

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/8/2

Title: Headquarters 2nd Australian
Divisional Engineers

August 1915



AWM4-14/8/2

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

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HQ. 2nd Aust Div Engineers

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC.	26/7/15.	17	W.O. J. W. Pantlin, 1 st Field Coy. 105 Cpl. H. V. Lucas, 2 nd Field Coy. 113 Cpl. W. H. Matheson, 2 nd Field Coy. 96 " S. E. Evans, 3 rd Field Coy. 188 " J. Minton, 3 rd Field Coy.	Appointed to 5 th Field Coy.
27/7/1915	Those of the above officers + N.C.Os. who were then present on Gallipoli, left Anzac, arriving at Lemnos the same day.			
Lemnos.	28/7/1915.		Transhipped and proceeded to Alexandria.	
Alexandria	30/7/1915.		Arrived at Alexandria and proceeded to Cairo.	
Heliopolis.	2/8/1915.		Instructions were issued by D.H.Q. to 5 th + 6 th Infantry Brigades to invite applications, from all N.C.Os or men, who were technically qualified, for transfer as Sappers. A selection of these men was then made by O.C.B. on succeeding days, up to 7/8/1915, and a Field Coy section, of an average strength of 41 men, drawn from each Battalion. The 5 th Inf. Brigade thus contributed four sections, forming the main body of the 4 th Field Coy, and the 6 th Brigade contributed similarly to form the 5 th Field Coy.	
	9/8/1915.		Training was at once put in hand, the men still remaining in their Battalion lines for tentage & rations; each section worked independently. Instruction given was in the elements of Field Engineering, and Spar work.	
	16/8/1915.		This training continued for a fortnight pending the establishment of an Engineer Camp.	
			Lieut. E. J. Howells, 23 rd Btn, transferred to 5 th Field Coy. as a Reinforcement officer.	

J. Matheson Capt

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Heliopolis Cairo.	16/8/1915.		<p>Companies were assembled brought together in the lines of 17th Battalion; recently vacated by them.</p> <p>The following officers, who were sent from Australia as reinforcements to 1st A.D. had been allotted to 2nd A.D. They reported for duty and were allotted to Coy. as shown:- Dated 16/8/1915.</p> <p>Lieut. J. D. A. Bowra } to 4th Field Coy. Engineers. 2 Lieut. R. B. Barr }</p> <p>2 Lieut. W. Paton } to 5th Field Coy. Engineers. R. B. Bennett }</p> <p>During the next two weeks the companies were given a short course of training, mainly in underground and demolition work, under the command of Capt. Barber & Capt. Butler.</p>	
	18/8/1915.		<p>A nucleus of the personnel of the Mounted Sections, to the extent of 25 drivers per company, was transferred mainly from 7th Inf. Brigade. These men were given a short training in Mounted work under four instructors lent from the Mounted Sections of 1st Divl. Engineers, from Men Camp, Alexandria.</p>	
	27/8/1915.		<p>Capt. P. C. Higgins, A.M.C. reported for duty as R.M.O. Divisional Engns. from Evacuated sick on 31/8/1915.</p>	4 th L.H.F. Amb
	1/9/1915.		<p>Capt. G. M. Heydon, late Medical officer to 19th Batta, reported for duty as R.M.O. vice Higgins, evacuated.</p>	
	2/9/1915		<p>Capt. V. A. H. Sturdee, reported for duty. took over command of 5th F. Coy.</p>	J. J. Matheson

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Lemnos.	27/7/1915		<p>Those of the above officers + N.C.O.s who were then present on Gallipoli, left Anzac, arriving at Lemnos the same day.</p>	
Lemnos.	28/7/1915.		<p>Transhipped and proceeded to Alexandria.</p>	
Alexandria	30/7/1915.		<p>Arrived at Alexandria and proceeded to Cairo.</p>	
Heliopolis.	2/8/1915.		<p>Instructions were issued by D.H.Q. to 5th & 6th Infantry Brigades to invite applications, from all N.C.O.s or men, who were technically qualified, for transfer as Sappers. A selection of these men was then made by O.C.s on succeeding days, up to 7/8/1915, and a Field Coy section, of an average strength of 41 men, drawn from each Battalion. The 5th Inf. Brigade thus contributed four sections, forming the main body of the 4th Field Coy, and the 6th Brigade contributed similarly, to form the 5th Field Coy.</p>	
	9/8/1915.		<p>Training was at once put in hand, the men still remaining in their Battalion lines for tentage & rations; each section worked independently. Instruction given was in the elements of Field Engineering, and Spar Work. This training continued for a fortnight pending the establishment of an Engineer Camp.</p>	
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