

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/75/22

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

January 1918



AWM4-13/75/22

76J

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

JANUARY, 1918.

18 FEB 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

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

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. Davidson*  
Commanding  
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.	1918.		WEATHER- Cold. Snow threatening periods alternating with brief sunshine breaks. Thaw evidences. Wind moderate from N.E.																									
	Jany		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> - Officers, 16. Other Ranks, 617.																									
	IST.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 73, Mules 661.																									
	Tues.		<u>Transport</u> - Carts, Maltese I, water 3. Wagons, G.S. 52; G.S. Lmbd 15; Ammtn Lbd 48. Cycles II.																									
			2 Other ranks returned to duty from 2ND.DIVL.SIG.School.																									
			5 " " evacuated to hospital.																									
			12 " " rejoined Unit through BASE.																									
			Chaplain-Capt. the Rev. Canon J.A.CUE (C.E.) mentioned in the despatches of the Commander in chief for distinguished and gallant services in the field, and devotion to duty between Feb. 20th. and 20/21-9-17.																									
			For the major portion of the period specified Chap.Capt.CUE was attached to the 2ND.DIVL.ARTY with headquarters at 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.Lines.																									
			AMMUNITION- Echelon supplies-Establishment:																									
			<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>On hand.</th> <th>Received.</th> <th>Expended.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>IST.SECTION.</td> <td>900A.</td> <td>Nil.</td> <td>Nil.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>900AX</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>684 BX</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2ND.SECTION.</td> <td>Similar quantities."</td> <td></td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S.A.A.SECTION</td> <td>4140 grenades; 3760 Webley;</td> <td>1,014,000 S.A.A.</td> <td>Received, Nil. Expended Nil.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		On hand.	Received.	Expended.	IST.SECTION.	900A.	Nil.	Nil.		900AX	"	"		684 BX	"	"	2ND.SECTION.	Similar quantities."		"	S.A.A.SECTION	4140 grenades; 3760 Webley;	1,014,000 S.A.A.	Received, Nil. Expended Nil.	
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# WAR DIARY

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	1918.		WEATHER- Freezing. Snow prospects varied with short intervals of sunshine. At night light rain changing to driving sleet. Wind moderate from N.E.																																																					
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LA CRECHE.			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">18 Pdr.</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">4.5 How.</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">A.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">AX</th> <th style="text-align: center;">BX</th> <th style="text-align: center;">BCh.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">BS</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Sk</th> <th style="text-align: center;">CBR</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Ps.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>On Hand noon 1-1-18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5036</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4265</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">54</td> <td style="text-align: center;">258</td> <td style="text-align: center;">374</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received Nil.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Issued</td> <td style="text-align: center;">800</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">900</td> <td style="text-align: center;">900</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>On hand noon 2-1-18.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4236</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1865</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">54</td> <td style="text-align: center;">258</td> <td style="text-align: center;">374</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	18 Pdr.		4.5 How.						A.	AX	BX	BCh.	BS	Sk	CBR	Ps.	On Hand noon 1-1-18	5036	4265	2000	2000	54	258	374	100	Received Nil.									Issued	800	2400	900	900					On hand noon 2-1-18.	4236	1865	1100	1100	54	258	374	100	
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E.M.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		WEATHER-Cold, nippy, slight thaw. Snow and sunshine alternating. Afternoon clear and bright. Hard frost at night. Wind light from N.N.W.	
	Jany		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16; Other Ranks 626.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 72; Mules 658.	
	3RD.		<u>Transport</u> - Carts, Maltese 1; water 3.	
			Wagons, G.S. 52; G.S. Lmbd. 15; Amtn. Lmbd. 48.	
	4TH.		Cycles 11.	
			2ND. SECTION ordered to move from present location to wagon lines occupied by the Section at NIEPPE.	
			Precautions against activity of enemy aircraft adopted. Sandbag shelter completed at H.Q. Protecting earthen walls encircling hutments completed in Section lines.	
			I Other Rank taken on strength from Hospital.	
			I " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			26687 Dvr. MACKAY, G.H., 8900 Dvrs. Hughes T.S., 33920 SLEEMAN T.O., 1713 LAWRENCE, H.B., 3068 McCONNELL R. promoted to the rank of Acting Bombardier.	
			System of salvage of cardboard and waste paper inaugurated.	
			AMMUNITION- ROMARIN DUMP- Received 1500 Bx and 1500 BChgs.	
			Issued 800 BX, 1600 A, 450 BX plus 450 Chgs.	
CRECHE.			WEATHER- Clear, bright overhead. Hoarfrost, heavy ground mist. Wind light from N.N.W.	
	4TH.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, Other Ranks 657.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 72, Mules 658.	
			<u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3.	
			Wagons, G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48.	
			Cycles 11.	
			25826 Dvr. MASTERS, J.E. promoted to rank of Acting Bombardier.	
			31 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE-Mostly rejoining Unit.	
			I " " " " Hospital	
			Current Column R.O. directed that blankets of men evacuated sick be sent with patient to Field Ambulance, clean blankets to be received in exchange.	
			It was further directed that on no account were blankets of men evacuated to be returned to Q.M. store before being disinfected.	
LA			AMMUNITION Received Nil, Issued Nil. C/2118/14.	

