

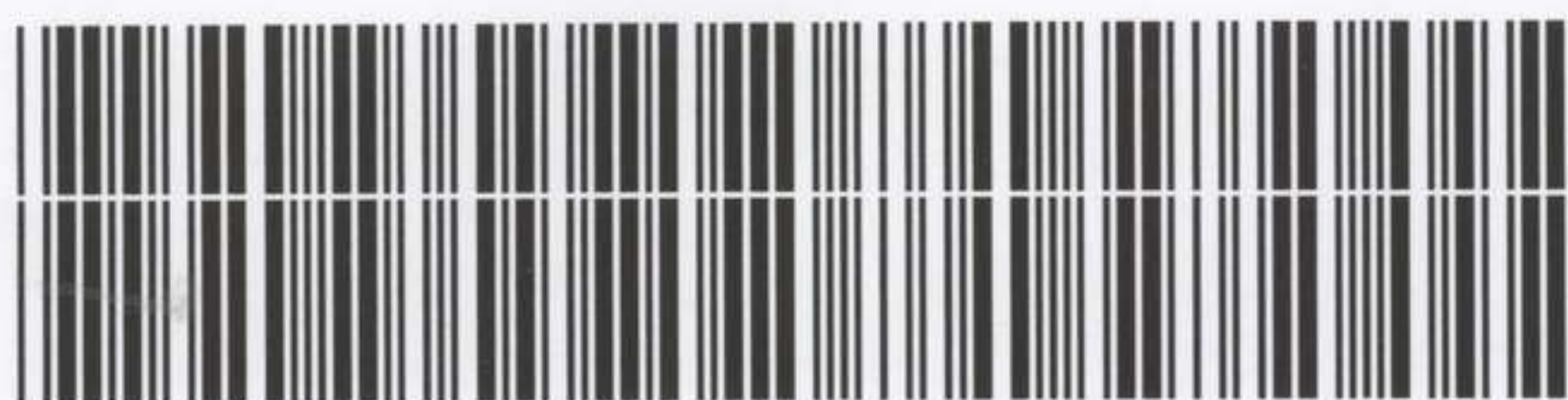
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/67/32

**Title:** 50th Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/67/32

ORIGINAL.

W A R            D I A R Y

o f

5 0 th. B A T T A L I O N    A. I. F.

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f o r

MONTH OF F E B R U A R Y. 1919.

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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.

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50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT.	Feb.	1st.		<p>Heavy fall of snow during the night. In the Morning a muster parade of the Battalion, was held and the C.O. explained the circumstances under which Battalions would be amalgamated in the near future. Medals were presented to the winners of the various events at the Brigade Sports Meeting and the Battalion Cross-Country Meeting.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this parade the C.O. personally interviewed all men who were dissatisfied with their position on the Battalion Repatriation Precedence Roll. Thirteen men were paraded, and, with one exception, were content with their position, when the matter had been carefully explained. One man however, preferred to take his case to the Divisional Tribunal.</p> <p>A working party of 2 Officers and 100 men was supplied to clear the road to ONHAYE of snow, on account of the transport difficulties.</p>	
"	"	2nd.		<p>Another Working Party of 2 Officers and 60 men was supplied on account of a further light fall of snow. Very few men, therefore, were available for church parade at 1100 hours.</p> <p>Captain W.J.HALL M.C., returned from leave to BRUSSELS and took over the duties of Battalion Education Officer, vice Lieut. J.H.HILL to Australia. Dance in the evening.</p>	
"	"	3rd.		<p>During the morning instead of the usual parades, a selection of the Australian Official War Photographs of special interest to the 4th. Division were on view to the men, who were invited to give orders and have them sent to any address. A great number of the men took advantage of the offer.</p> <p>Hon. Lieut. A.B.CRACE evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
"	"	4th.		<p>Company Route Marches during the morning. Lieut. A.B.SPIERS took over duties of Quarter Master vice CRACE. Preparation of the equipment prior to handing in was commenced.</p> <p>Another dance was held in the evening.</p>	
"	"	5th.		<p>Another heavy fall of snow during the afternoon and evening. The usual disciplinary and recreational training during the morning.</p> <p>A conference of Quarter Masters was held at Brigade Headquarters to discuss the method to be adopted when handing the Battalion equipment to the Base. The lists required by Ordnance were commenced. 2/Lieutenant L.H. CORNELL reported for duty from O.T.C.</p>	
"	"	6th.		<p>The usual parades were held in the morning, the recreational training being devoted chiefly to snow fights. Two Officers reported for duty from O.T.C. - 2/Lieuts. S. SAMPSON . A.M. WILSON.</p>	

D. D. & J. London, E.C.

(AS 004) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

Fine Day.

