

AWM4

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/23

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-14/17/23

44

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

215

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HESDIGNEUL	1918 Jan 1.		Official Holiday. Transport Section had their special dinner at 6 pm as they had missed Xmas. Major McClean D.S.O. left for Senior Officers School Aldershot. Pte Ottaway slipped on ice & fractured his wrist. Lt Col Carter & Major Scott awarded D.S.O. Bn Strength 29 officers 1100 other ranks.	
	Jan 2.		Official Holiday but 20 men on roads clearing snow. Capt Wilkinson in command vice Major McClean 14 reinforcements arrived.	
	Jan 3		Training & Special Classes proceeded with. Major King returned from Paris leave & took command. Sports Committee elected.	
	Jan 6		Church parade; band present at Messin L'Abbe. Football Match in afternoon very well attended. Battl ^r beat AASC (Aust Rules) by large margin. Very successful concert in evening; band present.	
	Jan 8.		Very heavy fall of snow - interfered with training. Impromptu concert at brickworks.	
	Jan 9		Capt Mackay (M.O) returned from leave - Capt Le Socuf returned to 9th Aust. Pte McColl slipped on ice & broke his leg.	
	Jan 10.		Arrangements completed re rifle range practice. Lecture on Intelligence by Capt Robinson Div: Int: Off ^r ; very interesting excellent attendance. Complete thaw during night.	
	Jan 11		D Duke went on leave. Impromptu concert with band.	
	Jan 13		Church Parade with band. Sharp frost but clear warm during morning ^{day} . Boxing in evening. Also sing-song with band.	H. S. [Signature]

45.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HESDIGNEUL	1918 Jan 14		Heavy Snow - about 350 men bathed at SAMER. 2 off + 3 NCO's to Corps School. Dir! Concert party performed at brickworks with great success. about 100 present. Strength 29 off 1127 other ranks.	
	Jan 15		300 men bathed at Wet + stormy day.	
	Jan 16		Country flooded around. G.O.C. visited Bn. Training impossible due to weather.	
	Jan 18		Warm but cloudy C.O. returned from leave.	
	Jan 20		Warm with light rain 50°F. Church Parade cancelled. G.O.C. inspected billets of C + B Coys.	
	Jan 21		Bn Sports, very successful meeting well attended sports entered. Genl Birdwood presented medals to Pte + 15 th Field Amb at 3.30. G.O.C. also inspected transport. Major Hobb spoke to Drill Sections.	
	Jan 22		300 men bathed Rained hard in evening - fine at mid day.	
	23		300 men bathed. D Coy on rifle range. Dull day but fine.	
	25		Beautiful fine day. More orders recd for 2 Coys + HQ to move on 30 th + 2 Coys on 31 st Transport on 27 th Col Bruce lectured to officers + NCO's at 5 pm.	
	26		Bombing Lewis Gun classes finished. Fine but dull day. Lt Duke returned from leave.	
	27		Church Parade 10.30. Transport moved at 1. pm for Wierre au Bois Capt Helleham went on leave.	
	29		Meeting of Officers + NCO's in morning. 21 reinforcements arrived. H.Q. with B + D Coys had all 2 nd Haulnets collected + taken to Besores. Motor lorry late. Also Muster Parade billets cleaned.	
			Bn Strength 29 officers 1150 men.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

H. H. H. H.

2

46

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.)

2275

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
#ESDIGNEUL	1918 Jan 30		<p>Headq. with B & D Coys moved off from Hesdin L'Abbe at 4.15 am marched to SAMER. Train derailment caused delay of 6 hours in moving off. Train left SAMER at 1.10 pm arrived DE KENNERBEX at 6.45 pm. Headq & B Coys moved to Spy Farm & D Coy to Parret Farm near VIERSTRAAT. Camp found in poor order.</p> <p>Jan 31. A & C Coys moved from Hesdin L'Abbe at 4.15 am arrived at DE KENNERBEX at 2.15 pm from where they marched to SAMER PECKHAM camp. Lt Dart went on leave.</p> <p>Bn Strength 29 officers 1150 other ranks. Total Reinforcements received during Jan-79. 39 men were evacuated to hospital & an average of 20 men were off duty daily thro' minor complaints.</p> <p><u>appendices</u> Sports Programmes & Results Training Programmes (weekly).</p>	<p>Bn Order No 33 + extra.</p> <p>H. G. Carter atol Comd 1st Pioneer Bn.</p>

275

18,000-12/17 8723

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Aust Pioneer Bn

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	<i>Gen. Order No 33.</i>
2	<i>Extra Order to No 33.</i>
3	<i>Programme of Draining 31. 12. 17 - 5. 1. 18.</i>
4	<i>" " " 7. 1. 18 - 12. 1. 18</i>
5	<i>" " " 14. 1. 18 - 19. 1. 18</i>
6	<i>" " " 21. 1. 18 - 26. 1. 18</i>
7	<i>" " " 28. 1. 18 - 2. 2. 18</i>
8	<i>Programme of Battalion Sports.</i>
9	<i>List of Prize Winners Battalion Sports.</i>

5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion Order No. 33.

