AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
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Subject 3.2. YPRES SALIENT. 25 SEPT-14 OCT.16.

Referred to by.	Date.	Referred to by.	Date.	Referred to by.	Date.
LEFT ARMY.		SECOND ARMY.			
LEFT CENTRE CORPS.		I ANZAC CORPS.			
LEFT DIVISION.		2 AUST.DIV.			
		" ENGINEERS."			

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This File must be Kept Intact.

2nd AUST. DIV. ENGINEERS.

To 2nd Aust. Div.

RECORDS, DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No. E198
WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Attached report on O.P. Cover.

1. Loophole too small for full use of field glasses.
2. Protective plate in observer's way, but this is easily remedied.
3. Limitation of field of view. This again is usually minimised as one area only is probably required.
4. It would seem to be useful in certain cases & for certain sites: but different conditions along the front open up different possibilities of arrangements.

27.9.16.

S Thewcombe
Colonel
CRE 2nd Aust Div

5th Div. Coy R.E. B17.

In the Field

To C.R.E. 2nd Aust Div. Engrs

re Works to be carried out by 5th Brigade

In addition to the work previously mentioned in my previous note. The following is to be included.

a Four M.G. dug outs are being Constructed. Men available 16 Sappers & 48 Infantry. (24 permanent M.G. Gunners & 8 per Battalion out of the Line permanent during the battalion out.)

b Two Trench Mortar positions to be completed. 2 Sappers & men.

c Deep Dug Out. being Carried on in Winnepeg. near Tor Top 35 Infantry

d. New track from Sanctuary Wood dump to Crab Crawl & Tor Top. Work Marked track formed and to be duckboarded & to be completed by this week.

e Wiring in Front. 12 Coils per night on Left & Centre Sects.

W.A. Henderson Major
O.C. 5th Field Co R.E.

27/9/16

5th Div. Coy R.E. B17. 27/9/16

Programme of Work
for Week ending 7 October

LEFT SECTOR. Front Line	Trenches	Type of Work	Available No Men	Quantity Work to be done
Right Trenches	63-67	Revetting & Duckbdg.	50	Revetting. Task 100 yds for Week.
Centre "	68-71		45	
Left "	72-74		30	
LEMISTER TRENCH.		Revtg-Duckbdg		56 yds for Week
BOND ST.		Revetting. (Frames already in position)		200 yds for Week
OXFORD ST (W. Regent St to Bond St.)		Revtg (To be completed)		
WEST REGENT ST		Repair to Revtg & Duckboarding		50 yds for Week.
CENTRE SECTOR				
Cross St. Trench.		Revetting & Dbdg.		35 yds for Week
Warrington Ave (Extens.)		" "		40 yds for Week
Vigo St (forward part.)		Complete "Excavations &		10 yds Revtting.
Vancouver St.		Revetting & Dbdg	200 Men.	25 yds for Week
Tor Top		" "		70 yds for Week
Crab Crawl.		" "		35 yds for Week
Draining to Vancouver. Cross & Lovers Walk		Vigo St Revetting & Dbdg.		40 yds for Week
General Drainage		to all Trenches.		throughout
Deep dug outs on Menin Rd to be				completed.

W.A. Henderson Major
O.C. 5th Field Co R.E.

2nd Aust Div Engrs

5th Field Coy A.E. B17 In the Field

To G.O.C. 5 Brigade

re allotment of work during the following week for 22nd & 23rd Battalions 6th Brigade and 18th & 20th Battalions 5th Brigade

Left Sector Front Line trenches 63-67, 68-71, 72-74 Work to be carried out by Battalion in the line viz 23rd 6th Brigade 125 men available for Work.

Leinster St, Bond St, Oxford St & West Regent St by Battalion out of line 22nd 6th Brigade.

120 men are available for this work.

Centre Sector Front line trench viz Cross Trench Vancouver St & Tor Top, Crab Crawl to be carried out by Battalion in the line 175 men available for this work. (20 Battalion 5th Brigade

Warrington Avenue extension, Vago St, Lovers Walk Border Lane Work to be done by Battalion out of the line 18th 5th Brigade. 120 men available for this work. 40 to be provided by the Battalion in the line & 80 by the Battalion out.

Special parties Duckboard track from Sanctuary Wood dump to Crab Crawl & Tor Top. 20 men from 18 Battalion

Extension of Tramway (Zillebeke dump Tramway) to Sanctuary wood dump. 30 men from 18 Battalion (This work to be put in hand this week)

W A Henderson Major
O.C. 5 Field Co A.E.

29/9/16

2 aust Div Engrs

5th Field Coy A.E. B17 In the Field

To C.R.E. 2 Aus Div Engrs

re Programme of Work-

The following is a copy of a memo issued by Brigade for work to be done during following week —— Left Sector Front Line Trenches 63-67, 68-71, 72-74 to be done by 23 Battalion 6 Brigade 125 men available for works.

Leinster St, Bond St, Oxford St, West Regent St by 22 Battalion 120 men for these works.

Centre Sector Cross Trench, Vancouver St, Tor Top & Crab Crawl by 20 Battalion 175 men available for work. Warrington Avenue extension, Vago St, Lovers Walk & Border Lane 120 men available for work 40 being provided by Battalion in the Line (20th) and 80 by the 18th who are out.

Special parties Duckboard track from Sanctuary Wood dump to Crab Crawl & Tor Top Trenches 20 men from 18 Battalion

Extension of Zillebeke Tramway from Lovers walk to Sanctuary wood dump 30 men from 18 Battalion (This work to be commenced this week.) For Quantities & Tasks see programme of work dated 27/9/16.

W A Henderson Major
O.C. 5 Field Co A.E.

29/9/16

5th Field Coy RE. B17.

In the Field

To Cap Stelle

re M.G. emplacements. Please arrang to have the 5 F.C men on M.Gs replaced by 7 men as the sections relieve one another. making your own arrangement with Polson for the time being as he is acting as Cap Webb second I.C.

The men from N° 3 & 4 section on Tramway under Barrett do not relieve until N°1 section is relieved.

The O.P on China Wall - Ellis will carry on until N°1 Section is relieved so as to give the new 7 Sapper the run of the job.

I think the M.G 5 Sappers might work through one night with the 7 men to give them the run of the job.

Attached is the proggramme of the reliefs to be carried out

W A Henderson Major
O.C. 5 Field Co R E

3/10/16

nd
2 Aust Div Engrs

5th Field Coy RE. 3-10-16 In the Field B17.

To Cap Webb nd 2 Aust Div Engrs

O C 7 F. Coy R.E.

Herewith arrangements arrived at in conjunction with you re change over of Sections.

