

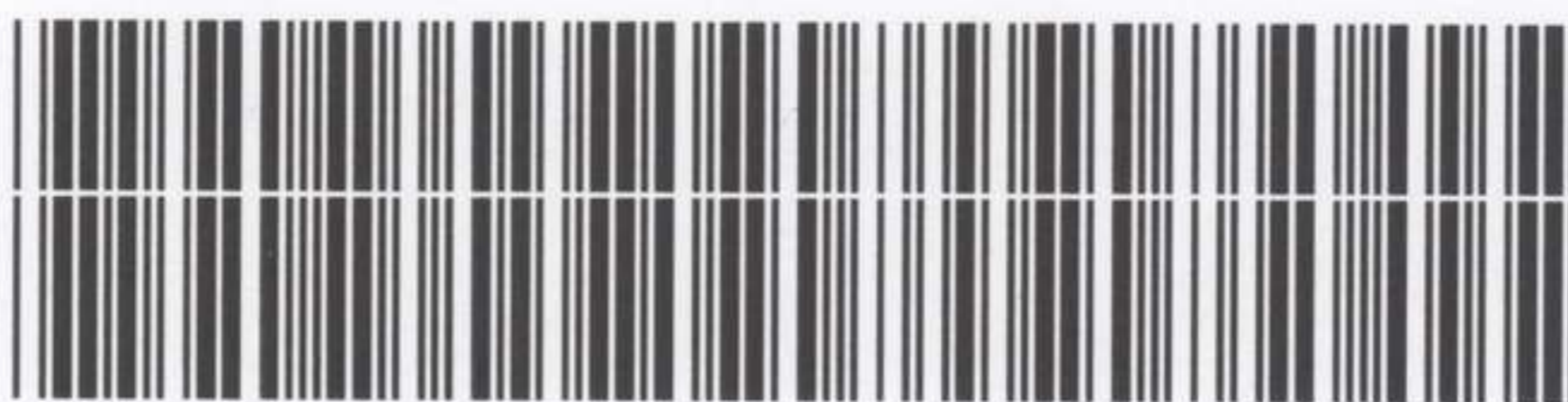
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/15/39

Title: 2nd Australian Divisional Train

October 1918



AWM4-25/15/39

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

FOR

October 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

E. Cox Lieut
H. A. Cook CAPT. & DJT.
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. TRAIN.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Jack Charlton Major
1/Comdandy 2nd AUST. DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boisat I 2nd Co	1/10/18		<p>Saw D.H.Q. and advised that probably Division would move to Bellicourt tomorrow to the Tunnel, A.P.Q. only. then informed me that the second car on Train Establishment they proposed to take + place in the Divisional Pool. I strongly object to see the S.O.C. which I did. He informed me that owing to the shortage of cars in view of the special operations we are undertaking, he would require a car from D.H.Q., C.R.S. + Train for the Pioneers but that after operations ceased the car should be returned. Had no option but to obey orders though pointed out the difficulty of carrying on without it. Feel very strongly as consider it a most unjust action + detrimental to the work of the Train. Railhead Roisel today. The 3 Pioneer Companies are in the vicinity of Roisel and instructed the 20th Company to move up tomorrow.</p>	
K 17th S.S. Roisel	1/10/18		<p>Received orders at 11.30 pm last night that the Division would go into the line the same night 1/2 October and D.H.Q. would move to Templeux le Guerneid opening at 9 am 2nd. Saw them + advised try find accommodation near Hargicourt to move in Templeux. Proceeded up + searched all villages without success. Found 13th Battery at the Bellicourt end of Hargicourt were moving out this afternoon and arranged to take over. In meantime found better premises being vacated near Roisel tomorrow so camped Roisel for night. D.H.Q. instructed in evening that light Railway would be used to Hargicourt from Roisel Railhead. Instructed all Companies to move to between Templeux + Hargicourt tomorrow.</p>	

