

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/83/10

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Mechanical
Transport Company

December 1918



AWM4-25/83/10

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.

*Original
1st Aust M.T. Coy*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	<u>I</u> <u>12</u> <u>18</u>		<p><u>LOCATION.</u> Headquarters & Sheet 57B K35 C. Central 30.II.18 to 3.I2.18. Workshops. 57. A.I3.d.5.7. 3.I2.18 to 14.I2.18. Headquarters Chatelet 14.I2.18 to 31.I2.18 Workshops Couillet do do</p> <p>The month of December was a very busy month for M.T., on account of the long distances supplies had to be carried, consequent on the lack of Railways, and the disorganised state of Railway Transport generally. Trains were continually arriving late, and sometimes two trains would arrive together, necessitating the detail of every available lorry to clear the Railhead in time for the following day. The strain on the Drivers was particularly heavy during the early part of the month, but they were relieved somewhat towards the end of the month by the addition of Infantrymen as second Drivers. (See appendix I for mileage etc.)</p> <p>The work of the shops has been very heavy during the whole of the month, owing to the number of breakdowns, due partly to the long distances covered, the bad state of the roads, and partly to the inability on the part of the Drivers to pay proper attention to their lorries on account of the long hours worked and the short hours of daylight available for proper inspection (See appendix 2 for schedule of work done).</p> <p>During the whole of the month, supplies were drawn by M.T. and the Supply Section was detached at the Railhead during the greater part of the time. They have had a very trying time through having to wait about Railheads for hours at a time, without proper meals or decent shelter from the weather, as most of the trains failed to arrive on time. (See appendix 3 from Supply Officers Report.)</p> <p>On 3.I2.18. the unit moved to Solre-le chateau Sheet 57A.I3.d.5.7., 35 lorries were left behind with the Supply Section at Le Cateau to move Supplies from Railhead. Billets were obtained in a Chateau to accommodate all ranks not on lorries, and also personnel of 3rd A.B.A.F.A.P.S. The place had been used by the Germans as a Hospital, they left all their hospital beds and mattresses behind so that all ranks made themselves comfortable. The lorries were parked in the main square, and the Workshops in an old factory yard both standings were fairly good.</p> <p>On 14.I2.18. the column moved to CHATELET in Belgium, and the Workshops to COUILLET, both standings are good, and all the surplus personnel are billeted on the people who cannot do enough for us. There is regular leave into CHARLEROI a large town about four miles from Chatelet, and very shortly there will be short leave granted to BRUSSELS.</p> <p>On 25.I2.18. the annual Xmas Dinner was held in the boys school CHATELET, and the first peace Xmas was celebrated in true Australian xi style. There was any amount to eat and drink, followed by a dance, so that everybody enjoyed themselves to the full.</p> <p>The 3rd A.B.Aust.F.A. Park Section was the only attached unit during the month.</p>	
	<u>31</u> <u>12</u> <u>18</u>			

W. Eaton
Captain.,
Acting O.C. 1st Australian M.T. Company.

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

331

UNIT No 1 Aust. M.T. Coy

DIARY APPENDIX No. 1 FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Date	Loads Amm.	R.E. Work	Supply	Stores	Person'l	Various	Total Loads Done	Total Lorries Out	Miles Run Full	Miles Run Empty	Petrol Issued	Lorries Av'able Not used	Lorries Under Repair	Lorries D'tach'd
1st			42	3	2	4	51	50	1344	1392	640		16	10
2nd			43	1		3	47	48	1408	1410	737		16	10
3rd			15	12		3	30	23	908	235	238		20	45
4th			4	2			6	4	168	140	96	12	18	45
5th			1	3			4	3	199	4	98		22	51
6th			6				6	3	174	360	106		20	58
7th *			138	47		145	330	3	8398	7567	4935		19	59
8th			5				5	3	171	136	96		21	58
9th			3	1			4	3	127	131	108		20	59
10th			5	1	1	1	8	3	252	190	140		22	57
11th			3	1		2	6	5	179	94	53		27	53
12th				1			1	1	30	69	52		22	57
13th			32			3	35	40	706	577	310		23	14
14th *			193	120	11	88	412	10	9541	6268	2904		22	49
15th			2			1	3	4	60	41	58		23	49
16th		2		2	2	2	8	43	100	108	110		25	14
17th			36	2	1	5	44	42	751	951	486		26	14
18th		4	44	4		1	53	43	901	800	486		25	14
19th		1	55				56	42	760	910	538		26	14
20th			32				32	39	343	349	196		29	14
21st *			58	47	12	50	167	40	2751	2074	1387		28	14
22nd			33	3	1		37	40	802	889	348		29	13
23rd			8		2		10	41	381	391	126		28	13
24th			58	5		3	66	40	933	1009	463		29	13
25th														
26th			60	2	2	4	68	38	926	973	452		28	16
27th			35	2		2	39	36	517	575	240		30	16
28th *			20	74	22	63	179	36	2432	1439	1350		30	16
29th			1	1		2	4	33	30	29	144		33	16
30th			15	5	5	2	27	33	292	266	156		33	16
31st	5		2	2		1	10	35	392	409	250		31	16
Total	5	7	949	341	61	385	1748	784	35976	30186	17397	12	741	893

