

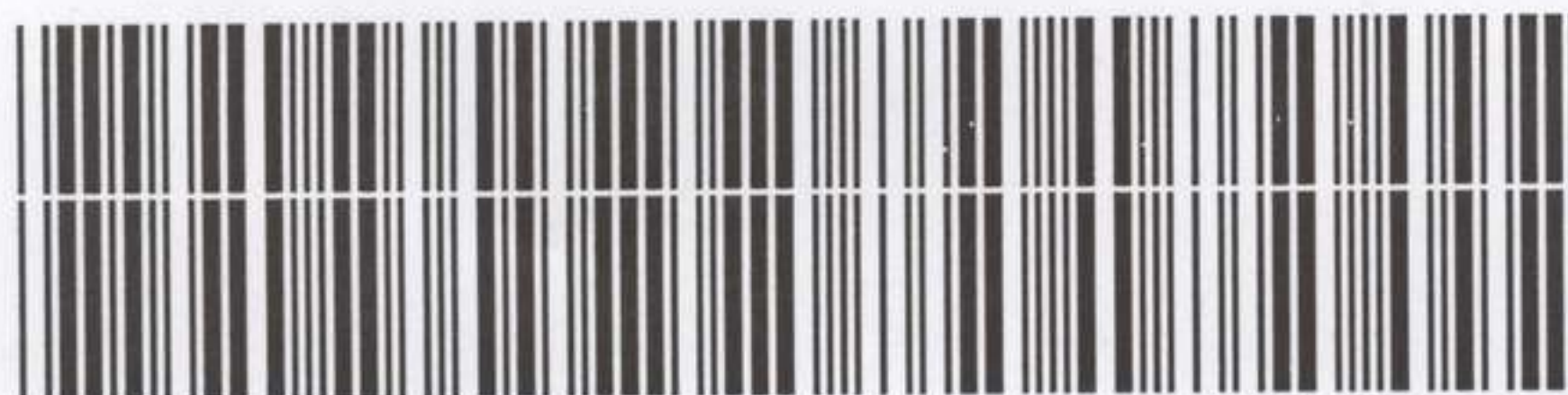
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/36/32

Title: Headquarters, 8th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

January 1919



AWM4-13/36/32

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hautmont Sheet 51.	Jan 1st. 1919		<p>January 1st 1919</p> <p>Fine day. The 31st Battery held a Sports Meeting, in grounds, near 3rd D.A.H.Q., there being some dismounted events, and events open to Brigade personnel. The state of the course was not all that might have been desired, owing to to the continuous rain of the last few days, but the meeting was undoubtedly successful. A programme of events is attached.</p> <p>Warning orders received of the visit of H.R.H The Prince of Wales to this Div. Arty. tomorrow. A space for the presentation parade is being cleared near the 108th Battery Gun Park.</p> <p>Lieut Gorman J. C. of 108th Bty transferred this day to No 2 Section 3rd D.A.C.</p> <p>H.R.H The Prince of Wales inspected a representative parade of this brigade, with 7th F.A.B. 3rd D.A.C. and 3rd Div T.M.B. Presentations of 9 medals were made to N.C.O's and men at this parade. The Corps Commander (General Hobbs) and G.O.C.R.A (Gen. Grimwade) with Corps & Divisional Staffs attended, and after the march past all the officers were presented to H.R.H.</p> <p>The morning proved fine, but the sky became overcast in the afternoon</p>	
	2 nd			

Jan 1st

Ralph Johnson Lieut.

