

**AWM4**

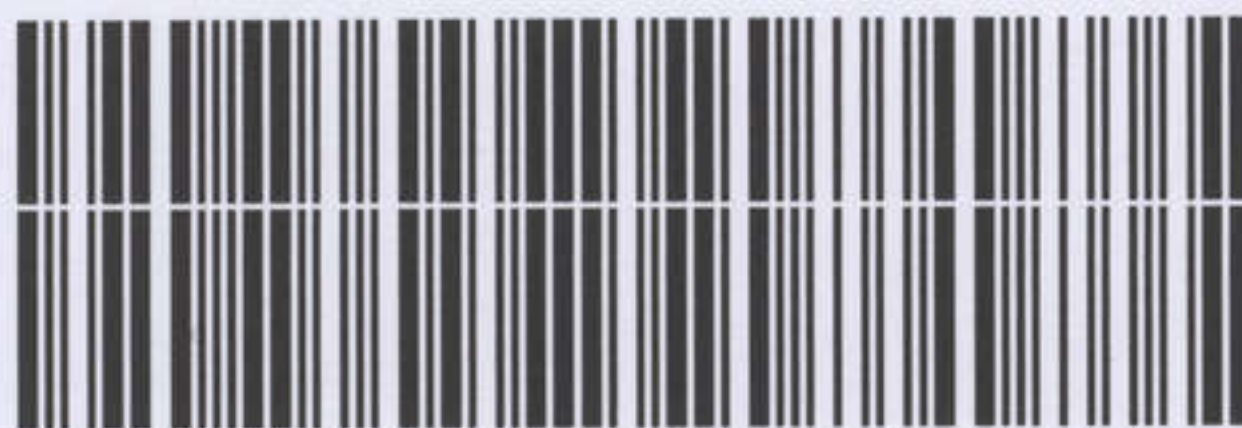
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Railways

**Item number:** 15/6/7

**Title:** 5th Australian Broad Gauge Railway  
Operating Company

May 1918



AWM4-15/6/7



18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

5 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN B.G. RLY. O. COY.
No. ....
Date .....

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

5th Australian B. G. Railway Operating Coy.

FOR

M A Y 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*H. R. Jenkins*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*A. J. Morgan*



ORIGINAL.

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.)

(1)

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

Army Form C. 2118.

Brig May

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		<u>WEATHER.</u> With the exception of three short periods of rain, the month has been particularly fine. Following several wet days from the 10th to the 13th inst. a spell of exceptionally warm weather was experienced. This ended by rain setting in on the 23rd inst., but after a couple of days the fine weather again prevailed. Changes of temperature were rather severe, and are reflected in the health report for the month.	
<u>FRANCE.</u>			<u>HEALTH.</u> The health of the men generally has not been as satisfactory as for the several months previous. A mild form of trench fever - or influenza - has been running through the Depot, and quite a number of the Company have been affected. The change from living in huts to camping in tents of course makes the men more susceptible to chills through the sudden changes of temperature which have occurred during the month. For these reasons may be accounted, the all round increases in the figures which are noted herewith. The total number of men attending sick parade to the doctor for	
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(2)

