

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/68/23

Title: Q Staff, Headquarters AIF Depots in
UK

February 1919



AWM4-1/68/23

WAR DIARY.



434

A.Q.M.G.'s DEPARTMENT.

HEADQUARTERS, A.I.F. DEPOTS in the U. K.

	Jany.	1919 Feby.
1. Number of new Q.I. Forms created.	25	20
2. Value of Clothing & Necessaries issued to A.I.F. Depots Troops, Approx.	£ 81529	£ 90906
3. Value of Clothing, etc., returned to Ordnance, repaired and re-issued	£ 6984	£ 7183
4. Cost of Repairs.	£ 252	£ 128
5. Value of Issues to Reinforcements	Nil	Nil
6. Amount collected on Acq. Rolls for articles lost or destroyed by neglect of individuals	£ 1275	£ 1085
7. Balance of (2), being cost of providing Oct. 1250, Nov. 1251 , men on return from Front as casualties with new issues.	Nil	Nil
8. Value of Training Stores issued	£ 42682	£ 29147
9. Value collected for damages (Rifles, Cycles etc) other than fair wear and tear ...	11/4d	£ 2.14.0
10. Number of Indents checked and approved ..	477	497
11. Number of Board Proceedings -de- ...	75	45
12. Percentage of Board Proceedings referred back to convenor with unjustifiable findings	5	5
<u>RATIONS & SUPPLIES.</u>		
13. Total number of rations for which claims have been received	925751	813948
<u>BARRACK SERVICES.</u>		
14. Number of Barrack Warden reports received and investigated	20	26
15. Total claims for Barrack Damages received from Southern Command Paymaster approved and passed to S.P.M. for collection ...	214	789
16. Total amount collected by S.P.M. ...	£ 83.	£ 401.
17. Balance, representing amounts in dispute, settlement of which is having attention.	£ 131.	£ 388.
18. Amounts collected in respect of previous periods.	£ 297.	£ 164.

(Contd.)

434

-2-



Jany.

Feby.

ANIMALS.

19.	Total number received, treated and evacuated (approx.) at Parkhouse.	Nil.	Nil.
20.	Number on charge.	287	248
21.	Number evacuated.	1	39
22.	Number of deaths	-	-

CYCLE REPAIR SHOP.

23.	Number of Cycles on charge to Units.	269	269
-----	--------------------------------------	-----	-----

CORRESPONDENCE and RETURNS.

24.	Inward.	1814	1750
25.	Outward.	1987	1791
26.	<u>Returns, Total & Periods.</u>		
	DAILY.	1	1
	WEEKLY.	5	5
	FORTNIGHTLY.	3	3
	MONTHLY.	13	10
	QUARTERLY.	1	1

George Hall
 LIEUT. COLONEL
 A. Q. M. G.

28th February, 1919.

UNIT	CAMPS & LOCATION	CAPACITY ALLOWING FOR MISAPPROPR'N.	RATION STRENGTH	TOTAL STRENGTH
<u>BHURTPORE BARRACKS</u>				
Headquarters & Attachments	TIDWORTH	800	983	1807
<u>SUTTON VENNY</u>				
1st Training Brigade	3 and 4	2000	1328	2019
<u>CODFORD</u>				
2nd Training Brigade A.A.O.C.	3,4,6,7,8,15. 5.	6000	3786 121	5830 126
<u>HURDCOTT</u>				
3rd Training Brigade No. 2 G.C. Hospital	5, 6, 7. Cyclists.	3000 200	1388 86	2366 81
<u>LONGERIDGE DEVERILL</u>				
Overseas Trng. Bgde.	11,12,13,14,15.	4500	3711	3967
<u>HEYTESBURY</u>				
RoB.A.A.	1,2,3,4 & DAC.	2250	995	2122
<u>SUTTON VENNY</u>				
No. 1 Command Depot No. 1 G.C. Hospital	2,5,6,7,8,9,10, RE. Cyclists	7500 250	5752 76	6737 77
<u>NO. 2 COMMAND DEPOT</u>				
"A" Sub-Depot	Monte Video	2130	2027	2290
"B" do.	Westham	2100	1620	1745
"C" do.	Verne Citadel	1100	1075	1168
"D" do.	Littlemoor	1975	1641	1755
		7305	6363	6956
<u>HURDCOTT</u>				
No. 4 Command Depot Concentration Camp	10 and 11 8, 9, 12.	2000) 2710)	3559	3999
<u>PARKHOUSE</u>				
Convalescent T.D.	Camp No. 1	1000	1157	1111
Machine Gun T.D.	do. 3	1000	1063	1105
A.A.S.C. T.D.	do. 4)		819	594
A.A.V.C.	do. 4)			
Devons	do. 4			9
Various	do. 4			65
		2000	819	668
1st A.D.H. Extension	do. 2			
A.A.M.C. Trng. Depot	Fovant	800	454	463
A.I.F. Canteens	Salisbury	Billets	8	8
Heavy Art. Trng. Depot	St. Budeaux.	300	20	21
A.R.O.D. Depot	Longmoor	100	15	16
Fld. Engrs.	Brightlingsea	Billets	32	35
Sig. Engrs.	Clifton Beds	Billets	25	26
1st A.D. Hospital	Bulford (Camp Staff (Other Ranks)	200 1400	406 a.	503
<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>45315</u>	<u>32147</u>	<u>40043</u>