Ref. Maps. CALAIS)
HAZEBROUCK) 1/100,000.

INTENTION. The Battalion will move from the HESDIGNEUL AREA to the MESSINES AREA on the 30th and 31st inst. TRANSPORT will move on the 27th instant.

TRANSPORT & 1st Line Transport with Baggage Wagons will move from RATIONS HESDIN L'ABBE at 1 p.m. on the 27th inst. for WIERFE AU BOIS. A Baggage Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 19 men from "C" Company will accompany them. Baggage Wagons will report on the 26th inst. The rations for the 27th inst. will be carried on the man: that for the 28th will be on the wagons in bulk and issued that evening for following day. Rations for 29th will be drawn on the 27th and carried on Supply Wagons. Rations will be issued each evening on the march for consumption 2 days ahead.

ROUTINE- Headquarters with "B" and "D" Companies will move by train B & D Coys. leaving SAMER at 7.21 a.m. on 30th. Reveille for these units will be at 2 a.m. on this day- Companies must be ready to move from the Cross Roads on main road in HESDIN L'ABBE at 4.15 a.m. Order of March - H.Q., "B", "D". Dress - full marching order with blanket and waterproof sheet neatly rolled round pack.

ROUTINE- "A" and "C" Companies will move by train leaving SAMER at A & C Coys. 7.21 a.m. on 31st inst under the command of the G.O.C., 15th Inf. Brigade. Details as for other Companies will correspond exactly. The following H.Q. Details will be left :- R.Q.M.S., one Orderly Room Clerk and Lieut. DART. Capt. BUCHAN will be in charge of this Column and Lieut. DART will act as Adjutant. Lieut. DART will also be entraining Officer to trains from SAMER on both 30th and 31st instant. He will report to the Divisional Entraining Officer 1½ hours prior to departure of train.

COOKERS &c The following will proceed by Goods Train from DESVRES at 8.43 a.m. on 30th and 31st inst.:-
On 30th - 2 Cookers, 1 Mess Cart, 1 water cart, 5 cycles.
On 31st - 2 Cookers, 1 G.S. Limber, 4 cycles.
2 Cooks will accompany each Cooker and one man each other vehicle and cycle.

Each cycle must bear a label showing the unit to which it belongs. One cyclist will be a Sergeant, who will be in charge of the party and all Battalion gear.

These are to arrive at DESVRES by 5.30 a.m. and will leave HESDIN L'ABBE Cross Roads at 1.30 p.m. on their respective days. The train is due to arrive at BAILLEUL at 12.30 p.m. Blankets will be taken on motor lorries and transport will proceed by road from thence to quarters.

2nd BLANKETS. 2nd Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, short way, and labelled clearly - they will be taken by the Goods Train from DESVRES on their respective mornings. Further details as to when these will be collected will be given later, but it is almost certain they will go the evening previous to the ~~move~~ move.

OFFICERS' BAGGAGE &c. Officers' Baggage and immediate cooking gear will be taken by motor lorry on their respective days. These motor lorries will report to Companies at about 3 a.m. on morning of move. An Officer from each Company will personally see this baggage loaded. These lorries will move at 5 a.m. direct to MESSINES AREA. One man (sick or bad boots) per Company will accompany the lorry and guide same direct to destination. It is expected that Companies will be billeted exactly as before.

TOOLS, STORES &c All other tools, Lewis Gun gear, stores etc. must be loaded on 1st Line Transport by evening of 26th instant.

DETRAIN-
ING

The Personnel Trains will not take any baggage whatever. These trains are due at DE KENNEBAK at 12.9. p.m. and Companies will proceed direct to their respective quarters. The usual intervals between platoons will be observed East of SPY FARM.

DISCIPLINE.

