

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/36/7

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

December 1916



AWM4-14/36/7

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.)

12-1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAZAR	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		<p>HEADQUARTERS</p> <p>Making improved type of <u>TRIPOD-STAND</u> for "<u>LEWIS</u>" MACHINE-GUN.</p> <p><u>Construction</u>, - <u>Forged</u>, The Seat and one leg forged in one piece, with Lugs for the two hinged Legs which are adjusted with Thumb-screw enabling the Legs to spread, allowing the Gun to be lowered or to bring the Legs into position for height.</p> <p>As per sketch Pin "A" made with collar and Forked Lugs to take Gun-Clamp, The Pin "A" allows for a complete circular traverse <u>Elevation or Depression</u>, adjusted by means of graduated and spring clip Quadrants.</p> <p><u>Advantages</u>, - Lightness (about) 6 lbs, Strong, easy manipulation for traverse, Elevation and Depression, free of intricate mechanism.</p> <p>Legs easily adjusted, gun can be quickly placed and attached.</p> <p>Making improved type of <u>DRIVING CAP</u> for 2½ inch dia <u>SPEAR-POINT</u></p> <p>Type as per War Diary Vol. 3. dated November 1916; the new type (improved) driving cap instead of being made in two pieces is now made with both pieces hinged which gives increased grip with clamp and allows a more even bearing with clamp on pipe and only requires attention to tightening one bolt instead of two of previous type thus saving much time in fixing clamp to Spear Point or Extension Pipe, see drawings attached.</p>	

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12.2  
15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAADAN	20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		HEADQUARTERS	
			<p>Moved to MAADAN (KILO 128) and treked to EL-ARISH arriving and establishing camp on 21<sup>12</sup>/<sub>16</sub>                      Developing and improving Water Supply for Divisional Troops                      Miscellaneous works in Camp.</p>	
EL-ARISH	21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>			
	to			
	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>			

*J.H.*

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3.1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GERERAT	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		<u>"A" TROOP.</u> Developing WATER SUPPLY at GERERAT in the NEW ZEALAND VALLEY and PARAMATTA GROUP WELLS	
	to			
	20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Tested for Water at EL AABASH, EL MURRA and WADI-EL-ARISH. Erecting Canvas 600 Gallon Troughs and Canvas 2,300 Gallon Reservoirs for Water Supply to 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Horse Brigade.	
EL-ARISH	20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Troop moved from GERERAT with 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Horse Brigade and treked to EL ARISH, arriving EL ARISH at 0700 on 21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
	to			
	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Brigade left EL-ARISH at 1800 on 22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> enroute to MAGDHABA 22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> and 23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Testing for water in WADI-EL-ARISH and LAHFAN	
			23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Returned to EL-ARISH and prepared water supply for Brigades to 29 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> set up Canvas Trough and Reservoirs and drove Spear Points	
			30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Left EL-RISA with Brigade enroute for SHEIKH-ZOWAID, inspected wells 31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> and returned to EL-RISA with Brigade at 1300 on 31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
			Report on Wells inspected between EL-RISA and SHEIKH-ZOWAID on 30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> and 31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> - Reference Maps- EL-ARISH 1/25000, RAFA 1/25000.	
			BIR-EL-BURJ, - Stone Lined Circular Well - diameter 5 feet - Depth from ground level 36 feet Depth of Water 3 feet 6 inches. Water tastes brackish (Salinity 538 points in 100,000) 2 Pumps with air chamber, 1 1/2 inch delivery. 1 Pump is in working order, except that a few studs required tightening, the other pump has the handle missing and the	

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

J.P.A.

