

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

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/2/5

Title: Australian Corps Reinforcement
Camp

August 1918



AWM4-33/2/5

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

373

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.

FOR

AUGUST 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Frank A. Schaffner

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT
No.
Date

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. J. ...

Lieut. Colonel.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

373

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																																																										
PERNOIS	1.8.18.		<p><u>Strength of the Command.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Camp Headquarters</td> <td>3</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>17</td> <td>Other Ranks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Australian Corps Depot.</td> <td>6</td> <td>"</td> <td>286</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Australian Corps Artillery Depot.</td> <td>2</td> <td>"</td> <td>254</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Aust. Divisional Reinf. Wing.</td> <td>8</td> <td>"</td> <td>129</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd " " " "</td> <td>12</td> <td>"</td> <td>212</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th " " " "</td> <td>14</td> <td>"</td> <td>203</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th " " " "</td> <td>30</td> <td>"</td> <td>317</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camp Baths Staff.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camp Supply Dump Staff.</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>25</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>76</td> <td>Officers 1448 " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Australian Troops in the Area</td> <td>12</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>448</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imperial Troops in the Area</td> <td>9</td> <td>"</td> <td>429</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>37th Imperial Infantry Brigade</td> <td>123</td> <td>"</td> <td>3504</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>220</td> <td>Officers 5829 " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> </table> <p>Total Strength in the Area</p>	Camp Headquarters	3	Officers	17	Other Ranks	Australian Corps Depot.	6	"	286	" "	Australian Corps Artillery Depot.	2	"	254	" "	2nd Aust. Divisional Reinf. Wing.	8	"	129	" "	3rd " " " "	12	"	212	" "	4th " " " "	14	"	203	" "	5th " " " "	30	"	317	" "	Camp Baths Staff.			5	" "	Camp Supply Dump Staff.	1	"	25	" "				-----					76	Officers 1448 " "				-----		Other Australian Troops in the Area	12	Officers	448	" "	Imperial Troops in the Area	9	"	429	" "	37th Imperial Infantry Brigade	123	"	3504	" "				-----					220	Officers 5829 " "				-----		
Camp Headquarters	3	Officers	17	Other Ranks																																																																																										
Australian Corps Depot.	6	"	286	" "																																																																																										
Australian Corps Artillery Depot.	2	"	254	" "																																																																																										
2nd Aust. Divisional Reinf. Wing.	8	"	129	" "																																																																																										
3rd " " " "	12	"	212	" "																																																																																										
4th " " " "	14	"	203	" "																																																																																										
5th " " " "	30	"	317	" "																																																																																										
Camp Baths Staff.			5	" "																																																																																										
Camp Supply Dump Staff.	1	"	25	" "																																																																																										

			76	Officers 1448 " "																																																																																										

Other Australian Troops in the Area	12	Officers	448	" "																																																																																										
Imperial Troops in the Area	9	"	429	" "																																																																																										
37th Imperial Infantry Brigade	123	"	3504	" "																																																																																										

			220	Officers 5829 " "																																																																																										

			Limit of accommodation in the Command reached.																																																																																											
	2.8.18.		Continuous forward move of Troops in busses through the Command all day. (raining)																																																																																											
	3.8.18.		37th Imperial Infantry Brigade marched out during the night 2/3rd. 173 Imperial Infantry Brigade: Strength 93 Officers 2920 Other Ranks marched in during night 2/3rd from the line, expecting to stay one week.																																																																																											
	4.8.18.		Special Church Parades and Services on the 4th Anniversary of the Declaration of War.																																																																																											
	5.8.18.	4/5th.	173 Imperial Infantry Brigade marched out at a very short notice during night of																																																																																											

