

**AWM4**

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

Infantry

**Item number: 23/36/25**

**Title: 19th Infantry Battalion**

February 1918



AWM4-23/36/25



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*19<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF*

FOR

*February 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Major. Smith*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. J. ... Major*





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Army Form C. 2118.

# WAR DIARY

## OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 2 (1918)

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENINGHEM	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>		Training - cleaning up. Strength of Bn. 40 off. 1035 o/r - Reinf. 1 off. 10 o/r.	
"	" 2	9am to noon	Training - afternoon half holiday	
			Strength of Bn 41 off 1025 o/r - Reinf. 1 o/r	
"	" 3	9am to 11am	Church Parades - Strength of Bn 41 off. 1024 o/r Reinf. Nil.	
"	" 4	-	Training - " " 41 off 1019 o/r " 2 o/r	App. 1
"	" 5		do. " " 41 off 1021 o/r " Nil	do.
"	" 6		do. " " 41 off 1019 o/r " 2 o/r. 11 o/r.	do.
"	" 7		do. 20 o/r granted leave to St Omer. Strength of Bn 41 off 1028 o/r Reinf. 1 off 10 o/r	do.
"	" 8		do. 25 o/r do. do.	do.
			Strength of Bn 42 off 1035 o/r - Reinf. Nil.	
"	" 9		Training - Strength of Bn 42 off 1035 o/r.	do.
"	" 10		Church parade at 18 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Hd Qrs. A+D Coy to Batho.	
			Strength of Bn. 42 off. 1017 o/r Reinf. 1 off 13 o/r.	
"	" 11		Training - B+6 Coy to Batho.	App. 2
			Strength of Bn 43 off 1026 o/r - Reinf. Nil.	
"	" 12		Training - Strength of Bn 42 off 1021 o/r - Reinf. Nil	do.

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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENINGHEM.	2013		Raining. Medical establishment inspected by A.D.M.S.	App-2
"	<del>13</del>		Strength of Bn. 42 off 1020 ofr - Reinf. 13 ofr.	
"	14		Raining	do.
"		6:45 am	B Coy (3 off 110 ofr) proceeded to VAL de LUMBRES as marking party on Range.	
"			Strength of Bn. 42 off 1029 ofr - Reinf. Nil.	
"	15		Raining. Co + Coy Commanders proceeded to Div. H Qrs for lecture by Brig. Gen. Wisdom.	do.
"			10 off + 10 ofr proceeded to CALAIS to visit Salvage Depot - (1 day)	
"			Strength of Bn. 42 off 1028 ofr - Reinf. 3 ofr.	
"	16		Raining. A + C Coys proceeded to VAL de LUMBRES for Musketry practice.	do.
"			Strength of Bn. 42 off 1029 ofr - Reinf. Nil.	
"	17	10.30 am	H Q Details, A + B Coys Church Parade	
"			D Coy proceeded to VAL de LUMBRES for Musketry practice.	
"			Strength of Bn. 42 off. 1019 ofr - Reinf. 6 ofr.	
"	18		Raining. Bn (less B Coy) proceeded to Baths (10.30 am to 4 pm)	App 3

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# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NAUVEAU	1918			
SENINGHEM	Feb 18		Strength of Bn 41 off. 1020 hr. Reinf. Nil.	
"	19		Raining	App. 3.
		9.30 am	Inspection of Bn + transport by G.O.C. 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde.	
			Strength of Bn. 41 off 1019 of R. - Reinf. 1 off 2 of R	
"	20		Raining - Army Rifle Assn. Elimination tests at Brigade Course	App. 3
			Strength of Bn 42 off 1019 of R - Reinf. Nil.	
"	21		Raining - Afternoon half holidays. Football match 19 <sup>th</sup> Bn v 17 <sup>th</sup> Bn	App. 3
			19 <sup>th</sup> Bn won by 3 to 15 Nil.	
			Strength of Bn 42 off 1019 of R Reinf. 10 of R.	
"	22		Raining - HQ details, A, B + D Coy proceeded to Bako.	App. 3
			Strength of Bn. 42 off 1015 of R. Reinf. Nil.	
"	23		Raining	App. 3
			Final elimination tests ARA Competition at VAL de LUMBRES	
			Nos 6, 9, 12 + 13 platoons participated	App. 4
			Strength of Bn. 42 off 1014 of R Reinf. 1 of R.	
"	24		<del>Raining</del> Church Parades - Strength of Bn. 42 off 1004 of R Reinf. 1 off. 6 of R	

