

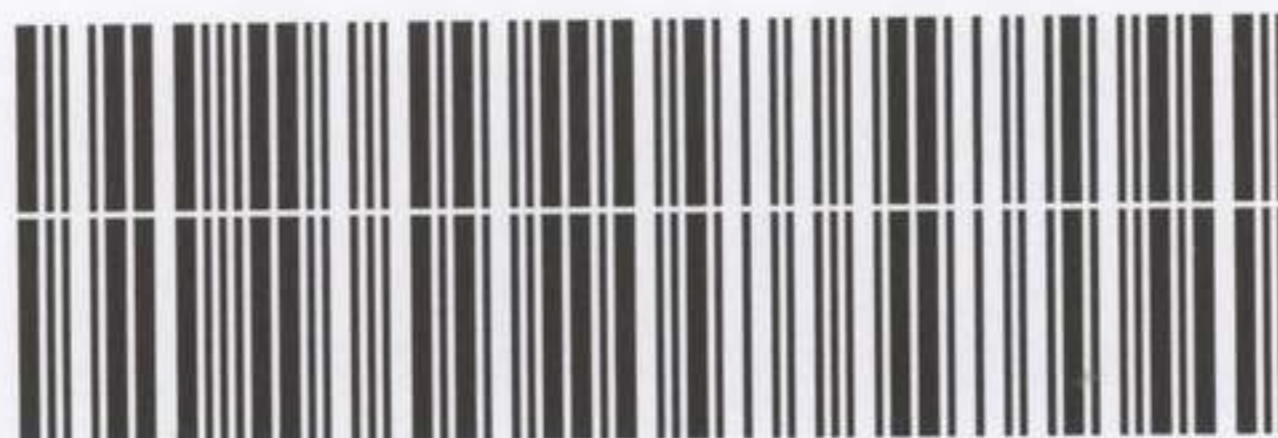
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/7/16

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

October 1918



AWM4-2/7/16



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ORIGINAL.  
~~SECRET~~  
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A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .

W A R D I A R Y .

of

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

for

OCTOBER 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling.....  
*Sheoan Condu*  
for D.A.D.O.S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Signature of Officer Commanding.....  
*Sheoan Condu*  
for D.A.D.O.S.  
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

W A R   D I A R Y .

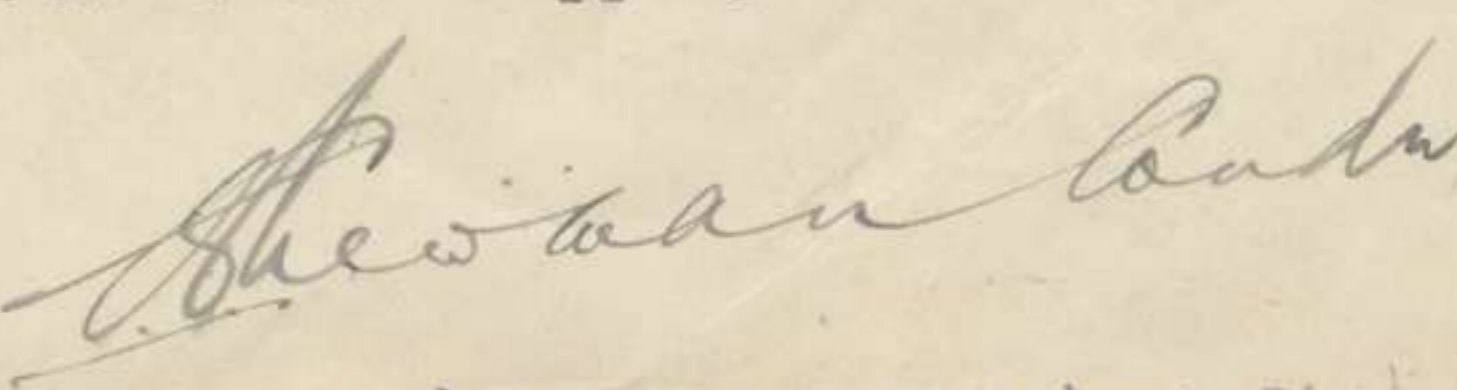
OCTOBER      1918.

