

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/68/37

Title: 51st Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/68/37

Original

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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WAR DIARY.

of

51st. BATTALION. A. I. F.

for

MARCH, 1919.

R Christie Lieut Col
b.O. 51 of Battalion

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.)

March 1919

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUVIGNES	1st	"	Clear sunny day, Rifle Competitions, Continued, Summer time came into operation at midnight, time put forward 1 hour.	re
"	2nd	"	Weather fine, Battalion Church Parade held in Factory used as Recreational Rooms.	re
"	3rd	"	Dull Cloudy day 3 Officers (Lieuts, E. J. WARREN, M. C. CROCKER M.C. & W. E. BUTCHER M.M.) + 14 ranks marched out for Australia, Repatriation, Educational Classes Battalion Rifle Competitions Completed, list of prize winners is attached marked I	I re
"	4th	"	Bold dull day, only work carried was Educational Classes & daily duties	re
"	5th	"	Wet day, work as for 4th.	re
"	6th	"	Wet day 4th Aust Donk horse sale held at DINANT, 6 mules on charge to the Battalion were sold, Educational Classes	re
"	7th	"	Bold wet day, Educational Classes & preparations carried out for move to LE ROUX Area.	re
"	8th	"	bloudy cold day, Battalion commenced the move to LE ROUX & marched to DENEÉ arriving 3 P.M. men comfortably billeted copy of Battalion order no 101 & Educational Report for week ending 8/3/19 are attached & marked II + III	II III re
DENEÉ	9th	"	Cold cloudy day, Battalion marched to LE ROUX arriving at 3-15 P.M. Copy of Battalion order no 102 is attached & marked IV	IV re
LE ROUX	10th	"	The village extends over a wide area & consequently the billets are scattered all ranks are comfortable. The surrounding country is undulating & there are numerous grounds available for football & Recreational Exercise. Fine sunny day, the day was spent in cleaning up & making billets more comfortable.	re

WAR DIARY

Army Form U. 118.

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OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March LE ROUX	1919 11 th		owing to the extraordinary large number of "Claims" incurred by the Battalion whilst stationed at BOUVIGNES, & in order to avoid place the responsibility & to avoid unnecessary claims a Batta Claims Commission was appointed with instructions as are shown in Company Circular Memo No 32, copy attached, marked V	V R
"	"	"	Weather fine, Inspection of Clothing Arms & Equipment & Recreational training carried out	
"	12 th	"	works as for 11 th weather fine,	
"	13 th	"	Weather fine Close order drill & Recreational Exercises for 2 hours C.O. Lieut Col R Christie proceeded on 14 days leave, Major N. P. Owen M.C. took over command during his absence.	
"	14 th	"	Fine sunny day, Recreational Exercises.	
"	15 th	"	Bright sunny day, & Batta Horses disposed of at Sale CHARLEROI. Copy of Daily Strength Returns & Education Report are attached & marked VI & VII.	VI, VII R
"	16 th	"	Cold dull day, light fall of snow. Church parade with 49 th Batta at VITRIVAL	
"	17 th	"	Wet day with some snow. Conference of Battalion Commanders held at 13 th Bde H.Q. to discuss amalgamation of 50 th , 51 st Batta it was decided that this amalgamation take place on 19 th March. Battalion Educational Classes were resumed. A very interesting lecture on "England & America" was given at 50 th Bn H.Q. by Mr. Crawford Vaughan, 6 officers & 100 of ranks attended	
"	18 th	"	Cold wet day, A.B & C.D. Coys were also amalgamated to be administered as 1 Coy. Capt J R Chanter officer Commanding. Copy of last Battalion Routine Order before amalgamation with 50 th Bn is attached & marked VIII	VIII
"	19 th	"	Weather fine, also Amalgamation of 50 th , 51 st Battalions to be known as "A" Batta details of amalgamation are contained in copy of Batta Routine Order No 1 which is attached & marked IX All Lewis Guns, Equipment & spare parts returned to D.A.D.O.S 4 th Aust Divn.	IX

