

**AWM4**

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

**Engineers**

**Item number:** 14/36/25 Part 2

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

June 1918 (duplicate incomplete)



AWM4-14/36/25PART2



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPPLICATE.



Australian Imperial Force.

## WAR DIARY

OF

1<sup>ST</sup> Field Squadron Engrs

FOR

JUNE 1918

*Signature of Officer compiling*

*Signature of Officer Commanding*



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	Date	Hour	HEADQUARTERS	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BETHLEHEM Sheet XVII, 100K 35 1" = 1 mile	JUNE 1918	1st	(The separate diaries of the Troops are forwarded here with)	The Headquarters was located at BETHLEHEM (at D.H.Q.) till night 19/20 <sup>th</sup> when it moved to Left Sector JORDAN VALLEY (H 34 central). While at BETHLEHEM the following was carried out in addition to work shewn on Troop's diaries. Watering of Div H.Q. from aqueduct in Bethlehem area. Dir: Troops from Solomons Pools. In the JORDAN VALLEY, complete organisation of watering of Left Sector, the indenting for drawing and distribution of all defence materials. General supervision of the whole of the communications and the work of Two companies 2/32 Sikh Pioneers. The horses generally stood the heat of the JORDAN VALLEY well and did not loose condition. There was little sickness amongst the men, but they were overworked owing to the Unit being about 20% understrength.	
SOLOMONS POOLS Sheet XVII, 100K 32a 1" = 1 mile.		to			
		31st.			



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	Date	Hour	A FIELD TROOP	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLOMONS POOLS Sheet XVII N <sup>o</sup> 1 100.G.12.a 1 mile	JUNE 1918 1 <sup>st</sup>	10 5 <sup>th</sup>		During this period the work consisted chiefly of watering the Bde which was being carried out in 2 Areas known as No 1 and No 2 Area. Situated south of Solomons Pools along the Hebron Road a distance of about 4 and 5 miles respectively from the Pools. Lifted plant at No 2 area and handed over all surplus R.E. Stores to Lieut Lockington (N.Z. Field Troop). Plant and materials at No 1 Area taken over by Lieut Steven of "B" Field Troop	
TALAT-ED-DUMM Sheet XVIII E.13.b. 1 <sup>st</sup> 1 mile		6 <sup>th</sup>		Trekked with Brigade to TALAT-ED-DUMM and bivouaced for the day of the 7 <sup>th</sup> . At TALAT-ED-DUMM arrived at 0500 and trek again at 1900 for WADI AUJA	
WADI AUJA. Sheet XV Z. 25d. 1 mile		7 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup>		Erected 4 Troughs to water Bde (in 5 M <sup>th</sup> Bde Area) on Wadi Auja at point Z 25d Palestine Sheet XV Moved to camp site Y30c Sheet XV and went over defences with O.C. 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Troop	
ABU TELLUL Map 5 <sup>th</sup> Y.10.c		9 <sup>th</sup>		Took over from D.C.4 Field Troop All R.E. defence material and tools. Lifted troughs from 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde area and erected them in Y30d Sheet XV using power plant to pump from Wadi into two 2300 gallon reservoirs erected on raised platform, built of loose stones about 18" high and syphoning from the reservoir into troughs. Working on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> line of defence 4 Officers and 88 9/R of 8 <sup>th</sup> ALH Regt employed digging on ABU TELLUL and "The Bluff."	
THE BLUFF Map 5 <sup>th</sup> Y5b.44				Improving trenches and machine gun positions started by 4 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H.Bde on ABU TELLUL and THE BLUFF. One squadron of the 8 <sup>th</sup> ALH Regt were employed nightly	
MASKERAH. Map 5 <sup>th</sup> Y6.b.		10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup>		Dismantled the two 2300 gall reservoirs and erected one 30'x30' canvas sheet. Erected one trough for Camels 50 yds from horse watering area	
ZEISS POST Map 5 <sup>th</sup> B.6 Y21b.su.		12 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup>		Erected standard double apron wire fence west of "ZEISS" POST One Squadron of 2 <sup>nd</sup> ALH Regt employed. Continued with wiring of "ZEISS" Post and started another fence in front of MASKERAH one	
		14 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup>		squadron of 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.L.H.Bde employed on each position	
		16 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>		Continued with the work on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> line of Defence "ABU TELLUL" and "THE BLUFF."	



