

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/43/43

Title: 26th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/43/43

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Excess heading not required.)

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.

Remarks and references to Appendices	Summary of Events and Information	Hour	Date	Place
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ORIGINAL
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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

WAR DIARY

of

26th Bn.

for

February 1919.

signature of officer compiling: H. Pearson Lt.

Wm Davis
Lieut

Co de Bn a IF

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCHIENNE -RU- PONT	1. 2.	19.	During this period the weather was cold and snow lay on the ground during the week the except on 4. 2. 19 when a thaw set in but which changed to frost and more snow before the end of the day.	
	7. 2.	19.	On 3. 2. 19 a draft of 1 officer (Major J. A. ROBINSON D.S.D.) and 54 O.R. left the Battalion for HAVRE on the way back to Australia. Major J. A. Robinson was one of the original officers of the Battalion and left Australia as a lieutenant. During his military career he fulfilled the appointments of Adjutant 2 nd in command and C.O. of the Battalion. The Bats were allotted to the Bn and a clean change of clothing was much appreciated.	
			On 4. 2. 19 a funeral with full military honours was accorded to 472 Pte. G. Bowlby of the Transport Section who died of pneumonia following an attack of influenza. Lieut. S. J. Smith was in charge of the firing party.	
			During the week the following honours and awards were gained by N.C.Os. and men of the Battalion:—	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCHIENNE - AU - PONT.	Period		<u>Distinguished Conduct Medal</u>	
	1. 2.	19	592 Sgt. Law G. J.	
	7. 2.	19	82 Pte. Neal W. S.	
			4794. White G. H.	
			<u>Meritorious Service Medal</u>	
			1841 G. S. M. Sgt. Corbett H. G.	
			1530 Cpl. Manning W. J.	
			6200 Sgt. Mathieson R. A.	
			932 R. Q. M. Sgt. Milburn W.	
			1163 Sgt. Pacey A. L.	
			296 C.S.M. Ramm W (now P. 2/Lieut).	
"	8. 2.	19	Capt. F. G. Lloyd M.C. D.C.M. returned to the Battalion and resumed his appointment as Adjutant. Lieut G. W. Francis who had held the appointment since Oct. 3 rd 1918 left the unit for early repatriation and pay duties on transport. Weather was still cold and the snow lay at upon the ground. On 9. 2. 19. in spite of the frozen ground the race meeting held by the 2 nd Aus. Division Race Club was very successful.	H.P.
	10			
	14. 2.	19		

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MARCHIENNE -RD- PONT	8. 2.	19 10	Lent the Battalion's cracker representative "Polly" did not show to advantage.	
	14.	2. 19.	Influenza Influenza still raged amongst the civilian population and hardly a day passed without there being three or four funerals to the local cemetery.	A.T.P.
	15.	2. 19.	During the day period under review the weather changed and after the thaw set in there was a spell of fine weather though there	
	21.	2. 19.	were frequent showers but not sufficient to hinder games and sports of various kinds.	
			On 24. 2. 19. Brigade sports organised and run by Lieut. G.S. Keys of the Battalion, was held on 27th Bn. Sports Ground. Though not as big as some of the previous meetings, this gathering went off with a swing that was more than equal to previous sports and everybody spectators included, enjoyed the afternoon. The success must rightly be attributed to the energetic organisation and foresight of the aforementioned officer. The Battalion was very successful and gained the following events and places: — 440 yds championship First Lt. Newby. 220 " " Second " " 880 " Relay Race First Lieut MacPhillips Lt. Newby Ptes. Stealy and Birch.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices		
MARCHIENNE - AV- PONT	15.	2. 19	Hitting the Hockey Ball	First	Sgt. R. A. Mathieson	
			Throwing at Wicket	"	Pte Storr	
	21.	2. 19	High jump	"	Birch.	
			Pole Vault	"	Birch.	
			Hop Step and Jump	"	Rankin	
			Tug-of-war	Second		
			The finest event of the day was 880yds Relay Race in which an exceptionally fine effort was made by Lieut. McPhillips who was running in the 3rd relief. His fine effort won the Race for the Battalion.			
			According to the official entry lists more than half the entries came from the Battalion and they carried off the majority of the events.			H.P.
"	22.	2. 19	Weather was broken and unsettled though on the whole the winter has been been mild and fine in comparison with some experienced in this country.			
			Sports were carried on strenuously and during the week two football matches of importance were played. In Australian			

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MARCHIENNE - AV - PONT	22.	2. 19	<p>Rules 7th Bde Group played 6th Bde Group and beat them 5-6 to 32 points. The Bde Group received a silver cup and each player a gold medal. We had 5 players in the team.</p>	
	28.	2. 19	<p>The Soccer final was played against 2nd Divisional Artillery Group who were beaten by 1 - 0. The defeated team had been in training since March 1918 and had played 85 match without being defeated. The Battalion had fine representatives and the play of one of these was the outstanding feature of the game. Sgt. Moffitt's play in goal was unsurpassed and it was entirely due to his play that the final scores were what in the favour of the home team. The prizes for this match were the same as for Australian Rules since many matches were arranged with outside teams on the 3 rules of Football.</p> <p>Hockey still maintained its adherents but most of the matches played were intercompany.</p> <p>During the month general men were training for the Corps Boxing contests in a stadium arranged by Lt. J. S. Kerr.</p> <p>During the month influenza unfortunately was rife amongst the civilian population and incidentally there were many</p>	

