

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/15/23

**Title:** 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-14/15/23



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159

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.  
WAR DIARY.  
OF  
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION - A. I. F.  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER 1918. O.

1-1-18

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER COMPILING:-

*L. F. Leary*  
LIEUT. & ADJT.  
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A. I. F.

SIGNATURE OF COMMANDING OFFICER:-

*W. W. Lindsay*  
LIEUT. COLONEL,  
C.O. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A. I. F.



# WAR DIARY

3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. - SEPTEMBER 1918.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAUX.	1918 SEPT. 1st.		On this date, the Battalion was still located at VAUX - A.28.d.4-8 - with half Companies only working, on roads - the other half Companies training.	
	2nd.		Work progressing. Companies detailed for work as under:- "A" COY - make and improve hutments under 9th A.I. Bde. Two Platoons "B" & "C" COMPANIES patrolling and maintaining roads in the Div. Area. Organized salving to be carried out. "D" COY. and 2 Platoons "B" and "C" Companies to carry out not more than 4 hours training daily, special attention being paid to training of specialists.	Lib
	3rd.		Work on roads and training progressing.	
	4th.		Work and training well in hand. One Officer and twenty-four picked men commenced a course of instruction in scouting duties. At 10-15 P.M. on this date, a telegram was received from D.H.Q. - "11th A.I. Brigade and 3RD PIONEER BN. (less 1 Company) to stand by in readiness to move forward as Advance Guard." Companies were immediately 'phoned, cancelling work on roads, and instructing them to carry on with training - 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, in close proximity of Camps - men to get as much rest as possible. 1 G.S. wagon to report to "B", "C" and "D" Coys. 8 a.m. on the 5th, for loading of mobilisation tools, etc., these Companies to be ready to move off at an hours notice.	Lib
	5th		Appendix 167A attached is weekly report of Workshops for week ending 5/9/18. Companies still standing by - "A" Coy. still detached to 9th A.I. Bde. At 1-0 p.m., Companies ordered to be ready to move at half an hour's notice, with tools necessary for any work. (See app. 108 - Order 64 attached).	APP. 167A APP. 168.
MONT ST. QUENTIN			At 2 p.m. H.Q., Transport, "B", "C" and "D" Companies proceeded by road to the vicinity of MONT ST. QUENTIN - H.Q. established in old Quarry at I.16.a. Central, together with 42nd Inf. Bn. At 6-0 P.M., the Battalion (less 1 Company), working with the 42nd Inf. Bn. as Van Guard, moved into the Line - "B" Coy., as one of the Reserve Companies of the Van Guard, and advanced at 9-0 p.m. from the Grid Line - I.28. Central to I.35. Central - approximately 1,500 yards in front of PERONNE.	Lib
PERONNE.				
TINCOURT.	6th.		Advance continued and GREEN Line reached between 2 and 3 A.M. At 4 a.m. advance again continued to the RED Line in front of TINCOURT, which was established at about 6-0 P.M. on LEFT, and on RIGHT, about 1,000 yds W. of RED Line	Lib

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## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TINCOURT BUIRE.	1918. SEPT. 6th.		H.Q. shifted forward by route march at 5-0 A.M., and was established in the vicinity of cross roads at J.19.d. Central approximately. Later - at 6-0 p.m., H.H.Q. again moved forward and was established at old German Camp at BUIRE.	
	7th.		At about 3-0 A.M., the 41st and 44th Inf. Bn. relieved this Unit, which returned to Billets at BUIRE, to rest for the day. (App. 180 attached is map showing the area, objectives, etc. of the above operations. At 5 p.m. Companies again moved forward and took over Liaison Posts, with instructions to return to BUIRE at 8 p.m. the following day. (See App. 169 attached - Order No. 65). App. 170 is amendment to Order No. 65.	APP. 180. APP. 169 & 170.
	8th.		Companies still manning and holding Liaison Posts. At 2-0 A.M., telegram received from 11th A.I. Bde. to detail guard over German road mine at J.33.b.45-45, and to render same safe. "A" Coy. was detailed to do this work. Companies instructed to return to Billets at BUIRE at their own convenience, on the morning of the 9th inst., (See Appendix 171 attached).	
	9th.		Companies returned to billets, for spell, bathing, etc. App. 172 attached covers the role of the Bn. during the period 5th/9th instant. Appendix 173 is copy of a letter of appreciation received from the G.O.C. 3RD AUS. DIV., in connection with the work performed by this Unit. On this date "A" COY. rejoined from detachment with 9th A.I. Bde., and commenced work patrolling and repairing roads PERONNE to HERVILLY, and repaired a large crater at BRUSLE.	APP. 172 APP. 173.
	10th.		Arrangements made for classes of instruction - for the Battalion less "A" Coy. - to commence; special attention to be paid to Inf. Training. Specialists classes were formed for instruction in Signalling, Lewis Gun, Stretcher Bearing, Scouting, and the use of German Machine Guns. "A" Company still working on roads.	
	11th.		Preparations in hand for training to commence 12 th instant. Companies bathing. "A" COY, rejoined and prepared for commencement of training,	
	12th.		Training commenced.	
	13th.		Training well in hand. During the night much enemy bombing took place. Our searchlights and night flying patrols were very active, the latter bringing down two enemy bombers in flames.	



## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE	1918 SEPT. 14th.		Training in hand.	
	15th.		In the morning a Church Parade was held, this Unit combined with the 3rd Aust. Machine Gun Company attending. After Church Parade the rest of the day was observed as a holiday for the men. Slight enemy bombing took place during the night.	21
	16th/19th		Training still being carried out.	
	20th		Training progressing. The L.G. and German Machine Gun classes fired their practices. Instructions received from C.E. Corps, that he would take over the Workshops being run by this Unit. The <del>the</del> plant, material on hand, etc., was accordingly handed over, and our personnel recalled for duty with the Battalion.	21
	21st		Training. A Conference of Officers was held by the C.O., in connection with forthcoming operations.	21
	22nd.		Church Parade held in the morning, and the rest of the day observed as a holiday.	
	23rd. 24th.		Training still continuing.	
	25th.		Training. The C.O. had a reconnaissance made of the YELLOW and BLUE Road in the forward Div. Area, and submitted a report of such reconnaissance to the C.E. Corps. Appendix 174 attached is copy of such report.	APP 174
	26th.		Battalion training. The C.O. was recalled from English leave on this date, in anticipation of operations to take place at a future date. The C.O. attended a Conference at the Office of the C.E. Corps.	21
	27th.		Companies advised that they would shift that night to the vicinity of E.27.b.1-8 and E.21.d.7-8. Order No. 66 issued (App. 175 attached). The C.O. held a Conference for Company Commanders and O.C. of American Engineers who would be attached for forthcoming operations. Companies moved off at 7-0 P.M.	APP. 175



## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE & RONSSOY.	1918 SEPT. 28th.		B.H.Q. closed at BUIRE at 9 a.m. and moved forward by route march to the ruined village of RONSSOY, where it was established at 2-30 p.m. Battalion Operation Order No. 10 (App.176 attached) issued. For these operations, "C" Coy., of the 102nd Regiment U.S. Engineers, and 2 Officers 20 O.R. from the 1st Aust. Tunnellers were attached for duty, the latter to seek for (1) road mines (2) tank mines and (3) booby traps in captured D.O's, etc.	APP.176 <i>LB</i>
	29th.		Barrage opened at 5-50 A.M., and Companies commenced work as per orders. Enemy shelling and Machine Gunning of roads was very severe, and fairly heavy casualties took place. The role of the Battln. for this operation was to open up the BLUE and YELLOW roads as shown on App.180 attached, so that, if the advance was successful, artillery and Motor transport could follow up. "D" Coy. of the 102nd Regt. U.S. Engineers were distributed through the Companies of this Unit for experience. Unfortunately, the operation did not carry according to plans, consequently heavy casualties occurred.	APP.180 <i>LB</i>
	30th.		The 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn. was responsible for making the roads trafficable, and the Tunnellers, who were detailed to follow up this Unit, for the maintenance of roads, and for making further improvements to same. The YELLOW Road was opened up much more quickly than the BLUE Road, in consequence of the partly successful advance made by the attacking troops at this spot. Prior to ZERO hour, all arrangements were made so that material could be conveniently dumped along the roads, where it could be easily obtained by the parties actually opening them up.	<i>LB</i>
			The Infantry had by this time made a little further advance, and in consequence, parties were again placed on the road and were able to push them forward to BONY. During the advance, the Pioneer Bn. was working along the roads, practically with the advancing troops, and was able to make the roads trafficable up to the foremost positions occupied, daily.	
			Appendices 177, 178 and 179 attached, are the usual monthly Statement of Strength, Casualties, etc, T.O and Q.M's Reports.	<i>LB</i>



## WAR DIARY

OF

5

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918. O.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	<del>XXXX</del>	Subject.
167A	-	WORKSHOPS REPORT - WEEK ENDING 5/9/18.
168	-	BN. ORDER NO. 64 - PREPARATIONS FOR MOVE.
169	-	BN. ORDER NO. 65 - COMPANIES ON POSTS.
170	-	AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. 65.
171	-	AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. 65 (Second).
172	-	NARRATIVE OF WORK OF BN. 5th/10th SEPTEMBER '18.
173	-	CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM G.O.C. 3RD AUS.DIV.
174	-	RECONNAISSANCE OF ROADS.
175	-	ORDER NO. 66 - MOVE ORDER.
176	-	BN. OPERATION ORDER NO. 10.
177	-	STATEMENT OF STRENGTH, ETC.
178	-	T.O.'S REPORT.
179	-	Q.M.'S REPORT.
180	-	Plan of Objectives - roads, etc.



WORKSHOPS REPORT.  
\*\*\*\*\*

(WORK COMPLETED & DESPATCHED, DURING WEEK ENDING  
5/9/1918.

5 Folding tables	-	3rd Div. Artillery H.Qtrs.
1 Folding table )	-	Town Major BLANGY TRONVILLE.
6 Grease traps )		
3 Thermos tanks repaired	-	Q.M. 3rd Pioneer Bn .
5 Folding tables	-	C.R.E., 3rd Aust. Div.
2 Crosses with inscriptions		10th Field Ambulance.
100 Petrol tins converted into Hot food containers	-	Q.M. 3rd Pioneer Bn.
10 Crosses with inscriptions		Adjutant, 3rd Pioneer Bn.
24 Lewis Gun carrier frames, for G.S.L.Wagons.	-	3rd Pioneer Bn. (for Div.Units).
6 Folding tables	-	S p a r e.
30 Tins biscuits crushed		Q.M., 3rd Pioneer Bn .

*L. L. L. L.*  
For C.O. 3RD AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.

LIEUT.&.ADJT.,

F I E L D,

12/9/1918. O.



S E C R E T.

COPY NO. 9...

APPENDIX. 168

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO. 64.

B.H.Q., 5th SEPTEMBER 1918. O.

1. - Instructions have been received for this Unit to be prepared to move forward at short notice, with the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde.
2. - Companies will have their G.S. wagons packed immediately. Officers valises, mens' packs, etc., to be left in charge of two old men, and will be collected by the Q.M., after Companies have moved out.
3. - On receipt of Orders, Companies will move out in Fighting Order, with one blanket and waterproof sheet, waterbottles, filled, days rations to be carried on Cookers, dry rations on the men.
4. - The T.O. will detail two G.S. wagons to report to each "B", "C" and "D" Companies, immediately. Water carts to be filled and kept on lines ready to move. Horses will return to Lines as soon as wagons have been taken to Companies.
5. - The whole transport section, less "A" Company's wagons, will be ready to move at half an hours notice.
6. - A C K N O W L E D G E.

R. C. TAYLER, Lieutenant,

A/ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION: By Runner at 1-0 p.M. 5/9/18.

Copy No.	1	D.H.Q.
	2	11TH BDE.
	3	FILE.
	4	T. O.
	5	"A" COY.
	6	"B" COY.
	7	"C" COY.
	8	"D" COY.
	9/12	WAR DIARY.



SECRET.

COPY NO. ....

APPENDIX 169

## 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO. 65.

## MAP REFERENCE:-

Sheet 600 N.E. - 1/20,000.

7th SEPTEMBER 1918. O.

