

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/24/34

**Title:** 5th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

January 1919



AWM4-14/24/34

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

81

5th
AUSTRALIAN
FIELD ENGINEERS
No. ....
Date / /

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*5<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Aust Engrs*

FOR

*January 1919*

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. Croker Lint*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. Gray Capt*

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE-CHATEAU -	January 1st. 1919.		<p>Company at THY-Le-Chateau, Belgium.                      Educational Classes as usual. Company Debate held during evening.                      Weather - Dull, and very cold. Slight rain.</p>	
	" 2nd.		<p>Educational Classes and fatigues.                      Weather - dull, and cold. Slight rain.</p>	
	" 3rd.		<p>Educational Classes. Received Warning Order to parade for inspection by General Birdwood, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. Order cancelled later - O.Cs units only to be present at 24th Battalion Headquarters, NALLINES.                      Capt. A.L. POLSEN, 'M.C.' joined unit from A.E.T.D. Brightlingsea and took over Acting Command from Lieut. J. T. Gray.                      The following participated in New Year Honors -                      Major R.S.Reid - awarded Distinguished Service Order.                      Major R.S.Reid and Lieut. J. T. Gray - Mentioned in Despatches                      2/Lieut. R.N.Smith, "DCM" returned from Brussels Leave.                      Weather - dull and cold.</p>	
	" 4th.		<p>Educational Classes.                      Weather - dull and fine at times.</p>	
	" 5th.		<p>Educational Classes cancelled for the day.                      Monthly Meeting of Regimental Funds and Canteen Committee held during the evening.                      Church Service at 1830.                      Weather - Very wet and cold.</p>	
	" 6th.		<p>Company paraded at 0930. Inspection Parade.                      Educational Classes.                      Lieut. F. S. Croker, "MC" returned from English Leave.                      Weather - cloudy, with light showers.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE-CHATEAU	- January	7th	1919. Company paraded at 0930 for inspection. Educational Classes. Weather - fine; very cold.	
	"	8th	" Educational Classes. Works - Party repairing culvert near GOURDINES. Lt. R. J. Dumas proceeded on English Leave. Weather - Foggy in morning; fine in afternoon.	
	"	9th	" Educational Classes. Works - Culvert near GOURDINES completed. Weather - cold; raining.	
	"	10th	" Educational Classes. Weather - fine, but very cold.	
	"	11th	" Educational Classes. Weather - Dull and cold. Light rain.	
	"	12th	" No parades or Educational Classes held. Church Services at 1830. Weather - Dull, and very cold.	
	"	13th	" Educational Classes and necessary fatigues. Weather - dull, and very cold.	
	"	14th	" Educational Classes. Company Debate during evening. Weather - fine and cold.	
	"	15th	" Educational Classes. Weather - Very wet; cold.	
	"	16th	" Educational Classes. Received Warning Order No 6 & 7 Drafts (of 1000 men each) to leave 2nd Aust. Divisional Area on 24th inst and 3rd proximo respectively, for return to Australia.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. 4.  
(10340) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Form C/2118/18.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE-CHATEAU	January 16th (continued)		<p>for return to Australia. Works - Party constructing shed at FONTEVILLE for 15th A.A.S.C. Weather - fine and cold.</p>	
		" 17th 1919.	<p>Educational Classes. Major R.S.Reid rejoined unit from H.Q. 2nd Divisional Engineers and proceeded on Special English Furlough. Company allotted 1 Officer and 17 Other ranks for No 6 Draft to Australia. Weather - Dull, with sleet during afternoon.</p>	
		" 18th	<p>Educational Classes. Works - Shed for 15th A.A.S.C. completed. Weather - very wet and cold.</p>	
		" 19th	<p>Mustering Parade 0930. Church Services at 1830. Capt. A.L. POLSEN, "MC" and 20 Other Ranks proceeded on 3 days tour of factories and mines in CHARLEROI area. Weather - Cold. Hard frost.</p>	
		" 20th	<p>Educational Classes. Company paraded at 1130 for lecture by R.M.O. 2nd Div. Engineers. Weather - frosty; clear.</p>	
		" 21st	<p>Educational Classes. Brigadier-General McNicol lectured on Repatriation to representatives of the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade Group. 1 Officer and 6 Other Ranks from the Company attended. Meeting of the Regimental Funds and Comforts Committee. Weather - clear and cold.</p>	
		" 22nd	<p>Educational Classes. Lt. G.H.F.Engel, "MC" proceeded on English leave Weather - frosty, clear and cold.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE-CHATEAU	January	23rd.	<p>(continued)</p> <p>Educational Classes. 22 Horses and Mules Class (C2) inoculated by D.A.D.V.S. 2nd Division.                      Capt. Polson M.C. to proceed to Administrative Headquarters, London. Lieut. Gray acting O.C.                      Mr. Fusedale, Sports Representative, Y.M.C.A. arrived for tour of duty of three days for physical training purposes.                      Physical Training of all available men during afternoon                      Weather very cold; Slight fall of snow.</p>	
"	"	24th.	<p>Educational Classes.                      Lieut. R.N. Smith, D.C.M. and 17 O.Rs proceeded on Draft (No.6) to Base-Le Havre, for repatriation.                      Weather dull and very cold.</p>	
"	"	25th.	<p>Educational Classes.                      Company Parade for Physical Training by Mr. Fusedale. Mr. Fusedale left during afternoon.                      Weather very cold and dull.</p>	
"	"	26th.	<p>Church Service at 1830                      Weather snowing all day.</p>	
"	"	27th.	<p>Educational Classes.                      Y.M.C.A. started Cinema during 1830 and 1930 every evening.                      Weather very cold.</p>	
"	"	28th	<p>Educational Classes.                      Weather very cold.</p>	
"	"	29th	<p>Educational Classes. Allotment for Draft No.7 for Repatriation is 2 Sergts. 57 O.Rs                      3072 C.Q.M.S. Murdoch J.D. awarded Meritorious Service Medal.                      Lieut. Delohery proceeded on Paris Leave.                      Weather intense cold.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE-CHATEAU	January	30th.	(continued) Educational Classes. Weather Frosty, Clear and Cold.	
		31st.	Educational Classes. Weather very cold; Slight snow.	

