

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/47/41

**Title:** 30th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/47/41



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.



254

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

30th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

December 1914

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. Beckett*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*P. Charlton Major*



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.

DECEMBER  
1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th BATTALION A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

257

Place	Date	Hour Off.	Strength O. Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	REMARKS	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAZENHIEN	1st.	38	676	<p>This morning the billets occupied by the troops were improved. There being plenty of wood in the area, the men had good fires blazing. A voluntary service for all protestant Denominations was held at 0945. Efforts are being made to secure a cinema for the troops whilst in this area.</p>	7. Over Hoops.	
	2nd.	38	676	<p>Platoon inspections and physical training were held at 0930. Particular attention was paid to the feet of the men by Platoon Commanders. Numbers of men played football in the afternoon.</p>		
	3rd.	38	676	<p>Training for today consists of one hour physical training and half an hour's rifle exercises and smartening up drill. A cable was received from Newcastle Branch of 30th Bn. Comforts Fund conveying Christmas Greetings to all ranks of the Battalion. Arrangements have been made for regular supplies of Anzac Bulletins for the Battalion.</p>		



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.

DECEMBER  
1918.  
Date .....

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion  
A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Hour Off.	O.R.		
MAXINGHIEN	4th	38	676	Training commenced at 0930 and comprised P.T. and games, rifle exercises and marching. A concert was to have been held at 1830 but was postponed until tomorrow.	
do	5th	38	676	Training was carried out under supervision of Coy. Commanders in the following - P.T. and Games, Rifle Exercises and General Smartening Up Drill. The 8th Brigade Band played a programme of music at 1500 in the centre of the town. A concert was held at 1830 in conjunction with 5th D.A.C. It was a great success and was well attended by all ranks.	
do	6th	38	675	Training constituted one hour's P.T. and Games and one hour's rifle exercises, smartening up drill and marching. In the afternoon a number of troops engaged in recreational training in the form of football. At 1830, another concert was held in conjunction with the 5th D.A.C. and was enjoyed by a large audience.	1. OR Evac
do	7th	38	675	At 0930 the Advance Party left for FAVRIL to take over billets from 58th Battalion. Troops were busily engaged during the morning getting ready for the shift on the following day.	
do	8th	2			



AUSTRALIAN  
INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

or

DECEMBER

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A. I. F.

No. 1018

(Erase 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.

Date .....

Place	Date	Strength Hour Off.	O. Rs	Summary of Events and Information	REMARKS	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAZINGHIEN to FAVRIL	8th	38	675	<p>This morning the unit moved from MAZINGHIEN to FAVRIL in accordance with move order No. 161 (Appendix 1). The men marched well and the journey was done in good time. The presence of the 8th Brigade Band considerably helped to enliven the March.</p> <p>On arrival at FAVRIL the unit occupied billets vacated by the 58th Battalion. The billets in this area were poor and considerable difficulty was experienced in accommodating all ranks.</p>	Appendix 1..	
FAVRIL	9th	38	675	<p>Today all troops were occupied in cleaning up operations and in improving billets. Straw was obtained in a number of cases and the men made themselves as comfortable as possible.</p>		
do	10th	38	675	<p>Training under the supervision of Company Commanders consisted of one hour's P.T. and Games and half an hour's close order drill and rifle exercises, in addition to platoon inspections.</p> <p>In view of the fact that all streams in the area are likely to be infected with the "Colon Typhoid" all ranks were warned of the danger of using any water from these streams for cooking or drinking purposes.</p> <p>Mass was celebrated in the R.C. Church at FAVRIL at 0800 for the Australian Dead. A number of troops attended.</p>		

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

30th BATTALION A. I. F.