1. - Companies will remain in their present positions, i.e., "B" COY. in K.27.d., "D" COY. in K.26.a, and "C" COY., in J.30.d., during the night of the 7th/8th AUGUST 1918, continuing in the same role as they are at present, to the 10th A.I. Brigade, who are taking over the Line tonight.

2. - During the night "B" COY. will keep manned, the three Liaison Posts, No. 5 - at the cross roads Q.2.d.9-7; No. 16 - at the sugar factory Q.4.a.2-1, and No. 17 at the Crucifix at cross roads - Q4-d-8-9 and keep liaison with the Right Brigade.

3. - At 5-0 A.M. tomorrow morning, 8th inst., "B" Company will form Post 18, in the small trench system at Q.5.b.7-0. Posts Nos. 16, 17 and 18 will continue to be manned during the 8th instant, forming the Southern Flank of the Divisional Sector.

4. - At about 5-30 A.M. on the 8th, "B" Company will move forward to about the valley - K.34.Central, "D" Company to K.27.d., and "C" Company to K.26.

5. - Arrangements have been made to send out mens' blankets, and Dixies, so that breakfast, and tea at midday may be prepared for them.

6. - Companies are not required to "stand to", but touch should be kept by a small patrol, with the Company in front, "B" Company keeping in touch with the 44th Battalion in the Line.

7. - Companies will leave the positions which they move into tomorrow, at 8-0 p.m. tomorrow, 8th instant, and will return to Billets at BUIRE.

R. C. TAYLOR, Lieutenant,

A/ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Mounted Orderly at 6-25 p.m. 7/9/18.



O'C. "B" COY.  
 "C" COY.  
 "D" COY.

APPENDIX. ....170

AMENDMENT TO BATTALION ORDER NO. 65.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Para. 3 of Bn. Order No. 65 is cancelled. Companies will not move from the positions that they are in tonight, at 5-0 A.M. tomorrow as stated. They will remain as they are now situated, unless they receive further orders to the contrary.

"B" COMPANY will only keep manned, Posts 15, 16 and 17, tomorrow.

Major KEATINGE will remain in trench system he is at present occupying, advising this Office of exact location.

Companies, will, in any case, move back to billets in BUIRE at 8-0 p.m., tomorrow night, 8th instant.

R. C. TAYLOR, Lieutenant,

A/ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

F I E L D,

7/9/1918. O.



APPENDIX. ....171...

O.C. "B" COMPANY.  
 "C" COMPANY.  
 "D" COMPANY.  
 F I L E.

MEMO. NO. 102

Reference BATTALION ORDER NO. 65 - 7/8/18:-

Para. 7 thereof is cancelled, and instead, Companies will remain at their present locations, and return to Billets in BUIRE, at daylight tomorrow, 9th instant.

Arrangements are being made for a hot meal to be sent out as early as possible tonight.

R. C. TAYLOR, Lieutenant,

A/ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

F I E L D,

8/9/1918. O.  
 (5-10 P. M.).



On 4/9/18, the Battalion was placed under orders for a move at half an hours notice, and on 5/9/18, at 3-0 p.m., moved to a rendezvous near CLERY, less one Company - attached 9th Brigade.

The Battalion formed part of the Advance Guard following up the enemy retreat, and came under the orders of the C.O. 42nd Battln., as C.O. Advance Guard.

The allotment of Companies was - two Companies in the Line, and one in reserve.

At about 8 p.m. the Battalion was assembled on the jump off position, and a general advance was ordered for 12 midnight, with the GREEN Line as the objective.

This line was occupied during the night without opposition. At 4-30 A.M., the advance continued with the RED Line as the objective. The general line moved forward until in front of TINCOURT, where a good deal of opposition was met from M.G. and rifle fire. The line rested at this point until about 3-0 p.m., the situation being 1 Company and 1 Platoon with an attached Infantry Platoon North of the River, and 2 Platoons on South of River with a large gap between the two.

At about 11 a.m., 8/9/18, the Reserve Company was moved up, and sent two Platoons North of the River, and 2 South of the River to fill gap.

Steady work was carried out North of River throughout the day, in the way of harassing fire and short advances, resulting in a general evacuation of TINCOURT at about 3-0 p.m., which was followed up by harassing fire and feeling forward by the Companies there.

On South of River, an advanced party had reached a point 1,000 yards ahead of main line by 1-0 p.m., and the gap South of the River had been filled. Harassing of the enemy resulted in the copse and village of SOUCLY being evacuated at about 3-0 p.m., and the advance party moved into SOUCLY.

North of the river at about 5-30 p.m., one Company advanced its line to trenches in J.18., meeting no further opposition.

South of the River, the advance party was withdrawn back to the general line in J.35.a, owing to the Infantry on our Right being unable to advance, being then 2,000 yards ahead of 8th Brigade on their Right.

At about 2-0 a.m. on the 7th, the 41st and 44th Battalions became the Van Guard, advancing with the BLUE line as objective, and the Battalion became the Main Guard - moving forward and keeping touch.

Liaison Posts were established at points along the Southern Divisional boundary, and "leapfrogged" on as the advance continued.

The Battalion was relieved as Main Guard, at daybreak, on 9/9/18.

#### NOTES & COMMENTS:-

1. - TOUCH:- Touch, throughout, was rather difficult to maintain between the Pioneer Battln. and the 42nd Bn. It appears that this was mainly due to the extended Coy. fronts, and the advance in darkness for the GREEN Line.

2. - DIRECTION:- Direction was lost at once point in the advance, leaving a gap, afterwards filled by a Reserve Company. This was entirely due to difficulty in keeping touch during the first general advance.

3. - FLANKS & ADVANCES:- The Battln. could have moved on to the RED Line at 3-0 p.m. without opposition, but owing to the 8th Bde. being then 2,000 yards behind the existing line and unable to move, the 42nd Bn. Coy. on the Right ("D" Coy.) could not move up, and the Battln. conformed to the general Line.



(2).

NOTES & COMMENTS (Continued).

4. -LEASON POSTS:-

These were established at points ordered, but no co-operation was carried out by the Division on our Right.

It would have made a great difference to the working of these Posts, and to Intelligence, had the 5th Division sent a detail to each of the Posts to keep in touch. As it was, Posts had to scour the country to find Battalion and Brigade H.Q. of the other Division.

