

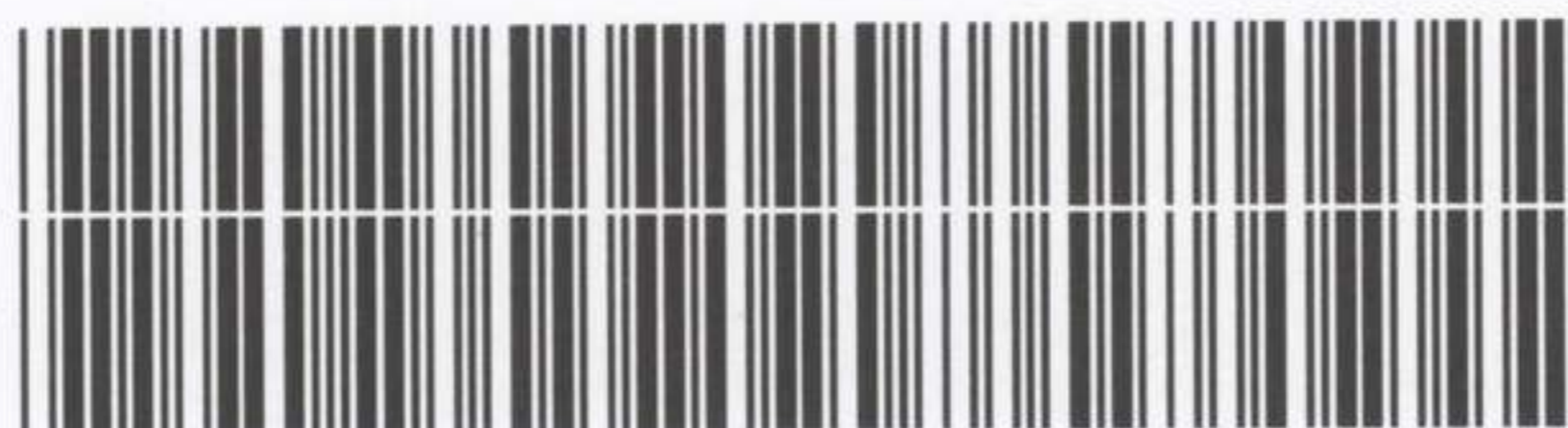
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/4/21

Title: Senior Mechanical Transport Officer,
Australian Corps

September 1918



AWM4-25/4/21

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

S.M.T.O. AUSTRALIAN CORPS

FOR

Month of September 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. T. Maplestone Capt.,
Adjt., S.M.T.O., Aust. Corps.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. S. ...

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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302
Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mericourt-sur-Somme. Sept. 1918.	1st.		<p>S.M.T.O. moved from Blangy Tronville to Mericourt-sur-Somme, and is now working in conjunction with Aust Corps M.T.Column; both being billeted in the same buildings.</p> <p>Reported to Aust Corps "Q".</p> <p>Weather showery. <i>NWT.</i></p>	
	2nd.		<p>S.M.T.O. visited G.H.Q. on D.M.T.S. matters.</p> <p>Advice received today from D.of T. that a 2-horse Ambulance which had been presented by the R.S.P.C.A. for Australian Corps, was to be shipped to France in the next two or three months; this Ambulance is to be used by the Veterinary Evacuating Station; this has been noted and arrangements will be made for an Australian Driver to be put in charge.</p> <p>D.D.S.& T. advised that Pneumatic Tyres and Tubes are not now stocked at 2nd B.M.T.Depot, all such stocks being transferred to Advanced M.T.Depot at Abbeville; also that reference is to be made to the A.M.T.D. before permission is asked for a personal call to collect spare parts at the 2nd B.M.T.Depot.</p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	
	3rd.		<p>S.M.T.O. saw D.A.& Q.M.G. re his leave for 14/9/18.</p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	
	4th.		<p>S.M.T.O. inspected 3rd Motor Ambulance Convoy at Bray, and gave authority to evacuate Ambulance; inspected standings of 2nd and 3rd Aust M.T.Coys and their Headquarters.</p> <p>Authority was given for "K" Siege Park Advanced Workshops to locate at Q.30.d. <i>620</i></p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	
	5th.		<p>S.M.T.O. visited "K" Siege Park Workshops, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, A.M.T.Coys, and 32nd D.M.T.Coy Workshops, inspecting vehicles in Siege Park, 3rd A.M.T., 1st A.M.T., and 32nd D.M.T. Workshops, for evacuation; an Ambulance at 3rd A.M.T.Workshops, with body smashed and rear cross member broken. S.M.T.O. instructed to be repaired with body and cross member from Ambulances</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mericourt-sur-Somme. Sept. 1918.	5th (contd)		<p>being evacuated by 1st A.M.T.Coy and 32nd D.M.T.Coy.</p> <p>S.M.T.O. consulted Workshop Officers in reference to Army Scheme for an Army Rear Workshops employing German prisoners.</p> <p>Warned 1st and 6th A.M.T.Coys and 32nd D.M.T.Coy to be prepared to move forward at short notice with Workshops.</p> <p>Called on General Carruthers, D.A. & Q.M.G., with reference to new Workshops standings; arranged to visit forward standings and see General Carruthers on Saturday morning 7th inst.</p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	
	6th.		<p>General Gillespie, D.D.S. & T., Fourth Army, called to discuss proposed Army Workshops employing German prisoners; S.M.T.O. agreed that this would be an excellent idea, provided the right man is put in charge and a sufficiency of tools can be obtained for the number of workmen employed; S.M.T.O. suggested that in the event of it being established, it should, as early as possible, undertake all engine overhauls and heavy repairs, leaving Units to do, at the front, only running and ordinary repairs; and further suggested when this got properly working, evacuations of vehicles to Heavy Repair Shops should cease, with the exception of very bad cases, all others being sent to Army Workshops, O.C. of which would inspect and evacuate any of which he could not undertake to repair.</p> <p>S.M.T.O. spoke to D.D.S. & T., Fourth Army in reference to Battery Cards and 3388's; see appendix <u>3</u>.</p> <p>S.M.T.O., with Adjutant, inspected forward sites for Workshops; SUZANNE was suitable for three or four Company Workshops but was considered hardly far enough forward in view of the present progress; HEM for one, BIACHES for three, FLAUCOURT for three, HERBECOURT for four Workshops were considered suitable.</p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	<p><i>app.</i> 3</p>
	7th		<p>S.M.T.O. visited A.I.F. Printing Section on D.M.T.S. matters.</p> <p>Weather fine. <i>NWT.</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>