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MARCHIENNE AV. POINT.	FEB 1919.		<p>cases in the troops. The troops were very comfortably billeted and in many cases were living with the civilians. Between the two, the relationship was excellent. The troops provided several entertainments for the civilians who in return gave numerous evenings and other social gatherings.</p> <p>Leaves was given freely to Brussels and elsewhere and the conducted tours over the battlefield of Waterloo were much appreciated.</p> <p>The Battalion grew gradually smaller and lost its old identities as men were going away by ones and twos daily for repatriation and other employment until it is now only a skeleton of its former self. The end of the Bn. is now in sight and it is sincerely hoped that the traditions of the Battalion and the spirit pervading all ranks since the inception of the unit which made these traditions and records possible, will prove a source of stimulation to the territorial unit in Australia and help it to become worthy of its nomenclature.</p>	
			<p>Wm Davis Lt Col Co. 50 Pontif</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February		Return of strength	
			Strength on 31. 1. 19.	O. 69. O.R. 662.
			<u>Increase.</u>	
			From Hospital 0 O.R. 1 14	
			" Miscellaneom 5 5	
			" Reimfor. 0 3	
			<u>6 22</u>	<u>6 22</u> 75 684
			<u>Decrease.</u>	
			To Hospital 1 27	
			" Misallan. 3 95	
			<u>4 122</u>	<u>4 122</u> <u>71 562</u> Strength on 28. 2. 19.
				W.M. Davis Lieut Co. Nelson at 15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>During the period under review, little of importance has happened in this department.</p> <p><u>Supplies</u> Rations have been well up to standard, with the exception of meat which has on many occasions been light weight. Repeated reports have been made regarding this, and since our own Supply Officer Lt Cooper M.B., has again taken over, there has been little cause for complaint in any matter.</p> <p><u>Flour Rations</u> We received during the month a four (4) days flour rations, which was consumed on the 15-16-17 & 18th inst, with the exception of biscuits, which were returned to the A.A.S.C. as bread was available on each of the four (4) days mentioned.</p> <p><u>Ordnance Issue</u> These are not now coming to hand so regularly, owing to demobilization. Articles which are not actually required for the efficient working of the battalion are returned to Base, and Indents submitted are left outstanding.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Ordnance Issue Contd</u> However clothing and necessaries are arriving as required.</p> <p><u>Mobilization Stores.</u> Stores are being collected as opportunity offers, and the returns of same should be very satisfactory.</p> <p><u>Officers Equipment.</u> Equipment has been collected, and where deficiencies exist certificates as to their loss rendered.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">W. Smith avis Lt Col Co. 20th Bn</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mobilization Stores</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Transport Officers Report for February.</u></p> <p><u>Daily Routine Works.</u> This includes stables, harness cleaning and delivery of rations and fuel to boys, transport for Canteen Ordnance and Pioneer works etc.</p> <p><u>Condition of Horses.</u> The stabling is unique, the conditions generally could not be improved upon, trace high clipping has received attention and is now nearly completed.</p> <p><u>Harness.</u> Cleanliness, upkeep and repairs in general is every thing to be desired.</p> <p><u>Waggons.</u> There has been no need for any repairs during the month which fact suggests careful driving, as nearly all the drivers in the section are comparatively new.</p>	

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			<p><u>Billets</u> The billets are excellent and the men are very comfortable</p> <p><u>Education</u> Four men are attending classes</p> <p>all "E" class horses, 28 in number were assembled at Rue de Roets on 21st last for Veterinary inspection and lot numbering previous to being sold on 26th. On the day of the sale six horses and two mules were sold as the prices were ^{were} considered unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Sgd. C. H. Whittaker Lt. T.O. 26 Mar.</p>	
			<p>Wm Davis Steel CO. de Pon a 1^{er}</p>	

Monthly Summary for
War Diary for February, 1919

The month has passed pleasantly and quietly for the Battalion. Nothing of moment occurred except the departure of drafts for Australia.

These of course are made up of the oldest members of the Battalion and their departure leaves a certain "empty feeling" behind.

The civilians continue their great kindness to all ranks who are now exceptionally comfortable and contented. Everyone has made friends and most of the evenings are spent over the home fires of the local people.

Several very successful race meetings have been held in the Division during the month but

although we have had a horse entered for each meeting have not succeeded in getting a first prize.

The Bde carried out an athletic sports meeting which resulted in a very pleasant day. The Bn was well represented in all events and gained a good proportion of prizes.

Influenza has been raging among the civilians. Fortunately the Battalion has been comparatively free from the disease although a large number have had bad colds.

The health generally of the troops has been good. Sports and athletic training have been carried out enthusiastically during the month.

Educational ~~the~~ matters have gone along on ordinary grounds. Our Educational officer, Lieut A.R. Chisholm was

detatched for a fortnight
with Aust Corps HQ but
the padre Capt Chap Heath
carried on in his absence
Generally the whole
battalion is very happy
comfortable and contented
but still looking forward
to their turn for return
to Australia and their
homes.

Wm Davis ^{plce}
Co. 26 Bn AIF

3/3/09