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WAR DIARY

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2. 5  
X

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL-ARISH	30 <sup>12/16</sup> and 31 <sup>12/16</sup>		the delivery pipe is missing from both pumps. 2 Wooden Troughs apparently in good order	
			BIR-GABR-AMEIR,- Water Hole about 2 feet 6 inches diameter - Depth 6 feet 6 inches Depth of Water 2 feet 6 inches; Quality of Water,- Fresh	
			Northern edge of palms about 3/4 mile west of SHEIKH-ZOWAID	
			Here there are three (3) groups of wells in a line approx: north-east The most westerly group consists of five (5) wells each of which is about 4 feet 9 inch square, lined with palms and covered with squared timber. The average depth to water level is about 4 feet, and each well contains from 18 inches to 2 feet of water, a sample taken showed a Salinity of 53 parts in 100,000. At each well there is set up one (1) pump and one (1) wooden trough. Two (2) of the pumps are in working order, complete, the others for the greater part have bolts missing from the handles, one plunger is missing, Three (3) of the troughs are in good order, the 4 <sup>th</sup> could be repaired and the 5 <sup>th</sup> is past all repair.	
			The middle group of Wells, consist of 7 Wells similar to those described above, each being similarly provided with one (1) pump and one (1) trough. These wells are separated from the westerly group by a small sand ridge. Of the pumps three (3) are in working order, three (3) require bolts and one (1) has the plunger missing.	J.H.A.

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12/11  
15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL-ARISH	30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		There are six ⑥ troughs in good order and one ① past repair. All the wells in both this group and the more westerly group require cleaning out, the foot valves of pumps being in most cases buried in sand.	
	and 31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		The Most Easterly Group is separated from the Middle Group by another sand ridge. Here there are four ④ wells about 4 feet 9 inches square lined with palms but having no covers and no pumps, these wells have silted practically right in. The depth to water level is about 4 feet. Salinity of a sample taken was 17 parts in 100 000.	
			SHEIKH-ZOWAID.- At the north easterly edge of the village there is a circular stone-lined well about 5 feet diameter at the top and 4 feet diameter at water level. - Depth about 24 feet - Depth of Water 3 feet 6 inches. Water tastes slightly brackish. Set up at the well is a Semi-Rotary Pump with about a 2 inch delivery handle is missing, This delivers into a stone reservoir about 18 feet by 12 feet by 3 feet 6 inches deep with a stone trough round the perimeter. About 150 yards N.W. of this well is another, apparently new, well, which is circular, stone-lined approx 9 feet diameter. - Depth from ground level - 17 feet. Depth of Water 3 feet, Water tastes fresh. (Salinity 17 parts in 100 000). Set up on this well is a Rotary Pump with about a 3 inch delivery which was driven with a belt drive, by a "DEUTZ" Oil Engine - cylinder, engine frame and flywheel of which remains. - This pump delivered into a reservoir similar to that at the other well, but the delivery pipe has been removed.	

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12/16

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HASSANIYA	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		"B" TROOP - Developing WATER SUPPLY for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade at HOD-EL-BATAR, GAMAL, BAYUD, MAGEIBRA, ZAGADAN and at RUEISAT - Miscellaneous work in Camp.	
	to 31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>			
MALHA	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		"C" TROOP - Developing WATER SUPPLY for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade at MALHA - Miscellaneous work in Camp. 20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Moved from MALHA at 0900 - treked to ARNUSSI and prepared Water Supply for Brigade - 1400 picked up Water Supply Gear and moved with Brigade to GERERAT-GYMPIE WELLS. and prepared Water Supply for Brigade. -	
	to 20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>			
	21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Moved from GERERAT at 2200 and treked towards EL-ARISH arrived at HILL 120 (3 miles S.W of EL-ARISH) at daybreak. 21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> From HILL 120 moved with Brigade to MASA'ID and prepared Water Supply - 1400 moved to small HOD on beach 1 Mile West of EL-ARISH prepared water supply and camped for night	
	to	21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		
EL-ARISH			22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Moved with Brigade at 0600 arrived EL-ARISH at 0700 and watered Brigade morning and afternoon in WADI-EL-ARISH, moved on at 1800 and treked all night arrived at a point 3 Miles N.W of MAGDHABA at 0900 on 23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> .	
MAGDHABA			23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> Day of MAGDHABA fight, prepared water for Brigade (after surrender of MAGDHABA) at 1645 from existing Cistern inside entrenched position, after watering treked with Brigade to LAHFAM	[Signature]