WAR DIARY

Sheet 3.

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
Mericourt-sur-Somme. Sept. 1918.	8th		Instructions issued today for the move forward of all Aust M.T.Coys and Workshops; also for the 32nd Div M.T.Coy to move to St Christ with Workshops at Villers Carbonnel. See Appendix <u>4</u>	4 Appdx <u>4</u>
	9th		Weather fine. <i>HWI</i> General routine.	
	10th		Showery weather. <i>HWI</i> D.D.S. & T. (under C.R.2372 of 10/9/18) advised that it was proposed to start a central Army Workshops. For full particulars see Appendix <u>5</u> .	5 Appdx <u>5</u>
62C/N.16.a. central.	11th		Weather dull. <i>HWI</i> S.M.T.O. and Aust Corps M.T.Column moved with Aust Corps H.Q. to new site further forward at 62C./N.16.a.central., both locating in the same office and in the same building as Aust Corps "A" and "Q". S.M.T.O. called on D.D.S. & T. in reference to motor cycles that had been lost by units under "K" Siege Park, to ascertain more particularly whether it was necessary to hold Courts of Enquiry, it being considered that such Courts would not produce any further evidence useful forthwith. D.D.S. & T. instructed where full reports had been received to apply for writes-off S.M.T.O. also went into the matter of "motor cycles on the Establishment of a Corps Signal Coy." with D.D.S. & T., and on returning explained the situation fully to Major Hamilton who is to be A/S.M.T.O. during S.M.T.O.'s absence on leave. This matter is being gone into fully, and instructions will be issued in the course of a few days.	
	12th		Weather showery. <i>HWI</i> General routine. Weather dull. <i>HWI</i>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62C/N.16. a.central. Sept.1918.	13th		<p>Colonel Tunbridge, S.M.T.O., left for U.K. on 14 days' leave. Major J.Hamilton, O.C.Aust Corps M.T.Column, Acting S.M.T.O. in his absence. <i>M.T.</i></p> <p>A.D.Signals called re new Establishment of Signals Motor Cycles as set out in Appendix <u>6</u>.</p> <p>Instructions received at 11 a.m. that 2 Officers and 20 Other Ranks married, and 1 Officer and 25 Other Ranks not married, were to leave their units tomorrow for Australia on 6 months furlough. D.M.T.S.,A.I.F., made final arrangements.</p> <p>A/S.M.T.O. attended a conference at "Q" Aust Corps re M.T.Traffic Circuits in the Corps Area.</p> <p>In pursuance of instructions received by 1st Aust M.T.Coy direct from D.of T. dated 6/9/18, experiments were made with "Fire Gun" Refills for Pyrene Fire Extinguishers. Three separate tests were made in the presence of the O.C. of the Unit, and from results obtained he does not consider this substance nearly so effective or reliable as "Pyrene" in extinguishing petrol fires. D.D.S.& T. was advised accordingly.</p> <p>Weather fine.</p>	Appdx <u>6</u>
	14th		<p>A/S.M.T.O. arranged with "Q" Aust Corps and Camp Commandant Aust Corps, to locate D.M.T.S. convenient to S.M.T.O. office.</p> <p>A/S.M.T.O. visited Nos 1 and 5 A.M.T.Coys re party of men for Australia, and Road Discipline. Also inspected an ambulance (Ford) proposed for evacuation by No.1 A.M.T.Coy.</p>	
	15th		<p>O.C."K" Siege Park called re sending lorries to Army Central Workshops, and disposal of Workshop and Store lorries now with 5th A.M.T.Coy.</p> <p>O.C.4th Aust M.T.Coy called re his unit having to move owing to III Corps Reinforcement Camp being located there.</p> <p>Weather fine.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

