

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

Repatriation & Demobilisation

**Item number:** 30/1/12 Part 12

**Title:** Repatriation and Demobilisation, AIF

September 1919 [Duplicate of 30/1/12 Part 6]



AWM4-30/1/12PART12



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
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**TRIPLICATE.**

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

BRANCH 4.D., REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION DEPT., A.I.F.

FOR

SEPTEMBER

1919

Signature of Officer compiling

*A. E. Luan* 100 for Capt.  
S.O., 4.D.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*C. Beckman* Major  
Director, Branch 4.D.



# WAR DIARY

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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON.	Sept. 2nd.		<p>3rd. Military District demands for the undermentioned Unit were passed to D.D.G. for signature: 2 Divisional Headquarters (France.)</p> <p>Letter was received from D.D.O.S. Woolwich Arsenal, outlining the system under which Stores will be issued from the various Imperial Ordnance Depots, and enclosing a complete list of such Depots with which Branch 4.D. is invited to deal direct when necessary. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p>Progress Report No.35 for week ending 30.8.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D., and copy forwarded to D.D.G. for information. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p>	1. 2.
	4th.		<p>-----</p> <p>File was received from D.D.G. containing instructions from the Minister of Defence that no further action should be taken re supply of Equipment for Australia, pending reply to a communication which the Minister had sent to Australia</p> <p>-----</p>	
	10th.		<p>Copy was received from D.D.G. of letter to No.2.Group, Sutton Veny, approving the retention of Capt. W.W. James for supervisory duties at Imperial Issuing Depots. Approval was also received to-day for the retention of the undermentioned officers on similar duties :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Captain G.J. Hammond. Captain A.D. Matheson.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions received, letter was written to the Secretary, War Office, requesting temporary suspension of action on Indents already submitted for equipment for Australia (Copy is attached to Progress Report No.36)</p> <p>-----</p>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Sept. 17th.		<p>2.</p> <p>Progress Report No.36 for period 1.9.19 to 13.9.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D., and copy forwarded to D.D.G.</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p>	3.
	19th.		<p>Letter written to Chief of Staff A.I.F., suggesting action which might be taken by Director 4.D. with the War Office so as to relieve the congestion at Issuing Depots. (This matter is dealt with fully in Progress Report No.37, and copies of correspondence are attached thereto)</p>	
	23rd.		<p>Progress Report No.37 rendered to Branch 3.D. covering period 14.9.19 to 20.9.19</p> <p>(Copy is attached as per Appendix.....)</p>	4.
	25th.		<p>The necessary instructions having been received, letter was written to the Secretary, War Office, requesting that the supply of Equipment for Australia be proceeded with, except in the case of items set forth.</p> <p>(Copy of this communication is attached to Progress Report No.38 )</p>	
	30th.		<p>Progress Report No.38, for week ending 27.9.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p>	5.



# WAR DIARY

OF

BRANCH 4.D., REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION DEPT., A.I.F.<sup>7</sup>

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1919

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	LETTER FROM D.D.O.S., WOOLWICH., forwarding list of Ordnance Depots from which stores will be issued, dated 29.8.19.
2.	PROGRESS REPORT NO.35 for week ending 30.8.19.
3.	PROGRESS REPORT NO.36. for week ending 13.9.19.
4.	PROGRESS REPORT NO.37 for week ending 20.9.19.
5.	PROGRESS REPORT NO.38 for week ending 27.9.19.



APPENDIX NO.1.

From :- Deputy Director of Ordnance Stores,  
Royal Arsenal,  
WOOLWICH.

To:- Director Branch "D"  
54, Victoria St,  
London,  
S.W.1.  
-----

With reference to your letter 4.D/6509/7/18/1 dated 19.8.19. Will you please note that Vouchers are being forwarded to you as the Stores are reported.

It will be observed from the extracts which have been sent to you from time to time, that a large quantity of Stores are being issued from different Ordnance Depots. It will therefore be necessary for you to communicate direct with these Depots when ordering Stores out for shipment, forwarding a List of the Vouchers for which stores you wish shipped by any particular vessel. This will also apply to Woolwich.