3rd Three N.C.Os of N° 3 Sec. 7 Coy. will report out to Ypres 5th Lt Wilkes who will arrange to take them over the work in the early morning of the 4th. (These N.C.Os to take over the work of N° 3 Section of 5 F.C)

4th Lt Fiddler & 2 N.C.Os of N° 3 Sec 7 Coy will report at Ypres 6pm to Lt Wilkes who will arrange to take them over work in the early morning of the 5th (Lt Fiddlers Section to take over work of N° 4 Section of 5 F.C) Lt Fiddler to be shown whole of the left Section as he will overlook work of two Sections N° 3 & 4 of 7th.

Cap Webb & Maj Henderson will arrive at 5 F.C offices at 6pm and will go over the whole line from left to Right on the morning of the 5th. (Cap Webb, Maj Henderson, Lt Fiddler will have their dinners before they leave back Billets on the 4th but Breakfast will be required at 5 Coy offices at 4 am on morning of 5th)

5th Lt Fiddler & Wilkes over left Section Cap Webb and Maja Henderson over whole section. (Breakfast 4 am)

N° 3 Section 7 Coy go in & relieve N° 3 Section

1 of

B17

of 5 Coy at 3 p.m.
Papers etc to be handed over to 7 Fuld Co.

6 17° 4 Section 7 Coy goes in & takes over from 4th Div 4 Section of the 5 Coy at 3 p.m.

7 17°2 Section 7 Coy go in and take over from the 17°1 Sec 5 Coy. relief at 3 p.m.

Lt Polson to make arrangements with Capt Steele re change over.

Transport arrangements 7 Transport will bring both Cos & Stretchers of the 5 F.C. Sections relieved. Transport for 17°1 Section Fifth F.C to be arranged by Capt Steele.

W. A Henderson Major
O.C 5 Fuld Co A.E.

3/10/16

Copy to Capt Steele.

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION 339/5/152 SUB-SECTION B

To 2nd Aust. Div.

Herewith plans (1) Mount Sorrel Dugouts on large scale
(2) Hedge Street "
(3) Crab Crawl "
(4) New Torr Top "
(5) General plan on $\frac{1}{2500}$.

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. G3/173

(1) now provide accommodation for about 40 men & will provide for 90 men by end October.
180 " — November.

(3) provides accommodation for about 20 men now. Dugouts in Hedge Street & Torr Top are in course of construction. Those near Wells Street & Peters Street have not yet been started.
The small scale plan ($\frac{1}{500}$) shows where these dugouts will go: and it is suggested that they should all be of standard type & all enter into Winnipeg Street & be approximately parallel to this support line.
(5) Shows general plan of dugouts & also neg. dugouts required in front line.

A. Brewerton
C.R.E. 2 Aust Div

5.10.16

copy to Canadian Tunnelling Coy.

HDQRS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS No. E 348 WORKS 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

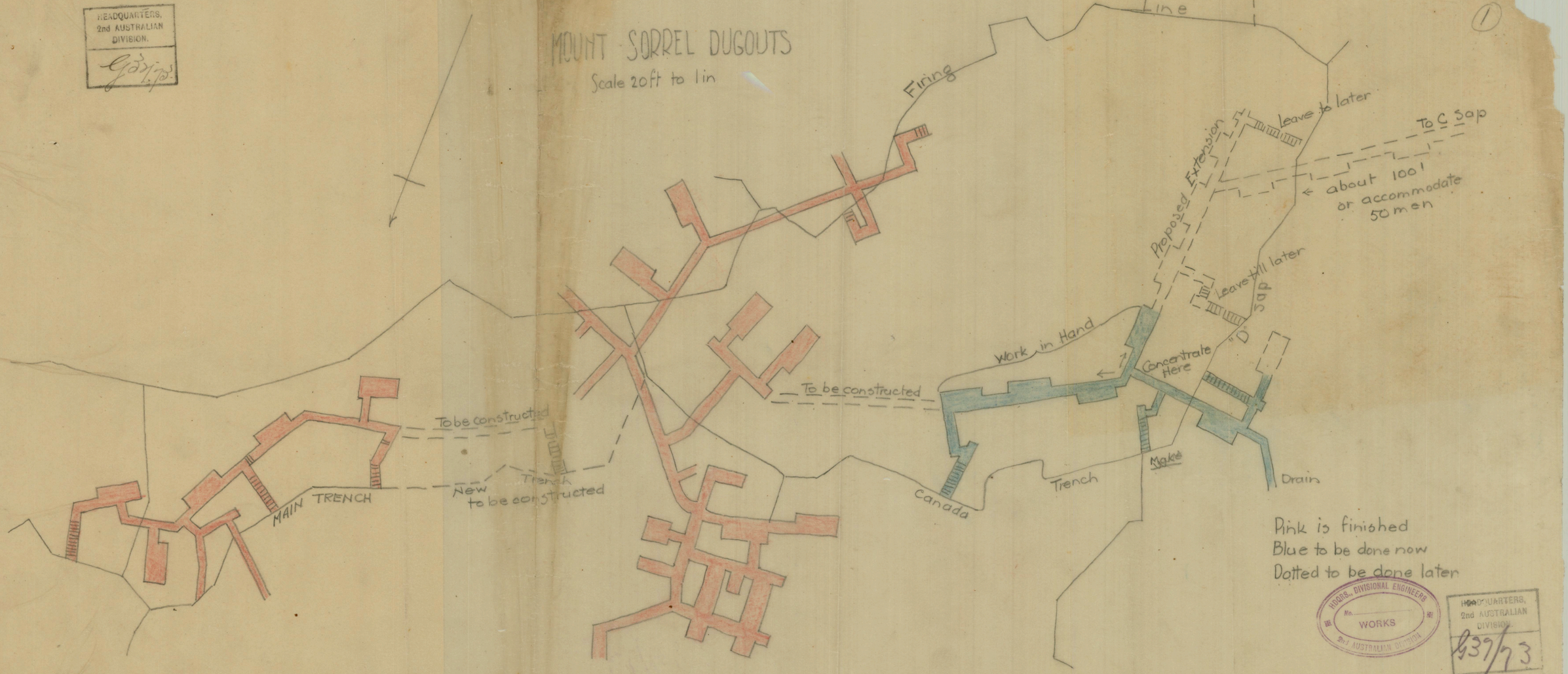
N.B. Please acknowledge by wire. Done 6.30.

G.O.C.
7.5.16

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
G.S.

