

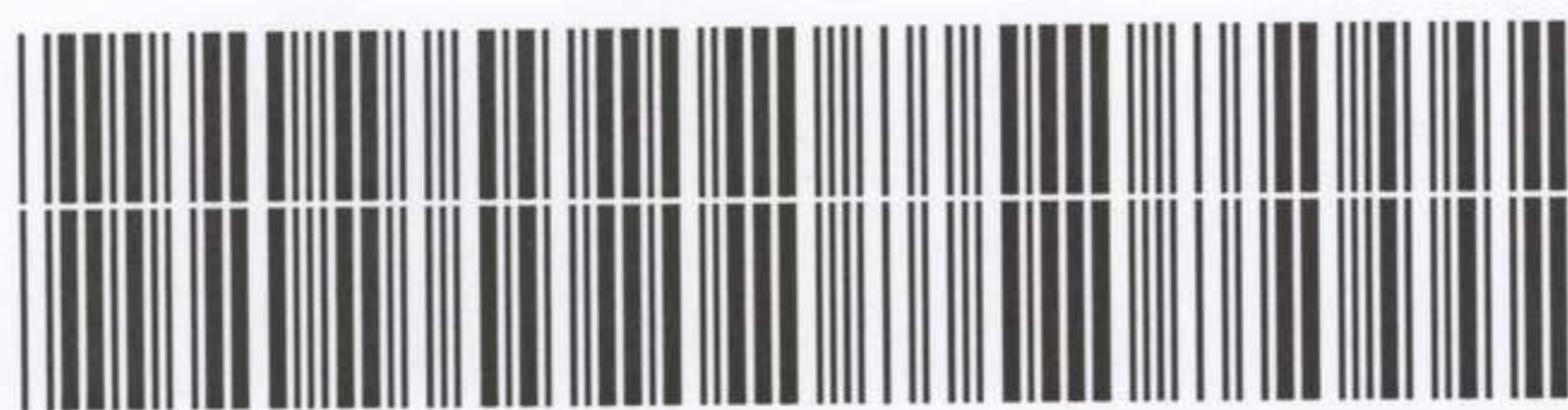
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/43/31

**Title:** 26th Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/43/31



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

26TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
INFANTRY BATTN.  
No. 301/6  
Date.....

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*26<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*February* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*H. F. Pearson Lt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Gravers Lt Col*



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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
Hannavaux.	1 <sup>st</sup> - 2/18		<p>Light training was carried out, also re-organising &amp; equipping of all men.</p> <p>Training was carried out as per Training Syllabus. A certain amount of time was spent in training for the Sports held by Brigade. The Bn. Sports were held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. - the ground was very wet and dead and made foot running impossible. Pte Jones "A" Coy. carried off most of the running events.</p> <p>Training continued, as per. The daily hours of training was increased by one hour - making 5 hours per day. owing to close nature of the country no Battalion Schemes could be carried out. Each Company had its own 30<sup>th</sup> Rifle Range so that all men were given a lot of practice in shooting. Great interest in musketry was shown by the men - many of them practising shooting in their own time.</p> <p>On 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: Lieut. Col. Travers W.S.O. returned from leave &amp; resumed command of the Bn.</p> <p>Training continued as per Syllabus. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> the Brigade Sports were held near CREMEREST. Tuesday was devoted to Pedestrian events &amp; Wednesday mainly to Transport &amp; Horse events &amp; final Heat of the previous days events. The Battalion was fairly successful in the Transport events, getting two 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 - 2<sup>nd</sup> + one 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes out of eight entries. The Bn. gained Second place in "Platoon at work" "Bug of War" &amp; First place in Cross Country Run. The ground was very cut up &amp; slippery on the second day &amp; prevented some of the Horse events. On 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: a Guard of Honour consisting of the Competition Platoon of each Bn. of the Bge. was drawn up on the Sports ground.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>II</p> <p>III</p>



