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

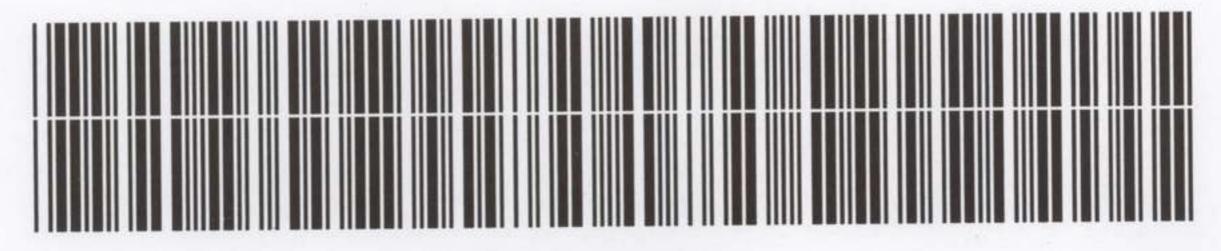
Engineers

Item number: 14/36/30 Part 1

Title: 1st Field Squadron, Australian

Engineers

November 1918



AWM4-14/36/30PART1

or

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.

November 1918 Place Date Hour	HEADQUARTERS. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AMMAN. 2000 Appsyria Jerusalem 300 250,000, U.T. 300 ES SALT ATM	Struck camp and moved from AMMAN at 0800. Arrived at ESSALT at 1800. Left EsSALT at 0745, arrived at NIMRIN. 1400 revected reservoir and trough & 2 bumps Reked up watering gear and left NIMRIN 0800, Arrived Kilo 17 (Talated DUMM) at 1600. Handed over R.E. Park JERICHO to representative from P.L. of Candobiained receip Rested at Kilo 17. 5th Left Kilo 17.0800 Arrived Kilo 1. Opposite Reinforcement Jerusalemat 1430 Left Kilo 17.0800 arrived Latron 1400.7th Left LATRON 0800, arrived RICHOM 1300. Arranging Camp. 9th Removing remainder of DUMP from LUDD to BIR SALEM, over-	
May Syria Jerusalem 10th 15th 15th	Replacing troughs at watering area RICHOM. IT & 12TH Overhauling watering gear. Arranging camp, drawing material etc. Repairs to Officers Mess D.H.Q. Arranging camp, drawing material etc. Repairs to Officers Saddlery & Transport Vehicles.	
Sheet XVIII. I'Limily 21 1826	Cleaning Troughs at Watering Area RICHOM. Laying out rock-course for and erecting notice boards for D.H.Q., Ploughing furrows, bround race course for	
B.G 2 edit /40,000 27 to 30 to K.17 b S.e. 27 to 30 to Jerusalem	Dismantling stove for D.H.Q and sent it to JAFFA & erected. Made 1. Table for M.O.5 x2-6 preparing for Corps Commanders inspection.	
Syria Jerusalem LATROM Map Syria Jerusalem 1/250,000, 12, 2:5.		
Sheet XIII I I Imile. O71. H. 19.b.		
BIR SALEM		100
JAFFA. Shoet XIII. 151mile 071. H. 22.	(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.	

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

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.

