

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/21/5

Title: 2nd Field Company, Australian
Engineers

May 1915



AWM4-14/21/5

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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).

2nd Field Coy AK-5

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 30/4/15. ANZAC | <p>No. 2 Section Continued to sink wells in different parts. A hump was put into position in gully near WALKERS ROAD. No. 4 Section Constructing wire entanglements on our extreme right. This work was carried on throughout the day.</p> <p>No. 3. Section working in conjunction with No. 4 on wire entanglement. LIEUT. MIRAMS transferred to SS DEVANHA suffering from bad foot. Friday</p> | |
| 8.A.M. 1/5/15 | <p>No. 1. Section carried on construction of communication trenches for 2ND BDE over exposed ground. Work was suspended for an hour or so in late afternoon as Turkish snipers were causing considerable trouble. Work was, however, continued at night.</p> <p>No. 2. Section still engaged on well sinking. Owing to water having been tapped higher up DEATH VALLEY wells at foot commenced to give out. A test well 11' deep. was sunk near DAVIKINS POINT. During the night section constructed wire entanglements near POINT ROSENTHAL. No. 4. Section continued with construction of wire entanglements in front of firing line. A party from this section commenced manufacturing bombs + grenades</p> | |
| 11.P.M. 1/5/15 | <p>No. 3 Section still on wire entanglements + road making on right flank. SAPPER. O. HUGHES wounded</p> | |

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2-6

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|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>8-10 AM. 7/5/15. ANZAC.</p> <p>4 P.M.</p> <p>10 P.M.</p> | <p>No. 1. Section Completed work for 2nd BDE and commenced main road up DEATH VALLEY. Work on this road was pushed on with all speed and was used during afternoon by COLONEL ROSENTHAL in placing field guns into position.</p> <p>No. 2. Section engaged laying 4" pipes from SHRAPNEL GULLY to DAVKINS POINT to take off surplus water from supply controlled by CAPT WILLIAMS. This was done at night under a heavy rifle & machine gun fire. The pipes the men were working on were frequently hit by bullets. CORPORAL EHART was especially responsible for the good work put in by party.</p> <p>No. 4. Section Completed wire entanglements</p> <p>No. 3 Section making communication trench from 5th BN H.Q. to firing line. Dried day</p> | |
| <p>8 A.M. " 8/5/15 ANZAC</p> | <p>No. 1. Section Continued Construction of road in DEATH GULLY. Road taken along South side of gully crossing to North side 350 yards from firing line by earth ramp. Particular notice was paid to gradients on this road to facilitate haulage of guns.</p> <p>No. 2. Section Completing pipe laying & reflecting repairs: For eight consecutive nights pipes were broken by heavy transport. At this time section was watering 600 animals & providing drinking water to two Infantry brigades at DAVKINS POINT</p> | |

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|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <p>7/5/15 ANZAC</p> | <p>No. 4. Section. Half of this section now engaged making grenades + remainder on special work at R.E. Depot. No. 3 section surveying + marking out communication trenches from DEATH VALLEY to right flank. Fine sunny day.</p> | |
| <p>14/5/15 "</p> | <p>No. 1. Section continued construction of road in DEATH VALLEY. No. 2. Section still engaged on pipe laying. No. 3. Section divided into two parties which commenced sapping (see map) No. 4. Section in charge of party of R.M.L.I. engaged constructing road + paths near Div. H.Q. A party from this section having been constantly engaged making bombs were temporarily detached from section + CORPORAL PROBERT placed in charge until further notice. Fine day.</p> | <p>See Appendix No. 2</p> |
| <p>8 AM 5/5/15 "</p> | <p>No. 1 Section improving gradients and straightening parts of road in DEATH VALLEY</p> | |
| <p>4.30 PM "</p> | <p>Road was shelled in afternoon whilst 11th B.V. on way to trenches + CORPORAL COCKS was wounded in arm. At 7 PM section set out for MORVASH GULLY + commenced construction of craters to prevent gully being swept by fire from enemy trench at head + also to act as shelters for stretcher bearers etc.</p> | |
| <p>7 P.M.</p> | <p>These are best constructed of sand bags or boxes</p> | |