*J.A.H.*

76

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918. Jany		WEATHER- Dull, cold. Hard frost continues. Wind light from N.E. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, Other Ranks 657.	
	5TH. Satdy.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 72, Mules 658. <u>Transport</u> - Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd 48. Cycles II.	
LA CRECHE.	6TH.		WEATHER- Cold, bleak, sky overcast, light rain. Thaw threatening. Wind moderate from E.N.E.	
	Sun.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, Other Ranks 656. <u>Animals</u> - Riders 72, Mules 658. <u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd. 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles II.	
LA			Chap. Capt. D.P. MACDONALD attached temporarily to 1ST. SECTION. 2/Lieut. J. FENTON and 15 Other Ranks proceeded to 2ND. ARMY Trench Mortar School, LEULINGHEM for course of instruction.	
			I N.C.O. transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B. I Other rank evacuated to Hospital. 25 Other Ranks transferred to 5TH. F.A.B.	
			AMMUNITION- Nil Return.	
A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.				

*E.A.N.*

176

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LA CRECHIE.	1918.		WEATHER-Frosty, foggy, cold. Signs of thaw. Snow. Wind light from N.E. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17, Other Ranks 632.	
	Jany 7TH.		Animals- Riders 72, Mules 658. Transport-Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons, G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles II.	
	Mon.		The Commanding Officer, Lieut. Colonel W.J.S. DAVIDSON, 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. was admitted to the companionship of the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER. (Authority: A.I.F. List 279, dated 1-1-18.) The C.O. Lieut. Colonel W.J.S. DAVIDSON, D.S.O., specially mentioned in F.M. Sir DOUGLAS HAIG'S Despatch, dated 7-II-17, for distinguished and gallant services during period 26-2-17-Midnight, 20/21-9-17. (Extract from LONDON GAZETTE SUPPLEMENTARY, No. 30448, dated 28-12-17) 2 Other Ranks taken on strength from Hospital. 33946 Gnr. G.M. COBB, F.V., S.A.A. SECTION, appointed Acting Bombardier. 2/Lieuts A.D. PATTISON, and G.M. MUIRHEAD returned to duty from 2ND. ARMY Artillery School, TILQUES. 11877 Dvr. McCONNELL, A.L., 1ST. SECTION, appointed Acting Bombardier. AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to noon 7-1-18: Received-Nil. Issued: 1600 A, 700 BX, 900 B Chgs, 200 CBR.	
	8TH.		WEATHER- Cold, hard frost, snow. Wind very light from N.	
	Tues.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17, Other Ranks 652. Animals- Riders 72, Mules 656. Transport-Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons, g.s. 52, G.S. Lmbd. 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles II. 2/Lieut. E.F. POSTLE proceeded to 2ND. ARMY Artillery School for course. 1 Other Rank evacuated to Hospital; 19 taken on strength from BASE; 1 from 21ST. BATTN, A.I.F.; and 1 from Hospital. 10197 Cpl. NELSON, F.J.H., 2ND. SEC., selected to attend course at A.V.H. CALAIS. ARMY ORDER, 20/12/17, containing notice of approval of H.M. The KING of the award of chevrons to denote service overseas undertaken since 4-3-14 republished in Col. R.O. of even date. A small working party from 2ND. SEC. was temporarily attached to 5TH. A.F.A.B. for the purpose of assisting in the construction of gun pits in advanced positions.	

*E.F.N.*

A6945 Wt. W. 1122 N. 160 350 000 12/16 D. D. & I. Forms C/2118/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		WEATHER-Very Cold Heavy snowstorm. Wind, reaching gale force at times, very strong from W. veering to W.S.W. and S.W. Thaw set in suddenly at night.	
	Jany		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 17, OTHER RANKS 651.	
	9TH.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 72, Mules 656.	
	Wed.		<u>Transport</u> - Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons, G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles 11.	
			Bathing parade of personnel at PAPOT BATHS.	
			Notice of the official adoption, with a view to securing uniformity of nomenclature, of the following abbreviations of the word "AUSTRALIAN" published in Col. R.O. of event date: AUST. CORPS, AUST. DIV., 2ND. AUST. D.A.C &c.	
			1 Other Rank transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-to noon 8-1-18: Received 1000 A?2000 AX, 1000 BX, 1000 BX Ch. 300 T.M.B., 300 T.M.B. Comp. parts. Issued- Nil.	
			To noon 9-1-18: Received 160 TMB, 160 TMB Parts, 160 tails ord. Issued 1600 AX, 900 BX, 900 BX Ch., 140 TMC 140 Tmc parts.	
LA CRECHE.	10TH.		WEATHER-Milder, bright sunshine, thaw continues. Wind moderate from N.W.	
	Thur.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 17, Other ranks 660.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 75, Mules 656.	
			<u>Transport</u> -Wagons, G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles 11.	
			10 Other Ranks rejoined Unit through BASE.	
			All ranks warned in current Col. R.O. against removing timber from houses, farms and camps, occupied and unoccupied, without permission.	
			AMMUNITION- Nil Return.	

