

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/36/24 Part 2

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

May 1918 (duplicate incomplete)



AWM4-14/36/24PART2



A.P. & S.D., Alex. / 3088 / 1225 / 3: 18/IM. W.M. & Co.

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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Eggrs

FOR

MAY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer Commanding \_\_\_\_\_



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.

# WAR DIARY

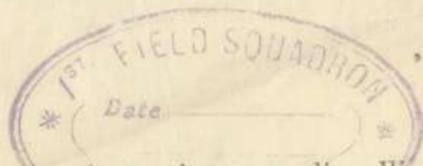
Army Form C. 2118.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY 1918		HEADQUARTERS 1 <sup>st</sup> F.S.E.	
	1st		<p>In addition to the foregoing Troop Work the sappers of H.Q. have been doing the following work  Repairs to D.H.Q. Office furniture, also about 50 notice boards in large writing in Black or White Canvas such as "Out of Bounds", "No Road" etc - A large stone trough which was too delapidated for use was repaired and used for watering D.H.Q. Horses there by greatly saving wear and tear on Canvas troughs - The trough is situated in Bethlehem directly behind the Div: H.Q. Billet which is a large stone house called French Carmel.</p> <p>The following work was carried out by 1 officer (Cap<sup>tn</sup> ALLEN) &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy of No 1 water area 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde. - Jerusalem - Hebron Road at spring (1/25000 Syria-Jerusalem K.5) approx 3 miles to wards Hebron from Solomon's Pools - The cistern from which water is now being pumped showed only as a small "pot-hole". There was practically no supply - On opening it up a rock cut cistern was found, roughly circular, about 10 feet dia., it was cleaned out to about 15ft deep - The inlet was a rock cut tunnel coming from the main head of the gully, it was traced back for about 100ft. at about 50ft from the cistern, two other tunnels joined it one from each side of the gully, all carrying water. The outlet had been a rock cut tunnel down the centre of the gully apparently carrying the overflow to some subterranean system - The whole of the tunnels referred to appear to have been made by open cut up to 20 feet deep from the surface and 3ft or more into solid rock - The channel thus made was then roofed with stone leaving it about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide on an average and the earth filled in. The bottom of the outlet was only about 60 feet above the bottom of the cistern as cleared, and in</p>	



# WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>TALAT-ED-DUMM Sheet XVIII, 113 G, 13b. 1" = 1 MILE</p> <p>BETHLEHEM Sheet 17, 100 K 35 1" = 1 MILE</p> <p>SOLOMONS POOLS Sheet XVII, 100 G, 12a 1" = 1 MILE</p>	MAY 1918		<p>HEADQUARTERS Contd.</p> <p>order to prevent soakage through the debris with which this channel was choked, it was blocked with masonry backed by rammed concrete for about 5 feet above the bottom of the cistern as cleared - The supply was then about 16,000 gallons a day. - A HAYWARD-Tyler pumping Set was installed, sunk on the lower side of the cistern to give about twelve feet of suction, and delivering the water about eighty feet away to two canvas tanks giving a storage capacity of about 8,000 gallons each - The actual lift of the water totalled about twenty five feet. The pumps did approximately 3200 gallons per hour - From the canvas tanks mentioned above a 3" syphon delivered the water to two 600 gallon canvas troughs and the washing water taps, the drinking was lead from the main delivery pipe to two 2300 gall tanks where it was chlorinated and delivered to water carts by a stand pipe, and water bottles through a set of small taps - It was ascertained by test in fairly cool weather, that the requirements of a brigade are: - 8 gallons per horse per day 5200 galls per day taken away as drinking water 2000 gall per day used in the washing area</p> <p>The whole occupied about 7 days but was greatly hampered by having to water two mounted regiments and find most of the drinking water for a Brigade within 24 hours of its commencement. - The greatest number of skilled personnel employed (exclusive of drivers on the engine) was 1 officer and one N.C.O. and two sappers practically all the work being done by parties from the 1<sup>st</sup> A. L. H. Bde.</p> <p>For the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the month we were camped in the Jericho Area Jordan Valley with D.H.O (Sheet XVIII, 113 L, 2). While there were bombed heavily by Enemy aircraft - no casualties on the 10<sup>th</sup> we were relieved by "ONE" Division we lifted camp at 1500, on tracks for Talat-ed-Dum. where we arrived at 1900. We watered from the wadi Kelt. (500ft below) on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 1800 we struck camp and trekked via Jerusalem to Bethlehem where we arrived at 0230 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. at 1300 on the 17<sup>th</sup> we again lifted camp the O/C + Orderly Rm Staff etc to a Billet in Bethlehem and Capt Allen and 30 other ranks going to Solomons Pools. This latter party watering from the pools</p>	

