

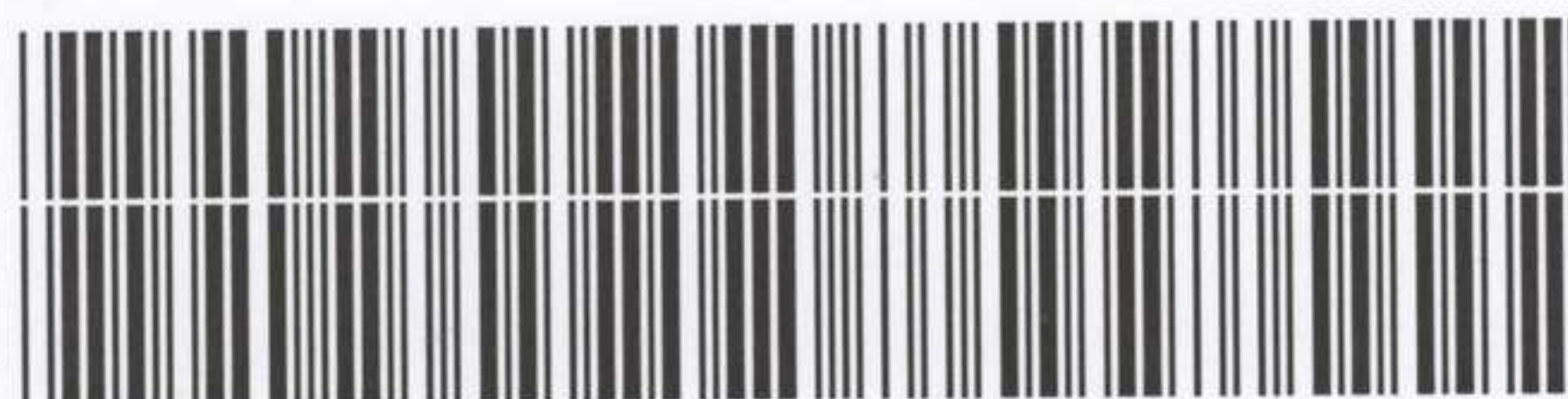
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/47/44

Title: 30th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/47/44

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257

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

WAR DIARY

of
30th Battalion A.I.F.

for

MARCH 1919.

Signature of Officer Compiling

W. Wedd

Signature of C.O.

Sheel Rose

AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

Army Form 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.

No.
Date **MARCH 1919**

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

(Erase heading not required.)

257

Place	Date	Strength XXXX Off	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES AREA	1st	39 502	All units of the Battalion carried out a kit and equipment inspection. C.O. carried out an inspection of billets and found them in a clean and satisfactory state. During the day all Lewis Guns and gear on charge of the Bn. were returned to the D.A.D.O.S railhead at THUILLES. During the night a successful dance was held. Summer time came into force from night of 1st/2nd inst and at 11P.M. all watches were advanced 1 hour.	2 OA. to N19 Employ.
do	2nd	39 502	Sunday. Voluntary church services were held by all denominations. Y.M.C.A. held a Sing Song service at 1800. During the day all S.A.A. on issue to personnel of the Bn. was withdrawn and stacked ready for transport to Corps Ammunition Dump. During afternoon the M.O. carried out a medical inspection of personnel for next embarkation quota.	
do	3rd	39 502	The Battalion was bathed and a clean change of clothing obtained at the Bde Baths BEUGNIES during the morning. In the afternoon a medical board sat on 200 members of the Battalion in accordance with demobilisation instructions. In the evening a Farewell Dance was given to the draft leaving for Australia on the 5th inst. There was a very large attendance and a most successful social event terminated about 0200 in the morning.	
do	4th	39 502	During the morning inspections by platoon Commanders were held from 0900 to 0945. Educational classes were conducted from 1000 to 1200, the remainder of the personnel being employed on fatigues. An inter Coy Rugby Football Mch took place during the afternoon. A draft of 9 horses were sent to the Base HAVRE during the day.	

