

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

Bases & Depots

**Item number:** 33/17/7

**Title:** No 2 Australian Command Depot

December 1916



AWM4-33/17/7

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

No 2 Command

Army Form C. 2118.

470

December 1916

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
WEYMOUTH	1916 31.12		December Arrivals 1723	Departures 1670	Average Daily Strength 3785	

2

No. 2. Aust. Command Depot,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.  
1st January 1917.

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1916.

	Officers	O/Ranks	Total.
Strength on 30.11.16	36	3096	3132
Total arrivals at Depot	14	1709	1723
Total "handled" at Depot	50	4805	4855.

DEPARTURES

To France	3	Nil	3
Transfers to other Depots	-	1041	1041
Discharged in England	Nil	Nil	Nil
Invalided to Australia	"	"	"
To Australia for non-medical reasons	2	9	11
Struck off strength, illegal absentees.		6	6
Died.	1	8	9
Total Departures	6	1064	1070
Present strength 31.12.16	44	3741	3785.

DEATHS.-

It is regretted that the undermentioned Officer, N.C.O., and men have died during December 1916.

Captain Money	P.F.	22.12.1916
	A.A.M.C.	
1591 Sgt. McCuspie	D.K.	
	60th Bn.	28.12.1916
3013 Pte. White	F.G.	
	31st Bn.	9.12.1916.
2722 Pte. Nichoff	T.C.	
	29th Bn	14.12.1916
4321 Epl. Edward	F.S.	
	11th Bn.	17.12.1916
124c Pte Manuel	W.O.	
	10th Bn.	24.12.1916
6568 Dvr Ward	G.A.	
	56th Bn.	27.12.1916
130 Pte Mitchell	R.E.	
	34th Bn.	30.12.1916
716 Pte McQuirk	F.T.	
	2nd A.G.H.	25.12.1916.

ACCIDENTS.

On 23rd December, an accident occurred, resulting in the death of No.716, Private McQuirk F.T., 2nd Aust. General Hospital, the deceased soldier having been struck down by a moving motor car whilst walking back to Camp from Weymouth. A Court of Inquiry was held on the matter, the Proceedings of which have been forwarded for your information.

ENTERTAIN-  
MENTS.

On 13th December a concert was held in the Weymouth Pavilion Theatre, Madame Ada Crossley was present and contributed many excellent items. The proceeds of the concert were devoted to Mrs. R.Spencer Browne's Christmas Fund for Australian Troops in Weymouth.

An "Australian Ball" was held in the Arcadia Hall, Weymouth, on 13th inst., being arranged by the Officers, N.C.O's and men of this Depot.

On Saturday 23rd December, the ladies of Weymouth provided an Xmas Tea for the troops of this Depot.

In the evening, a concert was held in the Depot Gymnasium Hall, and also in the Y.M.C.A. Hut.

A resume of the entertainments held at this Depot is attached.

Physical training for the B.la-Remedial Class men is being carried out. The sanitary condition of the camp is satisfactory. Discipline, of the camp generally has been very good during the past month.

XMAS DAY.WESTHAM  
CAMP.

ORDERLY ROOM.- During the month of December 1916, 20 men were dealt with for drunkenness, accompanied by one or other of the following offences.-

Obscene language, creating a disturbance, absence and gambling, in Camp.

39 men were convicted on a charge on being absent without leave, and were dealt with accordingly.

470



45 men were punished for minor offences against discipline.

NURSING  
STAFF.

On 8th December 1916, Sister B.M. Williams, 1st A.G.H. with five (5) Staff Nurses reported at this Depot for duty. Accommodation etc., has been provided, in this Camp.

REPORTS.-

The following reports are attached.-

Senior Medical Officer

Officer i/c Depot Post Office

Sanitary & Pioneer (by Q.M. Monte Video).

*W. M. Brown* Colonel.  
Commandant, No.2. Australian Command Depot.

DRAFTS FROM NO. 2 AUSTRALIAN COMMAND DEPOT, WEYMOUTH DURING THE MONTH OF DEC. 1916.

