

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

Salvage

Item number: 19/6/14

Title: 4th Australian Division Salvage
Company

August 1918



AWM4-19/6/14

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Divisional Salvage Company

FOR

August 1918

Signature of ^{NCO} Officer compiling

G. Alderman Cpl.

Signature of Officer Commanding

S. Schiffe
Captain.

WAR DIARY

Army Form O. 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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

4th Div Salvage Coy 1874

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOVES	August 15 th 1918		<p>4th Australian Divisional Salvage Coy Company moved off from RIVERY at 10.30 A.M. & arrived at new camp between BOVES & CAGNY SHEET 627 S4. B9.6 at 1 P.M. Four Tents were erected. Most of the men dug themselves in the side of a bank. No Lorry reported from Corps to carry men blankets & equipment. The 1st Wagon was sent back in the evening to get remainder of the Camp Equipment. weather bright & clear</p>	
S4. B9.1	2 nd		<p>Raining very heavily. All men fixing up their Shelters. No Dumps have been started. Of visited D.H.Q. at CAGNY</p>	
"	3 rd		<p>all men resting, awaiting orders from D.H.Q. Of visited D.H.Q. CAGNY also Town Major BOVES weather wet & rough</p>	
	4 th		<p>Received instructions from D.H.Q. to move to DOORS tomorrow 5 P.M. A Wain was sent to Corps for a lorry to carry men blankets & Camp equipment. weather very cloudy & threatening rain.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DAOURS	August 1918 5th		<p>4th Australian Divisional Salvage Coy</p> <p>The Company moved off from S4.B9.6 at 9.30 A.M., arrived at DAOURS at 12 Noon. Lorry arrived with Blankets & etc at 2 P.M. Men were allotted billets in the Village. 3 men reported back from SALEUX Railhead. Rations were drawn from Supply Dump at N.1.F. on the AMEINIS CORBIE ROAD. Corps Salvage Officer interviewed.</p>	Sheet 62D
"	6th		<p>Ops visited D.H.O. at CORBIE. and was instructed to Salvage all petrol. tins. for carrying water up to the line. for the coming Stant. Parties were sent out around the Village 82 tins were collected. These were handed over to 47th 12th Inf Brigade.</p>	Sheet 62D
"	7th		<p>All men collecting Petrol tins in DAOURS BUSSEY & QUERRIEU 110 tins were saved. weather very wet. etc.</p>	
"	8th		<p>The Company resting in billets. Stant started early this morning Prisoner began to come through village at 6 A.M. and were marching in through-out the day. 100 returned from Louve to PARIS weather bright. etc.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DAOURS	August 1918 9 th		<p>4th Australian Divisional Sabotage Company Ofc had a rifle inspection in the morning. The Company rested the remainder of the day. Prisoners still coming in. Ofc visited D.H.Q. Three others were sent to Faviiloy. to do duty as Camp Wardens. weather bright. ☀</p>	
"	10 th		<p>Ofc visited D.H.Q. and received instructions to move to VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE. on the 12th Inst. Four 1st wagon load of blood stained clothing was bought in from 1st Ambulance Co. weather hot & dusty. Ofc went to VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE in the afternoon to locate Billets. One OR went to Hospital. ☀</p>	
"	11 th		<p>The Company ^{moved} off from DAOURS at 10 AM. & arrived at VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE at 1 PM. The men were allotted Cellars & Dugouts. The village is a heap of ruins, two men went on leave to England. weather very warm & dusty. ☀</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>4th Aust Divisional Ammunition Coy.</i>			
	<i>August 19th</i>		<i>Received instruction from D.H.Q. to Salvage all water bottles & things, these are urgently wanted for the battalions forward. 200 water bottles were collected. The PW wagon went to D.A.O. to get Salvage left behind when moving. weather bright & clear</i>	
	<i>12th</i>			
	<i>13th</i>		<i>Parties were sent out to collect water bottles & Petrol Lins also received and order to collect a quantity of Pickle Shovels for 4th D.A.D.O.S. Several loads of Captured Material was brought in, for Aust War Museum. 6 OR reported to Lt. Pallett. 1/2 Sub Section was Record Section for duty, in forward area. weather warm & dusty. Clear</i>	
	<i>14th</i>		<i>Off visited D.H.Q. at Corbik. also drew pay for the Company 1 OR went on Leave to UK. Parties were sent out collecting water bottles Equipment & Petrol Lins 430 W Bottles & 300 Petrol Lins were collecting. Men were paid in the evening</i>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE SOUS CORBIE	August 1918 15 th		4 th Australian Divisional Salvage Company All men collecting General Salvage. In the vicinity of HAMEL, Two G.Wagon. were carting salvage collected back to MAIN Dump T32 C6.5 Two Men reported for duty from 15 th ARMY Coy of Aust Engineers. Two OK reported back from Leave to UK. Op visited working parties in the afternoon.	
	16 th		All men collecting R & E Stores in the vicinity of HAMEL & VAIRE WOOD and carting same to Main Dump T32 C6.5. Weather very warm.	
	17 th		All men collecting General Salvage. twenty two (22) German Machine Guns were sent in to Ordnance for Aust War Museum. These were captured by 48 th Inf Battalion. Six men with 6 Drags & 12 Horses reported for duty, from the 577 Coy Aust Horse Transport. Op visited working parties. weather very warm.	
	18 th		All men collecting R & E Stores. the 6 Drags & wagon attached are carting same to HAMEL & VAIRE. Sous Corbie Dumps several hundred lots of Garb were & Sew Pickets were collected. weather warm & dusty.	