"a" includes Guard attached.

A.A.S.C. DETACHMENTS.

Warminster	North Camp	128
Hardcott	No. 12 Camp	79
Weymouth	Westham Camp	27
Bhurt pore	Detachment	2
do.	A.D.of.S.&.T.	39
do.	A.M.T.S.	56
Sutton Veny	No. 1 Group	1
do.	1st T.B.	1
Chelsea	A.M.T.S.	4
Tidworth	Hdqrs. A.I.F.	16
Deverill	O.T.B.	1
Brightlingsea	A.E.T.D.	2
Clifton Beds	do.	1
Lewes		1
St. Budeaux.		1
Weymouth		2
Heytesbury	Detachment	40

		401
		====

BHURTPORE BARRACKS?
 TIDWORTH, 4th Feb. 1919.
 GeW.

George Hall
 LIEUT. COLONEL
 A. Q. M. G.

A. Q. M. G. DEPT.

CAMP ACCOMMODATION RETURN

TIDWORTH

24th January, 1919.

UNIT	CAMPS & LOCATION	CAPACITY ALLOWING LINE FOR MISAPPROPR'N	RATION STRGTH.	TOTAL STRENGTH
<u>BHURTPORE BARRACKS TIDWORTH</u>				
Headquarters & Attachments	)		673	951
A.M.T.S.	)		89	115
Aust. Provost Corps	)		<u>103</u>	<u>474</u>
		800	865	1540
<u>1st TRAINING BRIGADE SUTTON VENY</u>				
1st Trng. Bn.)			1261	1229
Pioneer T.B.)	3 and 4.		185	217
Headquarters)				<u>74</u>
		2000	1446	1520
<u>2nd TRAINING BRIGADE CODFORD</u>				
5th Trng. Bn.	7 and 8	2000	742	889
9th do.	6	1000	423	602
Headquarters				<u>50</u>
		3000	1165	1541
Concentration Camp	15.	1000	962	995
A.A.O.C.	5		139	133
<u>3rd TRAINING BRIGADE HURDCOTT</u>				
12th Trng. Bn.	7	1000	443	776
14th Trng. Bn.	5 and 6	2000	678	758
Headquarters				<u>57</u>
		3000	1121	1591
No. 2 G.C. Hospital	Cyclists	200	71	90
<u>OVERSEAS TRNG. BGDE. LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL</u>				
Overseas Trng. Bgde.	11, 12, 13, 14, 15.	4500	3152	3848
<u>R.B.A.A. HEYTESBURY</u>				
"1914-15" Personnel	1, 2, 3, 4 & DAC.	2250	1574 (a)	576 1269
<u>NO. 1 COMMAND DEPOT SUTTON VENY</u>				
No. 1 Command Depot	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, RE.	7500	5452	7313
No. 1 G.C. Hospital	Cyclists	250	69	69
<u>NO. 2 COMMAND DEPOT WEYMOUTH</u>				
"A" Sub-Depot	Monte Video	2130	1616	1920
"B" do.	Westham	2100	2300	2404
"C" do.	Verne Citadel	1100	1094	1223
"D" do.	Littlemoor	<u>1975</u>	<u>1737</u>	<u>1979</u>
		7305	6749	7526
<u>NO. 4 COMMAND DEPOT HURDCOTT</u>				
No. 4 Command Depot	10 and 11.	2000	499	603
Concentration Camp	8, 9, 12.	2710		
<u>CARRIED FORWARD</u>		36515	23264	28614

