

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/16/35

**Title:** 4th Australian Pioneer Battalion

January 1919



AWM4-14/16/35



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

216

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*4<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion*

FOR

*January* 191*9*

Signature of Officer compiling

*R. Freeman Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H. M. Chan Lt. Col*

4<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
PIONEER BATT<sup>N</sup>

No. ....

Date .....



# 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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WEILLEN.	1919.			
	Jan.			
	1st.		No Parades.	
	2nd.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Soccer V. 49th Battalion at Wespin Farm. - Drawn. Hot water baths and change at Baths WEILLEN. Box Repsistators and steel helmets withdrawn from all ranks.	
	3rd.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN, Band in attendance. Release of Regimental Postal censorship Regulations.	
	4th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	5th.		Sunday.	
	6th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Battalion sports meeting at WEILLEN.	
	7th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Rugby V. 12th F. Coy. Engineers. at WEILLEN. Battalion lost.	
	8th.		Parade for lecture. Lecture on Napoleons campaign in Egypt by Rev. R.D. FINNIGAN at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN. Belgian Croix de Guerre awarded to No. 2702. L/Cpl. L. LINWOOD and No.143. Sgt. J. WATSON.	
	9th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN Band in attendance. Motor trip to CHARLEROI for 20 O/Ranks.	
	10th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Australian Rules V. Machine Gun Battalion at AUZEREMME. Battalion lost. - Soccer V. Machine Gun Battalion at SOMMIERE - Lost. Hot water Baths and change at WEILLEN.	
11th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Rugby. V. Machine Gun Battalion at AUZEREMME. Battalion lost.		
12th.		Sunday Church Parade.		

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN

No.....

Date.....

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C21:8/16.



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Lecture on travel Lieut. KEESING at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN. Authority granted for wearing 1914-1915 Star. From Aust. Comforts Fund. 15 cases Battalion Gifts. 35 cases Xmas. Boxes.	
	14th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Australian Rules V. Machine Gun Battalion at WEILLEN. Battalion lost.	
	15th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance at Y.M.C.A. Hall at WEILLEN Band in attendance.	
	16th.		Departure of AUSTRALIAN DRAFT. 1. Officer and 60 other ranks. Band in attendance.	
	17th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. Football - Australian Rules. V. 12th Field Comp any Australian Engineers at WEILLEN. Battalion won. Lecture by Gunner Jamison 4th Div. Artillery at Y.M.C.A. Hall at WEILLEN on " Causes of the War ". 3. Other Ranks repatriated from GERMANY to ENGLAND taken prisoners in enemy offensive of April 1918.	
	18th.		Wet day. Dance at Y.M.C.A. Hall at WEILLEN. Band in attendance. 1 Officer and 50 other Ranks moved to MORVILLE to repair the ROSBE-ANTHEE Road for one week.	
	19th.		Sunday Church parade.	
	20th.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. SMART SET Concert Party at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN, good performance and well attended. Baths and clean change at WEILLEN.	
	21st.		Departure of AUSTRALIAN DRAFT 1. Officer and 84 other ranks. Band in attendance. Draft addressed by C.O. "SMART SET" Concert Party at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN, good performance and well attended.	
	22nd.		Training and Educational classes as per syllabus. " Smart Set" Concert Party at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN, good performance and well attended.	
	23rd.		Fall of snow. Educational classes as per syllabus. " Smart Set" Concert Party at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN, good performance and well attended. Lecture by General McNICHOLL at MORVILLE on Repatriation and demobilisation.	

