

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/41/3

Title: Australian Engineer Training Depot

February 1918



AWM4-14/41/3

TRAINING WAR DIARY.

January 1918
February



A circular stamp with the text "ENGINEER TRAINING DEPOT" around the perimeter and "A.I.F." in the center. The word "Brightlingsea" is written across the center of the stamp.

Engineer Training Depot, A.I.F.

Brightlingsea.

For Period ending February 1918.

STRENGTH OF DEPOT.

At the end of January 1918, 3 Training Companies were in existence, and all had practically completed Training. On completion of Training these men were drafted into "Details" Company and proceeded Overseas during February. Those whose Training was not complete (45 in all) were drafted into "C" Company and completed their Training in Bridging and Entrenchments by February 12th. Between February 12th. and 20th. no training of Reinforcements was carried out. On February 18th. 183 Other Ranks marched in from Parkhouse and these together with 43 untrained men previously on Regimental Duty commenced training as "B" and "C" Company on February 20th. In addition 22 Other Ranks marched in on 25th. February and commenced training on 27th. February in conjunction with "B" and "C" Coys.

TRAINING CARRIED OUT:

WEEK ENDING Feby. 9th. 40 men "C" Company Bridging at Ford. Included is "Use of Spars", "Construction and erection of Derricks" (Standing and Swinging) and Sheers by use of Swinging Lever, Construction of Gyn (heavy) and erection by Standing Derrick, Measurement of section of a Stream, Trestle and Improvised Bridging.

WEEK ENDING Feby. 16th. 40 men "C" Company one day Demolitions. Explanation and handling of all Demolition Stores. Demolition of Wire Entanglements by Bangalore Torpedo; Demolition of Rail and Girder Sections. 43 N.C.O's Refresher Course. Physical Training and General Work.

WEEK ENDING Feby. 23rd. 98 men "B" Coy. 2 days Wiring and 1 day Demolitions. 99 men "C" Coy. 3 days Knots & Lashings, Field Geometry and Physical Training.

Wiring Wiring consisted of lectures on Tactical Wiring, Wiring Drills etc. Wiring Drills carried out as per SS 177.

WEEK ENDING March 2nd. "B" Coy. 3 days Knots & Lashings and 2 days Wiring. "C" Coy. 4 days Wiring and 1 day Demolitions. "B" & "C" Coy men had considerable training in Australia in Bridging and their course has been curtailed accordingly from 10 to 6 weeks.

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION.

During the first 3 weeks of February advantage was taken of opportunity to send Officers and N.C.O's to Schools.

4 Officers of Training Staff were sent to School as follows;

1 to Field Coy. Commanders School, Blendecques.

1 to London District S. of I. Chelsea.

2 to School of Mounted Duties, Aldershot.

N.C.O's. 1 to A.G. School.

1 to R.E. School Rouen & Acre, France.

1 to S. of I. Chelsea.

2 to P.T. & B.F. Course, Aldershot.

1 to S.M.E. Course, Brightlingsea.

In addition all available overseas N.C.O's were formed into an N.C.O'S Instruction Class under Training Officers and given Instruction in Infantry Drill and generally trained in work for course of Training of Reinforcements in this Depot.

Length of Course- 1 week, resulting in noticeable improvement in smartness of all N.C.O's.

TRAINING GROUNDS.

- The absence of men from Training Grounds gave opportunity to
1. Re-survey all Training Grounds.
 2. Salvage material used in Construction of Shelters etc.
 3. Drain Bridging Ground, and generally to rearrange and repair stores and tools.



METHODS OF INSTRUCTION.

The Training is laid down in Syllabus of Instruction, is being standardised and concentrated into booklet form, material being culled from E. in C. PP Notes, S.S. Pamphlets and Text Books. These Booklets are issued to all Training Officers and available for all Permanent Cadre N.C.O's. When complete they will be the basis of all Lectures and practical work in the Depot.

The work involved in preparing these booklets of "Instruction Cards" and "Lecture Cards" is very considerable, and progress has been necessarily slow.

All Instruction is done by Overseas N.C.O's under guidance of Overseas Officers.

