

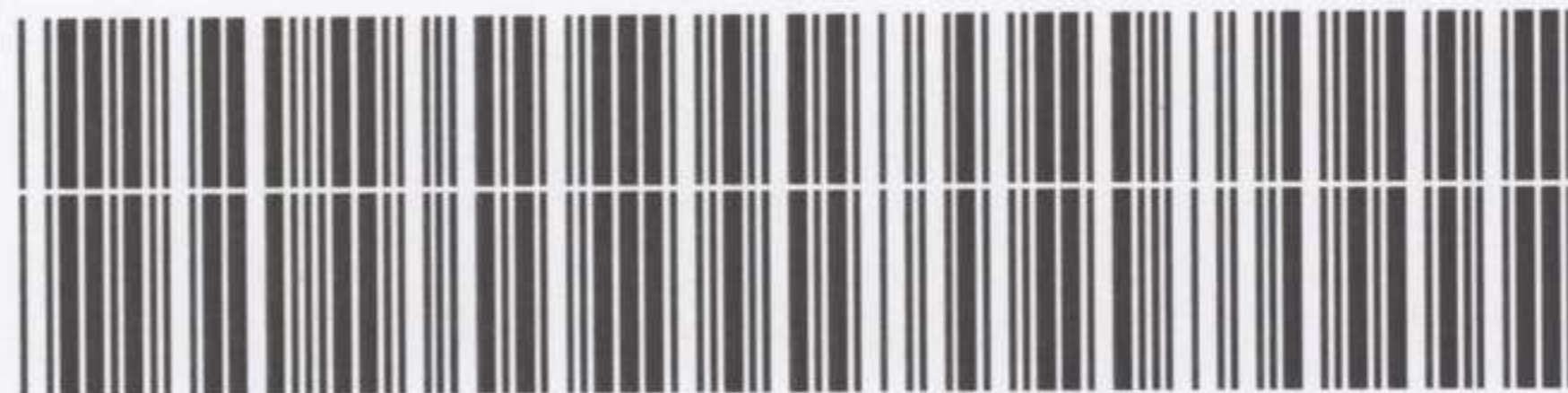
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/15/29

Title: 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1919



AWM4-14/15/29

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WAR RECORD SECTION.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION,

FOR

MARCH 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

R. W. Lambson LT. COL. ADJUT.
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. W. Lambson MAJOR,
COMMANDANT, 3RD AUS. PIONEER BATTALION.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HUPPY, HAVRE, GAUMONT, LIMERCOURT.	1919 MAR. 1/5th.		This date finds the Battalion still located as reported in last months Diary. Hut building at Australian Base Depots, HAVRE is progressing, while the Cadre and Transport at HUPPY, GAUMONT & LIMERCOURT are busily engaged preparing all details of demobilisation, stores, etc.	<i>L.S.L.</i>
	6/9th.		In connection with the handing over of Mobilisation stores, all tools, cookers, harness, etc., had to be greased; all vehicles painted or oiled, and eight (8) copies of lists of Mobilisation Stores - sectionised as per Mob.Store Table - had to be typed. This kept the Cadre at HUPPY well occupied.	<i>L.S.L.</i>
	10th/ 15th.		Word received on 10th, from D.H.Q., that the Band of this Unit would proceed - as a Band - with No. 15 Embarkation Quota, assembling at HAVRE on the 16th inst. Arrangements were made accordingly.	
	16th/ 17th.		Hut building and preparations for hand-over progressing. Further notification received from D.H.Q. that 38 O.R's of this Unit would leave with No. 24 Embarkation Quota, joining same at HAVRE. On the 16th, the Regimental Band marched out to join No. 15 Quota.	<i>L.S.L.</i>
	18th/ 19th.		Appendix 265 attached, is statement of material and work of the detached personnel at A.G.B.D. HAVRE. Hut building proceeding smoothly. Word received that all mobilisation stores would be handed over to D.A.D.O.S. on the 27th instant. This date saw No. 18 Quota - 1 Officer, 4 Sergts., 49 O.Rs. march out to join Divisional Quota. (18th.)	APP.265 <i>L.S.L.</i>
	20th/ 24th.		Word received from D.H.Q., to prepare No. 29 Quota, consisting of 9 Officers 14 W.O's or Sergeants and 127 O.R's - 150 in all.	
	25th/ 26th.		Works at HAVRE progressing. On the 25th, word received from D.H.Q. that 21 mules would be handed over by us at the Advanced Remount Depot, ABBEVILLE, on 26th inst. Arrangements were made accordingly, and mules despatched on 26th inst.	<i>L.S.L.</i>

