

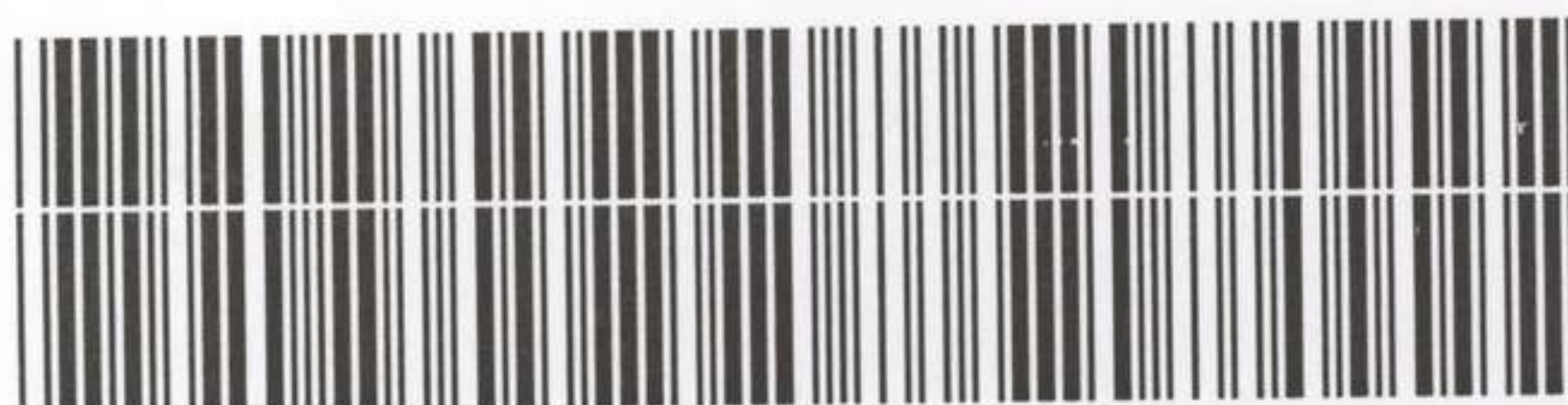
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/75/24

**Title:** 2nd Australian Divisional Ammunition  
Column

March 1918



AWM4-13/75/24



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
**DUPLICATE.**  
**TRIPLICATE.**

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

MARCH

1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*E. H. H. H. H.*  
ADJUTANT,  
2nd AUST. DIVL. AMM. COLUMN.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. H. H. H. H.*  
Major  
Comdg. 2nd Aust. D.A.C.



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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will be prepared in manuscript.

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REBERQUES + ROUGEMONT - FOUCOLLES ALQUINES REST AREA.	1918.		WEATHER-Unsettled, cold severe. Light snowfall. Wind fresh from E.	
	Mar.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, Other Ranks 667.	
	IST.		Animals- Riders 74, horses 5, mules 644.	
	Fri.		Transport-Carts Maltese 1, water 3.	
			Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48, Cycles II.	
			Leave to BOULOGNE ceased.	
			3 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE.	
			Box Respirators- The following direction appeared in current R.O.:-	
			In view of the importance of each officer and man retaining the box respirator with which he has been fitted, these articles will invariably be in the possession of any officer or man admitted sick to any medical unit. In the case of officers and men admitted wounded every endeavour will be made to ensure that their box respirators accompany them."	
			WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN-Actually with Unit-15 Off., 519 O.R.; Sick in Divl Area-nil; On leave, etc.-3 Off., O.R. 140; Total Strength-18 Off., 659 O.R.; War Establishment-15 Off., 606 O.R.; Required to complete-nil; Excess of Establishment-3 Off., 53 O.R.	
	2ND.		WEATHER-Very Cold. Heavy snowfall, sleet. Wind strong from E.	
			DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, Other Ranks 674.	
			Animals- Riders 74, horses 5, mules 644.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			SECOND DIVL ARTILLERY Brass Band taken on strength from SECOND AUST. DIV. T.M.B and posted to 1ST. SECTION.	
			1 OTHER RANK transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			1 " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			Bathing parade for personnel at ALQUINES.	
			DRIPPING RETURN-APPROX. quantity forwarded-88 lb.; On hand 25 lb.	

*[Handwritten signature]*



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REBERQUES - ROUGEMONT - FOUXOLLES. ALQUINES REST AREA.	1918.		WEATHER-Countryside snowbound. Further precipitation in prospect. Very col Fresh biting wind from E.	
	March		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, O.R. 674.	
	3RD.		Animals- Riders 74, horses 5, mules 664.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
	Sat.		Church Parades held for personnel of all denominations.	
	Sun.		SALVAGE- The following direction appeared in current Col R.O.:- "Much salvageable R.E. material-timber, corrugated iron, wire, piquets, etc.-is lying about the neighbourhood of camps. Units will collect such material into dumps and notify their location to C.R.E. of Division occupying this Area." "This is important in view of the shortage of engineering material at the present time."	
			2/Lts. F.C. POSTLE and J.R. MARRIOTT transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			2/Lts. J.W. FENTON and G.M. MUIRHEAD transferred to 5TH. A.F.A.B.	
			2/Lt. EKENSTEEN proceeded on furlough.	
			1 Other Rank evacuated to Hospital.	
			Enemy Listening Sets- The following copy of memo even-dated received from 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q.:- "Information obtained from prisoners recently cap- -tured opposite "A" divisional Sector is both extensively and successfully employing listening sets to intercept our messages. All concerned must be warned of this fact before proceeding into the Forward Area, and the instructions already issued on the matter must be repeated and fully ex- -plained."	
	4TH.		WEATHER-Cold, damp, light rain. Biting wind moderate from E.	
	Mon.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, Other Ranks 671.	
			Animals- Riders 74, horses 5, mules 644.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			Copies of "Notes on Salvage Work." issued to Section Commanders.	
			1 Other Rank transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			Bathing Parade of personnel at ALQUINES.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REBERQUES - ROUGHMONT - FOUCOLLES. ALQUINES REST AREA.	1918.		WEATHER-Cold,damp,unsettled.Wind light from S.W.	
	Mar.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17,Other Ranks 661. Animals- Riders 73,horses 5,mules 644.	
	5TH.		Transport-Unaltered.	
	Tues.		Lt.C.G.ROBERTS taken on strength from 4TH.A.F.A.B. and posted for duty wi S.A.A.SECTION.	
			I Other Rank taken on strength from Hospital.	
			IO " " transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.	
			II " " " 5TH.A.F.A.B.	
			6 " " " 2ND.DIV.T.M.B.	
			I " " evacuated to Hospital.	
	6TH.		WEATHER-Dull,unsettled,damp. Wind moderate from W.	
	Wed.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17,Other ranks 627. Animals- Riders 72,horses 5,mules 643. Transport-Unaltered.	
			Notified in current Col.R.O.that leave applications for all parts of France would be considered,subject to the observance of the custom- -ary formalities.	
			G.R.O.3429 republished in Col.R.O. of even date directs the return of all brass caps on petrol tins retained for use as water-holders.	
			Stricter observance of orders relating to the return of petrol tins and cases enjoined in current Col.R.O.	
			Lt.A.ROBERTS taken on strength from 5 A.F.A.B. and posted for duty with 2ND.SECTION.	
			I Other Rank evacuated to Hospital.	
			18 Pdrs on loan from batteries for instructional purposes returned.	
			Howitzers on loan also returned.	



