

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/16/37

Title: 4th Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-14/16/37

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

FOR

Month of March. 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

R. H. Rose

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. B. Calder

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.)

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Place	Date 1919.	Hour	Summary of Events and Informan	Remarks and references to Appendices
WEILLEN.	Mar.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Y.M.C.A. WEILLEN.	Appendix. 5.
	1st.			
	2nd.		Sunday.	
	3rd.		Educational classes as per syllabus. 2. Officers, 12. Other Ranks proceeded on Draft to AUSTRALIA.	
	4th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Salvage of WEILLEN, ONHAYE, GERIN, and SOMMIERE completed	Appendix. 6.
	5th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Y.M.E.A. WEILLEN.	
	6th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	7th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	8th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Social was given to the Children of the Village as the Battalion was expected to move from WEILLEN on the following Monday. Dance held in the Y.M.C.A. in the Evening.	
	9th.		Sunday.	
	10th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	11th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	12th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Y.M.C.A. WEILLEN.	
	13th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	15th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Y.M.C.A. WEILLEN.	
	16th.		Sunday.	
	17th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	18th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	19th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Farewell social and dance held in Y.M.C.A. WEILLEN.	
	20th.		Battalion moved to BIESME. A/D. Coy. amalgamated with B/C. Coy, thus forming one Company in the Battalion under the Command of Capt. W.J. MCCALLION. M.C.	Appendix. 7. Appendix. 8.
BIESME.	21st.		C.O. inspected all Billets occupied by the Battalion. Dance held in Recreation Hall BIESME.	
	22nd.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	23rd.		Sunday.	
	24th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	25th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. The last of the Battalion Stores arrived from WEILLEN thus completing the move. Dance held in Recreation Hall BIESME.	
	26th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. 2. officers proceeded on Transport Duty to AUSTRALIA.	

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(10340) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Form C/2118/16.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27th.		Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Recreation Hall WEILLEN.	
	28th.		Educational classes as per syllabus.	
	29th.		2. Officers proceeded on Transport Duty to AUSTRALIA. Educational classes as per syllabus. Dance held in Recreation Hall BIESME.	
	30th.		Sunday. 5. Officers, 44. Other Ranks proceeded on Draft to AUSTRALIA. Church Parades.	
	31st.		Educational classes as per syllabus..	

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WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

FOR

Month of March. 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	C. O's appreciation.
2.	R.Q.M's Report.
3.	Transport Officers report.
4.	Medical Officers report.
5.	Educational syllabus for March.
6.	Special Order. No.49.
7.	Administrative Instructions No.2.

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Commanding Officers appreciation for Month of March 1919.

The area of WEILLEN, ONHAYE, GERIN and SOMMIERE were cleared of all Salvage early in the month.

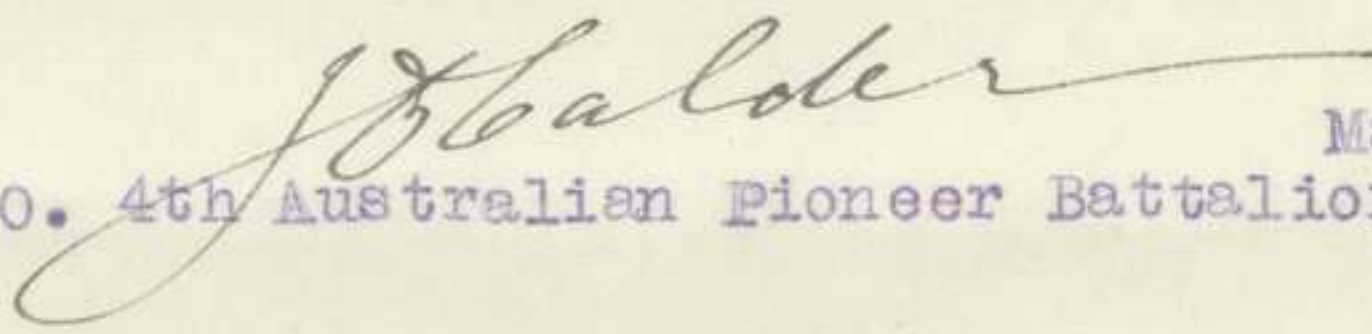
Owing to inclement weather, sports of any kind were practically impossible.

The usual dance was held twice a week in the Y.M.C.A. WEILLEN, and a farewell Social and Dance on the 19th of March.

The Battalion moved to BIESME on the 20th March, on arrival the Two (2) Companies amalgamated under the Command of Capt. W.J. McCALLION. M.C.

The billets in BIESME are very good, and the majority of the men being able to obtain beds.

9 Officers and 44. Other Ranks left the Battalion at the end of the month for AUSTRALIA.

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



4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

R.Q.M's report for Month Ending 31st March 1919.

RATIONS. These were normal as per new scale.

CLOTHING. There has been a steady supply from
D.A.D.O.S. owing to Demobilisation .
Men left with the Unit are fairly well
equipped.

BOOTS. Units is well equipped in this respect
as there has been very little marching.

(Sgd) W.M. REID. Lieut.
Regimental Quartermaster.



4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Transport Officers report for Month Ending 31st March 1919.

During the month the demand for Transport has increased owing to a further shortage of animals.

In addition to the usual requirement of Transport, the Battalion moved from WEILLEN to BIESME, a distance of $24\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres.

