

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

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/83/6

**Title:** 1st Australian Divisional Mechanical  
Transport Company

August 1918



AWM4-25/83/6



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

331

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1st. Australian M.T. Company*

FOR

*August* 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*M. R. Shirlaw Maj.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*M. R. Shirlaw 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.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field,	I 8		LOCATION:- Headquarters.Sheet 36a.B.I3.d.7-2. to 6.8.I8. Workshops:- 36a.T.9.central to 6.8.I8. " 62d.G.I2.c.0.0. to 14.8.I8. " 62c.D.22.d.central to 17.8.I8. " 62d.H.35.c.3-6. to 31.8.I8. " 62d.G.I2.c.0-0. to 31.8.I8.	
I8.			RAILHEADS:- EBBLINGHEM to 2.8.I8.WARDRECQUES to 6.8.I8.AILLY-sur-SOMME 7.8.I8.La MOTTE BREBIERE 8-10.8.I8. CORBIE 10-30.8.I8.La FLAQUE 31.8.I8.	
to	31 8 I8.		The work of the M.T.has been strenuous during the whole month,owing to the forced retreat of the enemy and the consequent lack of railway transport on our immediate front. The lorries have been on S.M.T.O. details;chiefly transporting Ammunition,Troops,stone and general R.E.work. See app.(I) for mileage Etc.,On 6.8.I8 the Unit marched out from Second Army Area to Fourth Army Area to join the Aust.Corps. The new Park was in a first class position and well off the main road,the workshops were placed further back but an advanced breakdown lorry and shop for minor repairs were located with the park. On 8.8.I8 the 3rd.and 12th.A.B.Aust.F.A.P.Sections were attached for maintenance. The work of the shops has not been very heavy with the exception of the first few days of the month, when an endeavour was made to comply with Corps request to have every lorry available for the road. For the most part of the month we were able to shew every lorry available with the exception of two overhauls in shops. See app.(2) for shedule of work done in shops. Up to 8.8.I8 the Supplies for the Division were drawn by M.T.and the Supply Section were for the most part detached at Railhead. See app.(3)for Supply Officers report. It is worth recording that during the advance the Unit's lorries were first in the new area,being on detail carrying Ammunition to 62e.R.26.d.on the evening of 8.8.I8,also 2 lorries were carrying water forward from VILLERS-BRETONNEUX on the same date. On 9.8.I8 the G.H.Q.inspectors commenced an inspection of all M.T.Vehicles on the Division and a good report has been returned. On the 10.8.I8 when Aust:Corps took over CORBIE as a Railhead,was the first time in the history of the A.I.F.,when the whole 5 Divisions off loaded Supplies at the one Railhead and with Aust.Railhead Staff. On 15.8.I8 the Column salved and towed back to Park a portable German Bath and Boiler capable of bathing 12 men at a time;this is now being mounted on the chassis of a derlict lorry which was also salved and brought back. During the month the M.T.Base at CALAIS was burned out through hostile bombing;this threw a great responsibility on Officers Commanding M.T.Units and workshop Officers owing to the loss of spare parts. Every available spare has been packed and returned to Base to form a pool for the supply of immediate and urgent repairs. 5 lorries of this Unit were detailed to assist in collecting and returning these spares. Ammunition details have not been exceptionally heavy. See app.4 for ammunition carried. A roster of Thansport Officers duties have been compiled,see app.5. See appendix 6 for programme of Concert held by the Unit on 10.7.I8 to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the Unit's arrival in France.	



The casualties to Personnel and vehicle through enemy action for the month are as follows:-

No. 41 M.T. Driver T.G. VICTORSON wounded in the arm by shell fire at WIENCOURT R.E. Dump on 25.8.18.

Ford Ambulance damaged by shell fire on 24.8.18 and repaired in workshops.

STRENGTH. 2 Officers and 18 other ranks have been struck off strength for various reasons during the month.  
2 Officers and 11 other ranks have been brought on strength during the month.  
The average strength has been about 430 Officers and other ranks for the month.