E. S. W.



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LA CRECHE.	1918.		WEATHER-Dull, mild, rain accompanied by sleet. Wind light from N.	
	Jan		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17, Other Ranks 661.	
	11TH.		Animals- Riders, 75, Mules 656.	
			Transport-Carts, Maltese 1, water 3.	
			Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd 48. Cycles 11	
	Fri.		5 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital	
			1 " " taken on strength from Hospital.	
			20 " " transferred to 5TH.A.F.A.B.	
			20 " " transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.	
			AMMUNITION Nil return.	
			WEATHER-Variable. Light showers alternating with periods of sunshine.	
	12TH.		Wind light from N.W.	
		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 17, Other ranks 619.		
		Animals- Riders 75, Mules 656.		
Sat.		Transport- Carts, Maltese 1, water 3.		
		Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd 48.		
		Cycles 11.		
		Officers in charge of transport directed to note observance of DIV.R.O. in the matter of drivers carrying horse rugs in all wagons for the purpose of covering animals when halted on lines of route.		
		DIV.R.O. directing the exercise of greater care on the part of all ranks in the matter of the protection of growing crops within the Area, and prohibiting unnecessary trespass on fields, published in current Col.R.O. for information and necessary action.		
		Col.R.O. of even date directs that, during the periods of adoption of thaw precautions, only two-mule teams be employed in all vehicles. Drivers to be instructed that on no account may they place, or allow to be placed, more than half a load on their vehicles during the period specified. The order to be strictly enforced.		
		1 Other rank taken on strength from Hospital; and 1 rejoined Unit thro BASE		
		R.M.O.'s weekly report states that health of troops is good, that prescribed precautions respecting water supply and carts, latrines, refuse		
		disposal, had been taken. Prevailing disease nil. No. of Rfts for week 37, No. bathed 200, No. provided with clean under clothes 200.		

*E. A. W.*

A6945

176

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	1918.		WEATHER-Fine, brilliant sunshine. Later, cloud flecked sky. Night clear and frosty. Wind light from N.W.	
	Jan 13TH.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 17, Other Ranks 624. <u>Animals</u> -Riders 75, Mules 656. <u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons, G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd. 48. Cycles II.	
	Sun.		Church parades (C.E. and R.C.) for H.Q. and Sections held. Strict economy enjoined by current A.I.F.R.O. in the use of sandbags owing to existing shortage. AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP>Returns to noon 13-I-18: Received nil. Issued 1600A, 1465AX, 1350BX, 1350 B.Ch.	
	14TH.		WEATHER-Cold. Heavy Snowstorm. Wind N., N.E., to N.W. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18, Other Ranks 622. <u>ANIMALS</u> -Riders 75, Mules 656. <u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons G.S. 52, G.S. Lmbd. 15, Amtn Lbd. 48. Cycles II.	
LA CRECHE.	Mon.		2/Lieut. C.F. EKENSTEEN, 83N Cpl. SIMPSON, E.J., 26687 Bdr. MACKAY, G.H. proceeded to AUST. CORPS Gas School. 3 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital. I " " " " " whilst on leave in ENGLAND. Capt. J.E. MITCHELL attached to 1ST. SECTION for duty. AMMUNITION-Nil return.	
LA				

