

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/22/53

Title: 3rd Field Company, Australian
Engineers

December 1918



AWM4-14/22/53

18,000-12/1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

3RD FIELD COMPANY,
AUSTRALIAN
ENGINEERS.

No.
Date .. 21 ..

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD. FIELD COMPANY A.E.

FOR

DECEMBER

191⁸

Signature of Officer compiling

Hogueson

LIEUT.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. Searrick

CAPT.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 21
Date

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE LE CHATEAU	1st.		At 9.45 a.m. a Divisional Engineers Church Parade was held in large amusement hall near church XXXX at SOLRE LE CHATEAU. The first quota of 1915 men left for Australia from D.H.Q. at 2 p.m. Various data in connection with Demobilization and Education Schemewere supplied to D.E.H.Q.	RR
do	2nd.		Morning was devoted to Company Drill. The painting of Company Transport was continued. Afternoon was devoted to Recreational Training. One Officer investigated road repair works in neighbourhood of SOLRE LE CHATEAU.	RR
do	3rd.		One Officer was engaged in locating and collecting dumps of enemy shells. Particulars were obtained from in reference to Educational Scheme in order to draft proposed classes etc for this unit.	RR
do	4th.		Educational continued. Sappers in afternoon played inter-section football match. Morning route march. Collection of enemy shells was continued and report for demolition submitted.	RR
do	5th.		Particulars of Education Scheme completed. Three Officers proceeded on leave to U.K. and Paris	RR
do	6th.		In morning sappers were engaged in cleaning and packing Company Waggon; also in cleaning Company cycles. An inspection of Company billets and Transport Lines was carried out by G.O.C. Division in morning.	RR

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Army Form C. 2118.

No. 21
Date

3RD FIELD COMPANY,
AUSTRALIAN
ENGINEERS.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE LE CHATEAU	7th.		Route march in morning . Recreational training in afternoon.	HR
do	8th.		In morning ^{Company} was instructed in use "Use of prismatic compass" by section surveyors in morning. Afternoon was devoted to football. C.R.E. inspectde Company's billets and Horse Lines. Further recommendations etc were made in Educational Scheme.	HR
do	9th.		Owing to unfavourable weather no Recreational or other training was carried out. Rack lashings to complete Company equipment was constructed. Indents to complete Company Estab-lishment were sub-mitted .	HR
do	10th.		One Officer proceeded by lorry at 8 a.m. to Company's new billets in CHARLEROI area. Pontoon equipment was loaned to to 1st Field company to construct seating accomodation in new Concert Hall. Continual rain prevented all Recreational Training.	HR
do	11th.		At 8 a.m. 1 N.C.O. and 20 other ranks proceeded by lorry to PRESLES to select sight for; Divisional R.E. Dump. 1 N.C.O. and 4 other ranks also went with party to act as future guides for lorries carting stores from old Hun Dump at ? to presles . All horses were moved to new stables to provide workshops for I.O.M. Warning order for move to SART EUSTACHE was received.	HR
do	12th.		One Sapper went forward to PRESLES to assist Dump party .	HR

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE LE CHATEAU	13th.		In afternoon Conference of C.O.'s was held at C.R.E. MESS to fix details of move on 17th. inst. to SART EUSTACHE	<i>HR</i>
do	14th.		Weather conditions unfavourable for Recreational or other Training	<i>HR</i>
do	15th.		At 7.30 a.m. 8 other Ranks proceeded per lorry to R.E. Dump on BEAUMONT Road taking R.E. materiel to CHATELET for duty At 10.30 a.m. 2 more lorry loads were transported.	<i>HR</i>
do	16th.		At 7.45 a.m. 21 other ranks with complement of N.C.O.'s proceeded by signal lorry to CHATELET for duty for duty with C.R.E. Dump Party. In afternoon waggons were washed and packed and all preparations for move on 17th. completed.	<i>HR</i>
do	17th.		Company moved with "C" Brigade Group from SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 0900, Billetting Party of 1 Officer and 5 other Ranks being sent in advance to obtain billets at SOLRE ST. GERY. Route was via HESTRUD and GRANDIEU and move was completed by 1 p.m.	<i>HR</i>
SOLRE ST. GERY	18th.		Company moved in rear ^{rear} of Brigade Column leaving SOLRE ST. GERY at 0800 and proceeding via BARBECON BARBECON, CASTILLON and FONTONELLE to THY - LE - CHATEAU reaching destination at 2.30 p.m. Waggon Lines were obtained under cover in large factory building. Billetting Party Party proceeded in advance of main body as usual, remainder of cyclists proceeding along main road to SILENRIEUX thence North to THY - LE - CHATEAU. Exceptionally cold rain with driving wind combined combined with roads in wretched ^{condition} made march very distressing.	<i>HR</i>

