

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

Engineers

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

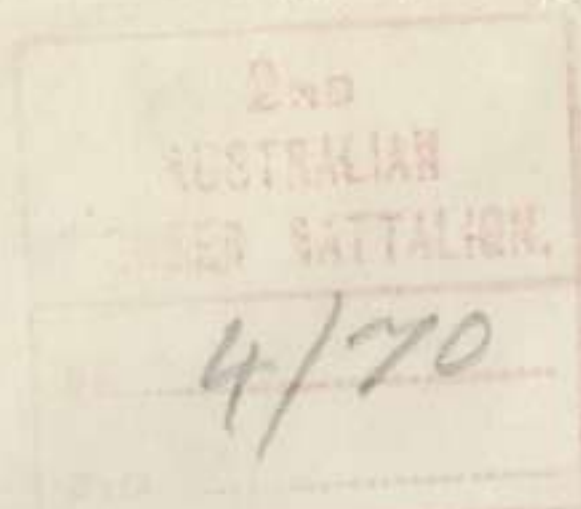
**Title:** 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-14/14/34





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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

# WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

FOR

MARCH

1914

Signature of Officer compiling

*Jack R. Hylton Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. S. Cunningham Lt. Col*



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ PIONEER BATTALION.

(Erased heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHARLEROI AREA. MARCINELLE LA VILLETTE.	1919. MARCH.			
	1.		CHARLEROI out of Bounds. Church Parade. Battalion Sports held. 1 O.R. trans. to Educ. Leave, U.K.	
	2.		Embargo on Dances, Cinemas, etc. removed.	
	3.		Lt. HENRY, D.C.M., on Leave to U.K.. 1 O.R. to Educ. Leave, U.K.	
	4.		Capt. AHLSTON'S Leave extended for Educ. Purposes.	
	6.		Bathing Parade.	
	7.		C.O. returns from Germany. 1 O.R. From Hospital.	
	8.		Capt. NEVEIN (resumes command "BC" Coy.) and Lt. DEWEY returned from CAP MARTIN. Church Parade.	
			Capt. DIMANT resigned, demobilised in U.K.	
	11.		1 O.R. from Hospital.	
	12.		Bathing Parade. No clean underclothing. 1 O.R. from Hospital.	
	13.		German huts erected for Boys' Club, Mess Rooms, etc.	
	14.		Do. Do. Do. Do. Do.	
	15.		Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. 1 O.R. from Hospital.	
	16.		Church Parade. 2 O.R. from Hospital.	
	17.		Completion of Boys' Club and Mess Rooms. Guards and Picquets receive two hours drill ( to be a daily occurrence-)	
	18.		Two hours Squad and Arms Drill & P.T. for Batt'n. every Tuesday and Friday.	
			Battalion Dinner <del>XXX</del> in Officers' Club. 1 O.R. to Educ. Leave, U.K.	
	19.		Work on Corps Reinf. Camp. ( repairs bunking etc.)	
(A9475) Wt W2358/P;60 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.				



# 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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHARLEROI AREA.	1919. MARCH.			
MARCINELLE	20.		1 O.R. to Hospital Sick.	
LA VILLETTE	21.		Drill. Work at Corps Reinf. Camp.	
	22.		1 O.R. from Hospital. Work at Corps Reinf. Camp.	
	23.		1 O.R. to Educ. Leave, U.K. 1 O.R. to Hospital Sick.	
	24.		3 O.R. trand. to Educational Agricultural Training, Sutton Veny, U.K. 1 O.R. to Hosp. Sick.	
	25.		28 O.R. Trans. to Australian Graves Detachment. Drill. 2 O.R. to Hospital Sick.	
	26.		C.O. on Leave to GHENT. <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del> 1 O.R. to Hospital. 1 O.R. from Hosp.	
	27.		Capt. W.L.NEWLING from 6th Field Amb. as R.M.O. vice Capt.A.N.LAWRENCE,M.C. returned to 6th Fld. Amb. 1 O.R. to Hospital.	
	28.		Drill.	
	29.		C.O. returns from GHENT Leave. 8 O.R. from Aust. Graves Detachment. 1 O.R. from Hospital. 2 O.R. to Early Repat. Australia. 1 O.R. Industrial Employment, U.K. 1 O.R. Educ. Leave, U.K.	
	30.		Lt. CHAMBERS to be O.C. "AD" Coy. Lt. J.H. OLFEN to be Adjutant, vice Lt. F.A. JENKINS, dated 15/2/19.	
	31.		Lt. A.H. TRAVES, M.C., Lt. A.H. PROCTOR, Lt. C.J. BRUCE, 2nd/Lt. P. ROBERTSON and 80 O.R. depart on Quota <del>28</del> for Australia.	
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# WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

FOR

MARCH

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Work Report
2. Education Report
3. Q.M. Report
4. Offence Report
5. Health Report
6. Transport Report
7. Return of articles sent back to A.S.C.
8. Sports Report.
9. Battalion Waterloo Trips.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.  
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WORKS REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING 31ST. MARCH, 1919.  
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1st April, 1919.

