

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

Postal

Item number: 17/1/2

Title: Deputy Assistant Director of Postal
Services, Australian Corps

September 1917



AWM4-17/1/2

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Confidential Original Army

Army Form C. 2118:

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1/9/17		Received official notification that Corps Headquarters would open at HOOGRAAF on 5th instant in relief of II Corps.	
"	2/9/17		Visited F.P.O. 15 W (15th Aust Inf. Bde Headquarters), Sereus; xxx F.P.O. D.W.5 (5th Aust D.H.Q.) Blaringhem, F.P.O. 5 W (5th Aust Inf. Bde) Arques; A.P.O.'s R.W.1, R.W.2 and F.P.O. 14 W (1st Aust Div. Railhead, 2nd Aust Div. Railhead and 14th Aust. Inf Bde respectively) at Ebblinghem. Circulation of mails proceeding smoothly and satisfactorily.	
"	3/9/17		Visited Headquarters 2nd Army, Cassel. and H'Qrs. II Corps to make final arrangements to take over that area. 25th and 47th Divisions and some fifty Siege and Heavy Batteries automatically pass to my administration on 5th instant.	
"	4/9/17		F.P.O. H.W.1, HAZEBROUCK, closed at 10 p.m. on completion of express mails for delivery to Corps Headquarters at Hazebrouck.	
HOOGRAAF	5/9/17		F.P.O. H.W.1 left HAZEBROUCK by own postal transport at 7 a.m. and re-opened ready for business at HOOGRAAF at 9.30 a.m. Postal Railhead at Wippenhoek on Supply Pack for 1st Anzac Corps Troops. All Heavy Artillery is served postally through A.P.O. S.64 at Heavy Artillery Ration Dump at Hoograaf Siding. Transfer of Heavy Artillery, Labor Units, Engineer Companies and Field Artillery completed. Circulation proceeding normally. Positions of Divisions of this Corps today:- 47th Division - Reninghelst Area (in reserve) 25th " - in line - Ypres and Inverness Copse Sector. 1st Australian Division - Steenwerck Area. 2nd " " - Renescure " 5th " " - Blaringhem " Railheads :- 47th Div. - Reninghelst Siding. 25th Div. - Dickebusch 1st Aust. Div. - Steenwerck 2nd Aust Div. - Ebblinghem. 5th. Aust Div. - Ebblinghem.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

today:-

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOOGRAAF	6/9/17		Visited R. 47 (47th Div. Railhead A.P.O.) at Reninghelst, F.P.O. T.W.2. (2nd. Aust. Div. Train) and F.P.O.'S 142 (Imperial) 142nd Inf. Bde. Accommodation provided for Railheads fairly satisfactory. That provided for F.P.O. T.W.2 and F.P.O. 142 consists of a hut 20' by 8' subdivided into two. The hut is on the main road which is always congested with traffic. Business is very brisk in consequence, and considering the adverse circumstances proceeds at a pace to suit the demand. Clouds of dust in dry weather stirred up by the passing mechanical transport, and seas of mud in wet weather are among the many disadvantages of the position.	<i>bs</i>
"	7/9/17		Many Heavy and Siege Batteries moving into the Corps without notice and things slightly confused generally. Other units are leaving of which very little is known.	<i>bs</i>
"	8/9/17		The marquee tent (the sole accommodation) for Army P.O. S. 64 at HOOGRAAF SIDING Ration Dump struck tonight at 9 p.m. under orders from Corps Commander owing to the danger of attracting enemy aircraft. On interviewing "Q" Branch of the Corps I was informed that the order could not be rescinded. As this left the A.P.O. absolutely without accommodation I interviewed the D.A. & Q.M.G. (Gen. Carruthers) who promised to put the matter before the Corps Commander, and failing permission to re-erect the present marquee promised to obtain another one well camouflaged. On returning to A.P.O. S. 64 I found the staff lying in the ditches sheltering from the bombs of an enemy aeroplane. In a small hole in the ground, covered by three boards 3'6" by 6" each, covered by a layer of earth six inches deep reposed the N.C.O. i/c and one of his men together with the cash box and stock - representing a value of approximately 15,000 francs - and a hundred or so registered letters. What security this offered against enemy bombs was not very evident.	<i>bs</i>
"	9/9/17		Again interviewed Gen. Carruthers who says the Corps Commander has instructed him to obtain an E.P. tent well camouflaged for the Post Office. In the meantime the staff will carry on in the open, but I have pressed for the accommodation to be provided immediately. My request for a Nissen hut was refused on the plea of great scarcity of accommodation.	<i>bs</i> <i>Staff</i> <i>Post Office</i>

