

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/1/15 Part 1

Title: Assistant Director Ordnance
Services, 1st ANZAC Corps

December 1917



AWM4-2/1/15PART1

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form G. 2118.

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Dec 1917
A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac Corps.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	1		With Corps Troops Ordnance Officer to site of new Dump + arranging for C.R.E. to put in turn for Motor Lorries.	
	3		With Staff Captain R.A. inspected Ammunition Refilling Point at Romarin Divisional Bomb Stores at Don Don Farm + D.V.I. Dranoutre also further inspection of La Poeka + reported on same, drawing attention to fact that at Don Don Farm 5783 2" Bombs + 281 9.45 T.M. Bombs were stored under circumstances which I considered to be a menace to village adjoining, also that at D.V.I., 1970 Bombs (2") were similarly stored.	
	4		Inspected progress made at new site for No 30 (L) Workshop Conference at D.D.O.S. office all morning. All Divisions report Jenkins issue complete for Infantry + Pioneer Battalions.	
	5		5th Anzac Divn raised question urgently of white suits for Patrols. D.D.O.S. says awaiting decision of D.O.S., who was reminded yesterday. See G.R.O. authorising 180 suits per Division. Authority given under G.R.O. 2904 for issue Jenkins or fur undercoats to Field Artillery, Field Cys R.E. + Signal Cys	

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A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac Corps

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FLETRE	6.		To Barelant to inspect 000 Troops new dump now moved into. D.A.D.O.S. 1st Anst Div proceeded on 14 days leave to England.	
	7		To D.O.S. 2nd Army re Guns, Gun Boats & proposing exchange of No 23 & No 30 (L) Workshops for No 24 & No 29, owing to latter being commanded by Lt Colamps & Cameron, in view of A.D.O. 1424 ordering Australians to return to Corps.	
	8		To S. Omer to try to obtain Tables & forms by local purchase, but without success as no timber available to private manufacturers. Lt Col Kelly returned from leave, Lt Col Et. Leane received orders to proceed to London for Conference with A.D.O.S. A.I.F. Admin & Oros re Australian clothing.	
	14.		S.I.O.M. 2nd Army called & discussed re-arrangement of workshops to enable Australian personnel to work in shops under 1st Anzac. Returned from London, Lt Col Kelly left for XV Corps H.Q. at 2 pm. D.A.G. A.I.F. authorised signature by me as A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac Corps. Orders received as to moves of I.O.M.S. as follows:— 1. Lt J. Stamps, Anst A.O.C. to proceed from No 24 O.M.W. (L) to No 23 O.M.W. (L) & take over from Lieut J. Grieve. 2. Lieut J. Grieve, Anst A.O.C. will then proceed from No 23 to No 3 O.M.W. (M) & take over from Capt J. Goddard.	

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A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	14.		<p>3. Capt. R. H. Goddard will then proceed from No 3 to No 24 O.M.W. (L) and take charge of No 24 & 29 O.M.W. (L). No 3 (M) will subsequently move into 1st Anzac Corps.</p> <p>Reported to D.O.S. & D.O.S.</p> <p>Cap. Rodd, D.A.D.O.S. 5th Aust. Div. to London on 14 days leave from 12/12/17</p> <p>" Jack, D.A.D.O.S. 3rd Aust. Div. to London on 14 days leave from 14/12/17</p> <p>" Down D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Aust. Div. to London on 1 month sick leave from 13/12/17</p> <p>On question of Australian Clothing had conference with A.D.O.S. A.I.F. Admin. H.Q. London afterwards with him, with General J. Stevens D.E.O.S. at War Office & with R.A.C.D. Arranged that R.A.C.D. would supply A.I.F. H.Q. with fortnightly Return of Dues out to Bases in France, copy to be sent to A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac, A.D.O.S. A.I.F. H.Q. London would supply me with fortnightly Stock Sheets, & should arrange to obtain from Divisions, fortnightly Returns of Demands and Issues made to them by Base.</p> <p>It was made clear that first call on Stocks in A.I.F. Depot Mervellall Docks would be given to Troops in U.K., & D.E.O.S. accepted position that R.A.C.D. should be responsible for supplying Aust. Troops in France, & any deficiency in supply was to be reported by me to Army H.Q. for action by D.O.S.</p>	

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A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	15		Practically all day at Artillery Analysis & verification for D. D. O. S. 2nd Army.	
	16		Discussed Salvage of Ammunition with Corps Salvage Officer in connection with H.O. & 7 men of A.D.O. sent to Corps for this work, to be temporarily attached to him.	
	17		Visited Corps Troops Dump & Dumps of D.A.D.O.S. 1st, 2nd & 3rd and Duns & Corps Ammunition Shop.	
	18		Report received from Comd. Ordnance College Woolwich on Mr. Os. Mr. N. Butcher 6/13de, H. W. Pickett 7/13de, R. Ellis 7/13de, under instruction as Asst I.O. Mr. recommended temporary attachment as follows: 1 to No 3 Medium, 1 to No 17 & 18 Medium, 1 to Heavy Mobile Shops Hazebrouck, 8 days Paris leave granted Asst Army Insp. Lieut Best from 19/12/17	
	19		Re-organisation of Heavy Artillery, details received Conference at D.D.O.S. Office. Discussed with A/C.I. O.M. adjustment of shops & arranged that I.O.M. Lieut Cameron should be transferred to No 30 (L) as soon as other moves were completed.	
			To No 5 Gun Park with O.V. Corps Troops & arranged for supply.	

