

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

Ordnance

Item number: 2/7/17

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

November 1918



AWM4-2/7/17

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

DATE.

TIME.

179

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

NOVEMBER 1918.

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

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

179
FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE

WAR DIARY -- NOVEMBER 1918

Location - Office, Armourers and Bootmakers Workshops and Dump -
CAVILLON.

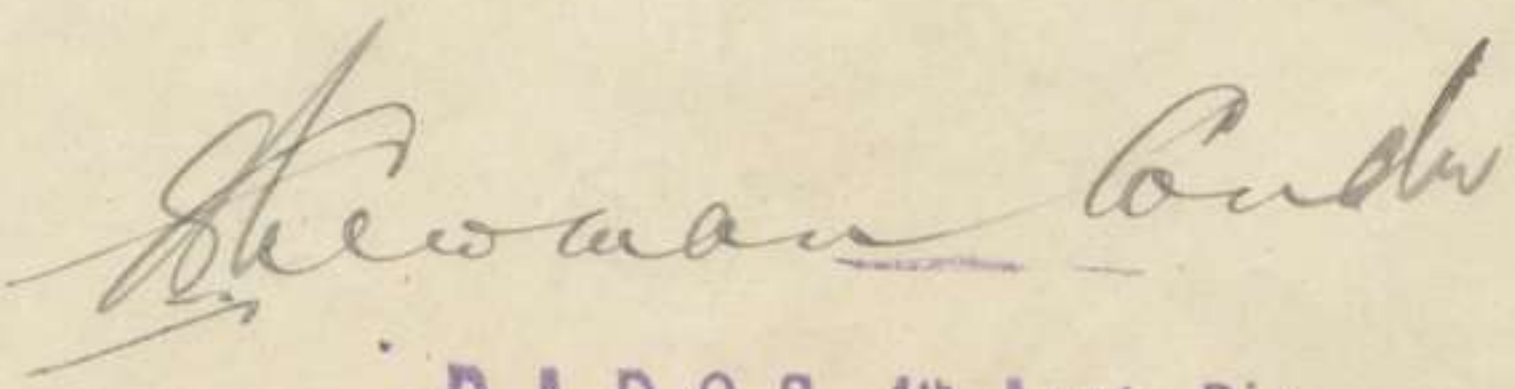
- Nov. 1. Letter received from D.H.Q. asking if we have any surplus gear which we could Dump in the event of a move. A Divisional Dump is to be established at Breilly. It is proposed to place on Dump, reserve of Frost Cogs, Taps and Wrenches as the weather up to present date has been very mild and there appears no likelihood of a frost for some time.
2. General Store and Armourers Shop overhauled and large quantity of material put aside for placing on Divisional Dump at Breilly. The reserve of Frost Cogs, Taps and Wrenches would also be sent.
3. Lorry sent to Divisional Dump with Stores. Owing to reduction inscde of Lewis Gun Magazines from 44 per gun for ground defence to 25½ per gun, Brigades were instructed to collect all Magazines rendered surplus and concentrate in a central position where I will pick them up. Papers regarding above reduction were only received by me from D.H.Q. to-day and then on application, whereas original instructions were dated about 20th September.
4. 550th Field Coy. R.E. moved to O.O. No. 8 Ordnance Depot, Abbeville for administration. This still leaves me administering the 648th Field Coy. R.E. and 574th Army Troops Coy. R.E. Asked A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps to whom the two latter Coys. were to be transferred in the event of a move. Sent Lorries to collect Lewis Gun Magazines which were returned to Railhead for despatch to Base.
5. Statements received from Units showing the number of Magazines returned with reasons for any deficiency.
5. Preliminary instructions received regarding move to new Area in the near future. Made arrangements with R.T.O. Ailly-sur-Somme for two trucks to convey Armourers gear and other Stores to new Railhead at BUSIGNY. Large quantities of unserviceable material and surplus gear from Units being returned today owing to move.
last
- 6/ Lorries loaded ~~last~~ night for early move this morning but instructions were received that the move had been postponed 24 hours. 2 Lorries unloaded for current work, other two Lorries standing by.
7. Three Lorries left CAVILLON for new store at BUSIGNY, the remaining Lorry to follow after picking up rations and loading Armourers and Bootmakers on rail. Secured good store at No. 5 Rue Cecile, BUSIGNY and unloaded the three Lorries.
8. 648 Field Coy. R.E. moved to O.O. 9th Corps Troops No. 2 for administration and 574 Army Troops Coy. R.E. moved to O.O. 13th Corps Troops. Remaining Lorry not yet arrived. Owing to further postponement of move, Units of Division have not yet arrived in new Area.

