

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

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/2/2

Title: Australian Corps Reinforcement
Camp

November 1917 - May 1918



AWM4-33/2/2

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~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp.

FOR

1.12.17. to 31.5.18.

191

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

Hector [Signature] Lieut-Colonel.

Rein Camp
 Aust Corps
 1/2/17 31/5/18
 Brig

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FORMATION.			<p>The AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp was formed under A.I.F. Order No.983 , dated 23.11.17. Authorised Establishment is as therein stated. Lieut-Colonel E.N.WATERS,V.D. was appointed to Command, with Captain F.BUTTERWORTH,14th A.L.H., as his Adjutant. On 1st December,1917, Lieut-Colonel H.J.R.CLAYTON, then in Command of 4th Australian Divisional Base Depot, was appointed to Command with Captain F.A.CHAPPEY, then Adjutant 2nd Australian Divisional Base Depot, as Adjutant.(A.I.F.List 270 dated 14.12.17.)</p>	
POLICY			<p>The Policy Charter of Corps Circular No.99. of 6.11.17. is really the Charter of Policy for the Reinforcement Camp, and a copy of this is attached hereto.</p>	
PERIOD "A" Camp Arrangements.			<p>From 1st December,1917, until 21st March,1918, the Reinforcement Camp was situated at CAESTRE, and there were in existence 4 Camps all tented with a few Nissan Huts for Officers, Officers' Messes, and Staff quarters. Hot Water Baths, Ablution sheds, and cookhouses were erected in the Camp, and were of wood and iron. One Camp was permanently occupied by the Australian Corps Depot, and the other Camps were occupied by each of the 5 Divisional Wings in turn when their Divisions were in the line. When each Division came out of the line into reserve, its Divisional Wing, with a reduced Staff, would go forward to a location nearer the Division, and would then be called a Depot. The Divisional Depot would then receive its Reinforcements drafts direct from its own Railhead that is, not through the Reinforcement Camp. When each Division moved into rest in a back Area, its Wing (again called a Depot, temporarily.) would move with it.</p>	
NOMINAL PROCEDURE in dealing with REINFORCEMENTS			<p>Thus, throughout the Winter, the Reinforcement Camp consisted normally of 3 Divisional Wings and the Corps Depot. All Reinforcements for the Divisional Wings at any moment constituting the Camp, and all Reinforcements for the Corps Troops were disentrained at CAESTRE. Divisional Wings took their quota, and moved them forward to Divisions under Divisional arrangements as required. Normally Reinforcements stayed no more than 4 or 5 days in the Wings before going forward. During that time they were exercised in route marching, and musketry, but on the whole Divisions who are in charge of their own Training arrangements, did not provide very systematic training in their Wings.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ctd			<p>The Corps Depot received all Reinforcements for Artillery, Signallers, Motor Transport, and other Corps Troops and despatched them generally on the day after receipt. Corps Depot also received all Australian Troops evacuated from local Hospitals, and equipped and reclothed them, before either sending them to their Divisional Wings as Reinforcements, or if Corps Troops to their Units.</p>	
SUPPLIES			<p>Supplies were drawn from R.S.O. CAESTRE by each Wing using the transport allotted to it by its own Division. Camp Headquarters, and Depot drew supplies from the same source using Headquarters transport, which was 2 G.S. Wagons, a Water Cart, and 6 H.D. Horses.</p> <p>Supplies were always ample and of excellent quality.</p>	
WATER			<p>Drinking and cooking water was supplied to Wings and Depot by Camp Headquarters by Water Cart, and by a 3 ton lorry, and a Garford Water Lorry, and was obtained from HAZEBROUCK and FLETRE.</p>	
NUMBERS			<p>The total number of men on any given day in all the Camps would not exceed 800.</p>	
COMFORT			<p>The troops were really comfortable in their revetted and floored tents, each man having 3 blankets, and 10 men sleeping in each tent. The Camps were made reasonably dry by the use of duckboards. Canteens were installed by Wings, and the Y.M.C.A. ran a splendid canteen in each Wing, supplying free tea and coffee nightly, and providing reading matter and games. Food was plentiful, good, and served hot on all occasions. No actual enemy bombing of the Camps took place, though enemy aircraft passed over head by day and night, and were always subjected to heavy anti aircraft fire by the A.A. Batteries surrounding the Camp.</p>	
MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS			<p>Medical arrangements were excellent. Major J.M. ALCORN, A.A.M.C. was attached to Corps Reinforcement Camp Headquarters with a Staff as laid down in authorised Establishment. He attended each Wing daily between 8 and 10 a.m. Sick were evacuated at once to local Hospitals. The feverish and slightly ill were accommodated overnight or for 2 or 3 days in specially constructed huts in the Camp warmed by stoves where they received specially nourishing and appetising food. Major ALCORN's services throughout this period were tirelessly directed towards the care and comfort of the men, and were eminently successful.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SCHOOLS			The 2nd Inf Bde sent two N.C.O,s Schools in to the area during December, January, and early February, and they were accommodated in the Corps Depot overflow Camp.	
CORPS SIGNAL COMPANY			In later February and March during the formation of Corps Signal Company, Signal Reinforcements and transferrees to this Company, were collected and trained in the Corps Depot Overflow Camp.	
ANTI-GAS TRAINING			Corps Circular (3rd Amendment) 98 shows Training in Anti-Gas measures., copy attached.	

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-INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY---

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Period "B" Working Companies.</p>	<p>21.3.18. 60 23.4.18.</p>		<p>At the commencement of the German push, orders were received to form Working Companies of the Reinforcements available in the various Wings, which then represented all 5 Divisions.</p> <p>In all, 8 Working Companies were formed and were called the 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B and 5C Working Companies; the numbers in each case showing the Divisional Wing from which the Company was formed.</p> <p>Each Company consisted of about 4 Officers and 130 Other Ranks.</p> <p>These Companies were sent to the forward Area for constructional Work under the C.E. They were also employed as tactical reserves.</p>	
<p>"K" Working Coy.</p>			<p>All underage boys and P.B. men in the Wings, with a sprinkling of "A" Class N.C.O.s were formed into a Working Company called "K". Captain LOUGHNAN., 58th Battalion was made O.C. This Company was sent to work in the rear portion of the forward Area under the C.E. and did excellent work. The Company still exists and has now become an Established Unit. (See A.I.F. Circular Memo No.25/210 of the 19.5.18. : copy of which is attached.)</p>	
<p>Movement of Divisional Wings</p>			<p>As each Division moved South to the SOMME it was accompanied by its Divisional Wing. Thus the 2nd Divisional Wing, 5th Divisional Wing, Corps Depot, 4th Divisional Wing, 1st Divisional Wing and 3rd Divisional Wing had moved South by the 6th April 1918, leaving the Reinforcement Camp Headquarters in CAESTRE with "K" Working Company, and 5A, 5B, and 5C Working Companies. The other Working Companies had moved South with their respective Wings.</p> <p>The AUSTRALIAN CORPS Headquarters moved South on the 3rd April, 1918.</p> <p>AUSTRALIAN CORPS "A" charged to Commandant, of the Reinforcement Camp with the duty of collecting all scattered Corps Troops remaining in the Area, such as Baths Personnel, Corps Armourer's Workshop, R.E. Dumps Personnel, Y.M.C.A. and A.I.F. Comforts Fund.</p> <p>IX Corps (Imperial) took over from AUSTRALIAN CORPS, and prior to the taking over, and to the departure of AUSTRALIAN CORPS and the Divisional Wings, Reinforcements for the 9th, 19th, 21st, and 25th (Imperial) Divisions comprising the IX CORPS had begun to come forward in large numbers. As many as 5000 arrived without notice in a single day. The Divisional Wings appeared to be full, as Reinforcements for AUSTRALIAN CORPS were crowding in, being mostly men hurriedly returned from Leave. AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp was called upon to accommodate the Imperial Reinforcements. This was done by crowding up the Australian Divisional Wings to accommodate them, and by forming 2 extra Divisional Wings Staffs of Australian Personnel, and</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>accommodating them in two billeting sub-areas between HAZEBROUCK and CAESTRE, and St SALVESTRE CAPELLE. The O,s C these new Wings were Lieut C.S.SLADE, 32nd Bn, and Captain J.E.MOTT, Sup List. It is really impossible to describe the wonderful efficiency of the work done by the Divisional Wings (old and new) in this period. Besides dealing with twice their ordinary number of Australian Reinforcements, they helped these Headquarters to receive , accommodate, feed, and put through Anti-Gas training about 20,000 Imperial Reinforcements, in about eleven days, besides forming, equipping, despatching, and assembling their own new formed Working Companies, and getting ready to move South with their own Reinforcements. They had no extra Camp Equipment to meet this rush, but ^{not} a soldier went unfed. The Imperial Reinforcements were despatched within 48 hours of their arrival to their Divisions. They were sent forward in lorries, and by march route.</p>	
Imperial Divisional Wings			<p>As the Australian Divisional Wings moved South , they were replaced by the Wings of the fe four Imperial Divisions.</p>	
Corps Depot			<p>The Corps Depot moved South on the 6th April, and the Corps Depot C amp was utilised by Reinforcement Camp Headquarters for accommodating the remaining Australian Troops.</p>	
			<p>The Imperial Wings remained under the command of the AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp Headquarters until the 9th April, 1918, when the IX CORPS Reinforcement Camp Headquarters took over. Meanwhile and until the 11th April 1918, parties of Australian Troops were being despatched South, but on that date, owing to the German push in the North, it became clear that 5A, 5B, and 5C Working Companies, Baths Personnel, and Headquarters , Reinforcement Camp could not get away by train. Lieut-Colonel H.J.R.CLAYTON came South and reported to AUSTRALIAN CORPS Headquarters. Captain Frank.A.CHAFFEY, Adjutant, remaining in command.</p>	
Remaining Period in North			<p>Copy of Captain CHAFFEY's Diary is attached.</p>	