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A.D.O.S. 10th Anzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	20.		O.C. 36 H.A. Group called re clothing & boots of 54 & 55 Siege Batts (Anst ⁿ), to be transferred to 10 th Anzac shortly. Arranged that Indents should be placed with O.C. Corps Troops who will get Stores up ready for Batts on arrival.	
			Moore. Lieut & Lt. O.M. Cameron to 1030 Light Mobile Workshop Lieut & Lt. O.M. Turner (A.D.O.) to 1029 Light Mobile Workshop.	
	21		Corps Salvage Officer reports W.O. & 7 other ranks attached for Salvage Ammunition duties are not efficient. Advised D.O.O.S. to same.	
	22		D.A.D.O.S. 10 th Division reported from leave D.A.G. A.I.F. states (36/413 17/12/17) that commissions are to be given to following warrant officers of A.A.O.C. recently passed Woolwich I.O.M. Course - Pickett, Miller, Butcher, Pickett & Ellis that they will be attached for duty as follows, 3 to D.O.O.S. 4 th Army, 2 to D.O.O.S. 3 rd Army, for employment in various workshops.	
	23		10 th Anst Bn require 100 Mucanters 8" & 200 pairs Hedging Gears for Raising parties. Arranged for them to be sent at once from No 5 Gun Park	
	24		Inspected LA POLKA Ammunition Refreezing Point & Bomb Store and made Report on same (Appendix A) Visited 10 th Anst Bn H.Q. & discussed subject with D.A.Q.M.G. Lieut & Lt. O.M. Cameron reports taking over No 30 Workshop (L) 23/12/17	A

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A.D.O.S. Mangac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	24		<p>5th Aust Div report that in consequence of re-organisation of Divl Ammⁿ Column the following have been returned to Base:- Wagons 4. S. 17, Carts 1, H.P. O.C.S. 1, Wheel sets D 23, Lead Sets D 47. Still sets 1. Other Divisions asked to forward similar Report. D.D.O.S. 4th Army forwarded instructions regarding the working & control of Corps Ammⁿ Salvage Dumps (Appendix) 1st Aust Divr having received 500 Reinforcements without notice required 500 blankets urgently. Telephoned D.D.O.S. 4th Army & got some from Army Troops Dump - 2nd Aust Divr demanded 500 for Hedging gloves 4100 reinforcements 8th for Raiding purposes. asked for written demand which must go up to D.D.O.S. 4th Army for approval. Army Areas having been re-organised, site of NO 23 & 30 workshops (L) is now out of 4th Army area - advised C.I.O.M. 4th Army & stopped work on preparations at NO 23 Workshop to receive NO 30 workshop - Instructed I.C.M. & Lieut Stampo to select suitable site in 4th Army Area & recommend same. Corps summary notifies arrival of 5th Siege Batty (Aust) but no further action.</p>	B.
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ADOS. 1st Anzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	25		Communicated all Austn Divs 400 Corps Troops 1st Anzac attached for fortnightly Return of Demands + receipts against same of Austn clothing as follows - Hats, Jackets, Breeches D.S. Greasings etc + stated position to be at present unsatisfactory, but shipments expected very shortly which it was hoped would alter present situation before it became necessary for Bases to issue S.D. clothing in lieu Capt J Kinnunmonth D.S.O., DADOS. 1st Anst Div to No 14 ord Depot Zeneqhem for 14 days Amma Course.	
	26		O.C. 55 Siege Batty (Austn) having been transferred to 1st Anzac called with orders for clothing Boots & C for Battery, now at Poethure en route to 1st Anzac area. Discussed apparently excessive demands & was informed they are due to the fact that Battery had to hurriedly evacuate its position at MARCOING owing to enemy action Stores & Kits were not recovered. 2nd Anst Div demanded 100 trousers 8" & 500 pairs Gloves Hedging - arranged with DADOS of Army to draw to-day from No 5 Gun Park, as matter urgent. Reported to DADOS of Army that all units complete with N.C. Containers for Box Respirators.	

