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

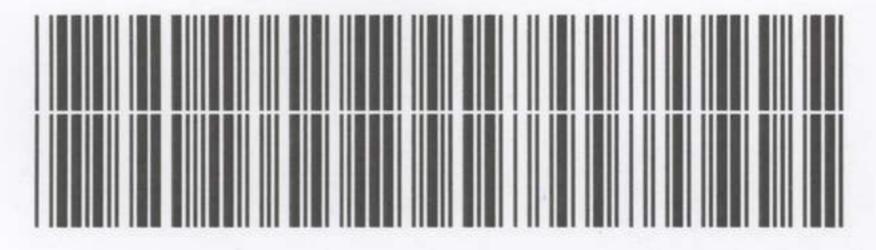
Engineers

Item number: 14/8/15

Title: Headquarters 2nd Australian

Divisional Engineers

December 1917



AWM4-14/8/15

December 1917.

Army Form C. 2118

01

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.

FREEEENCENCENCENMANATER*

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Australian Division

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AVELSBERG	1st 2nd		Nothing to record. C.R.E. returned from leave. 7 cyclists 6th Field Co. commenced erection of 4 N.B. huts for Div. Artillery at LE PETIT MORTIER. Lieut. PCLSON 7th Field Co. detached to Corps to control Light Railway traffic in Corps Area.	
during	month.		Chief employment for Companies and Pioneers at present is the burying of water mains to a depth of 2'6" to protect from risk of freezing. (See map, appendix 2 attached) Also miscellaneous jobs such as constructing incinerators, establishing baths, etc. Parties of infantry are also, wherever available used for pine burying.	
	8th		C.R.E. went to see C.R.E. 3rd Aust. Div. to ascertain any available information regarding the	
	10th		With Chief Engineer Aust. Corps visited PALMER baths, where some work is required to improve accommodation and drying rooms. Went out with C.R.E. 3rd Aust. Div. (Lt.Col. CLOGSTOUN) and visited the northern portion of the	
	11th		Divisional area, motored down to MOTOR CAR CORNER and walked over the southern portion of the	
	12th		Made inspection of Pipe line burying work with Captain NOEDL who is generally supervising the wo	oops.
	13th		Went out with party to reconnoitre ground for Corps Defence line. Present were: Brig. Genl. Cannon, 12th C.B.B.WHITE, B.G.G.S. Corps; Chief Engineer, Brig. Genl. Lotbiniere; Brig. Genl. Cannon, 12th Bde.; Brig. Genl. Paton, 6th Bde.; Lt.Col. Miles, G.S.O. 1 this Divn.; Major McCell, G.S.O. II; Lt. Col. Clogstoun, C.R.E. 3rd Aust. Div. South of and in front of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD was visite Arrangements proposed regarding the carrying out of this work are that C.R.E. 3rd Division (Col. Clogstoun) will be placed at the disposal of 2nd Division for organising and designing defences and appropriate for carrying out the work. The support Brigade (6th A.I.Bde.) will	14
			do the work and the brigadier will be responsible that the work less that brigade is done. He definite instructions were given regarding engineer personnel to be used for supervision of work	
	14th		Total pipe burying completed to last night was about 25,000 yards; still about 15,000 yards	
	15th		Visited C.R.E. 3rd Division with a view to getting definite and concise information as to work in hand in the area we are to take over, but did not get anything very satisfactory. Divl. H.Q. moved to STEENWERCK, took over from 3rd Division. C.R.E. office and billets in the	
	16th		Divl. H.Q. moved to STEENWERCK, took over from 3rd Division. O.A.E. Office and 572 of 180 of	a
			1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.	

WAR DIARY

Sheet 2.

December 1917.

