

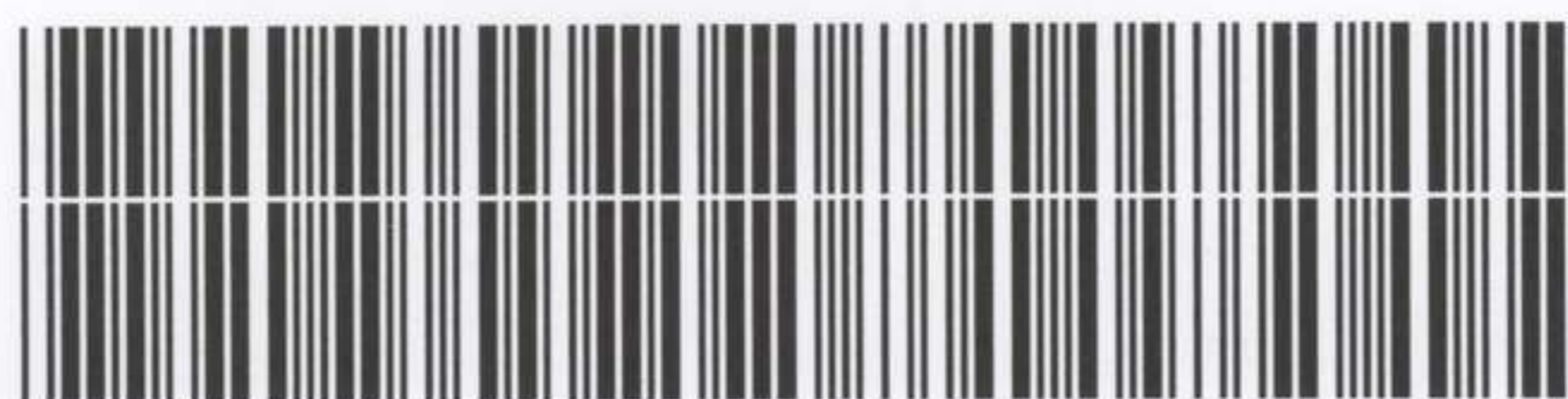
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/36

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/62/36

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

204

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

145th Battalion. A. I. F.

FOR

February 191*9*

Signature of Officer compiling

R. Pickup Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

D. M. M. Major

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Remarks and references to Appendices		Summary of Events and Information	Date	Place
	1st			
	2nd.			
	3rd			
	4th			
	5th			
	6th			
	7th			
	8th			
	9th			
	10th			
	11th			
	12th			
	13th			
	14th			
	15th			
	16th			
	17th			

Diary. 45th Battalion A.I.F. - February. 1919

Snow fell heavily throughout the greater part of the day, but the usual work as per Syllabus was carried on. The roads are very slippery and in some places very dangerous.

The weather was very cold and frosty. Training as per syllabus occupied the morning and in the afternoon Recreation Parades were held. U.K. Leave which had been suspended on account of Industrial trouble re-opened.

Training as per Syllabus occupied the morning and the usual Recreation Parades were held during the afternoon.

A Route march was carried out in the morning but the roads were found to be very difficult on account of the frost. The usual Dance was held in the school hall during the evening.

Training as usual was carried out throughout the day, and a Dance was held during the evening.

The morning was devoted to training as per syllabus and in the afternoon Recreation Parades were held. Some of the Horses of the Battalion Transport were inspected prior to Demobilisation.

Snow fell heavily all day and snowballing was the order of the day. The snow caused a cessation of parades.

The day was bitterly cold, the coldest of the Year. The snow has frozen and as a result the troops are enjoying some good Tobogganing. The usual morning & afternoon parades were carried out.

Church parades were held as usual during the morning, and the remainder of the day passed without incident.

The morning was devoted to training as laid down in the syllabus, and in the afternoon Recreational parades were held. The evening was passed pleasantly with a Dance in the School hall.

The cold weather continued and the roads are frozen hard. The usual training was carried out.

Training this morning was as per Syllabus and Recreational parades were held during the afternoon.

The weather was much milder and snow and ice have thawed considerably. The usual parades were carried out.

The weather was quite mild and practically all ice has disappeared from the roads. The usual training was carried out.

Slight rain fell during the morning and somewhat interfered with training; no outdoor work being held. A Dance was held in the school Hall during the evening and was well attended.

Protestant Church Service was held in the Communal School at 1000, but there was no R.C. Parade. The weather was much milder and about 1500 rain commenced to fall and continued all the evening.

