

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/37/10

Title: 2nd Field Squadron, Australian
Engineers

December 1917 (and duplicate)



AWM4-14/37/10

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

AUSTRALIAN
HEADQUARTERS EGYPT
Army Form C. 2118
(CENTRAL REGISTRY)
No C 69 / 1 / 104

E 38/1

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
	DECEMBER 1917			
	1		Field Squadrons are divided into two Parties @ Advanced party under Capt Brisbane in front line D. Rear Party under OC. in rear.	
	1.		<u>REAR PARTY</u> Fd. Squadron less parties from S.HQ + 3rd, 4th + 5th Field Troops moved to a site about 2 miles NE of Ramlah with all lead horses from front line less about 20. Developed water supply for whole Division in rear. Laid new belting + laid pipe line from engine house through orange grove.	
	2.		5th Field Troop less parties from front line moved from Deiran to LUDD (near Ramlah) and developed water for 5th Brigade - Rear parties carried on ordinary camp duties + sent supplies + reinforcements as necessary to front line. Weather was very wet + cold + accommodation bad for men. Camp was twice bombed by hostile aircraft. casualties 1 horse wounded only.	
	15.		S.HQ moved to EKRON and 3rd Troop camped at KATRA and 5th Troop at Deiran	
	17		Water was developed from wells with engine pumps already in use at EKRON + KATRA. Engines + pumps in very defective condition. OC with Jewish Engineer in charge of engine at EKRON	
	22		went to TAFFA to order spare parts + new jolting rods etc. Collected spare parts from Wagner's works at Gaffa.	
	25		5th Troop rear party moved from Deiran to AK YERBNA + developed water for 5th Brigade. weather exceptionally all sweet. Stores were purchased for men + some from RICHON. Tents were blown down in morning + camp flooded. Considerable sickness in Hdqrs + Troops. Local Cognac was easily obtainable in Ekron village in spite of orders prohibiting + several cases of disorder were reported by A.P.M. Christmas was a miserable day for all parties. Men in front line were provided with special food etc + some also.	
	28		S.HQ + Div Hdqrs moved to KATRA and joined 3rd Troop water supply further developed + men + horses were rested considerably. There were very wet + heavy + snow was cleared out with difficulty.	

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WAR DIARY

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E 38/x

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>Subachment in Hills</u>	
BIR MAIN	Nov. 24 th		Arrived BIR MAIN 2300.	
"	" 30 th		Watered 3 rd 4 th + 5 th Bdes at El Burg & the Div Troops at Bir MAIN. Country around El Burg very rough & track had to be made to cisterns.	
"	Dec. 1 st		Watering as yesterday - improving tracks to water areas	
"	" 2 nd		Attending watering of Division - water reconnaissance made in El Burg area.	
"	" 3 rd		Catchment areas around cisterns were improved. Trenches were dug & embankments made where necessary.	
"	" 4 th		Improving catchment areas.	
"	" 5 th		Watered 5 th Bde at SHILTA (enemy retired) 3 rd + 4 th Bdes at El Burg - many cisterns at Shilta, no wells.	
"	" 6 th		Making approaches to water area Shilta. Improved catchment areas.	
"	" 7 th		Work of yesterday continued today. Heavy rains - large quantity of water conserved in cisterns.	
"	" 8 th		Rough Lumber track made from El Burg to Shilta. Wet day - further water conserved.	
"	" 9 th		Watered 5 th Bde at Shilta, 3 rd Bde at ^{EL BURG} SUFFA & 4 th Bde at El Burg - plentiful supply water at Sufa.	
"	" 10 th		Watered 3 rd A.M. Bde at El Burg, 4 th Bde at SUFFA & 5 th Bde at Shilta. Con structing roads up to Sufa & through to front line.	

