

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

Baths & Laundries

**Item number:** 18/1/12

**Title:** Australian Corps Baths and Laundries

March 1919



AWM4-18/1/12



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*AUSTRALIAN CORPS BATHS*

FOR

*MARCH 1919.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*De Barber, Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
|       |      |      | As in the previous month nothing of importance can be recorded   |                                      |
|       |      |      | Personnel of Baths Detachment Aush Employment Coy  | } Appendices 94 to 101               |
|       |      |      | Personnel of "A" class attached to corps Baths Officer   |                                      |
|       |      |      | Quantity & quality of washing. These have gradually become worse & representations have been made to "Q" Aush corps to try to have some other arrangements made.   | } Appendix 102                       |
|       |      |      | As a result of these representations the Baths Officer had instructions from "Q" Aush corps to try to find sites for Laundries, or alternatively, suitable civilian laundries to do the washing for the corps  |                                      |
|       |      |      | Change of Laundry. In the meantime arrangements had been made for the transfer of corps account from Abbeville Laundry to 76 <sup>o</sup> 3 Area Laundry Hesdigneul & the consignments received were highly satisfactory except as regards the amount received |                                      |



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.)

66310

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
|       |      |      | <p><u>Pillaging &amp; theiving.</u> This has been very considerable<br/> &amp; a report is appended</p> | <p>appendix<br/>103.</p>             |



# WAR DIARY

OF

310  
 AUSTRALIAN CORPS BATHS

FOR

MARCH 1919.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject.                            |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 94  | Strength Statement Aust Employ Coy. |
| 95  | " " " " " "                         |
| 96  | " " " " " "                         |
| 97  | " " "A" Class Personnel             |
| 98  | " " " " " "                         |
| 99  | " " " " " "                         |
| 100 | Nominal Roll "A" Class Personnel    |
| 101 | " " "B" " " "                       |
| 102 | Report of visit to Laundries        |
| 103 | Report re Pillaging                 |



O.C.

Aust. Employment Coy.

Strengths Statement.

Batha Detachment - Aust. Employment Coy.

Strengths as at 27/2/19.

Officers . . . . .  
1 . . . . .

Taken on Strengths.  
Nil.

Strengths as at 6/3/19.

1

15/6  
6/3/19.

D. Barber  
Lieut.  
Aust. Co. of Batha Officers

O.C.

Aust. Employment Coy.

Strengths Statement

Batha Detachment - Australian Employment Coy.

Strengths as at 6/3/19.

Officers . . . . .  
1 . . . . .

Taken On Strengths  
Nil.

Strengths as at 13/3/19.

1

15/7  
13/3/19.

D. Barber  
Lieut.  
Aust. Co. of Batha Officers



De.

Aust. Employment Coy.

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96

Strengths Statement

Baths Detachment - Aust. Employment Coy.

Strengths as at 13/3/19

Injury on Strengths  
Nil

Strengths as at 20/3/19

Officers 1  
-

1 -

J. W. Barker  
Lieut.  
Aust. Corps Baths Officer

15/7  
21/3/19

97

Camp Commandant.

Aust. Corps H.Q.

Strengths Statement

Baths Detachment - Aust. Corps - "A" Class Personnel.

Strengths as at 27/2/19.

Strengths off Strengths.

771 Cpl. Bagley C.L. Hospital 21/1/19.

Strengths as at 6/3/19.

Officers 2  
O/R. 33.

2 32.

One Year in U.Kingdom.

3268 Sgt. Gunders H.E. 3- 17/3/19.

Returned from Year in U.K.  
7034 Pte. Woodall H. 27/2/19.

J. W. Barker  
Lieut.  
Aust. Corps Baths Officer

10/6  
14/3/19



310  
Camp Commandant.  
Aust. Corps HQ.

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Strengths Statement

Baths Detachment - Aust Corps - "A" Class Personnel.

|                                |          |           |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <u>Strengths as at 6/3/19</u>  | Officers | OR.       |
|                                | 2        | 32        |
| <u>Taken On Strengths</u>      | .        | .         |
| <u>Struck off Strengths</u>    | .        | .         |
| <u>Nil</u>                     | .        | .         |
|                                | <u>2</u> | <u>32</u> |
| <u>Strengths as at 13/3/19</u> |          |           |

On Leave in U Kingdom.

