

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/49/43

Title: 32nd Infantry Battalion

February 1919



AWM4-23/49/43

32ND
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTN.
No.
Date,

259

CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~
~~TRIPPLICATE~~

WAR DIARY

OF

FOR

191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

Subject

Australian Imperial Force

WAR DIARY

of
32nd Battalion

for
February 1919

Signature of Officer Compiling
Anderson

Signature of Officer Commanding
Mark Major, Lt. Col.

WAR DIARY

OF

FOR

191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINALS

Photographs
Diagrams

Photographs
of
the
battle
of
the
Somme

WAR
DIARY

of
the
1st
Division

of
the
1st
Division

Photographs
of
the
battle
of
the
Somme

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 93

259

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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.

Reg. No. 1000000.8. /100,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
SARS POTERIES	1919 Feb. 1	09.30	<p>Training under Coy. arrangements and Educational Classes as usual.</p> <p>Farewell Dinner D. Coy and M.C. Details to men returning to Australia</p> <p>Fancy Dress Ball was held in "B" Coy's Recreation Room. Divisional and Bde. Comdres. attended and Bde. Band provided music. Dance was attended by a large number of civilians and was most successful.</p> <p>Weather Fine cold day. Strength 24 Officers 1013 O.R.</p> <p>Honors & Awards. M.S.M. to 402 R.Q.M.S. Lodge & 122 Sgt. Kelly L. S.</p> <p>C. of G. Holy Communion at 8th Field Amb. Education Room.</p> <p>do United Service (Sing Song) in Cinema Hall BEUGNIES.</p> <p>Weather Dry and cold. R.C. Mass 10.00 BEUGNIES Church.</p> <p>Departure of Embarkation Quota No. 8. consisting of 5 officers, 2 W. Os., 15 Sgts and 179 men (Total 201). G.O.C. Bde. and C.O. addressed the party from the local Band Stand. Bde. Band marched the party off.</p> <p>Coy training and Education Classes as usual.</p> <p>Opening of Bde. Cinema at BEUGNIES. Future performances daily</p> <p>Weather Fine and very cold. Slight thaw.</p> <p>Bathing Parade at Bde. Baths. Clean change underclothing for all ranks.</p> <p>Weather. Snow fell during day - every prospect of further snow to be followed by the usual frosts.</p>	10.30 12.15 13.30 15.30	Education
		11.00			
		18.00			
		19.00			
		08.00			
		10.00			
		18.00			
		09.00			
		18.30			
		09.00 14.00			

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 94

259

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Ref. Map. NAMUR. 8. 1/100,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARS-POTERIES	1919 Feb. 5		<p>Coy. Training and Education Classes as usual.</p> <p>Weather. Heavy snow fall. Frost at night.</p> <p>The Coy. training today consisted of <u>Coy. route marches</u> to DIMONT & return</p>	
"	" 6		<p>Coy. Training & Education Classes. Snowballing actively indulged in.</p> <p>Weather. Bright clear & cold. Frost heavy.</p>	
"	" 7		<p>Coy. training & Education classes.</p> <p>Weather. Bright clear and very cold. Heavy frost.</p> <p>The C.O. (Lt. Col. J. McArthur D.S.O.) left for London to attend <u>Investiture by King George V.</u></p> <p>Capt. Z.L. Krinks temporarily took charge of the Coy.</p>	
"	" 8		<p>Coy. training and Education classes.</p> <p>Weather. Very heavy frost. Coldest day so far.</p> <p>Fancy Dress Dance held at "B." Coy's Rooms. Largely attended by all Coy. and civilians. Some very fine costumes were worn.</p> <p>Strength 77 Officers, 813 O.R.</p>	
"	" 9	08.00 10.00 10.00 18.00	<p>C of E. Holy Communion 8th Field. Amb. Rooms.</p> <p>R. C. Mass at BEUGNIES Church - Bde. Band attended.</p> <p>C of E. United and Song Service at Cinema Hall BEUGNIES.</p> <p>Weather. Heavy frost. Bright sunny day.</p>	

J. C. A. *[Signature]*

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 95

259

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Ref Map NAMUR. 8. 1/100,000

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
SARS POTERIES	1919 Feb. 10		<p><u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Pay.</u> all ranks received usual fortnightly pay. <u>Weather</u> - Bright sunny day. Heavy frost at night. Snow which fell some days ago still thick on ground and all pools of water in area have been frozen for some time.</p>
"	" 11		<p><u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather</u> - Bright sunny day. Continued heavy nightly frost. <u>Dances</u> are being held nightly at B. & A. Coy. Rooms and largely attended by all ranks of all coys. as well as civilians. <u>Pds. Cinema</u> is daily & nightly drawing large houses.</p>
"	" 12		<p><u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather</u> - Bright sunny day. Heavy frost at night</p>
"	" 13		<p><u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather</u> Bright sunny day. No frost at night</p>
"	" 14		<p><u>Investiture by King George V - London.</u> The C.O. (Lt. Col. J. McArthur D.S.O.) the S.I.C. (Mjr B. A. Wark V.C. D.S.O.) and Capt J. Hallan M.C. invested.</p> <p><u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Light rain and ground thawing. Roads muddy. Steady rain falling at night.</p>
		09.00 14.00	<p><u>Bathing Parade at Pds. Baths.</u> Clean change underclothing supplied.</p>

