

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/8/19 Part 1

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

April 1918



AWM4-14/8/19PART1

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.



80

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF  
*Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,  
Second Aust. Division*

FOR

*April* 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling 

Signature of Officer Commanding *McLester* L.T. Col.

Apr 11 1918.

## WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,

Second Australian Division.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ravelsberg (near Bailleul)	1st		C.R.E. 25th Division, Lt. Col. Done, called today for particulars re taking over Ploegsteert sector. 7th Field Coy. handed over to 81st Coy. R.E., 19th Division and marched out today. 65th Field Coy. are handing over to 130 Field Coy., 25th Division and will move tomorrow. 5th Field Coy. hand over to 106th Coy. today and tomorrow and move on 3rd instant. Not much news from South today.	
	2nd		6th Field Company moved today to Godwaersvelde. D.H.Q. will hand over to 25th Division tomorrow at 10 a.m. and move to Merris, entraining the following day at Strazeele for Hangest. Corps H.Q. are also about to move and will probably take over the Australian Divisions in the South. Weather fine though still boisterous and threatening. 1st Australian Division made a raid about 1-30 a.m. this morning and took two or three prisoners. A considerable reduction had been made in amount of office papers in order to lighten loads - a good deal of the papers having been sent to Australian War records or to Base. Spare personal kit has been sent for storage to Arques. C.R.E. has arranged to go down to new H.Q. tomorrow by car leaving 10 a.m. - destination Bertangles, a few miles North of Amiens.	
Allonville (near Amiens)	6th		On the 3rd the C.R.E. left Ravelsberg about 11 a.m. by car, with Major Embleton, D.A.D.M.S., and Capt. Werthiem, Div. Intelligence Officer. The differential gear of the car became broken before reaching S. Venant; car was towed by a lorry through S. Venant to Lillers where we left car with S.M.T.O. 11th Corps, who lent us another car which took us through to Bertangles via Pernes, St. Pol, Frevant, Doullens and Talmas. Quartered in chateau at Bertangles. C.R.E. unable to get about on 4th owing to lack of transport. D.H.Q. (including D.E.H.Q.) entrained at Strazeele, and arrived at Hangest at 7 a.m. on 5th instant. 7th Field Coy. with 5th A.I.Bde. arrived on night <del>3rd/4th</del> 3rd/4th and received orders on 4th to move south of Somme where enemy had pressed back our line near Villers Bretonneux, and came under the orders of 14th Division. 7th Company are at Blangy Tronville. Went to 7th Corps H.Q. on 4th where I found Capt. Greenlees, who was arranging to take over from them. Australian Corps to take over on 6th. R.E. stores extremely scarce. Raining heavily during the night 4th/5th. On the 5th Corps H.Q. arrived to take up quarters at Bertangles Chateau; everyone had to close up and quarters were exceedingly crowded. On 5th instant 6th Brigade group including 6th Field Coy. began to arrive and were promptly ordered to 3rd Aust. Div. On evening of 5th orders were issued that we had to take over from 38th Division, so with D.A.D.M.S. went off about 9 p.m. to visit C.R.E. 38th Div. <sup>arrived</sup> at Pont Noyelles about 11 p.m. and found orders had been cancelled, and that 6th Brigade was to move to assist 4th Aust. Div. which had been pushed back opposite Dernancourt that morning. With Col. Miles, G.S.O. 1, visited 3rd and 4th Aust. Div. H.Qrs. and Corps H.Q. at Villers Bocage. 3rd D.H.Q. at S. Gratien and 4th D.H.Q. at Beaucourt sur l'Hallue. On arrival at	Price

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or  
Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Second Australian Division.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Allonville	6th		Corps H.Q. heard that orders had just been issued that this Division are to take over from 4th Aust. Div. so in afternoon went off to Beaucourt to get some particulars from the acting C.R.E., Major Riddell. Major Dyer, who has been appointed C.R.E. vice Lt Col. Elliott, has just arrived; no special policy available to take over. Field Coys. and Pioneers simply working for brigades. 6th Bde. going into line tonight. 6th and 5th Field Coys. arranging to take over from 12th and 13th Field Coys. respectively, tomorrow. Work for Pioneers <del>****</del> yet to be detailed.	
	7th		Visited 6th and 13th Bde. H.Q. with G.O.C. yesterday. 6th Bde. H.Q. in quarters West of Lavieville, but moving to Henencourt Chateau. 13th Bde. H.Q. in dugouts in old <del>front</del> <sup>front</sup> line near Baizieux. 5th and 6th Coys. camped in neighbourhood of Baizieux.	
Beaucourt sur l'Hallue.	8th		Moved here from Allonville this morning and took over from C.R.E. 4th Aust. Div. Weather fine last night but heavy rain today. Chief requirements in the matter of stores are Barbed wire and screw pickets. Barbed wire practically unobtainable from store at present and only obtainable from salvage. Pioneers, camped between Warloy and Baizieux, are to dig line of posts tonight as support line from Millencourt South to join existing line of posts just South of Albert-Amiens Road. This work was supposed to have been started by the 4th Aust. Div. but little information was handed over. Work should have been sited properly under Brigade arrangements but failing that <del>we</del> have instructed C.O. Pioneers to site the works himself and get them done. 6th Field Coy. are constructing a deep dugout in quarry behind Lavieville to be suitable for Bde. H.Q. A good deal of confusion and dissipation of units is taking place here. Each Division has a brigade attached to some other Division, and the sending of brigades to support others is frequently occurring. Our office here is in the outbuildings of the chateau and the mess is in an estaminet in the main street of the village.	Price
	9th	7 am.	Went up with Col. Miles, G.S.O. 1. to 6th and 7th Bde. H.Q. also called at 5th Field Coy. and Pioneers H.Q. Pioneers commenced last night digging a series of posts <sup>back</sup> <del>to</del> ridge East of Lavieville to form support to present front line system. Only the southern half dug last night; they have orders to complete the northern portion tonight. 5th Field Coy. have been working with infantry on construction of trench line in close support to front line just in rear of crest of ridge opposite Dernancourt. 6th Field Coy. are chiefly employed on improvement of accommodation for troops and forward Battalion H.Q.. Pioneers are to dig another line about 500 yards back from the one they are constructing at present, as soon as they have finished the latter. Heavy fog all day, still on tonight. Good deal of gas shelling by enemy this morning. 6th Field Coy. had 1 killed and 6 wounded today.	
	10th		Second phase of German offensive began by big attack between La Basse Canal and Fleurbaix, capturing Laventie and other places well through our lines. Line runs from Givenchy,	

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## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Headquarters, Divisional Engineers, Army Form C. 2118.

Second Australian Division.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beaucourt.	10th		<p>Givenchy, Lacouture, Vielle Chapelle, Riez Bailleul to River Lys, Bac St Maur to Fleurbaix, all south of Armentieres. This all occurred yesterday. This morning this attack was continued, and a fresh attack made from the River Lys, north of Armentieres and forward of Wytschaete penetrating along the Warnave to Ploegsteert and Messines Ridge. This has broken through north and south of Armentieres and has probably compelled the evacuation of that place. Visited 6th Field Coy. H.Q. this morning. In afternoon went forward with Major Reid to site new line of posts. Pioneers are starting to dig tonight on ridge in front of Lavieville between Millencourt and Buire, about 500 yards in rear of line <del>that we</del> worked on last night. Foggy all day, no rain.</p>	
	11th		News received that Armentieres evacuated. Situation about Ploegsteert and Messines not clear. Enemy have reached Steenwerck station; our troops are holding "Nieppe Defences".	
	12th		Went out with Lt. Col. Annand this morning over the line of trench the Pioneers dug last night, and decided on extension to be made on left flank covering Millencourt Valley. According to latest news yesterday enemy reached Messines, Hill 63, Ploegsteert and Steenwerck also Merville.	
	14th		Went up this morning with G.S.O. 2 and Lt. Col. Annand reconnoitred the right flank from near Ribemont forward past Buire to Advanced Battn. H.Q. Some trenches have already been dug facing <del>Merville</del> and the Pioneers will start tonight extending the support line S.W. to the end of the ridge facing Dernancourt, and will then continue line along this flank. Trench lines are on forward slopes towards the Ancre and so exposed to observation but this is unavoidable. Misty all day. Barbed wire still difficult to obtain as well as all other R.E. stores.	
	15th		In the morning walked from Beaucourt to Frechencourt along the River Hallue to see what defence works were being constructed. Met Lt. Col. Hearne, R.E. who is in charge of works under 4th Army. In the afternoon rode to 6th Field Coy. and Pioneer H.Q. Pioneers had 15 casualties on their work on night 14th/15th digging trench along ridge N.W. of Buire. They will continue work on it tonight.	
	16th		Today went out with Major Reid along the right flank facing Buire. Trenches have been dug on low ground where they are exposed to view. Called at Battn. H.Q. In the afternoon rode to 6th Field Coy. H.Q. to consult with Major Harris re a Communication Trench which 6th Brigade want Pioneers to dig for them on the left flank. News from North that Bailleul and Ravelsberg Ridge captured by the enemy yesterday and attack in progress against Wytschaete. Neuve Eglise captured the day before.	
	17th		Went out with G.O.C. this morning walked over proposed location of new trench line running N.W. to S.E. across Bresle Valley to Albert-Amiens Road and thence along spur to Ribemont with switch to connect to line North and South in front of Lavieville, which is partly dug. Also had a look at the work Pioneers did last night, trench across valley North of Buire.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beaucourt	17th		Pioneers had 3 killed and 17 wounded on this job. Pioneers digging tonight a Communication trench on South side of Millencourt Valley from 6th Bde. front line back about 1,000 yards.	<i>Free</i>
	18th		Went up with G.O.C. by car to Henencourt and then along spur North of Millencourt in 38th Divisional area, the part which we expect to take over in a few days time. Walked along the line of trench running S.E. of Millencourt, crossed Millencourt Valley and inspected some of the posts dug some days ago by Pioneers, and also line of trench beyond them. Saw the work done by Pioneers from far side of the valley. Pioneers had 10 casualties last night.	
	19th		Went up with Major Harris and Capt. Coghlan over site of proposed new line of trench between Albert Road and Lavieville-Ribemont Spur, line to join up with existing line of posts North and South in front of Lavieville. Then went and saw M.G. positions and shelters and dugout on Albert Road, and visited Battn. H.Q. in quarry. Latter are not adequately protected. Walked up new C.T. which still requires about 200 yards of trench to complete. Trenches mostly in fairly hard chalk, not very deep; hugs bank on North side of the spur and is, in my opinion, too straight both in general line and in lack of sufficient traverses. Pioneers are finishing this tonight, and commencing a line along spur towards Ribemont. Weather very cold, snowed fairly heavily on way back walking from Millencourt home. Calad at Pioneer H.Q. News from North - Wytshaete and Meterem have been taken by the enemy. Our troops have been withdrawn from part of the Ypres salient though it is not yet known how far back they have come. Passchendaele and Broodseinde won last September and October have thus been abandoned to the enemy. New big attack is expected from direction of Albert in near future, but perhaps further south. French troops co-operating with British in Northern area.	
	20th		7th Field Coy. and 5th A.I.Bde. rejoined Division. 7th Field Coy. billeted at Behencourt and at present in reserve. One section employed improving Baizieux Defence line. Major Webb came in in the morning and in afternoon rode out to inspect defence works and localities in rear of this place. An immense amount of work has been done in digging trenches and making a new line of defence during the last month both in forward area and in rear. Fine day. A good deal of Deep dugout work has been done for Bde. Battn. and Bty. H.Q. Field Coys. with infantry are doing work for infantry; gunners under Captain Wagstaff working for Artillery. Chalk formation here makes dugout work simple. Timber for sets has been procured by salvage so far, largely from abandoned aerodrome South of Lavieville. This source of salvage is coming to an end and supply from other quarters has not yet become available. There is now practically a continuous line of trench along our front and right flank covering the River Ancre; also a C.T. about 1,300 yards long on the left flank back from this front line trench. Behind the front line is a line of posts across the back of ridge, and behind that line of posts is another long continuous line of trench across the ridge. Again behind that is another	

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Beaucourt	20th		nearly continuous line of trench right across the Divisional area passing <del>under</del> the front of Lavieville and down the spur towards Ribemont.	None
	21st		Went up along the Albert Road and walked along the portion of trench dug last night by Pioneers from the Albert Road towards the line of posts in front of Lavieville. Work on trenches suspended tonight owing to attack being made by 38th Division on our left in order to gain some ground near Aveluy Wood.	
	22nd		Called at the office of C.R.E. 38th Division at Contay to see if I could get any information about line of trenches which has been marked out, South of Henencourt. C.R.E. was out and Adjutant could give no information. This Division is to take over a portion of 38th Div. front in a day or two, and today we handed over some of our Southern area to the 3rd Aust. Div.	
	23rd		In morning called on C.R.E. 38th Division, Lt. Col. Kellsall, to obtain particulars before taking over work. 7th Field Coy. will take over from 23rd and 151st Field Coys. who are employed in the forward area of the section which is being taken over. C.R.E. did not know much about what they were doing as they had been working directly under brigades and he was chiefly concerned with work on <del>our</del> reserve line, on which his reserve Field Coy. and Pioneers were employed. The 38th Division made an attack at 7-30 p.m. last night in conjunction with 35th Division on the North - partially successful. Due to take over the sector from 38th Division tomorrow night. Enemy still quiet on this front.	
	24th		About 4 a.m. a heavy bombardment was heard on the South, this was in connection with a heavy attack on our positions south of the Somme, notably at Villers Brettonneux and the high ground near there, which is of great importance as it is the last high ground which prevents the enemy having direct observation on Amiens and the valleys of the Ancre and Somme and our positions defending them. The enemy succeeded in capturing Villers Brettonneux and advancing some distance West. The attack appears to have been just south of the front held by the 5th Aust. Div. Part of the 4th Aust. Div. who were billeted around here have moved down in support and our 5th Brigade warned to be in readiness. This morning went out with C.R.E. 38th Division and went over the reserve line on which he was working. Relief of part of 38th Division by 5th Brigade which was to have taken place tonight has been postponed 24 hours. 7th Field Coy. had, however, already moved and taken over work. They are quartered in shelters in rear of Henencourt Wood. Foggy and dull all day and again tonight.	
	25th		A counter-attack by the 13th and 15th A.I. Bdes. and an English Brigade retook Villers Brettonneux last night though the enemy still had men in the town and access to it <del>from</del> through a gap in our line. Weather dull. In the morning visited the dump at Franvillers and the new site to which it is being moved today at Baizieux.	





