

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/38/38

**Title:** Headquarters, 11th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

March 1919



AWM4-13/38/38

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE~~  
~~TRIPLICATE~~

188

A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E

W A R D I A R Y

O F

E L E V E N T H A U S T R A L I A N F I E L D A R T I L L E R Y B R I G A D E . .

F O R

M A R C H - 1919.

Signature of Officer Compiling .....  
*Smellie* ..... 2nd/Lieut.  
& Adjutant.....

Signature of C.O., .....  
*Robert Spring* ..... Lt-Colonel.  
Commanding.....

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

188

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

11th AUST. F. A. BRIGADE.

Place	Date	Hour	11th Aust. F. A. Brigade	Summary of Events and Information	Review March 1919	Remarks and references to Appendices
AGIMONT 5J5098	1/3/19					
FLAVION 3I5505	to					
METTET 3H9585	31/3/19					
Narrow Sheet 1/100000.						
			<p>Bde. moved from AGIMONT AREA on 10.3.19. to FLAVION + ROSEE. &amp; from latter area to METTET on 23.3.19. All personnel comfortably billeted throughout. Amalgamation of 41<sup>st</sup> with 42<sup>nd</sup> Coy. + 43<sup>rd</sup> with 111<sup>th</sup> Coy. took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. Headquarters of 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> Bde. also amalgamated on 29.3.19. This has been possible owing to reduction of Equipment personnel &amp; animal. Repatriation has proceeded smoothly during the month. The following have left for England -</p> <p>Quota 19. 21/3/19. Major Col. Ketto MC. Lieut. G. Peck } also 8 NCOs Lieut. G. McDonald. ✓ P. Saint. } 80 O/Rs.</p> <p>Quota 25. 30/3/19. 2 NCOs 20 O/Rs.</p> <p>Quota 13. 4/3/19. Capt. RAF Gray MC. Lieut. N. Quail MC } also 237 O/Rs. Lieut. O. Salter Lawson + Bott.</p> <p>Weather changeable throughout the month. but several very fine days. Last week very cold with frequent snow storms. Recreation in the way of Cricket &amp; football has been carried on in the Bde. and the library &amp; YMCA have also greatly assisted in the comfort of all. Health of Troops. - Very good (only a few cases of Influenza). Rations - good. Relations with Civilians - Excellent. All ranks generally occupying beds. Evacuations. Personnel - 5 O/Rs. Animals. 31. Animals sold by Public Auction. 14 - Sent to Base. 10 Transferred to 14<sup>th</sup> Coy A.S.C. 39.</p> <p>Strength as at 31.3.19. 17 Officers 188 O/Rs - 34 Animals -</p>			
			<p><i>[Signature]</i> Lieutenant-Colonel, COMMANDING, 11th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F.</p>			

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21.

