#### AWM4

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

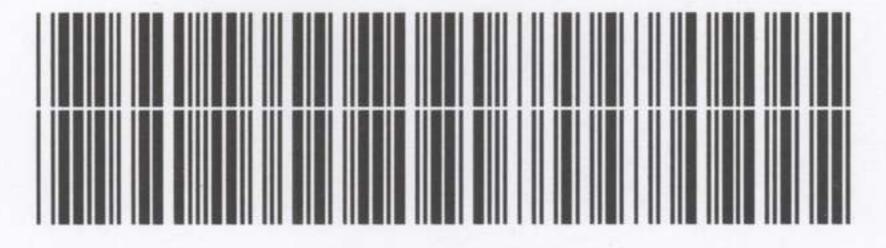
Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/1/22

Title: Director of Mechanical Transport

Services, AIF

July 1919



AWM4-25/1/22

R.20,000-5/18-11069.

## CONFIDENTIAL.

# ORIGINAL. DUPLICATE. TRIPLICATE.

### Australian Imperial Force.

## WAR DIARY

OF

D. M. T. S., A. I. F.

FOR

J U L Y.

191 9

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding.

D. M. T. S. A. I

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1014927

Army Form C. 2118.

#### WAR DIARY

or

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July	lst	Routine as usual. Nothing to report	
			Weather; Fine	
London	July	2nd	D.M.T.S., was granted an interview with Brig-Gen. T. Griffiths "CMG""CBE""DSO", Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters re general M.T. Matters. Routine as usual. Weather; Fine.	
London	July	3rd	Letter received from A/AQMG, A.I.F. Headquarters embodying cable received from Defence Department Australia and reply despatched to Defence Department Australia from A.I.F. Headquarters in reference to the disposal of Gift Cars and Ambulances as follows;	
			W.N. 945 my telegram of 14th February. W.Q. 798 have now approved of the following recommendations of Board of business Administration begins, that in connection with all cars in London, Egypt or elsewhere abroad which have been donated to the Department for purposes of Red Cross or the War on application of such Donors asking that a return of any such cars and should any such cars applied for be not in use or can be spared that the Department authorise return and delivery, such cars wherever thay may be located and in whatever condition such cars may be at the time of application it being understood that the Department is not responsible for any expense in connection with such cars either for repairs or for delivery and that the Department is under no obligation for compensation or expense on account of any cars which up to date had no been applied for and have been sold. endsaas You take action accordingly.""	any
			Qa Your WN 945 Suggest notice be inserted Australian papers saying applications for return motor vehicles close on August 31st aaa. Applications as received by you be then cabled here with full particulars of donors and wehicles concerned.	
			(carried forward)	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10348) Wt Wa300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 FormsC/2238/36.	

or

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July	3rd	(Contd)	
London	00123		Authority received from Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters approving of the following repostings of A A S Cm M.T. Officers.  T/Major A B Harper, O.C. 3rd Aust. M.T. Coy to A.M.T.S., U.K. vice Major J. Hamilton to Non-military Employment.	
			T/Capt. G C Saunders , W/Shop Dfficer 3rd Aust. M.T. Coy to A.M.T.S., U.K. vice Lieut. G.G. Swan on Early Repatriation.  Weather; Fine	
London	July	4th	Colonel W H Tunbridge "CB" CMG" CBE" "VD" called on and was granted an interview by Lieut. General Sir H. Chauvel "KCB" KCMG" late G.O.C. Australian Imperial Force, Egypt, re M.T. matters and Australian vehicles in Egypt and the Near East.  Weather; Fine	
London	July	5th		
			Weather; Fine.	
London.	July	6th	Routine as usual. Nothing to report.  Weather; Fine.	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (1034e) Wt Ws500/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 FormsC/2ns/ss.	

Army Form G. 2118.

Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

02

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July	7th	Major E T Searle, O.C. 4th Australian M.T. Coy, reported from France and was granted an interview by D.M.T.S. in reference to general M.T. matters in France and Belgium. (Australian Graves Detachment and Monumental Company.)	
			Letter despatched to Commandant, A.I.F., Headquarters requesting that the following or similar cable be sent to Defence Department Australia; ""Send complete list of all Motor Vehicles despatched from Australia by A.I.F. or Australian Red Cross except vehicles of 1st D A P and 1st D S C""	
			Summary Balance sheet of "Aussie" Trust Account shewing Receipt and Expenditure up to 4th July 1919 was forwarded to the Chief Paymaster A.I.F. Headquarters. Permission was asked and granted for the amount of £27-13-3 still outstanding against Units of the A.I.F. to be written off against Profit and Loss. For this statement see Appendix No	Appendix No
			Weather; Fine.	
London	Jul	y 8th	D.M.T.S., A.I.F. was granted an interview by Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters in reference to General matters.  Routine as usual.	
			Weather. Fine. MUL	
London	Jul	y 9th	D.M.T.S. left for France by the 12-55pm boat-train on duty. Routine as usual.	
			Weather; Fine	
London	Jul	y 10t	Lieut. S H Leigh saw Captain Langslow, Financial Adjustment Department, reference to the checking of M.T. vehicles and asked that Liet. Leigh accompany him to the War Office on Monday 14th inst.	
			Weather; Fine  D. D. & L., London, E.C.  (10360) Wt Wasoo/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 FormsC/2M8/19.	

or

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July	llth	Lieut. Leigh & Major Harper, O.C. A.M.T.S., U.K., visited Tidworth, reference to M.T. personnel, owing to a number of men having been marched out of A.M.T.S., Tidworth, for inefficiency before their services could be spared; as some of these men held temporary rank, arrangements were made that they should revert.	
			Routine as usual.	
			Weather; Fine. HUI.	
London.	July	12th	D.M.T.S. Form's 1 for 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions and Corps Troops were forwarded to Directorate of Transport. Routine as usual.	
			Weather; Fine. WWT.	
London	July	13th	Routine as usual. Nothing to report.	
			Weather; Fine. mul.	
London	July	14th	and the seling that this office make application to	Appendix No. 2
			Weather; Fine. WW.	
London	July	15th	The stores and	
			Weather; Fine.	
*			D. D. & L. London, E.C. (10546) W's W\$300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms Cjumbjan	

07

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July	16th	Lieut. S H Leigh saw A.Q.M.G. in reference to A.I.F. Administrative Routine Orders issued by A.A.G. relative to rendering of fortnightly return of A.M.T.S., personnel available for repatriation, it was explained that no figures could be given unless it was stipulated by the A.Q.M.G. as to what transport could be released at given periods. He suggested that Major Harper, O.C., A.M.T.S., discuss the matter with Captain Wheeler and he would endeavour if possible to draw up a schedule.  Weather; Fine.	
London	July	17th	Lieut. S H Leigh visited Tidworth and Sutton Veny in reference to M.T. personnel for A.M.T.S., also saw Lieut. Dinning- A.D.C to General Rosenthal - reference the disposal of Douglas Motor Cycle, No. 30154 lent to this Officer by Australian Corps; he states that this machine was evacuated through 2nd Australian M.T. Coy., particulars of which he Would forward as soon as possible, it being necessary to secure this information from files sent to records Saw Captain A.J. Campbell, late O.C. 5th Aust. M.T. Coy, in reference to the handing in of N.I.V. Stores of his Company, he stated that all receipts and records of this transaction were amongst his papers handed in to Australian War Records and as he would be in London on Monday next, 21st inst, he would secure same for this Office.  Captain Kennedy from Directorate of Transport, G.H.Q., Wimmereux, called in reference to checking of Australian M.T. and would return again to-morrow 18th inst.  Wire received from S.O. A.A.S.C., M.T. stating Colonel Tunbridge was crossing on morning boat on 18th inst.  Weather; Fine.	
London	July	18th	Colonel Tunbridge returned from duty in France, 5pm. For precis of work done See Appe Captain Kennedy of Directorate of Transport, G.H.Q., Wimmereux, called in reference to checking of M.T. vehicles; he stated he had seen the War Office and had assured them that a complete check had been arrived at between his Office and that of D.M.T.S., A.I.F. He now intends to compile a final return and on its completion will forward a copy to this Office.  Colonel Tunbridge attended dinner given by A.I.F. Officers to General Sir W.R.  Birdwood. "GCMG" "KCB" "KCSI" "CIE" "DSO"  Weather; Fine.  D.D. & L. Londoo, E.C.  (10314) W: Wisson/P733 750,000 3/18 E 2688 FormsC/2018/95.	ndim No. 3

Army Form G. 2118.