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.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
DECEMBER  
No. 1918

257

Place	Date	Strength Hour C.I.F.	O.R.	Summary of Events and Information	REMARKS	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVRIL	11th	38	677	<p>This morning a lecture was given to the troops on the Demobilisation and Repatriation Scheme. In addition to this an hour's physical training and games were also carried out.</p> <p>In the afternoon Companies held practice football matches.</p>	2 OR on Hood	
do	12th	38	677	<p>During the wet and inclement weather it was impossible to carry on training out of doors.</p> <p>The Demobilisation and Repatriation Scheme was further explained to the men.</p> <p>A football match had been arranged with the Sherwood Foresters in the afternoon at LANDRECIES, but the rain prevented it being held.</p>		
do	13th	38	676	<p>This morning, in addition to platoon inspection and games, half an hour was devoted to marching on roads, and the same to Guard and Sentry Drill, and close order drill.</p> <p>Recreational training in the form of football matches was carried out in the afternoon.</p> <p>"B" Coy., assisted by members of the Divisional Concert party held a very successful concert at 1900.</p>	1 OR Evac	



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.

30th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
Deember 1918

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2110.

30th BATTALION N. A. I. F.

Place	Date	Strength Hour O.F.	O. Rs	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVRIL	14th	38	676	<p>Company Commanders supervised the following training at 0930:- Platoon Inspections, Route Marching by Platoons, Rifle Exercises, Close Order Drill, physical Training and Games.</p> <p>At 1400 on the Battalion Ground at FAVRIL, a Rugby Football match took place between the Unit and the 14th Field Engineers. After a fast and exciting game our team won by 3 points to Nil.</p>		
do	15th	38	676	<p>The following training was carried out today - Inspection by Platoon Commanders, P.T. and Recreational Games, Guard Mounting Exercises and Company Drill.</p> <p>Preparations were made for the move to the BEUGNIES AREA, where the unit expects to be quartered during the winter months.</p>		
do	16th	38	675	<p>At 0900 two advance parties left, one for the AVESNES Area and the other for the BEUGNIES Area.</p> <p>Training for the day consisted of the following - Platoon Inspection, P.T. and Games, Guard Mounting Exercises and Company Drill. During the morning steel helmets were collected.</p>	1. OR Coac	
do	17th	38	675	<p>Training for today was as follows - Company and platoon Inspections 30 minutes. P. and R.T. - 45 minutes. The remainder of the morning was devoted to platoon Commanders obtaining full particulars and filling in A. I. F. Demobilisation Forms. Company Representatives were given full particulars regarding Brigade Sports to be held on New Years Day.</p> <p>Preparations were made for the move tomorrow, billets were cleaned up and transport arrangements completed.</p>		



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.

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2116.

DECEMBER

No. 1918

Date .....

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 30th Battalion A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Hour Off	O. Rs.			
FAVRIL to BASLIEU.	18th	39	677	<p>This morning the Battalion marched from FAVRIL to BASLIEU in accordance with move order No. 162 (Appendix 2.)</p> <p>Good time was made on the march as the Battalion was carrying fighting order.</p> <p>On arrival at BASLIEU the troops quickly settled down into the new billets.</p>	<p>3 OR in Han 1 OR kwac 2 WR Mamm in bed list</p>	apen. 2.
BASLIEU to BEUGNIES	19th	39	677	<p>At 0930 the Unit moved from BASLIEU to BEUGNIES.</p> <p>The billets in the area are excellent and are perhaps the best the Battalion has had since its arrival in France.</p> <p>The town, although it had been occupied by the Hun since 1914 has not been knocked about. There are splendid baths in the area and supplies of wood and green vegetables can be easily obtained. Plenty of class rooms are available for educational purposes, and there is a large hall where cinema shows and concerts can be held.</p> <p>All ranks are satisfied that for winter quarters the area will be hard to beat.</p>		
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	20th	39	677	<p>Today has been devoted to cleaning up and settling down in billets. Attention was also given to the thorough cleaning of clothing and equipment.</p> <p>Arrangements were put in hand for celebrating Christmas Day. Companies were busy securing fuel and green vegetables</p>		



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th BATTALION AIF.

(Erase 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.

