

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

Railways

Item number: 15/2/15

Title: 1st Australian Light Railway
Operating Company

February 1919



AWM4-15/2/15

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

358

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st. Australian Light Railway Operating Company.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

W. J. Duncan Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. J. Duncan Captain,
O.C., 1ST. Australian L.R.O. Company.

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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6-35

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tincourt.	February 1919.	1st.	No railway duties. Only company duties required in connection with the feeding of the Unit. All available members moved into railway trucks by 11 a.m. preparatory to move from Roulers to Tincourt. One other rank granted leave to United Kingdom and one other rank rejoined ex leave to Paris. Two other ranks from the 2,d Railway Telegraph Company R.E. struck off attachment and detached to the 6th. Australian Broadguage Railway Operating Company. Three other ranks who embarked from Australia in 1915 struck off strength on being evacuated to A.G.B.D Depot for demobilisation., We left Roulers by broadguage at 12.22p.m. and travelled via Iseghem, Ingelmunster at which place the detachments from Ingelmunster and Heule joined the Headquarters of the Unit - to Courtrai where we arrived at 2.35 p.m. We left that place at 3pm and travelled via Mouscron Tourcoing (arrived 6.5pm, departed 6.13pm) Roubaix (arr.6.30pm running straight through station) to La Madeleine (Lille) at 8.15pm. After a brief wait at La Madeleine we travelled during the night via Armentieres, Bailleul, Hazebrouck to St.Omer, where we arrived at 7.30am on the 2nd.	
		2nd.	Captain Duncan, O.C. of the Unit proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom.	
		3rd.	We left St.Omer at 8.10am and travelling via Watten, Ruminghem, and Audruick (8.40am) arrived on the outskirts of Calais at 9.15am. We stopped for 1 1/2 near the Pont de Cologne, reversing in the meantime a truck with a broken drawbar, thence we travelled via Frethun, Caffiers-Guines (11.37 am) Marquise (11.57 am), Aubengue (12.15pm), Wimereux (12.20pm), arriving at Boulogne (Tintelleries) 12.32 pm. From the latter place we travelled via Pont de Briques, Hesdigneul 1.15 pm, Dannes-Camiers 1.55pm, Etaples 2.25pm, dep. 2.31pm, Saint Josse 2.45pm, Rang du Fliers-Verton 2.55pm, Conchil-le-temple 3.5pm, Quendfortmahon 3.20pm, Rue 3.40pm, Noyelles 4.7pm taking water. Port le Grand 4.20pm, stopping just outside Abbeville at 4.53pm, and departing at 6.20pm. We passed Abbeville at 6.25pm and waited for 27 minutes on the other side of it at Liercourt, Hangest 7.47pm, and arrived at Amiens at 8.50pm, departing at 9.30p.m. via Villiers-Bretonneux, Chaulnes, arriving at Peronne at 1am. 3.2.1919.	
			One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom.	
			Yard in the trucks at Peronne until 2.48pm, as it appeared that no arrangements had been made for our transport by broadguage railway beyond that place, when we left for Tincourt, travelling Doingt, Cartigny, Tincourt, Marquaix to Roisel, where we arrived at. 3.52pm. Engines then ran round the train, brought us back to Tincourt, departing from Roisel at 4.40pm and arriving at Tincourt at 4.51pm. The train was then divided and was shunted into the siding at 5.10pm.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(20349) W1 W2300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Form C/221/56.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place Date Hour
February 1919.

Tincourt.	3rd.	Rations including train rations were drawn from the 15th. Corps Railhead at Courtrai to cover the anticipated duration of the journey and as each truck was provided with a stove the members of the unit in the main arranged for the cooking of their own meals, the rations being issued at convenient stopping places. Most of them were provided with bunks in the train and apart from the unavoidable jolting of a journey of this nature in trucks, the trip upon the whole was a pleasant and comfortable one. At Peronne a hot meal was prepared at mid-day by the Cook, water being main obtained from the Crane in the Railway Yard.
	4th.	No railway duties, only the ordinary company duties necessary for the maintenance of the camp and the feeding of the unit were carried out. One other rank admitted to Casualty Clearing Station some ten minutes walk from the camp.
	5th.	One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom. One other rank detached for duty as Batman to Captain A.S. Tibb, Demobaust Air Office, A.Q. Branch, G.H.Q., vice Batman evacuated to hospital. Five other ranks evacuated to hospital sick.
	6th.	Two other ranks evacuated to hospital sick and two other ranks granted leave to the United Kingdom. Five other ranks rejoined unit from leave in Paris. Arrangements were made with the Canadian Light Railway Operating Company from whom we are to take over, to run a special train over the lines which it is intended we will operate, to give the members of the unit concerned, an opportunity of getting in touch with the particular district. Apart from that no railway duties were performed on this day, only the ordinary and necessary camp duties, and fatigues, being carried out. Three additional other ranks rejoined unit from leave to Paris.
	7th.	No railway duties performed this day. Three other ranks evacuated to hospital sick. One other rank granted leave to the United Kingdom and one other rank rejoined from leave to Paris. One Sapper sent to A.G.B. Depot for transfer to London for industrial employment.
	8th.	One other rank rejoined unit from A.G.B. Depot ex hospital and one other rank rejoined unit from No. 58 C.C.S. One other rank rejoined unit ex United Kingdom leave. No railway duties performed this day. Only the ordinary company duties carried out. On this day the first mail was received since coming to Tincourt.

