

AWM4

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

AWM4 Class 14 - Engineers
AWM4 Subclass 14/35 - 17th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

File number: AWM4/14/35/1

Title: AWM4 14/35/1 - May - October 1917
[see also 1/52/2 and 1/52/3]



RCDIG1011454

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

WRS. 142

AM30 14



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION,
PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE,
CHANCERY LANE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

September 25th 1917.

~~Major H.V. Gould.~~
Officer Commdg. 17th Field Coy., A.E.
Brightlingsea. ESSEX.

Dear Sir,

As you will perhaps know this section has been formed to collect the historical records in connection with the A.I.F. It is hoped to attain this end by means of war diaries, but the disbandment of the units being formed for the 6th Australian Division has made it necessary to adopt special measures in their case. It is thought possibly the best way will be to try and obtain a short history of each unit, covering the headings outlined on the attached paper.

It is realised that units are already burdened with much work, but it is pointed out that a record such as suggested will be of great interest to Australia, and well worth the effort entailed in its compilation. An intimation that your unit is taking this matter up would be appreciated.

It is hoped, also that, when no longer required, all records such as correspondence files &c., will be sent to this office. This is in accordance with the instructions contained in A.I.F. Order 758.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Nelson".

Officer i/c, Aust. War Records Section. Capt.

H I S T O R Y
of

17th. Field Coy., A.E.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

1. The circumstances of the original formation of unit

(1) Full title of unit as authorized, with details of authority. Particulars of any changes that have taken place in designation and details of authority:-

17th Field Coy Australian Engineers.

Authority.

1st ANZAC - 10/7/2 - 5/5/17

(ii) Date and authority of order for mobilization of unit.

1st ANZAC - 10/7/2 of 5-5-17

(iii) Place of mobilizing.

No 3 Camp Parkhouse.

ENGLAND

(iv) In what area was mobilization carried out, and period required to effect complete mobilization :-

Southern Command - was not completely mobilized

2. Any unusual means by which unit has been recruited or organized.

Almost every Unit of Engineers, was included in the strength of 17th Field C^o A.E., thereby earning the sobriquet of "The Fragments of France."

There were only 4, other ranks, who had never seen active service in a war zone.

With the exception of the Senior H.C.O.'s all H.C.O.'s and other ranks, were drafted from Command Depot. The P.A.N.B.T. was represented with 42, members.

All Officers, came over from France.

3. Arms, Equipment, Colours, &c.

(a) Details of accommodation, rationing, arming, and equipping in England.

(b) Alterations in clothing, arms, accoutrements, badges, colours, or horse furniture, with date and authority for same.

(c) Has the unit any colours? If so, on what authority? Were they made or presented, and on what date? Where are they deposited? (A short narrative of their history is required).

NIL

(d) Has the unit a band . Particulars.

No.

17
4. Training carried out in England.

Two months training at Australian Engineers Depot.
Brightlingsea. Bridging, Pontooning, Demolition, and
Earthworks
from. 5-7-17 to.

Constructing assault course, at Durrington Camp,
which was not completed owing to move from
Durrington to Forant Camp. (ase)
Period at Durrington. from. 15.

Rifle range construction commenced at Forant
Camp. Demobilization order received before
completion.

Four sappers and one N.C.O. detailed and left
behind to complete works. when the unit moved
on. 26-10-17. to Parkhouse to complete demobilization

5. The Stations at which it has been employed, and the date of its arrival at and departures from such stations.

Brightlingsea. from. 4-7-17 to. 28-8-17
 Parkhouse. from. 28-8-17 to. 12-9-17
 Durrington. No 10. from. 12-9-17 to. 11-10-17
 Forank. (asc) from. 11-10-17 to. 29-10-17
 Parkhouse. from. 29-10-17 to. Demobilization

6. Formations to which allotted in England.

7. Reinforcements.

(a) Details of drafts supplies to other units :-

(b) Has the unit received any drafts? If so, when and what strength, and names of officers accompanying them :-

8. PERSONNEL.

(a) Details of changes (if any) in command :-

(b) Details of towns from which commanding and other officers came :-

(c) Details of previous service of commanding and other officers :-

- 9. Any other important matter relating to regimental administration, such as changes in establishment, alteration in organization &c.

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Is any regimental, station or camp magazine published by the unit? If so, state how often published and give name of publication and dates of numbers published to date: and also name of editor and where printed.

NIL

11. Any other matter which may be considered of historical importance.

12. Disbandment.

(a) Reason.

(b) Authority.

(c) Where carried out.

No 3 camp Parkhouse

(d) Disposal of personnel.

With the exceptions of officers, all members were returned to their original units.

(e) Disposal of equipment.

(f) Date disbandment completed. .