

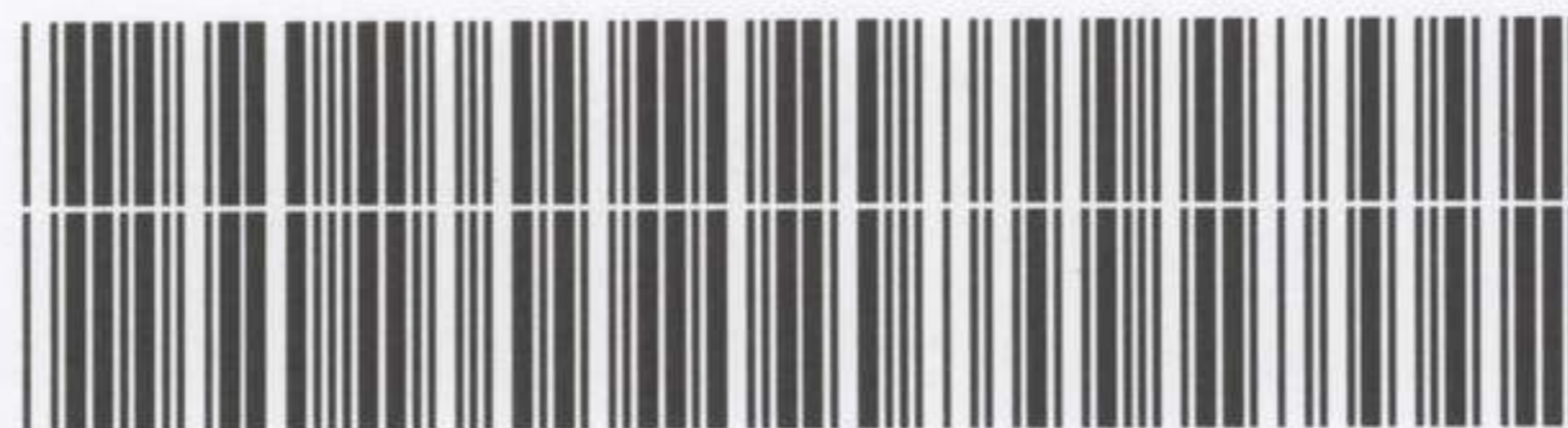
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/87/1

**Title:** 5th Australian Divisional Mechanical  
Transport Company

March 1918



AWM4-25/87/1

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5<sup>th</sup> Aust Divisional M. T. Company.

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March 18 — June 1919

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No. 5  
AUSTRALIAN DIVL.  
M.T. COMPANY.

18,000-12/17-8723

No. ....  
Date .....

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
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TRIPLICATE.

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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

No. 5 AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL M. T. COMPANY

FOR

MARCH,

1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

*A. H. James Major*

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No 5  
AUSTRALIAN DIVL.  
M.T. COMPANY.

