

AWM4

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

Repatriation & Demobilisation

Item number: 30/1/5 Part 6

Title: Repatriation and Demobilisation, AIF

February 1919



AWM4-30/1/5PART6

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

MP 5

481

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

ORDNANCE & EQUIPMENT BRANCH

REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION DEPT. *AD*

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

F. M. Dwyer

Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

James Cooke

Brig. Genl.

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

362

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Page 1.

481

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.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																								
LONDON	1st.		<p>Replies to questions submitted to Chief of Staff on 15th. January, 1919, were received, and copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Director of Ordnance & Equipment revised and corrected statement of Artillery etc. required, which had already been based on a 6 Division scale for Dismounted Divisions, and 2 Mounted Divisions.</p>	1.																																								
	2nd.		----- N I L -----																																									
	3rd.		<p>The undermentioned Other Ranks reported for duty in Indent Section of this Branch today:-</p> <table data-bbox="987 994 2352 1192"> <tr> <td>245</td> <td>Sergt.</td> <td>D. M. MCRAE,</td> <td>M.M.,</td> <td>2nd.</td> <td>Australian</td> <td>Siege</td> <td>Battery.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>347</td> <td>Sergt.</td> <td>N. W. BAKER,</td> <td>M.M.,</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1081</td> <td>Cpl.</td> <td>F. J. NAPIER</td> <td></td> <td>1st.</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>118</td> <td>Bdr.</td> <td>A. J. MARLAN</td> <td></td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>243</td> <td>Gnr.</td> <td>E. P. MURPHY,</td> <td>M.M.</td> <td>2nd.</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table> <p>Reference the appointment of an Officer for Veterinary Equipment Section, advice was received that no Officer could at present be detailed for this duty, owing to shortage of such Officers in France. 3.D. were notified today that the appointment of a Veterinary Officer is absolutely essential to the work of this Branch.</p> <p>Intimation received that a Master Gunners' Course will commence at Woolwich on the 28th. instant. 3.D. asked to promulgate, in order that applications for this Course may be received.</p> <p>Letter was received from A.I.F. Headquarters, Attached Australian Corps, France, requesting that establishment of Engineer Field Companies be reduced, owing to the number of men returning to Australia, and that pontoon and trestle equipment be</p>	245	Sergt.	D. M. MCRAE,	M.M.,	2nd.	Australian	Siege	Battery.	347	Sergt.	N. W. BAKER,	M.M.,	"	"	"	"	1081	Cpl.	F. J. NAPIER		1st.	"	"	"	118	Bdr.	A. J. MARLAN		"	"	"	"	243	Gnr.	E. P. MURPHY,	M.M.	2nd.	"	"	"	
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363

WAR DIARY

Army Form O. 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.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Page 2.

481

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	3rd. (Ctd.)		<p>returned to Ordnance. In connection with this matter, a memo was written to D.D.G. agreeing to such reduction, but pointing out that the Stores covered by proposed partial reduction must be held and safeguarded by Unit Cadres until complete demobilisation.</p> <p>Arrangements having been made for the release of Major G. S. DOWN, M.C., A.A.O.C. from duty as D.A.D.O.S., A.I.F. Depots in U.K. letter was written to 2.D. requesting that a passage be obtained for him to Egypt, where he will act as A.D.O.S., Demob. Egypt in close liaison with this Branch.</p>	
			<p>Progress Report No. 5. for period 27-1-19 to 3-2-19 was rendered to 3.D. Copy is attached herewith as ----- APPENDIX</p>	2.
	4th.		<p>Director interviewed General Napier at the War Office, discussing the supply of Artillery for Australia's post-bellum Army.</p> <p>This Branch having received instructions to proceed with the re-equipment of a Divisional Employment Coy. letter was written to O.C., Records, asking for information as to the formation and establishment of the same.</p> <p>Director interviewed Chief of Staff, A.I.F. who approved of a letter going on from this Department asking for a definite ruling from War Office as regards delivery of Equipment from Imperial Ordnance direct to Australia.</p>	
			<p>Cable sent to Defence, Melbourne, reference the shipping to Australia of Equipment of 5 Infantry and 2 Mounted Divisions. Copy attached as ----- APPENDIX</p>	3.
	5th.		<p>Director interviewed General White with reference to our application to the War Office for half the 18-pdr. equipment to be of the new type, and the possibility of obtaining ammunition free of charge for practice requirements.</p>	

364

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Page 3.

(Erase heading not required.)

481

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	5th.		Copies were received from D.D.G. of letters written to Air Ministry, Strand, and D.A.A.G., A.F.C., France, reference the demobilisation of 2nd., 3rd., and 4th. Australian Squadrons. Copies are attached as ----- APPENDIX	4.
	(Ctd.)			
	6th.		Owing to the fact that members of the A.I.F. reporting to U.K. for demobilisation are bringing with them their arms and personal equipment, a letter was written to Commandant, Administrative Section, A.I.F. Headquarters, giving the necessary instructions for procedure in the above case. Copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX	5.
			Letter was written to the War Office, reference the transport to Australia of equipment for post-bellum Army, and suggesting that the proposed formation of an Ordnance Depot in France is now inadvisable. A ruling was asked for, as to the shipping of Equipment by Imperial Government direct to Australia from Imperial Issuing Depots. Copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX	6.
			Copy of cable sent to Defence, Melbourne, by General Birdwood, reference the despatch of equipment for 5 Dismounted and 2 Mounted Divisions to Australia, was received, and copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX	7.
			Hastener was sent to 3.D. for the services of an Officer to supervise the M.T. Section of this Branch.	
			Reference Master Gunner's Course at Woolwich, commencing 28th. instant the G.O.C., A.I.F. on 30th. January, requested War Office to allot 2 vacancies to A.I.F. and this Department was asked if Brigadier General W. A. COXEN would be available to consider applications and submit recommendations. File was received in this Office today, notifying that Brigadier General W. A. COXEN would be available as above.	
	7th.		This Branch prepared a draft for General Instruction dealing with the retention by Officers of personal accoutrement and quoting prices at which such accoutrements	

365

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Page 4.

481

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	7th. (Ctd.)		<p>may be retained. Draft was forwarded to 5.D. for consideration from a financial point of view.</p> <p>Letter written to D.D.G. asking if any developments have taken place relative to return of Stores to Imperial Ordnance from Units and Depots in the U.K.</p>	
	8th.		<p>Application was again made for the services of Lieut. W. H. THOMAS, M.C., 3rd. Divisional Engineers.</p> <p>The War Office has recently proposed that Mobilisation Store Tables be used for demanding equipment, instead of indents. In connection with this matter, a Branch Conference was held today, at which it was decided that difficulty might arise in making clear the demands on these forms, and that the War Office be approached with a view to a definite settlement of the question.</p>	
	9th.		<p>----- N I L -----</p>	
	10th.		<p>Progress Report No. 6. for week ending 10.2.19 was rendered to 3.D. Copy is attached herewith as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Letter was written to Assistant Military Secretary, nominating 2 Candidates for Master Gunners' Course. Copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Letter written to A.A.G., A.I.F., Attached Australian Corps, France, advising the appointment of Major J. M. TUCKETT, M.C., M.M., as A.D.O.S., Demob. in France, and notifying that this Officer will issue specific instructions as to the disposal of stores of 3rd. and 7th. Australian D.U.S. and 1st. Australian Field Butchery.</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>9.</p>

366

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Page 5.

481

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	10th. (Ctd.)		<p>The undermentioned N.C.O. reported for duty to this Branch today:- 15524 Cpl. R. D. DILLON - Australian Corps Signal Coy.</p>	
	11th.		<p>Major G. S. DOWN, M.C., D.A.D.O.S., A.I.F. Depots in U.K. reported to this Branch today. This Officer is proceeding to Egypt as A.D.O.S., Demob. Egypt, and representative of this Branch.</p>	
	12th.		<p>Reference the application by this Branch for services of Lieut. W. H. THOMAS, M.C., 3rd. Divisional Engineers, information was received from 3.D. today that the D.D.G. concurs in the Chief Engineers wish that this Officer be retained with his Unit.</p> <p>File was passed to 4.D.1. requesting application for another Officer for this position.</p> <p>Copy was received in this Office of letter by D.G. to S.O. for Aviation re Demobilisation of Australian Flying Corps, and copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Letter was received from Defence Department, Melbourne, quoting existing regulations as to the return from abroad of Horses, Harness, Saddlery, etc.</p> <p>In view of these regulations, a letter was written to Chief of Staff A.I.F. recommending that the War Office be asked to issue only new Harness and Saddlery.</p> <p>Reference Mobilisation Store Tables, and disposal of Stores of A.I.F. Units in Egypt, letter was written to Commandant, Australian Headquarters, Egypt. It was pointed out that when forwarding to this Office Mobilisation Store Tables of Units in Egypt, some had been omitted. A further request was made for remaining Mob. Store Tables, or, if unobtainable, a complete list of the Stores supplied by R.A.O. Depots.</p>	10.

