

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/65/1

Title: 7th Australian Depot Unit of Supply

1915 - May 1919



AWM4-25/65/1

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY.

ORIGINAL

7th. Australian Depot Unit of Supply.

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The 7th Australian Depot Unit of Supply was formed in Western Australia in the latter half of the year 1915, and comprised:- Lt. L.G. Stevens, Warrant Officer T.J. Brown, Sergeants C.N. Langsford, and M.B. Desmond, Corporals C.V. Collier and J.A. Bryan, and Privates J.O. Hughes, G.E. Rowlands, A.L. Davies, C.A. Davies, A.L. Pope, G. Pope, A. Toogood, A. Sinclair, and A. Brown. After approximately three months training in the A.S.C. Camp at Blackboy Hill Camp the Unit left Fremantle on the troopship Suffolk. There were about 1000 troops on board. The trip, direct to Suez, was uneventful. A smooth passage, the usual routine of physical exercises, lectures and plenty of sport, all tended to make interesting what must otherwise have proved a monotonous voyage. Colonel Onslow was O.C. of the troopship and Canon McClemans, Chaplain. Arrived at Suez at 9.30 p.m. on the 2nd January. Disembarkation, however, did not take place until 7.30 a.m. on the 6th. Entrained for Tel-el-kebir, which destination was reached at 9.30 p.m. same evening. Leaving a baggage guard, the remainder of the Unit marched into camp. Tents were pitched and the first night on the desert was spent with the thermometer at freezing point. It was at this time that the evacuation from Gallipoli was in progress, and the arrival of Australian lads into the Australian Concentration Camp at Tel-el-kebir dissipated any hopes we had of "doing our bit" in that historic part of the world, which, though far, is yet so near, being rendered for ever dear in the memory of Australia, that memory being perpetuated in the history of mankind by that immortal name ANZAC.

The Unit was not placed immediately at work. Route marches and constant shifting of camp (rendered necessary by the arrival of fresh troops) occupying most of the time for several days. Eventually we were attached to the 15th Army Service Corps Company, my men being placed into Detail Issue work, some outside, others on office work. Subsequently on the 30th January 1916, the 15th Company

having moved, the rationing of the 2nd Division was entirely in our hands. Rations were drawn from ration train, and No. 1 Dump, green forage being obtained from barges on the canal. During this time assistance both with fatigue work and issuing was rendered by the 2nd Australian Field Bakery and Butchery. On Sunday the 27th February, the 2nd Australian Field Butchery left. On the 28th the work of shifting the Depot was commenced and completed the following day. This procedure was carried out to provide more scope for expansion and to allow of more easy facilities with regard to both issuing and transport difficulties. On the 9th March we received orders to proceed to Moascar the same day. However these orders were received too late to be carried into effect, with the result that we did not entrain until Saturday 11th March. Lieut Grant with 21st. D.U.S. took over from us at Tel-el-kebir. Arrived at Moascar, tents were pitched. Owing to the imminence of our departure for France no A.S.C. work was assigned to us. Whilst at Moascar the whole of the Unit were inoculated. Having received orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move out at a moment's notice, Unit equipment was packed and the men ordered to stand by. Ptes. A.L. and G. Pope were transferred to the 16th A.S.C. Company, their vacancies being filled by the absorption of A. Brown (8th reinforcement) and H. Tylor.