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 97

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
			<p>under Capt. H.C. Lloyd. M.C. D.C.M. of this unit <del>brigade</del>, to receive the Corps Commander the General Sir W. Birdwood who presented medals &amp; Ribbons to many men in the division &amp; afterwards attended the Sports.</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2/18.</p> <p>Training as per syllabus. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Bn: went for a 15 1/2 mile route march, not one man falling out. On 27<sup>th</sup> the Divisional Boxing contest was held in the Bn: billeting area. There were several entries from the Bn. Pt. Woodroffe, B Coy was the most successful, winning two heats after fighting an extra round each time. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the finals were fought. Woodroffe winning the Light Weight. The fights were all well contested &amp; some very clever boxing was seen. The Bn: also won the Heavy Weight division, Anderson being unchallenged &amp; Corp. Phillips was runner up of Light Weight division. In Rugby football the Bn played the 7<sup>th</sup> Fld: Coy Engineers &amp; won by 8 to 6 thereby winning Brigade competition. The only awards during the month were "Belgian Croix de Guerre" 1566 L/Sgt. B.R. Smith R.A.M.C. attached 26<sup>th</sup> 1238 Sgt. W.S. Henry.</p> <p>As at 31/1/18. 29 - 836.</p> <p>Arrivals - From Hosp: — 4 - 124. Reinfs - - - 3 Detached butler 23 - 203 27 - 330. 56 - 1166.</p> <p>Departures 20 5<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn: 2 - 4. Hospital 5 - 57. Detached butler 19 - 209 26 - 270</p> <p>As at 28/2/18. 30 - 896</p>	<p>H.C.P.</p> <p>IV</p>



# WAR DIARY

OF

26<sup>th</sup> Battalion

FOR

February 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I	Training Syllabus Weeks ending 9. 2. 18
II	" " " " 16. 2. 18
III	" " " " 23. 2. 18
IV	" " " " 2. 3. 18
V	S. Master's Report.

H. F. Pearson Lt.



Programme of Work for Week Ending 9/2/18.

Time	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
<u>Monday</u>				
9.0 - 9.15		Inspection.		
9.15 - 9.45		Rifle Exercises		
9.45 - 10.45		Bayonet & Bullet practice.		
10.45 - 11.15		Physical Training & Organised Games		
11.15 - 12.0		Musketry - aiming & trigger pressing		
1.30 - 2.30		Bayonet Fighting		
<u>Tuesday</u>				
9.0 - 9.15		Inspection.		
9.15 - 12.0	Platoon Schemes	9.15 - 12.0. Grouping Practice followed by application on 30 <sup>th</sup> Range.	9.15 - 12.0 Coy Route March.	9.15 - 10.0 Rifle Exercises
1.30 - 2.30	Bayonet & Bullet Practice	1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill	1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill	10.0 - 10.30 P.T. & Organised Games 10.30 - 11.0 Musketry, aiming & trigger pressing 11.0 - 12.0 Bombing Practice 1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill
<u>Wednesday</u>				
9.0 - 9.15		Inspection		
9.15 - 10.0	Rifle Exercises	Platoon Schemes	Grouping Practice followed by application on 30 <sup>th</sup> Range.	Coy Route March
10.0 - 10.30	P.T. & Organised Games			
10.30 - 11.0	Musketry & Triangle of Error			
11.0 - 12.0	Bombing Practice			
<u>Thursday</u>				
9.0 - 9.15		Inspection		
9.15 - 12.0	Coy Route March	9.15 - 10.0 Rifle Exercises	9.15 - 12.0 Platoon Schemes	9.15 - 12.0 Grouping practice followed by application on 30 <sup>th</sup> Range
1.30 - 2.30	Platoon Drill	10.0 - 10.30 P.T. & Organised Games 10.30 - 11.0 Musketry & Triangle of Error 11.0 - 12.0 Bombing Practice 1.30 - 2.30 Bullet & Bayonet Practice	1.30 - 2.30 Bullet & Bayonet Practice	1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill
<u>Friday</u>				
9.0 - 9.15		Inspection		
9.15 - 12.0	Grouping Practice followed by application on 30 <sup>th</sup> Range.	9.15 - 12.0 Coy Route March	9.15 - 10.0 Rifle Exercises	9.15 - 12.0 Platoon Schemes
1.30 - 2.30	Platoon Drill	1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill	10.0 - 10.30 P.T. & Organised Games 10.30 - 11.0 Musketry, Triangle of Error 11.0 - 12.0 Bombing Practice 1.30 - 2.30 Platoon Drill	1.30 - 2.30 Bullet & Bayonet practice
<u>Saturday</u>				
9.0 - 11.30	Companies at disposal of Company Commanders.			