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.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JUNE 1918		B FIELD TROOP.	
ERIHA	1ST		Troop still camped at ERIHA. Inspected all posts on FRONT LINE, co-ordinates in previous reports. Making device of fibbin bands to protect plain wood, pick handles from wear at a point where it comes in contact with pick head. 3 given to 6 <sup>th</sup> ALH. Bde to test. Usual parties on works i.e. 5 N.C.O's or Jappers supervising working parties, both wiring and digging also over any road work in progress	
JERICHO	2nd		Sent to JERICHO dump for R.E Stores.	
JERUSALEM.	4 <sup>th</sup>		Straightening up area and preparing lists of material to be handed over	
	5 <sup>th</sup>		Marched out after handing over to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fld Troop. To TALAT ED DUMM with Bde	ERIHA
LUDD	6 <sup>th</sup>		then to area near Solomon's Pools - drew at TALAT ED DUMM on way up 4 canvas troughs all almost un serviceable, 2 new ones and 66 standards at Jerusalem - these to replace alike number handed over to 2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S.E at JERICHO area	
TALAT ED DUMM.	7 <sup>th</sup>		Advance party arrived at No 1 area and erected troughs at Sonrise, also drinking water reservoir. Brigade commenced watering at 0800	
	Sheet XVIII 113G.13D 1 <sup>st</sup> M.M.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Do not intend to use No 2 area, No 1 Area yields 16,000 gallons per 24 hours (By pumping time)	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Sent to A.P.R.E Jerusalem to change troughs etc including 3 received from TALAT ED DUMM (C.R.E) Total exchanged 6 - Sandbagged Troughs, stoned space around water bottle taps.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		1 Limber Gborses and 4% sent to LUDD to remove Squadron Dump. Erected mess at B.H.Q - re-erected and covered reservoirs. 2 officers, 2 Sqts. attended lecture by Capt Kettle (Gas Officer) 1%R duly re centrifugal pump to Jerusalem	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Water diving. A good stream 54 yds wide running N.E underground (Jerusalem 100 G. 29a 28) <i>R</i>	A3834 W.L.W. 4973/M692 750,000 8/16 D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13. Y63360



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	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JUNE 1918		B TROOP, CO <sup>H</sup>	
Solomon's Pools. Jerusalem/63360 100.G.12a.N.	12 <sup>th</sup>		1, N.C.O & 3 sappers stationed at Solomon's Pools, erected 4 troughs and pumps, 1 reservoir and 1 pump at this area - N.Z Troop removed their gear	
WADI NUEJAMEH. Water Area. Sheet XIX K 5d (NW). Sole/63360	13 <sup>th</sup>		Built road in N° 2 Reservoir (Solomon's Pools) and put "Deutz" engine (Sarona) down, 30% R from 6 <sup>th</sup> Regt A.L.H. working party - 1, N.C.O & 8% R at N° 1 Well - in forenoon drew engine and tank frame from N° 2 Well Site Setting engine and pump (German Pump). Party deepening N° 1 Well. Yield N° 1 Well 12100 gallons per 24 hours.	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		No working party reported for N° 1 Well this morning	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Lt Steven had a look at 4 Bde watering area at Wadi ARRUB. German rotary pump requires 2000 revs.p.m for good service. (Lt Steven to be Captain).	
	16 <sup>th</sup>			
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Capt Steven went to LUDD camel Brigade camp to choose reinforcements. 5 secured	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Lt Stocks and party 15% R gone to Jerusalem on leave (1 day) - Men inoculated for Cholera.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		Camp duties, Made crank handle for Signal Troop. Cable laying apparatus received from Ordnance	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		6 wheels, repairing transport iron and wood work, 4% R arrived from Jerusalem Reinforcement	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Camp, temporarily attached	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Party hauled "Deutz" engine with pump stand etc out of Solomons' N° 2 pool and streaked with 20 - 30 tank frames and piping in readiness to move, Handled over reservoir and 12 pickets 5'-6" to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Troop. Cleaning up camp Troop, with Bde moved to Talat-el-Dumm area left 1730 arrived 0200	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Left Talat-el-Dumm area at 1330. Erected 3 troughs in Wadi NUEJAMEH at site chosen by Capt <sup>o</sup> Steven (who had gone ahead for this purpose) Camped for night 22-23 at Sheet XIX K. 4 a.g.s. Capt <sup>o</sup> Steven left "B" Troop and reported S.H.Q	
			Brigade watered in Wadi NUEJAMEH. At troughs erected on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Took over water supply gear in Sub Section N° 2. from 5 <sup>th</sup> F.Troop, consisting of 4 troughs, 2 reservoirs and length of 3" pipe (120'). Sent party and timber	P.B.

