

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/8/31

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance  
Services, 5th Australian Division

February 1919



AWM4-2/8/31

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

D.A.D.O.S.
5
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
No. _____
Date _____

236

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

A.A.O.C 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division

FOR

February 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

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D.A.D.O.S. [illegible]

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Grandrieu.	1919. February 1st.		71 pairs of Special Types of Boots were issued to various Units for trial and report. These were Australian manufactured Boots, and it is hoped that they will prove more suitable to the winter conditions in France than those at present in use. Two G.S.Wagons were drawn by No. 1 Section 5th Aust. D.A.C. direct from Railhead.	
	2nd.		Calais Base advise the despatch of the following :- 2 Trucks containing 15 tons General Stores and 1 truck containing 19 cases of necessaries, hats, etc., 145 Bales of Clothing and Boots and 1 sack of Boots. Most of the correspondence now being received deals with demobilisation and it certainly will mean that in a very short space of time the depot will be more of a receiving than an issuing Depot; Receiving all Units Mobilization stores, Stores which have been issued during the last three or four years by this Unit, which owing to the cessation of Hostilities are now no longer required.	
	3rd.		2 members of the Staff and one attached man left here to report to 5th Aust. Divisional Reinforcement Wing to join Embarkation Quota No. 8 proceeding to England and Australia. Received from Base 200 Latrine Buckets demanded at the request of O.C. 5th Sanitary Section.	
	4th		Divisional Instructions received, reference Embarkation Quota No. 14, expected to concentrate in about 7 day's time. Received from Base 3334 prs. of Boots, which include about 752 of Imperial pattern. This is the first consignment of Boots received for some time and were urgently required by all Units. Discrepancies in stores received from Base still occur and of the 3334 pairs charged 186 pairs were deficient.	
	5th		15 tons of General Stores, which were advised on the 2nd instant were cleared from Beaumont Railhead and included 3278 pairs of Horse shoes, 1000 G.S.Blankets and a quantity of Picketing gear. 4 Tons of General Stores and 56 Bales of Blankets advised by Base as having been despatched. One lorry load of General Stores delivered to 15th Brigade Ration dump for Units of that Group. Units were previously advised to be in attendance.	

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Grandrieu.	February			
	5th.		<p>The men attached to Armourers and Bootmakers shop for course of training in those trades were returned to their Units, it being considered that they had gained an elementary knowledge of the trades concerned.</p> <p>Owing to the frost, large demands for frost cogs have recently been received and were all met and satisfied from the stock held for some months in anticipation.</p>	
	7th		<p>The various groups kept very busy in issuing stores, received on 5th instant, to Units calling.</p> <p>Pamphlets and circulars reference demobilization are daily being received; copies of these are posted in prominent places in stores, mess-rooms and offices and perused with great interest by all.</p>	
	8th		<p>Received 23 vehicle wheels from Base, also 2000 G.S. Blankets, 500 per day of the latter being delivered to the Divisional Reinforcement Wing.</p> <p>8 cwt. of Frost Cogs were issued to Batteries of this Division's Artillery.</p> <p>Instructions were received from Australian Corps reference the disposal of Binoculars, Watches, etc. called in by G.R.O. 6082. This effects all these articles in possession of Units as mobilisation equipment and those issued to Officers as free issues.</p>	
	9th		<p>5 tons of stores and 161 cases of Horse shoes advised by Base as being despatched.</p> <p>4 tons of General Stores, included in which were 1200 Towels, were cleared from Beaumont Railhead. 900 Towels issued the same day to Divnl. Baths and 300 awaiting collection by 5th Casualty Clearing Station.</p>	
	10th		<p>A train containing part of the Mobilization equipment of the 12th Army Brigade, Australian Field Artillery was despatched to-day from Chatelineau Railhead for Demobilization Depot, Calais. This Brigade has been attached to 5th Aust. Division for some time past and is the first part of the Division to be demobilized. This train consisted of 16 Flat trucks for vehicles and 8 covered trucks for miscellaneous stores and was despatched from the above-mentioned Railhead at 3 o'clock p.m.</p>	

