

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/48/35

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th
Australian Division

February 1919



AWM4-1/48/35

ORIGINAL.
CONFIDENTIAL. DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

WAR DIARY.
O F
FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
FOR
FEBRUARY 1919.

176

L I S T O F A P P E N D I C E S .

<u>NO</u>	<u>SUBJECT.</u>
1.	General Staff Circular No. 90.
2.	Ammendment to General Staff Circular 90.
3.	Location Report.
4.	Instruction No.1 under General Staff Circular No 90.
5.	Location of Units.

Signature of Officer compiling H.F. Watson

Signature of Officer Commanding H.F. Watson
for G.O.C
4th Aus Div

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

126

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February 1919.			
DINANT	1st		Fine and cold. Total number of 3 Officers 50 Other Ranks University Undergraduates left for Australia between 20th January and 1st February.	
"	2nd		Dull and cold. Corps Commander visited G.O.C. and stayed to lunch at D.H.Q.	
"	3rd		Very Cold. 90 Officers and 3098 Other Ranks have left for Australia for demob. to date, exclusive of the personnel on 1914 leave.	
"	4th		Very Cold, slight fall of snow in afternoon. G.S.O 2. (Major WATSON) left for 14 days U.K. leave.	Appx 1 G.S.C No. 90.
"	5th		Heavy full of snow. 46th Bn moved to WAULSORT.	Appx 2 Amendt to G.S.C. 90.
"	6th		Cold and sleety. Amalgamation commenced - 46th Bn, amalgamated with 48th Bn, under Command of Lieut-Colonel, CORRIGAN.	
"	7th		Heavy snow fall.	
"	8th		Very cold - 27° of frost. General BURGESS visited D.H.Q., and stayed to lunch.	
"	9th		34° of frost followed by bright sunny day. Corps Commander visited 12th Aust. Inf. Bde and Division H.Q. Lunched at Div. H.Q.	
"	10th		Heavy frost. Fine day. Orders issued for a general reconnaissance of Divisional Area.	
"	11th		Fine and Frosty. Colonels' LAVARACK and DOWSE visited Corps Commander. Stayed to dinner.	
"	12th		Heavy frost followed by fine day. Brig-Gen LEANE & Cols' CORRIGAN & LOTIT visited Corps P. & R.T. School BARBENCON.	Appx. 3 Loc. Report

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) W1 W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

176

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT.	13th		Continued frost - fine day. G.O.C., and Brig-General Drake-Brockman visited P. & R.T. School, BARBENCON.	
"	14th		Fine and frosty.	HPL
"	15th		Commencement of thaw - rain in afternoon.	HPL
"	16th		Drizzly rain. Corps Commander visited Div.H.Q. stayed to lunch.	HPL
"	17th		Cold and fine. General Blamey and General Burgess visited Div. H.Q. stayed to dinner and attended "Smart Set" show. General Blamey stayed overnight.	HPL
"	18th		Cold and wet.	HPL
"	19th		Dull morning, rain in afternoon.	HPL
"	20th		Rain in morning, dull afternoon.	HPL
"	21st		Dull day. Report on reconnaissance of Divisional Area rendered to Corps. Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. Hughes) and party visited Division. Addressed members of 4th. Aust. Inf. Bde at Florennes. Orders issued for move of 12th. Aust. Inf. Bde. to the NALINNES Area.	Appx. 4. Inst. No.1. under G.S.C.90.
"	22nd		Dull morning, rain in afternoon. General Lord Birdwood arrived, visited 4th. 12th. 13th. Aust. Inf. Bdes, Artillery, Pioneer Battn, and M.Gn. Battn. Lunched at Divisional H. Q. Stayed night at Div. Commander's chateau ANTREE. 12th. Aust. Inf. Bde. commenced move to the NALINNES area, staging at Florennes.	HPL

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

176

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DINANT.	23rd		Dull Morning fine afternoon. General BIRDWOOD left for 2nd Aust.Div. 12th Aust.Inf.Bde H.Q. opened at NALINNES.	Appx 5. Location of Units.
"	24th		Dull morning, misty rain in afternoon. Move of 12th Aust.Inf.Bde. completed. 12th Field Coy moved to CHAUMONT preparatory to amalgamation with 4th Fld.Coy. Move of 12th Bde. completed.	
"	25th		Dull morning rain in afternoon. General MACLAGAN returned from Australian Corps and assumed command of the Division.	
"	26th		Dull morning, showery afternoon. Draft of 50 All Ranks left for Early Repatriation.	
"	27th		Showery day with fine intervals. Draft of 50 left for Repatriation. G.O.C. visited A.M.G.Bn.	
"	28th		Dull and showery all day. G.O.C., G.S.O.1, and A.A.Q.M.G., visited 1st Division re amalgamation and concentration of units.	

