

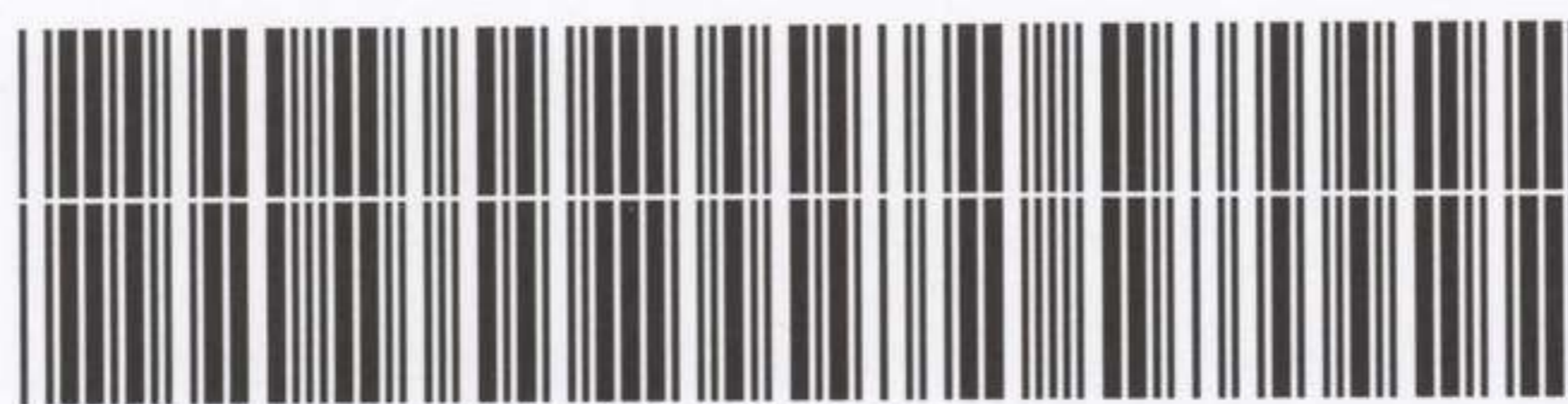
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/30/10

**Title:** 11th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

August 1917



AWM4-14/30/10



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 142

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
NEUVE EGLISE	August 1917 1 <sup>st</sup>		1 OR. from Hospital	D
"	2 <sup>nd</sup>		1 OR to Hospital. Reported on "MESSINES SECTOR"	D
"	3 <sup>rd</sup>		1 OR from Hospital	D
"	4 <sup>th</sup>		Sappers withdrawn from works in line. Maps and plans handed over to 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy Engineers A.I.F. 1 OR from Hospital	D
"	5 <sup>th</sup>		5 OR. transferred to United Kingdom as Mechanics with A.F.C.	D
"	6 <sup>th</sup>		Sappers detailed to assist 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> and 107 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Batteries A.I.F. in preparing gun positions shelters etc N.W. of MESSINES. 2 OR from Hospital	D
"	7 <sup>th</sup>		Major Donaldson and Lieut Norton returned from leave. 2 OR to Hospital	D
"	8 <sup>th</sup>		Sappers withdrawn from work on Battery Positions. Programme of training drawn up and submitted to C.R.E. Training commenced.	D 11E 2/4

*J. Donaldson*  
Major



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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NEUVE EGLISE	August 1917	9 <sup>th</sup>	1 O.R. from Hospital <i>D</i>	
"	10 <sup>th</sup>			
"	11 <sup>th</sup>		2 O.R. to Hospital <i>D</i>	
"	12 <sup>th</sup>			
"	13 <sup>th</sup>		Lieut Lacey returned from II Army Rest Camp "BOULOGNE" <i>D</i>	
"	14 <sup>th</sup>			
La Boudrelle	15 <sup>th</sup>		Company marched from "NEUVE EGLISE" camp to "LA BOUORELLE" camp 36 G 10 d 9.8 near "STEENWERCK" <i>D</i>	
"	16 <sup>th</sup>		2 O.R. to Hospital. 1 O.R. Reinforcement taken on strength <i>D</i>	
"	17 <sup>th</sup>		2 O.R. to Hospital <i>D</i>	
"	18 <sup>th</sup>		1 O.R. to Hospital <i>D</i>	

*A. J. Donaldson*  
Major



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
La Boudrelle	August 1917			
	19 <sup>th</sup>		Company started work on roofing Ammunition Dump "LA CRECHE" 28. S. 30.d. near "STEENWERCK" D	
"	20 <sup>th</sup>		1 OR to Hospital 4 OR from Hospital D	
"	21 <sup>st</sup>	2:30 P.M.	2 Officers (Lieut Norton and Thomas) and 90 OR. with company transport moved out of La Boudrelle and joined Divisional transport en route for II Army Training Area near LUMBRES - SW of ST. OMER D	
RECQUEBROEVQ	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Remainder of company (4 officers 125 OR.) marched to BAILLEUL and entrained for WIZERNES thence marched to "RECQUEBROEVQ", joined up with transport proceeding by Road, and the whole company took up billets and standings in RECQUEBROEVQ on the R. AA (1:100,000 Sheet SA. HAZEBROUCK) D	
"	23 <sup>rd</sup>		clearing and improving billets D	
"	24 <sup>th</sup>		N <sup>o</sup> 3 Section working on D.H.Q. near FAUQUEMBERGUES. Route marching and Reconnaissance of B.C.D. line D	Commenced training D J. A. Smallwood Major



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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RECQUEBROEUCCQ	August 1917	25	2 OR from Hospital. 2 OR to Hospital. 2 OR taken on strength - Reinforcements. N° 3 working at Divisional H.Q. Training Continued D	
"	26 <sup>th</sup>		Heavy rain commenced hampering training D	
"	27 <sup>th</sup>			
"	28 <sup>th</sup>		3 OR. to Hospital 1 OR from Hospital D	
"	29 <sup>th</sup>		4 OR. attached from 11 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade as Musketry Instructors. 3 days Musketry course of N° 4 Section commenced. D	
"	30 <sup>th</sup>		1 OR. to Hospital D	
"	31 <sup>st</sup>		1 OR. to Hospital D	

*R. J. Donaldson*  
Major



(MESSINES SECTOR). REPORT AS AT 2nd AUGUST.

1. GENERAL:

On July 28th the Company took over the Sector on the MESSINES Front reaching from STEIGNAST ROAD to the BLAU-WEPOORTBEEK on the north. The responsibility of the company consisted of the maintenance of Front and Support lines and communication trenches from Support Line forward.

No work has been done owing to the Offensive operation carried out on night of 30/31 July. D Company, 3rd Pioneer Battalion assisted.

2. FRONT LINE:

Right Company front needs considerable attention very little work having been done here for some time. Firebays require deepening and the trench duckwalked.

Centre Company locality: this is in fair condition but also requires duckboards.

BOWEN Locality: the portion nearest the centre locality is in good condition, but requires widening and more trench boards. The northern end is in very bad condition and at present practically impassable.

3. SUPPORT LINE:

Right Company Locality: very damaged by shell fire and uninhabitable.

Centre Company Locality: between WELLINGTON and GAPAARD AVENUES: this is partially duckwalked, but on south end requires cleaning out and duckwalking.

Left Company Locality in bad repair.

4. COMMUNICATION TRENCHES: (Between Support and Front Lines).

WELLINGTON AVENUE: In need of repair. Requires draining, revetting and duckwalking.

GAPAARD AVENUE: In fair order. Requires cleaning out: ~~and~~ has been duckwalked.

BOWEN AVENUE: Trafficable. Requires cleaning out and duckwalking.

5. DRAINAGE:

Requires attention. Pioneers have done considerable work, but under present conditions work of this nature is very difficult.

6. DUMPS:

The Engineer dumps at junction of Support Line with WELLINGTON AVENUE and GAPAARD AVENUE do not seem to have been maintained. Main dump<sup>s</sup> at SWAYNE'S FARM tramhead, O.35.d.60.85 approximately.

7. WELLS: Right half sector are using well at O.35.d.1.1. and left half sector a well at O.35.a.15.10.

8. PROPOSED WORKS:

FRONT LINE: This was divided into a system of gaps and localities and it was proposed to cut communication~~s~~ slits 15 to 30 yards long to the rear from every second traverse. These were to be joined up to form a travel trench. Shelters for garrison to be put in off this Travel trench.



It was proposed to continue front line to the north of MILITARY ROAD to obtain physical touch with Division on our left. It was put through to the BLAUWPCORTBEEK but was bad ground to work, and it was then decided that this part of line would have to be breastwork, and owing to nature of the ground breastwork would be best placed on the GAPAARD-WARNETON ROAD thus giving a firm foundation to build on. It would be a straight breastwork acting as a gap and guarded by ~~dash~~ blocks on the flanks.

SUPPORT LINE: This was also divided into gaps and localities and shelter for the garrison was to be provided in same manner as for front line. It was proposed to dig a new support line on the right locality starting at O.35.c.25.30. running out to strike the original front line at about U.S.a.7.8. and then on to STEIGNAST ROAD so cutting out the badly smashed up part on right company front.

COMMUNICATION TRENCHES: This sector was held as a battalion front; 3 companies being in the line and one company in support behind. On this basis ~~was~~ each company locality had a communication trench leading back to support line, viz. from south to north WELLINGTON, GAPAARD, and BOWEN AVENUES. Tracing of sector as laid out into gaps and localities attached.

9. BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS:

New Brigade Headquarters ~~was~~ <sup>had been</sup> commenced at U.S.c.3.8. It is ready for occupation, but needs finishing off at entrances and some repairs due to ~~drinking~~ damage from shell fire.

*Owen B. Williams*

Captain.  
A/O.C. 11th Field Coy. Engineers.



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 THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
 11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS, 9th AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 11E 62/30
Date. 3/8/17.

REPORT ON MESSINES SECTOR.

RIGHT BATTALION AREA, from DOUVE RIVER to STEIGNAST ROAD.

1. GENERAL:

This sector was taken over by this Company on night of 30/31 July. Owing to weather conditions and operations carried out on night of 30/31 July work has been considerably hampered and very little has been accomplished.

2. FRONT LINE:

CROSS AVENUE LOCALITY. This is in bad condition and needs draining and duckwalking to be habitable.

ADELAIDE LOCALITY. Falling into disrepair but in fair order in some parts.

PINE LOCALITY. Has suffered in the last few days owing to rain, and requires attention.

3. SUPPORT LINE:

CROSS LOCALITY. Badly damaged by shell fire.

ADELAIDE LOCALITY. In fair order and habitable.

PINE LOCALITY. ~~Is~~ Practically obliterated by shell fire.

4. COMMUNICATIONS. (Front to Support Lines).

CROSS AVENUE. Ought to be cleaned out where damaged by shell fire. Otherwise in fair order.

ADELAIDE AVENUE. Falling in owing to lack of working parties and bad state of ground, but is trafficable.

PINE AVENUE. Trafficable. Requires attention in regard to drainage and duckwalks. Has been damaged by shell fire.

5. DRAINAGE.

This has been ~~started but drains~~ blocked by shell fire. "A" Company Pioneers at work trying to open the drains again.

6. RED DOTTED LINE.

This line has been dug and is down well. At the south end it has been firebayed and traversed in places, notably near its junction with Front Line near ADELAIDE. North it has been dug very nearly straight, and to form firebays it will be necessary to sap out the original trench then forming a travel trench. Bays should be about eight paces and traverses six paces at least.

Sighting of this line. Owing to the run of the ground siting of the line is difficult and field of fire is in some cases small. This is noticeable especially in rear of posts 7 and 8. But these posts themselves cover this dead ground and if Communication Trench to post No. 8 were fire-stepped on south side, it would cover sloping ground towards the DOUVE. This probably will be ~~the~~ covered by trench dug S.W. from post 8 to front line however. Trench at present wet and drainage should be a point of first consideration.

7. REMARKS:

All work has been hampered by rain. The ground owing to its moist state, the water lying about, and shell fire, being practically unworkable.

*Walter Blochmann*

Captn.

A/O.C. 11th Field Coy. Engineers.



## APPENDIX

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
11th Field Company, Engineers

11th FIELD COMPANY	
ENGINEERS,	
3rd AUSTRALIAN DIV.	
11E 62/30	
No.	
Date	3/2/17.

ADDENDA TO LETTER No. 11E 62/30, REPORT ON MESSINES SECTOR.

B. DUMPS.

Forward dumps at junction of CROSS AVENUE and Support Line and PINE AVENUE and Support Line do not seem to have been maintained.

The main supply dump is situated at R. A. P., U.4.a.S.S., running from R. A. P. in the direction of HUNS WALK.

*Oliver B. Williams*

Captain.  
A/O.C. 11th Field Coy. Engineers.



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APPENDIX

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
11th Field Company, Engineers  
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NOTES ON PROGRAMME OF TRAINING.

1. USE OF SECTION EQUIPMENT:

- (a) Rigging pumps and hoses, fitting water carts, etc.
- (b) Use of Jacks.
- (c) Use of Blocks and Tackles.
- (d) Packing tools on pack mules.

2. SPECIAL CLASSES WILL BE FORMED FOR --

- (a) Non-Commissioned Officers. (Nightly at 8 p.m.)
- (b) Surveyors. (under Sergt. Melbourne) two per section.
- (c) Signallers. (L/Cpl. Crawford and two sappers).
- (d) Pontooning etc. (Twelve men at Divisional Engrs.' school at le BOURELLE).

(b) and (c) will not attend parades marked ~~pp~~

3. ROAD RECONNAISSANCE:

To be carried out by sections independently on all route marches.

4. DRIVERS to do one hour dismounted drill daily under senior N. C. O.

5. SECTION SURVEYORS will accompany their sections to SAILLY and practise river measurements.

6. SECTIONS on arrival at SAILLY for night bridging will report to O. C. Divisional Engineers' School, and bivouac. Bridging wagons and animals will remain with school until return of No. 8 section on 18/8/17.