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8
Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE SOUS CORBIK	August 1918 19 th		4 th Australian Provisional Salvage Company The Company went to Hamel collecting General Salvage Twenty men reported for duty from 105 th Area Employment Company. Several loads of General Salvage was sent to Corps Salvage Dump Corbik to be sorted. Of assets D.H.O. also Parties at Hamel etc	
	20 th		All men collecting Salvage around HAMMEL & HAMMEL WOOD 1 Sack load of General Salvage was sent to Corps Dump. ARTILLERY T.C.O. Reported from 4 th DAC to deal with Live Ammunition, weather dull & cloudy. etc	
	21 st		One party of 10 men & 3 Drays was sent to collect Salvage in camps evacuated etc by 12 th Battalion 1 officer & 2 OR reported for duty from 13 th Coy Engineers The two men from 18 Army Corps Engineers returned to their Unit. Enemy dropped many bombs around camp. Early this morning one delayed action Bomb dropped 25 th yard from the Orderly room & Cpl's tent. No damage was done etc	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	August 1918		<i>7th Australian Divisional Ammunition Coy</i>	
	22 nd		All men collecting General Ammunition in the vicinity of Vaire - Sous-Corbis. He visited working parties in morning. in the afternoon visited D.H.Q. etc.	
	23 rd		Eight loads of General Ammunition was sent to Corps Ammunition Dump to be sorted, in the morning. In afternoon Company moved from VAIRE SOUS CORBIS to P. 7.5 2-6 Sheet 62T Men ^{built} dugouts for themselves in the side of the hill. weather very warm. By one other pl went on <u>base</u>	
	24 th		The company went to France collecting General Ammunition. All traps were carrying same back to Main Dump at VAIRE SOUS CORBIS T 32 L 6.5. He visited D.H.Q. The Officer & 2 O.N.s attached from 13 Coy Engineers returned to their unit. etc.	
	25 th		All men on same ^{work} previous day. The Enemy was very active with Bombs during the night. weather very bright	900

