

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/24/49

**Title:** 7th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/24/49

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*4th* Battalion

FOR

*March*

191*9*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Alpingsby*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. H. ...*

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.)

31

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coullich Belgium	March 1 <sup>st</sup>		Weather. Fine. Amalgamation of Battalions. 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> now known as "A" Battalion. No. 1 Coy representing 6 <sup>th</sup> Bth members No. 2 Coy 7 <sup>th</sup> Bth members. Lieut K. G. Banks to Hospital.	Cor 1
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Dull. Cool. Church parade held in open air alongside of 7 <sup>th</sup> Bth billet. Lieut Dean. for England on repatriation to Australia. Charlevi placed out of bounds temporarily.	Cor 2
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Showery. Educational classes & training as per syllabus.	
	4 <sup>th</sup>		Showery. Educational classes training. Lieut K. G. Banks died of Influenza at 55 C.C.S. Charlevi. Much regret was expressed by all ranks as this officer had a very successful career of long service with the unit during which time he had won the admiration of all. Divisional Boxing contests held at Coullich (6 <sup>th</sup> Bth Stadium). The display proved very entertaining and instructive the bouts being closely contested. Lt. Browne to England duty with Demobilisation Dept.	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

*P. J. H.*

WAR DIARY

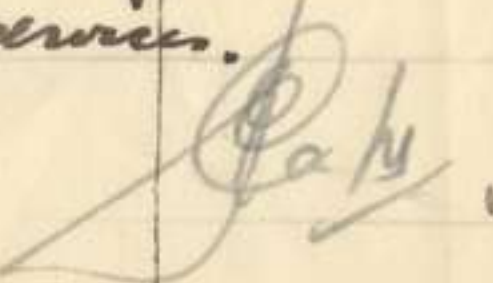
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Bouillet. Belgium	March 5 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Showery &amp; dull. Quota No 16. moved out for concentration at Bouffionx prior to departure for England. Included in Quota were Lt. of J. Harris (adjutant) Lieut. R. Swallow. Lieut. Robinson M.M. Lieut. L. Bonney. Lieut. Hornell Lieut. Laverne. 2 Lt. R. Edwards. and several NCO's men who had served with Battalion from early period of the war.</p>	Corr No 3
			<p>"A" Battalion (original 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Bn) arrived in Bouillet from Bouffionx. Brig. General J. Keane C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O. officer of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade held a dinner invitation extended to senior officers of Brigade. General Keane departed next day for England. Prior to departure he visited each Battalion to say "Au Revoir" to officers and thanked them for their loyalty services.</p>	Corr No 5
	6 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Dull &amp; raining. Educational classes training.</p>	