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 1118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March 1919			No 3 Coy (50 th Bn) remain in present location at SART EUSTACHE.	
LE ROUX	20 th	"	Weather fine, Recreational Exercises, Designation of the amalgamated Battalion changed from "A" Battalion & to be known as 50 th /51 st Battalion, Copy of Battalion Routine Order No 2 showing change, is attached & marked X	X
"	21 st	"	Weather fine, Educational Classes, usual Recreational & Disciplinary parades held. Football match Aust Rules No 3 Coy. v. No 4 Coy. was No 3 Coy won by 43 points.	
"	22 nd	"	Weather fine, Major N.P. OWEN, M.C. left to take over transport duty to Australia. Command taken by Major W.M. FOWLER M.C. (50 th Bn) Lieut F.M. WHAMOND left the Battalion for discharge in England.	XI
"	23 rd	"	Copy of Education Report attached & marked X1. Fine sunny day. Church Parade No 3 & 4 Coy held in village square LE ROUX	
"	24 th	"	a very wet day, Educational classes only work carried out, I.N.C.O. 13 of ranks who volunteered for duty with Aust Corps Burial party marched out to form same.	
"	25 th	"	Another wet day, a programme of sports arranged for this day had to be postponed owing to rain.	
"	26 th	"	Weather showery with some snow, Lecture given by Mr SHARPE of VICTORIA on facilities offered to returned soldiers some useful & interesting matter was explained at this lecture	
"	27 th	"	Snow fell at intervals all day, Education Classes, Battalion sports again postponed.	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March LE ROUX.	19 ¹⁹ 28 th	"	a wet day with several heavy falls of snow. C.O. Lieut Col Christie returned to Battalion from leave.	
"	29 th	"	Snow fell heavily all day. Lieuts R. A. WOOD & E. F. HARRIS left the Bn for transport duty to Australia. Copy of Education Report for week is attached, marked XII	XII
"	30 th	"	Weather fine & cold. 6 officers (Capt J. R. C. B. CHANTER, Lieuts, E. WICKS M.C., M.M., L. H. BIBBY, N. F. TIMBURY, E. A. WALKER & R. J. EVAN) & 95 of ranks marched out with No 25 quota en route to Australia, Church Parade in Recreation Hut LE ROUX for No 3 & 4 Coys. 11-15 AM.	
"	31 st	"	Weather bright & fine. 49 th Battalion amalgamated with 50/51 was amalgamated Battalion to be known as 49/50/51, Bn. No 3 Coy 49 th Bn forming No 1 & 2 Coys No 3 Coy (50 th Bn) moved from SART EUSTACHE to LE ROUX, Copy of 49/50/51 Bn Order No 1 is attached & marked XIII	XIII
			Copy of Daily Strength Return (51 st Bn) is attached marked XIV	XIV
			Hospital evacuations for month " " " XV	XV
			On the 8 th March 1919 when the Battalion marched out of BOUVIGNES the inhabitants gave its members a touching farewell. Many of the men had made numerous friends during their stay of nearly three months & were sorry at having to move. Numbers of applications for leave to visit BOUVIGNES have been granted since the Bn has been stationed at LE ROUX.	
			Prior to leaving BOUVIGNES the Bde Commander received a tribute to the members of 51 st Battalion for their behaviour during their stay in that place. This was signed by the Burgomaster, 10 of the members of the "Administrative Communal" & 152 townsfolk Copy is attached here & marked XVI	XVI

Christie Lieut Col
Commanding 51st Battalion

51st. BATTALION, A.I.F.WAR DIARY.for MARCH, 1919.List of Appendices.

1. List of prize winners Rifle Competition,
2. Battalion Order. No. 101.
3. Educational Report week ending, 8-3-19.
4. Battalion Order. No. 102.
5. Company Circular Memo. 32. (Claims Commission)
6. Daily Strength Return. 15/3/19.
7. Educational Report week ending, 15/3/19.
8. Last Battalion Routine Order. (51st. Battalion)
9. Amalgamated Battalion Routine Order No. 1.
10. 50-51st. Battalion Routine Order No. 2.
11. Educational Report for week ending, 22/3/19.
12. Educational Report for week ending, 29/3/19.
13. Copy of 48/50/51st. Battalion Routine Order No. 1.
14. Daily Strength Return 31/3/19.
15. Hospital evacuations for month.
16. Copy of Address from Citizens of BOUVIGNES.

10
51st BATTALION.A.I.F.

RESULT OF RIFLE COMPETITIONS HELD AT BOUVIGNES, BELGIUM, FROM

19/2/19 to 3/3/19.
=====

Company Match. Prize. Silver Cup.

A-B Company. 2502 points.

C-D Company. 2422 points.

