

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/38

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



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204
58th BATTALION
A.I.F.
920/2479

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

WAR DIARY

OF

58th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

MARCH 1919

J. W. Williamson Capt

Signature of Officer Compiling

A. Warburton Lt Col

Signature of Officer Commanding

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.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 1, Volume 38.

No. 264
Date

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SIVRY	1919			
	March	1	<p>A dull day. Company muster parades were held today and thorough inspections held. There were no absentees. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. returned from duty at Bde. H.Q., 4 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave, and 1 O.R. from a course at P & R.T. School.</p>	
		2	<p>Departures:- 2/Lieut J. Jones, and batman left for Beaumont to take up duties as Town Major, and 2 O.R. were sent to hospital. A cold day, showery in the morning but fine in the afternoon. In the afternoon the Divisional Photographer visited SIVRY and took a photograph of the whole Battalion.</p>	
		3	<p>The day's movements were as follows:- Arrivals:- 3 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave, Departures:- 3 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., 3 O.R. proceeded to England for Non Military Employment, 1 O.R. was sent to the 5th Div. Artillery, 1 O.R. left for Paris to act as witness in a F.G.C.M. case, and 5 O.R. were sent to the Musketry Camp. A fine warm day. Usual Company parades were held. In the afternoon H.Q. team played "B" Company Rugby, winning easily.</p>	
		4	<p>The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- Lieut. A.S. Cotton, "MC" and 1 O.R. rejoined ex U.K. leave, 1 O.R. returned from duties with 5th Div. Artillery, 4 O.R. ex Musketry Camp, and 1 O.R. ex Mail Train Guard. Departures:- 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 12 O.R. were sent to D.A.D.O.S. as Animal Conducting Party. A cold wet day. Company parades and inspections were held in the morning. The whole Battalion received a bath today. Tomorrow a draft of 1 Officer and 90 O.R. leaves for Australia. Today they were paraded in the Communal Hall and a thorough kit inspection made. In the afternoon a Rugby football match took place between the 4th and 5th Divisions, the latter winning by 8 to Nil.</p>	
		5	<p>The day's movements were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined from Guard duties at D.A.D.O.S.M Departures:- 1 O.R. was sent to hospital. Another dull day. Draft of 1 Officer and 90 other ranks marched out at 10 a.m.</p>	
			<p>Tonight the cinema reopens in the Y.M.C.A. For the past fortnight on account of</p>	

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SIVRY	1919 March	5	<p>the number of deaths amongst civilians through influenza, evening entertainments such as concerts, dances etc have been cut out. These restrictions have now fortunately ceased.</p> <p>The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. ex Musketry Camp, 1 O.R. from a course at the Corps Workshop, and 1 O.R. rejoined from duties with the Y.M.C.A. Beaumont. Departures:- Lieut. P.J. Rochford, and 90 other ranks left the Battalion for return to Australia, 5 O.R. proceeded to U.K. on leave, 5 O.R. were sent to 28th A.A.S.C. Dump on Guard duties, 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, and 1 O.R. to Bde. H.Q. as groom.</p>	
		6	<p>Very dull and showery.</p> <p>Usual parades were held in the morning. In the afternoon an inter-company football match between "A" and "B" Companies resulted in a win for "A" Company.</p> <p>The arrivals and departures for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- Lieut. E. Bullock, Lieut. S. Parsons, and 1 O.R. rejoined ex U.K. leave, Lieut. A.B. Heugh, and 1 O.R. returned from Grandrieu wher Lieut. Heugh was acting as Town Major, and 1 O.R. returned from a course at the 3rd Motor Transport Company.</p>	
		7	<p>A nice bright day.</p> <p>Today 5 other ranks went on a conducted tour to Brussels.</p> <p>The Divisional Boxing Competition was held at SAINS. The results as far as our competitors were concerned are as follows:-</p> <p>Pte. Storen, Winner Light Weight Pte. Reckenberg Runner up Light Weight Pte. Sergeant, Runner up Bantam Weight Pte. Ferguson, Runner up Light Heavy Weight Lieut. V.U. Leeves was the winner of the Officers' Class Middle Weight.</p> <p>The arrivals and departures for the day were as follows :- Arrivals:- 3 O.R. rejoined ex sick and wounded rft. 1 O.R. joined ex General Rft., 45 O.R. returned from duties with the 5th Div. Artillery, 1 O.R. ex leave, and 1 O.R. ex Ration Train Guard. Departures:- 4 O.R. left for duty with 4th Army Headquarters, 2 O.R. were sent to hospital, 1 O.R. to the Div. Medel Platoon, and 1 O.R. was sent to Australia on Transport Duties.</p>	
		8	<p>Showery in the morning but fine in the afternoon.</p> <p>Usual Company parades and educational classes were held in the morning.</p> <p>In the afternoon a football match between the Right half and Left half Battalion resulted in a win for the Right half, the scores being 6 points to 3.</p>	

