

**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.**

Army Corps Headquarters

MEMORANDUM

6th June, 1915.

Cases have recently occurred in both Divisions in which the rifles and ammunition of dead and wounded men have not been brought back to our trenches even though casualties have occurred almost immediately in front of them.

It is absolutely essential that all should fully realise that the supply of rifles and ammunition is of vital importance to the enemy, and it therefore behoves us to do all we possibly can to prevent any of our own arms falling into their hands, and to deprive them of any of theirs which we can at any time capture.

If, as on some recent occasions, it is decided to withdraw from a trench or position which we may be holding, the Officer commanding is responsible that before withdrawal, all rifles, ammunition, and equipment from the dead or badly wounded, either of our own men or of the enemy, and all entrenching tools are first sent off to our own position before any withdrawal is commenced. If very hard pressed by overwhelming numbers, this of course may not be possible, but as a rule it is, and the commander on the spot must use his wits, and think of such things before he withdraws his men, as he will be held responsible for weapons which may be used against us and cause us heavy loss later on, if left behind to fall into the enemy's hands. The mere fact of leaving them behind allows the enemy to suppose that we have retired disorganised and demoralised and gives him an opportunity of regaining his morale which he has at present most certainly lost.

Should by any chance arms or ammunition be abandoned close to our line it is up to the Divisional Commander concerned to consider what can be done to recover these on the first possible occasion.

Reports are to be sent in whenever our own rifles are thus lost, and information should also be given to Army Corps Headquarters of the capture of any Turkish rifles or ammunition.

*C. C. W. as staff*  
*major*

for Lieut.-Colonel,  
for Brig.-General,  
General Staff,  
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps,