

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/34

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-23/62/34

Original

Duplicate

Triplicate

204

Confidential

Australian Imperial Force

War Diary

45th Battalion

for

December 1918.

Signature of Officer Compiling Dr Hammy Major

Signature of Officer Commanding W. W. Loubet Lt Col

War Diary - 45th Battalion A.I.F. December 1918

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Hour

Date

Place

1st

A diversion was made from the regular programme to day as King George 5th was passing through this area. All Troops of the Brigade lined the road along which he passed as he drove through. During the afternoon the men were free. At night voluntary Church Service was held in the Y.M.C.A. Major N.M. Loutit "DSC" marched in ex wounded and assumed command of the Battalion.

2nd.

Training as per syllabus occupied the morning, and the usual Recreational parades were held.

3rd

This morning 1 Officer (Lieut R. Bowden "MC") and 8 Other Ranks who had embarked from Australia during the first 2 months of 1915, marched out en route for Australia. Battalion training and recreational parades were carried out throughout the day.

4th

During the morning, training was carried out as laid down in the syllabus. In the afternoon, Brigade Baths were opened in AVESNELLES and 80 men per Company availed themselves of the opportunity to bathe.

5th

The usual training was suspended this morning, and those who did not have an opportunity yesterday, bathed this morning. During the afternoon the usual recreational parades were carried on.

6th

The Route march which was intended for yesterday, took place this morning. During the afternoon the Bn Australian Rules Football team played against the 48th Bn; the latter winning by 46 points to 6. The Brigade Concert Party now has a new engine and are showing nightly in the Salle de Fetes.

7th

Training as laid down in the syllabus occupied the morning and the usual recreational parades were held during the afternoon. Nothing of importance happened throughout the day.

8th

Church parades were held this morning as follows - R.C's in the AVESNELLES Church at 0930, and Protestant Denominations in the Concert Hall at 1015. During the afternoon the Bn Rugby Football Team met and defeated the 12th Field Ambulance team by 15 to nil. Voluntary Church services were held in the Y.M.C.A. during the evening.

9th

Rain fell this morning and as a result the training was interrupted, and where possible was carried on in the billets. During the afternoon our "Soccer" Team met and defeated the 48th Bn by 2 goals to one. This was a particularly exciting and fast match and we are especially proud of a victory as this is the first time our opponents have been beaten. In the Australian Rules Match we were beaten by the 12th Bde and Trench Mortars by 36 to 19.

10th

The weather this morning was again dull and foggy but training was carried on as usual during the morning, and in the afternoon recreational parades were held.

11th

Training was suspended this morning to allow of use of the AVESNES baths which were allotted to the Bn from 1030 till 1500. At 1600, 12th Bde Order No 243 for move to SIVRY Area was received at "H.Q.". The weather is still very damp and dull and all streets were unpleasantly muddy.

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.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.)

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204
 War Diary
 or
 Intelligence Summary
 (Erase heading not required.)

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.

Dec 1

Remarks and references to Appendices

Training as usual was carried on this morning. Equipment inspections were held prior to moving. Battalion Order No 3/40 was issued to Companies at 1700. No recreation parades were held on account of the wet weather.

13th

Reveille this morning was at 0600 and the Battalion moved off at 0830 for the SIVRY Area which place was reached at 1400. Our route lay through FLAUMONT-FELLERIS-CLAIRFAYTS. After arrival at billets the remainder of the day was spent in feet inspection and treatment. The march was a long one, and rain made it very unpleasant. 12th Bde Order No 244 was received at 2000 and at 2100 Bn Order No 3/41 for move to BOUSSU LEZ WAULCOURT on 14th was issued to Companies.

14th

This morning, reveille sounded at 0700 and at 0945 the Battalion moved off en route to BOUSSU lez WAULCOURT arriving at destination at 1430. A halt being made from 1250 to 1400 for lunch. The route followed was through RENLIES-VERGNIES-& ERPION. Fortunately there was no rain to day though the sky was overcast. 12th Bde Order No 245 was received at 1900 and at 2100 Bn Order No 3/42 for move to St AUBIN On 15th was issued to Companies.

