

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

Cyclists

Item number: 12/3/1

Title: Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-12/3/1

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Australian Corps Cyclist Bn

FOR

January 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

H. Dawson Lieut & Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. E. Henderson Major

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.)

Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion

Sheet 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 36. B.I.C. 36.	11/1/18		<p>The Battalion in PALLISER CAMP. Strength Officers 16. Other ranks 305. Attached 2 A.S.C. Drivers, 3 A.M.C. Drivers, 1 Armourer, and 91 Cyclist Details. Total strength 16 Officers, 402 Other ranks. Cycles on charge 384. Distribution of personnel as follows:- 148 other ranks on detachment, doing duty with Corps and Divisional Signal Companies, A.P.M. and Salvage Companies, and on cable route.</p> <p>50 other ranks attending Schools of instruction.</p> <p>2 Officers 13 Other ranks on overseas and Pass Leave.</p> <p>1 Officer 23 Other ranks in Hospital.</p> <p>150 Other ranks Employed on R.E. Dump STEENWERCK under Supervision of Lieut. O.S. Symon. See Appendix Lieut Symon attached. (No. 1.)</p> <p>As and from January 1st 1918 the 18 ANZAC Corps will be known as "The Australian Corps" Authority D.A.G. A.T.F. A.I. Order no 1054 dated 4/1/18.</p> <p>The 18 ANZAC Cyclist Battalion will be known as Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion.</p> <p>Honours and Rewards no 1097 Lance Corporal Lincoln W.G. awarded "Meritorious Service Medal" Authority A.I. Order List 279 dated 1/1/18.</p>	

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.

Australian Corps Light Battalion

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 36, D.I.C. 3-6.	1/1/18.		Honours and Rewards, Contd., No 3731. Mr Ebbstein, J.E. mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 7/11/17, for distinguished and gallant service, and devotion to duty, during period February 26/1917 to midnight 20-21st September 1917. Authority A.I.F. List 279, dated 1/1/18.	
"	2/1/18		Weather Report. Strong north East wind. Bitterly Cold. JH	
"	2/1/18		All available men in camp engaged upon general improvement of camp.	
"	3/1/18.		Weather Report. Dull, raining at frequent intervals.	
"	3/1/18.		Observation Balloon directly overhead being held throughout the day.	
"	4/1/18.		Weather Report. Clear Light Easterly wind. JH	
"	7/1/18.		Transport which up to the present had remained at PEDAL CAMP was moved to ROBERTS line. Troat 28, 126, 38.4, under authority from Corps.	
"	8/1/18		Weather Report. Bitterly cold. Strong north winds. Heavy fall of snow. JH	
"	8/1/18		Advice received from D.A.G. A.I.F. that Australian personnel of 22nd Corps Light Battalion late 2nd A.N.Z.A.C. Light Battalion would be transferred to Australian Corps Light Battalion. Surplus personnel over and above Establishment plus 10 per cent, to be transferred to Artillery and Infantry units. JH	

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.)

Australian Corps Light Battalion
Sheet 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 36 B.1.C.3-6	8/1/18.		J.C.O. to be borne supplementary to establishment pending absorption. Cycles and transport to be handed to 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion. Copy of letter attached (see appendix no. 2)	
			A.D.O.S. Corps advised that he had authority from the D.A.G. to ask for applications for competent tradesmen of the following trades for employment in medium and light workshops of the Corps - Fitters, Turners, Blacksmiths, Riveters, Wheelers and Hammermen.	
"	12/1/18		Weather Report Dull, raining during day. Orders received from Corps to move transport from KORTEPYT Lines to NONGONG Lines. Sheet 36 B.9.C.8.1, a distance of approximately two miles.	
			Weather Report Dull day.	
"	13/1/18		Church Service held in the Evening by Corps Mounted Troops Chaplain. Weather Report Fine day, light wind, very mild.	
"	14/1/18		Weather Report Dull. Heavy fall of snow in morning.	
"	15/1/18		1 officer 2 other ranks marched out to G.H.O. Lewis Jun School for instruction.	
			Weather Report Very strong northerly winds and heavy rain. Light damage to camp.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion

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.)

