

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

Tunnelling & Survey

Item number: 16/2/17

Title: 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

May 1918



AWM4-16/2/17

354

18,000-12/1 -8723

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ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian Tunnelling Coy

FOR

May 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

S. J. Sunday, Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

P. L. Anderson Major A.E.

Original
July 1915

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn & Coy.

254

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Meadow Camp Sheet 10 4 F. 35.30.	May 1.		Dull cloudy no rain. Orders received to take over the 2 nd Canadian Tunn & Coy's work in D Sector. Our N ^o 3 & N ^o 4 Sections preparing to move North in consequence Capt. Under N ^o 3 Section hands over his work to Capt. Clinton N ^o 2 Section and Capt. Woodward his to Capt. M ^o Bredie N ^o 1 Section	
	2.		Fine clear. N ^{os} 3 & 4 Sections move North to take up new work - sec	N ^o 1
			N ^o 3 to Herrmannville and N ^o 4 to Bowringy. Special Instructions issued see	N ^o 2
	3		S. E. Fine clear. N ^o 4 Sec. commence work on M. Gun Dug Outs, re at Bowringy, & engaged cleaning & straightening up new work taken over. Two squads of N ^o 1 changing to C4 Subsector to take over N ^o 4 Section's work. N ^o 3 locating Camp site this found at K8c.96 of sheet 57c N.E.	
	4		N ^o 2 Section commence work on B.H. Q. Dug Outs taken over from N ^o 3	
			N ^o 3 Section commence work on Dug Outs taken over from Canadian	
	5		Heavy rain early in morning. Positions of numerous M. G. emplacements to be put in by N ^o 1 Section fixed today	

J. J. Underhill

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn & Coy

554

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Meadow Camp.	May 6		Last day of weekly report 904' of 6x3' completed. Warning Order issued today. Today dull & showery.	N ^o 2.
	7		Showery. N ^o 2 Section reports one of the faces at Saulty Dug Out came away twisting several sets & liberating gas in which candles would not burn.	
	8 ⁰⁹		Fini. good progress on all works.	
	10		Dull showery rain heavily last night. Special instructions N ^o 3 by Major Anderson.	see N ^o 2
	11 th		Dull cloudy. N ^o 3 begin a number of M. G. emplacements at points where trenches cross Roads in K19, K14, K8, K9, K3 & K2 of sheet 36 ^B .	36 ^B This N ^o
	12		Dull Cloudy N wind. Plan of German tank circulated to Sections.	changed to
	13		Last day of Weekly Report. Total footage equivalent of 6x3 work tunnelling 1307 ft. also Bunkering Work.	36 ^B A A B on 29.5.18
	14		Conference today Major Anderson & Captains in charge of Sections with Col Batty re employment by Coy of Chinese Labour as proposed by Col Batty. Strong objections raised by Coy & matter proposal finally dropped.	

S. J. Lindahl

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn & Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Meadow	May 15		Weekly reports & plans sent away today	
Camp	16		N ^o 3 Section report bad air in several of their M. G. Dug Out.	
	17		Fine Warm. N ^o 4 also report presence of bad air in some Dug Out's, candles not burning shortage of lumber also delaying work. Amendment to Operation Order N ^o 3	see N ^o 1
			Calm Fine clear. B.H. Q Dug Out at Saulty Wood finished & cleaned up	
	18		N ^o 1 & 4 Sections report lumber shortage	
	19		N ^o 1 on Bath Parade today 2 till 5 pm. N ^o 4 report M. G. E	
			D.I.C. completed & D.I.C. connected to O.P. Fine clear.	
			Coy Administered by 6 th Corps from midnight tonight & attached to 3rd Army Controller.	
	20		S to SE wind fine clear. Last day of weekly report, total footage of tunnelling work equivalent of 6' x 3' = 1453'	
			also 11600 super ft. of Timber milled burning total to 24600 ft	
	21		Calm Fine Warm E to SE winds.	

