

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/7/40 Part 1

**Title:** Headquarters 1st Australian  
Divisional Engineers

April 1919



AWM4-14/7/40PART1

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

18

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

H.Q. 1st. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

FOR

A P R I L

1919

H. Q.
1st AUSTRALIAN
DIVL. ENGINEERS.
No. ....
Date. ....

*Geo. A. Harrow*

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Lieut. & Adjt.

*Geo. A. Harrow*

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

Lieut. & Adjt.  
for C.R.E.,  
1st Aust. Division.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PONT-de-LOUP.	1st. April.		The Three Field Companies together with D.E.H.Q. are still located in the town of PONT-de-LOUP near CHATELET (Ref. Map NAMUR 1/100,000). In the evening Lieut. Colonel W.A. HENDERSON DSO. C.R.E. was entertained by the Officers of the Divisional Engineers, prior to his return to AUSTRALIA. Pending the return of Major R.V. CUTLER MBE. MC from leave Lieut. G.J. HILL will be the Senior Officer of the Unit, whilst the Adjutant Lieut. G.A. GARROW will carry out the Administrative duties at D.E.H.Q. Weather fine and Sunny.	JAG
do	2nd.		Major R.V. CUTLER MBE. MC returned from leave to the U.K. and took over the duties of C.R.E. Owing to the depleted strengths of the three Field Companies, and the scattered area covered by the Billets, orders were today issued for the concentration of the Company Headquarters of the Three Companies to concentrate in the one building, which is also occupied by C.R.E. - 338 Rue de FLEURUS. Weather fine but dull.	JAG
do	3rd.		Both C.R.E. and Adjutant remained in Office on Administrative duties, during the morning. In the afternoon the C.R.E. proceeded to D.H.Q. at GERPINNES. Weather fine.	JAG
do	4th.		Weather fine. C.R.E. and Adjutant Administrative duties.	JAG
do	5th.		C.R.E. proceeded to D.H.Q. in the afternoon. Weather fine.	JAG
do	6th.		Both C.R.E. and Adjutant engaged on Administration during the morning, and proceeded to CHARLEROI in the afternoon. Weather fine.	JAG
do	7th.		Weather fine. C.R.E. in Office during morning and afternoon. Adjutant proceeded to Div. R.E. Dump at CHATELET in connection with the issue of Stores. At present the supply of Stores is equal to the demands being made by Units for same.	JAG
do	8th.		Adjutant to R.E. Dump in connection with R.E. Stores. C.R.E. remained in Office for Administrative duties. Weather fine. Twenty-six Reinforcements were received today and distributed on the strengths of the three Companies. In the evening a farewell Dance was given by the Divisional Engineers and Machine Gun Battalion to personnel proceeding to AUSTRALIA on Quota No. 32. All Engineer Officers and Other Ranks attended. Dance was held in Hotel de Ville CHATELET.	JAG

CONFIDENTIAL.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PONT-de-LOUP.	9th.		Weather Cloudy. Light Showers. C.R.E. inspected combined parade and men on Quota No. 32. Adjutant to R.E. Dump in connection with R.E. Stores.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	10th.		C.R.E. together with Lieut. G. J. HILL O.C., 2nd. Field Company attended Lecture on "RECORDS" at CHATELET given by an Officer from Records Dept. LONDON. This Lecture mainly concerned Unit Cadres, and Records which would be required to be taken to LONDON, on Demobilization for handing over to War Records Section. Adjutant attended F.G.C.M. at CHATELET to act in the capacity of Prisoners Friend in the Case of Cpl. NEWTON, 1st. Field Company charged with overstaying leave to the U.K. Quota No. 32 proceeded to AUSTRALIA. Draft from Engineers consisted of 1 Officer (Lieut. H. C. GIBBISON, 2nd. Field Coy.) and 29 Other Ranks. Weather fine and Sunny.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	11th.		Weather Cloudy and Dull. C.R.E. proceeded to 1st. A.M.G. Bn. during the morning. Adjutant on Administrative Duties - proceeding to Division in the afternoon at GERPINNES.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	12th.		Weather Dull and Showery. Adjutant to R.E. Dump in connection with R.E. Stores.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	13th.		Weather Windy, Wet and Stormy. Adjutant Administrative Duties.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	14th.		Day Fine and Sunny at intervals - at other times showery. C.R.E. to 3rd. Bde. H.Q. during the morning and to 4th. Divisional Engineers in the afternoon. Adjutant to CHARLEROI in the afternoon.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	15th.		Administrative duties only. Weather wet.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	16th.		Same as yesterday. Quota No. 37 for AUSTRALIA inspected by C.R.E.M.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	17th.		Quota No. 37 consisting of 3 Officers (Lieut. H. F. HETHERINGTON, 1st. F. Coy. Lieut. C. G. F. JOHNSON 1st. Field Coy. and Lieut. E. C. WHITE, 2nd. Field Company) and 67 Other Ranks concentrated at "A" Div. Reinforcement Wing for return to AUSTRALIA. Weather dull but fine.	<i>[Signature]</i>

