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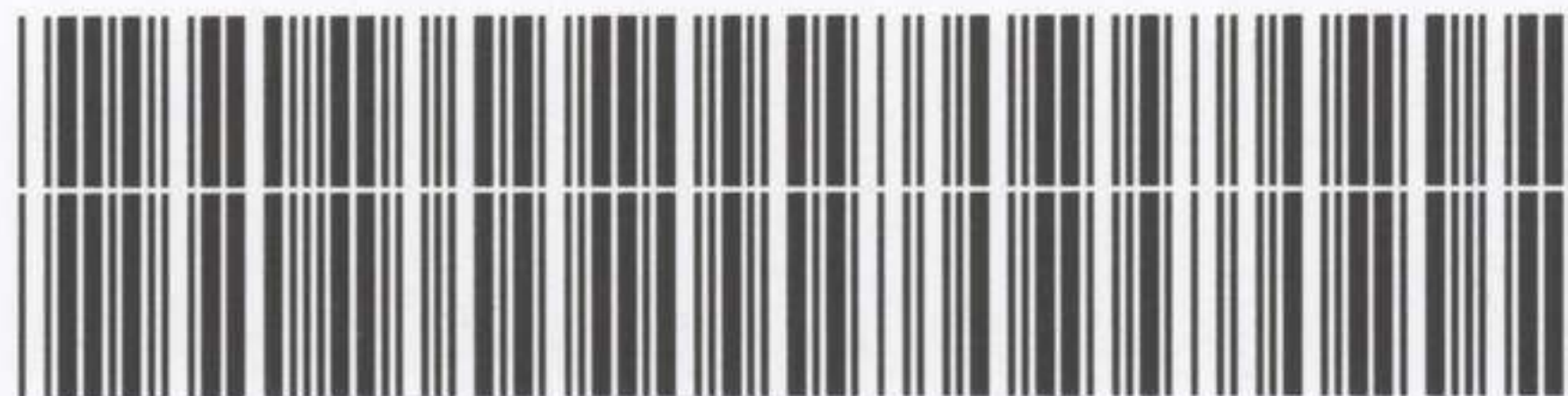
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/21/25

Title: 21st Australian Machine Gun
Company

February 1919



AWM4-24/21/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
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A2

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

21st Aust Machine Gun Coy.

FOR

February 1919

Signature of Officer compiling *A.P. Wordsworth*

Signature of Officer Commanding *J. Keogh*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

21st Aust M.G. Coy.

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy H.Q. Pont-de-Loup	Feb. 1919 1		Cold Frosty day with light fall of snow during previous night. 0900 Company Parade Dress Clean fatigue with Belts and Overcoats. After inspection Company proceeded for short brisk march, returning to the hall in the village Square at 0930. At 0945 Colonel ROSS, 1 st Aust Div H.Q. delivered an interesting Lecture in the hall, Subject "PASCHENDAELE OPERATIONS FROM A CORPS POINT OF VIEW. After the Lecture the Company Transport (Limbers) was washed with warm water pumped from an adjacent mine and flowing in a convenient place for the purpose. Too frozen for Sports in the afternoon. 1 Other Rank evacuated Sick. Cpl G HEMPHILL rejoined ex Army Corps Physical and Recreational School. Lieut A.G. FERREE proceeded on leave to United Kingdom. Ration Strength 5 Officers and 142 Other Ranks.	
do	2		Sunday. No Church Parade. Cold Cloudy day with ground frozen hard. At 1000 the C.O. ^{Capt. J.M. HOGG MC.} inspected Company Transport and Stables, and expressed his satisfaction on the condition of mules, limbers and harness and also on the good stabling. O.C. then inspected mens billets, Cookhouses etc. and found all in order. 1 Other Rank proceeded on special UK leave. Ration Strength 5 Officers and 141 Other Ranks.	
do	3		Cold Cloudy day with ground frozen hard. Section Parade at 0900 for inspection of Arms and short march. At 0930 Company Parade, dress clean fatigue and Overcoats. Company marched to the hall and listened to a very interesting Lecture on "Notable Advances in Modern Surgery by the R.M.O. Capt LOVE. Duty Company today and supplied the Battalion Guard mounting at 1100. 2 Lieut S.H. HOLMES taken on strength ex O.T.C. Cpl. W. COULL proceeded to Industrial Employment in England. 5 Other Ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom including one attached. 1 Other Rank evacuated sick. Ration Strength 6 Officers and 134 Other Ranks.	
do	4		Cold Cloudy day with ground frozen hard. Parade 0900 dress drill order. After inspection and one hour's brisk march, guns were overhauled and cleaned in billets. No out door sports indulged in owing to weather. Boxers for divisional competitions, training in billets. Sgt N.J. McNaughton and Cpl J. Murphy rejoined ex Cadre from England. Ration Strength 6 Officers and 136 Other Ranks.	Jb.

