

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/2/4

Title: Assistant Director Ordnance
Services, 2nd ANZAC Corps

November 1916



AWM4-2/2/4

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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.

or ~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

74

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/11/16.		Corps Routine.	
	2/11/16.		1. Visited Left Brigade Bomb Stores, Armentieres - well looked after but fire buckets necessary & also Lanterns, tent, folding. 2. Visited Left Sector Gum Boot Store, Armentieres - boots should be kept in sizes - gave the necessary instructions. 3. Informed by D.D.O.S. on 'phone not necessary to include Trench & Area Stores in monthly return of stores other than maintenance for Colonial Divisions.	
	3/11/16.		1. Visited the two gum boot stores of Right Brigade, New Zealand Division. - racks are in position and some of the stores but the drying of gum boots is not going on yet - reported the fact.. 2. Completed list of Trench Stores in possession of Divisions.	<i>Wm</i>
	4/11/16.		1. Visited Saily Baths and Laundry - the Centrifuge still not in position - C.R.E., of Division states he is having to get the bolts made hence delay. 2. C.R.A., 5th Austn. Divl. Artillery asked for 8,400 yards of sail canvas for making Ammunition Carriers - I spoke to him on 'phone - he then said 2,000 yards would do to start with - 1/ANZAC was wired and asked if necessary - replied 'Yes'. - wired to Second Army for authority to purchase 2,000 metres at 3.40 fcs. per metre.	<i>Wm</i>
	5/11/16.		1. Went to Head Quarters, Second Army and checked lists of Area and Trench Stores allotted by Second Army. 2. G.H.Q., refuse to sanction local purchase of canvas for Ammunition Carriers for 5th Austn. Divl. Arty.	<i>Wm</i>
	6/11/16.		1. Visited gum boot stores 34th Division with an officer of the "Q" Staff. - there are four stores (2 each Brigade) all in the subsidiary line. - The stores are all in suitable for the purpose & good racks have been provided - the drying is done by braziers which will presently be replaced by stoves - accurate records are kept of issues and receipts. - The boots are at present only being issued to working parties and not to all infantry in the trenches.	<i>Wm</i>
	7/11/16.		1. Visited O.O., Corps Troops - discussed question of payment of officers for boot repairs - probably best to publish order for unit shops to assess amount and send completed copy of A.F., W.3225 to O.O., concerned. (2) Monthly cancellation of indents is done by O.O., as each unit makes its report. 2. Visited D.O.O., 34th Division - C.E. of Army has promised to repair the road - he requires a dining hut and stove & also existing store hut to be made weatherproof.	P.T.O.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Contd :-	7/11/16.		3. Visited I.O.O., with T.M. Officer, 34th Division and showed him a) several burst containers of Stokes Mortars and b) a 4.5" Cartridge with a 5 ring marked 4.	<i>Am</i>
	8/11/16.		1. Visited Estaires Baths - they can wash and dry 16,000 to 20,000 garments per week now but with a centrifuge could probably double the output. 2. Visited D.O.O., N.Z. Division - He has cancelled all indents prior to Oct. 1st - Winter Clothing is coming up well. 3. Visited I.O.M. - a wooden sledge is nearly ready for D.A.Q.M.G. to see - this is a triangle turned up at sides and corners probable weight 4 cwt. 4. I.O.O., arrived with Stokes T.M. Ammunition ruined by rain - he reports having received 2,000 of it from 34th Division - most of it apparently was got ready for firing and was then exposed to weather - some of the cartridges are soaked and would probably miss-fire or give a short shot. Reported matter to Corps Headquarters asking if anything can be done to give weather protection to the ammunition.	<i>Am</i>
	9/11/16.		1. Conference of D.A.Ds.O.S. - (a) Winter Clothing is nearly complete. (b) Have arranged with Ordnance Officer, Corps Troops to collect stores for Officers Clothing Shop which opens tomorrow. 2. Instructed by Army that Gun Springs are now supplied by Base to D.A. Columns. 3. D.D.O.S., 2nd Army and D.D.O.S., North, came up and brought Lieutenant B.G.P. HARE. to run new Officers Clothing Depot.	<i>Am</i>
	10/11/16.		1. Visited Army Workshops (R.E.) and went through list of Trench Stores made by R.E. 2. Visited officers Rest Home - a carpet is required - applied to Army.	<i>Am</i>