Army Form C. 2118

Place	epared in	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AVELSBERG & TEENWERCK	16th		One company will be employed on maintenance, improvement and extension of Div. tramways, and remaining company on roads and drainage. Area very large and very much work required to improvement by revetting, duckboarding and draining, and also in some cases to extend and open up further trenches. 5th Field Company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their the Field Company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front line trench improvement and minor drainage channels in their standard company engaged in front li	
			Brigade area, on right, in co-operation with 5th A.T. Bue. The left of the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, also doing some drainage, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve line is allvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve, salvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve line is allvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in reserve line is allvage work and work on Field the left. 6th Field Co. in Field Co.	
TEENWERCK	17th		With Lt. Col. Clogstoun, visited various field company camps, and called a discussed arrangements for work on Corps Defence Zone. The general principle adopted is that 6th Field Coy. will be made available as far as possible to assist 6th A.I.Bde. in construction of work. On return to Hdgrs. in afternoon found that orders were out that D.H.Q. would back to RAVELSBERG On return to Hdgrs. in afternoon found that orders were out that D.H.Q. would back to RAVELSBERG the following day; 3rd Australian Division moving back to STEENWERCK. This sudden and unexpected the following day; 3rd Australian Division moving back to take over a portion of front immediately move was due to the fact that the 3rd Aust. Div. have to take over a portion of Portugese troops further	south.
TEENWERCK & AVELSBERG			Weather turned cold last night, freezing hard, with bitting wind. to RAVELSBERG 10 a.m. this morning. Visited 6th Bde. H.Q., met Major Harris and Col. Clogstoun, and discussed policy for work on Corps line. Conference at D.H.Q in afternoon, presided over by General BIRDWOOD, attended by G.OsC. Diva, Cs.R.E., Cs.R.A., G.OsOs. 1. Corps Commander indicated that defence works which dad to be carried out must be pushed on energetically in view of the possibility of the enemy had to be carried out must be pushed on energetically in view of the possibility of the enemy had to offensive new, with the help of reinforcements available from the Russian front.	
	21st		Weather still freezing. Made a tour of left brigade trenches with Major WEBB. Visited front line posts, support line and some of the C.T.s. Foggy day and quiet. Captain COGHLAN, 6th Field Coy., detailed to proceed to Field Company Commanders, and Second's in Command, school at BLENGECQUES for three weeks, to Field Company Commanders, and Second's in Command, school at BLENGECQUES for three weeks, commencing 29th. Great deal of wiring being done both in forward area and Corps Line. 1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.	d

WAR DIARY

December 1917.

Army Form C. 2118

DOCOMBOI TOT.

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.

****FNTELEIGENCE**SUMWARY**

(Erase heading not required.)

HO. DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS
2nd Australian Division

Weekly conference of field Company Commanders and C.O. Pioneer Estalion, held at C.R.E. office to discuss work in progress and proposed. Works in progress generally discussed. 23rd Visited STERNWERGK Divisional laundry with Captain WADDELL to inspect drying room, which is unsatisfactory, and water-heating plant at Misha. 24th Went again to STERNWERGK laundry with Lt. Col. ANNAND, and Pioneers, to arrange for alterations to be made tod rying room. Propose to alter drying room so as to provide for definite system of supply of fresh air and exhausting saturated air, by building in air pipes in brick stove which supplies heat, and by fixing an outer flue around the flue or the stove, in order to induce an out-draught. Small drying rooms will have stoves, which are at present exterior, built inside and fired from outside. The old fixing and blowing. Country covered with several inches of snow. XMMS day. Raning, snowing, slepting and blowing. Country covered with several inches of snow. XMMS day. Raning, snowing, slepting and blowing. Country covered with several inches of snow. New to ut to right leds. front line with Major REID, 5th Field Co. and Capt. EURELL. when up Station Avenue, Löng Avenue Alley, along this to Una Avenue and Una Lane, along new support trench (under construction) in extension of Unpire Support, along Umpire Support, Suffolk and Nicholson Avenues, beach to starting point at Motor Car Corner. Trenches generally shell fire as a rule. Drainage, in this flat country, one of the chief difficulties. Trenches all appear to be very lightly held. Weather still freezing, fitting in the lines, firing line, support and reserve. Work concentrated chiefly on wiring at present. Considerable shortage in supply of screw pickets. Have arranged for artillery work to be done by allotting about a dozen sappers with a couple of N.C.Ce. to Captain WaGSTAFF who is working with Divl. Artillery. They will supervise and lay out work and generally assist gumners in construction of most of the works required by them. V	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	AVELSBERG	22nd 23rd 24th 25th 27th		Weekly conference of Field Company Commanders and C.O. Pioneer Battalion, held at C.R.E. office to discuss work in progress and proposed. Works in progress generally discussed. Visited STEENWERCK Divisional laundry with Captain WADDELL to inspect drying room, which is unsatisfactory, and water-heating plant at Mathematical Company of the state of the sta	to Appendices
		29th		gunners in construction of most of the works required by them. Visited STEENWERCK laundry to see progress. Work hampered by lack of material. 66th Field Company have erected and repaired 13,500 yards of with wire entanglement in Corps line during last week. Captain J.G.BURNELL, 5th Field Co. has been selected as field company officer from this Corps for the company of the com	
		30th		Went to HYDE PARK CORNER with Captain Waddell with view to decide on site for new baths of	

