

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/49/7

Title: K Ammunition Park, 1st ANZAC
Corps

August 1917



AWM4-25/49/7

Confidential
Original

War Diary

Vol 6

of

L. Ammunition Park.

for

August 1917.

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20C.1.9. Shel 36A.	1/8/17		General Routine. MAJOR. SHELTON D.A.D.T. II ARMY, called. O.C. NO 5 Aust. A.S.P. called. Weather dull, light rain all day.	gH.
" "	3/8/17		General Routine. Attended conference of II ARMY S.M.T.O's with LT. COL. A. MOON, at office of D.D.S.T. II ARMY. Agenda — The maintenance of spare parts in the field. Weather, light rain all day.	gH.
" "	3/8/17		General Routine. O.C. NO 1 Aust. A.S.P. called. Weather dull and showery. Notes re maintenance of spare parts "In the Field" forwarded to DD of ST II Army through S.M.T.O 1 st ANZAC.*	*Appendix D
" "	4/8/17		General Routine. Lecture & instruction on anti-gas apparatus by Chemical Adviser 1 st ANZAC postponed soon after starting on account of heavy rain. Weather dull & heavy showers.	gH.
" "	5/8/17		General Routine. Visited NO 1 Aust. A.S.P. ANTI-GAS lecture completed Weather cleared up. * Wrote S.M.T.O 1 st ANZAC for ruling re administration of Aust. Am. Sub. Parks.	* APPENDIX B. gH.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20 C.1.9 Sheet 36 A.	6/8/17		General Routine. 5 th Aust. Div (less ARTILLERY) being moved to Mobile Establishment with SUPPLY COLUMN lorries	
" "	7/8/17		General Routine. 1 Macomber as an authorised addition for Heavy Artillery under D of T 8327/2 withdrawn under authority S.M.T.O. 1 st ANZAC A.H. 790 of 6/8/17.	
D20 A.2.2 Sheet 36 A.	8/8/17		General Routine. Office changed to School-room MORBECQUE D20 A.2.2 Sheet 36 A. This unit now occupying same offices as S.M.T.O. 1 st ANZAC.	
" "	9/8/17		General Routine. Visited No's 142 Aust. A.S.P. HAZEBROUCK bombed by enemy aircraft about 4 AM. Enemy shelled HAZEBROUCK. at intervals throughout the whole day.	

K AMMUNITION PARK

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20A.2.2 Sheet 36A.	10/8/17		General Routine. 2 AM. A Squadron of enemy aircraft dropped several bombs on HAZEBROUCK flew over MORBECQUE and dropped a large number of bombs on ISBERGUES. Raid lasted about an hour and judging from the sound of the machines flying and the number of bombs dropped, was made in strength. HAZEBROUCK was shelled at intervals throughout the day. Drew 780 frames on Imprestaf. from Paymaster at ANZAC for LT. H. J. LANE. Expended 780 frames on Acquittance Roll No 112.	
"	11/8/17		General Routine. CAPT. CLEVELAND. visited OX. Railhead. O/C Nos 2 & 5 Aust. A.S.P. called.	##
"	12/8/17		General Routine. LT. L.R. BRADBURY reported for duty from 12 BASE M.T. Depot. and taken on strength. Vide AIF list No 212. 31/7/17.	##

K AMMUNITION PARK

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20A.2.2	13/8/17		General Routine. LT. L. R. BRADBURY detailed to assist Adjutant (LT. H. J. LANE) with a view to his acquiring a knowledge of Adjutant's duty and of general routine etc. *Made application to SMT O. 1 st ANZAC for a Box car with bigger load capacity than 3rd Boxcar at present on charge.	Appendix C JH
"	14/8/17		General Routine. CAPT. CLEVELAND & LT. GARRIT out from 09-00 to 16,00 delivering ammunition for hammer purposes to 1 st 2 nd 5 th Aust. Divs.	JH
"	15/8/17		General Routine OC No 1 Aust A.S.P. called.	JH
"	16/8/17		General Routine. HAZE BROUCK shelled. Visited Paymaster re 1 st ANZAC re RECT. FUND of No 1 Aust. A.S.P. Visited Q. 1 st ANZAC re issue of transport. — ammunition indents for hammer of only 8 cwt. Visited A. 1 st ANZAC re complaint made by DRIVER F. J. DETMOLD.	JH