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Date

21

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOLRE ST. Gery	19th.		Billetting Party proceeded at 7.30 a.m. Remainder of Company at 8.15am proceeding via SOMZEE and GERPINNES to SART EUSTACHE reaching destination at 1 P.M. Covered stables were arranged for all horses and ample accommodation provided for mounted and dismounted personnel.	JR
Sart EUSTACHE	20th.		Company was engaged in cleaning billets stables and equipment. R.E. Stores were drawn from Ist. Div. R.E. Dump at CHATELET for construction of Cookhouses and latrines etc.	JR
do	21st.		Company was employed in cleaning billets erecting Cookhouses and latrines etc. Capt. Carrick and Lieut. Kernot reporting reported from Paris Leave and Lieut Rogerson from duty in U.K. ccc	JR
do	22nd.		C.R.E. inspected billets.	JR
do	23rd.		Morning devoted to cleaning billets and Recreational Training in afternoon. G.O.C. Ist. Div. 8888x inspected billets. Company employed cleaning and parking transport.	JR
do	24th.		Owing to unfavourable weather Recreational Training was omitted. Facilities were given to 20 other ranks to visit CHATELET.	JR
do	25th.		HOLIDAY.	JR
do	26th.		HOLIDAY.	JR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SART SART EUSTACHE	27th.		part of pontoon equipment lent to 1st. Divisional Artillery to erect staging; 2 Sappers accompanied to erect same.	HR.
do	28th.		5 other ranks and 2 pontoon wagons employed carting material from CHARLEROI to CHATELET. 5 other Ranks left Company for return to Australia being remainder of complement up to March 1915.	HR.
do	29th.		party erected platform at CHATELET completed at 10 p.m. for presentation of medals by H.R.H. Prince of Wales on following morning.	HR.
do	30th.		Lance Corporal Waine and Sapper Hellewell presented with "M.M." by prince of Wales at GOUGNIES	HR.
do	31st.		6 other ranks proceeded to CHATELET to erect shed for ration dump. Australian Rules football Match played in afternoon with 1st Field company. KM	HR.

R. Banick Capt.
C.C. 3rd Field Coy. A.C.

11
22

18,000-12/17-8723.

3RD FIELD COMPANY. AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.
No.
Date.

WAR DIARY

OF

. 3rd^o Field Company A.E. .

FOR

DECEMBER

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

DIVISIONAL MOVE TO CHARLEROI AREA.
D.O. No. 136

Send		Date
At	m.	Service
To		From
By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By

TO { O.C. 3rd Gld Coy Engrs
1st Aust. Div. Engrs
1st Div. Sig. Coy

Sender's Number. * Q. 750	Day of Month. 15	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

Further to conversation of D.A.Q.M.G. with O.C. Signals and C.R.E the O.C. 3rd Gld. Coy Engrs will arrange for one N.C.O. and 24 sappers to proceed by Signal lorry leaving Square at 7.45am tomorrow morning for CHATELET aaa The personnel proceeding will take with them the unconsumed portion of days ration and 24 hours rations aaa On arrival at CHATELET they will report to Lt. THOMPSON, of 1st Div. Engrs, C/o D.A.D.O.S. in Rue d'ACQZ, CHATELET aaa Added O.C. 3rd Gld. Coy Engrs reptd Div. Engrs and Div. Sig. Coy

From 1st Aust. Div.

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) *P. Kim Major*

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P611. 500,000 Pad. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

11
22
H.Q. Divisional Engineers,
1st. Australian Division.
10th. December 1918.

