

AWM4

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

Salvage

Item number: 19/1/4

Title: Salvage Officer, Australian Corps

March 1918



AWM4-19/1/4

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Aust Corps Salvage Section.

FOR

March 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Peters
Capt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Peters
Capt*

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Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Summary of Diary for month ending March 31st 1918.</u></p> <p>It has been found that the accommodation at the Connaught Dump is insufficient and it has now been increased. The accommodation now consists of 2025 sq. feet of floorage. Following on this the Bailleul dump has been closed and all salvage from C.C.S. is taken to Connaught.</p> <p>On going over the area a huge quantity of salvage was located on and around Hill 60, principally consisting of amm. of all calibre, shell cases and R.E. Stores. Concentration is being made on this area.</p> <p>The ammunition is being evacuated from this area more rapidly now as two qualified fuzer manipulators have been attached from the A.F.O.D.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made with the Corps Reinf. Depot for the equipping of reinforcements from the base with salvaged arms and accoutrements. This means a vast saving in time for the Corps Depot and a great economy in trucks and railage to and from the base.</p> <p>On the 26th March an urgent demand was received for pickets for wire entanglements. All salvage effort was concentrated on this and the result was 13,780 pickets in 6 days.</p> <p>The First Div. Salvage Coy moved from the present area on the 31/3/18.</p>	

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			<p>The 4th Div. Salvage Coy on 24/3/18, the 5th Div. Salvage Coy on 25/3/18 and the 3rd Div. Salvage Coy moved from the Reserve Area with its D.H.Q.</p> <p>During the month of March Bailleul was shelled heavily and the ^{point in which the} Corps Salvage Office ^{was situated} received a direct hit from a large H.V. shell which killed 5 of the salvage personnel. Our Connaught Dump was also under fire, but no casualties among the personnel, 1 horse wounded.</p> <p>A few of the main items salvaged during March are as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S. A. A.</td> <td>1,747,000 rds.</td> <td>Live shells 18 pdr.</td> <td>50,100 rds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" fired brass cp</td> <td>477,000 "</td> <td>" 4.5</td> <td>18,803 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bombs Mills</td> <td>11,927 "</td> <td>" Heavy</td> <td>3699 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shell cp 18 pdr.</td> <td>184,726</td> <td>Machine guns</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 4.5</td> <td>44,493</td> <td>Rifles</td> <td>2361</td> </tr> </table>	S. A. A.	1,747,000 rds.	Live shells 18 pdr.	50,100 rds.	" fired brass cp	477,000 "	" 4.5	18,803 "	Bombs Mills	11,927 "	" Heavy	3699 "	Shell cp 18 pdr.	184,726	Machine guns	33	" 4.5	44,493	Rifles	2361	
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Bailluel	1/3/18		Started party on erection of Keyes Abutts at Connaught Railhead.	
	2/3/18		Visited 3 rd Div Salvage Coy. interviewed Salvage Officer re relief by 2 nd Aust Div Salvage Coy.	
	3/3/18		To Corps H.Q. arranged with C.L.R.O. revised system of evacuating Salvage by Light Railways.	
	4/3/18		Visited 1 st & 4 th Div Salvage Officers, Voormazele, forward with them through Spoil-bank to Still 60. Great quantities Salvage Ammunition and Components through this area especially in vicinity of Still 60.	
	5/3/18		Two N.C.O. ^s reported for duty. These N.C.O. ^s trained at Woolwich as Fuze Manipulators temporarily attached for classification of Ammunition salvaged pending formation of their Ordnance unit.	
	6/3/18		2 nd Aust Div Salvage Coy. moved to Rabot and took over from 3 rd Aust Div Salvage Coy.	
	7/3/18		To Castre, saw O.C. Corps Reinforcement Depot arranged for supply of stores & equipment required by reinforcements.	

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Bailloul	9/3/18		Visited 2 nd Div Salvage Coy - Officer on Leave interviewed Sergeant in Charge. Bailloul Dump closed Salvage personnel moved to Comaught Comaught Railhead now used for Corps Salvage Dump.	
	10/3/18		Standed over building used for Bailloul Dump to IV Army Agricultural Officer.	
	12/3/18		Bailloul shelled from 11.45 to noon, in all 4 shells fell in vicinity of centre of town.	
	14/3/18		To Voormazeels saw 1 st Div + 1 st Brigade Salvage Officer. Tol st Brigade HQ saw Staff Officer arranged with them scheme for working Salvage whilst Reserve Brigade.	
	15/3/18		Bailloul shelled 9 AM. - 4 shells heavier calibre than those used on 12 th fell along Rue de Lille.	
	18/3/18		Bosc Car sent to unit for repairs reported back same evening.	
	19/3/18		In company with 1 st Div Salvage Officer visited 3 rd Brigade saw re Salvage. Enemy shelled Bailloul from 11.35 ^{am} to 1.30 PM. mixed HE + shrapnel, in all about 23 shells in and over the town, several fell in field beyond town.	

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Baillieux	21/3/18		<p>To 5th Div. Salvage Company visited forward area with Div. Salvage Officers.</p> <p>Enemy shelled town at periods during night of 20/21st. mostly Shrapnel round Aeroplane Hangers, also H.E. other parts of town.</p>	
"	22/3/18		<p>Town again shelled on night of 21st/22nd. missed Shrap. & H.E. and again opened on town with H.E. shortly after midday. Direct hit onto Corps Salvage Office 12.30 P.M. 5 men of Salvage personnel killed. To Corps H.Q. notified "Q" arranged to move office to Commaught Railhead.</p>	
Commaught	23/3/18		<p>Office started at Commaught, applied for Motor Driver to replace man killed. All Divisional Salvage effort concentrated on collection of Iron Pickets urgently required by Corps "Q".</p>	
"	24/3/18		<p>4th Div. Salvage Coy instructed to move with their division.</p>	
"	25/3/18		<p>5th Div Salvage Coy move with their Division. 2 OR. of Corps Salvage sent to Oranoutre Dump pending taking over by relieving Division.</p> <p>Baillieux continues to be shelled at intervals daily.</p>	

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Connaught.	26/3/18		All salvage effort centralised in collection of Pickets. no Lorries available for Salvage collections since 23rd. Box Garford Car attached, recalled to Unit authority S.M.T.O.	
"	28/3/18		2 N.C.O's reported for duty from Woolwich school pending formation of unit. To Corps H.Q. saw A.D.O.S. also arranged for 4th Div Salvage personnel to move with 2nd Aust Division.	
"	29/3/18		Notifications being received of Salvage to collect but impossible to get transport to do so.	
"	30/3/18		Large Quantities of Salvage arriving from Units and Ordnance Stores. Enemy shelling balloon over Salvage Dump	
"	31/3/18		Engaged in Office drawing up scheme of handing over to incoming Corps 1st Div Salvage Coy ordered to move with their Division. 19th Imperial Division Salvage Coy. moved to & took over Branouke Dump.	

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