

**AWM4**

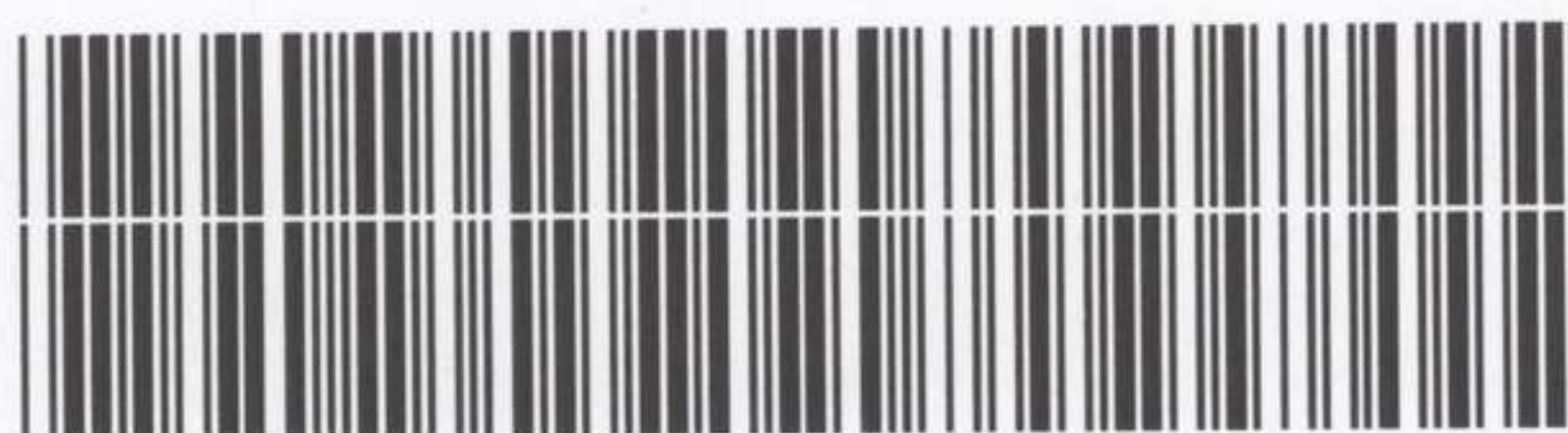
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/11/2

**Title:** Senior Supply Officer, 5th Australian  
Division

April 1916



AWM4-25/11/2



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.



INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Senior Supply Officer Folio 3  
5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ferry Post Somalia	1/4/16		<p>14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade arrived very fatigued about 2800 strong. Strength reduced at Railhead &amp; Mounted Brigade leaving for Serapium about 1500 men leaving one Regt of Light Horse three 726. 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade marched to Railhead 2 Battalions to right flank outpost 2 Battalions to left flank outpost. Sent 2 dep rations out by 3 motor lorries to each flank as also one day's water. 18<sup>th</sup> Co Supply Section under Lieut Reidman took over Railhead Supply Depot with 23<sup>rd</sup> Depot Unit of Supply under Lieut Mankey to take charge of water supply. Lieut Graham went to assist. Water supply better. All tanks full. 2000 reinforcements arrived as also 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade went to Railhead Depot. All working satisfactorily. Water supply better.</p>	
	2/4/16		<p>Ovensers Batt. arrived about 600 men. Strength of Division is now Troops Ferry Post      Troops      Horses      Camels      Camel Drivers Railhead</p>	
	3/4/16		<p>Bread supply again short 6000 lbs Port Said unable supply Bread supply from Port Said 3075 lbs short. Dries arrived by rail.</p>	
	4/4/16		<p>Bread supply from Port Said 2700 lbs short. Lighter load of dries required arrived Canal water supply for watering horses connected to tanks horses watered at 4 pm</p>	
	5/4/16		<p>No water in troughs for horses at 0530 this morning. Lieut Grant went to Tel. el-Kelbi re bakery section &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> Depot Unit of Supply, latter at Mahdi. Arranged watering time table for horses, also ration scale for drawing rations. First delivery vegetables received from Communes 1<sup>st</sup> quality very bad 5 crates rejected</p>	
	6/4/16		<p>2000 lbs Bread short from Port Said today 1950 lbs of Bread short from Port Said. Water for horses now in good supply.</p>	
	7/4/16		<p>1850 lbs of Bread short from Port Said. Returns of water fantases taken over from New Zealand Division show a shortage of 363. Not to be found in trenches.</p>	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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*Senior Supply Officer Folio 4*  
*5th Australian Division*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Ismaalia</i>	<i>8/4/16</i>		<i>Commisses etc only delivered 1/2 quantity of vegetables etc 3750 lb instead of 7000 lb. Adviced by wire would buy against them. Captain Welster attached to 28<sup>th</sup> Co reported for duty. Adviced 400 camel chucks &amp; 850 Camels would leave Railhead on Sunday morning. G.C.C visited camp.</i>	
	<i>9/4/16</i>		<i>Adviced from Port Said no meat would be sent in future on Sunday. Extra vegetables arrived early this morning. Received consignment of Chaff excellent quality. Issued to Transport horses only.</i>	
	<i>12/4/16</i>		<i>Balance of men inoculated for typhoid</i>	
	<i>13/4/16</i>		<i>Very severe dust storm sprang up. Railway only able to make two trips today, on return midday trip motor got checked through sand &amp; sand covered the rails, trucks unable to proceed. Train left, little likelihood of being able to use railway on Friday. With this in view proceeded to arrange for camels to take out all rations for Friday. 200 Camels will load at 9 am &amp; 200 camels will load at 11 am.</i>	
	<i>14/4/16</i>		<i>Army to Sand storm railway train got blocked half way to railhead depot. Sent large proportion of daily ration to railhead by camels as arranged yesterday. 400 men at work clearing line, no trains able to run owing to track being blocked in cutting &amp; two motors checked with sand. Two barges groceries arrived from Port Said also 1 barge firewood, 1 barge camel food. Received extra chum.</i>	
	<i>15/4/16</i>		<i>Setting Barb wire fence just around Supply Depot. Had 2 cases Rum stolen during night. Made double issue of groceries today in order to give men a half holiday Sunday. Issue completed by 1615 pm. Very busy unloading barges &amp; trucks with Dries.</i>	
	<i>16/4/16</i>		<i>Did not bring new ration scale into use owing to being chum for issue. All Supply men had half holiday, no issues except bread being made. In view of shortage of potatoes arranged for increased supply fresh vegetables in shape of cucumbers to arrive on 17<sup>th</sup> unit from Cairo.</i>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 X

