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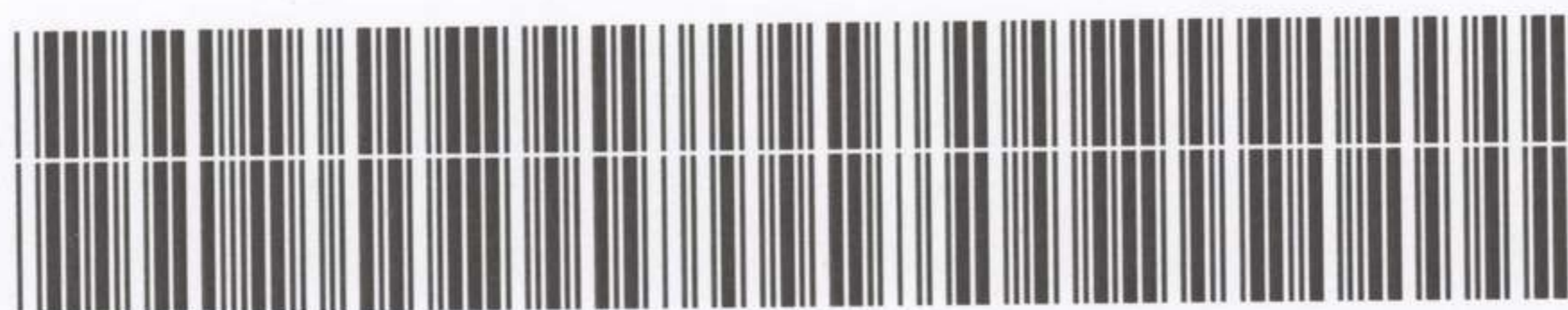
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Engineers

Item number: 14/10/31 Part 1

Title: Headquarters 4th Australian
Divisional Engineers

August 1918



AWM4-14/10/31PART1

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

FOR

Month of AUGUST

1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

I. D. O'Connell

Lieut. & Adjt.
4th. Aust. Div. Engrs.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. Johnstone

Adj. & Aust. Div.

*Original 1918
Page 192*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~. HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

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AUGUST 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COISY	1		<p><u>Reference Sheet f2D.</u></p> <p>Engineer Headquarters situated in COISY.</p> <p>4th Field Company moved to N.36.d.9.6. BOIS de BLANGY, with transport lines located at T.4.a.5.9. BOIS de TRONVILLE, taking over camps and work of 19/1 French Engineer Company.</p> <p>12th Field Company moved to camps of 19/51 French Engineer Company, co-ordinates being H.Q. and sappers at T.16.b.8.8. in BOIS de GENTELLES with transport at T.7.b.8.4.</p> <p>13th Field Company established a new camp near the cemetery at BOVES - T.7.c.0.8., transport being with the Company.</p> <p>C.R.E. summoned to two conferences at the same time, one at Div. H.Q., which he attended, the other at Aust. Corps with Chief Engineer, which was deferred, and C.R.E. visited Chief Engineer later in the day.</p> <p>Lieut. V.L.MOLLOY, of 13th Field Company, who is attached to Engineer H.Q. proceeded with sapper interpreter to BOVES where he was the guest of the Commandant de Genie (which is equivalent of C.R.E.) of 37th French Division which was being relieved by 4th Australian Division. The idea was to get in touch with the work to be taken over, make translations of the various papers, and identify locations shown on French maps on British maps. (vide Appendix No.1). The operation proved very interesting; hospitality was graciously extended, and the task of taking over arranged expeditiously and pleasantly. In the light of subsequent events, the visit proved a perfect Godsend, which will be explained later.</p>	
CAGNY	2		<p>Engineer Headquarters moved to CAGNY in relief of 37th French Division on new sector. Northern Divisional Boundary from T.1.a.0.0. East along grid line to U.4.b.3.0., thence to road U.5.d.5.0. and eastwards along road in U.5.d.. Southern Divisional Boundary from T.14.b.6.2. to T.16.a.6.7. thence through T.16.central, T.25.central to C.3.central (Sheet f6E.) 2nd Australian Division were on left flank, and 42nd French Division on the right.</p> <p>Almost immediately after the command passed, there was a re-allotment of boundaries, and the 4th Australian Division took over more territory on northern flank; in consequence 4th Field Company who were working with 4th A.I.Bde. on left brigade front took over certain additional works from 6th Field Company, A.E.</p>	
	3		<p>New northern boundary from O.31.central running east along grid line to O.35.a.6.0. thence along railway line in S.E. direction to approximately V.1.b.6.6.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAGNY	3		<p>Conference of Field Coy. Commanders and C.O. Pioneers to discuss operations in new sector. General LINDSAY, Chief Engineer, Canadian Corps, spent several hours with C.R.E. getting in touch with work in the sector just taken over, it being intimated that an early relief by the Canadian Corps was to be anticipated.</p> <p>The difference in the organization of divisions was very forcibly brought to our notice. In the first instance French Division has but two field companies, with the pioneers attached to the infantry. The question of accommodation was a difficulty to be solved. It meant instead of taking over established camps, that at very short notice one field company and a battalion of pioneers had to seek camps for themselves in a new area where the supply of stores was uncertain. Practically no R.E. stores were taken over from the French though Australian Corps dump at M.36.b.2.2. was available, and had to be our main source of supply. On the other hand the Canadian organization of engineers consisted of a brigade with a battalion of sappers attached to each infantry brigade. Here again the difficulty of accommodation had to be considered.</p>	
	4		<p>C.R.E. toured the whole of the new sector with General LINDSAY, it then being definitely settled that the Canadians were taking over, and almost immediately.</p> <p>C.R.E. summoned to a conference at D.H.Q. on "G" side, whilst Adjutant attended conference held on administrative side of division, both in reference to move of division, and important projected operations. It was here the benefit of Lieut. MOLLOY'S visit to the French was reaped. To him was allotted the handing over the sector and explaining the work to the C.R.E.'s of 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions, to whom the sector was being passed; the C.R.E. and Adjutant being fully occupied with arrangements for the forthcoming offensive.</p> <p>4th Field Company moved with 4th Brigade Group to I.33.d.8.f., leaving a small rear party to hand over - the Canadians had not arrived when the Company was timed to move off.</p> <p>12th Field Company moved to O.3.a.3.f. and established camp.</p> <p>13th Field Company sent one section in advance to prepare camp at O.3.c.f.1. into which the Company moved next day.</p> <p>Advice received that Lieut. R.B. SUTHERLAND, graduate of Royal Military College, DUNTROON, had been allotted to 4th Divisional Engineers.</p> <p>Major C. R. MERRILLEES R.M.O. evacuated to hospital, wounded slightly by H.E. shell in arm and neck, whilst in the forward area.</p>	9.
FOUILLOY	5		<p>Engineer Headquarters established at FOUILLOY with a rear echelon at DAOURS, whilst a Dump party consisting of W. O. HEALY, 2 sappers from 13th Field Company and 8 infantry men</p>	

