

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/87/6

Title: 5th Australian Divisional Mechanical
Transport Company

August 1918



AWM4-25/87/6

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

AUSTRALIAN

IMPERIAL

FORCES.

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WAR

DIARY

OF

5th AUSTRALIAN M. T. COMPANY.

FOR

AUGUST

1918.

No. 5 AUSTRALIAN
M.T. COMPANY.

No.....

Date.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

W. James Major

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No. 5 AUSTRALIAN
M.T. COMPANY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
No. Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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Date will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D.	G.3.d.8.2			
	1 Aug. 18.		Received Orders to withdraw 16 Lorries in rest from BELLOY. These duly returned to Company Park for detailed duty. Workshops inspected, all working full out. Enemy airman burned four Observation Balloons in quick succession about 5 p.m. Hostile planes were active at night, but no bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Park. 16,000 Francs Imprest drawn for Pay of Unit. Weather Fine. Routine as usual.	
	2.8.18		Railhead changed to AILLY-sur-SOMME. Weather wet. Routine as usual.	
	3.8.18.		Supplies loaded at Ailly Railhead at 9.30 a.m. Railhead changed, and Supplies loaded at LA MOTTE at 10 p.m., this Railhead by under enemy observation by day. Routine as usual. Weather clearing up.	
	4.8.18.		Col: Tunbridge accompanied by Major A. W. Harvey made an inspection of Camp and Lorry Park, and expressed himself highly pleased with all he saw. Weather wet.	
	5.8.18.		Lorries on detail carrying Machine Gunners to forward Area. All other Lorries working full on Ammunition, Supply and extraneous duties. Mechanical Transport attached 5th Aust. Div'l Field Ambulances were inspected and everything found to be in excellent condition, with the exception of Tyres and Tubes, which have been difficult to obtain. Arrangements made to issue new supplies. Weather wet.	
	6.8.18.		10 Lorries detailed to move Machine Gun Company on previous evening so obstructed by congestion of Traffic that move miscarried. Collision occurred in vicinity of two British single-seater aeroplanes, who fell at CARDONETTE, both airmen being killed. Nominations forwarded to H. Qrs. for Lorry Driving School. Weather wet. Usual routine.	
	7.8.18.		3 Crossley Box Cars received to complete establishment. All available Lorries being detailed. Notification received that Special Ammunition Dumps would be made to-morrow in Forward Area, a Despatch Rider from this Unit to accompany Ammunition Officer of Aust. Corps in this work. Weather cleared up.	

No. 5 AUSTRALIAN
M.T. COMPANY.

WAR DIARY

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
	8/8/18.		Fourth Army M. T. Inspectors inspected Lorries of this Unit. Big offensive commenced during early hours of the morning, and at 10 a.m. thousands of prisoners were coming down the CORBIE Road en route for Prisoner of War Cages in this district. Lorries were working full out on Ammunition following up our advance, Ammunition being dumped right on locations recently evacuated by the enemy that day. Weather fine.	
	9.8.18		20 Lorries from 5th G. H. Q. Reserve M. T. Company attached to this Unit for duty. Four Ambulances damaged by enemy shell fire. Lorries still working full carrying Ammunition to forward Area. Weather fine.	
	10.8.18.		Orders received that H. Qrs. and Sections would move to DAOURS on 11.8.18 after completion of detail. German prisoners still passing through district. Lorries still working full, on all duties. Weather fine.	
62D/0.	11.8.18 7.8.5.0		Headquarters and M. T. Sections moved to DAOURS, Supply Section moving to CORBIE, Railhead being at the latter town. Long hours being worked by all, and roads were in a very dirty and dusty state, owing to the heavy amount of traffic on them. Weather fine.	
	12.8.18.		1 Lorry on charge to this Unit caught fire in early hours of the morning, while Driver was filling Petrol Tank, which accidentally ignited. Enemy bombing planes very active during the night. All Lorries still being worked at top pressure, on various duties.	
	13.8.18.		Hostile aircraft dropped bombs in vicinity of camp, but no casualties resulted or damage was done. Dvr. Basedow attached 15th Aust. Field Ambulances was wounded whilst on duty, the Ambulance he was driving being so damaged as to be evacuated to Base. Ammunition Dumps established in forward areas. Weather fine.	
	14.8.18.		MT. Dvr. C. J. Perry awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry. Enemy planes active at night, but no bombs were dropped in vicinity of Park. M. T. Spares not immediately required returned to MT. Base Calais to replenish their stocks caused by fire. Weather fine. Routine as usual.	

