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

Engineers

Item number: 14/33/19

Title: 14th Field Company, Australian Engineers

September 1917
### WAR DIARY

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Summary of Events and Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBBLINCHEM</td>
<td>1.9.17</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>14th Field Company and Engineers at present situated at EBBLINCHEM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/9/17</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Company scheme cancelled. Bathing and Section Training substituted. 2 new 400 gallon Canvas Troughs and one pump erected at B.13 a 46 (Sheet 36A). Programme of work for week ending Saturday Sept 8th forwarded to C.R.E. Today (See Appendix C). Type of footbridge built yesterday to be built on the 5th (See Appendix A). Total strength of Company 7 Officers 216 Other Ranks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.9.17</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Total strength of Company 7 Officers 216 Other Ranks 1 OR from details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.9.17</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Nos 3 and 4 Section's Small Box Respirator drill and Section Training Rode programme of work No 1 Section on 5th Divisional Baths at BLARINGHEM No 2 Section on evening hike at T12 C 22 for Refugee Children.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Remarks and references to Appendices**

- 14th FIELD COY ENGINEERS
- 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

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(Abroad) Wt. Wryl/Mount 329000 5/17 Sch. 53 Former C.48BQ
EBBLINGHAM 3/1/17 9 PM

Reference

Belgium 4/1/17 9 PM

Hazebruck 5A

Sheet 27 + 36 A 5/1/17 9 PM

1/100,000

1/40,000

Summary of Events and Information

Original

14/14 FIELD COY ENGINEERS

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Lieut. H.W. Fry returned from leave to England and took the Command of the Company over from Lieut.-

E. O. K. Green Total Strength of Company 700s 217 ORs

Company less No. 1 + 2 Sections Route March as laid down

in programme of work. Lieut. Burrows proceeded on

leave to Paris. 5% Officers and senior N.C.O’s went today

to Heavy Bridging School at AIRE for instruction.

(Cvide C.R.E. message E 2029) No. 1 + 2 sections carry on

with their work. Total strength of Company 700s 217 ORs

Bathing parade for No. 3 + 4 sections in morning.

Inspection of Coy with 1st Line Transport in marching

order less No. 1 + 2 Sections. In afternoon 50% Officers

and Senior N.C.O’s went to Heavy Bridging School.

AIRE for instruction No. 1 + 2 Sections Carry on with their

work. Lieut. A.B. Little proceeded on leave to Paris.

Lieut. E. O. K. Green went to Blaringhem to command No 1

Section while Lieut. G. Burrows is on leave Total strength

of Coy 700s 218 ORs 1 OR returned from Hospital.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Summary of Events and Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZElLA, N.E.</td>
<td>6/9/17</td>
<td>9 P.M.</td>
<td>Section training as per programme of work was carried on today (See Appendix C) 16th and 2nd sections carry on with their work. 5 officers and 1 senior N.C.O. to Heavy Bridging school at AIRE. Total strength of Coy 70 off 218 OR's.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>7/9/17</td>
<td>9 P.M.</td>
<td>Company less 1 No. 142 sections route march as laid down in programme of work. Total strength of Coy 70 off 217 OR's 1 OR to hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>7/9/17</td>
<td>9 P.M.</td>
<td>Wook as laid down for today was not carried out as Brigade gas N.C.O. came during the morning to instruct the Coy in anti gas appliances. The remainder of the day was spent on Section training and cleaning transport. One officer and 2 N.C.O.'s went to Heavy Bridging school at AIRE. Lieut G. Burrows returned from leave to Paris. Total strength of Company 70 off 216 OR's 1 OR to hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiz, brouck</td>
<td>8/9/17</td>
<td>9 P.M.</td>
<td>CRE's message C.20 was received at 10.30 A.M. (See Appendix D) Total strength of Coy 70 off 214 OR's 2 OR's to hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

14th FIELD COY ENGINEERS.
8th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Summary of Events and Information

EBBLINGHAM

The company (strength 4 ORs 105 ORs) marched to AIRE leaving

EBBLINGHAM at 9 AM. The remainder of Company

including transport & Lieut. H. WAGSTAFFE were left

behind at the billets at EBBLINGHAM. The work at

BLARINGHEM was continued at 2.15 p.m.