	11/11/16.		1. Visited R.O.O., Steenwerck - he has 400 Steel Helmets available for issue - he also suggests that returned Service Dress, etc. should not be sent to Railhead unless disinfected - this is sound as a general principle and in accordance with instructions given in this Corps. 2. Visited Salvage Officer at Armentieres. - they are short of gum boots which should be demanded. 3. Visited Ordnance Workshops - the wooden experimental sledge is ready for trial.	<i>Am</i>
	12/11/16.		1. Went with D.A.Q.M.G. to Corps Shops and saw wooden sledge tested over heavy ground - D.A.Q.M.G. suggested various alterations in the design which will be carried out and further tests made. We shall require 1 pair horses a limber and ten filled boxes of 18-pdr ammunition.	<i>Am</i>
	13/11/16.		1. Visited 18th Divl. Ammn. Sub Park. at Vieux Berquin. - The Bomb Store is in a tarpaulined shelter. I suggest elephant shelters covered with sandbags - reported to "Q". 2. Visited Corps Salvage Dump, Vieux Berquin - work proceeding satisfactorily - not much left in area by units who have recently passed through. 3. Visited N.Z. Divl. Ammn. Sub Park - they have no ammunition except what is in their vehicles.	<i>Am</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14/11/16.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visited Pont Nieppe Laundry and left instructions for forewoman to re-engage the laundry hands. 2. Visited Erquinghem Laundry - congratulated Officer i/c on having reduced cost of garments to 11.98 centimes per garment - he can bath, and wash the clothes, of 2,000 men per diem. 3. Visited I.O.M. - the alterations to wooden sledge will be finished in two days - the iron material has arrived - Class of Officers went off successfully. 4. Visited "Q" 34th Division - Colonel Chance promised that another put (Nissen) will be issued to D.O.O., 34th Division as soon as Division gets a further allotment. 5. Lewis Cart. <i>Sagmy suggested further alterations for dog draft, 10th promise completion by 17th</i> 6. I was directed to see that 3rd Austn. Division could be completed with Box Respirators and Steel Helmets on arrival, if they arrived incomplete. - I phoned D.D.O.S., Second Army and was informed that it is understood 3rd Austn. Divn. will arrive without Box Respirators but with Steel Helmets. - D.D.O.S., will verify re Steel Helmets and inform me - I directed O.O., Corps Trps. to demand 20,000 Box Respirators. 7. Referred to Army re mats for Motor Cars - not ordinarily an A.O.D. supply. <i>W</i> 	
	15/11/16.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visited H.Q., 1st Field Coy. N.Z.E. - gave instructions as to explosives being ready for me tomorrow. 2. Visited Saily Laundry - the concrete for 1 centrifuge has been laid and will be dry by Sunday next 19th to take centrifuge. - They appear to have insufficient packs for sock carrying - I informed D.O.O., who can give numbers required. 3. Visited D.O.O., and asked him for quantity and quality of material required to make 1 Canadian Pack as I may have to procure it for the Corps. <i>W</i> 4. I was informed that frost logs for horse shoes are being sent up from the Base. 	
	16/11/16.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bought (after reference to Second Army) 25 metres of white American sail cloth for a circular signal for Aircraft. 2. Inspected explosives of 1st Fld. Coy., N.Z.E. - explosives well looked after and cared for, but the dug-out at Headquarters has fallen in and the guncotton, etc. is now in the shelter used as a shop. - a dug-out or elephant shelter is desirable - I reported to "Q". 3. Held Conference of D.A. De. O.S. - a) All repairable and "U" box respirators are now dealt with by Gas Officer - b) 34th Divisional Gas Officer also deals with those from Corps Troops. b) D.O.O., N.Z. Division will let me have particulars of Canadian pattern Pack. 4. A.Q.M.G., verbally approved of issue of 600 Gum Boots thigh to Franks Force at once, from Corps Reserve - they are all due from Base to replace "U" or losses. 	
	17 18 11/16.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examined explosives of No. 2 Fld. Coy. N.Z.E. - all satisfactory except one tin of guncotton primers - this has got wet & should be returned to Railhead - also the guncotton at Headquarters of the Company should be placed in a proper dug-out. 2. I watched with D.A. Q.M.G. a further test of the wooden sleigh for ammunition - D.A. Q.M.G. considers that it should be made still lighter - test on the whole successful. <i>W</i> 	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 3118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

