

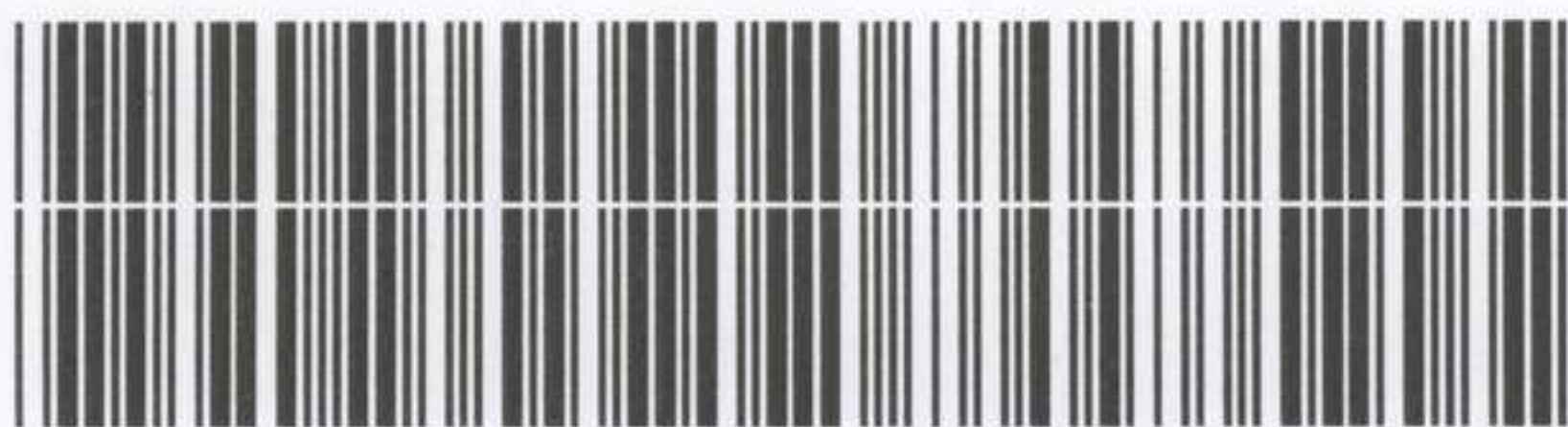
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/2/45

Title: 2nd Infantry Brigade

January 1919



AWM4-23/2/45

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

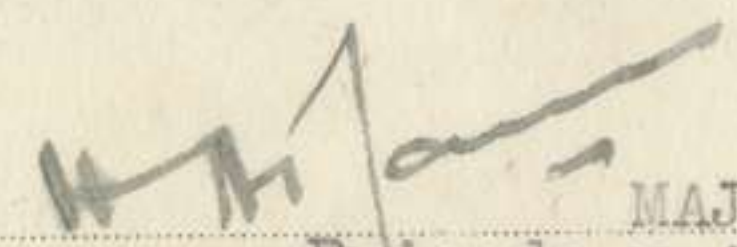
HEADQUARTERS, 2ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE,

FOR


JANUARY

1919.

Signature of Officer compiling


MAJOR,
Brigade Major.
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Signature of Officer Commanding


Brig-General,
Cmdg. 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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.)

Place	Date 1919	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOVERVAL.	Jan.			
	1st		Fine. Holiday. Official Photographer commenced with 6th Battalion. He is to give each Battalion one day.	
	2nd		Fine. Brigadier visited 8th Battalion on parade, and 5th Battalion Educational Classes.	
	3rd		Fine. Brigadier visited BRUSSELS. Dined at 5th Battalion Mess at 7 p.m.	
	4th		Slight showers and patchy sun. General Sir Wm. BIRDWOOD, 'KCB' 'KCSI' 'KCMG' 'CIE' 'DSO' 'ADC', visited Brigade Headquarters with Corps Commander at 9.30 a.m. and then drove to 5th & 8th Battalions. and spoke to the men at the billets. Brigadier attended "A" Grade football match in afternoon - Brigade V 5th Battalion - won by former.	
	5th		Wet. Brigadier attended combined Church parade of 6th & 7th Battalions at COUILLET in morning.	
	6th		Fine. Training continued. Brigadier had meeting of C.O.'s at Brigade Headquarters at 3.30 p.m. to discuss 'Narrative of Operations'.	
	7th		Fine & dull, cold in afternoon. Brigadier visited 6th Bn. Training Ground in morning.	
	8th		Dull at first - bright sun later. Brigadier visited 5th and 8th Battalions' Training Ground in morning. Also Carpentry Class at BOUFFIOLX.	
	9th		Wet. Training carried on indoors. Fine in afternoon and Brigadier attended "B" Grade football match - 5th Bn. V. 7th Bn.	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

