AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

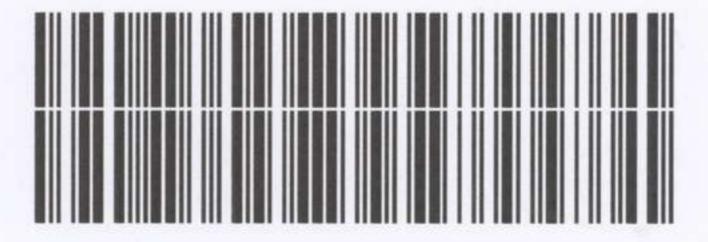
Postal

Item number: 17/1/6

Title: Deputy Assistant Director of Postal

Services, Australian Corps

January 1918



AWM4-17/1/6

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Australian. Postal Corps. (Field)

FOR

JANUARY

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

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

No. 4436

Bate. 1-3.18

Signature of Officer Commanding Cofficelle field approach of the commanding of the c

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1006153

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

			the representative of the Control of
Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
letre.	1-1-18	The following locations wired to St. Omer today: - 36th Heavy Artille Group and 56th Siege Battery to R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Read) 105 Labour Company, 8th Area Signal Detachment, 29th Siege Battery and 145 Labour Company to R.W.1 (1st Australian Divisional Railhead). Nothing else to report.	ry ail-
do	2-1-18	Nothing to report.	
PLETRE	3/1/17.	Today I visited the following offices Army Postoffice R.W.2., and 3 and R.57 (2nd Australian Division and 3rd Australian Division and 57 British Division respectively.). The express and cross post of the latter Division is being maintained by Australian Corps Lorry running from HAZEBROUCK via FLETRE to Army Postoffice S.78 at BAILLEUL where it is met by a Divisional lorry from the Railhead Group at STEENWERCK. Owing to heavy nature of the registration business at R.57 they are unable to dispose of their registered mail on the day of receipt this trouble is not in evidence at the Australian Offices at the same Railhead Group mainly owing to the system of through registration bags adopted by our Postal Services. All three offices in order Visited T.W.2. (F.P.O. 2nd Australian Divisional T situated at a point near the corner of the BAILLEUL - AMMENTIERES STEENWERCK Railhead roads-office in satisfactory condition but discovered bag of parcels wrongly located by R.W.2., and Accepted in error at T.W.2. bag addressed to No. 5 Gun R.M.A., instructed N.C.O., i/c to return same by first mail to Railhead. Visited 10.W (10th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters) at a point on the WATERLOO Food midway between RAVELSBERG and MEUVE EGLISE road- office satisfactory and new parcel 18sting scheme going well. D.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Headquarters) at RAVELSBERG also O.K., but trouble being experienced with 2nd Australian Divisional Scheme going well. D.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Headquarters) at RAVELSBERG also O.K., but trouble being experienced with 2nd Australian Divisional	rain)

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	3-1-18 6		
do	4-1-18.	Following changes of location wired to St. Omer today:- 3rd Australian Field Ambulance to R.W.l. (1st Australian Divisional Rail- head A.P.O.) and 'J' Anti-aircraft Battery to S.78 (Bailleul) nothing else to report.	
			CH.
		Λ6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	20

