

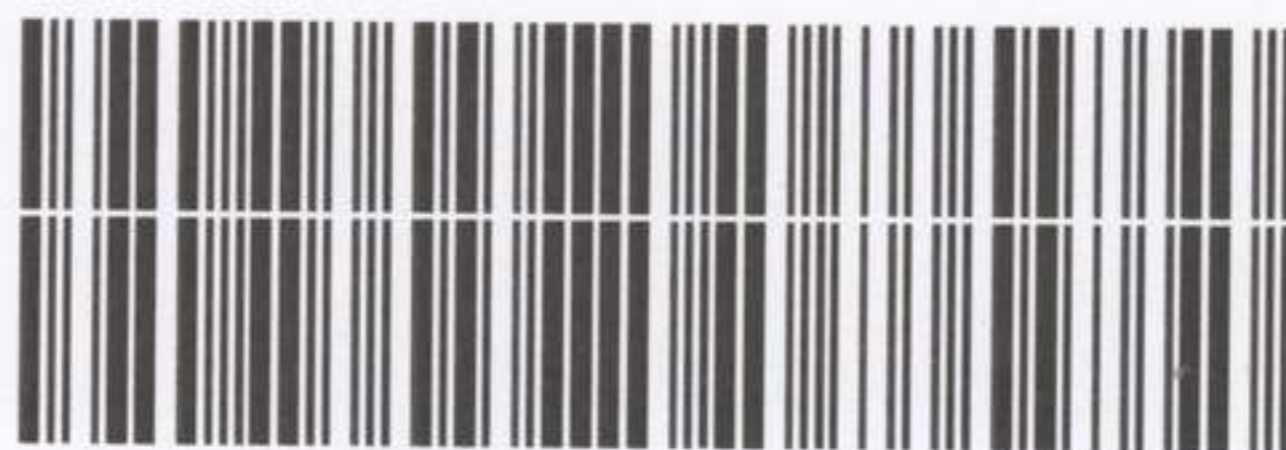
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/4/3

Title: Australian General Base Depot

September 1916 - January 1918



AWM4-33/4/3

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT

FOR

Period from 18th December 1917 to
31st January 1918. 191

Signature of Officer compiling

J. McDonald

Lt. Col.

O. C.

Base Depot

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. McDonald

Lt. Col.

O. C.

Base Depot

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.

SHEET 5

(2) (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Jan			
	1st		Marched in from England 30, From Hospital 31 Marched out to Units 34	
	2nd		Marched in from England 35 From Hospital 47 Marched out to Units 54	
	3rd		Marched in from England 59 From Hospital 25 Marched out to Unit Hospital 2 Evacuated to England 1 P.B.	
	4th		Marched in from England 22 From Hospital 14 Marched out to Units 9	
	5th		Marched in from Hospital 51 Marched out to Units 177 To Hospital 3	
	6th		Marched in from Hospital 15 Marched out to England 54 P.B.	
	7th		Marched in from England 35, From Hospital 42 Marched out to Units 96	
	8th		Marched in from England 8 From Hospital 20 Marched out to units 5 To Hospital 2	
	9th		Marched in from England 65 From Hospital 61 Marched out to Units 88 To Hospital 1	
	10th		Marched in from England 180 From Hospital 22 Marched out to Units 4 to Hospital 5	
	11th		Marched in from England 8 From Hospital 30 Marched out to Units 34 To Hospital 3	
	12th		Marched in From Hospital 12 Marched out to Units 37 To Hospital 5	
	13th		Marched in From England 40 From Hospital 26 Marched out to Units 263	
	14th		Marched in from England 25 From Hospital 28 Marched out to Units 40 To Hospital 1	
	15th		Marched in from Hospital 23 Marched out to Units 36 To Hospital 7	
	16th		Marched in from Hospital 13 Marched out to Units 38 to Hospital 8 To England P.B. 16	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SHEET 6