I have attached for your information a list of the Ordnance Depots from which stores are being issued. These depots have been instructed to forward to you advance copies of the voucher as soon as the stores are reported ready for shipment.

(Sgd) W.J. Jeane.  
Deputy Director of Ordnance Stores,  
Woolwich Arsenal.

29.8.19.



LIST OF ORDANCE DEPOTS &c. FROM WHICH STORES ARE  
BEING ISSUED FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONS

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Chief Ordnance Officer  
Didcot, Berks.

Chief Ordnance Officer,  
Binghy Hall,  
Birmingham.

Chief Ordnance Officer,  
Trafford Park,  
Manchester.

Chief Ordnance Officer,  
Aintree,  
Nr. Liverpool.

Chief Ordnance Officer,  
Gloucester Docks,  
Gloucester.

Chief Ordnance Officer,  
Chilwell, Notts.

and

The Controller,  
G.P.O. Stores Depot,  
17 & 19 Bedford Street,  
Strand,  
W.C.2.

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PROGRESS REPORTBRANCH 4.D.23.8.19 to 30.8.19.

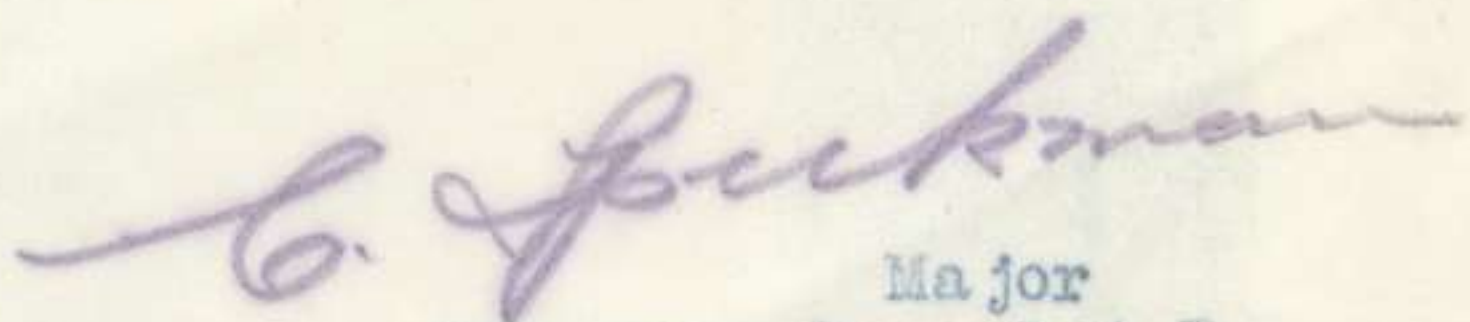
The usual routine work of this office has been carried out during the week under review, also the typing, checking and registration of Demands for Units allotted to the 3rd.Military District.

Some of the general questions dealt with during the period under review are:-

Request to the War Office to come to some definite arrangement re the shipment of equipment for the Post Bellum Army out to Australia. (Attached herewith copies of letters passed between Branches 2.D ,4.D., and War Office.

Final arrangements made with the Imperial Issuing Depots re the vouchering of stores etc., to be consigned to Military Districts concerned.

General correspondence between Imperial Ordnance Depots and this Branch with reference to changes and alteration in "Mark" of War equipment to be issued to Australia.



Major  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



4D/6509/7/18/1

28th. August 1919

TO; The Secretary  
War Office  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

Shipment of Equipment for Post Bellum Army of  
AUSTRALIA

Sir,

I am directed to approach you concerning the shipment of equipment for the Post Bellum Army of Australia to the Military Districts concerned, and I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of proposals and preliminary arrangements made with our Movements and Quartering Branch of this Department, re the shipment of the above equipment.

I shall be glad to have your views in connection with this matter, as it is essential that we should have some definite arrangement made, especially as to the responsibility, for losses between the time stores are placed on rail etc., by the Issuing Depots, and the time delivery is taken by the Ordnance Department in Australia.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. SPECKMAN, Major  
Director, Branch 4.D.

Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A. I. F.

Encl: Copies of correspondence.