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

*Senior Supply Officer Folio 5<sup>3</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ferry Port.	17/4/16.		Fresh vegetables issued today 1/4 lb per man in lieu of potatoes. Cheese issue completed.	
	18/4/16		New Ration Scale came into force today as follows Fresh Meat 1 lb Preserved Meat 1 Ration balance as per Appendix "A" Bread 1 lb Biscuit 3/4 lb	Appendix "A"
	19-4-16		Said up with attack fever, attended by doctor. Jam & Sugar getting short no barges arrived with groceries.	
	21-4-16		Went to Port Said re delay in sending down groceries. Received 10 tons Potatoes by rail	
	22-4-16		Good Friday Double Issue Rations to cover Sunday. Fresh Meat 1 day/preserved meat.	
	20-4-16		Fire broke out in Sucrapaille stack at 6-45am Turned out all staff & natives interior of stack burnt out. Had no doubt been smouldering for days. Sucrapaille quite black and caked. About 100 bags lost. Board of enquiry assembled. Proceedings sent to D.H.Q. Finding Spontaneous Combustion.	
	21-4-16		No ration supplies from Port Said. Went to Port Said re same. Good Friday	
	22-4-16		Obtained Sugar & Jam & Lard from Port Said to keep issues going. State at Port Said that no steam power to bring barges down. Made double issue groceries	
24-4-16		Had to obtain Queen & perishable train today to enable issue to be made Went to Railhead Depot. Asked for 1 week's leave from May 5 <sup>th</sup> /16. Arranged for train from Railhead on Tuesday for men to come to Ferry Port.		



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Senior Supply Officer  
5th Australian Division

Folio 6 + + +

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismaicia	25.4.16		Out of Coconut, Tea & Bacon through Supplies not arriving. Barges with stores (b) arrived this morning at 1145. Bacon arrived by train. Holiday today being Anzac day. Held sports for men, very successful results.	
	26.4.16		12 Trucks Dries arrived without being ordered. Getting overstocked. Stocks are liable to become heated	
	28.4.16		13 Trucks of Dries arrived from Fozzys, communicated with D. A. S. & T. Port Sand who stated that he had advised Cairo to stop sending here. Cairo however advised that all on the way must be taken into stock. Met all Quentumartus & 2 M.S. of Durner arrived Ferry Port at 1930 gave lecture on their various duties. All attended.	
	29.4.16		Arranged for two Barges of Dries to go on to Serafuein, to S.S.C. 4th Aust Division. 23rd Depot Unit of Supply went to Redhead to relieve the 24th D. U. S.	Public Zone
	30.4.16		Lieut Lindsay received report as Lieutenant & took charge of 25th Depot Unit of S. 24th Depot Unit reported at Ferry Port will take over Detail Issue Store from Lieut Graham tonight. Barge with weeks groceries arrived. Obtained sundy comforts for men from War Chest Fund, distributed proportionately	

*W. M. McLaughlin*  
SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER  
5th Australian Division



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FLCS/NM.

**EXTRACT**

FROM

WAR DIARY OF S.S.O. 5th Aust. Div. FOR April/1916. PAGE 3.

FERRY POST.  
18-4-16.

Ration Scale. New ration scale came into  
force to-day as follows :-

Fresh Meat.....	1 lb.
or	
Preserved Meat	1 ration.
Bread.....	1 lb.
or	
Biscuits.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.

*Lawa*

