

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/23/2

**Title:** 4th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

September 1915



AWM4-14/23/2

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 211

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS			<p>Early part of work 29-8-15 to 4-9-15 was chiefly given to organisation &amp; equipment of Coy in stores &amp; equipment.</p> <p>Technical stores were obtained partly from Ordnance &amp; partly by purchase through them. Some stores were obtained from Government departments where they could be spared.</p>	
	3-9-15	22.30	Coy marched out of Camp. Entrenched at Palais de Koubek Station.	
	4-9-15	0900	Coy embarked on board H.M.T. KNIGHT TEMPLAR. Z49.	
			Coy previously commanded by Capt. BARBER was taken over by Major NEWCOMBE R.E.	
			Major NEWCOMBE O.C. Troops. Z49.	
	4-9-15	1700	Z49 sailed from ALEXANDRIA 6 Officers 162 men.	
MUDROS	7.9.15	17.00	Arrived MUDROS. Kept on "KNIGHT TEMPLAR." till transfer	
	12.9.15		to OSMANIEH arriving at	
ANZAC	13.9.15	4.00	ANZAC. Day spent transferring stores to Camp at BRIDGES ROAD top near WIRE GULLY.	
			Right 1/2 Co went to MAGS HILL to 2nd 7th Coy Quartermasters to work in LONE PINE.	
			Left 1/2 Co in WIRE GULLY to replace 1st 7th Coy & take over COURTNEYS to B8 inclusive	
			ie. 21st & 22nd Bns front.	
			Both 1/2 Cos under Brig Genl Smythe VC 6th Inf. Bde.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIRES GULLY	15.9.15.		Lt. KELLY (21 <sup>st</sup> Bn) + 20 men took over COURTNEYS acting under the 4 <sup>th</sup> 7d Coy + attached for work.	
			No 4 section under Lieut. THOM, took over D14 & SCOTT'S POST	
			No. 3 section under Lieut. BOWRA — — SCOTT'S POST to B8.	
	17.9.15		1 <sup>st</sup> 7d Coy left in evening: work henceforth taken on by 4 <sup>th</sup> 7d Coy. Maps were started on $\frac{1}{1800}$ scale, contours of enemy country, trenches & traverses made to bring existing maps of 30' to 1" up to date + complete. This work was continued & the 30' to 1" map ready on 27.9.15 for reproduction & reducing. Office, 2 surveyors + 1 draughtsman continued on this work.	
	18.9.15		Road begun to make $\frac{1}{8}$ slope up to 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bn store from bottom of BRIDGE RD to enable carts to come up. 12 men daily led by 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bn for this work, uncompleted by end of month. Plan being made to complete a road for transport to top of GULLY. Instruction given to NCOs re erecting loopholes in every firepit. This work is done at night, hindered during full moon or when attacks are expected: + also by prejudice of occasional infantry officers who have been misinformed of the value of steel loopholes plates. This work is continuous, some 456 loopholes per Coy being erected nightly. digging	
	19.9.15		Enquiries sent to CAIRO for CALYX boring plant to bore mines instead of digging them. Application made for Notes on Loopholes (the printed) + for necessary Survey Stores to G.H.Q. but no reply by end of month for majority of articles required.	

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ANZAC.	19.9.15		<p>General work of <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Co. besides repairing parapets creating loopholes etc has included drainage of trenches: several dumps or small tunnels have been dug to suit local conditions, no big scheme being considered advisable: as far as possible water is conducted underground to fall towards enemy.</p> <p>No material has been available for arranging overhead cover, nor for shoring up walls which are likely to fall after heavy rain: no corrugated iron or timber having arrived. A few local improvements have been made by sandbag revetments.</p> <p>In Mining 6 sappers &amp; 6 infantry have been continuously employed as listeners in the galleries &amp; tunnels from SCOTTS POST to B 24: &amp; nothing heard except occasional &amp; definite working some 30' to 50' from C 24.</p> <p>Mining operations were begun partly offensive, partly defensive on 29.9.15 from C 24 towards N. end of enemy trench on JOHNSTONES JOLLY.</p> <p>Two tunnels were restarted on 30.9.15 from C 39 &amp; C 22 to surround the Crater: The object being to mine underneath the communication trenches now being dug by enemy towards the crater: &amp; be ready to destroy his approach to the crater &amp; so deny its use to the enemy.</p> <p>A comm<sup>n</sup> trench was begun from WHITE GULLY to No 2 comm<sup>n</sup> trench on 28.9.15. to facilitate rear communications</p>	

