

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/67/33

Title: 50th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/67/33

209

O R I G I N A L
W A R D I A R Y

50th. B A T T A L I O N A. I. F.

F O R.

M. O N T H O F M A R C H.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Signature of Officer Compiling.



[Handwritten Signature] Lt Col.
for C.O. 50th Bn.
.....
Signature of Commanding Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. Battalion A.I.F. Page No



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dinant.	1919. March	1.	<p><u>Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000</u></p> <p>Weather dull and threatening. The whole morning was devoted to the compilation of the Q.I Forms for every member of the Unit in preparation for demobilization.</p> <p>Lieut. Colonel A.G. Salisbury D.S.O. left for Cologne in connection with Conducted Tours Scheme for Senior Officers.</p> <p>All Commanding Officers in the Brigade met Australian Corps Commander at Brigade H.Qrs. Lieut. Colonel R. Christie D.S.O. assumed Command of the Brigade. Summer time (One hour advance) inaugurated at 2300 hours.</p>	
"	"	2.	<p>Dull with light rain during the whole day. Church parade held in factory at 1100 hours with Padre Giles in charge.</p> <p>Dance for OR.'s held in billets in the evening.</p>	
"	"	3.	<p>Fine and bright day. 3 Officers (Lieut. A.G. Rowe, & 2/Lieuts. J.P. Downey . G. Scott) and 13 OR's left enroute for Australia, being this Units Allotment for No 13 Quota.</p> <p>Usual parades held during the morning.</p>	
"	"	4.	<p>Weather wet and cold. Preliminary Orders received that following moves would take place, - 49th. Bn. to VITRIVAL commencing on 6th. inst., 50th. Bn. to SART EUSTACHE on 7th. and 51st. Bn. to Le Roux on 8th. Each Unit staging on night of first day at DENEE. Bn. Route march ordered for this morning cancelled on account of rain. Dance held in the evening, being last to be given in DINANT, therefore permission was granted to continue until after midnight.</p>	
"	"	5.	<p>Weather again threatening with light showers.</p> <p>Usual Parades held in morning and preliminary arrangements made for move. 49th. Bn. held their farewell dance to which a large number of Officers and OR's of this Unit were invited.</p>	
"	"	6.	<p>Rain in the morning but cleared up during the afternoon.</p> <p>Day spent in cleaning of billets and preparing for move tomorrow. Billeting party left for DENEE and also one Officer and 3 O.R's to prepare billets in SART EUSTACHE.</p>	
"	"	7.	<p>Weather fine and bright. Transport moved out at 0830 hours in charge of Lieut. S. AULD, and the Battalion marched out at 0930 hours. Route to be followed, - BOUVIGNES, SOMMIERES, FAELLEN, FAELLEN Station, (where halt for lunch is to be made) thence direct to DENEE, where Battalion arrived at 1500 hours.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.) 50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919.		Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000	
DENEE.	March 7th.		Nobody fell out during the march. Magnificent send off by the inhabitants of DINANT and many visibly effected. Billets in DENEE quite satisfactory.	Operation Order No 102.
(Contd.)				
Sart Eustache.	March 8th.		Weather again quite good. Left Denee at 0930 hours and after halting from 1200'til 1300 hours for lunch arrived at Sart Eustache at 1345 hours. Nobody fell out. Billets good, but everybody noticed how much this village differed from DINANT, and all ranks realised that social arrangements were no longer possible for evening.	Operation Order No 103.
"	9th.		Fine in morning, but rained incessantly during the afternoon. Day spent in cleaning of village and generally improving of billets & settling down. G.O.C. Brigade visited the Battalion during the afternoon. No Church Parades held.	
"	10th.		Weather fine. Battalion Parade held during the morning ^{at} which the C.O. explained the system under which leave would be granted to DINANT. G.O.C. Division visited Battalion and saw majority of the Officers. Preliminary football practice held during the afternoon.	
"	11th.		Weather fine but dull. Ordinary Disciplinary & recreational parades held in the morning. Recreational committee appointed and held first meeting to arrange for football, hockey, basketball and other matches. Basketball courts laid out, and players commenced practice. C.O. attended farewell dinner given by 13th. A.I. Brigade to Major General GLASGOW in the evening.	
"	12th.		Beautiful weather weather in forenoon, but cloudy with scattered showers during the afternoon. Usual parades in the morning. Lieut. Colonel SALISBURY returned from tour of Rhine Towns and assumed command of the Battalion. Weather prevented matches being played in the afternoon.	
"	13th.		Weather bright and fine. Usual parades held during the morning, and C.O. inspected all Battalion billets, and arranged for several alterations in disposition of Coys.	

