

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

Postal

Item number: 17/1/13

Title: Deputy Assistant Director of Postal
Services, Australian Corps

August 1918



AWM4-17/1/13

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ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

300

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN ARMY POSTAL CORPS

FOR

AUGUST

1918

D.A.D.P.S.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.
No.....
Date.....

Signature of Officer compiling

Bletcher Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Bletcher Capt.

D.A.D.P.S.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>1.8.18</u>		<u>1st</u> Nothing to report.	
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>2.8.18</u>		<u>2nd</u> D.A.P.S., A.I.F., wires .- Commences " Lieut. Gerrans leaving for Havre immediately movement order available" ends. Instructions wired from this office for Lieut Hadley to meet Lieut Gerrans on arrival.	
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>3.8.18</u>		<u>3rd</u> Received notice at 4.p.m. that POULAINVILLE and SALEUX Corps Troops Ration Dumps move tonight to AMIENS CITADELLE and RIVERY respectively opening there tomorrow. Notice received too late to move Army Post Offices S.W.I. and S.46 (Poulainville and Saleux Dumps respectively) to open at new locations tomorrow. Proceeded by car to both offices and instructed them to open at new locations on morning 5th instant. Tomorrow the units concerned to draw from the Army Postoffice at their old locations.	
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>4.8.18</u>		<u>4th</u> POULAINVILLE and SALEUX Ration Dumps moved to AMIENS CITADELLE and RIVERY opening at their new locations today. Army Postoffices S.W.I. and S.46 move to the dumps tomorrow. Transfer of Artillery units from S.W.I. and Corps units other than Artillery from S.46 - one to the other - rendered necessary by this movement. The transfer to be made by direct lorry despatch between S.46 and S.W.I. pending direct arrival on Supply Trains.	
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>5.8.18</u>		<u>5th</u> Visited and inspected the following units offices R.W.3 (3rd Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) POULAINVILLE, D.W.3 and 10.W (3rd Austn Divisional Headquarters and 10th Australian Infantry Brigade respectly) at BUSSY - Les - DAOURS, D.W.2 and 6.W (2nd Australian Divisional Headquarters F.P.O. and 6th Australian Infantry Brigade F.P.O.) at GLISSY and T.W.2 and R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Train F.P.O. and 2nd Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) at CAMON. Interviewed D.A.A.G., 3rd Australian Division and requested that suspense clause re personal signatures (A.I.F., Order No. 1088) for parcels which 3rd Australian Division requested to be put into operation on arrival in Somme Area be cancelled as from 15th instant (approx) this was agreed to.	

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<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>5.8.18</u>		<u>5th</u> N.C.O. i/c Field Postoffice 6.W. (6th Australian Infantry Brigade) absent suprintending the writing up of cards systems (nominall rolls) for Postal Orderlies of 22nd and 24th Australian Infantry Battalions. Lieut Hadley wires from HAVRE commences "Lieut Gerrans not yet arrived - returning Etaples tomorrow if not then here" ends. Army Postoffices S.W.1. and S.46 opened at ARMIENS CITADELLE and RIVERY today.	cf.
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>6.8.18</u>		<u>6th</u> Great activity in movement of troops : location work heavy and difficult: definite information as to movements almost impossible A.D.P.S., Fourth Army wires - commences " Calling this afternoon " ends On arrival discussion of plans for distribution of mail during projected advance.	cf.
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>7.8.18</u>		<u>7th</u> Preliminary arrangement for transfer of unit Postal Orderlies vide A.I.F., Order No. 1324 of 2.8.18 commenced today. C.Os concurrence asked for transfer of satisfactory orderlies or to nominate Privates to replace unsatisfactory and orderlies with rank superior to that of Corporal. (See appendixes attached) Lieut Gerrans from D.A.P.S' A.I.F., office arrived today at HAVRE. 1st Australian Division complete arrived from North today cross-post and expresses arrived here for delivery - all in order.	cf.
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>8.8.18</u>		<u>8th</u> Held conference Warrant Officers and Divisional Supervisors at Army Postoffice R.W.3 (3rd Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) POULAINVILLE. (See appendix "A"). Instructed Divisional Supervisors arrange attachment of Field Post Offices to respective Brigade A.S.C. Companys in order to keep in touch with units during advance commenced today.	cf.

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<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>9.8.18</u>		<p><u>9th</u> Visited R.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) AILLY -sur-SOMME, R.W.2 and R.W.5 (2nd and 5th Australian Divisional Railheads A.P.O's) at CAMON (Railheads LA MOTTE LA BREBIERE) 6.W and D.W.2 (6th Australian Infantry Brigade and 2nd Australian Divisional Headquarters F.P.O's) at GLISSY, D.W.5 (5th Australian Divisional Headquarters F.P.O.) at BLANGEY CHATEAU and Army Postoffice S.46 RIVERY - all O.K. Field Postoffices of 1st 4th and 5th Australian Divisions travelling with Supply Sections of A.S.C. Companys. Field Postoffices of 2nd and 3rd Australian Divisions remaining in rear as also Postal Orderlies with regimental transports. Mails being disposed of despite rapid advance. Wired Australian Base Postoffice, London , hang up parcel mails pending further advice. Notice received 10 p.m. all Railheads moving including Corps Packs. Rearrangement od cross-post services at once necessary sent instructions by Despatch Rider (Corps Warrant Officer) to offices concerned with amended cross-post arrangements to take effect following morning (10thinst) . R.W.3 (3rd Australian Divisional Railhead)to CORBIE. R.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) LA MOTTE to CORBIE. R.W.2, R.W.4 and R.W.5 (2nd,4th and 5th Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O's) to CORBIE. Pack Trains 1st and 3rd Australian Divisions reversed and mails likewise necessitating 3rd Australian Division drawing mails from CORBIE and 1st Australian Division mails from LA MOTTE LA BREBIERE - Australian Corps making connection with expresses and cross-post from Fourth Army with Divisions at AILLY-sur-SOMME. 17th Division comes under this Corps administration as from tomorrow Cross-post and expresses arranged for delivery tomorrow.</p>	

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<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>10.8.18</u>		<u>10th</u> Warrant Officer Spriggins detached from D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F., L of C for duty in the field in connection with transfer of Postal Orderlies vide A.I.F., Order No. 1324 2.8.18., and posted to 1st Australian Division. The D.D.P.S. (S) and A.D.P.S., Fourth Army called today in connection with distribution of mails during present advance: expressed satisfaction with present arrangements. Fourth Army wires 7.5. p.m. commences" 1st and 5th Australian Divisional Packs to Corbie tomorrow inclusive" ends.	let
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>11.8.18</u>		<u>11th</u> Movements of troops at short notice have been continuous since the beginning of the month seldom remaining at one feeding dump for more than a day or so. The position Postally is extremely difficult and arduous. By locating on feeding arrangements the mails have been cleared satisfactorily but the short notice Railhead moves has proved more troublesome than usual.	
<u>Bertangles</u>	<u>12.8.18</u>		<u>12th</u> Notice received Corps pack dividing on 15th instant inclusive. "A" pack and (Army Postoffice S.46) to Corbie "B" pack and (Army Postoffice S.W.I.) remaining Amiens. Cross-post services revised to include transfer work at S.W.I. vice S.46.	
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>13.8.18</u>		<u>13th</u> "A" Echelon Australian Corps and Field Postoffice H.W.1. (F.P.O. Austn Corps Headquarters) removed from Bertangles to Glisy today. Field Postoffice opened and mail ready for delivery at 11.a.m.: notice received 7.30 p.m. 4th and 5th Australian Divisional Railheads open at Villers-Brettonneux tomorrow morning instructions issued accordingly.	

