

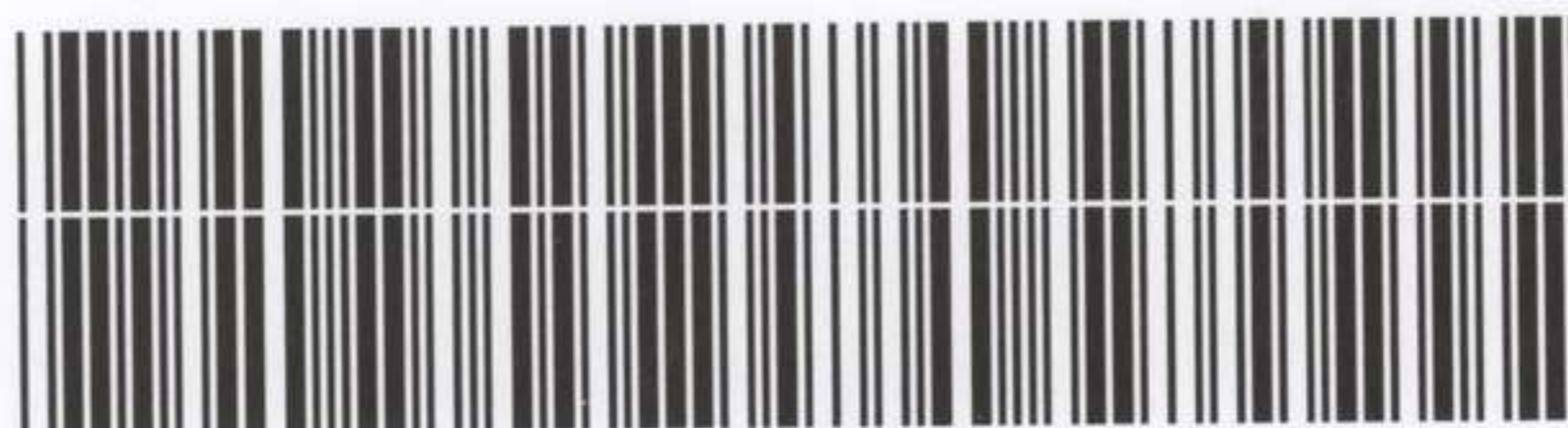
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/67/18

**Title:** A Staff, Headquarters AIF Depots in  
UK

December 1918



AWM4-1/67/18

434

WAR DIARY

HEADQUARTERS. A. I. F. DEPOTS IN UNITED KINGDOM.

A. A. G.'S DEPARTMENT.

DECEMBER 1918.

THE STRENGTH ON 30.12.18 WAS:-

OFFICERS ... ..	1088
OTHER RANKS . . . .	32416

RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA:-

OFFICERS ... ..	28
OTHER RANKS ... ..	5344

} from No 2.C.D.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Officers: 500  
Nurses: 55  
Other Ranks: 12750

} total for month  
December  
J. Knox  
M. G.

Lieut-Colonel,  
A.A.G.

A. I. F. Depots in United Kingdom.

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RETURN OF INFANTRY REINFORCEMENTS.

Proceeded Overseas for the month of December 1918.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

1st. DIVISION. 2nd DIVISION. 3rd DIVISION. 4th DIVISION. 5th DIVISION.

<u>Bn</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Bn</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Bn</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Bn</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Bn</u>		<u>No</u>	
NIL				NIL				NIL				NIL				NIL			

ALL DRAFTS SUSPENDED.

*Li.*

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

CR. AIF. 11697 (A)

HEADQUARTERS,  
A.I.F. Depots in U.K.,  
Bhurtpore Barracks,  
TIDWORTH. 31.12.18.

To :- Headquarters, A.I.F.,  
Care H.Q., Fifth Army, } 2 copies.  
FRANCE.

Copies to:- D.A.G., Aust. Section, G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon, FRANCE.  
Hdgrs., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Aust. Divisions, FRANCE.  
Headquarters, Australian General Base Depot, FRANCE.

