

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

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/15/35

**Title:** 2nd Australian Divisional Train

June 1918



AWM4-25/15/35

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

106

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

**2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.**

FOR

**JUNE 1918**

Signature of Officer compiling *[Signature]*  
.....LT. COL.  
COMMANDING 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRAIN.

Signature of Officer Commanding *[Signature]*  
.....LT. COL.  
COMMANDING 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRAIN.

2<sup>nd</sup> Div Train  
Brig June

106

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S. GRATIENS	1/6/18		All in bed all day, but nothing doing. Drew 3 # draught & 2 draught from Piequigny.	
SOMME	2/6/18		visited all Companies. Inspected Remounts drawn yesterday. Found most excellent horses. An ophthalmic trouble that has been prevalent for some time now is causing trouble. The animals seem to go blind and we have seen, more in the train in this state, some have lost the sight of one eye, some of both. The Veterinary Officers cannot account for it.	
	3/6/18		Lieut. RUTHERFORD ordered to proceed to London as witness in case against Captain J. Sheares being tried by Court-Martial. Entrained today.	
			Capt BOSANQUET special leave to R.K. for 14 days approved out of Train allotment. He will go on 11 <sup>th</sup> inst. Went round all Companies, took orderly room at 90 <sup>th</sup> Company. Driver Mackellan R. charged with drunkenness. As this man has been a source of trouble, tried first tactics & let him off on his giving his word to go straight. Gun sent into QUERIEU last night - did not reach the Companies.	
	4/6/18		Saw S. M. T. O. at Corps re detailing Motor Lorries & arranged for a fresh system. Afterwards Corps issued orders that D.H.Q. would order direct from Corps and not detail the 5 Supply Lorries allotted to the train. Rode round & saw all Companies, no matters of importance to deal with in any of them.	
			Horses are looking remarkably well getting in hard condition owing to the steady work.	

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<p>8 Contingents SOMME</p>	<p>5/4/18</p>		<p>Capt Medlyn proceeded on 14 days leave to UK. Capt H.W. ENNIS applied for leave to Umballa which sent on. 5 Reinforcements, drivers, arrived. This makes the Train well over strength. Advise that 11 B. class men for Batmen are coming up from Havre. Vegetables at Rivery Carver Gardens now practically finished. Fruit will begin to ripen shortly and the matter of its disposal is being referred to Army. The proposition is to hand it over to Camelians to sell to the troops. This is the most satisfactory method to my mind.</p> <p>visited the Company. Light Railway now built as far as 16<sup>th</sup> + 17<sup>th</sup> legs should be working within a week. Saw the Pioneer Battalion re the condition of their vehicles. They pleaded the amount of work as an excuse. Told them to keep 2 st. wagons in days for repair and arrange with 50<sup>th</sup> Company at 2. to deliver supplies then delivering 2 wagons for them. Notified that Captain H.A. COOK and Capt E.L. MEDLYN had been awarded the Military Cross. Great satisfaction expressed in the Train. Lt Col. WOODBURN of Comforts found reported <del>to</del> <sup>to</sup> night and was attached for rations. Weather perfect everything quiet.</p>	

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SEGRATIENS	7/6/18		<p>Look Capt H.W. ENNIS trace the G.O.C. under the latter's instructions. As a consequence Capt Ennis is not pressing his application.</p> <p>Saw D.O. &amp; S. &amp; J.'s Office re their memo about promotion of N.C.O.'s engaged at Central Purchase Board Office. Informed them that I would not consent to any promotion being given while engaged there. Informed that it is expected that the Purchase Board will be given an Establishment of their own. This will be a much better proceeding and save much recalculation of effecting.</p> <p>Drawn 2 Heavy Drafts from Remounts today. We are now only 1 H.D. and 1 L.D. short in the Train. 5 B Class men reported from Base of 10 who were advised to have left. Of these 1 cannot walk without a stick being crippled with Rheumatism. I consider sending these men palpably unfit in a false economy to the use in the transport of cows quite useless. Visited all Companies. The Remounts drawn are excellent. Sidings now being put in for the Supply Point by the Light Railway Construction. Allotment of lease from 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2 org. Saw Corps Light Railway Officer and with the S.S.O. went over the ground and selected points for sidings in connection with Spepply Refilling Point. One siding to be made for 6 + 4 # Brigade supplies and one for 5 # Brigade Div. troops. A.I. J. Orders today contain Honours Award to Officers as mentioned in Diary of 31/5/18 and 6/6/18. Forwarded Proceedings of Board of Enquiry re 4 Fins in American. Car 14795 sent in for overhaul. Engine N.H. THOMAS loaded attached to 14795. Wounded in neck by shrapnel on way today. Driver horse unhurt. Occurred whilst delivering returns to CAMON.</p>	
	8/6/18			
	9/6/18			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St-GRATIENS	10/6/18		<p>Visited all Companies. No complaints or matters for investigation. Light rain fell all day. Every thing very quiet. Lt. WOODBURN of Australian Comfort Fund given the Honorary of Commander of the Order of the British Empire.</p>	
	11/6/18		<p>Inspected Train Transport of 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Army T. A. Brigade and was very pleased with men, horses, harness &amp; vehicles. Their condition reflects great credit on them. Finding the Officer in charge of this section least Divisor Battalion found nothing had been done by them to repair their Transport. The Adjutant receive all manner of excuses &amp; promises compliance when they come out of the line expected this week. Must watch this unit. Went to Comy re obtaining Billets of Train H.Q. when D.H.Q. more than. No Billets of any kind available. Saw D.H.Q. and obtained permission to go to Allouville where ample accommodation is to be had. Saw Town Mayor &amp; arranged to settle matter as soon as date of moving is definitely fixed. R. J. O. Poulainville complains that unloading parties at Railhead are not clearing up after &amp; leave truck doors down &amp; tarpaulin unfastered. Gave to S. S. O. to see Column about it so they do the unloading.</p>	