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<u>Glisy</u>	<u>14 - 8 - 18</u>		<u>14th</u> Visited in company with Lieut Gerrans Field Postoffice T.W.1 (1st Australian Divisional Train F.P.O.) near Warfusee : accommodation - bell tent well dug in. Mails being delivered with rations and services satisfactorily maintained despite limited accommodation; bombing bad. Field Postoffice narrowly escaped destruction from tanks badly steered. Postal Orderly 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade accommodated in a shell-hole covered by water-proof sheet; had some mail destroyed by tank running over his regimental postoffice in the darkness. He had a miraculous escape from death, the tank passing over the shell-hole but fortunately he was lying in a position between the treads. Field Postoffice 1.W (1st Australian Infantry Brigade F.P.O.) Warfusee-Marcelcave Road - midway between the two villages; accommodation in an old German dug-out inadequate but safe. Mails being distributed with rations and Postal Orderlies reported to be disposing of same despite many difficulties of transport. One Postal Orderly is reported to have procured a boat rowed the mail up the Somme Canal for five or six kilos only to find that his regiment had departed. Field Postoffice 3.W near Marcelcave Accommodation poor - trench shelter - but staff doing well and happy. Records, mails and work generally satisfactory. Army Post Offices R.Ws 1, 3 and 4 (1st, 3rd and 4th Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.'s) Corbie - accommodated in houses in a more-or-less damaged condition due to shell-fire and bombs - all well.	<i>of</i>
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>15 - 8 - 18</u>		<u>15th</u> Nothing to report.	<i>of</i>

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<u>Glisy</u>	<u>16.8.18</u>		<u>16th</u> Accompanied by Lieut Gerrans visited Corbie and inspected the following Army and Field Postoffices:- Army Postoffices R.W.s 1,2 and 4 (1st 2nd and 4th Australian Divisional Railheads) Army Postoffice S.46 and Field Postoffice D.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Headquarters) all in good order : records up-to-date and mail being disposed of despite many difficulties and frequent moves of units.	CF
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>17.8.18</u>		<u>17th</u> Visited in company with Lieut Gerrans the following offices.- Army Postoffices R.W's 3 and 4 (3rd and 4th Australian Divisional Railheads) Villers-Brettoneux work well in hand and mails being disposed of regularly Field Postoffices of the Divisions stationed on ration dumps and mails being distributed with rations. Field Postoffices 14.W,4.W and 12.W and T.W.4 (14th,4th and 12th Australian Infantry Brigades F.P.O.s and F.P.O. 4th Australian Divisional Train) all stationed on dumps outside Villers-Brettoneux (Sheet 62D.P.25 central) and quartered in the ruins of an Aerodrome Camp now completely wrecked. Accommodation awful but work being performed in an excellent manner under most heart-breaking conditions. Wired Fourth Army visiting there tomorrow at 11.a.m	CF
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>18.8.18.</u>		<u>18th</u> Unable visit Fourth Army this morning: collided with a Canadian in Boves and damaged motor-cycle, injured Canadians knee and foot, cut my own hand, but went on to Dury expecting to find Army Headquarters there. On arrival found move cancelled and Army still at Flexicourt. Came back via Amiens and visited S.W.1 to find new lorry services working satisfactorily. Got motor-cycle straightened out a bit and returned to Glisy.	CF

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<u>Glisy</u>	<u>19.8.18</u>		<u>19th</u> Visited Lieut Hadley at Etaples and arranged for him to proceed to Corps Headquarters on 22nd to act as D.A.D.P.S. during my (Captain Fletcher) temporary absence on inspectional duties in the forward areas.	cf.
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>20.8.18</u>		<u>20th</u> Captain Fletcher returned to Corps Headquarters this morning.	cf.
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>21.8.18</u>		<u>21st</u> Visited in company with Lieut Gerrans Army Postoffices R.W.1 and R.W.3 (1st and 3rd Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) and Field Post Offices T.W.2 (2nd Australian Divisional Train F.P.O.) and 2.W (2nd Australian Infantry Brigades F.P.O.) at Corbie. All in order. Postal Orderly 5th Australian Field Artillery Brigade now located at F.P.O. T.W.2. Corbie and work well in hand. Instructed him to procure daily states of men marching in and out to revise his card system. After completion to forward this information to O.C., Australian Base Postoffice London. Inspected 9.W and 11.W (9th and 11th Australian Infantry Brigades F.P.O.'s) at Saily-le-sec : accommodation awful: shell-battered houses providing no protection from the weather - work at both satisfactory under most trying conditions. Parcel lists and records at all Field Postoffices satisfactory. Instructed Divisional Supervisors R.W.s 1 and 3 to insist on observance by postal orderlies of the instructions dealing with endorsements on returned or undeliverable mail matter. Interviewed A.A. & Q.M.G., 3rd Australian Division and arranged for all Field Postoffices of that Division to be attached to their relative A.S.C., Companies despite their former opposition to this proposal. Colonel Jackson A.A. & Q.M.G., now admits the advantage to be derived from this alteration.	cf.

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<u>Glisy</u>	<u>22 . 8 . 18</u>		<u>22nd</u> Lieut Hadley D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F., Lines Communication arrived today from Etaples.	cf
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>23 . 8 . 18</u>		<u>23rd</u> Lieut.s Hadley and Gerrans proceed to Corbie today where they will be located for some days. They have been instructed to inspect the postal services from Railhead up to the point of delivery within the unit, investigating the circulation and delivery of mail up to its ultimate delivery. Particular attention to be paid to the work and rolls of unit postal orderlies.	cf
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>24 . 8 . 18</u>		<u>24th</u> Visited and inspected R.W.1, R.W.2., R.W.3 (1st, 2nd and 3rd Austln. Divisional Railhead A.P.O.s) and Army Postoffice S.46 at Corbie All satisfactory. Latter office very busy but mail being cleared off the "dump" daily without delay. W.O. Spriggins instructed to take up duty at 3rd Australian Division vice White (on leave).	cf cf
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>25 . 8 . 18</u>		<u>25th</u> Nothing to report.	cf
<u>Glisy</u>	<u>26 . 8 . 18</u>		<u>26th</u> Visited R.W.1 and conferred with Lieut.s Hadley and Gerrans who report that postal matters are very satisfactory all round despite present exceptional mobility and conditions. Instructed them to proceed to Amiens tomorrow and investigate the work of 4th Australian Division.	cf

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	<u>Glisy 27. 8. 18</u>		<u>27th</u> Inspected personally the work of the following postal orderlies :- 49th, 50th, 51st, 14th and 16th Australian Infantry Battalions. Arrangements made for respective unit Orderly Rooms to supply postal orderlies with daily marching-in and out states. Work of postal orderlies (majority) favourable.	CAF
	<u>Glisy 28.8.18</u>		<u>28th</u> Lieut Hadley D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F., Lines Communication, to Australian Corps for relief duty of Captain Fletcher, to Lines of Communication on inspectional duties. Visited S.W.1 (Amiens Citadelle) R.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) and 13.W (13th Australian Infantry Brigade F.P.O.) at Rivery - all O.K.	CAF
	<u>Glisy 29.8.18</u>		<u>29th</u> R.W.3 (3rd Australian Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) and R.32 (32nd British Divisional Railhead A.P.O.) moved up from Villers Brettoneux and Corbie to La Flaque. Owing to rapid advance of troops Railheads are being pushed forward with all possible speed. Arrangements are being made to keep 'S' Offices in touch with Corps Troops who are spread over a very wide area.	CAF
	<u>Glisy 30.8.18</u>		<u>30th</u> Interviewed A.D.P.S. Fourth Army reference moving up of Army Postoffice S.W.I (Amiens Citadelle) to Corbie to relieve the pressure at Army Post Office S.46. A.D.P.S., Fourth Army agreed to the move of S.W.1 and also agreed to locate and serve all units remaining in old area from Army Postoffice S.26 (Fourth Army Depot Field Postoffice). Notification received re move of Australian Corps Headquarters, to Mericourt - sur-somme, tomorrow. Proposals for re-organisation of lorry runs and cross-post services submitted to A.D.P.S., Fourth Army for approval.	CAF

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<u>Mericourt</u>	<u>31. 8. 18.</u>		<u>31st</u> Australian Corps Headquarters and Field Postoffice H.W.1. (Australian Corps Headquarters Field Postoffice) moved up from Glisy to Mericourt. Divisional Supervisors report difficulties in getting mail out to units in line, owing to rapid advance forward. R.W.1 (1st Australian Divisional Railhead Army Postoffice) moved from Corbie to La Flaque.	ccf Stephen Capt D.A.D.P.S. Aust. Corps

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WAR DIARY

OF

Australian Postal Corps.