MOUNT SORREL DUGOUTS

Scale 20ft to 1in



Pink is finished
Blue to be done now
Dotted to be done later

HDQRS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No. WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

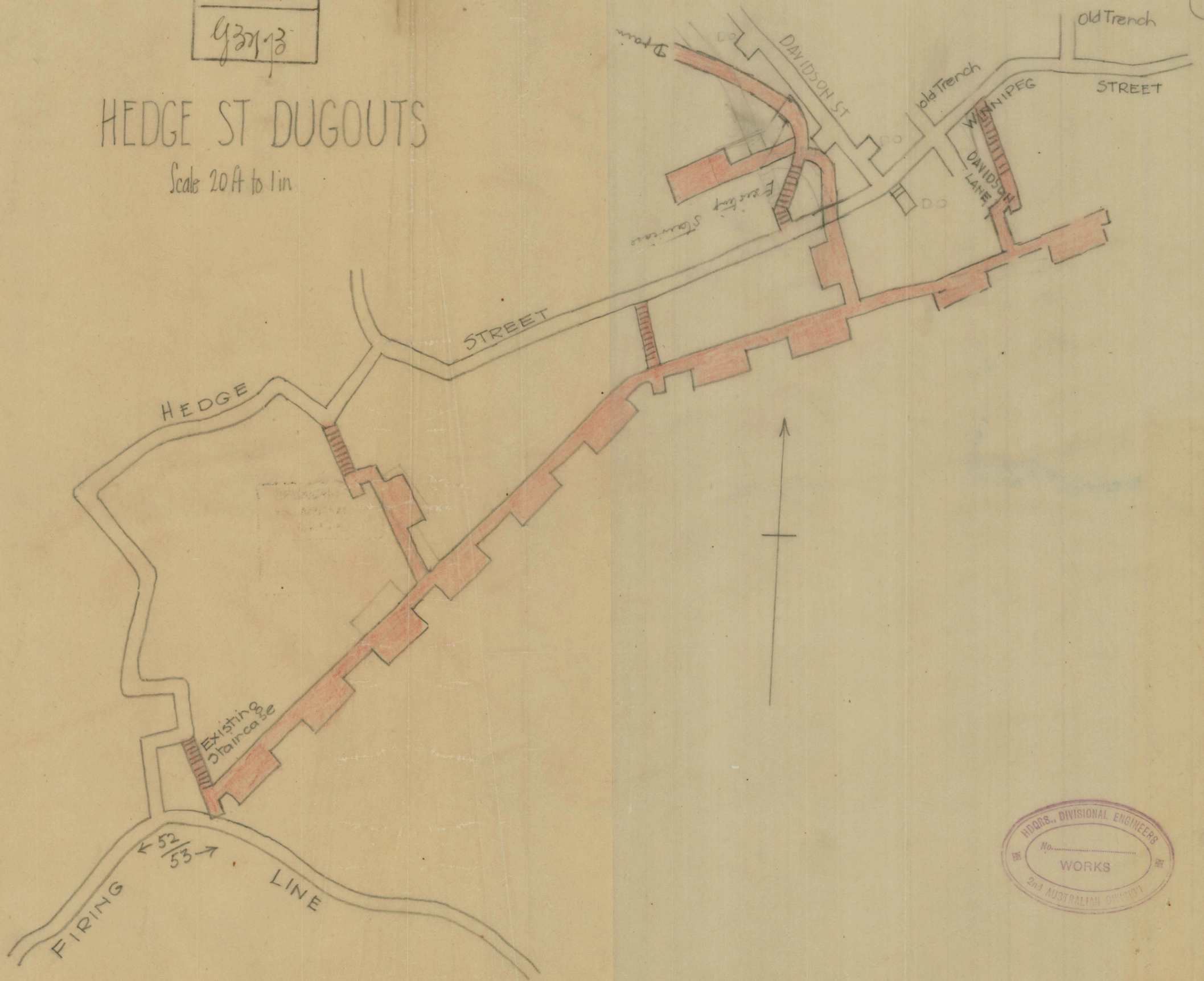
HEADQUARTERS,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
339/73

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
G3/13

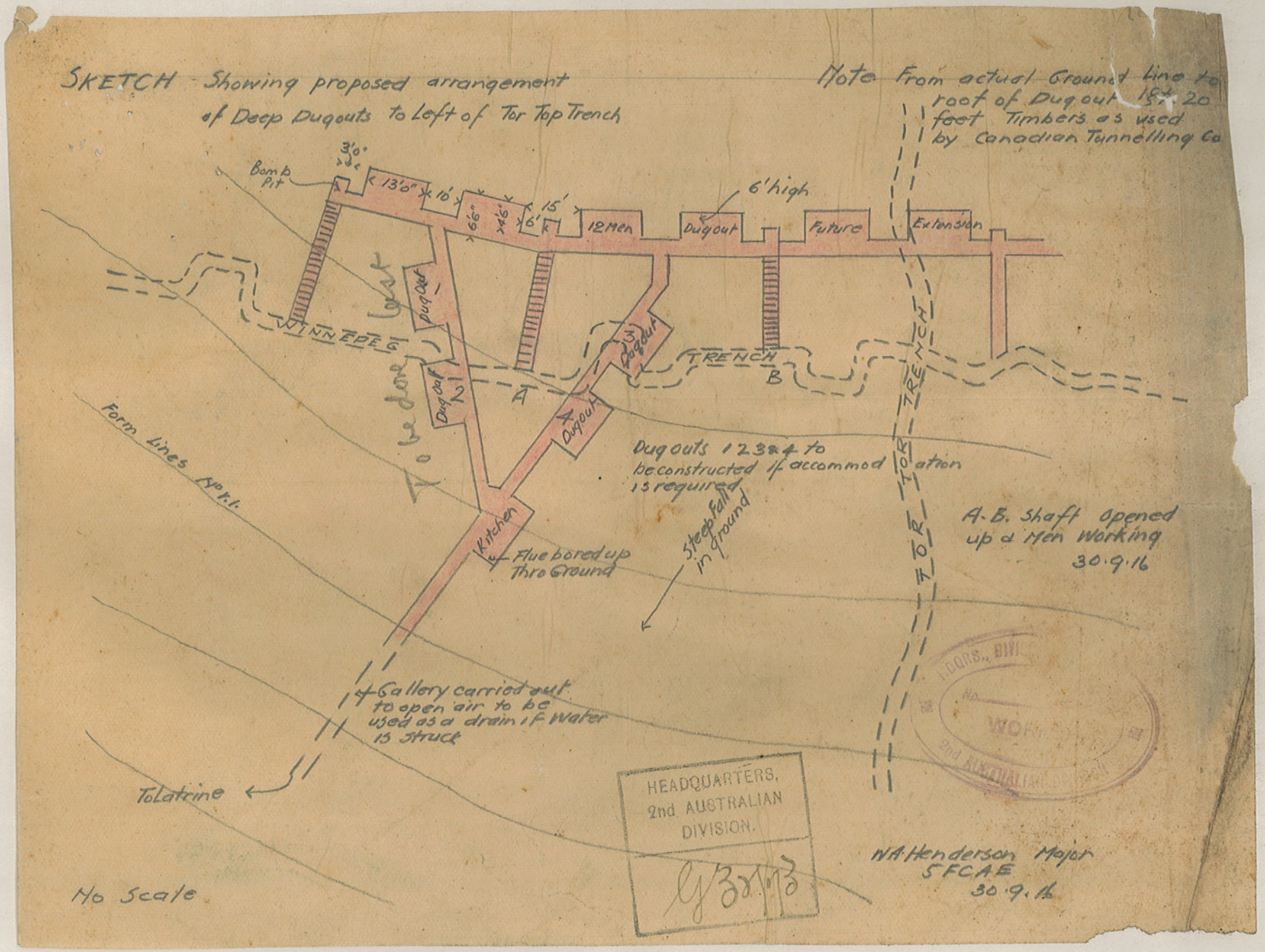
(2)

