

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/18/40

Title: 1st Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/18/40

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

ORIGINAL 24

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st A. I. Bn

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Richardson Lt + adj.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Resmaceps Capt
for Lieut. Col.*

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.

1
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1st A.I. Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

24

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOUGNIES	1/2/19		Bn strength 25 + 276. Weather - snowing. Bn bathed at BIESME. Capt G. STEEN to command "A" Coy. Lt W. H. PARKINSON to act as Adjutant. EDUCATIONAL - as per syllabus for month attached - appendix 1.	Appendix 1.
"	2/2/19		Bn strength 26 + 302. Weather - dull & cold. Church services - 6.30 at 1030. Capt C. B. WITBY, MC and Capt R. MCGREGOR, MC rejoined from U.K. leave Lt R. W. SAMPSON, MC rejoined from duty U.K.	
"	3/2/19		Bn strength 29 + 303. Weather - dull & cold. "A" Coy visited marble quarries, GOUGNIES. "C" Coy visited electric light plant. Provided Ride Guard for week's duty. AIF list 438 of 24/1/19 received with following award of MSM to 348 Sgt B. F. FORD, MM. 5718 Sgt A. KEAN. 7061 Lt/Col J. R. TURPIN.	
"	4/2/19		Bn strength 29 + 293. Weather dull & cold. "B" Coy visited marble quarries at GOUGNIES. "A" Coy visited electric light plant. 2/Lt J. N. YOUNG proceeded to Corps Farm. First newspapers, ordered under H ¹ Army scheme, placed on sale at Bn canteen.	
"	5/2/19		Bn strength 27 + 296. Weather - snowing. Training - route march 0930 - 1030. Recreation 1030 - 1200. Lt W. M. BLAKE, MC. So on command.	

2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			1st Bde Concert Party. 2/Lt LITTLE rejoined from Musketry School. 2/Lts R. SOUTHAM and H. E. LEWIS joined from General Reinforcements (2c. O.C.B.)	
GOUGNIES	6/2/19		Bn strength 30 + 297. Weather - fine, but much ground snow. Bn bathed at BIESME. Capt C. KELLEWAY to Brussels on duty.	
"	7/2/19		2/Lt H. L. ANGEL rejoined from Paris leave. Recreation 1030 - 1200. Bn strength 30 + 294. Weather - fine - cold. Capt G. STEEN to command 1st Bde Rest Billet, CHARLEROI. Conference of Transport Officers at Bde Hdqrs at 1100. Lt. H. CHEDGEY rejoined from Paris leave. Lt F. A. GRAHAM to command 'A' Coy, vice Capt G. STEEN. Lts K. C. MORTLOCK, mc and J. L. WHIPP rejoined from V.K. leave. Weekly Education Report submitted - Appendix 2.	Appendix 2.
"	8/2/19		Bn strength 33 + 297. Weather - fine - cold. Recreation 1030 - 1200.	
"	9/2/19		Bn strength 31 + 285. Weather - fine - sunny. Church Services - 6/6. 1030. R.C. 0930. 5 other ranks proceeded CHARLEROI on inspection tour of local industries. Lts R. W. SAMPSON, mc and C. CHARL, and 15 other ranks to BRUSSELS leave. Recreation - Tobogganing.	

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3
1

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24

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOUGNIES	10/2/19		Bn strength - 31 + 274. Weather - fine & sunny. Lt. S. COX to PARIS leave. Recreation - Tobogganing.	
"	11/2/19		Bn strength - 31 + 304. Weather - fine & sunny. Lt. DEPPE to U.K. leave. Lt. F. W. WELLS rejoined from U.K. leave. 2/Lt O. A. NEWTH attended FGCM for instruction. Lt CA CLARK to understudy Q.M. Outstanding Binoculars, revolvers, compasses, etc of officers collected. "Sing Song" and lecture on "Desc, Home and Reconstruction" at 1800 under arrangements YMCA.	
"	12/2/19		Bn strength 31 + 306. Weather - fine & sunny. Draft for AUSTRALIA, Quota No 10. marched out, consisting of. Capt C. KELLEWAY, Lts F. A. GRAHAM, C. R. MORLEY, mc, A. T. H. BROWNIE, J. L. WHIPP, D. A. CROWHURST, C. C. LAMBERT and 62 62 other ranks. Pay available to troops. 2/Lt J. N. YOUNG rejoined from Corps Farm. Court of Enquiry held on absence. President Capt R. Mc GREGOR, mc. Members:- Lt F. W. WELLS and 2/Lt W. B. HOOK. Lt R. W. SAMPSON to U.K. leave. 2/Lt H. L. ANGEL appt. Transport officer vice Lt D. A. CROWHURST to AUSTRALIA.	