WAR DIARY

December 1917.

Sheet 4.

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

and the S will be pr	taff Man epared in	ual respe	F. S. Regs., Part II. ctively. Title Pages ript. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.) INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.)	on
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AVELSBERG	31st		ground still freezing.	que
			Ju Cotale	
			C.R.E. Second Australian Division.	
· ·				

"@" 2nd Aust. Division.

5. C.R.E. Srd Aust. Division.

4. 5th Field Coy.

6th "

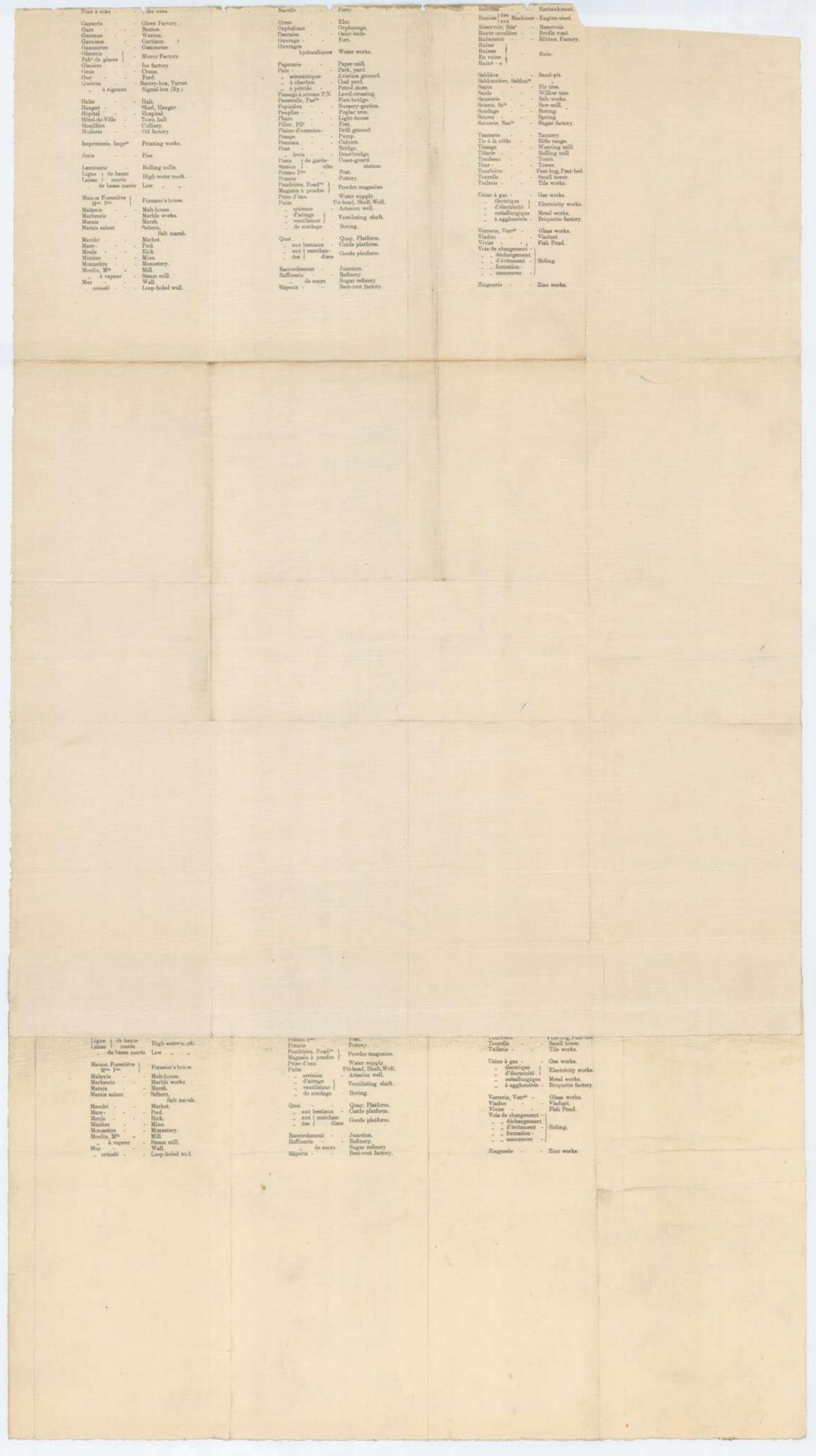
7th

2nd Pioneer Battalion.

8. File

9.10.11 War Diary.





- 1. PIPE BURYING WORK.

 About 15000 yards remains to be completed. Maps and material and particulars of work have been handed over to Lieut.

 MOORE, 5rd. Divisional Engineers.
- 2. PALMER BATHS.

 Work consists of remodelling dry room and minor repairs,
 particulars of which have been handed over to relieving Field
 Company.
- Acetylene Gas Plant for D.R.S., BAILLEUL. Nothing has been done in this matter.
- 4. Reconnaissance of STILBEGGUE near STEENWERCK. Reconnaissance of HELLEPEKE from M.24.d.1.2. to junction with LA DOUVE at T.1.a.2.3.

 Reports herewith on work required to be carried out.
- 5. Copy of Defence scheme and map.
- 6. Ironing rooms for Field Ambulances. Nothing has been done in this matter.
- 7. Erecting splinter proof wall round huts at D.H.Q.

for C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

"G" 2nd Australian Division. 5th 5th 7th A.I. Brigades 5th 6th 7th Field Coy. Engrs. 2nd Pioneer Battalion.