HEDGE ST DUGOUTS

Scale 20 ft to 1 in

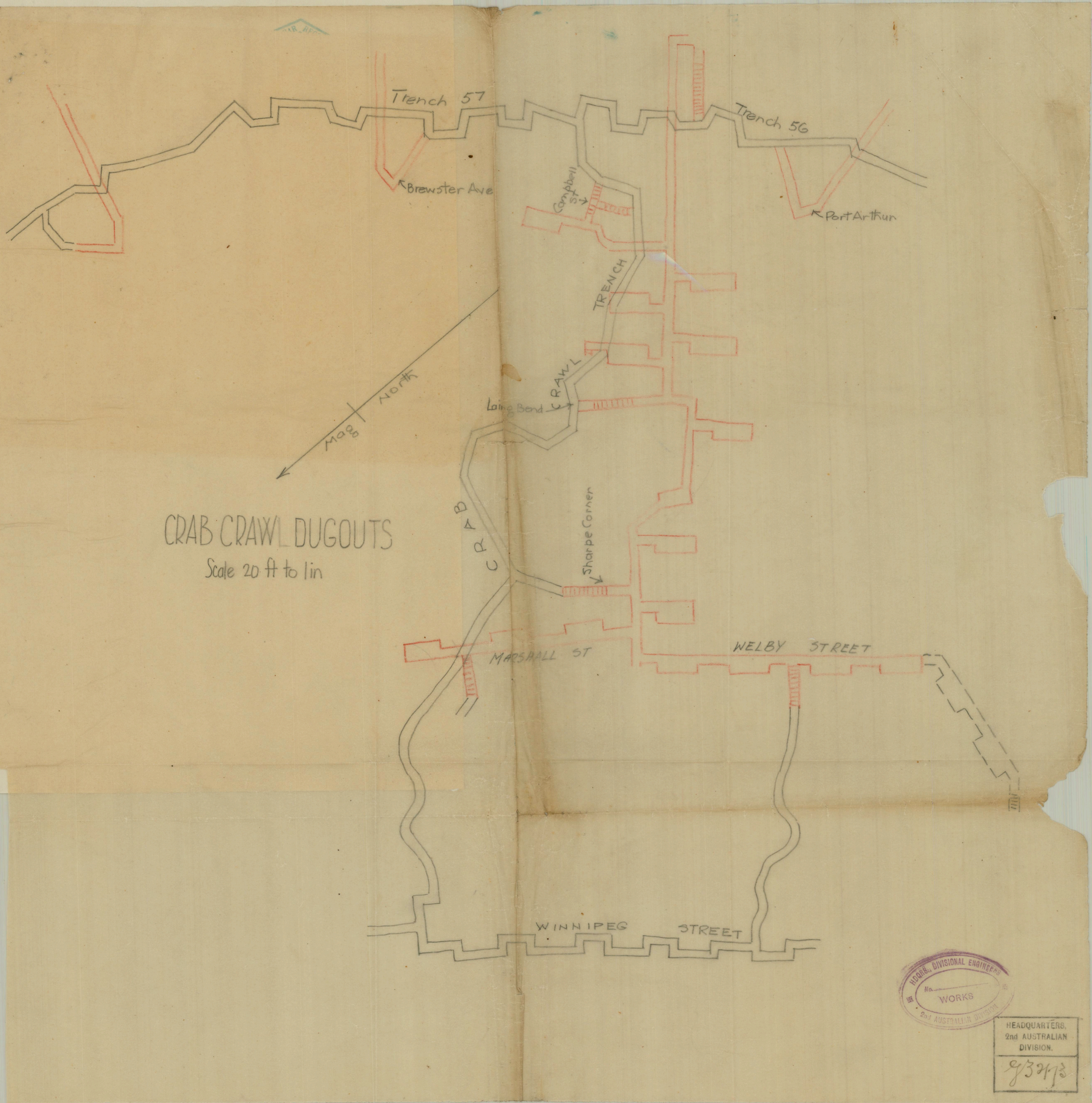


HDQRS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No.
WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION


SKETCH Showing proposed arrangement of Deep Dugouts to Left of Tor Top Trench
Note From actual Ground Line to roof of Dugout 18ft 20 feet Timbers as used by Canadian Tunnelling Co
3'0"
Bomb Pit
13'0"
10'
6'6"
4'6"
15'
6'
12 Men
6' high
Dugout
Future
Extension
WINNIPEG
To dug out
Dugout
Dugout
Dugout
Dugout
TRENCH
A
B
TOR TRENCH
Form lines Sept 1.
Dug outs 1 2 3 & 4 to be constructed if accommodation is required
Steep fall in ground
A.B. Shaft Opened up & Men Working 30.9.16
Kitchen
Flue bored up Thro Ground
4 Gallery carried out to open air to be used as a drain if Water is Struck
To Latrine
No Scale
HEADQUARTERS, 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
W.A. Henderson Major 5 FCAE 30.9.16

CRAB CRAWL DUGOUTS

Scale 20 ft to 1in



HDQRS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No.
WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.
9/32/73

24



HDQRS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No.
WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.

5th Pnrs Coy AC.

12/10/16 B17.

To Col Armand
C.O 2 Pioneer Battalion

Col Newcombe has asked me to look at the road from Stafford St. (I 24 c 5.6½) to Canteen Wood Dump (I 24 c 9.5) he wishes it pushed on.

I noticed that the loop has been started and the work seem to be at a standstill.

This road is unmade and gets into a very bad condition and is absolutely necessary for the winter months.

The ending should the Dump when the heavy trench mortars is in action or when our artilly attacks. Could you arrange your party to get on to the work in early morning before shelling begins.

W A Henderson Capt & Adjt.
for C.R.E 2nd Aus Div Engrs

5th. FIELD COY. A.E.

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
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

124

VOLUME XII

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES.	8/10/16	8 AM.	5th Field company relieved on the line by the 7th Field company. 5th company in billets on back area. Ontario Camp. H.Q. J.9.3. and took over 7th Field company work.	
ONTARIO CAMP	9/10/16	-	Back Billets Work on stables + Hutting for Artillery and Infantry Camp	

In the Field

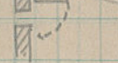
To C.R.E. 2 Aus Div

re Steel Loop hole O.P. Cover.