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

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ. 60360	31/5/18.		<p>the month was 101, or an average daily attendance of 3.26.</p> <p>Of these 14 cases were admitted to Hospital. Four of these after a short period of treatment were discharged. Two men returned from Base Hospitals, where they had been admitted previous to this month.</p> <p>The A.A.M.C. Orderly reports 852 attendances for minor treatments. 145 were for Dressings, 47 for Ear, Eye, Nose &amp; Throat complaints. 131 for Colds and Influenza. Feet treatment represented 73 visits. Railway men are particularly subject to foot complaints, especially men from the footplate.</p> <p>As a result of an accident on the 4th inst., whilst detraining with party from St Omer, Corporal Jarry A.E. was knocked by a light engine, sustaining cuts, and injury to knee.</p> <p>The party had detrained between lines opposite the camp. Jarry was in charge of the party and stores. A train passed over the line immediately adjacent to them - followed by a light engine. Jarry failed to observe the light engine, and while stacking the stores and baggage was caught by the side of the engine. His injuries were not considered serious, but he has been sent to a Base Hospital.</p>	
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(4) 5<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN B.G.  
RLY. O. COY. Army Form C. 2118.  
No. ....  
Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ	31/5/18.		<p><u>AIR RAIDS - ENEMY.</u> A majority of the nights have been clear and suitable for night flying. This Depot, whilst it has been fortunately free of any serious raid, has been subject to continual night alarms. On most occasions the enemy has passed overhead to Calais and Boulogne, or confined his attentions, so far at least as this neighbourhood is concerned, to stations or depots like Zeneghem and St Omer. At this latter town the raids have been continuous and severe. The railway yard and station appears to have been the main attraction, and experiences there are of interest to us as a detachment of the Company is still located there.</p> <p>They have had some narrow escapes, and as this report closes, an unofficial account of distinguished work being performed by our men at this depot comes to hand. An oil store was set afire by an enemy plane, which hovered overhead, dropping bombs as it circled, whilst our men with some success were endeavoring to extinguish the flames. They stuck to the job in spite of the menacing danger, and were able to prevent the fire from spreading.</p> <p>Our drivers out learning the roads from the Audruicq depot report many encounters with enemy aeroplanes, especially along the St Omer - Bethune line and to St Pol and Doullens. Sgt J. Wood, with an R.O.D. driver and fireman</p>	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D.D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.



WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY  
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5<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN D.G.  
RLY. CO. COY.

No. ....

Date .....

(5)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		<p>after taking a train to Doullens, were waiting for the return trip. This was during the night, and enemy aircraft were raiding in force. The R.O.D. men left the hut where they were resting to seek shelter. They only got about twenty yards away when a bomb dropped and caught them - both were killed. Sgt Wood escaped uninjured.</p> <p>No dug-outs or shelters being available during the first part of the month, our Company had to march out into the country when the "Advance" was sounded. Four shelters have now been allotted adjacent our lines, and these give sufficient protection against falling shrapnel or the splash from a bomb.</p> <p>It is anticipated <math>\delta</math> that at any time now this Depot may again experience a severe raid, such as it has known more than once before. Railway depots are getting particular attention at the present time, and the turn for this place must be nearly due.</p> <p>For this reason orders to take shelter are very strict, and arrangements are so complete that no confusion need exist no matter how extensive the raid, as there is adequate accommodation conveniently situated everywhere.</p>	
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Army Form C. 2118.

No. ....

Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		<p><u>STRENGTH.</u> Except for men evacuated to hospital, there is only the alterations to record of the men who have marched in from various detachments, and are again taken "on strength".</p> <p>From the detachment with the R.O.D. at St Omer, 25 men have been returned, marching in on the 4-5-18. These men had been acting as guards at this depot, but the R.O.D. companies which evacuated from Borre have a surplus of guards available, and this accounts no doubt for dispensing with the services of our men. The men left are all engine drivers and fireman.</p> <p>Nineteen men who had been left at Peselhoek, attached to the R.O.D. returned to the unit on the 29th inst. Two men remain in that district with the R.O.D. for engine and boiler repairing.</p> <p>Lieut. R.N.Johnston, two C.S.Ms and a Sapper (batman) marched out to the Australian Corps School at Merckeghem on the 19th idem.</p> <p>Total Strength at end of month - Aust. personel 242. A.S.C. (B rit) 2. -situated as follows:- 45th Siege Batt. 4. No 10 R.E. Coy 3. St Omer depot 34. Courthorpe(Peselhoek) 2. Audruicq 196 &amp; 2 A.S.C. Hospital 3.</p>	



