

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/68/22

Title: Q Staff, Headquarters AIF Depots in
UK

January 1919



AWM4-1/68/22

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WAR DIARY.

For the Month of January 1919.



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A. D. of S. & T. BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, A.I.F. DEPOTS IN U.K.PERSONNEL.

Major E.J. Munro, D.S.O. relinquished the appointment of O.C., A.A.S.C. Training Depot, Parkhouse, on 22.1.19, and Captain W.I. Rogers, 4th A.D. Train assumed Command on 23.1.19.

A.A.S.C. Personnel.

Owing to the extreme shortage of AASC. and AASC. M.T. Personnel, applications were called for through R.O's. for soldiers from other arms of the Service suitable for transfer as drivers (H.T.) and drivers (M.T.), (Extracts from R.O's. dated 14.12.18 and 31.12.18)

Later, upon receipt of a telegram from Headquarters, AIF. asking for 750 AASC. Personnel urgently to proceed Overseas to bring AASC. Units in the Field up to strength, approval was given by the G.O.C., AIF. Depots in U.K. for the selection of up to 200 men from each of the four quotas of general Infantry Reinforcements available for Overseas suitable for AASC. duties, and steps were taken accordingly. Officers from this Department and A.M.T.S. visited the various Training Brigades at Hurdcott, Codford, and Sutton Veny, and inspected the men on parade. As a result of such inspection, they selected 70 M.T. and 106 H.T. & S., making a total of 176. These men were earmarked for AASC., and proceeded Overseas with the drafts to which they were already allotted, and nominal rolls of men selected, as above, were forwarded to Australian Corps, France.

During the month 200 AASC. men proceeded Overseas (100 H.T. & S.) and 100 (M.T.), in addition to 176 previously referred to. Exhaustive applications and inspections failed to produce more men.

Retention of AASC. Personnel in U.K.

In view of the foregoing, the following letter was submitted to "A" Branch:-

"CR. AIF. 42379/ST/16.

" Owing to the extreme shortage of AASC. Personnel, and the great difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable men from other arms of the Service, it is strongly recommended that, except in special cases, no AASC. Personnel be returned to Australia for the present, but they should be retained for service with the various AASC. Units in U.K.

The amount of AASC. work in U.K. has not decreased, and if the present Units are further reduced in strength, serious difficulties will occur in the supply and transport arrangements now in existence.

Further, it is also recommended that upon discharge from Hospital of all AASC. Units in U.K., such personnel be returned direct to their own Units, and not to Command Depots; or failing that, to be marched out to their own Units immediately upon reporting to a Command Depot from Hospital.

In regard to men who desire early repatriation, these cases could be contingent upon sufficient suitable personnel being obtained from other Units to relieve them.

It is also recommended that the above principle be adopted by the Units in the Field, because of the fact that sufficient reinforcements would not be available at this end to replace those relieved."

(Sgd.) Alfred Moon, Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T. "

"Tidworth. 16.1.19.

As the matter was urgent a further letter, as follows, was submitted to "A" Branch, AIF. Depots in U.K.:-

"

CR.AIF.42379/ST/16.

With further reference to this Office letter dated 16th inst. relative to the proposed retention in U.K. of AASC. Personnel.

The position in connection with the shortage of such personnel for duty in the Training Depot and Detachments is becoming acute, particularly as drafts of casuals are being marched out to concentration Depots for return to Australia.

Pending a ruling being received, as requested in my above referred to minute, could approval be given, please, for such AASC. Personnel to be retained in the meantime; or, failing that, to call for volunteers from men who are not anxious to return to Australia immediately, and then by selection."

(Sgd.)

Alfred Moon, Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T. "

"Tidworth. 28.1.19.

In answer to these communications the following reply was received from the G.O.C., AIF. Depots in U.K.:-

" Pending decision from Headquarters, AIF., Yes, if "A" Class. If not "A" class to stay in Command Depots till "A" class, and meantime not to be put on boat-rolls or discharged in U.K. notwithstanding approval for discharge."

"31.1.19.

(Sgd.) J.W.M. "

A.A.S.C. Detachment, Codford.

Owing to the move of the 2nd Training Brigade, from Fovant to Codford, it became imperative that an AASC. Detachment be formed at the latter place, and upon approval being obtained for such formation, steps were immediately taken, and the Detachment was formed. Instructions were issued for stores, animals, &c. to be drawn, and indents were submitted accordingly.

SUMMARY.Personnel:

Transport	-	40	
Supply	-	8	48
Vehicles	-		17
Animals	-		42

Repatriation and Demobilisation.

Four other Ranks attached to this Staff made application for early repatriation, and one made application for discharge in U.K.

Christmas & New Year Leave.

In accordance with Special Order No. 6813, dated 6.12.18, 12 days special Xmas. or New Year's Leave was granted to each member of the Staff.

1. BARRACK SERVICES.Water Service.

This Service was very satisfactory during the month, and the following comparative statements are submitted in support:-

(a)

Average Daily Consumption.

District.	December 1918:	January 1919.
Codford.	16.8 gallons	13.7 gallons
Sutton Veny	12.5 "	13.7 "
Longbridge Deverill		
Warminster		
Heytesbury	15.39 "	14.6 "
Fovant-Hurdcott.		

(b).

Camp.	January 1918.	January 1919.	Saving.
Westham	863,930 galls.	712,900 galls.	151,030 galls.
Monte Video	890,730 "	780,880 "	109,850 "
Verne Citadel	789,360 "	508,100 "	281,260 "
Littlemoor.	919,350 "	382,000 "	537,350 "
		Total.	1,079,490 galls.

1,079,490 galls. at 6d. per 1000 galls. - £26.19.9d.

Electric Lighting.