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Rouel K10 Contd	3/10/18		<p>Our Artillery drew from our Back Train today. Train arrived at Rouel at 9 am. Supplies loaded into light Railways and first train sent up to Hargicourt at 10-30 am. Last one away by 12-15 hours. All Companies moved to Camps at Hargicourt in 4-5-11 squares. Belvoir taken. Supplies and Refilling Points fixed in near vicinity of line. This saves a great deal of transport work of great assistance. Took over train H.Q. from 3rd Div. Train at 13 hours. Heavy shelling for about an hour from Hargicourt to Rouel. 1 Driver Atkins attached S.H.Q. wounded, and his horse killed at Templeux. Supplies D.H.Q. with fresh team also 1 Driver + 2 Horses to replace their own casualties. Drew 2 H.D. + 3 Riders yesterday. Deficiencies today H.Q. Company, 5 H.D. 15th Company, 2 H.D. and 17th Company, 1 H.D. Saw P.H.Q. and advised that the Director was going out of the line in about 4 days time. Car 18619 sent in for overhaul. L.O.B. refused to recommence M.O. Lambour without seeing him. Will endeavour to see him tomorrow afternoon weather fine.</p>	
	4/10/18		<p>Supplies by light Railway sent away by noon today. This is the best light Railway system we have yet had to do with, both as regard rolling stock and running. Inspected all Companies today. Found every thing going all right, though 16th Company + 15th Company in rather exposed positions in fact several shells fell in the 16th line during day without doing harm.</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

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Roisel

4/10/18

5/10/18

Saw G.O.C. Lt Col Lamborn and he stated that Corps Instructions demand all men recommended for direct commission must be seen by an officer not lower than Brigadier General. Wrote to G.O.C. 6th Depot Unit to send him down at once for interview. Staff state that the Division will go back to Ypres area about the 6th reception Artillery. Supplies tomorrow will be drawn by H.T. at Roisel + Refilling points made in vicinity, Artillery Group going up + Margicourt by light Railway as usual. Instructed 15th 16th + 17th Companies to proceed to Roisel in morning + establish Camps. Headquarters Company remain as at present. Baggage wagons of Brigade will come to Margicourt and draw supplies for units tomorrow + supply wagons come + clear Pack Train at Roisel at 3 pm. Artillery Group act on today. Saw D.M.Q. and paraded Sgt E. H. Steel to G.O.C. who approved him as an applicant for a Commission. The Brigade Companies moved today to Roisel. 20th Company line shelled last night and 2 Riding horses wounded + had to be evacuated. 17th Company also lost 2 H. Drafts. Advise by D.A.G. that our final contribution of personnel to 1st Div. Train to replace men going to Australia would be 1 Staff Sgt, 1 Saddle Packer, 2 transport Corporals and 6 Drivers. Held meeting of Co. Companies and allotted each Company quota. Resubmitted recommendation for promotion of Lieut Rutherford + Mr. D. Tosh.

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Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Roisel	6/10/18		<p>Clocks put back 1 hour at 1 am. this morning. my Company had 1 H.D. killed through shell fire yesterday prior to moving off. D.H.Q. moved to Doung. Informed Division would probably entrain for Yser area tomorrow & spent all day endeavouring to get particulars, which however did not come to hand before about 2200. Every thing seems to have been left until the last minute & handed over to Q Branch in an incomplete form. Had meeting of C's Company & placed them in possession of latest developments. Rail parties & a proportion of Supply vehicle entrain & balance of transport of the Division proceeded by a 3 days march to new base. Stops Echouy, Dovers, and Billes. Think arrangements are not satisfactory, and productive of trouble.</p>
Lemons	7/10/18		<p>Proceeded to allotta area found accommodation here only for 2 Bns & C's Company & no horse lines at all. Water very bad & limited. Sais Area Commandant & 4th Brigade arranged to go to Hesselde with one Company & train H.Q. Obtained a D.H.Q. sanction to this. Jack Train did not arrive at Roisel H.Q. by his personal efforts obtained the Divisional supplies from the D.H.Q. and an American Divisional Pack Train, otherwise nothing would have been available. Railhead changed to Poulainville from Bill see tomorrow. Motor transport to clear & deliver from Railhead until the 10th. All trains late and owing to non arrival of ammunition trains except this 4th Brigade one, rather not to hand. Men had to march from Lemons to Billes a very long march & no food for them.</p>

