

AWM4

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/34/5

Title: 15th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

August 1916



AWM4-14/34/5

WAR DIARY

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.)

Vol IV

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAILLY.	August. 1916		<p>Work of the Company has practically amounted during the whole month to the provision of winter quarters for every body in the line + supports. The remodelling of the FRONT LINE has been continued but the progress has not been at the same rate as during the latter part of last month on account of the particular concentration of sapper work on the 300th LINE where arrangements for the construction of the SEALED PATTERN INFANTRY DUGOUT were commenced on the 6th of the month. The construction of these dugouts and the commencement of a DEEP DUGOUT SYSTEM by mining has entailed an enormous amount of subsidiary work, and had it not been that the specialists such as TRENCHMORTAR, (MEDIUM + LIGHT), MACHINE GUN, BATTALION BOMBERS, + AMIC personnel provided labour for the construction of their own dugouts emplacements etc, the progress of work would have been much reduced as that of last month.</p> <p><u>FRONT LINE REMODELLING.</u> 14 New Bays and 9 Timber Dugouts have been constructed, The old weak Dugouts which were absolute shell traps having just to be removed. The parapet thickening traverse + fire bay forming, the erection of further dugouts is still proceeding. 4 medium TRENCHMORTAR EMPLACEMENTS constructed.</p> <p><u>FORWARD SAPS</u> ARMY SAP ahead of the firing of the line has been cleaned up huddled + duckboarded for a distance of 80 feet.</p> <p>PETITION SAP ahead of the firing line has been opened up a new sally port constructed + the sap has been deepened + duckboards laid for a distance of 60 feet</p> <p>Similar work has been carried out in BOND STREET sap for a distance of 65 feet, the work in these two saps being commenced on 26. 8. 16.</p> <p>8 BARBETTE MACHINE GUN positions have been constructed in the FRONT LINE parapet.</p> <p><u>300th LINE</u> Dugouts for winter quarters were commenced on Aug 6th. The work here till the middle of the month was much interrupted, it was difficult always to secure sufficient parties</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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	6/8/16 to 21/8/16		<p>for the work as the 300' LINE PARAPET averages barely 4' in thickness & the traverses 6'. The whole being absolutely inadequate to resist even ordinary shellfire. An attempt was made on the night of 9th August to thicken the 300' LINE PARAPET from the front but shellfire & direct machine gunfire forced the party under cover & it was decided in remodelling anywhere to the left of V.C. AVENUE to thicken from the rear side. Much disorganisation in the working parties on this line took place during the month, conflicting ideas as to the comparative urgency of the remainder of the FRONT LINE REMODELLING & the provision of winter quarters in the 300' LINE causing this. Eventually a party of 48 men for 8 hours per day was secured for permanent work in addition to BOMBERS, TRENCH MORTAR & MACHINE GUN PERSONNEL who were living on the spot. The following is the amount of work completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 TIMBER DUG OUTS. 12 CONCRETE DUG OUTS. 2 TRENCH MORTAR EMPLACEMENTS. <p>but the above does not mean finished articles as the remodelling of the parapet & traverses has had to stand idle in consequence of lack of adequate working parties. Subsequent REMODELLING must be considered, & the dugouts have been laid out on a basis of 2 feet frontage & 12 feet traverses.</p> <p><u>TRAMLINES.</u></p> <p>To facilitate expedite the construction of DUG OUTS in the 300' LINES PENNEY & V.C. TRAMLINES have both been branched along the 300' LINE, the former for 450 feet & the latter for 480 feet.</p> <p>Much traffic has passed up these lines during the month, the transport of concreting material being a big item. Both lines have been partially ballasted and reformed.</p> <p><u>DEEP DUG OUT SYSTEM.</u> outboard of 300' LINE.</p> <p>A scheme for deep dugouts by mining was also commenced at the ^{beginning} of the month, mining operations were started by a party of 10 ft. SO OR of the ENTRENCHING BATTALION aided by 8 sappers of the Coy. The work here was also disorganised through the advent of the MINING TUNNELLING COY who took over the work after two inclined shafts had been sunk each to 13 feet. The TUNNELLING COY took over the work & have been assisted by our sappers, but the ENTRENCHING BATTALION PERSONNEL were withdrawn.</p>	
	16/8/16 to 31/8/16			
	6/9/16 to 31/8/16			