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St. Germain	17/6/18		<p>Warning memo issued re move of Division, saw D.H.Q. and decided that Train Companies remain in their present position.</p> <p>Plt. Woodburn reported back. No thing doing at all.</p>	
	13/6/18		<p>Called round the Companies. Every thing satisfactory. Arranged one Billet with Town Mayor at Allonville. Inspected horses of Companies in afternoon. All in splendid order &amp; hard working condition. Corps Light Railway Officer rang up re changing position of Supply Sidings.</p> <p>That for 20<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> Companies will be H 10 A 7.0 and for 15<sup>th</sup> + 16<sup>th</sup> Companies probably H 7 A 3-4. Baggage wagons proceed to units tomorrow for move.</p>	
	14/6/18		<p>Divisional Order re move into support received today. Cease supply in daily detail of 83. wagons for Engineers today. Instructed to draw 1 H.D. for H.Q. Company from PICQUIVY tomorrow. D.H.Q. move to Coisy on 16<sup>th</sup> Inst.</p> <p>Practically no change made in supply arrangements because of move. New Refilling Point for 50<sup>th</sup> Brigade at M 2 B near River. Orders as at present.</p> <p>Confidential memo re inefficiency officers received today. Spring in Car 18619 broke replaced. Plt. Woodburn left for Havre for a few days.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. CRATIENS	16/4/18		<p>visited all Companies, everything working smoothly. Baggage wagons with units. Yesterday evacuated one of the B1 Class Batmen as unfit for service. These men are a false economy, and should be returned to Australia or regraded for pay. They are in many cases malingering and have an idea they are to do as they wish and decide for themselves what they are capable of doing, not 10% are worth half the pay, and are a continual source of annoyance.</p> <p>saw Army at "Hesecourt", the foreign substances found in oats. They inform me that 40% of potatoes + 3/4 of onions coming on pack tomorrow.</p>	
ALLENVILLE	16/4/18		<p>Moved from St. Cratiens today. D.H.Q. went to Loisy, visited Companies and went over to Corps. Saw S.M.T.O. re hurry for Canteen stores which is promised if available. Saw "B" Branch Corps re Railway siding of 17<sup>th</sup> Company. Two more "B" class men arrived both useless as Batmen drew H.O. from Picquigny. Camon Gardens almost finished after the 18<sup>th</sup> only enough to issue each alternate day. Strawberries are going to the Field Ambulances, plenty of this fruit now ripening.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	17/4/18		<p>Held meeting of Company Commanders. Nothing of great interest to record. Went over to D.H.Q. saw A.A. &amp; Q.M.G. &amp; obtained permission to send Company Commanders to Rouen to Records, 3rd Echelon. Movement orders being given by this office. In evening discovered that gambling is becoming rather too pronounced also a tendency towards drinking to excess. Decided to take immediate action to deal with both matters. Lt Col. Woodburn returned to A.K. today. One additional leave granted for the 23rd to this train. Saw D.H.Q. and arranged that 15th &amp; 16th Companies of 8th Division should be returned to their line from reinforcement wing at BERTEACOURT. Sent for Op 15th Company. Lt FRANKEL informed them that the gambling must cease &amp; drinking must be moderate. Request Major Charlton's condition was not satisfactory. He decided to apply for return to Australia. Ex Lieut. Bonney returned to his duties per A.I.F. orders today. S.I.O. specially commended the conduct of S.Q.M.S. Hogan in connection with CAMON Gardens. This N.C.O. stood to his post despite heavy shelling &amp; carried out his duties in a most able manner.</p>	
	19/4/18			

