

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/8/25

Title: Headquarters 2nd Australian
Divisional Engineers

October 1918



AWM4-14/8/25

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Headquarters, Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

FOR

O C T O B E R 191 8.



Signature of Officer compiling

Price

Signature of Officer Commanding

McClatchie Lt Col

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 1.

Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,
Second Australian Division.

Army Form C. 2118.

October 1918.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOINGT	1st		<p>Fine morning. Major Reid and Lieut. Plant, 5th Field Co., returned last night from leave. Brigades are moving forward this morning to HARGICOURT, VILLERET and TEMPLEUX-le-Guerard areas. D.H.Q. is to move forward in the morning and the G.O.C. is anxious to get into the tunnel at BELLICOURT. Major Reid has gone up by car and will investigate the site. There are a number of tunnels and dugouts but they have not been explored or completely examined and I think it is extremely risky to occupy such places until an exhaustive examination has been made. The 5th Division were attacking this morning with tanks and are reported to hold JONCOURT and ESTREES. It is also reported that LE CATELET has been captured. This division is to go into the line tonight. The situation on the left of this front is still obscure. Altogether it has been an unfortunate affair and would have been better to have given the Australians the first phase to carry out and make the Americans do the exploiting where they could not go so far wrong probably. Went up to 5th DH.Q. at HERVILLY to see Col. Mather in the afternoon, with Lieut. Harris, as we are taking over part of the front from them tomorrow morning. 5th Bde. are going into the line tonight, 6th and 7th Bdes. will be in support. Col. Mather was out but we saw his Adjutant, Lieut. Nangle. No formal taking over necessary. Work is chiefly the development of wells in the forward area. D.H.Q. will be established at TEMPLEUX-le-Guerard, pending arrangements for suitable quarters further forward. Major Reid's report on the tunnel, received this evening, is not very favourable. The IX Corps attacked and captured the BEAUREVOIR Line on our right today. This is the last continuous wired trench of the HINDENBURG system. An attempt is to be made to reach this on our front tonight, and the day after tomorrow an attack is to be made in a north-easterly direction.</p> <p>Fine most of the day, clouded over later with drizzle at night. Moved from DOINGT this morning, arriving about 9-30 a.m. H.Q. in portion of large system of quarries. Quarters very restricted. Have been a good deal out of touch with field companies during the last few days. 7th Field Co. are at present near here, 5th Company have moved up near the Southern end of BELLICOURT tunnel, and the 6th Company are situated about a thousand yards South of VILLERET. I walked over to the latter place today to see the 6th Company but found only their transport and they were just moving to a new location on the Eastern side of the ST. QUENTIN Canal, South of BELLICOURT Tunnel. Received information on my return that an attack was to be made by this division tomorrow morning. There is no opportunity for making any detailed arrangements as to Engineer work; this also is scarcely necessary as Companies will arrange direct with Brigades for co-operation. The chief duties will be Water supply and searching for booby traps, mines etc. The attack is in a north-easterly direction about 4,000 to 5,000 yards in depth and includes the capture of BEAUREVOIR and the BEAUREVOIR trench</p>	
TEMPLEUX-le-Guerard. Sheet 62C F.27.c.	2nd			

