

AWM4

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

Repatriation & Demobilisation

Item number: 30/2/7

Title: Embarkation Staff Officer, AIF, Le
Havre

June 1919



AWM4-30/2/7

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

ESO. AIF

FOR

June 1919

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

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.

PAGE (1)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havre	1 June		No shipments from this port today.	
	2 June	1500	Embarked "Prince George" Draft 104 composed as follows:- 3 Officers 30 O/Ranks to Godford 3 " 76 " Sutton Veny 6 " 212 " Parkhouse - " 1 " Tidworth - " 1 " Fovant - " 1 " London <hr/> 12 Officers 321 O/Ranks	
	3 June	2135	Phoned Asst Staff Captain, Aust Base Depots and told him that the "Prince Arthur", the ship allotted for shipping Quota 58 and draft tomorrow, was in, and gave him definite instructions to the effect that convoy should leave camp at 1330.	
	4 June	1400	The Staff left Office for Quai d'Escale,	
		1420	Convoy arrived. Three motor lorries had to return to Camp to convoy troops who could not be accommodated on first convoy, to Quai d'Escale.	
		1500	Commenced loading. Delay was caused between time of arrival of troops and that of loading, through troops decks being left dirty and which had to be cleaned.	
		1545	Three lorries arrived at Quai, conveying the balance of men to be shipped.	
		1555	Embarkation completed.	
		1605	Ship cast off. Particulars of embarkation today per "Prince Arthur". Col. Allen, D.S.O., commanding troops. Quota 58 ----- 39 Officers 824 O/Ranks Advance Party Quota 59 ----- 1 " 12 " Draft 105 ----- 1 " 102 " <hr/> 41 Officers 938 O/Ranks	
	5 June		No shipments today. Cross Channel troopship teams withdrawn from duty and reported back to Aust Base Depots, Havre. 1745 M.L.O. rang up to ask if we could arrange to split our shipment for tomorrow so that between two and three hundred went on the "Lydia" and the balance on the "Caesarea". I said I would enquire at the Camp and advise him.	

Handwritten note:
 To Mr. Capt
 per [unclear]

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
Havre	5 June	1750	Rang up Capt Sa ule and arranged that the draft from A.B.D. No.1 could go the "Lydia" and the other lots on the "Caesaera". He asked what time the troops were required at the Quai.		
		1755	Rang up M.L.O. and told him we could load approximately 264 on the "Lydia" and 540 on the "Caeserea". He requested the troops to be at the Quai at 1430 hours. The "Caeserea" was already in and the "Lydia" due at 1300 hours.		
	6 June	1800	Told Capt Saule that the M.L.O. wanted troops to be at the Quai at 1430		
		1000	Aust Base Depots advise the following figures for todays embarkation:- Quota No.59 ----- 16 Officers ----- 208 O/Ranks Draft " 107 ----- 9 " ----- 297 " " " 106 ----- 13 " ----- 251 "		
		1030	<u>38 Officers</u> <u>756 O/Ranks</u>		
			S/Sgt Davies went to Quai to superintend the loading of the Baggage of these two ships. Embarked per "Caeserea". Col.Davies O.C. Troops. Quota No.59 ----- 15 Officers ----- 217 O/Ranks Draft 107 ----- 6 " ----- 267 "		
		1700	<u>21 Officers</u> <u>484 O/Ranks</u>		
			Embarked per "Lydia" Draft No.106 ----- 10 Officers -- 244 O/Ranks " 107 ----- 3 " -- 38 "		
	10 June		<u>13 Officers</u> <u>282 O/Ranks</u>		
			Owing to some of the lorries conveying draft 107 being late, the "Caeserea" had to be sent away and arrangements were made for the balance to come on the "Lydia". Embarked per "Lydia" Draft No.108 -- 29 Officers 552 O/Ranks. Capt Beattie, 12 Army Bde., O.C. 2 Officers -- 162 O/Ranks to A.A.S.C. Parkhouse 5 " 27 " A.A.M.C. Fovant 20 " 359 " No 2 Group Sutton Veny 2 " 1 " A.I.F. Hqrs London " 3 " Embarked not on Rolls		
		<u>29 Officers</u> <u>552 O/Ranks</u>			