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D-20. A 2.2 Sheet 36 A.	17/8/17		General Pontine Received instructions from Q 1 st ANZAC (Q-843) to warn LIEUT. B. GARRITT to be ready to rejoin his unit at short notice.	
" "	18/8/17		General Pontine Visited 101 st Avst. A.S.P. Received 2 cases (Nos Q 552 - 600) of timed fuses from A.I.F. Comforts Fund. One case sent to 101 st Avst. A.S.P. One case distributed between men of CORPS AMM. PARK & S.M.T.O. 9.45 PM. A Squadron of enemy aircraft, estimated to be 14 aeroplanes, flew over HAZEBROUCK, dropped several bombs, & flew over MORBECQUE towards ISEBERGUES. Raid lasted about 1/2 hour	gtt.
" "	19/8/17		General Pontine LIEUT. B. GARRITT, R.C.A. left to rejoin his unit. At dusk a Squadron of enemy aircraft bombed HAZEBROUCK. flew over MORBECQUE and dropped bombs on ISEBERGUES.	gtt.

4 K AMMUNITION PARK

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20 A.2.2 Shel 364.	23/8/17		General Pontine Perused DDO/ST. TL ARMY 3196/124 through SMT.O 1st Anzac (ref 10 SMT.O 44/822 K"Am Pk A/344). re withdrawal of 13 category A men from each Imperial Sub Park. Visited Nos 1-2-5 Avst. A.S.P.s with SMT.O 1st ANZAC. LT. L.R. BRADBURY admitted to No 7 GENERAL HOSPITAL ST.OMER. Ear trouble	TH
"	24/8/17		General Pontine. Drew 655-00 francs from Paymaster at Anzac per LT. H.J. LANE. Expended 655-00 francs in Acquittaine Roll No 113. A Q.M.C. 1st ANZAC. - LT. COL. M.G. TAYLOR - called re issue of booklet - Notes on Ammunition - to Division	TH
"	25/8/17		General Pontine	TH
"	26/8/17		General Pontine	TH
"	27/8/17		General Pontine Visited Q 1st ANZAC re SAA portion of booklet - Notes on Ammunition Brought LT. BRADBURY from No 7 GEN. HOSP. ST.OMER. Rained in afternoon evening	TH

AMMUNITION PARK

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D20A2	28/8/17		General Pontine	
Sheet 36 A.	1/11			
"	29/8/17		General Pontine Received Q 1st ANZAC. Q 26/2.2.8 of 28/8/17 covering II ARMY. Q 14/14/6 of 26/8/17 authorising the transport of detonated bombs & grenades in cases of emergency. A.Q.M.G. 1st ANZAC called re establishment of S.A.A. O.C. 1105 Aust. A.S.P. called. Visited 1105 Aust. A.S.P.	
"	30/8/17		General Pontine	
"	31/8/17		General Pontine LT. CLEVELAND (HON. CAPT) Aust. F.A. transferred to General Dist as from 1/7/17 & promoted to CAPT as from 1/9/17. Authority. D.A.A.G. A.I.F. 151/21/249. of 29/8/17. Reported to DAY Q M.G. 1st ANZAC at 11 AM. with S.M.T.O 1st ANZAC & received instructions to visit opposite number in II Corps with a view to taking over. Afternoon, visited II Corps AMM. PARK & XC Bailhead	

Hamilton Major,
O.C. K Ammunition Park.

K AMMUNITION PARK

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Army Form C. 2118.

Appendix A



K AMMUNITION PARK

S.M.T.O.,

1st A N Z A C.

Now that some Australian Units, particularly the Ammunition Sub Parks, are detached from this Corps, some difficulty has arisen over the distribution of A.I.F. Orders and Circulars.

Formerly No's 1 - 2 - & 4 Sub Parks were under my command. Now No. 5. Sub Park is an Australian Unit, and I still only receive 4 copies of A.I.F. Orders.

Possibly one of these Sub Parks is administered, as far as A.I.F. is concerned, by II Anzac, but unless something definite is laid down, there is danger of either overlooking or overlapping.

