

**AWM4**

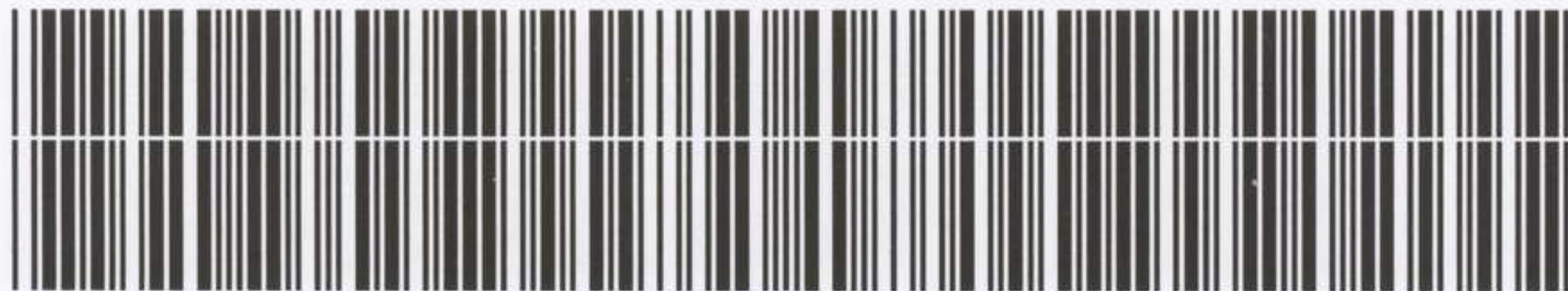
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

**Engineers**

**Item number:** 14/36/24 Part 1

**Title:** 1st Field Squadron, Australian  
Engineers

**May 1918**



AWM4-14/36/24PART1



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
**DUPLICATE.**  
**TRIPPLICATE.**

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Egrs.

FOR

MAY

1918

- MAY 1918

*(N2)*  
Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. Alexander Major RE.*



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.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	MAY 1918	Hour	HEADQUARTERS 1 <sup>st</sup> F.S.E.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
155	To 105.		In addition to the foregoing Troop Work the sappers at H.Q have been doing the following work Repairs to D.H.Q. Office furniture, also about 50 notice boards in large writing in Block of White Canvas such as "Out of Bounds", "No Road" etc - A large stone trough which was too dilapidated for use was repaired and used for watering D.H.Q. Horses thereby greatly saving wear and tear on canvas troughs - The trough is situated in Bethlehem directly behind the Div. H.Q. Billet which is a large stone house called French Carmel. (French Carmelite Monastery)	The following work was carried out by 1 Officer (Cap <sup>t</sup> ALLEN) & 3 R.R. of No 1 Water area 1 <sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde. - Jerusalem - Hebron Road at spring ( $\frac{1}{250,000}$ Syria-Jerusalem K.5) approx 3 miles towards Hebron from Solomon's Pools - The cistern from which water is now being pumped showed only as a small "pot-hole". There was practically no supply - On opening it up a rock cut cistern was found, roughly circular, about 10 feet dia.; it was cleaned out to about 15ft deep - The inlet was a rock cut tunnel coming from the main head of the gully, it was traced back for about 100ft. at about 50ft from the cistern, two other tunnels joined it one from each side of the gully, all carrying water. The outlet had been a rock cut tunnel down the centre of the gully apparently carrying the overflow to some subterranean system - The whole of the tunnels referred to appear to have been made by open cut up to 20feet deep from the surface and 3ft or more into solid rock - The channel thus made was then roofed with stone leaving it about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide on an average and the earth filled in. The bottom of the outlet was only about 6 foot above the bottom of the cistern as cleared, and in	MAY 1918

## 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	May Date 1918	Hour	HEADQUARTERS Contd.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT-ED-DUMM. Sheet XVIII.113 G.13b. 1" = 1 MILE.				order to prevent soakage through the debris with which this channel was choked, it was blocked with masonry backed by rammed concrete for about 5 feet above the bottom of the cistern as cleared - The supply was then about 10,000 gallons a day. - A. HAYWARD-Tyler pumping Set was installed, sunk on the lower side of the cistern to give about twelve feet of suction, and delivering the water about eighty feet away, to two canvas tanks giving a storage capacity of about 8,000 gallons each - The actual lift of the water totalled about twenty-five feet. The pumps did approximately 3200 gallons per hour - From the canvas tanks mentioned above a 3" Syphon delivered the water to two 600 gallon canvas troughs and the washing water taps, the drinking was lead from the main delivery pipe to two 2300 gall tanks where it was chlorinated and delivered to watercarts by a stand pipe, and waterbottles through a set of small taps - It was ascertained by test in fairly cool weather, that the requirements of a brigade are: - 8 gallons per horse per day 5200 galls per day taken away as drinking water 2000 gall per day used in the washing area. The whole occupied about 7 days but was greatly hampered by having to water two mounted regiments and find most of the drinking water for a Brigade within 24 hours of its commencement. - The greatest number of skilled personnel employed (exclusive of drivers on the engine) was 1 officer and one N.C.O. and two sappers practically all the work being done by parties from the 1 <sup>st</sup> A.L.H.Bde. For the 1 <sup>st</sup> part of the month we were camped in the Jericho Area Jordan Valley with D.H.Q (Sheet XVIII.113 L. 2.). While there were bombed heavily by Enemy Aircraft no casualties. On the 10 <sup>th</sup> we were relieved by "ONE" DIVISION we lifted camp at 1500, on tracks for Talaat-ed-Dum. where we arrived at 1900. We watered from the wadi KELT. (500ft below) on the 16 <sup>th</sup> at 1800 we struck camp and trekked via Jerusalem to Bethlehem where we arrived at 0230 on the 17 <sup>th</sup> . at 1300 on the 17 <sup>th</sup> we again lifted camp the O/C + Orderly Rm Staff etc to a Billet in Bethlehem and Capt Allen and 30 other ranks going to Solomons Pools. This latter party watering from the pools.	MAY 1918
	10 <sup>th</sup>				11 12 13
	16 <sup>th</sup>				JAH.

Date

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	MAY Date 1918	Hour	HEADQUARTERS Coy <sup>rd</sup>	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31 <sup>st</sup>			<p>out of Troughs. Solomons Pools consist of 3 large Reservoirs with stout Rubble walls, internally Buttressed. Numbering the Pools from the Beersheba - Jerusalem Road, one, two and three. The 1<sup>st</sup> is . 14 Gyds x 75 yds. in area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 160ydsx 75yds in area.. The 3<sup>rd</sup> which shows the construction better there not being so much water in it. The calculated amount of water in each of the pools or Reservoirs will be given in the Appendix of Next (June) months War Diary . See Sketch of No 3 Reservoir in Appendix .</p>	

MAY 1918

J.W.  
15  
16  
17



# WAR DIARY.

OF

MAY 1918

E31/4

1<sup>ST</sup> F.S.E. ANZAC M<sup>TD</sup> DIV

FOR

MAY 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- N<sup>o</sup>1 Sketch of Solomons Pools.  
(Sheet XVII.100 G.12a.)

