

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/7/18

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

December 1918



AWM4-2/7/18

ORIGINAL.

WAR DIARY

of

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

for the Month of

DECEMBER 1918.

*Shackleton*  
.....  
Signature of Compiling Officer

<b>DADOS</b>
No. ....
Date.....
4th. Aust. Div.

*Shackleton*  
.....  
Signature of Commanding Officer

<b>DADOS</b>
No. ....
Date.....
4th. Aust. Div.

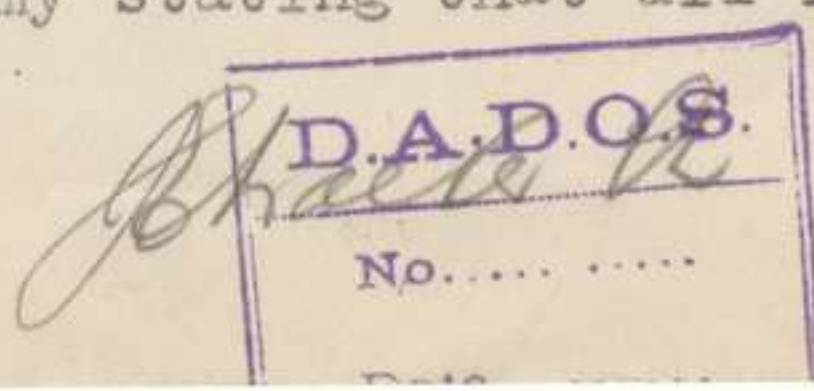
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4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

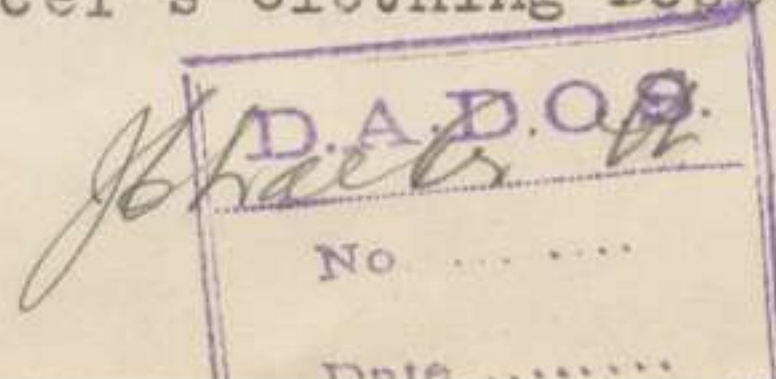
WAR DIARY

DECEMBER 1918.

- 1st Location of Office and Dump, Sains, France.  
Called on 13th Brigade Headquarters and saw Brigadier-General Herring and asked him if the Boots of the Brigade were in good condition, and was informed that everything was satisfactory.
- 2nd Instructions received to move the 3rd Australian M.T. Company to the 5th Australian Division for administration. The 4th M.T. Coy. is being returned to me from the 5th Division.
- 3rd Railhead moved from Le Cateau to Landrecies to day. Major Tuckett proceeded to Australian Corps for duty as A.D.O.S., S/Condr McDermid being left in charge during the absence of Condr Newman on leave.
- 4th Advice received that 4th Army are to be Based on Calais for Ordnance Services from the 10th instant and that no further indents are to be submitted to Havre and Rouen after the 6th, and no indents to be submitted to Calais before the 9th. Instructions received from Divisional Headquarters to despatch all 'B' Class personnel to the Base for return to Australia.
- 5th Three Kitchen Travelling Bodies demanded for the 45th Battalion were issued in error by the R.O.D., Honnechy to the 46th Battn. These should not have been accepted by the 46th Battalion as they must have known they were not intended for them, as their Cookers had not been condemned. Considerable inconvenience was caused to the 45th Battalion by their action, as it was necessary to demand three more for them.  
104th Army Brigade R.F.A. moved to me from D.A.D.O.S., Australian Corps Troops for administration.  
Large quantity of nails, grindery and clothing received from Rouen. This is the first supply of anything like an adequate quantity of boot repairing material received for two months, and although we have usually been able to issue new boots in lieu of Units repairing the old ones, it is not only an extravagant way of meeting the difficulty; but Units complain that the men's feet suffer considerably on account of the amount of marching which they are now called upon to do. Several complaints have also been received with regard to the supply of E.P. Boots in lieu of A.P. and I have made application to Corps for representation to be made that only A.P. Boots are issued to Australian Units.
- 6th Large demands for Clothing and Boots are being received from the 104th Army Brigade R.F.A. This is due to the fact that during the past two or three months they have constantly been moved about from Formation to Formation and have therefore never received any large supplies of any stores at all.
- 7th Three Kitchen Travelling Bodies for the 45th Battalion advised as having been despatched from the Base.
- 8th Advice received that the Division will shortly be moving to the Dinant area and S/Condr McDermid went to Dinant to select a new store and dump and Office.
- 9th Lieut J.E. Walker from 1st Australian Division took over the duties of D.A.D.O.S. to-day during the absence of Major Tuckett at Corps. Lorry load of Armourers gear sent from Sains to the new dump at Dinant.
- 10th Advice received from 4th Army stating that all indents bearing


