

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

Railways

**Item number:** 15/2/13

**Title:** 1st Australian Light Railway  
Operating Company

December 1918



AWM4-15/2/13

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)  
LIGHT RAILWAY  
OPERATING COMPANY.

No. ....

Date. ....

358

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Lt. L.R.O.C.*

FOR

*December 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*L. Duncanson Capt.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. L.R.O.C.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*L. Duncanson Capt.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. L.R.O.C.*

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANY. Army Form C. 2118.

No. 358

Date

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December 18.			
Roulers.	1st.		<p>On this date the Unit was employed upon Broadgauge Operating duties on the Gordon House to Roulers; Roulers to Heule via Inglemunster; Ledeghem via Beythem and all intermediate stations, gates, pumping plants etc. Engine Crews etc. supplied as required by the traffic offering.</p> <p>Effective Strength of Coy. 5 Officers, 262 Other Ranks. Detached 2 O.Rnks.                  Attached for B Class Duties. 4 " " Leave in U.K. 2 " "                  Attachd. for Rations. 6 " "                  Ration Strength:- Roulers. 4 Officers, 208 O.Ranks.                  Inglemunster 1 " 60 " "</p> <p>The members of the Unit not required for railway duties and the ordinary camp duties were employed as fatigues in railway yard at the camp.</p>	
	2nd.		All available members of Unit employed as yesterday. One additional Other Rank sent to Inglemunster for duty.	
	3rd, 4th, & 5th.		The whole of the available members of the Unit were employed upon Railway Operating Division duties as required and the usual camp duties were carried out.	
	6th.		Three 'B' Class men were sent to the Base in accordance with direction from C.O. Australian Railway Companies and struck off strength. Duties as yesterday.	
	7th.		The two other ranks from the 2nd. Army Signal Company struck off attachments. One other rank of the Unit evacuated to hospital, and one Officer and three other ranks from NO.35 Dental Unit A.A.M.C. were attached. This Unit is attached for the purpose of attending to the dental requirements of the various members of the Unit. Duties as on previous days.	
	8th.		<p>The weather for the week has been uniformly dull with light rain on one or two days but not interfering at all with the work in hand.</p> <p>Effective Strength of Coy. 5 Officers. 260 O.Rnks. Detached 2 O.Rnks.                  M.T.A.S.C. Attached. 2 " " Leave in U.K. 3 " "                  Attached for Rations. 8 " "                  RATION STRENGTH: Roulers 4 Officers. 205 O.Rnks.                  Inglemunster 1 " 60 " "</p>	
	9th.		On the 9th. inst. it was found possible to close Devils Crossing Control, Post as the traffic no longer warranted its being kept open. The two O.Rnks. stationed there were transferred to Roulers. Duties as on the previous days.	

### WAR DIARY

### /INTELLIGENCE/SUMMARY/

(Erase heading not required.)

THE AUSTRALIAN  
LIGHT RAILWAY  
OPERATING COMPANY

Army Form C. 2118.