367

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

FEBRUARY, 1919.

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.

Page 6. 481

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	13th.		<p>Letter written to War Office, forwarding authority for this Branch to demand complete equipment of 5 Infantry Divisions, for shipment to Australia. Copy of same is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>5.D. was asked to furnish reply to our letter of 28th. ultimo reference adjustment between A.I.F. and Imperial Government.</p>	11.
	14th.		<p>Information was received on the 30th. ultimo that it was proposed to disband the 1st. Australian Convalescent Depot, Havre, in order to provide accommodation for purposes of demobilisation.</p> <p>File in connection with this matter was passed to 4.D.5. today, with request to ascertain the present position.</p> <p>No. 38034 C.S.M. SMITH, H.M., A.A.O.C. in U.K. reported for duty to this Branch today. This N.C.O. is proceeding to Egypt with Major G. S. DOWN, M.C., A.D.O.S. Demob. Egypt for this Branch.</p> <p>Major CHAPMAN called to ask what had been done with regard to Sound Ranging; A.M.S. was communicated with, and reported that the matter of Major Chapman's transfer to the A.I.F. would be taken up at once.</p> <p>Major C. SPECKMAN, M.C. Officer i/c Indents, visited Woolwich Arsenal to see D.D.O.S. regarding the forms to be used for indenting. On return he reported that Woolwich would not accept Mobilisation Store Tables as Indents, but that the Imperial Authorities had given him a copy of the form they would like used for indenting.</p>	
	15th.		<p>Notification having been received that Lieut. W. H. THOMAS, M.C. would not be available for duty in this Branch, application was made for the services of Lieut. N. COOPER, 4th. Divisional Engineers, to supervise Engineer Section, Indents.</p>	

368

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 7.

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.

481

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	16th.		----- N I L -----	
	17th.		Major G. S. DOWN, M.C., proceeded to Egypt today to assume his appointment as A.D.O.S. Demob. Egypt for Branch 4.D.	
			W.O. SMITH accompanied Major Down, as Staff Clerk.	
			Progress Report No. 7 for week ending 17.2.19. was rendered to 3.D. Copy of same is attached as ----- APPENDIX	12.
			The undermentioned Officer reported for duty to this Branch today, and will supervise Wireless Equipment:-	
			Lieut. R. L. MASHFORD - Australian Corps Signal Coy.	
			The undermentioned Other Rank reported for duty to this Branch today:-	
			10512 Dvr. J. H. HEARLE - 23rd. A.A.S.C.	
	18th.		Report on the handing over of Surgical, Medical and Hospital Equipment of No. 1. A.G.H., Rouen, has been received, and is quoted as follows:-	
			"Ordnance Equipment was handed over to Chief Ordnance Officer, Rouen, and temporary receipts obtained. It was impossible for final receipts to be obtained as all equipment had to be valued and depreciation deducted.	
			Lieut. Davis (Ordnance Officer Returned Stores Depot) told me that it would be at least three months before this could be done and final receipts would then be forwarded to C.O., 1st. A.G.H.	
			Medical & Surgical Equipment was handed over to C.O., No. 3. Base Depot of Medical Stores, and receipts obtained.	
			X Ray material was sent to C.O., No. 1. Base Depot of Medical	

369

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 8. 481

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	18th. (Ctd.)		<p>"Stores under instructions from A.D.M.S. Rouen and receipts have not yet come to hand. Engineers material Hutments etc. were taken over by D.O.R.E., Rouen. Attached hereto lists showing Equipment handed over at Rouen and temporary receipts for same, also list of material transferred to U.K."</p> <p>Reference above report, 4.D.5. prepared a letter to O.C., Mo. 1. A.G.H. requesting information on various points. Copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Letter was written to Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters reference the return of Stores to British Ordnance from Units and Depots in the U.K. A decision regarding this matter was considered necessary, so as to minimise delay in clearing up of Depots. War Office had been approached with a view to the matter being expedited, especially as they had issued instructions prohibiting the taking back of Ordnance Stores from Colonial Depots in U.K. by British Ordnance Authorities, pending further instructions.</p> <p>The A.I.F. considered that if this prohibition were not cancelled, at any rate as far as the A.I.F. is concerned, we should be confronted with a difficult problem, owing to the fact that we have not the necessary accommodation to receive these stores, and some Units are now waiting to return them.</p> <p>The foregoing points were presented to the War Office early in January, and on the 10th. instant, the Chief of Staff, A.I.F., notified that the matter had been before the War Cabinet, and a reply was being sent, as follows:-</p> <p>"War Cabinet has decided that only such stores as British Ordnance require will be taken back, remainder to go to a "Disposals Board", for disposal on behalf of A.I.F. In today's letter to Commandant, A.I.F., this Branch suggested that complete lists of stores with Training Depots and Units</p>	13.

370

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 9. 481

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
LONDON	18th. (Ctd.)		<p>"should be obtained and referred to Imperial Ordnance, for decision as to what they will accept on repayment. It can then be decided which of the remaining stores can be shipped to Australia, and which passed to "Disposals Board".</p> <p>Cable sent to Defence, Melbourne, stating that War Office has been urged to supply only new harness and saddlery as re-equipment for Australia, and asking for information re destination port in Australia, should part-worn saddlery be issued.</p>
	19th.		<p>Copies of correspondence relative to the disposal of Training Stores held by A.I.F. Units in the U.K. were forwarded to Chief of Staff, A.I.F. and to Commandant, Administrative Headquarters.</p> <p>Copy was received of letter from A.M.S. to Australian Corps advising that G.O.C., A.I.F. has approved of the training in England in Ammunition Inspection and Proof work of Lieut. H. B. GIPPS, 55th. Battery, A.F.A., with a view to taking up this class of work in Australia at a later date.</p>
	20th.		<p>Director went to Australia House, and dealt with several matters, one being the indenting for 18-pdr. ammunition which had been ordered by Australia, for use with A.A. guns. Fuzes for this ammunition had been shipped to Australia, but there were no guns to fire it. It was decided to endeavour to absorb it in our 3 years' practice requirements.</p>
	21st.		<p>Report had been received from A.D.O.S., Demob. France, on progress made in handing in Equipment and Stores, in which it was recommended that the Canadian System should be adopted, for reasons stated. Copy of Report is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Letter was written today to A.D.O.S., Demob. France, on the above question. Copy of letter is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p>

14

15

371

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

FEBRUARY, 1919.

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 10.

481

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	22nd.		----- N I L -----	
	23rd.		----- N I L -----	
	24th.		<p>Progress Report No. 8. (17.2.19 to 24.2.19) was rendered to 3.D. and copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p> <p>Director interviewed General DODDS and Chief of Staff at A.I.F. Headquarters, discussing several matters, - results of the Ordnance Course which has just dispersed, and the question of certain A.A. Ammunition which had been shipped to Australia.</p> <p>General NAPIER, - Director of Artillery at the War Office, rang up saying he had received a letter from A.I.F. asking if some of the guns to be supplied for Australia could be of new pattern. He informed Director that possibly 2 Batteries of the new type might be supplied, but nothing could be stated definitely at present.</p>	16
	25th.		GENERAL ROUTINE WORK.	
			<p>Director visited a factory which had been making dial sights for the War Office, and went into the manufacture of special lenses and prisms.</p>	
	26th.		<p>Letter was written to Commandant, A.I.F. asking that the Officers who failed in the Entrance Examination for the Ordnance College be nominated to attend the Course, as the services of the whole seven will eventually be required in Australia.</p>	
	27th.		<p>Reference our letter to Branch 5.D. of 13th. instant, - a further reminder was sent to 5.D. today, requesting an early decision on the subject of adjustment between A.I.F. and Imperial Government.</p>	

372

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

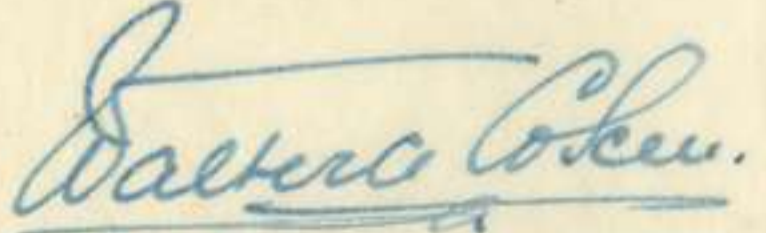
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FEBRUARY, 1919.