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SIVRY	1919 March	8	The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined from a course at the Motor Transport Company, 3 O.R. from duties with the 28th A.A.S.C., and 5 O.R. returned from leave U.K. Departures:- Lieut. E. Bullock, left for Grandrieu to take up duties as Town Major, 3 O.R. proceeded on U.K. leave, 3 O.R. were sent to the 28th A.S.C. and 2 O.R. proceeded to Australia on Transport Pay Duties.	
		9	A nice bright day. Voluntary church services were held in the morning. The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex Draft Conducting N.C.O., Lieut. W.M. Pitt, "MC" and 1 O.R. ex leave, Departures:- 2/Lieut. H.S. Jenkins, and 2 O.R. went for a course at the P & R.T. School, 1 O.R. to Ration Train Guard, 3 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, and 1 O.R. was transferred to 5th Div. Headquarters.	
		10	Dull and showery. Company parades and inspections and Education classes were held in the morning. At night a Cinema show was given in the Y.M.C.A. to a crowded house. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. returned from a course at the P & R.T. School, and 1 O.R. rejoined from duties with the 5th Div. Artillery. Departures:- The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel N. Marshall, "DSO", "MC", The assistant Adjutant, Lieut. K.N. Wark, "DCM", The Education Officer, Temp. 2/ Lieut. J.G. McKenzie, and 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., 1 O.R. was sent on picquet duty to Charleroi and 3 O.R. to Guard duties at D.A.D.O.S. Capt. S.A. Benson, took over the duties of Commanding Officer.	
		11	A sunny day. Usual Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex leave, Departures:- 2 O.R. were sent to hospital, 6 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and Lieut. J.G. Steber and 1 O.R. went to The Corps Clothing Exchange.	
		12	Fine day. Company parades and Education classes were held as usual in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 3 O.R. rejoined ex leave, 2/Lieut. S.L. Court, and 1 O.R. rejoined ex Corps Clothing Exchange, and 3 O.R. joined ex sick. Departures:- 3 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and Lieut. R.G. Courtney proceeded to Australia on Transport Pay duties.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SIVRY	1919 March	13	<p>Another fine day. Company parades and Education classes were held as usual in the morning. The following movements took place. Arrivals:- Lieut. H.L. Davies returned from the Michelham Rest Home, 1 O.R. rejoined ex U.K. leave, 1 O.R. ex sick, Departures:- 2 O.R. were sent to hospital, 3 O.R. to loading party at D.A.D.O.S., 2 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 10 O.R. were transferred to 28th A.A.S.C.</p>	
		14	<p>Weather still fine. In the morning Company parades, inspections and Education classes were held. The Arrivals and Departures were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. ex D.A.D.O.S., 5 O.R. ex Duty with 28th A.A.S.C., Major. H.L. Cameron, "DSO" "MC", and 1 O.R. rejoined ex U.K. leave, and 1 O.R. ex 4th Army Headquarters. Departures:- 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, and 1 O.R. was posted absentee.</p>	
		15	<p>Major H.L. Cameron, "DSO", "MC", took over duties of officer T/commanding from Capt. S.A. Benson. Weather still remains fine. The usual Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning. In the afternoon an inter-company football between "B" Company and Headquarter Company resulted in an easy win for "B" Company, the score being 13 - 2. The Y.M.C.A. Cinema show gave a final programme at night. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. ex sick, and 1 O.R. ex Animal Concentration Camp. Departures:- 10 O.R. were transferred to the 3rd Motor Transport Company, 4 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 1 O.R. proceeded to England for Non Military Employment.</p>	
		16	<p>A fine day. Voluntary Church services were held in the morning, 6, of E. in the Town Hall at 0930, For the R.C.'s mass was celebrated in the village church at 0900, and an O.P.D. service was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall at 1100. At night a song service was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall at 1800. Fourteen X & Y horses were despatched to the Base. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex absentee, and 2 O.R. ex sick. Departures:- 1 O.R. was sent to the Base as Animal Conducting N.C.O., and 2 O.R. to Ration Train Guard, Montignies.</p>	
		17		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
SIVRY	1919 March	16	<p>The Effective Strength of the Battalion to date is made up of the following figures:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actually with Unit</td> <td>27</td> <td>448</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In hospital</td> <td>2</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Schools</td> <td>2</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brigade Duties</td> <td>1</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Command</td> <td>14</td> <td>188</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On leave</td> <td>9</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>55</u></td> <td><u>769</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Off.	O.R.	Actually with Unit	27	448	In hospital	2	13	At Schools	2	11	Brigade Duties	1	45	On Command	14	188	On leave	9	64		<u>55</u>	<u>769</u>	
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		17	<p>Fine morning but Showery in the afternoon. Usual Company Parades and Education Classes were held in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals :- 1 O.R. ex 5th Div. Artillery, 1 O.R. ex Salvage Party, and 1 O.R. ex U.K. leave. Departures:- 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, 3 O.R. to Base (Conducting Animals), 5 O.R. proceeded on U.K. leave, Lieut. A.B. Heugh and 1 O.R. left for Grandrieu, where Lieut. Lieut. Heugh will take over duties as Town Major.</p>																									
		18	<p>A nice bright day. The Divisional Rifle Competition starts today. The range is situated half way between here and Grandrieu and a camp has been formed there. We have a fair number of men taking part in the individual practices also two Lewis Gun teams and an A.R.A. Platoon under command of Lieut. S. Parsons. In the evening the 55th Battalion Concert Party gave a performance which was much appreciated by our men. The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- The Commanding Officer, Lieut- Col. N. Marshall, "DSO" MC" returned from U.K. leave and resumed Command. 4 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave. Departures:- 2 O.R. were sent on Mail Train Guard duties, 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 1 O.R. was sent for duty to the War Material Company.</p>																									
		19	<p>A beautiful day. Twenty five mules were despatched to the base today. This leaves us with 5 Cookers teams, two animals for mess cart, and Maltese cart and four hacks. The Divisional Rifle Competition continued today. Our A.R.A. Platoon was beaten by</p>																									