Good results continue in the control of this Service, and the following comparative statement for No. 2 Command Depot is an example:-

Camp.	Jan. 1918.	Jan. 1919.	Decrease.	Increase.
Westham	4778 Units	3224 Units	1554	
Monte Video	3505 "	3119 "	386	
Littlemoor	2757 "	3043 "		286
Verne Citadel	2837 "	2700 "	137	

The increased consumption at Littlemoor Camp is due to Camp Hospital, and is entirely satisfactory.

As stated in War Diary for December '18, a Conference was held at War Office to discuss the method of charge per current previous to installation of meters. The points agreed upon have now been confirmed, and the following subjoined reply received from War Office is self-explanatory of the result obtained:-

"15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.)

War Office,
London. S.W.1. 21.1.1919.

Sir,

With reference to the question of charges for Electric current supplied to the A.I.F. on Salisbury Plain (your reference number Qa. 7012/4/3 dated 15.10.18) and to the subsequent discussion at this Office, I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Major-General i/c Administration, Southern Command, Salisbury, on the subject, which, it is hoped, will lead the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

In regard to the question of depreciation, item 12 in the Schedule attached to War Office letter to the Command, I am to say that the War Office rates are as shown on statement "A" attached to this letter.

At The discussion at this Office, mention was made of the proportion of the cost of lighting of Regimental Institutes to be borne by the A.I.F., and a suggestion was made that the A.I.F. could accept no charge until they were satisfied as to the disposal of profits of the N.A.C.B.

It would appear that Australian Units, like others, will have received the usual rebate on their Canteen transactions with the N.A.C.B., and as the Aust. troops have benefited from the light provided in that portion of the Regimental Institutes, for which the N.A.C.B. is not liable, it is hoped that the position can now be accepted that the AIF. should bear the cost of light supplied to such portions of the Regimental Institutes premises in the same manner that Imperial funds bear such charges in respect of Regimental Institute premises occupied by Imperial Units.

To Commandant, I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,
Admin. Hdqrs. A.I.F.,
" London. S.W. (Sgd.) T. HARTLAND.

"For the Assistant Financial Secretary."

.....

(Copy).

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.).

21st Jan. 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your CR. SC.No.212905 (B) dated Novr. 9th, and in continuation of War Office letter numbered as above, dated 29th Novr., I am directed to inform you that the question of the charge for the supply of electric light to the A.I.F. at Camps in the Southern Command was discussed at a recent meeting with the representatives of the Administratives Hdqrs. A.I.F.

It was agreed that for periods prior to the installation of meters the method adopted for the calculation of the charge for electric current supplied to A.I.F. Camps from War Department Power Stations appeared to lead to a charge considerably in excess of cost. It was agreed, therefore, that all claims presented in respect of current supplied from War Department Power Stations for periods prior to the installations of meters at the Camps occupied by the A.I.F. should be withdrawn, and any payment made by A.I.F. be regarded as "on account" towards meeting the revised claims.

For the purpose of assessing the revised claims, it was agreed that the cost of production should be ascertained at each individual Power Station supplying the current, and that after deducting current supplied to consumers other than troops, a share of the cost of the remainder for the period should be charged to A.I.F. proportionately to the Camp accommodation in their occupation supplied from the particular Power Stn. From the date of the installation of meters the current should be charged at the cost as shown by the account for the last completed year by account period.

The cost of production and price per Unit, which, for the purpose of charge against the A.I.F. should exclude any charge in respect of military labour, and should be calculated on the basis indicated on attached schedule marked "A".

I am to ask that you will now give instructions for the revision of the claims to be taken in hand as early as possible, and that in adjusting these, you will permit an authorised representative of A.I.F. to have access to the records and satisfy himself that the method of assessment is in accordance with that discussed at the meeting.

It was suggested by the A.I.F. representative that in the assessment of charges for electric light against N.A.C.B. under A.C.I. 1865 1917, it had been the practice in some instances in the Southern Command to charge N.A.C.B. a quarter of cost of light supplied to that portion of the Regimental Institute premises actually in occupation of N.A.C.B. for trading purposes. The intention of the A.C.I. was that where no separate Meter record was available of the light consumed in such portion of the premises, the N.A.C.B. should be charged for one quarter of the lights supplied to the Regimental Institutes as a whole, and it would appear, therefore, that if calculation has been made, as suggested, a considerable undercharge has been made against N.A.C.B. As regards the remaining three quarters of the light used in Regimental Institutes occupied by A.I.F. troops, it is considered that this is properly chargeable to Austn. funds, but further communication will be addressed to you as to this.

It is suggested that any difficulties as regards charges for water supplied to A.I.F. Camps should be settled by the calculation of cost on the lines set out above for electric current, and I am to ask your view on the point.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) T. Hartland.

Major-General i/c.,

Administration,

" Southern Command, Salisbury.

for the Assistant Financial Secretary."

(Copy.)

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.)

Schedule "A".

Depreciation charged War Department Electric Power Stations.

Per Annum.

20% on tools, implements &c.

10% " machinery, switch gear, & accumulators (Small Station).

7½% " do do do (large Station)

5% " cables and mains.

5% " stone and brick buildings.

10% " light brick buildings.

15% on wooden huts.

These rates to be charged on the original cost price and not on the diminished values.

Copy.

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.) S.

Schedule A.

Charges for electric current supplied by W.D. Generating Stns. to A.I.F. in the Southern Command, based on cost of production at the Stations.

