

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

Bases & Depots

**Item number:** 33/16/6

**Title:** No 1 Australian Command Depot

August 1917



AWM4-33/16/6



469

In accordance with A.I.F. Orders 758 dated 13th July, 1917, and particularly in reference to the memorandum to Commanding Officers issued regarding the compilation of official historical records, it will now be my duty to keep, with as great a degree of accuracy as possible and with a sufficient amount of detail to make the future reading of it interesting, a diary setting forth the daily events of the Depot.

Up to the present, the necessity of such a record for a Depot of this nature, which has no direct connection with the fighting Forces in France, has not been realised. It will, however, be my endeavour as time permits, to trace the history of this Depot from its inception, so as to place on record permanently what has been its duties and functions up to the present date.

The Depot strength this morning is 3,493, actually in Camp 2,802. The difference is made up by men who are away in hospital to the number of 321, men on leave, absentees and men in detention. This difference in numbers, although it appears large, is not really so, as it is portion of the functions of the Depot to include on its strength, a large proportion of the members of the A.I.F. at present in England, who are on furlough from various Hospitals and absent without leave, whether they have actually reported to the Depot or otherwise.

We have at present about 900 men held for dental treatment. These men are mostly living in canvas and, on account of the rainy conditions within the last few days, conditions have not been very pleasant. The dental standard is very high, and no man can be evacuated from this Depot for ultimate transmission to France, unless he is certified as medically and dentally fit in all respects.

I am working under great difficulties in continually having to change my Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer personnel. Further, there has been a great diversity of orders regarding the classification of the men who form the permanent Staff. A list of Officers more or less permanently employed to date is appended. It will be noted that the number so employed is hardly sufficient to run a Depot containing the personnel that this one does.

List

Briefly, our functions are to receive men coming from furlough, which has been granted to them after leaving hospital. These men are graded into various medical categories as follows :-

- A 4 : Boys under 19 to be retained in England till they attain 19 years old.
- A 3 : Men who will be fit for the front in three weeks.
- Bla4 : Men who are medically fit but dentally unfit.
- Bla3, 2 & 1 : Men who are medically unfit at present, but who will in the course of from 3 to 6 weeks, become medically fit.
- B2a, B1b & B2b : Men who will not be fit for a longer period than six months, and in some cases, who have to be returned to Australia.
- C 1 : Men who are permanently unfit for active service, but fit for Home Service.
- C2 & C<sub>3</sub> : Return to Australia.



The classifying of these men is a very important factor and gets the attention of a large medical personnel. Men are then clothed, paybooks checked, etc. and are then drafted into the various Companies attached to this Depot, or to other Command Depots, according to their classification. While in these Companies or other Depots, the reclassification goes on, so that a steady stream of men is made available either for the Front, or, in the lower categories, back to Australia.

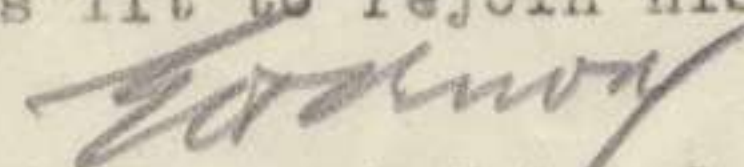
It is, therefore, a steady stream of men passing through the Depot and, undoubtedly, is very difficult to handle, as no such thing as "Esprit de Corps" exists as in a Regiment, and the men merely regard it as a place where they are required to make a more or less enforced stay for some time. It is, however, one of the principal objects to get men fit as soon as possible to return to the firing line, and this can only be done by looking after their physical condition and steadily improving it by means of light training and physical exercises, for which there is an expert personnel available, feeding them as well as can be on the ration and allowance, and thirdly, entertaining them to such an extent that their minds are kept off their physical disabilities or infirmities, the dullness of their surroundings, and the fact that they have to return to the Front again, an idea which is not pleasant to many, who have gone through the horrors of war for now between 2 and 3 years.

The clerical, recording, and general Office personnel in a Depot such as this, require to be expert and thorough, and I have the greatest difficulty in obtaining the services of men of the right medical categories, to remain more or less for long periods in these jobs. The continual changing of orders regarding this, with its constant change of personnel, does not add to the efficiency of the whole. Many orders which are issued by Headquarters are no doubt easily applicable to Training Units throughout the Depots in U.K., but their application to Command Depots is somewhat more difficult.

Although it is part of our functions in a Depot such as this, to try and get the hospital atmosphere from the men's minds, and to make them realise that it is their duty to become both mentally and bodily fit to return to the firing line, still it is also our duty to try and make this place as much of a home away from home as circumstances will permit.

Many men ventilate grievances of long standing, both at the Front and during their term in hospital or away on furlough, here for the first time, and a great deal of time is spent in adjusting complaints regarding the private and military affairs of the men, especially those who have been absent from their homes for a long period. We must regard ourselves as the link between the hospital and the firing line; the place where a man has a chance to pull himself together, become fit and sound for his duties again, and where he gets an absolute square deal with a bit of sympathy thrown in.

Yesterday I marched out 30 men from the Staff, who have been here for some considerable time and who, on account of their medical classification, should now be prepared to stand up in the firing line again. As far as possible, no Officer, N.C.O. or man is employed in this Depot for any length of time if he is fit to rejoin his Unit at the Front.

  
Lieutenant-Colonel,

Commandant, No. 1 Command Depot, A.I.F.



Perham Down Camp,  
Andover, Hants.,  
2nd. August, 1917.

469  
DIARY - 2nd. AUGUST, 1917.

RESUMES:- I have today given orders that all Officers in Command of Companies and Departments of this Depot are to render a short resume of the work of their various Departments, from the inception of the Depot, until the present time. The object of this is to keep the Diary up to date, and have a permanent record of things that have happened during the past twelve months.

DEPOT STRENGTH:- The Depot strength today is;- 2,946 actually in Camp, but the nominal strength is;- 3586.

UNDER CANVAS:- The huts comprising the Camps of the Depot have been lived in for a very considerable time, and we have vacated them in turn so as to allow of proper fumigation. This necessitates a large number of men going under canvas. As the last four days have been continually wet, conditions in this camp are not too favourable.


DENTAL STANDARD:- The strength of the men who are medically fit, but unfit dentally is 1081. There are at present nine dental units working on these men, and the daily production of dentally fit is about 50. But considering that well over 80% of the A.I.F. Force are dentally unfit in accordance with the high standard laid down, it will be seen that it is a very difficult matter to adequately cope with the ever changing personnel who come from hospitals to the depot.

STAFF VISITS:- Lieut-Colonel Knox, A.A.G., visited the Depot this morning. Since General McCay has taken over, the Staff have far more frequently visited the Depot than previously. This saves a lot of correspondence on many matters which can be decided by a few minutes conversation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:- The treatment of mumps and measles contacts, also, those suffering from other infectious diseases has been given a lot of notice, and lately an isolation camp has been formed with excellent results. Venereal disease cases are steadily on the decline. This is accounted for by the proper tackling of this subject by the medical as well as the Military authorities. The men are lectured frequently on this matter, and every man going away on leave is supplied with a Nargol outfit, free of cost, while french letters at 2d. each are available should the man desire them. On returning from leave or furlough, all men are examined, and if found to be in the very early stages of venereal disease, are put through what is known as the "early treatment course", which has the result of keeping very many men on duty, who would otherwise go to hospital, and be away for some months.

CRIME:- Sixteen cases were dealt with at Orderly room this morning. 80% of the so-called crime in the Australian army is absent without leave. Up to 30 days absence, the C.O. has power to summarily dispose of the cases, but cases beyond that must be referred to Court Martial. The punishment awarded usually runs to a day's pay for a day's absence, and day for day Field Punishment or Detention, in addition, for every day's absence, but this varies according to the seriousness of the absence, and the character and past fighting record of the individual concerned. Crimes as crimes otherwise than absence do not exist in large numbers.

PERMANENTLY UNFIT:- Today we sent a draft of 100 men permanently unfit to Weymouth for embarkation to Australia.

  
Lieut-Colonel,

(AT).

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



Perham Down,  
4th. August, 1917.

DIARY FOR 3rd. and 4th. AUGUST, 1917:-

Nothing unusual has occurred in the Depot to warrant much record during the last two days. The parade state remains about the same. i. e., 2999 men in Camp.

OFFICERS PASSING THROUGH:- The number of Officers Passing through has increased. Two thirds of all the Home Service and Light Duty Officers coming from furlough report to this Depot, where they are drafted to various Units throughout the A.I.F. Depots in the United Kingdom for duty until they are fit to return to the Front again.

MEN OVER 40 YEARS:- Today, 4th. August, I held a parade of all men in the Depot over 40 years of age for the purpose of having them re-classified. It is very doubtful whether men over 40, who have already been to the Front, and who have any complaints such as rheumatism, sciatica or wounds, are ever good enough to return, especially as a winter campaign is now coming on.

SERGEANTS' MESSES:- The Sergeants' Mess shows a gross turnover for the month of over £1200-. which I consider is perhaps the largest in any Sergeants' Mess in the A.I.F. The economical and efficient running of this Mess takes an expert accountant and staff to carry out properly.

CLOTHING ISSUE:- The Q.M. reports that in about 11 months he has issued clothing to the value of about £120,000-. Each of these issues are in small values, averaging from £2- to £2-10/-. I consider that in a Depot of this size, where the financial side becomes such a big thing, especially regarding Q.M. Stores, the issuing of rations, the 5<sup>th</sup> d commuted allowance, regimental funds, and Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, the Headquarters, A.I.F. should have a permanent accountant always on duty here.

WEATHER:- The weather continues to be very wet and in consequence the percentage of sick has gone up considerably, mostly head and chest colds, and rheumatism.

"A" CLASS MEN:- This week's production of "A" class men will be higher than usual, the principal bar to ~~giving out~~ a great production is the high standard of dental fitness required, and the shortage of dental units.

*G H Know*

(AT).