I have examined the cover and submit the following remarks for your consideration.

1 The loop hole is too narrow and will not allow for the free use of field glasses

2 The protective plate which shuts down over the loophole is projecting & in the way of the observer see sketch



3 The limit of the observer vision is fixed to one arc only & does not give the same scope as is secured when using a telescope periscope

4 This O.P. Cover has been drawn and will be in position about the 28" on the left side of CRAB CRAWL near Vancouver St.

5 General opinion of the Artillery Officers on the line is that they prefer a cover for the telephonist & an open position to observe from which they do by using a periscope over the parapet. A deep dug out being provided for cover during a shaff.

W A Henderson Major

23/9/16 O.C. 5th Field Co A.E.

HDQRTS., DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
No. E198
WORKS
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

If the foregoing does not cope with the water a tunnel drain is to be put in across the Menin Rd at H" and a drain J cut to carry water into the low ground behind Oudfort Farm.

Water which is now pumped out of dugout is discharged into shell holes on the South side of Menin Rd. and allowed to stay there and probably seeps back into dug out.

It is proposed to dig a drain D" from this point and connect into B"

To make these dugouts of efficient use. a small motor engine & pump should be installed this engine also to provide lighting for Dugouts.

W A Henderson Major

30/9/16 O.C. 5th Field Co A.E.

6th. FIELD COY. A.E.

4	26.9.16		2/Lieut RENSHAW. HC wounded & evacuated to Hospital.

H C Harris Major
O.C. 6TH FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS A.I.F.

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

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
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

8TH FIELD COMPA[illegible] ERS A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

136

VOLUME VI

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	12.10.16		2/Lieut A. H. FREEMAN. taken on strength from reinforcements	
"	13.10.16		Took over HILL 60 sector from 1st FIELD Coy. A.E.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION B545/9/177 SUB-SECTION

Lieut. Gilchrist 27.3.16

Transport as usual tomorrow night – notwithstanding change over.

Some one – I think Hatcher – told me tonight that our motor bicycle is now in possession of the CRE. Make any convenient arrangement for getting it out, but advise verifying information first.

Please ascertain if shortage of materials today is due to Park Indent – if so we might give them a standing order for revetting materials, including about 60 yds per day for infantry. We are supposed to have 6 days. Train wagons tonight tomorrow and the next night, reporting at Dump at 4 p.m.

Major

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION B545/9/309 SUB-SECTION

27.3.16

To O.C. 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Coy

Could I see Major Bullock or an officer familiar with REDAN locality and OBSERVATORY RIDGE this afternoon or evening? If so what time would be most convenient for me to call.

Major R.E.
O.C. 4th Field Coy

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
B545/9/307
CLASSIFICATION SUB-SECTION

27.9.16

From O.C. 6th Field Coy A.E.
To O.C. 'B' Coy 2nd Pioneer Bn.

For the information of G.O.C. 5th A.I. Bde will you please advise me as to length of new communication trench to right of Mount Sorrel which has now been revetted?

Also how soon can we again have the use of your baths? Re pump, I should be glad to lend you one of ours if no others are available, but Capt Cochrane Hdqrs. Div. Engrs informs me that there are plenty at Hutting Camp. Will you therefore please try there first?

Will you also please advise whether, and if so when, you will be opening up St PETER ST. from WINNIPEG ST to the front line?

H Chevasse Major
O.C. 6th Field Coy A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
B545/9/307
CLASSIFICATION

27.9.16

G.O.C. 5th A.I. Bde
C.R.E. 2nd Aust Div.

The following is recommended as a programme of work for 17th Bn during its 9 days out of the line, based on the employment of 300 men (exclusive of N.C.O's) for 6 hours per day.

HEDGE ST :- Complete cleaning out and revetment from WINNIPEG ST to FRONT LINE

WELL ST :- ditto

WINNIPEG ST :- Clean out and revet on each side 200 yards between HEDGE & ST PETER STS

CANADA ST
TIVING TRENCH } ; ditto 150 yards
(MT SORREL)

DEEP DUG OUTS (MT SORREL WINNIPEG ST) { Supply 24 men per day to assist Engrs 178th Bde Party (these men to be forwarded)

It is not considered that more than 200 men per day could be

both effectively and safely employed in the area for which Engineers and Infantry are responsible, but if the Pioneers were moved from DAVIDSON to ST PETER ST to continue the latter through to the front line the clearing out and revetment of an additional 150 yards of DAVIDSON ST. might be added to the programme.

It is considered that the programme is reasonable if

(a) Amount of effective transport now available is not reduced;

(b) Enemy artillery and trench mortars activity does not increase or vary in such a way as to interfere with works any more than at present;

(c) Present fine weather continues,

(d) Materials are available as required, but allowances will have to be made if all of these conditions are not fulfilled.

W.C. Harvey Major
10th Bn. Aust. Pnr. AIF

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION SUB-SECTION
A 525 | 9 | 309

27. 9. 16

G.O.C. 5th Aust. Div.
C.R.E. 2nd Aust. Div.

The following is suggested as a programme of work for 17th Bn during its 7 days out of the line based on available fatigue strength of 230 total or say 200 actual on the works:—

HEDGE ST — Complete clearing out and Revetment WINNIPEG ST to FRONT LINE
WELL ST — ditto
WINNIPEG ST — ditto — at least 150 yds between HEDGE & ST PETER STS
CANADA ST & LIVING TRENCH (MT SORREL) — ditto — 150 yds

DEEP DUG OUTS (MT SORREL & WINNIPEG ST) — Supply 2 men per day if desired Engineers with Bde Party

The foregoing programme is quite reasonable if

(a) Amount of transport now available (effective) is not reduced,

29/9/16

To C.R.E. 2nd Aust. Div.
5th Bde H.Q.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION 545/10/163

I beg to recommend that the following tasks be allotted to the incoming battalions of 7th A.I.Bde to be completed during the week following the arrival in the line of 27th Bn:—

For Bn. in line:- 200 yards of front line trench to be graded revetted and duckboarded. This involves the battalion carrying all materials required for the task from SANCTUARY and SORREL dumps.

56 men to be supplied in reliefs for 6 hours per day as at present for construction of deep dug outs.

Barbed wire entanglements to be put out at ~~etc~~ unprotected points as opportunity occurs.

For Battalion in Reserve

ST PETER and DAVIDSON Streets to be completely graded, revetted and duckboarded.

WINNIPEG ST to be completed to the right of ST PETER ST.

(2)

CANADA ST and LIVING TRENCH on MT SORREL to be completed.

HALIFAX ST - 50 yds to be revetted and duckboarded.

In addition carrying parties required for above materials and for mining sets and 7th men for deep dug out work must be supplied as at present.

In recommending the foregoing tasks I assume that ~~the~~ each battalion will be at approximately the same strength as the battalions which they relieve.