The health of the unit has been splendid.  
days of the month when a good deal of rain fell, has been good.

The weather, with the exception of the first few

*G. R. Shirland* Major.,  
Commanding First Australian M.T. Company.



## WAR DIARY

OF

*1st Aust. M.T. Company*

FOR

*August 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | <i>Schedule of mileage, loads, Petrol etc.</i>              |
| 2.  | <i>Schedule of work done by worksheds for month ending.</i> |
| 3.  | <i>Supply Officers report for month.</i>                    |
| 4.  | <i>Schedule of Ammunition carried.</i>                      |
| 5.  | <i>Transport Officers roster of duties etc.</i>             |
| 6.  | <i>Programme of Concert held by Unit.</i>                   |



UNIT No 1 A.M.T. Co

DIARY APPENDIX No. 1 FOR MONTH OF

August 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	1	.	8	3	90	12	114	57	1900	2072	566	.	18	8
2nd	.	.	9	14	.	36	59	57	1141	2244	414	.	18	8
3rd *	.	15	7	11	16	255	304	52	2215	1617	724	5	18	8
4th	.	21	2	3	16	13	55	59	692	657	578	.	16	8
5th	11	.	26	7	.	4	48	66	2231	317	348	.	11	6
6th	8	.	23	2	22	8	63	66	3254	274	490	.	11	6
7th	38	.	44	2	1	11	96	62	2295	1045	940	.	15	6
8th	30	28	24	1	7	6	96	62	1575	1727	1034	.	15	6
9th	20	10	28	.	20	58	136	61	899	1211	844	.	16	6
10th *	37	18	5	8	.	141	209	63	2680	1982	792	2	12	6
11th	49	32	5	1	9	30	126	68	1447	2251	736	.	8	7
12th	9	21	6	19	6	16	77	55	1239	1486	730	9	8	11
13th	29	3	5	4	26	44	111	65	1417	2058	828	6	4	8
14th	49	.	2	2	2	61	116	65	1252	1483	760	6	4	8
15th	32	1	3	3	3	38	80	65	812	1019	473	4	2	8
16th	1	3	32	1	.	24	61	24	489	476	554	47	4	8
17th *	23	5	16	14	.	230	288	55	3288	2296	548	18	2	8
18th	.	.	18	7	.	10	35	25	229	211	538	46	2	10
19th	15	.	61	4	.	66	146	63	798	1390	532	7	3	10
20th	64	.	.	12	5	12	93	53	987	811	504	13	7	10
21st	30	3	34	.	.	13	80	61	1007	1228	446	4	7	11
22nd	34	4	33	1	3	48	123	65	867	1306	502	.	7	11
23rd	36	.	2	2	.	57	97	64	719	1443	458	1	7	11
24th *	21	.	37	2	.	395	455	53	3878	3190	430	12	7	11
25th	19	20	10	1	8	38	96	62	993	1241	786	3	7	11
26th	17	.	1	10	4	74	106	50	685	843	438	15	7	11
27th	24	4	27	8	.	23	86	57	753	1129	596	8	7	11
28th	32	5	15	2	1	14	69	49	665	1096	498	16	7	11
29th	28	9	10	6	5	20	78	54	1370	1564	856	7	9	13
30th	33	4	21	14	1	16	89	53	890	1348	526	8	9	13
31st *	22	9	30	127	.	125	313	60	3604	2447	872	.	10	13
Total	712	215	544	291	245	1898	3905	1771	46241	43422	19341	237	282	283

A.I.F. P.S.—A/3—8-18

\* Includes weekly running  
of detached lorries.R. Shirlaw May  
OK 17 A.M.T. Coy.



## FIRST AUSTRALIAN M.T. COMPANY'S WORKSHOP REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING 31.8.18.

REPAIRS.TO LORRIES ON CHARGE AND ATTACHED.

