

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/23/30

**Title:** 4th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

March 1918



AWM4-14/23/30

18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

4<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.I.F.

FOR

March 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. J. Kelly Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. J. Kelly Major*

Confidential  
Original



4th Field Co., A.E.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

March 1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAHUTANGA LINES T. 196.84 (Sheet 28)	March 1 <sup>st</sup>		Company engaged on corps works, comprising building of Nissen bow hats, Latines, Grease traps & drainage of camp at MEREKECHEM for Australian Corps School.	
			to flooring of sheds, making Grease traps. Building bomb screens round huts, & building incinerators at R.F.C Aerodrome BAILLEUL Improving Stables & horse Standings in MERRIS area Surveyed "Army Line" between KEMMEL and NIEPPE. and supervised construction of M.G positions and shelters for nucleus garrison. Construction of a 400 yards rifle range with 8 windmill targets at T. 196.8.8 (Sheet 28). 16 Junior N.C.Os trained at Engr's training	
	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Camp at WESTHOF FARM	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Company received orders to stand by, and be ready move off at very short notice, all men on detached duty recalled to unit.	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		Transport moved out at 10.2.m. to ESTAIRES and took over complete pontoon equipment and proceeded by forced marches via HERMAVILLE.	
			eventually arriving at LA. CAUCHIE (16 Kilometres S.W. of ARRAS) at 4 pm on 26 <sup>th</sup> .	

194



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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

4<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E.

March 1918

Army Form C. 2118.

194

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARUTANGA LINES.	Mch 25.		Hqs and dismounted personnel moved out and embussed at 6 a.m. at T.20 2 8.2 (Sheet 28), travelling via ST. POL. and arrived at LA. CAUCHIE	
LA. CAUCHIE			at 8 pm same evening and went into billets to await further orders.	
		26 <sup>th</sup>	Coj drew sufficient small arms ammunition to make each man's complement up to 200 rounds <del>permanence</del> . During morning sections went through gas + musketry drill, and open order skirmishing; at 2 pm officers + 4 sections of Sappers moved out in battle order to K.3.d (Sheet 57D) north of HEBURTERNE encountering on the way an endless stream of fleeing troops who had lost all touch with their units, and had not the slightest idea of situation. On arrival at destination Company formed part of reserve troops to 4 <sup>th</sup> AUST. INF. BRIG. who afterwards advanced at 9 p.m. and cleared the town of HEBURTERNE of enemy scouts	
FORCEVILLE.			At 10 p.m. same evening transport received orders to move with 13 <sup>th</sup> A.I. BRIGADE to FORCEVILLE <del>area</del> 6 miles N.W. of ALBERT (which was in possession of enemy) arriving at 9 a.m. on 27 <sup>th</sup> after slow + tedious trekking over congested roads	
		27 <sup>th</sup>	At 8.30 a.m. Sapper sections moved back to FORCEVILLE arriving at 1 pm	



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1918

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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>In the Field</u>	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>		thoroughly exhausted, though not having any breakfast, and carrying picks, shovels, blankets & 200 rounds of ammunition and with no training in route marching since November 1917. On arrival at FORCEVILLE it was found that the town was full of fugitive English troops, whose sole aim appeared to be, to loot the houses & estaminets of the inhabitants who had evacuated the town. No officers were attempting to restore law & order, so armed guards were placed by 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E. over estaminets, and NCOs of Coy took an active part in restoring order.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Coy moved out at 6 a.m. and reached BAIZIEUX at 9 a.m. The transport moving on to VADENCOURT at 6 p.m. Officers made a reconnaissance between RIBEMONT & BUIRE on north side of River ANCRE, and set out work for 4 <sup>th</sup> Pioneer Batt'n to carry out at night. 2 Sections salvaged R.E. Stores & material and commenced erection of temporary D.H. Ars in wood at C 56.9.3 (Sheet 62.D) remainder of Coy standing by. The enemy searched all reverse slopes between RIBEMONT, BUIRE, BRESLE.	

March 1918

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAIZIEUX	March 28,		and LAVIEVILLE with quick fuse 3" and 4.2 A.E. shells all day.	
	29th		Continued erection of D.H. Ars, and saved R.E. Stores	
	to 31st		2 sections commenced repairing road between BAIZIEUX and BRESLE.	
			<u>Remarks</u>	
			Throughout the move rations were kept up very well considering the rapidity of the move + congestion of traffic on roads.	
			Weather during the month abnormally fine, and morale and health of company excellent.	
			Coy strength on 1/3/18. off. 7. ORS 227. Reinfts received during month. 31. Transfers 6.	
			Casualties nil. Sick cases 17. Strength on 31/3/18 off. 7. ORS 235.	
			<p><i>Holley Major</i> O.C.</p>	

## WAR DIARY

OF

4<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E.

