

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/88/8

Title: 6th Australian Corps Troops
Mechanical Transport Company

October 1918



AWM4-25/88/8

336

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ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

OCTOBER 1918. 191

Signature of Officer compiling

H.N. Chapman R. Inf.
MAJOR

O/C. A.C.T.M.T. COY

Signature of Officer Commanding

H.N. Chapman R. Inf.
MAJOR

O/C. A.C.T.M.T. COY

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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6th AUSTRALIAN
Army Form C. 2118.
M.T. CO. ARTY.
001 P3 T.C.O.P3.

336

No

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARTIGNY Sheet 62c/ P.3.a.4.5.	19 18 Oct.	1	Fourth Army R.O.2535 published in Orders, which states that a number of Casualties have occurred owing to ignition by "Very" Lights fired, sparks from locomotives etc., of propellant charges of German cartridges which have been thrown away. Charges not to be removed from German cartridges except by authorised officers, who will be responsible that charges are, at once, safely packed or destroyed. AIF Order 1378 also published, allowing members of AIF to draw up to £5 for Christmas Gifts, provided they have sufficient credit.	KTB
do.		2	G.R.O.5123 published in Orders, by which all ranks are forbidden to remove any parts or contents of Tanks temporarily derelict in battle area. Any officer, N.C.O. or man found attempting to remove, or in possession of objects of this nature will be arrested and conduct investigated. G.R.O.1839 published forbidding communication, sale or barter of any articles between officers, soldiers or civilians and Prisoners of War.	KTB
do.		3	Corps R.O. A/179 published, which states that the Army Commander again calls attention to the injury done to roads through M.T. being driven at excessive speed. Charges brought by the Police are not to be dismissed by O.C's units, unless evidence of Police is taken and where offenders are cautioned or admonished, the O.C. will submit report for the information of the Corps Commander giving reasons for leniency.	KTB
do.		4	No entry.	
do.		5	Supply Section moved to and new Dump opened at TINCOURT, Sheet 62c/J.17.c.central.	
do.		6	Dump closed at CARTIGNY, Sheet 62c/P.3.c.7.7. Railhead changed from CARTIGNY to TINCOURT. Fourth Army R.O.2553 published, in which all units are warned that in the Army Area, there are river crossings consisting of two bridges alongside each other, one of which will carry a heavier load than the other. Correct bridge for heavy transport must be used and special care to be taken at night to ensure that the correct bridge is used.	KTB
do.		7	N.C.O's and Drivers again reminded through Orders that speed limits laid down in Traffic Regulations, Para.4 and as amended, are to be strictly observed. Speed limit for lorries 8 m.p.h., or as governed through Towns and Villages. Attention must be paid to speed Notice Boards.	KTB
HAMEL Sheet 62c/ J.18.d.8.2.		8	Headquarters and Column moved from CARTIGNY, Sheet 62c/P.3.a.4.5. to HAMEL, Sheet 62c/J.18.d.8.2.	KTB
do.		9	No entry,	