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.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAVRE, HUPPY, GAUMONT, LIMERCOURT.	1919 MAR. 27th.		<p>Word received from Division, that 11 horses, 17 Mules would be handed in on 29th inst., at Advanced Remount Depot, ABBEVILLE. Arrangements made accordingly.</p> <p>App. 266, is copy of a letter received from General Sir John MONASH, D.G. Repatriation & Demobilisation, thanking this Unit for the model of the CERISY-CHIPILLY Bridge constructed by us (model made by Pte. SECCOMBE for Div. Arts & Crafts Exhibition) which was handed over to the General for safe-keeping.</p> <p>App. 268, is report of hut building at HAVRE. On this date, all Mobilisation Stores were handed over to D.A.D.O.S., and a clearance received for same.</p>	<p><i>L.H.</i> APP. 266</p>
	28th		<p>App. 267 is report of hut building at HAVRE, for week ending 22/3/19.</p>	<p><i>L.H.</i> APP. 267.</p>
	29th.		<p>On this date 11 horses, 17 mules were handed over to Advanced Remount Depot at ABBEVILLE. App. 269 is report of work at HAVRE, for week ending 29/3/19.</p>	<p>APP. 269.</p>
	30th.		<p>Word received from D.H.Q., that the Battalion at HUPPY (XXXX would proceed to BOUILLAN-COURT, to join the 10th Demobilisation Regiment, on 1/4/19.</p>	<p><i>L.H.</i></p>
	31st.		<p>Hut building at HAVRE progressing satisfactorily. Battalion at HUPPY preparing for the move to BOUILLAN-COURT to take place the following day.</p> <p>The usual monthly Appendices as under, are attached herewith:-</p> <p>No. 270 - Monthly Statement of Strength. 271 - Monthly Q.M.'s Report. 272 - Monthly T.O.'s Report.</p>	<p>APP. 270 APP. 271 APP. 272</p>

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18,000-12/17-872

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

M A R C H 191 9. 0.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
2 6 5	- STATEMENT OF MATERIAL & WORK BY DETACHD PARTY, HAVRE W.E. 15/3/19.
2 6 6	- COPY OF LETTER FROM GENERAL SIR JOHN MONASH, RE MODEL OF CERISY-CHIPILLY BRIDGE.
2 6 7	- WOR K REPORT, HAVRE DETACHMENT, W.E. 22/3/19.
2 6 8	- STATEMENT OF MATERIAL & WORK, HAVRE DETACHMENT,
2 6 9	- STATEMENT OF WORK, HAVRE DETACH. W.E. 29/3/19.
2 7 0	- MONTHLY STATEMENT OF STRENGTH.
2 7 1	- MONTHLY Q.M'S REPORT.
2 7 2	- MONTHLY T.O'S REPORT.

WORK OF DETACHED PERSONNEL AT HAVRE.

The following is List of Material received by our Detached personnel at HAVRE, from date of commencement of their work there, till week ending 15/3/19:-

PANELS WINDOW	sufficient for	305	NISSEN	Huts.
Do. QUARTER		277		"
BOARDS FLOOR.		280		"
JOISTS FLOOR.		298		"
DOORS & BACKS.		324		"
BEARERS OUTSIDE.		292		"
PURLINES & CENTRE BEARERS.		342		"
BOWS.		283		"
IRON CORR. INSIDE.		273		"
DO. DO. OUTSIDE.		294		"
SLIDES.		221		"
BOLTS		260		"

The work completed and in course of erection to week ending 15/3/19 is as follows:-

	Completed.	In Const.	To be completed.
<u>HUTS ERECTED.</u>			
A.I.B.D.	132	5	7
A.G.B.D.	107	19	140

TOTAL.	239	24	147
=====			

It will be seen from the above list of material received, that unless certain items come to hand immediately the work will be delayed.

L. Andrews
for
MAJOR,
Commanding 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BN.

H A V R E,
17/3/19. O.

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APP. 2 6 6.

JM/GH.

54, Victoria Street,

LONDON. S.W.1.

11.3.19.

My dear Major,

I have only just today received your letter of February 25th when Private Seccombe handed over to me the beautiful model of the Cerisy-Chippilly Bridge which he made. This model is not only a delicate and beautiful piece of work but it is also a war souvenir of the very highest interest and value.

