

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/30/6

Title: 11th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

April 1917



AWM4-14/30/6

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
Pont de Nieppe	April 1917			
"	1st			
"	2nd	D	1 OR Killed in Action 1 OR from Hospital	
"	3rd			
"	4th			
"	5th	D	Officers inspected trenches North of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD with a view to taking over Engineer work in the Area	
"	6th	D	Commenced work on new Area - ST YVES SECTOR 2 OR from hospital 1 mule struck off strength.	
"	7th	D	Handed over INVERNESS, GUNNERS FARM, and MOTOR CAR CORNER Dumps and Plans of LETOURNAT SECTOR to 105th Field Coy RE Look over CAMPAC and HYDE PARK CORNER Dumps and plans of ST YVES SECTOR from pt New Zealand Field Coy RE. 1 OR to Hospital	
"	8th	D	Coy now responsible for Engineer work on front from LOUNDES AVENUE (near LE GHEER) to ASH TRENCH, North of PLOEGSTEERT - MESSINES Road.	

J. Donaldson Major

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POINT DE VIEPPE	APRIL 1917			
		9 ^h - 8	16 OR taken on strength — Reinforcements	
		10 ^h - 8	Commenced excavation for four new shell proof Headquarters Dugouts (Advanced Battalion H.Q. at 28U15a 5.1., 28U14b 1/2 9 1/2, 28U8c 76, 28U8c 44)	
		11 ^h - 8	1 OR wounded and to Hospital 1 OR from Hospital	
		12 ^h - 8	Commenced scheme of additional defensive wiring of support and communication trenches in PLOEGSTEERT WOOD	
		13 ^h - 8		
		14 ^h - 8	Commenced new communication Trench from main trench system at 28U 14 c 4.3 to CATA COMBES	
		15 ^h - 8	1 OR to Hospital	
		16 ^h - 8		
		17 ^h - 8	Reported on Proposed new Front Line from 28U15a 75.45 to U14b 75.65	HE 68/26
		18 ^h - 8	1 OR Wounded and to Hospital	
			<i>R. Donaldson</i> Major	

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BENT DE NIEPPE	APRIL 1917			
	19 th	D	Forwarded to C.R.E. information for compiling weekly Report.	copy of HE 68/27
	20 th	D	1 OR. rejoined Unit from A.G.B.D.	
	21 st			
	22 nd			
	23 rd			
	24 th	D	1 OR from Hospital	
	25 th			
	26 th	D	<p>Handed over ^{portion of} offensive work to 9th and 10th Field Companies</p> <p>Two sections commenced work on Gun Positions for C.R.A.</p> <p>Two sections on ^{Reserve} Brigade and Divisional works</p>	
				<p><i>R. J. Donaldson</i> Major</p>

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PONT DE NIEPPE	April 1917			
"	27 th			
	28 th		Reported on work for the week. 10R taken on strength. Reinforcement. Capt Mills and batman detached from company - rejoined Battalion Infantry Works Coy. from 11 th Brigade, working with 11 th Field Coy, attached to 43 rd Batta. for period of Brigade Training.	Copy of Weekly Report. HE 68/30
	29 th			
	30th			
	30 th			
			<p><i>J. Donaldson</i> Major</p>	

11 E 68/26

17/4/17.

PROPOSED NEW FRONT LINE FROM U.15.a.2 $\frac{1}{2}$.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to U.14.b.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.6 $\frac{1}{2}$.
ACROSS SALIENT AT HEAD OF ONTARIO AVENUE.

LENGTH: About 300 yards.

GROUND: Uniform slope from east to west: ground clear and not much broken. According to map total fall of about 10 feet in length of trench, so no drainage difficulties. Soil appears fairly good for digging.

TRENCH: Echelon fire bays, 5' deep at Eastern end, probable maximum of 3', necessitating 3' parapet, at western or ANTON'S FARM end. No revetting should be necessary at first, except sandbags for parapet.

LABOUR: 300 two-*pace* tasks. Possible hours of work, 8.45 p.m. to 4.45 a.m. - 8 hours. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ reliefs of 330 men each (including 10% spares) of 3 hours 40 minutes duration, should complete excavation and forming of parapet, but no revetting or duckboarding, and should also allow of wiring being completed across front, say two lines of light obstacle. ~~At least~~ - One half of wiring could be done previous night, starting from each end of job.

Wiring would be completed by a proportion of diggers after withdrawal of covering party. Spare men on each relief to be employed on extending ONTARIO AVENUE to new line.

REHEARSAL: It would be necessary to have a rehearsal of the distribution of each relief on its task.