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASA'ID	24 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		LAHFAN then to MASA'ID arriving 0800 on 24 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
	to		Preparing and improving water supply and miscellaneous work for	
	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Brigade.	
MUSTAGIDDA	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		"D" TROOP. Developing and Improving Water Supply for New Zealand Mounted	
	to		Rifle Brigade at MUSTAGIDDA, ZOABATIA, ARNUSSI, BIR-EL-MASMI,	
	20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		NEW ZEALAND VALLEY WELLS and GIMAL-GYMPIE WELLS	
			EL-MURRA, HOD-FELEIFEL-south., HOD-MADAWARET-HAMED	
			HOD-LIHMISSA, KHASAM-GHANEM,	
		20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Moved with Brigade to GYMPIE WELLS and camped until 2200, then	
			treked with Brigade towards EL-ARISH arriving HILL 120 at	
MASMI	21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	daybreak on 21 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> - From HILL 120 moved with Brigade to MASMI	
	22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	and prepared water supply for Brigade, and camped until 1800	
			on 22 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> when Brigade treked towards MAGDHABA arriving	
			at scene of operations 0900 on 23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
MAGDHABA	23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	23 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Day of MAGDHABA fight prepared water for Brigade (after surrender	
			of MAGDHABA) at 16.45 from existing Cistern inside entrenched	
			position after watering treked to MASMI arriving 0400 on 24 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
MASMI	24 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	24 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub> and 25 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Prepared Water Supply for Brigade at MASMI	
MASA'ID	26 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	26 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Treked to MASA'ID and prepared Water Supply for Brigade	
	to	to	Brigade arriving on 27 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	
	30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Improving and Developing water supply for Brigade	
	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	Treked with Brigade to KILO 139 and prepared watering	

J.H.



