

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/127/2

Title: Australian Heavy Artillery Training
Depot

January 1918



AWM4-13/127/2



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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

January 1918.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bull Point Barracks, St Budeaux, DEVONPORT.	Jan. 1st.		New Year's Day. No training was done, the troops being given a half holiday. The weather was fine.	Strength of Depot. 50 All Ranks.
	2nd.		Training was carried on as usual according to syllabus, comprising Gun Drill, Specialists, Gas Instruction, etc. Day was fine. One man who had been sentenced to Nine Months imprisonment for stealing was released from Mutley Gaol, a sadder and a wiser man. One man of the 12th R'Fts marched in from No. 1 Command Depot. Strength of Depot. 50 All Ranks.	
	3rd.		Parades and Training as on previous day. One Man admitted to Hospital with Scabies. Strength of Depot. 50 All Ranks.	
	4th.		39 O.Rks. comprising the 12th Reinforcements, marched in from Parkhouse Camp. These men embarked from Sydney on 9.11.17. per S.S. Demosthenes, coming to England via Panama Canal and Halifax. These men were hardly up to the standard of previous reinforcements, some of them being rather young. They were medically examined and had their kits inspected and then commenced their training on Gun Drill, Signalling, Gas Instruction, etc. together with Physical Training in the afternoon. The day was very mild. Strength of Depot. 91 All Ranks.	
	5th.		6 O.Rks. marched in from Overseas Training Depot, Sandhill Camp, Longbridge Deverill. These were men returned wounded, sick, etc. from France. They were medically examined and marked unfit for One Month. Training as per syllabus was carried on as usual. The new men proved to be fairly smart and very well disciplined. Weather continued to be fine. One man of the 14th Reinforcements reported to the Depot from H.D. London, having been detained there on duty. One man of the 14th Reinforcements was admitted to hospital with Tonsillitis. Strength of Depot. 97 All Ranks.	
	6th.		Usual Sunday Church Parades. Weather fine. Lieut. C.F.W. Bernard, A.I.F., 55th (Aust) Siege Battery marched in from No. 1 Command Depot. Strength of Depot. 98 All Ranks.	
	7th.		Usual parades. Training carried according to Training Syllabus, comprising Gun Drill, Telephony, Instruction in Gun Laying, Laying of Platforms, Specialists, Gas Instruction, etc. One man discharged from Hospital. One man who had been declared an Illegal Absentee by Court of Enquiry struck off the strength. This was the second occasion on which this man had evaded a draft-receiving 112 days Detention for the previous offence. Weather rather unsettled. Strength of Depot. 98 All Ranks.	
	8th.		Parades as usual. The new men carrying on very well. A lecture was given on Fire-fighting in Raglan Barracks, Devonport. A party of men attended, and found it rather interesting. Two M.C.O.s proceeded on Command to a course in Anti-Gas Measures at the Southern Command Gas School, Devonport. Strength of Depot. 98 All Ranks.	
	9th.		Training carried out as usual. One man admitted to hospital with V.D. - first case for a very considerable time. Weather fine. Nothing of any importance took place. Strength of Depot. 98 All Rks.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bull Point Barracks, St Budeaux, DEVONPORT.	Jan. 10th.		Training as usual according to weekly syllabus. Weather fair. Nothing unusual occurred. Strength of Depot. 98 All Ranks.	98 All Rks.
	11th.		Usual training. Four men returned from Overseas marched in from Overseas Training Brigade. Weather rather unsettled. Nothing of importance occurred. Strength of Depot. 98 All Ranks.	
	12th.		A draft of 20 gunners was asked for but only 11 could be furnished, and proceeded overseas on this date. Some of them were returned E.F. men. The training of the troops was carried on as usual. Strength of Depot. 102 All Ranks.	
	13th.		Church parades. 2/Lieut. A.E. Harris, attached from 25th Bn., proceeded to Heavy Artillery Training Centre for a course in that arm of the service. This training centre is situated at Winchester. Training carried out during past week improved the new men very much. Weather fine. Strength of Depot. 91 All Ranks.	
	14th.		Training as usual, comprising Gun Drill, Gas Instruction, Specialists Classes, Physical Drill, etc. One N.C.O. discharged from Military Hospital, Devonport. Nothing unusual occurred. Strength of Depot. 92 All Ranks.	
	15th.		Usual daily routine of work. One gunner discharged from Salisbury Road Hospital, Plymouth. One gunner awarded 7 Days F.P. No. 2. Strength of Depot. 92 All Ranks.	
	16th.		Nothing to report. Weather fine. Strength of Depot. 92 All Ranks.	
	17th.		Three of the new reinforcements admitted to Hospital. One of these admitted with Measles, and in consequence the remainder of the men in his room, numbering 13, were put in isolation for 14 days. The necessary precautions were taken to prevent any spread of the disease. Nothing else unusual. Strength of Depot. 92 All Ranks.	
	18th.		24 Men of the new reinforcements proceeded on Disembarkation leave. Three gunners marched in from Overseas Training Brigade. Training carried out as per syllabus as usual. Strength of Depot. 92 All Ranks.	92 All Rks.
	19th.		Usual training and cleaning up of stores until midday. Half Holiday in afternoon. Nothing of importance occurred. Strength of Depot. 95 All Ranks.	