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HAMEL.	19 18		Published in Orders that Officers and Other Ranks who embarked from Australia in 1914 and have not been back, will be given Special Leave to U.K. or such other place as they desire. Subsistence allowance to W.O's and N.C.O's of 3/- per day and 25% of Deferred Pay may be drawn. All ranks wishing to be registered to apply in writing to the Company Orderly Room.	K.H.H.
Sheet 62c/ J.18.d.8.2.	Oct. 10			
do.	11		No entry.	
do.	12		No entry.	
do.	13		G.R.O.2364 republished in Orders, which states that no one except on duty, permitted outside Billeting Area of unit, except on pass. Same to be signed by O.C. unit and not to be made available for places outside area occupied by British Armies. Military Police authorised to demand production of pass or papers of identification.	K.H.H.
do.	14		Attention of all ranks again directed through Orders to G.R.O.1989, regarding the saving of Waste Paper, Newspapers, Magazines etc.	
do.	15		No entry.	K.H.H.
do.	16		Extracts from G.R.O's regarding Censorship Orders published for information of all ranks.	
do.	17		No entry.	
do.	18		Order published regarding Camp Cleanliness. Foodstuffs will be covered. Refuse Tins emptied at least twice a day and disinfected, and greasy matter burnt out. Latrines will be burnt out and disinfected once a day. Practice of throwing refuse on the ground is prohibited.	K.H.H.
do.	19		Speed of lorries reduced to <u>6 miles</u> per hour, until further notice.	
do.	20		No entry.	
do.	21		G.R.O.2014 published in Orders, which states that stern measures are to be taken to prevent Looting. It is the duty of every officer, N.C.O. and man to do utmost to prevent this offence against inhabitants of friendly and allied Country and against traditions of British Army.	K.H.H.
do.	22		Headquarters Office and whole unit moved from HAMEL, Sheet 62c/J.18.d.8.2. to GAMACHES, Sheet N-W Europe 3/I.6.2.8. Copy of letter from Commander of Fourth Army to Australian Corps expressing appreciation of services rendered in recent battles, posted on Notice Board for information of all ranks.	
do.	23		Column moved into GAMACHES after halting for the night at LA CHAUSSEE.	
GAMACHES, N-W Europe Sheet 3 I.6.2.8.			G.R.O.5318 published in Orders, which states that a number of cases have recently come to notice of totally inaccurate or unconfirmed reports of operations or events by Wireless. Spreading of such reports by telegraph, telephone or wireless, even in the form of practice messages, is forbidden.	K.H.H.

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GAMACHES. N-W Europe Sheet 3/ I.6.2.8. do.	1918 Oct. 24		Unit Routine Order published that no troops will leave GAMACHES without a pass- same to be signed by an officer. All troops, unless on Special Leave, will be in their billets by 9.30p.m. and will not leave same, except on duty. A copy of Fire Orders will be pasted in each billet. At least 2 Fire Buckets will be placed in billets and at all times kept filled.	KTH
do.	25		Extract from R.O. 2039 published in Orders, which states that road traffic must be so controlled that trains are not stopped where railway crosses open roads. Delay to road transport will be slight if Control Post is efficient. To trains held up it is, however, serious, because engines cannot always start on grade. Trains must not be stopped or shunted in such a way as to block level-crossings for a moment longer than necessary. Level-crossings must be approached with care, especially at night. No attempt must be made to rush gates. Cars to pull-up 2 yards from gates. Unit R.O. published that N.C.O's and men will not move from vicinity of Square during parade hours, unless detailed for duty or authorised by the Sergeant-Major. Also: soldiers must not enter Estaminets during prohibited hours. This Order to be strictly enforced.	KTH
do.	26		No entry.	
do.	27		All ranks warned through Orders, that when leaving Lorry Lines they must be properly dressed. G.R.O. 5350 published in Orders cautioning all ranks and institutions against accepting enemy currency and notes, Chambre de Commerce Notes or Petites Coutures issued by towns that have been in enemy occupation and silver coins bearing effigy of Napoleon III- these coins being no longer legal tender.	KTH
do.	28		Routine Order published that, In future all lorries and light cars will be drained nightly, in accordance with instructions in Standing Orders for prevention of damage by frost. In accordance with instructions from Fourth Army all ranks warned against eating vegetables from, or allowing animals to graze in areas which have been shelled. Cases of Gas Poisoning from this cause have been reported. N.C.O's and Drivers reminded of necessity of not exceeding the recognised speed limit. Extra speed means extra wear and tear. Extra wear and tear means extra repairs.	KTH
do.	29		All ranks warned against buying or accepting Civilian property from strangers as practice is liable to implicate them in charge of Looting.	KTH
do.	30		No entry.	
do.	31		No entry.	