Copy of Capt. CHAFFEY's

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAESTRE	11/4/18.		Lieut-Colonel H.J.R. CLAYTON, Commandant, left to report to AUSTRALIAN CORPS Headquarters and left the Adjutant, Captain F.A. CHAFFEY, in command. All personnel except Baths and 5th Division Working Companies were entrained at CAESTRE, and proceeded to VIGNACOURT. Total marching out :- 6 Officers 329 Other ranks. 15 H.E. Shells dropped on IX CORPS Headquarters, CAESTRE FLETRE, between 9.30 p.m. and 11 p.m.	
"	12.4.18.		All Baths personnel collected from various centres. Total 4 Officers 143 Other Ranks accommodated in X2 Camp.	
"	"	3.30 p.m.	Ordered by IX CORPS to evacuate CAESTRE Area and to report to St Marie Cappell. This was carried out at the same time as the evacuation of the Civilian population. The congestion on the FLETRE - CASSELL Road was - - - awful. The orders from IX CORPS stated that Tents were to be collected by Motor Transport. All British Tents were collected, but not one Tent belonging to Australian Camp was removed. The Australian Transport (Horse) worked all night to recover all Camp Equipment. Total Troops marching out :- 23 Officers 591 Other Ranks.	
St MARIE CAPPELL	13.4.18.		IX CORPS and Traffic finally announced that Train accommodation could not be obtained to move Troops to VIGNACOURT. Capt. CHAFFEY reported to Headquarters, 1st Australian Division and arrangements were made to attach the Headquarters, the 5th Australian Division Working Companies and details to 3rd Inf Bde : 20 Officers 450 Other ranks, the 18 Other Ranks, Wireless Section to 1st Divn Signal Company, and all Baths personnel to 1st Divn. Dump at EBBLINGHEM, AUSTRALIAN CORPS advised of orders given by 1st Australian Division.	
HAZE) BROUCK	13.4.18.		4 Officers 143 Other Ranks, Corps Baths, marched out from St MARIE CAPPELL to EBBLINGHEM. 18 Other Ranks, Wireless Section; reported to 1st Australian Divisional Signal Company for duty at SERCUS. 20 Officers 450 Other Ranks reported to 3rd Aust. Inf Bde at HAZEBROUCK for duty. All surplus Tents handed over to IX CORPS Reinforcement Camp under orders from IX CORPS.	

Captain CHAFFEY'S

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HAZEBROUCK	14.4.18.		The Working Companies commenced work under the O.C. 3rd Field Company Engineers constructind a reserve line. The Units worked as a Reserve Battalion and were organised as a fighting Unit. The sector of line to hold allotted by Bde very heavily shelled but not casualties.	
	15.4.18.		Organisation and construction of strong points continued. Terrific shelling with H.E. Shrapnell along all road ways day and night. The town of HAZEBROUCK continually shelled.	
	16.4.18.		Arranged with D.A.D.O.S. 1st Australian Division to supply 6 Lewis Guns for Reserve Battalion. Heavy bombardment continued. Working on strong points .	
	17.4.18.		Move of Reserve Battalion to BORRE, and new position taken up .Shelling continued. 5 casualties, all shrapnell wounds.	
	18.4.18.		Records of Headquarters, AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp moved to MORBECQUE. Construction of reserve line and strong points. Enemy action, quiet all day.	
BORRE	19.4.18.		Transferred from 3rd Inf Bde to 2nd Inf Bde .Enemy Artillery active at intervals of 2 hours. Postal organisation complete. Reported the situation by a written report sent by D.R.L.S to AUSTRALIAN CORPS "AM. Transport now sufficient to meet requirements.	
	20.4.18.		Detailed 3 G.S.Wagons to move 3rd Aust Divn. Stores from HAZEBROUCK to EBBLINGHEM. Terrific shelling all night on the town and main roads to HAZEBROUCK, this continued at intervals throughout the day. German Gothas came over and dropped bombs.	
	21.4.18.		Reported to 1st Australian Divisional Headquarters and arranged Train accommodation; withdrew Working Companies from BORRE to bivouacs at WALLON CAPPELL. Arranged supplies and entrainment at EBBLINGHEM. 3 casualties during the day from shell fire. Received every assistance from Staff of 1st Aust, Divn.	
	22.4.18.		Entrained 11 Officers 315 Other ranks, at EBBLINGHEM, under Capt R.B.GILCHRIST. Train left 4 p.m. for CANAPLES. AUSTRALIAN CORPS advised . (5A and 5C Working Companies and 47 Details) All remaining Troops collected at EBBLINGHEM and organised for road and entrainment.	

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EBBLINGHEM	23.4.18.		Detailed Captain J.H.ALLEN, 32nd Battalion as O.C. Party consisting of 5B Working Coy, Baths personnel and Headquarters to entrain at EBBLINGHEM, and proceed by rail to CANAPLES. 1st Australian Division advised. Cleared the whole area of Corps Troops. The Reinforcement Camp Transport under Captain F.A.CHAFFEY proceeded by road commencing at 2.30 p.m. Bivouaced the night at MAZINGHEM. Corps School Transport despatched at 8 a.m. for VOLKERINCKHOVE.	
MAZINGHEM & St POL	24.4.18.		Left MAZINGHEM at 8.15 ¹ a.m. and proceeded to St POL via St HILLAIRE and PERNES, made good progress all day. Bivouaced in field South of St POL.	