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A.D.O.S. 10. Amzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	26		<p>3rd Aust Div ask for 10 prs. smoked glasses per Battalion for training Scouts in daytime. Referred to "C" Branch Rosay if necessary & if so should not all Divs be treated similarly. Reply yes + D.D.O.S.</p> <p>4th Army asked for supply -</p> <p>Report made to D.D.O.S. 4 Army on defective 1085 Fuzes (Appendix)</p> <p>In connection with proposed establishment for A.A.O.C. addressed D.A.D.S. Divs, C.T. Ord officers, + 10 Mr Nos 3, 23, 43 or workshops + asked for opinions as to personnel necessary.</p> <p>O.O. Corps Troops on telephone says 13 all ranks necessary excluding 1 Batman for Corps Troops Ordnance Dump.</p> <p>Arranged with C.I.O.M. 4th Army for disposal of 5 and 10 Mr as follows - Rockett to No 3 medium, Miller to No 4 18 Medium Pulcher to No 2 Heavy Machine Hozeabronck, Rockett + Ellis to report to D.D.O.S. 3rd Army.</p> <p>Discussed new scheme of Salvage Ammun. Depot with D.A.D.O.S. Ammun. 4 Army, the personnel sent to 10 Amzac, reported to be inefficient - They are to be sent to Q.K.D. (Army Ammun Depot) for 4 days special course of instruction</p>	<p>C</p> <p>D</p>

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A.D.O.S. 10. Amzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	26		<p>As to the Salvage question I may arrange as I please with Corps Salvage officer, as to actual salvaging to be done by his personnel, but Ammunition to be handed over at Depot to the Ammunition Unit.</p> <p>As to the 100 men required for running the Depot, to arrange with D. H. D. Labor for supply.</p> <p>Minute to "Q" asking that when Ammunition Refueling Points & Dumps of Ammunition are handed over from one Division to another, no change of Officers take place, as present system results in changes of officers who have become useful, for others quite inexperienced.</p> <p>Hastened D.D.O.S. 4th Army re 1150 Jackins required to complete 2nd and Division + 3749 wanted for 50 Corps Troops, up to winter clothing scale for units, authorized by G.R.O. No 2904.</p> <p>Re A.A.O.C. & Workshops, had discussion with Lieut & L.O.M. Gaiere (103 medium Shop) on subject of Armament Artificer Sgt. Mayore with Field Artillery Brigades & Armament Art. Sgts with Heavies and he is strongly of opinion they should form part of the A.A.O.C. personnel in the new Establishment which is to be put up.</p> <p>Staff Officer R. Arty (Mayore says) is of opinion this should not be the case, & says when there are A.A.O.C. they may be withdrawn into shops at a time when their work would interfere with the efficiency of the Artillery.</p>	<p>DE</p>

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ADOS 1st Anzac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLEETRE 27			<p>Discussed subject with L.O.C.R.A. (Bang Genl Coxon) & he will give his opinion after careful enquiry -</p> <p>In connection with Report on LAPOLKA Dump an interesting position has arisen. According to 4 Army Standing Orders it is forbidden to have detonated Bombs in a Dump, or carried on wheels, owing to danger of premature detonation.</p> <p>Officer of LAPOLKA Bomb Dump reported that he was required to detonate Mills Grenade Bombs before issue, & same was taken exception to by me in Report on Inspection & Hd and Dwn was instructed this practice was dangerous & should cease.</p> <p>AQM G Corps on seeing Report says quite impracticable from his personal experience, & never complied with & he asked where Bombs should be detonated if not at Dump as position forward under shell fire.</p> <p>Referred question to DADOS Amm & Army & he says he doesn't know & suggests putting matter in writing to Army - AQMG says take no action, let sleeping dogs lie & carry on as before.</p>	

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A.D.O.S. 18. Anzac Corps.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	28		<p>Attended Court of Enquiry on accidental explosion of a bomb in 45th A.F. A. line on 13th Dec, as a result of which 7 men were killed and 4 wounded. In the absence of necessary witnesses, sitting postponed until they are available.</p> <p>Discussed with Corps Salvage officer scheme for Salvage of Amm. and agreed with him that his personnel shall continue to collect & deliver at Amm. Salvage Dump, that at that point of Amm. Unit will take over.</p> <p>Letter received from Admin H Qrs London stating that Board of Ordnance College Woolwich has reported that Cpl Flintoff & Gunner Mason are not considered suitable for training as Laboratory Foreman, not having reached necessary standard. They will therefore be retained for instruction in Service Fuzes & course will be completed middle January.</p> <p>Asked D.A.G. A.F. if other candidates were to be sent to Woolwich for instruction as Lab. Foremen & Fuse Manipulators, pointing out that at least 3 of each will be required if it is decided to form Ammunition Units from Australian personnel.</p> <p>A.A.G. A.F. says further 6 will be sent early as nominations can be received & course of instruction arranged.</p>	
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ADOS 1st Anzac Corps

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	29		Lieut P. Bear A.D.D. reported for duty as O/c Ammunition Salvage Depot.	
			Arrangements made to transfer 100 23 & 30 Light Machine Workshop to NEUVE EGLISE on Jan 2 & 4 respectively, owing to handing over Area on which they are at present located.	
			103 Workshop (Medium) reports having moved into Anzac Corps Area to day & started work.	
	30		With A.Q.M.G. Corps & Corps Salvage officer to La Crecche, Trent. Connaught & Hesketh Ammunition Dumps proposed Salvage of Ammunition at La Crecche & Trent. Both considered to be unsuitable but Connaught proved to be possible. Hesketh suggested by 4th Army to handle Northern Light Railway system is now in operation & will receive Salvaged Ammunition from Anzac Corps when necessary.	
			Arranged that Lieut P. Bear A.D.D. should proceed to O.K.D. to-morrow to take practical instruction at Hesketh for the same period as will the W.O. & 8 other ranks.	

