

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/23/31

Title: 4th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

April 1918



AWM4-14/23/31

194

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Field Co., A.E.

FOR

APRIL 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. L. Meyer

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. L. Meyer

Sheet N^o 1

Confidential
Original

WAR DIARY

4th Field Co., A.E.

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.)

April 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAIZIEUX	Apl	1 st	2 sections of Coy engaged on repairing roads between BAIZIEUX and BRESLE, remainder of sappers completed erection of temporary D.H.Q. at C.5693 (Sheet 62.D). 2 Sappers took over pumping station at WARLOY.	
	"	2 nd	2 Sappers running divisional dump at HENNENCOURT.	
	"	3 rd	Coy moved to billets which were erected for temporary D.H.Q. who did use more into them. but moved further back to BEAUCOURT.	
	"	4 th	Erection of additional huts to accommodate who company.	
	"	to	4 sections of sappers commenced work on maintenance & repairs of Corps roads in Australian Corps area (as per attached plan) (remarks on road work shown on appendices.)	
	"	7 th	17 th British Entrenching Battalion & 168 th Labour Coy attached for work on roads. 40 to 50 G.S. waggons commenced carting stone from VARENNES	
	"	10 th	No 4178 Spr G. Savage wounded by H.E. shell. on 10 th April	
	"	13 th	Lieut A.C.H. Lewis admitted to Hospital injured through horse falling on him on 13/4/18	
	"	23 rd	17 th Entrenching Bn disbanded and withdrawn from road work on 22/4/18	
	"	24 th	Received orders to stand by and be ready move at very short notice back to HALLUE Line. where company would be used to form portion of a	

April 1918

(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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAIZIEUX	24 th		Composite battalion composed of 3 Field Coys of Engineers which would be used as infantry for defence purpose should the situation warrant it.	
	25 th		Full parade held, and inspection of Coy in battle order - bathing parade in afternoon.	
	26 th		Work resumed on corps roads after situation became normal again.	
	28 th		Lt Skemberg and 8 sappers left behind to carry on road work until relieved by an A.T.R.E. Coy.	
BLANGY. TRONVILLE.	28 th		Remainder of Coy with transport moved out to billets in village of BLANGY. TRONVILLE.	
	29 th		2 sections moved forward and dug themselves in at O. 17 2 9.3 (Sheet. 62.D)	
	30 th		3 rd Section " " and joined other 2 sections "	
			Work commenced on making shelters for Battalion HQs at O. 24 2 53. making staircase at R.A.P at O. 30 2 5.4 (completed). Gasproofing of R.A.P and Battalion HQs at O. 30 2 5.4 (Sheet 62.D)	map reference
			making entrances to shafts at O. 22 2 4.7. preparing incendiary charges for burning hangars at P. 25 C. in no mans land. (see appendix)	
			<p>Remarks = Coy. Strength on 1/4/18. off 7. O.R.S. 234. Reinforcements received off. 2. O.R.S. 9</p> <p>Casualties 1 off. 1. O.R. Sick evacuations. 13. O.R. Transfer 1. O.R.</p> <p>Total. Strength as on 30/4/18. off 8. O.R.S. 227. weather generally wet throughout month</p>	
			<p><i>J. Volley Meyer</i></p>	
			4 th Field Co., A.E.	20

194

18,000-12/17-8723.

APPENDIX

3

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Field Co., A.E.

FOR

APRIL 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Corp. Roads Maintenance report

2

Demolition of Aeroplane Hangars report

3

Map showing Corps Roads under maintenance

W. J. J. J. J.
D.C.

4th Field Co., A.E.

1914

Appendix I.

APPENDIX
4th Field Co., A.E.

Corps Roads Maintenance

Condition of roads

With the exception of the main national road from AMIENS to ALBERT, which was in perfect condition & which the enemy purposely refrained from shelling with anything but quack fuzes & shrapnel shells, the roads were all in need of drainage. Sump holes were filled with mud & side drains blocked, especially where they were in cuttings as units had dug into the banks & thrown the spoil on the roads. By vigilant patrolling, the offenders were made to remove the spoil. Most of the roads were hardly wide enough for two way traffic on the metalled parts, with the result that the edges of the metalling were torn away. Single way traffic regulations were rigidly enforced & ribands & protective fences were extensively erected. The metalling was composed chiefly of flint stones & was only two to five inches deep, so that wherever the drainage was defective, motor lorries broke the surface, & constant patching was required. Damage from hostile shelling was abnormally light, owing to the great percentage of quack fuzes & gas shells sent over.

Stone.

Both stone & transport for carrying same were lamentably deficient, & it was only possible to repair broken surfaces, & not improve any of the roads.

W. Lolly Major.

OC.

4th Field Co., A.E.

194
Demolition of Aeroplane Hangars
in P25c (Street 62^o) East of Villers-Bretonneaux.

These hangars are built of wooden framing, covered with corrugated iron or fire proofed canvas. They lie well out in No Mans Land. A careful reconnaissance was made of them & it was decided to explode four large incendiary piles in each hangar & fire them by friction tube lighters attached to safety fuse which was spliced to instantaneous fuse leading into cordite set in the piles of fuel saturated with petrol.

2nd Lt Buckler led out a party of sappers & infantry & being met with a hostile barrage in the front line dispensed with the infantry & pushed on with the sappers. On reaching the second hangar, the party were fired on by enemy M.G.s. situated in the next hangar & suffered casualties. They were compelled to build their piles on the leeward sides of the first two hangars, & while still heaping fuel on the first hangar, one of the sappers accidentally started the fires in the second hangar. As there was no time to lay the charges in the first hangar N^o 4070 Cpt. Brown coolly drenched the wood piles with petrol & although only 50 yds from the enemy M.G.s. lighted the piles with naked matches. The fires burned fiercely, but the wind was too strong & prevented the flames from spreading. 2nd Lt Buckler & his party carried out the work most ably, but were met with an usually unusually bad set of circumstances.

W. J. Major

J.C. 4th Field Co., A.E.

