

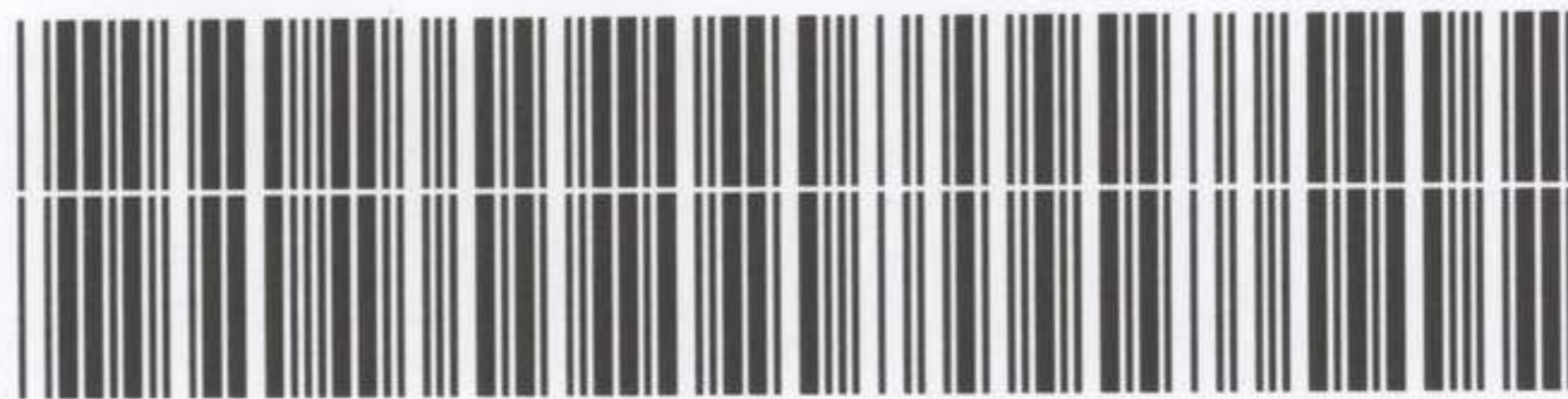
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/14/46

**Title:** 1st Australian Divisional Train

August 1918



AWM4-25/14/46

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL. ✓  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

44

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1st Australian Divisional Train*

FOR

*August. 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. H. [Signature]*  
*Lt. Col.*  
*Comdgr. Div. Train 1st Aust. Div.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. H. [Signature]*  
*Lt. Col.*  
*Comdgr. Div. Train 1st Aust. Div.*

1st Div Train

Army Form C. 2118.

## WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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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
WARDRECQUES	Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1918		<p>During the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug: the T<sup>st</sup> Aus: Div<sup>n</sup> was relieved in the line by the 29<sup>th</sup> Imperial Div<sup>n</sup> and moved to WARDRECQUES area, a distance of 8 miles behind the line, preparatory to a further move down south to reform the Australian Corps at present on the Somme to the East of AMIENS.</p> <p>The above relief was carried out at night, the Infantry being moved by bus. The weather during this move was wet and some very heavy rain - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> the Railhead changed from EBBLINGHEM to WARDRECQUES. Train Companies are with their respective Brigades and Train H<sup>o</sup> Q<sup>r</sup> are at WARDRECQUES.</p> <p>Warrant Officer (C.I.) E. F. VINNING M.C. of the H<sup>o</sup> Q<sup>r</sup> Coy of the Train has been granted a commission in the Divisional Train dated 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1918 for exceptional and continuous good work - This W.O.'s report sent forward by the Div<sup>n</sup> was as under:-</p> <p>"W.O. Vinning's conduct under fire has on every occasion been most distinguished and he is fearless. Was awarded the M.C. for courage &amp; devotion to duty whilst on forward transport duty. His conduct sets a splendid example to the men under him"</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARD RECQUES 19.11.1918	Aug: 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1918		Captain W O STEVENSON of the Div <sup>n</sup> Train has been promoted Temp <sup>ly</sup> Major whilst commanding the H <sup>q</sup> & Co Company of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug <sup>st</sup> :	
ALLONVILLE 9.11.1918	Aug: 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> 1918		The Div <sup>n</sup> moved by Rail from WARD RECQUES to the SOMME area on the 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug <sup>st</sup> . The Divisional Artillery are temporarily attached to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Am <sup>er</sup> Div <sup>n</sup> and the 7 <sup>th</sup> Am <sup>er</sup> Inf <sup>an</sup> B <sup>de</sup> are attached to the 4 <sup>th</sup> Am <sup>er</sup> Div <sup>n</sup> - in connection with the operations to be carried out on the 8 <sup>th</sup> inst. - The Remains of the Div <sup>n</sup> are in the ALLONVILLE area. JHQ and Train H <sup>q</sup> & Co are billeted in ALLONVILLE. On night of the 6 <sup>th</sup> the H <sup>q</sup> & Co of the Train who were bivouacked in a wood between ALLONVILLE and AMIENS were attacked by Enemy's bombs who searched the wood with several heavy and light bombs causing 32 casualties amongst the horses. Eleven horses were killed and five had to be sacrificed at once. Fortunately no casualties amongst the men whose shelters however, were badly wrecked by the bomb splinters. The men themselves being well below the level of the ground in "dug outs" -	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Advanced I.H.Q. moved to VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Near I.H.Q. and Train Head Quarters at ALLONVILLE. The operations on the 4<sup>th</sup> Army front were very successful, the advance commencing on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>. The Australian Corps reached their objective, according to the scheme and took many prisoners guns and war material - The remainder of the division who are in Reserves also moved forward - Railhead for 1<sup>st</sup> Aus. Div. AILLY-SUR-SOMME. Work on Transport very heavy, some assistance being given by mechanical Transport drawing from Railhead - All supply and Transport arrangements worked satisfactorily -</p>	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	9 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 1918		<p>Head Quarters of Train moved to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and Near I.H.Q. moved to BLANGY-TRONVILLE on the 9<sup>th</sup>. All Train Companies also moved to this area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aus. Infy Bdes moved into the line on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Railhead on 9<sup>th</sup> LAMOTTE on 10<sup>th</sup> CORRIE. All Supplies drawn from Railhead by Horse transport. No assistance from M.T. except 5 lorries put at the disposal of the S.S.O. Division for urgent purposes where distances are too great for Horse transport. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bde and Div Artillery resumed D.W. on 10<sup>th</sup> inst.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX	Aug. 9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	work on horses during this period very heavy. weather hot and dusty. Difficultly experienced in getting good water for horses. Under the circumstances the horses are in good condition and men cheery.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Aug.	Two more horses wounded on 10 <sup>th</sup> inst. - but upto date no casualties amongst officers or men. A.C. Companies are working suitably with their respective Brigades.	