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No. 5 AUST. LORRY
M.T. COMPANY.

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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
	15.8.18.		8th, 14th and 15th Aust. Field Ambulances were visited, and necessary arrangements made for a First Aid Lorry to be in close proximity in forward Area to Advanced Dressing Station to do running Repairs for Ambulances. Dvr. Murray W. wounded and Lorry damaged by enemy shell fire whilst in forward area. S. M. T. O. Aust. Corps moved to BLANGY TRONVILLE and Aust. Corps M. T. Col: to GLISSY. Hostile aircraft very active during the night. All Lorries being detailed on various duties. Weather fine.	
	16.8.18.		Instructions received from Aust. Corps M. T. Column for Workshops to move to new location as soon as convenient. Supply Section visited at CORBIE. Work there is proceeding very satisfactorily. Weather fine. Routine as usual.	
	17.8.18.		S. M. T. O. and H. Q. Aust. Corps M. T. Col: visited and endeavored to arrange suitable site for Workshops, as site chosen by H. Qrs: could not be occupied. Routine as usual. Weather fine.	
	18.8.18.		Site for Workshops arranged at PETIT CAMON. Necessary arrangements being made for move. 20 Lorries of 15th G. H. H. Q. Reserve M. T. Coy. rejoined their H. Qrs. Lorries working full on miscellaneous duties. Weather fine.	
	19.8.18.		Workshops commenced to move to new site at PETIT CAMON. Lieut. B. V. Davies, Supply Officer supervised unloading of Supply Reserve Train, Supplies of which were dumped in forward area. All other work proceeding very satisfactorily. Weather fine.	
	20.8.18.		Workshop move completed to PETIT CAMON. Work of Lorries slackening a little. German Lorry in fair condition salvaged in forward area and towed to Company Park. Routine as usual. Weather fine.	
	21.8.18.		Weather very hot. Routine as usual. All work of Unit proceeding very satisfactorily.	
	22.8.18.		Enemy planes very active during the night. No bombs dropped in vicinity of camp. Routine as usual. Weather extremely hot.	
	23.8.18.		Lorries fully detailed on ammunition. Enemy shelling Corbie during the day. Weather fine.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62D/O.7. a.520.	24.8.18.		Forwarded dumps inspected & work found to be proceeding very satisfactorily. Hostile planes very active bombing during the night. Large details for ammunition. Weather fine.	
	25.8.18.		Every available lorry detailed for forward area work. Workshops visited and work found to be going on well. Weather fine.	
	26.8.18.		Colonel Tunbridge, inspected camp and salvaged german lorry in park. Routine as usual. Weather fine.	
	27.8.18.		Visited forward ammunition dump and 8th. Field Ambulance. All details carried out as per instructions received. Weather fine.	
	28.8.18.		Weather fine. Routine as usual. Ambulance on charge to 14th. Field Ambulance damaged by land mine. No casualties.	
	29.8.18.		Railhead changed to LA FLAQUE drawing at 7 a.m. All forwarded area dumps visited. Weather fine.	
	30/31.8.18		Hostile planes very active during the nights. Weather fine. Routine as usual. For work done, mileage etc. of lorries this is contained in appendix A. For casualties etc. regarding personnel please refer to Appendix B	
	1.9.18			

W. James Major,
Commdg. 5th. Aust. M. T. Coy.

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WAR DIARY

OF

5th. AUSTRALIAN M. T. COMPANY.

FOR

AUGUST, 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

A. Lorries- Mileage, Tonnage etc.

B. Personnel - Casualties, Transfers etc.

UNIT 5th. Australian M. T. Coy.

