

**AWM4**

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

Engineers

**Item number: 14/33/13**

**Title: 14th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers**

March 1917



AWM4-14/33/13

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
N 31 d. 9. 8 Sheet 57. 1/40000	8/3/17	6pm	<p>Since the beginning of the month the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Company has been disposed as follows :-</p> <p>Head Quarters and Nos 1 and 3 Sections at N. 31. d. 9. 8.</p> <p>No 4 Section at N. 26. d. 4. 2.</p> <p>No 2 Section at S. 21 b 7. 2</p> <p>Transport at S. 22 d. 10. 6.</p>	
	8/3/17		No 2 Section moved to deep dugout at N. 26. d. 4. 2.	
	18/3/17		Nos 2 and 3 Sections in charge of Captain Carr accompanied the Divisional Advance Guard and are now at FREMICOURT and BANCOURT respectively	
	19/3/17		No 4 Section moved from deep dugout at N. 26. d. 4. 2. to deep dugout at N 31. d. 9. 8.	
	20/3/17		Nos 2 and 3 Section's Transport moved from S. 22. d. 10. 6. to FREMICOURT.	
			Nos 1 and 4 Sections' Transport moved from S. 22 d. 10. 6. to N 26 d. 4. 2.	

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	29/3/17		Head Quarters' Transport moved from 5.22 d. 10.6. to GUEUDECOURT	
N. 31 d. 9.8. Sheet 57 <sup>c</sup> 1/40000	31/3/17	6pm.	<p>The Company is now disposed as follows: -</p> <p>Head Quarters and Nos 1 + 4 Sections at N. 31 d. 9.8.</p> <p>No 2 Section at LEBUCQUIÈRE with their Transport.</p> <p>No 3 Section at FREMICOURT with their Transport.</p> <p>Head Quarters' Transport at GUEUDECOURT.</p> <p>Nos 1 + 4 Sections' Transport at N. 26 d. 4.2.</p> <p><u>SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY COMPANY DURING THE MONTH.</u></p> <p><u>Road Construction.</u></p> <p><u>Longueval - Gueudecourt Road.</u> 18 feet roadway graded from Bull's Road (N 31 b. 4.0) to entrance into Gueudecourt (N. 26. d. 2.8). 1300 yards of ditching dug. Two culverts put in, and one trench bridged in this stretch. Old road through Gueudecourt (N 26. d. 2.8. to N 26 b 5.3) dug out and levelled. Sixty cubic yards of brick dumped.</p> <p>700 yards of new road constructed S.W. of Bull's Road to connect</p>	

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N.31 d. 9.8 Sheet 57c 1/40000	31/3/17	6pm	<p>up to existing work.</p> <p><u>Guendecourt - Beaulencourt Road.</u> Infantry parties employed daily on general repairs to this road from Guendecourt to within one mile of Beaulencourt. 825 square yards of Corduroy laid on worst patches of road. 120 loads of brick carted and dumped on road. 800 feet of ditching dug. one box culvert put in at N.21. b. 9.1.</p> <p>200 feet corduroy diversion constructed round crater at N.22 a. 8.7.</p> <p>300 feet corduroy loop road constructed at Decauville crossing N.21. c. 7.2.</p> <p><u>Tracks round Craters.</u></p> <p>Repairs and making tracks round mine craters at I.25 a. 1.9., I.19 c. 5.1., I.19 d. 5.4. I.20 c. 9.9. I.21. b. 1.5. I.28 b. 5.2., I.25 b. 9.6½, I.17 d. 5.8, I.20 d. 1.8½, I.28. b. 3.3. H.36 c. 7.8, H.30 a. 6.5</p> <p>Tracks improved and widened at I.25. b. 9.6½.</p> <p>Repairs to road and clearing away debris at <u>LEBUCQUIÈRE</u> between I.30 a. 2.5. and J.19. c. 3.8.</p>	

