

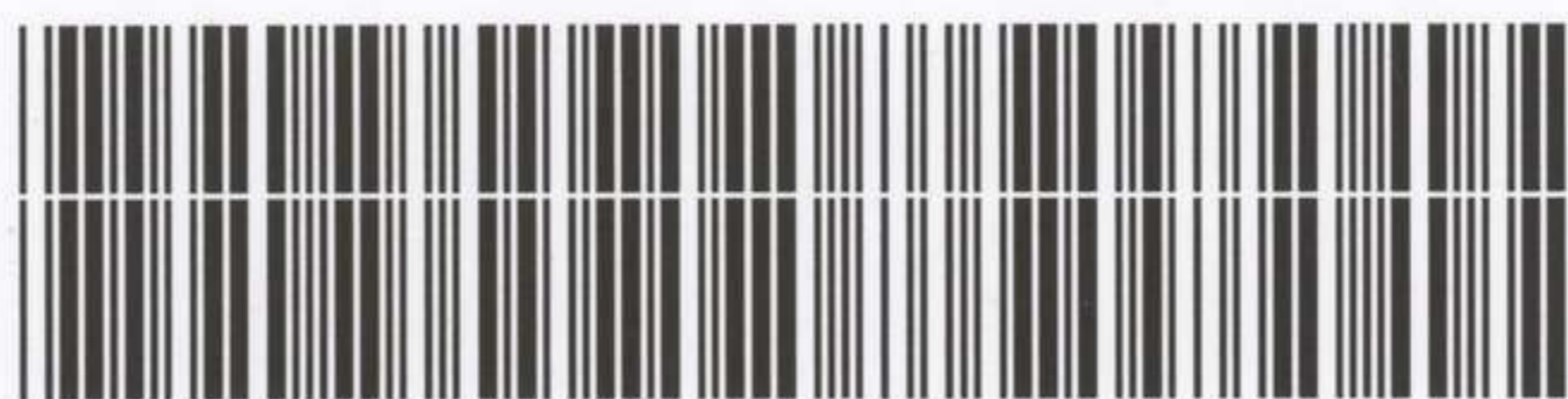
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/72/36

**Title:** 55th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/72/36

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

55TH BATTALION, A.I.F.
No. ....
Date.....

A U S T R A L I A N   I M P E R I A L   F O R C E .

W A R   D I A R Y   -   V O L . 3 6 .


of

55th. B A T T A L I O N .


for

F E B R U A R Y   1 9 1 9 .

Signature of Officer Compiling:

  
.....Lieut.  
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding:

  
.....Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding 55th. 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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place BELGIUM.	Date 1919.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RANCE.	Feb.	1.	The morning was devoted to a muster parade by Companies for inspection by the C.O. Owing to a very heavy fall of snow during the morning, only H.Qrs. details and "A" Coy. were inspected. No Education classes were held as the new buildings are not ready. Sports were carried on during the afternoon, afterwards snowballing.	
	Feb.	2.	Church Parades for all denominations were held during the morning, which turned out very dull. Weather improved during the afternoon making sports possible. During the evening a most successful dance was held in the Communal Hall. Brig.General J.C.Stewart, CMG, DSO., G.O.C. 14th. A.I.Bde. and Lt.Col. J.McColl, G.S.O.I. 5th. Aust. Div. visited the Bn. area this morning. A veterinary board inspected all the Bn. horses for ophthalmia during the day.	
	Feb.	3.	The Bn. Education Scheme was restarted in the new rooms in "D" Coys billets this morning. Classes conducted were Arithmetic I & II, Bookkeeping, Latin, Arithmetic III; during the evening the 6th. Lecture in the Officers' English Course was delivered in the Education <del>Stax</del> Rooms - Subject: Shakespeare & Milton. During the morning "B", "C" & "D" Coys. were inspected by the C.O.	
	Feb.	4.	Weather still very cold, with plenty of snow on the ground. The usual morning inspections <del>by the</del> were held for "C" & "D" Coys. "A" & "B" Coys were inspected by the Medical Officer during the morning. Education classes in the following subjects were on the syllabus for the day: Stock-breeding, Shorthand, French, Dairying, Algebra & Latin. A Study Circle was held during the evening.	
	Feb.	5.	The R.M.O. inspected "C" & "D" Coys. in their billets this morning. On the inspections <del>of</del> of to-day and yesterday by the R.M.O. no cases of concealment of Venereal Disease were found. Training as usual for "A" & "B" Coys. was carried out. The following Education Classes were held during the day: English, Trigonometry, French, and Arithmetic I & II. Sports were continued during the afternoon. The weather is very cold. The Divisional Cinema arrived to-day and will give 2 performances daily until the 9th. Inst.	
	Feb.	6.	Training was carried out as usual during the morning, which was very cold and dull. Stock-breeding, Shorthand, Latin, Fruitgrowing & Arithmetic were the subjects at the Education Classes during the morning. Running and Football matches were carried out during the afternoon.	
	Feb.	7.	The weather improved during the day with snatches of sunshine. A Court of Enquiry was held	

