

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

Repatriation & Demobilisation

Item number: 30/1/16 Part 3

Title: Repatriation and Demobilisation, AIF

January 1920



AWM4-30/1/16PART3

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	JANUARY		<p>Completed 4th.M.D.Demands for 1 B.A.C.,Dismounted, were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>6th. Progress Report No.51,for period 22.12.1919 to 3.1.1920, was rendered to "D", and copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p>-----</p> <p>7th. Letter was received from Director of Artillery, War Office, reference the supply of 18-pdr.Equipment. War Office states several essential modifications have not yet been embodied in this equipment, and enquires whether Australia desires to await a notification of a possibility of obtaining new design 18-Pdrs., before submitting demands for them. Copy of above is attached to Progress Report No.52.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>8th. Reference Diary entry of 7th,inst., on the subject of supply of 18-Pdr.equipment for Post-Bellum Army, reply was despatched to the Secretary,War Office,to-day. Copy is attached to Progress Report No.52.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Completed 5th.M.D.Demands for 1 B.A.C. Dismounted, were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>10th. Completed 6th.M.D.Demands for 1 B.A.C. Dismounted, were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>1</p>

D. D. & L., London E.C.
(1934) W4 W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 658 Forms/G2118/16

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			-2-	
	12th.		<p>Letter was received from D.of E.and O.S., War Office, stating that the War Office understand all Demands for Equipment of Australia's Post-Bellum Army have now been submitted, but desire an assurance on this point.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Notification was received from D.G., A.M.S., that all Medical Equipment is now ready for inspection at Base Depot Medical Stores, Southwick, Sussex. This communication was passed to A.D.M.S., A.I.F.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Completed 4th.M.D.Demands for 1 F.A.Bde. for Dismounted Division were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p>-----</p>	
	14th.		<p>Progress Report No.52 for period 5.1.20 to 10.1.20 was rendered to "D", and copies are attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p>-----</p>	2
	15th.		<p>Completed 5th.M.D.Demands for 1 F.A.Brigade for Dismounted Division were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p>-----</p>	
	16th.		<p>Letter was addressed to the Secretary, War Office, raising several points in connection with Australia's liability for "initial" supplies of ammunition to Australian Divisions in France and Egypt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Copy is attached to Progress Report No 53.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19th.		<p style="text-align: center;">-3-</p> <p>Instructions were received from the Commandant, A.I.F.Hqrs., that a report re damage to stores on "S.S.BOONAH" be furnished by this Branch. This Report was furnished immediately; copy is attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Completed 6th.M.D.Demands for 1 F.A. Brigade for Dismounted Division were despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Letter was received from D.of E. and O.S., War Office, requesting information as to the disposal of equipment of Australian Wireless Units in India. Copy attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
	20th.		<p>In accordance with War Office request (see Progress Report No.50) fresh Demands for Steel Helmets for all Military Districts were submitted to D.D.O.S., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Copy of covering letter is attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Progress Report No.53 for period 19.1.20 to 24.1.20 was rendered to "D", and copies are attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	3 4
	21st.		<p>Letter was received from Branch 2.D. noting various points in connection with the shipment of Equipment per "S.S.BOORAL", especially with regard to faulty packing and marking . Copy of this letter was forwarded to D.D.O.S. Royal Arsenal, and copy is attached to Progress Report, No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21st.		<p style="text-align: center;">-4-</p> <p>Reference Diary Entry of 12th inst., a reply was forwarded to the Secretary, War Office, stating that complete Demands for 5 Infantry and 2 Cavalry Divisions (less 8 F.A. Bdes and B.A.C.'s) have now been submitted to Depots. Demands for 60-pdr. and 6-inch Howitzer Equipment await War Office reply to this Branch letter dated 4.12.1919. Copy of both communications are attached as per Appendix.....</p>	5
	24th.		<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous Wireless Units - India:-</u></p> <p>Reference Diary Entry of 19th inst. This matter has since been referred to A.Q.M.G's Department who have ascertained that the Equipment of these Units was issued by, and returned to Mesopotamia Force Depots. A reply in the above terms was forwarded to The Secretary, War Office, to-day, with the request that these Units be deleted from Columns 1 and 3 of Statement "A" which was attached to this Branch letter to War Office dated 4.12.1919. Copy attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Notification was sent to the Secretary, War Office to the effect that fresh Demands for Steel Helmets have now been submitted to D.D.O.S. Woolwich, and enquiring when and where 10,000 Helmets now held by A.I.F. Salvage, may be handed in. Copy attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Letters were despatched by hand on board R.M.S. "OSTERLEY" (sailing to-day) forwarding Issue Vouchers to Department of Defence Melbourne, and S.O.O. Sydney, covering Post Bellum Equipment shipped per S.S. "BOORAL" on 10.1.20. Copies are attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24th.		<p style="text-align: center;">-5-</p> <p>Letter forwarded by hand on board R.M.S."OSTERLEY", enclosing copies of Reports by 2.D. and 4.D. covering the circumstances under which certain Post Bellum Equipment was damaged or destroyed by fire and water on the S.S."BOONAH" . Copies are attached to Progress Report No.54.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	
	28th.		<p>Progress Report No.54 for period 19.1.20 to 24.1.20 was rendered to "D" and copies are attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Letter was written to D.D.O.S. Woolwich Arsenal, recording inconvenience caused to this Branch by defective markings on Stores for shipment to Australia, particularly those issued by Didcot. Copy attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	6
			<p>It has been discovered that Pattern 1902 Saddles have been included in Post-Bellum Equipment. Letter was written to D.D.O.S. Woolwich referring to War Office undertaking to supply articles of latest pattern only, and requesting that 1912 Pattern Saddles be issued. Copy attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	7
	31st.		<p><u>Damaged Post Bellum Equipment ex S.S."BOONAH"</u></p> <p>These Stores are now ready for survey, and a letter was accordingly addressed to the D.E.O.S., War Office, requesting that 2 Imperial Officers be appointed members of a Board of Survey to be held at A.I.F. Headquarters on the 5th inst. Copy is attached as per Appendix.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	8
			<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	9