J.H.A.

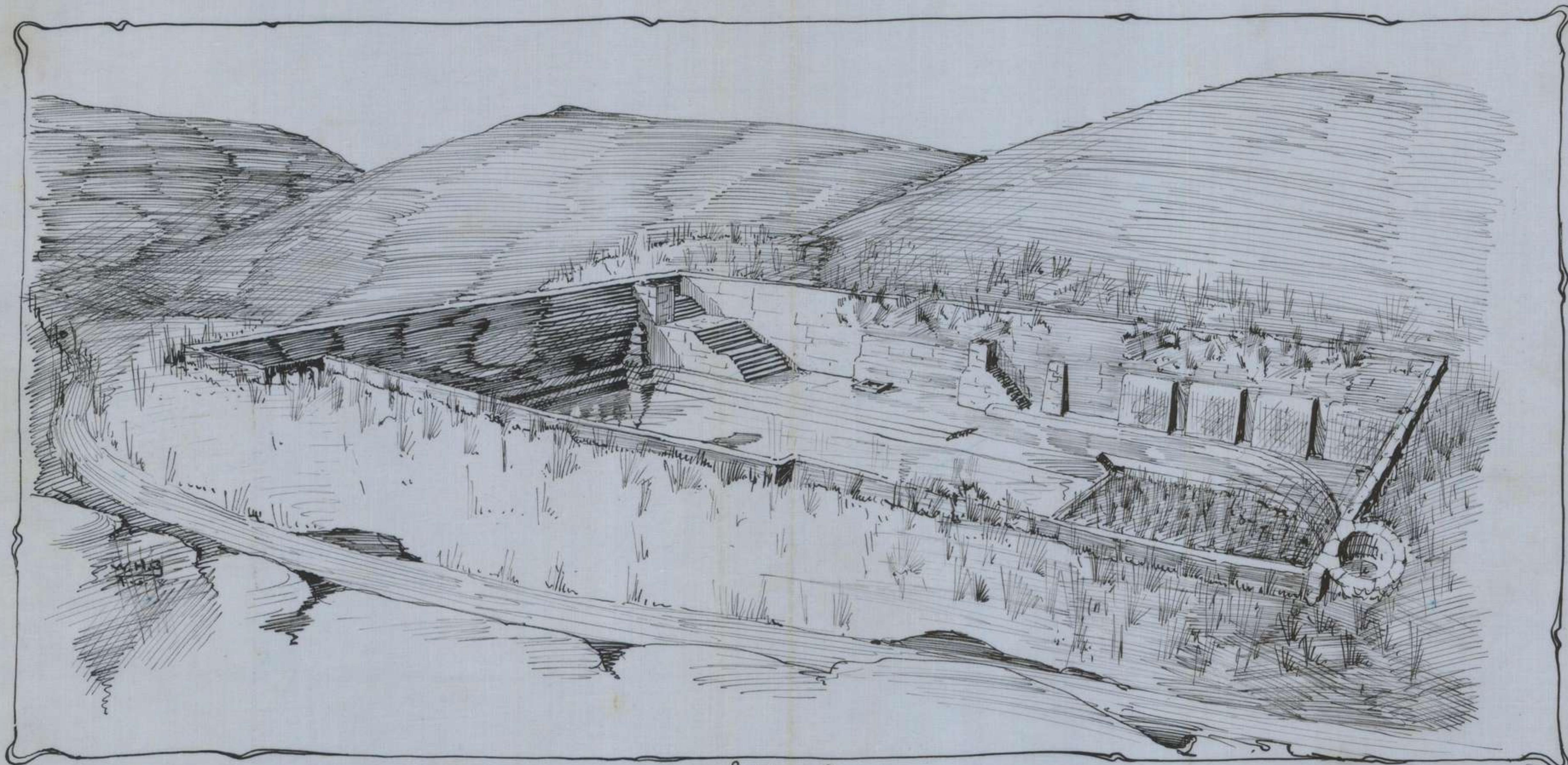
ANZAC  
15 MAY 1918

MAY 1918

15 MAY 1918

E 31/5.

MAY 1918



Sketch of a  
Reservoir - No 3. at  
Solomons - Pools.

## WAR DIARY

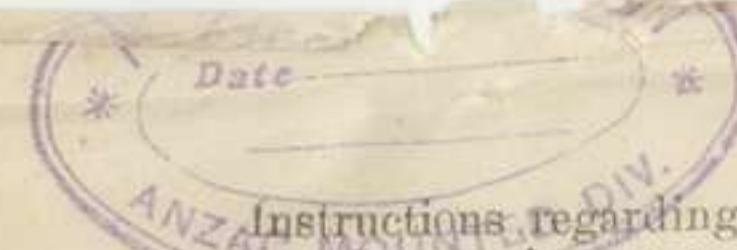
Army Form C. 2118.

Date  
1918  
ANZAC DIV.  
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	MAY 1918 Date	Hour	A Field Troop.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ES SALT Composite Map for Joribayy. AMMAN (2nd Edition) 127.Q.26.	1st. to 45	Troop with Bde at ES-SALT watered Bde at WADI SHAIB. Mereys drinking water from Spring rising in Square J32 a 50 ES-SALT MAP.. - Watered Bde from cisterns Square K.6b and K18c and 8 Cisterns on line through Squares K.13d & K.20 K.21 and K.22. Es Salt Map.			
WADI SHAIB Es Salt Map Sq. J.32 127.Q.26 central	5 75	Moved with Bde back to Jordan Valley and Bivouaced near JERICHO. Erected Trough's for horse watering on Wadi NUEIAMEH (Ref Sheet 18 Palestine) Half Troop moved out to take over responsibility of Barrel Pier Bridge and foot bridges at GHORANIYEH			
WADI NUEIAMEH Sheet XVIII 127.Q.28.	10 85	Right half of Troop with Bde supervising watering water arrangements. Repairs to Brigade Office furniture. Demolished Aerial Torpedo Bomb (Dud) Dropped by enemy on 7th Charge was used as follows 1. Slab of Guycotton Wet. 1 Primers Guycotton dry 1. N°8 detonator and 2 ft Safety fuse. Burried Bomb 4 feet and placed 2 layers of loosely filled sandbags on top and tamped it down. Effect of Explosion Bomb completely demolished, nose of bomb drove through 3 feet of Earth Danger Zone. Although the Bomb was burried 4 feet Below surface splinters were observed to travel a distance of 75 yards.			
GHORANIYEH. Sheet XVIII 127.Q.26.	95.	Demolished Second Aerial Torpedo Bomb (Dud) dropped by enemy on the morning of the 7th Charge used. 1 Slab Guycotton Wet. 1 Primers Guycotton dry 1. N°13 Electric Detonator. Electrically exploded. Burried bomb 2 feet below surface and placed 18 sandbags loosely filled. 2 Sand Bags high. Effect of Explosion. Bomb completely demolished. Danger Zone 30 yards. Conclusion arrived at between the different danger zones of both bombs ① Bomb demolished on May 8th through being tamped and burried deeper gave greater resistance, showing that explosive used in bomb follows on the same line as guycotton. ② Bomb demolished on May 9th. Not being a tamped and only 2 feet of loose soil and loosely filled sandbags placed all	MAY 1918 10 95		