The weather was showery and very mild; all snow has disappeared. Thaw precautions took effect from 0900 and as a result Echelon ammunition

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A10266) W.A.W.535/P.713 750,000 3/83 Sch. 52 Forms/C.1118/16

[Handwritten signature]

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.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Hour

Date

Place

Sheet 2. War Diary 45th Battalion A.I.F.

204
27th

Continued:-

could not be dumped as intended. A dance was held in the evening in the Communal Hall and was well attended.

18th

The weather still continued damp and to days route march was abandoned in consequence. A Football match was to be played against Brigade, but had to be abandoned on account of rain.

19th

Training as per syllabus occupied the morning and Recreation Parades were held during the afternoon. At 2130, a wire was received from Brigade stating that the Battalion would probably, on the 22nd inst, move.

20th

The day was devoted to preparation for moving. Inspections were held and surplus gear made ready for packing. At night, a farewell dance was held in the School hall, a good crowd being present.

21st

Final preparations for moving were made to-day. Full muster parades and inspections were held and billets and surroundings thoroughly cleaned. Brigade Order 247 was received at 1300 and at 1600 Battalion Order 3/44 was issued to Companies.

22nd

Reveille was sounded at 0600 and at 0900 the Battalion moved out en route for FLORENNES. Our route lay through ANTHEE - ROSEE - and we reached our destination at 1400. The march was done in good time, but rain fell heavily for a considerable part of the journey, making marching very uncomfortable.

23rd

The routine was the same as for the 22nd and the Battalion moved off at 0900 en route for THY le CHATEAU which was reached at 1400. During the march we passed through the villages of MORIALME - LANEFFE - SOMZEE - and GOURDINNE. The day was fine and travelling much more comfortable than on the previous day. The billets were found to be very scattered, and in a filthy condition.

24th

The day was devoted to thorough cleaning of clothes, equipment and billets. The usual parades were not carried out.

25th

Further cleaning up was carried on as well as usual morning and afternoon parades.

26th

Telephonic communication with Brigade was established with great difficulty, but a good circuit was completed before night. Throughout the day the usual parades were held and a Dance was held during the evening.

27th

A Route March through the neighbouring villages was carried out during the morning and Recreational Parades occupied the afternoon.

28th

The weather was cold and wet. Snow had fallen during the night, but soon disappeared. At night a dance was held in the village hall and was well attended.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

204

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.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

The following are the weekly strengths:.

	Off.	O/R's
Week ending 7th February	39	429
" " 14th February	39	437
" " 21st February	40	437
" " 28th February	36	415

Decrease for the month :- 3. 14

During the month the following leave was granted:-

	Off.	O/R's
To United Kingdom	2	26
To Paris	2	7
To Brussels	4	7

Total:- 8 40

D. H. H. H.
Major.
Commdg. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Place Date Hour

WAR DIARY

OF

45th BATTALION A.I.F. ?

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	<i>Battalion Order No 8/44</i>
2.	<i>Battalion Order No 3/45</i>
3.	<i>Syllabus of Training for week ending 16.2.19</i>
4.	<i>Syllabus of training for week ending 23.2.19</i>
5.	<i>Report on Q.M's and Transport Section for month.</i>

MB

45th BATTALION ORDER NO 3/44

Headquarters, HASTIERE LAVAUX.
February 21st, 1919

Reference Map NAMUR, I/100000

- The 45th Battalion A.I.F. and the 12th A.L.T.M.B. will move by march route to-morrow 22.2.19 to FLORENNES.
- ROUTINE:- The following routine will be observed
 - Reveille 0600
 - Breakfast 0630
 - Sick Parade 0645
- STARTING POINT:- Brigade Refilling Point, 4.J.89.67.
- TIME:- Pass Starting Point, 0900
- ORDER OF MARCH:- "H.Q", "A-B" - Band - "C-D" - 12th A.L.T.M.B. Guard, Transport and Rear Party.
- DISTANCES:- The usual 100 Yds interval will be maintained.
- REAR PARTY :- O.C. "A-B" Coy will detail 6 O/Rs under an Officer to march as rear party of the Battalion.
- DRESS:- Marching Order. No ration bags, mess tins or surplus gear to be exposed. Attention is drawn to previous orders re Hats, Greatcoats and Water proof sheets.
- BILLETS:- to be left clean on marching out.
- MID-DAY MEAL:- A halt will be made from 1200 to 1300. Mid-day meal will be carried and hot tea will be provided.
- 1. COOKERS:- Cookers will be ready to pull out by 0820. Two Cooks per company will march in rear of their cookers, the remainder will march with their companies.
- 2. BAGGAGE:- Men's blankets will be at B.O.R. rolled in bundles of 12 at 0700. O.C.'s will ensure that no overcoats, souvenirs, or surplus gear are included in these bundles. Officer's valises will be dumped at B.O.R. by 0730
- 3. BILLETING PARTY:- 1 N.C.O. from each Company and 1 N.C.O. from Headquarters will report to Lieut L.R. Corbett by 0900 to go by lorry to NALINNES for billeting on 23rd inst.
- 4. CLAIMS:- Billeting certificates will be handed to the Adjutant prior to starting.

