

AWM4

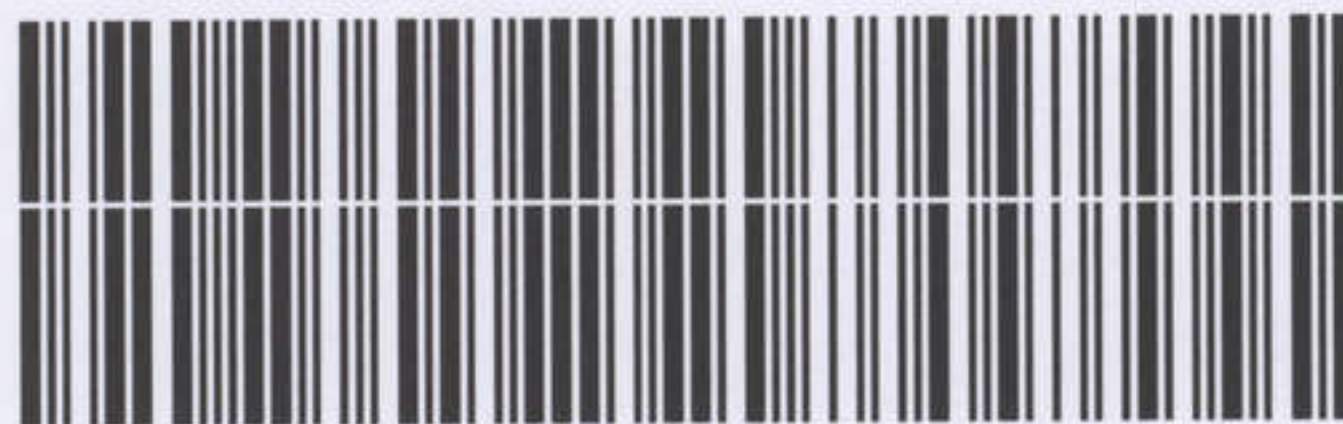
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Railways

Item number: 15/2/14

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

January 1919



AWM4-15/2/14

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No. _____
Date 5/2/19.

358

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st. Australian Light Railway Operating Company.

FOR

January 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

J. W. Smith

Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. W. Smith

LIEUT.,

A/O.C., 1st. Australian L.R.O. Company.

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.

WAR DIARY

107/

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

THE AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.

Army Form C. 2118.

No.
Date:

107
3
5
8

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information																								
Roulers.	January 1919.	1st.	<p>On this date the Unit was employed upon Broadguage operating duties and attached to the Railway Operating Division. The section operated being that from Gordon House (the first control post on the Roulers side of Ypres) to Roulers; Roulers to Heule (the first control post on the Roulers side of Courtrai) via Iseghem and Ingelmunster; Ledeghem via Beytham and all intermediate stations. In addition Engine crews were supplied as required by the traffic offering and the necessary gates, pumping plants, etc. were manned by members of the Unit. Company duties, of course, were as usual carried out by the Unit.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH</td> <td>5 Officers</td> <td>251 O.Ranks.</td> <td>DETACHED</td> <td>1 Off.</td> <td>2 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATTACHED. (M.T.A.S.C.)</td> <td></td> <td>2 O.Ranks.</td> <td>LEAVE IN U.K.</td> <td></td> <td>8 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.</td> <td></td> <td>7 O.Ranks.</td> <td>LEAVE IN FRANCE</td> <td></td> <td>5 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RATION STRENGTH:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Roulers</td> <td>3 Officers,</td> <td>188 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ingelmunster.</td> <td>1 " "</td> <td>57 " "</td> </tr> </table> <p>Captain Seward of the 35th Dental Unit, A.A.M.C. was struck off attachment today on proceeding to the United Kingdom on Transport duty. Four other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom and one granted leave to Paris.</p> <p>2nd. The duties carried out on this day were similar to those of yesterday. One other rank admitted to hospital. Four additional other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom, and three other ranks granted leave to Paris.</p> <p>3rd. Duties as on previous days. One other rank evacuated to hospital sick and one rejoined unit from hospital. One officer and 4 other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom and one Officer and one other rank granted leave in France.</p> <p>4th. The duties performed on this day were similar to those performed on previous days. Two other ranks evacuated to hospital and four additional other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom.</p>	EFFECTIVE STRENGTH	5 Officers	251 O.Ranks.	DETACHED	1 Off.	2 O.Ranks.	ATTACHED. (M.T.A.S.C.)		2 O.Ranks.	LEAVE IN U.K.		8 O.Ranks.	ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.		7 O.Ranks.	LEAVE IN FRANCE		5 O.Ranks.	Roulers	3 Officers,	188 Other Ranks.	Ingelmunster.	1 " "	57 " "
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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANY.
 Date: _____
 10349

