



Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force

Tramways Companies, Canadian Engineers



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Tramways Companies, Canadian Engineers

Introduction

These companies built, maintained and operated light railways in forward areas. The gauge used was 60-centimetre and the cars were interchangeable with the Army Light Railway System. The trains were powered with petrol because they operated beyond the point where it was considered safe to use steam power.

Tramways carried ammunition to artillery batteries, engineering supplies, troops, rations, gas and other comparatively light loads. They also ran hospital trains to carry the wounded to field ambulance stations.

Both tramways companies had their origin in the Composite Pioneer Company, Canadian Corps which was organized in May 1916.

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1st Tramways Company, Canadian Engineers

Background Information

Organized in Belgium in May 1916 as Composite Pioneer Company, Canadian Corps to construct and operate light railways in Belgium.

Commanded by Captain D. H. Williams.

Personnel from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Pioneer Battalions, Canadian Overseas Railways Construction Company and from various infantry battalions.

Redesignated as No. 1 Section, Canadian Corps Tramways Company.

Redesignated as Canadian Light Railway Operating Company, Canadian Engineers in November 1917.

Commanded by Captain S. F. Workman.

Redesignated as 1st Tramways Company, Canadian Engineers in February 1918.

Demobilized at Seaford in January 1919.

Sources

In this section, the text in bold is the main topic and the indented part is the archival reference. Use the archival reference to order the document.

War diary, 2 Nov. 1917 - 31 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-D-3, vol. 5006, folder 698

Historical record

RG 9 III-D-1, vol. 4711, folder 98, file 13

Demobilization

RG 24, vol. 1953, file HQ 683-968-1

MD4 file

RG 24, vol. 4487, file 4D, 47-B-1

DHS file

RG 24, vol. 1908, file DHS 5-9-7

Formation, 7 July 1917 - 2 Sept. 1918

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4095, folder 35, file 1

Establishment, 17 March - 29 April 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 1, file 1

Correspondence and blueprints of French machine guns, 13 June - 29 Aug. 1918.

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 1, file 2

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Recommendation for honours and awards, 11 June 1918 - 24 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 1, file 3

Maps

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 1, file 4

Mobilization of tramways companies, 9 April 1918 - 8 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 1, file 5

Moves and reliefs, 22 Nov. 1918 - 2 Feb. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 1

Nominal rolls of drafts, 24 Jan. - 11 Feb. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 2

Daily orders, Pts. I and II, 9 July 1918 - 23 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 3

Officers shoulder patches, 9 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 4

Turning over of stores and tools, 21 Jan. - 3 Feb. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 5

Company drill

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 6

Distinguishing marks on vehicles, 20 May - 2 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 7

Report on work, 20 Nov. 1918 - 13 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4445, folder 2, file 8

Daily Orders

RG 150, vol. 258 = 1918/02/22 – 1919/07/29

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2nd Tramways Company, Canadian Engineers

Background Information

In October 1916 one section of the composite Pioneer company became the Canadian Light Railway Company.

Redesignated as Canadian Light Railway Construction Company in November 1917.

Redesignated as 2nd Tramways Company, Canadian Engineers in February 1918.

Commanded by Captain C. R. Crysdale.

Demobilized at Seaford in January 1919.

Sources

In this section, the text in bold is the main topic and the indented part is the archival reference. Use the archival reference to order the document.

War diary, 23 Nov. 1917 - 31 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-D-3, vol. 5006, folder 698

Historical record

RG 9 III-D-1, vol. 4711, folder 98, file 14

Demobilization

RG 24, vol. 1953, file HQ 683-969-1

Scanlon's file re company

RG 24, vol. 1875, file 23-2-17

Nominal rolls

RG 9 III-B-1, vol. 1302, file H-20-5

Reports on accidents, 6 April - 10 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 1

Complaints re delivery of ammunition, 15 April - 26 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 2

Movement of 8-inch gun on gun trucks, 4 Aug. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 3

German artillery testing range north of Sieglburg, 21 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 4

Engineer labour for bridging, weight of engines on bridging, 17 Aug. - 26 Oct. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 5

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Blueprints of curve tables, 18 Oct. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 6

Instructions re burials, 1 Jan. -18 Nov. 1918.

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 7

Statements and correspondence re canteens, 16 Dec. 1918 - 13 Jan. 1919.