A-B Coy won by 80 points. Highest Score. Gold Medal won by Sgt E.ROHRS.
Score- 67 points out of possible 70.

Platoon Match. Prize. Silver Cup.

No 1 Platoon. C-D Coy. 1149 points.

No 1 " A-B Coy. 1129 "

" " H.Q. 1087 "

No 2 " A-B Coy 1036 "

No 2 " C-D Coy. 1031 "

No 1 Platoon, C-D Coy won by 20 points. Highest Score, Prize- Gold Medal, won by Sgt J.Blenkinsop, A-B Coy:- 70 points out of possible 70.

Teams Match of 10 men. Prize. Silver Medal to each member of winning team.

H.Q. Team. - 614 points.

A-B Coy Team 586 "

C-D Coy Team 580 "

H.Q Team won by 28 points.
Highest Score. Prize - Gold Medal, won by Sgt West. Score- 67 points out of possible 70 points.

R. Christie Lieut-Col,
Commanding 51st Battalion.A.I.F.

//

51st Battalion Order No. 101.
Reference Sheet NAMUR, 1/100000. 7th March, 1919.

INTENTION. 1. The Battalion will march to DENEE tomorrow, 8th inst.

INSTRUCTIONS. 2. (a) Order of March. H.Q., A-B Coy., C-D Coy.
(b) Starting point = Place d'Hotel de Ville.
(c) Time - 0930 hours.
(d) Route- SOMMIERE, FALAEN, FALAEN Station, SOSOYE, DENEE.
(e) Blankets.- 2 blankets per man will be rolled in bundles of 10 and ready to load at Coy billets at 0730 hours. H.Q. Details will dump blankets for loading alongside Band billet at above time. Remaining blankets and great-coats will be placed in packs and placed in Coy dumps alongside blankets by 0730 hours. These will be loaded on Motor Lorries and sent on to LE ROUX.
(f) Officer's valises will be dumped alongside Band billet by 0730 hours.
(g) Cookers.- Cookers will be ready to move out at 0800 hours. There will be a mid-day halt at FALAEN Station from 1150 to 1300 hours, and hot tea will be served.
(h) Dress - Fighting order.

TRANSPORT. 6. (a) Transport will move independently at 0830 hours.
(b) Route.- BOUVIGNES, ANHEE, FALAEN Station, SOSOYE, DENEE.
(c) Cookers, Mess cart and water cart will await Bn at FALAEN station.

REPORTS. 7. Marching out states and certificates of cleanliness of billets will be rendered to the Adjutant by 0900 hours.

Al. Y. G. G. G.
Lieut &
Adjutant, 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

AVERAGE RATION STRENGTH FOR WEEK-348- . TOTAL ENROLMENT IN CLASSES-143-
% OF RATION STRENGTH-45%-AVERAGE ATTENDANCES-70-
% OF RATION STRENGTH-22%-

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TOTAL ENROLMENT HAS INCREASED BY-9-DURING WEEK.
NEW CLASSES FORMED DURING WEEK-Nil-
CLASSES DISBANDED DURING WEEK-Nil-

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE HAS DECREASED BY-4-

CLASSES IN OPERATION	ENROL MENT	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	PER CENT	NAMES OF INSTRUCTORS	CLASSES CONTEMPLATED	ENROL MENT	REMARKS
ARITHMETIC	7	) No classes,		LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
ALGEBRA	4			LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
FRENCH	15	9	60%	LT.F.WHARMOND			
FRENCH (ADVANCED)	5	5	100%	LT.F.WHARMOND			
ENGLISH	8	)	-	LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
SPECIAL CLASS	2	) No classes,		LT.R.A.WOOD			
BOOKKEEPING	12	4	33%	LT.R.A.WOOD			
SHORTHAND	6	5	83%	SGT.J.FOX			
CORRESPONDENCE	7	5	71%	SGT.J.FOX			
BOOTMAKING	5	3	60%	PTE.A.C.MARTIN			
LOGO CLASS	10	6	60%	PTE.R.M.MORE			
FARRIERY	12	(No class, Inst. on Leave)		DVR.J.MCCROREY			
CARPENTRY	12	9	75%	(
FITTING & TURNING	2	2	100%	(
MECHANICAL DRAWING	1	1	100%	(13th.BDE.F.E.			
APPLIED MECHANICS	9	6	66%	(TECHNICAL WING.			
MOTOR ENGINEERING	12	8	66%	(
FRUITGROWING	3	-	-	(
WOOLCLASSING	8	6	75%	(13th.BDE CLASSES			
GARE & BREEDING OF STOCK	3	1	33%	(
WHEAT & CEREAL CULTURE							

R.A. Johnstone Lt.
Education Officer,
51st Battalion, A.I.F.