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 sch. 52 Form C/2118/16.

WAR DIARY

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21st Aust MG Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ. Post de Loup	Feb 1919 5		Cold Cloudy day. Company Parade 0900 dress clean fatigue with Overcoats. After a brisk march company were seated in the hall at 0945 and listened to a very interesting lecture on "Wonders of Bee Life" by Lieut Sommerville of 3 rd AMG Coy. After the Lecture sections proceeded to their billets and overhauled the ammunition in belts, under Section Officers. At 1400 O.C. attended the Commanding Officers conference at Br. HQ. and Educational instruction was explained as laid down by latest principles from Division. Also it was arranged for Committee of Officers representing each company, to arrange for entertainment of each draft of Officers and Men leaving for Australia on the afternoon and night before departure. Snow began to fall heavily soon after dark and continued till bedtime. 2/Lt W.T. ABBOTT taken on Strength ex O.T.C. 1 Other Rank evacuated Sick. 1 Other Rank rejoined ex Paris leave. 1 Other Rank rejoined from hospital. Ration Strength 7 Officers & 145 Other Ranks.	
do	6		Weather Cloudy but milder and ground covered with about 6 inches of snow. Company attended lecture in the hall, on "Wireless Telegraphy" at 1000 and after lecture marched for hot baths at a neighbouring mine.	Jb.
do.	7.		Cold, cloudy day, ground frozen hard, - After a brisk march company were seated in the Hall at 0945 and listened to the second lecture, very interesting, on the "Wonders of Bee Life" by Lieut Sommerville of 3 rd MG Coy. - Subsequently sections proceeded to Billets and continued overhauling of Belts & Ammunition - Ration Strength this day. 7 Off. 145 O.P.	
do.	8.		Weather still cold, frosty, and dull. - Company Parade at 0900, and after a short march, paraded to attend a lecture by Col. Ross. D.H.Q. on the "Life of Stonewall Jackson" which proved very interesting. Ration Strength 8 Off. 146 O.P.	A.W.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PONT DE LOUP BELGIUM	9.		Sunday. Day very cold, ground frozen. No Church Parade. Billets were inspected by Company Commander. 1 OR proceeded on leave to Paris - Strength 8 Off 145 OR.	
	10.		Weather: Cold although the sun made its appearance, presence not felt. Company Parade at 0900. Short route march from to attending 3rd Lecture on "Bee Life" by Lt Somerville of 3rd R. M. Coy. Reason Strength 8 Off 147 OR. - 2 OR ret'd from UK leave.	
	11.		Cold & frosty. Company Parade at 0900. Clear fatigue and after a short march, attended a lecture by Capt Lybey, on the subject of "With the British to Bagdad" and which very interesting to the audience. 7 ORs proceeded on leave to UK and 2 ORs proceeded on leave of Industries of Charlewi. Strength 8 Off 142 OR.	
	12.		Weather again dull, cold & frosty. Parade of Company at 0930 to attend a 4th special lecture by Lt Somerville on "The Wonders of Bee Life". Strength 8 Off 145 OR.	
	13.		Cold & Dull. Company Parade at 0930. Inspection Arms & Equipment prior to Route March. 1 OR proceeded on Special Leave to UK. Strength 9 Off 145 OR.	
	14.		Rain through the day - Cold. Company Parade, drill order, Route March of short break order, subsequently sections were employed on Clearing of Gear etc. 7 OR proceeded on leave to Brussels. Strength 9 Off 138 OR.	
	15.		Cold and dull. Parade at 0900 followed by Route March. Strength 9 Off 140 OR.	A9TW

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Army Form C. 2118.