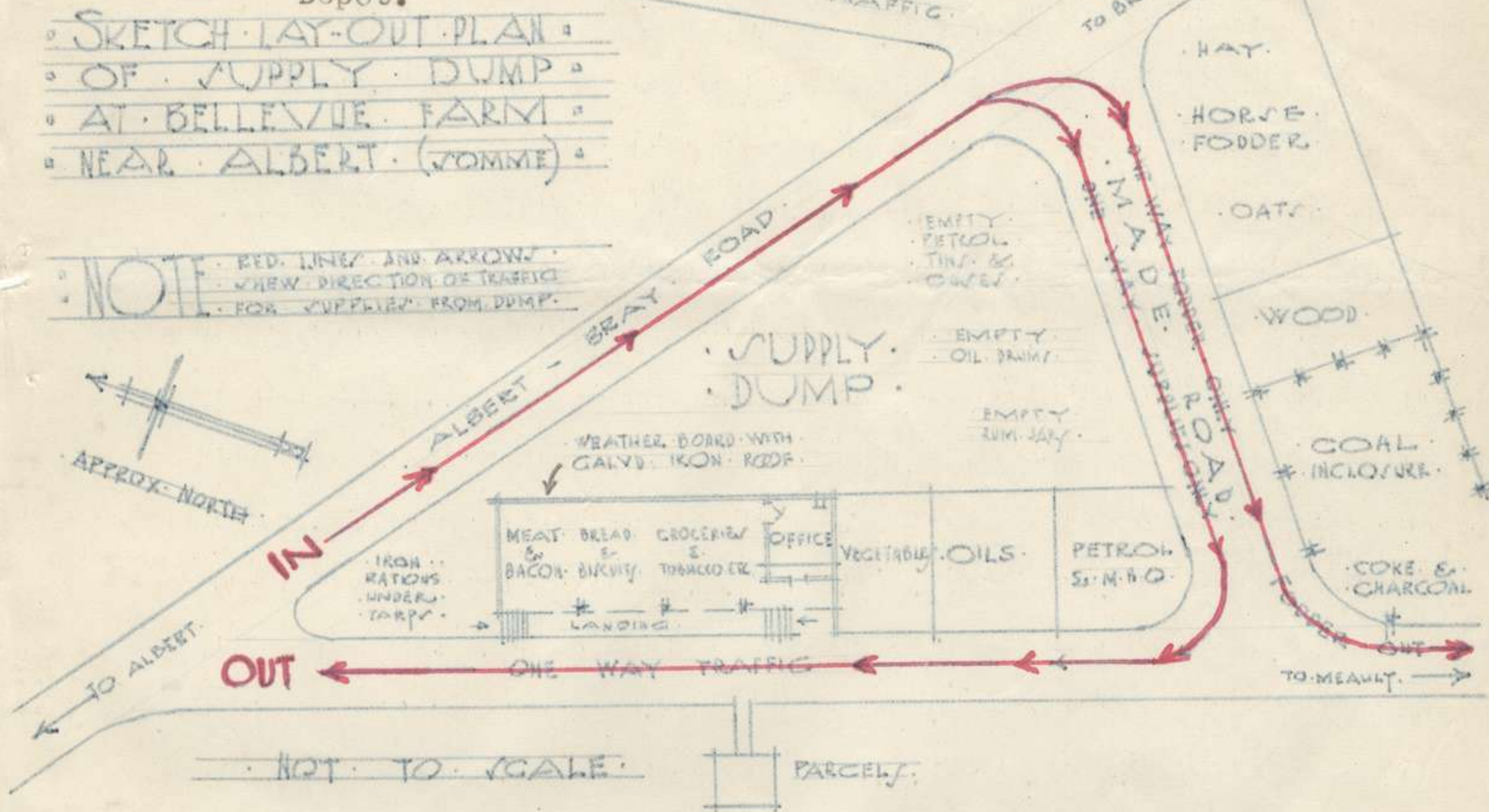
On the 16th March 1916 orders were received to proceed by train to Alexandria, there to embark for an unknown destination. Arrived at Moascar Siding at 7 p.m. and bivouacked until 2.30 next morning. The journey to Alexandria was made in open trucks without anything of special interest. Arrived at Alexandria at 10.30 a.m. and embarked straight away on the troopship Arcadian (since torpedoed). Left at 7 o'clock that evening. The weather was stormy. The boat was crowded, about 2000 troops being on board. Proceeded under escort and after a five days' trip across the Mediterranean arrived at Marseilles, France, on the 23rd March 1916 without mishap. The only parades during the passage were of a nature which would tend to promote order should

