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

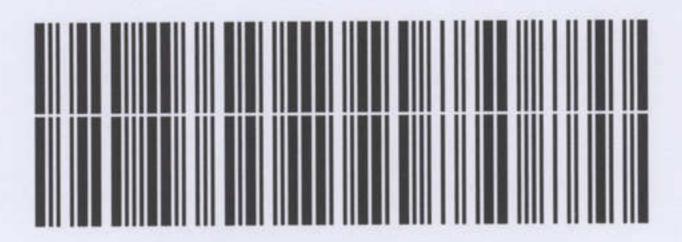
Railways

Item number: 15/3/1

Title: 2nd Australian Light Railway

Operating Company

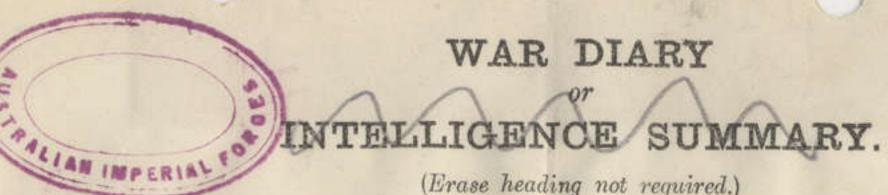
March - September 1917



AWM4-15/3/1

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



No. 16 (AUST.) LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COY.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. PACE.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	784	Summary of Events and Information Jornation of Company. This Company was formed in Australia as No. 5 Lection Railway Unil Affig. Thembers were concentrated in Royal Park Camp up till 23. 3. 1917 - on closing of Camp were transferred to Broadmeadows. Concentration from all states was Completed on 9-5-1917. and the Unit embarked from Part Melbourne per Am A. J. Ascanius on 1/5/1919. Nominal roll of Officers (3) and other ranks (266) who embained attached. Proceeded to England year Fremantle Mauritus Durban Capetown Sieva Jeone to Deverspart	Appendices
			Obrives. on 19/7/1917 after a vagage of Jodays. Disembarked on 20/9/19 and proceeded by spenae Franko Bordon Hants + quarteres in St Luna Barracks. (A8001) W. W. W. 2771/M. 2017 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms, C2118/14	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007379

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

No. 15 (AUST.)
LIGHT RAILWAY
OPERATING COY.

Army Form C. 2118.

No......

Date......

PAGE. TWO Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lucia Barrarks			for the most of the period under review. The company	
Boundard	1		toas isolates owing to Contageous diseases and Consider	
19.0	1917.		board bransport. Training cames out considered of has Smill Company & Abuskehry Drill. Instruction	
To	27		6 July Duly Noyal and neers queers	
	8		HAVAS on 28/1/917 The Company, along with others	
	1917.		11111, as he strown Maycety me	
			Ling + Queen the Royal Aighners Princes Mary	
Lucia BKs	28		The hame of me company amy Final mobil-	
ardon	197		- igation Hores issues and all of Company	
			What made a compact for the formation of	
			disembarkation leave English t Welsh leave well pm on 4/9/2 + Irush	
			Liel 1/2m 5/9/1917.	
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	Li.		Get Gatian	
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/14	

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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No. 16 (AUST.) LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COY.

Army Form C. 2118.

-	WILL DE	prepared	in manus	Cript. (Erase heading not required.) Date
	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information Remarks and references to Appendices
6	ordan	4	bam	Received instructions to prepare for embankation Appendices
100	ngland	9		to France. For Company andleave.
		5	Show	Left Bordon Camp & Francles by special to Southampton market to Le Harve. Nominal Rale attached > market
		77.	0	Embarkes proceeded to Le Harve. Nominal Roll attached XX
		6/9/	6am	armoet Le Harve. Disembanket and encampe 5
		Lo		at Not Camp Section B- Le Harne.
		11/9/17		Oblanning full mobilization Stores etc. Receive Torder
				Left gare Des Marchandise Harve at 3 pm on
				1.9.19 and after 20 hours sommey armed
				at Paperinghe Belgium on 12-9-17. Encamped.
			The second second second	at DOW Light Rly Depar Ellarsyde
				Company employed almost immediasely on
			07	light railways right into forward areas
				Jans of ammunition of
				D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 8ch. 52 Forms/C2118/14
W.	A State To			

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Rego Down

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Gelgum	20 1917	5am	Commencement of big offensive on three fromts. Juains employed bringing tooundes and tooundes husaners.	
	22 917	Epa .	It festie armined wish 36 numbercements for company from	
	23 1917		Offensive on yhres from Continued. Many of formand strains employed for running exa.	
	27		Offensive Continues. One or two slight Casualities were maken as Sper Graddock, badly skaken up	
			Elm mekennag Spr Craddack, badly skaken up Journer remained on duky dispite Cut forchead. Latter sent to Rest Camp. Vigorous shelling by Jamans perulted in many of lines being	
			blown who particularly at Bedfard Jainchon" on the 24 hunds a special letter of thanks was was seened by thanks was	
			hanks for the sexcellent acroangements of good took done which contribated to the unitary sold to the unitary senses the front for the front	Gallan

NO

9

April 1918.

2nd Australian Light Railway Operating Company.

VOORMEEZELE. 1st. Work in Depot very slack. General improvements and Gardening etc.

Officers employed as follows:-

Captain Gahan A.L.S. 2nd Army.

Lieut. Leslie, O.C. Vauxhall District.

Lieut. Anderson. O.C. Workshop, 2nd Army.

Lieut. Patterson D.L.S. Mirmeco District, 3rd

L.R.O.C.

Lieut. Beattie, District Controller Wauxhall District.

Other Ranks employed as under:-

Vauxhall District 187. With 33rd L.R.O.C., R.E. 5 (Loco) and 2 (I.C.E.) men. With 14 L.R.O.C., R.E.6. With C.R.T.5. With 12th L.R.O.C., R.E.1. Army Workshops 33. Rationed by 22nd Corps Troops. 61 other ranks attached from various Companies (R.E.South African & R.G.A., R.F.A. for duty).

3rd.Major HANCOX, C.O. Australian Railway Companies visited this Company and a conference was held regarding establishment etc.

4th. Information was supplied to C.O., Australian Railway Companies re Crewe Tractors (then follow particulars). Work generally very slack, more attention paid to camp details, gas inspections and Musketry instruction.

5th.6 Reinforcements arrived from Base.

6th.Big consignment of Y.M.C.A. gifts received from Australian Headquarters. Work very slack.

7th. Work very slack.

8th do do

9th. do do.

