

AWM4

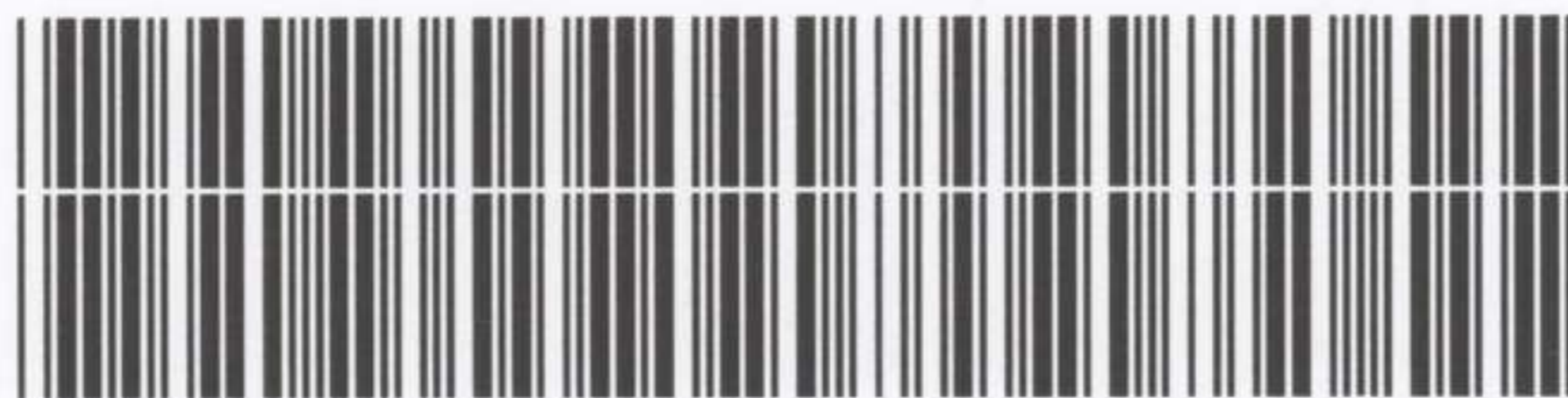
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/15/34