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>		VILLERS, BRETONNEUX and vicinity - is visited by enemy's planes nightly and also shelled but no serious damage upto date. The operations still continue to be successful, but no further advance of any distance has been made the last few days. Train Companies and Supply dumps move short distances conforming with the movements of their respective Brigades. Supplies are good and both Supply and Transport arrangements are working satisfactorily.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> 1918		
CORBIE	Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>		The 1 <sup>st</sup> Division (complete) moved out of the line on the 16 <sup>th</sup> inst. and moved to CORBIE area. D.H.Q. at CORBIE, also Train H.Q. and Railhead.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 1918		
			All precautions are being taken for digging in and protecting.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORBIE F.H.	Aug: 16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> 1918		<p>both men and horses against Enemy's air craft - and bombs which are very active at night - In present area, watering facilities are far more satisfactory and the horses are greatly benefitting by it in consequence - weather very hot and dusty - The men are able to get a certain amount of bathing in the canal which is much appreciated - leave allotment has recently been increased to 18 for WO's &amp; men per week and one per week for officers - Captain and Adjutant F. Saunders proceeded on 14 days leave to England on 19<sup>th</sup> inst. and Lieut. Stewart of the Div Train will perform the duties of Adjutant during his absence.</p>	
CORBIE F.H.	Aug: 20 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>		<p>Preparatory to an attack to be made by the T<sup>th</sup> Am. Div in conjunction with other divisions the Bde, and Div Artillery have moved forward. Which has necessitated the Brigade supply dumps &amp; Div Troops dumps also being moved forward. The transport sections of the Train will remain in their present bivouacs - the Bde supply officers in each case</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORBIE	Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>		Moved forward with their own supply sections - A fresh supply of 14 Heavy, draught Horses has recently arrived and were all handed over to the 40 <sup>th</sup> <sup>Company</sup> of the Train who have suffered the worst casualties in the Train recently -	
F.H.	21 <sup>st</sup>	1918		
CORBIE	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Nothing further to report this day. Weather still continues very hot and dusty. Health of men is excellent and spirits distinctly good -	
F.H.	1918			
CORBIE	Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>		The advance was carried out by the 1 <sup>st</sup> Aus. Div. on 23 <sup>rd</sup> inst and proved very successful in every way. New objectives were reached, and 2500 prisoners were taken up by the afternoon of 24 <sup>th</sup> - Our casualties were light - roughly 600 -	
F.H.	24 <sup>th</sup>	1918	Weather still keeps very fine, which has greatly assisted all the operations the last fortnight -	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORBIE 9.H.	Aug: 25 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> 1918		Slight advances forward have been made the last 2 days, but no regular attack. It has not been necessary to move the supply dumps more forward and railhead still remains at CORBIE. There has been a change in the weather the last two days some rain & more windy. On evening 25 <sup>th</sup> there was a slight thunder storm - Several Remounts arrived for the divisional train 26 <sup>th</sup> -	
CORBIE 9.H.	Aug: 27 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> 1918		Weather has changed & is finer but colder. The division moved out of the line on the 28 <sup>th</sup> and is now in Reserve - D.H.Q. is at CORBIE. Nothing further to report during this period -	
CORBIE 9.H.	Aug: 31.		No change. Since the Railhead has moved forward to LA. FLAQUE S of PROYART. All ASC <sup>Co's</sup> have now moved forward into their own Bde areas. Health of men good - Condition of horses good and spirits of men good. Weather getting much colder and some rain - 9.H. Unit: 02.1st Am: Det Train 31.8.18	