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20
7

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|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7 AM. 5/5/15 ANZAC. | <p>and thickness of at least 5' should be allowed. In many cases cover from view proves useful in protection from snipers. This concealment is provided by suspending bushes on wire stretched across gully + by building frameworks at bends in road whereon bushes may be hung.</p> <p>No. 2. Section Camp on supply of water in three gullies. No. 3. Section improving trenches + roads on right flank. No. 4. Section constructing roads near DIV. H.Q. owing to rocky nature of country it was necessary to do a considerable amount of blasting. Clear day + very windy.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 6/5/15 ANZAC | <p>No. 1. Section split up into various parties each under a N.C.O. in conjunction with New Zealand Engineers constructed several craverses in Monash Gully + improved communications in SHRAPNEL GULLY. No. 2 Section engaged on water supply in three gullies. Improving wells + erecting hand pumps + digging fresh wells higher up gullies. During the whole time the section was exposed to enemy shrapnel + snipers were constantly being retained. Six sappers received slight wounds from bursting shrapnel. No. 3. Constructing gun emplacements + roads for "BROWN'S BATTERY". No. 4 section still on road but had party of New Zealand infantry assisting. Cloudy day no rain.</p> | |

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2A

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 8 AM. 7/5/15 ANZAC | Section still engaged on Craters in SARAPIVEI Gully at night on gun emplacements for "BROWNS BATTERY" at head of DEATH VALLEY. No 2 section continuously engaged on water supply. No 3 section sapping & communication trenches. No 4 section completed road later engaged constructing gun emplacement for 4th Battery. The section assisted to haul gun up ridge, place in position & then built overhead cover. This was done under cover of night. Worked until 6 AM. 8/5/15. | |
| 10 P.M. 7/5/15 " | ^{fine day.} | |
| 8 AM. 8/5/15 " | No 1 section making sap 8' wide to allow of guns to be drawn to actual firing line where emplacements were being constructed for "BROWNS BATTERY". Position of gun pits marked out & dug out as sap reached proposed sites. No 2 section water supply. | |
| 6 AM. 8/5/15 " | No 3 section constructing gun pits & sapping. No 4 section returned from 4th Battery at 6 AM & after few hours rest continued on emplacements. Worked through until 8 AM 9th. Fine day. | |
| 8 AM. 9/5/15 " | No 1 section work on gun sap "BROWNS BATTERY". SAPPER DONNELLY wounded whilst at work on gun emplacements. No 2 section water supply. Fine day. | |

WAR DIARY

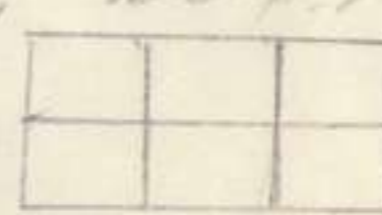
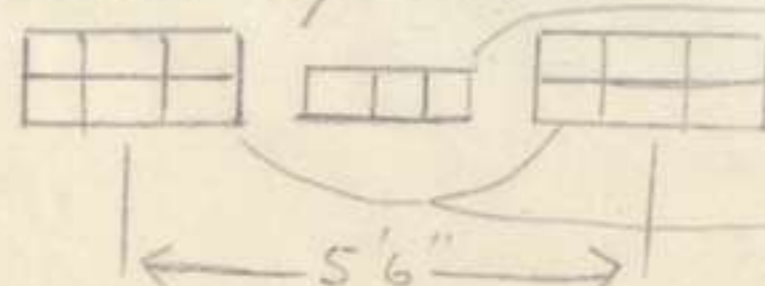
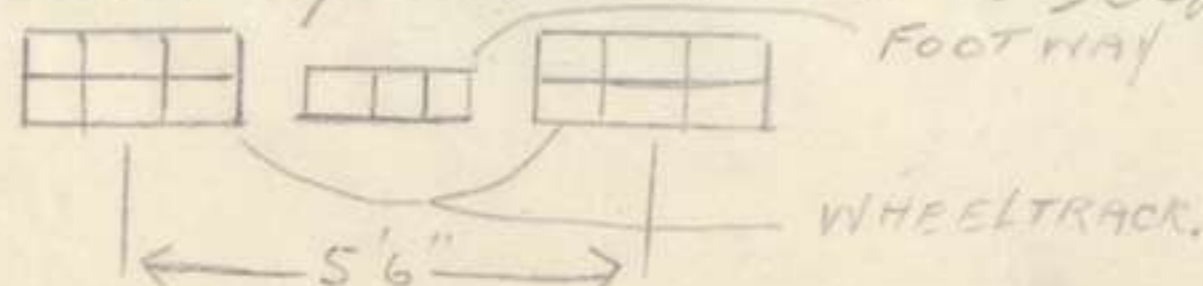
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29-10