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TEMPLEUX-le-Guerard.	2nd		trench system. The whole affair has been hurriedly arranged. The attack is being made by the 7th Brigade on the left and the 5th Brigade on the right. Each of our brigades can now only put about 1,000 bayonets into a fight. Flanks are being formed by the 32nd Division on the right and the 50th Division on the left. Move is intended to threaten the flank of the enemy holding on to the canal between here and CAMBRAI. The advance has in no place broken down completely, except temporarily up in BELGIUM where it appears to have lost its momentum. Fine clear day. Ground has dried up well. The attack today did not attain all the objectives intended and so was not entirely satisfactory though a great deal was achieved. The 5th Bde. was held up in front of ESTREES; the attack lost its impetus and barrage and did not recover with the result that the high ground at BEAUREVOIR was not reached. The BEAUREVOIR trench line which was strongly wired was however captured on the entire front attacked, and this is an important result. The 25th Division is taking over the left of our front tonight and will try to get BEAUREVOIR in the morning, our left going forward at the same time. Report current that cavalry have passed through the IX Corps front and have taken MERICOURT and FRESNOY. It is also reported that the enemy are retiring from the AUBERS Ridge near LA BASSEE. There has been no considerable movement on any part of the front during the last few days, though the Bosche has so far succeeded in preventing his front in being broken through. Opposite our front the last of the important HINDENBURG trenches, the BEAUREVOIR line, has been captured and now he is fighting in the open. ST. QUENTIN itself has been occupied as far as the canal but not beyond and the defences in that direction have not been completely pierced. A very considerable forward movement here on a fairly wide front would probably cause a considerable retirement up North. Visited three Companies today. Went up to high ground between ESTREES and JONCOURT, from where there is a good view of MONTBREHAIN; did not see much going on on the front. Saw some of our troops moving up as we came back. Field Companies are not able to do much. They are chiefly occupied in opening up wells. Pioneers were employed on roads but today they have been taken over as Divisional reserve fighting troops and moved to near NAUROY. The Division is likely to be withdrawn the day after tomorrow and as all the Australian Divisions are already out this will mean that the whole Corps are being withdrawn. This quarry has been shelled fairly frequently by High Velocity guns; a number of casualties were caused last night amongst D.H.Q. staff and attached personnel.	
	3rd		Overcast all day, clearing at night. Further attack made today to advance our line. The 25th Division on our left endeavoured to take BEAUREVOIR but were not successful. Our line was pushed forward a fair amount. The troops are getting pretty done up and these small	
	4th			

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TEMPLEUX	4th		small - attacks are not doing us much good. Tomorrow the 6th Brigade are to take MONTBREHAIN village. So far as I know the capture of the village is the complete operation, and if successful will leave a salient like a wart on our front commanded from the high ground on the South East. No mention of co-operation of troops on our right for the capture of this high ground. In spite of frequent reports I believe LE CATELET is still not in our hands. The enemy are still holding on tenaciously to the trench systems Northwards from there and along the canal. Today the C.O. 105 Regiment, U.S. Engineers called to see me regarding taking over. The 30th American Division are coming in again I think tomorrow night. This may foreshadow an operation on a much larger scale. South of here we are not clear through: we have the canal as an obstacle. News received today that TURKEY ceased hostilities but no further particulars. Pioneers have been taken as fighting troops for tomorrow's attacks on MONTBREHAIN under orders of the 6th Brigade.	
	5th		Fine clear day. Attack this morning was successful; MONTBREHAIN was captured and 5,000 prisoners taken. For some time the situation was rather precarious and there were two rather wide gaps in the line, the enemy ***** counter-attacked and got back into the N.W. end of the village. Our casualties were rather heavy, 21st and 24th Bn. combined losses were about 250. Pioneer casualties are not yet known. This is the first occasion in their history in which the Pioneers of this Division have been used as fighting troops. Their role for this attack was to form a defensive right flank for the attack and this they did most successfully; their work was very good indeed. The 25th Division were to make yet another effort to capture BEAUREVOIR this afternoon, but we have not yet heard the result. The 30th American Division are to take over from us tomorrow at 9 a.m. Lt. Col. Pratt, C.O., 105 Regt. U.S. Engineers called today also Major Loyerly, C.O., 2nd Battalion. There is to be another big attack on a wide front on the 7th. The Australian Corps is going out of the line tomorrow after a long, strenuous and sensational period of duty in the line. This division is moving back to VIGNACOURT-FLIXECOURT area. It seems probable that our fighting is over for this year. Reorganisation of brigades on a 3-battalion basis will take place as soon as we go out. New rules governing the appointment of Warrant and N.C.Os. in the A.I.F. have just been issued, which appear to make a radical alteration in the procedure in Engineers, inasmuch as all promotions of N.C.Os. in Divisional Engineers must be authorised by the Commanding Officer, i.e. the C.R.E. Hitherto all such promotions, up to and including the rank of Sergeant, have been made by Field Company Commanders without reference to the C.R.E. Probably the compilers of these rules did not realise that they were making any alteration. There is no confirmation of the news received yesterday that TURKEY had capitulated and apparently the announcement was	