31st



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Place	Date MAY 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>HEADQUARTERS Coy<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>out of Troughs. Solomons Pools consist of 3 large Reservoirs with stout Rubble walls, internally Buttressed. Numbering the Pools from the Beersheba - Jerusalem Road. one, two and three. The 1<sup>st</sup> is 146yds x 75yds. in area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 160yds x 75yds in area. The 3<sup>rd</sup> which shows the construction better there not being so much water in it. The calculated amount of water in each of the pools or Reservoirs will be given in the Appendix of Next (June) months War Diary. See sketch of No 3 Reservoir in Appendix.</p>	

*[Handwritten signature]*

A.P. & S.D., Alex. / <sup>3087</sup> / 1225 / 3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.



# WAR DIARY

OF

1<sup>st</sup> F.S.E. ANZAC M<sup>TD</sup> DIV.

FOR

MAY 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

Nº1

Sketch of Solomons Pools.  
(Sheet XVII.100 G.12a.)



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>ES SALT Composite map for brigade Amman (2nd Edition) 127.26.</p> <p>WADI SHAIB ES Salt Map</p> <p>WADI NUELAMIEH Sheet XVIII 131.124</p> <p>GHORANIYEH. Sheet XVIII. 127.20.</p>	<p>MAY 1918</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Hour</p>	<p><u>A Field Troop.</u></p> <p>Troop with Bde at ES SALT watered Bde at WADI SHAIB. MENS drinking water from Spring rising in Square U 3R a 50 ES SALT MAP. - Watered Bde from cisterns Square K. 6b and K 18c and 8 Cisterns on line through Squares K. 13d K 20 K 21 and K 22. Es Salt Map.</p> <p>Moved with Bde back to Jordan Valley and bivouaced near JERICHO. Erected Troop's for horse watering at Wadi NUELAMIEH (Ref Sheet 18 Palestine)</p> <p>Half troop moved out to take over maintenance of Darrel Pier Drivage and foot Bridges at GHORANIYEH</p> <p>Right half of Troop with Bde supervising watering water arrangements. Repairs to Brigade Office furniture. Demolished Aerial Torpedo Bomb (Dud) dropped by enemy on the 7th. Charge was used as follows 1. Slab of Guncotton Wet, 1 primers guncotton dry 1. No 8 detonator and 2 ft Safety fuse. Buried Bomb 4 feet and placed 2 layers of loosely filled sand bags on top and stamped it down. <u>Effect of Explosion</u> Bomb completely demolished, nose of bomb drove through 3 feet of Earth <u>Danger Zone</u> Although the Bomb was buried 4 feet below surface splinters were observed to travel a distance of 75 yards.</p> <p>Demolished Second Aerial Torpedo Bomb (Dud) dropped by enemy on the morning of the 7th. Charge used. 1 Slab Guncotton Wet, 1 Primers guncotton dry 1. No 13 Electric Detonator Electrically exploded. Buried bomb 2 feet below surface and placed 18 sand bags loosely filled. 2 Sand Bags high. <u>Effect of Explosion</u> Bomb completely demolished. <u>Danger Zone</u> 30 yards. Conclusion arrived at between the different danger zones of both bombs (D Bomb demolished on May 8th through being tamped and buried deeper gave greater resistance, showing that explosive used in bomb follows on the same line as guncotton (2) Bomb demolished on May 9th. Not buried tamped and only 2 feet of loose soil and loosely filled sand bags pl</p>	<p>Remarks and references to Appendices</p>

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WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT-ED-DUMM. Sheet XVIII. 113 G. 13b	15 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Artillery Troop (9th)</p> <p>around bomb gave very little resistance, the bags were torn by effects of explosion seemed to smother and break the velocity of splinters from bomb.</p> <p>Left half of Troop handed over Bridges at 1000 and reported back to Right half Troop with Brigade - Moved with Brigade at 1300 from JORDAN Valley to TALAT-ED-DUMM</p>	
WADI KULT. Watering Post's Top = 113 G. 13b Bottom = 113 G. 4d.	15 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Inspected watering arrangements (Under supervision 35 Army Troop Coy) and found only sufficient water for one watering at top water post - Erected two Canvas troughs and two G.S. H+F Pumps at Bottom water post - Wadi Kult. and water erect at bottom water post on 13<sup>th</sup> May. - Water storage made up at top water post - Watered Bde at Top water post from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Repairs to Bde Office Furniture</p>	
SOLOMONS POOLS. Sheet XVII 100 G. 12a 1 = 1 MILE.	16 <sup>th</sup>		<p>With Bde at TALAT-ED-DUMM supervising watering arrangement Moved from TALAT-ed-Dumm at 2.30 on Trek to Solomons Pools Bethlehem</p>	
BETHLEHEM. Sheet XVII 100 K. 35 1 = 1 MILE	17 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Arrived at Solomons Pools at 1100. Erected watergear 4-G.S. Canvas Trough and 1 G.S. Canvas 2300 Gall Reservoir. Watered Bde</p>	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Watering Brigade - Drawing "HAYWARD-TAYLOR" Set (Internal Combustion Engine and Pumps also necessary pipe fittings and transporting same to Solomons Pools</p>	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Inspecting Springs in Brigade area with a view to developing under instructions from G.O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Brigade, Spring known as No 1 watering area to be developed. Moved Hayward-Taylor Set and plant from Solomons Pools to No 1 Watering Area and erected same by 1800</p> <p>also one 30'x30' Canvas Sheet erected for storage reservoir 8000 gallons.</p>	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Moved Troop from Solomons Pools to No 2 Watering Area, situated one mile South of Brigade Area and commenced developing.</p>	<p>8</p>