Title: 2nd Australian Divisional Train

May 1918



AWM4-25/15/34

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

1918

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

FOR

MAY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

C. S. Manning
..... LT. COL.
COMMANDING 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRAIN.

Signature of Officer Commanding

C. S. Manning
..... LT. COL.
COMMANDING 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRAIN.

2nd Aust Div Train
 2nd Aust Div Train
 WAR DIARY

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
Beaucourt and Hallue	1/5/18		<p>17th Company moved to Querrieu today, with its Brigade. Held order room at 50th Company in morning and dealt with 3 cases, recommending one Dr Knut Millum for shocking ill treatment of a horse, for Court Martial. Went to Bertangles to billet as D.H.Q. more tomorrow and found quite impossible to find lodgement. Saw Corps and they advise remaining at Beaucourt, which D.H.Q. agreed to. Corps require us to draw with Horse Transport from the 3rd from Poulainville, as they require the use of the tractor horns. This means about 18 miles travelling each day with supplies too much in my opinion but the exigencies of the motor transport situation are said by Corps to warrant it. Units to draw by First Line Transport.</p>	
Allonville	7/5/18		<p>Notified by D.H.Q. that 47th Division objects to our remaining at Beaucourt and that Corps instruct we proceed to Allonville. Went over + saw Area Commandant + obtained billets moving across after lunch and advising C/O 47th Div. In case of the billets we were vacating. Billets in Allonville not as good as we have had recently, but might be worse. Weather cleared + now fine even hot. Instructed all Companies to draw from Poulainville railroad with Horse Transport tomorrow. Railhead 8 am. A Special Group formed at Bertangles for D.H.Q. Group under Sergeant Wilkie. About 600 men and 200 horses to feed. Clear night aeroplanes over dropping bombs in vicinity, mostly close to Amiens.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Allowville	3/5/18		<p>Drew from Doullainville with Horse Transport - 20th Company from Bohencourt 25 ^gs. wagons, 4 wagons of ^gs. a. Engineer, 1 wagon of Reserve Park + 1 motor wagon of R.H.A., 15th Company from Beaumont with 15 ^gs. wagons, 16th Company from Querrier with 14 ^gs. wagons, and 14th Company from Rivery with 11 ^gs. wagons. Time required to reach Railhead 20th and 15th Company 2 1/2 hours, 16th Company 2 hours, 14th Company 1 1/2 hours. Time taken to load 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Given good weather it is not too much for the horses. Went to Railhead + saw proceeding, a lot yet required to make it a first class Railhead, but as German Artillery registered on it about a week ago, anticipate they will make it untenable very soon. Car 14295 returned from Column after 15 days overhaul. Saw D.H.Q. found everything quiet and no queries.</p> <p>4/5/18 Visited all companies in morning, the Brigade Companies receive secret orders from their Brigades respecting action to be taken when the German offensive begins, which is anticipated tomorrow. All troops are to be taken out of the horses + put between high banks if possible in open country, horses are to be got well away. Supply Section therefore cut out issue into huts tonight, so that speedy issue can be made if required. Saw S. M. T. O. re Cross of Palm + Smith for extra pay due to them, gave a certificate + settlement promised. Advised that D.H.Q. move from Bertangles to Brigade from Montigny to Allowville + Cartriette tomorrow. Corps agreed Supply & Lorry for 5th Brigade Group Supply tomorrow. Corps asked for loan of a Supply Clerk for Corps Troops Section B. Arranged with 15th Company to supply same. Instructed to arrange 10 ^gs. amounts tomorrow from Picquigny which include 3 for the Train. Train 2 1/2 hours late today at Railhead.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Allainville	5/7/18		<p>Brigade moved here today. 15th Company, A.S.H. accommodated in disused hangars of aerodrome, giving them splendid grazing. Lt Rutherford reported from Lt. Base depot. Drew 3 Remounts from Picquigny. Weather wet. Car 18619 sent in for 24 hours overhaul. Quiet day.</p>	
	6/5/18		<p>14th Company reported having several cases of head fever caught through the men being bathed at Agnicourt and lice getting on their clothes while dressing. This creates a serious situation as the men are now isolated. They are thus 14 men short. Arranged for them to carry on for the present, and wrote 3rd Echelon to expedite reinforcements. Attached to Rutherford to 20th Company. Went to Picquigny & took over Ride Remounts. Very poor lot. All the rads seem poor but the draughts now coming forward are excellent. Had to detach 2 G.S. Wagon from 16th & 16th Companies for detached duty at Beaucourt with kenelie of Battalions. Artillery becoming out of line tonight.</p>	
	7/5/18		<p>Saw 20th Company at Beaucourt & discussed several matters with C/O. Instructed him to at once try & secure a camp at Querrien as his present site is now out of our Corps area. D.H.Q. moved to St Gratien on 10th, arranged we remain here. Horse transport will require to draw from railhead & deliver to D. Co's stores when our beasts go in the line. All Brigades ready to move at moments notice & attack by enemy expected tomorrow at dawn. Gas & H.E. bombardment of all villages first expected. Weather promising fines.</p>	