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(7)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		<p><u>OCCUPATION.</u> Regularly for the last three weeks of the month this unit has been supplying to the R.O.D. depot for general fatigue duties, a party varying from 40 to 60 composed of 2nd Corporals, L/Cpls and Sappers.</p> <p>Apart from general fatigues, cleaners to the number of 21 have been supplied.</p> <p>The Fitters have been engaged at their own trades, covering principally general overhaul and repairs. One engine was also assembled or connected up.</p> <p>Twenty one N.C.O. drivers have been going out regularly from this depot on trips to learn the roads on various sections of the Nord system and the British Military supplementary lines.</p> <p>The men at St Omer are working traffic on all lines radiating from that depot. Their working conditions have much improved during the month, simply by systematising their working hours a little. Circumstances often bring about exceptionally long shifts, which cannot be avoided. Thirty hours on duty is not a rare experience.</p> <p>During the first week when the requisitions for fatigue parties were not</p>	
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(8)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		<p>so regular or insistant, a number of route marches took place.</p> <p>When resting out on these marches, Capt. Morgan took the opportunity of giving several lectures on military subjects, the knowledge of which would be of advantage, particularly in an emergency. A little practical training would then be indulged in, illustrating where possible the tactics about which the Captain had been speaking.</p> <p>This training was followed with interest by most of the men, but as previously noted fatigue duties ended the course.</p> <p>Lieut. Johnston, &amp; C.S.Ms Grant and Hackfath are undergoing a course of training at the Australian Corps School, in order to give this unit a military training.</p> <p><u>GENERAL NOTES.</u> Lt Colonel Hancox, O.C. Railway Units, paid several visits to the camp during the month.</p> <p>In consultation with Capt. Morgan various matters relating to Establishment, Promotions, Transfers were discussed.</p> <p>The new establishment for Australian Broad Gauge Railway</p>	
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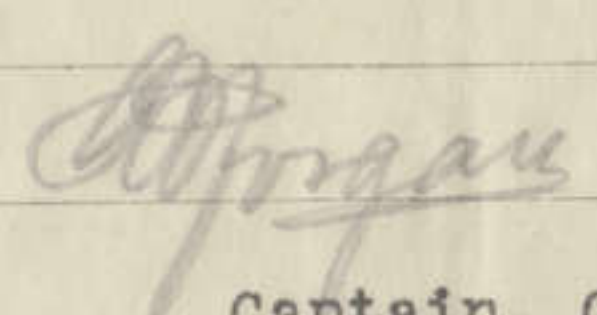


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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUDRUICQ.	31/5/18.		Operating Companies has been published in A.I.F. Orders of 14-5-18 Par.1227 & Appendix.  This makes a very substantial alteration to the establishment of the existing Broad Gauge Companies, and is along the lines indicated by references made, and copies of correspondence attached to previous months' diaries.  The 12th of May marked the anniversary of our arrival in France. Though at present the Company is mostly "resting" as far as active railway operating is concerned, we can hope that the coming twelve months will include as useful work as that of the past twelve. We have no desire to find consolation in the oft-quoted "They also serve who only watch and wait".	
			 Captain, O.C.  5th Aust. B.G. Rly Op. Coy.	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D.D.&L. Forms/C./2118/14.	



26.2

5th Australian B.G. Railway Operating Co.