176

Appx 1

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
6th FEBRUARY, 1919.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR NO 90.

DEMOBILIZATION, AMALGAMATION AND CONCENTRATION.

(A) DEMOBILIZATION.

1. Instructions have been received from Corps H.Q. to the effect that the group system of providing quotas in connection with Repatriation and Demobilization is to commence as soon as the Demobilization of men who enlisted in 1917 commences.
2. For practical purposes this phase will commence after the next quota, (No 13) has left the Division.
3. The period of Demobilization, so far as this Division is concerned will be divided into four phases, (I), (II), (III), (IV), as follows:-

PHASE (I) As at present, Officers and other ranks being selected, (as far as circumstances permit,) throughout the Division in accordance with the Precedence Rolls.

PHASE (II). This phase will commence after quota 13 has left. The Division will be formed into two groups, and a subsidiary group, as detailed below.

The conditions governing this grouping are as follows:-

(a) The Horse and Equipment question, which renders it impossible to dispense rapidly with men belonging to Units having a large number of horses, such as the Artillery, Engineers and Divisional Train Units, until the system of getting rid of horses has been sufficiently developed.

(b) The difficulty of dispensing with the personnel of the Administrative Services, such as the Medical Services and the Divisional Train, until the formations and units served by them have been reduced in numbers and concentrated locally.

(c) The necessity for forming as few groups as possible, in order to reduce the period between the quotas from respective groups, and

(d) The necessity for amalgamating units and formations as they reach or approach the 400 limit laid down in Corps Order No. 1523.

With these limitations in mind, the Divisional Commander has decided to group the division for this phase as follows:-

P.T.O.

(2).

"A" GROUP - 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
12th Aust. Inf. Bde., which will, by the time
the group is formed, be below 40% of establishment.

"B" GROUP - 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.
4th " M.G. Bn.
4th " Pioneer Bn.

"C" GROUP (SUBSIDIARY GROUP)

4th Aust. Divisional H.Q.
4th " " Artillery.
4th " " Engineers.
4th " " Signals.
4th " " Train.
4th " Field Ambulances (including Sanitary Sec.)
4th " Mobile Vet. Sect.
4th " Salvage Coy.

4. It is of paramount importance to allow as many men as possible to go from horse and administrative units in each successive quota, as such units are already behindhand and are likely to remain so at any rate for a time.

Quotas will therefore be allotted to groups A & B in that order and during Phase (II) a proportion of each successive quota up to a certain limit, will be allotted to the Subsidiary Group, as personnel can be spared. Thus during this Phase the first quota sent might comprise 300 from the Subsidiary group and 300 from "A" Group. The second probably a similar distribution, with the exception that the bulk of the quota would go from "B" Group. It is expected by them that the bulk of the 3rd quota in this phase might be sent from the Subsidiary Group, a few special cases being sent from "A" and "B" Groups.

5. After the despatch of the 3rd quota under Phase (II) it is anticipated that the situation as regards horses, equipment and the Administrative Services will have been sufficiently cleared up to enable the Subsidiary group to be dispersed with and it will then be divided. Phase (III) will then commence in which the groups will be reduced to two, composed as follows :-

"A" GROUP - Divisional H.Q.
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
12th " " "
4th " Divl. Engineers.
4th " " Signals.
4th " " Train.
4th " Field Ambulances (including Sanitary Sect.)
4th " Mobile Vet. Sect.
4th " Salvage Coy.

"B" GROUP - 4th Aust. Divl. Artillery.
13th " Inf. Bde.
4th " M.G. Bn.
4th " Pioneer Bn.

(5).