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



NO 1 COMMAND DEPOT A.I.F.

Perham Down Camp,  
Andover, Hants,  
7th August, 1917.

Diary for 5th, 6th & 7th August, 1917.

IN GENERAL There is nothing particular to report during the last few days.

STRENGTH The Depot strength to-day is 3,033 men in Camp. 648 men marched out of the Depot during week ending 5th instant, 370 of which were A Class men.

WEATHER CONDITIONS The weather conditions have greatly improved, and in consequence conditions under canvas are much better, and it is remarkable how the percentage of sickness varies directly and nearly as quickly as the changing condition of the weather.

REPORTS I attach for information the Reports of the O.C. No. 2 Company, of the Officer in charge of Training and the Officer in charge of Provost.



Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commandant, No. 1 Command Depot, A.I.F.



Perham Down Camp,  
Andover, Hants.,  
16th August, 1917.

DIARY FROM 8th TO 16th AUGUST, 1917.

DEPOT STRENGTH. The Depot strength to-day is 3164 on strength; 2635 men actually in Camp. This is a large reduction since last week, and is caused by a greater out-put of men, both "A" and other classes.

PRODUCTION. The production of men during last week was 1060, 600 of whom were "A3", and the majority of these had received dental attention. The remainder, low category men, were sent to Weymouth for transmission to Australia.

MEN RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA. Now that the Winter is approaching, it is the policy of both the Medical and the Military authorities to send to Australia all men of the lower "B" and "C" Class categories who are (a) unable to do work to the value of their pay; (b) who would break-down under climatic and other conditions during the coming Winter. We have therefore had a very strict classification of all men over 40 years of age, and others whose physical condition is such that would come under these categories. These men are being sent to Weymouth, and transports are being loaded up for return to Australia at the earliest possible moment.

"C" CLASS MEN. It is found that probably over 60 per cent of the "C1" class men are unsuitable to retain, even for Home Service; and unless they are specialists in some form of civil avocation their services are not retained. Therefore there is a tendency amongst some of the "C" Class men to "scrimshank" all their work so that they may be classed useless and be returned to Australia. These low category men are not only classified, they are medically boarded, and the classification recorded by the board is again checked at Weymouth.

RATIONS. Lately a most unfair rule has been introduced regarding the rationing of the men. At the present time 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d commuted allowance is allowed to buy extras which are not supplied in the ordinary rations, but the latest order says that dripping used by the men in lieu of butter or margarine is to be a charge against their 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d allowance. This means that in the case of 1 lb. of meat, after extracting bone and fat, the man is not allowed to have the full benefit of the fat extracted, but the portion which he eats spread on his bread must be debited against the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d coming to him to buy extras. This is a most unfair proceeding, and is curtailing the men's messing considerably.

VISIT OF G.O.C. Major General the Hon. J.W. McCay, C.B., V.D., visited the Depot on Monday, 13th inst., and discussed the question of Employments and Establishments, and left ordering that a scheme be put up for him whereby the services of the best skilled "C1" men can be usefully employed, and, as far as possible, eliminate all higher category men, except for heavier work or such skilled positions as they are fitted for, until suitable "C" class men can be provided. The General further indicated that the Depot would probably be moved for the Winter, which is certainly a good thing, as the climatic conditions in this Camp, exposed as it is to all weathers, is not suitable for men recovering from illness and wounds. And a move further south to a more congenial climate and surroundings will enable the men to recover more quickly, and the sick parades should be reduced very materially.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S VISIT. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught is to visit the Depot on Monday, 20th inst., and inspect all ranks.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION. The growing of vegetables has now reached a stage when some return is being received for the amount of labour expended. The Depot is not yet self-supporting in this line, but it should shortly become so. The crops of all vegetables have done well, and a great deal of interest is displayed by all ranks in making a success of the venture. The vegetables are sold to the Messing Officer who pays market prices, and the returns from the sales go into Regimental Funds.

over/



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Diary <sup>469</sup> for 8th to 16th August, 1917 (Continued).

MINOR DEPOT DEPARTMENTS. The necessity for economy and convenience has been met by the introduction of a boot-maker's shop, a tailor's shop, and a barber's shop. All repairs to clothing can be undertaken successfully in the Depot, and any reasonable repairs to boots. No charge is made for repairing Government issue clothing and boots, and the prices at the barber's shop are reasonable, being 4d for a haircut and 2d for a shave.

CHANGES IN DEPOT OFFICER PERSONNEL. During the week Captain Gettlingby, Quartermaster, has taken over the duties of Second in Command, vice Major A.E.J. Croly, on three weeks' leave, prior to returning to Australia on account of his wound. Lieut. Gunn has taken over the duties of Quartermaster.

HEALTH OF TROOPS. The health of the troops is good. This is explained primarily by the good weather during the last week. The number of infectious disease contacts has been reduced, there being at present only about 50 men in isolation. The number of Venereal Disease cases has decreased. This is due to lectures on the subject to the men, and the supplying of the Mergol outfit and French letters; and the inspection of all ranks before going and coming back from leave, and the early treatment and abortive methods on their arrival back in Camp.

*Gettlingby*

(JHR).

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

*Report of No 5 company attached*



DIARY FROM THE 17th TO THE 22nd AUGUST, 1917.Depot  
Strength

Shows 61 Officers, 2,651 Other Ranks at present in Camp.

Health of  
Troops.

Sick Parades are on the decrease; this is probably accounted for by better weather conditions.

Movement of  
Depot to more  
suitable winter  
quarters.

The G.O.C. has notified me that he is trying to arrange for more suitable winter quarters for the men. Most of the Camps on Salisbury Plain are far too exposed and, although eminently suitable for men living in hutments and for training during the summer months, the weather conditions are far too severe for the ~~troops~~ health of troops especially Australians during the winter, and the nature of the ground makes it impossible for any training to be carried out after much rain.

Visit of H.R.H.  
the Duke of  
Connaught.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught visited the Camp on Monday the 20th instant and inspected men on parade. Parade State showed 26 Officers, 1,800 Other Ranks. H.R.H.'s stay was very short on account of having to inspect other Depots after leaving this Depot, but he expressed himself as very satisfied with the turnout, and was interested to know about the medical categories and classifications of the men passing through the Depot.

Scheme for  
employment of  
"C" class men.

In previous portions of this Diary, I have referred to the fact that over 60% of "C" class men are probably unfit and unsuitable for employment economically in England. However there are a fairly large proportion who are eminently suited, and I have put up a scheme for the employment entirely of "C" class men after careful selection. The only exceptions would be men who are absolute specialists, and even then when "C" class men were not available for those duties.

Drafts of unfit  
men from France.

To-day we are expecting the arrival of about 140 Permanent Base men from France. These are men who will be classified from C1 to C3 and disposed of according to their classifications. As is the policy in the Depots in England to send these men to Australia, if they cannot be profitably employed, so the same principle applies in France, and this is about the 4th draft we have received in as many months of this type of men.

Wills.

The response to the orders of Headquarters, that men's wills should be made out on a proper form provided and filed in the Estates' Section of Administrative Headquarters, is being more generally carried out by the men than was anticipated, especially by those who have personal ~~arrangements~~ estates to make arrangements for. Those whose private estates include real as well as personal property, and who have probably made their wills and deposited them with their attorneys or solicitors, are naturally not taking advantage of the military system, nor do they feel inclined to divulge where their wills are deposited or any other particulars.

Commissions



469  
Commissions  
in the A.I.F.

The Depot has been very successful in obtaining Cadetships for quite a number of men for eventual Commissions in Machine Gun Companies and Infantry. As a very large proportion of the A.I.F. eventually pass through this Depot, it is only natural that some very good material for Commissioned Rank is available, and it is most gratifying that the applications submitted, which have had my approval personally, have been accepted.

Visits by  
Staff.

Lieut.-Colonel Knox, A.A.G., visited the Depot on Tuesday, 21st instant, and Lieut.-Colonel Williams, Commanding Anzac Provost Corps, called this morning in reference to charges made by W.O. Teague against W.O. Kelleher, which seemingly are without foundation.



Perham Down Camp,  
22nd August, 1917.

Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commandant, No. 1 Command Depot, A.I.F.



DIARY From 23rd to 31st  
August, 1917.

10

In General

There is nothing of unusual importance to report.

Strength

The Depot strength to-day is 64 Officers & 2,867 Other Ranks. The Parade State tomorrow will show a decrease of 420 men, who formed a draft of unfits which marched out to Weymouth to-day for return to Australia.

Rations

Complaints have been received that the present allowance of rations is a little on the light side. It is only by the greatest economy and the complete stoppage of wastage that the present ration is made to go round and, as the cold weather approaches and the need for ~~light~~ <sup>to keep</sup> suppers for the men becomes a necessity, it will be difficult to keep the men satisfied. In my remarks for the period 8th to 16th August, I referred to the matter of charging dripping saved and used by the men against the 5<sup>th</sup>d. This matter has now been referred to the G.O.C., who stated he would give orders to have what is a most unfair ruling ceased.

Health of Camp.

There is no increase in sickness and the general health of the troops at time of writing is good.

Visit by G.O.C.

The General Officer, Commanding, A.I.F. Depots in the United Kingdom, Major-General McCay, C.B., V.D., visited this Depot on the 30th instant unexpectedly and brought with him, the General Officer Commanding, the Canadians at Bramshott. Their respective Staffs also came with them. A complete inspection of the Depot was made, and the Canadian General expressed his satisfaction at the means taken for the men's comfort and amusement. He was particularly surprised as to the quality of the feeding, and was good enough to express the opinion that it was better than his men were rationed. He had a complete diet summary for the week and also details of the colour scheme sent to him, the latter for probable adoption in his own Command.

Colour scheme armbands.

Lately a scheme of coloured armbands has been introduced into this Depot and it is compulsory for all men to wear them. The system is meant to be an easy method of picking out any man's medical classification and is as follows :-

Yellow band	Unclassified, A4 & Bla1.
Red Band	C1, C2, C3, B2a & B2b.
Green Band	Bla4 & <del>Bla3</del> A3
Blue Band	Bla2 & Bla3
Purple Band	Staff.