The reasonableness of the tasks will also depend as before on the weather, supply of materials, transport and artillery and trench mortar activity.

A.C. Harris Major
OC 6th Field Coy AE

AUST. WAR MEM. RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION SECTION
545 | 10 | 163

29.9.16

From OC 6th Field Coy R.E.
To CRE 2nd Aust. Div.

Herewith are plan and section drawings showing general proposals for main tunnels in OBSERVATORY RIDGE. It is intended to run the main gallery under the bank to the south of OBSERVATORY RIDGE ROAD in order to get a maximum of cover. Owing to the certain proximity of water level it is uncertain as to just how far back on the ridge we will be able to carry the works but it is tentatively proposed to grade the tunnel as shown and drain by driving out to the north slope of the hill at not less than three points, A, C and E.

As soon as sufficient dug outs are constructed off existing galleries to accommodate the working party we will dig drainage gallery from A as low

(2)

as possible. And after this has been started it will be possible to say more definitely where the changes of grade and what the head cover will be.

When this is under way the drains from C and E can be similarly located and definite information will then be available as to levels throughout. At present it is believed that something approximating to the levels shown can be adhered to but the scheme is such that an error of two feet in levels would greatly affect its value.

I have only sufficient men on this work to keep 3 faces going and they are at present very usefully employed in increasing the accommodation so that further information will not be available for ~~two~~ three or four days at the earliest. In the meantime if is considered that everything we are doing is worth while.

WC Harvie Lugg
OC 6th Field Coy

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION B65 1/10/163 SUB-SECTION

29.9.16.

5th A/I Bde H.Q.
C.R.E. 2nd Aust. Div.

Re proposed extension of STEWART STREET it is considered that the purposes to be obtained are

(a) To obtain a front line of which the various elements will be better able to afford each other mutual support than at present

(b) To gain a support line to trenches 51 and 52 where we are at present very weak

(c) To increase accommodation for garrison holding that part of the salient.

little consideration has been given to siting. The trench to make a merely nominal gain of ground the possession of which would not strengthen our position

After examining the ground very carefully from the above points of view I would

(2)

advise along the alignment shown in red on attached air photograph and sketch

The features which make this line more or less obligatory are a spur running down roughly south east between "H" and "I" sapo. and a rather low re-entrant in a southerly direction between "F" and "G" sapo. Adoption of this line will give excellent enfilading Lewis gun positions at three points in the frontage affected.

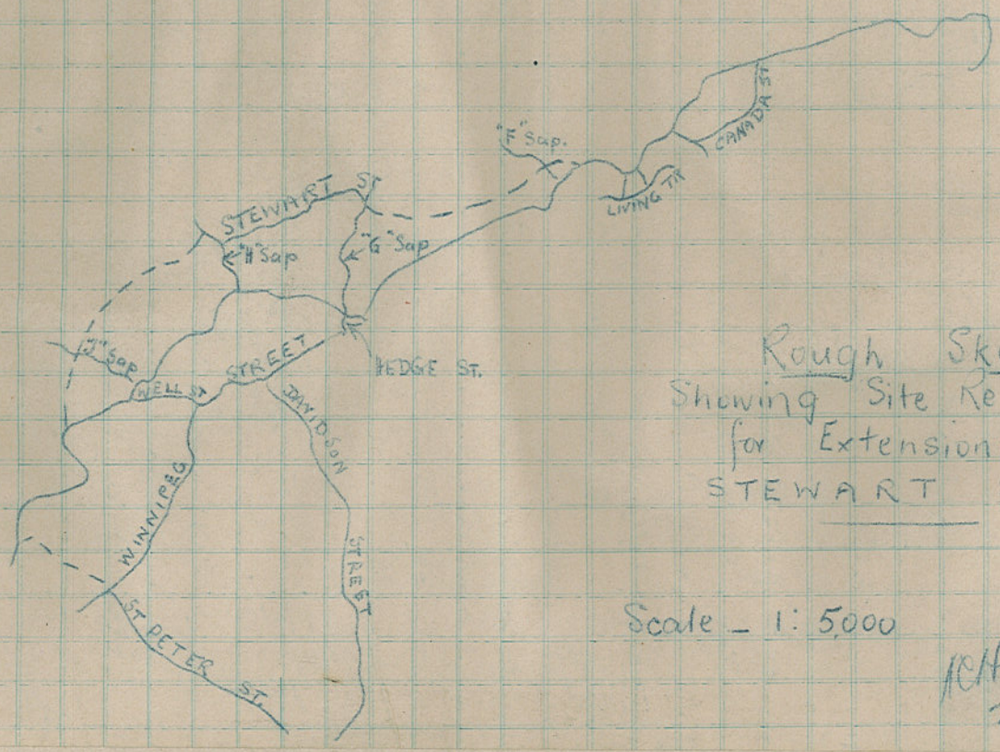
Any alternative proposal to carry the line further to the right is not recommended because

(a) A good enfilading Lewis gun position with grazing fire would be sacrificed

(b) The work would be more difficult to carry out and would offer no compensating advantage

(c) Machine gun cross fire in No Mans land would be no stronger than at present

Major
A.C. Harris
OC 6th Field Coy



Rough Sketch
Showing Site Recommended
for Extensions of
STEWART STREET

Scale - 1: 5,000

J.C. Harris Mgr
29.9.16

(b) Enemy artillery and trench mortar activity does not increase or vary in such a way as to interfere with works any more than at present.

(c) Present fine weather continues,

but allowances will have to be made if these conditions are not fulfilled.

H.C. Harris Major

O.C. 6th Field Coy R.E.

AUST. MILITARY FORCES
CLASSIFICATION
RDS SECTION
SECRET

1-10-16

From OC 6th Field Coy R.E.

To OC Anglo-Canadian Tunnelling Co.

Herewith is rough tracing showing plan and section of proposed workings on OBSERVATORY RIDGE. As we have no theodolite the bearings etc are probably not accurate and it was my intention to modify the scheme as we progressed in order to make the best use of available head cover consistent with good drainage. Grades indicated to the rear of HALIFAX STREET are therefore only tentative.

The accommodation required in the galleries is at the rate of 8 men per 17 ft run by providing 6'x4'x3' or small cupola dug outs on either side with 4'-6" of earth between them.

Further machine gun position will be pegged out and indicated to you as the main gallery progresses.

H.C. Harris Major

1 Brade
Folio

13.10.16

To: C.R.E. (2nd Inst. Div. Engrs) 4949
5th Bde H.Q.

I beg to recommend that the following tasks be allotted to the incoming battalions of 7th A.I. Bde to be completed during the week following the arrival in the line of 27th Bn:—

For Bn. in Line:— 200 yards of front line trench to be graded revetted and duckboarded. This involves the battalion carrying all materials required for the task from SANCTUARY and SORREL dumps.

56 men to be supplied in reliefs for 6 hours per day as at present for construction of deep dug-outs.