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	A. FIELD Troop (contd)	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT-ED-DUMM. Sheet XVIII. 113 G. 13b	10 <sup>th</sup>			Arrived bomb gave very little resistance, the bags whereby by effects of explosion scoured to smother and break the velocity of splinters from bomb. Left half of Troop landed over Bridges at 1000 and reported back to Right half Troop with Brigade - Moved with Brigade at 1300 from JORDAN Valley to TALAT-ED-DUMM.	
WADI KETT. Watering Post's Top = 113 G. 13b Bottom = 113 G. 4a SOLOMON'S POOLS. Sheet XVIII 100G. 12a. 1" = 1 MILE.	11 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>			Inspected watering arrangements (Under supervision 35 Army Troop Coy) and found only sufficient water for one watering at top water post - Erected two Canvas Troughs and two G.S. H+F Pumps at Bottom water post - Wadi Kett, and watered at bottom water post up till the 13 <sup>th</sup> May. - Water storage made up at top water post - Watered Bde at Top water post from 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> May. Repairs to Bde Office Furniture	
BETHLEHEM. Sheet XVII 100K 35 1" = 1 MILE	16 <sup>th</sup>			With Bde at TALAT-ED-DUMM supervising watering arrangement. Moved from TALAT-ED-DUMM at 2300 on trek to Solomons Pools Bethlehem	
	17 <sup>th</sup>			Arrived at Solomons Pools at 1100. Erected water gear 4 G.S. Canvas Trough and 1 G.S. Canvas 2300gall Reservoir. Watered Bde	
	18 <sup>th</sup>			Watering Brigade - Drawing "HAYWARD-TAYLOR" Set (Internal Combustion Engine and Pumps also necessary pipe fittings and transporting same to Solomons Pools	
	19 <sup>th</sup>			Inspecting Springs in Brigade area with a view to developing under instructions from G.O.C. 1 <sup>st</sup> A.I.H. Brigade, Spring Known as No 1 watering area to be developed. Moved Hayward-Taylor set and plant from Solomons Pools to No 1 Watering Area and erected same by 1800 also one 30'x30' Canvas Sheet erected for storage reservoir 8000 gallons.	
	20 <sup>th</sup>			Moved Troop from Solomons Pools to No 2. Watering Area, situated one mile South of Brigade Area and commenced developing.	



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.

# WAR DIARY

or

# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	MAY Date 1918	Hour	A FIELD TROOP Contd.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Erected 2.- 30'x30' Canvas Sheets for Storage Reservoirs 8000 gallons each - Built up Engine and Pump Foundation in Cove		
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Erected 2. 600 gall G.S. Canvas Troughs and pumped water from Bottom of Cove with 2. G.S. lift and Force Pumps, placing pumps with 4 feet lift, and forcing water 50 ft up grade of 40°		
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Supervising watering arrangements. Took delivery of 2" Goulds Pyramid Pump(Plunger Force) Erecting Plant. Started 2000, finished 0100, commenced pumping 0500.		
	24 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>		Cleaning out channel, Supervising watering arrangements. Watering 1100 horses daily. For particulars of Developing, Tests of Yield, Test of Pump and log Table of Plant, see Tables (in Appendix.)		
					- MAY 1918 - <i>[Signature]</i>
					12 88



A.P. & S.D., Alex./<sup>3087</sup><sub>1225</sub>/3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.

E 31/9

# WAR DIARY

- MAY 1918

OF

A Troop 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Engrs

FOR

April

1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Water located during recent operations             |
| 2.  | Report of Roads travelled during recent operations |
| 3.  | Sketch Plan of " " " "                             |
| 4.  | Plan of Bridges & Tracks. - GHORANIYEH SECTOR.     |

b/w.

E31/16

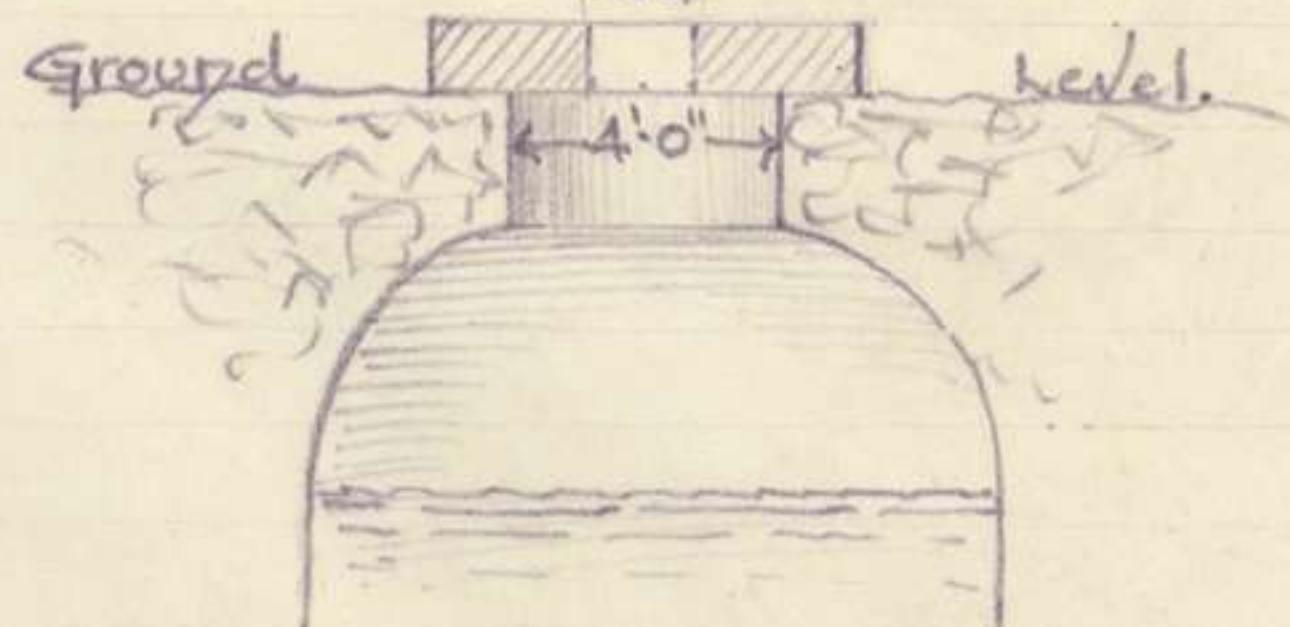
ST. FIELD S.  
TROOP 1<sup>st</sup> F.S. Engineers for April. War Diary. (Appendix No 1)

\* Date  
ANZAC MOUNTED DIV.  
Water location during recent operations. See Sketch = No 3 Appendix.

