

**AWM4**

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

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/27/14

**Title:** 1st Australian Divisional Supply  
Column

December 1916



AWM4-25/27/14



247

13

In the field.

31/12/16.

9 a.m.

1/12/16--31/12/16.

Location and Railhead, same as for 31/12/16. The Railway yard is in a very filthy state. The congestion is very bad every Unit's lorries that come along, are allowed to enter the yard at once. During the month we have been loading for, between 29-33000 troops, and some of the supplies, have had to be loaded into trucks, and then again over the wide gauge line on to the narrow gauge line, which made the work long and tedious, and until such time as the Railhead is taken over by the Imperial Authorities, there seems no remedy for the difficulty.

The lorries that are not required for our own Railhead Supplies, are requisitioned by the A.M.T.O. Fourth Army, who details them for supplies, stone and R.E. work. Taking into consideration the very bad state of the roads, the lorries, though some of the oldest in France, are in a very good state of repair, due to the care and skill of the drivers, and the Column Workshop artificers. In accordance with Australian Imperial Force Orders, No. 418, we are replacing all Imperial Motor ~~vehicles~~ drivers so that the former may be returned to the Imperial Base for service with their own Motor Transport. The above replacements are being carried out with Australian personnel and apply to the 2nd, 4th and 5th Australian Divisions. We are holding a class of instruction, in the care of vehicles and rules of the road etc, for drivers, teaching those who cannot drive, and improving those who can, so as to enable the above arrangements to be carried out at an early date.

The food is in good condition and plentiful, with the exception of a few days, when mixed vegetables were very scarce, and potatoes unobtainable. Cooking arrangements are carried out by means of Camp Kitchens, i.e. trenches dug in the ground, with clay and straw mixed, and built, so that the dixies can fit in the holes in the top, which is very satisfactory, and very economical on fuel.

Clothing has been of excellent quality and plentiful, with the exception of boots and overcoats, which are coming to hand, although in too small a quantity to enable every one to be equipped, but there are indications that this will be remedied at an early date. A consignment of rubber boots have received, through Sir Thomas Robertson, as a gift from the Central Queensland Patriotic Fund, which have been a very great benefit, to the men camped in the muddy ground.

The weather has been extremely cold, frost, snow and rain. Whilst there has been a considerable number from time to time, on the sick parade, only very few have had occasion to go into Hospital. Sickness has been chiefly influenza, and a few cases of sore feet, otherwise the general health of the camp, has been very good.

With a view of diverting the attention of the men from the mud and bitterly cold winds, all hands, a few days before Christmas, cheerfully assisted in the erection of a large Marquee, and on Christmas Day, were able to thoroughly enjoy a Christmas Dinner specially prepared, and augmented with extras, and during the week, of carrying on a series of concerts, arranged by members of the Unit. An invitation was extended, and largely availed of, by the various Battalions and Units in the vicinity, and was greatly enjoyed by all.

*Alfred Brown* Lt. Col. Commdg.  
1st Aust. Div. Supply Col.

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and References to Appendices

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

VOLUME 13

Army Form C. 2118