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- 1st    Office, dump and Armourers Workshop still located at Cavillon and railhead at Ailly-sur-Somme.  
Lorry sent to D.A.D.O.S., 3rd Australian Division with stores for the 4th Australian Divisional Artillery who are being administered by him.  
Division advise that we have received an allotment of seven Other Ranks for leave to Australia of 1914 men. This allotment will complete the return of 1914 men as far as this Unit is concerned.
- 2nd    Called on C.O.C. Abbeville to try and ~~xx~~ obtain Kettles Camp Oval and Implements Butchers for the Divisional Signal School and Field Punishment Compound, but he was unable to supply as he required all his stocks for Prisoners of War.  
17,000 rounds of Cartridges Dummy Drill S.A.A. demanded from the Base.
- 3rd    Called on 12th and 13th Brigades, 46th and 48th Battalions and 12th Field Ambulance, all stated they were not in need of any urgent Ordnance Stores.  
Wrote to A.D.O.S. asking if he will take the question of replacing the Armourers, six of whom proceeded to Australia today.  
Sent Lorry to Corps furlough Depot at Bray with D.H.Q. and Ordnance leave men.
- 4th    Attended the inspection by the G.O.C. of the Division of the Clothing and Equipment of the 4th Brigade. Clothing and Boots of the 13th Battalion were in a bad condition and large indents are expected. that of the 14th Battalion were fair, and the 15th and 16th Battalions good.  
Called on 4th Australian Mobile Vet. Section.  
Wrote to A.D.O.S. pointing out the delay experienced in receiving Clothing from Rouen. (See Appendix I.)
- 5th    Conductor Newman returned from England from leave.  
Called on 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.
- 6th    Quantity of Clothing received from Rouen, but this was only a portion of my demands, and there are still a large quantity outstanding.  
Called on Divisional Artillery Headquarters and Sub Conductor Struthers who looks after the Artillery Group.  
New Car arrived from the Base to replace the one evacuated about ten days ago.
- 7th    Called on 12th Brigade to be present at the inspection of Clothing, Equipment etc. by G.O.C., 4th Australian Division. Clothing and Boots of the 45th and 46th Battalions were in a very good condition, only a few Titles 'Australia' and 'Rising Suns' being deficient. Clothing of the 48th Battalion was in a fair condition but the Boots were disgraceful. Quite a number of the men have Boots two or three sizes too big for them, there is absolutely no excuse for this

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



- 7th 17<sup>th</sup> As all sizes of Boots are always available with me. I instructed the Q.M. to submit necessary indents.
- 8th Visited Base at Rouen in connection with the supply of Clothing, which has been very slow and unsatisfactory recently. I went thoroughly into the matter of my demands and think that the issues in future will be much more satisfactory.
- 9th 550th Field Company R.E. transferred from O.O. 10th Corps Troops to me for administration.  
4th Australian Pioneer Battalion, 7th, 26th, and 27th Companies A.A.S.C. returned to me for administration.  
Indents for Colour Patches reviewed and it was found that all Units had received all that they had indented for and sufficient stock is at present held to cover any demands that may be made.
- 10th Called on 4th Australian Pioneer Battalion who are just moving into the Cavillon Area.  
Visited the 15th Battalion and inspected one of their Travelling Kitchens, in the absence of an I.O.M. I condemned the Body and have wired the Base for a new one to replace.  
Saw D.A.D.O.S., 2nd Australian Division who stated that when the three Battalions are broken up in his Division he would have four Armourers surplus, I attend visiting A.D.O.S. to see if these men can be transferred to me for duty in the Divisional Armourers Workshop to replace men on furlough to Australia.
- 11th Visited at Corps an Eu, and saw A.D.O.S. regarding the Armourers. I could get no satisfaction whatever from him as he stated that the Armourers Workshop when the Division was in a back area should do no work, but should be at rest. I could not understand this as Bicycles, for example, receive more use in the back area than in the forward, which therefore means that there is always a certain amount of repairs etc. to be done, apart from any overhauling to Machine Guns that may be necessary. It would therefore appear that five men have to do the work of twelve. A.D.O.S. also informed me that there is no I.O.M. in the present area to which vehicles can be taken for condemnation and, if the services of an I.O.M. are required, he will arrange with Army for one to visit the Division. A weeks notice being necessary.
- 12th On the 8th inst. I received a query from Havre, re an indent for nine pairs Binoculars to replace lost in Action by the 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion, Havre asked what action had been taken to recover the value from the individuals concerned. Previous to submitting this indent, I had satisfied myself that no blame was attachable to anyone, and I held certificates from the Machine Gun Battalion to this effect. As this is the first query of this nature that I have received from the Base, and not understanding why it had been raised, I considered it a reflection on my work, and forwarded it to A.D.O.S. informing him of the facts. Today I received his reply stating that this was purely a matter for settlement by Divisional Headquarters, and that he failed to see where the reflection on my work came in, this I also do not understand as the matter has nothing whatever to do with Divisional Headquarters, and as D.A.D.O.S. it is my work to satisfy myself before submitting indents to the Base. Queries of this nature only tend to delay the issue of very important stores which are urgently required.
- 13th A.D.O.S. visited the store, but I was over at Divisional Headquarters and so did not see him.  
Divisional Horse Clipping Centre formed at Picquigny and will commence operations as soon as the Clipping Machines are received from the Base.

*for* 

D.A.D.O.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.