FOR

*March* 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

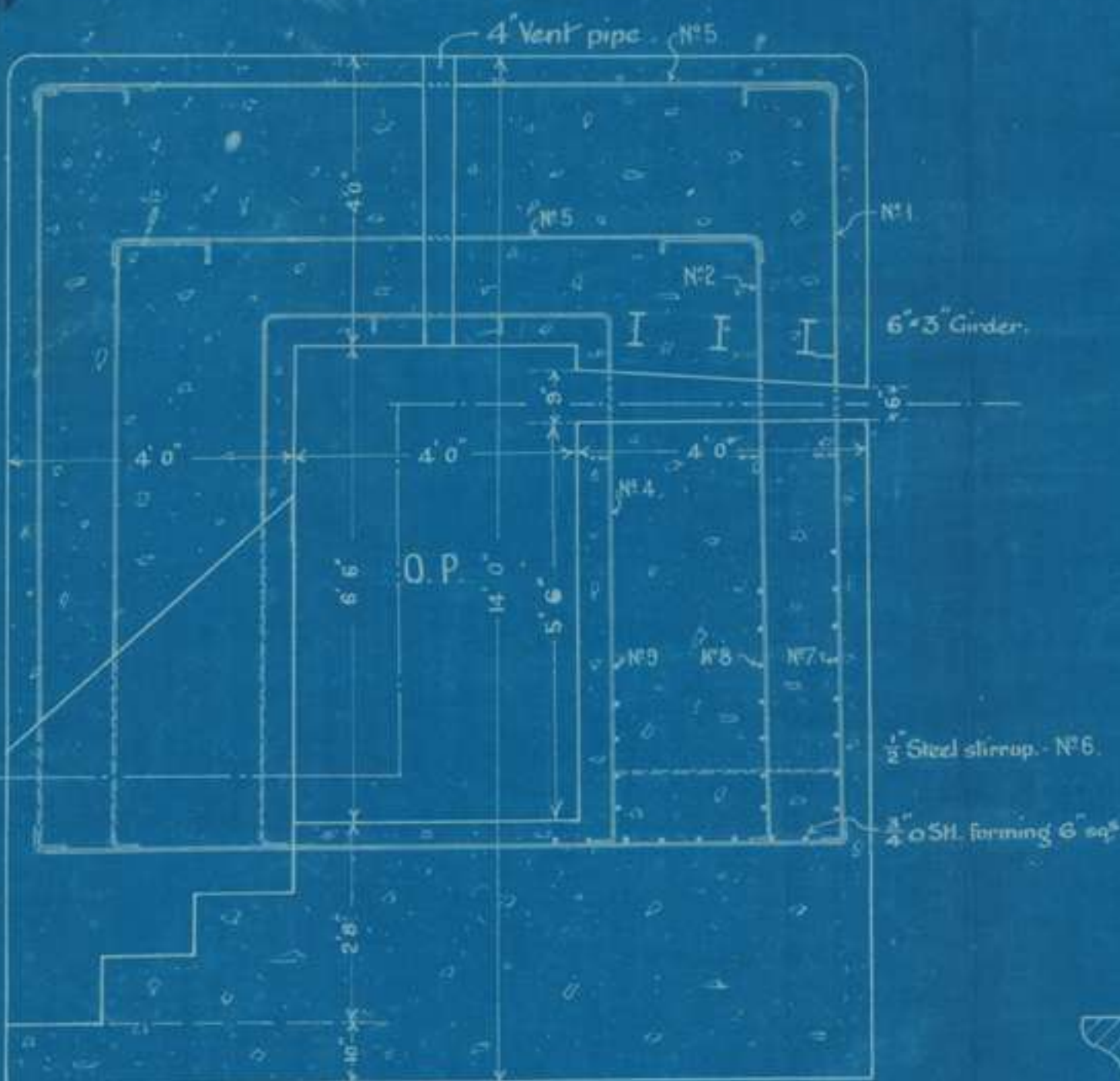
- ①. Sketch of O.P. at WHITE CHATEAU.
- ②. Aeroplane photos of  
2<sup>nd</sup> Zone. Defences.  
ST. ELOI.- HILL 60. Sector.

# REINFORCED CONCRETE O.P. AT WHITE CHATEAU

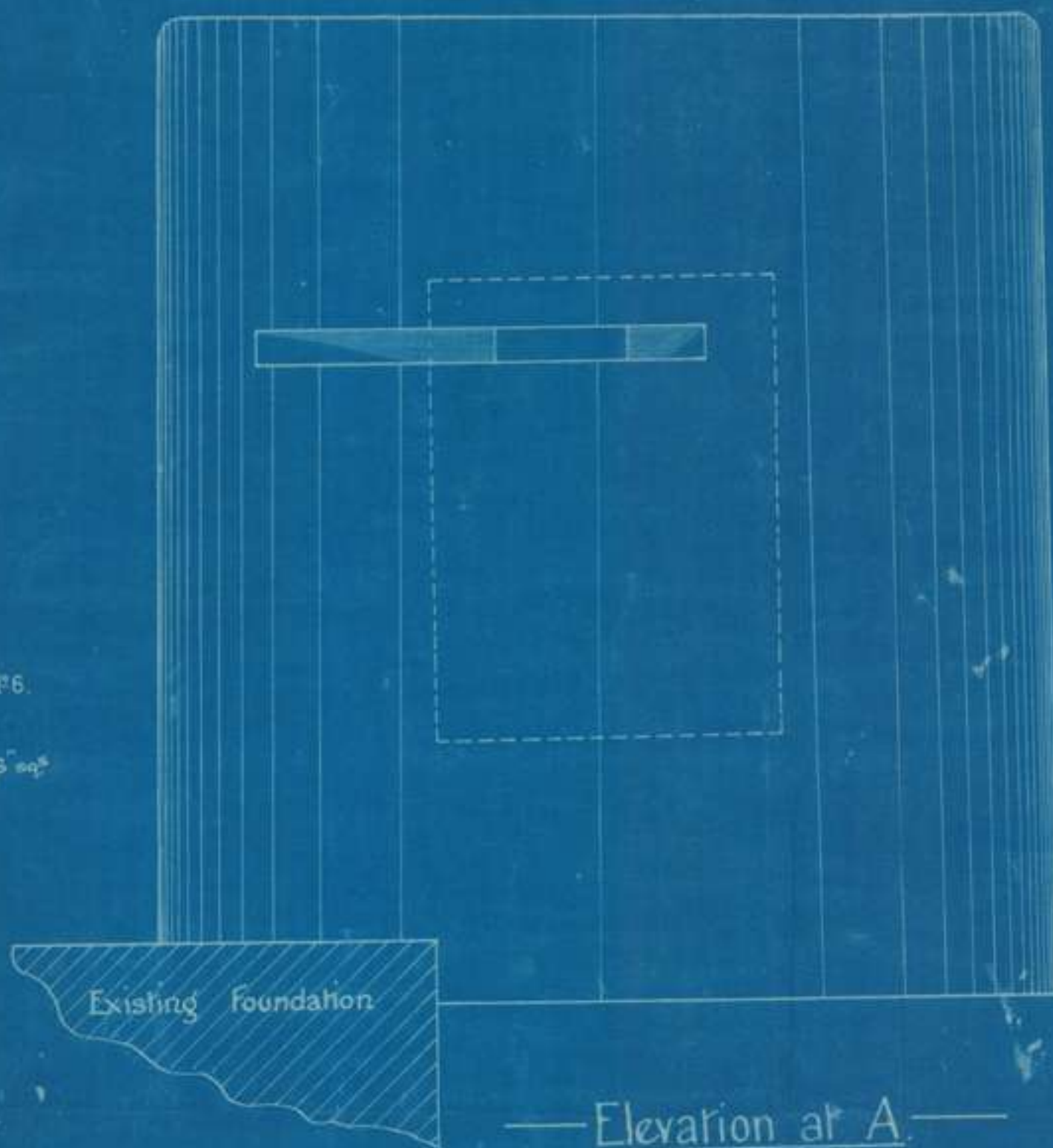
Scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to a foot

