

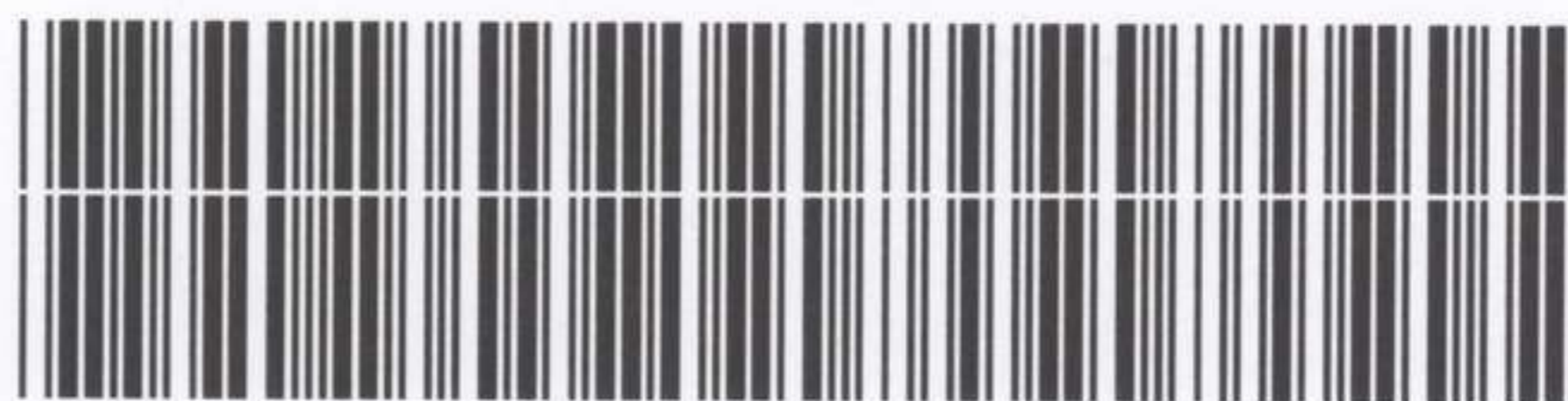
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/15/15

Title: 2nd Australian Divisional Train

October 1916



AWM4-25/15/15

WAR DIARY

2nd Aust Div Train

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

OCTOBER 1916

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Parramatta	11/10/16 5/11/16 13/11/16 14/11/16		<p>Everything running smoothly. Capt. W. S. Walker of 17th Coy, evacuated with Hernia. Lieut. Burns granted 5-months furlough to Australia. Lieut. Col. McArmin returned from leave & took over from his agent & inspected all the Companies. Found everything satisfactory. Informed that we would move to another area shortly.</p> <p>D.H.Q. informed us that the 23rd Division would take over from us and arranged that A.S.B. line next to H.Q. Company should be handed over to their Divisional Train tomorrow. 5th Brigade concentrating in late Canadian line less 1 Battalion. One horse of 16th Coy suffering from gun shot wound had to be destroyed today. Saw Lt. Col. Griffith & Capt. Bolton & informed he was not now coming to this Train. 240 Barrett of 15th Coy admitted to hospital with scabies. 15th Coy A.S.B. moved into Camp in 17th Coy line tonight. All Train Companies have lines practically complete except for roofing, material for which it is impossible to get from the Engineers. D.H.Q. asked if they could attach a Staff Captain of 23rd Division to us for a few days.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Burcheam	15/10/16		<p>Every thing quiet. An officer of 23rd Div. Train came to see re taking over on line. Handed over 15th by line to him. 15th base concentrated with its Brigade.</p>	
	16/10/16		<p>Inspected voting arrangements all Companies found satisfactory. Received word from DTR. about 11 am. to postpone voting for 3 days. As most of the voting had already taken place this creates a difficulty. C/O 23rd Div. Train came to see me inspected Train H.Q. Lieut. Pestalozzi returned from leave yesterday.</p>	
	17/10/16		<p>Received more orders embracing supply arrangements. Withdrew Lieut. Cook + W/O Turner from 15th Coy. moved to Steenworks with the 5th Brigade. Capt Lewis + Capt Hankin went on 10 days leave. Lieut. Bosanquet acting as C/O 16th Coy. wrote to H.Q. asking for 2nd Lieut. H.B. Wentworth. 9th Depot Unit of Supply to be transferred to this Train.</p>	
	18/10/16		<p>Capt Blackman reported back from leave. 5th Brigade moved to Arucke. 17th base moved to Steenworks.</p>	
	19/10/16		<p>Railhead changed to Caestre today. D.L.B. conveying for units here 16th Brigade. Divisional troops units attached to 23rd Division for training. Arranged for Train H.Q. to move on 21st. General issue of rations ordered. Voting postponed from 16th to take place today.</p>	