(3) (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Jan			
	17th		Marched in from England 281 From Hospital 55 Marched out to Unit 1 to Hospital 18	
	18th		Marched in from England 4 from Hospital 42 Marched out to Units 17 to England P.B. 73	
	19th		Marched in from Hospital 19 Marched out to Units 62 to Hospital 5	
	20th		Marched in From England 25 From Hospital 27 Marched out to Units 264 to Hospital 2	
	21st		Marched in from England 19 Hospital 20 Marched out to Unit 27 to Hospital 11 England 11 P.B.	
	22nd		Marched in from Hospital 19 Marched out to Unit 2 Hospital 11	
	23rd		Marched in from England 42 from Hospital 19 Marched out to Units 24 to Hospital 3	
	24th		Marched in from England 133 from Hospital 21 Marched out to Units 5 Hospital 2	
	25th		Marched in from Hospital 20 Marched out to Units 130 Hospital 5 England P.B. 21	
	26th		Marched in from Hospital 50 Marched out to Units 24 Hospital 2	
	27th		Marched in from Hospital 8 Marched out to Units 95	
	28th		Marched in from Hospital 25 Marched out to Units 20	
	29th		Marched in from Hospital 21 Marched out to Hospital 2	
	30th		Marched in from Hospital 38 Marched out to Units 36 to Hospital 2	
	31st		Marched in from England 52 from Hospital 25 Marched out to Units 11 to Hospital 3	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SHEET 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havre	1918 Jany	31st	<p>There is not any previous record of a War Diary in connection with the Australian General Base Depot but the circumstances of its original formation are as follows:-</p> <p>The authorisation for the formation of the Australian General Base Depot is contained in I.G.C./A.D./7239 dated 3th September 1916 as per copy of Routine Order No 1 copy of which is attached marked 1.</p> <p>This Base was formed for the purpose of accommodating Casuals and Reinforcements of Units other than Infantry and Pioneers and was formed at Camp "Z" Etaples.</p> <p>Lieut Horniman was appointed Acting Adjutant on the 28th September and Captain Holland was appointed Medical Officer about a month later</p> <p>On the afternoon of the 23rd September 1916 all Reinforcements and Casuals of Divisional and Corps Units marched into A.G.B.D. and the following day similar units arrived, those on the 23rd being from the 1st A.B.D.B. those of the 24th being from 2nd, 4th and 5th A.D.B.D.</p> <p>On the 12th October 1916 the A.G.B.D. was transferred to "R" Camp Etaples to make room for New Zealand Troops. The A.G.B.D. remained in "R" Camp until the 29th May 1917 when it was moved from Etaples to Havre Base Area Camp 24, Lezarde Valley.</p> <p>Lieut Horniman remained Adjutant until Captain Kimber was appointed on the 7th October 1916. Lieut Jacob appointed Adjutant vice Captain Kimber evacuated to Hospital Sick during December 1916. Lieut Foord appointed Adjutant vice Lieut Jacob evacuated to Hospital sick on 20th April 1917.</p> <p>Captain J.B. Shand marched into A.G.B.D. from Electrical, Mechanical and Boring Coy during October 1916 to take up position of Quartermaster. Lieut Purves was appointed Quartermaster vice Major Shand evacuated to Hospital sick during June 1917.</p> <p>The appointments of Lieut Col Tunbridge, C.M.G. as Commanding Officer, Lieut Foord as Adjutant and Lieut Purves as Quartermaster terminated on the 18th December 1917 on which date the A.G.B.D. was reorganised as referred to later.</p> <p>From 18th December 1917 to 24th there was snow on the ground and continuous wind. A thaw set in on 24th and ending on the 26th when most of the snow has disappeared. A few light falls of snow occurred again but about the 6th January 1918 the weather became abnormal and almost spring conditions prevailed. This continued until 27th January. Buds appeared and it looked as if the trees would soon belch forth into bloom. However pests appeared and saved a probable disaster to all succulent vegetation by checking before they opened out.</p> <p>Troops are inspected on arrival and before despatch as described in my diary of the 3rd Australian Division Base Depot. The reinforcements which arrive are physically a fine type of Soldier but the system of allowing Artillery and other miscellaneous Division and Corps</p>	

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY.