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44

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24

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOUIGNIES	13/2/19		Bn strength 25 + 244. Weather - fine & sunny. Bn bathed at BIESME. Band rejoined from BRUSSELS tour	
"	14/2/19		Bn strength 26 + 240. Weather - raining. Muster Parade of Bn at 1000 for blanket inspection. Capt R. MCGREGOR, MC. member of F.G.C.M. 2/Lt. H.E. LEWIS attended for instruction. Lt F.W. WELLS to command A Coy vice Lt F.A. GRAHAM to AUSTRALIA. Lt C.H. LEE to AUSTRALIA whilst attached. 1st Aust. Division.	
"	15/2/19		Bn strength 26 + 251. Weather - dull - misty. Court of Enquiry on absentee President - Capt C.A. WITBY, MC. Members - Lts F.A. SCALES and S.O. MITCHELL. Weekly Education Report submitted. Appendix 3. Opening performance of YMCA cinema at 1700.	Appendix 3.
"	16/2/19		Bn strength 25 + 250. Weather - dull - raining towards evening. Church services 6.30. 1000. R.C. 0930. Snow precautions adopted from 0900	
"	17/2/19		Bn strength - 25 + 245. Weather - dull - misty. Muster parade of Bn at 0930. After inspection, details dismissed - remainder route march.	
"	18/2/19		Bn strength 25 + 246. Weather - dull - misty. Lecture and discussion	

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5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			on "Battle Raising" by Lt F.W. WELLS. at 1000. Lts H.H. ELSLEY and A.J. STANLEY rejoined on U.K. leave. 2/Lt J.N. YOUNG to be assistant transport officer.	
GOUGNIES	19/2/19		Bn strength 23 + 226. Weather - dull - misty. Lts K.C. MORTLOCK, MC and S.O. MITCHELL and 20 other ranks to BRUSSELS leave. Court of Enquiry on missing. President: - Capt C.B. WITBY, MC. Members: - Lt J. MANT, 2/Lt H. ANDREWS, DCM.	
"	20/2/19		Bn strength 25 + 225. Weather - dull. Route march + recreational training. Lecture and discussion on "Sheep" opened by 2/Lt T.C. FULLARTON. Lt S. COX rejoined from Paris leave. Chaplain Capt H. COLES rejoined from U.K. leave.	
"	21/2/19		Bn strength - 28 + 249. Weather - dull. Bn bathed at BIESME. Blankets fumigated at CHATELET. Recreation 1100 - 1200.	
"	22/2/19		Bn strength - 28 + 245. Weather - dull + showery. AIF. Dist 445 - 14/2/19 received (T/Lt Col A.K. MACKENZIE, DSO, MC to be Lieut. Col). 2/Lt H.D. VOSS joined from General Reinforcements. Bn marched to CHATELET to	

