

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/4/21

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

April 1917



AWM4-2/4/21

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.)

April 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBERT	1/4/17		Received instructions from I HQ to take over troops' second blankets which proceeding up to forward area. To be stored near ALBERT railhead in the hope of returning same to Base before the allotted time. Order from I HQ to stop the harring of hay nets.	
	2/4/17		Collected 500 French Shelters from O O Corp Troop for issue to 101 st Inf Bde at BEAULENCOURT. WO Keates started new dump between BEAULENCOURT and VILLERS-AU-FLOS. Units instructed to hand in one blanket per man to be returned to ALBERT.	
	3/4/17		A Howitzer Battery minus HQs joined the Division and was divided between 101 st and 102 nd How Batteries to complete them to 6 Gun batteries. 4 surplus Ammunition Wagons & 4 GS Wagons were returned to Ordnance.	
	4/4/17		Delivered 500 French Shelters mentioned above to 1 st Inf Bde. Lt Col Lewis & Pte Black (attached Ordnance) returned to 23 rd Bty at CO's request.	
	5/4/17		Sgt McLean concussed sick. 18 par with horse B.M. received for 3 rd Bty	

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	6/4/17		Am holding 12000 Blankets from units moving up. DHD would purchase 150 yds calico which was purchased at once in AMIENS 200 meters @ 50¢ frames - this was required for signal panels which should have been in possession of units	
	7/4/17		16 th M/L Co title changed to 21 st M/L Co. Bns inquiring after Wire Cutters & Cup muzzle attachments for Grenade firing, urgently requiring same. No orders outstanding for these. Would to Base for 400 of each	
	8/4/17		Railhead changed from ALBERT to BAPAUME. 7 Lys Lumbered Wagons received from Base. Owing to units being some distance from new dump, it was arranged to store lumber on the BAPAUME-BAYCOURT Road 1/4 mile from BAPAUME as Railhead had to be cleared early. Bde W.O.s clerks and Storemen arrived at new dump. Cpl Noble evacuated sick COS	
	9/4/17		4 more Lumber received from Base, making a total of 11 on hand. These to be issued to Inf Bns for carriage of Lewis Guns leaving each Bn in possession of 10 Lumbered Wagons Lys.	

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	9/4/17		W.O. Dawson proceeded to Calais Advance Base for 14 days course of instruction.	
	10/4/17		Moved Office to new dump, left small detachments in ALBERT with instructions to clear surplus Gun Boots, Ammunition Stores collected after reorganisation etc, to Railhead; keep stock of under clothing and equip. men going on leave. Bn details are also drawing rations from them.	
NEAR BEAULENCOURT	11/4/17		One lumber reported missing from BAPAUME - BANCOURT Road immediately informed A.P.M. 1 st Aus Div. Removed remaining ladders to dump to be issued to units concerned.	
	12/4/17		Reported loss of lumber to A.D.O.S. 1 st Aus Div. and A.P.M. B.P. Area. Under I.H.Q. arrangements 9 lorry loads of Blankets received from ALBERT dump for re-issue to troops. Collected 50 Bell tents from Area Commandant B.P. and issued 20 of these to 2 nd Inf Bde.	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	13/4/17		<p>Wired Base for 4.5" carriage for 101st How Bty, replace condemned, also 4.5" How with B.M., carriage and draught for 102nd How Bty. destroyed shell fire also 2-18 par Artillery Bodies for Div Art (unit unknown) replace shell fire. Received another 50 Bell Tents from Area Commandant B.P.</p>	
	14/4/17		<p>2nd Bty. demand 2 Lewis Guns replace U.S. Guns exchanged by A.I.A., 1st Brigade and Unit's demand satisfied. Wired Base for 3 Lewis Guns complete for 12th Bn 2 to replace lost and 1 shell fire.</p>	
	15/4/17		<p>Received 200 Lunch Shelters from OO Corp Troops and issued 100 each to 1st + 2nd Inf Bdes 500 for boots ankle received in bales instead of cases these to be reported on as to condition on receipt. Demanded 6 18 par guns with carriages & 1 4.5" Howitzer and carriage for Div Artillery (units names & further particulars later).</p>	