O.C., 3rd. Field Company,

1. It is proposed to form an R.E. Timber Dump in PRESLES, by carting forward material from the old Hun Dump at SOLRE-Le-CHATEAU -HESTRUD Road, (approximate location NAMUR ~~4.8.52.27~~) before the Division leaves the present Area. ^{4.8.}
Material required 3"x 2", planking and Mining Sets.
2. For the purpose, -lorries will be allotted by Division as available, commencing 11th. instant. You will be notified of further lorries.
3. In accordance with above, please detail the following parties :-

1 N.C.O. and 2 Sappers to go forward with the First lorry load and remain there as the Dump Guard.- Authority and Ration Authority attached.

A loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 Sappers to proceed with lorries and return by same. Any of these men to be available as future guides.

Also one man to report to C.R.E. Office at 8 a.m. on the 11th. inst to guide lorries to collect above personnel.
4. Lieut. THOMPSON has gone ahead to PRESLES and Corporal in Charge will endeavour to get in touch with him, as to the best spot in PRESLES for the Dump. Otherwise the Corporal will use his own discretion

Capt. & Adjt.
for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.



W. or D.

21

G File

3RD FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.
No. 14/12/18
Date

WK

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,
13th December, 1918.

.....

AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED IN
CONNECTION WITH DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 136 of 9th DECEMBER, 1918.

1. The following will move independently, clearing SOLRE LE CHATEAU by 0830 on 'A' day and will stage night A/B day at PRY proceeding direct to PRESLES and CHATELET on 'B' day.
1st Div. Hqrs. Transport.
1st Div. Engr. Headquarters.
D.A.P.Ms. Transport.
2. Supply arrangements for the move are altered as follows:-

 'B' DAY. 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at BARBENCON at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.
 1st Div. Hqrs. Transport, 1st Div. Engr. Hqrs.,
D.A.P.Ms. Transport draw rations at FONTENELLE at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.

 'C' DAY. 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at PRY at 0700 for consumption 'D' day.
 1st Div. Hqrs. Transport, 1st Div. Engr. Hqrs., and D.A.P.Ms. Transport having completed move draw rations from HYMIEE for consumption 'D' day.

 'D' DAY. 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade having completed move draw rations at 0700 at HYMIEE for consumption 'E' day.

W. G. Smith
Captain,
for D.A.A.G.,
1st Australian Division.

H.Q. Divisional Engineers,
1st. Australian Division.
13th. December 1918.

1st. Field Company,
2nd. Field Company,
3rd. Field Company,

From S.S.O., 1st. Aust. Division.

In accordance with Administrative Instructions for
Division, issued on the 10th. instant - the Three Field Companies moving
with 3rd. A.I. Bde. Group on the 17th. inst. will draw Rations in
BEUGNIES on the 16th. and 17th. instants, for consumption on the 17th.
and 18th. respectively.

Blowcup
Capt. & Adj.
for C.R.E., 1st. Australian Division.



Noted.

13.12.18

21

H.Q. Divisional Engineers,
1st. Australian Division.
13th. December 1918.



3rd. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

1st. Field Company,)
2nd. Field Company,) For information.
3rd. Field Company,) ✓

In accordance with Divisional Order No. 136, the Three Field Companies will move with "C" Group, and in accordance with Administrative Instructions issued in connection with same, Divisional Engineer Headquarters will move with "A" Group on "A" day.

As the Three Field Companies are separate Units, would you please issue Brigade Instructions, in connection with move to each Field Company separately.

As regards order of march among the Three Companies concerned, it has been arranged, subject to Brigades approval for them to march in the following order :-

1st. day :- 1, 2 and 3.
2nd. day :- 2, 3 and 1.
3rd. day :- 3, 1 and 2.

Also as regards distances between Companies. Unless Brigade have any objection this will be 500 yards as between Units, each Company having such a large amount of Transport.

3RD FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.
No. <i>14/18</i>
Date <i>14/12/18</i>

William R. Bell

Lieut. Colonel.
A/C.E.S., 1st. Australian Division.