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REBERQUES - ROUGEMONT - FOUILLES. ALQUINES REST AREA. REMILLY-WERQUIN.	1918.		WEATHER-Dull, signs of clearance. Milder. Wind light from W.	
	Mar.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 18, Other Ranks 638.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 648.	
	7TH.		Transport-Unaltered.	
	Thur.		MOVEMENT- In accordance with 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Order No. 80-4-3-18, and Adm. Memo No. 38-5-3-18, the 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMMTN COLUMN was notified that the Column would move from wagon lines at present occupied to REMILLY-WERQUIN on the 8th. inst. Starting Point from "T" Road Junction-HAZEBROUCK 3.a. o.2.11.. Head of COLUMN to pass starting point at 8 25 a.m. Column to march in the following order:-HEADQUARTERS, S.A.A. SECTION, 1ST. SECTION, 2ND. SECTION. Strict discipline to be maintained throughout march. Special attention being paid to correct distances and brakes. Each Section to leave one officer to adjust claims. All baggage and supply wagons to march in rear of Column. All spare mules to march with baggage wagons.	
			SALVAGE-Paper salvaged for the week-150lbs.	
	8TH.		WEATHER-Sky overcast. Milder. Prospects of break. Cleared later. Wind light W.	
	Fri.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, Other Ranks 640.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 646.	
			Transport- Unaltered.	
			MOVEMENT-In accordance with Movement Order of the previous day the COLUMN moved to REMILLY-WERQUIN via HAUTE PANNEE, QUERCAMP, ALQUIN, LUMBRES, ELNES, WAVRAN, and occupied lines and billets used on the march out to the Rest Area a month before. Strict march discipline was observed en route. Refilling Point-ELNES Church at 2 p.m. All Area stores were handed over, billets and lines left in a clean and sanitary condition. Lieut. A.C. SHEPPINGTON acted as Claims Adjustment Officer. Lieut. W.B. MacDONALD as Billeting Officer.	
			WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN-Actually with Unit-Officers 13, Other Ranks 486; Sick in Divisional Area-O/R. 2; On leave, etc.-Off. 3, O/R. 146; Total Strength-Off. 16, O/R 634; War Est.-Off. 15, O/R 606; Required to complete-nil; Excess of Establishment-Off. 1. O/R 28.	
			DRIPPING RETURN-On hand 45lb.	



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ARQUES - OUTERSTEENE-STEENJE. MERRIS AREA.	1918.		WEATHER-Clear, bright, Springlike. Wind very light from W. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R. 640. Animals- Riders 73, mules 646. Transport-Unaltered.	
	Mar. 9TH. Sat.		MOVEMENT-In accordance with Movement Order the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. moved from REMILLY WERQUIN and marched via WIZERNES to ARQUES. Starting Time II-30 a.m. Head of Column remained outside WIZERNES until that town was cleared by 4TH.A.F.A.B. On arrival at ARQUES HEADQUARTERS, IST. and S.A.A. SECTIONS occupied lines on the outskirts of the Town. 2ND. SECTION occupied lines in the Market Square. Refilling Point-Renescore Church 3 pm.	
ARQUES - OUTERSTEENE-STEENJE. MERRIS AREA.	Mar. 10TH. Sun.		WEATHER-Frosty, clear, bright, mild, Springlike. Wind very light from W. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 640. Animals- Riders 73, mules 646. Transport-Unaltered.	
			COLUMN resumed march to Forward Area via HAZEBROUCK-ST.OMER ROAD and occupied wagon lines in the MERRIS AREA as follows: Headquarters-F.12.a.7.3.; IST. SECTION-E.11.c.2.8. and immediate neighbourhood. 2ND. SECTION-F.9.b.7 S.A.A. SECTION same location as H.Q. Refilling Point-MERRIS Church at 2 p.m. RELIEF-2ND.AUST.D.A.C. H.Q. Order No. 81 directed the relief of the 3RD.AUST. DIV. ARTY in "A" (Right) Sector, AUST. CORPS Front, between March 11th. and 13th. The 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. in pursuance of that Order made all necessary arrangements for relieving the 3RD.AUST.D.A.C. TRENCH FOOT-2ND.AUST.DIV.H.Q. Memo. I/641-10-3-18 states: Trench Foot-Pre-ventative measures as already set out will be adopted. Economy must be practised in the use of ingredients. Salvage- Every effort will be made in the direction of salvage, particularly the recovery of solder and saving of waste paper. Vegetable Plots will be started where possible.	



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STEENTJE + LA CRECHE + SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES.	1918.		WEATHER-Frosty, clear bright, warm. Wind light from N. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 640.	
	March		Animals- Riders 73, mules 646.	
	11TH.		Transport-Unaltered.	
	Mon.		AMMUNITION-All boxed 18 pdr and 4.5 howitzer ammunition dumped at Section wagon lines ready for handing to 3RD. AUST. D.A.C.	
			2/Lt. G.H. MOSS taken on strength from ST. JOHN'S WOOD CADET SCHOOL through BASE and posted to 2ND. SECTION.	
			2/Lt. J.M. BEVAN taken on strength from BASE, ex CADET SCHOOL, and posted to S.A.A. SECTION.	
			Lieut. C.G.F. CAMPBELL taken on strength from 5A.F.A.B., and posted for duty with 1ST SECTION.	
			Summer Time-All watches and clocks advanced one hour.	
			Copies of 4TH ARMY "Notes" (A.G., and Military Secretary's Branch), 2nd. ed. issued to Section Commanders.	
			1 Other Rank taken on strength from 5TH. A.F.A.B.	
			2 " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			Sanitary Work Town of BAILLEUL-6 G.S. wagons to report daily at 7-15 a.m. at Town Major's Office. Commencing 13th. inst.	
			Log Hauling-Three 4-mule teams to report daily at T.27.c.7.2. (Sheet 28)	
			Queensland Election-Queenslanders of Unit recorded votes in State Election. 29 votes recorded and forwarded.	
			2 G.S. wagons with 2ND. DIV. T.M.B. as transport to Front line.	
	12TH.		WEATHER-Frosty, clear, bright, Springlike conditions continue. Wind very light from S.E.	
	Tues.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 640.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 646.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			MOVEMENT- The Column resumed march forward from Starting Point at HAZE- b -BROUCK 4.I.8.6.5.9., Sections trekking independently via LA CRECHE to wagon lines occupied prior to the Rest Term, and located as follows:	

H.Q.



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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES.	1918.			
	MAR.		<del>WEATH</del> Headquarters and 1st. Section on the main BAILLEUL-ARMENTIERES ROAD, near turn-off to the Village of LA CRECHE. 2nd. Section at SPALDING Camp near the STEENWERCK RAILHEAD. S.A.A. Section at PONT d'ACHELLES.	
			2ND. AUST. D.A.C. exchanged wagon lines with the 3RD. AUST. D.A.C.	
	12TH.		Capt. COLLINGS, M.C., 2 N.C.Os., and 7 Other Ranks took over ROMARIN DUMP from the 3RD. AUST. D.A.C. at noon	
	Tues.		2 N.C.Os. and 7 Other Ranks relieved personnel of the 3RD. AUST. DIV. AM. COL. at DOU DOU DUMP.	
			S.A.A. section supplied 12 G.S. limbered wagons with drivers, teams, and equipment for attachment to Party at DOU DOU DUMP.	
	(ctd.)		AMMUNITION-All boxed 18 pdr and 4.5 how. amtn dumped by 3RD. AUST. D.A.C. at new wagon lines taken over.	
			Complete shading of all camp lights after nightfall ordered.	
			1 O/R. posted to 2ND. SECTION from H.Q.	
			Notified in current Col. R.O. that each man must be in possession of 50 rds S.A.A.	
			2 G.S. wagons with 2ND. D.T.M.B. for conveyance of equipment to NIEPPE.	
			Commendatory- The following communication from 2ND. AUST. D.A. H.Q. -12-3-18- republished in current Col. R.O. for general information-	
			" Information has been received that one of our officers, and also one of our men, who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the enemy, were interrogated by the Germans with the object of obtaining military information from them. Both the officer and the man resolutely refused to give any information whatever. In the case of the officer all the Germans could learn from him was his name. In the case of the man nothing more could be got from him except an expression of the pride which he felt in his Battalion. A very fine example has been set by the behaviour of these officer and man under trying conditions, and their keen sense of honor and duty will be appreciated by their comrades."	
			STRENGTH-2ND. AUST. D.A. H.Q. MEMO T 34/19 notified that approval has been given for the strength of AUST. F.A. UNITS being brought up to 10% in excess of establishment in gunners, drivers, and signallers.	
			Musketry instructors, temporarily detached from Infantry Units, returned to their respective Units.	