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N. 31. d. 9. 8 Sheet 57 <del>c</del> 1/40000	31/3/17	6pm.	<p><u>Beauville Construction</u></p> <p><u>Factory corner line</u>. 1900 yards of track laid on duckwalks. Rail head at N. 19. c. 9. 1 (Factory Corner). One 30 feet siding put in at N. 31 b 5. 0.</p> <p><u>Guendecourt Line</u>. 500 yards laid on duckwalks. Rail head at N 32 a. 1. 9.</p> <p><u>Guendecourt (detached) Line</u>. North of N. 26. d. 2. 8. 180 yards of track laid and three trucks in operation. Trucks salvaged from Longueval.</p> <p><u>Chalk Cliffs Line</u>. Two 30 feet sidings put in. Relaid 200 yards of track and packed up track from Brigade Head Quarters to Rail head. Extended tracks from N. 26. d. 9. 4. to N. 27. d. 2. 8. 850 yards. Branch line from N. 27 c 5. 9. to N. 27 a. 8. 2 completed. Repaired four blowouts caused by shell fire also damage caused by forward movement of Artillery. Line, truck and windlass erected for 258<sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy at Chalk Cliffs.</p>	

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<p>N. 31. d. 9. 8.</p> <p>Sheet 57c <del>III</del></p> <p>1/40,000</p>	<p>31/3/17</p>	<p>6pm</p>	<p><u>Quendecourt Wells.</u></p> <p>Well n° 3 revetted at top, platform put in at bottom of well and pump put in place. Tank erected on top.</p> <p>Condemned well fenced round with barbed wire.</p> <p>Chain pump with troughing and tank erected at n° 1 Well.</p> <p>Top of n° 6 well (N 26. b 5. 4.) cleaned, 400 gall tank erected and soakage sump dug. Facilities installed for filling water bottles and dexies.</p> <p>Chain pump installed and in operation at n° 7 well (N 26 b 7. 6). 350 gallon tank erected alongside road. Pump for filling water carts from tank erected.</p> <p><u>Wells in forward area.</u></p> <p>Wells located at I. 25. b. 8. 1. (n° 1), I. 25. b. 4. 6. (n° 2), I. 25. b. 4. 5. (n° 3), I. 25. a. 5. 8. (n° 4 &amp; 5), I. 25. a. 6. 9. (n° 6), I. 30. b. 4. 9. (n° 7), J. 14. c. 4. 5. (n° 8) I. 19. d. 4. 0. and H. 36. b. 1. 4. Sample of water taken and forwarded for testing.</p> <p>Two underground tanks for rainwater found at Paucourt and one at I. 19. c. 7. 0. The latter fenced round and notice board erected.</p>	

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N. 31 d. 9.8 Sheet 57c <del>57F</del> 40000	3/3/17	6 p.m.	<p>Top of well at I. 25. a 7.9. repaired where blown in, reoilted and windlass erected.</p> <p>Top of well at I. 19. d. 4.0. repaired and petrol driven pumping plant (Chani &amp; Co) installed.</p> <p>Well at I. 24. c. 8.8. sunk 67 feet.</p> <p><u>Gas proof doors.</u></p> <p>Brigade Head Quarters, Fless Alley - 11 temporary doors fitted</p> <p>Battalion Head Quarters, Bull Road - 2 permanent &amp; 4 temporary doors fitted</p> <p>Hay reserve Coy. Head Quarters - 2 permanent &amp; 2 temporary doors fitted</p> <p>Battalion Head Quarters, Luicshof Farm - 4 permanent doors fitted.</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Head Quarters, Bull Road - 6 permanent doors &amp; 2 temporary door fitted.</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Field Coy N. 26. d. 4.1. - 4 permanent doors fitted.</p> <p>Battalion Head Quarters, Chalk Cliffs, 5 permanent doors fitted.</p> <p>Total - 23 permanent doors and 20 temporary doors.</p> <p><u>Duckwalk Tracks and Maintenance.</u></p> <p>670 yards of track wired, 50 yards repaired and 350 yard pulled up and relaid on trestles, also general maintenance of tracks</p>	