WAR DIARY

OF

BRANCH 4.D.(REPAT.&.DEMOB.DEPT., A.I.F.

FOR

JANUARY 1920. 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Progress Report No.51
2.	Progress Report No.52
3.	Covering letter forwarding Demands for Steel Helmets for all Military Districts, submitted to D.D.O.S.Woolwich.
4.	Progress Report No.53.
5.	Letters from and to The Secretary, War Office, re completion of Demands.
6.	Progress Report No.54.
7.	Letter to D.D.O.S., Woolwich re defective markings on stores for shipment to Australia.
8.	Letter to D.D.O.S., Woolwich requesting issue of 1912 Pattern Saddles in accordance with War Office agreement.
9.	Letter to D.E.O.S., War Office, requesting appointment of 2 Imperial Officers to serve on Board of Survey in connection with "S.S.BOONAH".

PROGRESS REPORT

BRANCH 4.D.

22.12.1919 to 3.1.1920

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

Completed Demands as under have been forwarded to Imperial Ordnance Depots:-

1st.MILITARY DISTRICT:-

1 Field Artillery Brigade.

4th.MILITARY DISTRICT:-

1 B.A.C. Dismounted.

* Shipment of Equipment per "S.S.BOONAH".

A fire was discovered on board this vessel on 15.12.19. Approximately 760 packages and cases of equipment and stores for Australia's Post-Bellum Army were damaged or destroyed by fire and water. Damaged stores have now been transferred to these Headquarters, where they are being sorted, preparatory to survey. Stores undamaged have been shipped on board "S.S.BOORAL" which is due to sail to-day (5.1.1920).

In consequence of the above, the staff of this Branch has been increased by 1 officer and 4 other ranks.

5.1.1920

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

PROGRESS REPORT.

No.52.

BRANCH 4.D.

5.1.1920 - - 10.1.1920

The usual routine work in connection with preparation of Indents, and special work in connection with checking and overhauling of stores salvaged from S.S. BOONAH, have been carried out by this Branch.

Completed Demands as under have been despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots :-

5th Military District:-

I B.A.C. for Dismounted Division.

6th Military District:-

I B.A.C. for Dismounted Division.

With reference to the supply of 18-Pdr. equipment, an important communication was received from the Director of Artillery, War Office, stating that several essential modifications have not yet been embodied in this equipment, and enquiring whether Australia desires to await a notification of a possibility of obtaining new design 18-Pdrs., before submitting Demands for them.

Copy of War Office letters, together with copy of reply by this Branch, are attached.

C. G. Guckman

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

COPY.

6509/7/18/1.

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.

57.20.1200.(A,2).

13th March 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your letter, number D/88637 of the 7th February 1919, I am directed to inform you that it is regretted that it would not be possible at present to provide any of the newest pattern 18-pounder guns for the equipment of the Australain Divisional Artillery. If desired, however, a few of the new equipments could be spared for instructional purposes and I should be glad to be informed how many, if any, of these equipments you would like reserved to meet your training requirements.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd) WILLIAM NAPIER.
Director of Artillery.

The Director General,
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept.,
Australian Imperial Force,
54 Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

WAR OFFICE

LONDON. S.W.1.

57.20.1200.(A.2)

3rd. January 1920.