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32E/3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bir Main	Dec. 11 th		Constructing wagon road up to village from West side of hill.	
"	12 th		Watered 4 th & 5 th at SHILTA, 8 th Bde at Sufra, making road to Sufra	
"	13 th		Road suitable for all wheels was made from HARIYEH Palestini Shal XVII going N through 722 thence along Wady MUSLEB to Wady junction 713. A road suitable for wheels was also made along Wady MALAKEH from 713 to junction of Wady JAC2.1. Watering as of yesterday.	
"	14 th		Watered 4 th & 3 rd Bde at Sufra & 5 th Bde at Shilta. Improving road up Sufra Hill for guns.	
"	15 th		Watering as of yesterday. Water & Road reconnaissance in Wady MALAKEH and Wady KUREIKA.	
"	16 th		Recorded Notes of all rank in conscription. Reconnaissance of yesterday continued.	
"	17 th		Road & Water reconnaissance along front line immediately N of Sufra.	
"	18 th		Road & Water reconnaissance continued throughout forward area of Div.	
"	19 th		Developing 3 Wells in Bir Main Area.	
"	20 th		" " " " " " " " " " " "	
"	21 st		" " " " " " " " " " " " Improving & repaving road along Wady Musab.	

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E32/4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bri Main	Dec 22 nd		Developing the water supply in Bri Main area.	
"	23 rd		Watered 5 th Bde from newly developed well at Bri Main, 4 th Bde at ^{Shelta} Suffa, 3 rd Suffa.	
"	24 th		Water developing Bri Main. Repairing roads in Suffa area.	
"	25 th		Maintaining water supply at Bri Main, Suffa, Shelta. Very wet day a considerable amount of water was conserved in cisterns.	
"	26 th		Water developing water Bri Main. Improving catchment areas throughout the sector occupied by this Division.	
"	27 th		Div. moved forward. Watered 4 th Bde at Shelta, 5 th Bde at Suffa & 8 th Bde at BELAIN. Road reconnaissance along Wady Shamay Malaket. E.	
"	28 th		Watering as of yesterday. Constructed road along Wady Malaket from 713 to BELAIN.	
"	29 th		Constructing roads from Wady Shamay to KUDDIS & KHURBETHA IBN HARITH. Country very rough & broken, considerable amount of explosive work required to break through.	
"	30 th		Completed the construction of road from Wady Shamay to KHURBETHA. To W. KUREKA.	
"	31 st		Continued the construction of road from Wady Kureika towards KUDDIS. R.E.	

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[Signature]
Major R. E.
2nd 289

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AUSTRALIAN
HEADQUARTERS, EGYPT
Army Form C. 2118
(CENTRAL REGISTRY)
No 69 / 1 / 104
E 37/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	DECEMBER 1917			
			Field Squads are divided into two Parties @ Advanced Party under Capt Busbone in front line ②. Rear Party under OC in rear.	
			<u>REAR PARTY</u>	
	1.		1st Squadron less parties from S HQ + 3rd, 4th + 5th Field Troops moved to a site about 2 miles NE of Ramleh with all lead horses from front line less about 20. Developed water supply for whole Division in rear. Laid new boring + laid pipe line from engine house through orange grove.	
	2.		5th Field Troop less parties from front line moved from Deiran to L O O (near Ramleh) and developed water for 5th Brigade. Rear parties carried on ordinary camp duties + sent supplies + reinforcements as necessary to front line. Weather was very wet + cold + accommodation bad for men. Camp was twice bombed by hostile aircraft. Casualties 1 horse wounded only.	
	15.		S HQ moved to EKRON and 3rd Troop camped at KATRA and 5th Troop at Deiran. Water was developed from wells with engine + pumps already in use at EKRON + KATRA. Engines + pumps in very defective condition. OC with Jewish Engineer in charge of engine at EKRON.	
	17.		Went to TAPPA to order spare parts + new plunger rods etc.	
	22.		Collected spare parts from workshop works at Gaffa.	
	25.		5th Troop rear party moved from Deiran to <u>41</u> YEBNA + developed water for 5th Bde. Weather exceptionally cold + wet. Shoes were purchased for men (some from RICHON). Hats were blown down in morning + camp flooded. Considerable sickness in Hqs + Troops. Local coffee was easily obtainable in Ekron village in spite of orders prohibiting + several cases of disorder were reported by A.M. Christmas was a miserable day for all parties. Men in front line were provided with special food + wine also.	
	28.		S HQ + Dual Hqs moved to KATRA and joined 3rd Troop water supply. Further developed + men + horses were rested gradually. Tracks were now wet + heavy + move was carried out with difficulty.	

