, no score either side.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 101 issued:- Circular Memo. D. A. G., A. I. F. 19/1212 of 9th. inst. published for information of all ranks. Sporting material received from Australian Y. M. C. A. acknowledged. - 1 Rugby Football. Changes in Officers: Lieut. C. J. Brossois proceeded to Div. H. Q. for duties as Town Major. Major S. A. Middleton reported from hospital and is attached to Div. H. Q.	

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PRISCHES.	14/12/18.		(Map sheet VALENCIENNES 12. Edition 2. 1/100000)	
		1000	Brigade Order No. 228 received, with reference to the move to WALCOURT.	
		1200	Weather during the morning fine and clear.	
		1600	Changes in officers: Lieut. A. E. Gartrell returned from leave in ITALY, and Lieut. E. S. Bonham returned from leave in ENGLAND. 2/Lt. R. Hendy proceeded on special leave to U.K. to buy sporting material for the Brigade. Lt.-Col. C. F. Murphy, CMG, DSO, returned from Belgium where he had been on duty in connection with the Educational Scheme.	
	15/12/18.	1000	The C.O. proceeded to Divisional Headquarters and had a conference with all Education Officers of the Division as to the arrangements made for the scheme of farming out men in BELGIUM, under the Educational Scheme. It was pointed out that owing to the dearth of raw material and pilfering of machinery by the Boche it would be difficult to place men out at the time.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut. R. H. Willis proceeded on leave to U.K.	
		2000	Weather during the day has been mild.	
	16/12/18.	1015	Lieut. F. J. Brown, M.C. proceeded to WALCOURT as advance billeting officer.	
		1415	The C.O. inspected the Battalion, prior to the march to WALCOURT.	/D/18
		1500	A meeting of the Regimental Institute was held. (Report attached)	
		1830	The C.O. called a meeting of Company Commanders to explain the lines of training, discipline, etc. in WALCOURT.	/D/18
AVESNELLES.	17/12/18.		Battalion Order No. 54 issued, in which is included March Table 'A'	
		0800	Advance party left for AVESNELLES.	
		0905	Battalion commenced the march from PRISCHES en route for AVESNELLES (first stage of the march to WALCOURT).	
		1235	Weather: Raining and very cold until 1000, thence very cloudy.	
	18/12/18		The marching was difficult owing to the heavy traffic and the narrow roads.	
		1600	Arrived at AVESNELLES - Billeting very incomplete but soon got the men settled down.	/D/18
			Appendix to Bn. Order 54, March Table 'B' issued.	
		0913	Battalion commenced the second stage of the march to WALCOURT.	
		1130	The march was very good and there was practically no traffic on the roads. While on the march the Battalion was inspected by the G.O.C. 2nd. Aust. Div. (Major General C. Rosenthal)	

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<u>CLAIRFAYT.</u>	<u>18/12/18.</u>	1130	The Battalion halted for lunch. The march was very cold and it was raining throughout.	
		1330	The march was resumed.	
		1510	Crossed over the Franco-Belgian border at a point due west of SIVRY.	
<u>SIVRY.</u>		1545	Arrived at SIVRY. The billets were all ready and the men soon settled down.	
		1900	Appendix to Battalion Order No. 54, March Table 'C' issued.	/D/18
			Received a wire from Brigade altering the nights resting place for 19/12/18 from SOLRE-ST-GERY to BARBENCON.	
	<u>19/12/18.</u>	0945	Battalion cleared the village of SIVRY on the third stage of the march to WALCOURT.	
		1020	On the road was passed a gun, reputed to be the last gun captured before the Armistice was signed, being captured by a Manchester Regiment (B.E.F.)	
<u>BARBENCON.</u>		1235	Arrived at BARBENCON. Although it was raining and very cold through the march, marching was very good.	
		1250	Settled down in billets.	
		1800	Appendix to Battalion Order No. 54, March Table 'D' issued.	/D/18
	<u>20/12/18.</u>	0917	Battalion clear of BARBENCON on the fourth and last stage of the march to WALCOURT. Weather during the march was very bad, raining, snow and sleet falling at times and very cold. The marching however was very good.	
<u>WALCOURT.</u>		1300	Arrived at destination: billets previously arranged by Lieut. F. J. Brown, M.C.	
		1315	Officers and men all settled down and making things comfortable.	
		1800	Capt. A. Paine returned from the Officers Rest House, PARIS PLAGE. All the Companies were billeted in the Chateau, and Battalion Headquarters is situated near WALCOURT Railway Station.	
			A description of the surrounding country is appended.	/D/18
	<u>21/12/18.</u>		Appended is a list of officers and Other ranks who took part in the evacuation of GALLIPOLI.	/D/18
		0900	Lt.-Col. G. F. Murphy, C.M.G., D.S.O. proceeded on leave to NICE.	
			Capt. A. Paine left the unit for A.I.F. Headquarters LONDON, prior to taking over duties as Paying Officer on board Transports going to AUSTRALIA.	
		1600	The day was spent in cleaning billets and also the village which were left in a dirty state by previous occupants.	

