

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/7/13

**Title:** Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance  
Services, 4th Australian Division

July 1918



AWM4-2/7/13



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

FOR

JULY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Signature]*

Major.  
D.A.D.O.S.

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Signature]*

Major.  
D.A.D.O.S.

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



## 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

## WAR DIARY.

JULY 1918.

- 1/7/18 Office and Dump still located at Sheet 62D H19.d.4.0. and the Divisional Armourers and Bootmakers Shop still at Boutilierie.
- 2/7/18 Letter received from A.D.O.S. forwarding G.H.Q. letter giving particulars of amendments authorised in War Establishments of a Machine Gun Battalion for which approval has been given for them to apply to the A.I.F.
- 3/7/18 1250 Pullthroughs were collected and delivered to the American Troops attached to the Division, as they had arrived without them. All the Special Battle Stores required for the forthcoming operations have now been collected and delivered to Units.
- 4/7/18 A weekly report of the work done by Arm.Staff Sergeant L.A.C. Thomas shows that there is insufficient work for him to do while with his Brigade and he would be better employed by remaining at the Divisional Workshop. All minor repairs required by Battalions can be ably carried out by the Armourer Understudies.
- 5/7/18 Lorry sent to Gun Park to collect all gun stores outstanding to the Division.
- 6/7/18 Letter received from A.D.O.S. stating that 4000 suits of S.D. Clothing Imperial Pattern will be issued to Divisions in the line. The full number of suits is to be maintained by demands on D.A.D.O.S. and must be handed over to relieving Divisions. This clothing may be used for raids.
- 7/7/18 Letter received from A.D.O.S. instructing us to draw from D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops 200 Jackets S.D.I.P., 1000 Pairs Knickers Cyclists and 1000 pairs Puttees. A Lorry was sent to D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops at Salieux to collect this Clothing.
- 8/7/18 Instructions received from A.D.O.S. to hand over the S.D. Clothing to D.A.D.O.S. 3rd Aust.Divn. when they relieve us in the line.  
Major Tuckett and Conductor Newman proceeded to Rouen to visit the ~~XXXX~~ Ordnance Depot and Records Section. Saw the Ordnance Officer and arranged with him for Conductor Newman to remain for a few days duty as it was thought it would help smooth working if the Base's methods were thoroughly known. On the journey down to Rouen a tyre came off the car and caused it to swerve into a tree smashing the wind screen and tearing off the mud guards, footboards and rear door on one side of the car. Conductor Newman sustained a broken nose but fortunately no one else was hurt.  
Staff Captain, 4th Brigade phoned saying that a Trench Mortar had been blown up during the day. A new piece was demanded by wire.
- 9/7/18 Authority received for the issue of four Lewis Guns for each Field Company Engineers. These were immediately wired for and a lorry sent to the Gun Park to collect, together with any other stores that might be available for us.
- 10/7/18 Called on A.D.O.S. Advice received that a 18-pdr Carriage for the 38th Battery had been destroyed by shell fire

