

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

Railways

Item number: 15/2/8

Title: 1st Australian Light Railway
Operating Company

July 1918



AWM4-15/2/8

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF
1st Australian Light Railway Operating Company
FOR

July 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *C. J. Duncan Captain.*

Signature of Officer Commanding *C. J. Duncan Captain.*

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No. *A/8/1918*

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.

Sheet 11
I

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.
Date

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	July 1st		The strength of the Company is as follows:- Effective strength 7 officers 279 O'Ranks. Detachments 1 officer 56 O'Ranks Duties by arms attached 5 . Leave to United Kingdom 21 O'Ranks Detachments 4 officers 30 . " . Paris 1 "	
Map				
Location				
Abbeville			Station strength 7 officers 239 O'Ranks.	
Sheet 14			On this date the men were employed as shown hereunder:-	
N 1 D 8.4			55 Unloading and stacking material from Broad Gauge wagons 46 Constructing light Railway track in Central light railway Workshop yard. 19 building bridge over river La Canche 27 Excavating pipe trench for water supply 3 Building and fitting up Officers Mess 4 Blacksmiths and 8 working track in connection with various works. Others employed on Camp duties etc.	
	2nd		46 Constructing light Railway track in E. P. R. yard 17 building bridge 25 Excavating pipe track 57 unloading and stacking material etc from Broad Gauge wagons 6 building & fitting up Officers mess. 4 Blacksmithing and 8 working track.	

No 2.

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.....
Date.....

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field at location Abbeville	1918 July 3 rd		Others employed on bank and duties etc. On this date 57 were constructing light Rly track 20 building bridge 24 excavating pipe track & laying pipes in connection with water supply 39 unloading and stacking material from broad gauge building and fitting up Officers mess. 4 blacksmiths and 8 on tractor in connection with work.	
K. D. 4	4 th		Others employed on company duties etc. 24 Constructing light Railway track 17 screening ballast etc for concreting tank in connection with water supply. 6.9 excavating pipe trench for water supply 24 building bridge over river & distributing material from Railway to different points of duty Other men employed with tractor & blacksmiths & company duties etc. Commencing from today the rations for company are delivered at Camp by transport	
	5 th			

No 3.

WAR DIARY

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(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.....
Date.....

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date, 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field Map location Abbeville	July 5 th		Men were employed on 40 constructing light Railway track 83 excavating pipe trench 4 laying water supply pipes 24 building bridge over river La Canche 5 distributing material along works others employed as previously.	
Sheet 14 N. 1 D. 8. 4.	6 th		40 employed constructing light Rly track 26 building bridge over La Canche 16 distributing material at works 48 excavating pipe trench for water supply 24 laying pipes also for water supply. The men were only employed for half day.	
	7 th		All other men employed on camp duties and with tractors and blacksmiths	
	7 th		On this date the effective strength etc of company was: Strength (effective) 6 officers 279 O'Rank. Attachments 550 O'Rank Details by arms attached 5 " On leave 1 officer 24 " Attachments 5 officers 31 " Ration strength 246.	
			Camp duties were the only duties performed today. In the afternoon we played a cricket match with	

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(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Max location Abbeville	July 7 th 1918		P. C. team and our 'boys' managed to win on the first innings. The weather for the week was uniformly fine and mild, enabling the various works to proceed without any interference whatever.	
Sheet 14 X 128.4	8 th		19 painting and clearing up around the bridge over the La Canche. 48 constructing Light Railway tracks. 48 digging the tube tracks and 22 laying the pipes for the water supply. 5 screening ballast for concreting of water supply tanks. 8 unloading and distributing material along works. 8 men employed on tractor and 2 as blacksmiths. All other men on camp duties. During the afternoon a very heavy shower was experienced after which a steady rain fell. This tended to interfere with the work.	
	9 th		Today 19 were employed at painting and clearing up around bridge and making the approaches to same. 42 constructing Light Railway tracks and also 64 digging trenches.	