*Don't forget
for the Capt.*

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Havre	10 June		<p>Troops were conveyed in lorries. All but two arrived at 1445 hours and these arrived at 1630 and the "Lydia" sailed immediately the men embarked. In addition to the A.I.F. personnel, there were between 2/3000 British troops and the ship was very crowded. It was reported that one of the men had carried a French boy on board in a sack, no trace of him could be found before the ship sailed and the matter was left in the hands of the M.L.O. Australian Base Depots ceased to exist and their place taken by the Australian Staging Camp under command of Major Fussell M.C.</p>	
	11 June	1500	<p>Arranged for passage on Packet tonight for Col. A. J. Butler No. 3 A.G.H. M.L.O. asked what would be our numbers for embarkation on Friday 13th inst. I rang up Capt. Saule who informed me it would be somewhere near 50 all ranks. I advised M.L.O. accordingly.</p>	
	12 June	1030	<p>Garrison Q.M. called and said he had arranged for one office for this Staff next to Major Geddes A.C.L. in Rue de la Bourse and requested that we should move there on Monday 16th inst.</p>	
		1700	<p>Rang up M.L.O. and was informed that our ship for tomorrow would be the "Caeserea".</p>	
		1705	<p>Advised Aust Staging Camp accordingly.</p>	
	13 June	1000	<p>Rang up M.L.O. and was instructed to have troops for "Caeserea" at the Quai d'Escale at 1430.</p>	
		1015	<p>Rang up Aust Staging Camp and requested Draft X1 to be at Quai at 1430, also Baggage and fatigue party to arrive at 1330.</p>	
		1030	<p>Sent warning telegram for today's shipment to Embarkment, Southampton.</p>	
		1330	<p>D.N.T.O.'s office advise "Caeserea" delayed by gale in Channel and will advise this Office later as to approximate time of arrival.</p>	
		1340	<p>Rang up Aust Staging Camp and instructed them accordingly and said I would advise them again when to move troops out.</p>	
		1415	<p>Capt Saule rang up to say that troops had already marched out before the above message was received. I arranged to detain lorries at Quai d'Escale until it was decided whether "Caeserea" was crossing or not.</p>	
		1430	<p>Went down to Quai d'Escale and found troops there. Instructed O.C. Draft to remain at the Quai until some definite information could be obtained from the D.N.T.O. as to whether the "Caeserea" would arrive at Havre today or not.</p>	
		1800	<p>Rang up D.N.T.O.'s office but they have no news of the "Caeserea" at present. evening.</p>	
		1845	<p>M.L.O. Quai d'Escale rang to say that the "Caeserea" left Southampton at 1700 hours this morning. He would let me know in a few minutes whether the troops were to be embarked tonight or not.</p>	
		1930	<p>M.L.O. rang up to say the troops were to be returned to Camp and that the "Caeserea" would be loading tomorrow morning at 0800 hours, and if possible he would like them to go then as the "Lydia"</p>	

From Capt. per staff file

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Havre	13 June	1935	in the afternoon would be over her complement. Rang up Capt Fraser and asked him to find lorries to fetch troops back to Camp and arranged with him to move the troops out tomorrow morning at 0700 hours to embark per "Caeserea" at 0800 hours.	
		2000	Sent telegram to Embarkaustr Southampton advising arrangements.	
		2130	M.L.O. rang up to ask for the troops to be at the Quai d'Escale at 0730 hours as the "Caeserea" would sail at 0800 hours.	
		2145	Rang up Capt Fraser and asked him to arrange accordingly, which he said he would do and ring up in the morning what time the troops move out of Camp.	
	14 June	0730	Embarked "Caeserea" Draft X1 -- 4 Officers 78 O/Ranks consigned as follows:- 1 Officer 34 O/Ranks to Sutton Veny 1 " 5 " Lond on 2 " 27 " Fovant 8 " Parkhouse 4 " Tidworth	
		0800	Ship sailed.	
		0815	Returned to Office and sent the necessary telegrams.	
		2200	Lieut. Hoge P.A. of this Staff departed per Packet on leave, reporting to A.I.F. Hqrs on completion	
	15 June		No shipment today. Preparing for shift of Office. New Office not yet definitely decided upon.	
	16 June		No shipment of troops today. Interviewed A.Q.M.G. Base Hqrs and he has definitely decided that I shift my Office to 31 Rue de la Bourse into rooms adjoining A.D. Docks.	
		1100	Went and inspected my new offices.	
		1400	A fatigue party of Chinamen reported for purpose of cleaning up my Office.	
		1900	Evacuated apt 843 Cpl Chappell of my Staff to 40th Stationary Hospital suffering from pleurisy.	
	17 June	1800	Commenced to remove into my new Offices at 31 Rue de la Bourse.	
		1230	Shift completed. No telephone on to the new Offices yet.	
		1500	Embarked per "Caeserea" Draft x2 composed as follows:- 1 Officer 2 O/Ranks to London 1 " - " Heytesbury 2 " 32 " Sutton Veny 9 " Pa rkhouse <u>4 Officers 43 O/Ranks</u>	