6

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>hear address by Mr. W.M. HUGHES, Prime Minister of AUSTRALIA, to 1st Australian Division. Report of address attached - (Appendix 4)</p> <p>Weekly Educational Report submitted. (Appendix 5)</p>	<p>Appendix 4.</p> <p>Appendix 5.</p>
BOUGNIES	23/2/19		<p>Bn strength - 28 + 242. Weather - dull. Church Services - 6.10.1000.</p> <p>Holy Communion 10.45. R.C. 10.30. 4 other ranks proceeded CHARLEROI on inspection tour of local industries. Lt F.A. SCALES to command A Coy vice Lt F.W. WELLS to Educational Employment U.K.</p> <p>Recreational - scratch football match.</p>	
	24/2/19		<p>Bn strength - 28 + 245. Weather - dull. Bn attended 1st lecture on ANZAC on Col. ROSS, CMC, DSO. in Town Hall, GERPINNES at 11.00.</p> <p>Board of Enquiry on absentees: - President: - Capt C.B. WITBY, MC.</p> <p>Members: - Lt H. ELSLEY, 2/Lt R. SOUTHAM. AIF Dist 446 - 18/2/19 received, notifying appt of Lt W.H. PARKINSON as adjutant. 17 transport horses sold by public auction.</p>	
	25/2/19		<p>Bn strength - 28 + 246. Weather - fine. Bn attended 2nd lecture by Col ROSS, CMC, DSO, on ANZAC at GERPINNES at 11.00.</p>	

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7

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOUGNIES	26/2/19		Bn strength - 27 + 240. Weather - fine. Bn attended 3 rd lecture on ANZAC by Col ROSS, CMB, DSO, at Town Hall, GERPINNES at 11.00. Lt. K. C. MORTLOCK, MC. to Div Leave Club, BRUSSELS, as Adjutant.	
-	27/2/19.		Bn strength - 27 + 240. Weather - fine. Bn moved to ACOZ and amalgamated with 4 th Bn. Amalgamated Bn to be known as 1/4 th Bn. Movement Order No. 49 attached (appendix 6) Organisation and command as per Bde Instructions attached (appendix 7) Capt A.C. WILTON, RMO, returned to 1 st Field ambulance. Capt C.B. WITNEY, MC to on command Corps Workshops, JEUMONT. 2/Lt H.D. ANDREWS and 6 other ranks to 1 st Div Rugby Team. Unit stores demobilised and clearance receipts obtained. Weekly educational Report submitted (appendix 8)	appendix 6. appendix 7. appendix 8.
ACOZ	28/2/19		Bn strength - 25 + 231. Weather - dull, - hail in afternoon. 2/Lt C. BROOKS joined from General Reinforcements. Lt H. CHEDGEY to NICE leave.	

WAR DIARY

OF

1st A. I. Bn.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Education Syllabus for February 1919.
2	Weekly Education Report - 7/2/19.
3	do do do - 15/2/19.
4	Report of Address by Mr. W. M. HUGHES.
5	Weekly Education Report - 22/2/19.
6	Bn Order No. 49.
7	Organisation and Command 1/4 th Bn.
8	Weekly Education Report - 28/2/19.

EDUCATION SYLLABUS

1st. Class Inf. Bn.

Appendix 1
War Diary 1st A/Bn
February 1919

FEBRUARY 1919

24

HOURS	1st.	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	
0930 to 1100	Shorthand French	English Bk. Keeping	Shorthand French	French	Shorthand	English	Shorthand French	Int. Comb. Engines French	Shorthand	Int. Comb. Engines French	Shorthand French	Int. Comb. Engines French	Shorthand	Int. Comb. Engines	Shorthand	Int. Comb. Engines	Shorthand	Int. Comb. Engines	Shorthand	Discussion Group	Shorthand	Discussion Group	Shorthand	Discussion Group	
1100 to 1200	Int. Comb. Engines Engines	French Int. Comb. Engines	English	Int. Comb. Engines	French	Shorthand	Int. Comb. Engines	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	English	Arithmetic	English	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	English	Arithmetic	English	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	English	Arithmetic	English
1330 to 1500	Arithmetic	Arith.	Arithmetic	English	Bk. Keeping	Bk. Keeping	Arithmetic	Bk. Keeping	English	Arithmetic	Bookkeeping	Arithmetic	Int. Comb. Engines	Bk. Keeping	English	Arithmetic	Bookkeeping	Arithmetic	Int. Comb. Engines	Bk. Keeping	English	Arithmetic	Bk. Keeping	Arithmetic	
1500 to 1600	French	French	Bk. Keeping	ARITHMETIC	English	Arithmetic	French	English	Bk. Keeping	Shorthand	English	Bk. Keeping	English	English	Bk. Keeping	Shorthand	English	Bk. Keeping	English	English	Met. Class	Shorthand	English	Met. Class	

battalion transport. Any man interested in the care of horses however is enabled to attend.