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NEAR BEAULENECOURT	15/4/17		Also wired Base for 4 Vickers Guns complete. - 3 for 21 st M.G. Co. & 1 for 3 rd M.G. Co. all to replace lost.	
	16/4/17		Demanded 4.5" How & Carriage for 101 st How Bty. shell fire. W.O. Walker went out to start new dumps near BEUGNY so as to be nearer the proposed new railhead also for convenience of Unit's drawing stores	
	17/4/17		Cpl. Heming admitted to 8 th Fld Amb. Instructions regarding return of winter clothing to Base received from A.D.C. S. 1 st Buzac. 100 horse rugs received from Base; urgently required for remnants supplied to Bties	
	18/4/17		3000 lb. Soap received from Base & 1 Vickers Gun for 3 rd M.G. Co. also 3 Vickers Guns per lorry from ABBEVILLE. for 21 st M.G. Co.	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	19/4/17		<p>Received from Railhead:- 15 wheels (Guns) for D.A.C., 2 German Machine Guns for instructional purposes issued to 21st M.L. Co, and 27 wheel supporting Carriage mats for trial & report (issued to 101st and 102nd How Bties). W.O. Walker recalled from proposed new dump at BEUGNY. I.O. No 29th High Mobile Workshops wires condemnation of carriage only for 101st Bty, having demanded Gun & Carriage on 16th inst for this unit. On information received from Div Artillery wired Base cancelling 4.5" How. Also I.O. No 30th wires received condemning 18 pdr for 2nd Bty, in this case also Gun & Carriage had already been demanded so cancelled carriage on same wire that cancelled 4.5" How.</p>	
	20/4/17		<p>Received from Base 2 Lewis Guns for 15th Btn, 1 Porton wagon for 1st Hd Coy R, 1 Masher new body for 6th Btn, 3 18 pdr Ammⁿ Wagons for 5th Bty, 6th Bty & 2nd Sec D.A.C.</p>	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	20/4/17		Also received 1 4.5" carriage for 101 st Bty. Depanded from Base 4.5" lumber Amm ⁿ for 1 st Sec D.A.C. shell fire.	
	21/4/17		Depand 3 Lewis Guns from Base for 11 th Btn replace lost. sent on to DHD report on the issues to Units for Quarter ending Mch 31 st 1917	
	22/4/17		Wred Base for 4 Traw Kischen bodies for 11 th Btn destroyed shell fire. Units commenced returning their blankets and sheep skin jackets.	
	23/4/17		Wred A.D.C. 1 st Lt asking if it will be possible to return 2 nd blankets to Base before allotted time, and holding about 9000 and Units continuing returning them. Lumbered Wagon depanded to replace the one stolen whilst parked on the PAPAUME - BANCOURT Road.	
	24/4/17		Received 3 Lewis Guns from Base for 11 th Btn also 2	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	24/4/17		18 sleds and 2 carriages for 4 th Bty, also 1-18 for gun for 2 nd Bty. Forwarded stores originally intended for 1 st Aus Div Inf Training School to Corps School, Avclary under instructions from A.D.C.S.	
	25/4/17		Reply received from A.D.C.S. re return of troops' 2 nd Blankets, these must be held until date stated on programme May 27 th . Received from Base 4.5" How & carriage for 102 nd How Bty, also carriage 4.5 for 101 st How Bty. Demanded 2" T Mortar for XIAT Co Bty (no particulars available).	
	26/4/17		Troops 2 nd Blankets and Sheep skin wasscoats almost all returned to Ordnance ready for despatch to Base.	
	27/4/17		Demanded 1 Vickers Gun for 21 st M.G. Co replace lost units instructed by D.H.Q. to re-draw their 2 nd Blankets	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	28/4/17		and Sheepskin waistcoats Authority from Corp Comm- ander for troops to retain same for the present. Trucks allotted for 1 st & 3 rd May to Div for return of Winter clothing cancelled owing to sheep skin waist coats having been re-issued.	
	29/4/17		Cancelled 18 pairs carriage for 2 nd Bty. Demanded on the 15 th inst, I.O.M. not having condemned same. Wired Base for 18 pair B.M. & Carriage for 6 th Bty (Shell fire) also 18 pair & cradle for 5 th Bty (Premature). Received from Base 1 Vickers Gun for 21 st M.G. Co 1 water cart for 2 nd Bty, 1 Limb wagon for 2 nd Bty, 1 Amb. Wagon for 2 nd fld Amb, 1 Pontoon wagon and 1 water cart for 2 nd fld Co & 1 R.R. Limber for 1 st fld Co & and 26 wheels chiefly for Div Train.	

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NEAR BEAULENCOURT	30/4/17		Received 4 Iron Pischeu Bodies for 4th Btn from Base and 25 Steel Helmets (Special Pattern) for trial A report from O.C. Corps Troops.	

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Capt.
A.S.C.S. 1st Australian Division

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