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

373

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PERNOIS	5.8.18.		9th Imperial Cavalry Brigade marched in during the evening. Strength:- 79 Officers 2350 Other Ranks and 2940 Horses.	
	6.8.18.		Commandant proceeded on Leave to ENGLAND. Captain Frank.A.CHAPPEY, Adjutant, in Temporary Command.	
			Reinforcement Draft of Canadians marched in from the Base for accommodation. Total Strength 104 Officers 2830 Other Ranks. The majority moved out on the following morning, and the last party left on the morning of the 9th inst.	See Appendix "A"
	7.8.18.		1st Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing marched in. Strength 3 Officers 47 Other Ranks.	
	14.8.18.		93 Officers 435 Other Ranks arrived from Australian Corps Schools and were despatched to their respective Wings. 3rd Australian Sanitary Section marched out of the Area. Strength 1 Officer 30 Other Ranks. 58th Imperial Sanitary Section marched in and took over duties of the 3rd Sanitary Section. Strength of 58th Section:- 1 Officer 36 Other Ranks. No.86 Australian Dental Unit, strength 1 Officers 4 Other Ranks, marched out to Australian Corps Schools.	
	17.8.18.		6th Australian M.T.Coy(Corps Troops) Workshops, strength 1 Officers 63 Other Ranks, marched out of the Area. "K" Australian Siege Park Workshops commenced to move out. Move complete on the morning of the 19th inst. Strength 3 Officers 173 Other Ranks.	
	18.8.18.		Captain Frank.A.CHAPPEY received orders from Australian Corps Headquarters to proceed to CORBIE in connection with the move forward of the Reinforcement Camp. Major R.A.RAMSAY, O.C. Aust.Corps Depot, took over duties as A/Commandant.	
	19.8.18.		The move of the Camp to CORBIE commenced. See Appendices: "B", move of Artillery Depot, and the 32nd Imperial Divn.Reception joining the Command (Copy of Aust.Corps letter 162/486 of 18.8.18.) "C" for move of 3rd Aust.Divn.Reinft.Wing (Copy of Aust.Corps letter 162/489 of 19.8.18.) "D" for move of 4th Aust.Divn.Reinft.Wing (" " " " " 162/487 of 19.8.18.) "E" for move of 1st " " " " (" " " " " 162/491 of 19.8.18.) "F" for move of 5th " " " " (" " " " " 162/490 of 19.8.18.)	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 211^b.

373

3 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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PERNOIS.	Appendices	re	move continued. and "G" for move of 2nd Aust.Divn.Reinft.Wing(Copy of Aust.Corps letter 162/493 of the 21.8.18.	
CORBIE	21.8.18.		Headquarters opened in the main square CORBIE. Major R.A.RAMSAY remained, at the late Headquarters in,PERNOIS , as A/Area Commandant.	
	24.8.18.		Camp Baths at BERTEAUCOURT-les-DAMES were dismantled and despatched to CORBIE where they were erected and commenced bathing on the 29.8.18.	
	26.8.18.		Camp Supply Dump closed at BERTEAUCOURT-les-DAMES and opened in CORBIE AREA (62D I 33 c central). The Relieving Area Commandant arrived at StLEGER-les-DOMART to take over the Area.All Area Maps etc handed over. Certificates received from the Mayors of each Town;+ see appendix "H" for copies (translated)	
	23.8.18.		The Commandant returned from Leave and resumed Command.	
	27.8.18.		Extract from AUSTRALIAN CORPS Administrative Instructions No.230 of the 24.8.18. para.4. Australian Corps Depot will close at PERNOIS on 27th August and will open at CORBIE on the same day. 4 4th Aust.Divn.Reinft.Wing marched out of the Command and opened the same day at POULANVILLE.	
CORBIE.			<u>POLICY.</u> On arrival in the CORBIE Area the Policy for the Reinforcement C amp is-as-leid-down will be accordance with D.A.& Q.M.G. AUSTRALIAN CORPS 162/488 dated the 19.8.1918.	See Appen dix "I"

WAR DIARY

Army Form C: 2118

373

4. 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
			<p><u>Method of Despatching Reinforcements to Units.</u></p> <p>The method of despatching Reinforcements to Units as laid down in MAY Diary continued up to and including the 8th August, 1918. On that day the Corps Reinforcement Staging Camp closed. From that day all Reinforcements and personnel proceeding to Units were marched to VIGNACOURT Light Railway Siding where they entrained and were taken to the nearest Siding to their Division; there they were met by Divisional Guides who conducted them to the Divisional Staging Depot.</p>	
			<p><u>Personnel proceeding from Units to Schools and on Leave.</u></p> <p>The Leave Bus Service ceased to run on the 8th August, 1918, and from that date all personnel for Leave and Schools marched from Units to VECQUEMONT Light Railway Siding, entrained there and were taken to VIGNACOURT; on arrival there they were met by Guides who conducted them to Aust. Corps Depot, staying the night, and proceeded to destinations by broad gauge from PERNOIS.</p> <p>This continued up to 26th August, 1918. As the Depots and Wings arrived in CORBIE, Reinforcements proceeded direct to Units from them. On and from 27th August, 1918, all personnel for Schools and Leave marched from Units to the Corps Depot, staying overnight there, and proceeded by broad gauge from CORBIE.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

6. 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.)

373

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORBIE	31.8.18.		<p>Total marched in for the month to the Command:- 745 Officers 12382 Other Ranks. Total marched out for the month from the Command:- 786 Officers 13092 " "</p> <p><u>Locations.</u></p> <p><u>Sheet 62D.</u> Headquarters. 0.5.b 3.8. Corps Depot. 0.5.a 5.9. Art-ly Depot 0.5.a 7.5 1st Divn. Wing. I 35 d 5.3. 2nd " " I 32 d 3rd " " 0 5 b 0.6. 5th " " I 28 a 1.9. 32nd " " I 34 d 8.4. Supply Dump. I 33 c central. 4th Div. Wing. POULAINVILLE (detached)</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.