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Brosselton	20/10/16		<p>went down to Watten, saw R.F.O. in time of drawing actions, thence to Eperlecques, Hirille + Lilques. Reported to D.A.Q. at Greenworde what I had done.</p> <p>It was arranged for D.L.B. to draw for whole time except on 24th when train vehicles to draw + entrain full. Nothing cleared tonight. Signed certificate for HQ Coy + 16th. Other Companies not to hand though orders stated they were to be in by noon. As they were on the move this was difficult. Moved 15th + 17th Coy to get Brigadiers to deal with theirs. Leave cancelled from 24th on.</p>	
Watten	21/10/16		<p>Left early + found that brigade staff had omitted to warn their Train Coy + 1 Officer + 3 other ranks to proceed as an advance party. Found 16th + 17th after difficulty + instructed them. Arrived at Watten + saw 15th Coy + saw similar orders. After they had got away found that owing to haste worded orders 3 parties had been sent from train in excess of requirement. 7 Remounts arriving Watten N.D. Very poor quality indeed. Train up billets here. D.A.Q. at Lilques.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Watten	27/10/16		<p>Went over to Tilque & saw to HQ. Found entraining orders had been sent out 48 hours ago but not reached us. Got copy of same. Went up to Nordanger & saw 15th Company.</p> <p>1. Put office at Tilque. Met 17th Coy on way in. Fixed up billets for them also for Headquarters Company less Artillery Section of Supply & Baggage. Major Hart 44th Coy arrived this afternoon. 17th Company.</p> <p>S.O. went south this morning to prepare supply matter. Fixed up re issue of ration tomorrow & explained to S.O.'s of 15th, 16th & 17th the mode of procedure adopted.</p> <p>Proceeded to Steenwerde & saw Capt. Blackman in charge of Artillery Section of HQ Coy. Found everything in order & explained to him that he must see that all his kits entrained with a day in Coekem & a day in Train Supply vehicles. 16th Coy arrived this morning & proceeded into billets, which was arranged for them. A.D. Orders transferred 2nd Lieut. H.B. Wentworth from 9th S.D.S. to this train.</p> <p>Went round to Audruicq. At Omer rail entraining station saw all Companies found everything going all right. Capt. Walker reconred. Lieut. Bance placed on Superannuation list. Lt. Col. A.M. Keusley promoted to 2nd Lieut. transferred to 9th S.D.V. of Supply.</p> <p>15th Coy moved from Tilque today. Train HQ proceeded by road & occupied the billets at Ailly. Found S.O. had made all supply arrangements satisfactorily. Left on S.D.C. behind & found the 56th Supply Column attached to us here. Camped Monteith 17th adst. Promoted 2nd Lieut. Porter to 15th Company. Secret order received re move to forward area.</p>	
	23/10/16			
	24/10/16			
Ailly to Hanté Clocha	27/10/16			