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Roulers.	5th.	January 1919.	<p>Two other ranks evacuated to hospital sick; four additional other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The weather for the first five days was changeable. On one day there was a heavy frost and on two other days it rained heavily, and there were strong winds, but no interference at all was caused to the performance of the duties required.</p> <p>The section operated on and the duties carried out were precisely similar to those on the 1st.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH: 5 Officers 246 O.Ranks. DETACHED. 1 Officer 2 O.Ranks. M.T.A.S.C. ATTACHED. 2 O.Ranks. LEAVE IN U.K. 1 " 28 O.Ranks. ATTACHED FOR RATIONS. 7 O.Ranks. LEAVE IN FRANCE. 1 " 5 O.Ranks.</p> <p>RATION STRENGTH: ROULERS... 2 Officers, 167 Other Ranks. INGELMUNSTER. 53 " "</p>
	6th.		The duties performed on this day were those of a R.O.D. Detachment on Broadguage together with the usual company duties. Four other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom.
	7th.		Duties similar to those performed yesterday.
	8th.		Duties the same as those on previous days. One other rank evacuated to hospital and one other rank rejoined unit from hospital.
	9th.		No alteration in duties. Two other ranks rejoined unit from hospital. On this day Engine No. 4842 in charge of a Belgian crew and Pilot ran past the danger signal at the Signal Box at the Courtrai end of the Railway yard at Ingelmunster. The train which this engine was hauling consisted of about 60 wagons, approximately half of which were loaded with ammunition. The train was out of control approaching Ingelmunster and in consequence ran through the yard and collided with pilot engine working at the Roulers end of the yard. Seven empty wagons were attached to the pilot at the time and it was crossing onto the main line. As a result of the collision nine wagons were derailed, five being very badly damaged. The only personal injury caused was to one of the Belgian crew who sustained an injury to his shoulder. No delay resulted to the traffic as single line working was

(10349) Wt W 2200/P 713 750,000 5/18 E 2688 Form C/2211/16
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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/97/
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
	January 1919.																											
Roulers.	9th.	(Contd)	established shortly after the accident. All of the trucks with the exception of three were re-railed and the remainder were placed clear of the road by the steam crane, which was supplied from R.O.D.Exchange, Bergues.																									
	10th.		Duties as on previous days.																									
	11th.		Duties as on previous days. Two other ranks of the 2nd.Railway Telegraph Company (Imperial) struck off attachment upon proceeding to rejoin their own unit.																									
	12th.		<p>One other rank evacuated to hospital. One Officer and one other rank rejoined from leave to Paris. The Control post at Beythem was closed on this day and the two other ranks removed for duty at Hell Fire Corner Control post. The telephone was disconnected and the instrument removed.</p> <p>The weather during the past week was fine and one or two frosts were experienced but for the greater part it was dull with practically no rain. No interference whatever was caused with the work in hand.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH.</td> <td>5 Officers</td> <td>247 O.Ranks.</td> <td>DETACHED</td> <td>1 Off.</td> <td>2 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. T. A. S. C. ATTACHED.</td> <td></td> <td>2 O.Ranks.</td> <td>LEAVE IN U.K.</td> <td>1 Off.</td> <td>32 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.</td> <td></td> <td>5 O.Ranks.</td> <td>LEAVE IN FRANCE.</td> <td></td> <td>4 O.Ranks.</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">RATION STRENGTH.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>ROULERS.</td> <td>3 Officers,</td> <td>163 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INGELMUNSTER.</td> <td></td> <td>53 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> </table> <p>The duties performed and the section operated were similar in all respects to those of previous week.</p>	EFFECTIVE STRENGTH.	5 Officers	247 O.Ranks.	DETACHED	1 Off.	2 O.Ranks.	M. T. A. S. C. ATTACHED.		2 O.Ranks.	LEAVE IN U.K.	1 Off.	32 O.Ranks.	ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.		5 O.Ranks.	LEAVE IN FRANCE.		4 O.Ranks.	ROULERS.	3 Officers,	163 Other Ranks.	INGELMUNSTER.		53 Other Ranks.	
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ROULERS.	3 Officers,	163 Other Ranks.																										
INGELMUNSTER.		53 Other Ranks.																										
	13th.		Duties performed were those of a Railway Operating Division detachment upon the Broadguage, together with the usual company duties. One Officer and one other rank rejoined unit from detachment to the 4th.Australian Broad Guage Railway Operating Company. One Officer detached for duty to the 3rd. Australian Light Railway Forward Company. One other rank rejoined unit from hospital and one other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom.																									