## or

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE-SPALDING CAMP-PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.		3 O/R EVACUATED to Hospital.	
	Mar. 16TH Sat.		3 " taken on strength from BASE. Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C. attached to 4TH. A.F.A.B. as T/Cdr. of 10TH BATTERY, during absence on duty of Major R.W. HORE. Lectures on Salvage- 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q. Memo of even date directed the arrangement of lectures by N.C.Os. and men of the parties that had visited the VALDELIEURE SALVAGE DEPOT, CALAIS in the course of the Res period. Orders issued accordingly. Dripping Return-Quantity forwarded-140lb; on hand 45lb. AMMUNITION-With Echelons:- On hand-1367 A; 2225 AX; 1368 BX; 941,000 S.A.A.; 2684 Pist. Web.; 5520 Grenades. Receipts- 1 A; 7 AX. Issues- Nil. Training of ANTI-TANK Gun Detachments commenced under Lieut. ROBERTS in 1ST SECTION Lines. 1 NYSSER Hut delivered and erected at SPALDING CAMP, 2ND. SECTION. 2 G.S. Wagons on wood fatigue with 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q.; 6 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 2 4-mule teams log hauling; 10 G.S. Wagons on transport duty with 15TH. COY AASC., STEENWERCK RAILHEAD. ANTI-TANK Guns (15 Pdrs.) and Detachments proceeded to gun positions forward.	
	17TH. Sun.		WEATHER-Frosty, misty, bright and clear overhead. Mild Springlike conditions prevail. Wind light from W.S.W. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 665. Animals- Riders 73, mules 646. Transport-No Alteration. Lieut. C.G. ROBERTS, in addition to Regtl duties, directed to take over control of Divl Baths at PONT d'ACHELLES from Lieut. HEATH on 18th. Lieut. HEATH, on relief, reported for duty with 2ND. SECTION. Lieut. W.B. MacDONALD directed to take over command of ROMARIN DUMP from Lieut. HEARNE, at noon, on 18th. inst. 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/R attached for duty with 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q. 1 O/R taken on strength from Hospital. 283 B.Q.M.S. UNDERHILL, P., S.A.A. SECTION, transferred to H.Q. for duty.	



# WAR DIARY

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
LA CRECHE - SPALDING - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.			
	Mar.			
	17TH.			
	Sun.		9112 Sgt. WAUGH, G.T. appointed to temporarily attend to the duties of Q.M.S., S.A.A. SECTION, vice UNDERHILL posted to H.Q. 1 G.S. Wagon on Canteen fatigue; 6 on sanitary duty, BAILLEUL; three 4-mule teams log hauling; 1 on loan to 4TH.A.F.A.B. 8 O/R detailed for duty at DIV. ARTY BATHS, PONT d'ACHELLES, commencing 18th.	
	18TH.		WEATHER-Mild, bright, clear. Clouded later with prospect of rain. Wind very light from W. and S.W. Night overcast.	
	Mon.		Australian Comforts Funds Distribution- 5½ cases and 4 parcels containing foodstuffs, and primus stoves received and distributed pro rata amongst H.Q. and Sections. 1 O/R taken on strength from 5TH.A.F.A.B. 1 " " " " Hospital. 1 " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			The Village of NIEPPE placed out of bounds to all troops on account of intensity of enemy shellfire.	
			1 G.S. wagon on fuel transport; 6 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 3 4-mule teams log hauling; 2 G.S.W on transport duty to BAILLEUL.	
			7 Gunners of S.A.A. SECTION relieved a like number of 2ND. SECTION at ROMARIN Dump.	
			2 N.C.Os and 18 Gunners temporarily attached as a working party to 4TH BDE to assist in preparing gun positions etc.	
			2 N.C.Os and 18 Gunners 2ND. SECTION temporarily attached to 5TH. BDE for similar duty.	
			S.A.A. SECTION collected S.A.A. from DOU DOU DUMP sufficient to complete establishment.	
			18 Remounts (mules) distributed as follows:-S.A.A. SECTION 7; 1ST. SECTION 6; 2ND. SECTION 5.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-17-3-18-Received 1729 A; 2403 AX; 450 BX. Issued-500 15-pdr.; 125 A.	



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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.		WEATHER-Mild. Heavy rain in morning. Light to heavy rain continued through outday and evening. Wind light from S.W. veered to N. and freshened.	
	Mar.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officer 21 O/R 666. Animals- Riders 73, mules 646.	
	19TH.		Transport-Unaltered.	
	Tues.		1 O/R evacuated to Hospital while on English Leave. 2 " accidentally injured and evacuated to Hospital 3 " sick evacuated to Hospital.	
			Vaccination-Section Cdrs directed in current Column R.O. in terms of G.R.O. 5585-12-3-18- to ensure that men bear satisfactory marks of vaccination before submitting names for leave approval.	
			DISPOSAL OF HORSE MANURE-Aust. Corps R.O. No. 73 of 18-3-18 contained <del>444-</del> directions: as to the disposal of horse manure. The order <del>was</del>	
			reminded all of the extent to which manure heaps became the breeding place of flies, and directed the use of every effort to neutralise insect breeding grounds by (1) burning manure, and (2) close packing same in regular heaps 10 ft. square and 5 ft. high.	
			Salvage of Rubber-Aust. Corps R.O. 79 of 18-3-18 contained following: "Increased individual effort is required to salvage rubber which is urgently required at home, and is worth £160 per ton at present. "It is reported that 1000lb of scrap rubber from lorry tyres were picked up in a little less than a fortnight by road repair parties in two Corps Areas."	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Defective-129 A; 3 AX; Received-1450 chgs BX. Issued; 1440 Ax; 160 106-AX; 900 BX; 1800 Chgs BX; 900 106-BX.	
	20TH.		WEATHER-Raining heavily. Moderated later to light sprinkle. Wind light to fresh from N. veering to N.W.	
	Wed.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 689. Animals- Riders 73, mules 664. Transport-Unaltered.	
			1 O/R Second Section posted to Headquarters.	

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PONT d'ACHELLES.  SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES.  STENWERCK AREA  LA CRECHE	1918.		<u>Dripping Salvage</u> - The following Para. published in Column R.O. of even date, directed attention to the possibility of improving dripping returns, and enjoined continued strict economy.	
	March		4 O/R evacuated to Hospital.	
	20TH.		2 " taken on strength from Hospital.	
	Wed.		5 " rejoined Unit through BASE.	
			3I Reinforcements joined Unit through BASE. All had previously been members of the Formation.	
			1 N.C.O. transferred to the 5TH.A.F.A.B.	
			1 G.S.Wagon on Canteen fatigue; 6 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 3 4-mule teams log hauling.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP- Received 100 TMG; 100 fuzes TMG.; 100 Charges TMG. Issued-1600 A; 800 AX; 1200 BX; 1800 Chgs BX; 600 106-BX.	
			WEATHER-Mild, Springlike, ground mist, bright and clear overhead. Wind very light from W. and S.W.	
	21ST.		DAILY STRENGTH- Personnel- Officers 21, O/R 633.	
	Thur.		Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.	
			Transport- Unaltered.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP- Received-100 TMG.; 100 Fuzes TMG.; 100 Chgs TMG.; 1248 AP.; 1920 Tracer.	
			Issued-100 TMG.; 100 Fuzes TMG.; 100 Chgs TMG.;	
			DRIPPING RETURN-Dripping returned to FOURTH ARMY Railhead by AUST. CORPS in the course of month of February: AUST. CORPS TROOPS 4521 lbs; 1ST. AUST. DIV.-10,941lb.; 2ND. AUST. DIV.-5,081lb.; 3RD. AUST. DIV.-14,097 lb.; 4TH. AUST. DIV.-13,065 lbs.; 5TH. AUST. DIV.-39,152lbs. Closer attention to the recovery of fat enjoined in current R.O. Col.	
			Bathing Parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths.	
			Enemy Shelling-The following direction appeared in current Col. R.O.: Units will notify the French Mission at DIVISIONAL H.Q. by wire as soon as any French Town, Village, or Billet is shelled by the enemy with danger to the Civil Population. They will later advise by memo the approximate number	

