

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/20/50

Title: 1st Field Company, Australian
Engineers

February 1919



AWM4-14/20/50

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Field Coy. A.I.F.

FOR

February 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling *W Higgins Lt*

Signature of Officer Commanding *W Higgins Lt*

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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1

19

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART EUSTACHE.	Feb 1		<p>The company still in billets at the chateau SART EUSTACHE. During the past month the unit has been considerably reduced in strength. Of those still on the effective strength quite 30% are now either on leave or detached. The men actually with the unit are employed looking after the horses or checking the company equipment and stores which are to be handed in at an early date. For the present the only educational class in operation is that in Motor Driving. This has always been the most popular and the best attended class. The enrolment is 30 and the average daily attendance about 10. The remaining classes have lapsed owing to lack of instructors. This company has been unfortunate in losing several competent instructors, who have left either for early repatriation or to take up various courses.</p>	<p><i>MAA</i></p>
	2.		<p>C. R. G. visits company and inspects the billets. Classes in Motor Driving continued - harness being cleaned and packed ready for handing over.</p>	<p><i>MAA</i></p>
	3.		<p>Party of 10 officers and 8 NCOs proceed to BRUSSELS on short leave. All horses have been classified in three groups X, Y and Z classes. X class are for Army of Occupation, Y class to be entrained for Base and then disposed of, and Z class to be sold locally. Training required to hold Y class horses in readiness to move to CHATELET to be entrained.</p>	<p><i>MAA</i></p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART EUSTACHE	Feb. 4.		All Y class horses inoculated by Veterinary Officers. 11 OR taken on strength from reinforcements.	////
	5.		Veterinary Officers attended at 10.30 to inoculate balance of horses but was unable to complete them owing to needle breaking: boy transfer being failed. Heavy snow-storm at night.	////
	6.		S.O.B. 1st Aust. Division and B.R.C. visit company and inspect billets. Checking and packing of boy stores continued.	////
	7		Inoculation of all horses completed. Motor class continued.	////
	8.		Inoculated horses inspected by Vet. Officers. All Porton gear on loan to 1st Aust. Div concert party collected and brought back to unit. CAPT. B.S. DOWLING taken on strength as. O.B. 2/Lt. STRATTON taken on strength from cadet school.	////
	9.		Y class horses (9) entrained for Base. Advice received that 1st Field Coy stores will probably be entrained on 12th or 13th inst.	////
	10.		Tools on loan to 1st A.I. Bde carpentering class collected. Orders received from B.R.C. to have all stores at CHATELNEAU Station between 12 and 5 pm on 11th inst all stores loaded ready to move off on following day.	////

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WAR DIARY

3.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART EVSTACHE	3rd 11		2nd Field Coy provide all harness for moving transport. Transport moved off at 12.30 Lt JOHNSON and party of 15 th R accompanied stores.	///
	12.		Transport and stores held up at CHATELINEAU on account of Railway strike. A suitable instructor having been found, classes are now being conducted in Mechanics, Physics, and Theory of Structures. The attendances are small but the members are keen appear to be gaining much useful knowledge.	///
	13		Railway traffic having been resumed, train leaves CHATELINEAU with stores: Classes in Motor Driving and Physics. Weather extremely cold - all the lakes frozen and the men are obtaining excellent exercise tobogganing and sliding on the lakes	///
	14.		Motor Coy leaves Coyfay Bittels at 7.45 a.m conveying party under C.S.M. AUSTIN-T to the Field of Lakebo. The party arrived back at 4 p.m after a most interesting and instructive trip. Class in Theory of Structures.	///
	15.		Classes in Mechanics, Physics and Motor Driving. Issue of comforts from Australian Comforts Fund. Weather becoming milder and ice beginning to thaw.	///

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART. EVSTACHE	Feb 16.		All notes previously classified 'X' now reclassified and placed in 'Z' class. Classes in Theory of Structures.	////
	17		Capt. B.S. DOWLING detached at D.C. 7th. to act as b.R.O. Lt. W. HIGGINS acting O.C. 1st Field Coy. Lieut. F. MOFFITT from leave to U.K. Classes in Mechanics and Motor Driving.	////
	18.		Classes in Motor Driving and Physics. 30% detached to U.K. for special courses under Demobilisation Scheme.	////
	19		Classes in Theory of Structures. It is now possible to make use of the fields again for recreational training. Football team being re-organised.	////
	20.		The next quota for repatriation paraded to M.O. for completion of A.I.F. Form 53b. Motor class continued. Classes in Theory of Structures, Physics and Mechanics disbanded on departure of instructor for early repatriation.	////
	21		Medical Board sit at Chateau at 10.30 a.m. All personnel from 1st, 2nd & 3rd Field Coy for next draft appear before Board for completion of A.I.F. Form 53b. Party under Lt. GGF. JOHNSON rejoined company after handing over company stores at CALAIS.	////