accidents happen. On opening sealed orders at Marseilles, it was found that we were to proceed to Calais with the 6th, 8th., 9th., and 10th D.U.Ss, the 2nd Australian Field Bakery and Butchery. Lt., Miles O.C. 2nd Field Bakery was O.C. of the train. Entraining at 10.30 p.m. we pulled out at midnight. The journey to Calais lasted three days: via Orange, Lyons, Dijon, skirted Paris, Amiens, Etaples and Boulogne, and was appreciated by all. With perfect weather and southern France looking at its best the trip will always be looked upon as a happy remembrance, its beauties being accentuated all the more as it came immediately after three months on the Egyptian desert. As we were amongst the first of the Australian troops to arrive in France, considerable curiosity was aroused at the what nationality we were. And just here perhaps it would be well to place on record the cordial reception meted out by the French and more especially by the Red Cross. Arrived at Calais on Sunday 26th March we soon discovered that northern France was far different to the south. The night was stormy, sleet and rain falling ceaselessly and the cold was intense. Reported to Capt Mayers, O i/c A.S.C. Supply Personnel at No. 1 Camp. The severity of the weather considerably impaired the health of the Australian troops coming as it did so soon after Egyptian conditions. However, with careful handling and strict supervision on the part of the medical authorities, nothing of a serious nature was reported. On 30 March 1916 at 6.30 a.m. the Australians commenced work on the docks. Lt Stevens, O.C. 7th A.D.U.S., was made O i/c A.A.S.C. Details. During our stay at Calais, which lasted approximately six months, nothing of special importance is to be reported. The men of the unit were changed into different occupations several times. A thorough insight into the handling of bulk stores was obtained. The arrival and off-loading of boats, the stacking in hangars, the daily typing, the loading of trains and their subsequent despatch being thoroughly mastered. Several changes in the personnel of the unit took place whilst at Calais. Sgt. Desmond was admitted to hospital, evacuated to England and subsequently to Australia. Sgt A. Brown was appointed to the vacancy. Pte R.A.L. Edwards our 2nd 3rd

reinforcement joined. Corporal Byran was evacuated to England, Pte A Toogood being promoted with acting rank to fill the vacancy. This appointment was afterwards confirmed. As to discipline, it was exemplary, being characteristic of Australian troops wherever found. On the 31st August having been so ordered, the Unit under ~~Agax~~ W.O. Brown left Calais to report to No. 2 Field Supply Depot at Caestre, Lieut. Stevens being obliged to remain behind. However, some misunderstanding had evidently occurred, so that after a week at the F.S.D., we returned to Calais resuming our former occupations. Whilst at Caestre Pte C.A. Davies was transferred to 1st Div Supply Column. When orders were received that the Unit was to move to the Somme for duty under the D.D. of S. & T. 4th Army, they were received with enthusiasm. When moving we were obliged to leave Sgt. Langsford behind as he was engaged on relief work. He rejoined the Unit about a fortnight later. Reporting to the D.D. of S. & T. we were detailed for duty with the ~~21st~~ 1st Anzac Corps Troops Supply Column (O.C. Major Goddard). The detachment here was split up. Some being employed at the central office at Heilly, others at Bellevue Farm Dump and the remainder at the ~~Stage~~ Dump on the Albert Amiens Road. Being divided in such a manner, naturally there was no unity or concentrated action on the part of the unit, which makes it difficult to chronicle its history. However, subsequently the whole of the unit with the exception of Ptes Rowlands and Davies were moved to the Bellevue Farm Dump on the Albert-Bray Rd. Work was carried on there until 31st January. Rations were drawn by the 1st Anzac C.T.S.C. from Railhead at Mericourt, and afterwards when their H.Q. moved, at Albert, and then delivered at Dump. Issues were made in the morning, commencing between 7 and 8, and rations for the following day's issue were received during the afternoon. At one time from this dump we were supplying well over 20,000 troops, comprising about 107 different formations.

(5)

Below is a sketch showing briefly the laying out of the Depot.



Perhaps it would be well here to give a brief summary as to the method employed in issuing. Indents were received from Units 4 days in advance. For instance, received on the 1st, drawn from Railhead on the 2nd, issued on the 3rd, for consumption on the 4th. The fact that all work in connection with the compilation of the 3316 was conducted at Heilly and not being in telephonic communication made the question of shortdrawals and alterations a rather difficult matter and entailed considerable confusion. However, subsequently the compilation of the 3316 was carried out at the office on the Dump, so that confusion in that connection was reduced to a minimum. No reserve was carried on the dump (being purely a refilling point) until "thaw" precautions came into vogue. Then of course a reserve was held in accordance with instructions received. The whole of the clerical work was done in the office, thus making one central point responsible for all figuring, etc. This is absolutely necessary, more especially as the law of percentages in connection with fresh

