

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

Salvage

**Item number:** 19/7/1

**Title:** 5th Australian Division Salvage  
Company

July 1916 - March 1917



AWM4-19/7/1



From Formation of unit  
12-7-16 to institution of regular  
war diary 1-7-17.

WAR DIARY

Original

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.)

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Gailly-sur-la-Lys	1916 July 12 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The unit was formed three weeks after the 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division arrived in France from Egypt, by attaching 1 officer, and 34 OR. Nearly every unit in the Division being represented. The officer, Capt C. E. Viner, was not seconded from his unit, (32<sup>nd</sup> Bn), and the other ranks were also "on command." The company was formed at Gailly-sur-la-Lys, where the division was holding the line.</p>	
Montauban	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>		<p>On arrival at Montauban (Somme), the coy came under the 15<sup>th</sup> Imperial Corps and their standing orders to increase the strength of the Salvage <del>coy</del> companies, working on the Somme Area to 50 OR, were duly carried out, by again attaching men from units in the division "on command." The senior company salvage officer in the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps acted as Corps Salvage officer, and for a few days, the op 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Salvage Coy, acted, and carried on for the 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps, until the arrival of Major Geo. Massted. At Montauban, all ranks were located in dugouts, most of which had to be re-constructed after the first rain.</p>	
Albert	Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The company moved to Belloue Farm, Albert for a change as they had been under shell-fire continuously for three weeks, and there was an enormous quantity of salvage in Albert area, caused by troops passing &amp; re-passing since the opening of the Somme battle on 1/7/16</p>	



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or-  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	1916 Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>		The coy moved into Albert, Rue de la Papeterie. The whole of the coy was fully employed on salvage around Albert, during the period, and were unable to clear the area before moving, being relieved by the 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Salvage Coy	
Pommiers Redoubt	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>		Moved to Pommiers Redoubt, near Montauban, located in tents of re-inforcement camp. Unit salvaging between Montauban & Fricourt, both sides of main Fricourt-Montauban road. The work was very heavy as everything had to be manhandled through deep mud, the men using thigh high gum boots, manhandling up to a distance of 400 yards; over that distance the few available 4 & 8 mule G. I. waggons were used to cart through the mud to the roadside. Empty returning Mota Louries, used for carting road metal, were used on their return trip to take back salvage to Link Road, Fricourt where the salvage was unloaded into Louries that took it to Corps Salvage Dump at Edge-Hill (later to Albert). Road regulations prohibited all Mota transport except "Road Repair" Louries on the Fricourt-Montauban road. All salvage was got out as indicated, no other means were available, all horse transport in the Corps being fully employed on Gren Ammunition	

A709a). Wt. W12839/M1298 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pommiers Redoubt	1916 Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>		Capt Viner relieved Major G. Moxley, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps Salvage Officer, at Albert, for 4 days, whilst he inspected Ordnance Salvage at Havre.	
do.	1917. Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>		A. I. F. order 452, Establishment (provisional) for Divisional Salvage Companies issued, increasing strengths to 1 officer, 69 other ranks, officer to be seconded, and other ranks, with 4 exceptions, to be transferred from their units. 4 OR to be attached.	A <del>1</del>
Longueval.	Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>		Camp moved from tents at Pommiers Redoubt to hut & dugouts <sup>Bernafay</sup> Longueval Rd Longueval. This camp was severely shelled, & had to be evacuated.	
Bernafay.	Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>		Camp moved to dugouts adjoining 'E' Camp, Bernafay. Area now being worked from Montauban to Longueval, and Waterlot Farms. Salvage evacuated to Quarry Railhead Corps Salvage Dump by 2 G.V. waggons & Decauville railway. Small parties <sup>attached</sup> at each Inf Bde. H.Q. to take charge of all salvage brought in from front line by units.	
Waterlot Farm	Mar. 22 <sup>nd</sup>		There being very little salvage in rear of Gun Valley, and the troops having advanced, the company moved to Waterlot Farm, and put 20 men at Millers Daughter, in front of Gendecourt to work that area. Evacuation of salvage to Quarry, & from Fliers Bde H.Q. to Bazentin Dump by Decauville Railway	1



Australian Imperial Force Orders A.  
 by  
 Lieut. General Sir W.R. Birdwood K.C.S.I. K.C.M.G. C.B. C.I.E. D.S.O.  
 Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps  
 10<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

452. Establishment (provisional) for Divisional Salvage Companies

The Salvage Companies now provided in Divisions by detaching personnel from Battalions, will be maintained as an integral portion of the division. The establishment (provisional) of a Divisional Salvage Company will be as shown in Table "B" issued herewith. Officers will be seconded from their units whilst holding their appointments of Officer Commanding Divisional Salvage Companies (Officers appointed prior to date of issue of this establishment may be seconded from date of their being detailed as Salvage Officers).

N.C.O.'s and men will be transferred from present units: any rank held at date of transfer will be retained as substantive rank: subsequent promotions will be made under provisions of A.I.F. Order 213 of 19.8.16. Deficiencies in ~~the~~ establishment of Salvage Companies will be filled by transfer of personnel from units within the Division.



Routine Orders

by

Major-General H.B. Walker C.B. D.S.O.  
Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps.

Headquarters  
8-3-17

Q.  
100. Salvage.

The Salvage Returns for the months of January and February 1917 show a gross tonnage of Salvage reflecting great credit on the Corps Salvage Officer and Divisional Salvage Companies. The returns include the following quantities returned to the base or re-issued to departments -

Rifles	20,088	A new rifle costs £5.10.
G.A.A.	7,146,000 rounds	1000 rds cost £5/3/3 pre-war price
18 pdr fired brass cases,	1,018,467	- valued at about £600,000
Grenades + Bombs -	7,681 boxes	valued at about £10,000
Gun Ammunition	10689 rds	valued at about £50,000
Steel Helmets	18,562	A steel helmet without lining costs 8/- with lining 11/6
Sacks of Equipment	1,822	
Sacks of Boots	1,858	
Sacks of Underclothing	609	Sent to Corps Baths, Heilly for washing & re-issue
Sacks of other articles	3,421	

The Army <sup>Corps</sup> Commander fully realises that these excellent results could not have been obtained without the hearty co-operation of the troops, and he wishes to convey to Unit Commanders this appreciation of the work done and of the excellent spirit which has inspired all ranks in dealing with this important matter.

Signed C. Q. Taplin Capt  
For D.A.A. & Q.M.G.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps.



10. 1. 17

A

Divisional Salvage Company

Table B

Detail	Personnel					Horses				Bi-cycles
	Officer	Sgt.	Cpl	Pls	Total	Rid.	Dft.	Pack	Total	
Subaltern or Captain	1				1	1			1	
Sergeants		1			1					
Corporals			3(a)		3					
Privates				61(b)	61					
<u>Total</u>	1	1	3	61	66	1				
<u>Attached</u>										
Cyclist Orderlies				2(c)	2					2
Driver				1(d)	1		2		2	
Artillery NCO				1(e)	1					
<u>Total, including attached</u>	1	1	4	64	70	1	2	-	3	2

Transport 1 G.S. Waggon.Notes.

- (a) Section Commander  
 (b) 20 per section, and 1 batman.  
 (c) From Corps Cyclist Battalion  
 (d) From Divisional Train  
 (e) From Div. Artillery, to deal with bombs, grenades, etc.