

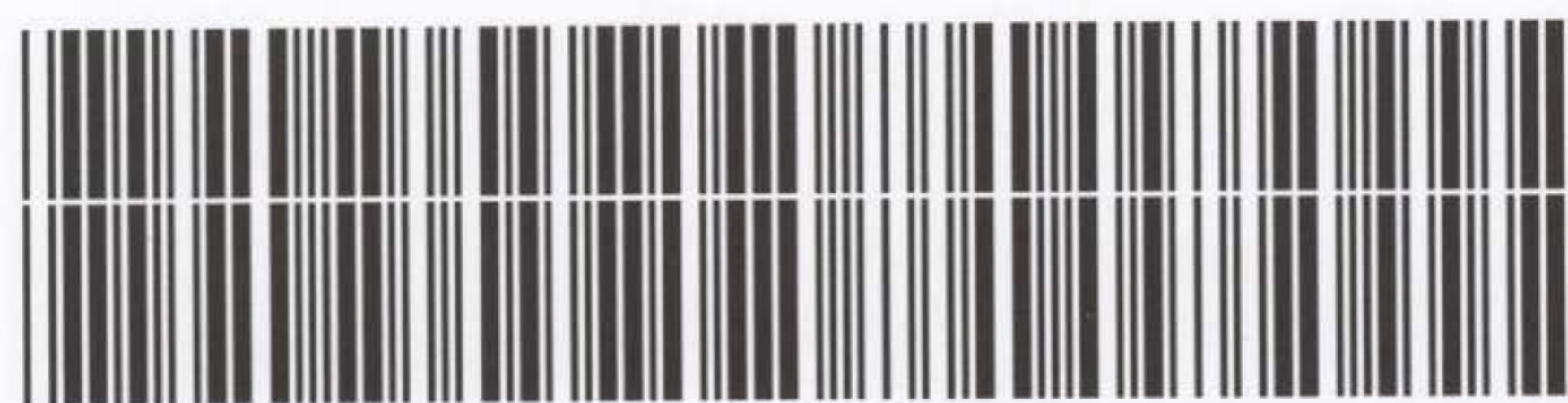
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/38

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

April 1919



AWM4-23/62/38

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4.5th Composite Battalion. A.I.F.

FOR

April *1919*

Signature of Officer compiling

Richard Ash

Signature of Officer Commanding

W.M. Lount
Lieut. Col.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

45/46/48th. Battalion.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919.		The day was fine though cold, with sharp but short snow showers. Baths were made available for the 45th. Company and clean change of clothes was also available.	
	April.			
	1.			
	2.		The day was beautifully fine. Inspections were held by all Companies. Billets and surroundings were thoroughly cleaned.	
	3.		Billeting party left the Battalion at 0900 for the ACOZ - JONCRET area, to arrange billets for the Battalion which is moving to-morrow. Thorough preparations were made for the move by all Companies.	
	4.		The Battalion moved out of NALINNES at 1000, headed by the amalgamated Bands, and proceeded en route for Acoz. On reaching JONCRET the 46th. Company left the column, this being their new billeting area, whilst the 45th. and 48th. Companies went on to ACOZ, arriving at 1245.	
	5.		Fine day, one of the best experienced this year. Preparations were made for Quota leaving for Australia on the 7th. inst. Men of enlistment up to 30 June 1916 comprising the Quota.	
	6.		Beautiful fine day. The Quota formed up on the lawns of the Chateau, in which Battalion Headquarters are situated, at 1200. 20 Officers, 25 N.C.Os. and 278 other Ranks being the total number. Each man was given 8 packets Cigarettes, 2 bars Chocolate and a tin of Boot Polish before moving off. Headed by the Band, the Quota marched out for CHARLEROI picking up the 46th. Quota at JONCRET. The Band came back to ACOZ after marching about 3	
	7.		Fine warm day. Adjustments were made in all rolls made necessary by Quota marching out, and men were consolidated in as small an area as possible. The 46th. Company did not join us as another move is pending on the 11th. inst.	kilos.
	8.		Beautiful fine day. Inspections and parades were the order for the morning, and these were carried out on the lawns of the Chateau. The Band played a good programme during the afternoon.	
	9.		Showery weather prevailed all day, with intermittent sunshine. Billeting parties went into BOUFFIOULX in the morning to reconnoitre the area.	

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Place	Date 1919.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April			
	10.		Fine day. Billeting parties were again sent to BOUFFIOULX to secure accomodation for the Battalion. Preparations were made for the move, and billets and surroundings were thoroughly cleaned.	
	11.		The Battalion marched out of ACOZ for BOUFFIOULX at 1100. Animals had to be requisitioned from the 26th. A.S.C. for transport purposes, owing to our animals having been demobilized. It was only 3 kilos to BOUFFIOULX and we arrived at 11.45. It was a good march. The fine weather and the amalgamated Band made it enjoyable. The men soon settled down in the new surroundings, and billets altogether were very comfortable.	
	12.		Fine weather prevailed all day, and general cleaning up was the order of the day. In order to facilitate the despatch of Quotas, men are being put through the necessary medical examination daily now, and those ready are being marched to the 12th. Field Ambulance at CHATELET for Board. A dance was held in the Cinema Hall at night.	
	13.		Very showery day and cold. Parades to the Field Ambulance were held for the purpose of boarding the men for Quota No. 40.	
	14.		The Band left the Battalion en route for Australia, as a draft, marching out at 1100. The music will be much missed.	
	15.		Cold showery day with occasional thunder and very strong wind. Baths were allotted to the Battalion in the morning, and all the men availed themselves of a hot bath and clean change of under clothes.	
	16.		Cold showery day. Bath were again allotted to the Battalion. Pay was issued to all Companies, otherwise nothing of importance happened.	
	17.		Fine sunny day. Company inspections were held during the morning. A Dance was held in the Cinema Hall at night, and was well attended.	
	18.		Fine sunny day. Men were marched to 12th. Field Ambulance at CHATELET in the morning for Medical Board. Nothing of special interest happened during the day.	