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 11. 481

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONDON	27th. (Ctd.)		<p>Col. E. T. LEANE attended a Conference at the War Office at 3 p.m. today, at which general principles as to the demanding and shipping of equipment to the various Dominions were discussed. A copy of notes on this Conference is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p>	17
	28th.		<p>Copy was received of a cable from Defence, Melbourne, containing instructions as to the consignment of equipment for Australia's post-bellum Army to various Ports in Australia. Copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p>	18
			<p>The undermentioned N.C.O. reported for duty to this Branch today:-</p> <p>No. 69 Bdr. G. DUNSTAN - 3rd. Aust. M.T.M. Battery 2nd. Aust. Div.</p> <p>A letter had been received from D.M.T.S., Australian Corps, France, asking for a ruling as to whether a mechanically propelled vehicle is to be regarded as a "Technical Vehicle", e.g. Store Lorries, Electric Light Lorries, Foden Disinfectors.</p> <p>Reply was forwarded today, and copy is attached as ----- APPENDIX</p>	19
			<p>Director interviewed Chief of Staff on several matters, and received instructions to include in indents all ammunition shown on Mobilisation Tables, also One Heavy, One Medium, and two Light Workshops.</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;">  BRIGADIER GENERAL, 4.D. Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F. </p>	
			<p>February 4th. 1919.</p>	

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323

481

WAR DIARY

374

OF
ORDNANCE & EQUIPMENT BRANCH

REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION DEPT.

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Replies to questions submitted to Chief of Staff on 15.1.19. |
| 2. | Weekly Progress Report, No. 5. |
| 3. | Cable to Defence, Melbourne, re shipment of equipment to Australia. |
| 4. | Letters to Air Ministry, Strand, and D.A.A.G., A.F.C., France, re demobilisation of 2nd, 3rd. and 4th. Australian Squadrons. |
| 5. | Letter to Commandant, Headquarters A.I.F., giving instructions re procedure to be followed in reference to men, reporting to U.K. for demobilisation, who bring with them their arms and personal equipment. |
| 6. | Letter to War Office re transport to Australia of equipment for post-bellum Army. |
| 7. | Cable sent to Defence, Melbourne by General Birdwood re despatch of equipment. |
| 8. | Weekly Progress Report, No. 6. |
| 9. | Letter to Assistant Military Secretary, nominating 2 Candidates for Master Gunners' Course. |
| 10. | Letter to S.O., Aviation, by D.G. re demobilisation of Australian Flying Corps. |
| 11. | Letter to War Office, forwarding authority for this Branch to demand complete equipment of 5 Infantry Divisions, for shipment to Australia. |
| 12. | Weekly Progress Report, No. 7. |

481

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WAR DIARY

375

OF
ORDNANCE & EQUIPMENT BRANCH
REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION DEPT.

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 13. | Letter to O.C., No. 1 A.G.H. requesting information on various points connected with the handing in of stores etc. |
| 14. | Report from A.D.O.S., Demob. France, on progress made in handing in Equipment & Stores, and recommending that the Canadian system be adopted. |
| 15. | Letter to A.D.O.S., Demob. France on the above question. |
| 16. | Weekly Progress Report, No. 8. |
| 17. | Notes by Col. E. T. Leane on Conference held at War Office on 27.2.19. |
| 18. | Cable from Defence, Melbourne, containing instructions as to consignment of equipment to various Ports. |
| 19. | Letter to D.M.T.S., Australian Corps, France, re Technical Vehicles. |
-

QUESTIONS TO BE DECIDED.ARTILLERY.

376

FIELD ARTILLERY.

Q.

A.

1. The War Office are reorganising on a basis of 3 Brigades of 3-6-gun 18-pdr. batteries and 1 4.5" How. Battery per Bde. Cutting out all Army F.A. Brigades
Is it decided to adopt this organisation ?

Yes. - 54 - 18 Prs.
18 - 4.5 How.

72 - TOTAL

2. The question of the organisation of the D.A.C. for these Brigades of Divisional Artillery has not been settled by the War Office.

The questions to be considered are:-

- (a) Should we return to a B.A.C. organisation for each Brigade ?

or

D.A.C. for 72 guns.

- (b) Should we increase the strength of the D.A.C. as it exists ?

If the S.A.A. Section of the D.A.C. was abolished and in its place an Artillery Ammunition Section organised, it would appear to meet the case. But, the question of whether the S.A.A. Section would have to be organised under Supply for Infantry requirements requires consideration.

Carry on as at present.

From talking with those at the War Office I am inclined to think that the organisation of B.A.Cs. will be adopted.

3. Has it been decided to re-equip with articles that can be produced in Australia, such as harness, saddlery etc.?

We will take what we have paid for, i.e., equipment of 5 Divisions.

4. The question of type of 18-pr. is also one of great importance. If we re-equip with the air-recuperator buffer type it will mean at a later date re-arming with the new pattern 18-pdr. At present the War Office say that there are not sufficient of these guns to meet our requirements.

Had we better delay equipment say for Reserve Divisions so as to get the more modern weapon later on ?

Take half requirements in present guns and try to arrange for remaining half to be latest pattern.

5. TRENCH MORTARS.

Is it decided to equip with medium Trench Mortars. If so, will it be 2 Batteries of 6 guns each per Division ?

Yes.

6. HORSE ARTILLERY.

Is 13-pr. equipment to be provided for Mounted Divisions ? If so, on what organisation ?

Artillery organisation for Mounted Division should be:-

No definite organisation appears to be adopted, varying according to the theatre of war.

1 Bde. Headquarters.
3 Batteries of 18-pr.guns (6)
1 Bde. Ammunition Column.

I recommend organisation of 3 Batteries of 4 guns each to each Mounted Division.

A.

Q.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY.

7. Is it intended to take to Australia any anti-aircraft equipment ?

If so, will it be for use -

- (a) With the Corps, or
(b) For defence of localities, or
(c) For both ?

Omit for present

8. Will search-lights be required in conjunction with the above ?

Omit for present.

HEAVY ARTILLERY.

9. To what extent is it intended to equip with Heavy Artillery ?
(A proposal has been submitted)
(attached.)

Omit for present.

10. Heavy Trench Mortars (Corps). Is it intended to take any Heavies back to Australia ?

No.

11. To what extent will Tractors and M.T. for Stores and Ammunition Supply be required ?

Omit for present.

AMMUNITION.

12. Upon what scale is it proposed to equip with ammunition, on the basis of:-

- (a) Requirements for 3 months war, or
(b) Peace practice requirements ?

Peace practice requirements only on a 3 years basis at present. We should try to get this free as stocks are large.

In considering this question the keeping qualities of the ammunition as regards cartridges must be taken into consideration. The propellant manufactured under war conditions will undoubtedly not have the keeping qualities of pre-war manufactured cordite.

13. The question of amount of storage accommodation in Australia will also regulate the rate at which the ammunition is supplied.

SOUND RANGING & SCREEN CALIBRATION.

14. Is it proposed to purchase sets of the above instruments ?

The Screen Calibration set should prove of value for proof work in connection with the Arsenal work.

Not at present.UPKEEP OF EQUIPMENT AND SPARES.

15. On what scale should this question be considered -

- (a) Upkeep for war requirements, or
(b) Upkeep for peace requirements ?

Upkeep for peace requirements.

16. Where should stores be shipped to ?

G.O.C., A.I.F. is asking Defence

481

4.D. PROGRESS REPORT 27.1.19 - 3.2.19.

NO. 5.

General Routine Work, carried out in Head Office of Branch and Sections, except 4.D.1. which owing to its ejection from premises, 38 Eaton Place, and others not yet being provided, is not at present functioning.

4.D.5. has been engaged in co-operation with D.M.S., A.I.F. in making arrangements regarding the disposal of Ordnance and other Stores held by A.A.M.C. Units in the U.K., in submitting general recommendations for the disposal of Stores, Ordnance and technical, held by A.A.M.C. Units in France. Similar plans have been drawn up regarding Dental Equipment.

4.D.4. has been in touch with Directorate of Aircraft Equipment as to possibilities of supply and delivery of various types of machines and methods of conveyance of same to boatside.

In addition to above points, General Office has concentrated on drafting proposals covering return of Stores of all Units, has made further recommendations showing in detail points of adjustment between Imperial Government and A.I.F. also in liaison with 5.D. re financial settlements re past transactions with Imperial Government, both as to credits and debits.

(Sgd.) Walter A. Coxen.

BRIGADIER GENERAL, 4.D.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

3.2.19.

COPY OF CABLE SENT TO DEFENCE MELBOURNE.

February 4th. 1919.

Reference my 43171 and further to my 45121 of 27th.

January AAA Am arranging ship new equipment of 5 Infantry and 2 Mounted Divisions for which Australia has paid AAA This gives you 306 Field guns, 90 Howitzers, 60 medium mortars, 120 Stokes Mortars AAA Also 64 Vickers and 384 Lewis guns per Infantry Division, 60 Vickers and 180 Hotchkiss guns with mounted divisions AAA Will you inform ports to which equipment should be consigned and rate you are prepared to receive so that I can instruct Demobaust who responsible shipping AAA Following questions arise connection above AAA -

- (1) What artillery ammunition do you require I recommend three years peace practice requirements but not reserves war purposes owing keeping qualities AAA
- (2) I also recommend you obtain upkeep equipment and spares for peace requirements and not on basis of maintenance for first six months war AAA
- (3) Suggest questions regarding heavy artillery referred in telegram to High Commissioner 17th. December and equipment required over and above 5 Divisions and 2 Mounted Divisions be held over for reference Mr. Pearce AAA
- (4) In foregoing circumstances do you require reply your W 466 14th. January to High Commissioner.