Command Depot Establishment.

An order has been received for the provisional Establishment of men employed in Command Depots, which provides sufficient personnel for the efficient running of such an institution. It is feared however that the clause relating to the non-temporary promotion of E.D.P. Non-Commissioned Officers will not work, as in many cases substantive Non-Commissioned Officers of the suitable ranks to undertake specialist duties are not available.

Probable Move

In view of the probable move of the Depot, no further work in connection with the Laundry referred to early in this Diary is being undertaken.

Perham Down  
31st August, 1917.

Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commandant, No. 1 Command Depot, A.I.F.



469  
B.G. Foot to see  
K GOC... sometimes likes  
to see



NO.1 COMMAND DEPOT. A.I.F. C.D. / 31 / 28

Perham Down,  
6th. September, 1917.

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



Herewith report for month of August, 1917:-

See CF  
9/9

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
Strength of Depot.....	75	3321
Total arrivals at Depot, 122		3081
Departures:-		
Overseas.....	-	-
Other Depots.....	122	3054
London for duty..	-	19

DEATHS:- There were no deaths to report.

ACCIDENTS:- No accidents were reported for the month.

INSPECTION:- An Inspection of the Troops of the Depot was made by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught on the 20th. instant. The - Parade was drawn up in Mass on the ground between the Hospital and Isolation Camp, facing West.

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 again committed away from the Depot. Two cases were reported of falsified passes. 31 cases were remanded for District Courts Martial for the month; the majority of which were illegal absentees. The discipline of the soldiers under arrest in the detention Compound has been very good.

ADMINISTRATION:- The administration is still carried on with as small a staff as possible. The majority of the Staff employed are of lower category N.C.O's and men. Very few higher category men are employed, and where employed the policy adopted is to have them replaced as early as possible, and within three months of reporting to the Depot.

DISTINGUISHING ARM BANDS:- Distinguishing Arm Bands of different colours have been issued to all N.C.O's and men in the Depot, to denote the various medical classifications. The bands are worn



on the left arm, five inches above the elbow. The colours for the various classifications are as under:-

Unclassified, Bla1 and A4.....Yellow.  
 Bla2 & Bla3.....Blue.  
 Bla4 and A3.....Green.  
 Blb,B2a,B2b,C1,C2,C3.....Red.  
 Staff.....Purple.

TRAINING:- The training is carried out under the supervision of Lieut.P.W.Pearce.M.C. assisted by a Staff of certified Instructors. The new company comprising Bla4 men awaiting dental treatment as set out in last month's report is working excellent. The men are kept under constant training whilst awaiting dental treatment. The following syllabus of training was carried out for the month:-

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 to exceed 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 (Awaiting dental treatment).Any table up to table 6, as laid down. Marching carried out at correct pace and time but no march to exceed 5 minutes duration at one time.

Every attention is given to the training of suitable N.C.O's for the position of Instructors, and those likely to become good instructors are sent to the Physical Bayonet and Training Courses at Aldershot.

SANITATION:- The routine of cleansing and fumigating the living huts is still being carried out. Blankets and equipment are aired outside the huts on suitable days. The Isolation camp is still working very satisfactorily.

VENEREAL DISEASE:- Everything possible is done to reduce the number of venereal cases. Lectures are given by the medical officers. N.C.O's and men are medically inspected before proceeding on leave and immediately on their return to Camp. All N.C.O's and men reporting to the Depot are inspected the same day as marching in. They are also urged to undergo the "Early Treatment" which can be obtained at all hours of the day and night. Everyone proceeding on leave ~~are~~ provided with "Nargol



Outfits", and ~~the~~ given every facility to procure preventatives which can be obtained at a very small cost.

ABSENTEES:- The absentee company as set out in previous reports continue to do excellent work. Every possible effort is made to locate and reduce the number of absentees, a considerable number being apprehended by use of A.F.W.3111.

MESSING:- The messing of the troops has received very close attention. Very few complaints were made in regard to the food supplied. Everything possible is done to prevent waste of any kind. Attached is a report from the O.C. Messing, giving full details.

AMUSEMENTS:- Concerts were held one night in each week for the month. On several occasions Artists were engaged from London to enable a good show being given. Boxing Tournaments are arranged on different nights in each week, and as usual attract a large audience. The Billiard, Reading and Writing Rooms are always well patronised, and indoor games of almost every description have been procured in order to provide all amusement possible for all ranks. Thus keeping the troops in the camp to a large extent, whereas if such amusements were not provided, the men would have a greater tendency to roam about the neighbouring villages. The amusement provided assists in keeping the discipline good right throughout.

BAND:- The band still continues to do good work in the Depot, by attending Guard mounting, route marches, and constantly playing programmes after parade hours. The attendance of the Band on route marches considerably brightens the marching of the troops.

DRAFTS:- Approximately 1940 "A" Class men were drafted to the Overseas Training Brigade and other Training Units.

840 Permanently and Temporarily unfit to No.2 Command Depot.

81 Temporarily unfit to No.3 Command Depot, Hurdcott.

212 Various classes to other Headquarters and Depots.

Over/



469  
POSTAL SERVICE:- The work carried out in the Depot was again  
very satisfactory. The re-direction of all mail matter received  
very close attention and no complaints have been received.  
Approximately 50,000 letters, packets, and papers, and 1426  
packages were handled for the month.



Gy(AT).

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



## A.W.L. accompanied with:

Losing passes	12
False statement	3
Failing to salute	1
Irregular conduct	3
False pass	2
Out of bounds	3
Stealing	<u>1</u>

A.W.L.	376
Irregular conduct	15
Drunkenness	4
Out of bounds	88
Failing to salute	3
Breaking Camp	11
False statements	6
Improperly dressed	16
Absent from parades	12
Assault	1
False passes	1
Losing passes	1
D.C.Ms.	<u>31</u>

Total	590
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Perham Down,  
3rd. September, 1917.

*A. M. Baul*

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



Messing

There were 281,544 meals provided for 93,848 men. The period closed with a debit balance of £40-3-9. The amount of 5½d. spent on dripping was £75-16-1, therefore, had I not been obliged to charge the dripping against 5½d. I should have closed my last period with a credit balance. Owing to the rising prices of food, and the late cold weather which has increased the mens appetites, I find it very difficult to provide adequate meals with the scale of rations and funds at my disposal. The swill waste remains about the same. The loss through evaporation in weight of bread has slightly decreased, and was for this period 833 rations. I drew flour in lieu of 8,400 rations of bread, and made my weekly supply of cakes therefrom.

Supplies

The supplies from Canteen Bulk Store have been fairly good. At times such articles as baking powder, coffee, raisins, and caustic soda were unprocurable. I have interviewed the Sub Area Manager on these matters, and been have been assured that they will in future be remedied.

Staff

My Staff has worked well and given general satisfaction, in spite of a considerable number of changes due to reclassification and marching out.

Meat

The meat supply consisted of 80,243 lbs. mutton 3/10th Beef 7/10th. The percentage of bone being 11.1, very high, whilst fat recovered was 12.4 a slight improvement on last period.

By Products

The recovery of dripping was 9948 lbs. of this 5248 lbs was sold to C.E. Maloney, 4043 lbs. used in lieu of margarine, 657 lbs. used for cooking. The amount of dripping recovered per man per day was 1.7 oz, a slight improvement on last period, and used on tables in lieu of margarine was at rate of 43.1 per 1,000 men. Margarine used was 35.8 per 1,000 men. The total value of By-Products recovered and sold was £266-14-0 equivalent to £2-16-9 per 1,000 men. Soap was made in small quantity, 110 lbs, owing to caustic soda being unobtainable at times from Canteen.

N 1 Command Depot  
Perham Down

W. Andrewes  
in charge



Messing Department,  
No. 1 Command Depot.

The Department was specially created under Authority A.C. 1  
134 of 23rd Janry. 1917, 103/ Gen. No. 27/1667 (QMG 11).

My appointment as Officer I/C Messing was made 27-1-17, and I  
proceeded on Febry. 1st to a short course (2 days) of Instruction at  
Weymouth Army Cookery School.

At that time the strength of the Depot consisting of Nos. 1, 2 &  
3 Camps, with somewhat over 1,000 men in each Camp, varied from  
2,800 to 3,700 daily.

The Messing system was for four meals a day in central mess huts.  
Breakfast at 8 a.m. Dinner 12-30 p.m. Tea 4-45 p.m. Supper at 8 p.m.

To thoroughly appreciate the work and aim of the Department, a  
few words of explanation are necessary.

It must be understood that the men in this Depot are a floating  
population, they are evacuated from Hospital, and sent here for  
classification, and those classed permanently unfit are drafted  
out for return to Australia, whilst the majority undergo a short  
course of training and when ready are drafted into a Hardening and  
Drafting Depot, and finally return to their Units or where they  
are required. So that it will be seen that the personnel of all  
Departments including Messing is constantly undergoing a change.  
This renders it very difficult to work on hard and fast lines,  
at the same time requiring good organisation, because the very  
nature of the work of the Depot (getting men ready and sending them  
back to the Line) tends to upset organisation. For no sooner has  
a man or N.C.O. got into his stride in his job than he has to go  
forward, and his place is taken by a man who knows nothing about  
the work. Another serious drawback to smooth working of any  
Department is the constant classification parades. There being  
men of all classes in each Department, and often when one expects  
to find work done or being done, instead one finds things at a  
standstill, all hands being on classification parade. In addition  
to this trouble Medical Inspections and Dental parades constantly  
disturb the work. Another difficulty is that the majority of  
men available for the work of carrying on are invalids in some  
form or another, whilst the Staff is a long way under, proportionately,  
the strength of a Battalion in the Line of sound men, and yet there  
is far more work to be carried on in this Depot.

