

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

Water Supply & Stores

Item number: 21/1/8

Title: Australian Corps Water Supply
Officer

September 1918



AWM4-21/1/8

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ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

WATER SUPPLY
CHIEF ENGINEER AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

FOR
August and September 1918.

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. W. Lawson

Major. W.S.O.

for Chief Engineer. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Signature of Officer Commanding

CH F. O. S.

Brig-General.

Chief Engineer. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
August & September 1918.			<p>The water supply operation during the months of August and September require more than passing notice. When it was decided to start the offensive careful consideration was given to the methods to be adopted. The first necessity was to provide initial water points for the commencement of the advance.- With this object in view the Corps Water Supply Officer undertook to have water brought to VILLERS BRETTONEUX or as near as possible - Schemes as set out in A and B were submitted and approved .</p> <p>(A) To pump water from a spring near Fort Manor Farm to a point on the VILLERS BRETTONEUX Road - and establish a large waterpoint alongside the main road clear of traffic.</p> <p>(B) To put into use the old French pumping plant at DAOURS, repair the main and construct waterpoints at VILLERS BRETTONEUX and on the FOUILLOY-VILLERS BRETTONEUX Road.</p> <p>The proposal (A) was completed on the 8th of August and was available for use on that date. (B) FOUILLOY-VILLERS BRETTONEUX point was ready on 10th August, but owing to trouble with pumps at DAOURS water was not available at Villers-BRETTONEUX until later.</p> <p>The initial water points opened answered all requirements.</p> <p>In addition, four Sterilising lorries, twelve motor tank lorries were obtained from Fourth Army and attached to Divisions. sixteen G.S. wagons were obtained and fitted with one 200 gallon and one 100 gallon tanks. These wagons were distributed to Divisions by "Q" Branch. This arrangement has since been altered and the whole of the sterilising lorries, motor tank lorries and G.S.Wagons were placed under the Water Supply Officer acting on behalf of the Chief Engineer.</p> <p>All information available in regard to old waterpoints,bores,wells ,etc, was collected and issued to C.R.E.s Divisions and a policy now crystalised in Instruction (copy attached) was decided upon. Divisions were supplied with windlasses complete with ropes and buckets in quantities sufficient for immediate requirements and a reserve stock held at Corps Dumps which could be drawn on as required. Hand CHAINE HELICE pumps as available were also held at call of Divisions. Fourth Army were also asked to hold as many power CHAINE HELICE and Band pumps, Guy & Mittal and Pelaphone pumping sets as possible at disposal of Corps. It is pleasing to note that our requirements in this respect have been fully met.</p> <p>Since the 1st August to the end of September the following pumping stations have been erected by this Corps (See appendix A)</p> <p>This gives some indication of the amount of work done - In addition a supply was given to Canadian Corps who established a large water point near GENTELLES WOOD.</p> <p>On the pipe line from FORT MANOR FARM the pipe laying was done at the rate of 1.12 miles per day and the work done by 238 AT Coy RE was very satisfactory.The 1st A.T.Coy.AE had the very difficult task of putting the DAOURS-VILLERS BRETTONEUX line in order and shewed great perseverance and initiative in bringing this work to a satisfactory conclusion.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
September	1st - 30th		<p>As the advance continued fresh sources of supply were opened up in the undermentioned order :-</p> <p><u>Ia Chapellette.</u> Old waterpoint and well found - Guy & Mittal pumping set installed - One 2300 gallon storage tank, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler and 30 feet of horse trough erected.</p> <p><u>Doingt.</u> Old Bore found in good order. - Lister Roter set installed. 3000 gallon storage tanks, two standpipes, bottle & dixie filler and 50 feet of horse trough erected.</p> <p><u>Cartigny.</u> Old Bore found - Guy & Mittal pumping set erected, a 2300 gallon storage tank, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler and 30 feet of horse trough erected.</p> <p><u>Tincourt.</u> Spring, formerly used, found running freely - Aster Worthington set 2700 g.p.h. installed but found insufficient for requirements (removed from VADENCOURT) 5000 g.p.h. put in. Storage tanks rebuilt, total capacity 24000 gallons, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler, and 260 feet of horse troughing erected.</p> <p><u>Marquaix.</u> Old pumping station found but plant beyond repair and a new Day-Hayward Tyler set installed. One 8000 gallon tank, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler, and 50 feet of horse troughing erected.</p> <p><u>Roisel.</u> Bore at 62c/K.22.a.5.9. found complete with air pipe. Two 8000 gallon tanks, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler and 150 feet of horse troughing were erected.</p> <p><u>Roisel Brickfields.</u> Bore at 62c/K.11.c.2.4. Two 8000 gallon tanks, two standpipes, bottle and dixie filler and 36 feet of horse troughing erected. Three hundred yards of 4" main laid.</p> <p><u>Templeux-le-Geurard.</u> Bore in quarry found also dugout for pumping plant. A stationary air compressing set erected. One 8000 gallon storage tank, three standpipes, bottle and dixie filler and 144 feet of horse troughing erected. Old 4" main used after being repaired. This work was done under very heavy shell fire.</p> <p><u>Templeux-le-Geurard.</u> A Hand Chaine Helice pump was erected alongside main road and used as a horse watering point.</p> <p><u>Bellicourt. St Quentin Canal.</u> Two days after the capture of Bellicourt a Lister Roter set was installed alongside canal near entrance to Tunnel, this plant was not up to the work so it was removed and an Aster Belger set, capable of delivering 5000 g.p.h. installed. Two 8000 gall tanks erected, two sterilising lorries sent forward to deal with water for drinking.</p>	<p>an Aster Boring set</p>

