

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/22/15

Title: 3rd Field Company, Australian
Engineers

October 1915



AWM4-14/22/15

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>CONFIDENTIAL</u> WAR DIARY OF 3RD FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION FROM 1. 10. 15 TO 31. 10. 15 INCLUSIVE MATTERS RECORDED IN THIS DIARY WILL BE ARRANGED UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:— (a) Important orders instructions reports & intelligence received & issued & decisions taken. (b) Accounts of operations important events & meteorological records. (c) Changes in Establishment or strength. (d) Field works (These will be dealt with as a whole in Appendix 1)				

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SAPPERS' POST	1.10.15		Advice from C.O.D.E. that cash for pay is now available. Request " " for plan of area in front of CHATHAM'S POST Letter " CAPT. STANLEY 2nd Signal Troop asking us to reserve timber near for his troop Order " C.O.D.E. to supply material from Brigade store on requisitions by officers of 1st Field Coy. without reference to this Company Telegram to 1st Field Coy. asking what is purpose for which material they have requisitioned on Brigade store for is required. Divisional Order 192. No. 1 Section ANZAC allotted to 1st Australian Division Operation Memo. 33 also Definition of boundaries of Divisional Area. Rifles with telescopic sights supplied to troops & each Bde Sandbag loopholes to be kept blocked when not in use nil strength 5 officers & 3 other ranks	
	2.10.15		Telegram from C.O.D.E. asking how many sheets of wire have been used on dugouts in 9th Battalion area. " " C.O.D.E. that MAJOR WILLIAMS evacuated this morning " " C.O.D.E. directing that canvas sandbags are only to be used in firing line. Telegram to C.O.D.E. 28 Dugouts roped with wire in 9th Batt. area 112 sheets. Operation Memo. 34 Regulation re indent for R.E. stores Water re Bomb Catapults - wire obstacles - Support Communication trenches - Bungalow - steps to F.P.S.	

For FIELD WORKS see Appendix 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAPPERS' POST	2.10.15		(continued) b nil c strength 5 officers 83 other ranks	
	3.10.15		a Telegram to C.O.D.E. reporting picking by enemy at Tunnel R6 RYRIE'S POST last night & tonight. b nil c strength 5 officers 80 other ranks.	
	4.10.15		a Telegram from C.O.D.E. order to send 499 Sappers KEMP & 186 Sappers MURRAY for duty on line "HAMBURG". Telegram to C.O.D.E. reporting quantity of work in existing dugouts etc. " " C.O.D.E. picking recommenced in R6 - faint picking in R7 & R8. b nil c strength 5 officers 79 other ranks.	
	5.10.15		a Telegram to C.O.D.E. advising that work on Hospital sites is postponed indefinitely and asking D.E. to arrange for return of tools " " C.O.D.E. reporting picking in R6 this out day - faint picking in R7 b nil c strength 5 officers 77 other ranks.	

see Appendix

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SAPPERS POST	6.10.15		a	nil	
			b.	nil	
			c	strength 5 officers 76 men N.C.O.s.	
	7.10.15		a	Divisional Order 194 Regulations re Contingent at KEPHALOS	
			b	nil	War Diaries to be continued as required in F.S. Regulation
			c	strength 5 officers 76 men N.C.O.s.	
	8.10.15		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. picking in R6 recommenced or continuing	
		2000	b	At about 2000 there was a slight rain fall followed by a strong westerly gale which at times reached a velocity of 40 to 50 miles per hour.	
			c	strength 5 officers 76 other ranks.	
	9.10.15		a	Telegram from C.O.D.E. to use direction in firing countermines in R6.	
				" to C.O.D.E. advising that change in direction R6 but 1 hour is required to finish tamping.	
				Administrative Memo. 47 ^{30th Anniversary} all handles for mining to be submitted to officers	
			b	nil	1/6 R.E. Stores countermined by C.E. ANZAC
			c	strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	

for Field works as Appendix 1
1/10/15

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DAPPER'S POST	10.10.15		a Telegram to C.O.D.E. picking up R6 continuing 4 to 5 feet away " from 3rd Inf. Bde. all men working on CLARKE'S VALLEY wall withdrawn by order of G.O.C. 1st Australian Division	
			b nil	
			c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	
	11.10.15		a Telegram from C.O.D.E. all mumps cases & suspects to be sent to 3rd Field Ambulance	
			" " C.O.D.E. asking for report when change in R6 is fixed	
		2110	b. Countermining fixed in R6 tunnel - see Appendix 1 under this date. c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks.	
	12.10.15		a Telegrams from 6th L.H. Regt. burrs heard picking in R5 tunnel	
			Telegram from Capt BARBER 4th Field Coy asking for trench angles.	
			b. Telegram to C.O.D.E. crates at R6 about 12' down. little earth thrown up.	
			" " C.O.D.E. Estimate of work required to drain Hospital sites.	
			b nil	
	13.10.15		c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks.	
			a Telegram to Capt BARBER 4th Field Coy. Cannot trace angles.	
			b nil	
			c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks.	