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Allonville	9/5/18		<p>D.A.D. inform we cannot remain at ALLONVILLE but must move to our Divisional Area. Corps endeavouring to find us accommodation. Went to ST GRATIENS, QUERRIEU and PONT NOYELLES but could get no place there all full up. 20th Company moved yesterday to PONT NOYELLES. Saw them + 16th Company. Notified that 5th Brigade move tomorrow to FRANVILLERS, and baggage wagons sent to Battalions. Arranged for better transport to draw from Rail tomorrow. Drafted supply arrangements up to the 10th Int. 15th + 17th Companies will move on 10th Int. to occupy lines of corresponding Companies of 3rd Div. Train at PONT NOYELLES. Saw Corps Transport Officer and arranged that up to 22 G.S. wagons will be made available for Railhead drawing of supplies after 10th Int. as Train will now be required to deliver right to front lines. J. T. RUTHERFORD owing to lack of transport knowledge appointed supply officer to small Group of units attached for Rations. Saw S. Lt. J. O. re permit for Dr Sims to drive a Car in case of necessity; he has written Army on the matter. Saw the Column re various returns they require. Saw Corps and O. A. Q. M. G. promise to advise of move tomorrow when we could billet. 5th Brigade moved to FRANVILLERS.</p>	
	9/5/18			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	10/5/18		<p>new round and saw all Companies. 15th and 17th Companies moved to PONT NOYELLES today. Corps advised we could go to RIVIERE or POULAINVILLE but doubtful over the latter. Got French mission and took No 16 + 18 RVE d'ALBERT, RIVIERE. D.M.Q. advised that Corps state we cannot draw on Reserve Park and must provide 6 85. wagons daily for Engineer work. This will entail transport down all the work from Railhead to PONT NOYELLES Refilling Pond + thence to built a tremendous days work. Pointed out to Division that they will ruin the horses by this action, but informed that circumstances justified even that. 17th Brigade commenced moving forward to FRANVILLERS, but managed to deal with Supplies by Horse transport, did not call on any mechanical vehicles. Found that owing to inability to get communication by telephone to D.R. Co. Service with R.H.Q. that being impossible, saw four hours, St-CRATIENS arranged to take over Billes from 17th Labour Coy who were tomorrow. Quarter might be had for weeks. No gun fire at all practically, health splendid. 14th Company report they now have 35 men all with so called "TRENCH FEVER" but more serious + about 18 should be fit to work in 3 or 4 days. This sickness has puzzled the Medical Officers they really do not know what it is.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST GRATIENS SOMME	11/7/18		<p>Moved to St GRATIENS in morning. Found good office + plumb-droom. Officers killed very bad. Went on to see Corps Transport Officer re Mayor to assist us. Got 6 G.S. masons in lieu of 6 which we give the C.K.E. for forward work. The relief H.Q. from Hk. Depot arrived with 10 Reinforcements. Posted all to 20th Company, which was urgently in need. Instructed that all Train Transport with limit must return to Companies except A.P.M. & Lumber + Div. Salvage 1 G.S. mason.</p> <p>The water in this village very bad. Drew a water cart from 15th Company and drew water for D.H.Q., D.S. H.Q. and T.H.Q. from Fecchenconet where is excellent water provided from natural springs. Inspected horses of 20th Company and found all except about 6 in splendid order. Went up to Q.M. Store in the Aerodrome at La Houssaye. It requires another 5 Kilometres in distance to deliver supplies to them. Road in first class condition. Town Mayor POW-HOYELLES called on 20th Company to supply a fatigue party to clean the streets, but I saw D.H.Q. and on their authority told the Town Mayor to draw from other troops.</p> <p>Look over a portion of the Market Gardens at RIVIERY a suburb of AMIENS to provide vegetables for the Division. The civil owners who cultivated the land having gone + the vegetables were going to waste. Placed S.O. Lt. Sgt. Hoque with a party of 8 men to pick + pack the crop. Artillery moving into the line completion to be done by 14th, but masons here remaining as at present. Whilst in that position can dispense with assistance for transporting supplies. Weather abominable + wet.</p>	
	12/5/18			
	13/5/18			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>ST. KRATIENS</p>	<p>14/5/18</p>		<p>Everything extremely calm. Inspected 16th + 20th Companies Refueling Points units assisting a lot in drawing with first line. This enables us to carry on without assistance from outside and find 6 g.s. wagon daily for Engineer work. Saw D.M.O. re Wentworth promotion and in view of recent promotions to Captain (4) in M. transport (A.O.S.B.) decided to submit it again. Vegetables drawn from Rivery are an especial treat being fresh and are greatly appreciated. Weather improving. No fresh cases of trench fever and the sick men are resuming work from today, being subject to light duty only for a few days.</p> <p>But in recommendation for promotion of Lt H.B. WENTWORTH to Captain.</p> <p>Every vehicle in train engaged today owing to extra forage + fuel coming up. Army advise that owing to no more roots coming from Base, extra forage in lieu of oats to be obtained in Forward Area if possible. Now to be exploited to fullest capacity. Query from Corps + Army re using Driver E.R. SIMS on cars in cases of emergency. Things normal. Extra men applied for in connection with gardens at Rivery as great many vegetables under glass require transplanting at once. Detailed Lt RUTHERFORD to take over Transport Duty in 20th Company, vice Lt COX who takes over Supply duties of Div. Troops B Group.</p>	