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A.D.O.S. 1st Angoac Corps

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	30.		<p>Capt. W. Jack D.A.D.O.S. 3rd Aust. Divn reported from leave</p> <p>Lieut J. Post Ass. Amm. Inspector arranged with S.I.O.M. "B" Section 4th Army that 1023 Workshop moved more to NEUVE EGLISE on 2nd January. & 1030 Workshop more on Jan 4 to same locality.</p> <p>D.A.D.O.S. Amm. 4 Army to enquire, state if Connaught siding may be used as Corps Salvage Amm. Dump.</p> <p>Corps Salvage Officer recommends the 5th Aust Div Salvage Officer for 14 days ammunition course at 1014 O.D. Zanghem. I agree and recommended Q that all Salvage Officers should take the Course. He says arrange accordingly -</p>	
	31.		<p>Lieut Bear A.O.D. to O.K.D.</p> <p>To 55th Siege Battery H.Q. and arranged that 00 Corps Troops would issue as far as possible on a/c of Indents.</p> <p>G.R.O. 3072 Winter clothing. Issue of gloves fingerless approved for Infantry & Pioneer Batt. & Reinforcements.</p> <p>Lieut Col E.T. Leane appointed A.D.O.S. 1st Angoac Corps dated Dec 9th 1917 1st Angoac Corps Orders No 1046 dated 28/12/17</p> <p>E.T. Leane Lieut Col</p>	

I ANZAC CORPS.

Headquarters,
23rd December, 1917.

Headquarters,
1st Aust. Division.

I visited La POLKA today, Refilling Point and Divisional Bomb Dump.

A.R.P. There is an absence of necessary fire buckets which should be demanded at once.
Hand pumps are in very bad condition and require overhauling.
Fire Orders should be prepared and posted up detailing the action to be taken by all ranks in case of fire.
The permanent Staff must be detailed and trained for specific duties in case of fire and should have a fire practice once a week. All working parties must be made acquainted with the action to be taken by them in case of fire. Empty boxes are allowed to remain too close to Ammunition Bays, they should be stacked at least 100 yards away from any ammunition.
1000 rounds Webley pistol ammunition and nearly 3000 smoke candles should be transferred to Bomb Dump.

Bomb Dump. Fire appliances are required. Fire Buckets, pumps, and I would recommend Chemical Extinguishers be also provided and fixed in different positions.
The same provision of Fire Orders etc., as above should be made.
A Guard should be provided and sentry continuously on duty.
I was informed by the Officer in charge that he is ^{required} prepared to detonate Grenades before issue, and in consequence he keeps a stock detonated ready for ~~use~~ issue.
This should cease as it is very dangerous to have detonators amongst ammunition, and is forbidden by Fourth Army Standing Order No. 511, and the bombs with detonators fixed should never be carried in carts or wagons, vide Fourth Army Standing Order No. 479.
During the winter when buckets of water freeze arrangements should be made for always having a supply of water in buckets ready in case of fire.
This can be done by placing five buckets in a circle, with the sixth on top and a hurricane lamp in the space below, the whole surrounded by a sandbag enclosure, covered on top by a trench or other cover.
The sentry on duty should give the necessary attention to the burning of the hurricane lamp.

Lieut-Colonel.
A. D. O. S.
1st ANZAC Corps.

Copy to :-
1st ANZAC Corps R.A.
'Q'.

Q.O. 8/18/A

A.D.O.S. 1st Anzac No.Q.O.526

A.D.O.S.

I ANZAC CORPS

The following instructions are forwarded for your information and guidance in connection with the control of Corps Ammunition Salvage Dumps:-

1. The ammunition unit allotted to Corps, consisting of one office and 9 other ranks, is intended for the sorting and conditioning of ammunition at Corps Dumps.

The unit will be concerned chiefly in dealing with salvaged ammunition, but technical supervision should also be provided where necessary at Corps Dumps.

The Unit will be administered by you.

2. The establishment of N.C.O.'s allowed per unit has not been finally approved. Any necessary adjustment will be made by you when the establishment is fixed.

If, however, you find that your unit contains no men suitable for promotion a report will be made to this office.

3. Attention is drawn to the following orders relating to the care and preservation of ammunition and return of empties:-

- (a) Instructions for care and preservation of ammunition and explosives in the field. (S.S.476)
- (b) Army Standing Orders paras 418 to 552.
- (c) G.R.O. 2491.

4. Salvage of ammunition will be distinct and apart from any other salvage, and will be carried out through the usual ammunition channels.

5. Only salvaged gun and howitzer ammunition will be returned to Corps Ammunition Salvage Dumps.

Every endeavour will be made to ~~prevent~~ prevent the return of obviously serviceable ammunition to these dumps in order to avoid unnecessary congestion.

