

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

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/16/5

Title: No 1 Australian Command Depot

July 1917



AWM4-33/16/5

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NO.1 COMMAND DEPOT. A.I.F.

C.D. 131/28

Perham Down,
7th. August, 1917.

To;- Headquarters,
A.I.F. Depots in U.K.,
T I D W O R T H.

Herewith report for month of July, 1917;-

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Strength of Depot, (30/6/1917).....	56	2800
Total arrivals at Depot.	120	3246
Departures;-		
Overseas.....	-	-
Other Depots.....	119	2271
London for duty.....	-	35



DEATHS: There was one death reported during the month:-

No.155 Pte. RICKENBERG, H.E., 26th. Battalion, A.I.F., died in the 1st. A.D. Hospital, Bulford on 19/7/1917, and was buried in the Bulford Cemetery with usual Military Honours.

ACCIDENTS:- Two accidents were reported during the month. They were both of a minor nature. A Court of Enquiry was held in each case.

DISCIPLINE:- The internal discipline was again very good for the month. A detailed list from the Provost Officer is attached, showing the number and description of cases dealt with. The majority of the offences were committed away from the Depot, .i.e., whilst in hospital, or on furlough. There were no cases reported of falsified passes. 27 Cases were remanded for District Courts Martial for the month, which shows a decrease of six on last month's report. The majority of cases remanded for D.C.M. were illegal absentees. The discipline of soldiers under arrest whilst in the detention compound has been very good.

ADMINISTRATION:- The administration is always carried on with as small a staff as possible to maintain the required efficiency. As far as possible, "A" Class men are not employed on the Staff. The policy adopted in the Depot in regard to employing men, is to employ only those of lower category, and men who have seen long service.

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TRAINING:- The training is carried out under the supervision of Lieut. P.W.Pearce, M.C., assisted by a staff of certificated Physical Instructors. For the more efficient working of the Depot, and training of N.C.Os and men, it was found necessary to form another Company composed wholly of Bla4 men, who are awaiting and undergoing dental treatment. The men in this Company of course, are undergoing training, whilst waiting for the necessary treatment. They are quartered under canvas on the Eastern side of No.1 Camp. The following syllabus of training is carried out:-

No.2 Platoon:- Bla2 men. Tables 1 and 2, work varied with constant quickening exercises and frequent rests. Marching at correct pace and time, and no march exceeds a distance of 50 yards at one time.

No.3 Platoon: -Bla3 men. Any table up to table 4. Work varied with quickening exercises and frequent rests. Marching carried out at correct pace and time, but no march to exceed 100 yards at a time.

No.3 Company: Bla4 men. (awaiting Dental treatment). Any table up to table 6, as laid down. Marching carried out at correct pace and time, no march to exceed 5 minutes duration at one time.

Owing to the physical unfitness of men, slight alterations were made in the ordinary physical training as taught to "A" Class men. It was found necessary to eliminate the most severe tables, viz, 7 and 8 "in Special Tables of Physical Training", these tables being found too strenuous, as many were forced to stand by during the lesson, ~~and in some cases were ordered to hospital as a result.~~

Suitable N.C.Os are selected and trained daily, every attention is given to their progress, and only N.C.Os who are likely to become good Instructors, are sent to the Physical Training and Bayonet Courses at Aldershot. Good results are always obtained by such N.C.Os at the School.

SANITATION:- The routine of cleansing and fumigating the living huts is always being carried out. Blankets and equipment are ranged between the huts on suitable days for airing. The Isolation Camp is working very satisfactorily.

VENEREAL DISEASE:- Everything possible is being done to reduce the number of cases of venereal disease. N.C.Os and men are continually warned to be most careful, and lectures are given by the Medical Officers. Each N.C.O. and man is inspected before going on

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(Venereal Disease - Continued).

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leave, and immediately after returning from leave by a Medical Officer. Every man proceeding on leave is urged to procure preventatives and is always provided with "Nargol outfits". They are also urged to undergo the "Early Treatment" which can be obtained at all hours of the day and night.

ABSENTEES:- The Absentee Company as set out in previous reports, still continues to do excellent work, a considerable number of absentees were again apprehended by use of Army Form W.3111, and men posted as absentees were traced in various hospitals. Every possible effort is made to locate and reduce the number of absentees.

MESSING:- The messing of the troops always receives very close attention. Everything possible is done to provide the men with good food, and have as little waste as possible. Very few complaints are made in regard to the messing. Attached is a report from the Officer in charge Messing, giving full details for the month.

AMUSEMENTS:- A Regimental Concert was held on night in each week for the month. Boxing Tournaments are still arranged on certain nights each week, and as usual are greatly appreciated and attract a large audience. Cricket Matches are arranged between neighbouring camps and units and are played on Saturday afternoons.