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(10348) Wt 2300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2689 Forms C/205/15.

WAR DIARY

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	February 1919.			
	9th.		<p>We took over the Light Railway Operating of this section with headquarters at TINCOURT and all the necessary control posts, engines, tractors, and pumping plants, were manned by members of the unit. Four other ranks struck off strength on advice being received of their evacuation to hospital. Four other ranks rejoined from leave to Paris and one other rank granted leave to United Kingdom.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH: 5 Officers, 213 Other Ranks. DETACHED: 1 Officer 6 O.Ranks. M.T.A.S.C. ATTACHED: 2 " " LEAVE IN U.K. 2 " 28 " ATTACHED (A.A.M.C.): 2 " " LEAVE IN FRANCE.</p> <p>RATION STRENGTH: 2 Officers, 174 Other Ranks.</p> <p>The weather for the first nine days of the month, with the exception of several falls of snow, one on the 5th. being a fairly heavy fall and right through the period mentioned the ground everywhere has been covered with snow. The nights of the 7th. & 8th. were particularly cold. As the unit was not engaged upon any work which would be affected by the state of the weather except on the 9th. when owing to the water freezing some little interference was occasioned to the pumping, the state of the weather was not an important matter. The only railway duties performed on a Sunday are the running of the Postal Service in connection with A.P.O.S.123. One other rank whose employment upon pay duties had been approved by the D.A.G., A.I.F. was struck off strength and sent to A.G.B.D. for transfer to his new position.</p>	
	10th.		<p>One other rank struck off strength on advice being received that he had been evacuated to hospital whilst on leave in Paris. One other rank rejoined unit ex U.K. Leave and one other rank granted leave to Paris.</p>	
	11th.		<p>Duties as on previous days. Four other ranks admitted to hospital. Three other ranks rejoined unit ex U.K. Leave, and one other rank ex Paris Leave. One other rank proceeded on United Kingdom leave.</p>	

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	February 1919.			
Tincourt.	12th.		Duties as on previous days. Two other ranks admitted to hospital.	
	13th.		One other rank to hospital. Four other ranks rejoined unit ex United Kingdom Leave. Amount drawn for pay 1435 francs. This is the smallest amount drawn for any pay period since the unit has been in France, undoubtedly due to no canteens being near here, and the men having no opportunity of spending their money.	
	14th.		Duties as usual. One other rank to hospital. One other rank rejoined unit ex A.G.B. Depot ex United Kingdom leave and hospital. Three other ranks rejoined ex Paris Leave. The 13th. Canadian Light Railway Operating Company under orders to proceed to Base and arrangements were made that they should transfer into our broadgauge living train and that this company would transfer to their camp. These arrangements were carried out without any inconvenience to the men.	
	15th.		One other rank transferred to 3rd. Australian Light Railway Forward Company. Camp was found to be in fair order and all available men were utilised for cleaning and repairing and putting into good order.	
	16th.		Duties as usual. Everything appeared to be in good order and men comfortable in new quarters.	
	17th.		Two other ranks rejoined unit ex hospital. Two other ranks ex Paris Leave. One other rank ex United Kingdom leave. Seventeen (17) other ranks (Imperials) attached for rations and discipline. These men are doing duty as Controllers on part of the system under our supervision.	
<p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH 5 Officers 207 Other Ranks. DETACHED: 1 Off. 6 O. Ranks. M.T.A.S.C. (ATTACHED) 2 Other Ranks. LEAVE IN U.K. 1 Off. 22 O. Ranks. A.A.M.C. ATTACHED. 2 Other Ranks. LEAVE IN FRANCE. 1 O. Rank. ATTACHED FOR RATIONS. 17 Other Ranks.</p>				
<p><u>RATION STRENGTH.</u></p> <p>2 Officers, 202 Other Ranks.</p>				