Sheet 5.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62C/N.16. a.central. Sept.1918.	15th (cont)		<p>Further to proposal to start a Central Army Workshops (see minute on 10/9/18) D.D.S.& T. instructed 4th Army Siege Park to take over 3 Workshops from "K" Siege Park and locate at Daours. On completion of certain work one shop was to be returned to "K" Siege Park and the balance to be retained as nucleus for Central Workshops.</p> <p>Weather fine.</p>	
	16th		<p>A/S.M.T.O. visited Nos 2, 3, and 5 A.M.T.Coys Workshops and 5th Aust M.T.Coy Headquarters. Went with A/O.C. No.5 Aust M.T.Coy to Feuillaucourt to see if his unit could go there. Inspected Mt St Quentin and roads running N.W. and S.W. of Le Mesnil to see if units could be located there. The road to Brie was suitable but disallowed by "A" Aust Corps. Saw O.C. 6th A.M.T.Coy re repairs to S.M.T.O's car.</p> <p>In pursuance of advice from D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, (that "A complaint had been received regarding the new 2½ inch and 2 inch springs supplied for Sunbeam Ambulances; in one unit the chassis of 9 Ambulances had become casualties, which pointed to the belief that springs as supplied were too strong",) inquiry from all units in the Corps was made, with the result that only one Sunbeam Ambulance fitted with 2½" springs had become a casualty with broken frame. D.D.S.& T., was advised today accordingly.</p> <p>A/S.M.T.O. visited D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, re establishment etc of motor cycles on Corps Signals See Appendix <u>6</u>.</p> <p>Weather - thunderstorm.</p>	<p>Appdx <u>6</u></p>
	17th		<p>Australian Corps under 97/525 of 9/9/18 instructed as follows:- "Will you please render to this office not later than 6 p.m. on the 17th inst the total strength of units under your command at midnight 16/17 Sept., shewing officers and Other Ranks separately." This was furnished accordingly as:- 55 Officers, 2675 Other Ranks. This does not comprise units under "K" Siege Park administration.</p> <p>With reference to G.R.O.4565, see Appendix <u>6</u> "Motor Cycles on the Establishment of a Corps Signal Coy.</p> <p>Pursuant to instructions received from D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, C.R.77/2, enquiries are being</p>	<p>app <u>6</u></p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62C/N.16. a.central.	17th(cont)		made to ascertain to what extent Sodium Nitrate solution is to be used for the coming winter as an anti-freezing precaution, and what average monthly requirements will be.	
Sept.1918.			Weather fine during day, raining at night.	
	18th		A/S.M.T.O. visited Workshop of No.5 A.M.T.Coy; visited No 3 Park Section and dealt with R.Marshall and spoke to Lieut Mullett re discipline and efficiency of his unit. Called on 5th A.M.T.Coy re lorries in shops. Inspected No.3 A.M.T.Coy and wrote to O.C. re the number of lorries in shops. See Appendix <u>7</u> for report rendered to D.D.S.& T.Fourth Army, re Heco Magnetos. Weather cloudy.	7 App. 7
	19th		Five Caterpillars which were captured by the enemy during the operations in March last were recaptured by the Australian Troops during the recent offensive; a number of Caterpillar spare parts were also recaptured. D.D.S.& T. was advised today of the locations of same, and he is arranging to salve. Weather fine.	
	20th		A/O.C. 5th A.M.T.Coy called re lorries in shops and men for furlough to Australia. A/S.M.T.O. visited Workshops of Nos.3 and 5 A.M.T.Coys. Weather fine.	
	21st.		A/S.M.T.O. saw D.A.& Q.M.G. re location of M.T.Coys to march into Australian Corps. O.C. 6th Aust M.T.Coy called re general matters. A/S.M.T.O. visited 6th A.M.T.Coy Workshops and inspected a captured German lorry detailed with for duty with Camp Commandant Aust Corps. A/S.M.T.O. saw A.D.Signals re cycles on demand and not yet replaced.	2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62C/N.16. a. central.	21st (cont)		A/S.M.T.O. saw General Carruthers re lorries in Workshops. Officer i/c 232 Park Section reported, having returned from leave. Weather fine. ///	
Sept. 1918.	22nd		A/S.M.T.O. called at 5th A.M.T.Coy Workshops and arranged for a carpenter to be detached to the A.I.F. Printing Section for a few days. A/S.M.T.O. visited 1st and 2nd A.S.B.A. Columns to interview candidates for commissions; to collect 3 men for Australia and to enquire into matters generally. Everything was in order. Called at A.I.F. Printing Section. Weather, raining. ///	
	23rd		A/S.M.T.O. visited 2nd and 3rd A.M.T.Coy Workshops; also inspected forward roads, railheads, and dumps, with Captain Cleveland, Ammunition Officer, Aust Corps M.T. Column. Weather fine. ///	
	24th		O.C. "K" Siege Park called, and A/S.M.T.O. discussed with him the efficiency of his unit, and also the question of moving 1st Aust M.T.Coy to give him more space for lorries waiting to go into Shops. A/S.M.T.O. visited Workshops of 2nd and 3rd Aust M.T.Coys and also 5th A.M.T.Coy. Inspected Allaines, Templeux-la-Fosse, Driencourt with Adjutant S.M.T.O., to locate units. Visited 39th D.M.T.Coy. O.C. 39th D.M.T.Coy called and discussed question of American M.T., particularly Ambulances of 27th American Division. Spoke to D.D.S. & T. Fourth Army, re these and arranged for S.M.T.O. to call. Weather fine. ///	
	25th		A/S.M.T.O. visited Workshops of 2nd, 3rd, and 5th A.M.T.Coys; also 5th A.M.T.Coy H.Q., 25th and 58th D.A. Sections, and 104 and 108 Park Sections.	