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ALLONVILLE	19/4/18		<p>Held a meeting of Company Commanders and cleared up a lot of misunderstandings which were causing friction between this office and Companies. Saw W Rutherford and explained my reasons for not being able to recommend him for promotion. I greatly regret it but he is too young and has not the capacity for command at present. It is naturally impossible to get him to see eye to eye with me. A.D.Q. gave permission for me to proceed on duty to Rouen for 2 days at Record with 6/Co 16<sup>th</sup> + 17<sup>th</sup> Companies. At meeting told Company Commanders that I held them responsible for a reduction in the gambling and drinking that was undoubtedly increasing.</p> <p>Received instructions from D.H.Q. to forward nominal roll of R.C.O.s selected to proceed to U.K. to C.O.S.C Training Depot on the 1<sup>st</sup> prox. no mention of sending an officer with this relief. Adjutant saw Major CHARLTON at 20<sup>th</sup> lay lines and took all correspondence with him that needed signing etc. 2<sup>nd</sup> Div Art H<sup>q</sup> also inform us that C.S.M. DOWNERS <sup>transfer</sup> cannot be accepted. 20<sup>th</sup> lay held a concert at 7 pm. a great number of Americans taking part. Weather dull &amp; raining off &amp; on all day. H.A.C.</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118. 9

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLOUVILLE	21/6/18.		<p>The additional leave granted to N.K. was cancelled today. Circular re leave to places in FRANCE received. it appears that 10 days will be granted to officers and ops at an early date.</p> <p>Correspondence regarding a money belt found by M.T. Dumin PALM on the 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE has been returned with a statement that 110 frs. has been removed from the belt, -obtained a further statement from PALM giving full particulars, and am quite sure that the money was removed before the belt was placed in the car, Dumin PALM's integrity is beyond reproach.</p> <p>D. D. S &amp; T 4<sup>th</sup> Army requested to be supplied with a statement of all officers and other ranks, receiving Honours and Awards &amp; mention in Despatches from May 31<sup>st</sup> 1917 to May 31<sup>st</sup> 1918.</p> <p>Adjutant visited 20<sup>th</sup> by Lines &amp; saw Major Charlton. had correspondence signed. Received invitation to 2<sup>nd</sup> Div Sig sports to be held tomorrow. Major CHARLTON requested to judge events at 2<sup>nd</sup> M. G. Bath sports to be held also tomorrow. Weather very unsettled, raining off and on all day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H.A.C.</p>	

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ALLOUVILLE	22/6/18		<p>LIEUT H. C. WENTWORTH reported to T.H.Q today, he will take over duties as Capitulant during the absence on duty of CAPT H. A. COOK who is proceeding to ROUEN, with MAJOR J. R. CHARLTON and CAPT G. W. T. BLACKMAN on the 23<sup>rd</sup> met to check Reports at 3<sup>rd</sup> Section. An allotment of 1 other rank to PARIS or elsewhere in FRANCE received. the period of leave is 10 days including travelling, this leave will not interfere with U.K. leave.</p> <p>On B<sup>1</sup> Class <sup>Reinforcement</sup> marched in from Base last night, posted here to the 16<sup>th</sup> by Interpulte ANTOINE granted 15 days leave, he is to be replaced by Interpulte LEVY. Two B<sup>1</sup> Class men marched in from Base today, attached them temporarily to 20<sup>th</sup> Coy until posted. During the period LIEUT WENTWORTH is attached to T.H.Q. LIEUT CADD will perform the duties of supply officer 6<sup>th</sup> A. I. Base. Selected C.S.M. HYSLOP 17<sup>th</sup> Coy A.G.S.C to proceed on leave on the 25<sup>th</sup> met this A.C.O. is not at all well, and has not had leave for some considerable time. weather fine all day but very windy. H.C.</p>	

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Allendale	23/4/18		<p>Majors CHARLTON, CAP-BLACKMAN + the Adjutant Capt COOK proceeded to 3<sup>rd</sup> Echelon Record Office, Rouen today + Lt Col. MANNING, CAP-WALKER + CAP-ENNIS returned from that place. Thus all Company Commanders have been enabled to settle all queries and understand the system under which the Record Section works. Clarified the matter of status of Motor Car drivers Palm + Smith who are being mustered as M.I. drivers in next Part II orders. Also the vexed question of Horse Transport drivers by which all men reverted to private to act as Batmen are to be mustered to Drivers from the date of reversion if originally enlisted as Drivers. This settles a very vexed question. Found everything gone on satisfactorily during my absence. Sergt P.P. Andrews and Driver J.W. WHITE awarded the M.S. Medal. Saw M.H.Q. no queries there. Told D.A. O'Leary that we prepared to continue drawing our supplies from railhead by Horse Transport for the few days remaining before we move from this Sector. This leaves the light Railway system available for the sole use of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. The whole scheme appears to be most designed as loading cannot be made from the Broad Gauges to the narrow gauge system direct and only one Division's supply trucks can be accommodated in the loop sidings near Refilling points at the one time. Weather dull and windy. Outbreak of influenza in 16<sup>th</sup> Company. Unaccountable. 16 men affected.</p>	
	24/4/18			