will be pre	epared in manus	script.	*
	Date Hour	A FIELD TROOP Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AMMAN .	1 st. 1	Troop trecked from AMMAN to ES-SALT with 1st ALH Bde.	
Inguis lengalem	2nd	" " ES-SALT " SHUMET NIMRIN exected 3 trough's for Bdc watering.	
S-SOIT	zrd.		
APPENDE MADIGMMAN)	414.	" SHUNET NIMIDIN to TALET-ED-DUMM after dismantling 3 troughs.	
HUNET- NIMRIN	4	Remained of TALAT-ED-DUMM, 5th. Treked to Jerusalem 6th. Treked to LATRON 7th. to RICHON	
p Syrus Jerusalem		Took over Pumping Plant and watered Brigade, worked on plant from 1600 to 0300	
50000 Q.Z.		repairing feed pipe on engine & filling reservines formatering on the 8th.	
LAT-ED-DUMM	8"	Pumping plant running Shours, refilled resevoirs, Arranged Camp area.	
3G. 13b.	gr.	Dismantled overhauled & readquisted walves on Engine at Pumping Plant . Plant running 5 hours.	
RUSALEM	10H.	1. Trough erected to replace damaged one, Rebuilt portion of Reservoir Site at Watering Area.	
	43		
and I have a little and a littl		Overhauted & repairing feed pipe on Engine. Filled Resevoirs (3) General Camp Boutine	
mana 14 /3		Made 2 Notice boards (MOTOR RORD DINLY) for B.H.Q. I Table made for troop OC.	
MAHON		Two lesevoirs at Watering Area strengthened with sandbag anchorages. General cleaning up of Pla	7.
n-Kara	141	Made & painted I Cross for 3'd ALII. Bde.	
p Syria Jerusalem	154	Limber to RE Park LUDD for timber. Walls of Reservirs at Watering Avea, Pumping Plant running well	
THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T		Exected cooks shelter for troop Cook. Repairs to table for B.H.Q. Maintenance of Pomps & Troughs.	
	17/4.	" Farriers workshop " " Repairs to Cooking utensils for BHQ.	
	10	Making 4 Crosses for Inverness Battery R.H.A. Repairs to shelter for 1st. Regt HQ. I.N.Co. supervised	
	12the mall	the cleaning & reserrecting of troughs at Bde watering Area.	
	19 625	Continued work on crosses for Inv. Battery R.H.A. & an additional 3 for 3" ALH Regt finished	
		on the 25th Making for 1st. Bde Sports Pers for marking out Avea & Hurdles (5)	2.
		General D. D. & D. Show Ion, E Prouting Plant running satisfactority	(
		(10340) VV1 VV5300/P713 750,000 3/FE 2 7088 F STIRS/C2110/13.	1

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.

Place	November Hou	AFIFIN TDOOP (confd-) Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	264	Supervised working party in cleaning water troughs, Finished dispatch box for Bde orderley Printing on Crosses (commenced on the 18th.) Making over for troop cookhouse. Printing on Crosses (commenced on the 18th.) Making over for troop cookhouse. Resevoir exected at Bde Watering Area for washing purposes. Making desk & pidgeo holes for Bde Canteen. Completed 7 Crosses, Prepared for inspection and Official Photograph (taken on the 30th) at B.H.Q. Maintenance of pumps & troughs - Pumping plant in good order.	20
			100
		D. D. & L., London, E.C. [40]40 Wt W5300/P713 750,000 3//S 4 2688 Forms/C2118/10.	

or

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place No Date Hour	B FIELD TROOP. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHAPPAGE 19 15F.	Overhauled, cleaned & recrected two Iron Horse Troughs. Made two Cricket Pitches painted One Cross, Made and erected a number of plates for Rifle Bange, Had four Carpenters from 2nd Bile L.H. cutting salved timber for Eookhouses, there	
AYUN-KARA 2nd. Map Syria Jerusalem 2nd. 150000 G.I. (one) 3nd An.	being (through sickness) too few tradesmen left in the troopfor this work. Prepared work for making enclosures on sports ground. Overhauled & cleaned an Oil Engine. Put new set of Clack Valves on one deep well 3 throw pump. Laid out ground for Athletic Sports. Commenced making	
TEWFIC BAY	Finished Items for Sports Ground & carted same to positions & exected, arranged water area at AVONI-KARA for 1st ALH. Bde commenced work of execting two	
7t-	30'x 30' reserving & 1 30'x 20'. Lifted & relaid 600ft of 3". pipe line, Overhauled & cleaned one Kerosene Engine for same Area. Completed work commenced on the 6th & erected Six, 600 gall troughs, canvas, finished this area & ready for use on the 8th watered FTALH Bde in 2rd Bde matering	
8th. 9th 8 10th	Made two crosses for Ayr. Battery. Made forms & tables for 6th L H Regt. Tables 2 Acetylene Lamps repaired for 7th Regt. Cleaned Gaddlery & Harness Laid out ground for 2rd Bde Horse Races. Commenced making Signboards & number	- plates tor same
12th.	Painted Signboards & Number plates & made flagpoles & Blackboard for Racing Ground. Commenced 2 crosses for 6th ALH Rept. Exected stage for visiting Concert Party. Comp course & exected signboard etc including totalisator Closed down one engine supplying 2nd Bde Water Area how draw all water from	
	Tentic Bay. This area is now matering the following One Regt 2" ALH Bde NZMR Bde one Regt, 18th, Bde less one Battery & BAC. Div Train less one Coy At conclusion of Sungapo Wi Wigoof Pris 750,000 3/18 3 2668 Forms/C2118/13.	less F