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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEINWERCK AREA.	1918.		and size of shells, damage done to billets, or other buildings; also particulars of casualties amongst civilians.	
	Mar.		2 O/R posted to H.Q. from IST. SECTION. from H.Q.	
	21ST.		5 " " to H.Q. from IST. SECTION for duty.	
	Thur.		2/Lieut. BEVAN, in addition to Regtl duties, directed to control the DIV. ARTY Baths, PONT d'ACHELLES.	
	(ctd.)		Paper Salvage- 6 bags (oatbags).	
			Battle Casualty- Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C., S.A.A. SECTION, temporarily commanding 10TH. BATTERY, gassed.	
			3 G.S. wagons on loan to Batteries; 6 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 3 4-mule teams loghauling	
	Mar.		WEATHER- Mild, light ground mist, bright and clear overhead. Wind from W. very light veering to N.W.	
	22ND.		DAILY STRENGTH- Personnel- Officers 21, O/R 686. Animals- Riders 73, mules 663.	
	Fri.		Transport- Unaltered.	
			AMMUNITION- ROMARIN DUMP- Received- Nil. Issued- nil.	
			Bathing parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths.	
			Inquiry- A Board of Officers consisting of Lieut. COE. DAVIDSON, V.D., D.S.O., President, Capt. MITCHELL and JUSTELIUS, Members, assembled at H.Q. 2ND. AUST. D.A.C., at 10-30 a.m. for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances under which a mule belonging to IST. SECTION was alleged to have been left behind at REMILLY-WERQUIN.	
			2 Signallers transferred to 5TH. A.F.A.B.	
			5 " " " 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			3 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital.	
			1 " " taken on strength from Hospital.	
			1 " " " " IST. AUST. CYCLIST BN.	
			Battle Casualty- Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C., evacuated to Hospital, gassed.	
			Winter Clothing- 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. Memo asked opinion of C.O. on the subject of winter clothing, its suitability or otherwise; also any recommendations in regard thereto. The C.O. minuted opinion that existing scale was satisfactory.	

scale and L. issued to 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. quite satisfactory.



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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT D'ACHELLES. STEINWERCK AREA.	1918.		Water and Sanitary Details-Adm.memo No.196 indicated that water and sanitary details should be utilised solely for their special work.The C.O. reported (a) that Unit had full complement of N.C.Os an men for the duties referred to, and who were at the disposal of the R.M.O. and under his orders. (b) That full attention is being given to sanitary and water matters, cleanliness of personnel, billets, and camp generally. (c) That arrangements had been made for short lectures on the subjects specified by the R.M.O.	
	Mar.			
	22ND.			
	Fri.			
	(ctd.)		Sanitation-Adm.Memo., 2ND.AUST.DIV.No.195 of 18-3-18 pointed out (a) the necessity of devoting particular attention to sanitation, (b) the necessity for destroying all breeding places for flies, and keeping camps clean generally; (c) calling attention to unsatisfactory sanitary condition of areas adjoining some camps within the Area; (d) Reminding Unit Cdrs that Units are responsible for the sanitation of adjacent areas as well as the ground actually covered by camps; and (e) calling for a report on systematic methods adopted respecting the laws of sanitation.	
			AMMUNITION-With Echelons;- 1368 A; 2232 AX; 1368 BX; 941,000 S.A.A.; 2684 Pists.Web.; 5520 grenades.	
			WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN-Actually with Unit-16 Off., 530 O/R.; Sick in DIV. AREA-3 O/R.; On leave etc.-3 Off., 151 O/R.; Total strength-19 OFF., 684 O/R.; War Est.-15 Off., 656 O/R.; Required to complete-Nil; Excess of Est. 4 Officers, 28 Other Ranks.	
			DRIPPING RETURN-Approx.quantity forwarded 209 lbs. On hand 301b.	
	23RD.		WEATHER-Mild, ground mist, fine and clear overhead. Wind very light from NW	
	Sat.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers-21, Other Ranks 676. Animals- Riders 73, mules 664. Transport-Unaltered. AMMUNITION- ROMARIN DUMB-Received nil; Issued nil. Bathing parade of personnel at PONT D'ACHELLES Baths. 8 Other Ranks taken on strength from Hospital. 2 " " " evacuated to hospital. 2 " " " 2ND SECTION posted to H.Q. for duty.	

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PONT d'ACHELLES.  SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES AREA.  STEENWERCK  LA CEECHE	1918.		31 Other Ranks transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.	
	Mar.		2 Sanitary Orderlies detailed to attend 4 days' School of Instruction at B.3.c.I.5. (Sheet 36) near PONT d'ACHELLES from 25th.inst.to 28th.	
	23RD.		10 G.S.wagons on transport duty with 15TH.ASC.STEENWERCK RAILHEAD.	
	Sat.		6 " " " sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 3 4-mule teams log hauling.	
	(ctd.)			
	24TH.		WEATHER-Sunny, calm, light ground mist, mild. Night moonlit and clear. Wind very light from N.W. to W.	
	Sun.		Bathing parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths. Church Parades for H.Q. and Sections (C.E. and R.C.)	
			8 Gunners of S.A.A.SECTION transferred to 2ND.D.T.M.B.	
			5 Other Ranks taken on strength from Hospital.	
			I " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			I G.S.wagon on loan to 4TH.BDE.; 6 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 3 4-mule teams log hauling.	
			2 15 Pdr.B.L.Guns, with stores, collected from 23RD.MOBILE Workshop.	
			DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 664.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Received 100 Chgs.BX.Issued-8 BSK.	
			Reduction of Surplus Equipment- In readiness for move to another Area all surplus kit ordered to be stored. Kit and baggage to be reduced to the authorised scale.	
	25TH.		WEATHER-Winty, dull, threatening rain, cold. Wind fresh from N. Light rain.	
	Mon.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 657.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Received-1000 AX; 800 AX; 200 106-AX; 2000 BX; 2000 BX Chgs; Issued-1600 AX; 1350 BX; 1800 BX Chgs; 450 106Bx, 100 TMG.; 100 Fuze T.M.G.; 100 Chgs TMG.;	
			Bathing Parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths.	







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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.		WEATHER- Frosty, bright clear overhead, Cold wind from N.E. moderate in force.	
	Mar.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R. 659.	
	26TH.		Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
	Tues.		AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Nil return.	
			Bathing parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths.	
			Winter clothing returned to store.	
			2 G.S. wagons on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 2 on loan to Batteries; 3 4-mule teams loghauling.	
			Copies of "Directions for the Use of Anti-Gas Horse Respirator" dated 1-6-17 issued to Section Commanders. Copy appended.	
			Alarm Posts- Current Col. R.O. directed Section Cdrs to at once establish Alarm Posts in Section Lines. Usual "Alarm" directions issued, and rehearsals also directed.	
			All business places in the Village of NIEPPE placed out of bounds.	
			14 Reinforcements taken on strength from BASE. Included were six of a recent Australian draft.	
			2 O/R. evacuated to Hospital.	
			2 " taken on strength from Hospital.	
			1 " evacuated to Hospital whilst on leave in ENGLAND.	
			3 G.S. wagons at DE KENNEBAK R.E. DUMP, transporting R.E. material; 1 on fatigue- <sup>u</sup>	
			2 with Bdes; 6 with ARMY TROOPS COY A.E.	
			15 Pdr. Gun Detachments continue training at H.Q. under Lieut. A. ROBERTS.	
	27TH.		WEATHER-Unsettled, prospects of change, grey day. Wind moderate from S. and S. <sup>W</sup> .	
	Wed.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R 675.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			6 G.S. wagons on duty with ARMY CORPS TROOPS, 2 sanitary duty BAILLEUL, 3 4-mule teams log hauling; 1 on fuel fatigue;	
			Bathing Parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES BATHS.	