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## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page. 1.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rabbit	13.3.18.		<p>Under the re-organisation of M. T. I took over command of No. 5 Aust. Div'l M. T. Coy. from Major A. W. Harvey, A/Officer Commanding. The establishment of the Company is 9 Officers and 398 O/Ranks. The following Officers reported on this day for duty:- Capt. H. M. Tatham M.C., Lieut. C.W.J. Isles, Lieut. O. T. Robertson, Lieut. T. C. Logan, Lieut. J. Mc.Dermott, Lieut. B. V. Davies, 2/Lieut. K. O. Ferrer. The personnel comprising Other Ranks is composed of members of the late No. 5 Aust. Amm. Sub. Park and No. 5 Aust. Div. Supply Column.</p> <p>Vehicle establishment is 82 x 3 Ton Lorries, 3 x 30 Cwt. Lorries, 3 Box Cars, 2 Motor Cars, 8 Motor Cycles (including 2 for 5 Aust. Div. Sigs) 1 Disinfector, and 1 Water Trailer. The 2 Box Cars not having been taken on strength, 1 x 3 Ton Lorry is allowed in lieu thereof. 15 Lorries were detailed on various duties, exclusive of Standing Details. 23 Lorries were standing by as reserve for Army purposes to remove Troops to forward areas at short notice. Weather fine.</p>	
Location:- Sheet 36, B.2.C.2.2.				
	14.3.18.		<p>Under instructions from S.M.T.O., Aust. Corps, the exchanging and receiving of Vehicles is being proceeded with. Correspondence received from Ordnance Officer, Aust. Corps Troops that all outstanding Indents of the late Units were cancelled and same were to be redemanded for 33 Lorries were held in reserve for Army purposes, Lieut. C.W.J. Isles being detailed for duty as Transport Officer, from Midnight 14/15.3.18. Weather continued fine.</p>	
	15.3.18.		<p>Nominal Roll of new Unit compiled and forwarded to H. Qrs. Aust. Corps M. T. Col. All other Returns called for submitted. Captain H. S. Cusack reported back from Leave to the U. K. and takes up duties under my command. I visited S. M. T. O., Aust. Corps and 5th Aust. Div. H.Q. 19 Lorries were standing by as Army reserve, Lieut. J. Mc.Dermott being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.</p>	
	16.3.18.		<p>I issued Standing Orders, Guard Orders, also Orders as to duties of Orderly N. C. O. Sections were arranged and allotted to Officers, composition being 16 Lorries to each of 5 Sections, 1 Lorry in each Section being spare - Headquarters Section being 3 x 30 Cwt. Lorries, 1 x 3 Ton Lorry in lieu of 3 box Cars, 2 Motor Cars. I sat as President of Court of Inquiry re accident which occurred on Bailleul-Metern road in which three men were killed as a result of collision. 21 Lorries were held as reserve for Army duty, Capt. H.S.Cusack being detailed as Senior Officer to take charge of Convoy. Weather fine.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rabout.	17.3.	18.	Request for Return received from H. Q. Aust. Corps M. T. Col. shewing W.D. Nos., Makes, Types, Carrying Capacities of all Vehicles on charge, submitted as instructed. Under authority received from D. M. T. S., A. I. F., W.O. Buchanan A. was transferred to Aust. Corps M. T. Coy. 1 Karrier Workshop Lorry transferred to No. 1 Aust. D. M. T. Coy. and 1 Hallford Workshop Lorry received in exchange. Under new organisation, there was a surplus of personnel - on instructions from D.M.T.S., A.I.F., these were to be transferred to Aust. Corps Troops M.T.Coy. and Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp respectively. Transfers were duly carried out and completed. 12 Lorries were standing by as Reserve for Army purposes, Lieut. O. T. Robertson being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.	