Carried on with the men left behind at EBBLINGHAM

Both today and yesterday all drivers attended at

school, in pack transport work. From 10 A.M. till 4 P.M.

Total strength of Coy 7 ORs 214 ORs

AIRE

11th 9.57

Coy Todderd worked on the heavy type INGLIS Bridge

Major H. BACHTOLD returned today from leave and

took over command of the company. Total strength

of Coy 7 ORs 213, 0.9 ORS

10th 9.57

Coy today worked on heavy type INGLIS Bridge

30' 460' B Class bridges. The BLARINGHEM baths

were completed and the men there rejoined

the portion of the Coy at EBBLINGHAM. A concrete

precipitation tank and filter bed was constructed

as per sketch (see Appendix 'E')
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIRE</td>
<td>13/11/17</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>The following work was also done for C.R.E. by the men working at BLARINGHAM: 50 machine gun tripod beds, 59 aiming marks for machine guns, 3 lorry tables, 1 meat safe (lorry), 5 Notice Boards, 12 Tables. Covered with breast for Div. H.Q. Total strength of Coy 70 off. 2/12 ORs 1 OR. Transferred Coy worked today on 30′ B. Class bridges and heavy rectangular Inclis Bridge. Total strength of Coy 70 off. 2/12 ORs 1 OR. To hospitals 1 OR. From hospital Coy worked today on 60′ B. Class Bridge and heavy Class Inclis Bridge. At 3 pm the Coy left AIRE. Travelled back to site. Bivouacs at EBBLEHHEM. The whole Coy is now together again. Total strength of Coy 70 off. 2/12 ORs. At 95 this morning orders were received to move to STEENVOORDE area (see Appendix F). Lieutenant J. Burrows mentioned ahead at once to arrange for Bullets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accordingly the work on Hut T12 C 2 2 was straightened up and the men working on them rejoined the Coy by 11 a.m. at 1 p.m. the Coy left EBBLEIGHAM and marching via HAZEBROUK arrived here at 6.30 p.m. Distance marched 14.5 miles. The whole Company is now billeted at a farm at K 34 C 55. C.E. 1st Army Corps Engineers.

Instructions No. 41 A.D. 14. 9. 17 was received at 2.30 p.m. Message No. 105 was received at 7 p.m. (See Appendix "C") Lieutenant E.O.K. CLEWES proceeded today on leave to England. Total strength of Company 70% 21 20 R.

Lieutenant K.M. BRYDON went on ahead this morning to arrange with Commandant of WIPPENHOEK area for billets. Coy left K 34 C 55 at 1 p.m. and marching via ABEELE arrived here at 3.30 p.m.

Distance marched 5½ miles. Coy is now in tents at 5.35 a.m. The CRE brought the CE message.
300/331 (see appendix H) Lieut A.B. Littler left the Coy at 6.30 p.m for the forward area. To arrange with Area Commandant Canal Area, for Buses. Total strength of Coy 7 officers, 211 ORs, 1 OR to Hospital company embarked at 8 a.m and disembarked at H. 23.6.57 at 9.30 a.m Route Poperinge - Vlaminghe. Distance 10 miles. Transport proceeded here independently under Lieut. H. WAC StafE. And is now Camped at H 23.60.8. The Coy relieved the 1st F. Co. A.E and took over their Camp of tents and trench shelters at H 14 a 23. No 1 Section under Lieut G. Burrows left here at 1.30 p.m to occupy August in the School at 1.9 C 4.2 The works taken from 1st F. Co. are being Carried out as under
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H 24 A 23</td>
<td>17/11 9pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>No 1 Section under Lieut C Burrows: keppel dugout for 28th H A G at H 24 A 2 8. Dugout de for 1st 11th div. Riding Heavy Barric at I 15 6 37. Dugout etc for 201 Siege Bty at Rifle Farm I 10 1 9 5. Dugouts etc 265. Heavy Bty at I 17 1 2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shecks</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>No 2 Section under Lieut K M Brydon: Dugout for 24th 53rd H A G at Yeomanry Post I 17 A 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/0/17 9pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>No 3 Section under Lieut A B Little: Dugout etc for 139th 13th Bty at I 22 2 6.4. I 15 D 2.9 Regis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19/17 9pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>No 4 Section is being held in reserve. Total Strength 707 OR 4 ORs 107 ORs to hospital. 3 Sections working today on Battery positions Total Strength 707 ORs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20/17 9pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Company standing by today in case required for a special job. Built shelters for 100 men.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alongside our Camp, total strength, 704. 207. 0 Rs.