WAR DIARY

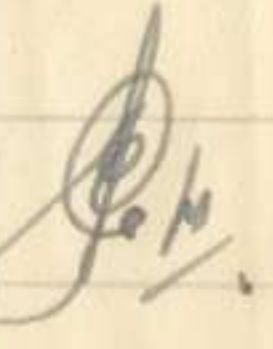
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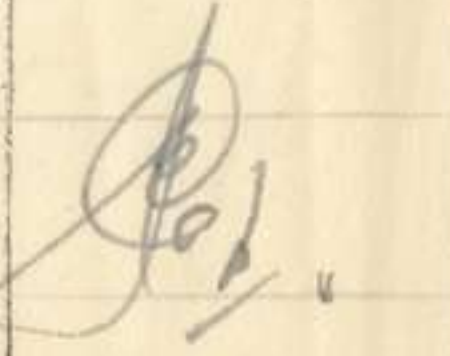
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cailliet. Belgium	6 <sup>th</sup> . contd		Military funeral of late Lieut H.G. Banks. An impressive ceremony attended by officers, NCO. & men of unit also numerous Belgian civilians who had become friends of the late officer. Spring party of members of 7 <sup>th</sup> Bth. were in charge of mens. a. Wiscowald M.C.	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Dull. & cool. improving. Training & Educational classes.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Fine cool. Educational classes. Lecture by Capt Denny M.C.: a Reparation & Demobilization fully attended and served to enlighten the men as to their future. Lt Campbell leave to Italy	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. Church parade Y.M.C.A. Troop No 16 marched through for Charleroi. All ranks & civilian friends lined thoroughfares to say 'Au Revoir' to their comrades. Major Swift 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command of Battalion returned from 75 days leave England. Lt Donaldson to P.R.T. School.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		Fine dull. Medical Board in attendance to examine members of unit. Lt Lieut H.V. Hansen & Sgt. A.J. Wraynor D.C.M. M.M. returned from England.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bouillet. Belgium	11 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Fine. Training &amp; Educational classes as per syllabus            Corp Boxing competitions in Charleroi. Lieut Otarrin M.C. 3            Lieut. Wisewould M.C. to England for investiture. Lieut Otarrin M.C.            card "An revoir" to all as after investiture he is to join Quota N° 16 in            England.</p>	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Fine dull. Educational classes &amp; Training. 2<sup>nd</sup> stage Corp            Boxing competitions in Charleroi. Lieut Mallett. evacuated            to Hospital.</p>	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Fine cold. Training &amp; Educational classes. Successful dance            held by members of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.</p>	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Fine. bright. day. Educational classes &amp; Training. Divisional            cross-country run post-poned. Final of Corp Boxing. The Glover.            7<sup>th</sup> Bth. succeeded in winning Bantam Championship Corp. Pay day.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulliet. Belgium	15 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. Educational classes & Route March. A very successful & most enjoyable Ball held by Officers of Battalion in the Mess premises. Bugade Boxing tournament held proved very successful and good amusement for the troops.	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. dull. Church parade Y.M.C.A. Notification of Military Medal award to two members of Battalion received. 2359. Sgt. Guthridge. J & 3763 bpl Stevenson W.R.	Com 6 110
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. Dull & heavy towards evening heavy rain during night. Educational classes & Route March. Lt Wrenwood M.C. from Westmore England.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. Educational classes. Training	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		Fine Educational classes & Training Medical Board in attendance for examination of members of units.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boulliet Belgium	March 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>bold - Drill. Educational classes - Route March. Successful dance held by members of Battalion.</p> <p>bold. Fine. Educational classes - Training. Lieut A. E. Joyce to Havre Base.</p> <p>Fine. Educational classes - Route March. Brigade Boxing display held 8pm. very successful &amp; entertaining.</p> <p>Successful enjoyable Ball held by Officers of this Battalion. Major R. D. Skellard to Germany on 12 days leave.</p> <p>Beautiful Spring day. Church parade Y.M.C.A.</p> <p>Major General Glasgow 'CB' 'CMG' 'DSO' visited to say "Au revoir" to officers of Brigade. In short concise speech he gratefully thanked all for their loyal assistance throughout his tenure of command of 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Division. A circular received from Major General Glasgow 'CB' 'CMG' 'DSO' expressing his appreciation of loyalty &amp; co-operation of all ranks.</p>	Com No 7



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coullet Belguin	Mant. 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Lecture J.M.C.A. by Miss Baxter. (an Australian lady). Subject. The Homeland very interesting & returned the thoughts of all present to Australia. Three interesting films were screened viz. Sheep farming, Butter & Dairying, & also timber industry in Australia.	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		Dull & Raining. Educational classes & Route March. Tring Party provided for Belgian soldier's burial.	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		Cold & Dull. Educational classes & Training. Successful Dance held by Members of Unit.	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		Dull & Showery. Educational classes & Training.	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Weather Showery & Dull. Educational classes & Training (Route March). Sale of Mules attached to Battalion. All horses evacuated, Battalion transport <del>was</del> as a working body could be sent on from to-day.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Fine. cold. Educational classes & Training.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Covillet Belgium	28 <sup>th</sup>		Lieut. G. Dobbin. Lt R A Kenzie. Lieut. A. J. Wright D.C.M. M.M. to England for Repatriation to Australia.	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Snow. Ground very wet, underfoot. Route march. Successful Ball held by Officers of 13th on Mess premises.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Heavy fall of snow. Church Parade held in Y.M.C.A.	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		Bright fresh morning. His Inspection Educational classes. Preliminary arrangements being made for concentration of No <sup>32</sup> <del>26</del> Quota for repatriation and amalgamation of remaining members of 4 Brigade Battalion by 5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> .	
			R. Herod Lt Col Commanding 7 <sup>th</sup> Aus Bn	