More books have been added to the battalion library during the week and it now contains sixty six volumes.

Appendix 5

War Diary - 1st AIPW

February 1919

Week Ending 22/2/19

It has been becoming more and more apparent that regular classes in special subjects tend to benefit only a limited number of men capable of application & desirous of advancing themselves in civil life.

In order to reach those men unwilling to take up any special subject of study a new discussion class has been started, at which all men not on special duty are required to attend. Subjects of topical Australian interest are chosen such as, "stock raising breeds sheep raising, problems of water supply etc." An officer or man opens the discussion with a lecturette which is followed by questions or supplementary remarks from the members of the class.

A veterinary class has also been started, primarily for the

24

copy No. 9....

FIRST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, ORDER NO. 49.

Battalion Headquarters
COUMINS,
26/2/1919.

Reference see ORDER, about 5. 1. 1919.

1. The Battalion will move to AGUAY march route to-morrow 27/2/19, and amalgamate with the FOURTH Battalion.
2. The amalgamated Battalion will be known as the FIRST-FOURTH (1st/4th) Battalion.
3. At 0900 a full muster parade, without exception will assemble for blanket inspection, in front of MAINIE. ISSUE-Clean Fatigue (except for Battalion Guard) plus 3 blankets per man.
4. At 0950 the Battalion will assemble in front of MAINIE, ready to proceed. Transport will move with Battalion. ISSUE F.M.O. less blankets, steel helmets, and box respirators.
5. Officer's valises, Coy boxes, sports box, Barbers, Bootmakers, Pioneers gear, and equipment of any men absent on duty (escort, Local Inspection Tour etc) to be stacked at Q.M. store by 0845.
6. A company will detail leading party of 1 M.O.C. and 6 men to report to Q.M. store at 0915.
7. A. C. and Hdqrs. will each detail 2 O.R. to report to Lieut. S.O. Mitchell at 0930 for duty as advance party.
8. Men mentioned in para 6 and 7 will first attend the 0900 parade.
9. Transport officer will arrange for the collection of A.A.M.C., B.O.'s, Canteen Photographers, signal section, and B.O.R. stores, in order enumerated.
10. Certificates that billets have been left in a clean and sanitary condition will be rendered to B.O.R. by 0915.
11. Lieut C.A. CLARK, as Claims officer, will remain in COUMINS in liaison with Surgeonmaster until 1300 before proceeding.
12. (a) Daily states will be furnished to B.O.R. by 0800.
(b) Marching out states by 0930. (c) Completion of move will be notified, accompanied by marching in states by 1200.
13. Return showing number of officers (with and without beds), and other ranks in each billet will be forwarded to reach B.O.R. not later than 6 hours after occupation.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

W. H. Harrison

Lieut.

Adjutant 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION:-

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | 1st A.I. Brigade. |
| 2. | A. Company |
| 3. | C. Company |
| 4. | Headquarters |
| 5. | Transport officer |
| 6. | Q.M. |
| 7. | M.O.C. |
| 8. | B.O. |
| 9. | War Diary |
| 10. | File. |

Appendix 6
War Diary 1st A.I. Bn
February 1919

24
1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,
25th February 1919.

1st Aust. Division.
1st Aust. Battalion.
2nd Aust. Battalion.
3rd Aust. Battalion.
4th Aust. Battalion.

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. 19/422
Date.....

