

**AWM4**

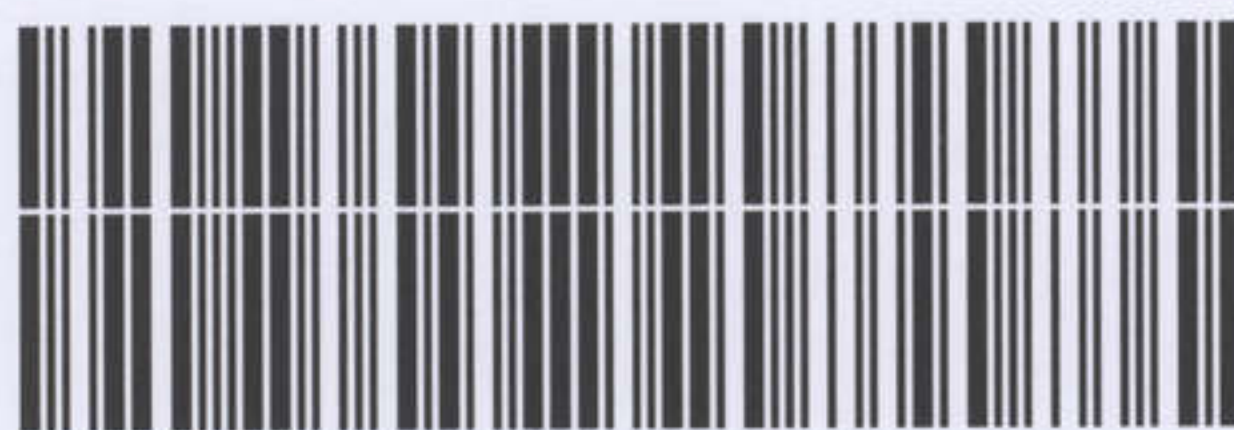
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Railways

**Item number:** 15/5/4

**Title:** 4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway  
Operating Company

February 1918



AWM4-15/5/4



18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

35TH COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
(AUSTRALIANS).

No.

DATE

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*35<sup>th</sup> Aust. L.G. R.O. Co* *Peronne*

FOR

*February* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Matalich*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Whitcomb*



N<sup>o</sup> 3

35TH COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
(AUSTRALIANS).

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brace heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Peronne	February 1918	13 <sup>th</sup>	<p>With regret I chronicle the death of one of our comrades Corporal James Blackie N<sup>o</sup>. 1522 who was shot from a stray bullet, supposed ricochet from a rifle fired at some game on the overflow of the River Somme close to our camp at Peronne at 5.35 P.M. 13.2.18</p> <p>The bullet penetrated the Nisser's hat striking him in the back of the head 2" behind the left ear, inflicting a serious wound, he lingered some 45 minutes, and died on the way to Marchelepot Hospital. All concerned advised, and Court of Enquiry held.</p>	<p>N<sup>o</sup> 5 Casualty</p>
			<p>The working of the staff generally is most satisfactory, in regard to health, discipline, and conduct of the staff of all classes seems to indicate a recognition that they respond in measure of productively in direct ratio to the degree in which their personal comfort and general welfare are secured.</p> <p>I regret to record three Orderly room cases, though not of a serious nature.</p> <p>Offence report attached.</p>	<p>N<sup>o</sup> 6 Health &amp; discipline</p> <p>N<sup>o</sup> 7 Orderly room cases.</p>



Sheet 1

35TH COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
(AUSTRALIANS).

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Original

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Peronne	February 1918		<p>During the month at various dates, I have received draft of Australians from reinforcements, mostly that arrived in England on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1918 to the extent of 27 men. making my (strength now 272 Aust R.O.D with 119 R.O.D. RE attached; total 391.)</p>	No 1 Drafts
		<p>These men are required to work a new section, viz:- Guincoince and Etucourt line that is to come under my control on March 4<sup>th</sup>. My company is now working the Charluis Peronne, and Peronne Roisel lines, as previously advised. The Chemin Vert Bray line was handed back to Heaulte control 10.2.18. as agreed upon.</p>	No 2 Lines worked	
<p>The traffic has been exceptionally busy on all my sections, and I am pleased to record smooth running, and the best utilization of the limited power. All my power has been used to the best advantage, everything, particularly light running, is reduced</p>	No 3 Traffic on Lines			

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14



Nº2

35TH COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
(AUSTRALIANS).

