

AWM4

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

Miscellaneous (North Russia, Hobart, and groups
returning in 1919)

Item number: 34/9/3

Title: North Russian Campaign 1918-1919

June - August 1918



AWM4-34/9/3

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WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Head Quarter
Lynen.



Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June			
	16	4.30 pm.	Sailed from NEWCASTLE.	
	17			
	18			
	19			
	20			
	21			
	22			
	23	6.30 am	Arrived MURMANSK.	
	"	9.am	G.O.C. visited Admiral Kemp on H.M.S. "GLORY".	
	24			
	25		"General Campbell" arrived on H.M.S. "SOUTHAMPTON".	
	26			
	27	10 am	G.O.C. and A.D.C. left for KANDALAKSHA. Colonel Marsh and Lieut-Colonel Rowlandson left by same train for KANDALAKSHA and KEM respectively to take over command. Other officers, stores etc for these places left by Russian train in the evening.	
	28	5.30 am	G.O.C. arrived KANDALAKSHA. Inspected battalion of Serbs on parade. Received deputation from	

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	June			
	28		heads of Railway Guard. Railway Guard, about 200 strong were disarmed. In subsequent search	
	contd		about 350 rifles and about 100,000 of S.A.A. were taken. Alleged plot to kill G.O.C. and party	
			by bombing train; nothing came of this.	
			Colonel Elliot and party left Murmansk for PETCHENGA	
	29	4.am	G.O.C. left KANDALAKSHA for KEM. Colonel Elliot and party reported safe arrival at PETCHENGA.	
			Sovdep have decided to break with MOSCOW and declare for us.	
			General Finlayson and Captain Grove visited positions covering KOLA. Dispositions satisfactory	
			for number of troops available, viz 100 marines, but the attention of O/C Marines was directed to	
			several points where there is room for improvement	
	30	1.am	G.O.C. arrived KEM and received information that 180 Red Guards were arriving from the south.	
			These were held up but were ultimately allowed to proceed north in accordance with agreement	
			made between General Poole and NATZAREMUS. Another train then arrived containing 120. All of	
			these were sent back to the south	

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	July			
	1	7.45 pm	G.O.G. left KEM.	
	2	8.am	G.O.G. arrived KNYAJAYA GUBA. Inspected detachment of about 300 Red Finns, also barracks and hospital. Received Red Finn officers and explained to them their position as a fighting force; arranged also for supplies, equipment etc.	
		1.30 pm	Left KNYAJAYA GUBA for KANDALAKSHA; passed reinforcements consisting of two platoons infantry and one section M.G. Company under Captain Sheppard; these had been sent from Murmansk.	
			Captain Sheppard instructed to disarm Railway Guards at POLYARNIKRUG and ENGOZERO	
		5.pm	Arrived KANDALAKSHA.	
			Heads of departments of "ELOPE" and "SYREN" went to KOLA to make administrative arrangements.	
			One section M.G. Company and one section R.E's dispatched to KEM in response to wire from G.O.G.	
	3	9.am	G.O.G. arrived MURMANSK.	
		7.pm	Conversation on direct telegraph line with Colonel Marsh at KANDALAKSHA. Latter reports all quiet. Railway Guard were disarmed without resistance. Also that Colonel Rowlandson reported having disarmed Railway Guard at KEM and taken 3000 rifles, 7 machine guns and 1,000,000 rounds S.A.A. Three men who resisted at KEM were killed; otherwise all went off quietly	
	4		G.O.G. left for KANDALAKSHA with Colonel Thornhill, Captain Grove, Captain Clarke and Mr. Lambert.	

(Ag 125) Wt. W335/P360 600,000 24/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 51a. Forms/Corr 1/19.

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	July			
	4		Major Coker R.F.A. proceeded to KANDALAKSHA. Captain Springfield R.F.A. and Captain Graham proceeded to KEM	
	5	1.am	G.O.C. arrived IMANDRA. Anticipated trouble from Railway Guard who had not yet been disarmed. Attempt was made to derail train on entering station, - this was unsuccessful. party from KANDALAKSHA arrived about same time to disarm Railway Guard; this was done without trouble.	
		12noon	Arrived at KANDALAKSHA.	
		1.pm	G.O.C. interviewed Colonel Marsh and gave him instructions in connection with reconnaissance to be carried out by Major Fawcett and also in connection with Red Firm detachment being formed at KNYAJAYA GUBA.	
		3.pm	G.O.C. received KOSHELEFF, WADOLSKI and MIASSNIKOFF. Discussed question of recruiting.	
		5.30 pm	Received BIAKOFF, SALOVIOFF, POPOFF.	
	6	1.am	Embarked on trawler "SARPEDON" for KEM.	
		7.pm	Arrived KEM.	
	7	12 noon	Left for KEM Station.	
		12.30 pm	Arrived KEM Station. G.O.C. interviewed Colonel Rowlandson.	
		6.30 pm	Held recruiting meeting at which SIDORENKO, PESYAKOB and G.O.C. spoke. There was much	