15th

Reveille this morning was at 0730 as our Battalion was last of the column to move. The Starting Point was passed at 1000 and we reached our destination at 1545. To day we passed through SILENRIEUX-PHILIPPVILLE & HEMPTIENE. The road was exceptionally hilly and thus the march was made more tiresome. As yesterday, a halt was made for dinner. Brigade Order No 246 was received at 1800 and Battalion Order No 3/43 was issued at 2000 for move to HASTIERE LEVAUX

16th

We made an early start this morning and the Starting Point was passed at 0830. Our road lay through FLORENNES & ROSEE, & ANTHEE, and our destination was reached at 1220. A halt was to be made for lunch to day, but owing to close proximity of the village at the appointed hour, the journey was continued. All troops are comfortably billeted and quite contented. The marching and march discipline were excellent for this move, not a man falling out by the wayside.

17th

To day was devoted to cleaning equipment and clothing after the mud of the march, and to cleaning and making billets comfortable.

18th

As for yesterday, the whole of the day was devoted to cleaning of equipment and billets.

19th

Training was carried on this morning, but wet weather is greatly interfering with regular training. Recreational parades were held during the afternoon.

~~20th~~

~~Training was carried on this morning as per syllabus and in the afternoon recreational parades were held.~~
 During the morning H.R.H. The Prince of Wales visited the Battalion and inspected the troops on the parade ground and in the billets.

Date

Hour

Place

Dec 20

Remarks and references to Appendices

Training was carried on this morning as per syllabus and in the afternoon recreational parades were held. A number of men availed themselves of the opportunity to visit DINANT, 10% passes being given.

21st The weather is still remarkably mild for the time of the year and very little really cold weather has yet been felt. Training and Educational Classes are being regularly carried on in the mornings, and recreational parades during the afternoon.

22nd Regular training was carried on this morning and during the afternoon the usual recreational parades were held. The Battalion (Second) Rugby Football team met and defeated the Engineers by 16 to nil.

23rd This morning was occupied in regular training as laid down in the syllabus and recreational parades occupied the afternoon. To day a representative team from the 12th Brigade and the Artillery played Rugby Football against a team chosen from the 13th & 4th Brigades, the latter winning by 6 points to 3.

24th Training was carried on this morning as per syllabus but during the afternoon recreational parades were abandoned so that the time could be devoted to decorating billets and preparing tables for Xmas Dinner.

25th Christmas Day - At various times throughout the day each Company assembled for their Christmas Feast, which in all cases was splendidly prepared and much appreciated. Unfortunately there is no hall in the village capable of holding the whole Battalion, so each Company sat down individually. Church Services both Protestant and Roman Catholic were held during the morning.

26th To day was observed as a holiday and after the billets had been cleaned the men were free to do as they please. A very good concert was given by the 12th Field Coy Engineers and it was thoroughly appreciated by all.

27th The weather to day was very wet and cold and as a result training was much impeded. During the afternoon a Divisional Football match was played in connection with the Corps Team for PARIS, one of our players securing selection.

28th Training as per syllabus occupied the morning and in the afternoon recreational parades were held. The weather was very unsettled during the evening and a fair amount of rain fell.

29th To day was so wet that outdoor training had to be abandoned. During the afternoon a football match was played against the 12th Field Coy in which we secured a victory.

Hour Training was carried on this morning as per syllabus, the weather being fine and frosty. The usual recreational parades were held during the afternoon.

Date 31st The day was fine and for the majority of the Bn the usual parades were held. Eleven Men who had won decorations proceeded to WAULSORT where they were presented with their medals by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. The "Biggers Ball" was held in the school room at night, and proved a great success.

Place

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Forms C. 2118/14
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750,000. 1/17.
A70921. Wt. 11259/11297

copy to map

204

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C. 2118.

Sheet 4.

Remarks and references to Appendices

The following are the weekly strengths -

Week ending	6th Dec.	Off.	O/Rs.
"	" 13th "	35	687
"	" 20th "	34	665
"	" 27th "	34	658
Decrease during month		1	27.

Y M Coult
 Lieut-Col
 C.O. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (A10266) Wt W5300/F713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Form C/2118/16.

WAR-----DIARY

204

of
45th Battalion A.I.F.

for
DECEMBER 1918

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LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>No.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
1.	Bn. Order No. 3/40
2.	do 3/41
3.	do 3/42
4.	do 3/43
5.	Syllabus of training for week ending 15th December 1918
6.	do do do do 22nd December 1918
7.	Syllabus of Classes do do 28th December 1918
8.	Syllabus of Training do do 29th December 1918
9.	Quartermasters Report.