I would suggest that these Orders be sent direct to Units, in the same manner as G.R.O's.

A similar situation arises with returns affecting Australia only, such as the return of Numbers absent from the Unit on leave, Strength of Officers Joined and Gone, etc.

Should Units render these direct, and if so, to which Anzac Corps?

May rulings be obtained please?

5th August 1917.

Commanding "K" Ammunition Park.

Major.

J. Hamilton

*Appendix B.
Anzac Army.
August 1917*

S.M.T.O.,

1st A N Z A C.

"K"	
AMMUNITION	
PARK.	
No.	F/22
Date	13/8/17

K AMMUNITION PARK

Application is hereby made for a BOX CAR with a load capacity of 15 Cwt, to replace FORD BOX CAR at present on charge of this Unit.

The reasons necessitating this application are as follows:-

(1). The Ford Box Car has not sufficient load capacity for the needs of either the Demands Officer or the Artillery Officer.

G.R.O. No.2504 limits the load capacity of a Ford Box Car to 8 Cwt. On most occasions it is necessary to send an Officer or Senior N.C.O. with the Box Car, as it carries technical stores for the drawing, checking and delivery of which the driver cannot be held responsible. This reduces the load that may be carried to, at most, 7 Cwt.

(2). The work of the Demands Officer involves the daily transportation of about 10 Cwt of M.T. Stores, and their distribution to Units concerned. At present a 3-ton lorry has to be used for this purpose, or a varying number of trips made with the Box Car, according to weight of stores requiring distribution.

(3). The Artillery Officer frequently has occasion to deliver about 10 Cwt of Bombs, grenades, Very Lights, etc, and, at present, all loads over 7 Cwt have to be carried by a 3-ton Lorry.

The substitution of a box car with load capacity of 15 Cwt for the Ford Box Car would entirely eliminate the use of a 3-ton lorry for delivery of small quantities of M.T. Stores, and its use for the transportation of the frequent small loads of ammunition etc, required, would help to reduce the uneconomical running of lorries to a minimum, and, in addition, would increase the general efficiency of the Unit.

13th August 1917.

Hamilton
Commanding "K" Ammunition Park. Major

When Army August 1917. Appendix C.

Notes on the Maintenance and Distribution of
Spare Parts of M.T. Vehicles in the Field.

It is obvious that the spare parts carried by a Unit should be the minimum consistent with the permanent maintenance in running order of the vehicles in that Unit. Were it possible to obtain, within eight hours of demanding a spare part direct from the Base, there would be no need for Units to maintain a stock of spare parts- this would, however mean a large number of indents and small packages constantly passing between the Base and the Unit concerned.

Under the present system, assuming the Base has the part in stock, it is considered quick work if a part reaches a Unit within fourteen days after the demand is put in, and the instruction that demands should be rendered weekly adds up to six days to the period between the want of the article and its delivery.

If, however, a Unit keeps in its own stores all parts it would usually require to carry it over a period of three weeks it is apparent that a large stock of spare parts will be amassed amongst the various Units in the B.E.F., The thing to be done is to keep down the parts held by Units and yet not have vehicles off the road awaiting the arrival of parts from Base.

If one considered a Unit of One Hundred vehicles- all the same make and type - experience will show that over a given period the replacements of certain parts will follow the law of averages and the Inspection Staff should be able to draw up a table showing the percentage of parts that should be available for a period of say one month, or whatever the time necessary for the replacement of stocks from Base Stores.

A Unit should therefore hold, as its stock, this percentage. It will, however, be found that this percentage for several parts will be fractional varying from one half to say one eighth per cent, and in many cases less than that.

For example, Radiators and Carburettors and say, Crank or Propellor Shafts.

Therefore in a Unit of Fifty vehicles the stock of certain parts must either be nil or a greater quantity than is absolutely necessary - causing capital etc to be locked up. It is the duty of an O.C. to exercise a certain amount of foresight and carry a certain stock of spare parts so that should any one fail he can replace it from stock and maintain the vehicle and consequently his Unit efficient. It is only human nature to look after ones own command and no man likes giving up his only spare parts, which he had the foresight to carry in stock, to another Unit, which for any reason did not stock that part, and it will be found that he will not do so unless he knows the exchange will be reciprocated. This applies more particularly to parts of Motor Cars such as those of Senior Officers which must not be kept in Workshops for longer periods than absolutely necessary.