for field works see Appendix 1
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SAPPERS POST	14.10.15		a nil b nil c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	
	15.10.15		a Telegram to C.O.D.E. about picking heard in R.B. " " C.O.D.E. No 4x4 trucks drawn from R.E. store owing to cartage difficulty Administrative Memo. 48 re requisitions on Ordnance Stores. b nil c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	
	16.10.15		a Telegram from C.O.D.E. asking if ^{tent Middleton} wants working parties for drainage of Hospital tenaces tomorrow. " to C.O.D.E. reporting point picking in R.B. b nil c strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	

for field works see Appendix 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAPPERS POST	17.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. reporting fort picking in R8	
		b	" from C.O.D.E. order to send 1 officer + 1 man for Canteen stores to KEPHALOS	
		c	Divisional order 197 Regulations for Movement Passes for individuals & troops travelling between bases - Units proceeding to Madros to send advance Party. - Economy to be observed with candles.	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	
	18.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. reporting picking at R8	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 5 officers 76 other ranks	
	19.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. reporting picking in R6. " from C.O.D.E. Light Horse working Party available to cut drains in CLARKE VALLEY. Op. Memo. No 35 setting out defensive measures to be adopted against enemy aircraft.	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 74 other ranks	

IN FIELD BOOKS see Appendix 1

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SAPPERS' POST	20/10/15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Faint picking heard in R 8.	for FIELD WORKS see Appendix I WLB (8)
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 75 other ranks.	
	21/10/15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. asking for authority to accept transfer of Walter Hogg from 27th Battalion to this company.	
		b	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Faint picking heard in R 8	
		c	nil	
	22/10/15	a	strength 4 officers 76 other ranks.	
		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Faint picking heard in R 8.	
			Telegram from C.O.D.E. instructing us to accept Hogg's transfer.	
	23/10/15		" " C.O.D.E. Instructions to commence shell proof digout in 6th L.H. lines	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 77 other ranks.	
	23/10/15	a	Telegram from C.O.D.E. asking what is next required to pay Leaper Company.	
			Telegram to C.O.D.E. advice of faint picking heard in R 8.	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 77 other ranks	

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SAPPER'S POST	24.10.15		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Amount required to pay Company £250	For FIELD WORKS see Appendix 1
			"	" " C.O.D.E. Enemy picking heard in R.P.	
			"	" from 3rd Inf. Bde. asking for drawing of shell proof dugout for them. War Diary	
				Special Div. Order: Quoting message from Gen. Kitchener to effect that the enemy will probably now be able to get heavier artillery & ammunition than Bulgaria advising us to prepare for this	
			b	nil	
			c	Strength 4 officers 77 other ranks.	
	25.10.15		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. advising that Cpl Beck was unable to use transport last night owing to fatigue not reporting. Cement will be brought up tonight.	
			b	nil	
			c	Strength 4 officers 85 other ranks.	
	26.10.15		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Picking heard in R.P.	
			b	nil	
			c	Strength 4 officers 85 other ranks.	
	27.10.15		a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Picking heard in R.P.	
			"	From C.O.D.E. all troops on pipe lines to go on half rations & water.	
			b	Div Order 200 Distribution of 1st Infantry Brigade.	
			c	Strength 4 officers 85 other ranks	

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SAPPERS' POST	28.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. picking heard in R.P.	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 84 other ranks.	
	29.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. picking heard in R.P. " from C.O.D.E. instruction to detail Panny to go to IMBROS for Contem stores. " " " advice Capt Savage gone to EGYPT on duty this morning	
	30.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Picking heard in R.P. " " " LIEUT MIDDLETON evacuated sick to Hospital. " from " asking for names of new suitable for promotion to 2nd Lieut. Last Return to C.O.D.E. of Temporary N.C.O.s in the company.	
		b	nil	
		c	strength 4 officers 84 other ranks	
	31.10.15	a	Telegram to C.O.D.E. Picking heard in R.P. " from C.O.D.E. asking for War Diary & remittance of Contem Money - also for return of officers & O.R. who have not been to MUDROS rest camp. " from 1st Inf. Bde. asking us to send N.C.O. to supervise building of Bde H.Q. Op. Memo. No 36. Advice of casualties which have occurred after mine explosions. Local place names not to be used except locally until authorized in a Force order.	
		b	nil	
		c	Strength 4 officers 84 other ranks.	

