

AWM4

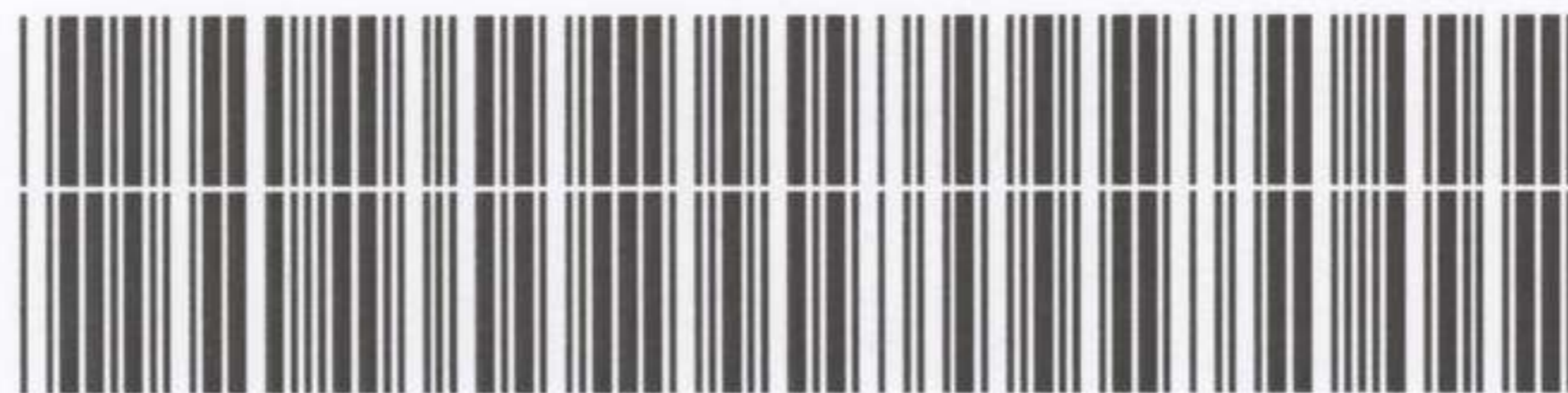
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/39

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

May 1919



AWM4-14/17/39

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Pioneer Batta.

FOR

May

1919

Signature of Officer compiling

A Duke Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

A Duke 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 |
|------------------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| MARCINELLE-HAIES | 1 | | Day wet + cold. Sports had been arranged for the joint Battalion, but had to be postponed on account of the inclement weather. A Dance was held in the evening + proved a great success | |
| | 2 | | Day wet + cold. | |
| | 3 | | 1st day without rain for a week. | |
| | 4 | | QUOTA 47. Concentrated at Reinforcement wing. This QUOTA included practically the whole of the M. G. Bn. | |
| | 5 | | Fine Spring day. | |
| | 6 | | Conference of all officers of B's Sub Group was held at 4 pm CA to-day, when it was stated that the remaining members of this Bn would probably proceed to the en route to Austria on 14 th inst. Majors Wilkinson presided as a Court of Inquiry at 15 th Bn Bn 240 at 1400. | |
| | 7 | | Fine Spring Day. Muster parade held at 10.00h. Capt CRD who returned from Fologne leave. | |
| | 8 | | Usual morning parade held, still good weather. | |
| | 9 | | M. G. Bn moved over to Bilet in our area. Muster parade held, + marched to 15 th Brigade Bn 240. After-noon went for a short Route march. | |
| | 10 | | Usual morning parade held. | |
| | 11 | | Fine Spring day. Warning order received to have 3 off. T. To R. Standing by in readiness to proceed with QUOTA 53. | |
| | 12 | | Blanco + metal polish for cleaning equipment issued; for the men to | |