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**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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Place BELGIUM.	Date	Hour 1919.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RANCE.	Feb.	7	<p>(Continued). during the morning for the purpose of enquiring into the collapse of a portion of "B" Coy's billet. Education Classes in the following subjects were held during the morning: English Literature, Latin, Bookkeeping, Algebra. During the evening a further class for Officers was held in English Literature. A Study Circle was also held.</p>	
	Feb.	8.	<p>The weather continues to improve and is becoming warmer. Indications of a general thaw are evident and skating has ceased on the ponds near the Village owing to the danger of breaking through the ice. Training as usual was carried out during the morning. Classes in the following subjects were held: English, Trigonometry, Geonometry, Arithmetic, Shorthand.</p>	
	Feb.	9.	<p>Church Services were held for all Protestant Denominations in the Communal Hall and for Roman Catholics in the Church. Weather was mild with occasional sunny half-hours. Sport was carried out during the afternoon and a dance during the evening. The Divisional Cinema which has been with the Battalion for the last 4 days has been much enjoyed by all ranks.</p>	
	Feb.	10.	<p>A fresh series of Education Classes commence for the forthcoming week. To-days subjects are: Dairying, French, English Literature, Fruit-growing and Arithmetic. Training as usual was carried out during the morning. Weather was normal and sport and recreation were carried out during the afternoon.</p>	
	Feb.	11.	<p>Weather turned out dull with indications of rain. Training as usual was carried out. Following Classes were held during the morning: Stock-breeding, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Latin, Algebra &amp; French. A Study Circle was held during the evening. A Dance was held in the Communal Hall at night.</p>	
	Feb.	12.	<p>Weather turned out fine to-day. Education Classes as follows were held: English, Trigonometry, Geonometry, Wheat-growing, Arithmetic and Latin. Inter-Company football matches, both Rugby and Soccer were played during the afternoon.</p>	
	Feb.	13.	<p>Slight rain fell to-day. Training as usual was carried out during the morning. Arithmetic, Shorthand, French, Dairying, and Fruitgrowing formed the subjects at the Education Classes. Running between Company teams took place during the afternoon.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELGIUM.		1919.		
RANCE.	Feb.	14.	Weather very dull with slight rain. Training as usual this morning. Education Classes as under were held: English Literature, Latin, Bookkeeping, Algebra. A Study Circle was held during the evening.	
	Feb.	15.	All blankets in the Battalion were disinfected this morning in the Foden Wagon. This was badly needed. Classes in the following subjects were held: English, Shorthand, Trigonometry, Geonometry, French, Wheatgrowing & Arithmetic. Running was continued during the afternoon. The G.O.C. 14th. A.I.Bde. Brig.Gen. J.C.Stewart, C.M.G., D.S.O. and Staff, together with the Commanding Officer and Staff of the 6th. Battalion Chasseurs Alpine Regiment, which is stationed at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU were entertained at Dinner by the Commanding Officer this evening, after which an Officers' Dance was held, the same proving a great success.	
	Feb.	16.	The day turned out very dull with slight rain. Owing to rain during the last week, complete thaw has taken place. Roads are very muddy and slippery. Church Parades for all Denominations were held during the day. During the evening a dance was held in the Communal Hall.	
	Feb.	17.	A fresh series of Classes commences this week. Subjects for to-day are: French, Dairying, Stock, Shorthand, Trigonometry, Fruitgrowing and English. During the evening a most successful Boxing Tournament was held in the Communal Hall. In all, 8 bouts of three 2-minute rounds were staged. The evening was very popular owing to high class of Boxers engaged.	
	Feb.	18	To-day turned out very dull with occasional showers. Usual training and inspections were carried out. Classes in the following subjects were held: Arithmetic, Latin, Bookkeeping, Algebra. A Study Circle was held during the evening.	
	Feb.	19.	The C.O. and Adjutant attended a Conference at Brigade Headquarters. The subject for discussion being Demobilisation and handing in of Mobilisation Stores. Weather was dull. During the afternoon the Band of the 6th. Bn. Chausers Alpine Regt. of the famous 66th. French Division, visited the Bn. area, and played a programme of their Regimental and other music. When the Band arrived a hot meal was provided. After the programme the French bandsmen fraternised freely with our men, who did all possible to make their visit an enjoyable one. During the evening a dance was held in honour of the visiting Band. Classes were held in the following subjects to-day: English, Poultry-keeping, Shorthand, Wool-classing, Geometry and Arithmetic.	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(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.