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Summar and the	regarding War Diaries and Intelligence ries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. Staff Manual respectively. Title pages prepared in manuscript.
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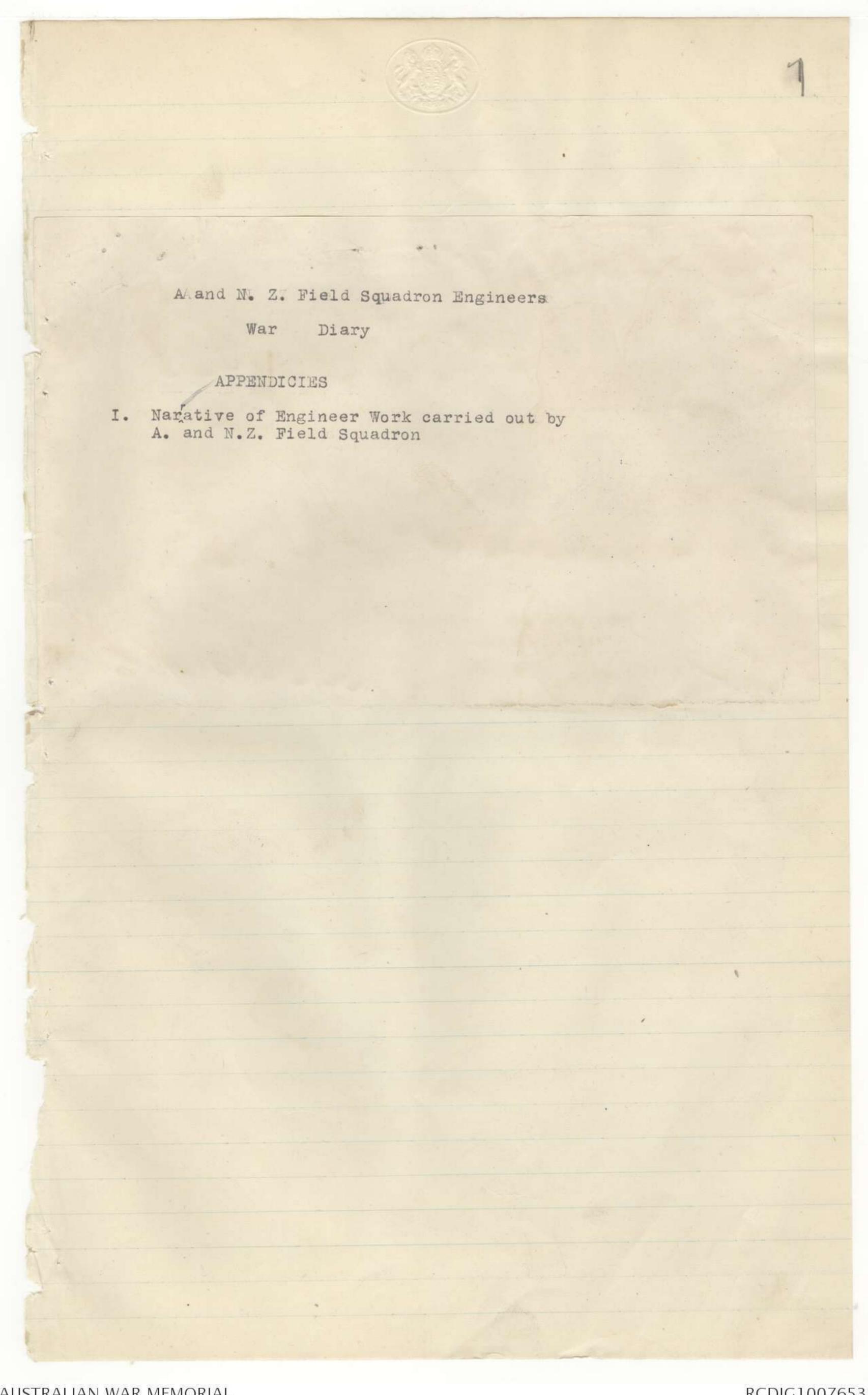
Place Date Hour	B"TROOP (continued) Summary of Events and Information Appendic
1"= 1 mile. 15" 15" 18"	Continued work of cutting timber & erecting cookhouses for 6th ALH Regt Made crosses for Div Train. Enlarged & re-arranged stage erected on the 11th made flag pole for 7th MG.S. Fixed new buckets & new bearings on deep well three throw pump. 17th. Completed 5 crosses for 6th Regt. The Sports Ground not being used owing to so many competitions having gone on 1914 furlough, the fixtures were dismantled & salved on the 17th Four Sappers have been continuously engaged on Water Area. Transport has been in constant use carting gear for Sports, Bele Ordnance, the. Returned material used on sports & recing grounds to RE dump Ludd & selected, while there, timber for NZTargets. Took up one Canvas Trough at 2nd Bele watering area & creeted and the form troughs only tron Troughs are now being used to this area, they are 9'9" long &
2154 26	2 ft wide holding 100 gallows each & are arranged in threes, end to end, & prove very satisfactory for a standing camp. Got working party of 9 men, from 6th Regt & did up Rifle Range, Examined & motor cycles with a view to repairing. Commenced making side car for motor cycle, body made out of 1" Deal fixed on frame made from high wire pickets of "L" section. Spliced & braned back fork which was snapped made splint for 2rd Bde field Amb out of 3/8" round iron. Continued work on first & overhauled second cycle. Prepaired timber for troop workshop
28 th 29 th 30 th	Erected workshop, wooden frame with lean to " roof 30'x 12". with 30' x 30' unservicable vesevoir sheet stretched over to form roof & two sides. Finished workshop & arranged engine gear inside & fitted bench. Cleaned camp, painted Side Car Repaired cooker for BHQ, Made 12"x12"x12" box for Bde H.Q.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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will be prepared in m		Remarks and references to Appendices
Place November Ho	N.Z. FIELD TROOP. Summary of Events and Information Rifle Range constructed for Bde(NZ) handed over. Firing commenced, 4 % ranks making crosses	
Map Syria Jerusalem to 4th		
1250000 H.1 Bh.	10% and Lough Lept Jones (B troop Ist. FSE) on Watering area to	
Sheet XIII I'S Imile 6468	carting pumping gear for same. 4% revected stage at NZ Bde YMC,A. 8% on 1st ALH Bde water area. 4% making crosses, Exercising horses.	
- 9rc		
10th.	Exchanged 4 horses with CM Rifles & drew 2 riding horses to complete. 19/2 REPark. Luppfer materials, 1 officer (Leiut Lange) on leave to Egypt. 7 troopers att. for duty retainstance.	
1512	Henry Hour Room.	
14th	Have been assed flood in WadiHavein necessitated temoving of 4 Iron Iroughs on	
	by the termination of the transfer to the tran	
1512 161	General Camp Routine & watering arrangements Ma Leut Lockington on leave to Egit 6% potting R. Range in order, 4% making targets. I Limber to Lupp for timber	
10th	THE A ZOLLEN AND CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE	LIVO .
201/6	Erected 4'6" square revolving targets & completed range up to 500 yaks, also mines vange & 12 target for revolver shooting for NZ Bde shooting match. 23rd. Mr Lange	
	to be a least the first to the	
244 163	dient le	R.
	- 1. 1) Man E I DED JOY DESDET EC. CICCIDITY	
	Corps Commanders Inspection. While for the fall Squador.	
	Justin AN X Justin	6
	D. D. & L., London, E.C. (10.340) Wt W5300/P7t3 750,000 3/IS 3 2688 Forms/C21:8/13.	113