S. S. S. S.

WAR DIARY

OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aus. Tunn & Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Meadow Camp	May 22		Calm Fine Clear: usual progress all work except when delayed for lumber	
	22		Warning Order N ^o 2 by Major Anderson sent to all 4 Sections re sending a complete squad from each Section to H.Q. Camp to undergo 2 weeks' Infantry Training.	see N ^o 2
	23		Special Instruction N ^o 4 re above Infantry Training issued re N ^o 2 Section on Bath Parade today. Weather changes to cold & showery with E wind	N ^o 2
	24		One Officer & 33 O.R. of N ^o 1 Sec and 26 from N ^o 2 Section march in to H.Q. Camp for Infantry Training	
	25		Fine Clear N.W. N ^o 3 Section report working down & cleaning up in the Harbary Caves where excavation & timbering is in progress to convert these into B.H.Q. Dug Outs etc. N ^o 4 Sec report - a shortage of lumber, also N ^o 1.	
	26		One Officer & 31 O.R. from N ^o 3 Sec & 22 O.R. from N ^o 4 report at H.Q. camp for Infantry Training. Standing Orders for same issued (see Appendix)	N ^o 1

L. J. Dundas II.

WAR DIARY

or

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1st Aus. Tunn & Coy.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Meadow Camp	May 26	cont'd	Calm Fine N ^o 2 Section Camp shelled by long range gun in evening, which this gun has been active over surrounding area & Arras Rd. for some weeks. Request from Area Officer numbercount for loan of hoises to assist French farmers, also for assistance in building an open swimming Bath on the stream running thro' numbercount , both requests granted.	
	27		Calm Fine. Infantry Training commences at our H.Q. Camp Last day of weekly report, Footage 938. Timber milled 12500 sup 71 Total now 37100.	
	28		Report held over so as to include today & 29 th	
	29		Supplementary Report for 28 th & 29 th completed. Footage 2 days 212	
	30		New Week's report to date from today so as to come into line with others	
	31		Weather for past week calm fine clear. For the month rain fell on 6 days only.	

L. J. ...

254

18,000-12/17-8723

APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian Tunnelling Coy

FOR

May 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | <i>Operation and Standing Orders</i> |
| 2. | <i>Special Instructions.
"Warning Orders. etc.</i> |

E. Huken May 1918

4796

APPENDIX

72

OPERATION ORDER No. 2

BY

Major A.S. Anderson,
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
2-1-18.

Reference Map 51c.

- INFORMATION 1. Orders have been received for 1st Aust. Tunn. Coy. Aust. Engineers to relieve 2 sections of the 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Company in D Sector C.R.E. Defence Line.
- INTENTIONS 2. No. 3 section of this Unit will proceed by motor lorry to HERMAYVILLE 51c. 3.30 via AVIGNON le Compté.
- STARTING POINT 3. Will be at Gully Camp 7.25.a.9.9.
- ADVANCE GUARD 4. Will march as detailed in O.C. No. 1 issued 24-12-17-24 1-1-18.
- MAIN BODY 5. Will move off at 3-30 p.m. with baggage, including extra kit and tents.
- TRANSPORT 6. Eight lorries will be available to move the section personnel baggage, and tents. 1 G.S. Wagon will carry any 1098 stores already drawn by the section and will move independently.
- RATIONS 7. Un-consumed portion of rations for all ranks and animals to be carried.
- REPORTS 8. A wire will be sent to this Headquarters stating time of arrival at HERMAYVILLE. Copy of this will be sent to O.C. Left Half Company, Australian Tunnellers, FOREWAY BAY.

A.S. Anderson

MAJOR, A.S.

Issued at 8 a.m. by D.R.

- | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------|
| No. 1 | Copy | O.C. File |
| 2 | | O.C. No. 3 Section |
| 3 | | O.C. No. 4 Section |
| 4 | | O.C. No. 2 Section |
| 5 | | O.C. No. 1 Section |
| 6 | | C.R.E. "C" Sector. |
| 7 | | War Diary. |

1/2

APPENDIX

OPERATION

ORDER No. 3

By

Major E. S. Anderson
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
10-5-18