10th. Depot and Coal Dumps heavily shelled. Several Dugouts were pierced with shell fragments. Packed all spare kits and Q.M. Store material and returned same to Ellarsyde.

11th.Early commencement made to pack up all materials, stores etc, and load same for removal. Begun work of pulling down buildings etc. During this time close communication was kept with the forward batteries which were kept supplied with ammunition and new guns were run up and others removed as necessity arose.

Trial "stand to" at 2 p.m. Men were dispersed and carried on with dismantling of huts etc. In afternoon a party consisting of 1 officer, W.O. Q.M.S. and 5 other ranks conveyed a push truck of water and tea and all spare food together with 3,500 packets of cigarettes donated from Company to the troops (Seaforths) who were holding the line immediately in front of our position. About 7.p.m. orders came through from A.D.L.R. to evacuate leaving only control and running staff to carry on.

(contd).

2nd Australian Railway Operating Company. (contd)

VOORMEEZELE.	12th.	Most of the men retained to dismantle huts and salvage coal etc. Trains despatched with as much material as possible. Company details on one train ran back on to back area lines. All tractors engaged running up ammunition and withdrawing materials etc. Shifted Company H.Q's and details to HITCHEN D.D. line about one mile north of DICKEBUSH LAKE. Men camping in old ruins dugout among railway material etc. Locos being withdrawn for back area working leaving F.C.E. tractor to carry on.
HITCEN D.6.	13th.	Concentrating all spare men at Hitchen D.6. and making themselves secure from bombs etc in old dugouts. 4 engines, double creek transfered to back area, 4 kept for running trains to back area. Vauxhall reorganised as subcontrolled.
	14th.	4 tractors busy kept all supplies to forward area. Many men removing materials etc from Vauxhall Depot. Orders were received that 5th N.Z.L.R.O.C. were to take over the district and we were to leave the forward area and proceed to the vicinity of SWISS COTTAGE leaving behind at YALE all tractors and crews to work under the 5thN.Z.L.R.O.C. Unit left HITCHEN D.6. by three trains and proceeded to PRETORIA (Swiss Cottage) Camping in huts for Unit. W.O. DAVIS and 20 men detailed for demolition work at VAUXHALL.
PRETORIA.	15th.	Proceeded from PRETORIA to HEIDEBEECK, Map reference, Sheet 19 X28.B.8.8. camped in a paddock. Materials unloaded from trains and started camp. Supplying parties for Guards Controls and 2 or 3 running Crews also unloading sand, etc.
HEIDEBEECK.	16th.	About 160 men here. Half Company called out at 5-30 for unloading sand, remainder arranging camp.
"	17th.	Gangs detailed for guard maintenance and unloading etc, Few men erecting huts etc.
11	18th.	Detached men returning to Unit. Huts being erected as fast as labour will permit.
"	19th.	Gangs employed as maintenance and unloading parties.
"	20th.	Control Staff relieved by 29th L.R.O.C., R.E.
"	21st.	Men working extra long hours unloading Railway materials.
11	24th.	Much sickness in camp, mainly influenza.
"	25th.	Most of huts erected and men moved in from tents.
***	26th.	Men employed as usual and are maintaining line between HEIDEBECKE and SWISS COTTAGE.
"	29th.	Major HANCOX visited the unit. Most of rolling stock concentrated here. Difficulty in net obtaining water. (contd)

Transferred

HEIDEBEECKE. 30th. A serious accident at CROMBEKE A.R.P. one mile from camp caused by one truck loaded with ammunition catching alight. Ammunition exploded, blowing up the other truck and hurling the engine 150 yards also destroyed 200 yards of track. Company turned out and ran a deviation around the work. Reinforcements taken on strength during the month 25 Rejoined unit ex hospital 15 Sick to hospital(including gas and accidents) 37 6311. Acc1dents Gassed. Wounded (remaining on duty)

May ## 1917.

359

Reveille 4.30 am Breakfast 5.30 am Fallin 6.30 am Dress marching order .Marched out 7 am .Entrained Broadmeadows Station 7.45 am A delay at Flinders Station for 10 minutes Here the men had an opportunity of saying farewell to relatives and friends, thence Port Melbourne arriving 10 am. The whole of the troops for the transport were marshalled on the pier, in companys or Units as the case may be pending the Embarkation Officer alloting troop decks During this period rolls were called and embarkation, issued, Each unit or reinforce ment was then marched to thier respective decks, and when all were aboardthe men were permitted on deckgor a final farewell. The pier was packed, and when streamers passed between the pier and steamers the sight was a never-to-be-forgotten one. At noon the transport let go her lines and moved out to start her long journey with 49 Dfficers and 1619other ranks plus her crew. An anchorage was made off Sorento at 5 30 pm. for the congregation of the convoy.

The day was spent in alloting troops lifeboats; issue and insinspection of lifebelts. At seven lifted anchor and proceeded to sea. A rough sea was running outside and sea sick soon prevelant. All lights had to be shaded. After tea hammocks were issued and much discussion took place as to the correct method of swinging them, and as to whether it was more comfortable to sleep with the head pointing aft or Vice versa.

13th The sea very rough . Church and all parades cancelled .

14th 11 ships in convoy with H.M.A.S. Encounter in charge.

Slight improvement in weather Strong head wind blowing
All parades cancelled on account of sea sickness and weather.

Quite a number of men feeling a bit brighter

Sea rough. Long heavy swell Parades Cancelled.

Reallotment of boat stations to position s adjacent to troopdecks, and occupied by the particular Unit Previous to this
troops were alloted boat stations in some cases at the opposite
end or side of shipto thier troops decks. It was also noticable
troops were often congregated for parades, lectures etc, on
some position on the ship quite distant from theirboat station
and in the event of analarm being blown much conjection took
place in alley ways in the men getting to their stations.

Rough weather, long heavy swell. Route march round ship.

Owing to rough weather strict discipline not in force,

All hands looking to a change in the weather.

19 th Sea improving .

20th. Mailheleamedoatd Volantry church parade at 10 am. Outward mail cleared at 10 am. Speed reduced, arranging to make Fremantle. by dawn on the morrow.

7 am just outside Fremantle Dull with light rain Anchored in Fremantle Harbour at 10 am £43 worth of telegrams sent off by Y.M.C.A. representative Mals taken ashore Numerous launches round theship with relatives of the W.A.men Many applications by W.A.men for leave, but not granted. A number ofvessels of the convoy went upto the wharves

Still at anchor in Fremantle L/Cpl Coleman of this Unit granted leave to go ashore to see his sick child, Kit inspection very few shortages Lifted anchor at 4 pm Anchored off Rotnest Island till llpm then with 9 other vessels weighed anchor and made a North west course:

Sea calm Convoy 9 vessels H.M.S. Doris in charge First concert held at 2 pm on forward well deck Plenty of good talent. Counterted by Lieut AFita of the Imperial Army.