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

179

SHEET 2
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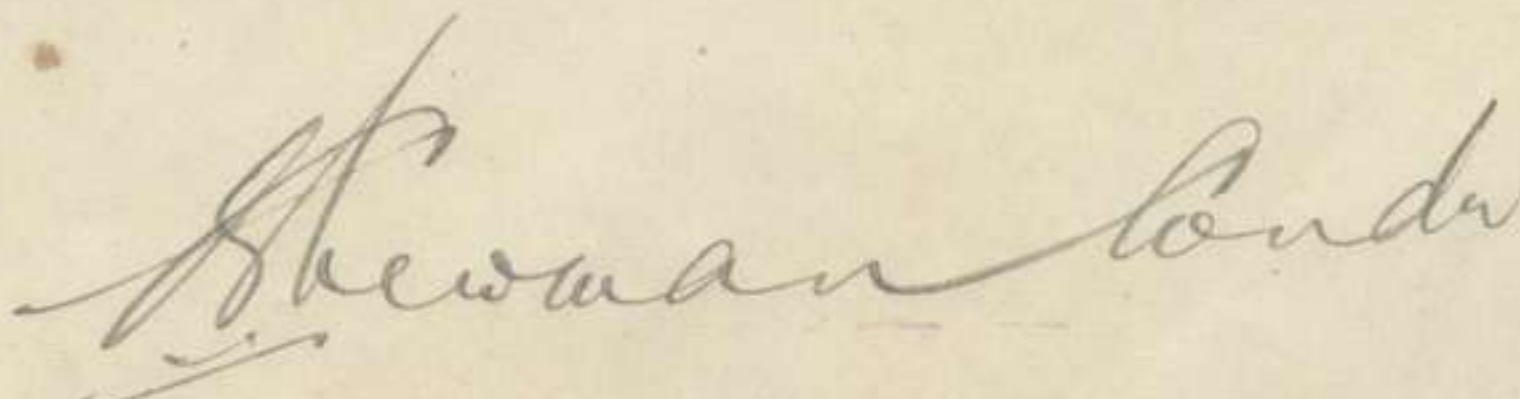
- Nov. 9. Again received word that Move had been postponed 12 hours and that Troops were to detrain at ROISEL and proceed by Bus to the new Area.
Wired for 500 pairs of Boots in view of probable heavy demands.
10. Advised 4th Aus. Div. Art. that my Store was at present in BUSIGNY and that they were being transferred to me for administration. Artillery reported that while detached from Division with Aust. Corps Troops, 2nd American Corps and 9th Corps Troops No. 2, considerable difficulty had been experienced in obtaining Stores and that no clothing ~~and~~, cleaning material and very few Australian Pattern Boots had been received.
11. 4th Aus. Div. Art. returned to me from O.O. 9th Corps Troops No. 2 and Sub/Condr. Struthers, who had been detached with 9th Corps returned to me for duty. He reported that all Indents for cleaning material had been supplied and that the delay in the issue of clothing was due to be fact that O.O. 9th Corps Troops has 9 Trucks of Stores on rail which it is not yet possible to obtain as the railway at ROISEL has been blown up by delayed action mines on several occasions and transport shortage will not allow of Lorries being sent 60 Kilometres to clear these trucks. Large demands are consequently outstanding for Clothing also cleaning material, indents for which had only been received during the past week.
12. Units settling in new Area.
13. Lorry arrived from CAVILLON. It had been kept there owing to the very indefinite state of affairs and had also been sent to ABBEVILLE to collect 500 pairs of Boots from No. 8 Ordnance Depot, as it was considered advisable, owing to Railway difficulties, to hold a considerable stock in case of emergency.
Railhead situated at BELLICOURT. This is a considerable distance from BUSIGNY and Lorries leaving early in the morning do not get back until late at night. The 13th Bde are also situated some distance from my Store and it is necessary to deliver stores to them. With Railhead being so far away, difficulty is being experienced in finding sufficient transport.
14. Called on D.D.O.S. re Boots and Clothing, the supply of which has been most unsatisfactory. During the past 3 weeks no leather has been received off my last 5 Bulks. D.D.O.S. wired ROUEN to despatch immediately my bulk of the 12th inst. for Boots and my bulk of the 7th for Half soles and sides of Leather. All Units are complaining of the shortage and as no repair material can be obtained i.e. leather and half soles large demands for Boots are being received. A complaint has been received from G.O.C. 12th Aus. Inf. Bde complaining about the very poor quality of leather recently issued and stating that Boots repaired are again worn out within 5 days. also stating that supplied have not been sufficient. A statement has been prepared which shows that the Battalion which was the cause of the complaint (48th Battalion()) had received during the past 6 weeks, sufficient new Boots, half soles and leather to enable 90% of the men to either have new Boots issued or their old ones repaired.

