

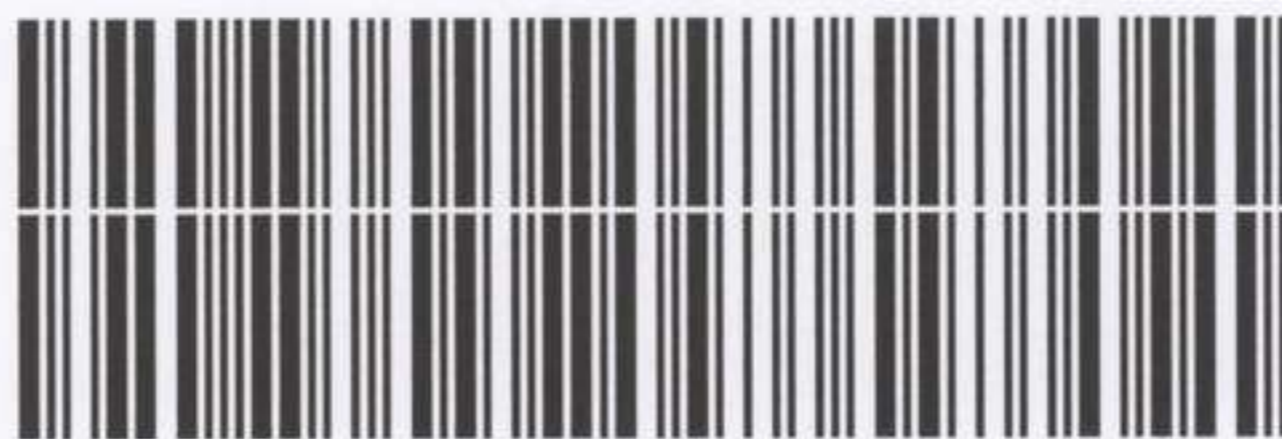
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Ordnance

Item number: 2/4/26

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

September 1917



AWM4-2/4/26

D.A.D.U.S.,
1st AUSTRALIAN
Army Form DIVISION 2118.
No.....
Date.....

WAR DIARY

SHEET 1.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pieve-Perquin	11/9/17		Sgt. Beattie of this unit transferred to 1 st Anzac Corps for duty at 1 st Anzac Reinforcement Camp as N.C.O. of Ordnance Stores. Sgt. Perry transferred to Ordnance unit from 8 th Inf Battalion vice Sgt. Beattie.	
"	2/9/17		7 Tons Service Dress clothing, boots, ankle, grinder and picketing gear received from Base. Only a very small number of Breeches S.D. received and units requiring same rather urgently. D.A.W. proceeds to Calais Ordnance Base and makes arrangements to send a lorry lorry in to collect 2000 pairs Trousers S.D. or Breeches.	
"	3/9/17		1 st Aust. Divnl. Artillery moved from 23 rd Div. to 25 th Div.	
"	4/9/17		Sent lorry to Calais Base and procured 1000 Breeches Aust. Patt. and 1000 Trousers S.D., this number will satisfy all outstanding demands from units. Received from Railhead 3 Tons Horseshoes and a large quantity of detail stores, including 11 Wheels No 200 A.	
"	5/9/17		6 Tons Oil, Grease, Lubbin and accoutrements received from Base. Am receiving large demands from units for articles for repair of Packsaddlery such as horsehair, dowlas, etc.	
"	6/9/17		Received from Base 3 Cook's carts for issue to the 3 Field Coys. of this Division in exchange for R.E. Limbets now in possession. Large demands from units for paint for the purpose of camouflaging wagon covers.	

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Picax-Berquin	7/9/17	-	1 st Aust. Divnl. Artillery moving out to rest area moved for Ordnance services from 25 th Div. to 5 th Aust. Div. The horse respirators loaned to Divnl. Artillery last month are now being recalled and re-issued to the Inf. units.	
"	8/9/17	-	300 sets Packsaddlery collected from Ordnance - 2 nd Army Troops. All P.B. men attached attend Medical Board held at 3 rd Aust. Field Ambulance.	
"	9/9/17	-	Warrant Officer, clerk and storeman with stores for 1 st Aust. Divnl. Art. units moved from Ordnance 25 th Div. (situated at Reninghelst) to Ord. - 5 th Aust. Div. located near Blaringhem. All units of 3 rd Divnl. Art. with the exception of 3 rd Sec. D.A.C. moved from Ord. - 3 rd Aust. Div. to this Division for Ordnance services, 2 N.C.O's. with lorry report here to assist in administering them.	
"	10/9/17	-	3 men attached from Div. Salvage Coy. given instructions to report back to their unit which is about to move up to forward area. Collected 150 Yukon Packs from Ordnance - 2 nd Army Troops.	
"	11/9/17	-	Asked Ordnance - 5 th Aust. Div. to move H.Q. - 1 st Aust. Divnl. Art. Medium and Heavy Trench Mortar Batteries to this Division as these units are to remain in the Reninghelst area, and are consequently much nearer this Div. than the 5 th Div.	