A5834 Wt. W4973/M68f 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
28			Continued making "AUTHORISED CROSSING" notices for Wadi AUJA, no other timber being available used boxes from Canteen. Sent two sappers to supervise wiring on Front line	
29			Erected water trough (canvas) for "A" Btlt. H.A.C. Moved and erected reed mess hut from SHEIK IBRAHIM to B.H.Q. near camp in wadi AUJA.	
30			Moved Ayrshire Batty horse troughs from S to N. side of W:A:WA to avoid necessity of taking horses through the water	



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	Date	Hour	N.Z. FIELD Troop.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT-ED-DUMM Sheet XVIII 113.G.13.b 1" = 1 MILE.	JUNE 1918				
WADI KELT. Map. Jencho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 1" = 1 MILE.	May 24 <sup>th</sup>	5		Finish of the "May" Diary from the 24 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> . At Tolat-ed-Dumm, I.N.C.O and O.R. Watering Brigade - 1 N.C.O & 3% maintaining old road from JUNCTION to BRIDGE, West of. C.M.R.. Sq <sup>r</sup> McMillen & 10% reporting on WADI KELT	
SOLOMONS POOLS. Sheet XVII.100G.12a 1" = 1 MILE.	28 <sup>th</sup>			Same as 24 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> , also Inoculation for Cholera.	
N <sup>o</sup> 1. WELL.	29 <sup>th</sup>			Watered Brigade. Maintained section of road. Rendered report on Wadi KELT Water supply to Desert Mounted Corps. Marched out to BETHLEHEM at 1930	
N <sup>o</sup> 2 WELL	30 <sup>th</sup>			Arrived at Solomon's Pools at 0200, left detachment of 9% at Solomon's Pools to erect 3 troughs on the top pool to water A.M.R., M.F.A. and M.G. Squadron. Proceeded to N <sup>o</sup> 1 Well to take over from 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Fld Troop. and water remainder of N.Z. Bde. here, but the supply proved insufficient.	
	31 <sup>st</sup>			Searched for water in vicinity and found 3 large cisterns approximately 1½ miles S.E of N <sup>o</sup> 1 Well and containing approx 200,000. gallons - Erected 2 troughs at these cisterns and C.M.R. commenced watering at same. C.M.R had working party of 50 Men improving road to cisterns - 3% R with working party of 12 men developing well in C.M.R. bivouac area about 1 mile West of N <sup>o</sup> 1 Well.	
1 <sup>ST</sup> JUNE				The 1 <sup>ST</sup> A.L.H. Brigade continue to water at N <sup>o</sup> 1 Well and as they consume practically the whole of the water. W.M.R. had to water at the cisterns we located on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of May. Erected third trough at cisterns for W.M.R. - Working parties of 100 men from W.M.R and 50 from C.M.R improving road to cisterns. 3% R with working party from Regiment developing well at C.M.R.	



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

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	N.Z TROOP Cont'd.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI ARRUB.	2nd		All units here watering at cisterns, 50 men from C.M.R improving road. C.M.R working on well in their Bivouac area. This well has not improved & having sunk 6 feet through soil which had fallen into it we ceased work. The well made about 100 gallons after standing 12 hours.		
JERUSALEM	3rd		Proceeded to WADI ARRUB with 59F to view water supply, and measure amount of pipe required to convey water from Spring to where it could be utilised in troughs - Distance = 400 feet.		
	4th		Watered Brigade at Cisterns, 5th the same.		
	5th		" " " Limber carted piping for ARRUB water area from JERUSALEM.		
	7th		Watered Bde at Cisterns Limbers gathered all 3" piping from No 1 and No 2 Wells and carted same to ARRUB watering AREA. - Connected up 400 feet of 3" piping to lead water from Spring to troughs across 6' main. Erected two troughs and connected two pumps one on each end of 3" piping to syphon water from spring into troughs. The fall for syphon being approx 3ft.		
	8th		Watered Two Squadrons W.M.R at Wadi ARRUB and C.M.R at Cisterns in the morning with 1 Squadron W.M.R. After morning watering moved troughs from cisterns to No 2 Well where we erected one trough and linked two pumps together pumping water from the well a depth of 35 feet into trough. C.M.R and one Squadron W.M.R watered here in evening - Erected at Wadi ARRUB one large reservoir (7000 gallons) which we removed from No 2 Well, the syphon worked very well. Placed stop valve at trough end of Syphon so that the flow could be regulated to the supply and cut out pumping party. Increased storage at the spring to hold 1000 gallons by removing debris from Well		