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62C/N.16. a.central. Sept.1918.	25th (cont)		O.C. 39th D.M.T.Coy and S.M.T.O. II American Corps called; general matters and working etc were discussed. Weather fine. TH	
	26th		A/S.M.T.O. visited 25th and 58th D.A.Sections, 86th, 104th and 108th Park Sections, also 2nd A.M.T.Coy. A/S.M.T.O. saw D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, and arranged with him to see units tomorrow. Weather fine during the day, rain at night. TH	
	27th		A/S.M.T.O. inspected with Brig.Gen.Gillespie, D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, Workshops of 1st, 4th, and 5th A.M.T.Coys, "K" Siege Park, and 58th D.A.Section. A/S.M.T.O. visited 2nd and 3rd A.M.T.Coy Workshops, Corps Depot, and 8th G.H.Q.Reserve M.T.Coy. Weather fine. TH	
	28th		New Fourth Army Traffic maps issued. Os C. Nos 2, 5, and 6 A.M.T.Coys called. A/S.M.T.O. visited Workshops of 2nd 3rd and 5th A.M.T.Coys, also 4th A.M.T.Coy and 39th D.M.T.Coy, 12th Park Section, and 25th and 58th D.M.T. any Section. Issued special traffic instructions for tomorrow. Weather dull and showery. TH	

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62C/N.16. a.central.	29th		With reference to D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army, letter C.R.2409, report by "K" Siege Park, and my reply to the former, see Appendix <u>8</u> , which is self-explanatory.	8 Appdx. <u>8</u>
Sept. 1918.			A/S.M.r.O. visited 1st A.M.T.Coy and new site in Templeux-la-Fosse. Inspected proposed site for this office in J.16.d.Sheet 62C. Weather fine. TH	
	30th		With reference to minute herein on 17/9/18 reference anti-freezing precautions for the forthcoming winter, monthly requirements of Sodium Nitrate solution are "Nil". D.D.S.& T. has been notified accordingly. S.M.T.O., Colonel, Tunbridge, returned from leave. Weather dull and showery.	
			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>H. Tunbridge</i> Colonel, S.M.T.O., Aust. Corps.</p>	

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10

WAR DIARY

OF

S.M.T.O. AUSTRALIAN CORPS

FOR

Month of SEPTEMBER 1918 191

S.M.T.O.,
AUSTRALIAN
CCRPS.

No.....

Date.....

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Employment of Lorries and Work done.
2	Availability of Lorries and Demands for Transport.
3	Battery Cards and A.F. 3388's
4	Instructions for move forward of M. T. Coys & W'shops.
5	Central Army Workshop
6	Establishment of Signal Motor Cycles
7	Report on " HECCO " magnetos
8	Lorries in Workshop and percentage of immobile lorries.
9	M.T. Situation Return.

DIARY APPENDIX No.1 for Month of SEPTEMBER 1918.

302

Unit.	1. Loads Ammn.	2. R.E. Work.	3. Supply.	4. Stores.	5. Pers'l.	6. Various.	7. Total loads done	8. Total lorries out	9. Miles run full	10. Miles run empty	11. Petrol issued.	12. Lorries available not used.	13. Lorries under repair.	14. Lorries Detached.
1st A.M.T.Coy.	1319	183	659	548	293	1405	4408	1564	44623	46864	21094	3	325	598
2nd do	1127	725	285	156	233	353	2879	1376	30173	31765	13373	50	297	754
3rd do	1295	478	288	78	2	563	2704	1492	34897	37500	14463	27	593	348
4th do	825	320	189	-	76	457	1855	1121	26288	29744	11253	64	526	698
5th do	1134	367	255	52	40	37	1885	1165	24313	29091	22112	56	550	719
6th do	14	-	1391	-	25	512	1942	862	16578	14628	7599	19	85	164
3rd A.B.A.F.A. Pk.Section	425	120	5	37	40	8	635	394	8155	10693	3992	7	79	-
6th do do	547	-	19	-	-	41	607	370	7233	9512	4151	13	67	-
12th do do	488	10	-	-	-	28	526	381	8798	9967	4248	21	78	-
	7174.	2203.	3091	871	709	3404	17741	8725.	201058.	219764.	102285.	260	2590	3281

Computed from Totals of Units' War Diary Appendix No 1.