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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beaucourt	27th		<p>The supply from salvage is, however, running rather short and application has been made repeatedly to the C.E. for supplies of cut mining timber. C.E. replies that none will be supplied until Dugout programme has been approved by him, and Tunnelling Officers have inspected and passed the <del>work</del> <sup>work</sup> in progress. The supplies of cut mining timber have, up to date, been very short and this no doubt accounts for the necessity for keeping strict control of issues. A Regiment of United States Engineers is to arrive immediately for work under C.E. of this Corps, and one company will be billeted in Beaucourt. The 55th British Infantry Brigade of the 18th Division is to arrive in Montigny area tomorrow and will come under the orders of this Division. Corps is establishing a new R.E. Dump at Ebart Farm, about half a mile from Beaucourt towards Contay; started to fill up today. Our Divisional R.E. Dump has been removed from Franvillers, and is now established at Baizieux. Dull day, no rain.</p>	
	28th		<p>Orders out this afternoon that this Division is to be relieved by the 47th Division. Relief commencing on 30th and D.H.Q. will move to Bertangles on May 2nd and to be held in Corps reserve. Went out with G.O.C. this morning to look at site for accommodation trench <del>which</del> just in front of Henencourt, in which he wishes to put the support battalion of the 5th A.I.Bde. In the afternoon rode to 5th and 6th Field Coy. H.Q. and to R.E. dump at Baizieux. Pioneers dug about 1,100 yards of C.T. on North side of Millencourt Valley last night. Weather dull.</p>	<i>over</i>
	29th		<p>Weather still dull. Pioneers completed C.T. on North side of Millencourt Valley last night; total length about 1,600 yards to 1,700 yards. 5th Field Company handing over today to 92nd Field Coy. which is attached to the 55th Brigade and are taking over 7th Brigade sector. 5th Field Coy. to rejoin 5th Brigade group when we come out. News from North that a heavy bombardment on front from Locre to Voormezele opened this morning. Later news that a big attack had been made on that front and was repulsed by our troops. Lieut. F.F.Christian, M.C. 7th Field Coy. was wounded by a splinter from a shell which burst in the vicinity of Coy. H.Q. V.20.d.6.4.- Sheet 57D, and was evacuated.</p>	
	30th		<p>C.R.E. 47th Division, Lt.Col. Carey, late C.R.E. 5th Aust. Div. called in the morning and went through particulars of work in hand which he is to take over on 2nd May. Called on the C.O. of the <sup>Coy of</sup> 6th Regt. United States Engineers, billeted in Beaucourt. Raining in the morning; dull for the rest of the day.</p>	

*J. McCollie*

Lt. Colonel,

C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

# WAR DIARY

OF  
Headquarters, Divisional Engineers,  
Second Australian Division.

FOR

A P R I L

1918.

*appendix.*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	18/61 D.E. Order No. 35. (original only.)
2.	18/76 D.E. Order No. 36. (original only.)
3.	19a/114 D.E. " " 37.
4.	19a/118 Extract from C.E. Instruction No. 101. (original only)
5.	18/36 D.E. Order No. 38.
6.	18/39. D.E. " " 39. (original only)
7.	18/92. D.E. " " 40.
8.	6/38. Summary of works 8/4/18 - 30/4/18.
9.	List of dugouts and shelters in hand.
10.	Review of period in the line 8/4/18 - 2/5/18.
11.	<del>Medical Officer's diary.</del>
12.	Notes on forwarding of R.E. Stores.
13.	Sketches of dugouts shewing progress.
14.	Companies' and Pioneers' works reports.

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**SECRET**

Divisional Engineers  
 No. 18/161  
 AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Ref. Maps: 62<sup>D</sup> 1/40,000.  
 24055  
 6/4/18.

1. Second Aust. Div (less Artillery) will relieve 4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. (less Artillery) in the left sector of Corps front between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April 1918.
2. The 5<sup>th</sup> Field Co. will relieve 13<sup>th</sup> Field Co. 6<sup>th</sup> Field Co. will relieve 12<sup>th</sup> Field Co. Times of relief to be arranged mutually between Corps concerned. Movement over high ground between BOYNAY and DAIZEUX will be carried out by sections at 100 yard distance.
3. Completion of relief to be notified to this office by runner.
4. D.S.D. will close at ALLOTVILLE at 10 am

OVER

10 am) 2  
 on 8<sup>th</sup> April and open  
 at BEAUCOURT at same  
 time and date.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

for Capt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div.

5<sup>th</sup> Field Co.  
 6<sup>th</sup> Field Co.  
 CRE 4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div.

**SECRET**

Appendix 2.  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Engineer Order No. 36.

Ref. Maps sheets 57d and 82d 1/40,000.



1. The Northern boundary of the Division will be adjusted to run from W.15.c.6.0. due East and West along the grid line between Squares W.14. and W.20. to T.14.d.0.0.  
The Western boundary of the Division will run from A.24.central to T.14.d.0.0. (PIERRELOT exclusive).

2. The Division will accordingly take over from the 38th Division that portion of the front between our present Northern boundary and W.15.c.6.0. on the night 24th/25th April.

3. To effect this the following reliefs will be carried out, reliefs in all cases will be completed by 6 p.m. on 24th instant.

- (a) The 5th Field Coy. will take over from 6th Field Coy. works from present inter-brigade boundary to line East and West through E.8.c.9.8.
- (b) The 6th Field Coy. will take over from 7th Field Coy. works from present Div. boundary to line East and West through W.26.c.3.6.
- (c) The 7th Field Coy. will relieve the Field Coys. of 38th Division and take over works up to line East and West through W.15.c.6.0.

4. The 7th Field Company will hand over works taken over from Field Companies of 38th Division to the 6th Field Coy. up to line East and West through W.26.c.3.6.

5. The 7th Field Coy. will take over all R.E. Dumps and stores from Field Coys. of 38th Division and place men temporarily in charge.

6. Acknowledge.

*H. M. ...* Lt. & Adj. G.  
for C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 1. C.E., Aust. Corps.
- 2. C.R.E. 38th Division.
- 3. "G" 2nd Aust. Div.
- 4. 5th Field Coy.
- 5. 6th " "
- 6. 7th " "
- 7. 5th A. I. Bde.
- 8. 6th " "
- 9. 7th " "
- 10. File.
- 11. War diary.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message

Prefix Code m. Words Charge. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. This message is on a/c of: Recd. at m. Date From By (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO All recipients Order # 36 War Diary

Sender's Number Day of Month In reply to Number AAA

\* Reference this office 18/70 of 23rd inst AAA Date mentioned para 3 amended to 6 and one 27th inst AAA acknowledge

From L.L.L 2nd Aust Div Place Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required. Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

Appendix 3

*Original*

SECRET . Copy No. 13

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Engineer Order No. 37.....April 28th 1918.



TUNNELLED DUGOUT PROGRAMME

1. In accordance with G.E. Australian Corps Engineer Instruction No. 97 dated 25th April 1918, copy of which has been forwarded, the following procedure will be adopted.
2. No new deep dugouts will be commenced without first submitting proposal to G.R.E. for the approval of G.E.
3. Plans of dugouts already constructed to be forwarded to this office as soon as possible.  
Weekly reports to be furnished on dugouts in course of construction, showing location, also sketch at scale of about 20 ft. to 1 inch showing work completed (full lines), proposed (dotted lines) and progress for week (blocked in in colour). Reports to reach this office not later than 8 p.m. on Saturdays.
4. Plans shewing typical types of Machine Gun, Battalion and Brigade H.Q. dugouts are being forwarded by G.E. and will be forwarded from this office under separate cover.
5. Only standard mining sets shown on plan mentioned in para. 4 will be available for issue.

*W. H. ...* Lt. & Adjt.,  
for G.R.E. Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. C.E. ACST. CORPS.
- 2, 3, 4 & 5. "G" 2nd Aust. Division.
6. 5th Field Coy.
7. 6th " "
8. 7th " "
9. Capt. WGASTAFF Attd. 4th A.F.A. Bde.
10. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
11. File.
- 12, 13 & 14. War Diary.

80  
War diary

Appendix 4

SECRET



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

D.E.H.Q.  
April 29th 1918.

appendix 4.

5th 6th & 7th Field Coy. A.E.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
Capt. WAGSTAFF, Care 4th A.F.A.Bde.  
For C.R.E.

The following extracts from C.E. Aust. Corps Engineer Instruction No. 101 dated 28th April 1918 is forwarded for your information :-

" 1. This Engineer Instruction cancels Engineer Instruction No. 97 of 25/4/1918.

2. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

- (i) C.E. in consultation with Controller of Mines 4th Army will be responsible for all tunnelled dugout work in the Aust. Corps Area.
- (ii) O.C's of Tunnelling Coys will be directly responsible to the C.E. for all dugout work under their control.
- (iii) Tunnelling Coys. are now allotted to Divisional Areas.
- (iv) CRE's of Divisions will submit their dugout programme to C.E. for approval and this work will be carried out by the Tunnelling Coys allotted to the Divisional Area. When the Tunnelling Coys require additional labor for the Divisional work then the O.C. Company will arrange direct with the C.R.E.
- (v) O.C's of Tunnelling Coys will keep in close touch with the CRE's of the Divisions.
- (vi) Tunnelling Coys will complete all the dugouts on which they are at present employed, but will undertake no more work outside their <sup>NEW</sup> Divisional boundary.

3. ALLOCATION OF LABOR AND RESPONSIBILITY .

"C" Divisional Area

- 180 Tunnlg. Coy. RE (Less detachment on demolitions).
- 1 Coy 6th Regt. U.S. Engineers (Att. 180 Tunnlg. Coy).
- 1 Labor Company.
- Labor detailed by "C" Division as required.

5. FLANS.

- (i) O.C. of Tunnelling Coys. will be responsible for forwarding to C.E. all plans and particulars of tunnelled dugouts in their Divisional Area. This information is to be kept up to date.
- (ii) Dugouts will be numbered with Army Registered numbers. These numbers will be allotted by Controller of Mines, through C.E.
- (iii) The Cont. of Mines has prepared plans of standard dugouts and mining sets which will be forwarded under separate cover. The dugouts may be slightly varied to suit local conditions but no other diversion from the standard plan will be considered.

7. GAS PROOF DOORS.

O.C, Tunnelling Coys will be responsible that all dugouts are provided with effective gas proof doors before they are handed over  
P.T.O.



appendix 4

/over  
for occupation.

*W. H. ...*

Lt. & Adjt.,

for C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

(i) The operation with ...

(ii) The operation with ...

(iii) The operation with ...

(iv) The operation with ...

(v) The operation with ...

(vi) The operation with ...

(vii) The operation with ...

(viii) The operation with ...

(ix) The operation with ...

(x) The operation with ...

MISSION OF LABOR AND ...

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) ...

(d) ...

(e) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(iii) ...

(iv) ...

(v) ...

(vi) ...

(vii) ...

(viii) ...

(ix) ...

(x) ...

Appendix 5

Original



## SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Engineer Order No. 38 38 April 29th 1918.

Ref. Map - Sheet 825 - 1/40,000

Issued under 2nd Aust. Division Warning Order dated 28th April 1918:-

1. The Division (less Artillery) will be relieved by the 47th Division (less Artillery) between the 30th April and 2nd May.

2. The following are the probable details of reliefs and moves :-

3. The 8th and 7th Aust. Inf. Bdes. will be relieved on the night April 30th/1st May, and the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the night 1st/2nd May.

4. On completion of relief the Division will be in Corps support and will be concentrated as follows :-

7th A.I. Bde. Group	-	BOUTILLERIE Area (M. 33.)
8th A.I. Bde. Group	-	CAMON - RIVERY Area (M. 16. - M. 1.)
5th A.I. Bde. Group	-	QUERRIEU Area.

5. Moves will be carried out as follows :-

<u>7th A.I. Bde. Group.</u>		
30th April / 1st May.	-	To QUERRIEU Area.
May 2nd	-	To CAMON - RIVERY Area.
May 3rd.	-	To BOUTILLERIE Area.

<u>8th A.I. Bde Group.</u>		
30th April / 1st May	-	To MONTIGNY Area.
May 2nd.	-	To QUERRIEU Area.
May 3rd.	-	To CAMON - RIVERY Area.

<u>5th A.I. Bde. Group.</u>		
1st/2nd May	-	To MONTIGNY Area.
3rd May	-	To QUERRIEU Area.

6. Field Companies will move in Brigade Groups with Brigades, with whom they are at present working. 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Coys. with 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Bdes. respectively.

7. D.S.H.Q. will move to BERTANGLES, on 2nd May.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE. (Field Companies only).

*H. H. H.* Lt. & Adjt.,  
for C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION. Over leaf.

--- B ---

DISTRIBUTION.

- | Copy No.    | To.                          |
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| 1.          | C.E. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.       |
| 2.          | "3" 2nd Australian Division. |
| 3.          | "A.Q." "                     |
| 4.          | C.R.A. 4th Division.         |
| 5.          | 5th Field Company.           |
| 6.          | 6th " "                      |
| 7.          | 7th " "                      |
| 8.          | 5th A.I. Brigade             |
| 9.          | 6th " "                      |
| 10.         | 7th " "                      |
| 11.         | File.                        |
| 12, 13, 14. | War Diary.                   |

Appendix

Appendix 7

SECRET

Copy No. 12

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Engineer Order No. 40.....April 30th 1918.



Ref. Maps - 62D 1/40,000.

Issued under 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 183 dated 30th April 1918 and C.E. Aust. Corps Engineer Instruction No. 104 dated 29th April 1918.

1. The 6th Field Coy. will be relieved by 517th Field Coy. R.E. and the 7th Field Coy. by the 520th Field Coy. R.E. on night 1st/2nd May under arrangements to be made between C.O.

The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will be relieved by Pioneers of 47th Div. relief to be completed by 4 p.m. on 1st May under arrangements to be made between C.Os. concerned.

2. On completion of relief the Field Coys. and Pioneers of 2nd Aust. Division will be placed at the disposal of C.E. for work but 25% will be rested daily.

Details of employment will be issued in a separate Engineer Instruction.

3. Receipts in duplicate will be forwarded to this office for all stores, etc. handed over.

4. 7th Field Coy. on relief will move to QUERRIEU on 1st May and join 7th A.I.Bde Group.

6th Field Coy. on relief will move to WARLOY on 1st May and join 6th A.I.Bde. Group.

5th Field Company will join 5th A.I.Bde. Group at MONTIGNY.

2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. on relief will stage at BEHENCOURT night 1st/2nd May and move on 2nd May to DACOURS.

5. Completion of reliefs to be reported by wire to D.E.H.Q.

6. D.E.H.Q. will close at BEAUCOURT and open at BERTANGLES 10 a.m. 2nd May.

7. Field Coys., <sup>Pioneers</sup> to acknowledge.

*W. Ham*

Lt. & Adjt.,

for C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 1. Chief Engineer, Aust. Corps
- 2. "G" 2nd Aust. Division.
- 3. "A.Q." " "
- 4. 5th Field Coy.
- 5. 6th. " "
- 6. 7th. " "
- 7. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 8. C.R.E. 47th Division.
- 9. File.
- 10, 11, & 12. War Diary. ✓

*Appendix 8*

*6/38*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS & PIONEER BATTALION.

Summary of works carried out between April 8th and April 30th 1918  
TRENCHES & WIRING.

*(7th A.I. Bde.)*

5th Field Coy.

Wiring: D.11.b.9.1. to D.23.a.35.65. 1,950 yards  
D.10.d.8.0. to D.22.a.8.0. 1,820 "  
E.7.c.9.2. to D.29.a.15.20. 3,690 "

7,460 yards

Trenches: Fire D.16.c.9.6. to D.22.a.7.2. 850 yards  
C.T. D.18.d.0.3. to D.18.d.8.3. 400 "  
C.T. D.17.d.9.4. to D.18.c.75.05. 420 "  
C.T. D.17.b.40.95. to D.17.b.20.90. 112 "  
Fire E.7.c.8.2. to D.18.d.9.2. 1,720 "  
" D.17.d.3.4. to D.18.d.8.3. 300 "  
C.T. E.13.c.6.7. to E.13.a.25.20. 300 "  
Fire E.13.c.9.9. to E.13.b.20.15. 200 "  
" D.28.b.9.2. to D.23.a.1.4. 820 "

5,122 yards

*(6th A.I. Bde.)*

6th Field Co.

