

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

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/86/17

**Title:** 4th Australian Divisional Mechanical  
Transport Company

August 1919



AWM4-25/86/17

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

*Orig with DMTB*

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

STAFF OFFICER., A.A.S.C. (M.T)

FOR

AUGUST 1919. 191

Signature of Officer compiling .....

Signature of Officer Commanding *T. Macpherson*

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARCINELLE	August		<p>Drew 25,000 Francs Belgian from Field Cashier, NAMUR            Captain L.T. Maplestone M.C. detailed as member F.G.C.M. in case of Dvrs. FLINT and DAU, 4th Aust. M.T. Coy, to sit on 8th. August. <i>h</i></p> <p>2. Rang up D.A.A.G., No. 4 Area ref 2 Lieut. LOGAN, L., 1st. Aust. Div. Train, enquiring if any further action was being taken in matter. D.A.A.G. will enquire and notify this office.            Visited No. 4 Aust. M.T. Coy W/Shops.            Lieut. HARVEY, O.i/c Detachment at PERONNE called. <i>h</i></p> <p>3. Capt. Maplestone departed to D.M.T.S., A.I.F., LONDON on duty. <i>h</i></p> <p>4. Capt. Maplestone arrived London 14.30 but found that it was a Bank Holiday and Headquarters closed.            Holiday in HAINAUT Sub-Area. <i>h</i></p> <p>5. Capt. Maplestone called on D.M.T.S. and discussed following matters:-  <u>4th. AUST. M.T. COY</u> It was decided that the Headquarters and personnel at present in CHARLEROI would move to AMIENS Area at an early date.            It was considered that the Coy. could be reduced very considerably and that if possible the Headquarters of this office and 4th. Aust. M.T. Coy be <del>assigned</del> amalgamated and the whole come under the command of Capt. L.T. Maplestone.            This would mean the release of approximately 3 Officers, 100 O/Rs and 12 vehicles.            Colonel Tunbridge - D.M.T.S. - stated he would cross over to France about 18th; inst., and make final arrangements.</p> <p><u>GRAVES DETACHMENT.</u> This unit is being re-organised and will come under the administration of High Commissioner for Australia at an early date. No definite particulars were available as to establishment, but it is understood that 9 cars and 4 box cars will be required. All lorries and cycles to be evacuated.            Further particulars will be forwarded as soon as available.</p> <p><u>A.I.F. MEMORIALS.</u> Matter of car for Architect was discussed, and it was pointed out that</p>	

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MARCINELLE	August 1919 5 (contd)		<p>this man asked for car for long trips and that G.R.O. 6937 does not allow civilians to travel in Army vehicles. D.M.T.S. promised to see General HOBBS reference this matter. A.A.G., A.I.F. stated that on no account should a car be given to this man unless an officer was going with him.</p> <p><u>VEHICLE RETURNS.</u> Checked over vehicles still outstanding with D.M.T.S.list.</p> <p><u>RECORDS SECTION.</u> Called and discussed M.T. records and found all in order. Matters relative to casual personnel were being reported very satisfactorily to Records by this office.</p> <p>It was suggested that if it would simplify matters this office and 4th. A.M.T.Coy could be wound up and all personnel left on this side transferred to a Special Unit. It was preferred that the 4th. A.M.T.Coy remain as an original unit, and if possible bring all personnel down to that one Company.</p> <p><u>PAY OFFICE.</u> Called on C.P.M.London ref. returns. Everything in order. No arrangements were being made for pay in Amiens Area when A.I.F.Graves Detachment move out. Suggested that if this H.Q. move to rear area that imprest be held by me as at present.</p> <p><u>A.A.G., A.I.F., e/o G.H.Q. WIMEREUX.</u> Called on Colonel Wynter, A.A.G., A.I.F. in company with D.A.P.M., A.I.F. and discussed general matters of administration in CHARLEROI Area.</p> <p>Future policy. He approved of the suggested re-arrangement of this H.Q. and 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy., and is anxious to relieve as many men as possible for demobilization. He also agreed that the D.A.P.M. should move to AMIENS as there are likely to be a considerable number of A.W.Ls in that area after Graves Detachment move out. Discussed Summary of Evidence in case of No. 3175 Pte. LYNOTT, H. - 20th. Battalion - He agreed that there was no case against the man, but instructed that he be kept under arrest until further particulars are available from Records. He had no particulars ref reorganization of A.I.F.Graves Detachment.</p> <p>Lieut. TWISS visited No. 4 Aust. M.T.Coy re F.G.C.M. papers in connection with Dvrs. DAU and FLINT, and afterwards delivered papers to "A" HAINAUT Sub-Area.</p>	