The number of quotas to be sent during this phase will probably not exceed four, i.e., 2 each from A. and B. Group in that order. It is impossible, however, to predict so far ahead the exact number of quotas in this phase, as this will depend on such unknown factors as the number of reinforcements received and the number of draft men absorbed for early repatriation, and non-military employment.

6. In Phase (IV) the Division will be formed into a single group for the provision of quotas.

B. AMALGAMATION.

7. Amalgamation will proceed concurrently with the provision of quotas and in accordance with A.I.F. Order No. 1523. The principle to be adopted will be a gradual breaking down of Formations and Units within themselves, the identity of each being carefully maintained. Thus the Battalions of an Infantry Brigade will eventually be reduced to the strength of a platoon, or even a section, but so long as anything is left each will retain its number and wear its colour patches. On amalgamation both numbers will be used to describe the resulting formation, as 4/12 Aust. Inf. Bde., 49/50 Aust. Inf. Bn. and so on. This will be continued until the last portion of the cadre of the respective formations and Units has been despatched in a quota.

8. When Units are amalgamated representatives of the Staff of the Headquarters which cease to function will be attached to the Staff which administers the combined unit.

This principle will be followed also when formations amalgamate.

9. It is essential that arrangements should be made to ensure a sufficient supply of personnel, such as Cooks and Transport Drivers, to maintain efficiency and contentment within the Unit until it has been demobilised. A large proportion of personnel of this nature consists of men of long service who will be withdrawn in their turn in greater proportion than the men of the unit. In order to overcome this difficulty men of late enlistment should be attached as Cooks, Drivers, etc. forthwith, and receive instruction in their duties. When this involves the employment of men in units other than their own they may be either transferred or attached.

The interests of the men should be considered as far as possible in order to allow them to return to Australia as members of their present units. The policy will therefore be to "attach" rather than to "transfer" except when it is desirable, in the interests of the man, to effect a transfer, as in the case of a private becoming a driver. This will be done on the Divisional Commander's authority.

C. CONCENTRATION.

10. Concentration also will proceed concurrently with demobilization, the principle being to close up as near railhead (FLORENNES at present,) as possible with as few moves for the respective units as possible.

It is anticipated that the 1st movement will take place about the 1st week of February. The movements that should then take place are as follows :-

P.T.O.

(4)

12th A.I. Bde. and attached units to PHILIPPEVILLE Area, ^{Amalgamating}
with 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.

13th A.I. Bde. and attached units to the FURNEAUX - BISMARCK
Area, (probably).

Machine Gun Battalion to an area to be allotted.

The concentration of the Divisional Artillery in the northern part of its present area is to take place when its strength has dropped to 50%.

(D) DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT.

11. The question of the disposal of equipment, (including transport,) is bound up with that of amalgamation. As soon as two units have been combined the unit equipment of a single unit will be employed for the amalgamated unit, and that of the unit which has ceased to function will be returned to store.

The question of storage accommodation is now being dealt with, and details will be communicated later.

12. The cadre of the unit which has ceased to function, (vide Repatriation and Demobilization Instructions No. 2, Annexure 'A' dated 18th January, 1919,) will remain in charge of this equipment until such time as it has all been returned. The complete equipment of a unit must be returned at one time.

With reference to Field Ambulances the Section will be regarded as a unit for the return of equipment.

Kavanagh
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DISTRIBUTION -

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. | | |
| 12th " " " | | |
| 13th " " " | | War Diary. |
| 4th " Div. Artillery. | | D.E.O. |
| 4th " " Engineers | | |
| 4th " " M.G. Bn. | | |
| 4th " " Pioneer Bn. | | Australian Corps (2) |
| A.D.H.S. | | 1st Australian Division. |
| 4th Aust. Div. Train | | 2nd " " |
| 4th " " Sig Coy. | | 3rd " " |
| 4th " " Salvage Coy. | | |
| 4th " " Sanitary Sect. | | 5th " " |
| 4th " " Mob. Vet. Sect. | | |
| D.A.D.O.S. | | |
| D.A.P.M. | | |
| D.A.D.V.S. | | |
| Demobilization. | | |
| A. Q. | | |

Appx 2

176

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
5th February, 1919.

1st AMENDMENT TO GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 90.

Reference para. 10.

"For first week in February" read "third week in February"

Macarack

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DISTRIBUTION - Issued to all recipients of G.S. Circular No. 90.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT

Location of Units.