IV

51st Battalion. ~~Order~~ Order No 102.
 Reference sheet NAMUR, 1/100.000. 8th March, 1919.

INTENTION. 1. The Battalion will march to LE ROUX tomorrow 9th inst.

INSTRUCTIONS 2. (a) Order of march- H.Q. C-D Coy. A-B Coy.
 (b) Starting point. Crossroads at 3.I.90.88.
 (c) Time - 0930 hours.
 (d) Route.- GRAUX, SERY, cross roads. 2.H.36.42. LE ROUX.
 (e) Blankets will be dumped at respective Coy billets ready to load at 0800 hours.
 Officers valises will be dumped at B.H.Q at 0800 hours.
 (f) Cookers will be ready to pull out at 0900 hours.
 (g) Mid-day meal will be from 1150 to 1300 hours. Hot tea will be provided. Cookers will light up at 1050 halt.

TRANSPORT. 3. (a) Transport less cookers, mess cart and water cart will move independently at 0930 hours.
 (b) Route. St GERARD, FOSSE, VITRIVAL, LE ROUX.
 (c) Cookers, mess cart and water cart will move in rear of Bn.

REPORTS. 4. Marching out states and certificates of cleanliness of billets will be rendered to the Adjutant by 0900 hours.

W. H. H. H. H.
 Lieut &
 Adjutant, 51st Battalion.

Company Circular Memo No. 32.

During the period the Battalion was stationed at BOUVIGNES a large number of "Claims" were submitted by the residents for damages done and burning of wood, by members of this Battalion.

In almost every case the claim was justified and in consequence was assessed against the unit.

In most cases it was not possible to place the blame on individuals concerned and the Battalion funds had to be used to pay the amounts assessed, as this fund is for the benefit of all the members of the 51st. Battalion, it is not quite the right spirit for a few careless individuals of the Battalion, who commit the unpardonable crime of damaging or using material that does not belong to them, to expect the Battalion funds to be used to pay for their carelessness.

To avoid unnecessary claims and to place the responsibility on the individual concerned, the following will be appointed a "Claims Commission" in the Battalion. 1 Officer Battalion Claims Officer, 1 Officer, ~~10/rank~~ 1 O/rank from each Company and Headquarters, total 7 and commencing 10th. March 1919, they will with the owner inspect all billets occupied by the Battalion and the area adjacent thereto and note any damage to property and crops, which occurred prior to arrival of the Battalion in the area. Where any damage has taken place it will be pointed out to the owner and all responsibility by this unit denied.

An inventory will be made of all timber (description to be given or approx. number of feet) broken windows or any other damage in the billets and area occupied, also the general condition of such billets.

The above inventory will be made out in triplicate and signed by the owner and company claim's representatives, as correct. One copy to be handed to the owner and one to the Adjutant, and one will be retained by companies. After the above inspection has been completed the "Claims Commission" will make similar inspections on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week, when the original inventory will be checked and should any damage have been committed or any articles in the billets be not accounted for, the case will be thoroughly investigated and a report rendered at once to the Adjutant, detailing the damage or loss and assessing claim. Should any member of the ~~sa~~ Battalion be found responsible for such damage or loss, he will pay the amount claimed and in addition will be severely dealt with by the C.O.

Should a claim be submitted subsequent to above periodical inspections, which it was their duty to have noted and reported, the responsibility of the claim will be borne by the "Claims Commission" unless a very satisfactory explanation can be given, as to the failure in reporting same.

Inspection and all other reports will be handed to the Adjutant before 0900 hours on the day following each inspection.

Company representatives will inspect and report on their own Company areas, but all damage or loss reported or claims lodged will be investigated by at least 5 of the 7 members of the "Claims Commission".

A. K. Charlton
Lieut. &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

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51st. Battalion, A.I.F.

Daily Strength Return.

15th. March, 1919.

Actually with Unit.		Attached		In Hospital		Tempy. detached.				Other duties		Total.			
Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Leave	School	Brigade duties	Other duties	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.		
27	281	1	3	-	16	4	37	1	1	3	22	6	106	42	466

ARRIVALS.