or

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London	July 19th	Routine as usual. Nothing to report	
		Weather; Fine	
London	July 20th	Routine as usual. Nothing to report	
		Weather; Wet	
London	July 21st	D.M.T.S. A.I.F., saw General Blamey reference to financial adjustment, he requested D.M.T.S., A.I.F. to draft a letter to the Minister of Defence. D M T S. A.I.F. saw General Hobbs and reported progress of Monumental work and arrangements made for transport of stone. Contractors would place the stone on Railway trucks, therefore, no M.T. would be required in the Charleroi District for the work.	
		Weather; Changeable. MUC	
London	July 22nd	Captain Langslow called in reference to Financial Adjustment as bearing on War Office letter asking what number and makes of M.T. vehicles would be required for Post Bellum Army D.M.T.S. A.I.F. called on Chief Paymaster A.I.F. with reference to above, he wished matter held up until he had seen War Office.	
		Weather; Changeable. my.	
London.	July 23rd	D.M.T.S., A.I.F. saw Commandant A.I.F., Administrative H.Quarters- General Jess - reference matters at Tidworth, explaining position. D.M.T.S. suggested he should go down and see G.O.C. Australian Depots in U.K. with reference to reduction of M.T. as far as possible. Commandant approved.	
		With reference to O.C. A.M.T.S. dealing with offences in his own Company, D.M.T.S. advised only Court Martialcases to be sent to O.C. Troops, administrative H.Qrs. Commandant approved and would have the matter sent in writing.	
		D.M.T.S. discussed the matter of Financial Adjustment of M.T. vehicles for Post Bellum Army and arranged with Commandant for Captain Prichard to replace Captain Burden (PTO) W: Wasson/P7/3 750,000 a/18 B 2688 Forms C/2006/8.  (PTO)	

Army Form C. 2118.

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London		25rd	when the latter is demobilised, especially to adjust N.I.V. Stores.  D.M.T.S., wrote to Commandant reference to Gift Vehicles asking that he be granted authority to hand these vehicles back to the Donors as they become available in accordance with instructions received from Australia, also submitted pro-forma of suggested receipt See appendix No  D.M.T.S. A.I.F., saw Commandant reference to above. Commandant approved of suggestion made and would write authority.  Weather: Fine.	Appendix
London.	Jul	y 24th		Appendix
condon	Jul	у 25	D.M.T.S. was granted an interview with General Jess, Commandant A.I.F., H. Qrs re general matters.  Weather: Changeable	
ondon	Jul	y 26t		
ondon	Jul	y 27	Nothing to report.  Weather: Fine  D. D. & L., London, E.C.  (1054*) Wt Ws300/P713 750,000 2/18 E 2688 Forms C/2028/15	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Army Form C. 2118.

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#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

London July 28th  D.M.T.S., A.I.F. together with O.C., A.M.T.S., left by car at 9 am to visit  A.M.T.S., and A.I.F. Depots Tidworth, arriving at 12-30 p.m. Inspected A.M.T.S.  D.M.T.S., saw Colonel Moon, A.D. of S. & T. General Rosenthal "ROB" "CMG" "DSO Commandant A.I.F. Depots U.K. returned at about 9 p.m. and granted an interview to D.M.T.S. Captain Kennedyof Directorate of Transport, G.H.G. phoned through from France in reference to cutstanding vehicles of A.I.F. and asked that a complete list of these vehicles be sent him to enable him to complete his statement for War Office. This list was compiled and forwarded at once.  Weather; Fine.  London. July 29th  D.M.T.S. was granted a further interview with General Rosenthal, "RCB" "GMG" "DSO" Commandant A.I.F. Depots in U.K. at which it was stated in all probability Tidworth Depots would be cloused down about the end of August, and that from now the transport would be continually reducing until the end of September when there should only be about 6 cars required. Personnel would be reduced as transport was taken off the road.  The matter of selling N.T. locally was discussed, it was generally thought advisable to sell cars in the district rather than bring them to London.  D.M.T.S., & O.C., A.M.T.S. left at 2 pm and arrived London 5. p.m.  Weather; Fine.  Weather; Fine.	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information  Remarks reference Append
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D. D. & L., London, E.C.				D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10348) Wt Wssoo/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms C/2115/18.

#### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
London.	July	30th	D.M.T.S. saw General Blamey "CMG" "DSO" Chief of General Staff who wished for a statement shewing Divisional M.T. strength as in latest War Establishment Part VII A to be rendered he also stated that as requisitions and indents may have to be made out in connection with M.T. vehicles for Post Bellum Army, Captain Burden must be detained and remain until this is settled.  D.M.T.S. saw General Jess "CMG" "DSO" Commandant A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, and reported on his visit to Tidworth.  D.M.T.S. called on General Wisdom "CB" CMG" "DSO" Director of Movements and Quartering in reference to cars at Southampton and Devonport, he stated that 1 car and 1 box car would be required at Devonport for some time, he would go further into the matter at Southampton but thought all M.T. could be dispensed with there, also he mentioned that he would look into the matter at Liverpool and let D.M.T.S. know if transport could be dispensed with there. Captain L. Prichard was taken on strength for the purpose of checking N.I.V. Stores.	
London	July	31st	Weather: Fine.  Routine as usual. Nothing to report.  Weather; Fine.  Weather: Fine.  Weather: Fine.  Weather: Fine.	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (1054*) Wt WiscolP713 750,000 atts E 2835 FormsC/2188/8	

OF

D. M. T. S., A.I. F.

FOR

JULY. 191 9

#### LIST OF APPENDICES.

Subject.