*W. McCaskey* MAJOR,  
A/C.O. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN.

F I E L D,

10/9/1918. O.



C O P Y.

APPENDIX. ....173.

(STAMP)  
HEADQUARTERS,  
9th SEPT '18.  
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

C. O.,  
3RD. AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.-  
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The General Officer Commanding desires to record his appreciation of the excellent spirit and the endurance shown by the Third Australian Pioneer Battalion since the commencement of our offensive. -

The Pioneers have taken a full share in the fighting as well as in the technical work of the Division, and their record has in every respect fulfilled the confident expectation of the Divisional Commander.-

(Sgd.) Robt. E. JACKSON, Lt.Colonel,  
A.A. & Q.M.G., 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

9th Septr. 1918.



APP. 174

C. E.  
AUST. Corps.

It is advised that a reconnaissance has been made of the YELLOW Road from EPENY, through LEMPIRE to F.25.d.5-2, and it is found to be in very fair order. It does not need much work on it to make it fit for M.T. traffic. There are small dumps of good broken metal every four or five chains, from LEMPIRE to the Front Line.

A reconnaissance has also been made of the BLUE Road, from F.10.a. Central to F.17.d.8-5, and same was found to be in a fair condition from F.10.a. Central to F.16.a.8-7, with the exception of a few shell holes. This portion is metalled. From F.16.a.8-7, forward to F.17.d.6-6, only a dry weather track exists, and a deviation to metalled road about 500 yards to the South is suggested. Road from F.17.d.6-6 forward is metalled, and in fair condition to DUNCAN POST. That portion of the BLUE Road at F.16.a.9-7 should be repaired before ZERO Hour, as there is a considerable amount of work to be done.

*W. J. Luby* MAJOR,  
For C.O. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BN.  
(Absent on leave).

F I E L D,

25/9/1918. O.





APP. ...175...

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO. 66. COPY NO.....

MAP REFERENCE:-  
Sheet 620 N.E.

27TH SEPTEMBER 1918. O.

1. - The 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION (less Rear H.Q.) will move from present location to Camp at E.27.b.1-8 and E.21.d.7-8 on the night of the 27th instant.

2. - Order of March:- "A" COMPANY will move off at 7-0 P.M., followed at five (5) minute intervals by "B", "C", and "D" COMPANIES, and H.Q.Details, in the order shown.

The Transport Section will follow on at rear of column.

3. - Route:- This will be selected by Major PHILLIPS - M.C., who will lead the column.

4. - Discipline:- Companies will arrange to maintain touch throughout the March. The strictest march discipline must be observed.

5. - Billets:- These must be left scrupulously clean, as they will be taken over by an incoming Unit the same night.

6. - Transport:- The T.O. will arrange to collect cookers and wagons from the Company lines at 6-0 P.M.

7. - B. H. Q.:- Major H.P. PHILLIPS - M.C. will establish Advanced Battalion H.Qtrs., in the vicinity of the locations given in para. 1 above, where all reports should be forwarded.

8. - Completion of Move:- Companies will advise Advanced B.H.Q. on completion of move.

L. F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:- Bu Runner at 4-15 P.M. 27/9/18:-

Copy No.	1	-	File,
	2	-	"A" Coy.
	3	-	"B" Coy.
	4	-	"C" Coy.
	5	-	"D" COY.
	6	-	T. O.
	7	-	D.H.Q.
	8/11	-	WAR DIARY.



SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

16

153 Third Australian Pioneer Battalion Operation ORDER No. 10.

MAP REFERENCE:-

Sheet 62 c N.E. and Sheet 62 b N.W.

APPENDIX PP. 176

28th September, 1918.

1. - In conjunction with the action of the Corps on our Right and Left, the HINDENBERG LINE between BELLICOURT and VENDHUILLE will be breached by the 21 American Corps 5.50 A.M. on the morning of the 29/9/18.
2. Consequent upon the above penetration, the 5th Aust. Div. on the Right, and the 3rd Aust. Div. on the Left are to exploit the success Eastward from the GREEN Line on the attached Map to the Line shown in RED.
3. For this operation, the 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battn. will be attached to C.E. Corps. One Company 102nd Regiment U.S. Engineers will come under the command of this Unit.
4. The C.E. 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battn. will be responsible for the construction of the YELLOW and BLUE Roads as per map attached.
5. ALLOCATION OF TROOPS. "A" and "C" Companies, with the American personnel attached, will be responsible for the construction of the BLUE Road. "B" and "D" Companies, with the American personnel attached, will be responsible for the construction of the YELLOW Road.
6. (a) The object is to provide at the earliest possible moment after ZERO, two roads fit for Field Artillery along the lines shown in the attached map.  
(b) The working parties must be ready to start work the moment the barrage opens. They will work behind the U.S. Infantry who will carry out the first attack. "C" and "B" Companies will start work on roads at points ordered, at ZERO less 15 minutes.  
(c) Tracks must be marked with pickets, notices, etc. of the same colour as that in which the road is shown on the Map. i.e. BLUE, and YELLOW.  
(d) It is essential for the success of the operation that these roads are through to their destination as soon as practicable. Every effort must be made to achieve this.  
(e) On completion of the tracks to the GREEN Line, the Pioneer Battn. and the attached U.S. Engineers will come under the command of their respective Divisions.  
(f) Company Commanders of this unit will, on the completion of their task, locate suitable shelters for their Company immediately EAST of the GREEN Line, in the 3rd Aust. Div. Area, approximately in A.12.b. and d., and A.18.b. and d.. Positions selected must be immediately forwarded to this office.
7. MINES AND TANK TRAPS. Two Officers and 20 O.R. will be attached to this unit from the 1st Aust. Tunnelling Coy., and will be solely employed as follows:  
"A" , Searching for road mines.  
"B" , Searching for tank traps.  
"C" Searching for booby traps in captured dugouts and elsewhere.  
Lieut. JOHNSTON, 1st Aust. Tunnelling, with 10 men, will report to Major M.B.B. KEATINGE at 5.15 a.m. at F.30.c.0.8., YELLOW ROAD.  
Lieut. CLAYTON, 1st Tunnellers, with 10 men, will report to Major PHILLIPS, M.C. at 5.15 a.m. 29th inst. at point "D" on BLUE Road.
8. FIELD ARTILLERY. (a) The opening FIELD ARTILLERY barrage for the operation of the American Corps will at ZERO plus 3, move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes, for six lifts, the rate of lift will then decrease to 100 yards in 4 minutes.  
(b) A pause of 15 minutes will be made by the barrage 500 yards EAST of the Line of the Canal.  
(c) The barrage will continue at the rate of 150 yards in 4 minutes until the protective barrage line to the first objective (400 yards EAST of the GREEN Line) is reached. Barrage will cease at ZERO plus 215.



