

**AWM4**

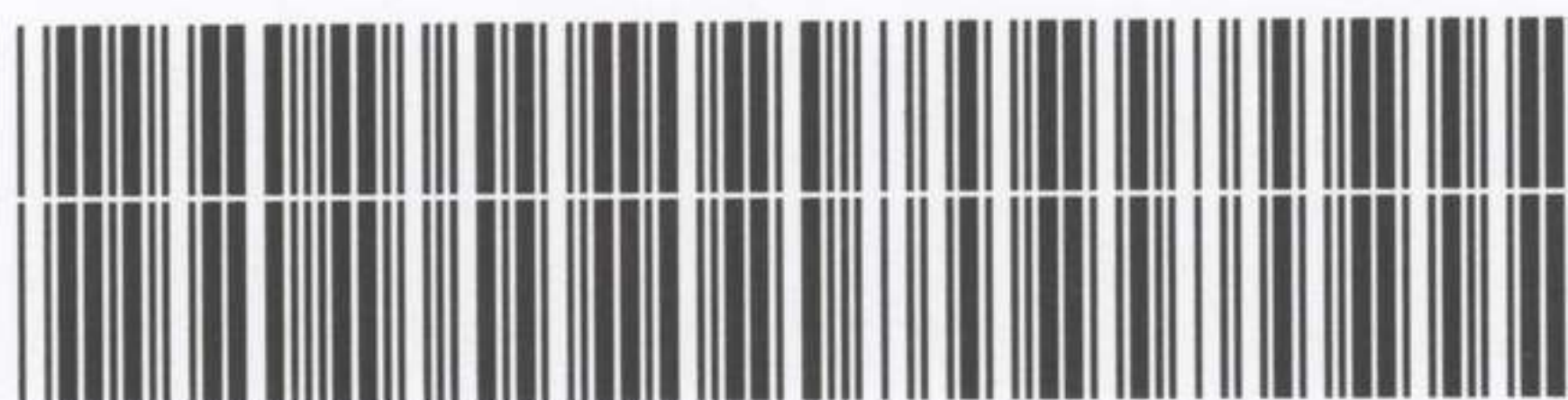
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/18/18

**Title:** 5th Australian Divisional Train

September 1918



AWM4-25/18/18



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

*also*  
*also*



276

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

*5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> of Divisional Train*  
*September 1918*

FOR

*September 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

*H. Francis*  
*W/pt*



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

112 276

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
R23 B6/g Sheet 62D	2/9/18		Railhead changed to MERIGNOLLES (Rg a Cent). - Dumps for supplies to vicinity viz 8th Bde to Rg a 7/3 - 14th Bde to Rg B 5/7 - 15th Bde to Rg b 5/7 - Div Troops to Rg b 9/5. P.H.Q. & Companies remain old location.	
"	4/9/18		Railhead FROISSY - Supplies transferred here from Broad Gauge line to Decauville line by 5th D.S.C. & thence to HERBECOURT. All supply personnel & Dumps moved to HERBECOURT. Train Transport takes supplies to Qm's stores. Decauville Rly affects a saving of horse transport, & gives practically 50% of horses & well earned rest.	
"	5/9/18		10th aasc. to H 19 a cent. Sheet 62C. Lieut BULL reported sick. Rated to 29th aasc.	
"	6/9/18		Went reconnoitring round PERONNE district. Roads little damaged & slight repairs (shell holes) needed.	
"	7/9/18		Shifted all companies to neighbourhood BOIS de MORCAUCOURT {H 13-14-19-20} Camped in trenches & dugouts. Distances to Qm's stores considerably reduced. Apparently made by French in 1916/17, & in recent use by Snemes. Trenches made use of for horse lines by widening, thus but still a long journey, sometimes 25 miles daily. Trenches always active at rendering practical & easily constructed shelter against bombs. Enemy aircraft always active at night, but the more general use of searchlights, less anti aircraft fire, & our own night flying machines, invariably provided adequate protection, & many enemy machines failed in their objects & often brought down. Once taken in beam of searchlight, bombers invariably dropped their load indiscriminately & fled, often pursued.	
"	8/9/18		The Div <sup>n</sup> being relieved. Infantry being bivouacked in environs of PERONNE in support.	
"	11/9/18		10th aasc. moved without orders, found 28th preparing to do same. Strafed. Ordered 10th back. Railhead to LA CHAPELETTE, in PERONNE. Dumps moved to Div Troops to O3D3/6. 8th Bde to O17A 5/2 - 14th Bde to O17A 5/2.	
"	12/9/18		15th Bde to O3D3/6. Broad gauge railhead. Train transport from Railhead to Qm's stores.	
"	13/9/18		Reconnoitred road E of PERONNE. Good. Moved 3 Bde Coy to I25 a.c. Good quarters, but bivouacs. Train HQs to H13D central (62C).	
H13D Central Sheet 62C	14/9/18		Capl MATHESON A to Australia on 6 mos. furlough. Capl HAWKER C. appointed O.C. 29th aasc.	
"	16/9/18		Div Troops dump to P8A 5/4. Secs of 10th aasc Transport to P7B	
"	18/9/18		CO Train on leave. Major BRAZEMOR y/c.	
"	20/9/18		Railhead CARTIGNY 8am. broad gauge. Division going back to line -	
"	21/9/18		10th aasc. to P4A 2/6 - Div Troops dump P12B central.	
"	22/9/18		18th aasc. to P6A 4/3	





## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H 13 D Cent Sheet 62C	23/9/18		4. ORC - left on furlough 6 months to Australia - Recommended for New Years Gazette - Honors Major ROBINSON C.W. (SSO) for IRE. 6666 Corp HOLCATE (THQ) 7603 A. COOK H.P. 10 <sup>th</sup> aasc - 2461 S/Sgt SHEPPERDSON E. 3. 28 <sup>th</sup> aasc - 7002 Corp BELLINGHAM C.W. 29 <sup>th</sup> aasc - 8028 Corp TRIPLETT J.A. 29 <sup>th</sup> aasc, all for M.S.M. Also 2480 C.S.M. WATERS H.A. 10 <sup>th</sup> aasc, 145 Corp WATSON G 28 <sup>th</sup> aasc for mentions - 201 conspicuous gallant services in the field during period from February 1918 to present date. 28 <sup>th</sup> aasc. to Pz B 6/0 - Railhead TINCOURT, broad gauge 8 am. took over Transport of 54 <sup>th</sup> & 60 <sup>th</sup> Bns, being disbanded. all motor less incomplete.	
---	24/9/18		TINCOURT - MARQUAIX - ROISEL areas reconnoitered for Camps. Recommended Lieut COLLINS R.S. of 28 <sup>th</sup> aasc, also Sq' HARRISON + Corp WALKER, 6 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> aasc for exchange of files to PARKHOUSE aasc Depot.	
---	25/9/18		THQ to TINCOURT. J18 A 2/5 - (62C) 29 <sup>th</sup> aasc. to K 31 Central - D.H.Q. to HERVILLY. all Pde Supply Dumps to K 31 ATE	
TINCOURT	27/9/18		D. KEALY, 29 <sup>th</sup> aasc + 3 men of 60 <sup>th</sup> Bn Transport killed by shell fire while watering horses at TINCOURT. also 5 animals killed, 6 wounded. Capt T.A. DAVID, 28 <sup>th</sup> aasc left for London in re Education Scheme.	
---	29/9/18		Dis Troops Dump to K 31 Cent.	
	30/9/18		STRENGTH on 30/9/18 260 off. 506 OR. 46 Red Horses 29 LD. 284 H.D. 25 mules (including 1 line of disbanding Bn)	
			REINFORCEMENT during Sept. 13 ORC. - for Train only.	
			CASUALTIES Battle 5 OR. Sick 5 evacuated. To Australia 1 off. 10 OR. To Cadre 1 off. 2 OR. Animals 5 K. 8 wounded.	
			Honors & rewards - nil.	
			Health - men & animals excellent.	
			Crime - one serious case of Officer - Reprimanded. Very infrequent among OR.	
			Weather - Generally very good. One or two wet days, with no bearing on transport work.	

In France  
Cry 5th Aust Div Train



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18,000-12/17-8723.

3

# WAR DIARY

OF

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div<sup>e</sup> Train

FOR

September 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| ✓ (1) | Routine Orders   |
| ✓ (2) | Notes on Requisitioning                                  |
| ✓ (3) | Notes on CAMON gardens                                   |
| ✓ (4) | Notes on dripping Economy -                              |
| (5)   | Map, to be used also with }<br>October 1918 operations } |



TRAIN ORDERS

by

Lieut-Col. F.H. FRANCIS D.S.O., Commanding 5th Aust.Div.Train. 1-9-18.