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <p>9/5/15 ANZAC 8 AM. " "</p> | <p>No. 3. Section sapping. No. 4. Section Carried on work on gun emplacements. until 8 AM 9th then rested.</p> | |
| <p>7 AM 10/5/15 "</p> | <p>No. 1. Section still engaged deepening + widening of sap to "BROWNS BATTERY". No. 2. Section water supply. No. 3. Section sapping, party from this section commenced main communication trench along ridge of MCCAY'S HILL. No. 4. Section unloading timber from barge + scoring same at R.E part. Fine day.</p> | |
| <p>8 AM. 11/5/15 "</p> | <p>No. 1. Section, so as to expedite work, split into three parties, working shifts of 8 hours each. Gun sap pushed well ahead. Prepared crossings over communication trenches to get guns back to a position on reverse slope of hill. Gun brought back under covering fire from infantry in trenches in front. Operations proceeded under fire and SAPPER. S. HILL wounded. Trench 5'6" wide was shanked by 4" x 4" pine, six lengths being used under each wheel viz:  same being securely bound. another foot  Crack made between these to allow of two men to lift + carry trail: </p> | |

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| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2.30 PM 11/5/15. ANZAC | No. 2. Section water supply. Evidently the position of our supply was taken as target by the enemy & during afternoon approximately 100. H. Ex. & shrapnel shells were put in a shell of 30 sq yds SAPPER COTTON badly wounded & about 30 casualties including 5 deaths in other units occurred at the time. No. 3. Section commenced saps. No. 4. dismantling barrel pier which had been displaced by erection of more serviceable one. Steady rain fell during day. | |
| 8 AM. 12/5/15 " | No. 1. Section continued construction of gun emplacements. No. 2. Section water supply. LIEUT DAWKINS with a party of 16 were covering a stretch of pipes on plateau about 200 yards North of DAWKINS POINT when at 9.45 A.M. a shell burst amongst them killing the officer. Several of the party had narrow escapes but fortunately there were no further casualties. | |
| 9.45 " | LIEUT DAWKINS was buried at 7.30 P.M. same day by REV. COL GREEN near HELLS SPIT. The officers of DE. this Coy & the men of the Coy were present. | |
| 7.30 PM " | No. 3. Section sapping, remainder of section communication trench along MCCAYS HILL No. 4. Section engaged on fascines & steps in DEATH VALLEY. At night section commenced sapping. Rained practically all day. | |
| " " " | | |

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E-16

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 7 PM. 13/5/15. ANZAC | <p>No. 1. Section still working shifts constructing overhead cover on gun pits. These pits are covered first by using 3 cross beams 6" x 6" x 15' on which are laid 20 lengths of 4" x 4" x 16' spaced 6", sand bags & earth piled thereon to thickness of 12"-15" & whole screened on completion. To allow of deterioration of height which may be found to be advantageous the cross beams are laid on "piers" of sand bags built separately from wall. It has been found that timber will not support sufficient protection to gunners from H.E. shells it is suggested that steel rails with creble corrugated iron be used which would support sufficient earth etc to minimise effect of shells. No. 2 Section CAPT WILLIAMS took charge of whole of water supply. Big well was used as storage well & 700 animals were watered twice a day, morning & night. No. 3 Section sapping & communication trench. No. 4 Section sapping. Owing to heavy rains of the 12th the wells at foot of DEATH VALLEY were all replenished. 13th was fine, very windy.</p> | |

