

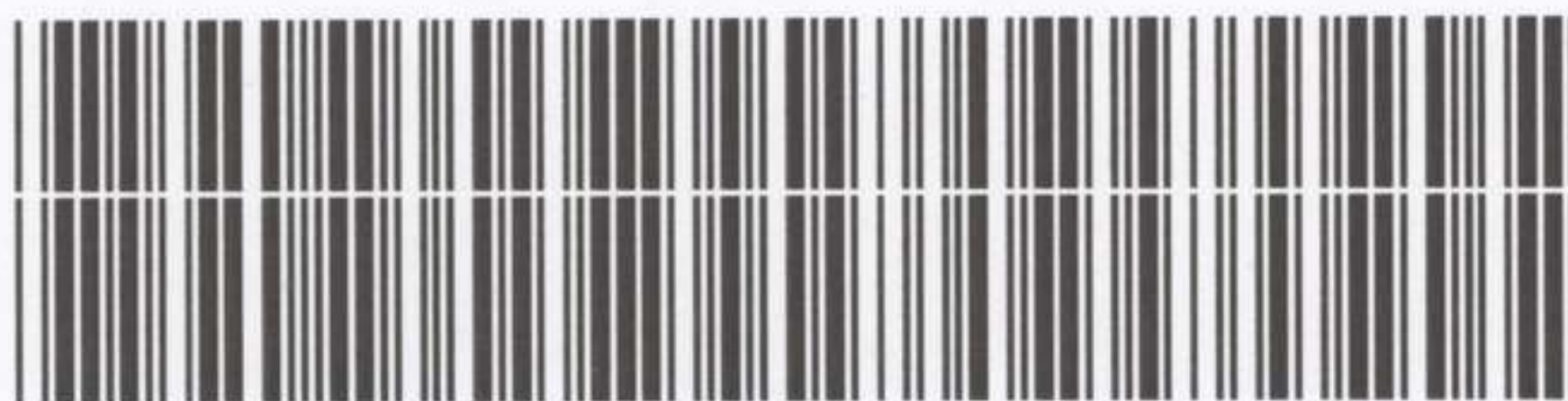
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/21/15

**Title:** 2nd Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

March 1916



AWM4-14/21/15



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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

*Mather Major*  
2nd Field Coy Engineers  
1st A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POST 55 SERAPEUM E	1-3-16 to		During this time the construction of FIRE TRENCHES, STRONG POINTS, RESERVE & COMMUNICATION TRENCHES, MACHINE GUN POSITIONS, BOMBING PTS, BOMBARDMENT DUGOUTS and other defensive works in this advanced line was continued with, whilst at the section BIVOUPS the manufacture of the various HURDLES necessary for the above works was proceeded with	
" "	8-3-16		Works as above still in progress. On this date CAPT BACHTOLD LIEUT GREENWAY and 65 other ranks were transferred to the ENGINEER COYS of other AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONS now being formed.	
" "	9-3-16		Works still in progress. On this date MAJOR MATHER proceeded to the extreme RIGHT FLANK and marked out the new defensive works there.	
" "	10-3-16		Works still progressing as from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> of month	
" "	11-3-16 to		Weather fine	
" "	16-3-16		Upon this date NOS 1, 2 & 4 sections returned to the STAGING CAMP 1/4 miles East of the SUEZ CANAL at SERAPEUM. MAJOR MATHER and NO 3 SECTION remained out at the advanced FIRING LINE in the direction of HABASHI.	
" "	17-3-16 18-3-16		MAJ MATHER & NO 3 SECTION returned to STAGING CAMP. MEN engaged in packing technical stores	



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*Mather Major*  
2nd Field Coy Engineers  
1st A.I.F.

Z 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STAGING CAMP <del>POST 55</del>	19.3.16		On this date the Coy were inoculated against PARA Typhoid. On this date the PRINCE of WALES accompanied by GEN. BIRDWOOD rode thro. the CAMP.	
SERAPEUM E	20.3.16		Coy inspected by COL. MARTYN D.S.O. Full kit up ready to march out.	
" "	21.3.16		On these dates the company were still employed storing & packing technical stores in view of early departure from this position.	
" "	22.3.16		On the 21 <sup>st</sup> Lieut STEVENSON and 42 other ranks marched out of camp attached to No 1 Coy. A.E. On the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut BROCKMAN and 26 DRIVERS with 59 horses marched out at 1400. MAJOR MATHER Lieut CUNNINGHAM & 133 other ranks with 68 other ranks from 5 <sup>th</sup> BATTN. attached marched out at 2000, and entrained at <del>2045</del> 23.45, in open trucks. Night moonlight & cold.	
ALEXANDRIA	23.3.16		Arrived here at 10.30 after a very cold all night trip in open trucks. Embarked upon H.M.T. SIMLA. at 1215. Men employed loading Coy baggage. Boat cast off at 2130.	
H.M.T. SIMLA.	24.3.16 to 29.3.16		On board troopship, weather fine, MAJ. MATHER O.C. TROOPS. usual ship routine. all ranks living in their lifebelts, <del>the</del> boat called at MALTA for orders on 27.3.16 at 0800. Arrived off MARSEILLES at 2200 on the 29 <sup>th</sup>	



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*Matthew May*  
2nd Field Coy Engineers  
1st A.I.F.

Z 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARSEILLES	30-3-16		Troopship pulled into docks at 0630. After unloading Coy's baggage Coy paraded at 1230 and marched to railway siding entraining at 1430 Destination unknown	
In train	31-3-16		Passed thro. LYONS at 0430 this morning.	
			<p>During the first half of the past month the dismounted portion of the COY were employed upon the advanced line of defence between GEBEL HABEITA and HABASHI east of the SUEZ CANAL. The weather was fine but sand &amp; dust storms were very frequent. These in a few hours completely covered <sup>in places</sup> up any trace of the existence of trenches &amp; works. The mounted section were employed at the staging camp on the CANAL carting pipes for water supply &amp; other transport work.</p> <p>The latter half of the month has been mostly spent in packing &amp; travelling. The trip from ALEXANDRIA to MARSEILLES was without incident the weather being at times dull &amp; wet but smooth throughout. The usual ship routine was carried out &amp; all ranks had their life belts with them continuously.</p>	

*Matthew May*  
O.C. 2nd Field Coy Engineers  
1st A.I.F.