1. On receipt of the message- "TAKE EMERGENCY ACTION" - the following will be your orders :-
2. You will receive this message from the Sub - sector Commanders.
3. No. 1 Section less Horse Transport, 1 M.C.O. and 6 men will at once move and report to O.C. C 2 Sub-sector at V.14.a.40.95 in fighting order and prepared for action.
4. No. 2 Section will act similarly to No. 1 Section except that it will report to O.C. C 1 Sub-sector at his Headquarters CAUDIEMPRE.
5. O.C. Sub-sectors C1 and C2 will be responsible for doing ~~every-thing~~ everything possible to
 - (a) Moving their Commands under arms to the Trench system and establishment of H.Q.
 - (b) Closure of large gaps in the wire and picqueting of all small gaps and points where a good road enters the system from the direction of the enemy. The picquets will challenge and inspect all passers and will collect and place under control all stragglers.
 - (c) Manning of all trenches covering the main valley approaches from the direction of the enemy.
6. All Commanders will instruct their men to be ready (a) to assist the troops falling back to occupy the line and (b) to join with them if necessary in resisting all enemy attempts to gain possession of it.
7. On receipt of the warning message the party detailed with the transport will act as a rear guard, strike camp and cart all tents and movable stores to the roadside where M.P. will be able to lift same.
8. These dumps selected by O.C Sections will be reported to Headquarters immediately so that M.P. can be detailed.
9. In the event of the enemy being held up at the G.H.Q. Line, and the Tunnelling Company relieved of any further action they will rendezvous at these H.Q. Sheet 510.V.19.a.5.5.

E. S. Anderson

Major A.R.

Copies to

No. 1 Section
2 "
Lieut. Manton
C.M.S.
C.O.
War Diary
File.

5254

APPENDIX

14



AMENDMENT No. 1 to OPERATION ORDER No. 3

By

Major S.S. Anderson
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
17-5-18

Robert Anderson

I. AMENDMENT.

Operation Order No. 3 is amended as follows :-

For "Headquarters GAUDIEMPRE" in para 4
Read sheet 573.C.6.e.7.5 on WARLIECOURT Road

S. S. Anderson

Major, A.S.

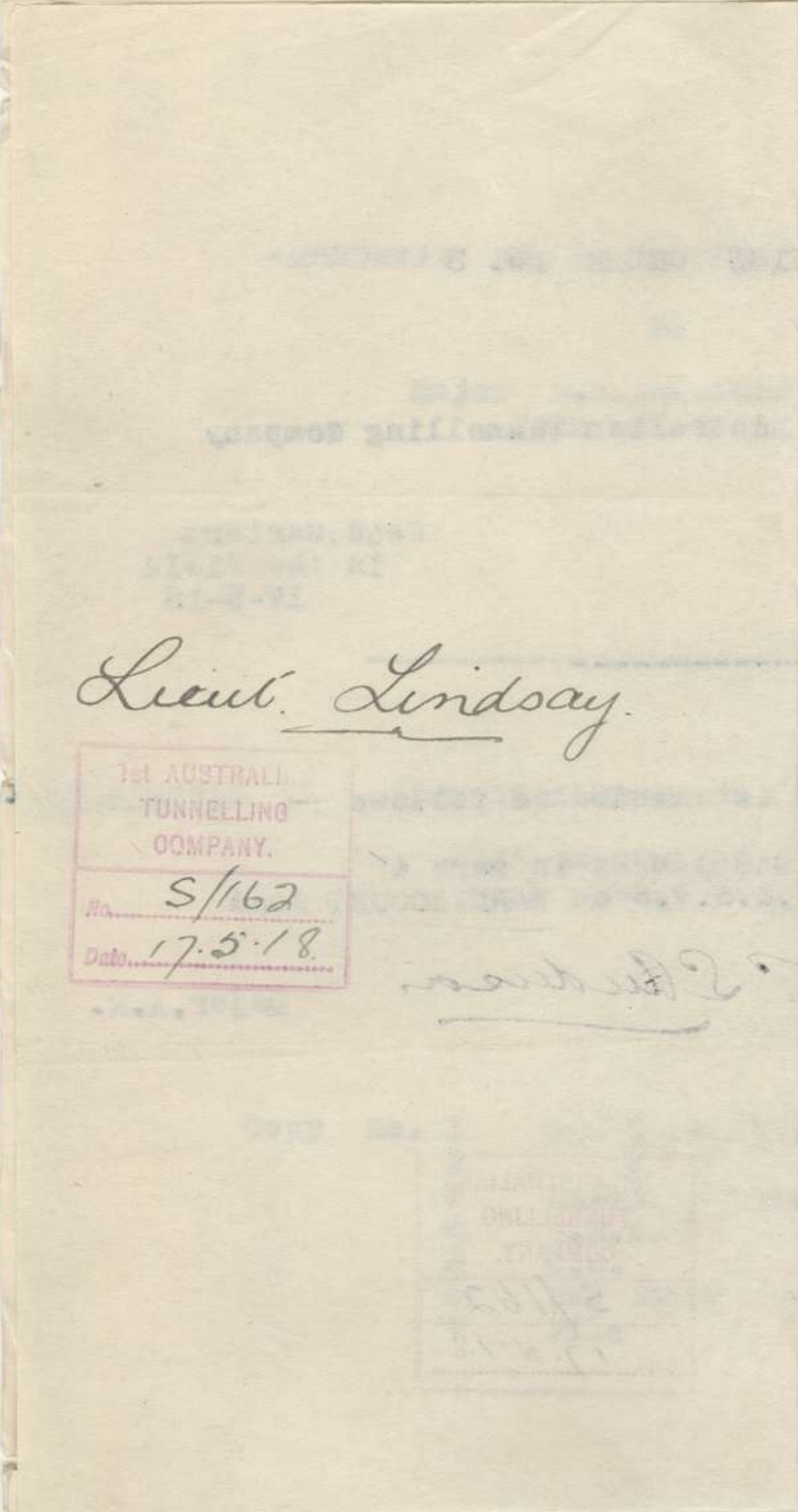
Copy No. 1	No. 1 Section
2	2 "
3	Lieut. Manton
4	C.H.S.
5	C.O.
6	War Diary ✓
7	File