If however, a Commanding Officer knows that a stock is available and can be immediately drawn upon when necessary, he will not be so likely to hoard up parts in excess of the percentage referred to above. Theoretically the stock of parts should be the percentage and no more, but there must be a restriction placed on this - consider a part whose percentage is one eighth - that is to say one part for eight-hundred vehicles - there may be only eight hundred of these vehicles in one Army, which may have a

considerable

considerable front, considerations of time and space make it advisable to increase this percentage.

As the tactical Unit is the Corps and the S.M.T.O. of a Corps is responsible for the stock of spare parts in the Corps it will be found advisable to put this percentage on the Corps basis - certainly for lorries and ambulances and possibly on Army basis for Cars.

To enable an S.M.T.O. to maintain this percentage at its working minimum he should be in possession of the stock sheets of the parts in his Corps. To enable him to do this he should have as part of his own office a Demands Branch. This Demands Branch could be found out of the two Demands Officers at present in the Corps and their Clerks with an additional Clerk or two from the Siege Park. The Senior Demands Officer (hereinafter called the S.D.O.) could then maintain the stocks in the Corps to the required percentage and issue and demand as required.

The S.D.O. should be a qualified Workshops Officer who could state whether a part should be replaced or repaired etc., and who could, and should, regulate the issue of parts. He could also, if necessary, allot the repairs, so that a Unit of new vehicles which are all in good order could assist by undertaking some of its repairs, and Unit which on account of a long spell of hard work etc has got behindhand in its repairs and overhauls.

The actual location of the spares etc, whether in a Corps M.T. Stores or in the Store lorries of the Units should be left to the discretion of the S.M.T.O. - for example, if only one Unit in the Corps has Pagefield lorries, it would be better to keep the stores with than Unit than elsewhere. It is, however, essential that the S.D.O. knows the state of his stock at any time - consequently he should be advised at once, by a Unit, if it uses any of the parts in its charge - parts in charge of any other Unit or in the Corps Store being of course only obtained through him. The accurate maintenance of stock sheets by the S.D.O. will obviate the demanding of parts by the Unit and will thereby save a considerable amount of clerical work. Further - should a neighbouring Corps require any parts, it can at once be ascertained whether it is or is not available - the S.M.T.O. deciding whether the part be issued or retained.

Expendible Stores, such as Solder, ordinary Bolts and nuts, mild steel, split pins, etc, some of which are ordnance and others C.I.M.T. supply, could be used and demanded to replace by Units as at present.

On the departure of a Unit from the Corps, its proportion of parts, on the percentage scale, should be sent and issued to the S.D.O. of the new Corps by the S.D.O. or the Corps the Unit leaves. Parts demanded for, but not supplied, by the time a Unit leaves the Corps should not be sent after the Unit, except in rare cases such as the larger components, engines, back-axles etc or parts of F.W.D. lorries, gift cars, etc which cannot be absorbed into the percentage of a Corps within a reasonable time.

Once every month Corps should report to Army Surplus or deficiency, above or below the percentage, of parts on their charge, whence adjustments may be made by the D.D.S.&T. by issue to other Corps or Armies, or returned to Base.

/To sum up

To sum up;-

1. Fix a percentage of spare parts to be held in each Corps.
2. Consolidate the Demands Officers under the S.M.T.O.
The S.D.O. should issue the parts to vehicles requiring them - delegating this power in the case of parts of a higher percentage to Officers Commanding Units, but being notified of each issue.
3. The S.D.O. should hold the stock sheets and demand weekly on the percentage basis.
4. Adjustments of Corps stocks ~~sheets and items~~ should be made monthly by Army.

Appendix 1.

1. To facilitate the accurate maintenance of Stock sheets, a card system should be advised and issued to each S.M.T.O..
2. The Transport Directorate should draw up a standard system of part numbers.

August 3rd 1917.

n

Hamilton
Major.
Commanding "K" Ammunition Park.