Y. M. Routt. Lt Col

Headquarters, Avesnelles.
12.12.18

1. The 45th Bn A.I.F. will move to the SIVHY area by march route to-morrow 13.12.18
2. The following ~~retains~~ routine will be observed

Reveille	0600
Sick Parade	0605
Breakfast	0630
3. STARTING POINT - Where road crosses the railway in K.25.b.4.4.
4. TIME - Pass starting Point at 0830
5. ORDER OF MARCH - "H.Q." "D"- "B" -Band - "C"- "A"-Transport Rear Guard.
The Battalion will march in "THREES"
6. DISTANCES -

100 Yds between Companies
100 Yds between Rear Company and Transport.
100 Yds between Transport & Rear Party
7. REAR PARTY - O.C. "A" Coy will detail 1 platoon under Lieut A.J.Frost "MM" to march as rear party of Battalion.
8. DRESS - Marching Order - No ration bags or surplus gear to be exposed. All equipment to be neatly and correctly fitted.
9. BILLETTS - Officers Commanding will ensure that billets are left perfectly clean on marching out.
10. BAGGAGE - Blankets, (2 per man) will be rolled in bundles of 10 & dumped at 0630
 - "A" Coy at Company Headquarters.
 - "H.Q" Details in front of "Headquarters Mess.
 - "B" "C" & "D" Coy at Q.M.Store.
 - Officer's Valises - "A" Coy at Company Headquarters.
 - "B" "C" & "D" Coys at Q.M.Store by 0630
 - Mess Boxes - at Company Mess by 0700
 Each Company will detail 4 men to load blankets, valises etc, at 0630.

(Signed) R.S.Pickup - Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

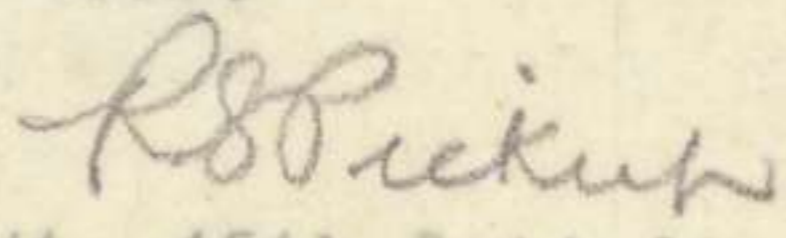
Issued by runner at 1600 to

1. O.C. "A" Coy
2. O.C. "B" Coy
3. O.C. "C" Coy
4. O.C. "D" Coy
5. Office Copy
6. Headquarters
7. Q.M.
8. Transport Officer
9. War Diary.

Headquarters, SIVRY, 13.12.18

1. The 45th Battalion A.I.F. will move to BOUSSU lez WALCOURT to-morrow 14.12.18.
2. The following Routine will be observed -

Reveille	0700
Sick Parade	0730
Breakfast	0800
3. Starting Point - Branch Road to "D" Coy's billet from Main Road.
4. TIME - Pass starting Point at 0945.
5. ORDER OF MARCH - "H.Q." "B" "D" Band- "A" "C" Transport, Rear Party.
The Battalion will march in "THREES"
6. DISTANCE. 100 Yds between Companies
100 Yds between Rear Company and Transport
100 Yds between Transport and Rear Party.
7. REAR PARTY. O.C. "E" Coy will detail 1 Platoon under Lieut C.R. Burnett to march as Rear Party of Battalion.
8. DRESS.- Marching Order. No Ration Bags, Mess Tins, or surplus gear to be exposed.
Greatcoats will not be worn. Water Proof Sheets will not be worn unless ordered and if ordered, will be worn by all.
Hats will not be turned down.
INSPECTION - Before moving off, Company Commanders will hold thorough inspection of Arms and Equipment
9. BILLETS.- Officers Commanding will ensure that billets are left perfectly clean on marching out
10. MIDDAY MEAL.- Midday halt will be made from 1150 to 1300, Midday meal will be carried and hot tea will be provided.
11. COOKERS.- Cookers will pull out at 0900. Two Cooks per Coy will march in rear of their own Cookers, the remainder will march with their Companies.
12. BAGGAGE.- Blankets (2 per man) will be rolled in bundles of 10 and dumped at Company Headquarters, Bn "HQ" Details at B.O.R. at 0730. Officer's Valises with blankets at 0730.
Mess Boxes at Company Headquarters at 0830.