31 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion.

Report of Commanding Officer for Month of March.

Having been in this district Couillet, Belgium for the past 3 months the members of the Unit are, save for the dear faces of their loved ones, really at home. The bulk of the civil population has extended the hearty hand of welcome and all ranks are comfortable.

During the month the strength has been depleted by the marching out of No. 16 Brigade Quota for repatriation. Several notable members of the Unit departed with Battalion's section of this Quota, including our Adjutant, Lieut G. J. E. Harris "M.C." who, by his diligence had won the praise of all ranks.

A regrettable and very saddening event occurred during the month viz:- The death of Lieut. H. G. Banks, an officer who had been with the Unit for a considerable time and had gained his commission from the ranks. During his time with the Unit he had won the admiration of all.

Training in the nature of route marches has been regularly carried out. Educational classes have been well attended and several interesting Educational tours of local industries have been made. Lectures on interesting subjects given by members of Y. M. C. A., Educational and Demobilisation Depts. have been a great feature of education to all ranks.

Sporting events in the nature of Football, Running & Boxing have been successfully carried out. The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion succeeded in carrying off the Bantam Cup at Corps Boxing Competition.

The joy of dancing has been kept in moving vein. The Unit members have succeeded in arranging numerous successful dances much to the delight of civilian young ladies who appreciate fully the amusement provided.

The month of March in all has been successfully passed over. The sickness was very light and all has been done to provide for the men from Training, Educational & Amusement points of view.

Couillet

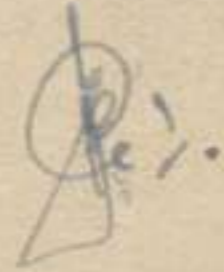
31<sup>st</sup> March 1919.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut. Col  
Commanding 7<sup>th</sup> Austn Battalion

Q.M. Report.7<sup>th</sup> Australian Batt

The rations issued to the troops for the month of March were up to the full standard of issue and the quality was good. Rum was issued every other day. There was also an issue of Australian comforts fund stuff, which included - Sugar, Cocoa, milk, Curry, Powder, oatmeal, shirts and socks, cigarettes and tobacco. Clean clothing was obtained from the Clean Clothing Store and it was in a good condition. For a change mutton was issued on two occasions. The coal for issue was not of first quality and the cooks had some trouble with the fires.

Al W. S. would Lieut. Q.M.



31 Movements of Officers during March 1919  
Officers out.

Lieut	Banks	K. G.	To Hospital 1-3-19
"	Browe	M. V.	To England for duty with Agric Section 4.3.19
"	Banks	K. G.	Died of illness 4.3.19
"	Harris "mc"	V. J. G.	M/O for return to Aust 5.3.19
"	Swallow	R. W.	" " " " "
"	Mallett	A. W.	" " " " "
2/Lt	Edwards	R.	" " " " "
Lieut	Lavernor	A. G.	" " " " "
"	Bonney	L.	" " " " "
"	Cornell	J.	" " " " "
"	Robinson "mm"	R. G.	" " " " "
2/Lt	Campbell	F. G.	To leave Italy 7.3.19
Lieut	Dean	A.	" Eng for Repat S/O 7.3.19
2/Lt	Donaldson	J. H.	" P+RT School 9.3.19
Lt	Wisewould "mc"	A. G.	" leave Eng for investiture 11.3.19
"	Mallett	A. W.	" hosp dis from 12.3.19
Capt	Lockburn	A.	" 6 <sup>th</sup> Bn from AMC att 7 <sup>th</sup> Bn 15.3.19
Lt	Joyce	A. G.	" Basl for Duty 21.3.19
Major	Hillard "mc"	R. J.	" Leave Germany 22.3.19
Lt	Swift	A. G.	" Hospital 25.3.19
Lt	Dobbin	G. L.	To England for Duty on Transports to Aust 28.3.19.
"	McKenzie	K. G. D.	
2/Lt	Wraight "mm"	H. J.	
Lt	Gandon	P. G.	To Duty England 29.3.19.