Wiring: D.12.c.7.3. to D.6.a.4.4. 1,630 yards  
D.11.a.45.25. to D.11.c.5.8. 310 "  
D.5.c.55.10. to D.6.a.0.1. 600 "  
D.11.d.90.85. to D.12.a.00.15. 240 "

2,780 yards

Trenches: Post E.2.c.1.8. 100 yards  
C.T. E.7.d.10.65. to E.7.d.55.25. 300 "  
C.T. E.1.c.2.0. to E.1.d.9.1. 900 "  
Fire W.24.c.1.4. to W.25.c.30.75. 100 "

1,400 yards

7th Field Coy. (with 5th Bde. in line 26th to 30th April 1918).

Wiring: W.25.a.4.3. .... 300 yards

Trenches: Support W.25.b.25.70. to W.25.c.15.55. 800 yards  
Accomdn. W.20.d.40.55. to W.20.d.50.90. 450 "  
C.T. V.24.d.45.30. to V.24.d.65.25. 220 "  
C.T. D.7.a.50.00. to D.7.d.70.00. 150 "  
Fire W.19.b.75.60. to W.19.d.60.30. 440 "  
Accomdn. V.23.a.30.95. to V.23.c.40.60. 460 "

2,520 yards

Accommodation trench V.22.c.30.00. to  
\*\*\*\*\* V.22.b.0.2. 1,000 yards 1 ft. deep.

-2-

2nd Pioneer Battalion.

Trenches:

Fire - Lavieville defences.	3,580 yards
21 posts D.18.c.25.60. to D.8.c.20.55.	3,150 "
Fire D.18.d., D.24.a.5.7., D.23.d.	1,770 "
C.T. E.1.c.85.40. to E.1.d.5.3.	400 "
C.T. D.10.d.25.60. to D.11.d.4.5.	960 "
F.T. & C.T. D.16.a.45.00. to D.16.b.05.15.	550 "
do. D.16.c.3.0. to D.16.c.7.1.	550 "
F.T. D.16.d.00.75. to D.11.c.30.85.	1,800 "
C.T. W.26.a.3.0. to V.30.b.30.35.	1,750 "
	<hr/>
	14,510 yards

<u>Totals.</u>	Wiring - 10,540 yards
	Trenches 23,540 yards
	" 1,000 yards 1 foot deep.

The lengths given for trenches are from point to point, not allowing for extra length in traversing.  
 Wiring - Double apron fence.

*McCurtin*



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

C.E., Aust. Corps.  
 "C" 2nd Aust. Div.  
 File.  
 War diary.  
*C.R.E. 47th Division*

*appendix 9*

List of Dugouts and shelters in hand by Field Coy. and Artillery.

-----

RIGHT BRIGADE SECTOR.

		Sappers	Inf.
Right Bn. H.Q.	D.24.a.1.7.	3	12
Left " "	D.18.d.0.5.	3	21
Support Bn. H.Q.	D.21.b.65.10.	3	16
5th Field. Amb. Post	D.15.d.6.1.	1	18 (A.M.C.)
7th M.G. H.Q.	D.17.c.65.25.	2	8

SHELTERS

8 shelters	D.16.c.5.3.	40% complete.	20	
R.A.P.	D.18.d.0.6.		6	6
Shelter New Coy.H.Q.	D.18.b.7.4.		6	6
" " " "	D.17.b.5.2.		2	
Cutting timber for dugouts			20	

CENTRE BRIGADE SECTOR.

Right Bn H.Q.	D.12.d.5.6.	10	12
Support Bn.H.Q.	D.5.d.1.2.	11	24
Reserve Bn. H.Q.	V.23.c.4.7.	13	16

SHELTERS.

Left. Bn. Reserve Coy.H.Q.	W.25.c.2.8.	3	
Left Bn. Left Coy.H.Q.	D.6.d.0.8.	2	

LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR.

Right Bn.	W.19.a.5.0.	12 miners.	4	8
<i>Left Bn</i>	<i>W 20 a. 1.9</i>	<i>12 "</i>	<i>6</i>	

*Shelters*

*R.A.P.*

<i>W 14. c. 1. 9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>W. 19 a.</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>V. 24. d. 0. 2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>

<i>15. B5</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>8 bn</i>
<i>105</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>10 "</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>10 "</i>
<i>104</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10 "</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>10 "</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>10 "</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10 "</i>



## SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

Review of period in the line from April 8th to May 2nd 1918.

Ref. maps 57D and 62D.

General Remarks.

Division took over from the 4th Aust. Div. on April 8th a few days after latter had been heavily attacked and their line, which was previously along railway line from Dernancourt to Albert, driven back to a maximum distance of 1,000 yards. They had only two brigades and had not, in the turmoil of fighting, had much time or labour to organise and develop trench lines. Their Pioneers were, I believe, partly employed as fighting troops, but had dug a length of trench about 1,200 yards in length astride the Albert-Amiens Road known as Pioneer Trench and this formed the main defensive work on the front which we took over. The 4th Div. Field Companies were not employed on any very serious work - patching roads and so on, but this is not surprising owing to the unsettled state of affairs in which fighting, pure and simple, was the immediate necessity, and the role for the useful employment of engineer units such as Field Companies, without any infantry labour, was not obvious. Probably under such circumstances the best use would be to keep them in hand under Divisional control and use them selecting, marking out and as far as possible digging new lines of resistance in rear on general lines selected by Division. If Pioneers are not required as fighting troops they could be employed digging on the lines marked out by field companies. The 4th Aust. Div. Field Coys. were, I gathered from the C.R.E., Major Riddell, attached to, and under the orders of, Brigades and he had very little control over them, and the brigades did not very usefully employ them. At the same time, whenever actual fighting is not in progress the brigades require engineer assistance in marking out and supervising work, supplying R.E. stores, and in order to ensure that there is no delay in supplying this want the brigadier should be in a position to obtain the necessary assistance at once without having to apply through D.H.Q. Probably the attachment of a reliable Engineer officer (liaison) to brigade headquarters, who would be in communication with his Company Commander, to transmit the brigade requirements, would meet the case.

During the period since this Division took over this front from the 4th Aust. Div. there has been no serious fighting and though, until a few days ago, only two brigades were with the Division there has been an opportunity to develop the defensive works, which has been taken advantage of. At no time except during the couple of days after the 5th A.I. Brigade and 7th Field Coy. rejoined from detachment in the Villers Brettonneux sector, has there been a reserve brigade and a reserve field company to employ on a "reserve" system of defence, apart from the works carried out by the brigades in the line. There has been in fact very little divisional control or initiative of the works done. The initiative for new lines of trenches has usually come from brigades, which in many cases means the Field Coy. O.C. working with the brigade. The Field Companies though attached to the brigades, in the sense that they work with them, and carry out their wishes, are still under the orders of the C.R.E. though to a great extent not under his control, inasmuch as the latter cannot direct the field companies to carry out works in an area under brigade control without the acquiescence of the brigade or a covering order from D.H.Q. to the brigade. The same restriction applies to the employment of the Pioneers, so that it often comes to this that unless the Field Co. Commanders fall in with the proposal and adopt it as a brigade work the C.R.E. cannot operate. The brigade, too, tends towards unevenness and lack of policy for works on a system of defence crossing both brigade areas, and unevenness also in the amount of work done. The latter is strongly illustrated by the difference in the amount of trench digging and wiring done in the 6th and 7th Brigade areas in the period under review. The 7th Brigade energetically worked towards developing their defences by digging and wiring, supplying from 300 to 500 infantry for work under supervision of the 5th Field Company. They also initiated proposals for extensive trench lines in rear which were laid out by the Field Coy. and dug by the Pioneers (The initiative in the latter, I think, really in a large measure rested with Major Reid, 5th Field Coy. with the concurrence of the 7th A. I. Brigade, which illustrates the point that the Field Coy. commander and not the C.R.E. has the control in a Brigade area.)



The 6th A.I. Brigade, on the other hand, were inert as regards digging and not very energetic in wiring, and usually only provided about 100 men for work with the 6th Field Company. They were chiefly interested in providing shelter for troops and the 6th Field Company therefore concentrated on that work. They, in fact, objected to the spitlocking of a C.T. which I directed the Pioneers to do to connect parts of the reserve line in front of Lavieville, on the grounds that it was in the Brigade area and they did not want any more trenches dug. The sector taken over from the 38th Division on 26/4/18 illustrates a different system of control of defence works. The system of works running N. and S. through V.30., V.24. and V.18. were a divisional responsibility entirely and the C.R.E. devoted his attention to it and did not worry about the more forward works over which he had no real control, as they were a brigade responsibility. The C.R.E. employed the reserve field company and his pioneer battalion and the labour from support brigade on these works, and the brigade had to do their own works with their own labour. As a result, the system showed some sign of having been developed into a work according to some policy. On the other hand, the development of the forward system is not nearly as well advanced as it is on the front this division has been holding. I think that the system on which we have worked has justified itself up to now by getting urgent work done quickly, but that we have just about arrived at a stage at which divisional control should be exercised by taking over the developments of the reserve line.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENCE WORKS.

The defences developed generally on the following lines. Pioneer Trench, as existing when the division took over, was extended south-westerly for a considerable distance by the 7th Brigade and a section of it was dug by the Pioneers, completing a useful close support line to the S.W. end of ridge. Pioneers dug a series of posts across main ridge in D.6. & 12. Wiring of Pioneer Trench was carried on meantime. 7th Bde. then continued digging a low-sited right-flank trench, facing Buire, which has been commenced by 4th Division, from D.28.b. and carried it to a point in D.23.b. Meantime Pioneers dug continuous line across main ridge N. and S. from D.5.d.0.1.- D.11.b.9.8.- D.23.a.9.8. Pioneers then completed Pioneer Trench by connecting across valley from about D.23.d.3.7. to D.24.a.1.2. and 7th Brigade linked up posts on hill behind this in D.17.d. and dug C.T. across valley from about D.17.d.9.4. to D.18.c.8.1. Pioneers then dug C.T. for 6th Brigade from left end of Pioneer Trench at about E.1.d.8.1. back to an old existing trench at E.1.c.2.0. This being designed to serve also as a flank defence covering the Millencourt-Albert Valley from South. Meanwhile wiring was proceeding both along front of Pioneer Trench and along some of the trenches in rear and both brigades were beginning to link up their front line posts into continuous lines. A line of trench along the Lavieville-Ribemont ridge was then commenced to connect up to existing line of posts N. and S. just in front of Lavieville.

(7th A.I. Brigade under 5th Field Company supervision dug portion of the southern end and Pioneers did the remainder. 7th A.I. Brigade dug C.T. from Pioneer Trench in front line from about E.13.a.2.2. to E.13.c.6.7. C.Ts. were dug to rear from trench on Lavieville-Ribemont spur in D.16.c., D.16.a. and D.10.d. and one from trench in front of this from D.11.d.4.8. intended to connect to Lavieville trench.

On 26th April new sector N. of Millencourt valley was taken over from 38th Division, 5th A.I. Brigade going into line, Brigade boundary of 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades were moved further north and a strip to south was transferred to 3rd Aust. Div. a day or two earlier.

On night 27th/28th Pioneers dug a new C.T. in new sector along N. side of Millencourt Valley from about W.25.a.4.1. to W.26.a.2.0. and extended back to trenches in V.30.d. following night, work being laid out for them by 7th Field Company. At the same time 7th Field Coy. with infantry parties joined up line of posts into continuous line in W.25.

#### DUGOUTS AND SHELTERS.

Protected shelters for headquarters in the shape of deep dugouts were commenced and a good deal achieved by the time the division was withdrawn. 6th A.I. Brigade H.Q. were at first quartered in a quarry behind Lavieville without real protection, so 6th Field Company commenced a deep dugout there which was just completed at end of period - cover about 20 feet chalk.

80

6th Brigade headquarters meanwhile moved to Henencourt Chateau, which was at first outside the Divisional area. Dugouts for front line Battn. H.Q. were also made at D.12.d.5.7. and at D.24.a.1.7. and occupied, and other battalion H.Q. dugouts commenced. A number of dugouts for battery headquarters were also constructed and a number sufficiently advanced for occupation. The latter were dug by the battery personnel entirely, under supervision of Capt. Wagstaff, Engineer officer attached to Artillery. A schedule of dugout works commenced, will be found included in another appendix.

Practically the whole of the timber used in dugout construction was obtained by salvage, a little by cutting timber in Baizieux Wood, none was obtained in the form of ready made mining sets through Chief Engineer. No assistance in the work was received from Tunnelling Companies. An abandoned aerodrome, south of Lavieville, furnished a very large proportion of the timber for dugouts and some was obtained from villages, chiefly Lavieville. This aerodrome and another along the Baizieux-Henencourt Road furnished a very large amount of corrugated iron for trench shelters etcetera. The 2nd Aust. Pioneers practically built their camp from what they took from the latter aerodrome.

WEATHER.

During nearly the whole of the period the weather has been overcast, dull and misty, occasionally thick fogs and some rain.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The sector held by the division up to 26:4:18 was on a spur stretching east from Baizieux which peters out at the outskirts of Albert with minor spurs to the south facing the river Ancre, the valley which was on our right flank. Left flank in forward area on valley at the head of which Millencourt stands. The sector taken over from 38th Division on 26/4/18 extended the Divisional front to embrace the Millencourt Valley and on to high ground extending north of Bouzincourt. As is characteristic of this part of France all the habitations are grouped in villages, and the rest of the country except for a few woods is cultivated land entirely clear of fences. The surface soil is as a rule only a thin layer over a chalk formation so that trenches generally cut into the chalk and the excavated chalk makes any trenches in this open country very conspicuous. Ground surface undulating with easy slopes as a rule and tops of ridges nearly flat. As a result it is frequently possible to site trenches with a practically ideal field of fire. Concealment of trench works is however practically impossible. Sunken roads and chalk quarries are frequent and afford natural facilities for collecting troops and points in which attacker can make a lodgment. Good positions for Machine guns can often be found in banks and quarries. The chalk formation makes the construction of dugouts pretty simple.

The ground, though the surface readily gets muddy, is in good condition for trench work and trenches even in earth stand well without revetment for a considerable period and in chalk, of course, still longer, and there is not the great difficulty experienced in winter here, or always in Flanders, of the trenches quickly becoming a mere ditch of liquid mud. Trees are just budding and the crops coming up. Soon the growing up of the crops will create a difficulty by obscuring the view from the trenches cut through them.

SUPPLY OF R.E. STORES.

Chief urgent requirements were barbed wire and pickets, which were extremely short at first and barbed wire had to be obtained, partly by winding old entanglements round prisoner-of-war compound at Baizieux and by other salvage.

MAP. A map showing the defensive works constructed by this division during the period under review will be forwarded when it is considered that the circumstances warrant it.

*M. Collette*

Lt. Colonel,

C.R.E. Second Australian Division.

7/4/18.

*Appendix 12* *appendix. 12.*

NOTES ON THE SUPPLY OF R.E. STORES WHILE THE DIVISION was holding the line "C" Divisional Area" from 8/4/18 to 2/5/18.

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The Corps forward R.E. Dump was situated at QUERRIEU and the Field Companies commenced to draw direct from it, but it was found to be too far from the front line of our Div. sector and at best the companies could only do one trip per day with their horse transport. It was therefore found necessary to establish a Divisional dump in the Grande Place, Franvillers, which was well camouflaged with four rows of trees and accessible to motor lorries and horse transport and the only suitable place available in and around Franvillers.

SUPPLY. On the 13th April we did two trips with 6 G.S. Wagons, requisitioned from 2nd Aust. Div. Train carrying barbed wire, long and short wooden stakes, a few medium screw pickets, a load of sandbags and about 50' timber with which, in conjunction with a tarpaulin we built the sappers a "bivy" under the trees.