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TEMPLEUX	5th		premature. DAMASCUS has been surrounded on three sides and probably by now has been occupied. Enemy reported to be evacuating the HINDENBURG line along the ST. QUENTIN Canal just north of here. No material change elsewhere. This locality is still being persistently shelled by H.V. guns but there have been no further casualties in D.H.Q. This afternoon I walked to GILLEMONT FARM about one mile west of BONY. Not far from there were eight British Tanks in a row within a distance of 200 yards, which had been put out of action when going forward to attack by crossing an old British anti-tank mine field which had been laid early in the year, before the retreat. Four more, similarly disabled, were lying a short distance away. Disabled tanks are freely dotted all over the landscape. The number put out of action during recent fighting must run into many hundreds. Near GILLEMONT Fm. American troops are collecting and burying men killed in recent attacks against the HINDENBURG Line by the 27th American Division. They are burying hundreds and still more are being brought in. There is only one road at present available across the canal tunnel, that through BELLICOURT and a good deal of this road is planked and rapidly wearing under the very heavy traffic. Roads through BONY and GOUY as well as through LE CATELET are not available as the enemy still commands them; the retirement to the north, reported today, may clear them.	
DOINGT	6th		Overcast threatening day, clearing at night. Arrived here this morning from our late H.Q. in quarries near TEMPLEUX-le-Guerard after handing over to the 30th American Division. Found our previous quarters occupied by troops of the 27th American Div. so have crowded into D.H.Q. quarters on the main road. BEAUREVOIR was finally captured yesterday. Have not yet heard details of Pioneer Bn. casualties. News published today that the Central Empires and TURKEY have asked for an armistice for the purpose of discussing proposals for peace on the basis of President Wilson's declaration of War aims. This is a further and definite step in the enemy's effort to secure peace by negotiation after having failed to defeat us, and whilst we have as yet failed to completely defeat him. There is no doubt that Germany hopes, by discussion, to create and develop differences of opinion among the Entente Powers. An armistice would enable her to reorganise her defences so that she would be in a better position to make a prolonged resistance if negotiations fell through. A new attack on a large scale was to take place on our late front tomorrow morning but it has been postponed 24 hours. DAMASCUS has been taken and our troops were 17 miles north thereof several days ago. There is little news from BULGARIA that is reliable. The Germans are reported to be hurrying troops down there to restore the situation and to prevent our troops from occupying the main railway between BERLIN and CONSTANTINOPLE. D.H.Q. moves tomorrow to the village of BELLOY-sur-Somme, about 12 miles from AMIENS.	app. 1