010261

Sir,

With reference to the 3rd. Military District Demand forwarded to D.D.O.S., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich under your 4D/6509/7/18/1 dated 19th December 1919, I am directed to observe that seven of the latest design 18-pdr. equipments Mk. IV guns and Mk. III or III^x carriages, are asked for.

It appears that these are not required for training purposes, vide last paragraph of our letter, number as above, dated 13th March 1919 (copy attached for reference), seeing that no breech mechanisms or limbers are included in the demands; no reply to this letter can be traced.

The position regarding this equipment is that at present several essential modifications have not been embodied and it is not proposed to issue any equipments until these modifications are embodied which must necessitate many months delay.

Will you now say whether you wish completely to equip the Unit referred to in your letter with 15 Mk. II 18-pdr. equipments and await a notification of the possibility of obtaining new design 18-pdrs. before submitting any demand for them.

The demand is returned for amendment in accordance with your wishes.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SGD) L. M. WILSON.

for

Director of Artillery.

The Director General,
Repatriation and Demobilisation Dept.,
Australian Imperial Force,
130, Horseferry Road,
London, S.W.1.

COPY.

6509/7/18/1

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

January 8th 1920

Sir,

With reference to your 57/20/1200 (A.2.) of the 3rd inst., returning my Demand 3.M.D./b/5 dated 1.12.19 for 18-pr. and 4.5-inch Guns and Carriages (without fittings) intended as "Reserve Spares" for the Field Artillery Equipment of the Post Bellum Army of Australia, I am directed to state that a slight misunderstanding appears to exist in regard to the pattern of 18-pr. material with which it is the intention to equip the Australian Forces.

2. In my 6509/5/13 dated 7.2.19 (copy attached) you were requested to state whether it would be possible to procure at a later date 18-pr. equipment of the latest pattern to the extent of half our total requirements. Following this, your 092/1596(Q.M.G.10.A) dated 28.2.19 was received in this office, the concluding paragraph reading as follows :-

"The supply of 18-pr. Equipments of the new pattern, Mark IV, is only sufficient to cover the requirements of the forces in Great Britain. It is not therefore feasible to issue equipments of this pattern to Dominion Governments at present. The current demand on the manufacturers is not likely to be completed before the end of 1919 at the earliest, there would therefore be no possibility of supplying the Dominions before 1920 when fresh contracts would have to be entered into. The financial aspect of the issue of a new pattern equipment would require consideration with reference to the existing financial agreements between the Imperial and Dominion Governments."

3. Upon receipt of this information a proposal that we should equip half the Force with the then latest pattern, Mark II, and, at a later date demand Mark IV Equipment for the remainder, was placed before the Minister for Defence. In this connection I am to invite your attention to para. 6 of my 6509/7/18/1 of the 28th March last, which read as follows:-

" As stated in letter above (4309/9/1 dated 14.3.19) the Artillery Equipment at present to be demanded (Q.F. Mark II carriage) will be about one-half of the total establishment of 5 Infantry and 2 Mounted Divisions, the remainder may be demanded later as above, or Q.F. 18-pr Mark III Carriages and Mark IV Guns may be demanded in lieu."

4. The proposal mentioned in the commencement of the preceding paragraph was subsequently approved by the Minister for Defence but, unfortunately, the decision does not appear to have been officially communicated to you. This omission is regretted.

5. The position may now be summarised as follows:

- (a) Total number of 6-gun 18-pr. Batteries to be equipped 48
- (b) No. of 6-gun 18-pr. Batteries to be equipped with Mark II Guns 24
- (c) No. of 6-gun 18-pr. Batteries to be equipped (later) with Mark IV Guns ... 24

In regard to (b) the submission of demands for this Equipment is now practically complete.

- 3 -

Preparation of demands for the equipment under (c) is being left over until all other demands have been submitted.

6. The demand returned with your letter of the 3rd. inst. is for a percentage of "Spare" Guns and Carriages (without fittings) as a "Reserve" for the equipment under both (b) and (c). For the sake of convenience they were included in one demand, although it is realised that the Mark III Carriages and Mark IV Guns may not at present be available. The demand is returned herewith.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C. Speckman

Major,

Director, Branch 4.D.,

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

Enclosures:-

Demand & copy letter.

Copy.

APPENDIX No. 3.

SHR/DMA

4D/6509/7/18/1

TO:-

D.D.O.S.
Royal Arsenal
Woolwich

20th Jan.1920.

In accordance with W.O.letter 121/Overseas/7370 (A.3) of the 15th ultimo, I forward herewith re-demands as under for Steel Helmets to complete the Mobilisation Equipment of the Post Bellum Army of Australia.

1 M.D./I/5	dated	13.1.20
2 M.D./I/9	"	13.1.20
3 M.D./I/9	"	13.1.20
4 M.D./I/3	"	13.1.20
5 M.D./I/3	"	13.1.20
6 M.D./I/3	"	13.1.20.