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY 1918		A FIELD TROOP Coy B.	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Erected 2, - 30'x30' Canvas Sheets for Storage Reservoirs 8000 gallons each. Built up Engine and Pump Foundation in Cave.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Erected 2, 600 gall G. S. Canvas Troughs and pumped water from Bottom of Cave. with 2, G. S. lift and Force Pumps, placing pumps with 4 feet lift, and forcing water 50 ft up grade of 40°	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Supervising watering arrangements. Took delivery of 2" Goukas Pyramid Pump (Plunger force) Erecting Plants. started 2000, finished 0100, commenced pumping 0500.	
	24 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>		Cleaning out channel, Supervising watering arrangements. Watering 1100 horses daily. For Particulars of Developing, Tests of Yield, Test of Pump and log table of Plant, see Tables (in Appendix.)	

B



A.P. & S.D., Alex. / <sup>3087</sup> / 3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.  
1225

# WAR DIARY

OF

A Troop 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Eggrs

FOR

APRIL 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Water location during recent operations.           |
| 2.  | Report of Roads travelled during recent operations |
| 3.  | Sketch Plan of " " " " "                           |
| 4.  | Plan of Bridges & Tracks - GHORANIYEH Sector.      |

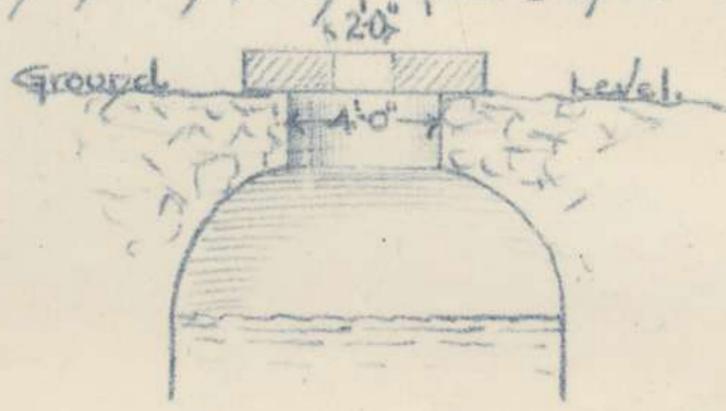
A. Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F.S. Engrs. for April. War Diary. (Appendix No 1)



Water location during recent operation. See Sketch = No 3 appen.

ESSAL. Wadi SHAIB, J.32.

Rugging stream also spring, Square J.32. Cisterns, Circular, Dorned Top with mouth 4 feet dia: finished level with ground and circular stone placed on top of Cistern mouth, with square hole opening 2 feet square.



LOCATION.	DESCRIPTION.
K. 6	Cisterny N <sup>o</sup> 1 . 12 feet dia 25 feet deep holding 2000 galloys of Water.
K. 18	" N <sup>o</sup> 2 14 feet dia 20 feet deep
K. 24b	" N <sup>o</sup> 3 12 feet dia 26 feet deep.
K. 21b	" N <sup>os</sup> 4 & 7. 12 feet dia 22 feet deep.
K. 21a	" N <sup>os</sup> 5 & 6. 14 feet dia 28 feet deep
K. 22c	" N <sup>o</sup> 8 & 9. 12 feet dia 25 feet deep
K. 13c	" N <sup>o</sup> 10 12 feet dia 28 feet deep holding 800 galloys
K. 14a	" N <sup>o</sup> 11 30 feet dia 20 feet deep 800 galloys.
NOTE.	N <sup>o</sup> 4 Cisterny emptied during operation

A Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F. S. E. yrs for April. War Diary (Appendix N<sup>o</sup> 2).