With these few words of explanation for the conditions under which  
a Command Depot has to be run, I will try to explain the lines on  
which the Messing Department is conducted.

I was appointed with the following instructions from my Commandant  
Col. G.H. Knox, "Give the men full and plenty, see there is no  
waste, and I don't want to have any complaints".

The Staff consists of a Sgt. Cook and nine cooks in various  
degrees and one swill man in each kitchen, and one 2nd Class  
Warrant Officer in charge. In the Office a Corporal Clerk, Storeman,  
a buyer, and an Orderly.

At that time the bread which arrived daily from the Field  
Bakery was cut up and distributed from the Quartermaster's Store  
where also the groceries, i.e. Sugar, Tea, and salt were apportioned.  
The meat and bacon was delivered daily to the Meat store also under  
the Quartermaster. Each Camp had a Canteen, and every day rations  
for that Camp were bought in the Canteens with the 5½d. allowance to  
supplement the commuted ration issued. The commuted ration was  
meat 12 oz.



(2)

Bread 16 oz. now 14 oz. Sugar 2 oz. Bacon 2 oz. Tea  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Salt  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz.

Men marched in and out of the Depot at the average rate of 150 per day. Men marching out had to be provided with rations thus; unexpired portion of day ration and 24 hours ration, and as these men went in various size squads from 1 man up to 100, occasionally as many as 500. It was necessary that great care was exercised in the distribution of the rations, and also in checking the receipt of those coming in. The bookkeeping in an establishment of this sort is no small item.

From the 31st Jan, 1917 inclusive till 31st July, a period of 6 months, 20,821 men marched in, and 17,834 men marched out. One of the difficulties attending this part of the work was that although men were issued with certain quantities of rations, they often reported with short rations. To obviate this it was found necessary to obtain a receipt in duplicate from each man or N. C. O. in charge of a party marching out to place the blame for short rations on the proper party. The man or N. C. O. in charge of the party marching in produced the rations which tallied with the receipt, failing which a claim could be made on the Unit marching the men out. This at all events prevented the careless issue of rations, and the system works smoothly.

Another branch of this Department is the recovery of by-products, in which are included dripping, marrow and waste bones, grease trap fat, and swill, and the sale of same and disposal of the proceeds is provided for in A.C.I. No. 348 1916.

The chief difficulty noticeable in organising the Department was that one had to be in too many places at once to keep a good control over the work, in other words the control required centralizing and the responsibility and efficiency decentralising. The first step towards centralising was to purchase all goods from one market, and that was easily accomplished by transferring the purchase of supplies for the 5<sup>th</sup> d. from other Canteens to one only, and dealing with the N & A Canteen Board, or as it was in those days the Army Canteen Committee, only. One great advantage in doing that is that there is a rebate of 10% on all goods purchased in the Canteens, which has to be paid into Regimental Funds every Month. The next thing was to take over from the Quartermaster all rations as they were delivered to the Depot, and make the issue from a central store. The advantage of that is seen when one notices that often the state of the weather, cold or warm, may vary the men's appetites, and when on cold days a full ration is required, on warm days there would be a great waste if all were issued, so it is necessary to be able to absolutely shut down on waste in that form by drawing and issuing only what is actually required. Again much time is saved and supervision is better when all supplies are under one roof, or quite adjacent to one another. The next step was to arrange for a Depot for grading refuse food before selling it to the Contractor, and try and recover some of the profit for the men. This was successfully fixed, and a collection of bones, dripping, and refuse from the tables was deposited each morning in what is known as "the stillery". Out of proceeds of sale of By-Products a few bags of cement were purchased, and the Pioneers laid down a concrete floor in a shed, three old soyer stoves were brought into service, and three men were drawn from the kitchen and the work of grading By-Products proceeded. The By-Product fund swelled visibly, and the swill waste diminished. The foundation of this work was laid in the Mess Huts where, after the meal terminated Mess Orderlies collected scraps left over by the men, separated them into dishes, according to instructions handed them over the Sgts Cooks in each kitchen, the bones going into one bin, scraps of meats and fat into another, gravy, vegetables, and pudding leavings into another. Pieces of bread, clean and untouched, went to make bread pudding or hash etc., those that could not be well used for that were oven dried and made into crumbs. The bones, meat scraps and fat



469

(3)

were all reboiled in the swillery, and fat skimmed off for sale. Bacon ends and rind were fried, and the residue formed cracklings. The clean waste bones were sold at 7/- to 9/- per cwt. The marrow bones raw at 9/6 to 10/6 per cwt. the marrow bone is more valuable as tooth brushes are made from them. The dripping sold as No. 1 at prices varying from 42/- to 52/- per cwt., and No. 2 which included bacon dripping at 36/- to 42/- per cwt., Swill which included vegetable peelings, scraps, etc., from the men's plates was sold for pig food at originally 30/- per 1,000 men and latterly at 2/6 per cwt., The grease recovered from water used for washing up dishes and plates etc., was also rendered down again in the swillery, and where it was not good enough colour to sell was made into soap by the addition of caustic soda

The proceeds of these sales were used for purchase of necessary articles of equipment and clothing for the preparation of the mens' food, or for comfort in the mens messing. The first charge against the proceeds being "fat money" for the cooks and butchers, this is allowed <sup>per day</sup> 6d. per man if the proceeds realised the rate of 11/- per 1,000 men per week and the men had not been fined in the course of the period.

The following table of Recovery of by-Products may be of interest. From July 4th 1916 to January 26th 1917 From January 27th 1917 to July 27th 1917.

Amount	No. of men	Amount	No. of men
£ 13- 1- 5	46,688	£120-17- 3	80,122
65-15- 3	75,544	178-18- 4	109,833
73-17- 9	100,054	127-15- 2	79,922
46-15- 0	71,065	80-17- 4	63,481
42-18- 1	60,391	131- 2- 11	91,483
51- 3-10	63,175	115-12- 0	84,769
<u>£293-11- 4</u>	<u>416,917</u>	<u>£755- 3- 0</u>	<u>509,610</u>

The explanation of the fall in amount of dripping sold and value received from period 28-4-17 to 25-5-17 onwards is that dripping was substituted in the mens diet sheet for margarine, one meal a day, at the rate of 38 lbs per 1,000 men, and consequently was not sold. The true criterion of good conservation of By-Products is the amount recovered per 1,000 lbs of meat issued and on per 1,000 men. This varies slightly at times owing the meat not always being the same quality - for instance it is noticeable that meat imported from Queensland is not so prime as from the Argentine, again a preponderance of beef in the issue generally means less fat and more bone than when mutton predominates. The bread waste reduction is very noticeable and is now practically nil.

The men have attended several lectures on the subject of Food waste and economy at which the system of messing and recovery of by-Products has been explained to them, and they have taken a very intelligent interest in the matter and marked improvement follows a lecture.

The various articles purchased for improvement in the mens messing and preparation of their food, such as meat cutting machines, mincing machines, carving knives and forks, mugs and bowls, meat dishes, gravy mugs, cruet pots, ladles, strainers, cooks jackets aprons and overalls etc., for the half year amount to nearly £500-0-0.

The most important question for which the Department was created has yet to be touched on.

The mens Messing.

In view of the steadily increasing cost of food, and steadily decreasing supply, the very strictest economy has been necessary to make the Commuted Field Rations and the 5½d. allowance go as far as possible with the men. Accustomed as our men are to considerably more lavish meals than men of most other nations, and to generous meat meals three times a day, and added to that the improving



## (4)

appetite of men lately evacuated from Hospital and beginning a course of light training, and the necessity for keeping the men cheerful and contented, and confident of good meals regularly. There has been no effort made to spare the full allowance in order to return a surplus to Public Funds, on the contrary every effort has been made to induce the men to eat heartily and waste nothing, with a knowledge that the quicker a man is got fit and well the sooner he is available for the job he came over for.

With this aim in view a liberal diet sheet has been provided and adhered to, and the meals arranged in such a way that suits the mens comfort and appetite best. It has been found that dinner in the evening is more satisfactory than midday and that the men do not require suppers if well feed at the evening meal, and if any refreshment is required it is only in the nature of a cup of tea and biscuits or piece of cake, which can be had for a trifle at the Navy and Army Canteen Coffee bar.

The system adopted here of messing the men<sup>is</sup> in Central hutments which is very convenient. When the bugle call "Cookhouse" is blown the men are paraded to the mess huts, and are marched into their seats, 14 men to each table or mess. Ten minutes later "Pick 'em Up" sounds and the Mess Orderlies, one to each mess, file into the cookhouse and take the meal which is ready dished for each mess. With the exception of bread and margarine or dripping, the former has been cut in slices by bread cutters and placed on the table, and the latter is placed on plates on the tables from which the men help themselves. After the men have finished their meal the scraps are removed, and seperated into different dishes, and returned to the swillery for recovery of by-Products. The Mess Orderlies then have their meal and wash all plates and mugs, and clean down tables and mess huts. Each Mess Hut seats 500 men at a sitting, in messes of 14 men.

The work goes on 7 days in each week, and requires a vigilant supervision, As all meals are served punctually, and must be properly cooked or the food is wasted, One cannot afford to take risks where a few thousand men want a meal. The strain on the Staff is an acknowledged one, and every six weeks four days leave is granted to allow the cooks to recuperate. Very often drafts go out by early morning train, and require breakfast at 6 a.m. this means 4-15 a.m. for the cooks and Often men march in by the late train at night and want a meal, which means the cooks do not get clear till 9 p.m.

There is also the scientific side to take into account in rationing the men. For instance, the Commuted ration consisting of bread, meat, Bacon, sugar, tea, and salt, supplies 70% of the necessary proteins daily for the human body, the remaining 30% has to be supplied out of rations bought by the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. allowance. Therefore a careful study must be made of the available foods in the Canteens in war time, and the most made out of them to supply the mens wants.