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30th.
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

WAR DIARY

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No.
MARCH 1919

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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30th Battalion AIF

257

Place	Date	Strength		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
		On	O.R.			
BEUGNIES AREA	5th	38	1150	<p>Embarkation Quota No 20 which consisted of 3 officers and 40 Ors of this unit left the unit enroute for Australia at 0930.</p> <p>During the morning platoon inspections and educational Classes were carried out.</p> <p>The restrictions regarding Cinemas having been removed as from today the Bde Cinema reopened to night and was largely patronised.</p>	<p>Lt V W Diddle & 52 Or. No. 14 Quota</p>	
do	6th	38	1131	<p>During the day definite advice was received that the Bn would be leaving the Area on the 10th inst. Preliminary instructions were issued regarding the prospective move. Bn. transport conveyed a load of Bn Stores to the New Area at YVES-GOMEZEE Belgium. During the night four horses were stolen from the temporary lines established by the transport at THUILLES.</p> <p>During the day platoon inspections and educational classes were conducted.</p>	<p>19 Or. Evacuated</p>	
do	7th	38	1120	<p>A master parade was held by all Coys in Full Marching Order. During this parade a billet inspection was carried out and all salvage clothing and gear collected and returned to Q.M. Store.</p> <p>The M.C. carried out a medical inspection of 30 members for next draft.</p> <p>Preparations for the move on the 10th were continued.</p>	<p>11 Or. N/A Employ.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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30th BATTALION A.I.F.

MARCH 1919

257

Place	Date	Strength MAX Off	O.R.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNIES AREA	8th	38	420	<p>As from noon today the 32nd Battalion was amalgamated with this unit the Bn to be known as the 30th Bn. Owing to the move on the 10th inst. a reorganisation of billets was not made it being decided that the actual joining together as one unit should be deferred until the move, though 32nd came under the orders of the C.O. 30th as from today. The Bn carried out a kit inspection and whilst this was on all billets were scrubbed.</p> <p>During the afternoon a medical board sat on about 150 men of the unit.</p> <p>A farewell dance was given by the 30th Bn to the Villagers and was a pronounced success; the dance concluded at 0200, and there was no doubt the people were very sorry indeed that this would be the last dance they would have with the Australian Soldiers billeted in their area.</p>		
do	9th	38	416	<p>Subday. Voluntary Church Services were held by all denominations. Final preparations were made for the move on the following day.</p> <p>Claims to the extent of 5000 francs were received but on investigation they were all settled for the sum of 680 francs which must be considered very reasonable when the length of stay of the unit in the area was taken into consideration.</p>	1 OR Evac. 3 ✓ NIA Employ.	
SIVRY AREA	10th	107	1026	<p>The Battalion carried out its first stage of march to Sivry in accordance with Bn Order (Appendix 1). The march was carried out in good time and all ranks were settled down in their billets by 1300.</p>	69 officers 610 OR ed 39th Bn	

30th.
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION

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257

No.
Date MARCH 1919

Place	Date	Strength Off	O.R.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE ST GERY	11th	106	1022	<p>The second stage of the march from Sivry to Solre St Gery was carried out in the morning. The march was commenced at 0930 and destination reached 2 hours later, the march being carried out under very pleasant conditions. The billets in this area were not very good but plenty of straw was available and all ranks were thus enabled to make themselves comfortable for the night.</p> <p>In view of the fact that only 12 miles was left to reach our final destination it was decided to ask permission to make one stage of the 3rd and 4th. This was approved and arrangements for the following days march was made accordingly.</p>	<p>1 Officer 4 ORs Evacuated</p>	
YVES-GOMEZEE ARBA	12th	106	1018	<p>Final stage of the march to YVES-GOMEZEE was carried under adverse weather conditions, it raining very heavily during the early part of the march. Good progress was made however and the mid-day meal was partaken of at the entrance to SINENRIEUX. During this halt the Divisional Commander visited all Coys and spoke to the members about matters in general. Yves-Gomezee was reached at 1430 and it was found that the billeting area was hardly as good as expected owing to the fact that a large number of Civilians had returned to their homes during the last week or two.</p> <p>However all ranks were got under cover for the night and no doubt that in a day or two they will be comfortable.</p>	<p>4 OR. N.M. Employ.</p>	

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MARCH 1919

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30th BATTALION A.I.F.