E. J. W.

76

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	1918. Jany		WEATHER-Cold severe, rain. Wind moderate from N.W. At night heavy gale commenced from W.	
	15TH.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18, Other Ranks 617. <u>Animals</u> - Riders 75, Mules 655. <u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons G.S.52, G.S.Lmbd.15, Amtn Lmbd.48. Cycles II.	
	Tues.		2 Other Ranks transferred from Sections to H.Q. I " " proceeded to LONDON on detached duty. I " " transferred to 2ND.DIV.T.M.B. I " " " " 5TH.A.F.A.B. IOI97 Cpl. NELSON F.J.H., 2ND. SECTION, proceeded to Aust. Vet. Hosptl, CALAIS for course of instruction. AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to noon 15-1-18: Received 1000A, 3000AX, 1500BX, 1500B Ch. Issued Nil.	
CRECHE.	16TH		WEATHER-Heavy rainstorm, sleet, and snow. Westerly gale continued, moderated at midday. Afternoon fine. Evening clear and frosty with wind very light from N.W.	
	Wed.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18, Other Ranks 640. <u>Animals</u> -Riders 75, Mules 655. <u>Transport</u> -Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons G.S.52, G.S.Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd 48. Cycles II.	
LA			Bathing parade for personnel at PAPOT BATHS. Lieut. E.T. HEARNE relieved Lieut. C.V. HEATH at ROMARIN DUMP at noon. Lieut. HEATH reported at 2ND. SECTION for duty on relief from ROMARIN DUMP. 24 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE. I " " " " " " Hospital. I " " evacuated to Hospital. Communication received from 2ND. AUST. DIV. ARTY H.Q., and contents disseminated on the subject of the discipline of members of the A.I.F. whilst on leave in PARIS, and stating that it had been brought to the corps Commander's notice that whilst the behaviour of the men of the Corps in PARIS was in most respects admirable, they exhibited some slackness in saluting, and the observance of other principles of military etiquette. The letter suggested the	

*E. J. W.*

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26

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
	Jany			
	16TH.		curtailment of PARIS leave if such non-observance continued, and the Corps Commander directed that his remarks on the subject be communicated to all Unit Commanders who were instructed to warn men proceeding on leave to be particularly careful about saluting and dress, and so obtain for the A.I.F. a name not only for good behaviour, but also for smartness.	
	ctd.			
	17TH.		WEATHER-Cold severe, heavy rain and snow. Wind strong from E. veering again to W.	
	Thur.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18, Other ranks 640. Animals- Riders 75, Mules 655. Transport- No alteration.	
			I Other Rank taken on strength from Hospital.	
			Lieut. J. W. FENTON } Classified as "very Good" in report on their efficiency, and acquired knowledge, in the course of the term 24-28-12-17, at the AUST. CORPS Gas School.	
			R. S. M. S. A. McMAHON }	
			28398 Bdr. C. F. FRANCK }	
			Col. R. O. of even date directed Section Commanders to reduce the oat ration for animals from 12lb per diem to 10lb per diem. The Order further directed that the grain thus saved be held as a reserve until further orders. It further directed that in the event of a move full oat rations be issued for the day of the move when the normal ration would be resumed. Section Commanders were directed further to pay particular attention to the animals in the course of the ration reduction period and note carefully any "falling off" in condition as a result.	
CRECHE.				
LA				
			14 cases of varied foodstuffs and comforts were received from the AUST. COMFORTS FUND, and distributed pro rata amongst H.Q. and Sections.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP>Returns to noon 17-1-18: Received 2000AX, 400BX, 400BX Ch. Issued: Nil.	

*E. S. H.*

76

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		WEATHER-Cold,dull.Wind variable veering from W.to N. Thaw precautions adopted.	
	Jan.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18,Other Ranks 640.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 74,Mules 654.	
	18TH.		<u>Transport</u> - No alteration.	
			2/Lts.G.M.MUIRHEAD,A.D.PATTISON,J.R.MARRIOTT directed to attend a lecture on "POSTAL CENSORSHIP" by Capt.McVEY at NEUVE EGLISE at 3 p.m. on 22nd.inst.	
	Fri.		2 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE. Working party attached	
			I " " evacuated to Hospital. temporarily to 5TH.BDE.	
			20 " " transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B. returned to duty with	
			20 " " " " 5TH.A.F.A.B. 2ND.SECTION.	
	19TH.		WEATHER -Severely cold and dull. Light rain. Wind from S.W. to W. very light. Thaw precautions adopted.	
LA CRECHE.	Sat.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 18,Other Ranks 602.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 74,Mules 654.	
			<u>Transport</u> - No alteration.	
			Bathing parade fpr personnel at PAPOT BATHS.	
LA			Lieut.Col.W.J.S.DAVIDSON,D.S.O.,C.O., 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.,proceeded on leave to ENGLAND.	
			I Other Rank taken on strength from Hospital.	
			Col.R.O. of even date directs that no bread may be purchased by soldiers from civilians within the CORPS Area.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to noon 19-1-18: Received Nil. Issued 20BX, 20BX Ch.	

