

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/55/21 PART 3

Title: 38th Infantry Battalion

February 1918 Appendices G-H



AWM4-23/55/21PART3

38th Battalion Transport Section -

ORIGINAL

War Diary - February 1918.

The weather during the month was a succession of wet and dry days this made conditions very muddy and entailed much labour in cleaning all gear - the month however has been much milder than the corresponding month of last year.

One portion of the Transport work was greatly facilitated by the extensive use of the Canadian Light Railways, that of delivering rations, fuel &c to the trenches. These Railways are an excellent institution and save an immense amount of labour and time in handling necessaries for the troops.

The considerable number of short moves made by the Battalion during the month created a large amount of work, but when changing over with other Battalions back loading was carried out by both sections and greatly facilitated the move. This scheme of both Battalions Transport loading each way shows I think the impressed on units when changing over, as much animal power is thus saved.

For practically the whole month the Section was located at Aubin Kings Roman. - These lines were found in fair condition and a few necessary improvements were effected by us on taking over, stables were covered in with lervian, standings improved, a road and wagon-park repaired where necessary, and are now in good order. The men's accommodation is excellent. It would

(2)
the of advantage if water for horses were laid on and troughs installed.

The Battalion being in the line for part of the month an extra allotment of leave was granted the Section 30% being away at one time - the remainder however by special effort kept the section efficient.

There has been practically no sickness amongst the animals, but a few unavoidable injuries were sustained during the month. In general their condition is lower than it has been during the winter, the most noticeable falling off has been with Officers Hacks and mules. All Heavy Draught Horses are in good condition. This falling off is due no doubt in the case of Officers' Horses partly to the enormous amount of work done owing to the number of Officers detailed for Special work, each Officer requiring a groom and their missions being of an urgent character, but mainly I feel sure to the decrease of 2 lb. per horse per day in the Oct ration of forage and only on rare occasions the supply of a substitute. In my opinion the former ration was barely sufficient. A chaffcutter, used by the different units of the Brigade, is carried by this Section and to my mind is absolutely essential. The reduction of ration is also being felt by the mules though in their case a run of inferior water has probably increased the trouble, it being noticeable that a mule is much more fanciful about what he drinks than a horse. It would be a great advantage if camps as far as possible were fitted with water points & troughs for watering animals.

Though the work generally has been heavy shoeing has been up to the mark - it seems that portion of the equipment of all Regimental Transport Sections should be a small portable forge and anvil. No provision is

(3)

made in the establishment for the carriage of necessary stable gear such as harness & boots gear & chaffcutters etc. & a Q.S. wagon might well form part of the equipment of a Section, such wagon would be invaluable when the Battalion is not moving for doing jobs for which Q.S. Limoused wagons are not suitable.

Harness and vehicles are showing signs of wear and tear after 15 months solid work, the saddles & wheelwrights have been constantly employed doing repairs.

The amount of work done by a Regimental Transport Section is not generally recognized; besides carrying food, fuel, mail, Canteen Effects, water, the valises & packs of Officers & men going to and returning from schools and leave, clothing & equipment and the many items necessary for the unit itself a large number of wagons have daily been employed on outside work such as the carriage of Engineering material including Concrete Busters, A Frames, Duck Boards, Knife Rests etc etc for all of which the type of wagon apportioned is not suitable and the wear and tear engendered thereby is enormous, the carriage of Salvage of all sorts, delivery of Rations & water to Brigade Schools etc all impose a large outside strain on the resources of an Infantry Section. To exemplify this statement I may say, that approximately 318 vehicles left these lines of which 210 were on bona fide Battalion jobs.

Though the weather has been comparatively mild there has been an epidemic of colds and influenza through the Section and it appears that such might to a large extent be obviated if short gum boots were made portion of a Driver's equipment. Best Transport lines

(1)

Due very muddy and wagons have to be regularly washed so that for most days in a wet winter it is impossible to keep the feet dry

I would suggest that the wearing of web equipment by Infantry Transport Drivers be abolished & that they be brought into line with all other drivers ASC, Artillery etc and equipped with Bandolier Belt &c in short mounted equipment. This would give far greater freedom in ride and drive work and be highly appreciated by the men themselves.

A high polish on all steelwork is asked for & drivers of necessity to obtain this purchase a stock of cleaning gear such as "Brasso" etc - I would suggest that this might be ruled as a fair charge against Regimental funds.

