

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

Claims

Item number: 4/4/17

Title: Claims Officer, 4th Australian Division

December 1918



AWM4-4/4/17

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4TH AUSTRALIAN D.C.O.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Capr
A4th Aust D.C.O.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Lieut. Colonel
A. A. & Q. M. G. 4th Australian Division

WAR DIARY
OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

183

PLACE	DATE	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & Reference to Appendices
Dec 1 Sains		D60 Routine	
	Dec 2	D60 Routine. Attending Board of Enquiry at Fve at La Croise at 4 th Aust Divn Arty Hqs.	
	3	D60 Routine	
	4	D60 Routine. Received DRO of 4/12/18. para 2376 re claims for wood.	
	5	D60 Routine. Visiting & inspecting claims in SIVIRY Area. Instructions re method of dealing with claims sent to Belgian Mission Interpreters. Received DRO re Court of Enquiry for 7/12/18. para 2384.	<u>I</u>
	6	D60 Routine. Inspecting & settling claims in Sains Area	<u>2</u>
	7	D60 Routine. Attending Board of Enquiry re removal of wood from Sains-du-Nord.	
	8	D60 Routine. Received 4 th Aust Division "G" Circular re Training Areas.	
	9	D60 Routine. Visiting & inspecting scene of Fve at Ramoussies.	<u>3</u>
	10/11	D60 Routine	
	12	D60 Routine. Attending Court of Enquiry re Fve at Ramoussies	
	13	1 st Echelon of DWA moved to Dinant. D60 cleared up Sains Area	
	14	2 nd Echelon of DWA moved to Dinant.	
Dinant	15 & 21	D60 Routine.	

WAR DIARY

OF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

183

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information	Appendices
Dinant.	Dec 22	Dbo Routine. Received circular re appointments of claims officers to each Brigade of Infantry & Artillery.	<u>4</u>
	23	Dbo Routine. Visited 49 th A Bn re claims	
	24	Received special order from Genl. MacLagan. G.O.C of Division Xmas Greetings	<u>5</u>
	25	Dbo Routine	
	27	Monthly return of claims sent with to Corps. G.O.C.	
	28	French & Belgian mission	<u>6</u>
	29	Dbo Routine	
	30	Monthly statement of claims paid AFN 1531 A. to G.O.C. for signature & use to paymaster	<u>7</u>
	31	Dbo Routine	

WAR DIARY

OF

4TH AUSTN. D.C.O.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|----------|---|
| <u>1</u> | D.R.O. of 4/12/18. para 2376 re claims for wood |
| <u>2</u> | D.R.O. of 6/12/18 para 2384. Re Board of Enquiry to be held on 7/12/18 |
| <u>3</u> | 4 Aust Division "G" Circular No 1/588/1 re Training Areas. |
| <u>4</u> | Received 4 Aust Divn Circular No R.O. 1/260 re appointments of claims officers to each Brigade of Infantry + Artillery. |
| <u>5</u> | Special Order from Genl MacLagan, ^{406 of Divn} Xmas Greetings. |
| <u>6</u> | Monthly return of claims dealt with |
| <u>7</u> | Monthly statements of claims paid A.F.N. 1531. A for December 1918. |

I *Seary*

Brigadier-General R.L. LEANE, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

4th December 1918.

2375. APPOINTMENT. Lieut. G.C. REID M.C., Assistant Adjutant, 45th Bn. vice Lieut. W.R. WATSON, detached 12th A.I. Bde. to date 20.11.1918.
2376. CLAIMS. The French Mission have drawn attention to the serious claims which are being received for wood removed by Troops from billets etc., for use as fuel. Attention is drawn to G.R.O. 1036. O.C., Units will take immediate steps to prevent further pilfering.
2377. LEAVE:- WARNING TO MEN PROCEEDING ON LEAVE TO LONDON. The following memorandum received from Administrative Headquarters A.I.F., London is promulgated for information. This report is to be published in all unit orders and read out to all men on parade:-
- " I respectfully beg to report that there is a strong suspicion that many undesirable characters, both male and female, of the class that endeavour to cultivate acquaintance with members of the A.I.F. on leave in London, are at the present moment employing for the purpose of drugging and subsequent robbery, small tablets of the appearance of saccharine, which these individuals proffer for the use of any of our men in whose company they may be eating.
- The action of whatever drug is contained in the above tablet is to produce almost immediate drowsiness followed by complete stupor. On revival a slight loss of memory frequently results and the victim has usually only a confused recollection of the person with whom he has been in company, and on the circumstances of their meeting, and is in fact incapable of giving any detailed account of what has transpired.
- There is abundant cause to believe that several members of the A.I.F. in this City, who have been recently robbed of their wallets and paybooks etc., and have been able to furnish practically no information as to the occurrence, have been victims to persons using the above tablets.
- I respectfully beg to suggest that all members of the A.I.F. may be warned through the medium of A.I.F. Orders or by the various furlough offices concerned, as to the inadvisability of accepting any so called saccharine tablets proffered for their use by comparative strangers in whose company they may happen to be. "
- (DAG. AIF. Cir. Memo No. 7/133 of 1.12.18.)

