

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/8/24

**Title:** Headquarters 2nd Australian  
Divisional Engineers

September 1918



AWM4-14/8/24



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~



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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*H.Q. 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS*

FOR

*SEPTEMBER 1918.*



*Complete*

Signature of Officer compiling \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer Commanding \_\_\_\_\_

*Lt. Col.  
A.H. 2nd Australian Division*



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Sheet 1.

# WAR DIARY

Headquarters, Divisional Engineers

Army Form C. 2118.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

September 1918.

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
CAPPY	1st		Sites were <del>inspected</del> selected for water points. In anticipation of a rapid advance by the division the maintenance of bridges and crossings was handed over to Pioneers, leaving all the Field Companies free to work with brigade groups.	
	2nd		Visited 5th and 7th Field Companies. Captain Fewtrell took over command of the 6th Field Coy. vice Captain Cartwright severely wounded. The Cork Float bridges that were used were found to be very cumbersome, involving a great deal of transport to shift even sufficient to make one crossing of the canal. Arrangements made with C.R.E. 5th Div. to lower the level of the Somme in front of the two divisions by opening the sluice gates from FROISSY to PERONNE.	
	3rd		Inspected FEUILLERES bridge and the bridges leading to CLERY. Water details were attached to Field Companies from brigades and supplied with testing apparatus and instructed in the use thereof by the R.M.O.. This arrangement proved very satisfactory as it enabled water to be tested and wells marked by Field Companies immediately.	
	4th		C.R.E. 5th Div. called and arrangements were made for handing over. Visited Pozieres with Major Borwick with a view to having the 2nd Aust. Div. Memorial repaired, the memorial cross having been slightly damaged by shell fire. 5th and 6th Field Companies moved back to rest area.	
	5th		7th Field Coy. relieved by 14th Field Coy. and moved into rest area. Pioneers were relieved by Pioneers of the 5th Div. and also moved into the rear area, in the vicinity of ECLUSIER and CAPPY. C.R.E. returned from leave this evening.	
	6th		The division is just out of the line and there is a fair prospect of a spell of two or three weeks after the operations which were so successful, leading to the capture of MONT St. QUENTIN and PERONNE, during which period the Field Companies did brilliant work in bridging the River SOMME and so enabling the infantry to cross over to carry out the operation. Certainly on no previous occasion in operations in which the Australian Corps has been involved, has the success or even the putting into operation of an attack so entirely depended on the success of the engineers in their share of the fight. It is one of the best opportunities the engineers have had, during the war, to carry out the job which has always been regarded as particularly the Sapper's role in a battle, and this part was played with the utmost success by the Field Companies of this division. All branches were very gratified at the way in which they carried out their job. Their work was done under exceedingly arduous conditions as to shell fire and though casualties were considerable they were fortunate that they were not more. The total casualties were about 36, all ranks, including 2 officers who died of wounds, 2 severely wounded and 2 slightly wounded. The officers who died of wounds were Captain CARTWRIGHT, M.C. and Lieut. KERNAGHAN M.M. Lieut MOTT and	app. 4



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Sheet 2.

WAR DIARY

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. CAPPY	6th		Lieut. PARKINSON were severely wounded. Major REID earned high praise for his work while acting C.R.E. Major WEBB as usual did very fine work. Captain STEELE also did very well. Pioneers were also included in this bridging work: they constructed one M.T. bridge across the SOMME Canal and several foot-bridges. Today went out with Majors REID and WEBB and visited the bridges at FEUILLERES, CLERY and further along the SOMME including the bridge constructed by Pioneers.	
	7th		With G.O.C. (Maj.Gen. Rosenthal) went to MONT ST. QUENTIN to select a site near there for a memorial of the battle. Procured a very good site and I am arranging to have it marked out and fenced in. Went out to near TINCOURT and back through PERONNE. PERONNE did not appear to me to be very much more damaged than it was 18 months ago. There has been very little rain lately and roads are deep in dust. Pioneers were yesterday, under orders received from Corps, put to work restoring railway from CLERY to PERONNE. Field Companies are resting, and are camped fairly close together about 2 miles from D.H.Q. Our troops are still advancing on this front as the enemy continues to fall back towards the HINDENBURG line. No large operations have taken place since the CANADIANS made their break through at QUEANT. Enemy appears to have fallen back to his line of March 21st on this front. He has also retired considerably to the North but is still holding on to WYCHAETE and MESSINES.	App. 6.
	8th		Officers and men who left Australia in 1914 are being given six months furlough and a trip back to Australia if they desire it, returning on completion of this period. Went out with Col. Annand to inspect the bridges constructed by Pioneers over the SOMME Canal. The foot-bridges erected are 30 ft. span trussed beams in pairs with a footway of duckboards three feet wide: a very useful type and easily erected.. Major Reid gave instructions for this type to be constructed and put up by Pioneers.	
	9th		Fine day but windy and light rain at night. Nothing of note to record.	
	10th		Raining part of the day and fine at night. Have arranged for Major Reid to go on leave on the 12th. Captain Bell is to take charge of the Company in his absence until Captain Steele returns. 1st and 4th Divs. took over from 3rd and 5th Divs. last night. Not much progress appears to have been made during the last 24 hours: we are still several miles from the HINDENBURG line in this sector. This Division is very weak in numbers and is in need of a rest. The other Australian Divisions must be in the same condition. We are hoping that this spell will last for 14 days to a month but it is hard to say if we shall get it. The fighting is sure to last until the weather definitely breaks and until then there will be little rest for any troops.	