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(10358) Wt W 5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Form C/2218/58.

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

(THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANY.)

10/1/19

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
	January 1919.																					
Roulers.	14th.		Duties similar to those of yesterday. Three other ranks evacuated to hospital. One other rank of the A.A.M.C. attached towards completing Establishment as provided in A.I.F. Order No. 1441.																			
	15th.		Duties as on previous days. One other rank detached for duty to Administrative Commandant, 5th Army Railheads, Lille. Three other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris and one other rank from leave to the United Kingdom. Two other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom.																			
	16th.		Duties as on previous days. One other rank rejoined unit from Australian General Base Depot. One additional other rank from A.A.M.C. taken on attachment to complete Establishment of A.A.M.C. details as provided in A.I.F. Order 1441. Three other ranks of the 35th Dental Unit, A.A.M.C. struck off attachment on proceeding to 2nd Aust. Tunnelling Company for duty.																			
	17th.		One other rank evacuated to hospital whilst on leave to the United Kingdom. Two other ranks rejoined unit from leave to the United Kingdom and one from leave in France. Seven other ranks granted leave to Paris and one other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom. The duties performed were similar to those performed on previous days.																			
	18th.		Duties as yesterday. One other rank evacuated to hospital sick. Six other ranks granted leave to Paris and one to the United Kingdom.																			
	19th.		The duties performed during the week and the section over which the Unit was operating were the same as those detailed on the 1st instant. The weather for the greater portion of the week was fine; a little rain fall on three nights, and there were two light frosts. No interference occasioned to the work.																			
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH.</td> <td>5 Officers</td> <td>244 Other Ranks.</td> <td>DETACHED.</td> <td>1 Officer</td> <td>2 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. T. A. S. C. ATTACHED.</td> <td>2</td> <td>" "</td> <td>LEAVE IN U.K.</td> <td>1</td> <td>34 " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.</td> <td>4</td> <td>" "</td> <td>LEAVE IN FRANCE.</td> <td>15</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> </table>	EFFECTIVE STRENGTH.	5 Officers	244 Other Ranks.	DETACHED.	1 Officer	2 Other Ranks.	M. T. A. S. C. ATTACHED.	2	" "	LEAVE IN U.K.	1	34 " "	ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.	4	" "	LEAVE IN FRANCE.	15	" "	
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M. T. A. S. C. ATTACHED.	2	" "	LEAVE IN U.K.	1	34 " "																	
ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.	4	" "	LEAVE IN FRANCE.	15	" "																	
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2">R/ROULERS.</td> <td colspan="2">RATION STRENGTH.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INGELMUNSTER.</td> <td>3 Officers,</td> <td>149</td> <td>Other ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>50</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> </table>	R/ROULERS.		RATION STRENGTH.		INGELMUNSTER.	3 Officers,	149	Other ranks.			50	" "							
R/ROULERS.		RATION STRENGTH.																				
INGELMUNSTER.	3 Officers,	149	Other ranks.																			
		50	" "																			

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WAR DIARY

(In AUSTRALIAN LIGHT OPERATING COMPANY) 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.)