3 Sections employed on Battery positions.

Total Strength, 704. 207. 0 Rs.

6 Coy today worked on Battery position. The Camp at H24 a 2.3 was handed over at 6 pm to the 13th F.O.R.E.

And the Coy moved into rough dugouts at 21 6.0.5.

Transport lines remain at the same place. The work done in Battery positions is as follows: 1 Dugout to accommodate 20 men. Complete for 13/15th west Riding Battery at 15. 6. 3. 7. Combined S.C. post and Telephone. 1 Dugout completed for 10/11th west Riding Battery at 21.6.0.5. Forward position also framework erected for camouflage cover 4 guns, positions at 11.0.11. 2 Dugouts strengthened. 1 Dugout completed for 10 men, for 12th Siege Battery 15. 1st Rifle Farm. 10. 0. 15. 1 Ammunition Dugout completed. 1 Dugout to accommodate 10 men completed. 23/7.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trench Map Dillebeke</td>
<td>27/07 930</td>
<td></td>
<td>265th Heavy Battery at 117 a 2:1. Splinter Proof August Completed for Coy at 2:10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 10,000</td>
<td>I 21 00.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Work on Splinterproof August at 174d.5.0 Dimension 10 x 5 x 6. Renting walls and ends with corrugated iron. Corning roof with Cupolas. Filling with earth 1/3 between renting and Bank. Sandbagging ends over roof with double course of bags. Repairing wall of August at 174d.5.0 during by shell fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splinterproof Coren over 5 shelters for men and ammunition, formed curved corrugated iron sheets 1 layer of sandbags on top two width of bags or sides, at I 22 06.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 double sandbags walls, 3'6&quot; high, around sides of 2 guns. for protection against splinters and bursts, at I 15d 14.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laying new bed for 2 Guns of sandbags and brick bat to erected loading platform 24' x 14' for. |
**WAR DIARY**