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ANZAC	18.9.15  21.9.15  28.9.15		<p>Tunnel work on 4<sup>th</sup> section has been more important, as enemy have been constantly at work near <del>BERMAN</del> OFFICER trench, apparently making a protective tunnel in front, or envelope. His work was apparently within 6' of Dq B<sub>2</sub> + D 21 E, working at 2 places on 21.9.15.</p> <p>Consequently Dq B<sub>2</sub>, D 21 E were simultaneously blown up by Lt. THOM at noon on 21.9.15, ammonal, 80lbs + 100lbs being used in either mine. Sergt Lloyd</p> <p>Cop<sup>l</sup> Mills + others deserve special mention for excellent work on this occasion. As far as could be judged, the radius of rupture was under 15' + after 36 hours the enemy began working slightly further back near Dq B. + later near D 21 but not so continuously as before.</p> <p>Owing to the broken ground in this section + the present tunnels being on a higher level than the enemy, fresh shafts were considered necessary as a protective measure near Dq + D 21 tunnels to be dug at a lower level as defence work only. Survey + levels being taken for more offensive work to be begun immediately.</p> <p>Mr Meldrum + part of 3 R.L. arrived in afternoon to start small <math>\Delta^u</math> for special work + find great difficulty in observing close to firing line with theodolite + selecting points, measuring base etc. The work is now in hand.</p>	

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	13-9-15	02.00	4 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.I.F. arrived.	
	14-9-15		Right half - Capt BARBER and two sections Lieuts RIDDELL and CARR - relieved 2 FCo and took over LONE PINE position which was garrisoned by 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Bns alternately two days each.	
LONE PINE	15-9-15		Re mining operations in LONE PINE - a defensive policy system was decided on. Mining operations had previously been started and carried on intermittently. The first mine started on 20-8-15 & fifth & sixth on 12-9-15. These were started owing to picking being heard.	
	16-9-15	11.47	Mines were numbered L.P. 1-40. Fired L.P. 3 Charge 50 lbs ammonal 25ft from parapet and 16ft from surface. No crater. Brought down traverse in our trench. Ground shattered. Fired electrically.	
	17-9-15		Drainage scheme for LONE PINE adopted.	
		09.40	Fired L.P. 4. Two charges in series 15 & 25 lbs ammonal. Similar results.	
	19-9-15		Several tunnels started for purpose of forming envelope.	
	20-9-15	21.12	Fired L.P. 5. 35 lbs ammonal.	
	21-9-15	About Noon	L.P. 4 holed into Turkish works and barricade erected. L.P. 14 holed into Turkish works & enemy seized hole. Fired L.P. 2 30 lbs ammonal.	
			The intention of forming a complete envelope was abandoned as it was evident enemy could hear us working anywhere and come to meet us. The disconnected system was adopted in its stead.	
			Premature bomb explosions have occurred. Probably through tampering with & cutting fuse to facilitate lighting. This system of lighting is bad. At least a match head system for striking end of fuse should be universal in these classes of bombs. (Cricket ball & jam tin type)	
			Permanent parties from each infantry company told off & instructed in Lophole Construction. Tendency is to build parapet too high & attract artillery fire. It is found difficult to get men to make lopholes face obliquely.	

Right half A<sup>th</sup> Field Company

Ref. Map. LONE PINE 60' = 1"

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>Right Half 4<sup>th</sup> Field Company</i>	
ANZAC (LONE PINE)	23-9-15	24.00	Blew enemy sentry out of L.P. 14, seized hole & erected barricade.	
	26-9-15		Started scheme of secret bombing trenches in rear of our firing line and commanding it in case of emergency.	
		21.50	Fired L.P. 15 50 lbs ammonal, 15 ft from our Sap B & 13 ft from surface. Surface disturbed, Sap slightly damaged, ground badly shattered locally. Charge at bottom of shaft. <i>All charges have been fired only when enemy appear likely to break into our workings. He has been estimated generally at from 2'-6" distant. It is thought that almost in every case enemy sappers have been killed.</i>	
	29-9-15	03.30	Jurks blew a mine 35 ft from Sap A. We think - an accident, an attempt on L.P. 17, or, to destroy an old intermediate trench. No damage was done to us.	
	30-9-15		Scheme got out for drainage of BROWN'S DIP. Note: the scheme on 23.9.15. for blowing enemy sentry from L.P. 14. was by using bombs pushed on a small trolley which were exploded electrically when at a safe distance from our firing line and sufficiently far to surprise the enemy sentry.	

*C.S.B.*