

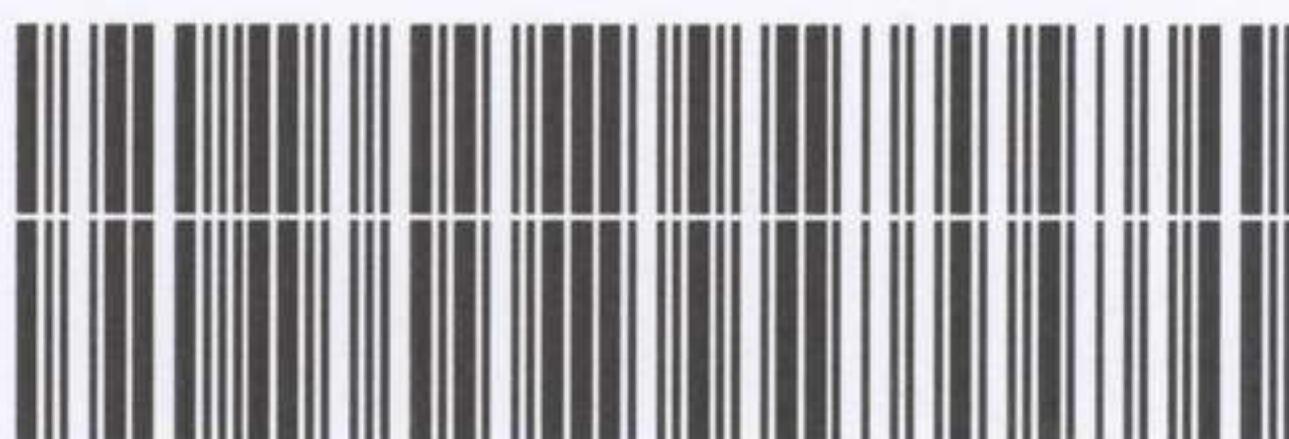
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Postal

**Item number:** 17/1/6

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director of Postal  
Services, Australian Corps

January 1918



AWM4-17/1/6



**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.	<i>4436</i>
Date	<i>1-3-18</i>

Signature of Officer Commanding

*C. H. Allen*  
*A.D.P.S.*



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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fletre.	1-1-18		The following locations wired to St.Omer today:- 36th Heavy Artillery Group and 55th Siege Battery to R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Railhead) 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.	
do	2-1-18		Nothing to report.	
FLETRE	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 Train) situated at a point near the corner of the BAILLEUL - ARMENTIERES 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 Road midway between RAVELSBERG and NEUVE EGLISE road- office satisfactory and new parcel listing scheme going well. D.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Headquarters) at RAVELSBERG also O.K., but trouble being experienced with 2nd Australian Divisional Signal	

CCF.