Sheet 28 sw. 0.4.d.0875

Note: The numbers on this section refer to corresponding numbers on Reinforcement Specification

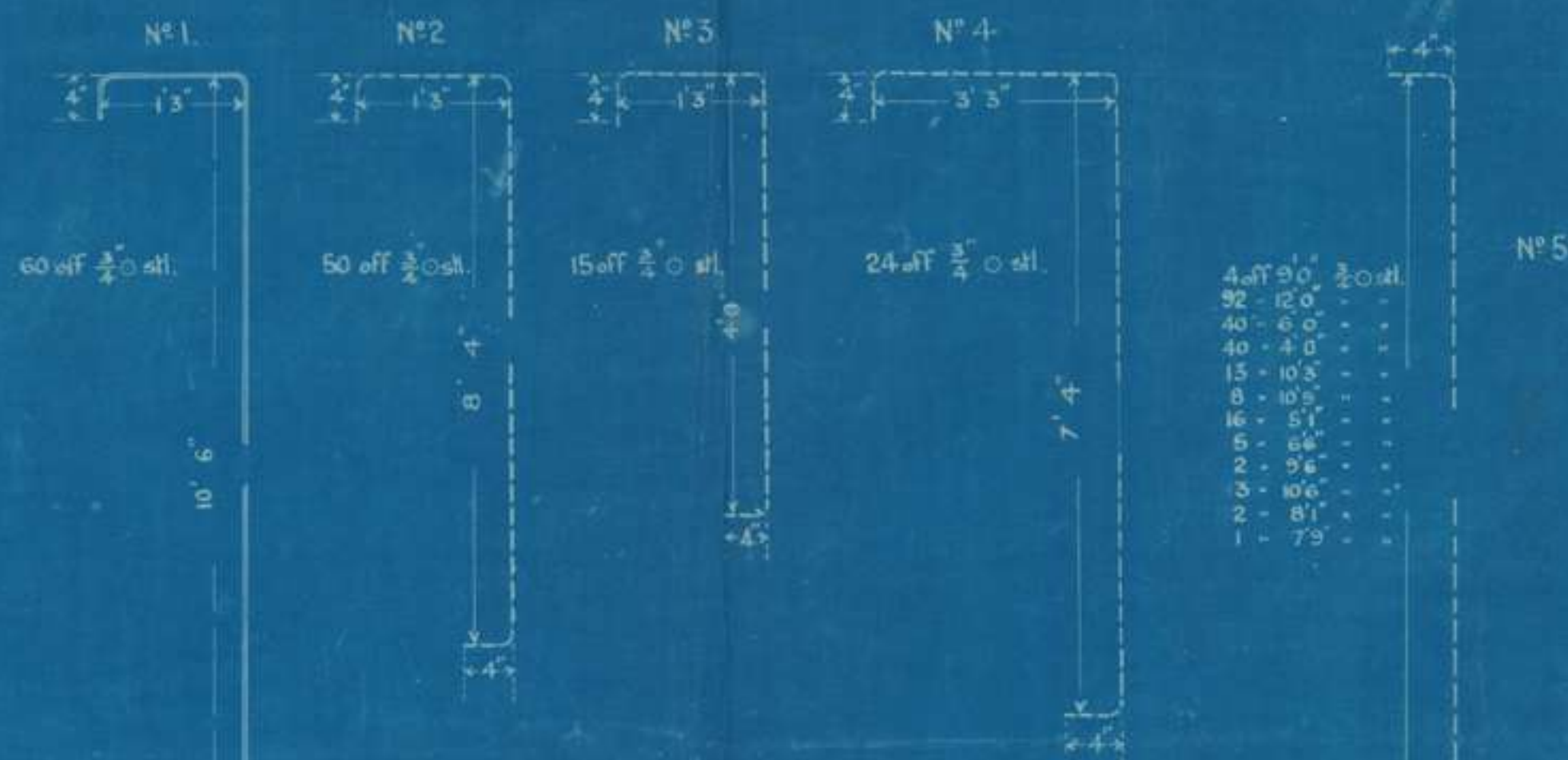


Sectional Elevation



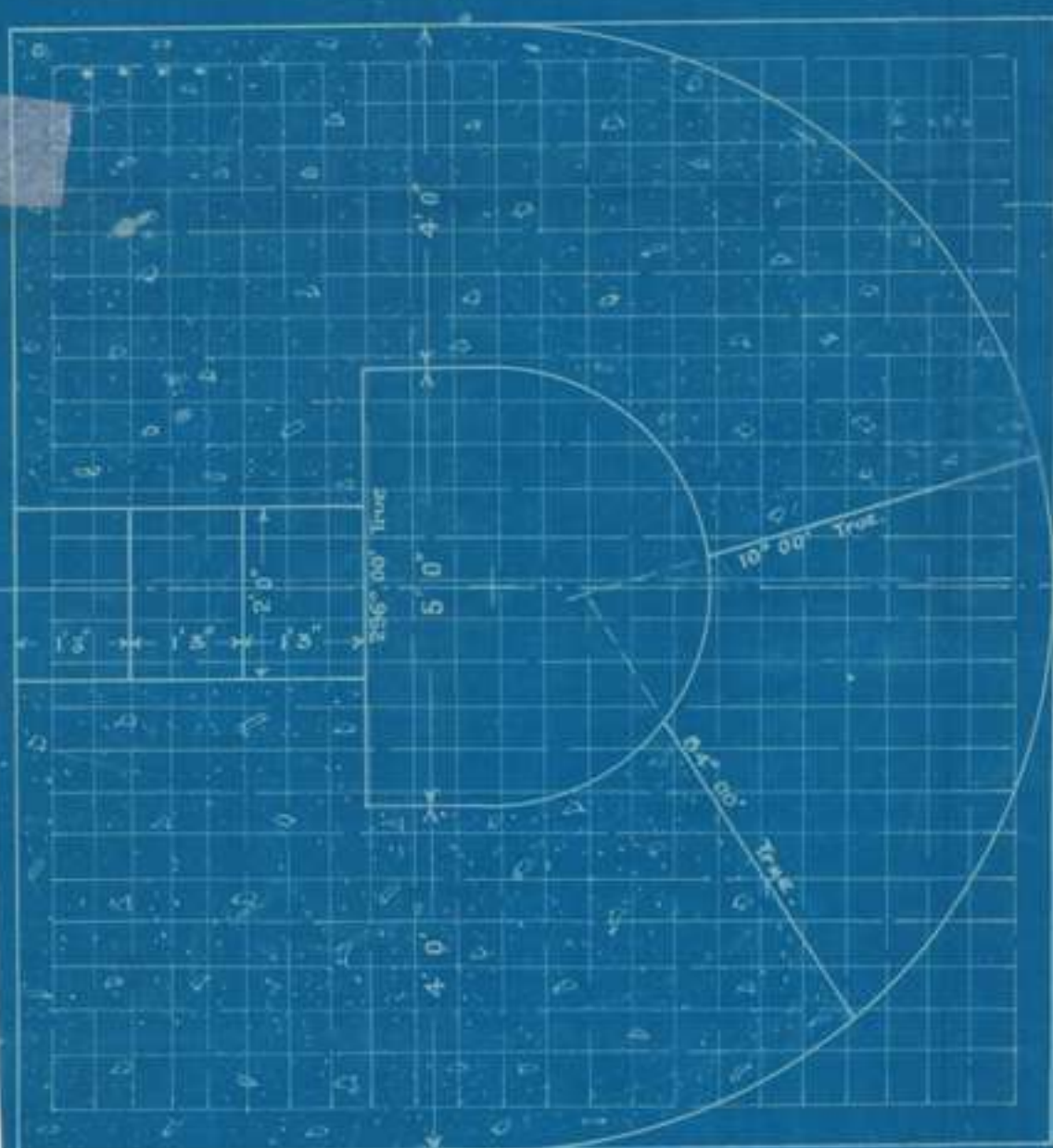
Elevation at A

## Specification of Reinforcement



## Concrete Specification

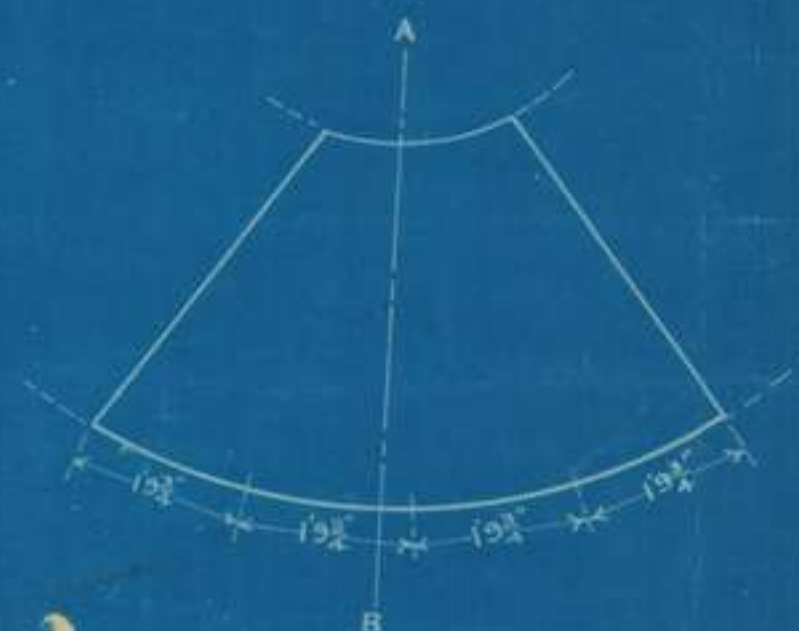
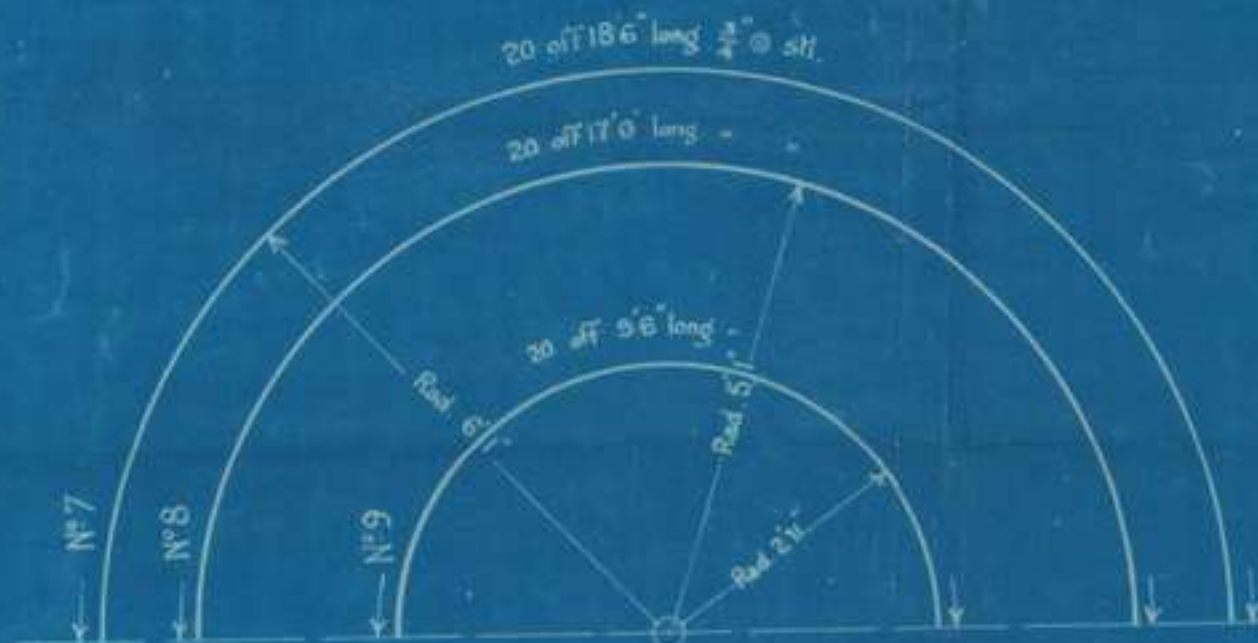
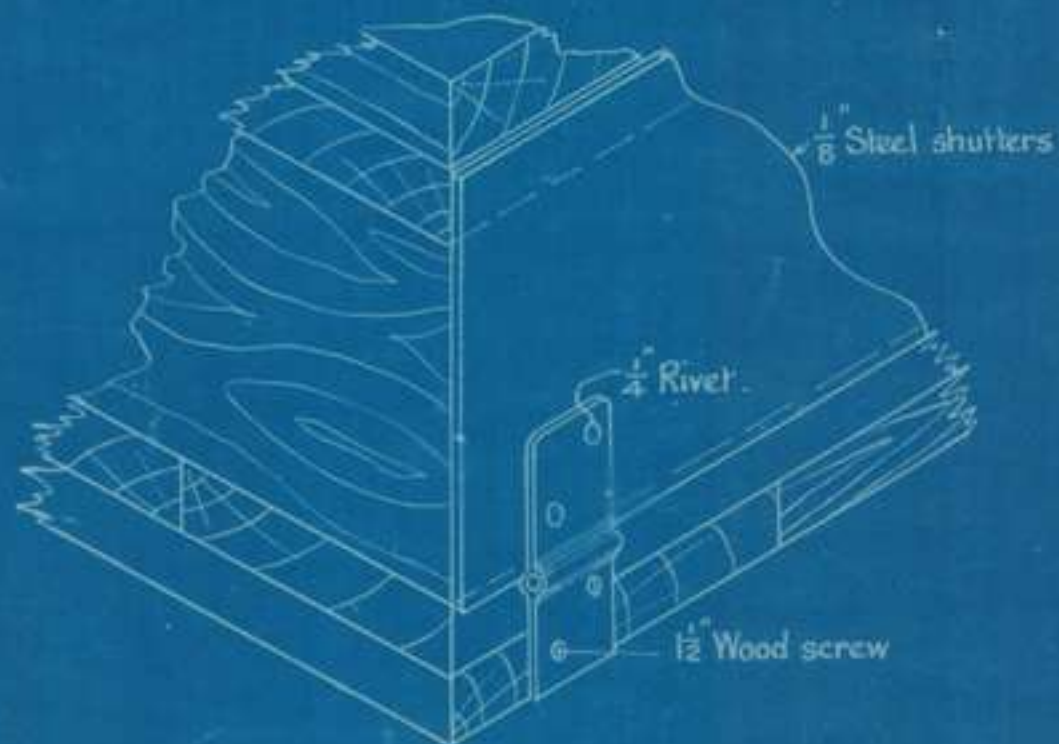