Report of Roads Travelled during recent operations  
(See Sketch N<sup>o</sup> 3 Appex.)

N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road Starting  
point C30b25

N<sup>o</sup> 1 Section.

Squares. C 30 b 25, D. 19. c. 50, D 20 d, D 21 c 75, to D 22 d.  
Very steep, stoney hills fit for Cavalry single file, very dismount  
leading horses, Camels lightly loaded can pass over this  
section - Would require a tremendous amount of work to  
improve and would have to be blasted out practically the  
whole way, owing to the deep strata of surface rock

Wadi Track

Suggest best approach to N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road would be, by way  
of Wadi south of N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road starting point at  
Square F. 17 d. 50 joining up Wadi at Sq D 31 c and  
joining N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road at Sq D 21 c. This would give  
an even grade until D 21 c was reached when contours  
of hills are favourable for a zig-zag course to top of  
Hills Square D 22 d. - This track at present is only  
suitable for cavalry in single file mounted until  
arriving at junction of N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road D 21 c. - A road  
suitable for wheel traffic could be made either by  
following the Wadi Bed or making a side cut. Wadi  
banks very steep generally, quickest method of making  
side cut, put down chain of jumpers holes and  
blast out, followed up by trimmers, formers and dressers  
ample good quality metal for forming road on the  
side, and good small gravel in wadi for top dressing.

N<sup>o</sup> 2 Section.

From Square D 22 d to K. 19 b, this section follows  
wadi the whole way with an easy grade. cavalry single  
file mounted, and could be formed into a good road  
suitable for wheeled traffic with difficulties and very  
little blasting, ample good quality metal in hills and  
wadi bed.

N<sup>o</sup> 3 Section.

From K 19 b to K 20 a. This section is a steep  
rough stoney strata but could be overcome by  
diverting following up to head of way then taking a  
zig-zag course through Square K. 19 b central and K 13 d.  
This would give easy grade and very little forming require  
ample metal, good quality in hills and wadi bed.

N<sup>o</sup> 4 Section

From K 20 a to K 21 b. This section runs through  
a cultivated flat and only requires forming and metalting.  
It would be necessary to either quarry metal from  
the hills or transport metal from Wadies close by for  
this section of which there is ample within a mile  
radius from any point.

N<sup>o</sup> 5 Section

From K. 21 b to K 16 b. This section could be cut out and  
a new road made from K. 21 b to K 21 a then follow Wadi  
to K 6 b then up to J 31 central this road could be formed with very  
little trouble suitable for wheeled traffic.

A Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F.S.E. ops for April (Continued) War Diary (Appy. N° 2.)  
 Report of Roads travelled during recent operations.

See Sketch N° 3 Appy.

N° 6 Section.



From J. 31. central to join up N° 5 Road at Es Salt requires a tremendous amount of work, most of which would require blasting, advise branching off at Square J. 31C central through J. 31.a central J. 25d, c J. 25a to J. 25B this route would give easy grade and very little formation, ample good quality metal in this section, only requires breaking.

N° 6 Road.

Very little known from personal observation. Reports by outposts and patrols speak favourable, only requires metalling, ample material throughout route. All other tracks shown are only fit for pack transport and not worth considering owing to the roughness and steepness of the hills.

LABOUR REQUIRED.

<u>N° 1 Section.</u>	300 men	continuous	working	72 hours.
<u>N° 2 Section.</u>	200 "	"	"	48 "
<u>N° 3 Section.</u>	50 "	"	"	72 "
<u>N° 4 Section.</u>	100 "	"	"	24 "
<u>N° 5 Section.</u>	300 "	"	"	72 "
<u>N° 6 Section.</u>	300 "	"	"	72 "

or 80 men continuous working for 15 days (360 hours).