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<p>Period "C"</p> <p>ORGANIS- -ATION</p> <p>TRAINING</p> <p>RECEIPT & DESPATCH of REIN- -FORCEMENTS</p>			<p>With the first arrival of Wings in the South, Lieut-Colonel PAUL, 49th Battalion, with a hastily formed Staff administered the various Wings. On his arrival in VIGNACOURT on 9th April 1918, Major RAMSAY, O.C. Corps Depot, took over temporary command. All Wings except the 1st Australian Divisional Wing, which had again moved North, were billeted in VIGNACOURT.</p> <p>On 12th April, 1918, Reinforcement Camp Headquarters was moved to PERNOIS. On 24th April, 1918, Lieut-Colonel H.J.R. CLAYTON resumed duty and his Staff arriving from the North on that day.</p> <p>At this date the Camp consisted of :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 5th Australian Divisional Wing - in tents at PETNOIS - and, under the O.C. Wing, the 5th Divisional Nucleus, about 100 Officers and 1500 Other Ranks strong in billets at PERNOIS. (b) Australian Corps Depot- in billets at PERNOIS. (c) 4th Australian Divisional Wing - billeted at BERTEAUCOURT. (d) 2nd " " " " - billeted at BERTEAUCOURT. (e) 3rd " " " " - billeted at St LEGER les DOMART. <p>On 10th April, 1918, under authority of Corps Circular No. 5/464 of 10.4.18., a copy of which is attached, the Artillery Depot was formed and billeted at PERNOIS.</p> <p>On 1st May, 1918, the 2nd Australian Divisional Nucleus marched into its Wing about 100 Officers and 1500 Other Ranks strong, and was billeted in BERTEAUCOURT.</p> <p>On 3rd May, 1918, the 4th Australian Divisional Nucleus marched into its Wing about 100 Officers and 1500 Other Ranks strong and was billeted in BERTEAUCOURT, but returned to the forward Area in a week.</p> <p>With the summer months and splendid Areas available, Training Grounds were made. Major L.G. FUSSELL, M.C., 17th Battalion, was appointed Chief Instructor, and Reinforcements proper and Nucleus personnel are trained daily.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RECEIPT and DESPATCH of RFTS			<p>Reinforcements are received at PERNOIS Railhead, and despatched to Wings under guides. After remaining in Wings for from 3 to 4 days they are despatched by march route to Corps Reinforcement Staging Depot at VAUX-an - AMIENOIS, where they remain over night, proceeding next day to temporary Depots formed by each Division near its Headquarters. Packs are transported by lorries.</p>	
AREA COMMANDANT			<p>On 8th May, 1918, Lieut-Colonel H.J.R. CLAYTON was made Area Commandant, by Corps Circular No. 186/473., a copy of which is attached. The Units in the Area and coming under this administration are as follows:-</p> <p>No. 10 Ordnance Mobile Workshops., 3rd Australian Sanitary Section, No. 3. Aust. M.T. Coy Workshops., No. 4. Aust. M.T. Coy Workshops., "K" Siege Park Workshops., 3rd Cavalry Divn D.A.D. OS, and M.T. Coy. Fourth Army D.A.D. Roads 4., Aust Corps Troops M.T. Coy Workshops., 33rd Area Employment Coy., Co. 25 L.R. Workshops Coy R.E., 3rd Corps M.T. Coy.</p>	
DISCIPLINE			<p>Under authority of Corps No. 51/528 of 1.5.18. Lieut-Colonel H.J.R. CLAYTON was appointed to convene F.G.C.s M. Uptodate <u>27</u> cases have been sent to trial.</p>	
BATHS.			<p>Central Baths with 12 showers and hot water were formed at BERTEAUCOURT under the Reinforcement Camp Headquarters Administration. All troops in the area are bathed twice weekly, and under-clothing changed. A delousing chamber has been installed.</p>	
SUPPLIES			<p>Supplies are drawn by Headquarters in bulk for the whole command, which has varied in strength from 7000 to 2300. Supply Railhead is at VIGNACOURT, 3 miles distant. A central Store is situated in BERTEAUCOURT, and thence supplies are distributed by Corps Reinforcement Camp Headquarters to the various Wings and Depots.</p> <p>The Ration is splendid, and at this time of the year, is supplemented by green vegetables purchased from gardens in the shelled Areas around AMIENS. About one ton per day has been distributed for the last three weeks.</p>	

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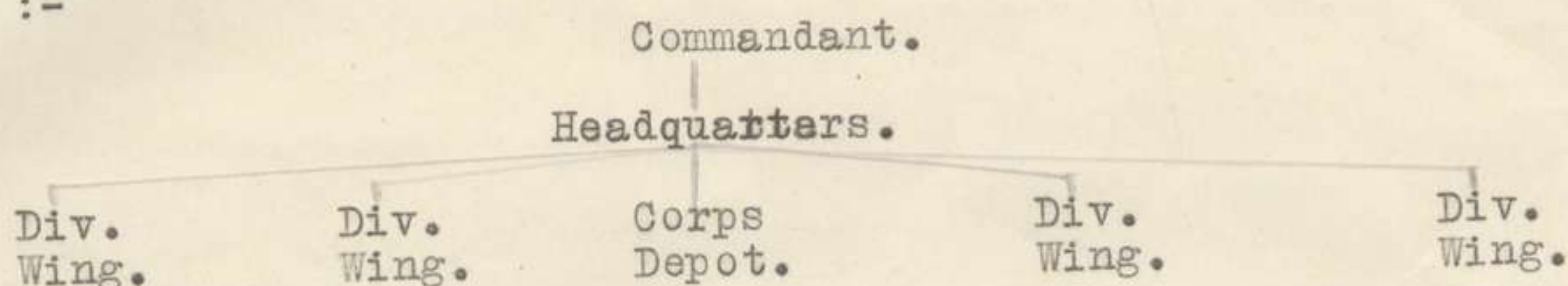
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRANSPORT			<p>It has been found necessary to pool under the central control of this Headquarters all the transport supplied to Divisions to their Wings. The transport used is as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 3 Ton Motor Lorries., 6 G.S.Wagons. 1 Limber 1 Water Cart. 	
RECREATION			<p>Never has there been more opportunity for recreation. The weather, since the C amp arrived in the South, has been as ideal as the countryside itself. The Y.M.C.A. has provided sporting material of every kind, footballs, cricketing material, and even tennis racquets, nets and balls. Cricket is played every afternoon on many grounds, and bathing takes place in the river that runs through the 3 villages. Two combined Sports meetings have been held. There have been 8 Battalion Bands in the Area. A Concert Party perform nightly in a local Hall, and a Y.M.C.A. Cinema is allotted to each Wing in its nightly turn. Lectures are given occasionally.</p>	

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 99.Subject: Corps Reinforcement Camp.

In continuation of G.S.Circulars Nos.88 and 95 the following will be the organisation and establishment of the First ANZAC Reinforcement Camp :-

1.-ORGANISATION.

The Corps Reinforcement Camp shall consist of -

- (a) The Commandant and Headquarters.
- (b) Corps Depot.
- (c) A Divisional Wing for each Division of the Corps.

The Camps will be known as -

Corps Depot ... "X" Camp.
Wing Camps. ... "A.B.C.D."

A. The Commandant will be responsible generally for the administration, discipline, sanitation, supply of equipment, rations, water etc., but will not exercise power of summary jurisdiction, except over such personnel as are allotted to Camp Headquarters Staff, and will not interfere with the interior economy or training of Divisional Wings.

He will be responsible for quartering of Troops to the best advantage and will therefore make such allotments of tentage, camp equipment etc, as may be from time to time necessary to meet excessive numbers of reinforcements or other personnel.

He will maintain, control and allot the use (as required) of all general training grounds and facilities, such as rifle ranges and bombing areas.

He will generally supervise the arrivals and draftings of reinforcements and other personnel, and keep necessary records.

B. The CORPS DEPOT will -

- (i) Receive and distribute to Wings or Units all reinforcements on arrival.
- (ii) Be available as overflow camp for Divisional Wings in case of sudden influx of Reinforcements.
- (iii) Generally inspect and complete the equipment of any casualties rejoining from Hospital or Rest Stations etc., in FRANCE who may be immediately equipped.

When excess personnel is authorised to be brought from the Base for any purpose, such as work under C.E. Troops etc., they shall be administered and their records kept at Corps Depot, on the same lines as the personnel of the late Entrenching Battalion.

The Inspection of gas equipment will be carried out before reinforcements leave Wings to join their Units; the gas staff of Camp Headquarters being available and authorised to complete the inspection at Divisional Wing Camps.

C. DIVISIONAL WINGS will receive, maintain and train reinforcements for units of their own Divisions, until such time as they may be taken over by units.

They will also accommodate and administer any Nucleus personnel of their own Divisions which may be retained under S.S.135 (Training of Divisions for Offensive Action), and also such personnel as schools, classes, and officers and other ranks proceeding to and from leave, if required.

The officers commanding divisional wings will be responsible for discipline, administration and interior economy of their wings, irrespective of the fact that there may be from time to time officers of senior rank in the wing camp.

They will receive and carry out such orders for the general welfare and discipline of the Reinforcement Camp as a whole which may be issued by the Commandant, Reinforcement Camp, and will submit such returns as may be required from time to time.

Unless the Officer Commanding the Divisional Wing is specifically appointed to be Chief Instructor, he shall not be responsible for, nor interfere with the training of personnel.

This does not prevent the Officer Commanding from assisting in any way which may be desired by the Chief Instructor. The instructional personnel of divisional wings will be appointed to wings under similar arrangements as when Reinforcement Training Base was at HAVRE (i.e. for a period of 2 months), and may be added to temporarily be Divisional Commanders when the number of Reinforcements warrants an increase.

The chief instructors and assistant instructors on the establishment of each wing will be responsible for the co-ordination, continuity and system of training, and will work under the General Staffs of Divisions.

