

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

Claims

Item number: 4/3/8

Title: Claims Officer, 2nd Australian
Division

January 1918



AWM4-4/3/8

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Blair's 2nd Aust. Division

FOR

January 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*James Carr
2nd Div.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Alfred...
2nd Aust Div*

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG CAMP	1918 1 st Jan	6 ^{am} 1/1/18	<p>Claims Received⁽¹⁾ from LOCRE, Sheet 28 M 23 c. NATURE cabbages stolen.</p> <p>Amount Claimed 158.50 francs. Action. 3rd Unit concerned for report.</p> <p>(2) From NEUVE EGLISE. Damage to house.</p> <p>Amount Claimed 70 francs. Sent to 3rd Unit Div</p>	<p>125 francs paid in full settlement.</p> <p>Paid by 3rd Unit</p> <p>Claim sent to 3rd Unit Div for settlement</p>
Sheet 28.516d	2 nd Jan	6 ^{am}	<p>Claims Received⁽¹⁾ from NEUVE EGLISE. NATURE Damage to house.</p> <p>Amount claimed 2000 francs. Held for investigation.</p> <p>(2) From NIEPRE. Accident to civilian caused by collision with Motor Cycle.</p> <p>Amount Claimed. 4 francs per day while unable to work.</p> <p>(3) From NEUVE EGLISE. NATURE 67 francs stolen.</p> <p>Amount Claimed. 45 francs</p>	<p>Dealt with by 3rd Unit Div.</p> <p>to 3rd Unit Div. as this was in their area.</p>
<p>Reference Claim No 9. Quite a number of cases have occurred of poultry stolen just before Lunas, evidently to make Lunas dinner as much like pre-war days as possible. In these cases it is difficult to find the culprit also evidence to show that the theft ^{was} actually perpetrated by soldiers.</p>				

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt W869/M1672 50,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ravelsberg Camp.	1918 3rd Jan	2.06am	<p>Claims received from (1) NAOURS. Nature. 700 francs taken and burnt by Soldier. Pending Unit of Claim. 35 Francs. Being investigated by Interpreter of another Unit, who knows of the damage.</p> <p>(2) ARQUES. Nature. 60 Francs Stolen from Estaminet. Amount. 60 Francs. After careful investigation it was found that two men were in the Estaminet, & were tried for the offence but there was no evidence available to show these men actually took the money. Claim returned to Claims Commission.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>This claim was disallowed.</p>
	4th Jan	2.06am 4.1.18.	<p>Claims received from (1) ST. OMER. Nature. 4 pairs of boots stolen from a civilian. Amount. 180 Francs. The culprits were caught & the boots recovered, but claimant paid in would not accept the boots as they had been worn by the men. The boots were sold out of for 100 fr. & the remainder 80 fr. was paid out of Public funds. These men were tried by F.G.C.M. & awarded 1 year I.H.L. each.</p>	<p>the sum of 80 fr was Settlement Public funds.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ravelstein Camp	1918 5 Jan	2060 5.1.18	<p>Claims Recd. from NIEPPE. - Nature - Wine and beer stolen Amount 690 Francs. Sent to Unit alleged to be responsible. From personal inspection, there is evidence to support the claim, except for the beer, as the claimant alleges 50 gallons were taken, which appears excessive.</p>	See Appendix "A"
			<p>② From NIEPPE Nature Vinegar (in a barrel) and Coal taken from the same house as No 1 claim. ^{Amount 112 fr} The vinegar being in a cask, was evidently taken in error for wine. The second item "coal", appears to be exaggerated. Action. To Unit responsible.</p>	Unit of men responsible could not be traced. Settled for 90 fr out of Public funds.
			<p>Claims Paid. From ST OMER for boots stolen. 80 francs paid out of Public Funds, as the men responsible were sentenced each 1 year S.H.L</p>	
	6 Jan	2060 6.1.18	<p>Claims Recd. NIEPPE Nature. Pig Stolen. Amount 280 francs Sent to Unit billeted near by. These cases are most difficult to obtain any evidence as to who the culprits were.</p>	Unable to trace the thieves Sent to Claims Commission