FOR

August 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

"A." Monthly report
 (Minutes of Dues Supervisors
 Conference included.)

D.A.P.S.,
Australian Imperial Force.

MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY SUBMITTED HEREWITH

The whole 5 Australian Divisions have again been in line and the opportunity to overhaul the Postal Services in "rest" has not yet presented itself.

However, this has not presented any necessary reforms or re-organisation being pushed on with, though naturally, the process is a slower one than it otherwise would be.

POSTAL ORDERLIES

Steps were taken early in the month to secure all possible information reference the qualification and regimental particulars of the postal orderlies whom we propose to transfer to the Postal Corps.

In the great majority of cases the orderlies are stated to be very satisfactory and no sweeping changes in this direction appear to be necessary. Orders and instructions were prepared for postal orderlies Divisional Supervisors and N.C.O's instructed personally as to their duties in respect to the observation of same.

Owing to the pending attack much re-arranging of areas and movement of troops occurred at the latter end of the month and many of the units and some Divisions "staged" through this area necessitating a great deal of location work and some re-arrangement of out cross post systems and services. In fact from a re-organization point of view the change over of postal orderlies could not have been launched at a more difficult or unpromising period.

FIELD WORKING - FIELD POSTOFFICES.

The work at the Field Postoffices has proceeded smoothly and no great difficulty has been experienced in disposing of, or despatching mails, all the ordinary services having been maintained as usual. The personnel with a few exceptions are all very competent men but I am afraid with the advent of low category reinforcements this high standard will not, and cannot, be maintained. In this respect an interesting and enlightening article in the daily press dealing with the question of personnel employed in German Field Postoffices is attached (Appendix "A"). Considering the man power problem of Germany this is significant.

RECORDS.

The Base Postoffice still reports numbers of parcel lists as missing. A great deal of this can be attributed to the offensive of March and April, when some of the units lost all their records and others claim to have done likewise. Most of these cases occurred with units outside the Corps organization. In the remaining cases the return of the lists is disputed and it is difficult to see how some of the lists posted as "missing" could possibly be lost in the field. To avoid any dispute in future I have issued an instruction to all A.P.O's and F.P.O's to record full particulars of the parcel lists including number, office of origin and date of despatch. This record is posted in duplicate to the Divisional Supervisor together with the relative records and checked prior to despatch to the Base Postoffice. A copy accompanies the records to London. I am hopeful that this will end a great deal of the present uncertainty. It is again noticed that the units who give most trouble are those on the L of C or those units served through British Field Postoffices. There appears to be some difficulty in compelling these units to observe A.I.F., Order No. 1088, but no doubt, this will disappear in time. The republishing of A.P.S. Order NO. 35 has also removed one of our difficulties in obtaining acquittances for parcels returned through British Field Postoffices.

PERSONNEL - STRENGTH OF

My establishment has been understrength by approximately 20 other ranks during the month and it has been extremely difficult to re-arrange the staffs in order to carry on the services without a break down. Leave has been granted, but not so freely as would otherwise have been possible if the establishment were up to strength.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT.

Accommodation has been largely "make-shift" and of the bivouac description. Most of the Field Postoffices have been attached to their A.S.C. Companies and are usually located at the supply dump. While much more convenient for the distribution of mails the available accommodation is very limited. However, the transport problem outweighs this objection and it has been found a more satisfactory arrangement in practice than to attach the Brigade Field Postoffice to their respective Brigade Headquarters. The question of permanently attaching the Field Postoffices to the relative A.S.C. Company was put up to the D.A.G., A.I.F., and a decision on this matter is now awaited.

CARD SYSTEMS

We have been gradually pushing on with the installation of Card systems at various units and the results reported to date are very satisfactory. The irregularity in size and the poor quality of the cards supplied is very noticeable. Very little care appears to have been exercised in the cutting and some danger exists of postal orderlies "missing cards" which, in some cases, vary as much as half an inch in breadth.

PARCELS DELIVERY OF

A total of 77544 parcels were received for delivery and no losses by theft or otherwise were reported in the field. One parcel was destroyed by the staff of F.P.O. 10.W owing to the damaged condition of its contents (syrup). Out of the above total received 64636 were actually delivered in the field at the first address the remainder either being returned to A.B.P.O., or re-directed in France.

CONFERENCE.

A conference of Divisional Supervisors was held on the 8th inst and the various monthly reports for June read and explained. minutes of the conference attached (see appendix "B").

CORPS INSPECTING WARRANT OFFICER.

C.S.M. Waugh has performed some good work during his tours of inspection and investigation. It will be noted that all the Infantry units are receiving daily marching-in and out states and a second check of rolls is made by reference to the A.F.B. 213. When the transfer of unit orderlies is completed this information will be available for the use of the Base Postoffice.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

Reports of Lieut Hadley and Warrant Officers Spriggins and Whitelaw indicate that the position on the L of C is generally satisfactory. Some complaint is being made of the mis-sorting by the Base Postoffice and units in the field. The latter is mainly caused by the incorrect circulation of mail for men at "Schools" all being circulated to Australian Corps Schools. A close inspection of this at Railheads should now obviate the trouble so far as this side is concerned. A total of over 30 units were visited and inspected during the month and the parcel system is now beginning to be generally well understood. It is hoped before long that our

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troubles in this respect will entirely disappear. The Australian Machine Gun Base Depot is now located as an independent unit and the position there is reported to be more satisfactory than here-to-fore. At Havre the organisation appears to be sound and the work is performed with the utmost economy of personnel. The attachment of an N.C.O. at No. 39 General Hospital is rapidly justifying itself and the daily information of Australian personnel marching in and out of the hospital should be of considerable assistance to the Base Postoffice. This information is posted by our N.C.O. direct to O.C., A.B.P.O., daily.

Summing up the Services as a whole I think the work for the month may be regarded as satisfactory and very few complaints have been received. Attached (appendix "C") is a precis of all the cases of lost, missing or violated mail matter reported during the month.

Headquarters,
Australian Corps.
23rd August, 1918.

Captain.,
D.A.D.P.S.

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GERMAN MAN-POWER CRISIS.

Reuter's special correspondent with the French Army, in a despatch received yesterday, says:

The following order of Ludendorff, which was captured on the front of one of our attacking armies, shows clearly to what a degree of penury as regards man power with the German Army had been reduced before their last offensive. The Order, which is dated from General Headquarters, July 9th, says:

"The state of our resources in men, and the internal and economic condition of the country, compel us to give up, all men fit for service to the fighting units, and to observe the greatest parsimony in the employment of men in the auxiliary service (garrison and labour duty).

" All other considerations, whether military or personal, must give way to this pressing necessity.

" It is clear from reports submitted to the High Command that non-commissioned officers and men of the field service are still employed in posts which can, and absolutely must, be filled by non-commissioned officers and men of the auxiliary service, such as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc.

" To examine these matters, and to put a stop to abuses, a commission is appointed for each army. No one will be excluded from the purview of these commissions except men in the divisional field recruit depot at the front, and the volunteer personnel of the Medical Service, and the personnel of the field postal service. Officers, non-commissioned officers and men and military employees are included in the survey of the commissions".

