

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/21/50

Title: 2nd Field Company, Australian
Engineers

January 1919



AWM4-14/21/50

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd. Field Coy. Engrs.

FOR

January 1919

Signature of ^{N.C.O.} Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. Abington Capt

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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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| BINCHE. | 1-1-19. | 1. | <p>LOCATION OF COMPANY - BINCHE. Sheet NAMUR 8.</p> <p>DISPOSITION OF COMPANY - <u>With Unit</u>, Officers 8, O/RS 126. <u>Detached</u> - 1st D.E.H.Q. 5 O/RS. 1st D.H.Q. 3 " Aust Corps R.E. Yards 7 " " " P & R T School 1 " 1st Divn. Kit Store 1 " Aust. Corps 3 " 1st Pioneer Batn. 1 " 3rd Squadron A.F.C. 2 " Loco Workshops, St. Etinne 2 " 1 Offr. R.E. Dump Chatelet 9 " 2nd Bde. Carpentry Class 3 " 1 Offr. Corps Tank Central Workshops 1 " Furlough 10 " 1 Offr. Field Ambulance 1 " Attached from 1st Field Ambulance 1 O/R.</p> <p>STRENGTH OF COMPANY - 11 Officers, 175 O/RS, 59 Horses 16 Mules.</p> | Rab |
| | | 0915 | Section Inspection Parade. 1 O/R detached to COR.E. Weather Cold and Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 2-1-19 | | <p>0945 Section Inspection Parade. 0945 General Parade, Dress Drill Order. 2 Officers to Furlough 2 O/R detached to C.R.E. Major R.V. Cutler "MBE" "MC" transferred to 3rg Field Co. Guards and Sentries. Weather Cold and Wet.</p> | Rab |

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| Place | Date | Hour | 2. Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| BINCHE. | 3.1.19. | 0915 | Sections parade. 0945 General parade for inspection of rifles etc. Guards and Sentry. 2 O.R. to Furlough. 1 O.R. from Hospital. 1 O.R. to P. & R.T. School BARBENCON. Weather:- Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 4.1.19. | 0915 | Sections parade. 0945 General parade for inspection of rifles etc, after which the Company were marched to the Divisional Baths at PRESLE for a bathing parade. Guards and Sentry. 5 O.R. rejoined from R.E.Dump CHATELET. 1 O.R. from furlough Paris. Weather:- Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 5.1.19. | 0915 | Sections parade. 0945 Ceremonial parade, review Order. Guards and Sentry. 2 O.R. from R.E.Dump, CHATELET. 1 O.R. from Divisional Kit Store. 1 O.R. to R.E.Dump CHATELET. Weather:- Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 6.1.19. | 0915 | Sections parade. 0930 General parade for inspection of rifles etc. Educational Classes were commenced. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining text books and necessary material, it was impossible to commence these classes earlier. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 7.1.19. | 0900 | The Right Half Company Nos 1 & 2 Sections paraded for kit inspection, and lists made of all deficiencies in equipment. 1030 the Left Half Company paraded for a similar purpose, and in the afternoon at 1330 the Mounted Section. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 1 O.R. to Field Ambulance. Weather:- Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 8.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. 1 O.R. to furlough Paris. Weather:- Wet | Rab |
| do. | 9.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 2 O.R. from 3rd Squadron A.F.C., 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. Weather:- Wet. | Rab |
| do. | 10.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 3 O.R. to furlough Eng. 1 O.R. to Field Amb. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |

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3.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|----------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| BINCHE. | 11.1.19. | 0900 | Sections parade. 0930 General parade, from which Company were marched to the Divisional Baths at PRESLE for a Bathing Parade. Guards and Sentry. 1 Officer to furlough Paris. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 12.1.19 | 0900 | Sections stand to kits, bedding etc for inspection. 0915 Sections parade, fatigue dress, and proceed with wagons for supplies of firewood for the Company. Guards and Sentry. 1 O.R. from Hospital. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. 1 O.R. from P. & R.T.School, BARBENCON. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 13.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 5 O.R. from A.G.B.D. ex Hospital. Educational Classes held. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 14.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 1 Officer and 11 O.R. to furlough Brussels. 1 O.R. to Hospital whilst on furlough. 1 O.R. transferred to A.I.F.H.Qrs London. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 15.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 1 Off. & 11 O.R. from furlough Brussels. Educational Classes held. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 16.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection, after which a lecture on Musketry was delivered by Lieut. H.C.Gibbison. Educational classes held. Weather:- Showery. | Rab |
| do. | 17.1.19. | 0930. | General parade . Musketry instruction. Guards and Sentry. 1 O.R. from R.E.Dump CHATELET, 1 O.R. from furlough Eng., 1 O.R. from Corps Tank Central Workshops TENEUR., 7 O.R. to furlough NMAUR., 9 O.R. to furlough Eng. 7 O.R. to Australia. Weather:- Cloudy. | Rab |
| do. | 18.1.19. | 0930. | General parade, from which Company was marched to Div. Baths at PRESLE for a bathing parade. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
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| BINCHE. | 19.1.19. | 0930 | 4. General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 27 O.R. to Australia. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. 2 O.R. detached C.R.E. to Australia. 7 O.R. from furlough NAMUR. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 20.1.19. | | Owing to the large number of Mounted personnel being returned to Australia, dismounted personnel had to be attached to the Mounted Section for grooming purposes etc. The strength of the dismounted section is very low, and just sufficient to provide the necessary daily personnel for fatigues and duties. The four Sections in future to parade as one, and to mess together. 0930 General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 1 O.R. to 2nd Bde Carpentry Class. Weather:- Fine | Rab |
| do. | 21.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 3 O.R. detached to Aus. Corps Workshops at JEUMONT. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 22.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards And Sentry. 2 O.R. to Field Ambulance. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 23.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 1 O.R. attached to furlough Eng. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. 2 Officers and 9 O.R. to furlough Eng. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 24.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 8 O.R. to furlough Brussels. 1 O.R. from Field Ambulance. 1 Officer from furlough Paris. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 25.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. 4 O.R. to Australia from Aus. Corps R.E.Yards 1 O.R. to Field Ambulance. 1 O.R. from P. & R.T.School BARBENCON. 1 O.R. to R.E.Dump CHATELET. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| BINCHE. | 26.1.19. | 0930 | 5. General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentries. Educational Classes held. 8 O.R. from furlough Brussels. Weather :- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 27.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guard and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 1 O.R. from furlough. 1 O.R. to Hospital. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 28.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 1 O.R. to Div. Engrs H.Qrs., 1 O.R. to R.E.Dump CHATELET. Weather:- Snowing. | Rab |
| do. | 29.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 2 O.R. to Australia. 1 O.R. from furlough Paris. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 30.1.19. | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 2 O.R. from furlough England. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |
| do. | 31.1.19 | 0930 | General parade for inspection. Guards and Sentry. Educational Classes held. 2 Officers to U.K. for course under Educational Scheme. 1 O.R. from furlough Eng. Weather:- Fine. | Rab |

Rablinton Capt.
O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engineers.

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18,000-12/17-8723.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