15/5/18

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St-GRATIENS	16/5/18		<p>Sent Car 18619 in for bi-monthly overhaul. Everything very quiet & normal. Not using 6 wagons of 3rd Div. Train in fact only did so on one morning.</p> <p>Personnel for Train now stands surplus ^{office} 4 N.C.O. 6 Supply details, deficiencies, 10 Drivers 6 Horse Drumpt. Nearly all men who were ill with so called French Fever have now been returned to duty. Great many Hun aeroplanes passed over last night going to bomb back areas. Heavy machine gun fire, but was waste of ammunition in most cases as the machines were hopelessly out of range. Horses of 15th, 16th & 117th Companies are distributed over Querrieu & Pont NOYELLES in sheds. This secures cover from observation & shelter from bomb splinters, whilst avoiding concentration. 20th Company unable to do this, and forced to have line in open. Prospected 15th, 16th & 117th Companies this afternoon weather quite hot.</p> <p>Went to Railhead and inspected Train Rampart at intervals in the wood. Usual details observed. Swift & heat men driving in shifts only, others lying on loads & infantry riding on many vehicles. Corrected matters. In afternoon 15th Company held Sports meeting being 3rd Anniversary of embarkation at Saigon for the war. Concert in evening. Excellent show and men greatly appreciated. These outings provide a welcome relaxation for men & bring Companies into closer touch. Otherwise everything normal.</p>	
		17/5/18		

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SECRATIENS	18/5/18		Every thing exceedingly quiet. Park Train running late owing to mishap on the line, and trucks of supplies coming to Railhead in small detachments.	
	19/5/18		14 th Company reports that a Hun aeroplane dropped bombs at Pont-Hoyelles in vicinity of their Quarters and wounded 1 Lance Corporal + 2 privates. Wounded not serious. Also 2 horses wounded, 1 being serious. Every thing normal.	
	20/5/18		Companies report heavy bombing + shelling in their vicinity this morning no casualties however. Went round and saw all Companies in morning, all arranging to give men horse utmost protection. Intermittent shelling all day. In afternoon inspected vegetable garden at RIVERY where fresh vegetables are obtained daily for troops. Every thing being carried on in a most satisfactory manner. This matter is left entirely in the hands of the S. S. O. MAJOR HUGENT who is administering it in a most capable manner. In evening S.M.O. instructed that all Companies should move out of QUERRIEU + PONT HOYELLES into the open owing to the certainty of heavy bombing + shelling from now on, the offensive being imminent. Heavy bombing in vicinity here and Querrieu ⁱⁿ last night + early morning of 21/5/18. All Companies moved in morning and extended from about half a mile out of Querrieu along the ALLONVILLE Road. They are all in vicinity of thickets which afford excellent cover. Inspected them all in morning with medical officers. 7 Reinforcements arrived and instructed to draw 3 Remounts on 23 rd . Otherwise things normal.	