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Bull Point Barracks, St Budeaux, DEVONPORT.	20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st.		<p>Usual Church Parades. Weather fine. Strength of Depot, 100⁹⁵ All Ranks. Nothing of importance occurred.</p> <p>Usual Weekly Training programme started on, comprising Gun Drill, etc. Weather fine. Nothing of importance occurred. Strength of Depot, 100 All Ranks, 95.</p> <p>Sam^e as yesterday. Nothing to report. Strength of Depot, 100 All Ranks, 95.</p> <p>Same training as for previous days of week. Weather continued fine. Nothing unusual to report. Strength of Depot, 100 All Ranks, 95. Demand received from H. J. Tidworth for draft of 30 Gunners for France.</p> <p>As for 23rd. No change in weather. Strength of Depot, 100 All Ranks, 95.</p> <p>13 men of the 14th R'fts proceeded on Disembarkation Leave, having been released from Isolation on the 24th. 2 Gunners returned from overseas marched in from O.T.B. Longbridge Deverill.</p> <p>23 men of 14th R'fts returned from Disembarkation Leave. One of the 24 who originally proceeded detained at Elderslie, having contracted Measles whilst there, and was shown as On Command from the Depot. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 95. Draft of 30 Gunners medically inspected and passed.</p> <p>Usual training and cleaning up of stores. Half Holiday in afternoon. Nothing else to report. Weather fine. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 97.</p> <p>Usual Church Parades. Weather still keeping good. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 97.</p> <p>Lieut. C.F.W. Bernard proceeded to London for Medical Board. One N.C.O. proceeded On Command to Physical and Bayonet Training Course at Devonport. One Gunner awarded 5 Days F.P.No.2. for neglecting to obey an order given by an N.C.O. One Gunner transferred to A.A.M.C. Training Depot, Parkhouse, for return to Australia, being under 19 Years of Age. Weather good. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 97.</p> <p>Training carried out as usual. Brig-Gen. C.H. Foott, D.A. & Q.M.G., paid a surprise visit to the Depot. Found everything satisfactory, and went away quite satisfied with things generally. Nothing else unusual to report. Weather still good. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 96.</p> <p>One Gunner awarded 14 Days F.P.No.2 for Creating a disturbance, etc. Usual training gone on with. Weather fine. Strength of Depot, All Ranks, 96.</p> <p>30 Gunners under orders proceeded overseas to France to reinforce the two Siege Batteries, among them being 6 returned R.F. men. Two N.C.O.s proceeded On Command to Tidworth to be attached to G.S.O.I. Branch as Clerks. One man from A.M.T.S., Tidworth, attached to the Depot to overhaul the Motor Car. Lieut. Bernard proceeded to Raglan Barracks, Devonport, to attend a Lecture on Sanitation, but the lecture not held. Weather still holding good. Quite an unusual thing for this part judging by the experience of this depot since being stationed here.</p>	