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L.P.S. Waldson Lt

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HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FOUJLLOY	5		<p>from 46th Battalion was installed at ALBURY dump N.5.a.. R.M.O. returned to duty from C.C.S. refusing to remain away from his unit. Projected operations outlined in Div. Order No. 138 (Appendix No.3), with map attached. Lieut. MORRISON, 13th Field Co. evacuated sprained shoulder.</p>	
		6	<p>Adjutant made reconnaissance for location of forward dumps in vicinity P.4.c.3.3. and P.20.b.1.1. and roads leading thereto. The spots mentioned were to be refilling points for tanks carrying supplies. Material despatched and delivered to these places by motor lorry after nightfall as the roads were under direct observation in daylight. During the day a fire broke out at the brewery at CORBIE, and soon had a good hold. To prevent the fire spreading it was decided to blow down the walls of buildings on either side. This was done very effectively by the 12th Field Company.</p>	
		7	<p>Very busy day for everybody concerned. The role of the engineers and pioneers is set out in instruction No.11 issued under Div. Order 138 (Appendix No.3). Information received that zero hour for the offensive was 4.20 a.m. on 8th August. Sterilising lorry reported for duty on water supply. Gun carrying (G.C.) tanks are now past the novelty stage, and now form an important branch of the service in offensive operations. For this occasion nine were allotted to 4th Aust. Division, and were duly loaded at O.1.c.2.5., practically half the load of each tank consisting of R.E. stores - mainly wire entanglement material. These tanks moved forward on night of 6th to a rendezvous forward of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. At 9 p.m. on 7th a special conference was summoned at Divisional Headquarters, and the news imparted that all our tanks had been blown up by enemy action. Certainly very comforting to know that all efforts of the past two days had gone for nothing, and that on the very eve of the offensive arrangements had to be made to replace everything. Twenty G.S. waggons were obtained from Divisional Train and loading parties arranged. These were loaded at tank refilling points at P.4.c.3.3. and P.13.a.central, and went forward 3 hours after the attacking force, dumping stores in vicinity of CERISY, Q.8.b.0.7. and Q.28.d.</p>	
		8	<p>Attack launched at stated time and all objectives gained. Engineer casualties 3 O.R. wounded.</p>	10.