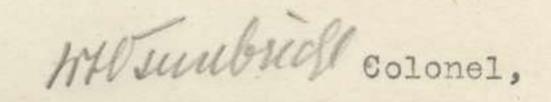
Statement of Receipts & Expenditure from 16-6-19 to 4-7-19 for Aussie Trust Account.

Ref. Motor Horse Ambulance. Chassis No. R C 4900

Precis of work done by D.M.T.S. whilst in France and Belgium- from 9th to 18th inclusive.

Letter to Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters re handing back of Gift vehicles and suggested receipt.

Letter to D of T, G.H.Q. Wimmereux re M.T. vehicles of 36th (Aust) Brigade H.A.



Director of Mechanical Transport Services A.I.F.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT	rs and	E	KPEND	ITURE	FROM 16-6-19 to 4-7-19
RECEIPTS					EXPENDITURE.
Balance brought forward from Statement 16-6-19	£ 183	4	2	By	Set off V. Brodzky cost of distribution in England£6 19 6
Receipts from Sundry Units	27	0	5		Cash in Trust with Chief Paymaster 371 18
V. Brodzky	31	10	0		Reconciliation statement with Pass Book
Y.M.C.A. cheque for 3810 frs. @ exchange 5frs - 3/5	130	3	6		Balance as per Cash Book 371 18 1
					Less amounts not posted in Pass Bk.  V. Brodzky
					Balance as per Pass Book 210 4 7
	£371	18	1		£371 18

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1014927

2



Q M G 3 (E) War Office London S W

Motor Horse Ambulance Chassis No. R C 4900

With reference to the above mentioned vehicle on charge to 1st Australian V E S.

As it is the intention of The A.I.F. to send this vehicle to Australia as soon as possible, may the necessary authority be granted please for its shipment from France to U.K. for this purpose.

I am attaching herewith certified true copy of certificate from the Hon. Secretary R S P C A, London, which clearly proves that this vehicle is the rightful property of the A.I.F.

Copy of this certificate was forwarded to the D.V.S. G.H.Q., Wimmereux and was acknowledged as per copy of his letter also attached.

14th July 1919.

Lieut. for Colonel,

D.M.T.S., A.I.F.

#### THE R S P C A FUND FOR SICK AND WOUNDED HORSES.

108 Jermyn Street London S W 1

June 18th 1919

(838)

Colonel Kendall
D D V S, A.I.F.
Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept. A.I.F.
54 Victoria Street S W 1.

Dear Colonel;

In reply toyour letter of the 17th inst, I hereby certify that the Motor Horse Ambulance, Chassis, No. R.C. 4900, supplied through the R.S.P.C.A. to 1st Australian Veterinary Evacuating Station is the property of the Australian Imperial Forces, having been paid for out of funds in our charge donated by the Purple Cross Service of Victoria for the benefit of the Australian Army Veterinary Corps.

I am glad that it is intended to ship this Ambulance to Australia, where I am sure it will prove of great use in the Veterinary Hospitals of the Commonwealth Military Forces following its period of services in France.

Yours Sincerely,
Signed E C Fairholme, Captain
Hon. Secretary.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF ORIGINAL LETTER.

2

COPY.

Director of Veterinary Services

17/4757/19

24-6-19

D.M.T.S. A.I.F. 54 Victoria Street, London. S W L.

With reference to your B/3 dated 20-6-19.

The fact that the Motor Horse Ambulance is the property of the A.I.F. is now established and shipping instructions have been asked for.

G H Q 24th June 1919 Signed A A Payer Major for Colonel D D V s
British Troops in France and Flanders.

Precis of work done by Colonel W.H. Tunbridge "CB" "CMG" "CBE" "VD", D.M.T.S A.I.F, when on duty in France and Belgium from 9-7-19 to 18-7-19 inclusive.

Boulogne 6 pm.

Left Victoria Station by 4-30 pm boat-train for France. Arrived

Saw Colonel Wynter, A.A.G., A.I.F., reference to Graves and Monumental Detachment, also Staff Officer A.A.S.C., M.T. Detachment at Charleroi.