8



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

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	N.Z TROOP Coyd	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LUDD. Map. Syria Jerusalem H. I. Scale 1:20000	8 <sup>th</sup>	Coyd	Erected two more troughs (making four at this area), and placed troughs in pairs close together with join in the centre of each pair thereby closing away with syphoning from one to the other	 60'-0" TROUGH capacity 2000 gallons	
	9 <sup>th</sup> .		Watered W.M.R. and B.H.Q. at No 2. Well. The linked pumps worked very well and were quite easy on the pumpers, each pump having about 18 feet lift to do.		
	10 <sup>th</sup> .		Watered as on the 9 <sup>th</sup> . M <sup>th</sup> hangle and Spr. Glover proceeded to dump at LUDD. The arrangements at Wadi ARRUB is as follows:-		
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Watered as on the 10 <sup>th</sup> . G.O.C inspected Troop. Sent horses to JERUSALEM for 2 repaired limbers moved drinking water pump from cistern to B.H.Q to wadi ARRUB water AREA. Erected staging in Y.M.C.A. marquee for concert party. The "DIETZ" Engine of this Troop arrived from LUDD drawn by 8 horses from Brigade.		
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Watering as on the 11 <sup>th</sup> . 2 Filters repairing Troop engine. Lifted all watering gear at SOLOMON'S Pools (replaced by 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.L.H.Bde) Dumped gear at Descorps rest camp leaving 2% in charge of same.		
	13 <sup>th</sup>		After morning watering lifted all Troops watering gear from Wadi ARRUB and N° 2 Well Evening watering done at 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.L.H.Bde troughs at Solomon's Pools. Marched out with Brigade for Talat-ed-Dumm at 1730.		R

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JUNE 1918		N.Z. Field Troop Contd.	
AIN DUK	14 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup>		At TALAT EDDUMM. Brigade watered at troughs, moved out at 1730 with Bde. Arrived at K.H.d. Sheet XVIII 1/63360 at 0030, erected 3 troughs and watered Bde by gravitation from Aqueduct. 5% R marched out on detachment to A.M.R. Watered Bde, picked up water supply gear and moved out at 1800 to AIN DUK. Took over water and bivouac area and stores from 3rd Fld Troop Aust. M <sup>th</sup> DIV at AIN DUK and upper AUJA area.	
UPPER AUJA. JERICHO B.G. Z 25	16 <sup>th</sup>		Watered Bde with 4 troughs at AIN DUK and 2 troughs at UPPER AUJA area water very good. and plentiful supply pumped from running stream. obtained timber from 2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S.E. Aust Div. 5% R constructing shower bath with same (Type same as shewn in sketch from N.Z.F.T. for the MAY DIARY 1918) at AIN DUK.	
WADI KELT.	17 <sup>th</sup>		Watered Bde, constructing Shower Bath 1,600 gall canvas trough on base of 2" planking set up 8 feet from ground on 3 trestles, water gravitates through 2½" suction hose from aqueduct as required, and shower operated by wooden arms and string opening and closing circular valves leading through roses of perforated tin waste water lead into single bed and disposed of by soakage. - Also erected 150' tie up line for horses and clothes line	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Watered Brigade erected trough and pump near C.M.R. bivouac area for watering this regiment	
	19. 20 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup>		" " AIN DUK and UPPER AUJA, Dismantled shower bath previously erected at Wadi KELT and transported same to UPPER AUJA.	
	24		Watered Bde, erected bath at UPPER AUJA similar to one at AIN DUK except that water was pumped from stream into shower on bank. 1 officer and 4% R supervising trench digging	B
	25 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>		Watered Bde made 6 sign boards for Bde bivouac and water area. party of 100 men at front line digging trenching and wiring.	1 officer & 4% R with working