JANUARY

1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 1. | O.C's Report. |
| 2. | Quartermaster's Report. |
| 3. | Transport Officer's Report. |
| 4. | Graph- shewing strength. |
| 5. | do. shewing daily sick state. |
| 6. | do. shewing loading report. |
| 7. | do. shewing weekly state of clothing issue. |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <u>O.C.'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 1919.</u> | |
| <u>DISCIPLINE.</u> | | | The discipline throughout the month has been exceptionally good. | |
| <u>MORAL.</u> | | | The Moral of all ranks has been very good. | |
| <u>HEALTH.</u> | | | The number reporting sick for the month was below the average, and the chief complaints, Respiratory. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining a Medical Officer, and visits to the Company during the month were very few. | |
| <u>SCHOOLS ATTENDED.</u> | | | 1 Officer and 1 O.R. have attended Schools during the month. | |
| <u>STRENGTH.</u> | | | The strength of the Company at the beginning of the month was:- 11 Off. 175 O.R. and at the end of the month :- 10 Off. 131 O.R., the fall in O.Rs. due chiefly to 1915 personnel being sent to England for purpose of demobilization. Major R.V. CUTLER "MBE" "MC" was transferred to the 3rd Field Company on 2.1.19. The number on detachment has been high, averaging 20% of the Effective Strength. | Rab |
| <u>FURLOUGH.</u> | | | The furlough allotment has been very good. During the month leave to BRUSSELS and NAMUR has been freely granted. The number proceeding on leave during the month :- to United Kingdom :- 3 Off. 30 O.R. Paris. 2 Off. 1 O.R. Brussels. 1 Off. 19 O.R. Namur. 7 O.R. | |
| <u>WORKS.</u> | | | The only work carried out during the month, was a reconnaissance of the area, and reports submitted to C.R.E. on the capabilities of the land for growing purposes and factories in the area. | |
| <u>DISPOSITION OF COMPANY.</u> | | | The Company was in billets at BINCHE (near CHATELET) the whole of the month, and comfortably installed in billets all of which were clean and in good sanitary condition. The animals were all in stables, a great advantage during the damp and cold weather which prevailed. | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|------|------|--|--|
| REMARKS. | | | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>O.C.'S REPORT (continued).</u></p> <p>Educational Classes in various subjects were commenced early in the month. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining text books and all necessary material, we were unable to commence these classes earlier. The enrolment was very satisfactory, and a keen interest was taken in the work by the students, and progress reports were very satisfactory.</p> <p>A large number of members of the Unit left for Australia during the month, the Mounted Section losing a good number of men, thus necessitating the attachment of Dismounted personnel for stable duties etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rablinton Capt. O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engrs.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Rab</p> |

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|-------------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <u>QUARTERMASTERS REPORT FOR JANUARY 1919.</u> | |
| <u>RATIONS.</u> | | | Rations have been up to scale with the exception of vegetables which were very poor towards the latter part of the month. The bread issue has been very good. | |
| <u>FORAGE.</u> | | | The Forage ration has been good. Salt etc has been drawn in sufficient quantities to meet all requirements. | |
| <u>CLOTHING.</u> | | | All demands for clothing have been met, the quantities drawn and issued to Company being shown on graph appended. | |
| <u>BOOTS.</u> | | | Necessary repairs to boots have been attended to by the Company bootmaker. Boots drawn during the month have been of English pattern. After being worn a few days the leather became hard, and complaints were made that sore feet had been caused through wearing them. | |
| <u>RETURNS.</u> | | | Returns of unserviceable have been good, an article being returned for each one drawn. | |
| <u>TRANSPORT.</u> | | | Transport is in good order, and is kept greased and free from dirt etc. | |
| | | | <p><i>Rablinton</i> Capt. O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engrs.</p> | |