6. Ammunition found serviceable at the Dumps will be taken over by the Corps, and components required to complete will be demanded by Corps "Q" in their return each Friday to A.H.Q. (See A.R.O. 1373)

7. Ammunition found to be unserviceable will be loaded on to broad gauge trucks and despatched direct to No.19 Ordnance Depot from the Salvage Dump.

The following procedure will be adopted :-

- (a) The number of trucks which may be despatched daily to the Base is limited, so the O.I/c of the Salvage Dump will ascertain daily, by telephone, at 12 noon, from the D.A.D.O.S. Ammunition, the number of truck loads allotted to him for despatch the following day.
- (b) Trucks will be loaded to their full capacity. Boxed ammunition will be kept separate from unboxed, and 18-pdr shrapnel will not be mixed with 18-pdr H.E.
- (c) All 18-pdr and 4.5" ammunition returned to the Base as unserviceable will be boxed.
Clips will be fixed to the bases of 18-pdr cartridge cases, and all T and P fuzes will be set at safety.
A reserve of clips, plugs fuze-hole, and 18-pdr and 4.5" boxes will be maintained at each salvage dump.
- (d) Shell, 60-pdr and above returned to Salvage Dumps fuze, will have the fuzes removed and plugs inserted before despatch to Base.
- (e) Fuzed shell with damaged fuzes, unserviceable gas shell, or shell in which explosive is exposed will on no account be returned to Base.
All such shell will be buried at least 3½ feet below ground, well clear of any water supply.

- (f) Exuding shell will be stencilled "Exuding" and will be dated. They will be shown separately on waybills.
 - (g) Salvaged grenades will on no account be returned to the Base whatever their condition. Should any be received at Corps Salvage Dumps they will be returned to Ammunition Railheads. Special care will be taken to ensure that all such grenades are de-detonated and safe to travel, and a certificate, signed by an officer, to this effect will accompany each consignment.
 - (h) Unserviceable cartridges and unfired portions of charges will be returned to Ammunition Railheads. Boxes or cases containing them will be clearly marked.
 - (i) Waybills will be made out in triplicate. Two copies will be placed in each truck, and the third copy will be kept as a record. The truck number will be inserted on all waybills. The officer i/c of the dump will be responsible for the correct loading of trucks. He will inspect all trucks before despatch to Base and will sign waybills.
 - (j) An advice wire will be sent to the Base, notifying the number of trucks despatched.
8. Arrangements will be made to equip all Corps Salvage Dumps with an adequate supply of dunnage, tarpaulins, ammunition keys, screw drivers, luting, Pettman cement, rubber fuze covers, and fuze waterproofing composition. Waybills, truck labels, and seals for sealing trucks will also be required.
9. When Corps Salvage Dumps are established arrangements will be made to provide suitable covered accommodation for the cartridges, fuzes and tubes.
10. White labour should be supplied at Ammunition Salvage Dumps if possible. If however, coloured labour has to be employed there should also be at least 50 white labour in addition to carry out work which cannot be entrusted to coloured labour.
11. D.A.D.O.S. Ammunition is always available for technical advice, and every assistance should be given him when visiting and inspecting Corps Ammunition Dumps.

Sgd. H.W. BUSH
Colonel
D.D.O.S.

H.Q. Second Army.
17-12-17.

1st ANZAC.

1. I am directed to draw your attention to the inadequate steps which are being taken for the care and preservation of ammunition, shewing that the serious effect of damp and exposure to weather are not fully realised. Ammunition which has deteriorated from these conditions means irregular shooting; in serious cases this causes "prematures" resulting in loss of life and destruction of material, and shell falling short in our own trenches, and in less serious cases excessive wear of the guns and "blinds."
2. The following obvious causes which particularly tend to deterioration have come to notice :-
 - (a) Tarpaulins are placed directly over ammunition stacks which causes it to sweat and prevents the circulation of air and allows the rain to run down the stacks and form a pool of water for the ammunition to stand in.
 - (b) Tarpaulins are placed carelessly on the ammunition, allowing rain to get in between them and when two or more are used, or they sag and are blown open by the wind and let in the rain.
 - (c) Inadequate arrangements for raising ammunition off the ground as to keep it out of water and mud.
 - (d) Total absence of or inadequacy of drainage round Dumps.
 - (e) Ammunition salvaged from vacated dumps and battery positions in a wet and dirty condition being stored at same place as serviceable ammunition.
3. To remedy the present unsatisfactory conditions, the following steps will be immediately taken to ensure that ammunition does not deteriorate or suffer from exposure to rain and damp before it reaches the gun position.
 - (a) All boxed ammunition, propellants, fuzes and components T.M. ammunition must be protected so that no rain can possibly reach boxes or cylinders containing ammunition, and in such a way that there is not only cover but free air space.