P.T.O.

2378. RAILHEAD. Railroad for this Division changes from the 3rd instant to LANDRECIES.

2379. SALVAGE. Reference Corps Administrative Instructions No. 9 para 6(ii) returns will be rendered to Div. H.Q. by 12 Noon Friday each week in duplicate.

2380. SCALE OF CLOTHING. Men returning to Australia on 1915 Furlough will take ordinary Winter Clothing under scale laid down in part 1 of G.R.O. 5103 of 25.9.18. plus 1 blanket per man for use on the voyage. Clothing under table 3 of G.R.O. 5103 will be returned to D.A.D.O.S. and must not be taken by men going on Furlough.

2381. CENSUS OF REMOUNTS. In order that a proper account may be kept of the Remounts on charge of the Division, care must be taken by units in compiling the bi-monthly Remount Demand to distinguish between L.D. Horses and L.D. Mules.

2382. RETURNS. Notwithstanding the directions given in D.R.O. 2363 of 26th November, the duplicate of A.F.B213 is still being sent, by some units, to this Office instead of direct to Aust. Section, 3rd Echelon, FRANCE.

Steps must be at once taken to see that the returns are correctly despatched as per instructions issued.

HEADQUARTERS,
4th Aust. Div.,
4th December 1918.

W. M. B. Brown

Major.
for Lieut.-Colonel.
A.A. & Q.M.G.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

NOTICES.

LOST. Black Gelding, Age 12, white star, white sock near hind. touch of mud rash in centre of back. Swollen knees owing to boils. No. 110 Off fore, No. 104 near fore. Goes by the name of "NIGGER".
Lost about 1.30 pm, 20th November 1918, at RAMOUSIES making in the direction of SAINS.
Information to 104th Army Brigade, R.F.A.

P.T.O.

(Contd. Comforts distributed)

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Brigadier-General R.L. LEANE, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.,
 Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

2333. REINFORCEMENTS. Railhead from 6th December, inclusive, will be LE CATEAU.

Corps Reinforcement Camp will be at CATILLON.
 Corps Reinforcement Camp will arrange to meet all Reinforcements at Railhead and accommodate them for the night. The following day they will be despatched to units by march route in stages as follows:-

1st and 4th Div. Reinforcements.

1st Stage. 2nd Div. Reinf. Wing, PRISCHES, where they will be accommodated for the night.

2nd Stage. 4th Div. Reinf. Wing, AVESNES, where they will be accommodated for the night.

3rd Stage. 1st Div. Reinf. to 1st Div. Reinf. Wing, SARS POTTERIES. 4th Div. Reinf. to Units.

S.M.T.O. will arrange for M.T. Service for conveyance of Officers Kits and mens blankets from LE CATEAU to CATILLON and thence to PRISCHES, AVESNES and SARS POTTERIES.

comprised

2334. COURT OF ENQUIRY. A Court of Enquiry/as herounder will assemble at the Office of the Div. Claims Officer, SAINS, at 10.30 am on the 7th instant for the purpose of enquiring into such matters as may be brought before it.

PRESIDENT.

A Field Officer to be detailed by 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.

MEMBERS.

Captain H.J. COOK,	M.C.,	4th Aust. Div. Claims Officer.
" F. WADGE	M.C.,	16th Battalion.

Proceedings will be forwarded to this Office on completion.

2335. APPOINTMENTS. The following appointments have been approved:-
12th A.I. Bde. To be Musketry Officer. 2/Liout. R.W. GREY MM.
43th Battalion to date from 21.11.1918.
12th A.I. Bde. To be Bombing Officer. Lieut. W.R. WATSON, 45th Bn. vice Lieut. H.G. SMITH MC. DOM. to date from 21.11.18.

P.T.O.

Diary

3

No. 6, 11111111

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
9th December, 1918.

4th Aust. Inf. Bdo.	
12th " " "	4th Aust. Div. Train.
13th " " "	4th Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4th Aust. Div. Artillery.	4th Aust. Div. Sanitary Section.
4th Aust. Div. Engineers.	4th Aust. Mob. Vet. Section.
4th Aust. M. G. Bn.	4th Aust. Salvage Coy.
4th Aust. Pioneer Bn.	Camp Commandant.
A. D. M. S.	