21st.

Sea very calm. Making fair pace. The day spent in general parades such as physicial drill, railway lectures and boat drill.

At midday the convoy stopped, The S.S. Marathon went about, and steamed back and lowered a couple of boats. This Manoeuvre

took up about an hour .Much discusion among the men as to the cause, in fact itwas the first unusual occurrence and was app

- -reciated after the monotonous stormy trip across the Great "AUSSIE"Bight. Orders were issured early in the evening for all lights out and smoking not permitted on deck after dark.
- 25th Weather good .Company washing day ,Forward and after well decks alloted for the purpose .Lights out at 7 pm.

 26th. The day was occupied in various parades .
- 27th Church parade .Churck of England on Forward well deck .

 R.Cs. on "E"deck . Concert at 2 pm . Forward .Plenty of good talent and greatly appreciated .
- 28th Weather a bit unsetteled Arangements being made for Company sports.Drew £129 for pay, each man being allowed 10/4
- 29th Company bathing parade in afternoon .Company detailed for Ga-Guard duties .
- 30th. The first alarm of the trip today All hands on boat stations in good time.
- Weather good Long heavy roll Boat deck alloted for Company sports. The sports consisted of "Tug-of-war, boxing, scratch pulling, skipping carried out all day Some very good contests took place Good feeling piece kankxplassex prevailed through out. The programme to be continued on Saturday 2-6-17.

 The days sport was thoroughlt enjoyed by all hands.

JUNE

- Heavy sea running Parade on after and forward well decks.

 We borrowed some rifles from the Infantry and did a little rifle exercises
- 2nd. Sports resumed on boat deck .Some very exciting cock fighting took place .Blind boxing caused a good deal of fun and none of the comtestants suffered injury; although blind folded their sense of touch increased .
- General church parade at 9 30 am. At 2 30 pm, the 3rd concert took place. These concerts were greatly appreciated and much looked for by the men. Good weather light sea running Steering W.N.W.
- when retire sounds
 Land sighted off starboard bow this morning Steaming down the coast of MAURITIUS llam reached N.W. point of the island at 1 30 am. H.M.S. DORIS drew off and two JAPANESE cruisers took over the convoy. As one of the sapanese cruisers passed to take up her position at the head of the line all hands stood to a attention and the buglers sounded the salute.

 Lights out through the ship at 6 pm and no lightsor smoking allowed after that hour Clear moonlight night. Lieut Afrata of the Imperial Army gave a lecture on his experiences at the War to the Sergeants in their M ess Captain Gaman presided.
- 6th. Passed Reunion Island on Starboard bow at 7 am. Weahter very.
 hot Heavy ground swell Full marching order parade at 2pm.
 - 7th Fairly rough Usual parades .
 - Company washing dayy Head wind and heavy sea running Fire alam blew inxthemaxx the middle of tea hour All hands to stations in good time.

3

Sea fairly rough Light showers Outward mail closed at 6 pm.

Paybooks and acquittabce rolls prepared to pay on Monday.

In the After noon a concert was held on the forward deck.

The Whole of the programme provided by members of this Unit.

10th Sea rough . Showery . Church parade at 9 30am .

11th. Expect to make Durban axx tomorrow Pay day .Each man paid 10/Boxing competitions continued .J.Gorman of this Unit wins in
his division

Land sighted at day break Arrived off Durban 9 am, Steamed 12th into harbour and made fast at coaling station on the Bluff side The remainder of the convoy made fast at the town wharves and at anchorages in the harbour The harbour is full of shippig mostly transports Some are from and going to India and Darealaam Proceed to take coal Company fell in on wharf for a route march Marched up the "BLUFF", down the other side had a look at the whating station and back round the lighthouse. Got aboard at 5 pm. Most other Units on board slipped off on leave Only 4 Offi cers remained on board .Our chaps made the best of bad luck by creating scrambles for food, coins etc. among the natives. Great fun was obtained by heating the coins, for immediately the coon was picked up it had to be dropped, the result, another scramble . Much enjoyment was derived by throwing over scraps of food and when the crowd of old and ye. young fought the food a bucket of water thrown over them caused great howling. These niggers greatly object to water .We gained the opinion that they never used water for washing purposes.

13th Route march again this morning over the sand hills During lunch we were imformed we were to be granted leave in the after noon . Fellin after lunch, but had a long wait to take us across the harbour .We marched to the Town Hall and were dissmised till 9 pm. The Rickshaws were soon very busy but the crowds of troops made things a bit uncomfortable for the runners and in consequence collisions were the order of the day .There were about 7000 troops Camped in Dirban added to them are 10 Australian transports with all hands ashore . & you can imagine the appearance of the street . The prices of commodities soon rose in cafes postcard shops etc. The "Hut" was exceptionally busy and well patronised. The weather is quite warm and many felt the effects of the march to the Town Hall Trains were packed and were free except between the hours of 8 and 9 am and 4 and 6 pm. All hotels were closed and consequently only one arrived on board with a com; laint many wished to share . All hands were aboadr again by 12 pm. Only small ferry boats were available to bring the mon aboard again Roll call was . impossible .

Moved out from coal wharf and anchored in the stream oppisite the town wharves. Usual parades in the morning Physical and lectures Orders were issured that 50% of the ships compliment would be allowed shore and the remainder to go ashore for a route march. The different parties to be decided by ballet. Every one was ready at 1 15 pm. The ferry fares were collected and all arrangements made. After standing to until 4 pm. they were dismissed owing to no arrangements being made for ferries. Much dissatisfaction among the men over the bad

Usual parades. Fine day. Weighed anchor at noon and with one Jap anese cruiser and the S.S. Marathon we made outto sea and headed for Cape Town. All port holes to be kept closed day and night. Passed several light houses during the night.

Sea calm With a ground swell Usual parades Concert at 2 pm.

Fire alarm at 4 pm, Ship beginning to get a little cleaner after

coaling Very heavy sea running Too dark for early morning

parades too rough for church parade Mail closed at noon.

Standing well out to sea

18th Sea very rough all hight and day and no parades in consequence

management .