*E.S.H.*

26

WAR DIARY

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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.	1918.		WEATHER-Cold, unsettled, light rain. Wind light from S.W. to N.W. Thaw precautions observed.	
	Jany		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 18, Other Ranks 685. <u>Animals-</u> Riders 74, Mules 654.	
LA CRECHE.	20TH.		<u>Transport-</u> No alteration.	
	Sun.		Church parades held for H.Q. and Sections. 2 Other ranks taken on strength from BASE. 14 gunners returned to duty from 2ND.DIV.SIG.School. 2/Lt.J.W.FENTON and 14 gunners returned to duty from 2ND.ARM.Y T.M.School. 2/Lt.C.F.EKENSTEEN and 2 other ranks returned to duty from AUST.CORPS G.S. 1 O/R taken on strength from Hospital. R.M.O's weekly health report showed that the health of personnel continues good. Water supply and plant satisfactory, also latrines and the arrangements for the disposal of refuse. Prevailing diseases nil. No. of men bathed in the course of the week-150. No. who received clean change of underclothing-150.  AMMUNITION-Nil return.	
LA CRECHE.	21ST.		WEATHER-Mild, light rain, occasional sleet. Wind moderate from E. Night moonlit and clear. Sharp frost. Thaw precautions continue in force.	
	Mon.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers -18, Other Ranks 605. <u>Animals-</u> Riders 74, Mules 654. <u>Transport-</u> No alteration.  Bathing parade of personnel at PAPOT BATHS. 8 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE. 2 " " " " " Hospital.  AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP>Returns to noon 21-I-18: Received 250 TMG. Issued: 800AX, 450BX and Ch.	E.H.W.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECH.	1918. Jany 22ND. Tues.		<p>WEATHER-Mild,unsettled,light rain. Wind light from S.E.  DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 18,Other Ranks 671.  Animals- Riders 74,Mules 654.  Transport-No alteration.  57 Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE. Only a small prportion of this draft belonged originally to Artillery Rfts. Others had been transferred to Artillery Details from other Units. Some of the drivers had been well trained in the duties of their rank with the A.A.S.C. The gunners had received elementary artillery training,and,in addition,had been well trained in the particular work of their original Units,viz: Infantry, Pioneers,A.A.S.C.. The physique of the draft was generally good,discip-  -line likewise.  I Other Rank evacuated to Hospital.  30 " " transferred to the 4TH.A.F.A.B.  30 " " " " 5TH.A.F.A.B.  Capt.J.E.MITCHELL attached temporarily for duty with H.Q.  AMMUNITION-Nil return.</p>	
	23RD. Wed.		<p>WEATHER-Mild,dull.  DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 19,Other Ranks 610.  Animals- Riders 74,Mules 654.  Transport- No alteration.  Bathing parade of personnel at PAPOT BATHS.  Major J.RAY,D.S.O. (5TH.A.F.A.B.) temporarily attached for duty with 2ND. AUST.D.A.C.,and to temporarily command that Unit during the absence of Lt.Col.W.J.S.DAVIDSON,D.S.O. in ENGLAND.  Capt.G.H.KIRBY,Capt.J.E.MITCHELL,and Lt.W.B.McDONALD constituted a Board of Officers for the purpose of making the quarterly examination of the accounts of the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.Canteen.  I Other Rank transferred to 2ND.SECTION from H.Q.  2 " " ,5TH.A.F.A.B.,attached temporarily for duty with Unit H.Q.  I " " taken on strength from 5TH.A.F.A.B.</p>	
			<p>AMMUNITION-ROMARIN Dump-Return to noon 23-1-18: Received Nil.Issued 2400AX  900BX and Ch.</p>	

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1918

# 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.	1918.		WEATHER-Light rain early in the day. Cleared later. Springlike mildness continues. Wind light from S.E.		
	Jany		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 19, Other Ranks 613.		
	24TH.		<u>Animals</u> -Riders 76, Mules 654.		
			<u>Transport</u> - No alteration.		
	Thur.		Bathing parade of Personnel at PAPOT BATHS.		
			I Other Rank transferred to 6TH. ARMY MOBILE BDE. A.F.A.		
			I " " " " 4TH. A.F.A.B.		
			I " " evacuated to Hospital.		
		25TH.		WEATHER-Bright and clear. Springlike conditions continue. Ground mist. Wind light from S. veering to E.	
		Fri.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 19, Other Ranks 611. <u>Animals</u> Riders 76, Mules 655. <u>Transport</u> - No alteration.	
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to noon 25-I-18: Received 2000AX, 600BX, 600Bx Ch. Issued: Nil.		
	26TH.		WEATHER-Mild period merges into colder term, sky overcast, foggy, damp. Wind from E.		
	Sat.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 19, Other Ranks 610. <u>Animals</u> - Riders 76, Mules 649. <u>Transport</u> - No alteration.		
			Bathing parade of personnel at PAPOT BATHS.		
			AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to noon 26-I-18: Received: Nil. Issued: 60 TMG with fuzes and chgs.		