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WALCOURT.	22/12/18.		Sunday, Divine Services. CHURCH OF ENGLAND - Service, followed by Holy Communion at 1000 - Chaplain KING. ROMAN CATHOLIC - Mass in the Village Church at 1030 - Chaplain CLUNE, M.C. 1000 1030 0900 Weather: Fine and clear. 1600 Changes in Officers: Capt.E.J.McNabb,M.C. left to attend a Ploughing Demonstration at G.H.Q. farm at CORBIE. Lieut.C.J.Brossois was relieved of duties as Town Major WALCOURT and resumed duty with the Battalion. Lieut.D.L.O'Sullivan,M.M. took over duties as Town Major WALCOURT. Lieut.E.Belcher, M.C. proceeded to CHARLEROI to receive Australian comforts for the troops and have them despatched by train to WALCOURT.	
	23/12/18.		0950 The Battalion marched to the Concert Hall to hear a lecture on "MONTENEGRO" given by Mr.C.B.Brown. 1130 The Corps Commander (Lieut.General Sir J.J.Talbot HOBBS, K.C.B.,V.D.) visited the Bn. 1600 Changes in Officers: Lieut.W.Philpot proceeded on leave to U.K.	
	24/12/18.		0840 Battalion marched to Field F.4.40.90.(Sheet NAMUR 1/100000) where the 5th.Aust.Inf.Brigade was to be reviewed by H.R.H.The Prince of Wales at 1000. His R.Highness presented medals to the following members of this unit :- 2867. Sgt. Kates, W.H. "DCM" - 2285. Sgt. Luck, J.J. "MM" 2360. Sgt. Dixon, J.S. "MM" - 5368. Col. Milliken, G. "MM" 1887. Cpl. Wild, R.V. "MM" - 1968. Dvr. Metcalfe, A.R. "MM" 24. Pte. Turley, P. "MM" - 2920.L/Cpl.Benson, W. "MM" 3814. Pte. Colless, W. "MM" - 2033. Pte. Gow, H. "MM" 6537. Pte. Dunkinson, E. "MM" - 3966. Pte. Wise, E.A. "MM" 3844. Pte. Faddy, G.E. "MM" - 4644. Pte. Speerin, A. "MM" 1. Sgt. Chapman, J. "MSM" - 340. Sgt. Turner, B.J. "MSM" After the presentation of medals the following officers were presented to H.R.H.The Prince of Wales:- Major W.R.C.ROBERTSON, M.C. (T/C.O.) Capt. S.Beddie, M.C. - Lieut.H.Kirke, M.C. Capt. C.H.Kaoppel, M.C. - Lieut.W.C.C.Satchell, M.C. Capt. J.N.Doyle, - Lieut.S.J.Murray, M.C. Lieut.D.Bolger, - Lieut.F.Wilkins, Capt. C.G.Walklate, M.C. - Lieut.J.Maxwell, M.C.,D.C.M.	

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(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

No. 5th

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
WALCOURT.	24/12/18		<p>Officers presented to H.R.H.The Prince of Wales :-</p> <table><tr><td>Lieut.L.M.Redgrave,</td><td>-</td><td>Lieut.E.W.Satchell,</td></tr><tr><td>Capt. J.B.Lane, D.S.O.</td><td>-</td><td>Lieut.R.E.Dryden, M.C.,D.C.M.</td></tr><tr><td>Lieut.J.C.Costain,</td><td>-</td><td>Lieut.S.M.Clark, M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>Capt. G.L.Sadler,</td><td>-</td><td>Capt. W.H.Cullen,</td></tr><tr><td>Lieut.P.D.Jones, M.C.,D.C.M.</td><td>-</td><td>Lieut.F.P.Quirk.</td></tr></table>	Lieut.L.M.Redgrave,	-	Lieut.E.W.Satchell,	Capt. J.B.Lane, D.S.O.	-	Lieut.R.E.Dryden, M.C.,D.C.M.	Lieut.J.C.Costain,	-	Lieut.S.M.Clark, M.C.	Capt. G.L.Sadler,	-	Capt. W.H.Cullen,	Lieut.P.D.Jones, M.C.,D.C.M.	-	Lieut.F.P.Quirk.	
Lieut.L.M.Redgrave,	-	Lieut.E.W.Satchell,																	
Capt. J.B.Lane, D.S.O.	-	Lieut.R.E.Dryden, M.C.,D.C.M.																	
Lieut.J.C.Costain,	-	Lieut.S.M.Clark, M.C.																	
Capt. G.L.Sadler,	-	Capt. W.H.Cullen,																	
Lieut.P.D.Jones, M.C.,D.C.M.	-	Lieut.F.P.Quirk.																	
		1000	Lieut.E.Belcher, M.C. returned from CHARLEROI with Australian Comforts for all units of the 5th.Brigade Group.																
		1500	Lieut.Belcher took over duties of Town Major WALCOURT from Lieut.D.L.O'Sullivan,M.M. who resumed duty with the Battalion.																
		1200	The following wire (G.905) received from 5th.Aust.Inf.Brigade :- "His Majesty the King has awarded the VICTORIA CROSS to Lieut.J.Maxwell,M.C.,D.C.M., "18th.Bn.,A.I.F. AAA Please convey Army, Corps, Div. and Brigade Commanders' "congratulations AAA Ends."	/D/18															
	25/12/18		CHRISTMAS DAY.																
		0900	Church of England Service in the Concert Hall WALCOURT, followed by Holy Communion, Service. Chaplain KING officiating.																
		0930	Roman Catholic - Mass in the Village Church WALCOURT - Chaplain Clune,M.C. officiating.																
		1300	Christmas Dinner was a great success. Extra supplies had been obtained locally, and, together with the Christmas issue of plum pudding and Comforts received from Australia everybody enjoyed the Christmas dinner. From the remarks of the men, it was the best Christmas they had spent since leaving AUSTRALIA.																
		1600	The following Christmas greetings were received from G.O.C.,A.I.F. (General BIRDWOOD) :- "I send most hearty greetings and good wishes for Christmas to every member of the "A.I.F., for all can indeed look back with satisfaction to the magnificent work "that has been accomplished. I trust that all may still have happier Christmas and "prosperity for many a long year to come when they reach their homes."																