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45/46/48th. Battalion.

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Place	Date 1919.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April 19.		Sunny day with occasional showers. Company inspections were held during the morning, and in the afternoon the men were free to do as they pleased. Having obtained passes the majority went into CHARLEROI. General Drake-Brockman visited the C.O. during the afternoon..	
	20.		Beautiful sunny day. Final preparations were made for the departure of Quota No 40 which leaves on the 21st. inst., WEEK	
	21.		Fine day. The Quota consisting of 14 Officers and 235 other ranks paraded in front of Headquarters at 1.30 p.m. and marched off at 2 p.m. en route for CHARLEROI where they will entrain for HAVRE. The town seems very deserted now that the bulk of the troops have marched out.	
	22.		Fine day. Orders for Quota No. 46, leaving 1/5/19, were received from Brigade. This Quota will finish off the Composite Battalion with the exception of the Cadres. Nothing of importance happened all day.	
	23.		Beautiful fine day. The last of the horses of the Battalion were sent to the Base in the morning for final disposal.	
	24.		Generally fine with occasional showers.	
	25.		Beautiful fine day. This being the 4th. Anniversary of Anzac Day, a good dinner was given to the Battalion which was much appreciated. The men were free to do as they pleased during the day.	
	26.		Beautiful fine day. After Company inspections in the morning the men were free to do as they pleased.	
	27.		Showery day ending up with steady rain. No church parades were held owing to the fact that no Padre is with the Battalion now.	
	28.		Fine day. Active preparations were made for the departure of the final Quota, and it is thought that every man on strength will be available. Company inspections and general cleaning up formed the tasks for the day.	

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WAR DIARY

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45/46/48th. Battalion.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919. April 29.		<p>Dull Showery day. Company parades and inspections were held in the morning. Colonel Dowse visited the Commanding Officer in the Morning and made final arrangements for the departure of Quota No. 46 which is leaving on the 2nd. May. Men were free to do as they pleased in the afternoon.</p>	
	30		<p>Dull wet day. Full muster parades were held during the morning to organise platoons for the Quota. Final packing up of all Cadre material was effected and typewriters were despatched to the A.I.F. Printing Section.</p>	

W. M. Coult
Lieut-Col.,
C.O. 45/46/48th. Battalion, A.I.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information
Remarks and references to Appendices

The following are the weekly strengths of the 45th Composite Battalion A.I.F.

		Off.	O/As.
Week ending.	April 4th	68	940
"	" April 11th	49	614
"	" April 18th	42	529
"	" April 25th	25	271.
Decrease during month:-		43	669

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WAR DIARY

OF

45th Composite Battalion A.I.F.,

FOR

April 1919

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

*1**Report on Q.M. and Transport Section.*

REPORT ON Q. M. DEPT. AND TRANSPORT SECTION FOR APRIL 1919.

On the 1st. April the Battalion was still billeted at NALINNES, and the 4th. inst. moved across to ACOZ. Difficulties were experienced with transport on this move on account of so many horses and mules having been despatched to the Base and sold in BELGIUM. Horses were borrowed from the 26th. A.S.C. and the move was completed the same day. During the time spent at ACOZ all Mobilisation Stores and Equipment were got ready for return to D.A.D.O.S. On the 11th. the Battalion moved to BOUFFIOULX where the billets were good. Horses were supplied by the 14th. A.S.C. for the move as no limber horses were held by the Bn. On the 15th. all mobilisation stores and equipment were returned to D.A.D.O.S. and receipts obtained. Many changes were made with the supply Sections during the month. On the 12th. inst. rations were drawn from the 26th. A.S.C. On the 13th. from the 14th. A.S.C. and on the 20th. from the 1st. Div. Train. On the 22nd. all the horses remaining in the Battalion were despatched to the Base and the Battalion Transport which during the war had rendered very valuable services came to an end.

The rations during the month were very varied, the percentage of fresh meat was small, the vegetables ration was not good and powdered milk was received in lieu of condensed milk. A large quantity of foodstuffs were bought during the month and with these, supplemented by a liberal issue of comforts, the men fared very well.

On Anzac Day a special dinner was given to the men. They were given plenty of good food, including fresh fish and pork, fruit, nuts, tobacco, cigarettes and beer, and everyone was satisfied and went away with a feeling of being well fed.

(signed) H. H. Neaves,
Capt.,
30/4/19.

H. M. Couch
Lieut-Col.,
C.O. 45/46/48th. Battalion. A.I.F.