Men will be divided into parties of 10 with N.C.O. in charge (included in the 10) for purposes of entrainment. This N.C.O. will be directly responsible for the discipline of his compartment.

BILLETTS,
MUSTER PAR-
ADE & SUR-
PLUS KIT

All billets will be left scrupulously clean. A Muster Parade of Companies will be held the afternoon before departure - this parade will be in full marching order with both blankets. Billets will then be searched and all surplus kit collected. This kit will be carried on the motor lorry the following morning and handed over direct to Q.M. on arrival.

W. H. Mearns
Capt. & Adjnt.
5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Copies issued as under :-

- C.O. No.1.
- 2nd. in Command " 2
- Adjutant " 3
- O.C.A.Coy. " 4
- O.C.B.Coy. " 5
- O.C.C.Coy. " 6
- O.C.D.Coy. " 7
- T.O. " 8
- Q.M. " 9
- F.M.O. " 10.
- 5th Aust. Div. " 11.
- 8th Inf. Bde. " 12.
- 15th Inf. Bde. " 13.
- War Diary " 14-17
- File " 18.

275

SECRET

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
28th January 1918.

APPENDIX.

2

Copy No.....

EXTRA ORDER TO ACCOMPANY 5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No.33.

1. SECOND BLANKETS

The 2nd Blankets of H.Q., "B" and "D" Companies are to be conveniently stacked by Companies ready for loading into lorries by 1 p.m. on TUESDAY, 29th instant, rolled and labelled as previously specified. One sick man (or bad boots) with 48 hours rations from H.Q. and one from each Company will escort these blankets to DESVRES and will act as Guard to same to destination. They will proceed by train leaving DESVRES at 8.45 a.m. on the 30th inst.

Company Commanders will detail men who know the positions of Companies etc at new Camp, and they will guide lorries to same.

O.C. "D" Company will detail one Sergeant to take charge of this Guard - to report to B.O.R. before leaving for written instructions.

Exactly the same routine will hold good for "A" and "C" Companies the following day (30th) -proceeding from DESVRES by 15th Brigade Transport Train.

O.C. "A" Company will detail a Sergeant in this instance to take charge of Guard and to report to B.O.R. for written instructions previous to leaving.

2. AREA STORES

With the exception of five latrine buckets per Company, the whole of the Area Stores, i.e., paliasses, latrine buckets and seats, are to be conveniently stacked by Companies by 2 p.m. 29th inst. for H.Q., "B" and "D" Companies, and by 2 p.m., 30th inst. for "A" and "C" Companies, ready for transporting by motor lorry to SAMER. Paliasses to be emptied of straw, tied in convenient bundles, and numbers checked - straw to be burnt. Latrine buckets and seats are to be thoroughly cleaned and a Return showing the numbers of (1) Buckets, (2) Seats, (3) Paliasses handed back to be furnished to B.O.R. by 2 p.m. on respective days. The 5 latrine buckets and seats kept back until the last moment are to be left in some place previously arranged with Camp Wardens.

3. ADVANCE PARTIES.

Advance parties will proceed to new camps as under, consisting of :-

No.1. Group

H.Q. - 2 O.R.

"B" Coy. - 3 O.R. and, in addition, 1 Sgt. in charge of party.

"D" Coy. - 4 O.R.

These will report to Entraining Officer, SAMER, at 5 am on 29th inst.

No.2. Group.

"A" Coy. - 4 O.R.

"C" Coy - 4 O.R. and, in addition, 1 Sgt. to take charge of party.

These will report to Entraining Officer, SAMER, at 5 am on 30th inst.

Sergeants in charge will report to B.O.R. for written instructions the evening before proceeding.

4 MOVEMENT OF TROOPS

Company Commanders will adhere strictly to the following orders in taking over work etc :-

1. No movement of troops forward of the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE RIDGE will take place before 5 p.m. If the weather be foggy then Company Commanders will exercise their discretion as regards the hour at which parties may cross the Ridge.
2. Movement forward of the Kemmel-Neuve Eglise Road will be by platoons at 100 yards interval.

C. Duke

Lieut. & A/Adjt.
5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Copies sent to all recipients of
5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion Order No.33.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

APPENDIX 4

for period

5. January 1918 to 12th January 1918.

MORNING.

5.1.1918.

AFTERNOON.

1 hour Bullet and Bayonet by Platoons.
1 hour Marching Drill.
1 hour Physical Training.
1 hour Arm Drill including final march past Company Commander by platoons.

Recreational Training.

8.1.1918.

