

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/78/33

Title: 5th Australian Divisional Ammunition
Column

February 1919



AWM4-13/78/33

246

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

Robert Lint

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. W. Wallis Major

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1st/28th February 1919.

(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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SEMERIES.	1st.		<p>Snowing. Cold wind blowing. Roads very difficult for transport. 56th Battalion Band playing in the village every afternoon and evening.</p> <p>Casualties etc., for week ending 1/2/19:- 2 O/Rks. evacuated to Hospital sick. Capt. H. Goldsmith marched out to report to A.I.F.H.Q. London. 3 O/Rks. retaken on strength ex Hospital & A.G.B.D. Strength. 14 Off. 438 O/Rks. 61 Horses. 592 Mules. Reinforcements. NIL.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	2nd.		<p>Still snowing at intervals. Roads very difficult for transport. Recreation Room well attended. Games and Reading matter available.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	3rd.		<p>Clear cold morning. Usual routine work.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	4th.		<p>Cold. 23 O/Rks. proceeded to United Kingdom for return to Australia. 2 G.S. Wagons detailed to convey Band from 58th Battalion to SEMERIES.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	5th.		<p>Heavy fall of snow during the night. Bright clear morning. Usual routine work. Big issue of Educational Material arrived. 2/Lieuts. A.R.V. Stafford, H.H. Saunders and A.A. Treleaven taken on str. ex R.A. Cadet Schl.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	6th.		<p>Heavy fall of snow during night. Snow plough at work this morning on roads around village. Foden Disinfector attached for duty to disinfect blankets, clothing etc., Bright afternoon; usual routine work carried out by sections.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	7th.		<p>Cold morning. Usual routine work.</p>	<p>8</p>
do.	8th.		<p>Capt. J.H. Coppock (Horsemaster attached from Imp. Army) proceeded to U.K. for demobilization. Clear cold day, usual routine work carried out by sections. Casualties etc., for week ending 8/2/19:- 5 O/Rks. evacuated to Hospital sick. Lieut. N.C. Parry and 4 O/Rks. marched out to report to</p>	<p>8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>				

WAR DIARY



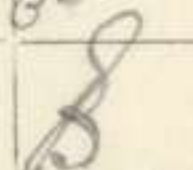
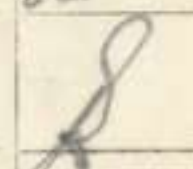
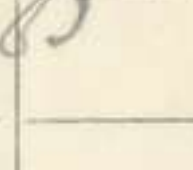