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# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENINGHEM	Feb. 25		Raining - Strength of Bn. 43 off. 1009 OR Reinf. 3 OR.	App. 5
"	26		do. Bn. officers <del>present</del> attended Staff ride - 50% in morning 50% in afternoon.	do.
			Strength of Bn 43 off 1009 OR - Reinf. 6 OR.	
"	27		Raining - Strength of Bn 42 off 1013 OR Reinf. 2 OR	App. 5
"	28		do. " " 42 off 1013 OR " 2 OR	do.
<p><i>[Signature]</i> Major 19th Condg 19<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>				



# WAR DIARY

OF

*19<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F.*

FOR

*February 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	<i>Syllabus of Training</i>
2	<i>do.</i>
3	<i>do.</i>
4	<i>Results + Remarks on Bn. Elimination for ARA Competition</i>
5	<i>Syllabus of Training</i>



GENERAL TRAINING.

SYLLABUS of TRAINING for WEEK ENDING 9th FEBY. 1918.

1918 :	9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	1.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Feb. 4 :	Inspection and Rifle Exercises :	Bayonet Fighting :	LECTURE: Care of Arms, Trigger Dressing :	Ceremonial - Guard of Honour :	Organized Games - Rapid Wiring :	Company Drill :	
" 5 :		R O U T E		M A R C H.			
" 6 :	do	Platoon Drill	Box Helmet Drill	H A L F		H O L I D A Y	
" 7 :	do	Organised Games	Rapid Loading. LECTURE: Fire Orders	LECTURE: Mechanism Lewis Gun.		Organised Games	Bayonet Fighting
" 8 :	do	Bayonet Fighting	LECTURE: Bombs - Practice Throwing		Platoon Drill	Artillery Formations	Extended Order - Use of Cover
" 9 :	do	Company Drill	CEREMONIAL: Inspection by General Officer. MARCH PAST.		H A L F		H O L I D A Y

*J. J. J. J.*

Major,  
Actg. C.O. 19th Aust. Inf. Batta.

*App*

*Appendix B*



SYLLABUS of TRAINING etc.

SPECIALIST TRAINING.

1912

9 - 30 to 11.30 a.m.

2 to 4 p.m.

Feb. 4	"A" Coy.	Musketry. Pressing. Drill.	Care of Arms. Fire Orders.	Trigger Bolt	"A" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and Throwing.
	"B" Coy.	Bombing.	Lecture and Throwing.		"B" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Fire Orders. Care of Arms. Trigger Pressing. Bolt Drill.
	"C" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stripping and assembling.		"D" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stripping and assembling.

" 5.

ROUTE MARCH.

" 6.	"A" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stripping and assembling.				
	"C" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Trigger Pressing. Fire Orders. Care of Arms.			HALF HOLIDAY.	
	"D" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and practice.				

" 7.

"A" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and throwing.		"A" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Aiming and trigger pressing.
"B" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stripping and assembling		"B" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and throwing.
"D" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Care of arms. Bolt Drill. Trigger Pressing.		"C" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stoppages.

" 8.

"B" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Aiming & Trigger Pressing.		"A" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stoppages.
"C" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and throwing.		"C" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Aiming - Trigger Pressing - Care of Arms.
"D" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stoppages. 4 4 4		"D" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and practice.

" 9.

