

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/88/5

Title: 6th Australian Corps Troops
Mechanical Transport Company

July 1918



AWM4-25/88/5

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

6th Australian M.T. CO. (Corps Troops).

FOR

J U L Y 1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding *Hardyca.* MAJOR
O/C I.A.C. T/M.T. COY

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.

CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1918 July	1	23 lorries detailed for duty. 23 loads Supplies, 12 loads R.E.Work, 1 load Stores and 1 load Various carried. 333 miles run loaded and 352 empty. 169 gallons Petrol used. Headquarters of unit located at La Chaussee, Sheet 62E/D.30.c.3.0,	
	2	23 lorries detailed for duty. 28 loads Supplies, 10 loads Ammunition, 2 loads Stores, and 1 load Various carried. 505 miles run loaded and 416 empty. 227 gallons Petrol used. G.R.O.4338 published in Orders, which states that where a soldier is suffering from the effects of Gas through carelessness, disobedience of Orders &c., the case is to be investigated and A.F.W. 3428 rendered. C.R.O. No.97 also published in Orders, which places CORBIE out of bounds to all Officers and men not on duty. No billets to be occupied in CORBIE or IA NEUVILLE without authority. Officers i/c units or detachments billeted there to report any wines, spirits or foodstuffs to the Town Commandant.		
	3	22 lorries detailed for duty. 39 loads Supplies, 2 loads Stores, 5 loads Personnel and 1 load Various carried. 391 miles run loaded and 373 empty. 182 gallons Petrol used. The following were published in Orders:- C.R.O.182 to the effect that "Sick" not likely to rejoin ranks within 48 hours must be evacuated to Field Ambulance. C.R.O.183 Horses or Transport not to cross Light Railways, except at Crossings, Fourth Army Routine Order 2266, Chinese Labourers are forbidden to enter or make purchases from British Canteens or Recreation Huts. G.R.O. 4137 setting-out the advantages of purchasing War Savings Certificates and facilities for acquiring same.		
	5	22 lorries detailed for duty. 37 loads Supplies and 1 load Stores carried. 316 miles run loaded and 281 empty. 166 gallons Petrol used. Fourth Army R.O. 2267 re route for Guns drawn by tractors and lorries when going to or from Gun Park, published in orders. Also C.R.O.A/179 in which the Army Commander calls attention to injury done to roads through M.T. being driven at excessive speed. Charges brought by Police not to be dismissed unless Police evidence taken and when offender cautioned or admonished O.C. to submit report to the Corps Commander.		
	9	24 lorries detailed for duty. 39 loads Supplies, 3 loads Stores and 1 load Personnel carried. 376 miles run loaded and 443 empty. 220 gallons Petrol used. Fourth Army R.O. 2281 stating that Officers or men will not enter unoccupied premises in AMIENS, except on duty- published in orders.		
	7	23 lorries detailed for duty. 38 loads Supplies, 1 load Stores, 4 loads Personnel and 1 load Various carried. 376 miles run loaded and 453 empty. 248 gallons Petrol used.		
	7 lorries detached for week ending 6/7,7.18 carried 90 loads Supplies, 2 loads Personnel and 8 loads Various. Ran 743 miles loaded and 378 empty. 302 gallons Petrol used.			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1918 July	8	23 lorries detailed for duty. 44 loads Supplies, 1 load Stores, and 1 load Various carried. 391 miles run loaded and 453 empty. 220 gallons Petrol used. N.C.O's and Drivers again reminded through Orders that speed limit of 8 m.p.h., or as governed through towns and villages are to be observed.	
		9	23 lorries detailed for duty. 51 loads Supplies carried. 240 gallons Petrol used. 428 miles run loaded and 464 empty. The following C.R.O's were published in Orders:- C.R.O.No.185 which prohibits use of water from the River Ancre for drinking purposes. C.R.O.No.187 Prohibiting all boating on the River Somme east of AMIENS, except on duty. C.R.O.No.188 Charges of Looting to be tried by Court Martial and not dealt with summarily by C.O's.	
