

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/23/38

Title: 6th Infantry Battalion

January 1919



AWM4-23/23/38

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

6th. BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

JANUARY

191.

Signature of Officer compiling

B. G. Connelly

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. R. Baughley
Ty. Co 6th Bn.

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUILLET	Jany. 1st.	1200	New Year's Day. A General Holiday. Companies had dinner very similar to that of Christmas Day, including the Beer & Rum Punch. In the evening Officers of Battalion gave a dinner to the Burgomaster and members of the Town Council. Capt. Cockburn A.A.M.C. replied to the Burgomaster's Speech. "A" Company held dance in the Marie. Official Photographer took photos of Officers, Sergts, and companies during the day.	
	2nd.	0900	Battalion paraded and marched to Parade Ground. Training as per syllabus. Sergeants held a dance in the Marie. Lieut. DUNN returned from U.K. Leave.	APP I
	3rd.		Companies parading in billets. Capt. M. ABSON & Lieut DONNELLY returned from U.K. Leave.	"
	4th.		Morning training as per syllabus. Fine day. Afternoon Foot-ball. In evening four Motor Lorries took party from the Battalion to see the Div. Concert Party "The Sentimental Blokes" at CHATELET. Officers held a dance in their Mess. Lieut. CRAWFORD joined Battalion from Base.	"
	5th.		Fine day. Church parade in Y.M.C.A. Cinema Hall - 6th Battalion and 7th Battalion combined Padre E. S. YEO conducting.	
	6th		Clear day but cold. Training as per syllabus. F.G.C.M. of Pte FAGAN Tried on three charges and found 'Not Guilty' on all. Case dismissed.	APP II
		1130	Sports Meeting held in Officers' Mess. Committees formed for the games to be taken up. Lieut. E.A.M. BURKE returned from U.K. Leave. Lieut. G. BULLER proceeded on U.K. Leave. Men due for inoculation in Battalion completed today.	
	7th.		Fine day. Foot-ball Match in the afternoon. "A" draft of 1915 men for AUSTRALIA selected, 26 O/Ranks.	
	8th.		Dull Day. Cold in the morning. Training as per syllabus. Officers and O/Ranks proceeding on BRUSSELS leave payed. (4400 francs drawn) AUSTRALIAN mail arrived, first for some time.	APP II
	9th.		Morning wet. Afternoon cleared up. Training in billets. 2 Officers and 30 o/ranks proceeded on BRUSSELS leave. Lieut. GOAD proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
	10th.		Light showers in morning. Fine in afternoon. Training as per syllabus. Stadium completed. Officer's Mess Guest Night. Guests:- Brig:-Gen. Jas. HEANE, Major MANN and Lieut. J. FOWLER, (Brigade Staff) Major WALL (late M.O. 6th. Bn) now A.D.M.S. Hon Capt. BROWN A.C.F. Major HILLARD 7th. Bn., Capt. FLUKE M.O. 7th. Bn. Boxing held in Stadium, Guests being present. 40 francs from Regimental Funds divided between the best two pairs exhibition.	APP II
11th.		Dry but cold day. Training:- Route March "A" Company bathed. In afternoon Foot-ball "A" Grade 6th. Battn. V. 5th. Battn. 5th. Battalion won. Battalion payed (21,000) francs drawn. BRUSSELS leave party returned.		