Subjoined Schedule showing numbers of REINFORCEMENTS - by Divisions, that have proceeded Overseas during the month of DECEMBER, 1918, is forwarded for your information:-

RETURN OF FULLY TRAINED AND PARTIALLY TRAINED REINFORCEMENTS PROCEEDED OVERSEAS DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1918.

UNITS.	1st Div.	2nd Div.	3rd Div.	4th Div.	5th Div.	Divs. not stated.	TOTALS.
Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pioneers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Artillery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.F.A.B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machine Gunners	-	-	-	-	-	160	160
Signal Engineers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Engineers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Railways	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
A.A.S.C. & M.T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.A.M.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.A.V.C.	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
T.M.B's.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunnellers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light Horse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R.A.G.A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salvage Corps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyclists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	182	182

*CR DUNN HQR*  
Major-General, *a ag*  
Commanding A.I.F. Depots in U.K.

1.12.18 34

Dec. 1918.  
(DEMOBILISATION CR.AIF. 42379)OFFICER PERSONNEL :

Every Officer who is not "G.S.", and every Officer who is "G.S.", but who is not due to return to France at the expiration of his tour, must be prepared to march out for return to Australia on forty eight hours (48) Notice.  
(CR.AIF. 42379 (A))

"1915" PERSONNEL:

(1) All ranks in all Depots, who embarked from Australia between 1st Jan 1915 and 30th June, 1915, who have not since been back to that country and who are of Medical classification "A" or "B1A4", are to embark for Australia at an early date and pursuant to the terms of this Order. The only exceptions will be personnel on Permanent Cadres whose retention is absolutely necessary in order to carry on the Depot work, but in this respect Permanent Cadres in all Depots, save Command Depots, can be reduced by one half, as the numbers in such Depots will be decreasing rapidly during the next fourteen days. It is expected that the personnel first mentioned herein will sail for Australia by 14th instant.

(2) The following procedure will be adopted :-  
1600 tomorrow, 2nd December, approximate number of "1915" personnel available for Australia, stating separately :-

- (i) Number of Officers,
  - (ii) Number of N.C.O's.
  - (iii) Number of other ranks.
- (b) Nominal rolls will be prepared in duplicate and forwarded to reach these Headquarters not later than Thursday 5th December.
- (c) Paybooks will be at once collected from these personnel and handed to Pay Corps Representative with Unit, who will despatch them by special messenger to Chief Paymaster Administrative Headquarters, Horseferry Road, LONDON. They must reach Chief Paymaster by Wednesday 4th December. It is to be pointed out that Paybooks will be returned to individuals before sailing, unless they delay in handing them in, in which case they would run the risk of having to sail without pay-books. A covering letter, with paybooks addressed to Chief Paymaster, will state that books are to be returned to R.B.A.A. by Wednesday, 11th December.
- (d) This personnel must be equipped at their Unit with kit for sea voyage. This equipment will be completed by Friday 6th December. The scale of equipment is attached to orders of 28.11.18 being Order No 6753.
- (e) This personnel will be prepared on 24 hours notice to move on any day after Friday, 6th December, to R.B.A.A. Heytesbury, which is appointed as the place of assembly for them, and from which they will move to port of embarkation. O.C. R.B.A.A., will be responsible for preparing five copies of boat roll for this personnel to be ready by Thursday, 12th December with personnel classified by Field Units.

APPLICATIONS FOR DISCHARGE IN UNITED KINGDOM.

It is notified for the information of all concerned that each application for discharge in England on Demobilisation will be considered on its merits by the Demobilisation Authorities. Army applications for such discharge should be made by the men concerned through their Commanding Officers stating the reasons for the desire to be discharged in England, nature of employment available etc. Such applications will be forwarded in duplicate through usual channel to Headquarters, Tidworth for transmission to Administrative Headquarters, London

(C.M.:D.A.G. A.I.F. 19/1224 of 26.11.18).

Issued at 1215 -- 1.12.18

1.12.18.