FOR

AUGUST

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
"A"	Re accommodating the CANADIAN Reinforcements.
"B"	Move of Artillery Depot and the 32nd Divn Reception Camp joining the Command.
"C"	Move of 3rd Aust. Divn. Reinforcement Wing.
"D"	Move of 4th " " " "
"E"	Move of 1st " " " "
"F"	Move of 5th " " " "
"G"	Move of 2nd " " " "
"H"	Certificates from the Mayors of each Town re the relations between the French Civilians and the Australians.
"I"	Policy for Divisional Details, Nucleus personnel etc. Copy of D.A. & Q.M.G. instructions.

APPENDIX A

CANADIAN CORPS
A.64-452

373
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
FOURTH ARMY. (for inf)

I wish to express my thanks for the willing and efficient assistance given by you in dealing with a very large number of reinforcements and other personnel who were recently sent up to the Canadian Corps and who could not be accommodated in our Reinforcement Camp.

These men, about 2800 in number were detrained at PERNOIS with only about an hour's notice.

Thanks to the organisation of your camp and to the coolness and energy with which the situation was met by Captain F.A. CHAFFEY, they were given tea within a very short time after detraining and were comfortably billeted by 9.00.p.m.

All subsequent arrangements for their disposal were made in an equally satisfactory manner.

I should like to place on record our thanks to you and to your Reinforcement Camp Staff for the ready assistance given in a difficult position.

(Sgd) G.T. FARMER Brig-General,
for Lieut-General.
Commanding CANADIAN CORPS.

9.8.18.

Headquarters.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS
14th Aug. 18
162/428

Commandant.
Australian Corps Rft Camp.

The attached copy of a letter received from the Canadian Corp is forwarded to you.

The Corps Commander is very pleased to hear of the excellent manner in which you and your staff rose to the occasion.

(Sgd) Keith Officer. Major.
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS..

all units

The above expressions of appreciation by the Canadian Corps Commander and the G.O.C. Australian Corps are such that we can all feel very proud. These expressions are deservedly due to the loyal manner in which all of our unit commanders and their staffs met the situation to assist our comrades from the Sister Dominion.

*Frank A. Chaffey Capt.
Commanding Aust Corp. Rft Camp*

15/8/18

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

Headquarters,
18.8.1918.

162/486.

H.Qrs 32nd Division.
G.O.C., R.A.
B.G.H.A.
Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMPS.CORPS ARTILLERY
DEPOT.

The Corps Artillery Depot will move from PERNOIS to CORBIE on 19.8.18.- The Area Commandant to allot the necessary billets.

Railhead for Reinforcements for Army Artillery Brigades and Heavy and Siege Artillery will be transferred to CORBIE from that date.

O.C. Artillery Depot in CORBIE will arrange distribution of men from the Depot to their Units.

32nd DIVN.
RECEPTION CAMP.

The 32nd Divn. Reception Camp will open at CORBIE on 19.8.18.- the Area Commandant will allot the necessary billets Reinforcement Railhead for 32nd Division will be CORBIE from that date.

Any Details for Army Brigades, 32nd Division, R.F.A. or R.H.A., Heavy or Siege Artillery arriving at PERNOIS, will be sent forward by Light Railways to VECQUEMONT and will proceed from there to the 32nd Division Reception Camp, or the Artillery Depot in CORBIE.

(Sgd) Keith Officer
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX "C".AUSTRALIAN CORPS.Headquarters,
19.8.1918.

162/489.

Headquarters 3rd Australian Division.
Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.3rd Aust.
Divn. Wing.

1. The 3rd Aust. Divn. Wing will move from St LEGER to CORBIE on 20.8.18.- the Area Commandant CORBIE to allot accommodation.
2. Reinforcement Railhead for 3rd Australian Division will be CORBIE from 20.8.18.
3. 3rd Aust. Divn. will close their Staging Depot and distribute their Reinforcements direct to Units from Divisional Wing. The shelters in use in the Staging Depot will be returned to the Area Commandant, HAMELET, and the number returned reported to this office.
4. The Nucleus personnel of the 3rd Aust. Divn. will be accommodated in the Divn. Wing.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.
No.
Date

(Sgd) Keith Officer
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
19th August, 1918.

162/487.

4th Aust. Division.
Aust. Corps Reinft. Camp.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.

