

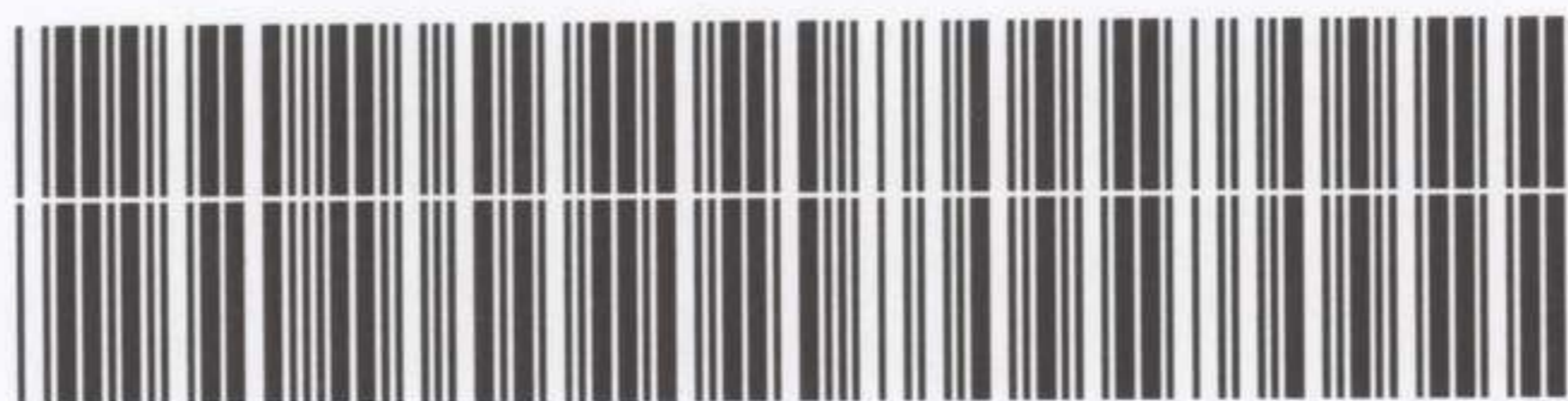
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** *25/27/27*

**Title:** 1st Australian Divisional Supply  
Column

January 1918



AWM4-25/27/27



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.



Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1st Australian Divisional Supply Column*

FOR

*January* 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*G. R. Shirlaw May*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*G. R. Shirlaw May*



In the Field

1/1/18 to 31/1/18.

9 a.m.



Place Date Hour

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.

LOCATION:- Sheet 27.X.24.a.1-5.  
RAILHEAD:- BRULOOZE 1-30/1/18.  
STEENWERCK 31/1/18.

From 1st to the 10th heavy falls of snow occurred accompanied by a fairly severe frost; This caused rigorous frost precautions to be adopted with regard to all M.T. Vehicles No frost casualties occurred.

The lorries were chiefly employed on S.M.T.O details, but owing to the snow, demands on M.T. were restricted as much as possible. The work of transporting supplies was carried out by the Horse Transport, with the exception of coal and extra forage, which was done by the M.T.

On the 12th thaw precautions were adopted, and all lorries recalled to the Park, as the wear and tear on roads if subjected to heavy traffic during a thaw, is very great, and the damage so done is irreparable for many months. A start was made to make a number of minor adjustments and repairs, but on the 14th as frost had again set in with a considerable fall of snow, normal traffic was resumed but only for two days, as thaw precautions had again to be adopted as from midnight 15/16th. This time the thaw a very gradual one, continued until midnight 21/22nd. Full advantage was taken of this spell, by the Workshops staff and the drivers to have a minor overhaul of every lorry.

The Workshops are working at a considerable disadvantage, owing to the stand being in a field which has been covered with stone, but being soft ground, the stone and rubble very quickly sinks down, making a very bad standing.

From the 22nd to 31st, the lorries have been on S.M.T.O details, doing work for Division and Corps. But the details have been very light owing to the bad state of the roads after the thaw.

The Supply section have been detached near KEMMEL map location (Sheet 28.M.24.D.2.4.), in order to be near the Railhead, and thus save transport.

The total mileage for the month is:- Loaded 11449, Empty 10013, Total 21462. The number of loads of various kinds 1057, and the Petrol used 6786 gallons.

An interesting record, (appendix 2) has been compiled showing the total mileage for the year, which is 423097 miles.

There have been no casualties during the month owing due to enemy action, either to personnel or vehicles.

In recognition of the excellent work done by the lorries during November 1917, engaged in evacuating wounded during the operations on the YPRES front, Lieut Walter J Mullett, who was in charge of the lorries, has been awarded the Military Cross. (appendix.1)

During the month One Sergeant has been accepted as an officer cadet, for the Australian Flying Corps. 11 N.C.O's and men have been admitted to Hospital sick etc; out of which 5 have been evacuated and struck off. One of the cooks has been selected to attend the Army school of Cookery.

The strength of the unit has averaged about 299 for the month.

The health of the unit generally has been good, a number were suffering from colds etc, but a generous supply of Scotts Emulsion was procured from unit funds, which proved very beneficial to the men. The clothing has also been good and plentiful.