539. ORDERS.

Attention is called to the following Routine Orders :-  
 G.R.O.'s 4701. 4738. 4775. 4791. 4809.  
 Fdthg Army. R.O.'s. 2427. 2442.  
 Aust.Corps R.O.'s. 235. 237.

540. LEAVE TO AUSTRALIA.

The following has left for transport duty to Australia.  
 1206 L/cpl. DAVIS D.P. 28th A.A.S.C.

541. CASUALTIES.

14251 Dvr. LARSEN W.H. 10th A.A.S.C. wounded 10-9-18.

542. TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS.

10th A.A.S.C.			
9450 Sgt. MacLIND M.M.	to be G.O.M.S. vice Guy reverted.	1-8-18.	
2236 L/sgt. ELBRIDGE D.A.	" Sgt. MacLind prom.	1-8-18.	
7364 Cpl. MOPHEE L.C.	App. L/sgt.	1-8-18.	
2356 Cpl. HAYLOCK W.	to be T/sgt. vice Anderson wounded.	29-7-18.	
4077 Cpl. PERL L.	" " T/sgt. Stapleton "	29-7-18.	
2401 L/c RZESZKOWSKI J.	" T/cpl. Best prom.	29-7-18.	
3073 Pte. DAUNT W.	App. L/cpl.	1-12-18.	
18th A.A.S.C.			
2426 W.O. GILL W.F. BORSYTH	trans. to 25th A.D.U.S.	29-8-18.	
6002 Cpl. LOCKWOOD R.	Taken on strength from Perm. Cadre.	20-8-18.	
28th A.A.S.C.			
10226 Cpl. SHIRLEY E.B.	" " " " " "	20-8-18.	
29th A.A.S.C.			
2027 Sgt. FINDLAY H.M.	" " " " " "	20-9-18.	
15 Parr/sgt. ROBERTS W.	Promoted Parr/Sgt. vice Bee evic.	15-8-18.	

543. CONGRATULATORY

The G.O.C. has been good enough to personally express to the G.O. Train his admiration and thanks for the splendid work carried out by all Officers, N.C.O.'s and O.R.'s of the Train during the present advance.

He has desired it to be made known to all ranks that he considers the advance could not have succeeded as it has done, were it not for the hard work and unremitting and strenuous attention to duty of everyone concerned with the services of Supply and Transport. He laid special stress on the excellent work of the supply sections, from highest to low in rank, expressing his pleasure in knowing that on no occasion have supplies failed to come forward notwithstanding the fact that units are continually on the move.

The G.O. heartily congratulates and thanks all ranks. It is a source of gratification to us all that although the Train is never "in the limelight" as are our brilliant fighting units, our work is nevertheless watched and appreciated with equal wholeheartedness that all ranks have shown in fulfilling their duties so well.

*F. H. Francis*  
 Captain & Adjutant.  
 5th Aust. Div. Train.



# Requisitions

Location	Period	* Lettuce	* Leeks	* Radish	* Cabbage	* Onions	* Turnips	* Carrots	* Caulif	* Potatoes	* Red Currant	* Hay	* Oats	* Bran	* Linseed Cake	* Petrol	* Sterile Cotton Wool	* Bindings	* Chertmugon	* Oat straw	* Clover	* Coal	* Wood
La Neuville. les-Aumains.	12.5.18. 12.9.18	25573	20568	4509	31831	11165	297	6780	2714	28472	645												
Petit. Camon	12.5.18. 7.7.18.	3580	907	172	13612																		
Aumains.	2.5.18. 25.5.18												250	100	26								
Aubigny	19.5.18. 25.5.18											4241	610										
Vaux-sous-Bois.	24.5.18.												920										
Truquemont.	2.5.18. 31.5.18									3020		4018	46193			35				1500	1750		
Boisic.	31.5.18. 19.5.18									3071		14057	13229				37	600	30			41	
Davours.	2.5.18. 7.6.18.											28712	16977							8006			20
Jussy-les-Davours.	2.5.18. 31.7.18											953	20380							17921			
Pont. Royelles.	26.6.18.																			- 4410 + 1550 x 1000			
St. Martin.	5.7.18											1990											
Petit-St. Jean.	7.7.18. 7.5.18		5		200	45				4958													
Gley.	25.5.18												2900								1000		
Ruing.	5.6.18												600										
Querville.	5.7.18											1500								1900			
		29153	21480	4681	45643	11210	297	6780	2714	39521	645	55471	102059	100	26	35	37	600	30	18366	20671	41	20



APPENDIX

Commodities marked weight is shown in x Kilos.  
φ Tons.

