

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/36/31 Part 2

Title: 1st Field Squadron, Australian
Engineers

December 1918 (duplicate and triplicate)



AWM4-14/36/31PART2

Original

WAR DIARY

1st FIELD SQUADRON.

DECEMBER. 1918.

J.H. Brownell

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

1st Field Squadron
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RICHON AREA.			<p>From 1st to 18th inst the Field Troops were camped at the Watering Areas throughout the division.</p> <p>"A" Field Troop at Watering Area of 1st A. L. H. Brigade & 18th R. H. A. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Field Troop & N. Z. Field Troop at Water Point at Wadi Hanain where 2nd ALH Brigade and N.Z.M.R Brigade were watering .</p> <p>The pumping plants at these Water Areas were run and the Areas maintained.</p> <p>Divisional Troops watered in the Village of Richon, watering area maintained by a small detachment at Squadron Headquarters but pumping plant which at first was run by this Division at the end of 1917 was now being run by 359 Water Company R. E.</p> <p>A Racecourse for the Division was constructed at Richon parties of about 100 men per day under Engineer Supervision being employed for about five days- Flat track one mile and circular steeplechase track (six jumps) were made.</p> <p>The meeting was successful, about 3000 were present. Totalisator handled approximately £ 4.300. during the afternoon.</p> <p>Aplan of the ground is enclosed. The material required was obtained on loan from the A.P.R.E. A party of 250 men with twelve G.S. wagons repacked all material, sandbags, high wire, entanglements pickets etc in the same condition as when drawn and returned same in one day.</p> <p>The Commander-in-Chief addressed the Division dismounted on 16th.</p> <p>During this period the Field Troops also carried out work as under:-</p> <p>"A" Troop.</p> <p>Made hurdles for 1st L.H. Brigade Sports Ground.</p> <p>Repaired vapouriser of Hornsby-Ackroyd engine on pumping plant.</p> <p>Made targets and marking discs for 1st L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>Made crosses for 1st L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Troop.</p> <p>Rebuilt horse racks for the 1st Brigade Headquarters.</p> <p>Repaired motor bicycle for 2nd L.H. Brigade Signal Troop.</p> <p>Made stools for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. Concert Party.</p> <p>Built Bath house for Divisional Train.</p> <p>Repaired targets for 2nd L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>Erected stage for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A.</p> <p>Repaired oil engine at Water point.</p> <p>Repaired fanatis for 2nd L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"N.Z. Field Troop</p> <p>Erected targets and fixtured and supervised construction of rifle range for N.Z.M.R. Brigade.</p> <p>On 18th the A.&N.Z.Mounted Division commenced the trek from RICHON to RAFA. The stages were;-</p> <p>18th. to Wadi Sukerier. 19th. to Mejdal. 20th to Gaza.</p> <p>21st to belah. 22nd to Rafa.</p> <p>Two Officers accompanied the D.A.Q.M.G. as advance party for each move leaving bivouac areas 0630 each morning and made preliminary inspection of watering facilities of each bivouacarea and necessary arrangements for alteration and</p>	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



