

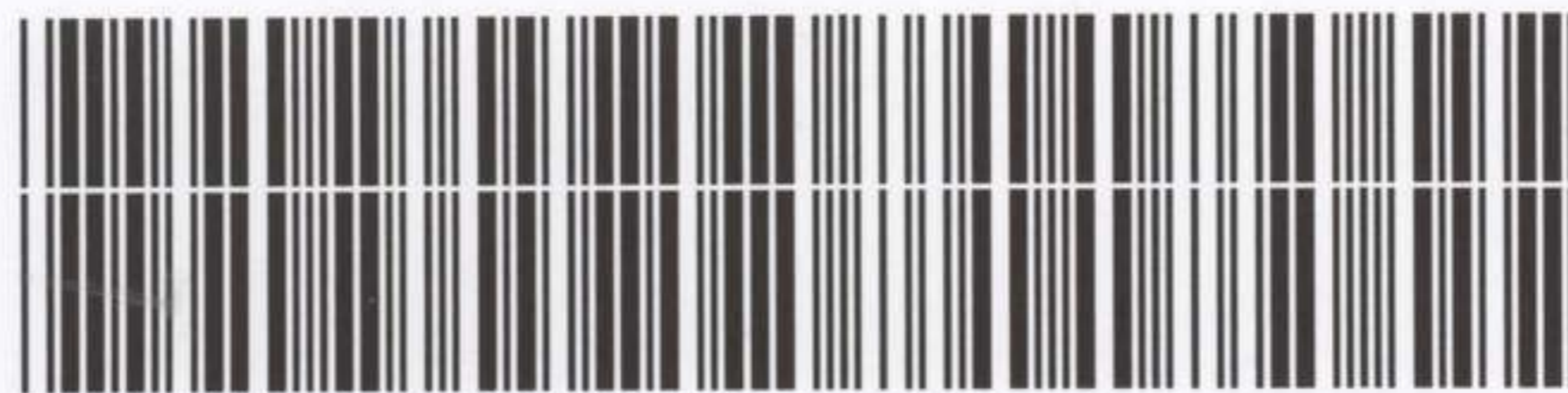
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/66/34

Title: 49th Infantry Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-23/66/34

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208

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

49th BATTALION AUST. IMP. FORCE.

FOR

MARCH 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

A. J. Cutts Lieut

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. B. ... Smith

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT	1-3-19	0900	WAMUR 1/100,000.	Weather cold. Snow commenced to fall during the day.	
		to 1200		Training as per syllabus. Inspection of Kits under Company arrangements. Lieut J.T. SPRANKLIN "MM" and several others left the Unit to join in a Rugby team to represent the Division.	
				<u>GENERAL</u> . The usual bi-weekly dance was held.	
	2-3-19			Dull in morning, raining in the afternoon.	
		1100		C.E. Parade in Mill. R.C. Parade held in Church.	
				Syllabus of training issued for week ending 9-3-19	1.
	3-3-19			Weather dull in morning, rain falling during afternoon.	
		0930 to 1200		Baths allotted to the Bn. - clean clothing available.	
				<u>GENERAL</u> . Draft of 3 Officers (Capt. A.J. GLEDHILL, Lieut W.R. RICE and Lieut C.V.T. ROBEY) and 14 other ranks left Unit en route for Australia.	
	4-3-19			Weather very wet.	
		0930 to 1200		Training as per syllabus.	
				<u>GENERAL</u> . 2 O/Rs left Unit for discharge in U.K.	
	5-3-19			Weather dull but fine.	
		0930 to 1200		Training as per syllabus.	
				<u>GENERAL</u> . The usual bi-weekly dance was held. Arrangements were carried out for the Bn. to move to the Le ROUX area on the 6th. Inst.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet NAMUR 1/100,000 . Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT	6-3-19	0930	Weather dull, rain fell greater part of the day. The Bn. left DINANT and proceeded by route march to DENNE - route via BOUVIGNES, FALDEN, FALDEN STATION (where halt was made for lunch) hot tea being supplied) SOZOYE, DENNE STATION to DENNE STATION arriving at 1520 hours, where Bn. stopped the night.	2.
VITRIVAL	7-3-19	0930	Weather - bright but cold and windy. March to Le ROUX area continued. Route as follows:- St.GERARD, FOSSE, to VITRIVAL, arriving at 1245. Billets in most cases proved fairly comfortable.	
	8-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather threatening and cold. Cleaning of cloths and equipment and making billets as comfortable as possible.	
	9-3-19		Weather cold but fairly clear No Church parades were held; day spent in General cleaning of equipment etc. <u>GENERAL</u> . The 13th. A.F.A. passed through the village of FOSSE in the afternoon en route to AISEMONT. Syllabus of training issued for week ending 15-3-19.	3.
	10-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather bright and cold. Morning devoted to the scrubbing of equipment etc. <u>GENERAL</u> . Major General S.MACLAGAN G.O.C. 4th. Aust.Div., visited Bn. during morning.	
	11-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather misty and cold with light rain at intervals. Training as per syllabus. <u>GENERAL</u> . Brigadier S.HERRING D.S.O. 13th. A.I.Bde, paid a visit to the Bn. during morning. Numerous applications were received for permission to visit DINANT.	