commodities was always in force. When the units arrived, entering as per diagram, the Q.M. called at the office, handed in his new indent, signed the one on which he was drawing for that day and received a chit containing his number, bearing the office sergeant's initials and the date. No issues were made without this chit. Each issuer was in possession of a list numbered consecutively and against the number the amount of the commodity to be issued. The figures are compiled the night previously from A.B. 55s. For obvious reasons the numbers are continually altering. For instance, one day the list will commence at No 1, the next at No. 6, and so on. Thereby no unit received the same number on two consecutive days. As a unit drew its different commodities, its number was crossed off that issuer's list, thus obviating double-banking. Fatigues and guards were drawn whilst at Albert from the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion as required. The usual daily, weekly, monthly and periodical returns required by Army whilst at Albert were made out by the 1st Anzac C.T.S.C.'s office so that responsibility in that direction was in no way placed on the unit. Groceries etc, were under cover of a shed, oils were stacked in the open, as was also fuel, forage being stacked under tarpaulins. Being a refilling point pure and simple, deterioration of supplies was an impossibility.

As to climatic conditions. They were most severe. However, the winter of 1916-1917 on the Somme needs only to be mentioned to be understood. Despite occasional shelling and frequent aerial raids no casualties were suffered. On the 1st December 1916 Lt. B. Boles was made O i/c of the Dump, Lt Stevens being transferred to Coal Dump Albert. Pte A.W. Sinclair was transferred to 2nd Aust. Div. Train on the 18th January 1917. Pte W.J. Bain who had arrived as a reinforcement was admitted to hospital but afterwards rejoined the unit. Pte L.A. Davies was transferred to 1st Div. Supply Column and struck off strength. The following reinforcements were taken on strength:- Ptes J.S. Smart, H. Hayes, T. Hanlon and G.S. Ford. A few days before Christmas we had the misfortune to have a rather

substantially built dump carried away by a gale. Nevertheless no serious dislocation was caused and the dump was shortly after rebuilt by the R.E's.

On the 31st January 1917 the detachment moved under W.O. Brown (Lt Stevens being in the United Kingdom on leave) to Frechencourt by lorry, reporting to Lt Rawson whom we relieved. Our duties at Frechencourt were not arduous. The rationing of Divisional Schools was allotted to us. Rations were drawn from Frechencourt railhead and sent by motor to Vignacourt where they were issued. Sgt. Brown, Ptes Smart and Hayes were detailed for Vignacourt, the remainder of the unit billeting at Frechencourt and after at Behencourt. Whilst there thaw precautions came into force on the 18th January. Horse transport was then requisitioned, rations were taken by them to rendezvous at Pont Noyelles on the Amiens Rd. from thence conveyed by lorry to refilling points at Picquiny and Village Bicarge, the dump at Vignacourt being temporarily suspended. On the 2nd March the unit moved once more to Albert, and were taken in charge by Lt. B. Boles (Lt Stevens with a detachment of three remaining at Vignacourt) A week was spent at Albert on fatigues etc., when we moved at Quarry near Montauban. Here the task of supplying heavy artillery was allotted to us. However, owing to the rapidity of the enemy's retirement in the Bapaume Sector heavy artillery soon got out of range consequently it became necessary for us to move further forward. At Bazentine le Petit railhead we made an issue en route to La Coupelle near Bapaume. It was impossible to go beyond this point as the decauville went no further. Great difficulty was experienced in getting up supplies, but nothing serious beyond considerable delay occurred. On the 27th March we entered Bapaume and unloaded and issued from the first train there. Tents were pitched and work was carried on ^{under} difficult conditions. The ration train, owing to frequent derailments and the enormity of the task imposed upon it arrived at most irregular intervals, Considerable inconvenience was caused to units. About a week after entering Bapaume rations were

