

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

Railways

Item number: 15/1/1

Title: Headquarters, Australian Railway
Companies

February - May 1918



AWM4-15/1/1

SECRET.

ORIGINAL

W A R D I A R Y
of
HEADQUARTERS; AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

MARCH 1918.

23c

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			35 th (Aust) B. G. R. O. Coy PERONNE Sheet 62 ^c I 28 C. 5. 5.	
			59 th " " " " " PESELHOEK " 28 A 20 6-8. 8	
			60 th " " " " " BERGUES " 19 O 20. a 9. 8.	
			Weather. wet.	
D.G.T, GHQ	27/2		Went to MAUTORT near ABBEVILLE, where Lt (Hon Majr) ^(60th Coy) NEWMAN is stationed in charge of Depot with a detachment of 8 N.C.O. + O.R. from 60 th B.G.R.O. Coy and a number of R.E men attached. Camp and huts in very good condition. Weather fine, clear.	
"	28/2		Weather fine. Letter from D.A.G. A.I.F re Lt NEWMAN being detached from unit.	
"	1/3		Went to LIGNY. to see acting C/o R.D.D. Lt Col SPIER. He stated in regard to NEWMAN'S detachment that this was done in August last with the consent of C.O of the Coy + it was not intended to second or transfer him. Informed him that A.S.F. wished detachments to be referred to HQ before being made.	
"	2/3		Went to SAYY. + saw O.C. 15 th Aust. L.R.O. Coy re Establishment and reinforcements required.	
"	3/3		Letter + file from D.A.G., A.S.F. re Establishments of Operating Companies	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D.G.T. Camp. LACALOTTERIE MONTREUIL.	24/2/18.		Reported to D.D.G.T (O) G.H.Q. from 4 th Div. Engrs. to take up duty with H&Qs. Australian Railway Companies, according to Establishment Offices not yet ready. Weather fine clear.	App "A"
"	25/2.		Called on D.L.R. and A.D.L.R.(C) and R.O.D. office for regard to Operating Companies 3 B.G. and 3 L.R.	
"	26/2		Went with A.D.L.R.(C) to SAVY. and saw 15 th ^{Aust} L.R. O Co. (Capt Duncan). Only half company there remainder at ELLARSYDE with A.D.L.R. IV. Company not on operating work as yard not yet completed. Arranged with A.D.L.R.(C) that they would put up new loco shed and buildings and do platelaying in new yard if necessary, but not the grading.	
			Location of Companies. 15 th Aust L.R.O. Coy. SAVY. Sheet 51 ^E D5 C. 97	
			16 th " " " VAUXHALL " 28 H 36 b-central	
			17 th " " " MIMICO " 28. H 12 d 1.1.	