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(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALCOURT.	25/12/18.	1800	Opening of Battalion Officers Mess, combined with Dinner to Lieut. J. MAXWELL, V.C., M.C., D.C.M.	
	26/12/18.	0900	Weather Fine. Battalion on parade for roll-call, after which the men all proceeded to classes under the Education Scheme.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut. S. J. Murray, M.C. proceeded on leave to U.K.	
	27/12/18.	0900	Weather Fine and clear. Coys. had a roll-call and then the men proceeded to the classes under the Education Scheme. Otherwise the day was uneventful.	
		1800	Battalion Routine Order 107 issued. - The following amounts have been donated by this unit towards the erection of a memorial of the 2nd Aust. Division at MONT ST. QUENTIN. <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> "A" Company --- 255'00 Francs. "B" Company --- 242'00 " "C" Company --- 245'50 " "D" Company --- 231'00 " H.Q. (incl. --- 476'50 " Q.M. Store & Transport. --- 1450'00 Francs. -TOTAL. </div>	
	28/12/18.	0900	Weather fine Wet. Battalion roll-call. - Men proceeded to various classes to continue educational work.	
		1400	Hockey matches postponed on account of the weather.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut. L. J. Botham proceeded on leave to PARIS. There was nothing further of event happened to-day.	
	29/12/18	0900	Weather Sultry. Men proceeded to their various educational classes after the morning roll-call.	
		1400	Rugby match, H.Q. versus "A" Company resulted in a win for H.Q. by 6 to Nil.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Chaplain Major Clune, M.C. and Capt. C. G. Templeman (R.M.O.) both proceeded on leave to U.K.	
	30/12/18.	0900	Weather Sultry. Usual morning roll-call, after which the men proceeded to their classes. Otherwise the day was uneventful.	

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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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALCOURT.	31/12/18.			
		0900	Weather sultry, but became fine during the morning.	
			Education Education classes continued during the morning.	
		1200	Capt. C.E.W. BEAN (Australian Official War Correspondent) called at Battalion H.Q. to complete the history of the Battalion up to the time the Armistice was signed.	
		1400	A Soccer match was played between "B" Company and "C" Company was played, resulting in a win for "B" Company by 2 to Nil.	
		1800	Routine Order No. 108 issued.	
			<u>The strength of the Battalion as at 31/12/18 was - 49 Officers 715 Other ranks.</u>	

WAR DIARY

OF

18th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918



LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1/D/18.	Report of 18th.Bn.Regimental Institute.
2/D/18.	March Table 'A'
3/D/18.	March Table 'B'
4/D/18.	March Table 'C'
5/D/18.	March Table 'D'
6/D/18.	Description of Country.
7/D/18.	Lieut.Maxwell's recommendation.
8/D/18.	Bn.personnel with Unit who took part in evacuation of GALLIPOLI.
9/D/18.	Educational Report.
10/D/18.	Transport Officer's Report.
11/D/18.	Lieut.L.M.Redgrave's Report.
12/D/18.	Sports Report.
13/D/18.	Quartermaster's Report.

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18th Battalion.



Report of Regimental Institute.

A meeting of the General Management Committee was held in Battalion Head Quarters, Prisches, at 2.15 pm, on Monday 16/12/18.

Present.

Lt Col G. F. Murphy c.m.g., d.s.o. (in the chair)
 Major Robertson m.c., Capt Kaepfel m.c., Capt Beddis m.c.,
 Capt Macklats, Capt Sadler, Capt Doyle, Capt Lang d.s.o.,
 Lt Quirk, Lt Belcher m.c., Lt Bonham, Lt Costain, Lt Fooks m.c.,
 Lt Milken, Lt Bushell, Lt O'Sullivan, Lt Ansoms, Lt Redgrave,
 W. S. Mc Knight m.m., Lt Luck m.m., m.m., The Secretary, The Treasurer
 and of Secretary

Minutes.

The Minutes of meeting of 5/12/18 were read by Secy.
 Moved Capt Lang. Seconded Lt Belcher.
 That minutes as read be confirmed. Carried

Education Ctee (meeting 15/12/18)

Moved Lt Bushell. Seconded Capt Lang.
 That report of Education Ctee be received and adopted.
The Ctee reported

① Recommendation to G. M. Ctee that Lt Fooks be
 appointed to Education Ctee as C. Co representative. Lt Woolley

having left the Battalion.

(2) That Lt Bushell, would deliver first lecture on arrival at Halcourt, the subject being 'Venereal Disease'.

(3) That names of Lecturers were submitted.

(4) Wednesday night, each week, to be by Parliament night.

Those submitted by Lt Hendy was read and it was resolved to adopt same.

(5) Saturday and Sunday nights were to be left open by Ctee.

Carried

Australian Rules Football (meeting 10/12/18)

Moved Lt Quirk. Seconded Lt Redgrave.

That report of Australian Rules Sub. Ctee be received and adopted.

Ctee reported

(1) That Team be selected within Co.

(2) That Sub-Ctee constitute selection Ctee.

(3) That Sports Ctee be requested to allot a day for Aust. Rules.

(4) That Sports Ctee be requested to recommend to St. Bde Sports

Ctee advisability of arranging Code Aust. Rules Football Competition

Indoor Sports (meeting 16/12/18)

Carried

Moved Lt Bonham Seconded R.S. Mc. Knight.

That report of Indoor Sports Sub-Ctee be received and adopted.

Ctee recommends.

(1) That piano be hired on arrival at Halcourt subject to approval of C.O.

(3)

Etes reports that.

(1) Resolution was passed to organise card tournaments, gymnastics etc.

(2) Person be appointed at later date to take charge of Indoor Sporting Material.

(3) Etes will cater for reading matter.

(4) Meeting at later date will draw up programmes of amusement.

Carried.Rugby Football (meeting 9/12/1918)

Moved Capt Beddis Seconded Lt Belcher.
That report of Rugby Sub-Etes be received and adopted.

Etes report

(1) That rules adopted by 5th Bde Sports Etes were read and received.

(2) That names of referees were submitted.

(3) That matches were arranged during week ending 13/12/18 on account of protracted stay in Prisons.

Matches 'A' Co. v. 'E' Co. — scoreless draw. played on 10/12/18.

'H.Q.' v 'D' Co. — H.Q. 3 points - D nil — do — 15/12/18.

Soccer Football

afsey reports that matches were arranged and played as follows:

'A' v 'B' (1-nil resp.)

'D' v 'C' (4-nil resp.)