 Lieut.
 Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by Runner at 2145 to -

1. "A" Coy
2. "B" Coy
3. "C" Coy
4. "D" Coy
5. Office Copy
6. Headquarters
7. 8. & 9 War Diary

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Headquarters, BOUSSU lez WALCOURT
14th December 1918

1. The 45th Battalion A.I.F. will move to St AUBIN by march route to-morrow, 15.12.18
2. The following routine will be observed -

Reveille	0730
Sick Parade	0800
Breakfast	0830
3. STARTING POINT - Map NAMUR - 4.E.55.77. (Where Road through BOUSSU lez WALCOURT joins main BARBENCON-SILENRIEUX road)
4. TIME- Pass starting Point at 1015
5. ORDER OF MARCH - "H.Q."-"C"-"A"-Band-"D"-"B"- Transport-rear Guard
The Battalion will march in "THREES"
6. DISTANCES-

100 Yds between Companies
100 Yds between rear Company and Transport.
100 Yds between Transport and Rear Party.
7. REAR PARTY - O.C. "C" Coy will detail 1 platoon under 2/Lieut H. Sinclair to march as Rear Party of Battalion.
8. DRESS - Marching Order, no ration bags, mess tins, or surplus gear to be exposed. Attention of Company Commanders is drawn to previous orders re Hats, Greatcoats, 5 Water Proof Sheets.
9. BILLETS - To be left clean on marching out
10. MIDDAY MEAL - Midday halt will be made from 1250 to 1400. Midday meal will be carried and hot tea will be provided.
11. COOKERS - Cookers will pull out at 0930. Two Cooks per Coy will march in rear of their own Cookers, the remainder will march with their Company.
2. BAGGAGE- Blankets (2 per man) rolled in bundles of 10. and Officer's valises will be dumped at R.Q.M. Store at 0800. Mess boxes in front of church at 0915.

(Signed) R.S. Pickup - Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runnet at 2100 to

1. "A" Coy
2. "B" Coy
3. "C" Coy
4. "D" Coy
5. Office Copy
6. Headquarters
7. Transport Officer.
8. C.M.
9. War Diary.

Headquarters, St AUBIN
15.12.18

- 204
1. The 45th Battalion A.I.F. will move to HASTIERE LAVAUX by march route to-morrow, 16.12.18
 2. ROUTINE - The following routine will be observed-

Reveille	0545
Sick Parade	0600
Breakfast	0615
 3. STARTING POINT - 400 Yds beyond where Creek crosses Road East of St AUBIN. (Immediately above F in FLORENNES EST Sta)
 4. TIME- Pass Starting Point 0740
 5. ORDER OF MARCH - "H.Q."-"A"-"C"-Band-"B"-"D" Transport-Rear Party
The Battalion will march in "THREES"
 6. DISTANCES- The usual 100 Yds interval will be maintained.
 7. REAR PARTY- O.C. "D" Coy will detail 1 platoon under Lieut A.M. Mills to march as rear party of Battalion.
 8. DRESS - Marching Order, no rat on bags, mess tins or surplus gear to be exposed- Attention is drawn to previous orders re Hats, Greatcoats, and Water proof sheets.
 9. BILLETS - To be left clean on marching out.
 10. MIDDAY MEAL- A halt will be made from 1150 - 1300; midday meal will be carried and hot tea will be provided.
 11. COOKERS - Cookers will pull out at 0710; Two Cooks per Company will march in rear of their own cookers, the remainder will march with their own Company.
 12. BAGGAGE - Blankets (2 per man) rolled in bundles of 10 and Officer's valises, will be dumped at R.Q.M. Store at 0630. Mess boxes at R.Q.M. Store at 0700.
 13. BILLETING PARTY - 1 N.C.O. from each Company will report to Lieut J. Vincent "MC DCM" at B.O.R. at 0730 with bicycles.

(Signed) R.S. Pickup - Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 2030 to

1. "A" Coy
2. "B" Coy
3. "C" Coy
4. "D" Coy
5. Office Copy
6. Headquarters.
7. Q.M.
8. Transport Officer.
9. War Diary.