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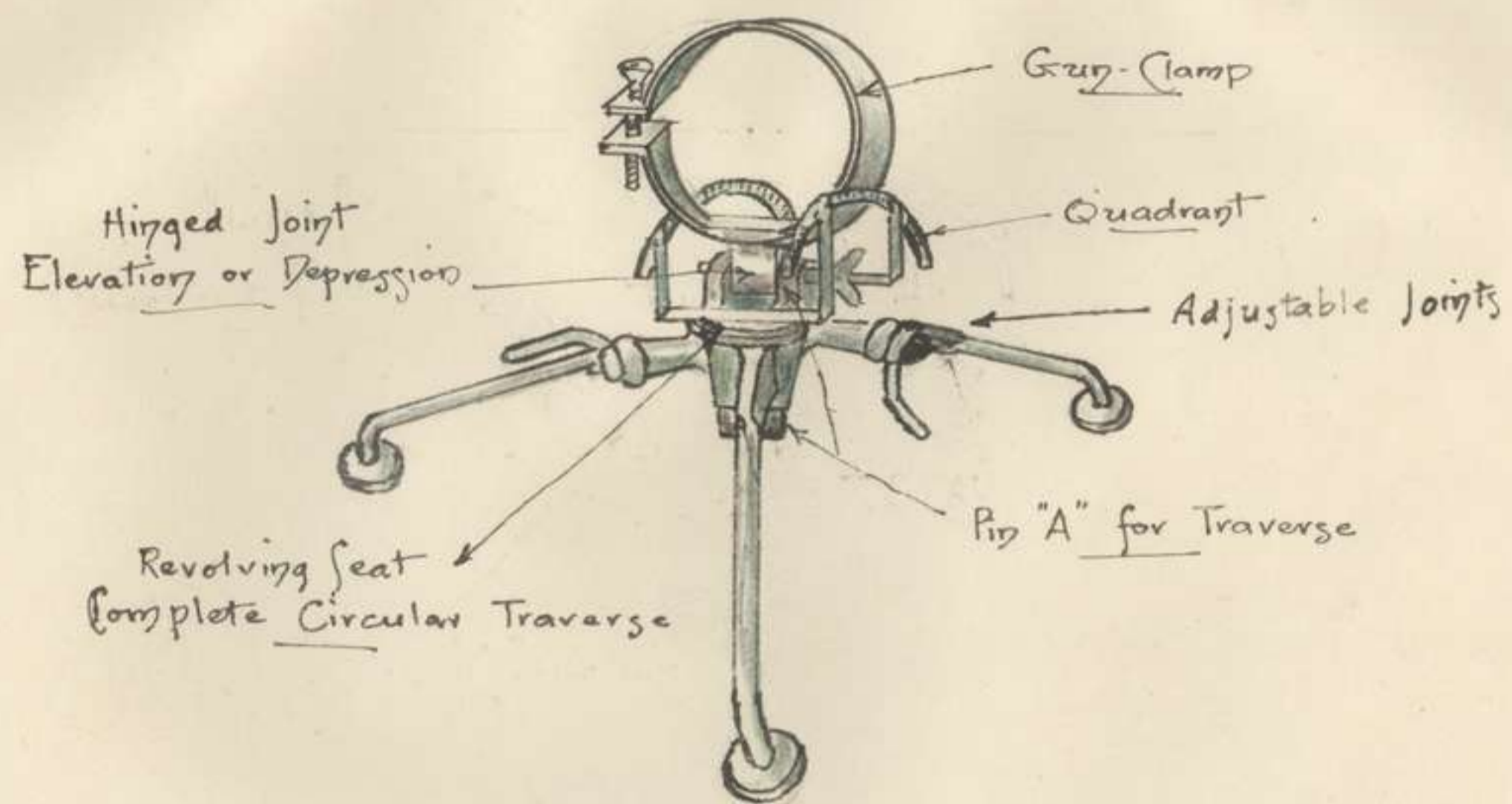
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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12.8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HILL 70	1 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		7 <sup>TH</sup> FIELD TROOP R.E. - Preparing and Developing WATER SUPPLY for 5 <sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade (Yeomanry) at HILL 70 and HOD-EL-ARAS Miscellaneous work in Camp.	
	to 7 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>			
ROMANI	8 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Treked to ROMANI with Brigade and prepared watering enroute,	
BIR-EL-ABD	13 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Treked to BIR-EL-ABD with Brigade and prepared watering enroute	
MAZAR	18 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Treked to MAZAR " " " " " "	
MAADAN	20 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		" " MAADAN " " " " " "	
BITTIA	31 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>16</sub>		Improving and Developing Water Supply for Brigade	

J.P.A.



IMPROVED TRIPOD  
 FOR  
 "LEWIS" MACHINE-GUN

Made at Field Blacksmiths Shop  
1st Field Squadron Engineers - ANZAC Mounted Division