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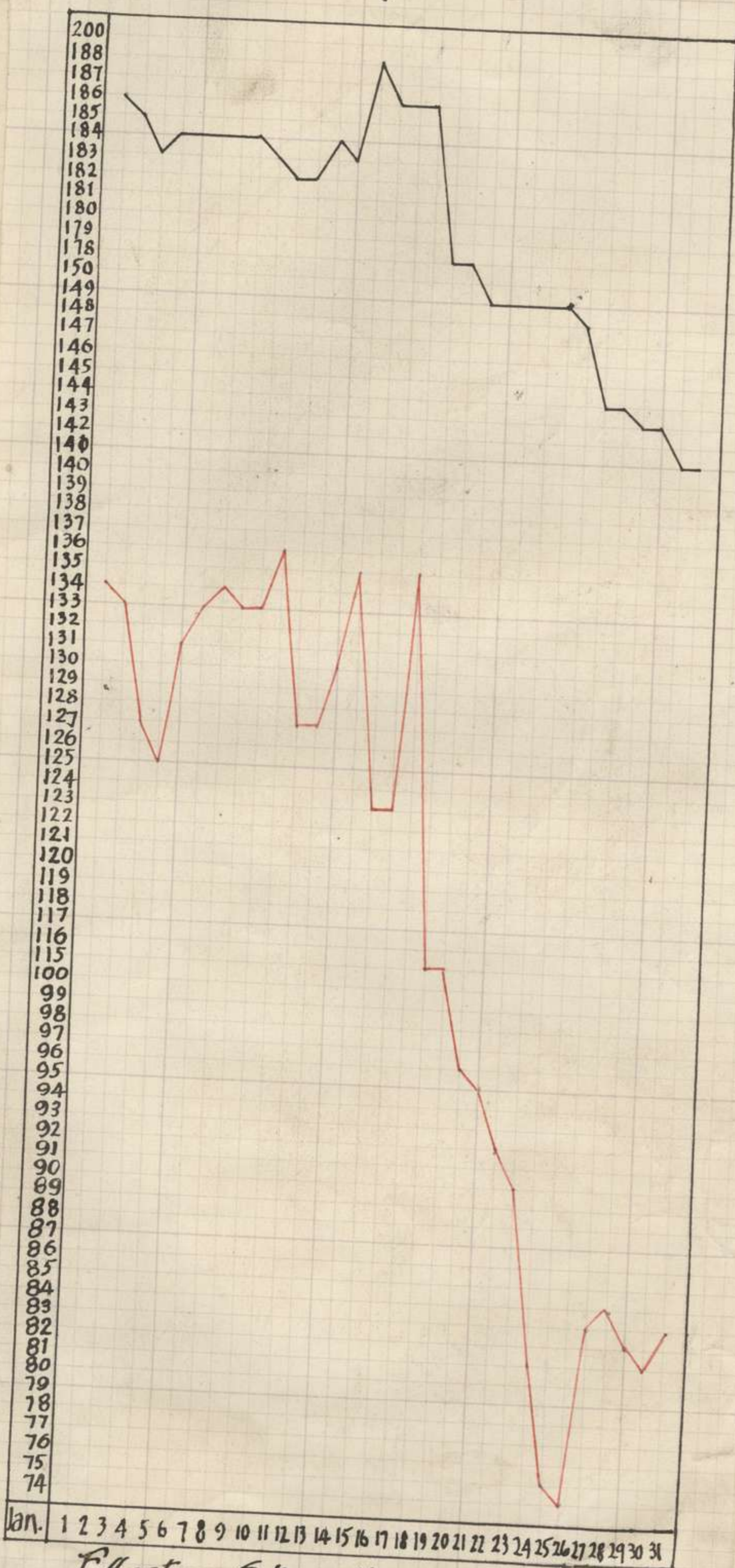
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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <u>TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 1919.</u> | |
| <u>ANIMALS HEALTH.</u> | | | The health of the animals during the month has been good, 1 hack and 1 L.D. being off duty for a time. There were several cases such as bites, and skin rubbed off the legs of animals, caused by the hard floors on which the animals had to stand, but none of a serious nature. | |
| <u>CONDITION.</u> | | | The animals have gone back a little in condition, no doubt through the cold weather and the hard floors in stables, the animals not lying down much. | |
| <u>HORSE LINE.</u> | | | All animals have been in good stables during the month, all of which are clean and in a sanitary condition. | Rab |
| <u>GROOMING & FEEDING.</u> | | | Grooming and feeding has been carried out at regular intervals daily. | |
| <u>SHOEING.</u> | | | During the month 56 animals were shod, each animal being attended to as required. | |
| <u>FODDER.</u> | | | The fodder ration has been up to scale and of good quality. | |
| <u>STRENGTH.</u> | | | The strength of animals at the beginning of the month was:- Riding - 16, L.D.H. 43, Mules- 16 these figures remaining unchanged at the end of the month. | |
| <u>HARNESS.</u> | | | All harness is in good order, steel parts have been kept clean, and all leather is soft and pliable, All necessary repairs have been attended to by the Coy. Saddler. | |
| <u>WAGONS.</u> | | | All wagons are in good running order. | |
| <u>INSPECTIONS.</u> | | | Regular inspections have been made by the O.C. | |

Rablinson Capt.
O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engrs.