45th Battalion A.I.F.

20 SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 15th 1919

Date	Time	Subject
Monday 9th	0900-0950 1000-1050 1100-1150 1400-1600	Physical Training- Bayonet Fighting Preparators to move - Marching Order inspection Respirators and Steel Hats to be carried Fitting of equipment etc. Rifle Exercises - Platoon & Company Drill. Recreation Parade
Tuesday 8th		BATTALION ROUTE MARCH -- FIGHTING ORDER. Starting Point - J.30.b.6.4. Route- Along main roads to cross Roads in J.21.c Gue-le-Ga Fuchau - St Hilcire sur Helpe - La Blingvelt - Filature le Pont Rouge - to main road in J.29.b.6.7, Avesnelles. 1400-1600 Recreation Parade
Wednesday 11th	0900-0950 1000-1050 1100-1150 1400-1600	Physical Drill Ceremonial-Guards & Sentries. Lecture on San tation & V.D. by R.M.O. Recreation Parade.
Thursday 12th		BATTALION ROUTE MARCH.--FIGHTING ORDER. Starting Point-J.30.b.6.4. Route -Cross Roads in P.12.a - Le Cheval Blanc- Godin - Avesnelles. 1400-1600 Recreation Parade
Friday 13th	0900-0950 1000-1050 1100-1150 1400-1600	Physical Drill. Rifle Exercises. Class Order steadying Drill. Lecture on Education & Repatriation Scheme by Lieut F.E. Parsons "MC" Recreation Parade.
Saturday 14th		BATTALION ROUTE MARCH.- FIGHTING ORDER. Starting point --J.30.b.6.4. Route -Avesnes -Gense a Longe -Mont Dourters - Dourters.- Cross Roads in D.17.d.2.0. --Avesnes --Avesnelles. 1400-1600 Recreation Parade.
Sunday 15th		CHURCH PARADES.

W. Pickup

Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

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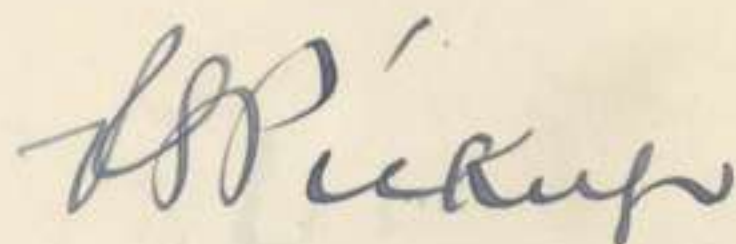
45th Battalion A.I.F.

22nd

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER ~~16th~~ 1918

Date	Time	Subject
Monday 6th Dec		ARRIVE FAULSORT AREA
Tuesday 7th Dec	0900-1200	Foot and Boot Inspection.
		Clean up of personal equipment and billets
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade.
Wednesday 8th Dec	0900-0950	Physical Training.
	1000-1050	Rifle Exercises. Platoon & Company Drill
	1100-1150	Musketry
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade.
Thursday 9th Dec	0900-1200	Route March - Fighting Order Route to be notified later when destination is known
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade.
Friday 10th Dec	0900-0950	Bayonet Fighting.
	1000-1050	Company Ceremonial Parade; to practice Guards & Sentries, Dressing, Rifle Exercises
	1100-1150	Lecture by Lieut F.E. Parsons "MC" - "Education & Repatriation Scheme"
Saturday 11st Dec	0900-1200	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH - FIGHTING ORDER Route - as for Thursday
	1400-1600	S P O R T S
Sunday 12nd Dec		CHURCH PARADE

Note - Special attention will be given to Ceremonial Parades. Dressing, Fixing & Unfixing Bayonets, and Rifle Exercises generally to be frequently practised

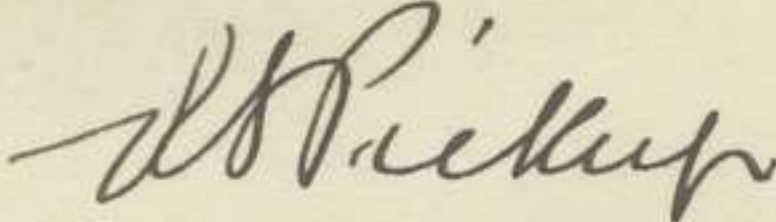


Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

45th Battalion A.I.F.