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26/13

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7 AM. 14/5/15 ANZAC | <p>No. 1. section still on gun emplacements whilst preparing their morning meal SAPPER D. MACKAY + DRIVER J. T. BARRATT were severely wounded. No. 2 section water now being plentiful & no need for further well sinking most of this section attached to No. 3 for sapping. No. 3 section sapping and communication trench. No. 4 section sapping. Fine day.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 15/5/15 " | <p>No. 1. section effecting repairs to road in DEATH VALLEY caused by explosive shells from enemy guns, also widening commn. trench at head of valley to take guns to sunken gun pits No. 2. Section now in three parties, few men at DANKINS POINT controlling water supply others sapping & remainder with CAPT WILLIAMS in SHRAPNEL GULLY. No. 3 section same routine as for 14th No. 4 section sapping From this date Major Martyn acting C.O. D.E vice Lt Col Elliott wounded. Fine day.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 16/5/15 " | <p>No. 1. section commenced widening of trench on MACKAYS HILL to allow of guns to be put into position for TOPPS BATTERY. Small party in firing line improving loop holes & look out & another detail erecting shells overhead</p> | |

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2-14

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 16/5/15 ANZAC | <p>Cover for 2nd INF. BDE. H.Q.S. No. 2. Section, from this date no water was taken from SHRAPNEL GULLY to storage tanks at DAWKINS POINT & water for bottles only was supplied. No. 3. Section sapping & improving gun pits & loop holes. No. 1 Section sapping - saps are 2' wide by 5' deep & as we extend infantry widen to 3' & cut firing steps as recessed into parapets.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>There are now nine saps in progress. Dine clear day.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 17/5/15 ANZAC | <p>No. 1. Section on same routine as for 16th whilst working in trench LCPL. Hill was wounded in mouth. No. 2. Section sapping & conducting main water supply in SHRAPNEL GULLY. No 3 & 4 sections sapping.</p> <p>Dine day.</p> | |
| 18/5/15 " | <p>No. 1. Section. Different parties still engaged on same work as on 16th & 17th. No. 2. Section sapping etc as previous. Whilst engaged extending saps our men were ordered to stand to arms & defend saps in which they were working. For four hours continuously etc.</p> | |

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8-19

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 18/5/15 ANZAC | <p>enemy were attacking & endeavoured to force their way into our lines through the sap but without avail. Unfortunately the position was not defended without casualties as 1 SAPPER [L. MATHEWS] was killed and 3 L^{ts} CPL. F. DENCH + SAPPERS [F. KENNEDY + G. EYRE] were all seriously wounded. No 3rd sections had the same experience & successfully defended the saps in which they were working. The sappers in No 4 section dragged a wounded Turkish Officer & a private into sap & handed over to Infantry officers. No 2 section (two parties) one with CAPT WILLIAMS on water supply & the other attached to No 3. on sapping. Fine day.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 19/5/15 " | <p>No 1 section repairing damaged parapets & loop holes. We were fortunate that loop holes had been improved prior to the big attack as it is estimated that 25% more rifles were used than would have been the case had same not been attended to. In many places increases were in ratio 3/2. No 2 3 & 4 sections sapping. On this date SAPPER J. HALEY was wounded whilst working at R.E. depot. Fine day.</p> | |
| 7 AM. 20/5/15 " | <p>No 1 section constructing barbed wire entanglements during day & at night placed same in front of trenches at head of MONTASH Gully.</p> | |
| 8 PM. " | | |