A.I.F. P.S.—A/3—8-18.

* Includes running of detached
lorries for week ending.J.K. Dalton Capt
A.I.F. P.S. 1st AMTC

188

331

FIRST AUSTRALIAN M.T. COMPANY.

WORKSHOP OFFICER'S REPORT.
for
MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

I. LORRIES ON CHARGE OR ATTACHED.

A.	Total number of jobs handled by Workshops	108
B.	Complete Overhauls	Included in A. 6
C.	Cylinders lifted	do 7
D.	In Workshops over 24 hours	do 49
E.	In Workshops under 24 hours	do 62
F.	Springs fitted or repaired	do 27
G.	Radiators fitted or repaired	do 8
H.	Tyres fitted (Not elsewhere included)	56

2. AMBULANCES ATTACHED.

A.	Total number of jobs handled by Workshops	23
B.	Complete overhauls	(Included in A.) I.
C.	Cylinders lifted	do 3
D.	In Workshops over 24 hours	do II
E.	In Workshops under 24 hours	do II
F.	Springs fitted or repaired.	do 6
G.	Radiators fitted or repaired.	do 2

3. MOTOR CARS ON CHARGE AND ATTACHED.

A.	Total number of jobs handled by Workshops	30
B.	Complete Overhauls	Nil
C.	Cylinders lifted	(Included in A.) 5
D.	In Workshops over 24 hours	do 8
E.	In Workshops under 24 hours.	do 22
F.	Springs fitted or repaired	do 4
G.	Radiators fitted or repaired	do Nil

4. GRAND TOTALS. (ALL VEHICLES.)

A.	Total number of jobs handled by Workshops	161
B.	Complete overhauls	(Included in A.) 7
C.	Cylinders lifted	do 15
D.	In Workshops over 24 hours	do 68
E.	In Workshops under 24 hours	do 81
F.	Springs fitted or repaired.	do 37
G.	Radiators fitted or repaired.	do 11
H.	Total number of Working days	
	31 less 5-half days - $2\frac{1}{2}$	
	2 days move	2
	Xmas Day	1
	$5\frac{1}{2}$ days	25 $\frac{1}{2}$

(Sgd) H.H. Bird, Captain.,
Officer in charge Workshops,
1st Australian M.T. Company.

918

FIRST AUSTRALIAN M.T. COMPANY.SUPPLY OFFICERS' REPORT.DECEMBER 1918.

During the month of December, supplies were drawn from four ~~diffs~~ different Railheads as below:-

1st to 12th LE CATEAU
 13th to 15th BEAUMONT.
 16th to 26th FLORENNES.
 29th to 31st MONTIGNIE-COUILLET.

During the period of drawing at FLORENNES considerable inconvenience was caused owing to the uncertain arrival of Pack Trains, and the journey of 20 kilometres from Park to Railhead.

On several occasions it was found necessary to have the section waiting at Railhead for trains for 8 hours or more. It was also necessary to clear two Pack Trains in one day, and the Section waited at Railhead until the lorries returned from the Brigade Dumps.

During the month 448 tons of Coal, and 72 tons of wood were cleared from Pack Train, considerable inconvenience was caused owing to non-arrival of Petrol and Oil Trucks, all these items had to be obtained from CHARLEROI and taken to Brigade Dumps.

The total number of rations issued during the month were: -

Men's
 456605

Horses.
 151239

Average daily issues were 14729 men's rations, and 4879 Horse rations

The only attached Unit was the 3rd Army Field Artillery Brigade

All duties during the month were carried out to the satisfaction of of the S.S.O.

(Sgd) F.C. Warnock 2/Lieut
 SUPPLY OFFICER, 1ST AUST. M.T. COY.

W.C.