being delivered by horse and motor transport direct to batteries. On the 31st March the unit left with instructions to report to their O.C. at 1st Anzac Reinforcement Camp at Albert. Proceeded by decauville, spent the night at Bazentin in a rest hut en route, and arrived at Mealte on the 1st April. Reported to Lt. Stevens. We were now awaiting orders which were received on the 2nd. Entrain- ed at Albert for Tincques, at which place we arrived on the 4th instant. From there we went by lorry to Avesnes le Comte. Our work here was relief work, the rationing of the 6th Corps Heavy Artillery being assigned to us. A dump or refilling point was made at Noyelles Vion. On the 13th, 4 days after the advance we made our first issue at Arras. Although issues were made on the 13th and 14th, the unit did not move there until the 15th. At Arras we came under the jurisdiction of the D.D. of S. & T. 3rd Army, however, working more directly under "F" Siege Park. A refilling point was made in the Rue Victor Hugo. Exactly the same system in connection with the drawing of supplies from railhead ~~was~~ and their issue was used at Arras as everywhere else. This system has been found by me to be more efficacious and more satisfactory to all concerned. Here we were rationing approximately 10000 troops comprising about 57 units. As at Bapaume the compilation of all Army returns was carried out in the office by the Unit. The Arras Railhead was used. After a short period, Army, for military considerations, ordered us to move our dump outside the precincts of the town. This procedure was evidently rendered necessary by the congestion of traffic in Arras. Consequently we shifted to Ronville on the Arras-Bapaume Rd. This spot was used as a refilling point for some time, when owing to hygienic reasons the dump was moved to the Arras-Tilloy Rd.

On the 15th June 1917, Lt. Stevens was transferred to 2nd Aust. Div. Train, the vacancy being filled by Lt. W.G. Cadd. Towards the end of ^{June} July the 6th Corps Heavy Artillery commenced to move out. Marching out rations were issued as instructed. The number of units gradually dwindled until we were supplying only the "F" Siege Park and a few detachments. However, these were taken over from us and

we moved with "F" Siege Park, ~~for a spell to Achiet le Grand.~~

The weather whilst at Arras was perfect, our stay being made there throughout the summer. The work was performed by my N.C.Os and men with smartness, a keenness being evinced which is so essential, creating that which is absolutely necessary, viz:- good feeling between issuers and units drawing. For the first two months at Arras, the town and more especially the railhead was subjected to continual shelling by the enemy. Almost uninterruptedly, day and night. However, despite shelling, aerial attacks, the explosions of dumps and numerous other dangers, no casualties were suffered, and in this respect we can consider ourselves extremely fortunate. The purchase of green forage was an item that came into play, and I am convinced that indiscriminate buying on the part of inexperienced officers (i.e. in that connection only) is a factor to be deplored. About the end of June Cpl J.A. Bryan who had been invalided to England from Calais, rejoined the unit and has been held as supernumerary. For a depot unit, so frequently detached and attached to different formations, the question of leave is a most unsatisfactory problem, the majority of my men not obtaining leave until after 20 months' service abroad. From my experience, I have come to the conclusion that the establishment of a depot unit of supply can be easily improved upon. The original establishment provides for 4 butchers. This, of course, allows for slaughtering. However, as is well known, slaughtering is not touched by a depot unit, in fact, as far as I am aware, no killing is done in France at all. To my mind therefore, under existing conditions, two butchers are ample. The remainder of the unit, outside the cook and batman, should be clerks. The advisability of having men in the unit who are even if only slightly experienced in clerking, has been demonstrated to me time and time again. For absolute accuracy and smooth running, three skilled clerks are necessary.

On the 7th July 1917 the Unit moved with "F" Siege Park to Achiet le Grand for a rest and remained there until the 24th when they

moved again for duty under the D.D. of S. & T, 4th Army.