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VITRIVAL	12-3-19	0930	Weather fine.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
			<u>GENERAL</u> . One Officer (Lieut C. STRIKE) returned from PARIS leave, 4 O/Rs left for leave to U.K.	
	13-3-19.	0930	Weather dull and threatening.- afternoon bright.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
	14-3-19	0930	Weather fine and bright.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
			<u>GENERAL</u> . Companies were supplied with brushes and soap and equipments were scrubbed during the later part of the morning. In the evening the band rendered a programme of music, from 1800 hours to 1900 hours, in the main street of the village.	
	15-3-19	0930	Weather fine during morning turning dull and rainy in afternoon.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
			<u>GENERAL</u> . X A large leave allotment was received for U.K. and BRUSSELS.	
	16-3-19	0930	Weather dull turning cold in afternoon.	
		to 1200	O.P.D. Church parade was held in paddock near "Diggers Club"	
		to 1200	R.C. Church parade was in village Church at 0900 hours.	
			<u>GENERAL</u> . Two prisoners escaped from Bn. Guard room, by means of digging through the wall during the night.	
			Syllabus of training issued for week ending 22-3-19.	4

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Vitrival	17-3-19	0930	Dull and cold, slight fall of rain and sleet.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
			<u>GENERAL</u> . Message received from "Demobaust" notify embarkations to Australia to 9th. Inst. viz., 1519 Officers, 287 Nurses, 2733 W.Os, and Sgts, 32947 other ranks and 3187 wives, families and munition workers, in 45 transports and 4 passenger ships. Projected sailings for March - 16 vessels including 4 invalid ships carrying 891 Officers, and Nurses, 1313 W.Os and Sgts, 13,000 other ranks, 280 families and 1828 munition workers.	
	18-3-19	0930	Fine bright day.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
	19-3-19	0930	<u>GENERAL</u> - Concert Party performed at ROSSE before Canadians. A letter received from the Burgomaster of DINANT, expressing the high regard they have for the Australians was promulgated in yesterday's Routine Orders.	
		to 1200	Weather - Fine. training as per syllabus.	
	20-3-19	0930	<u>GENERAL</u> - A medical board was held to-day and 100 men were examined.	
		to 1200	The 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade concert party, the "Black & White Pierrots" gave a concert in the Cafe Imperial in the evening, a dance was held after the dance concert.	
	21-3-19	0930	Weather - Miserable, sleet fell continuously all day.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus. <u>GENERAL</u> - Owing to inclement weather men kept to billets in the afternoon.	
	21-3-19	0930	Weather - Dull with showers at intervals.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	