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Grandrieu.	February			
	11th.		<p>Watches, Binoculars, Pistols etc., are being received from all Units, and the staff is busily engaged receiving, checking and repacking where necessary. Mobilization equipment of these articles and Officers free issue of same are being kept separate, instructions regarding the disposal of the former have been received, but the latter are to be held by D.A.D.O.S. for the time being.</p> <p>Frost conditions still prevail and demands for Frost Cogs for Horse shoes are being daily received.</p>	
	12th		<p>Owing to shortage of trucks etc. R.O.O. is unable to receive Salvage at present, consequently the store space available for salvage is taxed to its utmost and it is necessary to stack certain items out in the open. Service Dress Clothing, leather jerkins, steel helmets Ground sheets and Wheels form the greater part of Stores received.</p>	
	13th		<p>Received 5 tons of General Stores from Base; this consignment included Horse and Mule shoes, Towels and a much needed supply of Grindery. The latter has been very hard to obtain of late, demands for same on Base have several times been hastened but evidently the demand greatly exceeds the supply and Base are unable to meet demands.</p>	
	14th		<p>The 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery, which has been administered for Ordnance Services by D.A.D.O.B., for the last two months moved to D.A.D.O.S., Australian Corps Troops. 1st Army Troops Coy., A.E. also moved from D.A.D.O.S., Aust. Corps Troops to this Unit. for Ordnance Services.</p>	
	15th		<p>The train despatched on 10th instant for Demobilization Depot Calais with portion of the 12th Army Brigades mobilization stores is reported to have arrived at its destination on 13th instant., where stores were handed over to Ordnance Officer, Demobilization, Calais and receipt for same obtained.</p> <p>Base advise the despatch of 5 tons of General Stores.</p>	
	16th		<p>Received from Base 12 tons of General Stores which included Oil, Grease and Soap. 3300 Blankets, 46 Bags Grindery, Electrical Gear, 500 sacks for return of Mobilization Equipment to Base and Service Dress Clothing. Clothing and Soap were both short and by the appearances of the Bales and cases containing same had been tampered en route.</p> <p>Discrepancies are still experienced in most of the consignments received from Base and these are always reported, but up-to-date no light has been thrown on the matter and the losses continue.</p>	

1917 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Form C/2118/15.

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	1919.			
Grandrieu.	February			
	16th		Wire received from Divisional Headquarters that Thaw Precautions to be adopted as from to-day, consequently the four lorries attached here will be idle for some days and other arrangements will have to be made to transport stores from Railhead etc.	
	17th		The 4 members of this Unit who are returning to Australian by the next Embarkation Quota reported to 14th Aust. Field Ambulance to be medically examined and all were passed fit for General Service. Consequent on the expected early demobilization of Units and the return of the complete equipment, indents are not coming along in such numbers as before and only expendable stores are now required by Units.	
	18th		Owing to the fact that all available space on train containing portion of 12th Army P.A. Brigades mobilization equipment, which was despatched to Base some days ago was not availed of through the train being confined to equipment of this Brigade, D.A.D.O.S. has suggested to Divisional Headquarters a departure from General Instructions received in this connection and has every confidence that if suggestion is taken up and approved that this Divisions equipment will be more speedily returned to Base and the whole business put on a more satisfactory footing, which will be of benefit to all concerned.	
	19.		The suggestion made by D.A.D.O.S. yesterday to Divisional Headquarters has been approved and arrangements are being made to take over a suitable Railhead to receive stores from Units on days allotted and to despatch trains when sufficient stores and vehicles are held to ensure that all available space thereon is utilized.	
	20th		The Railhead at Thuillies has been selected as the most suitable and convenient Railhead for dealing with the large quantities of stores and vehicles which the demobilization of Division entails. A large shed which is most conveniently situated for receiving stores from the Units and for loading trucks from when train is available, plenty of space in the vicinity for parking vehicles and a suitable ramp for entraining vehicles are all at the Disposal of D.A.D.O.S.	