It has been the practice here to adopt the same diet sheet throughout all the kitchens as nearly as possible, although at times slight variations are made where the supply from the Canteen necessitates it. There are<sup>at</sup> present five separate cookhouses, two of which are in the open for Camps under canvas during the Summer Months. Just now 3,200 men are being fed from the five cookhouses. The recovery of dripping per man per day is 1.78 oz. which is a very fair result. This will be improved on when the central system of dealing with dripping is completed.



REPORT ON WORKING OF PROVOST STAFF, NO. 1 COMMAND DEPOT, FROM  
1st. JANUARY, 1917 TO 31st. JULY, 1917.

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The duty of the Provost Officer and his staff is primarily to maintain discipline in the Depot, and, secondarily to take charge of those guilty of breaches thereof until such time as they have completed the punishment awarded or been sent outside the Depot either to a Detention Barrack, a Hospital or to the adjacent Depot, from which they are to be drafted overseas. Before dealing with the various branches into which the Company is divided for the efficient performance of these duties some remarks about the Company as a whole may not be out of place. Nominally the Provost Coy. is a sub-section of Staff Coy. Practically, for convenience of working, it is an independent Company, transacting its own business through its own staff and notifying Staff Coy of what is done. This is of great advantage in a Company where men may be called upon for duty at any hour of the day or night, and where, in the nature of things, prompt action must be taken to ensure the best results. And the more the work of the Company grows -- and it has grown very greatly since its inception -- the more clearly do the advantages of such a system appear. e.g., the duty has now devolved on the Provost Office of issuing Railway Warrants and Duty Passes to men going on escort instead of their having to report to Furlough Office for such and again, report to Provost Office before setting out, which often entailed loss of time, to say nothing of the trouble caused to Furlough by demands for such passes and Warrants at a late hour of the night or very early hour of the morning. This may not appear a great advantage on paper -- it is in practice.

During the period under review the strength of the Company has fluctuated from 95 to 62., the average strength being 77., including one Officer, one C.S.M., six Sergeants and the remainder being other ranks. These carry out, Office or outdoor duties -- a distinction to be noted in view of the different medical classifications of the men. In the office the aim has been to secure an efficient staff which should be



as nearly as possible permanent. There is a great amount of communication with Headquarters, Tidworth (both with Courts-Martial Section and the Anzac Provost Corps) as well as considerable incidental correspondence, and many of these communications dealing with accused soldiers who have passed through our hands possibly months before, call for a quick reply; and accordingly some knowledge of how best to obtain the required information. Continuity of office staff is therefore highly desirable, and to comply with G.O.C. Orders can only be obtained by employing men of category lower than B1a. What is aimed at is to obtain an office staff with a "C" Class man at each desk allotted to the different duties as a permanent nucleus of staff to ensure the smooth running of the office work. This aim has, to a considerable extent, been achieved.

In regard to the out-door staff -- Camp Police and Men employed in the Detention Compound -- physical fitness is a qualification for their hours are long, and their duties may, at any time call for strenuous exertion. As far as possible the Camp Police and Detention Staff are drawn from the ranks of B1a2 men, men of that category having a better chance of continuing their duties for some little while than have those drawn from higher categories. The Provost Staff are medically classified weekly, and once a man is marked "A" Class, he is marched out to the drafting Company. No fewer than 124 men have been so marched out during the period under review, and as this means that, on an average, one man has been so marched out every second day, this Company cannot be regarded as a refuge for "shirkers". And in this connection it may be mentioned that the training in police duties of the men at this Depot, and the care given to their selection in the first instance is such that Lieut.-Col. Williams of the Anzac Provost Corps, has spoken highly of their appearance, and has proved the sincerity of his compliments by stating that he would take on the strength of the A.P.C. any man from this force who, after being marked "A" Class, is recommended for such a transfer.

As before stated, it is the duty of the Provost Coy. to maintain discipline in the Depot, and statistics are given in this report



which show what they have been called upon to do. In considering such it must be remembered that, while the strength of the Depot is about 3000 men, and there is a monthly average of 600 offences, a comparison of these figures is entirely fictitious, inasmuch as the Depot strength, less the Permanent Staff, represents men coming in and others marching out daily: so that to obtain a correct proportion, the Depot strength would be represented by the Staff, plus the men taken on the strength of the Depot daily during the month -- and viewed in this light the figures given bear an altogether aspect. There must also in all fairness, be taken into account the light in which the average Australian soldier regards his military duties. He enlisted to fight and he has fought, and fought well. In Australia his education and environment taught him to act independently and on his own initiative. The perfect soldier of pre-war days was an automaton, and conditions of life in Australia do not produce automatons. It will be seen that approximately eighty % of the offences are A.W.L., and the majority of these offences arise thus:- The men are recently from the hell that is raging in France, they have been lucky enough to go through hospital and get furlough, they know France is before them again and they cheerfully resolve to have the best time they can before again submitting to military discipline, and to accept the penalty.

And now, after these introductory remarks, to deal with the work of the Provost Coy. in some detail.

#### D.C.M. Cases

The more serious offences are those calling for trial by District Court Martial. Figures are quoted showing the number of soldiers remanded for D.C.M. each month of the period under review. It will be noticed that there appears to exist a relation between weather conditions and the number of offences. In the bleakest of weather offences reached their maximum, and in the hottest month, their minimum. In January there were 53 cases remanded for D.C.M., in February 39, in March 71, (Maximum number) in April 41, in May 31, in June 31 and in July 29, giving a total of 295 cases for the seven months under review.

Fully 80% of these cases arise from absence without leave, the offence next most frequently perpetrated being the possession of



4.

469

false passes. Remaining Cases include:- Escaping from Escort, or from Detention, altered pay-books, assault, drunkenness, allowing prisoners to escape, and there was one instance of a soldier being charged with maiming himself with intent to render himself unfit for further service. In cases of such charges as are listed above, it is very difficult to obtain convictions for the offences enumerated, other than the first four; for example, of four charges of assault only one was sustained; no convictions for drunkenness were obtained, and it is so difficult to prove such a charge that Headquarters recommends that they be dealt with summarily. The charges of allowing to escape also are frequently dismissed, owing to the circumstances under which the escape took place, and the soldier accused of maiming himself was found not guilty of that charge. Preparation of cases remanded for D.C.M. entails a good deal of time and thought, but the work is invariably got through ~~with~~ ~~as~~ expeditiously as possible, with a view to avoiding injustice to the accused by ~~an~~ prolonged delay of his trial.

Minor Offences. Among the minor offences, short absences without leave preponderate, as a glance at the table below will show; and the great majority of those short absences were for from two to three days, occurring at the end of Hospital or Sick Parlour, when the soldier felt that a day or two extra leave would not do him any harm, and took it accordingly. In other cases the soldier, from some motive or other, has shaken the dust (or mud) of the camp off his boots and silently stolen away -- to be listed on his return either among the great majority of the A.W.L's or amongst those breaking camp. The other offences ~~call for~~ ~~have~~ no comment and their relative frequency can be seen from the subjoined table

A.W.L.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.
False statement	845	470	486	355	391	427	419
Irreg. Conduct.	54	41	17	21	19	40	36
Drunkenness	8	10	22	20	13	7	14
Neg. of Duty	64	31	28	4	19	7	7
Neg. to obey orders.			14	7	38	45	43
No identification	4	5	1	3	2	1	3
Destroying Govt. Property.		3	2	1			
Absent from Parades.	30	41	51	29	21	40	47
Breaking Camp.	86			3	5	17	17
Miscell. Offences.	16	3		3	7	17	15
TOTALS	612	609	625	453	517	608	603



To the escort department of the office falls the duty of arranging for the bringing to the Depot of such absentees as have fallen into the hands of the civil or military police, in any part, no matter how remote, of England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales. No. 3251 Sergt. K. Higgs, 17th. Battalion, is in charge of these arrangements, and he is kept very busy indeed, the calls for escorts coming from early morning until late at night; so that night and day Sergt. Higgs is to be found at his post, carrying out his duties in an able and conscientious manner. A table is given further on, showing the number of escorts despatched from this Depot during the period under review, and this will give some idea of the work entailed. Not only are escorts sent for accused soldiers attached to this Depot, but escorts have also to be provided for accused or sentenced men going from this Depot to hospital, detention barrack, or their own unit. For a short period Headquarters put upon this Depot the duty of finding all escorts to the various units on Salisbury Plain, but this has since been taken over by the Anzac Provost Corps.

Escorts from this Depot are supplied from the Guard Coy. & No. 2 Coy.; and therefore consist of "B" class men, whilst often the men they are conducting are "A" class, and alive to any opportunity of escape. The difference in physical fitness was not so important in the early months of the year, when an escort was always at least "one for one", i.e., one escort for each accused; for instance one N.C.O. and 12 men were sent to bring back 8 accused soldiers, and, on another occasion, one officer 2 N.C.Os. and 24 men were sent to bring back 19 accused--and as these parties moved through the crowded streets of London the escort was none too strong. Of late, however, by Headquarters' Orders the strength of escorts has been so reduced that we find in June and July an escort of 1 N.C.O. and 4 Men sent to conduct 8 accused, and again 1 Officer, 2 N.C.O's and 14 Men to conduct 20 accused. Remembering that these escorts are "B" Class man, and numerically inferior to those they are conducting, it is astonishing, not that escapes have been so many but that they have been so few. In the seven months under



review 29 escapes were recorded, whilst 3705 men were conducted, often through crowded city streets and on long railway journeys; and for every one man who escaped, 130 were brought safely to their destination.

The work of the escort Department has been facilitated; whilst increased in extent and responsibility lately by this office being entrusted with the issuing of Rail Warrants and Duty Passes as already mentioned. This responsibility was assumed on July 18th and the work in connection with it has devolved upon No. 664 Cpl V. Cromwell, 10th Bn, a very vigilant and capable N.C.O., and one thoroughly alive to the fact that his position calls for much careful work, and often late at night, advices of escorts being frequently received up till 9 p.m. Since 18th July 313 Rail Warrants and 150 duty passes have been issued from this office, and as many as 40 Rail Warrants and 20 Duty passes have been issued in one day.