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BELLOY-sur-SOMME.	9th		<p>Arrived here on the afternoon of the 7th. It is a small village and our billets and office accommodation are poor, as also is our mess. Field Companies are located as follows:- 5th and 6th Companies at BETTENCOURT and the 7th Company at ST. OUEN, both places being within three kilos. of FLIXECOURT.</p> <p>Called at C.E.'s. office on the way through from forward; Genl. Foote was on leave. Had lunch in AMIENS at the Hotel de la Paix. A good number of civilians are back and shops are opening up. When inside the hotel things looked quite normal. The bulk of the houses of course are still closed and the ruins of those places destroyed by shelling are still lying about. The Americans attacked on our late front yesterday in conjunction with troops on the right and left and reached PREMONT. Heard today that CAMBRAI had been taken, but the news is not official. News from SYRIA states that our troops are 30 miles N.W. of DAMASCUS. No news from SERBIA. No reply yet given to GERMANY to the GERMAN-AUSTRIAN-TURKISH request for an armistice.</p> <p>Supplies of R.E. stores are very hard to get here, as there is no R.E. dump available. Visited Field Companies yesterday. They are all fairly comfortably billeted. They had a long march during the night of the 7th after detraining at ST. Roche station, AMIENS.</p>	
	10th		<p>Fine day. Visited Pioneers Bn. at PERNOIS today. They are comfortably settled in good billets. They had 8 officers and 105 other ranks casualties in the fight for MONTBREHAIN and captured over 330 prisoners. Captain Roth was killed by a H.V. shell near TEMPLEUX, after they had been relieved. Called at 7th Field Company H.Q. on the way back. Also called at the sawmill in ST. OUEN to see what supplies of timber could be obtained. The saw-mill will only supply on authority of Forestry Control, 4th Army. The supply of R.E. stores is still difficult and at present there is no dump from which we can draw.</p> <p>Notification received from S.M.T.O. Australian Corps saying that the box car on issue to C.R.E. was to be returned to the M.T. Company at once. Although this car has been left at the C.R.E.'s disposal, I understand it was really contrary to instructions of G.H.Q. It is exceedingly difficult to get about and see things without some mechanical transport.</p>	
ST. OUEN	12th		<p>Yesterday and today has been overcast and misty. Moved here from BELLOY as we are able to get much better accommodation here and it is close to the three Field Companies. The box car returned to the 2nd M.T. Co. yesterday. At present these H.Q. are short of two riding horses which makes it still more difficult to get about. Riding horses have become very difficult to replace. Could dispense with two riding horses and a groom from D.E.H.Q. establishment if a car were placed on the establishment instead. Very little work at present. This place is a manufacturing centre and has a fairly large population. There are several jute factories here and in neighbouring villages. Office and billets are in Rue de la Republique.</p>	

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ST. OVEN	13th		Dull misty day. Clear moonlight night. Nothing of note. Still unable to obtain R.E. stores. Captain Steele transferred to 1st Australian Division to command a Field Company. Daily Mail today publishes Germany's reply to President Wilson's note. Germany explicitly states she is prepared to accept peace on the basis of the conditions set out in President Wilson's statements and is prepared to evacuate all occupied territory as a condition of the armistice. It now remains to be seen if the other allies are prepared to accept peace on the basis of President Wilson's statements. His proposals as regards the freedom of the seas and for the unbiassed redistribution of Colonial possessions are not likely to be acceptable to Britain. No explicit provision, as far as I recollect, is made for reparation for Belgium & France.	
	14th		Fine day. Captain Steele left to take command of a Field Company in the 1st Australian Div. Captain Bell will replace him in the 5th Field Company. Paper today reports the capture of NISH by the Serbs, thus cutting the railway communication to Germany from Bulgaria and Turkey. The French have captured LAON and have cleared the ST. GOBAIN Massif, a very difficult bulwark of the enemy defence system. Very little to do here and things are very dull.	
	15th		Dull day with light rain. Nothing much of note today. Captains Burnell and Greenlees of C.E.'s. staff called at midday to explain what arrangements were being made for the supply of R.E. stores. A moderate supply will become available shortly and a Corps dump is to be established near VILLE LE MARCLET which is only about a mile from this place. A fresh attack made in FLANDERS yesterday was pressed forward 4 or 5 miles towards COURTRAI, THOROUT and ROULERS.	
	16th		Dull overcast day. Good progress being made in Flanders between towards outflanking LILLE and OSTEND, 12,000 prisoners and 150 guns taken. President Wilson replied to the German note accepting his conditions, stating that conditions of an armistice must be settled by the Military chiefs in such a way as to secure maintenance of the present Entente military superiority, also drawing attention to the fact that one of his conditions is that the German Government must be in the hands of the German people. He also drew attention to the torpedoing of the Irish Channel Packet steamer LEINSTER and a Japanese liner just when Germany was making overtures. His reply puts the onus of securing the cessation of hostilities on Germany. Major Sanbrook, R.M.O., is under orders for transfer to the 3rd Aust. C.C.S. His successor as R.M.O. Div. Engineers is not yet appointed.	
	17th		Dull cold day. Visited 5th Brigade H.Q., VIGNACOURT in afternoon. Good progress in Flanders and penetration made past COURTRAI; MENIN, WERVICQ and THOROUT captured. Later reports say DOUAI has also been taken and OSTEND occupied by British Naval forces.	