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HOOGRAAF	10/9/17		I instructed the Corps postal lorry to proceed to HAZEBROUCK to collect the E.P. tent for A.P.O. S.64. The tent has been supplied by the Camp Commandant under instruction from "Q" Branch.	<i>CP</i>
"	11/9/17.		Visited RENINGHELST F.P.O's and DICKEBUSCH Railhead A.P.O. (R.25) (25th Divisional Railhead) 1st Australian Division F.P.O's in STEENWERCK area, 2nd and 5th Australian Div F.P.O's in RENESCURE and BLARINGHEM areas. All satisfactory. A.P.O. R.47 (47th Divisional Railhead) opened at DICKEBUSCH and R.25 (25th Divisional Railhead) opened at CAESTRE.	<i>CP</i>
"	12/9/17.		A.P.O. R.25 last Railhead in Second Army - Division proceeds to First Corps Third Army today.	<i>CP</i>
"	13/9/17.		2nd Australian Divisional Railhead opened at RENINGHELST. Constant arrival of new units is making the work very intricate and difficult to keep in hand, with constantly moving units it is almost impossible to keep in touch especially when those units enter or leave the area without notice.	<i>CP</i>
"	14/9/17.		A.P.O. R.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) opened at RENINGHELST SIDING today. the position of the F.P.O's of the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions are as follows :- F.P.O. D.W.I. (1st Austn Div Headquarters) - "Scottish Lines" about a mile from RENINGHELST, F.P.O. T.W.I. (1st Australian Div Train) attached 1st Austn Div Artillery in rest at St. OMER F.P.O's I.W. 2.W. and 3.W. (1st, 2nd and 3rd Australian Infantry Brigades respectively) F.P.O. D.W.2. (2nd Austn Div Headquarters) RENINGHELST VILLAGE. F.P.O's 5.W. 6.W and 7.W. (5th, 6th and 7th Australian Infantry Brigades respectively) at DICKEBUSCH in shell shattered and deserted houses. This locality is shelled and bombed heavily daily.	<i>Sketchy</i>
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HOOGRAAF	15/9/17.		Visited Reninghelst and Dickebusch this afternoon and brought back the express bag for 3rd Australian Divisional Headquarters and dropped same with C.R.A. as I passed. <i>artillery</i>	<i>CP</i>
"	16/9/17.		Nothing to report.	<i>CP</i>
"	17/9/17.		Nothing to report.	<i>CP</i>
"	18/9/17.		A.P.O. R.47 (47th Divisional Railhead) moved to CAESTRE and R.W.I. (1st Australian Div Railhead) moved to DICKEBUSCH.	<i>CP</i>
"	19/9/17.		Nothing to report.	<i>CP</i>
"	20/9/17.		Visited 1st and 2nd Australian Division F.P.O.'s. in forward area (DICKEBUSCH) everything satisfactory and working well.	<i>CP</i>
"	21/9/17.		Nothing to report.	<i>CP</i>
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HOOGRAAF.	22/9/17.		Visited the DICKEBUSCH, WIPPENHOEK, and RENINGHELST railheads and everything working satisfactorily also inspected F.P.O's S.W. 6.W and 7.W at DICKEBUSCH and despite very adverse conditions the work is being performed admirably and the mail distributed with clockwork regularity. The personnel is clean and tidy and the Field Post Offices could not be in better condition	BP
"	23/9/17.		Railhead movements of Divisions very erratic. 4th Australian Divisional Railhead draws from DICKEBUSCH tomorrow after one morning at RENINGHELST 2nd Australian Div Railhead returns from WIPPENHOEK where they draw for this morning only to RENINGHELST tomorrow. Mails for both S.82 and S.83 were directed out of course owing to sudden movements of 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions on whose "Pack Trains" they were loaded respectively. Visited the following Offices XXXXXX R.W.2. R.W.4., R.W.5. At R.W.2. WIPPENHOEK arranged for mails for S.82 (Group 5.G.) to be conveyed to R.W.4 by lorry for disposal also instructing them re return of Railhead tomorrow to RENINGHELST. Army Post Office R.W.4 at RENINGHELST arrived there this morning and after disposing of all mails for the Group units and completing outward despatches departs for DICKEBUSCH in readiness for Railhead opening tomorrow morning. Added to this is the difficulty of running a service to timetable with the ordinary Postal Lorries occupied on transportation of mails from Group to Group - something outside the ordinary duties. The 5th Australian Division lorries left DICKEBUSCH at 4 p.m. for CAESTRE to bring the S.83 mail to DICKEBUSCH.	BP
"	24/9/17.		R.W.4 (Army Post Office 4th Australian Divisional Railhead) opened at DICKEBUSCH. Field Post Offices 4.W, 12.W and 13.W (4th, 12 and 13 Australian Infantry Brigades) at BELGIAN CHATEAU location Sheet 38 .H.23.b.8.6. Accommodation 4.W bivouac (small tapaulin) 12.W a bell tent 13.W sand bagged shack - no protection or facilities for safe guarding cash but no other arrangements possible. The F.P.O's are situated at the re-filling point and cannot be moved. F.P.O's 8.W and 15.W (8th and 15th Austn Infantry Brigades) situated at DICKEBUSCH 14.W in Waggon Lines quarter mile from DICKEBUSCH accommodation - two former damaged houses latter two bell tents.	BP 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOOGRAMF	25/9/17		Nothing to report.	<i>BT</i>
"	26/9/17		Nothing to report.	<i>BT</i>
"	27/9/17.		Visited A.P.O. R.W.2. REMINGHELST SIDING , F.P.O. T.W.2 (F.P.O. 2nd Australian Div Train REMINGHELST SIDING , A.P.O. s R.W.4 and R.W.5 (4th and 5th Australian Divisional Railheads) F.P.O's 4.W.12.Wand 13.W. BELGIAN CHATEAU - work proceeding satisfactorily despite poor accommodation of latter three . This area is shelled by day and bombed by night ; protection for staff nil.	<i>BT</i>
"	28/9/17.		Visited A.P.O R.W.1. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) CAESTRE , F.P.O.D.W.1. (1st Australian Divisional Headquarters) 1.W.and 3.W (1st and 3rd Australian Infantry Brigades) at STEENVOORDE ; A.D.P.S. Second Army and A.P.O. A.D.2 (2nd Army Depot P.O.) HAZEBROUCK. Arranged for mail for 2nd Australian Divisional Details which was lying at that Depot to be returned to its Division for disposal . Sergeant Cunynghame and Private Turner returned from hospital today.	<i>BT</i>
"	29/9/17		Nothing to report.	<i>BT</i>

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