28/10/18.


 for S.M.T.O. Australian Corps. Capt

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX 12

S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

DIARY APPENDIX No. 1 FOR MONTH OF September 1918.....

AVAILABILITY OF LORRIES AND DEMANDS FOR TRANSPORT.

Date	Lorries Available	Lorries Demanded	Lorries Detailed		Lorries Not Used	Demands Not Supplied
			All Day	After Supply		
1st	155	153	153		2	
2nd	161	161	161		-	
3rd	125	151	125	26	-	
4th	129	121	116	5	13	
5th	120	128	115		5	13
6th	133	144	130	14	3	
7th	110	132	103	15	7	14
8th	145	151	140	11	5	
9th	186	192	186	6	-	
10th	226	230	210	14	16	6
11th	208	216	189	8	19	19
12th	137	136	116	10	21	10
13th	102	86	86	-	16	
14th	95	98	95	3	-	
15th	83	90	83	1	-	7
16th	80	105	80	-	-	25
17th	73	84	73	-	-	11
18th	77	69	69	2	8	
19th	88	73	73	2	15	
20th	97	60	60	2	37	
21st	96	69	69	-	29	
22nd	89	103	89	14	-	
23rd	82	84	82	2	-	
24th	195	188	186	2	9	
25th	138	142	126	16	12	
26th	248	250	248	2	-	
27th	167	165	165	-	2	
28th	177	174	163	11	14	
29th	181	138	131	2	50	
30th	178	134	134	-	44	
31st	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	4181	4022	3756	168	327	105.

A I.F. P.S.—A/2—8-18

302
D. D. S. & T.
Fourth Army

Now that Officers have been posted to A.F.A. Park Sections and they are treated as distinct Units, making out their own 213a's and always moving as a Unit, the vehicles are not transferred when they move from one Corps to another, and consequently A.F. W.3388 would seem to be not only unnecessary, but irregular, as no vehicles are transferred.

Most of these Units have ceased to keep Battery Cards and to send in the above form on moving from Corps to Corps.

They are not to be compared with S.B.A.C's in this respect, as S.B.A.C's do not make out their own returns, but are transferred from one Siege Park to another and are taken on the strength of the Siege Park to which they move; consequently the vehicles are transferred and the A.F. 3388 must be made out for them, and the Battery Card is necessary.

I should be glad if this may be considered and a ruling given.

The Park Sections, being considered as Units, and sending in their own 213a, have a considerable amount of clerical work to do, and much time and paper would be saved if the cards and A.F.W.3388 were discontinued. Of course A.F.W.3388 would still be used in case of any transfer of vehicles from one Unit to another.

6/9/18
W.H.T.

Sgd. W. H. Tunbridge Colonel.
S.M.T.O. Australian Corps.

2.

S.M.T.O.
Australian Corps.

Your M279 dated 6th inst.

1. The rendering of A.F. W3388 by Officers in charge of A.B. R.H.A. and R.F.A. Park Sections, when moving from Corps to Corps, is irregular, and unnecessary.

The weekly A.F. W3388 should, however, be rendered as usual through the Divisional M.T. Coy to which attached, for countersignature, whether Nil or otherwise.

2. The " M.T. " Cards should in all cases be maintained by Divisional M T Companies, as directed by the Director of Transport in his O236/A dated 27/7/18, copy attached.

3% Kindly instruct the Units concerned accordingly.

4. Please see my C.R. 1745 of 29/7/18, which refers.

Sgd L.H.B. BURLTON Major
for D.D.S.&T. Fourth Army.

Headquarters
Fourth Army
10/9/18.

Copy.

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Appendix 4

APPENDIX

N.49.

14

O.C., Aust Corps M.T. Column.

The Australian M.T. Companies and Workshops will move forward at once to the following standings:-

2 Companies on the road from PERONNE to FEUILLACOURT^U between I.22.a.9.7. and I.3.c.8.0.

2 Companies on the PERONNE - AIZECOURT Road between I.22.b.5.3. and I.11.d.8.9.

1 Company, BUSSU, J.13.

6th A.M.T. Coy at MONT ST QUENTIN.

Workshops.

2 Daimler in BIACHES, in large Factory yard at I.32.a.9.0.

1 Peerless in Sucrie at I.22.a.9.7.

1 Peerless in Factory yard at I.22.b.4.3.

1 Thornycroft in FLAMICOURT.

6th A.M.T. Coy at FLAUCOURT.

The 32nd Div M.T. Coy will move to St CHRIST, with Workshops at VILLERS CARBONNEL.

The 1st Div M.T. Coy (Imperial) with Workshops will remain at VAUVILLERS.

8/9/18.
WHT

sgd. W.H. Tunbridge, Col.,
S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

C.R.2372.