Artillery 176

9. CAVALRY. If the tactical situation permits, the 5th Cavalry Brigade will move out through the Right Division and operate in an Easterly and North-East direction. No Cavalry will move through the RED Line prior to 2 p.m.

10. ARMoured CARS. (a) Armoured Cars will move under instructions of Aust. Corps by the YELLOW Road as far as the GREEN Line, and thence by the most suitable routes, and will operate East and North-East against the main BOHAIN-StQUENTIN Railway Systems.

(b) These Armoured Cars will be accompanied by Whippet Tanks.

11. WHIPPET TANKS. (a) Whippet Tanks attached to the Division will operate against BEAUREVOIR Village and Ridge from the South-East.

12. PLANKING. Four G.S. Wagons loads of planking will be on wheels at Battn. Headquarters and will be available for immediate use on demand.

13. REPORT CENTRES. Report Centres will be established at Point "D" on BLUE Road and at F.30.a.O.8. on YELLOW Road, at ZERO. At ZERO plus 100 Report Centres will move forward to junction of BLUE and YELLOW Roads. Companies will furnish two runners to report to their respective Report Centres on road where they will be employed. Reports must be rendered to this office hourly.

14. R.A.P. R.A.P. will be established at ZERO at F.22.b.1.8. and at ZERO plus 120 will be established on YELLOW Road at A.15.c.O.2.

15. ZERO DAY AND HOUR. ZERO Day will be 29/9/18 and ZERO Hour 5.50 a.m.

F I E L D.  
28/9/18.

L.F. Andrews, Lieut. Adj. Lt.  
3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Distribution by Runner at..... 28/9/18.

Distribution:-

1. C.E. Aust. Corps.
2. 3rd Aust. Division.
3. "A" Company.
4. "B" "
5. "C" "
6. "D" "
7. "C" Coy. 102nd Regt., U.S. Engrs.
8. 1st Aust. Tunnelling Coy.
9. File.
- 10 to 13. War Diary.



## STATEMENT OF TAKINGS ON, STRIKINGS OFF STRENGTH, &amp; CASUALTIES OF

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER . 1 9 1 8.

18

D A T E.	STRUCK OFF.		TAKEN ON.		C A S U A L T I E S.			
	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	KILLED.		WOUNDED.	
					OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.
1/9/18	-	-	2	12	-	-	-	-
2/9/18	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-
3/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4/9/18	-	9	-	1	-	-	-	-
5/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6/9/18	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	28
7/9/18	3	33	1	11	-	-	-	1
8/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
9/9/18	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-
10/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12/9/18	-	7	4	15	-	-	-	-
13/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
14/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15/9/18	-	6	1	6	-	-	-	-
16/9/18	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
17/9/18	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
18/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19/9/18	-	2	-	12	-	-	-	4
20/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21/9/18	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
22/9/18	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
23/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24/9/18	-	7	-	3	-	-	-	-
25/9/18	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
26/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27/9/18	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
28/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29/9/18	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	49
30/9/18	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	2
<hr/>								
T O T A L S	3	124	8	94	1	12	2	85

STRENGTH AS AT 31/9/18 - 35 Officers 831 O.R's.  
 Do. " " 30/9/18 - 40 " 801 "

*L. L. Shaker*  
 LIEUT. & ADJT.,  
 For G.O. 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN.

F I E L D,  
 30/9/1918. O.



159

REPORT OF TRANSPORT OFFICER,  
-----

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, - A. I. F.

FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918.

During the first week of the month, the Transport Section was camped at SPUR WOOD, and while there, limbers were used for the cartage of metal for various roads; rations and water to Company camps; stores from D.A.D.O.S. to Q.M.'s Store; salvage to dump, etc.

On the 8th SEPTEMBER, the Transport moved forward to BUIRE. While in this camp, animals were given a good rest, and turned out grazing. Wagons were washed and oiled, and reloaded.

Material was carted from Workshops at BLANGY TRONVILLE to PERONNE; also from CHIPILLY to PERONNE. Mail and canteen stores from DOINGT, etc.

On the 27th, the section again moved forward, to present location. From present location (in the vicinity of VILLERS FAUCON) 8 limbered wagons and 2 G.S. wagons were sent forward carting stone and material for Companies on roads. While on this work, 7 animals were wounded by shell and M.G. Fire - three being evacuated and 4 X treated on lines.

ANIMALS EVACUATED FOR MONTH:-

S I X.

DO.

TAKEN ON STRENGTH FOR MONTH:-

T H R E E.

CONDITION OF ANIMALS:-

GOOD.

DO.

" VEHICLES:-

CLEAN &amp; IN GOOD REPAIR.

DO.

" HARNESS:-

DO.

APP.NO.OF VEHICLES SUPPLIED:-

94

APP. MILEAGE COVERED DURING MONTH:-

1,300.

LIEUT.,  
T.O. 3RD AUST. PIONEER BATTN.

F I E L D,

4/9/1918. O.



159

## REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION. A. I. F.

FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918.

FAT collected and despatched to Base:-	828 lbs.
SOLDER " " " "	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
PAPER " " " "	50 "
CARDBOARD " " " "	37 "
CARTONS " " " "	53 "
BOOTS repaired:-	335 pairs .

CLOTHING RECEIVED & ISSUED FOR MONTH.