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338

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>GAMACHES. N-W Europe Sheet 3/ I.6.2.8.</p>	<p>1918 Oct. 31.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S U M M A R Y.</u></p> <p><u>Casualties to Personnel.</u> To Hospital and struck off, Artificers 1, M.T. Drivers 6 and Privates 2. To Hospital and not struck off, Artificer 1 and M.T. Driver 1.</p> <p><u>Transfers to other units.</u> Officer 1 (after Commissioning), C.S.M. 1.</p> <p><u>Strength taken on.</u> C.Q.M.S. 1, C.S.M. 1, M.S.S. 1, Sergeant 1, Drivers 2 and Privates 6.</p> <p><u>Leave to Australia,</u> M.S.S. 3, C.Q.M.S. 1, Sergeants 2, Corporals 5, L/Cpl 1, Drivers 7 and Privates 1.</p> <p><u>To Schools of Instruction.</u> Nil.</p> <p><u>Discipline.</u> A few "Crimes" have been committed- mostly of A.W.L. for short periods. These were doubtless due to the unit being in the Rest Area.</p> <p><u>Health.</u> The health of the Company has been fairly good on the whole, but the current Influenza Epidemic is beginning to appear.</p> <p><u>Weather and Roads,</u> The weather has been fairly good, but roads in the Forward Area recently vacated by the Germans were very bad.</p> <p><u>Railheads.</u> PERONNE, CARTIGNY, TINCOURT and PONT REMY.</p> <p><u>Messing.</u> Good. £3/6/1 was spent on extras. 90 lbs Fat returned.</p> <p><u>Mechanical Details.</u> In summarising the operations of the month two periods must be recorded- i.e. 1st to 21st in the Forward Area and 22nd to 31st In Rest. During the former the number of vehicles attached for maintenance again slightly increased.</p> <p>Total Vehicles on charge and attached for maintenance:- Workshop and Store Waggons 13, Lorries 123, Cars 42, Motor Cycles and Combinations 181, Box Cars 43, Compressors 2, Gas Plants 2 and "Foden" Disinfector 1.</p> <p>Total Lorries, including attached:- Overhauled 1, Repairs to Transmission 6. Total Cars, including attached:- Overhauled 4, Decarbonised 3, Repairs to Transmission 11. Total Motor Cycles and Combinations Overhauled 12. The advisability of the unit moving forward and being stationed in the vicinity of the Railhead has again been clearly demonstrated, all "empty" mileage being reduced to a minimum. Upon moving into Rest, the major part of the Vehicles attached for maintenance were handed over to the IX Corps Troops M.T.Co., only Australian units being retained.</p>	

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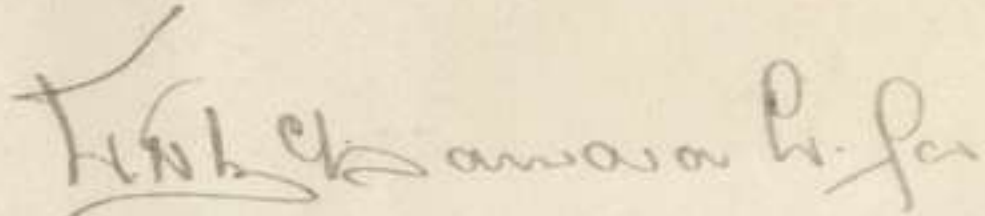
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6th AUSTRALIAN M.T. CO. (CORPS TROOPS)
 Army Form C. 2118.
 336

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>GAMACHES. N-W Europe Sheet 3/ I.6.2.8.</p>	<p>1918 Oct. 31.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S U M M A R Y, Cont'd.</u></p> <p><u>Mechanical Details Cont'd.</u> This was considered an opportunity to bring the detached Lorries and Cars, principally those on charge to Australian Corps Headquarters and Corps Signal Co., also the Lorries of the unit into the Workshops for inspection, overhaul and repair. This scheme is now proceeding apace.</p> <p><u>Supply Details.</u> The following are some figures for the period from 1st to 21st only:- Weight of Rations handled daily 100 tons. Weight of Coal handled during the month 320 tons, Hay 320 tons and Oats 600 tons. Economy for month 4,660 lbs of various commodities. Highest daily Feeding strength 49,406 Men and 4,756 Horses. Average daily Feeding strength 25,950 Men, 2,000 Chinese, 500 Burmese, 1,400 German Prisoners of War and 3,430 Horses. Average number of units fed daily 150. Highest number of units fed in one day 221. Total Feeding strength for 21 days 608,000 Men and 72,000 Horses. Average strength of units, Men 175, Chinese 500, Burmese 500, German Prisoners of War 500 and Horses 23. The Railhead moved to TINCOURT on the 5th. Ration strength 25,000. Train Service to Forward Railhead very irregular, necessitating on one occasion two unloadings at Railhead in one day. When Forward Railheads were not available small ration Dumps were established in Advanced Areas. Received instructions on the 21st to hand over to VII Corps Troops M.T.Co. who took over the Ration Dumps and all units remaining in the Forward Area. Whilst in Rest, the Ration Strength having fallen very low, an opportunity was thus allowed the unit to reequip and full advantage was taken to allow men Leave to adjacent villages, attending Concert Parties, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">F.H.H.</p>