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SIVRY	1919 March	19	8th and 15th Brigade teams. The 5th Divisional Concert performed in the evening.	
			The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex sick, Departures:- 1 O.R. went for a course of Chemistry, 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, and 9 O.R. were transferred to 6th Motor Transport Company.	
		20	A dull showery day. The usual Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning. The Divisional Rifle Competition finished today.	
			The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. joined ex rein., 2 O.R. ex sick, 1 O.R. ex U.K. leave, 1 O.R. ex D.A.D.O.S., and 1 U.K. ex Salvage Party. Departures:- 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 1 O.R. was sent to Ration Train Guard.	
		21	A fine day. Today for the first time for many months the Battalion Guard was dismounted. All remaining prisoners were despatched to the Safe Custody Compound at Charleroi.	
			The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex D.A.D.O.S., 2 O.R. returned from U.K. leave, and 1 O.R. rejoined ex absentee. Departures:- 1 O.R. was sent to hospital, Lieut. S. Parsons, and 1 O.R. proceeded to Charleroi for Picquet duty, and 5 O.R. were sent to detention.	
		22	A dull cold day. Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning.	
			The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex Absentee, 2/Lieut. H.S. Jenkins, and 2 O.R. rejoined from a course at the P & R.T. School, Departures:- 1 O.R. left for A.I.F. H.Q. London, and 3 O.R. proceeded on leave.	
		23	A beautiful day. Church services were held in the morning.	
			27 O.R. left the Battalion for attachment to Australian Burials Detachment and were struck off strength. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- Nil. Departures:- 27 O.R. to Australian Burials Detachment.	
		24c	A dull day and raining. Company parades and Education classes were held as usual in the morning.	
			In the afternoon the Rev. Archdeacon Walford delivered an interesting lecture in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. There was a good attendance. The subject was :- Birth of Europe and its present death.	