No. of Draft.	Date.	Transferred to.	Composition.	Class.
85.	30.11.16	Salisbury	39 rank & file.	Home Service Class.
86	11.12.16	Salisbury	86 rank & file	"A" Class.
87	14.12.16	Wareham.	54 rank & file	Temp. Unfits.
88	16.12.16	Salisbury	63 rank & file	"A" Class.
89	20.12.16	"	30 rank & file	"A" Class.
90	28.12.16	Perham Downs.	48 rank & file	"A" Class.
91	28.12.16	Salisbury	44 rank & file	Home Service Class.
92	29.12.16	Wareham	43 rank & file	Temp. Unfits.
93	30.12.16	Perham Downs.	101 rank & file	"A" Class.

470

5

NO.2.AUSTRALIAN COMMAND DEPOT,WEYMOUTH.

TRIALS BY DISTRICT COURT-MARTIAL HELD DURING THE MONTH OF DEC.1916.

No.	Rank.	Name.	Unit.	Nature of offence.	Sentence.	Date of sentence
710	Dvr	Wilkins C.	1st B.A.C.	Absence.	28 days detention	7.12.16
1835	Pte	Tucker W.	27th Battn.	(1) Drunkeness. (2) Resisting an escort.	56 days detention	15.12.16
199	Pte.	Thomson W.P.	26th Battn	Insubordination.	28 days detention	15.12.16
887	Cpl.	Hutchings F.	1st Pnrs.	Absence.	Reduced to Ranks 14 days detention	19.12.16
103	Spr	Ogilvy L.	Disobediance.	14th F.C.E.	35 days detention	17.12.16
596	Pte	Ditterich A.R.	5th Battn.	Desertion.	56 days detention	23.12.16
599	Pte	Johnstone W.H.	14th Battn	(1) Disobediance (2) Conduct to the pre-judice of good order & military discipline.	42 days detention	27.12.16
1484	Pte	Collins T.J.	7th Battn	(1) Drunkeness (2) Resisting an escort	28 days detention.	27.12.16.

470

470



No.2.Aust.Command Depot,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth  
1st January 1917.

FROM:- Officer i/c Depot Post Office.  
TO:-, Adjutant, No.2.Command Depot.

Herewith I beg to submit my report on the  
General working of this Post Office for the month ending  
31st December 1916.

BAGS OF MAIL. Received 301. Despatched 196 of these  
15600 letters were re-addressed from re-  
cords, either to London, Wareham or Sal-  
isbury.

PARCELS. Received 3345. Delivered 1356. Re-addressed  
1604. On hand 385.

REGISTERED. Received 1434. Delivered 744. Re-addressed  
549. On hand 141.

TELEGRAMS. Received 1048. Delivered 922. Re-addressed  
126.

SALE OF STAMPS. Stamps to the value of £64 have been sold  
in this branch.

POSTAL NOTES. to the value of £41.17.8 also sold.

LETTERS. Received 58,560. Delivered 42,960. Re-  
addressed 15,600.

At Westham we have dealt with 656 parcels  
and 324 Registers.  
During the month I have visited Westham  
P.O. frequently and can report that it is  
running satisfactorily in conjunction with  
this Camp Post Office.

*A. G. Lydenham* Lieut.  
Officer i/c Camp Post Office.



470

8



NO. 2 AUSTRALIAN COMMAND DEPOT, WEYMOUTH, ENGLAND.

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

The following summary has been prepared for the information of our friends in Australia and as acknowledgment to those in the British Isles who so generously helped our sick and wounded to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's festivities :-

December 12th, 1916.- On December 12th, 1916, a concert was given in the Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth, the proceeds being devoted to the Christmas Eve Entertainment. This concert was organised by Mrs. Spencer Browne, of Brisbane, Australia, and its success was very materially helped by our famous country-woman, Madame Ada Crossley, who not only liberally contributed to the programme, but, with characteristic generosity, paid her own expenses from London to Weymouth and back. Mr. Selwyn Driver, with his "Pianorations" and Miss Bucktrout, (Madame Ada Crossley's accompanist) came from London also for small expenses fees. The following also contributed well appreciated items :- Miss Baker, Solo Violinist, Miss Welch, Accompanist, Miss Daisy Miles, Soprano, Major Pat a'Beckett, R.F.A., Humorist, Lieut. McVilly, Tenor, Bandsman Quigley, Baritone, and Gunner Kiddie, R.F.A., Accompanist, and the Band of No. 2 Australian Imperial Force Command Depot, under Bandmaster J. Mahon, Warrant Officer. The net proceeds were about £110.

