

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/99/11

Title: No 4 Battalion, Overseas Training
Brigade

October 1918



AWM4-23/99/11

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	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
No 4 BN	1-10-18		Four permanent Cadre officers viz Lt. J. C. Gray 29 B th , J. T. Blair 28 B th , J. A. Menzies 44 B th , C. E. De Vis 26 B th marched out. G.O.C. A.I.F. Depôts visited B th .	AC/H.
O.T.B	2-10-18.		Check of Barrack Exchanges held. Weather wet & cold. Troops kept indoors and work as per indoor syllabus applied.	AC/H.
LONGBRIDGE	3-10-18.		Weather improving. Band parade held.	AC/H.
DEVERILL	4-10-18		Notification received to the effect that officers and Q/R serving on permanent cadre could be granted 14 days O/Sed leave provided that the officers' or Q/R work has been satisfactory and his application has been approved by the C.O. of the B th .	
	5-10-18		Brigadier inspected camp. Satisfactory report obtained. During the absence of Major Tubbman C.O. of the B th the Command of the B th will be administered by Cpt. M. W. Sundercombe M.C. 28 B th . £2.5/- distributed in prize money for musketry on Brigade.	AC/H.
	6-10-18		Church parades held in the morning. Open camp from 1400	AC/H.
	7-10-18		Usual work as per syllabus. Rifle competition held on miniature Range. £2 distributed in prizes.	AC/H.
	8-10-18		32 Q/R's proceed on 14 days leave. Training as per syllabus.	AC/H.
	9-10-18.		Routine as per syllabus.	AC/H.
	10-10-18		Routine as per syllabus.	AC/H.
	11-10-18		Particular attention drawn to the necessity for economy in fuel & light in B th . Routine Orders No 223 para 9. of 11-10-18. Notification received to the effect that the Continental System of Time would be adopted throughout the British Army from 30 Sept. 1918/1 Oct. 1918.	app(1)
	12-10-18		Brigadier's inspection of camp in morning. Open camp in afternoon. Rugby football match played between O.T.B and No. Command resulted in a win for the latter team. Applications called for services of C. Category men as side Car drivers for transfer to	AC/H.
	13-10-18		Church parades held in the morning. Camp plunged into excitement in the evening on account of news from one of the local papers.	AC/H.

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WAR DIARY

or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NOLL BN	1918			
	October			
	14		Presentation of medals by G.O.C. A.I.F. depôts. Two members of this B ⁿ received M.M. and M.M. and bar respectively. RCH	
O.T.B	15.		Leave party of 2 strong. Routine as per syllabus. RCH	
	16.		Training as per syllabus. RCH	
LONGBRIDGE	17.		Special order in B.R.O.'s No 229 para 10 - concerning dress of drafts moving out from	
DEVERILL	18.		B ⁿ . Coal issue for winter months commenced. RCH	
	19.		Brigadier's inspection of Camp. Lecture by Cpt. Brooks A.A.M.C. to all officers and N.C.O.'s of the B ⁿ in Camp Theatre. RCH	
	20.		Church parades held. Special para in B.R.O. No 232 - para 6 - re wearing of RCH	
	21.		Usual routine. RCH	
	22.		Extract from Brigade Routine Order No 238d, 20.10.18 is republished in B ⁿ R.O. 233 for the information and necessary action of all officers, N.C.O.'s and men. RCH	
	23.		Usual routine. RCH	
	24.		Partner relief of the Permanent Cadre will not march out of this B ⁿ until 1 st Dec. Relief from France will report as usual. RCH	
	25.		During the absence of Cpt H. Rodda 22 B ⁿ adjutant No 2 B ⁿ Lieut R.C. Hunter will act as adjutant. A board of survey consisting of the following members will assemble at 2.15 Cpt V. West (President) Lts W. Langlands + F. J. Deacon (Members) will assemble at 2.15 store to deal with clothing which it is deemed necessary to return to return to Ordnance. RCH	
	26.		Brigadier inspected Camp & personnel therein. RCH	
	27.		Church parades as usual. £10 was donated to G.O.C. A.I.F. Fund as the result of a concert party given in the Camp Theatre by Mr Hurley's Party "The Jokers". RCH	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
No 4 Bn	1918		Lieut Venton 25 Bn attended a course of Topography at Tidworth and qualified as an instructor. G.O.C. A.I.F. Depôts in U.K. visited camp & inspected the men in training. R.C.H.W.	
O.T.B	October 28.		Routine as per syllabus. R.C.H.W.	
LONGBRIDGE	29.		Further instructions issued re. Drunkenness. B.R.O.'s 240 para 9. R.C.H.W.	
DEVERILL	30.		Applications asked for from offrs with a view to their qualifying for permanent commissions in the Indian Army. Candidates must be:	
	31.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. under the age of 25 years on 1st Nov. 1918. 2. unmarried. 3. of suitable education. <p>The weather for the month has been good. With on or two exceptions outside training had not been effected. R.C.H.W.</p>	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>List of Appendices.</u>	
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No. 1. Battalion Routine Orders for month of October. No. 2. State showing Marchings In & Marchings Out for Oct. No. 3. R.M.O.'s Report. No. 4. Q.M.'s Report. No. 5. Missing Officers Report. No. 6. Officers School Report. No. 7. N.C.O.'s School Report. A.C.H.s. 	