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 621 P 732-6	August 1918 26th		5th Australian Divisional Salvage Coy. All men collecting General Salvage at HAMLET & HAMLET WOOD. Op inspected dumps in the morning & in the afternoon drew pay from 4th Dwp, Quartermaster at CORBIK. Five Wagon loads of Salvage was taken to Corps Dump, CORBIK. Weather dull & Cloudy.	
"	27th		The Company loaded eight loads of General Salvage in the Morning, and same was taken to Corps Dump CORBIK Men were Salvaging R. & S. Stores in the afternoon Op visited Parties in Afternoon. All men were paid in the Evening Weather dull & Cloudy.	
"	28th		Eight loads of General Salvage was ^{were} loaded & sent to CORBIK all men were collecting General Salvage. While one of the men attached was watering his horse (attached to a dray) ^{it} took fright, and dashed in the Canal and was drowned. Op went to Head Quarters in afternoon. Weather bright. <u>HCW</u>	
"	29th		All men went down to the Canal, and pulled the horse & dray out of the water & buried the horse. In the afternoon all men were collecting Salvage in the vicinity of HAMLET	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
The 62 D P 7.52-6.59	Aug 19/18		4 th Troop Divisional Salvage Company Op visited D.H.Q. Eight loads of mixed Salvage was ^{were} taken to Corbik. Weather Bright. It	
" "	30 th		The Company are Salvaging around HAMLET village. Several loads were collected and taken into Corps dump to be sorted. Two lorries reported from Corps for duty and carted 18 Pdr shell cases to VECQUEMONT Ammunition Dump. Weather Cold & rough. It	
" "	31 st		All men on same work as previous day. One Lt. wagon load of German Stones was taken to Corps Salvage dump. The working strength of unit is 40 Other ranks, and 27 Attached Men. Five Men are on leave, 1 in Hospital, also 8 men are detached w/ 4 th BATTAL + AASC. The Coy is ten O's under strength. Weather Cloudy. It	

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

192/296.

Headquarters,
10th August 1918.ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS No. 223.

1. The following instructions are issued with a view to making a systematic organisation for the collection and custody of captured guns, trench mortars, machine guns and other ordnance articles, consequent on the advance. The scheme will become operative forthwith.
2. Lieut. S.W. GULLETT, Officer in charge, B.E.F. sub-section, Australian War Records Section will supervise the scheme; and for the present his Headquarters will be established in LA MOTTE-en-SANTERRE, approximately Sheet 62.D. P.30.c.9.4.
3. Each Division will arrange for one Corporal and five men from the Divisional Salvage Coy., to be placed at the disposal of Lieut. GULLETT forthwith, parties to report to him in LA MOTTE-en-SANTERRE.
The Corps Salvage Officer will detail five men for similar duty from the Corps Salvage Section.
These parties are required to exploit certain allotted areas, collecting the articles into Dumps so that they may be ultimately transported to Army advanced Gun Park at LONGUEAU. Immobile Stores will be no-tified by Map Reference and description.
4. There will be personnel posted at the Gun Park at LONGUEAU to attend to all captured stores as they are brought in. These will also be supervised by Lieut. GULLETT.
5. Lieut. GULLETT will be required to keep Aust. Corps "Q" posted from day to day of the latest information and locations of all Stores etc., found and recovered.
6. Divisions and the Corps Salvage Officer will arrange for the Personnel to report with 48 hours rations - they will be rationed by Lieut. GULLETT subsequently.
7. It is hoped that the Salvage Officers will keep in close touch with this organisation, but will not allow their separate duties to clash or interfere with the ordinary duties of the Divisional Salvage Companies.
8. Trophies of War which happen to be amongst the collection of Stores at LONGUEAU, will not be despatched to the Base for Divisions.
It is only intended to bring the material back where it can be guarded and congregated whilst Divisions are co-operating in the forward area.
It will be the duty of Divisions to arrange for the ultimate despatch, and for Claims to be submitted in the usual way for the trophies at a later date, by mutual arrangement with Lieut. GULLETT.
9. The Collecting Depot of the Australian War Museums is temporarily located at LONGUEAU.

(Sgd) G.C. SOMERVILLE.
Lieut-Colonel.
A. Q. M. G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
12th August 1918.

ALL UNITS.

For information and necessary action.