NARRATIVE OF ENGINEER WORK CARRIED OUT BY A. N. Z. FIELD SQUADRON Ist Sepetember to November, 1918. JORDAN VALLEY. On the Ist September the distribution of the Squadron was 8 as follows: -Squadron H.Q. at D.H.Q. I/40 000 Jericho B6 H34 B 6 W "A"Troop attached Ist L.H. Bde Y28 D "B"Troop " 2nd L.H.Bde Z28 C5 "N.Z. "Troop " N.Z.M.R. Bde H27 C6 There were also small detachments on the Jordan bridges but these were releived by 35th Coy (A.T.) on the 9th The Division was holding the Left Sector Jordan Valley Defences The principal am work on hand was: a. The maintenance of watering arrangements for the Division and attached troops b. Provision of Technical assistance on strengthing of Jordan Valley Defences c. Improvement of communications The most of the necessary watering arbangements had been made, but required considerable maintenance The work on defences was being pushed forward energetically working parties of about I50 men per night being employed with Engineer personnel of about two officers and ten other ranks supervising Communications were being improved but some difficulty was being experienced owing to shortage of labour On 4th consequent on the G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division G.C. taking command of the whole of the Jordan Valley Defences B. H. . 2nd L. H. Bde took command of the Right Sector and O.C. "B"Troop became responsible for the whole of the Engineer work in that sector On 5th IstL. H. Bde moved into reserve on the Wadi Nueiameh and N. Z. M. R. Bde moved on to Wadi Auja. B.G.C. N. Z. M. R. Bde taking command of the Left Sector and O.C. N.Z. Troop becomes taking command of the Left Sector and O.C. N.Z. Troop becomes responsible for Engineer work in the Sector. The Brigades did not exactly exchange bivouac areas and a considerable amount of modification of the watering areas became necessary would be in a Northly direction and the improvement of the main road Jericho-Auja-Khirbet Fusial now became of special importance. Work on this had already been commenced under the immediate direction of the C.R.E. Dewert Mounted Corps, and a considerable amount of soleing had been laid. The bridge over the Wadi Nueiameh at H35c and the two bridges immediately North of this, commenced by the second Field Squadron, Australian Mounted Division, were practically now completed by this unit but the approaches on two of them were scarsely commenced The road from Wadi Nuiameh to Gravelly Ridge (H II d N.E)