- oat straw unthrashed.  
x barley straw

276

5



5.118  
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# Requisitioning APPENDIX 2



6

Imminent danger forced the inhabitants of the battle zone to vacate their homes. All the civilians could carry was removed by them or at their request should transport be available, but such products as growing crops and vegetables were necessarily abandoned. This abandoned produce was taken over by the system of Requisitioning to be used by the civilians are compensated.

The fact of commodities being abandoned was reported to the S.O. of the Division who in turn made arrangements with the Requisitioning Officer to take over supplies through the Maire of the village or French Mission attached to the Division. No prices were assessed but quantity, quality, location, and date of receipt was shown on the Requisition form made out in triplicate of which one copy was forwarded to Central Requisition Office, one to French Mission (for transmission to civilian authorities) and third filed for reference. The money value payable is assessed by authorities.

From 1st May to the 1st September (a period of 4 months) 64,044 Kilos of vegetables were consumed by men of this Division and 55,471 Kilos of hay, 102,059 Kilos of Oats and 26 Tons of Oilcake were utilised to supplement the forage ration for animals. In oats a corresponding amount had necessarily to be short drawn thereby saving transport from Base and putting to use property that may have been used and no remuneration to the rightful owner. Extra commodities as coal, bandages, petrol, and cotton wool were transferred to proper channels for use. A list attached shows quantity drawn from the villages by the supply actions of the Division.

The vegetable gardens in the vicinity of Amiens were large and productive. Therefore areas were allotted to Divisions in the area to reap and continue to cultivate. (A separate form shows the results of this). This Division in conjunction with Corps Troops was allotted a large area to work, hence the difference in the amount of requisitions of vegetables and total used by Division.

Now that the Division is traversing the old battlefield again no requisitions are possible.

Beside the amount of vegetables and forage obtained by requisition similar quantities are allowed to be purchased (subject to Army Price List) when necessary to make the full issue to men and horses. Through this medium 20,090 Kilos of vegetables, 176,130 Kilos of clover, 2,000 Kilos of lucerne and 2,000 Kilos of Trefoil were obtained.

September

*M. Robinson* Major

SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER  
5th Australian Division



(2)  
 NOTES ON REQUISITIONING IN EVACUATED AREAS  
 by C.O. 5th and Div. Train

A good deal of delay was occasionally experienced at first entering abandoned areas in front of AMIENS, by the unwillingness of any authority, either French or British, to accept responsibility either for the removal, or requisitioning of produce & goods which would be of value to which army, enemy or ourselves, became possessed of them intact. However, the French Mission attached to the Australian HQs pressed matters, & authority once being obtained, requisitioning & salvage of goods & effects commenced & proceeded with energy. Thanks to the energy of Interpreter (Marcel de Logis) DUBOSQ, Henri, attached 5th Div. Train, a great quantity of produce was salvaged & used by the Div., the quantities used being written off demands on base, saving transport on Rail. The most careful arrangements possible were made to ensure that the rightful owners should receive the value of their goods. In 9 cases out of 10 goods requisitioned were done so under shell fire, often intense, & the result, considering all things, is a good example of the solicitous manner in which all ranks concerned looked after the interests of the unfortunate evacuees.

Tincom  
 5/11/18

J.H. Francis 4/11/18  
 C.O. 5th and Div. Train



NOTE: CO. TRAIN ON CANYON GARDENS

③

On entering the District early in April 1918, it was noticed that these gardens, some of the finest in this part of France, had been evacuated in toto by the inhabitants & that vegetables already planted were going to seed & waste. A move was initiated, primarily by the SSO & Interpreter DUBOSQ attached to the Train, to utilise the neglected produce & write off the base demands like quantities. The 5<sup>th</sup> Division at first were the only ones doing this, but after the Army (4<sup>th</sup>) took the whole area over & subdivided it among Corps & divisions. Capt C.E. HAWKER of this Train was the P<sup>o</sup> officer in charge, with a specially picked party of men from various units, that were good gardeners. The results tabulated on attached, is evidence of the skill & work of this party. Every care was taken to get evidence of the ownership of plots, a most difficult matter, plots being without any land marks, except dykes, to denote same. A good quantity of green vegetables was also ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> ~~salvaged~~ <sup>salvaged</sup> from contiguous gardens. The whole period under review the working parties were under continuous long range shell fire of the Enemy, but never once stopped operations.

