

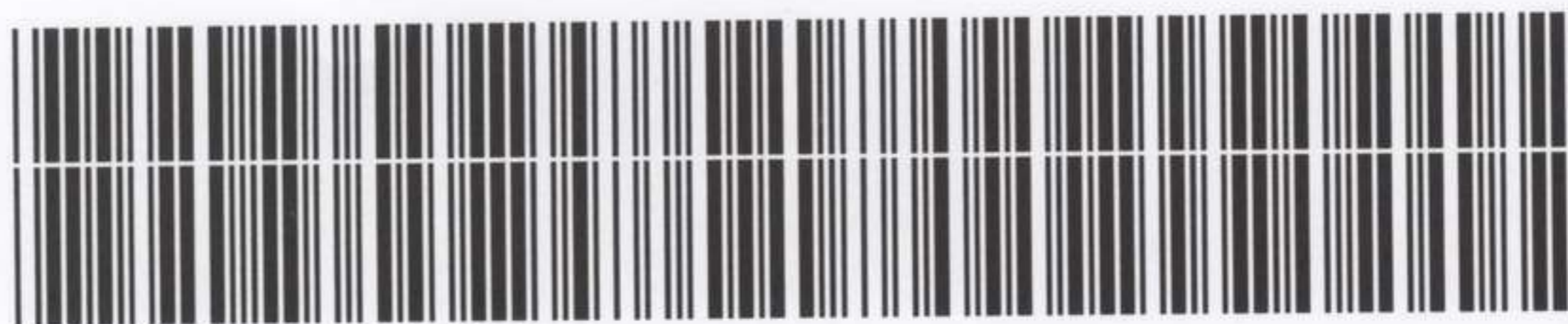
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/46/22 Part 6

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 3rd
Australian Division

August 1918



AWM4-1/46/22PART6

122 *44229* 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRENCH SYSTEM 7-8-18.

PARTS OF SHEETS 629 N.E.W. SEAS.

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D.M.O. - AUGUST. 1918.

1st. August.

9th. Brigade out in rest. As their Bombing Officer evacuated injured by premature burst of No.37 Grenade, I fired the test of the new anti-tank grenade for the Brigade-Major. Grenade found to be accurate for point blank fire up to 80-90 yards and reported favourably on it.

The Musketry Ranges near DAOURS at present used by American troops in training who will not finish till the 3rd. inst.

2nd. August.

Carried on instruction of 11th. Brigade N.C.Os. School in No.36, 34 and 27 Grenades.

3rd. August.

Lecture on tactical use of Smoke to above School with demonstration by a platoon of the School of the method of attack. Demonstration also of the use of the new anti-tank grenade and the No.37.

4th. August.

Sent for by A.A. & Q.M.G. with reference to ammunition dumps for forthcoming operations. Amounts required discussed with D.A.Q.M.G. and then sent to see Brigades thereon and to select site for Divisional Forward Dump. Selected 62.D. O.10.b.80.25. as being close to junction of roads running to north and south of Divisional sector, as being on a motor transport road and well hidden by row of trees. Corps to deliver ammunition to DAOURS Church whence it is to be sent forward by horse transport at night as motor lorries not permitted to go beyond DAOURS. Arranged for unloading party at DAOURS, further one at the Dump and a permanent fusing party of 1 N.C.O. and 12 O.Rs. at dump.

5th. August.

Rainy day and visibility poor so decided to start filling forward dump by day. Motor lorries from Corps very late and irregular in arriving. Unloaded at DAOURS from lorries 700000 rds S.A.A. 30,000 Grenades, 1650 Stokes shells together with other ammunition. With G.S. wagons from D.A.C. sent forward to dump 620,000 rds. S.A.A., 28,500 Grenades, 800 Stokes shells, remainder being kept back to issue to Brigades. Unloading completed at Forward Dump at 11 p.m., hindered very much by the tremendous amount of traffic on the roads. All ammunition at Dump placed on dunnage and camouflaged with branches before finished. Corps delivered ammunition short with regard to Stokes shells which were to be delivered 6th.

6th August.

Issued ammunition remaining at DAOURS to 9th and 11th Brigades to equip troops. Corps made mistake and sent Stokes shells to wrong location but D.A.C. brought them forward to Dump by horse transport to RIVERY. Visibility again very poor. Party busy fusing grenades. Dump shelled during night, large calibre shell just missing one of the stacks of Stokes shells.

7th August.

Occupied fusing at Dump and at end of day had 3,000 No.23, 3,000 No.36 & 1,000 No.34 Grenades fused. 4th Aust. Division had their supply tanks blown up so had to supply them with 4,000 No.36 grenades and arranged to replace them.

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8th August.

ZERO day. 4th Division took over dump at their zero hour. Fusing party continued working for 4th Division. Division now in reserve behind 4th Division.

9th August.

S.A.A. section D.A.C. moved up to FOUILLOY. Suggested to D.A.Q.M.G. establishment of new Forward Dump of ammunition salvaged from late Brigade Dumps. Reconnoitred dumps in old 11th Brigade area to get idea of number of waggons required to move the stuff forward.

10th August.

Reconnoitred position for dump and selected REGINALD WOOD, 62 D, Q.20.b.90.55 as being on metalled road suitable for Motor Transport and in centre of Divisional area. Fusing party moved forward and got first load in at 7 p.m. Reconnoitred old 9th 9th Brigade dumps with view to collecting them.

