

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/32/14

Title: 13th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

April 1917



AWM4-14/32/14

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bapaume	1/4/17		Disposition of company as follows:- ho1 section (Lieut Stewart) at work on cleaning out well at Suererie factory & erecting pumping plant, also on maintenance & repair of Albert-Bapaume Road. ho2 section (Lieut Bell) building new stables for Coy's H.Q. & repairing Biefvillers-Avesnes Road. ho2 section (Lieut Molloy) & ho4 section (Lieut Potts) billeted in Vault these two sections are at work locating & repairing wells & looking for mines in same, also repairing roads in Vault. All available transport carting material for use on roads. Lieut Bell evacuated to hospital sick.	
"	2/4/17		Work as before. Casualties 2 OR wounded. ho2 & 4 sections also on defensive wiring around Lagnicourt.	
"	3/4/17		nothing to report.	
"	4/4/17		ho2 & 4 sections commenced excavating for new H.Q. dugouts & also cutting down trees around Vault, which may probably be of use as artillery range marks for the enemy. Sappers also at work digging dumps & repairing road to Ecoeur.	
"	5/4/17		no change. Lieut Bate taken on strength from reinforcements.	
"	6/4/17		12 sappers from ho3 section marched out to Vault to assist sections already there.	
"	7/4/17		Sections still on same work as before. Casualties 2 OR killed.	
Vault	8/4/17		ho1 section & remainder of ho3 section left Bapaume & marched to Vault. ho1, 2, 3 & 4 sections & H.Q. now at Vault. Transport section remaining behind at Bapaume, with the exception of section limbers, which are with company. ho1 & 3 sections commenced work on 2nd Brigade Artillery dugouts between Vault & Noeuil. ho2 & 4 sections repairing road between Vault & Lagnicourt & erecting shelters for dumps, also on water supply.	
"	9/4/17		ho1 section & 10 sappers from ho3 section working on 2nd Brigade Artillery dugouts, remainder of ho3 section erecting shelters for 1st & 2nd Brigade Artillery & salvaging timber.	
"	10-4-17-11-4-17		nothing to report.	
"	12/4/17		Sappers commenced work improving billet & erecting shelters at Vault. no change in other work of the company.	
Favreuil	13/4/17		Company relieved by 5th Aus Field Coy of Frontline work. Moved from Vault to new billets at Favreuil. Sappers employed in the afternoon erecting tents & cleaning camp, also on salvage work.	
"	14/4/17		ho1 section completed Artillery dugouts between Vault & Noeuil. ho2 & 3 sections on repair work Vault Rd, repairing draining & leveling road. ho4 section salvaging barbed wire & pickets & erecting on Coy's Defence Line between Ferricourt & Douai Road.	
"	15/4/17		ho1 section (Lieut Stewart) commenced work cleaning out wells & erecting a pumping plant for the water supply of Favreuil, a few sappers from this section also at work on hutting in the camp occupied by this company.	
"	16/4/17-17-4-17		no change.	
"	18-4-17		ho2 section (Lieut Molloy) & ho3 section (Lieut Bate) now at work repairing road running from Favreuil to Monument this road is in a bad state & will need a lot of work to keep in good order.	
"	19/4/17		Major H. A. Reid R.E. (D.C) on leave. Capt Park in charge of company.	
"	20/4/17		Disposition of company now as follows:- ho1 section (Lieut Stewart) at work building quarters, salvaging timber from Vault, which is to be used in the construction of a water tank stand at Favreuil, so as to increase the water supply of this village. This section has been on water supply mostly all the time since arriving in this area. ho2 section (Lieut Molloy) & ho3 section (Lieut Bate) working on Arras Road, and also roads in Favreuil, cleaning, draining & laying metal. ho4 section (Lieut Potts) at work on Coy's Defence Line salvaging pickets & barbed wire entanglements & thickening up on Coy's Defence Line with material salvaged.	

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Favrevil.	21/4/17 -	23/4/17	no change.	
	24/4/17		no change in disposition of company sections on same work as previously reported. 4 sappers commenced overhauling & painting pontoons, so as to have them in good condition, in case they should be needed.	
	25/4/17 -	26/4/17	no change	
	27/4/17		reinforcements marched in to this company from Aust General Base Details, making strength of company 8 Officers & 214 privs. This is the first time for months that this company has been up to strength.	
	28/4/17		During the past week experiments were tried for the destruction of wire entanglements by means of pipes filled with ammonal. 2" pipes were used with loose detonators every 2'. The charge was fired by means of safety fuse at one end. Experiments which were quite successful show that pipes laid along ground were better than on the wire but either gave a clearance of 18" - 21" over whole width. Pipes must be overlapped at least 3' making the pipe 6' longer than width of wire to be cut. These experiments were carried out under the supervision of Lieut Potts, & were witnessed by the B. G. S. 1st Am ac.	
	29/4/17		In the afternoon company inspected by C. R. E. 4th A.D. after inspection nothing took place in connection with Federal elections for the election of candidates for the Senate & House of Representatives.	
	30/4/17		HOI section still on water supply for Favrevil. nos 2-3 & 4 sections on local defenses around Beugnotre.	

Robert Park Capt
for D. Co. 13th Aust Field Sqr. A.O.L.