The following items to be chargeable:-

1. Fuels
2. Water
3. Labour and insurance of civilian labour (Military labour to be omitted).
4. Engine rooms, stores, including A.O.D. and R.E. stores at the actual (up-to-date) cost thereof.
5. Repairs and maintenance.
6. Engineers salaries and expenses including payment of travelling and supervising Engineers expenses, and salary.
7. Rent of hired buildings, (if any) and contribution in lieu of rates (if any).
8. Office salaries.
9. Postage and stationery.
10. Petty Cash.
11. Carriage.
12. Depreciation of plant, buildings, and cables.
13. Interest on capital outlay at 5%.
14. A sum to include cost of fire insurance.
15. The amount chargeable to be arrived at for each year as a separate item.

As regards items 5, 12 and 13 (No. see Q9.7012/4/3 Hdqrs. AIF. London, dated 28.1.19) charge to be made in respect of Camp circuits. The Southern Command should consider the question with the AIF. REA representatives, and agree exactly as to where the capital outlay for the distribution of the current in the Camp actually begins, probably from the Transformer House.

The whole question of cancellation of accounts already submitted and the preparation of fresh claims, in accordance with the terms of above letter, are being fully gone into by a representative of this Department with the various Station Engineers concerned, and it is hoped to finalise this subject during the next six weeks.

Sanitary Services.

This service again showed excellent results during the month of December 1918, and further proof of systematic control resultant on the publication of Standing Order No. 5338 dated 8.7.18, e.g.:-

<u>Camp.</u>	<u>December 1917.</u>	<u>December 1918.</u>	<u>Saving,</u>
Westham	£56.16.8	£35.5. 2d.	£21.11.6d.
Monte Video	53.18.6	32.17.8	21.0.10
Littlemoor	36.10.0	27. 1. 8	19. 8. 4d.
Verne Citadel	Not contract.	(Water flush.)	
		<u>Total Saving.</u>	<u>£62. 0. 8d.</u>

The above saving is enhanced by the fact that above Camps were fully occupied during December 1918 against part occupation in December 1917.

Barrack Service Issues.

Owing to the class of Coal being received, and as a result of ex-

periments carried out by the Controller of Coal Mines, it was necessary to inform all Units in the AIF. Depots of the results of such experiments in order that the most economic use would be made of the Coal available; accordingly the following instructions were promulgated in Routine Orders:-

7106. 20/1/19. COAL - Economic Use of.

"Standing Order No. 6256 dated 9.10.18 is cancelled, and the following substituted therefor:-

1. It is pointed out for information of all Units that recent tests of anthracite coal for use in closed Hutment stoves have been carried out by the Controller of Coal Mines with satisfactory results.
2. The result of tests tend to show that fires in round stoves made up of 75% anthracite cobbles, and 25% Bituminous (free-burning) Coal consumes approximately 70 to 80 lbs weekly when burning for eight hours a day as against the present estimate of 125 lbs per week of bituminous coal. Coke and anthracite coal used in the same proportions is also found satisfactory for consumption in Hutments stoves.
3. The following particulars regarding the use of anthracite coal for Hutments stoves are published for information, and compliance, in order that the percentage of free-burning coal available may be used for cooking purposes:-

- (a) Fire should be lit with a small quantity of bituminous coal only, and once the fire is going well, anthracite should be fed gradually as long as the fire is required.
- (b) Only small quantities of anthracite should be fed at a time. This coal is more lasting than bituminous coal, and the same quantities will not be required.
If the fire is made up too heavily, it will take some time to burn up, and the necessary heating will be reduced until the fire is well alight.
- (c) Anthracite does not require much stoking and raking. It is only necessary that ashes are kept clear that sufficient draught may pass through the fire. When breaking large anthracite pieces it should be broken with the point of a hammer, and not with the blunt head, because anthracite is brittle, and is apt to break too small coal. Care must be taken that stoves are not choked with small coal.
- (d) In the case of a square stove, swing doors should be closed, thus creating the best draught. When the fire is well alight the door should be opened. Should the fire get very low, it may be necessary to rebuild with two or three pieces of bituminous coal.
- (e) In the case of a rounded stove, the register should be open about three quarters when the fire is commenced, but can be gradually shut down to about one quarter when the fire is alight.
- (f) In every case it is essential that the top opening used for feeding should be kept tightly closed to prevent emission of fumes.
- (g) A mixture of coke and anthracite coal will burn quite freely once the fire is well alight, and give an immense heat. Coke should be used for this purpose.

NOTE. ANTHRACITE COAL IS VERY HARD; OF IRON BLACK COLOUR, AND METALLIC LUSTRE, DOES NOT SOIL THE FINGERS, AND GIVES OUT INTENSE HEAT, WITH VERY LITTLE FLAME OR SMOKE, PROVIDED ATTENTION IS PAID TO ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INCREASED DRAUGHT.

4. Coal and Coke will be issued to Units provided supplies are available in the following proportions:-

Anthracite Coal	50%
Free-burning Coal	25%
Coke	25%

O's. Units will ensure that consumption of coal and coke, as per ration strength, does not exceed the above proportion; also that "free-burning coal" is mainly used for cooking purposes, together with a percentage of anthracite coal.

5. Owing to the decreased output in Coal Mines it is absolutely essential that the most economic use be made of the supplies available. Strict attention will be paid to the consumption of cinders and slack.

6. Any complaints regarding supplies of Fuel will be referred in the first place to O.C., AASC. Detachment, in the district, who will take immediate action to remedy the matter, and report the delay of such action to A.D. of S. & T., this Headquarters, with least delay."

Paillasse Straw.

On 27th Novr. 1918 a copy of War Office letter No. Finance/1460 (Q.M.G.F.) dated 18.11.18 was received from British Officer in charge Barracks, Tidworth, which states that Paillasse Straw would be regarded as bedding, and issued free, but as to the date to which such free issue would be made retrospective was not stated. The matter was referred to Headquarters, Southern Command, for a decision, who ruled that such "free issue" would date from 18.11.18 (date of W/O letter).