SUMMARY OF MARCHING IN TO THIS BATTALION FOR MONTH ENDING 31.10.18

31st October 1918

No.4 Battalion O.T.B.

Units.	No.1Cd.	No.4Cd.	Detn.	1ADH.	T ¹ worth.	OTC.	AIFHQ.	No.1Bn.	No.2Bn.	No.3Bn.	No.2Cd.	France.	14TB.	Codford.	S.Veny.	Fovant.	2TB.	Total.
Arty.	167	130	4	2	1	1	2											307
M.G.C.	136	90				3												229
P.C.E.	57	36	1				1	1	1									97
R.SIGS.	201	169														16		386
MTB.	36	27	1										1					65
D.SIGS.	59	14							1									74
TNLS.	34	21	1		1				1									60
A.M.C.	39	20								1			1					61
A.L.H.	11	5																16
A.L.R.O.C.	6	6																12
SALV COY.	3	3																6
MT. BAC.		1																1
INFANTRY.	14	1			1/2		2	4	3			15	3	1	/			44
A.S.C.	33	17	1		1									1				52
A.V.C.	3	2																6
A.W.S.		2																2
A.C.B.	11	6																17
TRIG. CON'L		1																1
A.F.C.	2																	2
D.H.Q.		4																4
A.P.O.C.	2																	2
	815	555	8	2	4	4	3	3	7	4	1	16	4	1	2	16		1444

Officer Compiling War Diary. Lieut.
No.4 Battalion O.T.B.

..... Major.
C.O. NO.4 Battalion O.T.B.

SUMMARY OF OTHER RANKS MARCHING OUT OF THIS BATTALION FOR MONTH ENDING 31.10.18

31st October 1918

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No.4 Battalion O.T.B.																Totals.				
Destination.	Arty.	MGC.	PGE.	AMC.	R.Sigs.	D.Sigs.	TMB.	Tnlrs.	ASC.	ALROC.	AVC.	ALH.	ACB.	Sal Coy.	DHQ.	Inf.	APOC.			
Heytesbury.	195																		195	
No.1 Cmd.	5	1	4	2		1							2				2		17	
Overseas.	9	1	1				35	31	1				5	8	2	15			108	
St Budeaux.	9																		109	
AIF HQ.	1																1		2	
S.O.S.	4	1		1	2		2	1	1			1						8	21	
Parkhouse.		149	6	1				1	39			1	2					1	1	201
Fovant.				69	111													2		182
S.Very.					59															59
Hurdcott.					104															104
Shefford.								33												33
Brightlingsea.			80																	80
Tidworth.					1	1						11							1	14
No.2 Battalion.				1															1	2
Borden.									10											10
No.1 Battalion.																			2	2
No.3 Battalion.																			6	6
No.2 Command.																			1	1
	227	152	91	74	287	35	37	33	41	10	1	14	7	8	2	40	1			1044

Officer compiling War Diary.....*R.C. Hodgetts*.....Lieut.
No.4 Battalion O.T.B.