JACKETS.	BREECHES, D.S.	BREECHES, M.S.	G'COAT.	HATS.	PUTTEES. prs.	BOOTS. prs.
67	139	3	NIL	43	173	106

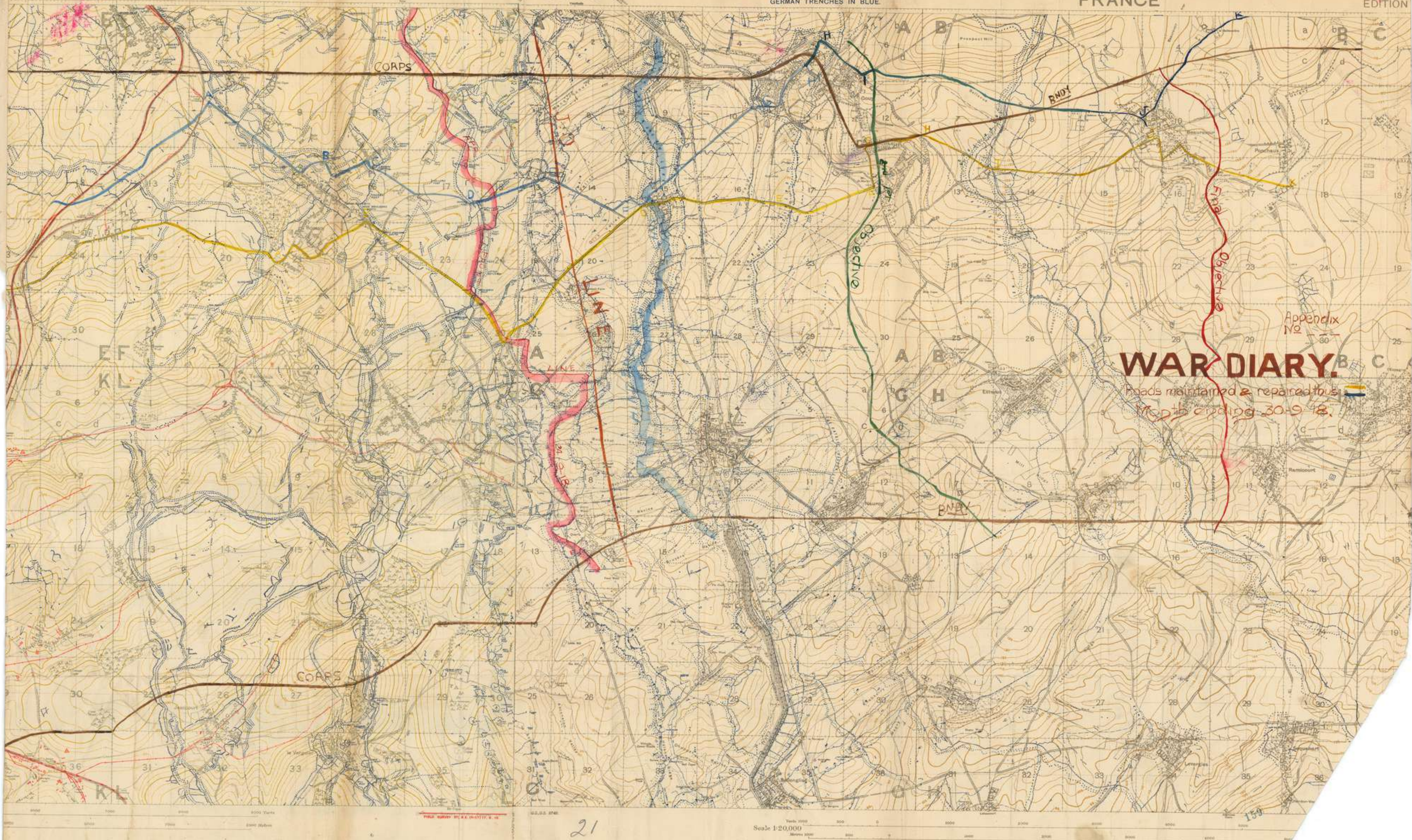
OLD CLOTHING RETURNED TO BASE.

JACKETS.	BREECHES, D.S.	BREECHES, M.S.	G'COAT.	HATS.	PUTTEES. prs.	BOOTS. prs.
145	122	3	23	78	188	106

*L. L. Hughes*  
 for CAPTAIN,  
 Q.M. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN.

F I E L D,  
 30/9/1918. O.





# WAR DIARY.

Roads maintained & repaired thus:  
Month ending 30-9-18.