SHEET 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Troops to carry kit bags, ration bags etc in the hand gave them an unsoldierly appearance. Most of the men from England have very long hair. I have salvaged all kit bags and no man is allowed to proceed to the front until his hair is cut to the regulation length. Units not provided with the webbing equipment roll their blankets (bandolier pattern) and look much smarter than hitherto.</p> <p>The Barbers institute has been fitted out with full set of clippers razors, combs hot water geyser etc likewise the bootmakers and Tailors departments have been improved.</p> <p><u>Vegetable growing.</u> An area of about 2 acres in the Depot ground has been manured and ploughed for early vegetable crops. Also about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre has been rented near the depot for potatoes. Horses and a plow has been arranged for the work.</p> <p>Metalled roads have been established and cinders are being obtained for the parade ground.</p> <p>Institutes are plentiful. The Church of England recreation room with billiard table, the Y.M.C.A. Hall and Cinema and B.E.F. Canteen give ample accommodation. Entertainments are provided by good artists from Miss Lena Ashwell Companies and other repertory Companies in the Y.M.C.A.</p> <p><u>Training.</u> Only fitting testing and lectures on the Small Box Respirator and P.H. Helmets are given here since 1/11/17.</p> <p><u>Reorganisation.</u> "P.B." personnel were selected and the positions all filled by 21st December (Appendix "A").</p> <p><u>Mens Messing.</u> The system was changed and prompt attendance at meals insisted. Corporals messes apart from that of the men were abolished. New doors were procured for the cooking ranges in the kitchen, the misfits being dispensed with. Plates, mugs, salt cellars, pepper castors were put into use immediately instead of the system of mess tins as formerly. Kitchen painted inside and Dining Halls painted, windows painted and the whole decorated with flags etc. A potatoe peeling machine, Sausage and bread cutters machines installed. The latter saved a considerable waste of bread.</p> <p><u>Est Recovery of.</u> A great effort was made in this department and an increase of nearly 70% was made in comparison with the month previous to this alteration. This was done with all consideration for the men in roasting the meat as against boiling it.</p> <p>Supplies of vegetables, regularly purchased for the men and plum pudding is included in the menu about three times per week. Every Casual and reinforcement arriving in the Depot is provided with a hot meal and the "Stock Pot" is always useful for men out on night duty in the cold weather.</p> <p>The Inspector of Messing L. of C reports that the organisation has made a great improvement</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

SHEET 3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>in the serving of food, condition of cookhouses and Dining Halls, and the recovery of fat for January is quite a record.</p> <p>Medical arrangements are as in the 3rd A.D.B.D. i.e. Boards are held regularly under the <i>presidency</i> S.M.O. and Australian Base Depots and temporary sick are placed in the Field Hospital under an Australian Medical Officer.</p> <p>The dental services are adjacent and do all the Australian work here.</p> <p>Depot water supply is shown on appendix to 3rd A.B.D.B. history where the reservoir is installed.</p> <p>Troops have to march to Havre about 5½ miles to entrain.</p> <p>The appendices given in my history of the 3rd A.B.B.D. apply in most cases to this Command.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W.J. O'Connell</i> Lieut Colonel Commandant Australian General Base Depot.</p> <p>Havre.</p>	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SHEET 7

(4)

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WAR ESTABLISHMENT

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT.

DETAILED	Officers	Warrant Officers	Staff sergeants and sergeants	Rank and file	Total	
Lieut Colonel	1				1	a (includes 1 for Orderly room)
Adjutant	1				1	(b) Q.M.Stores 1 Orderly room 1
Quartermaster	1				1	Cook 1 Provost 1
Subalterns	3				3	Train conducting 1
Reg Sergt Major		1			1	" rationing 1
Reg Quartermaster Sergt		1			1	Total 6
Company Sergt Majors		4(a)			4	(c) Shoemaker 1 Tailor 1 Q.M.Stores 1 Orderly room 4 Officers Mess 1 Sergeants Mess 1
Company quartermaster sergeants			3		3	Dining Hall 1
Sergeants (b)			6		6	Sanitation 1 Pioneer 1
Corporals (c)				12	12	Total 12
Privates (d)				38	38	
Batmen (e)				10	10	
Total Depot (excluding attached)	6	6	9	60	81	
ATTACHED						
A.A.M.C.	1		1(f)	5(g)	7	
Total Depot including attached	7	6	10	65	88	
(d) Butcher			1			Sanitary squad 4
Shoemaker			1			Carpenter 1
Q.M.Stores			2			Barber 1
Orderly room			3			Pioneer 1
Officers Mess			3			Destructor 1
Sergeants mess			2			Incinerator 1
Dining Halls			4			Bath house 1
Cooks			8			Drying rooms 1
Police			2			Tailor 1
						<u>38</u>

(e) Includes Batmen for reinforcement Officers etc.,.

(f) Staff Sergeant dispenser. (g) Includes 2 dressers and 2 Hospital attendants.

Notes 1. The whole of the above personnel will be of category "B"

2 One additional cook will be added for every 200 or part of 200 above 1600