1 hour Platoon Drill.
1 hour Physical Training.
1 hour Musketry Training, special attention being paid to rapid loading.
1 hour Bullet and Bayonet.
1 hour Arm Drill and march past Company Commander.

Recreational Training.

9.1.1918.

As on 7th instant.

10.1.1918.

1 hour Company Drill.
1 hour Bullet and Bayonet.
1 hour Musketry training.
1 hour March discipline in a short route march near billets, attention to be paid to keeping to right of road, falling out and falling in quickly.

Recreational Training.

11.1.1918.

Company Route March about 8 miles.
Dress :- Fighting Order.

Recreational Training.

12.1.1918.

Parade in full marching order. Inspection in fitting of Equipment, Kit Inspection, Shortage list to be taken, special attention to be paid to Boots.

Recreational Training.

Company Commanders will ensure that all drill is interspersed with some vigorous games to warm the men in accordance with memo from D.H.Q.

In addition to the above 2 Instructors and 16 men per Company will report at the Q.M's Store daily at 9.am. for Bombing Instruction under Lieut. T.D. STEVENSON.

5th PIONEER BATTALION A.I.F. No 4/1/1918 DATE

Capt. & Adj. 5th Aus. Pioneer Battalion. A.I.F.

275

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

APPENDIX. 6

PROGRAMME OF WORK for period
21st January to 25th January 1918.

MORNING

21.1.1918.

AFTERNOON.

1 hour Platoon Drill & Rifle Exercises.
1 hour Bayonet Fighting.
1 hour Route March - Drill Order.
1 hour Gas Drill.
1 hour Physical Training & organised Games.

Recreational Training.

22.1.1918.

DIVISIONAL SPORTS.

23.1.1918.

1 hour Platoon Drill & Rifle Exercises.
1 hour Bayonet Fighting.
1 hour Platoons in Artillery formation.
1 hour Physical Training & organised games.
1 hour Gas Drill.

Recreational Training.

24.1.1918.

1 hour Bayonet Fighting.
1 hour Platoon formation for attack in open warfare. ~~X~~
1 hour Gas Drill.
1 hour Physical Training & organised games.

Recreational Training.

25.1.1918.

1 hour Bayonet Fighting.
1 hour Platoon Drill & Rifle Exercises.
1 hour Gas Drill.
1 hour Advance Guard & Outpost *
1 hour Organised Games.

Recreational Training.

26.1.1918.

1 hour Bayonet Fighting.
1 hour Company Drill. ~~X~~
1 hour Gas Drill.
1 hour Organised Games.

Recreational Training.

Rifle Grenadiers, Bombers, Lewis Gunners & Musketry practice to carry on every day until completed.

5th
PIONEER
BATTALION
A. I. F.
W. 16/1/18
DATE

Chas. J. Hurman

Capt.

For C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.

PROGRAMME OF WORK for period
28th January to 2nd February 1918.

APPENDIX

7

MORNING

28.1.1918.

AFTERNOON.

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical Training &
Bayonet Fighting.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours Company in Defence.

Recreational Training.

29.1.1918.

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical Training &
Bayonet Fighting.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ hour Gas Drill
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours Company in Counter attack.

Recreational Training.

30.1.1918.

Battalion Scheme - Defensive.

Recreational Training.

31.1.1918.

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Gas Drill.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical Training & Bayonet
Fighting.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours Advance Guard and Outposts.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organized Games.

Recreational Training.

1.2.1918.

Battalion Scheme - combined defensive
& counter-attack.

Recreational Training.

2.2.1918.

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical Training & Bayonet
Fighting
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours Company Drill - Artillery &
extended formations.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Gas Drill.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organized Games.

Recreational Training.

No Specialist Classes will be held during the week: the chief object to be aimed at will be the co-operation of the specialist arms with the rifle and bayonet - communications must be thoroughly well studied - the signallers and runners being given plenty of opportunities to fulfil their functions.



Robert Murray
Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

275

PROGRAMME OF BATTALION SPORTS ETC.

APPENDIX

To be held at a date which will be notified later.