Done by Capt. per Staff Lieut

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Havre	17 June	1530	Returned to Office and sent the necessary telegrams.										
		1700	Advised all concerned of shift of Office.										
	18 June	1500	Embarked per "Lydia" Draft X3. Capt Bird 1st N.T. Commanding, composed as follows:- <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>3 Officers</td> <td>275 O/Ranks</td> <td>to Parkhouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 "</td> <td>"</td> <td>Lond on</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 "</td> <td>"</td> <td>Sutton Veny</td> </tr> </table>	3 Officers	275 O/Ranks	to Parkhouse	1 "	"	Lond on	6 "	"	Sutton Veny	
3 Officers	275 O/Ranks	to Parkhouse											
1 "	"	Lond on											
6 "	"	Sutton Veny											
			<u>3 Officers 282 O/Ranks</u>										
	19 June	1600	Returned to Office and sent the necessary telegrams.										
			No shipment from this port today.										
			Arranged with A.D.Docks for shipments of Y.M.C.A. and Aust. Comforts stores.										
	20 June	1500	Embarked per "Lydia" Draft X4. Capt. Hartley commanding, composed as follows:- <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>1 Officer</td> <td>4 O/Ranks</td> <td>to Lond on</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 "</td> <td>9 "</td> <td>Sutton Veny</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 "</td> <td>"</td> <td>Parkhouse</td> </tr> </table>	1 Officer	4 O/Ranks	to Lond on	1 "	9 "	Sutton Veny	5 "	"	Parkhouse	
1 Officer	4 O/Ranks	to Lond on											
1 "	9 "	Sutton Veny											
5 "	"	Parkhouse											
			<u>2 Officers 18 O/Ranks</u>										
	21 June	1600	Necessary telegrams sent to Southampton and London.										
		2100	Dvr Cullen of this Staff returned from leave in Nice.										
			No shipments from this port today.										
		1100	Arranged passages per Packet for Et Cols Clarke and Nott, also booked berths.										
	22 June		No shipment today.										
	23 June	0930	Went down to "R" Hangar re Safe for Aust Graves Section, Villiers Brettoneaux, ex S/S "Cluther" Found same had been landed.										
		1000	Enquired of D.A.D.R.T. as to means of reconsigning Safe and was instructed to convey it to M.F.O. Gare Maritime for forwarding today before 1500 hours.										
		1030	Rang up Capt Fraser and asked for lorry and labour to convey Safe from "R" Hangar to Gare Maritime Capt Fraser had no lorry available at camp but promised to take the matter up with Transport Officer and request a lorry to report to this Office.										
		1330	Went down to Shed "R" and collected Safe on G.S.Waggon and delivered it to M.F.O. Gare Maritime for Australian Graves Section, Villiers Brettoneaux, Truck No.2171 via Rouen.										
		1530	Sent telegram to Aust Graves Section Villiers Brettoneaux advising dispatch of Safe.										
		1600	Aust Staging Camp advised figures for tomorrows would be 10 Officers 202 O/R on Draft Rolls and 8 Officers 40 O/R on Warrants										

