

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/14/28

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Train

February 1917



AWM4-25/14/28

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.

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VOLUME XII

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLE.	1917			
	FEB.			
	1 st		20 wagons still employed on road work by Division.	
	5 ³⁰		Coal supply very unsatisfactory, necessitating the employment of wagons to transfer coal from EDGEHILL railhead to BAZENTIN railhead.	
	4 th		Reserve supply of firewood accumulated at ALBERT dump, and BAZENTIN.	
	5 th		No. 2 Coy moved to new camp site, in new area, x 25. D. 2. 4. Shelters for horses very good, it will be necessary to do some building before all the men are comfortably housed.	
	7 th		The weather is very cold, and is beginning to make itself felt among any unhoused horses. Unfortunately the other companies of the train are unable to move to new area as yet, the camp allotted still being occupied by the 33 rd Reserve Park (Imperial). Difficulty was experienced in obtaining supplies of straw for palliases for troops in forward areas, but this has been overcome and all are now supplied.	
	8 th & 9 th		Supplies of vegetables from the base, not up to requirements, necessitating local purchasing ^{local purchasing} , some little difficulty being experienced in obtaining supplies	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLE G.H. G.H.	FEB 1917 8 th 9 th		of same, owing to the weather conditions, the difficulty is being coped with. In order to release motor lorries of Supply Column for repairs etc, wagons of the Div Train and D.A.C. are being utilised to the fullest extent. A daily service between D.A.D.S. ALBERT, - D.H.Q. FRIECOURT, - & Railhead BAZENTIN. has been inaugurated to come into force on 10 th inst, thus releasing several lorries.	
VILLE G.H.	FEB 10 th -14 th 1917.		Returned Command of Divisional Train on 10 th inst. - Preparations being made for Head Quarters of Train and remainder of Transport details of Divisional Train to move to New Quarters in Rear of BECOURT WOOD where the whole of the Train and H.Q. of Train will be concentrated with the exception of 2 supply sections at BAZENTIN Railhead supplying troops in forward area. The remaining supply sections draw from ALBERT Railhead for those troops W&K in Rear of line -	
BECOURT WOOD G.H.	FEB 15-17 1917		Movement of H.Q. & Div Train Completed on 17 th , with the exception of SSO & his staff who remain in ALBERT, till telephone communication is arranged at H.Q. of Train ^{present}	

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BECOURT WOOD	FEB 18 th to 28 th 1917.		<p>The present site for the Train is considered satisfactory - All horses are under good cover, but fresh standings require to be made which are in progress and also a certain amount of drainage is necessary round the standings water has been laid on to four troughs close to the standings which is most satisfactory - The men are mostly accommodated in Nissen huts, more to be provided shortly - During this period the thaw precautions after a long period of heavy frosts (which meant no motor lorries being used and all transport being carried out by two-horsed vehicles with half loads) worked very satisfactorily with apparently little damage to the road - The condition of the horses is considered remarkably good, especially as the oat ration lately had to be reduced owing to shortage of supply, but next month this is to be again increased to the proper ration - Complaints have been received of bad bagging of oats resulting in a considerable wastage of oats, especially those bags weighing over 80 lbs. This has been reported - Attention was drawn to this important</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECOURT WOOD	Feb: 18 th 1917		<p>matter some months ago, after which great improvement was shown but it has again been neglected -</p> <p>The health of the men of the Train for this month on the whole is very satisfactory, considering the weather, but the muddy conditions prevailing during the recent thaw, increased the sick list, principally chills not of serious nature - upto the 23rd list - 30 men of the Train were evacuated -</p> <p>Horses and vehicles in good, sound condition requiring only a few minor repairs, but the Train is quite prepared at short notice to take the field and carry out all duties required of them -</p> <p>Supply arrangements are satisfactory & Deps of troops in forward area draw their supplies direct from BAZANTIN Railhead and distribute to their units under Regimental arrangements - The remaining troops are in rear of line draw their rations from a central dump at BECOURT WOOD</p>	

G.H.

28.2.17

G.H. Capt. Col.
oc. 18th Ambulance Det Train