

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/8/7

**Title:** Headquarters 2nd Australian  
Divisional Engineers

March 1916



AWM4-14/8/7

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.)

| Place      | Date | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ferry Post | 1    | March | No event of importance. Work of tracklaying, roadmaking, laying of pipe lines, erection of handily plumbing plant, well sinking proceeding steadily.  |                                      |
|            | 2    |       | Capt Andrewartha left for provisional formations.   |                                      |
|            | 3    |       | Wells & troughs to water 1000 horses completed. These wells were sunk about 8 feet deep, in the desert not far from canal. The water proved not very suitable for horses, but mules & camels drink it, & it will do for ablution.<br>Pioneer Company being organised. Major Bannard, 7th Field Coy left to command.   |                                      |
|            | 4    |       | To Div Engineers "It is anticipated that the division will concentrate at Moascar at short notice preparatory to the move aaaa All surplus kit & units property must be cleared 2nd Aust Div<br>To D.H.Q. from CRE 2nd Aust Div begins "Reference number of camels of Egyptian Camel corps used roadmaking etc aaaa 150 Camels are used carrying RE <del>equipment</del> material at railhead otherwise engineers use none aaaa Consider 600 govt. camels could be usefully employed on roadwork, by dismissing 400 contractors camels, & 150 engineer store camels." |                                      |

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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|------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ferry Post | 7    | —    | <p>From 6<sup>th</sup> Fd Coy, 6 CRE 2nd Aust Div. Total length of Fire, traffic, communication &amp; support trenches is 13 miles and 'A' type bundling required for revetting both sides is 28 miles x 200 yds. This refers to a query as to amount of revetting material required by this company torevet both sides of the trenches within case, viz those occupied for defence by 6<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde</p> <p>To the same question, the o/c. 5<sup>th</sup> Coy, replied '21 miles'</p> |                                      |
|            | 4    |      | <p>Warned to expect early embarkation. Leave stopped</p> <p>CRE ordered No more engineer material to be sent out to front till our division was relieved.</p>  |                                      |
|            | 5    |      | 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Company concentrated at Ferry Post   |                                      |
|            | 6    |      | 2 officers & 108 110 other ranks left for Tel el Kebir, to form nucleus of the new field companies, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Divs.  |                                      |
|            | 5    |      | Major Bonnard, 7 <sup>th</sup> Fd Coy, joined Pioneer Battalion (No 2) dated 2nd March   |                                      |
|            | 6    |      | 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Coy's left for Moascar   |                                      |
| Moascar    | 7    |      | New Zealand Engineers commence to take over.   |                                      |
|            | 8    |      | Hdqrs D.E. moved to Moascar  |                                      |
|            |      |      | 7 <sup>th</sup> Field Company moved to Moascar   |                                      |

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5

| Place   | Date  | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-------|-------|--|--------------------------------------|
| MOASCAR | March |       |  |                                      |
|         | 9     |       | Companies trained a little at pontooning, by day & night, demolitions, drill, and knotting & lashing   |                                      |
|         | 15    |       |  |                                      |
|         | 16    |       |  |                                      |
|         | 13    |       | 7 <sup>th</sup> Field Company left for France  |                                      |
|         | 16/17 | night | 5 <sup>th</sup> Field <del>Company</del> & Hdqrs D.C. left Moascar for France  |                                      |
|         | 17    |       | Embarked on HMAT Arcadian, with 5 <sup>th</sup> F.C., less mounted section.  |                                      |
|         | 23    |       | Hdqrs D.C. reached Marseilles  |                                      |
|         | 25    |       | Hdqrs D.C. " Lambres, & went into billets  |                                      |
|         |       |       | Weather very wet, with a little snow, for the last few days. Whole of country in neighbourhood sodden. Can seldom dig more than 2' or 3', & sometimes less, before striking water. |                                      |
|         | 28    |       | Hdqrs D.C. moved to BLARINGHEM.  |                                      |
|         | 29    |       | } Units practised in advancing thro' gas, using their helmet.<br>} A Col. of infantry gassed by accident.  |                                      |
|         | 30    |       |  |                                      |
|         | 31    |       | Inspection by Lord Kitchener. 5 <sup>th</sup> Fd Coy was the only Australian Company paraded.  |                                      |

James Murray