Wm Fowler  
Major



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Reference Map NAMUR 1/100.000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT.	Feb.	7th.		Lieut. Colonel A.G. SALISBURY D.S.O., returned from 75 days leave to U.K., and took over the Command of the Brigade during the absence of Brigadier General S.C.E. HERRING D.S.O., on leave. The usual parades were held in the morning. A fine day but very cold in the afternoon. A dance was held for the men in the evening.	
"	"	8th.		Very cold indeed during the early morning, when Company Route Marches were carried out. C.O. attended the Divisional tribunal which met to hear the case of Pte TOWERS J.H., as regards his position on the Battalion Repatriation Precedence Roll. After hearing the case from both sides the Tribunal upheld the C.O.'s decision.	
"	"	9th.		Church Parade was held in the Factory at 1100 hours. It was bitterly cold in the early morning, but turned out a fine and bright day.	
"	"	10th.		The ordinary parades were held in the morning. One Company had the use of the Baths at DINANT. 2/Lieutenant C.B. CORNISH reported for duty from O.T.C.	
"	"	11th.		The remainder of the Battalion had the use of the Baths. The Brigade Commander inspected the billets and Transport Lines during the morning. A dance was held in the evening. A remarkable interest is shown in these dances which are always very well attended.	

*Tom Fowler*  
major





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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT.	1919. Feb.	12th.		The ordinary disciplinary and recreational training carried out. 3 Officers reconnoitred a portion of the Divisional area with a view to selecting the best tactical position for the defence of the area. Lieuts. W.L. SCARBOROUGH, A.G. ROWE and H.L. BILLING were detailed and were allotted a section of the area. The work was not completed today.	
"	"	13th.		1 Officer, 2/Lieut. E.G. CRISP, and 6 O.R.'s left the Battalion to form portion of a party of 30 who were taken to BRUSSELS on a conducted tour, embracing the city and the field of Waterloo. The tour is to last 6 days. The reconnaissance of the Divisional area was completed and a report prepared for Brigade Headquarters which proved very satisfactory. A bridge tournament was held in the evening for the men.	
"	"	14th)		The weather turned out wet and interfered with parades on the 14th. & 15th. and on the 16th.	
"	"	15th)		the Church Parade had to be cancelled on account of the illness of Chaplain HALL.	
"	"	16th)		Dances were held on the evenings of 14th. & 16th.	
"	"	17th.		The usual parades were held in the morning. In the afternoon the Medical Inspection which is required by the Demobilization Department in order to fill up the Medical Report (A.I.F. Form 536) which accompanies every man on demobilization, was commenced by the Medical Officer. The first 50 men on the Battalion Precedence roll being examined. On completion of this examination they will be paraded before a board to be convened by the A.D.M.S. Division. Orders were received in the evening that the equipment would in all probability be handed in on the 20th. inst. A dancing class for beginners was held in the evening.	
"	"	18th.		Nothing definite could be obtained with regard to the handing in of equipment, and the day was spent in finalizing the arrangements for same. A thaw set in and in consequence the roads and ground under foot are in a very wet and muddy condition. 2/Lieut. C.F. HALE reported for duty ex O.T.C. The 50 men inspected by the Medical Officer yesterday appeared before a board today and their papers were completed	
"	"	19th.		Orders were received altering the method of preparing the lists for Ordnance and at very short notice it was necessary to retype the lists, showing the whole of the equipment on the Mobilization Store Table for a Battalion. This entailed a tremendous amount of extra work and	

(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Form 5/C2:13/16.