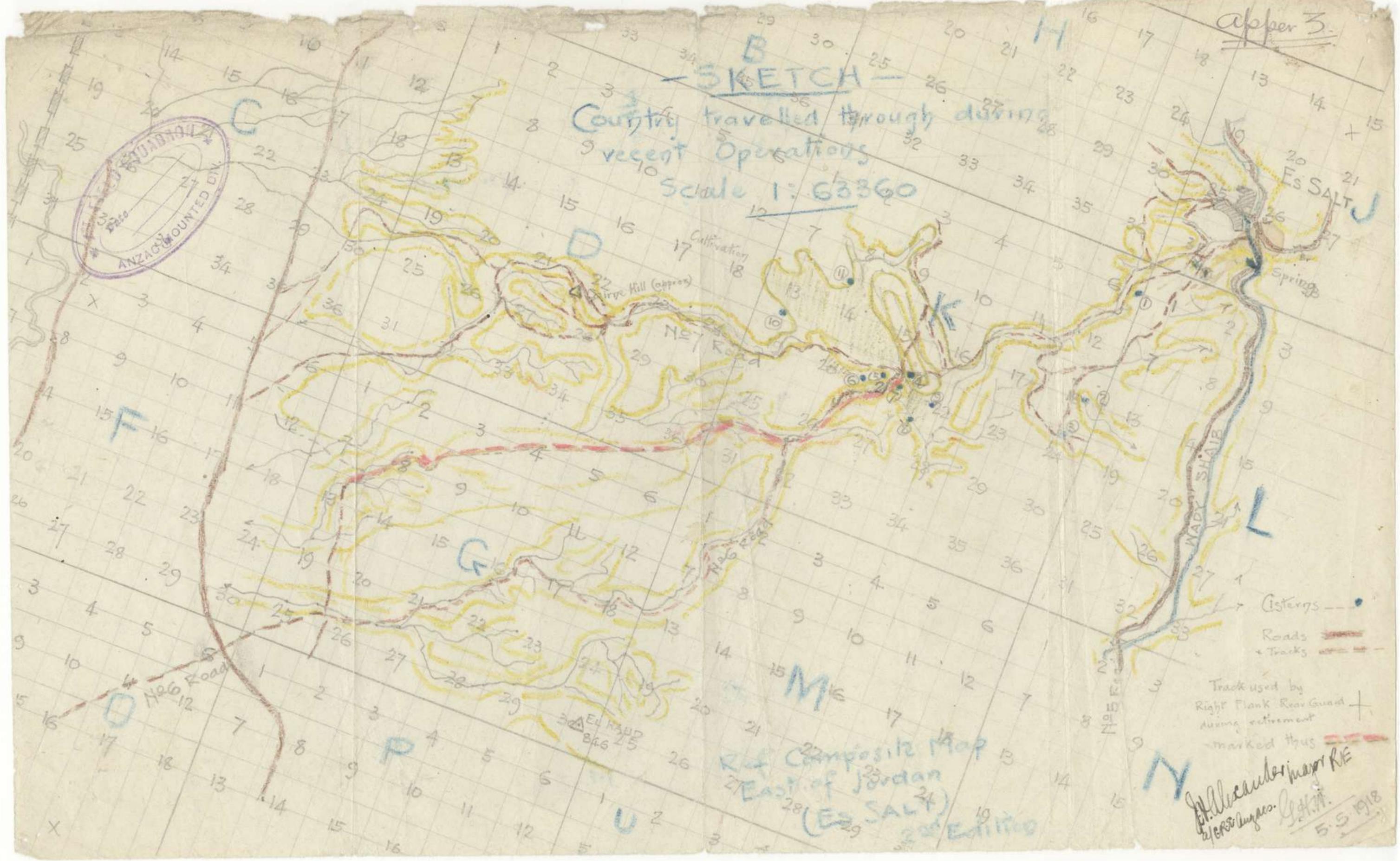
At present none of these roads are suitable for wheeled traffic, only pack transport or camels lightly loaded say 160 lbs

Upper 3.