205 358

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Roulers.	January	1919.		
	20th.		The duties performed on this day were those of a R.O.D. Detachment on broadgauge operating together with the usual company duties. Two other ranks granted leave to Paris and one to the United Kingdom. Four other ranks rejoined ex leave to the United Kingdom. One other rank struck off strength upon advice being received that he had been admitted to hospital whilst on leave to the United Kingdom.	
	21st.		Duties as yesterday. Two other ranks admitted to hospital from the unit and one admitted to hospital whilst returning from leave. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and four other ranks rejoined ex leave to the United Kingdom.	
	22nd.		Duties as on previous days. One other rank evacuated to hospital and one other rank rejoined unit from A.G.B. Depot ex hospital. Three other ranks granted leave to Paris and one granted leave to the United Kingdom. One other rank rejoined unit from leave to the United Kingdom.	
	23rd.		Duties as, on previous days. Three other ranks rejoined from leave to the United Kingdom and one granted leave to the United Kingdom.	
	24th.		Duties performed similar to those of previous days. Three other ranks granted leave to Paris, and one other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom.	
	25th.		One other rank detached to "Demobaust" Air Office, G.H.Q. for duty as Batman to Captain A.S. Tibb. Six other ranks granted leave to Paris, and one Officer and one other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom. Four other ranks rejoined from United Kingdom leave. Two other ranks sent for custody in Military Detention Barracks at Courtrai awaiting trial by Field General Court Martial.	
26th.		Duties as on the previous days. One other rank rejoined unit ex A.G.B. Depot. Two other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom and three granted leave to Paris. During the week there was no change made in regard to the section of broadgauge railway operated by this unit, and the work performed and classes of traffic handled were in all respects similar to those of previous weeks. The weather for the week was on the whole, fine, though cold and with some fairly heavy frosts. Early on the morning of the 26th. there was a comparatively heavy fall of snow, - the first of any consequence this season, but no interference whatever was caused to the carrying out of the duties allotted to the unit.		

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WAR DIARY

/or/
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANY
 Army Form C. 2118
 106
 858

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
	January 1919.			
Roulers.	26th.		<p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH: 5 Officers 243 O.Ranks. DETACHED. 1 Officer 5 O.Ranks. M.T.A.S.C. ATTACHED: 2 O.Ranks. LEAVE TO U.K. 1 Officer 23 O.Ranks. ATTACHED FOR RATIONS: 4 O.Ranks. LEAVE IN PARIS. 32 O.Ranks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RATION STRENGTH:</u></p> <p>ROULERS. 2 Officers 145 Other Ranks. INGELMUNSTER. 45 Other Ranks.</p>	
	27th.		<p>The duties performed on this day were precisely similar to those performed on the days of the preceding week. Pay day for the members of the Unit today. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and four other ranks granted leave to Paris. One other rank detached to the 4th. Australian B.G.R.O. Company for duty as Draftsman. Seven(7) other ranks over 45 years of age sent to A.G.B. Depot for demobilisation and one other rank also sent for early repatriation on compassionate grounds.</p>	
	28th.		<p>Duties as yesterday. One other rank rejoined unit ex hospital. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and one rejoined unit ex leave to the United Kingdom. The 6th. Australian Broadguage Railway Operating Company, who had arrived a day or two previously took over the section which we had been operating and thus released this unit for duty as required elsewhere.</p>	
	29th.		<p>Two other ranks evacuated to hospital. Seven(7) other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris and three other ranks from leave to the United Kingdom. No railway duties performed on this day. Arrangements made to bring in the other ranks from out-stations, and provide accommodation in the train in which we were to move to the new location, with the exception of those stationed at Ingelmunster and Heule through which places it is anticipated we would be passing.</p>	
	30th.		<p>Two other ranks rejoined ex leave to Paris. Four other ranks over 45 years of age sent to A.G.B. Depot for early demobilisation. No railway duties performed. Only ordinary company duties and arrangements being carried out for early removal. Instructions received today that we were to proceed to Tincourt for duty as a Light Railway Operating Company.</p>	