Will you kindly acknowledge receipt of these demands and cancel the item "Helmets,steel" from all demands submitted to you for the re-equipment of the Australian Forces.

(Sgd.) C.SPECKMAN

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

Enclosures:- Indents.

APPENDIX NO. 4.

PROGRESS REPORT.

BRANCH 4.D.

No. 53.

12.1.20 to 17.1.20.

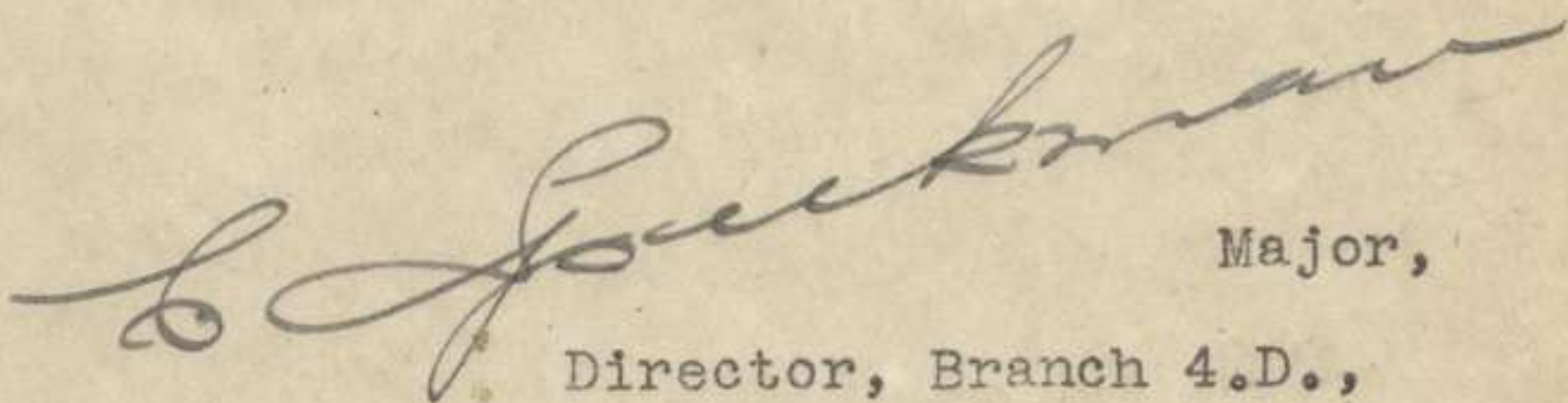
Work carried out in the branch during the week under review has included normal routine in the preparation, checking and distribution of Demands for equipment of Units allotted to the 4th., 5th. and 6th. Military Districts. Special work in connection with checking and overhauling of stores salvaged from "S.S. BOONAH" has been continued, these stores now being practically ready for Board of Survey.

Completed Demands as under, have been despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depot :-

4th Military District) 1 F.A. Brigade for
5th Military District) Dismounted Division.

Letter was received from D.G., A.M.S., Cornwall House, notifying that all Medical Equipment is now ready for inspection at Base Depot Medical Stores, Southwick, Sussex. This communication was passed to A.D.M.S., A.I.F.

Letter was written to the Secretary, War Office, raising several points in connection with the liability for "initial" supplies of ammunition to Australian Divisions in France and Egypt. (Copy is attached).



Major,

Director, Branch 4.D.,

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

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

16th January 1920.

Subject: Ammunition - "Initial" supplies of:

Adverting to your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 57/20/1758 (F.5.R.V.), on above subject, I am anxious to submit, for your information, the following points in connection with the question of liability for the "initial" supplies (of our various Divisions) of ammunition to our Divisions serving in Egypt and France.

2. As you are no doubt aware, a big re-organisation of our Divisions took place in Egypt during the first six months of 1916, resulting in equipment, arms, etc. etc. being issued both by Imperial and Australian Depots to bring the equipment, etc. of those Divisional Units up to the then current Mobilisation Store Tables, the part-worn material replaced by the new issues from both sources being handed over to Imperial Ordnance. In this connection, the financial arrangements with your office were -

- (a) that Australia shall pay to the War Office a "per capita" charge (i.e. 6d. per man per day for period 1st January to the 31st July 1916, that sum being comprised in the 5/- capitation rate charged for the maintenance of our troops then serving in Egypt), as well as forego any credit due for ~~the~~ material, etc. handed over to the Imperial authorities during the period stated, in full settlement of the whole of the issues from Imperial stocks.
- (b) that all new issues from Australian stocks would remain as a final charge against our funds.