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Page 96

259

REF. MAP NAMUR. 8. 1/100,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARS-POTERIES	1914 Feb 15		<u>Coy training and Education Classes.</u> Bn. Strength 76 Officers 812 O.R. <u>Weather.</u> Light rain and continued thaw. Temperature much higher.	
		08.00 10.00	C. of E. Holy Communion held in 8 th Field Amb. Room.	
		18.00	do Song Service in local School Room. Chaplain Pubsford delivered an address - his subject being "Why there are so many religions." <u>Weather.</u> Light rain at intervals. Continued thaw. The C. O. (Lt. Col. J. McArthur D.S.O.) returned from London after attending Investiture and assumed command of the Bn.	
		17	<u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fine cloudy day - light rain at night.	
		18	<u>Coy. training and Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather - Showery.</u> The S.I.C. (Major B. A. WARK. V.C., D.S.O.) returned after attending King's Investiture, London.	
		09.00 14.00	Bathing Parade and clean change of underclothing at Pde. Baths.	
		14.00	All ranks paraded at BEUGNIES and were there photographed by Official Photographer.	
		20.00	Ball. A most successful Fancy Dress Ball was held in "B" Coy's Hall and was largely attended by all ranks and civilians. Splendid costumes were worn. The C. O. and Lt. Col. Clayton (8 th Field Amb.) judged the costumes. <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy and fine.	

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 97
96

259

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARS- POTERIES	1919 20.20		<u>Coy Training & Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy & fine.	
	21.		<u>Coy Training & Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy & fine. Steady rain at night.	
	22.		<u>Coy Training & Education Classes.</u> <u>Weather</u> Showery.	
	19.30		<u>Strength.</u> With Unit 43 Officers 458 OR., Detached 32 Off. 330 OR. (Total 75 Off- 788 OR.) <u>Boxing.</u> An excellent match was held at "A" Coy's rooms between Pte. Fairhall A. Coy 32 nd Bn. and Pte. Maroney 30 th Bn. and resulted in a win for the former. The Actg. Staff Captain (Lt. W. R. Morpeth) acted as referee. G. O. C. 8 th Brigade (Brig Gen C. S. Davies DSO) and Staff attended as well as the C. O. & Staff. Exhibition bouts were fought as follows: - Pte. Reynolds A Coy v. Pte. McLaughlin A Coy Pte. Mendlowitz 32 nd Bn. v Pte. Davies 30 th Bn., Pte. W. A. v Pte. Fox 31 st Bn. also a bout between two local French Gaicons. 8 th Bde. Bands rendered selections. The whole was under the management of Lieut. J. H. Williams (A Coy). There was a crowded house and great credit is due to the manager for the fine organisation and carrying out of such a successful gathering. Prices of admission were 3, 2 and 1 franc. <u>Weather</u> - Showery.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 98

259

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Ref. Map NAMUR 8/100,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARS- POTERIES	23 Feb	08.00 10.00 19.00 11.30	<p>C. of E. Holy Communion in 8th Field Amb. Class Room. do Lantern Song Service in the School Room.</p> <p>200 all ranks paraded at SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU, where, together with other detachments of units of the Division, they were addressed by the Prime Minister of Australia (Hon. Wm. Hughes). The C.O. was in charge of the whole parade.</p> <p>Weather showery.</p>	
	Feb. 24		<p>Bathing Parade at Bde. Baths. Clean change underclothes supplied. all ranks received usual fortnightly pay.</p> <p>Weather showery. G.O.C. A.I.F. (Lt Gen Sir W. Birdwood) met all officers of rank of captain & above at Bde. HQ. BEUGNIES.</p>	
	" 25		<p>Coy. Pdes. Inspection of arms equipment also billets. Physical training C.O's. inspection of C. Coy. Owing to an outbreak of <u>Influenza</u> all dancing Halls, Cinemas etc were closed until further notice</p> <p>Weather fine & dull.</p>	
	26		<p>Coy. Parades. Inspection arms, equipment and billets. Physical training. Coy. Route marches. C.O's. inspection of D. Coy.</p> <p>Weather. Dull & showery.</p> <p>The C.O. (Lt Col. J. McArthur D.S.O.) left to take up the position of Commandant of the Convalescent Depot in England. Major B.A. Wark V.C., D.S.O., took over the command of the Bn.</p>	

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRALIA
DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 99

259

Ref No. 100,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARS POTERIES	1919 26.27		<p>Bathing Parade at Bde. Baths. Clean change underclothing supplied. <u>Weather</u> - Very cold & stormy. Very light snow at night.</p>	
	28		<p>Coy. Parades. Physical Training. Inspection arms, equipment & billets. C.O.'s inspection of "B." Coy. <u>Weather</u>. Cold & very stormy. Brigade Band rendered an excellent programme in the Band Rotunda SARS POTERIES which was much appreciated by all ranks as well as the civilians.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

32ND Battalion

FOR

February 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	C. O's. report.
2	Q. M. do
3	T. O. do
4	Education O's. report.
5	Honours & Awards.
6	Rpts. Evacuations etc.