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																				
Peronne	February 1918		<p>to a minimum without clogging or, in any way impeding the working. True economy is secured by the application of the available power as directly as can be to the operating of the lines under my control, without imposing upon it the necessity of any intermediate obstruction.</p> <p>The engine power has been somewhat pinched, but I am pleased to record receipt of 5 additional Belgium engines to overcome any difficulty or emergency that may arise.</p> <p>Two of my engines with two sets of men each are at present working big guns located at different points, outside of my sections.</p> <p>Details of all locomotives used, are as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>6 = Belgium</td> <td>70 tons weight.</td> <td>0.6.0 type.</td> <td>19.6 cylinder bore.</td> <td>26" stroke</td> <td>190 steam pressure</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">This class is fitted with Westinghouse Brake &amp; heating apparatus for ambulance trains</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 - L.N.W.</td> <td>70 tons weight.</td> <td>0.6.0 type</td> <td>19.0 lbs steam pressure,</td> <td>fitted with</td> <td>Steam brake.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 = G.W.</td> <td>70 " "</td> <td>0.6.0 "</td> <td>190 .</td> <td>" "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 = Caledonians</td> <td>70 " "</td> <td>0.6.0 "</td> <td>190 .</td> <td>" "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6"><u>27 total</u></td> </tr> </table>	6 = Belgium	70 tons weight.	0.6.0 type.	19.6 cylinder bore.	26" stroke	190 steam pressure	This class is fitted with Westinghouse Brake & heating apparatus for ambulance trains						6 - L.N.W.	70 tons weight.	0.6.0 type	19.0 lbs steam pressure,	fitted with	Steam brake.	11 = G.W.	70 " "	0.6.0 "	190 .	" "	" " " "	4 = Caledonians	70 " "	0.6.0 "	190 .	" "	" " " "	<u>27 total</u>						<p>Nº4 Engine Power &amp; Type.</p>
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25th COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
(AUSTRALIANS).

Army Form B. 2069.

Offence Report (Field Service only).

25<sup>th</sup> Aust R.O.D.  
Corps

Month ending 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1918

Squadron, Troop, Batty, or Company	Regt. No.	Rank	Name	Place and Date of offence	Offence	By whom reported and Names of Witnesses	Initials of Officer Comdg. Company, &c	Punishment awarded	Signature of Officer by whom ordered and date of award	Date of entry in Conduct Sheet	Remarks
25 <sup>th</sup> Aust R.O.D.	1433	Spr	Calwell C.	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1918 In the Field	Conduct prejudicial to good order & Military discipline in that he at Perome on the 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1918 while acting as guard of a train absented himself without leave from 3 am to 5.30 am	Serjt L. Colary Cpl J. Bidolph Cpl L. Morris	YWR	Reprimanded	J. W. Russell Capt 15.2.18	5 2 18	
25 <sup>th</sup> Aust R.O.D.	1377	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Sealey C.	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 1918 In the Field	neglect of duty in that he accepted train on section before having seen that the main line points were properly set. Domigt	Cpl Rowatt W. Cpl Melham	YWR	Severely Reprimanded	J. W. Russell Capt 24.2.18	3 2 18	
Attached to 25 <sup>th</sup> Aust R.O.D.	248082	Spr	Bollard C.	21 Feb 1918 In the Field	neglect of duty in that he failed to turn points from Sidmg No 3 to main line at Domigt causing accident.	Cpl Rowatt W. Cpl Melham	YWR	Forfeit. 7 day pay	J. W. Russell Capt 24.2.18	3 2 18	

APPENDIX

N.B.—A horizontal line should be drawn the whole length of the Return after each day's offences are entered.



N<sup>o</sup> 4

35TH COMPANY,  
RAILWAY  
OPERATING DIVISION  
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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
PERONYNE	February 1918		Monthly statistical data as follows :-		
			Wagons Kilo 371,501	Train Journalist 22,68	N <sup>o</sup> 8 Statistical data.
			Total N <sup>o</sup> of Wagons 18,744	Ambulance trains 362	
			Civil traffic 921	Construction traffic 15,97	
			C.I.S.A. Military traffic 70	Supply Ordnance	
			French " " 51	& general traffic 10,252	
			Italian " " 41	Reinforcements & Remounts 780	
		Troops 2130			
		My ambition is that this Company will be creditably increased in efficiency by direct application of the full energies of its staff. Throughout the month the weather has been fairly mild.			
			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>W Russell</i> Capt. 35<sup>th</sup> Aust. A.R.O.D. 4. 3. 18</p>		

APPENDIX