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HAUTMONT SHEET 51 P. 22	3 rd		<p>Fine day. Some disorder was created by men of another unit in the town of HAUTMONT, in which men of this brigade were invited to take part. It is a credit to the men of this brigade, and an indication of their morale, that, finding the demonstration to be primarily a flouting of authority, they refused to participate. The men are in good billets, and seem well contented, while at the same time all are anxiously awaiting some definite progress towards demobilisation. Several applications are in have been made for early repatriation, discharge in England etc.</p>	
	4 th		<p>Brig-General H.W. Guinwade met representatives of all units in 3rd Div. Arty. in the Square, HAUTMONT, in regard to some complaints they had to make, and promised to refer the matters to the Corps Commander.</p>	⊕ Appendix I.
	5 th		<p>Authority was received from Corps Commander regarding the complaints of the men, and <u>these matters</u> were adjusted.</p>	
	6 th		<p>Major T.B. Slaney proceeded on English leave. Brig-Gen Guinwade resumed command as C.R.A. 3rd Aust Div Arty. Lt-Col. H.W. St Clair appointed to command 8th F.A.B. Lt-Col W.G. Allsop relinquishing command <u>at his own request</u>. Ralph Johnson Lt</p>	

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HAUTMONT SHEET 51.	7 th		Routine work carried on by batteries. Nothing of special interest to report. Fine day.	
	8 th		29 th Battery held a race meeting, which was very successful. Lt-Col St Clair inspected battery horse-lines & gun parks in the morning. The "Courtiers" - 3 rd Div Arty Concert Party, gave their first performance in the evening, in the Cinema Hall, HAUTMONT, which was crowded. Gen. Grimwade in congratulating all those who had contributed to the successful inauguration of the party's career, anticipated a promising future for them. Weather, still fine.	
	9 th		Lieut E. Y. Woods 3 rd Battery transferred to 3 rd D. R. C. as Asst Adj. Lieut N. D. Richardson 29 th " evacuated to hospital. Lieut W. S. Jones, 7 th F. A. B. transferred to 8 th F. A. B. as Orderly Officer. as from 10 th inst. Fine weather.	
	10 th		Sunny day. Capt Favier proceeded on English leave. Brigade General Sports Committee met at Bde H. Q. to elect Organising officers & Committees in accord with Corps Organisation for Sports & Recreational Training.	

Ralph Johnson
Lieut.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hartmont Sheet 52	11 th		Usual Routine carried out by Batteries. Dull day, little rain. Lt Malcolm elected as General Sports Organising Officer. Adams Hall procured for Messen & arrangements put in hand for its use also to obtain an Orchestra.	
	13 th		Dull day, no rain, nothing unusual. 30th Battery held a Race meeting which was well attended. Entries were good	
	13 th		Dull. C.R.A. General firm made inspected a Brigade Parade at 10 AM addressed the men with reference to Demobilization. then he inspected the Batteries Horses & equipment	
	14 th		Dull. a little rain off & on. Usual routine. ratification of a few Belgian honors for men of Brigade.	
	15 th		Met. General routine nothing to report.	
	16 th		Dull & nothing to report of interest	
	17		2 in & dull. Usual Routine. Concert Party continues to draw large crowds Band plays daily in Square & conditions are improving generally.	
	18		108 How Battery held a successful Race meeting. a little rain	
	19		Brigade Church Parade. Day fine & dull, Corp Commander presided Church parade & spoke on Demobilization.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hautmont	20 th		2me cold. The improved weather conditions enabled sports to continue today 7 th Brigade played a football match resulting in a narrow win for 8 th by 3 to nil. General firmwade returned to camp & Lt Col Macarthur took up duties as C.R.A.	
	21		2me cold 29 th & 30 th Batteries put held against R.A. musing which proved a great success & was well attended.	
	22 nd		3me day. Inter-brigade football match, Australian Rules, 8 th F.A.B. de playing 7 th F.A.B. and defeating them.	
	23 rd		Day fine and clear. Nothing of special interest to report. Bde Gymnasium classes are well attended and enthusiastically conducted. The "Courtiers" (3rd Div. Art. Concert Party) attract attract crowded houses nightly, and are a great success.	
	24 th		Heavy frost. Routine work carried out within the brigade.	
	25 th		29 th Battery played No 2 Section 3 rd D.A.C. football, Aust. rules. It was a very good game, well contested, ending in a victory for 29 th .	
<p>Ernest Johnson Lieut.</p>				

