

AWM4

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

Tunnelling & Survey

Item number: 16/4/5

Title: 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company

August 1916



AWM4-16/4/5

Confidential.

Summary of Events and Information

War Diary
of
3rd Aust. Tnlq. Coy.
for
August 1916.

Compiling Officer. J.B. Shaw

3rd
AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING COY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II.
and the 2nd Manual respectively. This page
will be prepared in manuscript.

356
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one
AUSTRALIAN
TUNING BOX

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.

Confidential

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

War Diary
of
3rd Aust. Div. Coy.
for
August 1916.

Confidential Officer
William

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.)

3rd Tunnelling Coy.
11.

Army Form C. 2118.

3rd
AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING COY.
No. 356
Date

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916			
	Aug.	1.	<p>Strength of Company $\frac{14}{2} = \frac{16}{16}$ } Officers $\frac{349}{67} = \frac{416}{416}$ O.R. B.E.F. Attached 135 O.R.</p> <p><u>Mining</u> Defensive - Offensive Mining was continued throughout the month of August in the Red Lamp - Jarquissart - Chapigny - Tillatoy Sectors. During the month N.C.O.'s & coppers were sent to the Mine Rescue School for instruction periodically in small parties.</p> <p>Shell proof covers were constructed on all the shaft heads. All the shafts were vertical except No 13. This was the first inclined shaft put down in clay. It was The ground was very wet, slurry in fact. It was successfully completed 50 ft. on the incline.</p> <p>Listening work was carried out during the month & played a very important part in the mining work.</p> <p>COMPANY ORDER No 70: - 1138 Cpl. Reed E.W. 2391 Spr. Martin A.E. 911 Spr. Aldum E.W. wounded on 3/8/16.</p> <p>" No 85: - 1441 Acting Sergeant Benson W. from reinforcements, reported here & was taken on strength</p> <p>" No 86: - List of N.C.O.'s promotions.</p> <p>" No 87: - 1271 Spr. Henrickson H. 2713 Spr. Tweedale T.R. Slightly wounded 20/8/16.</p> <p>" No 88 } Details for Bombing Schools. " 89 } " 90 } " 91 } " 92 } " 93: - Platoon Morris detailed to proceed to 2nd Army Listening School for instruction.</p>	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

3rd Tunnelling Coy.
12.

Army Form C. 2118.



Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>COMPANY ORDER 95:-</u> Major L. J. Coulter awarded D.S.O. (G.R.O. 28/8/16) Capt. A. Sanderson " M.C. " 1364 Sgt. M. J. M. Kerby " D.C.M. " 1176 Cpl. L. A. Street " D.C.M. "	
Aug.			<u>CORRESPONDENCE R+I:-</u> Correspondence from C of M. 1 st Army. Ref: Enemy Signalling Instructions from O.C. Company to O.C. Sections re Signalling A.M. 232 from O.C. 3 rd Aust. Tnl. Coy. re enemy Signalling	Appendix 3
			Letter to C.O. from C of M. 1 st Army Ref: Conference of C.O's of Tunnelling Companies.	App. 5
			A.M. 438 from Adjutant to C of M. 1 st Army Ref: Credentials of Lieut. H. W. Brown.	App. 6
			Letter from O.C. Company to C of M. Ref: Enemy Minewerfer Shell exploding on shaft at Chapigny.	App. 8.
			<u>INTELLIGENCE:-</u> The authority for the name of "3 rd Aust. Tunnelling Coy." and its separation from the 1 st Aust. Mining Corps is given in A.I.F. Order 214 of 19 th Aug. 1916. G.H.Q. No OB/1466 of 3/8/16.	
			28 th Type page 10	
			30 th Type page 37 of June diary	

War Diary.
of
3rd Aust. Trench Coy.
for
August 1916.
Appendices.

J.B.S.

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APPENDIX 3.

O.C., *N^o 3 Aust. Inf.* Coy., R.E.
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1. Have you any evidence of enemy signalling by knocking. If so, please give me details. In future also please give me any instances that occur.
2. Any attempt on our part at signalling to enemy is strictly forbidden. Please issue instructions to all concerned, on this point. Please acknowledge.

19/8/16.