MAZAR

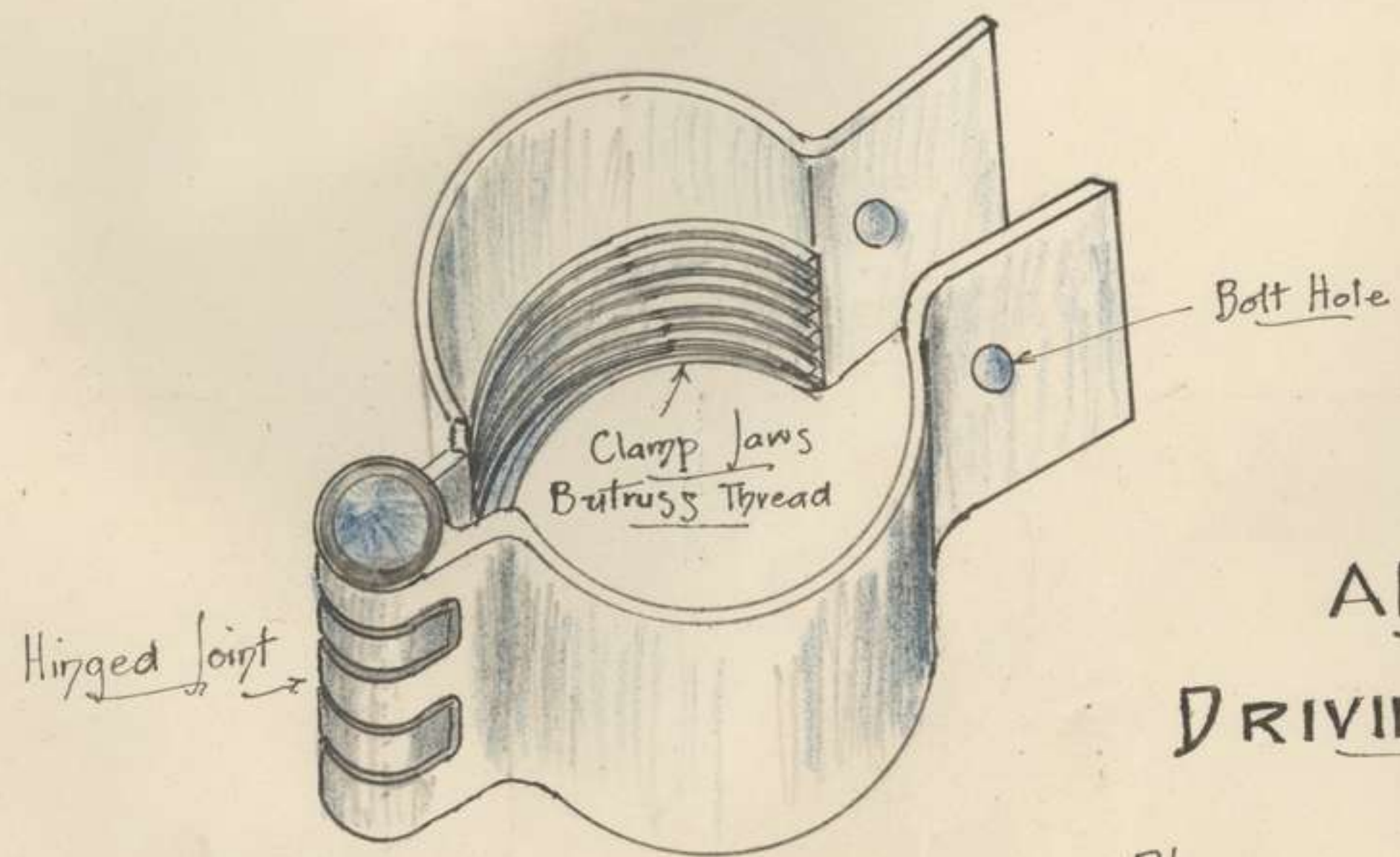
December 1916

12-11

APPENDIX

*M.A.*

E  
15.10



ANZAC  
DRIVING CAP  
FOR

2½ INCH DIA "SPEAR-POINT"

Improvement on type shown in  
WAR DIARY. VOLUME No 3 dated November 1916

Sample made at  
Field Blacksmiths Shop  
1st Field Squadron Engineers, ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION  
MAZAR

December 1916

*[Signature]*

Diagram - showing - wells - in - Wadi - EL - ARISH and Foreshore.

Note - Animal wells are not numbered  
Salinities show thus (58)

