

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/7/14

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

August 1918



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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
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D.A.D.O.S.
No. ....
Date.....
4th. Aust. Div.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

~~4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.~~

FOR

~~AUGUST~~ 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Shearman and*

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

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Shearman and*

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



## W A R     D I A R Y .

AUGUST 1918..

- 1/8/18 Dump and Office still situated at Sheet 62 D. H19.d.4.0. Advice received that the two 18-pdr guns demanded on the 29th ult. may be drawn from the I.O.M. Notification received that D.H.Q. will be moving to Cagny tomorrow, and that probably the Office and Dump will be moved to Boutillierie.
- 2/8/18 Instructions received from A.A. & Q.M.G. that the Office and Dump are to remain in their present location
- 3/8/18 Large quantity of Special Battle Stores to be collected from O.O., 4th Army Troops No.1, Gun Park No.4, and D.A.D.O.S., Australian Corps Troops. Railhead changed to Ailly-sur-Somme.
- 4/8/18 Lorry sent to collect Special Battle Stores which will be delivered to Brigades tomorrow.
- 5/8/18 D.D.O.S., 4th Army called at the dump to enquire if the Division was complete with Special Stores. D.H.Q. moved to Corbie. Notification received from A.D.O.S. that the question of Australian Pattern Clothing is receiving attention of the Director of Ordnance Services.
- 6/8/18 Two 18-pdr pieces condemned, one each for the 39th and 41st Battery. Two Vickers Machine Guns demanded for the Machine Gun Battalion. These were collected from Gun Park by car and delivered to the Battalion transport lines.
- 7/8/18 Eight 3" Stokes Trench Mortars notified as out of action by the 12th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery at 10.30 p.m. Conductor Newman proceeded to Gun Park immediately to arrange replacement, a lorry following later to collect. These Mortars were delivered to the Brigade Headquarters by 10 a.m. the following morning. Owing to the enormous amount of traffic on the roads all through the night, it was not possible to get these guns to the Unit earlier.
- 8/8/18 Staff Captain, 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery rang up for a complete buffer required to keep in action an 18-pdr gun. A Lorry was sent to the I.O.M. No.17-47 Ord.Workshops where a new one was obtained, and this was delivered to the 4th Australian Divisional Artillery who in the meantime had taken over from the 3rd Divisional Artillery. 25 Lewis Guns demanded by Division to replace those put out of action, four of these were issued from stock and 21 demanded on indent from the Corps Pool which had been established at La Motte. These guns were delivered by our lorry, together with a quantity of ammunition, bombs and other urgent stores required by the Division to Morcourt; this being the first lorry to enter Morcourt since the advance and at the time the enemy were not more than one kilometre out of the village. This lorry which was under the charge of Corporal Pike then proceeded towards the line, picking up wounded men and bringing them back to a place of safety. This work they continued to do for several hours.

*Shepherd*  
D. A. D. O. S. 4th Aust. Div.



179  
8/8/18

Advice received that six Vickers Guns had been put out of action by shell fire. A lorry was immediately sent to the Gun Park to obtain these guns and deliver them to the Machine Gun Battalion. Further advice received that another two Vickers Guns belonging to the Machine Gun Battalion have been destroyed. These guns will be replaced first thing in the morning.

9/8/18

Notification received that an advanced Gun Park will open at Longeau and also that the I.O.M. is now situated at Blangy Tronville.

A new piece and Carriage (18-pdr) were demanded for the 43rd Battery to replace destroyed by shell fire.

Lorry returned from Gun Park with a full load of stores, including two Vickers Guns for the Machine Gun Battalion.

10/8/18

Railhead moved to Corbie today.

Word was received that Major Tuckett would not return from leave in England for about four weeks owing to having to undergo a slight operation.

One 18-pdr Ammunition Wagon demanded for No.1 Section, 4th Aust.D.A.C. and three 4.5" How. Ammunition Wagons for the 110th Battery, all required to replace those destroyed by shell fire.

11/8/18

Conductor Newman decided to look for a new location for the Office and Dump, as the present one was considered too far in the rear in consequence of the recent advance.

