

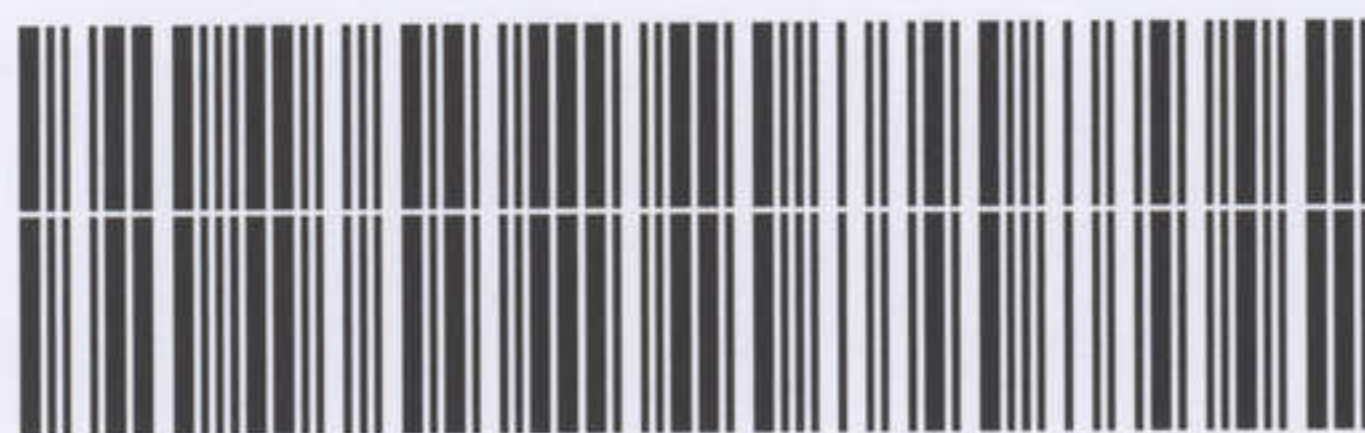
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Railways

**Item number:** 15/5/10

**Title:** 4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway  
Operating Company

August 1918



AWM4-15/5/10

R.20,000—5/18—11069.

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.

No. ....

Date. ....

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

361

**Australian Imperial Force.**

# WAR DIARY

OF

*4th Aust B.G. R.O. Coy* *Dunkerque*

FOR

*August* 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Malulich.*  
*K.O.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. Russell*

No 1

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.  
No.....  
Date.....

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

361

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dunkerque	August 1918.		During the month under review the Traffic in respect to Troops movements at our centre has been somewhat lighter.	
			Respecting the general working upon the system under my control I am pleased to say that derailments and other mishaps have been reduced to a minimum, no doubt due to the Staff and other Ranks now being more accustomed to Roads, Signals and the French methods of working, which are so diametrically opposite to those in which our men were trained. Absolute harmony exists between the French Staff and our men, and good all round work is being carried out, with war traffic, it seems to me not possible to avoid minor mishaps because generally, the conditions obtaining with restricted lighting etc. are a big handicap over those existing in pre-war time. I am glad to report that the Mardyk Camp water scheme referred to in my last, has now been completed and the men's comfort are all that can be desired, the camp generally is	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(Afo266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

No 2

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

361

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No.

Date.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Quendkerque	August 1918	13 <sup>th</sup>	<p>maintained in good order and cleanliness, also much improved conditions prevail in respect to the Company's mail matter, and better accommodation is provided. Much is being done by way of entertaining our men, in the camp at night, a series of concerts etc are being arranged.</p> <p>Our messing arrangements are much improved and little anomalies that existed respecting one or two items of food have been removed, this also can be said of our branch depot at Coudekerque.</p> <p>During the early part of the month our depot was constantly visited by enemy air craft, on the 13<sup>th</sup> bombs were dropped on the west side of Triage des Dunes. Marshalling yard and two roads Nos 11 and 12 were damaged in consequence, necessitating new rails and fittings to replace. No damage was caused to wagons or other stock there were no casualties, and trains were not delayed as a result of the raid.</p> <p>Statistics Form R.O.D 44.</p>	App No 1