1. 100 yards Championship.
4 Entries per Company, 2 entries from Headquarters.
PRIZES.- Trophies 1st and 2nd.
2. 220 yards Championship. - Round the Ground.
4 Entries per Company, 2 Entries from Headquarters.
PRIZES.- Trophies 1st and 2nd.
3. 330 yards Championship.
2 Entries per Company, 2 Entries from Headquarters. (including Transport). PRIZES.- Trophies 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
4. 120 yards Hurdle Race.
2 Entries per Company, 2 Entries from Headquarters. (including Transport). PRIZES.- Trophies 1st and 2nd.
5. Relay Race Championship.
Teams of 5 per Company and Headquarters.
PRIZES.- Trophies to each member of winning team.
6. Putting the Shot Championship.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
7. High Jump Championship.
Entries unlimited. PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
8. Standing Hop, Step and Jump Championship.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
9. Stretcher Bearers Race Championship. - 50 yards run.
Patient not less than 1st. 4 lbs.
PRIZE.- Trophy to each member of winning team.
10. Bicycle Dispatch Riders Race.
Distance about 5 miles: rider to deliver message at a given map location and obtain receipt and return to starting point. Dress, Fighting Order. Entries 1 per Company, 2 Headquarters. Open to Signallers and Company carriers.
PRIZES.- Trophies 1st and 2nd.
11. Alarm Race.
Teams of 8 per Company and Headquarters. Dress - Clean Fatigue, Waterproof sheets and blankets.
Rules.- Men to be lying down rolled in blanket and waterproof sheet minus Tunic, boots and puttees. On the alarm, men to dress correctly, roll blanket inside waterproof sheet and carry them horse shoe fashion across right shoulder and under left arm pit and race to ~~xxxxxxxx~~ selected point - about 50 yds.
12. Best drilled and turned out section of 10 under the Command of Corporal or Lance Corporal.
Entries unlimited. Members must belong to section in which they compete. SPECIAL PRIZE.- Trophy presented by Lieut.-Colonel H.G. CARTER to each member of winning team. Trophy to N.C.O. of winning team.
13. Tug o' War. (To be decided on one left pull).
One team of 10 and Captain from each Company and Headquarters.
PRIZE.- Trophy to each member of winning team.

MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS.

1. Best turned out Cooker.
Marks will be allowed in consideration of period the cooker has been on issue. PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
2. Best Cooked Meal.
Rations will be issued on ground, & Rules relating to Cooking.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
3. Best turned out set of harness.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
4. Best turned out pair of horses or mules in harness.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
5. Best turned out G.S. Wagon and team of 4.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
6. Best turned out G.S. Limber and team of 2.
PRIZE.- Trophy 1st.
7. Best Comic Display.
One entry per Company.
SPECIAL PRIZE.

APPENDIX.- All Prizes will be in cash.
4 entries or no 2nd prize : 7 entries or no 3rd prize.

275

APPENDIX

9

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION SPORTS - 21st JANUARY 1918.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

- 100 yards Championship.
1. CLARK (D Coy). 2. CHAMPION (B Coy)
- 220 yards Championship. D
1. DAWSON (B) 2. TEMPLE (B).
- 120 yards hurdles Championship.
1. LAMBERT (C). 2. AHANG (C).
- 440 yards Championship.
TEMPLE (D). 2. DAWSON (B).
- 1 Mile Championship.
TEMPLE (D) 2. DAWSON (B).
- Tug of War Final.
"B" Coy beat "A" Coy.
- Lewis Gun Competition.
1. "D" Coy. (Ptes. Shoblom & McInerney)
2. "A" Coy. (Ptes. Martin & Beacon.)
- Stretcher Bearers Race.
1. "C" Coy. 2. "A" Coy.
- Broad Jump.
1. LAMBERT (C). 2. WYATT (B).
- High Jump.
1. MALONE (H.Q.). 2. LAMBERT (C).
- Band Race.
1. COX. 2. REES.
- Comical Section.
1. "B" Coy.
- Best drilled Section.
1. "A" Coy.
- Alarm Race.
- Best Cooked Meal.
1. "A" Coy.
- Best turned out Cooker.
1. "A" Coy.
- Best turned out pair of horses in harness.
1. ROBERTSON J. (C).
- Best turned out set of harness.
1. B1. (Ptes. Larter & Misson).
2. B2. (Ptes. Sorenson & Miells).
- Best turned out G.S.Wagon.
1. C2. (Dvrs. King and Edwards).
- Best turned out G.S.Limber.
Dvr. RAGLESS. (H.Q.).
- Best turned out Pack Mule.
1. PUCKRIDGE.(B). 2. DOWER (D).

R.J. DANT. Lieut.

A obtained 3 fresh 3 seconds
 B " 5 " 5 "
 C " 4 " 3 "
 D " 4 " 2 "
 HQ 2 "