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50th. BATTALION, A.I.F., Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919.		Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000	
Sart Eustache.	March 14th.		Again a fine day. Football match played during the morning between "A" & "B" Companies, the latter Company winning quite easily. Afternoon devoted to Basket Ball matches within Coys.	
"	15th.		Weather wet and cold. Paper chase which had been arranged was abandoned owing to the weather, and educational parades held in lieu.	
"	16th.		Dull but fine day. Church parade held at 1100 hours on ground in rear of Chateau Chateau, at Sart Eustache. Padre Giles in charge.	
"	17th.		Fine and bright. Usual parades in morning. Conference of C.O.'s held at Brigade Headquarters, in morning to discuss amalgamation of 50th. & 51st Bns., also the organising of each of these Units into one Coy. and 49th. Bn. into a Two Coy. Bn. C.O., and Major Fowler attended.	
"	18th.		Weather fine. Day spent in organising Battalion into one Coy. ^{under} and Captain BILSON, with Lieut LACKMAN as 2nd. in Command. No change made in billets but all arrangements to be carried on as at present, the Unit working as two half companies.	
"	19th.		Fine and bright day. The amalgamation of 50th. & 51st. Bns, takes effect as from today & amalgamated ^{to} be known as "A" Battalion. The two units being known as Nos. 3 & 4 Coys. respectively. Lieut. Colonel Christie is appointed C.O., and Major Fowler 2nd. in Command, Lieut. Colonel Salisbury assuming command until the return of Lieut. Colonel Christie from leave. Administration of new Battalion to be carried out by H.Qrs. 51st. Bn. who become Headquarters of "A" Battalion. B. Cadre of 50th. Bn. remain at Sart Eustache.	
"	20th.		Light fall of snow during the day necessitating cancellation of all parades and sports programme. Designation of newly formed Battalion altered from "A" Battalion to 50/51 Bn.	
"	21st.		Day dull but fine. Football match played between No 3 Coy. (50th. Bn.) and No 4 Coy. (51st. Bn) Rather a one-sided game ending in a win for the former, scores being 7 - 15 to 1 - 7. G.O.C. Brigade left for 10 days leave to Rhine Towns. Lieut. Colonel Salisbury taking over command of the Brigade. Major Fowler temporarily commanding 50/51 Battalion.	

WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.) 50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No



Place	Date 19 Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sart Eustache.	March 22nd.	<p>Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000</p> <p>Weather cold with rain. All parades cancelled. Officers given private dance in evening by an inhabitant of village. Very successful and enjoyable..</p>	
	" 23rd.	<p>Dull and cold day but no rain. Church parade held in Le Roux. Capt. W.J.HALL M.C. left for U.K. for inclusion in quota for Australia as Educational Officer. Capt. A.G. Corbett (R.M.O.) left for England for post graduate work in hospitals there.</p>	
	" 24th.	<p>Again dull and cold but no rain. Basket ball matches within Coys. played in morning and football matches during the afternoon.</p>	
	" 25th.	<p>Weather cold and wet. Usual Recreational Training Parades held in the morning. Rain prevented football match in the afternoon.</p>	
	" 26th.	<p>Fine but dull. Morning parades held as usual. Inter-Platoon hockey matches played in afternoon.</p>	
	" 27th.	<p>Bright day. Usual parades in the morning. Preliminary advice received re amalgamation of 49th.Bn. with 50/51 Bn. Newly formed Unit to be known as 49/50/51 Bn. 49th.Bn. to embody Nos. 1 & 2 Coys. 50th.Bn. No 3 Coy., and 51st.Bn. No 4 Coy. This amalgamation to take effect as from 31st.inst. Under these arrangements the 50th. Bn. to move to Le Roux on 31st.inst.</p>	
	" 28th.	<p>Heavy fall of snow all day. All parades and games cancelled. Morning spent on cleaning etc of billets in anticipation of move. Instructions received re No 25 Quota, of which this Unit is to supply 6 Officers and 85 OR's. Also notification re 4 Officers to proceed to U.K. for Transport Duty.</p>	
	" 29th.	<p>Cold and dull. Lieuts. G.S.I.QUEALE and S.AULD, & 2/Lieuts.E.G.CRSIP & S.C.BISHOP, left unit for Transport Duty, also Capt. A.O.BILSON M.C., was despatched to U.K. for permanent Ship's duty. Inter-Platoon football matches in morning.</p>	