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Sheet 3.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY	11th		Fine day. Nothing of note to record. Corps Headquarters moved to Assevillers. The French have reached the March 21st line West of ST. GOBIN and have reached the outskirts of LA FERRE.	
	12th		Stormy day; heavy showers and high wind. Went to Corps Headquarters to see the C.E. in connection with his proposal that I should have the next tour of duty at the Engineer Training Depot, Brightlingsea, which is due to commence at the beginning of next month, and I wished to know what likelihood of it coming to pass. <del>He</del> They told me it was still his intention to arrange it thus but nothing definite had been fixed up. Also discussed the proposed reorganisation of engineer services into brigades, but there are no signs of any further development in that direction and I feel doubtful if there is any likelihood of it taking place on account of the paucity of reinforcements available.	
	13th		Dull overcast day, clear at night. Mr. W.M.HUGHES, the Australian Prime Minister called at D.H.Q. This afternoon. Orders received for the return of a large number of 1914 men on furlough to Australia at once. News received today that the 1st American Army and the French attacked from South and West respectively of ST. MIHIEL salient yesterday morning and joined hands across the salient. Latest news states that 20,000 prisoners were taken and the mopping up of the salient is in progress: the salient has been completely cut off and the line straightened. Progress in that vicinity would bring them near to METZ and BRIEY, the latter being a very important iron manufacturing centre. As the line here has been held since August 1914 the ground in the old NO Man's land must be exceedingly torn up and with the wet weather we have had lately it will be extremely difficult to re-establish roads etc in quick time, and so keep up supplies so as to permit of a quick advance. The Americans, too, lack experience and it is probable they will be more disorganised than is usual after the break through, so that a great depth <sup>of advance</sup> may not be practicable.	
	14th		Overcast and threatening. Further advance made by Americans and Ragny on the Moselle is reported as reached and line runs North-West from there to the other side of the old salient. Attacks by the French from the West of the Chemin des Dames between the Ailette and the Aisne also West of Rheims have started and have progressed for one to two miles. Inspected the 5th Field Company on parade today; Captain Bell in command. They turned out very well and were fully equipped. Shall inspect the 6th and 7th Field Coys. on Tuesday or Wednesday.	
	15th 16th		Nothing of note to record. Called at 5th and 6th Field Coys. in afternoon. Fine warm day. Divisional sports took place on ground adjacent to the camps of the 5th and 6th Field Coys. It was an all-day affair and went off very satisfactorily. Fine warm day.	



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Sheet 4.

WAR DIARY

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CAPPY.	17th		Fine day; cloudy at night. Inspected 7th Field Coy. this morning; very good turnout. There is to be an attack on a wide front tomorrow morning the objective being, I believe, to get right up to the HINDENBURG line, though a break through will not be attempted. 1st and 4th Divs. of this Corps are making the attack with the 3rd and 5th Divs. in support. The American attack on the ST. MIHIEL salient has apparently ceased with the obliteration of the salient and the capture of about 15,000 prisoners and 200 guns. The French attacks on the CHEMIN DES DAMES and West of RHEIMS have not progressed much. Yesterday's papers announce a move by Austria to get a non-binding conference instituted between the belligerents. Germany has made a proposal to BELGIUM to make peace on the basis of the latter's resumption of neutrality.	
	18th		Fine day. Rained last night and ground surface is slippery. Inspected the 6th Field Coy. this afternoon. An attack was made on a wide front this morning and resulted in complete success and the capture of the old German outpost line of the HINDENBURG Line. On the Corps fronts to the right and left of us the success is not so complete.	
	19th		Overcast day but did not rain. 4,000 prisoners and about 30 guns said to have been taken on the Australian Corps front yesterday. A conference is to be held at D.H.Q. tomorrow morning, I think, to discuss arrangements for some fresh operation in which we shall be involved. Chief Engineer is to inspect the three Field Companies tomorrow afternoon.	
	20th		Cloudy and threatening but no rain. Chief Engineer, inspected the three Field Coys. this afternoon on the Sports ground near the 5th and 6th Field Coys' camps. They turned out very well indeed. Conference was held at D.H.Q. this morning. G.O.C. told us that a very important attack was to take place shortly, in between 7 and 14 days time. The intention is to break through the HINDENBURG Line, but the exact locality of the attack is not yet known. The disposition for the attack is not yet settled but this division will probably be used to exploit the success of the other troops who are making the attacks. If the attack by the troops who take part in the first phase is successful it is anticipated that this division will be operating in fresh undevastated country.	
	21st		Cloudy and boisterous day but no rain. Visited YAKKO R.E. Dump at FROISSY near BRAY this morning, then went through BRAY to the old ANZAC R.E. Workshops, MEAULTE and walked through the ruins. They are simply a mass of wreckage, knocked to pieces by shell fire. Thence went on to ALBERT which has also been completely smashed by our shell fire and resembles YPRES in the completeness of its destruction. News in papers today of a successful attack by troops in PALESTINE. The Turkish line has been turned near the coast and strong bodies of cavalry are moving round on their communications. Arabs are also reported to have broken the railway at Derat on the Hedjas Railway. The advance in Mesopotamia seems to be going on Macedonia	



