

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/30/14

Title: 13th Infantry Battalion

December 1915



AWM4-23/30/14

12.1

War Diary of Lt Col S.C.E. HERRING.
Commanding 13th Bn, A.I.F.

Written by Captain D.S. Marks.

VOLUME I.

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1/xii/15	Durrants Post ANZAC } -	Weather less severe. Pushing forward the construction of underground bivouacs & shelter. 4 sick to hospital. Our snipers accounted for one of enemy.	GA/566 2nd Weekly Report on Engineering work (APPENDIX "A")
2/xii/15	do.	Machine guns dispersed enemy scrub-cutters at 92 P.M. 11 to hospital sick. 1 wounded. 1 rejoined.	
3/xii/15	do.	4 sick to hospital, 1 rejoined.	(see "Scheme of Defence" N° 1 Sub-Section Copy attached)
4/xii/15	do.	Our Sharpshooters accounted for two of enemy. 3 sick two rejoined.	3 sick
5/xii/15	do 1200	Enemy searched AGHY + DERE with shrapnel. 2 sick to hospital	
6/xii/15	do	Our snipers accounted for three (3). 3 sick to hospital	GA/634 3rd Weekly Report on Engineering work. APPENDIX "C"
7/xii/15	do	Enemy observed to be removing stretches of barbed wire	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
7/xii/15	(Contd.)	from in front of "FARM". 4 sick. 2/2 Lieut H. MURRAY & 2 O'Ranks rejoined.	
8/xii/15	Summit Post -	Completed tunnel from supports to firing line in N°2 Post. 1 wounded, 4 sick. 36 rejoined	
9/xii/15.	do. -	N°6 machine gun fired at party inspecting barbed wire & one fell. Artillery practised covering fire at 1430. Searched enemy trenches with shrapnel from 18 pounders & howitzers dropped H.E. shells on PINNACLE. Two men wounded on a support terrace by "overs" from our own machine gun on RUSSELLS TOP. 4 sick to hospital.	
10/xii/15	do.	sharpshooters accounted for two of enemy & HOTCHKISS flew in loop hole near 80 F 8. 7 sick to hospital	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
11/XII/15	DURRANTS POST	Sharpshooters accounted for two of enemy. new trench near 80 F6 + new communication trench near 9229/80 F3. 1 wounded & 6 sick to hospital	Observed @A/730 "Fourth Weekly Report on Engineering works (APPENDIX 'D')
12/XII/15	do	Hotchkiss fired 20 rounds at MG tunnel 80 yds EAST of 80 F.8. One shot landed in left opening slightly collapsing position & another entered right opening causing an explosion. This machine gun was placed so as to command CHAILAK DERE. 2 officers & 150 other ranks of 14 th AN detached from the sub-section at 2000. 9 to hospital.	
13/XII/15	do.	Commenced wire-fixing in front of N:3 Post. detached from 14 th AN. 7 to hospital.	60 men
14/XII/15	do.	Enemy busy wire-fixing on slopes of CHUNUK BAIR.	12/10 HENDERSON to hospital 10th hospital

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
15/xii/15	DURANTS POST	-	Snipers accounted for 3 of enemy. Hotchkiss fired 35 rounds demolishing various positions in vicinity of FARM. 20 Ranks A Coy & 5 pioneers embarked for Mudra. Destroyed all spits on the post. 1 wounded & to hospital. Preliminary evacuation commenced. All usual works continued & additional patrols sent out.
16/xii/15	do		Our snipers accounted for one. 100 feet of entanglement placed in AGHYL DERE below confluence with BLACK SWAN GULLY. Repaired second line in front of FORD BARRICADE. 4 N.Z.M.C. allotted for special duty.
17/xii/15	do	-	General BIRDWOOD inspected sub-section at 1330. Personnel detailed to echelons vide Operation Order No. 13

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by *Officer* MONASH, C.B.

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
17/xii/15 (cont'd).	-	-	Tested device for firing rifle automatically after a set period. Tests successful. Evacuations 16/17 th were 19 to hospital.
18/xii/15	Burrato Post.	-	1 st Day of Evacuation. Turkish working party observed on sky-line near 93 v 7 at 2130. Everything normal. 3 other ranks 'A' Coy embarked with 14 th B ^{ty} (echelon 'B'). 3 officers + 124 other ranks (Lieut H.D. POLLING in command) with echelon 'C'. 1 to hospital.
19/xii/15	do	-	2 nd day of Evacuation. Conditions normal. Enemy bombarded Hill 60, APEX + CANTERBURY KNOB at 1215 with 8" H.E. No casualties. At 2100 enemy still wire-fixing in front of HALKNEY WICK.