NOTE.

Signaller, Lewis Gunners, observers, Rifle Grenadiers & Sketcher Platoon will be trained in their Specialist duties.

Appendix 1 4



II

26th Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX 2  
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Programme of Work for Week Ending 16/2/18

Time	"A" Coy	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
<u>Tuesday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-12.0 1.30-2.30 2.30-3.30	Inspection & Gas Drill. Company Tactical Exercises. Musketry I Platoon Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry I 10.0-10.45. Rifle Exercises. 11.0-12.0. Platoon Drill. 1.30-2.30. Bullet & Bayonet Practice. 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry I 10.0-10.45. Rifle Exercises. 11.0-12.0. Platoon Drill. 1.30-3.30. Compy Tactical Exercises	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill 9.15-10.0. Musketry I 10.0-10.45. Rifle Exercises. 11.0-12.0. Platoon Drill. 1.30-2.30. Bullet & Bayonet Practice 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.
<u>Wednesday</u> 9.0-12.0 1.30-2.30 2.30-3.30	Battalion Route March.			
	Musketry II Bullet & Bayonet Practice	1.30-2.30. Musketry II 2.30-3.30. Rifle Exercises.	1.30-2.30. Musketry II 2.30-3.30. Rifle Exercises.	1.30-3.30. Company Tactical Exercises.
<u>Wednesday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-10.0 10.0-10.45 11.0-12.0	Inspection & Gas Drill. Musketry III Rifle Exercises Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-12.0. Company Tactical Exercises.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry III 10.0-10.45. Bullet & Bayonet Practice 11.0-12.0. Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry III 10.0-10.45. Rifle Exercises. 11.0-12.0. Bayonet Fighting.
<u>Thursday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-10.0 10.0-10.45 11.0-12.0 1.30-2.30 2.30-3.30	Inspection & Gas Drill. Bullet & Bayonet Practice Musketry IV Rifle Exercises Bombing Practice Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry III 10.0-10.45. Rifle Exercises 11.0-12.0. Bullet & Bayonet Practice 1.30-2.30. Bombing Practice 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry IV 10.0-10.45. Bayonet Fighting 11.0-12.0. Bullet & Bayonet Practice 1.30-2.30. Bombing Practice 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Musketry III 10.0-10.45. Bayonet Fighting 11.0-12.0. Bullet & Bayonet Practice 1.30-2.30. Bombing Practice 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.
<u>Friday</u> 9.0-12.0 1.30-2.30 2.30-3.30	Battalion Tactical Exercises.			
	Musketry V. Rifle Exercises.	1.30-3.30. Practical Musketry.	1.30-2.30. Musketry V. 2.30-3.30. Rifle Exercises.	1.30-2.30. Musketry IV 2.30-3.30. Company Drill.
<u>Saturday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-12.0	Inspection & Gas Drill. Practical Musketry.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-10.0. Rifle Exercises. 10.0-10.45. Musketry IV 11.0-12.0. Bayonet Fighting	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-12.0. Practical Musketry.	9.0-9.15. Inspection & Gas Drill. 9.15-12.0. Practical Musketry.
<u>NOTES.</u>	<p>1. Company Parades are all held on Company Parade grounds the location of which has been notified to Brigade.</p> <p>2. Schemes for Tactical Exercises will be forwarded to Brigade on the evening prior to the day the scheme is carried out.</p> <p>3. N.C.O's Parade is held daily at 2. PM.</p> <p>4. Lewis Gunners, Sketcher Bearers, Bombers, Rifle Grenadiers, Stewards, &amp; Signallers receive training in their specialist duties.</p> <p>5. Musketry I aiming - muscle exercise " II Druggie Runny " " III Snapping Practice } " IV Rapid Loading } " V Triangle of Evon Post.</p>			

Appendix 2 25





26<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F.