Called at Machine Gun Battalion headquarters but found that they had moved to a fresh location. Also called on the Divisional Artillery with regard to Captured Trophys for the inspection by His Majesty the King. They said that they has captured several Guns which were being used in action against the Enemy, but that they had no Trophys that they could spare from the line.

Informed by the D.A.Q.M.C. that 24 Hot Food Containers could be collected from La Motte for the Americans, attached to the Division, who had no facilities for supplying their Troops with Hot food. These were collected and delivered to American Headquarters by car and Lorry.

12/8/18

Urgent demand received for 100 Small Box Respirators for the 132nd U.S. Regiment. These were delivered to their Headquarters.

13/8/18

Moved Office and Dump to Corbie.

Urgent demand received for 150 Picks and Shovels for the 48th Battalion. These were collected from the Salvage Dumps and delivered to 12th Brigade Headquarters.

Wired for a new Water Cart for the 16th Battalion as theirs had become unserviceable, also one Wagon Limbered G.S. for the Machine Gun Battalion to replace one lost.

14/8/18

Five more Vickers Machine Guns demanded for the Machine Gun Battalion. These guns were delivered to Battalion Q.M. store. Sent Lorry to 12th Brigade Headquarters to deliver stores for Units of the 12th Brigade.

Railhead moved to Villers Bretonneux today.

15/8/18

Called on Divisional Headquarters and found that nothing was urgently required for Units.

Memo received from D.A.G., A.I.F. through Division stating that No.1878 A.L.Evans who has been attached to my staff on clerical duty since May is a substantive Warrant Officer Class I, and that he is to be borne supernumary on the strength of A.A.O.C.

16/8/18

Six more Vickers Guns demanded for the Machine Gun Battalion to replace those destroyed by shell fire. Sent lorry to Gun Park at Longeau where it is now definitely established and

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- 16/8/18 collected these guns. They were delivered to the Machine Gun Battalion at La Neuvelle.  
21 Lewis Guns which had been drawn in error from the Gun Park at Pont Remy after the demand had already been satisfied from the Corps Pool established at La Motte, were returned to Gun Park today.
- 17/8/18 Conductor Newman visited D.H.Q., Divisional Signal Company, Railhead at Villers Bretonneux, Divisional Armourers Shop, Gun Park and A.D.O.S.  
Cart Water Tank demanded for the 38th Battery to replace one condemned by the I.O.M. and Travelling Kitchen for the 50th Battalion to replace destroyed by shell fire.
- 18/8/18 I.O.M. advises that an 18-pdr piece for the 38th Battery has been condemned.
- 19/8/18 Conductor Newman visited Divisional Headquarters, Machine Gun Battalion Headquarters, & 4th Brigade Headquarters.  
13th Battalion had a Water Cart and Travelling Kitchen destroyed by shell fire. They were able to obtain another Water Cart from the Americans who were attached to us, but a new Travelling Kitchen had to be wired for.  
Took Six Vickers Guns and three Spare Part Boxes from the Machine Guns Battalion's Q.M. Store up to their Headquarters, also called on Divisional Artillery Headquarters with reference to the transport of captured guns and howitzers from the forward area to the collecting station at Longeau.  
Ammunition Wagon Limber demanded for No.1 Section D.A.C. to replace one destroyed by shell fire, also an 18-pdr piece for the 43rd Battery which had been condemned by the I.O.M.
- 20/8/18 Ammunition Wagon Limber demanded by 37th Battery to replace one destroyed by shell fire.  
Conductor Newman visited 4th Army School of Sniping to collect three Telescopic Rifles for the 13th Battalion.  
Railhead changed to Weincourt today.  
Wired for a Cart Water Tank for the 13th Battalion to replace the one lent by the Americans.
- 21/8/18 Visited Divisional Headquarters.
- 22/8/18 New Gun and Carriage demanded for the 42nd Battery to replace destroyed by shell fire.
- 23/8/18 Returned quantity of captured stores to the Gun Park at Longeau including three 77 m.m. guns and one 6" Howitzer.
- 24/8/18 Moved Office and Dump to G32.d.8.4. (Sheet 62D.) on the Albert Amiens Road, the Brigades, store and Office being established in buildings for the first time since May.  
New Wagon Ammunition demanded for No.1 Section, 4th Aust.D.A.C. to replace one destroyed by shell fire.
- 25/8/18 Visited Divisional Headquarters and was informed that they would not yet move to the new area although all the Brigades had already moved, the 4th being established in the Coisy-Allonville area, the 12th in the Longpre-St Vaast area and the 13th at Rivery.  
A portion of the Battle Stores issued in connection with recent operation were returned today to O.O., 4th Army Troops No.1.  
Railhead moved to Amiens.

