

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/77/11

Title: 4th Australian Divisional Ammunition
Column

April 1917



AWM4-13/77/11

WAR DIARY

or

(INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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of 4^a ADAC

page 1 April 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOTTOM WOOD, MAMETZ	March 28 ^a		L ^t King of No 7 Sch & L ^t Heist of No 2 open dump work at H 21 c Bapaume & ammunition going by motor lorries to there.	
"	29 ^a		Issued orders for relief of 2 nd Div. AC. & dumps. Other preparations.	
"	30		" " refilling 10 ^a Bde (FA) & 11 ^a Bde at Bottom Wood (D.W.C.) Orders received putting off all moves for 24 hours.	
"	31		" " " " " again.	
"	1 st APRIL		Nothing of importance. Infantry Dumps i/c L ^t Cramp being moved forward from LA COUPE GUELE.	
"	2 nd		Nos 1 & 2 Sections (A Echelon) march out to BAPAUME & establish Infantry & Artillery Dumps on ARRAS road at H 21 c. Snowing. Major Gregson, German Officer reports. 10 ^a AFA Bde arrive & refilled.	
"	3 rd		11 ^a AFA Bde arrive & are refilled.	
"	4 th		Filled Lorries with subsection establishment of rounds, & assisted in forming 11 ^a Bde column of guns drawn by lorries.	
"	5 th		L ^t W.T. Needs. 2/L ^t T.P. Clark : 2/L ^t R.D. Butters : 2/L ^t A.A. Orchard : 2 nd L ^t C.B. Purmrose & L ^t (Temp Capt) J.E. Aitkens, reports from Base. 2/L ^t Orchard & Purmrose recalled here. L ^t Needs to 12 th Army Bde. L ^t Aitkens in 2 days transferred to 11 ^a AFA Bde.	Arrived 1 st TC

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of 4th AD AC

page 2 April 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOTTOM WOOD	6 ⁿ		Capt # Montgomery AAMC - M.O. - evacuated to 6 ⁿ Fants. broken arm.	
	7 ⁿ		A Echelon issuing ammunition, Artillery, & Infantry, & filling establishment at Gunpits, several trips in the 24 hours. Lt B Rundle seriously wounded at about C 7 C. in rear of ECOUST, also 3 O/R. Snowing.	
BAPAUME	8 ⁿ		CO, less headquarters office & Adjt, arrives at camp at Dumps. Visit village of FAUREUIL with CRA to pick out new Dump road, & camping spots for the 3 Sections.	
	9 ⁿ		No 1 Section instructed to be in readiness to move into field behind 11 ^a AFA Bde in possible advance. No 2 Section to work dump & assist from rear. OC B Echelon with 1 officer & 20 SAA GS wagons arrive & move into FAUREUIL Camp.	
	10 ⁿ		Majority of remainder of B Echelon arrives. No 1 still "stands to".	
	11 ^a		Soon after daybreak No 1 Section moves out & follows Mobile Brigade of Artillery, but less stores etc. Moves to about B 30 a. or b. west of VAULX. Returns about sundown but refills the Battery Wagon Lines from the Artillery wagons before that portion returns. Snowing. The Adjutant & headquarters arrive.	
			No 2 Section moves into camp at Faureuil. New Dumps, Artillery, & Infantry, open at FAUREUIL at 11 am, & remainder of stock at L1, Bapaume, is gradually transferred to new Dump. Remainder of B Echelon arrives from Bottom Wood.	*V Vernon 24th OC.

2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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of 4th Aus Dae