(Signed) GENERAL BIRDWOOD.

481

CHF/WE

38

D/4308/19/52.

4th. February 1919.

D.A.A.G., A.F.C.

Attd. Headquarters R.A.F. in the Field,

F r a n c e .

With reference to letter No.4308/19/52 of 4th. instant addressed to the Air Ministry, requesting that instructions be issued for the demobilisation of 2nd. 3rd. and 4th. Australian Squadrons (copy of which is attached for your information), would you kindly note the following points:-

1. Lieut. Col. Whitham, C.M.G., D.S.O., is in charge of the Australian Liaison Section, G.H.Q., and you should establish touch with him forthwith, and obtain all information regarding procedure to be followed in the transfer of the personnel of the Australian Squadrons to England.
2. The high proportion of Officers to men in Flying Corps Squadrons makes it impossible, with the transport at the disposal of the A.I.F. to return Squadrons to Australia complete, with all Officers and other ranks. The following Officers (at least) will proceed with each Squadron:-

Squadron Commander.
 1 Flight Commander.
 Recording Officer.
 3 other Officers.

Would you please arrange to forward to Staff Officer, Aviation, in respect of each Squadron, the names of the Officers selected.

3. Kindly arrange to keep the Staff Officer, Aviation, fully advised as to the progress of demobilisation in respect of each Squadron, and to ensure that the earliest advice is given to Director General, Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation, and Demobaust Liaison, G.H.Q., as to the date on which the personnel of each Squadron is available for transfer to England.
4. No movements of personnel into Aust. Base Depot, Havre, or to depots in United Kingdom, may take place until accommodation is available.

(signed) C. H. FOOTT, B.G.

Lieut.General.
 Director General.
 Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

Copy to

Staff Officer for Aviation, London.

Demobaust, Liaison, QMG, GHQ, France.

.....

4th. February, 1919.

The Secretary,
Air Ministry,
Strand, W.C.2.

With reference to your letters No. B4272 (O.l.c.) dated 22nd. and 30th. ultimo, I desire to inform you it is proposed to proceed with the demobilisation of 2nd. 3rd. and 4th. Australian Squadrons, and I would request that the necessary instructions to effect this may be issued to Headquarters R.A.F. in the Field. The actual demobilisation cannot take place until such time as there is sufficient accommodation available in England.

I should be glad if the following procedure could be adopted:-

1. Equipment.

- (a) Machines, transport, stores, etc. of all Squadrons should be handed in to R.A.F. Depots, or otherwise disposed of under instructions from Headquarters R.A.F. Issue and Receipt Vouchers (F.S. Form 2) for all such stores, etc. should be completed and duplicate copies retained by each Squadron.
- (b) Non-fulfillable indents should be prepared by each Squadron for all stores etc. of which they are deficient on War Establishments. These of course would not be completed by depots, but with the vouchers referred to in (1) (a) above, will constitute a complete record of the transaction.

2. Personnel.

- (a) Demobilisation Liaison Officer A.I.F. attached G.H.Q. (Telegraphic address: Demobaust Liaison G.H.Q.) has been advised that 2nd. 3rd. and 4th. Squadrons A.F.C. are to be demobilised and arrangements will be made with him by this Department for the movement of personnel to England, and all equipment, and machines, have been handed over to R.A.F. in the Field, and when accommodation is available.
- (b) Wires should be sent to Demobaust London (repeating Q.M.G. G.H.Q. for Demobaust, Liaison) stating when the personnel of squadrons will be ready to move. Full particulars as to the number of Officers and other ranks of each squadron should be given.
- (c) Any A.F.C. personnel attached for duty with other arms or units, e.g. Wireless Operators, should be withdrawn forthwith, and proceed to England with one of the Australian Squadrons.

3. Squadron Records.

Squadron Records should be sent to England with their respective units, excepting squadron ledgers, and issue and receipt vouchers which should be carefully packed and sent in charge of a responsible N.C.O. to A.I.F. Headquarters, 130,

(Air Ministry, Continued.)

382

Horseferry Road, London, S.W.

Would you kindly advise me if you concur in the above, and send me a copy of any instructions issued to Headquarters R.A.F., in regard to the demobilisation of the Australian squadrons in France.

It is to be clearly understood that, although stores, equipment etc. may be handed in, no movement of personnel is to take place, either to Australian Base Depot, Havre, or to depots in United Kingdom, until accommodation is available, when necessary instructions will be issued by this office.

(Sgd.) C. H. FOOTT, B.G.
for Lieut. General
Director General.
Repatriation and Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

Copies to:-

H.Q., R.A.F. in the Field, B.E.F. FRANCE.
Staff Officer for Aviation A.I.F., H.Q. London.
D.A.A.G., A.F.C. att. R.A.F. H.Q., B.E.F. France.
Demobaust, Liaison G.H.Q., B.E.F., France.
Aust. Base Depot, Havre.
H.Q., A.I.F. Depots in U.K. Tidworth.
Chief of Staff, A.I.F.

C.R. 6509/1/52.³⁸³

6th. February, 1919.

The Commandant,
Administrative Section,
A.I.F. Headquarters.

Equipment being taken to U.K. by members
of the A.I.F. reporting for demobilisation.

It has been ascertained that members of the A.I.F. reporting to England are bringing with them their arms and personal equipment.

It must be clearly understood that (with the exception of arms, accoutrements, Binoculars and Compasses on issue to Officers) such material arriving in this country from overseas is the property of the Imperial Government and must be handed over to the latter without charge as an offset against the equipment of Units of the Australian post-bellum Army which is to be issued free to us. When such stores are being returned to British Authorities, full explanation should be given as to why they are returned.

Arrangements are now in hand for the withdrawal of arms, accoutrements and personal equipment (less Mess Tins) before members of the A.I.F. leave France, but until these arrangements are complete such stores will continue to arrive in this country. It will therefore be necessary for the Australian Ordnance Department in U.K. acting in conjunction with Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U.K. to have these Stores collected and handed over to British Ordnance Depots.

It is very desirable that we should be in a position to state by Units the quantities of such arms and equipment brought to U.K. and collected here, and it is requested that investigation be made as to whether such information can be compiled. Statements covering Stores so collected and returned to Imperial Ordnance are to be furnished to this Department.

(signed) W.A. COXEN,

Brigadier General,
4.D.

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

481

C O P Y.

File No. : 4309/9/2.

384

6th February, 1919.

Secretary,
War Office,
WHITEHALL, LONDON S.W.

Various communications have passed ~~xxxxxx~~ between the Repatriation and Demobilisation and the Finance branches of this Headquarters and the War Office on the subject of the equipment which should be sent to Australia upon repatriation of the troops and the incidence of the cost thereof. In order that the principles involved shall be clear and well defined I have the honour to ask if you will kindly signify your concurrence or otherwise in the following :

- (I) The Commonwealth Government will be entitled to receive arms, armament and equipment of the quantities and to the values for which she is financially liable to the Home Government.
- (II) That such arms, armament and equipment as are included in the provisions of par.(I) shall be issued from new stocks and be shipped in bulk from England upon the indent of and at the rate applied for by the Repatriation and Demobilisation Department of this Headquarters.
- (III) That the term 'new stocks' shall be held to include arms, armament and equipment of the latest pattern.
- (IV) That arms, armament and equipment now in possession of Australian units for the cost of which the Australian Government is liable shall be handed in in situ in such manner as may be arranged locally upon the withdrawal of troops for repatriation ; and that deficiencies therein shall be recorded; and that such deficiencies shall be covered by the per capita charge for maintenance to which the Australian Government has already agreed.
- (V) That any upkeep equipment or spares indented for by the Repatriation and Demobilisation Department at the request of the Australian Government shall be a separate charge against the Commonwealth for which distinct accounts shall be kept.
- (VI) That if the Australian Government require the arms, armament and equipment for a sixth division - the establishment of the Australian Forces being 6 infantry and 2 mounted divisions - such arms, armament and equipment shall be charged for separately.
- (VII) Similarly all equipment for which indents may be submitted for extra divisional units other than those the equipment/has already been charged against the Australian Government shall be separately applied and charged for.

COPY.Page 2.

The question will naturally arise as to the stocks of ammunition required by Australia. In this connection I have recommended to the Australian Government that they should obtain the artillery peace practice requirements for 3 years. No recommendation has yet been made as to similar stocks of S.A.A. Grenades, etc. In view, however, of the large stocks of artillery and small arms ammunition now in possession of the Home Government I am to enquire if whether it is the policy to make free issues of such to Dominions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Sgd) W.R. BIRDWOOD. General.
Commanding Australian Imperial Force.