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1102  
4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. COY.  
No.....  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dunkirk	August 1918		<p>I have upon several occasions proposed to refer to the many different methods of Railway Signalling, (particularly hand) obtaining throughout countries it has been my lot to visit. I am not struck with the one in use upon the French Railways, which compared with Australia, America and England is in my opinion much inferior, both in respect to, firstly (the most important factor), Safe working with a minimum of accident to shunters, and damage of vehicles. Secondly, simplicity and effectiveness.</p> <p>To fully explain my experience I will point out the French Hand Signal lamp, which is a three sided one with Red, Green and white fixed lights, and consequently cannot be operated in a like manner to our Standard lamp, composed of triple shades. Red shade denoting absolute danger, the Green caution and the white clear, these shades are operated in turn as required in all shunting operations, respectively showing clearly to an Engineman what is actually the intentions of the Shunter at any given period of the</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10256) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

No 4.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dunkirk.	August 1918		<p>movement of trains, the Red indicating <u>dead stop</u>. the Green Cautions or an intimation to slacken speed, or a gradual easing up to a vehicle and the White varied in such a manner that the Enginemen cannot possibly make any mistake as to whether the shunter requires him to proceed forward or propel backwards, if the signal is to go ahead the shunter moves his white light towards the engineman in a parallel position with that of his train and to come back moves the white light across his body, whilst facing the train, from his right to left. and so on.</p> <p>I maintain the French method of train signalling is most confusing, and it is extremely difficult at times to know exactly what actual signal is intended. Their lamps are varied at night with all three lights showing at the one time, to no fixed rule, thus it is perfectly obvious that our men working to such signals exhibited, without delays or accidents is creditable.</p> <p>App. Offence Report</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

App. No 2

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4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.  
No. 5  
Date

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

361

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUNKERQUE	August 1918		Strength of Company 4th Aust B.G. Roboy Officers 5 OR 302 Attached R.O.D. R.E. - 2 - 384.	App. No 3
			Class of Type of Locomotives operating please see app Lines Operated upon, same as previously reported. The weather during the month has been fine, with cool nights. I have pleasure in directing your attention to the reward gained by C.S.M. M. Fraillon attached to this Company to whom the French military authorities awarded the Croix de Guerre. Brig General V Murray Director of Railway Traffic was present at the parade on the 11th Aug and made reference to the fine proof of the courageous conduct displayed by the above mentioned C.S.M. Please see French order N. 150 D.O.A. Appendix No 4.	

No. 6



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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361

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dunkerque	August 1918		<p>The general conduct and discipline of the Company is good, and the health of the men excellent, the only exception being a slight epidemic of dysentery, which is being successfully combated by the M.O.</p> <p>The Ofc without resting in his endeavors to secure the welfare and comfort of his Company has made many alterations and improvements to the Camp &amp; etc, and general satisfaction is felt through-out the Company with the arrangements.</p>	
Am			<p>W Russell</p> <p>Capt</p>	

## WAR DIARY

OF

4th Aust B.G. R.O. Coy

FOR

Dunkirk

August 1918

4TH AUSTRALIAN B.G. R.O. COY.
No. ....
Date .....

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Statistics forms No 4

2

Offence Reports

3

Locomotive &amp; Type

4

French Order N. 150

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.

R.O.D. 44.

RAILWAY OPERATING DIVISION.

Month  
Weekly Return of Broad and Metre Gauge Lines and Depots worked by British Army.

Date Broad Gauge Line (or Depot) Dinkerque Month August 1918

LOCOMOTIVE STATISTICS (Separate Statistics for Petrol Tractors).

Length of Line Worked. Kilometres.	Total Number of Engines on last day of week. <i>Month</i>	Daily Average Number of Engines.	Daily Average Number of Engines in Steam.	Daily Average Number of Engines under, or awaiting Light Repairs. (G)	Daily Average Number of Engines under, or awaiting Heavy Repairs. (H)	Percentage of Engines in Steam to Total.	Percentage of Engines under, or awaiting Repairs.	Percentage of Engines Available but not in Steam.	TOTAL ENGINE KILOMETRES.				TOTAL ENGINE HOURS.		CONSUMPTION OF LOCO. STORES (by Engines only).	
									Loaded.	Empty.	Assist-ing.	Light.	Train Engines.	Shunting Engines.	Coal (tons).	Lubricating Oil (gallons).
	67	67	57	9	✓	85.09	13.45	1.46	24425	12169	1267	14868	4314	11338	1919.6	1032

(G) Including Washouts.

(H) Engines requiring attention at C.M.E. workshops. Give individual engine numbers.

\* Includes ..... hours for .....

STOCK AND CONSUMPTION OF R.O.D. COAL (Tons).

Stock on Hand at beginning of week.	Received during week. (A)	Used during week.	Sent R.O.D. Detachments. (B)	Sent other Units. (C)	Stock on Hand at end of week. <i>month</i>
B 432.6					1132.6
C 1396.2	2509	1929.6	137.15	1083.17	754.13

(A), (B), and (C)—In the case of Coal received from or sent to other Units or Detachments give details.