- 1 Officer (B/PT. F.E. Renner) from Paris leave.
- 1 O/Rank from Paris leave.
- 1 " " D/duty Bde. H.Q.

DEPARTURES.

- 1 Officer (Lieut. A.H. Castles) to U.K. leave. 14/3/19
- 3 O/Ranks to Paris leave.
- 1 " off U.K. leave returned to Australia.
- 1 " to Hospital.
- 2 " " U.K. leave.
- 1 " " D/duty from Reinforcements. (Aust. Corps Central School)

R. Christie Lieut-Colonel,
 Commanding, 51st. Battalion.

AVERAGE RATION STRENGTH FOR WEEK..... -285- TOTAL ENROLMENT IN CLASSES -81- AVERAGE ATTENDANCE- Nil,
 % OF RATION STRENGTH -28:4%, % OF RATION STRENGTH - Nil,

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TOTAL ENROLMENT HAS DECREASED BY -62- DURING WEEK. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE HAS DECREASED BY - Nil,
 NEW CLASSES FORMED DURING WEEK - Nil.
 CLASSES DISBANDED DURING WEEK - CORRESPONDENCE- ENGLISH. All classes held in Rechnical Wing, Classes held at 13th A.I. Bde,

CLASSES IN OPERATION	ENROLMENT	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	PER CENT	NAMES OF INSTRUCTORS	CLASSES CONTEMPLATED	ENROLMENT	REMARKS
ARITHMETIC	3	)		LT. L. R. CHARLTON.			
ALGEBRA	4	(NO		LT. L. R. CHARLTON.			
FRENCH	15	) CLASSES		LT. F. M. WHAMOND.			
FRENCH (ADVANCED)	5	(IN		LT. F. M. WHAMOND.			
ENGLISH	8	) OPERATION		LT. L. R. CHARLTON.			
BOOKKEEPING	12	(DURING		LT. R. A. WOOD.			
SHORTHAND	6	) WEEK.		SGT. J. FOX.			
CORRESPONDENCE	7	(		SGT. J. FOX.			
BOOTMAKING	5	)		T/SGT. A. C. MARTIN.			
FARRIERY	12	(		DVR. J. MCCROREY.			

All classes recommence on MONDAY 17/3/1919,

R.A. Johnstone Lt.
 Education Officer,
 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

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VIII

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 76.

by Major, W.P. Owen "MC"

T/Commanding, 51st. Australian Infantry Battalion.

18/3/19.

DETAIL FOR TOMORROW.

- 1. Reveille. - 0700 hours.
- Breakfast. - 0800 "
- Sick parade. - 1000 "

DUTIES.

- 2. Bn. Orderly Officer. - Lieut. E.A. Walker.
- Next for duty. - " E. Wicks. "MC.MM"
- Duty Coy. - A-B Coy.
- Next for duty. - 15 & 16 Platoons (C-D Coy.)

BATHS.

- 3. Reference Map:- NAMUR 1/100,000.
The baths at the coal mine at FALISOLLE, 1.h.50.15. are available for this Battalion between 0800 and 0900 hours and 1600 and 1700 hours tomorrow 19th. inst.
O.C. Company will arrange for 52 O/Ranks under an Officer to proceed to the baths at 0700 hours tomorrow.
Clean vests, underpants and socks will be drawn this evening from the R.Q.M store and carried in packs to the baths.
Soiled clothing will be handed into the R.Q.M. store upon return, before the party is dismissed.
Clean shirts will be available tomorrow.
Upon return the officer i/c. will report to the Adjutant as to the bathing facilities.
Order for use of baths between 1600 and 1700 hours will be issued later.

LEWIS GUNS.

- 4. Lewis Guns with parts thereto mentioned in Mobilisation Table for Infantry Battalions, will be handed into the store of D.A.D.O.S. at CHATELINEAU on 19th. inst.
Receipts obtained for same will be attached to final handing in papers, so that final receipt will be for all articles mentioned in Mobilisation Table.
3 limbers together with a loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men will report to L.G.O. at Lewis Gun store at 0900 hours.
Loading party will carry midday meal and will proceed with limbers to CHATELINEAU.

SPORTS.

- 5. The following message has been received from Sports Officer, 4th. Australian Division.
"Football results AAA Soccer 4th. Div. V 3rd. Div.
"a draw. Australian rules 4th. Div. 6 goals 10 behinds
"Corps 5 goals 11. Rugby 4th. Div. received forfeit.