The Order also points out specially that what the High Command needs above all is reserves of infantry. For the armies of Field-Marshal von Mackensen and General Scholtz in Russia and Rumania. General Ludendorff decrees that, instead of taking away the German personnel of the auxiliary service, the widest appeal should be made to the people of the occupied countries to fill the gaps in the German ranks.

DIVISIONAL SUPERVISORS CONFERENCEHELD AT ARMY POSTOFFICE R.W.3BOULAINVILLE 8/8/18PRESENT

Captain Fletcher	D.A.D.P.S. Austn Corps.
W.O. Pope	Divl Supr. 5th Aus Div.
C.S.M. Waugh	Corps Insp. W.O.
" Ussher	Divl Supr. 1st Aus Div.
" Rayward	Divl Supr. 2nd Aus Div.
" White	Divl Supr. 3rd Aus Div.
" Bradshaw	Divl Supr. 4th Aus Div.

Monthly reports from the various sub-sections of the Australian Army Postal Corps in U.K., and France were read and discussed.

Captain Fletcher -

" The O.C., Australian Base Postoffice reports that a considerable number of papers are still being returned from the field to the Base P.O. Orders are in existence that these should be retained in the field and distributed under the authority and supervision of the respective C.O's of units unless definitely addressed."

Divisional Supervisors-

"So far as we know this instruction is being complied with"

Captain Fletcher

" I should be glad if you all would please give this matter your personal attention "

Captain Fletcher -

" Reference my report and 32nd and 30th Australian Infantry Battalions. Are these units now working satisfactorily and is the necessary information being received by the postal orderlies."

W.O. Pope

" Yes".

NOMINAL ROLLS ETC.Captain Fletcher -

" I presume the nominal roll books which were provided to each Divisional Supervisor have now been distributed to those units not coming under the card system".

Divisional Supervisors - "Yes"

Warrant Officer Pope - " Yes with the exception that those units which have a superior quality of book have been allowed to retain them.

Captain Fletcher - As regards the units taken over by the Corps Card systems should be put into force as soon as conditions permit. They should be compiled in alphabetical and numerical order no Com ny divisions being permitted. If necessary "effective" and non-effective divisions may be kept. Arrangements should be made for postal orderlies to obtain daily information of personnel marching in to or out from their respective units. After the revision of cards this information should be posted direct to the O.C., A.B.P.O. with the unit designation clearly marked on the sheets.

TRANSFER OF POSTAL ORDERLIES

Captain Fletcher . On completion of the transfer of postal orderlies an Inspecting Sergeant will be allotted to each Divl Supervisor

.8.
Supervisor for the special purpose of supervising the work of unit postal orderlies. It should be understood that the Divisional Supervisor will then be held responsible for the whole of the Postal Administration of their respective Divisions.

RECORDS - PARCELS

Warrant Officer Pope - The Base Postoffice is omitting the date of despatch from many of their parcel lists rendering the compilation of records in the correct form a matter of some difficulty. Divisional Supervisors - This is also noticeable in our Divisions.

MAIL FOR POSTAL PERSONNEL

C.S.M. White - Cannot mail for the Postal personnel be circulated in the express bags instead of as at present, in some cases, via Supply Train route.

Captain Fletcher . You refer to Railhead mails?.

C.S.M. White - Yes.

Captain Fletcher - I will go into this matter. Personally I do not see any difficulty in the way.

C.S.M. Rayward - Mail for Machine Gun Battalions is very badly dealt with at the Base. Much confusion exists in circulation. Company No.s as for Machine Gun Battalion No.s vice - versa.

Warrant Officer Pope - This is very noticeable in my Division.

C.S.M. Rayward - Reference endorsement of Machine Gun mail: The Battalion endorsement "Not with" should be quite sufficient to cover all four companies, yet mail has been returned from the Base querying the endorsements as incorrect.

Captain Fletcher- The Battalion endorsement should be quite sufficient just as it is with Infantry Battalions.

LOCKS

Staff Sgt Bradshaw - The locks used on Postal trucks are not of the best quality and do not present great difficulty to anyone with a knowledge of mechanism.

Captain Fletcher - No: I have spoken to the A.D.P.S., Fourth Army also Colonels Price and Kelly on the matter. Owing to the changing locations and the necessity of transferring bags from one truck to another at Romescamp and other regulating points the locks of necessity must be of standard pattern and these cannot therefore be as safe as would otherwise be possible.

Captain Fletcher - Is the circulation of mail via Havre to the field for technical units satisfactory?.

Divisional Supervisors - Yes.

N.C.O. CONFERENCES

Captain Fletcher - I am anxious for each Divisional Supervisor to hold these N.C.O. Conferences regularly and prior to submitting the monthly report. However, I recognise that under the present circumstances this is hardly possible, but as soon as conditions permit they should be resumed.

Captain Fletcher - On completion of the transfer of postal orderlies I think it would be a good idea to utilize the services of the unit orderlies at Brigade Field Postoffices whenever possible in order to give them an insight into the postal procedure as a whole. At the same time the F.P.O. staff could with advantage assist the orderlies, each gaining a knowledge of the others duties by mutual assistance. It may at any time be necessary to immediately replace a postal orderly who has become a casualty by a man from the F.P.O. personnel and it is necessary that he should be familiar with the work should this occasion arise.

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REGISTERED MAIL

Captain Fletcher - I would like to draw attention to the instructions regarding the delivery of registered mail and if they are generally observed. Special attention should be given to this matter.

Divisional Supervisors - No trouble has occurred so far.

LEAVE

Captain Fletcher - The question of leave and the position of Railhead F.P.O.'s in their relation to Divisions has recently arisen. I am advised that the Railhead A.P.O. is proper to its respective Division and that the personnel are attached to Divisional Headquarters for leave, pay, discipline and etc. For convenience sake rations are drawn from Railhead but in all other respects the Railhead A.P.O.'s is an integral part of the Division. If any future trouble arises no doubt it will be referred to me for adjustment with the Divisional Headquarters concerned.

RETURN OF PARCELS

Captain Fletcher - One or two complaints have been received from postal orderlies that they could not return parcels to the F.P.O. without the original lists which may be away at a Company awaiting signatures. This is incorrect. The duplicate lists on hand at F.P.O.'s could easily be marked with particulars of return of parcels and subsequent despatch and there is no occasion to refuse parcels if not accompanied by the original lists.

Australian Corps.
23.8.18.

D.A.D.P.S.

APPENDIX "C"

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File No.	Precis
6897	Parcel not received entered on list 57004 24.6.18 A.B.P.O. to 43rd Australian Inf. Battalion (papers A.B.P.O. 1.7.18. Entry amended.
7207	Parcel Lieut McKenzie entered on list 52631 9.7.18 A.B.P.O. to 2nd Austn. Machine Gun Coy not received parcel for Walker 2nd Austn Machine Gun Battalion received not entered. Entry Amended.
	<u>Loss by Postal Orderlies</u>
6955	Registered item Milhinch 8th Machine Gun Coy lost by Postal Orderly (papers to A.B.P.O. 21.7.18). Item which contained photos not recovered and investigation at unit showed postal work there being carried on satisfactory.
7107	Parcel Henitz 3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion lost by Postal Orderly (papers A.B.P.O. 26.7.18). Parcel subsequently found and received by addressee.
7203	Registered Mayberry 27th Battalion signed for by Q.M.S. Hepworth and subsequently lost (papers D.A.P.S., A.I.F. 16.7.18).
	<u>Violations</u>
7070	Bag of mail in truck 8900 for "G" Battery R.H.A. found on arrival at Railhead to be cut at bottom but contents O.K. (papers A.P.M. Australian Corps 18.7.18)
7111	Packet containing 144 Fountain pens for Watson 4th Aus D.H.Q. violated in transit 6 pens missing (papers A.B.P.O. 1.8.18.). Missing contents not recovered - addressee informed as to result of enquiry and informed no compensation payable in respect of parcels.
7238	Parcel Baynes 39th Australian Infantry Battalion destroyed by Field Postoffice contents damaged (syrup) addressee advised.
7371	Bag of mail for R.W.4 observed at Gare Maritime in torn condition also another bag from Home Depot insecurely tied. Contents O.K. papers D.A.P.S. B.E.F. 26.7.18. papers D.A.P.S. A.I.F. (7552) 8.8.18.
7388	Registered for Kennard (killed in action) returned to Sydney and contents £1 Bank Note found to be missing papers D.A.P.S. A.I.F. 2.8.18.