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
19/24/15	(Continued)	<p>Destroyed all ammunition & bomb reserves & all stores left on post. Placed damaged rifles, so fixed that the last man to leave trench had only to light a candle & the rifle would fire 5, 10 or 15 minutes later. During daylight, parties were sent to wander about the DERES to show signs of traffic.</p> <p>Echelon 'A' (3 officers & 169 other ranks) marched off under Lieut BARTON at 1715.</p> <p>Lieut Colonel HERRING left post at 1930 to take over command of 'C' echelon of Brigade ^{at Bde H.Q.}. Handed over command to Captain TWYNAM.</p> <p>'B' echelon of 3 officers (including N.C.) & ⁹⁷ other ranks</p>	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>night of 19/20 (contd.)</p>		<p>left post at 2115. Party commanded by Capt. MARKS & followed by the 4 NZMC attached. As per special instructions issued to Lt Col. HERRING, 'C' echelon of 13th Bn left in following order:- 4. 2/Lieut. H. MURRAY, 38 men & 3 ^{machine guns} traps at 0155. 2/ Capt. TWYNAM & GARDINER & 21 men at 0205; & 3/ Capt FORD & 10 men at 0215. 9/Lt BUTLER of D Coy extinguished ^{tended} LITTLE TABLE-TOP lamp till 2400. Holes blown up by Engineers at 0200. Battalion completed embarkation without a casualty.</p>	
<p>20/21/15</p>	<p>MUDROS E.</p>	<p>Brigade went into Divisional camp at Mudros East</p>	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
21/xii/15	MUDROS .E.	2/Lieut HENDERSON ^{& 9 other ranks} rejoined.	4 to hospital
22/xii/15	do	1 to hospital	
23/xii/15	do	Lieut ALLEN + 2 other ranks rejoined.	
24/xii/15	do	42 other ranks rejoined.	Battalion held Camp-fire concert.
25/xii/15	do	(Christmas Day). Church Parade.	Distribution
26/xii/15	do	of "Xmas Bibles" from Australia.	3 rejoined.
		2/Lieut HENLEY + 1 other rank embarked for Egypt.	
27-xii-15	do.	13 cases from 13 th B Co Comforts fund, + 250 plum puddings distributed to men.	
		36 s'rank D Coy embarked for Egypt.	
28-xii-15	do.	Company D ill.	
		do.	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29-XII-15	Mudros 4pm.	13 th B ⁿ less 1 officer + 37 s'rankes embarked ^{from} Egyptian Pier. Total 16 officers + 479 s'Rankes. Lt Col HERRING OC Troops, Capt MARKS adjutant, H.M.T. "Tunisian". Capt TWYNAM acting in command 13 th B ⁿ . Lieut FOX acting adjutant.	
30-XII-15	at Sea -	On Board HMT "Tunisian"	
31-XII-15	do -	do.	

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Appendix A

No. _____ SUB-SECTION _____

Q.A. 568 PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING WORKS FOR WEEK ENDING

28th NOVEMBER, 1915.

2nd Weekly Report

Headquarters, Durrants Post,
28th November, 1915.

No. 1 POST.

- (1) Three underground bivouacs in course of construction. Tunnels have been driven 21 ft., in connection with same, in some instances.
- (2) Two tunnels from supports to firing line. One completed with drainage, the other nearly completed.
- (3) Drainage tunnels have been dug at various intervals from firing line to slope in front of same.
- (4) Trench-deepening has been carried out, as engineers direct, in parts that require it.
- (5) Fire-steps have been ^{revetted} raised with timber and wire and stone and gravel flooring put in. Small niches have been cut in berm of trench to make ascent to fire-trench easier, new length of firing line included.
- (6) New cookhouse constructed with what galvanised iron was available (4 sheets). It is suggested that more iron be supplied for same, as under prevailing weather conditions cooks have a great amount of unnecessary work which could be avoided by proper protection.
- (7) New latrine fully constructed and in use.
- (8) Incinerator built and in working order. A pit has also been dug to a depth of 18 ft. for unburnable refuse.
- (9) Improvements to actual fire-trenches. Parapets strengthened where necessary and new parapets constructed with sand-bags in places where no field of fire was available. New fire-trench on left of post has been deepened and ammunition and bomb receptacles placed in it.

