

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/83/1

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Mechanical
Transport Company

March 1918



AWM4-25/83/1

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No. 1 Aust. Div. M.T. Company

FOR

Period 12/3/18 to 31/3/1918

Signature of Officer compiling

M. R. Shirland Maj.

Signature of Officer Commanding

M. R. Shirland Maj.

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WAR DIARY

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| In the field. | | | <p><u>LOCATION:-Sheet 27.X.I5.d.6-4.</u> <u>RAILHEAD:- BRULOOZE.</u></p> <p>The reorganisation of the Divisional M.T.has caused a tremendous amount of work and administration,especially as the maximum number of lorries had to be available every day for duty. The work of rearranging the new establishment of lorries and men requiring a great amount of care and detail. The old establishment was 5 Officers and 307 other ranks;and the new-9 Officers and 418 other ranks, and the lorries 56 and 93. In addition the 12th.A.B.A.F. A.Park Section comprising 1 Officer and 50 other Ranks and 16 lorries were attached for maintenance from 13.3.18 to 25.3.18, and on the 29th.the 6th.A.B.A.F.A.Park Section compr came on the strength comprising 1 Officer and 51 other ranks and 16 lorries.</p> <p>The Unit has now settled down under the new scheme and to distribute the work evenly,5 Transport Sections,a Headquarters and a Workshop Section have been formed;each under an Officer;each Transport Section has 16 lorries. These Sections are under direct control of the Senior Transport Officer,who is in turn,responsible to the Commanding Officer.</p> <p>The Officers of the Unit under the new organisation are:- Commanding Officer-Major G.R.Shirlaw,Senior Transport Officer-Lieut(Hon.Capt)J.K.L.Eaton.Workshop Officer-Lieut. J.D.Campbell. Transport Officers- Lieut.A.N.de Fraga,Lieut.S.W.Johnston,Lieut.G.C.Saunders,Lieut. G.Moffat,2/Lieut.G.C.Miles. Supply Officer-Lieut.S.Featherstone.</p> <p>The new lorries are all 3 ton Peerless with the exception of 3-30 cwts.,which were taken over from No.I Aust.Div.Supply Column. These lorries are not actually new;a big number of them having been in France since July 1915.</p> <p>The details have been very constant since the 13th.chiefly on the transportation of troops and ammunition.</p> <p>The Mileage for the period 13.3.18 to 31.3.18 is:- Loaded 15468.Empty 14903. Total Miles 30371. No.of loads of various kinds carried 2199.and the petrol issued 7737 gallons. The health of the Unit has been splendid. Food and clothing has been good and plentiful.</p> <p>The Supply Section still remain detached at Railhead off loading the Pack train on to Horse Transport-see appendix I.for Supply Officer's report.</p> <p>The weather during the last two days of the month has been wet and stormy.</p> <p>The enemy has shelled the back towns and villages to a big extent during the month and a number of lorries have been detailed for work in connection with the evacuation of Civilians from these places. No casualties have occurred to personnel or vehicles,although at times they came under enemy shell fire.</p> | |

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| | | | <p><u>FOLIO 2 OF DIARY 13.3.18 to 31.3.18.</u></p> <p>The strength of the Unit has averaged about 430 Officers and other ranks.</p> <p>The Unit is now on the eve of very strenuous work in connection with the huge German advance on the Somme.</p> <p>It is regrettable that more opportunity has not been possible to bring the lorries now on charge to a higher standard of efficiency and repair, but it is not anticipated there will be any serious breakdown in transport work. There is every reason to believe the Unit as a whole will be equal to any task it is called upon to perform.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>G. R. Shirlan</i> Major., Commanding No. I Aust. Divisional M.T. Company.</p> | |

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WAR DIARY

OF

No. 1 Aust. Div. M.T. Company

FOR

Period 13/3/18 to 31/3/1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

I.

Report on work of Supply Section

APPENDIX, I.WORK OF SUPPLY SECTION FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1918.RAILHEAD:-BRULOENZE.

The average strength of the Division for the month has been 26,500 men and 6,500 horses; this includes 4th.A.Div.Troops from 1.3.18 to 25.3.18-5000 to 5400 men and 2400 horses.
 13th.Bde.from 1.3.18 to 24.3.18-5000 to 5500 men and 450 horses.
 5th.D.T's from 27.3.18 to 31.3.18-2900 men and 2000 horses.

Several groups of R.G.A. and A.F.A.B's have also been included in Brigade strengths.

On 5 occasions during the month one or more trucks have been out off the Pack.Viz-4.3.18 Grocery truck;5.3.18-39,000 lbs.of oats;11.3.18-35,000 lbs.of oats;18.3.18-56,331 lbs.of hay;22.3.18-14,000 lbs.of hay. On each of these dates (except 5.3.18)it has been necessary to send away for the supplies short. In addition to above,on 31.3.18 8½ tons of groceries had to be drawn ex CAESTRE-a Field Supply Depot.

Coal has been cleared from Railhead mostly by horse Transport, as follows:-

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3.3.18-100 tons. | 9.3.18-62 tons. |
| 13.3.18-76 tons. | 16.3.18-120 tons. |
| 23.3.18-153 ½ tons. | 30.3.18-123 ½ tons. |

In addition to above;208 ¾ tons of coke has also been cleared? This makes a total of 635 tons for the month.

Owing to the reduced Oat ration it has been necessary to clear an unusually large quantity of Horse carrots and beetroot; over 100,000 kilos of these being drawn from STEENWERCK Railhead and 40,000 kilos from local farmers in STEENWERCK vicinity. M.T.has been used for this purpose.

120 gallons of M.B.O. has been drawn from WIPPENHOEK ev every third day for R.E.Workshops.

On 13.3.18, Supporting Point Rations, comprising 5000 lbs biscuits and 12000 tins of P.Meat, were drawn ex CAESTRE.

The health of the Section has been very good, only one man having been sent to hospital and two men on light duty for a few days. The men have worked well and N.C.O's have carried out their ~~various~~ their various duties efficiently.

G. R. Shindler Major.,
 Commanding No.I Aust.Div.M.T.Company.