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9-16

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 20/5/15. ANZAC | Whist engaged carpentering at D.E. H.Q.S. SAPPER. A MCLEOD was wounded in foot. Nos. 2. 3. 4 sections sapping. On this date LIEUT MIRAMIS returned to duty. Fine day. | |
| 2 AM 21/5/15 " | No. 1 section returned from Monash Gully. | |
| " " " " | During day making more entanglements which were placed in position as on 20 th | |
| | No. 2. 3 + 4 sections sapping. Cloudy day. | |
| 7 " 22/5/15 " | No. 1 section wire entanglements. | |
| | No. 2 3 + 4 sections sapping. Train fell during day. | |
| 7 " 23/5/15 " | No. 1 section wire entanglements. During the night, section officer with Sgt. + Cpl. proceeded to head of WALKERS GULLY to supervise defensive works on "A" "B" "6" positions near "BRAUNDS HILL" | |
| 8 PM " " | noticed that entanglements previously constructed were acting famously. No. 2. 3 + 4 sections sapping. On this date SGT. SHEPPARD was wounded in foot. Fine day. | |
| 7 AM 24/5/15 " | Day of Armistice. At night No. 1 section engaged on defense works WALKERS GULLY. | |
| 7 PM " " | No. 2. 3. 4 sections sapping. Slight rain fell at intervals during day | |
| 7 AM 25/5/15 " | No. 1 section Party from this section on defense works as on 24 th Remainder effecting repairs to gun pits. | |

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2-17

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 8 AM. 27/5/15 ANZAC | <p>No. 1 Section carrying on defensive works as described on 26th. This scheme was suggestion of LIEUT. KNIGHT of which MAJOR GLASFORD approved. Nos 2, 3 + 4 sections sapping. Saps from 2nd Bn lines commenced. It was found necessary to first tunnel under present parapet for a distance of 14' 9" + then to break through. Earth being carried through to rear of Comm. trench. This was eventually Tunnel B.G.</p> | |
| 7 PM | <p>No. 1. Section set out to construct gun pit for 21 K.M.B unfortunately the night was too bright + party was detected by enemy who trained machine gun on position with the result that SAPPETS. J.A. STEVENS. + J. SIES. were wounded. On this date the Coy was reinforced by six sappers from 2nd reinforcements. Friday.</p> | |
| 8 AM 28/5/15 " | <p>No. 1. Section completed work on BRAUNDS HILL + commenced construction of gun pits and overhead cover for 21 K.M.B to south of head of DEATH VALLEY. These to be constructed exactly as those for field guns. No. 2. 2nd sections completing all saps + commencing tunnels. No 5 Tunnel started. On this date SAPPET. J. WEST was seriously wounded whilst in his dug out. This day.</p> | |

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| <p><i>3/5/15 ANZAC</i></p> | <p><i>No. 2 3 & 4 sections on tunnels. A party from No. 4 section improving loop holes in firing line of 2nd Bn. LOCAL DARRYSHIRE & SAPPERS. BAXTER & PEARNS now on traverse of firing line. On this date tunnels B 3, 5 & 6 were in progress. Fine clear day, windy.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;"> <i>[Signature]</i> Major O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F. </p> |

2-2
APPENDIX No. 1. (Details of Water Supply in Shrapnel Gully - Capt. Williams)