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 8

Requisitioning for car requirements, 25 Nov. 1917 - 19 April 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 9

Reports and instructions re casualties, 29 Jan. - 4 Aug. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 10

Conference, HQ Engineer in Chief, 5 Nov. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 11

Congratulatory messages, 18 June 1917 - 3 Oct. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 12

Army Books containing correspondence re rations, material, leave, sickness, personnel, effects, locations, gas equipment, billets, transfers, nominal rolls, casualties, strength returns, moves, pay, officers, 18 Sept. 1918 - 20 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 13-13A

Returns of mileage constructed, 1-23 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 14

Withdrawal of VIII Corps cyclist battn to become a Lewis gun battn, 31 July - 1 Aug. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 1, file 15

Report on derailment, 30 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 1

Discipline, punishments, etc. 9 July 1918 - 23 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 2

Dispersal areas for demobilization, 26 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 3

Dumps in forward areas, 12 March - 22 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 4

Establishment, Corps Tramways, Company, RE (Foreway Company), 9 Oct. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 5

Establishment, Tramways Company, CE (France)

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 6

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Precautions against fire, 19 Oct. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 7

Report on operations during gas attack; beam attack, 18th Corps Front, 23-24 May 1918; defense against gas, 7 July - 12 Aug. 1918.

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 8

Report on Hamilton and Leeming ropeways, 30 Jan. - 27 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 9

Historical records

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 10

Recommendations for honours and awards, 20 May 1917 - 7 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 11

Classes in forestry; postponement of leave on award of field punishment, 14 Nov. 1918 - 17 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 12

Operation and maintenance of line north of Cambrai, 6 Sept. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 13

Sketch showing proposed track, 6 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 14

Map showing construction on new lines, Vimy Ridge front, April - Nov. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 2, file 15

Mobilization store table for a railway coy, RE, Sept. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 1

Orders re moves and reliefs, 18 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 2

Officers, 5 April 1918 - 24 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 3

Operations : area forward of Aix-Nowlette, 21 July - 28 Dec. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 4

Operation: Canal du Nord, 22-26 Sept. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 5

Summary of operations of company, 28 Aug. - 11 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4446, folder 3, file 6

Operation orders, 27 June - 27 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 7

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Operation orders, FE Tramways coy, Canadian Corps, 11 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 8

Routine orders, First Army Light Railways (extracts), 2 July - 5 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 9

Traffic orders from Bruay to Denain, 3 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 10

Company standing orders, 20 June - 29 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 11

Daily orders, Pts 1 and II, 5 Dec. 1916 - 31 Dec. 1917

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 3, file 12-14

Daily orders, Pts. I and II, 1 Jan. - 31 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 1-4

Organization, forward tramways companies, 14 Oct. 1917 - 7 Oct. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 5

Transfer of other ranks, 24 Jan. - 4 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 6

Report on proposed lines, 9 June 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 7

Repairs to push cars, 21 April - 31 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 8

Miscellaneous receipts, Oct. 1917 - Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 9

Nominal roll of reinforcements, 15 May 1918 - 17 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 10

Traffic and operation rules, 14 Dec. 1917 - 31 Dec. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 11

Instructions re salvage, 22 Dec. 1918 - 1 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 4, file 12

Operation and maintenance of Sancourt line, including handling over statements, 3 Sept. - 11 Nov. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 1

Report on self-inflicted injuries, 5 Sept. 1917 - 31 July 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 2

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Reports on situation and stock, 3 April - 23 Oct. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 3

Capture, abandonment of German stores, 7-8 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 4

Strength returns, 18 Dec. 1917 - 30 April 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 5

Tracks and loading platforms for artillery units, 16 Feb. - 24 Aug. 1918

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 6

Reports on tractors and rolling stock, 14 March 1918 - 18 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 7

List of level crossings, 30 Nov. 1918 - 1 Feb. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 8

Load tables for horse transport, drawings of unit signs on horse transport, 7 Jan. 1918 - 21 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 9

Instructions re labelling of trucks when loaded, 21 March - 28 April 1918.

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 10

Daily work reports, engineer labour for working parties, 1 April 1918 - 22 Jan. 1919

RG 9 III-C-5, vol. 4447, folder 5, file 11

Daily Orders

RG 150, vol. 258 = 1918/10/04 – 1919/07/29