BREAKDOWN CRANES.

Number of Breakdown Cranes.
Nil

PERSONNEL STATISTICS.

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL. (F)								TOTAL STRENGTH on last day of week. (F)
Repairs.	Shed Duties.	Running.	Ground Staff.	Employed. (D)	Reserve.	Others. (E)	Total.	
62	100	234	98	1453 293	✓	22	661	6573 293

(D)—Includes Q.M.S. and Assistants, Cooks, Orderlies. (E)—Includes Sick in Quarters, in Hospital, on Leave, in Detention. (F)—Includes all R.O.D. personnel, men of other Units attached for transfer to R.O.D. and men of other Units attached for Railway Work, but not Batmen, Chauffeurs, R.A.M.C. Orderlies, etc.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LOADED WAGONS CONVEYED DURING WEEK.

BRITISH MILITARY TRAFFIC.					Trains Journaliers.	French Military Traffic.	Belgian Military Traffic.	Civil Traffic.	Total Number of Wagons.	Total LOADED Wagon kilometres.
Troops.	Reinforcements and Remounts.	Supplies, Ordnance and General Traffic.	Construction Traffic.	Ambulance Trains.						
622	2696	9098	708	48	✓	549	✓	2035	17091	757.464

ARMY PRINTING AND STATIONERY SERVICES. B. 397. 20000. 9/17.

APPENDIX

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY, O. Coy.

7

No.

Date

## Offence Report (Field Service only).

Army Form B. 2069.

(In pads of 50).

361

Corps

4th Just BGR O Coy

Squadron, Troop, Battery, or Company	Regt. No.	Rank	Name	Place and Date of offence	Offence	By whom reported and Names of Witnesses	Initials of Officer Comdg. Company, &c	Punishment awarded	Signature of Officer by whom ordered and date of award	Date of entry in Conduct Sheet	Remarks
1396 1546		Sgt	Benson T	In the field 9/8/18	When on Active Service Absent without leave 12 hours 9-8-18 to 11am 10/8/18 23 hours	Sgt O'Donnell	MR	7 days F.P. No 2	Mr Russell Capt 11/8/18		
594		4/cpl	May AT	In the field 3/8/18	W.O.A.S. hesitating to obey an order given by an N.C.O.	Capt Condl	MR	Reprimanded	Mr Russell 14/8/18		

N.B.—A horizontal line should be drawn the whole length of the Return after each day's offences are entered.

APPENDIX

2

## Locomotives &amp; Type

4<sup>th</sup> Qcist B.G.R.O.C.

Operating

4TH  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY.

No.

Baldwin Type	W.D.	C.W.	Mid.	Belge	Belge
21 0.4.0	1611 2.8.0	2303 0.6.0	2723 0.6.0	2899 30.	2888 32.
40 .	1856 .	2309 .	2736 .		3033
60 .	1857 .	2313 .	2737 .		3539
63 .	1858 .	2332 .	2755 .		3770
64 .	1859 .	2339 .	2770 .		3785
685 0.6.0	1862 .	2348 .	2781 .		3789
686 .	1901 .	2357 .	2754 .		3792
689 .	1906 .	2403 .	2788 .		3809
692 .	1914 .	2430 .			4292
693 .	1915 .	2457 .			4261
697 .		2461 .			
698 .		2463 .			
699 .		2469 .			
700 .		2470 .			
		2476 .			
		2480 .			
		2484 .			
		2489 .			
		2518 .			
		2519 .			
		2532 .			
		2535 .			
		2549 .			
		2566 .			
14	10	24	8	1	10
M. Russell			Total 67.		

361

APPENDIX

4

Copy

4TH AUSTRALIAN B.G. RLY. O. COY.
No. ....
Date. ....

Dunkergue

29 July 1918

Order N. 150 D. D. G.

Adjutant Major General Director of the  
Military Operations has mentioned in dispatches  
the soldier here-under.

— C. S. M. M. Fraillon —

1<sup>st</sup> Aust Light Railway Company attached  
to the 4<sup>th</sup> Aust Broad Gauge Railway Operating  
Company, in that on the night of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>  
July 1918 during aerial bombardment an  
aerial torpedo having penetrated without  
exploding into a signal box at Dunkergue.

Did not hesitate whilst bombardment  
was in progress to remove this torpedo,  
thus giving a fine proof of courageous  
initiative and devotion.

Signed

Adjutant Major General  
Payot.

*M. Russell*