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

**14th FIELD COY ENGINEERS**

**5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION**

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<tr>
<td>Trench Map</td>
<td>23/9/1917</td>
<td>9.2 Pm</td>
<td>9.2 shells on Breauxville tramway, consisting of two 28 cwt. shells. Each shell passed through the concrete frame covered with timber, and burst on a fixed line, killing 100 cases path in the area. Total strength 700, 207 OR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zillebeke</td>
<td>1/0-000</td>
<td></td>
<td>The gun was taken off today from the 1st F. O. of the 1st F. A. E. and we had an Officer &amp; 2 N.C.O's of their's to show my Officers &amp; N.C.O's over the forward area. No work was taken off from them. The gun worked on improving their dugouts. 100 men were attached to the Company as a permanent working party. Total strength 700, 208 OR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I21. bo5</td>
<td>23/9/1917</td>
<td>9.2 Pm</td>
<td>See appendix I for work done. Major H. BAUTHELD arranged with the G.O.C. for the B.D. INF. BDE. for exact details of the forming of the Brigade for the attack. The 100 men from 55th Bn were relieved at 6 P.M. by a similar party from the 57th Bn. Total strength 700, 208 OR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Remarks and references to Appendices**
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRENCH MAP</td>
<td>25/9/17</td>
<td>9 PM</td>
<td>Numerous memos and orders were received today from Brigade, and C. &amp; E. and Coy order No 5 was issued accordingly (See Appendix J). The shelling today on the forward area was very heavy. The party mentioned in the 'Work done' report were Major H. Bachtold, M.C., Lieut H. W. Fry, M.C., Sjt. Murray, E. and 2nd Corp. Moore, T. H. The latter two were the N.C.Os who supervised the laying of tapes. Total strength of off. 205 O.Rs 3 O.Rs. Wounded to hospital. Everything today went well. Message B. 57 to CRE (See Appendix K) shows what progress was made in the work the Coy had to do. Lieut G. Burrows with his Section remained at the BUTTE. 100. 7. 8. Total strength of off. 203 O.Rs. 20 R. Wounded to hospital 1 O.R. Rejoined from Engineer details 1 O.R. Transferred to CAD!, 1st Batt., England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Hour</td>
<td>Summary of Events and Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench Map</td>
<td>27/9/17</td>
<td>9 PM</td>
<td>Lieut A.B. Littler made the reconnaissance of dug-outs in the Brigade area. Lieut H.W. Fry took up the wiring party and assisted by Lieut G. Burrows supervised the wiring. Lieut E.O.K. Green returned from leave and had charge of a party on wells. Total strength 7 Officers, 157 ORs. 1 OR killed in action. 15 ORs wounded, 34 sent to hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zillebeke</td>
<td>28/9/17</td>
<td>9 PM</td>
<td>General Hobbs, G.O.C. Division congratulated Major H. Bachtold. This morning on the work the company had done. Lieut. Littler made the sketch of the Butte (see appenix &quot;B&quot;). Lieut H.W. Fry took up wiring party again and assisted by Lieut G. Burrows supervised the wiring. Lieut E.O.K. Green again had charge of party on wells. Total strength 7 Officers, 151 ORs. 4 ORs wounded, 2 ORs wounded, 34 sent to hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WAR DIARY**

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

14th FIELD COY ENGINEERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trench Map</td>
<td>19/7/19</td>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>Lieut A.B. Littler took up wiring party and assisted by Lieut G. Burrows. Supervised the wiring party. Lieut E.O.K. Green had charge of well party. Total strength 701, 179 ORs, 1 OR killed in action 1 OR to hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zillebeke</td>
<td>19/7/19</td>
<td>12am</td>
<td>Lieut E.O.K. Green again had charge of well party. Lieut G. Burrows returned with his section from the Butte. The company today handed over to 96th F. Co. R.E. at midnight. Lieut H.W. Fry with 2 N.C.Os proceeded to day to Brightlingsea to the engineers training depot for 6 months. The following appendices are attached: Report 23/7/17 – 30/7/17 (see appendix A) Handing over report (see appendix B) Handover map showing wiring done by 14th F. Co. R.E. and also strong point N. Sketch of the Butte J.10. A. 7.8 (see appendix L) Report on wells dug (see appendix O) Hot food containers constructed (see appendix P) Total strength 6 officers, 177 ORs, 1 OR, 2 ORs transferred to engineers depot BRIGHTLINGSEA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Major O.C. 14th Field Coy AE
Suspension Footbridge
To Take Infantry in Single File
Erected by 14th Field Coy Engineers, Aug 29th 1917
Scale 1:50

14th Field Coy Engineers
5th Australian Division
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix 3C. Code K15 m

Words 56

This message is on a/c of:

Recd. at: m.

Date: ____________________________

Service:

From:

Date: ____________________________

To: 14th Field Coy

Date: ____________________________

Copy

Sender's Number: E 2029

Day of Month: 3

In reply to: FIELD COY ENGINEERS, 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Please arrange for 50 per cent officers and senior N.C.O.'s to visit Heavy Bridging School AIRE daily.

15th F Coy are working there and they will arrange for your personnel to be instructed in the various types of bridges.

Addressed 14th F Coy. Repeated 15th F Coy.

AIRE

From CRE

Date: ____________________________

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as soon as received.

(2) Spd. J. Colly, Capt.

Cover: ____________________________

Signature of forwarding officer.

This line should be erased if not required.

