

**AWM4**

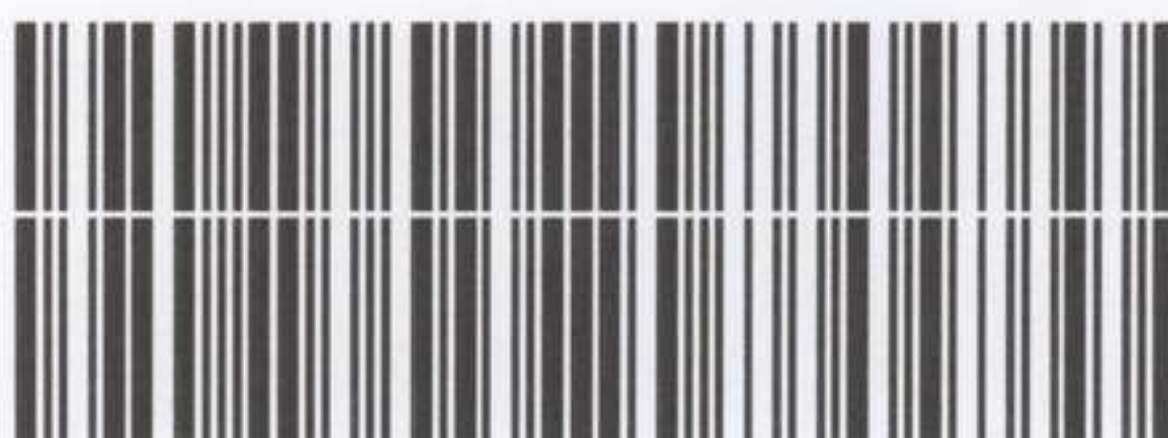
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Pay

**Item number:** 5/2/1

**Title:** Paymaster, Australian Corps

September 1917



AWM4-5/2/1



Report I

17.9.17.

The Chief Paymaster, A.I.F.,  
LONDON.

As already reported I arrived at 1st Anzac Headquarters on the afternoon of the 2nd instant and took over from Captain Blanshard on the 3rd idem.

I desire to submit a brief report for period ended 16th instant under a few headings:-

WAR LOAN. This question is being kept well before all members of the A.I.F. in France. All Paymasters have issued circulars pointing out the advantages of War Savings Certificates and the desirability of members with credits investing therein.

The D.A.G. intends publishing monthly the totals subscribed by each arm of the service., Artillery, Infantry, A.S.C., etc., not forgetting the A.P.C.

MOTOR CAR FOR BOULOGNE OFFICE. As requested by you, on arrival here I took up the case of a car for the Boulogne Office and submitted a recommendation in connection therewith to the D.A.G. The papers have been forwarded to you to take the matter up with the War Office. Colonel Dodds considers that we have more chance of getting the War Office to buy a car or agree to the running of a car if provided by the A.I.F. than G.H.Q. It is therefore now in your hands to try and push through.

ORDNANCE ISSUE BY IMPERIAL DEPOTS ON REPAYMENT.

Immediately on arrival this question was brought under the notice of the D.A.G. Colonel Dodds is now communicating with the Director of Ordnance Services with a view to having instructions issued (as per copy attached) to all Imperial Ordnance Depots regarding entering in the paybooks of members of the A.I.F. the cost of articles issued on repayment at Imperial Depots and endorsing the paybook number and payment line number on A.F. W3225. While at Boulogne I interviewed the Ordnance people there and they have agreed to carry out our wishes in the matter. I confirmed my interview by letter enclosing necessary instructions. I have since received a memo from the Ordnance Officer there stating that my request will be given effect to.

COMPARISON A.F.Bs.213 & A.F.Bs.2069 WITH PART 11 ORDERS.

The following instructions have been issued to all pay Sergeants relative to the above:-

"You will compare all A.F.Bs.213 & A.F.Bs.2069 with Part 11 Orders to ensure that all entries made in paybooks from these documents agree with those subsequently published in Part 11 Orders. You will immediately bring under the notice of the O.C. any discrepancies with a view to the O.C. taking necessary action to adjust."

INSTRUCTION TO PAY SERGEANTS AT LONDON OFFICE.

In my letter of the 15th instant I reported to you the action taken by me in this matter.

The proposal put up to the D.A.G. was for the Pay Sergeants to be sent over to London on duty. The period they will be away from their units, if my suggestion is approved of, will be seven days. The D.A.G. informs me that the papers have been referred to you for concurrence.



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17.9.17.

STATUS OF DRIVERS AND SHOEING SMITHS. (A.I.F. Order 785)

Referring to your Despatch No. 10 of the 19th ultimo, page 2, in order to prevent any misunderstanding as to who should take the initiative regarding the reinstatement of Drivers and Shoeing Smiths, the following instructions have been issued to Paymasters and all Pay Sergeants.

"You are informed that under no circumstances are you to take the initiative regarding the reinstatement of Drivers and Shoeing Smiths. All necessary action regarding reinstatement must be taken by the O.C. of Units concerned. You will only amend paybooks in accordance with A.F.B.213 or Part 11 Orders as hitherto."

CASHING AMERICAN ARMY CHEQUES.

We may be approached at any time to cash American Army Cheques. With a view to making arrangements, Captain Blanshard, on his way to Rouen, called on the American Paymaster at Paris and wired me as follows:-

"American Army Cheques may be cleared through Banque de France at Par AAA Rate at present is one dollar equals 5 francs 70 centimes AAA Paymaster U.S.A. will advise you of any fluctuation in exchange rate."