MESSAGE

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words.....	Charge.....	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Date.....
		At.....m.		Service.....	From.....
		To.....			By.....
		By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

*

Referenced Extracts from
 G. Order No 136 forwarded
 under this office E-5 554 -
 A day will be 15th and again

3RD FIELD COMPANY,
 AUSTRALIAN
 ENGINEERS.

No.....

Date

11/12/12

From

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

(4715) Wt. W2252/P52x 2.113.236 Sdts. 5/15 C. & Co. (2634)

30. 2. 1919

WK

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,
10th December, 1918.ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH
DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 136 of 9th NOVEMBER, 1918.

1. (a) Advance parties as under will be sent forward by Motor Lorry to the new Area.

UNIT.	PERSONNEL.	DATE.	REMARKS.
1 Lorry. (1st A.I. Bde. 2nd A.I. Bde.)	5 Off. 5 O.R. 5 Off. 5 O.R.	A. minus 2 day.	Pick up at SARRS POTERIES Church at 8 a.m. Pick up at SOLRE LE CHATEAU Church at 8.15 a.m.
Belgian Interpreters as required and lorry accommodation available.			
1 Lorry. (1st Div. Art. 3rd (Army) Bde. AFA.)	As required.	A. minus 2 day.	Pick up at Div. Art. H.Q. at 7 a.m.
Belgian Interpreters as required and lorry accommodation available.			
1 Lorry. (3rd A.I. Bde. 1st M.G. Bn. 1st Pnr. Bn. → 1st Div. Engrs.)	5 Off. 5 O.R. 1 Off. 1 O.R. 1 Off. 1 O.R. 1 Off. 1 O.R.	A. minus 1 day.	Pick up 3rd Bde. H.Q. 8 a.m. SOLRE LE CHATEAU Church 8.15 a.m. X Roads, L'ECRE- VISSE, 8.30 a.m. Pnr. Bn. H.Q., HESTRUD, 8.45 am
Interpreters as required, and lorry accommodation available.			

P.T.O.-

(b) Of the above Officers 1 per Brigade will be detailed as Area Commandant (temporarily) of the Brigade Area to co-ordinate the work of the Artillery Brigade or Battalion Representatives, who will be detailed as Town Majors of the Area allotted to the Artillery Brigade or Battalion.

Town Majors will organise billeting, sanitation, etc., in preparation for the arrival of their Units. They will have plans of the billeting accommodation prepared as soon as possible.

Area Commandants and Town Majors will reconnoitre their Areas for latrines, baths, ablution sheds, drying rooms, halls suitable for cinemas, lectures and recreation, and advise the unit concerned forwarding a copy to Divisional Headquarters direct. They will notify C.R.E. at once of the signboards required for cross roads, etc., and C.R.E. will arrange to make these available as soon as possible.

These Officers will be given written authority.

The Area Commandant will be also responsible that the class rooms are selected for Educational purposes in each Battalion Area, and Workshops in each Brigade Area.

(c) Names of these Officers will be forwarded to Divisional Headquarters at once, and their locations as soon as possible.

(d) Lieut. J.S. MORRISON, Divisional Gas Officer, will act as Area Commandant Divisional Troops Area and Town Major, PRESLES.

(e) Town Majors will report to this Office each Friday the
(i) total accommodation, and
(ii) vacant accommodation in each village.

2. D.A.P.M's. Transport will move with 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. Group on 'A' day and on 'B' day will proceed direct to CHATELET.

D.A.D.O.S., French and Belgian Missions, Divisional Paymaster, Laundry and Wholesale Canteen will move independently to CHATELET.

The following will move with 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. Group on 'A' day and on 'B' day will proceed direct to PRESLES.

1st Div. Headquarters Transport.

1st Div. Engr. Headquarters.

Headquarters and No. 1 Section 1st Div. Sig. Coy. will move independently to PRESLES.

P.T.O.-

- 3 -

3. D.A.Q.M.G. will arrange direct with Units regarding Lorries for the move.

4. Supply Arrangements for the move will be as follows:-

^{15th} 'A' DAY. 1st Aust. Div. Artillery draw rations at DIMECHAUX at 0700 for consumption 'B' day.

