

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

Baths & Laundries

Item number: 18/1/11

Title: Australian Corps Baths and Laundries

February 1919



AWM4-18/1/11

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Australian Corps BATHS.

FOR

February 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

W. H. B. Burt

Signature of Officer Commanding

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

64 310

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			There has been nothing of particular importance to record for the month of February.	
			Personnel of Batho Detachment Aust Employment Coy.	Appendices 84 to 87
			Personnel of "A" class Attached to Corps Batho Officer.	Appendices 88 to 92
			Quantity of Washing This has shown very little noticeable change.	
			Quantity of Clothing There has been a decided shortage in supply of Shirts & Vests.	
			Inspection of Abbeville Laundry. Acting under instructions from "Q" Australian Corps the Batho Officer proceeded to Abbeville & inspected the Laundry in all its departments. Copy of report appended.	Appendix 93

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS BATHS.

FOR

February 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
84	Strength Statement Aust Employ' Coy
85	" " " " "
86	" " " " "
87	Nominal Roll Personnel Aust Employ' Coy
88	Strength Statement 'A' Class Personnel.
89	" " " " "
90	" " " " "
91	" " " " "
92	Nominal Roll 'A' Class Personnel
93	Report Abbeville Laundry.

O.C.

Aust. Employment Coy.

310

84

Strength Statement.Bathurst Detachment - Aust. Employment Coy.Strength as at 30/1/19.Officers
1O/R
-Taken on Strength

Nil.

Strength as at 6/1/19.

1

-

15/1

6/2/19

J. M. Arden

Aust. Corps Bathurst ^{Lieut.} Officer

O.C.

Aust. Employment Coy.

85

Strength Statement.Bathurst Detachment - Aust. Employment Coy.Strength as at 6/2/19.Officers
1O/R
-Taken on Strength.

Nil.

Strength as at 13/2/19

1

-

16/2

13/2/19

H. Mac Knight

Aust. Corps Bathurst ^{Lieut.} Officer

O.C.

Aust. Employment Coy.

86

Strength Statement.Bathurst Detachment - Aust. Employment Coy.Strength as at 13/2/19.Officers
1O/R
-Taken on Strength.

Nil.

Strength as at 20/2/19

1

-

16/3

20/2/19

H. Mac Knight

Aust. Corps Bathurst ^{Lieut.} Officer

NOMINAL ROLL

87

Baths Detachment. Aust. Corps. "B" Class Personnel.

As at 28th February, 1919.

Lieut. Barker

D.W. ^{Late} 6 Bn.

Corps Clothing Exchange
Mont. Sur. Marchienne.

Total

Officers

1

O. R.

-

[Signature]

Lieut.

Aust. Corps Baths Officer

15/5
28/2/19.

Camp Commandant
Aust. Corps H.Q.

88

Strength Statement.

Baths Detachment - Aust. Corps. "A" Class Personnel.

Officers.	o.p.
2.	33.

Strengths as at 30/1/19.

Struck off Strength.

2291 Pte Bradley A. {Evacuated
Hospital} 4/2/19.

1

Strength as at 6/2/19.

2

32

On leave in U. Kingdom

Returned from leave in U.K.

771 Cpl. Bagley C.L. 7-21/1/19.
 5360 Pte. Lester J. 19/1/19-2/2/19.
 2984 " Simonsen H.C.G. 25/1/19-11/2/19.
 7022 Sgt. Oaklands E.T.G. 31/1/19-14/2/19.
 7334 Pte Woodall A. 31/1/19-14/2/19.

Just Barker B

Lieut.
 Aust. Corps Baths Officer.

10/1
 16/2/19

Camp CommandantAust. Corps A.Q.

89

Strength Statement.Batha Detachment - Aust. Corps - A Class Personnel.Strengths as at 6/2/19.OfficersA/R:

2

32

Taken On Strengths4364 Sgt. Bird L. } 17th Bn. 10/2/19.

57191 Pte. THOMAS H.C.

57373 " SIMS E.J.

59264 " LORD F.R. } 18th Bn.

59345 " MERTEL W.A.

} 12/2/19.

5

Strengths as at 13/2/19.

2

~~37~~ 37.On leave in U. Kingdom.

771 Cpl. Bagley C.L. 7/1/19 - 21/1/19.

2954 Pte. SIMONSEN H.C.G. 25/1/19 - 11/2/19.

7022 Sgt. OAKLANDS E.T.G.

7334 Pte. WOODALL A. } 2/2/19 - 14/2/19.

Returned from leave in U.K.

5260 Pte. LESTER J. 1/2/19.

12/2

13/2/19.