Captain NEEDHAM, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, is the Divisional

Tramways Maintenance Officers

He will be responsible for maintenance and improvement of all main line tramways, and for such extensions as may be ordered. Captain LEVIEN, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, is in charge

maintaining and improving roads, which are a divisional responsibility. Both of these officers can if necessary be communicated with

by telephone to 2nd Pioneer Battalion H. Q.

Normally one company of Pioneers is allotted for tramway C.O. 2nd Pioneers makes provision for the labour for roads according to requirements.

(me Corletto

25/12/17.

Lt. Colonel, C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

AUSTRALIAN DIVIS Engineer Headquarters, January 10th 1918. Some notes on DRYING ROOMS for LAUNDRIES. Prime essentials for securing good drying effect in drying rooms are :-1. Heating of air in the room so that its evaporative capacity is increased and the moisture in clothes is converted into vapour in suspension in air. When saturated the air ceases to take up further moisture and must be removed and replaced by dry air. 2. Provision for removal of saturated air and replacement by comparatively dry air. 3. To secure (1) it is necessary to prevent as far as possible loss of heat from the drying chamber by radiation or air leakage; to secure (2) leakage of air both inwards and outwards through walls, doors etc., must be prevented and in draught of fresh air and exhaust of saturated air must be provided for on a definite system. NOTES ON EXISTING TYPES.