A. Total number of jobs handled by Workshops during month..	...	I30.
B. Complete overhauls included in.-	... "A"	4.
C. Cylinders lifted included in.-	... "	9.
D. In workshops over 24 hours, included in.-	... "	61.
E. In workshops under 24 hours, included in.-	... "	119.
F. New springs fitted or repaired, " "	... "	33.
G. Radiators fitted or repaired. " "	... "	9.
H. Tyres fitted.	... -	58.

REPAIRS.TO MOTOR CARS ON CHARGE AND ATTACHED.

A. Total number of jobs handled by workshops during month..	...	36.
B. Complete overhauls included in.-	... "A"	2.
C. In shops over 24 hours, included in.-	... "	19.
D. In shops under 24 hours, " "	... "	17.
E. Radiators fitted or repaired, included in.-	... "	1.
F. Springs fitted or repaired. " "	... "	14.

REPAIRS.TO MOTOR AMBULANCES ATTACHED.

A. Total number of jobs handled by workshops during month..	$\frac{1}{2}$ ...	37.
B. Complete overhauls included in.-	... "A"	-.
C. In shops over 24 hours, included in.-	... "	23.
D. In shops under 24 hours, " "	... "	14.
E. Radiators fitted or repaired, included in.-	... "	1.
F. Springs fitted or repaired. " "	... "	13.

REPAIRS.TO MOTOR CYCLES ON CHARGE AND ATTACHED.

A. Total number of jobs handled by workshops during month..	...	11
B. Complete overhauls included in.-	... "A"	3

TOTAL OF ALL VEHICLES FOR MONTH.

A. Total number of jobs handled by workshops for month.	...	264.
B. Complete overhauls included in.-	... "A"	9.
C. In shops over 24 hours, included in.-	... "	106.
D. In shops under 24 hours, " "	... "	158.
E. Springs fitted or repaired, included in.-	... "	60.
F. Radiators fitted or repaired, " "	... "	11.
G. Accidents (Crossley Box Car 59181)----	... --	1.

TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS FOR MONTH:- ... 25.

In the field,  
31.8.18.

*H. R. Shirlaw*  
Major.,  
Commanding, 1st Aust. M.T. Company.



# Programme

## PART I.

Overture—"Under Freedom's Flag" - Orchestra  
 Corner Men - Staff-Sgt. Murison and Dvr. Chapman  
 Interlocutor - - - Dvr. Entwistle  
 Song, Sentimental—"Roses of Picardy" Dvr. J. Cullen  
 Song, Rag—"Texas Way" - - Art. Fewester  
 Song, Descriptive—"Au Revoir, Paree" - Art. Bone  
 Song, Sentimental—"God Send You Back" Dvr. Pearce  
 Duet—"Just a Minute or Two" Cpl. Ivison and Dvr. Cook  
 Song, Patriotic—"For the Sake of the Red, White and Blue"  
 —Private Daly  
 Song, Rag—"Sprinkle Me With Kisses" Pte. Cohen

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.



## PART II.

Song, Sentimental—"Friend o' Mine" - Dvr. Bengough  
 Solo, Violin—"Andante and Sherzo" - Pte. Tonkin  
 Song, Comic—"My Meatless Day" - Dvr. Cook  
 Duet, Rag—"Dixieland" - Art. Fewester and Pte. Cohen  
 Sketch, Comic—"Follow the Cars" Dvrs. Cullen & Entwistle  
 Song, Comic—"Murphy" - - - Pte. Daly  
 Weight-Lifting Extraordinary Dvrs. Hanne and Fahey  
 Musical Trio—"Popular Airs" Cpl. Ivison, Dvrs. Cook  
 and Ryan  
 The Drunken Comedian - - - Dvr. Hayden  
 Recitation, Comic - - - Dvr. Fahey  
 Duet, Humorous - Staff-Sgt. Murison and Dvr. Chapman  
 Song, Descriptive—"The Soldier's Song" - - Art. Bone  
 Song, Humorous - - - Pte. Parsons  
 Duet, Cornet—Selected Staff-Sgt. Murison and Dvr. Dixon

GOD SAVE THE KING!