189

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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			<p>The DEEPDUGOUT SCHEME has now been extensively established, a system of 4 shafts near the intersection of V.C. AVENUE with V.C. TRAMLINE has been commenced and two H.E. proof shaft head dugouts have been placed in position and sinking by packing down steel tubing has ^{is in} been ^{progress} continued. Bore was put down to 44 feet to test the strata and a second system of shafts will ultimately be commenced near TROU POST.</p> <p><u>AVENUE CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE.</u></p> <p><u>EXETER AVENUE</u> has been packed through from the 300' LINE to the FIRING LINE and has been levelled + duckboarded, this provides a communication to the right of V.C. AVENUE.</p> <p><u>V.C. AVENUE.</u> has been maintained + new duckboards are being laid all the time, this avenue ^{avenue} has been cut several times by SHELLFIRE.</p> <p><u>PINNEY AVENUE.</u> similar work has been carried out here as in V.C.</p> <p><u>BROMPTON AVENUE</u> a constant party has been on this AVENUE, much work remains to be carried out as the whole AVENUE requires remodelling, levelling, and shellholes have to be cut.</p> <p><u>GENERAL WORK</u></p> <p>Sapper supervision has been supplied the Artillery to assist them in the construction of GUN PITS, TELEPHONE PITS, DUGOUTS + OPS. the batteries to whom we have supplied technical advice being the 58th, 54th, 55th, 58th, 114th HOWITZER. 12 gun pits have been remodelled, three telephone dugouts repaired + strengthened, and 4 OPS constructed. This work is not yet entirely completed.</p> <p>Two sniper positions in trees have been completed.</p> <p>A bank store is also in course of construction at RIFLEVILLE.</p> <p>Three dressing stations have been erected + improved.</p> <p>Netting for the F. Amb. is also being proceeded with in SAILLY.</p> <p>A complete survey of the FRONT LINE has been made + the French system has been levelled + benchmarked.</p>	

H.R.

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	19/8/16		<p>Screening of roads has received a small amount of attention. This work will be increased during the next month.</p> <p>On the night of 23rd a 60" trench was dug for 270', cable lines laid, & the trench filled in under supervision of Lt MACKENZIE.</p> <p>The Sappers raided the enemy trenches on the night of 19/20, two sappers with carrying demolition charges accompanied the Infantry, but unfortunately both were killed.</p> <p>18 Watertroughs were erected on the bank of the R. LYS. Incinerator has been built at SALVAGE DUMP.</p> <p>A Culvert was constructed on the RIVER des FIEFS for the anti-aircraft guns to pass over to their positions.</p> <p>Two sappers have been constantly employed at the DIVL BATHS.</p> <p>Lt EVANS was sent to ETAPLES to instruct for a period of 4 weeks at the Engineering school there.</p> <p>Lt MCKENZIE has been acting as Instructor at the DIV SCHOOL of ENGINEERING practically the whole month, he has 3 OR with him. A hut 20' x 17' has been erected floor & roofed under W.O. EWART.</p> <p>Lt HOLBROOK arrived on the 24th & took up duties with Lt MCKENZIE's section. The absence of the two above named officers has thrown a large amount of work on the other officers of the Company.</p> <p>Lt COEDL was awarded the MILITARY CROSS CPL Bowman - - - - - MILITARY MEDAL Sapper ELWIS - - - - - - - - - - -</p> <p>for their gallantry during operations on the night of July 19/20</p>	
	25/8/16	Aquit	<p>The TRANSPORT has worked excellently under CART REID & all stores have been handled by them for SAILEY to advanced dumps at RIFLEVILLE & RUE DU QUEBEC.</p> <p>The supply of engineer stores has varied much, which has at times delayed our work, busters for DUGOUTS are now limited to 50 per day, and extra work of gathering & bagging broken bricks which have to be trucked up to the firing line has impeded progress. The steel for the reinforcing of the CONCRETE DUGOUTS has given out again, and the supplies of SAND, LIME & CEMENT have not met our requirements.</p> <p>Heavy rain fell on Aug 19 "21:30" which seriously hampered work.</p>	

Handwritten signature and initials at bottom right.

- (a) 4 timber dug outs completed
- (b) 2 timber dug outs complete in 300' line
1 " " " " not completed in 300' line
- (c) _____
- (d) Two emplacements for light mortars
- (e) 3 concrete dug outs concreted in my sector by self
1 " " " " " " by Mallasky
- (f) 1 hole ready in my sector by self
1 " " " " " " by Mallasky
- (g) _____

31.8.16

awslolbrook
Lieut RE

5

- c
4. Medium Mortar Emplacements
in front here
~~4 medium mortar~~
4 Pits excavated for medium
mortar emplacements in
300 yd line
- e. Three concrete dug outs for
medium mortar personnel
- f. One excavation partly
concreted for medium
mortar

Mallasky
31.8.16

Return for War Diary

- (b) 2 Timber D.O.s
- (c) 3 Concrete D.O.s concreted
- (f) 2 excavations with floors concreted & getting sidereally
- (g) 450 feet rameway along supports

31-8-16

E. Rowell

Total No Concrete Dug out
Completed on 300 yds line 7.