or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.			
	Mar.			
	27TH.		Enemy Air-plane Landings-G.H.Q. Letter (1b), 665I-2I-3-18, copy of which received, advised necessity for continued vigilance regarding aeroplanes making unexpected landings at unusual times and places. Observers of incident in the event of any such landing, enjoined to satisfy themselves that the air craft is not hostile, and that alighting airmen's representations are correct.	
	Wed.		Lewis Gun School-Lieut. SALMON, 4TH. A.F.A.B., attached to 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. for on week, commencing 28th. inst., for the purpose of training personnel in use Lewis Guns. 2 N.C.Os detailed from each Section (Bdrs or A/Bdrs) and 6 gunners to report daily at 2 a.m. for training.	
	(etc.)		I O/R taken on strength from Hospital.	
			I " evacuated to Hospital.	
			I G.S. wagon on fuel fatigue, 6 with ARMY TROOPS COY A.E.; 2 on sanitary duty, BAILLEUL; 3 at DE KENNELBAK R.E. DUMP.	
	28TH.		WEATHER-Colder, prospects of rain. Steady rain set in later, becoming intermittent in course of night. Cold wind moderate from S.E. veering to S. and S.S.W.	
	Thur.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21 O/R 676. Animals- Riders 73, mules 664. Transport-Unaltered.	
			Bathing parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES BATHS. Lecture by R.M.O. The Regtl Med. Officer lectured to 1ST SECTION on Sanitation and the prevention of V.D. ALL ranks available in attendance. The dumping of manure at ARMY FARM Dump discontinued. Local arrangements made for disposal of manure by Section Cdrs. Surplus kits collected and stored for removal to DIVISIONAL Store. One blanket only allowed to be retained by personnel. Lieut. SALMON, 4TH. A.F.A.B., temporarily attached for duty. I O/R " " " " " " Instructions issued respecting rations in the event of order being received to move to another area. WEEKLY HEALTH REPORT-The R.M.O. reported as follows:-Health of Unit-good; water D. D. L. London, E.C. (A7883) Wt W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14	



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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918. Mar. 28TH. Thur. (ctd.)		<p>Latrines and urine absorption pits satisfactory; cooking arrangements satisfactory, and disposal of refuse complete; prevailing diseases nil; No. of reinforcements 51, men bathed 450, men received clean clothes 450.</p> <p><u>Water Tin carrying devices</u>- The following devices for carrying water tins approved for G.S. Limbered Wagons:- An iron frame-work screwed on to leading end of rear limber, the bottom of which made of angle-iron to support tins; an ordinary piece of flat iron to fit round top of tins to prevent "play". Indents to be submitted immediately and all G.S. Limbered wagons of Unit to be fitted with water tin carriers.</p> <p><u>Enemy Mustard Gas Containers</u>-Letter from 2ND.ARM.Y "I" to AUST.CORPS "I" 23/3/I referring to "Times" report that mustard gas in rubber containers had been dropped from German aeroplanes in the AMERICAN ARMY Area, and that similar cases occurring in Area had been reported, and asking that, if so, specimens of empty containers of whatever material composed be forwarded, if found, urgently to Army H.Q. for examination.</p> <p>AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Nil return. S.A.A. SECTION drew 73,000 rds of S.A.A. from DOU DOU DUMP to complete establishment; also 2000 rds of pist.web. 1 G.S.wagon with 4TH.A.F.A.B.H.Q.; 2 on sanitary duty BAILLEUL; 6 at DE KENNE-BAK. R.E.DUMP.</p> <p><u>Remittance of Sentences</u>-CORPS Cdr remitted sentences of all men undergoing punishment in F.P.Compounds.</p>	
	29TH. Fri.		<p>WEATHER-Cold, unsettled, intermittent light rain. Wind fresh and squally from W</p> <p>DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, Other Ranks 680.</p> <p>Animals- Riders 73, mules 664.</p> <p>Transport-Unaltered.</p> <p>AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Received 492 15 Pdr. Issued-800 A; 1600 AX; 900 BX; 900 BX Chgs;</p> <p>Bathing parade of personnel at PONT d'ACHELLES Baths.</p> <p>1 O/R evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>1 " taken on strength from Hospital.</p> <p>2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q. advised the closure, temporarily, of all schools and the cancellation of instructions respecting the attendance of personnel.</p>	

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LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.		2 G.S.wagons at 4TH.A.F.A.B.H.Q.; 6 at DE KENNEBAK DUMP; 2 at 5TH.BDE H Machine Gun Return@- Three Lewis Guns. Paper Salvage- Paper 170 lb., Cardboard 40 lb.	
	Mar.		AMMUNITION RETURN-With Echelons-I368 A;2232 AX;I368 BX;I,014,000 SAA.; 1348 A.P.;2720 Tracer; 3200 pist.Web.;	
	29TH.		5520 Grenades.	
	Fri.		WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN-Actually with Unit-15 Officers,556 O/R;Sick in DIV.AREA-D O/R.; Leave etc.-3 Officers,121 O/R.; Total Strength-18 Off., 678 O/R.; War Est.-15 Officers,656 O/R.; Required to complete-nil;Excess of Establishment-3 Officers,22 O/R.	
			S.A.A.AMMUNITION-300 rds AP.,and 600 rds Tracer issued respectively to 4TH.and 5TH.Brigades.	
			Valedictory-Special R.O.659 (Column) published by C.O.,Lieut.Colonel W.J.S.DAVIDSON,D.S.O.,V.D.;-Text#The General Officer Commanding has granted permission for my return to AUSTRALIA on urgent private business. / Before leaving I desire to express my best thanks to all Officers and N.C.Os and Men who have been associated with me during my command for their hearty support and co-operation on all occasions With every good wish to one and all,Yours Fraternally, W.J.S.DAVIDSON,Lieut.Colonel,Commanding 2ND.AUST.D.A.C."	
			I O/R.evacuated to Hospital.	
			I " taken on strength from Hospital.	
	30TH.		WEATHER-Fine,ground mist,sky overcast later with rain threatening. Wind fresh and squally from N.veering to N.W. then round to S.W.	
	Sat.		Heavy rain late afternoon followed by intermittent showers. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21,O/R.680. Animals- Riders 73,mules 664. Transport-Unaltered.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Received-Nil. Issued-500 15 Pdr.;3800 A.; 1400 AX; 1350 BX;1350 BX Chgs.	
			10 G.S.wagons with Brigades transporting surplus kits to MERRIS Area. Baggage Guards supplied by 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.	



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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STERNWERCK AREA.	1918.		<u>Inquiry</u> -Court of Inquiry consisting of Capt.JUSTELIUS,President,Lieuts SHERRINGTON,and PATTISON,Members,assembled atHeadquarters at 10 a.m. for the purpose of inquiring into,and reporting upon the loss of a mule belonging toS.A.A.SECTION,on 23rd.inst.	
	Mar.			
	30TH.		<u>Relinquishment of Command</u> -Lieut.Colonel W.J.S.DAVIDSON,D.S.O.,V.D., relinquished the command of the SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN on proceeding to A.I.F.H.Q.LONDON-30-3-13.(Authority D.A.R.O. No.208 30-3-18)	
	Sat.			
	(ctd.)		<u>Appointment</u> -Major J.RAY,D.S.O.appointed to command 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.vice Lieut.Colonel W.J.S.DAVIDSON,D.S.O.,V.D.to A.I.F.H.Q.,LONDON 30-3-18. (Authority D.A.R.O. No.208,30-3-18)	
			9112 Sgt.WAUGH G.T.,S.A.A.SECTION,to be T/B.Q.M.S.	
			2 Troopers taken on strength as gunners from 13TH.LIGHT HORSE REGT.	
			6 GS.wagons at DE KENNEBAK DUMP,I with AUST.ENGNRS; I on fuel fatigue.	
			I mule collected from AUST.M.V.S.	
			Sections adjusted ammunition with Echelons to establishment of 50% A,and 50% AX.	
LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STERNWERCK AREA.	31ST.		<u>WEATHER</u> -Fine,clouded later threatening rain. Wind moderate from S.W.to N.W. Light rain.	
			I O/R posted to 1ST SECTION from H.Q.	
	Sun.		I " transferred to 5TH.A.F.A.B.; 2 evacuated to Hospital; 2 taken on strength from Hospital.	
			I G.S.Wagon on transport duty to MERRIS AREA;I with 5TH BDE.	
			<u>DAILY STRENGTH RETURN</u> - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 21,683 O/R.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 75,mules 665.	
			<u>Transport</u> -Unaltered.	
			<u>AMMUNITION</u> ROMARIN DUMP-Received-432 AX;900 BX;900 BX Chgs;100 TMG.;100	
			Fuzes TMG.;100TMG Chgs. Issued-216 A.;216 AX;	

