

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

Claims

Item number: 4/4/10

Title: Claims Officer, 4th Australian Division

May 1918



AWM4-4/4/10

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Aust D.C.O

FOR

May 1918

CLAIMS OFFICE
4TH
AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. <i>A/12</i>
Date <i>1/6/18</i>

Signature of Officer compiling

*A. W. Symon
4th Aust D.C.O*

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. Jones

Lieut. Colonel

A. A. & Q. M. G. 4th Australian Division

WAR DIARY

Army Form 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.)

4th Div. Claims Officer

Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE.	May	1	D.C.O. Routine.	
BERTEAUCOURT	"	2	D.C.O. visited 4th Aust. Div. Reinft. Wing and settled all outstanding Claims - 12 in all.	
ALLONVILLE	"	3	D.C.O. Routine.	
	"	4	D.C.O. Routine.	
CAGNY	"	5	D.H.Q. Rear Echelon arrived and Camp established in Field. Camp well camouflaged.	
	"	6,7,8.	Inspected Village and found that same had been looted prior to the arrival of this Division	
			Letter to Area Commandant and French Mission thereon for their remarks and confirmation. Reply forwarded to Claims Commission.	Appen. 1.
	"	6,7,8.	D.C.O. Routine and letter to Claims Commission with reference to damages by Tanks.	" 2.
	"	9.	Visited LA MOTTE on legal business and presided at F.G.C.M. Proceeded to BLANGY-TRONVILLE in Afternoon.	
	"	10.	Q.21/64 re damage to Crops issued.	" 3.
	"	11.	Village of CAGNY gassed this morning.	
	"	12.	Visited forward Area under orders of G.O.C. in persuance of 4th Army R.O. 2007 and D.R.Os. 485, para 2122 and 488 para 2130. Saw a representative of every unit in Division except 3 minor ones and in addition warned several Imperial Bdes, R.F.A. (under Aust. Corps) against infringement of these orders.	" 4.
	"	13.	D.C.O. Routine.	
	"	14.	D.C.O. Routine.	
	"	15,16.	Visited forward area in persuance of 4th Army R.O. 2007 and D.R.Os. 485 and 488.	
	"	17.	D.C.O. Routine.	
	"	18.	Letter to Claims Commission re Claims position at GLISY. D.C.O. Routine.	" 5.
	"	19.	Visited forward area and found that position re pasturing horses had now been relieved by placing areas mentioned in said D.R.O. 488 para 2130 at disposal of Divisional Troops. Confirmed with Units and A.P.M. who confirmed same. Informed O.C., French Mission who stated word had just been received from GLISY that position was now normal in that Area. S.S.O. asked me to confer with him re Claims for pastures and injury accordingly. Letter to General BIRDWOOD by French Mission, Corps re appeal by French Civilians; same circulated to all units.	" 6.
	"	20.	Conferring with S.S.O., 4th Aust. Div. with a view to paying pasture claims by way of requisition and arranging to visit forward area with him on 21.5.18. Telegrams to Town Majors in forward areas to get in all outstanding claims. Corps R.O. para 141 and D.R.O. 490 para 2050 thereon re removal of property in abandoned villages.	" 7.
	"	21.	Inspected forward area of BLANGY-TRONVILLE, GLISY, LA MOTTE & CAMON with S.S.O. and engaged all day in dealing with very difficult and numerous claims arising from tactical situation since	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

18,000-12/17-8723

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Aust D.C.O

FOR

May 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-------|--|
| ✓ 1) | Looting at CAGNY (SOMME) |
| ✓ 2) | Damages by Tanks |
| ✓ 3) | Damages by grazing on
crops |
| ✓ 4) | 4 th Army R.O. 2007 D.R.Os
Nos 485 & 488 re grazing of
Houses and Mules |
| ✓ 5) | Damages at GLISY (SOMME) |
| ✓ 6) | Letter by French Mission Corps
(Australia) re French Civilians |
| ✓ 7) | Australian Corps R.O. No 25 re
abandoned Villages and D.R.O. No
490 thereon. |
| ✓ 8) | D.R.O. 491 re grazing at
Allouville (Somme) |
| ✓ 9) | Telegram by Australian Corps
re Conference of Blauvis officers |
| ✓ 10) | Monthly Return of Blauvis for May
9 1056/4 |
| ✓ 11) | Letter to D.H.Q. 28/5/18 re Facts de Guerre |
| 12) | A.F.N. 1531 ^A Statement of Account for May 1918 |



CLAIMS OFFICE
4th
AUSTRALIAN DIV
A/12
7/5/18



14th Aust Div -
7/5/18

Area Commandant
Lagny

A/12
7/5/18

re comment of CMC-104
It is desired to notify the
Claims Commission
in order to avoid claims
not justified. That when
this Division entered
therein, every house
had already been
looted and pillaged
by troops previously
in occupation.

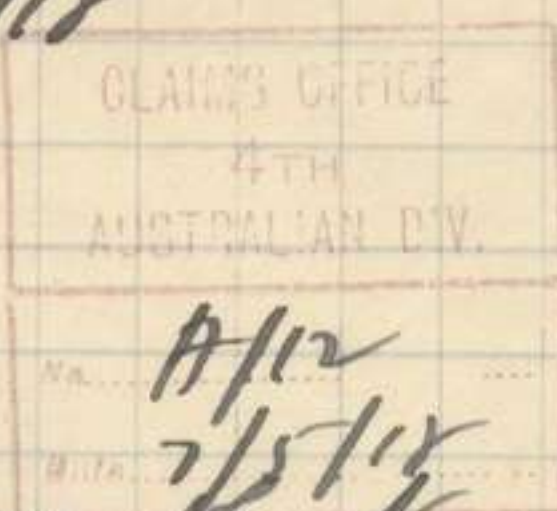
Will you please confirm
and add any further
remarks you think fit.
This Division arrived
on the 4/5/18 at 11 AM.
They return to us.

A. V. Thomas
Capt
4th Aust Div

copy

II
4th Aust Div^m
7/5/18

Claims Office
G.H.Q.



It is desired to notify you that
Tanks are damaging a considerable
number of properties, quite
unnecessarily; at the same time
it is well recognized that
some is unavoidable in
many other cases, owing to the
tactical situation and the
necessity to avoid roads.

The position is one which cannot
be readily dealt with by a D.C.O.,
on account of the general
practice which has grown up.
Will you please favor me with
your remarks.

A. W. Symonds
Major
4th Aust D.C.O.

copy



II

Claims Commission - British Armies in France.

Claims Officer,
4th Australian Division.



With reference to your A/12 of 7-5-18, all damages done by tanks should, as far as possible, be reported on, when it is doubtful whether it is preventible or not. In cases where damage is done by tanks which for tactical reasons have to avoid roads, such damage is Fait de Guerre, and claims should be forwarded to this office together with a full report. In this connection please see Claims Commission Circular Page 25, para: 13 and this office Circular Memorandum No. 56 of 31-7-16.

