

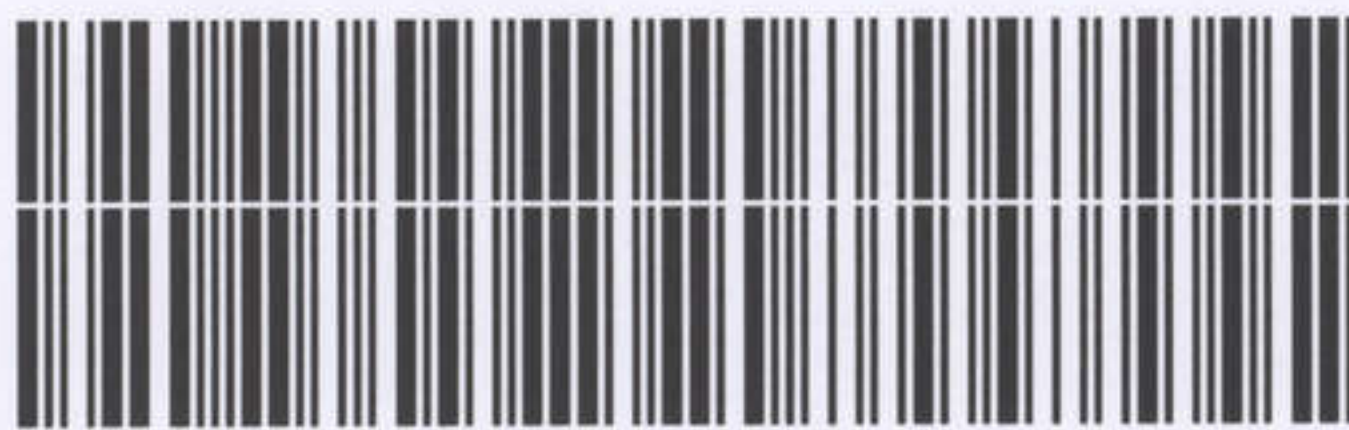
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Railways

Item number: 15/1/10

Title: Headquarters, Australian Railway
Companies

December 1918



AWM4-15/1/10

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CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

H.Q. Aust. Railway Companies

FOR

December 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding Stancov N.A.

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
LACALOTTERIE	1 st Dec		Instructions received from Aust. Section to send all "B" Class men to Base for return to Australia.	APP I
LACALOTTERIE	2 nd Dec		Letter received from AAG AIF re promotions.	APP II.
LACALOTTERIE	7 th Dec		Letter received from AAG re. change in organization of HQs Called on O/c. R.O.D. and discussed changes proposed with him as concerned Operating Companies. Copl Clerk returned from leave.	APP III
La Calotterie	8 th Dec		Circular regarding promotions received from AAG AIF. I.O.R. reported to replace Sgt CROTTY.	APP IV
La Calotterie	10 th Dec		Letter to AAG AIF with proposed re-arrangement of HQ. Aust Rly Coy I.O.R. B Class. Batman (CROTTY) sent to AGBD.	APP V
La Calotterie CANTELEU	16 th Dec		Ford Car 25382 (overhauled) received from ROUVEN. Left 3 rd Aust L.R. Coy. HQs. Section out at Ascq + STEENWERCK on construction	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LILLE	16 th Dec	1600	Called at AIF H ^q in regard to promotion of W.O.I MATULICH. Decided not to go any further in matter at present. Stayed night at LILLE	
COURTRAI ROULERS	17 Dec	11.00	Called at 2 nd & 6 th Cnys. Capts GAHAN, JAMES away. Saw Lt COCHRAN. Called at 1 st Cny. Saw Capt. DUNCAN on Company matters. Stayed at COURTRAI	
DUNKERQUE	18 th Dec	1500	Saw 4 th Cny at DUNKERQUE. Stayed CALAIS at night	
CONCHIL.	21 st Dec		Inspected 5 th Aust. B.G. R. Coy at CONCHIL. All men had returned from MALHOVE.	
LACALOTTE	22 Dec.		Letter received re No 35 Dental Unit. Letter sent 1 st Cny, 5. a. 5711 th Q2	APP VI
BOULOGNE	26 Dec		Drew pay. paid paid staff	
La Calotte	27 Dec		Letter to ADE Aust. Cnys in regard to attaching men for instruction	APP VII
	30 Dec		Letter for etc. 2 nd Cny re XV Corps + GHQ Instruction Classes.	APP VIII