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Sheet 5.

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Second Australian Division.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY	21st		well but it hard to form an estimate of the degree of success obtained by the reports published, which seem to be rather more restrained than usual under such circumstances.	
	22nd		Dull in morning, raining lightly but steadily all the afternoon. Nothing of importance to record. Advance in Mesopotamia still continuing; enemy resistance said to be stiffening. Not much detail from Palestine yet, but news circulated that Nazareth has been taken and 18,000 prisoners counted. There is a possibility that the whole Turkish Army may have to surrender unless it can get away across the Jordan or fight its way back.	Macedonia
	23rd		Fine day; cold and clear night. News from Palestine very good. Believe the greater part of the Turkish Army, about 24,000, captured. Lieut. HARRIS, Adjutant, went to Paris for a few days today and Lieut. ELSUM of the 6th Field Coy. officiated for him. American troops are moving into this area. Expect we shall be moving forward in a day or two for the next venture.	
	24th		Fine clear day. Walked to Pioneers Headquarters at VAUX, through SUZANNE. Still not orders for our move. Two American Divisions will be employed in the operation. Do not know the date but think it is a matter of a few days now.	
	25th		Rained last night, windy and overcast today. The 17th, 21st and 25th Battalions are to be disbanded today, reducing brigades to three battalion strength. 21st Battalion, I believe, are vigorously objecting to their disbandment. Two American Divisions, 27th and 30th have taken over the Australian Corps front, and are holding the front opposite the line where the Canal runs underground BELLENGLISE northwards. They are to capture the HINDENBURG Line and the 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions are then to push on farther, and finally if all goes well, this Division is to go through and push on as far as possible to exploit success.	
	26th		French and Americans have attacked on a 40-mile front from a point East of RHEIMS to near VERDUN; Americans are East of the ARGONNE; not very much news to hand. Americans said to have gone on about 5 kilometres and reached MONT FAUCON, capturing many prisoners. Fine day, overcast at night. The Division move to PERONNE area tomorrow night after dark. D.H.Q. remaining here for the present. The British have captured TIBERIUS on LAKE TIBERIUS, also AMMAN on the HEDJAZ Railway. The Arabs occupy MAAN much farther South on the same railway. In <del>Macedonia</del> Macedonia the British have entered Bulgaria and are reported to be advancing on STRUMNITZA. Over 40,000 prisoners reported in PALESTINE so far. Not sure whether the American attack on this front is to take place tomorrow or the next morning.	MAAN