## Programme of Work for Week Ending Saturday September 6th 1917

### 14th Field Coy A.E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>9am-12noon</td>
<td>EBBLINGHAM</td>
<td>Small Box Respirator Drill</td>
<td>Reference Maps:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2pm-4.30pm</td>
<td>T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td>Section Training</td>
<td>HAZELBROOK 51 /100000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass Cross Roads Route:</td>
<td>Company Route March</td>
<td>Sheets 27a 36 /140000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EBBLINGHAM T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td>with 1st Line Transport</td>
<td>Pass through Lynde at 9.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fork East of &quot;1&quot; in Le Croquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>EBBLINGHAM</td>
<td>Bathing Parade at EBBLINGHAM</td>
<td>at 9.35am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td>Baths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>9am-12noon</td>
<td>EBBLINGHAM</td>
<td>Inspection of Coy in Marching Order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2pm-4.30pm</td>
<td>T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td>with 1st Line Transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass Cross Roads Route:</td>
<td>Company Route March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EBBLINGHAM T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td>with 1st Line Transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass Cross Roads Route:</td>
<td>Construction of Light Footbridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Canal de Naut Fosse</td>
<td>S.B.R. Drill &amp; Section Training</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Squares 88-9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ebbingham T. 23 a 6.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** One Section employed on Div. Baths at Blaringham re-creating Huts at T/12 2.22.

Signed E.O.K. Green, Lieut. for O.C. 14th Field Coy A.E.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix Code M Words Charge
Office of Origin and Service Instructions

TO 14th Field Coy 14th. Field Coy Engineers.
5th. Australian Division

Sender's Number C20 Day of Month 9

In reply to Number AAA

This message is on a of:

Sent Service

At m
To

By

(Signature of "Franking Officer")

Reed. at m
Date
From
By

APPENDIX D

5 Officers and 106 Q.R. will relieve 8th.

Feld Coy at Bridging School AIRE at 12 noon.

Monday 10th. Send advanced party to

take over in the morning. 36 men of

1st Division will be attached to you for rations.

Arrange with 8th Feld Coy. to take these men

on your ration strength.

From CRE

Place

Time 10.45

The above may be forwarded as soon corrected.

(Z) Caddy Capt

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

* This line should be erased if not required.
PLAN
OF PRECIPITATING TANK AND FILTER BED
Erected by 14th Field Company A.E.

ELEVATION:

Precipitating Tank

Filter Bed

GROUND PLAN:

Precipitating Tank

Precipitating Tank

Filter Bed
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<th>Reed at</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>By</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<th>Reed at</th>
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<th>By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th Fld Coy</td>
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**APPENDIX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tr>
<td>14th Field Coy Engineers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Australian Division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sender's Number.**

| 65 |

**Day of Month.**

| 15 |

**In reply to Number.**

| AAA |

**From**

| CRE |

**Place**

| |

**Time**

| 10 40 |

**14th Fld Coy will move to STEENWOORDE area via HAZEBROUCK today and to 1st ANZAC area on 16th. Move not to begin before 12 noon each day. Bivouking parties will report to Area Commandant STEENWOORDE.**

**Signature of Address or person authorized to telegraph in this name.**

| J. Caddy Capt |

---

*This line should be crossed if not required.*
**ORIGINAL**

**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Place</th>
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**TO**

14th Australian Field Coy.

**Sender's Number**

*MQ 105* 15 a a a A A A

**Day of Month**

15

**In reply to Number**

a a a

**Message**

Tomorrow 16th you will move to Nippenhoek Area. a a a

Advanced Party to report to Area Comdt. at 12.15 4 hrs. in advance of unit. a a a

Draw rations from Nippenhoek Railroad tomorrow a.m. 17th and onwards you will be rationed by Corps Troop Supply Column. a a a

C.E is arranging lorry transport forward on 17th.

**From**

1st Anzac

**5.15 p.m.**

**Place**

1st Anzac

**Time**

5.15 p.m.

**APPENDIX C**

14th FIELD COY ENGINEERS

8th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

**Notes**

- This line should be crossed if not required.
TO 14th Field Coy A.E.

Sender's Number: 300/331  
Day of Month: 16 Sep.