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ribeumont	27/10/16		<p>S.S.O. proceeded to Railhead first thing then to Ribeumont on next location. Sent Adjutant ahead to see as regards billets & went to Saucourt to find 15th Coy. All transport of Division sent away each Brigade under C/O Brigade Train Coy & Major Hart of Convoy. Saw 18th Coy en route South of Arras. Their instructions were to reach St. Sauveur Argonne that night & Ribeumont area next night. 5th Brigade personnel proceeded by motor bus direct drawing Rations at Ribeumont. Proceeded to Ribeumont & found all arranged. Billets shockingly poor. 5th Brigade late arriving. Supply Details were issuing rations at the evening.</p> <p>Inspected line allotted to H.Q. Coy 45th Company & found quite unsuitable. 10 tents had been allotted for officers & men of the 2 Companies. Ground quite unsuitable. Saw some hedges & got 16 tents & permission to take open fields which I did. Bunkies started arriving from 4 pm to 6 pm. 6th Coy Brigade personnel came by bus to Bors at same time. Saw Albert Railhead R.S.O. found time for drawing any time from 4 to 6 am according to arrival of train. H.Q. issued orders for the Supply Column to draw & issue to train which to lay up overnight full & dump next day. It would be killing work for horse transport to draw from Railhead owing to distance, hours & blocks in traffic. Saw D.S.S. Army & S.A.S.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hibernant	29/10/16		<p>Saw Engineer got 2 large huts for Wash. Companies. Orders issued now that Column to be utilised for steam carrying train to draw from Railhead. Must disheartening from a horse point of view but must be done. Laid 50 ft. ropes to Railhead ^{tomorrow} to assist supply Column. Saw R.S.O. re time of drawing & he promised to assist in every way. Saw G.O. 29th Div. train suspected his line in the area will take over from them. All accommodation improved. Went down to La Neuville taking Major Hart with me, found H.Q. Company Supply Section & discovered a Brigade of Artillery had gone up near Demancourt. Arranged a meeting tomorrow with Supply Officer. Capt Robinson made complaint re Capt. Shearer his Supply Officer as to general conduct. Ordered him to attend O/Room 9-30 am tomorrow.</p>	
	29/10/16		<p>Saw Capt. Shearer make a case against Capt. Robinson & stated he voiced the dissatisfaction of all the Officers. Sent for Capt. Robinson & asked for an enquiry. Ordered attendance of all 15th Coy. Officers at 8 pm tonight. Went to Railhead & found train late and several D.D. train waiting in the line & D.D. from 7 am to 11-30 am. Arranged for our horse transport to load in an hour's time. Found R.S.O. anxious to assist in every way, but congestion of traffic very bad & no proper system apparently in force at Railhead. Supply Column requested us to supply covers for their dumped supplies, but refused & as this is required by ourselves. Arranged for a telephone box office tomorrow in order to get in touch with Railhead. Held enquiry into 15th Coy. matter & found trouble in apparently personal between Capt. Robinson & Capt. Shearer. Otherwise no substantive grievances brought up. Must transfer latter.</p>	

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Rheinmont	30/10/16		<p>Draw from Railhead to day with train vehicles for whole Division. Owing to loose nature of the hay baling requires more than usual number of vehicles. Besides, three Field Companies about half the Artillery moved up today making supply of transport rather short. Issued orders transferring Capt. Blackman to 14th Coy & to command temporarily, Capt. Shaver to Headquarters Coy as Supply Officer Divisional troops, & Capt. Elliott to 15th Company as Supply Officer. Instructed by D.A. Quigley that I could occupy 29th Divisional train lines immediately they moved out. Pack train arrived at 9.30 whereas our train was laid down for 11 am. Congestion very bad at Railhead. System badly needed.</p>	
	31/10/16		<p>Owing to wagons attached to Artillery failing to reach Batteries return to 20th and great lack of transport in H.Q. Company. All this is due to Corps who control the Artillery sending them out without notification to the Division or Train and consequently it is impossible to maintain control of transport. Owing to the poor temp have been thus brought to represent the matter to D.A. Quigley & permission of Corps was obtained to use Motors to Record for Div. troops. Sent Lieutenant to Record to find if the H.Q. Company could find a place there. Found both room & supply dumps. Ordered the H.Q. Company to move up tomorrow.</p>	

CAP. McArmoney
 Lieut. Colonel
 10/0 2nd Div. Rheinmont