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N. 31. d. 9. 8 Sheet 57c <del>58</del> 140000.	31/3/17	6pm	<p>forward of Brigade Head Quarters, Fles Alley.</p> <p><u>Pesth Camp.</u> 290 yards of double and 180 yards of single duckwalk track laid and old tracks repaired</p> <p><u>Townsville Camp.</u> 120 yards of double track laid and old tracks repaired</p> <p><u>Adelaide Camp.</u> General repairs to old duckwalk tracks. 200 yards of track relaid from Bernafay Lominus to 2<sup>nd</sup> Pioneer Camp.</p> <p><u>Salvaging.</u></p> <p>Large quantity of Engineer material salvaged and trucked forward to dump at N. 27. c. 3. 7.</p> <p>1800 yards of decawalk track salvaged from Longueval - Fles Alley.</p> <p>Salvaged timber in Gwendecourt for use in cordwaying Gwendecourt - Beaulencourt Road.</p> <p><u>Trench Work.</u></p> <p>New fire trench located from N 15. d. 1. 8 to N. 8. d. 2. 4. 1000 yard taped out from N. 15. d. 1. 8.</p>	



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N. 31. d. 9. 8 Sheet 57c. <del>57c</del> 1/20,000	31/3/17	6pm	<p><u>French Work.</u> Constructing strong points for 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion at J. 19 c. 2.8., J. 19. c. 3.6., and J. 19. c. 3.8. Constructing strong points for 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion at J. 14 d. 2.2., J. 14 d. 2.8 and J. 20 a. 8.6.</p> <p><u>General.</u> Shelters for road party at N. 26 d 4.0. Fourteen 9 men shelters completed. Drying shed (16' x 8') completed at Brigade Head Quarters, Fless Alley. Artillery A.D. dugout at 5. 12. b. 6. 5. Sides of Colonel's room lagged. Reserve Battalion dugouts at 5. 17 d. 9. 5. One cookhouse completed. Flooring laid in three dugouts. Malthoid and earth put on roofs of eleven dugouts. Revetting round eight dugouts completed and drainage nearly completed. Battalion Head Quarters Bull's Road (N. 31. b. 2. 2.) converted into a Brigade Head Quarters also 100 stretchers for roofs of dugouts fitted.</p>	

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<p>N. 31 d. 9.8. Sheet 57c <del>57d</del> 1/20,000</p>	<p>31/3/17</p>	<p>6pm</p>	<p>Nests for Machine Gun Positions No. 4, 6, 7, &amp; 8 completed. Electric Light Set installed at Brigade Head Quarters. Also Alley with cable laid to dugouts but no lights or light fittings available. "E" Camp. Three Messin Huts completed and two in course of erection. "B" Camp. Two Messin Huts in course of erection. Divisional Head Quarters. General drainage of camp and repairs to Signaller's Dep dugout. Church Army Hut. Two trapezes installed and shelves and other fittings put up. Adelaide Camp. Church Army Hut flooring nearly completed. Repairs to Corduroy Road and duckwalk tracks. Drainage completed round Church Army Hut. Supply dump, Quarry siding. Three shelters commenced. Dep dugout at N. 26. &amp; 4. 2. Entrance rebuilt and interior strengthened.</p>	

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<p>N. 31d. 98 Sheet 57c <del>57d</del> 140000</p>	<p>31/3/17</p>	<p>6pm</p>	<p><u>General:</u> Overland transport (horse) route marked out from Bancourt to Funicourt. New R.E. dump at road loop N. 21. C. 7.8. being formed and sixty truck loads have been sent up from Fiers Alley. Unexploded mine found in the only undamaged house in BEUGNT. It consisted of a case of 30 packets of explosive with a stick bomb in the centre. The latter had failed to actonate.</p>	
			<p>H. Bach told Hij o.c. 14<sup>th</sup> Fls</p>	