1. It is proposed to start a central Army Workshop by withdrawing two shops from each Corps Siege Park and adding them to the Workshop of the Army Siege Park, placing the whole under the command of the O.C. latter unit.
2. It is hoped that by the employment of skilled P.O.W. personnel in these workshops, 50% of the Workshop Staff will be released at once and up to 90% as soon as possible, and will be available to assist in the Corps Siege Parks from which their shops have been withdrawn.
3. It is not the intention at present to undertake any complete overhauls of lorries in the Central Army Workshops, as, at the present juncture, the situation does not permit of complete overhauls being undertaken anywhere in the Field. It is however ~~thought~~ thought that these Workshops could conveniently and with good results, undertake the larger of the repairs normally undertaken by Field Workshops.
4. In order to make the scheme a success, it will at first be necessary to withdraw from Corps a certain amount of material and a certain number of spare parts, which are actually required to repair vehicles sent by Corps to the Central Workshop. When, however, sufficient time has elapsed for the supply of spare parts and material to come up from the Base, it will no longer be necessary to resort to these measures.
5. The subject which will receive primary attention is the repair of springs. To make it possible for springs to be repaired on a large and effective scale, it will be necessary for all M.T.Units with Corps to send as much spring steel and as many unserviceable springs as possible to the Army Shop, where they will be repaired, made, or assembled and re-issued to units on demand when not actually required for vehicles in the Central Workshop.
6. The central Workshop will probably be situated at first in DAOURS. Further particulars will, however, be sent you together with a notification as to the date on which lorries can be accepted for repairs and the number of lorries it is possible to accept.
7. Major BEATTY, Commanding Fourth Army Siege Park, has been ordered to report to you as soon as possible to go through details of the work and to make necessary arrangements with you. I should be glad if you will afford him assistance, as the institution of this Central Workshop, as I know you will agree, will prove of value to you.

H.Q. Fourth Army
10/9/18.

sgd. E.Gillespie, B.G.
D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army.

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Appendix 6

S.M.T.O.,
AUSTRALIAN
CORPS.

APPENDIX 6

16

Copy No 13

MOTOR CYCLES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPS SIGNAL COY.

1. In G.R.O.4565 the Establishment in Motor Cycles of a Corps Signal Coy is 31, made up as follows:-

Corps Signals.....	21
Heavy Artillery.....	8.
Pigeons.....	2
	<u>31</u>

This has been increased by one spare, making a total of 32:
Authority D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army G.R. 1083 dated 13/9/18.

2. The situation now is that the Corps Signal Coy has
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| in possession..... | 41 | |
| On demand..... | 6 | |
| Wanting to complete..... | 1 | (Authority D.D.S.T. Fourth Army G.R. (1085). |
| | <u>48</u> | Total |
- This leaves a surplus of 16 which will be disposed of as follows:-

4 to 1st Aust Div Signal Company.	
4 to 3rd	do
4 to 4th	do
4 to 5th	do

It is assumed these machines will be used by the Corps Signal Company, as the machines attached to it from the Div Sig Coys.

This, including the four machines transferred from IX Corps to 2nd Aust Div Sig Coy, will complete the establishment of the Corps Signal Company and the five Divisional Signal Companies to the new scale; when all replacements have arrived.

3. The following arrangements are cancelled:-
1st Aust Div to get 4 cycles from the Army Signal Coy.
3rd Aust Div to get 4 cycles from IX Corps.
4. The 5th Aust M.T.Coy will send to 4th Army Troops M.T.Coy four cycles recently received from Army Troops M.T.Coys.
5. The 4th Aust M.T.Coy will evacuate two of the cycles received from III Corps, and take the remaining one on charge, cancelling their demand for one now required as a replacement.
6. On completion of above all M.T.Companies will check all machines with their respective Signal Companies and forward a list of frame and engine Nos. on charge; including, but indicating, machines which have been evacuated, but not yet replaced.

17/9/18.

Hamilton
Major,
for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

Distribution:-

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| No. 1. | A.D. Signals Aust Corps. |
| 2. | No.1 A.M.T.Coy. |
| 3. | No.2 do |
| 4. | No.3 do |
| 5. | No.4 do |
| 6. | No.5 do |
| 7. | No.6 do |
| 8. | D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army. |
| 9. | D.M.T.S., A.I.F. |
| 10. | Aust Corps M.T.Column. |
| 11 - 12. | Retained. |
| 13 - 15. | War Diary. ✓ |

302

D.D.S.& T., Fourth Army.
-----Appendix No. 7HECO Magnetos.

1. Considerable trouble has been experienced with this make of Magneto by Units in this Corps.
2. The chief faults reported are:-
 - (a) Collecting ring drive being taken by the lead wire causing the wire to shear and the ring to come apart.
 - (b) The distributor driving wheel works loose.
 - (c) The driving shaft becomes loose on the armature.
 - (d) The primary winding becomes disconnected from the core on earth end.
 - (e) The make and break spring either breaks or breaks its stud.
3. Spare parts are very difficult to obtain.
4. As the design is evidently very faulty, may the issue of these magnetos be discontinued and those at present giving trouble be exchanged for others of a proved make, please.

