

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/83/2

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Mechanical
Transport Company

April 1918



AWM4-25/83/2

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian M.T. Company

FOR

April. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *W. R. Shirland Maj*

Signature of Officer Commanding *W. R. Shirland Maj*

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, <u>I</u> <u>4</u> <u>18</u> to <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>18.</u>		9 a.m	<p><u>LOCATION.</u>- Sheet 27.X.15.d.6-4. to 6-4-18.AMIENS 17.E.I.25.68.to 12-4-18.Sheet 27.U.23.c.I.I.to 21-4-18. Sheet 27.23.c.8-3.to 23-4-18. xxx23-4-18 Sheet 27.P.23.c.central.to 25-4-18. Sheet 27.T.13.central to 30-4-18.</p> <p><u>RAILHEAD.</u>- BRULOOZE to 6.4.18. LONGPRE to 10.4.18. AILLY-sur-SOMME to 12.4.18.HAZEBROUCK GARAGE to 14.4.18. EBBLINCHEM to 28.4.18. ARQUES to 30.4.18.</p> <p>The Unit has been very busy since the <u>beginning</u> of the month and the large number of moves has added considerably to the work. The lorries have been working night and day on transporting ammunition and supplies, and considering the difficulty of getting a suitable Workshop standing and the big mileage done, the lorries have stood up to the strain wonderfully well. During the month the demand for Mechanical Transport has been very heavy owing to the advance by the enemy, thus rendering our light railway system practically useless.</p> <p>On 6.4.18 the Division moved to the SOMME Area; in moving, this unit carried full echelons of Ammunition and Supplies. On arrival in the new Area considerable difficulty was met with in obtaining a suitable Park for the lorries and workshops. For the first three days the only vacant place at all suitable was a farm yard on the side of the road but owing to the depth of mud this had to be vacated as it was quite impossible for any repairs to be carried out. On the 9th a more suitable standing was obtained secured in the village of FLAS ELLES and a start was made to get some urgent repairs done, but this again had to be given up, as on the 12th the Unit had orders to proceed North again as the Division were required for the defence of HAZEBROUCK. On the 21st the Unit moved to St.SYLVESTRE CAPEL which proved to be a very fine standing both as regards lorry and Workshop accommodation. On the 22nd the village was shelled by the enemy and on the 23rd the Headquarters and workshops had to get out. Headquarters office was established in a field along the road and the workshops were taken back to their present location: Sheet 27.T.9.Central. On the 25th as the enemy still continued shelling all round where the lorries were parked, the Unit was moved to our present location.</p> <p>The demand for ammunition has been very heavy; for the 24 hours ending midnight 17.4.18, 410 tons of various kinds of ammunition was collected from a number of Dumps and delivered to the Divisional Ammn.Column. See appendix (1) for shedule showing ammunition carried for the month.</p> <p>All supplies has been carried by M.T. during the month. See appendix (2) for work done by this Section.</p> <p>The total mileage for the month is: Loaded 52885, empty 34448, and the number of loads of various kinds carried 3806. Petrol issued for the month is 20412 gallons.</p> <p>The casualties in personnel for the month are: 2 other ranks, No.1824 M.T.Dvr.GARLE G. and 9722 M.T.Driver KINNARD H. wounded by enemy shell fire. They were proceeding through</p>	

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-----HAZEBROUCK on the morning of 29.4.18, when a shell exploded near them wounding the driver-driver Garle in the head and driver Kinnard in the knee. Driver Kinnard drove the lorry to the nearest dressing station from where they were both evacuated.

The casualties in vehicles are as follows:- One Sunbeam Ambulance badly damaged by an enemy bomb in AMIENS on 12.4.18. and evacuated for repairs. One Ford Ambulance damaged by an enemy shell in HAZEBROUCK on 16.4.18 and repaired in Unit workshops. One Sunbeam Ambulance damaged by enemy shell fire in BORRE on 17.4.18 and repaired in Unit workshops. One Sunbeam Ambulance hit by enemy shell fire in FLETRE on 18.4.18 and repaired in Unit workshops.

The weather during the early part of the month was very wet and stormy but during the last 2 weeks it has been very mild.

Since returning from the SOMME the following units have been attached to this Company for maintenance and administration:- A detachment of the 25th. Divisional M.T. Coy. comprising 2 Officers and 76 other ranks and 28 lorries. The 28th. Army F.A. Bde. Park Section, 1 Officer and 51 other ranks and 16 lorries. The 113th. Army F.A. Bde. Park Section, comprising 1 Officer and 51 other ranks and 16 lorries. The 2nd. N.Z., Army F.A. Bde. Park Section, comprising 1 Officer and 51 other ranks and 16 lorries, making a total 6 Officers and 239 other ranks and 76 lorries. As these Units are Imperial no record is shown of their mileage or work done.