The Billiard, Reading and Writing Rooms are always well patronised. Everything possible has been done by a well organised Sports Committee to provide amusements for all ranks in the Depot, thus keeping the discipline good right throughout and reducing the number of absentees.

BAND:- The Band also assists in keeping the discipline of the Depot good, by constantly playing programmes, when there is always a large audience. Route marches and parades are also attended. The attendance of the band on route marches is greatly appreciated, and tends to considerably brighten the marching.

DRAFTS:- Approximately 1768 "A" Class men were drafted to the Overseas Training Brigade and other Training Units. 196 Permanently and Temporarily unfit to No.2 Command Depot. 89 Temporarily unfit to Nos 3 and 4 Command Depots. 218 various classes to other Headquarters and Depots.

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POSTAL SERVICE:- The work carried out in the Depot was again very satisfactory. Every attention is given to the re-direction of mail matter, to ensure all ranks who have been marched out of the Depot, receiving their letters as quickly as possible, and thus prevent complaints.

Approximately 60,000 letters and 1188 parcels and packets were handled for the month.



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Lieut-Colonel,
Commandant, NO.1 COMMAND DEPOT. A.I.F.

MONTHLY RETURN OF OFFENCES: JULY 1917.

A.W.L. accompanied with	
Escaping from custody	1
Losing passes	23
False statement	2
Failing to salute	2
Improperly dressed	1
Irregular conduct	3

A.W.L.	419
Irregular conduct	35
Drunkenness	14
Out of Bounds	43
Failing to salute	9
Breaking Hospital	3
Breaking Camp	14
False statement	6
Improperly dressed	2
Stealing	1
Absent from parades	47
No means of identification	3
Neglect of duty	7

	598 603

District Courts Martial	27

	630

Perham Down,
3rd/ August, 1917.

James Baul
Lieut. & O.C., Provost,
No. 1 Command Depot.

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Monthly Report of Officer I/C Messing for period
30th June to 27th July 1917.

Messing

For the period just closed 227,034 meals were provided for 75,678 men. The 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. allowance has been spent, and the amount of waste as appearing in swill, very considerably reduced, this figure now stands at 2.7 oz, per man per day. I have drawn flour in lieu of 5,250 rations of bread, which has been used chiefly for cakes and pastry. The difficulty in providing vegetables is lessening as the Season advances.

The result of weighing the bread immediately on receipt from A.S.C. waggon, has shown, on the amount received for the period viz. 40,225 loaves of nominal 28 oz., a short weight of 950 lbs. or 1,085 rations. This has been very inconvenient, because I might have drawn that amount in flour in lieu of bread, if the weight of bread received had been correct. The weight of 20 loaves weighed each day varies from 69 lbs. 14 oz. to 68 lbs. 5 oz. For the last fortnight I have found a shortage of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs in 70 loaves daily. The reason for this is evidently that the raw weight of dough is too light, and does not allow for rapid evaporation after the bread begins to feel the effect of the warm weather. I would suggest that 62 oz., raw weight be given a trial for bread supplied to this Depot, and the result shall be noted, and advised in my next Month's report.

Canteens

Supplies from the Canteen have been generally good, occasionally a shortage of some article occurs; the only complaint that requires remedying is the Milk Contractor's want of cleanliness and this matter although brought before the Canteen Inspector several times, and also the Sub Area Manager, has failed to have the desired results.

Staff

The Staff has worked well, and I am glad to say the changes have have not been quite so frequent as last Month. During the latter half of this Month, I have been cooking in the open in two camps, and everything has been carried on satisfactorily.

Meat

The supply for this period was 64,275 lbs (4/7th Beef and 3/7th Mutton) and a considerable quantity of the issue was very lean. The percentage of fat and dripping recovered being 11.5 which is lower than usual, the percentage of bone shows an increase being 10.9.

By Products

The total dripping recovered was 7426 lbs, of this 3953 lbs was sold to C. E. Maloney. 2877 lbs was used in lieu of margarine 596 lbs used for cooking purposes. The quantity of dripping No. 1 sold was 3299 lbs and No. 2 654 lbs. Bones recovered and sold were marrows 2156 lbs, waste 4827 lbs. The total value of By-Products recovered and sold was £207-14-7 - £2-14-11 per 1,000 men. 175 lbs. Soap was made from grease trap fat.

Dripping used	per 1,000 men	38.0
Margarine "	" " "	34.5
		<u>72.5</u>

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The difference in percentage of weight of fat recovered per 1,000 lbs. meat for July period, and June viz., 2.6% can only be accounted for by the considerably leaner condition of the meat, and the larger proportion of beef than mutton, also the rise in percentage of bone by 1.4% over June period.

W. Andrews

in

D./C. Messing

3.8.17.