Programme of Work for Week Ending 23/2/18.

Time	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
<u>Monday</u> 9.0 - 9.15 9.15 - 10.0 10.0 - 10.45 11.0 - 12.0 1.30 - 3.30	Inspection Platoon Drill Musketry V & VI Rifle Exercises Musketry on 100* Range	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Company Drill 10.0-12.0 Organised Bombing Oper: 1.30-2.30 Musketry V & VI 2.30-3.30 Bullet & Bayonet Practice	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-12.0 Musketry 100* Range 1.30-3.30 Throwing live grenades	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Musketry V & VI 10.0-10.45 Bullet & Bayonet Practice 11.0-12.0 Platoon Drill 1.30-3.30 Organised Bombing operations
<u>Tuesday</u> 8.0 - 1.0	Battalion Route March			
<u>Wednesday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-10.0 10.0-12.0	Inspection Company Drill Organised Bombing Operation	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Platoon Drill 10.0-10.45 Musketry V & VI 11.0-12.0 Rifle Exercises 1.30-3.30 Musketry 100* Range	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Company Drill 10.0-10.45 Musketry V & VI 11.0-12.0 Bullet & Bayonet Practice	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Company Drill 10.0-12.0 Throwing live grenades
<u>Thursday</u> 9.0-9.15 9.15-10.0 10.0-10.45 11.0-12.0 1.30-3.30	Inspection Musketry V & VI Platoon Drill Bullet & Bayonet Practice	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-12.0 Musketry 100* Range Battalion Drill	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Platoon Drill 10.0-10.45 Musketry V & VI 11.0-12.0 Rifle Exercises	9.0-9.15 Inspection 9.15-10.0 Company Drill 10.0-10.45 Musketry V & VI 11.0-12.0 Rifle Exercises
<u>Friday</u> 9.0-12.0 1.30-3.30	Battalion Throwing Live Grenades	Tactical Scheme 1.30-3.30 Throwing Live Grenades	1.30-3.30 Organised Bombing Operation	1.30-3.30 Musketry 100* Range
<u>Saturday</u> 9.0-12.0	Companies at the disposal of Company Commanders.			

NOTES.

- Schemes for Tactical Exercises will be forwarded to Brigade on the evening prior to the day the Scheme is carried out.
- N.C.O.'s Parade is held daily at 2 P.M.
- Lewis gunners, Sketcher Bearers, Bombers, Rifle Grenadiers, Observers, & Signallers receive training in their Specialists duties.
- Location of Company Parade Grounds: CALAIS 1/100,000.

A	Coy	4E.	30.00
B	"	4E.	10.70
C	"	4E.	31.85
D	"	4E.	32.80
		4D.	95.78
BN PARADE GROUND 4E 30.75			

- Musketry  
V. Triangle of Error  
VI. Standing & Kneeling Position. Facing from cover.