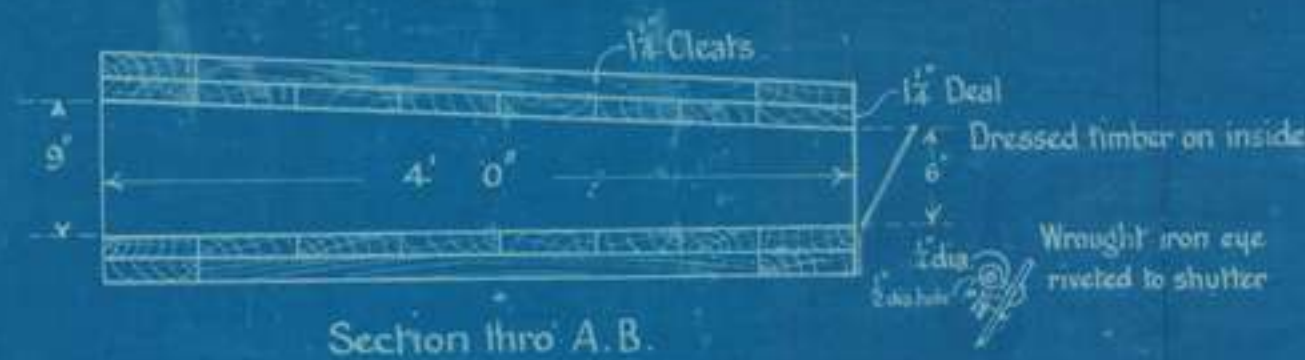
3 parts of 1" Gravel  
2 - clean, coarse sand  
1 - Portland cement  
Total: 98 cu. yds. concrete in O.P.



Sectional Plan

## Details of Observation Slit

Foundation Reinforcement  
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " dia Stl forming 6" sq



N°6



W. J. Meyer  
9th Field Co., R.E.  
3-3-15



6.

APPENDIX. I

from shell hole shaped excavations. In shell torn country the distance from the outside to the inside toe of breastworks is so great that imitation shell holes must be provided in the camouflaging.

Pillboxes can be successfully hidden by constructing a veranda over the entrances & a covered approach (Note photo 218 - MG. 11 I 34 which has a gun platform & large concrete pillbox. The covered way extends to the drain to the S. of the position.)

