

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/31/25

**Title:** 12th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

March 1918



AWM4-14/31/25

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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

12<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E.

FOR

March

1918

ACKNOWLEDGED.

25 APR 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Lawrence Russell. Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Lawrence Russell. Major*

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.

12th Field Coy A.E.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Ref. map Belgium and France Sheet 28. → 36 Dens Dayebrouck. Allert comb. Amium.

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JCP

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WATTS LINES NEAR DE SEULE			Coy billeted in WATTS LINES (near DE SEULE) 3 Motor Lorries attached to carry stores etc to jobs carried out by Coy. The following work in hand:- Constructing Drying Room etc PALMER BATHS (T. 20. c. 5. 3. Sheet 28 ) Erecting Stables PENROSE LINES (T. 8. c. 7. 3. Sheet 28.) Constructing, repairing BAILLEUL BATHS. Supervising laying of CINDER TRACK (S. 14. d. 21. <del>Sheet 28</del> to 5. 21. b. 12. Sheet 28.) Forming TRAM TRACK OXD. DUMP. (A. 6. b. central Sheet 36)	
	1-3-18 to 3-3-18		1 Off. { 12. O.R. constructing and repairing Drying room etc PALMER BATHS 10. O.R. Constructing Stables PENROSE LINES	
	3-3-18		1 Off. and 20. O.R. constructing and repairing BAILLEUL BATHS. 6. O.R. laying decanville track OXD. DUMP.	
	3-3-18		3. O.R. supervising laying of CINDER TRACK. 1 Off. and 23. O.R. marched out to join Div. Engr. School WESTHOF FARM (T. 19. a. 3. 2. Sheet 28.)	
	4-3-18 to 6-3-18		No change	
	7-3-18		Inspection of rifles, equipment, Gas helmets etc. Coy put through Gas for listing of helmets	
	8-3-18		No change	
	9-3-18		Combined Sports and concert between 12th and 13th Field Coys. in aid 2nd Anniversary of Coys formation.	
	10-3-18 to 12-3-18		1 Off. and 20. O.R. constructing and repairing BAILLEUL BATHS 1 Off. { 12. O.R. erecting Nissen Bow Sheds PENROSE LINES 12. O.R. constructing and repairing Drying room PALMER BATHS.	
	13-3-18		3. O.R. constructing washing tubs LA CRECHE BATHS (STEENWERCK) (A. 11. d. central Sheet 36) Coy. photo taken by official photographer. Gas helmet drill and march for one hour with Gas helmets on.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms C. 2118/14

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12<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E. WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WATTS LINES NEAR DE SEULE	14-3-18		1 Officer and 24 O.Rs. constructing and repairing BAILLEUL BATHS	
	to		1 Officer { 12.0.O.Rs. erecting nissen-hous hut, PENROSE LINES	
	16-3-18		1 Officer { 12.0.O.Rs. constructing and repairing drying room etc PALMER BATHS.	
			3.0.O.Rs. constructing washing tubs LA CRECHE BATHS (STEENWERCK) (A.II.d. central sheet 36)	
			11.0.O.Rs. erecting nissen hof hut and GREASE TRAPS No 1 Squadron R.F.C.	
			(S.G.C. central sheet 28.)	
			3 O.Rs. clearing collapsed portions of buildings No 3 and 5 RUE-DE-POISSON BAILLEUL	
	16-3-18		Played <del>in</del> rugby football match against WELSH ENGRS Coy.	
			RESULTS: WELSH ENGRS COY. 37 points to 12 <sup>th</sup> F. Coy. A.E. Nil.	
	17-3-18		1 Officer 14 O.Rs. constructing and repairing BAILLEUL BATHS.	
	to		1 Officer { 20.0.O.Rs. erecting nissen hof hut and CULVERT PENROSE LINES	
	20-3-18		1 Officer { 7.0.O.Rs. constructing and repairing drying room etc PALMER BATHS.	
			10.0.O.Rs. dismantling camp at (T.U.C. 2.1. sheet 28.)	
			3.0.O.Rs. constructing washing tubs LA CRECHE BATHS (STEENWERCK) (A.II.d. central sheet 36)	
			21.0.O.Rs. erecting nissen hof hut and GREASE TRAP, BOMB SHELTERS and repairing breastworks etc. No 1 Squadron R.F.C. (S.G.C. central sheet 28.)	
			20.0.O.Rs. light railway formation OXD DUMP (A.L. v. central sheet 36.)	
			11.0.O.Rs. erecting nissen hof hut (S.G.C. 7.4. sheet 28.)	
	20-3-18		No 2883 Sp. NICOL T. and No 7258 Sp. HUDDY J. killed by H.E. while on jobs (T.U.C. 2.1. sheet 28.)	
	21-3-18		No change in work. Gas helmet drill and march for one hour with helmets on.	
	22-3-18		No change	
	to			
	23-3-18			
	25-3-18		1 Officer and 23.0.O.Rs. returned from Dist. Engr. School WESTHOF FARM (T.II. a. 3.2. sheet 28.)	