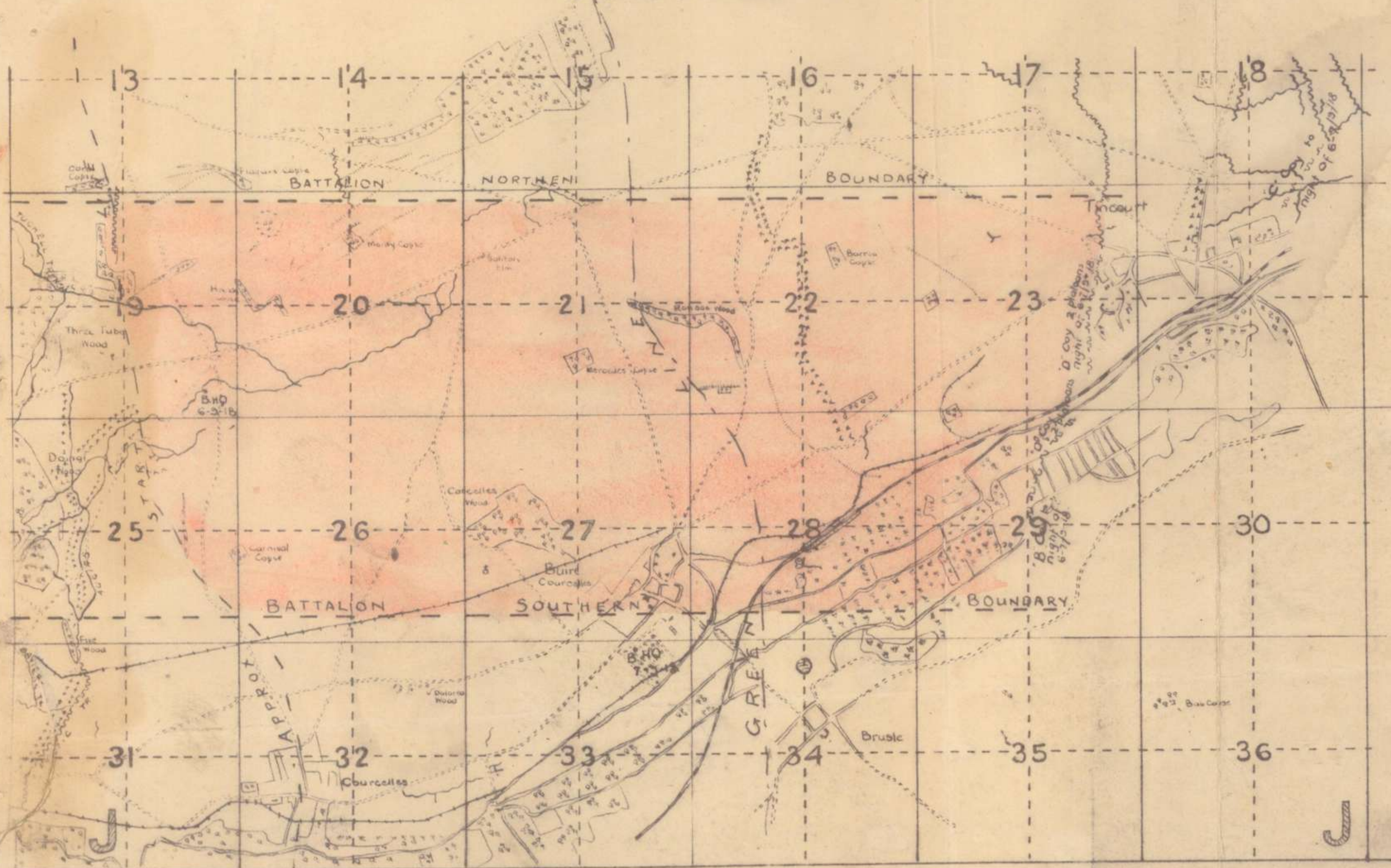


REF SHEET 62<sup>c</sup>  
Scale 1 = 20,000

MAP SHEWING GROUND TAKEN  
by  
3<sup>RD</sup> AUST PIONEER BATT<sup>N</sup>

APPENDIX N<sup>o</sup>

22





September

Sept

WAR

DIARY

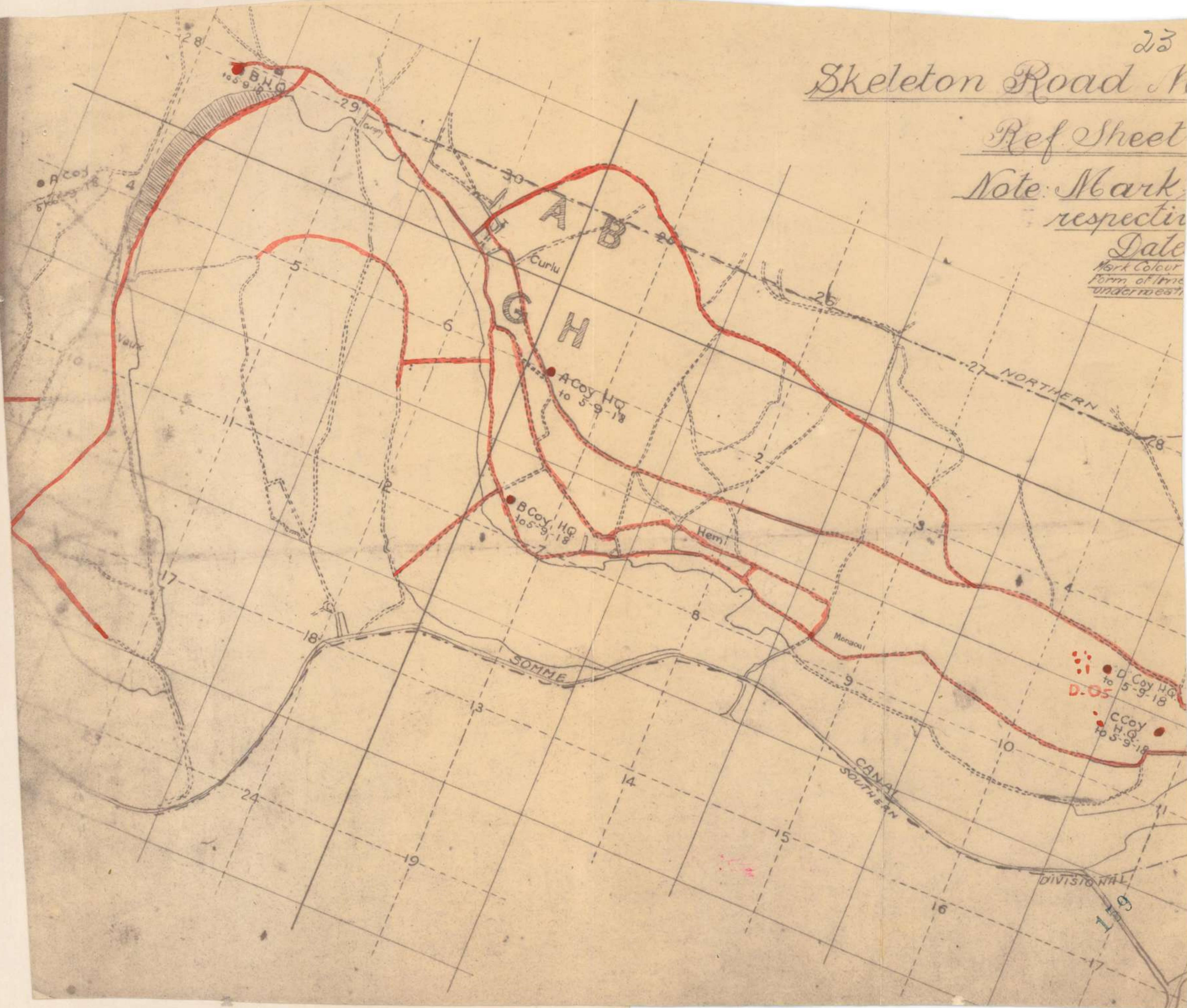


# Skeleton Road Map

Ref Sheet

Note: Mark  
respective  
Date

Mark Colour  
Form of line  
underneath





# Skeleton Road Map 3rd Aust Pioneer Battalion

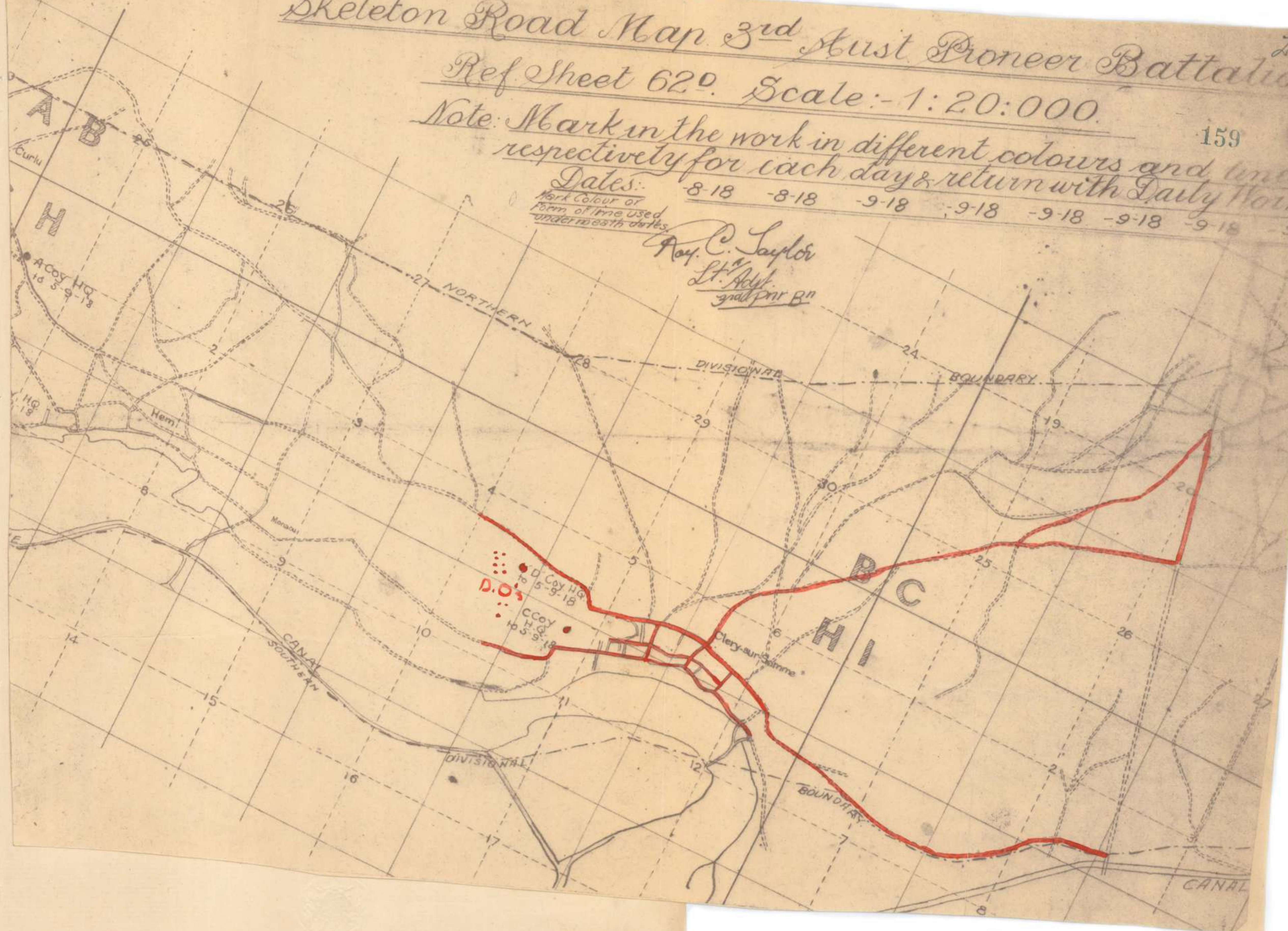
Ref Sheet 620. Scale:- 1:20:000.

Note: Mark in the work in different colours and lines respectively for each day & return with Daily Work

Dates:  
Mark colour or  
form of line used  
underneath dates.

8-18 -8-18 -9-18 -9-18 -9-18 -9-18 -9-18 -9-18

Ray C. Taylor  
Lt. Adj.  
3rd Aust Pnr Bn





Confidential

WAR DIARY OF R.M.O. 3rd. PIONEERS BATTN.  
FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1918.

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- A. During this last offensive we established an R.A.P. on the yellow road location Wiancourt.
- F.22.b.28. "We were in a large, commodious cellar we formed an ideal place for the work intended. We were able to accomodate up to half-dozen stretcher cases without any inconvenience.
- We were in a rather exposed position but the cellar was well protected by the debris of the house above it. The enemy did not "strafe" this place very much. A few shells landed close handy but very little damage was done. The battalion were working on both the yellow and blue roads and were spread over a large area so only a small percentage of our own casualties passed through our hands.