December 13th, 1916.- On this date a Ball was held in the Arcadia Hall, which was beautifully decorated by volunteers from Monte Video and Westham Camps.

December 23rd, 1916.- The Christmas Eve celebration was held on this date :-  
In the forenoon, a Fancy Dress Football Match between Monte Video and Westham teams. The costumes were very clever and the game afforded great amusement.  
In the afternoon, tea was provided at Monte Video and Westham Camps. The Committee of ladies, assisted by men in the Depots very beautifully decorated the huts with flags, flowers, holly and other evergreens and festoons of coloured ribbon and paper.  
The tea menu included sausage rolls, mince pies, plum cake, buns, sweets and nuts of various kinds, also oranges and apples - the fruit being given from the "Brisbane Courier" Fund through Lady Robinson, wife of Sir Thomas Robinson, Agent-General for Queensland.  
The huts at Monte Video were presided over as follows :-  
Gymnasium.- Mrs. Ralph Clifton (Queensland) Mrs. C.A. Nicholson, Mrs. L.A. Kennedy (Victoria), Mrs. G. W. King (Queensland).  
Gymnasium.(Recreation Hall) Miss Bluebell Grey (Queensland).  
Gymnasium. (Pioneer's Section) Mrs. Riddell.  
Canteen No. 1.- Mrs. Munro.



Canteen No. 2.- Mrs. Nimmo.  
 Canteen No. 3.- Mrs. Gatehouse.  
 Hut 79.- Mrs. Nelson Richardson.  
 Hut 78.- Mrs. Reynolds (formerly of Victoria)  
 and Mrs. Pleydell Bouverie (formerly of New  
 South Wales).  
 Hut 77.- Miss Spencer and Mrs. Maclean.  
 Hut 76.- Mrs. Cowdell Barrett and Mrs. Ballance.  
 Hospital Huts.- Mrs. and Miss Hodgkinson,  
 Mrs. Masefield, Miss Watts, Miss Yeates and the  
 Nursing Sisters of the Depot under the Sister  
 in Charge (Sister Williams).

The Westham Huts were arranged by Mrs. C.R. Lowe (Victoria), wife of Major Lowe, Commanding Westham Camp, and the huts were respectively under Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Burrell, Mrs. Drury, Miss Reynolds, Miss McDonnell, and Miss Fulton.

In each case the supervisors of the huts had lady helpers whose grace and courtesy were keenly appreciated by all ranks. The afternoon altogether was most happy and this was largely due to the willing workers, both of the British Isles and of Australia. The whole result was most gratifying to Mrs. Spencer Browne who worked with characteristic energy at the head of the Committee.

In the evening concerts were given at the Gymnasium Hall, at the Y.M.C.A. Hall (arranged by Mrs. Cowdell Barrett) and at Westham Camp (arranged by Mrs. (Colonel) Drury). At the tea, (each man was presented with a khaki handkerchief and a bunch of wattle blossom.

Christmas Day.  
 December 25th, 1916.-

On Christmas Day in the Camps, after Church Services, the troops were paraded and received the Christmas gifts generously sent by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society. The men were addressed by the Commanding Officers and the generosity of the Red Cross Commissioners in providing the presents and the Christmas Dinner was acknowledged by warm cheers. The following is a copy of the Christmas Day menu :-

BREAKFAST.

Pork Sausages and Onions. Worcestershire Sauce.  
 Bread. Tea. Butter.

DINNER.

Roast Turkey and Ham. Giblet Pie.  
 Green Peas. Parsnips. Roast Potatoes.  
 Xmas Pudding and Sauce. Fruit. Nuts.  
 Beer. Soft drinks.

TEA.

Cold Ham. Tea. Jam. Bread. Butter.