SKETCH

Country travelled through during recent Operations

Scale 1: 63360



Cisterns  
Roads  
Tracks

Track used by Right Flank Rear Guard during retirement marked thus

Ref Composite Map East of Jordan (Es SALT) 2nd Edition

P. Alexander map RE  
at Camp. G.H.M.  
5.5.1918



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	B. FIELD TROOP	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI KELT. Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition L.19.c	MAY 1918.	1 <sup>st</sup> 55 <sup>th</sup>	During this period Lt Jones was in charge. Usual Troop duties were carried out. - Brigade watering was done in the <u>WADI KELT</u> Sheet XVIII K 24 d e.	
JERICHO BRIDGE Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition K.23. A & B.		9 <sup>th</sup>	Lt JONES evacuated to Hospital. - Lt Stever reported and took charge of the Troop - Moved troughs up <u>WADI KELT</u> above JERICHO BRIDGE and aqueduct. Natives in the Hills, dug up the stream thereby interfering with water supply at troughs - Had to send sappers up every morning to break down these dams (Location of Dams) Sheet XVIII K 26 b iv	
WADI NUEIAMEH. Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition L.2.		11 <sup>th</sup>	Moved camp to "AUSTRALIAN DIVISION" AREA and erected troughs on Wadi <u>NUEIAMEH</u> on drain drinking water still being drawn from <u>Tel-es SULTAN</u> . (Troughs Sheet XVIII, 113K5 b. SW.) (Drinking Same Map K.10.c.e.)	
TEL-ES SULTAN Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition K.9.b.		12 <sup>th</sup>	Sent to Descorps' Dump for Material and <u>GHORANIYEH</u> for woad timber for repairing troughs - Inspected watering area of 6 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt at <u>AUJAH</u> satisfactory finished crosses for 7 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt.	
GHORANIYEH Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Q.2		13 <sup>th</sup>	Making Hut for Brigade General - Repairing pumps and troughs	
AUJA Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Y 24 c, d.		14 <sup>th</sup>	Removed 4 troughs from drain to main stream owing to operations of "Mosquito Gang" - Shoeing horses - Drew 2 days emergency rations and one Iron Ration - Took summary of evidence case, "Joyce"	
AIN-EL-NUEIAMEH Map Jericho (B6) 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition H 25 b		15 <sup>th</sup>	Horse shoeing proceeding now for several days, going through Troop horses.	
		16 <sup>th</sup>	Cut bushes away from vicinity of Horse troughs	
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Dug up and detonated by exploded H.E shell which fell 100yds from camp	
		18 <sup>th</sup>	Laid out Road 27 under instructions from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Squadron (Australian M to Div.) Repairing timbers and shoeing Road 27 commencing Sheet XVIII 113K 10 a.s through 4b.NW-4d.NE-4b.NW crossing Wadi Nueiameh at 4a.e. through H 34 S.W-33d.W-33c.N-33a.NW	
		19 <sup>th</sup>	Inspected Road 27 route with Cap <sup>t</sup> Brisbane (2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S) to <u>AUJAH</u> crossing - Parties from Brigade. on this road - Sappers supervising	26 d SW - 26 c N - 20 s - 26 b NW to 14 d e through AKRABEH - 113-14 b - 8 central info 2 ds - 2 b se down wadi ABEID through sqrs 3a e B ne info Y 28 c se info 28 a f 23 c se to where it joins Wadi AUJA - 22 c e
		20 <sup>th</sup>	200 Men from Brigade on road 27. on the 21 <sup>st</sup> there were 300 of this Road. working	
		22 <sup>nd</sup>	0530 to 0800 and 1800 to 2000 - Sappers supervising every day. Moved camp to <u>Ain-el-NUEIAMEH</u> . erected 2 reservoirs for drinking water, covered (Sheet XVIII 113 H 25 d se)	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 759,000 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. FORMS/C. 2118/14



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Place	Map Date	Hour	B. FIELD TROOP Coytd	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI ABIDEH. Map Jerricho 800 U. P. a. S. C. 1st Edition	1918	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Some Syd put up waterbottle-filling apparatus, Erected 4 troughs for horses - Forced by drying up water area cleared out aqueduct for distance of 100yds. Forced off small garden from troughs. 300 other rays with property of officers working party on Road 27.	
		23 <sup>rd</sup>		Sited Trenched and wire at front line defence works :- 2 WILD 809yds wiring - 218yds trenches — Sheet XV. 113 H 3 a <sup>N</sup> 1 WOOD 300yds " " — " " " Y 27 d NW 3 WANE 400yds " 370yds " — " " " H 2 b centre 4 WART 910yds " 140yds " — " " " H 2 c e 5 WAX 1496yds " 344yds " — " " " H 7 a se	<p>leaving rd 27 at Sheet XVIII. H. 14 d<sup>N</sup> - 14 b<sup>NW</sup> to Sheet XV. 113 H 2<sup>NE</sup>          Through B centre - 8a<sup>NE</sup> to Wadi ABIDEH. 2<sup>cont</sup> on left          bank of wadi through H 2 b<sup>e</sup> - H 3 a<sup>cont</sup> - Y 27 c<sup>e</sup> 15          " Wood Post in Y 27 d NW.          Wax Road leaving rd 27 at Sheet XVIII. H 20 b<sup>W</sup> through 20 a<sup>NE</sup>          14 c<sup>SW</sup> 13 c<sup>SE</sup> thence by black track through 13 a on to Sheet XV. 113 H. 7 c<sup>E</sup>          into post at 7 a<sup>SW</sup></p>
				These totals, in addition to what was already done - "WOOD" the trenches were 70% touched Syd The lines of wiring were merely completed - "Wild" the 2 small pieces of trench were joined up. "WANE" new posts throughout - "WART" new wiring through out, communication & new trench laid out "WAX" communication to small trench and new fire positions and communication laid out.	
		24 <sup>th</sup>		Supervised distribution of material. Parties on roads as usual. 100% digging WANE. 125% on roads 3 Squadrons wiring	
		25 <sup>th</sup>		On roads. making watering area at aqueduct. - changing pumps - 5 MCOs or sappers on every night from 1900 to 2200 wiring and digging supervision - L <sup>ts</sup> Stocks 1/2 operations on Road 27 and all lateral roads between posts and branch roads feeding posts - Parties at times under shell fire. Horse killed on 27 at Square H. 14 d. south shelling interfered at times with laying out work	
		26 <sup>th</sup>		Usual parties wiring and digging and road making under same Engineer Supervision - Same Coyt on 27.	
		28 <sup>th</sup>		Same as 26 <sup>th</sup> also prospected hills East of Wadi ABIDEH for tracks suitable for packs. Dog and stone lined, holes in watercourse (waste aqueduct) for dipping water buckets - washing.	