21st A.M.C. Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Port de Loup	16		Sunday. No Church Parade:- Showery weather & cold:- Company Parade at 0930 whereby to attend a lecture by Adjutant on 'Demobilisation and Selection of Personnel for the next draft' in which he (adjt) made things very clear on certain points. Strength 137 OR. Difference arises from fact of the Officers' Messes of 1st & 2nd Coy, combining as from this date shown on Ration of 1st Coy.	
	17		Weather still cloudy & cool:- Company Parade at 0900. Short march prior to attending a lecture by Mr. A. Berry on the subject of 'Sea Home & Reconstruction'. Proved interesting. Subsequently, personnel of draft paraded for medical inspection. Strength 138 OR. - 3 OR. proceeded on Power of Industries & 1 OR. to England prior to Australia.	
	18		Weather dull & cool. Rain at night:- Muster Parade at 0900. Inspection of Gas Helmets, prior to attending an additional lecture on 'Sea Life' by Mr. Somerville:- 2 OR. evacuated to Hospital 2 OR. on leave to UK. Strength 130 OR.	
	19		Rain occasionally through the day. Company Parade at 0900. Checking of Spare Parts. Leave & Wallets under Section of S.O.C. Rugby Match at 1400:- 1st M.G. Bn v 9th Inf Bn. Result after a good hard interesting game. DRAW 1 try each - Ration Strength 129 OR.	
	20		Fine and Sunny:- Company Parade at 0900 Drill Order Route March:- 1 OR. evacuated to Hospital 7 OR. to Australia early Repatriation. At 1200 Battalion Sports were held & whilst 2nd Coy carried off majority of events for medium of Driver J. Gray. Strength 122 OR.	APWS

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

21st Aust Inf Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont. de Loup.	21.		Weather fine, cloudy and warmer. Company Parade at 0930. Attended a lecture by Capt Priestley of DHO on the subject of Wool Manufacture and was listened to with interest by all present. Battalion football match v. Sid. Inf Bn on latter's ground took place at 1430 and to the surprise and consternation of the Bn resulted in a DRAW. Spent each 3 OR. proceeded to DADOS for duty, 1 OR to Australia early Repatriation Strength 122 OR.	
	22.		Cloudy & warmer. Company Parade at 0930 Clean fatigue marched to CHATELET where Mr. W.M. Hughes, Prime Minister addressed the Parade. At 1830 Concert by Battalion Concert party under Lieut de Williams was held, followed by a Dance - Refreshments served by Y.M.C.A. proved a success. - 1 OR, evacuated to Hospital Strength 128 OR.	
	23.		Sunday. dull but fine. No Parades. Strength 129 OR.	
	24.		Dull and fine. Muster Parade at 0930. Drill Order. Inspection of Arms & Equipment by Company Commander, followed by clearing of Gun gear etc. 11 OR proceeded to England on New Military Employment. 6 OR on leave to Brussels. Strength 113 OR.	
	25.		Weather fine but dull. Company Parade at 0930. Clean fatigue Packing of Belt Boxes. other gear. S.A.F. etc. Inspection of Belts by Company Commander. - 1 OR, proceeded to England for early Repatriation 1 OR on leave to UK. Strength 111 OR. At 1400 An Australian Rules football match was played 21 st Coy v 2 nd Coy & resulted in a victory for the latter.	A9/15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont. de Loup.	26.		Weather Showery cool. Company Parade at 0930 Clean fatigue Overhauling of Gun gear etc. which occupied the Coy until 1500. - 1 OR evacuated to Hospital. Strength 116 ORs.	
	27.		Raining off now all day cold. Company Parade at 0930 Clean fatigue. Overhauling of Gun & other gear. Sale of Horses and Mules at CHATELET where 1 Horse and 2 Mules of the Company were sold. - 1 OR proceeded on Special Leave to UK. Strength 115 ORanks.	
	28.		Dull with an occasional shower of Rain. Company Parade at 0930 Clean fatigue Searched to France for Hot Bath. Strength 115 ORanks.	1975