Appendix 3 B





# 26<sup>th</sup> BATTALION A. I. F.

## Programme of Work for week ending March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918

APPENDIX 4

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Date & Time	'A' Company	'B' Company	'C' Company	'D' Company
<u>Monday</u> 9.0 - 9.15 9.15 - 10.0 10.0 - 10.45 11.0 - 12.0 1.30 - 2.30 2.30 - 3.30	Musketry 100 <sup>x</sup> Range  Bullet and Bayonet practice Company Drill	Inspection Bullet and Bayonet practice Musketry a. Rapid Loading b. Fire Control Company Drill Live Grenade Throwing	Musketry a. Rapid Loading b. Fire Control Bullet and Bayonet Practice Company Drill Musketry 30 <sup>x</sup> Range	Bullet and Bayonet Practice Musketry a. Rapid Loading b. Fire control. Platoon Scheme. Live Grenade Throwing.
<u>Tuesday</u> 9.0 - 4 pm.	Battalion Route March			
<u>Wednesday</u> 9.0 - 9.15 9.15 - 10.0 10.0 - 10.45 11.0 - 12.0	Live Grenade Throwing Musketry a. Rapid Loading b. Fire Control.	Inspection Musketry 100 <sup>x</sup> Range	Live Grenade Throwing Musketry a. Fire Control. b. Rapid Loading	Company Drill Musketry 30 <sup>x</sup> Range
<u>Thursday</u> 9.0 - 9.15 9.15 - 10.0 10.0 - 10.45 11.0 - 12.0 1.30 - 2.30 2.30 - 3.30	Musketry 30 <sup>x</sup> Range	Inspection Battalion Tactical Scheme Musketry 30 <sup>x</sup> Range	Musketry 100 <sup>x</sup> Range	Musketry a. Rapid Loading b. Fire Control c. 30 <sup>x</sup> Range
<u>Friday</u> 9.0 - 9.15. 9.15 - 10.0 10.0 - 10.45 11.0 - 12.0 1.30 - 3.30.	Musketry Platoon Schemes. Musketry 30 <sup>x</sup> Range	Inspection } ditto	Platoon Schemes Musketry.	Musketry 100 <sup>x</sup> Range
<u>Saturday</u>	Battalion Drill			
	Coys at disposal of Coy Commanders.			

1. Schemes for Tactical Exercises will be forwarded to Bde. on the evening prior to the day the scheme is carried out
2. Classes for Officers + NCOs. in Topography daily
3. Specialist Training to continue
4. Each man to get 10 mins. snapping practice daily

Appendix 4



## WAR DIARY

-or-

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																	
Hannover			<p>Q.M. Report for Feb. 1918.</p> <p>during the Period under Review the issue of Rations has been about the average in quantity while the quality has been good.</p> <p>The following are the averages for the Period:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Fresh meat</td> <td>60%</td> <td>Bread</td> <td>73%</td> <td>Vegetables</td> <td>Potatoes</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M + V</td> <td>15%</td> <td>Biscuits</td> <td>20%</td> <td>Onions</td> <td></td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P.M.</td> <td>25%</td> <td>Rice</td> <td>7%</td> <td>Carrots</td> <td></td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Turnips</td> <td></td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </table> <p>The remainder of the Rations has been according to Scale laid down during the month the Tea Ration has been reduced to 20g per man per biscuit &amp; fodder by 2 lbs per animal per biscuit.</p> <p>Ordnance Stores came to hand well, the clothing being of good quality, but a good deal of same has been of Imperial Pattern, which does not appeal to the Australian Soldier who takes a pride in the uniform designed for him.</p> <p>Following are the details of Ordnance issues for this period.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Jackets</td> <td>127</td> <td>Hats</td> <td>75</td> <td>26</td> <td>Containers</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boots - per</td> <td>146</td> <td>Boots - per</td> <td>149</td> <td></td> <td>Respirator Bot</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Putties - per</td> <td>178</td> <td>Respirator Bot</td> <td>38</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>51</td> </tr> </table> <p>Fourteen pistols webbley have been drawn: this completes the Equipment of Lewis Gunners in this respect.</p> <p>P.H. Satchels &amp; Helmets have been returned &amp; Landed to Ordnance during the month 140 per new boots were issued &amp; 550 repaired for the Battalion &amp; in addition 15 per were repaired for Brigade H.Q. 75 per for Area Commandants Staff.</p> <p>On arrival in this area some difficulty was experienced in the cooking arrangements on account of the Companies being so scattered &amp; subdivided but this has now been overcome.</p>	Fresh meat	60%	Bread	73%	Vegetables	Potatoes	54%	M + V	15%	Biscuits	20%	Onions		34%	P.M.	25%	Rice	7%	Carrots		7%					Turnips		5%	Jackets	127	Hats	75	26	Containers		Boots - per	146	Boots - per	149		Respirator Bot	3	Putties - per	178	Respirator Bot	38			51	Appendix 5
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