50th BATTALION  
A.I.F.  
Lionel Fowler  
major



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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50th. BATTALION A.I.F. - Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919.		<u>Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000</u>	
DINANT.	Feb.	19th.	as the equipment was to leave DINANT on the 20th. inst. it meant that the Q.M., and R.Q.M.S., would have to proceed independently in order to complete the lists. Dull day with slight misty showers. In order that the Unit could still carry on without amalgamation, two cooks complete with necessary accessories were borrowed from 51st. Bn. and in addition 1 water cart & 2 telephones. The equipment is to be carried on the Battalion Transport, but horses and harness will be supplied by the 49th. Battalion. Transport will travel by road to CHATELINEAU a distance of about 60 kilometres, staging one night at FLORENNES. A conducting party of 1 Officer & 18 Other Ranks accompanying it, as brakesmen and unloading party.	
	"	20th.	The Transport with a large proportion of the gear left at 0830 hours for FLORENNES. The remainder of the equipment will be taken by lorry tomorrow, doing the whole trip in the one day. The lists of equipment and deficiencies, stating reasons for the latter, were completed. 2/Lieut. A.E. SEARY M.M., reported for duty from O.T.C. Fine Morning, but heavy showers during the afternoon.	
	"	21st.	Transport left FLORENNES for CHATELINEAU at 0800 hours and arrived at their destination at 1200 hours. C.O. and Q.M. left DINANT at 0900 hours with the remainder of the equipment, arriving at 1400 hours. Captain R.G.T. GOODMAN took over the Battalion during the C.O.'s absence. Everything was satisfactorily handed in and a receipt obtained from D.A.D.O.S. A dance was held in the evening for the men.	
	"	22nd.	Route March in the morning about 4 to 5 miles. General BIRDWOOD interviewed Battalion Commanders at Brigade Headquarters in the afternoon. A euchre tournament was held in the evening. Conducting party returned from CHATELINEAU.	
	"	23rd.	A combined church parade was held with the 49th. Battalion at 1100 hours. Dance in the evening.	
	"	24th.	The usual parades were held in the morning. During the day a horse sale was held in DINANT at which 6 "Z" Class horses & Mules were sold from this Battalion. The average price paid was about 1300 francs. Dance for beginners in the evening.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Form S/C211/5/16.



*Wm Fowler*  
Major



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

209

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) 50th. BATTALION A.I.F. Page No

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1919.		<u>Reference Map NAMUR 1/100,000</u>	
DINANT.	25th.		Route March, 6 miles, in the morning. In the afternoon all Officers were paraded at Brigade Headquarters, where the Br gade Commander lectured them on discipline. Another dance was held in the evening.	
	Feb. 26th.)		The usual parades only were held during the 3 days-owing to the prevalence of influenza in the Army area it has been necessary to issue an order forbidding all forms of amusement where crowds are collected in rooms etc. C.O., to Brigade Headquarters on 28th. to meet Major General T.W.GLASGOW C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Very heavy rain and hail storm on the afternoon of 28th.	
"	27th.)			
"	28th.)			

*Wm Fowler  
major*





50th. B A T T A L I O N A.I.F.  
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STATEMENT OF INCREASE AND DECREASES FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1919

Place	Date	Hour
	<u>INCREASES :-</u>	2/Lieuts. L.H.CORNELL, & A.M.WILSON & S.SAMPSON from O.T.C. 2/Lieuts. C.B.CORNISH, C.F. HALE, & A.E.SEARY from O.T.C. Lieut.Colonel A.G.SALISBURY D.S.O., ret'd. from 75 days Furlough in U.K. 1 From Divisional Headquarters, 4 O.R. from Reinforcements. 1 O.R. from F.P. Compound. 1 O.R. from 4th.Div.Traffic Control. 2 O.R. from Military Prison. 1 O.R. from S.C.Compound (Police Duty)
	<u>DECREASES :-</u>	Capt. R.J. RUDALL (Struck Off Strength) to Education Service, Eng. 2 O.R. to Admin.H.Q., London. 3 O.R. to Aust. for Early Repatriation. 9 O.R. to Sutton Veny, Eng., for Non Mil. Emplmt. 1 Transfd. to Div.H.Q. 6 " 4th. Div. Train. 2 " 27th. Coy. A.A.S.C. 11 O.R., S.O.S., being in Hospital Outside Div. Area.

Present Strength "Actually with Unit".

Off.	O.R.
22.	348.

*Wm Fowler*

.....Major.