To the Adjutant.

- Repairs to Corps Reinforcement Camp.
- Educational Course.
- Repairs and Alterations to Div. Race-course.
- Construction of Huts for recreational purposes.

(Signed ) .....A..... CAPTAIN.  
O.C. "BC" Coy.



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EDUCATION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1919.

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Classes in Operation during month.	Enrolment.	Average Attend'ce.	No. of Students in
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SHORTHAND.	18.	8.	1 Class	8
			2 "	-
			3 "	.
			4 "	-

Men attending Université-du-Travail. 11.

" " Corps Central School. 2.

1 Officer attending Chemistry School, Bonn.

3 Officers and 1 O.R. attending Courses in Surveying in England.

1 Officer, Civil Engineering in England.

1 O.R. at Meat and Food Inspector's Course at St.OMER.

3 O.R. proceeded to Agricultural Training Depot, SUTTON VENEY, U.K.

Men are being steadily withdrawn for Non\_Military employment in U.K.

Tours to WATERLOO are still being carried out.

..... Lieut.  
Education Officer.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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March, 31st, 1919.

To the Adjutant.

The following is a List of Articles received from D.A.D.O.S., and unserviceable articles returned in lieu thereof.

	<u>Received.</u>	<u>Returned U.S.</u>
Tunics.	145.	77.
Breeches, D.S.	88.	30.
Do. M.S.	18.	30.
Puttees. Prs.	72.	81.
Hats.	-	3.
Nose Bags.	75.	23.
Mess Tins.	-	8.
Boots, Ankle.	187.	-
Soles, Half.	225.	-
Lifts, Heel.	515.	-
Blankets, Saddle.	14.	-
Brake Blocks.	25.	-
Brushes, Horse.	14.	-
Tips, Toe.	100.	-
Ropes, W.L.	4.	-
Dubbin.	40.	-
Soda.	60.	-
Flannelette.	890.	-
Soap, Soft.	130.	-
Grease, Lub.	108.	-
Rivets, Lbs.	28.	-
Shoes, Horse.	9.	-
Buckets, Water.	4.	-
Hay Nets.	25.	-
Soap, Yellow.	230.	-
Oil, Lub.	160.	-
Wax, Black.	8.	-
Flax, White.	39.	-
Axes, Felling.	19.	-
Color Patches.	600.	-
Brooms, Bass.	7.	-

£ Sgd ) P.T.SANDERSON, Cpl.  
For Q.M.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.  
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OFFENCE REPORT FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1919.  
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F.G.C.M.

A.W.L.	3 Cases.
DESERTION.	1 "
Prej. to Good Order and Military Discipline. }	1 "

B.O.R.

Prej. to Good Order and Military Discipline. }	1 "
Allowing Prisoners to escape from Guard Room. }	1 "

..... Lieut. &. Adjt.  
2nd. Australian Pioneer Battalion.



⑤ SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 31ST. MARCH, 1919.

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To Adjutant,  
2nd. Pioneer Battalion.  
( From R.M.O., 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Battalion ).

During month of MARCH, this Unit was in comfortable billets in MARCINELLE.

Health of all ranks satisfactory.

Evacuations due to Venereal, low.

Evacuations to Field Ambulance, were as under:-

P.U.O.	2-
Venereal.	8.
Accidental.	nil.
Other Causes.	11.
Diarrhoea.	<u>1.</u>
Total.	22.

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During the month, Educational parties from other Units were attached to this Unit, and any Sick from same, paraded to 2nd. Pioneer Battalion, R.A.P.

( Signed )

F.J.NEWLING

----- Captain.

R.M.O.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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 TRANSPORT RETURN FOR THE MONTH ENDING 31st MARCH, 1919.  
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Health of Horses. *****	Nature of Work. *****	Approx.Weight.	Approx. Miles.
	Batt'n.Q.M.Stores.	30 tons.	100 Miles.
Evacuations.	Canteen.	20 "	50. "
Nil.	Batt.Mess Cart.	6. "	90- "
Condition of Horses.	Batt.A.M.C.Cart.	-----	40. "
Good.			

(Signed ) C.T.WEBB. (Sgt).



⑦ SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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March, 31st, 1919.