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COUILLET	Jan. 12th.	1130 1430	<p>Fine day. 6th. and 7th. Battalion held combined Church Parade in Y.M.C.A. Cinema hall, Padre YEO conducting.</p> <p>"A" Draft of 1915 men marched out to Div. Reinforcement Camp en route to AUSTRALIA.</p> <p>Afternoon;- Official reception of the 6th. and 7th. Battalions by the Burgomaster, Councillors, and residents of COUILLET, in the Place Communale.</p> <p>The children and various Trade Unions of the district marched past the Hotel de Ville followed by the 7th, and 6th. Battalions, the salute being taken by Brig;-General J. HEANE 2nd. Infantry Brigade from the steps. All Officers of both Battalions were then received in the Hotel de Ville by the Burgomaster and Councillors. Appropriate speeches were made by the Burgomaster and Brig;-General HEANE. After several toasts the whole party then adjourned to an adjacent hall for refreshments. In the evening dancing was carried on until midnight. Lieut. S. COOKING rejoined from Aust. Corps. School.</p>	
	13th.		Day dull and mild. Morning, Battalion to have bathed. Parade cancelled on account of washing machinery breaking down. Men employed on various fatigues. "A" Company held dance in "The Mairie", from 8 p.m. till midnight. Unfortunately a little overcrowded by civilians.	
	14th.		Dull day but dry. Remainder of companies bathed. Battalion reorganised into two companies. "D" Company being broken up. Captain M. ABSON in charge of No. 1 Coy., Capt. G. STOBIE in charge of No. 2 Company. Officers held an invitation dance in Mess.	
	15th.		Fine in morning rained in afternoon. Reorganisation of companies completed during morning. Afternoon 6th. Battalion played 7th. Battalion Football competition Soccer match. 7th. Battalion won by 3 goals to 1. Match greatly interfered with by rain. In evening Battalion held a very successful Concert and Dance in the Mairie, the Orchestra showing up particularly well. Lieut. J.S.P. STAFFORD and Lieut. H.C. CARNE returned from U.K. Leave.	
	16th.		Fine in morning. Light showers in the afternoon. Training as per syllabus. In afternoon 6th. Battalion played Brigade "B" Grade competition match. 6th. Battalion won by 3 goals to 1 goal & behinds. Transport classed by Vet.	APP III
	17th.		Raining on and off all day. Lieut. AUBREY looking after demobilization of Batt. Particulars taken of all ranks in the Batt. In the afternoon 6th. Batt. played Brigade Rugby. Lieut. ROUTSON returned from U.K. Leave. 2/Lieut. ROYLE joined Batt. from Base. C.O. dined at Brigade Headquarters.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUILLET	Jany. 18		<p>Wet all day. BRUSSELS leave men payed and proceeded on leave. Capt.M.ABSON and Capt.C.H.GOULD went with party (3100 Francs drawn). Competition Football postponed on account of rain. Guest night in Officers' Mess. Brig.Genl.BENNETT,G.O.C.3rd.Brigade (late C.O.6th.Batt) present also Officers from 7th. and 9th.Batts. Capt.G.STOBIE Pass (U.K.Leave arrived).</p>	
	19	9-30 11-30	<p>Church Parade in Y.M.C.A. Hut. Day dull but dry. 4 Officers 98 Other Ranks ("C"Draft) left for AUSTRALIA via Reinforcement Camp,CHARLEROI. Battalion left very weak. In evening Concert and Dance given by "Les Amis Du Progress" in the Hall "Place de Centre". Members of 6th. and 7th.Batts. attended. Capt.STOBIE, M.C., proceeded on U.K.Leave. Captain C.H.GOULD returned from BRUSSELS.</p>	
	20		<p>Cold Morning. Sunny at mid-day. No parade.C.O. inspected billets.Demobilization Officer taking particulars of remainder of Batt.In evening 2nd.Div. Concert Party entertained 6th.and 7th. Batts. in Howatts Hall. Show particularly good. Lieut.G.W.BULLER returned from U.K.Leave.</p>	
	21	0915	<p>Cold in morning. Day fine. Batt. paraded in Drill Order on Batt.Assembly Point. Officers held their weekly dance in the mess.The most successful one to date.</p>	
	22		<p>Nos. 1 and 2 Companies reorganised into one Company Capt.M.ABSON taking charge. Day fine but cold. Morning men employed on various fatigues. Afternoon 6th.Batt.played 8th.Batt.Australian Football. 8th.Batt. won easily. by 14 goals to 1 goal 4 behinds. Ground frozen and hard to play on. Lieut.Col. T.F.ULRICH returned from U.K.</p>	
	23		<p>Snow in morning. Cleared up in afternoon. Batt.employed on fatigues.</p>	
	24		<p>Very cold all day. Court Martial of Pte.E.CREE postponed owing to one witness failing to appear. Batt. employed as yesterday.</p>	
	25	0930	<p>Cold in morning. Batt. paraded and marched to Parade Ground for Recreational Training. Lieut. P.REUART,M.C. and 2/Lieut.D.EDNIE joined Batt. from Base. Lieut.CHRISTIAN M.C. proceeded on PARIS Leave. 6th.Batt.played Brigade Headquarters Australian Football on Brigade Ground. Brigade won by 12 goals to 2 goals. Despite the difference in the score game was good. Ground frozen hard and unpleasant to play on.</p>	
	26	0930 1300	<p>Snowing all the morning. Church Parade in Y.M.C.A.Hut. Batt. payed 15000 Francs Drawn. C.O.and Major attended conference at Brigade H.Qrs.LOVERVAL.</p>	