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LIGHT RAILWAY
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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Mas location Albenville	1919 July 9 th		account pipe work. 19 laying water supply pipes 5 screening ballast for concreting storage tanks 8 unloading and distributing material 6 driving tractors on various works and 2 (2) blacksmiths. All others on company duties as usual	
Sheet 14 No 1 D 8.4	10 th		9 making approaches & cleaning up around bridge 64 digging pipe trench 56 laying pipes in connections with water supply scheme for C. F. R. Workshops yard. 19 carting material to site of storage tanks and preparing for concreting same 10 unloading and distributing material 6 employed on tractors and 2 as blacksmiths. Others as usual on camp duties etc. During the afternoon the work was slightly interfered with by a steady rain falling	
	11 th		67 digging pipe trench 56 laying water supply pipes 19 preparing for concreting tanks and carting materials to sites. 4 screening ballast 12 distributing material to works 6 on tractors and 2 blacksmiths. Others on company duties	

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WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.
Date

Army Form C. 2118.

358

Place	1918 Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In. the Field Man Location Abbeville sheet 14 K.1.28.4.	July 12 th		On this date 69 were employed on the trench for water supply 55 laying water pipes 20 preparing for concreting and removing material to site for storage tanks 9 screening ball net 10 unloading & distributing material to points of duty 6 working tractors and 2 blacksmiths. Others on company duties.	
	13 th		The whole of the unit employed as yesterday with the exception of 2 men painting the bridge.	
	14 th		Effective strength. Officers 2740 Rks. Attachments 1 off 540 Ranks. Details by arms attached - 5 " Leave to U.K. dom 32 " Attachments 5 off 31 " " " Paris 1 " Net decrease in strength 4 other ranks. Net increase leave 80 Rks. Ration strength 11 officers 2240 Ranks. The weather for the week has been marked by various sharp thunder storms followed by steady rain which interfered with the progress of the	

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.....
Date.....

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the fields	1918 July 14 th		various work on hand to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ day each man employed on works. It rained heavily in the afternoon of this day and prevented further progress R.E. being completed.	
Max location Heberville	15 th		Genl Smith and 12 O'phants detailed to Busby for the purpose of taking down D. J. W. building formibly accursed by A. D. Reserve preparatory to removing & reerecting same at his new location.	
Sheet 14 K1D8.4	15th		45 excavating trench 73 laying pipes in connection with water supply. 9 Distributing material screening ballast 8 working track 3 blacksmiths 17 Preparing for and concreting banks.	
	16 th		The whole employed practically the same as yesterday with the exception that the detachment at Busby for the purpose of loading the building materials on wagons and proceeding to new location	
	17 th		69 Laying pipes for water supply 69 excavating side track 40 distributing material 10 screening ballast 10 concreting track 23. Remainder employed as yesterday.	

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.
Date.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	19 th July		Detachment of 12 O/Rs still with 5 th Army creche O F W Sunday In A D R remainder employed practically the same as on previous day. 2 nd	
Location	18 th			
Abbeville	19 th		This also applies to today.	
street	20 th		The only alteration is that the detachment of 12 with 5 th Army rejoines this unit.	
No 284	20 th		Effective strength 7 officers 272 O/Ranks. Detachment 1 off 52 O/Ranks Depart by arms - 5 " Leave to U.K. Gov 34 " Attachments 28 " " Paris 1 "	
	21 st		Net decrease in effective strength, detachment 2 O/Ranks, and of 5 Officers 30 Ranks in attachments. Increase of 3 O/Ranks on leave. No work other than rank duties this day.	
	22 nd		With the exception that 10 men were employed erecting Officers quarters for this unit during this week approximately the same number of other ranks on precisely similar work to that of previous week.	
	27 th			
	28 th			

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No. 9
L.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.
Date