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MARCINELLE.	August '19		<p>O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy. called on general matters .</p> <p>6. Captain Harding - Engineer of Memorials - called. He suggests that a Motor Car be made available for O. i/c Memorial at ZONNEBECK in lieu of Box Car as suggested.</p> <p>7. "A" HAINAUT Sub-Area rang up to say F.G.C.M. re DAU and FLINT would be postponed sine die.</p> <p>Wire received from General HOBBS for Captain HARDING to report to him in U.K. at once. Captain Harding informed and left by Boulogne-Cologne Express to-night.</p> <p>Captain L.T.MARLESTONE rejoined from duty to U.K.</p> <p>8. O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy called and reported theft of 640 gallons Petrol from R.S.O., CHARLEROI, alleged to have been committed by 1464 Dvr. BOND, H.S.C. of Lorry No. 34709.</p> <p>He had visited A.D.S.&amp; T. No. 4 Area, and found that an indent had been forged in Lieut. HAMMOND'S name for 10th. G.H.Q.Reserve M.T.Coy. The writing was similar to BOND'S and he had placed the accused under arrest. Visited R.S.O. and D.A.P.M. ref this matter.</p> <p>Informed O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy that his H.Q. would have to move down to PERONNE Area at an early date, and that a reduction would be made in the personnel of his company.</p> <p>9. Forwarded papers in connection with alleged theft of Petrol from R.S.O. by Lorry 34709 to D.A.P.M. for information.</p> <p>Lieut. L. LOGAN - 1st. Aust. Div. Train - called. Rang up D.A.A.G. reference this Officer being allowed to proceed for demob. They promised to advise as soon as reply can be obtained from "Q" reference C. of E. on Surplus and Loss of Stores in which this Officer is concerned.</p> <p>Instructed 4th. A.M.T.Coy to send Box Car to O.i/c Memorial at ZONNEBEKE.</p> <p>10. General Routine.</p>	

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MARCINELLE	August 1919		<p>Visited Quarries with Contractor for A.I.F. Monuments. 7 trucks have been forwarded to date. 6 to ZONNEBEKE and 1 to St. QUENTIN. Zonnebeke will be finished in approx. 15 days, only 2 more trucks to complete.</p> <p>Arranged to take Contractor down to BELLINGLISE with me on Friday 15th. inst.</p> <p>Communication received from D.M.T.S. ref. GRAVES Services and reorganization of same.</p> <p>Applications called fro from A.A.S.C.M.T. personnel, urgent. O.C., 4th. A.M.T. Coy instructed to proceed to Detachments and forward applications at once through this office.</p> <p>Visited D.A.P.M., B.E.F., CHARLEROI reference reported purchase of Spirits by Australian soldier. Called identification parade of this H.Q. and 4th. Aust. M.T. Coy. Investigated case of alleged Petrol theft by 1464 Dvr. BOND, H.S.C., lorry 34709.</p> <p>Visited 4th. Aust. M.T. Coy ref Box Car for ZONNEBEKE, and to arrange for transport of Winch to A.I.F. Memorial there.</p> <p>General Routine.</p> <p>Drew 25,000 francs Belgian currency from Field Cashier NAMUR. Called on No. 4 Area H.Q. ref move to AMIENS and F.G.C.Ms pending. O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T. Coy. called on his return from Rear Detachments. Discussed reorganization and move of his H.Q., to AMIENS also reorganization of GRAVES Services, and withdrawal of M.T.</p> <p>Arranged that I would call and see Lieut. Patterson at VILLERS-BRETTONEUX to-morrow.</p> <p>Summary of Evidence ref. Dvrs. DAN and FLINT, 4th. Aust. M.T. Coy, taken to "A", HAINAUT Sub-Area by Lieut. Twiss, and request made for F.G.C.M. to be convened. Visited Detachment at BELLINGLISE with contractor of A.I.F. Monuments, also visited A.I.F. Graves Detachment, VILLERS-BRETTONEUX and discussed M.T. transfers with Lieut. Patterson.</p> <p>Visited Town Major AMIENS ref billets for this H.Q. - none available.</p>	<p>see Appa /</p>
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MARCINELLE	August 1919		<p>Area Headquarters where we move to. Saw O.C. 3rd. Area French Mission and arranged to send him a wire as to date we are moving.</p> <p>16 (contd) Visited detachment at POZIERES.</p> <p>17 General Routine.</p> <p>18 Took Summary of Evidence in case of 1464 Dvr BOND, H.S.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy. O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy. called reference applications for transfer of M.T. personnel to GRAVES Services. Car despatched to Boulogne to meet Colonel Tunbridge, D.M.T.S.</p> <p>19 Captain Harding called reference A.I.F. Monuments. O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy called reference reorganization of Company and vehicles. Convened C. of E. to investigate loss by fire of Talbot Ambulance W.D.No. 19609 of 21st. M.A.C. attached to M.O., A.I.F. Detachment.</p> <p>20 Forwarded papers applying for F.G.C.M. in case of 1464 Dvr. BOND to HAINAUT Sub-Area.</p> <p>21 General Routine.</p> <p>22 Colonel Tunbridge, D.M.T.S., A.I.F., reported on duty from U.K.</p> <p>23 Visited 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy.</p> <p>24 Colonel Tunbridge, D.M.T.S., A.I.F. left for return to U.K. via Monuments. Major ALLEN, Inspector of Graves Services, reported from U.K.</p> <p>25 1/2 General Routine.</p> <p>26 Received instructions from HAINAUT Sub-Area reference C. of E. on Talbot Ambulance No. 19609, that Captain Downer and Private McCoy, P. were not to leave Area, and that Pte. McCoy be put under arrest at once. Lieut. Harvey O. i/c PERONNE Detachment called reference general matters, and to draw pay for men in rear area. Visited Field Cashier and drew 17,500 Frs. Belgian.</p>	