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or

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			<p>144 feet of horse troughing erected.</p> <p>These waterpoints were taken to their utmost owing to the arrival in the area of the Cavalry Corps, but the provisions made served to supply needs although at times there was some congestion at the various waterpoints.</p> <p>Water was delivered forward by means of water tank lorries and during the advance forward of Peronne seventeen lorries were employed on this work.</p> <p>Divisions were supplied with windlasses and buckets as asked for - provision being made to keep a stock at the R.E.Dump. - The iron type of windlass, made at Corps Workshops, proved satisfactory and stood the rough usage of troops.</p> <p>The provision made during the advance proved up to requirements but it was naturally not up to what troops had been accustomed to during the period of trench warfare, and it was found that considerable difficulty was caused through the lack of watering discipline amongst the various units. Parties were allowed to water without supervision of an Officer and the result was that congestion occurred. This was not necessary and the discipline shown by the Cavalry Corps was in marked contrast. In these units watering was always done under supervision of an Officer and it is pleasing to be able to report that the discipline at waterpoints was very high indeed - No complaints were received from Cavalry Corps in regard to watering facilities.</p> <p>During the month certain adjustments of boundaries took place between adjoining Corps particulars of which have already been supplied in handing over reports - to 9th and 13th Corps.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>J. W. Lawson</i> Major A.E. W.S.O. Australian Corps. </p>	

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WATER SUPPLY POLICY.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The Water Supply within the area under the control of this Corps is to be divided into two schemes :

1. Work immediately following an advance.
2. Permanent work when troops have settled in the recaptured territory.

ADVANCED WORK.

The work to be done under this heading covers the provision of water for troops & in the forward areas where it is not advisable to push forward water carts, or establish large water points.

This work naturally falls to the Division in the Line and should be done by the C.R.E. No excessive expenditure of labour or material should be allowed, and the main thing to be kept in view is the most expeditious manner of providing water for immediate requirements. In practice this has been found to be of clearing out existing wells, and erecting windlasses and buckets where necessary. A supply of these can always be obtained from the Corps Water Supply Officer and a stock is available to supply requisitions from Divisions.

It is worth noting, that there is sometimes a tendency to undertake too many wells in each village. In most instances one well will furnish the necessary supply, and work should be concentrated upon one point. C.R.E.'s Divisions should at once inform this Office in each instance of what work they are undertaking, and it must be distinctly understood that no work in connection with water supply other than the forward area work as outlined above is to be taken without instructions from Chief Engineer, and materials will not be supplied for unauthorised works. If suitable wells are available and the situation is such as to warrant it, Chainé Helice or Band pumps will be supplied to Divisions, but only after approval, as these pumps are much in demand and the supply is limited.

Where wells are not found, it may be necessary to sink for water, in which case care should be exercised in the selection of site in order to reduce labour.

PERMANENT WORK.

If possible one A.T.Coy.R.E. will be detailed for continuous work on Corps Water Supply. It will be its duty to undertake the construction of all water supply works other than those forming advanced work. This Company will carry sufficient material to enable minor works to be carried out and necessary repairs effected. All details such as storage tanks, cart and lorry fillers, and horse troughs, will be standardised and where possible held in stock at Corps Workshops for delivery as required. Pumping plants will be obtained from Army by C.E. Corps, and each will be suitable for work to be done; where the importance of the water point justifies it, the pumping plant should be duplicate.

In designing permanent water points the main considerations should be :

- (a). Supplies for troops in the vicinity.
- (b). Supply for horses within a radius of one mile from water point.
- (c). Supply by water carts or lorries to places where supply is insufficient.
- (d). Supply to Railways and Light Railways where practicable without separate pumping plants.

(2).

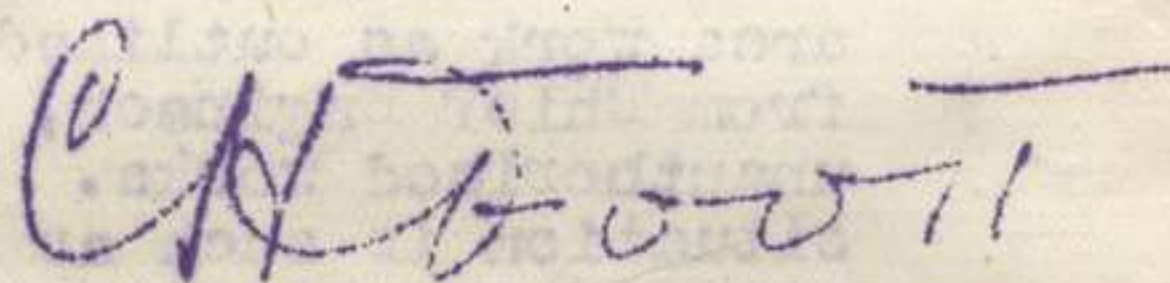
In the selection of a site for a main water point, it is most essential that horses going to water should not use a main road or if possible cross same. The site should be accessible by minor roads and as near the horse lines as means of supply will allow.