APPENDIX

10



## Programme of Sports.



- Event No. 1—**SACK RACE**, 75 yards ... 1st, 25 Francs; 2nd, 10 Francs.  
 Event No. 2—**STANDING LONG JUMP** 1st, 30 Francs; 2nd, 15 Francs.  
 Event No. 3—**SIAMESE RACE**, 75 yards  
 1st, 20 Francs each; 2nd, 10 Francs each.  
 Event No. 4—**100 YARDS CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 1st, 50 Francs; 2nd, 25 Francs; 3rd, 10 Francs.  
 Event No. 5—**TUG-OF-WAR** 1st Team, 160 Francs; 2nd Team, 80 Francs.  
 Event No. 6—**HIGH JUMP** ... 1st, 50 Francs; 2nd, 20 Francs.  
 Event No. 7—**HOP, STEP AND JUMP** 1st, 30 Francs; 2nd, 15 Francs.  
 Event No. 8—**HURDLE RACE**, 120 yards  
 1st, 50 Francs; 2nd, 25 Francs; 3rd, 10 Francs.  
 Event No. 9—**COCK-FIGHT** ... 1st, 20 Francs pair; 2nd, 10 Francs pair.  
 Event No. 10—**TUG-OF-WAR** ... SEMI FINALS.  
 Event No. 11—**100 YARDS CHAMPIONSHIP** ... FINAL.  
 Event No. 12—**RUNNING LONG JUMP** 1st, 40 Francs; 2nd, 15 Francs.  
 Event No. 13—**POTATO RACE** ... 1st, 25 Francs; 2nd, 10 Francs.  
 Event No. 14—**HURDLE RACE** ... FINAL.  
 Event No. 15—**FOUR-LEGGED RACE** (3 men)  
 1st Team, 45 Francs; 2nd Team, 15 Francs.  
 Event No. 16—**SACK RACE** ... FINAL.  
 Event No. 17—**COCK-FIGHT** ... FINAL.  
 Event No. 18—**SIAMESE RACE** ... FINAL.  
 Event No. 19—**TUG-OF-WAR** ... FINAL.

### Committee:

LIEUT. A. N. DE FRAGA. SGT. M. L. MCKENZIE.  
 SGT. L. A. WALKER. DVR. S. DONNELLY.

Given by the First Australian Mechanical  
 Transport Coy's. Concert Party.



# A Grand Concert

(BY KIND PERMISSION OF MAJOR G. R. SHIRLAW, O.C.)



To Commemorate the Third  
 Anniversary of the Unit's  
 Arrival in France. :: ::

Held on the 10th July, 1918.

A.I.F. Print. Section.—In the Field.



RAILHEADS. -EBBLINGHEM 1.8.18 to 2.8.18.WARDRECQUES 3.8.18 to 6.8.18.  
AILLY-sur-SOMME 7.8.18. La MOTTE BREBIERE 8.8.18 to 9.8.18.  
CORBIE 10.8.18 to 30.8.18.La FLAQUE 31.8.18.

DUMPS.- From 1.8.18 to 2.8.18 WALLON CAPEL. From 3.8.18 to 6.8.18  
WARDRECQUES. From 7.8.18 to 8.8.18 PONT REMY. 8.8.18 to  
31.8.18 CORBIE.

TRANSPORT.-Horse Transport for the first few days of the month. M.T.from  
6.8.18 to 8.8.18.from 8.8.18 to end of month H.T.with the  
exception of 5 lorries for S.S.O.,on extras **Etd.**

DEMANDS. Whilst in the Norther Area the shortages were drawn from  
ARCQUES. Whilst on the SOMME Area shortages were drawn from  
other Railheads as there is not a F.S.Depot in the Fourth Army  
Area. There have been no shortages written off of any  
note.

A few medical comforts drawn from VIGNACOURT.

STRENGTH.- Men's rations--- 524.702. Horse rations 15,534.H.D.  
" " 95.940.L.D.  
" " 2,419.Mules.

Fuel-Coal 192  $\frac{1}{2}$  tons.  
" Wood 37 "

Cabbages. 16610 Kilos.