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ST. OUEN	18th		Fine day. Field Companies submitted training programmes for week commencing 21st instant. British troops were in LILLE yesterday. Troops in MESOPOTAMIA have commenced to advance again northwards from TEKBIT towards MOSUL. In SYRIA, TRIPOLI and HOMS were occupied some days ago. In SERBIA the Serbs are pushing on northwards from NISH. Greek troops have occupied the whole of the Greek territories previously held by the Bulgars. The Italians have occupied DURAZZO. Major Sanbrook departed today to take up duties at 3rd Aust. C.C.S. Capt. DeCrespigny, 7th Field Ambulance has taken his place temporarily.	
	19th		Dull overcast day but no rain. Paid a visit to Rope making factory in this town today, where hemp and manilla ropes of all sizes are made. ROUBAIX and TURCOING were occupied yesterday without fighting and our troops are on the outskirts of BRUGES. The enemy is evidently retiring completely from the Belgian coast, and will probably hold the line of the SCHELDT, at any rate temporarily, but as this will not shorten his line much he may be in process of retiring further. It has to be remembered that so long as an army succeeds in retiring it still exists as an army and that a successful fighting retreat is one of the most difficult operations in war and indicates good discipline, organisation and morale. Constant stories of demoralisation of German troops must be regarded with reserve therefore, as they are still capable of offering stubborn and effective resistance.	
	20th		Overcast with a little light drizzling rain. Enemy are still retreating in Belgium without much fighting. Belgian troops have occupied BRUGES and reached the Dutch frontier so the coast of Belgium is now clear. President Wilson's reply to Austria's request for an armistice, published today, is not calculated to afford Austria much satisfaction as it raises new points in the recognition of the Jugo-Slavs and Czecho-slovacs as nations. R.E. stores still very short.	
	21st		Dull overcast day. Got a car today and went round to see several small jobs:- baths at BERTEAUCOURT and VIGNACOURT, Signal School at FLESSELLES and baths at TIRANCOURT. Gangs of deserters, chiefly Australians, have been causing trouble in several places in the district and have committed several crimes. All the woods have assumed strong Autumn tints and the trees are beginning to lose their leaves.	
	22nd		Reports received from the three field companies regarding what they are doing in the Education scheme. 6th and 7th Companies have had classes going for over a week in a number of subjects and are taking much trouble and interest to further the object. The 5th Company have done nothing so far and only propose to start soon. Dull overcast day. Arrangements being made to get huts erected as recreation rooms for 5th and 7th Field Companies: 6th Company already have a hall in BETTENCOURT. Germany's reply to President Wilson published today does not take us much further. Chief concession made is that submarines have been instructed	

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ST. OUEN	22nd		not to torpedo passenger ships. Troops have reached VÉDIN on the Danube in Bulgaria. Heard an account of the operations of the Americans on our late front from Major Mathews of 22nd Battalion. He had been detailed to assist the 117th American Regiment of the 27th Div. His account of their operations shows that they have very little idea of how to do anything; their staff arrangements are practically nil. Their organisation is poor and their training and knowledge is very wanting. Their losses are large through sheer ignorance of their officers and incompetence of their staffs also lack of enterprise and knowledge in attack.	1
	23rd		Fine day. Nothing of note to record. Meeting of C.R.Es. to be held at LONG, Cat Aust. D.H.Q., tomorrow to discuss promotions to numerous vacancies caused by the return of 1914 personnel to Australia.	
	24th		Fine day. Attended meeting at LONG of C.R.Es., presided over by C.E. A large number of vacancies for Field Coy. commanders and for Captains were discussed and arranged for recommendations of officers to fill them. This is the first occasion that a "round-table" conference of C.R.Es. under the presidency of the C.E. has been held to discuss proposed promotions. It is a very sound thing that such conferences should be held although the C.E. has no executive power in the matter as all recommendations go direct from Divisions to the D.A.G., A.F.F. without being passed through the hands of the C.E. In my opinion the C.E. should be the final authority as to the suitable technical suitability or otherwise of officers to fill vacancies. C.E. informed us that C.E. 4th Army desired to make a formal inspection of Field Companies of all Australian Divisions. This inspection for the 1st and 2nd Divisions will probably take place on Friday November 1st. 3rd and 4th Armies made an attack between VALENCIENNES and LE CATELET yesterday and advanced about three miles east of SOLESMES. Not much further move in Belgium and GHENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED yet. Our troops are on the western outskirts of VALENCIENNES. Mr. Balfour made a public declaration that Germany's colonies would not be returned.	
	25th		Foggy and cold. Inspected billets and stables of 6th Field Company and looked for a suitable parade ground for the inspection by C.E. 4th Army. President Wilson's reply to Germany's last message, published today, states that the Entente Powers do not and cannot trust the word of the people who have hitherto ruled Germany. He is prepared to consider an armistice with a democratised German Government on terms which will render it impossible for Germany to resume the war, and enable the Entente to enforce the arrangements made at the Peace conference, but that he will not deal with the monarchical autocracy of military masters of Germany except in terms of surrender. The attack east of Solesmes resulted in the capture of 7,000 prisoners and 100 guns and the front line carried from the western edge of the Forest of Mormal.	