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havelberg Camp	1918 7 th Jan	206 am 7/1/18	claims rec'd. NIEPPE Nature 10 fowls & 2 Rabbits stolen Amount 98.50 francs Claimed. Fowls 8 Fr each & Rabbits 8 fr.	Offenders not traced. Escaped out of P.F. for 67 francs
			NIEPPE Nature 10 fowls and one pig stolen. Amount claimed 392 francs. This case has been thoroughly investigated but perpetrators of theft cannot be traced.	Sent to Claims Commission to be dealt with.
			NIEPPE Nature 12 fowls 135 litres of Wine & 3 Hectolitres of beer. Amount 556 francs. On enquiry being made it was found that the "beer" was the drainings, which the claimant states is worth as much to him, being a brewer, as the beer itself.	See Appendix "B"
	8 th Jan	206 am 8/1/18	NIEPPE Nature 10 fowls stolen Amount 80 francs This claim was passed on to the 3 rd Aust. Division as it occurred during their occupation of the area. In cases such as this, the claim is sent on to the Unit who occupied the area.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ravelsberey Camp	1918 11/18		<p>Claims Recd. at the time the theft or damage was committed. If the Unit is some distance away, the claim is investigated by the Claims Officer of the Unit in the Area at the time, & is then forwarded to the Division responsible for settlement.</p>	
			<p>NEUVE EGLISE. Nature timber taken from houses that have been partially destroyed by shell fire. Amount 220 ft. Claims of this description have been numerous, and are difficult to estimate extent of damage as, usually, the houses have been badly damaged by shell fire. Unless it is very apparent that timber houses have been deliberately broken down for the woodwork, the claims cannot be considered, as there are so many troops passing through, one cannot tell estimate if the damage is recent, & therefore if it has been previously paid for by small units direct with claimant.</p>	<p>Appendix "C". Copy of report reference this claim.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rayelsterg Camp	9/1/18		Claims Received. NIEPPE Nature. 7 Fowls Stolen. Amt. 35fr. Action. Handed to APM to trace offenders.	Settled for 35fr out of P.F.
	13/1/18		NIEPPE. Nature. 5 Fowls Stolen. Amt. 30fr. Action. To A.P.M. to investigate trace those responsible.	Settled for 25fr out of P.F.
	14/1/18		NIEPPE. Nature. For cart said to have been broken by troops. Action Amt. 200fr. Action. The cart, which was only slightly damaged, was sent to the Pioneer Bn for repairs.	Appendix D
			NIEPPE. Nature. 16 Fowls Stolen. Amt. 80fr. Sent to A.P.M. to be investigated.	Thieves could not be traced. Settled for 80fr out of P.F.
	19/1/18		NIEPPE. Nature. 400 kilograms of Potatoes Stolen from a Silo. Action. Investigating to find offenders.	ditto settled for 80 francs
	19/1/18		PLOEGSTREET. Nature. 2 pumps & all wood-work of house taken. Amt. 935 francs. Action. To be inspected personally to estimate damage.	Copy of report Appendix E

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ravelsberg Camp	24/1/18		Claims Red NEUVE EGLISE Nature Portion of house stripped of timber. Amt. 627.60 fr.	Damaged assessed at 445 fr. Sent to C/Comd.
			NEUVE EGLISE Nature Goodwork taken from a partially destroyed house. Amt 464 francs	Damaged assessed at 250 francs
	27/1/18		NEUVE EGLISE Nature Gate & barrow taken Amt 25 fr.	Leaded for 25 fr.
	26/1/18		" " Stack of straw burnt. Amt 300 fr	NOT ALLOWED
			NIEPPE " Old shed fallen down	" "
	27/1/18		" " Portion of a house used as a Billiard room burnt down by fire. Amt 3,863 francs	Damaged assessed at 856 francs
			" " Nature Furniture of occupants of the house burnt. Amount 1074 francs	Not exaggerated
	28/1/18		Nieppe Nature Damage to 6 windows Amount 303 fr	Assessed at 90 fr.
			NEUVE EGLISE Nature Potatoes Stolen. Amount 26 fr	
			NIEPPE " Potatoes Stolen " 110 fr	

WAR DIARY

OF

Claims 2nd Aust. Division

FOR

January 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A	Claim for Wine Beer Stolen.
B	" " 12 fowls. 135 litre of Wine and 3 Hectolitre of Beer.
C	" " Woodwork taken from a house at NEUVE EGLISE.
D	" " Damage to Cart.
E	" " 2 Pumps & woodwork from house.

