

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

Repatriation & Demobilisation

Item number: 30/1/13 Part 10

Title: Repatriation and Demobilisation, AIF

October 1919 [Duplicate of 30/1/13 Part 5 and Part
6]



AWM4-30/1/13PART10

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

DEPARTMENT 4.D., REPATRIATION AND DEMOBILISATION.

FOR

OCTOBER 1919 191

Signature of Officer compiling

A. H. Lambert

Capt.
S.O.4.D.

Signature of Officer Commanding

C. Guckman
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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	OCTOBER			
	7th.		<p>In continuation of this office letter to War Office, No. 6509/7/18/1 of 25th. Sept., a letter was written to the Secretary, War Office, forwarding a more detailed list of stores not to be shipped to Australia pending further advice from Australian Commonwealth Government.</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix..... 1</p> <p>Progress Report No. 39 for period 28.9.19 to 4.10.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D.</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix..... 2</p> <p>-----</p>	
	9th.		<p>A letter was received from the Secretary, War Office, on the general question of Stores and Equipment required by Australia, emphasising the desire of the Army Council to attain a clear understanding on three important points, and requesting that this Branch send a representative to a Conference at the War Office on Oct. 13th. at 11.a.m.</p> <p>Copy of the above letter is attached as per Appendix..... 3</p> <p>-----</p>	
	13th.		<p>The Director attended Conference at War Office - 11.a.m.</p> <p>-----</p>	
14th.		<p>Progress Report No. 40 for period 5.10.19 to 11.10.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D..</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix..... 4</p>		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	OCTOBER		-2-	
	16th.		<p>Proceedings of Conference held at War Office on 13th.inst. were forwarded to the Commandant, A.I.F.Headquarters. Copy of these proceedings is attached to Progress Report No.41.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>A letter was written to the Secretary, War Office, informing him that it had been agreed at the above Conference that A.I.F.Officers should be attached to Imperial Depots to superintend packing and take delivery of stores for shipment to Australis, and requesting that the Depots concerned may be advised accordingly. Copy of this communication is attached as per Appendix.....5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
	17th.		<p>A letter was written to the Commandant, A.I.F.Headquarters, recommending the appointment of another officer and 6 other ranks for duty at Imperial Ordnance Depots. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
	21st.		<p>Progress Report No.41 covering period 12.10.19 to 18.10.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
	24th.		<p>Reply to our letter of the 16th.inst. was received from D.E.O.S., War Office, reference the attachment of A.I.F.Officers to Imperial Ordnance Depots, and dealing particularly with the desire of the Home Authorities to obtain a clear acquittance for stores, immediately shipment has been effected. Copy of this communication is attached to Progress Report No.41.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
<p>D. D. & L., London, E.C. (16340) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/10.</p>				

WAR DIARY

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. or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	OCTOBER		<p style="text-align: center;">-3-</p> <p>Reference Diary entry of 24th.inst., letter was addressed to the Secretary, War Office, asking what the position would be, should discrepancies be found in Stores on unpacking in Australia, after a clear acquittance has been given in England.</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix.....8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Progress Report No.42 for period 20.10.19 to 25.10.19 was rendered to Branch 3.D.</p> <p>Copy is attached as per Appendix.....9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>The Director attended Conference at the War Office at 11.a.m. on "After War Armies".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(20340) W4 W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 & 2688 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

OF

DEPARTMENT 4.D., REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION
DEPT FOR A.I.F.

OCTOBER 1919

191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Letter to War Office, No. 6509/7/18/1 of 25th. Sept. forwarding detailed list of stores not to be shipped to Australia pending further advice from Australian Commonwealth Government. |
| 2 | Progress Report No. 39 dated 28.9.19 to 4.10.19 |
| 3 | Letter from Secretary, War Office dated 7th. Oct. requesting Representative from this Branch to attend Conference at the War Office on Oct. 13th. |
| 4. | Progress Report No. 40 for period 5.10.19 to 11.10.19. |
| 5 | Letter to Secretary, War Office, requesting that Depots should be advised that it had been agreed that A.I.F. Officers should be attached to Imperial Depots to superintend packing and take delivery of stores. |
| 6 | Letter to Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters recommending appointment of one officer and 6 other ranks for duty at Imperial Ordnance Depots. |
| 7 | Progress Report No. 41 for period 12.10.19 to 18.10.19. |
| 8 | Letter to Secretary, War Office, requesting ruling with regard to possible discrepancies found on unpacking stores in Australia. |
| 9. | Progress Report No. 42 for period 20.10.19 to 25.10.19 |

APPENDIX 1.

7th October 1919.

