

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/38

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

January 1919



AWM4-13/33/38

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

FOR

JANUARY

1919

Signature of Officer compiling

*John Moore
Lieut. Col.
Adj'tant.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*John Moore
Lieut. Col.
C.S.C. 1919*

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.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

W A R D I A R Y FOR JANUARY 1919.

Reference Sheet. 1-10,000 NAMUR.

Date	Place	Remarks and references to Appendices	
1.1.19			
THUIN.	New Years Day was observed as a whole holiday. The Div. Arty's Race Meeting commenced at 12 noon. The G.O.C. 2nd. Division arrived at 2 pm. and at 2.30 pm. the Prince of Wales arrived. He came on the ground quite informally and viewed the Races from a G.S. Waggon. The day was very successful.		
2.1.19	Parties were detailed from Batteries to report to Lieut. C.C. Bloxsome MM. at the Race Course to clean the ground up. The football competition is being continued. very heavy rain fell in the afternoon.		
3.1.19	C.O. and Adjutant inspected the 14th. Battery stables and harness. The horses from Batteries are sent out daily and are in good condition.		
4.1.19	Batteries are working on their stores and harness every morning. Horses are sent out grazing.		
5.1.19	1st. Div. Arty's Race Meeting. C.O. inspected the 105th. Battery. Weather dismal. Continuous steady rain is falling. The Sergeants of this Divisional Artillery held a concert and dance at Hotel de Ville, Thuin.		
6.1.19	C.O. inspected the 13th. Battery. The 105th. Bty. held a Concert in their Centre Section billet. the room was very crowded and owing "to the weight of numbers" the floor eventually "gave way". The weather continues cold and dismal. C.O. inspected 15th. Bty. Football matches were played between Batteries.		
7.1.19	The 4th. Brigade were beaten by the 5th. Brigade at Rugby. The latter had several of their best players away but won in their usual fine style. I.O.M. inspected all the guns of the Brigade. The Vet. Board held an inspection of all Battery horses and classed them for Demobilisation purposes. The Adjutant, Lieut. N.T. KINGSMILL left on leave to U.K.		
8.1.19	Vet. Board finished inspecting 14th. and 15th. Battery horses. Word received that Captain xxxxxx E.L. DEAN had been awarded the Belgian Croix-de-Guerre.		
9.1.19	10.1.19	The weather cleared up and there was sunshine all day. Remount board commenced classing brigade horses. Large Draft of 1915 men left for England on way to Australia. Lieut. W.R. SMART (MTMB) (attached 13th. Bty.) was included in the draft.	
11.1.19	The Remount Board finished classing xxxxxx horses of 14th. and 15th. Batteries. C.O. went round Batteries with new Brigade Major. (Major E.L. BOURKE MC.). Football matches were played between Batteries in the afternoon.		
12.1.19	The weather continues to be dull and damp. Classing of the Battery horses completed.		
13.1.19	Weather still dull, but rain and cold is keeping away. Parties were detailed from Batteries to work on the Race Course for the coming meeting.		
14.1.19	C.O. inspected the 14th. Battery. Entries closed for the Race meeting to be held on the 19th. The 14th. Battery held a dance in the evening.		
15th1.19	C.O. and Committee of the Race Course Club inspected the the Race Course. A dull wet day. The 15th. Battery held a dance in the evening which was a huge success. C.O. attended.		
16.1.19	First fine day for a long time. Football matches were played between Batteries of 4th. and 5th Brigade. Education classes continue in the evening.		
17.1.19	A lecture was given by Lieut. Commander R EVERARD R.N. on "submarines" at 10 am. in the Cinema Thuin and representatives from each battery also C.O. attended An auction sale of wine, cigars, jam, cognac etc. (the contents of two barges which were left by the Huns)		
18.1.19			

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Date	Place	Remarks and Appendices
19.1.19	(2) M.C. was held at 11 am. by Lieut. BONNAR MC. MM. Bde, Signal Officer. A very large attendance from all Divisions turned up. Prices were very low but the goods were of very low quality. The delivery of the goods was very bad and a large amount of stuff was carried off by soldiers and civilians. The effects of the leakage of wine was soon evident. There was no organisation whatsoever regarding the sale and disposal of the goods. An Officers dance was held in the evening and proved a great success.	
19.1.19	The Dinkum Diamond Race Club held a meeting at Thuin. The day was quite good but the ground very wet. A very successfull Ball was held by Brigade Headquarters Staff. Ninety seven horses were sent away for sale at Namur. This is the first lot to be sent away.	
20.1.19	A Division Race Meeting was held at SOMEREE. It was a very poor Meeting compared with the Artillery Meetings. Artillery horses won seven out of eight races. 105th. Battery won the race for team horses with "Hairy Cut".	
21.1.19	Fine weather all day and football matches were played between Batteries of the Brigade and D.A.C.	
22.1.19	There is still a lot of keeness about the matches.	
23.1.19	C.O. inspected the 15th. and 105th. Batteries on the 9.30 am. parade.	
24.1.19	C.O. inspected the 14th. battery on the 9.30 parade. Another draft of 1915 men were despatched to England for return to Australia.	
25.1.19	C.O. inspected the 13th. battery at Lobbes on the 9.30 am. parade. Heavy fall of snow lasting all day.	
25.1.19	Football matches were played in spite of the frozen ground and snow.	
27.1.19	Snow still thick on the ground. Many barrages had to be passed through when going about the streets. Snowballs were flying thick and heavy but no casualties were reported.	
3.1.19	Weather still remains cold and frosty. Football matches were continued and an exciting match between the 15th. battery and the 10th. Battery was won by the former.	
29.1.19	A lecture on "France" was delivered in the Hotel-de-Ville, 30 men per Battery were detailed to attend. The Adjutant, Lieut. N.T. KINGSMILL returned from U.K. leave.	
30.1.19	5th. Brigade Headquarters gave a dance in the Hotel-de-Ville, the band played the programme of music. The townspeople of Thuin as well as the soldiers enjoyed themselves.	
1.1.19	harness cleaning, exercising of horses and cleaning of equipment is continued daily. One batch of horses have already been demobilised and another batch is expected to be sent away within the next few days. Batteries have all guns, limbers and ammunition waggons and stores ready to be sent to ordinance as soon as final instructions have been received. Sport and recreational training is indulged in almost every day. Several Divisional Race Meetings have already been held and have proved most successfull. A Totalisator and "Bookies" are allowed on the course. Batteries and Brigade H.Q. have each arranged concerts and dances. All Other Ranks are comfortably quartered and any amount of leave is given to Charleroi. Leave to Paris, nice, and Brussels is not as much as is desired, but applications for special leave of four days to different places in France and Belgium has been freely granted by Divisional H. Qrs.. A batch of 11 men been detailed to proceed to base, prior to embarkation for Australia on 2nd. prox.	
	The strength of the Brigade to date is as	C.A

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follows:-

Bde H.Qrs.	Officers	O.R's.	Animals
	5	31	21

5 31 21

13th. Bty.	6	153	155
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14th.	"	5	153	117
15th.	"	6	151	117

15th.	"	6	140	104
25th.	"	2	57	37

105th." 6 136 103
Snow continues to fall and is still thick on the ground.

15th. Battery played the 13th. Bty. (Aust.).

~~Rules) Football resulting in a win for the 15th.
This places the 15th. Battery in the finals. The~~

The final match of the competition will be played against the A.A.C. Second Section 2nd D.A.C. set an early

~~the XIX. Second Section 2nd. D.A.C. at date. Heavy snow fell all the morning.~~