74

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Contd-	17/11/16.		3. Arranged with local saddler to make American Cloth Aerial Signal 16 pices each 5 metres long about 3/5ths metre wide and 4 eyelet holes each. - the required circle and figures can be built up from these.	
	18/11/16.		<p>1. D.D.O.S. wired 3rd Austn.Divn. arrive with Steel Helmets - he phoned that Box Respirators will be sent up in time to equip them. - I informed D.A.& Q.M.G.</p> <p>2. Visited Pont Nieppe Laundry with Captn.Krolik - latter reported cost of laundry could be reduced by having 20 to 25 vats for washing - 4 or more women to wash at each vat instead of 1 tub to each woman as at present - water would need changing less often and thus time would be economised. - I am doubtful if any real saving would be effected as even with the little tubs water is only changed twice a day and with big ones it would be changed once. - He also recommended 4 large vats for boiling and disinfecting clothing - we found two of those now used for the men's baths are spare and will do - he also suggested two centrifuges but the present hydraulic presses are probably good enough and at any rate I consider further trial should be made. - I instructed N.C.O. now i/c laundry to demand sufficient underclothing - 4,000 of each item and 8,000 pairs of socks to start on the 22nd.</p> <p>3. I attended a lecture on the Canadian pattern.Pack. - It seems sound and very practical - materials required are ; White Pine, Sail Sixty Canvas, Eyelets, Steel Hooks and Cord (blind or slighter stouter.)</p>	<p><i>Handwritten initials</i></p> <p><i>Handwritten initials</i></p>
	19/11/16.		<p>1. Went to Erguinghem and interviewed with O.C., Corps Ammn.Park and O.C., 42nd Squadron, R.F.C., some 50 men of 34th Division who are artificers.</p> <p>2. D.A.D.O.S., of 3rd Austn.Divn. arrived.</p> <p>3. D.D.O.S. again promised on 'phone that Small Box Respirators will be up in time for 3rd Austn. Divn. - War Office states they will bring Steel Helmets with them.</p>	<p><i>Handwritten initials</i></p>
	20/11/16.		<p>1. Visited Rue Marle with other members of the Committee and interviewed 53 men whose names have been registered as artificers.</p> <p>2. Went with D.O.O., 3rd Austn.Divn. and selected possible site for his dump - map reading Sheet 38. A.11.d.6.4. - There are 4 huts there - 1 large additional hut with loading platform on to Steenwerck. - Steenwerck Station Road necessary - informed D.A.A.& Q.M.G., 3rd Austn.Divn also</p> <p>3. D.D.O.S., Second Army.</p>	<p><i>Handwritten initials</i></p>
	21/11/16.		<p>1. Visited 3rd Field Coy., N.Z.E. - Their equipment is largely at their wagon lines at near Pont Nieppe - in addition they have charges made up ready in dugouts close to the II Lys Bridge ready for demolition - condition of these explosives were good.</p> <p>2. Visited 14th A.A.Battery - they are expecting some pedestal guns not on lorries and require</p>	<p><i>Handwritten initials</i></p>

2449 Wl W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.3118/12. some shelter to hold the ammn. of which fuzes have been set -

