

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/2/11

Title: 2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

January 1919



AWM4-24/2/11

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ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY
OF

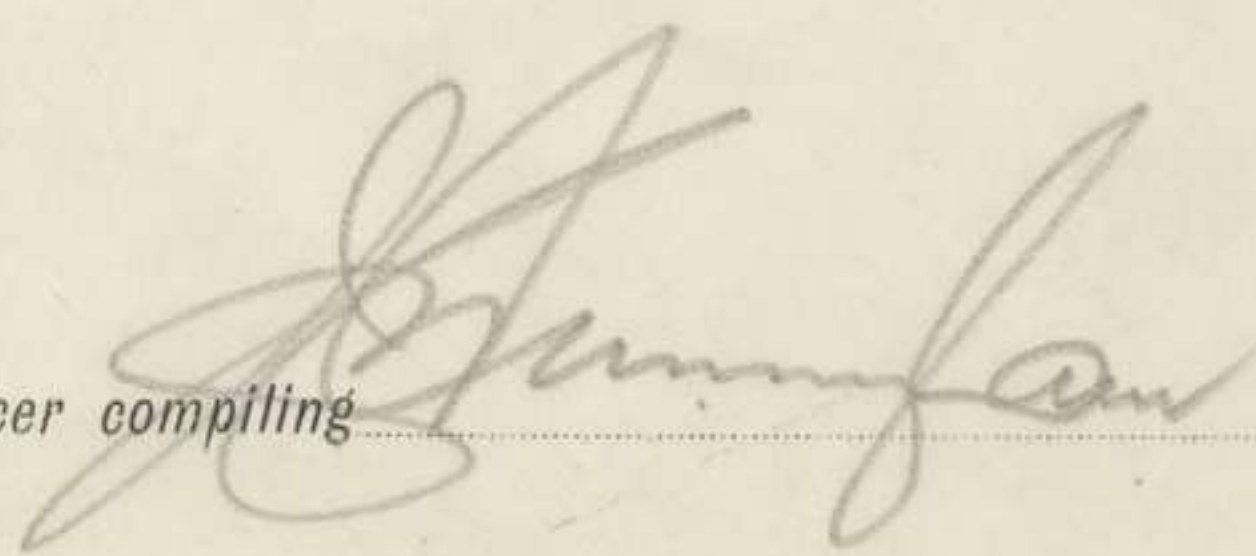
SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

FOR

JAN UARY

191 9

Signature of Officer compiling



Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding



Lieut.Col.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE	Jan. 1st.		No Parades were held to-day, the men being granted a holiday. Last night the officers held a dance. Not to be outdone a "Diggers Dance" was held to-night to which the local ladies were invited and responded nobly. A very enjoyable evening was passed. Weather:- Sky overcast, westerly wind. Temperature, a little colder than of late.	
	2nd.		Men provided with a bath and change of clothing, at WALCOURT. It is anticipated that a Bath Set will shortly be installed in the village.	
	3rd.		Morning bright and sunny, but light rain fell towards evening. C.O. attended, during afternoon, a parade at 6th. A.I. Brigade H.Q. for the purpose of meeting the G.O.C.	
	4th.		Bright sunny day. Temperature mild. Battalion Parade followed by daily Coy. Routine and Education classes. Notification was received that 11 officers, 7 Sergts. and above and 100 O.Rs. would march out to Australia on 9th. instant. Day bright and sunny. Light rain fell towards nightfall.	
	5th.		Strength:- 49 officers. 850 O.Rs. Departures - To hospital 30 O.Rs. To Australia 1 Officer. 20 O.Rs. Arrivals - From hospital 10 O.Rs. R.C. members attended village church in morning and all Protestant Denominations attended service in afternoon. Lieut. M.W. Yelverton marched in from hospital.	
	6th.		At night a Cinema show was held in Concert Hall. A Y.M.C.A. Reading and Writing Room has also been opened. Rain fell throughout the day. A.I.F. Lists received to-day show that Capt. A.N. McLennan and D.F. Rae have been awarded Military Crosses and Capt. C.R. Field and 1 O.R. have been mentioned in despatches. Nominal Rolls of Officers and men marching out to Australia on 9th. instant were prepared.	
	7th.		The building of a new M.G. Range was also commenced. At night the first, and very successful concert was given by the Concert Party. Day was bright and sunny, but clouded over during the late afternoon and light rain fell at night.	
	8th.		All the animals on charge to unit were paraded and classified for Demobilisation purposes. Usual routine of Parades and Classes were carried out during the day. In the evening a dance for the men, to which civilians were invited, was held in the Concert Hall. Morning was very bright and sunny, afternoon cloudy, but cleared off at night. Winter so far has been exceptionally mild.	
			2 Officers and 8 O.Rs. proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS. 2 Officers and 20 O.Rs. proceeded to CHARLEROI for the purpose of visiting various works in that district. The visit extent over three days and has been arranged in connection with the Education Scheme.	