Chas. Lindeman

Major,
for Major General,
President, Claims Commission.

Headquarters,
Claims Commission,
A.P.O. S/79,
11th May 1918.
SW



copy



II

Claims Commission - British Armies in France.



Claims Officer,
4th Australian Division.

With further reference to your A/12 of 7-5-18 and in continuation of my G/1011 of 11-5-18.

It is a necessity of modern warfare that tanks must go across country at times and they cannot pick their way to avoid crops. The damage so caused is *Fait de Guerre*.

Damage caused by careless or imprudent handling or steering while on an ordinary journey would be paid for.

Ch. Lindeman

Major,
for Major General,
President, Claims Commission.

Headquarters,
Claims Commission,
A.P.O. S/79,
16th May 1918.
SW



copy

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
10th May 1918

4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 4th Aust. Div. Art.
 4th Aust. Div. Engrs.
 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion.
 4th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
 A.D.M.S.
 D.A.D.V.S.
 D.A.D.O.S.
 4th Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.
 4th Aust. Div. Signal Coy.
 4th Aust. Div. Train.
 Camp Commandant.

Q. 21/64.

A great deal of unnecessary damage is being done to growing crops owing to Horses being allowed loose to graze. It is imperative that all crops be safeguarded as they may be of great value to the Allies, should the present position be maintained or improved.

Every care is to be taken to avoid such unnecessary damage. In addition, movements of troops over Crops is to be restricted as far as tactical requirements will allow.

P.T.O.

Major.
 D.A.A.G.
 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



D.C.O.

copy

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
10th May 1918.

4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 4th Aust. Div. Art.
 4th Aust. Div. Engrs.
 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion.
 4th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
 A.D.M.S.
 D.A.D.V.S.,
 D.A.D. O.S.
 4th Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.
 4th Aust. Div. Signal Coy.
 4th Aust. Div. Train.
 Camp Commandant.



It has been brought to notice that Fire-wood and articles of Food are being requisitioned by Troops from the few remaining Inhabitants of the Villages in the Divisional Area.

Although payment is offered it must be impressed on the Troops that these poor people cannot sell as they have no means of replacing stocks of firewood, fuel, ~~wood~~, etc., therefore it is cruelty to bring pressure to bear on them to part with such things.

P.T.O.

Walter Brownworth
 Major.
 D.A.A.G.
 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

RECEIVED



III



ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

GENERAL SIR H. S. RAWLINSON, BART.,
G.C.V.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
COMMANDING FOURTH ARMY.

May 8th, 1918.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S BRANCH.

1995—Rendering of Army Form B.213.—Formations and units which failed to render A.F. B.213 during the undermentioned periods will do so as soon as possible to D.A.G., 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q. :—

Week ending : 23-3-18
30-3-18
6-4-18
13-4-18
20-4-18

(D.A.G., S/1055/18/1, 2-5-18.)

1996—Killing of Game.—(a) G.R.O. 1297 is republished :—

“ As cases still occur of officers and other ranks pursuing and killing game, it is notified for information that the hunting, shooting or killing of game (which includes hares and rabbits) by nets, snares or other methods is strictly prohibited.”

(b) The dangerous practice of shooting at game is still persisted in throughout the Army area, and casualties have been caused both to soldiers and civilians.

(c) From this date, severe disciplinary action will be taken against anyone contravening this order.

1997—Testing of Skilled Tradesmen.—*Ref. A.G.'s No. 24 (M), 1-1-18.*—No more Wagon Erectors and Repairers will be withdrawn from units for Trade Testing.

(D.A.G.'s C.R. No. 38706/619/A, 3-5-18.)

1998—Medical Officers.—Officers Commanding Corps or Army units, to whom a Medical Officer is attached will arrange for the Medical Officer to report his arrival personally to the Administrative Medical Officer of the area in which the unit is located. These officers will also report their departure in writing to the Administrative Medical Officer.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH.

1999—Army Railheads—Labour.—The following will be the procedure to be adopted at railheads in the Army area :—

(a) Wherever unskilled labour is allotted to a railhead, the Labour Commandant, A.H.Q., will detail an Officer to command the working party.

(b) Demands for labour will not be made except through the officer in command of the working party, who will be responsible for :—

- (i.) Detailing labour to meet the demands of the R.T.O., R.S.O. and R.O.O.
- (ii.) The immediate loading and unloading of trains.

(iii.) Demanding from the Labour Commandant, A.H.Q., any additional labour required to meet emergencies.

(c) The Administrative Commandant, Army Railheads, will be responsible for the administration and discipline of all railhead and railway troops other than labour troops in the Army area.

(d) As far as possible, all railhead personnel will be accommodated in camps, which will be located in the vicinity of, and not in, the railheads.

APPENDIX 4

2000—Machine Gun Sights for A.A. Defence.—Reference A.R.O. 1906.—The scale of issue of "Elliptical" and "Hill Jackson" sights for machine guns is as follows:—

Lewis guns	...	...	...	...	One "Elliptical" or "Hill Jackson" sight per gun authorised for A.A. defence.
Vickers guns	...	...	...	...	One "Hill Jackson" sight per gun.

In cases where men have not been trained in the use of the "Elliptical" sight, the "Hill Jackson" sight for Lewis guns will be issued.

Corps will report to A.H.Q. by 16th instant the number required of:—

- (a) Elliptical sights for Lewis guns.
- (b) Hill Jackson sights for Lewis guns.
- (c) Hill Jackson sights for Vickers guns.

(Q.M.G. 8018 (Q.C.1), 3-5-18.)

2001—Tangent Sights for Lewis Guns.—Corps will report to A.H.Q., by 19th May, whether:—

- (a) The graduations and figures of the Tangent sights, when received, were too faintly marked.
- (b) These markings become undiscernible after having been in use for a short time.

(D.O.S. No. (O.S.B.3) 55/P., 4-5-18.)

2002—Demands for Guns and Other Vehicles.—The attention of all Battery Commanders is drawn to the necessity for demanding guns, carriages, technical vehicles and motor tractors in replacement immediately casualties occur.

Demands for guns will in future be submitted at once, even if at the time it may not be possible to man them.

Unless casualties are promptly reported, it is not possible to form a true estimate of the liabilities to be met.

(Q.M.G. No. 8022 (Q.C.1), 4-5-18.)

2003—60-pdr. Ammunition Carriers.—Emergency carriers have been provided to take four complete rounds of 60-pdr. ammunition on pack saddles, for use when the state of the ground does not admit of wheeled transport.

These carriers, demands for which will be made through the usual channels to A.H.Q., are intended for issue only when actually required for use, and will be returned to Base when no longer required.

