

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/74/31

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Ammunition
Column

October 1918



AWM4-13/74/31

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN

FOR

October

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*W.E. Pope Lieut.
Acty Asst. IDAC*

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Handwritten signature]

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	1918 Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARQUAIX	1		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 3 G.S. Wagons carting ammunition to 6th. Battery. 4 G.S. Wagons carting camouflage to Dump. 2 G.S. Wagons moving Y.M.C.A. 12 G.S. Wagons carting ammunition from M.T. Dump to forward SAA. Dump.</p> <p><u>MOVE.</u> The Column less SAA. Section moved to L.15.a.8.2.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers, 647 o/ranks and 640 animals. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 2 o/ranks from A.G.B.D.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	LOCATION K.30.c.c
	2		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 4 G.S. Wagons carrying ammunition to SAA. forward Dump from M.T. Dump. 30 wagons carting ammunition to 1st. F.A. Brigade. 3 G.S. Wagons carting ammunition to Trench Mortar battery positions. 15 G.S. Wagons carting ammunition to 2nd. F.A. Brigade.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 17 Officers, 646 o/ranks and 640 animals. <u>PERSONNEL</u> 1 o/rank to Educational Cadet School. <u>WEATHER.</u> Cloudy and windy.</p>	L.15.a.8.2
	3		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 7 wagons carting ammunition to 1st. F.A. Brigade. 1 wagon on fatigue for Y.M.C.A.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 16 Officers 609 o/ranks and 640 animals. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 20 o/ranks transferred to 1st. F.A. Brigade. 20 o/ranks transferred to 2nd. F.A. Brigade. 3 o/ranks from A.G.B.D.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Showery.</p>	
	4		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S. wagon doing duty for Y.M.C.A.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 16 Officers 566 o/ranks and 640 animals. <u>OFFICERS.</u> Major J.C. SELMES D.S.O. Lieut. L. AUGSTEIN (attached) proceeded on furlough to Australia. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 44 o/ranks proceeded on furlough to Australia. 1 o/rank from A.G.B.D. <u>OFFICERS.</u> Lieut. R.H. BROOME was taken on strength from 1st. F.A. Brigade and Seconded for duty as Divl. Gas Officer.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	
	5		<p>WORK DONE. The 1st. Aust. Div. Ammn. Column moved to HEM AREA -move being completed about 8.30 p.m.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 16 Officers 561 o/ranks 638 animals. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 4 o/ranks evacuated 1 o/rank to 1st. Battery. <u>WEATHER.</u> Dull.</p>	
HEM	6		<p>1st. Aust. Div. Ammn. Column moved from HEM area to VILLERS -BRETTONEUX.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 14 Officers 558 o/ranks 638 animals. <u>OFFICERS.</u> 2/Lieut. R.K. Davis and 2/Lieut. A.R. Harry transferred to 2nd. F.A.B. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 2 o/ranks transferred to 2nd. F.A. Brigade, 1 o/rank evacuated. <u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	
VILLERS BRETTON -EUX	7		<p>STRENGTH. <u>MOVE.</u> The D.A.C. moved from VILLERS BRETTONEUX to ST. SAUVEUR Area.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 20 Officers 560 o/ranks 634 animals. <u>OFFICERS.</u> The following Officers reported from A.G.B.D. 2/Lieut. W.C. PARKINSON, 2/Lieut. E.F. SIMPSON, 2/Lieut. H.G. JAMES, 2/Lieut. H.W. STORER. 2/Lieut. E. MATSON. 2/Lieut. E.R. WINCHCOMBE. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 3 o/ranks from A.G.B.D.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine</p>	

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14

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
XXXXXXXX ST. SAUV- EUR. LONGPRE	1918 Octbr		<p><u>MOVE.</u> The D.A.C. moved from ST. SAUVEUR Area to LONGPRE LES CORPS SAINTS.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 21 Officers 560 o/ranks 634 animals.</p> <p><u>OFFICERS.</u> Lieut W.E. POPE was taken on strength from 1st. F.A. Brigade.</p> <p><u>WORK DONE.</u> Building Horse Lines Cleaning Harness and vehicles. Stable Fatigues.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 21 Officers 559 o/ranks 634 animals. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 1 o/rank evacuated.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	
		10	<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 4 G.S. Wagons doing duty with Y.M.C.A. Stable Fatigues.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 21 Officers 559 o/ranks 634 animals.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull.</p>	
		11	<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S. Wagon carting kits of reinforcements to 3rd (Army) F.A. Brigade. 4 G.S. Wagons carting Canteen Stores.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 21 Officers. 560 o/ranks 634 animals. <u>PERSONNEL.</u> 1 o/rank from A.M.V.S.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull and Showery.</p>	
		12	<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S. Wagon drawing Pit props from No. 3. Section. 3 G.S. Wagons carting Kits of Reinforcements to Brigades.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 21 Officers. 565 o/ranks 634 animals.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 6 O/ranks from AGBD. 1 O/rank from M.V. Section. 1 O/rank evacuated. 1 O/rank to 1st F.A. Brigade.</p> <p><u>HONOURS AND AWARDS</u> No. 29134 Saddler BOX C.A. and No. 37471 Corporal PALMER W. were awarded the Military Medal. See Appendix 'A'</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	
		13	<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 4 G.S. Wagons conveying Reinforcements to 1st. and 2nd. F.A. Brigades.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 21 Officers 559 o/ranks and 632 animals</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL.</u> 5 o/ranks evacuated. 1 o/rank to 1st. F.A.B.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull.</p>	