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12<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E. WAR DIARY  
 or  
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WATTS LINES NEAR DE SEULE	24-3-18		<p>Handed the following work over to Army Troop Coy as being relieved:            Construction of BAILLEUL BATHS            Formation Light railway OXD DUMP (A.L.G. Central Sheet 36)            Transport moved off from WATTS LINES for NEUF BERQUIN AREA and moved off again at midnight for HERMAVILLE (HAZEBROUCK 5<sup>A</sup> Sheet)            Remainder of Coy. preparing to move.</p>	
NEUVE EGLISE HERMAVILLE	25-3-18		<p>Coy. (Sappers only) moved off from WATTS LINES for (T.20. a.g.2. Sheet 28) embussed at 7<sup>am</sup> and moved off to BERLES-AU-BOIS (Sheet LENS.11 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles S.W. of ARRAS.) arriving at 5:30 pm.            Transport arrived at HERMAVILLE at 7 pm.</p>	
BERLES-AU-BOIS 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> S.W. ARRAS	26-3-18		<p>Transport moved off from HERMAVILLE for BAILLEULMONT (Sheet LENS 11. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles S.W. of ARRAS.) arriving at 2 pm.            Company's pack dump at BERLES-AU-BOIS. Every man equipped in fighting order.            Parade 12.30 noon each man issued with reserve rations.            Coy. turned out 1 pm. to rebuild Strong Point, barricade and wiring etc. round the village of BERLES-AU-BOIS. work completed by 7.45 pm.            Coy. (Sappers only) moved off from BERLES-AU-BOIS for SENLIS, marching in 12<sup>th</sup> Bde Column via SOUASTRE</p>	
SENLIS BAILLEULMONT BAIZIEUX	27-3-18		<p>Coy arrived at SENLIS at 7.20 am and established camp            Transport moved off from BAILLEUL MONT for BAIZIEUX arriving at 3.30 pm.            Transport moved off from BAIZIEUX for CONTAY arriving at 9 pm.</p>	
SENLIS	28-3-18		<p>1 P.M. and 34.O.R. Excavating for Bde H.Q. (D.H.C.2.5. Allert Combined Sheet)            1 P.M. and 32.O.R. Salvaging material round SENLIS to build Bde H.Q.            Remainder of Coy. Camp Construction</p>	

12th Field Co., A.E.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENLIS	29-3-18		1 Pff. and 29.O.R. erecting Bde H.Q. (D.4.C. 2.5. Albert combined sheet)	
	30-3-18		1 Pff. and 32.O.R. Salvaging material round SENLIS 1 Pff. and 29.O.R. erecting Bde. H.Q. (D.4.C. 2.5) 1 Pff. and 32.O.R. repairing ROADS after shell damages from SENLIS to BOUZINCOURT MILLEN COURT and HENEN COURT.	
	31-3-18		1 Pff. and 29.O.R. erecting Bde H.Q. (D.4.C. 2.5) 1 Pff. and 32.O.R. repairing roads after shell damages from SENLIS to BOUZINCOURT MILLEN COURT and HENEN COURT. Mort Section moved off from SENLIS and established forward camp at (D.12.d. 5.9. Sheet Albert combined.	
			<p>Summary of work completed for month:-</p> <p>OXD Dump Railway formation 200 Ballasted PALMER BATHS repair to old Drying room and new one erected complete. PENROSE LINE 1 Stable and 4 Nissen bus huts erected. LA CRECHE BATHS range of tubs completed. BAILLEUL BATHS Archway lat entrance and 1 Incinerator completed 2 Nissen Bow huts erected and fitted out with stoves, racks etc for Drying room. Sundry repair to old Drying room. Mort Squadron R.F.C. 2 Nissen Bow huts erected, 1 Grease Trap completed, 50 yds Breastwork completed and 1 Bomb shelter erected. Dismantling Camp (T.4. C.2.1. Sheet 28) 2 Nissen bus huts and 3 Lorry loads of iron and timber from Sundry Shelter dismantled. (S.7.D.8.4 Sheet 28) 1 Nissen bow hut erected complete. 2 days casting firebrick from ARMEN TIERES for Drying room job Bde H.Q. at (D.4.C. 2.5 Sheet Albert combined) 3 parts completed. Cleared collapsed building in RUE-DE-POISSON BAILLEUL. Sundry repair to SENLIS to BOUZINCOURT, MILLEN COURT and HENENCOUR ROADS. Rebuilt Strong Points, erected barricades and barbed-wire on outskirts of BERLES-AU-BOIS. Salvage:- 400 sheets corrugated iron, 20 coils barbed-wire, 100 screws-pickets 50 Pickets, 70 Shovels and 4 Wheelbarrows.</p>	

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C. Carruthers Major  
P.C. 12th Field Co., A.E.