page 3 of April 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVREUIL	12 th		Capt W.D. Quilty AAME reports as Med Officer. 2/Lt ORCHARD & 28 men arrive from Base. 4 th Aus Div, less Artillery, being relieved by 2 nd Aus Div. Issuing ammunition daily straight from now on.	
	13 th		2/Lt ORCHARD transferred to Battery. 11 th Bde Wagon Lines more forward & system of transport from DAE altered. 2 nd Div. Bombing Officer takes over Infantry Dump from this unit.	
	14 th		Lt Dickinson & 17 OPR of V4a attached to Section 5 for duty. 101 Fuzes being removed from BX ammunition & replaced by 107 E for manufacturing.	
	15 th	7am	As the enemy was attacking, unit received orders to stand to in supply & possible retirement. Filled all Saa & bomb wagons immediately, the Artillery wagons being always kept full. "Stand to" ceased about midday. During the Batteries being underhosed, DAE attached 288 mules, 240 being teamed, and 216 having harnesses and 108 drivers: 10 th AFA Bde getting 144 LD, & 11 th Dde 144. Lt B. Rundle, died at CCS between PUIERES & ALBERT, (wounded on 7 th inst). Drew up establishment forms of personnel, horses, ammunition tables, in accordance with 5 th Army 445/1 relative to B Echelon giving animals & going to Sub-Park; also establishment of guard left with spare wagons & less mobile equipment & stores. Lt HIRST leaves for England release.	

#VVENOR LTR

WAR DIARY

of 4th Aus DAC

Army Form C. 2118.

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(INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.)

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page 4 of April 1917.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVREUIL	16 th		Issuing ammunition, paying with 101 E. DAILY & NIGHTLY.	
	17 th		L ^t ES SUTTON O.C. No 7 Section goes on leave to England (1 st leave since January 1916.)	
	18		Issuing ammunition etc.	
	19		2/L ^t DEVINE A24 O/R from Base	
	20		(usual work only).	
	21		Clearing old dump at H 21 C of boxes & empties & loading on to Monument train. 2 nd ADA relieves 4 th ADA at noon.	
	22 nd		Completely cleared old dump. German plane about 300' high over Dump.	
	23 rd		Usual supplying only	
	24 th		" " " Infantry Dump is removed from Favreuil to BEUGNATRE	
	25 th		" " " L ^t GREENE W & L ^t CROCKER AW transferred to 10 th AFABde	
	26 th		L ^t AWCROCKER returns from 1 st Angue Artillery School	
	27 th		L ^t H.V. COPLEY A56 O/R arrive from Base. L ^t Topley reinstated as O.C. No 2 Section. Distributed Olective papers to Authorized witnesses. L ^t KING EC and 2/L ^t Clarke TP transferred to 11 th AFABde & L ^t CROCKER AW to 10 th Bde.	
			<u>H.V. Copley LTR</u>	

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of 4th Aus DAE

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page 5 of April 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices											
FAVREUIL	28 th		Receive orders to select a forward dump by NOTN 29 th .												
"	29 th		<p>Rode to South of VAULX, met officer of Decauville L.R.Ways, selected a Dump & spot for siding adjacent to Road & Rail with parking space & water facilities - at I 1 d 6.2. Also provided personnel for standard gauge railhead at FREMICOURT. The orders were issued at receipt of instructions on selection of Dumps & issued immediately: and are here attached as a guide to the "Dump Orders" written at all changes of Dumps or procedure (practically daily this month)</p> <p>1st Day of Commonwealth Election's Polling</p> <hr/> <p>Records no of reinforcements to the 2 AFA Dacs at present drawing weekly since arrival in France</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="595 1252 2979 1530"> <tr> <td data-bbox="595 1252 878 1530" rowspan="4"> $\frac{29}{4} = 17$ </td> <td data-bbox="878 1252 1191 1331">10th Bae</td> <td data-bbox="1191 1252 1348 1331">267</td> <td rowspan="4" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td data-bbox="2226 1252 2979 1530" rowspan="4"> Reinforcement to DAE from BASE etc 1247 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 1331 1191 1411">11th Dae</td> <td data-bbox="1191 1331 1348 1411">285</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 1411 1191 1491">TM Dae</td> <td data-bbox="1191 1411 1348 1491">209</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="878 1491 1191 1530">Other.</td> <td data-bbox="1191 1491 2132 1530">651 (includes 12th (Army) AFA Bae)</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p>no of FGCMs of DAE men since arrival in France = 12 (10 months)</p> <p>" " " " " " " " " " " " " " = 3 (")</p> <p style="text-align: right;">total 15 (")</p>	$\frac{29}{4} = 17$	10 th Bae	267	}	Reinforcement to DAE from BASE etc 1247	11 th Dae	285	TM Dae	209	Other.	651 (includes 12 th (Army) AFA Bae)	
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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVREUIL.	30th April.		<p>2nd day of Commonwealth Polling. Lt. SUTTON returned from leave to England (NB dump is at FAVREUIL, and another selected behind VAULX.</p> <p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month),</p>	

K

The second Dump Instructions issued 29/4/17.