CONFIDENTIAL.

WAR DIARY

3.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PONT-de-LOUP	18th.		Weather fine but dull. C.R.E.proceeded to 3rd.A.I.Bde. in the afternoon.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	19th.		Weather fine. Major R.V.CUTLER,C.R.E.proceeded to U.K.on balance of leave granted previously and from which he was recalled to take over the duties of C.R.E. Balance of leave 14 days.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	20th.		Easter Sunday. Weather fine. Adjutant remained in Office all day on Administrative duties. Lieut.G.J.HILL,2nd.Field Company has taken over the duties of A/O.C.during the absence of the C.R.E.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	21st.		Easter Monday. Adjutant engaged on Administrative duties. Weather cold and fine.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	22nd.		As the number of men with the Divisional Engineers is so much below establishment,it is necessary to combine the Three Field Companies. The amalgamated Unit will be known as A.I. Divisional Engineers. In order that records may be kept distinct,and the identity of Units maintained,the Unit will consist of three Sections,numbered to correspond with the original Companies of the Division. Weather fine.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	23rd.		Weather fine and warm. Lecture was given at 1st.A.M.G.Bn.H.Q.by Captain Chap.PATON. This Lecture was in connection with the Educational Scheme and was attended by Engineers not on duty. Adjutant engaged on Administrative duties.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	24th.		A/C.R.E.,and the R.M.O.inspected Billets of the Unit in the morning. Everything generally was satisfactory. Adjutant attended F.G.C.M.in the case of Sapper J.O.DAY,2nd.Field Company,charged with a Civil Offence of Stealing. The Adjt.prosecuted in this case. Weather fine and sunny.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	25th.		Anzac Day. A Combined Sports Meeting of personnel of the 1st.And 4th.Australian Divisions was held at CHATELET. Weather was fine but cool. This day was a Holiday as far as routine was concerned.	<i>[Signature]</i>

CONFIDENTIAL.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PONT-de-LOUP.	26th.		Weather fine and sunny. Adjutant engaged on Administrative duties.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	27th.		Snow in the early morning-afterwards weather fine. Lieut.J.MANN and Lieut.G.TINDALE of the 2nd.Field Company returned to Units from leave to NICE and COLOGNE respectively.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	28th.		Slight fall of snow during the forenoon - afterwards fine and sunny. Adjutant engaged on Administrative work in Office.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	29th.		Weather fine and sunny. Administrative duties only.	<i>[Signature]</i>
do	30th.		Weather wet, continual rain. Animal Accounts of the three Companies were audited by the Horse Audit Board and all were in good order. In view of a Civilian Demonstration in CHARLEROI on May Day, this place will be placed out of Bounds to Troops from 18.00 today until 9 a.m.on 2:5:19.	<i>[Signature]</i>

*[Signature]*  
 Lieut & Adjutant.  
 for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.



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18,000-12/17-8723.

# WAR DIARY

OF

H.Q., 1st. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

FOR

A P R I L

1919.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
i.	SYNOPSIS.
ii.	EDUCATIONAL SYNOPSIS.
iii.	STATEMENT OF CASUALTIES EVACUATIONS ETC.
iv.	GRAPH SHOWING STRENGTH ETC.