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MONTHLY REPORT BY D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F., L of C July 1918.

Captain Fletcher,
Senior Postal Officer in France.

No Australian Divisions have been located in the rest area during the month.

Warrant Officer Spriggins has been kept busy on inspectional and investigation work in 1st Australian Division and units in forward area.

Although there is a lot to be done in the schooling of unit postal orderlies a noticeable improvement is being shown.

The consolidated despatches for Base Ports had to be slightly re-arranged during the month owing to a change of units.

I am holding over the consolidated despatch for Rouen, pending the amalgamation of Australian Bakeries and Depot Units of Supply in that area.

HAVRE.- It will be seen from Warrant Officer Whitelaw report and figure statements, that without doubt, reinforcement mail for technical units should pass through S.W.2.

I inspected Havre area during the month and found everything very satisfactory. I also went into the matter of serving A.A.S.C. No.18 Camp through S.W.2. instead of as at present through S.12. I found that such a procedure would be inadvisable owing to several reasons.- mainly that addressees of parcels and registers would not be able to report in person at S.W.2. owing to certain Camp Orders which prohibited men from passing from one camp to another without a pass signed by their respective O.C.

Corporal Jones 39 General Hospital P.O. informed me that he is now able to dispose of 80% of the total mail received at this hospital for Australian Troops.

The Regimental Postoffice at each of the three Australian General Hospitals are running smoothly. The W.A.A.C. personnel for Rouen have not yet arrived.

The Australian General Machine Base Depot (Camierw) was located as a separate unit during the month and an Australian Postal Orderly appointed.

During my inspection I noticed a big percentage of errors and mis-sorts by the Australian Base Postoffice. Most of these missorts were mail matter addresses to units of British and New Zealand Divisions, having corresponding unit numbers to our own.

Two very severe enemy air-raids were again experienced at Etaples and my office was again hit for the second time.

Report by Warrant Officer Spriggins attached hereto.
Appendix "A" Shows units inspected during the month.

Signed C.C. Hadley Lieut.
D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F.
L of C.

REPORT BY INSPECTING WARRANT OFFICER L of C JULY, 1918.

Units as shown on attached list were inspected by me during the month of July.

The work for the month has been below the usual standard, and I regret to say that most of the irregularities found by me were committed by the Australian Postal Service, both in England and in France. Unit postal orderlies generally are giving very little cause for complaint.

The number of missorts received by 1st Australian Division from the Australian Base Postoffice during my visit was simply appalling. I visited only a few units and found forty cases in two days. The object of my visit was to examine the work of defaulting postal orderlies viz: 1st, 10th and 1st Pioneer Battalions but I found that the number of irregularities made by all of them was very small in comparison with the number received. I could not therefore, recommend any serious action for the present.

The parcel system now appears to be better understood and carried out by all units, but it is not yet perfect, and it has been only with great difficulty that A.I.F., Order 1088 has been enforced. Also since A.P.S., Order 35 was repeated, none of the former misunderstandings with British Field Postoffices has been encountered.

Consolidated despatches to A.A.S.C., units at the Base Ports have proved well worth while especially at A.P.O. S.73 where thirteen units are grouped.

The separate location of Australian Machine Gun Base Depot on S.18 has considerably increases efficiency.

Sd/ A.D. Spriggins, W.O.
Inspecting Warrant Officer.

19.8.18.

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APPENDIX "A"UNITS INSPECTED DURING THE MONTH

5th Australian Field Butchery.
25th Australian Depot Unit Supply.
2nd Australian General Hospital
Australian Pay Office Boulogne.
2nd Australian Field Bakery.
3rd do
2nd Australian Field Butchery.
3rd Australian Field Butchery.
4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24 Australian Depot Units Supply.
Australian Veterinary Hospital.
9th Australian Depot Unit Supply.
4 and 5 Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Coys.
10 and 14 Australian Depot Units Supply.
Australian Machine Gun Depot.
Australian Corps School of Instruction.
Australian Corps Signal School.
Australian Corps Lewis Gun School.
Australian Corps Artillery School.

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The D.A.D.P.S.,

Australian Corps.

During the month of July the following units have been visited and the work of the postal orderlies inspected:-

17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 32, 33, 34, 35
37, 38, 39, 49, 50 and 55 Infantry Battalions.
9th Field Ambulance.
5th M.G. Battalion.
1st Tunnelling Coy.
4th Field Co Engineers.
3rd Pioneer Battalion.
Australian Corps Depot.

Owing to the villages not being used for billeting postal orderlies are camped in the woods and fields and difficulty is experienced in locating them.

All infantry units inspected are receiving daily marching in and out states (part 2 orders) and a second check on rolls is made by the weekly return A.F.B. 213. This keeps the rolls as up-to-date as possible but orderlies are able to point out isolated cases, which cannot be prevented, of the wrong return of mail where the addressee (a reinforcement just arrived) has actually been on strength.

The card system is found to be working very satisfactory at the units selected for trial and so far the verdict is in favour of the cards in preference to nominal roll books.

In all cases orderlies were found to be in possession of A.B. 426. Examination of these books show that about one half of the orderlies are able to get the addressees' signature as a clearance for registered mail. The remainder of the books show the signature of the C.Q.M.S. as a clearance - the item being re-entered in company A.B. 426 and addressees signature obtained therein.

Seeing that 50% of the orderlies are able to secure personal acquittances I think it should be made compulsory for all registered deliveries to be cleared by signature of the addressee in Postal Orderlies A.B. 426. This would reduce the liability to violation and render "circulation tracing forward" easier.

Surplus cash to the value of Pcs. 30000 has been collected from A.P.O. S.46 and paid into Cashier.

Australian Corps.
2.8.18

Sd R.M. WAUGH C.S.M.
A/Corps Inspecting W.O.

D.A.D.P.S.,

A.I.F. L of C.

Herewith is report for month ending 31.7.18

1. The statistics for the month show that men are not passing through the Australian General Base Depot as quickly as during the previous two months. This is most noticeable with Artillery Reinforcements - some unallotted Artillerymen have now been in the Depot two months.

This has made it possible to deliver a far greater percentage of the mail than hitherto. 71% of Artillery parcels and 64% of all parcels received from London for Australian General Base Depot were delivered. 76% of the letter mail for the A.G.B.D. was delivered - an increase of 20% over last months figures. As long as the men continue to pass through the Depot at the present rate the system of re-directing mail to Australian Base Depot holds good.

2. Arrangements have been made to deliver mail for the Camp Adjutants Police, situated in British Camp No.18 twice daily, instead of circulating mail to S.12. Parcels and registered items are delivered over the counter to the individual addresses.

3. The work of the Australian Postal Orderly at No. 39 General Hospital has been inspected fortnightly. Since the daily rolls of Australians marching in and out of the hospital have been forwarded to the Australian Base Postoffice the amount of mail delivered has considerably increased and that to be redirected has decreased.

4. The postal work of the three depots is now working smoothly and no trouble is experienced with the return of undeliverable mail owing to the fact that no unit postal orderlies are now employed. Apart from the staff of this office there are no men employed in the depots in dealing with mail matter. The delivery of mail to the various companies, the returning of undeliverable correspondence and the redirection of same is all done by the staff of this office.

5. Attached are the statistical returns for the month.

Sd/ R. Whitelaw,
Warrant Officer i/c,
Australian Postal Services,
Australian Base Depots.