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

SHEET 3

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- Nov. 14. Wrote to Division asking if Frost Cogs, Taps and Wrenches are to be issued to all Units now and if so, asking for a Div. Routine Order to be published drawing Units attention to the necessity for their care as some difficulty may be experienced in replacement.
15. 4th Aus. M.T.Coy moved to-day to D.A.D.O.S. 3rd Aust. Div. for administration, this leaves no M.T.Coy. being administered by me for the present.
The position as regards supply of Leather and half soles is daily becoming more serious and every effort is being made to remedy the shortage. D.D.O.S. and A.D.O.S. are doing all in their power to hasten supply as orders are now being issued for Units to prepare for march to Germany. On enquiry from other O.O's and D.A.D's.O.S. it appears that they are also feeling the shortage of boot repairing material.
16. Re cancellation of Clothing Indents for Div. Art. see Appendix 1.
Owing to serious shortage of Australian pattern Clothing it was considered advisable, after consultation with Staff Captain Div. Art, to cancel all outstanding demands and call for new indents for actual requirements as some Batteries had such a large number outstanding that, if supplied, would mean that each man would have a new Uniform and a number would still be surplus.
Two Armourer Sergeants and 1 Arm. Corporal reported for duty from D.A.D.O.S. 5th Aust. Div. for duty in Div. Workshop. to replace men on furlough to Australia.
17. After consultation with A.D.O.S. and D.D.O.S. Major Tuckett proceeded to HAVRE and ROUEN to visit Bases and enquire into the position regarding supply of Boots, Socks, Emery paper, Service Colour Paint and Grindery, also A.P. Clothing.
18. 3rd Aust. M.T.Coy. moved to me for administration.
C.O. 48th Battalion called regarding supply of Boot repairing material. The difficulties of supply were explained to him and figures referred to on 14th inst. shown him. It was pointed out that with only 5 Bootmakers working it was impossible to do the number of repairs which he stated had been done in his Battalion over a fixed period
19. Major Tuckett returned from Havre and Rouen having arranged for the supply to this Division of 4000 pairs of Boots, 15,000 pairs of Socks, 1 ton Dubbin, 1000 sheets of Emery Cloth and 1 ton of Service Paint.
Railhead moved from BELLICOURT to FRESNOY-LE-GRAND. This will greatly facilitate transport.
20. Notification received that Railhead for to-morrow would be HONNECHY.
18-pdr Piece for 38th Battery demanded to replace one condemned by I.O.M. for scoring. Preliminary instructions have been received regarding march to Germany and all Units are preparing, cutting down surplus stores etc. It is considered that so far as the personal welfare of the men is concerned, regarding Boots and Socks, that the supply will be ample for all requirements.