30₀ Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information Remain reference Appears and Information Information Appears and Information In	ks and nces to ndices
FLETRE	5-1	-18	The following changes of location notified: - 3rd Australian Divisional Reinforce- ment Wing to S.78 (Bailleul) 30th Ammunition Sub Park from R.W.2. (2nd Australian Division- Divisional Railhead) to S.45, 138 Heavy Battery to R.W.2. (2nd Australian Division-	
			al Railhead) latter unit located without iterationaly. Visited and inspected the	
		Charles and the same of the sa	following offices today - F.P.O. II.W (IIIII Adstrallation IIIIII reference to averything in order interviewed Staff Captain of this Brigade in reference to averything in order interviewed Staff Captain of this Brigade in reference to	
			operation with a view to tightening up the services. Operation with a view to tightening up the services. Operation with a view to tightening up the services.	
			Sergeant Sherwin informed accordingly A.F.O., It. W.I., (1st Australian Divisional Train) working a Railhead) and Field Postoffice T.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Train) working a	
			Australian Infantry Brigade) F.P.O. D.W.) () Fd Australian Divider. Lieut	
			Hadley in a telephone communication tonight reports roads in joint reports roads roads roads reports roads ro	1.
			hampered by road conditions.	
			Å6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	CU -4
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Locations issued.	
Fletre	6/1/18	No 5 Graves Registration Unit to R.W.2. (2nd Aust Division Railh Ist Siege Battery to R.W.I. (1st Aust Division Railhead Post Off: No 2 R.M.A. Workshops to A.P.O. S.78.	ead FPO.)
		Visited and inspected R.W.I.(Ist Aust Div Railhead P.O.)I.W., 2.W., 3.W., (Ist, 2nd, and 3rd Aust Infantry Brigade Field Post Offices) and T.W.I.(Aust Division Train F.P.O.). Offices in fairly good condition .Big Parcel mails coming to handdaily, therefore staffs working at very high pressure. Weather cold and Roads good order for transport.	and
Fletre	7/1/18	Locations issued Left half of 174 Siege Battery absorbed in 242 Siege Battery To S Right half 144 Siege Battery " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	ao
		Visited and inspected APO.S.W.I. (Australian Corps Reinfet Camp Post Off Found that a large quantity of mail matter was being received from Sign Depot Abbeville merely addressed Corps Reinfircement Camp. Communicated AD.P.S. Fourth Army with a view to having such mail matter returned to Australian Base Post Office London for location.	IST.
Fletre	8/1/18	Locations None issued today. Visited and inspected R.W.3 (3rd Aust Div Railhead APO.)T.W.3 (3rd Aust Div R	Teano
		Heavy Parcel Mails being dealt with but otherwise every ming nor	ial. C
		A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	4

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Place Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Locations	
Fletre 9/I/I8	3rd Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing to A.P.O. S.78 3oth Ammunition Sub Park to S.45 138 Heavy Battery to R.W.2 (2nd Aust Divisional Railhead F.P.O.). Nothing to report.	
Fletre IO/I/I8	3Ist Brigade R.G.A. to R.W.2 (2nd Aust Div Railhead Post Office). 66th Divisional Laundry to R.66	
	Visited and inspected A.P.O.S.78 (Bailleul) everything running smoothly.	CCS.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be prepared in manuscript.			(Erase heading not required.)	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	11-1	-18	Visited 1st Australian Division and conferred with Colonel Viney A.A.& Q.M.G., in reference to the new parcel listing scheme and refusal of 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade to comply with our wishes in this respect he has promised to submit the matter to the Divisional Commander, agrees that the scheme put up is a good one	
			The D.A.A.G., Australian Corps is also in communication with the list Australian Division with a view to supporting our endeavours to secure personal receipt	
			Divisional Railhead and Field Postoffice 1st Australian Divisional Train respectively both in order. The following locations notified to St Omer today 4th Army Heavy Artillery H.Q. A.S.C. to S.78 (Bailleul) 119 Railway Coy to R.W.l.(1st Australian	ces
			Divisional Railhead).	
		40		
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,600 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	0

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date Hou	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		Locations	
Fletr	e I2/I/I	II9 Railway Coy R.E. to R.W.I(Ist A 4Ist Brigade R.G.A. to R.W.4(4th A 143 Labour Coy to R.W.I. Area Commandant No 2 Ridgeway Area " No 3 La Clytte Are " No 4 De Don Area t	a to R.W.4 ea to R.W.4 to R.W.4
		Nothing to report of a special r	nature. CCJ.
		A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	13-1-18	Locations 55th Siege Battery move concelled St.Omer advised. No.5 Gum Royal Marine Artillery advised to collect mails R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Railhead) at Steenwerck Railhead.	
17	14-1-18	Visited A.D.P.S., Fourth Army in reference to accommodation for S.W.I (1st Anzac Reinforcement Camp F.P.O.) Caestre. Inspected latter office and everything in order Visited Field Postoffices 5 and 7 W's (5th and 7th Australian Infantry Brigades) at Nieppe near Armentieres; both offices in splendid order and new parcel listate ing scheme giving satisfactory results although some opposition being experienced from postal orderlies and Officers Commanding units. Field Postoffices 9.W and	
		11.W (9th and 11th Australian Infantry Brigades) at Erquinghem also satisfactory and new parcel listing scheme in full swing.	ecf
		Λ6ψ45 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	00 -