Lieut. & Adjutant.  
for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.

H. Q.,  
1st AUSTRALIAN  
DIVL. ENGINEERS.

No. ....

Date. ....

Appendix I

SYNOPSIS.  
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First Divisional Engineer Headquarters and the Three Field Companies were located at the beginning of the Month in the town of PONT-de-LOUP. In view of the depleted strengths and to facilitate Administration it was found advisable during the Month, to have the three Company Orderly Rooms together with C.R.E. in the one building, consequently the amalgamated Headquarters were established at No. 338 Rue de FLEURUS. On account of two drafts being despatched to AUSTRALIA, and a considerable number being despatched to the U.K. for Non-military Employment, the strength of the Divisional Engineers has been greatly diminished. The first Draft to proceed during the Month concentrated on the 10th. instant and consisted of 1 Officer and 29 Other Ranks - the Second Draft concentrating of the 17th. instant, 3 Officers 67 O.R. Lieut. Colonel W.A. HENDERSON DSO, C.R.E. left early in the Month for AUSTRALIA, and the duties of C.R.E. were taken over by Major R.V. CUTLER MBE, MC. on the 2nd. instant on the return of the latter from leave to the U.K.

Regular inspections have been carried out during the period under review, and everything has been found in a very satisfactory state.

In view of the projected departure of the Division from BELGIUM in the near future, all leave to places in FRANCE and the usual furlough to the U.K. has been cancelled. The last party for leave proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS on the 19th. instant, and this leave has now been also cancelled.

Many changes have been made in the Officers of the Div. Engineers - the following proceeding with Quotas to AUSTRALIA for Demobilization :-

Lieut. H.C. GIBBISON.	2nd. Field Company.
Lieut. H.F. HETHERINGTON.	1st. Field Company.
Lieut. C.G.F. JOHNSON.	1st. Field Company.
Lieut. E.C. WHITE.	2nd. Field Company.

The only works that have been carried out consisted of the erection of three Huts for the 3rd. A.I. Bde at CHATELET, and a few small Carpentry jobs such as the making of boxes and Notice Boards. The latter have been executed by the personnel of the R.E. Dump at CHATELET.

The R.E. Dump at CHATELET has been carried on as usual, and all orders for the supply of R.E. Material have been met. The demand was not exceptionally heavy.

As regards Education, a separate report is attached. It will be seen that no great progress has been made during the Month. This has been due to the despatch of all our Instructors with Quotas for AUSTRALIA, and also due to the small personnel exempt from duties. Two parties have been detached for Duty. One Officer and 7 men proceeded to CHUIGNES, in connection with work required on the site of the 15" Gun captured by the First Brigade at this place during August of last year. One Officer (Lieut. E.V. STRATTON) with a party of 12 O.R. proceeded to POZIERES for work on the Memorial to be erected to the memory of men of the 1st. Australian Division.

All cadres of Units are still in this place with their Units, and up to the present no Cadres have been despatched.

The health of the men during the Month has been exceptionally good, and at present all are comfortably housed, with the inhabitants of the district.

The average number of men with the Companies is about 25 each Company, whilst an average of 20 are detached from each of the Units.

H. Q., 1st AUSTRALIAN DIVL. ENGINEERS.
No. ....
Date .....

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*Ho. A. Larons*  
Lieut. & Adjutant.  
for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.



*Appendix II*

EDUCATION SERVICE 1st DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

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Educational Classes ceased activities on the 25th instant, owing to all our Instructors being detailed for duties on homeward bound boats as Instructors, and the majority of the Students returning to Australia.

The classes as carried out during the five months proved a great success to the Troops, as a refresher to their previous trades and professions, whilst others took up fresh ~~XXXXX~~ subjects, in cases where an Instructor was repatriated and no other Instructor to take his place, the students purchased text-books to continue their studies, no less than £ 23-13-7 was expended on books by this Unit.

Officers and Other Ranks to the number of 62 have been despatched to U.K. for Non Military Employment and attending Universities.