COPY

4D/6509/7/18/1

20th. August 1919

TO: BRANCH 2.D.

SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR POST BELLUM ARMY OF AUSTRALIA  
-----

The arrangements in connection with the above matter, which were made at a personal visit to your Branch are now set out hereunder for confirmation, please.

- (1) The Issuing Depots have been requested to forward to 4D two "advance" copies of Issue Vouchers for stores reported ready for shipment.
- (2) The documents mentioned in (1) will, after registration here, be passed to your Branch. The matter of shipping space will then be taken up by you and, when same has been secured, "forwarding instructions" will be sent from your Branch direct to the Issuing Depot. When the stores have actually been shipped one copy of the issue voucher bearing the name of vessel and date of sailing will be returned by you to 4.D; the remaining copy being retained in support of shipping documents.

It should be clearly understood that in no circumstances should a copy of the issue vouchers mentioned above be signed, as receiving the goods, and returned to the issuing Depot. Acquittance will not be given until stores have been landed in Australia and checked in detail. Further copies of Issue Vouchers will be obtained for this purpose. These, however, will not concern your Branch.

I shall be glad to have your views in connection with the possibility of, and responsibility for, losses between the time goods are placed on rail, etc., by the British Authorities and the time delivery is taken by the Ordnance Department in Australia. To eliminate the possibility of losses in transit is of course, impracticable. At the same time, owing to the technical nature of much of this equipment and the length of time that would be occupied in securing replacement, it is particularly desirable that every precaution be taken to avoid losses. The necessity for clear responsibility in regard to the recovery of value of losses will also be obvious to you.

(Signed) C. SPECKMAN, Major  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

20 Belgrave Square, London S.W.1.

26th. August 1919

2.D.1.

Branch 4.D.

Shipment of Equipment for Post Bellum Army of  
Australia.

With reference to your communication on above subject dated 20th instant, the procedure therein laid down is confirmed please. It is understood that each issue boucher will cover goods for one State only.

Acquittance. It is noted that no acquittance is to be given by this Branch for any goods issued. The only papers signed will be Carrier's notes and Railway Vouchers.

Losses in Transit. With reference to this question, the experience of this Branch is that with such quantities, losses are bound to occur both by rail and sea.

As this Branch will be arranging shipment, it is suggested that we should initiate claims for losses in Transit. Any short-packings will of course, only be noted in the examination of undamaged cases, bales etc., when taken into depot in Australia. Ordnance Service there would then claim on the Imperial Authorities for these shortages.

Losses by rail will be noted by our loading representative at Port in England. Damaged bales will be checked and repacked. Report on losses giving bale numbers etc., will be forwarded to 4.D., with a view to pricing for claim, and to making fresh indent to replace.

A report on ullaged bales will also be forwarded to Australia, to enable the check as to losses on shipboard to be made.

Losses by Sea should be noted at offloading port in Australia and claim made direct on Shipping Company at that Port.

(Signed) J. J. S. SCOULER, Captain  
for Brig. General  
Director of Movements & Quartering  
Dept. of Repatriation & Demobilisation.



PROGRESS REPORTBRANCH 4.D.1.9.19 - 13.9.19.

The usual routine work of this Branch has been carried out during the period under review.

Demands for units allotted to the 3rd. Military District have been typed, checked and registered, and are now awaiting despatch to Imperial Ordnance Depots.

Correspondence has passed between this Office and Imperial Ordnance Depots, as a result of changes and alteration in "Mark" of War Equipment to be issued to Australia.

On the 8th. inst. notification was received from the D.G., A.V.S., War Office, that authority has now been obtained for the supply of Veterinary Equipment, and that outstanding Indents for this Equipment are now awaited.