Appendix "A"

Claim for Wine & Beer stolen
Amount claimed 690 fr.

The offenders could not be traced.

On investigation, it was found that claimant was assessing damage loss on the retail price.

The amount claimant paid for the wine & beer was 550 fr. therefore claim has been altered to that amount.

J. J. J. J. J.
J. J. J. J. J.

Appendix "B"

Claim of 12 Fowls, 195 litres of wine and 3 Hectolitres of Beer stolen.

This case was suspicious, as (1) firstly the said "beer" was only sediment.

(2) On comparing claimant's receipts in payment for the wine, it was found his claim was 30 francs above the price paid.

After enquiring why he claimed for "beer" when it was not beer, and why he claimed more than he paid for the wine, claimant withdrew the claim except for the fowls which is in my opinion quite justifiable.

J. J. J. J. J.

APP. A & B.

Appendix "C"

"Claim of DE VACHT of NEUVE EGLISE

I have personally inspected the house in question and find it has been badly damaged by shell fire, being almost totally destroyed. The whole of the roof, all the first floor and all the partitions have collapsed, except one small room.

In my opinion the claim should be disallowed as:

1. The doorways show no signs of having been recently tampered with.
2. The ruins have not been disturbed.
3. There is no timber freshly cut or broken.

I could not conscientiously recommend that this claim be considered."

Appendix "D"

Claim for damage to Cart.

This claim was most exorbitant, and there was doubt as to who was responsible for the damage, the owner, or soldiers.

To prevent further enquiry, the damage was repaired by the Pioneer Battalion, & the claim was withdrawn.

In all cases, where damage done can be repaired by the Army, it is done, as it is most satisfactory to both parties.

Appendix E

Claims for 2 pumps & wood-work
taken from House & Barn.

"The farm in question has been
thoroughly inspected by me, and
find it has been severely damaged
by shell fire. This is in the forward
area, about 5000' from our front
line.

This claim has been disallowed
and claimant advised.

The following are the reasons:-

(1) The Officer in charge of a Battery has
been living at the farm for the
last four months without a
break, and states that no
timber has been removed, and
in confirmation of this, there
is nothing to show that timber
has been taken within the last
2 months.

(2) Item 106. Two Pumps. Both
pumps are at the farm, one
is in daily use, & the other is
being repaired

over

D. App E

70

(3) Shutter. Several Shutter have
been taken down & are used
as tables in the billet

These will be replaced when
the ~~shutter~~ ^{battery} move out.

(4) The whole claim is most
absurd & ridiculous.

I could find no wood-work
missing except:-

(a) where shells had hit the
buildings

(b) Top half of stable door
1 Small door of pig-sty
1 door frame - stable

The latter woodwork (b)
has been missing for some
time, as there are no fresh
marks of ^{recent} removal.

(5) Item 113 & 114. These places
have been damaged most
severely by shell fire.

App. E.

11

70

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Australian War Records Section,
130 Horseferry Road,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Appendix E
Divisional Headquarters,
31st January, 1918.

MONTHLY RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF
CLAIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH DURING
THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1918 BY DIVISIONAL
CLAIMS OFFICER, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Under G.R.O. 763

Amount claimed	--	706.50	frances
Amount awarded	-	647.	"
No. of claims allowed	-	11	claims
No. of claims disallowed	-	5	"
Pending	-	7	"

Under G.R.O. 634

No. of claims investigated	-	7	claims.
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G. J. G. G.
Captain,
Div. Claims Officer,
2nd Australian Division.