For FIELD WORKS see Appendix I

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WAR DIARY

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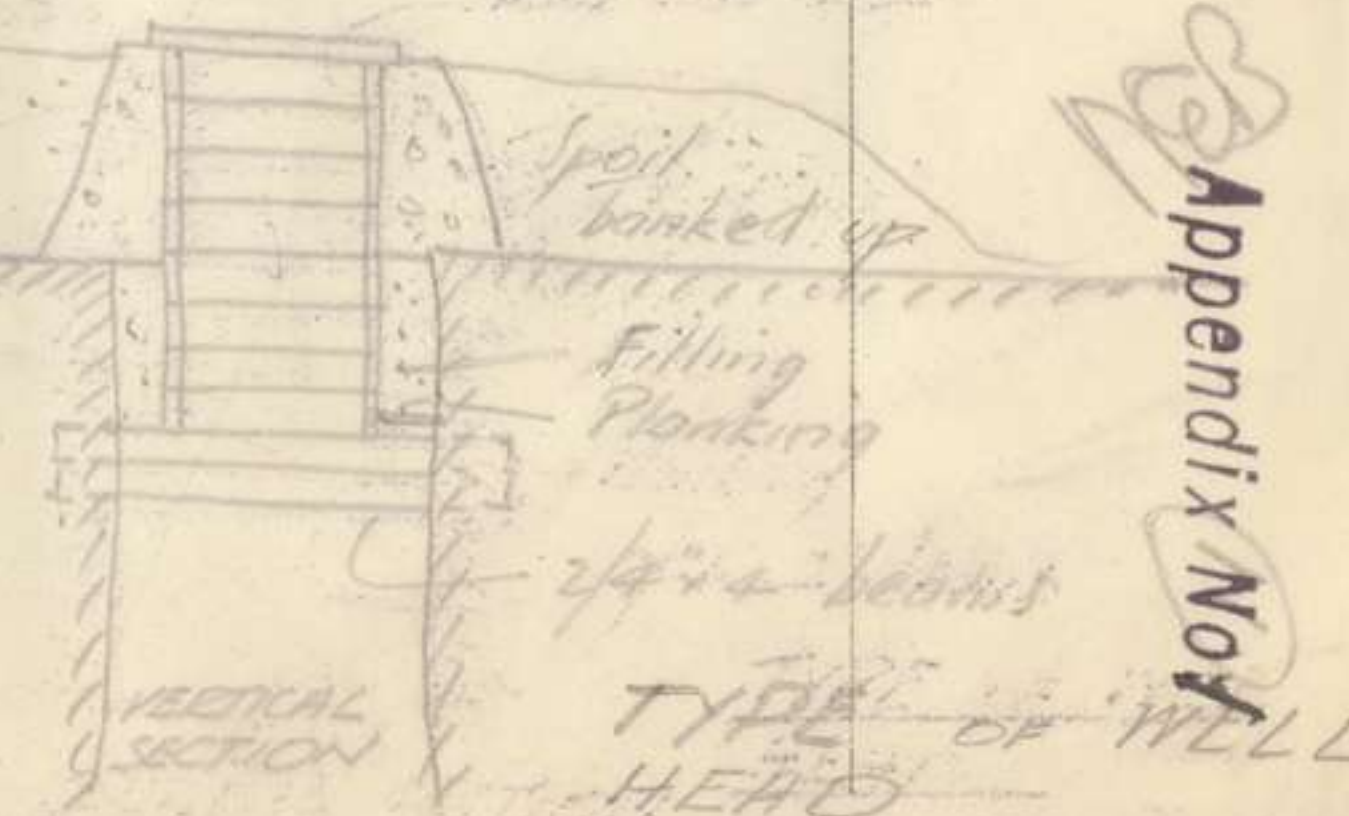
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			<u>APPENDIX 1 FIELD WORKS</u>	
			No 1 Section was employed on works in the Divisional area from 10th - 18th October inclusive.	
	11-12-10-15		Repairs to overhead covers to No 1 Gun 1 Engr. Corporal employed 16 hrs 4 19 bolts used	
	17-10-15		Road for new Gun emplacement for 7th Battery 1 sapper employed 8 hrs.	
	12-17-10-15		Concrete wellheads to wells in VICTORIA GULLY & CLARKE VALLEY wells also cleaned out covers fitted to well heads 1 Sgt 1 Cpl (Engrs) & 12 men & 1 N.C.O. (infantry) employed. - 1 well finished 1 well part finished.	
	18-10-15		Commenced concreting well No 2 DAWKINS POINT.	
	19-10-15		Commenced concreting well No 5 CLARKE VALLEY Cleaning well No 2. 1 sapper supervising construction new Gun emplacement 7th Batty.	
	21-10-15		Completed wells Nos 2 & 5.	
	22-10-15		Cleaned Horse trough well (No 5) & covered No 3 well	
	23-10-15		Diverted creek behind No 4 well	
	24-10-15		Forming cut at head of No 7 well SHELL GREEN to reduce lift.	
	25-10-15		Concreting head of well No 8.	
	26-10-15		Forming filter bed behind well No 8.	
	27-10-15		Cleaning & concreting Turkish well (No 4) CLARKE VALLEY.	
	29-10-15		Completed concreting SHELL GREEN well No 6.	
	30-10-15		Completed cut well No 7	
	31-10-15		Making 2 windlasses	