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DEMOBILISATION: CR.AIF 42379 (A).PERSONNEL FOR RETURN TO AUSTRALIA:

1. All personnel in Depots of all ranks end of any medical classification except "A", B1 A4, and B1B, are to return to Australia without delay. "A4" personnel are included in those who are to return. There are also included all personnel on permanent Cadres or attached, excluding only those whom it is absolutely necessary to retain for carrying on the work of the Depot, in which connection it is to be borne in mind that strength in Depots is being much reduced by this order combined with Orders already issued for the despatch of "B" and "C" Class personnel to Australia and despatch to France of all Reinforcements who have completed disembarkation Leave, and consequently permanent Cadre personnel not of "A" or B1A4 classification can be reduced proportionately.
2. Any such personnel for return to Australia, i.e., all medical classifications except "A", B1A4 and B1B will now march in to Depots as follows: -
  - (a) All such personnel available for return to Australia in FOVANT Depots A.I.F. under the Command of Brigadier-Gen McNicoll, CMG., DSO., will forthwith march out to No 4 Command Depot.
  - (b) All such personnel available for return to Australia in Sutton Veny Depots A.I.F. under the Command of Colonel Watson C.B., V.D. will forthwith march in to No 1 Command Depot.
  - (c) All such personnel in any A.I.F. Depot not in Fovant Depots or Sutton Veny Depots will forthwith march into No 2 Command Depot.
3. As orders have already been issued for B2 and C Class personnel to return to Australia this order applies mainly to
  - (a) "B2" and "C" Class personnel of all ranks retained under previous orders to carry on work of Depots but who can now be spared.
  - (b) All personnel of all ranks of Medical classifications B1A1, B1A2, and B1A3.
4. Personnel so marching in to Nos 1, 2 or 4 Command Depots will be immediately boarded for Australia by Medical Staffs under arrangements to be made by the A.D.M.S.
5. All Depots including Command Depots will: -
  - (a) Telegraph to these Headquarters by Tuesday, 3rd December, approximate numbers available under this order, distinguishing between Officers, N.C.O.'s, and Privates.
  - (b) Forward Nominal rolls in duplicate to these Headquarters to arrive not later than 5th December of personnel available for Australia Hereunder: -
6. All Depots other than Command Depots in Fovant Area will communicate direct with No 4 Command Depot by an Officer Messenger those in SUTTON VENY Area with No 1 Command Depot, by an Officer messenger; other Depots with No 2 Command Depot by telegraph; in order to ascertain that the Command Depot concerned has accommodation for the personnel, and which is to march in to it from the other Depot concerned. Command Depots concerned will reply immediately and direct to the Depot proposing to send the personnel which will not despatch the personnel till notified there is accommodation. Nominal rolls are to accompany the personnel marching in. If, in any case, the Command Depot considers it has not the accommodation required - which is unlikely - it will telegraph to these Headquarters in the following form: -
 

".....(Name of Unit) wishes to send here "B" & "C"  
"Class personnel as follows: -.....Officers  
"Other ranks. No accommodation available for them.
7. The Unit in which the personnel is will collect Paybooks from them and hand them to Pay Corps Representative by special messenger to deliver the paybooks to the Chief Pay Office London, by Thursday 5th December. All concerned are to be informed if necessary that any delay in handing in Paybooks may result in their having to sail without paybook, but that anyone handing in his paybook as required will get it back before sailing.
- 8.

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1.12.18

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PERSONNEL FOR RETURN TO AUSTRALIA. (Continued)

- 8. Personnel in or marching out into each Command Depot for Australia pursuant to this Order will move direct from the Command Depot to Port of Embarkation. Each Command Depot will at once begin preparing (5 copies) boatrolls classifying men by Units, adding to these boat rolls as personnel march in from other Units, so that boat rolls may be ready promptly (Boatrolls (5 Copies) must be ready by 11.12.18
- 9. Each Command Depot will also equip with sea kit the foregoing personnel. Sea Kit is sent out in order 6753 of 28.11.18.
- 10. Boat rolls should be made up in sets of about 500 names, two sets or more being combined, or one set and a part of another set, so soon as the Command Depot is notified of the exact ship accommodation in each ship.

Issued at 1400  
11.12.18.

2.12.18

MEMORANDUM.