Barbed wire entanglements to be put out at unprotected fronts as opportunity occurs.

For Battalion in Reserve

ST PETER and DAVIDSON Streets to be completely graded, revetted and duckboarded.

WINNIPEG ST to be completed to the right of ST PETER ST.

(2)

CANADA ST and LIVING TRENCH on MT SORREL to be completed.

HALIFAX ST - 50 yds to be revetted and duckboarded.

In addition carrying parties required for above materials and for mining sets and for men from deep dug out work must be supplied as at present.

In recommending the foregoing tasks I assume that each relieved battalion will be at approximately the same strength as the battalions which they relieve.

The reasonableness of the tasks will also depend as before on the weather, supply of materials, transport and artillery and trench mortar activity.

13/10/16

K. Stevens Major
for O.C. 5th Field Co. R.E.

10.16

C.O. 17th Battalion

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
CLASSIFICATION B547/2/307 SUB-SECTION

During the week ending today your battalion with the assistance of details from this company has carried out the following work :-

WELL ST Cleaned out deepened and revetted complete length 62 yards

HEDGE ST ditto length 35 yds.

WINNIPEG ST ditto for length of 230 yds.

LIVING TRENCH ditto for length of 45 yds.

CANADA ST ditto for length of 75 yds

In addition they have dug a trench to connect LIVING TRENCH with CANADA ST which will materially strengthen our position on MT SORREL, constructed a badly needed loop near SORREL DUMP and laid a very useful duckboard track 100 yards in length from the Dump to CANADA ST. They have also carried all material required for these works and supplied 36 men daily for constructing deep dug outs on MT SORREL and for disposing of spoil from same.

It is therefore seen that your battalion has done slightly more than the equivalent of the task which was set for the week, and the work has been good in quality as well as quantity. On an average 284 men per day have been supplied for these works.

On the whole the ~~men~~ parties have reported regularly and worked well, and many of the officers have been very helpful. In this connection I would like to mention particularly the Officer who was in charge of the MT SORREL carrying parties on the night of the 6th inst and also on a previous occasion — unfortunately I do

not know his name. There is little glory about this sort of work but as you are aware the trenches can be neither maintained nor improved unless it is done properly.

A few of the officers do not realise that they are responsible for getting the work done, and appear to think that all they have to do is to hand the party over to sappers and take it home again. It would be a very great advantage if all junior infantry officers were fully impressed with their responsibilities when in charge of working parties. However the majority have done splendidly as also have the men.

Major
RCR Attached 4th MG

27 Bn 361

From O.C. 6th Field Co, Engrs A.I.F.
To 7th A.I. Bde 6-10-16

In connection with the System recently adopted by Div. of allotting weekly tasks to Bns in front line & supports, the following is a copy of a letter to CRE & 5th Bde recommending tasks for your 27th & 25th Bns to carry out during the current week. Will you please instruct these Bns accordingly. I may add that one of the Bns on the Right Sub Sector last week did more than their task & that the other did only slightly less.

"Beg to recommend that the following tasks be allotted to the incoming Bns of the 7th Bde to be completed during the week following the arrival in the line of 27th Bn.:—

For Bn in line. 200 yds of front line trench to be graded revetted & duckboarded. This involves the Bn carrying all materials required for the task from Sanctuary & Sorrel Dumps. 56 men to be supplied in reliefs for 6 hours per day as at present for construction of deep dugouts. Barbed wire entanglements to be put out at unprotected points as opportunity offers.

Bn in Reserve

St Peter & Davidson Sts. to be completely graded revetted & duckboarded. Winnipeg St. to be completed to the right of St. Peter St. Canada St & Rivers trench on Mount Sorrel to be completed. Halifax St.—500 yds to be revetted & duckboarded. In addition, carrying parties required for above materials & for mining detl & 24 men for deep dugout work must be supplied as at present.

In recommending the above tasks, I presume that each Bn will be at approximately the same strength as the Bn which they relieve. The reasonableness of the tasks will also depend in a large measure on the weather, supply of material, transport and artillery & trench mortar activity

(Signed) N.C. Harris Major.
O.C. 6th Field Coy A.E.

H.E. Parkes Capt
for S.E.

Major 27th Bn

The attached is a copy of letter sent in by Major Harris of 6th Field Coy Engrs.

It is hoped that the excellent work done by 5th Bde units will be surpassed easily by our own

H.E. Parkes Capt
for S.E.

6/10/16.

27th Bn

13. 60

AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
B547/5/47
CLASSIFICATION

B.M.16

To: A1 Bde H.Q.
CRE 2nd Aust. Div. (for information)

The following are recommended as tasks for 25th and 27th Battalions during current week. If you concur will you please issue instructions accordingly as soon as possible.

25th Bn :- Reconstruct 200 yds of front line
Supply 24 men per day in two reliefs of 6 hours each for deep dugouts on MT. SORREL.
Supply carrying parties for front line revetment materials.

27th Bn :— Complete DAVIDSON LANE and LIVING TRENCH
Reconstruct 100 yds of ST PETER ST and HALIFAX ST near REDAN.
Supply 24 men per day in two reliefs for deep dug outs on Mt SORREL.

Supply carrying parties for materials required for above work, and for disposing of spoil from deep dug outs.

As the work outlined will require less men per day than were provided by 25th Bn during the past week it is suggested that 27th Bn be asked to provide say 20 men per night for digging in front line. This would enable the battalion in the line to work more efficiently during the day.

H C Harris Major
O.C. 6th Field Coy

7th. FIELD COY. A.E.

L.B.d. 23	30/9/16		Ref. works etc. re appendix.		

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

Webb Capt AE.
O/C

Army Form C. 2118.

Original

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

2/1st Field Company Engrs

October 1916

VOLUME X

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
St LAWRENCE Camp. Back Area	4/10/16	5.30pm	No. 1 Section moved to Ypres to relieve Section of 5th Field Company, work with that unit.	
YPRES.	5/10/16	"	" 3 " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"
	6/10/16	"	" 4 " " Headquarters " " " " " " " " " " " "	"
	7/10/16	"	" 2 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " relief completed.	"
YPRES	6/10/16		1 O.R. severely wounded. died of wounds on 7/10/16	
	9/10/16 to		For particulars of works done see appendix.	

7th. FIELD COY. A.E.

REPORT ON DRAINAGE OF CAMPS IN 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AREA.

7th Field Company Aust. Engrs.
25th September 1916.

MONTREAL CAMP. H.19.b.5.7.

Branch road at entrance to camp required draining and raising for length of 40 yards.
Main drain S.W. side of camp to creek requires clearing of fallen tree, branches only obstructing.
All drains round huts require straightening and cleaning.
Approximately 600 feet.
Duckwalks require to be raised throughout.
Labor required --- 20 men for 14 days.