A.W. Sunderland Capt
a/c.o. No.4 Battalion O.T.B.Major.

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MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT.

MEDICAL STAFF.

One Medical Officer with one N.C.O. and four A.M.C. Orderlies does the work of this Battalion.

The average ration strength of the Battalion is about 1300.

The medical work of this Battalion consists in :-

1. The maintenance of health and sanitation.
2. The prevention and treatment of disease, including venereal disease.
3. Treatment of casualties.
4. Observation as to the physical fitness of Trainees.
5. Reclassification of unfits.

as regards:-

1. The maintenance of health of the personnel. This entails a daily inspection of the living quarters, messing arrangements, and sanitary arrangements of the Camp.

The medical officer ensures that the living quarters (huts) are kept perfectly clean, disinfected often, well ventilated, dry and not crowded.

The M.C. sees that all food is properly protected and fit for human consumption and properly cooked and served to prevent food poisoning which might result from contamination by unclean mess utensils infection by flies etc..

Daily inspection of all sanitary arrangements and conveniences is done by the M.C. This includes inspection of latrines, ablution places, baths, drains and grease traps.

All defects in sanitation are reported by the M.C. who ensures that the proper repairs are made and proper sanitation restored.

2. The prevention and treatment of disease, including venereal disease.

The M.C. endeavours to prevent disease and epidemics by ensuring that perfect sanitation is maintained in the Camp.

Any man becoming ill is encouraged to parade to his M.C. and the instant that a case of infectious disease is discovered drastic steps are taken to prevent the disease spreading.

The hut in which the patient has been sleeping is isolated together with the other occupants under an armed guard, and no person except the M.C. is allowed to enter the isolated hut.

Venereal Disease is prevented as much as possible as follows:-

All men marching into camp from other camps or from furlough are medically examined within 24 hours of their arrival.

If a man has taken a risk of contracting V.D. he is straightway given preventive treatment. Men are encouraged to report to the M.C. the moment they notice anything amiss.

By this means Venereal Disease is treated as early as possible with most excellent results. Less than 1 per cent. of the uncomplicated cases of V.D. in the last six months have had to be sent to No. 1 A.D.H. Bulford.

Treatment of disease:- All minor complaints, medical and surgical are treated by the M.C. and his staff. All major complaints are evacuated to hospital at Sutton Veny for treatment.

Sick parades are held twice daily, and all sick personnel dealt with.

Uncomplicated cases of Gonorrhoea are given a course of treatment by specially trained staff established in the Camp.

All complicated cases of V.D. and venereal sores are sent to Bulford Hospital.

3. Treatment of casualties:- All cases of mild accidents are treated by the M.C. in the Medical Hvt.

All sever cases are evacuated to hospital.

4. Physical fitness of trainees:- Many men break down while being tried out by the three weeks course of training which they have whilst in this Camp.

Such men are medically examined and if necessary medically boarded, and classified as unfit for General Service, temporarily or permanently.

During the month of October 1918, the medical work of this Battalion has been much heavier for two reasons:-

1. The large increase in strength of the Battalion from the usual 900 to about 1300.

This increase being largely due to the influx of men from convalescent camps.

These men were rendered casualties in the strenuous battle of the

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Somme in April, May and June 1918.

2. The epidemic of influenza now prevalent in all camps in U. K. In this Battalion the epidemic was only slight until the 20th. of the month, a rapid increase in the number of men infected, and evacuated to hospital has occurred.

The average daily evacuations of influenza cases to hospital now being about 8.

Out of 39 evacuated to hospital from this Battalion during the month, only 1 death has occurred.

Steps taken to limit the spreading of this epidemic are as follows:-

Prevention of crowding:- As much has been possible under the adverse circumstances of the large increase in the strength of the Battalion, bad weather conditions etc., the number of men in each hut has been reduced, so that at night each man is a safe distance from his neighbour as regards becoming infected by his neighbour's breath, which is the usual mode of infection with influenza.

Disinfection of huts by washing out with Cressol and spraying with Formalin.