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			reference sheet NAMUR 1/100,000.	
VITRIVAL,	21-3-19	1430 to 1630	Baths were available for "B" and "C" Coys at the coal mine PALISOLE. This meant a walk of 5 kilometers, but it was well worth it as the baths were splendid and clean clothing was procurable.	
	22-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather - fair but bitterly cold in the morning, slight fall of snow in the afternoon. Training as per syllabus. Baths at PALISOLE were available for "A" Coy and H' Qrs. and clean clothing was available. <u>GENERAL</u> - Second-in-Command, Major H.L. SWAIN, "MC" returned from leave U.K.	
	23-3-19	0900 to 0930	Weather - Very bright but cold. Church Parade for all Protestant denominations held in the ground of public school near B.O.R. R.C. Church Parade held in the church VITRIVAL <i>Syllabus of Eng. for week ending 29-3-19 issued</i>	5
			<u>GENERAL</u> - The band rendered a musical programme during the afternoon in front of the Officers' Mess. The programme was greatly enjoyed by the villagers.	
	24-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather - Miserable, snow and rain at intervals. training as per syllabus. <u>GENERAL</u> - Usual concert by the "Black Pierrots" held in the Cafe Imperial, followed by dance.	
	25-3-19	0930 to 1200	weather - Rain during the morning but bright in the afternoon. Training as per syllabus. <u>GENERAL</u> - Comforts received from Australian Comforts Fund. 3 F.G.C.Ms held here. Cricketers were called for in routine Orders for the A.I.F. Team.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet NAMUR 2/100,000	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VITRIVAL	26-3-19	0930 to 1200	weather - Very cold and wet.		
			Training as per syllabus.		
			<u>GENERAL</u> - The "probables" for Quota No 25 were published in Routine Orders. Men are leaving the Battalion almost every day for non-military employment, early repatriation, discharge in U.A., etc.		
	27-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather - Very cold with snow and sleet almost all day.		
			Training as per syllabus.		
	28-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather - Very cold and wet.		
			Training as per syllabus.		
			<u>GENERAL</u> - Lieut, W.J. HODSDON and 3 O/Rs left Battalion for non-military employment.		
	29-3-19	0930 to 1200	Weather - Very cold with snow falling till mid-day.		
			Training as per syllabus.		
			<u>GENERAL</u> - The following Officers left the Battalion en route for U.K. to take up permanent ships staff appointments:- Capt, R. TAMBING, "MC", Lieut, A.R. LYON, and Lieut, J.T. SPRANKLIN. "MM".		
	30-3-19	0830	Weather - Snow in early morning but fine later.		
			Draft of 6 Officers and 130 O/Rs left unit to march to CHARLEROI en route to Australia via U.K. Officers:- Lieut, L.M. THOMAS, Lieut. O. STRIKE, Lieut, A. VILLIERS, Lieut, E. LAWTON, Lieut. W.M. PROVAN, 2/Lieut. A.E. REIMAN, "MM". Comforts were distributed to the men before leaving.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet MAMUR 1/100,000, Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VITRIVAL	31-319	0930	Weather - Fine and Bright.	
		to 1200	Training as per syllabus.	
			<p><u>GENERAL</u> - 50 men paraded to Medical Officer for examination, so that they would be ready to proceed to U.K. when next Quota is called for. Owing to the large numbers who have left the Battalion on the various Quotas the 49th Battalion will in future be known as Nos. 1 & 2 Companies of the 49/50/51 Bn. Thus forming the 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade into one Battalion.</p>	
<u>LIST OF COMFORTS RECEIVED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND.</u>				
<u>DURING MARCH 1919.</u>				
			<p>14 Cases COCOA & MILK. 2 " CURRY POWDER. 4 " SWEETS. 4 Bales SOCKS. 2 Doz. PACKS PLAYING CARDS. 3 Sets QUICITS.</p>	<p>4 Cases CONDENSED MILK. 1 Case SOUP. 1 " BISCUITS. 6 Cases POST OFFICE ODDMENTS. 2 " BATTALION GIFTS. 3 RUGBY FOOTBALLS.</p>

49th ²⁰⁸ AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 8th MARCH 1919.

Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.