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			Companies had been formed in Australia under an Establishment, and should have been brought to the War Establishment for Armies in France, before leaving England. This had not been done. All Corps except the 17 th which were formed in France were working on the original Establishment as C.O.s had not been notified in regard to alteration.	App "B" "C" "D"
D.G.T., GHQ	4/3.		new Ford Car No 45989 with A.S.C. Driver reported from No 1. Base Mt. ROUEN. Went to PERONNE, inspected 35 th B.G. R.O. Coy. Half Company at OMIECOURT. 66 th A.I.B. 1.8. It is intended to move whole Coy there shortly. Company comfortable, but issue of under clothing from VII Corps dirty and torn.	
PERONNE	5/3		Inspected camp and yard at OMIECOURT. On return between HESDIN and MONTREUIL. Car damaged by hitting tree, broken radiator & headlamp.	
D.G.T., GHQ	7/3		Went to ELLARSYDE, ADLRQ. Inspected 16 th Aust L.R.O. Coy. Camp clean, food & clothing issues good. Stayed at ELLARSYDE	
ELLARSYDE	8/3		Inspected 17 th Aust L.R.C. at MIMICO, 59 th B.G. R.O. Coy at PESELHOEK and 60 th B.G.R.O. Coy at BERGUES. Stayed at ELLARSYDE.	
GHQ "	9/3.		Saw Lt Col STURDEE. 5 th Aust. Div. C.R.E re matter in Companies' War Diaries	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9/3.		Saw D.A.G., A.I.F. re Establishments. Instructions from him to draw up an Establishment suitable for the Australian Companies. Taking into consideration that if the War Establishment is worked to all promotion will be blocked for a very long time. Also the reinforcements & trades required each month. Stayed at HAZEBROUCK.	
D.G.T. Camp	10/3		Clocks advanced 1 hour at 1.0 am. A.I.F. Order ho. re Companies received.	App. F
" "	1		(1) A.A.S.C. Driver from "K" Column brought back. (1) Batman reported.	
" "	11/3		Went to BOULOGNE saw Paymaster re Special Trades.	
" "	12/3		Telephone put in office D.G.T. ho 147.	
" "	13/3		Went to ROUEN. called at Australian Section 3 rd Echelon re returns and records. Stayed at ROUEN	
D.G.T. GHQ	14/3		Saw Op Records & DAAG 3 rd Echelon re Returns & Reinforcements for Railway Coy.	
" "	16/3		Discussion with A.D. GT(O) regarding requisitioning Reinforcements. Orderly Coy reported	App. E
" "	17/3		Inspected 201. L.R.O Coy SAVY. Camp almost completed. Yard not started. Instructed O.C to have bomb screens put round huts as early as possible.	
" "	18/3		Interview with DDGT(O) re duties of H.Q. Rly. Coy. He undertook to have conclusions put on paper and have a further discussion before submitting it to A.I.F. H.Q.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D.G.T., G.H.Q.	20/3		Pay Office BOULOGNE. drew 400fr. for pay. Typewriter Royal no 318079 received from D.A.G.S Clerk. "B" class reported from 6 th Coy on transfer to H.Q.	
"	21/3		Inspected Detachment, camp at MAUTORT. (6 th Coy).	
"	22/3		Discussion with DDGT.(O) regarding H.Q. Aust. Rly. Cops. Resulting in note to be submitted to D.A.G., A.I.F. personally. Received information that German offensive had broken through near PERONNE.	App. "G"
"	23/3		Started for PERONNE. At VILLERS-CARBONNEL. heard that 4 th B.G. R.O.s had shifted to OMIECOURT. so went there. Road very congested with traffic but quite orderly. At OMIECOURT found 4 th Coy. preparing to shift all loco + rolling stock to CHEMIN-VERT. Emergency ambulance train in at MARCHÉPOT and train in at R.E. Park OMIECOURT being loaded. Left there at 3 pm on return. as Coy. appeared to have everything well in hand. Letter rec ^d from D.A.G. re Establishment	App H.
"	25/3		Went to FLÈTRE to see D.A.G., A.I.F. met 12 th Aust. Inf. B ^{de} in 160 motor lorries at STRAZÉELE moving to G.H.Q. reserve. Saw D.A.G. who agreed to DDGT's note except in regard to requisitioning of reinforcements which he considered should be done by O.C.'s units, but note would have to be submitted to G.O.C. for his approval. D.A.G. also informed me that it had been decided to divide the B.G. from the L.R. Cops. for purposes of promotion on a/c of different nature of work.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BERGUES D.G.T.	25/3	4.30p.	Inspected 6 th Coy. Workshops. Camp. Capt. James on leave. Lt COCKRAM a/c.o. Enemy shelling ground near with 15" shells, evidently after Exchange Yard but about were about 600 yards away. Stayed at CASSEL.	
PESELHOEK MIMICO	26/3	10.0a.	Inspected 5 th Aust. B.G. R.O. Coy. Camp required cleaning up. Germans shelling round yard but only moderately.	
MIMICO.	"	2pm	Inspected 3 rd Aust L.R.O. Coy.	
D.G.T. Camp	27/3		Wrote note to DDGT(O) expressing D.A.G.'s views in regard to reinforcements.	
AUDRUICQ	28/3	11.30a.	Inspected Camp of 4 th Aust. B.G. R.O. Coy. Ofc stated that the Coy had got away from OMIECOURT and CHEMIN-VERT with no loss of rolling stock or casualties. Mechanics were at Workshops, but the Running Staff had been instructed to return all stores.	
D.G.T. Camp	29/3		Saw Director of Traffic in regard to 4 th Coy. He stated that they may be required at any time so wanted to keep them at AUDRUICQ at present.	

St Hancock Major
C.O. Aust. Rly. Corps.

APPENDIX *A.*

No. 944

Copy App. A.

Part VII A.

HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY
COMPANIES.

FRANCE.

WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

121/Overseas/5205.

Detail.	Personal			Motor Cars	Remarks.
	Officers.	Rank and file.	Total		
Lieut-colonel.	1		1	1	
Adjutant.	1		1		
Clerks (a).		2 ^b	2		
Total (excluding attached).	2	2	4	1	(a). Of Category "B".
<u>Attached.</u>					
Batmen (a).		2	2		(b). Includes one Corporal
Driver, A.S.C., M.T.		1	1		
Total (including attached).	2	5	7	1	

War Office (S.D.2),
25th January, 1918.

RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANIES.

APPENDIX B

AUSTRALIAN ESTABLISHMENT.

Personal.

Detail.	Officers.	W.O. Cl.1.	W.O. Cl 2. C.S.M.	Sgts.	Rank & File	Total
Captain.	1					1
Subalterns.	2					2
Warrant Officers Cl.1.		2				2
W.O. Class 2 C.S.M.			12			12
Sergeants.				24		24
Corporals.					36	36
2nd Corporals.					72	72
Privates.					118	118
Total.	3	2	12	24	226	267

Distribution of Warrant Officers, Company Sergeant Majors,
Sergeants, and Rank and File by Trades.

Detail.	W.O.	C.S.M.	Sgts.	Cpls.	2nd Cpls.	Ptes.	Total
Traffic.	2	6	4		1	7	20
Drivers.		6	20	36	30		92
Firemen.					37	55	92
Fitters.					2	14	16
Boilermakers.					1	6	7
Blacksmiths.					1	7	8
Assistants.						29	29
Total.	2	12	24	36	72	118	264

L

RAILWAY OPERATING COMPANIES.

APPENDIX *C*

WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

(1) Personnel.
121/Railways/226.

Detail.	Officers.	Warrant Officers	Staff Sgts. & sergeants	Rank & File.	Total.
Captain	1				1
Subalterns	2				2
Warrant Officers Class 1.		2			2
C.S.M. (Railway Operating)			6		6
Sergeants.			16		16
Corporals.				20	20
2nd Corporals.				40	40
Sappers and Pioneers (a)				180 ^b	180
Total.	3	2	22	240	267
<u>Attached.</u>					
Batmen (Infantry)				3	3
Drivers, A.S.C., M.T. (c).				1	1 ^d
	66				
Total Company (including attached).	3	2	22	244	271

(a) At least 70 pioneers will normally be included in companies intended for Misc. Trades, Light Railways and Workshops, Light Railways.

(b) Includes 8 Lance Corporals.

(c) Not required for companies intended for Misc. Trades, Light Railways and Train Crews, Light Railways.

Note. - A train Crews Company and an Operating Company, Light Railways, will have 2 Subalterns and 2 batmen in addition to the above Establishment.

(79/9800). 121/France/563 (A.G.1).

(2) Transport (c).

Detail.	Vehicles	Drivers.	Remarks.
Box Cars, 1st Line, for technical equip- ment stores, &c.	1 ^d	1 ^e	d. 2 in the case of a Light Rly O. Coy.
Motor Cycle.	1 ^f		e. Provided by A.S.C. f. Allowed for each Light Rly O. Coy.

X. Supersedes W.E. No. 501/59.

WAR OFFICE (S.D.2),
7th December 1917.

RAILWAY COMPANY, R. E. - (Cont.)

WAR ESTABLISHMENT. - (Cont.)

APPENDIX *C*Operating Company, Light Railways.
-----Distribution of Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants and Sergeants, and
Rand and File, by Trades.

Blacksmiths (Ordinary).	3
" (Strikers).	3
Boilermakers	2
" (Assistant).	4
Boiler Washers	3
Carpenters and joiners.	3
Cleaners (Locomotive).	20
Clerks (Stenographers).	2
" (General).	3 ^a
Cooks.	4
Coppersmith.	1
Draughtsman (Locomotive).	1
Drivers (I.C.E.)	25
" (Locomotive).	20
Electric Fitters.	2
Firemen.	21
Fitters (ordinary).	8
" (assistant).	8
Foreman (Mechanical).	1
" (Assistant).	1
Guards & Brakesmen.	55
Machinemen (slotters & planers).	2
" (Turner, general).	1
Painter.	1
Pioneers.	19 ^b
Plumber.	1
Shoemaker.	1
Shunters.	20
Storekeepers.	2
Tailor.	1
Tinsmith.	1
Tracer.	1
Wagon examiners.	8
" " (repairers).	6
Yardmasters.	10
Total.	<u>264.</u>

(a). Should have mechanical engineering knowledge, if possible.

(b). Five pioneers will be trained in sanitary duties.

"A" Form. Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent		copy	Date.....	
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue;">App "D"</p>			At.....			Service.	
			To.....			From.....	
			By.....			By.....	
				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")			

TO { 15th, 16th, 17th Aust. L.R.O. Coy.
35th, 59th, 60th Aust. B.G.R.O. Coy.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	A A A
* H 1	6		

Do not make any
promotions to any rank
until further advised.

From	Aust.	Railway	Coys.
Place			
Time	12.45.		

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

..... S.H. Hancox Major.
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
(3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 818.)