WAR DIARY

OF

H^dQ² Aust. Railway Corp

FOR

December 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Letter re. "B" Class men for Australia
II.	Circular re Promotions of Officers & NCOs
III.	Application for leave to Australia by W. Hancock
IV.	Circular re Promotion of Officers & NCOs
V.	Reorganization of H ^d Q ² Aust Rly Corp.
VI.	Transfer of No 35 Dental Unit
VII.	Attachment of men for Instruction
VIII.	Educational Courses - G H Q & Army.

APP I

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COPY.

F. 802.

Aust. Section G.H.Q.,
3rd Echelon, 30th Nov. 1918.

H.Qrs Aust. Railway Coys,
D.G.T., G.H.Q.

Instructions have been received from Headquarters, A.I.F., for all "B" Class men at present doing duty in France to be despatched to England as soon as possible for return to Australia.

Will you please, therefore, despatch all "B" Class men now doing duty with Aust. Railway Coys to Base Depots, Havre, and advise this office of action taken.

"A" class men will be sent in replacement immediately they become available, but in the meantime "A" class men of units should be utilised if available.

It is particularly desired that all "B" Class men should be sent now as shipping is now available and may not be available again for some considerable time.

(Sgd) J.W. Donnelly, Major.
D.A.A.G., Aust. Section.

APP II

COPY.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters A.I.F.,
Care H.Q. Fifth Army,
30th Nov. 1918.

Circ. Memo. DAG.AIF.
No. 151/02/62.

With reference to this office 151/02/61 of 15th November 1918 relative to the suspension of promotions, it is notified that:-

(a) Recommendations may be submitted after the usual period for the confirmation of temporary ranks held by officers if substantive vacancies exist, provided that such temporary ranks were held prior to 11-11-1918.

(b) It is not proposed to confirm any temporary ranks which may be granted for special purposes after 11-11-1918.

(c) Temporary ranks held by warrant or non-commissioned officers may be confirmed in the ordinary course if substantive vacancies exist, by the officers authorised to promote warrant and non-commissioned officers provided that such temporary ranks were held prior to 11-11-1918.

(Sgd) H. D. Wynter,
Lieut-Colonel.
A.A.G., A.I.F.

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APP III

D.A.G., A.I.F. 19/1/411.

H.Qrs A.I.F., Care H.Q.
5th Army, 4th Dec. 1918.

C.O., Aust. Railway Coys.

With reference to your P/1 of 29.11.18. Will you please report what alterations in the Headquarters of the Railway Companies you would recommend, in the event of your application for leave being approved, and in what manner this alteration could be made with advantage.

(Sgd) N.G. Browne, Major.
For Lieut-Colonel,
A.A.G., A.I.F.

Headquarters A.I.F.,
Care H.Q., Fifth Army,
6th December 1918.

Circ.Memo.
DAG.AIF.151/02/62.

Under A.I.F. Circ.Memo 151/02/61 of 15th November, it was broadly decided that, for the present, permanent promotions in all ranks should cease, in view of the cessation of hostilities. This, as a policy, still holds good.

2. The G.O.C., A.I.F., has now authorised the following variations in the order, to meet the particular and practical requirements of the moment.

(i) Promotions of officers and warrant officers Class 1. to complete staffs and formations to authorised establishments (less authorised supernumeraries) in all ranks will only be made if the interests of the service demand, and upon the recommendations of higher Commanders concerned. Such promotions will, in any case, only be "temporary" promotion.

A similar rule will apply in the case of Warrant Officers Class 11. and non-commissioned officers. The officers authorised to make promotions to those ranks will do so only when the interests of the service demand it, and then only to temporary rank.

This para. will not preclude the promotion to substantive rank of officers and N.C.Os. who held temporary rank at the cessation of hostilities, if in the ordinary course they would have attained to substantive rank.

The distribution of personnel within units, the adjustment of an any departure from the normal organisation, and a review of the temporary ranks held by officers and non-commissioned officers will be taken in hand by C.Os at once, in order to obtain a re-adjustment of ranks on the basis of and within establishments.