This decision was not accepted, and on the matter being referred to War Office, a ruling was given that all previous issues would be treated as free.

As a result, the following amounts are recoverable from British Authorities for Paillasse Straw issued to AIF. in districts named:-

Summary.

Grantham	£20. 7. 1d.
Brightlingsea	3. 6. 6½d
Clifton	4.10. 6d.
Fovant	1422. 18. 7½d.
Bulford	10. 19. 0d.
Warminster	812. 14. 2d.
Tidworth	856. 15. 10d.
Codford	434. 10. 9d.
Wareham	211. 2. 3d.
Bovington	53. 17. 2½d
Littlemoor	75. 1. 6d.
Westham	83. 7. 9d.
Verne Citadel	59. 5. 10d.
Monte Video	44. 14. 5d.
Stowlangtoft	16. 1d.
Lark Hill	589. 18. 2½d
Longmoor	3. 11. 5d.

Total amount recoverable = £4687. 17. 1¾d.

Arrangements have been made with the Chief Paymaster, AIF. to render a claim on the British Authorities for the above amount.

2. S U P P L I E S .

Hospital Contracts, Weymouth.

During the month a great deal of trouble has been experienced with contracts to the Hospital at Weymouth, owing to the alterations by the O.C., Portsmouth Area, from previous contractors, who had proved satisfactory, to new contractors who are not conversant with our methods of dealing with such supplies.

O.C., AASC. Detachment, Weymouth, was granted an authority that in all cases where previous contracts had proved satisfactory he could retain such contracts. Instructions forwarded in this Office letter S/1554 dated 5th January 1919.

Parkhouse Extension Hospital.

Instructions received from A.D.M.S. Headquarters (ref. CR.AIF. 50041/244/52 M.S. dated 6th January) that from 1st February the above Hospital should be dieted in accordance with A.C.I. 1186 of 1918.

Contracts were arranged during the month in preparation for the opening of this Hospital on 31st January.

Hay.

In continuation of my December Diary, the additional quantity of Hay has been drawn from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, by O.C., AASC. Detachment, Warminster, and issued to Units in this Command.

The total quantity of Hay underdrawn being 59,435 lbs. These are the final figures for these transactions, a receipt being given for the full quantity to No. 1 Command; also certification that the quantity and value of same be placed to the credit of the Regimental Funds.

The O.C., A.A.S.C. Detachment at Hurdcott was instructed that he must arrange with the Commandant, No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, to take over the quantity of Hay held by this Command, as from 6th January. Figures will not be available until the transaction has been completed, which will be the end of next month.

Price of Petrol on Repayment.

The price of Petrol on repayment was revised in A.C.I. No. 20 of 1919 dated 5.1.19, as under:-

" Petrol on repayment, rates chargeable.

Owing to the fluctuations in the cost of imported petrol that have occurred since the publication of A.C.I. 1281 of 1918, that instruction is hereby cancelled, and the following substituted:-

Prices.

1. The rates and conditions laid down in A.C.I's. 1963 and 2247 of 1916 will apply in the case of all issues of Petrol on repayment actually made up to 9th Decr. 1918 inclusive.

2. The following new rates will take effect from the dates stated:-

(a). From 10th Decr. 1918 inclusive -

War Spirit No. 1	3/1d per gallon.
do No. 2	3/- "
do No. 3	2/11d "

(b) From 1st Jany. 1919 inclusive -

War Spirit No. 1	2/9½d per gallon.
do. No. 2	2/8½ " "
do. No. 3	2/7½d " "

(c) The rates will be increased by 1d per gall. for all deliveries made in Scotland and Ireland.

NOTE - Except in very special circumstances, when W.O. authority will be obtained, first grade petrol will not be issued on repayment.

3. EXCEPTION. The rates given under para. 2 above may be reduced by 6d per gallon for repayment issues to privately owned Motor vehicles for ambulance work, in respect of which issues on repayment under War Office letter, 83/2251 (Q.M.G.6) of 27th May 1916 are allowed by Command Headquarters.

4. Unreturned cans will be charged for at 2/- each.

5. Without special authority, issues on repayment will not be made except for the performance of journeys of a military nature, for which public conveyance is not available.

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A certificate signed by the O.C. or head of the Department, to the effect that such travelling is essential for the public service, will accompany each demand."

Price of Petrol - Contracts.

This price was revised during the month also (Contracts O/4690 D.C.I.S. dated 2nd January 1919, as follows:-

" Sir,

I am directed to inform you that under an agreement between His Majesty's Government and the six principal Petroleum Companies (importing) it has been arranged that all supplies of mechanical transport Spirit required for Government purposes in the United Kingdom shall be taken from the participating Companies in the Pool Board at the following rates, which are inclusive of 6d duty:-

From 1st Decr. 1918 to 31st Decr. 1918:-

No. 1 War Spirit in cans	3/2d per gallon.
No. 2 do do	3/1d "
No. 3 do do	3/- "

From 1st January 1919 until further notice:-

No. 1 War Spirit in cans	2/10½ per gallon
No. 2 do do	2/9½ "
No. 3 do do	2/8½ "

For delivery in steel barrels 1d per gall. less than the can price. For delivery in bulk 1½d per gall. less than the can price. For the whole of Ireland and the whole of Scotland 1d per gall. to be added to the above prices.

Supplies for the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry are subject to a rebate of 1d per gall. from the above prices.

Packages are to be charged for at the following prices, and to be allowed for in full when returned in good condition.