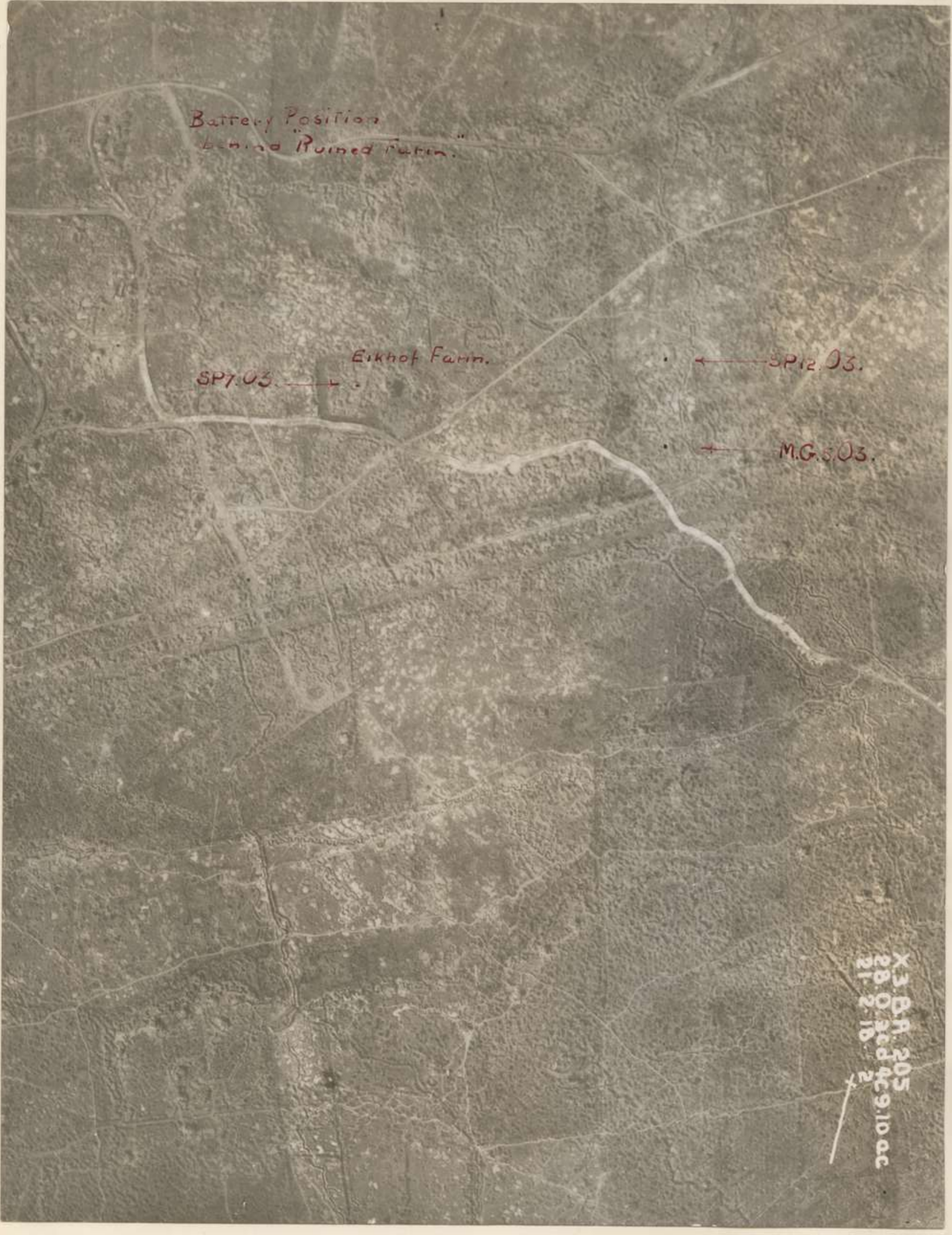
The futility of attempting to hide batteries by erecting square shaped green coloured screens horizontally over the guns & curbans all around is shown (Note - photo 158 - at Calu met.) A battery placed in an old wood without any artificial cover does not show nearly so clearly. (Note photo 156 - 1/2" N of W in Imperial Walk.) The hummock rather advertises the position however.

Wolley Major.

4<sup>th</sup> Field Co., A.E.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ZONE DEFENCES, ST ELOI - HILL GO SECTOR

The attached aero photographs give a good idea of what was accomplished in the efforts to camouflage the works in this zone. It proves that while works sited amongst old trenches & badly shell torn country, & not having any raised parapets can be easily camouflaged, (Note photo 144 - MG. 5 I 34 & photo 218 - All positions. S. P. 9 I 34 is rather given away by the long drain running from it. The branch work of drains in rear of this position lead from pillboxes.) Those sited in moderately even country & built with semi breastworks show up badly. (Note photos 209 & 182 - MG. 503 & S. P. 12 03) The difficulty about semi breastworks is that infantry parties naturally borrow earth from the nearest points & so create cuttings both in front & rear of the works. Normal by it is impossible to exercise such close supervision as to ensure that the earth is borrowed



Battery Position  
behind Ruined Farm.

Eikhof Farm.

SP7.03.

← SP12.03.

→ M.G.5.03.