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	October			
LONGPRE	14		<u>WORK DONE</u> 4 G.S. Wagons conveying Reinforcements from D.A.C., Headquarters to 1st FAB.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 20 Officers 562 O/Ranks and 629 Animals.	
			<u>OFFICERS</u> Lieut. E.S. CAMERON transferred to 2nd F.A. Brigade.	
			<u>PERSONNEL</u> 3 O/Ranks from AGBD. <u>WEATHER</u> dull.	
	15		<u>WORK DONE</u> Stables fatigues, buliding horse lines etc.	
			<u>OFFICERS</u> Captain E. SHEPPARD was posted to D.A.C. and to COMMAND vice Captain W.H.G. SEGRAVE to No. 1 Sextion.	
			Lieut. J.V. GARNER and 3/Lieut C.H. Muarray transferred to 2nd F.A. Brigade,	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 19 Officers 564 O/Ranks and 628 Animals.	
			<u>PERSONNEL</u> 1 O/ ank transferred to 3rd F.A.B. 3 O/ranks taken on strength from AGBD.	
			<u>WEATHER</u> Showery.	
	16		<u>WORK DONE</u> 1 G.S. Wagon conveying Band to 1st F.A. Brigade. Stable fatigues.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 18 Officers 564 O/Ranks and 628 Animals.	
			<u>OFFICERS</u> Lieut R.A. Ayrton transferred to 2nd F.A. Brigade. <u>WEATHER</u> Fine.	
	17		<u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S. Wagon carrying Y.M.C.A. Stores. A fatigue party of 10 men were doing duty with Y.M.C.A. for 4 hours. Stable fatigues etc.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 18 Officers 564 O/Ranks and 628 Animals. <u>WEATHER</u> DULL.	
	18		<u>WORK DONE</u> Stable fatigues etc.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 18 Officers 566 O/Ranks and 628 animals. <u>WEATHER</u> Fine.	
	19		<u>WORK DONE.</u> Stable fatigues eyo.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 18 Officers 564 O/ranks and 628 Animals.	
			<u>PERSONNEL</u> 3 O/ranks evacuated.	
	20		<u>WORK DONE</u> 3 G.S. Wagons conveying Band to 2nd F.A. Brigade. Stable fatigues etc.	
	20		<u>PERSONNEL</u> 4 pair of wheelers were detached for duty with 1st Div. M.T. Mortar paterries. at 4th Army Artillery School.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 569 O/Ranks and 627 Animals.	
			<u>OFFICERS</u> 2/Lieut. E. MATSON was transferred to 2nd F.A. Brigade. <u>PERSONNEL</u> 5 O/Re from AGBD.	
			<u>WEATHER</u> Fine.	
	21		<u>WORK DONE</u> 1 G.S. Wagon on duty with Y.M.C.A. 3 G.S. Wagons conveying Band.	
			<u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 556 O/Ranks and 627 Animals.	
			<u>PERSONNEL</u> 3 O/Ranks to 1st F.A.B. 10 O/Ranks to 2nd F.A. Brigade.	
			<u>INSPECTION.</u> The D.A.C., was inspected by C.R.A., who expressed himself as pleased with the condition of the Column.	