- 14th <sup>179</sup> Attended the inspection of Clothing and Equipment of the Machine Gun Battalion, and found the Clothing and Boots in an excellent condition, in fact, the Boots were so good that I cannot understand why a further 55 pairs which are at present outstanding to them are required. As regards the Clothing only a few Badges and Titles were missing. The transport was in an exceptionally good condition, all spare wheels and poles being carried. The Equipment of the Battalion was very mixed, some wearing Learner Equipment and others Web. The C.O. informed me that all reinforcements are arriving from the Base with Web Equipment whereas that laid down is 1914 pattern (Leather) Equipment. I suggested that the C.O. should apply to Division to make representation that a uniform equipment be supplied, or to obtain permission to change all leather equipment at present in the Battalion for web. It was only on the formation of this Battalion that all web equipment was exchanged for leather.
- 15th Sufficient Horse Rugs for all Horses have now been received from the Base, For the Clipping Centre I have also supplied Oil and necessary Cooking Utensils.
- 16th Instructions received from A.D.O.S. to submit indents for Frost Cogs and Taps and Wrenches. These are not to be issued when received but to be held until required, as it has previously been found that if issued to Units they invariably lose them and fresh demands have to be submitted as soon as the frost sets in.
- 17th Lorry of stores sent to Sub Conductor Struthers for the Divisional Artillery who are now attached to O.O., 9th Corps Troops.
- 18th Attended G.O.C's conference, at which the training of the Division was discussed.  
Called at No.8 Ordnance Depot Abbeville and obtained 40 yards of Red Cloth for the C.R.E. for use as flags on rifle ranges etc.  
Wired to Base for 1 cwt. white paint, which was urgently required for marking discs on sacks for bayonet fighting, and marking out training grounds.  
Whilst at No.8 Ordnance Depot I inquired if any No.36 Grenades were available and was informed that these could probably be obtained from D.D.O.S.; L.of C., South at Dieppe.  
Called on D.A.D.O.S., 1st Australian Division and delivered 75 Sickles for harvesting purposes, these had been brought from the forward area by 4th Australian Divisional Train.  
Saw Divisional Baths N.C.O. re supply of several articles of winter clothing, and arranged that I should indent for 10,000 pairs of Drawers, all of which would be distributed by the Baths, in exchange for summer drawers. It was considered that sufficient socks were already held. I arranged to demand 20,000 Vests of which 1 per man will be issued by me and 5000 handed over to the Baths as reserve.  
Indent forwarded to Base for all Winter Clothing.
- 19th Proceeded to Dieppe to procure No.36 Grenades but was unable to obtain same.  
4th Army Gun Park moved to Roiselle.
- 20th No stores have been received from Havre for over a week or from Rouen for ten days.  
Advice received from Division that 2400 ~~Palliasse~~ Palliasses have been allotted to the Division for the use of men sleeping on stone floors.  
2000 additional Expendable Machine Gun Belts issued to Machine Gun Battalion.

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



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- 21st First consignment of winter clothing received from the Base. 2,000 Vests Woollen were vouchered up in full satisfaction of my demand, and as this was for 20,000 I immediately wrote to the Base and enclosed a fresh indent for 18,000 to complete.
- 22nd Major J.H. Tuckett proceeded on three days duty to England to purchase material for the Divisional Boxing Tournament, which is to be held early in November.
- 23rd Ruling from 4th Army has now been received that horses are not to be clipped for the present. I therefore wrote to Divisional Headquarters asking if the Horse Rugs and Clipping Machines now held by the Mobile Vet. Section could be returned to the Base.
- 24th Corporal M.C.I. Levy transferred to 4th Australian Divisional Train. Private J.V. Nelthorp promoted Corporal to complete establishment.
- 26th 25 tons of stores advised from Bases, ( 4 from Havre and 21 from Rouen).
- 27th 15,000 Blankets received from Rouen. These were delivered to Units direct from railhead and issue was made on ration strength.
- 28th Quantity of Winter Clothing received from Rouen.
- 29th Winter Clothing issue to Units, with the exception of 20,000 Drawers and 5,000 Vests which were handed over to the Divisional Baths.
- 31st ~~Major~~ Attended inspection of Clothing and Equipment of 13th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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



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WAR DIARY.

of

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

for

OCTOBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject

1

Letter to A.D.O.S., Australian Corps pointing out the delay in receiving Clothing from ROUEN.



(Appendix 1)

A.D.O.S.,

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

My Bulk demand No.4A/7750 dated 24th ult. included 676 Jackets, 561 Breeches D.S. and 900 pairs of Puttees, these Stores were due on the 29th ult. but have not yet come to hand.

May enquiries be made please as to whether they were available (in whole or part) and if so, why they were not despatched.

As you know, the Division at the time of demand had just come out of the line after severe fighting and this Clothing was and is urgently required for re-equipment.

4/10/1918.

Sd./ J. TUCKETT Major.

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





D. A. D. O. S

4<sup>th</sup> Division.

Nov 18 — May 19