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<p>AGIMONT Stret NAMUR 1/100-000 5J5098.</p>	<p>1/31/19</p>		<p>Weather generally dull with slight rain during the day. Sale of Z class horses continued at Givet - finished at 4.30 pm. 58 horses + 27 mules in all were disposed of from this Brigade. Another dance was held in the School Room this evening + turned out a great success. This is probably the last one before the draft of 246 O/Rs leaves on 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Lt. O. SALTER taken on strength of 43<sup>rd</sup> Ptn. from D.T. Mt. - Lieut McDonald + party who took 87 horses to base on 11<sup>th</sup> inst. returned today. Lt. W. Brown Pde. Signal Officer rejoined Div. Signal Coy. prior to returning to Australia.</p>	
	<p>2/3/19</p>		<p>Day again Dull - Mass for P.Cs. was held during the morning at Agimont, Souline + Yocherie - Gen. W.H. Burgess, C.B., D.S.O., C.R.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Aus. Div. visited here + presented the medallions to members of the football team who won the rugby Championship. The parade consisted of about 100 O/Rs. from 41<sup>st</sup> + 42<sup>nd</sup> Batteries + the General had a short talk to all those present, including a short discourse on Repatriation - His visit + address was appreciated by all. Capt. H.F. Keightley transferred to 41<sup>st</sup> from 43<sup>rd</sup> Ptn.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AGIMONT Steel NAMUR 1/100/000 555098.	2/2/19		Day again dull - nothing of interest to report - 5 O/Rs despatched to A.I.F. H.Q. London for pay duties. Usual routine throughout Batteries. Horses grazed & exercised during morning.	
	4/2/19		Dull wet day - Despite the weather spirits were high throughout the Brigade - 5 officers - Capt. D.A.F. Gray + Lieut. Quail Bott Salter & Lawson & 237 O/Rs. proceeded with Quota No. 13. for return to Australia - 6 motor lorries conveyed them to Reinforcement Camp at FLORENNES. They were given a good send off, both by those remaining with the Bde. and the civilians, among whom they had made many good friends. The Quota was addressed by the CO, Lt-Col C.H. SPURGE before leaving - The CO proceeded on 14 days leave to UK - Major Hodges D.S.O. O.C. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. is temporarily commanding the Brigade -	
	5/2/19		Still wet with patches of sunshine during the day - Lieut. H. J. Jacobs MC 42 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. proceeded to UK for Survey Course - Lt Col William MC 11 <sup>th</sup> Bn. proceeded on 14 days leave to UK - - G.P. Stuckey 42 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. 10 days - Paris. J.P.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alymont Namur 1/100000 5J5098.	6/30/19.		Rain again today - 8 x + 24 Horses left for Calais this morning - 4 motor lorries from Div. Salvage have today cleared about 200 gas cylinders from Gochenee. 60 men of 41 <sup>st</sup> + 42 <sup>nd</sup> Bty. inspected by Ruvo + A.I.F. forus 536 completed for same, Interpreter OLBRECHTS reported back from leave.	
	7/31/19.		Finer weather today - No rain + a good drying wind blowing today. Canteen stores were drawn from FLORENNES <del>to</del> , including a good supply of cigarettes. Major Kitto MC., 41 <sup>st</sup> Bty. attended at Div Hq. DINANT as a member of F. Gen. to try an officer of 14 <sup>th</sup> Bty. Col. Murray. VC. DSO. DCM, 4 <sup>th</sup> Bty. Bn. was President. 24 O/Rs, sent to CHATELNEAU as a guard over equipment handed in, returned to Club today. CHARLEROI again open to troops.	
	8/2/19.		Clear fine day with cold wind. M.O. visited 43 <sup>rd</sup> + 111 <sup>th</sup> Bty. at SOULME + GOCHENE E inspected 113 NCOs + men in connection with the compilation of A.I.F. forus 536.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																				
Agimont Kammer 1100000 5 J 5098.	9/3/19 10/3/19.		<p>Fine weather. 10 horses evac. to M.V.S. Orders received for Pde. to move to FLAVION area on 10<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Pde. moved today as follows.</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>B.N.G.</td> <td>from Agimont</td> <td>to Flavion</td> <td rowspan="2">} I 3.5505</td> </tr> <tr> <td>43<sup>rd</sup> Bty.</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Soulme</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>111<sup>th</sup> Bty.</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Gocheulle</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41<sup>st</sup> Bty.</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Agimont</td> <td>to Rosee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>42<sup>nd</sup> Bty.</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>to Rosee</td> </tr> </table> <p>Only one motor lorry being obtainable the greater number of the men had to march. All kits were transported by M.L.</p> <p>Dull Day roads fair for traffic.</p> <p>Chaplain Major A.M. Stevenson, M.C. proceeded on 14 days leave to U.K.</p>	B.N.G.	from Agimont	to Flavion	} I 3.5505	43 <sup>rd</sup> Bty.	✓	Soulme	do	111 <sup>th</sup> Bty.	✓	Gocheulle	do	41 <sup>st</sup> Bty.	✓	Agimont	to Rosee	42 <sup>nd</sup> Bty.	✓		to Rosee	
B.N.G.	from Agimont	to Flavion	} I 3.5505																					
43 <sup>rd</sup> Bty.	✓	Soulme		do																				
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41 <sup>st</sup> Bty.	✓	Agimont	to Rosee																					
42 <sup>nd</sup> Bty.	✓		to Rosee																					
3 I 5505.	11/3/19. 12/3/19.		<p>Clear fine day. Batteries settling down in new billets. G.S. Wagon returned to Agimont to bring on remainder of Bty. equipment. Usual routine afternoons still being regarded as half holidays.</p> <p>Dull day with slight rain. Under orders from D.A.H.Q. the completion of the handing over to DADOS of 2 Batteries complete took place today. The remaining equipment etc necessary to effect this went up to Chatelaines under Lt. P.C. SAINT, 41<sup>st</sup> Bty.</p> <p>Major C. MCKENNA, Vet Officer detached to Divisional Headquarters.</p>																					