1. The 1st Battalion will move to ACOE on the morning of 27/2/19 and amalgamate with the 4th Battalion.
2. Command will be as follows:-
Lieut-Col., MACKENZIE. to command.
Captain. WITBY. 2nd in command.
Captain. NEWIR.)
Lieut., PARKINSON.) combined Adjutants.
Both orderly room staff will be retained.
Captain. MOLLOY. 4th Battalion to be Q.M.
Captain. FORREST. 1st Battalion, to be released as soon as clearance for Mob, stores has been received.
Lieut. SYMMINGTON. to be T.O.
Lieut. ANGEL. to be assistant T.O.
Lieut. HOUGH. 4th Battalion, to be senior E.O.
Lieut. CHEDGEY. 1st Battalion, to be a/E.O.
3. The Amalgamated B attalions will be known as the First-Fourth Battalion. (1/4.)
4. ORGANISATION. Each unit as at present will be organised into one or two companies under Officers of their own unit.
5. Education. Education platoons will be organised, either one or more platoons according to enrolment.
6. Regimental funds. Will be kept as ~~was~~ hitherto for the use of the 1st and 4th Battalion men respectively.
Cheques will be signed by the commanding officer but counter signed by the Adjutants of the 1st and 4th Battalions respectively.
7. *with* The 1st Battalion will move independently and notify this office on completion.
8. 2nd and 3rd Battalions. 2nd and 3rd Battalions will amalgamate on similar lines at a later date.

R. H. ... Capt

Brig. Genl.

Commanding 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 7
War Diary 1st AIB
February 1919

24

Week ending 28/2/19

The nominal work of the week so far as mornings were concerned was abandoned in order that all ranks might attend the series of lectures for ANZAC by Col. Ross. The lectures were well attended & proved of great interest as well as having a high educational value. They covered the whole of the operations of the Aus. & NZ Army Corps from the embarkation from Australia to the evacuation of the Peninsula.

Up to Wednesday 26/2/19 the usual afternoon classes were held & attendances were normal. On Thursday 27/2/19 the Battalion moved to Heer, to join up with the 11th Bn & from now onwards the education of the joint Bn will be directed by Lieut. Hoyle E.O. 11th Bn and the Col. 1st Bn

will assist.

Advantage is being taken of the admirable facilities offered by the 11th Bn and more than 110 other ranks of the 1st Bn will commence classes on Monday 3rd March.

The distribution is as under:-

<u>Subject</u>	<u>No's Attending</u>
Carpentry & Joinery	9
Book Keeping	7
Salesmanship	1
Shorthand	1
French	11
Arithmetic	1
Motor Mechanics	6
Bastmaking	6
Photography	1
	<hr/>

Appendix 8, 1st A.I.B.
The Diary, 1st A.I.B.
February 1919

Education report for
Month ending February 28th

Week ending 7/2/19
The attached Weekly Returns
show a slight improvement in
the average attendance at Classes
but shorthand has decreased
considerably owing to two students
being transferred to A.T.F. Admin.
Hqrs.

A large quantity of material
was received during the week
and the lessons are now able to
be conducted under better conditions
as regards study periods, examination
exercises and correction of completed
papers.

Very keen enthusiasm has
been set up in English, showing
that the right form of tuition
has been adopted. Students are
already noticed at work writing
up complete diaries in essay
form of their past work and
experiences in France. There is

not the slightest doubt that
students are interesting themselves
in this subject, and already
realise how advantageous this
study is to them.

On the whole the results of
the instruction being imparted
in all subjects are commencing
to be most successful.

Appendix 2.

War Diary 1st A/Bn
February 1919.

Appendix 3 - War Diary 1st A.I.Bn. Feb 1919

Week ending 15/2/19

The Unit classes again suffered a set back this week by the departure of a large draft for Australia.

As a result the French class has had to be temporarily disbanded for want of students.

It is noticeable that the keenest students are the late arrivals. The departure of the recent drafts has tended to unsettle the older hands and produce disinclination for any serious study.

Pending the arrival of books from the Central Library 30 more books have been purchased by regimental funds for the Battalion library. These books embrace work on popular science, history and literature as well

24

as standard novels. The technical branches of the battalion are being utilised for the instruction of men in Carpentry, bootmaking etc; the students are attached for definite periods and take their turn in rotation.

A lecture by Mr Barry of the Y.M.C.A. on "Sec. Service & Reconstruction" was well attended and made a good impression.

Further supplies of note books and exercises have arrived and there is now no lack of material.

It should be noted that the work of the A.I.F. Education Service is not to be gauged merely by returns of figures. There is ample evidence that much good work is being done quietly and unostentatiously in the way of providing food for thought and discussion quite apart from regular classes and lectures.