Advice was received from D.D.G. that the retention of the undermentioned officers for supervising duties at Imperial Issuing Depots in England, had been approved:-

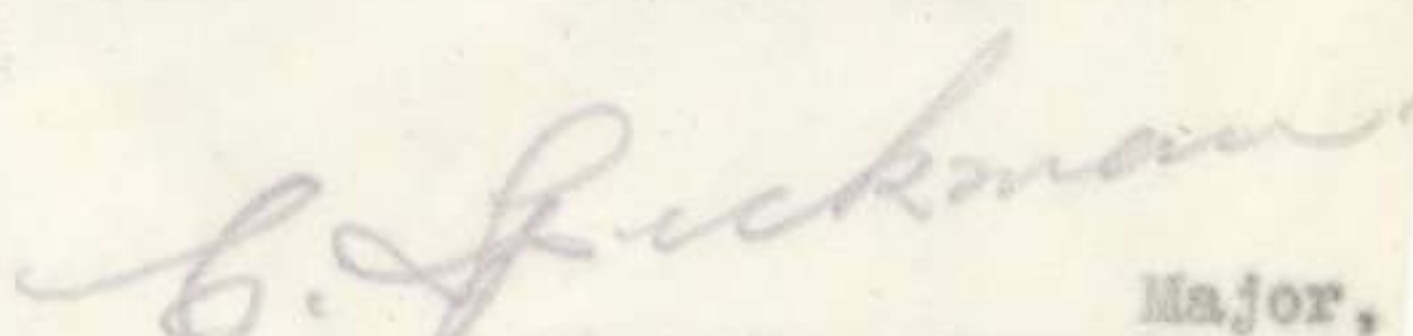
Capt. W. W. JAMES

CAPT. G. J. HAMMOND

CAPT. A. D. MATHESON

This Branch was instructed by Director-General to request temporary Suspension of action by War Office on Indents for equipment of Post-Bellum Army (see attached letter to the Secretary, War Office, dated 10.9.19).

On 10.9.19 this Branch vacated 3rd. Floor, 54 Victoria Street, and was allotted rooms 45, 45A, 46 and 47 at A.I.F. Headquarters 130 Horseferry Road.

  
Major,  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



CS/CAF.

4D/6509/7/18.

September 10th., 1919.

Secretary,  
War Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of equipment of the Post Bellum Army of Australia, I have now been instructed by the Director-General, Repatriation and Demobilisation, Australian Imperial Force, to inform you that owing to certain developements which have taken place, you will be kind enough to suspend action temporarily on all indents for such equipment which have been submitted by this Department.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C. SPECKMAN. Major.  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



PROGRESS REPORT.BRANCH 4.D.14.9.19.      -      20.9.19.

The usual routine work of this Branch has been carried out during the past week.

Typing and registration of Demands for Units allotted to the 3rd.Military District has been continued.

Reference the temporary suspension of action on Indents, referred to in Report No.36, copy of letter from the Minister for Defence was received from A/D.D.G. giving details of items which it is proposed to omit from Demands, pending a decision on the subject from the Department of Defence, Melbourne.

In continuation of this matter, a letter (6509/7/18/1 dated 19.9.19) was addressed to the Chief of Staff A.I.F. suggesting action which might be taken by Director 4.D. with the War Office, so as to relieve the congestion at Issuing Depots, brought about by the Stores for 2nd.Military District being held up until Australian Commonwealth Government's decision is received.

(Copies of above communications are attached.)

*C. Speckman*  
Major,  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



CCR/EJK.

Director, 4.D.

Q.W.19655.

DEMANDS FOR EQUIPMENT OF POST BELLUM ARMY IN  
AUSTRALIA.

Reference previous correspondence on the above subject, the following copy of a memo just received from the Minister for Defence is forwarded for your information and necessary action in accordance therewith.

(Sgd) C.C. Ridley. Lieut.-General.  
A/Deputy Director General.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



- Copy -

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Minister for Defence,  
Australia House,  
LONDON W.C.2.

The Director General,  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept.  
54, Victoria Street.

Demands for Equipment of Post Bellum Army  
in AUSTRALIA.

In reference to your memorandum of 12th instant; I have cabled the Acting Minister for Defence, asking that the following items and values of this equipment, should not be indented for in AUSTRALIA, pending my return and further consideration.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>VALUE.</u>
Harness Bags. Brushes and Rubbers	162,000	£287,000
Pack saddlery	1,789	£19,000
Saddlery	182,000	£212,000
Carts, Kitchen & Wagons	5,189	£985,682
Cartridges. S. A. Ball (.303)	29,000,000	£213,150.

