

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/8/19

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

February 1918



AWM4-2/8/19

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4 Ordnance Sth Aust^l Divⁿ

FOR

February 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

Jm Ross Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

Jm Ross Capt

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February. 1918.		<p>The office opened on the 1st, and the reports of the hand over were at once proceeded with. All area stores were checked and reports as to numbers and deficiencies reported to Division and Corps. The chief items that required immediate attention were the provision of gum boots for men working in water and the provision of Soyer stoves to be placed in suitable places for use in drying rooms and for the heating of water to wash the mens feet. These two items were extremely important as the health of the men depends largely on this provision. The gum boots were slow in coming forward, but Corps lent enough to carry on with. Soyer Stoves arrived in good time to be put into use. For the first few days units were unable to draw stoves as the transport wanted looking at after the long trek.</p> <p>The formation of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps was notified me and this allowed of the absorption of men who had been attached as trainees.</p> <p>The question of the supply of Australian clothing became somewhat acute, as the clothing issued by the Base was taken on the original size. As, however, most of the tunics had been washed and cleaned, they were considerably smaller than they originally were, and with no stocks of large sizes arriving, it was impossible to supply for the big men of the Division. Corps and Division were notified of the situation.</p> <p>Hats also were hard to obtain, which resulted in an order that, for the present, only men proceeding on leave would be supplied with an issue.</p> <p>The question of the carrying of four petrol tins, for water, on the G.S. limber was gone into, as Army had issued an order that the tool box and rifle clips on the sides of the fore limber were to be removed and the tins carried in brackets on the side. As this Division had had a design on some of its limbers that was thought preferable to the Army scheme, (it being to carry the tins on the rear of the fore limber, thus obviating the necessity of removing any store. and, also, making a much better working design) two limbers, one with Army design and one with our design, were paraded at Corps for inspection. This resulted in our design being chosen and orders were issued that the Aust. Corps would carry out the alterations as per our design.</p> <p>With D.A. & Q.M.G.I attended a lecture on the question of Economy in Ordnance Stores, as Divisional Representatives. The lecture dealt with the Provision, supply, Salving, Repairing and Re-issuing of Ordnance Stores, and it is the intention that I shall give the lecture to all units in the Division. Figures were given, shewing what salving has saved in the past six months, for various classes of stores.</p>	

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 36

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			<p>For the purpose of raiding parties, stocks of body armour, special identity discs, and Imperial Army pattern clothing were got and kept ready for use.</p> <p>The Ordnance Mobile Workshops were visited for the purpose of arranging that any repairs to vehicles or guns might be expedited. The result was that no delay occurred in any case. Stores arrived regularly at Railhead and no difficulty was found in the distribution. Special issues during the month included plates, zinc, to be used on horses hoofs as an experiment.</p> <p>67 Lewis Guns for anti-aircraft use. Each Battalion received 4, each Battery 2, and each Field Company of Engineers 1.</p> <p>Periscopes No. 25. 1 per Battalion and Field Company.</p> <p>Special type of Ambulance Stretcher to each Field Ambulance.</p> <p>Reports were submitted to the G.O.C. Division, as to the comparative cost of each unit of the Division. These were of value in showing how units compare regarding their saving ability.</p> <p>The Mobilization Store Tables of the Infantry Battalions and Field Coy's were revised with a view to cutting out from them, any stores which were unnecessary. Those which were decided upon as not necessary for the unit to carry were divided into two classes;</p> <p>(a) Those that could be done away with altogether, and</p> <p>(b) Those that should be classed as area stores.</p> <p>Stores (b) would then be at the disposal of any units going into any particular area. The report sent to Divisional Headquarters was accepted, as the proper view and was sent on to Corps as the Divisional opinion.</p> <p>The Mobilization Store Table of the Divisional Train was also reviewed and although no report went through, the stores cut out by G.R.O. 3411 corresponded with the list prepared. This large question, which has been an apparent one for so long is now being gone into thoroughly.</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

Oranmore 5th Aust Div

FOR

February 191*8*

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | <i>No of men employed return to A.M.C.</i> |
| 2. | <i>Bulk issues and average strength of Division</i> |
| 3. | <i>Handing over and taking over of guns and ammages and heavy trench mortars</i> |
| 4. | <i>Local purchases.</i> |
| 5. | <i>Diary of Divisional boot makers shop.</i> |

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			<u>APPENDICES.</u>	
			(a) The labour, daily employed, varied from 20-24 outside the ordinary Ordnance Personnel. The number of boot-makers continuously working was 14.	
			(b). Bulk issues during February. Approximate strength of Division, 19,000. Greatcoats, 397; Boots, ankle, 2,813; Jackets, S.D. 1,299; Pantaloon, 813; Trousers, S.D. 1,596; Puttees, 980; Sheets, ground, 450; Tins, mess, 162; Bottles, water, 106; Shoes, horse, 3,142; Shoes, mule, 2,390;	
			(c) Under the re-organisation of heavy Trench Mortar Batteries, the following Mortars were handed over as follows:. To Aust. Heavy T.M. Battery. 3 Mk 1. " A.D.O.S. 10th. Corps. 4 Mk 1. " No. 4 Gun Park. 2 Mk 2.	
			(d) It was not necessary to expend any money on local purchases. The boot shop in connection with my depot has continued to carry out excellent work. Four more boot-makers were added to the number employed, making fourteen in all. The Divisional boot shop was formed after the Division's arrival in France. After consultation with "Q" a circular was issued to all units for suitable men, and men were selected from those units that had more than two. After interviewing the men, I placed in charge a Sergeant who was a practical and thorough man. The C.R.E. co-operated and built a shop and by the time that was finished the various necessary stores, such as bags, tool shoemakers, fitted lasts, stretchers, and grindery of all sorts, had arrived. The idea of the shop was chiefly that boots from units that had no boot-maker could be repaired and re-issued, also that all boots sent in as salvage could be examined by an expert, so that no boots should be sent to Base as not worth repair, while it was possible to repair them. The shop has been moved to each of my locations and at the present time is situated in a brick-built garage by my dump. Since the order for boots to be issued with clump soles has been in operation, it has	

APPENDIX

