

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/18/28

**Title:** 1st Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/18/28

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*February*

*1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*CB Withy Capt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*CB Withy Capt.*

*for C.O. 11132*

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                |
|---------|--------|------|---|---|
| METEREN | 2/18   |      | Cold foggy day - General Kit inspection carried out by Coy & HQ details - Capt Somerset went on leave to W.K. - Lieut Parkinson took over command of C. Coy - Company Commanders meeting at 2.30 p.m. re training etc - A meeting of all officers was held at 4.30 p.m. to arrange an officers anti room - Capt Walker was appointed President by the C.O. - Capt Beattie elected Vice-Pres & Lt Wilkinson secretary - C.O. dined with General Birdwood at Corps H.Q. |   |
| "       | 2/18   |      | Short parades by Coy in morning - 3 off 100 OR on fatigue <del>and</del> making a range in afternoon. An officers team played a N.C.O.s team Rugby at 3 p.m. & N.C.O.s 14 off 5 points. Lt Downton sprained his ankle badly & was away next day to CCS.   |   |
|         | 3/2/18 |      | Bde Church parade held in field at METEREN. at 10 AM. Capt C.B. WITBY returned from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army School & took over second in Command of B <sup>n</sup> - C.O. attended a Commanding officers meeting at Bde at 11.30 AM.   | <p style="text-align: right;">Capt. C. B. Witby</p> |

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|---------|--------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Meteren | 4/2/18 |      | Fine sunny day. Coys carried out sectioning as laid down in Weekly Programme. 2 Off + 50 or on fatigue at Bae Rifle range  |                                      |
|         | 5/2/18 |      | Fine day. Training as laid down carried on. Same fatigues & Range & 'C' Coy played 'D' Coy "Soccer" & Rugby football. C winning the Rugby & D the "Soccer"   |                                      |
|         | 6/2/18 |      | Fine day. Training continued in Half Holiday. B <sup>n</sup> Rugby team played remainder. Scores B <sup>n</sup> Team 10 Other 1117 Black & Green striped Jerseys bought at Spalding's Bailleal. C.O. dined at Steenwercke. Capt L. N. Edgley went on leave to UK |                                      |
|         | 7/2/18 |      | Coys carried on with training as laid down. B <sup>n</sup> Concert held in Y.M.C.A. hut 18 <sup>th</sup> Lt Priestley <sup>C.F.</sup> Dir. Intelligence, gave short lectures on Prisoners of War to Coys   |                                      |
|         | 8/2/18 |      | Training continued. Weather inclined to be wet. Census of original 1914 men with B <sup>n</sup> at present was taken Result. 69.   |                                      |

OBW... Can

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|---------|---------|------|--|--|
| Meteren | 8/2/18  |      | No 928 Lt Col S.C. Deady "C" Coy. - No 877 Dr Watson G. I. Transport were selected from "Original men" to return to Australia on Transport Duty. Left 7 PM.  |  |
| "       | 9/2/18  |      | Training carried on. - Free Cinema show at 6 PM & NCOs & men of the B <sup>n</sup> . Lt T.A. Richards & Lt Morley rejoined from England & were posted to "B" & "D" Coys respectively.  |  |
| "       | 10/2/18 |      | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> B <sup>ns</sup> attended C.I.C. service in "B" Coy Parade. Genl. Chaplain the Rev. Redmond conducted.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> B <sup>n</sup> played 13 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> Rugby (Union) on "A" Coy Ground Result 1 <sup>st</sup> B <sup>n</sup> 13. 13 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> 6. 1 <sup>st</sup> B <sup>n</sup> team: - Carstairs, Lt Hadley, Lieut Boardman, Lt Ferris, Lt Donnelly, Pte Thompson, Pte Buckle, Lt Moore, Cpl Andrews, Pte Snedden, Lt Keen, Mohr, Pte Blunden, Cpl Lynch, Lt Stevenson |  |
| "       | 11/2/18 |      | Army Rifle Association Platoon Competition was shot off on Bde Range. No 11 Platoon (Lt B.W. Champion) winning with 291 pts.   | <p style="text-align: right;">A. H. G. G. G.</p> |

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

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| Place     | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
|           |         |      | Remainder in following order No 5 pm   |                                      |
| Motere 27 | 12/1/18 |      | Training carried on as laid down. Officers & NCOs Photographed<br>Officers fancy dress entertainment held in Ante Rooms.   |                                      |
| "         | 13/2/18 |      | Band photographed. Lt Presnell went on U.K. leave. Weather<br>overcast with light showers. Brigadier went round the Battalion.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Bn played Fourth Bn Rugby (Competition match Union Rules)<br>Beaves 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 37 4 <sup>th</sup> Bn Nil. Lt Boardman scored 2 nice tries.<br>Team. Cars tain top Hadley. Lt Boardman Sgt Dimock. Wde home<br>Hops Stevenson. Egans. Buckleton Cpl Andrews Capt Bostle<br>Pto Sneddon M.O.R. |                                      |
|           | 14/2/18 |      | Clear frosty weather. Training Carried on.   |                                      |
|           | 15/2/18 |      | " " " " " "  |                                      |
|           | 14/2/18 |      | " " " " " " - Played 9 <sup>th</sup> Bn  |                                      |
|           |         |      | Football competition match 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn won Serie 11-nil.  |                                      |