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART EUSTACHE	Feb. 22:		Mr. W. M. HUGHES addressed men from 1st. Aust Division at 8th Div Parade Ground CHATELET. Personnel from 1st Field Coy conveyed to CHATELET by Major Henry.	///
	23.		Leave party proceeds to BRUSSELS. Gen. BIRDWOOD has interview with officers of 1st. Aust Division at GOUGNIES. The position as regards demobilisation discussed.	///
	24		At 9.30am a special inspection of kits arranged to search for unauthorised revolvers in accordance with instructions received from Division. None found report sent on accordingly. Shot class continued.	///
	25		It had been expected that the next draft for Australia, known as Anzac B would have been leaving at this date but owing to strikes and industrial unrest the Anzac has been delayed indefinitely.	///
	26.		Shot class continued - Pay parade at mid-day. - Party of carpenters proceed to concert Party Ball CHATELET to arrange seating accommodation	///

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART EUSTACHE	26 th		Reconnaissance of area for 'Pine de Guine' stores by 2/Lt. STRATTON. E.V. Stores to be brought to Coy. B.D. Lecture by Lt. MOFFITT. F.C. on 'Theory of Motor Engines'	///
	28.		Motor classes continued. Weather dull & cloudy but mild.	

19

WAR DIARY

OF

W. S. Field Coy A.B.

FOR

February 1919

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Strength.

2.

Company Orders

W. S. Field
W. S. Field Coy. Engineers

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>Appendix 1.</u>	
			<p>Strength at 31/1/19 70/ 142 0/R</p> <p>do 28/2/19. 80/ 139 0/R</p> <hr/> <p><u>Casualties, Evacuations etc for February 1919.</u></p> <p>To Hospital. 8 0/R. Snow Hospital. 3 0/R.</p> <p>Transfers. 4 0/R. Reinforcement 10/15 0/R.</p> <p>Repatriation 10/ 2 0/R. Transfers to base 10/1 0/R.</p> <p>Indus. Camp. 6 0/R.</p>	

W. Higgins Lt
Major, A.E.
C.S. Field Coy. Engineers

28th. February. 1919.

Copy of Company Orders from 1st. February to 28th February 1919:-

Company Order No. 204. by Lieut. HIGGINS "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field Company Engineers. Dated 1-2-19.

REVERSIONS.

No. 17729. T/Cpl. BERGAN. E. reverts to the substantive rank of Lance Corporal on proceeding to U.K. 31-3-19.

No. 66. T/Sgt. MASTERS. N. revertd to substantive rank of Corporal on evacuation to Hospital. 31-12-18.

(Signed) W.HIGGINS. Lieut
a/O.C. 1st. Field Company A.E.

Company Order No. 205. By Lieut HIGGINS "M.C". Commanding 1st. Field Company Engineers. Dated 3-2-19.

PARCELS - Delivery of:-

A.I.F. Order No. 1534 of 28-1-19. is republished

for information:-

"The attention of all ranks is drawn to the fact that parcels arriving for men who have returned for AUSTRALIA cannot be sent on to them in AUSTRALIA. Each man anticipating return should notify the O.C. Aust. Base Post Office: St Pancrais Granery, Kings Road N.W. the name of the soldier to whom he would like his parcels sent to after his return. Otherwise such parcels will be dealt with under the War Precautions Act 64 c which provides that the contents of undelivered parcels will be handed to the Aust. Comforts Fund for distribution amongst the Aust. Troops

(Signed) W.HIGGINS Lieut.
a/O.C. 1st Field Company A.E.

Company Order No. 206. By Lieut HIGGINS "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field Company Engineers Dated 5-2-19.

D.R.O. No. 871. is republished for information:-

All Ranks must be warned that the sale of Goods bought from the Y.M.C.A. and Unit Canteens is strictly prohibited. This warning to be read out on two successive parades

CONFIRMATION OF TEMP. RANKS.

The following appointments to Temp. Rank are

Confirmed:-

321 T/C.S.M.	AUSTIN. T.)	
2632 T/C.Q.M.S.	CAKES. T.B.)	To Substantive Rank
2412 T/Sgt.	MAC'FARLANE. H.A.)	
17367 T/Cpl.	DUNN V.A.)	Dated
2190 T/2/Cpl.	PASFIELD. G.A.T.)	

3 - 2 - 1919.

(Signed) W.HIGGINS Lieut
a/O.C. 1st. Field Company A.E.

2/
19/ Company Orders(Continued)

Company Order No 207 by Capt. B.S. DOWLING "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field
Company Engineers. Dated 12-2-19.

STRENGTH.

Capt. B.S.DOWLING taken on strength of Company from D.E.H.Q.
as O.C. 7-2-19.
2/Lieut. E.V.STRATTON Taken on Strenght from Engineer Cadet
School 8-2-19.

PROMOTIONS.

2nd Lieut.(Hon. Lt.) W.R.EASTON.) To be
2nd.Lieut. C.G.F. JOHNSON:) Lieut.A.I.F.
List No443 7-2-19.

B.S.DOWLING Capt.
O.C. 1st Field Company A.E.

Company Order No.208 by Capt B.S.DOWLING "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field
Company Engineers. Datedd 13-1-19.

No.2787 T/Farr/Sgt. WEINBURG W. reprimanded and forfeits 1 days pay by
R.W, for A.W.L. from 6-0 a.m. 26-1-19 to 6-0a.m. 27-1-19..