*E. K. W.*



26

# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
	Jan.		WEATHER-Cold, dull, foggy, damp. Wind Light from E. IOI97 Cpl NELSON F.J.A. returned to duty from A.V.H., CALAIS.	
	27TH.		1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from Hospital. 3 " " evacuated to Hospital.	
	Sun.		DAILY STRENGTH-PERSONNEL-Officers 19, Other Ranks 609. Animals- Riders 76, Mules 649. Transport- No alteration. Church parades for H.Q. and SECTIONS. R.MO's weekly report states that the health of the troops is good. Water supply, plant, and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. Prevailing diseases nil. No. of men bathed in the course of the week-200. No. to whom clean underclothes had been issued-200. No. of Rfts: 67*	
	28TH.		WEATHER-Frosty, ground mist, clear and bright overhead. Wind light from S. DAILY STRENGTH- Personnel- Officers 19, Other Ranks 611. Animals- Riders 76, Mules 648. Transport- No alteration.	
LA	Mon.		2/Lt. E.J. EKENSTEEN, 26687 Bdr. G.H. MACKAY, and 83N Cpl. E.J. SIMPSON received "Pass" classification in CORPS Gas School Report. 2 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital. 9 " " rejoined Unit thro BASE. 2 " " taken on strength from Hospital. 1 " " " " " " 2ND.D.T.M.B. 1 " " returned to duty from 2ND.DIV. Animal Rest Camp. Capt. G.H. CAMERON, A.A.M.C., temporarily attached to 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. during absence on leave of Capt. V.F. CROWE, A.A.M.C. AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP-Return to Noon 28-1-18: Received: Nil. Issued 1600 rounds A, 2400 ax, 900 BX, 900 Bx Ch.	

*E.H.*

76 ✓

WAR DIARY

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OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		WEATHER-Frosty, bright, clear. Wind very light from W.S.W.	
	Jan.		DAILY STRENGTH- <del>Personnel</del> -Officers 19, Other Ranks 618. Animals -Riders 77, Mules 650. Transport-No alteration.	
	29TH.		MOVEMENT ORDER- In accordance with 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Order, No.78, dated 26-1-18, and 2ND.AUST.DIV.Adm.Memo dated 27-1-18, the 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMMTN COLUMN was directed to move to the MERRIS Area on 31-1-18.	
	Tues.		Route via BAILLEUL, with the exception of IST.SECTION, the COLUMN to occupy wagon lines in sand near OUTERSTEENE. 3 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital. I 2 " taken on strength from Hospital. I " " returned to duty from School of Farriery, ABBEVILLE. AMMUNITION- <del>REPAIR-DUMP</del> -Return-to-noon-29-12--Nil return.	
CRECHE.	30TH.		WEATHER-Fine, bright, clear, mild. Wind very light from S.W. and W.	
	Wed.		DAILY STRENGTH- <del>Personnel</del> -Officers 19, Other Ranks 626. Animals- Riders 77, Mules 650. Transport- No alteration. II Other Ranks taken on strength from BASE. 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.wagons on loan to batteries were returned to respective Sections.	
LA	31ST.		WEATHER-Dull, drop in temperature, raw, foggy, frosty. Wind very light S.E. to E.	
	Thur.		DAILY STRENGTH- <del>Personnel</del> -Officers 20, Other Ranks 626. Animals- Riders 76, Mules 650. Transport-Carts, Maltese 1, water 3. Wagons, G.S.52, G.S.Lmbd 15, Amtn Lmbd 48. Cycles II. Regimental Aid Post established in billet adjoining School at OUTERSTEENE in the MERRIS Area. Current Col.R.O. directed that all steel work on harness and fittings be kept well oiled instead of burnished. Attention of all ranks called to the necessity of saluting officers. 7358 Cpl.BRADLEY, N.S. transferred to R.A.A.ENGLAND. MOVEMENT- In accordance with the Movement Order published on 29-1-18 the 2ND.AUST.DIV.AMMTN COLUMN vacated wagon lines within the STEENWERCK	

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76

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE - OUTERSTEEDE.	<u>1918.</u>		Area, and marched via BAILLEUL to wagon lines within the MERRIS Area.	
	Jan.		The head of the COLUMN passed a given starting point at 10 a.m. and marched in the following order: H.Q., 1ST.SEC., 2ND.SEC., and S.A.SEC.	
	31ST.		Strict march discipline was observed en route.	
	ctd.		All Sections moved with full echelons.	
			All Area stores were handed over to the relieving COLUMN.	
			Gum boots were retained by Sections.	
			A Rear Party remained to clean and clear lines and to hand over to the Relieving Formation. All billets, horselines, cookhouses, and latrines were left in a clean and sanitary condition.	
			The 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. Party on ROMARIN DUMP was relieved by a Party from 3RD.	
			AUST.D.A.C. Lieut. HEARNE reported completion of relief. Similar relief was effected at DOUDOU DUMP at noon on the 30th. inst. The Party relieved at DOUDOU reported back to the S.A.A. SECTION with G.S. Limbered wagons.	
			Rations for even date were drawn from the Refilling Point at MERRIS.	
		Baggage wagons were supplied by the 2ND.AUST.DIV.TRAIN.		
		The 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY BRASS BAND Played the COLUMN along portion of route.		
		<u>SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.</u>		
	<u>JANUARY, 1918.</u>		No. of Reinforcements from BASE: 197	
			From Hosptl: 17	
			Evacuated Sick 34	
			Transferred to Brigades 169.	
			Transferred to other Units: 4.	