The net strength of the Unit has averaged about 435 officers and other ranks for the month.

The health of the Unit has been good, 2 Officers and 10 other ranks have been admitted to hospital for various reasons during the month. 22 other ranks have been taken on the strength of the unit and 26 have been struck off during the month.

Clothing has been plentiful. The food also has been good and sufficient, but has been greatly augmented by the purchase of additions such as potatoes, peas, cabbages, cauliflowers and fruits out of regimental funds.

G. R. Shurtaw Major.,
Commanding Ist. Australian M.T. Company.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st. Australian M.T. Company

FOR

April 1918**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| I - | <i>Showing Daily amounts of ammunition drawn and issued for month ending 30/4/18.</i> |
| II. | <i>Report on work done by supply section for month ending 30/4/18..</i> |

FIRST AUSTRALIAN M. T. COMPANY

RETURN SHOWING AMMUNITION DRAWN AND ISSUED DAILY BY 1st AUST. M.T. Coy. FOR MONTH ENDING: 30-4-18.

DET. OF AMMUNITION (1st to 6th inclusive)	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	TOTAL	
S.A.A.	480,000						580,000	720,000	100,000	240,000		320,000					5,000		300,000			150,000	450,000		3,595,000	
S.A.A. A.P.									490	4,000	9,984			8,736												23,210
S.A.A. M.G.								600,096	100,000	400,440		90,240						112,800				50,660	112,800		1,467,036	
S.A.A. TRACER.									1698	9,984		332,560											4,992		49,930	
S.A.A. GERMAN.										40,000															40,000	
A.									676	3,896	100,000								7,000	11,000		96	7,000	5,000	44,668	
A.X.									2,024	2,624	7,740			2,700				4,000	2,000	1,000			1,000	1,000	24,088	
A.X.Z.																										
B.X.									480	2,210	5,158				2,000			2,000	6,000	500				2,000	20,348	
Q.X.								280																	280	
A.I.											1,000														1,000	
T.M.G.									200	360										100		160	150	460	1,430	
T.M.G. P.H.									1125						900								1,002		3,027	
RING CHARGERS							3,000	7,000	7,500		16,500							6,600	240			2,080			27,990	
T.M.C. ALWAYS.							3,000	1,002	3,832		2,001	1,002		567				1,000	1,504						14,008	
S.O.S. SIGS.							306			204				300									150		960	
B.N.C.										500															500	
B.S.K.										500															500	
B.S.																										
T.M. H.E. NEWTON T.M.G.														640												640
CARTRIDGE ILLUM. D.I.																		1,050							1,050	
GRENAD 23 RIFLE.								636		5,000	4,080	1,080		1,008			2,400	1,200	1,200				2,004	1,200	19,808	
" HAND.							16,016	10,008																		26,024
" 36.								6,000			552						3,000		1,008						10,560	
" 27.										1,368		1,008														2,376
" 34.										7,200																7,200
" 31.											60															60
VARY LIGHTS.							10,000	9,750	3,000	1,440	5,100	3,900						1,000	1,380						35,540	
FLARES.								4,974			4,028	5,120							1,280							16,402
PISTOL WEBLEY.							4,320			25,920	10,800															41,040

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R. Shirlaw MAJOR.,
Commanding 1st Aust. M.T. Company.

APPENDIX: 1.4

REPORT OF SUPPLY SECTION FOR MONTH OF APRIL 1918.

The average strength of the Division for the month has as follows:-

Mens rations-26616. Horses-5729.

The largest number of men drawing on one day being 28416 on 3.4.18 and the smallest number being 16317 on 7.4.18 which was only for a few days, the number on 26.4.18, being 27750.

3 groups of A.F.A.Bdes. and one Divisional Artillery are included in the Divisional strength.

Owing to the constant change in strength it has been necessary to draw a considerable quantity of supplies from Field Depots. For this work an average of 3 lorries per day have been used.

An average of 280 gallons of rum has been drawn and issued daily.

The fuel loaded and dumped for the month is as follows:-
Coal 219 tons. Wood 60 tons.

When the Division was on the SOMME Area a large number of shortages were required which had to be drawn from ABBEVILLE, also 19 tons of coal had to be drawn from this depot.

During the return of the Division to the North, the Section has been in charge of the S.S.O's reserve dump which has been located with the Column. Various quantities of extra forage, viz., Linseed cakes and roots have been held and issued daily as required. The same applies to fresh vegetables-daily amounts having been issued to supplement the vegetables drawn from Railhead, to the full 8 oz. ration which is authorised.

Solidified parafin has also been held on this dump and has been issued as ordered by the S.S.O.

Owing to the number of groups attached to the Division for rations etc., the work of the Section has been exceptionally heavy but N.C.O's, issuers and loaders have done their work extremely well.

M. R. Shurlaw

Major.,
Commanding Ist. Australian M.T. Company.