*D. D. & L. Capt
per 9041/1000*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havre	23 June	1610	Advised M.L.O. accordingly, who said our ship for tomorrow would be the "Lydia" Troops would move out in two lots and arrangements made so that the 2nd Convoy would arrive at the Quai d'Escale not later than 1430 hours.	
		1650	Capt Saule said he had received information that 10 Officers 265 O/Ranks from Egypt on leave, might be expected here any day and requested me to notify M.L.O. of same. Rang up M.L.O. and advised the probable arrival of the Egyptian Leave Party. M.L.O. requested that any further information we might receive concerning same, should be given him as soon as possible to enable him to reserve space.	
	24 June	0930	Rang up M.L.O. to know if "Lydia" was crossing from Southampton this morning --- they had no information to the contrary.	
		0945	Rang up D.N.T.O. and was informed that "Lydia" had left Southampton and was expected to arrive at Quai d'Escale about 1400 hours.	
		0950	Unable to raise A.S.C. on phone. Superintendent of Exchange reported that they had been unable	
		to	1015 to get them all this morning.	
		1100	Went down to Quai to superintend Baggage etc for "Lydia".	
		1230	The troops came down to Quai a few lorries at a time and about 150 by train. Eventually all had	
		to	1400 arrived in time for embarkation as soon as "Lydia" was available.	
		1430	Embarked per "Lydia" Draft Xfive. Lt Brown, 58th Battn commanding. 7 Officers 181 O/Ranks to Sutton Veny 1 " 14 " Parkhouse	
			8 Officers 195 O/Ranks	
		1530	Embarkation completed.	
		1600	Ship sailed.	
		1615	Returned to Office and sent necessary telegrams to Southampton E.S.O. and Demobaust, London	
			Advised A.S.C. figures of embarkation.	
			Capt. Saule said there was an N.C.O. at Camp from Hqrs London, who was sent to receive 10 Officers 265 O/R ex Egyptian Forces on leave who left Egypt about 10th June, and Capt Saule requested me to endeavour to ascertain when these would be likely to pass through Havre. I said I would enquire tomorrow morning of the D.A.D.R.T. and advise him if any information was available.	
		1700	Y.M.C.A. Officer (Lt King) enquired when space would be available for about 30 tons for S' Hampton	
25 June	1000		Went to see D.A.D.R.T. re Egyptian Leave Party. No word has been received by him at this moment He promised to get into communication with D.A.D.R.T. Paris and find out if he knew anything about them, and let me know later. D.A.D.R.T. Havre was of the opinion that they would proceed	

*For Mr Capt
per Mr King*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havre	25 June	1015	<p>to U.K. via Boulogne, and not this port.</p> <p>A.D.Docks informed me that a pace would be available for Y.M.C.A. Stores tomorrow, and in all probability it would be a barge loading at "L" Hangar. Definite instructions would be given this afternoon.</p> <p>1200 D.A.D.R.T. rang up to say no information was available about the Egyptian Leave Party at Paris. Paris were making enquiries at Marseilles and would communicate again.</p> <p>1205 Aust Staging Camp rang up to enquire if 4 O/R could be sent to U.K. today -- who had been discharged from detention this morning.</p> <p>1210 M.L.O. advised that these men could go by "Caesarea" this afternoon at 1500 hours.</p> <p>1220 Advised Capt Fraser as above.</p> <p>1400 Went down to Quai and embarked 4 O/Ranks per "Caesarea". 1 O/Rank to A.A.S.C. Parkhouse 3 " Sutton Veny</p> <p>1600 Sent telegrams re above to Embarkaust, Southampton and Demobaust, London.</p>	
	26 June		No shipment this day.	
	27 June	0930	Rang up M.L.O. and advised him that there were 20 O/Ranks for embarkation today. M.L.O. said they could go by the "Caesarea" and should be at the Quai d'Escale at 1430 hours.	
		0945	Rang up Aust Staging Camp and instructed them accordingly.	
		1430	Embarked per "Caesarea" Draft X SIX comprising 1 Officer 2 O/Ranks to Parkhouse 17 " Sutton Veny	
			<u>1 Officer 19 O/Ranks</u>	
		1530	Dispatched wires to Embarkaust, Southampton and Demobaust, London.	
			<p>Received the following telegram from "Adminaust" :- "Embarkaust, Havre, Is Lieut Hoge P.A. now at Depot at Havre aaa If so instruct him remain there pending further instructions. Reply urgent. "Adminaust".</p> <p>Lieut Hoge having left the Depot, our reply was as follows:-</p> <p>"Adminaust, London. Your 73 671 aaa Lieut P.A.Hoge left this Office fifteenth inst on fourteen days leave England</p>	

*Form. Capt
per. [unclear]*

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<p>Havre 27 June 27 June</p>	<p>on completion of leave reporting A.I.F. Headquarters London aaa Advice forwarded under this Office S/50 dated sixteenth inst to Branch 2D Director Movements Quatering London Embarkaust, Havre.</p> <p>Received the following telegram from "Demobaust". No. 73803. "Captain Middleton Embarkaust, Havre. Lieut P.A.Hoge crosses to Havre 1st proximo and will take over duties of Embarkation Staff Officer from you aaa Report personally to 20 Belgrave Square immediately you have handed over. "Demobaust."</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><i>L.A. W. Capt</i> A.I.F., EMBARKATION STAFF OFFICER, A.I.F., <i>per staff</i> HAVRE.</p> </div>	