# WAR DIARY

OF

5th FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

FOR

JANUARY

1919

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.   |
|-----|--|
| A.  | PLANS - Nil  |
| B.  | § COPIES OF USEFUL DOCUMENTS -<br>1. Educational Summaries.<br>2. Sixth Australian Infantry Brigade Order 194.<br><br>§ With <u>Original</u> Diary only. |
| C.  | GENERAL SURVEY OF THE MONTH IN REGARD TO -<br>1. Q.M.S. Department.<br>2. Transport.<br>3. Bathing.<br>4. Medical.<br>5. Orderly Room<br>6. Personnel.   |



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

AS

EDUCATION SERVICE.  
Headquarters.  
17th February 1919.

5th  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD ENGINEERS  
No. 26/211.  
Date 19-2-19.

2nd  
AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
No. 2/20.  
Date

To. C.F.A. C.F.D.  
5th, 6th, 7th Inf. Bdes.  
2nd Pioneer Bn.  
2nd A. M. G. Bn.  
2nd Div. Train.  
A.D.M.S.

EDUCATIONAL SUMMARY FOR WEEK-ENDING 15TH FEBRUARY 1919.

UNIT.	Ration strength.	Total No. of men attendg. classes.	Per cent Rat. str.	Last week's attendance and per cent of Ration strength.	
2nd Div. H. Q.	67	57	85.0	47	68.1
2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.	155	27	17.4	44	28.3
4th A.F.A. Bde.	472	72	15.2	91	17.4
5th do	443	95	21.4	95	19.0
2nd D.A.C.	408	23	5.6	23	5.6
2nd Div. Engrs.	327	-	-	84	25.1
5th Bde, H. Q.	22	-	-	-	-
17th Inf. Bn	248	121	48.8	-	-
18th do	317	63	19.8	8	2.4
20th do	231	100	43.3	-	-
5th A.L.T.M.B.	19	15	78.9	-	-
5th Inf. Bde. Total.	837	299	35.7	-	-
6th Inf. Bde. H. Q.	27	-	-	-	-
22nd Inf. Bn.	563	26	4.6	26	10.4
23rd do				23	9.7
24th do				-	-
6th A.L.T.M.B.	23	-	-	-	-
6th Inf. Bde. Total	1007	26	2.5	-	-
7th Inf. Bde. H.Q.	14	-	-	-	-
25th Inf Bn.	482	-	-	33	8.1
27th do	549	55	10.2	35	17.9
28th do				-	-
7th A.L.T.M.B.	28	-	-	-	-
7th Inf. Bde. Totals	1023	55	5.3	-	-
2nd A.M.G. Bn.	475	76	16.0	103	21.7
2nd Div. Train	304	24	7.9	50	17.4
5th Field Amb.	97	12	12.3	19	19.6
6th do	84	19	22.6	19	25.3
7th do	108	28	25.9	36	35.6
Visiting Factories etc.		60		100	
Universtie-du-Travail		247		235	