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Sheet 6.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY.	27th		<p>Reports so far received from the South are that the Americans <del>are forward of the Argonne</del> and had yesterday advanced about 7 miles maximum depth. West of the Argonne the French attack does not appear to have made so much headway. This morning the 1st and 3rd Armies attacked in the direction of CAMBRAI and progress seems to have been made in the centre, BOURLON WOOD being captured. The flanks, however, have not advanced much. On this front the 27th and 30th American Divisions made an attack and gained their objectives which included the trench system nearer to the HINDENBURG Line. They were counter-attacked and driven out, but are reported to have regained the line. In MACEDONIA, ISHTIB and VELAS have been occupied. Report received that after a 48 hours armistice the Bulgarians asked for peace which was refused. There are no particulars yet and there has been no sign of the armistice affecting the operations which have been pressed most vigorously. Fine day, cloudy at night. D.H.Q. are moving to DOINGT forward of PERONNE tomorrow. Outline of proposed operation on this front issued today. The 30th and 27th American Divisions are to capture the HINDENBURG Line along the line of the underground canal from BELLICOURT north, advancing about 4/5,000 yards. Armoured cars are to pass through if and when roads permit. The second phase will be the 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions go through the American Divisions, advancing a further 4/5,000 and taking the rear defence lines. Americans at the same time widening the base of the breach by pressing outwards. 2nd Australian Division is thus to be used to exploit success gained, objectives not laid down and employment depending on the success of the earlier phases. The attack, being pressed only on a two division front, will form a pronounced salient, unless the troops on our flanks are able to rapidly press forward also. The enemy front here has recently been reinforced by several extra divisions, but it is hoped that the attacks already in progress elsewhere will draw some of these off. Do not know yet when the first phase of this attack will begin. The American attack today was preparatory, in order to get a suitable jumping-off line. I think the attack will probably be the day after tomorrow.</p> <p>Moved here from CAPPY this morning and have taken over camp from C.R.E. 3rd Australian Div. Major Donaldson officiating as C.R.E. 3rd Aust. Div. as Lt. Col. Bachtold was away on a month's leave. This is an old Nissen hut camp which used to be part of a hospital and is a good deal knocked about. Field Companies and Pioneers moved last night into this area and are moving forward to assembly positions tonight; they are moving in brigade groups. Raining a good deal about midday and ground is muddy and slippery. Clear and calm tonight. We have had very little news today of other operations. In the north our troops are reported to be within a mile of CAMBRAI. Further north another attack has commenced and POELCAPELLE and</p>	
Sheet 62C. I.30.b.7.0. DOINGT near PERONNE	28th			



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WAR DIARY

Sheet 7.  
Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,  
2nd Australian Division.

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September 1918.

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			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
DOINGT	28th		PASSCHENDAELE are reported captured. Attack on this front due to commence early tomorrow morning. 3rd and 5th Divisions due to commence the second phase of the attack at 11 a.m.. This Div. is to be ready to move at two hours notice after midday. If all goes well our attack will probably take place the following morning. The role we shall be called upon to play is dependent on circumstances. D.H.Q. will probably move up close to the gap in the line tomorrow. No news from Macedonia or Palestine. Bulgaria asked for 48 hours armistice to discuss terms but this was refused by the General Commanding the Allied forces. The previous report that an armistice of 48 hours had already taken place was incorrect. Went out in afternoon to visit Field Companies. Called at 5th Field Coy. but was unable to find 6th Field Coy. and it was too late then to go on to the 7th Coy. All Field Coys. are moving forward again tonight.	
	29th		Frost this morning and heavy ground mist up to 9-30 a.m. then bright sunny morning but becoming overcast with a little light rain in afternoon; very windy and threatening rain at night. Attack commenced under favourable conditions. Information slow in coming through but it was reported that attack was held up for some time at BONY then that the Americans had reached GOUY and NAUROY and finally that they were on their objectives. It was found when the 3rd and 5th Divisions started to move forward to carry out the second phase that they were immediately met with opposition at the original jumping-off line. The Americans in their enthusiasm and inexperience had unfortunately omitted to completely mop up, more especially along the line of the underground canal and around BONY. As a result, the continuation of the attack by the 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions, which should have commenced from near the American objectives at 11 a.m., was not possible. At 3 p.m. the 5th Australian Division reported to have just commenced and the 3rd Australian Division were reported to be starting from the original jumping-off line to mop up the American area before they could attempt to carry the attack further forward. The enemy artillery fire during the first phase of the operation was not heavy and they apparently got their guns away as soon as it was seen that a break-through in the line had been made. The situation today is obscure and nobody really knows quite what has happened. It is evident, therefore, that the scheme to suddenly break right through the HINDENBURG Line is likely not to be fully successful. From unofficial accounts it appears that the American Divisional staffs are very "green" and are considerably disorganised and rattled owing to lack of experience. 8-30 p.m. Later news indicates that on the front of the American 27th Division the front line is now actually about where it should have started from though it is believed that the attacking troops overran this ground but it has been impossible since to communicate with anyone forward of this.	



