AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/30/17

Title: 4th Australian Divisional Supply Column

March 1918

AWM4-25/30/17

334

18,000–12/1 –8723

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Div. N.T. Coy.

FOR

March 1918

Signature of Officer compiling E Weare Maj.

Signature of Officer Commanding E Weare Maj.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No. 4. Aust. D.S.C.
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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEUL - LOCRE Road	1/3/18.		Windy day. Terrific bombardment in evening. Driver [illegible] granted leave to Australia. Strength 25+4. Lorries out:- 4 with Div Ordnance. 2 with Div Postal 4 with Div Hdqrs. 2 on Div Supplies 5 on Road repairs 1 on Column duty. 6 on general transport. Mileage 453 Petrol 186.	[illegible]
	2/3/18.		Cold Wind. 1 OR admitted to Hosp. Strength 25+4. Lorries out:- 4 with Div Ordnance 2 with Div. Postal 4 with Div Hdqrs. 4 on Div Supplies 1 on Column duty 5 on stores 6 on general transport. Mileage 607. Petrol 142.	[illegible]

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEVL-LOCRE Road	3/3/18.		Rainy & cloudy. Strength. 224. Lorries out:- 4 with Dw ordnance 2 with Dw Postal 4 with Hdqrs Div. 1 on Dw Supplies 1 on Column rations & water 4 on general transport. Mileage 184 petrol 46.	Wh
	4/3/18		Rainy. Received 1 OR from Base. Strength. 223. Relieved all detached lorries & NCO's Lorries out:- 4 with Dw ordnance 2 with Dw postal 4 with Dw Hdqrs 2 on Dw Supplies 5 on road repairs 1 on Column duty 6 on general transport. Mileage 491 petrol. 138.	Wh
	5/3/18.		Windy 10R to Hospital. Lieut Reynolds proceeded to England on leave. Strength. 223. Lorries out:- 4 with Dw ord. 2 with Dw postal 4 with Dw Hdqrs. 3 on Dw Supplies 5 on Road repairs 1 on Column duty 4 on general transport. Mileage 578. petrol 138.	Wh

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BAILLEUL-LOCRE Road	6/3/18		Fine day. Opened up new records for new unit. 4th Div M T Coy. Commenced arrangements for new organisation. Strength 223. Lorries out: - 4 on Div ordnance 2 with Div postal 4 with Div Hdqrs. 6 on Div Supplies 5 on road repairs 1 on column duty. 2 on general transport Mileage 845 petrol 184	
	7/3/18		Fine day. 1 OR received from Base. Sent in transfer of vehicles to 4th ADM Coy. Reported lathes in good condition. Strength 223. Lorries out: 4 with Div ordnance 2 with Div postal 4 with Div Hdqrs. 5 on Div Supplies 5 on road repairs 1 on column duty. 6 on general transport. Mileage 748 petrol 164.	

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BAILLEUL-LOCRE Road	8/3/18.		Fine day. 10R transferred. 10R received from Hospital Strength 223	
			Held election for Queensland. Forward:- 4 with Dw and 2 with Dw Postal 4 with Dw Hdqrs. 6 on Dw supplies 5 on stones 1 on bolsum duty. 3 on general transport. Mileage 643 Petrol 148.	
	9/3/18.		Fine day. Summer time came in at 11 pm. Strength 223. Forces out:- 4 with Dw and 2 with Dw postal 4 with Dw Hdqrs. 10 on bolsum duty. 8 on Dw supplies 5 on stones. 1 on general transport. Mileage 1039 Petrol 232	
	10/3/18.		Fine day. 10R received from Rein Base. Strength 223. Forces out 4 with Dw ordnance 2 with Dw postal 4 with Dw Headquarters 10 on bolsum duty. 2 on Dw supplies 6 on general transport. Mileage 223. Petrol 50.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEUL-LOCRE Road.	11/3/18.		Fine day. Unit photographed by the official photographer. Strength 354. Lorries out:- 4 with Div ordnance 2 with Div postal 4 with Div Hqrs. 100 on Div supplies 50 on Stores 10 on Column duty. 3 on general transport. Mileage 972 petrol 332.	HL
	12/3/18.		Fine day. Major Joss handed over command to Major Searle on morning of 13th & reports to take over No 2 ADM Coy. Strength 354. Lorries out:- 4 with Div ordnance 2 with Div postal 4 with Div Hqrs. 90 on Div Supplies 50 on road repairs 10 on Column duty 3 on general transport. Mileage 807 petrol 174.	