- 25/4/15. Party 14 OR. SHRAPNEL GULLY. Sunk well 5'6" Diameter 5'4" Time occupied 4 hours - 3 men 1 N.C.O. Constructed dam across stream. Avg height of dam 2'6" = 9 men 1 N.C.O. capacity 5000 gallons Time 9 hours.
- 26/4/15. Placed pump (left pattern) on well + covered in top - Deepened dam to 3' to get a bottom of clay.
- 27/4/15. Deepened well in clay to a depth of 9'. Time 6 hours with four men. Owing to continuous bailing progress was slow.
- 28/4/15. Cleared up stream for a distance of 1/2 mile + diverted stream to one side of road. Men employed 12
- 29/4/15. One man on pump, one distributing water. 10 men diverting road from stream bed for a distance of 2 chains 8 hours.
- 30/4/15. Constructed lower dam for mule water, capable of conserving 8000 gallons men employed 6 - Time 8 hours.
- 1/6/15. Deepened lower dam to get a clay bed! -
- 
- 7/5/15. Placed a cask + water cart tank on road side to prevent traffic near well, also quicker for filling water bottles. Five men 8 hours.
- 15/5. Erected water trough near new road four men - four hours. Trough to be brought up from beach + clearing made in scrub.
- 21/5/15. Obtained steriliser for water - Chloride of lime + Hypo. Sulp. of Soda (four men returned to section) three men on well by WALKERS ROAD one man + N.C.O. general supervision, one man cutting drains clear + clean.
- 5/5/15. 4 men on well WALKERS ROAD - timbering up Depth 8'.
- 6/5/15. Fixed pump on well (WALKERS ROAD) + well ready for use. supply 800 gals per diem.
- 11/5/15. Two men on new well 100 yds up gully from first well. struck water at 3' sunk down to 5'.
- 5/5/15. Put cover on well of fixed pump Capacity 1000 gals per diem.
- 9/5/15. Put siphon from No. 3. well to No. 1. to concentrate supply removed pump from No. 3.
- 10/5/15. Placed a third cask in position near road for water bottles, total storage now 1400 gals. General cleanup of catchment area.
- 11/5/15. Cleared out top dam owing to silt.
- 12/5/15. Sent two parties of 4 men each up MONASH VALLEY to dig 2 wells. Depth 5 + 6 feet respect.
- 17/5. 8 men MONASH VALLEY Continuing on wells 9' + 8'.
- 14/5/15. " " " " " " " " " " " " 12' + 10'
- 15/5/15. Pumps now on wells capacity 1000 + 800 gals.
- 16/5/15. Cleaned up catchment area MONASH VALLEY also sunk a soak well down the valley near A.M.C. dressing station. Depth 3'6" Capacity about 600 gals.
- 17/5/15. Obtained working party from each BDE. 24 men for purpose of sinking wells - Demand for water increasing as all surface water disappearing -
- 1 party - 8 men on well 100 yds NE of No. 3. Two shifts
 - 1 party - 8 men near No. 3.
 - 1 party - 8 men on well at junction of No. 1 + No. 4 BDE. parties repairing dug out.
- 18/5/15. Infantry parties recalled to firing line no progress.
- 19/5/15. No progress - shelling is heavy for safe working. Though disrupted by shelling.
- 20/5/15. Cleaning up water supply area. Making new crossings from drain across road.
- 21/5/15. 8 men - new shelf for trough under cover from shrapnel filling in stream, just below mule water dam.
- 22/5/15. Infantry parties returned - 24 men.
- | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| No. 1. Party | 6 feet | - Water |
| No. 2 | 6 feet | - |
| No. 3 | 7 feet | Water |
- 23/5/15. No. 1 " 9' } sinking difficult thro' keeping water down.
No. 2 " 9' }
No. 3 " 9' }

- 24/5/15. 27
 No 1. Party Dismantling up
 No 2 " 12 feet
 No 3 " 12 feet.
- 25/5/15. No 1 well on - pump, fixed up collar & made ready for use
 No 2 " sinking - 16' & placed windlass on well
 No 3 " dismantling up & placed pump on well.
- 26/5/15. No 1 in well 50 yds. S.E. 5' & struck water.
 No 2 " Depth 20'
 No 3 " made shelter for man on pump & commenced new well near No 8. BN.
- 27/5/15. No 1 " 8' timbered, fixed up & covered in
 No 2 " 24' " up
 No 3 " 10'
- 28/5/15. No 1 " Divided into two - 4 men each:—
 No 1. New well in SHRAPNEL Gully Progress 4' & timbered
 No 1.A - SHRAPNEL VALLEY. N of road Progress 4'
 No 2 " 26' hard flinty ground
 No 3 " 13' & timbering, using a sinking set to get through wash.
- 29/5/15. Built another shelf for second trough - watering 700 muls. in prolongation of former one. 6. tappers.
 No 1 8' & completed with pump
 No 1.A. 9'
 No 2. 28'
 No 3. 17'
- 30/5/15. Completed shelf & placed new trough in position
 No 1 well between two troughs
 No 1.A fitted pump & placed cast in position
 No 2 Drive 3'
 No 3 fitted pump.
- 31/5/15. Eight additional men: - six parties.
 1 Indian well - 6' - 4 men.
 2 Drive 10' in clay - 8 "
 3 well near 8 BN. 6' - 8 "
 4 " 2 BN. 9' - 4 "
 5 " WALKERS ROAD 5' - 4 men
 6 " near 3rd BOE. 4' - 4 men.

