

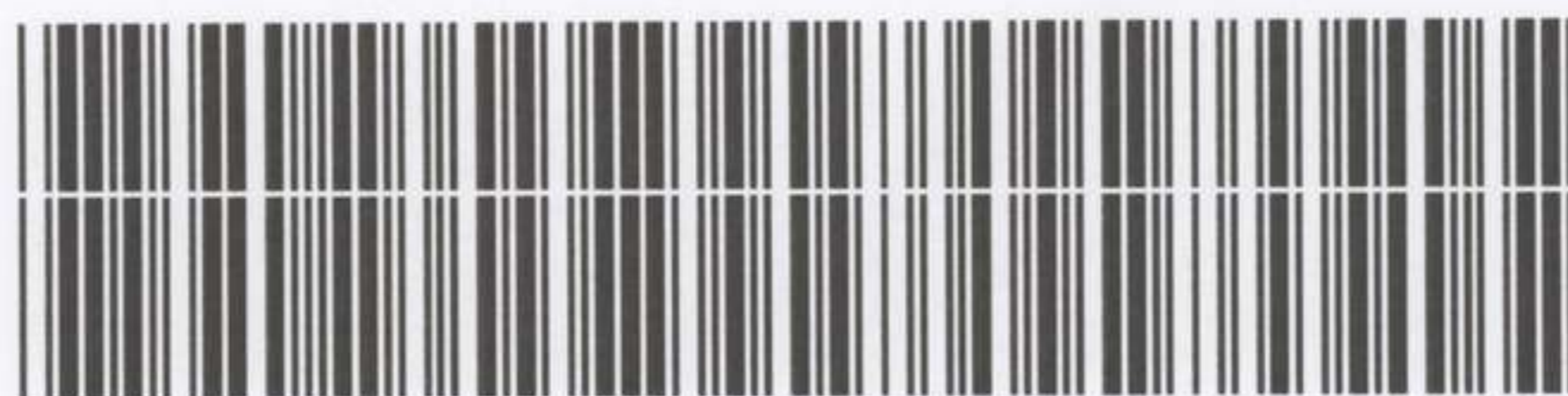
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/20/16

**Title:** 1st Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

February 1916



AWM4-14/20/16

1<sup>st</sup> Sudd Coy. Engrs.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

X2

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).

1

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Tel-el-Kebir. 1/2/16	Company and section drill. Engineer training, knotting, lashing and Nelson Tackle practice.	
" " " 2/2/16	do. do. do.	
" " " 3/2/16	do. do. do.	
" " " 4/2/16	do. do. do.	
" " " 5/2/16	do. do. Half Holiday.	
" " " 6/2/16	Church parade in the morning. Holiday in afternoon.	
" " " 7/2/16	Company and section drill. Engineer training.	
" " " 8/2/16	do do do	
" " " 9/2/16	do do do	
" " " 10/2/16	do do do	
" " " 11/2/16	do do do	
" " " 12/2/16	do do Half Holiday.	

R John Dyer Major  
1<sup>st</sup> Sudd Coy.

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy. Engrs.

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2

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Tel. el. Kebir. 13/2/16.	<p>Obnoch parade in the morning. Holiday in the afternoon.</p> <p>Receives orders to move out to Srapeum <sup>on 14<sup>th</sup></sup> and follows:-</p> <p>First train.</p> <p>Commence loading 0600</p> <p>Depart. 0830</p> <p>2 officers. 150 O.R. 60 horses 1/4 or ans 2/2 W. vehicles.</p> <p>Second train.</p> <p>Commence loading 0900</p> <p>Depart. 1130</p> <p>1 officer, remainder of men, vehicles and horses.</p> <p>Lieuts Reid and Owen R.E. to remain at Tel. el. Kebir with 13 O.R. on works.</p>	

R. John Dye  
16. 1<sup>st</sup> 2/16

2

7th Field Coy Engos.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Tel-el-kebir. 14/2/16	<p>Reveille at 0500. Proceeded to Shike camp and get everything packed up. Got everything on first train with the exception of 1 off. 6 drivers, 14 support, 16 horses and vehicles told off for the second train. Instructed McPryde to remain behind till everything was away. Everyone safely in camp at Shapemum and tents pitched by 1900.</p>	
<p>Shapemum. 14/2/16 1400</p>	<p>Reported to S.C. HQ. for instructions. Ordered to take over all works from Railhead back to E. bank of canal.</p> <p>Hubertson up to now working on trenches at the front line.</p> <p>Keast employed, till two days ago, on swing bridge, when it was taken over by R.A.V.B.T. At present employed destroying, or recovering where possible, land mines at Tussum which he laid about this time last year for defensive purposes.</p> <p>Taylor with company pitching camp.</p>	<p>R. John by Thomas at 18th Coy</p>

1st Field Coy. Engrs.

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4

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Snapeum. 15/2/16.	<p>Sitting benches for bridge head defenses.  Herbertson unloading pipes from barges.  Keast at Insulam.  Taylor in camp.  Instructions from D.E. H.C. to send a section to Rail Head tomorrow morning to commence R.E. yard there.  In Bryde's section felling on Beccanville line between Snapeum and Railhead.  Sappers employed driving steam and oil locos, steam and oil pumps, at R.E. yard Snapeum, on water troughs and at Railhead.</p>	
Snapeum. 16/2/16	<p>Sitting benches for bridge head defenses.  No 1 section to Railhead.  No 3 section to R.E. yard at Canal.  Keast at Insulam. To rejoin his section when work on land mines completed.</p>	

R. John Dyer Major  
1st Field Coy.

1st Field Coy. Engos.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Snapeum. 17.2.16	<p>1st Section at Railhead. Receiving and checking material from R.E. yard, Snapeum, and issuing same to the posts along the front line. Galvanised iron, hussle material, hessian, matting, barbed and plain wire chiefly.</p> <p>Herbertson supervising unloading of pipes from barges and forwarding along the pipe line.</p> <p>Surveying sites for Bridge Head defences.</p> <p>McPoyde and his section felling on Decauville line.</p>	
Snapeum. 18.2.16	<p>1st Section at Railhead.</p> <p>Herbertson unloading pipes.</p> <p>McPoyde felling.</p> <p>Taylor supervising erection of huts at S.A.C.</p>	
Snapeum. 19.2.16	do. do. do.	
Snapeum. 20.2.16	Holiday for all except those employed on urgent work.	

R. John O'Connell  
1st Field Coy. 5

1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy. Engrs.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Snapenum. 21. 2. 16	No 1 section at Railhead. Herbertson unloading pipes and arranging for contractor to be kept supplied with same. McCoyde fettling. Section divided into four parties and distributed along Becanelville line. Taylor erecting tank on W. side of canal for 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.A. BDE.	
Snapenum. 22. 2. 16	No 1 section at Railhead under keast. McCoyde fettling. Herbertson unloading pipes. Took over supervision of pipe line from Major Pitcairn R.E. Taylor shifting 10,000 gallon tank from railway to site for erection.	
Snapenum. 23. 2. 16	Plans for bridge head defences completed. Waiting for approval and orders to commence work. No 1 section at Railhead. Herbertson supervising pipe line. McCoyde fettling. Taylor working on water supply for 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.A. BDE.	R. John Dyer Major 1 <sup>st</sup> Field Coy. 6

*1st Lt. J. Engol.*

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<i>Srapemur. 24. 2. 16</i>	<i>do. do. do.</i>	
<i>Srapemur. 25. 2. 16</i>	<p><i>No 1 section at Railhead. Herbertson supervising pipe line. Trouble with joints arising to expansion and contraction. No expansion joints in whole length of pipe line. Very bad joints in places; in some cases where breaks have occurred not more than two threads in holding the joint.</i></p> <p><i>McBryde moved out to rail head with No 4 section to Bay Decarville out to the front line. Felling between Railhead and Srapemur abandoned for the time being.</i></p> <p><i>Taylor on water supply for 3<sup>rd</sup> L.H. BDE.</i></p>	
<i>Srapemur. 26. 2. 16</i>	<p><i>Commenced work on Bridge Head Defences. Taylor supervising in addition to water supply for 3<sup>rd</sup> L.H. BDE.</i></p> <p><i>Herbertson supervising pipe line.</i></p> <p><i>McBryde laying Decarville out from Railhead.</i></p> <p><i>No 1 section at Railhead.</i></p>	<p><i>R John Dyer Major 10<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy.</i></p>



11<sup>th</sup> Sapper Coy Engos.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Srapemur. 27. 2. 16	<p>Received instructions from D.E.H.Q. to hand over Bridge Head defences to 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps Fortress Coy R.E. Consulted Major Cooke and handed over plans to him and arranged for him to take over tomorrow.</p> <p>Holiday for men not employed on urgent work.</p>	
Srapemur 28. 2. 16	<p>Handed over Bridge Head defences to Major Cooke, O.C. 14<sup>th</sup> A.C. Fortress Coy R.E.</p> <p>Moat section at Railhead. Laying pipes out towards front line in addition to other material. Several methods of transporting the pipes across the sand were tried but the most successful was a sledge made of S.I., turned up at the front, which carried two and sometimes three pipes and was drawn by two horses. Wooden sledges, camels and vehicles - pontoon raigons - were tried without very much success.</p> <p>In Coyde laying Beaulville.  Herbertson supervising pipe line.  Taylor working on water supply for 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt B.O.E. Also preparing design for a lift bridge for Swarrivati canal.</p>	<p>R. John by Major  O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> S. Coy.</p>
Srapemur. 29. 2. 16	<p>do do do</p>	