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

SHEET 4

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- Nov. 21. Arrangements still in progress for march to Germany. Large stocks of Boots and clothing available after all demands have been satisfied. 150 pairs of Boots will be issued to each Battalion to carry as a reserve stock. Instructions received that all Box Respirators at present held by me as Divisional Reserve could be returned to Base. Those at present in possession of Units to be carried to Germany by the men. Same were returned to Base to-day.
22. Office and Dump moved to PRISCHES. As this move is to be of short duration, visited SAINS to choose another store for use when the Division moves to that Area.
23. 4th Aus. M.T. Coy. moved from D.A.D.O.S. 3rd Aust. Div. to D.A.D.O.S. 5th Aust. Div. on instructions received from AD.O.S. A reserve of 600 pairs of Socks per Battalion and a smaller number in proportion to strength of other Units is to-day being issued.
24. The Armourers and Bootmakers Workshops are still situated at BUSIGNY but I propose moving them direct to SAINS Tomorrow and the Dump and Office will join them when Division moves to next Area. 24 Tons of Stores arrived at Railhead from Rouen and Havre. Railhead at present at HONNECHY. Owing to transport shortage and considerable distance from Railhead, 3 men and a marquee are stationed at HONNECHY. Trucks as they arrive are unloaded into Marquee and picked up as opportunity offers. It is found that this is a very satisfactory way in dealing with large quantities of stores which are arriving from Base daily and which cannot be cleared direct to Dump.
25. Armourers and Bootmakers Workshops moved to SAINS. 18 pdr. piece for 38th Battery released from Gun Park by 4th Army. Battery instructed to collect. It is noticed now that hostilities have ceased that very little work is being done by the Armourers, in fact, only a few Bicycles are being sent in for repair. A considerable quantity of Lewis Gun and Bicycle parts have accumulated in Workshop and these are being prepared for return to Base.
26. Moved Office and Dump to SAINS.
27. Large quantity of clothing arrived from Railhead. This consignment was sufficient to complete all outstanding demands of Units and still leave a balance for stock. Artillery Units asking about Horse shoes and stating that same are urgently required owing to so much moving and bad state of roads.
28. 800 Boxes of Horse Shoes arrived from Base and position is now O.K. I had anticipated large demands for Horse shoes and had wired Base to duplicate my last Bulk.
29. Considerable difficulty still being experienced in bringing up the Railway as numbers of German mines still continue to cause delay. Nearly all Units of Division visited Store to-day and collected Horse shoes and clothing as well as paint and dubbin which also had arrived from Base.
30. Still holding large stock of Armourers and other gear which was prepared to be dumped at BUSIGNY but at the last moment orders were issued that no Dumps were to be formed in this Area. Work in Store very busy during day.

for *Shewan* *Condu*
D.A.D.O.S. 4th Aust. Div.

179

WAR DIARY.

of

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

for

NOVEMBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject

1

Letters re cancellation of Clothing Indents for Units of
the 4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

179

(Appendix 1. continued.)
-----FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

HEADQUARTERS,

15th Nov. 1918.

10th Aust. F.A. Brigade.
11th Aust. F.A. Brigade.
4th Aust. D.A.C.

There seems to be a very serious misunderstanding amongst Units regarding the indenting for clothing. Q.M. Sergeants have been to D.A.D.O.S. during the last few days and submitted indents for practically a complete Battery issue of new tunics, breeches and hats, and when questioned re the matter state that the Battery Captains gave them to understand that a complete new issue was going to be made. This idea- as you can understand- is absurd and to clear any misunderstanding and expedite the actual necessary issues, the following procedure will take effect:-

- (a) All indents for clothing are CANCELLED.
- (b) Units will hold a kit inspection on Sunday 17th inst. and after a thorough investigation, submit indents on the 18th for clothing actually required.
- (c) It must be understood that new clothing will only be issued for clothing which will be returned.

ACKNOWLEDGE.
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(Signed) A. WAITE. Captain.
Staff Captain.
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

Copy to D.A.D.O.S.

113
888
(for information)

(Appendix 1.)

179

Headquarters,

4th Australian Division.

The Units of the Divisional Artillery appear to be under a misunderstanding with regard to the issue of Clothing and have been told that they are to receive a full issue of Hats, Jackets, Breeches and Puttees, and. as some Units have already submitted their indents with this view in mind, I went and saw the Staff Captain of the Divisional Artillery and arranged for the cancellation of all outstanding indents for Clothing and asked him to instruct Units to hold a kit inspection on the morning of the 17th inst. and to submit fresh indents to me on the 18th for actual requirements to replace unserviceable articles. (Dirty clothing not to be considered unserviceable, but to be cleaned.)

I also arranged for my lorries to call and collect all unserviceable articles 3 days after the issue of the new, and stated that I should want 100% returned in every case, and that they would be very carefully examined, any article considered not to be unserviceable would be inspected by a Board of Survey and the value assessed by the Board would be charged up against the Unit concerned.

16/11/1918.

(Signed.) J. TUCKETT.

Major.

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