  
 D.A.D.O.S.  
 No. ....

- 10th Unit's date prior to 11th November are now cancelled and that stores which are still required must be redemanded. Memo received from A.D.O.S. instructing us to insure that all Units are in possession of their latest Mob. Store Tables properly amended to date with all G.R.O., A.R.O. and other authorities. Demand for quantity of all the latest Mob. Store Tables submitted to Base Stationary Depot.
- 11th Advice received that railhead will move to Beaumont on the 13th instant. Two more lorry loads of Armourers gear sent to Dinant today.
- 12th Authority granted for the issue of a third blanket per man. A wire was sent to the Base for 15,000. These should arrive for distribution shortly after arrival in the new area. As it is recognised that there are a number of items shown on the Mob. Store Table of Units which have not been required during the recent operations, and which have either become lost or unserviceable, A.D.O.S. has suggested that indents be submitted by Units for these articles, and that indents be marked 'suspend issue'. (See Appendix 1)  
Lieut. Walker proceeded to new dump at Dinant.  
Railhead closed at Landrecies to-day. Corporal Pike and fatigue party, who had been at the Railhead in charge of stores returned to Sains, as with the railhead at Beaumont it is no longer necessary to have anybody stationed at Railhead.
- 13th Two lorry loads of stores sent to the new dump near Dinant. It has been necessary to send at least two loads of stores each day in order to clear the old dump at Sains by the 14th inst.
- 14th Moved Office and Dump to Anseremme near Dinant, Belgium.
- 15th Railhead notified as changed to Florennes from the 16th instant. At the present the Division is very scattered, as one Brigade is in the Florennes area; one in the Dinant area and the others scattered about in between.
- 16th 8 tons of general stores advised from Calais, also three trucks of blankets for issue of the third blanket to each man. With this quantity of stores advised it was considered necessary to again send an N.C.O. and party to Railhead to look after the stores as they were unloaded from the trucks, as it was not possible to shift them all to Dinant in one day. Units of the 4th Brigade who are stationed in Florennes and all Units within the vicinity were instructed to draw their third blanket direct from our store at Florennes, thus saving a good deal of transport and double handling.  
Two lorry loads of stores for the 104th Army Brigade R.F.A. received from D.A.D.O.S., Australian Corps Troops.
- 17th Seven tons of general Stores advised from Calais.
- 18th A.D.O.S. advises that a quantity of Braziers are being despatched from the Base without indent for the use of the Division. Wired to Base for 300 Buckets Latrine and 600 Buckets Fire for use in the Divisional Area.
- 19th Instructions received from Australian Corps that all Field Ambulances within the Corps will be reduced by one section ('C' Section), and that all stores rendered surplus will be returned to D.A.D.O.S. for despatch to the Base.
- 20th 60 Brooms, 36 Shovels and 36 Mud Scrapers required for use of the Area Commandant, Florennes demanded from Base. Advice received that the Officer's Clothing Depot will shortly be opened at Namur.



(3).