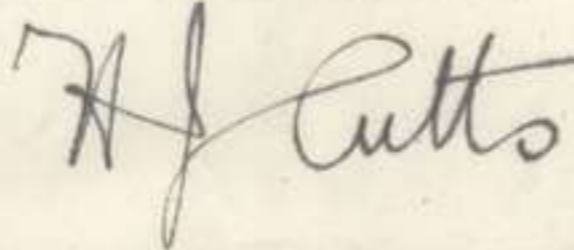
Day & Date	0930 to 1200 hours	1400 to 1500
Monday 24-2-19	: Company Route Marches : Recreational Training	: : Football, etc.
Tuesday 25-2-19	: Guards and Sentries (1 hour) : Musketry - Rapid Loading (½ hour) : Recreational Training : Range Practices "B" Company.	: : : -do- :
Wednesday 26-2-19	: Company Route Marches : Recreational Training : Range Practices "C" Company	: : : -do- :
Thursday 27-2-19	: Platoon Drill (1 hour) : Rifle Exercises ½ hour) : Recreational Training : Range Practices "A" Company	: : : -do- :
Friday 28-2-19	: Company Route Marches : Musketry - (½ hour) Rapid Loading) : Bolt Drill) : Recreational Training	: : : -do- :
Saturday 1-3-19	: Kit Inspection - Special attention to: : Feet, Sox and Boots.	: : -do- :

Companies will have inspections completed and be in position on Battalion Ground by 0930 hours. Battalion Parade Ground will be on Terrace next to Officers' Mess and running parallel to River Meuse.

Men for Education Classes (except those commencing before 0930 hours) will attend Battalion Parade.

A halt can be made during Company Route Marches for the purpose of carrying out musketry instruction.

Companies will hold gargling parades at 0900 hours daily. All men of the Battalion will be these parades.


 Lieutenant.,
Adjutant 49th Battalion A.I.D.F.

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49th BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

MOVE TO VITRIVAL.

OPERATION ORDER.

Major J. CHURCHILL SMITH "MC" By COMMANDING (Temporarily) Headquarters., DINANT, BELGIUM, 5-3-19

Reference Sheet NAMUR . 2. 1/100,000.

- MOVE 1. (a) The 13th Brigade Group is moving to the LE ROUX Area. (b) The Battalion will move to-morrow, 5th inst. to DENEE. (c) ORDER OF MARCH. "A" Coy. H'Qrs. "B" Coy, "C" Coy. Rear Party supplied by "C" Coy. STARTING POINT & TIME DRESS. 2 Battalion Parade Ground. Transport will move off at 0830 hours, remainder of Battalion at 0930 hours. 3. Fighting Order and Box Respirators. W.P. Sheets under the flap of Haversack. Steel helmets attached to haversack. ROUTINE 4. Routine for 6-3-19. Reveille - 0600 hours. Breakfast - 0700 " Sick Parade - 0700 " PACKS containing Greatcoat, Jerkin and 1 blanket will be dumped in Coy dumps on Square by 0745 hours. Valises will be dumped in front of Officers' Mess by 0730 hours. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and properly labelled and will be dumped in Coy dumps in Square by 0745 hours. Coys will detail each 3 men to load blankets. These men will return to their Coys. when loading is complete. Duty Coy. will detail 1 N.C.O. and 6 men to report to Lieut. LAWTON at dump to load Packs at 0745 hours. After packs are loaded these men will return to their Coys. MESS GEAR to be ready for loading by 0800 hours. SPARE GEAR - Educational Gear, Sports material, etc. to be sent to R.Q.M. Store by 1900 hours to-night, 5th inst. ROUTE 5. Route for Transport - BOUVIGNES - ANHEE - FALAEN STATION to DENEE. Route for Battalion - BOUVIGNES - SOMMIERES - FALAEN - FALAEN Station - SOSOYE - DENEE Station to DENEE. MID-DAY MEAL 6. The Bn. will halt for mid-day meal at FALAEN Station. The Transport Officer will arrange for the Cookers and Mess Cart to wait there for Bn. The rest of the Transport will move straight to Billets. REAR GUARD 7. Rear Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 12 men from "C" Coy under Lieut. A. VILLIERS to march 100 yards in rear of Bn. BARRACKS FURNITURE 8. All tables and forms made by Bn. and in Coy areas to be stored under large shed in Barrack Square by 0800 hours. REAR PARTY 9. Each Coy will detail 3 men to report to 2/Lt. R.J. HARRIS on the Square. This party will ensure that the Bn. Billets and Area are thoroughly cleaned and will then move after Battalion.