Classes as tabulated below with the number of students attending were carried out since the initiation. Apart from the Engineer's Classes, three Carpentry classes were carried out in the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Brigades, three classes in each Brigade averaging 45 men per brigade. The work carried out was all practical, i.e., principals, model "Farm" Cottages, window frames, sashes and doors etc.

GROUP.	SUBJECT.	Total enrolment Dec'to April,	
2/10	Motors and Motor Cars etc.	86	
2/12	Applied Mechanics.	12	
2/17	Carpentry & Joinery.	23	Engineers.
		169	Infantry.
2/18	Building and Construction.	9	
2/19	Drawing. ( Freehand)	8	
	( Architecture.)	7	
	( Mechanical.)	6	
2/23	Internal Combustion.	70	
3/24	Bookkeeping.	8	
4/33	Arithmetic.	74	
	Algebra.	35	
	Geometry.	30	
	Trigonometry.	12	
	Theory of Structure.	12	
5/48	Surveying. (Land)	10	
	do (Quantity.)	10	

During intervals debates were introduced, all ranks taking part on topical subjects also lectures by Officers and Students.

*L. G. Collings*

30th April 1919.

Lieut,  
Educational Officer,  
Divisional Engineers.



H.Q. Divisional Engineers,  
1st. Australian Division.  
30th. April 1919.

*Appendix III*

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF CASUALTIES, EVACUATIONS, REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1919.

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UNIT.	CASUALTIES.						TRANSFERS.				REMARKS.		
	Killed, Died of Wounds, Off.O.R.		Wounded. Off.O.R.	Evacuated Sick. Off. O.R.		Rejoined from Hospital. Off. O.R.		Reinforcements Joined. Off. O.R.		Plus. Off. O.R.		Minus. Off. O.R.	
1st.D.E.H.Q.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 O.R. ret'd. to AUST.
1st.F.Coy.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	1	2 Off. 37 O.R. to AUST. Indust. & Educ. Empt U.K. 6 O.R.
2nd.F.Coy.	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	9	2 Off. 33 O.R. to AUST. Non-mty. Empt U.K. 5 O.R.
3rd.F.Coy.	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	2	-	10	-	1	4 O.R. Non-Mty. Empt U.K. 28 O.R. to Aust.

CHANGES IN OFFICERS.

1st.D.E.H.Q.  
Major R.V.CUTLER.MBE.MC. Taken on Strength from 3rd.F.Coy. 3/4/19.  
1st. Field Company,  
Lieut. F.G. MOFFITT. To U.K. Indust. Empt. 31:3:19.  
Lieut. H.F. HETHERINGTON. To AUST. 17:4:19.  
Lieut. C.G.F. JOHNSON. To AUST. 17:4:19.  
2nd. Field Company.  
Lieut. H.C. GIBBISON. To AUST. 10:4:19.  
Lieut. E.C. WHITE To AUST. 17:4:19.  
3rd. Field Company.  
Major R.V.CUTLER.MBE.MC. Transfd. to D.E.H.Q. 3:4:19.

*Pro A. Gannon*

Lieut. & Adjutant.  
for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.

H. Q.,  
1ST AUSTRALIAN  
DIVL. ENGINEERS.

No. ....  
Date .....