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	1919.			
February				
	21st.		<p>The loading of the balance of Stores and Vehicles from the 12th Army Brigade, A.F.A. completed and train ready to leave. A permanent loading party is quartered at Divisional Reinforcement Camp, Beaumont and on the morning on which the trains are loaded a lorry is detailed to proceed to Beaumont to convey them to Thuillies. On their arrival everything is ready to be loaded on to trucks and an hour and half sees the train ready to pull out.</p>	
	22nd		<p>The train loaded yesterday left for Calais with guard and one representative from this Unit. One closed truck is made available for the party, and they are supplied with four days rations and made as comfortable as possible.</p> <p>The Mobilization Stores from 114th How. Battery and 9th and 10th Medium Trench Mortar Batteries were received. Vehicles were parked and stores dumped in Sections at Dump to be loaded on to trucks in a like manner, so as to facilitate off loading at the different sectional stores at Calais.</p>	
	23rd.		<p>9 Pontoon waggons and all Bridging equipment were received from Divisional Engrs. and dealt with in the usual way by the staff employed at Thuillies. The Personnel at this Depot consists of 16 N.C.Os. and men and up-to-date everything is working according to programme and no congestion experienced.</p>	
	24th		<p>3 Lorry loads of Salvage was returned to Base via Beaumont Railhead. The R.O.O. having made a truck available daily for these stores, so as to enable us to shift the accumulation of about six weeks caused through shortage of trucks. 51st Bty's equipment was taken in at Thuillies.</p>	
	25th		<p>9 tons of General Stores received from Calais, which included wheels, picketing gear, Horse shoes, frost cogs, grindery, Boots and Shirts. The two latter items were deficient to quantities charged. 58th Infantry Battalion and 15th Light Trench Mortar Battery's equipment received at Demobilization Depot, Thuillies.</p>	

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Grandrieu	1919. Feb. 26th		<p>Yesterday's consignment of Stores received from Base was issued to the Brigade Groups for their respective Units.</p> <p>53rd Battery and 15th Light Trench Mortar Battery's equipment received and dealt with at Thuillies. Lorry left Grandrieu and called at Beaumont for loading Party, who were conveyed to Thuillies to load trains with Units equipment, which had been received during the last 5 days; the loading was completed and party were conveyed back to Beaumont in the afternoon.</p>	
	27th		<p>317 Horse rags delivered to Charleroi Station for the use of the animals of the 12th Army Arty Bde., which were being forwarded to Base. Although Charleroi is only about 30 Kilometres distance, it took this lorry nearly four hours to reach there, owing to the bad state of the roads following on the recent thaw.</p> <p>The train loaded the previous day was despatched to Calais accompanied by the usual guard.</p>	
	28th		<p>15th Field Coy., Aust. Engrs. and an 18 pdr. Battery handed in their equipment at Thuillies. The returning to Base of the Division's Mobilization Equipment, although a big undertaking, has been carried on very satisfactorily. The majority of Units have strictly adhered to the instructions regarding same, and have handed in their stores all packed and labelled correctly, which has greatly facilitated the handling and checking of same by the staff at Thuillies. No difficulty has been experienced in receiving and handling of one, and in several cases two Units' equipment on the one day; so it is anticipated that if the demobilization of Personnel proceeds as expected, thereby allowing the amalgamation of Units from time to time, the whole of the Divisions mobilization equipment should be despatched within 2 months.</p>	<p><i>W. H. H. H. H.</i> D. A. D. S. 5th Aust. Division</p>



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# WAR DIARY

OF

D.A.D.O.S. 5th Australian Division.

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1919.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

"A"

LABOR EMPLOYED

"B"

BULK ISSUES FOR MONTH.

*W. H. Leah*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Captain,  
D.A.D.O.S. 5th Aust. Division

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			<u>A P P E N D I C E S.</u>	
			"A"            The Labor daily employed varied from 12 to 14 outside the Ordinary Ordnance Personnel.	
			"B"            Bulk issues during February:-            Approximate strength of Division 10,000 Great coats 119, Jackets S.D. 624, Boots ankle 2167, Pantaloon 509, Trousers 294, Puttees 434, Hats 137, Haversacks 10, Bottles water 70, Tins mess 338, Sheets ground 245, Flannelette 300, Shoes horse 3285, Shoes mule 998.	
				<i>H. S. Kelok</i> <i>D. C. D. C.</i>