# WAR DIARY

OF

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

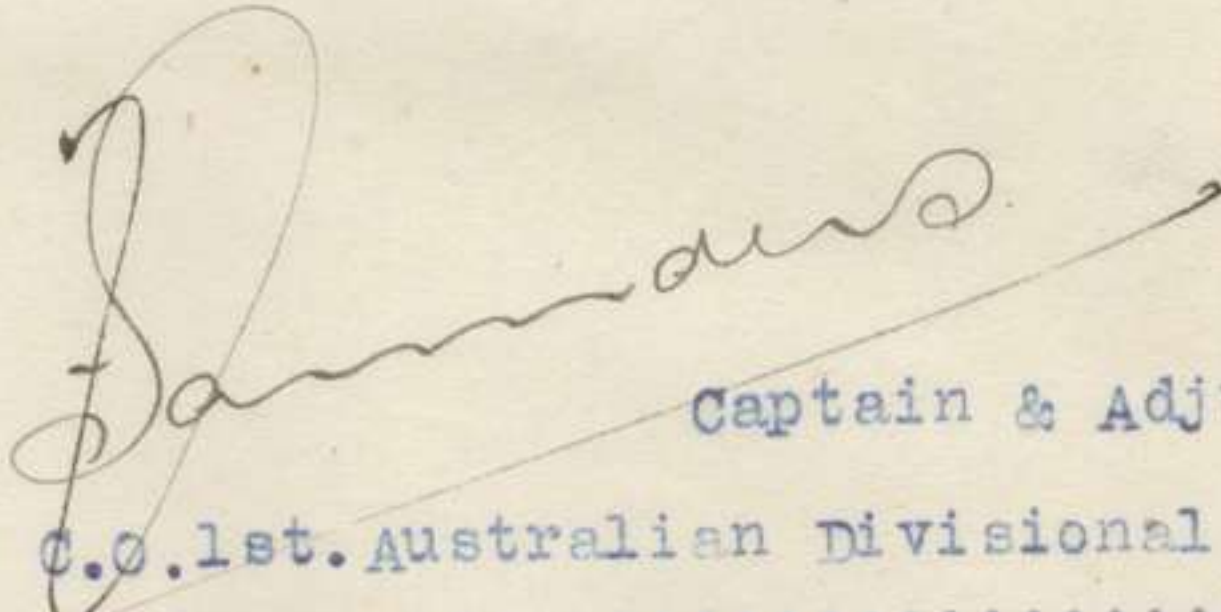
FOR

A U G U S T. 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Statement of Units Strength, Casualties etc, by days of period.
2.	Summary for Month by "Australian Comforts Fund" "Representative".
3.	Summary for Month by Senior supply officer.
4.	" " " " O.C. No.1. Company.
5.	" " " " O.C. No.2. Company.
6.	" " " " O.C. No.3. Company.
7.	" " " " O.C. No.4. Company.

.....


  
 Captain & Adjutant,  
 For C.O. 1st. Australian Divisional Train.

.....

DAILY STRENGTH. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

DATE	Off. O.R.		Attached Off. O.R.		Horses.	Reinforcements Off. O.R.		Remounts R. H.D. L.D.			Evacuations. Off. O.R. R. L.D. H.D.			Remarks.	
1/8/18	22	456	2	68	359	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	1 O.R. to Comm. Rank
2-3/8/18	No Alterations.														
4/8/18	22	455	2	66	359	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
5/8/18	25	454	2	66	364	3	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	
6/8/18	25	454	2	67	346	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	14	11 Killed 7 Wounded
7/8/18	25	454	2	67	343	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1 Killed 2 Wounded
8/8/18	25	454	2	67	341	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Wounded
9/8/18	No Alterations														
10/8/18	25	456	2	67	341	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11/8/18	24	455	2	67	341	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	Trfd. to A.I.F.H.Q. for Return to Aust.
12/8/18	24	455	2	67	334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1 Killed 6 Wounded
13-14/8/18	No Alterations														
15/8/18	24	453	2	67	334	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1 Wounded
16-17/8/18	No Alterations														
18/8/18	24	455	2	67	348	-	2	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	
19-20/8/18	No Alterations														
21/8/18	24	454	2	67	348	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
22/8/18	24	454	2	71	348	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23/8/18	No Alterations														
24/8/18	24	452	2	71	348	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
25/8/18	24	453	2	71	348	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
26/8/18	24	450	2	70	348	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1 Wounded
27/8/18	24	451	2	70	358	-	1	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	
28/8/18	No Alterations														
29/8/18	24	448	2	70	358	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	
30/8/18	24	446	2	70	358	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	to A.A.S.C. Tng. Dpt.
31/8/18	23	446	2	66	358	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS.</b>						4	8	-	27	2	2	19	3	2	26

DATE. 31/8/1918.

  
 Lieut Colonel  
 Commanding 1st. Australian Divisional Train

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Appendix 1. 9

2<sup>10</sup>

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND.  
FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.  
REPORT FOR MONTH OF AUGUST.

During this month 770 cases of gifts have been distributed in this Division, including 32,800 packets cigarettes and 680 lbs. of Australian tobacco, also 50 cricket bats and 75 cricket balls, a number of footballs, packs of playing cards and several gramophones.

During the first week of this month the Division moved from the HAZEBROUCK Area to the SOMNE - The first move was made by motor lorry, bringing the men back some miles in rear, prior to entrainment which took place a few days later. This movement was carried out during the night. - At the debussing point hot cocoa and biscuits were served out free to all - which was greatly appreciated after the tiring journey, and more especially so, as the majority still had a few miles to march before arriving at their billets, in the early hours of the morning.