was rather badly cut up, and from this point to the Auja was in such a bad state as to be impossible for mechanical transport From Wadi Auja to Khirbet Fusial no work had been done. On Sept 5th a detachment of 300 E.L.C. with donkey transport was made available and was put on the sector Gravelly Ridge (see) above) to Auja Supervision of one officer and two N.C.Os was provided The work was pushed on with but the removeval of all donkeys except IOO within forty-eight hours of it's commencement

threw it back somewhat. A tractor and three trucks provided by "Q" Branch Anzacs assisted but was not so convenient as the donkeys

references kemarks Appendices 5

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orm C.

tic

Good work was done here by both Mahrattas and Sikks Sikhs under their own officers with Engineer supervision. The work was commenced after dawn and completed at 0850. The only troop in any way delayed were the actual working party. No delay to transport was caused

The force then moved on to Ammant, water points being aquaduct fed by the Wadi Shaib Suweileh (Drinking water from spring) from springs, existing stone trough used for horses)

On the 25th Sept advanced fighting troops entered Amman An enemy force of about 6000 was advancing from the south with three railway trains of ammunition and supplies. A detachment of "B"Troop accompanied by a squadron of 5th L.H.Regt and in accordance with orders made two series of breaks in the line a little north of Lebban Station one covering I50ft and the other I450ft.

On 26th Sept H.Q. Chaytors Force moved into Amman

AMMAN Drinking water for the forces was obtained from springs and the railway station plant, necessary modifications being made. Horse water was from troughs filled from the running stream (toobadly contaminated for drinking water) Access. roads were cleared and constructed where necessary. The steam pumping plant at Amman Railway Station was overhauled, injector repaired and the plant run continuously till Chaytors Force left Amman.

The area was reconnoitred for Engineer stores and the mines about one ton of explosives mostly set charges was collected from the railway station including the electrically connected mine from the water tower the leads of which had been cut by "XX "A"Troop on arrival.

On 28th "A"Troop accompanied Ist L.H. Bde to junction of Wadi Amman and Wadi Hamman, it was noticed here that the viaduct demoilished by N.Z. Troop on the first attack on Amman was still only repaired temporily The gap had been narrowed as much as possible by adding to the bank and the reduced gap filled with temporary crib piers of sleepers, dogged.

On 30th a railway motor truck captured at Samra was repaired and brought in and a hand trolley was repaired at

repaired and brought in and a hand trolley was repaired at 3 Amman: these were used to examine line etc. Detachment was sent to Ziza to examine and overhaul captured engines and rollings stock.

October --- The repair of the damanged eng ine (German) found in the running shed Amman was completed. Work worthy of special mention was done by Lieut LockingtonN. Z. E. details attached. In addition to the main repairs shown on sketch the flanges on the main steam pipe at the joint with the steam chachest were badly cracked and a heavy collar had to be shrunkeon each, the buffers both back and front were completely smashed and had to be replaced with wooden ones sheathed with &"plate.

