

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

Cyclists

**Item number:** 12/3/10

**Title:** Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-12/3/10

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~~DUPLICATE.~~  
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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*Australian Corps Cyclist Bn.*

FOR

*October, 1918*

AUSTRALIAN CORPS	
CYCLIST BATTN.	
No.	<i>21/352.</i>
Date.	<i>2/11/18.</i>

Signature of Officer compiling

*Robert Lieut. & Adj.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*A. B. [unclear] Major*

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 Cyclist Battalion

(Erase heading not required.)

- Sheet - 1 -

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map Ref Sheet 620 O.24.a.5.5	1.10.18		<p>Battalion in bivouacs at LE MESNIL. Aust Corps mounted Troops HQ 5 LE MESNIL. Battalion strength:- officers, 15. O.Rs. 392. Attached:- 1 ASC driver 1 Announcer, 3 Amc cranes. Personnel distributed as follows:- On detachments, 8 off, 258 ORs. On leave, 1 off, 51 ORs. Attending schools of instruction, 6 ORs. In hospital:- 1 OR. In camp. 6 off, 81 ORs. 15 ORs standing to for duty with a P.M. corps</p>	AGI
"	2.10.18		<p>Training:- Rifle exercises Weather report:- Fine. Training - Troop drill Weather report:- Fine: frost.</p>	AGI
"	3.10.18		<p>27 ORs rejoined from detachment to a P.M. 5th Aust Div. 8 ORs marched out to Aust Corps School for courses as follows:- 2 ORs Lewis gun. 2 ORs, Intelligence, 2 ORs, Bombing 1 OR. PT &amp; BF 1 OR. Locking. 1 OR proceeded to 4th Army Musketry School, for course of instruction Training:- Route march, dismounted. Weather report:- Fine</p>	AGI
"	4.10.18		<p>Training:- Squadron drill Weather report:- Fine.</p>	AGI

AUSTRALIAN CORPS

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY *Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion*

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*Sheet 2*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Map Ref. Sheet 62C O. 24a. 55.</i>	<i>5/10/18</i>		<i>Major G. Steinhilber and 3 ORs proceeded to AUSTRALIA on 6 months furloughs. Capt G. Harrison assumed temporary command of Battalion. 1 OR marched out to Aust Corps School for Infantry course. Training: - Ceremonial - guards and sentries. Weather report: - Fine.</i>	<i>AGI</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>6/10/18</i>		<i>Preparation for march.</i>	<i>AGI</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>7/10/18</i>		<i>Battalion moved from LE MESNIL area to MORCOURT area (Sheet 62D Q 16a 8.2) route taken being via BRIE, VILLERS-CARBONNELL, ESTREES and PROYART, distance approx 30 kilo. Dismounted personnel from 18<sup>th</sup> A.C.H. (32 ORs) moved with Battalion. Weather report: - Dull, windy day, rain at night.</i>	<i>AGI</i>
<i>Sheet 62D Q 16a 8.2</i>	<i>8/10/18</i>		<i>Battalion moved from MORCOURT to LONGPRE' (Sheet 62E L. 21 C 4.3) Route was via HAMEL, HAMELET, FOUILLOY, CORBIE, PONT NOYELLES, ALLONVILLE, POULHINVILLE. Distance approx 27 kilo. Rested at ALLONVILLE for midday meal. Weather report: - Showery.</i>	<i>AGI</i>
<i>Sheet 62E L 21 C 4-3</i>	<i>9/10/18</i>		<i>Lieut G. White rejoined from PARIS leave Training: - cleaning and overhauling of cycles. Weather report: - Fine.</i>	<i>AGI</i>

AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. *Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion*  
*Sheet 3*  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map Ref Sheet 62E L 21C 4-3	10.10.18		Fixing up tents, cleaning of arms and equipment Weather report:- Dull.	ASA
"	11.10.18		Training:- Rifle exercises Weather report:- Showers	ASA
"	12.10.18		Training:- Troop drill. Weather report:- wet.	ASA
"	13.10.18		C of Coy, Church Parade held during morning Weather report:- Showers.	ASA
"	14.10.18		Training. Squadron drill Weather report:- Showers.	ASA
"	15.10.18		Capt J. J. Scouler and party of 6 ORs rejoined from detachment (Area Commandant. PERONNE) Training:- Cyclist Training manual, secs 1-27. Weather report:- Fine.	ASA
"	16.10.18		Checking of shortages, cleaning ammunition Weather report:- Fine.	ASA
"	17.10.18		Major R. F. Fitzg. Gerald D.S.O., taken on strength from 51 <sup>st</sup> Battalion A.I.F. and took command of Battalion. Training:- Cyclist Training manual secs 27-38. Weather report:- Fine.	ASA R.F.G.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
CYCLIST BATTN.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

*Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion*  
*Sheet 4.*

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map Ref Sheet 62 E L 21. C. 4. 3	18 10 18		<p>Inspection parade by CO. Lieut Mc Dawson proceeded on leave to UK. 1 OR reported accidentally drowned. Educational Scheme started. Training: Squad and company drill. Weather report: - Fine.</p>	AGI
"	19 10 18		<p>Route march on cycles. Weather report: - Showery.</p>	AGI
"	20 10 18		<p>Lieut G. Harrison proceeded on leave to UK. Weather report: - Showery.</p>	AGI
"	21 10 18		<p>Training - Lewis Gun, general description. Musketry as per syllabus. Weather report: - 3 mi</p>	AGI
"	22 10 18		<p>First meeting of Agricultural Bureau. Lieut J. G. Butler gave a lecture on "Agriculture in AUSTRALIA after the War." Training: Lewis Gun, "general description", "musketry as per syllabus". Lieut W. G. Ward acting as Lewis Gun officer. Lieut G. Gower acting as musketry officer. Weather report: - Fine</p>	AGI
"	23 10 18		<p>Training: Lewis Gun, "mechanism and stripping". Musketry, "aiming, loading and firing". An Aust Rules Football team defeated 13<sup>th</sup> A. L. R. by 8 points.</p>	AGI

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
CYCLIST BATTALION

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
map Ref Sheet 62 E L 21 C 43	24 10 18		9.0 AM proceeded to Aust Corps School for courses as under 3, to PT & BF course 4, to Lewis gun course, 2, to Bombing course. Training: - Lewis gun "Backward movement", musketry as per syllabus. Weather report: Fine.	AGI
"	25 10 18		Battalion paraded for hot baths and change of clothing at HILLY-SUR-SOMME. Lieut PR Wilson rejoined from leave to ITALY. An Aust football team defeated MONTIERES Gas School team by 100 to nil. Weather: Fine.	AGI
"	26 10 18		Capt G S Scouler proceeded on leave to V. K. Lieut G Gower proceeded on leave to PARIS. Training: - Inspection of anti-gas appliances. Gas drill. Practice of Aust Rules, Rugby, and Soccer football.	AGI
"	27 10 18		Lieut PR Wilson proceeded to ENGLAND for training as Pilot in Aust Flying Corps. R.C. Church Parade held during the morning. Weather report: Showery.	AGI
"	28 10 18		Training: Lewis gun "Stoppages", musketry as per syllabus. Practice in Aust Rules, Rugby, and Soccer Football, also hockey.	AGI
"	29 10 18		Training: Lewis gun, "Target practice", musketry as per syllabus. Practice in football. Educational Bureau. Lecture by Capt F L McDougall on, "Fruit growing in irrigation areas in AUSTRALIA" Weather report: Fine.	AGI

AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
CYCLIST BATTN.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. *Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion*

(Erase heading not required.)