The Unit for Training is 1 N.C.O. and 10 men, combining where necessary e.g. for Pontooning and Bridging.

Overseas N.C.O's are in charge of all Sections for Training and Discipline.

COMPETITIONS are held throughout the course to choose squads to compete in inter-Company Competitions in Squad Drill, Wiring, Pontooning and Rowing.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Reinforcements (about 260 men) from Australia in June and July with complement of Officers arrived in Parkhouse on 26-12-17, 360 additional men arriving on January 30th. 1918. To carry out Musketry Work and Infantry Training and to coordinate work on Plains with Brightlingsea Course, 2 Officers and 10 N.C.O's (Overseas) proceeded to Parkhouse on 11th. Feby; 1 Officer and 5 O.R. returning as system of training developed. Full instruction was given in Musketry (including Range Practice) Bombing, Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting, Infantry Drill. Arrangements were made reducing Orderly Rooms from 5 to 1, measures were taken to cope with outbreak of Measles and Mumps; and the men after having Disembarkation Leave, were transferred at earliest possible date to Brightlingsea.

GENERAL.

All Training Coys. were issued with Web Equipment and Rifles which are now carried on all Parades.

Additional instruction is given in Company Drill and Rifle Exercises.

Training Companies supply all Guard details. Guard Duties being considered part of the training.

DEPOT CONCERT PARTY.



Four shows were held in Empire Theatre, Brightlingsea, as follows:-

Feby.	6th.	CALLED TO ARMS.
"	13th.	do.
"	20th.	do.
"	27th.	Variety Show.

On Thursday 21st. the Concert Party travelled to Colchester and gave an entertainment to wounded soldiers under auspices of the Headgate Social Club, Colchester.

Invitation Dances were held at the Foresters Hall on 7th., 14th., 22nd. and 28th. and were enjoyed by the men.

RATION DEPARTMENT.

The number of men in mess for February period was 14684 or 560 per diem.

Value of Rations received from A.S.C.	£677- 9- 9
Value of commuted allowance (5½d.)	336-10- 2
Value of Fats saved and disposed of	22- 8- 7
Value of Bone saved and disposed of	3- 1- 0

The men were well fed, although at times complaints were received re shortages, but on every case being investigated it was found that the full ration as drawn from A.S.C. had been issued. Practically all the complaints were made by new Reinforcements and as the ration allowance in Australia was larger than it is in England this probably accounts for the complaints.

During the month 3 men returned from the Cooking School at Tidworth and were placed for duty in the Depot Cook-houses. 4 men were also sent to a new course which assembled on 23rd. February. On completion of Course these men will do duty in Depot Cook houses and will later be sent Overseas as efficient Cooks, and available for duty as such with their Units in France.

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

During the month 276 Other Ranks were equipped for Overseas. Two Kit inspections were held covering every man in the Depot. Worn out clothing was drawn from men and returned to A.I.F. Ordnance, numbered about 5000 articles and over 3500 articles were issued. The value of the stock of Clothing held during the month was about £9000, but of course this amount fluctuates.

MOUNTED SECTION.

FEBRUARY 1918.



TRAINING.

Riding School daily at 9.30 A.M. Transport work,
Harness and Saddlery Inspections, Competitions once a week.
Lectures by C.C. two per week on various subjects re-
lating to Horse, Harness and Saddlery Fitting etc.
Physical Drill two afternoons per week.
15 Men went out on Draft to "D" Company in month.

TRANSPORT WORK.

Approximate tonnage carted for month of February:-

COAL	Clothing	Rations	Officers & Sgts. Mess.	Mess Halls	Training items.
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
21	3	11	4	13	5

One Horse evacuated to Colchester Hospital "Lame in
Shoulder."

Slight Skin Disease on some Horses and two or three affect-
ed with lice, which necessitated clipping, washing and treating.

REMOUNTS.

Owing to heavy transport work daily, practically no in-
struction can be given in driving and transport work.

Engineer Training Depot, A.I.F.

Brightlingsea. 28th.