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

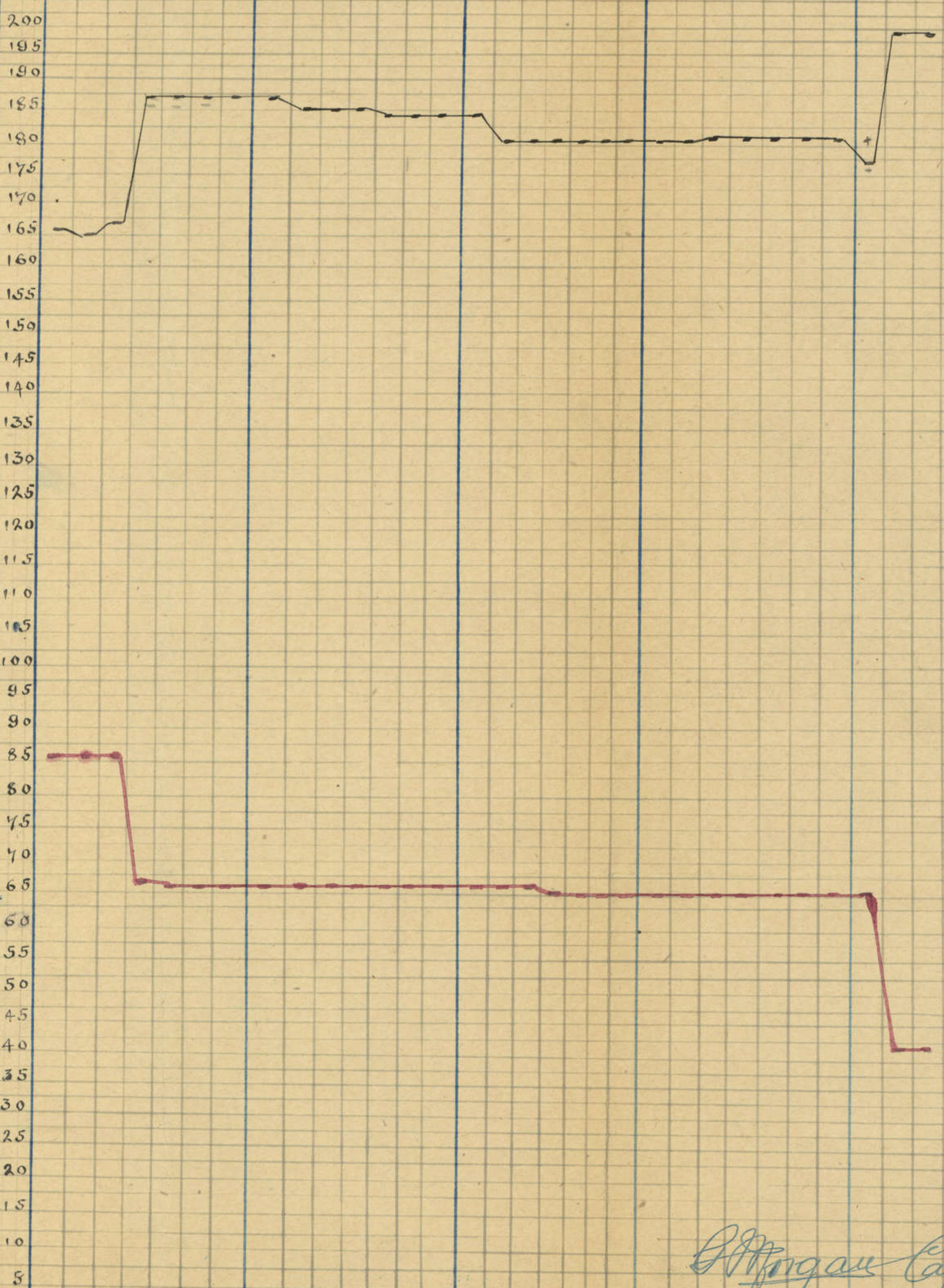
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 31/5/18

STRENGTH GRAPH

MAY 1918.

Day of Week -

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Aust. personnel  
Coy Hqs. Andruicey

Detachment  
Aust. Personnel

RODRE - S <sup>th</sup> Coy - Courthorne		
1/5/18	58	21
31/5/18	22	3
11 <sup>th</sup> ORE Coy 4 <sup>th</sup> S. Batt		
1/5/18	3	4
31/5/18	3	4

G. Morgan Capt.

Attached  
Brit. A.S.C.M.T. 2 (not included above)



APPENDIX