The 6 G.S. Wagons from the 2nd Aust. Div. Train and 4 G.S. Wagons from the Corps Reserve Park were used each morning to cart the 25% of wiring stores allotted to the division from the Corps Dump at Querrieu. These were dumped at Divisional Dump at Franvillers and in the evening the Field Companies loaded their pontoon wagons and the G.S. limber supplied by the Brigades and carted the various materials, mainly wiring stores right forward at dusk and on to the various jobs.

This did away with Brigade dumps which are inclined to draw fire and in nearly all cases the stores were used the same night as they were dumped.

Later on the Divisional Boundary was moved further to the left and subsequently we moved our Divisional Dump on April 25th to York Street, Baizieux which was now more central and well served with roads leading to the forward area.

Querrieu was now found to be too far away and only one trip was possible per day with horse transport.

To facilitate supplies the C.E. established a forward Corps Dump, at Ebart Farm, on the main road between BEAUCOURT and Contay, and on April 29th we began to draw our supplies (60% of the total stock of this dump) by the same ten G.S. wagons dumping at Baizieux from whence they were taken on to the various jobs at night.

Stores which were very urgently required were delivered direct to Divisional Dump by motor lorries.

The above system worked well and although long screw pickets were never available for front line wiring, and only 1,500 long angle iron pickets were available during the period in this area, the Field Companies managed to do the necessary wiring (amounting to approximately 10,550 yards) with long and short wooden stakes and some medium screw pickets; the supply of barbed wire was sufficient.

On May 1st the stock sheet showed the best figures for the period, this stock was obtained in order to cover the period of the relief by the 47th Division and on May 2nd under orders from the C.R.E. I handed over the dump to the R.S.M. of the Royal Engineers representing the 47th Division.

Attached is the list showing stores issued to the Division during this period and also list of the stock handed over to the 47th Division.

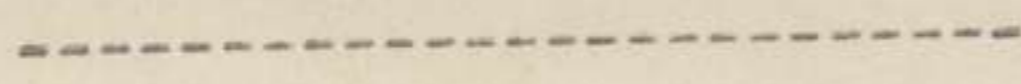
*A. J. Woollard*

## STOCK ISSUED FROM 13/4/18 to 30/4/18. FRANVILLERS and BAIZIEUX DUMPS

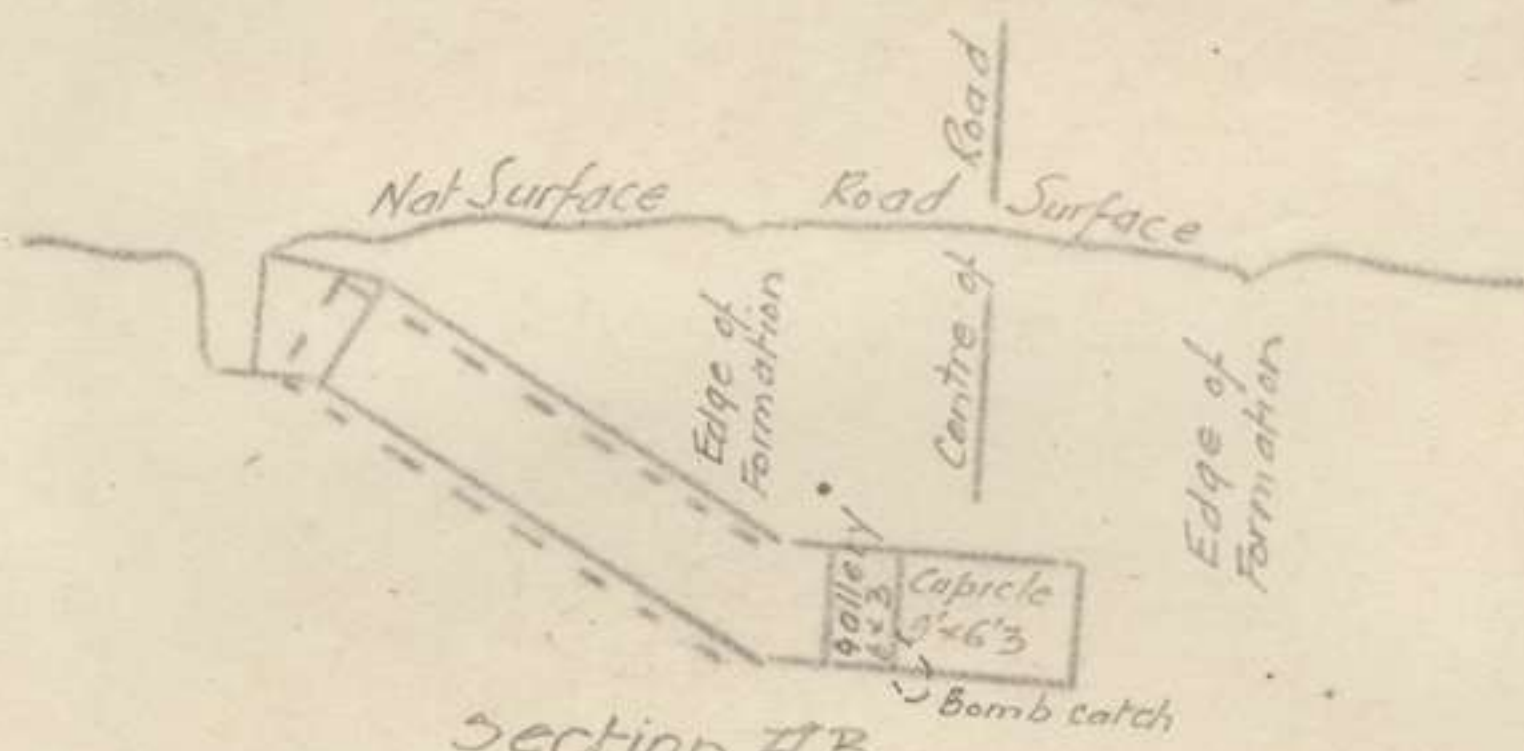
Angle Posts, short	30	Paint, black, lbs	13
" " long	1,500	White lead "	18
Axes, felling	4	Shovels G.S.	450
" hand	6	" B R.E.	100
Corrugated Iron, sheets	1392	Sandbags	21050
Coir matting, yards	43 $\frac{3}{4}$	Steel shelters 'B' type sheets	36
Clouts, lbs	26	" " 'C' " large	129
Detonators No. 8	-	Screw pickets medium	3960
Fuse safety fathoms	-	" " short	695
Guncotton cases	1	Saws, hand	5
Anti-Gas cloth yards	190	Bill hooks	6
Hessian yards	270	Timber 3" x 2"	370'
Hammers, claw	2	" 4" x 2"	114'
Mauls and Helves	17	" 5" x 2"	130'
Notice boards	50	Boarding 1"	1287'
Nails 2" lbs	124	Forest Planking Approx. 8"x2"	80'
" 3" "	613	Rough timber	200'
" 4" "	274	T. and G timber 6" x 1"	93'
" 6" "	126	Tracing tapes rolls	119
Picks and helves	433	Wire barbed coils	3259
Pit props	155	" " plain coils	54
		French wire Ent. "	33
		Wire netting rolls	14
		Wood pickets long	3480
		" " short	4610

STOCK HANDED OVER TO C.R.E. 47th Division, BAIZIEUX.

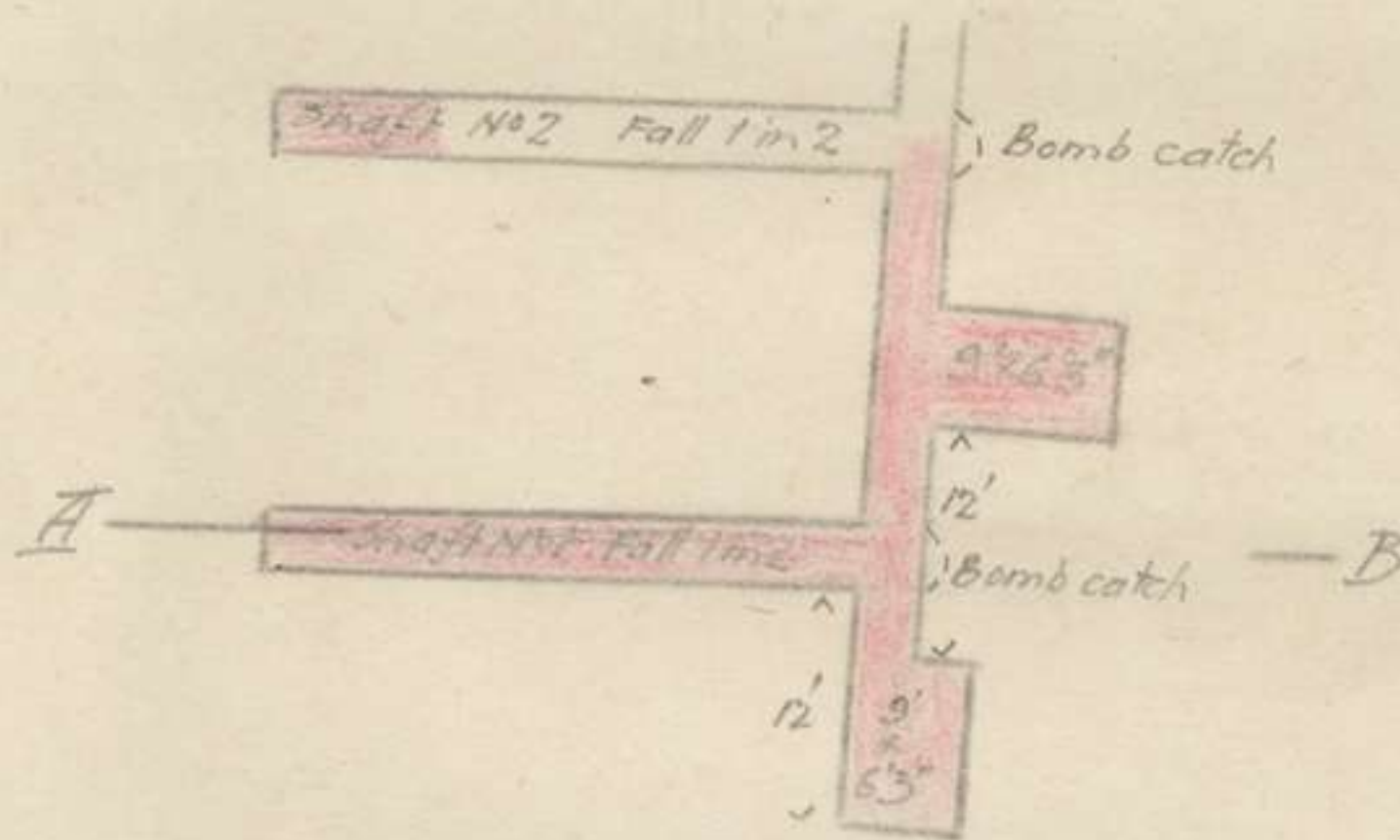
Axes felling	1	Roofing felt rolls	56
" hand	1	Shovels G.S.	213
Corrugated Iron sheets	548	" R.E.	16
Coir matting yards	56	Sandbags	15550
Clouts lbs	4	Steel shelters 'B' type	44
Detonators	300	" " 'C' large	186
Fuse safety fathoms	104	Screw pickets short	300
Guncotton cases	5	Timber 3" x 2"	280'
Anti gas Cloth yards	110	" 4" x 2"	36'
Hessian yards	730	" 5" x 2"	70'
Hammers claw	1	Forest Planking 8" x 1 1/2"	200'
Mauls and Helves	3	Boarding 1"	1013'
Nails 1 1/2" lbs.	112	T. and G. timber 6" x 1"	67'
" 2" "	280	Tapes tracing rolls	86
" 2 1/2" "	168	Wire barbed coils	1001
" 3" "	253	" plain "	26
" 4" "	48	Wire netting rolls	21
Wire staples 1 1/2" lbs.	560	Wood pickets long	660
Primers dry	120	" " short	1350
Pump L, and F.	1	X.P.M. sheets	100
Picks and Helves	297		
Pit props	40		
Paint Black lbs	57		
" green "	21		
White Lead "	45		



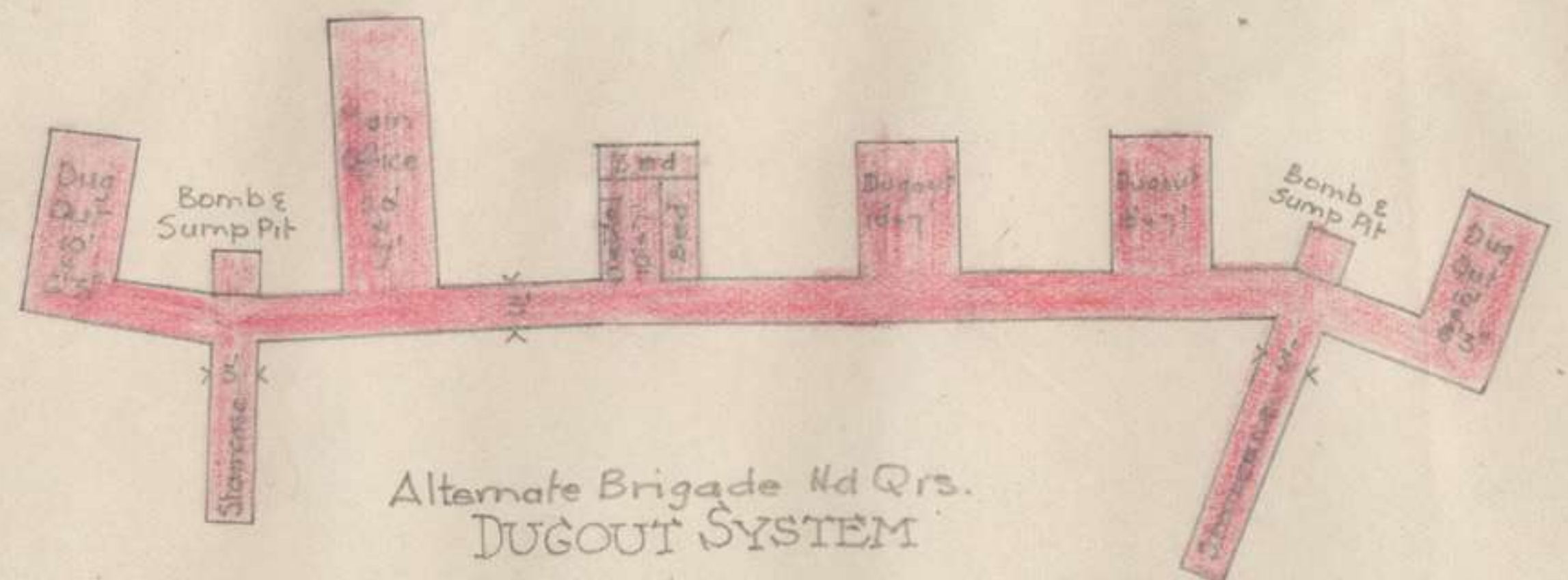
DEEP DUGOUT  
for Right Batt HQ  
at D.M.D. 45.60. Sheet 62<sup>D</sup>



Section AB  
No 2 shaft shown in dotted lines



Plan  
Scale 20' to 1"

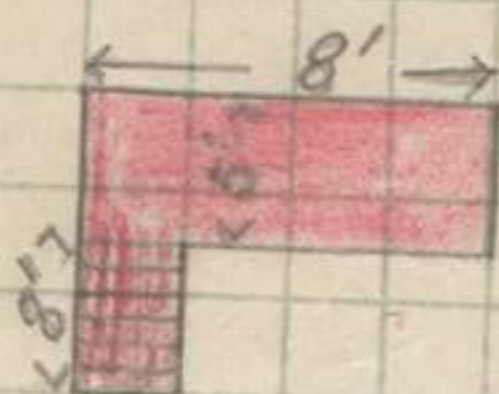


Alternate Brigade Hd Qrs.  
 DUGOUT SYSTEM  
 at Quarry  
 D.4.c.1.3. Sheet 62<sup>D</sup>  
 Scale 20' to 1"  
 Cover about 20' (chalk)

← Mag Nth

Appendix 13

Rough Sketch Plan.  
5<sup>th</sup> F.A.B. Signal Dug Out.  
D.9.b.7.4.