J.A.

259
Commanding Officers Report for February 1919

During the month Company training has been actively carried out consisting mainly of Physical training and route marches, whilst inspections of arms, equipment and billets have been regularly held.

Bathing parades have been held regularly at the Brigade baths at which clean changes of underclothing have been supplied.

Embarkation Quota No. 8 was the only one which left the Unit during the month, this consisted of 201 all ranks.

Dancing has been actively indulged in by all ranks and civilians in the well appointed halls of "A" and "B" Coys. as well as boxing contests in the rooms of the former company.

Owing to an outbreak of influenza in the area, an Army order was received to the effect that all dancing and cinema halls were to be closed. This Order has now been cancelled and dancing is again in full swing. Many football matches have been played the most important being those in which the Divisional teams have been engaged, the Battalion men being largely represented in all divisional teams.

On 26th February the C.O. (Lieut. Col. J. McArthur D.S.O.) left to take up the position of Commandant of the Convalescent Depot in England.

The health generally of all ranks during the month has been good.

Swank

Major
Temporary Commanding 32nd Battalion A.I.F.

32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.
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259

32nd Battalion A.I.F. Quartermasters report for February 1919

During the month of February the supply of Grindery was not maintained and as our demands were not supplied our requirements of new boots, through others becoming beyond regimental repair, were larger than would otherwise have been the case. A supply of grindery has since been received.

Supplies

Generally speaking the usual good standard was received, the percentage of bread and frozen meat being the same as usual.

Stores

During the early part of the month all Lewis Guns and appurtenances were withdrawn from Companies, checked and overhauled preparatory to returning same to D.A.D.O.S. The guns were oiled again the latter end of the month.

The following mobilisation stores were returned to D.A.D.O.S. during the month:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Binoculars and Cases | Compasses (Mag. & Prismatic) |
| Telescopes signalling & stands | Pistols Webley & Cases |
| Rods, cleaning | Pouches ammunition |
| Lanyards | Watches |
| Rangefinders | Rangefinder, cases, stands, and frogs. |

In addition to the foregoing the initial free issue of Officers Arms and accoutrements were withdrawn and returned to D.A.D.O.S. and all other stores not in regimental use were checked and packed ready for return to D.A.D.O.S.

(Sgd) H.S. Weaver HON. Capt.
32nd Battalion. Quartermaster.

32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.
No.
Date,

259

32nd Battalion. Transport's Sergeants report for February 1919

During the month the transport has been employed on general Battalion work, carting rations and firewood taking five teams per day.

Work has also been carried out for 8th Brigade Headquarters and each day there has been one limber utilized by the Town Major for Sanitary work.

During the month two horses were evacuated sick, but the remainder of the horses and mules are in excellent condition and looking well.

All the vehicles are in fair condition.

(Sgd) A.R. Kempster Sgt.
32nd Battalion Transport.

32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.
No.
Date,

259

32nd Battalion A.I.F. Education Officer's Report
for February 1919.

The work has been of a very similar nature to that of last month.

The fact that some of the applications for experience in U.K. in the individual trades etc. are being approved, and the applicants being able to gain the experience necessary to their civil occupation has given a better tone to the education work. Men leaving the Battalion to some extent disorganises the classes of the Battalion, as most of the men going away were studying some minor subject. We have relieved men from military duty to attend, Art universities in Scotland, Accountancy Schools in England signwriting and painting, also agriculture etc. in U.K.

Men have also left the Unit to attend Electrical schools and for business training, and also for advanced subjects of general education. We still have the classes within the Unit for those desiring instruction in boot repairs, farriery, English, geography, history etc. and also have a class for the study of French.

It is very difficult to keep classes well organised and carry them on to any advanced work, owing to men going to other duties and employment their period of instruction being at times broken by going on Military duties or on leave etc.

(Sgd) H.N. Harvy Lieut.
Acting Education Officer 32nd Bn.

32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.
No.
Date

259

32nd Battalion A.I.F. Honors & Awards for February 1919

No. 402 R.Q.M.S. Lodge E.G.
No. 122 Sergt. Kelly L.S.

Awarded "M.S.M." 18/1/19

(A.I.F. List No. 438 of 24/1/19)



259

32nd BATTALION A.I.F.

Strength 1st February		83.	1025
Reinforcements 1/28 February	1919	3	33
		<hr/>	
		86	1058
Evacuated etc.			
To. Hospital	31		
Australia	6 201		
Other Units	2 40		
U.K. on Duty	2 7		
		<hr/>	
		10	279
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Strength 1st March		76	779
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32 ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.
No.
Date