4

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

74

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Continued	- 21/11/16.		Boxes must be open for quick service to the gun - I informed C.E. (3) Visited P. of W. camp and saw	
	22/11/16.		<p>1. Watched a further experiment on sleigh with Corps Commander, D.A. & Q.M.G. - It is considerably lighter now but ground was very heavy and not sodden - it is evident that a triangular flat bottomed sleigh is no good except on very wet ground. - I.O.M. will draw out a plan of suggested steel model to be made at Heavy Mobile Workshops.</p> <p>2. 9,000 odd Box Respirators arrived for CHARMIAN. (3rd AUST. DIVISION).</p> <p>3. Visited Erquinghem Baths - met A.A. & Q.M.G. there and A.D.M.S., 34th Division. - The women say they will not wash more than 60 garments per head per diem - I suggest discharging dissatisfied ones at once but Division will not act for the present.</p>	<p>{ what scale of clothing etc. is being supplied to them.</p>
	23/11/16.		<p>1. D.A. & Q.M.G. instructed me to see that 3rd Austn. Divn. were equipped with Box Respirators on arrival - arranged with D.O.O. to draw them from Bas St Maur and take to his dump - He is to issue to all units before they go into forward area.</p> <p>2. Conference - of D.A. Ds. O.S. - Review of indents - 34th N.Z. Division and G.G., Corps Troops, have sent out the necessary lists of outstanding stores to units for cancellation if desired - N.Z. Division are automatically cancelling everything over one month old.</p> <p>3. Visited D.O.O., 3rd Austn. Divn., Steenwerck.</p> <p>4. Tried dogs again in Lewis Cart.</p>	
	24/11/16.		<p>1. Further experiments with dog draught for Lewis hand cart.</p> <p>2. Visited Nieppe Laundry - the women have been discharged again for coal shortage - this will simplify matters as the new rate of pay is being enforced.</p> <p>3. 3rd Austn. Divn. begin to arrive - most of the Box Respirators from Bas St Maur Railhead taken to Steenwerck to-morrow.</p>	
	25/11/16.		<p>1. D.A. & Q.M.G. wants the wheel guards for the Lewis hand cart widened and carried right round edge to axle - I instructed I.O.M.</p> <p>2. Interviewed 60 so-called artificers of 34th Division with other Committee - a few selected as worth a trial.</p>	
	26/11/16.		<p>1. Visited D.O.O., 34th Division. - His units are cancelling about 25% of outstanding indents - his men should be fairly comfortable once the extra hut is issued.</p> <p>2. Visited O.O., Corps Troops - His units are cancelling about 10% of items outstanding for 1 month. His men are very comfortable - guard is not yet mounted.</p> <p>3. Visited H.Q., 3rd Austn. Division - they have their correct allowance of Camp Kettles - have demanded 700 more from Base as boilers may not be used in trenches - I 'phoned Army who queried demand - 100 are urgently required - Army promised to order up that number.</p> <p>4. Applied for 1 shell gauge for each 18-pdr Battery.</p> <p>5. Applied for Acetylene Headlights for trench work.</p>	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2115/12

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/11/16.		1. Interviewed with other members of Committee 7 would-be artificers at Erquinghem & Rue Marle - only two recommended for test.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	28/11/16.		1. Visited Left Brigade, Right Sector Head Quarters and its gum boot stores with D.A.D.O.S., N.Z. Divn. - the two gum boot stores are in good running order - sufficient are in hand at each, (about 1,400) to enable 1 pair to be drying whilst another pair is in use. - The only criticism I have is that stoves should be provided in place of braziers - I reported to "Q".	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	29/11/16.		1. Visited Corps Salvage Officer with D.A.D.O.S., 3rd Austn. Divn. and explained methods of salvage and also daily issue of gum boots to latter. 2. Took D.A.D.O.S., 3rd Austn. Divn. to Nieppe Laundry - I found the women will be taken on again on Saturday and the new O.C., is now taking over the laundry, etc. 3. I explained the daily sock issue to D.A.D.O.S., 3rd Austn. Divn and explained that I already had instructed O.O., Corps Troops to issue 300 Waterproof Bags to the laundry for the purpose.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	30/11/16.		1. Visited Heavy Mobile Workshops, Hazebrouck with D.A. & Q.M.G. - Met the C.I.O.M. there and the General explained to him what is required for the steel sledge experiment. 2. Conference of D.A.D's.O.S. - (a) The tops of the gum boots on charge of O.O., Corps Troops are tending to rot from the rain - I instructed O.O., Corps Troops to send them to Corps Salvage Officer to-day and O.O., Corps Troops, to demand a store tent to put the boots in after drying.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>