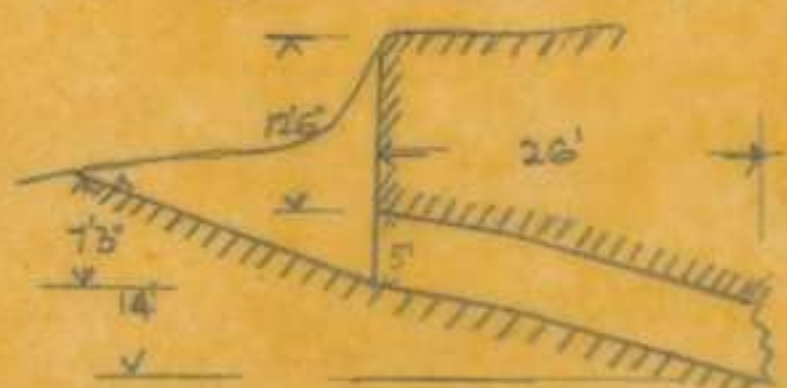


Shaft. 5'x2'  
Overhead Cover 16'  
Ground. - 10' Clay. 6' Chalk.  
accommodation 1 Officer 1 Signaller  
Work done by Signal. personnel while off duty.

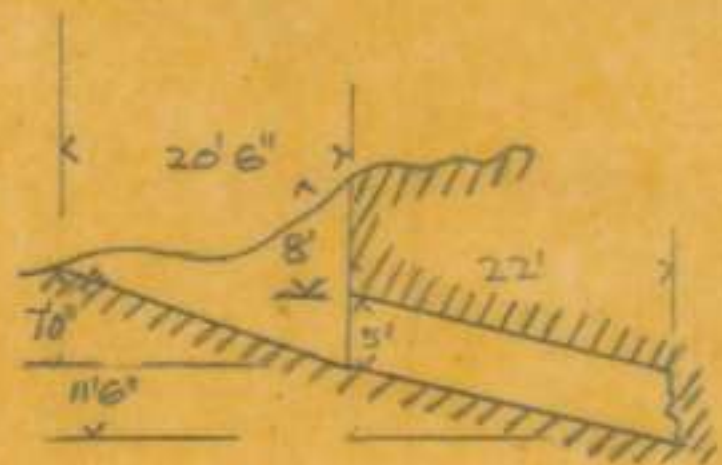


AMBULANCE POST

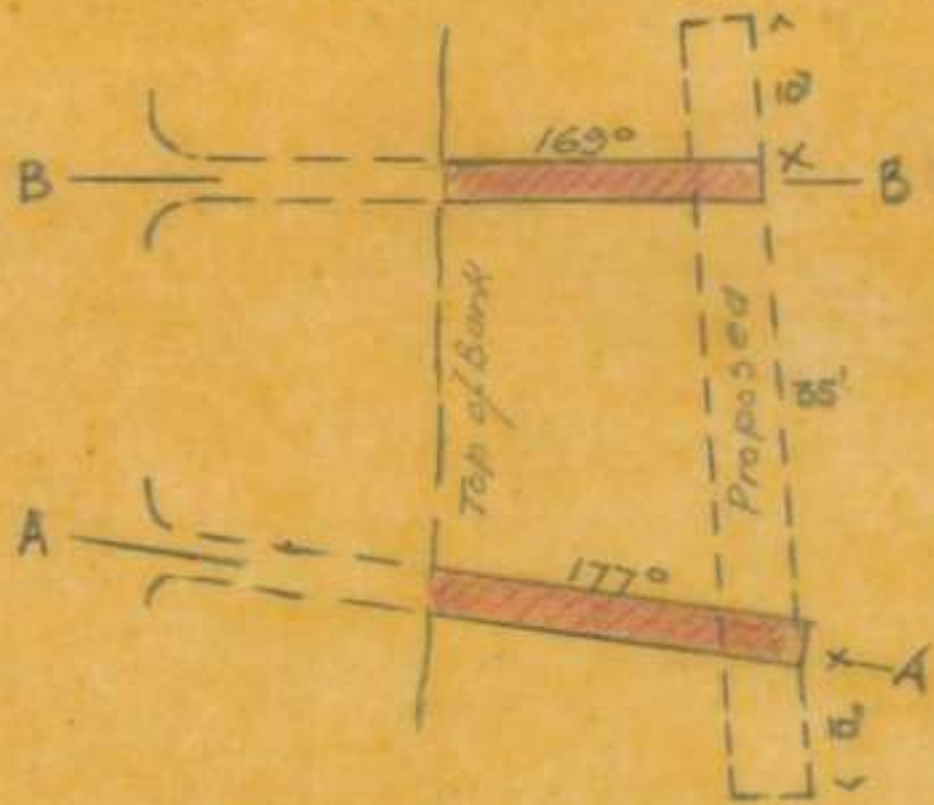
AMBULANCE POST



Section AA



Section BB

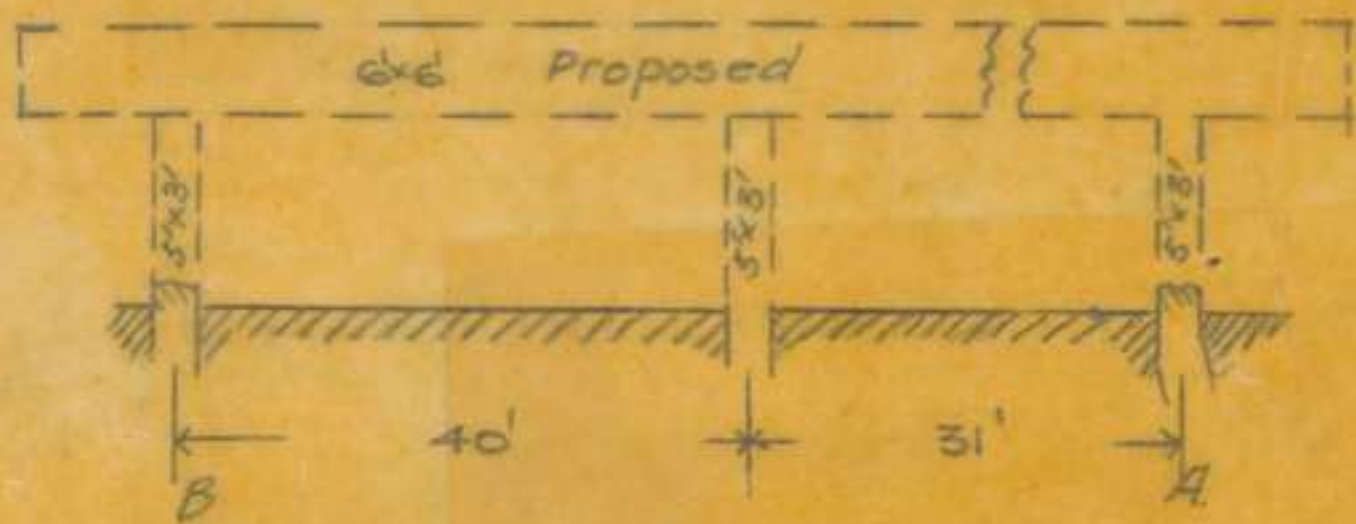


Plan

Map location D15d-6-1

Map loc

SUPPORT BTN HQ



Level of B is 1ft higher than A

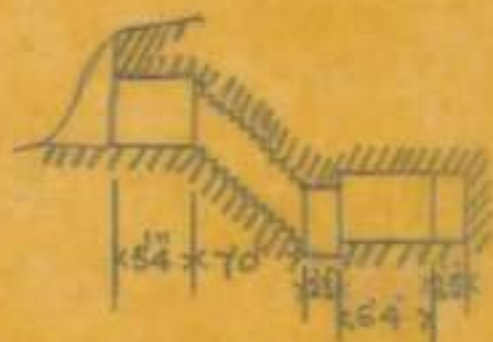
Map location D21b65-10

ARTILLERY

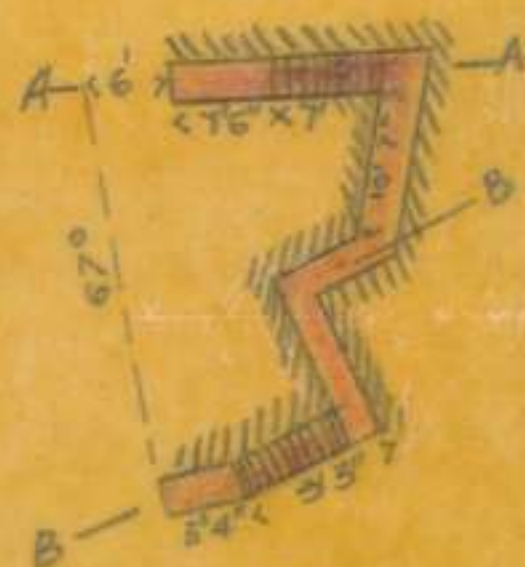
ARTILLERY



Section AA



Section BB



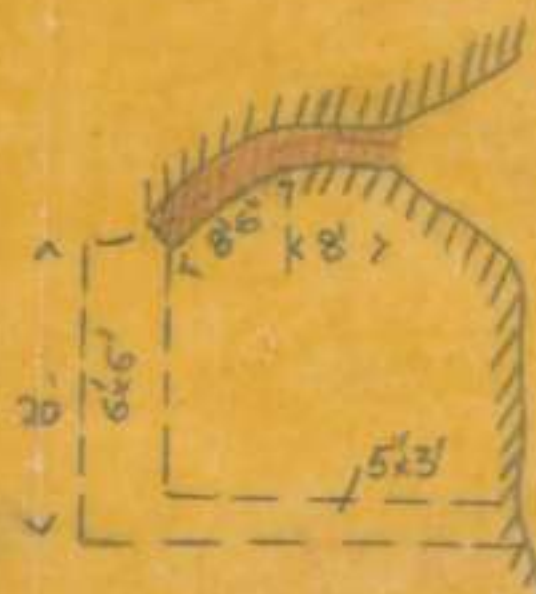
Plan

Map location D15d-7-1  
D15-d-7-1

BGE MG HQ



Section

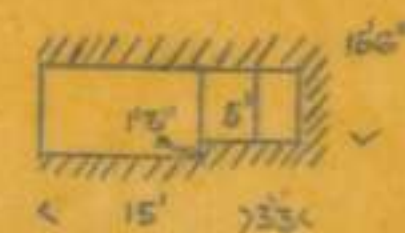


Plan

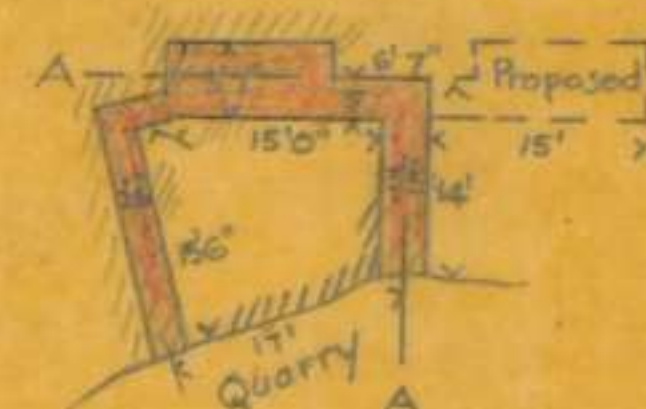
Map location D17c65-25

RIGHT BTN IN LINE HQ

top of bank



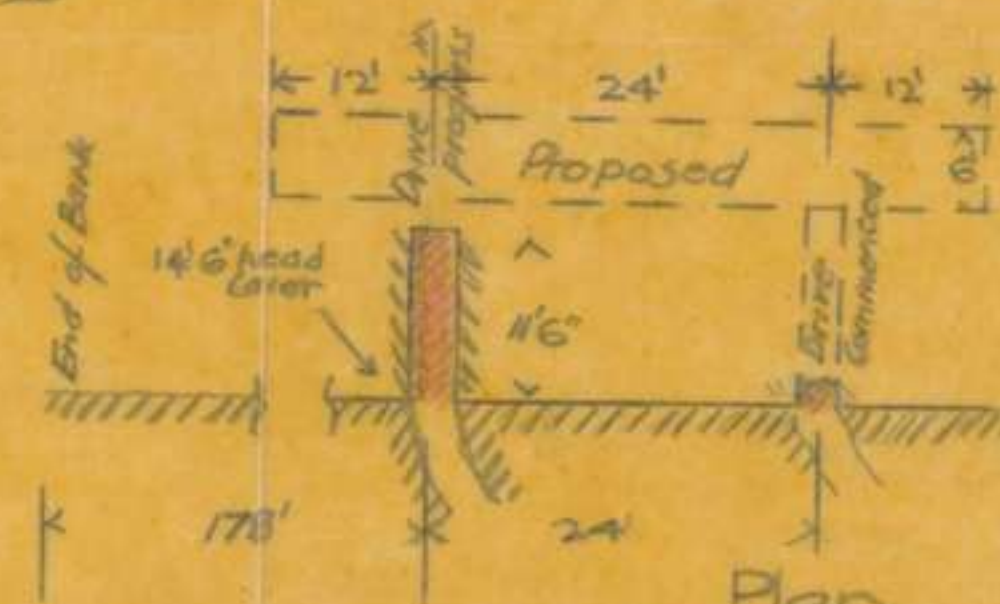
Section AA



Plan

Map Location D24-a-1-7

LEFT BTN IN LINE HQ



Plan

Map location D18d-0-5



Cupola shelter in progress

PLAN

SHOWING DETAILS OF DUGOUTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION 23.4-18