(ii) The process of demobilisation, will, in time, cause the creation of a variety of temporary and improvised organisations. It will not be advisable, in most cases, to lay down an establishment for such organisations. Officers, N.C.Os. and men will therefore be detailed for duty to such organisations in their existing ranks. Normally, such organisations will not afford an avenue for promotions, and in consequence, recommendations for advancement should only be made in exceptional circumstances.

(iii) The newly-created Demobilisation Branch will, of necessity, make increasing demands for the withdrawal of Staffs etc. from formations. This will be unavoidable. The places of Staff Officers and clerical establishment so withdrawn may be filled with "temporary" appointments.

In recommending officers for such temporary appointments, the G.O.C., A.I.F., wishes the future interests of the Australian Forces considered. Advantage should be taken of the opportunity of giving staff experience to officers likely to be employed on staff duty in Australia subsequently, even if these officers are not at the moment fully qualified for such temporary appointments.

(Sgd) H.D.Wynter.

Lieut-Colonel.
A.A.G., A.I.F.

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APPV

COPY.

A. A. G., A.I.F.,
Att'd H.Qrs 5th Army.

With reference to your 19/1/411. Five of the Railway Companies are now operating on Broad Gauge lines, four are stationed from Dunkerque to Courtrai, and it is probable that the Fifth will be moved to an adjoining area before long.

In the event of my application for leave being approved, I would recommend:-

(1). That the Establishment for the Headquarters remain unaltered, but that arrangements be made with D.G.T. to keep the Australian Companies which are on B.G. Operating together as much as possible, and for the Commanding Officer with the rank of Major to work with them under the O.C., R.O.D. as an officer commanding a Medium Group of Railway Operating Companies.

(2). That the one Company still on Light Railways also be under his command, excepting for work.

(3). That an adjutant be appointed to assist him the C.O. and that the clerk, motor car & driver at present at Headquarters be retained.

At present the O.C. of the 6th Coy has control of the technical work of the 1st, 2nd & 6th Companies, so that the change could be effected without much disorganisation.

The advantage of the alteration would be that the Companies would be under the control of the C.O. for technical work as well as administration, which would be far more satisfactory to all concerned.

Under existing conditions it is not necessary to have the H.Qrs at the D.G.T. Camp, and it would be far better for the C.O. to be nearer to and in closer touch with the Companies. There would, however, not be enough for him to do unless he had charge of their technical work also.

I have not brought this proposal before the D.G.T., but am of opinion that it would be agreed to if the O.C., R.O.D., were satisfied with the officer appointed to command.

11-12-18.

Lt- Colonel.
C.O. Australian Railway Cos.

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APP VI

COPY.

D.A.G., A.I.F. 148/01/31
9.

H.Qrs A.I.F., Care H.Q.
5th Army, 21st Dec. 1918.

C.O., Aust. Railway Companies.

Approval has been given for No. 35 Aust. Dental Unit, attached 4th Aust. B.G.R.O. Co. (Captain J.T.L. Seward, in charge) to be transferred, with equipment, for duty with 2nd Aust. Tunnelling Company.

Will you please send them accordingly, and notify date of departure.

(Sgd) N.G. Browne, Major.
for Lieut-Colonel,
A.A.G., A.I.F.

APP VI

COPY.

C/116

D.M.S.,
Adminis. H.Qrs A.I.F., London.

No. 35 Dental Unit.

The instructions issued by A.I.F. H.Qrs regarding the movement of this Unit to No. 2 Tunnelling Coy will be carried out as soon as Capt. Seward returns from leave.

He has visited the 2nd, 6th & 4th Companies, and has done some work at the 1st Coy. There is still a good deal to do at the latter, and more at the 3rd and 5th Companies. I should be glad if arrangements could be made for another dental unit to be attached for this work as early as possible.

(Sgd) S.H. Hancox,
Lt-Colonel.
C.O. Aust. Railway Coys.

26-12-18.

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APP VII

CG/11/2.

Education Office, A.I.F.
Aust. Corps H.Q.
22-12-18.

TO:- C.O., Aust. Railway Coys.