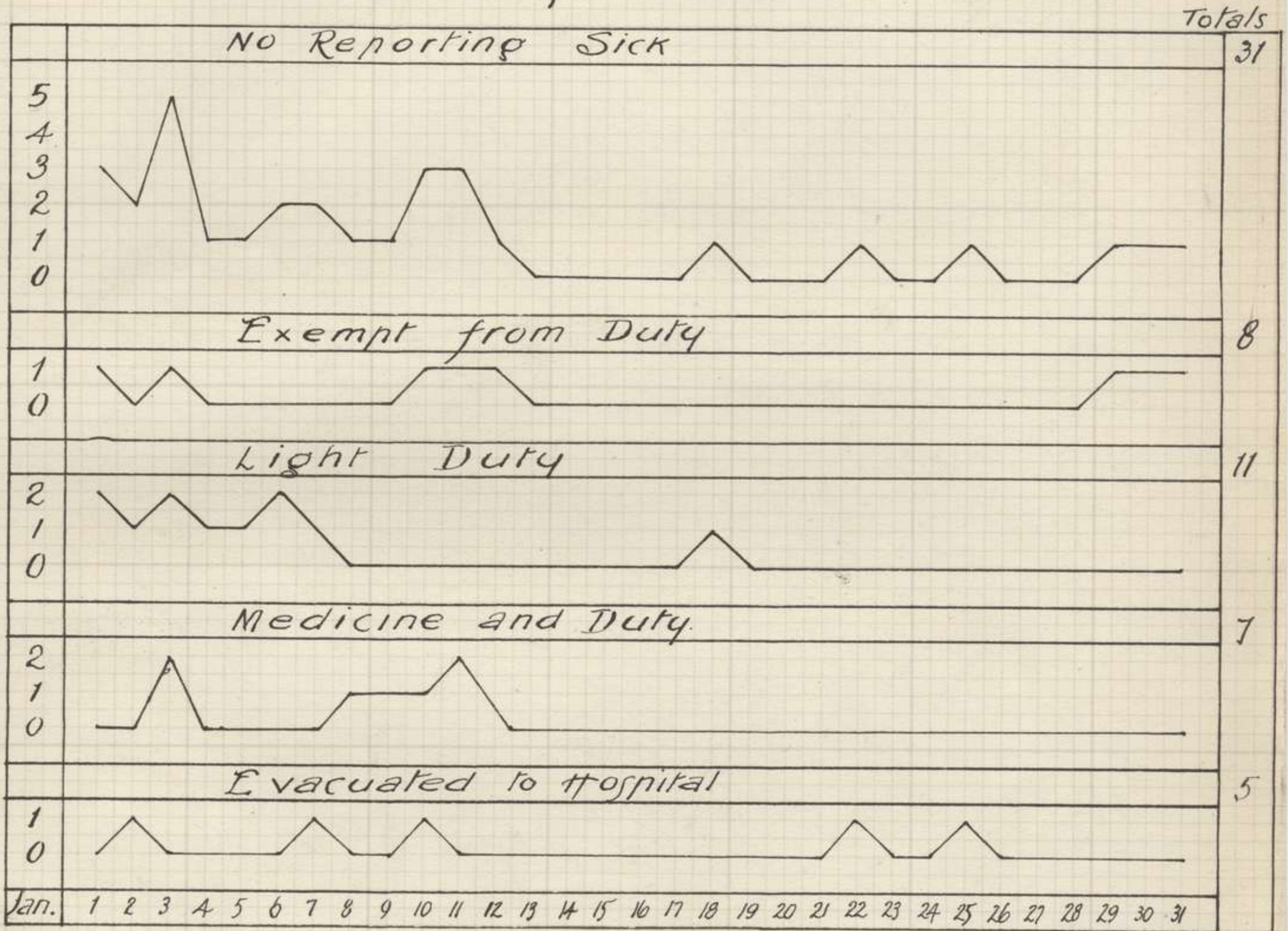
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2nd Field Coy. Engrs
 Graph of Daily Strength
 January 1919.



