

AWM4

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/5/5

**Title: Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance
Services, 2nd Australian Division**

August 1916



AWM4-2/5/5

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

Vol V

G. Down 2nd Lt.
D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Aust Liv 24

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.

VOLUME VI

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert ALBERT	30/7.	1916	Was appointed D.A.D.O.S. vice Major E. J. Leane, transferred to A.I.F. Head. quarters, London. Major Leane departed by train from Amiens late in the afternoon. Having been his conductor previously in other ranks for about 15 months, have a good knowledge of the Division.	G.S.D.
"	31/7.		The 5 th & 6 th Brigade W.O.s. have been in charge of their Brigade kits etc. about a mile from the dumps, but owing to shelling getting a bit too near, obtained permission of D.A.Q.M.G. to bring them to my dump.	G.S.D.
"	1/8 to 5/8		Clothing & other Bulk stores arrived, but under instructions from D.A.Q.M.G. practically no issues made - to wait until Division reaches Rest Area & then re-fit. Had an order issued through Division that on relief from front line inspections were to be held, & Indents rendered at once with certificates as necessary, signed by C.O. All previous Indents for Bulk items to be considered cancelled, as the requirements of the units could not possibly be the same owing to the heavy losses.	G.S.D.
"	6/8	A.M.	Proceeded to CANAPLES to inspect for dump when we move & after seeing the place 1st Division had, & having a look round decided to pick a spot in the open & use tents which I could get from 1st Div ⁿ . Found a fine little spot just off the Hair Road & fixed it	G.S.D.
		P.M.	Sent off 4 heavy loads of stores, & Sergeant to look after them.	G.S.D. 1

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G. Dawson 2nd Lt.
D.A.D.S. 2nd Aust. Liv. 24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CANAPLES	7/8		Got a loan of 2 Lorries from 4 th Liv ⁿ & the other 4 having returned, all were loaded & we left ALBERT at 1 pm, & arrived here at 5.30 pm, minus one W.O. & one Corporal whom I had to leave behind - under Divisional orders - to bring on the 5 th & 6 th Brigade kits etc. The kit arrangement coming under control of Ordnance, is, in my opinion, a failure for the Ordnance personnel has all it can possibly do, more at times without any extra duties.	G.S.
"	8/8		Settled down. It has been decided that Shirts, Socks, Trowsers, Jackets & Puttees are to be issued by the Baths to those who need them, but don't like the idea unless a responsible officer is there to judge re the Clothing.	G.S.
"	9/8		Whilst at ALBERT 41 Lewis Machine Guns, 2 Vickers Machine Guns & 2 18 ^{pr} Guns were destroyed or rendered up by shell fire - these have now all been made good.	G.S.
"	9/8		W.O. ARRIVED Corporal STEEL arrives with 5 th & 6 th Bde kits re take in afternoon	G.S.
"	9/8		Issues going on from Baths on hand, heavy demands coming in	G.S.
"	10/8		" " " "	G.S.
"	11/8		" " " "	G.S.
"	12/8		Issue of all but Shirts & Socks stopped at Baths.	G.S.
"	13/8		Very large demands coming in for "last in action" re & have passed a large number of these orders to D.A.Q.M.G. for special approval, as I do not consider them all fair & reasonable.	G.S.

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G. Down 2nd Lt.
DADOS. 2nd Aust. Liv.

24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CANAPLES	13/8		Having great difficulty in obtaining correct figures re M. Guns, Lewis Magazines, & Steel Helmets for purpose of returns to A.D.O.S. Units exceedingly dilatory. Today received an indent for a 3" Stokes Mortar with a certificate that it was destroyed by shell fire on 28/7/16 - great neglect by unit.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	14/8		Large quantity of stores arrived from Base, & delivery is being made promptly. R.Q.M.S. <u>LEVY</u> (W.O. 6th Bde) has been appointed Conductor for a month on probation, & Sergeant E.C. KENT who handled Divisional Troops has been promoted R.Q.M.S. (W.O.) for 6th Bde.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	15/8 to 18/8		Quantities of stores arriving & having a very busy time sorting out, delivering to, Div. Supply Column trying to take one of Ordnance Troops for their own use, but raised serious objection as it is impossible to work with less than 4 when we are in one place for only a few days, then off again. During the last couple of days some of the units have been moving back towards the line again & this afternoon I sent 4 lorries loaded to RUBENTPRE to the same place as we formerly occupied. But the question to "Q" branch about making a dump at WARLOY which would be very handy to Railhead & to ALBERT. The idea was to clear the Rail in the morning & deliver to a Refilling point in the afternoon. "Q" considered the	<i>G.D.</i>