Total No Ready for Concrete 2.

" " Holes excavated 30% of
part of Rameway line 480

James J. J.

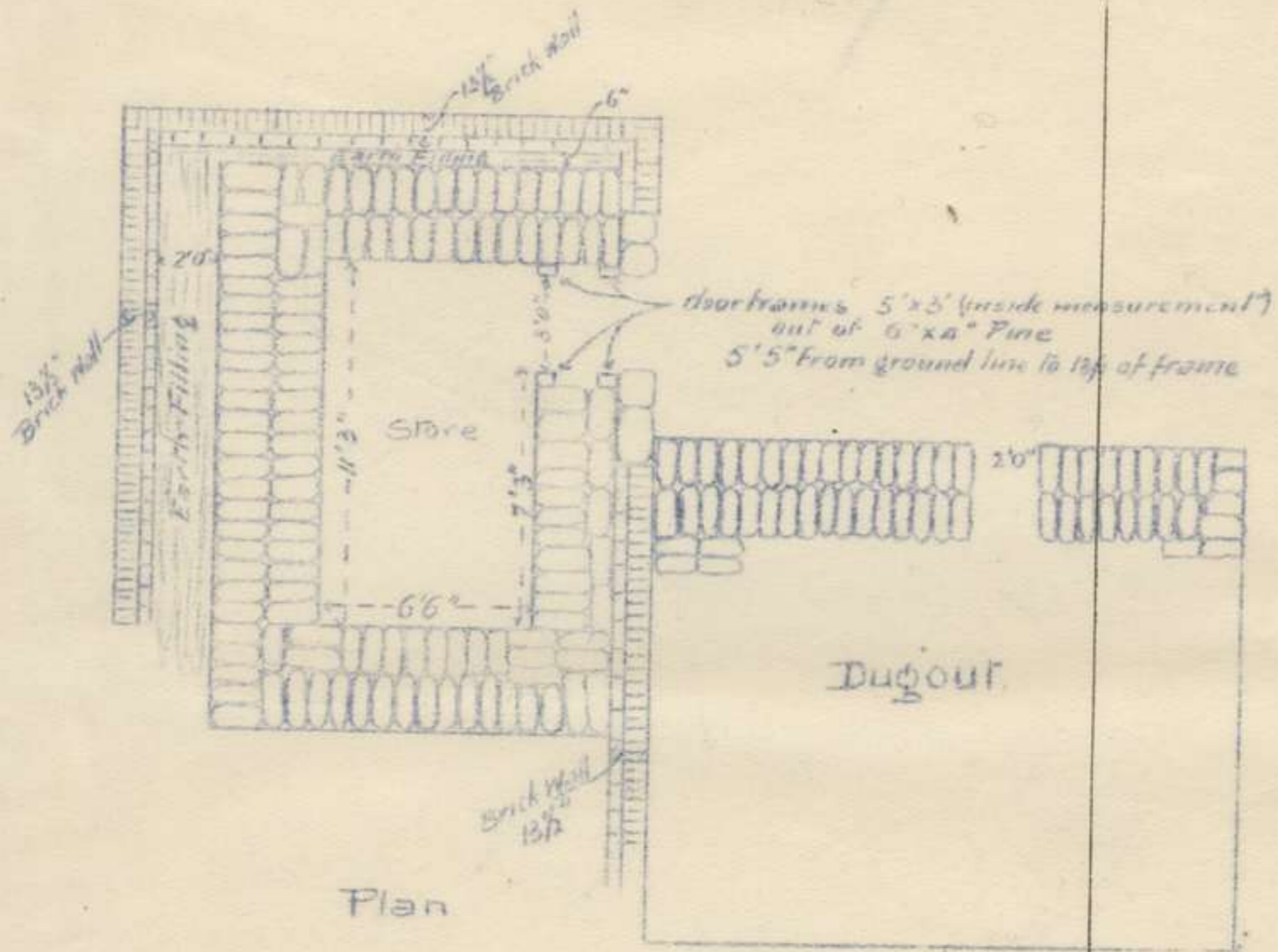
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SUMMARY

d.)

and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices



Bomb Store of Rifle Villa
1/8" Scale