R. Brown
Lieut-Colonel.
A.A. & Q.M.G.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Salvage Instructions 18/8/18
185B

Consequent on the installation of Light Railways, and the formation of Australian Ordnance Ammunition Units. Administrative instructions 185A, are cancelled and the following substituted

- (1) Collection of Salvage in the Corps Area will be carried out by means of returning transport as far as Brigade Divisional Supply Dumps and A.R.P.'s
- (2) Salvage Dump will be formed at wagon lines and in close proximity to Divisional Supply and Divisional Refilling points. Salvage to be taken to these dumps by returning transport, and from wagon line Dumps to Divisional Dumps by transport proceeding to fill
- (3) From Divisional Dumps, all Salvage other than Ammunition, Ammunition Components, Ammunition Boxes, fired brass cases, etc., will be despatched to Supply Railhead
- (4) Salvage will be despatched to Supply Railhead from the Reserve, division, and from the Division in "A" Sector by lorries after they have completed supply duties. The division in "A" Sector will demand lorries as required from S.M.T.O. for this purpose. The Division in Support will use lorries which bring forward ^{their} ration, and which are not detailed for further duties. Salvage from these Divisions will be returned to Railhead Packed ready for despatch to Base.
- (5) From Divisions in "B" and "C" Sectors, Salvage will be despatched by Light Railway to the Corps Salvage Dump at Poulainville Railhead, to receive, sort and despatch.

Representatives of the Divisional Salvage Company will be stationed at each Brigade Supply Dump on the Light Railway to receive Salvage, place it in Stacks roughly sorted and despatch it to Poulainville.

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Continued

- (B) Empty ammunition boxes, Clips, Fired brass cases, Cartridge tips, fuze cylinders, etc. will be returned to Hesselton or Stokes Bay Railhead by returning Ammunition Lorries.
- (C) Salvaged Heavy and Field Artillery Ammunition if undoubtedly serviceable, will be handed over to the nearest Artillery Unit.
- (D) Salvaged Heavy and Field Ammunition about the Serviceability of, which there is any doubt, and Salvaged Components which could be utilized in repairing unserviceable ammunition, will be despatched to Australian Corps Ordnance Ammunition Units at Ballarat, (62 D) Bro. (D) or Wagga (62 D) R21.C. Dumps. Lorries for this purpose will be arranged by Corps Salvage Offices on application from Divisional Salvage Officers.
- (E) Attention is directed to Army Standing Order No 655.
- (F) Area Commandants will establish Salvage Dumps in their own Areas for the collection of Miscellaneous Salvage, notifying the Location of the Dumps to the Corps Salvage Officer. When approximately a lorry load of Salvage has been collected, the Corps Salvage Officer on receiving notification from the Area Commandant, will arrange for its removal to the Corps Main Salvage Dump at St. Pauls Summit.
- (G) The Corps Salvage Officer will have detachments at Hesselton Stokes and Ailly Our Down Railhead.

P.T.O.

To receive Salvage. These Detachments are for the purpose of loading and despatching only, and all Salvage sent to these Railheads must be properly sorted and packed ready for despatch to Base. All empty shell cans must be properly boxed or bugged before being returned to Railhead.

9 The Salvage Company of each Division will normally work in the own Divisional area, and will accompany its Division or relief, unless otherwise ordered. To ensure continuity of work, the Salvage Company of a Division in the forward Area will not be withdrawn until relieved by the incoming Salvage Company.

10 Scraped paper, cardboard, and jam Cans, will be returned through the above Channels to Ailly sur Somme and Poulamolle Railheads where they will be baled ready for despatch to England.

11 The Salvage Organization exists for the collection of abandoned Service material, and for its disposal by those Channels through which it will be brought into use again with least delay and to the best advantage. To carry this out it is important that no valued Serviceable articles which is required in the Forward Area, should be returned to the Base.

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3. Each sack will be labelled "Salvage Unit)" and each truck, "Australian Corps Salvage Dump Poulainville, from - Brigade Dump".

(C) In addition to men at Brigade Supply Dump, as in Para 5(A), the Divisions in B and C Sectors will supply a small party (minimum 3) to Check Salvage arriving at Poulainville, and to obtain for the Divisional Salvage officer, records of Salvage returned.