D.A.D.O.S.,	
1st AUSTRALIAN	
Army DIVISION C. 2118.	
No.
Date

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3RD SHEET.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Piura-Berquin	11/9/17	-	Received from Base 6 Tons General Stores including Picketing Gear, 26 Signalling Panniers and 1 cart Water Tank for 8 th Inf. Battalion. The Signalling Panniers are to be issued on the scale of 2 per Battalion - with this increase of two, all Bns. should now be in possession of 4.	
"	12/9/17	-	Sent 3 rd Div. Ordnance N.C.O. to Reninghelst with lorry-load of stores for issue to their Art'y. and to collect indents. Issued the 300 sets of Packsaddlery as follows: - 21 sets per Btn. and 6 per M.G. Coy. Forwarded Lorry load of Packsaddlery and urgent stores to units in the Reninghelst area. 150 Yukon packs issued to Divnl. Machine Gun Officer for urgent work in forward area. 317 Horse Gas Respirators collected from 1 st Aust. Div. Art'y. units and issued to Inf. units moving into forward area.	
"	13/9/17	-	Commenced moving Ordnance Dump to Reninghelst Location - Sheet 29-G.34.D.4.9 $\frac{1}{2}$. Forwarded stores collected from Steenwerck Railhead direct to new dump, and during the day sent up 6 additional lorry loads. Also formed an advance dump at Nickerbusch Location, Sheet - 28.H.28.C.6.3. This dump is quite close to the majority of Btn. Q.M.'s stores and will save a great deal of transport coming into Reninghelst. W.O. Dawson is in charge with two storemen.	

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SHEET 4.

D.A.D.O.S.	
1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.	
Army Form C 2118.	
No.
Date

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reninghelst	14/9/17	-	Railhead changed from Steenwerck to Reninghelst. Established Head Office at Reninghelst. 5 Tons Oil, grease and Dubbin, and 200 Horse Gas Respirators received from Base. Brought remainder of stores from Vieux Berguin.	
"	15/9/17	-	Collected from O.O. 1st Angac Corps Troops 250 Carriers Water for Packaddlery and forwarded them direct to the Officer in Charge Pack Train - also received from Corps Troops 8 Anti-Aircraft mountings for Lewis Guns. These were issued direct to the 1st Aust. Pioneer Bn. 11 Tons of stores received from Base, including 1800 pairs Boots, Ankle Aust. Patt., a good supply of Service Dress clothing and Grindery and complete Travelling Kitchen for 6th Inf. Bn. Purchased 30 lbs red, 30 lbs blue and 60 lbs green paint to be issued immediately to Battalions for painting distinguishing marks on steel helmets. Demanded Pontoon Wagon with Wheel and Lead harness for 3rd Field Coy all to replace "destroyed by shell fire"	
"	16/9/17	-	Demanded Cart Water Tank for 8th Inf. Bn. to replace "condemned". Collected from O.O. Corps Troops 500 Box Respirators and 500 P.H. Helmets also 3000 Bottles Water with carriers and shoulder straps. The bottles and carriers are to be distributed equally between 2nd and 3rd Inf. Bdes.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reminghelst	17/9/17		<p>Demanded 4.5 How. with carriage and B.M. for 108th How. Bty. - 3rd Aust. Div. to replace How. No. 1633, destroyed "shell. fire" - no. of carriage unknown. Collected from O.O. - 1st Anzac Corps Troops 5 Chaff-cutters and issued direct as follows:- 1st and 2nd Art. Bdes. - 1 each - 1st A.D.A.C. - 2 and No. 1. Coy Div. Train 1. Also collected 300 pts Gum Boots, High from Corps Troops and forwarded them direct to Advance Dump. Received from Base 1500 P.H. Helmets. 300 Box Respirators and 2 Tons Horseshoes.</p>	
"	18/9/17		<p>Collected from Ordnance - Corps Troops - 2000 pts Gloves Hedging, 94 Hot Food Containers and 150 Bats and Hooks for Pack saddlery. Received from Dickbusch R.E Dump 3000 pts cutters wire S.A. The wirecutters, gloves hedging and hot food containers are to be issued equally between the 2nd and 3rd Inf. Bdes. The Bats and Hooks forwarded to Officer in Charge Pack Train. 3 Vermorel Sprayers received from Ordnance - 47th Div. and forwarded to Advance Dump for issue on Divnl. Gas Officer's authority. Forwarded 20 Tangent light Slides Abk 3 to Divnl. M.G. Officer. Distribution to be left to his own discretion. When sufficient numbers are available, the slides Abk 2 will</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reminghelst	18/9/17	(cont)	Totally replace the Mbk 1 now in possession.	
"	19/9/17	-	Collected from Corps Troops Ordnance 3000 pps wirecutters S.A. Mbk 2 No 1 and issued direct to Battalions of 2 nd and 3 rd Bdes. Received from Dickelbruch Railhead 151 bases of Anti-Gas appliances. New railhead opened at Underdown for Ordnance. Trucks only of Divisions operating in forward area. The trucks despatched by Base for these particular formations instead of being attached to the supply trains are sent altogether direct to this Railhead, and are due to arrive the day following despatch from Base.	
"	20/9/17	-	Received from New Railhead 4.5" Howitzer and carriage for 108 th How. Battery - 3 rd Aust. Div. despatched by Base yesterday. Collected from 1 st Anzac Corps Troops 10 Strombus Horns and 20 cylinders these were forwarded to advanced dump for issue to units on Div. Gas Officer's authority. Whilst in the forward area the replacement of Vickers and Lewis Machine Guns is being effected from a reserve M.G. store formed by 2 nd Army. This store is within easy reach of the Divnl. Ordnance Dumps of the Divisions for which it is intended and makes possible the replacement of Machine Guns within a few	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
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SHEET 7