204 SYLLABUS OF CLASSES FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 28th 1918

Date	Time	Subject
Monday 23rd	1000	Arithmetic. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1100	French-- Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1400	Book-keeping.
	1500	English
Tuesday 24th	1000	-----
	1100	-----
	1400	Book-keeping.
	1500	English
Wednesday 25th		CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday 26th	1000	Arithmetic. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1100	French. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1400	Book-keeping.
	1500	Preliminary class for Shorthand.
Friday 27th	1000	Arithmetic. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1100	French. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1400	Shorthand.
	1500	English
Saturday. 28th	1000	Arithmetic. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1100	French. Nos 1 & 2 Classes.
	1400	Book-keeping.
	1500	Discussion on week's work.


 Lieut.
 Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

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45 th Battalion A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 29th 1918

Date	Time	Subject
Monday	0900-0950	Physical Training.
Tuesday	1000-1050	Musketry
	1100-1150	Ceremonial parade - Guard Duties - Method of parading - Turning Out - Dress - Rifle Exercises.
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade.
Tuesday	0900-1200	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH.- FIGHTING ORDER. Starting Point - Junction of HASTIERE & ONHAYE RDS Route - ONHAYE - LENNEFARMS - FAULSORT - HASTIERE.
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade
Wednesday	CHRISTMAS DAY	
Thursday	CHURCH PARADES	
Thursday	0900-0950	Physical Training
	1000-1050	Platoon Drill, Rifle Exercises, Company Drill
	1100-1150	Musketry
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade
Friday	0900-0950	Bayonet Fighting.
	1000-1050	Guards & Sentries, Platoon Drill, Rifle Exercises.
	1100-1150	Company Inspection - Marching Order.
	1400-1600	Recreation Parade
Saturday	0900-1200	Ceremonial Parade & Inspection by C.O. Marching Order.
	1400-1600	S P O R T S
Sunday	CHURCH PARADES.	

NOTE - Special attention will be given to Ceremonial Parades - Dressing, Fixing & Unfixing bayonets and Rifle exercises generally to be frequently practised.

J. W. P. P.
Lieut.
Adj. 45th Battalion A.I.F.

204
45th Battalion A.I.F.

SUMMARY OF Q.M.'s DEPARTMENT AND TRANSPORT SECTION.

from 1.12.18 - 31.12.18

On 1.12.18 the Battalion was still billeted at AVESNELLES, the Transport being comfortably housed in a large factory where it was possible to make a thorough renovation of limbers, water carts etc; The condition of horses and mules picked up very much with the good rest and the warm stables. On 2.12.18 1 package of papers & magazines was received from Comforts and this supply was again received on the 3.12.18. On 6.12.18 an issue of rum was made, and on 13.12.18 the Battalion moved by road with Transport from AVESNELLES to SIVRY and on arrival an issue of rum was given, which was greatly appreciated by the men after a long and wet march. On 14.12.18 the Battalion again moved by road from SIVRY to BOUSSU LEZ WALCOURT and on the 15.12.18 on to ST AUBIN, and 16.12.18 to HASTIERE LEVAUX where fair stabling for horses was secured but vehicles had to be parked in the open. A rum issue was given on night 16.12.18. On 24.12.18 31 cases of Christmas Boxes were received from Aust Comforts Funds and an issue of rum was also given on 25.12.18. A Battalion Christmas Dinner was given and with the aid of Regimental Funds a good supply of Turkeys, Vegetables Beer and Flour was purchased giving the men a very substantial and assorted dinner which was given in each Company quarters. On 26.12.18 an additional blanket per man was issued making a total of 3 blankets per man. On 27.12.18 a further 10 Cases of Christmas Boxes was received from Aust Comforts Fund which brought the full issue of 1½ boxes per man. On 31.12.18 further supplies of Beef, Vegetables, Custard Powders Flour etc were purchased from Regimental Funds thus allowing for another good meal on New Year's Day and a rum issue was also given. Altogether with the plentiful supplies of Vegetables that have been available for purchase the meals have been very good. and each Company having installed ovens have been able to give the men many changes in the meals which have been much appreciated. During the month the supplies have been very good with the exception of Margarine towards the latter part of the month and being unable to purchase butter at a reasonable price the scarcity of same has been somewhat felt.