ATTACHED UNITS. Owing to the Division being constantly on the move there  
have not been many attached units. The 179th.A.F.A. for one  
day,131st.Regiment U.S.A.from 16th.to 22nd.132nd.Regiment U.S.A  
20th.to 22nd.13th.Bde.4th.Aust.Div.from 16th.to 21st.

DETACHED UNITS. 1st.Aust.Div.Troops attached to 5th.Aust.Div.from 7th.  
to 21st.

MOVES. ~~During the month the Division has constantly been moving~~  
During the month Divisional Units have constantly been moving  
and it has been clearly shewn that the different A.S.C.Units  
are capable of successfully supplying the troops while the  
Division is mobile. Although a considerable amount of  
work and detail becomes necessary under these conditions,  
nevertheless, everything was carried out without noticable  
hitch.

RESERVE DUMPS.-At the time of moving from the North a large reserve of  
22,000 men's rations and 6400 horse rations was held with the  
M.T.Coy. On the days preceding the moves this was issued to  
Artillery Bdes.attached and to the 1st.Aust.Div.Troops on the  
morning of entraining of Inf.Bdes.these rations were taken to  
different entraining stations and issued. After issue  
about 5000 rations were surplus,these amounts were short drawn  
at railhead on the following day and taken to the new area.  
It is surprising that after holding such a large reserve  
of rations for 2 months and then issueing same that not any  
commodity was an oz short nor was any written off as not fit  
for issue. This result was obtained by guarding carefully  
and constantly turning over perishable commodities.

PETROL TINS.-Considerable difficulty has been found in obtaining a high  
percentage of empties and all Units are now made to return  
a corresponding amount of empties for amount of petrol demanded.

The general working of the Section has been very satisfactory which is  
pleasing owing to the great amount of extra work created by the moves and  
also the early hours and the necessity for changing commodities whilst on  
loaded lorries before dumping. It might also be mentioned that the  
Section dumped for the Corps Reserve with the help of 15 men from 2nd.A.M.  
T.Coy.,145,000 men's rations and 35,000 horse rations. This created a  
considerable amount of labour in dumping,atacking and checking. Also they  
assisted the 5th.A.M.T.coy.to shift the above-mentioned rations to a new  
location. It is also interesting to note that the whole 5 Divisions of  
Aust,Corps drew at CORBIE on one day and cleared Railhead in 4 hours 10  
minutes which is excellent time for 5 Divisions in one Yard.

Continued on page 2.



SUPPLY OFFICER'S REPORT.

In concluding ~~this~~ report I again bring to your notice the excellent manner in which the Section have worked towards bringing everything to a successful issue?

31.8.18.

Sgd. W. LONGWORTH 2/Lieut.  
Supply Officer,  
1st. Australian M.T. Company.



# FIRST AUSTRALIAN M.T. COMPANY.

Return showing Ammunition drawn and issued daily for month of *August* 1918.

Ammunition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL	
A								3504		2240		2652								372	2912	3584	4928		1188	3968	816	2432				30836	
AX								2016		2240	3920	800	1792							5760	672	1120			1622		2316	2432				24090	
BX							1800	480		1320	1440	1020		2400	2700		1800	2765	1560	110			1512	1026				600	716			21249	
SAA													520000							250000						40000						111000	
SAA (M.S.)										62400		624000								249600												936000	
Pistol Webley													21600																				21600
Grenades No 23								4500					4500																				9000
" 27								2004					5004										1500										8508
" 36										3000	4500		3000						3000				5300										18800
T.M.C.										1000			3000									501	1045	700									6246
Flares Red												6132	4000	500						500													11132
" White												200																					200
Rockets M.C.												200																					200
Grenades												35	25																				60
Cartridges BX												3600																					3600
Signals Red													1080									500											1580
" Green													1080																				1080
" S.O.S.W.W.W.													1488																				1488
" S.O.S.R.R.R.															2000					200		150											2350
R.M.C.													160																				160
1" D.I.													5100																				5100
N														1120						840								1120					3080
NX														1120														840					1960
A.S.																				1214	256					1537	600					2517	
B.S.																					6	244				550	300						1400
B.N.C.																						1350											1350

*W. R. Shirlaw.* Major,  
COMMANDING FIRST AUSTRALIAN M.T. COMPANY.



