

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

Bases & Depots

**Item number:** 33/2/12

**Title:** Australian Corps Reinforcement  
Camp

March 1919



AWM4-33/2/12

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL. ✓  
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373

A U S T R A L I A N   I M P E R I A L   F O R C E .

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W A R   D I A R Y

O F

AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp.

For

MARCH 1919.

Signature of Officer Compiling

A. Wilson

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. Bennett  
Lt Col.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.
No. ....
Date.....

The War Diary of these Units for March will contain a general resumé  
-e of the altered functions of Corps Reinforcement Camp and Corps  
Depot, shewing the procedure in handling demobilisation quotas  
and drafts and other personnel passing through.

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.)

373

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
CHARLEROI	1.3.19.		<p>Strength of Command:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Headquartres</td> <td>3 Officers</td> <td>27 Other R</td> <td>anks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aust. Corps Depot</td> <td>2 "</td> <td>46 "</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5 Officers</td> <td>73 O</td> <td>ther Ranks</td> </tr> </table> <p>-----</p> <p>With the completion of the advance of AUSTRALIAN CORPS towards Germany, and its settlement in CHARLEROI AREA, BELGIUM, the function of the AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement C amp changed primarily from the handling of reinforcements to handling personnel for demobilisation. All personnel going on and returning from leave continued to pass through the camp, as also details returning from Hospital and detached duties, personnel for Schools and visits to places of industrial and historic interest. But the chief activity was the concentration of Divisional Quotas for repatriation, and drafts for non-military educational and industrial employment. Normally, 3 quotas of 1000 each made up to 1200 by Corps Troops, would be despatched each week, but during February all movement was held up by labour troubles in H.K., consequently the work of demobilisation fell 4 weeks in arrears, but resumed a steady flow on 6/3/19, when 4th Division Quota was entrained, followed by 5th Division Quota on 8/3/19, and 1st Division on 10/3/19. For these Quotas, trains of 40 to 50 trucks were supplied by FOURTH ARMY. On arrival at Charleroi Station, the trucks were first cleaned by german prisoners, the fitted with stoves (captured from the enemy) and supplied with rations, which included rum, for 4 days. The Australian Comforts Section under Captain Norris supplied each train, most liberally, with comforts for the long journey to HAVRE. A sample supply of comforts for a train of 1200 all ranks is shewn:- Per man, 1 tin of cocoa and milk, 1 tin plum pudding, 1 tommy cooker pannikin and 2 refills, cigarettes and tobacco when available. The 1st and 2nd Divisions concentrated their respective Quotas in their own Reinforcement Wing Camps near Charleroi. The 4th and 5th Divisions, being some distance away, despatched 500 all ranks on "A" day, and 500 on "B" day, for entrainment on "C" day. These would be accommodated by Corps Depot, and paraded at Charleroi station at 8 a.m. on morning of entrainment.</p>	Headquartres	3 Officers	27 Other R	anks	Aust. Corps Depot	2 "	46 "	"	Total	5 Officers	73 O	ther Ranks	
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T2134. Wt. W708-776. -500090. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

Sheet 2  
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

3/13

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices										
			<p>At entrainments, Corps was represented by a Staff Officer, These Headquarters by Commandant or Adjutant, and O.C. Corps Depot and his staff arranged all details with Conducting Officer and O.C. Train.</p>											
3.3.19			<p>Lieut C. HARDING BROWNE 59th Battalion, who had been performing the duties of Adjutant, was accidentally injured and evacuated to Hospital.</p>											
15.3.19			<p>AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp ceased to function, vide AUSTRALIAN CORPS Administrative Instructions No. 23 under 162/574 dated 13/3/19.                      All attached staff were returned to their Units. The permanent staff remaining in "B" Divisional Reinforcement Wing to await the despatch of Quota 21 with which they will proceed for Demobilisation.                      The Commandant, Lieut-Colonel A. J. BENNETT CMG., DSO., V.D., granted special leave to U.K. from 20/3/19 to 13/4/19, to report to Repat. and Demob. Dept. London on expiration.                      Final Order issued by The Commandant. 3 Copies attached.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="693 1270 2263 1350"> <tr> <td>Numbers Marched in during month</td> <td>172</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>6603</td> <td>Other Ranks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" " out " "</td> <td>173</td> <td>"</td> <td>6669</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> </table>	Numbers Marched in during month	172	Officers	6603	Other Ranks	" " out " "	173	"	6669	" "	
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373

FINAL ORDER

By

No. 11.

Lieut-Colonel A. J. BENNETT C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

Commandant AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp.

CHARLEROI

15th March 1919.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp ceases to function to day.

The Commandant has much pleasure in placing on permanent record his high appreciation of the loyal and highly efficient service of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Sergeants, and Other Ranks who formed the Headquarters Staff.

The co-operation of all ranks, their willing and cheerful devotion to duty, irrespective of grave personal risks and heavy physical strain, and above all their pride in their Unit and loyalty to its Command have produced an organization that for smooth working and splendid results is second to none in the Army.

Not one member of the staff has had to be reprimanded or punished.

When it is realized, that the personnel passing through this Command has aggregated 250000, a number equal to the whole strength of the A.I.F., it will be recognized how important and responsible the operations have been.

The undermentioned are specially mentioned for their valuable, efficient and faithful service :-

Major	J. M. ALCORN	A.A.M.C., S.M.C.
Captain	Frank A. CHAFFRY	Adjutant and Quartermaster
Monsieur	Louis FOUILLET	French Mission, Interpreter
R. S.M.	E. T. BOURKE	Camp Sergeant Major
R. C.M.S.	H. H. DAVIES	Camp Quartermaster Sergeant
Sergeant	A. J. LLOYD	Orderly Room Sergeant
Sergeant	R. J. SUGGETT	In Charge Gas Instruction
Corporal	G. S. MOFFETT	Postal Corporal
Corporal	E. HASTINGS	Sanitary Corporal
Corporal	H. MILLER	Clerk
L/Corporal	A. H. BEDINGFIELD	C. Os Batman and Officers Mess Caterer
L/Corporal	E. W. PITT	Officers Cook
L/Corporal	W. S. G. GREGSON	Transport
L/Corporal	J. SCOTT	Transport
Driver	C. C. TELFORD	Transport
Driver	W. H. TOPHAM	Transport

Lieut-Colonel.  
Commandant.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp.