

**AWM4**

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/27/18

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

February 1917



AWM4-14/27/18

# 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.

## on ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
-------	------	------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

OF

8<sup>TH</sup> FIELD COY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

FOR PERIOD

1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 1917 To 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1917

VOL 9

*L. H. M. M. M.*  
Ma

O. C. 8th. Field Coy. Austr. Eng.

# 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 Austn Engrs.*

*Sheet No 1*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
<i>In the Field</i>	<i>1/2/17</i>	<i>-</i>	<p><u>Company Strengths</u> :-</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Actually with unit</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>OH</u> 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>O.R.</u> 163</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Sicks in Div Area</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Temp Detach<sup>s</sup> (duty, leave, etc)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>7</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>191</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>boy billeted at WATERLOT FARM (S18 d0.0)</p> <p><u>Works in hand</u> :-</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>DUGOUTS</u> :-</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>MILLERS SON</u> :- (N34 a 3.5 8.5)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">4' x 2' stretchers on most of the girder sets have now been put in. Sides of drive, where bad have been lagged up. Additional bunks erected - 30</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A lot of revetting work on trenches has been put in and this is now in good condition.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>EMBASSY</u> :- (N33 05.5)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Cross cut from N<sup>o</sup> 2 Underlay has been driven and timbered 20 ft. From N<sup>o</sup> 3 Underlay - 24 ft. Total 44 ft.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>BULL'S EYE</u> :- (T3 a 1.5 .9.5)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Very bad ground has been struck here resulting in delay. Drive is now being stepped down to get into better ground. Drive timbered 8 ft.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>COW TRENCH</u> :- (T3 a 05.9)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Cross cut from N<sup>o</sup> 2 Underlay. Driven and timbered 32 ft. As drive progresses bunks are being erected to house more men.</p>	Actually with unit	<u>OH</u> 5	<u>O.R.</u> 163	Sicks in Div Area	-	7	Temp Detach <sup>s</sup> (duty, leave, etc)	2	21		<u>7</u>	<u>191</u>	
Actually with unit	<u>OH</u> 5	<u>O.R.</u> 163														
Sicks in Div Area	-	7														
Temp Detach <sup>s</sup> (duty, leave, etc)	2	21														
	<u>7</u>	<u>191</u>														

*[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.)

Sheet No 2

8<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Austn Engrs.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1/2/17	-	<p><u>PODDY DUGOUT</u> - Underlay 16 ft. Owing to frozen state of ground work on head cover of entrance to underlay has been slow. Three 14ft "A" frames, have been put in. Explosives are now being used with better results.</p> <p><u>RIGHT BDE H.Q. DUGOUT</u> (T13001) - Total footage - 130 ft.</p> <p><u>A.M.C. COLLECTING STATION</u> (T8048) - This work has been completed and the station is now occupied by A.M.C.</p> <p><u>A.M.C. WAITING SHELTERS</u> (S18 d 2.8) - Shrapnel proof shelters to take 20 stretcher cases have been erected and is now in use</p> <p><u>Shrapnel Proof Shelters in COW TRENCH.</u> - 18 have been erected to date. Trench has been revetted in places, but a large amount of work is necessary on this trench to put it in a fit state of abode for defence.</p> <p><u>Overland Routes</u>:- 1000 yards of wire netting has been laid on ESKIMO WALK.</p> <p><u>Wiring:</u> <u>SWITCH LINE</u>:- Defensive 2000 yards double apron completed. Tactical 900 " " " " " " <u>INTER. LINE</u>:- Tactical 600 " " " " " " 3500 " " " " " "</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.)

Sheet No 3

8<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Austen Engrs.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	2/2/17	-	Lieut T.A. FARR returned to duty from on leave.	
	3/2/17	-	Works proceeding as above	
	To 7/2/17	-		
	8/2/17	-	3 O.R. arrive as reinforcements from A.G.B.D. 2 O.R. on transfer. Major T.H. VINCENT from 4 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy takes over command of Coy from Capt W.G. FARQUHAR who has been A/O.C. vice Major V.A. STURPEE to 4 <sup>th</sup> Pioneer Bn. Works on dugouts proceeding.	
	9/2/17	-	" " " "	
	10/2/17	-	1 O.R. wounded in action. At BULL'S EYE Dugout underlay opened out to a 9' drive and handed over to 258 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy R.E. At COW TRENCH underlay to connect with BULL'S EYE opened out for a 9' drive and handed over to 258 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy R.E. Heavy 'A' frames revetment almost completed Other works of dugouts and wiring continued.	
	13/2/17	-	Lieut R.M. ISAACS returns to duty from Seconded List. 8 O.R. arrive as reinforcements from A.G.B.D. Works proceeding. BULL'S EYE Dugout being worked by 258 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy R.E. COW TRENCH - R.A.P. underlay being worked by 258 <sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Coy R.E. Slip occurred which delayed driving for two days.	