WINNIPEG CAMP. H.19.b.2.5.

General improvement of existing drains and duckwalks.
Ground round kitchen and parade ground requires 100 feet new drains.
Labor required --- 20 men for 7 days.

TORONTO CAMP. G.18.a.1.5.

Drains for the most part good.
Chief difficulty -- many huts low and having no eaves, water runs down the walls and underneath the floor which is permanently wet.
Labor required --- 20 men for 7 days.

6TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS. G.11.c.0.0.

Existing drains -- fair. Require a little work and more duckwalks.
Labor required 6 men for 4 days.

17TH AUST. INF. BATTALION TRANSPORT LINES. G.24.b.1.1.

Camp compact - little work on existing drains.
Labor required -- 2 men for 7 days.

18TH AUST. INF. BATTALION TRANSPORT LINES. G.24.a.3.4.

General improvement of existing drains and duckwalks.
Labor required -- 12 men for 7 days.

19TH AUST. INF. BATTALION TRANSPORT LINES. G.17.d.5.2.

Camp scattered over large area of flat ground.
1000 feet of existing drains and ditches require cleaning.
Labor required -- 30 men for 21 days.
Branch road to stable, 100 yards in length, used for all traffic to Q.M. store requires forming, draining, and metalling. Labor required -- 30 men for 28 days.

20TH AUST. INF. BATTALION TRANSPORT LINES. G.17.d.0.5.

General improvement of existing drains and duckwalks.
Labor required --- 20 men for 7 days.

APPENDIX.

State of creeks in area.

In GROOTEBEEK creek at H.19.b.2.7. a brick culvert for road crossing only allows about 5 square feet of discharge opening as the weir at H.13.d.4.0. at present backs up the water. This causes the water to back up in the rear of WINNIPEG camp in flood time. Otherwise creek only required a small amount of cleaning out.

In DRIEGOENBEEK creek the growth of all kinds of grass and weeds is very great and influences the 19th Battalion Transport lines most. This requires cleaning out from G.17.d.5.2. to H.13.d.4.0.

Labor required --- 30 men for 28 days.

.....Capt. A.E.
O.C. 7th Field Company Aust.Engrs.

ADDENDUM:-

In general the camps are well placed on good sloping ground and with some cleaning of existing ditches, should be dry right through the winter. For the most part the work required could be done by the occupants under supervision from Engineers.

The creeks which form main drainage channels for the area require some considerable attention to prevent backing up during periods of flood.

.....Capt. A.E.
O.C. 7th Field CompanyAust. Engrs.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. 4/46
Date.....

The following was incorporated in weekly orders for work, by 5th Bde.

The following is forwarded for information:-

(1) The battalion in the front line is responsible for the work there.

(2) The battalion in support is responsible for all other work in the sub-sector.

(3) The amount of work laid down for each battalion per week depends on the number of men available for the work, the guiding principle being that every man should do some work each day. This may not always be possible; but it is the ideal to be aimed at.

(4) The task for each battalion for the week should be mutually arranged by the Battalion Commander and the O.C. Field Coy at least two days before the battalions are due for relief

(5) The O.C. Field Coy, will then allot to each working company the necessary number of sappers.

(6) Each task should, as far as practicable, be allotted for the whole week to a permanent party under an officer who must be clearly given to understand that he is responsible for the progress of the work, and not the Engineer Officer or N.C.O. attached to the party.

Issued to Capt [illegible]
7-10-16.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that parties shown on programs are the parties actually required on the job in the trenches. ~~For each two men in the trench party about at least one man~~ ~~For~~ Each trench party will require a further party equal to about 50 per cent of their own number to carry stores for the trench party

Brigade D.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR BATTALIONS. Left of St Peters Street.

Week ending Sat. Octr. 14th. 1916.

Left Battalion in the line.

NEW Trench No	Old T. No	No. of men By Night	By Day	Estimated Amt in yds daily.
I 24.8 to I 18.3	(63 – 67)	50		10 revetting.
I 18.4. to I 12.1	(68-71)	45		10 "
I 17.2 to I 17 4	(72-74)	30		10 "

LEFT BATTALION out of the line.

Leinster Street	40		12 "
Bond Street	50		17 screening etc.
Roslyn Street (W Regent St To Bond)	20		5 revetting.
W. Regent Street	20		6 "
Birr Cross Road Dugouts	8		4 yds drain to carry off pumped water.
Wellington Crescent to Roslyn Street	20		45 yds Duck bdg. 4 yds revetting
Roslyn Street	15		
Dugouts in Roslyn Street (Yeomanry P.L.Bond St)	12		dugouts 4 per week 3/6
Dugouts Leinster St	12		4 per week "
Extension of Ration Dump track to Roslyn St	10		40 ft formation pe night (track to be completed in one week)

CENTRE.

RIGHT BATTALION in the line.

Warrington Av	30	8	6 yards revetting
Warrington Extension	20	10	6 " "
Vancouver St	20	8	5 " "
Cross Trench	30	12	8 " "
Vigo St forward of Vancouver St	20	--	4 " "

CENTRE.

Right BATTALION out of the line.

Torr Top.	15	15	10 yds "
Crab Crawl	15	15	8 " "
Vigo Street	20	--	4 " "
Gourock Rd	15	-	4 " "
Lovers Walk	20	-	4 " "
Hill Street	--	15	3 Yds. " "
Tram	40	6	20 formation. "
Duckwalk, Sanctuary to New Torr Top	4	12	30 yds revetting
Coy Hdqrs. Sanctuary Wood off Hill Street	-	6	constructing dugout.

Lieut Colonel
O.C. 7th Field Coy. Engrs., A.I.F.

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SAM/CMS.
CONFIDENTIAL.

2nd Aust Div
10-10-16

EXTRACT

FROM
Subsequently compiled brief history of 7th Field Coy, A.E.
WAR DIARY OF ..... FOR October 1916. PAGE 14.

YPRES SALIENT.

Working parties.

On account of the quicksand nature of the ground, and the fearful churning it had received at various times - not to mention the presence of many dead men - trench work in the area was particularly difficult. The task system of work and the proper placing of responsibility for execution of works on infantry commanders was first adopted comprehensively here and proved signally successful.

Prefix ..... Code ..... m. | Words | Charge

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Sent At ..... m. To ..... By .....

This message is on a/c of: ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

Recd at ..... m. Date ..... From ..... By .....

AYR 7 W. 16. TELEGRAPHS

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G37/117

TO { 2nd Aust Div

Sender's Number. GD22 | Day of Month. 7th | In reply to Number. | AAA

I Certify that Signal Station position Call cards are issued to all Signal Stations of this Division that are within the overhearing danger Zone

R.E.T.O.W.

Report Centre Anzac

From Signals 2nd Aust Div

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor.

(Z)

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

750,000. W 2186—M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

2nd AUST.DIV.ENGINEERS.

AWM26