One assistant instructor should be a specialist in musketry, P.T. & B.F. and the other in general training, Lewis gun and bombing.

2.- ESTABLISHMENTS.

All previously published establishments of Corps Reinforcement Camps and Divisional Reinforcement Camps or Wings are hereby cancelled.

The establishments will be as shown in attached tables A.B. & C..

Officers will be seconded from their units whilst holding appointments.

Personnel, other ranks, will be transferred from their units, and their places filled.

Substantive ranks held by N.C.Os. on transfer to the Reinforcement Camp will continue to be held; but any subsequent appointments or promotions will be made under A.I.F. Order 213.

Names of officers and other ranks selected for appointments on divisional wings staffs should be forwarded to Corps Headquarters as soon as possible.

(Sgd.) C.H. JESS.
Lieut-Colonel,
for Brigadier General,
General Staff,
First ANZAC Corps.

APPENDIX

Australian Corps.
29th January 1918.

Third AMENDMENT TO GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No.98.

SUBJECT:- Anti Gas organisation.

1. Paragraph 2 (d) of G.S.Circular No.98 and the second amendment to that Circular dated 18th November 1917 are cancelled.
- 2.(1) Chemical Adviser will detail from the establishment of the Corps Gas School 2 Sergeants for attachment to and duty with the Corps Reinforcement Camp.
 - (11) The C.O.Reinforcement Camp will hereafter be responsible for the inspection of Small Box Respirators and for equipping and testing all personnel arriving without anti-gas equipment at Divisional Reinforcement Wings. For this later purpose he will prepare the necessary accommodation and a gas proof dug-out. This work will be supervised by the Chemical Adviser at Corps Headquarters.
 - (111) The duties of the two Gas Sergeants will be -
 - (a) Inspection of all Small Box Respirators and report of all defects and shortages.
 - (b) Test and fit of respirators when issued.
 - (c) Application of Glycerine to all outlet valves.
 - (d) Training - as time permits.
 - (1) Practices with respirators.
 - (2) Use of anti dimming material.
 - (3) Lecture of gases used in field.
 - (4) Smell gases used by enemy.
 - (5) Necessity and use of gas proof dug out.
 - (6) Drill in smoke
3. Divisions not in the line will be responsible, for their own resources, for the inspection and completion of anti-gas equipment and training of all reinforcement personnel arriving at their reinforcement depots.

(Sgd) C.B.B.WHITE.
Brigadier General,
General Staff,
Australian Corps.

APPENDIX

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters
10th. April 1918.
5/464.

FIRST ADDENDUM TO ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS No. 183.

CORPS REINFORCEMENT CAMP. ARTILLERY DEPOT for Reinforcements and Details.

Reinforcements for Divisional Artilleries will be taken on arrival to their Divisional Wings and sent to rejoin their units from there.

An Artillery Reinforcement Depot will be formed at Corps Reinft. Camp to accommodate Reinforcements for Army Brigades and Corps H.A.. The G.O.C. R.A. will detail an officer as O.C. Artillery Depot, a N.C.O. to act as C.S.M. and Q.M.S. and 6 other ranks to act as cooks and for general duties.

The above Staff will report to the Commandant, Corps Reinforcement Camp as early as possible and he will allot accommodation at VIGNACOURT for the Artillery Depot.

All Reinforcements and Details for the Artillery other than Divisional Artilleries will be taken, on arrival, to this Depot and despatched to join their units from there.

G.O.C., R.A. and B.G., H.A., will arrange for the O.C. Artillery Depot to be kept in-formed of the location of units and the arrangements for the men to rejoin their Batteries.

(Sgd)
Keith Officer,
Major.
for Brigadier General,
D.A. & Q.M.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.



APPENDIX

COOPER

Headquarters
10th April 1918

5/464

THE AUSTRALIAN CORPS

THE CORPS

Orders and Details

All Artillery will be taken on arrival
to rejoin their units from there.

Depot will be formed at Corps Headquarters
for Artillery Brigades and Corps A.A. The
A.C. Artillery Depot, A.C.O. to act
as to act as cooks and for general
duties.

923

to the Commandant, Corps Reinforcement
List of accommodation arrangements for

is for the Artillery Depot than div-
in arrival to this Depot and designated
to act as cooks and for general

All arrangements for the A.C. Artillery
containing units and the arrangements
to act as cooks and for general

(2nd)
Staff Officer,
Major,
for Brigadier General,
D.A. & S.M.G.,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.



APPENDIX

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,
8th May, 1918.
186/473.

Headquarters,
3rd. Aust. Division.
Corps Reinforcement Camp.
Area Commandants-

BERTEAUCOURT.
St. OUEN.
St. GRATIEN.
FRECHENCOURT.

))))-----

The following changes of Area Commandants will take place forthwith. The Officers concerned will report to this office by wire when he has assumed his new duties.

- (a) Commandant, Corps Reinforcement Camps will take over administration of St. LEGER, BERTEAUCOURT, PERNIOS, Area from Major WEDGEWOOD.
- (b) Major WEDGEWOOD will take over St. OUEN and BETHENCOURT from Captain WALKER.
- (c) Captain WALKER will report to Captain HARRISON at FRECHENCOURT and act as sub-area Commandant of that place.
- (d) Captain HARRISON will take over St. GRATIEN Area (map being issued).
- (e) Lieut. FENWICK after handing over St. GRATIEN to Captain HARRISON will proceed to PETIT CAMON and proceed to organise that Area (map being issued to him direct).

(Sgd)

Keith Officer,
Major.
D.A.A.G.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.



APPENDIX

Headquarters,
Australian Corps.
73/169.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

25/210.

Headquarters, A.I.F.
attached
Australian Corps.
19th. May, 1918.

Circ.Memo. 25/210.

1. It has been decided to form a permanently organised Corps Working Party composed of underaged youths in lieu of sending them for employment to General Hospitals &c. until they reach the age of 19 years.
 2. "B" Class personnel of Australian Employment Coy. not otherwise employed may be attached to this party from time to time as required, under the orders of Australian Corps "A".
 3. This party will be employed within the back portion of the Corps Area.
 4. When evidence of youths being underage is produced, they will be sent ~~xxxxxxx~~ from units to join this party under the orders of the D.A.G.? A.I.F. except in the case of those located at base depots whose move will be ordered by Australian Section 3rd. Echelon.
 5. The underage personnel now at General Hospitals and casualty clearing stations may be retained there until they reach the age of 19 except those who are unsuitable for work with such units.
 6. General Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations will despatch those youths who are unsuitable for employment at Medical Units to the Base. Australian Section 3rd. Echelon will despatch them from the Base to Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp for posting to Corps Working Party.
 7. All postings of youths to Corps Working Party will be reported to Aust. Section 3rd. Echelon.
 8. The following Officers and N.C.Os. are authorised for appointment to Corps Working Party:-
 - 1 Lieutenant "B" class.
 - 2 Sergeants "B" "
 - 2 Corporals "B" "
 - 1 Sergeant and 1 Corporal ("B" class) additional for each complete 30 of strength in excess of 50.
- Lance Corporals may be appointed from the underage youths as required at the discretion of Aust. Corps "A".
9. The "B" class Officer will be detailed by the D.A.G. A.I.F. N.C.Os. will be despatched to the Corps Working Party on the above scale, as required, by Aust. Section 3rd. Echelon.
 10. The party will be administered as a unit and Form B 213 will be rendered to the Base weekly by the Officer in charge.
 11. When any youth reaches the age of 19 years Aust. Section 3rd. Echelon will issue orders to Australian Corps "A" for his return to his unit.

(Sgd.) H.D. Wynter.
Lt. Colonel.

for Colonel,
D.A.G., A.I.F.

D.A.G.
aaq

APPENDIX

1st Australian Division Reinforcement Wing. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

HISTORY OF THE WING. -----

The 1st Australian Division Reinforcement Wing was formed in February 1917. The camp was then at FRICOURT and 1st Divisional personnel were transferred from BELLE VUE FARM, which was the Aus. Corp Reinforcement Camp. The first Commandant was LIEUT STURT, 3 Bn with W.O. (Class 2) DENHAM as Sergeant Major. I understand that CAPT HAM (unit unknown) took temporary command between the departure of LIEUT STURT and the arrival of CAPT. (now MAJOR) E.T.J. KERBY, 8 Bn. in April 1917. LIEUT WEEKS, 8 Bn was at this time Wing Commander Adjutant. MAJOR E.T.J. KERBY continued to command the Wing until 19th January, 1918, when MAJOR E.B. AYRIS 8 Bn took over command. LIEUT STOCK, 5 Bn, took over the duties of Adjutant from LIEUT WEEKS on 6/5/17 and held this post until September 1st 1917, being replaced by LIEUT H.C. MORRISON, 5 Bn. LIEUTE LANGFORD, 5 Bn. became Adjutant in place of LIEUT MORRISON on 10th January, 1918. MAJOR AYRIS and LIEUT LANGFORD remain as Commandant and Adjutant respectively today, 24th May 1918. CAPT MITCHILL C.A. 3rd FIELD AMB. was posted to the Wing as M.O. on the 11th April 1918 and is still with the Wing. Capt Mitchell was M.O. to the Wing for a period at the end of 1917 also.