Land in sight at 7 am this morning .We formed single line and entered Table Bay at 9 30 am .Fell in at 2 pm on wharf and marched to Town Hall and dismissed till 9 30 pm .Motor Cars Cas and trains were soon at a premium . The most popular trip was to Camps Bay a run of 1½ miles and at one point of the prip800 feet above sea level Camp s Bay is a very pretty and an additt ional attraction is a hot sea water bathing pool which is free to soldiers. The public buildings and parks were well patronised also the very fine pier and promenate. Picquets were posted to prevent men from visiting the native quarter .All hotels were closed .but one or two managed topreturn under the

influence.

Dinner at 11 30 am Parade on the pier at 1 pm for march to the town Dissmised at the Town Hall Cafes conveyances theatres of All discriptions in great demand . One of the finest trips is to Houts Bay and back through the mountains to Groote Schar (the late Celil Rhodes home) thence Cape Town From Groore Schar A fine view obtained . The mountains all studded with Pines in the background and the Bay and town in front . The run is about 40 miles and a motor car costs £2-10-0 for 5 persons.

There are one or two nice Silver tree forests en route , but they gree guarded now which makes it hard to obtain a few . From one point of the trip a fine view obtained of Muizenberg . There are some fine residences and a magnificient near Woodlands. A camp of Englisg troops is situated there .

Orders were issued for dinner to be carried for a route march along the coast .Fall in on pier at 9 am .Route march from pier to sea point and into Cape Town Dismissed at 1 pm in town . The Engine although out of bounds were visited by a number of our men and much interest was taken in a large 148 ton engine on the 3/feet 6 inch guage ,4 wheels coupled driving wheels 4ft 6ins .Imformed of the intended departure at 6 am on being dismissed Our ship was fitted with a 4point 7 gun here .during our stay we were laying alongside the S.S.Pyndareus which was mined near Cape Town and was towed in ,in a sinking condition . She had been repaired and loaded and is ready to put to sea a again?

One by one the various transports pullout and form up in the bay preparitiry to moving out to sea .H.M.S.auxillary cruiser Orama in charge .Towards evening we stood out to sea .We have 5 Imperial Officers being invalided home and a naval Lieut., and guns crew.

23rd. Sea very rough; Not much sleep although every one is tired out after Cape Town. Announced at 5 pm, that a case of Meningitis had broken out on board. All hands subject to nasal douche as a precautionary measure. The patient has been isolated aft.

24th Sea still rough .heavy swell running.

25th Orders issured for nasal douche daily .Third pay authorised . applied for £151 .Sea Calm.

26th Sea calm Making 300 miles per day The magazine "Ascanius Issued today Recieved with various remarks.

Pay day . Smoke seen on horizin at 6 am, .The Orama set off in pursuit, but we cannot get any particulars .The Oram a took up her position again about noon .Very Hot.

Moustache empet

28th. Washing parade Markaraha growing competition closed at 12.45

pm today. It caused a great deal of amusement on the troop

deck .C.S.M.Pike won. Medical inspection on troop deck at 2.30

pm. All hands 0 K.Sea calm. Hot day 4 shots fired by submarine.

gun.

29th. Very hot Sea calm Company detailed for ships guard tonight Fair number of Influenza and mumps cases reported.

Very hot .Concert at 3 30 pm ,Alarm sounded during concert .

Although hands were congrated on the forward well deck ,they got to their hoat stations in satisfactory time .Light rain during the evening .

JULY.

- Very hot day. Church parade Private Sharp of the 19th reinforcements 22nd Battalion died from injuries recieved at Cape
 Town Light rain during the afternoon Crossed the Ecquator
 10 10 am.
- 2nd. Very hot The whole ships compliment fellincfacing aft preparatory to Pte. Sharps burial Pte Sharps body passed over board at 9 am. Copl Tingay of the same company was charged with causing his death, he also charged with using threatening language to another soldoier Was reduced to the ranks and 2 days detention There are about 100 sick in hospital from heat and influenza Heavy rain during the night.
 - 3rd. Hot and sultry this morning Heavy rain set in thismorning Increase in influenza and mumps ., Also cases of heat prostration on board .
- At 7 am this morning we formed single line and with the Orama
 we steamed into the entrance of Freetown harbour (Serria Leone)
 and dropped anchor at 10 am. Light rain falling The decks are
 being holystoned Water and coal barges came along side we
 took coal inside bunkers loaded by niggers to the accompanment
 of the trusual weird tunes No one allowed ashore Lights out extended to 10 pm while in port
- At anchor An auxillary cruiser arrived today The Orama passed out to sea at 5 pm .All hands called tom atation as she steamed past. Natives alongside all day trading in tropical fruits.
- At anchor, Heavy rain falling All parades cancelled Miningitia case put ashore Few Officers allowed ashore in the afternoon Every one anxious for leave The small town is situated on the beach of the harbour Averyshith Exchange XXXX A very high hill rises up immediately behind Plenty of foliage decks the hillside A large wireless station is situated here. A steamer wrecked 3 years ago at the entrence still remains high and dry.
- Pulled out to sea again at 8 am All bugle calls to be discontinued and whistles substituted Bugle and Ships stren to be used in case of actual alarm only Company washing day. Company warned for ships guard tonight During the afternoon a tramp was sighted on our starboard bow At 6 pm she altered her course bearing straight down on us , the cruiser immediately increased to full speed and very quickly put 3 shots across her bows. The cruiser came up along side her and shortly after the tramp steamed away. It caused great excitement among the boys.
- 9th. Preparing disembarkation records Weather much cooler and calmer Boats lowered to level of promenade decks .
- 10th. Very strict attention being paid to wearing life belts .

 Boat station parade.
- 11th. Sea calm. Weather milder.
- 12th. Sea calm .Weather O.K. Making a zig zag course.
- Washing parade Nothing much to report Mock election on troop deck Bill Fraser elected as member for "Ascanius" J.J. Smith Won the competition for number of peas in bottle.