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LONGPRE	1918 October 22		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S.Wagon doing duty with Y.M.C.A. Stable fatigues etc.,</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 553 O/Ranks and 625 Animals.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 3 O/Ranks evacuated. <u>WEATHER</u> Dull.</p>	
	23		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> Stable fatigues etc.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 553 O/Ranks and 621 Animals. <u>WEATHER</u> Dull.</p>	
	24		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S.Wagon drawing goods from Aust.Comfort Funds.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 554 O/Ranks and 620 Animals. <u>WEATHER</u> Fine.</p>	
	25		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 G.S.Wagon conveying band to 1st F.A.Brigade.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 555 O/Ranks and 620 Animals.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull.</p>	
	26		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> Stable fatigues etc. <u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 533 O/Ranks and 630 Animals.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 30 O/Ranks transferred to 1st F.A.Brigade. 3 O/Ranks to R.A.Cadet School.</p> <p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine.</p>	
	27		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> 1 Wagon conveying kit of personnel to 4th Army Artillery School.</p> <p>3 G.S.Wagon conveying Band.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 17 Officers 532 O/Ranks and 630 Animals. 1 O/Rank evacuated.</p> <p><u>WEATHER</u> Dull</p>	
	28		<p><u>WORK DONE</u> 3 G.S. wagons conveying reinforcements from D.A.C., Headquarters to 1st F.A.Brigade.</p> <p>1 G.S.Wagon doing duty with Y.M.C.A.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 17 Officers 532 O/Ranks and 630 Animals. <u>WEATHER</u> Fine.</p>	
	29		<p><u>WORK DONE.</u> Stable fatigues etc. <u>STRENGTH</u> 19 Officers 528 O/Ranks and 630 animals.</p> <p><u>OFFICERS</u> 2/Lieut. V.V.Kimpton and 2/Lieut J.S.Murray reported from A.G.B.D. and were posted to No. 1 and 2 Sections respectively.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 4 O/Ranks evacuated.</p>	
	/30		<p><u>WORK DONE</u> 6 G.S.Wagons were employed carting Gravel to Wagon Lines. Stable fatigues</p> <p>Improving horse lines etc.,</p> <p><u>STRNGTH</u> 19 Officers 529 O/Ranks and 620 Animals.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 1 O/R from Mobile Workshops and 1 O/Rank from Divl.Train. 1 O/Rank evacuated.</p> <p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONGPRE	1918 October 31		<p><u>WORK DONE</u> 12 G.S. Wagons were employed in carting Gravel to Horse Lines. 2 G.S. Wagons doing duty with Y.M.C.A. Stable fatigues, improving horse lines etc.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH</u> 18 Officers 521 O/Ranks and 620 Animals.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Lieut. R.T. DOUGHERTY was struck of strength to R.B.A.A.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL</u> 4 ORanks proceeded on Furlough to AUSTRALIA. 2 O/Ranks evacuated. 1 O/Rank transferred to A.A.P. Corps.</p> <p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine.</p> <p><u>RECREATION.</u> During the month Lieut. F. Grose (Y.M.C.A. representative) arranged three Concerts by "The Lena Ashwell" Concert Party" which were attended by a large preportion of the personnel of the 1st Aust. Div. Ammn. Column.</p> <p><u>APPENDIX. "B"</u> Training - Remarks on by C.O., of 1st Aust. D.A.C.</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN

FOR

October 1918.

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

A

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

B

TRAINING C.O's Remarks.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.
APPENDIX A TO WAR DIARY FOR OCTOBER 1918.

No. 37471 Corporal WILLIAM PALMER was awarded the Military Medal for the following deed:-

On 12th August between HAMEL AND WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT the above N.C.O. showed great coolness and bravery when about 80 rounds of ammunition caught fire. The gun pit in which this ammunition was stacked was situated close to the road along which a large amount of traffic was passing and Corporal Palmer immediately ordered two men off to deflect the stream of traffic. Picking up a shovel, he then rushed to the gun pit and commenced shovelling earth into it in an attempt to quench the fire. One of the shells exploded and blew Corporal Palmer several yards away. When he regained his feet, he made for the fire once more and continued using his shovel. He had succeeded in putting the fire out when another shell burst, wounding him in the face. He was evacuated badly wounded in the face and eyes. This action was witnessed by an Officer.

No. 39124 Saddler CHARLES ANDREW BOX was awarded the Military Medal for the following deed:-

On 12th August 1918 between HAMEL and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT. Saddler Box noticed smoke rising from a gun pit. He found that a fire had commenced amongst about 80 rounds of ammunition. He commenced to clear away the shells and loose charges from around the fire, working by himself until the N.C.O. and several men arrived with shovels to his assistance. One of the shells exploded and blew Saddler Box out of the pit but he returned immediately. This action was witnessed by an Officer.


APPENDIX

In view of preparing for a ceremonial Parade and march past of the 1st Aust. Division, at an early date not yet known, the 1st Aust D.A.C., carried out from the 17th October 1918 to the 24th October 1918 a very short yet most beneficial period of mounted Drill.

Starting on the morning of the 17th October with very elementary mounted drill, it was necessary for each Section in turn to start right at the beginning as the majority of Drivers hardly knew what mounted Drill was.

The keeness exhibited by all ranks and the almost instantaneous improvement from an absolute lack of knowledge of the rudiments of the work was responsible for a very creditable march past, first by each Section in turn and then after a grand total, of a mere few hours mounted drill, a march past of the whole D.A.C., with Headquarters and serafiles complete, first at the walk and then at the trot and at which the C.R.A., was the Reviewing Officer.

The keeness and initiative shown by the untrained drivers and newly made N.C.O's and the unison right from the Drivers to the Section Officers and O'sC., Sections without doubt bore their fruits as was clearly shown in the march past of the whole D.A.C. at the trot.


Major.
Cmdg., 1st Aust. Div. Amm. Column.