'Possibles' defeated 'Probables' by 3-1

Hockey Football

as per reported that matches were arranged as follows:

'A' v 'C'. (3-nil resp) 'Probables' v 'Possibles'. (1-nil resp)

Secretary's Report.

In accordance with resolution of 5/12/18 the following is the personnel of the Australian Rules Football Sub-Comtee.

St Quirk (a) (in the chair)

Sgt Flower (c) St Mc Intyre (sec) St Hart (B)

Report received.

A. 3pm meeting terminated

Stewartson

Secretary

C. G. MacL.

Regimental Institute

18 Bn. A.I.F.

France,

Belgium

23/12/18.



SECRET.

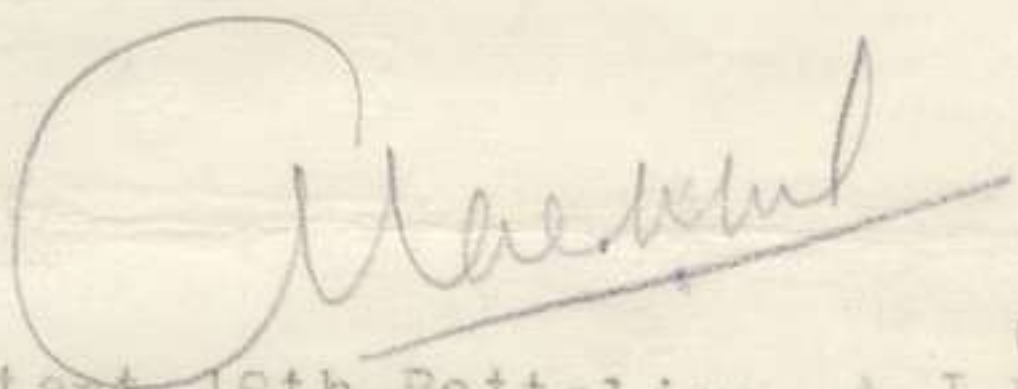
EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 54.

(Copy No. 9)

Battalion Headquarters,
16th. December 1918.

Reference Map: VALENCIENNES 12)
NAMUR 8) 1/100000

1. The 18th. Battalion will march from the present area to the WALCOURT AREA between 17th. & 20th. inst. as per tables 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' attached.
2. Billeting parties as already detailed.
3. Dress - Marching Order, steel helmets and box respirators will be carried.
4. March discipline - Attention is directed to instructions in 2nd. Aust. Div. G. 3/1/1038.
5. All officers kit, mess gear and all blankets will be stacked at Company H.Q. at 0700, ~~at 0700~~. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten.
6. Stragglers party of 1 officer & 200 R. will be detailed on 19th. inst. by "A" Company - to move behind 1/3 S.A.A. Section and on 20th. inst. by "D" Company, to move behind 18th. Battalion.
7. Watches will be synchronised by Bn. Sig. Officer at 0830 each day.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE


Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F. Capt.

Issued at 1830 by runner.

Distribution.

No. 1. File.

2. "A" Company.
3. "B" Company.
4. "C" Company.
5. "D" Company.

No. 6. Sig. Officer.

7. Q.M.
8. T.O.
- 9/11. War Diary.
12. Spare.

MARCH TABLE 'A'

Date.	Coy.	S.P.	Pass S.P.	Route.	Remarks.
	H.Q.	5.J.45.05.	0905	CARTIGNIES	18th. Bn. is
	"A"	Junction of road	0907	GODEN - South-	marching 600
17th.	"B"	from GRAND FAYT	0909	ern portion of	in rear of
Sec.	"C"	with FRISCHES-	0911	AVESNES to	2nd. A.M.G. Bn.
1918.	"D"	CARTIGNIES Road	0913	AVESNELIES.	
	Guard.	due North of R	0915		
	1st. Sec.	in FRISCHES.			



EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
17th. December 1918.

APPENDIX TO EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 54.

MARCH TABLE 'B'

Date	Coy.	Bn.S.P.	Pass S.P.	Route	Remarks.
	Band	Railway	0905	FELLERIES	The Bn. will halt for
	"A"	Crossing	0907	CLAIRFAYT	lunch from 1130-1300.
18th.	"B"	due N. of	0909	SIVRY.	Bn.H.Q. Details will
Dec.	"C"	A in	0911		march with the Coy.
1918.	"D"	AVESNELLES.	0913		with which they are
	Tpt. Sec.				lunching.

N.B. During approach to the Brigade starting Point at crossing of Rue de Bauvet with Flaumont-Felleries Road, N. of A in Flaumont (between 0905 and 0937) the 17th. Bn. will have precedence of movement.

Copy to 5th A.I. Bde }
" " 17th. Bn. } for information.

Chaswell
Capt.
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.



EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
18th. December 1918.

APPENDIX TO EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 54.

MARCH TABLE 'C'

Date.	Coy.	Bn.S.P.	Pass S.P.	Route.	Remarks.
	Band	Bn.H.Q.	0937	Through BOIS de MARTIN-	H.Q. Details
	"C"		0937	SART to main road near:	will march
19th.	"B"		0939	SIVRY Station, along	with same
Dec.	"D"		0941.	main road through	Coys. as
1918.	"A"		0943.	LORROIR to SOLRE-St.-	on 18th.
	Tpt. Sec.		0945.	GERY To BARBENCON	Dec.

N.B. "A" Company will detail a stragglers party of one officer and Twenty Other Ranks. This party will fall out after passing Brigade S.P. (500 yards E. along SIVRY-SIVRY Station road from the point where this road is met by road from GRAND RIEN) and follow behind 1/3 S.A.A. Section.

Copy to
5th A.I. Bde. (for information).

Chaswell
Capt.
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

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 EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

 Battalion Headquarters,
 19th. December 1918.

 APPENDIX TO EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 54.