11th August.

Out reconnoitring 10th Brigade dumps and area generally. Salvage operations carried on steadily.

12th August.

Salvage operations continued and by night had 400,000 rds S.A.A. 6,000 Grenades, 1,600 Stokes shells &c in the Dump and Brigade Dumps cleared up. At 8 p.m. handed dump over to Officer of 17th Division who were relieving us.

13th August.

Reported back to Divisional H.Q. and arranged to keep fusing party together for future possible operations.

14th August.

Brigades resting and re-organising, whole Division out of the line.

15th August.

Down to French trenches south of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX to obtain specimens of French grenades for instructional purposes and got V.B., F.O. and citron grenades for the purpose.

16th August.

Tested Temple Bomb Thrower for No.23 Rifle Grenades. Test very unsatisfactory both as to range, direction, safety and accuracy, one of the chambers burst. Arranged with Salvage Officer for complete set of German grenades for each battalion in the Division for instructional purposes.

17th August.

Training 43rd Battalion in No.36 Rifle Grenade and particularly in the use of No.27 & 37 Smoke grenades.

18th August.

Training continued, Rifle and Lewis Gun sections.

19th August.

Training suspended owing to Brigade moving into forward area.

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APPENDIX

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20th August.

Division took over from Liaison force and took over latter's Ammunition Dump at J.28.e.70.60. Very large quantity of ammunition there but very little fused and part of it damaged by weather and unfit for issue.

21st August.

Occupied at Dump picking out unserviceable ammunition. Fusing of No.36 & No.23 Grenades commenced in the proportion of 2 to 1. At end of day had 2,000 No.36 and 1,000 No.23 established. 11th Brigade established dump at K.32.b.85.15.

22nd August.

Fusing carried on all day till 5,000 No.36 and 2,000 No.23 completed. Went up to see 9th Brigade with regard to ammunition. They established dumps at L.19.b.central, K.28.e.7.5 & K.18.d.6.3.

23rd August.

Small number of No.27 & 34 Grenades fused in case of emergencies. Up to see 9th and 10th Brigades with regard to ammunition.

24th August.

Finally completed the picking out of damaged ammunition, largely Stokes shells which had been fused and cartridge and then exposed to the weather.

25th August.

11th Brigade established Dumps at L.4.d.2.7., L.16.b.2.6., & L.14.b.2.3.

Went forward and selected site at L.16.a.90.20 for Forward Divisional Dump. Sent up there 60,000 Rifle and 60,000 M.G.S.A.A. with grenades &c., completed by 10 p.m.

26th August.

Divisional Dump moved up from J.28.e.70.60 to K.29.e.8.3., 48 G.S.Waggon loads. Completed by 4 p.m.

27th August.

Reconnoitred old Brigade Dumps and area generally to move them forward. Arranged with D.A.C. to commence work on the morrow. D.A.C. S.A.A. section moved up to CHIPILLY.

28th August.

Cleared out with D.A.C. waggons old dumps at K.32.d.50.80, K.32.b.95.15, K.28.d.7.5. and an English Dump in K.18.a., the ammunition thus obtained going to forward dump in L.16.a.90.20. Went forward to choose site near SUZANNE for forward dump but on return discovered that owing to new advance the site chosen would not be sufficiently far forward.

29th August.

Cleared old dumps at K.22.e.90.40 & K.18.d.6.3. Went forward and chose new forward Dump in front of CURLU at H.1.e.70.60.

30th August.

S.A.A. section moved up to L.23.d.60.20. Part of main dump moved up to L.24.e.20.30. Old Brigade dumps at L.19.b.cent., L.4.d.2.7., L.16.b.2.6. & L.14.b.2.3 cleared and ammunition moved to L.24.e.20.30.

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31st August.

Suggested that the amount of ammunition to move with Division and be dumped be considerably reduced and the suggestion adopted. The Dump at L.16.a.90.20 was cleared and the ammunition forwarded to the new Main Dump at L.24.e.20.30.

Motor Lorries lent by Corps completed move of main dump to L.24 and D.A.C. waggon moved up to the new Forward Dump at H.1.e.70.60 the new establishment for a complete main dump.

GENERAL REMARKS.

TRAINING.

Owing to the operations undertaken during the month no training was possible.

AMMUNITION SUPPLY.

No difficulty was experienced in supply matters. The following ammunition was most required and used ; in order of importance :-

- S.A.A. M.G.
- " Rifle
- Grenades, No.36
- Stokes Shells
- Grenades, No.23
- " No.27
- " S.O.S.

Very little use was made of No.34 Egg Grenades and practically none of No.35 Rifle Grenades.

Operations also shewed that the present Mobile Echelon of the S.A.A. Section might well be revised so as to include Stokes Shells, No.27 & 34 Grenades, S.O.S. Signals & Red & Green Verrey Lights. At the sacrifice of a comparatively small amount of S.A.A. all these could be carried and the echelon would be really mobile.

The policy of systematically cleaning up the area of ammunition behind the advance saved practically entirely the drawing of fresh ammunition from Corps and in the last 10 days alone resulted in the collection of 800,000 rds. S.A.A. 11,000 Grenades, 1,000 Stokes Shells and other items.

(Signed) L.H.BIDDULPH.

Lieut.

D. M. O.