Eight lorries will report at your camp at 8.30 a.m. on 17th inst. to bus your Coy to new camp at H 23 b 38 a.a.a. Please report to Area C'dant Canal Area at H 23 b 38 BELGIAN CHATEAU a.a.a. Area C'dant. Major ECKES 7/London. Regt will give you exact building arrangements.

From C.E. 1st A.326

Place

Time

This line should be erased if not required.
23/3/17. All Officers and senior N.C.O.'s reconnoitred forward area well at J.6.d.95.15 started, carried up 3 - 4' x 5' sets to site of well.

24/3/17. Work on well continued. Company with 100 attached Infantry worked 6 a.m. to 1 P.M. on GRAYEAU WOOD ROAD.

350 yards of ditching on high side of road from J.7.d.05.00 to J.7.d.7.1.

Gulvert put under road at about J.7.d.35.15.

Earth formation for roadway continued for 50 feet at J.7.d.37.1. for 20 feet at J.13.e.7.9.


Following stores carried up:
- 186 shovels, 70 picots, 14 bundles French wire, 1300 sandbags, 14 bundles long corkscrews, 4 bundles medium corkscrews, 28 coils barbed wire. Also to J.13.e.5.9 carried up 50 shovels, 2500 sandbags, 8 coils French wire, 20 coils barbed wire, 5 bundles long corkscrews. Most of these stores were carried up from ROOGE.

O.C. 2nd in command, 2 N.C.O.'s. and 2 Infantry Officers in the morning fixed 40 pegs in No Man's Land on the alignment of the forming up tapes of the Brigade.

At dusk three parties each of two Infantry Officers and 4 N.C.O.'s. under the supervision of two company N.C.O.'s. laid 3250 yards of trace tape for the forming up of the assaulting battalions and also 1750 yards on the retaping of GLENSCARS WOOD TRACK. Well at J.3.d.35.15 destroyed by shell-fire.

- Carrying straps
- 48 hot boxes, less/masssise completed.
- A.M. O. dugout at JULIVERT (I.18.e.2.7) repaired. New dugout for A.M. O. sandbagged at side and entrance made for outer gas-proof door. Outer door fitted in. No party from 5th. Pioneers reported to assist.
- 14 special notice boards made.

26/3/17. Company worked, as per Company Order No. 5, attached. Situation at 7.30 P.M. Strong point "H" dug, wired and garrisoned. Strong point "H" partially dug, but not garrisoned, a failure owing to swampy ground and heavy casualties. POLIGNON WOOD TRACK partially formed. Well taped and notice boarded. (Copy of my B.37 to O.R.E. attached).

27/3/17. Company carried up wiring stores and erected 750 yards of French wire in front of BLUE LINE and 300 yards of double apron fence in front of RED LINE.

New Well at J.6.d.95.15 started alongside the blown-in one. Down 6 feet, timbered 4 feet 6 inches. Reconnaissance made of all Pill boxes in Brigade Area.

28/9/17. Detailed sketches made of the BUTTE. Company worked again on wiring of BLUE and RED LINES. Carried up and erected 320 yards FRENCH wire and 300 yards double apron.

30/9/17. Coy. carried up wiring stores and erected 370 yds double apron fence and 420 yds French wire now making a total of 1500 yds French wire in front of the BLUE LINE and 1080 yds double apron fence in front of RED LINE.

(this does not include wiring of Strong Point "H")

Parties worked on wells at JB d 85.16 and at the BUTTE.

30/9/17. Parties worked on wells at JB d 85.16 and at the BUTTE.

------0------

9 gas-proof doors at Brigade Headquarters have been fitted and also numerous notice boards have been made.

The Company received no assistance, except from the 100 attached Infantry, from Brigade, as regards carrying parties.

CASUALTY REPORT  strength 23/9/17  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>O.R.'s.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>180</td>
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</table>

Includes 1 officer and 57 O.R.'s at Transport Lines.

strength 30/9/17  

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<tbody>
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<td>160</td>
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</table>

Includes 1 officer and 57 O.R.'s at Transport Lines.