*B. H. C. C.*

WAR DIARY

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| Place   | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Meteren | 17/2/18 |      | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Church of England Church Parade held in Cinema Hall. Generals Birdwood & Walker attended. Bn marched past Gen. Birdwood on conclusion of service. Capt Somerset returned from leave to U.K. - 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn + 1 <sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance Officers played an eight aside rugby match - Draw 3-3. Battalion Officers assembled at Bn Hdq for Dinner. |                                      |
|         | 18/2/18 |      | Clear Day. Training as per syllabus carried on. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn played 1 Bde PFA Football Competition match. Won Scores 14-3. Brigade Boxing Contest commenced.  |                                      |
|         | 19/2/18 |      | Training carried on. Class of instruction for NCOs commenced. Lecture to all officers on "Intelligence work" given by Lt Chedger. Lt Waugh appointed Bde Musketry Officer. Bde try of War held. Bn defeated by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. Finals of Bde Boxing Contest.  |                                      |
|         | 20/2/18 |      | Bn on Brigade range. Training of Reading Parties ordered.   |                                      |
|         | 21/2/18 |      | Training carried on. Full day. C.O. & 4 Coy Commander went to Telguer & witness Brigade shoot off the Army Rifle Assn. Platoon Competition.   |                                      |

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

*CB Withy*

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| Place   | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Moteren | 22/2/18 |      | Training carried on - Bn Baths at Bailleul. C.O. & Lt Humphreys went to Wimerance to visit camouflage factory. Lt Booth returned from Corps School. Returned to 'C' Coy - Gr 20 <sup>th</sup>                         |                                      |
| "       | 23/2/18 |      | 11 <sup>th</sup> defeated 1 <sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance 22 mil in competition Rugby game  |                                      |
| "       | 23/2/18 |      | Fine day - Training carried on. C.O. returned from Wimerance  |                                      |
| "       | 24/2/18 |      | Cinema show given to Troops.  |                                      |
| "       | 25/2/18 |      | Bde Church Parade on 'B' Coy. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Parade Ground. Div Commander interviewed CO's re coming tour in line - Coy Comd's meeting re same at 4.30 PM   |                                      |
| "       | 25/2/18 |      | Cold wet day - Training carried on in billets. C.O. Adj. & 4 Coy Comd's Reconnoitred Sector into which the Bn moves on 28 <sup>th</sup> . Bde Operation Order   |                                      |
| "       | 26/2/18 |      | Detailing move to De Zon Area received.   |                                      |
| "       | 26/2/18 |      | Fine Day - Bn Muster Parade held on 'A' Coy Parade Ground - March Past - C.O. addressed the Bn. Bn Operation Order Detailing move to De Zon Camp issued to all concerned. (Copy attached) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn played |                                      |
| "       |         |      | Engineers Rugby. Result. 1 Bn 14. Score Nil. 1 Bn have won. Over time Capt. Lt Chesley left with advanced party for De Zon Camp.  | A. B. Witham                         |



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| Place   | Date  | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Meteren | 27/10 |      | Full Day. - B <sup>n</sup> left Meteren 9.15. for DeZon Camp. Route. LA MANCHE Mont Noir. - Schwerpenberg. - Arrived DeZon Camp Noon. Took over Camp from 47 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> . - Lt Presnell returned from UK Leave. C.O. sat as member of G.C.M. at Meteren. Order for move, Copy attached, to line on 28 <sup>th</sup> sent to Coys.  |                                      |
| DeZon   | 28/10 | 3 PM | B <sup>n</sup> moved from DeZon Camp to Kilmarnock Light railway siding entrained 4 PM. Detrained at MANOR Halt, marched to line & relieved 52 <sup>nd</sup> B <sup>n</sup> in Shrewsbury Forest. Sector Coys. relieved as follows: "A" Coy to Right Coy in Outpost line. Posts 1 to 9. 526 <sup>th</sup> "B" Coy to Left Coy in Outpost line. Posts 2 to 11. "C" Coy to Support line & D Coy to reserves at Hill 60. Relief completed without casualties at A Coy 9.30 PM, B Coy 9.40 PM, C Coy 8 PM, D Coy 6.30 AM, Bright moonlight night. Slight enemy M.B. activity. otherwise all quiet. B <sup>n</sup> strength on taking over 22 off. 531 O.R. casualties for 24 hrs. 10 killed. |                                      |

Blithy  
Capt

## WAR DIARY

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Battalion*

FOR

*February*

1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.                        |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>Operation Order. No 4</i>    |
| 2   | <i>operation Order. No No 5</i> |

24

SECRET.