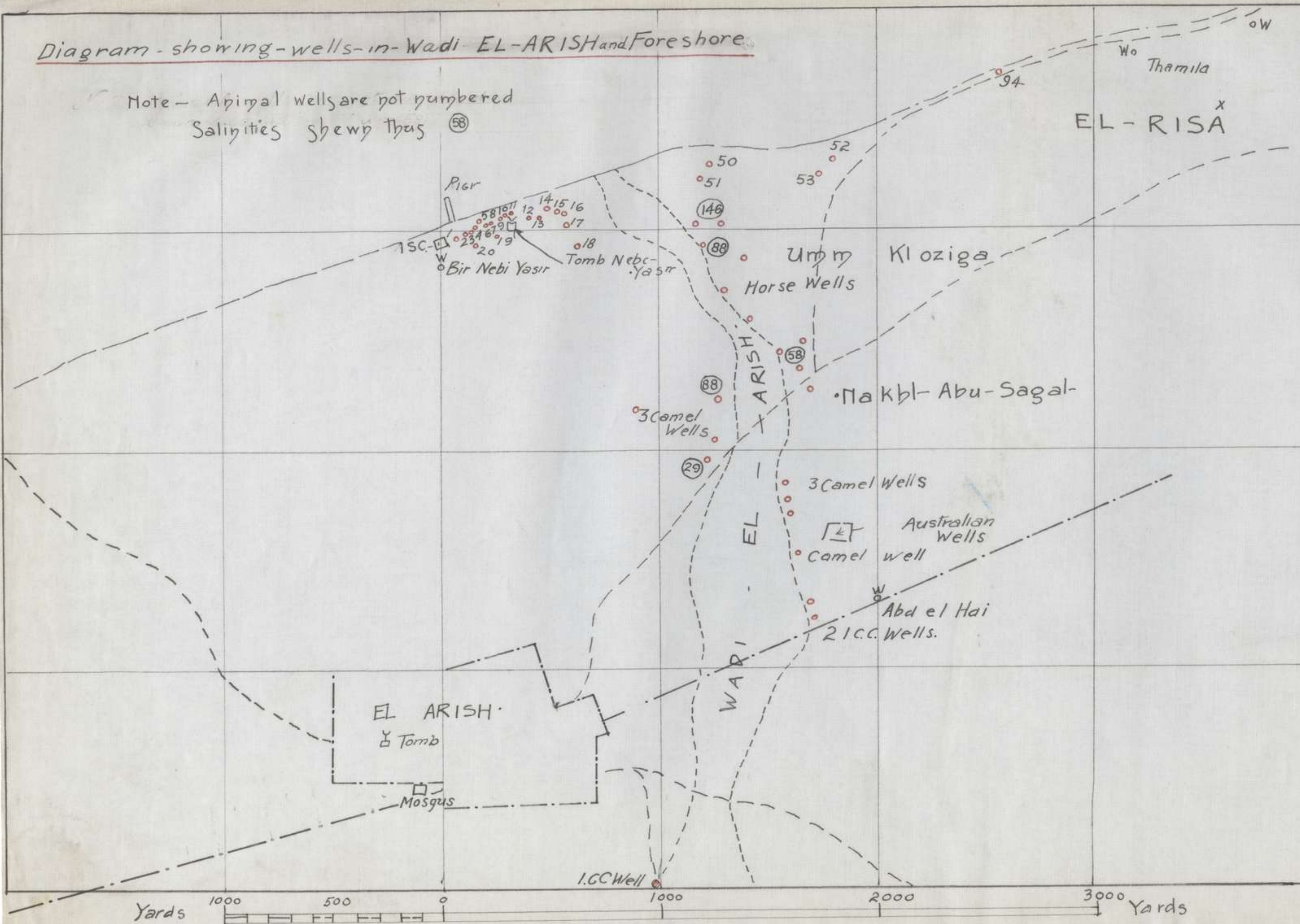
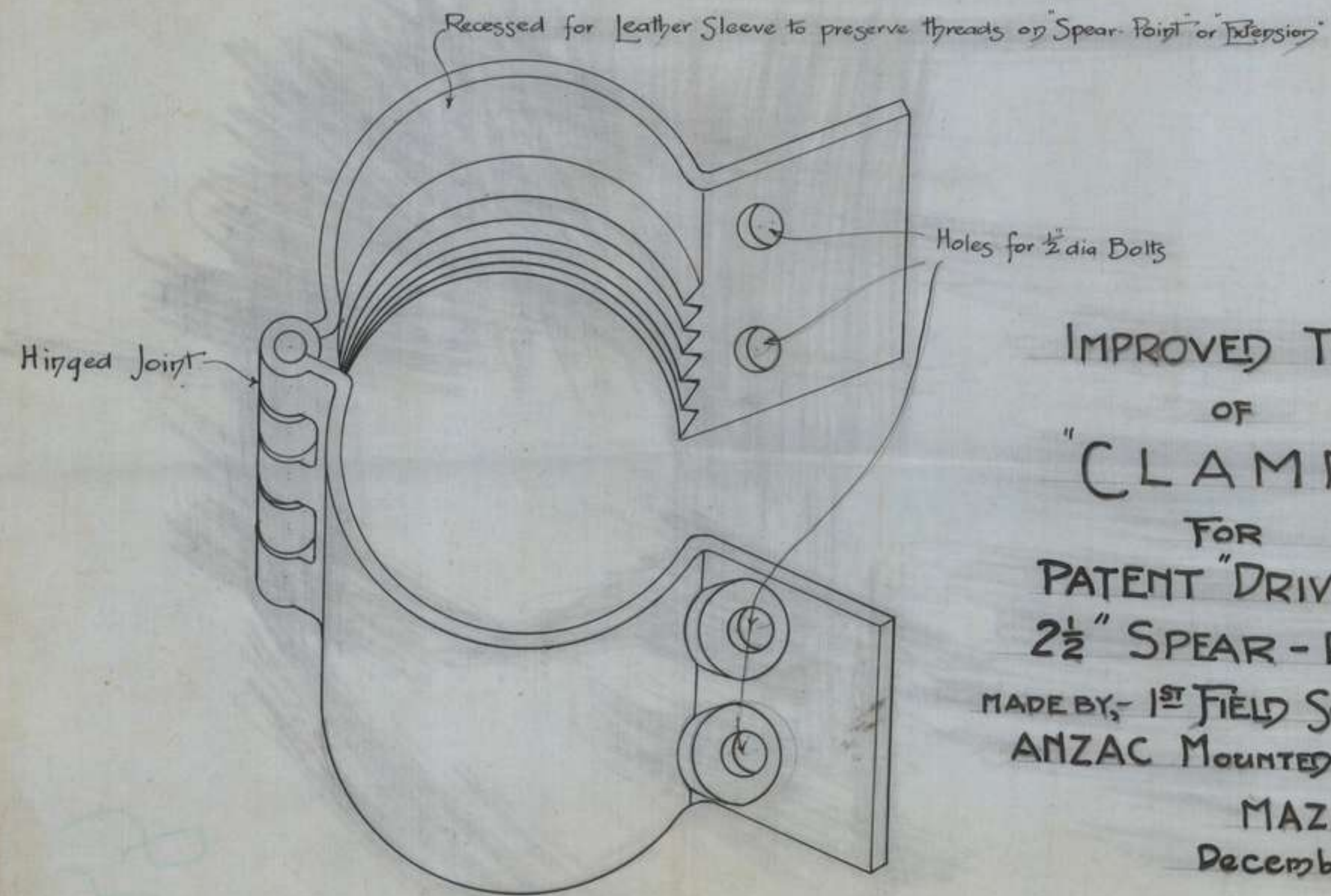


TABLE OF SALINITIES

WELL N <sup>o</sup>	SALINITE
Stone -well	42
1	56
2	50
3	70
4	70
5	53
6	46
7	56
8	43
*9	217
10	35
*11	164
12	240
13	287
14	1100
15	260
16	182
17	65
18	88
19	57
20	38
50	234
51	234
52	219
53	219
54	117

Wells 9 and 11 for natives.

APPENDIX



IMPROVED TYPE  
OF  
"CLAMP"  
FOR  
PATENT "DRIVING CAP"  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " SPEAR-POINT  
MADE BY:- 1<sup>ST</sup> FIELD SQUADRON **ENGERS**  
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION  
MAZAR  
December 1916

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Reception Box

WASAR

WASAC Mechanics Division

WASAR is Field Service Unit

Sr. Staff - B.M.H.

PATENT BRINKING CO.

FOR

CLAMPS

OF

IMPROVED TYPE

WASAR