DIARY APPENDIX No. 1 FOR MONTH OF August, 1918.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Date	Loads Amm.	R.E. Work	Supply	Stores	Person'l	Various	Total Loads Done	Total Lorries Out	Miles Run Full	Miles Run Empty	Petrol Issued	Lorries Av'able Not used	Lorries Under Repair	Lorries D'tach'd
1st	25	5	30	1	18	6	85	51	1026	1306	568		18	18
2nd	17	31	30	1		4	83	51	639	827	556		15	18
3rd	26	11	30		10	2	79	51	928	1010	572		15	18
4th	36	19	25		1	8	89	34	1149	1225	600	12	19	18
5th	19	42	20			3	84	46	920	1144	446	3	17	18
6th	7	21	16	1	2	4	51	44	1245	1371	552		22	18
7th	1	48	15	5		4	73	44	773	1117	516		22	18
8th	19	25	23			2	69	45	1002	1264	688		22	17
9th	39	21	16	2			79	45	642	701	466		22	17
10th	21	29	15			3	68	34	637	1048	573		23	27
11th	31		9			3	43	27	582	752	618		25	32
12th	25	12	5				42	34	280	390	862		18	32
13th	38	3	6		5		52	33	905	933	822		18	32
14th	33	20	6				59	46	736	793	589	1	14	22
15th	11	26	6			2	45	39	651	786	544	7	14	22
16th	12	16	5	2		3	38	32	448	597	495	15	13	22
17th	13	28	5	2	2	2	52	42	646	744	365	5	13	22
18th		35	5	4		1	45	27	458	773	492	21	12	22
19th	9	21	23	1	2	3	59	45	407	665	530	3	12	22
20th	37	33	7	1			78	49	825	1461	404		11	22
21st	30	8	5	1			44	39	830	928	603	8	13	22
22nd	31	8			3		42	42	1089	1174	536	6	13	22
23rd	41	13	11				65	48	962	767	154	1	12	22
24th	35	1	23				59	43	624	796	624	5	13	22
25th	27	28	5				60	48	547	917	669	1	12	22
26th	56	3	22				81	44	969	497	821	5	12	22
27th	25		8	5			38	29	679	185	538	20	12	22
28th	48	8		11			67	39	472	675	688	7	14	23
29th	90		7	5			102	43	1186	1310	958	2	13	25
30th	32		8	5			45	31	329	538	688	7	18	27
31st	20	9		5	6		40	24	834	580	480	14	19	27
Total	854	524	386	52	49	50	1915	1249	23413	27274	16017	143	496	703

A.I.F. P.S.—A/3—8-18

W. James Major.
Comm'dg, 5th Aust. M. T. Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>TRANSFERS - OUTWARDS.</u>			During the month the undermentioned were transferred out from the Unit :- 1087 Pte Dunn, C.E. to 5th. D.A.C.; 14543 Art. Smithson, R.E. to 2nd. Aust. M.T. Coy; 5353 Art. Deuter, A. to 1st. Aust. M. T. Coy.; 13356 M.S.S. Riordan, W.J. to 2nd. Aust. M.T. Coy; 13478 MT. Dvr Hodges, W.R. to 6th. Aust. M.T. Coy.;	
<u>TRANSFERS - INWARDS.</u>			During the month the undermentioned were transferred to this unit as shewn:- 11335 Art. Reedman, J. from 5th. Aust. Div. Wing; 13965 MT. Dvr Cardwell, W.N. from 1st. B.M.T.D.; 14073 Dvr Snow, A.M. from 5th. Div Rein Wing.; 13873 MT. Dvr Prowse, G.F. from hospital; 13337 MT. Dvr Ward, W.A. from 5th. Div. Rein. Wing. Lieut G. Moffat, from Supernumerary lists; 6131 MT. Dvr Hammer, J.T. from 1st. B.M.T.D.; 13295 MT. Dvr Perry, C., 16180 MT. Dvr Bearley Brearley, N.F. 2645 MT. Dvr Quin, C.A.; 3149 MT. Dvr Flint, K.T.; 16181 MT. Dvr Carroll, E.J.B.; 16201 MT. Dvr Wills, J.D.; 14543 Pte Smithson, R.E. from 2nd Aust. M.T. Coy; 1958 MT. Dvr O'Neill, S.J. from 6th. Aust. M.T. Coy.	
<u>ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL.</u>			142 Sgt Tatham, W.P. 3581 Pte Pacholli, W.R.; 2667 Pte Werner, W.H.; 13295 MT. Dvr Perry, C.J.; 2738 MT. Dvr Basedow, H. (wounded); 1856 MT. Dvr Riding, J.L.; 13329 MT. Dvr Emerson, R.J.; 13231 MT. Dvr Evans, J.T.; 13388 MT. Cpl Bloomfield, R.C.; 1661 Sgt Robertson, D.; 2558 Art. Webster, D. (wounded); 141 Cpl De Jersey, M.L.; 13412 Cpl Robbins, F.W.; 13484 Dvr Rowe, B.J.; 15152 MT. Dvr Arnold, S.R.A. (gassed)	
<u>DECORATIONS.</u>			13295 MT. Dvr Perry, C.J. awarded Military Medal.	
1.9.18.			<i>W. James</i> Major, Commdg. 5th. Aust. M.T. Coy	

APPENDIX B7