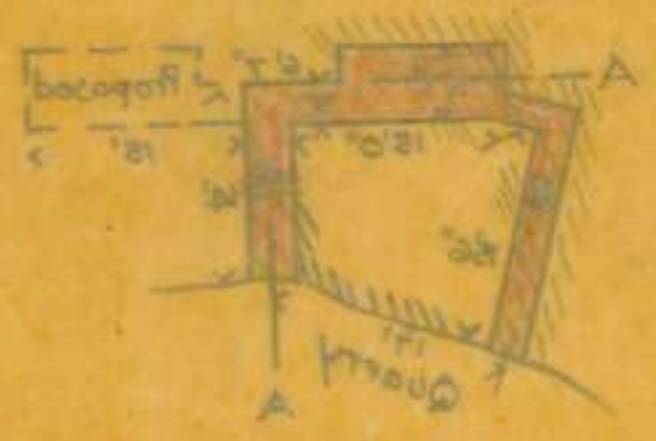
Scale 20ft to 1 in

appendix 13

RIGHT BTN IN LINE HQ  
top of bank



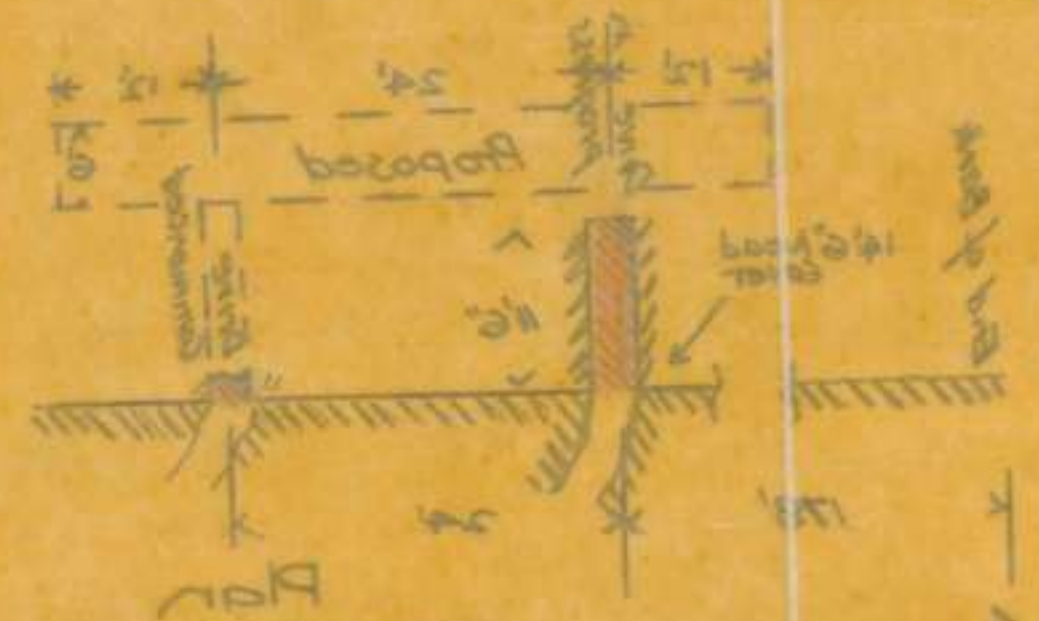
Section AA



Plan

Map location Dis. 0-1-7

LEFT BTN IN LINE HQ



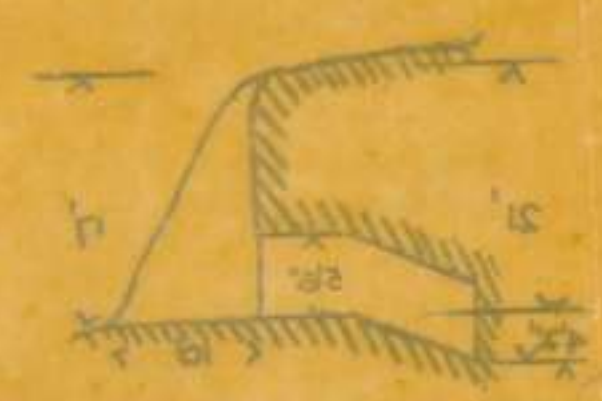
Plan

Map location Dis. 0-2

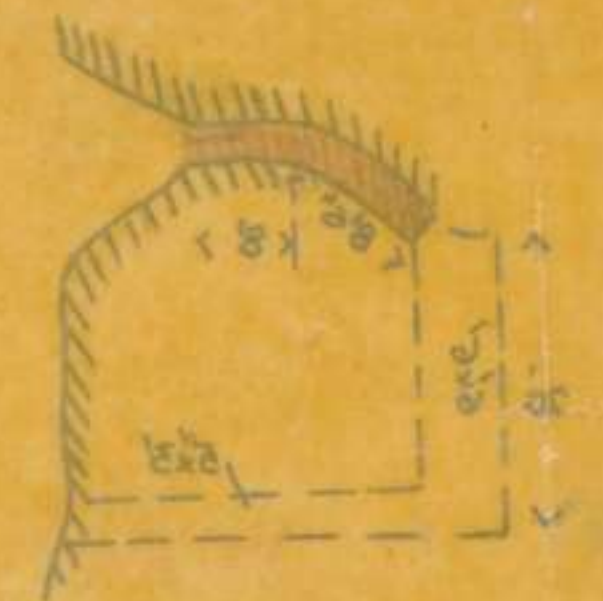


Cuboid shelter

BGE MG HQ



Section



Plan

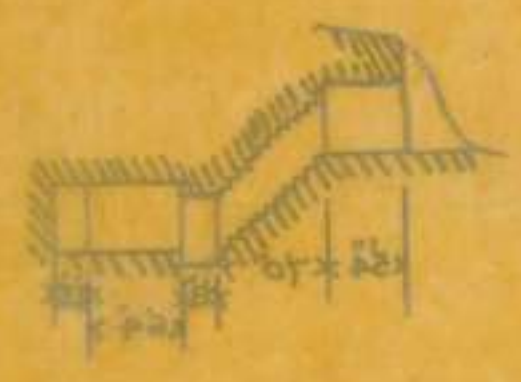
Map location Dis. 0-2

ARTILLERY

ARTILLERY



Section AA



Section BB

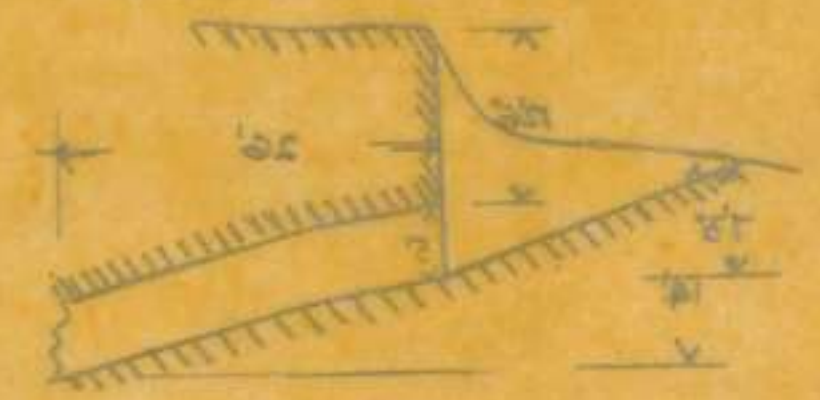


Plan

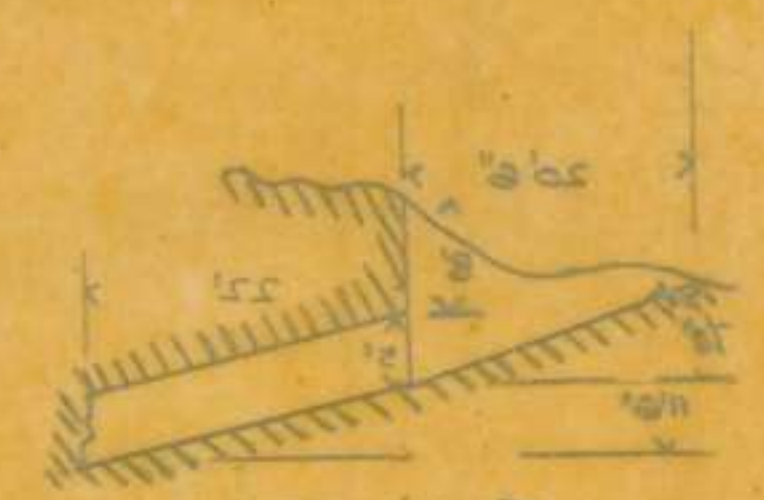
Map location Dis. 0-11

AMBULANCE POST

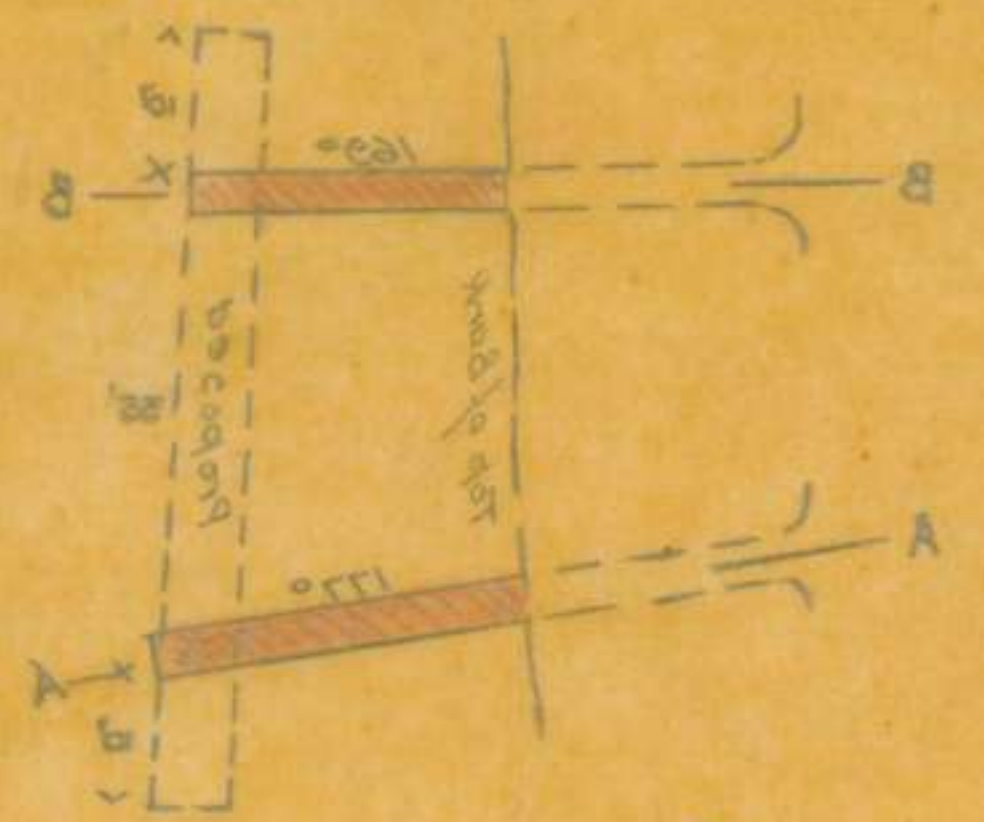
AMBULANCE POST



Section AA



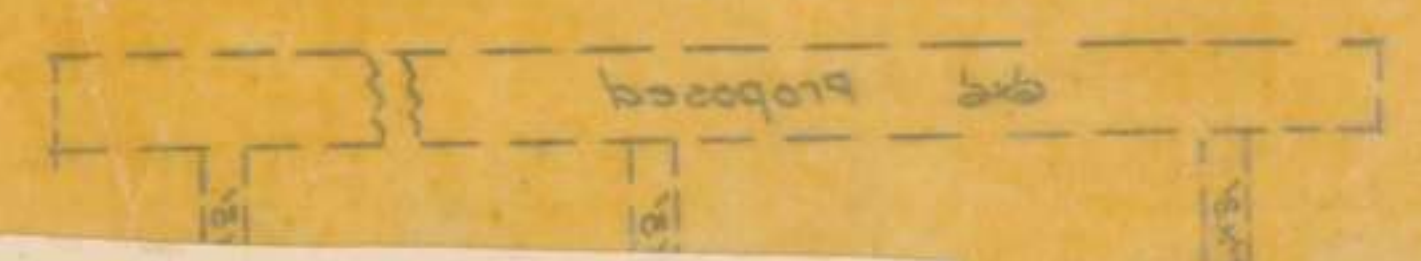
Section BB



Plan

Map location Dis. 0-1

SUPPORT BTN HQ



level of B is higher than A

Scale 20ft to 1in

TAILS OF DUGOUTS

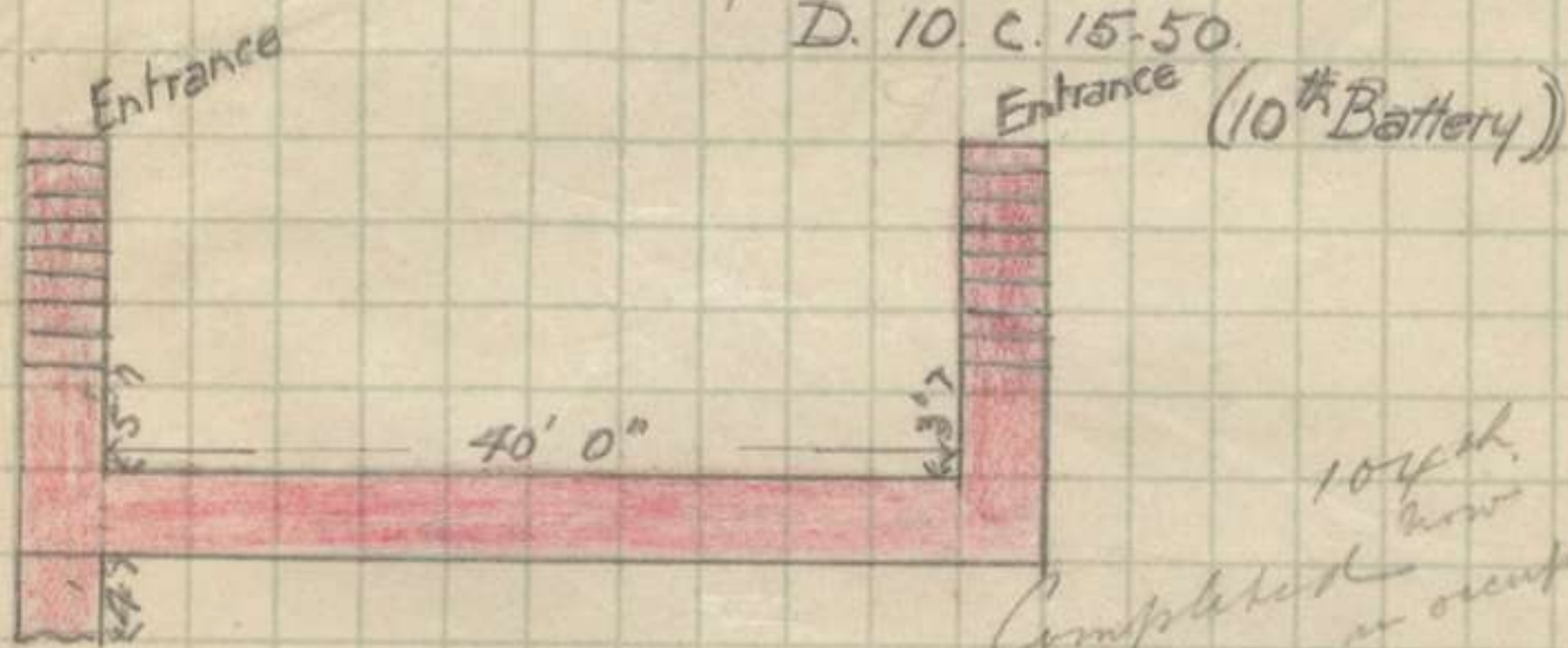
CONSTRUCTION 20-18

PLAN

Rough Sketch Plan.

Battery Command Post.

