

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

Ordnance

**Item number:** 2/7/22

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

April 1919



AWM4-2/7/22



CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE.

TRIPPLICATE.

WAR DIARY.

of

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

APRIL.

1919.

Signature of Compiling Officer.

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

Signature of Commanding Officer.

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



179

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDNANCE.

WAR DIARY

APRIL 1919.

- 1st. 49th Aust. Inf. Battalion came in with their papers to have them checked before returning their Stores.  
Major Redmond and Staff Captain 4th Aust Div. Artillery H. Qrs. called with reference to the demobilisation of the Artillery and took back with them all the papers of those which had not returned all their Stores and promised that all should be completed by the 3rd inst. Lieut-Colonel Tuckett, ~~XXX~~ A.D.O.S., Australian Corps visited office and asked how the Units were being demobilised. He also stated that Army were interfering with our trains and that he was calling on them to arrange matters and to make certain ~~xxxx~~ of this Division's train for the 5th inst.
- 2nd 13th Aust. Field Ambulance handed over all their Stores and received receipts. This Unit is now completely demobilised as far as Ordnance is concerned and only a certificate called for under G.R.O. 6082 is now required to complete their papers.  
Papers of 9 Units ~~xxxxxxx~~ are now available for A.D.O.S., this makes a total of 20 Units ~~and~~ of the Division completely demobilised and papers ready for Corps, there also about another 12 Units demobilised but whose papers are awaiting certificates for completion.  
H. Qrs. 4th Aust. D.A.C., No. 2 Section 4th Aust. D.A.C. and the 4th Aust. Mobile veterinary Section called to-day to check their lists prior to demobilisation.  
Two Wires received from Divisional H. Qrs. asking for several Water Carts Cookers, Camp Kettles and Shoemakers Kits for the Artillery/13th Brigade Group and for the Pioneer/M.G. Battalion Group. This will enable Pioneer and 51st Battalions to hand in their Stores and they have been instructed to bring in their papers to be checked.
- 3rd 49th Aust. Inf. Battalion, 4th Aust. Mobile vet. Section and H. Qrs. 4th Aust D.A.C. returned all Stores to-day.  
Papers of the H. Qrs. 10th and 11th Aust F.A. Brigades, 38th, 42nd, 110th and 111th Batteries and No. 2 Section D.A.C. were to-day returned completed together with balance of Stores which were held back by them when first handing in.  
The completed lists of the following Units were to-day handed to A.D.O.S., Australian Corps, 46th Battalion, 50th Battalion, 13th Field Coy. Aust. Engineers, 7th M.T.M. Battery, 8th M.T.M. Battery, 12th Aust. INF. Bde. H. Qrs., 37th, 39th, 41st, 43rd Batteries, 27th Coy. A.A.S.C., 4th Aust. Mobile Vet. Section, 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade H. Qrs.  
Visited Divisional H. Qrs. and asked if the 57 Blackboards and Easels which we were holding in stock were still required, The A.A. & Q.M.G. assured me that they were not now required, so they are being returned to Base.  
I also asked what was being done with reference to the 13th Flags Silk Union which were being held in our Store, they were received & for issue to Infantry and Pioneer Battalions and before being issued were to be consecrated by the Corps Commander. As Division think that these flags will not be presented until all Troops are back in Australia I asked the A.A. & Q.M.G. if he could get someone to take charge of them as they were not in too safe a place being continually in the Store. He said he would see what he could do.
- 4th. 12th Aust Field Ambulance returned all their Stores to-day and their papers were all completed and are ready for Corps.  
Advice received that Demobilisation train which was arranged for the 5th inst. has been cancelled and that our next train will now be on the 9th inst.  
The A.A. & Q.M.G. rang up for some Engineers tools for the men who were