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Sheet 8.  
Headquarters, Divisional Engineers, Army Form C. 2118.  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

September 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOINGT	29th		<p>The 30th American Division did better and captured NAUROY whence the front runs back along the NAUROY Line in front of the Canal Tunnel and thence back to the rear of BONY to GILLAUCOURT FM. or thereabouts. 5th Australian Division said to be concentrating about NAUROY. Do not know what has happened to the 3rd Aust. Div. 2nd Div. still awaiting orders. Last night was very windy with showers. Overcast with occasional showers during today; ground surface greasy. Yesterday's attack which was at one time thought to have succeeded in its first phase turned out to be a failure as the 27th American Division did not reach their objectives. It is still believed that some Americans got through and are still holding out in advanced positions. The 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions were at 6 a.m. this morning to attempt the task of clearing up the muddle, attacking without artillery support owing to the belief that Americans were in front. The only report received up to 3-30 p.m. indicated that they were encountering strong opposition. The men marched up yesterday, were moved about last night in pitch darkness and an exceedingly wild night, and so were probably tired out before they started to attack. The redeeming feature of yesterday's operations was the unexpected extent of the success of the 9th Corps on our right; they captured BELLENGLISE, crossed the canal and took MAGNY La FOSSE to LEHAUCOURT, and a large number of prisoners were taken by them. The French are still attacking North and South of ST. QUENTIN and hopes are entertained of ST. QUENTIN being taken soon. Opposite CAMBRAI progress has been made only by desperate fighting. The Western suburbs have been reached and the New Zealand Division is reported across the canal South of the town. There is no sign of any breakdown in the defences yet. From the North it is reported that the Belgian 2nd Army had attacked and had reached the line near ROULERS and MENIN: WERVICQ reported captured and Cavalry moving southwards towards LILLE. In the ARGONNE the French and Americans are still "plugging" on but making only slow progress. Later: There is a rumour current that BULGARIA has agreed to surrender unconditionally. It seems doubtful if this true as the military situation does not appear to warrant it. The elimination of BULGARIA would, I think, also cause TURKEY to come to terms. Later: Message received from G.H.Q. that an armistice has been signed with BULGARIA and hostilities ceased today at noon. The occupation of strategic points, by the Allies, is proceeding.</p>	80 - EMONT
	30th			

*McClatello*

Lt. Colonel,  
C.R.E. Second Australian Division.



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Sheet 1.

R.M.O. 2nd Australian Divisional Engineers.

Army Form C. 2118.0

# WAR DIARY

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CAPPY			<p>At the beginning of September Field Companies came out of the line. 5th and 6th Field Coys. were at a place called SALMON WOOD between Herbecourt and Cappy. The 7th Field Coy. were encamped on the side of a hill close to ECLUSIER. Coy's R.A.P. was established at the 5th Field Company camp. Headquarters' R.A.P. was at CAPPY for the Divisional Signal Company and Divisional Headquarters. Sick parades :- H.Qrs. at 7-30 and Coys at 10.00. Rounds of Sanitary inspection of Companies' lines were made once or twice a week. Sanitation was satisfactory. Two men from Field Companies were trained in water testing for poisons and for bleaching powder required. Horrocks's testing cases were supplied to each Company. A reserve supply of de-agents was kept at D.H.Q. and supplies were drawn from 6th Field Amb. While in this area there was little sickness. Several cases of diaharroea occurred in the 7th Field Coy. which was due to water having been drawn from the canal by a careless orderly. This orderly transferred to the 21st Battalion soon after. One case of dysentery occurred in the 5th Field Company.</p>	



APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

OF  
Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

FOR

S E P T E M B E R 191 8.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1. 29/263	Instructions re works issued to Coys. 1/9/18.
2.	Summary of reconnaissance reports by 7th Field Co. (in original only).
3.	Report on operations by 7th Field Coy. dated 3/9/18. (in original only).
4.	D.E.Order No. 59. relief by 5th Aust. Div.
5. 17/65	Re men to be trained in water duties. (Testing)
6.	<i>Sketch - Site for Div Memorial - Mont St. Quentin. (original only)</i>
	* * * * *



SECRET

# APPENDIX

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEER INSTRUCTION No. 58.

Copy No...

Reference Map 62C N.W.- 1/20,000

1. The 7th Field Coy. will repair road from H.12.b.2.4. CLARY-sur-SOMME-I.7.a. and b-I.8.a.-I.8.d.-I.2.c. to HAUT ALLAINES as soon as situation permits.

2. The 8th Field Coy. will repair roads from I.19.A.3.2.-I.20.a. and c. thence N.E. to I.27.a.-I.21.central-I.15.d.-I.16.a, and also road from I.22.b.3.3. to I.11.d.9.9. as soon as situation permits.

3. The 8th Field Coy. will be in reserve and will carry out the following works :-

Erection of Horse Troughs near Lock at G.24.c.central.

Erect canvas troughing (to be replaced later by permanent structure) on north side of SOMME as soon as situation permits.

They will also be available for providing accommodation of D.H.Q. on north side of SOMME and will make early reconnaissance for same.

4. The 2nd Aust Pioneer Bn. will take over and maintain the following bridges on completion -

H.8.d.9.3. at FEUILLIÈRES and pontoon bridge at H.24.d.7.9.