Proceeded to by train to Dunkirk. Here the task of commencing and running a Field Supply Depot was ours. The hangar was situated in Coudekerque Branche on the Canal Siding railhead. Supplies were received from the Base at Calais and Rouen. The depot carried approximately 300000 rations, exclusive of iron rations and medical comforts. As was to be expected the initial stages of an F.S.D. entailed hard work on the part of all N.C.Os and men. Nevertheless, 6 months at a Base and 12 months up the line stood the lads in good stead, and they fell into the work automatically. About 150,000 iron rations were held, the medical comforts being on a scale as laid down by the Deputy Director of Supplies. As is well known through official communiques, the town of Dunkirk was bombarded almost nightly from the air, and occasionally from land and sea. Several bombs struck the men's billet and both shells and bombs fell in and around the hangar. No damage was caused. The climatic conditions, although at times ~~xxx~~ severe, occasioned only slight discomfort, which strengthens my belief that the men are becoming seasoned to conditions prevailing in northern France. Work went ~~xxxx~~ smoothly until the 6th November, when owing to numerous troops moving to Italy, the handing over of that portion of the front by the 4th Army, issues were conducted on a wholesale basis. Formations drawing 14 days train rations and subsequent issues to divisions, soon depleted our stocks. On the 7th November the R.S.O. Canal Siding moved, the balance of commodities held by him ~~being~~ taken on charge by this depot. Afterwards the R.S.O. Leffrinckoucke also moved, the same procedure being adopted. The 11th November was our busiest day when 60,000 rations were issued. Between the 12th and 16 November, 250,000 rations were issued. It was rumoured that the depot had to be cleared before the 20th November. Acting according to instructions the balance of commodities held by us were returned as directed. Medical Comforts, iron rations, hay, being returned to B.S.D. Calais, Oils, etc., to Petrol Depot, Fontinettes, Wood to R.S.O. Grubben and groceries to R.S.O. Idesbalds. On Monday 2nd

(11)

December 1917, the depot being cleared, the unit entrained for Calais, leaving Cpl. Bryan and Pte Edwards at Dunkirk to assist in the D.I.S.. Arrived at Calais on the 3rd and reported to O i/c No.6 Rest Camp (formerly No.1 Camp). Here my unit has been divided. Some working at the Calais base, others at Petrol Depot Fontinettes and the remainder at Vendroux: (2 o.r. as stated being held on command at Dunkirk).

Mybadd

Lieutenant.

O.C. 7th Aust. Depot Unit of Supply. A.I.F.

12.12.17 Date:

France



7th Aust. Depot Unit of Supply 4379/15/7
February 1918



During the month of February 1918, the Unit continued in their various positions at N°1 ASD. There is nothing unusual to report. Casualties are as follows:-

o. Brown T J admitted to hospital 5-2-18 discharged 13-2-18
to Edwards R A do 4-2-18

o. Bryan J A returned from leave to M.B. on 15-2-18

Whilst here, opportunity has been taken by the Unit give concerts in conjunction with another troupe, both here & neighbouring stations. Considerable enjoyment is obtained & spare moments profitably employed. The health of the men is good, mild climatic conditions & good housing are in a large measure responsible.

W. Baddell

Hand Original
14 May to 31st May 1918.

War Diary

7th Aust. Depot Mount of Supply.

1

On 14th March 1918 Lt W. E. Cadd was transferred to 2nd Divisional Train, the command of the unit being taken over by Lt C. B. Hocking. Just here perhaps it would be well to place on record the bond of fellowship & complete understanding that existed between Lt Cadd & his men. These factors contributed largely to the smooth & efficient running of the unit.

The unit continued work at N° 1 A S D until Monday, 25th March, when we were detailed to supply coloured Labour Personnel (Chinese, Indians & Italians & Portuguese) at Lannoy. Proceeded to Lannoy on the 25th but the same day received orders to entrain for Aum le Chateau. Entrained at 5.30 pm, proceeded via Abbeville & arrived at Aum le Chateau at 9.15 pm on the 25th. Commenced work the following morning, issuing to 34th Division & a few details, from pack train. Strength rationed was approximately 10000. The 34th Division marched out after being rationed for 1 day, the 59th Division being supposed to march in. However the 59th Division did not arrive, although the pack arrived for them. Consequently supplies were off-loaded & dumped & issues were made to details in the district. On the 30th March Plt R. A. L. Edwards rejoined the unit from hospital.

Issues to details were continued until 4th April. Orders having been received to close the railhead, supplies remaining on hand were packed and