- MAY 1918

ES SALT. Wadi SHAIB, Running stream also spring, Square J.32. J.32.

Cisterns, Circular, Domed Top with mouth 4 feet dia; finished level with ground and circular stone placed on top of Cistern mouth, with square inlet opening 2 feet square.



LOCATION.	DESCRIPTION.
K.6	Cistern No 1. 12 feet dia 25 feet deep holding 2000 gallons of Water.
K.18	" No 2 14 feet dia 20 feet deep
K.24 b	" No 3 12 feet dia 26 feet deep.
K.21 b	" Nos 4 & 7. 12 feet dia 22 feet deep. No 4 1500 galls No 7 1200 galls.
K.21 a	" Nos 5 & 6. 14 feet dia 28 feet deep
K.22 c	" Nos 8 & 9. 12 feet dia 25 feet deep No 8 1200 galls, No 9 2000 galls.
K.13 c	" No 10 12 feet dia 28 feet deep holding 800 gallons
K.14 a	" No 11 30 feet dia 20 feet deep. 800 gallons.
NOTE.	No 4 Cistern emptied during operation

J.H.

E 31/11

A. Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F. S. Engrs for April. War Diary (Appendix No 2).



Report on Roads travelled during recent operations.  
(See Sketch No 3 Appen.)

No 7 Road Starting  
No 7 C 30 b 25

- MAY 1918

No 1 Section.

Squares. C 30 b 25, D. 19. C. 50. D 20 d. D 21 c 75. to D 22 d.  
Very steep, stony hills fit for Cavalry single file, very disorganized leading horses, Camels lightly loaded can pass over this section - Would require a tremendous amount of work to improve and would have to be blasted out practically the whole way, owing to the deep strata of surface rock.

Suggest best approach to No 7 Road would be, by way of Wadi south of No 7 Road starting point at Square F. 17 d 50 joining up Wadi at Sq D 31 c and junctionizing H 07 Road at Sq D 21 c. This would give an easy grade until D 21 c was reached. When contours of hills are favourable for a zig-zag course to top of Hill's Square D 22 d. - This track at present is only suitable for cavalry in single file mounted until arriving at junction of H 07 Road D 21 c. - A road suitable for wheeled traffic could be made either by following the Wadi Bed or making a side cut. Wadi banks very steep generally, quickest method of making side cut, put down chain of jumpers holes and blast out, followed up by trimmers, formers and dressers ample good quality metal for forming road on the site, and good small gravel in wadi for top dressing.

From Square D 22 d to K. 19 b, this section follows wadi the whole way with an easy grade, cavalry single file mounted, and could be formed into a good road suitable for wheeled traffic with difficulties and very little blasting, ample good quality metal in hills and Wadi bed.

From K 19 b to K 20 a. This section is a steep rough stony strata but could be overcome by diverting following up to head of way then taking a zig-zag course through Square K 19 b central and K 13 d 75 this would give easy grade and very little forming required ample metal, good quality in hills and Wadi bed.

From K 20 a to K 21 b. This section runs through a cultivated flat and only requires forming and metalling. It would be necessary to either quarry metal from the hills or transport metal from Wadies close by for this section of which there is ample within a mile radius from any point.

From K 21 b to K 16 b. This section could be cut out and a new road made from K 21 b to K 21 a. They follow Wadi to K 16 b they upto J 31 central this road could be formed with very little trouble suitable for wheeled traffic.

J.H.

- MAY 1918

E31/12

A Troop. 1<sup>st</sup> F.S.E. for April. (Continued) War Diary (Appy. N° 2.)  
Report of Roads travelled during recent operations.

See Sketch N° 3 Appy.

N° 6 Section.



From J.31. central to join up N° 5 Road at Es Salt requires a tremendous amount of work, most of which would require blasting, advise branching off at Square J.31c central through J.31a central J.25d, c J.25a to J.25b this route would give easy grade and very little formation, ample good quality metal in this section, only requires breaking.

Very little known from personal observation. Reports by outposts and patrols, speak favourable, only requires metallizing, ample material throughout route. All other tracks shown are only fit for pack transport and not worthy considering owing to the roughness and steepness of the hills.

LABOUR REQUIRED.

N° 1 Section.

300 men continuous working 72 hours.

N° 2 Section.

200 " " " 48 "

N° 3 Section.

50 " " " 72 "

N° 4 Section.

100 " " " 24 "

N° 5 Section.

300 " " " 72 "

N° 6 Section.

300 " " " 72 "

or 80 men continuous working for 15 days (360 hours).

At present none of these roads are suitable for wheeled traffic, only pack transport or mules lightly loaded say 160 lbs

~~approx~~

J.H.

(Appy 3)

E 31/13

E 31/13

Sketch COUNTRY TRAVELED THROUGH  
DURING RECENT OPERATIONS.  
Ref Composite Map of JORDAN  
ES SALT (2nd EDITION)  
SCALE 1: 63360.

Cultivation.  
(APPROX.)

D

CAIRNE HILL



F

P

W.H.G.