*James*  
JAMES



- 10/7/18 Authority given for the issue of one complete Vickers Gun to the Machine Gun Battalion for the purpose of training the 33 1/3% personnel not sent into the line.  
Lieut. Anderson, Australian War Museum called.  
18-pdr piece with B.M. condemned for the 39th Battery and 4.5 How. piece condemned for the 110th Battery. New pieces to replace being immediately demanded by wire on the Gun Park.
- 11/7/18 Captain Purdy the I.O.M. No.17-47 Ordnance Mobile Workshop called to inspect the vehicles in the Division on behalf of the C.I.O.M. 4th Army and agreed that they were in a bad condition owing to the shortage in the supply of service paint.
- 12/7/18 Captain Purdy forwarded copy of his report on the condition of the vehicles in the Division. (See APP.I.)  
The Division is being relieved in the line by the 3rd Aust. Division tonight.
- 13/7/18. S.D. clothing handed over to D.A.D.O.S., 3rd Australian Division. On relief the 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade are moving to Querrieu area, 12th Brigade to Allonville area and 13th Brigade to Rivery. The Artillery are to remain where they are. I shall not move the dump or Office as I do not consider that I could select a more central location.  
Spade Grip for Lewis Guns received from A.D.O.S. for issue to the 16th Battalion for trial purposes.  
Advice received that the new Artillery pieces demanded on the 10th inst. are available for collection at No.22 Workshops.  
Phoned Staff Captain 4th Div. Artillery Headquarters to this effect.
- 14/7/18. Sergeant G.W. Henry joined the staff from D.A.D.O.S., Corps Troops to take the 4th Brigade Group in place of Sergeant A. McK. Nicol who is reporting to D.A.D.O.S., Corps Troops for duty.  
Saw A.A. & Q.M.G. of the Division and complained to him with regard to the supply of Australian Pattern Clothing. The matter had previously been taken up with A.D.O.S., Australian Corps, but the position is getting worse. 1673 Jackets were bulked for on 9/7/18 off which only 355 supplied and all these were of such large sizes that they would only fit very big men.  
Also had an interview with the G.O.C., 4th Aust. Divn and placed the matter before him. During the day I stopped and spoke to several privates and inspected their clothing, which generally was in a very bad condition, being often badly torn and held together in many cases with only pins. I consider it disgraceful that a Division coming out of the line, after doing such heavy fighting as the 4th Division has been doing recently, it is not possible to reclothe them in a proper manner.
- 15/7/18 The position of the supply of Australian Pattern Boots is also unsatisfactory, as although it would appear from Australian Newspaper reports that there something ~~xxxxxxx~~ like 1,000,000 pairs of Service Boots in Australia they are not being shipped in sufficient quantities to meet the demands in the Field, for instance, out of two recent demands for Australian Pattern Boots one was for 301 pairs and the other for 602 pairs; off the former demand I received 160 pairs of Imperial Pattern and off the latter 112 pairs of Imperial Pattern. Apart from this the Imperial Pattern Boots were second hand and had been repaired. In my opinion they were not at all suitable for reissue. Not only this but I understand that very fair stocks are held at Administrative Headquarters. I have written to A.D.O.S. asking him to call at my dump and inspect the part worn Imperial Pattern Boots the next time he is passing.
- 16/7/18 'G' Branch inquiring for white and coloured paper for the use as targets. The white I was able to supply from stock from that salvaged from the 5th Army School of Sniping at Vadencourt Chateau in ~~xxxx~~ April. The coloured I will try to salvage from Corbie and for this purpose I am going there this morning.

*James M. M. M.*  
D.A.D.O.S. 4th Aust. Div.



- 16/7/18 Notification received from the I.O.M. No.22 Ordnance Mobile Workshop stating that an 18-pdr piece for the 39th Battery had been condemned for scoring. A wire was immediately sent demanding a new piece to replace. Indent received from the 15th Battalion for a Lewis Gun to replace one damaged. The new gun was issued from stock. Lorry sent to O.O., 4th Army Troops No.1 returning part of the Battle Stores issued in connection with the 4th July operations, and to proceed on to the Gun Park and bring back any stores outstanding to us. Lorry returned from Gun Park this evening with full load of stores, including 3 Trench Mortar Beds for the 7th and 8th T.M. Batteries, 100 German M.G. Belt Boxes for the Machine Gun Battalion for instructional purposes and one 3" Stokes Mortar for the 12th A.L.T.M. Battery. Was able to obtain paper in Corbie suitable for 'G' Branch's requirements. Phoned Staff Captains 4th, 12th and 13th Brigades that it was ready for collection. Advice received from A.D.O.S. that two Air Recuperator Pumps for 18-pdr guns fitted with a new design of flexible tubing are being made available for issue to the Divisional Artillery. Report received from the Lewis Gun Officer of the 16th Battalion with reference to the Spade Grip for Lewis Guns issued for trial on the 13th inst, states that for line work the gun is not stable enough when fitted with this Grip and for A.A. work the butt is considered far preferable.
- 17/7/18. Wire received from 4th Army that the 18-pdr piece for the 39th Battery may be drawn from Gun Park No.4 by the I.O.M. Phoned Staff Captain, Divisional Artillery and advised him that the piece could be drawn from the I.O.M. to-morrow.
- 18/7/18 A Lorry was sent to the C.O.O. Abbeville to obtain 600 pairs Puttees as these were urgently required and could not be obtained from the Base owing to a shortage.
- 19/7/18. Wire received from I.O.M. 17-47 Ord.Mobile Workshops condemning a 4.5" How. piece for the 111th Battery. New piece wired for. An attempt was made during the night by two men on horseback to make off with an Officers Mess Cart from the store. Fortunately they were heard by some of the staff who happened to be awake at the time and undoubtedly saved a theft. Immediately the two men realised they had been observed they made off at full gallop. Conductor Newman returned from a tour of duty at the Ordnance Base, Rouen.
- 20/7/18 Authority received for the issue of two more Lewis Guns per Battery of Artillery for fighting purposes.
- 21/7/18 L/Cpl Pike, Private Johnstone and Private Nelthorpe transferred to A.A.O.C. under authority obtained from the D.A.G., A.I.F., L/Cpl Pike and Private Johnstone being promoted to Corporal to complete establishment.
- 22/7/18 Wire received from I.O.M. advising the condemnation for wear of one 4.5" How. piece belonging to the 111th Battery. Lorry sent to Gun Park to collect 16 Lewis Guns for issue to the Divisional Artillery.
- 23/7/18 Advice received that new 4.5" How. piece demanded yesterday is ready for collection from the I.O.M. Lorry sent to O.O. 4th Army Troops at Longpre returning Special Battle Stores issued in connection with the 4th July operations.