4TH AUSTRALIAN  
PIONEER BATTN

No. Re-  
Date

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# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24th.		Fall of snow. Educational classes as per syllabus. Cross Country Run of 5 miles. 6. entries. Course - ONHAYE TO WEILLEN. " Smart Set " Concert Party repeated their successful performances to a good attendance,	
	25th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. No Parade owing to fall of snow. " Smart Set " Concert Party repeated their successful performances to a good audience. ( Last night ).	
	26th.		Sunday.	
	27th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. From Australian Comforts Fund. 5 cases Cocoa and Milk, 2 cases of Milk, 1. case of Tobacco, 2 cases of Oxo, 6. cases of puddings, 3 cases of Odments, 6 cases of Battalion Gifts, 6. Footballs, 4. Dozen Cards.	
	28th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN. Band in attendance. A.I.F. Forms 534, completed. Battalion Report on ROSEE Sub. Area on water supply forwarded to C.R.E.	
	29th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	30th.		Departure of AUSTRALIAN DRAFT. 1. officer and 84 other Ranks. Draft addressed by C.O. Band in attendance.	
	31st.		Fall of snow. Educational classes as per syllabus. Boar Hunt organized by COUNT HAUTBOURZ WEILLEN. All Battalion Officers invited. Lecture by GUNNER JAMISON at Y.M.C.A. Hall WEILLEN on " AUSTRALIA'S PART IN THE WAR ".	

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PIONEER BATT<sup>N</sup>

No.....

Date.....



# WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

FOR

JANUARY.1919.

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Commanding Officer's Appreciation.
2. Regimental Quarter Masters Reports.
3. Transport Officer's Report.
4. Syllabus of Training.
5. Medical Officer's Report.

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PIONEER BATT<sup>N</sup>

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4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.WAR DIARY.Commanding Officer's Appreciation for the month ending 31.1.19.

1. The Battalion has been billeted during the month in three Villages, viz:-

WEILLEN.	H.Q. and Transport.	'A' and 'B' Coys.
GERIN.	'D' Coy.	
SOMMIERE.	'C' "	

The majority of the men are in beds, and the few unable to obtain such are in good dry barns with an ample supply of straw.

2. Heating arrangements have been augmented by obtaining coal, purchased from the Regimental funds, from the coal mines.

Transport for same was kindly lent by the R.A.F. This supply has now failed as the R.A.F. Unit has left the area and Division are unable to supply one Motor lorry for one day per week, this is to be regretted.

3. The amusement of the Battalion has been well catered for, two dances a week have been held at which a large number of civilians have attended.

The 4th Divisional Concert Party remained with us for a week and their performances were much appreciated, crowded houses being the order every night.

4. Owing to unfavourable weather the sports of the Battalion have more or less lapsed, a few football matches have however been played.

Two sleighs have afforded considerable amusement for those who have gone for trips in them.

A trip to WATERLOO was arranged at which eight Officers availed themselves of the opportunity, very kindly afforded by the O.C. 12th Field Ambulance placing a Motor Ambulance at our disposal, the party was fortunate in meeting an Imperial Colonel, who had lectured for many years on Napoleons Battles, he gave them a very exhaustive explanation which made the visit more interesting.

A number of parties have been organized to visit the Benedictive Monastery at MAREDSOUS. The Monks have been most courteous and have gone out of their way to entertain parties and show them round. The paintings and treasure of the Monastery also the magnificent architecture has been very much admired and is well worth a visit.

It was of great interest to us to hear from the Monks, many of whom speak excellent English, that the Abbot ( who is an Irishman ) refused admission to the late German Emperor and his staff when they visited the Monastery

The Battalion band has been able to assist at various functions and has been of great assistance to neighbouring Units during the month.

They played at the MAREDSOUS Monastery on a Sunday afternoon and were much appreciated by the Monks and Scholars.

5. No Military training beyond physical training has been carried out.

6. The health of the Battalion has been excellent

4 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATT <sup>N</sup> (6).
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7. Discipline has been excellent and has left nothing to be desired.

8. At the end of December a paper containing a number of questions, presumably for the purposes of discussion, was received. It was intended to start a debate amongst Officers on these questions, owing however to a reply being asked for at 24 hours notice, a very brief reply was made.

It is to be regretted that a paper of this nature which I am sure could have been used as a useful means of improving the Military knowledge of Officers was treated in such perfunctory manner and that Officers who had very decided opinions on these questions, not given a full opportunity of discussing same. The results of these discussions in my opinion, even though decisions of Units might not have been supported by the Army authorities, would at least have given some food for reflection and perhaps have divulged some points worthy of consideration.

I would suggest that this paper be resubmitted to Units for discussion and the results embodied in the War Diaries.

*J M Ulean*

Lieut-Colonel.  
C.O. 4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.





4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.WAR DIARY.Regimental Quartermaster's Report for month ending 31.1.1919.SUPPLIES.

