

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

Tunnelling & Survey

Item number: 16/2/16

Title: 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

April 1918



AWM4-16/2/16

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~~DUPLICATE.~~

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian Tunnelling Coy

FOR

April 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

S. J. Lindsay Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

E. S. Anderson Maj ME

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Saulty	April 1		All sections digging trenches & wiring outside Saulty i.e. in C2 Out Sector.	
	2 3 rd 4		Fair progress Trenches including communication trenches between the portions of 1 st & 2 nd line that we have already completed. Lt. W. S. Jones temporarily attached to H.Q. C2 Out Sector R. Es.	
	5		Bathing Paradise in morning	
	6		Finished survey of trenches Saulty to Baily i.e. C3 Out Sector.	
	7		Weather for the past week cold & wet only one fine day on 6 th . Nos 3 & 4 sections move out of Saulty at 3-45 p.m. for Warline camp. Les Pas & bullet in 2 nd T.C. bullet's Capt. Woodward in charge, this change made so that sections will be nearer their work.	
	8 th 9		Work proceeding as usual but interfered with by continuous wet weather.	
	10		Last day of administration by 9 th Corps from this on under 7 th Corps.	
	11 th		Fine today & hence better progress in work throughout.	

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1st Aus. Tunn. Coy

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Saulty	April 11-12		Work as usual mostly wiring & finishing up Communication Trenches.	
	14		No work today men resting & cleaning up Camps. Weather for week ahead.	
	15		Lt. Bowry takes up duties as ^{Temporary} Adjutant in place of Cpt Brindley who had been relieving Capt Carroll was vaccinated sick.	192.
			Surveying 1st & 2nd line Trenches in C, Sub Sector as far as Part 2, side.	192.
	16		Blue Prints received for standard types of Dug Outs required also plan for Machine Gun emplacements. on which work is being done. The Coy is henceforth to be employed. H.V. shelling of Saulty in Evening, one shell within 100 yds of our forward position.	
	17		Preparing for change of work, transporting materials & timber.	
	18		Showery. & wet all day, some of N° 2 Section commence work on Dug Outs near Saulty.	
	19		A little snow & sleet today. Coy on bath Parade except N° 2 Sect who are finishing up wiring & bridges on N° 2 A sector.	
	20		N° 4 Section leave Warlincourt & move up close to Haultville in order to carry out Dug Out work in this neighbourhood. They camp at 3 G. 70.30.	Sheet-51 C

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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn. Coy

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Saulty	April 21.		N ^o 1 Section moves from Saulty on to site of Dug Out work allotted to them, & camp at 4.G. 45.90, ^{Sheet LENS. II.} 3/4 mile from Barly & close to Road to Saulty in N.W. corner of Wood. This camp to be called "The Quarry". N ^o 2 Section fix site for camp at 4.G. 30.35, 300 yds S of Ry. crossing on Quillinni River. Our first really fine day for over 3 weeks.	
Meadow Camp.	22		N ^o 1 Section commence work on Battalion H.Q. Dug Out Type III. Head. Quarters move from Saulty & go into camp at 4 F. 35.30. The site being in a wood on the Monkscount to Luchman Rd close to junction of Rd to Humbercourt.	LENS. II.
4 F 35.30				
Sheet Lens II.	23.		Fixing up H.Q. camp. Foggy in evening.	
	24		N ^o 1 Section commence work on 4 Machine Gun emplacements with accompanying Dug Outs - N ^o 1 at P. 4. C. 70; N ^o 2 at P 16. C. 3.9; N ^o 3 P. 20. d. 1.3; N ^o 4 P 21. C. 5.5. N ^o 2 Sect working on Saulty Wood Dug Out commenced on 21 st . Foggy evening.	
	25		N ^o 1 Sect report no timber available. M. G. Officer gives positions for M. G. emplacements to be carried out by N ^o 2 Section.	

L. J. [unclear] [unclear]

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1st Aus. Tunn & Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mudlow	April 25		N ^o 3 Section (Cluorop Camp) commences Dig Out Gully A Lins 11. 4 G 4.3.	
Camp			2 Gully B. Lins 11. 4. G. 3. 2. Foggy in mornings.	
4 F 35.30	26		N ^o 3 Section commences stairs to D. Out at Gully A. Foggy & light rain	
Lins 11.	27		Progress as usual, but limited by timber supply.	
	28		Surveys made for M.G. emplacements N ^o 2 Section. Showery.	
	29 th		N ^o 2 section working 1 shift resume 3 shifts in the 24 hrs. rain in evening.	
	30 th		Reports of work done for last 9 days sent to C.R.E., Defence Doullens & C. of. Meuse 3 rd Army. Orders received for 3 rd & 4 th Sections to move North, as Dig Out urgently wanted at Vimy. so that this Coy is now carrying out Dig Out work on a 25 mile front.	Particulars of move on 29 th & 30 th of following Month
			Weather, for the past month has been cold, wet, & at times foggy with only 4 or 5 fine days.	
Trenches & Wiring			Work for past month includes the following representing a period of about 15 days actual working days. - 3.1 Miles Fire Trench, 2.6 ^M Communication & Support Trenches 16.5 ^M Wiring double apron (single row), 700 yds drains from Trenches in numerous Artillery Crossings, Box Drains, and wire obstacles for Road Crossings.	