H. Hartley Lt — HL

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERSEY CAMP Sheet 28. S.3 Central	13/3/18		~~The~~ 4th Australian Divisional Mechanical Transport Company formed by the amalgamation of personnel of No. 4 Australian Divisional Supply Column and No. 2 Australian Ammunition Sub-Park — Lorries were received as follows:-	
			From No. 1. Aust. Div. Supply Col. — 1 Dennis x 3-30cwt Daimlers	
			" No. 4 " " " " — 1 Peerless x 5⅓ Thorneycrafts x 5 Cycles x 1 Car	
			" Australian Corps Headquarters - ~~26 Peerless~~ 2 Thorneycrofts.	
			" No. 2 Aust. Ammunition Sub-Park - 26 Peerless x 3 Motor Bicycles.	
			" "K" Ammunition Park - 1 Vauxhall Car.	
			Posting of Officers as under:-	
			Major SEARLE, E.T. - Commanding Officer from S.M.T.O. (attached)	
			Captain HUTCHINSON, V - Second-in-command - From Aust C.T. Sup. Colm	
			Lieut. BURDEN, F.R - Workshop Officer - " No. 5 A.A.S.P	
			" Hammond. F.H - Section Officer - " No. 3 A.D.S.C.	
			" MERCER, C.W. (M.C) - " " No. 4 A.A.S.P.	
			" REID, A.L. - " " No. 3 A.A.S.P.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERSEY CAMP. Sheet 28 S.3. Central	13/3/18		2/Lieut. PRICHARD, L. - Section Officer - from Attached S.M.T.O. Aust Corps 2/Lieut. CUMMING, L.J. - " " " - " Aust Corps C.T. Supply Column Lieut. REYNOLDS, E.R.T. - Supply Officer - from No. 4. A.D.S.C. Lieut. A.L. REID detached as acting adjutant, Australian Corps M.T. Column and Lieut W.S. ANDERSON posted to this Unit temporarily during his absence - Lieut. MERCER & Lieut. BURDEN reported for duty. 36 Lorries detailed for Supplies & R.E Work - 191 loads carried 462 miles full and 546 miles empty. 198 gallo petrol consumed, 270 tons carried - Enemy shelling BAILLEUL - Shells passing over camp. Weather fine & clear - All personnel accommodated in huts and lorries on standings off the road - Have started to construct another Workshop for Divisional Cars & Ambulances -	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERSEY CAMP Sheet 28 S.3. Central	14/3/18.		Captain HUTCHINSON, V, Lieut HAMMOND, F.H., 2/Lieut CUMMING, L.J. 2/Lieut. PRICHARD, L., all reported for duty. Weather, WET. 20 lorries detailed for Supplies, R.E. Stores &c 51 loads 311 Miles loaded, 462 Miles empty, 198 gallons petrol consumed 130 tons carried.	
	15/3/18		Weather:- Fine & clear Lieut.-Col. A. MOON, C.M.G. Condg H.Q Corps M.T. Column visited the camp.- 28 lorries detailed for Supplies, R.E Work, ammunition &c, 61 loads carried, 569 miles loaded, 569 miles empty, 252 gallons petrol consumed 168 tons carried.-	
	16/3/18		Weather:- Fine & clear BAILLEUL again being shelled.- 48 Lorries detailed for ammunition, R.E Work &c 79 loads carried, 616 miles loaded, 989 miles empty, 376 gals petrol used, 216 tons carried.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERSEY CAMP	17/3/18		Weather fine & clear. Nothing to report. 11 lorries detailed for R.E. Work - Supplies, &c., 21 loads 292 miles full, 301 miles empty, 74 gallo petrol, 66 tons carried	
Sheet 28 S.3.Central	18/3/18		Weather fine & clear. Lieut. A.L. REID reported for duty from Corps M.T. Column. 26 lorries detailed for R.E. Work, supplies &c, 62 loads, 425 miles full, 527 miles empty 214 gallo petrol consumed, 160 tons carried. Gas alert phoned through, but no Gas reached the Camp	
	19/3/18		Weather wet - Enemy shelled BAILLEUL, METEREN and LOCRE heavily - Lieut. W.S. ANDERSON to Reinforcement Camp to form an S.B.A.C. 19 lorries detailed for Supplies, R.E. Work &c., 47 loads, 232 miles full, 504 miles empty, 140 gallo petrol consumed, 117 tons carried -	
	20/3/18		Weather wet - Lieut. Reynolds returned from leave to U.K.	