[Signature]
 Lieut.
 Aust. Corps Batha Officer

90

Camp Commandant,Aust. Corps H.Q.Strengths Statement.Bathurst Detachment - Aust. Corps - A Class Personnel.

Officers.	O/R.
2	37

Strengths as at 13/2/19.Struck off Strengths.5760 Pte. SLINN E. 5th Bn. 16/2/19.

-	1
2	36

Taken on Strengths.65844 Pte. WALSH W.R. 3rd Bn. 19/2/19.Strengths as at 20/2/19.

.	1
2	37

On leave in the Kingdom.

771 Cpl. BAGLEY C.L. 7/1/19-21/1/19.

2984 Pte. SIMONSON H.C.G. 25/1/19-11/2/19.

7022 Sgt. OAKLANDS E.T.G.

7234 Pte. Woodall A. } 3/2/19-17/2/19.

16/3

20/2/19.

J. D. Barlow

Lieut.

Aust. Corps Bathurst Officer.

Camp Commandant,
Aust. Corps H.Q.



91

Strengths Statement.

Batha Detachment - Aust. Corps - "A" Class Personnel.

Officers of R.

2

37

Strengths as at 20/2/19.

Struck off Strengths.

2984 Pte Simonson H.C.G. - 17/2/19 - Hospital - Enslaved.

2130 " Alfredson A.G. 21/2/19 To Unit.

57191 " Thomas H.C. 22/2/19 - Hospital.

4235 " Morton H.E. 22/2/19 - To Unit.

4

Strengths as at 27/2/19.

2.

33

On leave in U. Kingdom.

771 Cpl. Bagley C.L. 7/1/19 - 21/1/19

7634 Pte. Woodall A. 3/2/19 - 17/2/19.

Returned from leave in U.K.

7022 Sgt. Oakland E.T.G. 21/2/19

10/5

27/2/19.

[Signature]

Lieut.

Aust. Corps Batha Officer.

310

DOMINION ROLL

92

Baths Detachment - Aust. Corps - 19th Class Personnel.

As at 28th February, 1919.

No.	Rank.	Name	Unit	Where Employed.
	2 nd Lieut.	Wacknight	N. N.R.	46 Pm.
3268	Sgt.	Gunders	A.C.	32 "
7022	"	Oaklands	E. J. B.	16 "
4364	"	Bird	L.	17 "
7183	Cpl.	Agnew	C.H.	34 "
2710	"	Holynagel	W.R.	15 "
3159	2 nd Lt.	McBlane	J.W.M.	34 "
3626	Sgt.	Collister	N.A.S.	57 "
3207	"	Camp	J.W.	32 "
2126	"	Gray	R.	4 Pm.
55153	"	Goldie	W.R.	8 Pm.
5112	"	Henry	A.	4 "
5360	"	Lester	J.	4 "
59264	"	Lord	F.R.	18 "
5068	"	McMahon	C.P.	32 "
3679	"	May	A.S.	54 "
3922	"	Maitland	A.F.	46 "
59345	"	Moestel	W.S.	18 "
4877	"	O'Rourke	A.D.	7 "
7595	"	Punch	N.P.	4 "
2009	"	Quick	J.C.	58 "
2982	"	Steele	S.	59 "
59373	"	Sims	E.J.	18 "
5226	"	Ward	J.J.	49 "
7334	"	Woodall	A.	34 "
65844	"	Walsh	W.R.	3 "
	2 nd Lieut.	Court	S.	56 "
68657	Sgt.	Hutchins	N.W.	23 "
2664	"	Linderoth	G.J.B.	4 Pm.
2363	"	McDonnell	K.	15 Pm.

Corps Clothing Exchange
Mont. Sur. Marchienne.

Corps Clothing Exchange.
Beaumont.

2.



92.

No	Rank	Name	Unit	Where Employed.
438	Pte.	McDonnell	D. 15Bn	Cape clothing exchange, Beaumont
217	"	Rosser	S.W. 39"	
5197	"	Sharpe	S.M. 34"	
1916	"	Tierney	J. 34"	
Total			Officers 2	O. R. 32.

16/5
28/2/19

[Signature]
Lieut.
Aust. Corps Baking Officer.

Q. 310

Australian Corps.



93

Abbeville Laundry.

As instructed by your 111/167, dated 14th inst. I visited No. 1 Area Laundry, Abbeville, and returned to Mont. Sur. Marchiennes to day.

The working of the Laundry was examined in all Departments during both day and night shifts, and the following suggestions are made with a view to improving the washing. -

(1) Platforms might be built ^{all} along the railway line outside the Laundry so as to keep the clothing off the ground.