Before concluding these remarks on escorts, it may be mentioned that, before moving off, all escorts are carefully inspected and instructed in their duties either by myself or by another officer of the Company.

#### RETURN OF ESCORTS.

	Officers	N.C.O's	Men	Men M/I	Men M/O
January	1	215	901	441	81
February	12	181	836	507	94
March	5	198	766	419	87
April	8	187	657	340	75
May	5	210	710	350	83
June	5	208	535	380	103
July	2	360	613	603	142
TOTALS	38	1559	5018	3040	665

#### NUMBER OF MEN ESCORTED TO OTHER DEPOTS.

January 8.	February 26.	March 7.	April 2.
May 7.	June 53.	July 127.	TOTAL 230.

#### Camp Police

The work of the Camp Police lies in controlling the four camps of the Depot, and maintaining order at the Canteens, and the Pay and Post Offices. The hours of the Police are long, and the work arduous, especially on the patrols, as the men are on the move practically all the time, and deserve their name of "Flying Patrols". The day patrol consists of 1 N.C.O. and 8 Men, their hours being from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m., and as before mentioned, they are responsible for the discipline of four camps. The night patrol, which is of equal numerical strength, assumes



duty at 4 p.m., and remains on until 11 p.m. The work of these patrols is very effective, without being obtrusive. They insist on orders being carried out, but their insistence is tempered with tact, and consequently is not resented by the soldiers in general. Prevention of trouble, not making of arrests, is what the men are taught to be vigilant in, and the statement that their work is efficiently carried out is substantiated by the very rare occurrence of any serious trouble in the Depot. Amongst the duties of the M.P's is that of keeping the roads clear of troops at the time of guard mounting, and here they have done their work so well that it is the exception now-a-days, rather than the rule, for there to be any calls on their services at that particular time beyond that of keeping a watchful eye. The Canteens have been remarkably free from trouble -- "Remarkably" is used advisedly, for a Canteen is where disturbances might not unreasonably be expected. It is greatly to the credit of the Canteen police that no disturbances whatsoever have been recorded. The rules of the institutions have been strictly observed, and no complaints have been received. In each canteen there are one N.C.O. and one man on duty. At the Post Office and the Pay Office, great numbers of men present themselves daily, and, in so marshalling them that disputes are avoided, and the work of the offices got through speedily and satisfactorily, and in the services of the police have been very effective and quite in keeping with the good work done by the rest of the force. Efficiency and tact are what are inculcated into the M.P's, and there is no denying that great credit for excellent work done is due to the N.C.O. in charge, No. 404 Sgt. A.A. Lovett, A.P.C., ably supported by his second-in-command, No. 31 Sgt. T.J. Davis, 11th Bn, A.I.F.

Detention  
Compound.

At the beginning of the period under review, accused soldiers in this Depot were distributed in four detention rooms, located in three different camps, and this necessitated the keeping of four detention staffs, and four sets of books. Moreover, prisoners were constantly endeavouring to cut their way out to freedom through holes in the floor, and these attempts were not always unsuccessful. It was apparent that centralisation in one



compound would save a great amount of work in different directions, would enable the number of the staff to be reduced, and would greatly diminish the chance of prisoners breaking out. Request for such a compound was accordingly made at every opportunity, and eventually the request was acceded to, and on 28th April the present compound was opened. The Compound consists of five huts, with latrines and ablution sheds, the whole being surrounded by a high barbed wire fence outside which armed guards are stationed -- 4 by day and 6 by night. Each of the huts inside the compound is for a special purpose; in the first hut are the detention staff; in the second hut accused soldiers whose cases have yet to be disposed of; in the third, men awaiting trial by D.C.M., and men so tried, but whose sentences have not yet been confirmed; in the fourth men actually undergoing sentence, and in the fifth men of the Guard Company, from which the sentries are drawn. The police engaged on detention work are, 1 Sgt. 2 Cpls and 9 Men, who are divided into three shifts, each of 1 N.C.O. and 3 Men, each doing 8 Hours duty in turn. As escorts for the Company, and C.O's Orderly Rooms, there are 1 Sgt. 3 L/Cpls, and 9 Men: and they have anything but an idle time as the number of occasions on which an escort is required to conduct a prisoner or prisoners from and to the Compound for various purposes, averages nearly a hundred daily, and on 9th July reached the high figure of 119. The accused soldiers in the Compound cannot complain of being neglected. In addition to the daily sick parade there is a daily inspection by the M.O. (whose comments regarding the sanitary condition of the compound are always satisfactory) and a daily visit by the Provost Officer. The men are thus given every opportunity to make known any grievance they may have, but it is very rarely that any complaint is made. Physical exercise is conducted in the Compound twice daily, under the supervision of Lieut. Pearce, M.C., and the men in detention greatly appreciate it, if keenness in their work may be taken as any criterion.

The work of the N.C.O's and Men of the detention staff under

No. 1009 Sgt. Thomas A., 17th Battalion., and of the guard



has been very effective, as is demonstrated by the fact that not one man has escaped from the Compound -- and there have some soldiers held there whose proclivities for escaping are noted. The fame of our compound has spread in the land, and men have been sent to be held here in safe custody from other units -- from the A.P.C., from No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, from the Overseas Training Brigade and from No. 4 Command Depot, Codford. The last named depot, when transferring from Wareham to Codford sent us no fewer than fifty-four men to be held.

A table is given showing the number of admissions to, and discharges from, for each month of the period under review, since the opening of the Compound.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the greatest number of men detained in the compound on any particular date was 105 on 24th June, that number including the men from No. 4 Command Depot previously referred to

<u>ADMITTED</u>				<u>DISCHARGED</u>	
28th till 30th April 1917.	100			22	
May 1917	423			490	
June 1917	498			581	
July 1917	545			532	
	1546.			1525	

Provost  
Office  
Staff.

During the period Jan-July I have been greatly assisted in my office work by Lieut. L.J.Bickford 11th Bn., Lieut.G.F.Rouse., 19th Bn., and Lieut. A.C.McCaul, 39th Bn, who were at different times attached to the Company. Had it not been for their assistance I should not have been able to exercise as close and general a supervision over the working of the company as I feel it desirable that I should.

Very able assistance has also been given No. 1549 S/Major Steriker,A.J., 13th Bn, whose time is fully occupied in preparing the various papers which accompany men to detention barracks, obtaining accommodation, attending to the calling of witnesses at D.C.M. trials, and when required, witnesses at Commandant's Orderly Room as well as supervising the working of the Office.

In addition to being in charge of the escort branch, No. 3251 Sgt. K.Higgs, 17th Bn. attends to the preparation of the daily guard report for the Commandant's Orderly Room, and also prepares the minor offence report and the weekly return of offences.

ces, A.F.B2069, which entails a considerable amount of labour



and the accuracy of which has been favourably commented upon by Headquarters, Tidworth. XME

The preparing and rendering of the daily parade states, a duty which entails careful work, is in the very capable hands of No. 664 Cpl. V. Cromwell, 10th Bn, who also attends to the transferring of men from the staff on attaining "A" Class, and the taking on of men of lower category to replace the same. This N.C.O. also carries out very thoroughly the duties of Q.M.S. to the Company and has made himself conversant with the working of each department in the office, so that in case of necessity, he is capable of filling any vacancy.

The preparing, recording and systematic filing of conduct sheets, which number several thousands monthly, is yet another branch of the office, and the manner in which this duty is carried out reflects great credit on the clerk responsible, viz., No. 2089 Pte J.J. O'Leary, 32nd Bn. This work at times requires his closest attention, sometimes as in the case of a large draft moving out at short notice, until very late at night.

Of the remainder of the staff, I cannot speak too highly of No. 4480 Pte J.M. Dunn, 9th Bn, whose untiring energy, combined with a wonderful memory, gives very valuable assistance. He with No. 5477 Sig. H.V. Sykes, 15th M.G. Coy, A.I.F., is in charge of all correspondence and the entering up and filing of records cards of men passing through the Detention Compound. The clerical work in connection with D.C.M. Papers is also largely carried out by the two above named.

A review of this description would not be complete without some mention being made of the chief orderly, No. 3113 Pte J.W. Green, 60th Bn, who is always cheerful, and ready to meet any demand made upon his services.

Perham Down,  
6th August 1917.

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



I beg to submit the following report on the working of No 2. Coy. from 26th December 1916 to 31st July 1917 :-

The Coy. was originally formed in October 1916, and was composed almost entirely of ranks reporting to Depot from Furlough & Hospital who it was thought would be fit to join their training units within a period of say 6 weeks.

The Records, however, from the formation of the Company to the 26th December, are not available consequently I am unable to furnish any particulars of the work during this period.

On the 26th December 1916 this Coy. with a strength of 570 N.C.O's and men was transferred from No 1. Camp of this Depot to No. 3. Camp under the charge of Capt. G.L. Phillips 2nd Bn, who immediately set about re-organising the Company, which entailed a considerable amount of work for the small Staff then employed.

In order to facilitate the work<sup>ing</sup> it was arranged to form four Platoons Numbered 1, 2, 3 & 4 respectively, to which men were attached in accordance with their medical classifications.

All ranks on the strength of each Platoon, with the exception of No. 1. Platoon, have been classified weekly, and any change in their classification noted, and the necessary transfers effected accordingly. All men who are marked medically fit for transfer to the Training Unit were immediately taken on the strength of No. 1. Platoon from which they were drafted out to their respective Depots as early as possible.

The number of men so classified and marched out of the Depot during the period under review totalled 9016.

The strength of the Company greatly increased until it reached the maximum of 1779 on the 15th March 1917.

With the formation of the Sixth Division the strength was greatly reduced, and on the 16th March the first draft of 500 N.C.O's & men were marched out to Wareham for this Division. Numerous other Drafts followed during the remainder of the month & April in which a total of 2047 men were evacuated.

