

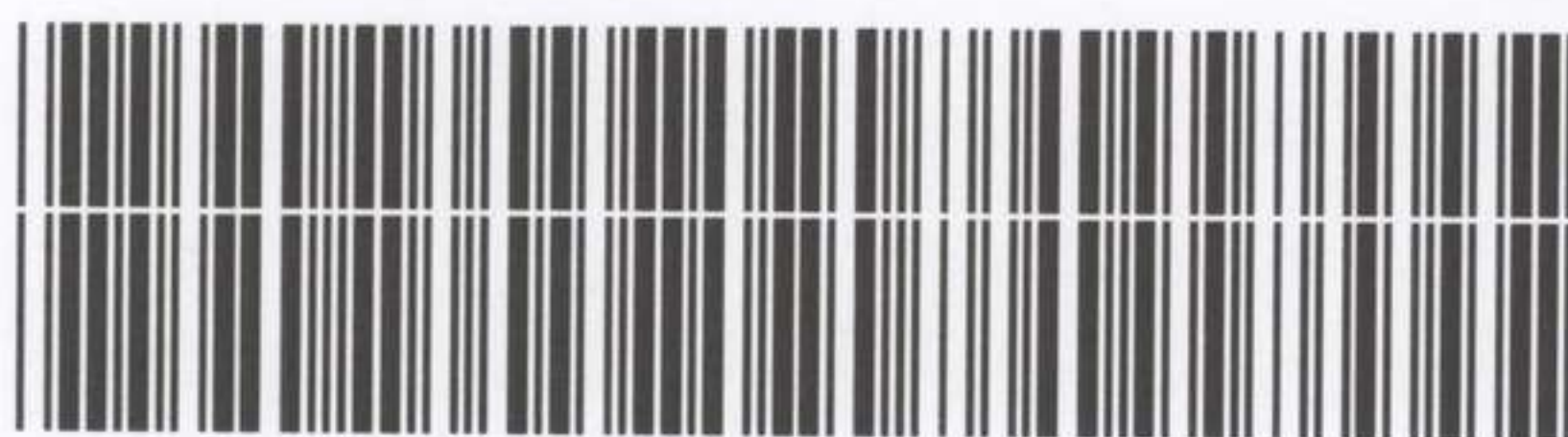
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/68/1

Title: 10th Australian Depot Unit of Supply

March 1916 - May 1919



AWM4-25/68/1

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10th Australian Depot Unit of Supply.

EGYPT

1916

Formed in the early part of March 1916. Lt. Col. McIntosh was given command with W. A. Tough as Warrant Officer. The Unit remained at Ferry Post for a few days before moving to Moascar to await orders. Whilst at Moascar many of the Unit were employed at the Supply Depot until March 15th 1916 when marching orders were received.

Marched out March 16th 1916 arrived at Alexandria & embarked R.M. 'Arcadia' immediately. Sailed next day and arrived at Marseille March 23rd 1916, entrained there and arrived at Calais 26th March, where the Unit was under canvas in No. 1 Camp.

FRANCE

Whilst in Calais many of the Unit were employed at the Hangars loading supplies etc., & others were detailed for clerical duties.

During August 1916 the Unit with equipment was ordered to Dunkirk for duty at the Detail Issue Store. This D.I.S. was situated on the Quai de la Citadelle in a very large building which in pre war days was used as a Government Tobacco Bond. Our Unit was working in conjunction with the R.A.S.C. - Capt Fairclough being Officer in Charge, and this Officer also controlled the off loading of all supply boats which came to the Dunkirk Docks. Therefore some of the Unit were detailed for duty on the Docks supervising the offloading of supplies, with Lt. McIntosh the Unit's O.C. Chief Shipping Officer.

The Detail Issue Store, Dunkirk supplied rations, fuel, fodder, oils etc. to all troops in that area, also supplied the Naval Supply Officer with Meat, Bread and Vegetables on repayment.

