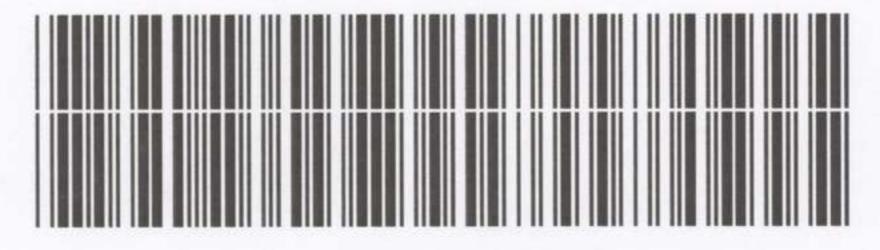
AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/8/28

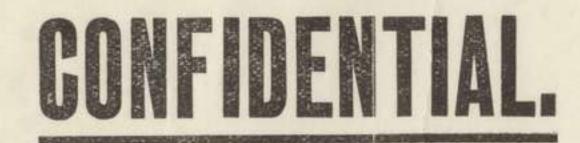
Title: Headquarters 2nd Australian Divisional Engineers

January 1919



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2ND. AU STRAL& DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS HAEDQUARTERS

FOR

JANUARY 1919

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Signature of Officer compiling

m/c

Signature of Officer Commanding Mullalette

Lieut.Colonel

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1006729 CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

SHEFT (1) HEADQUARTERS SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEER'S 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

JANUARY 1919

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. (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THY-LE- CHATEAU BELGIUM	15th. 16th. 17th.		C.R.F. arrives back from 35 days leave (part of 75 days 1914 leave). Pound that Major RFID was the only Field Coy. Commander remaining, Major WEBB had in spite of my recommendation to the contrary been taken for duty with the Demobilisation Dept. Major EARRIS had gone on 14 days leave almost immediately after I went ************************************	
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WAR DIARY

SHEET 2

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

SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HY-LE- HATEAU ELGIUM	19th.	- 5 5	Rode to HAM-sur-HEURE where Corps Headquarters is located to see C.E.(Col.Martyn) but everybody out. Weather unsettled. Had frost this morning and bright sunny day. Rode to NALINNES to attend lecture on Demobilisation and Education, but found on arrival that it had been postponed till the following morning. Lt. Gillespie our Education Officer was taken by the Demobilisation & Rapatriation Dept for duty during my absence on leave and T/sgt. Hadden is acting in his place and awaiting appointment to commission in Education Service. The Demobilisation Dept. have now taken a large number of 2nd. Divisionap Engineers Officers Major Webb, Capt Bell, Lts. Williamson Gillespie, Thorpe.	
	21st.		The Companies each have a weekly dance in a hall in the village, the local womenfolk supplying the necessary feminine element; mencivilians not admitted except on special invitation. Freezing hard clear day. Went for trip to NAMUR with Lt. Christian, via the MEUSE VALLEY. Orders received that Capt. Polson a/O.C. tth. Field Company to proceed to LONDON for duty with Demobilisation Depart. This constant withdrawal of officers is leaving Companies very shorteand throwing responsibility of equipment on to junior and inexperienced efficers during	3
	22nd	•	Fine freezing day. Nothing of note. Lieut. Gray saw me regarding taking over responsibility for equipment of 5th. Field Company and protested at being required to do it. Told him it could not be avoided. Went to 7th. Field Company's Football Clubs dance in evening.	.A 3
	23rd		Snowing a little in morning, cleared up later. Went to D.H.Q. to see about arrangements for repatriation draft to get into CHARLEROI. There is a railway available but no attempt had been made to provide transportably this means. Capt. Polson 5th. Field Company left for London this morning.	7
	24th		Draft of 50 men under Lt. Carlton & 2Lt. Smith left today for repatriation. Went on 3 pontoon wagons as no other transport was available. Inspected 7th. Field Coy's billets and stable this afternoon. Horses very dispersed in isolated stables and so impossible for constant guard to be kept on all. Visiting piquet used. Numerous cases of straling have been reported elsewhereand special care has to be taken to	
	29th	•	guard against it. Cold weather and some snow during the last few days. Still have had no instructions regarding disposal of equipment and animals. Am very anxious to get rid of both as soon as possible. The position as regards officers id likely to become difficult. a number have been	
			taken for various duties; a large number of those remaining have applied for properties along the property of repatriated. The necessary the percentage along the property of the percentage of	
	1		D. D. & B., London, L. C. (20340) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SHEET 3

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

(Erase heading not required.) Remarks and Summary of Events and Information references to Hour Date Place Appendices and guard against too early depletion of officers by releasing them for non- military employment 29th. THY-LE-Have adopted as a policy that I will not recommend Commanding Officers for release until CHATEAU Cont. their company mobilisation equipment has been disposed of and that applicants for non- military BELGIUM employment will not be recommended if they are low down on the repatriation roll until such time as it can be seen that their services can be safely dispensed with in the near future. Allotment for Div. Engineers for next draft to leave about Feb. 3rd. is 2 officers 3Sgts. 100 o/rs. Have suballoted 40 to 6th. 50 to 5th. and 1 to 7th. and 2to H.Q. based on date of embarkation. Next officers on roll on same basis are Lieuts Hill& Renshaw (Capt. Fewtrell. being returned from leave has taken over command of 6th. Field Coy) Lieut. Harris Adjt. who embarked about one month later than Renshaw has appaaled against Renshaw being allowed to go before him on the ground, that as a married man with children he should be given priority. Cap . Fewtrell saw mw today and protested against being held back from repatriation on account of being in command of a Company and so held responsible for mobilisation equipment. He argues that as Major Harris had been allowed to get free and pass on responsibility to him he should be allowed to do likewise, Told him that he could appeal if he wished but that I could not recommend his release. Received memo todat from D.H.Q. asking if I approved of Major Reid being granted 4 months non-military employment in U.K.. In accordance with the policy. I have adopted regarding Commanding Officers, replied that I could not recommend it until the Company equipment had been disposed of. Dull weather. Visited Universite-du-Travail inCHARLEROI in company with G.O.C. & Brigadiers 30th. of 5th. & 6th. Brigades. Large number of Technical classes for members of A.I.F. being conducted; Lt. Lawrie of 7th. Field Company is in charge of organisation and has a Section of Sappers with him . Latest regarding disposal of equipment is that Units must deliver to Ordnance Park at Base in CALAIS. This will entail further delay. The simplest plan would be to hand over to D.A.D.O.S. Animals are still on charge . LOCALLY& The retention of equipment and animals necessitates holding back some drivers who are due for repatriation alsoC.Q.M.S.Farrier Sgts. &c. Some of the 5th. & 6th. who are being witheld were paraded before me and protested. Capt. Fewtrell has also put inan appealagainst being held for duty. All leave for U.K. stopped yesterday, menon leave granted extension owing to interruption of transport arrangements. Believe cause is that trouble has occurred with British Troops at CALAIS & employed on railways. D. D. & L., Lendon, L C. [10340] Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2888 Forms/C2118/16

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

SHEET 4

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

SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.) will be prepared in manuscript. Remarks and Summary of Events and Information Place Date Hour references to Appendices THY-LE-31st Dull weather. Three lorries have been arranged for to take to take draft into CHARLEROI CHATEAU on Feb. 2nd. . Peace Conference Sitting in VERSAILLES. German Colonies question at present under discussion and causing considerable differencesof opinion to be evident. President Wilson is pressing for a system of ** internationalisation. Great Britain has after hesitation agreed but Australia, Japan and S. Africa are strongly againstit. Nothing of note today. C.R.F. Second Australian Division.

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