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(Erase heading not required.)

E 31/7

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>Subachment on Hill</u>	
	Nov 24		Rained Bar Mairi 2300.	
Bar Mairi	30 th		Watered 3 rd 4 th & 5 th Bdes at El Bury & the Des Troops at Bar Mairi. Country around El Bury very rough & track had to be made to cisterns.	
"	Dec 1 st		Making as yesterday - improving tracks to water areas	
"	2 nd		Abandoning Making of Domicin - water reconnaissance made on El Bury area.	
"	3 rd		Catchment areas around cisterns were improved. Trenches were dug & embankments made where necessary.	
"	4 th		Improving catchment areas.	
"	5 th		Watered 5 th Bde at SHULTA (enemy retired) 3 rd & 4 th Bdes at El Bury - many cisterns at Shelta, no wells.	
"	6 th		making approaches to water area Shelta. Improved catchment area.	
"	7 th		Work of yesterday continued today. Many pans - large quantity of water conserved in cisterns.	
"	8 th		Rough Lumber track made from El Bury to Shelta. Wet day - further water conserved.	
"	9 th		Watered 5 th Bde at Shelta, 3 rd Bde at ^{El Bury} SUFFA & 4 th Bde at El Bury - plentiful supply water at cisterns.	
"	10 th		Watered 3 rd 4 th Bde at El Bury, 4 th Bde at SUFFA & 5 th Bde at Shelta. Constructing roads up to Suffa & through to Mont Lorie.	

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32E/3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bir Main	Dec 11 th		Constructing wagon road up to village from West side of hill.	
"	12 th		Watered 4 th & 5 th at SHILTA, 8 th Bde at Sufra. Making road to Sufra.	
"	13 th		Road suitable for all wheels was made from HARIYEH Palestine Stn IV. going N through Sq. 722 thence along Wady MOSLAB to Wady junction 713. A road suitable for wheels was also made along Wady MALAKEN from 713 to junction of Wady 790.1. Watering as of yesterday.	
"	14 th		Watered 4 th & 5 th Bdes at Sufra & 5 th Bde at Shilta. Improving road up Sufra Hill for guns.	
"	15 th		Watering as of yesterday. Water & Road reconnaissance on Wady MALAKEN and Wady KUREIKA.	
"	16 th		Recorded Totals of all Rank in description. Reconnaissance of yesterday continued.	
"	17 th		Road & Water reconnaissance along front line immediately N of Sufra.	
"	18 th		Road & Water reconnaissance continued throughout forward area of Div.	
"	19 th		Developing 3 Wells in Bir Main Area.	
"	20 th		" " " " " " " " " " " "	
"	21 st		" " " " " " " " " " " " Improving & repairing road along Wady Musab.	

DEC 1917

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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E32/H

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bri Main	Dec 22 nd		Developing the water supply in Bri Main area.	
"	23 rd		Watered 5 th Bde from newly developed well at Bri Main, 4 th Bde at ^{Shelta} Sufra, 3 rd Sufra.	
"	24 th		Water developing Bri Main. Repairing roads in Sufra area.	
"	25 th		Maintaining water supply at Bri Main, Sufra, Shelta. Very wet day a considerable amount of water was conserved in cisterns.	
"	26 th		Water developing water Bri Main. Improving catchment areas throughout the sector occupied by this Division.	
"	27 th		Div. moved forward. Watered 4 th Bde at Shelta, 5 th Bde at Sufra & 8 th Bde at BELDIN. Road reconnaissance along Wady Shamay Malakel E.	
"	28 th		Watering as of yesterday. Constructed road along Wady Malakel from 713 to BELDIN.	
"	29 th		Constructing roads from Wady Shamay to KUDDIS & KHURBETHA IBN HARITH. Country very rough & broken, considerable amount of explosive work required to break through.	
"	30 th		Completed the construction of road from Wady Shamay to KHURBETHA. To W. KUREKA.	
"	31 st		Continued the construction of road from Wady Kureika towards KUDDIS.	

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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[Signature]

- DEC 1917