*J. Newman*  
A.D.O.S. 4th Aust Div.



- 24/7/18 A good supply of Australian Pattern Clothing was received today comprising Jackets, Breeches D.S., Breeches M.S. and Puttees. The Breeches D.S. are the first Australian Pattern received for some time, Knickers Cyclist having usually been supplied in lieu.
- 25/7/18 Word received that the Division will probably drop back to a rest area.
- 26/7/18 Major Tuckett proceeded on 14 days leave to England, Conductor C.S. Newman being left in charge during his absence.
- 27/7/18 4.5" How. piece for the 111th Battery condemned by the I.O.M. New piece to replace being wired for.
- 28/7/18 18-pdr Carriage for the 43rd Battery condemned by the I.O.M. Advice received from 4th Army that the new 4.5" How. piece demanded yesterday is available for collection from the I.O.M. Demands received from 'Q' Branch of Division for 60 Hot Food Containers. A.D.O.S. will ask permission for these to be drawn from the 4th Army reserve.
- 29/7/18 Lorry sent to Gun Park to collect all available stores outstanding to this Division. Advice received from 'Q' Branch that arrangements have been made for the Hot Food Containers to be drawn from 4th Army reserve. Advice received that Railhead will be changed to Salieux from 31st inst. One 18-pdr piece for each 39th and 41st Batteries were condemned by I.O.M.
- 30/7/18 Lorry sent to O.O., 4th Army Troops No. 1 to collect 60 Hot Food Containers.
- 31/7/18 Statement of work carried out by Divisional Armourers Workshop sent to A.D.O.S. (See App. II.).

 Major.  
D.A.D.O.S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



# WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

FOR

JULY 1918

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I	Report by I.O.M. re vehicles of Division being in bad condition re shortage of paint.
II	Statement of work done in Armourers Workshop for Month.



C.I.O.M.,  
-----4th ARMY.  
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Reference your wire B183 re paint, please.

I have visited the D.A.D.O.S., 4th Division and gone thoroughly into the matter with him.

I find on inspecting the vehicles of a number of Units in the forward area that in most cases they are in a very weather beaten state and certainly require painting.

Owing to lack of paint in these workshops, vehicles after repair have been returned to Units with the new wood exposed to the weather thus reducing the life of repair to about one third the usual period.

Vehicles in the back area are very scattered and if it is necessary to inspect them will require at least two days.

I find that practically all Units of the Division have paint on indent particularly the Artillery and the A.A.S.C., the total ammounting to a large quantity (=2269 lbs).

The D.A.D.O.S. suggests that present indents be cancelled and Units asked to redemand the minimum quantity to carry out painting which is necessary for the preservation of the vehicles only.

11/7/18.

Sd/. T.H.PURDY Captain.  
A. O. D.To D.A.D.O.S.  
4th Division.  
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Copy for information.

Sd/. T.H.PURDY Captain.  
A.O.D., I.O.M.



## 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARMOURERS WORKSHOP.

Herewith statement of work carried out in the above workshop  
for Month ending 31/7/1918.

Item	Particulars	No.
Guns Vickers .303"	Overhauled, painted and re-issued to M.G. Battalion in satisfaction of indents to replace destroyed by shell fire.	12
Guns Lewis .303"	Assembled from serviceable parts received from Salvage and issued to Units in satisfaction of indents to replace destroyed by shell fire etc. Overhauled and repaired.	40 5
Bicycles	Built from frames received from Salvage and issued to Units in satisfaction of demands. Sent in by Units for complete overhaul including painting.	- 98
Pistols	Repaired and Overhauled.	9
Rifles.	Received from Salvage and overhauled for re-issue.	38
Pistols Signal	Repaired for re-issue.	1
Stoves Primus	do do do	10
Gramophones	do do Units.	3

9/8/18.

Sd/ C.S. Newman Condor.  
for Major.  
D.A.D.O.S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.