To: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Officers Commanding Units,  
A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom.

- 1. The following has been received from the Countess of HARROWBY, 19 Grosvenor Place, LONDON, S.W.1 (Dated 28.11.18)  
 "The Countess of HARROWBY would be much obliged if you  
 "would kindly make the enclosed notice known among the  
 "various Mess Presidents and others who would bring it  
 "to the notice of the Overseas Officers and Cadets.  
 "Would you also be so kind as to ask them to send the  
 "names and addresses as soon as possible of any who  
 "would care to come to the Christmas Party so that  
 "Invitations may be sent.  
 (ENCLOSURE).  
 "From the Countess of Harrowby, 19 Grosvenor Place S.W.1  
 "A party will be given here on Christmas Day from 3 p.m.  
 "till midnight, Dancing Christmas Tree and Entertainments.  
 "We shall be delighted to see any Overseas Officers and  
 "Cadets. If you are able to come let me know and an invitation will be sent.  
 " I any Overseas Officers and Cadets would care to  
 " spend Christmas with friends of mine in the Country  
 "who are delighted to welcome them to their houses, I shall  
 "be so glad if they will write to me or call here telling  
 "me when their leave begins. I am at home on week days  
 "from 10 to 1 and from 5.30 to 7 and on Sundays from 4 to  
 "6.30"
- 2. For circular accordingly please.

Issued at 1115,  
2.12.18.

A.I.F. EDUCATION SERVICE: SCHOOL FOR INSTRUCTORS.

6799 A school of Method for Instructors in connection with the A.I.F. Education Service will commence on Monday, 9th December. The following vacancies have been allotted:-

No 1	Command Depot	6
No 2	" "	6
No 4	" "	3
	Overseas Training Bde	3
	3rd Training Bde.	3
	Signal Training Depot	3
	Heavy Artillery Training Depot	3
	R.B.A.A. Heytesbury	4
	2nd Training Brigade	4
	1st " "	3
	Parkhouse Depots	4
	E. Training Depot, Brightlingsea	3

Men chosen should be those interested in the work of the Education Service who are prepared to instruct in the United Kingdom Depots on on Transports to Australia. Names are to be forwarded by Commanding Officers to the Education Officer in

5.12.18

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WAR DIARY (CONTINUED).

A.I.F. EDUCATION SERVICE : SCHOOL FOR INSTRUCTORS. (Ctd) <sup>6</sup> 19

in charge of Depots in the United Kingdom by noon on the 8th instant. Those attending the school will report to the Officer Commanding at the Education Office, Tidworth, at 1600 on Monday, 9th December.

6.12.18

6813 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LEAVE?

- (1) Christmas and New Year Leave may be granted as under to give ten clear days, allowing for two days travelling, not more than 25% all ranks are to be away from any unit at one time, and not more than 12 1/2 % will travel on each day.
- (2) This leave can be granted to personnel not for Australia i.e. Trainees in OTB or Training Units.
- It will not be granted to: -
  - (a) Permanent Cadre or personnel attached to permanent Cadre except where they can be spared from duty.
  - (b) "B" and "C" Class personnel (Except B1A4) who are being put on boat rolls for Australia, if leave would prevent them being got ready for Australia or prevent their embarkation.
  - (c) 1915 Personnel (July to June) proceeding to Australia.
- (3) W/O's. N.C.Os. and men will be granted free war warrants (Ab422), and this order will be quoted as the authority for issue for same. All such warrants will be endorsed in the "Nature of Duty" column, "Christmas and New Year Leave". One warrant will be issued for the outward journey and one for the return, and these warrants will not be exchanged for tickets. Warrants are to be made out by the "Recognised most direct route", and travelling via London is to be avoided as far as practicable.