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SIVRY	1919 March	24	The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 2/Lieut. C.R. Hawke, rejoined from Charleroi Picquet, 2 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave. Departures:- Lieut. A.B. Hough, and 1 O.R. left for Grandrieu, 2 O.R. proceeded to England for Non Military Employment.	
		25	A dull day. Company parades and Education classes were held as usual in the morning. All our limbers and waggons were returned to D.A.D.O.S. today leaving us with four cooks, a mess cart and a maltese cart. In the afternoon a football match took place between the Right Half and Left Half Battalion. Interest in this match was high as the Right Half had the reputation of never suffering defeat, but this time the tables were turned, the Left Half scoring a well earned victory by the narrow margin of 2 points to Nil. Pay-Sergeant ^{FEBURY} saved his side by landing a beautiful field goal. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 4 O.R. rejoined ex Animal Conducting, 1 O.R. ex sick, and 1 O.R. returned from U.K. leave. Departures:- 4 O.R. were sent to Bde. H.Q., for duty as runners, 4 O.R. proceeded on U.K. leave, 2 O.R. left for BONN on escort duty, and 3 O.R. left for U.K. for Non Military Employment.	
		26	A dull day. Company parades and Education classes were held as usual in the morning. The following movements took place:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave, 1 O.R. from duty with 5th DIV. H.Q., Departures:- 3 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K., and 1 O.R. went to U.K. for Non Military Employment.	
		27	A dull morning. Snow fell in the afternoon. The usual Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning. In the afternoon Mr J.S. Cormack, Publicity Officer, delivered a lecture in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. There was a good attendance. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 3 O.R. rejoined from leave. Departures:- 2 O.R. were sent to D.A.D.O.S., and 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to U.K.	
		28	A dull day. Company parades and Education classes were held in the morning. At night a dance was held in the Hotel Communal. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 1 O.R. rejoined ex absentee, Lieut. K. N.Wark, "DCM", (Asst. Adjutant, and 3 O.R. returned from U.K. leave, 2/Lieut. R.J. Grimston, and 1 O.R. returned from Div. Football Team. Departures:- 2 O.R. to D.A.D.O.S.,	