- Sea calm Very pleasant afternoon spent on our troop deck
 Lieut Afriat presided Corporal Susans won the competition for
 the biggest liar. Corpl Boswell won the contestfor the funny story.
- 15th. Church parade cancelled to prevent men congregating in large bodies.
- 16th. Nothing much doing .Sea calm.
- 17th. Kits taken up from hold at 2 pm £159 paid to men Stoppage of 4 pence per man to cover ships deficiencies Greatly resented by the men , as nothing definite can be shown them of any kind. Seven destroyers picked us up about 3 pm and took up positions round the convoy There arrival caused much excitement about every one was pleased to see a bit of the great British Navy. The Auxiallry cruiser left us and appeared to proceed ahead. We passed a lot of wreckage to day.
- Right hand line of ships pulled ahead at noon today Bathing parade in the morning Packing up in the after noon Abut 3 pm one of the destroyers fired & shots In the evening we were imformed by a ships officer that she sank a submarine Alllights extinguished and destroyers dashing to and fro and around about the convoy The handling of them is admired by everyone.
- Lights of Devonport visible in early morning Passed Eddy Stone lighthouse, and at 6 30 am all ships in Devonport harbour. Disembarkation commenced on sacc some of the otherships At 12 30 pm we steamed up the harbour to wharves ., passing some of the early ships of the British Navy, now being used as training ships. The harbour was full of shipping of all nationalities. Acquittance rolls for 9 pence aheadprepared for shortage of Government stores, and disembarkation orders cancelled as we are not to embark until tomorrow.
- 20th. Reveille at 4 30 am . First train load at 8 am next 9 am . We were timed to go at 9 am but did not get away until 1 pm Delay unknown Ten men alloted to a compartment with full kit Passe3d through Plymouth thence Exeter , Sailsbury Mandover Lunction Aldershot to Bordon arriving at 10 30 pm Loaded baggage waggons and headed by R.E. Band marched about one and a half miles to St Lucia Barracks Issued with a rough meal and got atxanexam to bed at 1 am We had iron rations on the train We recieved the usual cup of tea at Exater The train journery through the country was magnificient and appealed to all new arrivals while the sight of many old familiar places was equally pleasing to old hands. The people all the way gave us agreat reception . We passed the 'Asturias on the way up from the pier she had part of her stern blown away . Revielle at 7 am tomorrow Strength onarrival at Bordon 3 Officers and 260 other ranks The deficiencies were left in hospital at Devenport.
- Every one up early and looking round . Rough breakfast, verylitle 21st. in the way of definite instructions . No barrack standing orders and everything generally mismanaged . This depot is known as the Australian Railway Operating Depot St Lucia Barracks Bordon. Lieut Plane A.I.F.is in charge of the depotand we are under the Aldershot R.E. branch. Kits issued after breakfast . In the afternoon the Unit was inspected by the Colonel in charge of the R.E. depot followed by a rpute march The Canteen , a new feature after 10 weeks at sea was well patronised and a few of the lads got merry . Have 7 huts for accomadation of the Compy. Each hut holds 40 men .Two C.S.M. sleep in cubicle at end of each hut . Sergeants sleep and mess in one hut . Daily routine :) Reveille 5 30 am Parade 6 30 am Breakfast 8 15 Sick Parade 8 30 am Fall in 8 45 am Retire 12 30 pm. Dinner 12 45 pm Fall min2 pm Dismiss 4 30 pm Tea 4 45 pm Lights out 10 15 pm All men in isolation Picquet provided by company Paybooks collected for transmissionty London

Elxsixixixx 21 st July.

as new paybooks are to be issudd

- 22nd. Were to have been inspected by General Manse but parade cancelled.
- Callected all Australian money as it is not negotiable in this district Capt Gahan took same and paybooks to Londonn.

 Kit inspection and route march in the afternoon.
 - Men fairly settled Food rather short All malaria to report daily Captain Gahan returns with money Unit inspected by A.D.M.S.
- Captain Gahan with 10 men went to Aldershot to attend investure by the King (1 V.C. 1 royal red cross beside of other decorations. Unit taken over by Lieut Roland and Imperial Sergeants for training. Unit very tired after day on barrack square. Heavy rain during the night. Rations satisfactory now both in quantity and quality
 - 26th. Paybooks returned from London . Few odd letters arrive from Australia .
 - 27th. Distributed new paybooks in lieu of early morning parade.

 Dental parade afterbreakfast Australian mail arrived today
- 28th. 4th and 5th Railway Units inspected by the His Majesty ter King The Queen also Princess Mary were present No parade in the afternoon.
 - 29th. Church parade. Innoculation of half the company in the after noon.
 - 30th. Medical inspection and examination .Gas drill and demonstration.
 - 31st Rain all day Party went through gas chamber.

AUGUST .

- 1st. Raining all day .Gas lectures in huts .
- 2nd. Still raining Gas instructuon and lectures.
- Numerous applications for leave Cannot be granted owing to isolation embargo Company doing squad drill 3rd Anniversary of War .Very wet and cold .Half day parade .Sapper F.Smiyh transfered for return to Australia .
- 5th. Church parade .Most of Company managed to evade the picquet and make themselves acquainted with the villagers about here.
- 6th. Half day off "August Bank Holiday" Some of the American Railway troops camped near by left for France.
- 7th. Weather finer Remainder of the company went through the gas chamber Majority of the company innoculated Much discontent, no leave and no money.
- 8th. Destination on leave supplied Route march in the morning Company drill in the afternoon Finish of innoculation.
 - 9th. Weather wet Fined up during the day Kits checked Completed acquittance rolls for shortages Corpl Boswell McLaren and Perrau transfered to Weymouth for return to Australia.
- 10th. Weather finer Route March in the mor ning and company drill in the afternoon

August.

10th Weaker finer Route march in the moning and company drill in the afternoon.

Inspection of huts by the C.O. R.E depot Our Company played a cricket match against the A.S.C. We won by 1 wicket and 10 runs

12th. Weather fner Air raid on England .

13th. Weather fine. Prepared acquittance olls £1, per man .

14th. Company drill .A sq uad picked out for musketry instructuon.

Pay to troops .Issue of web equipment to rifle squadalso axes shovels bill hooks tomahawks tin trunks and iron ration bags.

Large number of American troops arrive and are camped near by.

16th. Showery Many applications for leave Pay to the troops.

17th. Showery. General tightening up in regards to discipline. Sapper Ryan and Corpl., Cook granted 7 days disembarkation leave.

18th Fine day. Half day parade .One hut put on pack drill for untideness.Our company played against A.S.C. (cricket)

We won by 16 runs.

Fine and rather warm Church parade .Each denomination on seperate parades .Isolation lifted and all hands enjoying the beautiful surroundings to the fullest .Training during theweek has been mostly company drill , also the musketry squad doing well

20th.

W.O. Patterson and 30 other ranks detached to Internal Conbustion Engine School, Longmoor for instruction.

21st. Prepared acquittance rolls up to Thursday night Men on less than 1/6 per day advanced to £3 overdrawn .Commenced paying after tea £1000 and squared up at 10 pm.

22nd. Commenced to collect payment for railway fares Nothing definite about leave Weather very changeable.

23rd. Returned acquittance rolls No definite date about leave.

24th. Usual parades Company has been devided, The old men drill apart from the youngsters. Some of the old chaps pretend they are young again.

25th. Leave passes made out as follows England and Wales 6 days Scotland 7 days, Ireland '8 days £90 paid into railway fares Half day parade. Large number of Americans arrive during the night.