Disinfection of blankets at regular intervals.

3. Prompt evacuations to hospitals:- Special measures have been taken so that the moment a man feels "out of sorts" he is paraded to the M.C. who, if the patient has early signs of influenza, evacuates the patient to hospital immediately.

Thus the camp is kept clean of carriers of the disease.

Longbridge Deverill.
1.11.1918.

N.W. Sunderbank
A/C.C. No. 4 Battalion, C.T.B. Capt.

Q. M. REPORT.

The issue of winter clothing, which is very much appreciated by the members of this Battalion, commenced on the 11th. of the month otherwise "Q" Branch has been at normal.

Longbridge Deverill.
31. 10. 1918.

A. W. Henderson Major.
a/c. C. O. No. 4 Battalion, C. T. B.

MESSING OFFICERS' REPORT.

This month has seen the largest number of men in camp yet experienced, and difficulty was experienced in finding conveniences for the extra messing. However, a fifth mess hut was equipped and opened, this rendering a second sitting unnecessary.

The quality of the food and its variety, were quite good, but the men found it hard to return to the "Training" ration, which is 50 per. cent. less than that issued at the Command Depots, from which the men came.

Longbridge Deverill.
31. 10. 1918.

A. W. Henderson Major.
a/c. C. O. No. 4 Battalion, C. T. B.

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OFFICERS' SCHOOL REPORT.

During the month 218 Officers passed through for Overseas and United Kingdom. Of the above number 196 went through the Brigade Gas Course with satisfactory results.

One Officer left the School for "1914" Furlough in the U. K. Revolver shooting has been satisfactory, some first class shots discovered by C.C. School.

School strength(to date)- 102

Longbridge Deverill.
2.11.1918.

N. W. Sunderland Capt.
A/C.O. No. 4 Battalion, C. T. I

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING "A" COMPANY.

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<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PLACE.</u>
<u>MONDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	Battalion Parade	
	0900 to 1200	Platoon in Attack	"B" & "C" Ranges.
	1400 to 1500	Dummy Rifle Grenade Training	
	1500 to 1630	Gas Lecture & Respirator Drill.	
<u>TUESDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	Battalion Parade	
	0900 to 1200	(L. Gun for Detail N.C.O's. (Tactical Schemes for Inf. N.C.O's.	
	1400 to 1600	P.T. & B.F.	
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	Battalion Parade	
	0900 to 1100	Live Rifle & Bombing	
	1100 to 1200	P. T. & B.F.	"G" & "H" Ranges.
	1400 to 1630	Mad minute	
<u>THURSDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	Battalion parade	
	0900 to 1200	Musketry	
	1400 to 1630	Lewis Gun Firing	"G" & "H" Ranges.
<u>FRIDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	Battalion Parade	
	0900 to 1200	Lewis Gun Instruction	
	1400 to 1630	Musketry Apptd.	"E" & "F" Ranges.
<u>SATURDAY</u>	0830 to 0900	P. T. & B. F.	
	1100	Brigadier's Inspection.	

Note:- Senior N.C.O. of each Battalion will report to O.C "A" Company, No.4 Battalion on No.4 Battalion Parade Ground at 0815 and 1330 daily with Parade States.

Notwithstanding the severe weather experienced here during the past month, the syllabus has been adhered to with very little exception.

The average daily parade state is 100 N.C.O's and every man no matter what unit he belongs excepting A.M.C. have to undergo this training. No subject lasts long enough to prove boring to the men and consequently a keen interest is shown throughout. The subject "platoon in Attack" is a special favourite with the N.C.O's as is also bombing.

A rather unfortunate incident occurred during the last named subject on Wednesday morning last. A corporal, although taking cover from a bursting bomb was struck by a splinter and it is feared that he will lose the sight of his right eye. It only proves how very strict officers i/c of training parties must be during the various subjects, and it is up to all N.C.O's undergoing this course of training not to cause any breach of discipline, whilst out on the ranges especially.

Longbridge Deverill.
1.11.1918.

N. W. Sunderman Capt.
A/C.C. No.4 Battalion, O. T. B.