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1918 July 28 th		<p>Effective strength of company 7 off 2710 Ranks Attachments 1 off 470 Ranks Repairs by arms 5 " Leave to U.T. 1 off 31 " Attachments 31 " Leave to Paris 2 "</p> <p>Net decrease for week of 10 Ranks in effective strength 50 Ranks in detachments. 20 Ranks on leave.</p> <p>Ration strength 7 officers 2220 Ranks.</p> <p>The weather for the week ^{was} fine with the exception of 2 days, one of which it rained steadily during the afternoon & interfered with the work considerably.</p> <p>45 laying pipes for water supply. 40 excavating the track 13 distributing material 24 roofing tanks. 10 erecting huts for Officers quarters. 6 grading for Light Railways & Attachments 8 as tractor crews. 5 securing ballast, the remainder upon bank duties.</p> <p>All duties were the same as previous day.</p> <p>Ditto with the exception that no men were employed securing ballast.</p>	
		29 th		
		30 th		
		31 st		

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WAR DIARY

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
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No.
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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the July Field Mab location Abbeyville sheet 14 K. 1 D. 8. 4.	1918		<p>During the month a profit of 2269 francs 5 centimes was made at the canteen, which is carried on by this unit.</p> <p>For the recreation & enjoyment of the unit a cricket competition limited to teams drawn from its personnel was commenced and is proving a large amount of interest. Some of the games result in very close finishes.</p> <p>In the diary for last month reference was made to a hospital being constructed at the site and a plan of this site is now attached for information.</p> <p>Through representations made by me the water scheme referred to in my last diary has been altered and the capacity of the smaller tank increased from 15,000 to 30,000 gallons capacity and it is now to supply the whole of the water for both domestic & boiler purposes. Regarding the water for fire fighting scheme the pipelines leading to the tanks have been reduced from 3 to 1 & it is now intended to pump direct from the power house to the tank in the same pipe as we supply the water for the scheme.</p>	

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No 11.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary

Place
In the Field
Map
location
Abberville
Sheet 14
K.1. D84.

Date
1918
July

Hour
Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

I suggested that two stop valves be put in this pipe so as to enable pumping to be done in the single pipe and if necessary in event of fire the pump can pump direct into the whole fire service pipe. The estimated saving as far as I am able to judge would be a considerable amount & a very much improved service will now be available than was formerly provided for.

We have now completed the small reservoir and the plan submitted provides for a flow of water of about 15,000 gallons per hour. The object of the concrete wall as shown on the plan is to collect the flow from a considerable number of springs - water is easily obtained in the particular locality - into the reservoir. Instead of the concrete sump originally proposed, at my suggestion a round tank section of wrought iron of 7" thickness and about 6 feet 6 inches in diameter has been substituted. This is now completed. The pipe section as shown on the plan has also been completed up to the point indicated. We are now awaiting a supply of pipes to complete the scheme in the broad gauge railway section.

The accompanying plan shows the excavations necessary for the pipe track & will give a very fair idea of the work involved in providing same.

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(A8-c4) Wt W177/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/Cat 18/14

WAR DIARY

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.....
Date.....

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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No 12
Summary

Place
In the July
Field.
Map location
Abbeville
Sheet 14
K.1.D.8.A

Date 1918
Hour
Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

We have experienced during the month some delay owing to the rain but even allowing for that factor remarkable progress has been made.

A letter was received from Lieut. Colonel Collins, who was formerly in charge of the work here, dated 19/7/1918 and it is repeated hereunder for information:-

"Dear Captain Duncan, your men have finished the hut and returned to you by lorry in the morning. They have done very well indeed & worked exceedingly hard. I saw your bridge a day or two ago & must congratulate you on a first class job."

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed) J.R. Collins,
Lt Col. A.D.L.R.

During the month there were a few additional Light Railway sidings put in and some levelling and a small amount of ballasting done. The other sections marked for last month's plan have not yet been proceeded with.

Since furnishing the last diary we have been attached for duty to Major Bowden (of the Central Light Railway Workshops) D.A.D.L.R., who is an officer we respect very highly & we are experiencing splendid treatment at his hands.