4. The following dates for travelling have been fixed: -

OUTWARD			RETURN		
Monday	16th	December	Friday	27th	December
Thursday	19th	"	Monday	30th	"
Friday	20th	"	Tuesday	31st	"
Thursday	26th	"	Monday	6th	January
Friday	27th	"	Tuesday	7th	"
Monday	30th	"	Friday	10th	"
Tuesday	31st	"	Saturday	11th	"
Thursday	2nd	January	Monday	13th	"
Friday	3rd	"	Tuesday	14th	"
Saturday	4th	"	Wednesday	15th	"
Friday	10th	"	Tuesday	21st	"
Saturday	11th	"	Wednesday	22nd	"

- (5) Troops who cannot reach their destination on the same day are not to travel on Saturdays.
- (6) Railway travelling in Great Britain is to be avoided from the 21st to the 25th December inclusive and also the 28th Dec. and no troops are to be given leave which will entail their travelling, either on their outward or return journey on those dates, also they are not to return on the 26th December. In Scotland travelling is also to be avoided on the 1st Jan.
- (7) (a) In all cases particulars of the numbers and destinations of men are to be communicated by telegraph, so as to reach this Headquarters in the following form, not later than Noon on dates shown in subpara (b)

Date Travelling	Unit	No. of men	Entraining Station	Destination by District
Outward Journey				

x. London District, Birmingham District, Liverpool District, Exeter District, etc.,



6.12.18

WAR DIARY (CONTINUED)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LEAVE CONTINUED.

Special Routine Ordee No 6813 Dated 6.12.18

"A" BRANCH

720

434

(B- Due date for return of personnel travelling.

Men proceeding on leave on. Particulars to be furnished so as to reach this Headquarters not later than noon on .

16th, 19th, 20th December  
26th, 27th, 30th, 31st "  
2nd, 3rd, 4th, January  
10th, 11th January

8th December.  
16th "  
23rd December.  
31st "

- (8) No greater numbers are to commence their leave on any day than the railways can undertake beforehand to carry on that day. Troops for appropriate trains and destinations are to be paraded in separate parties and marched to the Railway Station as and when required by the Railway Coy,
- (9) When giving the outward train times, this Headquarters will also quote the train service for the return journey and all Officers and men are before starting to be informed by the trains by which they are to return.
- (10) It must be realised that the special facilities which are being arranged throw a very heavy strain on the Railway Companies, and it will not be practicable for them to cope with the traffic unless the above instructions are observed.

Issued at 2100 6.12.18

5.12.18

COMMENDATORY.

On the night of the 3rd instant, by his courage and initiative, No 1238 Pte Sharpe T.L. 54th Battalion, prevented the escape of a large number of prisoners from the Detention Compound, No 1 Command Depot. An entry will be made on his A.F. B122 in accordance with K.R. 1919 (XLV)

(CR.AIF. 47952(A) )

CHRISTMAS FARE ETC.

Vide routine orders No 6700 and 6751 of 22nd and 28th ultimo respectively, and notice published with routine Orders of 25th ult. the following additional provision has been made :-

- (a) Australia Comforts Fund. The Commissioners have notified their intention of supplying 1 Christmas Box 1 Pudding, 1 Diary, 1 Souvenire Card for "All Ranks" to all units other than Command Depots.
- (b) Australian Y.M.C.A. Has intimated that afternoon Tea refreshments, etc will be provided free at the various Camp buffets on Christmas Day in addition to which evening entertainment will also be provided.
- (c) Regimental Funds. Commanding Officers are authorised to expend from Regimental Funds an amount not exceeding Two Shillings (2/-) perhead, based on their respective total strengths on Christmas Day, for the purpose of providing extra fare, entertainment etc. in connection with Christmas and New Year festivities.

10.12.18

A.I.F. EDUCATION SERVICE ON TROOPSHIPS.

Officers and other ranks who are returning shortly to Australia and are willing to organise instructional work (of any kind) on troopships are invited to communicate immediately with the Education Officer i/c AIF Depots in UK Tidworth. Applications should be forwarded through C giving full particulars of military service, special qualifications, and ship in which applicant is sailing (if known).

AIF EDUCATION SERVICE - CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.

Attention is drawn to the offer of a limited number of ships for AIF men belonging to Depots in UK to be the International Correspondence schools. Enquiries full conditions and applications should be made through nearest Education Officer. Applications must reach Education Office, Tidworth not later than the 14th Dec 1918.