In April other Drafts totalling 1033 N.C.O's & men were marched out to Windmill Hill Camp which was also occupied by various Battalions of the Sixth Division.

It is estimated that about 50% of the men so drafted were of A3 category.

On the 7th May 1917, the various Platoons were again re-organised in accordance with the new medical classifications, and are known as follows :-

Evacuation Platoon: formerly No. 1, comprises men of A3 category.

No. 4. Platoon: formerly known as No. 2. is composed of men who are medically fit but dentally unfit.

No. 3. Platoon. Nearly medically fit & dentally fit.

No. 2. Platoon. Medically unfit.

About this time owing to the majority of the men marching in to this Coy. being dentally unfit, and consequently placed in No 4. Platoon, the strength of this Platoon increased to a total of 854, and it was then decided by Headquarters to form a separate Company to be known as No. 3. Coy., for all men dentally unfit, and to this Coy. men on the strength of No. 4 Platoon were transferred on the 23rd July.



The total number of men passing through this Coy. during the period dealt with in this Report was 17138, of which 16462 were drafted out to various other Depots, Departments, & Companies in this Command.

A Summary of the transfers is as follows :-

To Overseas T.D .	( A3 )	9016	
Wareham	March (6th Div.)	2047	} Approximately 50% A3 category.
Windmill Hill	April "	1033	
Reclassified unfit & transferred		792	
To No. 3. Coy. 23-7-17(B1A4 )		854	
Absentee & Hospital		1719	{ Approx. 60% Hospital 40% A W L
Departmental & Inter-Coy. transfers		1001	
		16462	

The strength of the Company on the 31st July was 676.

The system of Training has had careful consideration affecting as it does ranks who are practically in a convalescent stage. The training adhered to consisted principally of Physical Training daily during the morning, and was calculated to bring the men to such a degree of fitness as to enable them to undergo the more strenuous training which they would be subject to on being drafted out to their Training Units.

Route Marches were carried out daily during the afternoon, except Saturday & Sundays, and at other times when the heat during the summer months made such training inadvisable.

The Physical Training has been under the supervision of Lieut P W Pearce M.C. assisted by a Staff of Physical Instructors, the majority of whom had undergone a course of training at Aldershot & Portsmouth, & had obtained certificates as to their efficiency as Instructors.

On the 27th July the Command of the Coy. was relinquished by Capt. G.L. Phillips who had received an appointment as A D C to the G.O.C. in U.K., & in forwarding this Report I would like, as O.C. of the Coy. to draw attention to the valuable work rendered by Capt. Phillips during his Command. His system was thorough & the consideration & fairness shown to all ranks has earned for him the utmost appreciation & respect of all who came in contact with him, & the Office Staff & Staff of the Coy. wish to convey their best wishes for his continued success in the future.

I deem it also my duty to place on record the valuable assistance rendered by the Staff in the past, especially that of the Ord. Room & Platoons. The work has been considerable but at all times they have shown the utmost willingness and attention to their duties which has been the means of the success attained.



*W. H. Mallett*

O.C. No. 2. Coy.  
No. 3. Camp



469

33

REPORT ON THE WORK OF NO. 5 COY. (OVERFLOW), NO. 1 COMMAND DEPOT  
FROM 1st. JANUARY, 1917 UNTIL 31st. JULY, 1917.

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Introductory:- No. 5 Company exists for the purpose of relieving the other Companies of the Depot from carrying on their strengths any one who is not available for immediate draft or duty.

Absentees:- Immediately a man has been absent from his Company for six hours he is transferred to this Coy., with documentary evidence and card. On his return, full particulars of absence and punishment awarded for same are entered on his card, and the forfeitures of pay are entered in the pay-book. Should a man be absent for three clear days, the civil police nearest to his last known address are communicated with, A.F.W3111 being forwarded, with instructions to arrest the absentee should he be traced, and be found to be not under medical care. These police inquiries have done much good, inasmuch as they have in many instances revealed that a man marked absent without leave was actually in hospital, having been admitted there without this Depot being advised of the fact. When the period of absence has reached fourteen days, a letter is sent to the last known address of the absentee, informing him of his absence, and, further, that, should he fail to return before his absence exceeds 21 days, a court of inquiry will be held and he will be declared a deserter from the forces, (in accordance with Section 72 of the Army Act), in which case all pay and allotments to dependents will cease. These letters induce many to report back within the 21 days' period. When the period of absence has reached 23 days, i.e. on the 23rd. day, a court of inquiry is held and the man concerned is declared an illegal absentee. The proceedings of the court of inquiry are then forwarded for approval to the D.A.J.A.G., at Bhurtpore, and when such approval has been granted, the absentee is posted through Depot Routine Orders and struck off strength of the Depot.



Some idea of the work of this Coy. can be gathered from the fact that 1500 A.Fs. W3111 were sent out during the period under review, as one consequence of which 187 men were apprehended by the civil police. This seems rather a small per centage of the whole; but is explicable thus: Many soldiers proceeding on furlough give as their address the War Chest Club, Y.M.C.A., or some such similar institute. They stay at this address for a day or two, then come across a friend who knows a better place to stay- perhaps not even in the same town- and away they go to that place, neglecting to notify the authorities of the change of address. As a further result of communicating with the civil police, 140 men who were being carried as absentees were traced to hospitals, which had not advised the Depot of these soldiers' being admitted. In regard to the longer absences, it may be mentioned that 421 illegal absentee letters were sent out to the last known addresses of those who were astray, and 458 courts of inquiry into absences have been held within the seven months.

Every man who marches into detention in the Depot has his case first investigated at No. 5 Coy. Orderly Room by Lieut. Crampton, the O.C. of the Coy., who is often called on to exercise the greatest tact in dealing with men masquerading under false names, numbers, and units. To expose them necessitates a great deal of searching of records at Administrative Headquarters, London, and at the other Australian Depots. Some men, having given a false number, name, or unit, maintain that it is correct until it is proved to them beyond doubt that the particulars they have given belong to some soldier whom records show to have been killed in action or returned to Australia; then they give their correct particulars. There have been several instances recorded during the seven months of men wearing the A.I.F. uniform, who were not entitled to do so, inquiry revealing them to be Imperial men-- some from the Army, others from the Navy. Other cases requiring a great deal of investigation before they can be made clear are those of men who, burning with desire to play their part in the war, have, after medical rejection in Australia, stowed away on a transport, reached England, and, in some way or another have become possessed of an Australian



soldier's uniform.

It is only natural that, in a large body of men, there should be a number of bad characters. These are the harder to discover owing to men all looking so alike in uniform; but Corporal South, of the 22nd. Battalion, who is attached to this Coy. has done valuable work in this Depot in connection with running such men to earth. The investigation of cases of theft in the lines, gambling etc. is entrusted to him, and he has had very few failures.

One advantage arising from the existence of a Company of the nature of No. 5, is that men reporting overdue from furlough, or returning after an unauthorised absence, are dealt with, classified, and transferred on the same day, thus obviating any delay in their training; while there is also the absolute certainty of the charge against them - no matter what its nature may be - being thoroughly investigated by a competent authority. The classifying and transferring falls to the lot of Corporal R.A. Fynch, whose work has been most reliable and efficient, and carried out without a hitch.

Some idea of the work carried out through the Orderly Room of No. 5 Coy. will be obtained from the following table.

Jan.	Punished by Command- ant.	Dismissed by Command- ant.	Punished by O.C., No. 5 Coy.	Dismissed by O.C., No. 5 Coy.	Remanded to await escort	Total.
Jan.	270	9	311	127	76	793
Feb.	266	13	343	95	16	833
Mar.	236	11	295	86	73	695
Apr.	218	10	195	81	68	572
May	217	14	223	72	127	653
June	270	7	259	61	90	687
July	236	7	242	58	118	661
Total	1713	71	1868	474	668	4794

To simplify the work in connection with absentees three books are kept. In one, the name of every absentee transferred from another Coy. is entered; and in columns provided for that purpose the N.C.O. bringing the transfer signs; also the clerk who receives the transfer. Book No. 1 contains all absentees up to seven days; an absentee beyond this period being transferred to Book No. 2.



This transfer is made as the O.C. of No. 5 Coy. can only deal with men whose periods of absence do not exceed seven days; and this method simplifies the keeping of records of punishments. Both books contain full information of steps taken to trace absentees, and also their complete record, date of absence, Coy. transferred by; and, on their return, date thereof, and Coy. transferred to, as well as the punishment awarded. Cpl. Pridgeon has charge of Book No. 2 and Pte. Wharton of Book No. 1, as well as the sending out of all the A.Fs. W3111. Both of these men have rendered very valuable service, as the keeping of these records is no light duty; and frequently information is required, at a moment's notice, regarding men who have passed through the Coy. months previously.

#### Men in Hospital.

Immediately a man on Depot strength is admitted to hospital, his card is transferred to No. 5 Coy., and on his return to the Depot he is ordered by the Furlough Department to report to this Coy.. On his doing this, his card is examined, to see if there is any charge pending against him, as it frequently happens that men are admitted to hospital when several days overdue from furlough, or otherwise absent; and in such instances the charge has to await the return of the absentee before it can be investigated. Furthermore, charges on minor offences, preferred against men whilst in hospital, are sent on to this Coy., and are attached to the accused's card, and these are dealt with on his return to the Depot; and the same course is adopted with charges of a minor nature preferred against men on furlough.

After a man has been in hospital for twenty-eight clear days he is struck off Depot strength, but his card is retained by this Coy. pending his return to the Depot. The attached table will show at a glance the number of men this Coy. is called upon to handle in regard to admissions to and discharges from hospital.