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hiemont	8/19/18		<p>S.O. forced up hills of the Brigade by driving on 5th Brigade Supplies. This has been the worst move the Division has made, but who is to blame, it is not possible for me to say. Saw area Comm and all went over hilltop at Hesselles for Train H.Q. + 15th Company. Found satisfactory, but no horse lines. Eventually took an unused road near Railway Station. 15th Company will go to Hesselles + 16 + 17th Companies remain at Hiemont. No provision seems to have been made in these areas for transport units at all. M/O Captain Steele proceeded in leave.</p>	
Hesselles	9/10/18		<p>All Companies arrived and occupied their respective Areas. Spent day in adjusting matters for them moving over to Hesselles, with Train H.Q. Railhead Pontaineville by motor transport. Notified that Major Charlton's application would not be granted for return to his duties. M.O. ask if I can take over a Battalion transport for 10 days or so + where. Advised that it could be done in Hesselles. Instructed by D.A.G. that question was under consideration promotion of officers in a Brigade Company + 3 + no further promotion to commissions would be given in the meantime. Suggested that warrant Officer Class I be restored to establishment instead. Hope this is not carried out as Officer for preferable to M.O. Took M/O Leimbom to D.H.Q. to see the S.O.C. but as he has gone on leave attached the M/O to 15th Company in the interval. Weather wet but not cold.</p>	

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Hesselles	10/10/18		<p>20th Company with few having moved to new location in H 7 B Street 623 on west side of Jonecourt. Forward recommendations for Temporary promotions to Captain of Lieut. Rutherford & McIntosh. Saw Div. Signals re telephone; promised in 2 or 3 days. Captain applied for 10 days French leave & applied for 14 days ordinary leave to Paris from 18/10/18. Capt Blackman applied for leave to UK, and proceeded to day.</p> <p>Instructions issued that all 1914 Officers & other ranks could take 45 days leave in Europe in lieu of furlough to Australia. Warrant, R.L.O., & men to draw 3/- a day subsistence allowance, and 25% of their deferred pay if they wish.</p> <p>Nothing doing.</p> <p>Sgt. instructs that R.L.O.s at Depot Units are to be replaced by "B" Class R.L.O.s the "A" Class being transferred to Divisional Trains. No promotion to take place in Trains until the Depot Units R.L.O.s have been absorbed. This is not a welcome order, as these R.L.O.s are purely supply men & have no Transport knowledge & it is only in the Transport Sections that vacancies occur. Inspected Company. Horses of my Company losing condition in a bad way. No horse sup yet available, which makes a difference. Also no clipping allowed in 4th Army which also affects the animals. Other Companies horses looking quite well considering.</p>	
	11/10/18			
	17/10/18			

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Henselles	14/10/18		<p>Headquarters Coy, wires new location. That 578 U 73-D news north of PREMONT. lost 4 horses enemy action, 2 men wounded. Brigades start disbanding a Battalion each at once. The transport of the disbanded Battalions will be attached one to each Brigade Company. One to be handed over in morning. weather wet & dreary.</p> <p>13/10/18 Saw 4 Brigades utilizing their horse-drawn transport for drawing firewood from St Omer and also arranged with 5th & 6th Brigades per telephone. 25th Battalion transport & 8th Limbers, 4 Cookery & 2 water carts, 1 Mess Cart & 1 Medical Cart with animals handed over. Two limbers still to come. Attached this section to 13th Company.</p> <p>14/10/18 506 returned. Paraded 250 Limbers to him. Limbers approved and recommendation for a Commission forwarded. Hunt could return from Special Duty. Advised that leave allotment till further notice would be 2 other ranks per day.</p> <p>15/10/18 C.R.A. advised Division that their supply arrangements had broken down through the American system of supply being faulty and they were not getting their rations, but that if the Supply Officer had the car, things could be improved. Division instructed that a car must be sent up. Saw Area Commandant's Office, Caen re claim for Barricade's burnt in July sent us by Chain's Commission for report. Heard that it has been notified that a British Artillery Unit were concerned in the matter not the Train.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hemel Hempstead	16/10/18		<p>Capt H.A. Cook proceeded on 10 days permission to Paris & Rouen. Sent Cpl 18619 to head quarters Company for use of the Supply Office. The supply arrangements for the Artillery have been most unsatisfactory. The Americans have not yet grasped the problem of supply & transport for large numbers, and every thing seems to be carried out in a happy-go-lucky style. Sent Captain S. Walker up to take over command of H.Q. Company, during Major Charlton temporary command of the Train in my absence.</p>	
	17/10/18		<p>Major Charlton arrived at Train H.Q. Supply conditions at front have become greatly improved owing to Australian Corps appointing an H.Q. to deal with supply matters affecting Australian units attached to the American Divisions and to act as Supply liaison officer. System of supply is at present. From gauge Railhead Bovesel, thence by Light Railway to Montbrechain, thence by motor horries to Preumont and by horse transport to units. In the present West Area supplies are drawn from Ailly-sur-Somme Railhead by horse transport of the train delivered to Refueling points at Triancoy, St Vaast, and Hessel's for 6th, 4th and 3rd Brigades and taken to units by their own horse line transport. Influenza breaking out among men of Headquarters Coy. evacuated on 14/10/18.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hessells	18/10/18 19/10/18		<p>Utilising the First Line Transport attached to clean coal from Railhead in order to find them some occupation. Report received from Supply Office of Div. Artillery Group corrects the impression that the Americans were responsible for break down of supply arrangements. The fault appears to lie with our own Corps in not arranging for an office to represent all the Groups acting as S.S.O. This course has now been followed & things are running smoothly.</p> <p>The remaining 2 Companies of the 25th Battalion Transport were handed over to us today. This makes this Transport complete. Inspected the 3 Brigade Companies & the Battalion Transport Section. Found the latter well contented & well situated. D.H.Q. notified me that 21st Battalion stated that this Transport was badly treated, neglected in fact was quite unmanageable. This is a gross fabrication & informed D.H.Q. so. Instructed Companies to get weapons cleaned up, though owing to lack of water this is a very difficult matter. A.A.S. Depot in UK.</p>	