[Signature]
 2nd Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F. Maj

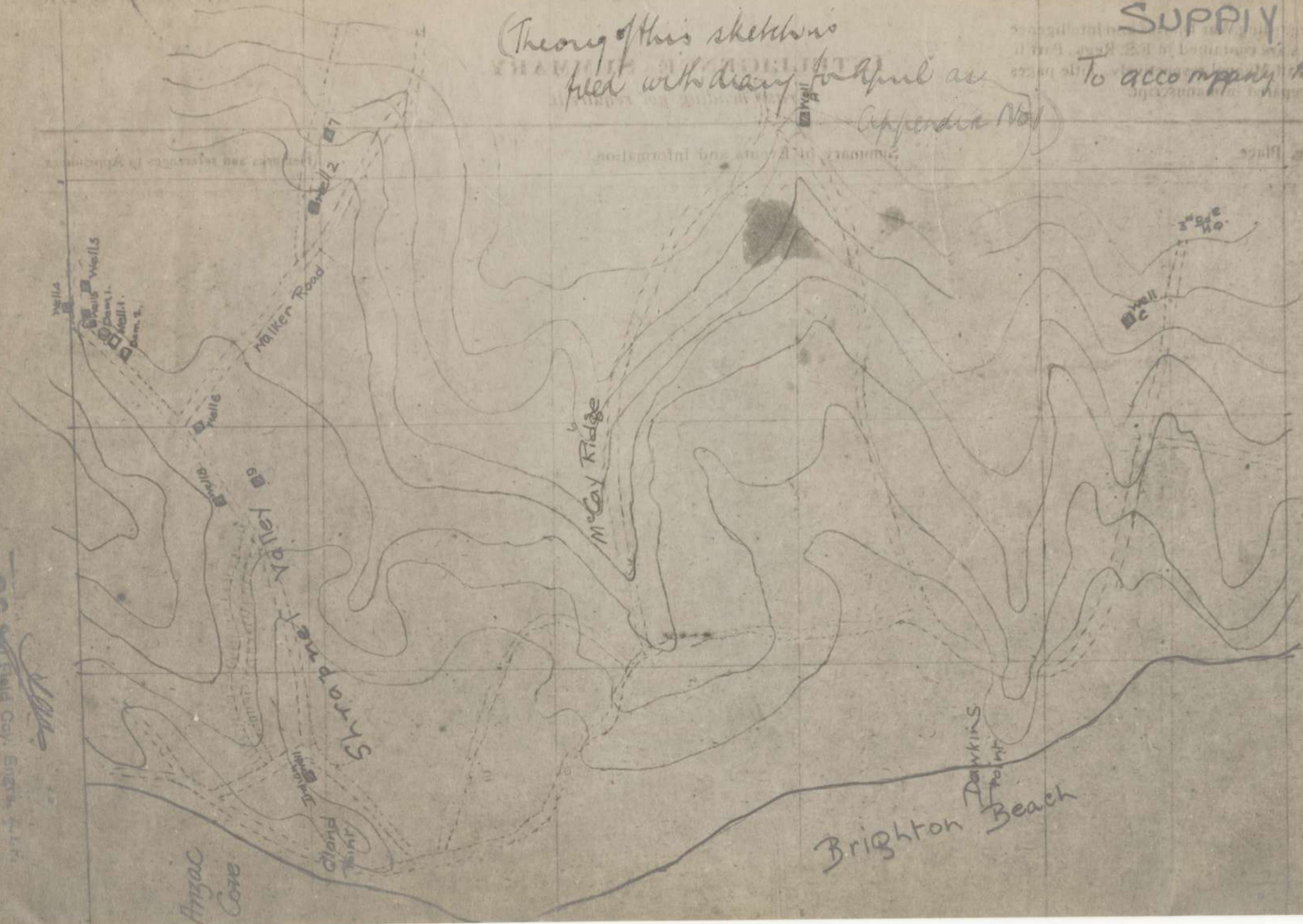
WATER SUPPLY

130

Theory of this sketch is
filled with diary for April as

To accompany Appendix I

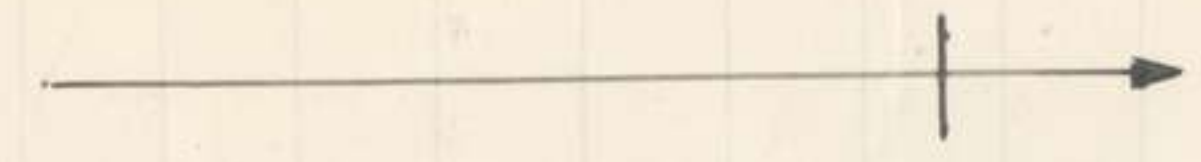