MOVES: The various moves of the Wing are as follows:-

- From FRICOURT to BAZENTIN. Date unknown, but before April 1917
Nissen Huts.
- FROM BAZENTIN to BOUZINCOURT. 21st May 1917. Camp of Malthoid
Huts erected by the Wing.
- FROM BOUZINCOURT to BAZIEUX about 20th July, 1917.
In billets and tents.
- From BAZIEUX to WALLON CAPPELL on 27th JULY, 1917.
In billets and Tents.
- FROM WALLON CAPPELL to VIEUX BERQUIN in AUGUST 1917
Billets and Canvas.
- FROM VIEUX BERQUIN to STRAZEELE on 29/8/17.
The Wing was here located in disused ammunition dumps and was



APPENDIX

MOVES (continued)

- badly bombed ,but without casualties.
- FROM ROUGE STRAZEELE to ROUGE CROIX on 14/15 September 1917.
Canvas Camps were erected and these Nucleus from all Battalions,
under S.S.135., joined the Wing.
The Divisional Wing became associated with CORPS REINF.CAMP in
September 1917.
- FROM ROUGE CROIX to STEENVORDE 24 SEPTEMBER 1917.
Under Canvas.
- FROM ROUGE-CROIX--STEENVORDE to ROUGE CROIX 30/9/17.
Under Canvas.
- FROM ROUGE CROIX to SAMER 25 NOVEMBER 1917.
Under Canvas.
- FROM SAMER to ROUGE CROIX 15 DECEMBER 1917.
Under Canvas.
- FROM ROUGE CROIX to BAILLEUL 30 JANUARY 1918.
In NISSEN HUTS.
- FROM BAILLEUL to ROUGE CROIX 28 FEBRUARY 1918.
Under Canvas.
- FROM ROUGE CROIX to ARGOEUVRES. 6 APRIL 1918.
In Billets.
- FROM ARGOEUVRES to VIGNACOURT. 8 APRIL 1918.
In Billets.
- FROM VIGNACOURT to PERNOIS. 12 APRIL 1918.
At Pernois the Wing was in billets.
- FROM PERNOIS to LINGHEM. 20 APRIL 1918.
At Linghem the Wing came under the administration of XV CORPS M& R
CAMP.

GENERAL HISTORY.

I can furnish but little information except as regards C.O.'s,
Adjutants and moves, prior to January 1918 when I took over.

The Wing went through certain vicissitudes from its inception
onwards until the summer of 1917. In many places new Camps had to be
erected and accomodation was difficult owing to many moves. Troops are
rarely detained in the Wing for more than 48 hours except Recruits
who are held pending inspection by the Divisional Commander.

At BAILLEUL during FEBRUARY 1918 a great deal of work was done to the
Camp taken over from 3rd Australian Division Reinforcement Wing.

Huts were thoroughly revetted, duckboards laid, wash-house erected,
garden fenced and a Gas Chamber built. This Camp was commended by



APPENDIX

the Area Commandant. A great deal of improvement was effected in the ROUGE CROIX Camps A1 and A2. During the period 6th April to the 20th April, 1918, owing to a sudden move of the 1st Australian Division to XV Corps, the number of Reinforcements and Casuals increased, and an organised Battalion was formed with Brigade Companies. This Battalion numbered 1,000 strong on leaving PERNOIS for LINGHEM.

The system of dealing with Reinforcements is as follows:-

On the arrival of a draft, the men are divided into Brigades. Rolls are called, and the men marched off to their respective Brigade Lines. Tea is given them five minutes later, and if during the day, a hot meal is prepared as soon as possible. Standing Orders etc. are read as soon as the men have been allotted to Brigades and have removed their equipment. The following morning drafts are put through gas; on return from this parade they are medically examined and any particulars taken which Division requires. Iron Rations are issued if not already in possession of the men. They are then paid (if entitled to pay) and go to the Baths, receiving a clean change of underclothing.

Recruits are lectured on points of interest concerning the Division and their particular Brigades and Battalions.

Normally a draft is then ready to proceed forward. They are fallen in at a suitable hour on the day preceding their despatch, the roll is again called and each man individually warned that he is for draft at such and such an hour ~~for~~ the next day. Drafts usually march out in Fighting order and packs are taken forward by



APPENDIX

Lorries. Drafts which are held for more than 24 hours are instructed in Musketry, Lewis Gun, P.T. & B.F., and Bombing when possible. Practically every man so retained fires a certain number of rounds on 30 yards and 100 yards range, and also receives instruction in and fires some rounds from the Lewis Gun. Rapid Loading and firing form distinct features of the Musketry training. The hours of training are short, and the work made as interesting as possible, and the men are given as much freedom and leisure as can be spared before proceeding to their units.

E. B. Angwin



709
 Sent _____ Service _____ Date _____
 At _____ m. From _____
 To _____
 By _____ (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { C.O.
 Aust Corp Reinf Camp

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*
 The 2nd Aust Div Reinf Wing was formed on Sept 11 1917.
 Lieut Col R. H. Traver D.S.O. being C.O.
 Capt J. S. Douglas 19th Bn Adjutant.
 The first camp was formed near FLEIRE, with a strength maximum strength of about 110 off & 2600 of R. mainly nuclear personnel.
 On 25/9/17 the Wing was disbanded, all personnel reporting units with the Camp staff being handed over to the 5th Aust Div.
 On the same 30/9/17 the Wing was again reformed. Major W. Bakeman 23rd Bn. being Co & Capt Douglas Adj.
 The camp was formed again at Fleire, the strength being about similar to the first camp.
 On 4/10/17 Major Bakeman proceeded to

From _____
 Place _____
 Time _____

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. **(Z)**
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 750,000. W 2136-14509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

Sent _____ Service _____ Date _____
 At _____ m. From _____
 To _____
 By _____ (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO {

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*
 England & Major W. Davis M.C. 25th Bn took command. On 12/10/17 all nuclear personnel were reformed, reports unit & only a staff to receive reinforcements being retained.
 On 23/10/17 Lieut Col Slane D.S.O. 17th Bn became Co of the Wing & two days later the nuclear personnel arrived at Camp.
 Lt Col Slane proceeded to England & back on 17/11/17 & Lieut Col Traver again assumed command until 22/11/17 - when the next camp was practically complete of troops, all details being sent to join unit.
 From 23/11/17 until 4/5/18 the Wing was purely a reinforcement depot, with Capt Douglas as C.O. During this period camps were formed at Ravelstberg

From _____
 Place _____
 Time _____

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. **(Z)**
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 750,000. W 2136-14509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

APPENDIX

Sent _____ Service _____ Date _____
 At _____ m. _____
 To _____
 By _____ (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { _____

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*
 The 1st Despatch Co. Calcutta. The
 Vignacourt & Beethancourt. The
 Wing moving on the Division moved
 on 3/18. The nucleus personnel again
 came into the Wing. The same office
 in Camp assigned Command
 Organization. During those periods when
 the absence of Brigades were in the Wing
 Camp. The camp was divided into Bde
 groups for purposes of administration
 Training being carried out by Bde
 lines set down by the respective Bde
 N.C.O. & Officer schools were established
 Brigades organized Bde Detach as a Bde. The
 detail of each Battalion forming a
 Coy of the Brigade nucleus Bn.

From _____
 Place _____
 Time _____

This above may be forwarded as now corrected. **(Z)**
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 * This line should be erased if not required.