Sgd. W. Adams Capt.
Act/Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 1900 to:-

- 1 & 2. O.C. "A-B" Coy
- 3 & 4. O.C. "C-D" Coy
- 5. Quartermaster
- 6. Transport Officer
- 7. 12th A.L.T.M.B.
- 8. Office Copy.
- 9. War Diary.

Headquarters FLORENNES.
22.2.19

Reference NAMUR Map, I/100000

1. The 45th Battalion A.I.F. and 21th A.L.T.M.B. will move by march route to-morrow 23.2.19 to THY le CHATEAU.
2. ROUTINE:- The following routine will be observed :-

Reveille	0600
Breakfast	0630
Sick Parade	0645
3. STARTING POINT- 3H.20.06.
4. TIME :- Pass Starting Point, 0900
5. ORDER OF MARCH:- "H.Q" - "A-B" - Band - "C-D" - 12th A.L.T.M.B. Guard, Transport and Rear Party.
6. DISTANCES:- The usual 100 Yds interval will be observed.
7. REAR PARTY:- 12th A.L.T.M.B. will form Rear Guard and march in rear of the Battalion.
8. DRESS:- Marching Order; no ration bags, mess tins or surplus gear to be exposed. Attention is drawn to previous orders re Hats, Greatcoats and Water Proof sheets.
9. BILLETS:- to be left clean on marching out.
10. MID-DAY MEAL:- A halt will be made from 1200 to 1330. Mid-day meal will be carried and hot tea will be provided.
11. COOKERS:- Cookers will be ready to pull out by 0830. Two Cooks per Company will march in rear of their Cookers, the remainder will march with their Companies.
12. BAGGAGE:- Men's blankets will be at square at Q.M.Store rolled in bundles of 12 at 0700. O.C's will ensure that no overcoats, souvenirs or surplus gear are included in these bundles. Officer's valises will be dumped at Q.M.Store by 0730

Sgd. W. Adams. Capt.
Act/Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 1600 to :-

- 1 & 2 O.C. "A-B" Coy
- 3 & 4 O.C. "C-D" Coy
5. Quartermaster
6. Transport Officer
7. 12th A.L.T.M.B.
8. Office Copy.
9. War Diary.

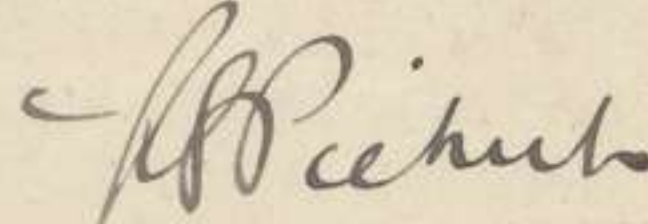
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45th BATTALION A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16th, 1919

Date	Time	Subject
Sunday 10th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Washing and thorough cleaning of all ration and food boxes.
	1400-1600	Recreational Parades.
Tuesday 11th	0900-1200	Route March - Drill Order. Route :- HASTIERE- WAULSORT -to K.4.45.55. HASTIERE.
	1400-1600	Recreational Parade.
Wednesday 12th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Kit Inspection.
	1400-1600	Recreational Parade
Thursday 13th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Washing of billets and towels. Hot water to be provided by Companies.
	1400-1600	Recreational Parade.
Friday 14th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Promulgation of General Instructions and talk on Repatriation Scheme etc.
	1400-1600	Recreational Parade.
Saturday 15th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Ironing of Hats.
Sunday 16th	C H U R C H P A R A D E S	

Each Morning 0900-1200 :-
Guard Instruction Parade under the R.S.M. to Guard mounting at retreat same day.


