

AWM4

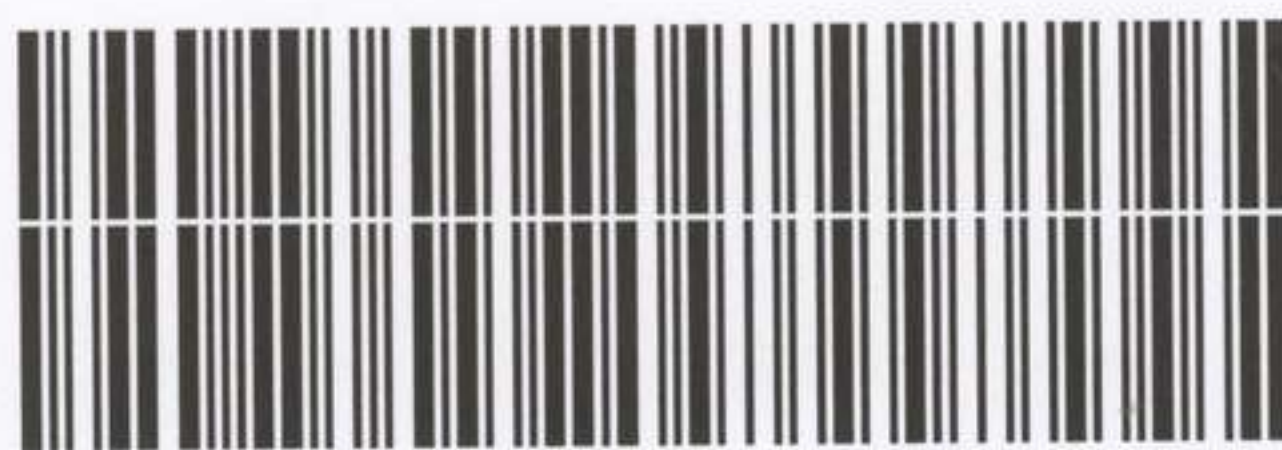
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Ordnance

Item number: 2/8/17

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

December 1917



AWM4-2/8/17

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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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.

D. O. O.,
5th AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
No. RTN/114
Date

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DESVRES.	December, 1917.		<p>The Division was still in the line, and no difficulty was found in getting all stores to units. All excess F.S. Boots and Coats sheepskin lined were returned to the Base. Satisfactory explanations were received from each C.O. as to why his unit did not require F.S. Boots. All issues proceeded smoothly until the 7th. I visited our new area to get figures as to taking over area stores and arranged dates of removal by Brigades, so that no congestion at either end would take place. The area stores were not apparently enough for our requirements, excepting in the matter of palliasses. I arranged to take over all area stores available, and also to make an exchange of all stocks carried. On the 15th., one W.O. with three men proceeded to new area, and each day from then on, lorries were on the road taking our stores down and bringing 1st. Aust. Divn. stores up, their lorries working in the opposite directions. In this way a very good move was carried out. The office and store in the new area was in working order on the 16th. It was then found that the outgoing Division had taken away 7,000 palliasses, which, as the weather had become cold, was a calamity for us. Corps were advised, and authority was received from Army to collect. Lorries were sent to Calais for this purpose and half picked up. Later the remainder were received. To carry on the reinforcement camp it was necessary to indent for large supplies of blankets and washing tubs, etc. These were obtained after some delay caused by a block on the railway, and stores were delayed on other occasions by shortage of trucks. The weather having been very bleak and much snow being about, the boots of the Division began to give out. As grindery was difficult to obtain, the conditions became such that a special lorry was sent to Calais to get a supply of boots to carry on. After explaining the situation to the C.O.O., permission was obtained to take back 2,000 pairs. These were passed out as quickly as possible to the units, and as grindery became available at the same time, the trouble was tided over. It was found necessary to establish a dump at a point central for the Artillery, and a sergeant and three men were established in a very good store and office. Stores were sent out from the main store in Desvres to each unit and the Artillery dump nearly every day. Difficulties were met in that thaw precautions stopped the lorries twice, and horse transport had to be asked for. In such a large area difficulties were bound to be experienced with motor transport, but very few break-downs took place. The main store would be an ideal place in summer time, but proved a very cold store in the winter weather. The office was very good and in a central position. The boot-makers shop was established and continued to do most excellent work.</p>	

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			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPENDICES.</u></p> <p>(a). The labour daily employed varied from 20 - 24 outside the ordinary Ordnance personnel. The number of boot-makers continuously working was 10.</p> <p>(b). Bulk issues during December. Approximate strength of Division, 18,500.</p> <p>Greatcoats, 465; Boots, ankle, 1,528; Jackets, S.D., 2,708; Pantaloon, 1,835; Trousers, S.D., 2,401; Hats, S.D., 546; Putties, 2,250; Shirts, 2,000; Socks worsted, 5,100; Bottles, water, 32; Tins, mess, 417; Shoes, horse, 3,272; Shoes, mule, 1,530; Sheets, ground, 422.</p> <p>(c). Guns and carriages of the Artillery were handed over to the relieving Division, excepting six 18-pdr. Q.F. and one 4.5" howr. guns</p> <p>(d). It was not necessary to expend any money on local purchases.</p> <p>The system of work adopted in the new area was the same as in the old, i.e., all stores were picked up at railhead and brought back to the bulk stores. From the vouchers, all stores on bulk demands were distributed to the three Infantry Bdes. and Arty. groups. These were then loaded again and with transit stores sent out to all units who were too far away to collect, vouchers for all such stores being sent out at the same time for signature. Demands not met in full were noted for Corps reference in the cases of Australian clothing and boots, etc. Stores were checked at railhead and again on arrival against the quantities given on the vouchers. Discrepancies were fairly frequent from the Base, but allowances have to be made as so much woman and Class "C" labour is now employed there.</p>	

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