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WAR DIARY
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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mersey Camp	20/3/18		28 lorries on Supplies RE Work &c. 60 loads, 333 miles full	
Sheet 28			740 miles empty, 346 gals petrol consumed; 168 tons carried —	
S.3 Central	21/3/18		Weather fine & clear — Continued shelling of BAILLEUL	
			28 lorries transferred as follows (Authority S.M.T.O. #148/2):-	
			27 Peerless to 5th Aust. Div. M.T. Coy.	
			1 Dennis to Vehicle Reception Park.	
			Received 28 Thornycrofts from 1st Div. M.T. Coy II Corps	
			13 Lorries detailed on Supplies, RE. Work &c. - 40 loads.	
			263 miles full, 562 miles empty; 98 gals petrol consumed.	
			117 tons carried.	
	22/3/18		Weather fine & clear, continued shelling of BAILLEUL -	
			Civilians evacuating & town placed out of bounds to troops - 20 lorries on Supplies RE Works &c. 42 loads,	
			312 miles full, 513 miles empty, 172 gals petrol consumed	
			120 tons carried —	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MERSEY CAMP S3 Central	23/3/18	-	Weather fine & clear, Continued shelling of BAILLEUL 55 lorries detailed for Ammn, R.E. Work &c 120 loads, 1036 miles full 1405 Miles empty. 516 gals petrol consumed: 340 tons Carried.	
"	24/3/18	-	Weather fine & clear - Received word that the 4th Australian Division were to move South to take part in the defence against the German attack - Drew rations at BROOLOOZE & STEENWERCK and dumped in BUSNES AREA - Prepared to shift Camp -	See Appendix re Supplies.
"	25/3/18		Weather fine & clear - Drew Supplies from BROOLOOZE & STEENWERCK also Ammunition Echelon - Left at 11 a.m. the whole company less 2 Workshops complete & Lieut. Burden & MERCER moved South - My instructions were to report to S.M.T.O. 17th Corps - This I did leaving the Column at SAVY-BERLETTE - The S.M.T.O. 17th Corps at DUISANS →	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUISANS	25/3/18	2·0pm	sent me on S.M.T.O. 6th Corps at HUMBER CAMP and I received instructions from H.Q. "F" (6th) Corps M.T. Column	
BERLES-AU-BOIS	"	4·30p	to take over from 59th M.T. Company at BERLES-AU-BOIS I also dumped my 18pdr & 4·5" How. Echelon at MONCHY-au-BOIS & issued S.A.A to 4th Aust. 12th Aust. & 13th Australian Infantry Brigades under orders from "F" Corps M.T. Column. 1 Corporal & 6 men posted to the Corps Dump at MONCHY-au-BOIS relieving the men from 59th M.T.Co. Parked for the night at BERLES-AU-BOIS. 61 Lorries on Ammunition & Supplies, 1245 gals petrol consumed - 4782 miles full, 826 miles empty 183 tons carried (This includes running of 24th)	
"	26/3/18		Weather fine & clear - Dept Supplies for Division from railhead at TINQUES - Issued S.A.A. to 4th 12th & 13th Aust. Infantry Brigades - Informed by 48th Battn A.I.F. that German Cavalry were reported to have broken	See Appendix attached.