		10	23 lorries detailed for duty. 35 loads Supplies, 2 loads Stores, 1 load Personnel and 2 loads Various. 367 miles run loaded and 440 run empty. G.R.O.4207 published in Orders reminding all ranks of the importance of safeguarding productivity of land and difficulties under which it is worked. It is forbidden to go, when off duty, upon sown fields or crops of any kind. To graze horses or play games in grass fields unless arrangements made with the owner.	
		11	19 lorries detailed for duty. 27 loads Supplies, 1 load Stores, 1 load Personnel and 1 load Various carried. 226 miles run loaded and 289 empty. G.R.O.No.2864 published in Orders, which provides that no one except on duty permitted outside billeting area, except on pass which is to be signed by O.C. unit and not to be made available for places outside area occupied by the British Armies. Passes must contain Regimental No., Rank, Name, Unit, Hours, Purpose and Date. Police authorised to demand production.	
		12	24 lorries detailed for duty. 39 loads Supplies and 6 loads Various carried. 167 gallons Petrol used. 300 miles run loaded and 266 empty. G.R.O.No.2294 published in Orders pointing out shortage of Flour in France and that Civilians on a bare ration, so that purchase by British or American Soldiers is depriving inhabitants. Also A.R.O.2039 throwing responsibility for speed of Motor Vehicles on the senior Officer present or in the absence of Officers, the Driver.	
		13	25 lorries detailed for duty. 44 loads Supplies and 6 loads Various carried. 444 miles run loaded and 516 empty. 238 gallons Petrol used. G.R.O. 1989 referring to the collection of all waste paper, cardboard and string and delivered to Presses at VIGNACOURT and AILLY-sur-SOMME, published in Orders.	
		14	19 lorries detailed for duty. 20 loads Supplies and 1 load Various carried. 90 gallons Petrol used. 180 miles run loaded and 277 run empty. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1918 July	14	Cont'd 5 lorries detached for week ending 13/14.7.18 79 loads Supplies, 1 load Stores, and 6 loads Personnel carried. 789 miles run loaded and 390 empty. 240 gallons Petrol used. Order published prohibiting French civilians riding on lorries unless Drivers specially detailed to do so. Extracts from G.R.O's relating to Censorship Regulations also published.	
		15	18 lorries detailed for duty. 28 loads Supplies, 1 load Personnel and 4 loads Various carried. 227 miles run loaded and 271 empty. 122 gallons Petrol used. G.R.O. 3718 published in Orders which states that all N.O.O's and men (except on duty or pass) must be in billets at 9.30 p.m. All ranks reminded that "Lights Out" is at 10.15 p.m.	
		16	17 lorries detailed for duty. 30 loads Supplies and 5 loads Various carried. 299 miles run loaded and 222 empty. 100 gallons Petrol used. The following Routine Orders published:- G.R.O. 1901 placing AMIENS out of bounds to all troops. Passes only to be issued to those going there on duty. G.R.O. 2281 Officers and men will not enter any unoccupied premises in AMIENS except on duty. A.G.R.O. 122 which places French Area out of bounds to all troops except on duty or units granted special permission to be quartered in the area. No leave to be granted to French Area. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
		17	19 lorries detailed for duty. 26 loads Supplies and 2 loads Various. 283 miles run loaded and 291 empty. 137 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
		18	19 lorries detailed for duty. 35 loads Supplies and 5 loads Various carried. 359 miles run loaded and 354 empty. 148 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
		19	19 lorries detailed for duty. 27 loads Supplies and 3 loads Various carried. 290 miles run loaded and 241 empty. 112 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
		20	19 lorries detailed for duty. 26 loads Supplies and 2 loads Various carried. 290 miles run loaded and 354 empty. 126 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
		21	5 lorries detached for week ending 20/21.7.18 60 loads Supplies and 3 loads Various carried. 640 miles loaded and 227 empty. 190 gallons Petrol used. R.O. 2014 re stern measures to be taken to prevent Looting, published in Orders.	
		21	18 lorries detailed for duty. 25 loads Supplies and 2 loads Various carried. 204 miles run loaded and 280 empty. 158 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	