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	27		<p>a/O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy called reference Summary of Evidence in case of Dvr. MAURICE alleged whisky sales.</p> <p>D.A.P.M., A.I.F. called reference absentees and F.G.C.Ms on 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy men, also discussed future policy this area.</p> <p>It was decided to leave 2 M.Ps at Brussells with D.A.P.M. These men to act as escorts and will be withdrawn later if not required.</p> <p>As soon as 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy move out, 2 M.Ps will visit FARCHIENNES and CHATELINEAU and pick up any stragglers of 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy or other units.</p>	
	28		<p>Visited 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy reference transfer of personnel to Graves Services. Captain P.L.DANIELS, A.A.M.C. reported for duty in place of Captain H.G.DOWNER who is to proceed to U.K. for N.M.E.</p> <p>Lieut. CRAKER, D.A.P.M., A.I.F. proceeded to rear Area III to locate billets for this H.Q.</p> <p>Visited HAINAUT Sub-Area reference F.G.C.M. cases pending.</p> <p>Visited D.A.P.M., CHARLEROI reference case of Dvr. Maurice alleged whisky sales.</p>	
	29		<p>O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T.Coy called reference transfer of Vehicles and men to Graves Services.</p> <p>Returned tickets and 215 francs to 4th. Area Lottery c/o D.A.P.S. NAMUR.</p>	
	30		<p>General Routine.</p>	
	31		<p>General Routine</p>	
			<p><u>NOTE.</u> The Diary of STAFF OFFICER A.A.S.C.M.T. will be included in that of 4th. Australian M.T. Company as from 1st. September 1919.</p>	

*W. J. Mapleton*  
*W. J. Mapleton*  
D. M. T. S. Colonel.  
A. I. F.



LIST OF APPENDICES

FOR MONTH OF

AUGUST..... 1919.

1. Applications called for from A.A.S.C.(M.T) Personnel for Aust Graves Detachment.

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*G. W. Mapleton*

VERY URGENT.

STAFF OFFICER,  
A.A.S.C. M.T.  
(D.M.T.S. A.I.F.)  
No. 1297/6

O.C.,  
4th. Aust. M.T. Coy.  
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A.I.F. GRAVES SERVICES - A.I.F. ORDER No. 1663.

Consequent on the reorganization of the A.I.F. Graves Detachment, the following A.A.S.C. M.T. personnel are required.

<u>SUBALTERNS.</u>	<u>O/Rs.</u>
1	1 Corporal.
	19 Drivers.
	3 Artificers.
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>23</u>

Applications will be called for at once from all M.T. personnel in FRANCE and BELGIUM and will be submitted to this office, as per attached pro-forma, at your very earliest opportunity.

A Special D.R. will be sent with instructions to your Detachments in rear Area and special care must be taken in the compilation of the forms, that the information called for is correct.

It is anticipated that the present GRAVES DETACHMENT will march out from France on or about the 19th inst. and as these applications have to be forwarded to LONDON for selection, please treat this matter with URGENCY.

ENCLS. Pro-forma.

MARCINELLE.  
11-8-19.

*J. T. Macpherson* Capt.,  
Staff Officer A.A.S.C. M.T.

Copy to D.M.T.S. A.I.F. ✓  
LONDON.  
WAR DIARY.

C O P Y.

Staff Officer. A.A.S.C.M.T.  
O.C., 4th. Aust. M.T. Company.  
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RE-ORGANISATION OF M.T.

Commencing 1st September, the H. Qrs Staff Officer, A.A.S.C.M.T. and 4th. Aust. M.T. Company, will be amalgated.

Captain. L.T. Maplestone will take over the command of No. 4. Australian. M.T. Company. Major. E.T. Searle, Capt. J.D. Campbell, & Lieut. F. Hammond will on completion of handing over proceed to U.K. for Demobilisation.

Personnel & Vehicles will be reduced as soon as possible to Establishment as attached.

Headquarters -- 4th. Aust. M.T. Company will move to a site to be selected in No. 3 Area on 31.8.19.

Workshops of No. 4. Aust. M.T. Coy, will be reduced to one Aust. Workshop, which will be located at PERONNE., balance of 2 Imperial Shops will be evacuated to V.R. Pk.

3 Store lorries will be retained.

As many men as possible should be despatched for Demobilisation at once.

23/8/19.

W.H. Tunbridge. Colonel.  
D. M. T. S. A. I. F.

Authority of letter, :- Staff Officer A.A.S.C.M.T. T302.  
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