Handwritten signature: A.O. Bilson

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No



Place	Date	Hour	Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sart Eustache.	March 1919.	30th.	<p>Beautiful bright day. This Unit's own personnel for No 25 Quota marched out in morning accompanied by Bn. Band, which remained with them until departure from Charleroi. Lieut. Colonel A.G. SALISBURY D.S.O., Major W.M. FOWLER M.C., Lieuts. J.N.B. LOUDON M.C., J. HUNT, R.H. LACKMAN, R.F. LADE, included in this quota for Australia. Lieut. E.G. HODGE takes over Command of No 3 Coy.</p> <p>Church Parade held at Le Roux in forenoon. Conference of Adjutants and Company Commanders of the three Units held at Le Roux in afternoon to discuss administration of the amalgamated 49/50/51 Bn.</p>	
Le Roux.	"	31st.	<p>Dull and cold but fine. One Officer and 3 OR's sent to Le Roux in Morning to arrange billeting. Units personnel moved to Le Roux at 1430 hours. Billets fair and scattered. Officers' Mess disbanded and remaining members join 51st. Officers' Mess.</p> <p>Major J. Churchill Smith M.C., relinquishes temporary Command of the 49th. Bn., and takes over duties of 2nd. in Command of amalgamated Battalion.</p> <p>B. Cadre also moved to Le Roux.</p>	<p><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p>

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50th. B A T T A L I O N A.I.F.

L I S T O F A P P E N D I C E S .

1. Operation Order No 102.
2. Operation Order No 103.
3. List Of Increases and Decreases for Month of March.
4. Copy of letter from The Burgomaster of DINANT.
5. Copy of letter from G.O.C.Division to Burgomaster of DINANT.

W. J. D. King
M.



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By,
MAJOR W.M. FOWLER M.C., TEMPORARY COMMANDING,
50th. BATTALION.

Dinant,
Belgium.
6/3/19.

Reference Map 1/100,000 Sheet NAMUR 8.

MOVE. The 50th. Battalion will move to DENEE tomorrow 7th. inst.

Starting Point :- Regimental Parade Ground.

Time :- Transport will move at 0830 hours.
Coys. to be in position ready to move off at 0930

Order of March :- "B" & "A" Coys. Guard and Prisoners in rear of
"B" Coy.

Dress :- Fighting Order less greatcoats. Box Respirators &
steel helmets to be carried. W.P. Sheets under
flap of haversack.

Baggage :- Packs, (Properly marked with owners N° Name & Coy.)
and containing one blanket to be stacked by Coys.
in room at S.W. corner of School at 1500 hours
today.
Remaining two blankets per man rolled in bundles
of 10 properly labelled to be stacked in same
room by 0730 hours tomorrow. B.O.R. and Coy.
boxes to be stacked in same room by 0730 hours.
Officers' valises and Officers' Mess gear to be
stacked in porchway of the Abbey by 0730 hours
tomorrow.
R.A.P. boxes to be ready for collection at 0800
hours tomorrow.

Rations :- Unconsumed portion of day's rations to be
carried on the man.

Cookers :- Cookers to be ready for teams at 0800 hours. Two
cooks per Coy. to travel with cooker. Remainder
under Sgt. Cook in rear of "B" Coy.

Rear Guard :- Duty Coy. will detail 1 Sgt. and 8 men to act as
Rear Guard to march in rear of Battalion.
Capt. A.O. Bilson M.C. will take charge.

Sanitation :- Area occupied by Coys. to be left thoroughly
clean and sanitary. Coy. Commanders must report
to Adjutant at Starting Point whether the billets
were left in satisfactory condition.

Routine :-
Reveille 0630 hours.
Breakfast. 0700 : :
Sick Parade. 0730 : :

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Copy N° 1 File.
" " 2. C.O.
" " 3. Senior Major.
" " 4)
" " 5) War Diary.
" " 6)
" " 7. O.C. "A" Coy.
" " 8. O.C. "B" Coy.
" " 9. Q.M.
" " 10. Transport Officer.

[Signature]
Lieutenant.
Adjutant 50th. Battalion, A.I.F.



209

OPERATION ORDER N° 103,

Copy N°.....

By,
MAJOR W.M.FOWLER M.C., TEMPORARY COMMANDING,
50th. BATTALION.

Denee, BELGIUM.
7/3/19.

Reference Map 1/100,000 Sheet NAMUR 8.

MOVE.

The 50th. Battalion with Transport will move to SART EUSTACHE tomorrow 8th.inst.

Starting Point:- Cross Roads $\frac{1}{4}$ inch due North of the "N" in DENEUE.

Time :- 0930 hours.

Order of March :- "A" and "B" Coys. and Transport.Guard & Prisoners to march in rear of "A" Coy.