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YVES-GOMEZEE	Jan. 8th.		Advice was received that Draft for Australia with exception of 6 officers, will not proceed on 9th. but will leave unit on following day. Weather bright and sunny.	f f f f f f f f f f
	9th.		Rain prevented Battalion Parade. A Lecture on Democracy was delivered by Canon Masterman to the Bn. during the morning.	
			The following officers marched out for return to Australia:- Capt. D.F. Rae M.C. Lieuts. R.C. Callister M.C., F.J. Blenkarn M.C., A.C. Chalmers M.C., A.J. Johnson and J.L. Stapleton MC.	
			Light rain fell throughout the day and temperature was slightly colder.	
	10th.		At night the first Picture Show run by the Concert Party was given and was quite a success. A Draft of 5 officers and 107 O.Rs. marched out for return to Australia. The officers were, Lieuts. L. J. Murray, W.I.S. Story, W.S. Clayton, G.A. Williams M.C., R. Haydock.	
			There was no Bn. Parade, men being provided with Baths and clean clothing.	
			Day was bright and sunny.	
	11th.		Bn. Parade followed by Coy. Training and Educational Classes.	
			Strength of unit:- 39 Officers, 745 O.Rs. Arrivals during week:- 1 officer and 9 O.Rs. from hospital. Departures:- 11 Officers and 107 O.Rs. to Australia, 7 O.Rs. to hospital.	
	12th.		Weather dull and cloudy. Temperature cold. Light rain fell during the day. Two officers and 40 O.Rs. left unit for a three day's visit to Factories in CHARLEROI area.	
			A Church Parade was held at 0900 for all Protestant Denominations, and Roman Catholic members attended Church in village at 1000. Light rain fell throughout the day, but temperature remained mild.	f f f f
	13th.		23 O.Rs. marched out to attend course of instruction at Universite-du-Travail, CHARLEROI.	
			Owing to the reduction in strength of unit, the numbers of men detached to various schools, etc., and number of men attending Education Classes, no Bn. Parade was held.	
			Weather bright and sunny during morning, but clouded over during afternoon.	
	14th.		Temperature mild.	f f
			The C.O. conducted a competitive inspection of all Transport Sections. There was a very good turn out, and each Coys. Transport being in a particularly good condition.	
			Advice was received that further drafts of 1915 men would be marching out at the end of the month.	f f
	15th.		Weather dull and cloudy. Temperature mild. Strong Westerly wind sprang up late in the day. One officer and 29 O.Rs. marched out for a three day's visit to works in CHARLEROI area.	
			These visits have been of a very interesting nature and have been much appreciated by personnel selected. 3 O.Rs. marched out to attend a French Course at Universite-du-Travail, CHARLEROI.	f

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YVES-GOMEZEE.	Jan. 15th.		This course will last a month. Two officers and 8 O.Rs. proceeding on leave to BRUSSELS, and 1 officer and 20 O.Rs. to CHARLEROI. Leave to BRUSSELS is granted for 48 hours and permits of a stay of 2 nights and 1 day.	X X X X X X X
	16th.		Rain fell throughout the day. Temperature mild. Instructions were received from Division that 2 officers and 53 O.Rs. from this unit are to assemble at Divn. Reinforcement Camp on 24th. instant for the purpose of return to Australia. There at present 149 men with unit who sailed from Australia in 1915 and it is anticipated that the remainder will be absorbed in the Draft leaving Divn. on 2nd. February.	
	17th.		Weather bright and sunny. Rain fell late at night. Men were provided with Baths and changes of clothing. Capt. R.A.P. Hamilton M.C. rejoined unit from hospital.	
	18th.		Rain fell at intervals during the afternoon. Temperature was colder than usual. Rain fell at intervals throughout the day and interfered with Coy. Parades, but Education classes were attended as usual.	
	19th.		Strength of unit:- 40 officers, 747 O.Rs. Arrivals during week - 1 officer and 11 O.Rs. from hospital. Departures - 9 O.Rs. to hospital. All Protestant Denominations Church Parade was held in Concert Hall at 11.30. Roman Catholic members attended village church at 1000.	
	20th.		Weather dull and misty. Temperature colder than usual. 12 officers and 30 O.Rs. attended a lecture given by Brig.Gen. McNicoll at WALCOURT on Demobilisation and Repatriation. To decide the Transport Inspection Competition held by the C.O. on 14th. instant 6 vehicles paraded and the prize was awarded to 22nd.Coy.	
	21st.		Weather dull and cloudy. Temperature cold. 1 officer and 20 O.Rs. proceeded on leave to CHARLEROI by lorry placed at the disposal of the unit. In accordance with authority received through 2nd.Aust.Divn. each Coy. has now been reduced from 4 sections to 2. The process of Demobilisation has rendered this procedure advisable. The Cinema Pictures run by the Concert Party are a popular feature and draw a crowded house nightly. The programme is changed every Monday and Thursday and some fairly good pictures are shown. Weather cold and frosty morning. Sun shone brightly throughout the day.	