Head Quarters
Brigade Major
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919			
	Jan.			
LOVERVAL	10th		Fine and bright. Brigadier inspected 2nd Field Ambulance in morning, and was a guest at 6th Battalion Mess at Dinner. A boxing competition followed at 6th Battalion Stadium.	
	11th		Wet. Cleared up for a while in afternoon and Brigadier attended Football Match - 6th Battalion V 5th Battalion.	
	12th		Fine. Public reception to 2nd A.I. Bde. by Commune of COUILLET at 2.30 p.m. Brigadier and Staff attended; met by Burgomaster and Officials and entertained. 6th, and 7th Battalions marched past, also local societies and school children. Speeches.	App. CCXXXV
			5th, 6th and 7th Battalions instructed to organise on a 2 company basis.	
	13th		Fine. Brigadier visited 8th Battalion at training in the morning. Leave to BRUSSELS and NAMUR is now in full swing, but the former is much more popular with the men. Lt. CLARIDGE, 8th Battalion is conducting parties to Waterloo and lecturing on the battle. 1st Brigade band is at present playing at BRUSSELS daily, but Brigades will take this duty in turn. Further draft left for AUSTRALIA.	
	14th		Fine but dull. Brigadier attended lecture to 5th and 8th Battalions at BOUFFIOLX in morning, by Lieut. Commander EVERARD R.N. on 'Navy V Submarine! Extremely good lecture with slides and men much interested. In afternoon Brigadier accompanied Actg. Divisional Commander and G.S.O. I to NAMUR, to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury.	
	15th		Wet. Divisional Competition on 'How I spent Christmas' closed today, and 2 essays were forwarded from this Brigade. A prize of 100 francs and a trip to Brussels is offered.	

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14th Major
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1919	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOVERVAL	Jan.			
	15th	(Contd)	Lieut. Commander EVERARD lectured on the Navy to 6th and 7th Battalions in morning, at Y.M.C.A. COUILLET. Conference of C.O's at Brigade Headquarters in afternoon. Brigadier outlined amalgamation of Battalions when strength of units makes it necessary.	
	16th		Fine with sun. Brigadier visited 6th Battalion on parade in morning.	
	17th		Fine. Brigadier visited 5th Battalion on parade in morning.	
	18th		Wet. Training continued indoors. Units are now getting out Repatriation Precedence Rolls.	
	19th		Fine. Draft of 11 Officers and 481 Other ranks left for AUSTRALIA via ENGLAND. Captain Gould 'MM', 6th Battalion left for 2 days lecture to Imperial Units on "AUSTRALIA".	
	20th		Frost & Sun. Brigadier visited 8th Battalion at training in morning.	
	21st		Hard frost - sun later on. Brigadier visited 6th Battalion Training ground in morning. Conference of Educational Officers in afternoon at Brigade Headquarters. Battalions instructed to organise on a 1 company basis at once. Acting Divisional Commander visited Bde.	
	22nd		Frost and Sun. Corps Commander and Acting Divisional Commander visited Brigade Headquarters, and all Bn. Headquarters in morning. Lt-Col. ULRICH, DSO. (C.O. 6th Bn) returned from School of Tactics, CAMBERLEY.	
	23rd		Fine. Conference at D.H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. re Education etc. Brigadier and Brigade Major and Unit Educational Officers attended.	
	24th		Very Cold. Brigadier visited 7th Battalion in morning. Most of the men route march this weather. Inspector-General of Education (Brig-Gen. McNICOLL) addressed the Brigade at BOUFFOULX in afternoon. Brigadier attended - all C.O's, E.O's and a number of Officers N.C.Os and men. The lecturer spoke chiefly of Demobilisation and Repatriation.	
	25th		Cold and Frosty. Training Indoors. Brigadier attended Football Match (Bde. V 6th Bn) "A" Grade in afternoon.	