2 gallon cans	2/- (two shillings each).
cases.	4/- (four shillings each).
40 or 50 gall. steel barrels	50/- (fifty shillings each), except Anglo-American Oil Coy.Ltd. vide Circular dated 12.12.18.No.Conts. 04690.

The Pool Board Firms handling Petrol are as follows:-

Anglo-American Oil Coy.Ltd.
Asiatic Petroleum Coy. Ltd.(Thro' Shell Marketing Coy.)
Bowring Petroleum Coy. Ltd.
" Union Petroleum Products Coy. Ltd. "

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Quotas Marching in from France.

The question of dealing with quotas marching in from France has received careful attention, arrangements being completed with British A.S.C. in Fovant, Tidworth, Warminster, Codford and Weymouth area, that supplementary demands for supplies should be met with as little delay as possible. O.C., AASC. Wilton, was interviewed regarding this matter, and has guaranteed that all our demands will be met without any chance of delay, all Supply Depots being instructed to hold a surplus in case of emergency.

2. MECHANICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Personnel

Quality of Supplies.

Forage was very good, showing a considerable improvement on previous months.

The Meat which we are receiving is frozen beef and mutton, chiefly from Argentine and Australia, the quality being exceptionally good.

Bread - A still further improvement is noticeable, the bread being much whiter, and consequently much more palatable.

3. MECHANICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.

The only changes in personnel for the month are "B" and "C" class men marched out to Weymouth for return to Australia, and "A" class men have been attached to replace same.

Workshop Overhaul.

The following vehicles are in the workshop awaiting parts, etc. -

Lorries	-	4
Touring Cars	-	6
Ambulances	-	3

Cycle Workshop.

Cycle and side-car combinations undergoing repairs - 3.

Accidents.

There have fortunately been no accidents of a serious nature during the month.

Roads.

There has been little or no alteration in the condition of the roads.

Mileage.

The mileage for the past month (period of 5 weeks) is as follows:-

Covers	-	30
Tubes	-	2
Petrol	-	5679
Mileage	-	101803

Bhurtpore Barracks,
Tidworth. 28.2.19.

Asquith
Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T.
Headquarters, AIF. Depots in U. K.

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Copy
WAR DIARY.

For the Month of January 1919.

A. D. of S. & T. BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, A.I.F. DEPOTS IN U.K.

PERSONNEL.

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"CR. AIF. 42379/ST/16.

" Owing to the extreme shortage of AASC. Personnel, and the great difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable men from other arms of the Service, it is strongly recommended that, except in special cases, no AASC. Personnel be returned to Australia for the present, but they should be retained for service with the various AASC. Units in U.K.

The amount of AASC. work in U.K. has not decreased, and if the present Units are further reduced in strength, serious difficulties will occur in the supply and transport arrangements now in existence.

Further, it is also recommended that upon discharge from Hospital of all AASC. Units in U.K., such personnel be returned direct to their own Units, and not to Command Depots; or failing that, to be marched out to their own Units immediately upon reporting to a Command Depot from Hospital.

In regard to men who desire early repatriation, these cases could be contingent upon sufficient suitable personnel being obtained from other Units to relieve them.

It is also recommended that the above principle be adopted by the Units in the Field, because of the fact that sufficient reinforcements would not be available at this end to replace those relieved."

"Tidworth. 16.1.19.

(Sgd.) Alfred Moon, Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T. "

As the matter was urgent a further letter, as follows, was submitted to "A" Branch, AIF. Depots in U.K.:-

"

CR.AIF.42379/ST/16.

With further reference to this Office letter dated 16th inst. relative to the proposed retention in U.K. of AASC. Personnel.

The position in connection with the shortage of such personnel for duty in the Training Depot and Detachments is becoming acute, particularly as drafts of casualties are being marched out to concentration Depots for return to Australia.

Pending a ruling being received, as requested in my above referred to minute, could approval be given, please, for such AASC. Personnel to be retained in the meantime; or, failing that, to call for volunteers from men who are not anxious to return to Australia immediately, and then by selection."

(Sgd.)

Alfred Moon, Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T."

"Tidworth. 28.1.19.

In answer to these communications the following reply was received from the G.O.C., AIF. Depots in U.K.:-

" Pending decision from Headquarters, AIF., Yes, if "A" Class. If not "A" class to stay in Command Depots till "A" class, and meantime not to be put on boat-rolls or discharged in U.K. notwithstanding approval for discharge."

"31.1.19.

(Sgd.) J.W.M."

A.A.S.C. Detachment, Codford.

Owing to the move of the 2nd Training Brigade, from Fovant to Codford, it became imperative that an AASC. Detachment be formed at the latter place, and upon approval being obtained for such formation, steps were immediately taken, and the Detachment was formed. Instructions were issued for stores, animals, &c. to be drawn, and indents were submitted accordingly.

SUMMARY.

Personnel:

Transport -	40	
Supply -	8	48
Vehicles -		17
Animals -		42

Repatriation and Demobilisation.

Four other Ranks attached to this Staff made application for early repatriation, and one made application for discharge in U.K.

Christmas & New Year Leave.

In accordance with Special Order No. 6813, dated 6.12.18, 12 days special Xmas. or New Year's Leave was granted to each member of the Staff.

1. BARRACK SERVICES.

Water Service.

This Service was very satisfactory during the month, and the following comparative statements are submitted in support:-

(a)

Average Daily Consumption.

District.	December 1918:	January 1919.
Codford.	16.8 gallons	13.7 gallons
Sutton Veny	12.5 "	13.7 "
Longbridge Deverill		
Warminster		
Heytesbury		

(b).

Camp.	January 1918.	January 1919.	Saving.
Westham	863,930 galls.	712,900 galls.	151,030 galls.
Monte Video	890,730 "	780,880 "	109,850 "
Verne Citadel	789,360 "	508,100 "	281,260 "
Littlemoor.	919,350 "	382,000 "	537,350 "
Total.			1,079,490 galls.