	18.3.	18.	I inspected working at Bruloose Railhead, then proceeded to 5th Aust. Div. Train H. Q. Returned Balance of Imprest drawn to Paymaster, 5th Aust. Division. Work proceeding satisfactorily regarding Transfers and Details. 3rd A. B. Aust. F.A.P.S., 1 Officer and 48 O/R attached for duty and Rations. 35 Lorries standing by as Army Reserve, 2/Lt. K. O. Forrer being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.	
	19.3.	18.	I inspected working of Column and Workshops, and everything was satisfactory, men not on Lorry Detail being busily engaged overhauling Lorries. 9 Lorries were held in reserve for Army Duties, Capt. H. S. Cusack, being detailed as Senior Officer in charge of Transport, and Lieut. C. W. J. Isles as Transport Officer. Weather wet and dull.	
	20.3.	18.	Correspondence received to transfer 37 Karrier Lorries to 22nd Corps M. T. Company and 7 Daimler 3 ton Lorries to Aust. Corps M. T. Coy., receiving as replacement thereof 27 Peerless Lorries from No. 4 Aust. D. M. T. Coy. and 17 Peerless Lorries from 49th D.M.T.Coy. Regarding transfers to be effected with 22nd and 49th M.T. Companies, times to be notified later. All Lorries on detachment to be transferred to be relieved at once. 20 Lorries standing by as Army reserve, Lieut. J. Mc.Dermott being detailed as Transport Officer.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rabout.	21.3.18.		Transfer of Lorries 7 Daimlers to Aust. Corps M. T. Compy., and 27 Peerless Lorries from No. 4 Aust. D. M. T. Company duly completed. 45 Lorries standing by for Army reserve, Lieut. T. C. Logan being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.	
	22.3.18		Transfer of Karrier Lorries to 22nd Corps Troops M. T. Coy. completed. All the 3 ton Lorries of the Unit are now composed solely of Peerless. This now completes all Transfers as instructed by S. M. T. O., Aust. Corps. 40 Lorries held as reserve for Army purposes, Lieut. O. T. Robertson being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.	
	23.3.18.		Fire Precautions instructions received and have been complied with as instructed. Bailleul being shelled heavily by enemy. Several of my Lorries were detailed to help evacuate civilians and their effects. Work carried out without casualties or damage to Lorries. 30 Lorries standing by for Army purposes, 2/Lt. Ferrer being detailed as Transport Officer. Weather fine.	
	24.3.18.		2/Lt. K.O. Ferrer accidentally injured whilst riding Motor Cycle, colliding with Lorry, receiving facial wounds, which necessitated being admitted to Hospital. I visited S.M.T.O., Aust. Corps. 40 Lorries standing by for Army purposes, Captain H. S. Cusack detailed as Senior Officer in charge of convoy, Lieut. O. T. Robertson as Transport Officer. Bailleul still being shelled by the enemy. Weather fine.	