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Messelles	19/10/18		advise that Lt Bruce will be retained there for a further period. S.H.P. notify a reduction in establishment of Subaltern in a Brigade Train Company, to from 2 to 1 and replacement of Warren Officer Class I. This has not yet been adopted by the A.S.F. but fear it will be.	
	20/10/18		leave to Paris for 14 days in lieu of H.K. granted to Lt M. Beaumont who proceeded today. Major Charlton took command during his absence. Lt Atkins returned from H.K. leave yesterday, who applied to go to Australia or Furlough being 1914 personnel.	
	21/10/18		19 th Battalion transport reported to the train today & attached to 17 th Coy 21 st Battalion transport reported to the train today & attached to 16 th Coy The transport of coal from railhead to coal dump is now being done by 19 th & 25 th Batt. Ladders attached, but now that 21 st Batt have arrived it will be divided between the 3 battalions	
	22/10/18		20 th Coy have moved back to Peronne. Captain Walker reports that great difficulties were presented in connection with supplies but were met & dealt with by his supply section. Everything is now going well.	

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NESSELLES	23/10/18		Division now preparing for sports of all kinds, as far ahead as Christmas, so our stay in this area is likely to be long one. ER	
	24/10/18		Major Charlton visited 20 th Coy at Peronne. ER Major Charlton visited 16 th & 17 th Coys. These 2 companies as well as the 15 th Coy are rather badly off for stabling for horses. The 16 th Coy are building stables which will be most beneficial to the condition of the animals. ER	
	25/10/18		Lieutenants HAE RUTHERFORD and CD MCINTOSH appointed temp Captains to date from 14 th October 1918. Instructions received from HQ Q/ro. Division to hand over all vehicles & equipment of 1 st line transport attached to the train to Advanced Horse Transport Depot ABBEVILLE. It is expected that the horses & harness will be issued to units of the Div. requiring same. ER	
	26/10/18		Captains Cook & Blackman returned from leave. All vehicles & equipment of 19 th 21 st & 25 th Buffs attached handed over to Advanced Horse Transport Depot. Temp Capt CD MCINTOSH proceeded to ABBEVILLE today in charge of the convoy & is reporting back tomorrow with horses harness & personnel. ER	
	27/10/18		1) Capt CD MCINTOSH returned from having over of 1 st line Transport vehicles. Four privates from 10 th Depot Unit of supply reported as reinforcements. ER	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLESSELLES	28/10/18		<p>Received instructions from D.H.Q to parade all First Line Animals at FREMONT to be inspected by the D.A.D.V.S. prior to being issued to Divisional units as remounts, horses will be taken over with head collars & chains with nose bags & unsuspended portion of days ration. The train allotment is 1 Ride 3 L.D. & 16 H.D. it is anticipated that these animals will not last long on duty as the Brigades with the Batters will be handing over to us.</p> <p>1/Capt C. D. MCINTOSH attached temporarily to 16th Coy during LT CADD'S absence. Published in orders the names of N.C.Os selected to proceed to H.A.S.C Training Depot U.K. they are - Transport: SGT. LEE 16th Coy. CPL BRADLEY 17th Coy. & CPL APPLEBY 17th Coy. Supply.</p> <p>Two Reinforcements arrived for the 15th Coy a course of instruction in Horse management is to be held at Veterinary Hospital FORGES - LES- EAUX. selected SGT ABERDEEN 17th Coy to attend on 1st NOV 18.</p> <p>Received instructions from 3rd Echelon that the promotions of 7/SGT WILKSON & T/CPL BRINSLEY VICE BUCKRIDGE returned to Australia for medical reasons could not be made substantive until 3 months had elapsed.</p> <p>O.C. 15th Coy advised that W. O. FOOTE had died in No 3 General Hospital ABBEVILLE from Bronchial Pneumonia, this is greatly felt by the 15th Coy. Hal</p>	

