

**AWM4**

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

Miscellaneous (North Russia, Hobart, and groups  
returning in 1919)

**Item number:** 34/4/1

**Title:** Quota 53

May - June 1919



AWM4-34/4/1

*Original*

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHARLEROI.	14.6.19.	5	<p>No. 53 Quota is composed as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 Officers 296 O.R's. 5th Divisional Artillery,</li> <li>2 Officers. 17 O.R's. 5th A.A.O.C.</li> <li>3 Officers. 21 O.R's. 5th <del>XXXXXX</del> M.G. Battalion.</li> <li>2 Officers. 111 O.R's. 5th Pioneers.</li> <li>17 Officers. 271 Other Ranks. 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.</li> <li>2 Other Ranks. 5th Salvage Company.</li> <li>1 Officer 11 Other Ranks. 8th Field Company.</li> <li>3 Officers 174 Other Ranks. 5th Divisional Train.</li> <li>7 Other Ranks. 5th D.A.P.M.</li> <li>12 Other Ranks. 1st A.V.E.S</li> <li>1 Officer 5 Other Ranks. 5th Divisional Signals.</li> <li>1 Officer. 21 Other Ranks. A.D.M S.</li> </ul> <p>Personnel were assembling throughout the day at Corps Reinforcement Wing CHARLEROI. The above details of the quota were not available during the day and administration was consequently difficult. This matter was also handicapped by an inspection and review by the Corps Commander of the remaining personnel of the Corps, which was held at CHATELET. and attended by most of the Quota. The above details with the exception of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and the 5th A.A.S.C. assembled during the day.</p> <p>Hot Sunny day.</p>	
En.Route.	15.6.19.		<p>Another sunny day. The quota parade completed at 7.15.a.m. outside CHARLEROI Railway Station detail as per Appendix 1. The train was late in pulling into the station, not arriving until 9.15.a.m. The Corps commander and Brigadier General Martin saw the quota off. Quantities of Comforts were put on the train and were distributed throughout the trip. The train accommodation provided for 20 Officers and 25 Other Ranks per carriage. Train left at 10.5.a.m. considerable delays occurred and the train was 4 hours late up to midnight. Instructions received that a hot meal would be provided at MONS but this was not so and cooking had to be done in the kitchen attached to the train. Rations were plentiful.</p>	
En.Route.	16.6.19.		<p>Day again hot. Very rough journey. One man was bumped out of the train near HAVRE but was not injured. Sleeping was bad. Considerable delays occurred again to-day and the train became more overdue. Hot meals expected at MONTIGNY and ROMESCHAMP were not forthcoming.</p>	

(A9175) Wt W335/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/13.

*for C.O. 53 Quota Aon D*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
En.Route.	16.6.19.		This meant considerable disappointment, and it was impossible at such short notice to provide a hot meal on the train. A new engine and staff were put on at AMIENS and better time was made. Arrived at HAVRE (SEQUENCE) at 2155, being then 8 hours late. Detrained very quickly. The baggage was sent out by Motor lorry to the Camp and the personnel marched out to HARFLEUR arriving there about 2215. All ranks were comfortably housed at Australian Base reception Camp No. 3.	
Le Havre.	17.6.19.		Beautifully fine warm day. All ranks parade for bathing and delousing process and supplied with new clothing where necessary and equipment handed in. This camp is very comfortable, men are accomodated in tents, but these are quite good. At 6.30.p.m. the Quota moved to Australian Infantry Base Depot, quite close and all ranks now provided with hutment accomodation.	
Le Havre.	18.6.19.		Fine warm day. Men comfortable and well looked after. Rations except bread very good. All quota documents overhauled and checked. More clothing and necessities were issued. Major Prior transferred from Artillery Company to Command 'D' Company.	
Le Havre.	19.6.19.		Again fine and warm, though windy. Captain C.M. Chase, M.C. and Lieut. Cory with 2 Sergeants and 53 Other Ranks left with 51 Quota to go to WEYMOUTH as an Advance Party. Men still being fitted clothing and so on. Cricket matches were played between teams selected from the different Companies.	
Le.Havre.	20.6.19.		Warm and windy. Routine as above.	
Le.Havre.	21.6.19.		Bright day, warm and windy. Orders for departure to WEYMOUTH received. Routine as above.	
Le Havre.	22.6.19.		Warm day and very windy, slight rain. Quota left camp at 4.p.m. in 34 motor lorries direct to S.S. St. George at the quay. Commenced at 4.50.p.m. to embark. Only one gangway was provided but despite this, embarkation was completed by 5.10.p.m. Arrived and anchored off Southampton at 11.30.p.m.	
Southampton.	23.6.19.		Hot day. Arrived at wharf at 8.30.a.m. Disembarked at 9.a.m. Arrangements for receiving troops very good. Personnel were all supplied with biscuits, bread, cheese cake and tea. They were also supplied with lunch for the train journey. Quota departed in 2 trains for WEYMOUTH leaving at 10.25.a.m. and 11.15.a.m. arriving at 1.p.m. and 1.45.p.m. Marched to	