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I assume that it will be possible for these to be retained for the present, pending decision, and if so, then I have no objection at all to the other items being shipped to AUSTRALIA, and arrangements could be made accordingly.

(Sgd) G.F. PEARCE.



CS/DEG.A

4D/6509/7/18/1

19th September, 1919.

TO:  
The Chief of Staff.  
A.I.F.

EQUIPMENT FOR POST BELLUM ARMY OF AUSTRALIA.

With reference to the attached correspondence, I have to inform you that I have interviewed and put forward certain proposals to the War Office re the omission of certain Stores from our Demands, pending a decision being given by the Australian Commonwealth Government, and that they have agreed to our proposals.

With regard to the Demands which have already been submitted, and practically fulfilled, for the equipment of Units allotted to the 2nd. M.D., it is proposed by this Branch to take delivery of these Stores, minus such items as can be produced or manufactured in Australia, as laid down by the Hon. Minister for Defence. These items to be retained in Stores until a decision is given as to whether we are to take complete equipment or otherwise.

As to our future demands, it is suggested that we submit them complete, and including such items as can be produced in Australia, but than an accompanying memo be forwarded with the demands requesting that no action be taken re certain Sections (covering these items) until such time as we receive definite instructions as to whether they can be taken or omitted from our Demands.

I should be glad to have your views in connection with this matter, also a ruling as to what items should be omitted from the Demands, so that the work of this Branch can be proceeded with.

(Sgd) C. Speckman. Major.

Director, Branch 4.D.

Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



PROGRESS REPORTBRANCH 4.D.21.9.19.27.9.19.

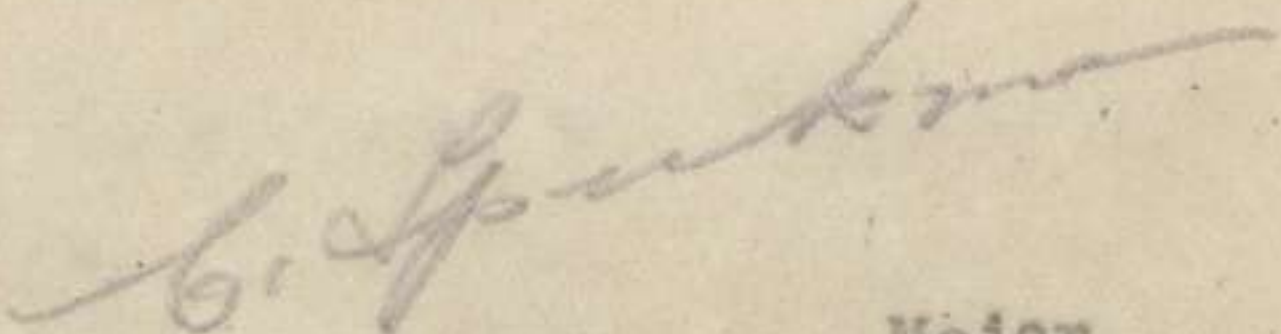
The usual routine work of this Branch has been carried out during the past week.

Typing, registration and checking of Demands for Units allotted to the 3rd. Military District has been continued.

Letter No.6509/7/18/1 dated 19.9.19. written by this Branch to Chief of Staff and attached to Progress Report No.37 was forwarded by the Chief of Staff, A.I.F. to the Minister for Defence, and obtained his approval.

On the above authority, letter was addressed to the Secretary, War Office requesting that the supply of equipment for which Demands have been submitted be proceeded with, except in the case of items set forth.

(Copy of this letter is attached.)

  
Major,  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



Sept. 25th. 1919.

The Secretary,  
War Office,  
Whitehall,  
S.W.1.

Sir,

With reference to this Office memo 4D/6509/7/18 of the 10th inst, relative to the re equipment of the Australian Imperial Force, I am now directed to request that you be good enough to proceed with the supply of the equipment for which demands have been submitted, except in the case of items set forth below, which, pending the receipt of advice of the wishes of the Australian Cabinet, it is desired that you withhold

Sections 5.A., 5.B., 6.A. and 6.B.