A. Donaldson

MAJOR.

C.O., 11th Field Co. Engineers.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS,
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. 11 E 58/27
Date 18/4/17.

C. R. E.,
3rd Australian Division.

Referring to you G 142/1, re Weekly Report, the following information is forwarded for assistance in compiling the report.

SERVICE 6: SPECIAL TRACKS FOR PEDESTRIAN AND HORSES.

Duckboard track for approach march of A & E Battalions completed from LOWNDES AVENUE at U.26.b.6.6 $\frac{1}{2}$, along HAYMARKET and drain west of HUNTERS AVENUE to DEAD-HORSE CORNER.

SERVICE 7: ACCOMMODATION FOR SURPLUS TROOPS.

Breastworks along BUNHILL ROW to MUDLANE (through PLOEG-STEERT WOOD) made good to provide shelter for troops against Machine Gun fire and shrapnel.

Trench to provide access to CATACOMBS from main trench system at 28.U.14.c.4.3., 50% complete.

SERVICE 10: DESCRIPTIVE MARKS:

Inventory taken of existing name boards. Trench maps for trench intersections, 25%.

R. J. Donaldson
MAJOR.
O.E. 11th Field Co., Engineers

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
11th Field Company, Engineers.

11th FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS.
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV
11 E 68/30
29/4/17.

C. R. E., 3rd Australian Division.
11th Australian Infantry Brigade.

WEEKLY REPORT BY 11th FIELD COY. A.E.:

GENERAL:

On 26th instant, Nos. 1 and 4 sections, under Lieut. Lahey, took over supervision of work on Artillery positions from 9th Field Coy. ^{and handed over line work to 9th Field Co.} On 26th and 27th inst. Nos. 2 and 3 sections handed over line work to 10th Field Coy.

Distribution of this company now is:--

- Nos. 1 & 4 sections on Artillery.
- " 2 ~~xxx~~ " on accommodation for reserve Brigade along St. ANDREWS DRIVE and Subsidiary Line, including two Battalion Headquarters.
- " 3 section on CATACOMBS, La HUTTE shell proof, O.P. trench, and M.G. work.

During the week the Pont de NIEPPE was damaged by shell fire and a small reserve section (under Lieut. Thomas) is engaged on repairs and construction of new magazine for demolition charges.

FRONT LINE AND FORWARD COMMUNICATION TRENCHES:

Usual maintenance work by garrison battalion.

SUPPORT LINE:

New trench from FORT BOYD to WESTMINSTER - Excavation 100%, Duck-boarding and revetting, 70%.

COMMUNICATION TRENCHES:

- ECCLES AVENUE: Breastworks, 90%.
- NEW STRAND: Good progress.
- WESTMINSTER DEVIATION: Excavation, 80%.
- DRAIN TRENCH: Parapet, 90%.
- ST. IVES: (DEAD HORSE to WESTMINSTER): Breastwork, 90%.
- TORONTO: Reducing iron and forming breastworks, 90%.
- ANNSCROFT: Cutting off corner at ST. ANDREWS DRIVE, 100%.
- ASH TRENCH: Top of Hill to Subsidiary Line, 75%.
(From Subsidiary Line to Support, work hindered by installation of gas.)
- ST. ANDREWS DRIVE: (Between TORONTO and PROWSE POINT line) new trench, 50%.
- CATACOMBS TRENCH: East of road, 80%.
West " " , 75%.

All communication trenches have been maintained, in spite of considerable enemy damage, especially on ST. IVES Hill. Good progress lowering iron and sandbagging in various places.

SUBSIDIARY LINE:

Maintenance and improvement to duckwalks only.

DUGOUTS ETC.:

Battalion Battle Headquarters:--

- U.15.a.5.1. Excavation 90%, started concrete walls. Much interfered with by shelling.
- U.14.b.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.9 $\frac{1}{2}$. 20%.
- U.8.c.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.6. 15%.
- U.8.c.4.4. 20%.
- Divisional shelter: U.14.c.5.1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 40%, showing very good progress.
- Catacombs: Improvements to ventilation in hand.

2.

Concrete Dugouts:	U.21.b.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.3.	90%.
	U.21.b.2.2 $\frac{1}{2}$.	70%.
Panel Point:	U 21.c.4.5.	Complete.

NOTICE BOARDS ETC.:

Trench maps for intersections, 75%.
 Reconnaissance finished. Indent placed for necessary
 name boards.

Walter Norman
 for O.C., 11th Field Co., Engineers. *Capt*
 MAJOR.