26th. Church parade. Afternoon free to troops Showery.

27th. Leave passescomplete, and tickets for every man dentally fit to go on leave tomorrow.

Reveille 3 30 am EEarly breakfast for men going xixhdaxx on leave, and under Lieut Leslie proceed to railway Left Bordon on special, 6 am arrive Waterloo 7 40 am , and marched to Horseferry Road A.L.F. Headquarters.

29th to Company on leave with the exception of those dentally unfit and under treatment.

2nd Sept.

SEPTEMBER.

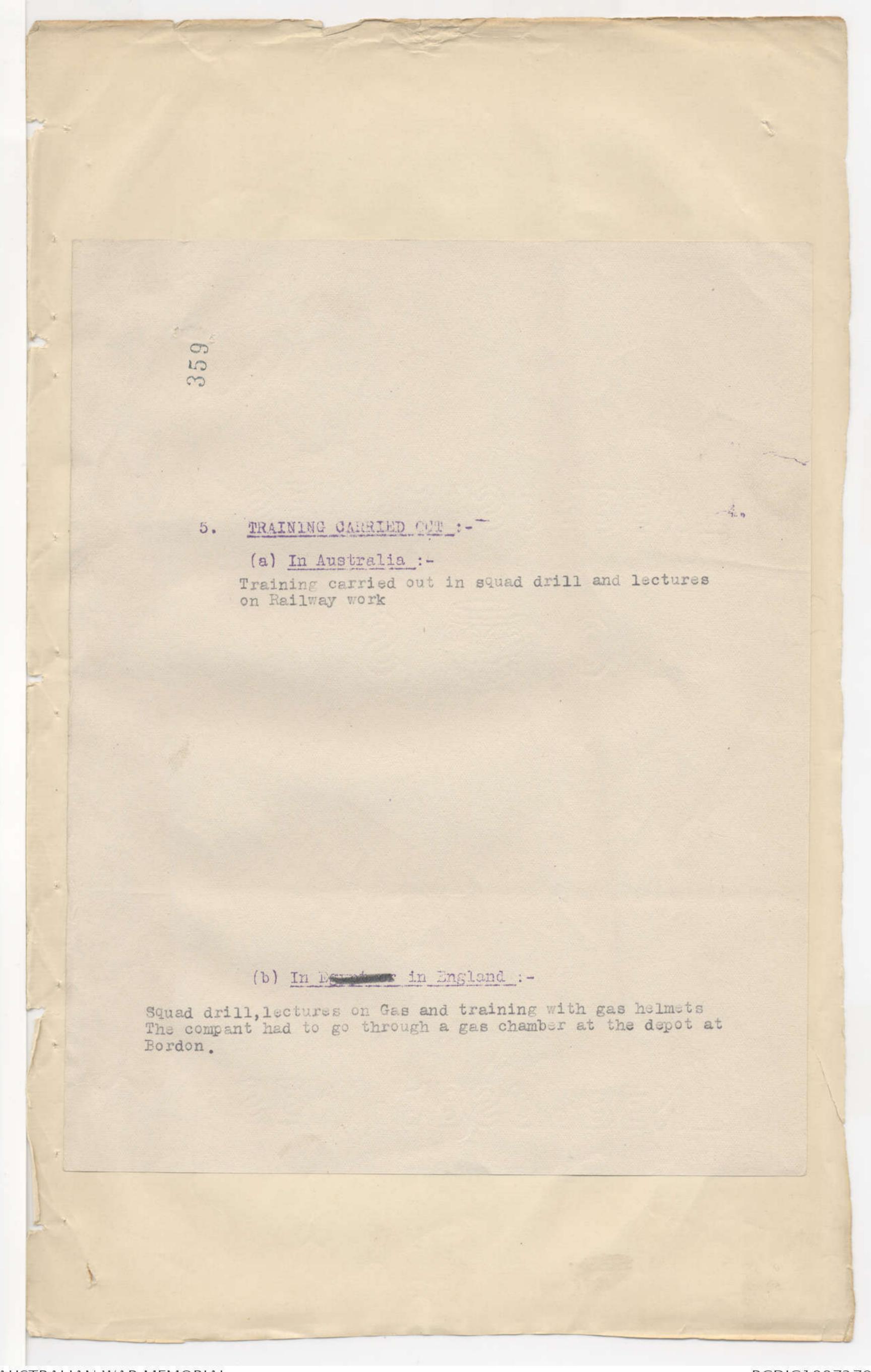
3rd. 10 All men granted leave returned at 11 30pm tonght
th
Orders recieved to embark for France at 8 am on the 5 inst.

As those men who were dentally unfit on the 27th of Augustwere granted leave as they becomefit they were not in camp when sailing orders were recieved and the shortage of clothing also some men still being dentally unft it was hard work to get things in order for 8 am on the 5th Work was carried on right throught the night and at 8 am on the 5th 168 men were ready for embarkation. W.O.Patterson and party were left at Longmoor, and all others at Bordon under Lieut Leslie.

Embarked at Southampton at about 4 pm .We had a long trip across the Channel.

Arrived off Le Havre, after waiting outside for a few hours we passed into the docks and commenced to disembark at 3 pm.

The company marched wirh full packs from the wharves up a very long steep hill to No 1 rest camp section "B" Sanvic.



35.9

3.

to a late

4. ARMS, EQUIPMENT, COLOURS, &c.

(a) Details of accommodation, rationing, arming, and

gquipping in Australia:
The Unit was Campach at Emple Park 3 makes in tents

the Memainder of the limin at Broadmendows in Huto, he

equipment was thrunked survice (ho arms) the sycken of

losining equipment traterning was in every way similar

to all other transhes of the survice

(b) Alterations in clothing, arms, accountrements, badgos,
colours, or horse furniture, with date and authority
for same:

No alteration in Clothing, He full sets of Lafanty arms ?

Accountrements were usual on arrival lipland.

(Livio) for anti avicant, the Colour were ted square with purple
framond with brass humical in Contac(2)

(c) Had the unit any colours? If so, on what authority?

Were they made or presented, and on what date?