18/9/18
JH

J. Hamilton
Major,
for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

302

Appendix No. 8

8

S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

C.R.2409.

1. I am informed that the 14th and 21st Brigades R.G.A., which were recently transferred from "K" Siege Park to "E" Siege Park had, at the time of transfer, approximately 33% of their lorries immobile.
2. In view of the fact that these Brigades had been with "K" Siege Park for a period of many months, it is considered that this percentage of immobile lorries (if correct) is abnormally high even taking into consideration the position with regard to spare parts and the amount of work that Siege Battery Lorries have been carrying out.
3. Will you kindly obtain for me a report on this matter?
4. It has also been brought to my notice that 27.5% of the lorries of the 5th, 14th, 16th, 23rd, and 298th R.F.A. or R.H.A. Park Sections were immobile on transfer to IX Corps. This figure too seems far too high, especially in view of the fact that these units are directly attached to Divisional M.T. Companies and do not suffer from the disabilities of Siege Battery Ammn. Columns.
5. Kindly report on this point as well.

H.Q. Fourth Army.
19/9/18.

sgd. E. Gillespie, B.G.
D.D.S. & T., Fourth Army.

302

COPY.

Appendix 8

A.F.2618.

S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

Reference your No. H.36 dated 20/9/18.

The figures are not quite correct, but nearly so.

As a matter of fact, if all the S.B.A.C's transferred to "E" Siege Park on that day were taken into consideration the percentage of lorries off the road would be about 20%.

I know the percentage is high, and it is still increasing.

The G.H.Q. Inspectors saw 14th Brigade Columns just before the heavy work began.

On their reports the Mechanical condition of the lorries was shown as follows:-

11th S.B.A.C.	GOOD.	150th S.B.A.C.	FAIR.
214th do	FAIR.	296th do	GOOD.

If these S.B.A.Cs were inspected now, the mechanical condition would be unsatisfactory or bad and the Brigade and Column Officers would get a bad reputation report through no fault of their own but simply because their lorries had been overworked, due no doubt, to the exigencies of the service.

The reason is that all Lorries in Siege Parks have been doing too much, and too continuous, hard work.

The lorries of the 14th Brigade from the 1st to the 14th August averaged 15½ working hours per day per lorry; this, up to the time of transfer, had not decreased much.

The average number of lorries off the road is increasing, and will increase if the lorries continue to be worked at this rate.

The men on the Columns have not had time to go round their lorries and that has thrown extra work on the Workshops. All the men have worked well and done splendidly.

I do not think this Siege Park has had a more strenuous time than other Siege Parks and I think most of the Brigades are more or less in the same state.

Lorries cannot be worked continuously 12 to 18 hours a day without requiring extensive Workshop attention.

I am taking over 4 Brigades from 'C' Siege Park, and although at present have not gone into figures I was informed by their Adjutant that the percentage of lorries off the road is something like 27%.

I am not reporting this as a complaint against 'C' Siege Park as I know they have been having the same hard time as I have.

I would not mention it except to draw attention to the fact that Siege Park lorries have been doing very hard work and if no assistance is given the situation will get worse.

27/9/18.

sgd. G.E.Goldsmith, Major, A.S.C.
Commanding 'K' Siege Park, Australian Corps.

Appendix 8

D.D.S. & T., Fourth Army.

Condition of Vehicles transferred to IX Corps.
Your C.R.2409 dated 19/9/18.

In view of the statements of the O.C. "K" Siege Park, I attach his report on this matter, in which, considering the returns recently rendered in regard to the hours worked and the tonnage carried, and also having regard to the facts brought to your notice in your recent inspection of his Workshops, I think you will concur.

With regard to the Park Sections, only ten lorries of the five Park Sections were immobile at the time of transfer, and these were all repaired and sent on to their units within two days.

The M.T. in this Corps has been working hard since April, and absolutely "all out" since the end of July. Spare Parts have been difficult, and in some instances, such as Daimler pistons, impossible, to obtain. Springs are another serious question.

It would appear that, unless wholesale evacuations and replacement is allowed or large Army Workshops with German, Chinese, or other outside labour, are established to deal with springs, engine overhauls, frame breakages, etc., that the percentage of vehicles off the road will increase to dangerous proportions.

I would also point out that vehicles recently transferred to this Corps from Units which have also been fighting continuously, had an even higher proportion of ineffectives than that complained of by the IX Corps.

29/9/18

J. Hamilton
Major,
for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

The table below shows the M.T. Situation on 30/8/18

The following abbreviations are used:-

- L = 3 ton & 30 cwt Lorries.
- F = Four wheel drive Lorries.
- M = Motor Cars.
- C = Caterpillars.
- A = Ambulances.
- SL = Steam Lorries.