3268 Sgt. Gunders H.E. 3-17/3/19.

16/7  
13/3/19.

J. Barker  
Lieut.  
Aust Corps Baths Officer.

Camp Commandant  
Aust Corps HQ.

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Strengths Statement

Baths Detachment - Aust Corps - "A" Class Personnel.

|                                 |          |           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <u>Strengths as at 13/3/19.</u> | Officers | OR.       |
|                                 | 2        | 32        |
| <u>Taken On Strengths</u>       | .        | .         |
| <u>Nil</u>                      | .        | .         |
|                                 | <u>2</u> | <u>32</u> |
| <u>Strengths as at 20/3/19</u>  |          |           |

On Leave in U Kingdom

3268 Sgt. GUNDERS H.E. 3-17/3/19.

16/8  
24/3/19.

J. Barker  
Lieut.  
Aust Corps Baths Officer.



NOMINAL ROLL

310 Batha Detachment. Aust. Corps of Class Personnel.  
As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 1919.

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| No.   | Rank                | Name      | Unit          | Where Employed. |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| 3218  | Egt.                | Gunders   | H.C.          | 32 Bn.          |
| 7022  | "                   | Oaklands  | E.S.B.        | 16 "            |
| 4364  | "                   | Bird      | L.            | 17 "            |
| 3493  | Cpl.                | Agnew     | C.S.          | 34 "            |
| 2910  | "                   | Holmes    | W.R.          | 15 "            |
| 2157  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pl. | McClure   | G.W.M.        | 34 "            |
| 3626  | Pte.                | Collister | H.M.S.        | 57 "            |
| 2126  | "                   | Gray      | R.            | 4 Pns.          |
| 55153 | "                   | Solter    | W.R.          | 8 Bn.           |
| 5060  | "                   | Lester    | J.            | 4 "             |
| 2724  | "                   | Lord      | J.R.          | 18 "            |
| 5068  | "                   | McMahon   | C.P.          | 32 "            |
| 3179  | "                   | May       | A.S.          | 34 "            |
| 59340 | "                   | Merkel    | W.Z.          | 18 "            |
| 7595  | "                   | Punch     | H.P.          | 4 "             |
| 2007  | "                   | Quirk     | J.E.          | 38 "            |
| 792   | "                   | Steele    | S.            | 57 "            |
| 59573 | "                   | Sims      | E.J.          | 18 "            |
| 7234  | "                   | Woodall   | A.            | 34 "            |
| 15844 | "                   | Walsh     | W.R.          | 3 "             |
| 5197  | "                   | Sharpe    | L.M.          | 34 "            |
|       | Lieut               | Stuber    | J.S.          | 34 "            |
| 1615  | Pte                 | Hutchins  | H.W.          | 23 "            |
| 2164  | "                   | Linderoth | S.J.B.        | 4 Pns.          |
| 2363  | "                   | McDonnell | H.            | 15 Bn.          |
| 438   | "                   | McDonnell | D.            | 15 "            |
| 217   | "                   | Rosset    | S.W.          | 39 "            |
| 4915  | "                   | Tierney   | J.            | 34 "            |
| Total |                     |           | Officers<br>1 | C.R.<br>27      |

Corps Clothing Exchange,  
 Mont. Sur. Marchienne...

Corps Clothing Exchange,  
 Beaumont.

J.W. Barber  
 Lieut.  
 Aust. Corps Batha Officer

10/8  
 31/3/19



Nominal RollBatter Detachment - Aust Corps "B" Class PersonnelAs at 31<sup>st</sup> March 1919.10<sup>1</sup>

| Rank   | Name   | Rate     | Unit                 | Where Employed  |
|--------|--------|----------|----------------------|---|
| Lieut. | Barker | R.W.     | 6 <sup>th</sup> P.W. | Corps Bathing Office,<br>Corps Clothing Exchange,<br>Ment. Serv. Marchmont. |
|        | Total. | Officers | 1                    | O.R.  |

15/5  
13/3/19.

*J. Barker*  
Lieut.  
Aust. Corps Bathing Office



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Copy

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|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| BATHS OFFICER,<br>AUSTRALIAN CORPS. |          |
| No.                                 | 318      |
| Date                                | 24/3/19. |

"Q" Australian Corps.