I thank you and the Battalion most sincerely for letting me have the temporary custody of the model, and I shall take every care of it and ensure that it is in due course handed over to the Victorian Section of the Australian War Museum.

I shall also get a good firm of engravers to put the necessary inscription upon the tablet.

I think the model is a most faithful representation of the Bridge, which I know so well and to which I have often conducted distinguished visitors in order to show them with pride the magnificent work done by the 3rd Pioneers.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Major M.B. Keatinge,
3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion,
3rd Australian Division.
FRANCE.

J. M. Monash

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THE FOLLOWING IS COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM
 GENERAL SIR John MONASH - Director General of
 REPATRIATION & DEMOBILISATION, A.I.F., THANK-
 ING THIS UNIT FOR THE MODEL OF THE CERISY-CHIP-
 ILLY BRIDGE, (MADE BY ONE OF OUR MEN, AND WHICH
 GAINED SPECIAL PRIZE IN THE 3RD AUS. DIV. ARTS &
 CRAFTS EXHIBITION) WHICH WAS SENT HIM FOR TEMP-
 ORARY CUSTODY.

-----oOo-----

"54, Victoria Street,
 LONDON, S.W.1, 11/3/19.

"My Dear Major,

I have only just today received your letter of
 FEBRUARY 25th when Private SECCOMBE handed over to me the
 beautiful model of the CERISY-CHIPILLY Bridge which he made.
 This model is not only a delicate and beautiful piece of
 work but it is also a war souvenir of the very highest int-
 erest and value.

I thank you and the Battalion most sincerely for
 letting me have the temporary custody of the model, and I
 shall take every care of it and ensure that it is in due
 course handed over to the Victorian Section of the Austra-
 lian War Museum.

I shall also get a good firm of engravers to put
 the necessary inscription upon the tablet.

I think the model is a most faithful representation
 of the Bridge, which I know so well and to which I have often
 conducted distinguished visitors in order to show them with
 pride the magnificent work done by the 3rd Pioneers.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) John MONASH.

Major M.B. KEATINGE,
 3rd Aus. Pioneer Battalion,
 3rd Australian Division,
 FRANCE.

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A P P. 2 6 7-

WORK OF DETACHED PERSONNEL AT HAVRE.

(WEEK ENDING 22/3/1919. O.)

55 NISSEM Huts completed.


31 NISSEM Huts Under Construction.

1 ADRIAN Hut Under Construction - A.G.B.D.

Plumbing - 50 yards water pipe installed - A.G.B.D.

Alterations to Officers' Mess, - A.G.B.D.

Alterations to Sergeants' Mess, - A.G.B.D.


For G.O. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER B Coy. LT. & ADJT.,

22/3/19. O.

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REPORT OF HUT BUILDING DETACHMENT
AT AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS - HAVRE.

=====

The following is the position as regards material for Nissen Huts:-

MATERIAL ON HAND SUFFICIENT FOR -

Window panels.	100	Huts.
Quarter "	112	"
Joists, floor.	98	"
Boards "	94	"
Bearers, outside.	108	"
Purlines & Centre bearers.	55	"
Bows.	81	"
Doors and Backs.	102	"
Iron outside.	69	"
Do. inside.	120	"
Slides.	95	"
Bolts.	46	"

The number of Huts completed to date is 323 out of a total of 388 leaving 65 to complete.

From the above it will therefore be seen that we have sufficient material now on hand with the exception of Purlines and Centre Bearers and Bolts.

The actual shortage is:-

PURLINES & CENTRE BEARERS, for 10 huts.
BOLTS. for 19 huts.

G. L. Andrews
LT. & ADJT.,
3RD AUST. PIONEER BATTLN.

27/3/19. O.

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A P P. 264

REPORT OF WORK FOR WEEK ENDING 29/3/19.

B Y

DETACHMENT OF 3RD AUS. PIONEER BATTLN.,

AT AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS, HAVRE.

- A.I.B.D. 4 5 NISSEN Huts completed.
- A.I.B.D. 2 9 DO DO under construction.
- A.G.B.D. 1 ADRIAN Hut under construction.
- A. R. C. Officers Mess, improvements. Dismantling and re-erecting a hut to increase Antb-room space.
- A.G.B.D. Plumbing and alterations to Q.M.Store.
- A. B. D. Improvements to Officers' Mess Kitchen.

