

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/34/37 Part 1

**Title:** 15th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

April 1919



AWM4-14/34/37PART1

- Original -

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- WAR DIARY -

15<sup>th</sup> Field Co Australian Engrs

- April 1919 -

Signature of Officer Compiling

Geo R. Forster L<sup>t</sup>

Commanding Officers Signature

Geo R. Forster L<sup>t</sup>

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
174	April	1	The following Officers and O.R.'s left Coy for Austraba Lieut Middleton, Cpl. Watkin, G.R. Corp. Ebdon, Lyles, Hughes, Smith & McDonald, Nowland, Smith W.J., Meikle, Moar, Coombs, Spr Langman Paterson, Sewell, Holder, Symons, Holmstrom, Charlton, Sullivan Hughes W. Thompson G. Monk, Abel, Critchley, Clarke, Burton, Glover O'Connor, Keygan, Allen, Salmon, Bruce's Impy, Byrne, Letey, John Chick, Phelps, Reid & King, Lovie, and Sherwood with Quota 26.	23
		2	Weather fine & cold	
		3	Weather fine & cold. McHardinge proceeded to Charleroi for purpose of purchasing comforts.	
		4-5	Weather dull	
		6	Church Parade 10-30 am. Lieut Forbes proceeded to Jamoueix for purpose of obtaining billets for 5 <sup>th</sup> Div Field Co in anticipation of move into new area but no billets were obtainable. Weather dull.	
		7	Weather dull	
		8	Lieut Forbes & 50 R's. proceeded to Couillet for purpose of obtaining billets in that area in anticipation of move into that area following <del>Remainder</del> on orders received from 15 <sup>th</sup> A. I. Brigade	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRY.	Apr	8	Company occupied in clearing up billets at Puy.	
BELGIUM	9		Company moved from Puy to new area at Couillet in suburbs of Charleroi. Move completed at 11.30 am Troops settled in new billets.	
COUILLET.	10		Parade held at 09.30 $\frac{1}{2}$ company travelled to Puy by motor lorry to collect stores while remainder commenced work of building cook-houses, latrines &c. Weather dull & cold.	
	11		A considerable part of Company travelled by motor lorry to inspect the Battle field of Waterloo, returning to Unit at 17.00. Remainder of company completed work commenced on 10 <sup>th</sup> Inst. — Lt Hardinge attended meeting of Cadre Officers held at Marcinelle for purpose of obtaining information re disposal of records &c, when company ceases to exist.	
	12		Wet day. Trip to Waterloo for Company abandoned on account of inclement weather. Work during day consisted of repairing billets vacated at Puy.	
	13		Church Parade 10-30 am. Lt Forbes proceeded to Puy for purpose of inspecting repairs to billets.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coullet Belgium	Apr 14		Personnel of company included in Quota 36 for Repatriation paraded to 8/15 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Sports Ground, Marcinelle for allotment to platoons for draft. Members of draft paraded at Company Orderly Room in Drill Order at 10.30 & marched to Marcinelle. Weather dull & wet.	
	15		Ten O.R.'s proceeded to Waterloo by motor lorry at 10.00 to see over the old battle field. Company was paid by Lieut Forbes at 14.30. Weather wet.	
	16		Bath parade held at 10.30 at Coullet. Weather wet.	
	17		The following O.R.'s marched out with Quota 36 for Repatriation Sgt Woods, Sgt Read, Lyle Bean L.C. Dons base, Varcin, Blow, Wuchatsch Remaining personnel of 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Co. attached to 15 <sup>th</sup> Field Co for administration purposes. (See appendix 1)	Appendix I.
	18		Party proceeded to Waterloo by motor lorry returning at 17.00. A grant of 650 francs having been made by O.C. of Company <sup>from Reg. Funds</sup> all members attended a company dinner held in Charleroi and afterwards witnessed a performance given by 4 <sup>th</sup> Div. Concert Party Major <sup>formerly C.R.F. of Division</sup> Hobson, R.M.O. were guests of the Company during the evening	

S.K.Y.

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Place	Date 1919	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coulillet	Apr 19		Bath Parade held at 10.30. Weather fine	
Belgium	20		Church parade held at 10.00. Lt Forbes proceeded to Polygon Wood to pay members of the 14 <sup>th</sup> Field Co., who are working on 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. Memorial.	
	21-22		Weather fine.	
	23		Weather fine.	
	24		Lieut Forbes returned from Polygon Wood.	
	25-26		Weather wet. Muster Parade held 25 <sup>th</sup> , Bath Parade 26 <sup>th</sup> .	
	27		2 O.R.'s detached to Polygon Wood to assist in work of erecting 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. Memorial.	
	28		Members of company travelled by motor lorry to the Valley of the Meuse, visiting Namur, Dinant & Florennes. Party returned at 19.00 after spending a very interesting day.	
	29		A wind up dinner of company was held at Cafe Laboreux Charleroi at 16.00 and afterwards all members attended a performance given by 1st Aust. Div. Concert Party. Major Talley formerly C.R.E and Capt. Crawford, O.C. 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. Field Co. were guests of company during the evening. Weather wet.	
	30		Weather during day was very wet, rain being continuous.	