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G. Lawson 2nd Lt.
D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Aust. Liv.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CANAPLES	15/8		suggestion a good one & have passed on to Coups for approval.	G.S.A.
	to 18/8		Coups have disapproved of going to WARLOY but think I had better keep my dump here, & work the Refilling just the same. Of course it will mean a lot of Motor Lorry work, but will do away with two moves. Moved the balance of stores from CANAPLES today. Have had a look round here & found a place that will do well as a store not interfered with any other Division that may be passing through before we move out. Move into it tomorrow morning, as it was too late to go straight in today when I received Coups decision.	G.S.A.
RUBEMPRE	19/8.		Have wired to Base for 6500 Steel Helmets, to complete Division to scale, also for 2436 Magazines Lewis Gun to complete to bit per gun. These figures were not obtainable from units before. (7th Brigade)	
"	20/8		Having a very busy time. W.O. HART, who has been ill off for some time informed by Medical Officer that he would have to be sent to a warmer climate, probably back to AUSTRALIA - complaint is Chronic Rheumatism.	G.S.A.
"	to 21/8		Full number of Magazines Lewis Gun & 1000 Steel Helmets received - good work by Base.	G.S.A.
"	23/8		W.O. BRIANT (5th Brigade) placed under open arrest on charges by 5th Brigade. Took over 1500 Steel Helmets from 11th AVST DIVISION on 19th inst.	G.S.A.

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G. Downes
D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Austⁿ Division

24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUBEMPRE	24/8		All Division now in line or about ALBERT + stores being sent there each day. I visit there + TARA HILL each morning to see "Q" + advise them position as to various stores. Have own Gas Helmet reserve in charge of a Sergeant at ALBERT, so there need be no delay in case of necessity.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	25/8		4000 Steel Helmets arrived, which now complete. W.O. HART taken to 5 th Field Ambulance this morning, so I am now two Warrent Officers short, but everyone is working splendidly, + we shall manage over this busy time until we move I hope. Am getting very loyal support from Staff, Motor men, + Fatigue party, + it means very long hours. Motor Lorries did not get back from ALBERT until 2 A.M. yesterday morning. So far since this Division went into the line, 3 Lewis Guns, 1 Vickers Gun, + 2 Stokes Mortars - 3" have been knocked out.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	26/8		Received instructions from A.D.O.S. to send 20 Box Respirators large to D.D.O.S. at Agenda WONDICOURT, at 9 P.M.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	27/8		D.H.Q. to move back to RUBEMPRE tomorrow. Division coming out, + have had a much quieter time than last, so the losses in stores should be less.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	28/8		D.H.Q. arrived here about noon.	<i>G.D.</i>
"	29/8		Sergeant in charge of Gas Helmets at ALBERT brought back + arrange-ments made with D.A.D.O.S. 4 th MUST. DIVISION to issue any necessary for troops still in that area	<i>G.D.</i>

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G. Dawson
D.A.D.O.S. 2nd Aust. Livⁿ

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUBEMPRE	30/8.		Notice received that W.O. BRIANT'S F.G.C.M. to take place tomorrow.	
"	31/8		<p>Had to say the mist has stopped a bit, still we are all going hard D.H.Q. to move to DOULLENS tomorrow preparatory to moving north.</p> <p>All the Brigades are about here or on their way so the lorries are now delivering to various centres. There has been a large demand for Electric Torches while in the line here especially by the Artillery as they state other lights cannot be kept alight in the pits, consequently a fair number of Local Purchases have been approved for Torches & refills for urgent requirements. W.O. BRIANT'S case part heard & adjourned.</p>	<p><i>G.D.</i></p> <p><i>G.D.</i></p>