3. From these arrangements alone it is considered a reasonably established fact that we initially equipped the whole of the Units comprised in those Divisions (i.e. 1st. 2nd. 4th and 5th Divisions and two Mounted Divisions) during that period with ammunition in accordance with Mobilisation Store Tables, though it is regretted that no detailed data are at present available to permit of this specific point being absolutely substantiated.

4. I might say that the four Infantry Divisions referred to, immediately after this re-organisation, proceeded to France, the two Mounted Divisions remaining in Egypt.

5. With regard to our 3rd. Division (the equipment of which was practically completed in this country about the end of 1916 when that Division proceeded to France), I am to

(Cont'd)

state that investigation is now proceeding with a view to determining whether the "initial" supplies of ammunition to that Division were provided at A.I.F. expense, and as soon as definiteness in this connection is reached, you will be duly advised.

6. It is, however, pointed out that no "initial" supplies (under M.S.T.) of ammunition for 8-inch or 9.2-inch howitzers used by the Australian Forces in France, were provided at Australian expense. In all cases, however, as you know, we have discharged our liability for all ammunition consumed by our Forces in France and Egypt by inclusion of those charges in your capitulation claims.

(Sgd.) Rob.E.Jackson
Lt. Col.,
Commandant.

APPENDIX No.5

War Office,
London, S.W.1.

9th. January 1920

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

010540

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the re-equipping of Australian Units, your 4.D/6509/7/18/1, I am directed to say that it is understood that all Demands have now been submitted but should be glad to receive your assurance on this point.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C.M.STEPHEN. Lt.Col.

for Director of Equipment and Ordnance Stores.

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

Copy

APPENDIX No.5

6509/7/18/1

January 21st.1920

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

Sir,

With reference to your office letter 92/1596(Q.M.G.10) of the 9th.inst., relative to the demands submitted to Imperial Ordnance Depots for Post Bellum equipment, I am directed to state that complete demands for 5 Infantry and 2 Cavalry Divisions, less 8 Field Artillery Brigades and B.A.C's, which were dealt with in my 6509/7/18/1 of the 8th.inst., and are to be equipped with the Mark IV Gun and Mark III and III^x carriages, have now been submitted to Depots.

I am further directed to inform you that demands for 60-pdr. and 6-inch Howitzer equipment will be submitted as soon as a statement as to the amount standing to our credit for these units which it is not desired to re-equip has been received in reply to my 4.D./6509/7/18/1 dated the 4th December.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

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

BRANCH 4.D.19.1.20 to 24.1.20.

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

Demands for Mark IV Artillery Equipment have been proceeded with, and the following completed Demands have been despatched to Imperial Ordnance Depots.

6th. MILITARY DISTRICT:-

1 Field Artillery Brigade for Dismounted Division.

ALL MILITARY DISTRICTS:-

Demand for Steel Helmets.

A Report on Post Bellum Equipment damaged or destroyed on "S.S. BOONAH" having been called for, the report was drawn up and submitted, together with copies of correspondence setting forth arrangements made between this Branch and Branch 2.D. in regard to procedure re shipment of Mobilisation Stores to Australia (Copies attached).

In connection with the shipment of equipment per "S.S. BOORAL", a letter was received from Branch 2.D., noting various undesirable points in connection with packing and marking of stores. A copy of this letter was forwarded to D.D.O.S., Woolwich Arsenal, and is attached hereto.

The point was raised by Q.M.G.'s Department at the War Office re equipment of our miscellaneous Wireless Units in India, and requesting information as to disposal of their equipment. This Branch ascertained from A.Q.M.G., A.I.F. Hqs., that this equipment was issued by and returned to Mesopotamia Force Depots. In view of the foregoing a reply was despatched to the Secretary, War Office, referring to this Branch letter of 4.12.1919, requesting that these Units be deleted from Table "A" forwarded therewith. (NOTE: Copies of Table "A" were appended to 4.D. War Diary for December 1919).

Copies of above letter from War Office, and this Branch reply are attached.

Letter was written to Secretary, War Office, notifying that fresh Demands for Steel Helmets have been submitted to D.D.O.S., Woolwich, and enquiring when and where 10,000 Helmets now held by A.I.F. Salvage may be handed in.
(Copy attached).

Letters were despatched by hand on board "R.M.S. OSTERLEY" on 24.1.20, (enclosing Issue Vouchers for equipment shipped per "S.S. BOORAL") to Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne, and S.O.O. End.M.D., Sydney.

Letter was also forwarded to Secretary, Dept. of Defence, Melbourne, enclosing copies of Reports by 4.D. and 2.D. re the circumstances under which certain items of Post-Bellum Equipment were damaged or destroyed by fire and water on the "S.S. BOONAH" (Copies attached).

An enquiry was received from D.of E. and O.S., War Office, as to whether all Demands for the Equipment of Australia's Post Bellum Army have now been submitted, - an assurance on this point being asked for.