The entrainment was carried out at three different stations, at the request of the G.O.C. we had a shack erected at each station and were able to give both Officers and men, including Canadians and a Brigade of Heavy Artillery, a free drink of hot cocoa and a packet of cigarettes each. During these two days and two nights some 20,000 men received the benefit of Australian gifts. Conditions during this period were uncomfortable, as the weather was very unsettled and showery.

Midway en route each train stopped at a station for one hour, here again we had prepared hot cocoa and cigarettes for all passing through.

The day following the arrival of the Division at the new Railhead, AILLY SUR SOMNE two trucks of Comforts (800 cases) ordered previously from our base depot arrived there. Owing to the great demand on transport at this time great difficulty was experienced in obtaining motor transport to clear the trucks. The Division being on the move it was impossible and unwise to make a general and equal distribution of these gifts immediately; our object being to get them up as far as possible by motor transport, and then have the units collect by their first line transport. The first move was to RIVERY by motor transport, from there again transport difficulties arose but two days later, portion of this consignment was taken to VILLERS BRETTONEAUX by motor transport, the units collecting from there by their front line transport.

FIRST During the next few days the remainder was brought up to CORBIE, the new Railhead for the Division, and taken on from here by the Divisional Train Horse Transport to the Refilling Points, and there handed over to the quartermasters with the daily rations. This consignment included 12,000 packets of cigarettes, 660 pounds of tobacco in addition to cocoa and milk, milk, sugar, curry powder, tinned fruits, sweets and <sup>stoves</sup> ~~presses~~, stoves. The cigarettes especially were greatly needed, for, during this period the Army issues were reduced.

During the last week of this month the Division was relieved from the front line, coming back a few miles in rear for rest. Immediately the units were settled in their new positions, I visited each and was able to supply what sporting material they required, which offered facilities for recreation and sport for the men, after the strenuous and hard fighting which they had been through.

On the 31st. Inst. a further consignment of 1,037 cases of gifts arrived at Railhead, which will be distributed during the next few days.

*Joseph H. Brown* Captain  
Assistant Commissioner, Australian Comforts  
Fund  
1st. Australian Division.

31/8/1918.

RATION STRENGTH. 556696 Men, 16071 Heavy draught, 91593 Light draughts, and 2539 pack mules were rationed during the month of August. These figures include the following Units, attached to the Division for "Supplies";-

12th. A.F.A. Bde (Army)	13th. Light Horse.
64th. R.F.A. Bde (Army)	Area Comdt. 15th Corps.
179th. R.F.A. Bde (Army)	648th Tunnlg. Coy. R.E.
1st. Aust. M.T. Coy.	"W" sect. Field survey Coy.
13th. A.I. Bde.	"M" do. do.
131st. W.S.A. Infantry.	7th Group, do.
132nd do. do.	6th Observation Group.
No. 2. Aust. Cable Sect.	Sthrn. Observation Centre.
2nd. Spec. Coy. R.E.	2nd. Water Tanks.
Light Tank Detachment.	Corps Cyclist platoon.

QUALITY OF SUPPLIES.

Supplies received from the Base on the whole were of excellent quality. During the period only 564 lbs of Frozen Meat and 137 lbs of Bacon, and 60 lbs Jam were condemned as unfit for human consumption, probably due to the hot weather, that was experienced during the period under review.

SHORTAGES.

Coarse salt continues to be short, very little arriving from The Base. Tobacco, cigarettes and matches are also being received short; these articles being so much looked for by the Troops, this shortage is keenly felt.

The Tobacco and Match percentages, as received, are here quoted

4/8/18.	Tobacco & Cigarettes	100 %.	Matches	100 %.	d.
10/8/18.	"	100 %.	"	25 %.	
15/8/18.	"	-----	"	75 %.	
17/8/18.	"	100 %.	"	--	
31/8/18.	"	50 %.	"	75%	

DRIPPING.