	Admitted	Discharged.
January	360	225
February	549	234
March	422	330
April	347	334
May	363	374
June	449	358
July	503	409
Total	<u>2993</u>	<u>2264</u>



It will be seen from the table that more men are admitted to hospital from this Depot than are discharged back to it. The ~~xxxx~~ reason for this is that, in many cases, men on being discharged from hospital are found to be unfit for service for a longer period than six weeks--that being the time allowed for in this Depot--and are therefore sent ~~to~~ other depots which hold men for a longer period of convalescence and gradual training. The clerk of No. 5 Coy. who keeps all hospital records has also to record all correspondence. Owing to some hospitals failing to notify this Depot when a man is admitted, it has been thought advisable to prepare a letter, stereotyped in form, which is despatched to any hospital as soon as word has been received unofficially that a soldier has been admitted to that institution; and thus official advice as to the correctness or otherwise of the information received is obtained. It is the principle in this Coy. to accept nothing but official advice of a man's being an absentee; for from time to time cases have occurred where information, apparently authentic, has reached us that a man is in hospital, and inquiries from the hospital named have revealed that nothing is known there of such a man; who, consequently, is an absentee. In connection with the hospital records Pte. Paul, and, later, Pte. O'Malley, have rendered valuable service.

General In addition to the duties previously mentioned in this report, Inquiries this Coy. carries out practically all inquiries arising from queries in the Depot; e.g., should a man report to Furlough ~~in~~ Department, without advice having been received that he is due to report, he is taken on the strength of No. 5 Coy., and kept there until investigation has cleared his case up. In numerous cases men report to the Furlough Office who have been absent from some other depot, or their unit, or from hospital; and when inquiry conducted by this Coy. has revealed such a man's proper unit, he is sent back there to be punished for his absence. The figures given in the first of the two tables included in this report, and in the column "Remanded to await escort" show how many men have been



brought before the O.C. of this Coy., and, as a result of consequent inquiries, have been returned to other units. Such cases average almost a hundred a month.

Inquiries of another nature are conducted by this Coy. in cases where men apply for leave on the grounds of family ~~xxx~~ trouble or of illness of relations. Such inquiries are generally made through the medium of the civil police--and the result in most cases has been that the leave applied for has not been granted.

Further inquiries have originated as the result of anonymous letters having been received; and, generally speaking, the results of such inquiries have been satisfactory.

So extensive are the inquiries carried out by No. 5 Coy., and so full are its records of absentees, that it has long been known as "Scotland Yard"; and many a man has been very astonished to find that the Coy. knows more about him than he does about himself.

The work in connection with these inquiries, and the searching of records, is indefatigably carried out by Sergt.-Major D. Beattie, whose services in this way as well as in the general supervision of the work of the Coy., is invaluable.

Perham Down,  
16th. August, 1917.

*H. Thompson*

Lieut. & O.C., No. 5 Coy.,  
No. 1 Command Depot.



No. 1. COMMAND DEPOT  
Perham Down  
3rd August 1917

TRAINING REPORT FROM JANUARY 1st 1917  
to 31st JULY 1917  
-----

I have the honor to submit the following report on the training of No. 1. Command Depot :-

In January last a system of Physical Training was inaugurated as a means whereby men of B L.A 4 category could be made fit for general service.

The approximate number of men for training at the commencement was 600, for which we had 3 Staff Instructors viz:  
Staff C S M McCarthy A G S  
Staff Sgt Shilleto A G S who reported in March  
Actg. Staff Sgt. Jarrett A W 10th Bn.

Since January 29 N.C.O's have been trained by the above-named Staff, all of whom went through a School of Instruction in Physical & Bayonet Training on an average of 4 per month, and obtained certificates the majority of which were " GOOD " or " VERY GOOD ".

Three of these Instructors were transferred as Instructors to Park House Camp. Two have been drafted Overseas, and two are warned for draft for this week leaving a Staff of 22 qualified Instructors.

The number of men trained during the past six months has been approximately 17,000 with an average daily parade of 500.

Irrespective of Parades two Instructors are supplied for Detention, and one for the Band ----- allowing for an average of two who are away on leave, this brings the strength of the Staff down to 17 which is totally inadequate to cope with the size of the Parade.

It is respectfully submitted that the strength of this Staff be increased to 30, which would then allow for a working margin of 25.

At present 12 N.C.O's are under instruction, two of whom are warned to attend the School of Instruction at Aldershot commencing on the 6th inst.

Owing to the Physical unfitness of men slight alterations were made in the ordinary physical training as taught to A class men, and according to the period of convalescence the work has been suited.

It was found necessary to eliminate the most severe tables ( 7 & 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.

The following Syllabus of Training has been adopted with marked improvement in this respect :-

" Instructors to be allotted weekly to Platoons. Platoons to work in separate parts of the Parade Ground.

BL A2

No. 2. Platoon : Tables 1 & 2, work to be varied with constant quickening exercises & frequent rests. Marching to be carried out at correct pace & time & no march to exceed a distance of 50 yards at one time.

BL.A 3

No. 3. Platoon Any Table up to Table 4, work to be varied with quickening exercises & frequent rests. Marching to be carried out at correct pace and time, but no march to exceed 100 yards at one time.



469  
B1 A4

No. 3 Coy. Any table up to table 6 as laid down ,  
marching to be carried out at correct space and time and  
no march to exceed 5 minutes duration at one time.

In dealing with convalescents it is essential  
that specially qualified instructors be utilized other-  
wise the men would probably be given movements beyond  
their capabilities, and instead of deriving benefit there-  
from their progress physically would be retarded. The  
course of instruction for this staff is as follows :-  
Suitable N.C.O's. are selected and trained daily in the  
afternoon under a Staff Instructor and a weekly report  
of their progress is submitted to me . Should the report  
be unsatisfactory they are returned to their respective  
Companies for duty, but should they show promise of becom-  
ing efficient instructors they are sent to a Command School  
of Instruction in Physical and Bayonet Training and from  
there they proceed to Aldershot or Portsmouth for the final  
course. Very often a N.C.O. shows special adaptability  
for this work and he is then sent direct to Aldershot or  
Portsmouth for his final course.

On completion of the School of Instruction this  
Staff is trained by me on " How to Instruct men of dif-  
ferent Medical Categories" and allotted to various Platoons  
or Companies for duty. It is under constant supervision  
to see that it adheres closely to the syllabus to prevent  
the possibility of injury to the men through any divergence  
therefrom .

In forwarding this report I desire to bring  
under notice the work of Ast. Staff Sergeant Jarrett,  
10th. Bn. He has been an example from the commencement  
to all Instructors and his work has been enthusiastic  
and conscientious.

*M. Pearce*  
.....  
O I/C Training  
No. 1 Command Depot.



## "G.I." FORM

## PERMANENT STAFF

AUGUST 1st 1917

REMARKS.	RANK & NAME	UNIT	CLASS	REPORTED
Commandant	Lt.Col.G.H.Knox	23 Bn	H.S.	9.8.16
2nd in Command	Mjr.A.E.J.Croly	11 Bn	P.U.	5.8.16
Adjutant	Lieut.R.Dooley	8 MGC	G.S.	4.10.16
Assistant Adjutant	2/Lt.L.Keyser VC	42 Bn	H.S.	20.8.17
Quartermaster	Capt.J.Gettingby	28 Bn	P.U.	8.9.16
Asst.Q.M.&O.i/c H.	Lieut.R.L.Andrews	26 Bn	P.U.	26.1.17
Purlo, Rec. & Dist.	Lieut.G.F.Rouse	19 Bn	P.U.	17.4.17
Officer's Records	2/Lt.W.L.Geach	50 Bn	P.U.	1.3.17
Paying Officer	Lieut.F.W.N.Wood	22 Bn	L.D.	23.8.17
No 1 Company				
Officer Commanding	Lieut.P.W.Pearce	23 Bn	H.S.	16.10.16
Subaltern	Lieut.A.Mills	50 Bn	H.S.	9.8.17
do	Lieut.J.R.Gunn	28 Bn	H.S.	9.8.17
No 2 Company				
Officer Commanding	Lt.G.H.Shemallick	26 Bn	H.S. only	24.11.16
			Unfit G.S. for 6 months	
Subaltern	Lt.J.G.O'Connell	2 Bn	H.S.	2.8.17
do	2/Lt.L.M.Player	13 Bn	H.S.	23.8.17
No 3 Company				
Officer Commanding	Capt.E.Julge	27 Bn	L.D.	13.8.17
Subaltern	Lieut.G.W.Lea	52 Bn	L.D.	2.8.17
do	Lieut.R.Healy	54 Bn	H.S.	2.8.17
do	2/Lt.J.J.Murphy	2 Para	H.S.	9.8.17
No 4 Company				
Officer Commanding	Lieut.J.McCaul	22 Bn	P.U.	27.6.16
Subaltern	Lt.W.W.Crampton	18 Bn	P.U.	11.12.16
do	Lt.G.Shuttleworth	7 Bn	H.S.	20.8.17
do	Lieut.A.C.McCaul	39 Bn	H.S.	6.8.6.8.17

## EMPLOYED

OH D. C. M.	Lt.Col.C.R.Davies	55 Bn - -	8.6.17
do	Capt.E.A.Compton	28 Bn H.S.	27.8.17
do	Lieut.A.H.Ison	17 Bn L.D.	9.8.17
do Prosecutor	2/Lt.W.F.Murphy	5 T.C.P.U.	24.4.17
School of Instruction	Capt.W.W.Atkinson	19 Bn G.S.	11.6.16

## MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Major J.C.Campbell	1.7.17	A.A.M.C.	S.M.O.
Capt.H.A.Hagen	30.1.17	A.A.M.C.	H.O.
Capt.B.Morris	12.6.17	A.A.M.C.	H.O.
Capt.W.M.Remington	23.4.17	A.A.D.C.	S.D.O.
Capt.G.Godson	23.4.17	A.A.D.C.	D.O.
Capt.H.Wright	30.6.17	A.A.D.C.	D.O.
Capt.H.E.Lockhart	26.7.17	A.A.D.C.	D.O.
Lieut.H.N.Watts	10.3.17	A.A.D.C.	D.O.
Lieut.H.S.Scott	26.7.17	3 D.A.C.	Attd A.A.D.C. Pending instructions.