

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/15/19

Title: 2nd Australian Divisional Train

February 1917



AWM4-25/15/19

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVⁿ TRAIN
FEBRUARY 1917

105

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	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBERT	1 st FEB 1917		Linc. Coon detailed to take over 2 Water Tanks Cars from 15 th Div ⁿ at A Dump LA BOISELLE Visit to lines of 15 th Div ⁿ with Major Hunt accommodation excellent. Capt Elliott reported from Detachment with ARTILLERY	
do	2 nd Feb/17		Arranged with O.C. of 20 th Coy Reserve Park for a further 3 or 4 wagons with water Tanks for use of H ^o of Coy to report on morning of 4 th Refilling Point for whole Division at LA BOISELLE Linc. Gibbins reported to relieve Linc. Wentworth who returns to Coy duty with 16 th Coy Capt Elliott takes over S.O. 6 th Regt Maj C W Robinson transferred to 5 th Aust Div ⁿ	
do	3/2/17		Moved into new Quarters at 108 RUE DE BAPAUME M ^r Norris Aust Comfort fund reported for duty with 2 nd Div ⁿ & attached to Train Instructions received that all vehicles of 20 th Coy Reserve Park return to Unit on 4 th Arranged with Col Gibbs for Lorry with Tank to fill water troughs commencing on 4 th morning. H ^o of Coy took over new lines from 15 th Div ⁿ & one section moved in today.	
do	4/2/17		Fuel situation improved. Watering facilities not good. Lorry did not report. Horses taken to E 12 Central for watering which is most inconvenient as it takes up about 1 1/2 hours which would be better for Horses if spent in stables.	
do	5/2/17		Instruction from DHO to build up ^{3 days} Reserve dump of firewood in case of thaw S.S.O. attended Board at MAMETZ on Coal shortage at VIGNACOURT	
do	6/2/17		First instalment of 20 Tons firewood drawn by Horse Transport from MAMETZ WOOD 100 Tons Coal allotted to Div ⁿ & drawn by Lorry from Train at EDOEHILL Sidling Guard at coal dump reduced from 10 men to 4 O.R. Linc. Col. Manning returned from leave & assumed command.	

MAMETZ

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alber	7/7/17		<p>Proceeded to D.H.Q. saw to A.D.C. re matters generally. Saw the E.O.C. who informed me that the E/O train had the privilege of going direct to him if he desired & expressed his wish to see me occasionally in reference to train matters. Inspected all Train Companies in their new locations & found everyone contented with their conditions. The horses seem to be benefiting considerably & the casualties have been reduced by 60% since occupying the present covered horse stations. Inspected Rail Head where Train Transport is loading from Rail receipts for Divisional Troops Group.</p> <p>Went to Corps & saw A.D.C. re several matters. Staff Capt. Harrison promoted in taking orders to 2nd Lieutenant. Lieut. Pestalozzi seconded. Found Found that all Train Motor Drivers are now attached from Supply Columns by new Organizations. Motor Driver with charged with neglect of duty in not emptying the radiator tanks & thus bursting the cylinders. Ordered stoppage of pay £15/3/9 to pay for same. Advised by D.H.Q. that all D.H.Q. Transport would come under my direct control to deal with all transport requirements of units. Posted Lieut. Murray to H.Q. company & appointed Capt. H.J. Blackman to command 15th Company A.S.B. Lieut. F.W. Barrett reported back for duty from Hospital. Lieut. Coleman seconded to proceed for instruction as Staff Captain. Strength of officers now complete. Recommended Sgt. Tracikel of Head Quarters Coy. & Capt. Pemberton of 16th Company to attend A.S.B. School of Instruction for Commissioned Rank. Capt. H.W. Currie's 16th Coy. proceeded on leave & Capt. Elliott to command temporarily in his absence. Bitterly cold weather. Advised that no more coal would arrive until 13/7/16 & instructing strict economy & use of wood. Standing Orders of Army received. Seems most excellent & comprehensive. Car 18619 sent in to D.H.Q. to have minor repairs adjusted.</p>	
	8/7/17			
	9/7/17			