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ST. OUEN	26th		Dull overcast day. Inspected 7th Field Company billets and stables with Major Webb. Animals are all under cover and comfortable. Mens' billets are fairly good. Received notification that the D.S.O. had been awarded to Major Webb and Captain Noedl of the 7th Field Company. The M.C. to Lieut. Veale, Capt. Steele and Lieut. Williamson.	
	27th		Dull, cold and foggy day. Nothing of note to record. Attacks have commenced on the Italian front and over 2,000 prisoners have been taken but it is not possible to judge from newspaper reports whether this was the result of a successful minor operation or an incompletely successful major operation. There are many rumours current indicating dissension and disturbances in Austria, but it is difficult to say if they are really important though represented as such in our press. It is already difficult and becoming more so to see what is going to be the limit of "liberations" and "self determinations" to be effected by the treaty of peace when it comes. The introduction of the Czecho-Slovak and Jugo-Slav clauses by President Wilson has complicated matters. Nothing to do here and it is very dull.	
	28th		Fine day. Inspected billets of 5th Field Company at BETTENCOURT, which were fairly good but did not show such signs of trouble being taken to improve them as is the case in the other Companies. News received yesterday that British forces had occupied ALLEPPO without opposition. The railway junction at Muslimie will probably be occupied almost immediately. In Mesopotamia troops are advancing towards MOSUL along the Tigris. The attack on the Italian front is still continuing but so far has not made a great deal of progress. Reports current amongst the French population that Austria has surrendered unconditionally. This news was posted up in French in Abbeville; no official news to date.	
	29th		Fine day. News received that Austria has accepted the whole of President Wilson's terms and expresses willingness to make a separate peace irrespective of any other negotiations. In the meantime the Italian offensive is developing somewhat and 9,000 prisoners and 50 guns are reported to have been captured. Any armistice terms would have to necessarily include safeguards that will ensure the carrying of peace terms into effect, but it does not yet state it be complete military surrender such as that of Bulgaria.	
	30th		Fine day. Not much progress has been made on this front just lately although the weather has been unusually favourable for this time of the year. On the Italian front the battle is still progressing and a fairly considerable advance has been made on one portion of the front to a depth of about 16 miles. In the meantime Austria is suing for peace and the component states of Austria are all proclaiming their independence and there promises to be a pretty hopeless state of chaos there very shortly if everybody's claim for independence is to be considered.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. OVEN	30th		The Austrian army is still intact and seems to be fighting fairly well. The British have advanced well beyond ALEPPO in Syria and have occupied MOSULIE on the Baghdad Railway. Field Companies have not so far done very much serious concerted training but are doing a good deal of educational work and recreational training in the shape of football. There is still a good deal of work to be done in the way of small jobs, fixing up billets, bunking, stabling and the like. The influenza epidemic is extremely severe at present and seems to be world-wide. Fortunately up to the present it is not very severe among the troops in this area.	MUSLIMIE
	31st		Overcast damp day. Held a meeting of Field Company Commanders to settle points regarding tomorrow's procedure for the inspection by C.E. 4th Army. Have arranged for the use of the 7th Field Ambulance Football ground, on the high ground just outside the town, for the inspection. 7th Field Company are to mark out the ground tomorrow morning. Companies have not had much opportunity for Company drill and combined training. Decided to have an inter-Company driving competition in three classes :- G.S. Limbers, Tool-carts and Pontoon wagons. Brig. Genl. Robertson, acting G.O.C., called this morning to enquire what arrangements had been made for tomorrow's inspection, and also spoke about the old subject of slackness in saluting. Heard that the 1st and 4th Divisions were ordered to go into the line again recently but that order was rescinded. The offensive on the Italian front has developed well; at one point progress in advance of about 16 miles is reported. There seems therefore a chance of this attack developing into a serious reverse for the Austrians. In the meantime nothing further has been heard regarding Austria's appeal for an armistice. Turkey has so far made no move towards capitulation. Our troops in Mesopotamia are still advancing towards MOSUL.	