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Duplicate

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*1st Field Sqn
A.R.*

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>RICHON AREA</i>			<p>From 1st to 18th inst the Field Troops were camped at the Watering Areas throughout the division.</p> <p>"A" Field Troop at watering Area of 1st A. L. H. Brigade & 18th R. H. A. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Field Troop & N. Z. Field Troop at Water Point at Wadi Hanain where 2nd ALH Brigade and N.Z.M.R brigade were watering.</p> <p>The pumping plants at these Water Areas were run and the Areas maintained.</p> <p>Divisional Troops watered in the village of Richon, watering area maintained by a small detachment at Squadron Headquarters but pumping plant which at first was run by this Division at the end of 1917 was now being run by 359 Water Company R. E.</p> <p>A Racecourse for the division was constructed at Richon parties of about 100 men per day under Engineer supervision being employed for about five days:- Flat track one mile and circular steeplechase track (six jumps) were made. The meeting was successful, about 3000 were present. Totalisator handled approximately £ 4.300. during the afternoon. A plan of the ground is enclosed. The material required was obtained on loan from the A.P.R.E. A party of 250 men with twelve G.S. wagons repacked all material, sandbags, high wire, entanglements pickets etc in the same condition as when drawn and returned same in one day.</p> <p>The Commander-in-Chief addressed the division dismounted on 16th.</p> <p>During this period the Field Troops also carried out work as under:-</p> <p>"A" Troop. Made hurdles for 1st L.H. Brigade Sports Ground. Repaired vapouriser of Hornsby-Ackroyd engine on pumping plant. Made targets and marking discs for 1st L.H. Brigade. Made crosses for 1st L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Troop. Rebuilt horse racks for the 1st brigade Headquarters. Repaired motor bicycle for 2nd L.H. Brigade Signal Troop. Made stools for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. Concert Party. Built bath house for Divisional Train. Repaired targets for 2nd L.H. Brigade. Erected stage for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. Repaired oil engine at water point. Repaired fanatis for 2nd L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"N.Z. Field Troop Erected targets and fixtured and supervised construction of rifle range for N.Z.M.R. Brigade.</p> <p>On 18th the A.&N.Z. Mounted division commenced the trek from RICHON to RAFA. The stages were:- 18th. to Wadi Sukerier. 19th. to Mejdal. 20th to Gaza. 21st to Belah. 22nd to Rafa.</p> <p>Two Officers accompanied the D.A.Q.M.G. as advance party for each move leaving bivouac areas 0630 each morning and made preliminary inspection of watering facilities of each bivouac area and necessary arrangements for alteration and</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>December, 1918.</i>	
RAFA	22nd		<p>expansion.</p> <p>A considerable amount of work was usually necessary, but in every case the actual supply supply of water was adequate, facilities for distribution mostly had to be provided. This work was done by the field troops arriving at the head of the column. One or more field Troops as required being left to follow in rear after picking up equipment when the division had finished watering.</p> <p>The roads were very bad for the first two days owing to continued wet weather, after that they improved.</p> <p>The water in the Wadi Sukerier was very muddy for the same reason. At all other camping places water was from pumping plants on deep wells and was good.</p> <p>On arrival in the RAFA Area the water was drawn from the main pipe line (Sweet Water Canal). The reservoirs at OLD RAFA were available but the Horse Watering Area was quite inadequate and there were no drinking water facilities except at NEW RAFA Station.</p> <p>The work of remedying this was taken in hand at once and canvas troughs erected, wooden troughs overhauled and indents forwarded for material for a Drinking Water Area, Settling and Chlorinating Tanks and Standpipes.</p> <p>The work on drinking water area was delayed by indents having to be submitted to Staff Officer P.L. of C. Rafa. and passed to EL ARISH for authority before material could be issued.</p> <p>All heavy equipment and baggage had been sent down by rail and had to be drawn from Rafa Station.</p> <p>The Division was inspected and addressed by the Corps Commander on 27th.</p> <p>Lieutenant McLaughlin rejoined on the 23rd from hospital.</p> <p>Captain Steven left for Moascar to await embarkation for Australia on 8th and sailed on the 23th.</p> <p>Lieutenant Gale left to take up the duties of Adjutant of the New Zealand Training Depot. on the 24th.</p> <p>2/Lieutenant Lange left for the New Zealand Depot Ismailia to await embarkation for New Zealand on 31st.</p> <p>The Field Squadron personnel approximately upto strength with the exception of the New Zealand personnel which was short of 18 to 20 other ranks throughout the month.</p> <p>On the 31st 18 other ranks marched out to New Zealand Training Depot to await embarkation to New Zealand.</p> <p>The condition of the horses is only fair on account of the hard work done during the month, <i>and the horses now mostly old not having recovered from the last operations</i></p> <p><i>Admiral Major Lundy</i></p>	