A set of G.S. pack saddlery with large girths to fit H.D. horses, and four cartridge tins, will be issued with each carrier unless otherwise demanded. Samples of these carriers, with pack saddlery and cartridge tins, may be obtained from the Base for inspection purposes.

In using the carriers, care will be taken to ensure that the straps retaining the shell are tightly buckled after being passed through the rings; this ensures that the greater part of the weight of the shell is taken by the strap instead of by the canvas pocket in which the base of the shell fits, which might otherwise tear away from the body of the carrier.

Any difficulty at first experienced in removing the shell from the carrier will be found to disappear with practice.

(Q.M.G. No. 4011/1 (Q.B.1), 23-3-18.)

2004—Clothing—Summer Scale.—The Summer scale of clothing will come into force on the 15th May. A G.R.O. will shortly be published.

In the case of troops arriving in France from the East or other warm climates, Winter woollen drawers may be issued, where desired, in lieu of Summer drawers, up to the 15th June.

(Q.M.G. No. 4004/42 (Q.B.1), 2-5-18.)

2005—Expeditionary Force Canteens.—French Interpreters (officers and other ranks) attached to British units are now permitted to make purchases at Expeditionary Force Canteens, on presentation of their identification cards, together with a written authority signed by the Officer Commanding the unit to which they are attached.

(Q.M.G. No. 12008 (Q.D.1), 2-5-18.)

2006—American Troops Serving with British Army—Claims in Respect of.—(a) It is hoped to arrange a capitation rate which will cover certain of the issues made and services rendered to American troops serving with the British Army.



APPENDIX. 4

(b) Fields taken up for parade grounds, horse standings, etc., will probably be included in this capitulation rate.

(c) Records will be kept of manœuvre areas :—

- (i.) Exclusively used by American troops
- (ii.) Used by American troops, but also used by British troops.

The number of days occupied in each case will be recorded.

(d) Claims for damages to buildings in occupation of American troops, by fire or from other causes, will be reported in the usual manner, accompanied by the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry, in order that, where blame is clearly attributable to the Americans, the damage may be charged against them, through the Financial Adviser.

(e) Claims for damage up to £5 will be settled in the usual way by the Divisional Claims Officer, who will keep a record of all sums chargeable against Americans.

(f) Loss or damage to British Government stores caused by American troops will form the subject of a separate report.

(g) A record will be kept of any matter which may ultimately form a charge against the American Government.

(h) Detailed instructions with reference to subjects requiring financial adjustment between American and British Governments will be issued in due course.

(Q.M.G. No. 14022/1 (Q.D.2), 3-5-18.)

2007—Grazing of Horses and Mules.—(a) Full advantage is not being taken of the grazing in the Army area. Corps will arrange to allot grazing areas in the evacuated regions to Divisions, and Divisions, in turn, will allot areas to units. In inhabited areas every advantage is to be taken of roadside grazing, and Commanding Officers will be held responsible that all animals not actually on the march are grazed for at least one hour a day. Animals must not, however, be allowed to graze on crops.

(b) The services of horse advisers will be utilized for the supervision of grazing arrangements.

(c) When it is possible to cast horses loose to graze, mounted patrols will be detailed on a scale of 6 per 100 horses. Their duty will be to prevent straying and to round up stragglers.

2008—Remounts.—Attention is called to G.R.O.s Nos. 2020 and 3090, which are republished:—

G.R.O. 2020.—Indents for animals to replace casualties in the field will be sent by Commanders of units to the Headquarters of the Division or formation to which the unit belongs.

The Division or formation will send a consolidated indent to Army or Cavalry Corps Headquarters.

D.D.R.s of Armies and Cavalry Corps will repeat these demands to the Director of Remounts.

Indents for Remounts required by G.H.Q. Troops will be sent to Officer Commanding G.H.Q. Troops, who will forward to Director of Remounts.

On the L. of C., Administrative Commandants will also indent on the Director of Remounts. (25-12-16.)

G.R.O. 3090.—Messages from units and individual officers are continually received by Remount Depots and Veterinary Hospitals regarding evacuated chargers and other horses, of which it is sought to regain possession.

Instances have also occurred of officers visiting Remount Depots and Veterinary Hospitals with a view to selecting horses.

The channels through which all demands for remounts are to be made are laid down in G.R.O. 2020, which is to be strictly complied with. On no account are officers to visit Remount Depots to select horses without having first obtained the sanction of the Director of Remounts.

So far as Veterinary Hospitals are concerned, no issues are made from these to units or officers, all cured animals being discharged to Remount Depots.

(4-1-18.)

H. C. HOLMAN, *Major-General*,
D.A. and Q.M.G., Fourth Army.

**IV**

Extract of Divisional Routine Order No. 485. *of 10/5/18*

GRAZING. 2122. The following arrangements have been made for grazing:-

- (a). East of HALLUE Valley no land may be grazed upon which is under Crop (does not include Clover).
 - (b). West of the HALLUE Valley neither Crops nor pasture is to be grazed on without the consent of the owner.
-

General Routine Order No. 108.

DRESS.

4019. A.C.I.235 of 1918 is published for information:-

"(1) Owing to the shortage of leather, it has been decided that brown shoes may be worn by Officers when employed in Offices or off Duty. Officers who are unable to wear boots owing to wounds may wear shoes at all times.

(2) Kharki-coloured socks will always be worn with brown shoes"

IV

ROUTINE ORDER NO.488.

by
Major-General E.G.SINCLAIR MACLAGAN, C.B., D.S.O..
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

17th May, 1918.

HONOURS
AND
REWARD.

2125. The Corps Commander has awarded the MILITARY MEDAL to the undermentioned Other Ranks and desires his congratulations conveyed to the recipients. The Divisional Commander wishes to add his congratulations to those of the Corps Commander.

519 Private H.J.REP, 4th A.M.G. Bn.
3242 Sergeant L.J.BUSHELL, do.

SPURS -
REDUCTION
IN SCALE
OF ISSUE.

2126. Reference G.R.O.3995, the reports called for will be forwarded to reach this office by noon on 19th instant.

FOREST
CONTROL.

2127. (1) Lieut. A.R.WIGHT, 12th Field Company, A.E. has been appointed Forestry Officer for the Division.
(2) His location will be c/o 13th Field Company, A.E. O.25.d.3.7.

(3) The duties of the Forestry Officer are to control the cutting of timber and undergrowth in the following woods:-

- (a) BOIS de BLANGY
- (b) BOIS L'ABEE.
- (c) BOIS ARQUENNE.
- (d) Wood along bank of river, as far back as N.20.a. & c.

(4) Indents for timber required from woods must be signed by an Officer, and countersigned by the Forestry Officer before being cut.