These have been very varied, at times Jam, Sugar, Butter and Bacon have been very short. The issues of vegetables have been mostly dried and the Battalion have missed Fresh vegetables considerably. The G.O.C. Authorised an issue of Rum twice weekly during the month.

D.A.D.O.S.

The demands on D.A.D.O.S. for clothing have been very low this month.

BOOTMAKERS.

They have been very well employed but have had to stop work on several occasions owing to lack of material.

COMFORTS.

The issue of Comforts are as under.

AUSTRALIAN GIFTS.	15 cases.
" Xmas boxes.	4 cases.
Xmas boxes. N.S.W.	4. "
" " W.A.	17. "
Loose Xmas boxes.	10.
Cocoa and Milk.	5. "
Tobacco.	1. "
Oxo.	2. "
Puddings.	6. "
Odments.	3. "
Sugar.	1. Bag.
Footballs.	6.
Cards. ( playing ).	4. Doz.
Battalion Gifts.	6. cases.

signed. G.K. FREEMAN.  
Actg. Regimental Quartermaster.





4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.WAR DIARY.Transport Officer's Report for month ending 31.1.1919.

The total quantity of material carried during the month of January amounted to 100 Tons.

Twenty two men proceeded on draft to Australia.

On inspection by the Veterinary Officer from the M.V.S the condition of the horses and mules was stated to be good and they have been kept well shod.

Twenty animals were despatched to the Animal Concentration Camp for disposal by sale, their classification being as follows.:-

H.D.H.	...	...	2. C.Z.	
L.D.H.	...	...	7. C.Z.	
Riders.	...	...	2. C.Z.	and 1. C.Z.
L.D.M.	...	...	1. C.Z.	" 4. C.Z.
P.	...	...	1. C.Z.	" 2. C.Z.

One Rider classed C.Z. was returned.

Signed. E.R. BRADSHAW.

Transport Officer.





4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.Syllabus of Training for fortnight ending January 24th.19.

Day.	Hours.	Subject.	Remarks.
1st.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Musketry.	
	1015 -1200.	Educational Subjects.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
2nd.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Rifle Exercises.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
3rd.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Platoon training.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized Games.	
4th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Company Drill.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized Games.	
5th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Musketry.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized Games.	
6th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Company Training	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
7th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Rifle exercises and squad drill.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
8th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Musketry.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	organized games.	
9th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Company drill.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
10th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Platoon Training	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
11th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Platoon Training	
	1015 -1200.	Education	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	
12th.	0900 -0930.	Physical Training.	As per Appendix 'A'
	0930 -1000.	Musketry.	
	1015 -1200.	Education.	
	1400 -1600.	Organized games.	

As per Appendix 'A'
4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN
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APPENDIX 'A'.Syllabus of Educational Training.4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

10.15 - 1100

11.15 - 1200.

Elementary Arithmetic.  
 Arithmetic for Eng. & Builders.  
 Elementary Algebra.  
 Prac. Geometry.  
 Trigonometry.  
 French.  
 English.  
 Bookkeeping.  
 Shorthand.

Elec. & Magnetism.  
 Building Construction.  
 Carpentry.  
 Surveying.  
 Accountancy.  
 Sanitary Eng.  
 Higher Maths.  
 Blacksmithing.  
 Steam Engineering.

*H. Greenman*  
 Lieut. & Actg. Adjutant.

For. C.O. 4th Australian Pioneer Battalion.

4 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATT <sup>N</sup>
No.....
Date.....



4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

APPENDIX No. 5

MONTHLY SICK REPORT.

For the month ending.

Date 31st January 1919.

Number re- porting Sick.	Number of men evacuated Sick.	Number of Officers evacuated Sick.	Number of men evacuated SICK/WOUNDED	Number of Officers evacuated wounded.	Number of men killed.	Number of men died of wounds.	Number of men missing.	Number of cases of Dysentery	Number of cases Trench feet.	Number of cases of Trench Fever	V.D. Cases.		
											Discovered	Evacuated.	Under Treatment.
128	22.	1.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	25	NIL	NIL	3	2	1

(Signed) A.E.MORTON.  
R.M.O. 4th Aust. Pioneer Bn.

4<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
PIONEER BATT<sup>N</sup>

No.....

Date.....