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<i>RICHON AREA</i>	<i>Decr 1918</i>		<p>From 1st to 18th inst the Field Troops were camped at the watering Areas throughout the division.</p> <p>"A" Field Troop at watering Area of 1st A. L. H. Brigade & 18th R. H. A. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Field Troop & R. Z. Field Troop at water point at wadi Hanain where 2nd ALH Brigade and H.Z.M.R Brigade were watering.</p> <p>The pumping plants at these water Areas were run and the Areas maintained.</p> <p>Divisional Troops watered in the village of Richon, watering area maintained by a small detachment at Squadron Headquarters but pumping plant which at first was run by this Division at the end of 1917 was now being run by 359 Water Company R. Z.</p> <p>A Racecourse for the division was constructed at Richon parties of about 100 men per day under Engineer supervision being employed for about five days. Flat track one mile and circular steeplechase track (six jumps) were made.</p> <p>The meeting was successful, about 3000 were present. Totalisator handled approximately £ 4,300. during the afternoon.</p> <p>A plan of the ground is enclosed. The material required was obtained on loan from the A.P.R.E. A party of 250 men with twelve G.S. wagons repacked all material, sandbags, high wire, entanglements pickets etc in the same condition as when drawn and returned same in one day.</p> <p>The Commander-in-Chief addressed the Division dismounted on 16th.</p> <p>During this period the Field Troops also carried out work as under:-</p> <p>"A" Troop. Made hurdles for 1st L.H. brigade sports ground. Repaired vapouriser of Hornsby-Ackroyd engine on pumping plant. Made targets and marking discs for 1st L.H. Brigade. Made crosses for 1st L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"B" Troop. Rebuilt horse racks for the 2nd Brigade Headquarters. Repaired motor bicycle for 2nd L.H. Brigade Signal Troop. Made stools for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. concert Party. Built bath house for divisional Train. Repaired targets for 2nd L.H. Brigade. Erected stage for 2nd L.H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. Repaired oil engine at water point. Repaired fanatis for 2nd L.H. Brigade.</p> <p>"R.Z. Field Troop. Erected targets and fixtured and supervised construction of rifle range for H.Z.M.R. Brigade.</p> <p>On 18th the A.&N.Z. Mounted division commenced the trek from RICHON to RAFA. The stages were:- 18th. to wadi Sukerier. 19th. to Mejdal. 20th to Gaza. 21st to Belah. 22nd to Rafa.</p> <p>Two Officers accompanied the D.A.Q.M.G. as advance party for each move leaving bivouac areas 0630 each morning and made preliminary inspection of watering facilities of each bivouac area and necessary arrangements for alteration and</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DECEMBER	1918.			
RICHON AREA.			<p>From 1st to 18th inst., the Field Troops were camped at the watering area throughout the Division.</p> <p>A Field Troop at watering area of 1st Brigade (A.L.H.) and 18th R.H.A. Brigade.</p> <p>B Field Troop and N.Z. Field Troop at water point at WADI HANEIN where 2nd A.L.H. Bde., and N.Z.M. Rifles Brigade were watering.</p> <p>The pumping plants at these watering areas were run and the areas maintained.</p> <p>Divisional troops watered in the village of RICHON. Watering area maintained by a small detachment at Sqn. Headquarters, but pumping plant which at first was run by this Division at the end of 1917 was now being being run by 359 Water Company R. E.,</p> <p>A race-course for the Division was constructed at RICHON, parties of about 100 men per day under Engineer supervision being employed for about 5 days. A flat track one mile and circular steeple-chase track (six jumps) were made. The meeting was successful about 3000 being present. Totalisator handled approximately £4,300 during the afternoon. 250 men with twelve G.S. wagons repacked all material, sandbags, highwire, entanglements, pickets etc., in the same condition as when drawn, and returned same in one day.</p> <p>The Commander in Chief addressed the Division dismounted on the 16th.</p> <p>During this period the Field Troops also carried out work as under:-</p>	
"A" Troop			Made hurdles for 1st A.L.H., Bde., Sports-ground. Repaired vapouriser of Hornsby-Ackrovo, engine on pumping plant. Made targets and marking-discs for 1st A.L.H., Brigade. Made crosses for 1st A.L.H., Brigade.	
"B" Troop			<p>Rebuilt horse-racks for B. H. Q., Repaired Motor Cycle for 2nd L. H. Brigade Signal Troop.</p> <p>Made stools for 2nd L. H. Brigade Y.M.C.A. concert party. Built bath-house for Divisional Train. Repaired targets for 2nd L. H. Brigade. Erected stage for 2nd Bde. Y.M.C.A.,</p> <p>Repaired oil-engine at water point.</p> <p>Repaired fanatis for 2nd L. H. Brigade. Erected targets and fixtures and supervised construction of Rifle Range for N.Z.M.R. Brigade.</p>	
<p>D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14</p>				

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DECEMBER	1918			
RICHON AREA				
"N.Z." Troop			On 18th the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division commenced the trek from RICHON to RAFA; the stages were	
			18th to WADI SUKERIER 19th to MEDJEL 20th to GAZA 21st to BELAH 22nd to RAFA	
			Two Officers accompanied the D.A.Q.M.G., as advance party for each move leaving bivouac areas 0630 each morning, and made preliminary inspection of watering facilities of each bivouac area and necessary arrangements for alteration and expansion.	
			A considerable amount of work was usually necessary, but in every case the actual supply of water was adequate; facilities for distribution mostly had to be provided. This work was by the Field Troops arriving at the head of the column, one or more Field Troops as required being left to follow in rear after picking equipment after the Division had finished watering.	
			The roads were very bad for the first two days owing to continued bad weather; after that they improved. The water in the Wadi Sukerier was very muddy for the same reason. At all other camping places water was from pumping plants on deep wells and was good.	
	R A F A	22nd	On arrival in the Rafa area the water was drawn from the main pipe-line (sweet water canal) The resevoirs at Old Rafa were available but the horse-watering area was quite inadequate and there were no drinking water facilities except at New Rafa Station. The work of remedying this was taken in hand at once and canvas troughs erected, wooden troughs overhauled, and indents forwarded for material for a drinking water area, settling and chlorinating tanks and stand-pipes.	
			The work on drinking water area was delayed by indents having to be submitted to Staff Officer P.L. of C., Rafa, and passed to El Arish for authority before material could be issued.	
			All heavy equipment and baggage had been sent down by rail, and had to be drawn from RAFA Station.	
			The Division was inspected and addressed by the Corps Commander on the 27th.	
			Lieut. McLaughlin rejoined on the 23rd from Hospital.	

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