TO:

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

Sir,

In continuation of this Office letter 4D/6509/7/18 of the 26th ultimo. I now beg to forward herewith a more detailed list of the items demanded for the Post Bellum Army of Australia which it is desired shall not be shipped pending the receipt of further notification from the Australian Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

(Sgd.) C. SPECKMAN.
Major,

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

APPENDIX NO. 2.

PROGRESS REPORT

NO. 39

BRANCH 4.D.

28.9.19 to 4.10.19

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.

B. G. G. G. G.
Major
Director, Branch 4.D.

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

090432

COPY6509/7/18/1

War Office,

London, S.W.

092/1596. (Q.M.G.10.A.)

7th. October, 1919.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to address you on the subject of the Stores and Equipment now available for issue in this Country in replacement of the equipment and other stores handed in to the Imperial stocks in France and Egypt by Australian formations and units.

The question of finding accommodation for stores in this Country is particularly pressing and very heavy expenditure is involved in providing the necessary personnel for looking after such stores. Moreover, the necessity for freeing for trade purposes accommodation now occupied as Military Storehouses is very urgent. Consequently it is imperative that all stores which are not required for the future maintenance and War Reserves of the Army should be disposed of by sale or otherwise, without delay.

As you are aware, the general position is that, as a result of the capitulation rate arrangement, your Government became entitled on demobilization to demand from Imperial stocks without charge the stores and equipment for a certain number of units and formations in a serviceable condition. It has always been understood that your demands would not correspond exactly with the stores to which you are thus entitled, but that your Government would formulate their demands according to your post-war requirements, and that the Council would, subject to any necessary financial adjustment, do their best to meet those demands.

No complete programme of the equipment which you require has, however, yet been formulated, though in the case of certain stores, demands have been made.

The Council are therefore most anxious to attain a clear understanding with your Government on the following points:-

(1) The exact list of formations and units the equipment of which you are entitled to draw under the capitulation rate agreement;

(2) A full list of the equipment and stores which you wish the Imperial Government to supply.

(3) The ports to which this equipment should be delivered and how it should be consigned.

The Commandant,
Australian Imperial Force,
130 Horseferry Road,
S.W.1.

COPY.

-2-

I am to point out that, if no demands are received from you, the Council may be forced to dispose of certain classes of stores as surplus to Imperial requirements; in such a case the credit to be allowed to your Government would necessarily be limited to the value of that class of stores at disposal rates. It is thus important to you, for financial reasons, that your demands should be formulated at the earliest possible moment.

With the object of reaching finality on this urgent question, I am to request you to appoint a representative to attend a Conference at this Office (Room 249) on Monday next October 13th at eleven o'clock, but the Council trust that you will inform them of your full demands in all classes of stores in anticipation, if possible, of the Conference.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B.B.CUBITT.

APPENDIX NO.4.

PROGRESS REPORT

No.40

5.10.19 to 11.10.19.

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

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

In continuation of this office letter of 25.9.19 to War Office - attached to Report No.38 - a further communication was addressed to the Secretary, War Office, forwarding a more detailed list of items demanded for Post Bellum Army, which it is desired shall not be shipped pending receipt of further notification from the Australian Government.

Consequent upon the above, it was found necessary to withdraw from Branch 2.D. Issue Vouchers for stores packed ready for shipment but now being withheld.

B. Speckman

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

16th October, 1919.

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

Sir,

With reference to the Conference held at the War Office on the 13th inst. at which representatives of the Dominions were present, the Chairman (Gen Elliston) pointed out the advisability of having responsible Officers attached to Imperial Issuing Depots for the purpose of taking over all Stores packed and ready for shipment.

I have therefore been directed to inform you that the G.O.C., A.I.F., has approved of the above proposal, but that it is understood the Stores will be placed on Rail or Lighter by the Depots concerned, and that thereafter the responsibility for safe custody would rest with the Dominions.

At the same time it is pointed out that a clear acquittance will not be given until the Stores have been landed in Australia, and checked in detail, and that the Officers detailed for the above duty will have no authority to sign any documents other than Way Bills, Carriers Notes and Receipts for the number of packages placed on transport.

It is intended that the duties of these Officers will be to keep Records of:-

- (a) Number of packages dispatched.
- (b) Package markings etc.
- (c) Track Number etc.

(d) Dates of Despatch.

The receipted Vouchers will be returned by Consignees in due course and discrepancies of any importance obviously due to incorrect packing will be taken up by Discrepancy Reports in the usual manner.

I should be glad if the Depots concerned may be advised of this arrangement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C. SPECKMAN.
Major.

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

4D/6509/7/18/1

17th. October 1919.

TO: The Commandant
A.I.F. Headquarters.