Repair and maintain the following bridges across the SOMME River and CANAL.

Infantry in file bridge	H.24.d.65.95.	to I.19.a.50.65.
" " " "	I.19.c.25.05.	to I.19.d.0.9.
" " " "	I.19.c.25.05.	to I.19.a.35.05.
" " " "	H.15.b.95.70.	

Horse Transport Bridge	H.12.b.2.7.
" " "	H.17.a.50.95.
" " "	H.24.d.7.9. to HALLE.

The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will also repair and maintain road across River SOMME at H.24.a. through HALLE to Mt.St.QUENTIN, also road from FEUILLECOURT - ~~xxx~~ I.9.a. and c.-I.15.b.-I.16.c to I.22.d.5.3. as soon as situation permits.

5. WATER SUPPLY. A water detail will be allotted to each Field Coy. ~~xx~~ who will test all water samples obtained from wells by Field Coys. to whom they are attached.

2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will test all wells that are likely to be used by Div. Troops.

Field Coys and Pioneers will post up notices at wells as soon as tested and immediately notify this office, giving full particulars.

6. Field Coys will render every assistance to Brigades to whom they are affiliated where engineer advice and work is necessary.

7. This programme of work will come into operation by 6 p.m. on 2nd instant.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE. Field Coys and Pioneers only.

1/9/18.

Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

## DISTRIBUTION.

1. C.I. Aust. Corps.
2. "G" 2nd Aust. Division.
3. "Q" " " "
4. 5th Field Coy.
5. 6th " "
6. 7th " "
7. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8. 5th A.I.Bde.
9. 8th " "
10. 7th " "
11. File.
- 12-13-14. War Diary. ✓

*W. H. H. H.* Lt. & Adjt.,



## SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

Appendix 2

Headquarters,  
Erd September 1918.

C.E. Aust. Corps.  
 "G" "Q" C.R.A. A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Division.  
 5th 5th Field Company A.E.  
 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
 -----

The following reconnaissance reports have been received from  
 7th Field Company A.E. :-

ROADS. Road from I.7.a.0.7. along W side canal du Nord to X. I.4.a.0.0.  
 good for M.T. On through village to G.28.d.4.1. good for M.T. but  
 requires clearing of debris and few small shell holes filled. Foot  
 track along N.W. side of canal du Nord

Canal du Nord to I.4.a.5.3. from SOMME river is dry. Beyond this  
 to lock in G.28.d. has only few feet of water.

Road bridge at I.4.a.0.0. is intact and so far as visible not  
 mined.

At I.4.a.2.1. are abutments of bridge and at I.4.a.5.3. a  
 destroyed steel girder bridge.

Dugouts in N.W. bank of canal between I.4.a.5.3. and I.4.a.0.0.  
 A large number of good dugouts about 4 series each with 5 entrances  
 connected by galleries 6' wide by 8 feet to arch in chalk untimbered. No  
 sign of mines etc. and appear to have been evacuated in great hurry by  
 amount of gear about.

No indications of water in ALLAINES village which is very  
 badly smashed.

Stream through I.5.d., I.4.c. etc. is only a ditch about 3 feet  
 wide.

-----  
 Road I.5.c.2.2. to I.9.d.0.0. main road good for M.T. except for bridge  
 at I.9.a.4.1. which hit direct by shell, estimated make good in 3 hours  
 by 8 men. Material could be obtained from vicinity of HALLE. Will  
 attempt to do this today. Doubtful whether could be used by M.T. now.

HALLE-Mt.St.QUENTIN road good for M.T. in fine weather- chalk road- &  
 take two way traffic.

Road I.13.b.9.1. to I.21.a.1.0. good for M.T. at present-chalk road  
 with some metal. not

Road I.8.b.6.4. to I.9.c.75.20. passable by M.T. and would require  
 large amount of work to make good.

Road I.8.b.6.4. to I.13.b.7.1. fit M.T. dry weather track.

Road I.20.a.10.45. to I.21.a.1.0. fit M.T.

Roads in general in very good condition.

-----  
 Incidentally there is a large number of dry weather alternative  
 tracks.

CANAL du NORD not dug except very slightly from SOMME to I.9.c.3.7.  
 thence lock I.8.b.4.8. dug with embankment. Banks about 8 feet high.  
 Cutting and embankment thence as shown to ALLAINES except at I.5.c.2.2.  
 where not excavated but traffic way. At I.5.c.2.2. is a bridge part  
 completed (masonry arch) impassable and much work to complete. Canal  
 dry as stated before.

-----  
Accommodation. Lock at I.8.b.4.8. is 300 feet long by 20 feet  
 wide by 30 feet high and has been extensively used as accommodation.