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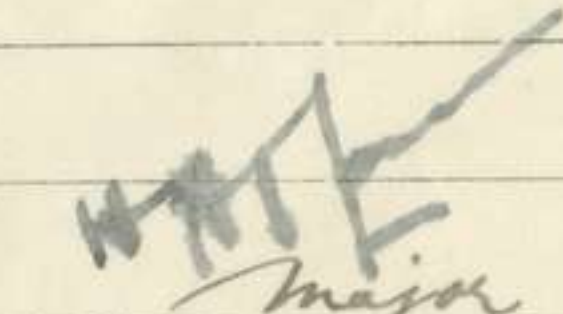
Head Quarter
Brigade Major
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or

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOVERVAL	1919 Jan			
	26th		Light snow fell during the night and day. Conference at Brigade Headquarters, C.O.'s and Adjutants attended.	
	27th		Snow and cold day. Training carried out indoors. Cross country run in afternoon.	
	28th		Snow and cold day. Training carried out indoors. Our share of 2000 reinforcements commenced to march in (See app. CCXXXX/X)	
	29th		Snow and very cold. Brigadier and Brigade Major left by car for LIEGE, but owing to motor trouble, the trip had to be abandoned at ARDENNES. Lieut.-Col. ROSS (G.S.O.I) lectured to 6th and 7th Battalions at COUILLET.	
	30th		Snow and very cold. Route marches. Brigadier visited 8th Battalion in morning. Lieut-Col. ROSS lectured to 8th Battalion at BOUFFIOULX.	
	31st		Freezing hard. Route marches and indoor training. NOTE: The cold weather has now started and from now until the end of March we may expect snow and frost. The men are given a smart route march first thing, and then brought inside to Educational Classes, for indoor training. The men of this Brigade are very comfortable at COUILLET and BOUFFIOULX; so much so, that they are not at all keen on being entertained as a body. For the same reason it is very hard to obtain nominations for schools or courses, which would take them back to more or less service conditions, and with the prospect of early repatriation, they are quite content in their present surroundings. Training for month of January. Strength as at noon 31-1-19 Schools attended during January. Reinforcements received during month of January. Casualties for month of January.	App. CCXXXXVI App. CCXXXXVII App. CCXXXXVIII App. CCXXXXIX App. CCL
			<div style="text-align: right;">  Major Brigade Major Head Quarter 2nd Inf, 1919. </div>	Page No. 49

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

WAR DIARY

OF

HEADQUARTERS, 2ND AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE.

FOR

J A N U A R Y.

1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
CCXXXV	Reception of Aust. Troops by Burgomaster, COUILLET.
CCXXXVI	Training for month of January.
CCXXXVII	Strength as at noon 31-1-19.
CCXXXVIII	Schools attended during January.
CCXXXIX	Reinforcements received during the month of January.
CCL	Casualties for month of January.

REPLY BY G.O.C. 2ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
BRIGADE to SPEECH OF WELCOME, DELIVERED
BY BURGOMASTER, COUILLET on 12-1-19.

app CCKXXXV

Sir,

On behalf of the 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade, and in particular the 6th & 7th Battalions, I thank you and the people of COUILLET for your reception of us.

It is appropriate that we should be brought to live amongst you at this, the final stage of the great war. When in 1914 we in AUSTRALIA first heard of the cruel sufferings and harsh treatment of the Belgians, we were filled with anger, and it was undoubtedly the heroic resistance of your brave army- hopelessly outnumbered though it was - that called many Australians to the colours, eager to resist oppression.

Of the kindness shewn by the people of COUILLET to our troops, I have frequent evidence. Both Officers and men speak in glowing terms of all you have done and are doing for their comfort and happiness. I have only to look round this hall and see the kind and sympathetic faces of those who have done us this honour to-day, to know that the good feeling existing between yourselves and the Australian Troops will continue long after we have left the country.

Mr. Burgomaster and people of COUILLET, I again thank you for your kind welcome, and now drink to the health of BELGIUM and to its rapid recovery from the grip of the BOCHE.

-----OOO-----

SPEECH MADE BY BURGOMASTER OF COUILLET TO
G.O.C. 2nd Aust Inf. Bde. to WELCOME TROOPS
of 6th and 7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALIONS OF
2ND AUSTRALIAN BRIGADE.

Sir,

Accepting my invitation, you have done to the Commune of COUILLET a great honour.

The population appreciates the value of your help, and to prove it, they are flying again all their flags.

They are sorry they cannot do any more, as they are essentially working people; but if our people cannot show their feelings like other wealthier classes do, they can show it by the cordiality of their reception.

Your soldiers can tell.

With the same cordiality, today we wish you welcome.

And why should it be otherwise while your army and population is for us the representation of virtues which give to life it's beauty and greatness.

Goodness, unselfishness, heroism; these are the manifestations of the AUSTRALIAN NATION towards us. Since the day we lost our liberties, we have had sufferings.