B.S.DOWLING Capt.
O.C.1st. Field Company Eng

Company Order No.209 by B.S.DOWLING "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field
Company Engineers Dated 17-2-19.

PUNISHMENT.

NO. 3664 Spr. W.J.MASON tried by F.G.C.M. In The Field
10-2-19. President of the Court- Major W.F.G.
McCANN "D.S.O." M.C." 10th. Aust Inf. Bde.
Charge.(1) Deserting His Majestys Service in that he absented himself
without leave from 9/11/18 untill apprehended by the Military Police at
• ABBEVILLE on 12-1-19. -Pleaded -Not Guilty- Finding .Not Guilty,desert-
-ion. Guilty A.W.L. from 9/11/18. to 12/1/19. Charge(2) When in arrest
escaping ,in that he whilst travelling on a train from ABBEVILLE to
ETAPLES on 19/1:19. in charge of an Escort jumped out of the Train and
escaped . Pleaded - Guilty- Finding -Guilty- Sentence to 2 Years E.H.L.
Finding and Sentence Confirmed by Major T.W.GLASGOW Commanding 1st Aust.
Division . Period in waiting Trial and Custody 11 Days.

(Signed) B.S.DOWLING.
O.C.1st. Field Company A.E.

Company Order No. 210. By Lieut .HIGGINS "M.C" Commanding 1st Field
Company Engineers. Dated 18-2-19.

AWARDS.

No. 250 Sgt. WICKS F.C. has been awarded the D.C.M.(Auth. A.I.F
List No.427 of 1/1/19.
No. 177 Cpl. R.T.JESSOP has been awarded the M.S.M. (Auth. A.I.F
List No. 438. of 24-1-19.)

PROMOTION. δ

No. 19146 Pte. F.N.T.GREGORY (A.M.C. Personnel Attached)
appointed Lance Corporal. Dated 13-2-19.

Railways- Damage to stock and Removal of Fittings: δ

The following is an extract from a report on the condition of a leave train on its arrival at the Base:-

" Many stoves were missing. Dirty. Many stove pipes missing where stoves have been. Benches burnt in many compartments. First Class French Coach D.P.Y. 140 has been entirely gutted, not only cushions been taken out but the general structure of the inside of the coach has been destroyed apparently with an Axe. All windows broken- sashes, straps, cords, and curtains cut, or in other ways destroyed. The coach is in a disgraceful state and is certainly no use to the train.

The above is only one of the many similar reports that have been received of the damage being caused to railway stock of trains employed for the movement of troops, both for Demobilisation and leave. This damage has lately reached such proportions that it is impossible to effect repairs, or replace fittings sufficiently to maintain the stock in condition and considerable hardship is inevitably caused to troops who have subsequently to use the damaged trains, more particularly in the cold weather.

Deliberate damage is caused by a similar who do not appreciate the hardships they inflict on their comrades by their action. All Ranks are therefore urged in the general interests to do everything in their power by loyal co-operation to maintain Trains in the best possible condition.

(Signed) W.HIGGINS Lieut.
a/O.C. 1st. Field Company A.E.

Company Order No. 212. by Lieut W.HIGGINS "M.C" Commanding 1st. Field
Company Engineers. Dated 23-2-19.

DEMOBILISATION.

The following extract from a letter from D.G.R.D. is republished for information:-

" The consequences of the strike in all the shipping and repair trades are now making themselves felt. We have not merely lost a period of 16 days while the strike actually lasted but the dislocation of the whole programme of Shipping for February and the early days of March has been brought about, such a congestion of troops in the Depots of U.K. and at HARVE that it will take some time and patient handling to resume a regular flow of quotas from France. All ranks are to be assured that every possible effort is being made to speed up the homeward Movement.

(Signed) W.HIGGINS Lieut.
a/O.C. 1st. Field Company A.E.

Company Order No. 212 by Lieut. W.HIGGINS "M.C." Commanding 1st Field
Company Engineers. Dated. 26/2-19.

INFLUENZA

D.R.O. No. 902 is Republished for information:-

"This disease frequently complicated by pneumonia, is again prevalent in the Army Area and is attended with serious, and, in a number of cases, fatal results.

to prevent the spread of the epidemic the following precautions will be taken:-

(1) Every man will be instructed to report Sick immediately symptoms of the disease become apparent. These symptoms generally take the form of a headache and slight cough with fever. A patient's chance of recovery is jeopardised by any delay in the treatment of his case which may result.

Company Order No. 212 (Continued)

in the spread of the disease amongst his comrades.

(c) The ventilation in billets is of Cardinal importance in limiting the spread of the disease, and diminishing its severity.

(d) Warm clothing will be worn by night and day, and exposure to inclement weather avoided whenever possible.

(e) From 23rd. February (inclusive) until further notice places of entertainment will be placed out of bounds to all troops. Military Cinema and Entertainment Halls will be closed, and church parade services will be held in the open air. This order will be reviewed on the 1st. March and it is hoped that the situation will allow of its modification.

(Signed) W. HIGGINS Lieut.
a/O.C. 1st. Field Company A.E.