*A. J. Kearns*  
Captain.  
Education Officer.  
Second Australian Division.

*2/19*

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters.  
4th February 1919

To. C.R.A. C.F.E. 2nd Div. Sdg. Co.  
5th, 6th, 7th Inf. Bdes.  
2nd Pioneer Bn.  
2nd A. M. G. Bn.  
2nd Div. Train.  
A. D. M. S.

3.2/26

HEADQUARTERS.
2nd
AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. ....
Date. ....

EDUCATIONAL SUMMARY FOR WEEK-ENDING 1ST FEBRUARY 1919.

UNIT.	Ration Strength.	Total No. of men attendg. Classes.	Per cent Ration Strength.	Last week's attend & Per cent of Ration Strength.
2nd D.H.Q.	69	39	56.5	47 58.0
2nd Aust. Div. Sig.	155	38	24.5	46 35.4
4th A.F.A. Bde.	558	96	17.2	96 17.2
5th do	555	101	18.9	101 17.6
2nd D. A. C.	448	26	5.8	67 14.7
5th Field Co. A.E.	147	45	30.6	44 26.8
6th do	143	43	30.0	69 39.7
7th do	134	22	16.4	22 14.6
6th Bde. Details att. A.E.	35	25	71.4	29 78.4
2nd Pioneer Bn.	520	63	12.1	84 16.0
17th Inf. Bn.	332	-	-	20 10.4
18th do	397	12	3.0	62 20.0
20th do	255	33	12.9	49 21.0
22nd do	294	26	8.8	29 9.3
23rd do	316	-	-	9 2.8
24th do	492	57	11.6	98 19.1
25th do	472	34	7.2	18 3.8
26th do	248	40	16.1	44 18.0
27th do	362	57	15.7	74 19.4
28th do				
2nd A. M. G. Bn.	593	103	17.4	198 34.6
5th Field Amb.	95	17	17.9	56 54.3
6th do	94	21	22.3	26 24.7
7th do	117	40	34.2	40 29.6
2nd Div. Train.	318	50	15.7	52 18.7
Universite-du-Travail		180		150
Visiting Factories etc.		100		240

*A. Bearno*  
Captain.  
Education Officer.  
Second Australian Division.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ORDER No. 18/173

Ref. Map NAMUR. 1,300,000

9th Feby. 1919

1. The following moves of Units of the 6th A.I. Bde Group will take place on the 11th and 12th February 1919.
2. 11th Feby. - 5th, 6th, 7th Field Coys. A.E. from THY LE CHATEAU to MARCINELLE under orders of the C.R.E.
3. 12th Feby. (a) The 24th BATTALION. from NALINNES to MARCINELLE. NALINNES to be cleared by 1000 hours.  
 (b) 22nd BATTALION. from GOURDINNE to MARCINELLE. NALINNES not to be entered before 1000 hours.  
 (c) 6th Aust. Field Ambulance. from NALINNES to MARCINELLE.  
 (d) 16th Coy. A.A.S.C. from BERZEE to MARCINELLE.
4. Billeting parties have already proceeded.
5. BILLETS. A certificate to the effect that all billets, and transport lines have been left in a clean, and sanitary condition will be rendered to reach Brigade Headquarters by NOON on 13th inst.
6. CLAIMS. - G.R.O. 1146 is repeated for action:-  
 "In conformity with French practice in the case of troops quitting cantonments, arrangements will, whenever possible be made for an officer to remain behind for at least 3 hours in each commune to receive and deal with claims for damage, which it was not possible for the inhabitants concerned to submit to the Commanding Officers prior to the departure of the troops."
7. SUPPLIES. Supply arrangements will be notified later.
8. Brigade Headquarters will close at NALINNES at 1100 hours on 12th inst., and reopen at MARCINELLE at the same hour.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. Roydhouse*

Captain,

Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Issued at 1400 hours through Signals

DISTRIBUTION.