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1918		B. TROOP <sup>contd</sup>	
ROMAN ROAD Sheet XV. H 6 Scale 1"=1 mile	29 <sup>th</sup>		Laid out road <sup>Road 32 *</sup> 12' wide down Wadi Abeideh from road 27 to Roman Road. Party of 100 and 2 officers on this road at night, too dark to do good work. Dug pits for B.A.C. for hand rifle grenades and erected Danger etc notice boards. Making notice boards for Roads and works for the last 4 days	
WADI OBEID. Sheet XVIII. I. A. B. Scale 1"=1 mile	30 <sup>th</sup>		Usual parties on works, wiring roads, inspecting sites for road from Wadi OBEIDEH northwards to Wadi OBEID through 6 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Camp - Cleaning out troughs	
AUJA BRIDGEHEAD. Jemcho (B 6) J. S. b	31 <sup>st</sup>		Refixing notice boards - Parties on works etc. 7 Men attached for duty from Brigade health of men not good - Horses fair - Under instructions from O/C 2 <sup>nd</sup> F.S.E. 2 men were detailed in case suddenly required, as our Quota of Party to maintain Barrel-Pier Bridges at AUJA Bridgehead: Probability of being required very remote.	
* Road 32 12' wide wheels single easy grades, leaving Rd 27 at point Sheet XVIII. H 14 d. <sup>SE</sup> and following the course of the Wadi ABU ABIDEH crossing and re crossing in a NE direction to where it crosses the Roman Road on Sheet XV. H 6 c. <sup>cont'd</sup>				



# WAR DIARY

OF

B Troop 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Engrs.

FOR

April.

1918

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

O.C.'s Report on Recent Operations

Specimen Copies of Wires on Recent Operations received by B.F.T.



O.C. = B Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F.S. Eggs (With 1<sup>st</sup> Bde A.I.H.) (Apper. I.)  
Report of Receipt Operations.

Summary of Events

Route.

From MAKHADET HAJLA to 127 Q 34b thence to 127 Q 30c, On A. thence to N<sup>o</sup> 7 road from Um Es-SHERT to ES SALT. Through ES SALT along metalled road to AIN HEMAR Square 029 and they back along metalled road to Sq J 32b and down N<sup>o</sup> 4 Road to Sq K 20d and 26b they back along N<sup>o</sup> 4 road to H 21 central they back again along N<sup>o</sup> 4 road to Sq K 8d and linked up with N<sup>o</sup> 7 Road at H 30d and tracked back along N<sup>o</sup> 7 rd to C 35a they to O.H.C., down N<sup>o</sup> 6 Rd to EL GHORANIYEH Bridge they to Bde area 113 L 25c

Place.  
MAKHADET HAJLA  
Composite Map E of Jordan  
ANZAC ES 311.T. 127.59b

UM ES-SHERT  
Composite Map E of Jordan  
ES SALT 127.F.2

ES SALT  
Composite Map E of Jordan  
ANZAC 127 J.26.

AIN HEMAR  
Composite Map E of Jordan  
ANZAC 1142 P.15

EL GHORANIYEH.  
Sheet XVIII 127 Q 2c.



WATER

The Troop watered the Bde on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 127.S.C.3. from the Jordan River a lift of 8ft is required here - The troop cleared away the undergrowth so that now 4 troughs and one reservoir can be erected with a good inlet and out let for horses and water carts. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the troop re-erected watering gear and watered Brigade from Jordan River at 127 Q 9c where the lift was 14ft to water level. - Arriving at Es Salt the Brigade (1<sup>st</sup>) watered at 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.I.H. troughs at square J.26.c where there was a plentiful supply of running water but fit only for horses

I prospected round and found a cistern containing approx 3000 galls in Sq J.15b which was chlorinated in the cistern and used by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.I.H. to fill water bottles and canteens. I also inspected the pool marked in sq J 15d and found a circular pond which appears to have been made, and measuring 100 feet dia: It is possible to water a Regiment at once at this place.