*Shaefer*





149

- 4th Cont'd.) (were) employed on the foundation of the Divisional Memorial, as all Field Companies of Engineers have been demobilised they will have to be obtained from the Pioneer Battalion who are handing in Stores to-morrow.
- 5th. Pioneer Battalion handed in all their Stores to-day. The papers of the following Units have been completed and were handed over to Corps: 12th Aust. Field Amb., 49th Battalion. H.Qrs., D.A.C. No.2 Section D.A.C., 10th A.F.A. Brigade H.Qrs., 38th Battery and 111th Howitzer Battery, and the 15th Infantry Battalion.
- 6th. The 45th Battalion brought their papers in to be checked and they were found to be in order, but their stores cannot be returned until the 13th inst. in accordance with instructions received from Divisional H.Qrs.
- 7th. Papers of the 13th and 52nd Battalions were handed in to-day and found to be correct, stores of the 13th Battalion will be handed in on about the 13th inst. and those of the 51st on the 9th inst. The following papers were handed over to A.D.O.S. to-day:- H.Qrs. 4th Aust. Div. Engineers, 4th Pioneer Battalion, H.Qrs. 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade 42nd Battery and the 110th Howitzer Battery. As A.D.O.S. is taking papers to London to-morrow he is desirous of taking as many as possible. The papers handed in to A.D.O.S. to-day make a grand total of 38x completed Units papers handed in.
- 8th. Stores of the 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Qrs. handed in to-day, but the papers cannot yet be completed as certificates rendered re the deficiency of 3 Bicycles is not satisfactory. Stores of the S.A.A. Section 4th Aust. D.A.C. were also returned to-day but could not be completed as they had retained some vehicles and harness, which is not permissible under R. & D. Instructions No. 14
- 9th. 51st. Aust. Inf. Battalion handed in their Stores to-day and as their papers together with certificates were in order they were handed over to A.D.O.S. together with the 14th Battalion papers, thus making a total of 42 completely demobilised Units. Instructions received from A.D.O.S. to collect 2 more Flags Silk Union from D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops for the 47th and 52nd Battalions, who were demobilised last May when the 12th and 13th Aust. Inf. Brigades were reduced from 4 Battalion Brigades to 3 Battalion Brigades. This made 13 Flags Silk Union on hand and definite instructions have not yet been received from Divisional H.Qrs. as to their disposal. Since demobilisation commenced we have had attached 10 Mules with Drivers for the purpose of drawing vehicles from the Vehicle Park to the Station yard when trains were being loaded. Division to-day took these Mules and Drivers away and informed us that for the future we should have to employ Motor Lorries for this purpose. I at once got into touch with Division and explained that it would be very awkward using Lorries and asked them if it would be possible to have the Mules returned. This they promised to do.
- 10th. Now that the 1st and 4th Aust. Divisions have been amalgamated, all Units of the 1st Division have been moved to me for administration; to attend to these Units D.A.D.O.S. 1st Aust. Division has attached to me a Warrant Officer, a Clerk and a Storeman also 1 Motor Lorry.
- 11th. The 26th Coy. A.A.S.C. brought in their demobilisation papers to-day and they were found to be correct, the Stores of this Unit will be returned either to-morrow or the 14th inst. we have two trains for demobilisation, one for the 12th inst. and one for the 15th inst. the 1st. Aust. Division have one train for to-day and one for the 13th inst.. As their train to-day will suffice them for the present I rang Corps ~~xxxxx~~ and asked them if I could have the train on the

*John ...*

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



179

11th Con'd.) (the) 13th in addition to the other two and to this consent was given, this will greatly help me and by the time the train on the 15th inst. has left my vehicle park and demobilisation store should be almost empty, and the demobilisation of the Division very nearly complete. After the 13th inst. there will only be 5 Units left to demobilise, they are as follows:- 4th Div.H.Qrs., H.Qrs. 4th Aust Div.Artilleary, 4th Aust.Div.Signal Coy., 14th A.A.S.C. and the 4th Aust.M.T.Ciy..

