

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/27/21

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Supply
Column

July 1917



AWM4-25/27/21

IN THE FIELD.

1/8/17

1st Div Supp. Col

9. a.m.

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.

LOCATION up to 25/7/17 E.4 d.2.7. Albert Combined Sheet
 Railhead up to 25/7/17 A L B E R T.
 LOCATION 26/7/17 to 31/7/17 U.28. b. 6.6. Sheet 27.
 Railhead 26/7/17 to 31/7/17 E B L I N G H A M.

The Column has been very busy during the preceeding month owing to the Division moving to a new area. Up till the 11th. inst., lorries were principally engaged on work for the S.M.T.O., but on that date the move of the Division commenced, and 18 lorries were detached from the Column for supplying Divisional Troops on the march, and in the new area.

Lorries were also detailed in one's and two's for making flying trips North, carting for 13th. Light Horse Regt. Divisional Artillery, Divisional Headquarters etc. About 8 lorries continued daily to draw supplies from ALBERT Railhead for the troops in the Somme area.

On the 26th., inst., the balance of lorries and our camp moved from the Somme Area to our present location 12 lorries load supplies daily at EBBLINGHEM Rail head, all other available lorries are on details for the S.M.T.O. carting camp equipment, timber and iron for buildings etc.

The approximate mileage run by the column for the month (as shewn on our daily M.T. Returns rendered to S.M.T.O.) is 30500, the number of loads of various kinds carried 1884, and the petrol consumption 6100 gals.

During the move of the Division our "Dennis" lorries (which are very old) have stood up to their work particularly well, not one lorry breaking down, which says a great deal for Drivers and all concerned. These Dennis lorries (4 types) were taken over from the 14th. D.S.C. (Imperial) on the 10th. December 1915. At that time they were in a bad state of disrepair having been in France from almost the commencement of the war, but with hard work by the Workshop men, and careful handling by the drivers they are at the present time in wonderful condition, though it is questionable whether the policy of frequent overhauls and renewal of spare parts is not now coming to such a stage that it would be more economical to evacuate these lorries for the less hazardous work of the L. of C. and issue the Unit with newer vehicles of a standardised type. Since the time of taking over, only 5 of these lorries have been evacuated to the Heavy Repair Shops and since the establishment was reduced early in the year the lorries have been all original ones except three.

The following interesting record has just been compiled:-

Since the Unit left Australia in December 1914 30 N.C.O's and men have been granted commissions. 10 in the Imperial Forces, 6 of whom are in the R.F.C. 1 in the Navy, 1 in Infantry, 2 in R.F.A. and the remainder in the A.I.F.

(continued Folio.2)

Summary of Events and Information

WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
 (Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Sergeant Major Mason G. of this Unit was mentioned in Despatches by the G.O.C., B.E.F. in the Supplement to London Gazette No. 30107 dated 1st. June 1917 (Authority A.I.F. Orders, List No. 186 dated 5/6/17).

In conversation with the G.O.C. 1st. Australian Division he expressed his entire satisfaction with the Unit, both as regards the Workshops in their upkeep of the Ambulances and Cars of the Division, and the general running of the Column lorries, this appreciation has given great encouragement to the Unit.

The health of the men in the Unit has been good, food is plentiful, and of good quality, and clothes are plentiful.

H. R. Shirlan

MAJOR.;

Commandg. No. 1 Aust. Div. Supply Column.