*Shepherd*  
*Major*

D. A. D. O. S. 4th Aust. Div.



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- 26/8/18 Wrote to Brigades asking them to ~~xxxxxx~~ hasten the return of all outstanding Special Battle Stores and failing that to render certificates to cover shortages.
- 27/8/18 Visited Gun Park at Longeau and I.C.M. Heavy Workshops at Montiere with reference to the supply of Wheels which instead of now being demanded from the Base are sent to the I.C.M. for repairs.  
Divisional Headquarters moved to Bussy today.  
The Divisional Artillery have also come out of the line and are located in the Canon Area.
- 28/8/18 Lorry sent to Gun Park to collect all stores outstanding to the Division.
- 29/8/18 Visited 4th, 12th & 13th Brigades with reference to the return of Special Battle Stores issued in connection with recent operations. Staff Captains all promised to instruct Units to hasten the return.
- 30/8/18 Called on Corps Armourers Workshops with reference to the modification of Lewis Gun Butts and was informed that sufficient material was not yet available to complete, but that advice would be given when it came to hand.  
Spoke to Staff Captain, 4th Brigade about Armourer Staff Sergeant L.A.C. Thomas who has been detached to the 4th Brigade Headquarters from the Divisional Workshop and he agreed with me that this N.C.O. would be much better employed in the Divisional Shop and arrangements were made for him to return at once. I assured the Staff Captain that if there should be any important work to be done he could always depend on an Armourer being sent out to the Brigade at the shortest notice.  
Wrote to C.R.E. asking him to instruct Field Companies to each return four bicycles to me, as these had been rendered surplus to establishment vide G.R.O. 4823.
- 31/8/18 Wrote to 4th, 12th & 13th Brigade Headquarters asking them to instruct Battalions to return 32 Dischargers Rifle Grenade No. I Mark I which had been rendered surplus to establishment by G.R.O. 4781.  
Monthly statement of work carried out in Divisional Armourers Shop forwarded to A.D.O.S. (See App. I.).  
During the past three weeks large quantities of enemy material etc. have been ~~xxxxxx~~ captured by the Division, all of which was handed over to the Australian War Museum. These captures included many vehicles, over 250 Machine Guns, 20 Trench Mortars, three 77 mm field guns and one 6" Howitzer. The majority of the field guns captured were not actually handled by us, but were collected from the forward area by teams of horses supplied by the Divisional Artillery and taken direct to the Captured Gun collecting station established at Longeau.

*Sheoan Louch*  
Major.  
D. A. D. O. S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



# WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

FOR

AUGUST 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

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~~List of French ... of Success  
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Statement of work done in the Armourers Workshop  
for month of August.



## APPENDIX I.

## 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARMOURERS WORKSHOP.

Statement of Work carried out in the above Shop for month  
of August 1918.

Item.	Particulars.	No.
Guns Vickers .303"	Overhauled, painted and re-issued to Machine Gun Battalion in satisfaction of indents, to replace destroyed by shell fire.	10
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.	30
	Overhauled and repaired.	3
Bicycles	Built from frames received from Salvage and issued to Units in satisfaction of demands.	4
	Sent in by Units for complete overhaul, including painting.	74
Pistols	Repaired and Overhauled.	4
Rifles	Received from Salvage and overhauled for re-issue.	6
Gramophones	Repaired.	1
Stoves Primus	Repaired.	6

Sd./ C. S. NEWMAN Condr.  
for Major.  
D. A. D. O. S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.