(5) The following personnel will be detailed for this work :-

4th Aus. Inf. Bde.	6 O.R.'s.
12th " " "	5 "
13th " " "	5 "
12th Field Co. A.E.	4 "

This personnel will constitute patrols, whose duties are to see that no timber or undergrowth is removed without authority, and to point out where timber may be cut. If possible at least one man from each Brigade should be able to speak French.

(6) Patrols will wear a white armlet with the word "FOREST CONTROL" in black, when available.

(7) The personnel will not be changed whilst the Division is in this area.

SALVAGE
OF WORN
CLOTHING.

2128. The Divisional Commander has noticed that a considerable number of old socks, some shirts and other woollen things such as puttees, blankets, &c. are being thrown away by personnel of the Division. This is very wasteful and contrary to orders. All worn out woollen articles are to be returned to D.A.D.O.S. All ranks are to be informed that salvage of such articles is most important and necessary owing to the difficulty experienced by the nation in obtaining wool.

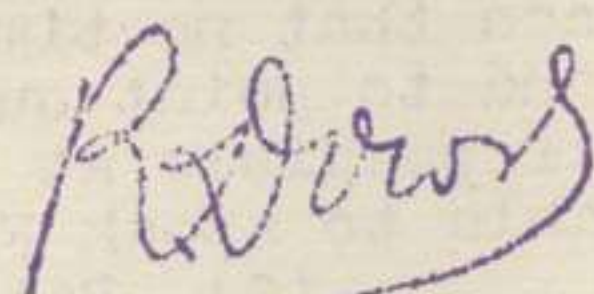
REORGAN-
ISATION
OF BRIGAD-
ES.

2129. It is notified for information that in pursuance of the scheme for the reorganisation of Brigades the 13th Aus. Inf. Brigade will be reorganised as from 16th instant by withdrawing the 52nd Battalion. The designation, 52nd Battalion, will thereafter apply to the Training Unit of the 13th Aus. Inf. Bde. Detailed instructions have been issued to those concerned.

P.T.O.

(2).

- PAY. 2129. Pay will be available for Units of the 4th Australian Division at 4th Aus. Div. Headquarters (rear Echelon) on Wednesday next 22nd instant. Requisitions for cash must be forwarded in time to reach the Divisional Paymaster not later than 5 p.m. on Sunday 19th instant.
- GRAZING. 2130. Reference D.R.O.2112. The prolongation of the HALLUE VALLEY, viz.:- A line VECQUEMONT-GENTELLES will apply in "A" Divisional Area. Arrangements for grazing have been made as under :-
 For units North of River SOMME.
 All that pasture land contained in Squares M.17 and 18 and N.13.c. between the CAMON-LAMOTTE road and the river.
 For units South of River SOMME.
 All that pasture land contained in Squares N.19 and 20 between the two railway lines.
- GAS POISONING. 2131. Reference the A.Fs.W.3428 of men suffering from gas poisoning owing to their neglecting to take proper precautions. The direction of Fourth Army 'A' is as follows :-
 "There is no actual need to render A.F.W.3428 in such cases as they cannot be termed "Self-Inflicted injuries". It is very necessary however to forward some record in such cases so as to establish the man's own responsibility for his disability and A.F.W.3428 accompanied by statements of evidence is probably the most convenient form in which this can be done. Disciplinary action should be ordered in the usual way when the man returns to duty. If trial by F.G.C.M. is considered necessary the charge should usually be laid under S.40".
 In view of this A.Fs.W.3428, together with statement of evidence should be rendered in all such cases.
- REINFORCEMENTS. 2132. Attention is called to "Amendment to Administrative Instructions No.75" dated 16th ultimo, in which it is stated that kits etc. of Reinforcements are to be conveyed from Div. Staging Depot to units under arrangements to be made by the units with O.C. Staging Depot. The waggons detailed by Corps to convey the kits from Corps Staging Depot to Div. Staging Depot are not to be used for this purpose.



Lieut-Colonel,
 A.A. & Q.M.G.,
 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Notice.

LOST - Believed stolen.

From the Horse Lines of 23rd Army Brigade, R.F.A. Ammunition Column on the night 11th May 1918 at 9.15. p.m. - Chestnut Gelding, 9 years old, 15/3 hands, saddlemarks (near and off), blaze and snip. No.70 on N.F. Heavy Draught?
 Information to A.P.M. 4th Aus. Div.

V
4th Aust Div
18/1/42

Blair's office
G.H.Q.

I have to report:-

1) That owing to the tactical situation many crops and lucerne and pasture fields have been razed by Artillery units in and around G.L.S. (Somme) with considerable damage thereto.

2) Necessary disciplinary action has been taken where possible by the G.O.C.

3) Special D.R.O. have appeared on the subject in addition to 4th Army R.O. 2007

4) I am investigating Blair's here, as they arise and will pass same to you in due

course.

5) It is very difficult in the majority of cases to locate actual responsibility owing to congestion.

6) The area is only partly evacuated.

Asst Adjutant
4th Aust D.C.O.

Copy

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VI

To . . .



General Sir W. R. BIRDWOOD, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Commanding AUSTRALIAN Corps.

Sir,

I beg to submit copy of a letter (and translation) of which the original was sent to the Prefet of the Somme.

In the course of my first month with the AUSTRALIAN Corps, the opportunity was largely afforded me to fully appreciate the constant endeavour of all divisional units to amend the situation described by the Maire of BUSSY-LES-DAOURS in his moving appeal.

But, as he rightly says, further assistance is wanted in order to create friendship, instead of resentment, and hasten victory.

I feel certain it will, as always, be generously granted.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

M. F. LONGUE.

Lieut.

O.C. French Mission,

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

4/5/18.

Translation.

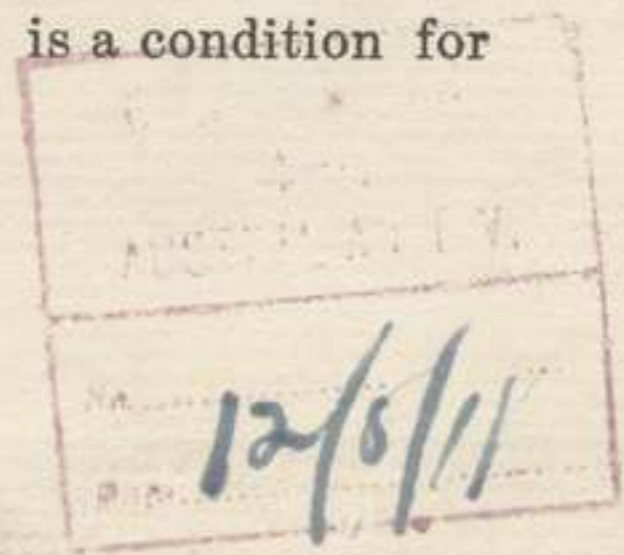
We undersigned, Mayor and Farmers of the Commune of BUSSY-les-DAOURS, beg to point out to you the disastrous conditions made to Agriculture in our Commune since one month.