LEAVE.

- 6. Allotment for 24 hours leave is as follows: for 20th. inst
CHARLEROI. H.Qrs. 3 O/Ranks.
BOUVIGNES. 15 & 16 platoons. 3 O/Ranks.

TRANSFER.

- 7. No. 3529 Pte. Lovell, W.J. is transferred from H.Qrs. to 14 platoon as from today.

Lieut. &
W.P. Owen
A/Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

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IX

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO 1.
 by Lieutenant-Colonel A.G. Salisbury, "DSO"
 Commanding "A" ~~Australian~~ Infantry Battalion,

19/3/19.

1. On and from the 19th inst, the 50th Battalion and the 51st Battalion will be amalgamated into one Battalion, and will be known as "A" Battalion.
2. Each Battalion will notwithstanding, retain its original identity and colour patches.
3. Lieut-Col R. Christie, "DSO" will command "A" Battalion, with Major W.M. Fowler "MC" as second in command. Lieut-Col A.G. Salisbury "DSO" will assume command of "A" Battalion pending the return of Lieut-Col R Christie "DSO".
4. "A" Battalion will be composed of two Companies as follows:-

50th Battalion.	No 3 Company.
51st Battalion.	No 4 Company.
5. Headquarters 51st Battalion will become Headquarters of "A" Battalion.
6. Returns will be rendered and all administration will be carried out by "A" Battalion in the same way as they are rendered and carried out by a Battalion in this Brigade at the present time.
7. DUTIES. Companies will continue to supply guards, picquets and fatigues as at present, and will detail daily one Company Orderly Officer each, who will render a report to "A" Battalion Orderly Room on completion of his 24 hours duty.
8. DAILY ROUTINE.

Reveille.	0700 hours.	
Breakfast.	0730	"
Sick Parade	0830	" (No 3 Coy.)
" "	1000	" (No 4 Coy.)
Parade.	0915	" to 1115 hours.
Dinner	1200	"
Retreat	1645	"
Tea.	1700	"
First Post.	2100	"
East Post.	2130	"
Lights Out.	2200	"

L. R. Charlton Lieut &
 A/Adjutant, "A" Battalion.

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X

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO 2.
 by Lieutenant-Colonel A.G. Salisbury, "DSO"
 Commanding 50-51st Australian Infantry Battalion.

20-3-19.

1. DAILY ROUTINE.

Reveille	0700	hours.	
Breakfast	0730	"	
Sick Parade	0830	"	(No 3 Coy)
" "	1000	"	(No 4 Coy)
Parade	0915	"	to 1115 hours.
Dinner	1200	"	
Retreat	1645	"	
Tea	1700	"	
First Post	2100	"	
Last Post	2130	"	
Lights Out	2200	"	

2. WEARING OF BELTS ETC. Other ranks will invariably wear web or leather belts or bandoliers according to branch of service, when on leave outside their own billeting area. This order will be strictly enforced.

3. EARLY REPATRIATES. DISCIPLINE. Personnel approved for Early Repatriation who, after arrival at A.I.F Depots in U.K, are A.W.L will, on completion of their punishment, be returned to their unit in France, their early repatriation being cancelled. Further they will not be permitted to make any special application thereafter.

4. LEAVE. Any member of this unit in possession of Belgian monies when proceeding on leave in France will have such monies converted into French currency before leaving Belgium.

5. AMALGAMATION. The amalgamated Battalions will now be known as "50-51st" Battalion, instead of "A" Battalion.

6. FIRES. To minimise the risk of accidents from fire in hutment, the following orders will be observed:-
 - (a) When stoves are fixed in huts, care is to be taken that no part of the metal flue touches any wood work. Where the flue passes through a wooden wall or roof it should be carried through an external pipe, preferably earthenware. The space between the flue and outer pipe should also be kept filled with non-inflamable packing. The external pipe should also be kept from contact with any wood by protecting the wood with tin or metal covering.
 - (b) All stoves should stand on a non-inflamable platform, e.g. brick, stone, concrete or iron sheeting.
 - (c) Some protection will be placed around stoves having open doors or any aperture from which hot cinders can fall on the floor.
 - (d) Flues must be regularly swept.
 - (e) A daily inspection of wood work near stoves and flues should be made to ascertain that there is no charring of wood in progress.
 - (f) Fires will be extinguished at "Lights Out". They are not to be banked.