(A9475) Wt W235/P369 650,001 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

*Handwritten:* All baggage done for C.O. 53 Quota Aon

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Southampton.	23.6.19.		WYKE REGIS Camp, a distance of about 2 miles. Administrative matters carried out during the afternoon and personnel allotted to huts.	
Wyke Regis.	24.6.19		Beautifully fine day. All ranks inoculated against influenza and medically inspected. A further overhauling of documents was made. No. 41 Quota is also at this Camp. Lieut-Colonel C. Dais, Imperial Forces late Brig-General 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, at a parade explained the conditions under which men of the A.I.F. could join the Russian expeditionary Force. Twenty one N.C.O's and men volunteered and were accepted all at the rank of private. These men were enrolled as Royal Fusiliers. Routine as above.	
Wyke Regis.	25.6.19.		Fine weather continues. Medical examination, inoculation and re-fitting still being carried out. The camp and area are well situated, and the men's messing arrangements good. At 4.45.p.m. Major-General Rosenthal addressed the quota speaking for forty minutes.	
Wyke Regis.	26.5.19.		Fine warm day. Re-fitting and so on continued. Routine as usual.	
Wyke Regis.	27.5.19.		Cold and windy. Many applications for Non-military employment, marriage leave, and so on have been received. Routine as usual.	
Wyke Regis.	28.5.19.		Warm day. Majority of quota proceeded on 14 days pre-embarkation leave. Lieut. F.Fanning remained and performed the duties of the Adjutant, and also the orderly Room staff who will receive their leave later.	
Wyke Regis.	29.5.19 till 11.6.19.		Quota mostly on leave until mid-night of 11th June 1919.	
Wyke Regis.	12.6.19.		Inoculation, checking of new documents and so on continues. Fine warm day.	
Wyke Regis.	13.5.19.		Quota with the exception of A.A.S.C. Personnel moved to WESTHAM Camp which is about 1 mile from WEYMOUTH. Day occupied in settling down. No. 47 Quota is also at this Camp.	
Westham.	14.6.19.		Fine warm day. Routine as previously described.	

(Ag 175) W1 W235/P2360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C:1118/15.