Army Postoffice S.W.2.
6.6.18

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MONTHLY REPORT FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION JULY 1918

D.A.D.P.S.,
Australian Corps.

During July normal mails have been reaching this Division.

It was noticeable that Supply Train mails came to hand very promptly, despatches leaving Home Depot one day being received at Railhead early the following morning.

All Field Postoffices except the "D" office remained with the respective A.S.C. and mails were run to fit in with the time rations were issued. All units cleared regularly.

5.p.m. despatches from all Field Postoffices were collected in addition to morning clearance.

The Divisiona Postal Personnel is still under strength - 5 men ; vacancies being Column, D.A.I., T.W.I., 2.W and 3.W. Two men were evacuated ill during the month whilst three returned to duty from Hospital. Leave to United Kingdom granted to two men.

Records at Field Postoffices are being well kept and there is generally very little trouble over parcels signature now.

Warrant Officer Spriggins visited the Division during the month.

Sd J.C. USSHER, C.S.M.
Divisional Supervisor
1st Australian Division.

R.W.I.
1.8.18.

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D.A.D.F.S.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Submitted Monthly report of Second Australian Division
for the month of July, 1918.

The Division during the month has remained stationary and matters postal, as a result, were normal; the absence of moves giving the P.S.Os. every opportunity to maintain efficiency in their duties and to observe strict adherence to all instructions issued for their guidance.

An abnormal occurrence, affecting Railhead A.P.O. occurred during the month, in that supplies were drawn from a location well forward and clearance of mails from supply train could only be effected under cover of darkness, to avoid enemy's observation.

This affected the Column and A.P.O. Staff considerably and resulted in very long hours of duty, lorries having to proceed to railhead at 11 p.m. nightly and a return was seldom made and mails delivered at A.P.O. before 2 a.m. in the morning (and often later if train did not arrive to time). Notwithstanding the extra hours all concerned have accepted the situation cheerfully.

Staff.-

No evacuations through sickness occurred during the month and those members mentioned in last month's report, as being in hospital have since returned to duty, so with the exception of men away on leave, personnel has for the greater part of the month been at full strength.

Conference.-

On the 8th instant attended a Div. supervisors' conference presided over by Captain FLATONER D.A.D.F.S.

At this conference matters relating to the uniformity of work of P.S.Os in the various divisions were discussed and the decisions arrived at have been put into operation in the offices of this Division.

Mails.- Supply train and cross post mails were received throughout the month without break and deliveries and collections made daily at all offices.

Outward despatches were cleared daily from railhead A.P.O. at 4.30 p.m. and connected at N.W.4 ALLY-sur-SOMME with lorry running to depot.

To this lorry cross post and English postings were transferred the supply train mail being then consigned by returning supply train at undermentioned place.

Records.- Office records for the division were inspected and found satisfactory records for the month of June after examination were forwarded to A.D.F.S.

Office Inspection.

A daily visit was made to all offices and the work of all found to be satisfactory. Those units testing the card system of nominal rolls have completed their cards and have them now in use.

When the system is adopted generally by the larger units and the extra Sergeant is allotted a closer supervision will be possible. At present difficulty is experienced in keeping in close touch with unit postal orderlies on account of other work requiring attention and the difficulty in getting to and from a unit.

With the assistance of a Sergeant this difficulty will be overcome and postal orderlies work kept under closer supervision, than is possible now.

During the month the results of the quarterly check of weekly accounts of all offices were forwarded to you.

The following is the summarised statement of office transactions for the Division during the month :-

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	<u>July</u>	<u>June.</u>
1. Total No of bags recd. at Railhead	5456	5414
2. Total No of inward despatches	641	639
3. Total No of bags despatched	5315	5452
4. Total No of outward despatches	686	744
5. Postage stamps sold	Frs. 7236.60	6724.00
6. Postal orders sold	" 42027.25	48492.20
7. Postal orders paid	" 2689.15	3068.25
8. Remittances to Field Cashier	" 44707.35	58059.60
9. Registered letters received over counter	3069	3340
10. Registered letters received from other offices	6131	6747
11. Registered letters despatched	5936	6777
12. Total No. of register forward bags	628	562
13. Parcels received over counter (Clean)	723	996
14. Parcels received for re-direction in FRANCE.	886	1236
15. Parcels received for return to A.B.F.O.	1753 14849	1480 11460
16. No. of parcels received for delivery		
17. No. of S.F.M.cables despatched	307	334.

Comparing this with last month's figures a slight falling off in some transactions will be noticed but this is accounted for by the division being in the line throughout the month.

Bags received show a slight increase whilst despatches outward has decreased. In all cash transactions a decrease is shown as is also the case with registered mail but parcels received in the field for the month show a considerable increase which with the increase of mails received off sets the decreases and brings the months transactions up to the average.

A.P.O. R.W. 2 31.7.16.

G.S.H.
Div. Supervisor,
Second Australian Division.

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D.A.D.P.S.,
Australian Corps.

MONTHLY REPORT THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

The card system for postal orderlies is now in practice by the 37th, 38th and 39th Austn Inf Battalions and the scheme has proved preferable to the old method.

Trouble was experienced with the postal orderly 35th Austn. Inf. Batn who at one period had 70 parcel lists outstanding. Up to the time he proceeded on leave no attempt was made to complete the lists. The records have now been brought up to date by the Actg. Orderly but in the majority of cases the parcels have been signed for by the Adjutant of the Battalion.

The Postal Orderly of the 36th Battalion No. 1222 L/Cpl Robertson is still attached to 9.W and as this man has proved an efficient orderly I think he could be transferred to an existing vacancy with advantage.

It has not been possible up to the present to hold a Divisional N.C.O.s conference, owing to the F.P.O.s being situated a considerable distance apart, but advantage will be taken of the first opportunity.

Two members of the staff have been granted leave during the past month. It has not been possible for any of the Railhead staff to obtain leave as the strength has been reduced to three men and no relief could be obtained from the Brigade offices.

Private Williams who has been A/N.C.O. 1/c R.W.3 since the transfer of S/Sgt Styling is carrying out his duties in a very satisfactory manner and is a very reliable man.

Attached monthly return shows a considerable increase in the volume of mail matter received, but returns have not been above normal.

R.W.3
9.8.18.

P.J. White C.S.M.
Divisional Supr.
3rd *Aus Division*

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D. A. D. P. S.
Australian Corps.

In submitting the monthly figures for July 1918 it will be noticed that a fair increase all round has occurred in the work of the Division.

Mails for the Division were very regular during the past month, and a daily despatch and clearance has been maintained each day. The F.P.O's. changed locations on two occasions during the month and mails were delivered to units without difficulty, whilst the moves were taking place. Towards the end of the month parcel mails were very heavy but satisfactory progress was made with the disposal of same, and the obtaining of personal signatures.

Frequent enquiries have been made from A.B.P.O. for missing parcel list. It is a difficult matter to understand how these lists become lost (if they are actually lost) as reliable men are dealing with parcels. Your circular of the 30th July has been distributed to all N.C.O's. i/c of offices, and better results in regard to these enquiries are hoped for in the future.

Enquiries were made during the month, as to the suitability of Postal Orderlies of Inf. Battalions, Artillery Brigades, M.G. Bn., and Pioneer Bn., for incorporation in the Aust. Postal Corps. It was decided, that all men, at present doing the work, were efficient at their jobs. All their particulars were taken and forwarded to your Office. The Staffs of the various F.P.O's. were down with dog fever during the month. At DW 4 all men were attacked with this fever at the one period, making it necessary to obtain relief from other F.P.O's. This was done and the office kept in good running order.

One or two men obtained PARIS leave during the month and their relief was effected, within the Division. The Division had several Imperial Units drawing mail during the month and these ~~units~~ were well catered for.

The Divisional race meeting held at ALLONVILLE proved a neat success, and as many of the Postal Staff as could be spared spent a very enjoyable afternoon.