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



Appendix No 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THE CORNFIELD			<u>APPENDIX I FIELD WORKS</u> No 2 Section was employed 1-18.10.15 in the cornfield CORNFIELD trenches occupied by the 9th Battalion 1-18.10.15 Bomb Tunnel Q2 was extended Plans of dugouts for winter accommodation were prepared & dugouts commenced. 19.10.15 Bomb Tunnel Q2 in progress 21.10.15 " " " complete 22.10.15 Bomb Tunnel Q2 deviation commenced 25.10.15 shell-proof dugout commenced. 26.10.15 T6 drainage tunnel commenced. 29.10.15 T6 drainage tunnel complete - outlet timbered. 31.10.15 shell-proof dugout in progress. During the month 8 new dugouts were dug opening off existing lower planes specially dug for the purpose At end of Oct an underground machine gun position in front of fire support behind Sinker Ridge was opened out	

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RYRIES & CHATHAM'S POSTS			<u>APPENDIX I FIELD WORKS</u>	
			No 3 Section was employed 1 - 10.15 in works at RYRIES & CHATHAM'S POSTS occupied by the 7th & 6th and 5th L. H. Regts respectively.	
	1.10.15		Poppy Valley Drain in progress Gallery RG 910 in progress	
	4.10.15		CHATHAM Road commenced	
	6.10.15		Wing's Chambers for deep countermine gallery system at RYRIES POST commenced.	
	11.10.15	2110	Countermine exploded at end of R6. 30 lb Ammonal exploded electrically see attached sketch for tamping.	
	13.10.15		R6eb to connect up R6e to R6b commenced.	
	14.10.15		RG 910 broken thro' Section 1-4 CHATHAM Road complete	
	16.10.15		Deep Gallery commenced at RG 5 North. CHATHAM Road Section 53-55 complete Section 4-5 complete. Section 11-55 in progress	
	18.10.15		R6eb complete RG 5 North stopped by foul air.	
	19.10.15		In progress R6b North Wing's R7, RG 910a RG 910b RG 5 North, Chatham Rd tunnel 5-10 do do sap 11-55.	
	20.10.15		Blasting in Chatham Rd tunnel 5-10	
	21.10.15		Foul air in RG 5 North widening road alley on Chatham Rd.	
	22.10.15		R8 Extension commenced.	
	23.10.15		Chatham Rd: widening section Faye - H. Q. office.	
	25.10.15		Shell proof Dugout commenced in 6th L. H. Rgt trenches	