Tucont  
5/10/18

5710/18

Francis  
Aust. Pa. Train

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> - Aust. Pn. Ocean



# Camon Vegetable Garden

Upon handing over the Camon Garden I am forwarding a report as requested.

Attached please find map showing the location of the Area & the various plots worked at & near the confluence of the Somme and Acre Rivers Sheet 62<sup>nd</sup> S.W. 12. 15. 16. 21 & 22.

The following table A shows the quantities & varieties of vegetables requisitioned from the gardens as shown on Requisition notes submitted each Period.

Table A.

Date 1918	Book No	Page No	Cabbage Kilos	Onions Kilos	Carrots Kilos	Potatoes Kilos	Cauliflowers Kilos	Lettuce Kilos	Leeks Kilos	Radishes Kilos	Turnips Kilos	Red Currants Kilos	Totals
May 14	1	9	198	-	-	-	-	4595	2018	1058	-	-	7869
do	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	3580	907	172	-	-	4659
" 27	1	24	2859	-	-	-	-	4035	4786	3018	-	-	14698
" 31	1	29	7028	-	-	-	-	13860	10471	433	-	-	31792
June 7	1	33	7940	2972	-	-	-	2584	-	-	-	-	13496
" 14	1	34	7734	1650	408	-	-	499	-	-	145	-	10436
" 30	1	38	123	68	66	238	90	-	-	-	102	-	687
July 7	2	54	245	1341	923	533	604	-	-	-	-	119	3765
" 14	2	47	1239	762	449	290	1177	-	-	-	32	127	4076
" 21	2	48	2682	776	177	1225	730	-	-	-	18	102	5710
" 31	2	50	585	620	408	3335	77	-	-	-	-	225	5250
Aug 7	2	52	1198	363	760	5354	36	-	-	-	-	72	7783
" 14	2	55	-	408	476	6852	-	-	-	-	-	-	7736
" 21	2	56	-	454	499	8031	-	-	91	-	-	-	9075
" 31	2	57	-	635	1452	2541	-	-	181	-	-	-	4809
Sep 7	2	58	-	1116	1162	73	-	-	2613	-	-	-	4964
" 14	2	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	408	-	-	-	408
Totals			31831	11165	6780	28472	2714	29153	21475	4681	297	645	137213

In addition to the vegetables specified in Table A the total was considerably increased as a result of our own cultivation & by Rnd. Crops

Transfers Kilos	Requisitions Kilos	Rnd Crops Kilos	Own Cultivation Kilos	Total Kilos
To Aust. C.T. M.T. Coy 80563				
" 4 Army Troops 669	137 213	114 38	5372	154023
" " Hospitals 645	-	-	-	81877
	Consumed by this Division & Attd			72146

Farming implements were obtained as shown in Table C from deserted buildings in the garden Area.



Location	Hoes	Rakes	Forks	Spades	Scythes	Hooks	Water Cans	Trucks	Shovel	Basins	Ladles	Pumps	Canoe	Wheel Barrows
La Neuville														
Rue de Marais 83	4	2	2	1	1	-	1			2	2			
" 85	5	2	1	2		2								
" 87	4	1	3	2		1				1				
" 89	5	1	2	1		1	2							
" 73	3	3	3	2		1								
" 70	4	1	2	2										
" 71	4	2	3	1			1							
" 58	4	2	3				2							
Leamoni														
Rue de Enfer 11					1	1								
" 19	3	2	2	2			1							
" Chabot 2	4	1	2	2										
" Canal 14							2	3	1					
Grand on loto			3	1										
Totals	40	18	26	16	2	6	9	3	1	3	2	8	1	2

The articles mentioned in Table C were handed over to O.C. III Corps Agricultural Details + a receipt obtained on 13. 9. 18. Also a list of same was handed to the Area Commandant Leamoni.