1st AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLING COMPANY.	
No.	5/162
Date	17.5.18

250

APPENDIX

14



Lieut. Lindsay

1st AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING
COMPANY.

No. 5/162

Date 17.5.18

Handwritten signature or scribble

1st AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING
COMPANY.

No. 5/162

Date 17.5.18

STANDING ORDERS FOR TRAINING SECTIONS

By

Major R.S. Anderson, M.C.
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
26-4-18

In addition to standing orders issued in the Field 23-4-18 the following additions will be observed by all ranks undergoing training.

1. PARADE GROUND. Field behind cookhouse.
2. CAMP INSPECTION. All tents will be ready for inspection at 9 a.m.
3. MEALS. Breakfast 7-30 a.m. Dinner 12-15 p.m., Tea 5 p.m.
4. CAMP POLICE. Will be furnished from M.C. Details
5. AMMUNITION. Unless orders are given to the contrary ammunition will not be taken on parade but will be left in the pack for use on the range.
6. WASHING. Will be carried out at the place set aside for that purpose.
7. SANITATION. Strict attention must be paid to sanitation, and latrines and urinals used. Night pails will be placed at the end of the lines for night use only.
8. DAMAGES ETC. No timber or undergrowth of any kind must be cut or destroyed.

J. Bowmy
Lieut. A.S.

APPENDIX 2 6

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 1

By

Major M.S. Anderson
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
2-5-18

Reference
Nos. 3 & 4 Sections

1. DISPATCH SERVICES. Company Headquarters Dispatch Rider will call at Left Half Company Orderly Room SAVY daily at 8 a.m. for the purpose of delivering messages from this H.Q. and collecting dispatches from Nos. 3 & 4 Sections &c. The O.C. Left Half Company will make arrangements to effect a junction with this D.R. with the rider attached to his Headquarters so that all matter for Coy. H.Q. can be picked up at SAVY without delay.
2. REPORTS. All reports will be made up to 4 p.m. daily and the following copies distributed :-
No. 1 to Coy. H.Q.
2 to Adjutant Left Half Company for composite report to C.R.S. 3 Sector by O.C. Left Half Company.
3 For retention by section.
3. INDENTS. Indents for any special material that is not sector stores may be put into Company H.Q. for execution, and if legitimate will be delivered at first opportunity.
4. SPECIAL STORES. Any special material to be constructed by tradesmen with this Unit will be done at Coy. H.Q. if Sections are unable to make arrangements for same.
5. Tools from the 1098 Establishment Stores will be issued at an early date. O.C. Sections are reminded that these tools are part of the War Equipment of the Unit and must always be intact. Any shortages must be reported at once to Coy. H.Q. with an explanation of loss. Officers Commanding are directly responsible for shortages. Worn out tools will always be replaced by Company H.Q.
6. MAIL. Mail ~~xxx~~ for Nos 3 & 4 Sections will be delivered to Coy. Orderly Room SAVY daily as far as possible.
7. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS O.C. Detachment will make arrangements regarding the following matters and report the same to this office when completed :-
Sick Parades and evacuations.
Censor stamping of letters & despatch of mails.
Baths.
8. INSPECTIONS. The O.C. will make inspection of troops, billets, camps, &c. from time to time.
The Medical Officer will also make periodical inspections. These inspections will be notified in Coy. Orders as far as possible.

