

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/7/9

Title: Headquarters 1st Australian
Divisional Engineers

September 1916



AWM4-14/7/9

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.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Headquarters 1st Par.

In Engineers

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>September 1916. VOLUME VI</p>				
HOOGRAAF	1 st		Work of obtaining material etc. for the yard proceed ^{ing} satisfactorily. CRE went to YPRES in evening to 1 st F. Co. to go to trenches following morning.	
	2 nd		at 4 a.m. CRE started for the trenches with O.C. 1 st F. Co. and inspected the trenches on Hill 60. Found all trenches very muddy & in a shocking condition particularly the front line trenches.	
	3 rd		Office & Yard work.	
	4 th		Very wet day & mud interfered with work. CRE went up to YPRES & stayed the night with 1 st F. Co. accompanied by O.C. 3 rd F. Co.	
	5 th		Inspection in early morning of Right-Brigade Area from left to right. Found the trenches in fairly good condition. Bn H.Q. in the Bluff quite good & comfortable. Examined the Bridges on the Canal. Returned to H.Q. to attend to office work & went out again to YPRES at 5 p.m.	
	6 th		Inspection in early morning (very foggy) of X Trench and the Mount Sorel trenches. Found them in very bad condition. Inspected the deep living trench which was broken in by trench mortar. These should be replaced by underground dugouts.	

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Imp. Hav., 26/7 - 10,000

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HOOGRAAF	7 th 8 th 9 th		<p>Work in Office and in connection with the supply of material for the yard etc. Office work nearly all day. Proceeded to Ypres in evening & spent the night with P. F. Co. Major HANCOX went out to P. F. Co. to be temporarily attached to gain experience and Capt. LEY M.O. also went out to join P. F. Co. in YPRE as there is also 1/2 Coy of 3rd F. Co. there and 2nd F. Co. are in the Bluff Trenches.</p> <p>Visited trenches in early morning via Railway & Marshall Walk to the front line. Front line much improved in every respect also Marshall Walk but a lot of re-entrenchment is yet required. Went along Allen St, Metropolitan Right & Left & down Knoll Road to Fosse Way. Then continued up Fosse Way through Square Wood almost to old front line. Returned via the Bund. Very foggy morning. Rest of afternoon spent in making out weekly reports etc. Work in yard progressing satisfactorily.</p>	

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HOOGRAAF	10 th		<p>Busy day in Office chiefly in making up weekly reports, programmes of work for ensuing week etc. Consulted map Syre, etc. 1st Fl. re-distribution of his Company when 2nd Aust. Div. take over from 45 to left.</p> <p>11th</p> <p>Mon office work & work in R&B Yard. Went out to YPRES 1st Fl. in afternoon & remained there for the night.</p> <p>12th</p> <p>Met Lt Reid at Woodcote House on LILLE Rd at 5am. and went with him along the tramway line to Sunken Road where we picked up maps James, etc. 7th Fl. and then went up into trenches & along to the Canal inspecting firing line & Craters on the way. Portions of firing line still in bad condition & rather exposed to view and needs a lot of improvement.</p> <p>Returned via tramway along Lille Road & right back to tram base & inspected our Engineer's Yard there. Good progress being made in formation of the yard.</p> <p>Propose to send Lt Dowling & 1 Section of 3rd Fl. to take over work in Crater as soon as he is relieved by 2nd Aust. Div.</p> <p>Tramline is in fair order & only needs a few rails replacing & ballast to make it good.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hoograaf	13 th		<p>Office & Yard work. Interview with Brig Gen MacLagan GOC. 3rd Inf. Bde as work in left Brigade Sector as he takes over tonight. Field Companies not being relieved with the Brigades to avoid confusion. Inspected some of the horse standings being erected by 3rd F.Co.</p> <p>Lt MCBRYDE of 1st F.Co. killed by bullet in Zillebeke this morning at 5am. Consulted Major Dyer re work of company in new line & made out revised programme of work.</p>	
	14 th		<p>Office & Yard work. Major Dyer went on leave this morning. Major Hancock took temporary command of Company. Lt. Stevenson taking charge of work on X trench. Conference at D.H.Q. with O.C. Pth Pioneer Bn. re strengthening of strong points in rear of front line chiefly as defence of Verbrandenmolen.</p>	
	15 th		<p>Office & Yard work. Conference at D.H.Q. re defence of Verbrandenmolen.</p>	
	16 th		<p>Making out weekly reports. Went out to 1st F.Co. forward Billels & stayed the night there.</p>	
	17 th		<p>Started out at 4.30am. with GSOI & O.C. 3rd F.Co. and inspected proposals for defence of Verbrandenmolen & decided on the best line of defence.</p> <p>Went on later to the Right-Brigade and inspected sites for strong points.</p> <p>afterwards inspected new work at Railway Dugouts and found good progress made.</p>	

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HOOGRAAF	18 th		Very wet day. Office work during the day. Went out to P. L. Co. advanced billets in afternoon & stayed the night.	
	19 th		Went out at 5.30am. with Gen. Walker to Transport Farm ad via Fosse Way to part BATTERSEA FARM. This trench is much improved. Then proceeded up ZILLEBEKE Switch and found it very boggy but good work has been done on the top end. Went along Metropolitan to X Trench & along the latter as far as the reclaiming has been done. Went up Verret Ride and found it very muddy & greatly in need of repairs. The work however is well in hand. Went up to front line & right along to Marshall Walk & down to Hawthorn Tunnel & then back via 3 rd Rde. HQ.	
	20 th		Office work. Reinsured LOC re defenses of Verbrandenmoelen.	
	21 st		Office & Yard work. Inspection of Divisional Baths at Hopoutre Sidery with AA & QMs.	
	22 nd		Went out to front line with GSO 1 in early morning & proceeded via Fosse Way to Zillebeke Switch, up the switch to Metropolitan Hill & along to X Trench & then up Verret Ride & along front line & back via Wye St & Verbranden Road. Trenches showing great improvement.	

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HOOGRAAF	23 rd		Office work in morning. Visited BRISBANE DUMP and inspected portion of the tramline. Good progress is being made at the dumps in very fair order.	
	24 th		Office work. At Conference at D.H.Q. with Mining Officers re mining at Hill 60. Came to various decisions.	
	25 th		Went out with SSO, in early morning to front line via Bde H.Q. & Jackson & Johnson Sts. to the Dump, along Wye St & Diagonal to front line & along to the Railway - across to Hill 60. Examined Support Trenches, Allen St & Bensham St with a view to strengthening or anchoring them.	
	26 th		Busy day in office & yard. Went out to P th Co. advanced billets in evening & spent the night there.	
	27 th		Went out at 5 am. with O.C. P th Co. via Sally Port & Zillebeks Trench to Fosse Way along the latter to a point opposite the corner of Square Wood. We cut across the open then & along the side of the wood to X Trench. along X trench to Vincent Ride & then up Allen St & along front line & back via Johnson St & Verbranden Rd. Conference in afternoon with Chief of Staff of 2 nd Army & GOC re mining policy.	

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Hoogstraal	28 th		<p>Went out to trenches again with Div. Commanders & GOC 3rd Lf Bde via Verbranden Rd & 4711 to Marshall walk, along front line & down Allen St, Metropolitan & Bencham St. Great improvement in all trenches.</p>	
	29 th		<p>Busy day in Office.</p>	
	30 th		<p>attended conference of C.E. C.R.C. & staff & at 4th Div. HQ. re tunnelling, water supply etc</p>	
			<p><i>S. Mearns</i> C.R.C.</p>	