"A" Coy.	BOMBING.	Lecture and practice.				
"B" Coy.	LEWIS GUNS.	Stoppages.				HALF HOLIDAY.
"D" Coy.	MUSKETRY.	Aiming and Trigger Pressing.				

Major, Actg.-S.O. 19th Aust. Inf. Bttn.

*Appendix 1*  
*J. J. J. J.*



19th BATTALION.

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APPENDIX

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 16th FEBRUARY 1918.

	9 - 9.30 a.m.	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	1.30 - 2 p.m.	2 - 3 p.m.	3 - 4 p.m.	PLACE OF PARADE	REMARKS
Feb. 11 "A" Coy. Inspection. Rifle Exercises	Musketry	Extended Order Drill	Box Helmet Drill	Bombing	Platoon Drill for competition	BAYENGMEN		SPECIAL INSTRUCTION Musketry: Lieut. HIGGELL
"B" Coy. Inspection Rifle Exercises	Bombing Fighting	Bayonet Fighting	Musketry	Rapid Wiring	do	BAYENGMEN		Rapid Wiring Lieut. SAINTPONS.
"C" Coy. do	Lewis Gun Insta	Musketry	Box Helmet Drill	Bayonet Fighting	do	do		Lewis Gun: Lieut. BRAND.
"D" Coy. do	Platoon Drill	Rapid Wiring	Lewis Gun Insta	Organized Games	do	do		
" 12	ALL COMPANIES - ROUTE MARCH.							
" 13 "A" Coy. Inspection. Rifle Exercises	Lewis Gun Insta	Platoon Drill for competition		HALF HOLIDAY		BAYENGMEN		Lewis Guns under Lieut. BRAND
"B" Coy. do	Rapid Wiring	do		DITTO		BAYENGMEN		
"C" Coy. do	Musketry	do		DITTO		do		
"D" Coy. do	Bombing	do		DITTO		do		
" 14 "A" Coy. Inspection. Rifle Exercises	Route March	Bombing	Musketry	Organized Games	Platoon Drill for competition	BAYENGMEN		
"B" Coy. do	Lewis Gun Insta	Bayonet Fighting	Bombing	Extended Order Drill	do	BAYENGMEN		
"C" Coy. do	Rapid Wiring	Organized Games	Lewis Gun Insta	Bayonet Fighting	do	do		
"D" Coy. do	Musketry	Gas Instruction	Rapid Wiring	Organized Games	do	do		

P.T.O. ~~4/2~~

Appendix

APPENDIX



APPENDIX 2

9.30 - 10.30 a.m. : 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. : 1.30 - 2 p.m. : 2 - 3 p.m. : 3 - 4 p.m. PLACE of PARADE: BARRACKS

Feb. 15	"A" Coy. Inspection. Rifle Exercises	Rapid Wiring	Organised Games	Helmet Drill	Musketry	Platoon Drill Competition	BAYENGHEN
	"B" Coy. do	Musketry	Bombing	Rapid Wiring	Bayonet Fighting	do	BENNINGHEN
	"C" Coy. do	Bombing	<i>Extended order Drill</i> <del>Organised Games</del>	Musketry	Organized Games	do	do
	"D" Coy. do	Lewis Gun Insta	Bayonet Fighting	Bombing	Extended order Drill	do	do
16	"A" Coy. Inspection. Rifle Exercises	Bombing	Platoon Drill for Competition		HALF HOLIDAY		BAYENGHEN
	"B" Coy. do	Lewis Gun Insta	do		HALF HOLIDAY		BENNINGHEN
	"C" Coy. do	Rapid Wiring	do		HALF HOLIDAY		do
	"D" Coy. do	Musketry	do		HALF HOLIDAY		do

APPENDIX 2  
9/10/1918

*Grant*  
Major,  
Actg. C.O. 19th Aust. Inf. Battalion.



War Diary

19th BATTALION, A.I.F.

APPENDIX 2 88

SYLLABUS of TRAINING for WEEK ENDING 23rd FEBRUARY 1918.