In addition to the above the following were handed over to the same Authority on 13th inst. :-

A spring balance, spray, cabbage seed 13 lbs. 5 ozs. white turnip seed 7 lbs., lime 20 lbs., copper sulphate 12 lbs.

On relinquishing control of the Gardens 15 acres were under crop, of which 8 acres were planted with 100 000 cabbages, 20 000 leeks & 20 000 lettuce. While the remaining 7 acres were under crop with turnips, leeks & carrots.

From May 5th to 14th Sept. 151 tons of fresh vegetables have been cleared from the gardens on account of requisitions & our own cultivation. Of this total 79 tons have been transferred to Aust. Corps Troops M. J. Coy., and this Division has benefited to the extent of 71 tons. The remaining ton was issued to Fourth Army Troops & Hospitals.



*W. V. Robinson* Major.  
SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER  
Australian Division

22. 9. 18



NOTE by C.O. 5th DIV TRAIN ON DRIPPING ECONOMY -

(4)

The successful result in this matter, is very largely due to the zeal of Supply Officers of formations, of this Train. Each officer has so imbued with enthusiasm the various Quarter Masters of units with whom he comes into daily contact, often perhaps, by "sub rosa" private bets among themselves, that the result has wonderfully benefited the scheme. There has also been a pride in keeping this Train ahead of other Aust. Trains, spurred by all ranks in supply details from S.S.O. downwards, which has tended greatly to bring about the excellent results. Staffs of Brigades have also shown themselves very interested & helpful, with perhaps the exception of Div Art<sup>y</sup> who were at first inclined to neglect or perhaps failed to be convinced of the obvious importance of fuel saving -

T. J. Smith

M. Francis

C.O. 5th Aust. Div. Train







Scarcely had the Dripping Scheme been established than it was found that the suggested saving of  $\frac{1}{2}$  3 per man per day could be well exceeded by this Division without hardship to the troops.

Since the scheme originated there has been no complaint from the men that their rations have suffered in any way. Indeed it is a striking fact, gleaned from personal observation that Units, notably battalions, which are returning the higher percentage of Dripping are, in all cases, provided with better meals than units which return a comparatively low amount, due, no doubt, to the superior organisation of the former.

The economic importance of this one-time wasted matter has now been fully realised and the summary hereunder indicates the extent of the enthusiastic support accorded the scheme throughout the Division.

A friendly spirit of rivalry, fostered by Supply Officers between Units, has also helped towards the excellent results shown.

Although the Division has been practically mobile since the last days of March when it was ordered South at the beginning of the German offensive, it is to its credit that, notwithstanding hurried moves from camp to camp, frequent changes of railhead and difficulties of transport, the high average reached has been more than maintained.

In fact it was during this period, May, that this Division established the record of the Army for the highest monthly amount of Dripping saved, viz. 39 + 4 + 4 lbs. The record broken



was 36,694 lbs. returned by this Division during March.

### Summary:

Formations	January 1918	February 1918	March 1918	April 1918	May 1918	June 1918	Totals lbs.
1st. Aust Div.	13342	17573	25209	9072	φ	25360	90556
2nd. "	11062	6120	14932	7340	13307	10917	63678
3rd. "	14827	21416	14207	5014	18772	19026	93262
4th. "	8853	13271	11906	1103	12139	10935	58207
5th. "	23711	30692	36694	32697	39444	34935	198173
Aust. Corps Troops	3424	11223	10019	3692	8086	15649	52093
Totals	75219	100295	112967	58918	91748	116822	555969

From reference to the above summary it will be seen that:-

- (1) The monthly total of the Division has exceeded 23,000 lbs., while for five months the total has been over 30,000 lbs. per month.
- (2) Out of the total of 555,969 lbs. for the Corps 198,173 lbs. representing 35.6%, have been returned by this Division.
- (3) No other Division in the Corps has returned half this amount, while the lowest has returned less than one-third.

Since the inauguration of the scheme in May 1917 the Division has returned 33,4289 lbs of Dripping representing 11,7001 francs 15 centimes or £4290, which amount has been paid into Unit Regimental Funds.

φ Figures not known for this month

18. 9. 18.

*W. J. Common* Major  
 SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER  
 5th Australian Division