With reference to previous correspondence and conversations on the subject of detailing certain officers for duty at Imperial Issuing Depots to take delivery of all stores packed and ready for shipment to Military Districts concerned, I would suggest that owing to the number of Sub-Depots of Woolwich, and the distance between these Depots, that another officer and six other ranks be appointed, bringing the Establishment up to four officers and six other ranks.

If this meets with your approval I beg to submit the name of the undermentioned officer (who is reporting back from Non Military Employment on Monday), as being suitable for this class of work. The other ranks to be employed as soon as suitable men can be found.

Capt. R.T. RAMSAY.

(Sgd.) C. SPECKMAN

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

BRANCH 4.D.

12.10.19 to 18.10.19

Normal routine work has mainly engaged the attention of this Branch during the past week.

On 13.10.19 the Director attended a Conference at the War Office convened for the purpose of ascertaining the requirements of the various Dominions in Stores and Equipment, and when delivery of such would be taken. . . Copy of proceedings, (which have been submitted to the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters) is attached.

At the above Conference, the Chairman-(General Elliston)-pointed out the advisability of having responsible Dominion Officers attached to Imperial Issuing Depots for the purpose of taking over all Stores packed and ready for shipment. The approval of the G.O.C., A.I.F., having been obtained to this proposal, the Secretary, War Office, was informed accordingly, and a letter recommending the appointment of another officer (in addition to the three already appointed) and six Other Ranks, was addressed to the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters. The Commandant's approval to the above was obtained on 18.10.19.

B. Speckman

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

Report re Conference held at War Office 13.10.19.

The Conference took place under the Chairmanship of General Elliston and included representatives from the War Office and each of the self governing Dominions, Australia's representatives being Colonel T.J. Thomas, Chief Paymaster, and Major C. Speckman, M.C., Director 4.D.

1. It was intimated by the Chairman that extreme pressure was being brought upon the War Office to dispose of its surplus stores and Equipment, and that the chief object of the Conference was to ascertain :-

- (a) The requirements of the Dominions in this regard.
- (b) When delivery would be taken.

In regard to (a) the Conference was informed that the known requirements for Australia were the full Equipment for five Dismounted and Two Mounted Divisions, less certain sections which were tentatively withheld, and that delivery would be taken as soon as shipping was available. It was further informed that no information was available regarding Lines of Communication Units and Corps Troops, but that cabled advice would be immediately sought. (Note - this has been done.)

2. In relation to Divisional Equipment which has tentatively not been demanded, the Conference was informed that the reason for not demanding same was that a proposal to manufacture locally was at present under the consideration of the Australian authorities who would not be in apposition to arrive at a decision until it was known what credit would be given to Australia by the War Office for items short-drawn.

To enable this to be decided, it was agreed that there should be furnished to the War Office.

- (a) List of Units for which Australia is entitled to draw Equipment or obtain credit in lieu.
- (b) List of Units for which Equipment will be demanded. (This is to be submitted as soon as obtainable.)
- (c) List of items which it is proposed to short-draw.
- (d) List of items (approximate) which it is proposed to over-draw.

(Lists (a), (b) and (d) are in course of preparation.)

3. It was decided that Dominions would take delivery at Depots at which the Stores and Equipment are held, and that there-after the responsibility for safe custody would lie with the Dominions. The Imperial Authorities will pack and place Equipment on Rail, and Dominions to make all arrangements for transport other than from Depot to Rail.

4. The presence of Inspectors to superintend packing and take delivery was asked for by the War Office. This was agreed to .

(Sgd) C, Speckman.
Major.
Director, 4.D.

15.10.19.

SHR/DEG

APPENDIX NO.8

4D/6509/7/18/1

A.I.F.Hqrs.
130 Horseferry Road

Oct.27th.1919

TO: The Secretary
War Office
WHITEHALL S.W.1.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your Q.M.G.10.A/4642 of the 21st instant, relative to the attendance of Officers of this Department at Imperial Ordnance Depots for the purpose of checking the shipment of stores for the Post Bellum Army of Australia.

In reference to para.2 of your letter, I am directed to request that you be good enough to state what would be the line of action as regards any discrepancies obviously due to incorrect packing that may be disclosed on detailed check of the Stores in Australia should consent be given to the acquittance of vouchers at the time of shipment of the stores? It is desired that the matter of responsibility for the adjustment of such discrepancies be made quite clear, as, obviously, it will not be practicable for our representative to vouch for the accuracy of the contents of the large number of packages involved in this transaction.

In regard to para.3., I am to say that the attendance of officers at Weedon and Pimlico is also desired.

Your remarks re Medical and Veterinary stores are duly noted.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

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

APPENDIX NO.9.

NO.42.

PROGRESS REPORT

BRANCH 4.D.

20.10.19 to 25.10.19.

This Branch has been mainly engaged on routine work during the past week.