	25.3.18.		Instructions received at 2 a.m. that Convoy of 100 Lorries held in reserve by Corps for Army were to proceed to a given point to convey troops to another theatre of operations. Captain H. S. Cusack was detailed as Senior Officer in charge of convoy. Petrol reserve issued to Lorries for journey of 250 miles. Rations issued for 48 hours to Drivers of Lorries of this Unit. Lorries under this Detail of this Unit moved off to time as instructed. Notification received that Company will move on morning of 27th to new area with the exception of two sections which will remain behind for Ammunition work. Weather dull and fine.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Rabout.</u>	<u>26.3.18.</u>		Instructions for move on the 27th were cancelled and new instructions received for move to take place on 28.3.18. Lieut. Colonel Alfred Moon C.M.G., O. C., H. Qtrs. Aust. Corps M. T. Col. called and discussed prospective move to new Area. Capt. H. S. Cusack, (Senior Officer in charge) and Lieut. O. T. Robertson, Transport Officer with detail of Lorries for Army purposes return to Park after completion of duty, same being effectively and successfully carried out. I visited 5th Aust. Div. H. Qtrs. Weather Fine.	
	<u>27.3.18.</u>		Foden Lorry on charge to this Unit returned to Park from detachment with No. 3 Aust. Div. M. T. Coy at Desvres. Instructions received for Foden of 3rd Aust. Div. M. T. Coy. to proceed to new area with my Unit. Preparations being carried out for Move, and 880,000 Rounds S. A. A. were drawn. It was a very busy day, Lorries being in great demand. Weather still continued fine.	
<u>Rabout &amp; Pommera.</u>	<u>28.3.18</u>		Move to new Army Area duly completed. There was very heavy Traffic on the Roads. New Map location Sheet LBNS 11.F.4. Very little accommodation was available on arrival here, As per instructions received, two Artillery Sections remained in old area under Lieuts. CWJ. Isles and J. Mc.Dermott. I interviewed S.M.T.O., 'X' Corps, also O. C., H. Qtrs. 'X' Corps M.T. Col., my Unit now being under them for administration. Weather dull and wet.	
<u>Pommera.</u>	<u>29.3.18.</u>		Orders were received to stand by and be ready to move at very short notice. Arrangements were made accordingly. Marching-in States rendered to X Corps of Vehicles, Ammunition, and Personnel. Detail very heavy, all available Lorries being used. Weather dull and wet.	
	<u>30.3.18.</u>		Delivery was made to 5th Aust. Div. H. Qrs. of 240,000 Rounds S. A. A. 15th <del>Artillery</del> Infantry Brigade marched in to Corby Area, and Supply arrangements were made accordingly. Officer Commanding 'X' Corps called and discussed general routine regarding administration. A Wire was received from 'G' Corps M. T. Col. for representative of my Company to proceed to that Unit at Beaucourt.. On completion of duty to report to 5th Aust. Div. H. Qrs. These instructions were carried out - result of interview, 5 Lorries were detached for duty with 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade. 1 Artillery Section under Lieut. Mc.Dermott reported to new area with establishment of Ammunition. Weather still dull and wet.	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pommera.	31.3.18		<p>Foden Lorry on charge to No. 3 Aust. D. M. T. Coy. returned to that Unit. Correspondence received direct from D. M. T. S., A.I.F., calling for applications for Caterpillar Drivers and recommendations for men of this Unit for M. T., O. T. C., which were duly forwarded. I visited 5th Aust. Div. H. Qrs., and advised to be still prepared to move at very short notice. Weather wet.</p> <p>The health of the men during the month was very good, very few being admitted to Hospital.</p> <p>For information regarding Leave, Transfers, Admissions to and Discharges from Hospital, please see attached Appendix 'A'.</p> <p>For mileage and work done by Lorries for the month, please see attached Appendix 'B'.</p> <p>-----</p>	