1. The 4th Aust. Divn. Reinft. Wing will move from BERTEAUCOURT to CORBIE on 21.8.18.-- the Area Commandant, CORBIE, will allot accommodation.
2. The Reinforcement Railhead for 4th Aust. Division will be CORBIE from 21.8.18.
3. 4th Aust. Division will close their Staging Depot and distribute their Reinforcements to Units from the Divisional Wing.
4. 4th Aust. Divn. Nucleus personnel will move to the Divn Reinft Wing Camp and the shelters at present used by them will be returned to the Area Commandant, CORBIE, and the number returned reported to this office.

(Sgd) Keith Officer.
D. A. A. G.
Major.
D. A. A. G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX "E"

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
19.8.1918.

162/491.

Headquarters,
1st Aust. Division.
Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP.

The 1st Aust. Divn. Reinforcement Wing will move from PERNOIS to CORBIE on 21.8.18., on which date Reinforcement Railhead will change to CORBIE.
Area Commandant CORBIE will allot accommodation.

(Sgd) Keith Officer.
Major.
D. A. A. G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

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

APPENDIX "F"

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX 749

Headquarters,
19.8.1918.

162/490.

Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp.
H. Qrs 1st Aust. Division.

1. 5th Aust. Divn. Reinforcement Wing will move from PERNOIS to CORBIE on 22-8-1918 on which date Reinforcement Railhead will change to CORBIE.
2. Area Commandant, CORBIE, will allot the necessary accommodation.
3. At a later date, 5th Aust. Divn. Nucleus will move from BOIS DE MAI to Divisional Reinforcement Wing.

(Sgd) Keith Officer.
Major.
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

APPENDIX "G"

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
21.8.1918.

162/493.

H. Qrs 2nd Aust. Division.
Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp.

2nd Aust. Divn. Reinforcement Wing will move from PERNOIS to CORBIE on 23-8-1918 on which date Reinforcement Railhead will change to CORBIE. The Commandant, Corps Reinforcement Camp C/- Area Commandant, will allot the necessary accommodation.

(Sgd) Keith Officer.
Major.
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.



Translation of original.

APPENDIX APPENDIX **H**

373 The undersigned Maire de Berteaucourt les Dames, hereby certify that the AUSTRALIAN troops billeted in his Commune from April to August 1918, have never given rise to a complaint to be made against them. Also that the intercourse of the Officers with the civilian authorities were always of the best, and the same existed with the civilian population. The departure of the troops were far from being a relief to the population, as they had quickly earned the sympathy and the full confidence of all the inhabitants.

BERTEAUCOURT les DAMES
August 21st.1918.

(Sgd) Le Maire, ? ? ? Unreadable

Translation of Original.

The Maire of the Commune de Pernois hereby certify that during their stay in the Commune, the Australian troops have caused no complaint against them from the civilian population, with whom they had satisfactory intercourse leaving when they left the best impression.

PERNOIS
August 22nd.1918.

(Sgd) Le Maire ??? Unreadable

Translation of Original.

The Member of Parliament and Mayor hereby certify that during their stay in the Commune, viz for four months, the Australian troops have given rise to no complaint, and that their relations with the civilian population were friendly.

I must say that the care taken by the Officers for the welfare of the men and their friendly intercourse with the civilian authorities, had much to do to create a state of things we can justly congratulate all of us to have seen brought about.

I beg also to say that the practical way matters were handled by the French Interpreter was very useful, and that he proved himself a very useful and resourceful intermediary between the parties concerned.

ST LEGER les DOMART
August 21st.1918.

(Sgd) Le Depute Maire
GOVELET.



373

Headquarters,
19-8-1918.

162/488.

Headquarters,
 1st Aust. Division.
 2nd " "
 3rd " "
 4th " "
 5th " "
 32nd Division.

REINFORCEMENTS - DETAILS - and NUCLEUS PERSONNEL.

1. During the recent operations there has been a tendency for Divisions to leave personnel, such as details, rear echelons, nucleus personnel and etc, scattered in various portions of the rear areas.
2. This is an undesirable practice as it complicates quartering when moves are on.
3. It is realised that this state of affairs was to some extent due to the lack of any recognised area in which such details could be collected.
4. To remove the cause, the CORBIE Area is being set aside as an Area for Reinforcement Camp, nucleus personnel, and other details. Without special authority, no details will be left by Divisions outside their areas, except in their Divisional detail area.
5. The Artillery Depot and 32nd Divisional Wing have already been established in CORBIE, 3rd Aust. Divn. Wing moves there on the 20th, 4th Aust Divn. Wing on 21st, and the remaining Divisional Wings will move before the end of this week.

(sgd) R.A. Carruthers.

Brigadier-General.
 D. A. & Q. M. G.
 AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Copy to:-

Area Commandant, CORBIE.
 Corps Reinforcement Camp.
 "G"