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COUILLET	Jany.			
	27	0930	Snow thawing making roads more or less unpleasant. Batt. doing Recreational Training on Batt. Parade Ground. BRUSSELS Leave men payed.	
		1900	C.O. held meeting of all Officers in Mess after lunch on Demobilization. C.O., Major, Capt. COCKBURN, Capt. CARNE, Lieut. J.W. WALKER and Lieut. PEARSON guests at 7th. Batt. Mess.	
	28		Day dull but cold. Training as per Syllabus. Lieut. GOAD returned from U.K. Leave. In evening Officers held usual weekly dance in Mess. Major CAUGHTY and Lieut. HARGREAVES guests at 5th. Batt. Mess. 2/Lieut. W.M. McNICOL joined Batt. from O.T.C. ENGLAND.	APP III
	29	1030	Day cold. Colonel ROSS lectured Battalion on "Stonewall Jackson". 72 Reinforcements joined Batt. Lieut. D.W. McLACHLAN proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
	30		Cold all day and much inclined to snow. Training as per Syllabus.	
	31		Cold day with occasional light falls of snow. Training as per Syllabus.	APP III
GENERAL REMARKS.				
<p>During the month the Battalion has gone through a number of changes owing to Demobilization Drafts marching out for AUSTRALIA. During this period it has been difficult to work each day according to Training Syllabus. The Education Syllabus too was slightly interfered with. Despite this the progress was satisfactory. After the arrival of the Reinforcements the Training Syllabus was able to be carried on with satisfact rily. A good deal of the mens time has been taken up in moving to new billets through reorganization of Companies, etc. Demobilization Officer has been kept fairly busy taking particulars of the members of Battalion, also preparing rolls for and dealing with correspondence concerning future Drafts.</p>				
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APP
1

6th. BATTALION TRAINING SYLLABUS

Morning Hours 0900-1100

Week Ending 4/1/1919.

Sunday 29.12.18. 0930 Church Parade in Y.M.C.A. COUILLET.

Monday 30.12.18. Bathing Parade 0930 "A" Company
1000 Hd. Qrs. Coy. and Half Transpt.
0900-1100 Route March "C" and "D" Companies.
D r e s s :- Drill Order.

Tuesday 31.12.18. 0900-0930 Company Inspection and Fall in on Battalion
Assembly Point.
0930-1000 Battalion Drill
1000-1030 Platoon Drill
1030-1100 Ceremonial Drill. Presentation of Colours.

Wednesday 1.1.19. Bathing Parade 0930 "C" Coy. and half Transport
1000 "D" Company
Holiday as far as Training is concerned.

Thursday 2.1.19. 0900-0930 Company Inspection and fall in on Battalion
Assembly Point.
0930-1000 Ceremonial Drill
1030-1030 Guards and Sentries
1030-1100 Company in attack

Friday 3.1.19. Route March. Fall in on Battalion Assembly Point
at 0855.
D r e s s :- Drill Order. Band will attend.

Saturday 4.1.19. 0900-0930 Company Inspection and fall in on Battalion
Assembly Point.
0930-1000 Ceremonial Practice. Presentation of Colours
1000-1030 Platoon Drill
1030-1100 Guards and Sentries.

Afternoon Hours 1400-1530

Recreational

Notes:- Football, Soccer, Rugby, Cross Country Runs and other
Recreational Training as may be arranged.