Date	Daily Strength		Medical Statistics.		Remarks	Reinforcements.			Information regarding personnel passing tests and attending Schools.		
	Off.	O/R.	No. on Sick Parade	Hospital Admiss- ions.		Disch- arges.	Received from Aust- ralia.	Despat ched Overseas		In train- ing	
Feb. 1.	23	512	14	-	-	-	-	11	-	225	1 Officer to Field Commanders
2.	22	521	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	227	School, Blendecques, France on
3.	22	521	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	226	7-2-18 for three weeks course.
4.	22	521	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	226	-----
5.	22	521	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	226	-----
6.	22	520	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	237	2 Officers to School of R.E. Mounted
7.	22	519	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	238	Duties, Aldershot on 10-2-18 for
8.	22	520	8	-	-	-	-	9	-	238	three weeks course.
9.	22	528	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	238	-----
10.	22	528	3	-	-	-	-	-	31	238	-----
11.	22	497	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	207	1 Officer and 1 Other Rank to London
12.	22	496	7	-	1	-	-	-	1	210	School of Instruction, Chelsea on
13.	21	496	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	207	13-2-18 for three weeks course.
14.	21	496	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	207	-----
15.	21	496	3	-	1	-	-	12	-	203	-----
16.	20	508	8	1	-	-	-	-	42	201	1 Other Rank to R.E. Training School
17.	20	466	6	-	-	3	-	-	-	160	Rouen on 20-2-18 for four weeks
18.	23	466	7	-	2	1	159	-	-	160	course.
19.	24	626	6	-	1	-	1	-	-	319	-----
20.	24	627	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	320	-----
21.	24	625	13	1	-	-	1	-	-	340	2 Other Ranks proceeded to P.T. &
22.	24	626	24	1	-	-	-	21	-	362	B.F. School, Aldershot on 25-2-18
23.	24	647	21	-	-	2	21	1	-	361	for four weeks course.
24.	26	659	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	381	-----
25.	26	659	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	381	-----
26.	27	659	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	382	-----
27.	27	657	26	1	-	-	-	-	-	380	-----
28.	27	657	33	2	-	-	-	1	-	409	-----

TRAINING WAR DIARY.



Engineer Training Depot, A.I.F.

For Period ending February 1918.

STRENGTH OF DEPOT.

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TRAINING GROUNDS.

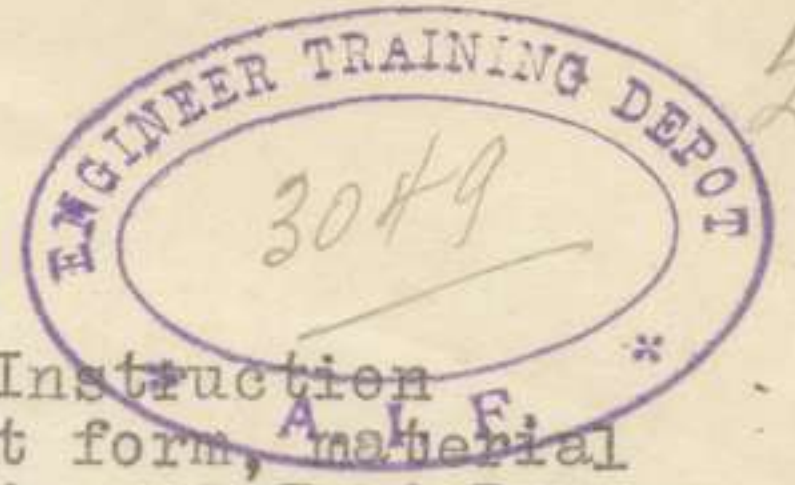
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1. Re-survey all Training Grounds.

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February
1918



2

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February
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FEBRUARY 1918.



TRAINING.

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Harness and Saddlery Inspections, Competitions once a week.
Lectures by O.C. two per week on various subjects re-
lating to Horse, Harness and Saddlery Fitting etc.
Physical Drill two afternoons per week.
15 Men went out on Draft to "D" Company in month.

TRANSPORT WORK.