12th The 26th Coy.A.A.S.C. returned their Stores To-day and their completed papers together with those of the 4th Field Coy. Engineers and S.A.A. Section D.A.C. were handed over to A.D.O.S. Under instructions received from A.D.O.S. the demobilisation Train which was expected to-day has been cancelled but we still have the one for to-morrow, also the train for the 15th inst, has been postponed until the 16th inst.

A.D.O.S. was here to-day and asked us if we could do with another train for the 29th inst. This train will greatly assist us as it will clear our store and almost clear our vehicle park. After the train on the 20th inst. we are reckoning that 3 more trains will completely clear all stores and transport of the balance of the Division.

Advice received from A.D.O.S. that the promotion of Sergeant (T/S/Sgt) R.C.Henderson to be T/Sub-Conductor has been approved.

Sergeant from D.A.D.V.S. reported here to-day to proceed with the Demobilisation train to the Base for the purpose of handing over all Army Veterinary Stores to the Veterinary Hospital, but as the train was cancelled he was instructed to report again to-morrow.

The 12th Army Brigade Aust.F.A. to-day handed in 16 G.S. Wagons and a few small stores which were still on their charge after being demobilised by the 5th Aust.Division. In accordance with instructions received from Corps an ordinary receipt was given for these Stores as the lists according to R. & D. instructions were not necessary for the balance of their equipment.

13th. Train loaded to-day and despatched to the Demobilisation Base at Beaumaris, this train was the largest that we have yet had, consisting of 7 closed trucks of General Stores and 24 Flat Trucks containing 72 G.S.Wagons.

14th H.Qrs. 4th Aust.Div.Artilleary handed in their papers to-day but as they were not in accordance with instructions they were returned for adjustment, the stores are being returned on the 16th inst Phoned Division and was informed that the 13th and 45th Battalions are being instructed to return their stores to-morrow. Received corrected certificate from 4th Aust.Inf.Bde. H.Qrs and this completes their papers. No papers are now outstanding for Units whose demobilisation stores have been returned.

15th. Divisional H.Qrs. handed in their papers to-day for the purpose of checking and were found to be incorrect and returned for adjustment their stores with corrected papers are being brought in to-morrow. Lieut-Col. Tuckett, A.D.O.S., Australian Corps called here to-day and was handed the completed papers of 4th Aust.Div.H.Qrs. 45th Battalion to-day handed in their Stores together with ~~their~~ their papers and certificates and were found to be in order and are now ready to be submitted to Corps.

16th The demobilisation train which was advised for to-day has been cancelled owing to the congestion at the Calais Base, I have also been informed by A.D.O.S. that there will be no further trains until the 21st .

Visited A.D.O.S. and handed over completed papers of the 45th Battn. also visited Divisional H.Qrs.

Divisional H.Qrs returned all stores to-day with the exception of a few vehicles which are being returned to-morrow

D.A.D.O.S.  
D.A.D.O.S.  
Aust. Div.



