

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/26/20

Title: 7th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

August 1917



AWM4-14/26/20

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

ORIGINAL

7TH FIELD COY.
ENGINEERS, A.I.F.

AUGUST 1917

No. 50/263

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RENESCURE	1st.		Drill and inspection-Lecture German Mines and Booby Traps by O.C.	
Sheet 27c	2nd.		Heavy rain-no out door work-No.1 Section constructing baths.	
S.W.	3rd.		Short Route March-construction of Divn. Baths, incinerator for billeting area-Board of Enquiry to establish fate of men reported missing etc.	
T.15.d.0.8.	4th.		Construction of Divn. Baths, incinerator for billeting area and latrine seats.Route March-Gas helmet drill-Lecture on New Gas Shells.	
and	5th.		Construction of baths etc. as on 4th.-Lecture on Gas Poisoning in Mines by Capt.P.W.WAGSTAFF.	
T.20.c.5.2.	6th.		Construction of baths etc. as on 4th.& 5th.-erection of trough-Route march to banks of Canal at T.25.a.1.1. Drill and Signalling.	
	7th.		Gas Helmet Drill-Section Drill.Improvement of Cooking arrangements etc. in camp.	
	8th.		March to Canal at T.25.a.1.1.-Drill, signalling and practice with Weldon Trestle.	
	9th.		Drill-Gas Drill-overhaul of equipment.Officers attended lecture on Intelligence by Lt. HERBERTSON (1st. ANZAC).	
	10th.		Baths-Section and Company Drill-route march-Officers attended lecture on Aeroplane Photographs by Lt. HERBERTSON (1st. ANZAC).	
	11th.		Lecture by Divn. Gas Officer (Capt. McNIVEN) and gas drill (175 all ranks).Section and Company Drill.	
	12th.		Church parade on 26th.Battalion Parade Ground.	
	13th.		Gas Drill-Company and Section Drill-Route march-Officers reconnaissance scheme, Appendix A.	
	14th.		Construction of Superstructure for water cartz	
	15th.		Practice of pontoon and trestle bridging.	
	16th.		Construction of signboards and water cart superstructure. Inspection by C.E. 1st ANZAC, (Brig-General LOTBINIERE) at 2-45 p.m.	
	17th.		Pontoon and Trestle Bridging-bridge completed across canal at S.30.b.7.7. in 1½ hours.	
	18th.		Baths-Gas Drill-Section Drill. Constructing signboards. Lecture and practice of Electrical firing of Mines. O.C. lectured to 7th. A.I.Brigade at WOESTINE, Church Army Hut on "German Land Mines, Booby traps etc."	
	19th.		Company and Section Drill- Check Check of equipment-Construction of Signboards.	
	20th.		Church parade and recreation.	
	21st.		Company marched to CLAIRMARAIS FOREST. Parties moved through forest by compass. Forest thick and very good direction maintained and time made.Maximum error of 60 yards in marching 1¼ miles on a point. Time ½ hour to 45 minutes for 5 parties. 1 driver and 2 horses assisting harvesting.	
	22nd.		Company Drill-inspection of equipment and clothing.	
	23rd.		Pontoon and Trestle bridging-washing wagons-inspection of mounted sections.	
			Inspection of Unit (with Divn.) in fighting order by G.O.C., A.I.F. on bank of canal NEUF FOSSE.	
			Check of equipment and 4 sappers harvesting.	

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WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)
Sheet 2.

Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RENESCURE	24th.		Gas Drill-In afternoon inter-section competition-No. 3 Section under Lt. McCOMB selected to represent ^{unit} in inter-company competition. 4 sappers harvesting.	
Sheet 27c	25th.		Gas Drill-Section drill-pontoon and trestle bridging-4sappers harvesting.	
S.W.	26th.		Baths-Church parade-Lt. FIDLER with No. 1 Section marking out ground for for Divisional inspection at CAMPAGNE.	
T.15.d.0.8.	27th.		Work constructing road to coal dump; making tripod bases for M.G.'s; constructing hand rumbler; repairs at Divn. Baths; marking out Divn. parade ground; 4 sappers harvesting. Practice parade at Divn. parade ground.	
and			Afternoon: Inter section competition between 5th and 7th. Field Coys. A.E. on 7th. parade ground, C.R.E. (Lt-Colonel CORLETTE) and Major N.C.HARRIS, M.C. acting as judges. No. 3 Section (Lt. McCOMB) represented the unit. Points were allotted on basis shown in appendix "B" and 7th. won by 1510 to 1420.	
T.20.c.5.2.	28th.		Gas Drill; checking tools and equipment and arrangement of same. Work: Constructing bases for M.G. tripods (for 7th. M.G.Coy.); hand rumbler. Roads into coal dump; repairs to Divn. Baths.	
	29th.		Inspection of Division at parade ground CAMPAGNE by Commander-in-Chief (Field Marshal Sir Douglas HAIG) 10-30 a.m. Afternoon: Recreation and construction of road to coal dump.	
	30th.		Company and Section Drill-Experiments with French Bangalore torpedoes. Work; Construction of bases for M.G. tripods; hand rumbler; 12 sappers digging potatoes.	
	31st.		Gas Drill- Experiments with French Bangalore Torpedo. Work; M.G. tripod bases- preparing Stokes Bombs for smoke barrage work; overhauling and cleaning trestle and pontoon gear. Various odd jobs - 15 men digging potatoes.	

<p>For the greater part of the month the following were detached: 3 Blacksmiths, 8 Carpenters with Corps Headquarters etc. 1 Sergeant attached to Captain S.F.HURLEY, Official photographer, 1st. ANZAC. On 28th. Lt. A.R.McCOMB was transferred to Australian Flying Corps. On 28th. Lt. F.F.FERGUSON was transferred from 5th Field Company A.E..</p>				
				<p><i>Webb</i> Major A.E. O.C. 7th Field Company Australian Engineer.</p>

RECONNAISSANCE SCHEME 13/8/17

Enemy has retired under pressure in a S.W. direction from the canal NEUF FOSSE and is holding the reverse slope of the ridge behind BLENDRECQUES, WARDRECQUES, RACQUINGHEM.

Prepare a scheme for defence of Bridge across Canal, NEUF FOSSE, at WARDRECQUES and provide an alternative crossing for first line transport (to three ton motor lorries) in case bridge is destroyed by shell fire.

2 Coys infantry, 2 sections, M.G. Gunners available for defences;

1 Field Coy with attached infantry for works on defences .

Details of work and distribution of parties to be given.

Schemes for defence to be completed and handed in by 9 pm 13th.

Schemes for alternative bridging by 5.50 pm 14th.

Webb

O.C. 7th Field Coy Aust Engrs.

Major.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

Headquarters,
August 19th. 1917.

INTER-COMPANY SECTION COMPETITION.

To be held on Monday 27th. August 1917. (Time and Place
will be notified later.)

Preliminary competitions will be held in each Company
to select the representative Section.

Competition will be conducted on the following lines:-

				Points allowed
(1) <u>TURNOUT</u>				
(a) Clothing & (1) Officers & Men (correctness and smartness)				600
Equipment (ii) Horses	(")	200
(b) Transport. (I) Wagons	(")	100
(II) Equipment	(")	100
(2) <u>DRILL</u>				
(a) Rifle exercises			400
(b) Gas Helmet drill			100
(c) Marching			300

DRESS: Full marching order.

(Signed) H.E.Harris, Lt. & Adj. for Lt. Colonel
C.R.E. 2nd. Australian Division.

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS

W

Headquarters,
August 1917.

INTER-COMPANY SECTION COMPETITION.

To be held on Monday 27th August 1917. (Time and Place
will be notified later.)

Preliminary competitions will be held in each Company

to select the representative section.

Competition will be conducted on the following lines:-

Points
allowed

(1) THEROUT

600	(a) Clothing & (1) Officers & Men (correctness and smartness)
200	(b) Equipment (11) Horses
100	(c) Transport (1) Wagons
100	(d) Equipment (11)

(2) DRILL

400	(a) Rifle exercises
100	(b) Gas helmet drill
100	(c) Marching

These: full marching order.

(Signed) H. R. Harris, Lt. & Adj. for Lt. Colonel
C. R. R. 2nd Australian Division.

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