A reply to the above communication was despatched on the 21st.inst., stating that complete Demands for 5 Infantry and 2 Cavalry Divisions (less 8 F.A.Bdes, and B.A.C' s) have now been submitted, and that Demands for 60-Pdr. and 6-inch Howitzer Equipment await a reply to this office letter of 4.12.19.

C. G. G. G.

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

01/

24th Jan. 1920.

23rd. January 1920. xx

The Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE?

I beg to forward herewith copies of reports submitted by the "Ordnance" and "Shipping" Branches of the Repatriation and Demobilisation Department, covering the circumstances under which certain items of the Post Bellum equipment were damaged or destroyed by fire and water on the s.s. "BOONAH" at the Royal Albert Docks on the 15th December 1919.

Copies of the Vouchers covering the undamaged portion of these Stores are being despatched direct to the D.E.C.S. & S.O.O., 2nd M.D., respectively, per s.s. "OSTERLEY" sailing tomorrow the 24th instant.

(sgd.) R. B. JACKSON
Lieut-Colonel,
Commandant

COPY.

CS/DMA.

19th January 1920 --

TO:-
The Commandant,
A. I. P. Headquarters.

Report called for in connection with Post Bellum Equipment
damaged or destroyed on S.S. "BOONAH".

At the outset I would invite your attention to the attached copies of correspondence which clearly set forth the arrangements made between this Branch and S.D. in regard to the procedure to be followed in the shipment of Mobilisation Stores to Australia and the responsibility for the safe custody of the Stores during transit and in course of shipment.

Following these arrangements, particulars of some two thousand tons of equipment available for shipment were furnished to S.D., it being understood that accommodation had been arranged per S.S. "BOONAH" sailing in December.

On Monday the 15th. of December, advice was received that the "BOONAH", into which a portion of the above equipment had been placed, was on fire at the Albert Docks. A representative of this Branch was immediately sent to ascertain some idea of the extent of the damage and to safe-guard the interests of S.D. by ensuring that every possible step was taken in the matter of salvage.

After the whole of the material had been removed from the "BOONAH" the Port of London Authorities intimated that it was impossible to allow the damaged equipment to remain upon their premises. Endeavours having been made without success to secure suitable accommodation in the neighbourhood, the stores were eventually brought by lorry to these Headquarters.

The chief concern of this Department now being to establish the extent of the losses and damages, it was suggested that a complete tally be taken of the equipment remaining at the Docks. This task would have entailed a great deal of labour, but in the opinion of S.D. it was the most satisfactory method of arriving at our losses. The project, however, was abandoned, as a definite assurance was furnished by both S.D. and the representative of the Shipping Company that detailed particulars could be arrived at from documents in their possession.

Some days later advice was received that a commencement had been made upon the re-shipment of the undamaged portion of the consignment into the "S.S. BOORAL". It was then pointed out to S.D. that an absolutely reliable tally of the equipment shipped per "BOORAL" was indispensable to this Branch, as only by deducting

(2)

such quantities from the total consignment could the actual losses and damages (to be accounted for at this end) be ascertained. An assurance was again given by 2.D. that this information would be forthcoming in due course.

This occurrence has thrown a considerable amount of extra work on this Branch. Vouchers covering the whole of the original consignment were ready for despatch to Australia, and the volume and intricate nature of the task of extracting from these vouchers the articles which were, according to information supplied by 2.D., not actually shipped, and bringing them to account at this end, will be realised. Notwithstanding that the utmost care has been exercised, it is feared that certain minor discrepancies between the stores shipped and those charged by Voucher to Australia may be subsequently revealed, inasmuch as considerable difficulty has been experienced by 2.D. in establishing the identity of certain articles, such as Oil Drums etc., which are of course not enclosed in packing cases. Further, it is felt that in the case of certain articles which are "bundled" for shipment, the bundles may have become disintegrated during the course of loading, unloading and reloading, and so may not now coincide as to contents with the bundles originally described on the vouchers.

Full particulars of the stores shipped per "S.S. BOORAL" have not yet been received from 2.D., but it is anticipated that the last batch will be available to-day.

In the meantime the identifiable equipment salvaged from the "BOORAL" has been brought to account and is being prepared for Board of Survey. It will be understood that the quantities totally destroyed cannot be set down until full particulars of the "BOORAL" shipment are received from 2.D., and a thorough reconciliation is effected.

A complete list of the losses due to the fire will be drawn up as early as possible for despatch to Australia, in order that the matter of replacement may be taken up.

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

-copy-

2.D.1.

26th August, 1919.

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 Voucher will cover goods for one State only.

x 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 shortpacking, 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 re-packed. 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 alleged 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 off-loading port in Australia and claim made direct on Shipping Company at that Port.