L. Robertson

Lieut &

A/Adjutant, 50-51st Battalion.

AVERAGE RATION STRENGTH FOR WEEK-283-, TOTAL ENROLMENT IN CLASSES-66- AVERAGE ATTENDANCE -16-
% OF RATION STRENGTH-24%- % OF RATION STRENGTH-6%-

TOTAL ENROLMENT IN CLASSES HAS DECREASED BY-15-DURING WEEK. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE HAS DECREASED BY...46.0R.
NEW CLASSES FORMED DURING WEEK-Nil.
CLASSES DISBANDED DURING WEEK. CORRESPONDENCE. ENGLISH. (No students available)

CLASSES IN OPERATION	ENROL MENT	AVERAGE ATTENDCE	PER CENT	NAMES OF INSTRUCTORS	CLASSES CONTEMPLATED	ENROL MENT	REMARKS
ARITHMETIC	7	4	57%	LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
ALGEBRA	4	3	75%	LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
FRENCH	15	5	33%	LT.F.M.WHAMOND			
FRENCH (ADVANCED)	5	) No class		LT.F.M.WHAMOND			
BOOKKEEPING	12	) Instn Ill.		LT.R.A.WOOD			
SHORTHAND	6	3	50%	SGT.J.FOX			
BOOTMAKING	5	) No class		T/SGT.A.C.MARTIN			
FARRIERY	12) Inst.on Leave		DVR.J.MCCROREY			

R.A. Johnstone dt
Education Officer,
51st Battalion, A.I.F.

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AVERAGE RATION STRENGTH FOR WEEK -290- TOTAL ENROLMENT IN CLASSES -34- AVERAGE ATTENDANCE -10-
 % OF RATION STRENGTH -11%- % OF RATION STRENGTH -3%-

TOTAL ENROLMENT HAS DECREASED BY -32-DURING WEEK.
 NEW CLASSES FORMED DURING WEEK -Nil.
 CLASSES DISBANDED DURING WEEK----- FRENCH-- FRENCH (Advanced)---BOOKKEEPING.

CLASSES IN OPERATION	ENROL MENT	AVERAGE ATTDCE	PER CENT	NAMES OF INSTRUCTORS	CLASSES CONTEMPLATED	ENROL MENT	REMARKS
ARITHMETIC	7	4	57%	LT.L.R.CHARLTON			
ALGEBRA	4	3	75%	" " "			
SHORTHAND	4	3	75%				
BOOTMAKING	5	) Instructor		DVR.J.MCCROREY			
FARRIERY	12) on Leave		T/SGT.A.C.MARTIN			

R.A. Johnstone
 Education Officer,
 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

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XIII

50-51st Battalion.
31/3/19.

50-51st BATTALION ORDER NO 1. Ref Sheet NAMUR, 1/100000.

- 1. (a) Following the amalgamation of 50-51st Bn, and in accordance with 13th Aust Inf Bde Demobilisation Circular No 14, the 49th Bn will be absorbed in the abovenamed unit (50-51st Bn) to date from 31/3/19, ~~which~~ ^{the} unit will thereafter be known as 49/50/51st Battalion.
- (b) The administration will be carried out by the present staff of 50-51st Bn for the consolidated Bns.
- (c) The Bn will be organised on a four company basis as follows:-
49th Bn-Nos 1 & 2 Coys. 50th Bn - No 3 Coy. 51st Bn - No 4 Coy.
- 2. (a) The following adjustments will take place on 31/3/19. Nos 1 & 2 Coys (49th Bn) will remain at present location VITRIVAL.
- (b) No 3 Coy (50th Bn) will move from SART EUSTACHE to LE ROUX, move to be completed by 1600 hours.
- (c) No 4 Coy (51st Bn) will remain at LE ROUX.
- (d) Battalion Headquarters at LE ROUX.
- 3. (a) Transport. 2 G.S.wagens will report at No 3 Coy's H.Qrs, SART EUSTACHE at 1000 hours on 31/3/19, and will be available for transport of baggage and stores of that Coy to LE ROUX.
- (b) The two Coy cooks at present in charge of No 3 Coy, will be sent to Nos 1 & 2 Coy. Drivers and 2 teams for same will report to O.C. No 3 Coy at SART EUSTACHE at 1400 hours, and will convey the cooks to VITRIVAL.
- (c) A list of articles handed over and receipts for same will be forwarded by O.C.No 3 Coy to Bn H.Q. by 0900 hours on 1/4/19.
- 4. A Billeting party of 1 Officer and 2 N.C.Os will be detailed by No 3 Coy to report at LE ROUX at 0930 hours today.