G. L. Anderson
 LT. & ADJT.,
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

BOUILLANCOURT,
3/4/1919. O.

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STATEMENT OF STRENGTH -
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION - A.I.F.,
 FOR MONTH ENDING 31/3/19.

D A T E.	TAKEN ON STRENGTH.		STRUCK OFF STRENGTH.	
	OFFICERS.	O.R'S.	OFFICERS.	O.R'S.
1-3-19	-	-	2	5
2-3-19	-	-	-	-
3-3-19	-	-	-	-
4-3-19	-	-	-	-
5-3-19	-	-	-	-
6-3-19	-	-	-	-
7-3-19	3	2	-	6
8-3-19	-	-	-	-
9-3-19	-	-	-	-
10-3-19	-	-	-	-
11-3-19	-	-	-	-
12-3-19	-	-	-	-
13-3-19	-	5	1	24
14-3-19	-	-	-	-
15-3-19	-	-	-	-
16-3-19	-	-	-	20 *
17-3-19	-	-	-	-
18-3-19	-	-	1	53 ϕ
19-3-19	-	1	-	11
20-3-19	-	-	-	-
21-3-19	-	-	-	-
22-3-19	-	-	-	-
23-3-19	-	1	-	9
24-3-19	-	-	-	-
25-3-19	-	-	-	-
26-3-19	-	-	-	-
27-3-19	-	-	-	-
28-3-19	-	1	-	5
29-3-19	-	-	-	-
30-3-19	-	-	-	-
31-3-19	-	-	-	-
	3	10	4	135

* - Regimental Band joining No. 15 Embarkation Quota.
 ϕ - N.S.W. men marching out to join No. 18 Embark. Quota.

STRENGTH AS AT 1/3/19 - 50 OFFICERS 563 O.Rs.
 STRENGTH AS AT 31/3/19 - 49 OFFICERS 440 O.Rs.

L. J. Richards
 LT. & ADJT.,
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTLN.

BOUILLANCO URT,
 3RD APRIL 1919. O.

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ARP. 271.

MONTHLY REPORT OF QUARTER MASTER -

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION -
FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1919.

In addition to the issuing of rations, clothing, equipment, etc., practically the whole of the month, up to the 27th, was devoted to checking over, cleaning, oiling, and preparing for the handing into D.A.D.O.S. of the whole of the Mobilization Stores. In connection with this, eight copies of lists - sectionised as per Mbb. Stores Table - had to be prepared, and re-checked.

On the 27th, the Mob. Stores were handed in to DADOS. This was practically the end of the Q.M.'s Department of the Battalion, as - three days later - the Battalion moved to BOUILLELANCOURT to form part of the 10th Demobilization Regiment; all stores, rations etc., being handled by the Q.M. of that Battln.

This being the final monthly report of the Q.M. - the smooth working of this Department has been due to the very few changes in the members of such staff since the formation of the Battalion. Only **two** changes took place during this time - the R.Q.M. Sgt. being promoted to commissioned rank, and the Sgt. Cook leaving for return to AUSTRALIA, - the remainder, Sergeant Shoemaker, Armourer Sergeant, and storemen have been right thro' with the Unit - in such capacities.

W. J. ...
CAPT. & Q.M.,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

BOUILLELANCOURT,
11/4/1919. O.

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MONTHLY REPORT OF TRANSPORT OFFICER -

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION -

FOR MONTH OF MARCH '19.

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The work of the Transport Section for MARCH, consisted of the cartage of Rations, Fuel and Fodder from A.S.C. Dumps, and distribution - from Q.M's Store - to Companies in Billeting Area. Many trips were made to DADOS for clothing, etc., and kits of Officers and men carted to entraining point - many vehicles being required for this work.

During the month, the demobilization of animals was carried out - 21 - X Class horses were sent to DIEPPE, to be embarked for ENGLAND. 38 mules X and Z Classes, and 9 Z - Class horses to No. 2 Advanced Remount Depot, ABBEVILLE, for sale in FRANCE. This left only 5 horses with the Section.

All waggons and equipment were handed back to D.A.D.O.S. according to instructions from Division.

With the exception of two sets of harness, all vehicles and harness handed in - were those issued to the Unit in ENGLAND, prior to leaving for FRANCE, which speaks for the efficiency of the Transport Section.

T.O., 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BN. LT.,

BOUILLANCOURT,

11/4/1919. O.