30th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
DECEMBER 1918

Place	Date	Strength Hour Off	O. Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	21st	39	677	<p>Training for today consisted of r. and Recreational Training for one hour. The remainder of the morning was devoted to the cleaning of equipment and improvement of billets.</p> <p>Lewis Gun and Rifle Ranges were also selected.</p> <p>A hall was secured where the Battalion could have Christmas Dinner together and arrangements were put in hand for a supply of tables, etc. and seating accommodation.</p> <p>At 1330 baths were available to all members of the unit. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales inspected the billets of the Battalion this morning. He was heartily cheered on leaving.</p>		
do	22nd	39	677	<p>A Church of England Service was held in Hall at 1050. Mass was celebrated in Church at BEUGNIES at 1000. A combined Methodist, Presbyterian and O.P.D. Service was held in the Factory Rue de Fontane at 1100.</p> <p>A number of men are in active training for the sports meeting to be held on New Years Day.</p> <p>It is hoped to have electric lighting plant in the town working again by the New Year.</p>		
do	23rd	39	677	<p>A route march of all troops not engaged on other duties was carried out this morning. Parties of men were busily employed cleaning up halls and lecture rooms, also in collecting green bushes for decorative purposes on Christmas Day.</p>		

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/16



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase 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.

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
DECEMBER 1918

Place	Date	Strength		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Hour	O. Rs			
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	24th	39	677	<p>The Battalion was bathed and a clean change of clothing supplied at the Brigade Baths at BEYGNIES today.</p> <p>When not bathing, units carried out the following work - Physical training and rifle drill - one hour.</p> <p>Preparations were continued for celebrating Christmas tomorrow, and every effort is being made to make the last Christmas spent together as a Unit, one to be remembered.</p>		
do	25th	39	677	<p>Mass was celebrated in BEUGNIES Church at 0800 and 1000. A number of members of this Unit attended.</p> <p>Holy Communion was also celebrated at 0800 in the recreational hall at BEUGNIES.</p> <p>At 1300 the Battalion celebrated Christmas by a Dinner. All members of the unit attended, and it was a great success. It was the first time that the Battalion had had dinner together since leaving Australia, and the occasion will in after years be looked upon by those who took part as a very pleasant memory.</p> <p>The G.O.C. 8th Brigade and Staff were present, and expressed great satisfaction with the arrangements made.</p>		
do	26th	37	677	<p>Today the troops were given a holiday, and a number went for long walks into the surrounding country.</p>		<p>Capt W.A. Thompson trans to Genl for Lt W.S. Daniel rela to Aust</p>



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.

DECEMBER

1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 30th Battalion A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

257

Place	Date	Strength Horr.	O. Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	27th	37	677	<p>Today a start was made with the educational classes under the Demobilisation Scheme. Instructors throughout the morning were busy enrolling members for the following classes:-                      Elementary work including arithmetic, Composition, Reading, Writing and Spelling; Book-keeping, Shorthand and Conversational Franch.</p>		
do	28th	37	677	<p>Today at 1000, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presented decorations to members of the Unit at Solre le Chateau.                      Further names were enrolled in the educational classes to commence on 30th instant.</p>		
do	29th	37	677	<p>A combined Church of England Service attended by members of 32nd Bn. and this Unit was held in the BEUGNIES Cinema Hall at 1000. Mass was also celebrated in Sars Poteries Church at 1000. An address was delivered at 1800 by the Rev. F. Norwood, Religious Director of the Y.M.C.A. in France, on "Australia after France".</p>		



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.

DECEMBER

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

257

1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Strength Hour Off. C.Rs.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	30th	37 677	<p>Training in physical games and exercises was carried out by all troops from 0900 to 0945.</p> <p>Educational Classes were commenced at 1000 and were well attended. Conversational French, Shorthand, Arithmetic, and English, were the principal subjects taught. All ranks present took a keen interest in the work.</p>		
BEUGNIES & SARS POTERIES	31st	37 674	<p>Platoon inspections and physical and recreational training were carried out for the first hour and half.</p> <p>It was intended to carry out a tile shooting competition during the morning, but owing to the inclement weather and the muddy state of the range this idea had to be abandoned.</p> <p>The educational classes were continued and the same good attendance resulted.</p> <p>It being New Years Eve, the Battalion celebrated the occasion by holding a dance to which a general invitation was extended to all inhabitants of the village. There was a very large attendance and one of the most successful social events in the Battalion's history resulted. The French civilians quite enjoyed the evening and doubtless there will be many similar dances held during the unit's stay in this village.</p>	3.0K accidentally wounded	



257

WAR DIARY  
OF.

30th BATTALION A.I.F.