At present a large quantity of dirty clothing which is waiting to go through the works, is stacked on the ground outside and the lower layers are getting wet and soiled in consequence.

(2) Roofs might be built over these platforms or at any rate tarpaulins supplied in order to protect the clothing from the rain.

At present a large quantity of clothing has got wet and there is a consequent risk of its becoming mouldy and stained.

(3) Platforms might be built inside the large shed, where the disinfecting chambers are, in order to keep the clothing off the ground.

At present, much of the clothing lies on the cement floor before being hung on the disinfecting racks. As the coal dump is just outside the door, the cement floor is always more or less covered with coal dust and the dirty clothing thus takes more dirt to the washing machines than it need do.

(4) Large troughs might be installed between the disinfectors and the Laundry proper, so that garments could be soaked for some hours before going to the washing.

washing machines.

This would enable the washing machines to make a better job of the clothing, as much of the dirt would come out in these troughs and the remaining dirt would be removed more thoroughly and more readily.

(3). Brushes for hand scrubbing the collars and cotton edging to fronts of shirts, might be set up behind where the wringers now are, or in their places if they were removed as suggested in para 6.

At present practically no shirts which go into the Laundry with greasy collars come out with the collars quite clean, because the machines alone are incapable of removing this grease. Friction must be used, and two or three rubs on each side with a good brush, after the shirt has been through the machine, will remove it. This system of hand finishing must be adopted if the shirts are to be turned out with clean collars.

(4). Efficient rinsing might be effected by installing a series of vats, (say about 10), each on a slightly lower level than the preceding one, and working the clothing up through the series against a stream of clean water. This series of vats could be put in the centre of the old Laundry at the end nearest the disinfectors.

This system was installed in 1918 in Baillend and Veuve Eglise Laundries and was found most efficient. The clothing there was worked up stream by hand, but suitable machinery could be installed. At present the water which is finally forced out of the garments by the centrifugal wringers is very dirty. It therefore follows that the water remaining in the garment

is

370

is also very dirty, and when finally it evaporates in the drying room, the dirt remains in the garments.

This installation of a rinsing machine would, of course, mean the removal of the centrifugal wringers to a place where the clothing could be easily carried to them, but there would be room enough in the centre of the Laundry at the end nearest the sorting room.

(7). Much more accommodation might be provided for the sorting and mending of garments by the extension of the present rooms.

At present the female staff is far too cramped to efficiently cope in 9 working hours with the 24 hours output of the Laundry.

(8). Bins and platforms might be provided right through the sorting and mending rooms in order to keep the clothing off the floors.

At present much of the grit and dirt from the women's feet is collected off the floor by the clothing.

(9). There might be much more supervision of the female sorting and mending staffs (if possible by British N.C.O.'s who have served in the line), to ensure that only garments fit for issue leave the Laundry.

At present there is very little British supervision and some of the women work rather carelessly and do not seem to realise which garments are fit for issue and which are not. This applies especially to Socks, the women not seeming to realise when a sock is too shrunken to wear.

A British N.C.O. (to distinguish from a German N.C.O. of whom there are many in the Laundry) knows from experience what garments are fit to wear.

went. For instance, he knows that a shirt or vest with shamless sleeves, will impede freedom of action, and repair of drawers with the buttons carelessly mended will probably chafe a man and cause him to fall out on a long march. Further, the British N.C.O. would take a pride in seeing that only good garments went out to the troops.

(10). More sorting and mending staff might be employed as these staffs now have to do in 9 hours the output of the Laundry for 24 hours.

(11). All socks might be turned the other way out after drying, and shaken by hand, or put through a machine to get rid of the fluff and large grit which may be inside them.

At present this is done only if the sock went into the washing machine inside out. When the sock has gone into the machine right side out it goes right through the Laundry and out to the troops without being turned. I frequently there is a collection of fluff and large grit in the bin and if the soldier is careless and puts it on without turning it inside out and shaking it, he is liable to get a chafed foot. The remarks in para 9 apply particularly to socks, as the women do not seem to realise how easily a roughly mended sock may give the wearer a sore foot.

Doubtless it will be emphasised that the above suggestions if carried into practice will mean extra labour and consequently extra cost. This is so, but at present the washing machines are spending a certain amount of their time preparing the clothing for washing (breaking down) and rinsing it afterwards. It is pointed out that by soaking the garments before washing and by hand finishing



finishing them, and then rinsing them in water, the Laundry could have an increase in output of at least 50% with its present machinery, so that probably, the cost per garment would be lower instead of higher.

3/4
125/2/19.

Wheatley
Lieut.
Capt. G. W. B. B. Officers