All items demanded.

Section 14.

Limbers, Q.F.  
4.5-inch Howitzer, wagon  
18-pr. Wagon.  
Wagons, ammunition, Q.F.-  
4.5-inch Howitzer  
18-pr.

Accessories and spare parts of the above.

Section 21-A.

Carts-  
Cooks  
Maltese  
Tool, R.E.  
Water  
Kitchens, travelling  
Wagons -  
Ambulance  
G.S.  
Limbered, G.S.  
Limbered, R.E.  
Pontoon

Accessories and spare parts of the above.



Section 27.

Cartridges, S.A., ball, .303-inch  
(Charger packed)

A cable conveying definite instructions in regard to these items is now due to arrive, and the contents will be transmitted to you immediately upon receipt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

(Sgd) C. Speckman,

Major,  
Director, Branch 4.D.  
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.



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Army Form C. 2118.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*Branch 5D*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
Gt. Peter Street, LONDON. S.W.1.			<p><u>STATISTICS FOR PERIOD 1.9.19 to 30.9.19.</u></p> <p>5D.1 records that 10 ships with a personnel of 9,317 were dealt with during the period. The total amount of Cash placed on board these ships amounted to £53,320.</p> <p>5D.2. The following expenditure has been incurred as at 26.9.19 in respect of members on Non-Military Employment:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Subsistence paid to 1,741 men</td><td>£8,600 - 14 - 8.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fees " " 97 "</td><td>968 - 17 - 8.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pay of 1,909 men.</td><td>£10,528 - 14 - 3.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><u>£20,098 - 6 - 7.</u></td></tr> </table> <p>5D.3. Extended Leave in U.K. was granted to 70 men and leave to return to Australia to 6 Other Ranks at their own expense. In addition 1,177 applications for Deferred Pay have been approved, and 389 Forms 543 involving an amount of £8,795 - 15 - 0 to be credited to Family Passages Account have been handed to Accountancy Section for action.</p> <p>5D.4. effected 495 discharges in the United Kingdom. Gratuities paid to 432 dischargees amounting to £3,690 - 13 - 6. Total disbursements for the month amounted to £42,213 - 15 - 10.</p> <p><u>DECREASED ESTATES.</u> - Accounts being finalised in U.K.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>To 29.9.19. : No. Held. :</td><td>No. Not Finalised. :</td><td>No. Finalised. :</td><td>Amount paid.</td></tr> <tr> <td>: 87. :</td><td>29. :</td><td>58. :</td><td>£24,089 - 18 - 9.</td></tr> </table> <hr/> <p>Accounts received from Australia for payment in United Kingdom.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>To 29.9.19. : No. Held. :</td><td>No. Not Finalised. :</td><td>No. Finalised. :</td><td>Amount paid.</td></tr> <tr> <td>: 386. :</td><td>138. :</td><td>248. :</td><td>£15,448 - 0 - 3.</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID - £19,537 - 19 - 0.</u></p>	Subsistence paid to 1,741 men	£8,600 - 14 - 8.	Fees " " 97 "	968 - 17 - 8.	Pay of 1,909 men.	£10,528 - 14 - 3.		<u>£20,098 - 6 - 7.</u>	To 29.9.19. : No. Held. :	No. Not Finalised. :	No. Finalised. :	Amount paid.	: 87. :	29. :	58. :	£24,089 - 18 - 9.	To 29.9.19. : No. Held. :	No. Not Finalised. :	No. Finalised. :	Amount paid.	: 386. :	138. :	248. :	£15,448 - 0 - 3.	
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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
			<p>(contd. 2.)</p> <p>5D.5. records that 249 Officers and men were recommended for Non-Military Employment, and 335 were approved through Part II Orders.</p> <p><u>Correspondence.</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Inwards -</td> <td>7,407.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outwards -</td> <td>8,863.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Circulars -</td> <td>771.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>17,041.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><hr/></td> </tr> </table>	Inwards -	7,407.	Outwards -	8,863.	Circulars -	771.		<hr/>		17,041.		<hr/>	
Inwards -	7,407.															
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*[Signature]*  
Captain.  
5D.

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