Supply conduits every 20 feet about 3 ft by 3'6" leading into one  
 long chamber 10' x 12' by about 3' high and bunked with two tiers of  
 bunks (52). The whole is in masonry and excellent accommodation but  
 area is being consistently shelled. No other dugouts seen but Mt.  
 St. QUENTIN not reconnoitred on account of heavy shell fire.

-----  
WATER. Two wells in HALLE I.19.a.8.6. and I.19.b.1.7. (Billets 32 and  
 17) depth to water about 20 feet, diameter 4 feet, at least 4' of water  
 in well. Pump on one (17) only, windlass at 22. Well at FEUILLACOURT  
 I.8.b.9.7. depth about 13 feet to water, diameter 5 feet, at least 3'  
 of water. Samples being taken in each case and being tested.



- 8 -

- 2 -

.8.7.5.81.1 .JAIHITAM

MATERIAL. I.15.d.7.8. About 50 bags Portland Cement, 70 rolls malthoid, about 75 picks ~~xxx~~, 50 shovels 9.3., 30 German shovels, 10,000' timber, 1" 3" x 3" and 9" x 9".

I.15.d.8.1. about 200' 3" x 1" timber.

I.19.b.8.8. about 50 logs, say about 12' x 12" to 18" diameter.

Considerable amount of scattered material including timber and mining sets in HALL.

Much material about aerodrome in I.21.a.7.3., timber huts etc, but shelling too heavy for close inspection.

Explosion reported probably at cross roads at I.15.d.9.9. must have been elsewhere as this spot was found intact.

GENERAL REPORT.

Dugouts I.20.a.0.6. in S.W. bank of road, 8 entrances to small chambers of which three connected by burrows. Best chamber 20' x 4' with 8' x 4' off at one end, all 8' high.

In HALL I.19.b.05.75. are old German quarters with two houses <sup>which have been offices</sup> practically intact and one good cellar (one entrance only) with 8' of cover including bursters of heavy logs.

Cellar 8' x 18' also two other cellars with very fair cover.

At I.19.b.15.70. two cellars with 8' of cover and two entrances with office quarters in houses nearby. Also several other places of lesser value but similar type in the vicinity.

At I.19.b.7.7. large farm house etc with good cellars taken by 5th A.I. Bde for headquarters.

Many houses in village have been rebuilt by enemy but have since been hit a good deal by shells. Roofs are largely off.

A bridge at H.24.b.8.3. is good for F.A. but not 60 pounders. Four bays of 0.0. part are ~~unsure~~ for 60 pounders. Remainder including new bays are fit for 60 pounders. ~~xxxxxxx~~ One section today improving approaches and clearing tracks leading to bridge on either side of ~~SOME~~ River and Canal. Packing up caps of old trestles, replacing one trestle strengthening decking, placing hand rails and ribands.

Further tracks near HALL being marked.

Reports timed 2.45 p.m. 2/9/18.

*[Signature]*

Lt. & Adjt.,

Second Australian Divisional Engineers.



80



7th Field Company Australian Engrs.

Operations 3/10/18.

7TH FIELD COMPANY AUST. ENGINEERS.
No. 24/122
Date

14

Orders were received at 1600 on 2nd inst that 7th Field Coy. A.E. would be required to assist 7th A.I. Bde in attack on morning of 3/10/18, having for final objective, line B.4.a.4.2. - T.21.d.0.1. - ~~GUSIAN~~ GUISANCOURT FARM inclusive to T.26.d.3.4., then south west along trench system MASNIERES-BEAUREVOIR line.

The work allotted to this company was reconnaissance of wells, dugouts, roads and necessary bridging in captured area.

Arrangements were made at once for Nos 1 and 4 sections under Lt Lawrie and Lt McGowan & Lt McGillicuddy to move from L.9.b.5.8. (Templeux area) at 0500, 3rd inst to BELLICOURT G.9.b.2.6. also bridging materials to be held in readiness, at BELLICOURT. Headquarters, under Lt Fidler, MC., were established at G.9.b.2.6. at 0700 on 3rd and Captain Needl.M.C. remained with Brigade H.Qrs at G.3.c.9.2.

Sections followed up the attack independently 1 hour after zero. were

No 1 section/allotted the forward area and No 4 section were to deal with TORRENS CANAL all work up to and inclusive of BEAUREVOIR line.

Reports.

First Report was received from Lt McGowan at 11.00 which stated that TORRENS canal offered no obstacle to artillery and infantry could cross with out difficulty.

Water

At A.18.d.7.4. the canal was found to be dammed up, and could be made a useful water point being 20' wide and 5' deep running into A.18.b. Approaches to this point for H.T. were found to be good. The water from the canal was tested and found to be good, requiring 1 scoop per watercart. This is the only water located in the whole of the captured area.

