

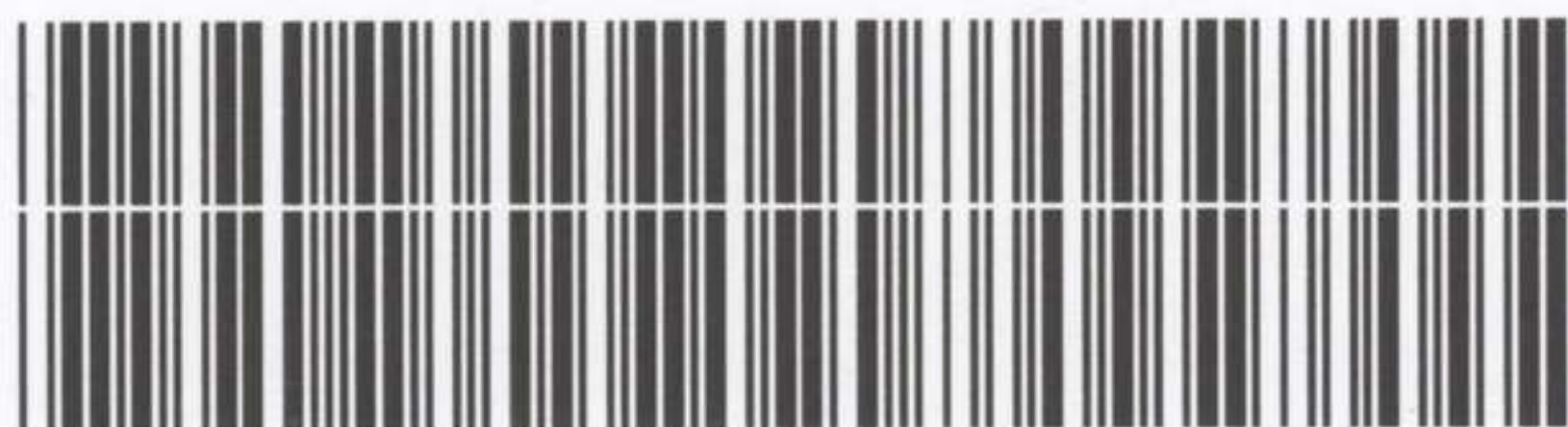
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/27/2

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Supply
Column

December 1915



AWM4-25/27/2

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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Dec. 31st. 1915.	9a.m.	<p><u>Location.</u> For the past month this Unit has been located at FLETRE as reported in War Diary for November 1915.</p> <p><u>Stands.</u> As reported for November 1915.</p> <p><u>Dump.</u> G 22 b Map 27. The column leaves the Park at 6 a.m. daily arriving at Dump at 7-30 a.m.</p> <p><u>Railhead.</u> On 6th inst the railhead was changed from Bailleul to Godwaeresvelde. The loading time is from 10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.</p> <p><u>Vehicles.</u> On 7/12/15 the 44 Peerless lorries of this column were exchanged for 44 Dennis on charge to the 14th D.S.C. These latter are in a much inferior state of repair to the Peerless, and front spring breakages give continual trouble. The inadaptability of these vehicles for non-skid devices causes much trouble if the lorry gets off the pave, As regards repairs the Mobile Workshops of the Unit have taken the lorries in hand, and have obviated to a great extent the troubles experienced during the first few days; and it is trusted that, by careful supervision, and judicious attention to repairs, the work of transporting the Division's supplies may be proceeded with uninterruptedly.</p> <p>One Store lorry was on the 13th inst so damaged by the accidental explosion of a shell inside that it had to be replaced.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Cold and wet weather has been experienced. Good boots, and (in the case of the Australian personnel) leather legging-s have been of great service with regard to the inevitable muddy conditions.</p>	<p><u>Roads.</u> Generally good pave roads prevail throughout the daily circuit of the column. The exception is the Poperinghe - Ouderdom Road.</p> <p><u>Hostilities.</u> On the 18th inst., one of about half a dozen hostile aeroplanes over Poperinghe dropped a bomb at the column narrowly missing one of the lorries, and striking a house which it wrecked and severely injured a woman and child, inmates. Showers of broken glass and debris were thrown over some of the adjacent lorries. Unpleasant effects due to the presence of gas in the atmosphere were also felt by many of the drivers</p> <p>On the same day in Poperinghe our coal convoy of 4 lorries was under shell fire for 2 hours but fortunately no casualties occurred. One of our Ordnance lorries in Ypres narrowly escaped destruction from shells, and also had to pass through a cloud of gas during a vigorous bombardment.</p> <p><u>General.</u> 90% of the Unit is established in billets in and about the town. Food is abundant and of good quality-clothing ditto.</p> <p>On 13/12/15 AM/2124 Sergt J.D. Batty was killed by the accidental explosion of a shell which he was endeavoring to open in a store lorry.</p> <p>AM/2123 Pte D. Armstrong and AM/2146 Pte S.S. McAdam were also injured by fragments of the same shell.</p> <p>(Continued on sheet 2)</p>

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			<p><u>General (continued)</u> These two latter men were working in the adjacent Workshops. After the accident they were at once removed to 15th C.C.S., Hazebrouck, and the remains of SGT. Batty were interred at Bailleul on 15th inst. The Christmas season was not allowed to pass unnoticed. The bill of fare was greatly enhanced by gifts—gift puddings from the War Department, chocolate from the Australian War Contingent Association, and sundries from private friends. On Christmas eve, and Christmas night, two very successful concerts were held, and were well attended. Good order was maintained, and proper discipline observed. Monetary gifts, amounting to £200 were received from organizations in Australia, for the Australian troops, who, however, allotted portion to their Imperial comrades. The health of the Unit has been good, and sanitation well attended to.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>Alfred Moon</i> Lt. Col. Comdg. 17th Divisional Supply Column. </p>	