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8/8/17.



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APPENDIX

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
11th Field Company, Engineers

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PROGRAMME OF TRAINING:      Starting 8th AUGUST, 1917.

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. 1 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 2 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 3 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 4 Sec.</u>	<u>Drivers</u>
<u>WEDNESDAY, 8/8/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to noon	Working	Weld on Trestles Framing Raft.	Section Equip- ment.	<u>Duty Sectn.</u> Knots and Lashings	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	on Gun Pits.	Company Route March with transport (except Pontoon and Trestle wagons.			
-----					
<u>THURSDAY, 9/8/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	<u>Duty Sectn.</u> Derricks. Knots and Lashings	Section Equipt. <i>pp</i>	Wiring  <i>pp</i>	Bridging (Service Equipt) <i>pp</i>	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Section Drill.	Physical exercise and running. Semaphere. "RECONNAISSANCE" O.C.			Mounted Drill.
-----					
<u>FRIDAY, 10/8/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Bridging (Service Equipt)	<u>Duty Sectn.</u> Derricks Knots and Lashings	Section Equipt. <i>pp</i>	Wiring.	
1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.	Lecture:	"ROAD-MAKING"	By	O. C.	
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Company Route March.				
-----					
<u>SATURDAY, 11/8/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Wiring <i>pp</i>	Bridging <i>pp</i> (Service Equipt).	<u>Duty Sectn.</u> Derricks Knots and Lashings	Section Equipt. <i>pp</i>	Harness.
H A L F     -     -     -     H O L I D A Y.					
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<u>SUNDAY, 12/8/17.</u>					
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<u>MONDAY, 13/8/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	<u>Duty Sectn.</u> Section Equipt. <i>pp</i>	Wiring  <i>pp</i>	Bridging. (Service Equipt.) <i>pp</i>	Derricks. Knots and Lashings <i>pp</i>	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Section Drill.	Physical Training and Running. Semaphere. Lecture, 3 p.m. : "DEMOLITIONS" O.C.			Mounted Drill
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<u>Date</u>	<u>No. 1 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 2 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 3 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 4 Sec.</u>	<u>Drivers.</u>
<u>TUESDAY, 14/6/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Demolition (Calcn. of charges.) pp	<u>Duty Sect.</u> Demolition (Manipu- lation.) pp	March to SAILLY. for night Exercising. Pontooning	Musketry Field Geo- metry.	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Company, less No. 3 Section, Route march. Rest afternoon, Bridge across LYS, 9.30 p.m.				
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<u>WEDNESDAY, 15/6/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Musketry. Field Geo- metry. pp	<u>Duty Sect.</u> Demolitions (Calcn. of charges.) pp	Rafting at SAILLY.	March to SAILLY.	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2.30 p.m.	Lecture: "WATER SUPPLY", O.C.		March back to NEUVE EGLISE.	Take over Bridge equipt. from No. 3 sec. Night Bridging	
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<u>THURSDAY, 16/6/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	March to SAILLY	Musketry. Field Geo- metry. pp	<u>Duty Sect.</u> Demolition (Calcn. of charges &c) pp	Rafting.	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Take over Bridge equipt. Night Bridging	Section Drill. Semaphore. Gas Drill. pp	Musketry. Field Geo- metry. pp	March back to NEUVE EGLISE.	
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<u>FRIDAY, 17/6/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Rafting.	March to SAILLY.	Demolitions (Manipu- lations.) pp	<u>Duty Sect.</u> Demolition (Calcn. of charges &c.)	
1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	March back to NEUVE EGLISE.	Take over Bridge equipt. Night Bridging.	Section Drill. Gas Drill. Lecture: "WATER SUPPLY" O.C.		
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<u>SATURDAY, 18/6/17.</u>					
9 a.m. to 12 noon.	<u>Duty Sect.</u> Demolitions (Manipu- lations).	March back to NEUVE EGLISE.	Section Training. under Sec. Officers	Demolitions (Manipu- lations).	Mounted Drill.

H A L F - - H O L I D A Y.



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3

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. 1 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 2 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 3 Sec.</u>	<u>No. 4 Sec.</u>	<u>Drivers.</u>
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SUNDAY, 19/8/17.

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MONDAY, 20/8/17.

9 a.m. to )					<u>Duty Sec.</u>
12 noon. )	Duty.				
		Whole day on Rifle Range.			
1.30 p.m. )	Section.				
to 4 p.m. )					

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TUESDAY, 21/8/17.

9 a.m. to )	C o m p a n y				D r i l l.
12 noon. )				<u>Duty Sec.</u>	<u>Duty Sect.</u>
1.30 p.m. )					
to 4 p.m. )	Lecture and Demonstration on "HAND GRENADES".				