30th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION	
No.....	.....
Date.....	.....

FOR.

DECEMBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No	Subject.
1	Battalion Order No 161
2	Battalion Order No 162
3	C.O's REPORT.



Secret  
257

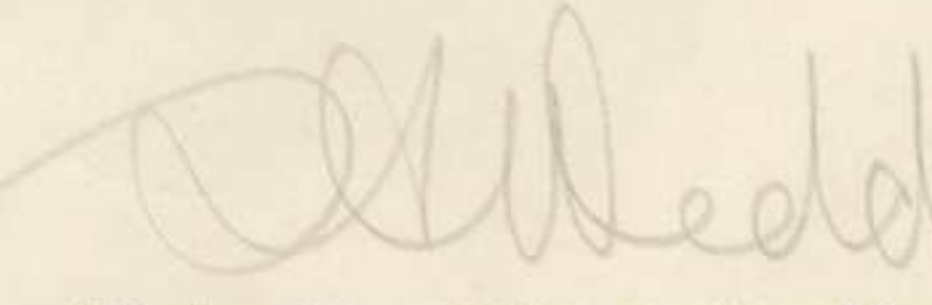
Appendix 1

Copy 8

Reference VALENCIENNES Sheet 12.

7th Dec. 1918.

1. The 8th Australian Inf. Brigade Group will move from its present position to the FAVRIL Area on 7th, 8th and 9th ~~December~~ 1918. and take over the area at present occupied by 15th A.I. Brigade.
2. The 30th Battalion will move by route march from MAZINGHIEN to FAVRIL on 8th instant, taking over the billets recently occupied by 58th Battalion A.I.F.
3. Starting point - Church, MAZINGHIEN. Time of starting 0900.  
Order of march - "D" Coy., "C" Coy., "A" Coy. with H.Qrs. attached, "B" Coy.  
Route - CATILLON - LAGROISE - FAVRIL.
4. Movement will be in column of route, 100 yards between Companies and 500 yards between Battalions.  
Halts will be at ten minutes to the hour and of ten minutes duration.
5. Strict march discipline will be maintained throughout the march. Units will march to 'Attention' with arms slung when passing thro' villages. Compliments on the march will be paid, Units marching to attention, but with arms slung.
6. Transport Section less G.S. baggage wagons and mess cart will move independently of the unit and will pass starting point at 0830. Fourth Army Standing Orders on March Discipline for Horse Transport will be complied with.
7. Dress - full marching order - felt hats to be worn - steel helmets to be carried on back of packs. S.B.R. with shortened sling slung round the neck and resting on pack. Mess tin slung from supporting straps at bottom of pack. W.P.sheet to be neatly folded underneath flap of pack. No other gear will be worn slung from any part of the equipment.
8. Administrative Instructions will be issued later.
9. Guides will meet the Battalion at the entrance to FAVRIL.
10. Marching out states will be rendered to Bn. Orderly Room by 0800 tomorrow morning.
11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 30th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 1 - 4 Companies.
- 5 Bde. H.Qrs.
- 6 R.S.M. for Details.
- 7 Q.M. and T.O.
- 8 - 10 War Diary
- 11 File
- 12 M.O.



257  
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

Issued in connection with 30th Bn. Order No. 161.

1. BLANKETS.

Blankets will be carried as follows:-

- "A", "B", & "C" Coys. - on G.S. wagons.
- "D" Coy - on Bn. First Line Transport.
- H.Qrs. - on Motor Lorries.

Units will have blankets rolled in section bundles and stacked in a convenient place for transport to collect same by 0730 sharp.

Sheepskins (packed in bundles) will be stacked with blankets. Loading parties will be made available by Units and two men per company will march behind the G.S. wagon carrying their Units' blankets.

2. OFFICERS VALISES etc.

Officers valises will be collected at 0800. Officers mess gear will be collected at 0830. Orderly Room gear will be collected at 0730. Officers' chargers will report to Unit. H.Qrs. at 0800.

3. COCKERS.

Cooker horses will be delivered to Coy. cockers at 0745 and Unit Commanders will ensure that their cockers are ready to take the road at this hour.

Special attention will be paid to the dress of all cooks, who must be turned out as clean as possible.