A J. C. C. Lt. A. VILLIERS 49th BATT. A.I.F.

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49th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 15th MARCH 1919.

Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.

Day & Date	0930 to 1200 hours	1400 to 1500
Monday 10-3-19	Cleaning up Company Inspection. Parades.	Football, etc.
Tuesday 11-3-19	Platoon Drill (1 hour) Rifle Exercises (1/2 hour) Recreational Training	-do-
Wednesday 12-3-19	Company Route Marches Musketry - Rapid Loading (1/2 hour) Recreational Training	-do-
Thursday 13-3-19	Guards and Sentries (1 hour) Saluting Drill (1/2 hour)	-do-
Friday 14-3-19	Company Route Marches Recreational Training	-do-
Saturday 15-3-19	Kit Inspection (special attention to Boots, Sox and Feet).	-do-

Companies will have inspections completed and be in position on the Battalion Parade Ground by 0930 hours.

Men for Education Classes (except those commencing before 0930 hours) will attend Battalion Parade.

A halt can be made during Company Route Marches for the purpose of carrying out musketry instruction.

Companies will hold gargling parades at 0900 hours daily. All men of the Battalion will be on these parades.

H. J. Cutts

Lieutenant.,
Adjutant 49th Battalion A.I.F.

208 SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 22nd MARCH 1919.

Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.

Day & Date	0930 - 1200	1400 - 1500
Monday 17-3-19	Company Route Marches Recreational Training	Football Etc.
Tuesday 18-3-19	Company Drill ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour) Guards and Sentries ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hours) Recreational Training	-de-
Wednesday 19-3-19	Company Route Marches Recreational Training	-de-
Thursday 20-3-19	Platoon Drill (1 hour) Rifle Exercises ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour) Saluting Drill ($\frac{1}{4}$ hour) Recreational Training	-de-
Friday 21-3-19	Company Route Marches Recreational Training	-de-
Saturday 22-3-19	Full Kit Inspection Promulgation - "Fire Orders" Lecture - "Billet Discipline"	-de-

Companies will have inspections completed and be in position on the Bn. Parade Ground by 0930 hours.

Men for Education Classes (except those commencing before 0930 hours) will attend Battalion Parade.

A halt can be made during Company Route Marches for the purpose of carrying out Musketry Instructions.

Companies will hold gargling parades at 0900 hours each morning. All men in the Battalion will be on these parades.

H. J. Cutts
Lieutenant.,
Adjutant 49th Battalion A.I.F..

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49th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 29th MARCH 1919.

Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.

Day & Date.	0930 to 1200 hours	1400 to 1500
Monday 24-3-19	: Company Route Marches : recreational Training	: Football, etc.
Tuesday 25-3-19	: Guards and Sentries (1 hour) : Company Drill (1/2 hour) : recreational Training	: -do-
Wednesday 26-3-19	: Company Route Marches : Musketry - Rapid Loading (1/2 hour) : recreational Training	: -do-
Thursday 27-3-19	: Platoon Drill (1 hour) : Rifle Exercises (1/2 hour) : recreational Training	: -do-
Friday 28-3-19	: Company Route Marches : Saluting Drill (1/2 hour) : Recreational Training	: -do-
Saturday 29-3-19	: Kit Inspection (special attention to Boots : Feet and Sox).	: -do-

Companies will have inspections completed and be in position on Bn, Parade Ground by 0930 hours.

Men for Education classes (except those starting before 0930 hours) will attend Battalion Parade.

A halt can be made during Company Route Marches for the purpose of carrying out Musketry instruction.

Companies will hold gargling parades at 0900 hours daily. All men in the Battalion will be on these parades.

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