# GRAPH - showing STRENGTH etc. 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Divisional ENGINEERS.

## APRIL - 1919.

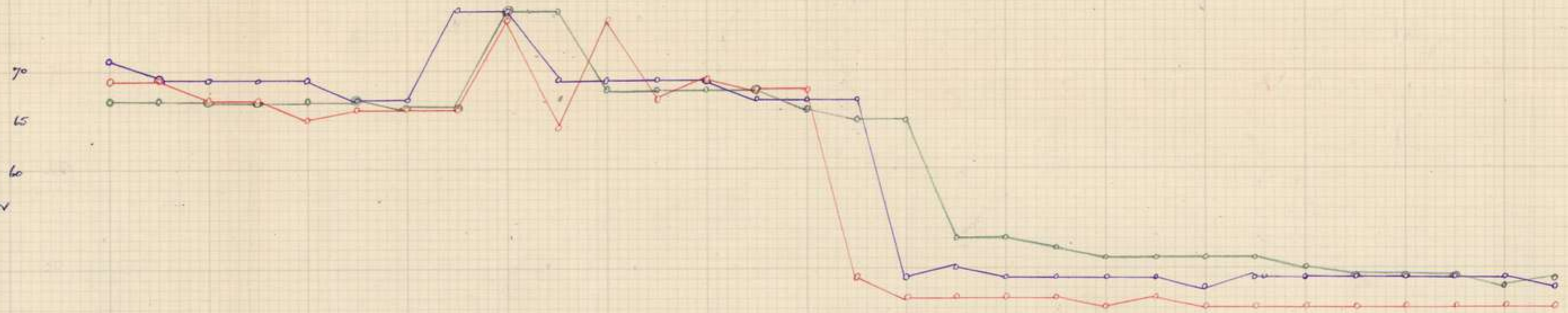
### Total Strength of UNITS

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy BLUE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy GREEN



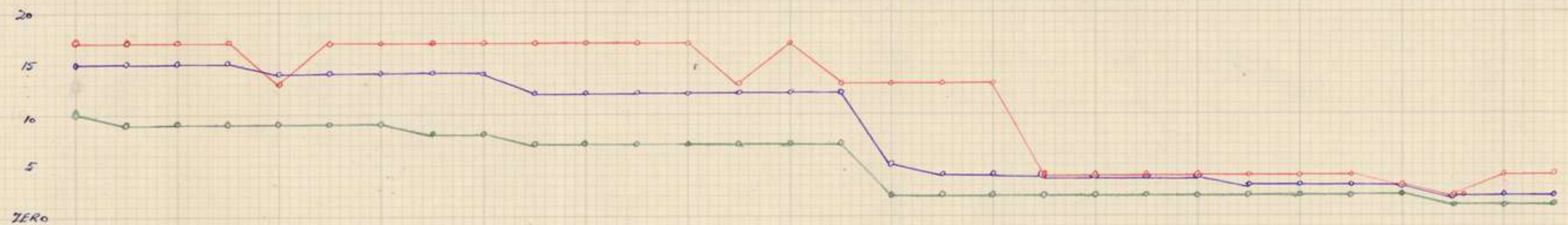
### Strength of DISMOUNTED BRANCH.

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy BLUE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy GREEN



### Strength of MOUNTED BRANCH.

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy Blue  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy



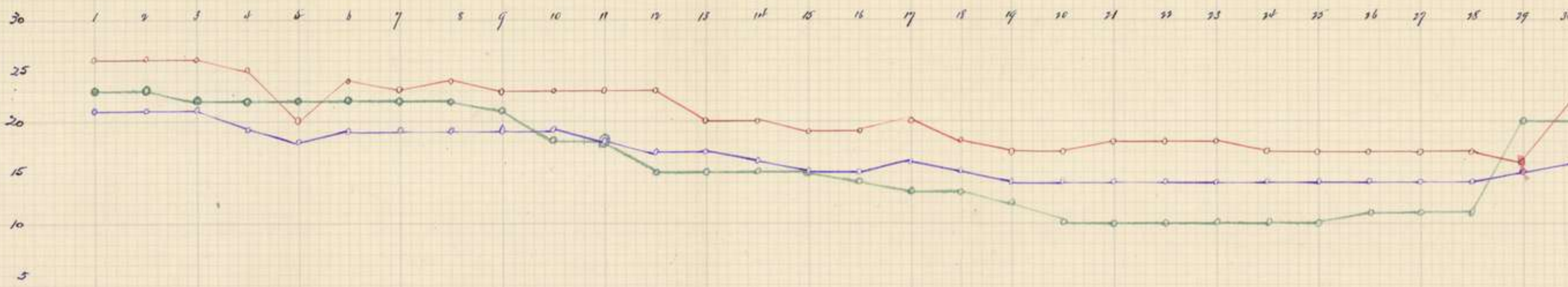
H. Q.  
1<sup>st</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
DIV. ENGINEERS.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

GRAPH - showing STRENGTH etc. 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Divisional ENGINEERS.

APRIL - 1919.