We realize quite well the necessities of the present moment, and will say nothing of the billeting and quartering organization all over the country, whatever restraint it puts upon us. But it is a shame to see every day hundreds of horses graze at liberty newly sown corn fields which will soon be turned into real waste land. Corn ricks and hay stacks disappear day after day. This would not be too bad if the troops were to make good use of them; but it is a downright squandering; everywhere trusses of hay or straw are to be seen along the roads, in the mud or under the rain. Ere long there will be nothing left to feed our cattle.

In spite of all this, we are going on with our work. Oats sowing is almost over; the potatoes are planted. We remained insensible to the sarcasms of those who openly said we were losing our time, and that we had better let soldiers have full scope. Now we understand the meaning of the advice. Our farms are plundered while we are away, whatever short our absence may be, and even when we are present. In the twinkle of an eye, hens and rabbits disappear, sometimes even sheep and cows. The agricultural implements are burnt or broken, the doors are taken away, the barns left bare. To avoid ruin we want to perform our task up to the end and keep confident for the future. We know the country wants us to do our best, to give her what she needs. For this purpose we only ask for one thing: let the Military Authority stop these irrational depredations which excite the spirits to such an extent that regrettable acts are to be feared.

We are confident that the necessary steps will be taken and severe orders given to the troops to have the crops and agricultural instruments preserved, which is a condition for victory.

copy



1-11

D.C.O.

1-11

Appendix 7 16

VII

No. 25 (Orders 140-148)



ROUTINE ORDERS
By Gen. Sir W. R. BIRDWOOD,
K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.
Commanding AUSTRALIAN Corps.
HEADQUARTERS,

May 18th, 1918.

A
140. Congratulatory. The Corps Commander congratulates the following Officers and Other Ranks for their gallant actions under the circumstances stated:—

“Major H. A. KURING, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his good work in clearing up a difficult situation, and in making sound defensive dispositions during the counter-attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918.”

“Lieutenant J. C. CHRISTIAN, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his courage and initiative in collecting stragglers and forming a defensive line on the western edge of the village of VILLERS BRETONNEUX during an enemy attack on 24th April, 1918.”

“Major R. McL. C. AITCHISON, 57th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his bravery and initiative in reorganising the line after our first objective was gained at VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the morning of the 25th April, 1918.”

“Lieutenant C. J. LEVY, 57th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his gallant conduct when in charge of a fighting patrol at VILLERS BRETONNEUX during the period 24/27th April, 1918.”

“Lieutenant R. A. CALDER, D.C.M., 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For conspicuous courage and ability in the handling of his platoon during the operations at VILLERS BRETONNEUX on 24/27th April, 1918.”

“Late Lieutenant E. S. HOLGATE, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.
Late Lieutenant J. L. SIMPSON, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.
Late Lieutenant C. E. BROWN, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.
For their gallant conduct and devotion to duty during a counter attack at VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night 24/25th April, 1918. These officers were killed in action during the attack.”

“Lieutenant H. WALKER, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his exceptional ability in directing the consolidation of the new front line and maintaining communications during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918.”

“Lieutenant A. J. BECK, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his disregard of personal safety when ordered to ascertain the position of a flank during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918.”

“Lieutenant A. M. WALMSLEY, R.G.A. (T.F.)—During the German advance on the 23rd March, 1918, this Officer showed great gallantry in extricating his section at the last minute, as the barrage covering the German advance approached them. Later, he joined the infantry in the line, and when the situation became quieter, brought his men away and rejoined the battery.”

“Lieutenant E. S. CONNELL, M.C., R.G.A.—When a heavy enemy barrage was put down on his battery position on the 24th April, 1918, this officer personally superintended the laying of the guns, and although suffering from the effects of gas, showed great courage and entire disregard of danger throughout.”

“Major (T/Lieut.-Col.) C. V. WATSON, 58th Battalion, A.I.F.—On his excellent work as forward Reconnaissance Officer on the occasion of the enemy's attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the 24th April, 1918.”

“2/Lieut. D. MCKENZIE, R.G.A., (S.R.)—For his courage and coolness on the 24th April, 1918, when the enemy put down a heavy barrage on his battery position.

“2/Lieutenant C. T. E. MURPHY, R.G.A., (S.R.)—When the enemy put down a heavy barrage on his battery position on the 24th April, 1918, this officer showed conspicuous courage in attending to the dressing and the evacuation of the wounded.”

APPENDIX.

CONGRATULATORY (continued.)

"2/Lieutenant S. LEE, R.G.A., (S.R.)—This Officer did exceptionally good work in maintaining communication whilst under heavy shell fire on the 24th April, 1918. He also did excellent work in attending to the wounded."

"1398, Private T. J. BINGLEY, 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.—For his coolness and disregard of personal safety on the 25th April, 1918, in digging out the remainder of his gun team, who had been buried by a shell."

"3153, Sergeant J. W. WILSON, and 515, L/Corporal E. E. LIMBERT, 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F.—For their coolness and bravery during an enemy attack at VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the morning of 24th April, 1918."

"4139, L/Corporal F. N. RAUCHLE, 4th Field Company, A.E.—For his bravery on the 4th May, 1918, in rescuing a wounded comrade from a wrecked dug-out and carrying him away to comparative safety."

"5396, Corporal (L/Sergeant) F. KEIGHREY, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.—For gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX, on the night of 24th/25th April, 1918."

"3015, L/Corporal S. McCLINTOCK, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his marked ability and good qualities of leadership during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918."

"1990, Private J. J. RENNIE, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—When the enemy was observed to be massing for a counter attack on the 28th April, this man volunteered to go forward and obtain information. He was successful in obtaining particulars as to strength and dispositions of the enemy, and his report was of the utmost assistance to his Company Officers."

"2736, Private A. NOON, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For marked ability and devotion to duty during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX, on the night of 24/25th April, 1918."

"2173, L/Corporal D. A. HOLT, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his gallantry, initiative and qualities of leadership when in command of a patrol, during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX, on the night of 24th/25th April, 1918."

"Late No. 5426, Corporal F. H. NICHOLLS, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

"Late No. 3168, L/Corporal F. R. WRIGLEY, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.—For their gallantry and entire disregard of personal danger during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX, on the night of 24th/25th April, 1918. Both these N.C.O.'s were killed whilst in the performance of their duties."

"No. 2956, Private A. E. McDERMOTT, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.—For his prompt action on the night of 24th/25th April, 1918, in taking charge of his platoon Lewis Gun when all its team became casualties."

"3415, Private G. T. JAMES, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

2420, Private W. J. GRAY, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

3400, Private H. G. HEATH, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

2667, Private L. B. DICKSON, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

3089, Private A. W. CRAIG, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

For their bravery and devotion to duty in carrying out their duties as runners during the attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918."