Dress :- Fighting Order less greatcoats. Box respirators and **Steel** Helmets to be carried. W.P.Sheets under flap of haversack.

Baggage :- All blankets, with the exception of those of "A" Coy. & Guard and Prisoners, (rolled in bundles of 10 and properly marked) together with Officers valises & Mess boxes, R.A.P., & B.O.R. Boxes to be delivered to Q.M. in the SQUARE by 0800 hours. Blankets of "A" Coy. & Guard and Prisoners will be stacked in one dump ready for collection at 0800 hours.

Rations :- Unconsumed portion of day's rations to be carried on the man.

Cookers :- Cookers to be ready for teams at 0830 hours. Two cooks per Coy. to travel with Cookers, remainder under Sgt. Cook in rear of "B" Coy.

Rear Guard :- Duty Company will detail 1 Sgt. and 8 men to act as Rear Guard to march in rear of Transport. Capt. W.J.HALL M.C. will take charge.

Sanitation :- Area occupied by Coys. to be left thoroughly clean and sanitary. Coy.Commanders must report to Adjutant at Starting Point whether the billets were left in satisfactory condition.

Routine :-
Reveille. 0700 hours.
Breakfast. 0730 ::
Sick Parade. 0800 ::

ACKNOWLEDGE.



[Handwritten Signature]

Lieutenant,

Adjutant 50th. Battalion, A.I.F.

- Copy N° 1. File.
- " " 2. C.O.
- " " 3. Senior Major.
- " " 4.)
- " " 5.) War Diary.
- " " 6.)
- " " 7. O.C. "A" Coy.
- " " 8. O.C. "B" Coy.
- " " 9. Q.M.
- " " 10. Transport Officer.

50th. B A T T A L I O N A.I.F.

STATEMENT OF INCREASES AND DECREASES FOR MARCH.

INCREASES :-

2 Off. Retd. From 75 days Furlough in U.K.
3 O.R. T.O.S. from Div.Reinf.Wing.
5 O.R. T.O.S. from Hospital.

DECREASES :-

1 Off. to U.K. for Education Officer on Transport.
4 Off. S.O.S. in Hospital.
1 Off. to U.K. Permanant Ship's Staff.
4 Off. To U.K. for Transport Duties.
1 Off. and 17 O.R's to Aust.Burial Detachment.
10 Off. and 85 O.R. to Australia.
8 O.R. to Non-Military Employment.
3 O.R. to Admin.H.Qrs. A.I.F. " Pay Duties".
27 O.R. S.O.S. In Hospital o/s Div.Area.
2 O.R. Transfd. to Div.H.Q.
1 O.R. Transfd. to 27th.A.A.S.C.
1 O.R. to Military Prison.
1 O.R. transfd to Brigade H.Qrs.

[Handwritten Signature]
M.



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Copy.

Dinant.
6th. March, 1919.

Sir,

As the Australian Troops under your orders are about to leave DINANT, we beg to send you a hearty farewell.

During two and a half months a great number of Australian soldiers. young, strong, lively and jaunty were circulating ~~xxx~~ in the town and this brought our little city to life again, which we will remember for a long time.

We were pleased to have in our walls these brave and proud warriors, who during past years fought so vigorously against our enemies and took such a large part in our deliverance.

We will not forget them, and our gratitude will accompany these braves and their faithful officers in their far away country, and we kindly beg you to convey to them our best feelings.

Please accept, Sir, the expression of ~~high~~ our high consideration.

In the name of the Town Council,

The Secretary.

(Sgd) VINCENT.

The Burgomaster.

(Sgd) BRISBOSIA.



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Copy.

Dinant.

8th. March, 1919.

Monsieur le Bourgomestre,

On behalf of the troops under my command and myself, I have the honour to thank you and your council for your very kind letter of farewell, dated 6th March 1919.

We thank you also for the kind expressions of gratitude towards us for our part in helping your country. This we were proud to do, and are thankful that by the help of our valiant Allies, we have been able to accomplish our task after 4 long years of war.

On behalf of all troops of the 4th Australian Division quartered in, or near, your town, I wish to express to you, Sir, and the inhabitants of DINANT and neighbouring townships our gratitude for the universal kindness and hospitality shown to us during our stay here; and to say how sorry we are to have to leave your beautiful town and the Meuse Valley.

Pray, accept Sir, the expression of my high consideration.

Yours faithfully,

The Burgomaster.

(Signed) E.G. SINCLAIR MACLAGAN.

DINANT.

Major-General.

Commanding 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "E.G. MacLagan".