MARCH TABLE 'D'

Date :	Coy. :	Bn. S.P. :	Pass S.P. :	Route :	Remarks. :
	Band. :	Meeting point of :		Main road :	H.Q. Details :
	"B" :	three roads north- :	0909 :	through :	will march :
20th :	"D" :	east of N in :	0911 :	BOUSSU to :	with same :
Dec. :	"A" :	BARBENCON and due :	0913 :	SILVREUX :	Coy's. as :
1918 :	"C" :	South of 37. :	0915 :	thence to :	on 19th. :
	Tpt Sec. :		0917 :	WALCOURT. :	Dec. :

"D" Company will detail a stragglers party of one officer and twenty other ranks. This party will fall out after passing Brigade S.P. (i.e. where the road passing through 36 meets the main road) and follow behind Brigade Headquarters.

Macmill

Copy to
 5th. A.I. Bde. (For information)

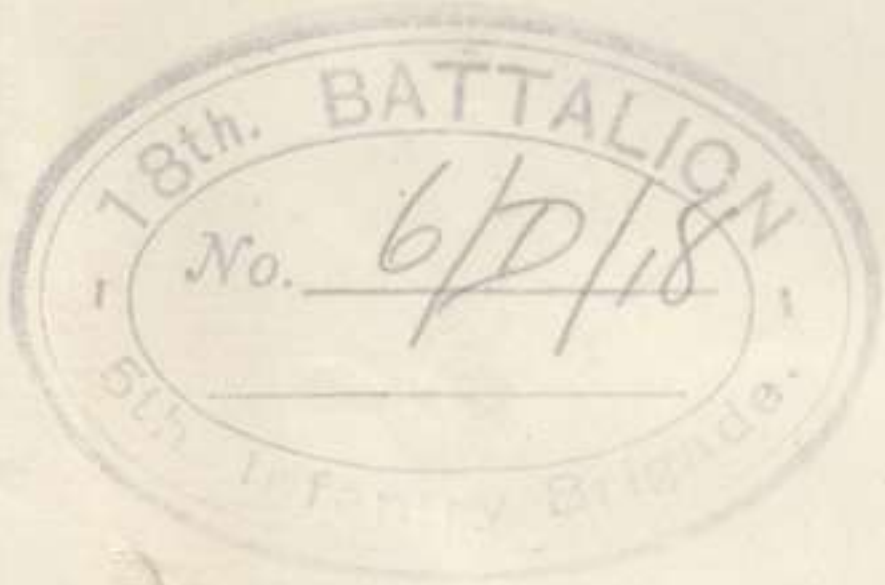
Capt.
 Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY ON MARCH ROUTE FROM PRISCHES TO WALCOURT.

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The thoroughness with which the retreating Hun had wrecked the Railway line and blown up bridges, culverts and dumps impressed one throughout the march. No one who saw the exploded dump and munition train at AVESNELLES Siding is ever likely to forget it. But apart from these, the evidences of war were few; the land was undevastated, a shell hole a rarity, while the few gutted houses in each village, burnt it was learned by the Hun in his '14 advance, might have been the result of a mere civilian fire.

The country itself was of the most picturesque: a very large proportion is pasture land and so, despite the season did not present the usual barren appearance, undulating, dotted with farms and crossed with hedges and tree lined roads its aspect made amends for the inclement weather.



C.H. KAEPPPEL, Capt.
 18th. Bn., A.I.F.

5th. AUST. INFANTRY Brigade. 2nd. AUSTRALIAN Division. AUSTRALIAN Corps. 10th. October 1918. Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	18th. Battalion, A.I.F.		Lieutenant Joseph MAXWELL, M.C., D.C.M.	<p>On 3rd. October 1918 he took part as a Platoon Commander in an attack on the BEAUREVOIR-FONSOMME Line, near ESTREES, North of ST. QUENTIN.</p> <p>His Company Commander was severely wounded soon after the jump off and Lieut. MAXWELL at once took charge of the Company.</p> <p>When the enemy wire was reached, they were met by a hail of machine gun fire and suffered considerable casualties including all other officers of the company. The wire at this point was six belts thick, each belt being 25 to 30 feet wide. Lieut. MAXWELL pushed forward single handed through the wire and attacked the most dangerous machine gun. He personally killed three of the crew and the remaining four men in the post surrendered to him with a machine gun. His company followed him through the wire and captured the trenches forming their objective.</p> <p>Later, it was noticed that the Company on his left was held up in the wire by a very strong force on the left flank of the Battalion. He at once organised a party and moved to the left to endeavour to attack the enemy from the rear. Heavy machine gun fire met them. Lieut. MAXWELL again dashed forward single handed at the foremost machine gun, and with his revolver shot five of its crew, so silencing the gun. Owing to the work of this party, the left Company was then able to work a small force through the wire and eventually to occupy the objective and mop up the trenches.</p> <p>In the fighting prior to the mopping up,</p>		VICTORIA CROSS.	



5th.AUST.INFANTRY Brigade. 2nd.AUSTRALIAN Division. AUSTRALIAN Corps. 10th.October 1918 Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	18th. Battalion, A.I.F.		Lieutenant Joseph MAXWELL, M.C., D.C.M.	<p>an English speaking prisoner who was captured stated that the remainder of the enemy were willing to surrender. Lieut. MAXWELL and two men with this prisoner, walked to a post, containing more than twenty Germans. The latter at once seized them and disarmed them. Lieut. MAXWELL waited his chance and then with an automatic pistol which he had concealed in his box respirator, shot two of the enemy and with the two men escaped. They were pursued by rifle fire, and one man wounded. However, Lieut. MAXWELL organised a party at once, attacked and captured the post.</p> <p>Throughout the day, this young officer set a most remarkable example of personal bravery, tempered with excellent judgment and aggressive decision. There is no doubt that, had it not been for his personal dash, the operation could not have succeeded as quickly as it did. He handled a most involved situation with very fine leadership.</p> <p>(Awarded M.C. -26/3/18)-A.I.F.List 332 of 17/5/18. (Awarded D.C.M. 20/9/17) A.I.F.List 302 of 26/2/18. Recommended for Bar to M.C. for operations on 9/8/18.</p> <p>Not included in New Years Honours Recommendations.</p> <p>(Signed) J.C.ROBERTSON, Brigadier-General, Commanding Second Australian Division.</p>		VICTORIA CROSS.	
	Date recommendation passed and forwarded. 5th.A.I.Bde. Division.	Recd. - 16/10/18.	Passed. 15/10/18. /10/18.				