"5035, Private A. BAKER, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

4988, Private C. W. L. MAYNARD, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

4549, Private J. MURPHY, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

1878, Private M. R. BLACK, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

2494, Private G. A. SKENE, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

2215, Private R. KNIGHT, 57th Battalion, A.I.F."

2828, Private F. J. TALBOT, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

2400, Private S. McCOLL, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

3616, Corporal L. R. PORTER, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

2530, Private J. P. VIRCOE, 60th Battalion, A.I.F."

For their bravery and devotion to duty in dressing and carrying the wounded to the Regimental Aid Post during the counter attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the night of 24/25th April, 1918."

APPENDIX

141. Removal of Property from Houses in Abandoned Villages.—The Corps Commander finds that though repeated orders have been issued forbidding the removal of property from houses in abandoned villages, the orders are not being obeyed. It is understood that Officers are offenders in this respect. Divisional Commanders will take steps to ensure that orders on this subject are being obeyed, and will instruct their police to arrest anyone, officer or man, of any unit who is found looting property.

142. Roadside Dugouts.—The earth taken from dugouts on the sides of sunken roads chokes the drainage and causes mud and water to collect to the great detriment of the road. Roadside dugouts should only be sanctioned where the tactical situation demands, and where they are necessary. The earth from the excavation must be removed so as not to block the road drainage.

143. Corrigendum.—In Aust. Corps Routine Order No. 126 of 6-5-18 under awards of Bar to Military Medal:—

for No. 10103 Cpl. W. WHITTAKER, M.M. 101st Howitzer Battery, A.F.A.,
read No. 10103 Cpl. W. WHITTAKER, M.M. 110th Howitzer Battery, A.F.A.

Q.

144. Telephone Equipment.—Reference General Routine Order No. 3887, A.D. Signals Memorandum No. 190/89 of 4th May, 1918, issued under D.D. Signals IV Army Memorandum No. 223 of 2nd May, 1918, in which it is stated that Os. C. Divisional Signal Companies will collect all surplus technical signal instruments of units in their Division as soon as possible for return to A.D. Signals stores. This memorandum will be at once complied with.

145. Horses, Mules and Donkeys found Straying or Captured, etc.—General Routine Orders Nos. 1810 and 2626 are republished for information:—

1810.

(i) "All British horses and mules which may be found in straying, or possession of civilians, and all horses, mules and donkeys captured from the enemy, or brought in by deserters, are to be handed over at once to the nearest Mobile Veterinary Section. The retention of such animals in the unit which finds or captures them is strictly prohibited.

(ii) Animals considered serviceable after being Mallein tested and certified by the O.C., Mobile Veterinary Section, as free from contagious disease will be disposed of as directed by the D.D.R. of the Army or Cavalry Corps.

(iii) Animals considered unserviceable, or found to be suffering from any disease or disability, will be disposed of in the usual way through the Mobile Veterinary Section.

(iv) General Officers Commanding Divisions, and Cavalry Divisions, will render every Sunday to the D.D.R. of the Army, or the D.A.D.R. Cavalry Corps, a return of all stray or captured animals received by their Mobile Veterinary Sections during the previous week, showing how each was disposed of.

(v) This order does not refer to sick horses unavoidably left behind on the line of march by units in charge of Local Maires or inhabitants, the collection for which is provided for under General Routine Order, No. 534.

2626.

1. A number of horses and mules have been lost from Horse Lines under circumstances which give rise to the belief that the animals have been deliberately removed to the lines of another unit.

2. In some cases it is believed that such horses have been retained either:—

(a) To fill vacancies on establishments.

(b) In excess of establishments.

(c) In exchange of others which are removed to Mobile Veterinary Sections under G.R.O. 1810 as found straying.

3. No officer will retain in his charge any longer than is absolutely necessary any horse or mule which has not been allotted by the proper authority either to his unit or to himself, and no Commanding Officer will retain or allow any person under his command to retain any animal in excess of authorised establishment.

4. In every case in which any of the animals referred to in para. 1 of G.R.O. 1810 are not handed over to a Mobile Veterinary Section within 24 hours of their receipt, a written explanation of the cause of the delay is to be forwarded at once through the proper channels, for the information of the Army or Cavalry Corps Commander.

APPENDIX.

146. Returns.—A.F.B. 213. It is observed that a number of units still send in copies of B.213 complete. Only a copy of the first page is required in "Q" Office, AUSTRALIAN Corps, weekly, on Saturdays. This return is to be made up to and for Saturday in each week.

147. Fat Returns. The following amounts of fat were returned to Railhead during the month of April, 1918:—

	lbs.
1st Australian Division	9,072
2nd Australian Division	7,340
3rd Australian Division	5,014
4th Australian Division	1,103
5th Australian Division	32,697
Corps Troops	2,589
Army Troops attached	1,103
Total	58,918 lbs.

148. Rum Issue.—On and after 18/5/18 rum will only be issued in special cases, approved by G.O.C. Corps, or Divisions, on the recommendation of a medical officer. A.C.R.O. 34 of 16/2/18 is cancelled.

KEITH OFFICER, Major,
D.A.A.G.,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

NOTICES.

LOST.—From the Wagon lines of 103th Battery, R.F.A., on the night of 3rd May, 1918, Black Gelding, 15.1 hands, Hoof marks N.F. 79, O.F. 108, also Bay Gelding, 15.3 hands, Hoof marks N.F. 64, O.F. 108. Short Socks off hind, clip out of off ear.

(Communicate with G.O.C., R.A., AUSTRALIAN Corps).

LOST.—Douglas Motor Cycle Combination, Frame No. 5850 on charge to 160th S.B.A.C. The above machine was lost from 160th S.B.A.C's Billets at QUERRIEU on the night of 5th May, 1918.

(Communicate with S.M.T.O., AUSTRALIAN Corps).

STOLEN.—From a Barn in BLANGY-TRONVILLE on the morning of 4th May, 1918, between the hours of 4 a.m. and 5 a.m., two horses of the following descriptions:—

Black Gelding, 15.3 hands, star face and snip, both fore socks, off hind sock, Saddle-mark, near hind foot 90, off hind foot star.

Chestnut Gelding, 16 hands, slight scar, both hind socks, near hind foot 142, off hind foot star.

(Information to 23rd (Army) Brigade, R.F.A.)

FOUND.—The following horses have been found, wounded, on the 8th inst:—

- (i) Brown Gelding, blaze, 9 years, broad arrow and TK near rump, 16 hands.
- (ii) Black Gelding, star, 16 hands, 7 years, broad arrow near rump.
- (iii) Bay Gelding, star, 16 hands, 8 years, 795 near rump.
- (iv) Chestnut mare, star, 15 hands, 8 years, "U" off rump.
- (v) L.D. horse branded 7 over 279 near fore, C over a broad arrow on rump.
- (vi) L.D. Mule, broad arrow near rump.