Supplies were issued daily with the exception of Sundays - two days rations being drawn on Saturdays. Supplies were received from the Base weekly, with the exception of bread which came from Calais daily, and meat daily from Boulogne, unless a Meat Boat came to Dunkirk, then the Meat was drawn from the Ship daily. The average feeding strength (daily) of the D.I.S. when our Unit was taken on strength was about 7,000.

1917

During January the Unit's strength was increased by one O.R. from reinforcements, and two O.R.'s rejoined Unit from Base. During the next couple of months the feeding strength increased so that it was necessary to increase the staff, and through the energy of Capt James Smith R.A.C., who had great admiration for the work done by our Unit, the 14th A.Dist. came to the D.I.S. early in May from Calais. On 5th May Lt C. D. McIntosh O.C. 10th A.Dist. was ordered to Calais for duty, and was taken on strength of the Base Supply Depot at that Base, where he took over the duties of O.C. of Red Hangar for some considerable time, then later on the duties of S.R. T.O.

Dunkirk from the beginning of the War had nightly visits from enemy aircraft, and frequently shelled both from land and sea, but the D.I.S. never received a direct hit, although many bombs and shells fell close by - several bombs falling in the coal yard and adjoining buildings.

It was during September that the enemy commenced the heavy air raids on Dunkirk, and in this month one of the Unit's members was



wounded in several places from splinters of a bomb which fell three feet outside the S.I.S. front door.

On the night of the 19th December P.C. McCarthy was hit by a splinter from an enemy bomb, and was severely wounded. He was admitted to Queen Alexandra Hospital that same night and operated on, but died next morning, and was buried on the 23rd December in the Dunkirk Cemetery on the Turnes Road.

15.12.17 Pqk. Bruce R. proceeded to A. I. F. School, Havre, by direction of D. A. G. A.I.F.

1918

January 8th Pqk. Bruce R. rejoined unit from Instruct. School Havre, and on the 25th March was promoted to 2nd Lieut. by authority D. A. G. A.I.F. 45/23/81, then transferred to 2nd Div. Train and struck off strength of unit on 4th April.

No 2605 P.C. Turk C.W. rejoined unit from England on the 13th May.

During June No 2604 P.C. Smith W. went to Hospital for about ten days, and No 2571 P.C. Egan J. was evacuated to Queen Alexandra Hospital, Dunkirk, then transferred from there to 35th General Hospital.

On July 10th No 2605 P.C. Turk C.W. died in Queen Alexandra Hospital, after two days in same. Medical Officer report - died of S.O.U., which from enquiries proved to be an abscess on the kidneys. This soldier was buried in the Dunkirk Cemetery on the 14th 7. '18.

August 7th P.C. Egan rejoined unit from Hospital, and on the 8th of the same month



Lt Upward R. was transferred to our Unit as O.C. from the 2nd Div. Train, but remained on the Calais command, and took over the duties of Lt McIntosh C.D., who was on the 16th August struck off strength of 10th A.D.V. and transferred to 2nd Div. Train.

23. 8. '18 No 19155 Gunner Ward M.R. taken on strength of unit, but remained at Calais doing batman duties to Lt Upward.

September 4th No. 7627 Cpl Lowe E.W. evacuated to Detention Hospital, Dunkirk, and on the 9th Sept. left that Hospital for the Queen Alexandra where he was operated on for a tumor on the right hip. After the operation he was sent to Calais then to England and eventually sailed for Australia.

No 7626 Plt Lloyd G.A. promoted T/Cpl from 8. 9. '18 vice Cpl. Lowe E.W. ~~and 28. 9. '18~~.

28. 9. '18 - Sgt. Robertson, Cpl. Reed and Plt Smith H.W.B. evacuated to United Kingdom to proceed on 6 months furlough to Australia, and from this date T/Cpl Lloyd was promoted T/Sgt vice Sgt. Robertson, No 12393 Plt Downing W.H. promoted T/Cpl vice T/Cpl Lloyd to T/Sgt, and No 1818 Plt King W.W. promoted T/Cpl vice Cpl Reed who was granted 75 days leave in United Kingdom from 3. 10. '18.

During October all "A" class men were ordered to proceed to 2nd Div Train, and when this order was carried out their places in the Unit were filled by "B" class men from the Infantry Base Havre.

