

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/31/18

Title: 5th Australian Divisional Supply
Column

December 1917



AWM4-25/31/18

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
	No. 5 AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL SUPPLY COLUMN. -----			
	1.12.17.		15 Lorries drew Supplies from Railhead for Brigades, 4 carried Timber from Bailleul R. E. Dump to 2nd D. H. Q. 2 Carried Cement from Steenwerck R. E. Dump to St Jans Cappel and Saily. 1 Lorry carried stores from Bailleul to Column Dump.	
	2.12.17 to 5.12.17.		An average of 15 Lorries daily carried Supplies from Railhead to Brigades. About 5 Lorries each day were detailed on various Fatigue duties.	
	6.12.17 to 9.12.17		Supplies were drawn from Brulooze Railhead and delivered to Divisional Brigades as usual. 6 Lorries carried Troops to Vlamertinghe and Elverdinghe. An average of 7 Lorries was detailed daily on other duties.	
	10.12.17 to 12.12.17.		6 Lorries were used daily by Supply Officer at Railhead for Brigade Supplies, 10 Lorries carried Coal from Brulooze to Dump at Dranoutre-Loose Road. 10 Lorries carried personnel to Kemmel and Dranoutre.	
	13.12.17		9 Lorries left on detachment to feed troops on move of Division to Rest Area, Samer. 6 drew Supplies at Railhead for Brigades and 6 lorries moved Workshops and Gear to Samer. 4 Lorries were detailed on other Fatigue duties.	
	14.12.17 to 16.12.17		All available Lorries were used for feeding Divisional Troops on the move, also for removing Column to new location.	
	17.12.17.		Column established in Samer. Location Sheet Calais 13, 5 c.9.7. Heavy fall of snow recorded. 5 Lorries were used to convey personnel and kits to Long Fosse and Desvres. Railhead changed from Brulooze to Samer. Workshops erected and work commenced. On account of long distance move, 13 Lorries remained on detachment with Brigades.	

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	18.12.17		18 Lorries daily drew Supplies from Samer Railhead and delivered to Brigade Dumps, which were situated at long distances from railhead. Owing to the heavy falls of snow, several detail issues had to be made to Battalions and Field Ambulances. 4 Lorries carried coal and stores to Desvres.	
	to 20.12.17			
	21.12.17		22 Lorries drew Supplies and delivered to Brigade Dumps daily. 3 Lorries carried Vegetables from Boulogne Wharf to Samer and Desvres.	
	to 22.12.17.			
	23.12.17		24 Lorries were engaged daily on Supplies from Samer to Brigade Dumps. Continual heavy falls of snow made the work strenuous on the drivers. All details were carried out successfully. On Christmas night a Column Dinner was held in School Hall, Samer, at which about 240 were present. Pigs and Poultry were bought locally, and the whole cost of the Dinner was borne by the profits made from Regimental Canteen. In the evening a Concert was held and Supper provided.	
	to 25.12.17.			
	26.12.17		Average daily detail of Lorries on Supplies was 28. A few other lorries were used to carry Vegetables from Boulogne to Samer.	
	to 31.12.17			
			The daily average number of Lorries in Workshops for Repairs and overhaul was 9.6 and for Tyres 1.9	
			The total mileage covered for month was 27,118 miles.	
			In addition to daily duties, 8 Lorries were on detachment to Divisional D.A.D.O.S., Post Office and Headquarters.	
			Effective strength of personnel on 31.12.17 was 292.	

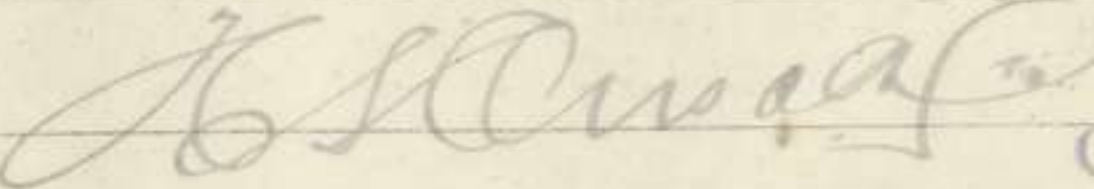
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			During the month, leave to the United Kingdom was granted to 8 Other ranks.	
			Six men were admitted Hospital, two being evacuated to England and four rejoining Unit.	
			C. S. M. Downe S. E. was commissioned on 17.12.17 and left the Column on transfer to D. M. T. S., A. I. F. on 19.12.17.	
			Food was good and plentiful, the average of fresh meat being high. Bread issue on a few days was low, the balance of issue being made up of Biscuits.	
			The heavy falls of snow from about the middle to end of month made roads impassable, and large fatigue parties from Infantry Battalions had to be sent out to shovel the snow and make roads fit for traffic. Frost precautions were rigidly observed, and no casualties occurred to vehicles.	
			 Capt. O. C. No. 5 Aust. D. S. Col.	