(Communicate with A.P.M., AUSTRALIAN Corps).

ROUTINE ORDER No. 4001

by
Major-General E.G. SINCLAIR MACLAGAN, G.B., D.S.O.,
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

24th May, 1918.

HONOURS AND REWARDS. 2043. Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has awarded the following decorations :-

Military Cross

- 2/Lieut. A.J. BUOKLER, 4th Fld. Coy. A.E.
- Capt. E.N.B. DOCKER, 13th Aust. Fld. Ambce., AAMC.

Distinguished Conduct Medal.

- No. 7989 L/Opl. A.G. FORRESTER, H.M., 13th Aust. Fld. Amb. AAMC.

The Army Commander, the Corps Commander and the Divisional Commandant desire their congratulations conveyed to the recipients

The Corps Commander, IV Corps, has awarded the following decorations :-

Military Medal.

- 1378 Pte. L.T. BOYLE, 13th Battalion.
- 7051 Pte. W.R.O'BRIEN, 13th "
- 4880 L/Opl. J. McORMICK, 14th "
- 7066 L/Opl. C.H. PLATT, 14th "
- 3300 L/Opl. T.L. AXFORD, 16th "
- 2073 Opl. G.E. SMITH, 16th "
- 200 Sgt. A. MACKIE, 16th "

The G.O.S.C. IV Corps, 37th Division and 4th Aust. Division desire their congratulations conveyed to the recipients.

The Corps Commander, IV Corps, has awarded the following decorations :-

Military Medal.

- 6045 T/Opl. J.T. KNIGHT, 15th Battalion.
- 3261 Opl. F. CAWLEY, 15th "
- 4012 L/Opl. T. TOMLINSON, 15th "

The G.O.S.C. IV Corps, 42nd (East Lancs.) Division, and 4th Aust. Division desire their congratulations conveyed to the recipients.

TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES. 2044. With Baggage Wagons with Units as at present, and with Train vehicles drawing from Railhead daily, the following procedure will take effect :-

The Supply Wagon which draws from Railhead will, after cutting up at Dumps, be sent on direct to wagon lines of units where these horses with their drivers will remain with Baggage Wagons. The Driver and horses of the Baggage Wagon so relieved will hook into Supply Wagon and return the same day to A.S.C. lines ready to proceed to Railhead the following morning. This will maintain Baggage Wagons with Units always and distribute the work equally over all animals.

FAT RETURNS. 2045. Attention is called to Corps R.O. 147. The quantity of Fat returned to Railhead by the 4th Aust. Division does not compare favourably with that collected by other Divisions of Aust. Corps. G.O.S. Units will ensure that greater regard is given to saving of excess fat in the future.

WATER SUPPLY. 2046. Water will not be drawn by troops from private wells in the villages occupied by the Division. Public Wells and Water Points only are to be used.

P.T.O.

2.

TOWELS.

2047. A limited supply of new towels will be available to units on application to the Div. Baths officer. These towels will not be handed in with dirty clothes at Baths as they cannot be replaced at present. They should be washed by owners.

ACCOMMODATION. 2048. In future, the maximum number of men to be accommodated in one tent will be 12.

REFILLING. 2049. Refilling Points have been established as follows :-
POINTS.

4th Brigade - CARDONETTE (near Cemetery)
12th " RIVERY (next 26th A.A.S.C.)
13th " QUERRIEU.
Div. Troops - M.5.d.3.7.

ORDERS.

2050. Special attention is drawn to Corps Routine Order No. 141 - Removal of Property from Houses in abandoned Villages. This order will be read out to all troops on parade three times.

Special attention is drawn to the following orders :-

G.R.O. 4053 - Pay of soldiers of the United States Army.
4055 - Leave - Monthly Returns.
4066 - Grenades - Components to be salvaged.
4068 - Rifles fitted with telescopic sights - Care of.

Corps R.O. 145 - Horses, Mules and Donkeys found straying or captured.

148 - Rum issue.

LEAVE

2051. Reference G.R.O. 4055 - Return No. 17 will be

RETURNS.

rendered to D.H.Q. by 9 a.m. 28th inst. and monthly thereafter.

CARTON

2052. A process has now been discovered by which the wax

CONTAINERS.

and pulp contained in the carton containers in which Jam is issued can be recovered and used again.

These carton containers will now be collected and returned to Base. They will be bundled separately from paper and cardboard and packages will be clearly labelled - Jam Cartons, and with the name of the unit. Filled sacks of cartons will be disposed of in the same manner as salvaged paper and cardboard.

R. G. Jones
Lieut-Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G.,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Notices.

1. STRAYED into Horse Lines of "A" Section, 13th Aust. Field Ambulance at Emergency Walking Wounded Station, M.13.C. - Mule, Dark Grey, 15.3 hands, 5 years. 38 and 041 on fore feet.
2. STOLEN, from billet No. 15, Dacure Street, PONT NOYELLES between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. on 16/5/18 - one double limber, G.S. Marks - Front part, F.4 in white, ~~xxxx~~ rear part R.4 in white. - also angle iron carrier for petrol tins, both parts marked with rising sun, figure 4 in centre, red triangle and dark blue circle with 12 in white figures. Any information to A.P.M., 4th Aust.Div. Area Commandant, FLESSELLES, reports - "I have a letter case containing a set of tools, evidently lost from some Motor Cycle this afternoon (16th inst) on the Amiens road in this village."
3. STOLEN, from billet in GLISY, Triumph Motor Cycle, frame No. 100079 Engine No. not known, on night of 18/19th May. Owner of Cycle, O.C. 20th Bty., 75th Regiment of Artillery."

VIII

ROUTINE ORDER No. 401,
by
Major-General E.G. SINCLAIR MACLAGAN, O.B., D.S.O.,
Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

25th May, 1918.

HONOURS AND REWARDS. 2053. Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has awarded the following decorations :-

Bar to Military Cross.

Lieut. O.W. STORKEL, 48th Battalion.

Military Cross.

Lieut. A.J.C. MURIEL	46th Bn.	Lieut. T.F. ARNOLD, DCM., MM.,	48th Bn.
Lieut. G.V. O'CONNOR	47th Bn.		
Lt. H.B.T. McDOWALL, MM.	48th Bn.	2/Lt. G.G. BONYTHON, MM.,	48th Bn.
2/Lt. W.B. GARR, DCM.	48th Bn.	Lieut. T.E. COWLEY,	4th A.M.G. Bn.