D. 10. C. 15-50.



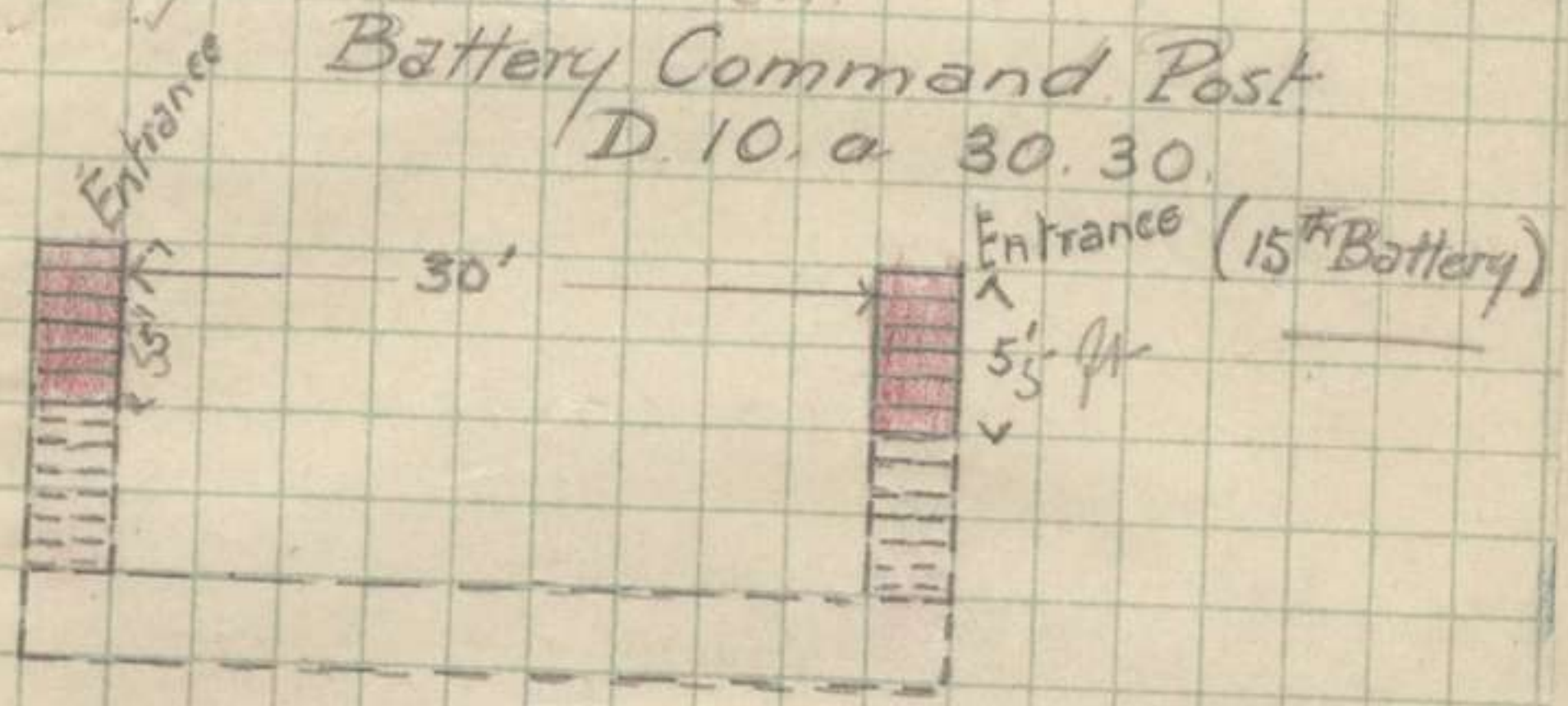
Galleries and Shaft 3'6" x 5'6"

Overhead Cover. = 15'

Ground - Chalk.

Proposed Accommodation 4 Officers 50. O. R.

Rough Sketch Plan  
 Battery Command Post  
 D. 10. a 30. 30.



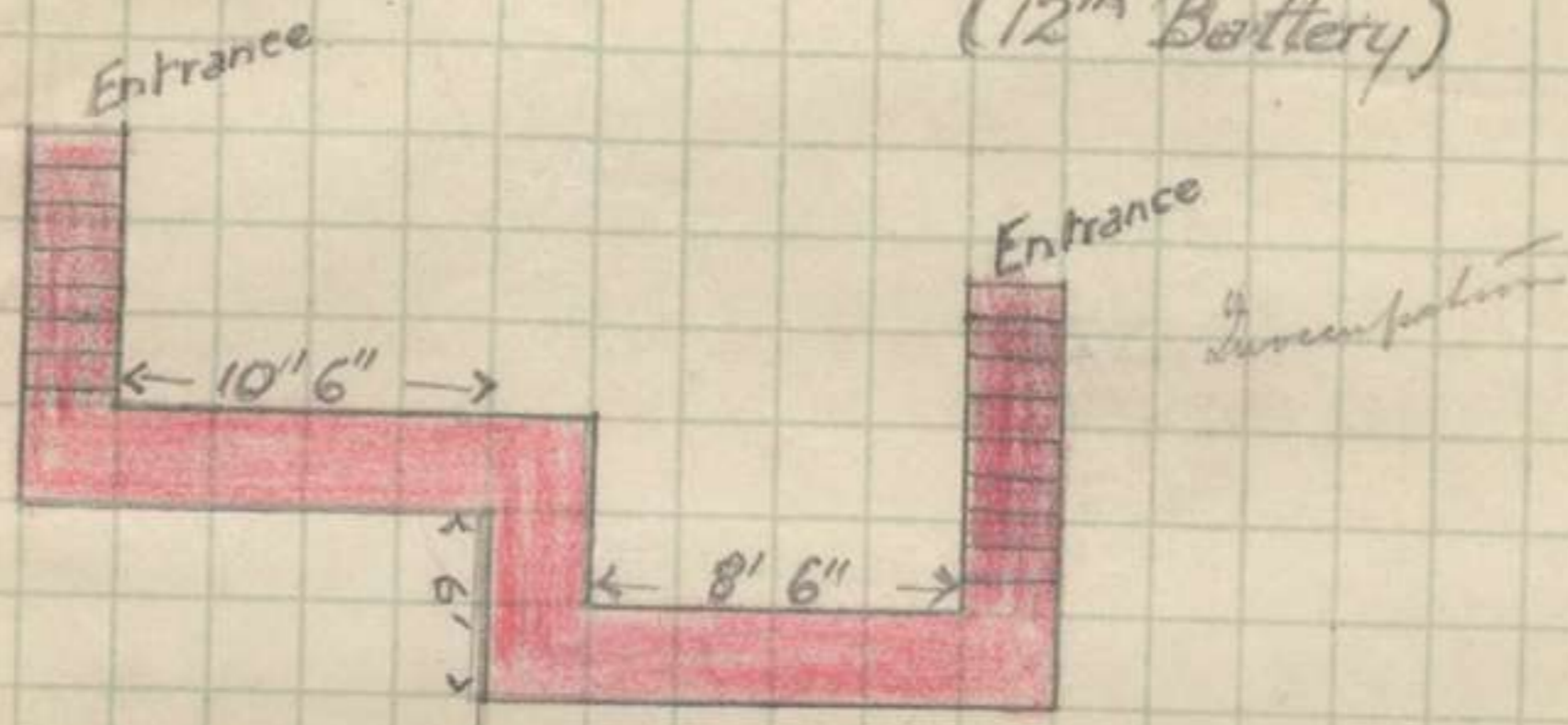
- Shaft 6'x2'6"
- Proposed Galleries 6'x2'6"
- " Overhead Cover 20'
- " Accommodation 4 Officers 50 O.R.
- Proposed Accommodation

Rough Sketch Plan. Dug Out.

Battery Section Command post.

D. 15. d. 95. 20.

(12<sup>th</sup> Battery)



Galleries & Shaft. 6' x 2' 6"

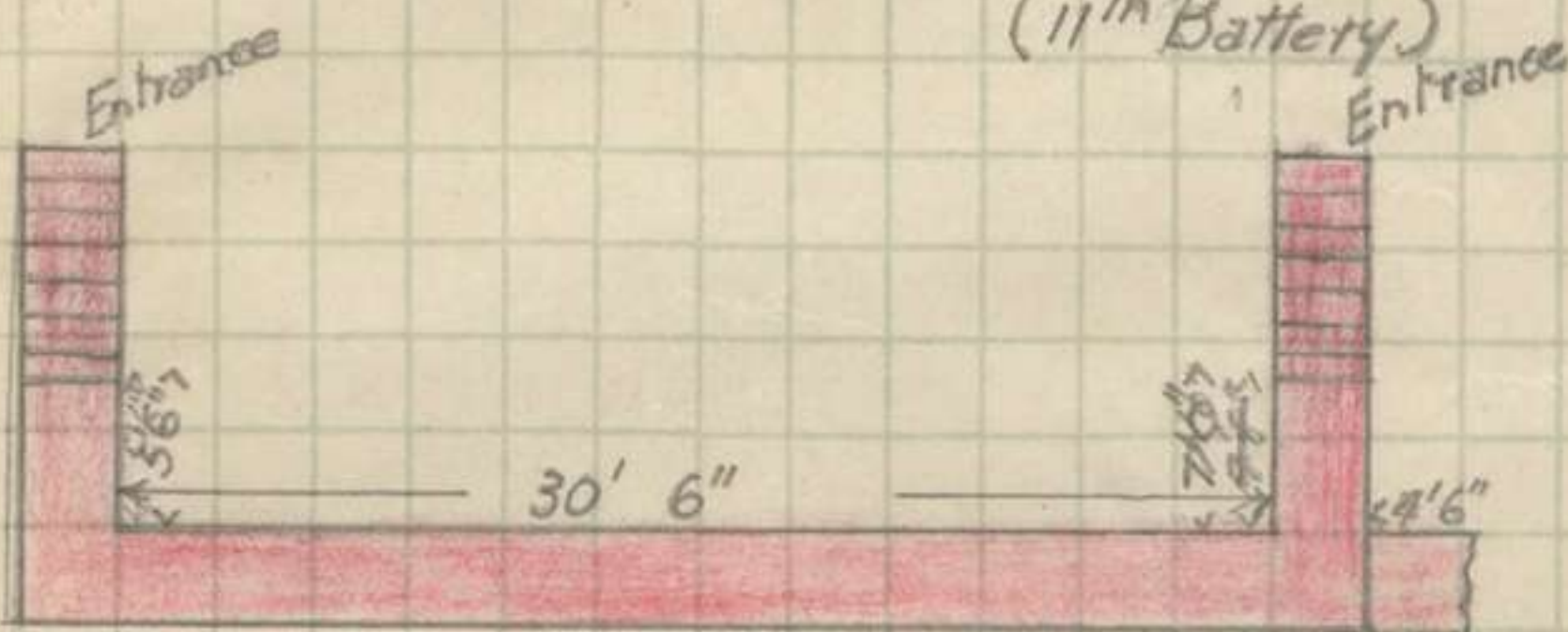
Overhead Cover = 14'

Ground. Chalk.

Proposed. Accommodation 2 Officers 12 O.R.

Rough Sketch Plan.  
Battery Command Post.

D. 15. b. 47-93.  
(11th Battery)



Galleries and Shaft. 4'6" x 2'4"

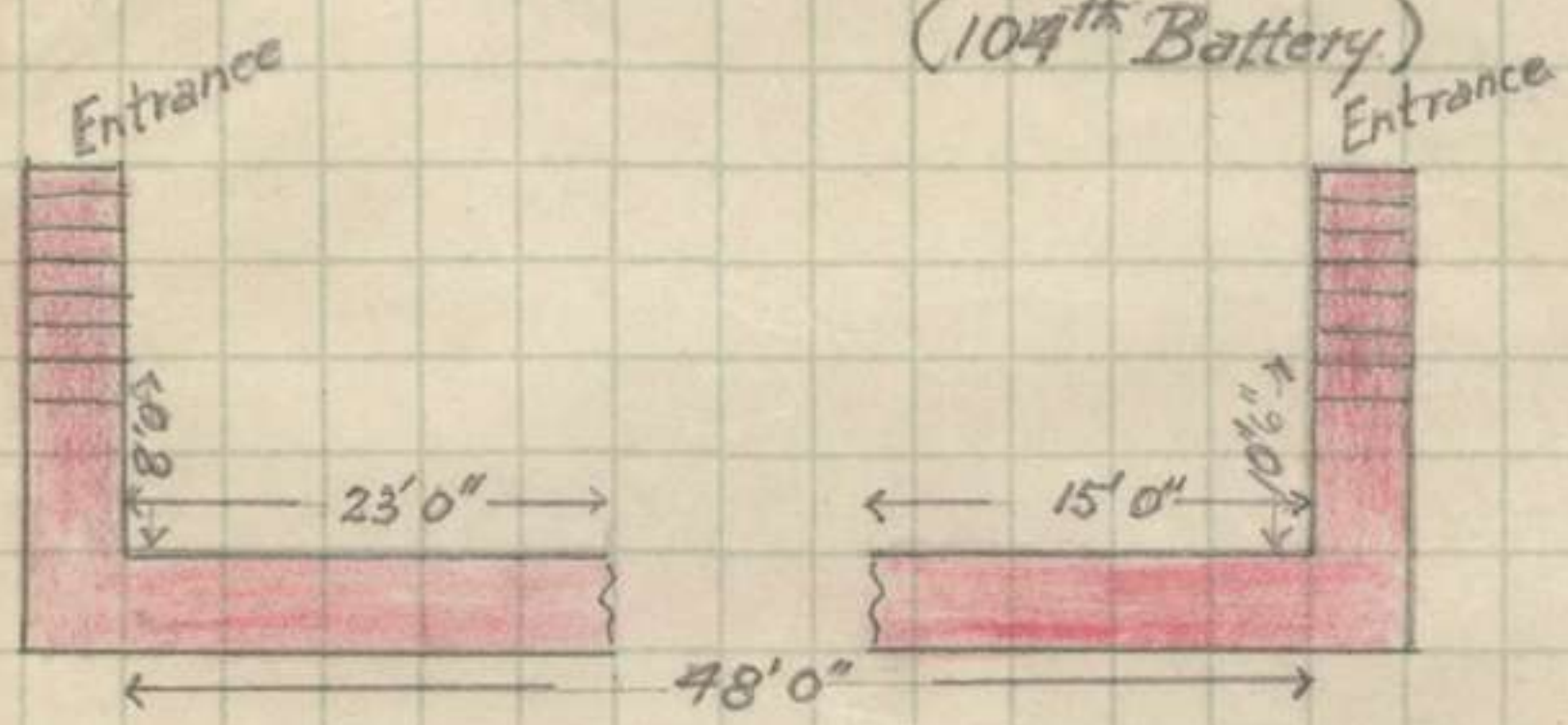
Overhead Cover 16' Cover

Ground — Chalk.

Proposed Accommodation 4. Officers 50. O.R.

Completed

Rough Sketch Plan  
 Battery Command Post  
 D. 10. C. O. 6.  
 (104<sup>th</sup> Battery)



Galleries and Shaft 6' x 2'6"  
 Overhead Cover 12'  
 Ground — Chalk.