# 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.)

*8<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Austn Engrs.*

*Sheet No 4*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the Field</i>	<i>14/2/17</i>	-	<i>Inspection made of old German Dugouts in SWITCH TRENCH. Dugout found to require repairs before being fit for occupation. Arrangements made to carry on with works by Right Group Artillery under Engineer Supervision.</i>	
	<i>15/2/17</i>	-	<i>Commencement of Thaw. 2 Sappers and 10 Infy employed driving pickets for wiring at COW + FLERS Trenches. Work started on Gas Proof doors for dugouts. No blankets available only framework can be made.</i>	
	<i>16/2/17</i>	-	<i>Still Thawing. Roads getting into a very bad state.</i>	
	<i>17/2/17</i>	-	<i>Thaw showed effect on No 4 entrance to MILLERS SON extra strain on timbers. Repairs needed.</i>	
	<i>20/2/17</i>	-	<i>EMBASSY Dugout placed in left Side Sector and handed over on 21/2/17</i>	
	<i>to</i>		<i>2 O.R. arrive as reinforcements from A.G.B.D. ROSE RESERVE. New site of trench traced in detail. Carrying party started to deliver material.</i>	
	<i>21/2/17</i>	-	<i>Work has been delayed owing to material not coming forward in sufficient quantities.</i>	
	<i>23/2/17</i>	-	<i>Work on Intermediate and 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Defences taken over from 14<sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E.</i>	<i>J.H.</i>

# 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 No 5

8<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Austri Engrs

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
In the Field	24/2/17	-	Advance on our left reported and instructions received from C.R.E. to reconnoitre area with a view of placing bridges on roads to aid Artillery to push forward if required. Reconnaissance made and report made to CRE 1 O.R. wounded in action.																
	25/2/17	-	Necessary blankets for gas proofing dugout doors received and 18 doors sent out to MILLER'S DAUGHTER (late MILLER'S SON) Capt W.G. FARQUHAR leaves to attend Engineers School LE PARCQ. 1 O.R. arrived as reinforcement from A.G.B.D.																
	26/2/17	-	Show restrictions withdrawn - transport allowed to move more freely Lieut R.A. HOLMES leaves to attend Infy School MONTON VILLERS.																
	28/2/17	-	<u>Company Strengths.</u> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Actually with unit</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Off</td> <td style="text-align: center;">O.R.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sicks in Div Area</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">177</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temp Detchs (duty leave)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total Eff. Strengths</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>8</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>198</u></td> </tr> </table>	Actually with unit	Off	O.R.	Sicks in Div Area	6	177	Temp Detchs (duty leave)	-	4		2	17	<u>Total Eff. Strengths</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>198</u>	Had commenced on Well at MILLER'S DAUGHTER. Size of well 5' x 3' clear.
Actually with unit	Off	O.R.																	
Sicks in Div Area	6	177																	
Temp Detchs (duty leave)	-	4																	
	2	17																	
<u>Total Eff. Strengths</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>198</u>																	
			The following have been made in Coy Workshops during month:-																
			13 Maults for Hiring Party																
			1 shed for Blacksmiths																
			100 handles for Hiring Party																
			1 switchboards for 14 <sup>th</sup> Bde																
			23 food containers																
			22 Notice boards.																
			8 Latrine seat for Coy Trench.																
			4 Shapped buckets for Windlass																
			22 Gas proof doors for Millers Daughter																
			30 Fingerposts for Trenches.																
			4 Handles for Windlass																
			22 Rings for Maults																

*[Signature]*





# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet N: 7

8<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Engrs.

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																																
In the Field	25/2/17	-	<p><u>Overland Routes</u>:- Road repairs (N34 a 2.5 to W34 c 4.4) 50% of earth removed from 300 yards of roads.</p> <p><u>THISTLE R.A.P.</u> (N34 c 2.8 1/2) - 75% of sets have spreaders fixed in position 6 Bunks.</p> <p><u>Artillery Bunkers</u>:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">Total Measurements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8<sup>th</sup> Battery</td> <td>9 ft drive - 21 ft.</td> <td>Shafts complete</td> <td>Works suspended.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9<sup>th</sup> "</td> <td></td> <td>Shafts 'E' 19' 'W' 19'</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>49<sup>th</sup> "</td> <td>9' drive - 31 ft.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>115<sup>th</sup> "</td> <td></td> <td>Shafts complete</td> <td>Drive 3'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H.Q. Artillery</td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Repairs in progress.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7<sup>th</sup> Battery</td> <td></td> <td>Shafts complete</td> <td>9' Drive - 6 ft.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.M.C. Collecting Stn</td> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Repairs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Total Measurements		8 <sup>th</sup> Battery	9 ft drive - 21 ft.	Shafts complete	Works suspended.	9 <sup>th</sup> "		Shafts 'E' 19' 'W' 19'	" "	49 <sup>th</sup> "	9' drive - 31 ft.			115 <sup>th</sup> "		Shafts complete	Drive 3'	H.Q. Artillery		Repairs in progress.		7 <sup>th</sup> Battery		Shafts complete	9' Drive - 6 ft.	A.M.C. Collecting Stn		Repairs		<p>J.H.V.</p>
		Total Measurements																																		
8 <sup>th</sup> Battery	9 ft drive - 21 ft.	Shafts complete	Works suspended.																																	
9 <sup>th</sup> "		Shafts 'E' 19' 'W' 19'	" "																																	
49 <sup>th</sup> "	9' drive - 31 ft.																																			
115 <sup>th</sup> "		Shafts complete	Drive 3'																																	
H.Q. Artillery		Repairs in progress.																																		
7 <sup>th</sup> Battery		Shafts complete	9' Drive - 6 ft.																																	
A.M.C. Collecting Stn		Repairs																																		