COPY OF CABLE SENT TO DEFENCE, MELBOURNE.
-----No. 46602.4.2.19.C.R. File No. 4301/14/20.

TO:- DEFENCE, MELBOURNE.

Reference my 43171 and further to my 45121 of 27th.

January aaa Am arranging ship new equipment of 5 Infantry and 2 Mounted Divisions for which Australia has paid aaa This gives you 306 Field Guns, 90 Howitzers, 60 Medium Mortars, 120 Stokes Mortars aaa Also 64 Vickers and 384 Lewis guns per Infantry Division, 60 Vickers and 180 Hotchkiss guns with mounted Divisions aaa Will you inform ports to which equipment should be consigned and rate you are prepared to receive so that I can instruct Demobaust who responsible shipping aaa Following questions arise connection above aaa

- (1) What artillery ammunition do you require; I recommend three years peace practice requirements but not reserves war purposes owing keeping qualities aaa
- (2) I also recommend upkeep equipment and spares for peace requirements and not on basis of maintenance for first six months war aaa
- (3) Suggest questions regarding heavy artillery referred in telegram to High Commissioner 17th. December, and equipment required over and above 5 Divisions and 2 Mounted Divisions be held over for reference Mr. Pearce aaa
- (4) In foregoing circumstances do you require reply your W.466 14th. January to High Commissioner.

(Signed) GENERAL BIRDWOOD.

4.D. PROGRESS REPORT, 3.2.19 - 10.2.19. NO. 6.

Normal Routine work carried out in Branch during the week.

The following general questions have engaged the attention of the Branch during the week. Report re Lt. Rainbird's visit to A.G.B.D. Havre, showing basis of accounting for Arms and Personal Equipment (by Units) withdrawn from members of the A.I.F. returning to U.K. for repatriation; correspondence with A.D.O.S., U.K., and H.Q., A.I.F. Depots in U.K. re collection and return to Imperial Ordnance here of such Arms and Equipment; whilst pending provision of accommodation at Havre, such stores are being taken to U.K. Lieut. Rainbird also arranged with A.G.B.D. that pending the introduction of Q.1. Form into France, statements showing deficiencies in Clothing and Necessaries as per scale laid down in G.I. will be forwarded to England. Also arranged re bulk supplies from Imperial stocks to A.G.B.D. Havre, to make up deficiencies of men reporting from Unit.

Arrangements re the appointment of an A.D.O.S., Demob. France, as per G.I. No. 14.

Provision of certain information re Q.1. and Personal Card "B" for members of the A.I.F.

Negotiations with War Office re procedure to be followed in despatch of Equipment to Australia. (File No. 7041/10/6.)

Arrangements re appointment of Staff Officer 4.D. (Egypt.)

Procedure of dealing with stores consequent on proposed reduction of establishment of Engineer Field Coys.

Alterations of G.I. to allow of Mess Tins to be taken to U.K. and establishment of machinery to secure their collection and return to Imperial Government. (D.G. says however, G.I. is to stand.)

Pursuit of consignment of Sea Kit Bags forwarded to A.G.B.D., Havre.

Negotiations with War Office re procedure to be followed in regard to submission of indents for re-equipment.

Instructions issued to A.A.M.C. Units and Depots regarding disposal of purely Medical and Surgical Equipment.

(Sgd.) Walter A. COXEN,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, 4.D.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

10.2.19.

10th. February, 1919.

Asst. Military Secretary,
A.I.F. Headquarters,
130, Horseferry Road, S.W.1.

Selection of Master Gunner's Course Candidates.

Reference attached correspondence.

I have perused the qualifications of applicants for Master Gunner's Course and would select

C.S.M. DOWNEY, H.A.	Lieut. A.I.F.
Sgt. BRITNELL, J.B.	Lieut. A.I.F.

as the two most capable of passing this course. I should like, however, to say that I presume these Officers of the A.I.F. would have to at once revert to their C.M.F. rank and pay, as as Officers they would not be able to go through a Master Gunner's Course which would be constituted wholly of Non-commissioned Officers.

Also, I had hopes that something would be arranged in the near future so that Non-commissioned Officers of the R.A.A. who had obtained commissions on service would be selected and given positions in the C.M.F. on their return to Australia which would enable them to hold commissioned rank. If such is done - which I hope will be the case - these N.C.Os., if sent to the Course, would not be benefited by the Course as it would be only qualifying them for Warrant Officer's rank. If, however, there is a possibility of such an arrangement being made, than I should recommend that Sgt. NICHOLLS be sent in place of C.S.M. DOWNEY and Sgt. BRITNELL.

I am very surprised to find that there was only one application from Non-commissioned officers of the 36th. H.A.Group, and if time permits I feel that the O.C. of that Brigade should be asked to give more thorough attention to the matter in the hopes of inducing men to volunteer for a course which will be of advantage to them in regard to promotion in the future.

BRIGADIER GENERAL.
4.D.

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

54, Victoria Street,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

389

MEMO. TO -

11. 2. 19.

Major R. H. Browning, M.C.,
Staff Officer for Aviation,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,
130, Horseferry Road, S.W.1.

DEMOBILISATION OF AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.

The following detailed staff work will be necessary in order to ensure that everything connected with the demobilisation of this Corps proceeds smoothly.

This work is to be supervised by Major Browning, Staff Officer for Aviation, who will place himself in close liaison with all the Branches of this Department concerned in all questions of the movement, quartering, pay, medical inspection, administration, provision of ships and embarkation of the members of this Corps. In doing this he will not necessarily in all cases perform the requisite staff work involved, but I will hold him responsible to see that it is so performed in due course and in successive stages by all those concerned, and also to ensure that all executive Officers are kept closely advised as to the situation from day to day, and as to all requirements which will ensure a smooth demobilisation, with as little discomfort to and complaint from the men as possible.

The demobilisation of the No.1 Australian Flying Squadron in Egypt has been separately arranged for, and this Unit is standing by waiting for a ship from England in which the necessary space will be left to receive the members of this Unit on it's arrival at Port Said or Suez.- Major Browning will supervise this arrangement and will ensure that STRALIS is informed in ample time of the departure of the vessel so selected.

The 3 Squadrons in FRANCE will be moved to an embarkation port in FRANCE under the supervision of Lt.-Col. Whitham, the DEMOBAUST Liaison at G.H.Q. - Major Browning will place himself in communication with Lt.-Col. Whitham with regard to all details of these movements.- The Commandant, Australian Base Depot, HAVRE (If that is the Port of Embarkation chosen) must be kept informed as to the date from which these Units will reach him, so that he may reserve the necessary accommodation. - These Units will conform as far as possible to the general demobilisation procedure as regards handing in of personal equipment in FRANCE, and the like.

The movement of these Units from FRANCE across Channel to English Depots must then be arranged.

A.I.F. Depots in U.K. (through Branch 2.D.) must be asked in ample time to reserve accommodation in a Camp or Camps for the special reception of the personnel of the Corps from FRANCE. The approximate date when this personnel can arrive in ENGLAND should be fixed as nearly as practicable well in advance, as the demand upon space in the Depots is great and such space cannot be held in reserve for a long period beforehand.

On arrival in the assigned Depots, this personnel should go through the ordinary routine of having their papers put in order and being given the usual 14 days pre-embarkation leave.

At this stage, any interchange which it is desired to make as between the members of the A.F.C. in FRANCE of late enlistment, and the members of the Wing of earlier enlistment can now be made, so as to bring all men belonging to the Wing, for whom it is desired to provide accelerated repatriation, into Depot Camps to be prepared for embarkation.

Finally, a ship suitable to carry the whole of the A.F.C. from FRANCE, - as far as possible in one contingent - should be selected and arrangements made with A.I.F. Depots in U.K. to put all this personnel on the Boat-Rolls for that particular ship. - The remaining accommodation of that ship, - over and above that required for the A.F.C. personnel - will be filled with early repatriates or other casuals.

Special attention will have to be given to the fact that, while the A.F.C. contains a much higher proportion of Officers than any other Units of the A.I.F., the percentage of accommodation on ordinary troopships for Officers is very limited. - In consequence of this, a high proportion of the Officers of the A.F.C. will have to be treated as early repatriates, and be given berths individually on other troopships on which there may be vacancies. This should be arranged between Branch 2.D. and the U.K. Depots.

In order to bring about the above movements smoothly, it will first of all be necessary to fix an approximate date for embarkation and select a suitable ship for the purpose, and then work backwards from such date in order to fix the approximate dates of the various moves from the Field to England.

DEMOBILISATION OF THE WING.

As Flying Training will not cease until the 15th March, the embarkation of personnel in England must be fixed for later dates than for the personnel still in France. - Similar procedures must be worked out including the selection of approximate dates for final embarkation in one or more ships, the allocation of Camps for quartering the men while waiting for embarkation and the movement of the personnel to such camps. - It remains to be decided whether the English personnel can be taken to the ship's side from their present training camps, or should be first transferred to Salisbury Plains. In this connection it has to be remembered that the Staff on Salisbury Plain has acquired all the necessary experience in handling the concluding demobilisation procedures.

