

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/4/1

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance  
Services, 1st Australian Division

October 1914



AWM4-2/4/1

D 1914	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
26. 10	Albany	<p>From date of mobilization up to this day dealt with several questions in connection with mobilization Tables &amp; equipping of troops.</p> <p>This entailed much work which should have been done in peace - eg preparation of mobilization Tables corresponding to the Imperial series AF 61098: Contents of 1<sup>st</sup> line &amp; Train Tables &amp; cards &amp; method of packing: methods of carrying certain articles in the field.</p> <p>So far as my observation of the Ordnance Dept in 3<sup>rd</sup> MA bears my piece</p>	<p>App I</p>

C.11.56.

D	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>Recommendations that there should be an increase of staff. With an Ordnance Officer was justified. The S.O.O worked day &amp; night but no single individual could possibly have coped with the work he was called upon to perform. The work of purchase alone would have employed his full day's capacity, entailing as it did the personal supervision of the purchase of large quantities of blankets, necessaries, tools, tinners' compass, etc.</p>	

C.11/56.

Date	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>all that could be done to get the stores in was done but getting them out to the troops was another matter. I could not have that there was any checking of requisitions: towards the end we attempt<sup>ed</sup> to make to check requisitions against the <sup>log</sup> books: if the stores were there, if the unit handed in a requisition it was done. In the nature of things a check was impossible, there was none to do it. An Ordnance Officer Acting in touch with the Larkhill Comd</p>	

C.11/56.

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I	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>have supervised all this &amp; at the same time have been of the utmost assistance in advising C.O.'s how &amp; where to draw stores. The scattered structures, puzzled &amp; multi-francs of stores caused a lot of. Apart from BROADMEADOWS where a portion of everything was - in theory - Mainly clothing was issued in one place, hammers in another, harness in another, tools in another, camp equipment in another &amp; rope in another. So this must be added the fact that at almost all times the New Guinea S.O.O. was besieged by contractors</p>	

C.111-56.

I 1914	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
25 x		<p>Reports &amp; views of all branches of the Service.</p> <p>Conference on trial at which C. G. brought their lists of shortages. If these may be accepted as correct, the shortages are not numerous &amp; are confined mainly to clothing &amp; badges. Issue can be made on arrival.</p>	
29 x		<p>Proceeds scheme to purchase 5000 post cards. In view of a rigid censorship, provision might be a future suitable occasion to award for prize to (charities)</p>	App II

C.11/56.

To be typed

Date

1914

29. X.

Place & time

Remarks & references  
to Appendix & c.  
attached

There was also a shortage (or rather a loss through fair wear & tear) of hammers in the transports. Purchase was effected at Albany but no opportunity afforded of issuing to the Southern.

(Original of above <sup>entry</sup> will be found on page 1 of diary for month of November 1914 and bound with that month.)

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## CLOTHING.

When it was decided that two coats per man would be issued it became evident that the stock of material on hand plus that which could be obtained quickly from the trade was not equal to the making the total number of coats required within a reasonable time. It was accordingly decided that the C.P. Shirt should be issued at the rate of one per man and that the second service coat should be sent after the troops. Owing to the unexpected delay in departure it was possible to place 7,080 jackets on board on the 20th October (Anglo-Egyptian) and a further 750 on the "Orvieto". The balance (13,490) will be forwarded when transport is available (A.I.F. 89-1-67). Some, in fact most, of the first issue were of the 16-oz cloth.

In regard to gaiters, although there were plenty in stock they were of too small a size - 13 and 13½ predominated whereas the size<sup>s</sup> most in request were 14½ and 15.

Many and serious were the complaints received about boots, complaints which in many cases were justified. The point was dealt with in A.I.F. Order No. 31.172(1), whereby all badly fitting and unsuitable boots were exchanged. Boots which were misfits but otherwise suitable for re-issue were retained for re-issue in England. A Board was assembled to deal with the whole question, and by direction of the D.A.A. & Q.M.G., A.I.F. I discussed the matter with the president and inspected some of the boots under complaint. The causes of complaint were four in number

- (a) Heels coming off.
- (b) Inside sole too small.
- (c) Lack of stiffening at back.
- (d) Inferior material.

All these defects I found to exist in some shape or other, but I feel bound to confess that, in my opinion



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CLOTHING (contd) opinion, (d) was not so serious as it was made out to be. In many cases, undoubtedly, inferior material was used but the main cause of deterioration struck me as having been caused by the abuse and not by the use of the boot. I was told, with what truth I am not prepared to vouch, that the fashion was to stand in water until the boots were well soaked, the idea being that they ~~thereby~~ thereby took the shape of the foot. Better judges than I may ~~think~~ approve this method, but personally, I would not encourage in others a system which I would not put into practice myself.

To get the proper effect from dubbing, the leather should be first wetted and then have dubbing well rubbed in, but to stand in water and thoroughly soak the leather is to my mind a too drastic treatment and one which should not be encouraged on active service. Many of the boots I saw were as hard as brickbats and in all fairness I do not think the contractors could be called to account. I consider an order should be published prohibiting the practice.