UNIT	CAMPS & LOCATION	CAPACITY ALLOWING FOR MISAPPROPR'N.	RATION STRENGTH	TOTAL STRENGTH
<u>BROUGHT FORWARD</u>		36515	23264	28614
<u>PARKHOUSE</u>				
Convalescent T.D.	Camp. No. 1	1000	895	910
Machine Gun Trng. Depot	do. 3	1000	195	283
			67	68
A.A.S.C. T.D.	)		943	738
A.A.V.C.	)			26
Devons	)			11
Various	)			23
No. 2 Camp	do. 4) do. 2)	2000	943	798
A.A.M.C. Training Depot	Fovant	800	347	641
A.I.F. Canteens	Salisbury	Billets	8	8
Heavy Art. Trng. Depot	St. Budeaux	300	84	199
A.R.O.D. Depot	Longmoor	100	139	160
Fld. Engrs.	Brightlingsea	Billets	378	410
Sig. Engrs.	Clifton Beds	Billets	98	103
1st A.D. Hospital	Bulford (Camp Staff (Other Ranks	200 1400	377 (B)	442
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>		<u>43315</u>	<u>26795</u>	<u>32536</u>

A.A.S.C. DETACHMENTS

Warminster	North Camp	133
Hurdcott	No. 12 Camp	65
Weymouth	Westham Camp	33
Bhurtapore	Detachment	2
do.	A.D. of S. & T.	29
do.	A.M.T.S.	34
Sutton Veny	No. 1 Group	1
do.	1st T.B.	1
Chelsea	A.M.T.S.	4
Tidworth	Hdqs. A.I.F.	9
Deverill	O.T.B.	2
Brightlingsea	A.E.T.D.	1
Clifton	do.	1
St. Budeaux		2
Weymouth		1
Codford	Detachment	10
Lewes		3
		<u>331</u>

Ray Hall
 LIEUT. COLONEL
 A. Q. M. G.

PIONEER DETACHMENTS.

Tidworth		2
1st Trng. Bgde.		1
1st Trng. Bn. (attd. to Band)		6
A.A.S.C. Warminster		1
do. Parkhouse		8
		<u>18</u>

TIDWORTH "A" includes "1914-15" Personnel.
 26th January, 1919. "B" do. Guard attached.

22473

WAR DIARY.



434

For the Month of February 1919.

A. D. of S. & T. Branch, Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K.

PERSONNEL.

Capt. F. Angel, M.C., 5th Battalion, formerly 1st Australian Divisional Train, was attached for Duty.

There were no other movements affecting the Personnel of the Branch during the month.

A.A.S.C. PERSONNEL - Retention of in U.K.

Approval was received from Headquarters, A.I.F., for the retention in U.K. of all A.A.S.C. Personnel belonging to A.A.S.C. Units in U.K., and also for all casuals from Hospital to be returned to A.A.S.C. Training Depot.

A shortage of all A.A.S.C. Personnel in U.K. still exists, and except in cases of extreme urgency all applications for Early Repatriation, or other Demobilisation applications, are not approved.

The response for applications to transfer to A.A.S.C. Units from other arms of the Service is still very poor.

TRANSPORT.

Difficulty was experienced owing to the shortage of Motor Transport Vehicles, and reciprocal arrangements were made with the British A.S.C., whereby Vehicles were loaned in special cases to carry out urgent duties.

A.A.S.C. DETACHMENT, HEYTESBURY.

The Detachment at Godford was moved to Heytesbury owing to the lack of suitable accommodation at the former place.

During the month the A.D. of S. & T., accompanied by Lieut. Hall, the S.S.O., visited Clifton for the purpose of inspecting the Transport and Supply arrangements, books and stores, all of which were found very satisfactory. Arrangements were made with the British A.S.C. to take back any surplus Stores that might be held when the Detachment closed down.

1. BARRACK SERVICES.

Water Service.

The consumption of Water in districts on Salisbury Plain during February was in excess of that for the preceding month. This was due to "burst pipes" caused by frost, and taking this into consideration, the consumption as a whole is considered satisfactory.

The following statement shows the comparative consumption for January and February 1918:- Average Daily Consumption.

District.	January 1919.	February 1919.
Godford	13.7 gallons	18.00 gallons.
Sutton Veny, Longbridge)	13.7 "	17.46 "
Deverill, Warminster and)		
Heytesbury.)		
Fovant-Hurdcott	14.6 "	16.46 "

From a return received from D.O.R.E., Sutton Veny, it is found that the average consumption for Corton and Boyton districts, where British troops are in sole occupation for the month of February 1919, was 47.3 gallons per head per diem. It will thus be readily seen in comparison that the low average consumption by A.I.F. is highly creditable.

The consumption in Camps of No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, was most satisfactory, as the following will explain:-

Camp.	Consumption.		Decrease.
	January 1919.	February 1919.	
Westham	712,900 galls.	681,230 galls.	31,670 galls.
Monte Video	780,800 "	645,510 "	135,370 "
Verne Citadel	508,100 "	399,400 "	108,700 "
Littlemoor	328,000 "	312,820 "	69,180 "
		<u>Total decrease.</u>	<u>344,920 "</u>

The above decrease in consumption represents a monetary saving to A.I.F. of £8.12. 6d. at 6d per 1000 gallons.