At AIN-HEMAR there are several springs flowing strongly, from which it is possible to water horses direct. This water is clear and fit for troops

At WADI SHAIIB there is a strong running stream with several good approaches for horses. Also several springs from which drinking water can be drawn

Bridges

While on track with 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde A.I.H. we saw only 2 Bridges, one at H 26c used to carry the water away from Es Salt. and one in Sq A 27c. a 11ft Spaw single arch over the Wadi SHAIIB. Both Bridges in good repair, very little damage.

Roads

The roads the Bde used. in good state of repair. Rd N<sup>o</sup> 7 when nearing Es Salt is a bit steep and rough. The metalled road from Es Salt to AIN HEMAR is quite good, appears to have been recently metalled.



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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY 1918		NZ FIELD TROOP.	
TEL-ES-SULTAN Map Jericho (B6) Part K. 23 sub. Scale 1:40,000	from 10 <sup>57</sup>	5 <sup>7</sup>	Report showing with "April's" Diary. Erected 4 Troughs on <u>WADI KULT</u> with 4 pumps for Bde watering, also erected two pumps for fresh water at <u>TEL ES SULTAN</u> .	
GHORANIYEH. Es Salt Street 127 Q 2d 1 <sup>st</sup> = 1 mile	6 <sup>7</sup>	7 <sup>7</sup>	Watered Bde and other Units. At 1800 Rackington and 17 <sup>9</sup> R proceeded to <u>GHORANIYEH</u> to take over Bridges from R.Es	
JERICHO. Map Jericho (B6) Part K. 23 sub. Scale 1:40,000.	8 <sup>7</sup>	8 <sup>7</sup>	Relieved the 519 <sup>th</sup> Coy R.Es of Portonoy and suspension Bridge. and advanced dump. M <sup>1</sup> Lange watered Bde. Dismantled Heavy Portonoy Bridge, making same into medium Portonoy Bridge, removed six portonoy and loaded same with Baulks and cresses on 16 Portonoy Waggon. Had fatigue party of 40 <sup>9</sup> R from W.M.R. for this work. Time taken to convert Bridge 3 1/2 hours (Also Load Wagons)	
			<u>FRESH WATER</u> - On east bank of Jordan erected two 30' x 30' Tarpaulins for drying water. for all troops in AREA, and placed pumps from 519 <sup>th</sup> Coy R.Es on same, for this work had fatigue party of 100 Indians with 40 Shovels and 20 Picks. The Tarpaulins were sunk in the ground and one set higher than the other, each tank holding approx 9,000 gals the higher tank was filled from the river and the water allowed to stand in same for sediment to settle at bottom, and then the water to be siphoned to lower tank 5 feet beneath and chlorinated in same. Water then drawn to water carts etc. Time occupied = 4 1/2 Hrs.	
			Maintained Portonoy and Footbridges and Dump. Also had 5 <sup>9</sup> R assisting in dismantling Barrel Pier Bridge which was being removed by Australian M <sup>10</sup> Div. Eggrs. M <sup>11</sup> Lange watered Brigade.	
			At 1400 handed over Portonoy and Footbridges to Major Morgan (1 <sup>st</sup> Division) B.E.F. and rejoined Bde at <u>JERICHO</u> - Watered Bde	
			Watered Bde - Sent limber to <u>GHORANIYEH</u> to collect timber to construct Batts for N.Z. Brigade	
			Watered Bde - Completed Shower Batts which was constructed as follows: 1,600 Gallon Cylindrical trough set on stand of 3 sets of legs made of 5" x 4" Timber and floored with 10 stapled rails and 2" Plykiing.	

(A2001) Wt. AV1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Form C2118/4



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# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>TALAT-ED-DUMM. SHEET XVIII 1136.136. Scale 1"=1 MILE</p>	<p>MAY 1918</p>		<p>N.Z. FIELD TROOP (Coys)</p>	
		14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>and having 6 Showers worked by string with arty attached to Circular Valve. (See SKETCH) Watered Brigade. Shower Bath. To dispose of refuse water from Showers, dug a series of channels and enclosed in stones to allow of waste water soaking away and evaporating; no waste water reaching gear or 25 yds from Wadi.</p>	
		15 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Watering Brigade</p>	
		16 <sup>th</sup>	<p>" " , after evening watering, lifted all water appliances and moved out with Bde at 1900 arriving at TALAT-ED-DUMM. at 2030</p>	
		17 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p>AT TALAT-ED-DUMM Watering Brigade at RES Troughs</p>	



A. P. & S. D., Alex. /  $\frac{3087}{1225}$  / 3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.

# WAR DIARY

OF

N.Z. Field Troop 1<sup>st</sup> F. S. Eggs

FOR

May 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Sketch of Shower Bath for N.Z.M.R. Brigade.