U

M

N

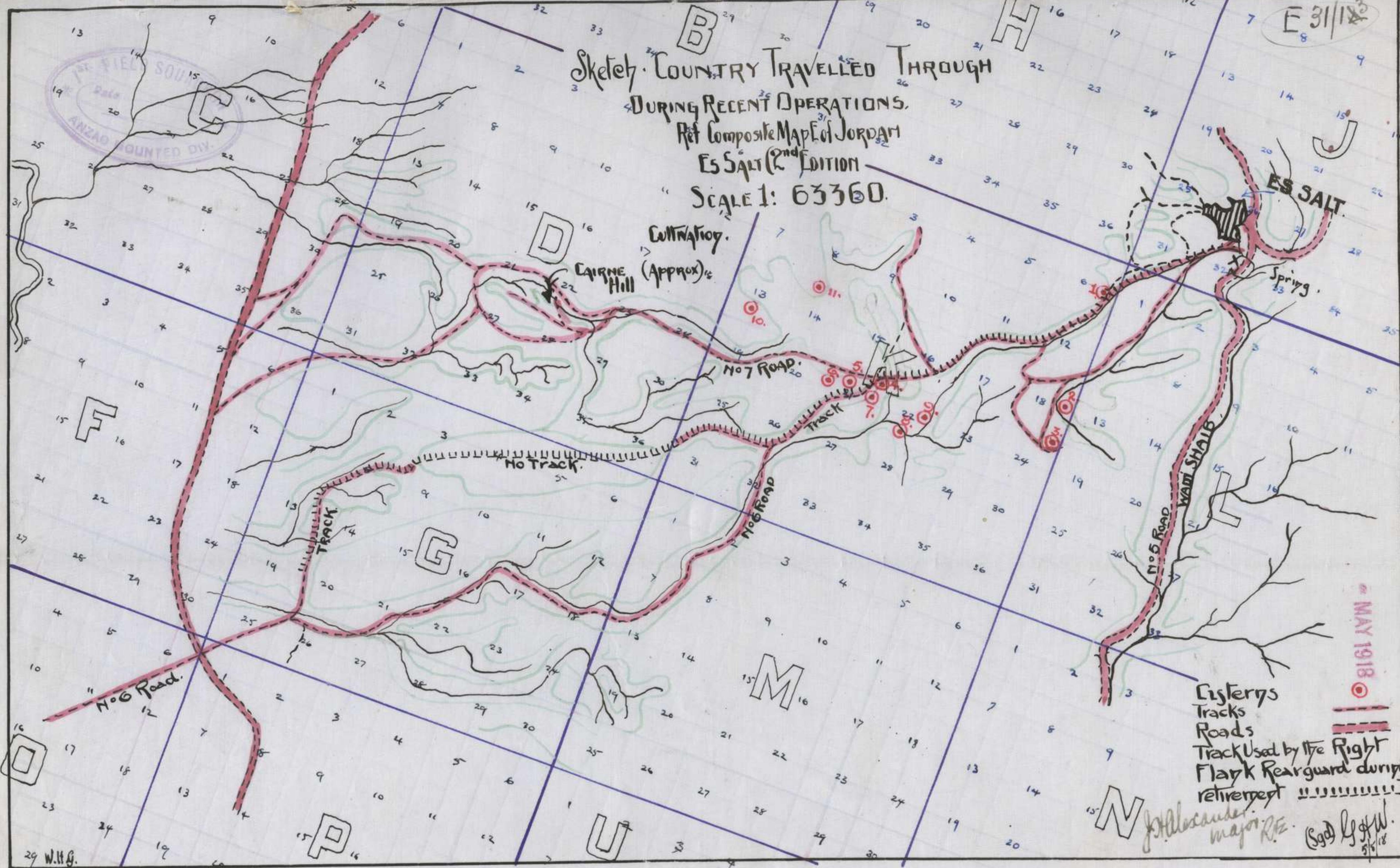
Alexander  
Major R.E. (Sgt) R. G. W.  
5/6/18

B

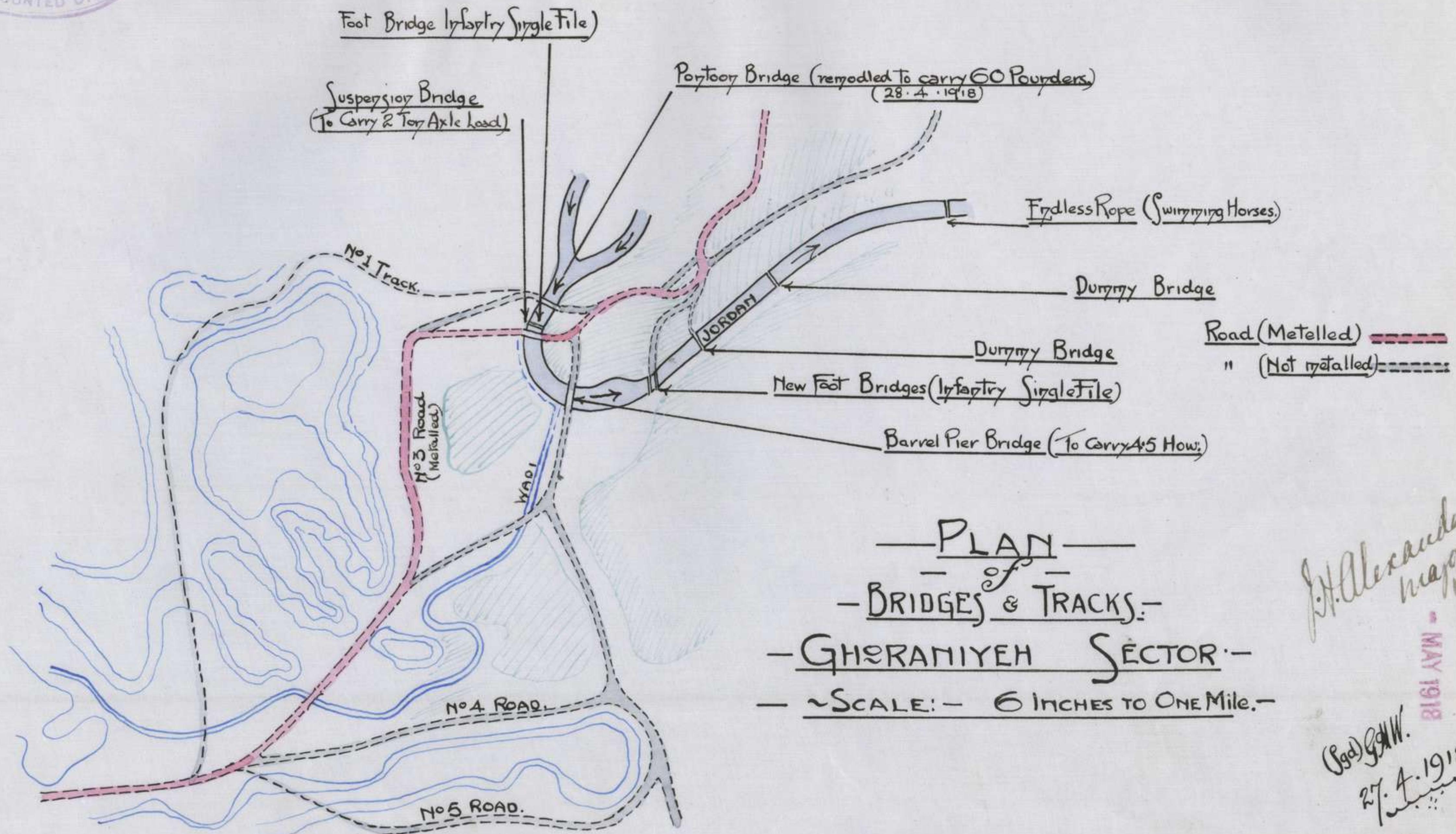
H

MAY 1918

Cisterns  
Tracks  
Roads  
Track Used by the Right  
Flank Rearguard during  
retirement



(Appendix A.).



## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

Date  
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 MAY 1918.	Hour	B. FIELD TROOP	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI KELT. Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition L. 19.c	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>		During this period L <sup>r</sup> Jones was in charge. Usual Troop duties were carried out. - Brigade Watering was done in the WADI KELT.	
JERICHO BRIDGE. Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition K. 23. A 23.	9 <sup>th</sup>	4		L <sup>r</sup> JONES evacuated to Hospital. - L <sup>r</sup> Stever reported and took charge of the Troop. Moved troughs up WADI KELT above JERICHO BRIDGE and aqueduct. Natives in the Hills, down the stream thereby interfering with water supply at troughs. Had to send sappers up every morning to break down these dams.	
WADI NUEIAMEH. Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition L. 2.	11 <sup>th</sup>			Moved camp to "AUSTRALIAN Division" AREA and erected troughs on Wadi NUEIAMEH on dry drinking water still being drawn from Tel-es-SULTAN.	
TEL-ES-SULTAN Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition K. 9.b.	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>		Sent to "Descorps" Dump for Material and GHORANIYEH for waste timber for repairing troughs. Inspected watering area of G <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt at AUJAH, satisfactory. Finished crosses for 7 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt.	
GHORANIYEH. Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Q. 2	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>		Making Hut for Brigade General - Repairing pumps and troughs.	
AUJA Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Y 24 c, d	15 <sup>th</sup>			Removed 4 troughs from dry to main Stream owing to operations of "Mosquito Gang" - Shoeing horses - Drew 2 days emergency rations and one Iron Ration. Took summary of evidence case, "Joyce".	
AIN EL-NUEIAMEH. Map Jericho (B.G) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition H 25 b	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>		Horse shoeing proceeding now for several days, going through Troop horses.	
	17 <sup>th</sup>			Cut bushes away from vicinity of Horse troughs.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>			Dug up and destroyed unexploded H.E shell which fell 100yds from camp.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>			Laid out Road 27 under instructions from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Squadron (Australian M <sup>th</sup> Div); repairing timbers and shoeing.	
	20 <sup>th</sup>			Inspected Road 27 route with Cap <sup>r</sup> Brisbane (2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S) to AUJAH crossing - Parties from Brigade on this road. Sappers supervising.	
	21 <sup>st</sup>			200 men from Brigade on road 27 on the 21 <sup>st</sup> there were 300 on this road working 0530 to 0800 and 1800 to 2000 - Sappers supervising everyday.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>			Moved camp to AIN EL-NUEIAMEH. erected 2 reservoirs for drinking water, covered.	



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.

## WAR DIARY

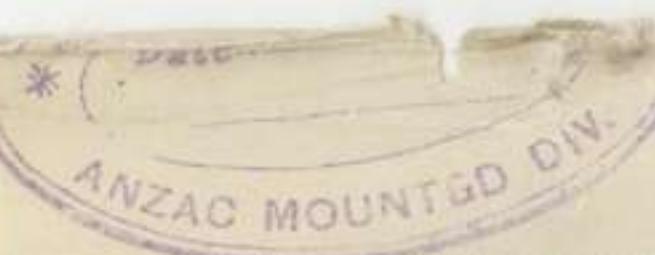
or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Map Date 1918	Hour	B. FIELD TROOP Coyt'd	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI OBEIDEH, Map Jericho (B6) J. P. a. b. (1st Battalion)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Coyt'd.	same asd put up waterbottle-filling apparatus, Erected 4 troughs for horses - Fenced in drinking water area cleared out aqueduct for distance of 100yds. Fenced off small garden from troughs. 300 other ranks with proportion of Officers working party on Road 27. Sited trench and wire at front line defence works : =		
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	-	2 <u>WILD</u> , 809yds wiring - 218yds trenches 1 <u>WOOD</u> , 300yds " - " " 3 <u>WANE</u> , 100yds " 370yds " 4 <u>WART</u> , 910yds " 140yds " 5 <u>WAX</u> , 1496yds " 344yds "		
	24 <sup>th</sup>	-	These totals, in addition to what was already done - "Wood", the trenches were not touched asd the lines of wiring were merely completed - "Wild", the 2 small pieces of trench were joined up. "WANE" new posts throughout. "WART", new wiring throughout, communications & new trench laid out. "WAX" communication to small trench and new fire positions and communication laid out.		
	25 <sup>th</sup>	-	Supervised distribution of material. Parties on roads as usual. 100% digging WANE. 125% on roads 3 Squadrons wiring		
	26 <sup>th</sup>	-	On roads, making watering area at aqueduct - changing pumps - 5 WCOs or Sappers on every night from 1900 to 2200 wiring and digging supervision - Lt Stocks 1/c operations on Road 27 and all lateral roads between pos's and branch roads feeding pos's - Parties at times under shellfire. 1 horse killed on 27 at Square H. Hill south. Shelling interfered at times with laying out work		MAY 1918
	27 <sup>th</sup>	-	Usual parties wiring and digging and road making under same Engineer Supervision - Same on the 27 <sup>th</sup> .		JULY
	28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Same as 26 <sup>th</sup> also prospected hills East of Wadi OBEIDEH for tracks suitable for packs. Dug and stone lined, holes in watercourse (waste aqueduct) for dipping water buckets - washing.		JULY



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.

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	MAY Date 1918	Hour	B. TROOP End	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROMAN ROAD Sheet XV. H6. Scale 1"=1 mile.	29 <sup>th</sup>		Laid out road 12' wide down Wadi ABEIDEH from road 27 to Roman Road. Party of 100 and 2 officers on this road at night, too dark to do good work. Dug pits for B.A.C. for hand & rifle grenades and erected Danger etc notice boards. Making notice boards for Roads and works for the last 4 days		
WADI OBEID. Sheet XV.H1.A8. Scale 1"=1 mile.	30 <sup>th</sup>		Usual parties on works, wiring roads. Inspecting sites for roads from Wadi OBEIDEH northwards to Wadi OBEID through 6 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Camp - Cleaning out troughs Refixing notice boards - Parties on works etc. 7 Men attached for duty from Brigade health of men not good - Horses fair - Under instructions from O/C 2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S.E. 2 men were detailed in case suddenly required, as our Quota of Party to maintain Barrel-Pier-Bridges at Auja Bridgehead: Probability of being required very remote.		
AUJA BRIDGEHEAD.	31 <sup>st</sup>				- MAY 1918



# WAR DIARY

OF

E 31/19  
- APR 1918

B Troop 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Engrs.

FOR

April 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

O.C's Report of Recent Operations

Specimen Copies of Wires on Recent Operations received by B.F.T

J.H.

O.C.S =

B Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F.S.E. Engrs (with 1<sup>st</sup> Bde A.L.H.) (Appy: 1) F31/70  
Report of Recent Operations.