 Captain.
 Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

48 BATTALION A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 25th 1919

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subjects</u>
Monday 17th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Washing and thorough cleaning of all ration and food boxes.
	1400-1500	Recreational Parade
Tuesday 18th	0900-1200	Route March - Drill Order. Route :- BASTINE - BURKETON - BARR ACROSS STATION BASTINE.
	1400-1500	Recreational Parade
Wednesday 19th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	All Inspections.
	1400-1500	Recreation Parade.
Thursday 20th	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Washing of billets and towels. Hot water to be provided by Companies.
	1400-1500	Recreational Parade
Friday 21st	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1100	Company Muster Parade and Inspection.
	1000-1200	Band :- Marching Order.
	1400-1500	Recreational Parade
Saturday 22nd	0900-1000	Physical Training.
	1000-1200	Ironing of Hats
Sunday 23rd		<u>GENERAL PARADES.</u>

Each Morning 0900-1200 :- Guard Instructions Parade under the A.S.S. to Guard mounting at Retreat same day.

W. H. H. H.
Adj. 48th Battalion A.I.F. Captain.

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45th BATTALION A.I.F.

REPORT ON TRANSPORT AND Q.M.'S DEPARTMENT FOR FEBRUARY 1919

The Battalion was still billeted at HASTIERE until the 22nd inst. During the earlier part of the month the issue of vegetables was very light, but large purchases of these were made and the Troops were fed very well. The ovens were continually used and a change of diet was frequently given. The standard of cooking was excellent and the cleanliness of the cookhouses reflected great credit on the cooks. A big issue of comforts was received from the A.C.F. and these were greatly appreciated by the men. Souvenir Christmas Cards and small diaries were issued to each man in the Battalion. On the amalgamation of "A&B" and "C" & "D" Coys two cookers were used and the remaining two were checked off and got ready for handing in. On the 9th February all the Battalion Horses were maimed. On the 19th instant the following stores off the Mobilisation Store Table were handed in :- Pistols, Binoculars, Compasses, Telescopes and Watches. On the same date the equipment of all Officers was also handed in. On the 20th, all S.A.A. Revolver Ammunition and Bombs were handed in at the 4th Divisional Ammunition Dump at STAVE. The Bootmakers, Tailors and Barbers did good work during the month and were kept fairly busy. The supplies from Ordnance were very slow owing to Transport difficulties. On the 22nd inst the Battalion moved to FLORENNES and on the 23rd moved on to THY le CHATEAU.

D. W. Hanna Major.
Commdg. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

COPY.

12 H. Bde

AWO 43078/33/45

H.Q. 4TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
No.
Date:

Hastiere-Lavaux,
28-2-1919.

To the
Colonel of the 45th Battalion,

The Australian troops left our locality some days ago, and I beg you to accept the liveliest feelings of sympathy from the population which will always keep a good remembrance from the 45th Battalion.

We admire the Australian for their generous patriotism, which voluntarily brought them to our Battlefields.

We love them for all their sufferings, and we send them our deepest gratitude for the active part they took in our deliverance.

We received and welcomed you according to our small means, we wanted our village to be hospitable agreeable, so that after these anxious years you might enjoy here a happy and calm life.

We are proud that we were designed to receive you and you may be sure that these two months during which you were staying here, have tightened the bonds of friendship and gratitude which attach us to the brave sons of beautiful Australia.

To all we wish a happy return in their far away country.
Please accept, Colonel, the expression of our kindest feelings,

H.Q. 12TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
No. 913/30
Date: 11/3/19

(Sgd) The Burgomaster,
E. STORM.

translation

AW 4378/33/45

4th Div.

HASTIERE-LAVAUX 28.2.19

to the

Colonel of the 45th B^{on}

The Australian troops left our locality some days ago, and I beg you to accept the liveliest feelings of sympathy from the population which will always keep a good remembrance from the 45th B^{on}

We admire the Australian soldiers for their generous patriotism which voluntarily brought them to our battlefields.

We love them for all their sufferings and we send them our deepest gratitude for the active part they took in our deliverance.

We received and welcomed you according to our small means, we wanted our village to be hospitable and

4th Austr.

II

agreeable, so that after these anxious years you might enjoy here an happy and calm life.

We are proud that we were designed to receive you and you may be sure that these two months during which you were staying here, have tightened the bonds of friendship and gratitude which attach us to the brave sons of beautiful Australia.

To all we wish an happy return in their far away country.

Please accept, Colonel, the expression of our kindest feelings.

(S) the Burgomaster,

E. STORM

aw 4378/33/45
Hastier - Lavau, le 28-2-19

Monsieur le Colonel,

Depuis quelques jours les troupes
Australiennes ont quitté notre localité; je me
fais un devoir de vous exprimer les sentiments
de vive sympathie qu'éprouve notre population
à l'égard du 15^e Bataillon et le bon souvenir
qu'elle en conservera.