(D) The personnel for the Corps Dump at Poulainville will be provided for the Salvage Company of the Division in Support.

(E) In view of the shortage of Light Railway trucks, and the fact that trucks after the delivery of rations are often detailed for further duty without return to Poulainville, trucks must be definitely demanded for Salvage.

A permanent detail can be arranged, or trucks demanded daily as required.

(F) If trucks are demanded daily, such demands must reach Corps Light Railway Officer Australian Corps A.R. not later than 3 PM on the day previous to that on which trucks are required.

Stanchion trucks and not box trucks will be supplied for Salvage.

(G) The disposal of Salvage from the Dump at Poulainville will be under Corps arrangements.

6(A) Solid Grenades, trench mortar ammunition and German Ammunition will be returned to Flesselles Railhead from Divisional A.R.P.S. by returning ammunition lorries,

T.D.

copy

MISSION MILITAIRE FRANCAISE
IVme DIVISION AUSTRALIENNE.

H.Q., 15 19 - 8 - 1918.

To G.O.C.,
4th Austral Division.

I have just received communication of the report sent by O.C., French Mission, Australian Corps to G.O.C., French Mission G.H.Q. concerning the evacuation of Civilians and Cattle and the salvaging of valuable property, machinery and raw materials in this area by the Australian Corps. From the region East of AMIENS, between April and August 1918

1,250 Civilians)
1400 head of Cattle) were
352 complete sets of) evacuated
furniture)

and 32 million francs worth of Wool, machinery etc were salvaged.

In this large amount of work, done mostly in a heavily shelled region, the 4th Division always took a prominent share, ever ready to provide men and transport where they were required. In many cases, units did not even wait to be asked for help: they started the salvaging of any precious raw materials they found in danger of being wantonly destroyed.

It rests with higher authority that such good work be gratefully recognised, but as regards this Mission, we feel it our duty to express our gratitude and say how highly we appreciate the privilege of being attached to the 4th Division.

(Sgd) R.S. GRONIER.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
23rd August 1918.

ALL UNITS.

In promulgating the above letter, the Divisional Commander wishes to thank all concerned for their splendid work in salvaging the property of our Allies the French, often carried out under most difficult and dangerous conditions. It is especially gratifying for him to know that a very great deal of that work was voluntarily done. It shows a splendid spirit of comradeship and actions such as these make for a closer bond between the nations concerned and as a consequence goes far towards consummating the end we all have in view viz., the final defeat of our common enemies.

Lieut-Colonel.
A.A. & Q.M.G.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
25th August, 1918.

4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
12th " " "
13th " " "
4th Aust. Div. Artillery.
4th Aust. Div. Engineers.
4th Aust. M. G. Bn.
4th Aust. Pioneer Bn.
4th Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
A. D. M. S.
4th Aust. Div. Train.

1. During the enemy retreat in the BAPAUME area in 1917, a great many devices were employed by him for setting off mines. One favourite device was to have a wire treated with acid which gradually eat its way through the wire and this let off mines, as in the case at VELU Station, some weeks after this point had been passed.
2. Booby traps of various kinds were employed so that it was unsafe for men to attempt to collect anything in the nature of a souvenir lest it should prove to be a trap. Loose planks in the walls of dugouts were found, when pressed into position, to set off traps of various kinds. Innocent looking wires, when cut, also set off mines or fired shells or hand grenades.
3. All ranks are to be warned on no account to touch anything in the nature of a suspected wire and to be very careful in entering dugouts. All dugouts should be examined by Engineers before occupation.
4. German Engineer and Pioneer prisoners may be retained in divisions to test anything that is likely to give rise to suspicion and to enter and examine dugouts before our men are allowed to enter them. German Engineer and Pioneer prisoners should be examined as to their knowledge of the possibility of mines, etc.
5. The above will be promulgated to all ranks. Sufficient copies are enclosed for issue down to Coy., Battery, Field and Signal Section Commanders.

L. Craig. Capt
for. Lieut-Colonel,
G. S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copies to-Salvage Coy.
A. Q.