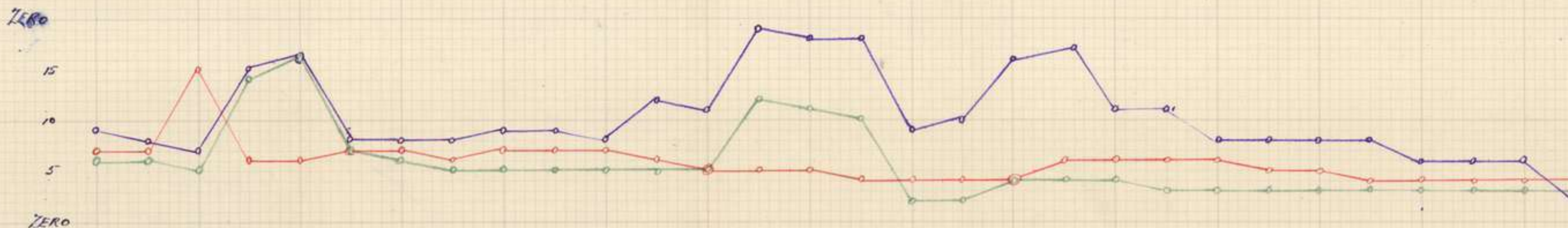
Personnel Absent on duty

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy BLUE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy GREEN



Absent on Leave

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy BLUE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy GREEN



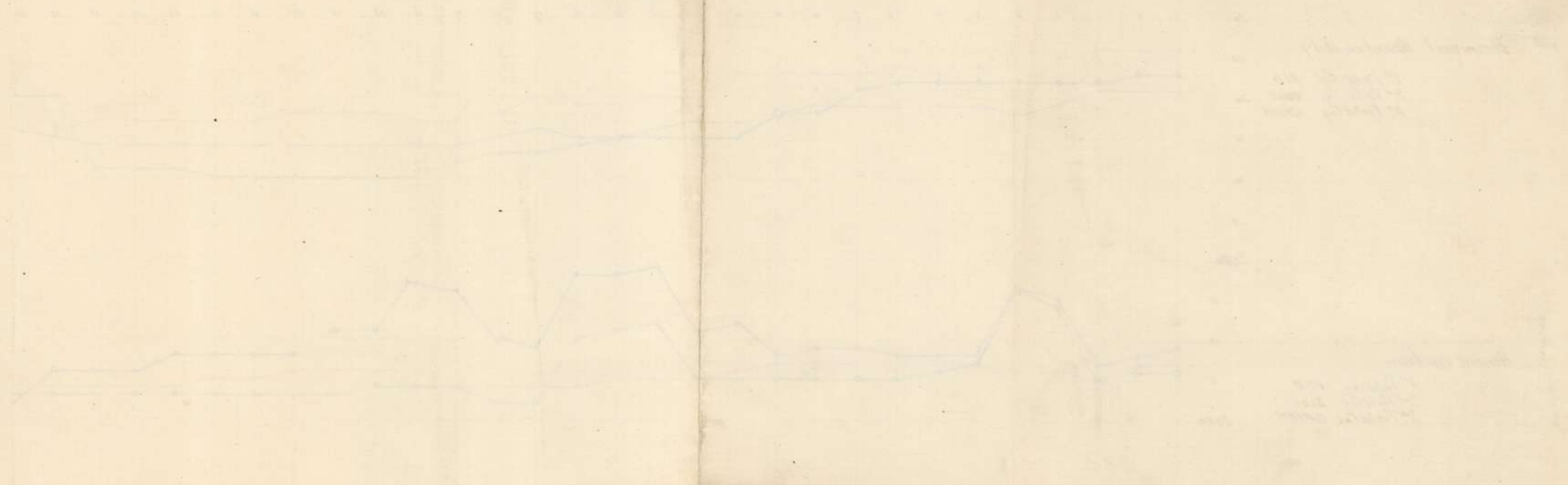
Evacuations Sick

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy RED  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy BLUE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy GREEN



H.Q.  
1<sup>ST</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
DIVL. ENGINEERS.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix  
IV



1914  
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