Companies will be marched to Recreational Ground near
CHATEAU PARENTVILLE and must take part in all games.

Recreational gear is available at Q.M.Store.

Every man other than those detailed off by Battalion must be on
parade on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

DRESS:- Drill Order,
Gloves to be worn on these parades.

E D U C A T I O N

Monday	0900-0945 Arithmetic Geometry	0945-1030 French Book-keeping	1030-1115 English Trig.
Wednesday	Algebra Shorthand	Arithmetic Geometry.	French Book-keeping
Friday	English Trig.	French	Arithmetic Trig.
	Tuesday & Thursday)))	German 1400-1500
	Monday & Wednesday)))	General Electricity 0900-1100

Lieut. Walker will lecture on Demobilization on day to be arranged.

James
Major.
T/Commanding 6th. Battalion, A.I.F.

30 APP II

6th. BATTALION TRAINING SYLLABUS

Morning Hours 0900 - 1100

Week ending 11th. January, 1919.

Sunday 5.1.19.	0930	Church Parade in Y.M.C.A. Couillet. <u>D r e s s</u> :- Belt and Sidearms.
Monday 6.1.19.	0900-1100	Route March. <u>D r e s s</u> :- Drill Order Band will attend.
Tuesday 7.1.19.	0900-0930 0930-1000 1000-1030 1030-1100	Company Inspection Battalion Drill Platoon Drill Ceremonial Drill (Fall in on Battalion Assembly Point at 0915)
Wednesday 8.1.19.		Bathing Parade. Mine near Parade Ground. Companies will be at Baths at u/m. times. "A" Company at 8000 "C" Company and Half Transport at 0830 "D" Company at 0915 Hd. Qrs. Company and Half Transport at 1000
Thursday 9.1.19.	0900-0930 0930-1000 1000-1030 1030-1100	Company Inspection. Ceremonial Drill, Presentation of Colors. Guards and Sentries. Company Drill. (Fall in on Battalion Assembly Point at 0915)
Friday 10.1.19.	0900-0930 0930-1000 1000-1030 1030-1100	Companies will proceed independently to Parade Ground. Fall in and march to Parade Ground Company in attack Platoon Drill Guards and Sentries.
Saturday 11.1.19.	0900-0930 0930-1000 1000-1030 1030-1100	Company Inspection Ceremonial Drill Battalion Drill Company Drill. (Fall in on Battalion Assembly Point at 0915)

Every man other than those detailed by Battalion will be on parade on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
D r e s s:- Drill Order. Waterproof Sheets on back of Waist Belt.
Gloves will be worn.

Afternoon Hours 1400 - 1530 Recreational
Notes:- Football, Soccer, Rugby and other Recreational Games as man be arranged.

E D U C A T I O N

	0900 - 0945	0945 - 1030	1030 - 1115
Monday	Arithmetic Geometry	French Book-keeping	Trig. English
Wednesday	Algebra Shorthand	Arithmetic Geometry	French Book-keeping
Friday	English Trig.	French	Arithmetic Trig.

General Electricity Monday and Wednesday - 0900 - 1000
German Tuesday and Thursday - 1400 - 1500

Lieut. Walker will lecture on Demobilization on day to be arranged.

A R Baughhey
Major.
T/Commanding 6th. Battalion,
A. I. F.

APPD

6th Battalion TRAINING SYLLABUS

Morning hours

0900 - 1100

Week ending 18th Jan. 1919.

Sunday 12.1.19.	0930	Church parade in Y.M.C.A. COUILLET. Dress: Belt and Sidearms.
Monday 13.1.19.	0900-1100	Route March. Dress: Drill Order. Band will attend.
Tuesday 14.1.19.	0900-0930	Company Inspection.
	0930-1000	Battalion drill
	1000-1030	Platoon drill
	1030-1100	Ceremonial drill. (Fall in on Bn. A. P. at 0915.) be at
Wednesday 15.1.19.		Bathing parade. Companies will fall in Baths at undermentioned times: "A" Company at 0800. H.Q. Company & $\frac{1}{2}$ Transport at 1000.
Thursday 16.1.19.	0900-0930	Company Inspection.
	0930-1000	Ceremonial drill. Presentation of Colors.
	1000-1030	Guards and Sentries.
	1030-1100	Company drill. Fall in on Bn. A.P. at 0915.
Friday 17.1.19.	0900-0930	Companies will proceed independently to parade ground. Fall in and march to parade ground.
	0900-1000	Company in attack.
	1000-1030	Platoon drill
	1030-1100	Guards and Sentries.
Saturday 18.1.19.	0900-0930	Inspection and fall in.
	0930-1000	Ceremonial drill.
	1000-1030	Battalion drill.
	1030-1100	Company drill. Fall In on Bn. A. P. at 0915.