No. 2 POST.

TUNNELLING. In Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 4 tunnels, fair progress has been made during the week, but in the early part of the week work was hampered by insufficient supply of candles. This work would be greatly despatched if there were more appliances available. Wheelbarrows are badly needed.

MACHINE GUN SAPS. Two saps were started on Monday last to make alternative positions for Machine Guns, good progress made in the day time. All earth has to be carried out in bags.

TERRACING. This work has been hampered also through having no wheelbarrows, necessitating handling the residue earth three times. A new terrace has been started to accommodate the Stretcher bearers, fair progress made.

SHELTERS. A gal anised iron shelter for the supports of "B" Company was finished on Sunday last.

Appendix No. A.

REFUSE PIT.

A deep refuse pit was started this week. As it is on dangerous ground, work can only be gone on with by night.

NO. 3 POST.

Trestle bridge in course of erection. Store completed. Average length of drive in each of eleven tunnels has reached 38 feet.

D. M. Arby Capt radiat
for major.

C.O., No. 1 sub-section.

Durrants Post,
Gallipoli.

Copy 1.	Bde HQ
2	No 1 Post
3	No 2 "
4	No 3 "
5	File
6	War Diary

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

No. 1 SUB-SECTION

SCHEME OF DEFENCE.

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War Diary

1. GENERAL. The following notes on the defence of No. 1 Sub-section are intended primarily as a guide to all concerned and as such, their literal reading is not to over-ride the initiative of Post Commanders.

No deviation is ~~to be made~~ however, to be made from an expressed principle without reference to the O.C. Sub-section.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DEFENSIVE POSITION. Commencing at a spot on CHESHIRE RIDGE about 50 yds NORTH of 80d9, the main defensive line follows the ridge which forms the water-shed between the AGHYL DERE and CHAILIK DERE, thence through KNOLL 110 (Durrants Post) to the bed of the AGHYL DERE. Bed of DERE exclusive.

The Sub-section is bounded on the right by the defensive line of the N. Z. R. BRIGADE and on the LEFT by that of NO. 2 SUB-SECTION. It includes a HOTCHKISS, 3 pounder Q.F. which is situated NORTH WEST of ROSE HILL at the spot where HOTCHKISS GULLY junctions with the AGHYL DERE.

3. ORGANIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION. The Sub-section is divided for tactical and administrative purposes into four posts.

No. 1 POST. From the right of Sub-section to BOUNDARY ROAD. (inclusive). Includes an Artillery Observation Station but no machine Guns.

Garrison. "C" and "D" Companies, 13th Battalion.
O.C. Post, Capt. M. C. FORD.

No. 2 POST. From BOUNDARY ROAD to TOWNSVILLE STREET. Includes four Machine Guns which are placed on commanding points on KNOLL 110.

Garrison. "B" Company 13th Bn. and "A" Coy. 13th Bn. less half.
O.C. Post, Capt. G.G. GARDINER.

No. 3 Post. From TOWNSVILLE STREET on the LEFT to the bed of the AGHYL DERE (exclusive). Includes four Machine Guns.

Garrison 14th Bn.
O.C. Post Major G.M. DARE, C.O., 14th Battalion.

No. 4 (HOTCHKISS) POST. A three pounder Q.F. manned by a crew from 13th and 14th Battalions and under orders from Brigade Machine Gun Officer.

POST ORGANIZATION. The garrison of each Post is divided into, firing line, supports and local reserves.

SUB-SECTION RESERVE Bivouaced in rear of No. 2 Post. Intended primarily to reinforce posts where needed, though they will not be drawn upon until all local reserves are used by the Post concerned. They are under the direct orders of the O.C. Sub-section.

Troops. Half of "A" Coy. 13th Battalion
No. 2 Field Company, N.Z. Engineers.

In the event of an unexpected attack the O.C. N.Z.E. and the Regimental Snipers will immediately report to O.C. Sub-section.

4. SCHEME OF DEFENCE. The close proximity of the enemy to the APEX position and its narrow front renders it liable to sudden and heavy attack. The loss of this position would jeopardise the RIGHT FLANK of the Sub-section.