I.P.O. Paulson Lt

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HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FOUILLOY	8		<p>R.E. material was despatched as follows from FOUILLOY:-</p> <p>5 Motor lorry loads at 9.30 a.m. to 12th Bde. at Q.30.c.8.3. 7 " " " " 10.00 a.m. to 4th Bde. at Q.8.b.0.7. 3 " " " " 11.15 a.m. to 4th Bde. at Q.8.b.0.7. 4 " " " " 4.45 p.m. to 12th Bde. at Q.30.c.8.3. 11 " " " " 6.30 p.m. to 4th Bde. at Q.17.c.1.4.</p> <p>all of which was dumped at appointed destinations. R.M.O. employed on testing samples of water and reporting on wells in captured area.</p>	
	9		<p>C.R.E. reconnoitred captured territory. 4th Field Company established headquarters at Q.8.d.9.7. 12th " " moved to Q.21.b.7.3. 13th " " which was in reserve detached from the division, sent 2 sections to J.32.a.00.20. for work on roads under C.E. Aust. Corps. Report of water reconnaissance sent to Aust. Corps and Division (Appendix No.4). Rear echelon joined Engineer Headquarters at FOUILLOY.</p>	
	10		<p>3 lorry loads of R.E. material despatched to K.32.d.4.9. for the LIAISON FORCE. The party returned with one heavy and one light MINENWERFER which were despatched to Australian War Museum. 4th Australian Division relieved 58th Imperial Division in sector immediately north of the River SOMME, northern boundary being L.8.central, K.17.central, thence road to J.19.a.2.0. thence west along grid line. As there was no actual work or papers to take over the Engineer relief was arranged over the telephone. 4th Field Company moved to J.36.b.6.0., and whilst establishing new camp Capt. DOW, ^{MC.} Lieut. LEWIS, Lieut. BUCKLER, ^{MC.} and 2/Lieut. WALKER were wounded by bomb from enemy aircraft. Wounds being slight, all remained with unit. Capt. FARR, 13th Field Co. returned from leave, assumed command, and Capt. NORMAN, M.C. proceeded to BRIGHTLINGSEA.</p>	11-11A.
	11		<p>4th Australian Division relieved by 3rd Australian Division in sector immediately south of and including River SOMME. Handing over papers consisted of a prepared map and copy of reconnaissances (vide appendix No.5).</p>	12.

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HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FOUILLOY	11		<p>13th Field Company rejoined 4th Aust. Division. Lieut. A.G.MACLEAN, M.C., and 2/Lieut. D.R.WALKER wounded by H.E. shell whilst reconnoitring in forward area. Both were evacuated. 12th Field Company moved to I.34.c.4.0. whilst 13th Field Company was detached from Division for duty with LIAISON FORCE, and moved to J.28.b.2.0. Lieut. V.L. MOLLOY returned to 13th Field Company to strengthen officer list. Major H.GREENWAY, C.R.E. LIAISON FORCE visited C.R.E. and obtained particulars of sector north of SOMME, preliminary to taking over.</p>	13 14
	12		<p>4th Division relieved by LIAISON FORCE which is made up of 13th A.I.Bde. and Americans. Lieut. J.F.C.BEST, 13th Field Company, at present at R.E. training school, ROUEN, telegraphed to return. Warning order received to be prepared to move to Southern Sector.</p>	14 15
	13		<p>Lieut. A.L.McINTYRE, having been selected to train as pilot in Aust. Flying Corps, left for LONDON. One section each of 4th and 12th Field Companies moved with their respective brigades to vicinity of HARBONNIERES.</p>	
	14		<p>Lieut. R.A. HUNT and Sappers E.A.DEAN and W.CAMPBELL, all of 12th Field Company, recommended for Victoria Cross. (Appendix No.6).</p>	16
	15		<p>4th Field Company located as follows - two sections to X.25.b.8.0. and remainder of Company and transport to W.17.a.6.2. 12th Field Company established camp in dugouts at W.18.d.9.4. 13th Field Company reported new location Q.5.a.9.4.</p>	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	16		<p>Engineer H.Q. moved to VILLERS BRETONNEUX in relief of 1st Aust. Division. North boundary of sector, grid line running west through X.17.central. South Boundary, Grid line running East through X.28.a.central. Divisional Order No. 144 (Appendix No.7) Handing over papers of 1st Aust. Div. (Appendix No. 8) 4th Canadian Division on right flank, 32nd Imperial Division on left.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	16		4th Field Coy. is working with 4th A. I. Bde on right of sector. 12th Field Coy. with 12th Bde. on left of sector.	
	17		C.R.E. spent the day on works in forward area.	
	18		No change.	
	19		13th Field Coy. returned with 13th A.I.Bde from duty with LIAISON FORCE - establishing Camp at W.23.b.91 (Appendix No.18).	
LONGUEAU	21		Lieut E. C. Cribb, M.C., of the 12th Field Coy, returned from Engineers' Training Depot and resumed Regimental duties. He brought a draft of 50 reinforcements from Brightlingsea, which was split up and allotted to the Companies. GARFORD Box Car reported for duty with C.R.E. from 4th Aust. Motor Transport Company.	17
	23		D.O. 147 received. (Appendix No.22). 4th, 12th, & 13th Field Coys moved to LONGUEAU. Dismounted personnel travelling by Motor bus. Transport Lines being situated immediately South of SOMME in M.17.C.	18
	25		Engineer Headquarters moved to LONGUEAU, M.22.b.70. Lieut. G.S.KEESING attached for duty vice Adjutant proceeding on leave to PARIS.	19
	26		4th, 12th, & 13th Field Coys commenced regular training programme for each morning from 9 a.m. till 12 noon. Companies appoint representatives to make arrangements in conjunction with 4th Div. Signallers for holding of combined Div. Engrs and Sigs. sports. Field Companies spend morning training.	20
	27		12th Field Coy. detailed for small works on Div. Baths and 13th Coy. for fixing up stage and fittings for Div. Theatre CAMON. Requisitions given to Units of Div. to draw stores for training in wiring and building Russian Delousers.	21
				22