- No 2 Copy to O.C. No. 3 Section
- 3 " " 4 "
- 4 Left Half Coy Orderly Room
- 5 Orderly Room File
- 1 O.C.
- 6 War Diary.

M.S. Anderson
Major, A.E.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 2

By

Major R.S. Anderson
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
2-5-18

1. INFORMATION. Now that Nos 3 & 4 Sections have been temporarily transferred to operate in D Sector, G.H.Q. Defence Line, Nos. 1 & 2 Sections will extend to the left and right of their Sectors respectively.
2. INTENTION. No. 1 Section will take over C4 Subsector. No. 2 Section will take over C1 Subsector. Work will be concentrated on the Battalion Headquarters Dugouts until further notice.
3. CONSTRUCTION. Section Commanders are advised that the procedure in future is to put in all the entrances first throughout the subsectors, only working on the 9 feet faces where box sets are not available; in this way the Command hopes to have all places in working order should the enemy advance to this line.
4. DISTRIBUTION. Section Commanders will distribute their sections as follows :- Two squads to each subsector. These squads will be rationed by Section Headquarters. The Half Sections allotted to Sub-sectors C1 & C4 should occupy the camps vacated by Nos. 3 & 4 Sections respectively. O's C Sections concerned will instruct the O i/c of these detachments to operate on B.H.Q. as soon as possible. Nos. 1 & 2 Section Commanders will arrange to distribute their troops as soon after receipt of these instructions as possible.
5. MOVEMENTS. Section Commanders will need to make arrangements with the Transport Officer with a view to making a central dump in each Sector for Mine supplies.
6. DUMPS. In future motor transport will deliver only to these dumps, the distribution on the jobs must be done by G.S. Wagons obtained from the Sub-sector Commanders. This arrangement has become necessary owing to the shortage of M.T.
7. TRANSPORT. O. i/c Detachments will be held responsible to O.C. Sections for the condition of camps etc. O.C Sections will instruct O i/c Detachments to make themselves acquainted with the Town Major's Orders &c. of the villages in the vicinity, and will issue camp standing Orders for these detachments. Copies of same to be forwarded to this Office
8. DISCIPLINE.

R.S. Anderson

Major, A.E.

- Copy No. 2 to No.1 Section
 3 2 "
 4 Transport Officer
 5 Q.M.S.
 1 C.O.
 6 Diary
 7 Filed

1st AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING
COMPANY.

No. 779
Date 2/5/18

254

APPENDIX 2 8

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 3

By

Major W.S. Anderson,
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
10-5-18

1. INTENTION.

Preparation so that the troops can move with the least possible delay, as lightly laden as battle conditions will allow and that there may be a minimum loss of material and stores.

2. INFORMATION

The following is an extract from 4th Army Summary :-
The enemy is expected to attack on the 4th Army Front. On the ARKAS front it will be with fresh divisions now in reserve who will pass through tired divisions now holding the line, and will be made in depth. The big blow will be made in this sector.

3. ACTION .

The troops will move off on receipt of the warning message as detailed in O.C. No. 3 dated 10-5-18.

4. DISPOSAL OF
STORES & TENTS
&C.

OB C sections will see that all stores and baggage are kept in the stores &c in such a way that they can be transferred to wagon at a minutes notice. This order also applies to men's kits and any rations on hand. The latter will be exceptionally valuable should the Unit have to retire.