Approximate tonnage carted for month of February:-

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21	3	11	4	13	5

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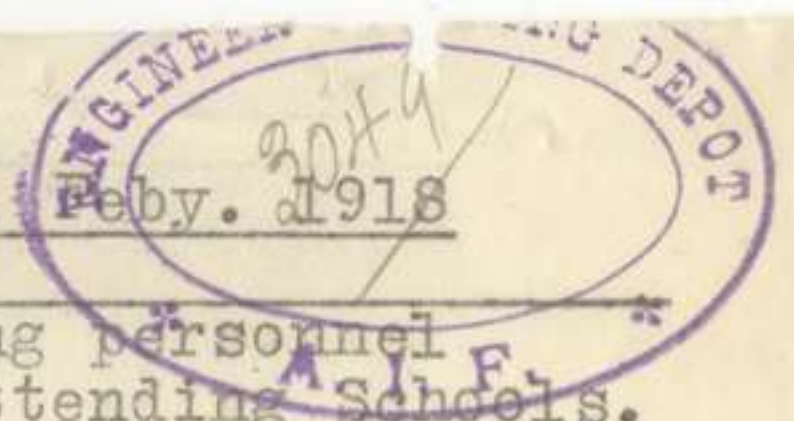
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REMOUNTS.

Owing to heavy transport work daily, practically no in-
struction can be given in driving and transport work.

Engineer Training Depot, A.I.F.

Brightlingsea. 28th. Feb. 1918



Date	Daily Strength		Medical Statistics.			Remarks	Reinforcements.			Information regarding personnel passing tests and attending Schools.			
	Off.	O/R.	No. on Sick Parade	Hospital Admiss-ions.	Disch-arges.		Received from Aust ^l ralia. Off.O/R.	Despat ched Overseas Off.O/R.	In train- ing Off.O/R.				
Feb. 1.	23	512	14	-	-		-	-	11	-	225	1 Officer to Field Commanders	
2.	22	521	8	-	-		-	-	-	-	227	School, Blendecques, France on	
3.	22	521	9	-	-		-	-	-	-	226	7-2-18 for three weeks course.	
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5.	22	521	10	-	-		-	-	-	-	226		
6.	22	520	9	1	-		-	-	-	-	237	2 Officers to School of R.E. Mounted	
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9.	22	528	5	-	1		-	-	-	-	238	-----	
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11.	22	497	9	-	-		-	-	-	-	207	1 Officer and 1 Other Rank to London	
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16.	20	508	8	1	-		-	-	-	-	42	201	1 Other Rank to R.E. Training School
17.	20	466	6	-	-		3	-	-	-	-	160	Rouen on 20-2-18 for four weeks
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23.	24	647	21	-	-		2	21	1	-	-	361	for four weeks course.
24.	26	659	14	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	381	-----
25.	26	659	25	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	381	
26.	27	659	24	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	382	
27.	27	657	26	1	-		-	-	-	-	-	380	
28.	27	657	33	2	-		-	-	1	-	-	409	

for War Records
D.O.R.

It and is says training completed.

"C" Coy Programme of Work for Week Ending Feb. 2nd. 1918



February 1918

Squads.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.2.3.	GENERAL INSTRUCTION. DEPOT.					
4.	Shelters and Entrenchments Mine Fld.	Shelters and Entrenchments Mine Field Entrench + Wiring M. F. NIGHT.	Shelters and Entrenchments Mine Field Entrench + Wiring M. F. NIGHT.	Shelters and Entrenchments Mine Field.	Shelters and Entrenchments Mine Field.	do
5.	do. A.C. School 9am - 930	do.	do.	do.	do.	do
6.	Pontooning Hard.	Pontooning Hard	Pontooning Hard.	Pontooning Hard.	Pontooning Hard.	do
7.	do	do.	do	do	do	do

9

For D.O.R.
Anst. Memos

Programme of Work for "C" Coy for Week Ending Feb. 9th 1918



February 1918

Squad	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	Bridging Ford.	Bridging Ford.	Bridging Ford.	Bridging Ford.	Bridging Ford.	Gen. Inst. Depôt
7	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.