(Sgd) J.J.S. Scaler,
Captain,
for Brig-General,
Director of Movements & Quartering,
Dept., of Repatriation and Demobilisation.

x. Later agreed that we would give acquittances when taking delivery of Stores.

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

20th August, 1919.

TO:

Branch 2.D.

SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR POST BEELUM 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 4.D., 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.

x 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.

(SGD) C. SPECKMAN,
Major.

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

x NOTE:

.x. It was subsequently agreed that acquittances would be given at the time the stores were removed from the Issuing Depots.

2.D.1.

21st. January 1920.

Commandant,
A. I. F. Headquarters,
LONDON.

POST BELLUM EQUIPMENT DAMAGED OR DESTROYED ON S.S. "BOONAH".

The first consignment of post bellum army Equipment was to have been shipped by the s.s. "BOONAH", and loading commenced in early December.

The ship was on fire on the night of 15.12.19 alongside No.1 Shed, Royal Albert Docks. Captain Scouler of 2.D. and Captain Hammond of 4.D. visited the ship on the morning of the 16th. The fire was not then under control but was in hand in the afternoon. It was noted that considerable damage, mainly by fire, had been done to some of the Post Bellum equipment - this was in No.4 Hold. A small quantity of stores in No.6 Hold was damaged by water.

As soon as 4.D. had arranged for a store the s.s. "BOONAH" was offloaded. Undamaged equipment was placed in No.1 Shed alongside the steamer. Damaged stores were offloaded into lorries and brought to 4.D. store at Horseferry Road. The balance of the consignment totalled over eleven-thousand packages. As a large number of these, consisting of practically all the Didcot stores, were not marked in a manner which would permit the checkers on the ship to note information which would definitely assign them to their Issue Vouchers, the final check of stores loaded had to be made very carefully, but in spite of this considerable difficulty has been experienced, in finalising papers. Difficulty has also arisen owing to the manner in which packages have been numbered in some sections. It has been noted that in one section there were as many as 5 sets of repeated numbers for sack-markings, and several sets with cases.

Bundles of pickheads, crowbars, etc. have also come forward unnumbered, and where these packages have broken they have, of course, been recovered and loaded.

Had one set of numbers only been used in each section, and had all packages been numbered, and almost definite check should have been obtained although there are always discrepancies in large and varied shipments such as this one.

The Issue Vouchers for this consignment have now been noted and passed to 4.D. showing shipment. It is considered probable that discrepancies will be noted on the check being made in Australia, but it should be understood that these discrepancies if more than normal have been caused owing to the circumstances above mentioned and are unavoidable.

The shipment of undamaged goods has finally been made by s.s. "BOORAL", sailed 10.1.20.

(Sgd.) E. C. PLANT,
Lieut. Colonel, Staff Officer,
Movements & Quartering Branch,
Repatriation & Demobilisation Department,
A.I.F.

COPY.

6509/7/18/1

January 21st. 1920.

TO: D.D.O.S.,
Royal Arsenal,
WOOLWICH.

Submitted herewith for your information
a copy of a report received from our Shipping
Representative on various matters dealing with the
packing, marking etc., of equipment for the Post
Bellum Army of Australia.

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

ENCLOSURE:
Copy of report.

Copy

S.D.I.

D79328A

19th January 1920.

TO:- 4.D.

With reference to shipment of Stores by S.S. "BOORAL", the following points were noted:-

Heavy goods such as Axes and Wedges, were packed in cases which could not stand the handling entailed under ordinary shipping conditions. In some cases the boxes were not new.

Some of the crates used for packing were also not sufficiently strong.

Some goods, notably from Didcot, came forward with no distinguishing mark which the checkers could note to enable the Issue Voucher concerned to be located. A consecutive numbering of cases and bundles in each Section would considerably simplify checking. In Section I several sets of serial numbers commencing from No.1 have been used, both for sacks and cases. In the lower numbers on sacks markings have been repeated as many as five times, and with cases several times.

In offloading trucks from Didcot the numbers of packages from various trucks differed from those shown on the consignment note although the total offloaded was correct.

In the matter of numbering it might be suggested that difficulty is experienced with articles such as bundles of Crowbars, Anvils, etc., but perhaps it may be possible to arrange that a tag, either metal or cloth, be attached by wire, marked to identify the package.

(Sgd.) J. J. S. SCULLER,
Captain, S.D.I.

COPY.

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W. .1.

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

17th January, 1920.

Sir,

With reference to your letter Number 4D/6509/7/18/1 dated 4th ultimo, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to say whether any information is available as to how the equipment of the following Units was disposed of:-

Miscellaneous Units (India).

Australian and New Zealand Wireless Signal Squadron.	1
Cavalry Divisional Signal Squadron	1.
Light Motor Set, Wireless Troop.	1.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C.M. Stephen
Lt. Col.

for Director of Equipment and Ordnance Stores.