Sergt. Cook will arrange for mid-day meal to be prepared immediately on arrival of transport in new area.

4. SUPPLIES *D.M.*

- (a) ~~Units~~ will draw supplies from MAZINGHIEU on morning of 8th.
- (b) Supplies will be drawn from dump in new area at PAVRIL on morning of 9th inst.
- (c) Unexpired portion of dry rations for 8th inst. will be carried on the man.

5. SANITATION.

All billets and billeting area must be left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition. The area will be inspected by the Town Major during the morning.

6. WATER & FUEL.

All water-bottles will be filled, water carts will travel full and cockers will travel with full bunkers.

7-12-1918

*[Signature]*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 30th Battalion A.I.F.

Distribution

Issued to all recipients of Bn. Order No. 161.







ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

Issued in conjunction with 30th Bn. Order No. 162.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.

Brigade

Division

Company

Packs, blankets and steel helmets of all men will be carried by transport. Companies will arrange for the following:-

- (a) All blankets rolled in section bundles and plainly labelled to be stacked near roadside by 0730.
- (b) All packs to be stacked near blankets by 0730.
- (c) Loading parties of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men will be detailed by each Coy.
- (d) A guide from each unit will be sent to Transport Officer by 0715 and guide wagons to Coy. dumps.

Punctuality is imperative, as Bn. transport is moving at head of Brigade column.

Officers' valises will be collected at Unit H.Qrs. at 0730.

Officers' mess gear will be carried in mess cart which will follow column and will be collected at 0830.

Coy. cooks will follow their unit on line of march, and prepare mid-day meal which will be partaken of on Battalion reaching Cross Roads (5.J.78.59.).

A.M.C. cart will move in rear of column.

Officers' chargers will report to Coy. H.Qrs. at 0900.

All billets and areas will be left in a clean and sanitary state.

Rations and Supplies - Unexpired portion of day's dry rations will be carried on the man. Supplies for 19th inst. will be drawn from dump at FAVRIL.

Canteen stores, steel helmets, surplus valises and mess gear will be carried per motor lorry.

Orderly Room gear will be collected at 0800.

Uniformity in dress will be insisted upon. Every member must carry W.P. sheet. Dismounted Officers will wear fighting order. Mounted Officers - Sam Browne Belts.

All cooks will be correctly dressed. Dungaree trousers will be worn.

T.O. will arrange to fill cookers immediately they arrive in New Area.

*W. E. D.*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant 30th Battalion A.I.F.

17-12-1918.

Distribution  
Issued to all recipients of Battalion Order No. 162.

Date of Recommendation	Recommended	Remarks or Honour	To be left (initials)
	By		

Army Form W. 3151



## Appendix 3

The early part of the month was spent in the various staging areas of the move to Winter quarters and on 19th instant the Battalion reached the BEUGNIES - SANS POTERIES Area where it immediately commenced to settle down. The billets are very comfortable, easily the best the unit has had since its arrival in France. It had evidently been used as a rest area by the enemy, for he has left behind him very fine baths, entertainment halls, etc., and needless to say these are being put to the best use by the Unit.

The Battalion was nicely settled down by the time the festive season came round and no effort was spared to make the Christmas and New Year of 1918 - 19. an occasion which would be remembered by all members of the unit, and it can be fairly claimed that the effort succeeded.

The Educational Classes within the unit are now in full swing and they have proved very successful as is evidenced by the fact that there are approximately 200 students attending the classes.

The military training is not overlooked and although the training is not nearly as intensive as in former months, and hour each day and a whole morning each week is being devoted to ceremonial work.

The discipline of this unit continues to be extremely good, and the relations between the inhabitants and our men are of the very best; this good feeling was certainly enhanced by the dance given by the unit, to which all civilians were invited on New Year's Eve. The function was a great success and it is doubtful if a more successful item on the social side has been held in the unit.

The clothing and equipment is in good order, though the usual monthly quota of clothing did not arrive owing to the moving of the bases.

The transport has been called upon to do a good deal of work since its arrival in this area, but nevertheless it is in first class order and condition.

*P. Charlton.*

Major.

Atg. C.O. 30th Battalion A. I. F.

31-12-1918.