Where are they deposited? (A short narrative of their history is required):-

no apro

(d) Had the unit a band? Particulars :-

ho

we commendation of spices made by hallennine Commonweeten Krilways no me were known on the Commonwenth Company, all ufficies were achieked Jum CR. isect Manderson Truit) tobe Came from the Tiet Rays) hun have selected from sel states to fitis, me were 6 weeks in bamb he fore embarkeding training & beclures in dy work. PARTICULARS OF ANY CONNECTION WITH AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT OR CITIZEN FORCE UNITS. The Unit was queli actuale from son whing

359

2. ANY UNUSUAL MEANS BY SHICH UNIT WAS RECRUITED OR ORGANISED.

The Unit was formed up in Melbourne Recommendations of Offocers were made by the Chief Mechanical Engineer Commonwealth Railways , as we were to be known as a Commonwealth Unit. All Officers were selected from the Commonwealth Railways except Lieut Anderson who came from the Victorian Railways. The men were selected from the different States of Australia and Fiji We were 6 weeks in camp in Royal Park and Broadmeadows before embarkation, the time being spent in camp in military training and lectures on Railway work.

3. PARTICULARS OF ANY CONNECTION WITH AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT OR CITIZEN FORCE UNITS.

The Unit was quite seperate from the Australian Permanent or Citizen Forces.

10

Lieut LESLIE L C. Lieut ANDERSON J S.

W, O. Patterson J.R.

W.O. BEATTLE J.C.

Personnel of the Unit is as follows:-3 Officers 2 W.Os.254 other ranks.

2ND (AUST.)

LIGHT RAILWAY

OPERATING COMPANY.

Capt GAHAN G .A .Officer Commandingex District Mecanical Engineer

Commonwealth Railways.

ex Chief Draughtsman Com'wealth Rlys ex Loco Foreman Victorian Railways

ex Chief Clerk TransportationDept

Commonwealth Railways.

ex Loco Inspector Commonwealth Rlys

For original Establishment see attached copy.

Unit enlisted as under :-New south Wales 103. Victoria 48. West Aust., 43. Queensland 22. Tasmania 15. South Aust., 38.

Ages as under 😂 🕶 21 21 to 25 51 25 to 40 143 40 &over 56

Single & widows without Children Married or widowers with children Married or "without children	2	126 135 5
Religon:- Protestants Roman Catholics	3	217 49
Birth Places:- In Australia Other parts of Empire Elsewhere	3	197

359

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67

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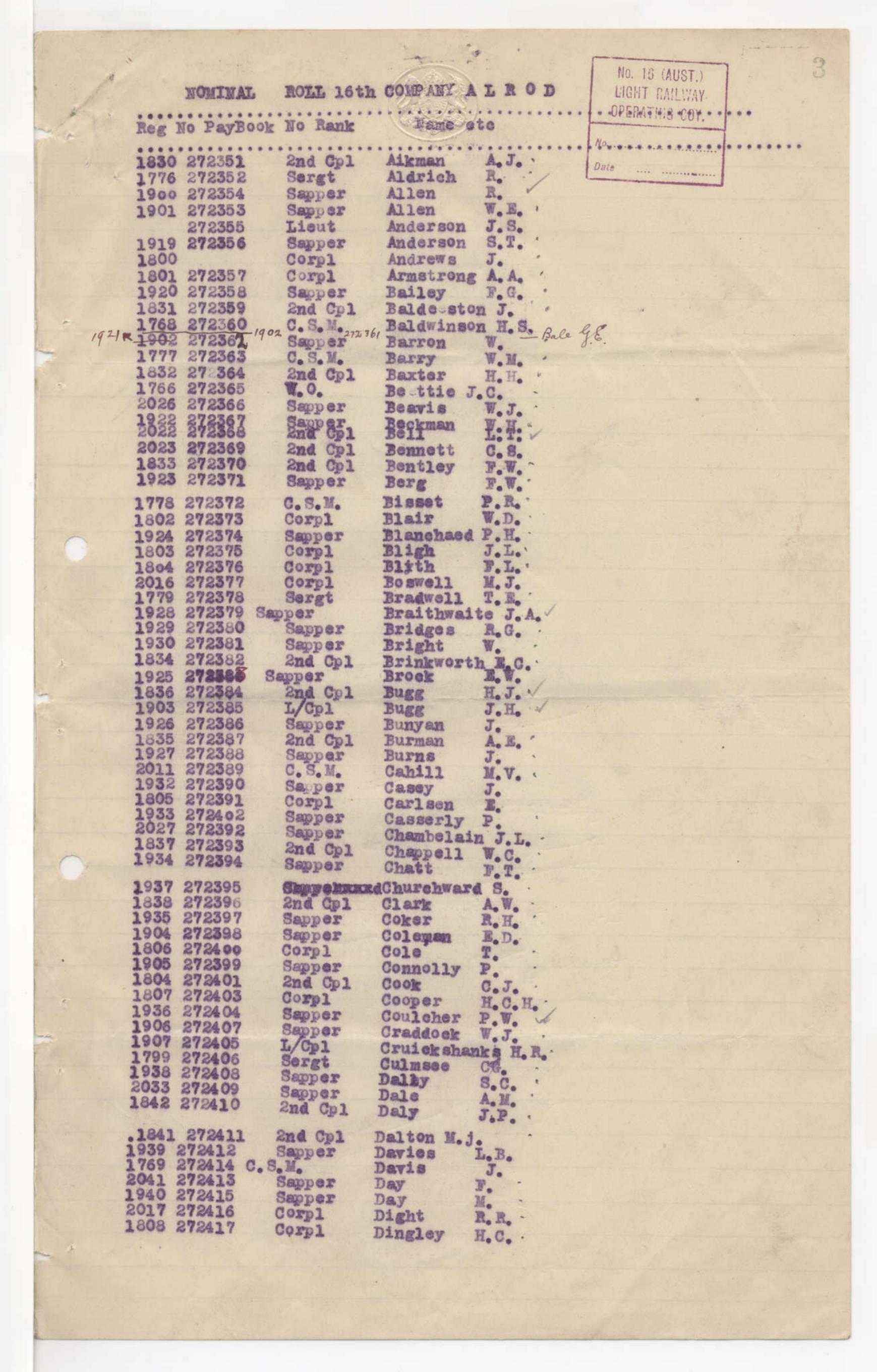
Other parts of Empire

Elsewhere

Single & widows without Children 126 Married or widowers with children 135 Married or " without children , 5 Religon:-Protestants 3 217 Roman Catholics 49 Birth Places:-In Australia 3 197

	Captain	Lieut.	W.O.	C.S.M.	Sergents.	Corporals	2/Corporals	L/Corporals.	8/-perday.	Sappers	Tot Al. Officers Other Parks	Australia)
OFFICERS	1	32									3	
Controllers			2								2	
Station Masters.				12.	4.						16.	
Drivers					20	36	30				92	
THEMEN							357			55	92	
Hers.							1	2	5		8	
" Westinghouse Brake.							1	2	5		8	
" TUBE							1	1	5		7	
Placksmiths " Strikers							/	2	5		8	
										8	8.	
Hers Assistants										8	8	
" W. HB.										7	7	
GEARTHRISERS & WAShersout.										5	5	
VerKs							1	1		5	7	
Ime Keeper ??										1	,	
Total	1	32	2.	18	24.	36	72	8	20	20	3 269.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007379