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1.12.18 MOVE: 2nd Training Brigade.

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Second Training Brigade will move on Saturday, 14th instant, from Fovant to Camps 6 & 7 & 8 CODFORD.  
(CR.AIF 7757/Q.).

Circular Memorandum No 295.

To: All Commanding Officers,  
A.I.F. Training Depots in U.K.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR A.I.F. MEMBERS.

Further to the notice which appeared in AIF Orders dated 25.1.18 you are informed that a number of Scholarships have been made available to the Director of Education A.I.F. for members of the A.I.F. Restrictions previously in force as to Medical fitness are now cancelled with the result that those Scholarships are open to all members of the A.I.F. irrespective of medical classification, but those members who are physically incapacitated and therefore the more seriously handicapped for Civil life, will, other things be equal, receive preferential treatment in the allotment of Scholarships.

Forms of application may be had on application to :-

D.A.A.G. (b)

Administrative Headquarters,

130, Horseferry Road,

LONDON S.W.1.

Commanding Officers will deal direct with this Officer. When application forms are submitted to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. they should be in duplicate, and should be accompanied by :-

- (i) A medical certificate that the soldier is fit to undergo the proposed course.
  - (ii) A recommendation, on a separate sheet, from the applicant's Commanding Officer, (In the case of A.I.F. Depots in U.K. from the Headquarters of that Command).
  - (iii) A statement of the applicant's medical classification.
- Members selected will be granted 12 month's leave without pay to attend the course.

Application for the award of Scholarships to commence at the beginning of the January Term, 1919, should reach the Director of Education, A.I.F., c/o Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. 130 Horseferry Road, London S.W.1 not later than 20.12.18.  
Issued at 1115

A.I.F. EDUCATION SERVICES ON TROOPSHIPS. Officers and other ranks who are returning shortly to Australia and are willing to organise instructional work (of any kind) on Troopships, are invited to communicate immediately with the Education Officer i/c A.I.F. Depots in UK, Tidworth. Applications should be forwarded through C.Os. giving full particulars of Military Service special qualifications, and ship in which applicant is sailing (if known).

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA OF "1915" PERSONNEL. Officers and Warrant and Non-commissioned Officers, who having embarked from Australia during the 1st six months of 1915, and who have not since returned to that country, and, who are now being returned will retain any temporary or extra regimental ranks held by them, but for any subsequent promotions to Temporary rank the holder will revert to his former rank on relinquishing his appointment or on marching out.  
COMMAND.

113.12.18 Lieutenant Colonel C.R. Davies, O.B.E. General List assumes duties as A.A.G. during the absence, on leave, of Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Knox, as from to-day.

"A" BRANCH

13.12.18

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CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT and DANCE. A Christmas Entertainment and Dance will be given on Christmas Day, (Wednesday 25th December 1918) to "BEYOND SEAS OFFICERS" at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL, Kensington Gore, S.W.7

Variety Entertainment

Tea

Christmas Gifts

----- 3-30 till 10-30 p.m.

Dancing

Supper

For cards of invitation application should be made to the Manager, Christmas Day Entertainment to Beyond Seas Officers, 46 Grosvenor Street, W.1.

RE)OPENING of STAFF COLLEGE AT CAMBERLEY.

1. Information has been received that it is proposed to reopen the Staff College at Camberley on 1st Feb. 1919? The probable duration of the course will be one year.

2. Candidates should be Officers who have held Staff Appointments and distinguished themselves in the field and Officers who have attended a Senior or Junior Staff Course.

Age Limit. - 35 years, unless for exceptional reasons.

Medical Category. Fit for General Service.

3. Divisional Commanders and G.O.C. A.I.F. Depots will submit to this Office as soon as possible the names of Officers of the Australian Permanent Forces (Including Duntroon Graduates) serving under their command who possess the above qualifications and whom they recommend for attendance at the abovementioned staff College Course. Recommendations will be made in order of preference.