Appendix No. 1



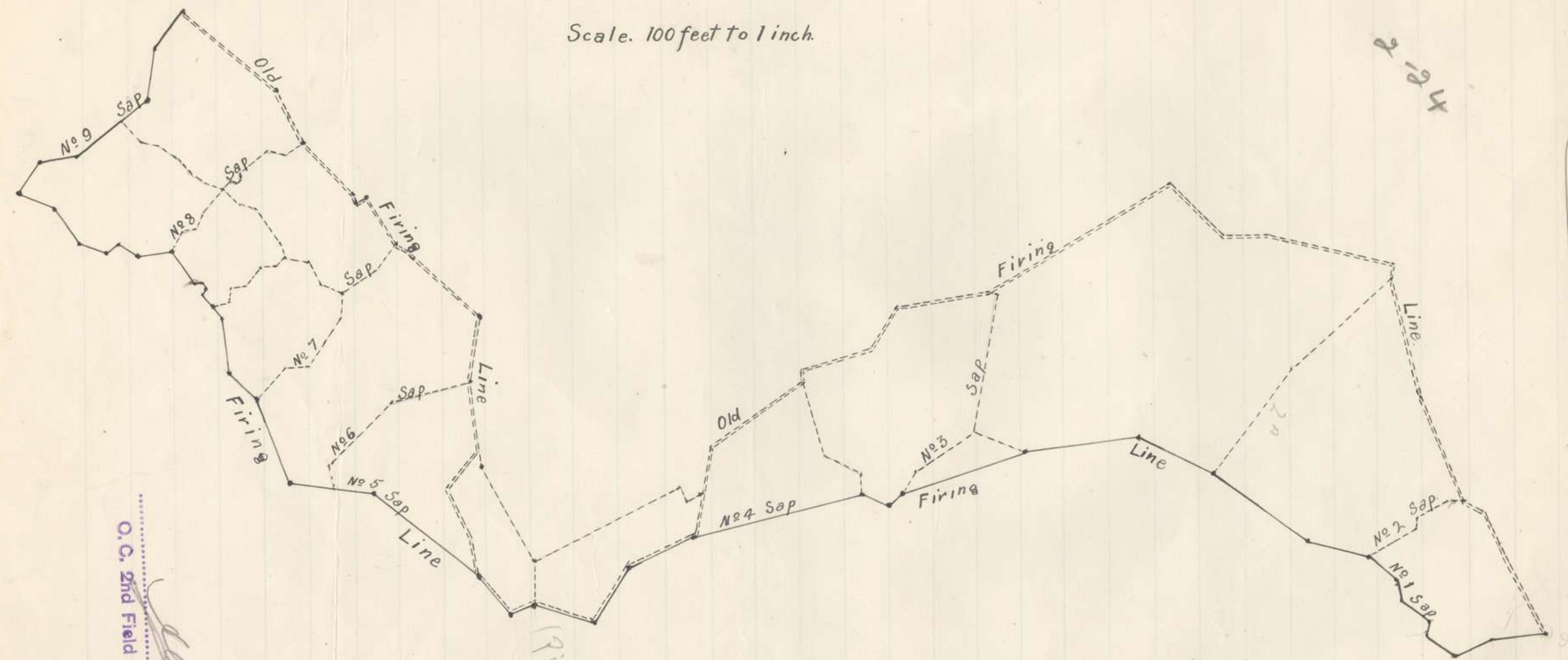
OC 500 Field Coy, Engrs, 4/14

Appendix No. 1

2/24



Scale. 100 feet to 1 inch.



Sketch shewing Saps & Sapping commenced 4/5/15.

O.C. 2nd Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F. Major