- APR 1918

Place

Route



Summary of Events

From MAKHADET HAJLA to 127 Q 34b thence, to 127 Q 30c, Oja. thence to N°7 road from Es-SHERET to Es SALT. Through Es SALT along metalled road to AIN HEMAR Square O29 and thence back along metalled road to Sq J 32b and down N°4 Road to Sq K 20d and 26b thence back, along N°4 road to H 21 central thence back again along N°4 road to Sq K 8d and linked up with N°7 Road at H 30d and trecked back along N°7 Rd to C 35a thence to O.H.C., down N°6 Rd to EL GHORANIYEH Bridge thence to Bde area 113 L 25c

WATER

The Troop watered the Bde on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 127 S.C. 3. from the Jordan River drift of 8ft is required here - The Troop cleared away the undergrowth so that now 4 troughs and one reservoir can be erected with a good inlet and outlet for horses and watercarts. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the Troop re-erected watering gear and watered Brigade from Jordan River at 127 Q 9c. where the drift was 14ft to water level. - Arriving at Es-Salt the Brigade (1<sup>st</sup>) watered at 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.L.H. troughs at square J. 26.c where there was a plentiful supply of running water but fit only for horses

I prospected round and found a cistern containing approx 3000 gallons in Sq J. 15b which was chlorinated in the cistern and used by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.L.H. to fill water bottles and fountains. I also inspected the pool marked in Sq J. 15d and found a circular pool which appears to have been made, and measuring 100 feet dia: It is possible to water a Regimental orce at this place.

At AIN-HEMAR there are several springs flowing strongly, from which it is possible to water horses direct. This water is clear and fit for troops

At WADI SHAIB there is a strong running stream with several good approaches for horses. Also several springs from which drinking water can be drawn

While on trek with 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.L.H. we saw only 2 Bridges, one at H 26c used to carry the water away from Es-Salt and one in Sq A 27c. a 14ft Span single arch over the Wadi SHAIB. Both Bridges in good repair, very little damage.

The roads the Bde used, in good state of repair.

Rd N°7 when passing Es-Salt isabit steep and rough.

The metalled road from Es-Salt to AIN HEMAR is quite good, appears to have been recently metalled.

Bridges

J.H.

Roads

Specimen Copies of Wires on Recent Operations received by  
B. FIELD TROOP. 1<sup>st</sup> F. S. ENGINEERS.

B.M. 393 - 25<sup>#</sup> - a.a.a.

F 31/71

APR 1918

Working parties tonight will be as under a.a.a. 5<sup>#</sup> Regt will supply 50 men, as wiring parties of 25 each to WART and WAX, and 50 men to report to F.T. near B.H.Q as road making party with all available tools. a.a.a. 6<sup>#</sup> Regt will Supply 100 men under a Capt<sup>t</sup> to continue work on WANE, with all available tools and 25 men for roadmaking to report to O.C. F.T. at old 5<sup>#</sup> H.Q. 7<sup>#</sup> Rgt. will complete the wiring of WOOD post and if possible WILD, and will continue wiring WANE and will continue the digging on WILD WART and WAX particularly the latter. a.a.a. Wiring gang should consist of about 12 men. O/C F.T will detail Sappers to show work and will endeavour to supplement and repair tools. a.a.a. It should be impressed on all ranks the necessity of getting this work done and if slow progress is made it will be necessary to work longer hours than the 3 usually done a.a.a. All work at posts to commence at 1900, the road work may if desired commence an hour earlier a.a.a Reserve Squadron will tomorrow make proper saddlebag recesses, and in communication trenches for all trench stores a.a.a WANE post must be garrisoned by one Troop after work is finished.

2<sup>nd</sup> A.L.H. Brigade.

B.M. - 398 - 26 - a.a.a

Working party tonight a.a.a For wiring WOOD 1.NCO and 12 men. WILD 1.NCO and 12 men WART 2 and 20 from 7<sup>#</sup> Rgt WAX 2 & 30 from 6<sup>#</sup> Rgt WANE 1 officer and 60 men from 5<sup>#</sup> Regt a.a.a All available wire cutters to be brought and men selected who have some knowledge of wiring a.a.a For digging WILD 1.NCO and 20 men from 7<sup>#</sup> Rgt. WANE 2 officers and 70 men from 6<sup>#</sup> Regt WART & WAX 1.NCO and 20 men for each from 7<sup>#</sup> Regt a.a.a Parties will be ready at posts mentioned by 1930. and O/C F.Troop will detail Sappers to show work. a.a.a For Road making 1 officer & 25 men from 6<sup>#</sup> Regt to report at old 5<sup>#</sup> Night H.Q. and 50 men from 5 Regt to report to Field Troop near B.H.Q at 1900 a.a.a It is advisable that these should now commence work before 1930 a.a.a All available tools should be distributed evenly amongst parties, preference in picks being given to trench digging a.a.a THREE hours work required a.a.a. O/C parties will wire a report of work done by them to O/C F.T. before 1200 the following day

2<sup>nd</sup> A.L.H. Brigade.

B.M. 430 - 30 - - - a.a.a.

Working parties tonight a.a.a Wood. 1.NCO & 6 men WART. 1.NCO & 6 men WAX 1 officer & 25 men all from 6<sup>#</sup> Regt. a.a.a Digging. 1 officer & 20 men 6<sup>#</sup> Regt on WANE a.a.a All these parties must report to officer in charge of the post to whom also the sapper showing the works will report a.a.a 5<sup>#</sup> Regt will post all men, as tools are available on digging WILD, WART and WAX and as many men as possible improving lateral communications and tracks to the rear a.a.a 7<sup>#</sup> Regt will supply 100 men and 3 officers to report to Field Troop for work on Road 32 at 1700. 6<sup>#</sup> Regt and M.G.S will continue improving their back road under direction C/O 6<sup>#</sup> Regt and will start work also at 1700 a.a.a Usual hours of work.

2<sup>nd</sup> A.L.H. Brigade.

J.H.

A.P. & S.D., Alex./3087/1225/3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.

E31/22



- MAY 1918

# WAR DIARY

OF

N.Z Field Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F. S. Engrs

FOR

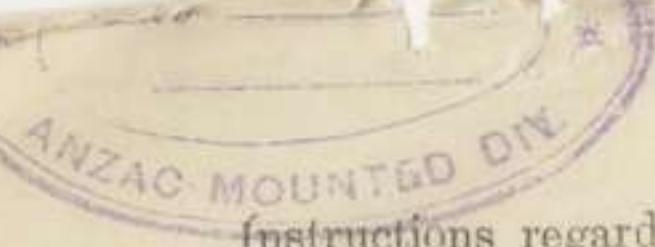
MAY. 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
-----	----------

1. Sketch of Shower Bath for N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

J. H. A.



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.