#### BADGES

There was a great shortage of badges in the 2nd M.D. so much so that the 7th Battalion is practically without the "AUSTRALIA" Badge. The shortage is probably due to the lack of system whereby some units drew their second supply before others had drawn their first. Even so, I cannot see why, mobilizing as we did early in August, a sufficiency ~~was~~ could not have been obtained before the afternoon of the 20th October. There was also a shortage of stars for officers and hat and cap badges.

#### BINOCULARS

Very early in the proceedings it was apparent that the demand for prismatic binoculars would exceed the supply. On 112/2/94 the High Commissioner wired that he could obtain 21 and a reply cable was sent on the 17th Sept. asking that they should be secured. In

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BINOCULARS (contd) Victoria the S.O.O. purchased and supplied me with 306 prismatic and 214 ordinaries. A further 47 were received as gifts or loans, mostly prismatic. The 2nd Field Artillery Brigade reported as requiring 4 graticulated pairs which were unobtainable.

The class of Binocular supplied towards the end was indifferent. This was inevitable owing to the depletion of the market for all except very highly priced articles.

## AMMUNITION.

25,000 boxes of S.A.A. Mk.VI have been placed on board the various transports. Also 40,000 rounds of 18-pdr Q.F. The "Omrah" "Geelong" and "Medic" have in addition the following quantities of 15-pdr B.L. to be handed over to the Imperial Authorities.

SHELL		CARTRIDGES	FUZES	PRIMERS	TUBES FRICTION
Filled	Empty				
3981	9749	13,004	13,440	15,602	14,641

## SPARE STORES

Under Ministerial Authority stores as per attached list "A" were obtained and shipped in various transports. Only 4,082 of the 5,725 Heel ropes could be manufactured by the Harness Factory owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a sufficiently strong Dee to <sup>which to</sup> attach the rope

List "B" shews the nature and number of spare parts provided for use with the G.S.CP Wagon. Under Authority <sup>A.I.F.</sup>/89-1-104 a large consignment of clothing will be forwarded to the A.I.F. in about six weeks time. Authority is also conveyed to purchase certain necessaries and hospital stores.

## ARTICLES OF EQUIPMENT TO BE TAKEN ABROAD BY A.I.F.

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(For use in Camp extra to Mobilization Equipment)

ARTICLE	Weight in Cwt.	Measure- ment Cubic Feet	Quan- tity	Amount £
Buckets, water, G.S., canvas	26	289	2500	290
Cords, forage	5	175	1250	20
Kettles, camp, oval, 12-quarts	50	500	800	210
Lanterns, tent, folding	13	100	230	90
Lamps, candle			90	15
Mallets, heel peg and small picket	11	54	620	50
Mauls, G.S.	10	70	100	25
Posts, picket, 2½-ft	20	90	500	100
Pegs, picketing with rope loop	90	540	5350	270
(head, hemp, with ring	58	324	5475	320
Ropes, (heel, Mk.IV	49	252	5735	650
(picketing, 66-ft	50	400	400	125
Pails, I.G. 3-gallons	60	550	1375	135
T O T A L	442	3344		£2300

## LIST OF SPARE STORES FOR G.S.WAGONS

## Wagons, G.S., C.P.

Wheels, fore	50
" hind	50
Axles, front	20
" hind	20
Blocks, brake	464
Boxes, axle	40
Nuts, axle, right	175
" " left	175
Poles,	160
<del>Cart</del>	

## Carts, water, C.P.

Wheels	50
Pins, winch	100

To be obtained from the Sunshine Harvester Coy.

C.D. signed by Q.M.G. 14/9/14

D. of C. arranged with Sunshine Coy. 14/9/14

1-33  
Cpl.

Cpl.

Appendix No. 2 12

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Form No. 9.—CONTINGENCIES.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENTAL  
REGISTRATION NUMBER.

Dr. to Arthur Catling  
(Insert Address when necessary) "Albany Advertiser"

Financial Year 191 .

DIVISION No. . . . . SUBDIVISION No. . . . . ITEM No. . . . .

*191		£	s.	d.
	Printing and supplying 14000 Post Cards, as per quotations	5	10	0

TOTAL..... Five pounds  
..... ten shillings..... pence.

£ 5 10 0

Signature of Claimant Arthur Catling

\*Insert in this column—Date of Supply or period of Service.

Contract No. . . . .

Approved Requisition No. . . . .

I CERTIFY that this account is correct as regards computations, castings, rates of charge, and the faithful performance of the services charged.

....., Person incurring the expense.

Date / /

I CERTIFY that this account is correct within the meaning of Section 34 of "The Audit Act, 1901."

....., Certifying Officer.

Date / /

Received on the..... 191 , from.....

Esquire, the sum of..... pounds

..... shillings..... pence, in full payment of the above account.

Witness to the payment and signature.....

**Order No. 1.**

I HEREBY authorise the amount of this account to be paid to my account at the

..... Bank of .....

at .....

....., *Signature of Claimant.*

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**DIRECTIONS.**

If the Claimant is unable to attend in person at the Department, he may obtain payment by signing the above Order.

By filling up and signing the above Order, he may direct the amount to be paid to his credit at any Bank in the Commonwealth.

The Claimant may, if he prefer, issue an Order in the form of Order No. 3 of the Regulations.