Should occasion arise, I will honour cheques and clear as above. (Only few cheques to cash, case of Officers attached A.I.F. formations).

GENERAL.

I have already seen Divisional Paymasters of the 1st 2nd and 5th Divisions and hope to get down to see the 3rd Divisional Paymaster on Friday. A conference of Paymasters will be held at my office on Thursday afternoon at 3 O'Clock when I hope to see the 4th Divisional Paymaster; the 3rd Division being so far away, in all probability Lieut. Leslie will not be able to get here.

Regarding 2nd Anzac Corps Headquarters, Captain Blanshard has interviewed the Imperial Field Cashier several times and gave him necessary instructions regarding individual payments to members of the A.I.F. and on other matters affecting us. I intend at the first opportunity to call and see the Cashier there and see how things are going in the pay line in so far as they concern us.

It may be necessary to have Pay Sergeants attached to 11 Anzac Corps Headquarters. This Corps are in the vicinity of the 3rd Division and I am in communication with Lieut. Leslie, whom I have requested to interview the various O.Cs and furnish me with suggestions regarding the appointment of Pay Sergeants.

Lieut. Leslie is supervising pay matters of the 11 Anzac Corps as far as possible. I will report further regarding Pay Sergeants at a later date.



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17.9.17.

GENERAL. (Continued)

Captain Blanshard completed the inspection of the Units in the Pay of the Boulogne Office with the exception of one or two. He has now proceeded to Rouen to relieve Mortensen and will continue his inspection duties there and furnish the report to me on completion.

(~~Extd~~) A.S.L., Major,  
Staff Paymaster, A.I.F.,  
Attached 1st Anzac Headquarters.



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Report II

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5/1/2.

The Chief Paymaster, A.I.F.,  
London.  
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30.9.17.

INFORMATION FOR MONTHLY CIRCULAR.  
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1. Herewith please find Statement showing aggregate transactions for period 26.8.17 to 25.9.17.

The total receipts for period were £ 302,306: 7: 8 and the total expenditure was £ 307, 543: 10: 8 as per detailed Statement attached.

It will be seen that there is a decided increase in the total transactions for this month as compared with last. This has been brought about by the large number of Imperial Units and other Colonial Units attached to us for pay.

Since arrival in this Area I have taken over and administer eight units that were previously in the Pay of the Boulogne Office.

2. A member of my Staff has visited all Units without a Pay Sergeant, attached to 1st Anzac Corps, at least once during the past month with the exception of two Siege Batteries - the 54th and 55th - which are at present in the Forward Area. He has examined the paybooks, entered up the progressive credit total and the debit totals where necessary and attended to other pay matters.

3. All branches of the Banque de France within a reasonable distance are closed. At present St. Omer is our Banking centre and it is necessary to go there once a week for cash. The distance is about 40 kilometres.

4. The number of Imprest Acquittance Rolls passed through our books for the period was 110 amounting to £ 15,412:10: 4. Individual payments numbered 1614 totalling £ 6,396:17: 2.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

This is very heavy and is increasing daily. The number of communications received was 964 - despatched 1928. A loose leaf Correspondence Register was brought into operation from the 1st September indexed under different headings - Imprests, Returns, Paybooks etc., and has proved a success, the correspondence being easily traced. All Divisional Paymasters have a similar Register.

6. BELGIAN CURRENCY.

I forwarded you on the 29th instant a copy of a confidential memo. received from the Paymaster-in-Chief relative to this matter.

7. PAY SERGEANTS.

The Pay Sergeants attached to 1st Anzac report here regularly with the exception of Pay Sergt. Clarke, who is at 1st Anzac Corps School and he furnishes a fortnightly report.

8. PAYMASTERS' CONFERENCE.

These are held fortnightly or every three weeks. Should occasion arise a special meeting is called. The last Conference was held on the 25th instant.



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30.9.17.

9. U.S.A. EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

So far we have not dealt with any American Imprest Holders or individuals. Officers of the American Service draw their pay in monthly instalments. The Paymaster-in-Chief does not desire us to advance money to Officers of the American Service under any circumstances, but should they be attached to any of our Units and not in touch with their own Paymaster we can cash cheques drawn by the Chief Paymaster on the Treasurer of the United States.

10. STAFF.

Captain Blanshard relieved Lieut. Mortensen, Paymaster, Rouen, on the 20th instant who was granted 10 days leave. Lieut Mortensen should resume duty today the 30th instant.

I have to advise that Lieut. Leslie was evacuated to Hospital on the 27th instant suffering from Trench Fever. Captain Blanshard will relieve Lieut. Leslie on return of Lieut. Mortensen.

CASUALTY.

I have to report that one of our Pay Sergeants (Pay Sgt. D.K. Young of the 1st Divisional Engineers) was wounded on the 16th but fortunately not seriously. No doubt Lieut. Haley has mentioned this in his report which he forwarded to you direct.

I have great pleasure in reporting that all the Paymasters and Pay Sergeants are very keen on their work and carry out their respective duties very efficiently. The appointment of Pay Sergeants has been a great boon to combatant Officers and I would like to add that every assistance is given by them to your representatives in pay matters being carried out. A special note should be made of the courtesy and assistance rendered by 1st Anzac Headquarters to Paymasters attached and also by Divisional Headquarters to Paymasters, and I think a note of thanks from you would be appreciated.

(Sgd) A.S. Leahy, Major,  
Staff Paymaster, A.I.F.,  
Attached 1st Anzac Headquarters.