

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

Railways

Item number: 15/7/15

Title: 6th Australian Broad Gauge Railway
Operating Company

April 1919



AWM4-15/7/15

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

363

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bergues Ex.	Tuesday, 1st April, 19.		The Company with Living Train of 35 wagons, departed from Bergues Ecuange at 9.27 for Conchil-Le-Temple, arriving at destination at 17.00 hours after an expeditious and uneventful journey. The train was garaged on R.O.D. Lines adjacent to 5th. A.B.G.R.O. Coy Depot, a distance of about 3½ kilometres from Conchil-Le-Temple Nord Station. Weather conditions fine and warm.	
Conchil-Le-Temple,	2nd Wednesday, April, 19.		Company resting awaiting orders to proceed to England via Le Havre for repatriation to Australia. The weather conditions generally have been fine and mild.	
Conchil-Le-Temple,	Thursday, 24th April 19.		Unit departed for Le Havre at 7.30. The Living Train of 35 wagons was abandoned, and Company was moved in 17 covered wagons. Destination was reached at 23.30 hours, the Company resting in train for the night. Weather fine.	
Conchil-Le-Temple,	Friday, 25th April 19.			
Le Havre,	Saturday, 26th April 19.		The Company detrained at 6.00 hours and was marched to No 1 Reception Camp, A.I.B.D., a distance of 3 kilometres. On arrival, the Company was given a hot meal, and housed in tents, afterwards going through a clothing parade, Medical Inspection and Cleansing Bath; when completed the Unit was moved to No 2 Camp, A.I.B.D. to await embarkation to England. Weather conditions equally, dull and cold.	
Le Havre,	Sunday 27th to Wednesday 30th Ap, 19.		Resting at No. 2 Camp, A.I.B.D. Weather cold and rain falling.	

J. [Signature]
Det. O. to 6th A.B. f R.O. Coy.

~~WAR DIARY~~

or

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363

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April 1919.			<p>The Company throughout the month have been waiting orders to move to England en route to Australia for Repatriation. A rest of 25 days was made at Conchil-Le Temple prior to moving to Le Havre, where a further further rest was made. On arrival at Le Havre, all baggage and kit bags were conveyed to Camp by motor lorry from the train, the Company marching to Depot. The rail road journeys undertaken were without incident. The general health of the Company has been good, no cases of serious illness having occurred. During the month several members of the Company proceeded to England to undergo a course of training in various various subjects under the direction of the A.I.F. Educational Scheme. The weather conditions in the early part of the month were mild, fine, and clear; towards the end of the month changing to cold squally conditions, rain also falling.</p>	

J. Thomas Lt.
Act V. L. Lt. A. B. J. R. O. Coy.

363
Copy of letter received from Major General S.D.Crookshank, to Major James, N.C.Os and men, delivered by Colonel paget on the parade ground at Conchil-Le-Temple, when saying farewell to the 6th Australian Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company, Tuesday, 22nd April, 19.

" Major James, Officers, N.C.Os and men of the 6th Aust, B.G.R.O. Coy.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all good-bye and bon voyage on your return to Australia, and, at the same time, to thank you for the excellent work you have done whilst you have been under my Command.

I well remember the great difficulties you overcame during the Autumn of 1917, when the line between Bergues and Boesinghe gave way under the exceptionally heavy traffic and the abnormal weather conditions prevailing at the time.

The excellent relations between the French Army under General Anthoine and the R.O.D., and the good results accruing, were brought about because the work performed by your Company was of a high standard of efficiency, which was thoroughly maintained throughout.

The work done by your main line crews during the Spring of 1918 calls for special mention, and it was largely due to their efforts that such excellent results were achieved in the quick movements of large bogies of troops, to which great importance was attached.

During the advance in the Winter of 1918, I heard nothing but praise for the splendid way in which you and all ranks overcame the difficulties which resulted from a rapid advance over lines which were damaged by the enemy. The R.C.E. has told me that he was able by the assistance given by all ranks under your Command to keep to his scheduled time.

This is altogether a highly creditable performance, and you will take back to Australia a record of which you may all be proud.

I congratulate and thank you.

I wish you all the very best of luck and a safe return to your own country.

SIGNED.

S.D.A.Crookshank,

Major General,

April 20th 1919.

Director General of Transport.

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April 20th 1919.

Director General of Transport.

363

Copy of letter received by Major James, O.C. 6th Aust. B.G.R.O. Coy, from
General Murray, G.H.Q. B.E.F.

G.H.Q.
26.3.19

My Dear James,

Now that you are shortly leaving us, I take this opportunity of thanking you and all you Officers, N.C.Os and Men for the most excellent work they have done for us out here. I am sure you will all be very glad to get back to your Homes, and I wish you all good bye and every possible sort of good luck in the future. I am only too sorry that I shall not have an opportunity, I am afraid, of saying good bye personally, but I cant take long motor rides at present.

Y (signed)

Yours very sincerely,
V.Murray.

363

Personal.

RCB/598.

Captain.W.James,
COURTRAI.

I have much pleasure in informing you that your name was mentioned in Despatches on 21st December 1918, and wish to thank you for the excellent work that you have done with your Company.

Signed.

C.Paget,
Lt.Col.R.E.
O.C. R.O.D.

Hqrs.R.O.D.
14.1.19

Extract from letter to major James, O.C. 6th, Aust.B.G.R.O.Coy, from Lt.Col. S.H.Hancox, C.O. Australian Railway Companies. 5.1.19.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the well deserved recognition of your services by the "Mention" in the Honours List. I must say, though, that I was very much disappointed that you were not included in the "Awards" also, as one was ~~very~~ richly ~~deserved~~ earned. However, its the bad luck of L.of.C. troops to have a very small allotment of these good things, and as the Australian Companies received their strict proportion, I suppose we cannot feel aggrieved.