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LONGUEAU	28		Field Companies spend morning training.	23
	29		Major TOLLEY, O.C. 4th Field Coy, left unit to proceed to England on leave. Field Companies spend morning training.	24
	30		Aquatic sports held in afternoon; Field Companies and Div. Sig. Coy combined. Lt. BALDWIN, 12th Field Coy, proceeded to ENGLAND on leave and duty. The latter for purpose of collecting written evidence from Sapper O.H. TURNER (evacuated sick to ENGLAND) re recommendation of Sappers DEAN and CAMPBELL for V.C.'s.	25 26
	31		Sports held in afternoon, consisting of running events and horse racing.	27 28
			31st August, 1918.	
			<i>G. Keesing</i> Lieut. & A/Adjt., for C.R.E. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.	

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WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUST. DIV. ENGRS.

FOR

AUGUST.

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|--------|--|
| ✓ 1. | Handing over papers from 37th FRENCH Division consisting of Maps, Plans, Aeroplane photos, instructions and Correspondence. |
| 2. | Comparison of British, French and German Maps of (a) AMIENS area. (b) CORBIE area.
Sent to Aust. War records Section 20/8/18. |
| ✓ 3. | Orders with Map attached issued under Div. Order 138, dealing with offensive operations. 8/8/18. |
| ✓ 3a. | Other orders and battle instructions for operations. 8/8/18. |
| ✓ 3b. | Orders issued by C.R.E. in connection with operations 8th-16th August. |
| ✓ 4. | Report of Water, Bridge and Road Reconnaissances. |
| ✓ 5. | Handing over papers to 3rd. Aust. Division (For Map shewing boundaries see Appendix No.7.) |
| ✓ 6. | Recommendations for Awards. |
| ✓ 7. | Relief of 1st Aust. Div. by 4th Aust. Div. in the line. |
| ✓ 8. | Handing over papers from 1st Aust. Division. |
| ✓ 9. | Warning order of anticipated move, D.O. No.139. |
| ✓ 10. | Maps showing approximate Allied front line. |
| ✓ 11. | Map showing boundaries of Sectors held by 4th Aust. Div. during the month August 1918. |
| ✓ 11a. | Orders to take over Sector held by 58th Division. |
| ✓ 12. | Relief of 3rd Aust. Division. |
| ✓ 13. | Orders ref. 13th Fld Coy. rejoining 4th Aust. Div. |
| ✓ 14. | Composition of LIAISON FORCE. |
| ✓ 15. | Stock sheet of captured R.E. Dump at LA FLAQUE. |
| ✓ 16. | Engineer Orders. |
| ✓ 17. | Congratulatory. |
| ✓ 18. | D.O. No.146. |
| ✓ 19. | Maps showing arrangements for Water Supply and Overland Tracks during operations 8/8/18. |
| ✓ 20. | Originals of Reports sent in during operations commencing 8/8/18. These were compiled and directed to proper authorities. |
| ✓ 21. | Div. Orders 141 & 142 and Orders relating thereto, concerning a projected attack which did not take place. |
| ✓ 22. | D.O.147 ref. Relief of 4th Aust Div. by 32nd British Div. and 34th French Div. |
| ✓ 23. | Works Reports. |
| ✓ 24. | Defensive Organisation & Policy in Divisional Sector. |
| ✓ 25. | List of Officers. |
| ✓ 26. | List of Casualties. |
| ✓ 27. | R. M. O's Report. |
| ✓ 28. | Record of Weather. |

J. M. O's Report.