RETURN OF EQUIPMENT.

Detailed instructions will have to be issued by or through Major Browning, detailing precisely what each Unit and each responsible Commander has to do in regard to the return of equipment and the preparation of the necessary vouchers, discharges and documents, - acting in all these matters in close liaison with Branch 4.D.

GENERALLY.

All the provisions of General Instructions regarding non-military employment, discharges in U.K. or elsewhere, and similar privileges, apply in full force to the A.F.C. and Major Browning will closely supervise the application of all these requirements to the A.F.C. personnel, making full use of the staff of the Branches concerned, and ensuring that all applications are submitted through the proper channel and on the proper form.

Major Browning will keep in close personal touch with the Director General, reporting to him from time to time the details of

481

391

APPENDIX 10
Page 3.

the plans made, and the progress of their execution.

(signed) JOHN MONASH, Lieut-General.
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Repatriation and Demobilisation Department, A.I.F.

4D/4309/9/11.

13th. February, 1919.

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

Re Equipment for shipment to Australia.

Attached hereto please find authority for this Branch to take steps to demand, for shipment to Australia, the complete equipment of 5 Infantry Divisions, each of the composition detailed.

As soon as advice is received from Australia of the distribution of the shipping for these Units, between Military Districts, steps will be taken to place with Royal Army Ordnance Department the necessary Indents. .

At present it is not known what the composition of the Mounted Divisions will be, nor the Units to be comprised under the head of Corps Troops, but it is hoped to be able to further advise you at an early date with reference to these.

(Sgd.) Walter A. Coxen.

BRIGADIER GENERAL, 4.D.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

ENCLOSURE:-
Copy letters.

4.D. PROGRESS REPORT 10.2.19 - 17.2.19.No.7.

481

General Routine work was carried out in the Branch during the week.

4.D.1. has now been accommodated at 10, Lowndes Street, and is resuming its functions.

General questions of importance dealt with were:-

Disposal of Stores on charge to Training Units of the A.I.F. in Egypt, and basis of adjustment with Imperial Government respecting same; detailed instructions issued to Staff Officer 4.D. Egypt; adjustment re arms and accoutrements taken from Deceased Officers' Kits and handed over to Imperial Ordnance by 3rd Echelon; whether new or part-worn Harness or Saddlery was to be shipped to Australia (new only strongly recommended).

Action also taken regarding appointment of an A.D.O.S., (Demob.) in U.K.

Further arrangements were entered into with Imperial Ordnance Depots relative to procedure to be adopted in submission of Indents for re-equipment of Australian Units.

(signed) W.A. COXEN,

BRIGADIER-GENERAL, 4.D.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

4.D.5.

481

394

14th. February, 1919.

FROM:- D.M.S., A.I.F.

TO:- O.C.,
 No. 1. A.G.H.,
 SUTTON VENY.
 (Forward through A.D.M.S Depots U.K.)

Handing over of No. 1. Australian General Hospital, Rouen,
 (France) to British Authorities.

Reference 4M 1513/28/4 - your 158/18 of the 1st.
 instant (with Receipts attached.)

Information is requested on the undermentioned points,
 please.

Medical & Surgical Equipment and Stores.

1. Receipts for X-Ray Equipment were not available from O.C.
 No. 1. Base Depot Medical Stores, Boulogne on 25th. ultimo. Are
 these Receipts now available, please?

2. It is noted that portion of the X-Ray Equipment of No.
 1. A.G.H. has been transferred from Rouen to Sutton Veny.(U.K.)
 The portion referred to included -

Oil Engine (Lister)
 Dynamo
 Condenser Tank
 Base (2 Iron Rails)
 "Dreadnought" Brake
 Morton Rectifier
 Tube Holder (U.S.)
 Camera, Thornton-Pickard
 Lens Collinear

Would you please state from whom this portion of the X-Ray
 Equipment was received.

3. It is noted that some eleven cases of "Dispensary
 Items" were transferred to the United Kingdom. These Stores
 include -

Gas & Oxygen Apparatus
 Scales and Weights
 Stoves, Primus.
 Surgical Instruments.
 Sterilizer.
 Medicine Chests (2)
 Dispensers Chest,
 and other Stores.

Please state the reason that these Stores were not handed in at
 the nearest Base Depot Medical Stores. (France)

4. It is noted that thirty-one cases of "Pathological
 Laboratory Items" were also transferred. Please explain
 the transfer of this Outfit.

481

5. "General" Equipment -

consisting of Operating Table, Stools, Steam Sterilizer and Iron Safes, 2, (Ordnance Stores) was also transferred. Please state why this Equipment was not handed over to British Depots and receipts obtained.

The Instruction from D.M.S., A.I.F., (Telegram M34368 of 29.11.18) to O.C., No. 1. A.G.H. was -

"Hand over all Ordnance Stores and Equipment to Ordnance Depot and all Medical Stores and Equipment to Base Depot Medical Stores under Local Instructions and obtain receipts"

It would seem that this Instruction was not adhered to.

(Sgd.) R. J. Milliard, Colonel.
A/D.M.S., A.I.F.

481

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters.
February 15th. 1919.

Director, Branch 4.D.,
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept.

(1) 2/Lt. Sawyer arrived at Demobilisation Depot, Calais, on 11th. and I saw him on the morning of the 12th. when he was busy assisting the Officers of the 3rd. Army A.F.A. Brigade who had arrived that day, in handing over their equipment in accordance with G.R.O. 6082 and Corps Instructions No. 16. of 29.1.19. (Copy attached). All Batteries were not complying with para. 9. of these instructions, some of them only having one copy of the list of stores they were returning and of course were therefore delayed, as they had to sit down and write out the additional copies required.

(2) I went round the Depot, which seemed very inadequately staffed, there being only a few N.C.Os. and men of the R.A.O.C. and German prisoners.

The system of receiving stores is as follows:- The train is run in beside a long open shed, and unloaded. A receipt is given for so many bales, packages etc., "said to contain the items enumerated on attached list of sheets", a detailed receipt only being given for the items mentioned in para. 9. of G.R.O. 6082. The stores are then taken to various hangars according to section and are left to be checked and taken on charge later. They will not be taken on charge as being received from the unit which returns them.

(3) I then saw the O.O. Demobilisation Depot and asked him if I could do anything at my end to help, and he suggested one or two little things, such as stripping vehicles of equipment, despatching guns on separate trucks to other vehicles (as they are received direct at the docks) and for the Divisions to wire him despatch of trains. But the thing he wanted most was that Units should not return direct to him, but to D.A.D.O.S., who would consign to him in bulk and in sections, on similar lines to the Canadians, a copy of whose demobilisation system is attached. Personally, I am strongly in favour of this method, for the following reasons:-

- a. D.A.D.O.S. will be able to give detailed receipts and keep a much closer check on Units who, when they learn no check is taken at the Base, may be inclined to say their bales and packages contain more than they really do.
- b. Trains for the despatch of stores are sometimes cancelled at the last moment and possibly some Unit which is a distance from Railhead may be on its way in with stores, only to find on arrival that the train is cancelled or delayed for a day or two. This happened today to half of the 6th. A.F.A. Brigade who came about 15 Kilometres to Railhead yesterday, to find today that the train had been cancelled as Calais could not accept.
- c. The stores could be returned to a depot on the spot much quicker than they can be despatched to Base under G.R.O 6082.

- d. There would be no danger of the demobilisation of personnel being delayed, or the holding up in this country of cadres, owing to the equipment not having been returned.
- e. It would ensure that every train is loaded to its full capacity.
- f. If a suitable store and vehicle park can be obtained close to demobilisation railheads, it would not matter if the trains were late or when they ^{always} arrived, as the stores and men for handling them would be on the spot.

(4) The chief difficulty at present is the difference between G.R.O. 6082 and Demobilisation General Instruction No. 14. General Instruction No. 11. para. 47, further complicates matters if G.R.O. 6082 is followed.

(5) When G.R.O. 6082 was published, Corps held a Conference which was attended by A.A. & Q.M.Gs., D.A.Ds.O.S., Is.O.M. and Mr. WATT, but the matters decided on were a washout as the next day a wire was received from Q.M.G. saying a train would be available every day except Fridays, for despatch of equipment. Divisions were then verbally, practically given a free hand as to which Units they would demobilise, and yesterday I could obtain no definite information as to which Units had already been demobilised.

(6) Today I held a Conference of D.A.Ds.O.S. (except 3rd.) and fully discussed G.R.O. 6082 and General Instruction No.14. Although if the latter is adopted on lines similar to the Canadians, it will mean more work and responsibility, the general opinion was that in the end it would be more satisfactory and lead to a speedier demobilisation.