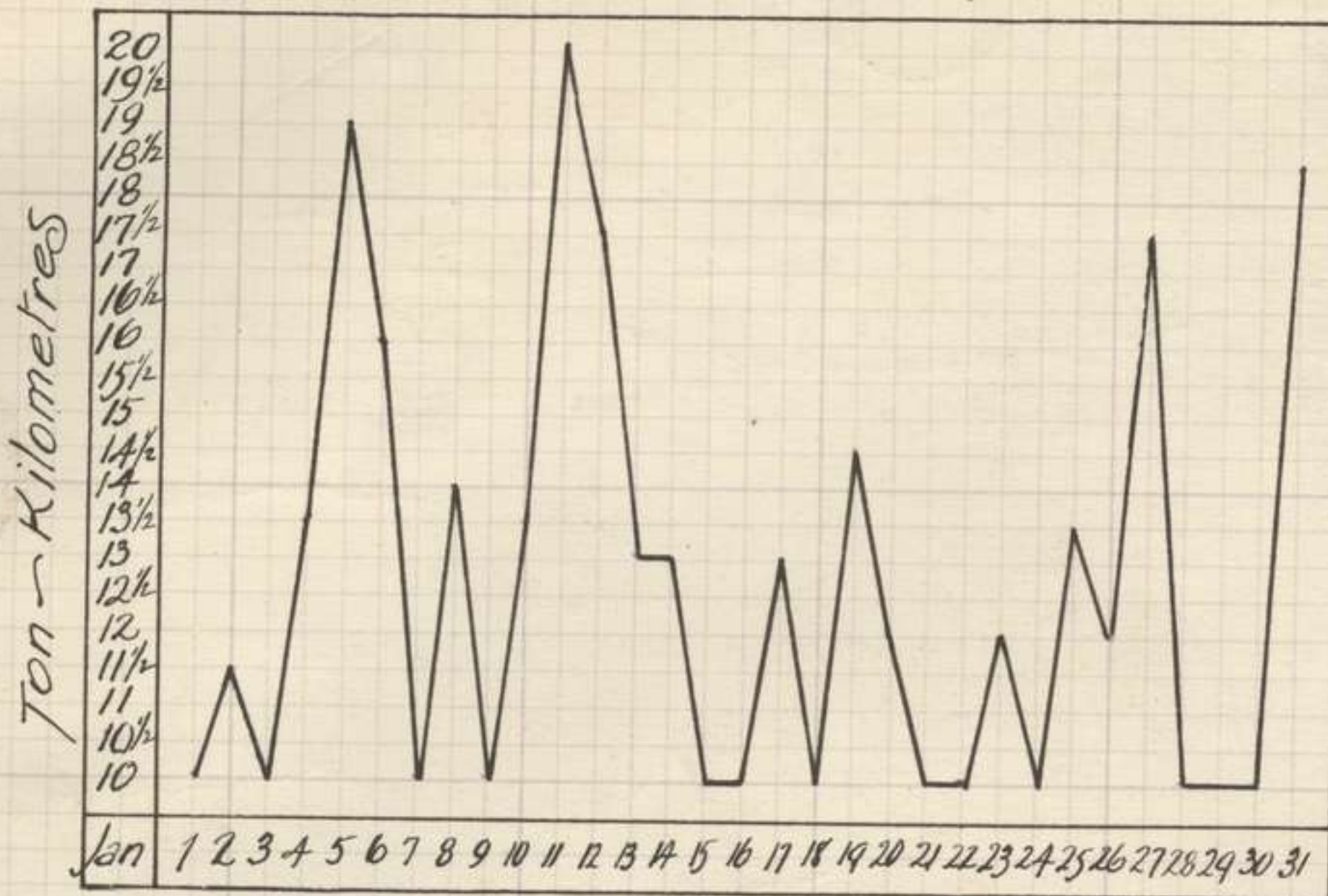
Effective Strength ———
 Ration " ~~—————~~