*W. L. Luff Major  
for C.O. 23 Quota Aom D*

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Westham.	15.6.19.		<p>Fine day. Quota re-organised into Companies by States., under orders from No. 5 Aust. Group Headquarters, as under:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">                     'A' &amp; 'B' Companies. - 2nd Military District.                      'C' Company. - 3rd Military District.                      'D' Company. - Other Australian Districts.                 </p> <p>This required most personnel to be moved into newhuts, consequently causing much inconvenience in administration.</p>	
Westham.	16.6.19.		<p>Fine warm day. Quota settling down. Western Australian personnel departed from the Quota to embark on another ship.</p>	
Westham.	17.6.19.		<p>Beautiful warm day. Total strength of quota is now only about 620. An inlying picquet of 50 men were detailed for duty is required. These were not required. Large fatigue parties have to be supplied for duties at various surrounding camps. The two quotas 47 and 53, take alternate days on duty, and it is found that this quota is unable to supply all the duties required. Quarters are very comfortable. Rations are good with the exception of tea and sugar.</p>	
Westham.	18.6.19.		<p>It was found necessary to parade the quota at 10.a.m. for checking of rolls and so on. Nice fine day. Routine as above.</p>	
Westham.	19.6.19.		<p>Cold and windy. Many applications for special leave and so on continue to arrive. A picquet of 50 was again detailed but was not required. Volunteers for a band being found instruments were provided from the Camp and the men are practising twice daily.</p>	
Westham.	20.6.19.		<p>Cold day with considerable rain, which continued all day. Routine as above.</p>	
Westham.	21.6.19.		<p>Beautifully fine day, a little windy. Routine as usual.</p>	
Westham.	22.6.19.		<p>Cold windy and showery. A claim from £13.0.0d. received from WYKE REGIS Camp for damages alleged to have been made by this Quota. This was disputed and a Court of Enquiry asked for. A Jazz Band and an Orchestra have also been established. They, with the band, are improving.</p>	
Westham.	23.6.19.		<p>Cold and windy. Routine as above.</p>	

(Ag475) Wt W235/P360 600,001 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

*W. G. Laffin*  
for 50.53 Quota Aon D

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Westham.	24.6.19.		Again cold and windy. Many applications for leave and so on still continue to arrive. Volunteers called for and 6 men responded, to form a concert party for the quota. Routine as usual. Fatigues continuing.	
Westham.	25.6.19.		Rain most of the day. weather cold. Considerable amount of clerical work is required. Strength of quota being increased by additions of small drafts of men and hut accomodation becoming crowded.	
Westham.	26.6.19.		Fine cool day. Routine as above.	
Westham.	27.6.19.		Cold day with a fair amount of wind. No change in routine. Verbal information that quota will embark a few days after 47 quota which embarks on 7th July.	
Westham.	28.6.19.		Windy changeable day. Boat roll prepared at very short notice.	
Westham	29.6.19.		Again very windy. Voluntary Church parades held.	
Westham.	30.6.19.		Dull day. Routine as above. Rations have continued to be good except tea and sugar, which does not appear to be sufficient. Discipline of the quota although it is composed of so many different units, is good. All arrangements prior to <del>ARRANGEMENTS</del> embarkation are being pushed on with. General health has been good except with 3 cases of measles having occurred in different huts. The occupants have been isolated and these N.C.O's and men (about 80) will not be permitted to embark with the quota. The band and orchestra are improving and concert party organised.	

*W. Galliffobaja*  
for C.O. 53 Quota  
AonD

6  
 Appen Dix I

Routine Order No. 1.

- by -

Lieut-Colonel H.O.Caddy., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding.

CHARLEROI.

14th May 1919.

1. No. 53 Quota will be organised into four Units and Quota Headquarters as follows:-

QUOTA HEADQUARTERS. - Commanding Officer. Lieut-Col.H.O.Caddy.,  
 C.M.G., D.S.O.  
 2nd in Command. Major V.H.Gatliff,D.S.O.  
 Adjutant. Capt. A.G.Mann.  
 Asst. Adjutant. Lieut. A.T.Grogan,M.S.M.  
 Quartermaster. Capt. G.H.Miller, M.C.  
 Medical Officer. Capt. F.R.Meagher.  
 Education Officer. Lieut. C. Cameron.  
 Education Officer. Lieut. H.B.Linton-Smith.  
 Chaplain. Rev.Capt. M.McQueen.  
 Quota R.S.M. W.O. C.S.Jamieson, M.M.  
 Quota Q.M.S. A/Q.M.S. Kerr, J.R?  
 and 9 Other Ranks - 5th Divisional Artillery.  
 Total - 9 Officers 2 W.Officers. and 9 Other Ranks.

5th Divisional Artillery

Battery.

Officer Commanding.