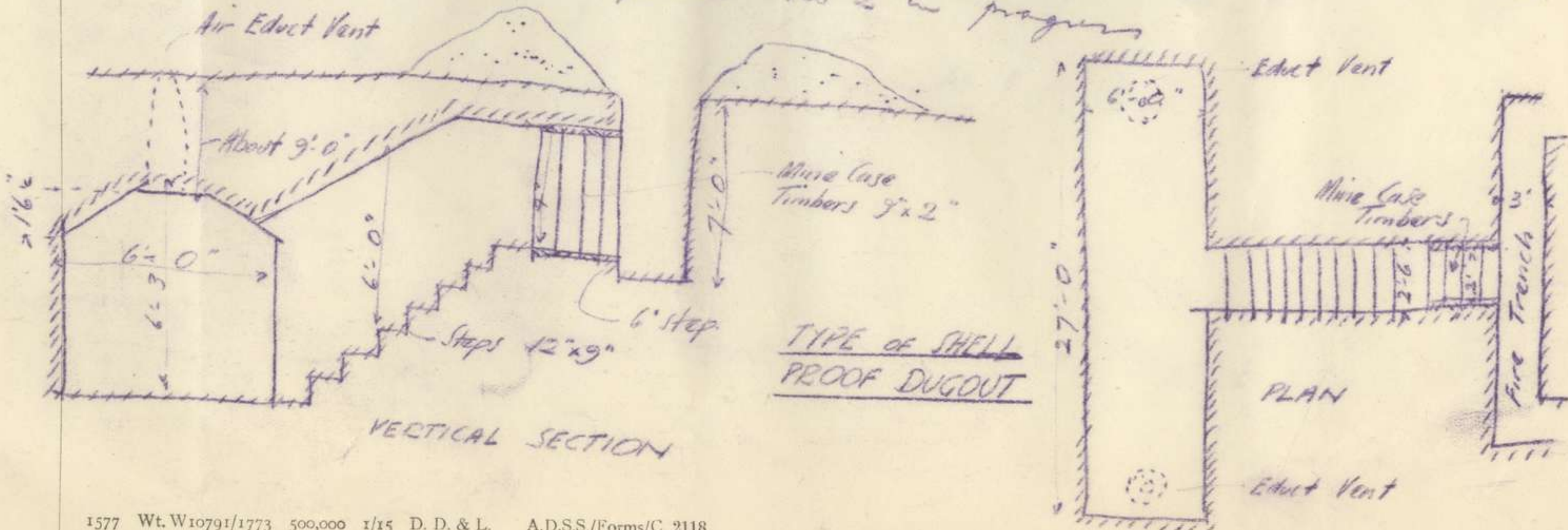
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KIRIES & CHATHAM'S POSTS	24.10.15		<u>APPENDIX I FIELD WORKS</u>	
	26.10.15		Extension to left of Trench at Chatham Tunnel commenced.	
	27.10.15		Wing Rg stepped wing to front air Branch "a" Chatham Tunnel commenced.	
	28.10.15		Commenced widening Tunnel Rg Roba commenced.	
	29.10.15		Chatham Rd discontinued. KIRIES gallery connection d-g commenced.	
	30.10.15		Chatham Tunnel: cutting No 1 F.P. Gallery connections y-c commenced	
	31.10.15		Chatham Tunnel No 1 F.P. complete No 2 in progress	
 VERTICAL SECTION TYPE OF SHELL PROOF DUGOUT PLAN				Appendix No 1

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LEANE'S POST			<u>APPENDIX 1 FIELD WORKS</u> No 4 section was employed 1-12.10.15 in works at LEANE'S POST occupied by the 4th L.H. Regt. 1.10.15 L34 system cutting & loopsholing firepits. Putting down hose drain in L2 2.10.15 Timbering in L4 4.10.15 Timbering roof in L3 7.10.15 Repairing Sumpers Post L3 15.10.15 New tunnel started at L1 16.10.15 Timbering roof of T2 18.10.15 2 progress: Tunnel L1, Tunnel T2 timbering roof. Poppy Valley Tunnel and Mule Road. 20.10.15 Broken out in L1. Preparing overhead cover No 8 post L3. 22.10.15 Timbering Tunnel L1 23.10.15 L1 Firepit Complete 24.10.15 Rapping parties at work on Brigades 25.10.15 overhead cover to L1 F.P. 27.10.15 Widening & timbering L1 30.10.15 4th L.H. Regt. handed over LEANE'S TRENCH to 1st Infantry Brigade 31.10.15 deepening trenches	

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			<u>APPENDIX I FIELD WORKS</u> Headquarters 1-7.10.15 The CHATHAM & POPPY VALLEY Roads were definitely located & level sections prepared. - Minimum structure diagrams prepared for traffic likely to use roads. 7-9.10.15 return made of existing works between R 5 and R 7 BYRIES POST, for deep countermine gallery. A 4" prismatic compass was used mounted on a tripod improvised with a telescope stand. all stations were pegged with cartridge cases. sights taken to plumb lines. Design for deep countermine gallery system drawn out. NOTE. ^{this suggested} whenever ^{can be replaced} it is possible that forward Mine saps may be dug the if other circumstances permit saps leading back from the front trench to supports & thence to the rear should have gradual bends and should be wide enough to permit of easy wheeling of boxes (say 2' 9") The method of carrying out all spoil in bags, necessitated by the sharp bends in existing saps, is very wasteful in water & time. 20.10.15 Sapper ADENEY draughtsman for the G.O.C. 1st Australian Division called to go into preparation of map of trench lines from aeroplane photographs. Gave him information as to his plans from survey of enemy works.	

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Appendix No. 1

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[14/22/15]

3rd Fd Coy AE

Oct 1915

Note : For additional maps
and plans see [14/22/1]