1,079,490 galls. at 6d. per 1000 galls. - £26.19.9d.

Electric Lighting.

Good results continue in the control of this Service, and the following comparative statement for No. 2 Command Depot is an example:-

Camp.	Jan. 1918.	Jan. 1919.	Decrease.	Increase.
Westham	4778 Units	3224 Units	1554	
Monte Video	3505 "	3119 "	386	
Littlemoor	2757 "	3043 "		286
Verne Citadel	2837 "	2700 "	137	

The increased consumption at Littlemoor Camp is due to Camp Hospital, and is entirely satisfactory.

As stated in War Diary for December '18, a Conference was held at War Office to discuss the method of charge per current previous to installation of meters. The points agreed upon have now been confirmed, and the following subjoined reply received from War Office is self-explanatory of the result obtained:-

"15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.)

War Office,
London. S.W.1. 21.1.1919.

Sir,

With reference to the question of charges for Electric current supplied to the A.I.F. on Salisbury Plain (your reference number Qa. 7012/4/3 dated 15.10.18) and to the subsequent discussion at this Office, I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Major-General i/c Administration, Southern Command, Salisbury, on the subject, which, it is hoped, will lead the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

In regard to the question of depreciation, item 12 in the Schedule attached to War Office letter to the Command, I am to say that the War Office rates are as shown on statement "A" attached to this letter.

At the discussion at this Office, mention was made of the proportion of the cost of lighting of Regimental Institutes to be borne by the A.I.F., and a suggestion was made that the A.I.F. could accept no charge until they were satisfied as to the disposal of profits of the N.A.C.B.

It would appear that Australian Units, like others, will have received the usual rebate on their Canteen transactions with the N.A.C.B., and as the Aust. troops have benefited from the light provided in that portion of the Regimental Institutes, for which the N.A.C.B. is not liable, it is hoped that the position can now be accepted that the A.I.F. should bear the cost of light supplied to such portions of the Regimental Institutes premises in the same manner that Imperial funds bear such charges in respect of Regimental Institute premises occupied by Imperial Units.

To Commandant,

Admin. Hdqrs. A.I.F.,

" London. S.W.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) T. HARTLAND.

"For the Assistant Financial Secretary."

(Copy).

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.).

21st Jan. 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your CA. SC.No.212905 (B) dated Novr. 9th, and in continuation of War Office letter numbered as above, dated 29th Novr., I am directed to inform you that the question of the charge for the supply of electric light to the A.I.F. at Camps in the Southern Command was discussed at a recent meeting with the representatives of the Administratives Hdqrs. A.I.F.

It was agreed that for periods prior to the installation of meters the method adopted for the calculation of the charge for electric current supplied to A.I.F. Camps from War Department Power Stations appeared to lead to a charge considerably in excess of cost. It was agreed, therefore, that all claims presented in respect of current supplied from War Department Power Stations for periods prior to the installations of meters at the Camps occupied by the A.I.F. should be withdrawn, and any payment made by A.I.F. be regarded as "on account" towards meeting the revised claims.

For the purpose of assessing the revised claims, it was agreed that the cost of production should be ascertained at each individual Power Station supplying the current, and that after deducting current supplied to consumers other than troops, a share of the cost of the remainder for the period should be charged to A.I.F. proportionately to the Camp accommodation in their occupation supplied from the particular Power Stn. From the date of the installation of meters the current should be charged at the cost as shown by the account for the last completed year by account period.

The cost of production and price per Unit, which, for the purpose of charge against the A.I.F. should exclude any charge in respect of military labour, and should be calculated on the basis indicated on attached schedule marked "A".

I am to ask that you will now give instructions for the revision of the claims to be taken in hand as early as possible, and that in adjusting these, you will permit an authorised representative of A.I.F. to have access to the records and satisfy himself that the method of assessment is in accordance with that discussed at the meeting.

It was suggested by the A.I.F. representative that in the assessment of charges for electric light against H.A.C.B. under A.C.I. 1865 1917, it had been the practice in some instances in the Southern Command to charge H.A.C.B. a quarter of cost of light supplied to that portion of the Regimental Institute premises actually in occupation of H.A.C.B. for trading purposes. The intention of the A.C.I. was that where no separate Meter record was available of the light consumed in such portion of the premises, the H.A.C.B. should be charged for one quarter of the lights supplied to the Regimental Institutes as a whole, and it would appear, therefore, that if calculation has been made, as suggested, a considerable undercharge has been made against H.A.C.B. As regards the remaining three quarters of the light used in Regimental Institutes occupied by A.I.F. troops, it is considered that this is properly chargeable to Austn. funds, but further communication will be addressed to you as to this.

It is suggested that any difficulties as regards charges for water supplied to A.I.F. Camps should be settled by the calculation of cost on the lines set out above for electric current, and I am to ask your view on the point.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) T. Hartland.

Major-General i/c.,

Administration,

" Southern Command, Salisbury.

for the Assistant Financial Secretary."

(Copy.)

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.)

Schedule "A".

Depreciation charged War Department Electric Power Stations.

Per Annum.

- 20% on tools, implements &c.
- 10% " machinery, switch gear, & accumulators (Small Station).
- 7 1/2% " do do do (large Station)
- 5% " cables and mains.
- 5% " stone and brick buildings.
- 10% " light brick buildings.

15% on wooden huts.

These rates to be charged on the original cost price and not on the diminished values.

Copy.

15/Misc./8001 (Q.M.G.F.) S.

Schedule A.

Charges for electric current supplied by W.D. Generating Stns. to A.I.F. in the Southern Command, based on cost of production at the Stations.