Copy of letter from War Cabinet, (Co-Ordination of Demobilisation Section) Montagu House, Whitehall, S,W,1. 10th January, 1919.

Major General Sir P.A.M.Nash begs to thank the Officer Commanding, and Officers of the 6th Australian.B.G.R.O.Coy for their New Year Greetings, and heartily reciprocate the same, and trusts that the Company may have a happy return to their own homes this year, with full recognition of the great work which they have done in France.

Copy of recommendation made by O.C. Hdqrs. R.O.D. R.E. on behalf of Major.James.O.C. 6th.A.B.G.R.O.Coy

Major.W.James. R.O.D. R.E. O.C. 6th.Aust.B.G.R.O.Coy, appointed O.C. 1st.Australian Railway Operating Company (afterwards re-named 60th Coy, then 6th.Aust.B.G.R.O.Coy) 9/1/17, with rank of Captain. Arrived France 15/5/17, promoted Major 12/1/19, mentioned in Despatches. Competent Locomotive and Railway Operating Officer of a military Railway. Good disciplinarian, handles men tactfully, and is a good trainer of men. Physically fit, and very energetic. Has done exceptionally good work in this Unit, both in Forward Areas under fire, and at the Base.

Signed.

C.Paget,
Lt.Col.R.E. RxxxB.
O.C. R.O.D.

363

Statistics for Month of January, February, March 1919.

Week Ending 1919	Train Kilos.	Light Kilos.	Shunting Kilos.	Total Kilos.	Word Kilos.	Total engines last day of week.	Kilos per engine	Train engine Hours.	Train kilos per hour.	Total Coal (tons) engines only.	Lbs coal per Kilo.	Coal received Weekly.	Coal stock on hand.	Total oil (gals)	Engine oil kilos per pint.	Troops.	Ambulance.	Supplies.	Construction.	Foreign Traffic	Total loaded wagons.	Loaded wagons Kilos.
Jan. 2nd	Company Resting																					
Jan. 9th	Company resting																					
Jan. 16th	Part Company resting, balance of Unit doing duty with R.O.D. R.E. Depots at Outreau and Bergues Exchange.																					
Jan. 23rd	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "																					
Jan. 30th	Section taken over from No 1 Company at Roulers from 30.1.19, mileage etc shown by that Coy.																					
Feb. 5th	470	119	3760	4349	-	7	621	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	7.6	34	22.89	-	70	6	.027	-	147	-	200	347	5660	
Feb. 13th	2675	142	2452	5269	-	19	277	138 $\frac{1}{4}$	20.5	60 $\frac{1}{4}$	25.72	-	55	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	.02010	9	564	-	8	581	5229
Feb. 20th	2455	115	1968	4538	-	19	238	147	17.4	48 $\frac{1}{4}$	23.94	38	22	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	.01851	45	367	-	55	467	10442
Feb. 27th	1562	388	608	2558	-	15	170	192 $\frac{1}{4}$	10.5	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	24.30	70	57	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	.01940	98	59	-	326	483	16584
Mch. 6th	1883	544	576	3003	-	15	200	239	10.1	23	23.20	90	101	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	.0227	16	61	-	815	892	37754
Mch. 13th	2593	776	664	4033	-	16	252	258 $\frac{1}{4}$	13.1	46	24.90	330	267	10	.0193	30	18	110	1442	1600	62308	
Mch. 20th	2420	650	850	3920	-	16	245	235 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.4	43	24.35	100	230	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	.0175	10	20	-	1600	1630	61495
Mch. 29th	2501	661	755	3917	-	16	244	235	12.6	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	24.30	-	84	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	.0180	-	-	15	1635	1650	61544

363

Date.	Personnel.																		Motor Cars.		Remarks.	
	Effective strength of Unit.		War Establish-ment.		Waiting to Complete.		Attached, not included in other Figures.		Detached.		Attached for rations Only.		Decreases to Strength, to Hospital Etc.		Increases to Strength, ex Hospital Etc.		Increases on Command.		Decreases on Command.			Ford Box Cars.
	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off	O.R.		
Week Ending, 1919.																						
Jan. 4th	4	287	4	303	-	16	1	10	1	90	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	17	-	31	2	Increases & Decreases "On Command" include men on and returning from Leave, and men on Detachment, not struck off Strength. Guns, Motor Bicycles, and other motor vehicle-s on hand, NIL.
Jan 12th	4	280	4	303	-	23	1	7	1	86	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	31	-	31	2	
Jan. 19th	4	280	4	303	-	23	1	7	1	86	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	27	-	3	2	
Jan. 25th	4	255	4	270	-	15	-	6	1	57	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	35	-	6	2	
Feb. 1st	4	253	4	270	-	17	-	7	1	49	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	2	2	
Feb. 8th	4	240	4	270	-	30	-	7	1	46	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	9	-	21	2	
Feb. 15th	4	240	4	270	-	30	-	7	1	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	16	2	
Feb. 22nd	4	230	4	270	-	40	-	7	1	34	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	13	-	11	2	
Mch. 1st	4	230	4	270	-	40	-	7	2	31	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	13	1	10	2	
Mch. 8th	4	229	4	270	-	41	-	5	2	31	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	-	13	2	
Mch. 15th	4	200	4	270	-	70	-	5	1	27	-	-	-	2	-	31	1	5	-	6	2	
Mch. 22nd	4	200	4	270	-	70	-	5	1	27	-	-	-	2	-	26	-	3	-	7	2	
Mch. 29th	4	200	4	270	-	70	-	5	1	27	-	-	-	4	-	22	-	4	-	8	2	