750,000. W 2136-14509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Sent _____ Service _____ Date _____
 At _____ m. _____
 To _____
 By _____ (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { _____

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*
 The financing of Reinforcement during
 the period was not always possible
 as frequently reinforcements were sent on
 to front unit at very short notice.
 At all times however particular
 attention was paid to training all
 personnel & anti gas measures & in
 inspection of anti gas equipment.
 During the period from 11/17 to 26/17
 1033 officers & 22988 of R. passed through
 the Wing

2ND
 AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
 REINFORCEMENT CAMP
 (11-17)
 No. _____
 Date _____

From _____
 Place _____
 Time _____

This above may be forwarded as now corrected. **(Z)**
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 * This line should be erased if not required.

750,000. W 2136-14509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

APPENDIX

— 3rd Div. Rpt. Wing. —

The wing was formed on 17/11/17 at Caestre, accommodated in tents.

Capt Lambden M. 37th Bn., appointed as C. I. & carried on as O.C. until 15/1/18. with Lieut G. Fleiter 37th Bn. as Adj. On 14/10/17 Wing moved to Ravelsburg into hutments. and from thence on 29/10/17 to Bailleul into hutments & Billeto.

On 15/1/18 Capt Lambden returned to his Bn + Major E. J. Shendan 41st Bn. took over as O.C.

On 30/1/18. Moved to Camp previously occupied at Caestre

On 9/2/18 Lieut Fleiter was evacuated to Hospital & Lieut A. Langley 36th Bn arrived on 12/2/18 to carry out duties of Adj.

On 6/3/18 the Div. moved to the

back areas + Wing was located at Desveres in the Cement Works.

Following upon the German Offensive on the Somme. the Div. moves South + Wing moved to Flesee on 27/3/18.

Here all men sent to the wing were organized under Corps into a Battalion of 4 Coy. approx. strength ~~to~~ 4 Off. 130 O.R.s. Three companies were employed on defensive works in the neighbourhood of Kemmel.

On 9/4/18 Wing moved to Vignacourt into Billeto and on 17/4/18 to St Leger. les Domart.

From the inception of the Wing up to 26/5/18. Reinforcements passed through the Wing numbered 433 Off 9564 O.Ranks. In addition, at least 2000 Casuals (mainly from leave & schools) of all ranks

passed through during same period

Training all reinforcements receive gas training & have their Respirators tested prior to being sent forward. They also receive instruction in Musketry, Bayonet Fighting & Physical Training to ensure that no man goes to his Battalion until up to the standard set by the C.I.

Records Complete nominal rolls by Bns are kept of all men passing through the Wing, & showing date & place from whence received & date of despatch to Unit. Bns advised to take men on strength from date arrival at Wing.

Medical 3 AMC details attached to Wing. When within Corps Ref. Area all cases attended by M.D. of Corps Ref. Camp Hqs.

When detached from Corps Ref. Hqs as was the case at Ravensburg, Baillet & Desvres arrangements were made by Div. for the regular daily visits by M.D. from nearest Field Ambulance.

Discipline generally very good
Percentage of crime low.
Total number of cases for J. Room to date have not exceeded 50 - mostly minor breaches of discipline.

Canteen was run at Wing from 1/10/17 to 5/3/18. Discontinued owing to inability to obtain transport to move it from Camp to Camp.

Rations: Uniformly very good.
Total amount of fat returned for period 17/11/17 to 20/4/17 - 3021 lbs.
Estimated quantity for May to date 500 lbs.
Extras purchased to supplement

5

Rations at cost of approx. £16.
for period.

Salvage Quantities of clothing,
equipment & ammunition sent
to salvage at regular intervals
including ~~over~~ 70,000 Round S.A.A.

Boots Bootmaker commenced
duty 15/4/19. Up to date 66 pairs
of boots have been soled & heeled,
besides numerous minor repairs
(Stitching etc.)

3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVL. REINFORCEMENT WING, 1 ANZAC REINFORCEMENT CAMP.	
No.	12517
Date	

Johnston Major



APPENDIX

Short History of 4th Div Rpt Wing from formation
to present date

The 4 Aust Div. formed a Reinforcement Camp at Steenwerck early in July 1917, under Lt Colonel Rigden (R.F.A. Territorials). The Staff consisted of the O/C, Q.M.S., Storeman, orderly Room clerk, 2 cooks and 1 guide. A Limber was attached to draw rations and water.

The Division was in the immediate area at this time. Brigade Guides reported to the Reinforcement Camp and guided their own reinforcements to their Brigade H. Quarters. Six hundred to eight hundred men - Casuals and reinforcements - passed weekly through the Camp at this time.

The Camp was removed to Keersebrom on 13 August. On 3rd September Capt D. Campbell, 47th Battalion, took over from Lt Col. Rigden, and two days later the Camp moved to Bourcq. The Division was in the Bomly area, and Lillers was the railhead.

Besides dealing with reinforcements and casuals, the reinforcement camp at this place also bathed and billeted all troops going on leave. Leave men arrived during the afternoon by ration lorries returning from the Brigade Dumps, were bathed and given clean clothing next morning, and left Camp in time to catch the 1pm leave train at Lillers.

On the Division moving north the Reinft Camp was moved to Caestre on 20/9/17. Soon after the Rpt Camp was designated 4th Aust Div. Rpt Wing, 10th Anzac Rpt Camp. On 5th October Lt B. D. Leake, 4 Pioneers was appointed Adjut and Q.M. The Wing remained in this Area till 26th November, and during this period the "33rd p.c. Brigade Nuclei" were twice back, accommodated in the Div Rpt Wing.

During the month of November, training of reinforcements was carried out under 4 Officers detailed by Division, and all reinforcements were also fitted and tested with S.B. Respirators. At this time too the second blanket was ~~given~~ issued at the Wing, so that every man had two blankets in his possession when he joined his unit.

From Caestre the Rpt Wing moved successively to Gamaches 26/11/17, Peronne 7/12/17 and back to Caestre again on 10/1/18.

On 1/12/17 Lt Leake was promoted Captain. On 21/1/18 this officer was temporarily attached to 4 Div. Head Quarters and his place filled by Lt H. J. Barnes, 47th Batta.

On 28/2/18 the Wing moved to Bailleul and on 24/3/18 back to the old place at Caestre.

APPENDIX

The 10th of April found the Rpt Wing at Dignacourt, which was but a stage on the way to Berteaucourt, the present site.

The procedure of receiving and dispatching reinforcements has varied little since the inception of Div. Rpt Wing. The expected draft is met at the station by a Wing guide, or where the Wings are situated close together by a Corps Camp Guide. On arrival at Wing Head Quarters rolls are checked, and men put in billets or tents. A drink of tea is served as soon as possible. During winter it was cocoa, supplied by the Comforts Fund.

Units concerned and Division are wired the numbers of reinforcements etc, and these are taken on "Strengths" by units immediately. On next parade the S.B. Respirators are examined and the troops lectured on Gas Precautions. Later the respirators are tested at the Corps Camp Gas Chamber.

In all other areas reinforcements and casualties were despatched from the Reinforcement Wing direct to their units. In the present area there are two stages, first the Corps Staging Depot and then the Division Staging Depot. Troops stay a night at each stage.

A draft is warned overnight that it is marching out next day. Next morning having stacked packs near orderly room, it assembles in fighting order, carrying the unexpended portion of the day's ration and an iron ration. Rolls are checked, papers handed over and route and destination pointed out to, a Conducting Officer. Draft moves off and reaches Corps Staging Depot by easy marching. When the draft has left Div Wing, all units are advised of the numbers they may expect.

4TH	
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION	
REINFORCEMENT WING.	
No
Date	25/5/18.

Donald Campbell Capt.
CO. 4 Aust. Div. Rpt. Wing.

APPENDIX

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL WING.

When the 5th Australian Division was in the Line of the Somme, near Lagdicourt, a nucleus camp was formed at Becourt a few kilometres from Albert, under the Command of Lieut. Col. J.W.

Clark. D.S.O., V.D., 30th Battalion. On the Division coming out of the Line and occupying the area round Senlis and Marpinsaatt, the nucleus was sent to re-join units in this area, and on the 3rd June 1917, the 5th Divisional Wing was formed on lines laid down in General Staff Circular No 73 of 13.5.17. and Major A.R. White M.C., 32nd Battalion, was put in command with Captain W. Jhonson, M.C., 53rd Battalion as Adjutant.

From that time all reinforcements for 5th Australian Division arriving at Albert were marched in via Australian Corps Depot to Becourt and quartered in the collection of huts which represented the Wing. There was, at that period, no training done at the Wing, its main object being that of a receiving a drafting depot for the Division.