Saw Colonel McLeod, D. of T's Office reference outstanding matters, more especially gift vehicles, which Colonel Mc Leod stated were being despatched to U.K. at an early date. Left at about 11-30 am, visited Monumental Detachment at Mericourt-sur-Somme; arriving at 3-30 pm then on to Monumental Detachment at Polygon Wood, arriving there 7 pm. Returned to Amiens for accommodation.

Left at 9 am for Graves Detachment at Villers-Brettoneux, met Colonel Motton the way who stated he would return at once. Reached Villers-Brettoneux after considerable amount of tyre trouble at 11 am. Left at 11-45am for Monumental Detachment at Mont St. Quentin and arrived at 3 pm, then on to Belle Eglise arriving at 5 pm, left for Charleroi and arrived at about 10-30pm.

Inspected Office of S.O., A.A.S.C., M.T., and went into various matters with Captain Maplestone. Visited V.R.P. and found that Gift Cars were being got ready for despatch to U.K.

Left for S.&.T. 4th Army, at 10 am, then on to Cologne, saw General Wilson D.D. of S.& T. (Army of Occupation) reference car left by Comforts Party in American area, he advised me to go on to American area.

Left at 10 am for Coblence, arrived at 5 pm, called on A.P.M. who promised to ring up A.P.M. Traer, he asked me to call again that evening. Called again after dinner and he reported that A.P.M. (Traer! stated he knew nothing of the matter, he promised he would look into it and asked me to call again next morning.

Called again on A.P.M. (C) at 9-30 am, he stated he could get no further trace and knew nothing about it, but advised me to go on to A.P.M. Traer. Left almost immediately and arrived at Traer at 3-30 pm. A.P.M. stated that he had only just taken over and the late A.P.M. had removed all files. He thought the car must be in one of the local garages and loaned me a guide who knew the town. After visiting many places I eventually found a place where the car had been. The proprietor stated he had not done the repairs, these were all carried out by the British Mission with the exception of a small amount of 28 Marks which I paid. Then went to the British Mission and found they had had the car repaired and had despatched it last Sunday 12th inst. Returned to Cologne, arriving at 10 pm.

Left Cologne 10-30 am, arrived Charleroi 9-30 pm

Saw Transport Officer reference to railway arrangements for monuments. Called on Mayor of Charleroi who is making all arrangements and supervising the erecting of monuments 4 General Hobbs. Left Cherleroi at 11-30 am, visited Monumental Detachment at Polygon Wood on my way, arrived at Boulogne 10-15 pm.

18th July 1919 Left Boulogne at 10 am arrived at London 5 pm.

3

Director of Mechanical Transport Services A.I.F. To:-54 Victoria Street London. W 1 Receipt for Gift Vehicles. Car I hereby acknowledge receipt for Ambulance make ......... donated by ..... to the AIF I accept the above mentioned car in its present condition, understanding that the A.I.F. cease from this date to be responsible for any maintenance or repairs to the said vehicle, or for its transport to Australia, or any other destination.

54 Victoria Street, London. S W 1

4

B/ 100

Commandant,
A.I.F. Headquarters,
Horseferry Road,
London. S W 1

As there are now a number of Gift vehicles becoming available for handing back to the Donors in accordance with the instructions received from Australia, I would suggest to save unnecessary storage, liability, and expense, that, where the Donors are either in England, or represented here, and can furnish the necessary credentials for taking over of car applied for, I be authorised to hand over the vehicle, or vehicles claimed provided a receipt as per pro forma attached is duly signed and completed.

23rd July 1919

M.T.S. A.T.F.

D.M. T.S. A.I.F.

54 Victoria Street London. S.W. 1

B/ 3

D. of T., G.H.Q. Wimmereux. (For Captain Kennedy)

In confirmation of telephone conversation of even date relative to the M.T. vehicles of 36th (Aust) Brigade H.A.

These M.T. vehicles have always been looked upon as Australian in exactly the same manner as the vehicles of an Australian Division.

The 36th Brigade was an Australian Brigade with two Australian Batteries, the transport was therefore Australian, and had Australian Drivers, at any rate from 23-5-18, the time the 1st and 2nd A.S.B.A. Col. were taken over by Australian personnel.

In reality the vehicles of the H. Qrs. of the 36th Brigade were manned by Australian personnel before this period. As far as is known there is no authority, or was it considered necessary, as it was always looked upon as an

24th July 1919

Australian Command.

The state of the s