8/12/18 EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION. 8/12/18

Officers and Other ranks who were at the evacuation of GALLIPOLI PENINSULA on night of 19th/20th. December 1915 and now present with the Unit.

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Lt-Col. G.F. Murphy, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Chaplain Clune, M.C.
Capt. C.G. Walklate, M.C.
Capt. S. Beddie, M.C.
Capt. W.H. Cullen,
Lieut. W.S. Moors, M.C.
Lieut. W.C.C. Satchell, M.C.
Lieut. S.J. Murray, M.C.
Lieut. R.E. Dryden, M.C., D.C.M.
Lieut. E. Belcher, M.C.
Lieut. P. Wood,

Capt. J.N. Doyle.
Capt. J.B. Lane, D.S.O.
Capt. G.L. Sadler,
Lieut. R.H. Willis,
Lieut. E.W. Satchell,
Lieut. C.E. Etheridge,
Lieut. W.E. Sansom,
Lieut. S.M. Clark, M.C.
Lieut. W. Philpot,
2/Lt. F.P. Quirk.

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1980. CSM. Mackenzie, R. "DCM"
1928. Pte. Fitzgerald, E.
134. Pte. Bellwood, G.
537. Sgt. Gemmill, W.
1995. Pte. Ryan, J.F.
2066. Pte. Shaw, R.
282. CSM. Morgan, R.J. "MM"
570. L/Cpl. Honey, R.J.
684. Pte. Tideswell, R.J.
1007. Cpl. Wheeler, P.J.
338. Pte. Thompson, W.R.
566. L/Cpl. Hastwell, L.
1114. Pte. Vovil, V.W.
1084. Pte. Gove, D.
919. Pte. Locke, P.H.
847. Pte. Elwell, T.
1762. L/Cpl. Sams, W.
645. CSM. Stickley, L.A. "MM"
1892. Sgt. Bull, T.A.G.
1900. Sgt. Cameron, E.L.
1905. Pte. Davis, W.
2001. Pte. Simonetti, A.P.
~~1935. Pte. Hambly, T.~~
1935. Pte. Hambly, T.
1940. Cpl. Hardman, W.
1053. Pte. Wilkie, W.B.
1966. Pte. Martin, W.H.
1903. Dvr. Boyce, W.
2039. Dvr. Comerford, L.W.
550. Dvr. Grose, L.A.
1966. Dvr. Mackay, T.
617. Dvr. Ogden, T.
1395. RQMS. Clunne, G.J.
988. Pte. Stewart, W.
1882. Sgt. Bell, G.R.
28. Sgt. Tevelein, S.R.
1891. Cpl. Bigland, H.
1966. Pte. Miles, A.E.
1947. Pte. Jones, C.H.G.
339. Pte. Wilson, W.
882. Pte. Egginton, A.E.
2033. Pte. Gow, H.

1687. Sgt. Foster, J.F.
2015. Pte. Smith, R.
1953. Sgt. Jones, F.W. "DCM" "MM"
515. Pte. Daly, T.
1893. Pte. Brown, C.
1945. L/Sgt. Horneman, H.J.
340. Sgt. Turner, E.J.
509. Pte. Clarke, W.C.
822. Pte. Church, A.E.
758. Pte. Lonsdale, L.M. "DCM"
728. Pte. Davis, P.F.
625. Pte. Purcell, W.
876. Pte. Hale, F.
1257. L/Cpl. Robertson, T.J.
692. Pte. Walker, C.H.
1072. CQMS. Elliott, G.
768. Sgt. Evans, C.
371. CQMS. Pickup, F.C.
708. Sgt. Edwards, J.J. "MM"
1346. Pte. Cox, W.S.
77. Pte. Hollis, W.
960. CSM. Paton, R. "MM"
1969. Sgt. Mewkill, J.
2053. L/Sgt. Roberts, R.
1993. Cpl. Ross, A.
1937. Sgt. Harris, M.H.
1976. Pte. O'Connor, J.J.
1670. Dvr. Clarke, N.
222. Dvr. Feeney, J.P.
237. Pte. Hower, J.
1968. Dvr. Metcalf, A.R. "MM"
628. Dvr. Pedlow, J.E.
1148. Pte. Clarke, J.R.
61. Sgt. Cleary, E.M.
402. Pte. Threlkeld, G.
2007. L/Cpl. Spaul, C.E.
71. Sgt. Harris, C. "2MM"
478. Pte. Arnold, W.E.
1240. Pte. Ratliff, H.E.H.
45. Pte. Yeo, W.
1292. Pte. Rowson, F.J.
2034. Pte. Colles, C.C.

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL WORK FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

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Education classes, under the A.I.F. Educational Scheme, were commenced in this unit whilst at PRISCHES but owing to unsuitable accommodation little was accomplished. Subjects of general education such as Reading, Writing, Spelling and Arithmetic were carried on by companies whilst for a number of evenings a miniature debating society afforded entertainment to a proportionate number of men.

The village of WALCOURT, near CHARLEROI (BELGIUM) to which the Battalion is moving shortly and of which village we have heard so many encouraging statements, promises to afford adequate ~~opportunities~~ opportunities for ideal education classes and lectures and so plans have been made for the carrying out of the scheme when the Battalion arrived there.

AT WALCOURT. Quite a big village and pleasantly situated and will come up to the promised expectations. The Boche however have removed a vast quantity of seating accommodation and this will need to be replaced before classes can properly begin. After a week however a truck load of timber which the Huns failed to remove has been converted by the Bn. Pioneers into forms and tables and quite a number of big classes are established. For example ~~an~~ a Bookkeeping class with a membership of 55 was instituted at the Technical School WALCOURT and this will increase by the next lesson. Eight other well attended classes are in operation.