G.K.4 30.

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APPENDICES FOR WAR DIARY, APRIL, 1919.

- (1) Attachment of 8th Field Company Personnel to 15th Co.
  - (2) Q.M.'S. Report for April.
  - (3) Summary for month for April.
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ATTACHMENT OF 8th FIELD COMPANY PERSONNEL TO 15th FIELD COMPANY.

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With the despatch of Quota 36 for Australia and Cadre of 8th Field Company Engineers, the remaining personnel of the 8th Field Co. will be attached to 15th Field CO:

Headquarters N.C.O. of 8th Field Co will prepare cards of personnel remaining and hand same to 15th Field CO.

Sgt U'Ren, 8th Field Co will assist H. Q. N.C.O. 15th Company by keeping records of 8th Field Co. remaining personnel.

Sgt U'Ren will prepare A.F.B. 213 weekly for 8th Company and attach same to 15th Field Co. return with heading "Attached 15th Field Co. A.E.

T/Cpl Degerman, 15th Co will act as section sergeant of 8th/15th Co.

Total strength of 8th Field Company Personnel attached to 15th Field

Company will be 2 Officers and 47 Other Ranks.

Attachment will take place as from 17th April. 1919.

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C. M.'S REPORT for APRIL, 1919.

FORAGE.

A. S. C. Supplies: Hay and Oats. Not a good supply.

RATIONS.

Bread of average quality. -good supply.

Meat " " " " " "

Vegetables. Short supply.

Milk, Butter, Cheese. -Short supply.

Jam. - Good supply.

Rum Supply?, two jars sealed when received from Dump were found to contain water.

The supply of vegetables was quite insufficient for the needs of the Company and Regimental Funds were largely used for purchasing supplies. Green vegetables have not been received during the month.

Firewood.

There has been considerable difficulty in obtaining a supply of firewood and Company Funds have been used for purchase of same. The coal received was nothing but dust and slack.

ORDNANCE.

Two stocks of clothing have been drawn to complete outfitting of Company.

Boots received are very unsatisfactory, being of Canadian and American Pattern. They appear to cripple the men, the leather being very hard. These boots have not such a good appearance as the Australian Issue.

Articles of Small Kit on hand are being used to complete the equipment of personnel before embarkation.

SALVAGE.

practically all Salvage has been returned to ADOS.

CLEARANCE for Company Stores

Clearance for Company Stores is expected within a few days. Delay has been caused by Court of Enquiry.

COMFORTS.

A good supply was received at the beginning of the month. Comforts consisted mostly of cigarettes and cocoa and milk.

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LOCATION.

April 1. found the Company at PRY where it remained until the 9th. On the 9th the Company moved to COUILLET which is one of the suburbs of CHARLEROI, the men have remained here since.

BILLETS.

The billets have been satisfactory and the troops comfortable throughout the month.

RATIONS.

Throughout the month the rations have been fair both in quantity and quality.

WEATHER.

The weather has been bad and generally wet.

EDUCATION.

Educational Classes are still suspended through lack of instructors and pupils but tours have been made to different points of historical interest such as WATERLOO and DINANT also tours of educational value to Glass Works at Charleroi and Coal Mines in the vicinity of Couillet. Tours were also arranged to visit the Valley of the Meuse and a fair percentage of the Company availed themselves of the splendid opportunity for sightseeing.

AMUSEMENT.

No outdoor sports have been held but several dances were arranged and well attended by members of the Company, also there were visits by the Company to performances given by different Aust. Div. Concert Parties.

DINNER.

2 Dinners were held during the month. One dinner being a farewell to the members of Quota 36 and the second being a farewell gathering to the members of the Company.

DEMOBILISATION.

During the month demobilisation proceeded satisfactorily. The remaining animals were despatched from the Unit. The following personnel were despatched for Repatriation.

1st April	1 Officer and 41 Other Ranks.
17th "	" " 7 " "

In addition 1 Other Rank was despatched For Non-Military Employment.

LEAVE.

Leave to United Kingdom and Paris was cut out on 22nd of month owing to anticipated early withdrawal of Company from Belgium for Repatriation.

Health.

Health of members of Company throughout the month has been excellent.

WORK.

Work during the month consisted principally of repairing billets vacated at Pry and of building cook-houses & in Couillet Area.

ATTACHMENT OF 8th FIELD COMPANY.

On the marching out of 8th Field Company Headquarters personnel with records to London on 17th April remaining members of that Unit were attached to 15th Company for administration, and rations.

STRENGTH

Strength of Company as at 30th April is as follows

2 Officers	42 Other Ranks.
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Strength of attached 8th Field Company personnel-

1 Officer	38 Other Ranks.
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