3rd War Section

"C" Coy. Programme of Work for W.E. 16th Feb 1918

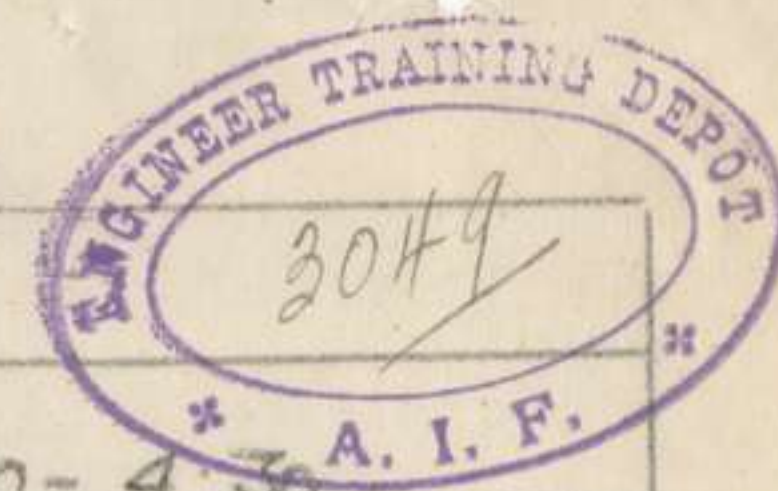


Squad	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	Demolitions Mine Field	Demolitions Mine Field	GENERAL INSTRUCTION Depôt			
7	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.

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For War Records

Programme of Work for "B" Coy for Week Ending 23rd Feb 1918



WEDNESDAY					THURSDAY				
SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30 - 4.30	SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30 - 4.30
1	Bayonet	Lecture on	Wiring	Wiring	1	Marching to	Lecture on	All day Demolitions	
2	Fighting	Wiring	Rec. Ground	Rec. Ground	2	Mine Fld	Demolitions		
3	Marching to	Lecture on	All day Demolitions do		3	Lecture on	Gas	Wiring Rec. Ground.	
4	Mine Field	Demolitions			4	Demolitions	Bayonet Fighting		
FRIDAY					SATURDAY				
SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30-2.15	2.15-3.00	3.00-4.30	SECTION 8-30 — 12.15.		
1	Gas	Lecture on	Wiring Depot	Lecture on	Wiring Depot		General Instruction.		
2	Bayonet Fighting	Wiring Depot	Wiring Depot	Demolitions	Gas	Wiring Depot			
3	Lecture on	Wiring Depot		Bayonet Fighting	Wiring Depot				
4	Wiring	Wiring Depot		Gas	Wiring Depot				

Handwritten notes:
 19/2/18
 6

For War Comm

Programme of Work for "C" Coy for Week Ending 23rd Feb 1918



WEDNESDAY						THURSDAY						
SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30-2.15	2.15-4.30	SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30-2.15	2.15-3.00	3.00-4.30
5	Lecture on Field Geom	Field Geometry		Gas	knots + Lashings	5	knots Lashings	Physical Training	knots + Lashings	Bayonet Fighting	Field Geometry	
6	Lecture on Field Geom	Field Geometry		knots and Lashings		6	Gas	Physical Training	Field Geom	knots + Lashings	Gas	knots + Lashings
7	knots + Lashings	Bayonet Fighting	knots + Lashings	Lecture on Field Geom	Field Geometry	7	Physical Training	knots + Lashings	Gas	Field Geom		
8	Lashings	Fighting	Lashings	Field Geom	Geometry	8	Training	Field Geom.	Bayonet Fighting	knots + Lashings		
FRIDAY						SATURDAY						
SECTION	8.30-9.30	9.30-10.15	10.15-12.15	1.30-2.15	2.15-3.00	3.00-4.30	SECTION	8.30 - 12.15				
5	Physical Training	Field Geom		knots + Lashings	Bayonet Fighting	knots + Lashings	5	General Instruction				
6	Training	knots + Lashings		Bayonet Fighting	Field Geometry		6					
7	knots + Lashings	Bayonet Fighting	knots + Lashings	knots and Lashings			7					
8	Lashings	Gas	Lashings	knots + Lashings	Bayonet Fighting	knots + Lashings	8					

Honey of Peace
 Training Office
 15 2 18/1

A.E.T.D., BRIGHTLINGSEA.