1. In the present situation it is essential that nothing should be done which may reduce the agricultural production of FRANCE during the coming year. All Military training on cultivated land or pasture in FRANCE or BELGIUM will, therefore, in future be discontinued, and such training will be restricted to uncultivated land except as stated in para. 2. Existing manoeuvre areas will cease to be available.
2. It is recognised that some ground will be required for purposes of ceremonial parades, games, etc. Small areas, up to 250,000 square YARDS, may therefore be hired locally for this purpose.
3. Where no other grounds are available as laid down in para. 2 formations will make their own arrangements with the local authorities.

L. Loraig.

Captain,
General Staff.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copies to - A.Q. ✓
Div. Claims Officer.

*NO
D.M.S. hhl
D.M.S. hhl*

D.C.O.

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Headquarters,
Australian Corps "A"

A.G.'s No. A.G./7911 (0).
Fourth Army No. AA/1398.

1. As it is anticipated that during the winter the bulk of the Army will be accommodated in Billets, it has been decided that in each Brigade of Artillery or Brigade of Infantry an Officer shall be appointed as Claims Officer.
2. He will act under the orders of the Div. Claims Officer to bring to notice and investigate at once any claims made by the French, Belgian or German inhabitants, arising out of the occupation of lands or buildings by British Troops.
3. The Bde. Claims Officer will be given no powers of payment, but will assist the Div. Claims Officer and Area Commandants in dealing with Claims.
4. Officers selected for these appointments will not be granted extra duty pay, and they will remain on the strength of their present units.
5. Please issue the necessary instructions for these Officers to be selected forthwith, and forward the names of the Officers selected to this Office, stating the formation to which each has been appointed Claims Officer.

(Sgd) H.M. PRYCE-Jones, Lt-Col,
A.A.G.
for Adjutant General.

G.H.Q.
1st Echelon
18/12/18.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
4th Aust. Div. Artillery.

H.Q.
4TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
No. <u>AO 1260.</u>
Date.....

Headquarters,
21st December 1918.

Please select an Officer from each Brigade for the appointment of Brigade Claims Officer and report the names of the Officers selected to this Office as early as possible.

This applies to the attached Artillery Brigades as well as the Australian Artillery Brigades.

W. M. P. B. Bennett

Major.
D.A.A.G.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy to:- D.C.O. ✓

Copy

5

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Special Order by

Major-General E.G. SINCLAIR MACLAGAN, C.B., D.S.O.,
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

I wish all ranks of the Division the best of Good Wishes and compliments of the Season on this, probably the last, Christmas we shall be together. I also wish all a quick and happy return to their beloved Australia and a very happy New Year.

I also have to thank most deeply all my Comrades of the Division for their glorious work during 1918. The loyal co-operation and untiring zeal of Staffs and Commanders of all grades, and the devoted, unflinching gallantry of all ranks during a most trying and difficult period, resulted in the 4th Australian Division enhancing in no small degree, not only its own fine reputation, but also that of the Australian Corps. I am sure that in any work that may be before us prior to demobilization every Officer and Man will do his best to keep unimpaired the great reputation, which the Division has worked and fought so hard to gain.

HEADQUARTERS,
4th Aust.Div.,
23rd December 1918.

(Sgd) E.G. SINCLAIR MACLAGAN.
Major-General.
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Draw 6/

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Return of Claims - December 1918.
Under G.R.O. 765

Amount claimed £25,314 (including those sent to Claims Commission)
Amount paid direct nil.
Claims disallowed 1.

Under G.R.O. 654

Total Number dealt with 13.

Total of claims for month 37.

During the month there were two fires in billets occupied by the division for which no claims were sent in.

W. J. Cook Capt.
of 4th Aust. D.C.O.

7
FOR USE IN THE FIELD.

183 Army Form N. 1531A.
(To be made out in duplicate.)
(In pads of 50)

ACCOUNT of sums received and expended by the Sub-Accountant during the month of December 1918, in account with the

Paymaster i/c Clearing House, Base.

A Australian D.C.O. (Unit.)
(Full official designation of Imprest Holder.)

Imprest Account No. MISC A12.