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Visited A7A.& Q.M.G (Col Viney) Ist Australian Division in connection we registration system which is now in operation for certain selected unif Australian Forces in France Unfortunatley 3rd Australian Infantry Brigge offered much opposition and has assumed an antagonistic attitude toward from the commencement. In company with Colonel Viney I visited 3rd Australian. Bupported by Golonel Viney I eventually persuaded the Brigade Headquarters in line, and explained the position to the took from the postal point of view, and from the point of view of the caustralian. Bupported by Golonel Viney I eventually persuaded the Brigade that as the scheme was catisfactorily with other Divisions it was not thought a difficult mattine 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade to carry out the system in its entitle event however, of it being found impracticable the Brigade Commanded doubt state so on paper. Inspected Field Postoffices 11.W (11th Austinfantry Brigade book and T.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Train) Sunty Brigade book and T.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Train) Sunty Brigade Book and T.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Train) Sunty Brigade Doore, and T.W.4 (4th Australian Brigade) Meter Bailleul II.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade) Lore. T.W.4 (4th Australian Brigade) Lore. Australian Infantry Brigade) Meter Bailleul II.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade) Lore. T.W.4 (4th Australian Brigade) Lore. Australian Brigade Lore. Australian Brig		Remarks and references to Appendices
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be	prepared in manuscrip	t. (Erase neading not required.)	Remarks and
Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	references to Appendices
FLETRE	17-1-18	Commandant Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp and Adjutant called today and arrangements made for each individual wing of the camp to nominate an orderly to collect the mail for their respective Wings separately instead of as at present no fixed arrangement being in existence. O.C., 2nd Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing complains that his mail re-directed from unit (19th Australian Infantry Battalian) not being received. These complaints are now being investigated by Divisional Supervisor and N.C.O.'s concerned. The following locations wired to St.Omer 3rd	
		Medium Ordnance Workshop relocated to R.W.1. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) 29th Divisional Wing Joins VIII Corps Reinforcement location S.78 (Bailleul) issued.	
		The following locations wired to St. Omer today 191 Labour Coy to S.78 (Bailleul)	
do	18-1-18	nothing else to report.	
do	19-1-18	Captain Fletcher D.A.D.P.S., proceeded on duty to London today for conference re new postal scheme. Relieved by Lieut Hadley D.A.D.P.S., A.I.F., Lines of Communication. The following locations wired to St. Omer :- 15th Australian Field Company Australian Engineers from 5th Australian Division in Samer Area to R.W.l. (1st Australian	
		Divisional Railhead). IX Corps asked if possible for this Corps to serve postally	
		Railhead). Visited Army Post Office R.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) and Field Postoffices T.W.I. T.W.2., and 9.W. (1st and 2nd Australian Divisional Trains	
		and 9th Australian Infantry Brigade); all in good order. Thaw precautions now in operation but do not prohibit postal lorries from running on main roads so long as they bear the sign "POSTAL". Interviewed Divisional Supervisor 1st Australian Divisio	
		and Corps Inspecting Warrant Officer at Dranoutre. Divisional Supervisor trouble being experienced with 1st Australian Infnatry Battalion in Line re personal signat-	ces.
		ures for parcels instructed Warrant Officer Spriggins to proceed to this unit and investigate.	
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will be prepared in manuscript.		(Erase neading not required.)	
Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	20-1-18	Nothing to report.	
GETT - F	*** 1 1 1 7 2 5	The following locations wired to St. Omer today: - 15th Field Company Australian Engineers remaining with 5th Australian Division - moved cancelled and 8th Field	
do	21-1-18	Engineers remaining with join Australian Engineers substituted.	
		Visited Army Postoffices R.W.I. and R.W.4 (1st and 4th Australian Divisional Railhead	
do	22-1-18	Field Postoffices T.W.I., I.W. 4. Brigade) Trains, 4th Australian Divisional Headquarters and 10th Australian Infantry Brigade)	
		parcels coming to hand. N.C. U. In Charge Francisco de la compositat so instructed Infantry Brigade) (Corporal Ryan) has been evacuated to hospital so instructed	
		Australian Corps Headquarters to circular correspondence so relieving the Signal quick delivery of semi- urgent official correspondence so relieving the Signal	
		Heavy Batteries R.G.A., Irom other areas of heavy	
		Railhead) .	