*E. K.*

# WAR DIARY

OF

2ND. AUST. DIVL. AMTN COLUMN.

FOR

JANUARY, 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	SUMMARY.
2.	MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.
3.	FORAGE ECONOMY.

WAR...DIARY.

APPENDIX NO. \_\_\_\_\_

JANUARY, 1918.

SUMMARY.

ACTIVE OPERATIONS- The 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMMTN COLUMN took over ROMARIN and DOUDOU Dumps from the 3RD.AUST.D.A.C. on 24-12-17, refilled echelons, and entered upon a further period of active operations.

The Sector allotted to the 2ND.DIV.ARTY proved to be a very quiet one, and operations were largely confined to what had become an ordinary daily routine. The 2ND.D.A.C., therefore, was not exposed to the severe campaign strain which had hitherto been its experience on more hotly contested sectors. The extensive use of DECAUVILLE light railways for the carriage forward of ammunition kept the G.S.wagons largely "out of action", but limbered ammunition wagons were kept in use as transport for small arms ammunition and material. Working parties were maintained at ROMARIN and DOUDOU DUMPS. From the former 18 pdr, and 4.5 how.ammunition was supplied, also trench mortar material, small arms supplies were issued from the latter.

On the 8th.inst.a small working party from the 2ND.SECTION was temporarily attached to the 5TH.A.F.A.B. for the purpose of assisting in the construction of gun pits in advanced positions.

G.S.wagons, teams, and drivers were largely employed in general fatigue and transport duties.

Both ROMARIN and DOUDOU DUMPS were subjected to spasmodic enemy shelling. Shells fell harmlessly within the areas, and on each occasion this attention of the enemy was of brief duration, and was probably due an outcome of counter battery effort, rather than the marking of the dumps as definite objectives. Though enemy air forces were very active over the Area, neither of the dumps was made a target.

PERSONNEL- During the latter part of the period under review Major RAY, D.S.O. commanded the Column temporarily while Lieut.Col. W.J.S.DAVIDSON, D.S.O., was on leave in ENGLAND. Capt.G.H.CAMERON A.A.M.C., similarly relieved Capt.V.F.CROWE, A.A.M.C., Regimental Medical Officer.

197 Other Ranks were taken on strength from BASE, and 17 rejoined from Hospital. Of the reinforcements a large percentage formerly belonged to the Formation, having been evacuated for medical and other reasons. The new men were all up to the required standard physically, and militarily. In the course of the month 34 Other Ranks were evacuated sick. 173 other ranks were transferred to batteries, of whom 96 went to the 5TH.BRIGADE, and 76 to the 4TH.BRIGADE. 4 other ranks were transferred to other Formations.

DISCIPLINE- The high degree of discipline attained by the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. was maintained generally during the term. Orderly Room cases totalled 11—an unusually high number. These appearances were due almost entirely to trivial breaches of orders, such as being beyond the bounds of the billeting area without permission. As soon as billet area limits became better known the commission of these offences ceased.

One Field General Court-Martial was held on the 25th.inst.when a soldier, who had not elected to be summarily dealt with, was tried on the charge of hesitating to obey an order of an N.C.O.. The finding of the Court was "guilty", and the accused was sentenced to seven days' F.P.No.2. The sentence was duly confirmed.

TRAINING- Unit Gas N.C.Os. conducted customary gas appliance instruction parades. A proportion of junior officers and other ranks attended courses of instruction at Divisional and CORPS Schools.

HEALTH- The general health of the Unit personnel continued good. The R.M.O's review of the term is attached.

HONOURS AND REWARDS- The Commanding Officer of the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. Lieut.Colonel W.J.S.DAVIDSON, was specially mentioned in F.M. Sir

DOUGLAS HAIG'S Despatch, dated 7-II-17, for distinguished and gallant services, during period 26-2-17-midnight 20/21-9-17. (Extract from LONDON GAZETTE SUPPLEMENTARY, No. 30448, dated 28-12-17.)