SUPPER.

Vegetable Soup.

470

10

- 3 -

In the afternoon, an entertainment was given in the Gymnasium Hall, Monte Video (through the kindness of Mr. Wheeler) by the Pavilion Theatre Pantomime Company. At Westham a very attractive concert was given.

Boxing Day.

December 26th, 1916.- On Boxing Day the full proportion of leave was given so that all ranks might go to see their friends in Weymouth or attend the Theatres

December 30th, 1916.- A capital concert was given in the evening at Westham Camp and presided over by Major C.R. Lowe.

New Year's Day.

January 1st, 1917.-

"Seeing the Old Year out and New Year in" was as merry an institution in the Depots as circumstances admitted.

For the New Year's Day, the splendid plum puddings so generously supplied by the "Daily Telegraph" and "Daily News" Funds, were enjoyed at Dinner.

In the afternoon, sports were held with a good programme.

January 2nd, 1917.-

The Jubilee Theatre was taken for the afternoon and a delightful programme was submitted to about 1000 wounded and sick men with their friends of the United Kingdom troops from the various hospitals.

Hospitals in Weymouth.- The patients of the hospitals in Weymouth, men of the United Kingdom and Australian Troops, were entertained generously throughout the holidays. The hospitals were beautifully decorated by sympathetic and loving hands, and in the great Christian festival there were many bright hours spent by the brave men who have been stricken down while doing the Empire's glorious work.

For Monday afternoon, a splendid concert was given at the Hotel Burdon, by Mrs. (Colonel) Drury and a host of willing helpers, and a dainty tea (with plenty of "smokes") was given to the hospital patients, who were well enough to be present.

General.-

On the whole the Christmas and New Year Festivities for the Australians at Weymouth were much enjoyed. The weather was pleasant and surprisingly mild.

*Aspen Browne* Colonel.  
Commandant.  
No. 2 Australian Command Depot.

470

11



E.K.

No.2 Australian Command Depot,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth,  
January 1st, 1917.

Sanitary and Pioneer Report of Monte Video Camp, Weymouth for the  
Month ending December 31st, 1916.

Roads  
&  
Paths

General maintenance of Roads and Paths has been carried out as necessary.  
All main footpaths in Camp are being treated with Tar Pathing.

Sewerage

All Sewers, Gullies and Man Holes are disinfected weekly.

Surface  
Water  
&  
Drainage

Foul Drain from No.2 Bath House has been opened and choke removed and sections thoroughly cleaned.  
All surface Drains have been cleaned out during the Month.  
Owing to the great number of new Drains, the existing earthenware Drains under Roads and Paths are not large enough to carry the storm water during heavy Rains.  
Existing Pipes are being replaced with 6 inch earthenware Pipes.

Ablution  
Houses  
&  
Latrines

All broken windows and Taps are immediately repaired and defective Valve Washers replaced.  
At present the Ablution House in the S.W. corner of the Camp is awaiting repair. This will be proceeded with as soon as the assessment of Damages is available.  
All Urinals are treated with heavy Oil at regular intervals and all Latrine Pans are disinfected daily.

Huts

Several of the Hut Roofs are in a leaky condition and the work of repairing same is progressing and will be completed within the week. Otherwise the Huts are in an excellent habitable state. Floors, Tables, Forms, etc. are scrubbed weekly and all breakages are promptly repaired.  
Several Hut Stoves are in a very bad state and require immediate attention owing to the risk of Fire. The D.O.R.E. has been advised of this matter.

Painter  
&  
Glazier

The exterior of the Cinema Operating and re-winding Rooms have been painted black. Hut 28 (Dispensary) is being treated with washable dis-temper.  
Breakages have been light during the month and all broken windows repaired to date.

Carpenter  
&  
Joiner

The verandah on the North Side of Pay and receiving Offices is now complete and is of great benefit to New Arrivals in wet weather. All Barrack Rooms, which have breakages, are repaired as necessary.



Continued

Bath  
Houses

Bath Houses are thoroughly cleaned and in good order. A plentiful supply of Hot Water always on hand. Hot water Tank in No.1 Bath House has been opened and leaking joints repaired.