*[Handwritten signature]*



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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			2ND.AUST.DIVL AMMTN COLUMN- <u>OFFICERS' NOMINAL ROLL.</u>	
			<u>HEADQUARTERS</u> -Major J.RAY,D.S.O. C.O.	
			Major V.F.CROWE,A.A.M.C. R.M.O.	
			Lieut.G.H.NUNN ADJT.	
			<u>1ST.SECTION</u> - Capt.S.C.LEWIS O.C.	
			Lieut.A.C.SHERRINGTON	
			Lieut.J.DALY (Tempy detached)	
			2/Lt.C.F.EKENSTEEN	
			Lieut.C.G.F.CAMPBELL (Anti-Tank G.)	
			Chap.The Rev.D.P.MACDONALD (Pres.)	
			<u>2ND.SECTION</u> - Capt.E.R.JUSTELIUS O.C.	
			Lieut.W.B.MacDONALD (Romarin Dump)	
			Lieut.C.L.HEATH	
			2/Lt.A.D.PATTISON	
			Lieut.A.ROBERTS (Anti-Tank Guns)	
			2/Lt.G.H.MOSS	
			Chap.The Rev.A.W.TONGE (C.E.)	
			<u>SPAA SECTION</u> -Capt.J.M.MITCHELL O.C.	
			Capt.R.COLLINGS (Hosptl gassed)	
			Lieut.E.T.HEARNE	
			Lieut.C.G.ROBERTS (Anti-Tank Guns)	
			2/Lt.J.M.BEVAN.	
			1st.April, 1918.	



## WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

MARCH

191<sup>8</sup>.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	SUMMARY.
2.	R.M.O.'s MONTHLY SUMMARY.
3.	CAUSATION OF TRENCH FEVER.
4.	COOKING METHODS AND APPLIANCES.
5.	HORSE FODDER.
6.	* EDUCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME.
7.	* ANTI-GAS HORSE RESPIRATOR.

\* Contained in original file only.



## WAR DIARY.

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## APPENDIX NO. I.

MARCH, 1918.

## SUMMARY.

MOVEMENT- The 2ND. AUST. DIV. AMMUNITION COLUMN commenced march from ALQUINES REST AREA on return to the FORWARD AREA on Friday, March 8th. In accordance with 2ND. AUST. D. A. Order No. 80 of 4-3-18, and Adm. Memo No. 39 of 5-3-18, the Column vacated wagon lines at REBERQUES, ROUGEMONT, and FOUXOLLES, and passed starting point "T" Road Junction, HAZEBROUCK-3.a.o.2.II at 8-25 a.m. Order of march-H.Q., S.A. SECTION, 1ST. SECTION, 2ND. SECTION. Strict march discipline was maintained en route. The route taken passed through Villages of HAUTE PANNEE, QUERCAMP, ALQUIN, Town of LUMBRES, Villages of ELNES, WAVRANS to

the lines at REMILLY-WERQUIN occupied by the Column on its march out to the REST AREA a month before. On the 9th. the march was resumed via WIZERNES to ARQUES where a halt for the night was made. Resuming on the 10th the Column marched to halting places assigned in the MERRIS AREA near the Villages of OUTERSTEENE and STEENTJE. On Tuesday, 12th. March, the march was continued via LA CRECHE to the wagon lines formerly occupied in the STEENWERCK AREA, the Column relieving the 3RD. AUST. D. A. C. Relief was completed at noon. H.Q. and 1ST. SEC. taking over lines in GALWALLY CAMP on the main BAILLEUL-ARM-ENTIERES Road near the Village of LA CRECHE. The 2ND. SEC. located at SPALDING CAMP, near the STEENWERCK RAILHEAD; and S.A.A. SECTION occupied lines at CAWNPORE CAMP, adjacent to the Village of PONT d'ACHELLES. Immediately on relief active operations were entered upon.

ACTIVE OPERATIONS- Ammunition Dump working parties, with necessary plant, relieved personnel of the 3RD. AUST. D. A. C. at ROMARIN DUMP, and DOU DOU DUMPS. As formerly delivery of ammunition forward to gunpits was made by DECAUVILLE Light Railway, and the system adopted when formerly in the Sector, and described in Appendix No. I of the Column War Diary for January, 1918.

Working parties were sent forward to assist Brigade personnel in the construction of gun-pits, and other necessary work in connection with a scheme for improving Area defences. The fullest use possible was made of available man-power in the several directions where the application of concentrated energy became necessary. G.S. wagons were constantly and fully employed on Area transport duties, including special work in the Town of BAILLEUL, and log hauling for Army sawmills, also the conveyance of Trench Mortar equipment and R.E. material to the front line.

During the term the Column was maintained in a state of complete preparedness for any possible emergency. Kits and baggage were reduced to the minimum, and the Formation kept ready for marching out on short notice.

Enemy activity was greater than previously experienced on this Sector. Back areas were regularly shelled, also areas adjacent to the several camps of the Column. Personnel of the Column were often on duty under shell-fire, fortunately without loss.

CHANGE OF COMMAND- On the 29th. inst. the C.O., Lieut. Colonel W. J. S. DAVIDSON, D.S.O., V.D. received notice of his transfer to A.I.F. HEADQUARTERS, LONDON, and on the following day he relinquished the command of the Formation. On the same day Major J. RAY, D.S.O., of the 5TH. A. F. A. BRIGADE, was taken on strength and assumed command. (Authority-D.A.R.O., No. 208-30-3-18.)

PERSONNEL- Officers-Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C., S.A.A. SECTION, while temporarily in command of 10TH BATTERY, became a battle casualty, (gassed) on the 22nd, and was evacuated to Hospital on the following day. 2/Lieuts G. H. MOSS, and J. M. BEVAN were taken on strength ex ST. JOHN'S WOOD Cadet School, and posted to 2ND, and S.A.A. Sections respectively. Lieut. SALMON, 5TH. A. F. A. BDE, was



attached temporarily as LEWIS Gun Instructor. Lieut. J. DALY was temporarily detached on his taking over the duties of CORPS AMMUNITION RAILHEAD Officer. Lieuts C.G.F. CAMPBELL, A. ROBERTS, and C.G. ROBERTS were taken on strength and appointed Anti-Tank Gun Officers. The R.M.O., Major V.F. CROWE attended a 10 days' course at 15TH.C.C.S. commencing on the 10th. Inst. On the 3rd. inst. 2/Lieuts. F.C. POSTLE, and J.R. MARRIOTT were transferred to the 4TH.A.F.A.BDE; and 2/Lieuts. J.W. FENTON, and G.M. MUIRHEAD were transferred to the 5TH.A.F.A.Bde. Major J. RAY, D.S.O., came on strength as Commanding Officer on the 30th.

Other Ranks- 196 Other Ranks were taken on strength in the course of the month, of whom 163 came as reinforcements from BASE, 2 were transferred from 13TH.L.H., 1 from 1ST. CYCLIST CORPS, 3 from 5TH. A.F.A.B., and 27 rejoined from Hospital. Transferred- 147 Other Ranks were transferred to Batteries, of whom 78 went to the 4TH. Bde, 45 to the 5TH. Bde, and 24 to 2ND. D.T.M.B.. 32 Other Ranks were evacuated to Hospital.

