

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/24/1

Title: 5th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

November 1915 - April 1916



AWM4-14/24/1

WAR DIARY

Army Form 2118.

5TH ENGINEERS
A.I.F.

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Melbourne	23/11/15	11 AM	Embarked on H.M.A.T. "Ceramic" Col Paine O.B. Troops.	<p style="text-align: right;">Kil</p> <p style="text-align: right;">I II III IV V VI</p>
Suez	14/12/15	8:30 PM	anchored off Suez.	
PORT SAID	17/12/15	8-- PM	" at Port Said (boaling)	
"	18/12/15	12 NOON	Disembarked with a few stores, all other stores to alexandria & to be trucked to Kantara on banal 24 miles from Port said.	
Kantara	18/12/15	7:30 PM	Detrained at Kantara. Tents provided by the 2 nd Gurkha Regiment.	
"	26/12/15		all day with Col Priddham on line of defence at Hill 70.	
"	29/12/15	8:30 AM	Struck camp, embarked on Jug for Serapeum 10 miles south of Ismailia. Disembarked 7 PM. Stores to be sent down on lighter a day or two later.	
Serapeum	31/12/15	9:15 AM	Leaving camp with Col Pritchard RE to go over line of defence at Gebel Habaita. Harris with me.	
Gabel Habaita	1/1/16		Over line. Selecting positions with Col Pritchard and Capt. Harris 5 th company.	
Habaita	2/1/16			
Serapeum	3/1/16			moved back to Serapeum.
"	4/1/16	10:30 AM	no 1 section Lt Bassett. W. E. & Capt Harris move out to Gabel Habaita	
"	11/1/16	10:30 AM	no 2 " Lt Bunnell moved out to Gabel Habaita	
"	28/1/16	2 PM	company moved out of Serapeum for Ismailia (Ferry Post)	
Ferry Post		6 PM	" arrived at Ferry Post and pitched camp.	
"	31/1/16	9 AM	no 4 & 1 sections moved out to Hill 353.	
"	1/2/16	"	H.Q. no 2 + 3 " " " " (Drivers left in camp.)	

W.A. Henderson Major

WAR DIARY

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Army Form C.

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Ferry Post	2/2/16	9AM	Started work on the 5 th Brigade line (2 or 3)	
"	2/2/16		at work whole of period on 5 th Brigade line.	
"	3/3/16			
"	4/3/16		Instructions to move men in from front line to Ferry Post. all stores	
"			P.E. handed over to N.Z.E. Our own transported to Railhead by camel thence Rail to Ferry Post.	
"	5/3/16	0900	moved out of camp with Tool carts etc complete for moascar concentration camp.	
Moascar		1200	arrived and pitched camp at Moascar.	
"	13/3/16	2300	7 th Field Coy moved out for Alexandria.	
"	15/3/16	1145	Major Newcombe informed me that 5 th Field Coy would move on night of 16 th & 17 th at 0235.	
"	16/3/16	1400	Camp struck stores moved to station.	
"		2100	Capt Harris + 30 men left with mules.	
"	17/3/16	0235	Company entrained for Alexandria.	
Alexandria		1020	Train arrived alongside Arcadian. Stores + Kits transferred to motor lorry + into ship.	
"		1240	men marched on to ship and allotted to J Deck	
"		1730	Arcadian left Alexandria at 1730. Crispin left at about 16.45	

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Major

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Marseilles	23/3/16	0545	Anchored off Marseilles	
		1420	Landed and marched to staging camp. Lt Bunnell & 11 men left 11.30 with baggage.	
"	24/3/16	0930	Moved out of Staging camp for Gare St. Charles entrained at 1110.	
		1135	Train moved off for BERGUETTE.	
Thiennes	28/3/16	1130	Company detrained at Thiennes a station 3 miles north of BERGUETTE. men billeted.	
"	30/3/16		Route march to Aire and back through Beaurainville.	
Aire	31/3/16	1530	Lord Kitchener inspected the majority of the 2nd Division.	
Thiennes	2/4/16	2230	Message from C.R.E. for O.B. Engineer Companies to report for duty front line.	
Stenbecque	3/4/16	1100	met C.R.E. O.B.'s 7 th & 6 th moved across to S. Armentieres by motor Bus.	
Erquinghem	"	1530	Reported to O.B. 207 th Field Coy 34 Division whose section 5 th Field Coy takes over.	
Gris Pot	4/4/16	0930	Moved off with O.B. 207 th (Major MacMahon) to go over trenches. Spent all morning in trenches and went over half of sector (Right) very quiet. Going over left half 5 th .	
"	5/4/16	1300	Over left section of the line with Major MacMahon.	
"	6/4/16	1800	Bunnell reported in at 207 th Headquarters.	
"	8/4/16	1700	Field company reported in at ERQUINGHEM.	

W.A. Henderson Mayo

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Gris Pot	10/4/16	0800	Officers, Sergeants + 1st corporals over section of trench which they take charge of. 7th Brigade on our left, 6th on our right.	
"	10/4/16	1945	5th Coy less Drivers moved into billets at Gris Pot. Vacated by 207th F.B.R.E.	
"	12/4/16	0800 1400	All morning inspecting line prior to going over with G.O.B.	
"	13/4/16	.	Over line with Gen Holmes decided to complete support line.	
"	15/4/16	1000 1500	over line with Gen Buidwood + Gen Holmes.	
"	17/4/16	8:30 PM	Capt Harris takes over 7th Field Coy until Evans returns.	
"	23/4/16	11:55	Lt Olive killed with a shell burst while in the trenches.	
"	24/4/16	0900	Lt Steele went into hospital sick	
"	29/4/16	1900	Lt Simpson New Zealand Engineers, 3rd Coy attached for duty while Steele is away.	

W.A. Henderson
Major