358

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																				
	December 18.																							
Roulers.	10th.		Duties performed, R.O.D. duties and usual camp duties. Two Officers and five Other Ranks proceeded on leave to Paris. One Officer of the 35th Dental Unit, A.A.M.C. struck off attachment on proceeding on leave. One additional other rank of the same unit attached.																					
	11th & 12th.		Duties carried out on these two days were similar to those performed on previous days. On each day one other rank proceeded on leave to Paris. On the 12th inst. one other rank evacuated to hospital.																					
	13th.		Two other ranks rejoined Unit from Australian General Base Depot ex Hospital. One other rank sent to London (embarked from Australia in February 1915) for early demobilisation, (authority D.A.G., A.I.F. 19/1228). Duties carried out were similar to those performed on previous days.																					
	14th.		Duties as yesterday. One additional other rank granted leave to Paris.																					
	15th.		<p>One other rank evacuated to hospital, and one additional other rank proceeded on leave to Paris. The weather for the week was generally speaking dull but fine. On two days it rained slightly, causing no interference however with the work.</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td>Effective Strength of Coy.</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">5 Officers</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">259 O. Rnks.</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">2 Other Rnks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.T.A.S.C. Attachd.</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">2 " "</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">Leave in U.K.</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">3 " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attached for Rations.</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">8 " "</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">Leave in France</td> <td style="padding-left: 50px;">11 " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">RATION STRENGTH: Roulers      2 Off.      197 Other Rnks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">   Inglemunsterl      "      58      "      "</td> </tr> </table> <p>The duties performed on this day were those of Broadgauge Railway Operating Company under R.O.D. conditions together with the usual company duties.</p>	Effective Strength of Coy.	5 Officers	259 O. Rnks.	2 Other Rnks.	M.T.A.S.C. Attachd.	2 " "	Leave in U.K.	3 " "	Attached for Rations.	8 " "	Leave in France	11 " "	RATION STRENGTH: Roulers      2 Off.      197 Other Rnks.				Inglemunsterl      "      58      "      "				
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	16th.		The whole of the available members of the Unit were employed on Railway Operating duties and company duties as required. One additional other rank granted leave to Paris.																					
	17th.		Duties as yesterday and one additional other rank granted leave to Paris.																					
	18th.		<p>Duties as on previous days. One additional other rank granted leave to Paris.</p> <p>One other rank rejoined unit from detachment to the Independent Air Force. He had been detached for duty as Driver of Simplex (S.20.H.P.) Tractor on 60 centimetre gauge, and carried a letter from the Commanding Officer stating that he had carried out his duties in a most satisfactory manner.</p>																					

No. 2

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WAR DIARY  
/dt/  
INTELLIGENCE/SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(AUSTRALIAN)  
LIGHT RAILWAY  
OPERATING COMPANY.  
No. ....  
.....

Army Form 358 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December 18.			
Roulers.	19th.		Duties as yesterday. Four other ranks evacuated to hospital sick. C.S.M. R.O'Sullivan M.M. transferred to the 3rd. Australian L.R. Forward Company.	
	20th.		Duties as on previous days. One other rank evacuated to hospital sick.	
	21st.		Duties as on previous days. Two other ranks evacuated to Base (A.G.B.D). They were 'B' class men and were sent in accordance with directions from C.O., Australian Railway Companies. Two Officers rejoined unit from leave to Paris and two other ranks from leave to United Kingdom.	
	22nd.		The weather for the week has been dull with showers from time to time, but it was of such a nature to cause no interference with the progress of the work allotted to the company.  EFFECTIVE STRENGTH: 5 Officers 251 O.R. DETACHED. 1 O.R. M.T., A.S.C. ATTACHED. 2 O.R. LEAVE IN U.K. 1 O.R. ATTACHED FOR RATIONS: 8 O.R. LEAVE IN FRANCE. 12 O.R.  RATION STRENGTH: Roulers 4 Officers 189 O.Ranks. Ingelmunster. 1 " 59 O.Ranks.	
			The duties performed on this day were those of a broadgauge Railway Operating Company under R.O.D. conditions of working together with the usual company duties.	
	23rd.		Duties as yesterday. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and six other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris.	
	24th.		Duties as on the previous days. One officer and one other rank detached to the 4th. Aust. B.G.R.O. Company for duties as required.	
	25th.		Xmas day. One other rank granted leave to United Kingdom. The duties carried out on this day were similar to those on the previous days.	
	26th.		No alteration in duties performed. One other rank granted leave to United Kingdom.	
	27th.		Duties as on the previous days.	

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LIGHT RAILWAY  
OPERATING COMPANY.)

Army Form 358 2118.