TRAINING- The usual quota of signallers were sent to the DIVL SIGNAL School. 8 Gun Detachments (D.A.C. Gunners) were trained, under Lieut. ROBERTS in the handling of 15-Pdr. B.L.G. as an anti-tank weapon, and were subsequently detailed to man the guns in their forward positions. A class in the mechanism and use of LEWIS Guns was conducted at Headquarters by Lieut. SALMON. Three L.Gs. are now on issue to the Column. On 24th. inst. all CORPS Schools of Instruction were closed, and personnel in attendance returned to their respective Units.

HEALTH- The health of the Unit continues satisfactory. The R.M.O.'s monthly summary is appended.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND- Cases of foodstuffs were received from The Australian Comforts Fund and distributed pro rata amongst H.Q. and Sections.

SALVAGE AND ECONOMY- In the course of the month lectures were delivered to men of H.Q. and Sections on the importance of salvage work and the prevention of waste, by N.C.Os. and men who had been sent to the VALDELIEURE SALVAGE AND BY-PRODUCTS DEPOT, CALAIS, for the purpose of noting the methods and means adopted there for salvaging and renovating derelict war material. Rigid economy was prescribed and practised in every department.

*E.H.L.*



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

WAR DIARY.

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APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX NO. 2.

MARCH, 1918.

REGIMENTAL AID POST ATTACHED 2ND. AUST.  
D.A.C., -MARCH WAR DIARY SUMMARY OF-

At the beginning of the month the Column was situated in the Rest Area, but left there on the 28th. During the five days travelling into the present position one man was evacuated on account of an injury. On arrival in the forward area the Sections took up the same positions as they had occupied in January, viz: Headquarters and the FIRST SECTION in GALWALLY Lines on the BAILLEUL-ARMENTIERES Road. SECOND SECTION in SPALDING CAMP, near the STEENWERCK Railway Station, and the S.A.A. SECTION in CAWNPORE Lines near PONT d'ACHELLES.

On the 10th. inst. the R.M.O. proceeded to a School at the 15TH C.C.S. and remained there for ten days. During that time his place was taken by visiting M.Os from the 5TH. Field Ambulance.

Under this system it was found that evacuations were considerably more numerous. During the 6 weeks prior to the departure of the R.M.O. only 19 men had been evacuated, and yet, in ten days 20 men of the Unit were admitted to Field Ambulance, of whom 9 have already returned to duty.

It has been shown in the fortnightly table issued from the A.D.M.S. of this Division that both in action and at rest (Where Brigades A.F.A. and the 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. were living under exactly similar conditions) men are only evacuated from this Unit when absolutely necessary.

For the whole month thirty two cases were evacuated. These included one Rheumatism (already returned to duty), 3 Respiratory Ailments (all returned to duty), 3 V.D., 1 P.U.O., 1 Trench Fever (recurrence), 9 Scabies (of whom 2 were recurrences, and seven have returned to duty) 1 Measles (returned to duty), and 13 other cases.

No case of Diarrhoea was evacuated. Of the recurrent case of Scabies, one man has been evacuated four times with this disease, and it would seem that he has been infecting other men of the Unit as 2 other cases are proved to have been in close contact with him.

Since moving to the present position the 16TH. and 17TH. BATTERY Wagon lines A.F.A. have been treated at this Post, as were also the 2ND. A.D.M.T. Coy, and the AUST CORPS R.E. DUMP.

Civilian practice has been flourishing and details of treatment supplied have been rendered weekly. So far every case has been successfully treated.

The health of the Unit is distinctly good, and with the possible exception of Scabies there has been no prevalence of any disease.

(Sgd) V.F. CROWE, Major.

R.M.O.

2ND. AUST. D.A.C.

In the Field.  
1st. April, 1918.




WAR --- O --- DIARY.

APPENDIX

3

APPENDIX NO.3.MARCH, 1918.

THE CAUSATION OF TRENCH FEVER-  
INTERIM REPORT BY WAR OFFICE  
COMMITTEE ON-.

---

" Two experiments in regard to the Trench Fever Problem had already been successful. One by rubbing into the skin a few broken up lice which had fed on Trench Fever Cases, and the second by rubbing into a scarified spot on the skin a little of the dried excreta of lice which had been fed on Trench Fever Cases. At that time, as there were only two experiments, the matter could not be held to be proved.

About the 22nd. February a strong feeling existed that the infection of cases of Trench Fever by means of the louse would be proved, and that it would be a good thing to start at once the collection of statistics in order to get some idea as to the number of those cases which are invalided to ENGLAND, and which are treated at the Base in FRANCE.

At that time three further experiments on the rubbing in of lice excreta were in progress. This morning two of these cases are positive.

We can now therefore look upon one and probably the most important, method of the spread of Trench Fever as being due to lice.

We think that, as this matter is now proved, there ought to be no delay in starting an energetic campaign against lice in our Armies".

WAR OFFICE.  
28th. February, 1918.

(Sgd.) W. SHEPHERD, Colonel.

A.D.M.S.  
2ND. AUST. DIVISION.

REFERENCE PAMPHLET-

"The Louse Problem at the Western Front."  
D.G.M.S. Circular Memo. No. 16-23/7/16.

*E. H.*



WAR ---o--- DIARY.

APPENDIX 4

APPENDIX No. 4

MARCH, 1918.

IMPROVEMENT OF COOKING METHODS AND  
APPLIANCES. ADM. MEMO. NO. 193.

With a view to improving the methods and appliances in the Cookery Departments of all Units throughout the Division a Messing N.C.O. has been appointed to inspect, and if necessary, demonstrate to Unit cooks in the best system of working and erection of ovens.

The Divisional Commander directs that full advantage should be taken of the appointment of this N.C.O. for improving the methods and appliances in the kitchens of all Units. Efficiency in the kitchen not only benefits the health of the men and add to their contentment but also means economy in rations, and absence of waste.

The importance of these cannot be overstated and every Unit Commander must satisfy himself that his kitchen is managed on the best possible lines.

The Cookery Instructor will commence a tour of inspection of the kitchens of all Units throughout the Division on the 10th. Inst, and will class each kitchen:-

- |     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| (a) | Good.        |
| (b) | Fair.        |
| (c) | Indifferent. |

On completion of this tour he will then concentrate his efforts in bringing (b) and (c) kitchens up to (a) standard.

The best patterns of stoves and ovens will be installed and the necessary kitchen appliances provided. It is to be understood that Units can at all times apply for the Cookery Instructor to help and advise, and he must keep in close touch with Unit Commanders. With this in view the N.C.O. has been instructed to furnish a report to the O.C. Unit after each visit.

He will forward a weekly report to the "Q" Branch to reach D.H.Q. by 9 a.m. on Sunday of each week summarising the work for the week.

He will see that all cooks have copies of the "Cooking in the Field" pamphlet issued by G.M.G. The N.C.O. will note the names of those cooks whom he recommends for a course at the 4TH. ARMY Cooking School when vacancies occur.

The appointment will be for a period of three months.

(Sgd.) W.J. WADDELL, Capt.  
for  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
2ND. AUST. DIV.

Reference-2ND. AUST. DIV.  
ADM. MEMO. NO. 193.

*E.H.*



WAR DIARY.

APPENDIX 5

APPENDIX No. 5

March, 1918.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM D.H.Q.  
ON THE SUBJECT OF HORSE  
FODDER. DATED 14-3-1918.

The necessity of practising the strictest economy in the rations for horses and mules still exists and Unit Commanders are requested to give this their attention. In the present area where the Light Railways afford splendid facilities for the transport of stores to the forward area there is not the same demand on horseflesh and in consequence many horses are not worked at all, whilst the majority receive light work only. Riding horses particularly are in some cases not working for days on end. They should therefore not require the full ration, particularly the oat portion whilst greater opportunity can be taken of the grazing available. The reduction of the ration will require careful consideration as it is not desired to reduce the ration at the expense of the horses condition, but if Transport Officers and personnel give the matter their attention a considerable saving can still be effected.

Chaffcutters have been issued to each Battery A.F.A. and Section D.A.C., also to each Company, A.S.C. as Unit equipment whilst the following issues have been made as Area stores:

5TH.AUST.INF.BDE	2	Chaffcutters.
6TH.AUST.INF.BDE	1	"
7TH.AUST.INF.BDE	2	"
A.D.M.S.	1	"
2ND.AUST.PIONEER BN.	1	"

Arrangements will be made by Brigades for their chaffcutters to be made available in turn to the Units under their command, to enable Units to obtain the full benefits from this equipment.