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Flavion 3 I 5505 Namur 1/100000.	13/3/19		<p>Fine Sunny weather. Time devoted to Exercising animals in the morning &amp; sports etc. during afternoon. The Y.M.C.A. is established in the village &amp; has a Cinema show running each evening. Creaming room &amp; a Recreation Room are also being conducted by Y.M.C.A. and these are much appreciated by all.</p>	
	15/3/19		<p>Dull day &amp; weather inclined to be cold. Medical Board attended at Bde. H.Q. at 3 pm today &amp; examined men proceeding with Quota 19 for Australia. Mr. J.W. Scott returned from Chablincan today.</p>	
	16/3/19		<p>Chaplain Major Home &amp; Capt. Keightley proceeded on 6 day leave to Collogne.</p>	
	17/3/19		<p>Cold weather with slight rain &amp; occasionally sleet &amp; snow during day.</p>	
	18/3/19		<p>Cold sharp weather. usual routine throughout Batt. etc. 22 Z horses sent to Givet today for sale on 21/22<sup>nd</sup> inst. 15 drivers detached to A.S.C. for 8 day duty.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Flavion Sheet Namur	20/3/19.		Bitter cold day. Sleet fell continuously from 8 am until 3 in the afternoon. Capt. Christenson Dental Officer returned from Paris leave. 3 O/R. to A.I.F. H.Q. for N.M.E. Employment.	
11100000 3 I 5505.	21/3/19.		Quota No 19. comprising May Det. Kitto Mc. Lt. Saint, Beck (41 Pz) and Lt. McDonald (111 "Pz) also 88 O/Rs. despatched to Charleroi en route for U.K. Clear day but intensely cold. Cateran Stors drawn today	
	22/3/19.		2 G.S. wagons drawn from DAC for move on 23 <sup>rd</sup> . Billeting parties sent to Mettet to which village the Brigade moves tomorrow.	
			Amalgamation of 41 <sup>st</sup> + 42 <sup>nd</sup> Pz as one Unit + 43 <sup>rd</sup> + 111 <sup>th</sup> Pz similarly was carried out today. Weather still very cold, but clear.	
Mettet 3 H 9585	23/3/19.		Inclined to snow in the evening. Bde moved to Mettet. fine sunny weather. 10 <sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde also billeted here. Close liaison being observed between both Hqs in anticipation of early amalgamation of 10 <sup>th</sup> + 11 <sup>th</sup> Pz. All personnel comfortable billeted - very few men being without beds.	
	24/3/19.		Cold, dull day, with snow early this morning. 1 NCO + 16 O/Rs. detached to A.I.F. Pwias detachment. Lecture given in Town Hall by W/O Ostrom, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Div. on Constitution of Commonwealth + Stats of Australia. Same was much appreciated by a 9000 audience.	

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Mettet. 349585.	25/3/19		Weather still dull & cold - MO (Capt K.C. Purnell MC) left for NME employment in England today. 5 Animals evacuated to MVS.	
	26/3/19		Dull cold day. All personnel comfortably belleted. Capt H.F. Keightley returned from leave to Cologne - Capt. F.E. Biggs AMMC reported today as MO. vice Capt Purnell. Fly Ceu, consisting of Major Clwebber, Lt. T.P. Clark MC. + H.F. Bowler, assembled at the H.Q. today to try D. J. Murphy (42) + D. TIERNEY (41) in charge of work.	
	27/3/19		Cold dull day. Snow fell continuously throughout the day. Usual routine throughout the Batteries.	
	28/3/19		Dull cold day. with snow falling at intervals. 1 Mule lost from B Coy stables.	
	29/3/19		Supplies of Dis Artz. Sows. Card receiver + distributed to Batteries (Copy attached). Weather still very cold, with patches of sunshine. Lecture in YMCA by Miss Bacon, on Aeroplanes, before + during the war. A good audience turned up + were much interested throughout the lecture - 3 hours + 13 mules to MVS.	
	30/3/19		Fine clear day but still very cold. Quota No 25 comprising 2 NCOs + 20 men left for England. Amalgamation of 10 + 11th Bde Hqs. effected today.	
	31/3/19		Lt. Col. H. Spurge returned from UK leave - 4 LDs + 23 Mules transferred to ASC. 6 Hds. + 10 Mules sent to sale at Geppinns. Co. Major Hodgers + Major Redmond attached to 10th Bde Office as a reference to Lt. Col. Williams DSO who is leaving for Australia.	S.W.

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