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YVES- GOMEZEE.	Jany. 22nd		Two Officers and 8 O.Rs. proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS. One Officer and 20 O.Rs. proceeded to CHARLEROI on a three days visit to Works & Factories in that area. Five O.Rs. proceeded to CHARLEROI to attend a 30 days course in Engineering trades at Universite du Travail. At 1000 the Bn. attended a lecture on Sex Relationship given by Y.M.C.A. Representative. During the day the R.M.O. medically examined the Battalion. 2/Lt. H.C. Thomas, M.M. & Bar, taken on strength from Cadet Bn.	J H H H H H H H
	23rd.		Morning and evening cold and frosty, but remainder of the day bright and sunny. Three O.Rs. proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS for 4 days, by lorry from 5th.Bde. H.Q. Yesterday a Divl. Race Meeting was held at BOMEREE and provided good sport. To-day was the coldest day we have had this winter. Snow fell during the early morning and, with the exception of about an hour's sunlight, sky was overcast throughout the day.	
	24th		Capt. C.R. Field, Lieut. M.W. Yelverton and 53 O.Rs. marched out to Base for return to Australia. Bn. provided with baths and changes of underclothing at WALCOURT. Return forwarded to Division showing numbers of 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918 personnel remaining with unit.	
	25th.		Day extremely cold and frosty. Sky overcast. Strength - 38 Officers, 690 O.Rs. Arrivals during week - 4/16 1 Officer from Reinfts., 4 O.Rs. from hospital. Departures - 2 Officers, 53 O.Rs. to Australia, 8 O.Rs. to Hosp.	
	26th.		Weather cold and frosty. R.Cs. attended village church parades. There were no other church parades as the services of a Chaplain could not be secured. Snow fell throughout the day and conditions were very wintry. Lieut. G.D. Cadden and 3 O.Rs. marched out to Base for duty at Demobilisation Camp.	
	27th.		2/Lt. A. Vallance taken on strength from Cadet Bn. 4 O.Rs. proceeded on 4 day's leave to BRUSSELS by lorry from 5th.A.I.Bde. H.Q., WALCOURT.	
	28th		Weather very cold, the whole of the surrounding country being snow covered. All animals branded for malleining were paraded in Square and malleined by Group Vety. Officer. This operation is for the purpose of ascertaining whether the animals are likely to be subject to Glanders, Weather cold and frosty. Snow still lying on ground.	

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YVES- GOMEZEE.	29th		One officer and 20 O.Rs. proceeded on a three day's visit to works in CHARLEROI area. Two officers and 8 O.Rs. granted leave to BRUSSELS. Allotment for next Demobilisation Draft received from Division. Two officers and 82 O.Rs. will march out on 2nd.Feby. Weather cold and frosty.	J J J
	30th.		Advice was received from A. I. F. H.Q. that the application of Q.M. & Hon. Capt. S. Forbes (at present on leave) for the termination of his appointment in W.K. had been approved. Daily routine throughout the month has not been subject to any great changes. Training consists mostly of M.G. work on range. A fair portion of the men's time has been taken up with Educational classes and visits to works in CHARLEROI. Leave to BRUSSELS & CHARLEROI has also been plentiful. Weather extremely cold and frosty.	
	31st		During the past fortnight all equipment and stores on charge to unit have been checked by a Board appointed for the purpose and this work, which has been a very lengthy process, was completed to-day. Four O.Rs. proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS for 4 days. Weather cold and frosty. Snow which fell at the beginning of the week still remaining on ground. Light snow fell after nightfall.	