14710 lbs of Dripping, representing 5148 fr. 50 cents. were returned to Railhead by this division for the month of August, as compared with 35130 lbs for the preceding month, the large falling off is due to the fact that the division has been moving about during the whole month and facilities for rendering fat down are not easily obtainable under these circumstances.

PURCHASES.

During the month of August the only purchases were 3000 kilos of cabbage purchased direct with the owners and 2000 kilos of green forage in conjunction with The Central purchase Board. The tactical situation has not permitted of much purchasing during period under review.

16610 kilos cabbage were received at Railhead from S. P. D. of which 3182 kilos had to be condemned owing to them having been badly packed and time taken on rails; they arrived in a condition unfit for human consumption.

REQUISITIONS.

Nil. Owing to tactical situation and constant moving of Division.

NORMAL UNDERDRAWALS.

During the month the following commodities were underdrawn voluntarily by the Division:-

17863 lbs Biscuits.	44 Tins. Milk.
1550 Btms. Pres. Meat.	405 lbs. Oatmeal.
749 Tns. P & Beans.	18 lbs. Margarine.
3727 lbs. Rice.	8 lbs. Tea.
126 lbs. Cheese.	47 lbs. Sugar.
57 lbs. Jam.	218 lbs. Biscuits (in lieu Rice)
138 lbs. Bacon.	

*W. J. Dine*  
S.S.O. 1st Australian Division.

## WAR DIARY.

NO 1 COY 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div Train

The Company moved from Hazebrouck area to Hardrequeles on 2<sup>nd</sup> inst entraining at S<sup>o</sup> Omer on 5<sup>th</sup> inst detraining early on the following morning at Longpre. And travelled through via Amiens to a Campy ground near Blangy-Tronville at distance of 35 Kilo. heavy rain had fallen throughout the day. The night (6<sup>th</sup> inst) turned out fine & clear. Several Enemy Aeroplanes came over. At about 11.30 AM three bombs were dropped. The last landing in the centre of Company horse lines. Killing 10 H.D. horses = 2 Riders and wounding 15 others = no men were wounded.

9 of the 10 horses killed were brought from Australia in 1914 =

The loss of these horses was a most serious blow to the Company. worse especially on the eve of a great affair. the baggage wagons of Batteries etc could not be hosed. This difficulty was overcome however, by units supplying their own horses.

Two H.D. horses from No 3 Coy attached were wounded also on night of 6<sup>th</sup> inst. The 1<sup>st</sup> Div Artillery - D.A.C. & No 1 Coy AASC were attached to 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Dis. and drew from Lamotte-Brebiere on 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

Drawing from Tack train at 1.30 P.M.  
 During the early stages of the operations  
 great difficulty was experienced in  
 locating Battery wagon lines in the New  
 battle area. Owing to the rapid moves forward  
 which took place sometimes twice daily  
 great praise is due to all ranks for  
 their devotion to duty during this period  
 being on the move on an average of  
 18 hours out of 24. In no single  
 instance did rations & forage fail  
 to reach the Battery Quartermaster Sergeants.

As it was impossible for the Drivers  
 to leave the Main Road they often came  
 under heavy shell fire from the Enemy  
 big guns, but no casualties occurred.  
 On two separate occasions the wagons  
 taking Supplies to Battery wagon lines  
 were bombed by Enemy planes without  
 scoring any hits.

Owing to the railhead remaining at  
 Lacotte, it was impossible to move  
 forward. The men & horses were beginning  
 to feel the strain of long hours on duty.  
 The tension was relieved however on 11<sup>th</sup>  
 inst. railhead being advanced to  
 Viller Bretonneux. This enabled the Coy  
 to move forward to Warfusse - a  
 distance of six miles from old  
 Camp Site. This naturally reduced to

to

a great extent the long hours, and distance to and from Batty wagon lines. Since the 8<sup>th</sup> inst the weather has been hot & fine. Enemy night bombing being very heavy.