2nd Field Coy. Engrs.
 Graph shewing Daily Sick Parade
 January 1919

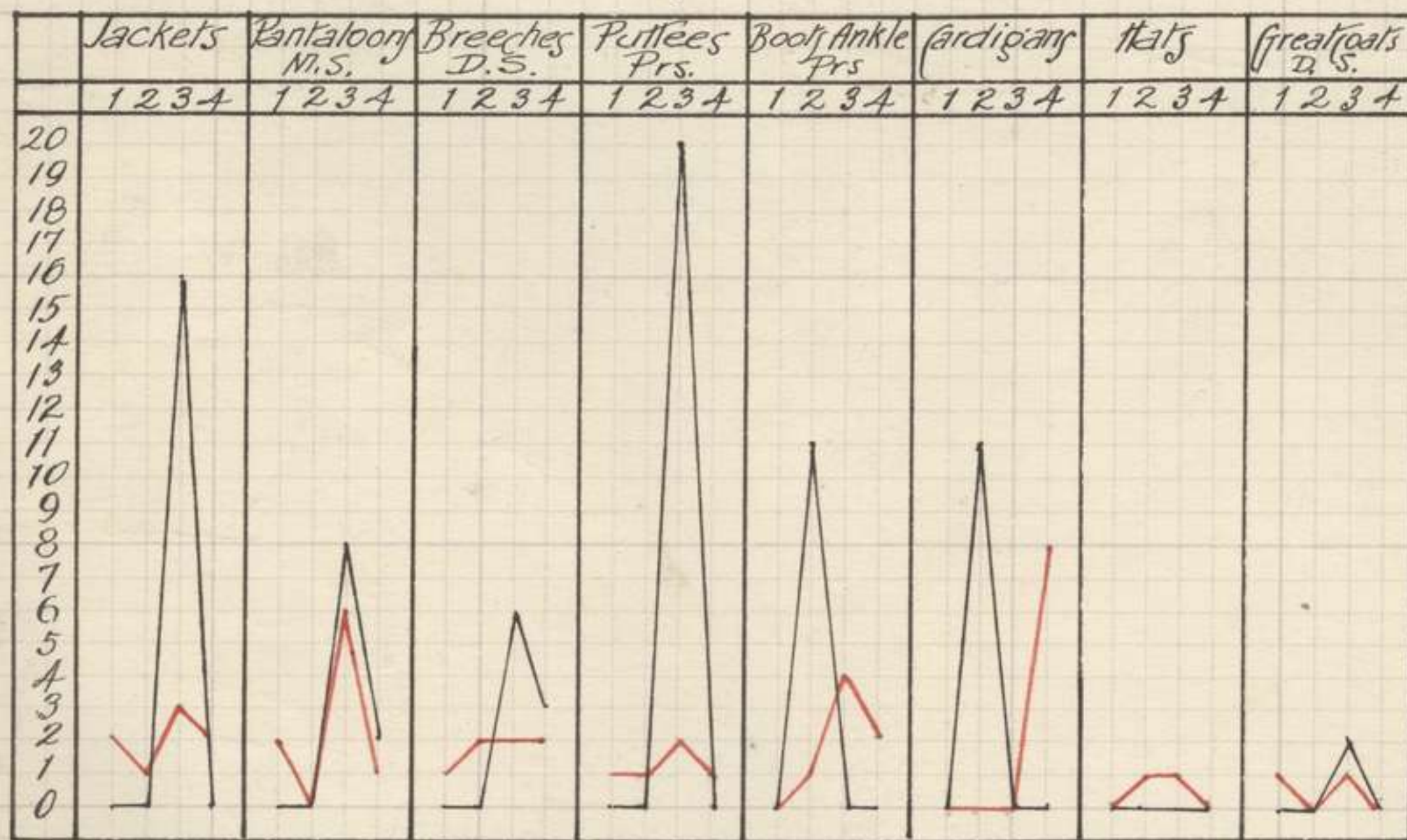


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2nd Field Coy Engrs.
Loading Graph
January 1919



2nd Field Coy Engrs.
Graph shewing weekly Clothing Issue
January 1919



Clothing drawn from D.A.D.O.S. —————
Clothing issued to Company —————

| Date 1914 | Location | Date 1914 | Location. |
|------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| October | | January | |
| November | | February | |
| DECEMBER 1915 | | March | |
| January | | April | |
| February | | May | |
| March | | June | |
| April | | July | |
| May | | August | |
| June | | September | |
| July | | October | |
| August | | November | |
| September | | December 1916 | |
| October | | January | |
| November | | February | |
| December | | March | |
| 1916 January | | April | |
| February | | May | |
| March | | June | |
| April | | July | |
| May | | August | |
| June | | September | |
| July | | October | |
| August | | November | |
| September | | December | |
| October | | | |
| November | | | |
| December | | | |