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W1 W1771/M2031 250,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/Cat. 1914

No 13

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
Date

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field "May Location" Abberville Sheet 14 K.A. 28.4	1918 July		<p>The officers were in occupation of a number of "Control" huts (as quarters) which belonged to the Light Railway Control System and orders were received for these to be vacated, and it became necessary for the Officers to temporarily occupy tents, but through the kindness of Major Bowden arrangements were promptly made to provide very commodious & comfortable quarters for them.</p> <p>It is proposed to put a plate on the bridge for each tank inscribed in the following terms:-</p> <p>"Erected by the 1st Australian Light Railway Operating Company"</p> <p>"Commenced on a particular date & finished upon a certain date 1918." -</p> <p>Although the work has been hard & laborious in nature the men are taking a keen interest and feel that they are doing a considerable amount of good work & that they are receiving the due credit for what they are accomplishing.</p> <p>During the month we received from the Overseas Club a consignment of "comforts" in the form of a parcel for each member of the Unit & a considerable amount of discussion & disgust was occasioned</p>	

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No 14.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pithers Map location Abbeville Det 14 K.I.D.S.A.	July 19/18		<p>occurred: - by the contents of these parcels which were packed by "Harrod's Ltd." It contained the following articles: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - 2lb. packets <u>issue</u> biscuits (Huntley & Palmers). 1 tin marmalade 1 " Kipper Paste 1 cake chocolate 1 tin sardines 1 PRS "oxo" cubes. 1 tin bisouac cocoa & milk. <p>The complaints were based upon the fact that the bulk of the parcels was represented by what we receive as issues every day. A no greater annoyance can be given to the men than to provide them with issue biscuits of marmalade tin such circumstances we think this matter should be brought under the notice of the High Commissioner & the Victorian Agent General, so that the people of Australia may have some idea of the manner in which their money is being expended. -</p>	

No. 15.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No.
Date 4/8/18

Army Form C. 2118.

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Summary -

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field Map location Abberville Sheet 14. K1.28.4	July	19/18.	G.M.S. operations for month.				Petrol 300 gallons Car Oil. 60 do. Para. Oil. 20 do Soap 50 lbs Soda 56 lbs.
			Rations drawn:- 7,445. Issued:-		Clothing etc drawn:- From Ordnance etc		
			Issues for Month.		Returns to Ordnance etc for Month.		
			Breeches 46 pairs.	Boots 80 pairs.	Breeches 85 pairs.	Overalls 20 pairs.	
			Braces 38 "	Hats 24	Boots 73 "	Great coat 1	
			Putties 20 "	Socks 51 pairs	Braces 31 "	Water proof } 2 Sheet }	
			Shirts 66	Towels 52	Socks 66 "		
			Tunics 32	Underpants 167 pairs	Shirts 99		
			Overalls 37	Case knives 17	Towels 34		
			Housewives 12	Mess tins 6	Putties 30 pairs		
			Knives table 8	Tooth brushes 6	Tunics 45		
			Spoons 8	Forks 8	Underpants 105 pairs.		

Received from Comforts Funds:-
260 parcels and 300 bundles of Cigarettes.

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WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian Light Railway Operating Company -

FOR

July 1918.