Officers in.

Lieut	Jarvie	K. R.	From leave Paris 3.4.19
Capt	Wright	H. J.	" " " 24.2.19
Lieut	Browe	M. V.	" " England 3.3.19
2/Lt	Donaldson	J. H.	" O.T.C. " 7.3.19
Capt Chap	Smith	M. J.	" leave Paris 7.3.19
Major	Swift	G. H.	" " England 9.3.19
2/Lt	Byrne	J. B.	" duty " 9.3.19
Lieut	Mallett	A. W.	{ Previously shown as M/O for return to Aust - now rejoined unit 9.3.19.
2/Lt	Hansen	M. V.	Taken on strength from Eng 10.3.19
Lt	Wraight "mm"	H. J.	" " " 10.3.19
2/Lt	Wisewould "mc"	A. G.	From leave Eng 19.3.19
Lt	Donaldson	J. H.	" P+RT School 23.3.19
Lt	Robb	G. G.	" seconded 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bde 24.3.19
"	Gandon	P. G.	" " 2 <sup>nd</sup> ALTMB "
"	Swift	A. G.	" Hospital 27.3.19
2/Lt	Campbell	F. G.	" leave Italy 30.3.19
Lt	Gardine	G. A.	" seconded 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bde 30.3.19

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Ordered to be  
 Company  
 7<sup>th</sup> Aus. Bn.*

31

1<sup>st</sup> Australian Battalion

1/3/19

Special Order

No 1

Major Hillard M.C. Temporary Commanding

1/ As from the 1.3.19 the 6<sup>th</sup> + 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions are amalgamated and become H. Battalion 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Inf. Brigade

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion becomes No 1 Coy

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion becomes No 2 Coy

2/ The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion will at once be reorganised into one Coy of 5 Platoons. This Coy will include presents No 1 and No 2 Coy's and all H.Q. details except Transport section

3/ Command. Capt Wright H.J. O.C.  
Lieut Wiswoned M.C. A.F.  
2<sup>nd</sup> in Command

Platoon Commanders. Lieut Joyce A.K.  
Lieut Brooksbank M.C. W.H.  
" Byrne K.S.  
" Edwards R.  
" O'Neill H.F. (H.Q.s platoon)

Officers detached for duty and to parade  
on all Company parades.

Lieut Waters A.J. Lieut Swift A.G.  
" Lavener H.G. " Mallett A.W.  
" Bonny L. " Cornell J.G.  
" Robinson R.G. " Woods R.F.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Byrne J.B.

These officers will be distributed for Coy duty at the discretion of the Company Commanders.

4/ Captain Wright will report by noon on 3/3/19 progress made in reorganising and will submit particulars of Coy as reorganised showing duties allotted to officers and NCOs.

(sgt) J. J. O'Hanlon  
Lieut Adj  
1<sup>st</sup> Australian Battalion

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion

2-3-19

The following order will at once be promulgated to all ranks and a copy posted at all billets occupied or used by troops.

From midnight 2/3/19 "CHARLEROI" is placed out of bounds to all ranks of the Corps. except those on duty, who will be provided with special duty passes stamped by the A.P.M. Corps or by D.A.P.M. divisions.