Captain Osgood proceeds to Australia on six months furlough. Capt Tukerton taking up duties of Supply Officer. Capt Millne reported to the Coy for duty and relieved Capt Tukerton of Supply duties - the latter officer coming back to transport.

Seven H D horses & two Rides were despatched to 1<sup>st</sup> M.V.S. on 12<sup>th</sup> inst suffering from bomb wound received on 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

Lieut Viney with a party of men proceeded to Abberville on 14<sup>th</sup> inst for remounts for the Division. This Coy receiving 14 H D. These animals were all in good condition & much superior to what has been coming forward for some time.

Owing to the continuance of enemy air raids at night, special precautions had to be made to safeguard the horses. No natural protection being available considerable excavation had to be carried out. An old New trench was widened so as to allow horses to stand comfortably



The depth of this trench averaged Eight feet & accommodating 100 horses. Numerous large shell holes were also widened to carry four to six horses. During the day all animals were tied to breast-lines & at night removed to trench & holes - it was impossible to see any horses even from a short distance by night. Numerous enemy planes were over the camp during the month, but no bombs were dropped. Owing no doubt to the camp being so well camouflaged. The 1<sup>st</sup> Div Artillery, D.A.C. & A Coy Aase were sent back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division on 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. the new Trackhead being Corbie.

During the month the following remounts were taken on strength from Remount Depot. 20 H.D. which brings the Coy up to full strength. Number of wounded & evacuated for the month being 15 H.D. & 1 Rider. Men evacuated for month 6. Sick & accidentally wounded.

The health of all ranks has been most satisfactory. Great difficulty has been experienced in purchasing canteen stores. Vegetables have been bought out of canteen profits for the men to a limited extent.

W. H. Percussion M.P.  
OC A Coy 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Div Train

Summary516  
7<sup>th</sup> 2 Coy. A.F.S.C.  
31-8-18

The beginning of the month was spent at Wardrecques, in the East Area for the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. The time the Company was to have spent there was however cut short, and the Brigade received orders to entrain for the Somme on the 6th August.

The Company entrained at Arques and detrained at Mangest on the same day. From Mangest we moved to St. Ouen. Next day Allonville was the destination and from Allonville the Company moved to Dabuss.

On the 8/8/18 the first signs of the success of the offensive were evident in the numerous and large batches of prisoners passing along the road.

The day following the Company continued the march to Vaux passing near the old town of Corbie. From Vaux the Coy. moved to a camp situated between Hamel and Villers Bretonneux, practically on the old line the Germans occupied in July, and not far from where the present push began.

Lack of water for the horses was a serious drawback at this camp, the nearest supply being the Canal at Vaux, about 4 kilos distance. This entailed much extra daily travelling.

During the night of the 10-11th August, the camp was bombed, but fortunately precautionary measures had been taken and everybody was dug in below the surface.

Casualties would have undoubtedly occurred had this not been done, as three bombs were dropped on the camp and several others close handy. Machine Guns were also played on the horse lines, with the result that two horses were wounded, one having to be evacuated.

The usual routine of transport, from Radhead to Bde Dump and thence to 2.7th Stns, was carried on from here. The baggage section remaining attached to their respective units.

On the 15th August, the Company moved back to Vaux with the 1st Brigade and remained there till the 30th of the month.

The Brigade went into action on the 19th, and the Supply Section moved to location at P. b. c. 4.1 remaining there until a further advance was necessary.

This Company moved to Moncourt, the present location, on 30th August, and the Supply Section rejoined on the 31st.

One night duty ~~was~~ to the Forward Area was carried out, when three wagons were detailed to convey barbed wire, sand bags &c to the line.

The health of the men has been good during the month and no evacuations were necessary.

(over)

Continued

Two horses were evacuated to 1st Mobile Vet. Sect. during the month and two very good remounts were drawn. The good condition of the horses has been maintained during the month, full advantage being taken to graze as much as possible.