On July 19th, Captain D.J. Vine-Hall, 53rd Battalion took over the Adjutantcy from Captain Jhonson whose services were required by his Battalion.

Early in August 1917, the Division left the Somme and moved up to Flanders and on the 17th August the Wing went into tents at Morbecque where it formed part of the camp belonging to the Corps Depot.

Here it remained until about Sept 15th when it was moved forward to Caestre close to the 1st Anzac Reinforcement Depot. The Wings of the other Australian Divisions were all in the vicinity.

After a short stay of a week the Camp was again moved to a site on the Rouge Croix Road, about half a mile from Fletre, as, owing to the nucleus coming out (this time under Lieut. Col. Denehy, 58th Battalion) it was necessary to have a larger Camp.

This site, the only one available, was most unsuited to a large Camp owing to its being on low-lying and badly drained land, and, as there were at times nearly three thousand troops there, the place soon resembled a quagmire as it was practically impossible to get material for the necessary buildings or duckboards.

On the 6th November a change in the establishment of the Wing was introduced by G.S.C. No 99 which provides for an increased number of Officers and for the training of troops passing through the Wing.

G.S.C. Nollo provided for a further change in the establishment which was to take place when the Division went out of the Line for a rest.

On the 1st December 1916 Captain Vine-Hall was succeeded by Lieut E.A. Walker, 53rd Battalion, the present Adjutant.

Early in December an Officers Mess and also hot baths were built at the Wing. A large quantity of duckboards and also floors for all tents which greatly improved conditions for all ranks were provided.

Dec 10th will long be remembered by the Wing Staff, as on that day the vote of 785 men was taken and these troops ~~and these troops~~ sent forward in motor lorries to their Units.

On the 14th Dec the Division went out to rest in the Samer Area and the Wing personnel etc left for Samer by motor lorry. The boche was shelling Hazebrouck heavily and the Wing Staff narrowly escaped being wiped out by a huge shell, when there was a block in the traffic near the Railway Station.

APPENDIX

The Camp at Fletre was taken over by 2nd Australian Division who continued the various ^{works} under construction and made several improvements.

The Wing now became a Depot under the Command of the Adjutant, in accordance with G.S. Circular 110, and it was established in a three storied house at Letoquoi about a quarter of a mile from Samer Railway Station. This house was capable of holding 250. There were also a couple of barns which would accommodate a further 200. Troops for the Depot used to detrain at Hedsignoul and were met by a Cyclist guide sent from the Depot who brought them direct to their billets after telephoning exact numbers of officers & men to the Adjutant who could thus arrange to have a hot meal ready on their arrival. The French Railway Officials and the R.T.O. at Samer rendered every assistance possible and put their 'phones at the Depot's disposal and greatly facilitated communication.

On arrival the men were billeted, an extra blanket was issued, they were given a hot tea and breakfast and sent on at 9 a.m. to their units accompanied by guides or conveyed thither in ration lorries.

During the six weeks stay at Samer, about 300 officers and 4000 other ranks passed through the Depot.

Major White, M.C., left on the 30th Dec. for England, en route for Australia, after a short stay with his battalion, much to the staff's regret.

On the 30th January the Division moved forward to the Wytchaete front and the Wing moved on to its Camp at Fletre, where it was met and taken over by its new C.O., Major R.O. Cowey, 55th Battalion. A few days later Capt R.B. Gilchrist who had been appointed Chief Instructor put in an appearance.

The Camp now took on a more workmanlike aspect. The men who were fully trained were organised on works of construction, draining the Camp, ~~repairing~~ repairing roads, wiring duck-boards, revetting tents etc., while partially trained Reinforcements were systematically exercised under Capt Gilchrist and his Training Staff.

Officer Mess furniture was purchased by the C.O., and a charge made to cover expenses. This made the stay of officers at the Camp pleasant and they enjoyed themselves instead of avoiding the Camp as they had done previously.

An excellent Bullet and Bayonet Course, and also a Revolver Range for Lewis Gunners and Officers was constructed by Engineers and Pioneers ~~and~~ at the Wing on the site adjoining the Rifle Range.

Gas Tests were taken over by Australian Corps Reinforcement Camps who had established a central Gas Chamber, while instruction in Gas form part of the daily training of the Wing. The numbers varied quite a lot and at times would reach 700 or 800, and then drop to 100 or 200.

The Cook-house at the Wing was an excellent one and was capable of cooking for some 2000 men, while 60 men per hour went through the baths each afternoon.

The whole aim of the CO. and his Staff was to improve the existing conditions and bring them to the highest possible standard in order that officers and men passing through should be as comfortable as possible and in this they were most ably assisted by the Commandant, AUSTRALIAN CORPS Reinforcement Camp, Lieut-Colonel H.J.R. Clayton, and his Adjutant, Capt. F.A. Chaffey who were most untiring in their efforts to provide material and tools necessary.

The discipline and training were aimed at keeping up the high standard of the 5th Division.

The officers Mess was fitted out and made quite a cosy place capable of seating 36 at a time. This was at times far too small as on one occasion over 100 officers were in camp for the best part of a week.

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The Australian Corps Depot was formed on the 23rd November 1917 by AIF order 983 of that date the Establishment appearing in Appendix A of that order. Up to that date it had been the 1st ANZAC Reconvalescent Camp.

Previous to that date the Entertainment Bn had been abolished on 5th November 1917 and in General Staff Circular No 99 of 6th Nov^r excess personnel of AASC and Tunnellers brought from the Base were taken on the strength of Corps Depot where they were administered and their records kept on the same lines as formerly by the Entertainment Bn. Subsequently by Memo No 31/369 of 5th Jan^y 1918 from OAC AIF all Signal Reconvalescent Camps were treated in the same manner and later all M.T. Reconvalescent Camps.

The taking over of the above personnel entailed a considerable amount of Clerical work in keeping records and a Corporal was placed on the Establishment for that purpose.

The same personnel as had been on the staff of the 1st ANZAC Reconvalescent Camp formed the staff of the Australian Corps Depot Major R.A. Rowsey being OC. and Lt A.M. Brothman 21st Bn Adj^{nt} & B.M.

The Depot on 23rd November was situated near CAESTRE on the Caestrie Flethe Road and consisted of a tented Camp where Reconvalescent Camps for all Corps Troops Heavy & Div^{ision} Artys Signal AASC M.T. & Tunnellers were received rationed and despatched to their units. As previously with 1st ANZAC Reconvalescent Camp all sick from Hospitals for all Corps Troops and Divisions reported at the Depot where they were equipped with all shortages in Clothing Equipment & Box Reconvalescent at the ordnance depot established in the camp. In the case of Corps Troops & Artys the men were forwarded direct to their units and in the case of Div^{ision} troops to their units.

On the Australian Corps moving south from Flethe a number of Imperial troops were accommodated and forwarded through the Depot pending the arrival of Reconvalescent Camps of the Corps taking over the area.

On the 6th April 1918 the Corps Depot moved south and on the 9th was Established at Vignacourt in Billets but as the Town was

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handed over to the French and on the 12th it was moved to
 PERNOIS which became the Corps Reunite^d Railhead and was
 accommodated in Bille's in the rear of the Railway Station where
 it is situated at present.

Guides are detailed for duty from Aust^l Corps Depot who meet
 all trains on arrival at railhead, day or night and direct or
 guide, when necessary, all Reunite^d arrivals to their Depots or
 Div^l Camps as was formerly done when it was 1st ANZAC Reunite^d
 Camp.

R. D. Rawson Major
 OC. Aust^l Corps Depot

23. 5. 18.

WJ
Commandant

Ass^t Corps Recruit Camp

Reference memo 225/51

Attached is History of Ass^t Corps Depot
since it was formed on 23rd November 1917
to date.

With regard to History of 1st ANZAC
Recruit Camp a War diary was kept and
forwarded on Oct 1917. The original and
duplicate were acknowledged and third Copy
asked for and this was forwarded also.

In order to write a History of the
1st ANZAC Recruit Camp a copy of

the War diary would be required for reference
& return as the contents contain records not
now available.

The diary is in a very condensed
form and a history could be written from
same giving fuller details.

May a request be made please
to War Records Section that a copy be forwarded
If duplicate copy could not be sent a
copy of the original might be made as the
contents only comprise a few pages.

R. A. Ramsey Major
OC Ass^t Corps Depot

23.5.18.