On completion of the work on @th Oct. the engine was run to Ziza, temporary repairs having been to the rails damaged by "B"Troop. The curves on this line were exceptionally sharp and the grades very heavy. A train of ammunition and war material was brought back on the 6th. On 7th the train returned to Ziza with wood and water for the engine being overhauled there, this was the only one of the three captured at Ziza which was reasonably serviceable. On IOth both engines returned with trains. On 13th a train was run towards Mafrak. The line was found blocked about six miles south of that place by thirteen trucks these were pulled back to Samra thence to Amman

On I 6th an experdition was run to Mafrak and brought back ten guns and much other war material including one armoured motor truck and one ordinary motor truck. Bedouins placed three obstructions on the line but no accident occured. Wireless rigged on the train constant touch with both moving and standing. Some rolling stock was left at bMafrak as the many damaged trucks there involved too much work in clearing the line. On 24th another train was run to Samra. This completed the bringing in of all arms ammunition, ordnance stores, and supplies between Ziza and references to Appendices Mafrak

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Appendices

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(4)
        The difficulty in connection with all train arrangements
    was shortage of food and water the coal found at Amman was,
   practically useless and though large supplies of wood were obtained it was very rough and the gang of thirty prisoners employed in splitting made slow progress. It was not practically to run any water tower but Amman and every engine that left of wood and water to cover the return journey and emergences. Numerous small repairs had to be carried out such as tightening leaky tubes and renewing packing.
   for a trip had to take three tenders (or their equivalent) of wood and water to cover the return journey and emergencys.

Numerous small repairs had to be carried out such as tightening leaky tubes and renewing packing.

Other work carried out at Amman was: - One motor workshop and one motor lorry, jacked onto the road, repaired and brought
           Supervision provided for handling of explosives, ammunition of explosives, ammunition of explosives, ammunition of explosives and explosives are also as a second of the explosive and explosive ammunition of explosive and explosive and explosive ammunition of explosive and expl
   etc captured at Amman and salved by rail: -mordnance Dept.
   refused to handle explosives or shells which had been unpacked
   from cases on account of the risk of them being fused. The
   following were disposed of by detonation or were buried:-
                           12050 Stick Grenades
                                 36
                                         Cases cordite
                                 45
                                                    401b aerial bombs
                                 40
                                                    151b
                                 21
                                                     detenators (aerial bombs)
                                 26
                                                                           (large aerial bombs)
                                 I2 "
                                                    aerial torpedoes
                                42
                                                  & quantity loose aerial bomb detonators
                                43
                                                     small aerial torpedo detonators
               about 2000
                                       Rounds gun and howitzer ammunition.
      Some experimental work was done with German electrical
  gear. The exploder was found very good (fused British standard
  bridge through IOO ohms) much lighter than our own and more conventent
  to operate, captured detenators were found very uneaven.
     The armoured truck from Mafrak was mrepaired and among other
  trips took G.O.C. and staff to Zerka. This truck seated about
  fourteen persons was fitted with two machine guns and loopholed
  all round, Dual drive, four speeds forward and four reverse, a
  electric starting and lighting. The accumulators were damaged
  beyond repair, but the engine, after overhauling was quite
  satisfactory and was considerably used by us.
     On D. H. Q. moving to the hills east of the Wadi Amman a
 motor road had to be constructed up out of the valley, Turkish
 prisoners were used as labour.
     On 28th the Hedjaz flag was raised in Amman.
     On Ist November H.Q. Chaptor's Force marched out.
     During the month the squadron had become so weak that
 it was only with great difficulty that work was carried on.
 For week ending I3th October seventy men were evacuated, for
 week ending 20th October thirty-one, or one half the strengths.
 of the unit in a fortnight.
RETURN TREK
     On 2nd October "N.Z. "Troop had accompanied N.Z.M.R. Bde on
 return trek and "B"Troop accompanied 2nd L. H. Bde. It was necessary
 to make all watering arrangements en route as far as Jericho.
On arrival here the Bde areas were salved and surplus gear
returned to R.E. Dump. For the remainder of the return trek to
Richon area existing watering areas were used, necessary
modification being made. The Brigades arrived at the Bichon
Area on 13th.
    Chaytors Force ceased to exist 3rd November 1918
Jericho R.E. Dump was handed over to 35th Coy for P.L. of C.
    Anzac D. H.Q? and Ist L.H. Bde less one regiment reached
Richon area 7th November
RICHON AREA
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On arrival the Wadi Hanein area was taken overby

"B"Troop and with the assistance of "N.Z"Troop the three engines

ho spital, the sick rate being

webe run , necessary modifications of the area were made to

Forty stretchers were made for Field Ambulance and a

water two brigades.

house altered to serve as

	1		13.
		Instructions Summa and the	
WAR DIARY		ns regardin naries are co the Staff M	
APPENDIX I	te	6 - 5	
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To Moascar to await embarkation 3. 8 - II - I8		н	
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To Moascar To Officers Cadet Battalion I. 22 - 9 - 10 To Officers Cadet Battalion I. 3 - II - I8		ELI	
		JIG Grase	/W
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