(Ag. 75) Wt W3358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 8th. Forms/C1118/15

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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	July			
	7	8.30 pm	enthusiasm, but number of recruits which will be obtained is doubtful.	
	contd.		steamer with 200 refugees on board arrived from ARCHANGEL. Owing to difficulty of feeding these were not allowed to land and ship was ordered on to SOROKA in charge of armed guard, commander of guard being instructed to report to O/C "ATTENTIVE".	
	8	10.am	Left for SOROKA.	
		2.pm	Arrived SOROKA and landed party from "ATTENTIVE" who searched for arms and captured about 700 rifles and some ammunition without resistance.	
		11.pm	Departed for KEM. Much delay was caused by the train which had been sent from KEM to meet us at SHURETSKAYA, where the railway bridge had been burnt, not turning up until nearly 4 a.m. A previous train which had been sent to meet us was run into the river by mistake.	
	9	5.am	Arrived at KEM	
	10		Remained at KEM.	
	11	12noon.	Left KEM.	
	12	12.30 pm	Arrived Kandalaksha.	
		5.40 pm	Left Kandalaksha.	
	13	1.am	Arrived IMANDRA and were held up till 3.30 pm owing to no engine being available.	

(A9172) Wt W358/P360 500,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 32a. Forms/C2118/13.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July			
	14	12 noon	Arrived MURMANSK.	
	15		General Poole and General Maynard interviewed ZVEGINASEFF. Many other matters seen to	
	16		Interviews with many people.	
	17		Ditto.	
	18		Visited KOLA.	
	19		G.O.C. interviewed IGNATIEFF about labour troubles.	
	20		Fifty seamen from H.M.S. "ALEXANDER" proceeded to KOLA.	
	21		G.O.C. interviewed Colonel commanding Serbian detachment and decided as to which officers and men were to stay at MURMANSK and which were to be returned to England.	
	22	11.30 am	G.O.C. and Staff Captain left for PETCHENGA on Admiral's yacht.	
			Labourers working on huts at Kola on strike as they have not been paid. Captain Jackson instructed to explain to them that if they ^{did not} return to work by a definite hour they would be arrested and deported down the line where they would be bound to starve, also that their pay has been promised to them by SOVDEP and that they will get it in due course.	
			Wire from O/O KBM stating that reconnaissance was made on 21st to within 10 miles of OLIMPI:	
			no enemy was seen.	

(A9475) Wt W2358/2360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 82a. Forms/C2118/15.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July			
	23		Russian Officers' Training Corps at PETCHENGA is to go to ARCHANGEL with "ELOPE". Supplied "ELOPE" with 500 hand grenades and 12 light draught horses.	
	24		100 sailors from "CHESMA" and "ASKOLD" sent south. Wire received from "Searail" that s.s. "CZAR" sailed from Brest on the 16th with French battalion, some details, 900 tons of stores, 1700 rations and 265 barrels of wine.	
	25		VESILAGO had a long interview with Generals poole and Maynard. Food question was discussed. A deputation came to see the G.O.C. to obtain his permission to kick out the SOVIET. The reason behind this is probably the faulty distribution of food by the local authorities. G.O.C. told deputation that he could not permit anything of the sort. Report received that boat from trawler "SARPEDON" was fired on when trying to land near SUMSKI POSAD and the Mate killed & Lieut. Richardson wounded.	
	26		G.O.C. interviewed VESILAGO.	
	27		s.s. "CZAR" with French battalion arrived. Report received from ARCHANGEL that the Bolsheviks have arrested and condemned to death the captains and some of the crews of two Russian ships which Admiral Kemp returned there from KANDALAKSHA or KEM.	