Electric Lighting.

The control of this Service was excellent throughout the month, and the reduced consumption, taking into consideration the reduced "burning hours" is most satisfactory.

Previous to February 1919, the service generally was controlled in A.I.F. Camps by a subordinate staff of "Acting N.C.O's.", who are qualified Electricians, having been tested by District Electrical Engineers, and certified as competent tradesmen.

The duties of A.I.F. Electricians include:-

- (a) Repairs and maintenance of Camp mains and circuits.
- (b) Installation of new lighting points.
- (c) Authorised alterations of existing circuits.
- (d) Supervision of the service generally, in order to ensure that all Regulations issued by Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots, are observed, and no undue waste of current.
- (e) To attend to "break-downs". In this connection these men are called out nightly, very often two and three times.
- (f) Repairs on account of damage to electric circuits, on Units vacating Camps.
- (g) Night inspections at least twice weekly to see that all is in order, and no unauthorised lights burning after hours.

On 2.2.19, an establishment of A.I.F. electricians to supervise electric lighting in A.I.F. Camps was submitted, and subsequently approved by G.O.C., AIF., Vide A.I.F. Order 1550, dated 14.2.19.

This Establishment provides for two temporary Sergeants, and six temporary Corporals. These N.C.O's. are stationed in all districts on Salisbury Plain where A.I.F. Troops are located.

The adjustment of Electric lighting accounts previous to installation of Meters, mentioned in War Diary for January 1919, is well in hand, and a Representative of the Barrack Service Branch is verifying all District Power Station Records in conjunction with the Station Engineer in order to hasten finalisation of all outstanding accounts.

Sanitary Services.

As pointed out in previous War Diaries, Weymouth is the only

Station where Sanitary Services are carried out by private Contract, and the result of systematically controlling this service was again evident during the month of January 1919, as statement will explain:-

Camp.	January 1918.	January 1919.	Saving.
Westham	£54.12. 6d.	£36. 8. 1d.	£18. 4. 5d.
Littlemoor	41.17.11d.	30.18. 4d.	10.19. 7d.
Monte Video	53.18. 6d.	32.16. 3d.	21. 2. 3d.
		<u>Total Saving.</u>	<u>£50. 6. 3d.</u>

No comparison is made between February 1918 and February 1919, as the accounts for the latter month are not yet to hand.

COAL.

Owing to the dearth of Coal supplies, due to "Railway Strike", and decreased output from Coal mines, a serious situation arose, especially in the Warminster District, where some Units had only a day's supply on hand. The matter was taken up by A.D. of S. & T., A.I.F. Depots in U.K., with Southern Command, which resulted in truck Coal being diverted from other Districts, and supplies being made available by Coal Controller to relieve the situation.

Further remedial measures were taken by arranging for the purchase of Fuel wood from the Canadian Forestry Corps to guard against the "general strike of miners" which seemed evident.

It was also considered necessary, in order to conserve available supplies, to reduce the scale of allowances from:-

10 lbs per man per diem for Command Depots, and
8 lbs " " " for other Units,

to - $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs per man per diem for Command Depots, and
 $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs " " " for other Units.

Recommendation in accordance with the foregoing is being submitted to the G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots, for approval.

It is considered that, in reducing the scale of consumption we will be able to build up a sufficient reserve to guard against a general strike of miners, which seems highly probable during the month of March.

CLOSING OF DEPOTS at BRIGHTLINGSEA AND CLIFTON.

On the closing of above Depots, a Representative of Barrack Service Branch visited each place, and finalised all Barrack Service accounts, which necessitated handing over the following quantities of Coal at each Station:-

Brightlingsea - 5 tons to Messrs. Fieldgate & Coy.
Clifton - 12 " to O.C., Royal Engineers, Hitchin.

Receipts were obtained for these quantities, and necessary action taken with the Chief Paymaster, A.I.F. to recover amount due from Messrs. Fieldgate and British Authorities respectively.

All other Barrack Service issues were satisfactorily controlled during the month.

2. S U P P L I E S .

During the month several important alterations have taken place re

the issue of rations.

ALTERATION IN FIELD RATION SCALE.

For several months past considerable dissatisfaction was evinced amongst the Troops in the Command on the meagreness of the ration, and the matter was put before the War Office by the G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots - Major-General The Hon. Sir. J. Whiteside Mc.Cay, K.C.M.G., C.B. V.D. - and after repeated applications were made, an increase in such items as Bread and Meat, Bacon and Sugar, was approved, and came into effect from 15th February 1919 inclusive. This has been highly appreciated by the A.I.F. Troops as well as the British, who have also participated in the successful efforts of the G.O.C.