(7) The following Units have been demobilised up to the present:-

- 3rd. (Army) Brigade, A.F.A.
- 4th. Battery, A.F.A.
- 5th. " "
- 1st. Field Company, A.E.
- 1 Section of each Battery of 4th. Aust.Div.Artillery.
- Cable Section, 4th. Aust. Div. Signal Company.
- Corps Armourers Workshop.
- Nos. 1 & 2 Aust. Ordnance Ammunition Units.
- "C" Sections of all Field Ambulances.

(8) There is a proposal now, to further reduce Field Ambulances by one Section, but I am endeavouring to avoid this and do away with one Field Ambulance in each Division instead.

(9) Last night I saw General MacLAGAN (at present commanding the Corps), and asked, if instead of the 2nd., 3rd., and 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery returning a Section from each Battery, a complete Battery from each Brigade could be demobilised. He agreed, but General BLAMEY says the matter has gone too far. I also understand the Artillery are against returning a complete Battery.

(10) Re para. 8. of General Instructions No. 14. it is not clear who is the head of Medical and Flying Corps for the purpose of this order in France.

(11) Lt.Col. Williams went to Army today and saw about returning controlled signal stores. The D.D. Signals does not want to

481

398

take them in at Signal Parks, who in turn will have to handle them again when despatching to Base. G.H.Q. is to give a ruling.

(12) Will you please say if Officers may purchase the Binoculars, Pistols etc. which have been on issue to them, and if so, at what rate. I think it rather a pity that these articles are to be withdrawn over here, as so many Officers have already returned to Australia with them; and again, take the case of an Officer who is due for Demobilisation and has had a free issue of a Sam Browne Belt - under this Order he is forced to buy it, and after a couple of months he will probably not want it again.

In any case, I suppose, Australia will require a stock of these articles, and the easiest way seems to be to let each Officer do his bit towards the transporting and care of them, and a final settlement made when he draws his deferred pay.

(13) The Mobilisation Store Tables for you have been received and are now being amended. They will be forwarded as soon as possible.

(14) Tomorrow I am seeing G.Os.C., 1st. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions to ascertain their opinion on Demobilisation.

(15) I attach copies of all orders which have been issued by Aust. Corps in my absence, but think that a good deal has been done verbally and on the 'phone.

(16) Will you please wire at once if you agree to allow me to work on the Canadian system, because although I quite realize the extra work and responsibility it will throw on the Ordnance, I feel quite sure it will be very much the best in the end and co-ordinate G.R.O. 6082 and General Instruction 14 also para. 47 of General Instruction No. 11. It would also release Lt. Sawyer from Calais and make him available for duty with the Corps.

(17) There are only two demobilisation Railheads being used at present. One for 1st. 2nd. and 4th. Aust. Divisional Groups and one for 5th. Div. Group and Corps Troops. The latter, I understand is to demobilise Imperial Units, but I have not had time to look into this yet, and will discuss the question with D.D.O.S. on Monday and let you know the result.

(18) Colonel Wynter has received letters from Colonel Whitham with reference to the demobilisation of certain L. of C. Units, and I will issue the necessary instructions as to the disposal of their equipment.

Major,
A.D.O.S., Demob., France.

481

21st. February, 1919.

A.D.O.S., Demob. France,
Attached Australian Corps Hdqrs.,
F R A N C E .

Yours dated the 15th. instant addressed to Colonel E.T. Leane duly arrived, but I shall be glad if future reports are made official so that they may go on record. With this end in view I have had retyped the Report referred to, and am enclosing two copies, one of which you will please sign and return.

Today I have cabled you as follows:-

"Report received from Corps shows system recommended by you now adopted. Presume no further action from here required as General Instructions being issued allowing purchase by Officers Pistols etc. forwarding copy by mail."

In a report received by D.G. today it appears that you have already arranged the system as desired, and so it calls for no further action.

I certainly agree that the Canadian System which appears to be on all fours with G.I. No.14 is preferable, and I am glad it has been adopted.

Replying to various queries, please note:-

- (8) Stores are only returnable by complete Units and a Section of a Field Ambulance is not a Unit. However I daresay you will find a working basis to overcome any difficulties.
- (9) As 4th. Battery and 5th. Battery have apparently been demobilised, I have no doubt you can arrange this matter also.
- (10) Para. 8. G.I. No.14. refers to the Head of the Service, not necessarily in France. A.M.T.S. is in France; Medical, Flying and Veterinary are in London.
- (11) So long as carried out in accordance with instructions, I do not see any reason why Signal Services should not demobilise as other Units do, it gives you a more complete control of the situation, but the matter can be left to you to arrange locally.
- (12) Herewith copy of the G.I. which will be issued regarding Pistols etc. You can suspend return of these articles from any Officers wishing to purchase, and they can complete when G.I. is issued.
- (13) Shall be glad to have complete Mob. Tables, but note please that new ones are said to be on the eve of issue, and send two complete sets of these when they are obtainable.

The balance of the matters referred to are well within your authority, and can be so arranged.

I am glad to have your full and explicit Report; I can see that all goes well.

(signed) W. A. COXEN,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, 4.D.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept., A.I.F.

481
4.D. PROGRESS REPORT 17.2.19 to 24.2.19.

No. 8.

This Branch and its Sections have been mainly occupied with Routine work during the past week.

The following however are the outstanding features:-

War Office has been approached with a view that only new Saddlery and Harness shall be sent to Australia for the equipment of the Post-Bellum Army of Australia.

Further action taken with Administrative Section, A.I.F. Headquarters, regarding collection and return to Imperial Depots of equipment taken to United Kingdom by members of the A.I.F. reporting for demobilisation, pending accommodation for reception of equipment being provided at Havre.

Completion of draft for General Instruction whereby Officers who wish to do so may be allowed to purchase their accoutrements, and devising procedure for same as it affects this Branch.

Reports received from A.D.O.S., Demob. France. Examination had been carried out of the working of system prescribed under G.R.O. 6082 for the return of stores, i.e. forwarding direct to Base from Units, instead of stores being handed in to D.A.Ds.O.S. as prescribed by General Instruction No. 14. It was discovered that this system was cumbersome, causing as much trouble to Imperial Depot as to Units, and it was decided to revert entirely and formally to that laid down in G.I. No. 14. Enclosures from A.D.O.S., Demobilisation, show that Corps General Instructions and A.D.O.S. Instructions to D.A.Ds.O.S. provide for the satisfactory carrying out of the provisions of General Instruction No. 14.

BRIGADIER GENERAL,

4.D.

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

NOTES RE CONFERENCE AT WAR OFFICE IN GENERAL PARSON'S
ROOM AT 3 p.m. on 27.2.19.

401

PRESENT:- Major General Parsons, Col. Watts, Col. Stevens,
Representatives of D.D.O.S., Woolwich Arsenal, War Office
Finance Branch, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES were discussed as to the demanding and shipping of equipment to the various Dominions. As far as Australia was concerned, I stated that 5 Divisions of Infantry were certain, and in all probability 6, also that it was anticipated 2 Mounted Divisions, Corps Troops, and L. of C. Units, the equipment of which the Commonwealth had already paid for would be demanded. As to when demands could be placed on the D.D.O.S., Woolwich Arsenal, I stated that owing to our inability to ascertain the distribution of the equipment in Australia for the 5 Divisions of Infantry already approved, it was as yet impossible to make any demands whatever although a staff was organized and had been organized for some considerable time awaiting instructions to proceed with the submission of demands.

ON THE QUESTION OF SHIPPING, it was agreed that Woolwich will advise Branch 4.D. when any considerable quantity of Stores is on their hands awaiting shipment, will give the shipping weights and measurements and upon being instructed as to the shipping port will immediately forward the Stores to that port for any particular transport selected to carry them.

ON THE CONDITION OF STORES, it was agreed that Stores should be new or serviceable. General Parsons stated that it was his intention to provide stores of the very best condition, (new, if possible) in the categories demanded. With respect to Harness however, he did not consider it possible to issue all in a new condition unless a lengthy period, probably 12 months, were allowed to elapse before any would be available for shipment. A letter (in reply to our request that only new harness and saddlery should be issued) is however being forwarded to 4.D. and will be dealt with on receipt.

ON THE SOURCE OF ISSUE, it was agreed that if more convenient to the Imperial Ordnance Authorities to ship a portion of the Stores from Egypt, we will accept subject to proper notice being given as to quantities, weights and measurements, so that on transports proceeding via Suez hold space may be reserved.

RE WORKSHOPS. I stated that 4.D. proposed one Medium and 2 Light Workshops. General Parsons strongly urged that advantage should be taken of the opportunity of acquiring machinery for one Heavy Shop, so that guns of the largest calibre could be dealt with and Workshop personnel trained in all classes of repairs.