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			Through at HÉBUTHERNE. at 1 p.m. I at once went to H.Q. Corps M.T. Column at POMMIER and received written instructions to evacuate the Company at once	
BAVINCOURT	26/3/18	4 p.m.	to BAVINCOURT, this I did, arriving there at 4·30 p.m. A H.V. Shell fell in the camp at about 9 p.m., smashing a hole in the crankcase of a lorry, wounding 1 Scotch soldier & perforating the Officers' mess & Company office.	
			Lorries on Ammunition, supplies, moving Camp &c. 63 loads carried, 690 gals petrol consumed, 178 miles full, 1109 miles empty, 189 tons carried.	
"	27/3/18		Dress Supplies at WARLINCOURT - 4th Australian Division moved South to BAIZIEUX (Sheet 62D, C.6.C.8.5) Received no instructions to move, could not find "F" Corps M.T. Column who had evacuated, so reported to A.D.M.S. 6th Corps at NOYELLE-VION. who advised me	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAVINCOURT	27/3/18		To follow my Division and report to 7th Corps - Moved off at 2.30pm instructing the Corps to rendezvous at ACHEUX - On arrival at Divisional H.Q. at BAIZIEUX I received instructions from the A.D.M.S. to report to "G" (7th) Corps M.T. Column, at BEAUCOURT-SUR-HALLUE (Sheet 62 D. B12 Central) who instructed me to leave 2 Sections at BEAUCOURT-SUR-HALLUE to work on Ammunition (Lieut A.L. REID in Charge) & my H.Q. and	
TOUTENCOURT	6pm		3 remaining Sections to park at TOUTENCOURT. This I did - At 11.5 p.m. instructed to draw ammunition from VECQUEMONT and deliver to D.A.C's at WARLOY-BAILLON - 27 loads went - 60 loads carried 595 gals consumed; 1323 miles full, 1046 miles empty, 180 tons carried -	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOUTENCOURT	28/3/18		Supplies from BELLE EGLISE FARM. - rendezvous PUCHEVILLERS Lieut. F.H. HAMMOND sent to assist Lieut REID with ammunition - Lorries working day and night. Instructed to move to VILLERS - BOCAGE (Sheet 62D, A.2 Central) as TOUTENCOURT was out of the Corps Area - Arrived 2 p.m. Ammunition section also sent to join the Company owing to shelling of BEAUCOURT. - SUR - HALLUE 59 lorries on Ammunition & Supplies, 59 3 gals petrol consumed 1225 miles full, 937 miles empty, 177 tons carried -	
VILLERS BOCAGE (Sheet 62D A.2. Central)	29/3/18		Weather wet, raining all day - 35 Other ranks attached from 63rd (Imperial) Labor Company for loading ammunition. 64 lorries detailed, 691 gallons petrol consumed 192 tons carried, 1566 miles full, 1412 miles empty - Drivers sleeping on lorries, Supply Section and Ammunition details in billets. -	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BOCAGE	30/3/18		Weather wet - roads breaking up - Conditions normal. 50 lorries on Ammunition & Supplies 56 loads, 484 gals petrol consumed, 902 miles full. 697 miles empty, 168 tons carried - Drew Supplies from BELLE EGLISE FARM. Lieuts MERCER and BURDEN arrived with the 2 Workshops which had been left behind at MERSEY CAMP.	
	31/3/18		Drew Supplies from BELLE EGLISE FARM - Weather fine & clear - 57 lorries detailed on Ammunition & Supplies 98 loads, 580 galls petrol consumed, 1300 miles full. 1308 miles empty 257 tons carried -	
			During the whole period of the rush South, the Officers & men of the Unit accomplished their duties most efficiently & the supply of Ammunition & Supplies to the Division was carried out without a hitch -	

E. T. Leark Major
Comdg. 4th Aust. Div. M.T. Coy.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

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APPENDIX.

18,000-12/17-8723.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Div.M.T.Coy.

FOR

March,1918. 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Supplies drawn and delivered.
2	Ammunition drawn and delivered.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

Date	Railhead	4th Bde	12th Bde	13th Bde	4 A.DTS	4 M.T.Co	Units attached
24/3/18 Sunday	Steenwerck BRUILOOS	BURBURE x	GONNEHAM	- L'ECLEME		Bailleul-Locre Rd.	(6 A.F.A H.T (3 A.D.T.M.T to M'gue
25/3/18 Monday	STEENWERCK BRUILOOS	LA HELLIERE	B'EULVAL	- L'ECLEME	HOUDAIN	Berles-Au-Bois.	6 A.F.A.H.T.as above
26/3/18 Tue'day	TINQUES	LA HELLIERE	BASSEUX	GUOY	SAULTY	BAVINCOURT	Nil.
27/3/18 Wed'day	WARLIN-COURT	Drawn by H.Tpt	CONTAY	CONTAY	ESBERT	TOUTENCOURT	Nil.
28/3/18 Thursday	BELLE EGLISE		CONTAY	CONTAY	ESBERT	TOUTENCOURT	Nil.
29/3/18 Friday	Do		Molliens Au Bois	Moulliens Au Bois	Moulliens Au Bois	Villers Bocage.	Nil.
30/3/18 Sat'day	Do		Moulliens Au Bois	Moullins Au Bois	StGRATTEEN	do	Nil
31/3/18 Sunday	Do		Moulliens Au Bois	Moulliens Au Bois.	STGRATTEEN	do	9th D.Troops drawn M.T.
1/4/18 Monday	Do		ESBERT	ESBERT	ESBERT	do	4th D.Troops (Spp) 1780 men extra 65 & 150th A.F.A
2/4/18 Tuesday	Do		Do	Do	Do	Do	21st D.Troops drawn by our own M.T.
3/4/18 Wed'day	Do		Do	Do	BEHEN-COURT	Do	21st D.Troops drawn by our own M.T.