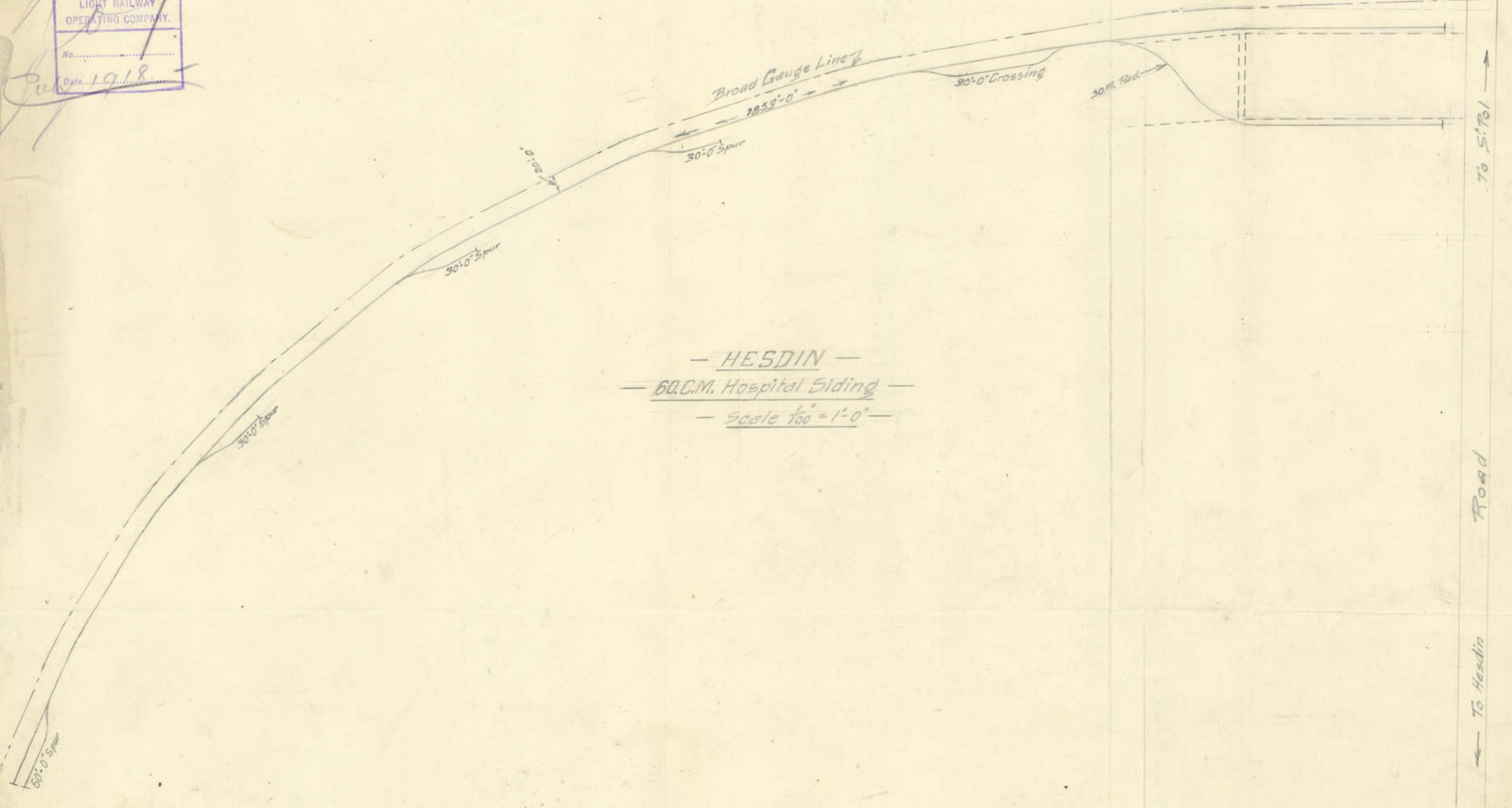
LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Plan of 60 c.m. Hospital Siding at Hedden - |
| 2 | Diagram showing water services laid 1/7/1918 to 31/7/1918 for L.R. Workshops etc. |
| 3 | Sections showing depths of excavations for pipe lines: - |

W. J. Brennan Captain
O.C. 1st Australian L.R. Coy.

(1st AUSTRALIAN) LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANY.	
No.	
Date	A. 8. 1918.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
 LIGHT RAILWAY
 OPERATING COMPANY.
 No.
 Date 1918



— HESDIN —
 — 60.C.M. Hospital Siding —
 — Scale $\frac{1}{100}'' = 1'-0''$ —

To S. Pol.
 Road
 To Heddin

2.

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APPENDIX (

Appendix No 2.

(1st AUSTRALIAN)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY.
No. 2
Date July 1918

Beaurainville Loco Workshops.
Diagram showing Water Services laid from
1.7.18 to 31.7.18 inclusive