- Our position was central though for all the troops engaged on this sector especially for the Australian and English batteries near-by. Altogether about 50 cases passed through us. They were a very mixed lot, Americans, Australians, and English. We experienced a great difficulty in obtaining stretchers and blankets from the American dressing stations. For all the stretchers and blankets that left us we received none in exchange. During the afternoon of September 29th. the 9th. Field Ambulance arrived and the R.A.P. became a Motor Loading Post. We were able to render the Ambulance some valuable assistance for the remainder of the day.
- On 1st. October we moved our R.A.P. further up towards Bony to Wiancourt A.14.d.6.7. We took up our position in a Bosche dugout. As a Motor Loading Post was stationed near by we only received one case, the majority of the cases going straight onto the cars.
- B. While we were stationed at Buire the battalion as a whole were very fit. The general health of the men was also good. The prevailing disease was a mild form of influenza. There were also a few cases of diarrhoea. While here, we ran a Rest Post which on an average contained about 6 patients of which the majority were influenza. Water for cooking and drinking purposes was obtained from the Somme river, chlorination 1 scoop per water cart. The latrines were kept very clean and were in good condition, all being of the fly-proof box and pit type. All refuse was buried. The bibles were kept clean and the men all provided with a bath and change of clothes weekly.
- The sick parade average while here was very small averaging from 10 to 15 daily.

(Sgd) H.W. DAVIES, Capt.,  
R.M.O.