24/3/18 x Also 1465 Supp 4th Bde Dumped at La Creche.

APPENDIX.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

Ammunition Return

Particulars		A	AX	BX	S.A.A.
Date 25/3/18	Drawn from Aust Corps	1080	1172	360	720,000
26/3/18.	Delivered to Monchy-au-Bois Dumped at Berles-a-Bois	852	504	240	460,000
27/3/18	On hand	228	668	120	260,000
	Drawn from Vecquemont	1340	1400	240	140,000
27/3/18	Total d'lred to Warloy	1568	2068	360	400,000
	Dump.	1568	2068	360	400,000
28/3/18	Drawn from Vecquemont. Puchevillers	896	1120	480	580,000
	Total Delivered to Contay.	896	1120	480	580,000
		896	1120	480	580,000

APPENDIX. 214

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

Ammunition Return

Type	A	AX	BX	SAA	P.W	No.23.H. Grenades	No.23 R. Grenades	T.M.C.	V.P.A 1 inch	Remarks
Drawn from Flesselles		1680		560,000						
Acheux			500							
Vecquemont	1680									
29/3/18										
Total Drawn	1680	1680	500	560,000						
fm Fless'lles	1568	1568	480							
Dumped at	1680	1680	500	560,000						
CONTAY	1568	1568	480							
					16,000	3000	3000	1500	3000	
Drawn from FLESSELLES 29/3/18.	2240	896	100	680,000						
Delivered to										
3rd Aust Div								500		
4th Aust Div					16,000	3000	3000	500	3000	
35 Div								500		
On Hand	2240	896	100	680,000						
Drawn from PUCHEVILLERS 29/3/18.	2260	3604	920			3000	3500	1000		
Total 30/3/18.	4500	4500	1020	680,000		3000	3500	1000		

APPENDIX. 215

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

APPENDIX. 2

Ammuniti on Return

Particulars	T.M.C.	P.W.	V.P.A. 1"	No.23 H Grenades	No.23 R. Grenades
Drawn 29/3/18 from Elesselles.	1500	16000	3000	3000	3000
30/3/18 do	1000			3000	3500
Total 29/3/18	2500	16000	3000	6000	6500
Delivered to 3rd Aust Div	500				
4th Aust Div	500	16000	3000	3000	3000
35th Div	500				
30/3/18 4th Aust Div.	1000			3000	3500
Total Issued	2500	16000	3000	6000	6500

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APPENDIX 2 17

Ammunition Park.

Type Return	A	AX	BX	Grenades Etc
Drawn from	4500	4500	1020	3000 No.23 Hand (Proportion) 3500 No.23 Rifle with rods & blanks 1000 T.M.C.
	2240	480	480	680,000 S.A.A?
Issued to Contay Dump 30/3/18.	4500	4500	1020	3000 No.23 Hand. 3500 No.23 Rifle with rods & blanks (proportion) 1000 T.M.C.
31/3/18. In Park.	2240	480	480	280,000 SAA (SAA to 46th Res Park) 400,000 Rounds SAA

12 Noon

4/4/1918.

Major.
Commanding 4th Aust Div.M.T.C

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1001390

Ammunition Return

Particulars	A	AX	BX	SAA	No.23 H. Grenades	No.23.R Grenades	T.MC
30/3/18 On Hand	4500	4500	1020	680,000	3000	3500	1000
Delivered to 4th Aust Div 46th R.Park.	4500	4500	1020	280,000	3000	3500	1000
On Hand Drawn from Puchevillers 30/3/18	2240	448	480	400,000			
Drawn from Puchevillers.31st	1120	2812	720				
Total De'ld to 4th Aust Div	3360 3360	3360 3360	1120 1120	400,000 -			
On Hand Drawn from Puche-villers 31/3/18.	2688	448	480	400,000			
Total on Hand in Park 1/4/18	2688	448	480	400,000			

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APPENDIX.

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