Against an attack of this sort, four machine guns in No. 2 Post and 1 in No. 3 Post are kept continuously trained on APEX by night. In No. 1 Post the communication saps are fire-stepped in order that they may be manned during such an attack. In addition the Artillery Observing Officer can at very short notice concentrate a heavy artillery fire on the western slopes of CHUNUK BAIR.

Two other contingencies present themselves:-

(a) An attack on No. 2 Sub-section. Against this the whole of the Sub-section can bring a heavy oblique fire.

(b) Massing of the enemy in the bed of the AGHYL DERE and subsidiary gullies, followed by an assault at dawn. Our best protection against the latter contingency is vigilance and constant patrolling of AGHYL DERE under all conditions. Such an attempt on the part of the enemy if discovered in time can be easily frustrated by our artillery.

5. COMMUNICATIONS. At present all supplies are conveyed up the CHAILIK DERE which is safe for mule traffic during daylight. The safety of this approach can only be maintained by constant and well organized sniping in order to obtain an ascendancy over the enemy's snipers at the BLOCK HOUSE.

A mule track has been constructed to link up CHAILIK DERE track with that in the AGHYL DERE. There is good communication for pedestrian traffic between posts and, in addition, No. 1 Post has a mule track direct from CHAILIK DERE and No. 3 Post an independent track in AGHYL DERE.

Sub-section Headquarters is in touch by telephone with Nos. 1 and 3 Posts and through No. 1 Post with the Artillery Observer.

6. EVACUATION OF WOUNDED. All evacuations are made at present down the CHAILIK DERE. Dressing Stations are situated in rear of Nos. 2 and 3 Posts and a bearer section in rear of No. 1 Post.

7. TRENCH STORES, S.A.A., etc. Trench stores and ammunition are divided amongst posts and the Sub-section Reserve according to a fixed scale.

The Sub-section reserve is in rear of No. 2 Post.

8. SUB-SECTION HEADQUARTERS. Western side of KNOLL 110 immediately in rear of No. 2 Post.

J. J. C. C. C.
major.
C.O., No. 1 Sub-section.

Copy No. 1 Bde Headquarters
2 C.O., No. 1 Post
3 C.O. No. 2 Post
4 C.O. No. 3 Post (14th Battalion).
5 War Diary.
6 File.

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FILE War Diary



Appendix "C" 14

No. 1 SUB-SECTION.

THIRD WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING WORK
FOR WEEK ENDING, SATURDAY, 4-12-18.

Headquarters, Durrants Post,
4th November, 1918.

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No. 1 POST.

(1) Continuation of three underground bivouacs. Five tunnels are in 30 ft. and sleeping positions being dug in the sides thereof. Good progress is being made, fatigue parties working from 0800 to 2400 in four hour shifts.

(2) Tunnelling in left of post, connection with trenches of No. 2 Post being established with those of No. 1. Not yet complete, but remarkably good progress being made, due to the appointment of permanent miners. Timbering and supporting of two places in trench where a "fall in" is imminent.

It is proposed to revert steps in tunnels leading from trenches to support lines, when timber is available, also to enlarge 3-4-2 uses when timber and iron are available. Even biscuit boxes would do.

No. 2 POST.

(1) TUNNELLING. Fair progress made in continuation of drive. Total length of drive 80 feet. Timbering urgently required for entrance for length of 6 feet.

No. 2. A cross drive was commenced on Tuesday 30th November going north. Progress fair, about 40 feet being driven at an angle of 45 degrees.

No. 3 A cross drive was made in a southerly direction. Fair progress made.

No. 4 Very hard ground has been encountered and progress fair. Total length of drive 45 ft.

(2) KITCHEN A new kitchen was completed in the early part of the week on terrace below "A" Company's position.

(3) TERRACING. Progress in connection with new dressing station for M.G. on hill top of "B" Company's line has been good and is now ready for carpenters to commence building. Iron is urgently required for this work.

(4) TUNNELS FOR GAS IN GUNS. Progress in connection with this work has been very good. Two tunnels have been completed and guns placed in position.

(5) FIRE STEPS. The work of improving Fire Steps in "B" Company's sector by timbering and fitting in with rubble is almost complete.

(6) REMARKS. A commencement was made on 3rd instant to drive connecting tunnels from firing line to

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existing tunnels, the work being carried on during day only by supports of "A" and "B" Companies.

Timbering for all tunnels is urgently required. During early part of week a fall occurred in No. 1 Tunnel owing to explosion of high explosive shell within the vicinity of the Canterbury Battalion lines - causing delay in drive.