1st Aust. Inf. Brigade, including 1st Div. Hqrs., draw rations at SOLRE LE CHATEAU at 0700 for consumption 'B' day.

^{16th} 'B' DAY. 1st Aust. Div. Artillery draw rations at FONTENELLE at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.

1st Aust. Inf. Brigade, including 1st Div. Hqrs., draw rations at STREE at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.

Units now drawing, but not moving on 'A' day with this Group, will draw from Group they move with.

3rd (Army) Bde. A.F.A. draw rations at DIMONT at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade, including M.G. Battalion, draw rations at SARRS POTERIES at 0700 for consumption 'C' day.

^{17th} 'C' DAY. ^{MOVE} 1st Aust. Div. Artillery having completed move draw rations at ORET at 0900 for 'D' day and subsequently.
1st Aust. Inf. Brigade having completed move draw rations at GERPINNES at 0900 for 'D' day and subsequently.

1st Div. Hqrs., will draw from FIGOTTERIE till 'F' day, when they will draw from CHATELET

3rd (Army) Bde. A.F.A. draw rations at FONTENELLE at 0700 for consumption 'D' day.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at BARBENCON at 0700 for consumption 'D' day.

3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at BEUGNIES at 0700 for consumption 'D' day.

^{18th} 'D' DAY. 3rd (Army) Bde. A.F.A. having completed move draw rations at HANZINNE at 0900 for consumption 'E' day and subsequent days.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at PRY at 0700 for consumption 'E' day.

3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at BARBENCON at 0700 for consumption 'E' day.

P.T.O.-

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19th
'E' DAY. 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade having completed move draw rations at COUILLET at 0900 for consumption 'F' day and subsequent days.

1st M.G. Battalion will draw with 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade at GERPINNES at 0900.

3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade draw rations at PRY at 0700 for consumption 'F' day.

20th
'F' DAY. 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade having completed move draw rations at CHATELET at 0900 for consumption following and subsequent days.

1st Div. Hqrs., 1st Div. Engineers, 1st Pioneer Battalion and 1st M.G. Battalion will draw with 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade on this day and subsequently.

Staff Captains and Supply Officers will, however, keep in close liaison in order to cope with any situation which may arise, as arrangements are subject to alteration in case of late arrival of Supply Trains.

5. Area Stores will be left in the present Area. Latrines will be left in a sanitary condition and all rubbish burned or buried before billets are vacated. G.R.O. 1146 regarding Claims will be complied with by all Units, and the necessary Billeting Certificates will be furnished.

6. Town Majors in the present Area will, if no other Unit arrives to take over, hand billeting statistics to Mairie for information of Troops following. They will not leave their Towns till all troops have left, and will send a certificate to Divisional Headquarters through their Units that billets have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.

7. A permanent picquet will be provided by D.A.P.M. in CHARLEROI. 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade will detail an Officer to command. Picquet Officer will report to D.A.P.M. CHARLEROI. Picquet will be billeted at Cavalry Barracks, Boulevard Pierre Mayence, CHARLEROI. Belgian Mission will detail one Interpreter to be attached to picquet.

P.T.O. -

- 5 -

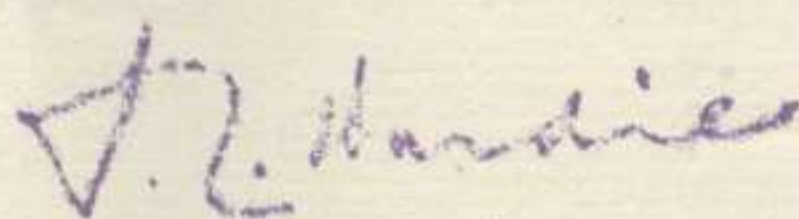
8. SANITATION.

(a) Water supply in the new area will be examined and good and bad sources clearly marked.

(b) Manure will be removed from vicinity of billets or close packed.

9. ROADS.

Troops will keep road drains in the new area clear except on CHATELET - METTET Road and COUILLET - FRAIRE Road.



Major,
A/A, A. & Q. M. G.,
1st Australian Division.