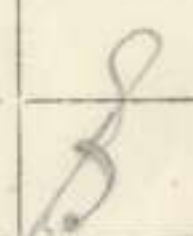
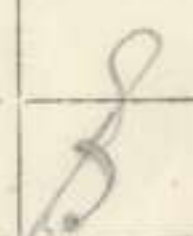
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SEMERIES.	8th.		Department of Demobilization and Repatriation, London. 2/Lieut. A. T. Grogan transferred to 13th Aust. F.A. Bde. 1 O/Rk. transferred to No. 3. Australian Motor Transport Co. 7 O/Rks. retaken on strength ex Hospital & A. G. B. D. Reinforcements NIL. Strength. 15 Officers, 412 O/Rks. 52 Horses, 531 Mules.	
do.	9th.		Cold and Fine. Church Service held in the MAIRIE SAINS.	
do.	10th.		Cold. Fine day. Vet. Board ^{maling} stabilizing animals in Column. Capt. B. R. Law proceeded to United Kingdom for demobilization.	
do.	11th.		Bright sunny morning. Animals malinged by Vet. Board. Boxing contest held at SAINS. Good attendance. Keen contest.	
do.	12th.		Capt. E. A. Woodward, M.C. reported back to 8th Field Ambulance.	
do.	13th.		Cold and dull. Usual work in Sections.	
do.	14th.		Quiet day. Cold.	
do.	15th.		Thawing. Roads getting very bad. Thaw precautions adopted from 0900.	
do.			Casualties etc., for week ending 15/2/19:- 12 O/Rks. struck off strength on evacuation to Hospital. 2 O/Rks. struck off strength on marching out to report to A. I. F. H. Q. London. 1 O/Rk. taken on strength on transfer from 14th Aust. F. A. Bde. 1 O/Rk. retaken on strength ex Hospital & A. G. B. D. Strength. 14 Off. 400 O/Rks. 51 Horses. 531 Mules.	
do.	16th.		Wet morning. 32 animals sent to SAINS for auction. Capt. R. Barnett in charge.	
				P.T.O.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SEMERIES.	17th.		Mild day. Snowing during afternoon. 50 Infantry O/Rks. attached from 15th Inf. Bde. Commanding Officer proceeded to PARIS on duty.	[Handwritten initials]
do.	18th.		Cold unsettled weather. Sections busy cleaning and packing harness.	
do.	19th.		Wet morning. Usual routine work.	
do.	20th.		Dull day. 8 "Z" class animals sent to SOLRE LE CHATEAU for sale. 2/Lieut. Sanders in charge.	
do.	21st.		Boxed ammunition carted to Dump. Trench Mortar Personnel proceeded to Railhead to hand in guns and stores.	
do.	22nd.		Showery morning. Lieut. Hebblethwaite reported back from trip to BRUSSELS. 2/Lieut. E. L. Witte, F. H. B. Ayers and W. S. Thew marched in from Base and R. A. Cadet School, England. Sections busy checking and packing stores.	
do.	23rd.		Dull day. Official photographer photographed column. Hon W. M. Hughes addressed the troops at SOLRE LE CHATEAU.	
do.	24th.		Overcast weather. Sections packing and checking stores. Trench Mortar Brigade now attached to unit. General Birdwood addressed Brigade Commanders at 5th D. A. H. Q. C. O. attended. Casualties etc., for week ending 22/2/19. 5 O/Rks. evacuated to Hospital sick. 3/ O/Rks. struck off strength on marching out to report to A. I. F. H. Q. London. 2/Lieut. F. H. B. Ayers transferred to 13th Aust. F. A. Bde. 2/Lieut. W. S. Thew " " 14th " " Strength. 15 Officers 392 O/Rks. 51 Hrses. 520 Mules. Reinforcements NIL.	
do.	25th.		Fine day. Usual work in Sections. P. T. O.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (A783) Wt. W80/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms C/2118/4

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1st/28th Febr'y. 1919.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SEMERIES.	26th.		Unsettled day. Divisional Artillery Dinner held at SAINS; big attendance of Officers, very pleasant evening. C.O. unable to attend owing to sickness.	
do.	27th.		Showery all day. Usual routine work in Sections.	
do.	28th.		Dull cold morning. No. 1. Section marched out to D.A.D.O.S. Canteen goods available for Column.	
<u>COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.</u>				
<p>The work during February has been particularly heavy all round. The Column is considerably under strength in personnel and up to Establishment in animals. During the month several sales of animals were held. This unit disposed of 10 Mules. The boxed ammunition was carted to Dump at DONGINE. Unboxed ammunition stores in local Dump at SEMERIES. The above duties entailed much hard work on all ranks, and 50 O/Rks. from Infantry were attached for assistance.</p>				
<p><u>HEALTH.</u> Taking into consideration the severe weather experienced during the month the health of troops has been good. A few cases of Influenza were reported and precautions were at once adopted to overcome the epidemic. Special attention has been given to bathing and clean clothing parades, and evacuations from unit have been few, the majority of evacuations have been men on leave in U.K.</p>				
<p><u>EDUCATION.</u> Owing to work of column classes have suffered considerably. Great interest is always taken in lectures etc., and it is hoped to renew all subjects in the new area.</p>				
<p><u>SPORT.</u> During spare time Sports claimed many followers, Football, boxing etc., being indulged in. Concert Party gave several shows in SAINS, large numbers of men from this unit visited same.</p>				
<p>DANCES are held weekly in village, and all present appear to be having a very enjoyable time.</p>				
<p><u>P.T.O.</u></p>				

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT</u> (Continued)</p> <p><u>DEMOBILIZATION</u> has been delayed owing to strike in United Kingdom. This delay, it is anticipated, will be overcome by increased shipping in future.</p> <p>Nos. 1 & 2 Sections have almost completed handing in equipment, and all animals are to be cleared by March 31st. The Column marches to new area on the 10th inst., and embarkation quota No.21, consisting of 150 O/Rks. marches out on 20th idem.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W. J. Davis</i> MAJOR, C.O. 5th D. A. COLUMN.</p>	