Lieut-Colonel, R.E.,
Controller of Mines,
First Army.

A.M. ~~WER~~ 234.

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Headquarters,

22/8/16.

The O.C.,
No. ^{1, 2, 3, 4.} Section,

Please repeat instructions to Officers and all other ranks working in mines in regard to enemy signalling.

Any attempt on our part at signalling to the enemy is strictly forbidden and will be regarded as a wilful disobedience of orders.

No notice whatever must be taken of enemy signalling except to report same when signals are heard.

It is particularly important that work ~~which~~ which is in progress when enemy sounds are heard should not be stopped immediately after hearing the sound, as this is tantamount to a reply to the enemy and may endanger the lives of those ^{subsequently} working in the vicinity.

A. Sanderson.

Capt.,

O.C. Australian Mining Corps, R.E.,

22/8/16.

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Copy 356
Controller of Mines,
1st., Army,

In reply to your Memo No 281/C.

On several occasions the Listeners at Winchester, Colvin, and Red Lamp reported that the enemy had sent signal knocks presumably with the idea of drawing reply signals from us.

The Platmans knock was the one generally heard. I have myself on two occasions distinctly heard this knock signalled by the enemy.

Instructions were issued some time ago that no notice was to be taken of these enemy signals except to report same and the possible danger which would be caused by replying or stopping work immediately after hearing a signal was pointed out. These instructions will be repeated.

Alex. Sanderson.

Capt.,.

O.C. Australian Mining Corps, R.E.,

"22/8/16.

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O.C., *N^o 3 Aust. Coy.*, R.E.

1. Please arrange to attend a conference of O.C.'s. Tunnelling Companies, with Controller of Mines First Army, at Mine School, Houchin, at 3 p.m. on 23/8/16. If work prevents your attendance, please send a representative.

2. In view of the increasing number of power plants in use by Tunnelling Companies, it will become necessary to have a central organisation to carry out repairs and provide operating personnel to various companies.

In conjunction with above, it is proposed to provide fitters, carpenters, smiths, and electrical shops to carry out work required by Tunnelling Companies; and to cut timber for companies conveniently situated. These workshops would probably be in Bethune.

3. Please submit your proposals in writing on the following points, to reach this office by 22/8/16 :-

- (a) Any changes in present method of working which would render a larger percentage of your total strength available for duty in the trenches.
- (b) Your probable requirements in haulage, in shafts, inclines, laterals, and listening galleries, with special regard to standardisation of appliances, e.g. size & type of wheels & trucks, gauge and nature of rails, winches, geared and direct.
- (c) Standard sizes of shafts, inclines, and galleries, with types of timbering for ground conditions on your front.

4. In addition will you please give me the following information at same time :-

Actual numbers of men now employed at your Headquarters on timber cutting, making mine cases and frames, and working

of pumps, trucks, and other appliances for mines.

5.

It must be remembered that

- (a) the timber supply is becoming more uncertain each month, and therefore the utmost economy must be observed.
- (b) that at present, not only each company, but often each section of a company has a special type of or size of gallery, and timbering, and method of haulage ; therefore great variety in machinery and appliances is required.

The standardisation of types of galleries and haulage systems would enable us to use fewer varieties of machinery and appliances. This would greatly facilitate the supply of necessary stores, as larger and more definite demands could be made for each item, than at present.

20/8/16.

W. J. R. E.
for Lieut-Colonel, R.E.,
Controller of Mines,
First Army.

APPENDIX 6

A.M.438.

Controller of Mines.

First Army.

In reply to your C.of M.541/A.

I beg to say that Lt H Wheeler Brown
of this Company is the name I wish to place before you.

Lt Brown had 5 years apprenticeship & took the Adelaide
School of Mines Diploma, in Mechanical Engineering. He was four
years Chief Draughtsman to the Broken Hill Proprietary Coy.
Draughtsman with Bewick Moreing & Coy Mining Engineers & Chief
Engineer of the Einasleigh & Oroya Link Mining Companies.

Lt. Victor West.

Captain Adjutant.

3rd Australian Tunnelling Company.

23/9/16.