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or  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>Locations issued.</u> -----	
Fletre	6/I/I8		No 5 Graves Registration Unit to R.W.2. (2nd Aust Division Railhead FPO.) Ist Siege Battery to R.W.I. (Ist Aust Division Railhead Post Office) No 2 R.M.A. Workshops to A.P.O. S.78.	
			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. (Ist Aust Division Train F.P.O.). Offices in fairly good condition. Big Parcel mails coming to hand daily, and therefore staffs working at very high pressure. Weather cold. <del>and</del> Roads in good order for transport. -----	
Fletre	7/I/I8		<u>Locations issued</u> Left half of I74 Siege Battery absorbed in 242 Siege Battery To S.56.APO. Right half I44 Siege Battery " " " " " do	
			Visited and inspected APO.S.W.I. (Australian Corps Reinft Camp Post Office). Found that a large quantity of mail matter was being received from Signal Depot Abbeville merely addressed Corps Reinforcement Camp. Communicated AD.P.S. Fourth Army with a view to having such mail matter returned to Australian Base Post Office London for location. -----	
Fletre	8/I/I8		<u>Locations</u> None issued today. Visited and inspected R.W.3 (3rd Aust Div Railhead APO.) T.W.3 (3rd Aust Division Train FPO) (9W, 10.W., 11.W., (9th, 10th and 11th Infantry Brigades FPOs), and D.W.I. (Ist Aust Div H.Q. FPO). Heavy Parcel Mails being dealt with but otherwise everything normal. <i>ces</i>	
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FLETRE	15-1-18		<p>Visited A?A. &amp; Q.M.G (Col Viney) 1st Australian Division in connection with parcel registration system which is now in operation for certain selected units of the Australian Forces in France Unfortunatley 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade has offered much opposition and has assumed an antagonistic attitude towards the scheme from the commencement. In company with Colonel Viney I visited 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters in line, and explained the position to the Staff both from the postal point of view, and from the point of view of the citizens of Australian. Supported by Colonel Viney I eventually persuaded the Brigade to adopt the system and do their utmost to procure personal signatures as required by us. Colonel Viney also informed the Brigade that as the scheme was working satisfactorily with other Divisions it was not thought a difficult matter for the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade to carry out the system in its entirety in the event however, of it being found impracticable the Brigade Commander would no doubt state so on paper. Inspected Field Postoffices 11.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade Locre, and T.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Train) Sheet 28 M.17.c.central, both in satisfactory order. Locations wired to St.Omer today :- 30th Medium Mobile Ordnance Workshop to R.W.2. (2nd Australian Divisional Railhead).</p>	
do	16-1-18		<p>Inspected Field Postoffices 9.W (9th Australian Infantry Brigade) Meteren S.78 Bailleul 11.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade) Locre., T.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Train) Sheet 28 M.17.c.central, F.P.O. D.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Headquarters) Sherpenberg - all in good order and <del>xxx</del> mail circulation satisfactory. Interviewed C.O., 44th Australian Infantry Battalion in reference to loss of parcels by that unit's postal orderly advised <del>him</del> as to the necessary action to be taken and arranged to attend Court Martial or Enquiry to give any necessary evidence. Adjutant Australian Reinforcement Camp interviewed me in reference to Postal arrangements of Corps Camp and has arranged for the Commandant of the <del>xxxx</del> Camp to call tomorrow in reference to their postal arrangements. 128 Heavy Battery located to S.W.I. (Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp) today.</p>	ccf
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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 Battalion) 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.	
do	18-1-18		The following locations wired to St.Omer today 191 Labour Coy to S.78 (Bailleul) 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.1. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead). IX Corps asked if possible for this Corps to serve postally 51st Brigade R.D.A.; replied yes and located to R.W.4. (4th Australian Divisional Railhead). Visited Army Post Office R.W.1. (1st Australian Divisional Railhead) and Field Postoffices T.W.1. 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 Division and Corps Inspecting Warrant Officer at Dranoutre. Divisional Supervisor trouble being experienced with 1st Australian Infantry Battalion in Line re personal signatures for parcels instructed Warrant Officer Spriggins to proceed to this unit and investigate.	ccf.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	20-1-18		Nothing to report.	
do	21-1-18		The following locations wired to St.Omer today :- 15th Field Company Australian Engineers remaining with 5th Australian Division - moved cancelled and 8th Field company Australian Engineers substituted.	
do	22-1-18		Visited Army Postoffices R.W.I. and R.W.4 (1st and 4th Australian Divisional Railhead Field Postoffices T.W.I., T.W.4. D.W.4 and 10.W (1st and 4th Australian Divisional Trains, 4th Australian Divisional Headquarters and 10th Australian Infantry Brigade) All offices are working at very high pressure on account of large number of Xmas parcels coming to hand. N.C.O. in charge Field Postoffice 11.W (11th Australian Infantry Brigade) (Corporal Ryan) has been evacuated to hospital so instructed Private Sheppard to take charge of that office. Replied to circular from Australian Corps Headquarters re efficiency of Postal Service in maintaining quick delivery of semi-urgent official correspondence so relieving the Signal Service of a large amount of work. Locations 236 Army Troops Company, 138 and 140 Heavy Batteries R.G.A., from other areas to R.W.4 (4th Australian Divisional Railhead) .	
do	23-1-18		Instructions received from Corps Headquarters re change over of 5th Australian Division inrest with 2nd Australian Division in line. Instructions from A.D.P.D., Fourth Army that all bag and bundle labels are to be destroyed, string and waste paper collected at all Field Postoffices and forwarded to Base. Location issued 45th Anti-aircraft Section from IX Corps to R.W.4. (4th Australian Divisional Railhead).	ccf
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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 satisfactory. Field Postoffice I.W (1st Australian Infantry Brigade) at Kemmel; office satisfactory. 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 S.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 Lumbres Rest Area.	
do	30-1-18.		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 Desvres 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. ( 5th Australian Divisional Railhead) closes at Desvres in rest area today and reopens for Division in line at Brulooze Railhead at 8.a.m. tomorrow 31st instant. 6th Australian Infantry Brigade collected Brigade 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. ( Australian Corps Headquarters Field Postoffice)	ccg. 14