I don't think of diminishing the action of one or other of our Allies. All have carried out their duties splendidly, but to you however, we must keep a special gratitude,

Sons of a wealthy country, you volunteered to leave your daily work with all its charm, and going ahead of all danger, you came to help your unfortunate brothers.

Amongst 5 million inhabitants, 400 thousand came ready to brave death to help poor victims.

This act is the only one in history, it immortalises the glory of AUSTRALIA, and we who have the benefit of your work, are happy to be able to shew our gratitude to the sons of the noble nation we enjoy to have amongst us.

I drink to the health of the Brave Australia and to the prosperity of its Motherland.

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

App. CCXXXVI

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1919.

During the month the following training was carried out by
Units:-

Morning 0900 - 1100

Ceremonial,
Route marches
Tactical Exercises.

Afternoon 1400 to 1530.

Recreational.

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2nd Aust. Infy. Bde.
DAILY STRENGTH RETURN. 31.1.19. *app CCXXXXVII*

Unit.	Establishment.		Total.	Horses.	Attached.		Details of attached.
	Offs.	Ors.			Offs.	Ors.	
2nd. A. I. Bde. H. Q.	4.	16.	20.	17.	-	54.	5 Bn. 21. 6 Bn. 2. 7 Bn. 7. 8 Bn. 13. S. Clerk. 1. Intpr. 1. YMCA. 7. P & R. T. L. T. M. Bty. 1.
2nd. A. L. T. M. Bty.	1.	11.	12.				
5th Battalion.	21.	296.	317.	53.	1.	7.	AMC. 1. 4. Postal. 1. Pay Sgt. 1. Amourer. 1.
6th Battalion.	24.	313.	337.	54.	1.	4.	AMC. 4. Padre. 1.
7th Battalion.	21.	334.	355.	53.	3.	7.	E. O. L. Padre. 1. AMC. 1. 5. AAPC. 1. AAPS. 1.
8th Battalion.	20.	310.	330.	46.	3.	14.	AMC. 1. 3. Padre. 1. Pay Sgt. 1. Cinema. 6. F. C. E. 1. 4.
No. 4 Sect. Sigs.	1.	33.	34.	5.	-	15.	
Totals.	92.	1313.	1405.	228.	8.	101.	

Summary:-

Officers. 100.
 Others. 1414.
 Total. 1514.
 Horses. 231.*

** Includes 3 attached Bde HQ.*

[Signature]
 CAPTAIN,
 Staff Captain.
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd Aust. Infantry Bde.Schools attended during the month of January, 1919.

		<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O.Ranks.</u>
P. & R.T. School.		1	3
Motor Car Fitting)	(Educ)	-	7
Motor Tradesmen &)			
Motor Driving.)			
Bakery.	(Educ)	-	5
Telephony, etc.	(Educ)	-	8
Engineering,)	(Educ)	1	14
Fitting, Turning, etc)			
Corps Central School.	(Educ)	-	8
Electricians.	(Educ)	-	4
Forestry.	(Educ)	1	-

TOTAL.		3	49

RETURN OF REINFORCEMENTS, etc, RECEIVED DURING JANUARY. 1919.

UNIT.	Officers.	Others.	Names of Officers.
5th Battalion.	5.	75.	Lt. D. R. Twaits. Lt. C. E. Booth 2/Lieut. E. F. Davies. 2/Lieut. R. E. Clarke. 2/Lieut. W. M. Simms. 'MM'
6th Battalion.	5.	86.	2/Lieut. A. J. W. Crawford. 2/Lieut. J. E. Royle. 2/Lieut. W. N. McNicoll. 2/Lieut. D. T. Ednie. Lt. P. L. Rauert. 'MC'
7th Battalion.	4.	113.	2/Lieut. J. E. Grigsby. 2/Lieut. F. C. Campbell. 2/Lieut. N. V. Hanson. 2/Lieut. C. R. Carnegie.
8th Battalion.	8.	79.	Lt. C. P. Cook. Lt. L. Arnott. 2/Lieut. H. W. Mott. 2/Lieut. R. Corbett. 2/Lieut. G. T. Weather. 'MM' 2/Lieut. R. J. Madden. 2/Lieut. W. B. Anson. 2/Lieut. H. V. May.
2nd. A. E. T. M. Bty.		2.	

J. Fowler
CAPTAIN,
Staff Captain.
2nd Aust Infantry Brigade.

App. CCL.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----RETURN OF CASUALTIES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY. 1919.

N I L.

Gower CAPTAIN,
Staff Captain.
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.