The 4th Div. Comforts Fund were to the fore once again, with a couple of cases of gifts, and these were equally distributed amongst the various F.P.O's.

A/D. S.
R. W. 4.
5/8/18.

R. W. 4.
Staff Sergeant.

300
D.A.D.P.S.,
Australian Corps.

The month has been an eventful one, the outstanding feature being the pronounced advance on this front and the corresponding rapid moves of Railhead and unit Postoffices to keep in touch with the troops. A few days ago 5th Australian Divisional Railhead was at Ailly-sur-somme now it is at Corbie, a distance as the crow flies of $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Notwithstanding the moves at short notice and the scarcity of transport, every despatch received was delivered the same day, and in addition where it was found the Supply Sections of the various A.S.C. Companies could not at such short notice move the Brigade Field Postoffices Railhead came to their assistance and moved them so as there would be no break in the delivery of mails.

During the month instructions were issued to F.P.O.s in the Division as to uniformity in enumerating particulars of registered mail despatched.

Leave is being worked off as rapidly as possible, entailing extra work on the staffs which is cheerfully met.

Passes have been obtained from the A.P.M. of this Division and are carried by the drivers of mail lorries attached to the Railhead and a considerable saving of time is effected by being able to proceed against arrows on lorry routes.

Billeting has been good both at Camon and Corbie, plush chairs good furniture and a decent house, being a great contrast to working in a Railway Truck and sleeping amongst the barley at Poulainville. We were fortunate however as there are very few houses at Corbie which are not partially demolished. Our next and subsequent moves we do not anticipate to be quite so comfortable.

A few days experience drawing mail from La Motte is best described by the following extract from my diary of 7th August.

Wednesday 7th August, 1918.

2 Conditions for drawing mail at La Motte Railhead do not improve the train is always long and can only be worked from one side - there is no defined yard. From about 10 p.m. G.S. waggons and motor lorries commence to arrive and pile themselves up. When the train pulls in there is what looks like a hopeless tangle for some time., but waggons are inch by inch worked into position and filled up and got away with supplies. The mail lorry is coaxed through the traffic as near to the truck as it is possible to get and then loaded, the bags at times numbering over 200 having to be carried perhaps 50 or 60 yards. Work is supposed to be carried on without lights but a number of flash lamps and candles are at times used temporarily as it is impossible to get clear from the traffic without a glimpse at the road. This morning "Jerry" dropped a number of bombs near the Railhead. It is to be hoped he gets no nearer as a bomb dropped in such a congested area would have disastrous results."

All offices are now located with the supply section of their respective A.A.S.C. the last to come into line being 15.W which on being left stranded by their Staff Captain were picked up by our lorry and deposited on their dump and instructed to remain there.

Our present location may be termed a "lively" one. "Fritz" varying his bombing by machine gun fire.

The Brigade Offices have had experiences whilst located beyond Villers Brettoneux which are, perhaps, worth mentioning. The 8th and 15th Brigade Field Postoffices were carrying on in a much battered area and dividing them were two dead horses, whilst it is stated that to secure office furniture a dead German had to be removed from a table top.

Attached please find statistics for the month.

F. Pope W.O.
Divisional Supervisor,
5th Australian Division.

12.8.18.

CORPS

SUMMARY

JULY, 1918

	F.P.O. H.W.1.	A.P.O. S.W.1.	A.P.O. R.W.1.	R.W. 2.	A.P.O. R.W.3	A.P.O. R.W.4.	A.P.O. R.W.5.	Totals
1. Total No. bags recd at Railhead	960	8972	5596	5456	6715	5114	5324	38137
2. Total No. Inward despatches	454	379	708	641	640	618	638	3978
3. Total No. bags despatched	578	1097	5586	5315	5455	5099	5426	28326
4. Total No. Outward despatches	448	331	776	685	774	736	695	4446
4.a Total No. Fwd Regd bags	-	-	723	628	713	739	-	2803
5. Cash Transactions								
Postage Stamps sold	2079.05	4351.55	6004.00	7238.80	10380.35	47105.45	5866.90	83045.20
Postal Orders issued	4644.30	145113.20	25958.45	42027.25	44287.60	5991.50	36630.00	304667.30
Postal Orders paid	1821.70	10108.95	5555.15	2689.15	2195.25	8021.85	5394.00	36286.05
Remittances.	5402.10	139967.70	27876.30	44767.35	55833.70	48184.80	34065.00	356096.95
6. Regd letters recd over counter	714	6511	3380	3069	2790	3269	2524	39656
7. Regd letters recd from other offices	1037	9806	6712	6131	5326	5337	5307	22257
8. Regd letters despatched	1059	6909	6707	5936	5113	6084	5317	57689
9. Parcels recd over counter	85	560	786	723	892	1322	529	4997
10. Pcls recd for redirection in France.	480	1302	602	886	852	620	1084	5026
11. Pcls recd for return to A.B.P.O.	87	309	1395	1753	1291	1083	1164	7082
12. No. of pcls recd for delivery	2107	6095	14915	14849	15247	11428	12903	77544
13. E.F.M. Cables despatched	63	98	200	307	339	257	232	1496

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APPENDIX

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MONTHLY REPORTFIELD POST OFFICE H.W.IJULY 1918

(1) Total No. bags received from Railhead		960
(2) Total No. Inward Despatches		454
(3) Total No. bags despatched		578
(4) Total No. of Outward despatches		448
(5) <u>Cash Transactions</u>		
Postage Stamps sold	Frs	Cms
Postal Orders issued	2079	05
Postal Orders paid	4644	30
Remittances	1821	70
	5402	10
(6) Registered letters received over counter		714
(7) Registered letters received from other offices		1037
(8) Registered letters despatched		1059
(9) Parcels received over Counter(clean postings)		85
(10) Parcels received for redirection in France		480
(11) Parcels received for return to A.B.P.O.		87
(12) Total No. parcels received for delivery		2107
(13) Total No of E.F.M. Cables		63
(14) Total No. of Telegrams (U.K.)		15

1. Total No. bags received from Railhead		8972
2. Total No. Inward despatches.		379
3. Total No. bags despatched		1097
4. Total No. outward despatches		331
5. <u>Cash Transactions.</u>	Frs.	Cms.
Postage Stamps sold	4351	55
Postal Orders sold	145113	20
Postal Orders paid	10108	95
Remittances	139967	70
6. Registered letters received over counter		6511
7. Registered letters recd from other offices		9806
8. Registered letters despatched		6909
9. Number of parcels recd over counter		560
10. Parcels recd for re-direction to units in France		1302
11. Parcels recd for return to Austn. Base P.O.		309
12. Total number parcels recd for delivery		6095
13. Total number E.F.M. Cables despatched		98

ARMY POST OFFICE S. W. 2.STATISTICS FOR MONTH OF JULY1918

1. Total number of bags received from Railhead		932
2. Total number of Inward despatches		408
3. Total number of bags despatched		714
4. Total number of Outward despatches		384
5. <u>Cash Transactions</u>	<u>Frs</u>	<u>Cms</u>
Postage Stamps sold	1606	35
Postal Orders paid	1205	95
Postal orders issued	4180	75
Remittances	4086	35
6. Registered letters received over counter		968
7. Registered letters received from other offices		1404
8. Registered letters despatched		1464
9. Parcels received over counter (clean postings)		123
10. Parcels received for redirection to units in France		918
11. Parcels received for return to A.B.P.O.		473
12. Total number of parcels received for delivery		3516
13. Total number of E.F.M. Cables despatched		83