---

Cook  
Houses

Several Ranges and Boilers require minor repairs as previously reported, otherwise both Cook-Houses are in good order.

Sergeants Mess C.H. Ranges have been thoroughly repaired.

A 60 Gallon Fat Boiler has been built for purpose of Melting Fat from Cook-Houses.

---

Incinerators

All Incinerators are in good order, minor repairs have been executed during the month.

---

Ashes

Four Screens have been made and placed at the incinerators and Bath Houses for sifting Ashes.

---

Rain Driving  
under  
Doors of  
Huts

A device to prevent Rain blowing under the Doors of Huts has been tried and has given every satisfaction and it is proposed that every Hut in Camp be done in the same manner.

---

Gardener

A few cabbages have been cut this Month. All Gardens are being repaired for planting in the Spring.

---

Generally

The Camp generally is in a satisfactory state from point of view of Roads, Sewers, Drains, Gardens, etc.

---

*Geoffrey*

Lieut. & Quartermaster

*Mumtaz* Major,

S.M.O. No.2 Australian Command Depot.

470

13



Office of the  
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER  
Monte Video Camp  
WEYMOUTH  
1st January 1916.

From:- SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER  
No 2 Australian Command Depot.

To:-

MEDICAL & SANITATION REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1916.

SANITATION. The Sanitary condition of both Monte Video and Westham Camps, has been very satisfactory and there has been no overcrowding.

HEALTH OF TROOPS. The following cases of Infectious Disease have occurred:-

C. S. M.....	1.....	Westham
Measles.....	1.....	Westham
Mumps .....	12.....	Westham 4 Monte Video 8.

There has been a daily average sick parade at Monte Video of 21 representing a daily percentage of Camp strength of .8

There has been a slight increase during the month of cases of Influenza and Chest conditions.

OBITUARY. I have to report, with much regret, that Captain P. Money, A.A.M.C., died of Bronchitis and Pneumonia on the 22nd December. This Medical Officer did excellent work while at this Depot. He was M/O i/c Hospital and did all that was possible for the health and well being of the men under his care.

The following soldiers have also died during the month:-

3018	Pte.	White	F.G.	31st Batt.	Tumour on chest.
6568	Dvr.	Ward	G.A.	ASC.	Pneumonia
2742	Pte.	Nichoff	T.C.	29th Bn.	Nephritis.
4321	Cpl.	Edwards	T.S.	11th Bn.	V.D.H.
134	Pte	Manual	N.O.	10th Bn.	Bronchitis
716	Pte	McQuirk	F.T.	2nd AGH.	Frac;Spine
1591	Sgt.	McCuspie	D.K.	60th Bn.	Pneumonia
130	Pte	Mitchell	R.E.	34th Bn.	Asthma

NEW ARRIVALS. 1709 convalescent other ranks have been admitted to the Depot during the month.

MEN DISPOSED OF DURING MONTH. 1040 have been transferred from the Depot during the month as follows:-  
To Salisbury as fit for Home Service. 122  
To Salisbury as fit for General service 336  
To Wareham Temporarily unfit 583

DRESSINGS. During the month a total of 6036 surgical dressings have been performed at Monte Video Camp, a daily average of 195 patients.

MASSAGE. The number of men who attended for massage treatment at Monte Video during the month was 5954, a- the daily

470

14



average being 198 patients.

MASSAGE. DENTAL. Dental report for the month attached.

WESTHAM CAMP. Report by Medical Officer, Westham, is attached.,

*Sum Whae*

Major

S.M.O. No 2 Australian Command Depot.

470

15



1 JAN 1917 No. 2 Australian Command Depot,  
Westham Camp,  
WEYMOUTH.

31st December, 1916!

From. Medical Officer,  
Westham Camp.

To. Commanding Officer,  
Westham Camp.

Health and Sanitation Report for month of December, 1916.

I have the honour to report that the health of the troops in Westham Camp has been fairly satisfactory.

The daily average sick has been 23.

The number of cases transferred to hospital is as follows:-

Mente video Camp Hospital.	30.
Sidney Hall Military Hospital.	5
Bere. Isolation Hospital	10.
Total.	<u>44</u>

Venereal Cases. 11.