Formation	Type of vehicle	Estab-lish-ment.	No. off roads owing to accidents shell fire minor causes.	Number off roads owing to overhaul.	Number off roads awaiting spare parts,	Evacuated, demanded, & awaiting replacement,	Total number not available for duty,	Average number of lorries used daily.
AUSTRALIAN XXXXX CORPS.	L	* 1509	137	104	9	2	252	* 1198
	F	110	3	2	1	-	6	
	C	66	-	5	-	-	5	
	SL	‡ 12	-	1	-	-	1	
	A	128	11	8	-	1	20	
	M	237	15	8	4	4	31	

* includes 42 Workshops 60 Stores 14 First Aids.
 ‡ 6 Roden Disinfectors,

1/9/18

W. G. Cupel
 Colonel
 S.M.T.O.
 Australian Corps,

ABDF
 21

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT

The table below shews the M.T. Situation on 6/8/18⁹
 The following abbreviations are used:-
 L = 5 ton and 30 cwt Lorries, C = Caterpillars,
 F = Four Wheel drive Lorries, A = Ambulances,
 M = Motor Cars, SL = Steam Lorries.

Formation	Type of vehicle	Establishment,	No. pff roads owing to accidents shell fire minor causes.	Number off roads owing to overhaul.	Number off roads awaiting spare parts.	Evacuated demanded & awaiting replacement,	Total number not available for duty.	Average number of lorries used daily.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	L.	1498 ϕ	142	96	11	3	252	1235 ϕ
	F.	110	2	4	-	-	6	
	C.	66	-	4	-	-	4	
	SL.	12 *	-	-	1	-	1	
	M.	238	22	11	3	3	39	
	A.	128	12	3	2	9	26	

ϕ Includes 31 Workshops, 58 Stores, 14 First Aids.
 * Includes 7 Disinfectors.

8/9/18.

J. J. Lane
 Colonel,
 S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

APPENDIX
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MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

The table below shows the M.T. Situation on 13/9/18.

The following abbreviations are used:-

L = 3-ton & 30-cwt lorries.	C = Caterpillars.
F = Four-wheel-drive lorries.	A = Ambulances.
M = Motor cars.	SL = Steam Lorries.

Formation.	Type of vehicle.	Establish- ment.	No. off roads owing to accidents shell fire, minor causes.	No. off roads owing to overhaul.	No. off roads awaiting spare parts.	Evacuated demonstrated & awaiting replacement.	Total number not available for duty.	Average number of lorries used daily.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	L	* 1393	122	79 †	10	12	223	1157*
	F	109	-	2	-	1	3	
	C	65	-	2	1	1	4	
	SL ∅	10	1	-	2	-	3	
	M	211	15	5	1	2	23	
	A	106	12	3	1	5	21	

* Includes 47 Workshops, 53 Stores, 12 First Aids.

∅ Includes 5 Foden Disinfectors.

† Includes 18 lorries of "K" Siege Park being overhauled in other Workshops.

14/9/18.

J. J. Lane Capt
 Major,
 for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

APPENDIX 23

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

The table below shows the M.T. Situation on 20/9/18.

The following abbreviations are used:-

L = 3-ton & 30-cwt lorries.

C. = Caterpillars.

F = Four wheel drive lorries.

A = Ambulances.

M = Motor Cars.

SL = Steam lorries.

Formation.	Type of vehicle.	Estab-lish-ment.	No. off roads owing to acci-dents, shellfire minor causes.	No. off roads owing to overhaul.	No. of roads awaiting spare parts.	Evacuated, demanded, & awaiting replacement.	Total number not available for duty.	Average number of lorries used daily.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.	L	1253*	143	102 †	10	6	261	974.*
	SL	9 ‡	1	2	1	-	4	
	A	105	11	3	-	5	19	
	M	213	20	10	1	-	31	
	F	84	-	3	-	-	3	
	C	56	-	3	-	1	4	

* Includes 31 Workshops, 43 Stores, 12 First Aids.

† Includes 18 lorries of "K" Siege Park being overhauled in other W/Shops.

‡ Includes 6 Foden disinfectors.

21/9/18.


 Major,
 for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

APPENDIX

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Appendix 9

302

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

The table below shews the M.T. Situation on 27/9/18.

The following abbreviations are used:-

L = 3-ton & 30-cwt lorries. C = Caterpillars.
 F = 4-wheel-drive lorries. A = Ambulances.
 M = Motor Cars. SL = Steam lorries.

Formation.	Type of Vehicle.	Estab-lish-ment.	No. off roads owing to acci-dents, shellfire minor causes.	No. off roads owing to overhaul.	No. off roads awaiting spare parts.	Evacuated, demanded, & awaiting replacement.	Total number not available for duty.	Average number of lorries used daily.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS:	L	1335*	151	105	25	13	294	1024*
	F	68	-	2	-	-	2	
	C	46	-	1	-	-	1	
	SL	9 †	-	1	1	1	2	
	M	205	16	8	3	4	31	
	A	106	6	2	-	-	8	

* Includes 35 Workshops, 47 Stores, 13 First Aids.

† Includes 7 Foden Disinfectors.

This return does not include 23rd, 71st, 85th, 89th Brigades, or 312th and 449th S.B.A.Cs; accurate figures not to hand.

29/9/18.

J. Hamilton
 Major,
 for S.M.T.O., Australian Corps.

APPENDIX

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