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Allarville	23/6/18		<p>visited Companies, found Influenza increasing in 16<sup>th</sup> Company, now 53 men down. Received orders re Divisional move to better Meteorological Sector. 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade move tomorrow. Arranged with C/O 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. Train for Companies to exchange Camps + directed Company Commanders to arrange direct with corresponding Companies of 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. Train. Obtained permission of D.H.Q. to remain in own present quarters as 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. Train H.Q. are not moving. Attended Divisional Conference at Quinary Hospice in afternoon. Rutherford asked for notice of supersession in writing but replied that as he had been verbally informed I did not propose to act as he desired. Three B.C.O.s of 30<sup>th</sup> Company, applied to parade before the G.O.C. in regard to return to Australia, their previous applications having been refused. Refused the application &amp; will see these B.C.O.s. Went to D.H.Q. forwarded name of Staff Q. M.S. Hogan for award, but instructed to submit for next year's list for M.S.M. Corps asked for loan of good W/O for 7 weeks to assist Camp Commandant, Corp. in stable routine horse management. Agreed to loan W/O TURNER and sent him on to report during afternoon. Visited Companies. Paraded Sgt. Major GODLIEMAN, Sgt. BUCKRIDGE and Sgt. McNAUGHT re their application for Australia &amp; informed them of the futility of applying at the present time. Used mechanical transport for 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group today &amp; will do so until further notice.</p>	
	24/6/18			

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Allowville	27/7/18		<p>Major Charlton, Capt. Blackman + Capt Cook returned from 3<sup>rd</sup> Echelon Record. Transferred to live from Supply Office "B" Group to transport aug and Lt RUTHERFORD from transport to Supply aug "B" Group. Relief of Lt Col to proceed to England for duty at A.S.L. Depot. <sup>Sgt BOYSELL</sup> <del>C. S. D. DAWKIN</del>, Sergt P. P. ANDREW, and Corp. VICKERY. As the S.S.O. proceeds on leave on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, decided to try Capt BLACKMAN as temporary S.S.O. Capt GIBBONS will command the 15<sup>th</sup> Company in his absence.</p> <p>28/7/18                  16<sup>th</sup> + 17<sup>th</sup> Companies A.S.L. moved to new Area River today. Visited the Companies + found them settling down. No accommodation except what they were able to improvise with covers etc. Influenza spreading through the Companies, but a few men at a time only succumbing at once. It only incapacitates for about 4 or 5 days. Lieut RUTHERFORD was sent for by the G.O.B. and was informed that any recommendation to supersede him would be upheld + that he would be transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. Train if possible.</p> <p>Light Railway conveying supplies from Poulainville to Querrien Area for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions then economising in Road Transport.</p> <p>Recommended Lt WENTWORTH for promotion to Captain, Lieut. LEWIS, NOAKES and BRUCE for lieutenants. Wrote Lieut. VOYSEY informing him of his intended supersession.</p>	

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Allonville	29/6/18		<p>Capt. R. BOSANQUET reported back from leave to G.K. Div. H.Q. moved to Elisy. Went over &amp; saw them, nothing for us. 6 officers and about 20 men with influenza. Drew 1 H.P. and 1 R.D. Home today. Train 1 Horse deficient only. Owing to the accession of B Class men to act as butina reinforcements the train is about 30 men over strength which is most fortunate owing to the sickness. Owing to Driver of Car 14293 falling sick, went over to Saleuse and got another driver from No 2 Motor Transport Company. Visited 16<sup>th</sup> + 20<sup>th</sup> Companies. Salvage Returns of Company excellent - 17<sup>th</sup> Company, the best one £600 value. Held a conference of Company Commanders in morning and dealt with several important matters. Salvage Return for June were most satisfactory particularly the 17<sup>th</sup> Company who collected over £800 in value. Drifting Return were also excellent. Notified D.D. S. of 4<sup>th</sup> Army that I agreed with the suggested reduction in mobilisation stores except in regard to Bayle, Trunpots, Camp Table and Bicycles the last item being quite indispensable. Third Echelon advise that all our records are now kept in England. This is a great disadvantage. 5 officers and 40 other ranks down with influenza. Otherwise health of Unit excellent, and horses, harness &amp; vehicles in first class order.</p>	
	30/6/18		<p>Capt. R. Bosanquet healed. Go 20<sup>th</sup> Comp. Div. train</p>	<p>30/6/18 14</p>