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On 18th February after full arrangements had been made by Major Stanley, O.C., 5th Div. Signals, a Signalling School was formed at the Wing with Lieut. Murphy as C.I. He was shortly afterwards succeeded by Lieut. Barber. Some seven officers and 60 other ranks attended the first school and slightly more were at the second which was disbanded on the 22nd March owing to the German offensive.

The Adjutant went on U.K. leave on the 28th Feb. after an illness and returned on the 16th March very much improved.

Major Cowey having gone on Paris leave on 20th March, Capt Gilchrist was acting C.O. when the 3rd Divnl Wing under Major Sheridan joined us and was given portion of the Camp. Major Cowey returned on 28th March.

On March 24th word was received that all men in Camp were to be fully equipped and organised into working companies of 5 officers and 130 other ranks. As there were several hundred men returning from leave and without equipment which they stated had been left with their unit, it was necessary to procure salvaged equipment etc. Each Company was however, fully equipped at the required time and sent forward in motor lorries to Lindenhock and Bulford Camps, where they were attached to 2nd Aust. Division. This Wing supplied 3 Companies known as 5a, (O.C., Capt D.J. Vine-Hall), 5b, (Capt J.H. Allen, 32nd Bn) and 5c, (Capt F.D. Johnson, 58th Battalion). Two Lewis Gun Sections, fully equipped, and all highly trained men, provided the necessary protection for these Working Companies.

The Work of these Companies has received great praise from the Divisions to which they were attached.

An extract from Capt Gilchrist's report reads as follows:-

"The working Companies were engaged on building strong points, wiring and cleaning up old trenches, etc., and in making Machine Gun Positions. They were attached to 2nd Aust Division, and afterwards to 1st Aust. Division."

On the 3rd April they were withdrawn and organised into a Battalion called the 5th Aust. Divnl. Details Battalion, for purposes of defence, and were attached to the IX Imperial Corps.

During the first days of the Boche attack on Bailleul, every effort was made (though under orders to stand by ready to "Stand by" if required), to assist the Civilian Refugees.

A refreshment booth was established at CAESTRE and was ready day and night to offer hospitality in the shape of hot chocolate, tea and coffee, to these unfortunates. It was greatly appreciated.

Messages of thanks were received from the A.R.M. on behalf of the IX Corps and also from the French and Belgian Missions.

Capt. F.A. Chaffey, Corps Reinforcement Camp's Adjutant, was largely responsible for the prompt equipping, constant useful employment, and final despatch with Camp equipment, transport etc., complete, of these companies to rejoin their Division on the 23rd April.

On the 29th March orders were received to take in British Troops, and the first batch of 1000 arrived that night about midnight. From that time on, about 1500 daily on an average passed through the Wing.

The work of drafting them was made somewhat difficult by many of them not knowing what Brigade they belonged to but they were sorted out, rationed, and sent forward daily, some by march route, and others by motor transport according to supply available.

Capt Gilchrist went forward almost daily to inspect the Working Companies thus keeping up communication with them until April 3rd when, after handing over to the 21st British Division, the personnel of the Wing (about 15 officers and ~~15~~ other ranks) with ~~the~~ baggage entrained at Caestre for Frevent.

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Bayles was reached that night and a stay of three days was made, owing to there being no train available for the party. At last, on the 6th April, a move was made to Prevent, but on arrival orders were received to continue the journey to Candas. This necessitated a transfer of all goods and chattels to another train but Candas was finally reached about 6 p.m. on 6th April. Amidst pouring rain the Wing, accompanied by a draft which had arrived earlier in the day, marched to Fienvillers, where after some delay, they were billeted with 5th Division Nucleus which was temporarily under the Command of Lieut-Colonel J.W. Clark, D.S.O., V.D., 30th Battalion.

On the 9th April, arrangements were made to billet the Wing in a large empty hangar belonging to the aerodrome there.

The greatest difficulty was the cooking; but this was soon over come and things went smoothly until a further move was made on April 12th to Brucamps; in which village the 8th Brigade Nucleus was also billeted, the 14th and 15th Brigades Nucleus going on to Gorenfles and Ergnies.

Owing to this area being so far removed from Railhead and Division, and to the scarcity of transport, orders were received to proceed to Pernois. On the 21st April the Wing and Nucleus moved thither by march route and were established in a camp of 69 tents or billeted in the village.

This has since been improved by the addition of several Nissen huts and Marquees; while the site of the camp was moved to the other side of the railway line, where previously an overflow camp had been pitched.

On March 24th the Nucleus was placed under the Command of Major Cowey; since that time everyone in the camp has had to perform progressive training in accordance with a syllabus issued by the Reinforcement Wing. This training is carried ^{out} under specialist instructors as far as possible, and a fair proportion of it is of a recreational nature; saluting on the part of all ranks is insisted upon, and there has been a very marked improvement in this respect. All officers are taught to take a very deep interest in their men, and to always be on parade when the men are. Parade States are carefully checked to see that everyone is employed.

An excellent Bullet and Bayonet Course, Rifle Range, and Minature Range have been built, and are in daily use; whilst a number of snipers posts, etc., have been constructed and explained to the men. Gas Instruction and practice forms part of the daily programme.

For purpose of organisation, all ranks passing through the Wing are now divided into three Companies, known as "A", "B", and "C", Coys. "A" Coy represents the fully trained Infantrymen, and is commanded by Capt. H.G. Wilson, 31st Battalion; "B" Coy, under Lieut. Answorth, 60th Battalion, is for the Reinforcements who are consistently trained; while "C" Company, under Capt. C.J. Walker, contains all specialist arms.

Each Company receives training of a standard suited to the requirements of the men.

On the 18th May, inter-divisional Reinforcement Sports, consisting of Military and Sporting events, were held upon this Wing's Training Ground. Their object was to make the training more interesting.

There was a large attendance at these sports, and the programme was well carried out.

Nurses were visitors from an adjacent C.C.S. The bands from all the Reinforcement Wings were present, and gave a continuous programme of music, including several massed bands items under Band-Master Welling, of the 8th Brigade Band.

Refreshments were provided in cool Marquees in the shape of beer for the men, and tea and biscuits for the officers and their visitors. Some comic items which amused everyone were given on the ground.

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The 2nd Divisional Wing scored 63 points to the 5th Wing's 54, but the 5th Wing won the Tug-of-war, for which no points were given, it also won more money in prizes than any other Wing

In consequence of the "win the war spirit" which permeates the atmosphere here, the "Q" Branch of the administration has not been overlooked. The Q.M. Store is in good order. About one ton of fat will be saved for the month of May. Five pounds of solder ~~will be~~ ^{has been} saved during the past month. Anything that can be salvaged is returned to Ordnance or R.S.O.

The present efficient state of the Wing is very largely due to the energetic and loyal service ~~rendered~~ rendered by all ranks of the Wing's Staff; from runners and cooks upwards, all of whom have worked ^{not} less than 13 hours daily since the 21st March. At times they have worked both night and day.

The juniors have formed a mess to which they all subscribe; they have also erected a mess building for themselves and have set a very high standard of discipline, camaraderie, and Camp cleanliness.

A spirit of pride in the 5th Division and the A.I.F. and one of friendliness to all other Allied Units is fostered in this Wing. An inter-change of visits has recently taken place between the Wing and French Officers Messes. The French Officers also visit our concerts and training by invitation.

The Divisional Concert Party, a Y.M.C.A. Cinema, Military Bands, and Cricket matches, provide entertainment for all ranks.

The Wing has recently established a Canteen which has been found very useful.

The following table shows the numbers of Officers and other ranks who have passed through this Wing monthly since July 1917. This does not include U.K. Troops passed through in March and April last;

July 1917.	59 Officers	887 O.R.
August "	2 "	290 "
Sept "	74 "	1362)"
" "	<i>Nucleus</i> 75 "	1500)"
Oct "	83 "	3288 "
Nov "	99 "	2497 "
Dec "	97 "	1793 "
Jan 1918	87 "	1550 "
Feb "	101 "	1687 "
Mar "	b 129 "	1568 "
Apr "	113 "	2178 "

	888 Officers	18780 O.R.
<i>Nucleus</i>	118 "	1279 "

996 Officers 20059 O.R.

There are plenty of men coming forward and the accommodation of the Camp is frequently taxed to its utmost limit.

In conclusion, one can truthfully say, that never since its inception has the Wing been such a live branch of its Division as at the present time and Units can rely on receiving only men who are fully trained in every department if they are not hurried forward too quickly.



R. Bowley Major
O.C. 5th A.D.R.W.