If tarpaulins are used they should never be allowed to rest on the ammunition but be raised off it, so that air can circulate.
 - (b) Floors should be built up to prevent moisture from the ground reaching the ammunition, and drainage system looked after.
 - (c) Ammunition in wagons and limbers becomes damp through "sweating" boxes should be kept open on fine days from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and ammunition wiped dry periodically.
 - (d) All ammunition is to be turned over in as short a time as possible.
 - (e) In the gun positions at least 100 rounds per gun of 18-pr and 4.5 ammunition and 50 rounds of higher natures must be entirely free from mud and dirt and ready for immediate loading, particular attention being paid to driving bands.
 - (f) Ammunition recovered from dumps and vacated battery positions should not be collected in any dump containing serviceable ammunition. A separate collecting place about 100 yards away should be selected where overhaul and sorting can be carried out.
- (4) If ammunition is properly cared for from time it leaves the manufacturers hands to the time it is placed in the guns, the numbers of casualties to our own troops will be decreased and the number of casualties inflicted on the enemy will be increased.

Headquarters,
Second Army.
/8/17.

(sgd) A.A. CHICHESTER,
Major-General.
D. A. & Q. M. G.

Officer in Charge,
Ammunition Dump.

AMMUNITION DUMP FIRE PRECAUTIONS.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

The principal consideration is to always have ready at hand the means of extinguishing a fire immediately it starts. There is little or no danger of shell exploding for a considerable time after a fire commences, even if the fire is started by the explosion of a shell. The fire to commence with, will practically always be confined to wooden boxes, and to cartridges. It is only after the Dump has been blazing for some time that the shell become heated and liable to explode.

It is therefore most essential that a fire which starts from any cause should be extinguished at once before it gets to firm a hold, and while it is still safe to work in close proximity.

All the Dumps in the Corps Area must be supplied with chemical fire extingueurs or hand pumps, in addition to fire buckets. Where fire extingueurs are in possession they must be kept ready charged, and fresh charges demanded from Divisional Ordnance Officers when necessary. They should be placed in position known to all personnel connected with the Dump. The position should be outside the Dump, where they are always accessible. They should not on any account be placed inside the Dump.

If hand pumps are in possession the correct way to use them is to keep the pump working from one bucket which should be kept full of water by emptying other buckets into it.

Too much dependence must not be placed on fire extingueurs - whose charge is only the equivalent of some 2 to 3 gallons of water.

Large numbers of fire buckets improvised from biscuit boxes with a wire handle or wooden batten nailed across the top to act as a handle, must always be kept ready filled with water. These, if kept in groups of stands of 4 to 6 every 20 feet or so, are less likely to be knocked off than if placed singly. The equipment of buckets is always to be maintained. Any which become damaged are to be replaced at once.

Endeavour should also be made to obtain larger receptacles to act as reservoirs for water. If obtainable these should be placed about 60 feet apart along the length of the Dump, with a group of buckets round them. They are always to be kept filled.

In the event of a fire starting every endeavour should be made to localise it by extracting from its immediate vicinity all cartridges, wooden boxes and inflammable material. To assist in this length of 2" rope with iron hooks at one end similar to a drag rope should be kept at hand. The service pattern drag rope is unnecessarily elaborate for this purpose. The hooks should be made up locally, and the rope demanded from Divisional Ordnance Officers.

On no account is smoking or the use of naked lights to be allowed in or near an Ammunition dump, and notices to this effect are to be displayed in prominent positions on and around the Dump.

No salvaged ammunition should be stored in an Ammunition Dump until it has been examined and found serviceable. Such ammunition is to be kept quite apart separate and conditioned as soon as possible. When found unsafe or unserviceable it is to be destroyed. When repairable it is to be returned to Railhead.

- 2 -

Empty wooden ammunition boxes are to be kept well clear of the Dump proper, and are to be packed with the empty cartridge cases and returned to Ammunition Railhead at the earliest opportunity. They are not to be allowed to accumulate at Dumps. Owing to their inflammable nature they are a possible source of fire. They are also urgently wanted at home. Laboratory operations such as the detonating of grenades, the fuzeing or unfuzeing of shells are on no account to be carried out in or near ammunition Dumps.

Special care is to be taken in handling boxed complete rounds of ammunition, fuzed shells and boxes of fuzes and detonators. Boxes are to be lowered as gently as possible. Any package which has sustained a fall in loading or unloading is to be placed on one side as unfit for issue. Every Officer in charge of an ammunition Dump should be in possession of pamphlet S.S. 476 "Instructions for the care and Preservation of Ammunition and explosives in the Field". Copies can be obtained from the Army Printing and Stationery Services, BOULOGNE. The principles laid down therein must be adhered to as far as local conditions admit.

APPENDIX B

POINTS IN THE HANDLING OF AMMUNITION.