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FLESSELLES	29/10/18.		<p>Received advice that Capt. A. B. STEELE, R.M.O. attached to the Train has been granted Convalescence to 6th Nov. & that he will appear before a further board at the end of that period.</p> <p>L/Cpl M. W. BERG 15th A.A.S.C. promoted Temp. Cpl vice Smith. appointed</p> <p>D/W F. R. SWANSON 20th A.A.S.C. attached 6th Army P.A. Bde L/Cpl from today.</p> <p>One Reinforcement joined 20th A.A.S.C. from Base. Received instructions from 5th A.I. Bde that an allotment of one officer and one v.c.o. from each Base Coy and T.H.Q. had been granted to visit Le HAVRE to inspect Salvage Depots on the 7th Nov.</p> <p>D.H.Q. asked for the number of horses not under cover in this area, in view to drawing material for stables, which are badly needed. All first line animals were rounded over today to Div units except 27 which were culled by the D.G. D. Y. S. and 2 unallotted. received verbal instructions from D.H.Q. that they would all have to be returned owing to instructions being received from D.D. of P 4th Army.</p> <p>Major CHARLTON & LT COX went to PERONNE to see the 20th Coy who say they will be coming to ALLONVILLE in a day or two but that no definite instructions had been received.</p>	

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FLESSELLES	30/10/18		<p>Received instructions from D. H. Q. that units were responsible for the cleanliness of their billets and villages & that all steps possible were to be made to combat this epidemic of sickness. Officers of the train the opportunity of visiting Duppe or Leport but none availed it. The 23rd Battr moved into FLESSELLES from ST VAST, and crowded the village, they caused a lot of trouble over billets, it is rumored they will move again tomorrow, 20th Coy moved into CARDONETTE today, drawing supplies from CORBIE by M.T.</p> <p>Major CHARLTON picked up CAPT WALKER & GIBBINS on the road & brought them to FLESSELLES, they had lunch & then went on to arrange billets. The artillery do not come under administration of 2nd Aust Div yet, but it is expected 20th Coy received 1 Reinforcement. Received instructions from D. H. Q. that all the 1st Line transport animals would be sent back to us tomorrow, except Pikes, Horses & harness will be sent to ABBEVILLE on the 1st Nov. & landed over to advanced Horse Transport Depot. 2 small claims received for damage done in FREMONT. all Coys have drawn horse maps, the question is now can we clip the horses.</p>	

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FLESSELLES	31/10/18		<p>The 23rd Battalion moved out this morning to VAUX the A.D.M.S. condemned the village for more troops owing to the spread of Influenza, this disease is becoming serious & precautions are being issued stating what steps are to be taken, any man reporting sick with this complaint must go to Hospital immediately & take their blankets.</p> <p>D.H.Q. instructed that all animals and equipment of the 1st Line Transport will be landed over tomorrow, horses & harnesses will travel by road to ABBEVILLE, spare harness & equipment to go by motor lorry. CAPT. C. D. MINTOSH detailed for this duty.</p> <p>Salvage collected by Coy - amount to £10,945 for month of October. The 40th Coy has been detailed to transport all blankets of the Brigade Coy. one motor car detailed for use of S.O. Div Troops, this morning, he will acquire a car each morning while their Railhead is at CORBIE.</p>	

H. A. Cook Capt & Adj
2nd Aust Div Train.