LOSSES FOR PERIOD  

- Killed in action:
  - Officers: 1
  - Wounded: 23
  - Injured sick: 3

TOTALS: 23

30th. Sept. 1917.

O.C. 14th. Field Coy. A.E.  

# yeard - Major
1. The 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION is to attack and consolidate on the line J.10 d 3.0 - JOINT FARM - JETTY TRENCH - JUBILEE TRENCH - J.4 d 3.6.
2. The 14th Field Coy is working with the 16th Infantry Brigade.
3. SOUTHERN BOUNDARY is the line J.9 d 25.86 and J.10 b 36.30. NORTHERN BOUNDARY a line parallel to the Polygonvaldo Road at a distance of 100 yards on the North of it.
4. Approximately 100 men from the 54th Bn are attached for duty. They will be organised in 4 Platoons numbered 1-4.
5. The BLUE and RED lines are shown on the attached sketch.

ZERO time is 5:50 a.m.
1. LIEUT BURROWS i/c No 1 Section and 1/91 Platoon will dig the strong point "H" at 5.10 a.m.
2. LIEUT LITTLE i/c No 3 Section and 1/83 Platoon will dig strong point "M" at 5.10 a.m.
3. LIEUT FRY i/c No 2 and 4 Sections and 1/22 and 4 Platoons will construct a track up the Centre of the Brigade area connecting to the GREYCORSE wood.
4. Detailed instruction re strong points as to field of fire will be issued later, but officers can assume that they will have to make the front of their S.P. with 2 rows of French comma with kerb and wire.
5. Copel will leave the RED line to attack the BLUE at Zero +100 = 7.30 a.m.

2. Movement of Sections:
   No 1 Section leave Coy H.Q. - 3.45 a.m. 3.30
   No 3 de d - 4.0 a.m. 3.45
   No 2 and 4 de d - 4.45 a.m. 4.0
   No 1 and 3 Sections to arrive at their S.P.s by 8 a.m.
   No 2 and 4 to commence work about 8.15 a.m.
After completion of their S.P. Section Officers will get in touch with Lt. F.R.T. to see if he wants any assistance.

Actions will return to the camp when in the opinion of their officers their men are exhausted. The work to be done in consolidation is as follows, and Officers should get in touch with the Infantry Officers and give advice as to how they can be most profitably employed:

1. Strong Points connected together to form a continuous trench system.
   NOTE: Infantry on RED line should do this.
2. Continuous line of trench pins in front of line of posts. Infantry in BLUE line should be able to send back parties for necessary strings and fix this up themselves.
3. A single apiece fence on the line of strong posts. Each line of wire is to have four 50-yard gaps protected by a similar amount in front.

Each man will carry his iron ration and an emergency ration.

Ingress Reports to be sent to L.C. Est at BDE H.Q.

# Back to

Major

O.C. 14th Field Coy RE
TO

14th. FIELD COY ENGINEERS
5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

B 57

26

A track is clearly marked and fairly well formed from J 3 b 3 3 through J 10 b 5 6 to about 100 yards from front line. Strong Point 'M' is well in hand. Strong Point 'M' has 3 fire bays completed. 2 M.G. Positions in hand. 1 Lewis Gun position on BUTTE completed. Location as pre-arranged work well in hand. 20 coils barbed wire and 30 coils trench wire are being taken to Strong Point 'M' as.

Casualties slight as.

Am now going up forward to organise writing of front.

From 14th Field Coy

Place

Time
ELEVATION OF BUTTE
Scale 1/6 = 5 feet

PLAN OF BUTTE
Scale 1/6 = 5 feet

PLAN OF DUG OUT IN BUTTE
Scale 1/6 = 2'6"

All sections 6' x 4' except where otherwise shown.
All section levels are numbered.
All exits are in good condition over distances marked
and could be removed.
All entrances on enemy side and particularly section
marked "A" are liable to be blown in.
14th. FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS,

HANDING OVER REPORT

30/9/17.

