

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/15/3

Title: 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-14/15/3

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

3rd Australian Bn

06

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARMENTIERES.	1917 3/1	p.m.	<p>No. 893, Pte. ROBB James, "C" Company, Killed by bullet in head. No. 1277, do. WEST P. "D" Company, G.S.W. in leg. Admitted to hospital. No. 221, Dvr. INGRAM Alex. Hale, killed. This man, together with other members of the Battln. Transport Section, had entered HOUPLINES with wagon. The enemy started searching the road they were on with Gas Snells, one of which killed Dvr. INGRAM and two horses. The Transport Officer, Lieut. H.C. FENTON, was slightly gassed, but fit for light duty.</p>	
	9/1	10-30 a.m.	<p>No. 1820, Pte. BROOKE Harold C., "A" Company. Killed. This man acted as Switch Board Attendant at No. 1 Power Station, ARMENTIERES, and was cleaning Switchboard, when he accidentally touched one of the terminals and was electrocuted. First Aid was rendered, and he was immediately conveyed to the 10th F.Amb., but death took place before arrival there. A Court of Inquiry was appointed, the Finding of which was "Death due to misadventure".</p>	
	11/1		<p>No. 399, L/Cpl. CHAMLEY L.O., "B" Company, Bullet through back of neck. Slightly wounded, to Hospital.</p>	
	10/1		<p>2nd/Lieut. SIMPSON Frederick Norman, "A" Company, "killed in action". A Court of Inquiry was appointed to look into and report on the absence and disappearance of 2nd/Lt. SIMPSON. There being no reason available for the absence, and from the evidence collected, the Court was of the opinion that this Officer be dealt with as "killed in action".</p>	
	16/1		<p>No. 521, Pte. RIDGE R.T. "B" Coy (Whilst in the trenches engaged on certain work, No. 579, Pte. DOLLOFFSKY C. do. (several enemy gas shells burst near these men, No. 372, Pte. BEHAN F.H. do. (slightly gassing them, causing them to be admitted to Hospital.</p>	

COPY OF
 WORK TABLE FOR 3RD DIVISIONAL PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F., FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1917. (AVERAGE DAY'S WORK)

OFFICERS. O.R.

1	20	Supplied daily to work with "L" Coy. R.E. on secret work building gas Emplacements in Front Line.
7	111	do. do. Building and maintaining Trench Mortar Emplacements in AUSTRALIA, SPAIN, IRISH, LOTHIAN CAMBRIDGE AND FUSILIER AVENUES.
1	30	Supplied daily repairing and placing A Frames, etc. in GLOUCESTER AVENUE.
8	188	Maintaining Communication Trenches, Left Sub-sector.
1	7	Running and General Maintenance of Power Station.
	10	Running and general maintenance of Pumping Station and water mains in town.
	4	2 Fitters and 2 Elec. Engineers supplied to Workshops for making and repairing tools for working parties, etc.
1	24	Constructing new lines and repairing and maintaining old system of Trench Trams.
1	8	Salving bricks and rubble daily.
	7	Repairing and making roads; also clearing ice from Pontoon Bridges, etc.
	9	Running, refitting and repairing Divisional Baths.
	4	Working Y.M.C.A. Cinema Show.
1	51	Building stables for Infantry Brigades, and Hutments.
	26	Working on Camouflage.
	26	Building Spraying House for A.D.V.S. for treating infected animals.
	6	Loading and unloading parties supplied to load and unload coal, timber and ashed at R.E. Dump.
	24	Foremen, supervising work of 9th and 10th Field Coy. Engineers.
	2	Sewerage work.
	2	Carpenters working at D.H.Q.
	6	do. making tables for D.H.Q.
	2	Tally Clerks working R.E. Dump.
	1	Quantity Clerk, C.R.E.'s Office.
	5	Blacksmiths making and repairing tools.
	2	Fixing manholes.
	5	Taking charge of 10th Brigade Dump.
	5	Controlling traffic, tram lines.
	5	Guard on Pumping Station.
	9	Sandbagging Pumping Station.
	16	Battln. Police, patrolling in town and guarding billets.
	1	Div. H.Q. Police.
	11	Checking Bricks.
	21	At Schools.
	1	Signallers as Runner to A.P.M.
	4	Signallers as Runners to B.H.Q.
	8	Building Splinter Proof Shelter.

(2)

OFFICERS. O.R.

- 2 Bootmaker, repairing boots.
- 1 Carpenter making food boxes.
- 1 Fitter working at Compound for A.P.M.
- 1 Tailor repairing uniforms.
- 14 Building Lewis Gun Emplacements.
- 1 Overhauling Pump for R.M.O.
- 2 Mending roof in billets.
- 7 Building Dugout in Billets.
- 5 3 Carpenters and 2 others repairing Bridge and paving same at Billet, Pumping Station.
- 1 Plumber at Fire Station.
- 46 General transport for Battalion.
- 16 Sandbagging Transformer Station and Sawmill.
- 2 Carpenters Divisional Signal Company.
- 3 Cleaning wooden blocks.
- 9 Sanitary work at Billets.

(Sgd.) Robt. LAW, Lieut. Colonel,

C.O. 3rd Divisional Pioneer Battalion, A. I. F.

F I E L D,
5/2/1917. O.

COPY OF TRANSPORT REPORT,
3RD DIVISIONAL PIONEER BATTALION, A. I. F.
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Since arriving in the Field, the duties of the Transport Section have been as follows:-

OFFICERS' MESS CART:- Owing to the fact that Officers have settled down in their various Billets, this vehicle has been used for the conveyance of Rations to isolated working parties, in back areas.

MALTESE CART:- This vehicle has not been used for its legitimate purpose since our arrival in the Field, owing to the M.O. establishing a Depot for diagnosis, etc., in a Billet, but it has been found extremely useful for the conveyance of mails and small loads of R.E. Material to the various workshops of the Pioneer Battalion.

WATER CARTS:- (2):- These have been constantly used to convey chlorinated water, from Supply to the various Billets.

G.S. LIMBERED WAGONS (7):- After depositing their loads of Ammunition at Company Stores, use has been made of these vehicles, as follows:-

TWO daily by Sanitary Sergeant for removal of refuse etc. from Billets.

THREE per day for Q.M. for distribution of Rations and Fuel.

ONE per day for Div. duties re distribution of rations, fuel, etc., to Police posts established by A.P.M.,

and on completion of these routine duties, they are used to convey Trench material from R.E. Dump to advanced dumps at night.

G.S. WAGONS (8):- Their loads of tools have been deposited at Company Billets and the vehicles used to convey Trench material from R.E. Dump to Advanced Dumps.

The work above shown, has gradually increased until it got beyond us, and we have been compelled to call in the assistance of Brigade Transport, however, no hitch has occurred.

TRAVELLING KITCHENS:- These have not been moved, having been used in Mens Billets, but their teams, also the pack animals have been used for purposes of draught, and to replace casualties.

The PACK SADDLERY has never been used yet.