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Roulers.	31st.		<p>No railway duties performed this day. Ordinary company duties carried out and arrangements made to draw the necessary rations for the train journey. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and two other ranks rejoined from leave to Paris.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH: 5 Officers 230 Other ranks. DETACHED. 1 Officer 6 O.Ranks. M.T.A.S.C. ATTACHED. 2 Other Ranks. LEAVE TO U.K. 1 Officer 21 O.Ranks. ATTACHED FOR RATIONS. 4 O.Ranks. LEAVE TO PARIS. 25 O.Ranks.</p> <p>RATION STRENGTH: ROULERS. 2 Officers 145 Other ranks. INGELMUNSTER. 1 Officer 37 Other Ranks.</p> <p>On the 30th. and 31st. instant a Field General Court Martial was held in the Palais de Justice at Courtrai in connection with the charges preferred against Sappers GEORGE and McDONALD but the finding of the Court Martial which was completed on the latter date has not yet been made known. I regret to have to XXXXXXXXXXXX record that on the 22nd. January 1919 a Belgian boy aged about 12 years was accidentally shot by a bullet from a revolver which was being cleaned by a Corporal of this Unit. The boy died on the 24th. idem, after being operated upon in a French Military Hospital at Iseghem. An enquiry into the circumstances of the case was held at which M. le Chef de Gendarmerie of Roulers was present, and he expressed the view that he was quite satisfied it was an accidental occurrence. With reference to the A.I.F. Educational scheme, I would like to point out that it has not yet been possible, owing to the duties required of the Unit and to the fact that such duties covering a wide area rendered it necessary to have small parties stationed at widely separated places and for a considerable period on duty for 12 hours every day, to commence any classes for the members of the unit. Apart from the information obtained on A.I.F. Form 538 and certain other particulars which have been got from the members of the unit it has been found possible to do very little in connection with the scheme. In a unit of this kind where practically every man is a trained railway man in some grade or other the instruction generally desired is such as will keep them in touch with his ordinary occupation and fit him to promptly take up his former position upon his return or to have a course of such training as would be likely to render him eligible for promotion to a higher position upon his return or when he became due for such in the ordinary departmental course.</p>	

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(2039) W 1 2500/P 713 750,000 2/18 E 2688 Form C/225/4.

WAR DIARY

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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THE AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 8
358

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.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices
	January 1919.						
Roulers.	31st.		<p>Re demobilisation : The only members of this unit who have been struck off strength for demobilisation are the 'B' Class men (five(5) in all), four(4) of the 1915 men, eleven(11) other ranks over 45 years of age, and one for early repatriation on compassionate grounds.</p> <p>PARTICULARS HEREBUNDER OF NUMBER OF WAGONS PASSING THROUGH THE SECTION OR BEING DISCHARGED OR LOADED IN THE SECTION OPERATED BY THIS UNIT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THROUGH TRAFFIC. SECTIONAL TRAFFIC.</p>				
	Period Ended.		Loaded.	Empty.		Loaded.	Empty.
	7.1.19.	North Bound.	1209	63	North Bound.	473	114
		South Bound.	471	199	South Bound.	433	51
	14.1.19.	North Bound.	1330	151	North Bound.	631	183
		South Bound.	351	440	South Bound.	401	181
	21.1.19.	North Bound.	1120	109	North Bound.	427	149
		South Bound.	471	265	South Bound.	411	87
	28.1.19.	North Bound.	918	91	North Bound.	395	133
		South Bound.	429	117	South Bound.	367	105
			<p>The traffic consisted principally of personnel, including hospital and refugee traffic; supplies and salvage material. This unit handed over to the 6th. Australian B.G.R.O. Coy. on the 28.1.1919 and accordingly the statement is only up to that date.</p>				

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(10549) Wk W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Form C/222/18.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

358

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or/
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place			Date			Hour			Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices		
Roulers.			January			1919.			Summary of Q.M's activities for the month :-					
R E C E I P T S.						I S S U E S.								
			Boots.			85 prs.			Boots.			40 prs.		
			Underpants.			20 "			Underpants.			25 "		
			Towels.			10.			Towels.			15		
			Shirts.			40.			Shirts.			Nil.		
			Puttees.			12 prs.			Puttees.			10.		
			Clasp Knives.			20.			Clasp Knives.			11.		
			Tunics. S.D.			70.			Tunics, S.D.			34.		
			Soap			100 lbs.			Soap.			100 lbs.		
			Soap, soft.			56 "			Soap, soft.			56 "		
			Soda.			56 "			Soda.			56 "		
			Oil, rifle.			1 gallon.			Oil, rifle.			1 gallon.		
			Bootmakers' repair material.			quantity.			Bootmakers' repair material.			quantity.		
			Batteries, Torch.			12.			Breeches,			10 prs.		