

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

Water Supply & Stores

Item number: 21/2/5

Title: Australian Corps Stores Officer

April - August 1918



AWM4-21/2/5

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POULAINVILLE	5/4/18 to 29/8/18.		<p>The Corps moved to the Somme on /5/4/18 and took over the Sector in front of Amiens from the VII Corps. No stores, workshops or material was handed over by the VII Corps. Arrangements were made with the III Army on the left for the supply of as much material as could be spared from Rosel R.E.Dump, which amounted to a very small quantity. The Divisions were crying out for wiring stores. These could not be obtained from the III Army but by a great effort a quantity was procured by salvage over a considerable area of country around Amiens. A dump was formed at Querrieu from which the Divisions drew direct and all the efforts of the Stores Officer were concentrated in keeping this dump supplied, drawing stores wherever they could be found. Gradually matters improved when the IV Army opened a dump at SALEUX and the stores as available were transported by road to Querrieu. About the 22nd of April when the Broad Gauge reached Poulainville a dump was formed there known as POULAINVILLE R.E. Dump. This dump was used as the Main Corps R.E.Dump, receiving material from the Base by broad gauge and transporting to the forward area by mechanical transport, F.W.D.Lorries and trailers and horse transport as available after supplies and ammunition had been provided for. At this time the transport was so difficult that for days at a time no transport could be obtained for the carrying of R.E.Stores. After Poulainville Dump was opened matters improved so rapidly that about the beginning of May a fairly large quantity of material was in stock, but the shortage of road transport still hindered the distribution to the forward areas. Every effort was made to get the stores forward and about the middle of May the Light Railway made a start, but, on account of the hilly nature of the ground only a short length of L.R. could be used by the Australian Corps from Poulainville to Vecquemont, where a small dump was opened. Corps Advanced Dumps were formed at VECQUEMONT, PARMENT, CHATEAU, FOUILLOY, and BEAUCOURT, supplied from Poulainville by road and the Divisions drew direct from these.</p> <p>The supply of sand and gravel for machine gun emplacements on the Corps Line was obtained, sand from BOURDON transported by barge to MONTIERES thence forward by road, gravel from MONTIERES GRAVEL PIT and transported forward by road. The sand and gravel pits were worked by Australian personnel. During the month of July the stores came up from the Base to Poulainville in a regular stream but great difficulty was experienced in getting the stores forward owing to the shortage of transport.</p> <p>Materials forwarded during the period: 50000 tons of R.E.Stores. Receipts at Dump, 70000 tons</p> <p>During July experiments were made in connection with the transport of R.E.Stores on trucks Tanks. The type of tank used was that known as the gun carrier, which proved most suitable for the work. Wiring material was carried in the well forward of the engines, sandbags and ammunition on the curvales between the engines and control cabs.</p>	

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			<p>A demonstration was made on the loading of one of these tanks at the 4th Australian Divisional Dump at DAOURS. The R.E. material loaded was barbed wire 136 coils, long screw pickets 180, short screw pickets 360, corrugated iron 36 sheets, total weight approximately 3½ tons. Allowance was made for the carrying of bombs in addition. The material was loaded at leisure but the offloading was made against time, five men offloaded in three and a half minutes. In practical use loads carried by tanks were as follows:</p> <p>300 coils barbed wire. 400 short screw pickets. 200 long screw pickets. 50000 S.A.A. Total weight approximately 5½ tons.</p> <p>350 coils barbed wire, 400 short screw pickets. 100 long screw pickets. 2000 sandbags. Total weight approximately 4½ tons.</p> <p>In each case two normal motor lorry loads carried on each tank in addition to trench mortar bombs. During operations the transport of R.E. Stores on tanks proved to be successful.</p> <p><u>WORKSHOP.</u> A small workshop was erected at Poulainville and equipped with machinery salvaged from captured area, and as the workshop personnel was employed principally on running the dumps only works of a small nature were carried out in the workshop.</p> <p>Personnel employed on stores on all dumps and in workshop. Australian</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Australian workshop personnel</td> <td>300.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese Labour Company.</td> <td>300.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total.</td> <td><u>600</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>During the advance beginning on the 8th of August very little material was forwarded, but as each dump was captured from the enemy they were taken over by the Stores Officer to C.E. for the Corps and personnel from the workshops were placed in charge with instructions to issue on the authority of all C.R.E.s and O.C.s of Tunnelling Coys, A.T.Coys and Artillery Brigades. Material captured from the enemy was principally mining timber and wiring stores, a quantity of tools and machinery.</p> <p><u>DUMPS CAPTURED.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>WIENCOURT.</td> <td>MATHER.</td> <td>LA FLAQUE.</td> <td>CANAL.</td> <td>BRAY TOURBIERE.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FROISSY.</td> <td>ROISEL.</td> <td>DOINGT.</td> <td>TINCOURT.</td> <td>also a number of</td> </tr> </table> <p>small dumps of road material, etc.</p>	Australian workshop personnel	300.	Chinese Labour Company.	300.	Total.	<u>600</u>	WIENCOURT.	MATHER.	LA FLAQUE.	CANAL.	BRAY TOURBIERE.	FROISSY.	ROISEL.	DOINGT.	TINCOURT.	also a number of	
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			<p>Approximate quantities of material captured are as follows :</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mining Sets. 70,000</td> <td>Barbed Wire. 300 tons.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Screw Pickets. 40 tons.</td> <td>Plain wire. 100 tons.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trenchboards. 8000 yds.</td> <td>R.S.J.s. 200 tons.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telegraph Poles. 800.</td> <td>Roofing Felt 4000 rolls.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>German Corr. Iron. 50 tons.</td> <td>French Wire</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Entanglement. 40 tons.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smiths Iron. 20 tons.</td> <td>German heavy</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>guage shelter sheets. 40 tons.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridging Timber. 4000 cu.ft. (used for Bldgng the SOMME Canals.)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Mining Sets. 70,000	Barbed Wire. 300 tons.	Screw Pickets. 40 tons.	Plain wire. 100 tons.	Trenchboards. 8000 yds.	R.S.J.s. 200 tons.	Telegraph Poles. 800.	Roofing Felt 4000 rolls.	German Corr. Iron. 50 tons.	French Wire		Entanglement. 40 tons.	Smiths Iron. 20 tons.	German heavy		guage shelter sheets. 40 tons.	Bridging Timber. 4000 cu.ft. (used for Bldgng the SOMME Canals.)		
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