257

Place	Date	Strength Flour Off	O.R.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE AREA	13th	106	1015	<p>The day was spent in settling down in billets. The congestion of the previous night was somewhat relieved, though the billets are certainly far from being as comfortable as those left behind at Beugnies.</p> <p>During the morning the C.O. held a meeting of all officers of the combined Battalions and had a discussion about matters in general. The Div Commander paid a visit to the unit during the morning.</p>	3 CA to Aush.	
do	14th	106	1004	<p>Further reorganisation of billets took place during the day with a result that billets are now more comfortable. The area is very poor as regards sanitary arrangements and recreational halls but it has its advantages in that large supplies of vegetables and wood can be obtained at very cheap rates. The Bde Cinema is already shewing in the only hall available which can accomodate 200 people. No hall for dancing could be found in the area. During the day a pay was issued.</p>	7 CA Evac 1 ✓ Trans 3rd MT Coy 2 ✓ ✓ Corpatt Co 1 ✓ ✓ A.I.P HQ	
do	15th	106	1004	<p>During the morning inspections were carried out by the platoon commanders whilst the C.O. made an inspection of the billets & found them in very fair order.</p> <p>Leave is being granted freely and a large numbers of members are taking the opportunity of visiting their late billeting area at Beugnies and Sars Potheries.</p> <p>Fatigues parties were employed during the morning in obtaining supplies of wood and vegetables.</p>		

30th.
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INFANTRY BATTALION

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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No.....
MARCH 1919

257

Place	Date	Strength Off	O.R	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
VYES-GOMEZEE AREA	16th	106	1002	<p>Subday, Voluntary church parades were held by all denominations. To day a large party proceeded to U.K. for N.M. employment; a large number of these applications are now being granted consequently the strength of the Bn is being considerably effected by them.</p>	2 ORs Evac	
do	17th	106	1001	<p>Inspections by platoon commanders were carried out by platoons in the morning whilst the C.O. carried out another billet inspection. In the morning a party of 50 left for Sivry to take part in the Div Rifle meeting on the following day. This party included a platoon to take part in A.R.A. competition. The platoon was selected at short notice from all coys and as it has had no opportunity for practice it is not expected to make a 1st class shewing. During the morning a party of 2 off. and 26 O.Rs proceeded by Motorberry on a conducted tour of Brussels</p>	1 OR AIF HQ	
do	18th	106	1001	<p>During the morning a bathing parade and clean change of clothes was held for the whole of the Bn at the Bdd Baths at Yves. During the morning Mr Crawford Vaughan (ex Premier of S.A.) gave a lecture in the Cinema hall in relations between Great Britain and America. A Very instructive and interesting discourse was given by this gentleman and the lecture was listened to with keen appreciation by all present.</p>		
do	19th	106	1001	<p>The balance of the Bn was bathed during the morning During the afternoon a medical board and 150 members of the unit. went before it. During the morning platoon inspections were held.</p>		

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257

30TH.
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION
No.....
DATE
MARCH 1919

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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30th BATTALION A. I. F.

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Place	Date	Strength		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Hours	O.R.			
YVES-GOMEZEE Area	20th	100	99	As from 1200 today the 8th Bde is reorganised into one Bn, the 31st coming into the 30th and the whole Bn being known as the 8th Bde Bn under the command of Lieut-Colonel F Street D.S.O. 29th Bn to be known as A Coy, 30th Bn as B Coy, 31st Bn as C Coy, and 32nd Bn as D Coy. During the morning platoon inspections were carried out. A draft of 15 horses were sent away to the base.	6 officers & 9 OR to N.M. Employ 2 OR Evac.	
do	21st	142	1509	During notification was received that the next embarkation quota from the Bde would comprise 373 All Ranks and would concentrate at the Reinf Wing on 31st inst. During the morning platoon inspections were carried out. Progress was made with reorganisation of the Bn.	142 officers & 373 OR to 31st Bn	
do	22nd	142	1509	During the day a muster parade was held by all units and 3 absentees were found. A billet inspection was carried out. During the day a wire was received cancelling all train movements owing to the threatened strikes in England this order held up the departure of several members for U.K. on N.M. employment.		
do	23rd	142	1509	Subday. Voluntary church parades were by all denominations.		
do	24th	140	1453	During the morning platoon inspections were held by all units. During the day notice was received that the restriction on railway travelling had been removed consequently preparations for the departure of the next embarkation were pushed on with. During the morning 1 off and 58 O.Rs proceeded to Reinf. wing for duty with the Aust Burials Detachment.	1 off & 58 OR to Burial Det Capt J D Drayton to Corps Reinf Wing	

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(10340) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.