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Hautmont	Jan 26 th		<p>Sunday. Snow fell during the night of Saturday-Sunday & continued at intervals during the day, and during the night again. Church Parade held in Cinema. There was a good attendance and the G.O.C.R.A. (Brig Gen. Grenwade) came from Corps to attend. A proposed race-meeting, under the auspices of the 7th T.B.B. Jockey Club had to be abandoned on account of the fall of snow. A well-attended dance was held in the dance-hall in Hautmont Square.</p>	
	27 th		<p>2/Lieuts Williams J. Morgan B. Hodgins and Bentley reported for duty ex Cadet Schools in England.</p>	
	28 th		<p>A combined Brigade football team (Rugby Rules) left for Charleroi to play a challenge match against the 7th A.I. Bde. There are signs that the frost is breaking, and this will make it possible to play.</p>	
	29 th		<p>There have been several cases of horses being stolen from the Brigade stables, four having been lost in the last week. The stables are very large and dark, and now that they have been lighted up by using all available hurricane lamps and taking extra precautions the trouble seems lessened, and no horses have been lost in the last few nights.</p>	
			<p>Ralph Johnson Lieut.</p>	

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Hautmont	Jan 1919			
Sheet 51.	30		<p>Lieut: Col H. W. St Clair D.S.O. left for English leave.</p> <p>The Brigade Rugby team returned from Charleroi, having been prevented from playing by snow. Fine day.</p>	
	31		<p>Major S. J. Walker D.S.O. took over command of the brigade temporarily. Capt Ferris, O.C. 3rd Battery returned from leave.</p>	
			<p>Maest Johnson Lieut.</p>	

APPENDIX TOWAR DIARY, 8th. Aust. F.A. Bde.Period 3rd. to 6th. January, 1919.LOCATION:HAUTMONT.

About mid-day on 3rd. January, 1919, the part of the town in which the 8th. F.A. Brigade were billeted, was entered by a party of about 200 men of the 7th. Brigade who had left their parade without orders, and were on their way to 3rd. D. A. to lay a complaint before Colonel ALLSOP, acting C.R.A. The men of the 8th. Brigade just dismissed from stables parade were called on to join in the demonstration, but the men refused. Through an efficient organisation, and by encouraging the spirit of unity and camaraderie, the leading spirits among the disaffected men, caused a simultaneous stoppage of work and refusal to attend parades throughout the 7th. F.A. Brigade and 3rd. D. A. C. These lent additional force to the pressure on the men of the 8th. Brigade, with the result that on the morning of the 4th. representatives informed the officers commanding batteries that they had been forced to come into line and could not attend parades. The horses were attended to and routine work carried out, but no parades could be held except of N.C.Os. who, to a man, took no part in, and no apparent sympathy with the refusal of duty. There was no disorder amongst the troops or in the town. Everything was quiet and orderly. Brig-General H.W. GRIMWADE, C.R.A. came and addressed a combined meeting of the men of the Divisional Artillery, in the Square. When it became apparent that the men complained that four men of the 7th. Brigade had been, in their opinion, wrongfully placed under close arrest, and they demanded their release.

There were several minor complaints also in regard to the compulsory wearing of white lanyards burnishing parts of vehicles, etc.

General GRIMWADE realising that the men's attitude was largely accounted for for the inevitable re-action after the continuous strain of many months of war, appealed to them to remove the smirch from the splendid reputation, hitherto unstained, of the 3rd. Divisional Artillery. He warned the men assembled that they were being led to become criminals and appealed to their sense of duty. Further, he gave a promise to place the matter in full before the Corps Commander for decision.

As a result of the C.R.A.'s remarks, coupled with the fact that the great majority of the men in the Brigade were strongly opposed to refusal of duty, new delegates were elected, representing the better feeling among the men.

Next day, the 5th. the Brigade personnel were again compelled to remain off duty, although the horses were still attended to, and order prevailed. The General again addressed the men in the Square, granting some of their minor complaints, and made another powerful appeal to them to do their duty. The men were again much impressed, and when in the evening a message was received that the Corps Commander had ordered the release of the men concerned, and that no further disciplinary action was to be taken in regard to these matters, the news was received by them with outspoken expressions of relief, that the trouble was over, and on the morning of the 6th., work was resumed.