*A. H. James* Major.  
Cmdg. No, 5 Aust. D. M. T. Coy.



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APPENDIX

No. ....	No. 5 AUSTRALIAN DIVL. M. T. COMPANY.
Date .....	

# WAR DIARY

OF

No. 5 AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL M. T. COMPANY

FOR

M A R C H, 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A.	CASUALTIES OF UNIT.
B.	WORK DONE AND MILEAGE TRAVELLED BY LORRIES.

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WAR DIARY

APPENDIX 'A'

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>LEAVE.</u> The undermentioned proceeded on Leave to the United Kingdom during the month on dates shown:- 13252 MT. Dvr. Hawkins F. 16.3.18 - 7111 Pte. Ash V. P. 13.3.18 - 13277 MT. Dvr. Mc.Kellar D. 15.3.18 - 13266 MT. Dvr. Lipman A. 14.3.18 - 5191 MT. Dvr. Ryan J. 15.3.18 - 13460 Mt. Dvr. Baine J. H. 15.3.18 - 3581 Pte. Pascholli W.R. 16.3.18 - 13204 MT. Dvr. Ballard A. V. 18.3.18 - 13251 MT. Dvr. Hoare AFA. 20.3.18 5479 Pte. Hodge A. V. 20.3.18 - 2773 Pte. Powell J. P. 21.3.18 - 13356 Sgt. Riordan W.J. 22.3.18.</p>	
			<p><u>TRANSFERS. OUTWARDS.</u> The following were transferred to Units as shown, being surplus to establishment under new re-organisation. To:- Aust. Corps Troops M. T. Coy. W. O. Buchanan A., 9001 Cpl. Braham V. H., 1283 Cpl. Stacker W. D., 13260 MT. Dvr. Jones A. L., 13445 MT. Dvr. Moss R. W. H., 11718 MT. Dvr. Dykes A., 13402 MT. Dvr. Jones R. H., 13198 MT. Dvr. Bran J., 13211 MT. Dvr. Caldwell RA., 13328 MT. Dvr. Vose A., To:- Aust. Corps Reinforcement Camp:- 13222 CQMS. Larke P.J., 13315 MT. Dvr. Smith C.V., 13330 MT. Dvr. Whelan J., 10347 MT. Dvr. Percival C. H., 13234 MT. Dvr. Forbes AM., 13308 MT. Dvr. Rex R. H., 13471 MT. Dvr. Ellison W., 13476 MT. Dvr. Halliday S. A. 13522 MT. Dvr. Vaughan H. J., 13371 MT. Dvr. Mc.Leod JWA., 1415 MT. Dvr. Francis P. L., 1556 MT. Dvr. Wild W.H. 13506 MT. Dvr. Terry W. A., 13277 MT. Dvr. Mc.Kellar D. Also 12 MT. Dvrs. temporarily attached for duty were returned to Reinforcement Camp. To:- D. M. T. S., A. I. F., 1725 Cpl. Swanson J.</p>	
			<p><u>TRANSFERS, INWARDS.</u> The undernoted were transferred to the Unit from Units as shown:- 5073 Pte. Chapman S. G., from S.M.T.O., Aust. Corps, 14071 MT. Dvr. Redford from 1st Base M.T. Depot, 13491 MT. Dvr. Thompson J. M. from 1st B.M.T.D., 14177 Artfr. Smith R.N. from No. 1 Aust. D. M. T. Coy., 1949 Artfr. Graham H. E., from No. 2 Aust. D. M. T. Coy., 2444, Art. O'Connell D. from H. Q., Aust. Corps MT. Col. 13181 MT. Dvr. Ashford O. L., and 13486 MT. Dvr. Shortridge F. from 1st Base M.T. Depot, 8994 Pte. Whittington EG. from HT&amp;S. Base, Havre, 13346 MT. Dvr. Maunder A. G., from Base. The following 'B' personnel were transferred in from Aust. Gen. Base Depot, Havre on dates shown:- 14.3.18. 479 Cpl. Dryborough W., 6005 Pte. Donaghy J., 3372 Pte. Chessell A., 3520 Pte. Mc.Guire JE., 3041 Pte. Madden S.H., 1099 Pte. Hore H. R. 19.3.18 1098 Bdr. Martin V. T., 601 Gnr. Buchannen W. W., 34378 Gnr. Graham C. J.</p>	

APPENDIX A/17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL.</u>				
During the month the men noted below were admitted to Hospitals:-				
			13522 MT. Dvr. Vaughan H. J. to 5 Aust. Field Amb. 17.3.18 - 13450 MT. Dvr. Swann J. to 5 Aust. F Amb. 17.3.18.	
			141 Cpl. De Jersey W. L. to 5th Aust. F. Amb. 16.3.18 3041 Pte. Madden S. H. to same Hospital 18.3.18. -	
			11835 Pte. Moore V.G. to 14th Aust. Field Amb. 17.3.18. - 1163 Pte. Salisbury J. to Cas. Clearing Stn., 20.3.18	
			2416 Pte. Lucas G. M. to D. R. S., 21.3.18 - 6005 Pte. Crebert AW. to 14 Aust. Field Amb. 19.3.18 -	
			13190 MT. Dvr. Bryden MB. and 3069 Pte. Andrew J. H. to Div. Rest Station 22.3.18 - 4186 MT. Dvr. Down J. A.,	
			and 1610& MT. Dvr. Dearberg J. L. evacuated from 8th Aust. Field Amb. 22.3.18 - 13409 MT. Dvr. Nagel A. B. to	
			5th Aust. Field Amb. 23.3.18 - 13419 MT. Dvr. Woolcock LB. to 5th Aust. F. Amb. 23.3.18 - 13293 MT. Dvr. Overell	CS.
			to D. Rest Station 27.3.18 - 5880 Pte. Purnell A. E. to 3 Can. C.C.S. 31.3.18 -	
<u>DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL.</u>				
During the month the following were discharged from Hospital and rejoined Unit:-				
			13312 MT. Dvr. Sullivan J. from 5 Aust. F. Amb. 18.3.18 - 13522 MT. Dvr. Vaughan H. J. 5th Aust. Field Amb. 20.3.18.	
			13190 MT. Dvr. Bryden MB. from 7 Aust Field Amb. 24.3.18 - 11835 Pte. Moore V.G. from 14th Aust. F. Amb., 24.3.18	

*AB James* Major.  
 Cmdg. No. 5 Aust. D. M. T. Coy.