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MARCH 1919

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30th Battalion A.I.F

257

Place	Date	Strength Off	C.R.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE AREA	25th	140	1453	<p>During the morning platoon inspections were held and a billet inspections was held by the C.O. A draft of 20 horses were sent to Cerfontain for sale.</p> <p>5th Div Concert Party gave the 1st performance in the Cinema Hall.</p>	SW	
do	26th	125	1444	<p>Under Bde Orders muster parades were held by all Coys and only one absentee was found.</p> <p>Div Concert Party gave another performance during the evening with a very large attendance. Pay was distributed during the day.</p>	SW	15 Officers Transport Duty 9 O/N N/M Employ.
do	27th	120	1442	<p>A Medical board was held at 1000 and put through about 150 members of the Bn.</p> <p>During the day the Bn was bathed and a clean change of clothes supplied at the Bde Baths.</p> <p>At 1030 Mr W.S. Cormack Publicity Officer of N.S. W. gave a very fine lecture to the Bn. in the Cinema hall. The lecture was most instructive and the information he gave regarding the work of the repatriation department will certainly prove of great value to soldiers in France.</p> <p>Arrangements were made for the holding of a Sweep Stake on the Grand National Steeplechase taking place on the 28th inst. Over 700 tickets were purchased at 1 frank each and the allotment of prizes and draw took place before representatives of all units.</p>	SW	5 Officers N/M Employ. 202 Evac.

INFANTRY BATTALION
 No
 Date

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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257

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Place	Date	Strength Off	O.R.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE AREA	28th	120	1440	During the morning the remainder of the Bn was put through the Bde Baths. Other units had their platoon inspections. 14 Officers proceeded to U.K. for duty on transports to Australia.	<i>plw</i> 1 OR Disc USA 1 OR ER	
do	29th	120	1440	During the morning platoon inspections were held by all units. Parades of all personnel proceeding on next embarkation quota were held by all Coys when they received full instructions regarding their movements.	<i>plw</i> 4 OR ecc Burnal Py	
do	30th	118	1440	Sunday. Voluntary church parades were held by all denominations. Final preparations for the move of the embarkation quota were made and advice was received during the morning that the quota would not leave until the 2nd April and would leave from Charleroi on the following day.	<i>plw</i> 2 officers & 4 OR N M Employ	
do	31st	118	1440	Platoon inspections were held by all units in the morning. During the day advice was received that the Bn would move from Yves-Gomezee to Marcinelle Area on the 2nd April, the same day as the draft would leave. An advance party of 1 off and 5 NC.Os was sent to the new area during the day. Preparations were made for the move which was to be carried out in 2 stages.	<i>plw</i>	

257

WAR DIARY.

of

30th Battalion A.I.F.

for

MARCH 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

NO.

SUBJECT.

-
- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 30th Bn order 163 |
| 2 | C.O.'s Report |

30th BATTALION ORDER No. 163.

BEAUMONT 6, 8, & 12. 1/100000
REFERENCE - NAMUR 1/100000

7th March 1919.

1. The Western Boundary of the Divisional Area will be the Franco-Belgian frontier as from 15th March 1919.
2. The 8th Brigade will take over a new area including the village of YVES GOMEEZE (Sheet NAMUR 4.F.90.90.) where 30th Battalion will be billeted.
3. The 8th Brigade will move in two groups. Bde. H.Qrs., 8th A.L.T.I. and 31st Bn. comprising the first group and 30th and 32nd Bns. forming the second group.
4. The staging places to the new area will be SIVRY, SOIRE-St-GENY and SILENRIEU.
5. The 30th and 32nd Battalions will march as one Battalion under Major P. Charlton R.C. 30th Battalion will move as two Coys. H.Qrs. details will be attached to "A" Coy. for the entire move. 32nd Bn. will move as two Coys.
6. For the move only the four Companies will be known as follows:-
 "A" Coy. 30th Bn. - No.1 Coy. "A" Coy. 32nd Bn. - No.3. Coy.
 "B" Coy. 30th Bn. - No.2 Coy. "B" Coy. 32nd Bn. - No.4 Coy.
7. Move will take place in accordance with attached march table.
8. Order of march for each stage will be:-