On the 24th inst., letter was received from D.E.O.S. War Office; reference the attachment of Officers to Imperial Ordnance Depots, and asking if a clear acquittance for stores could be given by these Officers, immediately shipment has been effected.

(Copy of ths letter is attached.)

B. Speckman

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

Q.M.G.10.A/4642.
(Q.M.G.10.A.)

21st October, 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your letter Number 17063 dated 16th instant, I am directed to inform you that arrangements will be made by the Deputy Director of Ordnance Stores, Woolwich Arsenal for facilities to be afforded to Officers of the Australian Imperial Force to inspect and check packages etc and hand them over at Woolwich and its sub-depots for shipment to Australia. Arrangements should therefore be made direct with the Deputy Director of Ordnance Stores, Woolwich Arsenal as to when and where these Officers should attend.

I am to say that it is regretted that a clear acquittance cannot be given until the stores have reached Australia, and to point out that the representative of the High Commissioner for Australia has invariably in the past given a receipt on the vouchers immediately shipment has been effected, and this Department would be glad if that system could be continued in regard to the shipment of the stores for the Australian formations.

I am to enquire whether it is also desired to send Australian Imperial Force Officers for a similar duty to Weedon and Pimlico; if so, arrangements can no doubt be made for the necessary facilities on receipt of your reply.

As regards Medical and Veterinary stores, a communication should be addressed to those Departments at the War Office.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) C.M. Stephen, Lt. Col.
for Director of Equipment & Ordnance Stores.

The Brigadier General i/c Administration,
Australian Imperial Force,
Repatriation & Demobilisation Department,
54 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

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																																																																
21, Gt. Peter Street, LONDON, S.W.1.			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR DIARY - BRANCH 5D.</u> <u>Statistics for period 1.10.19 to 31.10.19.</u></p> <p>5D.1 records that 10 ships with a personnel of 4,677 were dealt with during the period. Total amt. of cash placed on board these ships amounted to £36,300.</p> <p>5D.2 The following expenditure has been incurred as at 25.10.19 in respect of members on Non-Military Employment.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Subsistence paid to 566 men</td> <td>-</td> <td>24,411</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fees " " 68 "</td> <td>-</td> <td>507</td> <td>-</td> <td>17</td> <td>-</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pay of 636 men,</td> <td>-</td> <td>23,272</td> <td>-</td> <td>15</td> <td>-</td> <td>9.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>TOTAL.</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>28,191</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>15</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>5.</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>5D.3. Extended leave in U.K. was granted to 81 men and leave to return to Australia to 15 Other Ranks at their own expense. In addition, 657 applications for Deferred Pay have been approved, and 529 forms 543 involving an amount of £12,225 - 10 - 0 to be credited to Family Passages Account have been handed to Accountancy Section for action.</p> <p>5D.4 Effected 371 discharges in the United Kingdom.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Gratuities paid to 281 dischargees amounting to £2,234 - 17 - 8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Total disbursements for the month amounted to £34,994 - 8 - 10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><u>Deceased Estates.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>To 3.11.19.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No held.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No. Not finalised.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No finalised.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">23.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">62.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">24,415 - 15 - 8.</td> </tr> </table> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td colspan="4"><u>Amounts received from Australia for payment in U.K.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No held.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No. Not finalised.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>No finalised.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Amt. paid.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">587.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">242.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">345.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">221,227 - 12 - 1.</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total amt. paid £25,646 - 7 - 9.</u></p>	Subsistence paid to 566 men	-	24,411	-	1	-	10.	Fees " " 68 "	-	507	-	17	-	10.	Pay of 636 men,	-	23,272	-	15	-	9.	<u>TOTAL.</u>		<u>28,191</u>		<u>15</u>		<u>5.</u>	Gratuities paid to 281 dischargees amounting to £2,234 - 17 - 8.				Total disbursements for the month amounted to £34,994 - 8 - 10.				<u>Deceased Estates.</u>				<u>To 3.11.19.</u>	<u>No held.</u>	<u>No. Not finalised.</u>	<u>No finalised.</u>		23.	31.	62.				24,415 - 15 - 8.	<u>Amounts received from Australia for payment in U.K.</u>				<u>No held.</u>	<u>No. Not finalised.</u>	<u>No finalised.</u>	<u>Amt. paid.</u>	587.	242.	345.	221,227 - 12 - 1.	
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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour		
			(contd. 2.)	
			5D.5 records that 151 officers and Other Ranks were recommended for Non-Military Employment and 168 were approved through Part II Orders.	
			<u>Correspondence.</u>	
			Inwards - 7,168.	
			Outwards - 6,428.	
			Circulars - 648.	
			<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
			14,244.	
			<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
			<i>[Signature]</i>	
			Captain.	
			5D.	