 Major.
 O.C. 6th Australian M.T.CO. (Corps Troops).

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2-31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/14

UNIT 6th Australian M.F. Co. (Corps Troops) Appendix

DIARY APPENDIX NO. 1 FOR MONTH OF October 1918.

Date	1 Loads Amm.	2 R.E. Work	3 Supply	4 Stores	5 Person'l	6 Various	7 Total Loads Done	8 Total Lorries Out	9 Miles Run Full	10 Miles Run Empty	11 Petrol Issued	12 Lorries Av'able Not used	13 Lorries Under Repair	14 Lorries D'tach'd
1st			34			3	37	29	208	243	150		3	4
2nd			37		2	2	41	26	282	336	120	7	1	2
3rd			51			1	52	27	311	318	167	5	2	2
4th			62			3	65	31	358	351	215	2	1	2
5th	4		40			7	51	33	277	510	157		1	2
6th			20			3	23	20	110	162	110	9	1	6
7th			30		1	2	33	21	158	193	76	9	1	5
8th			39			11	50	31	289	266	178			5
9th			39			1	40	26	128	147	115	5		5
10th			73			2	75	23	180	293	104			13
11th			62			2	64	24	190	226	103			12
12th			61				61	23	178	217	157		1	12
13th			47			2	49	23	167	186	122		1	12
14th			61			7	68	23	286	306	148		1	12
15th			37			13	50	22	354	311	158		2	12
16th			40			4	44	22	185	210	161		2	12
17th			50		2	1	53	22	270	292	154		2	12
18th			42			1	43	23	161	202	116		1	12
19th			16			2	18	7	73	63	32	14	3	12
20th			73			23	24	245	2206					12
21st)	33		7		73	24	275	296	204		3	5
22nd)			7		33	28	93	101	115			
23rd						33	33	41	2868					2
24th			13			16	29	13	757	277	241	8	13	2
25th	1		9			7	17	24	249	446	136		9	3
26th			3		1	2	6	19	330	182	142		14	3
27th			10		5		15	15	562	544	286	3	15	3
28th			10			4	14	15	540	380	168	3	15	3
29th			4			2	6	7	258	258	84	11	15	3
30th			3			1	6	9	121	138	58	8	16	3
31st			9		1	5	15	14	425	429	164	4	14	4
Total	5		1008		12	137	1164	665	10643	7883	4141	88	137	197

A.I.F. P.S.—A/3—8-18

Appendix

Particulars.	Amm.	R.E.	Supp	Strs	P'l	Vars	Lds done	Lrs out	Mls full	Mls Ety	Pet.
Brought Forw'd.	5		1008		12	137	1164	665	10643	7883	4141
4 Lorries det. for week ending 7-8/10/18			16			24	40	4	246	212	141
12 Lorries det. for week ending 14-15/10/18			71			67	138		1086	931	431
12 Lorries det. for week ending 21-22/10/18.			50			102	152		913	900	499
3 Lorries det. for week ending 28-29/10/18.			5			37	42		210	137	102
T O T A L.	5		1150		12	367	1536	669	13098	10063	5314

for Major

1/11/18.

O.C. 6th Australian M.T.Co. (Corps Troops)