Since such increase, the Troops all round are much more contented, and complaints as to quantity of food have now vanished. The daily Ration scale is now as follows:-

Bread	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.	Sugar	1 $\frac{5}{7}$ ozs,
Meat	10 ozs.	Tea	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Bacon	3 ozs.	Salt	$\frac{1}{4}$ "

This increase does not apply to boys, who will remain on their present scale. The position re Command Depots is that the 12 ozs. of Meat should still be drawn, and all increases in other commodities would apply to these Commands.

(Authority R.O. No. 7290 of 17.2.1919.)

Flour in lieu of Bread.

The equivalent of Flour in lieu of Bread was increased, the actual quantity now allowed being 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs of Flour.
(War Office Letter No. 53/Ge./1460).

Increase in Bacon Issue to Boys under 19 years of Age.

As from the 22nd February 1919, the issue of Bacon was increased from 2 ozs. to 3 ozs. A copy of War Office Authority No. 53/Eastern/3708 (Q.M.G.6) dated 19th February is attached.

CLOSING DOWN OF ENGINEER TRAINING DEPOT, BRIGHTLINGSEA.

As this Unit had only a small number of men being rationed at this Depot, it was decided to place the remaining Troops on subsistence allowance, which would enable us to close our Supply Account with R.A.S.C., Colchester. The arrangements were approved as from 1st March,

All questions concerning Supply accounts have been closed satisfactorily as far as this Branch is concerned. The advantage derived from this move means a monetary saving to A.I.F. Authorities.

OVER AND UNDERDRAWALS.

This matter is receiving a great deal of attention owing to the adoption of the new Parade States, which make it difficult to reconcile over and underdrawals with the figures set out in the said Parade State.

During the month there has been very careful checking of all Units with a view of ascertaining the effects of the change.

PRICE LIST.

A further list of prices has been published by the War Office dated 7th February No. 121/Supplies/3366 Q.M.G.F. A copy of this list is attached.

The position as regards the Branch, and all Supply matters con-

434
 nected therewith, is very satisfactory. All Concentration Depots are in a position to have all issues placed with the Units in sufficient time to feed all quotas marching in.

QUALITY OF SUPPLIES.

The condition of all commodities is still very satisfactory. The bulk of Beef and Mutton is Queensland and New Zealand.

Forage is also of good quality, Oats being exceptionally good.

3. MECHANICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Workshop.

The following Vehicles are in the Workshop for overhaul and awaiting parts, &c. -

Lorries:-	302 A.	Belsize	-	Overhaul.
	318 A.	Republic	+	do
	703 A.	Dennis	-	Awaiting parts.
	706 A.	Fiat	-	Overhaul.
	713 A.	Overland	-	Awaiting parts.
Touring Cars:-	507 A.	Ford	-	Awaiting parts.
	526 A.	"	-	Overhaul.
	530 A.	Hupmobile	-	Awaiting parts.
	531 A.	Mett.	-	do.
	539 A.	Ford	-	Overhaul.
Ambulances:-	206 A.	G.M.C.	-	do
	603 A.	Buick	-	Awaiting parts.
	605 A.	do.	-	do.
	626 A.	Overland	-	do.
<u>Cycle Workshop.</u>	412 A.	Douglas	-	Overhaul.
	413 A.	"	-	"
	423 A.	R. Enfield	-	"
	427 A.	do.	-	"
	432 A.	do.	-	"
	433 A.	Jap.	-	"
	443 A.	Sunbeam	-	Awaiting parts.
	445 A.	Triumph	-	Overhaul.

Accidents.

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

Roads.

The condition of the roads is not at all good. The road from Tidworth to Salisbury is bad, especially so between Tidworth and Amesbury, while travelling is very difficult in wet weather through Bulford and Amesbury owing to very bad ruts which are not easy to pick out. From Salisbury to Hurdcott the road is in fairly good repair, but from Hurdcott to Codford it is very rough and badly torn up owing to extra running by heavy Lorries. The roads in and around Sutton Veny, and Warminster to Codford, are in good repair.

The road from Tidworth direct to Heytesbury via Stonehenge and Shrewton is in very bad condition, and should if possible be avoided by touring cars until such time as repairs have been completed.

Tidworth to Andover via Perham Downs is in good condition, but via Ludgershall is bad in places.

From Tidworth to Weymouth via Blandford the road is good with the exception of about 5 miles before arriving at Blandford. Tidworth to Salisbury via Cholderton is in a very bad state.

MILEAGE.

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

Covers	..	32
Tubes	..	4
Petrol	..	5716
Mileage	..	91494

PERSONNEL.