Reference attachment of men for Instruction &
Experience under A.I.F. Education Scheme.

With the permission of the G.O.C., A.I.F. every endeavor is being made to use the Australian Units in the Field in connection with the Education Service (A.I.F.)

These Units prove to be of great use in two ways.

(1) In affording men who are engaged in a trade before enlistment an opportunity to regain the skill necessary to take up their old trade after the war.

(2) In training both apprentices and beginners in any trade. As there are a number of both classes of railway workers desiring our help, would you please inform me the number of men in both classes you could deal with in your unit.

These men would be attached for rations, instruction and discipline. The general method of training with each of the above classes is as follows:-

(a) Men wishing to regain their pre-war skill are attached to Units for duty, and thus are of considerable assistance. In addition a competent member of the Unit delivers a course of Lectures to these men on the particular trade concerned. It is suggested that you might profitably deal with a number of such men.

(b) Beginners & Apprentices - these men are attached as offsidiers to competent tradesmen in the unit, and in addition receive a more extensive course of instruction by means of a course of Lectures delivered by a selected Instructor from the unit.

We do not presume to make trained men of each or any, but we hope to give members of the A.I.F. the necessary training to at least earn a decent living when they return.

Your consideration and assistance is therefore asked in this matter.

(Sgd) W. Mulholland, Capt.
Assistant Director of Education,
Aust. Corps.

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M.P. 12-18

A. D. E.,
Att'd Aust. Corps.

Attachment of men for Instruction - E.O. -CG/11/2
of 22-12-18.

All possible assistance will be given to you in this matter.

(1). The trades which could be dealt with under heading 1. would be Loco. Drivers, Loco Firemen and a few Traffic Controllers.

It should be understood, however, that owing to the different types of Locos, fuel, and system of signalling and working in use here, it would be necessary for Loco Drivers, no matter how well qualified on Australian Railways to go out either as learners or if necessary as firemen to learn the roads before they could be given charge of a locomotive.

(2). Under heading (2), Loco Firemen and a few Apprentice Loco Fitters could be placed.

(3). At present some of the Companies are not at all busy, but you will be informed when it is possible to take more.

(4). It is understood that attendance at classes of instruction would be compulsory in the case of these men, and that should the conduct and progress of any man not be satisfactory to the O.C. of the Coy, he will be returned to his Unit. Also that while an endeavor will be made to ensure each man receiving as much instruction as possible, he must carry out any duties assigned to him including his share of fatigue work.

(5). While attached these men will not be entitled to the higher rates of pay which are given to a certain number of specified tradesmen.

(6). The numbers of each trade which could be taken would be:-

	I.C.E. App. Fitters.	Drivers.	Loco.Firemen.	Traffic Controll- ers.	Loco. App.Fitter s.
1st Coy.		10	10	3	
2nd Coy.		10	10	3	2
3rd Coy	4	-	-	-	-
4th Coy.		12	15	3	4
5th Coy.		12	20	3	4
6th Coy.		10	10	3	
	4	54	65	15	10

(7). Names of men with A.F.B.122 and particulars of civil railway experience, showing on what railways it was gained, should be submitted to this office, so that they can be attached to the most suitable Coy.

(8). It could probably be arranged to attach other railway workers such as Signal Fitters, Loco Fitters, Boilermakers to British Units for experience, and if you wish this done, and the A.I.F. Authorities have no objection, I would be glad to assist you.

Stout

Lt-Colonel.
 C.O. Australian Railway Cos.

27-12-18.

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From:- O.C., 2nd Aust.L.R.O.Coy.

COPY.

APP VIII

To:- C.O. Aust. Railway Coys.

Reference attached Circular from 15th Corps. Can arrangements be made for men of this Company if desired to attend any of the mentioned courses, or would it be necessary for me to get in touch with Educational Committee concerned. Will you please treat this matter as urgent.

28-12-18.

(Sgd) G.Gahan, Capt.
O.C. 2nd Aust.L.R.O.Co.

APP VIII

COPY.

To:- Demobaust - London.

From:- H.Qrs Aust. Railway Coys.

H.144, 30-12-18. "May members Australian Railway Companies enroll G.H.Q. and Army refresher courses at Base Workshops and Schools. Courses four to six weeks".