No. 16 (AUST.) Nominal Roll 16th Coy A.L.R. O.D. (contd) LIGHT BALLWAY OPERATING GOY. 1941 272418 S. G. Dinsdale Sapper J.T.E. 1943 272419 Sapper Donald 1843 272420 Doran L.G. 2nd Cpl 1848 272421 CQMS J.S. Duke 1809 272422 Corpl Duncan A 2024 272423 2nd Cpl Dutton E. A. 2028 272424 Sapper Edwards H.V. 1810 272425 Corpl Elliot E. H. 2038 272426 Sapper Emslie E.J. 1945 272427 Sapper Errington C. N. 1946 272428 2nd Corpl Fleming R.W. 1947 272429 2nd Corpl Forbes E.W. 1946 272430 Sapper Ford 1781 272531 Sergt Foster J.C. 1908 272432 Sapper Fraser 1782 272433 Sergt Fullarton 272434 Captain Gahan G. A. 2037 272436 Sapper Ganderton J. B. 1909 272435 Garbett Sapper E. C. 1950 272437 W.L. Giddings Sapper 1848 272438 2nd Cpl Gilbert R. E. 1783 272440 Sergt Grace 1850 272439 2nd Cpl Gr ay H.K. 1784 272441 Sergt Green J.G. 1948 Grosser Sapper S. C. D. 1849 272443 2nd Cpl Goodwin 272442 1949 Gorman Sapper J. J. 1770 272444 C.S.M. Guthrie 1947 272445 P.J. Sapper Guy 1951 272446 Sapper Hagan 1952 272447 Sapper Hall S. 0. 1953 272448 Sapper Hammond W.H. 1851 272449 2nd Corpl Hannam H. G. + 1954 272450 Sapper Hannon 1852 272451 2nd Carpl Harding J. E. W. 1771 272452 C.S.M. Harfield L.H. .1910 272453 Harrigan H. T. Sapper 1955 272454 C.R. Harvey Sapper 1956 272455 Sapper Heath E. E. 1957 272456 Hefferman F. Sapper 1960272457 Hemingway G. Sapper 1958 272458 Sapper Hemphill J. 1811 278459 Corpl Hensbergh G. A. 1959 272460 Sapper Hiatt W. A. J. 1961 272461 Hill Sapper A. A. 1962 Sapper Hitchens 1785 272462 Sergt Hoban 1963 272463 Sapper Holt 1964 272464 Sapper E. H. Home s 1965 272465 Sapper Heneyman 1911 272466 Sapper Horton A. J. 1853 272467 2nd Cpl Houghton 1786 272468 Sergt H. O. Hoy 272469 1854 2nd Cp1 Hudson W.T. 1855 272476 2nd Corpl Hunter 1966 272479 Sapper Igo 1856 272478 2nd Corpl Iresen E. 1912 272477 Sapper Irving 1967 272476 Sapper Ivett F.C. 1813 272475 Corpl James 1857 272473 2nd Cpl Jeffers J.C. V 1858 272474 2nd Cpl Jefferay J.C. 1968 272472 Sapper Jenetzky 0. M. 1969 272471 Sapper Johannesen H. C. 2013 272480 Sergt Johnson R.J. 1814 272481 Corpl Johnston C.R.W. 272482 2nd Corpl Jones D.J. 1813 Corpe 272483 lones

No. 16 (AUST.) LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATHIS COY.

Date

. Nominal Roll 16th Company A. L. R. O. D. (contd)

G. B. V 272546 Randell Sapper 1987 1988 272457 Rankin Sappes 272549 Redding Sergt 2039 272548 Reaves Sapper J.B. Reid 272550 Sappor 3. Richards 272551 1990 Sapper Roberts 272552 C. S. M. Robertson 272553 1991 Sapper 272554 Ross 1877 2nd Cpl 272555 Ryan 2021 Corpl Ryan 272556 1992 Sapper Ryan 2014 272557 Sorgt Sanders h 1773 272558 C.S.M. 1878 272559 Sargent 2nd Cpl Seadre 1918 272560 Sapper 2040 272561 Seggie E. A. V Sapper 1879 272562 Sharp 2nd Cpl 1880 272563 2 nd Cpl Shephe rd 1881 272564 2nd Cpl Sheridan L/Cp1 1897 Shipton W. H. 272565 1904 272566 Sapper Skelton 2015 272567 Sergt Skinner 1995 272568 Smith Sapper 272569 1996 Smith Sapper 272571 Smith C. S. M. 272570 1883 Smith 2nd Corpl 1882 272572 2nd Cpl Smith 1824 272573 Corpl Smith 1898 272574 L/Cp1 J. J. J. V G. S. Snow 2032 272575 Sapper Solomon 272576 1825 Corpl Spencer 1884 272277 2nd Cpl Staples 1885 272578 2nd Cpl Steffan 1793 272579 Sergt Stephenson G. 1998 272580 Sapper Stevenson J.W. 272581 1997 Sapper Strachan 1886 272582 2nd Cpl Stratten 1795 272583 Sergt Summons 1887 272584 2nd Corpl Susans 1999 272585 2nd Carabraylor 1899 272586 L/Cpl Taylor E. 2000 272587 Sapper Thomas 1888 272588 2nd Corpl Thomson 1826 272589 Corpl Thornton A.N. W.P. 2001 272590 Sapper Tomlin 1827 272591 Corpl Tudor T.C. 2003 272593 Sapper Turmbull A.M. E.J. 2002 272593 Sapper Turner 2004 272594 Sapper Vaughton 1828 272595 Verdon Corph 1889 272596 2nd Corpl Vincent C. 2005 272597 Aolfon Sapper 1690 272598 2nd Cpl Wall 1893 272599 2nd Col Weeks 1891 272600 2nd Cpl S. S. M. Weller 2006 272601 Sapper Wells 1892 272602 2nd Corpl Westcott 272603 1829 Corpl Willevek 1796 272604 Sergt Williams 1797 272605 Sergt Wilson T. 2007 272606 2nd Corpl Wood 2009 272607 Sapper Woolley 2008 272608 Sapper Worley W.R. 1894 272609 2nd Cpl Wyeth 1798 272610 Sergt Young

No. 16 (AUCT.) LIGHT RAILWAY OPERATING COY.

Date