



# Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force

**Tramways Companies, Canadian Engineers**



## **Tramways Companies, Canadian Engineers**

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## **Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force**

### **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.

## Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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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### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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