

AWM4

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/23/11

Title: Headquarters, Australian Corps
Mechanical Transport Column

December 1917



AWM4-25/23/11

34

December 1917

In the field,

1/1/18

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.

Place Date Hour

1-31/12/17. Location, as reported for November, 1917. Additions to the accommodation of the camp have been made by the ~~addition of~~ erection of tarpaulin and rion shelters, the necessary ~~indemnity~~ material having been obtained on indent from the C.R.E., Ist. Anzac Corps Troops.

25/12/17. On the occasion of Christmas (our third Christmas in France), an effort was made to make the day as cheerful as possible especially in view of the encouragement being given by Corps Headquarters to all movements tending towards the entertainment of the troops. (On each of the two preceding Christmasses, the occasion has been duly celebrated by Dinner, Concert, etc.)

From the Trust Funds (composed of Canteen profits) the sum of 1067 francs was set aside for Christmas festivities, and a truly first class Christmas Dinner was provided in a huge marquee, specially erected as a Corps Troops Social Club where all the men of this Unit, waited on, for the occasion by the N.C.O's, partook of Christmas Dinner.

At its conclusion, I gave the assembled troops a short address ~~appropriate speech~~, read the Christmas messages of The King, and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, and the meeting broke up with much cheering.

It is felt that the object of the Christmas Dinner, to make the occasion memorable, entertaining, and encouraging, was fully achieved.

Leave. During the past month the leave allotment has been most liberal. The total number of leave vacancies allotted to "K" Supply Column, and its subservient Supply Columns, was 142, which were sub-allotted as follows:-

"K" Supply Column (Strength 98)	13
No. 1 Aust. Div. Sup. Col. (Strength 240)	31
No. 2 Aust. Div. Sup. Col. " "	12
No. 3 Aust. Div. Sup. Col. " "	31
No. 4 Aust. Div. Sup. Col. " "	31
No. 5 Aust. Div. Sup. Col. " "	7
Ist. Anzac Corps T.S. Col. " "	89
	17

The above allotments were made strictly on the basis of number of men longest in the country without leave.

In addition to the above, Paris leave, or leave to other places in France, has been granted in almost every instance for which application was made, an average of 3 per day, from the Supply Columns of this Corps having availed themselves of this privilege.

Repairs. The workshops of "K" Supply Column are still working at top pressure, the total number of vehicles now attached thereto for maintenance being 85 lorries, 57 cars, 121 motor cycles. For 3 mobile workshops, with a total strength of 35 artificers to cope with these repairs, necessitates strenuous and prolonged work.

Appendix "A" is a copy of my last M.T. Situation Return, as rendered for transmission to D.D.S.T., Fourth Army. This shews only the lorries and ambulances of "K" Supply Column, Nos 1, 2, 3, and 5 Div. Supply Columns, but does not shew the motor cars and motor cycles on charge, the total number of which for a Corps Supply Column above

Summary of Events and Information

(Use heading not required.)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

(A7092) Wt. W1259/M1293 75,000. 4/17. D.D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Phrase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place Date Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

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above, and which is 13 and 25 respectively for each Div. Supply Column.

The health of this Unit still continues to be excellent. Only one case of admission to hospital is recorded for the month, -an artificer, who sustained burns from petrol

During the past month, no casualties due to enemy action are recorded as far as personnel are concerned; one motor lorry, on charge to No 3 Aust Div. Supply Column was so badly damaged by an enemy bomb, that evacuation was necessary.

A. Fredman
Lt. Colonel,
Commdg. "K" Supply Column.

Headquarters.
"K" Supply Column.
1/1/18

AM/266/1

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT
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Table showing situation of M.T. for the week ending 27/12/17.

L :- Lorries.
A :- Ambulances.

Unit.	Estab- lish- ment.	No. Off Road owing to accidents shell fire and minor causes	No. Off Road Awaiting Overhaul	No. Off Road Await- ing Spare Parts	Total No. Not Avail- able for Duty	Average No. of Lorries Used Daily	No. Of Servi- ceable Lorries Not Being Used	Cars Await- ing Spare Parts
"K" Supply Column.	85L	Nil	1L	1L	2L	67L	3L	1
No 1. Aust. Div. Supply Column.	58L 21A	8L 7A	Nil 1A	1L Nil	9L 8A	40L	4 L	Nil
No 2. Aust. Div. Supply Column.	58L 21A	5L 1A	3L 1A	Nil	8L 2A	43L	2L	Nil
No 3. Aust. Div. Supply Column.	57L 21A	5L 5A	2L 3A	2L 1A	9L 9A	43L	Nil	Nil
No 5. Aust. Div. Supply Column.	58L 21A	8L 6A	8L 4A	Nil 1A	16L 11A	37L	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.	316L 84A	26L 19A	14L 9A	4L 2A	44L 30A	230L #	9L.	XXX 1.

:- Does not include 28 Workshops and Store Lorries, and 5 Electric Light Lorries

Frost Casualties NIL.

John M. Lyden
Lt. Colonel
Commndg. "K" Supply Column

Somewhere in France

*As the fourth Christmas on Active Service approaches,
Lt. Colonel Alfred Moon, C. M. G., Commanding
"K" (1st Anzac Corps.) Supply Column, extends to
you heartiest Christmas greetings, trusting that the New Year
may bring forth victory, peace, and prosperity,*

*He has also much pleasure in once more expressing his appreciation of the
devoted and successful manner in which the Officers, non-commissioned-officers and
men under his command have done their duty, reflecting credit on friends and
relatives, and upholding the cause of Australia and the Empire.*

1st November 1917.