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SIVRY	1919 March	28	2 O.R. proceeded on U.K. leave, 2 O.R. left for Non Military Employment, and 1 O.R. was sent for duty to the Demobilisation Camp, Havre.	
		29	A dull day. In the afternoon heavy snow fell. Company Parades and Education classes were held in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 2 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave, 1 O.R. ex absentee, 3 O.R. returned from the Div. Model Platoon, and 1 O.R. returned from duty at D.A.D.O.S. Dep- Lieuts. Agnew, Pollock, "MM" and Nancarrow to Eng. for T/Port Duty.	
		30	A dull morning. More snow fell. Afternoon beautiful. Church Services were held in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- Arrivals:- 2 O.R. ex Escort Duty, 5 O.R. ex Burials Detachment, 3 O.R. ex 28th A.A.S.C., 2 O.R. ex leave, 1 O.R. ex Div. Model Platoon, and 1 O.R. ex D.A.D.O.S. Departures:- 1 O.R. to U.K. for Non Military Employment, 2 O.R. to ration train Guard, Montignies, 5 O.R. to War Material Coy. 1 O.R. on leave, 1 O.R. to hospital, 1 O.R. to Frontier Guard, 2 O.R. to D.A.D.O.S., and 3 O.R. to 28th A.A.S.C.	
		30 31	A dance was held in the Hotel Communal in the evening. A fairly bright day. Company parades were held in the morning. The movements for the day were as follows:- The Education Officer, Lieut. J.G. Mc Kenzie, returned from leave in France, 2 O.R. rejoined from U.K. leave, and 3 O.R. ex D.A.D.O.S. Departures:- 1 O.R. proceeded on leave, 4 O.R. were sent to War Material Coy. 1 O.R. to 28th A.A.S.C., 1 O.R. to Frontier Guard, 2 O.R. to D.A.D.O.S., 1 O.R. to Mail Train Guard, 1 O.R. to Charleroi Picquet, 1 O.R. to Bde. Guard, and 1 O.R. to Div. Baths.	
			Reports on training, sports, etc:- hereunder:- <u>R.M.O's Report.</u>	
			The health of the troops for the month has been good, no prevailing disease being present. Scabies scarce, Influenza has practically ceased. Sanitation has been very satisfactory. Army forms have been completed for the next quota, and the majority of the quota after that have been completed. Civilian population has been attended to whenever required, but the demand now is much smaller than last month.	

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Sivry	1919 March		<p align="center"><u>Sports, amusements etc.</u></p>	
			<p>The Battalion has fared well for Amusements during the month. No less than seven dances were held in the Hotel Communal. To avoid overcrowding, Companies were allotted a certain number of tickets. The civilian population attended the dances in large numbers, and together with the diggers they spent a very happy time. Refreshments were supplied, and the Battalion Band rendered the necessary music.</p>	
			<p>On the 18th inst. the 55th Battalion Concert Party, (The Sank on Sanks) gave a very creditable performance in the Hotel Communal. The hall was crowded. At the end of the performance the G.O.C. of the Brigade, Brig-General Stewart said a few words to the lads concerning the coming drafts, news which the boys received with great demonstrations of satisfaction.</p>	
			<p>On the 19th and 20th inst. the 5th Div. Concert Party gave performances in the Hotel Communal, both concerts being well attended.</p>	
			<p>Several inter-Company Football matches were played during the month, one of special interest taking place on the 25th inst. between the Left and Right half Battalion. The match resulted in a win for the Left Half by the narrow margin of 2 points to Nil. This was the first time the Right Half had suffered defeat, and of course keen interest was taken in the match. Pay-Sergeant Feehan kicked a beautifully aimed penalty goal.</p>	
			<p>The Battalion was very successful in the Div. Boxing tournament, gaining 2 firsts, and 3 seconds. Two of our Brigade boxers went to Brussels to compete against the Canadians.</p>	
			<p align="center">Transport Officer's Report</p>	
			<p>On the 3rd inst. 15 X & Y class horses were returned to the Base. On the 4th inst. 3 horses and 17 mules were drawn from the 55th Battalion making the Battalion complete in Animal Establishment. On 16th Inst. 14 X & Y class horses were returned to the Base. On the 19th Inst. 25 mules were returned to the Base.</p>	
			<p>There have been no veterinary evacuations during the month, and all animals are in a healthy and fair condition. On the 25th Inst. 10 limbers and 2 Water Carts were returned to D.A.D.O.S.</p>	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SIVRY	1919 March		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Quartermaster's Report.</u></p> <p>There is no special feature in this department to comment on during the month. The supplies have been exceedingly good, the daily supply has been very consistent and of very good quality. Regular amounts of comforts from the Australian Comforts Fund have been forthcoming, in the way of food stuffs, clothing and Tobacco and Cigarettes, and with an extra amount of vegetables bought by the Battalion from Regimental Funds, has enabled the Battalion to supply each man with all that could be desired in food and comfort generally. The ordinary supplies of coal and wood have been added to by continuous amounts of wood obtained locally, thus giving sufficient for both cooking and heating purposes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Training.</u></p> <p>Company parades are held each morning at 0900, and a thorough inspection of arms equipment and clothing is made. After the inspection men attending Education classes are marched to their classrooms and the remainder carry on with the syllabus which consists mainly of Close Order Drill and Guard and Sentry duties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Education.</u></p> <p>The classes enumerated in last month's report continued in operation. Enrolments Enrolments decreased with the progress of demobilisation. Unit lectures on Economic Problems were inaugurated and well attended. The Battalion was visited by outside lecturers on subjects as follows:- Rev. Arch-deacon Walford - Trade problems, J.S. Cormack Esq. - Repatriation, W.O., Seager - Town Planning. Attendances were satisfactory. The Unit library contains 400 volumes and is extensively availed of. After completing the Unit course in Motor Driving 20 students were accepted as drivers and transferred to the 3rd and 6th Motor Transport Companies respectively.</p>	