Date & Coy.	9 - 9.30 a.m.	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	1.30 - 2 p.m.	2 - 3 p.m.	3 - 4 p.m.	PLACE	REMARKS
Feb. 17 "A"	CHURCH	PARADE	Platoon Drill				Football Grnd	Fall-in 10.15 (a.m.)
"B"	BRIGADE DUTIES	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE				Lumbres	do
"C"	CHURCH	PARADE					Football Grnd	do
"D"	MUSKETRY PRACTICES	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE				Lumbres	Fall-in 6.45 a.m.
Feb. 18 "A"	Rifle Ex'cises	Gas Instruct'n	Musketry	Rapid Wiring	Bombing	P.T. & B.Ftng		
"B"	BRIGADE DUTIES	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE					
"C"	Rifle Ex'cises	Route March	Musketry	Platoon Drill	Gas Instruct'n	P.T. & B.Ftng		Lewis Gunners Coy
"D"	HOLIDAY	in LIEU	of SUNDAY					
Feb. 19 "A"	Rifle Ex'cises	Musketry	Musketry	Company Drill	Platn. Attack	P.T. & B.Ftng	Seninghem	Musketry on battn. Range
"C"	"	Company Drill	Route March	Rapid Wiring	Bombing	do		
"D"	"	Route March	Musketry	Platoon Drill	Gas Instruct'n	P.T. & B.Ftng		Lewis Gunners Coy
Feb. 20 "A"	"	do	Gas Instruct'n	HALF HOLIDAY			Seninghem	Lewis Gunners Coy
"C"	"	Gas Instruct'n	Extended Order					
"D"	"	Musketry	Musketry	HALF HOLIDAY				
Feb. 21 "A"	"	Platoon Drill	Company Attack	Musketry	Extended Order Drill	Physical Trng & Bayon. Ftng	Seninghem	Lewis Gunners Coy
"C"	"	Musketry	Musketry	Company Drill	Platn. Attack	do		Musketry on Battln. Range
"D"	"	Platoon Drill	Platn. Attack	Rapid Wiring	Gas Instruct'n	do		
Feb. 22 "A"	"	Musketry	Musketry	Platoon Drill	Extended Order Drill	do	Seninghem	Musketry on Battln. Range
"C"	"	Bombing	"	Platoon Drill	Compy. Attack	do		Lewis Gunners Coy
"D"	"	Musketry	Company Attack	Company Drill	Bombing	do		
Feb. 23 "A"	MUSKETRY	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE				Lumbres Range	
"B"	MUSKETRY	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE				"	
"D"	MUSKETRY	on LUMBRES	RIFLE RANGE				"	

The Battalion Gas N.C.O. will assist Coy. Commanders to test Gas Respirators, and supervise application of Anti-Dimming Mixture to Goggles, and vaseline to Valves.

Lieut. FISHER will instruct Bombers and Grenadiers as detailed in above Syllabus.

" BRAND " Lewis Gunners

Signallers will report to Lieut. COOKE for instruction at 9 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. daily.

Battalion Observers will parade at 9 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. under Lieut. TRENNERY.

Batmen will parade daily at 10.30 a.m. at Battalion Headquarters.

Stretcher-bearers will parade with respective Companies.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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Major,  
Actg.-C.O. 19th Aust. Inf. Battalion.



Plat'n:	Hits on Targets				Pnts.	Stabs on Bags			Total	Deductions			Net	Total
	L.	L.C.	R.C.	R.		1st	2nd	3rd		Grnd	Bayt	Con-		
No. 13:	83	61	53	52 = 249	19	18	18 = 110	359	-16	-14 = 30	329			
" 6:	81	35	31	13 = 160	19	17	16 = 104	264	-22	-16 = 38	226			
" 12:	79	33	27	35 = 174	16	16	15 = 94	268	-38	-9 = 47	221			
" 9:	35	50	35	31 = 151	16	15	15 = 92	243	-33	-9 = 42	201			

No. 13 Platoon - Commander Lieut. KNECH.