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St GRATIENS	21/5/18		<p>Every thing exceedingly quiet. Cold Woodburne of Comport. Friend reported in evening. Many planes came over from about 10 pm. and bombed Quarry & Post Hozeels & Frecheumont Area more severely. Bright clear night.</p>	
	23/5/18		<p>Car 14295 sent in for bi-monthly overhaul. Went round & saw all Companies found 14th Company most satisfactorily settled in Bois de MAI every thing being in the wood & out of sight. Disatisfied with 6th Co 20th Company, sent instructions for him to report to me at 10 am tomorrow. Drew 3 Remonun from PICQUINNY & for 14th Coy & 2 for 15th Company. 6th Coy & the 4 Battalion Commanders complained to the C.O.C. that they had drawn no fresh vegetables. D.H.Q. mentioned it & we sent in a statement showing that all the Devil had drawn these vegetables daily giving the quantities. C/O's are too prone to make incorrect verbal statements which always back on themselves.</p>	
	24/5/18		<p>Weather suddenly turned cold & wet, consequently an outbreak of colds is resulting. D.P.O. of 1st Army, calls for a copy of Divisional sign on vehicle both M.T. & horse. Saw 6th Co 20th re yesterday matter. Return disclose shortage of 5 Drivers & surplus of 7 Supply personnel went to Railhead Corps in morning. No oats or groceries arrived in yesterday pack train. Double quantity came up today.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S. GRATIENS	26/5/18		<p>A.A. Orders of 18th May show CAPT. WADDELL seconded as W.A. Q.M.G. 2nd Division promoted temporary Major, ^{16/5/18} Lieut. Bonney dismissed the service by court-martial 7/5/1918. This affords another instance of the hardship caused by men being given a Commission for other units and thrust on them. Though this ex-officer was never in this unit until commissioned and thrust into it by W.A.G. the unit has to bear all the odium attaching to him. Capt C. J. ELLIOTT taken on strength of B. I. F. from Australia on 15/5/1918. Visited all Companies found everything going satisfactorily. A.A. Hotchkiss guns all mounted in good positions. Saw the D.P. S. & T. office re Divisional Unit signs & gave over in weather fine but dull. Third anniversary of 15th-16th + 20th Companies leaving Adelaide for Overseas. Visited all Companies everything running smoothly. Went over and saw S.M.T.O at Corps re matter of permit issued to Driver Finn and also re arrears of pay for Drivers Palm and Smith. Promised all should be fixed up. Began bringing furniture of civilians back from Grauwillers with train wagons on return journey, after delivering Engineer stores. Also all supply wagons returning empty from same place. Night cleared up and Hun planes bombed American vicinity - also shells fell there. The Companies were not touched being from 1/2 a mile to 1 mile from the town.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
8-GRATIENS	27/5/18		<p>Went round all Companies and dealt with all matters in doubt. Reports from Company Commanders on Brigade First Line Transport shows that Horses, harness & vehicles are in first class order. Nothing doing visited all Companies. Arranged for Officers & NCOs of all Companies to parade tomorrow afternoon for Co. Officer to lecture to re danger of new gas. Corps transport officer wished me to detail 90 S.S. masons for road works and he would replace them for Railhead. Pointed out that our mobilization would be affected whereupon he gave way & is sending a detail of 24 Reserve Park S.S. masons to report to us. I agreed to find them a Camp and assist them with artificers. All Officers met at D.H.Q. to bid farewell to General Sir W. BIRDWOOD on his leaving the Corps. He had every Officer presented & said a personal farewell to all. Arrival of 9 Reinforcements coming up from Havre. Section of Reserve Park arrived. Found a place in wood alongside 70th Company for it. Lieut FRANKEL proceeded on 3 days leave to LAODRVICE. 7 Reinforcements reported. All B Class men had no Batmen. Only 3 know anything of horses & since all our Officers are mounted this is an impossible situation wrote 3rd Echelon asking if this point can be attended to. Gas lecture postponed until tomorrow. Weather perfect everything very quiet.</p>	

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SECRATIENS	30/5/18		<p>Col. Marsh C.T.O. came round to see me. Took him to Camp arranged for section of Reserve Park. He was very pleased. Leave opened from 1st June in very limited amount. Our allotment for the first two weeks 2. Several young officers are not at all well, all seem weary & lifeless. Saw the Companies nothing wanted there. Great many Hun planes about the vicinity in night. Otherwise everything normal. Gardens at Rivery almost finished. Smith is a pig as the fresh vegetables were most beneficial. Major CHARLTON, Major NUGENT and Warrent Officer (1st Com) TURNER mentioned in Despatches. Light Railway being built from Railhead to Querrien which will bring up supplies. A siding is to be put in the common to 16th & 17th Companies and another common to 15th & 20th Companies. Saw all Companies every thing quiet. Lt HARRISON to relieve Capt Gibbons in Train H.Q. Office. Capt GIBBONS to go on Transport det in 15th Company. Lt UPWARD to act as Supply Officer. Saw int application for Special leave to A.K. for Capt Bosanquet. This month has been most beneficial to the Horses, owing to quantity of grazing that has been available. The Transport of the Division has never been better. The worst are Artillery & Engineers who do not seem to take the same trouble as other units or rather the weakness seems to be due to the fact that they have no Transport Officers who can be made responsible.</p>	

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2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

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APPENDIX.

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WAR DIARY

OF

2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

FOR

MAY

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

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Subject.

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