Copy
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SECRETGeneral Staff
61st. Division/

&

Controller of Mines
1st. Army/

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I have to report that at about 8-15am. yesterday the enemy threw a heavy Minenwerfer shell on to the top of the head cover over No.19 Shaft, Chapigny.

The whole of the sand-bag cover was removed by the explosion, and the steelwork underneath was bent downwards.

No other damage was done.

An infantryman who had taken cover under the shaft head, when the enemy started to bombard, was uninjured by the explosion.

Altogether four Minenwerfer shells were thrown into the vicinity of the shaft, each falling within a radius of fifty yards therefrom, and making craters about 15 feet diameter by about 10 feet deep.

This is the second shaft head which has been dealt with in this manner by the Hun, during the past few days.

Either he is particularly anxious to prevent us from mining in this locality or else it is retaliation for the work of our heavy Trench Mortar.

I would recommend that we should thoroughly straffe his mine shafts opposite with heavy Trench Mortars.

Alex. Anderson

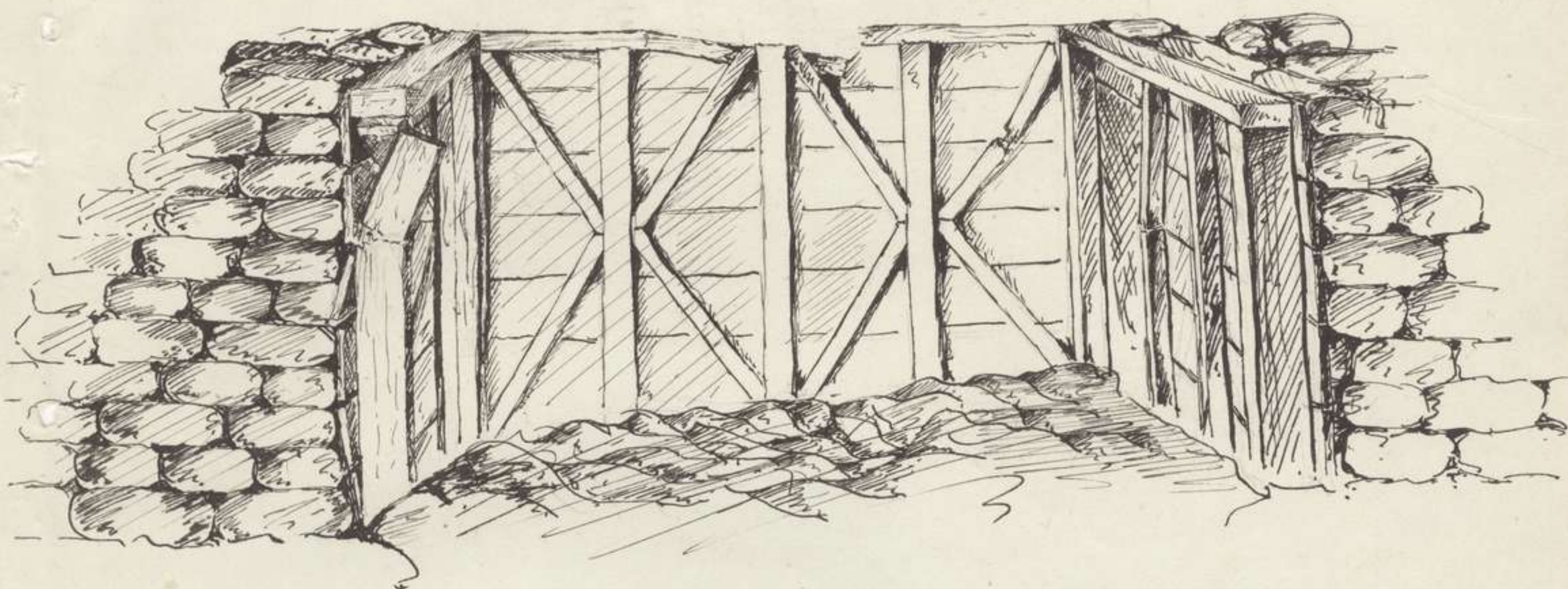
Capt.

29/8/16

O.C.No.3.Australian Tunnelling Company

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APPENDIX 8¹¹



№ 20. ЧАПИГЫ