APPENDIX "M"

14th. FIELD COY ENGINEERS:
5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

The 14th. F.C.O. A.E. relieved the 1st. F.C.O. A.E. on the 23rd. inst. Except for one day working on ditching and corduroying the CHATEAU WOOD ROAD the Company has worked entirely in the forward area on consolidation and communications.

The defences of the sector are good and no more work is required to be done, provided that it is the intention to proceed with the advance and that no heavy rain falls.

The defences consist of:
(a) A line of trenches and posts located approximately on the BLUE LINE, in front of which is a double row of French wire.
(b) A support line including one strong point located approximately on the RED LINE. Two well constructed double apron fences are in front of the right half of this line and one double apron fence in front of the left half.
(c) Reserves are situated in trenches further to the rear, but this Company has not done any work on them.

Troops get into the posts by walking over the open, the main communication track, is the GLENORSE WOOD and POLYGON WOOD TRACK. This is formed to a certain extent and well notice-boarded. Two wells have been sunk one at J.8.d.85.15 and one at J.10.a.-70.75. (special report on these is attached).

Pack Transport can easily be got up to the BUTTE (J.10.a.7.8) Company Dump (R.E.) is at J.14.a.817., ample R.E. Stores are lying alongside the CHATEAU WOOD ROAD.

As an outgoing Field Company I suggest that the work of most importance is the establishment of an R.E. Dump at the BUTTE and of small stacks of duckboards along the GLENORSE WOOD and POLYGON WOOD TRACK, everything being in readiness to lay them directly the rain falls.

30th. Sept. 1917.

Major
O.C. 14th. Field Coy A.E.

Attached:
1. Trench Map ZILLEBEKE 1/10,000
2. Message Map, showing wiring in Brigade Area.
4. Sketch of Dugout in the BUTTE.
5. Geological map, showing water-bearing areas.
MESSAGE FORM

To: ————

1. I am at ————

(Note: Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a "X" on the Map or map.)

2. Your made reached limits of my Objective.

3. My Platoon ————

Company is at ————

and is consolidating.

4. My Platoon ————

Company is at ————

and has consolidated.

5. Am held up by (a) M.G. at ————

(b) Wire at ————

(Place where you are).

6. Enemy holding strong point ————

7. I am in touch with ————

Right at ————

Left at ————

8. I am not in touch with ————

on Right.

Left.

9. Am shelled from ————

10. Am in need of ————

11. Counter Attack forming at ————

12. Hostile (a) Battery ————

(b) Machine Gun ————

(c) Trench Mortar ————

13. Reinforcements wanted at ————

14. I estimate my present strength at ————

rifle.

15. Add any other useful information here ————

Name ————

Platoon ————

Company ————

 Battalion ————

(A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.

(B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:

Name and Rank.

(C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.
A 4 x 3' well was sunk at 78d 85.15 on the 23rd and timbered to a depth of 11 ft. At this depth water flowed freely. The first 8' was sandy loam, mixed with clay. The remainder running sand, further progress could only be made by sheet piling. Tests gave 2 measures of bleaching powder. This well was destroyed by shellfire on the 25th.

A similar well was sunk alongside the above on the night of the 27th, 28th, 29th and timbered to a depth of 10 ft. The section was as above. Tests gave 1 to 1½ measures of bleaching powder.

Further progress could only be made by sheet piling. At 9 p.m. 30/9/17 the well was intact and there was 4' of water. A good deal of earth has been thrown out by adjacent shellfire.

A test yielded 50 gals. per hour. Would recommend that every effort be made to keep this well open.

A well at the Butt Tio a 7.8 was sunk on the 28th, 29th, east size 4' x 2', and timbered to a depth of 11 ft. The last few ft. was red clay, and although water came in, it was only soakage. Tests gave water not fit for drinking.

Recommend that well be continued as it is in a comparatively safe place behind the Butt. Well 78d 85.15 is well notice boarded and a wire fence has been put around the one at the Butt.
HOT FOOD CONTAINERS
Constructed by 14th Field Company A.E.
September 1917

Scale 1/8" = 1"

Constructed from 3/8" boards and petrol tins

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

CROSS SECTION

To hold
Petrol Tin

To hold
Petrol Tin

SKETCH