

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/18/37

Title: 1st Infantry Battalion

November 1918



AWM4-23/18/37

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Aust Inf. BATTALION

FOR

NOVEMBER

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

CBW [unclear] Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Signature] Col

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Burgny L'Abbe	Nov 1 st		Bn Strength 24/4/460 - Weather Fine - Bde Challenge shield Competitions during morning - Practice football 2 nd v 3 rd v 4 th v 5 th - Bn Cigarette Cases arrived - Coy Cdr Conference - Coy Organisation & Interior economy discussed.	
	2 nd		Bn Strength 24/4/414 - Fine - Bn Route March to Port-Remy - Assault ARA Ptn Comp held 20 10 Ptn winners, to represent Bn in Bde Comp - General roundup of absentees Afternoon practice football 1 st v 2 nd teams - Meeting of Officers - Capt Withy Me & Mess	
	3 rd		Bn Strength 24/4/417 OR - Overcast - Church Parade on Bn Ground 10 AM - R.C. Parade at Burgny L'Abbe Church - C.O inspected mess diners - Afternoon Bde Challenge Capt sports v 12. A B C grade football v 1 st Bn v 2 nd Bn. A grade Draw. B won C lost. - Results of 1 st Bde shield Competition issued. Won by 1 st Bn 1078 Ptn, 2 nd 3 rd Bn 1050 Ptn, 3 rd 4 th Bn 952 Ptn, 4 th 2 nd Bn 890 Ptn. Following Officers rejoined. Lt BUTMEAD from Aust Corps Signal School. Lts ERLEY & BACKHOUSE & WELLS from SALVAGE DEPOT HARVE - Orders to be ready to move on 12 hours notice as from 12 noon 4/11/18 received.	
	4 th		Bn Strength 25/4/37 - Fine & Clear - Coy inspections - Bn assembly 9.30 AM - Lt Col STACY D.S.O addressed Bn prior to leaving on 75 days furlough & UK	

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BUIGNY L'Abbe.	NOV 14 th		<p>Gave history of Bn - Announced that Bn would be going into forward area within the next few days & that Bn had won Bde Challenge Shield - Bn marched to Bde sports commencing 10 AM at Bn ground - Lt Col AK McKENZIE M.C. Took over command of Bn - Surplus gear sent to 1st Div Kit Store Long Pre - Lt Chedgoy reported for duty from UK. Results of Bde Sports as effecting Bn - 100 yds 1st Lt Jenkins, 4th Lt Jenkins, Flag Relay race 3rd Officers - Hunter 2nd Redden by Lt Col Stacy DSO; Cross Country 3 mile 4th + 5th; Mile Race 1st Bn Barden, High Jump Tie for 1st & 3rd. Warning Order for move on 5/11/18 postponed 24 hrs.</p>	
	5 th		<p>Bn Strength 28/447 OR. - RAINY - Coy paraded in Bellet, Specialist Training Lt Col Stacy DSO left for UK on furlough - Bde Order removed & Renewed.</p>	
	6 th		<p>Bn Strength 28 x 445 - Bn ready to move at 12.25. - 11.55 move postponed 24 hours</p>	
	7 th		<p>Bn Strength 28 x 440 - Cloudy - Bn standing by to move at 12.25. move postponed till 14.30.</p>	
	14.30		<p>Bn moved out - Order of March HQ C.A.B. Transport independently - Route via Pilly LE HAUT Clocher - In billets for night at Villers-Sous-Pilly</p>	

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	Nov 7 th		Bn Prisoners at Flexicourt Landed over to Corps Compound - Bde Order no 48 for more on 8/11/18 Received	
Villers-Sous-Ailly.	8 th		Bn Strength 27 + 429. - Dull. A Coy detached + sent to HANCAST as Bde loading party - Dinner 1200 - Transport Marched out 1306 o'clock - Bn marched out of Villers 1355 o'clock. Order of march - B. C. - H. G. - Raining. Ground sheet worn. - Arrived HANCAST St 1700 - Bn entrained at once - Hot tea served to troops - Train due to leave 1921 moved out 2015	
En Route	9 th		Line Clear - Bn in Train en route to EPEHY. - Arrived ROISEL 1400 - Train held up - Bn Personnel transferred to another train - Arrived EPEHY Stn 2030 - Arrived tented camp 2100 - Cold night - Only 1 blanket per man - Transport held up by delayed trains.	
Epehy	10 th		Fine frosty day - Bn moved from camp + embarked - Bn in 15 lorries. 1 st Jld Amb. prof Coy by + 1 st Bn Train in same convey - Left Epehy 0950 - Arrived BAZEUL area 1400 - 1 st billets 1500 - Billets poor + dirty. - Whilst in Lorry passed through BELLICOURT + near HARGICOURT in vicinity and in view of streets out of A HARKS of 15:20 + 50	