- |             |                        |        |                      |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | 22nd Bn.               | 14.    | 7th A.I. Bde.        |
| 2.          | 24th Bn.               | 15.    | O.C. Signal Section. |
| 3-6.        | C.R.E.                 | 16.    | G.O.C.               |
| 7.          | 6th Field Amb.         | 17.    | Brigade Major.       |
| 8.          | 16th Coy. A.A.S.C.     | 18.    | Staff Captain        |
| 9.          | Area Comdt. MARCINELLE |        |                      |
| 10.         | " " NALINNES.          | 19-21. | War Diary            |
| 11-12.      | 2nd Aust. Divn.        | 22.    | File                 |
| 13.         | 5th A.I. Bde.          | 23-25. | Spares.              |

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Appendix "C" -

Q.M.S. Department -

(a) Rations - The usual standard was maintained throughout the month of January.

(b) Ordnance - The following Stores were drawn from D.A.D.O.S. during the month -

Puttees .. prs.	18	Pantaloon prs. ..	25
Shoes, mule "	138	Cardigans .....	7
Hats, C.P. ..	6	Braes , prs ...	10
Boots, Bsh. prs.	36	Greatcoats .....	2
Bags, nose ..	90		

also, during the month a third blanket per man was drawn and issued.

(c) Repairs - Boots, clothing and harness were kept only in fair state of repair during the month - this being due to the unit being not in possession of specialists in the different repairing lines. Materials for these repairs were procured through Army Ordnance.

Transport - During the month the health and condition of all animals on charge to the unit, has been excellent. There were 4 evacuations during the month - due to injuries received during the War. Very little transport work was carried out during the month: on an average three pairs mules and 2 horses were used daily.

Classification by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of all animals on charge, (for demobilisation purposes) took place on the 16th inst.

Thirty sets of shoes were used during the month and it was found necessary to use frost cogs during the last week, owing to the state of the roads - due to the heavy falls of snow and subsequent hard frosts.

The housing accommodation has been good and the fodder ration normal.

Bathing - The bathing facilities carried out under Brigade arrangements could not very well be taken advantage of owing to the baths being situated some 4-5 kilos from Company Headquarters. The personnel in lieu, bathed under arrangements with the local inhabitants.

Medical - Water - During the month all well and other water has been chlorinated by the A.M.C. detail as required before use.

Sickness - The evacuations for the month were above the average - this being due to the prevalence of Influenza in the area.

The senior A.M.C. detail - (due to the prevalence of venereal disease) - conducted a separate department for prophylactic treatment within the Company.

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.Appendix "C".

Orderly Room - Communication - was established per runner with Headquarters, Divisional Engineers, the D.R.L.S. being employed from H.Q.D.E. to Brigade and Divisional Headquarters. The telephones was not connected during any period of the month.

Despatches and messages received and despatched during the month amounted to 597.

Mail - The mail was collected, censored and despatched daily. The inwards mail was collected from the Brigade Post Office and issued to the individuals concerned.

The incoming letters numbered	....	557
" parcels	.....	147
The outgoing letters numbered	...	1067
" parcels	.....	52

Personnel -

<u>ARRIVALS</u> -	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O.Rs</u>
From Base (ex Hospital)	-	7
" " (ex B'sea T.Depot)	1	-
" Detachment (duty)	1	6
" " (Instructional)	-	17
English leave	-	6
Paris "	-	2
 <u>DEPARTURES</u> -		
Proceeded on Repatriation Drafts	1	21
Transd. to Repatriation & Demob. Department, London	1	3
Transd. to other units	-	3
Deaths - Pneumonia	-	1
Hospital	-	9
Detachments - duty	-	7
" Educational	-	15
English Leave	2	17
Paris "	-	2