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	July			
	28			
	29		G.O.C. went to KOLA to inspect progress of work on the huts.	
	30		G.O.C. interviewed MAKEDONSKI as to making a contract for the building of huts at TAIBOLA and LOPARSKAYA.	
			G.O.C. interviewed GRABSKY, Polish Consul.	
			ELOPE leave tonight owing to having received news that there is to be an anti-Bolshevik rising at ARCHANGEL tomorrow. Most of the fighting troops of ELOPE leave on the "NAIRAMA".	
	31		"STEPHEN", "ASTURIAN" and "WESTBORO" sailed at 11 a.m. with remainder of ELOPE.	
	Aug 1		Major Grove and Major Steele reconnoitred west bank of Inlet with a view to selecting positions for two block-houses. These are necessary for three reasons; (1) to prevent sniping into Murmansk; (2) to cover landing of troops in the event of an attack from the west; (3) as living accommodation for the personnel of observation posts which are essential on the west.	
			s.s. "UMTALI" arrived with Major Murray, 5 officers and 30 other ranks R.A.	
	2			
	3		G.O.C. decided on a certain operation which will be described later.	
	4		Recruiting for S.B.A.L. ceased today in accordance with agreement between G.O.C. & local authorities.	

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	<u>Aug</u>			
	5		Telegram from KARPENKO, Archangel, stating that the Allies have occupied the town etc, and have been received with acclamation. No official news from General pools.	
		9.45 pm	G.O.C. left for KANDALAKSHA with Major Steele, Lieut. Sanders, Colonel Patterson, Captain Sheppard, Captain Lackman (French Army) and an R.A.F. officer to replace Captain Springfield, who has been ordered to return to ELOPE.	
			s.s. "CZAR" sailed with about 1200 refugees and several sick officers and men, including Major Rowe, D.A.Q.M.G. ELOPE.	
	6		Slight fall of snow in the morning which did not lie.	
			G.O.C. arrived KANDALAKSHA. Had interview with Captain Sheppard and Captain Lackman with reference to details of their special expedition.	
			G.O.C. interviewed the Ambassadors at Kandalaksha port in the evening.	
	7		G.O.C. had interview at 10 a.m. with Mr. JAROSINSKY, Captains Sheppard & Lackman, and later with Colonel Marenkovitch, O.C. Serbian Army. All the Serbians are now under this officer's orders.	
			KNYAJAYA GUBA in the afternoon and saw party of Finn recruits on parade. Stopped at the Dyke on the way back and looked at the Camp and Machine Gun positions. Latter unsatisfactory.	
			orders were given for them to be altered.	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a- Forms/C1118/15.

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	Aug			
	8		G.O.C. left KANDALAKSHA for KEM. Captain Sheppard and his party left at 2 p.m. for SUMSKI. Interview with BIAKOFF about feeding civilians.	
	9	6.am.	G.O.C. arrived at KEM. Interview with Major Drake Brockman, Colonel Woods and Captain Biggart. Went down to KEM town in the afternoon to inspect KARELIANS under Colonel Woods, S.B.A.L. under Captain Biggart and a Company of the Murmansk Army. G.O.C. left for POPOFF ISLAND and stayed the night there.	
	10		G.O.C. left POPOFF ISLAND at 10 a.m. for KEM. Interview with Colonel Bataillard, O.C. French detachment and left at 12-45 for KANDALAKSHA. Wire from G.O.C. that Bolsheviks are advancing north towards SUMSKI POSAD.	
	11		G.O.C. inspected S.B.A.L. at KANDALAKSHA under Lieut. MIASNIKOFF, including recruits and gunners. In the afternoon G.O.C. inspected 18 men of the Russian Army. Left KANDALAKSHA at 5 o'clock on the return to MURMANSK. Major Groves interviewed VESILAGO with reference to proclamation which G.O.C. had sent to Murmansk for publication (reference to money and food questions). Major Groves went to KOLA and walked round part of positions selected by Colonel Rowlandson.	

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	Aug			
	12		G.O.C. arrived MURMANSK 12-30.	
	13		G.O.C. and Major Groves went on board H.M.S. "GLORY" to arrange some small matters.	
	14		G.O.C. interviewed VESILAGO.	
	15		General strike on railway.	
			"ASTURIAN" arrived from Archangel.	
	16			
	17		25 Serbs arrived from PETCHENGA for training as gunners for 4.5 Howitzers. Major Groves reconnoitred part of Telegraph Hill position.	
	18		O.C. KANDALAKSHA reported that Major BURTON with Red Finns left KNYAJAYA GUBA for SOFYANSKAYA and expects to reach there on the 21st. Will endeavour to cut off party of White Finns. Railway bridges between a point 10 miles north of SEGEJA and 7 miles south of OLIMPI reported by seaplane to be destroyed. Seaplanes dropped a bomb on a train about here, - damage unknown. Colonel Woods with 736 KARELIANS left PANOZERO proceeding up river.	
	19			
	20		s,s, "PALM BRANCH" arrived with our first mail.	

(A9475) Wt: W2358/P360 500,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

Handwritten:
JRB more than
General Staff
20/8/18