Sheet 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET. B1.C.3.6	16-1-18		Personnel of 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion under 2nd Lieut. W. J. Ward, reported at 10 pm. and moved into ALDERSEY Camp. Sheet 36. B9 C 81.	
			Personnel of 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion, ^{distributed as follows.} transferred in. 1 officer 101 other ranks. On overseas leave 12 other ranks. On Paris leave 4 other ranks. In Hospital 1 officer (Lieut Reid. P.C.) and 6 O.Rs. Detached duties 1 officer (Lieut MacFarlan. A.C. who is remaining with 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion) and 11 other ranks.	
			Weather Report. Little better weather, roads in vicinity of camp under flood water.	A
	17/1/18		13th Australian Light Horse Regiment left the area for a period of cavalry training on the Somme.	A
			Weather Report. miserable weather, snow and rain at frequent intervals.	
	18/1/18		2nd Lieut Chapman, W. L. B. transferred to 17th Aust. Infantry Battalion.	
			Weather Report. Dull, very mild.	A
	19-1-18		Observation Balloon overhead, broke loose. Two occupants of the car descending by parachute. Balloon floated off in direction of line unchanged.	
			Weather Report. Clear Day, light wind.	A
	20-1-18		Capt Chapman, W. L. B. who is attached conducted service in the evening.	

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.)

Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion
Sheet 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 3.31.C.36.	20-1-18		weather report. Buce. Easterly wind.	S
"	21-1-18		7 applications for Employment in Corps workshops forwarded to A.D.O.S.	
			Capt. W Ross, M.C. and Lieut N.J. Thornton proceeded on overseas leave.	
			weather report. Clear and mild.	S
	24-1-18		19 applications for transfer (56 applications from Australian Corps Cyclist Bn)	
			and (23 from 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion forwarded to D.A.G. A.P.T.	
			5 O.Rs. sent to Corps, and Light mobile workshops for trial with a view	
			to transfer. weather report. fine clear day.	S
"	25-1-18		weather Report. Fine and clear. much aerial activity.	
"	31-1-18		Strength as at 31st January, 1918. Officers 19. Other ranks 305. attached	S
			3 AMC orderlies. 2 A.S.C. Drivers 1 Ammunition. 212 Cyclist Details. 10 Officers (Lieut. Maclean)	
			164 other ranks on detachment. 10 Officers 3 other ranks attending Schools of	
			instruction. 2 Officers 15 other ranks on English and Paris leave. 2 Officers	
			9 other ranks in Hospital. 150 other ranks still employed at	
			RE Dump STEENWERCK under supervision of Lieut O.S. Lyman	
			Report for month's work attached. See appendix No 1.	

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.)

Australian Corps Light Batta
Sheet 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 36. B.I.C. 36.	31-1-18		<p>A sports and Amusement Officer has been appointed to supervise. Footrace teams from the unit have met teams from other Corps troops units and the competition has been very keen.</p> <p>A recreation hut has been erected, and the Y.M.C.A. and Comforts Fund have assisted in supplying a library and various table games.</p> <p>During the month great improvements to camp were carried out by available personnel, such as duck wacks laid down, revettment of huts, levelling of ground in camp laying down good drainage system, the building of ovens in cookhouse, the building of new incinerator. Camp generally has been improved 100 per cent since unit marched in.</p> <p>The health of the men in camp has been satisfactory.</p> <p>Quartermaster's and Transport Officer's report for month attached. (H)</p>	
			<p><i>J. E. Hurdshaw</i> map. Commanding Australian Corps Light Batta</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION.

FOR

January, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Report on work at R.E. Dump
Steenwerck by Lieut. O.S. Symon
Officer in charge working parties. |
| 2. | Copy of communication received
from the D.A.G; A.I.F. regarding
transfer of A.I.F. personnel from
22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion to the
Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion |
| 3. | Quartermaster's report for month. |
| 4. | Transport Officers report for
month. |

317

Report on Cyclist Personnel working on AUSTRALIAN CORPS R.E. Dump
STEENWERCK during January 1918.

Continued work by "Yard Party" in receiving, making up, and sending out, a great quantity of Barbed Wire, Concrete, and other material necessary for defensive works being carried out in Front Line Area.

During the month the output of the Dump has trebled itself and we found that sections of 6 men and 1 N.C.O. were best suited and most easily handled in the heavy work of loading and lumping, and therefore we re-organised our parties, which formerly had averaged 10 to 12 men.

These sections work 7 days per week and in turn, each section has one clear days spell per week for bathing and washing.

During the month we have averaged 50 men per diem as the Yard Party.

The Sawmill Night Shifts (2 parties consisting of 20 O.R. each) were working full time for first half of month, then owing to deficiency in log supply, one party (increased by 4 axemen) were sent out on day work felling timber to keep mills supplied.