The Battalion Parliament, which owes its origin to the Bn. Education Scheme enterprise also promises to be a real success.



N.K.BUSHELL, Lieut.
Education Officer, 18th. Bn. A.I.F.

TRANSPORT SECTION DIARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

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The early part of December, as far as the personnel of the Transport Section is concerned was one of the most disastrous periods of the war. No less than 25% of the section, mostly drivers of long experience - having been evacuated, suffering from the then very prevalent disease 'Spanish Influenza'. Of the men evacuated, 1323.Dvr.W.C.FELLEW - who was one of the 'oldest' drivers and one of the most respected and popular lads in the Battalion - died. He was buried in the British Military Cemetery LE CATEAU. A regimental cross was made and placed over his grave by comrades of his old section.

From the beginning until the middle of December we were billeted at PRISCHES. During our stay there, there was much difficulty in getting rations and fodder up to the Battalion - owing to our lines of communication the railway having been disorganised by the destructive work of 'delayed action' Hun mines. However Motor Transport was substituted and with the untiring energies of our 15th.Coy.A.A.S.C. the difficulties were overcome.

The men were billeted in comparative comfort considering the desolation and the destitution of the inhabitants of the village, which had been occupied by the Huns since September 1914.

The animals - horses and mules - benefited greatly by having splendid stables which had previously been occupied by horses and cows - these having been commandeered by the Huns.

The work at PRISCHES consisted chiefly of drawing rations from the Refilling Point, trips to Ordnance, and Canteen, also a daily job for the benefit of the civil population - that of drawing coal from a dump which the Huns had established eleven kilometres from PRISCHES. The coal was greatly appreciated by the destitute civilians as the cold weather was just about due.

As frosts were anticipated it was necessary to shoe the animals with the special shoe which allows of the screwing in of cogs to prevent the animals slipping.

Just prior to our departure from PRISCHES Major General ROSENTHAL our Divisional Commander, held an inspection of vehicles - one or two from each section of Transport in the Division. This inspection was for the purpose of ensuring uniformity throughout the Division. Re-adjustment in the fitting of harness and the wearing of some parts of the harness, which in some cases was considered as lumber was ordered. Also the polishing of all moving parts of the limber and harness as well as chains, together with the polishing of practically all the metal work on the vehicles. This gives the outfit a very smart appearance and may be alright in Peace time but under the present service conditions the polishing entails much work which is very much against the grain of those who do it and have to see it is done. Winter, with its mud, cold and rain does not improve matters particularly when the necessary oil etc. is at a premium.

After leaving PRISCHES we marched to AVESNELLES - a distance of about 15 kilos (roughly 10 miles) There we staged for the night. In about the most convenient place one could choose, men, horses, harness, vehicles all being under cover and water handy.

The following day (18/12/18) we continued our march towards COLOGNE - GERMANY) staging the night at a small village called SIVRY. From there we marched about eight miles to BARBENCON crossing the FRANCO-BELGIAN border and passing by the house where (according to rumour) the German plenipotentiaries signed the terms of the Armistice. Close by here was a German gun said to have been captured by the Manchester Regiment at the 'Eleventh' hour of the war.

After staging the night at BARBENCON we continued and completed another series of marches on arriving at WALCOURT.

From the time we left PRISCHES nothing eventful happened and the marches were very normal.

/ Here in

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(2)

Here in WALCOURT, men, animals and harness are under cover, men and animals being particularly comfortable.

The men's food is equal to that which they were getting when the battalion was first line troops. The animals fodder stands at about the same ration has hitherto..

During the march from PRISCHES we had the assistance of six men from our Divisional S.A.A. Section along with their 12 mules and three vehicles. These were of great assistance as Christmas Comforts and the number of ~~animals~~ officers above establishment whose valises had to be carried was more than a First Line Transport could cope with.

(Signed) H.W.KIRKE, Lieut.
Transport Officer, 18th.Bn., A.I.F

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REPORT OF MEETING OF 5th.BRIGADE SPORTS OFFICERS
HELD AT 5th.A.I.BRIGADE H.Q. at 11a.m. 28/12/18.
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I attended this meeting.

The draw in each of RUGBY, SOCCER, AUSTRALIAN RULES, Football and HOCKEY for the inter-Battalion competition was made as follows :-

H O C K E Y

		<u>Ground.</u>
5/1/19	20th.Bn. v 18th.Bn.	20th.Bn.
12/1/19	17th.Bn. v 20th.Bn.	17th.Bn.
19/1/19	18th.Bn. v 17th.Bn.	18th.Bn.

Each team to supply referee. Games to commence at 2 p.m.
Guide for visiting team to be at B.H.Q.

R U G B Y.

		<u>Ground.</u>
1/1/19	18th.Bn. v A.A.S.C. 17th.Bn. v A.A.M.C. 2nd.M.G.Bn. v 20th.Bn.	18th.Bn. 17th.Bn. 2nd.M.G.Bn.
8/1/19	18th.Bn. v A.A.M.C. A.A.S.C. v 2nd.M.G.Bn. 17th.Bn. v 20th.Bn.	A.A.M.C. A.A.S.C. 20th.Bn.
15/1/19	18th.Bn. v 2nd.M.G.Bn. 17th.Bn. v A.A.S.C. A.A.M.C. v 20th.Bn.	18th.Bn. 17th.Bn. A.A.M.C.
22/1/19	18th.Bn. v 17th.Bn. 2nd.M.G.Bn. v A.A.M.C. 20th.Bn. v A.A.S.C.	17th.Bn. 2nd.M.G.Bn. 20th.Bn.
29/1/19	2nd.MGBn. v 17th.Bn. 18th.Bn. v 20th.Bn. A.A.M.C. v A.A.S.C.	2nd.M.G.Bn. 18th.Bn. A.A.S.C.