The Platoon Commander gave indication and elevation prior to load. The repetition of elevation on 300 yds. Mound was unnecessary. Men loaded on 300 yds. Mound before "Cease Fire." The elevation after "Cease Fire" at 300 yards was not given until 200 yds. Mound was manned.

The platoon after bayonetting bags at 250 yards, advance at high port. One man made two points at a bag. Otherwise the style and dash were good.

No. 6 Platoon - Commander Lieut. LIPSCOMB.

Men anticipated orders. On whistle from judge, some men began to get up. One man fired as the platoon was about to advance at 300 yards. Section Commanders gave weak fire orders and did not name their respective Sections.

At 200 yds. Mound, Platoon Commander's fire orders were inaudible. No orders were given to platoon to unload after cease fire.

The fire order "Reload" at 300 yds. Mound was unnecessary after "Cease Fire."

After encountering the first row of sacks, some men advanced at the high port, while others at the "On Guard."

The butts of the rifles were too far back in the "On Guard" position.

The platoon was fair in dash, but lacked style.

The execution was weak at first row of sacks. Four men failed to put the foot up for withdrawal. The same occurred at second row of sacks - three men; and at last row, five men. Two men bayoneted same bag.

No. 12 Platoon - Commander Sgt. FRANKLIN.

The order to load should be given before elevation order.

Section Commanders' fire orders were weak.

After whistle "To Advance," Platoon Commander's order was slow in being given.

The platoon lacked dash and style in bayonet work. The "On Guard" position was weak. The men paused and made feeble thrusts. At each row a number failed to withdraw, vigorously using their feet.

No. 9 Platoon - Commander Sgt. WHITE.

No target indication was given by platoon or section commanders. The section commander did not name his section when giving fire orders. The control, except for no indication of targets, was good.

The platoon lacked dash in bayonet fighting. The men made thrusts which were not determined. The platoon seemed to aim at stabbing the disc, in a very half-hearted manner, instead of employing a well-aimed hand thrust.

*Appendix*  
*W. J. Coe*  
*Co 19th Bn AIF*



*Amended*

19th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

APPENDIX 588

*Amended*

SYLLABUS of TRAINING for WEEK ENDING 2nd MARCH 1918.

Date	Coy	9 - 9.30 a.m.	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	1.30 - 2 p.m.	2 - 3 p.m.	3 - 4 p.m.	Place	Remarks
Monday 25/2/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"		PLATOON in	ATTACK		COMPANY in	ATTACK	Brigade Training Map V.25.a.	Mid-day meal on ground
Tuesday 26/2/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"		PLATOON in	ATTACK		BATTALION in	ATTACK	do	do
Wednesday 27/2/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"	Inspection & Rifle Exerc's	Anti-Gas Training	Coy. Drill & Ceremonial		ANTI - GAS	SCHEME	U.21.	
Thursday 28/2/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"	do	3-hr. Musketry Pln. Drill		ORGANIZED	BOMBING	by	COMPANIES	V.3.d. Mid-day meal on ground
Friday 1/3/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"		BRIGADE	TACTICAL				SCHEME	V.27. ditto
Saturday 2/3/18	"A" "B" "C" "D"		BRIGADE	SPORTS				BENNINGHEM	

DURING TACTICAL SCHEME men must be informed that they may at any moment receive an alarm of "G.A.B."  
 SIGNALLERS WILL ACCOMPANY BATTALION in ALL AT TACK PRACTICES.  
 BATMEN and STRETCHER-BEARERS will PARADE with their Companies.  
 All SPECIALIST OFFICERS will handle THEIR OWN PLATOONS during the attack practices.  
 The BATTALION GAS N.C.O. will assist Coy. Commanders to test Gas Respirators, and supervise application of Anti-dimming mixture to Goggles, and Vaseline to Valves.

*App. 5*

*[Signature]*

Lieut.-Col .  
C.O. 19th Aust. Inf. Battalion.