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

COPY.

January 24th 1920.

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

Sir,

With further reference to my 4.D/6509/7/18/1,
dated the 4th. December 1919, relative to those units which
it is not desired to re-equip for Australia, it is requested
that you delete the undermentioned Units from Columns 1 and
3 of Table "A" attached to the above letter.

From information received from Australia it
would appear that these units were originally equipped by
the Imperial Authorities, and after the cessation of hostil-
ities the equipments were returned by us to the Mesopotamia
Force Depots.

Will you please advise me of any further action
that may be taken in this matter, please.

Miscellaneous Units (India)

Australian and New Zealand Wireless Signal Squadron...1
Cavalry Divisional Signal Company.....1
Light Motor Set, Wireless Troop.....1.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. Speckman

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

COPY.

4D/6509/7/18/1

TO:-
The Secretary,
War Office,
S.W.1.

24th January 1920

Sir,

In regard to your 121/Overseas/7370 (A.3.) of the 15th ultimo, relative to the issue of Steel Helmets in connection with the re-equipment of the Australian Imperial Force, I am directed to inform you that fresh consolidated demands for these helmets have now been submitted to the D.D.O.S..

Further, I am to ask when particulars regarding the financial aspect of this case may be expected from your Department. This matter was dealt with in my 6509/7/18/1 of the 13th November last. The closing of A.I.F. Camps in the United Kingdom has revealed further quantities of steel helmets, bringing the number held at our Salvage Store from 3,075 to approximately 10,000 and thereby strengthening our request that the general principle of a "free issue" be extended to this item.

The helmets in our possession are, in common with other war equipment handed in Overseas, the property of the Imperial Government. I am therefore to request that particulars be furnished as to when and where the number mentioned above may be handed over.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S.H.Rainbird

Captain,

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

31st. January 1920.

4D/6509/7/18/1

TO:
D.E.O.S.
War Office
WHITEHALL S.W.1.

Sir,

With reference to a proportion of the Post Bellum equipment which was damaged or destroyed by fire and water on the S.S. "BOONAH" in December of last year, it is now desired to convene a Board of Survey, to condition and report as to the disposal of such damaged stores as may be placed before them.

Owing to the Repatriation of a large number of our officers, we find ourselves without the services of those officers with the full technical knowledge necessary in dealing with a case of this description. It is therefore requested that you be kind enough to select two officers from your Department to appear as members on this Board.

The Sections concerned are 2, 8, 9, 14, 15B, 16, 18 and 19, and the Board will assemble at these Headquarters at 10-a.m. on the 5th of February 1920. I should therefore be glad if you will concur in this matter, please, and notify the undermentioned officer direct.

Major C. SPECKMAN, M.C.
Director, 4.D.
130 Horseferry Road
London S.W.1.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. SPECKMAN

Major, for Lt. Col.
Commandant.,
A.I.F. Headquarters.

28th. January 1920

4D/6509/7/18/1

TO:
D.D.O.S.
Royal Arsenal
WOOLWICH.

With reference to the issue of Mobilisation Stores for the re-equipment of the A.I.F., I desire to bring to your notice that considerable inconvenience has been caused in connection with shipment and the recognition of ullaged packages by the fact that serial numbers were not in all cases marked upon the packages issued from Didcot.

I might mention that in reply to a letter from the War Office regarding the marking of this equipment, the D.E.O.S. was notified that all packages should be marked "in the manner customary to the Ordnance Department", meaning of course that each package would bear, inter alia, a serial number. It is presumed that the terms of my reply were transmitted to your Department.

This matter has been taken up with the Authorities at Didcot by my representative in person, but it is deemed advisable to officially place the matter on record.

Further inconvenience has been caused in this office by the fact that vouchers from Didcot do not in all cases shew the designation of the consignee, e.g. "S.O.O., Sydney" or "S.O.O., Melbourne".

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

SHR/DEG

4.D/6509/7/18/1

APPENDIX No.8

January 28th.1920

TO: D.D.O.S.
Royal Arsenal
WOOLWICH.

It is noticed that Pattern 1902 saddles (Saddlery Universal) have been included in the consignment of Mobilisation Stores recently taken over from your Department for shipment to the S.O.O., 2nd.M.D., Sydney.

In view of the statement contained in W.O. letter 121/Overseas/6759/Q.M.G.10A) of 26.6.19 that instructions had been given for the issue of the latest pattern articles, I shall be glad if arrangements may be made for the pattern 1912 adjustable saddle to be issued in all cases in future.

I would add that the use of the 1902 pattern saddle had long been discontinued in Australia. The fact that the majority of the horses used by the Citizen Force units are "privately owned" makes this matter one of considerable importance.

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