W/O. Sutherland from Weymouth to Tidworth.
 Sgt. Robinson from M.T. France to Tidworth.
 Sgt. Paterson from Hurdcott to Warminster to assist N.C.O.
 i/c. Warminster.
 Cpl. Wheeler from Tidworth to Hurdcott to replace Sgt. Paterson.
 Cpl. Kirkpatrick from Tidworth to 1st A.G.H., Sutton Veny, to
 be in charge of vehicles.

CHANGES IN ALLOCATION OF VEHICLES.

532 A. Minerva to London, for new hood and completion of repairs.
 538 A. Vauxhall S.O.S., and returned to Lieut. E. Higham.
 115 A. Hotchkiss to London for duty.
 314 A. Ford, from London to Plymouth for duty.

A. J. Redmond

Bhurtpore Barracks,
 Tidworth. 21.3.19.

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

RECEIVED
HEADQUARTERS
A.I.F.
1919

WAR DIARY.

For the Month of February 1919.

A. D. of S. & T. Branch, Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K.

PERSONNEL.

Capt. F. Angel, M.C., 5th Battalion, formerly 1st Australian Divisional Train, was attached for Duty.

There were no other movements affecting the Personnel of the Branch during the month.

A.A.S.C. PERSONNEL - Retention of in U.K.

Approval was received from Headquarters, A.I.F., for the retention in U.K. of all A.A.S.C. Personnel belonging to A.A.S.C. Units in U.K., and also for all casuals from Hospital to be returned to A.A.S.C. Training Depot.

A shortage of all A.A.S.C. Personnel in U.K. still exists, and except in cases of extreme urgency all applications for Early Repatriation, or other Demobilisation applications, are not approved.

The response for applications to transfer to A.A.S.C. Units from other arms of the Service is still very poor.

TRANSPORT.

Difficulty was experienced owing to the shortage of Motor Transport Vehicles, and reciprocal arrangements were made with the British A.S.C., whereby Vehicles were loaned in special cases to carry out urgent duties.

A.A.S.C. DETACHMENT, HEYTESBURY.

The Detachment at Codford was moved to Heytesbury owing to the lack of suitable accommodation at the former place.

During the month the A.D. of S. & T., accompanied by Lieut. Hall, the S.S.O., visited Clifton for the purpose of inspecting the Transport and Supply arrangements, books and stores, all of which were found very satisfactory. Arrangements were made with the British A.S.C. to take back any surplus Stores that might be held when the Detachment closed down.

1. BARRACK SERVICES.

Water Service.

The consumption of Water in districts on Salisbury Plain during February was in excess of that for the preceding month. This was due to "burst pipes" caused by frost, and taking this into consideration, the consumption as a whole is considered satisfactory.

The following statement shows the comparative consumption for January and February 1918:-

District.	<u>Average Daily Consumption.</u>	
	<u>January 1919.</u>	<u>February 1919.</u>

Codford	13.7 gallons	18.00 gallons.
Sutton Veny, Longbridge)		
Deverill, Warminster and)	13.7 "	17.46 "
Heytesbury.)		
Fovant-Hurdcott	14.6 "	16.46 "

From a return received from D.O.R.E., Sutton Veny, it is found that the average consumption for Corton and Boyton districts, where British troops are in sole occupation for the month of February 1919, was 47.3 gallons per head per diem. It will thus be readily seen in comparison that the low average consumption by A.I.F. is highly creditable.

The consumption in Camps of No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, was most satisfactory, as the following will explain:-

Camp.	Consumption.		Decrease.
	January 1919.	February 1919.	
Westham	712,900 galls.	681,230 galls.	31,670 galls.
Monte Video	780,800 "	645,510 "	135,370 "
Verne Citadel	508,100 "	399,400 "	108,700 "
Littlemoor	328,000 "	312,820 "	69,180 "
		<u>Total decrease.</u>	<u>344,920 "</u>

The above decrease in consumption represents a monetary saving to A.I.F. of £8.12. 6d. at 6d per 1000 gallons.

Electric Lighting.

The control of this Service was excellent throughout the month, and the reduced consumption, taking into consideration the reduced "burning hours" is most satisfactory.

Previous to February 1919, the service generally was controlled in A.I.F. Camps by a subordinate staff of "Acting N.C.O's.", who are qualified Electricians, having been tested by District Electrical Engineers, and certified as competent tradesmen.

The duties of A.I.F. Electricians include:-

- (a) Repairs and maintenance of Camp mains and circuits.
- (b) Installation of new lighting points.
- (c) Authorised alterations of existing circuits.
- (d) Supervision of the service generally, in order to ensure that all Regulations issued by Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots, are observed, and no undue waste of current.
- (e) To attend to "break-downs". In this connection these men are called out nightly, very often two and three times.
- (f) Repairs on account of damage to electric circuits, on Units vacating Camps.
- (g) Night inspections at least twice weekly to see that all is in order, and no unauthorised lights burning after hours.