<u>1st Stage</u>	-	No.1 Coy.,	No.2 Coy.,	No.3 Coy.,	No.4 Coy.
<u>2nd Stage</u>	-	No.4 "	No.3 "	No.2 "	No.1 "
<u>3rd Stage</u>	-	No.2 "	No.1 "	No.4 "	No.3 "
<u>4th Stage</u>	-	No.3 "	No.4 "	No.1 "	No.2 "
9. Strict march discipline will be maintained throughout the march. Ten paces distance will be maintained between Companies.
10. Dress - Fighting order, haversacks to be worn on back, waterproof sheet carried under flap of haversack and mess tins hung from the strap. No surplus gear, mugs, etc., will be hung from the equipment. All gear must be carried in haversack. Uniformity of dress must be insisted upon.
11. Orders re movement of wheeled transport and cookers will be issued later.
12. Administrative details will be issued separately by H.Qrs. 30th and 32nd Bns.

W. E. Dadd
 Adjutant 30th Battalion L. I.

Distribution

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Copy No.1 | No.1 Coy. |
| 2 | No.2 Coy. |
| 3 | No.3 Coy. |
| 4 | No.4 Coy. |
| 5 | H.Q. 32nd Bn. |
| 6 | H.C. & Q.M. 30th Bn. |
| 7 | H.C. 30th Bn. |
| 8 | H.S.I. |
| 9 | - 11 War Diary |
| 12 | Bde H.Q. |
| 13 | File. |

MARCH TABLE ISSUED WITH 30th Battalion Order No.163.

Serial No.	Date	Starting Point	Time	Route	Staging Place.
5	10-3-19.	Grater, Cross roads FELLERIES - SANS POTERIES and BEUGNIES - SOLRE LE CHATEAU ROADS.	0900	SOLRE LE CHATEAU BEAURIEUX ↓ SIVRY.	SIVRY
6	11-3-19.	JUNCTION OF SIVRY - SIVRY STATION & BEAUMONT - RANGE Roads.	1030	SIVRY - S.P. - GROSS ROADS near 36 K.M. Post - SOLRE ST GERY.	SOLRE ST GERY.
7	12-3-19.	Road bend at top of 'L' in 'SOLRE ST GERY.	0930	SOLRE ST GERY - BARBENCON - BOESSA LEZ WALCOURT - SILENRIEUX	SILENRIEUX
8	13-3-19.	CROSS ROADS BATTEFER-NAZARETH & SILENRIEUX - PHILLIPVILLE Roads.	0930	SILENRIEUX - BAUSSOIS - YVES-GOMEZEE.	

257

C.O.'s Report.

The progress of the Demobilisation of the A.I.F. has necessitated the move of the unit from its winter quarters nearer to the Railhead from which the A.I.F. is being despatched to the Bases, and the end of the month brings another move still nearer to that Railhead.

The move from the BEUGNIES area was not a popular one either with the soldiers or the civilians, who had got on so well together during the twelve weeks stay of the Battalion in the area, and it was with deep regret on both sides that the unit left the area on the 10th of the month.

Our stay in the YVES GOMEZEE has not been long enough to permit of the same friendly feelings being attained between the villagers and the troops, so that this next move is being looked forward to by all ranks.

The progress of Demobilisation has also brought about the amalgamation of all battalions of the Brigade into one Battalion under the name of the 8th Brigade Battalion, and the combined strength of all the Units after the next Embarkation Quota leaves will just be over a full strength Battalion; however 40% of this personnel are away from the Unit on detached duties, but the full number will pass through the Bn for demobilisation.

Considerable inroads have been made into the animal establishment of the Unit, and at the present time only 15 animals are left on charge, whilst practically all the vehicles are to be returned to D.A.D.O.S. before the next move.

The departure of all the older members of the Bns have had its effect in many ways on the discipline, turnout and general conduct of the Unit, but from present appearances it should not be long before most of the unit is on its way to AUSTRALIA.



Lieut Colonel,

Commanding 30th Battalion A.I.F.

31/3/19