No 2

(Sgt) J. James  
Lieut. Adj.  
7<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion

No 3

Headquarters

A. Battalion

Nov 4 / 1919

No 16 Quota for Austenhu.

Personnel will march out from companies and concentrate at BOUFFOIX on the 5<sup>th</sup> INST. All the preliminaries for billeting, cooking, and rationing are arranged:

Capt Gould will arrange:

1. That the personnel of quota march out with the unexpired portion and 48 hours rations.
2. For cooking detail until the 9<sup>th</sup> INST; for the battalion portion or the quota.
3. The transport of Officers, valises, blankets etc

Personnel will assemble in Garden, Rue de Chatelet opposite 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion billets at 1330, where Capt M. ABSON will take charge and proceed to BOUFFOIX reporting to Lt Col Traill (5<sup>th</sup> Bn) on arrival.

(Sgt) J. James  
Lieut. Adj.  
7<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion

1<sup>st</sup> Australian Battalion

5/3/19

The G.O.C. and Officers 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Bde. requested  
the pleasure of the company of  
Lieut Col. Herrod. C.M.G. D.S.O.  
to mess at 7pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Inst.

104

Special order by Brig Gen Keane C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O. 11/3/19  
In relinquishing the command of the second Aust Inf  
Brigade I want to thank Commanding Officers and  
all ranks, both past and present, for the loyal cooperation  
and help that has been given to me during my long  
command of 2 1/2 years. Without that cooperation the Bde  
would not have been able to carry out the many  
operations and achieve the great successes which we have  
done. Notably the Germans retirement in Feb 1917 - the  
Passchendaele attacks - the repulse of the Boche in front of  
Hazebrouck and the Lihons and St Martins Wood attacks.  
In addition the Brigade is noticed by its line work,  
its field training and particularly for its discipline at  
all times.

The record of the Brigade since its landing at  
Gallipoli to the present day is second to none, no unit  
having a more glorious history and I hope that all  
officers and other ranks will continue that record and  
keep the memory of the old second Brigade green in  
years to come, and instill the precepts and records into the  
annals of other units, which will represent the Brigade in  
Victoria, for the deeds of our units should not die, but  
be a help to those of us who will still carry on the work.

We must particularly remember until demobilized,  
that the Brigade in spirit and being is still a unit -  
after an although mixed up with other units for  
demobilization, and misbehaviour and discipline by those  
wearing our own beloved colors will bring us a bad name  
and it is up to every one of us that nothing of the sort  
appears.

We must not forget in the demobilization of the  
Brigade those who have done the most towards making  
that great record of ours - our glorious dead, who by the  
memory of their deeds and sacrifices have helped us to keep on  
the work. Our sympathy goes out to those who have lost their  
dear ones through such sacrifices and we hope and believe  
that they will be comforted in the knowledge of what their  
lads have died for.

I am very proud of the record of the Brigade and very  
proud of having commanded such men through the long  
series of actions which have been carried out during  
my term of command. I have also nothing but praise  
for their conduct in the line and during training and I  
wish all ranks a quick return to our sunny Australia  
and every success in the future.

105



7<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion com. No 6  
Dear Despatch

With reference to the recommendations in connection with the above mentioned Despatch, the Coy Commander has awarded the Military Medal to the undermentioned other ranks.

Please convey the Corps, Division, and Brigade Commanders congratulations to the recipients whose names will be published in the London Gazette in due course.

2359 Sgt Gulcheridge J.

3263 Sopl Stevenson W. No

I received periculum by Major General Glasgow

In taking farewell of the Division wish to place on record my keen appreciation of the loyalty and co-operation of all ranks both during active service and under the trying circumstances inseparable from demobilization.

The record of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division of all times is second to none, and I fully appreciate the honor it has been to command it.

While expressing my thanks to all staffs and commands and all Officers, N.C.O.s. and men I take the opportunity of wishing them all good luck and a happy and safe return to Australia

com No 7