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WAR DIARY
of
56th Battalion, A.I.F.
for
MARCH 1919

List of Appendices.

- | <u>No.</u> | <u>Subject</u> |
|------------|--|
| 1. | Statement showing Battalion Strength as at 31/3/19 |
| 2. | Copy of Letter to Captain A.D. Ellis, "MC" |

56TH BATTALION, A.I.F.
No.
Date 31/3/19.

A. Bonchall

Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Strength of Battalion on 1/3/19 (including detached:
In hospital, At Schools, On Command etc. (26 Off. 359 O.R.)

Officers Other Ranks

55 901

Drafts etc. received during the month including:
Officers and Other Ranks ex Sick and Wounded

1 18

56 919

Officers Other Ranks

Strength of Battalion on 31/3/19 (including detached:
In hospital, At Schools, On Command etc. (28 Off. 315 O.R.)

55 718

Transfers, Evacuations, out of Div. Area etc.

1 201

56 919

56th B.I.F. Co.
A.I.F.
No.
Date 31/3/19.

A/ Stewart Lt
Captain,
Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

254
 Captain A.D.Ellis, "MC",
 C/y Australian War Records Section,
 101 Horseferry Road,
 LONDON, S.W.I.

Ref. your H.C.9 & H.C.10

56th BATTALION
A.I.F.
No.....
Date.....

Following is the list of Senior Officers of 56th Battalion who took part in the Battle of FROMELLES.

Commanding Officer	-	Lieut-Colonel A.H.Scott "DSO"
2nd in Command	-	Major A.J.S.Simpson
Adjutant	-	Captain A.C.Chappell
O.C."A" Coy.	-	Captain F.Fanning
O.C."B" Coy.	-	Captain H.A.Roberts
O.C."C" Coy.	-	Captain G.R.Lucas
O.C."D" Coy.	-	Major J.S.Anderson "MC"
Medical Officer	-	Captain K.H.Grieve.

Lieut-Colonel A.H.Scott "DSO" was killed at POLYGON WOOD on 1/10/17.
 Captain A.C.Chappell died of wounds received at POLYGON WOOD on 27/9/17.
 Captain F.Fanning died of wounds received at FLERS on 2/11/16
 Captains' Roberts and Lucas are now Majors.
 The Medical Officer, Captain Grieve received a "M.C." at FROMELLES.

With reference to para. 4 of your H.C.9, the following information is given regarding the 56th Battalion in the Battle of FROMELLES.

(a) Small bombing parties only were sent ~~out~~ to reinforce the attacking Battalions as orders were received to consolidate and hold on to our own front line at all costs.