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BAZEUI	Nov 11 th		Br Strength 27 off - 430 or. - Br Rested -	
	12 th		Received notification of cessation of Hostilities - Inter Br tug-o-war beaten by 2 nd Br. Inter Coy Football - Coy Cdr Conference 2 PM to discuss forward move - Br visited by Maj HARDIE DSO.	
	13 th		Br Strength 29 x 426. Football 1 st Br v 4 th Br in 1 st , 2 nd + 3 rd grades won 1 st + 3 rd lost 2 nd grade -	
	14 th		Br Strength 29 x 429 - Marched from BAZEUI to BUSIGNY. Afternoon practice football matches - Inter Br Tug of War beaten by 4 th Br Lts Morley & LAWS rejoined from Aust Corps School	
BUSIGNY	15 th		Br Strength 31 off 430 or. - Coy Parades 0930 Recreational Tug - Games lessons for Br Cdr, Br SIC & Coy Cdr commenced and Lieut Priestly (Dunkirk) Inter Br Tug-o-war beat 3 rd Br	
	16 th		Br Strength 31 x 428 - CO's conference at Bae HQ re march to Germany - Football 1 st Br v 3 rd Br in 1 st , 2 nd + 3 rd grades - 1 st drew 2 nd lost 3 rd won.	
	17 th		Br Strength 31 x 424 - Fine cold Bae Church Parade 10.30 AM. GOC, etc. present - Marched past after service - Troop in Great Coats. Capt RICHMOND included	

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BUSIGNY	Nov 18 th		Br Strength 31 off 420 OR - Route march 9.30 - 11.30 - Afternoon foot ball practice	
	19 th		Br Strength 30 + 446 " " " " " " " " " " " "	
	20 th		" " 30 off 424 " " " " " " Capt RIE Macgregor left for U.K. on 75 days Furloughs. - Orders to move next day received.	
	21 st		Br Strength 30 off 408 Br - Fine - Br marched out 0900 - Starting point 0920 - in Bde Column - Order of march ABC + 9 Tpt. Route LA HAIE MENFRESSE - ST Souplet - L'ALBEE DE SUISE to RIBEAVILLE - G.O.C. in on the route - Br billeted in Ribeaupville by 1300 - Lt Storer + 2 P.S. Waggons attached from 1 st DAC - Lt (Mc) + 29 or unfit to march sent to Report to Dir Rpt Wing BOHAIN.	
Ribeauville	25 th		Br Strength 29 + 387 - Fine - Br marched out 0830 starting point 0920. Order of march BCNQA - Route CATIGNON - LA GROISE - PRISCHES. Br billeted at Prisches 12.30. 1 Wagon of DAC detached.	
Prisches	28 th		Br Strength 29 + 380 - Fine - Br marched out 0755 - Starting point 0811 - Order of march C, K, Q, A, B. Route - CATIGNES - AVESNES - AVESNETTES. In billets Avesnelles 0930 - AIF order showing MAJOR P. K. M. KENZIE MC & Lt Colonel	

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AVESNESNES	NOV 23 rd		Whist Commanding Bn. - Capt E.T. CATO. RMO awarded the M.C.	
	24 th		Bn Strength 290/381 OR. - Bn rested. - Lt Col AK. MCKENZIE awarded D.S.O.	
	25 th *		" " 30 " 398 " - Bn marched out of billets 0927 - Starting Point in FLAUMONT at 1007. Order of march HQ ABC. - Route via FELLERIES & SOTRE LE CHATEAU. - Bn in Billets 1300. Capt CB Withy MC rejoined from Aust Corps School & Lt Forrest MC from on leave U.K. Bn well billeted. - Town in very dirty condition.	
SOTRE LE CHATEAU	26 th *		Bn Strength 292 393 OR. - Parade 09.15 to 11.30. Inspection & Recreational Tng.	
	27 th *		Bn " 28 " 370 " " " " " " " " " "	
	28 th *		" " 28 " 367 " " " " " " " " " " Inter Coy football matches.	
			Lt MC Mortlock awarded the M.C. Inspection of Bn Billets by GOC 1st Bn	
	29 th *		Bn Strength 29 + 364. Recreational Bn inspected by C.O. - practiced. ceremonial. Inter Coy football matches - Bn Bn's got in working order.	
	30 th *		Bn Strength 294/373 OR. - 9.30-10 AM Coy inspection - Inter-Coy football & recreational Tng. Capt CATO MC & Lt J F MANT to leave, PARIS, Performance by "Sentimental Blokes" given to 1st Bn	