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian Tunnelling Coy

FOR

April

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

*Transport Motor Horse
for Jan. Feb. March quarter.*

2.

*Q. M. Department
for Jan Feb March quarter**S. J. Sunday. M.**S. J. Sunday. M. J. R. E.*

W A R D I A R Y.APPENDIX No. 1.T R A N S P O R TMOTOR. Report for January, February, March quarters :-

This consists normally of 1 Motor Car, 1 Motor cycle with side car, 10 motor cycles, and 5 lorries. During this period eight lorries (including attached) have been constantly engaged in transporting the Four Sections to work to and from Headquarters Camp, and in supplying rations to same while on their job and also necessary Mining Material consisting chiefly of Timber, sandbags, steel I Beams, tools &c. from H.Q., different R.E. dumps, and railheads to the extent of from 6 to 7 tons material a day.

The route generally taken between H.Q. Camp and the work under construction was through La Clyte, Dickebusch, and Ypres, thence along the Menin Road or Potijze Road to within half a mile from Zonnebeke. In the latter part of January and again in March the lorries were a good deal exposed to shell fire, but nearly always managed to get through, one only being slightly damaged. During the period under review two lorries had to go to the repair shops and one was destroyed by fire. The roads were frozen for about two weeks in January, and only occasionally in February, and for about a week in January all traffic on them was stopped during the thaw. The following is a summary of mileage travelled and petrol used :-

	Mileage	Petrol	Miles per gallon
Motor Car	4140	276 Galls	15
8 lorries	20140	5035 "	4

HORSE.

The Horse Transport consists of four G.S. Wagons and 1 limber together with 14 horses. During January and February the Company also had 38 teams attached, these transported nightly an average of 15 sets of timber equalling $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons each, distributing to the various centres, as WESTHOEK, ANZAC, ZONNEBEKE, &c.

All operations had to be conducted during the darkness either in evening or early morning according to enemy shelling. During the period two men died of wounds, 1 wounded, and several gassed, three horses killed, 5 wounded also 1 G.S. Wagon destroyed.

L. J. Pendergast

Appendix No 2. APPENDIX 2

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT

January, February and March, 1918.

RATIONS.

Average Strength Rationed daily in :-

January	1302
February	1253
March	1128

For the three months 1st January to 31st March 1918, total quantities of staple rations consumed by the Unit were as follows :-

Bread. 33000 2lb. loaves (Equivalent to an average daily ration of 9.60 ozs.)

Biscuits. 12 tons.

Meat(Frozen) 32 tons (Equivalent to an average daily ration of 10.40 ozs.)

Preserved Meat. 39000 (Nominal 1 lb.) tins.

Bacon. 12.32 tons.

Fresh Vegetables. (Potatoes, onions, and carrots) 24 tons.

Tea 3500 lbs.

Sugar. 9½ tons (Nett weight)

Milk 6900 (1 lb.) tins (Nett weight)

Jam 9½ tons (Nett weight)

Cheese. 6.15 tons

Rum . 1400 gallons.

STORES

R.E. SUPPLIES OF MINING TOOLS & MATERIAL.

During the three months Jan/March under review No. 3 R.E.Park Abceele, No. 2 R.E.Park Strazeele, and R.E. Parks at Busseboom and Zeevecoten contributed principally to our supply of tools and material out of which it may be of interest to record a few items, i.e.:-

Sandbags	135,000	Nails	3½ tons
Pumps, G.S,	62	Suction hose	600'
Joists, steel	800	Pit props	1500
Corrugated Iron	1300 sheets		

ORDNANCE SUPPLY

Through 1Xth Corps Troops O.O.)

Our demands for clothing and necessaries for the three months ending 31st March 1918, were, with very few exceptions promptly and fully satisfied.

Following figures represent some of the supplies drawn by this Unit 1st Jan/31st Mar. :-

Boots Ankle	380 prs	Tunics	250
Breeches	250 "	Box Respirators	360
Field Dressings	500	Leather for boot	
Dubbin	168 lbs.	repairs	480 lbs.
Washing soda	6 cwt	Mess Tins	200
" soap	300 bars	Oilskins	30 suits.

SALVAGE.

During the same period Corps Salvage Dumps situated at Bailleul & Boeschepe received from us a considerable quantity of worn out, or otherwise unserviceable clothing and equipment of which the following are approximate figures :-

Helmets, Gas P.H,	700	Box Respirators	390
Boots	370 prs	Tunics	230
Breeches & trousers	550	Greatcoats	160
Cardigan Jackets	210	Hats	130

SALVAGE

SALVAGE .

Mess Tins	230	Towels	440
Underpants	400	Socks	1570 prs.
Puttees	250 prs	Shirts & Singlets	610
Bum Boots	250 prs.		

S. Henderson