WAR DIARY

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Albert	10/2/17		<p>Saw D.H.R. nothing of importance doing. The section of D.H.R. 36 wagons detailed to act under train orders for general transport work will be stationed at Le Bosselle in covered stannings & ample accommodation exists for men also.</p> <p>Major Marté of Headquarters Coy will act as understudy for the H.Q. as I think it imperative that any Officer of the Unit can be replaced in the event of his becoming or casually. I have pursued this policy all along & found it most satisfactory.</p>	
	11/2/17		<p>went down & saw A.D.S. Corps as obtaining some metal fittings for 8th Lumbered wagons for Infantry transport to enable our artificers to effect repairs as the H.Q. has his hands full. Instructed to put in Baber through D.A.D.S. Division in the event of Baber refusing to supply to see him & Army authority would be forthcoming. Weather which has been intensely cold for 3 weeks a little milder today, apparently a gentle thaw is in progress. Arranged with H.Q. D.A.C. to withdraw train wagons attached to his Unit & for the D.A.C. to send 7 8th wagon daily to Albert Railhead at 9 am to draw natives & take to Havieville.</p>	
	12/2/17		<p>weather milder & gentle thaw commencing. Should this gradual thaw continue the road traffic will not be affected. No coal will arrive before tomorrow D.A.C. today saw 20 8th wagons which reported to main H.Q. this morning. gave them a vacant horse standing in H.Q. Company line & allotted them accommodation in Messin Huts of which sufficient are available. The main wagons also reported back to their line. In horse box at D.A.C. line, Havieville some days ago located at No 3 Company line 1st Divisional main.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	13/7/17		<p>Continuation of fractional thaw. 90 tons coal arrived & was welcome. Saw Q Branch Corps with reference to transport officers of the train being permitted to attend the school at Naoro for instruction in Supply duties. They quite approve. Informed by hospital that H Barnett's command at Kausaga Valley, Mountabaan was such that his status amongst both officers & men of the train was extremely low & that he did not command the respect of either. Intend to enquire further into the matter as this officers chance of promotion has nearly arrived. Saw G/O 1st Aust. Div. train & the 2nd Home A.S.B. Coy detained by the 1st Coy of his train. He promised they should be returned at once & regretted the incident. Coy 18619 broke & leave of from spring today. Sending to Colum tomorrow.</p> <p>Inspected the 15th Coy A.S.B. noticed great improvement in harness & vehicles.</p>	
	14/7/17		<p>Went to S. HQ. after lunch. Saw the G.O.C. relative to officers proceeding to Naoro for instruction. He agreed with the scheme. Wrote asking formally for approval.</p> <p>Inspected the 16th Coy A.S.B. Some excellent harness & vehicles greatly improved. Several points require attention embodied them in a Circular Memo issued with tonight's orders.</p>	
	15/7/17		<p>Inspected the 17th Coy A.S.B. found the improvement in harness & vehicles as marked as in the other Companies. Pack train late due to railway collision on line about 30 miles the side of Naoro. Have stopped until further notice. Received copy Establishment & Distribution Store Table for a Divisional train dated January 1917. Reduction of Officers shown & about 40 in other personnel. No steps can be taken until the detailed establishment of Companies is to hand. Weather mild still thawing gradually.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	16/7/17		<p>Postponed inspection of the Headquarters Company until tomorrow. Show continues. Every thing normal. Capt. (Temporary Major) Robinson's explanation re over issue of vegetables between 14th + 31st January, reasonable but is very weak + clearly indicates that he was guilty of gross carelessness. The Adjutant, Lieut. Beedlyn, Capt. Shearer, Lieutenant + 10 Sergeants of the 56th D.L.C. all can give information re the matter. Staff Sgt. Stephenson promoted to be Staff Q.M.S. carrying position of 1770 Class II.</p>	
	17/7/17		<p>Went up to A.R. No instructions received from them. Inspected the H.Q. Company at 2.30 pm. Only 24 wagons on parade the rest not being available owing to duty. Was greatly disappointed at the turn out, harness wagons were clean + buffle, but all kind of variations in harness were allowed + absolutely no uniformity exists. Ordered the remainder of the Company to parade on Wednesday at 4.30 am + expressed to the S/C Company my disgust at the condition of things. In my opinion the 4 Senior NCO's in this Company should be dispensed with + fresh ones appointed. Told Major Hault that I would require a different state of things. Received wire in evening to adopt same precautions as 15th Coy. Troops Column with 15th Coy. wagons for duty. All transport will be useless tomorrow as are mechanical transport allowed to run. Vehicle Coy broken down + sent to Column for repair.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 25

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Allent	18/7/17		<p>Dealt with a case against Private Staff Sgt. Sheedy of H.Q. Coy. He is a native of the area. The evidence was very weak but the man is undoubtedly a "poor devil".</p> <p>Everything very quiet, though all transport working, fuel pressure owing to mechanical transport being withdrawn during the flood.</p>	
	19/7/17		<p>Saw H.Q. Coy. Everything quiet. Saw Corps as new main establishment. No action to be taken until detailed establishment received.</p>	
	20/7/17		<p>Went to Column at Richmond - the 2 Cars under repair. Promised that both should be available Saturday morning. Advised by Corps that 70 ton fuel was at Loghill & must be commenced tomorrow by 11 AM as lorries will not yet be running. Ordered fatigue parties from Column for loading & from Infantry for unloading also cancelled Engineer Details so as to make 45 Wagon available.</p>	
	21/7/17		<p>Column advised no loaders available. Saw Lt Col. Brown & Co Supply Column & he ordered loader to proceed to Loghill. In meantime utility driven & flood got away; 45 tons. Column loaders did not turn up. Reported this to Lt Col. Brown. Shelters are to be erected at Refilling Points by agreement between Main & CRP. New pay books being issued. The Buzare Companies are completed. H.Q. Company is process of completion.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 405