On 2.2.19, an establishment of A.I.F. electricians to supervise electric lighting in A.I.F. Camps was submitted, and subsequently approved by G.O.C., AIF., Vide A.I.F. Order 1550, dated 14.2.19.

This Establishment provides for two temporary Sergeants, and six temporary Corporals. These N.C.O's. are stationed in all districts on Salisbury Plain where A.I.F. Troops are located.

The adjustment of Electric lighting accounts previous to installation of Meters, mentioned in War Diary for January 1919, is well in hand, and a Representative of the Barrack Service Branch is verifying all District Power Station Records in conjunction with the Station Engineer in order to hasten finalisation of all outstanding accounts.

Sanitary Services.

As pointed out in previous War Diaries, Weymouth is the only

Station where Sanitary Services are carried out by private Contract, and the result of systematically controlling this service was again evident during the month of January 1919, as statement will explain:-

Camp.	January 1918.	January 1919.	Saving.
Westham	£54.12. 6d.	£36. 8. 1d.	£18. 4. 5d.
Littlemoor	41.17.11d.	30.18. 4d.	10.19. 7d.
Monte Video	53.18. 6d.	32.16. 3d.	21. 2. 3d.
		<u>Total Saving.</u>	<u>£50. 6. 3d.</u>

No comparison is made between February 1918 and February 1919, as the accounts for the latter month are not yet to hand.

COAL.

Owing to the dearth of Coal supplies, due to "Railway Strike", and decreased output from Coal mines, a serious situation arose, especially in the Warminster District, where some Units had only a day's supply on hand. The matter was taken up by A.D. of S. & T., A.I.F. Depots in U.K., with Southern Command, which resulted in truck Coal being diverted from other Districts, and supplies being made available by Coal Controller to relieve the situation.

Further remedial measures were taken by arranging for the purchase of Fuel wood from the Canadian Forestry Corps to guard against the "general strike of miners" which seemed evident.

It was also considered necessary, in order to conserve available supplies, to reduce the scale of allowances from:-

10 lbs per man per diem for Command Depots, and
8 lbs " " for other Units,

to - 7½ lbs per man per diem for Command Depots, and
6½ lbs " " for other Units.

Recommendation in accordance with the foregoing is being submitted to the G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots, for approval.

It is considered that, in reducing the scale of consumption we will be able to build up a sufficient reserve to guard against a general strike of miners, which seems highly probable during the month of March.

CLOSING OF DEPOTS at BRIGHTLINGSEA AND CLIFTON.

On the closing of above Depots, a Representative of Barrack Service Branch visited each place, and finalised all Barrack Service accounts, which necessitated handing over the following quantities of Coal at each Station:-

Brightlingsea - 5 tons to Messrs. Fieldgate & Coy.
Clifton - 12 " to O.C., Royal Engineers, Hitchin.

Receipts were obtained for these quantities, and necessary action taken with the Chief Paymaster, A.I.F. to recover amount due from Messrs. Fieldgate and British Authorities respectively.

All other Barrack Service issues were satisfactorily controlled during the month.

2. SUPPLIES.

During the month several important alterations have taken place re

the issue of rations.

ALTERATION IN FIELD RATION SCALE.

For several months past considerable dissatisfaction was evinced amongst the Troops in the Command on the meagreness of the ration, and the matter was put before the War Office by the G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots - Major-General The Hon. Sir. J. Whiteside Mc.Cay, K.C.M.G., C.B. V.D. - and after repeated applications were made, an increase in such items as Bread and Meat, Bacon and Sugar, was approved, and came into effect from 15th February 1919 inclusive. This has been highly appreciated by the A.I.F. Troops as well as the British, who have also participated in the successful efforts of the G.O.C.

Since such increase, the Troops all round are much more contented, and complaints as to quantity of food have now vanished. The daily Ration scale is now as follows:-

Bread	15½ ozs.	Sugar	1 5/7 ozs.
Meat	10 ozs.	Tea	• 3/4 "
Bacon	3 ozs.	Salt	1/4 "

This increase does not apply to boys, who will remain on their present scale. The position re Command Depots is that the 12 ozs. of Meat should still be drawn, and all increases in other commodities would apply to these Commands.

(Authority R.O. No. 7290 of 17.2.1919.)

Flour in lieu of Bread.

The equivalent of Flour in lieu of Bread was increased, the actual quantity now allowed being 11½ ozs of Flour.

(War Office Letter No. 53/Ge./1460).