Para (1). All drying chambers provide for the heating effect noted in para. (1), the source of heat and method of applying it varying.

Para (2). The requirements of para 2 are those which are most generally overlooked, or not provided for on a definite and rational system.

Frequently rooms are provided with heating arrangements and efforts are made to seal up all outlet so that stagnation results when saturation point afain is reached except insofar as leakage of air in and out takes place through crevices. In others "ventilators" are provided in the roof with the intention that heated moist air may escape thereby, but no provision is made for fresh air to be brought in. There is no guarantee that the moist air does go out and no proper circulation results. In some cases power driven fans have been installed to exhaust the air and no provision made for a definite air supply. The result in this case is that air to replace that exhausted by the fan is drawn in through the crevices nearest to the fan, in fact round the periphery of the fan itself so that no general flow through the drying room is obtained.

Para (3) Frequently drying rooms are constructed of corrugated iron without lining or ceiling. A great loss of heat by aradiation results. Others made of rough boarding permit leakage of air both in and out so that heat is lost by hot air leaking out before it has performed its function of evaporating moisture and the general leakage makes the establishment and control of a general draught through the room impossible. The lack of a ceiling apart from anything else results in the necessity for heating a larger volume of air than is necessary and so it is wasteful of heat.

offort is made to comply with the principle enumerated in para (2) above, i.e. provision for withdrawal of saturated air and supply of fresh air on a definite and rational system.

The method of air supply is simply as follows :-

Pipes are carried through the firebox of the brick heating stove with one end outside the drying room and the other end inside and continued to a vertical height of about 2 feet about the level of the outer ends. The air in these pipes is heated by the fire and rises through the elevated end causing a flow air

into the drying room. Incidentally too this air is more or less warmed during passage through the pipes. The hood fitted over the inlet end of pipes ensures that air is drawn from in from of fire door and so probably slightly warm and dry. A regulator for checking the flow of air may be fitted either internally or externally.

The method of inducing an exhaust draught from drying

The method of inducing an exhaust draught from drying room consists in placing an outer sleeve round mit the vertical furnace flue at the end remote from the stove. This is carried up from ceiling to and through the roof. The warmth of the flue tends to induce an upward current and so to draw air from the drying room from the end of the room furthest from the fresh air supply. A regulator may also be applied to exhaust.

It will be noted that the method of securing in draught an out draught are mutually independent, e.g., the supply of fresh air would continue even if the exhaust were not operating, provided that there were some other opening through which air could escape from the room, and vice versa.

A modification of the in draught contrivance consists of fitting a sheet iron rectangular flue on top of the brickwork of the stove with inlet end outside over fire door and an outlet end elevated about inlet as before. Air in flue in this case heated by radiation through the brickwork.

This system of air circulation has been applied to existing drying rooms at LA CRECHE, STEENWERCK and has effected a considerable improvement on previously existing conditions. Both modifications of the system of inducing in draught mentioned above have been tried with good results.

GENERAL.

Much loss of efficiency is caused by frequent opening of doors leading into drying rooms. This should be avoided as far as possible. The provision of a porch and double doors with would reduce effect. Porch and outer door need only be of light construction, such as timber covered by tarred felt.

As far as possible endeavours should be made to work drying in batches; the room filled up and then kept closed until the whole batch is dry.

Windows should be of glass, as ciled linen becomes opaque owing to drying out of obl and quickly rots. A system of drying racks should be arranged to suit particular circumstances.

that there is no leakage under walls. Walls should always be carefully lined with close jointed wood and insulation such as sawdust is desirable as tending both to prevent heat radiation and air leakage. If sawdust insulation is used thin sheet of corrugated iron could be used for lining. T.and G. ceiling if covered with tarred felt should prove pretty tight as the warmth will cause the felt to soften and lie flat.

By building a brick stove inside the room and fired from outside full advantage is taken of the heat radiated from the brickwork.