Every man other than those detailed by Battalion will be on parade on TUESDAY THURSDAY & SATURDAY.

Dress:- Drill Order. Waterproof she ts on back of waist belt. Gloves will be worn.

Afternoon hours. 1400 - 1530.

NOTES. Football, soccer, and rugby and other recreational games as may be arranged.

(Sgd.) A. R. CAUGHEY Major.,
T/Commanding 6th Battalion. A.I.F.

EDUCATIONAL.

Week ending 18th January 1919.

	0900-0945	0945-1030	1030-1115.
MONDAY	ARITHMETIC GEOMETRY	FRENCH ALGEBRA	ENGLISH. TRIGONOMETRY
WEDNESDAY	ENGLISH TRIGONOMETRY	BOOK-KEEPING SHORTHAND	ARITHMETIC GEOMETRY
FRIDAY	FRENCH ALGEBRA	ARITHMETIC GEOMETRY	BOOK-KEEPING TRIGONOMETRY.

TUESDAY and THURSDAY 1400 - 1530 - GERMAN.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY : 1700-1830 :- Instructors attend Educational rooms to assist those unable to attend the classes held in the morning.

(Sgd.) A. R. CAUGHEY Major.,
T/Commanding 6th Battalion. A.I.F.

BATTALION QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

To commence the New Year the Officers wished to give the Troops an extra good dinner. As it was impossible to procure sufficient supplies through the Army Canteen, flour, vegetables and other necessities were purchased privately. This added to the Army Ration was converted by the Battalion cooks into a very excellent dinner. A supply of beer and rum punch helped to make the dinner a success.

During the month the ration supply of vegetables was at times very light and considerable quantities had to be purchased locally to enable the cooks to keep the meals up to the very excellent standard that has been maintained in the 6th. Battalion. Reports about the shortage and conditions of these supplies were sent to Headquarters and towards the end of the month the vegetable ration was much improved.

The cooks deserve a word of praise for their efforts during the month. Many of the senior cooks have left for AUSTRALIA and the remainder probably work much harder than any other section in the Unit but the meals have not only been satisfactory to all ranks but have always had an interesting variety in the menus.

The Troops have all been able to get a liberal supply of clothing and boots and the uniforms of the N.C.O's. and some of the men have been altered to fit by the regimental tailors who are largely responsible for the smart appearance of the Troops.

The bootmakers have been able to cope with all repairs and in addition many men with badly formed foot have had boots reconstructed for them by Sgt. WILSON. This branch of the work is of the greatest importance especially when there is much route marching.

Usually 3 barbers are kept busy looking after the Troops but during the month one left for AUSTRALIA and one was away on 14 days leave, but the remaining man worked extra hours and kept the work in hand.

W. H. G. G. G.
 Batt. Quartermaster 6th. Batt.
 A.I.F. Captain.

JANUARY, 1919.

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT.

A few cases of mange occurred, two horses having to be evacuated to the Mobile Veterinary Section. Three others were isolated and treated and the infection has not spread. The spots on the three in isolation disappeared in about fourteen days.

Horses generally in good health but with very little work to do. Weather has been mild for practically the whole month so frost cogs have not been necessary.

Vetinary and Remount Board classified the horses. The greater proportion classified C. ~~A~~.

Busy painting vehicles for their return to Ordnance.

JANUARY, 1919.

John S.P. Stafford Lieut.
Transport Officer, 6th. Batt, A.I.F.