4. The utmost care must be exercised in the selection of candidates and only those who are considered to be entirely suitable should be nominated. In making their recommendations Commanders should take into account the personality, force of character, ability and efficiency of candidates, who should be of such a standard in these characteristics that the advanced military education they would receive at the staff college will be of distinct value to the Australia Military Forces in the Future.

5. From all the names submitted the G.O.C. A.I.F. will select candidates to fill the quota allotted by the War Office to the A.I.F.

6. This quota is, subject to the approval of the Department of Defence, provisionally fixed at five. A final revision of nominations will be made by the War Office, and it must be clearly understood that although names are forwarded, it is no guarantee that the particular Officers concerned will be accepted.

(Authority Headquarters, A.I.F. Letter  
D.A.G. A.I.F. 36/25/11 of 7.12.18)

Issued at 1115.

18.12.18

XMAS PUDDINGS AND XMAS BOXES from AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

The following gifts: - viz: -  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1lb Xmas Pudding  
1 " Box

have been received from the Australian Comforts Fund for Troops other than those in Hospital, Command Depots, and Convalescent Depots, and A.A.M.C. Training Depot.

Units will submit indents for their requirements as specified below; indents to be in not later than the 19th inst. and arrangements made to take delivery on or before the idem. Empty cases must be returned as early as possible Depot from which the gifts were drawn.

Units at Tidworth )

Parkhouse	)	Submit indents to	AQMG	TIDWORTH
" Hurdcott	)	do.	AASC	Hurdcott
" Codford	)	do.	AAOC	Codford
" Warminster	)			
Sutton Veny	)	do.	AASC	Warminste
Heytesbury	)			
Longbridge Deverell	)			

Units at stations other than the above are being supplied direct.

(CR.AIF. 27065.Q.)

8.  
20.12.18

WAR DIARY. (Ctd).

"A" BRANCH 23

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LEAVE IN LONDON. The following copy of communication received from Headquarters, A.I.F. France (DAG.AIF 6/0/32 of 11.12.18) is promulgated for information and for necessary action by all concerned:-

(1) In view of the great difficulty which exists in London in regard to accommodation for men on leave and consequent hardships which is imposed on men on leave from France, the GOC AIF desires that, for the present, leave to London be not granted to men in your Depots who have already had leave to London, unless they can shew that they have definite accommodation to go to.

Exceptions may be made to this in cases where special circumstances exist, but these exceptions should be kept down to the minimum, and only be made on the approval of the G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots.

2. It should be explained to the men that this restriction is temporary and is made in the interests of their comrades in France who have no facilities for arranging accommodation beforehand. It applies only to those who have already been to London.

3. No restriction is placed upon the granting of leave, by you in the ordinary course to places other than London.

ROUTINE ORDERS FOR 20.12.18

MOVE. It is notified for the information of all concerned that the AASC Detachment previously stationed at Fovant moved on Thursday last, 19th instant, to No 12 Camp Hurdcott, where it is now established.

21.12.18

CABLE REMITTANCES FROM AUSTRALIA. The commonwealth Bank have been advised by the Cable Companies that owing to the interruptions and the various cables deferred messages, both ways between England and Australia are MAILED by them between Gibraltar and London, thus entailing some delay.

22.12.18

ADMINISTRATION.

A.I.F. REST CAMP, FORT ERNSETTLE ST. BUDEAUX DEVONPORT.

It is notified for information that the A.I.F. Rest Camp Fort Ernsettle, St Budeaux, Devonport was disbanded as from the 20th instant.

CHRISTMAS PAY. Imprest Holders and Paying Officers are authorised to make a double ordinary pay prior to December 25th, provided necessary credit exists in Paybook.

Paying Officers will be held responsible should any payments be made which causes the soldier's pay account to become Overdrawn.

23.12.18

CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM AUSTRALIA. The following cablegram has been received from the Minister of Defence:-  
"General Birdwood. 18th December.

WQ179 Minister of Defence, Headquarters and Forces in Australia send warmest greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to yourself Sir John Monash, Officers, Nurses and all ranks of the A.I.F. AAA

Australia will not forget the magnificent services rendered by its valient soldiers and may the sick and wounded speedily recover and may all our gallant troops soon return to their Homeland to enjoy in health and Happiness the Peace for which they so rightfully fought.