WAR DIARY

for  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December 18.			
Roulers.	28th.		Duties undertaken on this day were those of a Broadgauge Railway Operating Company under R.O.D. conditions, together with the usual company duties. Two other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris.	
	29th.		Duties as yesterday. Three additional other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris. Captain Seward of the 35th Dental Unit rejoined attachment from leave in the United Kingdom.	
	30th.		Duties as on previous days.	
	31st.		Duties performed similar to those on previous days. Four other ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom. One other rank rejoined unit from detachment to the 4th. Australian B.G.R.O. Company. One S/Sgt of the 35th Dental Unit A.A.M.C. proceeded en route to London to report to Administrative Hqrs. for Transport Duty. Captain Seward of the same unit also proceeded to Boulogne en route to London to report for Transport Duty.	
			<p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH:      5 Officers      251 O.Ranks.      DETACHED      3 O.Ranks.  M.T., A.S.C. ATTACHED.      2 O.Ranks.      LEAVE IN U.K.      8 O.Ranks.  ATTACHED FOR RATIONS      8 O.Ranks.</p>	
			<p><u>RATION STRENGTH:</u>  Roulers:      3 Officers      192 O.Ranks.  Ingelmunster      1 Officer      59 O.Ranks.</p>	
<p>The weather for the last ten days of the month was for the greater part dull and showery, with a slight fall of snow on Xmas Eve, but nothing to occasion interference with the duties required of the Unit. The work of obtaining particulars from all members of the Unit to enable the A.I.F. Demobilisation Forms NO.534 to be completed was undertaken commencing on the 17th. inst. and all the forms were completed and despatched to the Director General, Repatriation &amp; Demobilisation Dept. A.I.F. London by the 31st of the month.</p> <p>The section of line which was being operated by the Unit on the 31st inst. was from Gordon House to Roulers; Roulers to Ingelmunster; Ingelmunster to Heule; and Roulers to Ledeghem. All necessary staff for the working of this section including manning of trains and Pumping Plants were provided from the unit.</p>				

No.5.

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WAR DIARY

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358  
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No. ....

Date. ....

No.5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices	
Roulers.	December 18.		PARTICULARS HEREUNDER OF NUMBER OF WAGONS PASSING THROUGH THE SECTION OR BEING DISCHARGED OR LOADED IN THE SECTION OPERATED BY THE UNIT.					
			<del>SECTIONAL</del> THROUGH TRAFFIC.		<del>THROUGH</del> SECTIONAL TRAFFIC.			
	Period ended.		Loaded.	Empty.	Loaded.	Empty		
	7.12.18	North bound South bound	1132 472	54 192	North bound. South bound.	494 443	119 40	
	14.12.18	North bound South bound	1220 392	135 596 @	North bound. South bound.	529 410	194 171	
	21.12.18	North bound South bound	134 481	77 365 @	North bound. South bound.	448 410	159 58	
	28.12.18	North bound South bound	1018 419	61 118	North bound. South bound.	398 377	143 95	
	31.12.18	North bound South bound	647 197	42 74	North bound. South bound.	187 241	63 84	

The loaded traffic consisted of chiefly personnel (including hospital traffic, and also a little refugee traffic); Supplies and Salvage material. The reason why the figures were higher for the periods ended 14th & 21st inst. was because of the large number of former German wagons which were passing through the section.

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WAR DIARY

<sup>or</sup>  
~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

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(1st AUSTRALIAN)  
LIGHT RAILWAY  
OPERATING COMPANY.

Army Form 2118.

1105<sup>A</sup>

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December 13.			

Roulers.

SUMMARY OF Q.M'S RECEIPTS & ISSUES FOR DECEMBER 1918.

<u>R E C E I P T S.</u>		<u>I S S U E S.</u>	
Shirts, woollen.	65.	Shirts.	30.
Socks.	100 prs.	Towels.	10.
Towels.	15.	Socks.	25 prs.
Blankets.	20.	Boots	20 prs.
Soap.	112 lbs.	Braces.	12 prs.
Soda.	56 lbs.	Blankets.	20.
Soap, soft.	112 lbs.	Hats.	15.
		Brushes, tooth.	14.
		Knives, Clasp.	12.
		Underpants.	23 prs.
		Overalls.	10.
		Soap.	112 lbs.
		do Soft.	112 lbs.
		Soda.	56 lbs.