

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/7/14

Title: Headquarters 1st Australian
Divisional Engineers

February 1917



AWM4-14/7/14

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

P. Q.
1ST AUSTRALIAN
D.F.L. ENGINEERS.
1st to 28th
February 1917

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fricourt	1 st		<p>Proceeded with GSO I and Capt Brockman of 2nd F. Co. to Factory Corner and along Factory Road & Hexham Road to the Bn. HQ. opposite Sarcouast l'Abbaye and selected a line for the Reserve Line and decided on where posts should be established.</p> <p>Inspected Pioneer Avenues and the underground work at Hexham Road. Returned via the tramline and inspected 'C' M.G. position on the Intermediatic line.</p>	
	2 nd		<p>Spent day in Office. Majr Savage & Capt Sinclair of 3rd F. Co. Capt Stevenson of 2nd F. Co & Major Henderson & Lt Denton of 1st Pioneer Bn. came in during the day and questions of work of the various units were discussed & decided on.</p>	<p>see</p>
	3 rd		<p>Office work.</p>	<p>see</p>
	4 th		<p>Squaring up office work in anticipation of going on leave. Majr Mather 2nd F. Co came in & I handed over work to him.</p>	<p>see</p>
	5 th		<p>Left for Etaples when inspected Depot.</p>	<p>see</p>

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			Acting C.R.E. in absence on leave of Lt Col Martyn D.S.O. from today.	
Tricourt	5 th		Visited "Intermediate Line with G.S.O.I. and 1 st Amalg M.G. Officer to decide on the positions of M.G. Positions, and the lay-out of tactical wiring in connexion therewith.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	6 th		Office work in am. In afternoon inspected the transport lines of Field Companies with Colonel Foott. (A.A. & Q.M.G. 1 st Aust. Div.).	<u>Sum.</u>
"	7 th		Visited the 2 nd or Corps Line of defence with G.S.O.I. + Corps M.G. Officer to fix sites of M.G. Positions and tactical wiring in connexion therewith. The C.O. 1 st Pioneer Bn (Major Henderson) was present, as his unit is to carry out the work on this line.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	8 th		At C.R.E. Headquarters all day, the O.C. 180 th Tunnelling Coy R.E., and O.C. 1 st Field Coy A.F. visited me to discuss the works in hand by their units.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	9 th		At office work in am. In afternoon visited G.O.C. 3 rd Inf. Bde to discuss possibility of the engineers assisting in the proposed raid on the enemy work known as the "Maze". Also visited in afternoon, the Headquarters of the 1 st + 2 nd Field Companies to discuss works.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	10 th		At office all day. The C.O. 1 st Pioneer, and O.C. 3 rd Field Coy visited me to discuss works.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	11 th		Office work all day. In evening discussed works policy with G.O.C. 1 st Aust. Div.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	12 th		Office work in am. In afternoon visited the C.R.E.'s of 2 nd and 4 th Aust Divisions to arrange proper co-operation of work on 2 nd and Intermediate Lines of defence, as far as our flanks are concerned. These C.R.E.'s were Lt Col. Nicholson, + Lt Col. Halliott R.E.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	13 th		Office work all day. Consulted with G.O.C. re works in evening.	<u>Sum.</u>
"	14 th		Office work. Lieut. Cunningham 2 nd Field Coy Engineers A.F. came in on my instruction, to pick up the work of Adjutant, so that he can carry on when the present Adjutant (Capt. Gould) goes on leave about the 18 th Inst.	<u>Sum.</u>

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<i>Fricourt.</i>	<i>15th</i>		<i>At Office all day, administrative work, and work at progress maps.</i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>16th</i>		<i>At Office all day. Major Dyer (O.C. 1st Field Coy) and Capt Brockman (a/OC 2nd Field Coy) came in to discuss the works of their units, and in company with me, visited G.O.C. 1st Army Div. in evening to discuss works policy.</i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>17th</i>		<i>At Office. Capt. Gould (Adjutant) went on leave, handing over to Lieut. Cunningham of 2nd Field Coy, who will act in his absence.</i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>18th</i>		<i>Administrative work at Office. Consulted with G.O.C. in evening.</i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>19th</i>		<i>At Office in am. In afternoon visited the underground Divisional Headquarters at "Bazentin House" to inspect, so as to know when these dugouts could be ready for occupation. Also inspected deep dugouts at "Sabot Copse", and visited 7th Field Coy. who are carrying out the work at "Bazentin House".</i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>20th</i>		<i>Work in Office. <u>JMM</u></i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>21st</i>		<i>In company with Brig Gen. Lotbiniere (C.E. 1st ANZAC) visited the CRE's of 2nd + 4th Divs to discuss co-operation of works by division. <u>JMM</u></i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>22nd</i>		<i>Office work all day. Discussed work with G.O.C. Division in evening. <u>JMM</u></i>	<i>JMM</i>
"	<i>23rd</i>		<i>Office work. Lt. Col. Martyn DSO. (CRE) returned off leave. Major Dyer (O.C. 1st Field Coy) and Capt. Brockman (a/OC. 2nd Field Coy) left D.H.Q. by motorcar to attend Field Coy Commanders' school at Le Percy.</i>	<i>JMM</i>

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Fucourt	24 th		At C.P.E. Headquarters, handing over to Lt Col. Martyn before returning to my Company.	<u>24/25</u>
	25 th		<p>Visited Clarke's Dump with Major Mather and also picked up Lt Col. Henderson P.O. Poonies then and went on to Hexham Rd and examined the proposed route for the extension of the tramway which is necessary owing to the sudden retirement of the Germans. Examined the dumps at Hexham Rd then proceeded across to Factory Corner. Returned via the tramline calling in at Bdr A.C.</p> <p>Decided on tracks for extension of tramway & started the Poonies to work on the formation. Orders received to send 1 Field Coy & 2 Comp of Poonies to work under Corps Light Railways a procedure with which I do not agree as it makes it very difficult to administer the top & maintain discipline and also I consider it a great waste of technical labour which could be more usefully employed elsewhere. The work should be given to the Division</p>	

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Lucant	26 th		<p>to carry out as a contract. It could then exercise full control of the work and it would be carried out better & more expeditiously with less men. <u>See</u></p> <p>Went out from B.P. Dump by tractor with Lt Col. Fenwick, Sturdee & Henderson to Turk's Dump & then on to Factory Corner & up to Lusinoff Farm to examine the proposed route for the tramway. The extension of the tramway has been handed over to Corps Light Railways with which I do not agree as I think it should be a divisional job until fit for tractor traffic. <u>See</u></p> <p>Office work all day. <u>See</u></p>	
	27 th			
	28 th		<p>went up by Tractor from B.P. Dump with Major Vining & Major Hancock to Turk's Dump & then up to Lusinoff Farm. Good progress has been made with the formation but no track has yet been laid on the tramway extension. Returned via road through Fless which is fair in parts but needs a lot of attention. <u>See</u></p> <p><u>See</u> on Lt Col. CRG</p>	