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|-------|-------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | 17/17 | | clean up for the last review by the Corps Commander (General Hottel) to be held at CHATELET on the 14 th inst. | |
| | 12 | | Fine Spring Day. Muster parade held in the morning. | |
| | 13 | | Very fine day. A review of all Australian troops held at Chatelet by Gen Hottel. A very large attendance of civilians. Parade Harewood left for UK for return to Aust. | |
| | 14 | | QUOTA 53 marched out to-day for return to Australia, this quota took the remnant of the Battalion with the exception of Cadre B. & 7 others not available. Major Wilkinson with Lt Jackson had charge of the party. The Rinc. Capt FR Meagher also proceeded with them. | |
| | 15 | | Decora. | |
| | 16 | | Fine Spring day. Men remaining behind busy all day cleaning up. | |
| | 17 | | Fine Spring day | |
| | 18 | | Fine Spring day | |
| | 19 | | Fine Spring day. Lieut H.G. Pierce marches out to Aust. Harewood Coy for work with that unit at Polygon Wood | |
| | 20 | | Fine Spring day. | |
| | 21 | | Preparation is being made for the Cadres to proceed to England on the 24 th . Good weather still continuing. | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|--------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| MARCINELLE | MAY 22 | | <p>Good Spring weather. Only waiting now for Dpt 57 to leave when the Cadre & a few odd men (the remnant of the Bn.) will be finished up in the Demobilization scheme. There are now very few Austrians left in Belgium & it is expected that three more Dpt's will finish them completely.</p> <p>We left Charleroi punctually at 9⁰⁰ on the trip for Havre - it was sent off by many friends etc. of the departing troops - plenty of comforts for the way of sweets, cigarettes etc. in each truck space not overcrowded. The trip was uneventful except for one officer falling off the train & for the last time we passed through the old battlefield which most of us knew only too well - Mons - Chateau - Albert (now an absolute ruin & not as the Bn. first knew it) - Demancourt - Heilly - Corbie - Aubigny (from where we could look up to old Villers-Bretonneux just for a last reminder of that wonderful day August 8th - 1918) - Amiens. Rome's Camp & HARFLEUR.</p> <p>Waited at Havre about 4 days before finally getting on the 30th for England & AUSTRALIA. And so there no more Diary.</p> | |

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A. Duke Capt.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information |
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| MARCINELLE-HAIES | 1 | | Day wet + cold. Sports had been arranged for the joint Battalion, but had to be postponed on account of the inclement weather. A Dance was held in the evening + proved a great success |
| | 2 | | Day wet + cold. |
| | 3 | | 1st day without rain for a week. |
| | 4 | | QUOTA 47. Concentrated at Reinforcement wing. This QUOTA included practically the whole of the M.G.Bn. |
| | 5 | | Fine Spring day. |
| | 6 | | Conference of all officers of B's Sub Group was held at 4 m.p.c.A. to-day, when it was stated that the remaining members of this Bn would probably proceed to UK en route to Australia on 14 th inst. Major Wilkinson presided at a Court of Enquiry at 15 th Bde Bn 240 at 1400. |
| | 7 | | Fine Spring Day. Muster parade held at 10.00h. Capt CRD uke returned from Fologne leave. |
| | 8 | | Usual morning parade held, still good weather. |
| | 9 | | Infy. Bn moved over to Billet in our area. |
| | 10 | | Muster parade held, + marched to 15 th Brigade Bn 24. afterwards went for a short Route march. |
| | 11 | | Usual morning parade held. |
| | 12 | | Fine Spring day. Warning order received to have 3 off. 1 to 180 standing by in readiness to proceed with QUOTA 53. |
| | | | Blanco + metal polish for cleaning equipment issued; for the men to |

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| | MAY | | | |
| | <u>12</u> | | clean up for the last review by the Corps Commanders (General Hobb) to be held at CHATBLET on the 14 th inst. | |
| | <u>13</u> | | Fine Spring Day. Muster parade held in the morning. | |
| | <u>14</u> | | Very fine day. A review of all Australian troops held at Chertsey by Gen Hobb. A very large attendance of civilians. Padre Hammond left for UK for return to Aust. | |
| | <u>15</u> | | QUOTA 53 marched out to-day for return to Australia, this quota took the remnant of this Battalion with the exception of Cadre B. & 7 others not available. Major Wilkinson with Lt Jackson had charge of the party. The Rms. Capt FR Meagher also proceeded with this quota. | |
| | <u>16</u> | | Fine Spring day. Men remaining behind busy all day cleaning up. | |
| | <u>17</u> | | Fine Spring day | |
| | <u>18</u> | | Fine Spring day | |
| | <u>19</u> | | Fine Spring day. Lieut H.C. Peene marched out to Aust. tomorrow for work with that unit at Polygon Wood. | |
| | <u>20</u> | | Fine Spring day. | |
| | <u>21</u> | | Preparation is being made for the Corps to proceed to England on the 24 th . Good weather still continuing. | |

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