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OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alber	29/1/17		<p>went to D.H.R. saw C.S. shelter at Repidley Point. Arranged for framework of shed to be erected at once. Dimensions 60 feet long by 12 feet wide. Height 12 feet 2 feet off ground + Roof 10 feet dropping to 8 feet at back. As they are only a temporary measure will use buff covers for roofing.</p> <p>Orders by D.H.R. under instructions from Corps that a car was to be detached for use of Army Purchase Board from the 25th Div. Protection without avail. This action in resigning a car on the establishment of a train for which the C/O is responsible is a rotten principle + impairs the efficiency of the unit as 3 cars at the lowest number which can attend to their duties.</p> <p>The weaker must go to the wall I suppose. My criticism on the Purchase Board.</p> <p>Now still in operation + hurried not yet running. Headquarter Company making strong efforts to remedy the matter I criticised at my inspection. Everything quiet.</p> <p>Corps wrote in suggesting the reduction of transport officers in Headquarter Coy to 2. Replied that this is not advisable. Owing to the peculiar constitution of this Coy. I consider it very inadvisable despite the reduction of 23 wagons.</p> <p>Called before a Court of Enquiry at Heilly at 2.30pm to give evidence in regard to damage sustained by Coy 14295 owing to neglect by driver of heavy precautions. Stated what had occurred + that the driver was stopped pay for the value of damage.</p> <p>Both Cars arrived from Column Workshops this evening. Saw the toolset 778 + Purchase Board at Danchewal as ordered. Expect it will soon go to bits.</p>	
	29/1/17			
	29/1/17			

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alberic	25/4/17		<p>D.H.Q. rang up at 11 pm. last night & requested my attendance at D.H.Q. with the S.S.O. went up to A.C. & informed us that the Germans were pulling back & had evacuated Micramont, Serre, & Pys & Warlencourt. An advance was expected at any moment & he desired that all preliminary arrangements should be made so as to obviate any delay when orders were received.</p> <p>Called Company Commanders together in morning & requested them to make all arrangements for movement at short notice. Sent Lt. Cook & Cadd to reconnoitre the road to the Sars if possible to Warlencourt. Sent for Capt Elliott as <u>St Barrett's</u> behaviour at Montantun the afternoon we that his conduct there on an occasion when shelling was going on was an extremely bad example to the men whom he left without instruction or notice. In view of the evidence obtained I am convinced that it would be detrimental to the interests of the train to promote him in any way, since he has forfeited the respect of all ranks in the train. Received the new establishments of the train. Two Regimental Officers are dispersed with 2 of the 2 remaining ones is the a Captain.</p> <p>Went up to D.H.Q. A.C. & told me he had inspected the train lines yesterday afternoon & was very dissatisfied at their state & had asked the G.O.C. to come & inspect them today. I went back over the lines & found his statement greatly exaggerated & evidently made without due knowledge of conditions. Wrote for G.O.C. but did not arrive. Informed by telephone that he had been unable to come but would do so later. I stated that I earnestly desired he should do so.</p> <p>I take objection to Staff Officers going over my lines without coming here & asking me to accompany them. It is an unfair proposition.</p> <p>Have precautions relaxed tonight.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	27/1/17		<p>took up to the farm in morning with Captains Murray & Martie. The road is now in good order & wagons can work right to the farm with ease. The wood from the windmill at Dogieres right to the farm is under easy observation from the German lines at Loupont Wood. They can render it unusable all day when they wish. German shells were falling in in the farm N.E. & Lockymore about every minute. 20-4 horse team working taking fascines for Artillery Road through heartin park. Went to S.H.Q. in afternoon with "Q" at "Q". Saw C.R. & re one line & promised fascines as soon as available. Bombardment by our guns all night. Counted 10 tanks abandoned & 3 broken aeroplanes along the German road.</p> <p>Went to Bernafay to see C.R.A. 5th Division & after to S.H.Q. nothing doing there. Corps only allotted one Division to low cost for one week requirements but afterwards increased it to 60 tons. Last week was 70 tons. Sent on yesterday S.H.Q. report on the action of Purchase Board at Army commanding 15 tons of lumber lake which he had bought at a low price for one Division. I strongly resent their attitude at the S.H.Q. who possess exceptional initiative & business sense receive no encouragement to be energetic if the Purchase Board with unlimited opportunities or to deprive the Division of the benefit and the gain S.H.Q. of the credit. It is grossly unfair. Weather misty but fine.</p> <p>General Purposes ration inspected yesterday, certificate forwarded today.</p>	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

Capt. M. M. M. Colonel
 8/102nd Ammunition
 28/1/1917