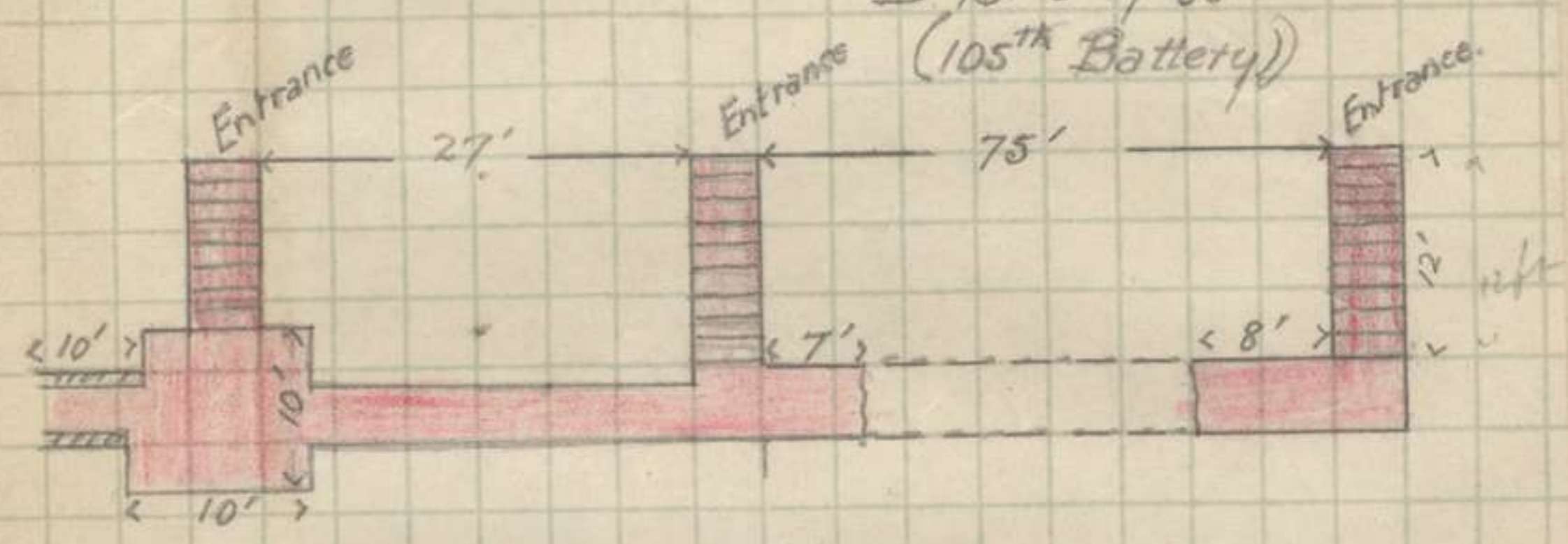
Proposed Accommodation 4 Officers, 50 O.R.

Rough Sketch Plan.

Battery Command Post

D. 13. C 17. 85.

(105<sup>th</sup> Battery)



Galleries and shaft 6x2' 1/2"

Overhead Cover 16'

Ground — Chalk.

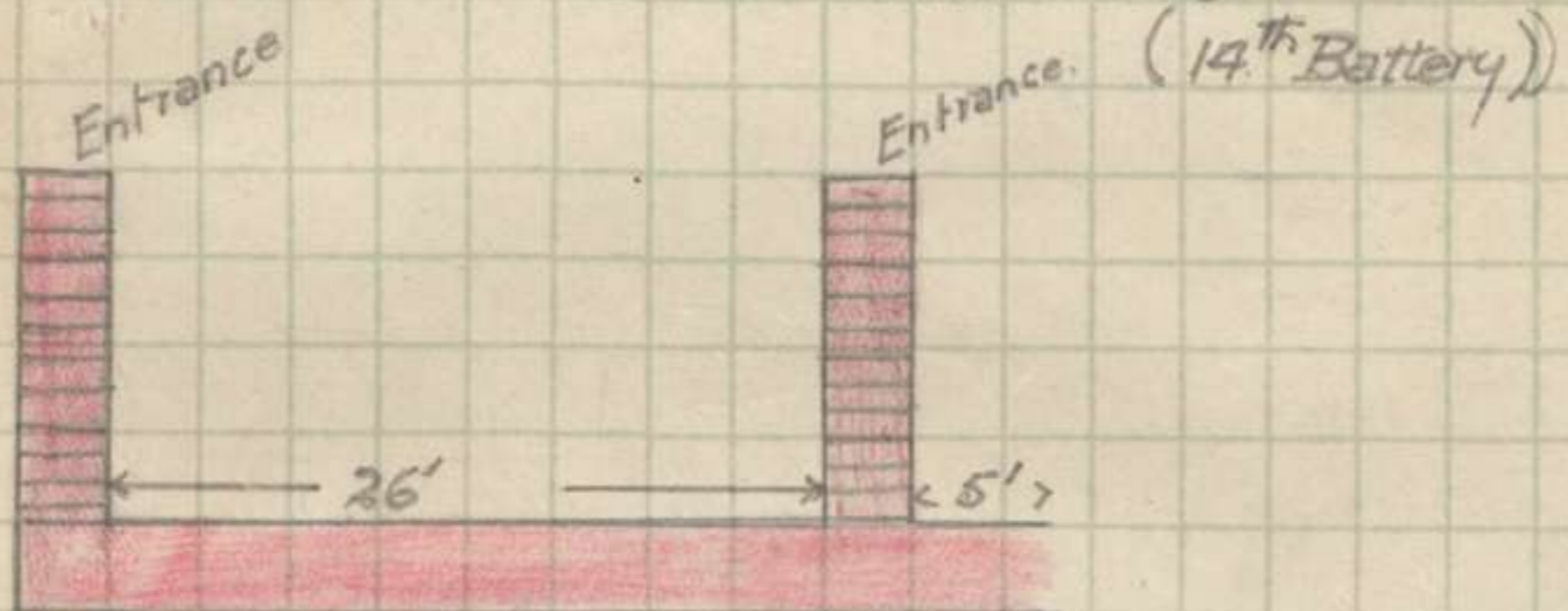
Proposed Accommodation 4 Off. 50 B.R.



Rough Sketch Plan.

Battery Command Post.

D. 10. C. 50. 80



Galleries and Shaft 6'x3'

Overhead Cover 17'

Ground - Chalk.

Proposed Accommodation 4 Officers 50 O.R.

"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C, 2121. (In pads of 100.)

No. of Message

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.
			At.....	m.		From.....
			To.....			By.....
			By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO CRE 2nd Aust. Div.

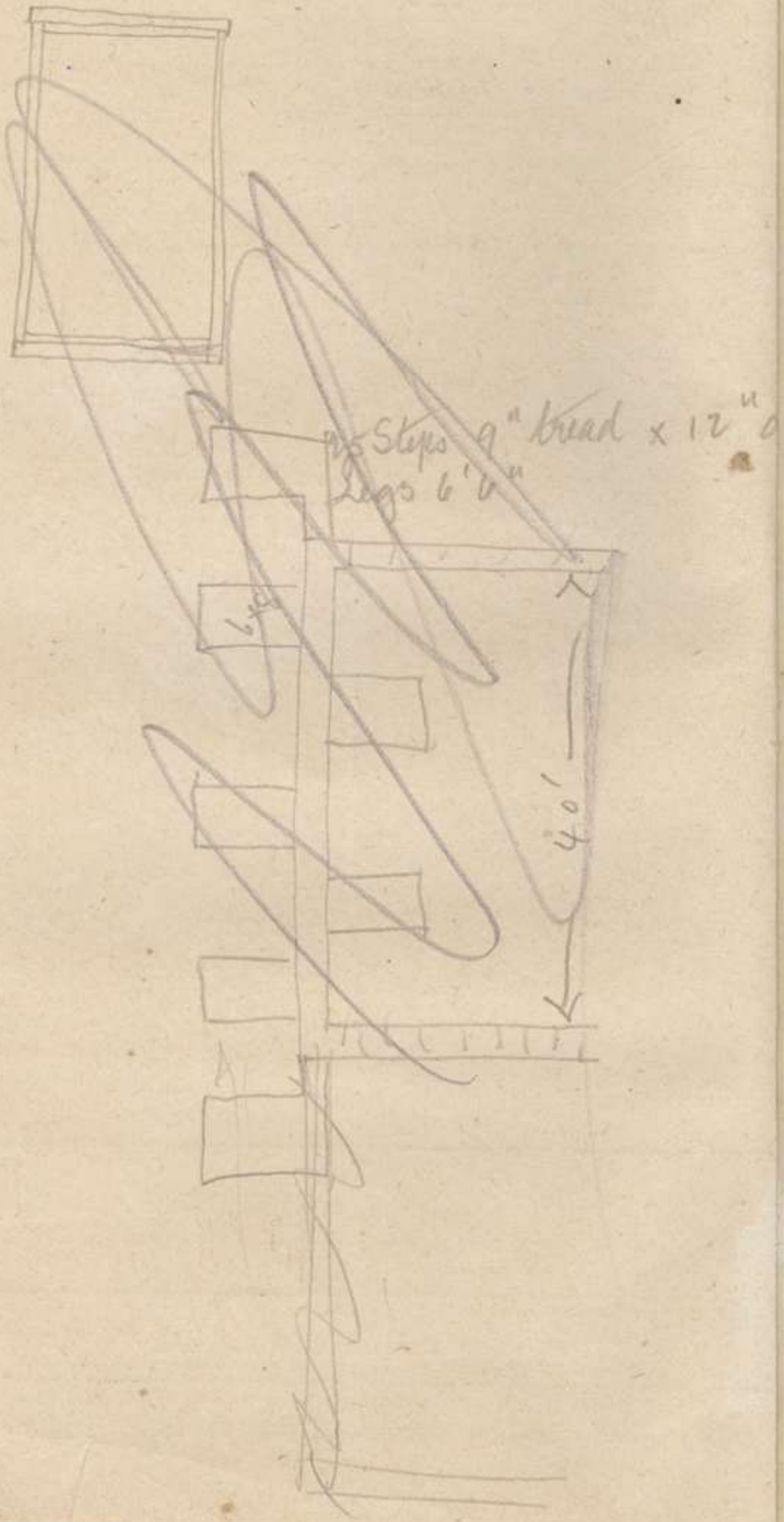
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* A-74	26	EW-99	

I forward herewith sketches of Bde HQ dug out (which will be completed tomorrow except as regards gas protection) and of 4 proposed ~~for~~ Command Posts for Battalion Head Quarters AAA I have not yet considered the matter of deep dug outs for MG's although this provision is highly desirable AAA 3 Bn HQ's can be completed with labour available in 21 days if timber is supplied as required AAA After that we shall be able to commence MG dug outs

From 6th Field Coy AE  
 Place  
 Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature] Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 W.L. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



Appendix 13

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix..... Code..... m Words. Charge.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.
This message is on alc of:
Sent
At..... m.
To.....
By.....
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { CRE 2nd Aust Div
5th A.I. Bde.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number.
\* RE 17 28-4-18 444

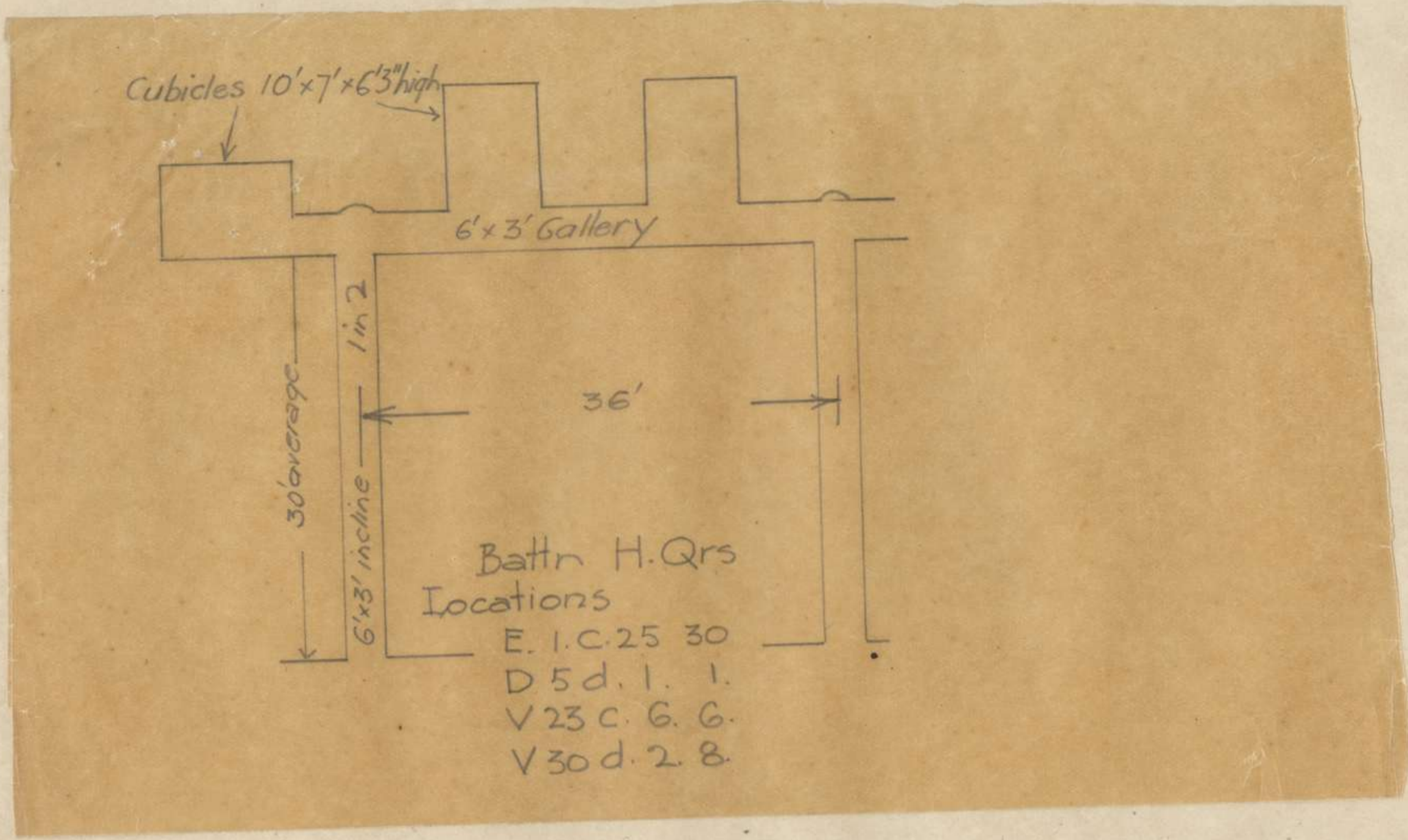
Ref deep dug outs
The following (in order of urgency) are
required in 5th A.I. Bde area
FORWARD BN. H.Q.
(a) RIGHT BN. W 19 a 50.
(b) LEFT BN W 20 a 19
ADVANCED BDE. H.Q. (and COMMAND POST)
V 23 b 14.
SUPPORT BN. H.Q. (and COMMAND POST).
V 24 d 11.

Machine Gun dug out requirements will
be forwarded as soon as possible.
No plans etc are forwarded as it is
understood that standard designs for Bn
H.Q. are to be used & practically the same
design is required for Advanced Bde.

From 7th Ad Coy A.E.
Place
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.
(Z) [Signature]
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.
(3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 818.)



Appendix 13

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

*appendix 12*

The following is a list of the dugout accommodation urgently required in this Divisional area in order of importance :-

Forward Bde.H.Q.	Left Bde	V.23.a.9.9.	Under construction.
Left Bn.	Left Bde	W.20.c.4.3. <i>at 9</i>	do
Right Bn	Left Bde.	W.19.a.6.1. <i>5.0.</i>	do
Left Bn.	Centre Bde.	V.30.d.2.9.	do
Right Bn.	Centre Bde	D.12.d.8.8.	do
Left Bn.	Right Bde.	D.18.d.0.5.	do
Right Bn.	Right Bde.	D.24.a.1.7.	do
Support Bn.	Centre Bde.	D.5.d.0.1.	do
Reserve Bn	Centre Bde.	V.23.c.3.7.	
Support Bn.	Right Bde.	D.21.b.5.0.	Under construction.
10th Battery	-	D.9.c.75.72.	
13th do	-	D.4.c.0.0.	
15th do.	-	D.10.a.28.28. <i>under constn</i>	
37th do	-	D.5.a.33.87.	
38th do	-	V.29.a.05.30.	
39th do	-	D.4.a.0.0.	

*Centre Bde HQ*

*D4 C.1.3*

*under construction*

Also additional outlet required to cellars, Centre Artillery Group H.Q., V.27.b.5.1.

sgd. C.C.R. MILES, Lieut. Col,  
General Staff,  
2nd Aust. Division.