do	23-1-18	Instructions received from Corps Headquarters re change over of 5th Australian Instructions received from Corps Headquarters re change over of 5th Australian Division in line. Instructions from A.D.P.B., Division inrest with 2nd Australian Division in line. Instructions from A.D.P.B., Fourth Army that all bag and bundle labels are to be destroyed, string and waste Fourth Army that all bag and bundle labels are to be destroyed, string and waste	
		Fourth Army that all bag and bundle labels all forwarded to Base. Location issued paper collected at all Field Postoffices and forwarded to Base. Location issued 45th Anti-aircraft Section from IX Corps to R.W.4. (4hh Australian Divisional	001
		Railhead).	UCH.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	24-1-18	Nothing to report.	
do	25-1-18	Heavy mails for all Divisions advised by Boulogne. One extra lorry for each Division requisitioned from Senior Mechanical Transport Officer Australian Corps for use on 26th instant.	
**	96 7 70	Heavy mails for all Divisions again advised also one extra lorry for each Division	811
do	26-1-18	required for use on 27th instant.	cof.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fletre 27/I/I8	No Locations issued Nothing Special to report.	
T-10010 01/1/10		
	Locations issued	d P.O.)
	3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion to R.W.3 3rd Aust Div Railhea 3rd Australian Reinforcement Wing to A.P.O. S.W.I.	ailhead
Fletre 28/I/I8	3rd Australian Reinforcement Wing to A.F. U. S.W.I. (Ist Aust Div E Ist Australian Division Reinfet Wing to R.W.I. (Ist Aust Div E Post Office).	
		cos
	Nothing special to report.	9
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be prepared in manuscript.		cript.	(Erase heading not required.)		
Place	Date	Hour		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	29-	1-18		Visited R.W.I. and T.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead and 1st Australian Divisional Train respectively) at Dranoutre. All in order and circulation satisfactor Field Postoffice I.W (1st Australian Infantry Briagde) at Kemmel; office satisfactor 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion and 10th Labour Company located to R.W.5. (5th Australian Divisional Railhead) 2nd Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing to R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Railhead) 5th Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing to B.W.1 (Field Postoffice Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp) 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery Headquarters, 4 and 5 Australian Field Artillery Brigades, V.X.Y.Z. 1/A Australian Trench Mortar Batteries, 748 Coy Australian Army Service Company and Field Postoffice T.W.2 (2nd Australian Divisional Train) 2nd Australian Divisional Ammunition Column and 1st Australian Ammunition Sub Park to R.W.I. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) 10th Area Signal Company to H.W.I. (Australian Corps Headquarters) Australian Corps Medical Officers School to S.78m(Bailleul) and Fourth Army Dental Centre to S.W.I. (Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp Caestre). 7th Australian Infantry Brigade collected Brigade Group mail at Army Postoffice R.W.2. Steenwerck Railhead prior to proceeding by road to	y
do	30-	1-18.		Lumbres Rest Area. Visited and inspected Army Postoffice S.78 (Bailleul) and instructed him to put parcel registration scheme for all Australian Units in to operation forthwith Army Postoffices R.W.2 and R.W.3. (2nd and 3rd Australian Divisional Railheads respectively) at Steenwerck Railhead. Both in order and circulation satisfactory The former office closes at Steenwerck Railhead at 3.p.m. today and reopens at Desyres in rest Area ready for business at 8.a.m. tomorrow 31st instant. Inspected	
				11.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade) at Nieppe. All in order. R.W.1 (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) closes at Brulooze Railhead after night despatch tonight and reopens for business at Steenwerck Railhead at 7.30 a.m. tomorrow 31st instant, Army Postoffice R.W.5. 1 5th Australian Divisional Railhead) closes at Desvres in rest area today and reopens for Division in line at Brulooze Railhead at 2.a.m. tomorrow 31st instant. 6th Australian Infantry Briagde collected tBrigade Group mail from Army Postoffice R.W.2. Steenwerck Railhead at 9.a.m. today prior to proceeding by road to Lumbres rest area. The following locations wired to St. Omer today: - 11th Australian Field Ambulance rejoins its Division and Relocated to R.W.3. (3rd Australian Divisional Railhead) 9,15 and 18 Balloon Sections to S.78 (Bailleul) and 1st Australian Ammunition Sub Park to H.W.I.	CCA
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be prepared in manuscript.	(Erase heading not required.)	
Place Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	No Locations issued , nothing to report of a special nature.	
Fletre 31/1/18		
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