

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/27/28

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Supply
Column

February 1918



AWM4-25/27/28

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No. 1 Aust. Div. Supply Column

FOR

1-2-18 to 28/2/ 1918



Signature of Officer compiling

G. R. Shirlaw Maj.

Signature of Officer Commanding

G. R. Shirlaw Maj.

331

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field,	1.2.18 to 28.2.18.	9.a.m.	<p>LOCATION:- Sheet 28.X.24.a.I-5. RAILHEAD:- STEENWERCK 27.2.18. " BRULOOZE 28.2.18.</p> <p>The weather during the month has been very mild. The Column has been chiefly employed on S.M.T.O. details, which have been very light. A number of lorries have been standing by daily for the Army for the movement of troops by road in case of emergency. These lorries go to make up a total of 110, which together with, one senior M.T. Officer and Four Transport Subalterns, are detailed daily in rotation from all M.T. Units in the Corps, to standby. So far these lorries have not been called on. Owing to the easy demands for M.T. for the month, the workshops have been doing numerous overhauls and repairs, with the very gratifying result that on the 24th. the workshops were clear of all lorries. Advantage has been taken of our long stay in this, a new camp, to make it as comfortable as possible; stones have been obtained and the workshop standing has been made up, duckboards have been laid down, huts have been repaired and the whole camp is now very comfortable. A gymnasium has been erected and boxing and other sports have been indulged in to a big extent. The Supply Section still remain detached close to the Railhead so as to save extra transport; 4 lorries are detached with them for Supply duties etc. The total mileage for the month is, loaded 10387, empty 8715, total 19102. The number of loads of various kinds carried 1154 and the petrol issued 4530 gallons? On the 10th. of the month, which was the first anniversary of the Unit under the present organisation, a Special Order was published (See appendix I.) A return was called for by Corps which when compiled proves very interesting as regards the working of the M.T. (See appendix 2.). A Regimental Canteen has been opened which has proved of great benefit to the troops. During the month 8 other ranks have been admitted to hospital sick, 4 have been discharged to duty, 9 steps in N.C.O. rank have been made, 9 other ranks have been brought on strength and 6 have been struck off. There has been no casualties to personal or vehicles through enemy action during the month. The average strength of the Unit for the month has been 300. The health of the Unit has been good, food and clothing has been good and plentiful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>G. R. Shirland.</i> Major.,</p>	

331

18,000-12/17-5723

APPENDIX

2

WAR DIARY

OF

N^o. 1 Aust. Div. Supply Column.

FOR

1-2-18 to 28/2/ 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| ①. | <i>Special Order on the 11th's 1st Anniversary under the present organization.</i> |
| ②. | <i>Special returns showing mileage and average lorries used daily for 1917.</i> |



331
SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

-By-

APPENDIX /

3

Major G.R. Shirlaw Commanding,
In the field.

10.2.18.

Twelve months ago today this Unit was re-organised on a Corps basis, which necessitated many changes, perhaps far more reaching in their effect than any recorded since ~~the~~ Unit was mobilised in August 1914.

During the past year two members of the Unit have been promoted to commissioned rank, and 60 steps in N.C.O. rank have been made.

141 Officers and other ranks have been struck off, 125 N.C.O's and men have been brought on the strength, 100 N.C.O's and men have been admitted to hospital, and 287 N.C.O's and men have been granted leave to the United Kingdom.

The following Honors and awards have been given:-

1 Military Cross.

8 Military Medals.

In reviewing the work of the past twelve months, it is most gratifying to note that the Column has executed more transport than any similar period of its history. This taken into consideration with the fact that there has been no length of time off the road, and that the majority of the lorries are those handed over in a second rate condition in 1915, should be a source of pleasure and pride to all members of the Unit.

No complaints have been received of the improper carrying out of any one of the numerous details with the result that the Unit has earned an enviable reputation from those ~~who~~ have had its services.

The workshop personnel, as in the past, have had no rest, but by their untiring efforts, they have been able to maintain lorries, cars, and ambulances in the necessary state of repair and efficiency.

A The Supply Section has carried out its duties in a ^{/manner/} very satisfying both to the remainder of the Unit, the Senior Supply Officer and the Divisional Train.

The discipline has been very good, and it is noteworthy, that the number of crimes for the year, compares quite favourably with previous records. It is thought that the latter feature may be due to the Esprit de Corps existing in ~~the Unit~~ this the parent Supply Column of the A.I.F.

Many economies in men and material have taken place during the year. This has necessitated extra work being thrown on the shoulders of all hands, but the manner in which the heavier duty has been met, reflects credit on all concerned.

Passing from a general survey of the year's work, I would like to make a few personal remarks,

It has been my privilege to command the Unit since the re-organisation, and I can assure all ranks, that the difficulties inseparable from such a position have been very much minimised by the loyal and efficient co-operation of the Officers N.C.O's and men. I am quite confident that the Column has been able to maintain, if not increase its good reputation, and this has only been possible, through the united efforts of the Unit as a whole, for where there is one discordant note, the results obtained cannot be so good. It is with cheerful confidence that I look forward to the future, knowing that those responsible for the carrying on, will only add fresh pages of merit to the history of the First Mechanical Transport Supply Column to be formed in Australia.

G. R. Shirlaw.

Major.,

Commanding No. 1 Aust. Div. Supply Column.



Month.	Daily Average No of Vehicles:-		% of Available detailed.	Total Miles Trav-elled by Park month-ly	MILES RUN		
	Detailed for duty.	Available for duty.			Daily Average per Vehicle Detailed	Weekly Average Detailed Available Vehicles	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
JANUARY	40'7	2'3	94'7	53014	26'2	7454'9	
FEBRUARY	39'4	9'3	77'8	24495	27	6123'6	
MARCH	37'5	6'7	84'7	26071	22'4	5886'8	
APRIL	39'5	2'4	94'3	56268	30'6	8475'3	
MAY	38'3	2'6	93'5	34603	29'1	7813'3	
JUNE	36'9	4'6	88'8	30892	27'9	7208'1	
JULY	43'1	2.	95'6	30720	22'2	6726'4	
AUGUST	44'1	1'3	97'1	30798	22'5	6954'4	
SEPTEMBER	41'3	2'1	95'1	48432	39'1	11300'7	
OCTOBER	38'6	2'2	94'6	39629	33'1	8948'4	
NEVEMBER	41'8	0'3	99'3	52559	41'9	12263'7	
DECEMBER	37'2	4'4	89'4	35616	30'9	8042'1	



A. R. Shulman
 MAJOR
 OC. No 1 Aust. D. S. Col.