Roads.

A dry weather track runs along bank of TORRENS CANAL on either side. Road from A.24.a.0.3. to A.18.c.95.30 was reported not passable owing to shell holes, from From A.18.c.95.30 to A.24.b.3.7. passable to H.T. From A.24.b.3.7. to B.13.b.0.2. Badly shelled not passable for H.T. From B.13.b.0.2. to B.20.a.8.6. Clay road, single traffic passable to H.T.

Lt Lawrie reported personally at 1200 and all roads north of BEAUREVOIR line in captured area were found to be in excellent condition.

Mines or Traps. No mines or traps were located.

Lt Lawrie's reconnaissance was carried out under difficulties experiencing heavy shell and M.G. Fire. LORMISSET could not be reconnoitred owing to explosions taking place and heavily shelled. Several Bosche Field guns were firing over open sights from ridge about T.28.c. & d.

Accommodation.

Several Pill boxes were located, used as M.G. positions in trenches B.8.c. and B.14.a. Lt McGillicuddy reported several shelters and pillboxes in BEAUREVOIR system.

. . . . .



80 Captain Noedl issued instructions to establish two sections forward to deal with immediate requirements.

At 14.15 these orders were cancelled and all parties recalled to BELLICOURT Camp.

At 1200 Nos 2 and 3 sections (held in Reserve at Templeux area) were ordered to BELLICOURT in readiness for any developments.

At 2330 Orders were received to hand over to 106th Field Company R.E. and relief was completed by 0600 on 4th inst. and unit moved to Templeux area at 0900.

BEAURVOIR LINE

This line was found to be only spitlocked but at LORMISSET a hastily dug trench was found.

*L. Noedl*

Captain.

A/O.C. 7th Field Coy. A.E.

4/10/18.



SECRET.

*Appendix 4*  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ORDER No. 59.

Copy No. 17

Issued under Second Aust. Division Order No. 217 dated 4th Sept. 1918.

Reference Map : 32C- 1/40,000.

1. The 2nd Aust. Divn. will be relieved in the line on night 4th/5th September, 1918.
2. Field Coys and Pioneers of 2nd Aust. Divn. will be relieved by Field Coys and Pioneers of 5th Aust. Divn. under mutual arrangements between O.Cs. Field Coys. and O.Cs. Pioneer Bns. concerned.  
The 14th Field Coy. will relieve the 7th Field Coy, relief to be complete by night 4/5th September 1918.
3. On relief Field Coys will move to area G.22. G.23. G.28. G.29. G.34. and G.35.  
On relief the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn will move to area G.32.b. and d. and G.33.
4. Completion of relief and location to be notified immediately to D.E.H.Q.
5. All camps, billets and horselines to be left in clean and sanitary condition.
6. D.E.H.Q. will remain in its present location at CAPPY (G.25.d.1.3.)
7. Acknowledge. (Field Coys and Pioneers).

4/9/18.

*W. Ham*  
Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

Lt. & Adjt.,

DISTRIBUTION

1. C.I. Aust. Corps.
2. "G" 2nd Aust. Division.
3. "Q" " " "
4. C.R.I. 5th Aust. Divn.
5. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 6-7-8. 5th 6th 7th Field Coys.
9. File.
- 0-11-12. War Diary.

APPENDIX

4

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Appendix 5.



5th  
O.C. 5th Field Company, A.E.  
7th  
R.M.O., 2nd Div. Engineers.

Please select two men of your Company to be trained, in testing of water supplies, by R.M.O.

R.M.O. will be responsible for the instruction of these men and they will be available as and when required to make necessary tests as to potableness of water from various sources, in open warfare.

It would be of advantage if the men selected had some knowledge of chemistry. These men are to report to R.M.O. at Field Company Aid Post at 11 a.m. on 23rd instant, and thereafter daily. R.M.O. to advise me of arrangements made.

*McClellan*

Lt. Colonel,

C.E.F. Second Australian Division.

22/9/23.

Copy to G.F., Aust. Corps.

" " A.E.F.S., 2nd Aust. Div.

War Diary. ✓

File.

APPENDIX

5

14



80 Appendix 6.

# APPENDIX PLAN

of site for 2nd Australian Div.  
Monument at Mt. St. Quentin.  
Map Ref. 62° 1.15.6.30.55.  
Scale : 30 feet to 1 inch.



## Particulars of Fence

Corner Posts 9' x 6" strutted, 23 in ground.  
Other do. 4' x 4" & 6' x 4", 19 do do (some 2' 0").  
Posts 3' 6" above ground.  
Do 15' apart. 4 wires in fence 10' apart.