- 21st I.O.M. now situated at Florennes and Solre le Chateau. Outstanding indents for No.100 Motor Airline Section, which is now located at Dinant, forwarded me direct from D.D.O.S., 4th Army for supply, as there was no other Ordnance near them.
- 22nd A.D.O.S. advises that the question of promotion in the A.A.O.C. is to be gone into in the near future and he asks for a list of all clerical personnel to be sent him, stating whether they are ~~agreeable~~ agreeable to remain until demobilization is completed, or until such time as their services are no longer required. A.D.O.S. also instructed that application be made to Divisional Headquarters for six clerks to be attached to me for experience, with a view to their transfer to the Corps to replace men who may be returned to Australia. It was pointed out that the men chosen should be those belonging to late reinforcements and who will not fall due for repatriation for some time. Divisional Headquarters state that the Office and Dump will have to be moved, in order to be more centrally situated to all Units.
- 23rd Major J.H.Tuckett now acting A.D.O.S. visited the Dump. Instructions received from Division that Pte. Brown of the Divisional Bootmakers Shop is to proceed to Australia with the next draft, which is leaving Dinant on the 26th inst.
- 24th A.D.O.S. advises that 2300 palliasses are being despatched from the Base without indent, also the 11 Flags, silk, Union authorised by G.R.O. 5734. for issue to Infantry and Pioneer Battalion, as Regimental Colours after having been consecrated by the Corps Commander.
- 25th Christmas Day. Visited Onhaye and selected site for new dump and Office.
- 26th Boxing Day.
- 27th Moved Dump, Office and Bootmakers Shop to Onhaye. As this is only a small village and was already occupied by the 26th Coy.A.A.S.C., it was not possible to find a suitable place for the Divisional Armourers Shop. It was therefore decided to leave them at Anseremme for the present and endeavour to find a suitable place for them in some village in the vicinity.
- 28th Instructions received from Australian Corps that 'C' Section of all Field Ambulances are to be demobilized immediately. All stores held by this Section are to be returned to me for despatch to the Base, and the Truck No. and waybill No. together with complete lists of all the stores returned to be forwarded to A.D.O.S.
- 29th A.D.O.S. advises that the Corps Commander desires Divisions to build up a reserve of Boots and Grindery, demands to be submitted by D.A.D's O.S. and A.D.O.S. advised of the reserve it is proposed to hold. I propose to hold:- 600 prs of Boots Ankle, 20 Sides of Leather, 900 prs of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Soles, 56 lbs of Rivets  $\frac{3}{4}$ " 56 lbs of Rivets  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 28 lbs Nails Hob.
- 30th Instructions received from Division to reduce the Lewis Gun Establishment of Batteries R.F.A. by 2 Lewis Guns.
- 31st. Wrote to H.Qrs. 4th Australian Divisional Artillery asking them to instruct Batteries to return 2 Complete Lewis Guns to me.



4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

List of Appendices.

- 1. Copy of letter from A.D.O.S., Australian Corps to Bases with reference to the submission of indents by Units for Stores of which they are deficient, but which they do not require to draw.

Johnston  
D.A.D.O.S.  
No. ....  
Date .....  
4th. Aust. Div.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,  
9th December 1918.

C.O.O.,  
CALAIS.  
HAVRE.

Units of this Corps are deficient of certain items of equipment which it is not considered necessary to carry, but in order to be complete on demobilization, everything is to be demanded by C.Os.

In view of the truck shortage and units' overburdened transport it is not desired to draw articles which are not required, but to place indents with you marked "suspend issue".

D.D.O.S. 4th Army has concurred in the above suggestion and and if you agree, may I suggest that Issue Orders are not passed to Groups off Indents so endorsed, but that the original indents are kept in Field Indents Office and no action taken until further notice.

An early reply is requested.

(signed) J. TUCKETT. Major.  
for A.D.O.S.  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Copy to:-  
D.D.O.S., 4th Army.  
A.A.G., A.I.F.  
"Q", Aust. Corps.

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Headquarters,  
1st Aust. Division.  
2nd " "  
3rd " "  
4th " "  
5th " "

Reference the above.

1. Until reply is received from C.O.Os., CALAIS and HAVRE hold any indents from Units for Stores which they do not require.
2. Any demands already sent forward for Stores not required should be cancelled.

Headquarters  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
9th December 1918.

Brigadier-General.  
D. A. & Q. M. G.  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

*John H. ...*  
D.A.Q.M.G.  
4th. Aust. Div.