X 3 P. H. 205  
SP. O. ad 84C9.10ac  
SP. 2. 16

APPENDIX. 2

7SP40.3

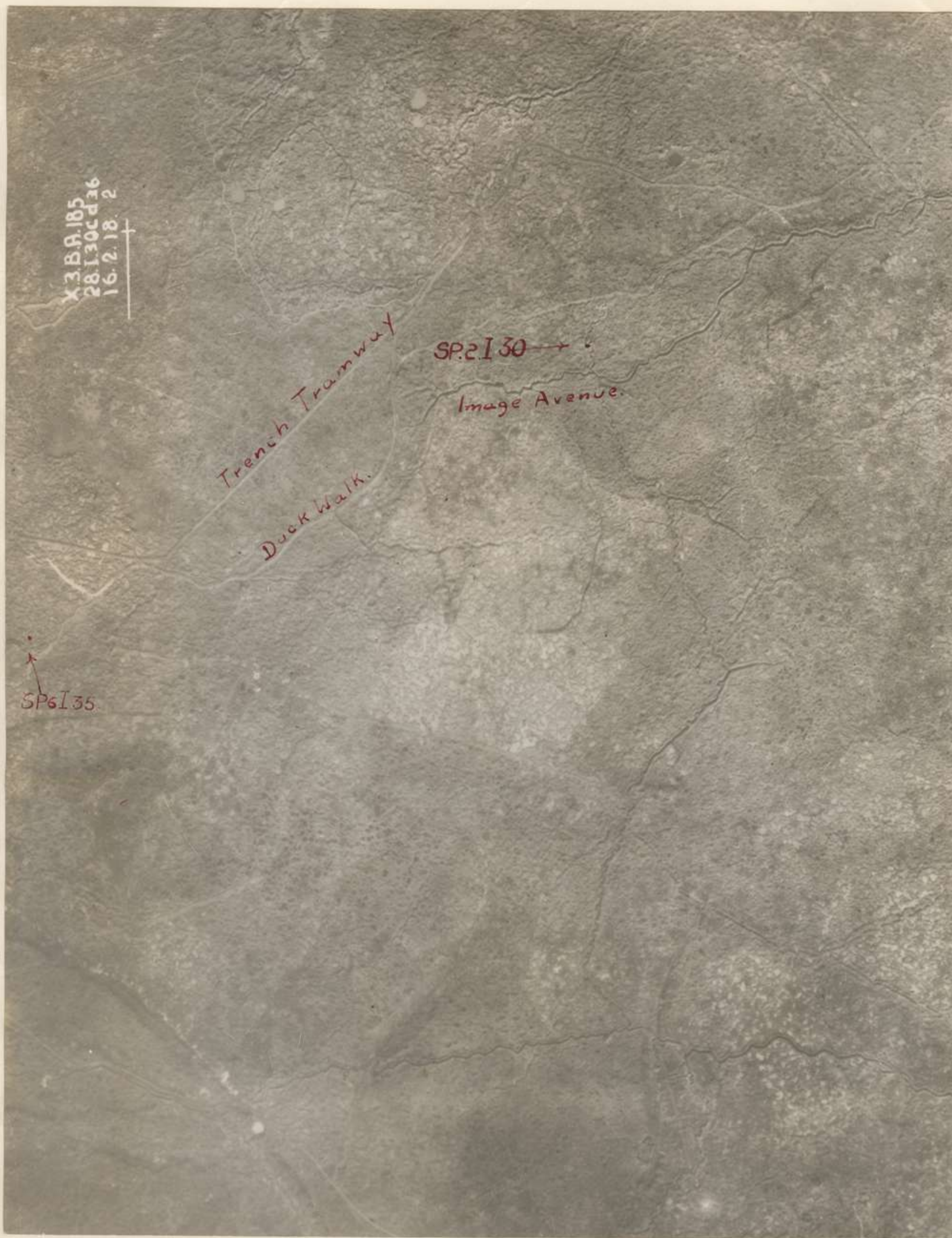
APPENDIX. 2

8

Fol.



194



SP2 I 30

SP

MG3 I 36  
SP2 I 36  
MG2 I 36

SP1 I 36

7/4





MG7. I 35

SP



SP8I34

X3.P.N.156  
281.271 d 28cd 33bd34  
16.2.18

The Bayline.

Cardiff

Imperial Walk

Stafford Walk.

Lewis  
Bridge.

The Bluff.

← MG.5.I34

MG# I 34

?SP I 34

?SPA I 34

MG 3 I 34

SPR I 34

MG 2 I 34

MG 3 I 34



The Dump

MG9 I34 →

MG11 I34 →

← SP8 I34

SP1 I35 →

← SP9 I34

Imperial Avenue

X A.B.N. 218  
28.I.280cd 3435ac  
21.2.18.12



SPI I 35

SP8 I 34

MB11 I 34

MG9 I 34

SP9 I 34



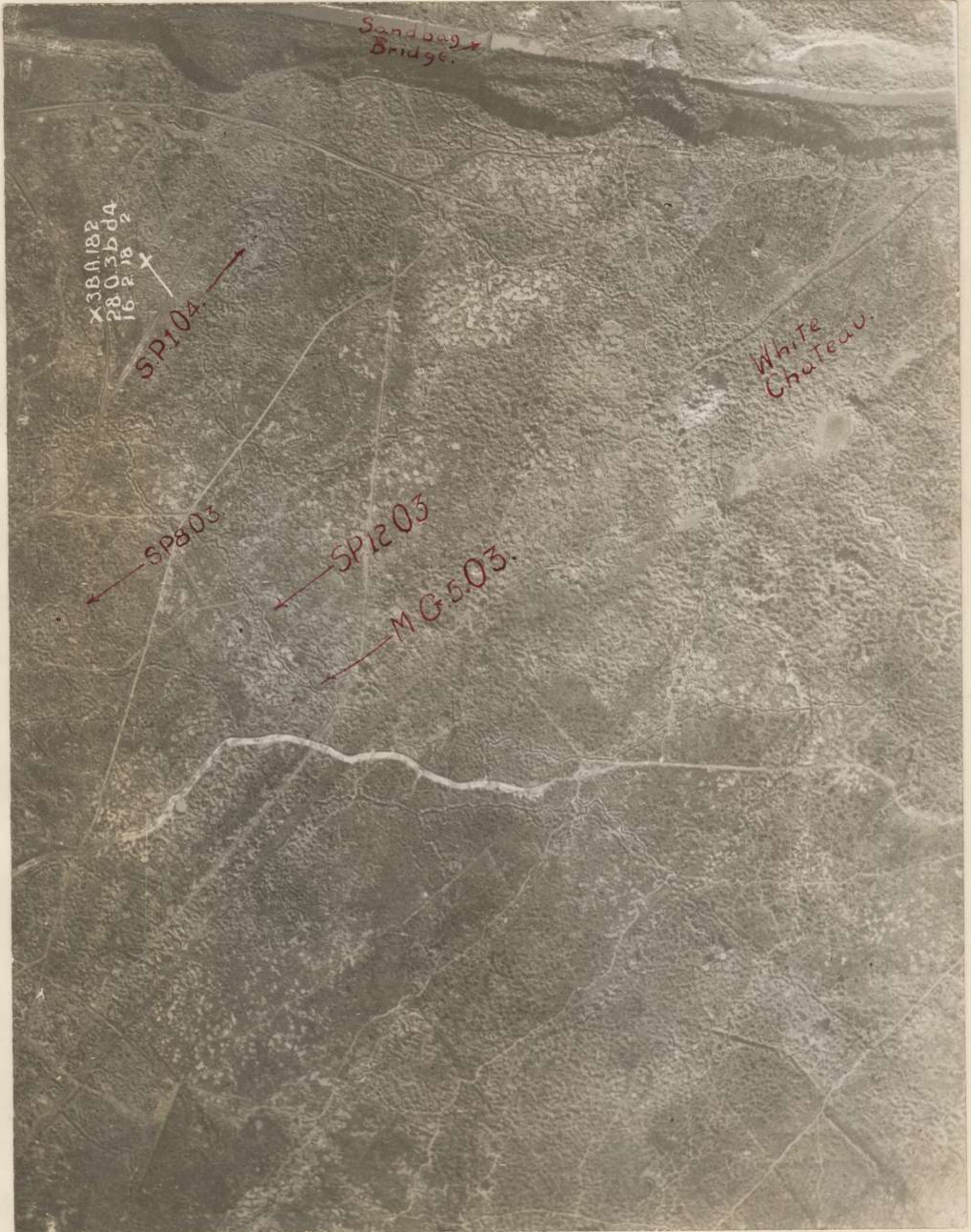
APPENDIX.