During the month the Battalion have also been supplying:-

- 3 Blacksmiths
- 9 Carpenters
- 2 Fitters
- 1 Engine driver
- 5 Checkers
- 4 Clerks
- 2 Plumbers
- 4 Storemen

All these men, of course, were chosen as tradesmen, and have done good work indeed.

Yard has been re-organised, materials classified, and tramways laid down during month, so that indents can now be fulfilled more promptly and with more economy of labor than was the case when we first took over the work there.

On the whole the health of the men has been excellent.

O. S. Lyman,

Officer in charge R. E. Dump. *Lieut.*
CYCLIST WORKING PARTY.

317

App No 2

APPENDIX 2

C O P Y

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters A.I.F. D.A.G., A.I.F.
Attd. Aust. Corps, 25/150.
6th January 1918.

Arrangements are being made for the A.I.F. personnel at present with 22nd Corps (late 2nd A.N.Z.A.C. Corps) Cyclist Battn. to be sent to the AUST. CORPS Cyclist Battalion. As soon as they arrive, action is to be taken to transfer men in excess of 330 Other Ranks, (which is the establishment of the AUST. CORPS Cyclist Battn. plus 10 per cent additional) from the whole of the A.I.F. Cyclists to Artillery or Infantry.

In the first instance, preference will be given to those who volunteer for transfer. Each man will be afforded the opportunity of stating to which unit of artillery or infantry he desires to be transferred. In the case of any excess non-commissioned officers, they will be retained supernumerary to establishment pending absorption and no further promotions will be made until all have been absorbed.

Please submit a schedule as soon as possible to this office showing the number of N.C.O's and men to be transferred to each unit in order that the O.C's concerned may be informed before the transfers are effected, and you will be advised as to where they are to be sent.

Any excess bicycles and equipment brought by personnel from 22nd Corps will be returned to Ordnance and receipts forwarded to A.D.O.S. AUST. CORPS. Proper receipts for bicycles and equipment at present on charge to the A.I.F. Personnel of the 22nd Corps Cyclist Battalion which are handed over to that Battalion should be obtained by the A.I.F. Officer in command, and forwarded to A.D.O.S. AUST. CORPS in order that the necessary financial adjustments can be made.

(Sgd.) T.H. Dodds, Colonel, D.A.G., A.I.F.

317

Appx No 3

APPENDIX. 3

10

AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION QUARTERMASTERS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1918.

RATIONS. During January rations have been normal except that, during the first fortnight, the proportion of bread was light.

Fresh meat averaged about a 45% issue.

Vegetables have been light but have been supplemented by local purchase from Regimental Funds.

ORDNANCE STORES. There is nothing unusual to report under this heading.

RETURNS. FAT:- 33 lbs. of "A" class fat were returned to supply.

Very little fat meat was received, and the cooks used a large proportion of fat saved, for making puddings.

UNSERVICEABLE CLOTHING. In most items 100% of unserviceable clothing was returned to O.O. Corps Troops.

PAPER AND CARDBOARD. 64 lbs. paper and 102 lbs. cardboard were collected and returned to R.O.O.

.....*F. Howard*.....Capt.
QUARTERMASTER.

317

AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION Actg. TRANSPORT OFFICERS
 REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1918.

PERSONNEL. 1 Corporal and 10 Drivers.

HORSES. 19.

VEHICLES. 1 Officers Mess Cart.
 1 Water Cart.
 2 Wagons G.S.
 6 Wagons Limbered.

DISTRIBUTION. 1 Water Cart. 1 Limbered Wagon at H.Q. (Palliser Camp)
 1 Officers Mess Cart. 2 Wagons G.S. 5 Wagons Limbered.
 at Nowgong Lines.

CONDITION OF TRANSPORT, EQUIPMENT, ETC.

HORSES. 1st class condition, all shod with frost shoes.
 No sickness during past month.

VEHICLES. Very good; just completed painting and general overhaul.

HARNESS. Good repair; leather supple and clean, and chains polished.

HORSE LINES. Well covered, cement and brick standings, supplemented
 by sawdust which is renewed every 3 days.

Rivetting for protection against bombing by hostile
 aircraft has been carried out.

FODDER. During past month has been sufficient.

MOVES DURING MONTH. Two moves, both of which were carried out in good
 order.

P. G. Bayliss.....Lieut.
 Actg. TRANSPORT OFFICER.