*G. R. Shulaw* Major.,  
Commanding No.1 Aust. Div. Supply Column

Remarks and references to Appendices

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

A5834 Wt W4973/M687 750000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Form C. 2118/13



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18,000-12/17 8723

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# WAR DIARY



OF

*No 1. Australian Divisional Supply Column*

FOR

*January 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Award of Military Cross to Lieut Walter J. Mullett
2	Copy of Order of the day. Shewing total mileage for year 1917
3	Copy of Shaw Precautions, one of which is pasted above front seat of every lorry & ambulance in the Division



APPENDIX I

NO.1 AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN.SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY.

-By-

Major G.R. Shirlaw, commanding,  
In the Field

5/1/18.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

The following award for distinguished service in the Field appears in the London Gazette supplement dated Jan.1st 1918.

LIEUT WALTER JOHN MULLETT.A.A.S.C.M.T. MILITARY CROSS

In publishing the above I should like to express my heartiest congratulations to this officer on the honour conferred on him. At the same time I think every member of the unit should feel gratified as this decoration has been given as a mark of appreciation for the combined efforts of the unit.

It was undoubtedly the conscientious and hard work done in the past by the officers N.C.O's and men of the transport and workshop sections which enabled the evacuation of walking wounded, in the YPRES operations last Autumn to be carried out so successfully.

I trust that, in view of the awards made during the past year, all ranks will be encouraged to exert themselves still further to gain more laurels for the unit in the future.



*G. R. Shirlaw.* Major.,  
Commanding No.1 Aust.Div. Supply Column.



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-by-  
Major G.R. Shirlaw Commanding  
In the Field.

4/1/18.

The following interesting return is published for the information of all concerned:-

Total mileage run by the lorries of No 1 Aust. Div. Supply Column from 1/1/17 to 31/12/17.

W.D. NO.	SECT. NO.	MILES RUN.	W.D. NO.	SECT. NO.	MILES RUN.
<u>NO. 1 SECTION.</u>			<u>NO 2 SECTION.</u>		
11360	2	11098	11381	35	6582
11395	3	7060	11355	36	8973
11395	4	6355	11363	37	11717
13124	5	7520	11369	38	7913
11396	6	6049	11357	39	8176
11380	7	6792	11362	40	6978
11398	9	6560	11365	41	9236
7766	10	7299	19687	42	7969
10544	11	7260	21012	43	10280
10568	12	7452	22444	44	8896
10563	14	7198	10562	45	8190
10534	15	7920	8375	46	7970
10561	16	8974	23999	47	8397
10553	18	8741	10564	48	7642
10566	19	7498	10556	49	8329
10539	20	7958	2964	50	9829
2853	21	8034	10554	51	8099
28099	22	8022	28115	52	7446
10530	23	7477	10533	53	9215
34238	24	8433	10535	54	6748
10537	26	8407	7765	56	8301
10540	28	9898	3463	57	8512
10567	29	7037	10543	58	8356
2077	30	8419	3651	59	6665
<u>Total. 187451</u>			27913	61	10035
			27906	62	8876
			37682	63	7695
			10549	64	8421
			<u>Total.</u>		<u>235646</u>

GRAND TOTAL. 423097 Miles.

In connection with the above, the Commanding Officer desires to express his appreciation of the good and consistent mileage done by each and every lorry in the Unit, and also to compliment the workshop and transport personnel on the satisfactory manner in which the lorries have been kept on the road, thus enabling such a splendid mileage to be recorded.

*G. R. Shirlaw* Major.,  
Commanding No 1 Aust. Div. Sup. Column.





## No. 1 AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN.

**FROST PRECAUTIONS.**

The following instructions during frosty weather will be STRICTLY carried out by all drivers of M.T. Vehicles on charge or attached to this Unit:—

1. When available, two gallons of methylated spirits will be placed in the radiators as a first issue, and afterwards half a gallon every two days to allow for evaporation.

This must not be considered sufficient protection against damage by frost while the engine is stationary, but in addition, and under all circumstances:—

2. All water in the circulating system must be drained off by means of the taps or plugs provided for the purpose and located in the radiator, cylinder water jackets, water pump and water heated induction pipes, and carburetters. If Para 1 has been complied with, all water so removed must be placed in some receptacle for further use.

The following additional precautions will be adopted for the undermentioned makes of Lorries and Cars:—

**DENNIS 3-TON SUBSIDY LORRIES.**

All water to be drained from the induction pipe and carburetter jacket by removing the plug fitted to the connecting pipe between carburetter and water pump.

When no tap is fitted to the water pump, remove the bottom stud on the outside flange to ensure that all water is drained off.

**DENNIS 3-TON "N" TYPE LORRIES.**

The water pipe under the radiator and connected to the pump must be drained of all water. This is the lowest point in the system, and the draining of the radiator only is not sufficient to clear this pipe.

**DAIMLER LORRIES AND CARS.**

The plug fitted to each cylinder head must be removed and all water drawn off by means of a syringe, one of which is supplied to each Daimler Vehicle for this purpose. Afterwards a small quantity of methylated spirits, or as a substitute, kerosene should be injected into each head.

**SUNBEAM CARS AND AMBULANCES.**

To drain the cylinder jackets, remove the plug located at the rear end (off side) of engine, care being taken that the drain plug is at the lowest point of the water jacket.

Failure to obey the above instructions in their entirety, will render all M.T. Drivers liable to very severe disciplinary action being taken against them.

In the Field,  
17-10-17.

(Sgd.) G. R. SHIRLAW, Major,  
Commanding No. 1 Australian Divisional Supply Column.

A.P. 343 C-11 17