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In the Field	1918			
	July			
	22		17 lorries detailed for duty. 22 loads Supplies and 6 loads Various carried. 255 miles run loaded and 279 miles empty. 114 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	23		16 lorries detailed for duty. 26 loads Supplies, 5 loads R.E.Work, 3 loads Personnel and 2 loads Various carried. 329 miles run loaded and 278 miles empty. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	24		17 lorries detailed for duty. 34 loads Supplies and 3 loads Various carried. 301 miles run loaded and 382 miles empty. 144 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	25		17 lorries detailed for duty. 27 loads Supplies and 1 load Various carried. 168 miles run loaded and 263 miles empty. 112 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail. C.R.O. A/179 published in Orders re injury done to roads through M.T. being driven at excessive speed. Charges not to be dismissed unless Police evidence taken.	
	26		17 lorries detailed for duty. 34 loads Supplies, 5 loads R.E.Work and 2 loads Personnel carried. 373 miles run loaded and 250 empty. 142 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail. R.O. No. 2039 published in Orders which provides that Road Traffic must be so controlled that Trains are not stopped where Railway crosses open roads. Trains must not block Railway Crossings longer than necessary. Crossings to be approached with care especially at night. No attempt must be made to rush gates.	
	27		16 lorries detailed for duty. 31 loads Supplies and 2 loads Various carried. 291 miles run loaded and 381 miles empty. 146 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail. 5 lorries detached for week ending 27/28.7.18 68 loads Supplies carried. 671 miles run loaded and 357 miles empty. 222 gallons Petrol used. G.R.O. 4583 published in Orders re Currency bearing effigy of Napoleon III not being legal tender after 31/7/18.	
	28		16 lorries detailed for duty. 24 loads Supplies and 4 loads Various carried. 253 miles run loaded and 293 empty. 146 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	29		15 lorries detailed for duty. 22 loads Supplies carried. 227 miles run loaded and 301 empty. 117 gallons Petrol used. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	30		16 lorries detailed for duty. 24 loads Supplies and 4 loads Various carried. 288 miles run loaded and 267 miles empty. 6 lorries withdrawn from detail.	
	31		22 lorries detailed for duty. 29 loads Supplies and 5 loads Various carried. 347 miles run loaded and 399 miles empty. 175 gallons Petrol used. G.R.O. No. 4137 re War Savings Certificates, published in Orders.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1918. July.		<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Casualties to Personnel:- To Hospital and Struck off, Officer (Roads) 1, M.T. Drivers 6, Artificers 1, Privates 3, Private "B" Detail 1. To Hospital and not Struck off, Sergeant (Supply) 1, Sergeant (Transport) 1, M.T. Drivers 3.</p> <p>Transfers to other units:- Officer (Supply) 1, Sergeant (Artificer) 1 (to A.F.C.), M.T. Drivers 2 (to A.M.T.S.), Drivers (H.T.) 1, Farriers 1, Privates 3.</p> <p>Strength taken on:- Officer (Roads) 1, Corporal (Supply) 1, M.T. Drivers 10, Privates 3.</p> <p>To School of Instruction:- To Cookery Schools 3, To Driving Schools 3.</p> <p>Mileage run:- Loaded 12,650 and Empty 12,267.</p> <p>Discipline:- Has been good, there having only been a few Crimes of a petty nature during the month.</p> <p>Health:- The health of the Company has been good.</p> <p>Weather and Roads:- There have been many dull overcast days during the period under review with very frequent showers of rain. On the 13th a severe Hailstorm occurred at La Chaussee, causing a large amount of damage to crops in the vicinity. It was, however, of a very local nature. Roads in bad condition and rapidly becoming worse. A large number of front and rear Springs broken in consequence.</p> <p>Railhead:- Ailly-sur-Somme.</p> <p>Messing:- Good-£25/18/10 being spent on Vegetables. 3 men were sent to Cookery Schools during the month. 400 lbs Fat and 1 lb Solder were saved and returned to R.S.O., while 136 lbs Waste Paper was returned to the Corps Salvage Dump. (Note: A fair amount of salvaged Solder has been used in Workshops).</p> <p>Mechanical Details:- 7 of the Company Vehicles have undergone complete Engine Overhaul during the month, making a total of 33 since the formation of the unit.</p> <p>Month by month the maximum output of Workshops has not varied much or shown signs of decreasing. The general condition of vehicles on charge and attached has, however, improved and are in a condition now, for the first time, to carry on if necessary under stress of a Campaign without undue risk of a break-down.</p> <p>Total Vehicles on charge and attached for maintenance:- Workshop and Store Waggon 17, Lorries 116, Cars 35, Motor Cycles and Combinations 154, Box Cars 32, Compressors 2, Gas Plants 2, "Foden" Disinfector 1.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1918 July		<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY Cont'd.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Total Lorries, including attached:- Overhauled 15, Decarbonised 2, Repairs to Transmission 11, Total Cars, including attached:- Overhauled 5, Decarbonised 8, Repairs to Transmission 6, Total Solo and Combination Motor Cycles Overhauled 18.</p> <p>SUPPLY DETAILS. Highest daily Feeding strength 39,967 Men and 4,464 Horses, Weight of Rations handled 135 tons. Average daily Feeding strength 36,700 Men and 4,000 Horses. Average number of units Fed daily 232. Highest number of units Fed in one day 256. Number of Pumping Stations administered 25. Total Feeding strength for July 1,137,419 Men and 123,153 Horses. Average strength of each unit 160 Men and 18 Horses. Owing to the small average strength of units and the high number of units attached for Rations, a great deal of clerical and administrative work is entailed thereby. 24 units joined during the month and 23 departed. Local Purchase to substitute shortages on the Pack have been limited owing to period between Seasons. Small supplies of Potatoes and Green Vegetables from Corps Gardens have been obtained regularly. Large shortages in Horse Rations have been experienced, only 9 lbs for Heavy Draughts and 8 lbs for Light Draughts being supplied from Base. Oil Cake was provided and limited supplies of Green Forage were purchased as substitutes for Hay and Oat shortages. Units have by grazing made good any deficiencies as a rule. The establishment of the Supply Section during the period passed through has proven materially small and has made it essential for the permanent attachment of at least 1 Officer and 25 additional N.C.O's and Other Ranks. 547½ tons Coal, 495 tons Hay and 710 tons Oats handled during July.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>E. Fordyce</i> Major. O.C. 6th Australian M.T.Co.(Corps Troops).</p>	