Iron is also required for Dressing Station as work in this connection is now at a standstill.

Wheelparrows are also wanted.

It is proposed to commence another tunnel alongside present dressing station, to be occupied when completed by stretcher bearers.

A new tunnel was also commenced on Monday last on terrace occupied by kitchen, good progress being made.

No. 2 Post

(1) TRUNCHEONS. Parapets repaired and new sandbags put in to replace burst ones.

Steps of firing pits revetted with sandbags.

Ammunition and grenade boxes labelled and covered.

(2) TUNNELS. The total advance made in the eleven tunnels during the week is 150 feet (one hundred and fifty two feet). Work has practically stopped at night owing to lack of artificial light.

(3) GENERAL. An Aldershott oven has been constructed in "B" Company lines and is giving every satisfaction.

The trestle bridge in track to AMYTH BARR is not yet completed owing to lack of building material.

D. Markby Capt.

Adjutant, 14th Battalion, A.I.F.

Darranta Post,

No. 1 Sub-section,

24th DECEMBER, 1915.

Copy No. 1	brigade headquarters
2	No. 1 Post
3	No. 2 Post
4	No. 3 Post (14th Battalion).
5	file
6	War Diary.

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NO. 1 SUBSECTION.

FOURTH WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING WORKS.
FOR WEEK ENDING, SATURDAY, 11-12-18.

Headquarters, Durrants Post,

11th December, 1918.

No. 1 POST.

Work has been continued in three underground bivouacs. In No. 1 bivouac one tunnel is complete and occupied by men. The remaining tunnels are driven in the full length and the sleeping bunks are nearing completion.

In Nos. 2 and 3 bivouacs the tunnels are nearly complete, and the excavations of the sleeping bunks has been commenced.

A path through the bivouac has been commenced, consisting of steps revetted with brushwood and gravelled.

An observation post has been timbered to prevent overhead earth collapsing in wet weather.

Steps in 2 tunnels leading from support bivouacs to trenches have been revetted with brushwood.

The progress of the work in connection with the underground bivouacs has been considerably delayed during the week by the scarcity of sand bags.

Proposed works. - Drainage of underground bivouacs.

No. 2 POST.

TUNNELLING. (1) No. 1. Work was suspended in this drive on Tuesday last owing to lack of means for removing earth from face of drive. A commencement was made on Friday 10th inst. with a cross drive to be connected with firing line. Fair progress made.

No. 2. Cross drive to connect with firing line was commenced early in week and completed on the 9th inst. Communication between "B" Company's supports and firing line established. A start was also made to timber entrance.

No. 3. Cross-driving was continued and communication with firing line, expected within a few days.

No. 4. Driving in this tunnel has been continued. Very hard sandstone encountered. Total length of drive 83 feet.

No. 5. This tunnel is being driven from Cooks Gully, fair progress has been made, work has not been constant owing to lack labour. Total length of drive 80 feet. Tunnelling was continued from firing line to connect with Nos. 1, 2, 3 tunnels, work being proceeded with by supports of "A" and "B" Companies during day only.

REMARKS. Fair progress has been made with all work. Timbering is urgently required for entrance tunnels, and from firing trenches. (1)

A party of five men repaired main sap below present dressing station on the 8th inst.

A traverse of firing line from Boundary Road North to Aghyl Dere was made during the week, sketch now in course of completion.

No. 3 POST.

TUNNELLING. Poor progress has been made during the week owing to lack of artificial light. Only 173 feet being gained in the eleven tunnels during the week. Total drive of the eleven tunnels now = 556 feet.

TRENCHES. Steps made in firing pits on right of posts under the supervision of N.Z. Engineers. Parapet of inner firing line repaired as far as sand-bags would allow. Scrub cut in front of left post.

GENERAL. Aldershot ovens constructed for Machine Gun cooks,

Track from 14th Battalion bivouac to Headquarters No. 1 Sub-Section being regraded to 1 in 10 and 8 feet wide in place of old mule track.

L. Marks Capt.

Adjutant, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

Durrants Post,

No. 1 Sub-Section.

11th December, 1915.

- Copy No. 1. Brigade Headquarters.
- 2. No. 1. Post.
- 3. No. 2. Post.
- 4. No. 3 Post.
- 5. File.
- 6. War Diary.

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Appendices A, B, C & D
Volume I

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