To the Adjutant.

The following is List of Returns to A.S.C. for Month ending 31/3/19.

Bread Bags.	217.
Oat "	64.
Sugar "	42.
Salt "	2.
Jam Cases.	86.
Rum Cases.	30.
" Kegs.	1.
" Jars.	48.
Pickle Jars.	3.
Jam Cartons.	100.
Cardboard. Lbs.	50.

(Signed) P.TM SANDERSON, Cpl.  
For Q.M.



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## SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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SPORTS RETURN FOR THE MONTH ENDING 31ST. MARCH, 1919.

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AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL. 3 Representatives in Divisional Team, against  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Corps Troops, 5/3/19. (A Win. )

2 Representatives in Divisional Team, against Fifth Division, 8/3/19,  
 ( A Win. )

3 Representative in Divisional Team, against Fourth Division, 12/3/19,  
 ( A. Win. )

2 Representatives in Divisional Team, against Third Division, 15/3/19,  
 ( A Lose. )

2 Representatives in Final Match for Corps Championship, against  
 First Division, 20/3/19. ( A Lose. )

BOXING. One representative in Corps Boxing Championship, (Runner-up).

G. KENT.

(Signed )

..... Sgt.  
 Sports N.C.O.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

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VISITS TO THE FIELD OF WATERLOO. DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.1919.

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During the month, 160 men were conducted over the Historical Fields of Waterloo. All the expenses concerning the visits, were paid out of "Regimental Funds". It cost the men nothing for their enjoyable day's outing. In all, 548 Francs were expended in Fares, Refreshments and Fees for admission to the Panorama.

Leaving CHARLEROI by the 1040 hours train, the parties travelled to BRAINE L'ALLEUD, where they detrained, and marched to the Lion Monument. On arrival at the Mound, the parties were photographed by the Battalion Photographer, with the Lion in the background. (When the photos are completed, each man will receive two cards, free of charge, as souvenirs.). After being photographed, the men were taken to a Cafe, where they were supplied with Tea, Coffee, Cake, Buns or Jam Tarts, After lunch, the following places were visited and explained to the men, in the following order :-

THE LION. Erected on the spot where the Prince of Orange was wounded. The Mound is 45 Metres high, and to reach the top, it is necessary to go up 226 steps. The Lion was cast at Cockrill's Foundry, Liege, and measures 4 Metres in length by 4 Metres in height, and weighs 28,000 Kilogs.

PANORAMA. The Building is situated at the foot of the Lion Mound. This wonderful painting is the work of a French Officer, LOUIS DUMOULIN, Officer of the Legion of Honour, painter to the French Navy. It took the artist, with the assistance of 11 others, 9 months to complete the job. It was completed in 1912. The picture represents Marshal Ney's attack with cavalry, at 4 O'clock in the afternoon of the 18th JUNE, 1815.

GORDON MONUMENT. Erected by his family in 1817, in honour of Lt-Col. GORDON, A.D.C. to WELLINGTON. This Officer died at Wellington's Headquarters.

HANOVERIAN MONUMENT. Erected in 1818, by some Hanoverian Officers, "In memory of their brothers-in-arms, the brave defenders of La Haie Sainte". 85 Hanoverian Officers lie buried close to the spot where the Monument stands.

THE FARM, "LA BELLE ALLIANCE". Used on the morning of the Battle, as NAPOL-EON'S Headquarters. It was here that ~~XXXXXX~~ WELLINGTON and BLUCHER met later in the day, and greeted each other as victors. The farm is now an ~~XXX~~ estaminet.

VICTOR HUGO'S MONUMENT. Erected not far from "La Belle Alliance". It is composed of a column standing on a cubical foot. Before the present war, it was surmounted by a crowing Gallic Cock. This Cock, being of bronze, was taken away by the Huns.

THE FRENCH MONUMENT. It was not until 1904 that the French had a monument on Waterloo. THE WOUNDED EAGLE, by Sculptor Gerome, is placed on the spot where the combatants of the last square fell. This Monument, which is of a very simple composition, in bronze, represents a wounded eagle holding in its claws a torn flag, which it continues to defend. On the granite pedestal is the following inscription :- "Aux derniers combattants de la grande armee" ("To the last combatants of the Grand Army").

HOUGOMONT FARM. The Farm, and part of the old Chapel, still remain. In the Orchard stands a small Monument in memory of the French Soldiers killed in the Battle. The Monument before the war, was surmounted by a bronze eagle, which the Huns removed.

From HOUGOMONT, the parties marched back to BRAINE L'ALLEUD, where they caught the 1809 hours train to CHARLEROI.