forwarded by rail to Trevent. Left Annecy-le-Château
on the 5th April for Attitude, from whence, according
to instructions received, we returned to Alancourt
(N° 1, A.S.D.) arriving there on 6th April. On the 7th
the unit proceeded once more to Lannoy & took over
the rationing of the coloured personnel. Continued
there until 22 April. In the interim drafts of troops
were continually moving out, until the camp was
so depleted as to render a dump on the spot
unnecessary. Consequently supplies on hand were
returned to N° 1, A.S.D. & remaining personnel at
Lannoy drew rations direct from D.I.S. at
Alancourt. On the 22nd April Pte H.W.H. Tylor
reported back from hospital. From then until
the end of the month work was resumed by my
men. The task of salvaging was assigned to
them (a considerable portion of the depot having
been destroyed by fire on 12th March). Throughout
the period covered by this diary, all ranks
under my command worked with commendable
unity & with their customary efficiency. Their
health continues good, billeting being on the whole
good. The month of May 1918 is not marked
by any occurrence of special interest. NCO's &
men during the month of May were in positions
which, considering their skill in supply work,
seems hardly consistent (i.e. in charge of Chinese
labour). However, perhaps the exigencies of the
campaign necessitated this procedure — and perhaps

not. Several severe air raids were experienced but luckily, although casualties were high, the Unit escaped. On the 29 April Sgt H Brown was admitted to hospital & subsequently discharged on 3rd May. On 12 May Sgt C N Langford was admitted to hospital, & discharged on 1st.

31-5-1918

Barns Harker⁹

Lieut.

267th Aust Depot Unit of Supply

War Diary7th Australian Depot Unit of Supply1. 6. 1918 to 30. 9. 18

During the month of June the men of my Unit continued in the positions, as set down in my previous records. Methods of work etc have been set down earlier. During the fine weather opportunity was taken to indulge in sports, cricket & football being the principal games. Owing to one or two rather severe air raids during the preceding months, precautions were taken. Trenches were taken dug in and around the camp, but every evening the whole of the camp was marched to some neighboring woods. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather & the fact that we had not been visited by the enemy for a considerable period, this marching out was of nightly occurrence, this procedure producing much discontent amongst my men. There are no casualties to report for the month of June. On the 15th June several of the unit were sent to Blangy s/Breille to carry on a Railhead there. Rations were sent from the D.I.S. Blancmont & issued to about 2600 troops, including Pof W, Chinese, Forestry Rations, Lof C Troops & Army Troops. This railhead was held as a component part of the D.I.S. at Blancmont, returns being rendered to them direct. It would be more simple & consolidated, also more satisfactory, if this railhead could be treated as a railhead or a separate institution.

The month of July is marked by nothing of importance, with the exception that the whole of the unit, with the exception of one or two, was transferred to Blangy. This causes great satisfaction to my men as esprit de corps is high & their being together & working together is conducive to the smoother running of a dump.

There were no casualties in the month of July the men's health being excellent. The men are billeted out & have plenty of opportunities for amusement & spare time for improvement. And I might mention that they are looking forward to the Educational scheme coming into force as at present they have a splendid opportunity to study.

During August, work was proceeded with as usual. A good spirit of unity between those issuing & units drawing made the work both congenial & agreeable. On the 4th August several of the unit took part in the service at the Cathedral at Blangy.

And I might add that every effort is made to create a good impression on our allies the French. Towards the end of August Pte T. Hanton & Pte. HWA Tylor proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom. In September the remainder of

the unit were transferred to Blangy. Instructions were received & 5 men proceeded to Longroy-Gamaches to take over the railhead there. So that at present, we are running two railheads. The work at both places is similar, with the exception that at Blangy, returns are rendered to Abancourt & at Gamaches direct to D D S Southern. At both places suitable storage accommodation has been obtained, although at Blangy slightly on the small side. Sgt C N Langford, Cpl C R Collier.

WO T J Brown, Ptes J O Hughes & W J Bain went on leave to the United Kingdom & Pte J S Smart to Paris. Health of the men continues good.

Methods of work etc have been fully particularised in my previous histories & at present I find nothing further to add that would prove beneficial.

J. J. Brown

Warrant Officer
Sent for leave

30.9.18

For

OC 7th Aust Dep Unit of Supply

original

War Diary7th Australian Depot Unit of SupplyOctober + November 1918

There is practically nothing to report during these two months, other than what has already been stated in preceding diaries. The two Railheads at Blangy & Camaches are carrying on as usual, there being no appreciable variations in the strength supplied or the method of procedure adopted. Several of my men have been down with influenza, but owing to immediate attention received serious complications were averted. There are no casualties with the exception of N° 10259 Pte J. S. Smart, to U.K. on leave on 26th 11-1918. Health of the men is good, considering the trying weather conditions. Bullethong arrangements and conditions under which the men are working can hardly be improved upon.