The following men received decorations for leading these parties:-

Sergeant J.C.Watt (now a Lieutenant with "MC" & "DCM") received a "D.C.M."
 3103 Corporal M.Phillips, ^{now Sgt} received a "DCM".
 2436 Private T.C.Rowley (now Corporal) received a "DCM". (Recommended for a V.C. and since awarded Russian Cross of St.George 2nd Class).

(b) "B" Company 56th Battalion dug the Communication Trench across "No Mans Land"

Captain H.A.Roberts (now Major) was in command of the Company.

(c) Parties were organised from all Companies to carry bombs, ammunition and duckboards across "No Man's Land".

(d) Practically every available man in the Battalion was requisitioned to carry ammunition etc. either from Support Line to our Front Line or across "No Man's Land".

L/Sgt. T.R.Gordon (since Lieutenant and died of wounds on 30/11/17) received a Military Medal for this work.

Many wounded men were brought in from "No Man's Land" by members of this Battalion and 1742 L/Sgt.R.Stewart (now Company Sergeant Major with "DCM" and "MM") received a "M.M" for conspicuous work in this connection.

The Senior Officers in the first SOMME Campaign were the same as in the Battle of FROMELLES except that the 2nd in Command was Major J.S.Anderson "MC" & O.C."D" Company Captain W.R.Sheen "M.C".

The latter was killed on 22/10/16 and Captain G.H.Mann succeeded him.

In the Battle of LOUVERVAL and DOIGNES on 2/4/17 the Officers were:-

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Commanding Officer	-	Lieut-Colonel A.H.Scott "DSO".
2nd in Command	-	Major G.R.Lucas
Acting Adjutant	-	Lieut.G.A.Williamson
O.C."A" Coy.	-	Captain V.E.Smythe (wounded there)
O.C."B" Coy.	-	Captain H.A.Roberts
O.C."C" Coy.	-	Captain H.G.Thompson
O.C."D" Coy.	-	Captain G.H.Mann (wounded there)
Medical Officer	-	Captain G.S.Elliott.

At BULLESCOURT the Officers were the same except that Captain A.G.Chappell was Adjutant, Lieut.G.A.Williamson O.C."A" Company and Captain N.R.Plomley O.C."D" Company.

At POLYGON WOOD the following Officers participated:-

Commanding Officer	-	Lieut-Colonel A.H.Scott "DSO" (killed there)
2nd in Command	-	Major A.J.Simpson
Adjutant	-	Captain A.G.Chappell (killed there)
O.C."A" Coy.	-	Captain V.E.Smythe (received bar to MG there)
O.C."B" Coy.	-	Captain R.V.Single (killed there)
O.C."C" Coy.	-	Captain H.G.Thompson (killed there)
O.C."D" Coy.	-	Captain N.R.Plomley (received "MG" there)
Medical Officer	-	Captain G.S.Elliott (killed there).

With reference to your H.C.10, at the actual formation on 14/2/16 at TEL-EL-KEBIR the following were the Senior Officers:-

Acting Commanding Officer-	Captain A.J.S.Simpson
" Adjutant	Captain J.B.Anderson "MG"
" Quartermaster	Lieut. A.G.Chappell
" O.C."A" Coy.	T/Captain F.Fanning
" O.C."B" Coy.	Lieut.V.E.Smythe
" O.C."C" Coy.	2/Lieut.N.R.Plomley
" O.C."D" Coy.	2/Lieut.G.H.Mann.

These appointments however were only temporary and lasted only for a few weeks.

The names of the first Commanding Officer &c recognised in the Unit are:-

Commanding Officer	-	Lieut-Colonel A.H.Scott "DSO"
2nd in Command	-	Major A.J.S.Simpson
Adjutant	-	Lieut.A.G.Chappell
Quartermaster	-	Hon.Lieut.B.Nicoll
O.C."A" Coy.	-	Captain F.Fanning
O.C."B" Coy.	-	Captain H.A.Roberts
O.C."C" Coy.	-	Captain G.R.Lucas
O.C."D" Coy.	-	Major J.S.Anderson "MG".

Information regarding the 54th Battalion will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Major,
T/Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