- 16th (Cont'd) Instructions have been received from Corps that I am to take Stores form No.5 Casualty Clearing Station. This Unit has been partly demobilised by D.A.D.O.S. Australian Corps Troops but the balance of the Stores are to be returned to me. These Stores were returned this afternoon. Advice received this afternoon that the 13th Aust. Inf. Battalion will not hand over their Equipment until the 22nd inst, Instructions received to pack the 13 Flags Silk Union in a cōate so as to enable them to be forwarded to Australia. Colonel Dowse (A.A. & Q.M.G.) will be calling tomorrow to inspect the package and it will be taken away on the 18th inst.
- 17th Divisional H.Qrs. returned the balance of their transport and as their papers are in order they are now ready to be forwarded to Corps. Letter received from A.D.O.S. informing me that 4 Bicycles have been transferred from Corps Cyclist Battalion to the Divisional Signal Company; I have written to Div. Sig. Coy instructing them to return these bicycles when rreturning their Stores and to ensure that they are included on their lists when rendered.
- 18th Letter received from Corps stating that if certificates for deficiencies in Headcollars and Neck Chains by Units they would be accepted by Ordnance Officers provided that they bore a counter signature f from Divisional H.Qrs. to the effect that the number of horses referred to had been despatched to Base on date stated. This letter came about through the Authorities at The Base refusing to give receipts for the articles mentioned when horses were returned, thus making the Unit deficient ~~deficient~~ of a certain number of these articles when habding in their Stores on demobilisation. H.Qrs. 4th Aust Div. Artillery again handed in their papers and were found to be in order. They stated that they were unable to hand in their Stored for a few days, so the papers have been kept in my office until such time as stores can be handed in.
- 19th Advice received from A.D.O.S. that the demobilisation train for the 21st inst has been cancelled and that no train would now ~~be~~ be possible until after the 22nd inst.
- 20th We were to-day informed that wew would have to vacate our Store in the railway shed. As the store was full it would mean a lot of unnecessary work in moving the Stores so arrangements were made with the Railway Authorities for the Stores to remain there until the next train was available.
- 21st 4th Aust. Div Artillery H.Qrs returned practically all stores to-day but as they did not furnish any certificates it was not possible to finalise their papers. Colonel Tuckett informed me to-day that D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops would be taking over the bakance of the Divisional Units in a few days and instructed me to stop any Units bringing in their Stores to me. As the 13th Battalion were coming in to-morrow and the 14th Company A.A.S.C. on the 23rd inst. I immediately phoned 'Q' Branch of Division and asked them to instruct these Units to hold up the return of their stores pending further orders. Word received that all Temporary promotions to Warrant and Non-Commissioned Rank in the A.A.O.C. granted since the Armistice were to be made Extra-Regimental.
- 22nd Conductor R.J. McDermid reported to A.D.O.S. Office Australian Corps for duty. Lieut J.E. Walker proceeded to Corps H.Qrs. to attend a conference of D.A.Ds.O.S. at A.D.O.S. Office. Staff Captain 4th Aust Div Artillery H.Qrs called and put in order the demobilisation papers for his Unit, only a few camp kettles now remain to be returned and he promised to send these in to-morrow as soon as they are returned their papers can be finalised.

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



- 22nd (Cont'd) Owing to a considerable amount of pilfering which has been going on at the demobilisation store at Chatelineau Station arrangements have been made with the 4th Aust. Pioneer Battalion to furnish a permanent Guard to be stationed there and for 7 Closed Trucks to be put on a Siding so that Stores can be loaded off the wagons into the trucks when Units bring them in by this action it is hoped to put an end to the pilfering.  
13th Battalion, 14th coy. A.A.S.C., 4th Ayst, Div. Signal Coy. and the 4th Aust. Motor Transport Company ( the remaining Units of the Division) transferred to D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops for demobilisation  
4th Aust. Div. Artillery H.Qrs. returned all outstanding Camp Kettles to day and papers were finalised, this is the last Unit to be demobilised by me as all the remaining Units have now been transferred to Corps Troops.
- 23rd Two Lorries sent to D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops to help in their move from THUILLES ~~and~~ to CHATELET where they are taking over the demobilisation Dump which has been in the use of D.A.D.O.S. 1st Australian Division.  
Certificates submitted to A.D.O.S. by all Warrant and N.C. Officers holding Temporary rank granted since the Armistice that in consideration of their promotions being made Extra-Regimental they are willing to serve with the A.A.O.C. in France until such time as their services are no longer required.  
Officer in charge of the Guard for the train despatched on the 13th inst. reported back with receipts to-day, having in the first place been held up by the congestion at the Base and in the second place owing to 3 days holiday granted at The Base for Easter.  
Wised for Guard of  $\frac{1}{4}$  Officer,  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.C.O. and 6 Other Ranks to report to me to-morrow to accompany train due to leave for Base to-morrow.
- 24th Train of 21 Flat Trucks and 7 Covered Trucks despatched to the Base to-day Departmental instructions to D.A.Ds.O.S. issued by A.D.O.S. vide Appendix 1
- 25th A.D.O.S. called and informed me that this Unit would probably proceed to England with all Records etc. about the middle of May.
- 26th S/Sgt Robinson and Sergt Tink moved to D.A.D.O.S. <sup>Corps Troops</sup> to complete the demobilisation and to issue Clothing etc required by the Divisional Units, One Lorry detached to D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops.  
2 tons of Clothing received from Base and handed over to Corps Troops
- 27th All remaining Stores of the 1st and 4th Aust. Divisions ( except Officers Equipment was packed in readiness to hand over to D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops tomorrow.  
Advice received from A.D.O.S. that all Officers Equipment was to be also handed over to D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops and statement forwarded to A.D.O.S. showing the numbers of articles returned also the particulars of Certificates rendered by Officers to cover deficiencies
- 28th All Stores handed over To D.A.D.O.S. Aust. Corps Troops also 3 loads of Salvage forwarded to Base thus completing the issue and return of Stores for the 1st and 4th Aust. Divisions.
- 29th Advice received from Corps that no more promotions were to be made in the A.A.O.C. in France also Conductor R.J. McDermid to be transferred to A.D.O.S. Office as from 26/4/19.  
Notification received that the 3 remaining Motor Lorries were to be withdrawn at an early date.
- 30th A.D.O.S. advises that 2 Other Ranks from this Unit may be selected to proceed on the next Draft form Australia, preference to be given to men of early enlistment or men with family responsibilities.