The weather being hot, swimming has been the favourite pastime when time and situation allowed.

Morris Captain  
Pl. No 2 Coy. F.F.S.C.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRAIN.WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 1918.

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT.	WAGONS G.S.	23
	LIMBERS	2

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During the month every available turnout has been used daily, averaging from 10 to 14 miles daily.

On account of the Division moving from the HAZEBROUCK Area to the present one most of the baggage wagons of this Company have been detached to the various battalions of the 2nd. Australian Infantry Brigade and have been working constantly since the 3rd. Inst. on account of the battalions moving from one area to another and into, and out of the line to the back or rest areas.

The heaviest demand in this area is the drawing of supplies from Railhead, CORBIE, to the Refilling Point, a distance of about 10 miles, and from Refilling Point to Quartermasters Stores, a further distance of from 4 to 5 miles.

The weather has been fine during the month and the state of the roads good, facilitating transport work.

Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining good timber for repair of the wagons which is a serious matter owing to the heavy call on horse transport at the present time.

All the horses are in good hard condition and the Company is up to strength. On the 5th. August 2 Heavy Draughts were wounded whilst attached to No. 1. Company A.A.S.C. and had to be evacuated through the Mobile Veterinary Section. These were replaced from Remounts on the 26th. Inst.

The spirit and health of the men is excellent.

On the 13th. Inst. one man was wounded.

The Company Canteen has been satisfactory but owing to the present conditions has not been able to purchase much stock.

Sports indulged in during the month has naturally not been very great owing to so much moving about.

30th. August 1918.

*M. Thomson*

Captain

O. C. NO. 3. COMPANY 1st. Aust. Div. Train.

War Diary 4th Coy A.A.S.C.

19

Month of August 1918

The Coy moved from the North on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August by rail, a most successful run, and arrived at Hauges on the 7<sup>th</sup>, moving off immediately after detaching to a distance about 25 miles and the following day at similar distance into the vicinity of Corbe, from this Area we commenced to feed the Brigade who had taken over part of the line from the Berlin Railhead, and owing to the rapid advance made the work was exceptionally heavy, the railhead being so far behind.

On the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> the Coy was situated outside of Weingourt, where we experienced some fairly heavy shelling, a plane was seen over the Camp at about 1 AM and dropped a number of flares, and almost immediately the shelling commenced, but owing to the men being dug in, and the horses being in a sunken road we managed to avoid casualties with the exception of one or two slight wounds amongst the horses.

The roads in the forward Area were exceptionally good, and a number of Cross Country tracks assisted us tremendously, as we were able to save mileage and avoid the towns that were

being shelled, had the weather been bad and work would have been greatly hampered.

The water in the Area is very scarce, and the horses had to go approximately six miles to water, rather a severe trial for a horse doing a heavy days work.

The baggage Wagons have been detached since our arrival in this sector, and have had a considerable amount of work but not nearly as much as the supply, so it was found advisable to change the horses <sup>and men</sup> over, about every five or three days, thus distributing the work equally amongst them ~~and men~~.

The 10th Battalion Wagon lines were shelled on the night of the 14th and two of the horses I had detached with baggage Wagons were killed, and the other two wounded, one of the wounded horses was afterwards evacuated from the Mobile Veterinary Section.

On the morning of the 15th the Coy moved to "Laird" and occupied a Camp on the Canal, and from then on the horses have picked up wonderfully with the regular and good watering. The men have taken every advantage of the Canal, and swim on

4.

3.

every opportunity, this is much appreciated after the dusty works they have been accustomed to for the past weeks.

The only case of sickness during the month was an officer as suspected case of dysentery, but otherwise the unit has been free from sickness.

Average No of Vehicles used per day. 12.  
 " Mileage per wagon " " 14  
 Total Mileage for this month Approx 5000.  
 Baggage Wagons detached

No. 4 COMPANY,	
1st	
AUSTRALIAN	
DIVISION OF TRAIN.	
No	31
Date	8/18.

Additional cost of 10 by ARSC.