Place BELGIUM. RANCE.	Date	Hour 1919.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Feb.	20.	Light rain fell during the morning, but the afternoon turned out fine. The usual morning training was carried out. The following classes were held: Algebra, Stock-breeding, Latin, Trigonometry, French, Football and Recreational Training were held during the afternoon and a Dance at night.	
	Feb.	21	Orders were received from 14th. A.I.Bde. that the 53rd. Battalion would move to RANCE and that the 55th. Bn. would allot the 53rd. Bn. sufficient billets for their accommodation. The move was to be complete by the 26th. Inst. The Bn. Order No.154 (Appendix 1 attached) was issued to all concerned. Classes in the following subjects were held: English Literature, Shorthand, Latin, Bookkeeping & Algebra. During the evening a Study Circle was held. Commencing from to-day the Battalion will be on a 2 Coy. basis for administration etc.	App.1.
	Feb.	22.	Personnel for No.14 Quota, which will be proceeding shortly <del>will be</del> were examined by the R.M.O. The usual morning inspections were held, also the following classes: English, Poultry, Trigonometry, French, Geonometry and Arithmetic. The weather was dull with slight rain, which prevented the sports being held during the afternoon.	
	Feb.	23.	Church Parades were held during the morning for all Denominations. Weather turned out very fine. A Dance was held during the evening in the Communal Hall.	
	Feb.	24.	The C.O., the 2nd. in Command and all Coy. Commanders attended at Bde. Headquarters at SIVRY, to meet the G.O.C. A.I.F., Gen. Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD etc. The usual inspections and Parades were held during the morning also the following classes: French, Dairying, Stock-breeding, Shorthand, Trigonometry and English. A Rugby Match took place between "A" & "B" Coys. during the afternoon. At night a Euchre party and Quoit Tournament were held. Advance parties from 53rd. Bn. reported early this morning, and were shown over the area allotted to them. Orders were received from Brigade that all Mobilisation Stores on charge to the Battalion would be handed in to D.A.D.O.S. at THUILLIES on 26th. Inst.	
	Feb.	25.	All men who have not been inoculated during the last 12 months were inoculated by the R.M.O. this morning. Classes as follows were held: Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Woolclassing and Latin. The weather turned out wet. During the evening the Study Circle assembled in the Education Rooms. Notification was received to-day that owing to the prevalent epidemic, influenza, all dances, concerts etc. would be forbidden until after the 1st. of March.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

## WAR DIARY

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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.