CHURCH SERVICE → CHRISTMAS DAY.

Church of England Service on Christmas Day will be held at the Garrison Church at 1045.

Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Salisbury.

24.12.18

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. The following message has been received from Sir Gen. Birdwood KCB., KCSI., KCMG., CIE., DSO., ADC., GOC.AIF. "I send most hearty greetings and good wishes for Christmas to everyone in the AIF for all can indeed look back with satisfaction to magnificent work that has been accomplished and I trust that all may have many still happier Xmas's and prosperity for many a long year to come when they reach their homes".

CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH PARADES. SERVICES. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Garrison Church at 7 a.m. 8 a.m. and 1145 a.m. and at Delhi Hospital Chapel (Block B Room 2) at 6-30 am and 7-15  
Parade Service at Garrison Church at 1045 a.m.

24.12.18

WAR DIARY (CTD).

ADMINISTRATION. GREETINGS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING THROUGH HIS BRANCH.

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His Majesty the King has sent the following message his troops: -Another Christmas has come round and we are longer fightingaaa God has blessed your efforts aaa The ( and I offer you our Heartfelt good wishes for a Happy Christmas and many brighter years to come aaa To the disabled sick and wounded we send a special greeting prayin that with returning health you may be comforted and chee by the vision of those good days of Peace for which you have sacrificed so much."

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Years Day will be observed as holidays throughout this Command. Units will make their own arrangements for Sport Concerts and other amusements for the days and evenings in question.

EARLY REPATRIATION OF AUSTRALIAN UNDERGRADUATES. All unde graduates of Australian Universities who are desiroues of taking up an interrupted course at their University in Australia at the beginning of the Academic year in March 1919, may apply at once to their C.O. for early repatriati upon this ground?

Provided the applicant gives satisfactory evidence of a bonafide case and the C.O. does not regard him as militar- ily indispensable, he will be granted early Repatriation. Applications are to be forwarded by C.Os. to this Head- quarters for transmission to D.G.R. & D. 54 Victoria St. London S.W.1.

CHRISTMAS RAILWAY TRAVELLING

Owing to the present very great conjection in travelling by rail short leave under A.C.1 1564 of 1917 i.e. Friday to Tuesday leave and Tuesday to Friday leave has to be sus- pended till 22nd January.1919. This only refers to Good Conduct and competition leave, and is to be made up for as far as possible by Christmas Leave up to 12 days as authorised. It does not refer to disembarkation Leave for Reinforcements from Australia, nor to leave under existing demobilisation orders to personnel arriving from France for Australia or personnel for Australia now in depots getting short leave before embarkation., ncr does it refer to Hospital furlough or marriage Leave.

27.12.18

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL DIOCESAN WAR MEMORIAL. Attention is directed to the following circular:-

After consultation with the Greater Chapter and a number of representative Layman of the Diocese, it is proposed that the re shall be a memorial in the Cathedral to all those from th e County of Dorsetand such party of the County of Wilts as is included withinthe Diocese of Salisburywho have fallen in the War, to perpetuate our grateful memory of their herioc sacrifice and our hope for them in Christ. This Corporate memorialx in the Mother church is in noway intended to conflict with the personal memorials which will in many cases will be erected locally. It may be that those who have been in Training in the Various Camps, and especially those from Distant parts of the Empire, and who have visited the Cathed- ral in such large numbers, may like to be associated in the memorial. It is proposed to fill ~~the~~ stained glass the Windows in the North Aisle, which shall henceforth be known as the Warrior's Aisle"and that there shall be a book of Remembrance containing thenames-several thousandin number- of those commemorated, and the parishes from which they went to serve their King and Coutry. Probably the sum of £5,000 willbe required for the five double light windows east of th North Torch. Should a larger sum be contributed it will be possible to continue the series westard with a view of ultimately completing the whole Aisle.

Contributions may be given in one, two or three insalments and should be sent to the Hon. Sec The Ven. Archdeacon of Sarum, North Canonry, The Close, Salisbury.

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