The following items to be chargeable:-

1. Fuels
2. Water
3. Labour and insurance of civilian labour (Military labour to be omitted).
4. Engine rooms, stores, including A.O.D. and R.E. stores at the actual (up-to-date) cost thereof.
5. Repairs and maintenance.
6. Engineers salaries and expenses including payment of travelling and supervising Engineers expenses, and salary.
7. Rent of hired buildings, (if any) and contribution in lieu of rates (if any).
8. Office salaries.
9. Postage and stationery.
10. Petty Cash.
11. Carriage.
12. Depreciation of plant, buildings, and cables.
13. Interest on capital outlay at 5%.
14. A sum to include cost of fire insurance.
15. The amount chargeable to be arrived at for each year as a separate item.

As regards items 5, 12 and 13 (No. see Q9.7012/4/3 Hdqrs. AIF. London, dated 28.1.19) charge to be made in respect of Camp circuits. The Southern Command should consider the question with the AIF. RE presentatives, and agree exactly as to where the capital outlay for the distribution of the current in the Camp actually begins, probably from the Transformer House.

The whole question of cancellation of accounts already submitted and the preparation of fresh claims, in accordance with the terms of above letter, are being fully gone into by a representative of this Department with the various Station Engineers concerned, and it is hoped to finalise this subject during the next six weeks.

Sanitary Services.

This service again showed excellent results during the month of December 1918, and further proof of systematic control resultant on the publication of Standing Order No. 5338 dated 8.7.18, e.g.:-

<u>Camp.</u>	<u>December 1917.</u>	<u>December 1918.</u>	<u>Saving.</u>
Westham	£56.16.8	£35.5. 2d.	£21.11.6d.
Monte Video	53.18.6	32.17.8	21.0.10
Littlemoor	36.10.0	27. 1. 8	19. 8. 4d.
Verne Citadel	Not contract.	(Water flush.)	
		<u>Total Saving.</u>	<u>£62. 0. 8d.</u>

The above saving is enhanced by the fact that above Camps were fully occupied during December 1918 against part occupation in December 1917.

Barrack Service Issues.

Owing to the class of Coal being received, and as a result of ex-

periments carried out by the Controller of Coal Mines, it was necessary to inform all Units in the AIF. Depots of the results of such experiments in order that the most economic use would be made of the Coal available; accordingly the following instructions were promulgated in Routine Orders:-

7106. 20/1/19. COAL - Economic Use of.

"Standing Order No. 6256 dated 9.10.18 is cancelled, and the following substituted therefor:-

1. It is pointed out for information of all Units that recent tests of anthracite coal for use in closed Hutment stoves have been carried out by the Controller of Coal Mines with satisfactory results.
2. The result of tests tend to show that fires in round stoves made up of 75% anthracite cobbles, and 25% Bituminous (free-burning) Coal consumes approximately 70 to 80 lbs weekly when burning for eight hours a day as against the present estimate of 125 lbs per week of bituminous coal. Coke and anthracite coal used in the same proportions is also found satisfactory for consumption in Hutments stoves.
3. The following particulars regarding the use of anthracite coal for Hutments stoves are published for information, and compliance, in order that the percentage of free-burning coal available may be used for cooking purposes:-

- (a) Fire should be lit with a small quantity of bituminous coal only, and once the fire is going well, anthracite should be fed gradually as long as the fire is required.
- (b) Only small quantities of anthracite should be fed at a time. This coal is more lasting than bituminous coal, and the same quantities will not be required.
If the fire is made up too heavily, it will take some time to burn up, and the necessary heating will be reduced until the fire is well alight.
- (c) Anthracite does not require much stoking and raking. It is only necessary that ashes are kept clear that sufficient draught may pass through the fire. When breaking large anthracite pieces it should be broken with the point of a hammer, and not with the blunt head, because anthracite is brittle, and is apt to break too small coal. Care must be taken that stoves are not choked with small coal.
- (d) In the case of a square stove, swing doors should be closed, thus creating the best draught. When the fire is well alight the door should be opened. Should the fire get very low, it may be necessary to rebuild with two or three pieces of bituminous coal.
- (e) In the case of a rounded stove, the register should be open about three quarters when the fire is commenced, but can be gradually shut down to about one quarter when the fire is alight.
- (f) In every case it is essential that the top opening used for feeding should be kept tightly closed to prevent emission of fumes.
- (g) A mixture of coke and anthracite coal will burn quite freely once the fire is well alight, and give an immense heat. Coke should be used for this purpose.

NOTE. ANTHRACITE COAL IS VERY HARD; OF IRON BLACK COLOUR, AND METALLIC LUSTRE, DOES NOT SOIL THE FINGERS, AND GIVES OUT INTENSE HEAT, WITH VERY LITTLE FLAME OR SMOKE, PROVIDED ATTENTION IS PAID TO ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INCREASED DRAUGHT.

4. Coal and Coke will be issued to Units provided supplies are available in the following proportions:-

Anthracite Coal	50%
Free-burning Coal	25%
Coke	25%

O's. Units will ensure that consumption of coal and coke, as per ration strength, does not exceed the above proportion; also that "free-burning coal" is mainly used for cooking purposes, together with a percentage of anthracite coal.

5. Owing to the decreased output in Coal Mines it is absolutely essential that the most economic use be made of the supplies available. Strict attention will be paid to the consumption of cinders and slack.

6. Any complaints regarding supplies of Fuel will be referred in the first place to O.C., AASC. Detachment, in the district, who will take immediate action to remedy the matter, and report the delay of such action to A.D. of S. & T., this Headquarters, with least delay."

Paillasse Straw.