[Signature]
Transport Officer
38th Battalion AIF
28/1/18

Original

Report from Quartermaster for War Diary
for month of February

The work in this department for the month of February has been a little easier than the preceding month owing to the fact that water which had to be sent up to the trenches in petrol tins 70 per night was discontinued, water being obtainable from the Racecourse after it had been bleached. The Medical Officer certified same fit for cooking & drinking. Rations were fairly plentiful & no complaints were received, all the men being well fed & well satisfied.

Following is a list of the food issued to Batt for month.

Bread	6873	Loaves	Rabbits	698	lbs	Candles	6586
Fresh Meat	12093	lbs	Sugar	3917	;	Matches	4497
Bully Beef	4825	tins	Jam	3695	tins	Cigarettes	7450
Meat. Legs	2946	"	Margarine	1206	lbs	Tobacco	146 1/2
Pork. Beans	1106	"	Salt	417	"	Pellets	464
Bacon	5230	"	Pepper	15	"	Original	
Biscuits	6125	"	Mustard	10 1/2	"	Free	1907
Cheese	2493	"	Onions	2192	lbs	Parsnips	869
Milk Dried	286	"	Potatoes	3490	"	Teal Leaf	44 1/2
" Liquid	920	tins	Turnips	1308	"	Soup	174 1/2
Tea	840	lbs	Carrots	215	"	Oranges	780

11

In addition

16 Cases = 768 tins Cocoa were supplied

96 " Milk by Comptrol Fund

6 Cases Sweets do

Daught from Regimental Funds. 1100 lbs Potatoes

The Clothing & General Equipment of the
Batt. is in good order. The
following being issued for months

Attachments Dress	4	Carpenters Case	6
Badges Collars	66	Carpenters Jacks	16
" Bust Titles	237	Carpenters Case Left	28
Braces Harness	34	" " Right	24
" Web	16	" Ent. Tool Head	18
Days Station	10	" " Helve	16
Drynets	9	" Water Bottle	8
Blankets	29	Combs Hair	6
Belts Web	13	Covers Breech	30
Boots Ankle	51 pro	" Mess Lin	69
Bottles Oil	5	Chevrons 1 Part	7
" Water	10	" " 3	4
Brushes D.S	1	Discs Identif. Red	54
" M.S	6	" " Green	46
Brushes Tooth	23	Hats Anst.	20
" Shaving	18	Haversacks	14
Colours Regimental	327 pro	Knives Table	40

			<u>III</u>
Trays Daynet	2	Pistols 1	3
Exp. weight D.S.	19	Rifles M.D.R.	9
Boots Woollyer	193 pro	Knives	8
" " Fingerless	627	Straps Chin	8
Holdalls	19	Boots Woollyer	738 pro.
Knives Glass	65	Seaboard Daynet	4
" " Tally	38	Sheet Lined M.P.	15
Compasses Pygmy	1	Straps Tack	10
Laces Boots	359 pro	Boots	16
Seaboard Knife	16	Blind's Rifle	8
Tutty	77	Agess Telling	1
Fulltrough	16	Tunes	57
Tacks Tack	1	Tins Mess	30
Trenches 1st. 1st. 1st.		Trowsers D.S.	108 pro
Tools for Head	19		
" " Helve	26		

The Value of same being £463-0-9.

Provisions 504 pairs
 Tunes 102
 Trowsers D.S. 119

Hair Cutting for month 1296

Log saved 755 lbs
 Paper 1073 lbs
 Boards 129

1111

During the so many hours given the
work this feels a little heavily and
these remaining however the boys attached
to the store have worked well, thus coping
with the extra work. —

All present Company requirements are being
fulfilled & every thing indentured for has
been issued so the Battalion should
march out in a few days fully
complete again! —

~~W. J. [unclear]~~
2.11.18
58/18

A. B. writes to say during the past week he has been on Special Service
and says that training is the same as before

On Monday evening the 1st of the 1st Battalion will follow full on
for the 1st time on Special Service

On Wednesday night the 1st of the 1st Battalion will follow full on
with the 1st of the 1st Battalion

J. E. Amey

10.11.1914
Special Service

Appendix

N.B. Parties No. 1 & 9 during the period laid down for Training over Special Course will carry out training under their own Commanders.

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Assaulting Teams will fall in for Rehearsal over Special Course.

On Wednesday night at 7 p.m. a Full Dress Rehearsal over Special Course will take place.

F.E. Fairweather
(Sgd) F.E. Fairweather. Capt,
O.C. 10th A.I. Brigade Special Party.

COPY.

Appendix

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