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	MAY Date 1918	Hour	NZ FIELD TROOP.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL ES-SULTAN. Map JERICHO(BG) Ref. 1557. K. S. b. Scale 1:40,000.	from 1st	57	Report showing with "April's" Diary. Erected 4 Troughs on WADI KELT with 4 pumps for Bde watering, also erected two pumps for fresh water at TEL ES SULTAN.		
GHORANIYEH. Es Salt Street 127 Q 2d 1" = 1 mile	67		Watered Bde and other Units. - At 1800 H Lockington and 179/R proceeded to GHORANIYEH to take over Bridges from R.Es		
JERICHO. Map Jericho (BG) Ref. 1557 K. 23ab. Scale 1:40,000.	77	87	Relieved the 519 Coy R.Es of Pontoon and Suspension Bridge. and Advacved dump. M <sup>l</sup> Large Watered Bde. Disassembled Heavy Pontoon Bridge, making same into Medium Pontoon Bridge, removed six pontoons and loaded same with Balks and chasses on 15 Pontoon Waggon. Had fatigue party of 40%R from W.M.R for this work. Time taken to convert Bridge 3½ hours (Also load Waggoys)		
	97		FRESH WATER - On east bank of Jordan erected two 30'x30' Tarpaulins for drying water. for all troops in AREA, and placed pumps from 519 Coy R.Es on same, for this work had fatigue party of 100 Indians with 40 Shovels and 20 Picks. The Tarpaulins were sunk in the ground and one set higher than the other, each tank holding approx 9,000gals. The higher tank was filled from the river and the water allowed to stand in same for sediment to settle at bottom, and then the water to be syphoned to lower tank 5 feet beneath and chlorinated in same. Water then drawn to water carts etc. Time occupied = 4 hrs.		
	107		Maintained Pontoon and Footbridges and Dump. Also had 5%R assisting in dismantling Barrel Pier Bridge which was being removed by Australian MTO Div: Engrs. M <sup>l</sup> Large Watered Brigade.		
	117		At 1400 handed over Pontoon and Footbridges to Major Morgan (1 <sup>st</sup> Division) B.E.F. and rejoined Bde at JERICHO - Watered Bde		
	127		Watered Bde - Sent lorry to GHORANIYEH to collect timber to construct Bats for N.Z. Brigade		
	137		Watered Bde - Completed Shower Bath which was constructed as follows:- 1,600 gallon Gas Tank set on stand of 3 sets of legs made of 5"x4" Timber and floored with 10 stayclerds and 2" Planking.		



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.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

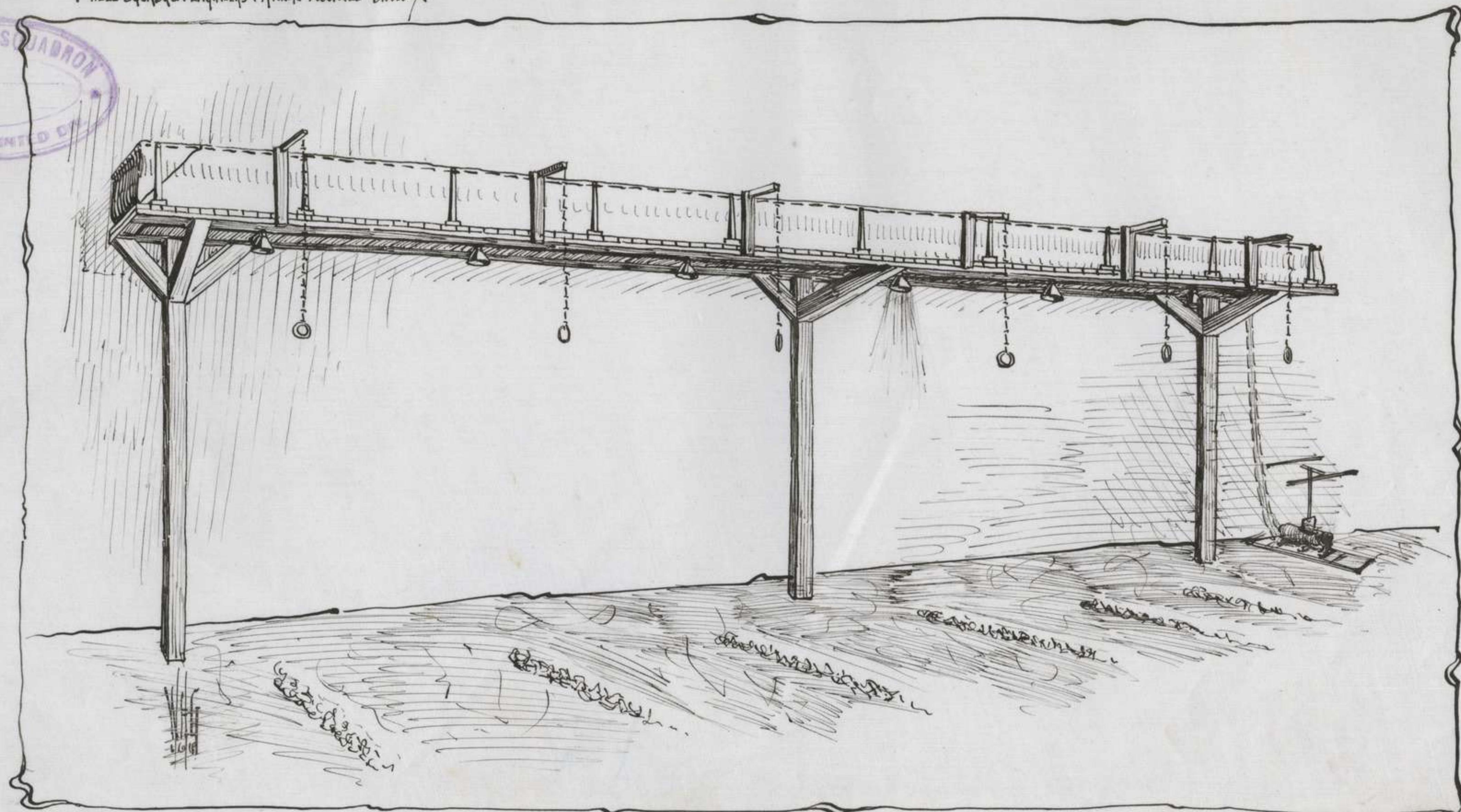
Place	Date 1918	Hour	N.Z. FIELD TROOP (Copy 1d)	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT-ED-DUMM. SHEET XVIII 113G, 13b. Scale 1"=1MILE	14 <sup>45</sup>		and having 6 showers worked by string with arm attached to Circular Valve. (See SKETCH) Watered Brigade. Shower Bally. To dispose of refuse water from Showers, dug a series of channels and enclosed in stages to allow of waste water soaking away and evaporating; no waste water reaching nearer than 25 yds from Wadi.		
	15 <sup>15</sup>		Watering Brigade	" " , after everying watering, lifted all water appliances and moved out with	
	16 <sup>15</sup>			Bde at 1900 arriving at TALAT-ED-DUMM. at 2030.	
	17 <sup>00</sup> 17 <sup>23</sup>		AT TALAT-ED-DUMM Watering Brigade at R.E. Troughs		

MAY 1918  
J.H.  
F 31/24

(Appx: 1)

Shower Bath Constructed with an Unserviceable Horse Trough for  
N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

1<sup>st</sup> FIELD SQUADRON ENGINEERS. ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.



MAY 1918

26/5/18