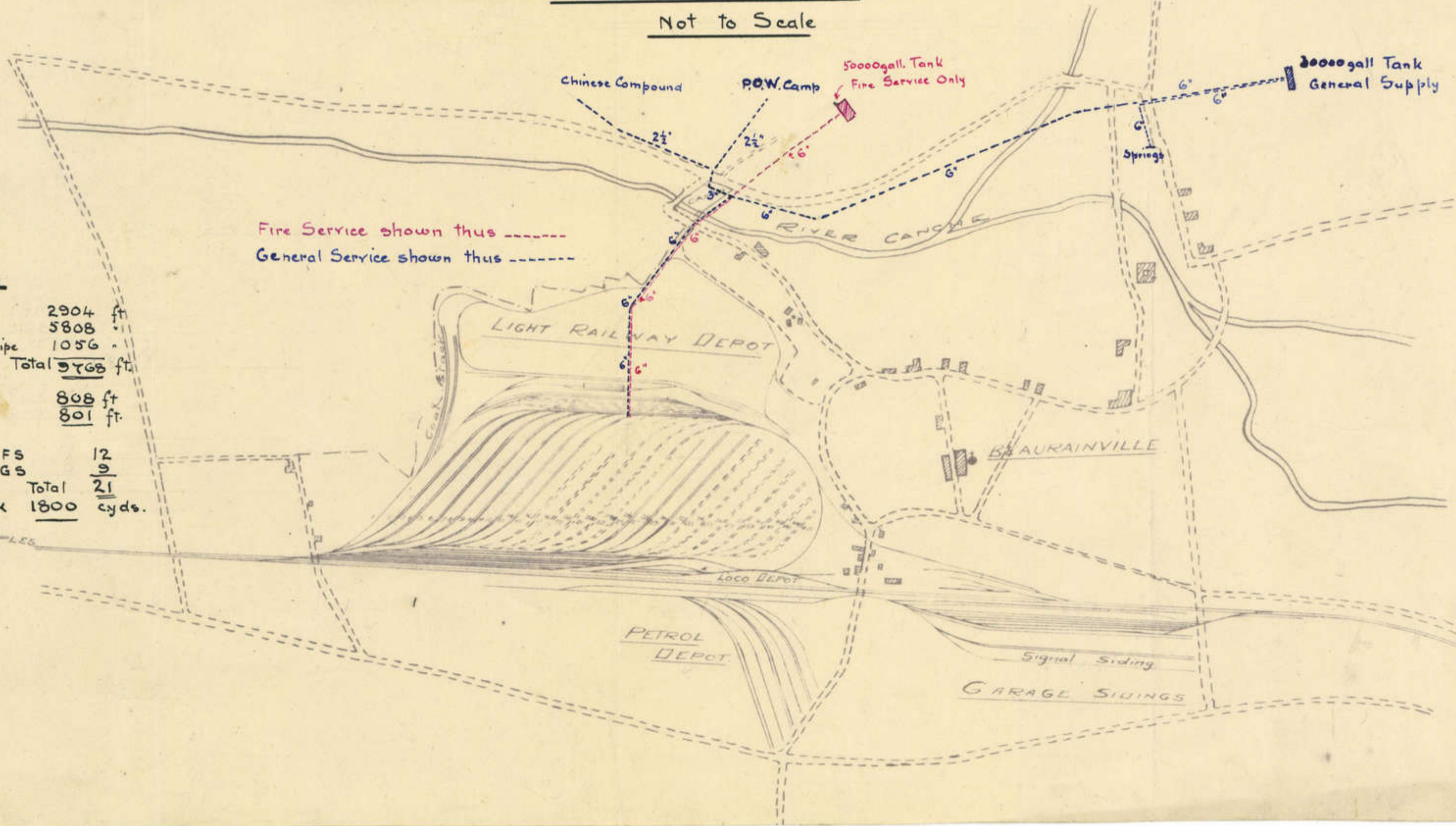
Not to Scale

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Fire Service shown thus - - - - -
General Service shown thus - - - - -

Summary

6" C.I. pipes laid	F.S.	2904	ft
	G.S.	5808	"
	Delivery pipe	1056	"
	Total	9768	ft.
3" W.I. pipes laid	G.S.	808	ft
2 1/2" "	G.S.	801	ft.
6" T pieces & valves fixed	FS	12	
	GS	9	
	Total	21	
Excavations in pipe track		1800	cyds.



APPENDIX 2
358

W.P. [unclear]
31.7.18

THE AUSTRALIAN
RAILWAY
OPERATING COMPANY
3
July 1918

APPENDIX 34

Beaurainville
Sections showing Depths of excavation
for Pipe Lines.