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reminghelst	20/9/17	contd.	hours of the casualty. Demanded 5 Vickers Guns from 2 nd Army M.G. store for 21 st Aust M.G. Coy to replace destroyed by shell-fire.	
"	21/9/17	-	Demanded from M.G. Store 2 Lewis Guns for 7 th Batten. to replace destroyed by shell-fire. Received from Base Pontoon Wagon for 3 rd F. Coy. and Water-bast for 7 th Battalion. Collected from the M.G. Store 5 Vickers Guns for 21 st M.G. Coy and 2 Lewis Guns for 7 th Battalion. Demanded from Base 2000prs. Breeches D. S. 2000prs Puttees and 1200 Tunics for issue to units immediately they come out of the line.	
"	22/9/17	-	Demanded from M.G. Store 2 Vickers Guns for 2 nd M.G. Coy to replace "Lost in action" these were collected and forwarded to Advanced Dump for issue. Forwarded indent to Base for 12,000 Pests Woollen and 10,000 Drawers Woollen for issue as per scale of Winter clothing which comes into force October 15 th .	
"	23/9/17	-	Moved 3 rd Aust. Divnl. Artillery and No 1 Coy 3 rd Aust. Div. Train from Ordnance - 1 st Aust. Div. to Ord. 4 th Aust. Div. All units of 1 st Aust. Div. with the exception of the Pioneer Battalion, 1 st and 2 nd 21 st M.G. Boys, and 1 st and 3 rd Field Coys. moving down towards Steenwoorde. Under instructions have handed	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reninghelst	23/9/17	contd.	over all trench and battle stores held at advanced Dump to Ord. 5 th Aust. Div. and brought W.D. Dawson and detachment in to the Reninghelst dump. Ordnance 4 th Aust. Div. are to move into this Dump to-morrow and we are to take over their dump located in Rue de Terdeghem - Steenwoorde.	
Steenwoorde	24/9/17		Completed move down to Steenwoorde. Received 12 tons stores from Railhead including 10000 pps socks and 5000 shirts flannel.	
"	25/9/17		Demanded 5 Lewis Guns for 12 th Battalion 1 for 9 th Inf. Btn. 1 for 1 st Inf. Btn. also one Pickers Gun for 3 rd M.G. Coy and 1 Stokes Mortar Barrel for 2 nd L. T.M. Bty. Received from Base 2000 pps Puttees, 2000 pps Trousers and 900 Tunics. This number of Trousers and Puttees will be sufficient but an additional 1000 Tunics are urgently required to re-equip the Division. Pte Symonds - attached from 12 th Inf. Batten proceeded to A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters - London to receive discharge from A.I.F.	
"	26/9/17		Demanded from M.G. Store 3 Lewis Guns for 6 th Inf. Batten, 3 for 5 th Batten, 1 for 2 nd Batten, 1 for 4 th Batten, 2 for 9 th Batten and 3 for 10 th Batten, these were collected and are now available. Received from Base 6 tons	

D.A.D.O.S.,
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Steinwoorde	26/9/17	contd.	General Stores including 800 Ground Sheets and 655 Tins for carrying water.	
"	27/9/17	-	Demanded 3 3-inch Stokes Mortars for 3 rd A.L.T.M. Bty. to replace "destroyed in action". Have now received to all Battalions indents for re-equipment and as it is most important that the Division be prepared for action again in a few days, have made up a Supplementary Bulk indent for all accoutrements, necessaries, etc., required to complete. Have also picked out all demands for important stores and consolidated them into a bulk demand for the Division, these will be taken down to Base and arrangements made to collect the most urgent stores direct from the issuing bays to-morrow.	
"	28/9/17	-	Sent 4 Lorries to Calais and collected practically all the most useful stores off the indents submitted yesterday. The stores received include 2621 Lewis Gun Magazines, with Web carriers for same, 1288 Bell's .303 Pickers No. 9, 480 Wire-cutters Mk 1, S.A. No 1, 77 pps Binoculars Ordinary, 38 Watches, 800 Carriers, Hand Grenade, 108 Pistols signalling 1" and a large number of M.C. parts. Received from Railhead 12000 Peels, Woollen required for issue as Winter Clothing.	

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