On the 7th December No 2590 Sgt. Miller C.W. was granted 75 days leave to U.K. from

2.12.18 in lieu of 6 months Australian furlough.
 T/Sgt Lloyd confirmed Cpl. vice Cpl. Lowe E.W.
 and T/Cpl Downing W.H. promoted T/Sgt vice Sgt Miller.
 It was during this month of December that all
 'B' class men were recalled to their bases in view
 of early repatriation to Australia, and the vacancies
 caused by their evacuation were filled by men
 from the camps in England.

1919

January of this year saw the feeding
 strength of the D.S.S. up to an average of
 nearly 40,000 daily, and as the shipping on
 the docks had increased greatly, the staff of
 the Depot was increased by 100 N.C.O.'s and men. ^{RHSC.}
 The greater portion of same being detailed for
 duty on supplies on the Docks. This big increase
 in the feeding strength was caused by the
 big demob. camp for Imperial troops opening
 up in the Dunkirk area also on account of
 the D.S.S. having to ration the Demob. boats
 leaving from Dunkirk.

12.1.19 No 6616 Sgt Crawford J. reported
 missing from roll call at 9.30 pm. and as
 he did not report to the Unit the next day, the
 D.A.P.M. was notified, also all A.S. & Authorities.

Promotions shown on A.F.B. 213 dated
 5.1.19:— No 7626 T/Sgt Lloyd S.A. confirmed Sgt.
 as from 28.12.18, No 12393 T/Sgt Downing W.H.
 confirmed Cpl. as from 28.12.18, also No 1818
 T/Cpl King W.W. confirmed Cpl. from same date.

No 1793 Trooper Poole F.J. promoted
 T/Cpl vice Cpl Downing W.H. promoted T/Sgt. This
 promotion being shown on A.F.B. 213 on 25.1.19

February 15th No 14026 Pte Deakin G. promoted T/Chl vice No 1818 Cpl King W.W. who was evacuated to England sick on 5th March T/Chl Deakin reverted to the ranks on marching out to Havre for early repatriation.

On March 4th all the Unit's Mob. Equipment was handed into the Ordnance Receiving Depot, St Pol, Dunkirk, with the exception of a few articles which were taken over by the Ofc Detail Issue Store, Dunkirk, & for which we got a receipt. The Unit also holds a receipt for all Equipment handed into Ordnance, and the A.D.O.S. 3rd Echelon has three certified true copies of same.

March 12th Lt Upward R. proceeded from Calais to Havre for repatriation to Australia, and W.O. Tought, Sgt. Lloyd and T/Chl Toole left Dunkirk for same place for demob.

March 13th No 6616 Pte S. Crawford's body was recovered from No. 1. dock Dunkirk by the Military Police. Same was identified by Sgt. Downing who got the deceased pay book & letters and forwarded same on to D. H. A. G. 3rd Echelon. After the body had been identified the Police took same to the 8th Canadian Hospital, St Pol, Dunkirk, where a post mortem was held. March 17th Pte Crawford's remains were put to rest in the Dunkirk cemetery on the Furnes R.D. A court of enquiry was held at the Detail Issue Store Dunkirk and the finding of the Court was - accidental drowning.

April 12th the D.I.S. Quai de la Citadelle, Dunkirk was evacuated and a new Depot was opened at Sand Dunes siding, Mardyk - some four miles from Dunkirk. The new Depot being situated

within 500 yards of the Demobilisation Camp greatly curtailed transports and also reduced the working hours of the staff.

May 3rd. The Unit received orders to assemble in Calais on 10th Inst., to join the No 1. Group A.D. for repatriation. May 10th our Unit along with those of the 14th A.D. proceeded to Calais per motor waggons. Left Calais for Havre with Draft 95 on 13.5.19 and arrived at Havre 14.5.19 and crossed to England on the 19th May. On arrival in England the Unit proceeded to Sutton Veny Camp, and there Sgt. Downing received orders to proceed to A.S. F. Head Qrs. Horseferry Rd., London with the Unit's Records.

24-5-19.

Downing
Sgt.
to 10th A.D.