5. MEN'S
EQUIPMENT

Special attention is to be paid to ammunition, and all officers will satisfy themselves that the men's web equipment is put together ready for fighting conditions and all other gear placed so that it is easily transferred to wagons &c.

6. TRANSPORT .

G.S. wagons having aided the M.T. as far as possible will report to Coy Headquarters with a load of the most valuable material left when the M.T. moves off.

7. REPORTS &
RETURNS

OB C sections and officers will be careful to keep an accurate record of any casualties or events that will affect the Coy. records or be valuable for the War Diary &c.

W.S. Anderson

Major, A.M.

Copies to

No. 1 Section
2 "
Lieut. Manton
C.M.S.
C.O.
War Diary
File.

APPENDIX *L* *9*

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION No. 4

By

Major H.S. Anderson, M.C.
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company.

Headquarters
In the field
23-5-18

1. INFORMATION. Owing to the present circumstances on this front it has become more necessary than ever to make sure that all ranks are familiar with the weapons with which they are armed, and that they are able to use them to their fullest advantage.
2. TRAINING. The whole Company will go through a course of Infantry Training and Gas Discipline. The period of training will be a fortnight at a training camp situated at Company B. and after that each squad will have at least one half day a week when they rejoin their section; this will be carried out as far as possible on the same day as bath parade when mining operations will cease for the day.
3. CAMP. The camp site will be limited to 100 G.A. One officer from each Half Company will be required to attend in order to assist in the training and supervision. This officer will be selected by the C.O.
4. THE DETAIL. In detailing the squads or sections will have regard to the fact that all other ranks must be trained, and therefore a careful record kept so that everybody goes through the course; also in order to carry on tunnelling operations as efficiently as possible throughout the whole training period, he should not be kept back from the squads which proceed to the school.
5. KIT. Personnel proceeding to the school will have a kit inspection before leaving the section; on entering the training camp kits will be checked against the certificates rendered by the sections. In the case of shortages on leaving the section the C.O. section will say if these are chargeable against the soldiers' paybook.
6. TRUNKS. Squads proceeding to the Training Camp will carry sufficient tentage with them.
7. RATIONS. The unaccounted portion of the 24 hours rations will be carried by squads from each section.
8. TRANSPORT. Transport will be arranged by Headquarters.

H.S. Anderson.

Major, M.C.

Copy No	1	C.O. No	1 section
	2		2
	3		3
	4		4
	5	C.O.	
	6	War Diary	
	7	File.	

254



Lieut. A. J. Lindsay.

2

6-5-18

Section Commanders,

WARNING ORDER.

- MOVEMENT. 1. The Unit will be ready to march out at a few hours notice.
- HAND OVER. 2. Section Commanders will make all preparations to hand over their work and plans and any tools that they have on charge from the sub sectors.
- RETURN TO S ORES 3. Receipts for all returns should be obtained, otherwise the O's & Sections will be responsible for any losses unaccounted for.
- MOVE 4. Work will continue until further orders.
- DETAILS. 5. Details of the hand over and move will be issued from this Office later.

Copy No.	2	No. 1 Section
	3	2 "
	4	3 "
	5	4 "
	6	G.S.S.
	7	Transport
	1	C.O.
	8	War Diary
	9	C.M.

E. S. Anderson.

Major A.S.
C.O. 1st Asst. Tunnelling Coy. A.S.

March 29

Lt Lindsay

81-8-8



APPENDIX 2 10

254

WARNING ORDER No. 3

By

Major E.S. Anderson, M.C.
Commanding 1st Australian Tunnelling Company

Headquarters
In the Field
22-5-18

1. Please detail 1 complete squad from your section to be ready with full kit and equipment for transportation to Company Headquarters to undergo a fortnight's training in Squad Drill bayonet fighting, and musketry, *bombing*. Kit certificates will be rendered by OS C Sections showing shortages &c. and the mans signature affixed. Special instructions will follow. Squad will move on

E.S. Anderson

Major, A.M.

Coy. No.	1	To	O.C. No.	1	Section
	2	"		2	
	3	"		3	
	4	"		4	
	5	O.C.			
	6	War Diary			
	7	File			