2

Sandberg - B.H. 1940

MG 5. 134

34



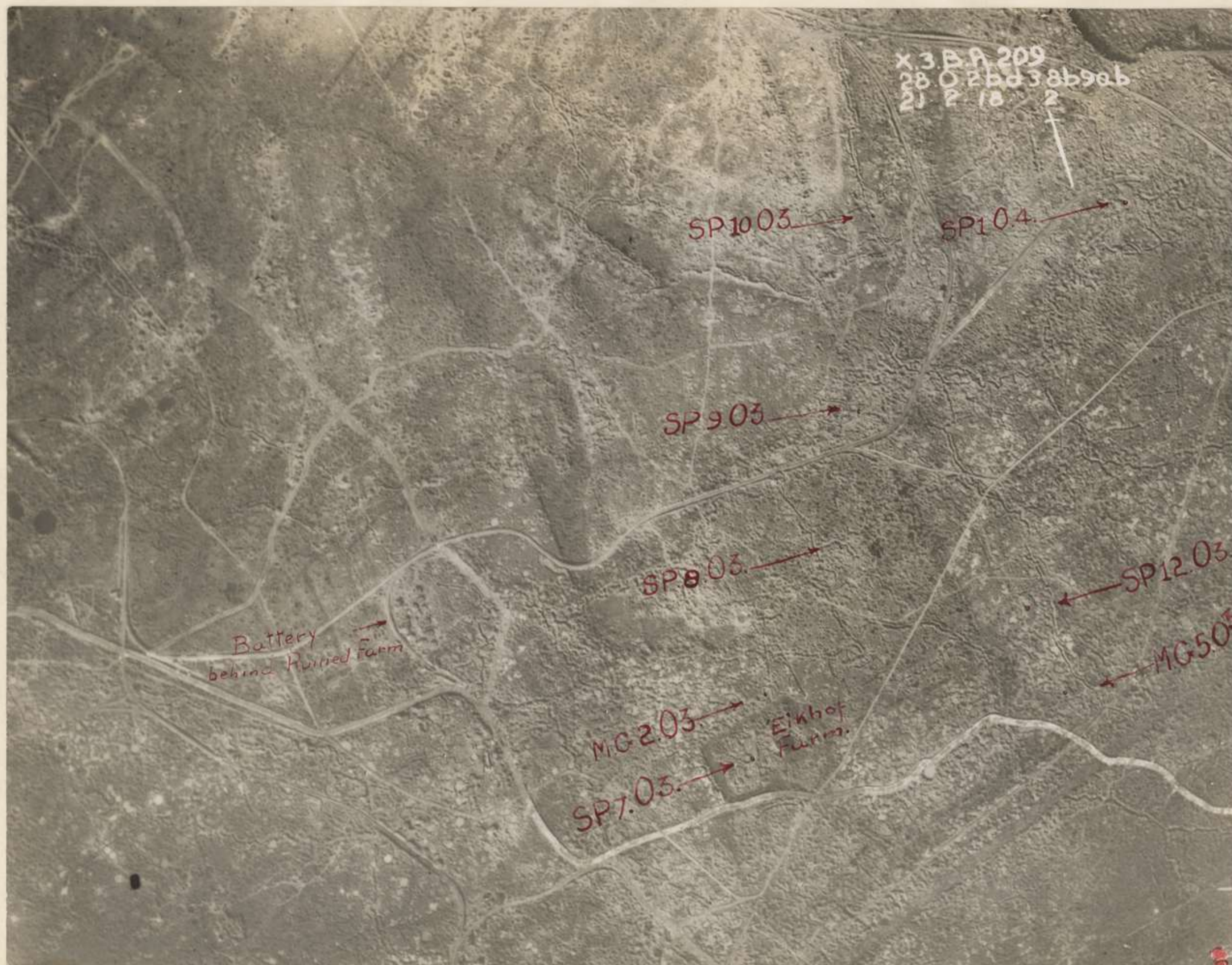


END  
DIX

SP1 04

SP12

MG 5 03



SP1 04.

SP10. 03

SP9. 03

SP8. 03

SP12. 03

MG5. 03

MG2. 03

?SP4. 03

SP7. 03

?SP2. 03