I 1.7.6.2.

Forward Dump.

I 1.7.6.2.

1. Forward Dump will shortly be opened at I. 1.7.6.2. DECAUVILLE L.R. will run trucks into Dump siding. Main road used will be FERRICOURT - VAULX.
2. Today or early 30th inst Officers and H.C.Os. of 1.K. & 2.K. will have reconnoitred shortest route for wagons from parks to this road about I.7.2. Dump traffic under control of D.O.
3. Personnel. 2/Lt Butters (and horse) batman, 1 sgt (sgt Quisley) mounted messenger, & cook from 2.K.; total 5.
1 Cpl, 1 Bdr & 18 men from 1.K. 1 Bdr & 18 men from 2.K.; full total 1 Officer and 43 O/Ranks.
These parties to be at once detailed ready for moving out on 30th if ordered. Men on present dump relief may be used after being relieved. Rolls of personnel to be handed to K.H.Q. by 9 a.m. 30th inst.
4. Party to take 24 hours rations: and supply daily unless otherwise ordered.
5. K.H.Q. to supply water daily with 2.Ks. water carts: this will also supply "S.A.A. Section" in the field.
6. Transport, and tents or tarpaulins, to be forwarded by Sections for their own men. D.O. to take camouflaging and dump tarpaulins per 3.K.
7. Ammunition returns, and casualty and other reports to be at K.H.Q. by 9 a.m.
8. FAVREUIL Dump to be handed over to 2/Lt Devine. Further orders will be issued re this dump party: probably 6 (six) men from each section and 3 H.C.Os.

Copies

KHA

1.45 pm.

H.V. Venner Lieut. Col.
O.C. 4th Aust D.A.C.

h-1 Schw

h-2 Schw

h-3 Schw

2/Lt Butters

Dump (etc) Instructions, dated 29.4.17

- (1) From 8 A.M. to-day 1st. Dump Reliefs will be 18 men of 1 K from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.; 2nd Dump Relief will be 18 men of 2 K and from 2 P.M. till 8 P.M.; 3rd or Night Relief will be from men of 1 K or 2 K if required & if necessary more men sent for.
- (2) Dump Sergeants will be reduced to two (2) only. (One of 3 K only)
- (3) Day working parties of more men of F.M.B. may be asked for by D.C.
- (4) Standard Gauge Railhead at I 19 b, FREMICOURT will supply Decauville; 2nd D.A.C. in control: 4th D.A.C. to supply 20 o'ranks: ammunition coming forward in future will be delivered at I 19 b, transferred to Decauville & unloaded at I 1 about 1000 yards south of VAULX.
- (5) The 20 O'ranks will be supplied by "B" Echelon, & be 1/c a Sergeant: the party will leave camp at 10.30 a.m. carrying 2 tents, rations, & kits complete. Add one cook, total 22 o'ranks. They will have rations carried daily from here. Water supply to be inquired into. Report to Lieut. McDonald at 11.15 a.m.
- (6) Forward Dump near Decauville head is being sought for in vicinity of I 7 a or I 1 d, and C.O. will report to D.A. at NOON.
- (7) The necessary Siding and Loop Line will ^{then} be constructed and parties drawn from 1 K & 2 K to manage the Dump.
- (8) FAVRESIL DUMP will probably be cleared of boxes and abandoned

10 am

F.W. Simms
for Lt. Col.

C.O. 4th. Aust. D. A. C.

Copy attached to War Diaries

for sample of class of Dump orders issued practically daily since month

Other copies:

C.O.	(draft)	
no 1 Schi	1	
no 2 Schi	1	
no 3 Schi	1	
Dump Officer	1	(at times 1 each)
Adapt.	1	(at times draft only)

(H.V.V.)