APPENDIX E.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.
D. A. G. "E"			At..... m.		C O P Y	From.....
			By.....			(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { D. A. G., A. I. F. Australian Corps.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* H 2.	17.		

Reinforcements	required	per	month
Loco	Firemen	10,	Guards
14,	Shunters	14,	Loco
Fitters	1,	Train	Examiners
2.	All	sappers.	

From C.O., Aust. Rly. Coys.
Place G.H.Q.
Time 14.00.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
S. H. Hancox Major.
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.



APPENDIX *F*

C O P Y.

App 'F'

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE ORDERS.
by
General Sir W. R. Birdwood.
K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C.
Commanding Australian Imperial Force.

Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force.
In the Field, 5th March 1918.

1141.-DESIGNATION OF UNITS - CHANGES IN.- The Following changes in the designation of the undermentioned units of the A.I.F. have been approved and will be put into effect forthwith:-

OLD DESIGNATION.	NEW DESIGNATION.
15th (Aust) L.R.O. Co.	1st Aust. L.R.O.Co.
16th (Aust) "	2nd " "
17th (Anzac) "	3rd " "
35th (Aust) "	4th " B.G.R.O.Co.
59th (Aust) "	5th " "
60th (Aust) "	6th " "

(Authority: D.A.G., A.I.F., 25/138 of 28.2.18.)

Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force.
In the Field, 22nd March 1918.

1163.-DESIGNATION OF UNITS - CHANGES IN.- In A.I.F. Order 1141 of 5th March for "35th, 59th, 60th (Aust.) L.R.O.Coys" read " 35th, 59th, and 60th B.G.R.O.Coys".

(Authority D.A.G., A.I.F., 25/183 of 17.3.18.)

Sgd. T.H.Dodds Colonel.

D.A.G., A.I.F.

APPENDIX *G.*

C O P Y.

App. "G"

DGT/139/4.

NOTE regarding the HEADQUARTERS of the
AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

The purpose of the formation of these Headquarters is explained in the letter from the A.I.F. 25/4/1 dated 10th November 1917.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Reinforcements demands for the Australian Railway Companies will be consolidated in the Headquarters, Australian Railway Cos., and submitted by these Headquarters to D.G.T.'s "A" Branch.

A demand will be made by the D.G.T. "A" Branch on the Base.

"A" Branch will keep in constant touch with the Australian Headquarters with a view to difference in the nomenclature of the Trades Schedule being adjusted.

RETURNS OF CORRESPONDENCE.

All returns of correspondence required by D.G.T.'s Headquarters or by Australian Imperial Force will be submitted through the Headquarters of the Australian Railway Cos. This does not apply to the Direct submission of A.F.B. 213 to the Base, which will continue as at present.

PROMOTIONS.

All recommendations for promotions to commissioned rank made by the Australian Companies at present to the Headquarters of the A.I.F., will in future be submitted through the Headquarters of the Australian Railway Cos., who should consult the Directorate concerned before forwarding the recommendation for final decision to the G.O.C., A.I.F.

Promotion to the rank of 2nd Class W.O., to the rank of Sergeant and advancement to higher rate of pay, will be made under such regulations as the A.I.F and the Headquarters Australian Railway Cos. may mutually agree to.

Sgd.

Brig.Gen.
D.D.G.T.(O).

22nd March 1918.



APPENDIX *H*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. *App H.*

D. A. G.
25/195.
A.I.F.

Copy

Headquarters, A.I.F.,
Attached Australian Corps,
20th March, 1918.

O. C.,
Aust. Railway Coys.,
C/o D.G.T., G.H.Q.

1. With reference to your 11/6 of 6.3.18, I am to inform you that approval is given to your recommendations as follows -

- (a). Men holding temporary ranks in Railway Coys. in excess of War establishments will revert at once to their permanent ranks.
- (b). Substantive N.C.O's of each rank in each Coy who are surplus to War Establishments will be borne as supernumerary pending absorption as vacancies occur. No promotions will be made in each rank until the supernumeraries of that rank are absorbed.
- (c). Drivers will not necessarily be N.C.O's in future.

2. Please take action accordingly.

3. A cable is being sent to Aust. asking that all Railway Rfts be graded as Sappers in future.

4. The questions of pay raised in your letter are being referred to the Chief Patmaster. The 3rd A.L.R.O.Coy (late 17th) will be placed on the same footing as the other Rly. Coys. in regard to this matter. Until this question of pay is settled no more men are to be brought on to the 8/- per day rate of pay.

Sgd. T. H. Dodds Colonel.

D.A.G., A.I.F.