WITH REGARD TO GENERAL RESERVES OF EQUIPMENT, General Parsons stated that he was anxious in the interests of the Dominions themselves to ascertain what their demands were likely to be in view of the fact that a newly constituted Ministry would take charge of all stores which were not required and dispose of them. He, therefore, wanted to reserve what it was anticipated the Dominions would require in addition to his own requirements in the matter of Mobilisation Stores.

(Signed) E. T. LEANE
COLONEL, 4.D.

28.2.19.

481

402

COPY OF CABLE RECEIVED FROM DEFENCE, MELBOURNE
on 27.2.19.

TO:-
GENERAL BIRDWOOD.

WQ929 Your 46602 consign complete equipment of two infantry divisions and one mounted division to Sydney and similar quantity Melbourne AAA Equipment of remaining infantry division to be shipped to Brisbane AAA 3rd. Army Brigade A.F.A. equipment to Adelaide 6th. Army Brigade A.F.A. equipment to Freemantle 12th. Army Brigade A.F.A. equipment to Hobart AAA Divide any balance artillery equally between Sydney Melbourne AAA Desired you complete shipments for Sydney before consigning goods other ports AAA Complete Melbourne before Brisbane AAA Telegraph date you anticipate making first shipment and your estimate of period necessary to complete all consignments if no restrictions this end AAA Provided you telegraph date of despatch and tonnage each shipment anticipate storage accommodation can be provided AAA Re artillery ammunition obtain 30000 rounds ammunition 18-pdr. QF in equal proportion high explosive and shrapnel also 3000 rounds Howitzer QF 4.5 in equal proportion high explosive and shrapnel AAA Distribution of ammunition will be furnished later AAA Re upkeep equipment and spares desired that Brigadier-General Coxen decide regarding artillery and Engineer Stores AAA Regarding other items and purchase additional heavy artillery already decided by Minister that action be deferred pending conclusion Peace Conference. My telegram 4th. February WQ695 AAA Should be glad to receive an early reply to my telegram 14th. January WQ466 as information urgently required connection preparations estimate for Government in view of possible purchase latter AAA Future cables on this subject will be addressed to you.

DEFENCE.

481

4.D./7035/12/62.

28th. February, 1919.

D.M.T.S.,
Australian Corps,
B.E.F., FRANCE.

The following wire to you dated the 28.2.19 in reply to your G/125 of the 21st. instant is hereby confirmed:-

"War Office state technical vehicles are such as electric light lorries, workshop lorries, store lorries etc., more particularly used in the first line. It does not include the ordinary motor transport lorry. Decision therefore largely a matter for your own discretion as head of Australian Motor Transport Service."

As stated in the wire the interpretation of what is, or what is not a technical vehicle must rest largely on you, and it is suggested in this respect you consult the responsible heads of the Imperial Motor Transport Services in France, and follow their lines in drawing up your Unit Cadres.

It is also desired to remind you that the decision of what is a technical vehicle is one that should be asked for from this Department only when the responsible Liaison Officer, for whom application has several times been made, is made available to us. In his absence, this Branch would have to apply to you for advice on such points, and not vice versa.

(signed) W. A. COXEN,

BRIGADIER GENERAL,
4.D.

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

4th February 1919.

404

The Secretary,
Air Ministry,
STRAND W.C.2.

With reference to your letters No. B4272 (O.l.c) dated 22nd and 30th ultimo, I desire to inform you it is proposed to proceed with the demobilisation of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Australian Squadrons, and I would request that the necessary instructions to effect this may be issued to Headquarters R.A.F. in the Field. The actual demobilisation cannot take place until such time as there is sufficient accommodation available in England.

I should be glad if the following procedure could be adopted :

1. Equipment.

- (a) Machines, transport, stores, etc. of all Squadrons should be handed in to R.A.F. Depots, or otherwise disposed of under instructions from Headquarters R.A.F. Issue and Receipt Vouchers (F.S. Form 2) for all such stores etc should be completed and duplicate copies retained by each Squadron.
- (b) Non-fulfillable indents should be prepared by each Squadron for all stores etc. of which they are deficient on War Establishments. These of course would not be completed by Depots, but with the vouchers referred to in (1) (a) above, will constitute a complete record of the transaction.

2. Persomel.

- (a) Demobilisation Liaison Officer A.I.F. attached G.H.Q. (Telegraphic address: Demobaust Liaison G.H.Q.) has been advised that 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Squadrons A.F.C. are to be demobilised and arrangements will be made with him by this Department for the movement of personnel to England, and all equipment and machines, have been handed over to R.A.F. in the Field, and when accommodation is available.
- (b) Wires should be sent to Demobaust London (repeating Q.M.G., G.H.Q. for Demobaust Liaison) stating when the personnel of squadrons will be ready to move. Full particulars as to the number of Officers and other ranks of each squadron should be given.
- (c) Any A.F.C. Personnel attached for duty with other arms or units e.g. Wireless Operators, should be withdrawn forthwith, and proceed to England with one of the Australian Squadrons.

3. Squadron Records.

Squadron Records should be sent to England with their respective Units, excepting Squadron ledgers, and issue and receipt vouchers should be carefully packed and sent in charge of a responsible N.C.O. to A.I.F. Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1.

Would you kindly advise me if you concur in the above, and send me a copy of any instructions issued to Headquarters R.A.F., in regard to the Demobilisation of the Australian squadrons in France.

It is to be clearly understood that, although stores, equipment etc. may be handed in, no movement of personnel is to take place, either to Australian Base Depot, Havre or to depots in United Kingdom, until accommodation is available when necessary instructions will, be issued by this Office.

(Signed) C.H. Foott B.G.
for Lieutenant General
Director General

Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept. A.I.F.

Copies to
H.Q., R.A.F. in the Field, B.E.F. France.

481

— 2 —

Staff Officer for Aviation A.I.F. H.Q. London
D.A.A.G. A.F.C. att. R.A.F. H.Q. B.E.F. France.
Demobaust Liaison G.H.Q., B.E.F. France.
Aust. Base Depot Havre
H.Q. A.I.F Depots in U.K. Tidworth.
Chief of Staff A.I.F.

405

6th February 1919.

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

With regard to the question of re-equipping the Field Artillery of the Australian Divisions, I should be glad to know if it would be possible for us to procure half of the 18-pounder equipment of the latest pattern.

The desire is, if possible, to equip half of the Divisions with the most up to date 18 pounder equipment and to arrange for the remaining half to be equipped later with the new type of gun.

This would mean the provision for the equipment of 161 guns of the new pattern, which figure includes requirements for half equipment of five dismounted and two mounted divisions, together with requirements for the upkeep thereof under peace conditions.

Lieut.General
Director General.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept.AIF.

481

407

6TH February 1919

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

It is proposed for the present only to procure ammunition for Australia on a basis of Peace Practice Requirements for three years.

As in all probability your stocks are large, I should be glad if this issue could be made free of charge to the Australian Government.

It is estimated that the requirements would be approximately:

18-pounder	...	184,000 rds	50% Shrap 50% H.E.
4.5" How.	...	41,000 rds	H.E.
M.T.M.	...	5,000 rds.	

The above ammunition to be supplied with latest pattern fuses.

Lieut.General
 Director General.
 Repatriation & Demobilisation. Dept. AIF.

481
D/4308/19/52

4th February 1919

D.A.A.G., A.I.F.,
Att. Headquarters R.A.F. in the Field,
FRANCE.

With reference to letter No. 4308/19/52 of the 4th instant addressed to the Air Ministry, requesting that instructions be issued for the demobilisation of 2nd. 3rd. and 4th Australian Squadrons (copy of which is attached for your information), would you kindly note the following points :-

1. Lieut.-Colonel Whitham, C.M.G. D.S.O., is in charge of the Australian Liaison Section, G.H.Q., and you should establish touch with him forthwith, and obtain all information regarding procedure to be followed in the transfer of the personnel of the Australian Squadrons to England.
2. The high proportion of Officers to men in Flying Corps Squadrons makes it impossible, with the transport at the Disposal of the A.I.F. to return Squadrons to Australia complete, with all Officers and other Ranks. The following Officers (at least) will proceed with each Squadron
 - Squadron Commander,
 - 1 Flight Commander
 - Recording Officer
 - 3 Other Officers.

Would you please arrange to forward to Staff Officer, Aviation, in respect of each Squadron, the names of the Officers selected.

3. Kindly arrange to keep the Staff Officer, Aviation, fully advised as to the progress of Demobilisation in respect of each Squadron, and to ensure that the earliest advice is given to Director General, Department of Repatriation & Demobilisation, and Demobaust Liaison, G.H.Q., as to the date on which the personnel of each Squadron is available for transfer to England.
4. No movements of personnel into Aust. Base Depot, Havre, or to Depots in United Kingdom, may take place until accommodation is available.

(Sgd) John Monash, Lieut-General
Director General
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept. A.I.F.

Copy to:

Staff Officer for Aviation, London,
Demobaust, Liaison, G.H.Q. France.

Information copies signed :-
C.H. FOOTT, Brig.-General.