1. All Ammunition must be handled CAREFULLY.
2. Boxed ammunition, if subjected to violent treatment, such as being dropped on to the ground, or thrown into a lorry, is liable to explode. This applies also to boxed Stokes Trench Mortar Ammunition and Grenades.
3. If a loose shell is dropped it is probable that either the driving band will be dented or the fuze hole plug will be jammed. If a shell is fired without being cleaned, the gun will be scored.
4. If a cartridge or cylinder is dropped it may cease to be damp-proof. Practically all cartridges for B.L. guns have a powder igniter. If the latter gets damp it may not ignite charge. If the charge gets damp the shooting will be variable.
5. If the case of a Q.F. Cartridge is dented, owing to rough treatment, it may not fit into the gun. Fired cases should not be thrown about as they are liable to split and are then useless for refilling.
6. All detonators contain "Fulminate of Mercury". This substance will detonate if pressed, struck, rubbed or heated. They should, therefore, be handled very gently, being grasped at the upper (open) end only. When inserting detonators into Mills Grenades the safety fuze portion ONLY should be grasped between the fingers.
7. Smoke candles have a small igniter of black powder or quickmatch. If this gets damp the candles cannot be lighted.
8. Rockets are made of papier mache. If crushed they break and are then useless. Portfires must be kept dry or they cannot be lighted.

SPECIAL ORDERS FOR GUARDS IN CHARGE OF AMMUNITION DUMPS.

No naked lights are permitted near the Dump.

No smoking is permitted in the vicinity of the Dump.

No person, except when actually on duty at the Dump, is permitted to enter the Dump, and no loitering near the Dump will be permitted.

The N.C.O. commanding the Guard is responsible that Fire Buckets and Pumps are kept in their places, ready for immediate use, that the Buckets are kept filled with water, and that the pumps are in good working order.

Each pump will be tested when the Guard mounts, and any defect will be immediately notified to the O.C., Sub-Park, providing the Guard.

An entry will be made in the Guard Report that the Pumps have been so tested.

On no account are Fire Buckets or Pumps to be used for purposes other than fire extinction.

The N.C.O. commanding the Guard will immediately on commencing his tour of duty, acquaint himself with the location of the nearest telephone, and also of the nearest camp from which assistance can be summoned in case of fire.

These orders are supplementary to any Orders to the Guard from its own Unit.

23rd February 1917.

Major.
Commanding "K" Ammunition Park.

1st AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Headquarters,
26th December 1917.

Headquarters,
1st Aust. Division.

Ammunition Refilling Points and Bomb Stores.

I am forwarding herewith various pamphlets and instructions as follows :-

Instructions for care and preservation of ammunition and Explosives in the Field.	2
Explanatory list of Service markings.e.	2
Q.O./8/161 /8/17.	2
Special Orders for Guards in charge of ammunition Dumps.	2
Ammunition Dump fire precautions.	2
Points in the handling of ammunition.	2
Dumps of ammunition or explosives, Precautions to be taken.	2

Would you please send one copy of each to the Officers at La POLKA A.R.P., and Bomb Dump with instructions that they be made part of the Handing over file.

And would you please obtain for each of these Officers for the Handing over file a copy of Fourth Army Standing Orders Part I, paras 418 to 552 of which deals with Ammunition and Explosives.

for *St. Lane*
ke col
Brigadier-General.
D. A. & Q. M. G.
1st A. & N.Z. A. C.

DUMPS OF AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES.PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

1. On no account should any ammunition or explosives be dumped in the vicinity of inhabited buildings. Dumps should be kept off main roads where there is much traffic.
2. The following natures of ammunition must be stored in entirely separate Dumps :-
 - (a) Gun and Howitzer ammunition (including lethal and lachrymator shell).
 - (b) Trench Mortar Ammunition.
 - (c) Grenades.
 - (d) Miscellaneous signals (e.g., Rockets, "Very" Lights, Roman Candles, etc.,).
 - (e) Incendiary and Smoke ammunition (in separate stacks).
3. Where possible dumps of the different natures given in para 2 should be 100 yards apart. Where this is not possible they must be separated from each other by substantial traverses.
4. Cartridges, fuzes, etc., should be separated from their shell or bombs by means of a traverse and should be covered with separate tarpaulins.

This, however, does not apply to boxed ammunition.
5. Salvage Dumps for ammunition or explosives should be kept entirely apart from other Dumps.

Salvage Dumps will be divided up into different natures as given in para 2.

The location of any explosives about which there is any doubt, should be reported to the R.E., by whom they will be destroyed.
6. Adequate fire appliances must be provided for each nature of Dump, to deal with an outbreak of fire in that Dump. A notice "NO SMOKING ALLOWED" will be placed at each entrance to a Dump and at each of the Groups of ammunition shown in para 2.
7. The A.D.O.S. of the Corps ~~must be provided~~ should make frequent inspections of Divisional Dumps and satisfy himself that the above instructions are being carried out.
8. Lethal, Lachrymator, Incendiary and Smoke shell and Bombs should be very frequently inspected.
8. Short rules for care and handling of explosives, printed in large type, will be fixed on boards at all Dumps so as to impress on those in charge the necessity of care. The printed rules will be issued to Corps.

(sgd) H.N. SARGENT,
Major-General.
D.A. & Q.M.G., Reserve Army.

19/9/6.

1st AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Headquarters,
27th December, 1917.

D.D.O.S.,
FOURTH ARMY.