Copy.....8

9

FIRST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 4.

*app. 1*

Battalion Headquarters,  
26th February, 1918.

Reference Map, Sheet 27 S.E. & Sheet 28.

1. The 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion will move to DE ZON Camp, U.12 D.S.A. on Tuesday, 27th February, 1918.

STARTING POINT X 17 C.623.

TIME 9.15 a.m.

ORDER OF MARCH :- Headqrs, "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.

ROUTE Via LA MARCHIE - WHITE NOIR - SCHROEDER

DISTANCES as laid down in Battalion Order No. 100, para 50, will be maintained.

2. TRANSPORT Transport and Cookers will be brigaded and move independently, under Orders to be issued by Transport Officer.
3. DRESS Full Marching Order, Steel Helmets to be carried on pack. No blankets to be carried.
4. BLANKETS will be rolled in bundles of ten.
5. All Coy. gear, valises, blankets, etc. will be stacked at Q.M. Store by 6 a.m. "A" and "C" Coy's. gear, which will be stacked at respective Coy. Headqrs., will be collected by Transport at 7 a.m.
6. MIDDAY MEAL will be cooked enroute, Headqrs. with "D" Coy. Band with "B" Coy.
7. ELLETS, HORSE LINES, COOK HOUSES, LATRINES, etc. will be left in a scrupulously clean condition.
8. March to the line will be continued on the 28th inst., details to be issued later.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieutenant,  
Adjutant, 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | File.                              |
| 2.          | 1st Aust. Inf. Bde.                |
| 3.          | C/O. "A" Coy.                      |
| 4.          | C/O. "B" Coy.                      |
| 5.          | C/O. "C" Coy.                      |
| 6.          | C/O. "D" Coy.                      |
| 7.          | Quartermaster & Transport Officer. |
| 8.          | War Diary.                         |

Issued by Runner at .....

Scherpenberg

*W. Gray*

Battalion Headquarters,  
26th February, 1918.

Reference Maps:-

1. The 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion will relieve the 58th Aust. Inf. Battalion on the night of the 26th February/1st March 1918. The Battalion will leave DE ZON Camp by train on the 26th February, time to be notified later.  
"A" and "B" Coys. to line, "A" Coy. on right.  
"C" Coy. to Supports.  
"D" Coy. to Reserves.
2. ADVANCE PARTY. Lieut. SYMONS with R.S.M., Sgt. Cook and 1 Cook per Coy. will proceed ahead at 8 a.m. 26th inst. and take over all stores at HILL 60.
3. DRESS. Battle Order, Blanket, Greatcoat and Water Proof Sheet to be carried.  
Valises, Packs and Hats will be stacked at DE ZON Camp.
4. Lewis Guns with 24 magazines per Gun will be carried with Sections.
5. RATIONS. All ranks will be supplied with hot meal before leaving DE ZON Camp.  
Unexpended portion of days rations and iron rations will be carried on the man.
6. CARRYING PARTY. Two Sections per Coy. and Band will report to Lieut. MURRIN at 10 a.m. on 26th inst. as Carrying Party.
7. RELIEFS. Relief will be carried out in the following order:-  

|          |                         |                         |              |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| "D" Coy. | to relieve Reserve Coy. | at HILL 60              | at 5 p.m.    |
| "C" Coy. | "                       | Support Coy. " THE GLEN | at 5.30 p.m. |
| "A" Coy. | "                       | Right Line Coy. " LINE  | at 6.30 p.m. |
| "B" Coy. | "                       | Left Line Coy. " LINE   | at 7 p.m.    |

Guides from each Post will meet "A" and "B" Coys. at THE GLEN. Inter-Coy. Relief will be published later.
8. DUMPS. (a) Ammunition at SHENWOOD DUMP.  
R.E. Stores at C O L Dump.  
(b) Water Points. at HILL 60 and THE GLEN  
(c) Cook Houses. at HILL 60
9. TRENCH STORES etc. will be checked before taking over and lists forwarded to Battalion Headqrs.
10. Code words for indicating Reliefs will be as follows :-  

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| "A" Coy. | BATHURST |
| "B" Coy. | RAINY    |
| "C" Coy. | BONDI    |
| "D" Coy. | DUBBO.   |

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Quartermaster*  
Lieutenant,  
Adjutant, 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- COPY No. 1. File
- 2. 1st Aust. Inf. Hq.
- 3. O/C. "A" Coy.
- 4. O/C. "B" Coy.
- 5. O/C. "C" Coy.
- 6. O/C. "D" Coy.
- 7. Quartermaster & Transport Officer.
- 8. War Diary.

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