Major. H.L.Hely.  
 Major. H.K.Prior.  
 Capt. C.M.Chase, M.C.  
 Lieut. A.B.Ellis, M.C.  
 Lieut. F.Fanning.  
 Lieut. G.H.Cooper.  
 Lieut. E. Christensen.  
 2/Lieut. A.R.V.Stafford,  
 M.M.  
 2/Lieut. H.H.Saunders<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
 2/Lieut. E.L.Witts.  
 2/Lieut. H.E.Sefton.  
 2/Lieut. M.Moore.  
 2/Lieut. G.Bartholomew.  
 2/Lieut. A.E.Symons,  
 2/Lieut. G.L.Berry.

and 4 W.O's and Sergeants and 282 Other Ranks, - 5th Divisional Artillery.

Total - 15 Officers, 4 W.O's. & Sgts. 282 Other Ranks.

14th Infantry Brigade Company.

Officer Commanding.

Capt. W.V.Bewar M.C.  
 Capt. S.A.Bensen.  
 Lieut. G.A.Young.  
 Lieut. W.H.Kemlo.  
 Lieut. H. Miller.  
 Lieut. E.P.Kinsella.  
 Lieut. E. Bullock.  
 Lieut. W.L.Palmer.  
 Lieut. G. Steber.  
 Lieut. S. Parsons.  
 Lieut. H.L.Cory.  
 Lieut. Mathinson.  
 2/Lieut. F.W.Wiggins.  
 2/Lieut. E.R.Dawe.  
 2/Lieut. S.L.Court, M.M.  
 2/Lieut. J. Jones.

and 21 W.O's and Sgts and 252 Other Ranks -

Total - 16 Officers, 21 W.O's. & Sgts. and 252 Other Ranks.



'C' Company.

Officer Commanding.

Major W.T. Wilkinson, M.C.  
Capt. M.C. Welch.  
Lieut. W. Jackson, M.M.  
Lieut. H.S. Cleary.  
Lieut. G.N. Pockett.

and 12 W.O's and Sgts and 137 Other Ranks.

Total - 5 Officers 12 W.O's. & Sgts. and 137 Other Ranks.

'D' Company.

Officer Commanding.

Lieut. T.R. Collier, M.C.  
Lieut. A.H. Ellis.  
Lieut. E.C. Brown.  
Lieut. R.D. Ellins.  
Capt. R.M. Spence A.A.V.C.

and 10 W.O's and Sgts and 220 Other Ranks.

Total - 5 Officers, 10 W.O's and Sgts and 220 Other Ranks.

2. The quota will entrain from CHARLEROI by train departing at 9.a.m. on 15th May 1919, and will commence entraining at 8.a.m.

3. The quota will parade at CHARLEROI Railway Station at 7.15.a.m. on 15th instant, with all kit and baggage.

All units must be punctual as all rolls and documents must be checked before entraining.

4. When the allotment to trucks is made, O's. C. Units will place a Senior N.C.O. in charge of each truck.

5. Three guards will be appointed after entrainment - one at each end and a third at the centre of the train. These guards will be used to maintain discipline.

All ranks to be warned before they entrain that the following rules are to be strictly observed throughout the journey:-

(a) Men are to travel only in the trucks or compartments allotted to them, and are on no account, to ride on the buffer or roof of the train.

(b) No wine, beer, spirits, or other intoxicating liquors are to be taken on the train. Infringements of this order will be an offence, and the man concerned will be sent back to his unit for trial by F.G.C.M. and will forfeit his right for early return to Australia.

(c) If stoves and fuel are placed on the train, straw is not, on any account to be placed in the trucks. No N.C.O. or man will leave the vicinity of the truck in which he is travelling.

Officers will supervise the entrainment of the men and Unit Commanders will report to the Adjutant when this is completed.

The following Officers will be posted at each end of the train to ensure that strict discipline is maintained during the journey:-

Front end - One from Artillery Battery.

Rear end - One from 14th Brigade Company.

All baggage will be placed in charge of a suitable guard, who will be instructed that they are responsible for it, and must, on no account, leave it.

The quota will detrain at SEQUENCE TRIAGE.

All ranks are to be warned that any N.C.O. or man who may be A.W.L. will, in addition to any punishment as he may be awarded, will be returned to his unit or to 5th Divisional details remaining behind.

*V. B. Galiff*

Captain & Adjutant.  
5th Aust. Div. Emb. Quota No. 53.