Dr.				Cr.					
Date	No. of Voucher	From whom received	Particulars	Amount (Local Currency)	Date	No. of Voucher	To whom paid	Particulars	Amount (Local Currency)
<u>1918</u>									
<u>23/11/18</u>	<u>1980/4</u>	<u>12th Field Coy. Aust Engrs</u>	<u>Lefeuve, Saisseval</u>	<u>15</u>					
<u>25/11/18</u>	<u>1969/4</u>	<u>46th Aust Inf Bn</u>	<u>Demarsy L. Fluy.</u>	<u>36</u>					
<u>do</u>	<u>1974/4</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>Flandre T. Fluy.</u>	<u>100</u>					
<u>26/11/18</u>	<u>1980/4</u>	<u>13th Field Coy. Aust Engrs</u>	<u>Lefeuve Saisseval.</u>	<u>15</u>					
<u>29/11/18</u>	<u>2016/4</u>	<u>13th Aust Inf Bn</u>	<u>Broken railway Rue carriage window</u>	<u>12</u>					
<u>6/12/18</u>	<u>2022/4</u>	<u>16th Aust Inf. Bn</u>	<u>Virlet O. Sains du Nord.</u>	<u>30</u>					
<u>7/12/18</u>	<u>2010/4</u>	<u>49th Aust Inf. Bn</u>	<u>Maisant S. Soleux.</u>	<u>100</u>					
<u>8/12/18</u>	<u>1921/4/6</u> <u>1931/4</u>	<u>14th Aust Inf. Bn</u>	<u>Potatoes Harigest S. Sarron</u>	<u>300</u>					
<u>do</u>	<u>2002/4</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>Meulin 2 Harigest S. Sarron</u>	<u>22</u>					
<u>do</u>	<u>1921/4/6</u> <u>1931/4</u>	<u>4th Aust LTM Batty</u>	<u>Potatoes Harigest S. Sarron</u>	<u>30</u>					
		<u>Forward</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>660</u>				<u>Total Expenditure</u>	
		<u>Balance due to Paymaster on last Account</u>	....	....			<u>Balance due by Paymaster on last Account</u>	....	....
		<u>Balance due by Paymaster on this Account</u>	....	....			<u>Balance due to Paymaster on this Account</u>	....	....
			<u>TOTAL Dr.</u>					<u>TOTAL Cr.</u>	

I certify that the above Account is correct.

Station and Date _____

Sub-Accountant.

1. This Account is to be made out by the Sub-Accountant (the Vouchers supporting the several credits and charges being annexed and numbered as 'Sub-Vouchers') and should be forwarded as soon after the end of month as possible to the Paymaster in charge of Clearing House at the base.
2. When this Form is used by the General Staff in connection with intelligence duties, the Sub-Accountant should attach a Certificate in those cases where it is not expedient to obtain Vouchers.
3. Vouchers or Certificates should be numbered 1, 2, 3, &c., a fresh series of numbers being used for each account.

FOR USE IN THE FIELD.

Army Form N. 1531A.
(To be made out in duplicate.)
(In pads of 50)

ACCOUNT of sums received and expended by the Sub-Accountant during the month of December 1918¹⁸³, in account with the
Paymaster i/c Clearing House, Base.

7th Australian D.C.O. (Unit.)
(Full official designation of Imprest Holder.)

Imprest Account No. Misc A12

Dr.					Cr.					
Date	No. of Voucher	From whom received	Particulars	Amount (Local Currency)	Date	No. of Voucher	To whom paid	Particulars	Amount (Local Currency)	
			Forward	Francs. 660						
8/12/18	2023/4	13th Aust Fld Ambulance	Mercier E. Sivry	30						
12/12/18	1965/4	51st Aust Inf Bn.	Rouselle. Bovelles	40	17/12/18	B1958	4th Aust. Div. Paymaster		730	
18/12/18	1980/4	4th Aust MG Bn.	Lefevre Saisseval	30						
Total Receipts					Total Expenditure					
Balance due to Paymaster on last Account				Balance due by Paymaster on last Account				
Balance due by Paymaster on this Account				Balance due to Paymaster on this Account				30
TOTAL Dr.				760	TOTAL Cr.				760	

Station and Date In the Field

I certify that the above Account is correct, and that I am
in possession of £30 public cash

H. Hook Capt Sub-Accountant.
4th Aust D.C.O.

1. This Account is to be made out by the Sub-Accountant (the Vouchers supporting the several credits and charges being annexed and numbered as 'Sub-Vouchers') and should be forwarded as soon after the end of month as possible to the Paymaster in charge of Clearing House at the base.
2. When this Form is used by the General Staff in connection with intelligence duties, the Sub-Accountant should attach a Certificate in those cases where it is not possible or expedient to obtain Vouchers.
3. Vouchers or Certificates should be numbered 1, 2, 3, &c., a fresh series of numbers being used for each account.