Place BELGIUM.	Date	Hour 1919.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RANCE	Feb.	26.	<p>At 0800 this morning all Mobilisation Stores on charge to the Battalion were returned to D.A.D.O.S. at THUILLIES. The R.Q.M. and T.O. accompanied the stores, for which a clean receipt in full was obtained. In future all rations will be drawn for the Battalion by the 53rd. Bn. who will also supply 2 Cookers and all Transport required. Weather was dull with slight rain. Classes as follows were held: Algebra, Arithmetic, Stock, French and Latin. The 53rd. Bn. moved in to their portion of the Village to-day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A.M.</p>	
	Feb.	27.	<p>Personnel for No.14 Quota were examined by a Medical Board from Division this morning. Classes as follows were held: Algebra, Arithmetic, Stock-breeding, Trigonometry, French &amp; Latin. To-day a Sale of "Z" Class horses and mares was held, resulting in 54 animals being sold, including 4 horses from this Battalion. The day turned out very wet.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A.M.</p>	
	Feb.	28.	<p>The last day of the month turned out fine and sunny. The usual training was carried out during the morning, and the following classes were held: English Literature, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Latin and Algebra. A Study Circle assembled at the Education Rooms at night.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000-----</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A.M.</p>	

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WAR                      DIARY.

55th. Battalion, A.I.F. - February 1919.

List of Appendices.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
1.	55th. Battalion Order No.154.
2.	Recreational Training Memo for week ending 18.2.19.
3.	Summary of States showing Daily Strength etc.
4.	Medical Officer's Report.
5.	Transport Officer's Report.
6.	Quartermasters Report.

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55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 154.

Headquarters,  
21.2.19.

1. The 55th Battalion will amalgamate on to a two Company basis immediately and will absorb the 14th L.T.M.Bty. Moves as shown in para 3 hereunder will take place on 22nd inst.
2. A Company will amalgamate with B Company and will be known as "A/B" Company. O.C. - Captain C.E. SHAW. C Company will amalgamate with D Company and will be known as "C/D" Company. O.C. - Captain K.H. BROCK. The 14th L.T.M.B. will be absorbed into "C/D" Coy.
3. A Company will vacate present billets and move to Billet No 27 (near Transport Lines). C Company will move to D Coy's Billets. 14th L.T.M.B. will occupy Billet No 93, Grand Rue. Battalion Band and Guard will move to billets to be notified later.
4. Cooker at B Company will cook in future for "A/B" Coy. Cooker at D Company will cook in future for "C/D" Coy. Cookers of A & C Coys will be completely refitted and withdrawn to Transport Lines.
5. In amalgamated Companies all original Coy Records will be kept separate, also for future administrative work.
6. Billets vacated will be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Orderly Officer for 23rd inst will inspect same and will submit a report to B.O.R. by noon that day.

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7. Certificates that move has been completed will  
rendored to B.O.R. by 1800 on 22nd inst.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Miller*

Lieut

Adjutant 55th Battalion,

Issued at 2015 h. to:-

- C.O. 55th Battalion. 1.
- O.C. "A" Company. 2.
- " "B" do 3.
- " "C" do 4.
- " "D" do 5.
- Signal Officer. 6.
- R.Q.M. 7.
- Transport Officer. 8.
- O.C. 14th L.T.M.B. 9.
- War Diary. 10 to 12.
- File. 13.

Copy to: H.Q. 14th A.I.Bde. 14.

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55th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Recreational Training for Week ending 18.2.19.

OUTDOOR.

	<u>Rugby.</u>	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>Running.</u>
Wed. 12.2.19	A. v C.	B. v D.	-
Fri. 14.2.19	-	-	A.v C. 1430. B.v D. 1435
Mon. 17.2.19	B. v D.	A. v C.	-

INDOOR.

Tues. 11.2.19.	Dance. A.& B. Coys., LTMB and Transport.
Wed. 12.2.19.	-
Thur. 13.2.19.	Dance. C.& D. Coys. & Hqrs.
Fri. 14.2.19	Debate.
Sat. 15.2.19	-
Sun. 16.2.19	Dance.
Mon. 17.2.19	Boxing.