Nous admirons les soldats
Australiens pour le généreux et volontaire élan de patrio-
tisme qui les amenait sur nos champs de bataille;
nous les aimons pour toutes les souffrances qu'ils ont
endurées; nous leur donnons toute notre reconnaissance
pour la part active qu'ils ont prise à notre délivrance!

Selon nos faibles moyens, nous les
avons reçus et accueillis chez nous; nous avons voulu
notre village hospitalier et agréable pour qu'après
les années de tourmente, tous vous puissiez y goûter
une vie heureuse et apaisante.

Nous sommes fiers, d'avoir été
appelés à vous héberger et soyez persuadés que
ces

A Monsieur le Colonel du
15^e Bataillon Australien

par l'intermédiaire de
la Mission Belge à
Dinant

ces deux mois de votre séjour parmi nous
auront renoué les liens d'amitié et de
reconnaissance, qui nous attachent aux braves
fils de la belle Australie.

A tous, nous souhaitons un
heureux retour dans leur lointaine patrie!

Meilleures agrées, Monsieur le Colonel,
l'affectueuse expression de nos meilleurs sentiments

de Bourguestre ff.

C. Storm

45th Bn

Herewith letter
received from inhabitants
Hasture Lavause by the
G.O.C. Bde. (translation
also attached.)

It is gratifying
to note the esteem with
which the troops are held
by the civilians

W. Marley Capt
for G.O.C. 1st A.I. Bde

4/3/19

12TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

The following is the translation of a letter received by the G.O.C., 12th. A. I. Bde on the 3rd. March, 1919.

HASTIERE LAVAUX,
28th. Feby, 1919.

To the G.O.C.
Commanding 12th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

In the name of the inhabitants of Hastiere, who regret very much the departure of the 45th. Bn., we come to ask you to allow them to return to their old billeting area at Hastiere, as all the inhabitants would be so happy to see again among them the soldiers whom all regard as their own children.

May something be done, M. le General, to allow our brave liberators to return to us.

In the hope that our request may receive due consideration, accept M. le General, the expression of our best sentiments,

August Dumont Moeis,
Photographer,
at Hastiere Lavaux.

Signed by eighty three of the inhabitants

Please type off a dozen
or so copies of your manuscript.
R.B.K.

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Maestrié Lavauze le 28/2 - 1919

Je salue Monsieur le Général 12th Brigade Inf.
Australien

Que nom de la population de
Maestrié qui a eu beaucoup de regrets au
départ du 45th Bataillon, nous venons avec
des demandes de laisser revenir le Bataillon
à son ancien cantonnement soit à Maestrié
ou tout les habitants seraient si heureux de
voir revenir chez eux tous les soldats que chacun
considérerait comme leurs enfants

Adieu Monsieur le Général un bon
mouvement et laissez nous revenir nos
braves libérateurs

Dans l'espoir que votre demande
sera prise en considération Recevez Monsieur
le Général l'expression de nos meilleurs
sentiments

Caçy Dumont-Moëns photogr.
à Maestrié Lavauze

Irma Dumont
Emile Dumont
E. Dumont
H. Fronville
M. Brouet
L. Erard
V. Meruils

R. Dubois
M. C. J.
Louis Colinet
E. Darville
E. Colot

J. Delahogre
M. Darville
H. Baquet
J. Leprieux
M. Hataleur

Besimont
de Noyer
M. Bataille
E. Bernard Pironne
Willat Jules
Jacques Batta
Et Coquin
Joseph Coquin
L. Leliere
Henri Piron
M. Michel
Stampano Etienne
Madame Martinot
Lechanteur
Joseph Bequin
M. Bairiot
St. Lemois
Eva Stampe
Mme Lion
Joseph Chevalier
Lecuyer
Lecuyer
Pierrot Fernand
Bouillon Ernest
Francis Detombe
L. Ferrière
Mathieu G.

M. Motton
D. Lerville
G. Leuyer
J. Wamant
J. Neuschauz
P. Piron
Emile Colin
Joseph Jannin
Lion Mouchet
M. Ponselt
Lévil Cantoi
O. Stevoux
J. Mouchet
A. Mouchet
A. Derenne
Via Poadomme
Lia Durbecq
Henri Stevoux
Renée Stevoux
Maurice
Oscar
Anna
Simon Robert
St. Piron
St. Piron
St. Honkard
M. Honkard
C. Mourquet
C. Coluchy
Bertha Libert
J. Pironne
P. Pironne
Lecuyer
Raymond