The Battalion being short of animals, 20 mules were borrowed from 4th D.A.C. which enabled us to move the Battalion in two trips.

During the month 28 animals in all were despatched from the Battalion, of which 9 draughts, and 1. ride were sold at a sale in DINANT.

On 24.3.19 four horses were despatched to Base, Le HAVRE.

On the same date four mules were evacuated to M.V.S.

On 31.3.19 five draught horses were handed over to 4th Div. Train, five mules to 1st Div. Train, and two rides were sold at a sale in GERPINNES.

(Sgd). H. TOPP. 2nd Lieut.
Transport Officer.

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Medical Officers Report for Month Ending 31st March 1919.

ROUTINE.

1.	Number of Officers reporting sick.	NIL.
	" " " evacuated "	NIL.
	Number of Other Ranks reporting sick.	157.
	" " " " evacuated "	15.
2.	Diarrhoea.	24.
	Trench fever.	NIL.
	" feet.	NIL.
	V. D. CASES.	
	Discovered.	4.
	Under treatment.	3.
	Evacuated.	1.
	D.A.H.	NIL.
	G.U.O.	NIL.
3.	Good.	
4.	Report attached.	
5.	Hot showers are available daily and change of clothing Bi-weekly.	
6.	Good - Shortage of fresh vegetables.	
7.	Good.	
8.	Sufficient.	
9.	The majority of the men are billeted in Civilian houses which are clean and comfortable.	
	Rest billet well ventilated.	

(Sgd). A.E. MORTON.
Medical Officer.
4th Australian Pioneer Battalion.

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EDUCATIONAL SYLLABUS for MARCH 1919.

Statics and Dynamics.
Geology.

Elect. Magnetism.
Motor Mechanics.



HEADQUARTERS,
19th March 1919.216
Map Reference. 1
100,000
NAMUR.INTENTION. The Battalion will move by Route March to BIESME on 20th March 1919, via, FALAEN, ERMETON, FURNAUX, METTET.ORDER OF MARCH. 'H.Q.' Band, A/D^s B/C, and transport.(a) STARTING POINTS. 'H.Q.' A/D. ~~XXE~~ and transport, Cruxifix corner, junction of FALAEN - SOMMIERE Roads, B/C Coy will march under company arrangements to cross roads FALAEN and then take their position in the column at 1000.

(b) Starting time for troops in each village 0900.

DRESS Fighting order, with ground sheet, less steel Helmets and Box Respirators. Unexpended portion of days ration to be carried on the man.TRANSPORT. transport officer will detail the undermentioned transport to report by 1200 on the 19th March 1919.

A/D. Coy. - 2 G.S. Waggons. B/C. Coy. - 2 G.S. Waggons.

H.Q. - 3 G.S. waggons

waggons will be fully loaded by 0730 on 20th March 1919.

LOADING. Officer's Valises, packs, steel Helmets and Box Respirators on 1 G.S. Wagon. Blankets rolled in bundles of twelve (12) clearly labelled on the other wagon.COOKERS. Cookers will accompany transport and report to coys at Midday halt 1200.

O.C. A/D. and B/C Coys will arrange to supply tea for H.Q.

CERTIFICATE and transport respectively.CERTIFICATES. The usual certificates as to cleanliness of billets will be handed to the Adjutant at FALAEN.ADVANCE PARTY. Lieut. W.G. CALDER, M.C. and 2nd Lieut. H. TOPP and one N.C.O. from 'H.Q.' A/D. Coy and B/C Coy will proceed to BIESME on the 19th March to arrange billets for the Battalion.GUARD ON STORE. Lieut. W.M. REID M.C. will remain at WEILLEN in charge of Mob. Stores and will supply guard for same from his Staff. O.C. A/D. Coy will supply guard of 1. Cpl. and 4 other Ranks to report to Lieut. W.M. REID M.C. at 0830 on the 20th to Picquet wagon park. R.Q.M. will arrange the rationing and billets for these guards.RATIONS. R.Q.M. will arrange supplies for 21st consumption to be issued on arrival at destination.REAR GUARD. O.C. B/C Coy will detail a section to report to orderly officer at rear of transport on arrival at FALAEN.

(Signed) G.K. FREEMAN.

Lieut. & Adjutant.

For C.O. 4th. AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Issued at 1100. on 19.3.19.

Distribution Normal.

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4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

HEADQUARTERS,
18th March 1919.

O.C. A/D. Coy. Transport.
B/C. " R.Q.M.
R.S.M.

BATTALION ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION. No.2.

1. The Battalion will be formed into 'HQ', Transport Section and one (1) Company.
2. O.C. A/D. Coy. will assume command of A/D, B/C. Companies on the day the Battalion arrives at BIESME.
3. Company Records of B/C. Coy. will be handed over to O.C.A/D. COY.
4. Company strength O.C.'s A/D. Coy will absorb B/C. Coy.
5. COMPANY ORGANISATION.
A/D., B/C Coy's amalgamation will consist of ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~
2 Platoons. A/D. Coy.
2. " B/C. "
6. O.C. A/D. Coy. will take over B/C Coy's Cooker.
7. B/C. Coy, 'HQ' will cease to function and personnel on Coy. 'HQ' as required may be retained on 'HQ' of New Company.

(Sgd). G.K% FREEMAN.
Lieut. & Adjutant.

For. C.O. 4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.