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February 1919.			
	18th.		Duties as on previous days. Two other ranks admitted to Hospital whilst on United Kingdom leave, and three other ranks to hospital. Three other ranks rejoined unit ex United Kingdom leave. Two other ranks (Imperials) struck off ration strength on proceeding to rejoin their unit. The weather for the last seven days has been fine with very cold nights.	
	19th.		Three other ranks admitted to hospital. Two other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave. It being two years today since we left Australia arrangements were made to hold a concert in the Canteen in the evening, which turned out a great success, and as the Canteen was opened on this night, a plentiful supply of drinks, cigarettes and eatables were available a very enjoyable evening was spent.	
	20th.		One other rank proceeded to A.G.B. Depot for early repatriation	
	21st.		Three other ranks rejoined unit ex United Kingdom leave. Lieut. Byers admitted to hospital whilst on United Kingdom leave. Four other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave. One other rank to hospital whilst on leave in France.	
	22nd.		One other rank to hospital whilst on leave in France. One other rank to hospital. Captain Duncan rejoined unit from leave in United Kingdom.	
	23rd.		Duties as usual. One other rank to hospital. Two other ranks rejoined unit from United Kingdom leave. One other rank rejoined unit ex hospital. One other rank detached to Australian Corps Workshops R.E. Jeumont. One M.T. Driver attached from 6th. Australian Motor Transport Company.	
			<p>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH. 4 Officers 192 Other Ranks. DETACHED. 1 Officer 6 Other Ranks.</p> <p>M.T.A.S.C. (ATTACHED). 3 Other Ranks. LEAVE IN U.K. 19 Other Ranks.</p> <p>A.A.M.G. ATTACHED. 2 Other Ranks.</p> <p>ATTACHED FOR RATIONS. 16 Other Ranks.</p> <p>RATION STRENGTH.</p> <p>3 Officers 188 Other Ranks.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

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Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

February 1919.

24th.

Duties as on previous days. One other rank rejoined unit from United Kingdom leave. Two other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave. Fine weather for the week with the exception of a few showers and very cold nights.

25th.

One other rank proceeded to Australian General Base Depot, le HAVRE for demobilisation. Three other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave.

26th.

Duties as on previous days. One other rank to hospital and two other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave. One Motor Transport Driver attached from 6th. Australian Motor Transport Company. Four reinforcements arrived from Australian General Base Depots for this unit and were taken on strength.

27th.

Two other ranks rejoined ex United Kingdom leave. One other rank to hospital. Two other ranks proceeded on United Kingdom leave. Ten other ranks detached to 18th. Light Railway Operating Company.

28th.

Duties as usual. One other rank rejoined unit ex hospital. One other rank admitted to hospital. Sapper Winfield granted six months non-military employment in United Kingdom.

EFFECTIVE STRENGTH
M.T.A.S.C.(ATTACHED).
A.A.M.C.ATTACHED.
ATTACHED FOR RATIONS.

4 Officers 192 other ranks.
4 other ranks.
2 other ranks.
1 Officer 20 other ranks.

DETACHED:
LEAVE IN U.K.

1 Officer 18 Other Ranks.
22 Other ranks.

RATION STRENGTH.