Reference Map - 1:50,000

Unit.	Location.	Reference
4th Aust. Div. Headquarters	DINANT	15 Place de NEUGE
4th Aust. Div. Artillery	ANTHEE	Chateau 4.J.2.8.
10th A.F.A. Brigade	FLAYION	
11th " "	ACIMONT	
4th Aust. D.A.C.	BISMERE	3.J.20.58.
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.	FLORENNES	
13th Battalion	"	
14th " "	ST. AUBIN	
15th " "	PHILIPPEVILLE	
16th " "	FLORENNES	
4th A.D.T. Bty.	ST. AUBIN	
13th Aust. Inf. Bde.	WAULSORT	
4th Battalion	HASTIERE-LA VAUX.	
14th " "	WAULSORT	
15th " "	"	
13th A.D.T. Bty.	HERMETON	
13th Aust. Inf. Bde.	BOUVIGNES	Chateau
4th Battalion	DINANT	Ecole Regimentaire
50th " "	DINANT	Avrilles Athlone
51st " "	BOUVIGNES	
13th A.D.T. Bty.	"	
4th Aust. Div. Signal Coy.	DINANT	
4th Aust. Div. Pioneer Coy.	DINANT	56 Faubourg ST. PAUL
4th Field Coy.	CHAMMONT	
12th " "	HASTIERE-PAR-DELA	
13th " "	DINANT	
4th Aust. H. C. Co.	ANSEREMME	
4th Aust. Pioneer Co.	WEILLEN	
4th Aust. Div. Train.	DINANT	Rue de la Gare
7th Coy. A.S.C.	FLORENNES	
14th " "	CORENNE	
23rd " "	HERMETON	
27th " "	HESPIN FARM.	3.K.70.07.
A.D.S.	DINANT	Rue LEOPOLD
4th Aust. Field Ambulance	FLORENNES	
13th " " "	WAULSORT	
15th " " "	DINANT	Quai NEFFE
4th Aust. Div. Sanitary Sect.	DINANT	30 Rue de NEFFE

P.T.O.

(3)

D. A. D. V. S.
4th Aust. Lbb. Vet. Section

DINAFF
OCHENIE

Rue de la Gare

D. A. D. C. S.
4th Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.

ONHAYE
DINAFF

Point d'Arrêt d. NEPHE.

4th Aust. Div. Reinforcement
Eng.

FLORENNES

No. 1 Route de RONNALLE.

D. A. P. H.

DINAFF

65 Rue LECPOLD

Div. Paymaster.
Div. Claims Officer
Div. Comforts Fund Officer
Div. Canteen Officer

DINAFF
"
"
FLORENNES

Rue de la Gare

RAIL HEAD

FLORENNES.

W. H. ...

Major-General,
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

As at 00.00 - 12th February, 1919.

176 War Diary

appx 4

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
21st February, 1919.

INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

Issued under 4th Aust. Div. General Staff Circular No. 90.

Reference Map - 1/100,000

1. The 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group, composed as under, will move on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Inst. to the MALINNES area :-

Commander - Brig. General R.L. LEANE, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.

12th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
26th Coy., A.A.S.C.
12th Aust. Field Ambulance.

2. The Group will move in two portions on successive days at the discretion of the Brigade Group Commander, staging at FLORENNES on the nights 22/23rd and 23/24th February respectively.

3. The 12th Field Company now forming part of the 12th Brigade Group will move to CHAUMONT on the 24th Inst. preparatory to amalgamation with the 4th Field Coy., and will thenceforward come under the orders of the G.O.C., 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade Group.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. Hawarack

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DISTRIBUTION - Issued to all recipients of G.S. Circular No. 90.

176

176

Appx 5

SECRET.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

First Amendment to Location List,
Dated 12th February, 1919.

Reference Map : WAMUR 1/100,000.

Unit.	Location.
12th Aust. Inf. Bde.	MALINNES.
45th Battalion.	THY-LE-CHATEAU.
46/48th Battalions	MALINNES.
12th Aust. Field Ambulance.	GOURDINNES.
4th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	THY-LE-CHATEAU.
28th Coy. A. A. S. C.	SOMZEE.

R B Shepherd
for Brigadier-General,
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

As at 12 noon 23rd Feb. 1919.