Pipe lines should be short and as direct as possible. Supply or storage tanks should be at such an elevation that carts, troughs, etc., will fill by gravitation; and whenever it can be done two days supply should be the minimum storage provided. Horse troughs should be of a standard pattern and care taken to leave standings well consolidated and drained. Where bricks are at hand they can be used for the construction of standings, where bricks are not available chalk with metal topping can be used. Individual water troughs should never exceed 100 lineal feet of troughing as otherwise there is too much congestion of traffic. Lorry and cart filling points should be kept clear of main traffic routes and in every case standings should be distinct from the roadway; easy approaches are very essential.

In many cases it has been found that good wells are available at sugar Factories and large farms, and in these cases all that is required is the construction of a pump chamber, where such is not already in existence.

Where the demand is likely to be large every facility should be provided to supply water quickly to prevent traffic becoming congested.

In all instances the work to be done will be supervised by the Corps Water Supply Officer, who will transmit any instructions.



Brigadier-General.
Chief Engineer. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

No.	Name.	sheet.	Location.	Type of Pumps.	No of points supplied.			
					Stand Pipe.	Bottle & Dixie.	Storage	Horse Troughs
1	Aerodrome.	62d	P.25.d.9.1.	Compressor lorry & Pelaphone set.	2	1	3200	72'
2	Dacours.	62d	N.12.b.9.5.	French Plant.	2	1	32000	72'
3	Bayonvillers.	62d	W.2.a.9.8.	Japy engine Chaine Helice Pump.	1	1	1600	
4	Harbonnieres.	62d	W.11.d.0.1.	Japy engine.	2	1	600	
5	Fort Manor Farm.	62d	S.6.b.8.9.	2 Aster Boving Sets.	5	3	16000	72'
6	Rivery.	62d	M.3.c.5.1.	Lister Rotar set.	3	1	16000	72'
7	Cerisy.	62d	Q.8.a.7.9.	Blackstone - D & O pump.	1	1	16000	
8	Iamotte.	62d	P.30.c.6.7.	Tangye D & Q pump.	2	1	16000	108'
9	La Flaque.	62d	R.26.d.9.1.	German engine and deep well pump.	2	1	2000	144'
10	Rainecourt.	62d	R.34.c.5.4.	Filter engine French pump.	1	1		36'
11	Corbie.	62d	I.24.d.4.5.	French pump Gardner engine.	1	1	400	
12	Corbie.	62d	O.5.b.8.1.	Guy & Mittal.	1	1	400	
13	Bray.	62d	L.21.a.8.8.	Guy & Mittal.	2	1	2300	
14	Froisy.	62d	L.34.d.3.2.	Merryweather.	Supply to Light Railway.			
15	Foucucourt.	62d	R.30.c.2.3.	Blackstone, Isler pump.	2	1	2300	36'
16	La Chapellette	62c	O.3.d.3.1.	Guy & Mittal.	2	1	2300	36'
17	Estrees.	62c	M.30.d.3.3.	Japy engine & Band Pump.	1	1	800	36'
18	Brie.	62c	unfinished.		Handed over to 9th Corps to complete			
19	Mons-en-Chausee.	62c	P.26.d.1.3.	Tangye engine Isler pump.	2		1600	36'
20	Tincourt.	62c	J.24.a.3.8.	Aster Worthington.	2	1	12000	260'
21	Doingt.	62c	I.36.a.5.6.	Lister Rotar set.	2	1	2300	36'
22	Yakko Dump.	62d	L.22.a.7.2.	No.1. Merryweather.	-		2300	
23	Le Mesnil.	62c	O.17.b.5.3.	Filter.	1	1	1000	36'
24	Marquaix.	62c	K.15.c.4.6.	Aster Boving.	2	1	2300	100'
25	Bouvincourt.	62c	P.18.a.3.6.	Petter engine, Isler pump.	3	2	3000	72'
26	Barleux.	62c	N.18.a.5.4.	Guy & Mittal.	1	1	2300	72'
27	La Catelet.	62c	P.8.b.9.6.	Blackstone - D & O pump.	2	1	6000	36'
28	Cartigny.	62c	P.3.b.2.9.	Pelaphone set.	2	1	2300	36'
29	Corps H.Q.	62c	N.15.d.5.4.	Filter set.	-	3	2300	36'
30	Hancourt.	62c	Q.14.d.0.7.	Day Hayward Tyler (Steam plant)	4	3	8000	200'

J. W. Lawson
May 11.50
21.9.18