INSTRUCTIONS TO SECTION OFFICERS (TRANSPORT).

The following instructions are issued as a guide as to some of the duties to be carried out by Section Officers. They are not to be considered complete and may be added to or amended from time to time as necessary.

DETAIL.-On arrival from S.M.T.O., details will be made out and handed to Section Sergeants, who in turn will make out details for their own Sections and hand to N.C.O. i/c of Guard, who will be responsible for the waking of N.C.O.'s and men for duty.

The Transport Office will be advised of lorries sent out on each detail. For details over night this report will be furnished next morning, and those during the day, immediately. On completion of duty, first drivers will report their return to the Transport Office immediately on arrival in Park.

DAILY RETURN.-A return, to be initialed by Section Officers, will be handed in to Transport Office from each Section by noon daily, shewing the following particulars for previous day:- No. of lorries out; No. of loads (shewing No. of each description, such as Amm. Supplies, Stone, etc.,) No. of miles empty No. of miles full and petrol issued.

TOOL KITS.-Check will take place and be entered on cards on the first of every month or as near as possible and whenever lorries are handed over. This inspection will be carried out personally by the Officer i/c Section who will initial the card. Any shortage to be investigated by him and a report handed in with tool cards on completion of check.

MILEAGE & PETROL BOOK.-Section Officers will be responsible that No. of miles empty and loaded, and petrol used for each lorry are entered daily in record book in ink. Section Sergeants will be responsible that each lorry on return to Park, is filled up with petrol and made available for further duty provided not for Workshops.

LOG BOOKS.-Section Officers will be responsible that these are entered weekly from above mentioned book.

DETACHMENT.-Section Officers are responsible that a return is handed into Transport Office by noon each Sunday, shewing, -return for week for detached lorries as follows:- No. of lorries on each duty. No. of loads. No. of miles empty. No. of miles loaded and petrol consumption.

MISUSE OF LORRIES.-In the case of a wrong map location to report to; delay; No. of loads or any misuse of lorries, Section Officers will get a written report from N.C.O. or driver and hand into Transport Office immediately on completion of duty.

CRANKCASES.-Crankcases and oiling systems will be emptied and flushed out with kerosene once per month per lorry and fresh oil substituted on each occasion. An entry will be made in the logbooks and initialed by the Section Officers concerned.

TYRES.-Wheels will be removed and replaced after re-tyring under the supervision of workshop personnel.

WARRANT OFFICER.-The Warrant Officer is always available for the use of Section Officers in connection with mechanical inspections. He will report (in writing if entailing considerable repairs) to Section Officers, the result of his inspection including the usual look-over on return of lorries to Park. The Section Officers will then consult the Workshop Officer.

INSPECTION CHARTS.-These are kept posted up in Transport Office and Section Officers are responsible that they are kept up-to-date as per D. of T's Circular Memo. No. 233 of 10.II.17, which can be seen in Transport Office.

INSPECTION OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.-An inspection of rifles, Box Respirators, Ammunition, Field Dressings & identity discs will be held about the 15th. of each month and a report handed into Transport Office before the 20th. of each month. The Gas N.C.O.'s are available for the inspection of Box Respirators and instruction in their use.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS.-Section Officers will be held responsible that at least 6 fire buckets with lids (3 filled with water and 3 filled with sand) are placed in a convenient position near their Section and always available for immediate use. Pyrenes are to be inspected frequently & kept filled.

GENERAL.-Section Officers will be held responsible for the internal economy and efficiency generally of their respective Sections. Inspection of kit will be held periodically and personal supervision in all matters should be closer than was possible under the old organisation owing to their being then more personnel and vehicles under his charge.

21/8/18.

*K. Eaton* Capt. for  
Comd. Section 1st Aust. Coy. Company