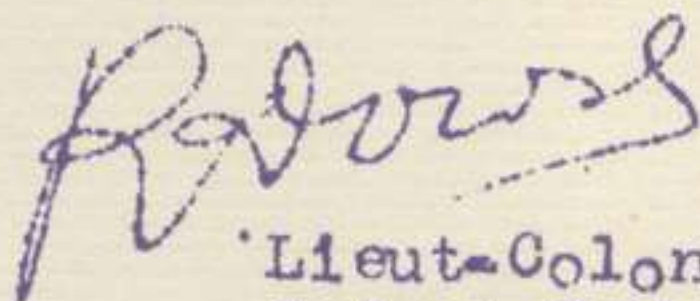
Distinguished Conduct Medal.

No. 4269	Sgt. H. WARFIELD,	47th Battalion.
564	CSM. T. REID	48th Battalion.
1150	Sgt. H.D. DAVIES	48th Battalion.

The Army Commander, the Corps Commander and the Divisional Commander desire their congratulations to be conveyed to the recipients.

ORDERS. 2054. Special attention is drawn to G.R.O. No. 4076:-
Empty Ammunition Boxes, S.A.A., 1000 rounds .303 inch.

GRAZING. 2055. Horses and mules may be grazed in the large paddock immediately to the north of the Hangars in the Allonville Chateau grounds. Entrance and exit will be made only from the ALLONVILLE-QUERRIEU Road.



Lieut-Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G.,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Notice.

The following cycles were stolen from the billets of Aust. Corps Cyclist Battalion on night of 23/24th May.

Cycle No. H5334	Battalion No. 6 on Cross bar.
Cycle No. E3069	No Battalion number.

Battalion colours painted on rear mud guard in each case.

* * *

D.C.O. as

H.Q.,
4TH AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
No.....
Date.....

M.H.

~~IX~~ XFOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.RETURN of CLAIMS for the month of May 1918.
-----Under G.R.O. 763.

Total amount Claimed F.85,729 . 45 (including those sent to Claims
Commission for Final Settlement.)
" " awarded F.719.
" number paid 2.18.
disallowed 3.

Under G.R.O. 634.

Number of Claims 8
Total number of Claims received for Month 112.

Headquarters,
4th Aust. Div.
28th May 1918.

Copy

W. Agnew
Major.
D.C.O.
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

XI

Headquarters,
4th Aust. Division
28-5-18.

A.A. & Q.M.G.
4th Aust. Division.



Reference Attached Claims.

I submit the following remarks +

1. The subject claims were reported upon by the 2nd Aust. Div. Claims Officer for Barbed Wire and Iron pickets taken by the 48th Infantry Battalion ^{with} by orders of the 12th Aust. Infantry Brigade at Beaucourt during 10th to 25th April last.
2. On 20-4-18 Div. Hqrs. was asked by me that the Brigade be instructed to cancel these orders. It would appear that this order was not carried out for the reasons set forth by the G.O.C. of the Brigade.
3. The question is "Are these reasons good in substance and in fact, and whether the damages are faits de guerre, bearing in mind the date of damages and position of Beaucourt?"
4. It is submitted that the damages are clearly not faits de guerre, and that the materials should have been requisitioned through the proper channel as the circumstances were not those of urgency, and the situation of Beaucourt did not support the action of the Brigade.
5. Owing to the action of the Brigade and lapse of time it will now be a matter of great difficulty to ascertain the quantity of materials taken. The Brigade was asked to report herein on 3-5-18 and 19-5-18.
6. Might I suggest the file be forwarded to General Staff for their remarks please, and forwarded to the Claims Commission for their ruling.
7. Attention is drawn to pages 14-16 of Claims Commission Circular 1-6-17.

A. W. H. H.
Major
Divisional Claims Officer.

FOR USE IN THE FIELD XII

Army Form N. 1531 A. (adapted)
(To be made out in duplicate)

ACCOUNT of sums received and expended by the Imprest Holder, 4th Aust. Div. Claims Officer Unit.

for period from 28th April to 28th May 1918, in account with the Paymaster A./12.

Dr.					Cr.													
Date	No. of Voucher	From whom received	Particulars	Amount					Date	No. of Voucher	To whom paid	Particulars	Amount					
				Francs	c.	£.	s.	d.					Francs	c.	£.	s.	d.	
1918.			Balance on last A/c	73	30				1918.									
April 29	1323	4th Aust. D.A.C.		27					April 29	1320	LANGLET V.	Buildings	50					
"	30	4th Aust. Div. Paymaster		500					May 1	1326	ROUX J.	Poultry	10					
May	4	1261 52nd Battalion		20					"	1	1327	FLANDRE A.	Wood etc.	16				
"	4	1321 15th Battalion		80					"	1	1328	GODART A.	" "	38				
"	8	1316 15th Battalion		35					"	1	1329	BRASSEUR J.J.	Wines	50				
"	21	1365 42nd Battery		30					"	1	1330	PHILLIPE S.	Poultry	25				
"	22	1316 7th A.A.S.C.		10					"	1	1331	MANQUEST S.	Straw	30				
"	22	1314 46th Battalion		150					"	1	1332	GROUX J.	Fowl	5				
"	23	A./12 4th Aust. Div. Paymaster		300					"	1	1334	NOUET E.	Straw	30				
"	28	1348 110th Battery		225					"	1	1335	FROIDURE R.	Oats	75				
		Carried forward	Total Receipts	1470	30						Carried forward	Total-Expenditure	359					
		Balance due to Paymaster on last Account ...	...								Balance due by Paymaster on last Account ...	...					
		Balance due by Paymaster on this Account ...	...								Balance due to Paymaster on this Account ...	...					
			TOTAL DR.									TOTAL CR.						

I certify that the above Account is correct.

Station and Date _____ Imprest Holder _____

1. This Account is to be made out by the Imprest Holder and should be forwarded, as soon after the termination of the period as possible, to the Field Cashier or Base Paymaster.
2. Vouchers representing disbursements on this return should bear distinctive numbers.

APPENDIX, 12 23

4th Aust. Div. Claims Officer

28th April

28th May

8

A./12.

1918
 Brought forward 1470.30
 May 28 1313 46th Battalion 125.

1918.
 Brought forward 359.
 May 4 1321 DEBAUVAIS M. Hay 80
 " 4 1339 LEMAIRE P. Straw 30
 " 4 1341 QUIGNON A. " 80
 " 4 1349) LEMAIRE L. Poultry 50
 " 4 1325)
 " 18 1361 BAQUET E. Straw 30
 " 19 1315 SEGUIN F. Trees 40
 " 23 1389 MONTARDIER L. Vegetables 50
 " 28 4th Aust. Div. Paymaster 525

1595.30

1244.-

76.80

351.30

1595.30

1595.30

In the Field 29th May 1918.

(signed) G. S. Evelyn Mackay

Major-General.
 Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Major.
 D.C.O., 4th Aust. Div.

APPENDIX 12

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