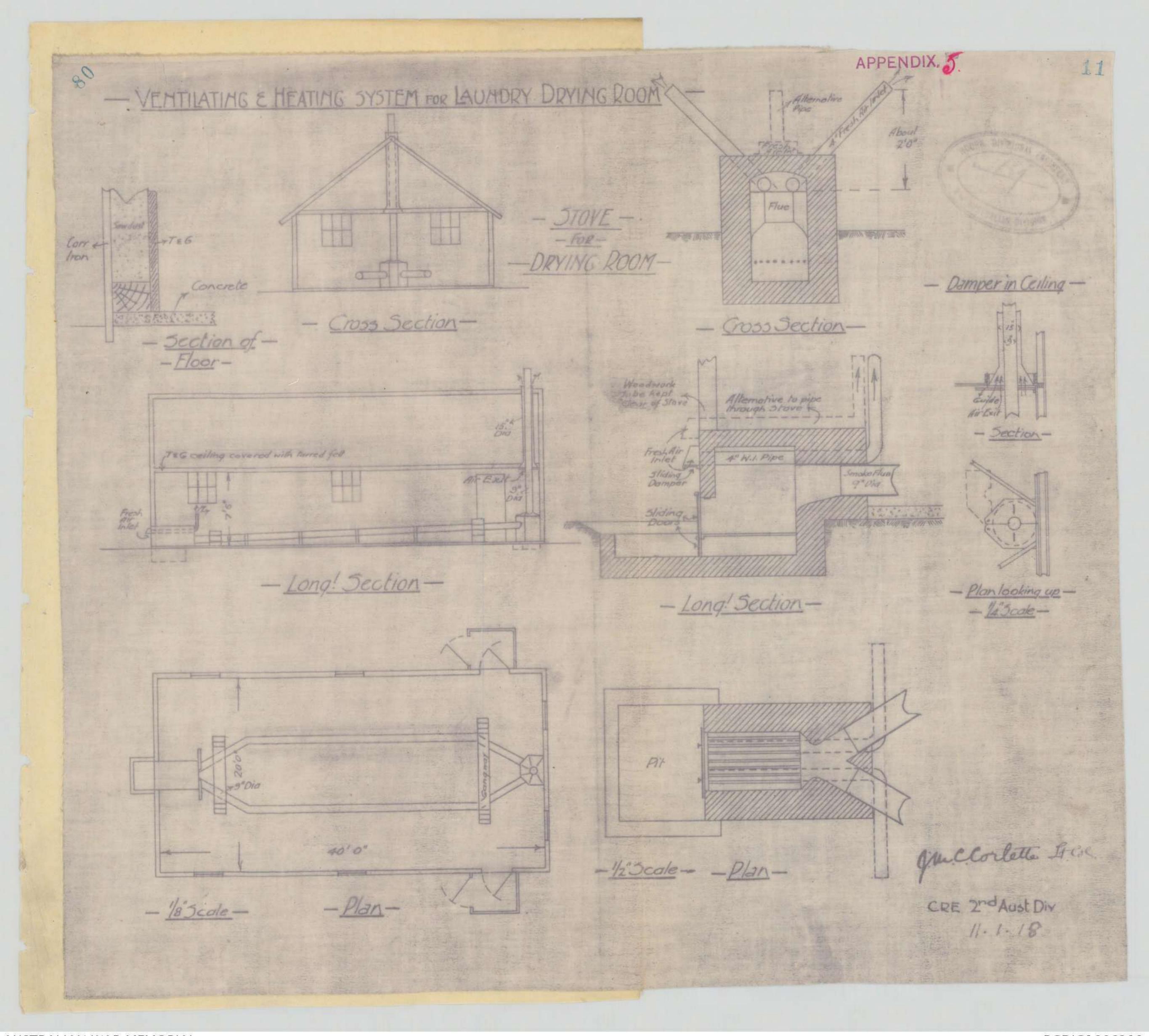
Flues and heated brickwork should always be protected so that clothing can not come in contact and so become ignited.

Laundry staff should understand principles on which drying is effected.

Lt. Colonel,

C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

Attached one plan.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1006311