MONTHLY REPORT FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

JULY 1918

	A.P.O. R.W.I.	F.P.O. D.W.I.	F.P.O. 1.W	F.P.O. 2.W	F.P.O. 3.W	F.P.O. T.W.I.	Total
1. Total No bags recd at Railhead.	5596						5596
2. Total No. Inward despatches.	708						708
3. Total No. bags despatched.	5586						5586
4. Total No. Outward despatches	774						774
4a Total No. of Fwd registered bags.	723						723
5. Cash Transactions							
Postage Stamps sold.	106.15	586.60	1802.80	842.90	1441.45	1224.10	6004.00
Postal Orders issued.	2973.40	4156.95	6096.20	2940.65	4440.30	5345.95	25953.45
Postal Orders paid	895.60	666.20	564.80	812.00	1346.65	1269.90	5555.15
Remittances.	2100.00	4100.00	7830.80	3204.60	4950.00	5690.90	27876.30
6. Regd letters recd over Counter.	117	330	912	797	573	651	3380
7. Regd letters recd from other offices.	3246	320	940	572	519	1115	6712
8. Regd letters despatched.	3363	355	912	853	556	668	6707
9. Pcls recd over counter.	3	42	389	87	157	108	786
10. Pcls recd for re-direction in France.	20	23	155	149	71	184	602
11. Pcls recd for return to A.B.P.O.	7	150	490	247	428	73	1395
12. No.pcls recd for delivery.	227	359	5332	3324	3051	2622	14915
13. No.E.F.M. Cables despatched	4	20	52	16	42	66	200

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MONTHLY REPORT

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

JULY, 1918

	A.P.O. R.W.2.	F.P.O. D.W.2.	F.P.O. S.W	F.P.O. 6.W	F.P.O. 7.W	F.P.O. T.W.2.	Totals.
1. Total No. bags recd at Railhead	5456						5456
2. Total No. Inward despatches.	641						641
3. Total No. bags despatched.	5315						5315
4. Total No. outward despatches.	686						686
4a. Total No. fwd registered bags	628						628
5. <u>Cash Transactions</u>							
Postage Stamps sold.	297.45	522.25	1381.70	2311.85	657.00	2068.55	7238.80
Postal Orders issued	1818.15	8308.45	6877.25	9503.30	3132.00	12388.10	42027.25
Postal Orders paid	401.35	678.85	159.60	636.25	408.95	404.15	2689.15
Remittances.	1718.15	8469.50	7645.00	11241.55	4250.00	11443.15	44767.35
6. Regd letters recd over counter	148	465	747	777	498	434	3069
7. Regd letters recd from other offices	3020	288	939	801	476	607	6131
8. Registered letters despatched	3071	489	739	731	498	408	5936
9. Pcls recd over counter	15	20	257	241	120	70	723
10. Pcls recd for re-directn in France.	15	131	325	166	150	99	886
11. Pcls recd for return to A.B.P.O.	6	22	621	555	426	123	1753
12. No. pcls recd for delivery	353	627	4542	3712	2570	3000	14849
13. No. E.F.M. Cables despatched	16	22	43	96	37	93	307

MONTHLY REPORT

3rd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

JULY. 1918.

	A.P.O R.W.3	F.P.O D.W.3	F.P.O 9.W.	F.P.O 10.W.	F.P.O 11.W.	F.P.O 12.W.3.	Totals.
(1) Total No. of bags rec'd at Railhead.	6715	-	-	-	-	-	6715
(2) Total No. of inward despatches.	640	-	-	-	-	-	640
(3) Total No. of bags despatched.	5455	-	-	-	-	-	5455
(4) Total No. of outward despatches.	774	-	-	-	-	-	774
(4a) No. of "fwd" Reg. bags despatched.	713	-	-	-	-	-	713
(5) Cash transactions-							
Postage stamps sold.	328-50	980-50	1398-70	2548-75	4157-60	966-30	10,380-35
Postal Orders issued.	1673-05	8892-20	10263-00	13160-90	6875-45	3423-00	44,287-60
Postal Orders paid	132-40	807-25	286-65	653-20	183-15	132-60	2,195-25
Remittances.	8050-00	8790-85	12000-00	15202-00	13340-85	4450-00	55,833-70
(6) Reg. Letters rec'd over counter.	98	348	449	908	702	285	2,790
(7) Reg. Letters rec'd from other Offices.	2514	478	471	742	627	494	5,326
(8) Reg. Letters despatched.	2423	339	542	837	706	266	5,113
(9) Parcels rec'd over counter. (clean postings.)	11	89	232	256	206	98	892
(10) Parcels rec'd for redirection in France.	22	232	163	190	189	56	852
(11) Parcels rec'd for return to A.B.P.O.	10	38	340	415	430	58	1,291
(12) No. of Parcels rec'd for delivery.	338	920	2947	3949	4039	3054	15,247
(13) No. of E.F.M. Cables despatched.	4	37	55	88	106	71	339

D. A. D. P. S.

Australian Corps.

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MONTHLY REPORT - FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

51/7/18.

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	A.P.O. R.W.4.	F.P.O. D.W.4.	F.P.O. 4.W.	F.P.O. 12.W.	F.P.O. 15.W.	F.P.O. E.W.4.	F.P.O. atto'd	Totals.
1. Total No. of Bags rec'd at RAILHEAD	5114							5114.
2. Total No. of inward Despatches	613							613.
3. Total No. of Bags Despatched.	5099							5099.
4. Total No. of Outward Despatches.	736							736.
5. Cash transactions :-								
P.O. issued.	3677-38	12519-20	10264-70	7039-35	5461-15	2360-00		47105-48.
P.O. paid.	761-30	1101-88	1908-45	970-80	948-85	500-45		5091-50.
Stamps sold	213-00	1008-70	2730-95	1979-25	1207-80	984-75		8021-85.
Remittances.	3082-90	12106-75	10819-90	8086-35	5700-00	9150-00		48184-90.
6. Reg'd Letters rec'd over counter.	269	611	1086	560	494	359		5269
7. Reg'd Letters rec'd from other offices.	2617	447	769	589	443	612		5597
8. Reg'd Letters Despatched.	2383	640	1059	646	488	369		6084
9. Parcels rec'd over counter (clean ptgs.)	55	120	500	300	233	136		1522
10. Parcels rec'd for re-direction in FRANCE.	34	116	148	145	101	76		620
11. Parcels rec'd for return to A.B.P.O. LONDON	33	51	401	307	234	57		1083
12. Parcels rec'd for delivery.	311	705	5142	3921	2056	2590		11426
13. E.P.M. Cables Despatched	6	25	68	83	33	42		257
14. L.C.O.					15			15
15. Fw'd Reg. Bags.	736							736

D.A.B.P.S.
AUSK. CORPS.

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R. B. ...
5/5/18

DIV. SUP.
4th AUSK. DIVISION.

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MONTHLY REPORT

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

JULY 1918

	A.P.O. R.W.5	F.P.O. D.W.5	F.P.O. T.W.5	F.P.O. 8.W	F.P.O. 14.W	F.P.O. 15.W	Totals.
1. Total No. bags recd at Railhead.	5324						5324
2. Total No. Inward despatches	638						638
3. Total No. bags despatched	5426						5426
4. Total No. outward despatches	695						695
5. <u>Cash Transactions</u>	Frs	Frs	Frs	Frs	Frs	Frs	Frs
Postage Stamps sold	261	1523	772	1263	826	1241	5886
Postal Orders issued	3090	8358	6519	5398	7924	5341	36630
Postal Orders paid	197	2436	874	562	695	630	5394
Remittances	2950	7091	5250	6000	6909	5865	34065
6. Regd letters recd over counter	139	543	338	466	555	483	2524
7. Regd letters recd from other offices	2619	580	439	529	585	555	5307
8. Regd letters despatched	2762	606	360	515	577	497	5317
9 Pcls recd over counter (clean postings)	12	111	47	133	76	250	629
10. Pcls recd for redirection in France	17	203	76	193	321	274	1084
11. Pcls recd for return to A.B.P.O.	13	124	109	233	418	267	1164
12. Pcls recd for delivery	379	2553	2019	3042	3097	1813	12903
13. No. E.F.M. Cables despatched	7	61	29	55	35	45	232

APPENDIX