I today called at Florennes on Grouse David Que de Mettitt reference washing for Corps & obtained the following particulars.

The total output possible is 300 pieces per week, to commence in, say, one week after the signing of contract, we to supply soap & soda. The price asked per piece under these conditions is 30 cubs. If however we also supply fuel the price would be, socks per pair 10 cubs, all other garments 20 cubs each.

The soiled clothing would have to be supplied each Saturday & the clean taken delivery of the following Saturday.

Flour Mill Charteron

I also inspected this place today, but find the upper portion of building is being used by an Imperial Postal Unit. Without said portion, the building in my opinion would be useless as a Laundry, as this would be required for drying rooms. The Town Major informs me that said Postal Unit may not be interfered with

(Signed) D. W. Barker  
Lieut.  
Aush Corps Baths Officer



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"Q"

Aust. Corps H.Q.

BATHS OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.No. 31  
Date 2/3/19.

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Clothing ex Laundries

Reference your 111/172 of 16th inst, forwarding letter I/L 1974 dated 14th idem from Inspector of Laundries. The shipments therein referred to duly arrived with seals broken and the contents obviously pillaged, as shewn in the following table :-

|  | Truck Nos.  | Shirts | Vests | Pants | Socks | Bags |
|--|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <u>Goods invoiced</u>                                | 33426) X No.1 Area<br>13520) Laundry<br>47551) Abbeville.         | 20000  | 10000 | -     | -     | 129  |
| <u>Goods received</u><br>at Mont-sur-<br>Marchienne  |   | 19850  | 9580  | -     | -     | 128  |
|  | <i>Deficiency</i>   | 150    | 420   | -     | -     | /    |
| <u>Goods invoiced</u>                                | 21148) X No.2 Area<br>21816) Laundry<br>9614) St. Omer.<br>45512) | 15000  | 5000  | 15000 | 8000  | 9    |
| <u>Goods received</u><br>at Beaumont.                |   | 14900  | 4960  | 15000 | 8000  | 9    |
|  | <i>Deficiency</i>   | 100    | 40    | -     | -     | -    |
| <u>Goods invoiced</u>                                | 11618) X No.3 Area<br>17584) Laundry<br>15192) Hesdigneul         | 15010  | 5090  | 10000 | 10000 | 248  |
| <u>Goods received</u><br>at Mont-sur-<br>Marchienne. |   | 11800  | 4140  | 8910  | 10500 | 206  |
|  | <i>Deficiency</i>   | 3210   | 950   | 1090  |       | 42   |
|  | <i>Surplus</i>  |        |       |       | 500   |      |

It will thus be seen that there is still no falling off in the thefts from trucks.



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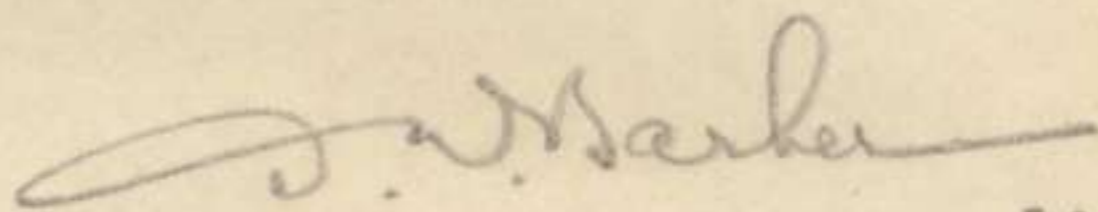
- 2 -

103.

Other thefts of Clothing

On the morning of the 19th inst the Belgian Police reported to me that they had watched clothing being carried by a soldier - whom they are unable to identify - from the store at Mont-sur-Marchienne to the house of a civilian close by. I duly inspected the clothing amounting to about 150 pieces and identified same as having come from the store here. The householder states she is unable to say how the clothing found its way there as (she says) it must have arrived while she was asleep.

I advised the A.P.M. of 2nd Aust. Division who sent a Corporal of Police to the house in question, but he stated that such a case could not be dealt with by him. I have accordingly charged with neglect of duty, the two sentries who were supposed to be on duty between the hours when the goods were stolen, as given by the Belgian Police.



Lieut.

Officer i/c Aust. Corps Clothing Exchange. }

Aust. Corps Bathing Officer. }