Home team supplies umpire and guide at B.H.Q. for visiting team.
Grounds reversed for second round.
Game starts 2 p.m.

S O C C E R.

Played 2 p.m. each Friday. Same conditions as Rugby.
The draw is the same as Rugby except that the team playing A.A.S.C. gets a bye. A.A.S.C. have not a soccer team.

The dates are as follows :-
3rd., 10th., 17th., 24th., & 31st. January 1919.

A U S T R A L I A N R U L E S

Each Saturday at 2 p.m. Same conditions as Rugby.
League Rules.

		<u>Ground.</u>
4/1/19.	A.A.M.C. v 2nd.M.G.Bn. 18th.Bn. v 2nd.D.A.C.	2nd.M.G.Bn. 2nd.D.A.C.
11/1/19.	A.A.M.C. v 2nd.D.A.C. 18th.Bn. v 2nd.M.G.Bn.	A.A.M.C. 18th.Bn.
18/1/19.	2nd.M.G.Bn. v 2nd.D.A.C. 18th.Bn. v A.A.M.C.	2nd.M.G.Bn. A.A.M.C.

Grounds reversed for second match.

OTHER BUSINESS

SOCCER. It was announced that Unit Soccer teams would compete for the Army Championship.

In view of the coming big sporting events, Units were requested to keep a complete record of all sportsmen in their Unit, in order to facilitate selection.

Only men who had seen service in France are to take part in the PARIS sports in the Spring.

The Rugby team will arrive in PARIS 17/1/19 and play on 19/1/19.

It was suggested that wrestling, one round boxing and Tug-o-war competitions receive consideration.

The idea put forward for the tug-o-war is, that Units select Platoon or Company teams in 3 weights as follows :-

Under 10 stone.

10 stone and under 12 stone.

12 stone and over.

As it is impossible for the 5th.A.L.T.M.Bty. to raise a team of any kind, men of the T.M.Bty. are to play with the Coys. of their respective units and may play with such units in Battn. competition.

Units playing Australian Rules are to arrange for grounds as soon as possible.

(Sgd) L. RED GRAVE, Lieut.
18th. Bn,

RESULTS

SPORT for week ending 28/12/18.
COMPANY COMPETITIONS.



RUGBY

				POINTS				
DATE	TEAMS	REFEREES	RESULT: WINNER	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	H.Q.
23/12/18	"A" v "D"	Pte. DUDGEON.	Forfeit.	"D" Coy:	:	:	2	:
26/12/18	"B" v "C"	-do-	Nil.- 3.	"C" Coy:	:	2	:	:

SOCCER

24/12/18	H.Q. v "B"	Pte. FALL.	1 - 3	"B" Coy.	:	2	:	:
27/12/18	"A" v "D"	" NEWCOMB.	1 - 1	DRAW	:	1	:	1

HOCKEY.

25/12/18	"B" v "C"	Pte. ONIONS.	1 - 1	DRAW.	:	1	:	1
		" MARS HALL.	:	:	:	:	:	:
26/12/18	HQ v "A"	Lt. RED GRAVE.	Nil - 1	"A" Coy.	:	2	:	:
		Cpl. GROOMS.	:	:	:	:	:	:
28/12/18	Matches postponed on account of weather.							

BELGIUM
28/12/18.

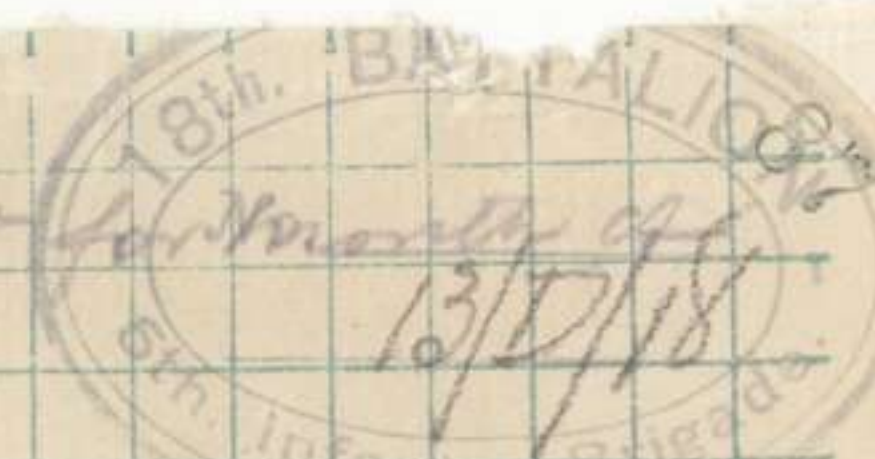
(Sgd) F.W.McMAHON, C.Q.M.S
A/Secretary.
Regimental Institute

The cooks did excellent ~~work~~ and the meals were both in regards quantity & quality well served up. Ordnance. During the month a great shortage in Boots, Gundry &c has caused the Boots to reach a bad state of repair. The difficulty still exists. A few items from the Mobilization Stores were recalled Refilling Points from 1st to 17th at CARTIGNY from 20th to 31st Dec at WALCOURT

31. 12. 1918.

Sheddie Capt
D.M.

18th Bn
Quartermaster Report for Month of
December 1918



Rations. During period from 1st to 17th December the Boonies at PRISCHEES in billets all Coys made their Kitchens with them. The drawing of Rations from A.S.C. were very irregular owing to late arrival of fornic. The issue on different occasions was light and a shortage of vegetables, nearly always material, has been experienced throughout the month. Rations were drawn at HIESNELLES & SIVRY during march to WALCOURT, the third days rations were drawn at WALCOURT from 20th until the end of the month the Boonies at WALCOURT in billets.

Comforts were drawn at PRISCHEES & Xmas Comforts at WALCOURT these consisted of Cocoa Milk, Cigarettes, Puddings, Sugar Milk Candies &c. On Xmas day the troops were issued with Beer & Rum & extra Vegetables.