1. Your Q.O.S./173/8 dated 25/11/17.
Total number of rounds dealt with was 6150
2. Attached reports from 5th Aust. Div. Artillery and 6th A.F.A. Brigade, A.I.F. cover the only defective ammunition found in this Corps, a very large proportion of the Ammunition having rubber covers was not affected by the enquiry.

E. Leane
Lieut-Colonel.
A. D. O. S.
1st ANZAC Corps.

Headquarters,
1st A.N.Z.A.C.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Div. 24/12/17.
H.Q., 1st ANZAC No.8/1/408.

Reference your 8/1/408 of 29th November,
to 8th Aust. Div. Artillery.

1. 4150 Rounds were examined.
2. 30% to 40% of these were found to be defective. This was apparently due to the fact that the quality of the cement was inferior and became detached when the rounds were handled. The markings of the most defective fuzes were -

A.L.C.O. Lots 1522, 537, 1551, 1543.

S.C.O.V.E.L.L. Lots 27, 105.

(Sd) G.D. SMITH, Major.
for Brig-General.
Commanding 5th Australian Division.

H.Q., 1st ANZAC R.A. No. S.C.33/9
~~H.Q., 1st ANZAC~~ No.2127/17/1.
6th (Army)A.F.A. Brigade/

Staff Captain, R.A.,
1st ANZAC.

Reference your 33/9.
The following is result of inspection of 2,000 rounds showing
particulars of 92 found defective:-

No. Defective.	Filling Station.	Date of Fuzing.
1	C.N.P.	5/17.
1	A.L. & Co. II.	11/15.
1	C.A.C.	4/17.
1	C.N.P.	5/17.
1	E.N.C.	12/16.
1	C.N.P.	3/17.
1	E.X.C.	1/17.
1	C.N.P.	4/17.
1	C.N.P.	7/17.
1	C.N.P.	5/17.
1	C.X.L.	12/16.
1	E.X.C.	11/12/16.
1	E.X.C.	21/10/16.
1	E.X.C.	26/3/17.
1	E.X.C.	15/3/17.
1	E.X.L.	26/3/17.
1	E.X.C.	20/1/17.
1	C.N.P.	24/1/17.
1	C.N.P.	20/11/16.
1	E.X.L.	3/4/17.
1	F.L.	21/2/17.
1	C.N.P.	12/16.
1	C.N.P.	4/17.
1	E.X.C.	10/16.
1	E.X.C.	3/17.
1	C.N.P.	3/17.
1	C.N.D.	10/12/16.
1	E.X.C.	27/3/17.
1	E.X.C.	1/12/16.
1	E.X.L.	3/11/16.
1	E.X.C.	23/3/17.
1	C.X.L.	12/16.
1	C.N.F.	3/12/16.
1	?	10/10/16.
1	E.X.C.	11/12/16.
1	C.N.E.	6/11/17.
1	C.N.P.	21/2/17.
1	C.N.P.	5/17.
1	C.N.F.	17/3/17.
1	?	?
1	?	?
9	C.N.P.	12/16.
2	C.N.P.	4/17.
11	C.N.P.	2/17.
6	C.N.P.	4/17.
5	C.F.M.	3/17.
4	C.N.P.	9/16.
10	C.N.P.	3/17.
4	C.N.P.	1/17.

A copy of this report has been sent to S.C.R.A.,
5th Aust. Div. Arty.

Headquarters,
13/12/17.

(Sd) H.W. LLOYD, Lt-Colonel.
Cmdg. 6th (Army) Aust. F.A.B., A.I.F.

APPENDIX D

I ANZAC CORPS.Headquarters,
26th December 1917.

D.A.D.O.S.,

1st Aust. Division.
 2nd Aust. Division.
 3rd Aust. Division.
 4th Aust. Division.
 5th Aust. Division.

In connection with the proposed Establishment of A.A.O.C.,
 and revision of personnel, will you please say by return what would
 be in your opinion a personnel for a Division, including 1 Batman
 for D.A.D.O.S.

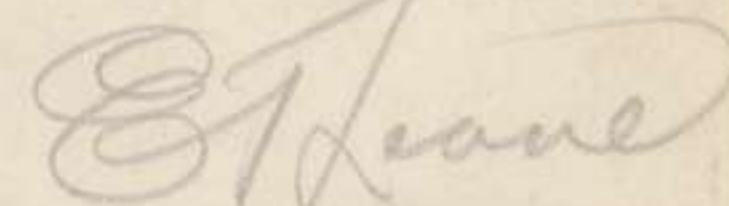
E. V. Leane
 Lieut-Colonel.
 A.D.O.S.
 1st ANZAC Corps.

APPENDIX E

1st AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.Headquarters,
26th December 1917."Q" 1st ANZAC.

Could it be arranged please that the Officers at A.R.P. & Bomb Stores should not be changed, when above are handed over from one Division to another.

It would be much more advantageous if one Officer could be kept on this work, at present the position appears to be that an Officer remains just long enough to become useful and is then replaced by one who practically knows nothing, of all the Regulations and Instructions regarding the care and preservation of ammunition.

Lieut-Colonel.
A.D.O.S.
1st ANZAC Corps.