On 27th Novr. 1918 a copy of War Office letter No. Finance/1460 (Q.M.G.F.) dated 18.11.18 was received from British Officer in charge Barracks, Tidworth, which states that Paillasse Straw would be regarded as bedding, and issued free, but as to the date to which such free issue would be made retrospective was not stated. The matter was referred to Headquarters, Southern Command, for a decision, who ruled that such "free issue" would date from 18.11.18 (date of W/O letter).

This decision was not accepted, and on the matter being referred to War Office, a ruling was given that all previous issues would be treated as free.

As a result, the following amounts are recoverable from British Authorities for Paillasse Straw issued to AIF. in districts named:-

Summary.

Grantham	£20. 7. 1d.
Brightlingsea	3. 6. 6 ¹ / ₂ d
Clifton	4.10. 6d.
Fovant	1422. 18. 7 ¹ / ₂ d.
Bulford	10. 19. 0d.
Warminster	812. 14. 2d.
Tidworth	856. 15. 10d.
Codford	434. 10. 9d.
Wareham	211. 2. 3d.
Bovington	53. 17. 2 ¹ / ₂ d
Littlemoor	75. 1. 6d.
Westham	83. 7. 9d.
Verne Citadel	59. 5. 10d.
Monte Video	44. 14. 5d.
Stowlangtoft	16. 1d.
Lark Hill	589. 18. 2 ¹ / ₂ d
Longmoor	3. 11. 5d.

Total amount recoverable - £4687. 17. 1³/₄d.

Arrangements have been made with the Chief Paymaster, AIF. to render a claim on the British Authorities for the above amount.

2. S U P P L I E S .

Hospital Contracts, Weymouth.

During the month a great deal of trouble has been experienced with contracts to the Hospital at Weymouth, owing to the alterations by the O.C., Portsmouth Area, from previous contractors, who had proved satisfactory, to new contractors who are not conversant with our methods of dealing with such supplies.

O.C., AASC. Detachment, Weymouth, was granted an authority that in all cases where previous contracts had proved satisfactory he could retain such contracts. Instructions forwarded in this Office letter S/1554 dated 5th January 1919.

Parkhouse Extension Hospital.

Instructions received from A.D.M.S. Headquarters (ref. CR.AIF. 50041/244/52 M.S. dated 6th January) that from 1st February the above Hospital should be dieted in accordance with A.C.I. 1186 of 1918.

Contracts were arranged during the month in preparation for the opening of this Hospital on 31st January.

Hay.

In continuation of my December Diary, the additional quantity of Hay has been drawn from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, by O.C., AASC. Detachment, Warminster, and issued to Units in this Command.

The total quantity of Hay underdrawn being 59, 435 lbs. These are the final figures for these transactions, a receipt being given for the full quantity to No. 1 Command; also certification that the quantity and value of same be placed to the credit of the Regimental Funds.

The O.C., A.A.S.C. Detachment at Hurdcott was instructed that he must arrange with the Commandant, No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, to take over the quantity of Hay held by this Command, as from 6th January. Figures will not be available until the transaction has been completed, which will be the end of next month.

Price of Petrol on Repayment.

The price of Petrol on repayment was revised in A.C.I. No. 20 of 1919 dated 5.1.19, as under:-

" Petrol on repayment, rates chargeable.

Owing to the fluctuations in the cost of imported petrol that have occurred since the publication of A.C.I. 1281 of 1918, that instruction is hereby cancelled, and the following substituted:-

Prices.

1. The rates and conditions laid down in A.C.I's. 1963 and 2247 of 1916 will apply in the case of all issues of Petrol on repayment actually made up to 9th Decr. 1918 inclusive.

2. The following new rates will take effect from the dates stated:-

(a). From 10th Decr. 1918 inclusive -

War Spirit No. 1	3/1d per gallon.
do No. 2	3/- "
do No. 3	2/11d "

(b) From 1st Jany. 1919 inclusive -

War Spirit No. 1	2/9½d per gallon.
do. No. 2	2/8½d "
do. No. 3	2/7½d "

(c) The rates will be increased by 1d per gall. for all deliveries made in Scotland and Ireland.

NOTE - Except in very special circumstances, when W.O. authority will be obtained, first grade petrol will not be issued on repayment.

3. EXCEPTION. The rates given under para. 2 above may be reduced by 6d per gallon for repayment issues to privately owned Motor vehicles for ambulance work, in respect of which issues on repayment under War Office letter, 83/2251 (Q.M.G.6) of 27th May 1916 are allowed by Command Headquarters.

4. Unreturned cans will be charged for at 2/- each.

5. Without special authority, issues on repayment will not be made except for the performance of journeys of a military nature, for which public conveyance is not available.

The Meat which we are receiving is frozen beef and mutton, chiefly from Argentine and Australia, the quality being exceptionally good.

Bread - A still further improvement is noticeable, the bread being much whiter, and consequently much more palatable.

3. MECHANICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.

The only changes in personnel for the month are "B" and "C" class men marched out to Weymouth for return to Australia, and "A" class men have been attached to replace same.

Workshop Overhaul.

The following vehicles are in the workshop awaiting parts, etc. -

Lorries	-	4
Touring Cars	-	6
Ambulances	-	3

Cycle Workshop.

Cycle and side-car combinations undergoing repairs - 3.

Accidents.

There have fortunately been no accidents of a serious nature during the month.

Roads.

There has been little or no alteration in the condition of the roads.

Mileage.

The mileage for the past month (period of 5 weeks) is as follows:-

Covers	-	30
Tubes	-	2
Petrol	-	5679
Mileage	-	101803

Bhurtpore Barracks,
Tidworth. 28.2.19.

Asquith
Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T.
Headquarters, AIF. Depots in U. K.