Increase in Bacon Issue to Boys under 19 years of Age.

As from the 22nd February 1919, the issue of Bacon was increased from 2 ozs. to 3 ozs. A copy of War Office Authority No. 53/Eastern/3708 (Q.M.G.6) dated 19th February is attached.

CLOSING DOWN OF ENGINEER TRAINING DEPOT, BRIGHTLINGSEA.

As this Unit had only a small number of men being rationed at this Depot, it was decided to place the remaining Troops on subsistence allowance, which would enable us to close our Supply Account with R.A.S.C., Colchester. The arrangements were approved as from 1st March.

All questions concerning Supply accounts have been closed satisfactorily as far as this Branch is concerned. The advantage derived from this move means a monetary saving to A.I.F. Authorities.

OVER AND UNDERDRAWALS.

This matter is receiving a great deal of attention owing to the adoption of the new Parade States, which make it difficult to reconcile over and underdrawals with the figures set out in the said Parade State.

During the month there has been very careful checking of all Units with a view of ascertaining the effects of the change.

PRICE LIST.

A further list of prices has been published by the War Office dated 7th February No. 121/Supplies/3366 Q.M.G.F. A copy of this list is attached.

The position as regards the Branch, and all Supply matters con-



nected therewith, is very satisfactory. All Concentration Depots are in a position to have all issues placed with the Units in sufficient time to feed all quotas marching in.

QUALITY OF SUPPLIES.

The condition of all commodities is still very satisfactory. The bulk of Beef and Mutton is Queensland and New Zealand.

Forage is also of good quality, Oats being exceptionally good.

3. MECHANICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Workshop.

The following Vehicles are in the Workshop for overhaul and awaiting parts, &c. -

Lorries:-	302 A.	Belsize	-	Overhaul.
	318 A.	Republic	+	do
	703 A.	Dennis	-	Awaiting parts.
	706 A.	Fiat	-	Overhaul.
	713 A.	Overland	-	Awaiting parts.
Touring Cars:-	507 A.	Ford	-	Awaiting parts.
	526 A.	"	-	Overhaul.
	530 A.	Hupmobile	-	Awaiting parts.
	531 A.	Mett.	-	do.
	539 A.	Ford	-	Overhaul.
Ambulances:-	206 A.	G.M.C.	-	do
	603 A.	Buick	-	Awaiting parts.
	605 A.	do.	-	do.
	626 A.	Overland	-	do.

Cycle Workshop.

412 A.	Douglas	-	Overhaul.
413 A.	"	-	"
423 A.	R. Enfield	-	"
427 A.	do.	-	"
432 A.	do.	-	"
433 A.	Jap.	-	"
443 A.	Sunbeam	-	Awaiting parts.
445 A.	Triumph	-	Overhaul.

Accidents.

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

Roads.

The condition of the roads is not at all good. The road from Tidworth to Salisbury is bad, especially so between Tidworth and Amesbury, while travelling is very difficult in wet weather through Bulford and Amesbury owing to very bad ruts which are not easy to pick out. From Salisbury to Hurdcott the road is in fairly good repair, but from Hurdcott to Codford it is very rough and badly torn up owing to extra running by heavy Lorries. The roads in and around Sutton Veny, and Warminster to Codford, are in good repair.

The road from Tidworth direct to Heytesbury via Stonehenge and Shrewton is in very bad condition, and should if possible be avoided by touring cars until such time as repairs have been completed.

Tidworth to Andover via Perham Downs is in good condition, but via Ludgershall is bad in places.

From Tidworth to Weymouth via Blandford the road is good with the exception of about 5 miles before arriving at Blandford. Tidworth to Salisbury via Cholderton is in a very bad state.



MILEAGE.

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

Covers	..	32
Tubes	..	4
Petrol	..	5716
Mileage	..	91494

PERSONNEL.

- W/O. Sutherland from Weymouth to Tidworth.
- Sgt. Robinson from M.T. France to Tidworth.
- Sgt. Paterson from Hurdcott to Warminster to assist N.C.O. i/c. Warminster.
- Cpl. Wheeler from Tidworth to Hurdcott to replace Sgt. Paterson.
- Cpl. Kirkpatrick from Tidworth to 1st A.G.H., Sutton Veny, to be in charge of vehicles.

CHANGES IN ALLOCATION OF VEHICLES.

- 532 A. Minerva to London, for new hood and completion of repairs.
- 538 A. Vauxhall S.O.S., and returned to Lieut. E. Higham.
- 115 A. Hotchkiss to London for duty.
- 314 A. Ford, from London to Plymouth for duty.

Aspermoon

Bhurtpore Barracks,
Tidworth. 21.3.19.

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