Scabies. 4.

Infectious Diseases.

Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis. 1.

This case, No. 3128, Pte. J.B. Phillips, 18th Battalion, was transferred to the Bere. Isolation Hospital on the 18th instant from Hut. 18. 7 "C.S.F." Carriers were transferred on 23rd. inst. to Bere. Isolation Hospital.

Measles. 1 case removed from Hut 18 to Bere Isolation Hospital on 19th inst.

Mumps. 4 cases occurred during the month and were isolated in the Drying Room. At present only 1 case is in isolation.

Sanitation.

The sanitation of the camp has been satisfactory, the huts kept clean and ventilation attended to. The condition of the general surroundings is good.

Several of the huts are leaking and the D.O.R.E. has been notified.

*J. Macdonald.*

Captain' A.A.M.C.  
Medical Officer, Westham Camp.



# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE IN ENGLAND.

A.F. No.

470

## Monthly Summary of Dental Treatment.

*December* Month 1916

STATION.	Attendance.	Cases Treated.	Teeth Extracted.	Anæsthetics.		Fillings.			Scaling Cases.	Dentures Repaired.	Dentures Supplied.	Pyorrhœa Cases Treated.	Fracture of Mandible.	General Surgical Cases.	REMARKS.
				General.	Local.	Temporary.	Permanent.	Root Filling							
1722 Austln. Command Depot Weymouth.	964	192	356	6	136	149	327	31	8	29	106.				
Southern Command															
was 687.															
Is chargeable.															
Estimated Value of above Treatment at Imperial Contract Rates.			8/20	8/10 ea	8/10 ea	nil	8/10 ea	8/10 ea	8/10 ea						
			£17/16/1	15/-	£17/1	-	£40/17/6	£3/17/6	£1/4/-	£13/13/1	£23/16/6				Total £216. 9. 6

Date *December 27<sup>th</sup> 1916.*

*R. G. Brabant* *Sent* Dental Officer in Charge.

*Dental Unit Report*

16

*W. H. Wheeler* Major, S.M.O.

S.M.O. No. 2 AUSTN. COMMAND DEPOT.

470

17

No.2 Australian Command Depot,  
Westham Camp,  
W E Y M O U T H,  
31st December, 1916.

FROM. Medical Officer,  
Westham Camp.  
TO. Senior Medical Officer,  
No.2 Australian Command Depot.

Health and Sanitary Report for Month of December, 1916.

I have the honour to report that the health of the troops in Westham Camp has been fairly satisfactory, but there has been several cases of Influenza and Bronchitis which were sent to Hospital at Monte Video Camp.

The Daily Average Number of Sick has been 23, The chief troubles being respiratory.

The following cases were sent to Hospital

Venerreal and Scabies.

Genorrhoea 9  
Venerreal Sores. 2  
Scabies 4

All these cases were transferred to Monte Video Camp for treatment and isolation.

Infectious Diseases.

Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis. 1 case, No. 3128, Private J.B. Phillips, 18th Battalion, was removed to the Bero Isolation Hospital on 18th instant from Hut 18.

This Hut was isolated and disinfection carried out as per para. 152, Regulations Army Medical Services. Swabs were taken from the remainder of men in the hut. Of these 7 proved to be "C.S.F." carriers and were removed to the Bero Isolation Hospital on 23rd instant.

Hut 18 is still in isolation under guard.

Measles. 1 case occurred in Hut. 18 on the 19th instant and was immediately removed to the Bero. Isolation Hospital.

Mumps. 4 Cases occurred and were placed in the Drying Room for isolation and treatment. At present only 1 case is in isolation

Dressings. The Daily Average Number of Men requiring Dressings has been 29.

Massage. The Daily Average Number of Men requiring Massage has been 121.

Sanitation. The Sanitation of the Camp has been satisfactory, the Huts kept clean and ventilation attended to, and the general surroundings are in good condition.

Several of the Huts are leaking and the D.O.R.E. has been notified.

*J. Macdonald*  
Captain. A.A.M.C