No 5  
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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

APPENDIX 'B'.

Page 1.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information						Remarks and references to Appendices
MILEAGE, ETC. DONE BY LORRIES FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1918.									
	Date.		No. of Lorries.	Number of Loads.	Tonnage.	Miles Light.	Miles Loaded.	Total Lorries Miles* detached.	
R. E. FATIGUES AND SUPPLIES.									
	13.3.18		20	23	69	530	298	628 14	
	14.3.18		38	24	72	341	257	598 13	
	15.3.18		30	60	180	726	653	1379 13	
	16.3.18		28	64	192	644	602	1246 13	
	17.3.18		23	38	76	543	530	1073 13	
	18.3.18		17	21	63	227	217	444 13	
	19.3.18		43	84	252	788	791	1579 13	
	20.3.18		29	53	159	512	349	861 13	
	21.3.18		10	15	45	124	147	271 13	
	22.3.18		10	13	39	147	184	331 13	
	23.3.18		52	86	258	953	553	1506 13	
	24.3.18		49	73	219	671	487	1158 13	
	25.3.18		8	11	33	27	32	59 13	
	26.3.18		45 Lorries on Army Duty not yet returned.						
	26.3.18		63	65	195	3647	3499	7146 11	
	27.3.18		44	42	126	6881	642	1523 21	
	28.3.18		51	57	171	413	3883	4296 21	
	29.3.18		30	30	90	204	186	390 16	
	30.3.18		41	78	224	575	622	1197 21	
	31.3.18		38	51	153	403	694	1097 21	
Total Miles travelled by Lorries for the month 27,235.									

*W. James*  
 Major.  
 Cmdg. No. 5 Aust. D. M. T. Coy.  
 APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX 'B' Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LORRIES ON DETACHMENT for month of MARCH, 1918.				
During the month the undernoted Lorries were on detached Duties to Units as shown, also mileage travelled.				
5th Aust. Div. Post Office.	From 13.3.18 to 31.3.18,	2 Lorries,	1,880 Miles.	
5th Aust. Div. D. A. D. OS.	From 13.3.18 to 31.3.18	4 Lorries,	2,176 Miles.	
5th Aust. Div. Canteen.	From 13.3.18 to 31.3.18,	1 Lorry	777 Miles.	
5th Aust. Div. H. Qrs.	From 13.3.18 to 31.3.18	3 Lorries,	1,315 Miles.	
5th Aust. Div. Laundry.	From 13.3.18 to 28.3.18	1 Lorry	278 Miles.	
Supply Officer, No. 5 Aust. D. M. T. Coy.	From 13.3.18 to 27.3.18	5 Lorries,	768 Miles.	
Northern Special Works, R. E. Park, Aire.	From 13.3.18 to 25.3.18	1 Lorry	551 Miles.	
363rd Forestry Coy.	From 13.3.18 to 25.3.18	1 Lorry	200 Miles.	
5th Aust. Div. H. Qrs.	From 27.3.18 to 30.3.18	6 Lorries	1,114 Miles.	
MILEAGE etc. OF LORRIES CARRYING AMMUNITION FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1918.				
Date.	No. of Lorries.	No. of Loads.	Tonnage.	Miles Light. Miles Loaded. Total Miles.
17.3.18	3	6	18	55 75 130
27.3.18	11	11	33	165 165 330
30.3.18	3	3	49	45 45 90
31.3.18	9	9	27	94 94 188
Total Miles travelled 1,563.				

*AB James* Major.  
Cmdg. No. 5 Aust. D. M. T. Coy.

APPENDIX B

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