

AWM4

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/27/13

**Title: 8th Field Company, Australian
Engineers**

September 1916



AWM4-14/27/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.)

Sheet. 1.

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
At the Field	1-9-16		<p>8th Field Coy. carrying out Engineering work on front and area occupied by 8th Aust. Infantry Bde. Unit billeted at CROIX LESCORNEX, Transport billeted in BAC. ST. MAUR.</p> <p>Work commenced on front line from CONVENT. AV. to CELLAR FARM. AV. remodelling front parapets and putting in wooden dugouts of two and four men type.</p> <p>Concrete dug-outs.</p> <p>Proceeding with the remodelling and constructing Support Line.</p> <p>Deep dug-out in Support Line:- North Drive advanced 137 ft (Total 75 ft) and a dug-out 6'-6" x 6' x 5' constructed off Drive.</p> <p>A good increase in work since blower installed.</p> <p>a clearing made for new shaft which is to be finished off in concrete.</p> <p>An ineffective attempt was made to pug-up the old shaft</p>	
"	1st. to 7/9/16			

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

sheet 2.

8th Field Coy. Aust Engrs

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1st. to 7/9/16		<p>with 6" of puddled clay but the water ran down behind the timbers as badly as ever.</p> <p>Owing to rain, MINE AV. was found to be almost impassable owing to rise of water and depth of this Avenue. Duckboards had not been anchored in places and floated about leaving gaps in between, 2 ft to 2 ft 6 ins deep.</p> <p>A start was made to raise transoms and to tie duckboards down to transoms.</p> <p>A few small land slides occurred along Avenue after the rain.</p> <p>It was noticed that new parapets sunk as much as 10" to 12" after the rain, and that some of the new bagging on top of hurdles sunk irregularly and had to be taken out and re-laid.</p> <p>An improvement could be made by bagging and ramming immediately behind hurdles to prevent an excess of sinkage.</p>	

Handwritten signature

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.)

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs

Sheet 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In The Field	1st to 7/9/16		<p>main Drain "P" was cleared out back to River Laies; this drains right half of RIGHT. BIN. front and area.</p> <p>A new drain 150 yds long was cut from Drain "P" to YORK AVENUE.</p> <p>Drains along back of CONYENT-WALL are being opened</p> <p><u>Artillery O.P.'s:-</u></p> <p>The inner and outer towers of Bellar Farm O.P. completed to 15 feet. Frame for dug-out ready.</p> <p>Old mill was shelled during week and two days lost in consequence. The side wall of building was demolished. The wall of tower is being thickened to 28 inches. - Height of remainder 10 ft.</p> <p>The Detention Barracks completed and handed over to A.P.M.</p> <p><u>Road screening:-</u></p> <p>about 100 yds of road screening was erected in brush-wood canvas and wire-netting as an experiment. The most effective was the brushwood.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 4.

8th Aust. Field Coy. Engrs.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	7 th to 15/9/16		<p>Remodelling front parapets and putting in wooden dug-outs in front line.</p> <p>A new "sally port" was tunnelled under parapet for a special raid.</p> <p>Concrete dug-outs were proceeded with; concrete supply gave out on the 17th Inst.</p> <p>Since the 20th inst. the concreting of 27 dug-outs had been completed.</p> <p>Work was slackened off a little in support line in order to push on with front line parapets on Sector CONVENT — CELLAR FARM, AYS.</p> <p>The north drive of deep dug-out was pushed ahead 10 feet making a total of 85 feet.</p> <p>The new shaft 11 ft by 11 ft. inside the timbering was sunk down 2 ft. into the blue clay and preparations made to concrete up.</p>	

Handwritten signature

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs

Sheet 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In The Field	7 th to 15/9/16		<p>150 yds of trench tramway was laid along support line in rear of CONVENT WALL from DEAD DOG TRAM northwards. A new traffic trench was cut from DEYON. AV. to DEAD DOG AV. Drain "Q" cleared of blockages and "Q₂" being opened up. Dump for S.A.A. and bombs made at Dead Dog Tram Terminus, 15' x 7'.</p> <p>Bellar Farm. O.P. brickwork finished.</p> <p>Only 5 feet of brickwork added to OLD MILL. O.P. during week owing to difficulty with Artillery Transport.</p> <p>DAVID HOUSE. O.P. was taken over from 14th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs and 3'-0" of brickwork added.</p>	
do	15 th to 22/9/16		<p>A gum-boot store with drying room, changing room and ankle-boot store was started in Coy's billet for use of BNS in the line during winter.</p>	<p>Jan 3</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.

Sheet 6.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
On the Field	15 th to 22/9/16		<p>Storage was designed for :- Gum-boots :- 800 pairs. Ankle-boots :- 1600 pairs Socks :- 1600 pairs</p> <p><u>Deep Dug-out:-</u> The deep-dug-out was excavated and concrete footing put in and run up about 6 feet. Further progress was made on dug-outs and front-line parapets. Work was ceased at 1 p.m. on 21st. Inst, as Coy was moving with 8th Aust. Inf. Bde to ARMENTIERES. O/c. Taking over C.R.E. from C.R.E. 51st Divⁿ; Capt. Farquhar took command of Coy.</p>	
		22 nd		

Saravama

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs

Sheet 7.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><i>The following dug-outs (wooden) have been put in by 8th Fld. Coy. AF. from 21/7/14 up to 21-9-16. on old sector. Wooden Dug-outs 5'9" shell proof. (Total)</i></p>	
			<i>Type.</i>	
			<i>2 men</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>35</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>25</i>
			<i>4 men</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>20</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>30</i>
			<i>Officers</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>7</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>9</i>
			<i>Co. H. Q.</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>4</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>4</i>
			<i>Signal.</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>3</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>2</i>
			<i>L. T. M. Emp't.</i>	
			<i>Front</i>	<i>2</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>5</i>
			<i>Old 4-6 men dug-outs strengthened to standard.</i>	<i>Front</i>
			<i>Stokes-mortar-magazine.</i>	<i>Support</i>
			<i>Front</i>	<i>5</i>
			<i>Support</i>	<i>1</i>
			<i>Total</i>	<i>468</i>

Yards

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.)

8th Field Coy. Aust. Engrs

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>Concrete dug-outs (Total - 30 days work)</i>	
				<i>No Accommodation</i>
			<i>Floors m</i>	<i>2 -</i>
			<i>Forms m</i>	<i>1 -</i>
			<i>Walls and roofs m</i>	<i>6 -</i>
			<i>Ready to occupy but not bagged</i>	<i>4 16</i>
			<i>Do Do only partly bagged</i>	<i>5 20</i>
			<i>Complete except barsters</i>	<i>9 36</i>
			<i>Complete</i>	<i>3 12</i>
			<i>Total</i>	<i>30 84</i>

Warram

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.)

8th Field Coy Aus. Engrs.

Sheet 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the Field</i>	<i>22/9/16 to 23/9/16</i>		<p><i>8th FIELD Coy. moved from CROIX LESCORNEX to ARMENTIERES. Unit billeted in RUE DE FLANDRE, also transport. One (1) officer and eight (8) O.R. remained at CROIX LESCORNEX to carry on work on Deep Dugout. One (1) officer from 15th F. Coy transferred to this unit.</i></p> <p><i>Work on Front and support lines of area now occupied by 8th Aus. Inf Bde, taken over from 1/1 Highland Coy RE. Also work being done by 2/2 Highland Coy RE. on subsidiary line was taken over.</i></p> <p><i>Both of the above Coys had been chiefly occupied on concrete dugouts. On Officer takes over drainage work of FRANKS FORCE AREA.</i></p> <p><i>General scheme of defence as laid down for front line - Front line is continuous but is organised in a series of defended localities. Between these localities are gaps, which are not garrisoned but are patrolled by night. A certain amount of sniping and Lewis gun fire is done from these gaps at night to give the impression that they are held.</i></p> <p><i>When taken over, defended localities were found to be in a very bad state, in some cases the fire bays being completely closed & parapets</i></p>	
	<i>24/9/16 to 30/9/16</i>			

W. J. ...

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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.)

8th Field Coy Aus. Engrs.

Sheet 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/9/16 50 30/9/16		<p>in numerous places being only 2 + 3 ft thick Work commenced remodelling these localities, giving fire bays of average length of 25 ft with traverse of 10 to 12 feet and minimum thickness of parapet of 10 feet Provision being made for storing gas cylinders below fire steps in each bay. Three officers + 100 O.R. from Corps Cavalry attached to Unit on 26th for general engineering fatigues also one officer + 60 OR from each Bde. for drainage work in their respective areas. <u>CONCRETE DUGOUTS.</u> - In <u>Subsidiary Line</u>. When taken over there were four (4) dugouts (16 men) nearly completed. Work commenced on these + two completed + occupied by 30/9/16. <u>HEAVY T.M. POSITION:</u> - The concrete foundation for gun, it was found, had not set + pit was leaking badly. Work proceeding ^{digging} out old foundation preparatory to putting in deeper + stronger bed.</p>	

Wils. Parquhar
Leach