Lt. Colonel,

C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

Confidential.

WAR DIARY R.M.O. 2nd Aust. Div. Engrs.

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.

October 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOINGT			<p>Field Companies in the beginning of October left the forward area and proceeded in stages, the last stage from ROISEL to VIGNACOURT and thence to billets in BETTINCOURT and ST. OUEEN, the 5th and 6th Companies in the former place and the 7th Field Company in the latter. An Aid Post was established at BETTINCOURT. Medical equipment was lent to the Div. Signal Company orderlies at BELLOY-sur-SOMME for sick parades held there. On the 12th D.E.H.Q. moved from BELLOY to ST. OUEEN and R.M.O. (Major SANBROOK) took up his residence at ST. OUEEN instead of BETTINCOURT. Sick parades for the 7th Field Company was held daily at 08.45 and 5th and 6th Field Companies at 10.00. On the night of the 15th instant orders came for Major Sanbrook to be transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Owing to being out on an urgent case that night Major Sanbrook did not receive notice of this transfer until the morning of the 16th instant. Captain DeCRESPIGNY reported to take over. He was shown the routine of work and medical equipment was handed over to him as well as medical papers and books, confidential papers and water testing apparatus. On the 18th instant Major Sanbrook left at 2 p.m. to proceed to 3rd Aust. C.C.S. A Regimental hospital was established at BETTINCOURT and during the month there were not more than nine cases of Influenza in this hospital at one time. With the exception of one case of Broncho-Pneumonia there were no Pulmonary complications occurring in any case of influenza. Sanitation was in all cases satisfactory. With the exception of the few cases of influenza that occurred, the health of the troops has been quite good.</p>	
			<p><i>F. B. de Crespieny</i> R.M.O. 2nd Australian Divisional Engineers. Captain, A.A.M.C.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

APPENDIX

Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,
Second Australian Division.
FOR

OCTOBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	D.E.Order No. 60 Relief by 30th American Division. (in original only)

W.D.

Appendix 1

SECRET. No. 7
D.E.H.Q., 5th Oct. 1918.

Divisional Engineer Order No. 80.

Reference Maps - 62D N.W. & 62C N.E. - 1/20,000.



The 2nd Aust. Division (less Artillery) will be relieved in line on night 5th/6th October by 50th American Division (less Artillery). On relief 2nd Aust. Division will be concentrated in the HARVILLY area, prior to entrainment for the YZEUX area.

Companies of 105 Regt. U.S. Engineers will take over engineering works in the Divisional area from Field Companies of the Second Australian Division, under mutual arrangements to be made between Os.C. concerned.

On relief, Field Coys. will move to new area with their respective Brigade groups. Completion of relief and locations on arrival in new area will be wired to D.E.H.Q.

W.D. Lt. & Adjt.
Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. G. 2nd Aust. Div.
2. " " "
3. C.E. Aust. Corps.
- 4-6. Field Coys.
7. War diary. ✓
8. File.

APPENDIX

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