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Summary of States, showing Daily strength, casualties etc.  
for Month of February, 1919.

Date	Daily strength		Reinfts. joined		Sick to Hospital	Marched out for Demobilisation	
	Off.	Mr.	off.	opr.		Off.	opr.
1.	38	461		40			
2.	38	468		7	2		7
3.	38	467					1
4.	39	465	1				1
5.	39	463			1		
6.	39	466		4			1
7.	39	466					
8.	39	465		1	1		
9.	39	462					
10.	39	462					
11.	39	464		2			
12.	39	464					
13.	39	465		1			
14.	39	465			1		
15.	40	465	1				
16.	40	465					
17.	40	463					
18.	41	464	1	1			
19.	37	463					
20.	38	463	1		1		
21.	38	462					
22.	38	460			2		
23.	39	498	2	38	1		
24.	40	498	1		1		
25.	40	498			1		
26.	40	501		3			
27.	40	504		5	1		
28.	39	501			1		
-	39	501	7	102	13		3

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY 1919.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The health of the troops for the month of February has been very good. Although the Influenza is so prevalent, only 14 cases have occurred in the Battalion. Eleven of these were treated in the Battalion and cured after from 3 to 5 days. The other 3 had to be evacuated, but were quickly cured.

Only 5 cases of Venereal Disease were reported during the month.

Sport, so generally carried on, is the main safeguard against Influenza and other ~~ga~~ diseases.

(Sgd) W.F.LIGGINS, Capt.  
R.M.O. 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

55th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY 1919.

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TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT.

ANIMALS. On the 27th. Inst. 4 "Z" Class animals were sold by Public Auction in the Village, for 1650, 950, 850 & 1225 francs respectively. This brings the Strength of animals down to 44.

The animals are all in good condition and should put on heavy condition with the breaking of the frosts.

No animals are on the sick line.

Equipment etc. All Transport equipment was handed in to D.A.D.O.S. on the 26th. Inst. at THUILLIES. Before carrying this out 2 travelling kitchens were exchanged with the 53th. Battalion, and 2 with the 56th. Battalion. Eight limbers were also exchanged with the 53rd. Battalion.

WORK. The work for the month has been constant but not excessive, which accounts for the good condition of the animals.

FEED. Satisfactory except that a large quantity of straw is still being substituted for hay.

INSPECTIONS, etc. No inspections have been made during the month. Capt. LUKIE malined the last batch of animals at the beginning of the month.

(Sgd) R.A.B.PEAKE, Lieut.  
T.O. 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

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55th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY 1919.

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QUARTERMASERS REPORT.

RATIONS. Rations as drawn from the A.S.C. continue to maintain a high standard. The percentage of fresh meat and bread has been good.

FOOD. The cooks have done excellent work in preparing food of a high standard and good variety.

ORDNANCE STORES. All demands for stores have been supplied punctually.

CLOTHING. During the month 60 sets of clothing have been issued and when last inspected all clothing was in good condition.

BOOTS. All unserviceable boots have been replaced, and 70 pairs of boots have been repaired.

BATHS. During the month 1200 sets of new underclothing have been exchanged at the Baths.

MOB. STORES. All Mobilisation Stores on charge to the Battalion were handed in to D.A.D.O.S. at THUILLIES on 26th. Inst. and a clean receipt obtained in full.

COMFORTS. The following Comforts have been received from the A.I.F. Comforts Fund:-

Cocoa & Milk	20 cases
Sugar	2 bags
Sardines	2 cases
Fruit	2 "
Boxing Gloves	2 sets
Punching Ball	1
Soup Powders	2 cases
Curry Powders	1 "
Cake	2 "
Milk	4 "
Oatmeal	1 "
Cigarettes	1 "
Quoits	6 sets
Footballs	4

(Sgd) C.B.GOW, Capt.  
Q.M. 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.