Signature of Lieut

30.11.18O.C. 7th Aust Depot Unit of Supply

In lieu of War Diary.

War Diary.

7th. Aust. Depot. Unit of Supply -
December. 1918. January. February. March
April. May. 1st. 1919.

There is nothing further to report save that Christmas & New Year of this year passed off with much more vim & pleasure than the previous years. The thought of being home by the following one was the topic of conversation every where. Weather was bitterly cold - but that was not noticed the spirits of the company being bucked by the Demobilization Scheme of the forces - in February. a loss to the company. but again to themselves. by the departure to Russia via England of Sgt. Chf Augsburg - Sgt. A. Brown - Cpl. Ch. Collier - Cpl. Bryant - Pte. Howlands. Pte. H. Tyler. & Pte. J. Hughes. I may take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the high standard of work maintained by the above mentioned U.C.O's men. and the loss sustained to the Company by their departure - these remarks were conveyed to them at a farewell dinner at Blangy Sur. Fresle. Reinforcements were received from the Staging Camp at Abancourt to replace those who were sent away.

On the 10th March orders were received from J.I.S. S. to close Blangy & Gamaches Rail heads. close all P.S. accounts - and be ready to move to Cologne for duty with the Army of the Rhine. Naturally everybody was delighted with the

prospects of seeing Germany. but our hopes
were dashed to the ground. instead we
arrived at No 2 Advanced Supply
Depot Mautort - on the 21st March.

Whilst there were employed on section
loadings for the Rail heads. up to the
time we left there for long laid -
Mautort we left as a complete unit on
the 14th March. having handed in our
equipment to No 8 Ordnance. Abbeville.
receipts + correspondence re same being sent
to 3rd Echelon. who acknowledged
receipt of same.

May I place here on record my
appreciation of the high work + services
rendered to this unit by W.O. J. Brown.
he at all times was only too willing
to do anything he could to assist
in every way conceivable. and much
credit gained by the Unit is due
to him. also Sgt. A. Toogood. Sgt.
G. Ford. Cpl. J. Haulon. + Cpl. P.H. Hayes -
the feeling of fellowship + comradeship
~~and~~ in the company went a long way
towards the good name the unit had
with the French they worked with.

Baynes Hauling Lt

22⁵/₁₉

7th A.D.V.S

Conto

CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL

Work was carried on by my men in their different spheres at Calais, Fontenettes + Vendroux until Saturday, 22nd December 1917, when the unit entrained for Poie. Arrived at Poie on the 23 December. Here we took over from the 10 R.H.S.D. The rationing of the 169 Bde A.F.A. was our task, which was a light one, only about 1000 troops being rationed from Poie railhead. This brigade was recuperating + refitting itself as the result of the Cambrai retirement. On Sunday, 6th January 1918 the 169 Bde A.F.A. moved out, practically without notice, so that for a few days only a small number of details were drawing at the railhead. On Wednesday, 9th Jan. the 5th Army Bde R.H.A. arrived. The strength was there approximately 900. However, this brigade moved on the 15th January, leaving us with only small details as before. It was thought that other troops would arrive to utilize Poie as a rest area. However, none came, & we received orders to return stock, part to D.I.S. Abancourt, & forage to Amiens. This was done, the Amiens commodities being forwarded by rail, the remainder by lorry. Whilst at Poie the men were billeted. Conditions, although climatically adverse, were good: the health of my men being in no wise impaired. On the 7th Jan., Cpl Torgood & Pte Rowlands proceeded on leave to the U.K., & on the 19 Jan. Pte Edwards also. The history of the unit would not be complete without brief reference to our united Christmas dinner. Held in the Hotel de Poie, Poie, it constituted a distinct & unqualified success. This was the first united gathering on the part of the unit since leaving Australia.

On Wednesday, 23rd January the detachment, with the exception of 3 moved to Abancourt; the 3 being left to guard stores until transport for their despatch was available.

Reported to ^{N. 1240} camp at Abancourt, the men being allotted to different jobs. Cpl Torgood & Pte Rowlands returned from leave on the 25 January & on the 1st February, Cpl Bryan proceeded on leave.

M. Boddart