Al Youwissee
Lieut &
Adjutant, 50-51st Battalion.A.I.F.

XIV

51st. Battalion, A.I.F.

Daily Strength Return.

31st. March, 1919.

Actually with Unit.		Attached		In Hospital		Leave		Tempy. detached.				Other duties		Total.	
Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.
16	185	1	7	-	20	8	35	1	1	3	19	4	85	33	352

ARRIVALS.

5 O/Ranks from D/duty (4th. Aust. Football Team)

DEPARTURES.

5 Officers (Capt. Chanter, Lieuts. Timbury, Walker, Bibby, Evan) to Aust.
 No. 25 Quota.
 3 O/Ranks to Aust. (No. 25 Quota from 13th. Bde. H.Q.) (1 Bahnan, 1 Orderly)
 (1 German Speaker)
 1 " " " (No. 25 Quota) from 27th. A.A.S.C.
 1 " " " " Bde. Canteen.
 90 " " " "
 1 " " Paris leave.
 1 " " D/duty Bde. H.Q. (Runner)

R. Christie Lieut-Colonel,
 Commanding, 51st. Battalion.

51st BATTALION. A. I. F.

HOSPITAL EVACUATIONS FOR MONTH ENDING 31st MARCH, 1919.

Diarrhoea	2.	Septic Chilblains	1.
Influenza	4.	Laryngitis	1.
P.U.O.	1.	X Ray of right arm	1.
V.D.	5.	Tachycardia	1.
Rheumatism	1.	Ulcerative Tonsolit	1.
Scabies	1.	is	1.
Pleurisy	1.		

Total 20

R Christie Lieut-Col,
Commanding 51st Battalion. A. I. F.

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XVI

C O P Y.

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ADDRESS FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF BOUVIGNES.

BOUVIGNES, le 23 février
1919.

Les habitants de Bouvignes apprennent avec grand regret que les troupes australiennes vont quitter la Commune.

Ils ont à coeur de rendre hommage à ces soldats avec lesquels ils ont eu les rapports les plus cordiaux.

Ils garderont, de ces troupes, un souvenir des plus sympathiques et n'oublieront jamais l'aide puissante apportée par elles pour la défense du territoire Belge.

TRANSLATION.

BOUVIGNES,
23rd. February, 1919

The townspeople of Bouvignes having learnt with great regret that the Australian Troops are leaving the Commune desire to pay this tribute to the soldiers with whom they have had the most friendly relations.

They will always remember them kindly, and will never forget the powerful assistance rendered by them in the defence of Belgium.

"

Signed by the Burgomaster, the 10 members of the "Administration Communale" and 152 townsfolk.

Letter from the Burgomaster of BOUVIGNES.

BOUVIGNES, le 22nd. février, 1919.

Nous soussigné, Ludovic Amand, Bourgmestre de la Commune de BOUVIGNES, certifions que les troupes de la 13^{me} brigade d'infanterie australienne, 51^{me} bataillon arrivées ici le 16 décembre 1918 se sont très-bien comportées durant leur séjour dans la Commune.

Nous n'avons que des éloges à leur décerner concernant leur tenue et leurs rapports avec la population. C'est avec un vif regret que nous apprenons que ces troupes vont quitter la Commune car nous éprouvons une profonde sympathie pour ces vaillants soldats qui ont contribué puissamment par leur courage à la libération de notre territoire.

(L.S.)

Le Bourgmestre
LUDOVIC AMAND.

TRANSLATION.

BOUVIGNES,
22nd. February, 1919

I, Ludovic Amand Burgomaster of the Commune of BOUVIGNES, wish to state that the troops of the 13th. Australian Infantry Brigade, 51st. Battalion, who arrived here on the 16th. December 1918 have conducted themselves very well during the stay in the Commune.

I have only praise for their behaviour and their relations with the civil population. We all learn with keen regret that they will shortly leave the town, for we have a great affection for these valiant soldiers who by their courage did so much towards the liberation of our country.

LUDOVIC AMAND.
BURGOMASTER.