4 Officers 178 Other Ranks.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
Tincourt.	28th.		<p>February 1919.</p> <p>With reference to the Education Service it has not been possible up to the present owing to the company being required to carry out the duties of an operating company and to it's members being scattered over a wide area, to commence any classes as the men are working full time.</p> <p>A few however, have been released under the provisions of A.I.F. Form 540 for non-military employment etc. The position with regard to this unit has been brought under the notice of the responsible authorities.</p> <p>As the unit is gradually being depleted in strength in connection with demobilisation there is little prospect of doing any more than preparatory work so that, if and when the unit is released, an early start may be made.</p> <p>Re demobilisation - During the month of February 1919 one other rank proceeded to Australian Base Depots HAVRE on 25.2.1919 and one other rank on 20.2.1919 for early repatriation.</p> <p><u>SUMMARY OF TONNAGE.</u></p> <p>Hauled by 1st. Australian Light Railway Operating Company, Tincourt System, from the 9th. to the 28th, February 1919, inclusive.</p> <p>Note - System taken over from 13th. Canadian Light Railway Operating Company on 9.2.1919.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Personnel.</th> <th>L.R. Material.</th> <th>Water.</th> <th>Rations.</th> <th>Coal.</th> <th>Ordinary Salvage.</th> <th>R.E. Material.</th> <th>Salvage Ammunition.</th> <th>Total.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1182</td> <td>1339</td> <td>88</td> <td>349</td> <td>589</td> <td>730</td> <td>105</td> <td>1555</td> <td>5937</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>LOCOMOTIVE SUMMARY.</u></p> <p>37 Locomotives at Tincourt Depot. Four Hudson Locomotives and one Baldwin at Flamicourt Sub-Depot.</p> <p>Only running repairs executed during February 1919.- Loco 501 sent to Beaurainville for overhauling. Locomotives :- 29 Baldwins, 4 Hudsons, & 4 Cooks. Loco 501 to Beaurainville on 26.2.19.</p>	Personnel.	L.R. Material.	Water.	Rations.	Coal.	Ordinary Salvage.	R.E. Material.	Salvage Ammunition.	Total.	1182	1339	88	349	589	730	105	1555	5937	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tincourt.	February 1919.	28th.	<p><u>TRACTOR SUMMARY.</u></p> <p>Eight 20 H.P. Tractors and 1 40 H.P. Tractor at Tincourt Depot. One 40 H.P. Tractor at Bellicourt (Sub-depot). Three 20 H.P. Tractors at Montigny Farm (Sub-depot). One 20 H.P. Tractor at Bellicourt (Sub-depot). Only minor running repairs executed during February 1919. Two 20 H.P. Tractors awaiting removal to workshops. Making a total of 14 20 H.P. Tractors and 2 40 H.P. Tractors on system</p> <p>The section of line which was being operated by the unit since taking over from the 13th. Canadian Light Railway Operating Company was from TINCOURT to BOHAIN, TINCOURT to FINS, TINCOURT to QUINCONCE, TINCOURT to MONTIGNY FARM and TINCOURT to VILLEVEQUE.</p> <p>Promotions for the month of February 1919 :-</p> <p>No. 659 C.S.M. STEVENS.G.F.C. to be temporary 2/Lieutenant from 31.1.1919 and posted as Education Officer for Light Railway Operating Companies, vide A.I.F. Orders List No. 443, of 7.2.1919.</p> <p>No. 601 C.S.M. MORECROFT.A.G., to be temporary W.O. Class I from 4.2.1919, vice Letch, vide A.I.F. Orders List 443 of 7.2.1919.</p>	

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Tincourt.	28th.		<p>Summary of Quarter-master's activities for the month :-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">R E C E I P T S.</th> <th colspan="2">I S S U E S.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hats, felt.</td> <td>50.</td> <td>Hats, felt.</td> <td>12.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boots,</td> <td>83 prs.</td> <td>Boots,</td> <td>49 prs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Braces,</td> <td>30 pr.</td> <td>Braces.</td> <td>15 prs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Puttees.</td> <td>50 pr.</td> <td>Puttees.</td> <td>10.pr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trousers. S.D.</td> <td>47 pr.</td> <td>Trousers,S.D.</td> <td>15 pr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shirts.</td> <td>25.</td> <td>Shirts.</td> <td>12.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Towels.</td> <td>10.</td> <td>Towels.</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greatcoats.</td> <td>20.</td> <td>Greatcoats.</td> <td>8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tunics. S.D.</td> <td>24.</td> <td>Tunics.S.D.</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Breeches.M.S.</td> <td>32 pr.</td> <td>Breeches.M.S.</td> <td>28 pr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brushes, scrubbing.</td> <td>6.</td> <td>Brushes, scrubbing.</td> <td>6.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soap, yellow.</td> <td>600 lbs.</td> <td>Soap, yellow.</td> <td>600 lbs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soap, soft.</td> <td>50 lbs.</td> <td>Soap, soft.</td> <td>50 lbs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soda.</td> <td>56 lbs.</td> <td>Soda.</td> <td>56 lbs.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	R E C E I P T S.		I S S U E S.		Hats, felt.	50.	Hats, felt.	12.	Boots,	83 prs.	Boots,	49 prs.	Braces,	30 pr.	Braces.	15 prs.	Puttees.	50 pr.	Puttees.	10.pr.	Trousers. S.D.	47 pr.	Trousers,S.D.	15 pr.	Shirts.	25.	Shirts.	12.	Towels.	10.	Towels.	10.	Greatcoats.	20.	Greatcoats.	8.	Tunics. S.D.	24.	Tunics.S.D.	10.	Breeches.M.S.	32 pr.	Breeches.M.S.	28 pr.	Brushes, scrubbing.	6.	Brushes, scrubbing.	6.	Soap, yellow.	600 lbs.	Soap, yellow.	600 lbs.	Soap, soft.	50 lbs.	Soap, soft.	50 lbs.	Soda.	56 lbs.	Soda.	56 lbs.	
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