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



Summary of Appendices.

1/

Departmental Instructions from A.D.O.S. to D.A.Ds.O.S.

*J. Sh...*

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



179

7

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters  
22/4/1919

DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS TO D.A.Ds.O.S.

1. D.A.D.O.S. Australian Corps Troops will move to CHATELET on the 13rd inst and take over the Demobilisation Store of the 1st Australian Division.
2. All Units at present administered by D.A.Ds.O.S. 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Divisions will be transferred to D.A.D.O.S. Australian Corps Troops for Demobilisation and issue of Clothing etc..
3. D.A.Ds.O.S. 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Divisions will be responsible for the return to Base of Units Stores and Vehicles now in their possession and the completion of the papers of Units already demobilised, after which they will reduce to Cadre 'B'.
4. Each Divisional D.A.D.O.S. will detach to D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops 1 Lorry and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Warrant Officer or Sergeant who has full knowledge of the remaining Units of his Division.
5. D.A.D.O.S. 5th Division will take over and despatch to Base all Unit equipment and vehicles now at Corps Troops Dump at THUILLES except the 12, 4'5 Howitzer Equipments for the Rhine Army which will be handed over to Ordnance Officer Intermediate Collecting Station THUILLES who will hold same until they are sent for.
6. D.A.Ds.O.S. 2nd and 4th Divisions will hand over to D.A.D.O.S. Corps Troops all outstanding demands and any stock of Clothing etc.
7. Separate instructions are being issued regarding the disposal of Officers equipment.

(Signed) J. TUCKETT Lieut-Colonel  
A.D.O.S.  
Demobilisation, FRANCE.

Distribution:-

- D.A.D.O.S. 1st. Aust. Division
- " 2nd "
- " 4th "
- " 5th "
- " Aust. Corps Troops
- H.Q. Aust. Corps )
- D.D.O.S. No.4 Area )
- O.O. Demob. Depot. Beaumaris )
- Branch Q.D., R.&D. Dept. )
- 'B' Aust Divisional Group )
- A/1 Aust. Brigade Group )
- A/4 " " " )
- O.O., I.C.S. Thuilles )

For information.

*Shackleton*

<b>D.A.D.O.S.</b>
No. ....
Date: ....
<b>4th Aust. Div.</b>