*Sheet 6.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map Ref Sheet 62E L. 21 C. 43.	30 10 18		HQ and H. Coy moved to new billets in BERTRICOURT. Training:- Lewis gun Range Practice. Musketry as per syllabus. Football practices.	LCA
	31 10 18		<p>Training commenced at 9 am. L. G. Range practice. Musketry, mutual instruction. Pay distributed at 11.30 am.</p> <p>Football matches - Aust Rules. won by 85 pts to 31, against the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer at HILLY-SUR-SOMME. Rugby to 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer by 23 to nil at LONGPRE</p> <p>Battalion strength as at 31. 10. 18 - officers 14 ORs 383. Attached 1 ASC driver</p> <p>1. Ammunition, 3 armc ordances. Total strength. 14 officers. 388 ORs</p> <p>Personnel distributed as follows:- Detached 1 off 8 ORs. At schools 11 ORs On leave 4 off 57 ORs. In hospital 10. ORs Absentee. 1 OR. In camp 9 off 223 ORs</p> <p>Summary. The general health of the unit is good, the proportion of influenza compared with other units being remarkably light. 8 men on leave have been admitted to hospital.</p> <p>Considerable progress has been made in the Lewis gun training. every man undergoing a preliminary course before going on the range. - men keenly interested in the work. Lieut W. J. Ward is in charge of the classes. A class of selected NCOs to act subsequently as instructors in musketry has been in progress for several days under Lieut J. J. Gower and subsequently Lieut J. J. White</p>	LCA

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion  
Sheet 7

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map Ref Sheet 6 NE L 21. C 4. 3	31 10 18		<p><u>Summary Contd</u> - Good progress has been made. The keenest interest is being taken in the Education Scheme, under Capt F. L. McElroy. All the men have been interviewed and divided into classes and a start made on Bookkeeping, and lectures, and discussions held twice weekly on Agriculture and Stock raising.</p> <p>In sport, excellent progress has been made, and Australian Rules, Rugby, Soccer, and Hockey are practiced daily and matches with outside units are frequently played.</p> <p>A number of men have joined the mounted Troops Concert Party under Major Ladd R.F.M.C., and are practicing hard.</p> <p>The Transport has been thoroughly overhauled, harness and waggon repaired where necessary and the condition of animals closely watched.</p> <p>A Battalion, wet and dry carters is running very satisfactorily. A Recreation Room has been arranged for also.</p> <p>The present hills are good, the villages of LONGPRAÉ and BERTRICOURT being dry and clean.</p> <p>The weather is fairly good for this time of the year.</p>	

H. H. Great Major

Commanding Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion

# WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION.

FOR

OCTOBER, 1918

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.                      |
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| 1.  | QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.       |
| 2.  | A/EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT. |

*[Handwritten signature]*

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APPENDIX, No.1.  

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION.  
QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1918.

There is nothing of material interest to report for this month.

The reduced scale of rations which came into force during September has caused some difficulty since the Battalion concentrated, but except in two instances of fresh meat and sugar, rations are adequate.

It is not found possible to provide porridge daily without recourse to purchase of sweetened milk from Regimental Funds.

The reduced fresh meat ration has caused the fat return to fall to nil for the month, all fat being used by the cooks in preparation of dishes for the men.

The return of u/s clothing was normal.

.....*F. McDougall*.....Hon. Capt.,  
Quartermaster,

AUSTRALIAN CORPS Cyclist Battalion.

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APPENDIX No. 2.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS CYCLIST BATTALION.  
REPORT ON EDUCATION SCHEME FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1918.

During October a start has been made on the Education Scheme. As a first step all men who desired to avail themselves in any way of the scheme were interviewed and an Educational nominal roll compiled.

Out of the 260 men at present with the unit 167 enrolled themselves for education in various branches.

Pending the commencement of the A.I.F. Educational Scheme several classes have already been started and an Agricultural Bureau on the model of thoses run **in**om South Australia has been formed in conjunction with th 13th A.I.H. Regt.

At the latter short papers are read followed by discussion and the men show remarkable keenness on the subjects.

Bookkeeping classes have been already formed and it is hoped to start classes in arithmetic, English and French as soon as text-books are available.

..... *F. H. Dwyer* ..... Hon. Capt.,  
A/Education Officer,  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS Cyclist Battalion.

*Regt.*