With a view to getting the full value of the hay fodder issued it is recommended that the following system be adopted in all Units. Coarse sieves made out of wire netting should be erected which would be 2½ feet from the floor over which the hay before being placed in the haynets is teased to allow seed, leaves and short pieces to fall through on to a tarpaulin. The seed, leaves, etc., will then be collected and placed in nose-bags, the coarser hay being placed in the nets. By this means much fodder now wasted could be utilised.

.....  
LIME WASHING OF STABLES. This work will continue. All stables within the Divisional Area will be lime-washed by the Unit in occupation. The necessary lime required will be obtained through the C.R.E.

(Sgd.) W.J. WADDELL, Capt.  
For Lieut. Colonel, A.A. & Q.M.G.  
2ND.AUST.DIVISION.

*W.J. Waddell*



App 6.

Major J. A. C.  
WAR DIARY.

Appendix No. 6

March, 1918.

T/2176.

## EDUCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME.

(Issued by the General Staff.)

1. The Commander-in-Chief has directed that a system of education be organized throughout the Army with the following objects:—

- (a) To give men a wider view of their duties as citizens of the British Empire.
- (b) To help men in their work after the war.

2. An officer to give his whole time to this work will be attached to G.H.Q., and to the Staff of each Army, Corps, Division and Base and of G.H.Q. Troops. It is essential that this officer should be an educationist of experience and, above all, keen on this particular work. An officer will be selected at Headquarters of Infantry Brigades and similar formations and in every unit to give part of his time to the work. Officers so employed will be attached to the Staff of Formations, and their work will be considered as military duty. It is hoped that Commanders will take a personal interest in the scheme and do their utmost to ensure its success.

3. While the working out of this educational scheme will be slow and gradual, and will not reach its full extent till the period following the cessation of hostilities, the organization will be created immediately, and a start will be made as soon as possible.

4. Education will be carried on—

- (a) By means of lectures.

In addition to the lecturers provided by arrangement with the Y.M.C.A., lectures by competent officers on subjects of general and educational interest and especially with the aim described in 1 (a) above will be arranged.

It will be the duty of the education officer attached to each Division to discover and make use of officer-lecturers throughout the Division. Education officers at Corps and Army Headquarters will arrange for the interchange between Divisions of specially effective lecturers.

- (b) By means of classes.

The Divisional education officer (and the officer attached to each Base, etc.) will make a study of the educational requirements of the troops in the Division and will prepare a list of subjects, including technical subjects, in which instruction is specially demanded or would be beneficial.

He will also prepare a list of officers and other ranks whose previous experience and training qualify them to act as Instructors in general or technical subjects.

In this study he will be assisted by the education officer attached to each unit. Special attention should be given to discovering instructors in such technical subjects as gardening and simple carpentry.

Classes will then be formed in the subjects for which there is the greatest demand and in which instructors are available.

It may be found possible to interchange instructors within a Brigade or at a Base.



5. *Provision of courses, books, equipment, &c.*

Courses in various subjects are being prepared by G.H.Q. and can be prepared in any subject asked for. (Courses are now being prepared in History, Literature, Commercial Subjects, Chemistry, Geology, Electricity, Citizenship, Economics, Scientific Agriculture, Carpentry, &c.) G.H.Q. will supply outline courses with the necessary text books, but in regard to books and equipment it must be understood that the amount available will be limited. The necessary books, etc., may be supplied direct to units, or it may be found more convenient to institute libraries and tool-rooms at a number of central places from which Divisional and Base officers could borrow as required. It will be found that a considerable number of the books required can be obtained from Y.M.C.A. libraries.

6. *Training of Instructors.*

The Divisional and Base education officers will conduct or arrange for "normal" courses for instructors. Such courses would help greatly to qualify as teachers many who possess the necessary knowledge but who have had no pedagogic training.

7. *The Encouragement of the soldier to join classes.*

As the advantages of education will not at once be appreciated by the majority of the men it is desirable to offer certain inducements.

(a) As far as possible, Officers Commanding will arrange the ordinary duties of men taking part in classes and of the Instructors in such a way that men will have opportunity to attend the classes without difficulty.

(b) When the system is in working order, it is hoped to arrange for the holding of examinations and the granting of certificates by educational authorities at home.

(c) It may be possible to arrange that courses taken out here will count in the case of men who before the war were preparing for University or other degrees.

(d) G.H.Q. will keep in touch with the Home authorities and will supply information as to which subjects are most likely to be useful to men with a view to their getting situations on returning home.

8. *Educational Classes conducted by the Y.M.C.A. and similar organizations.*

In many Y.M.C.A. and similar huts, especially at the Bases, educational facilities already exist. The most cordial co-operation may be expected from these institutions. The organization here proposed should not in these circumstances supplant but supplement the work of voluntary bodies, and education officers should avail themselves of such facilities whenever possible.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.  
8th March, 1918.

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PRESS A-3/18



[S.S. 607.]

## DIRECTIONS FOR THE USE OF ANTI-GAS HORSE RESPIRATOR.

### ALERT POSITION.

When horses are being sent into the neighbourhood of the trenches, the Transport, or other Officer responsible, should have the respirators adjusted into the "Alert" position before moving off. This is done as follows:—

(a) The flap of the respirator case is unbuttoned and slipped under the noseband of the headcollar from below upwards.

(b) The straps on either side of the case are also passed under the noseband and secured to the cheek pieces of the headcollar above the metal D on each side.

(c) The small unbleached calico patch on the upper side of the opening of the respirator is buttoned on to the noseband so that the respirator is ready to be slipped on immediately.

(d) The cover of the case is then closed over the noseband and the respirator thus protected from rain, etc. (See Fig. 1.)

(NOTE.—Should it be found that the respirator carried in the "Alert" position galls the nose, it may be carried as an alternative:—

(a) On the saddle for riding horses.

(b) On the breastplate attached to the rings of the supporting strap or on the supporting strap itself for draught horses.)

### WEARING IN GAS.

The respirator carried in the "Alert" position can be rapidly adjusted when necessity arises, as follows:—

(1) Unbutton case and remove respirator, leaving the case attached to the cheek pieces of the headcollar and lying flat on the face.

(2) Holding the lower side of the opening of the respirator with one hand on each side of the canvas mouthpiece, draw it down over the upper lip and upper incisor teeth into the mouth. Gently enlarging the opening of the respirator, adjust it





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well up into the angle of the mouth (the linen portion which is buttoned on to the noseband will prevent the bag from slipping off the nose).

(3) Then take the elastic band on either side close to the mouthpiece and pull outwards so as to tighten the mouth of the bag over the upper jaw above the nostrils. This is most important, to permit of sufficient length of loop of the elastic to go over the horse's poll, and also to ensure the respirator being gas proof.

(4) Draw the elastic loop over the horse's poll (*vide* Fig. 2,

or

in the case of a restive horse, or when the attendant is a very small man and unable to reach the horse's poll, draw the elastic loop taut from each side of the mouth, tuck it under the lower jaw, and fix securely to the lower portion of the throat lash. (*Vide* Fig. 3.) The respirator is then in position, and the animal can be worked in it without difficulty or undue fatigue. The bit and reins are not interfered with in any way. (See Figs. 2 and 3.)

**REPLACEMENT CASE.**

In folding the respirator and replacing it in the case the following points should be observed:—

(1) The canvas mouthpiece should be wiped as clean as possible.

(2) The bag should be held with the canvas mouthpiece downward and the elastic band looped round the bag. Commencing at the sac end, roll tightly over the elastic band. Afterwards insert into the case with the linen flap uppermost.

J. MOORE,  
Brigadier-General,  
Director of Veterinary Services.

HEADQUARTERS, DUBLIN,  
1st June, 1917.





Alert Position.



Respirator adjusted and secured by elastic over poll.



Respirator adjusted and secured by fastening elastic to throat lash.