On 1-1-18 the C.O., Lieut. Colonel W.J.S. DAVIDSON was admitted to the COMPANIONSHIP of the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (Authority: A.I.F. List 279 of 1-1-18. Chaplain Capt. the Rev. Canon J.A. CUE was mentioned in the Despatches of the Commander in Chief for distinguished and gallant services, between Feb. 20th. and midnight 20/21 Sept. 1917. For the major portion of the period specified Chaplain Capt. CUE was attached to 2<sup>ND</sup> AUST. DIV. ARTY.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND- Foodstuffs and comforts were received from the A.C.F. with appreciation. The goods were distributed pro rata amongst H.Q. and Sections.

Y.M.C.A. A detachment branch of the Y.M.C.A. is now attached to the 2<sup>ND</sup> AUST. D.A.C.

*E.H.*

76/ App 2 21  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

WAR-O-DIARY.

APPENDIX NO.

JANUARY, 1918

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH  
OF JANUARY, 1918.

REGIMENTAL AID POST ATTACHED TO 2ND. AUST. DIVL. AMMTN. COL.

During the month of January the Unit was established in billets, and owing to the conditions prevailing on this Front the men not as much exposed to the dangers of active operations as has hitherto been the case when the SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN was in action.

The work of the R.A.P., however, was rendered more difficult than would otherwise have been the case by the scattered positions of the Sections. The R.M.O. was stationed with the Headquarters of the Column, which adjoined the 1ST. SECTION on the BAILLEUL-ARMENTIERES ROAD. The S.A.A. SECTION was camped on the same road, but one and a half miles nearer NIEPPE. The 2ND. SECTION, after being camped for some time about a mile from the LESTRADE REST CAMP (JESUS FARM), moved to a position near the R.E. Dump, about a quarter of a mile from STEENWERCK STATION. This necessitated daily visits in order to conduct the Sick Parade.

However, during the period the health of the men was exceptionally good, and most of the cases of sickness reported were of a trivial nature.

Arrangements were made for regular bathing parties at the PAPOT BATHS, where clean underclothing was always obtainable.

The huts in which the men were billeted proved adequate protection against weather conditions.

Very little marching was done during the period as the care of harness and wagons took up most of the men's time.

During the month only 15 men were evacuated, of whom the majority remained within the Divisional Area.

No cases of trench feet were reported, but, owing to the shortage of supplies, it was found rather difficult to give every the Trench Feet Treatment daily.

The 16TH. BATTERY (6TH ARMY BDE A.F.A.) during this period was under the direction of my R.A.P., as were also the 2ND. MOBILE VETERINARY SECTION.

Moreover the civil population has made use of our presence in the neighbourhood, and, besides contributing a number of regular patients to our Sick Parade made several urgent night calls for our assistance. Though these cases ranged from respiratory ailments to poisoning and accidental injuries, our treatment in every case proved successful, and gratitude to the AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SERVICE was freely expressed by the civil population.

(Sgd.) V.F. CROWE, Captain, A.A.M.C.  
R.M.O. 2ND. AUSTRALIAN DIVL. AM. COL.

25-I-18.

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

WAR DIARY.  
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APPENDIX NO.

JANUARY, 1918.

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
RELATIVE TO ECONOMISING IN FORAGE. (H.Q. 2ND.D.A.H.Q.  
T23/20,18-1-18)

"Attention is called to the necessity for economising in forage while so many horses are freed from their ordinary work.

It has been noticed that many horses are being exercised on the roads indicating lack of regular work. The Corps Commander therefore thinks that by more careful feeding, some portion of the oats ration could be saved. The same ration is now being issued as during periods of heaviest work, but very little saving is being made, judging from the fact that short-drawals of oats from the railheads are practically nil.

There is a tendency to accumulate unused supplies, although these would have to be left behind if a sudden move were ordered. Any foodstuffs not consumed on the day for which they are issued should be immediately reported on the ration indent (A.B.55.) as being on hand, in order that the S.S.O. may draw so much short from railhead, and thus transfer the saving to the Base.

It is of utmost importance that every possible economy in rations be made to ease the strain on the national resources during present stringency; and the Corps Commander hopes that by careful personal attention on the part of all ranks some results may be shown.

At the same time steps should be taken to remind Unit Commanders of the desirability of using any available grazing as the snow disappears, especially in forward areas, so that some variation, as well as economy may be introduced into the animal ration.

It is desired that general attention be called to these matters, and inquiry will be made later to ascertain what progress in saving oats has been made."

Unit Commanders are requested where possible without detriment to the horses to practice economy of horse feed particularly oats; and where this can be attained, arrangements will be made with the Supply Officers to under draw from time to time the amount saved from the daily issue.

(Sgd.) W.J. WADDELL, Captain,

D.A.Q.M.G. 2ND. AUST. DIV.