		Strength		Reinforcements from Australia		Drafts to France		Attending Schools of Instruction		Men in Hospital Monthly Average	Unfit Men Transferred to Weymouth for return to Australia.	Absent without Leave Monthly Average
		Monthly	Average	Monthly	Numbers	Monthly	Numbers	Monthly	Average			
		Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Other Ranks			
1916	May	20	719	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	2
	June	22	556	—	—	—	—	5	—	22	—	125
	July	21	601	1	28	—	—	2	10	20	—	15
	Aug.	23	508	—	95	—	426	3	10	29	—	25
	Sept.	26	540	3	151	—	119	10	6	38	4	155
	Oct.	12	461	—	—	19	31	2	3	36.5	—	1
	Nov.	16	412	10	—	—	68	1	26	26	—	2
	Dec.	13	393	—	58	8	95	—	4	23	—	3.5
1917	Jan.	12	536	6	289	5	179	—	9	7	—	2
	Feb.	13	533	4	120	—	120	10	42	14.5	—	2
	Mar.	17	541	—	124	2	241	4	16	13	—	1
	Apr.	15	390	3	126	9	105	3	15	4.5	3	.5
	May	13	356	—	24	3	346	—	—	6.25	3	—
	June	11	268	—	123	—	144	—	5	8	4	3.5
	July	12	480	3	334	1	—	1	7	14	3	1
	Aug.	18	836	3	188	—	107	—	—	14	1	2.5
	Sept.	20	812	2	24	1	88	6	23	12.5	3	3.75
	Oct.	17	827	—	2	9	337	—	10	16.5	15	2.75
1918	Nov.	23	768	11	282	—	151	7	24	17.5	14	2
	Dec.	32	782	2	—	1	117	9	2	17	15	4
1918	Jan.	34	730	—	—	14	135	1	11	15	16	4
	Feb.	23	556	6	160	2	251	8	13	7	11	1.50

NOTE: The numbers shown at Schools represent **Special Courses** attended.
Deaths, since inception of Depot, **Nil**.
Reinforcements too young for Active Service, **Nil**.

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Remarks
1918	Jan	1	0800	...	...
1918	Jan	2	0900	...	...
1918	Jan	3	1000	...	...
1918	Jan	4	1100	...	...
1918	Jan	5	1200	...	...
1918	Jan	6	1300	...	...
1918	Jan	7	1400	...	...
1918	Jan	8	1500	...	...
1918	Jan	9	1600	...	...
1918	Jan	10	1700	...	...
1918	Jan	11	1800	...	...
1918	Jan	12	1900	...	...
1918	Jan	13	2000	...	...
1918	Jan	14	2100	...	...
1918	Jan	15	2200	...	...
1918	Jan	16	2300	...	...
1918	Jan	17	2400	...	...
1918	Jan	18	2500	...	...
1918	Jan	19	2600	...	...
1918	Jan	20	2700	...	...
1918	Jan	21	2800	...	...
1918	Jan	22	2900	...	...
1918	Jan	23	3000	...	...
1918	Jan	24	3100	...	...

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Remarks
1918	Jan	25	0800	...	...
1918	Jan	26	0900	...	...
1918	Jan	27	1000	...	...
1918	Jan	28	1100	...	...
1918	Jan	29	1200	...	...
1918	Jan	30	1300	...	...
1918	Jan	31	1400	...	...
1918	Feb	1	1500	...	...
1918	Feb	2	1600	...	...
1918	Feb	3	1700	...	...
1918	Feb	4	1800	...	...
1918	Feb	5	1900	...	...
1918	Feb	6	2000	...	...
1918	Feb	7	2100	...	...
1918	Feb	8	2200	...	...
1918	Feb	9	2300	...	...
1918	Feb	10	2400	...	...
1918	Feb	11	2500	...	...
1918	Feb	12	2600	...	...
1918	Feb	13	2700	...	...
1918	Feb	14	2800	...	...
1918	Feb	15	2900	...	...
1918	Feb	16	3000	...	...
1918	Feb	17	3100	...	...

*Engineer 2nd
class
1918*