

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/22/25

Title: 3rd Field Company, Australian
Engineers

August 1916



AWM4-14/22/25

WAR DIARY

410

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events & Information	Remarks
CANAPLES	1 st		Strength 4 Officers 194 Ranks Company Erecting Baths, also huts for its own accommodation	
	9 th		Strength 4 Officers 202 Ranks Company left CANAPLES	
BONNEVILLE		1300 1500	" Moved into billets at BONNEVILLE	
	10 th		Company rested pending the receipt of further Orders	Weather Showery
	12 th		Strength 4 Officers 202 Ranks L. Corp. ALLISON N.W. was awarded the Military Medal	
	13 th		Strength 6 Officers 203 Ranks SAP CROSSLAND R. promoted to 2 nd LIEUT 1 st FLD CYAE. SAP BARBAT V.P. promoted to 2 nd LIEUT & transferred to 2 nd FLD CYAE. 2 nd LIEUTS BOLTON J.A. and ROGERSON F. transferred from 2 nd FLD CYAE	
	14 th		Strength 6 Officers 203 Ranks Company left Bonneville	
HERISSART		1600 2200	" Arrived at Billets in HERISSART	
	15 th		Strength 6 Officers 204 Ranks Left Billets in HERISSART	
VADENCOURT		1000 1200	Arrived at Camp near VADENCOURT	
	16 th	0800	Left Camp near VADENCOURT	
ALBERT		1400	Arrived at Lines near ALBERT	
TARA HILL	17 th	1700	Sappers & Demounted HQ. moved to DHQ on TARA HILL	
	18 th		Strength 6 Officers 205 Ranks	
	19 th		6 Officers 203 Ranks MAJOR SAVAGE P.J. awarded the DSO. SAP SNELL W. awarded the Military Medal	
	20 th		Strength 6 Officers 198 Ranks	
	21 st		Strength 6 Officers 189 Ranks	
	22 nd		Strength 6 Officers 187 Ranks	
ALBERT		1800	Sappers & Demounted HQ returned to Transport Lines	

For work done
by the
3rd FLD CY
at this
time see
Appendix I

[Handwritten signature]

APPENDIX I
WAR DIARY

On the 17th August 1916 the Section Officers & Senior NCOs reconnoitered the area in which the Company had to work, returning to the Company on Tara Hill at 1700. During the day a party from N^o1 Section had been working on a dugout for C.R.E.

On the night of the 17th N^o2 Section reported to the 2nd F^{ld} Coy and under their instructions and with the assistance of 150 Infantry, connected up T Heads 2 & 3 at X5B64 and improved Fire Trench between T Head N^o1 & OG 2 until 0400 on the 18th. N^o4 Section reported to N^o1 Coy and then assisted by an infantry party cleaned out and improved 150 Yards of an old German Comm. Trench which ran up to the Firing Line. (Casualties 3 OR wounded evac. & 1 OR wounded not evac.)

On the 18th N^o1 Section reported to 2nd F^{ld} Coy at 1800 and proceeded to work on CT from MUNSTER ALLEY to Front Line Trench until 0600 on the 19th. Heavy enemy shelling caused duplication of work. (Casualties 1 OR wounded, shell shock not evacuated) N^o3 Section reported to 1st F^{ld} Coy at 1900 where they received instructions, then assisted by an Infantry Party of 10 off 32 OR they constructed a strong point at R33b55 and a CT. from R33b55 to R33b63. The CT. was from 5' to 7' deep and strong point in fair condition at 0300 on the 19th when work ceased. Constant sniping had interfered with work. (Casualties 4 OR wounded evacuated)

On the 19 August N^o2 Section assisted by 80 Infantry after being delayed by Infantry relieving, commenced work at 2300 consolidating 300 Yards of trenches at R34a98.

N^o4 Section also delayed commenced work at 2330 at R33b55 and improved 130 yards communication trench, built sandbag barricade 5'6" high across road and one Machine Gun Emplacement, and improved 20 Yards of Firing Line (Casualties 1 OR rank wounded evacuated)

On the 20th The Company moved up at 1800 to construct a hopping off trench 50 Yards behind Firing Line between R34a26 & R34a8095 but owing to heavy barrage did not reach work until 2400. Work ceased at 0400 when 350 yards had been dug, to an average depth of from 6' to 7'6" and 2'6" wide.

On the evening of the 21st N^o2 & 3 sections went to R28c95 to construct a strong point which would be the right of the line to be taken by the 10th Battⁿ at 1800; The attack failed and when the sections arrived at 2030 having been delayed by a heavy barrage, they decided to construct and deepen the new Firing Line from R28c35.00 to R28c20. The shell fire was very heavy at this spot and after several unsuccessful attempts to reach the trench the section returned and improved Fire Trench from R28c61 to R34a8095 until 0330 on the 22nd when the section were withdrawn. (Casualties 1 OR killed 9 wounded, vac. 3 wounded remained with unit.)

N^o1 & 4 section proceeded to chalk pits and waited there until 2030, when they received orders to build strong point at R28a99. Progress was very slow as comm. trenches were blocked with wounded men and passing troops. On reaching F.L. it was found to be too late to proceed to job and get out by daylight as ordered, so they commenced work cleaning out & improving OG1 until 0300 when the section were withdrawn. (Casualties 1 OR wounded) At 1800 on 22nd the Company returned to Transport Lines near Elbert.

Platoon Major
R. J. Field Coy. A.E.F.

Appendix No. 1