

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/23/32

Title: 4th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

May 1918



AWM4-14/23/32

194

18,000-12/1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Field Co., A.E.

FOR

May 1918

Signature of Officer compiling W. Lolley Major

Signature of Officer Commanding W. Lolley Major



Confidential
Original
copy.

4th Field Co., A.E.

WAR DIARY

for
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

May 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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.			Erection of shelters for Battalion HQs at O.24a.5.3. + at O.30.c.5.4	map references (Sheet 62.D)
FRANCE	May	1st	making R.A.P. at O.30.c.5.4 gasproof, making entrances to shaft at O.22a.7.7 "	
			Construction of bunks, staircase fittings, latrines etc at at Brigade HQs at O.25.c.5.3.	
			Strengthening of dugouts for left forward Battalion (Completed).	
			timbered drive to relay post at O.28 central - destruction of	
			700 yds of hedges + 200 yds of abattis completed in ^{rear} front of	
			VILLERS-BRETTONEUX, Construction of kitchen, latrines etc at	
		10.	new Brigade HQs at O.25.c.5.3, bunks + fittings at report centre at O.26.d.9.8.	
			Erection of barrier across railway line at O.26.d.9.8.	
			Cutting 600 wooden pickets, making 1000 yds of concertina barbed wire	
			making setting out tapes for wiring of support line + wiring of same.	
			2000 yds of tactical double apron wire in front of VILLERS-SWITCH.	
			Salvaging + erection of electric lighting plant at Brigade HQs	
	20th		General surveys of all defence lines. (Map of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX ^{defences} area attached.)	
	21st		2 sections + Coy HQs moved back to RIVERY near AMIENS. remaining	
			2 sections erecting bridges for heavy artillery across Somme Canal at N 16.C. (Completed)	



Confidential
Original Copy

4th Field Co., A.E.

WAR DIARY

May 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.

for
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FIELD. FRANCE.	May 21.		<p>and at N.17.C. north of BLANGY TRONVILLE (20.0% Completed).</p> <p>Repairing heavy bridge at N.14.d near GLISSY. building heavy bridge across SOMME near CORBIE. One section changed over every 3 days so that each section had a rest in turn. Inspection and re-equipment of whole Coy. while out resting - Capt. Dow. A.H. taken on strength.</p> <p>317 One American Engineer officer + 2 Senior NCO's attached to unit for duty.</p> <p><u>Casualties during month.</u></p> <p><u>Killed in action</u> N° 8802 Spr G.E. Crawford, N° 8804 Spr L.H. Neelsen on 1/5/18</p> <p>N° 17833 Spr P. Halliday, N° 16847 Spr S.G. Williams (4/5/18). <u>Died of wounds</u></p> <p>Lt E.H. Thomas. + N° 4159 Sgt W.S. Gowing on 2/5/18</p> <p><u>wounded</u> N° 142 Cpl Daw. P. (severely) N° 18257 Spr J.H. Smith. N° 18222 Spr R. Campbell (4/5/18)</p> <p>N° 17778⁶³¹¹ Spr Absolon R.P. and 17778 Spr J.E. Buffetts (slightly wounded remaining with unit) 4/5/18</p> <p>15702 Spr L.P. Field. (11/5/18) 2156 Spr J.J. Buckley + 6484 Spr A.T. Thomson 12/5/18</p> <p>15737 Spr L.M. Smith (slightly - remaining with unit). 13/5/18. N° 6002 Spr W. Allerdice N° 16250</p> <p>Spr P. Blow. + 19501 Spr Jagan (wounded gas) 15/5/18. N° 14552 Spr R.B. Stevens 19/5/18</p> <p><u>accidentally injured</u> N° 4228 Spr E.W. Thomas. N° 4037 Spr E. Cutchley</p>	

194

18,000-12/17-8723

APPENDIX.

4

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Field Co., A.E.

FOR

May 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| ① | General notes |
| ② | map showing Villers Bretonneux ^{Sector} defences |
| ③ | sketch of heavy bridge over Somme River. |
| ④ | map showing defences of village of Villers Bretonneux. |

W. Lolly Major

4th Field Co., A.E.

31/5/18

General Notes

1918
On tour of duty in VILLERS-
BRETONNEUX Sector.DEMOLITIONS.

A casual inspection of the charges laid for demolition of bridges, showed that the charges were faultily placed and in some instances not in contact with the principal girders etc. Inquiries were made, and CORPS had the charges withdrawn, and a new scheme of demolitions prepared. A tunnelling company was detailed to lay the charges, and provide guards who were to blow the bridges on receiving orders from the brigades concerned. It was considered by the field Companies that this work should have been directly under them, and strong representations were made to CORPS re same, but without any immediate results.

MINED DUGOUTS

Mined dugouts were made for each battalion H'Qrs under tunnelling Coys under the direct control of CORPS. Several reliefs of these Companies took place, and a great loss of time eventuated on each change over, & the rate of construction of dugouts was less than half of what it would have been had field Companies had charge of the work. Representations were made to CORPS to have the tunnelling Companies directly under control of the divisions concerned, but without success. As a fresh enemy offensive was apparently imminent, a close watch was kept on the progress of the dugouts, and the field Companies put shifts on to the faces whenever the tunnelling Companies failed to do so. This rather hampered the continuity & progress to other work

X
XX
X

Sheet No 21

1914

DEFENCE WORK

Owing to the extreme weakness of the
in personnel practically no infantry working parties were
available for work under the supervision of the sappers.
After supplying fatigues for the tunnellers, the extension
of the defensive system depended mostly on the energies
of the garrisons. The field companies set out the work,
made portable lengths of barbed concertina wire for
outpost defences, and put in a great quantity of
tactical wiring, without infantry assistance.

STORES

There was a general shortage of entanglement
stores, the only article which was plentiful, ~~was~~ being
medium screw pickets, which are of very little value.
A certain number of long + short screw pickets were
made, by joining two medium pickets together and
cutting the screw and one eye off one end. The
CI capsills shoes issued for attaching the steel
joists to the pit-props were most useful and efficient.

SHELLING

The enemy shelling was normally light, but certain
small areas were subjected to heavy shelling with
large H.E gas + quick fuze shells without any apparent
reason. Our original camp at O.17.a central was
unfortunately placed in one of these areas, and several
casualties occurred in close proximity to it, so after
2 heavy bombardments the camp was moved to
O.21.C.2.2 (Sheet 62 D).

Signed

A. G. Tolley
Major

o.c.

4th Field Co., A.E.

1:10000 SECRET

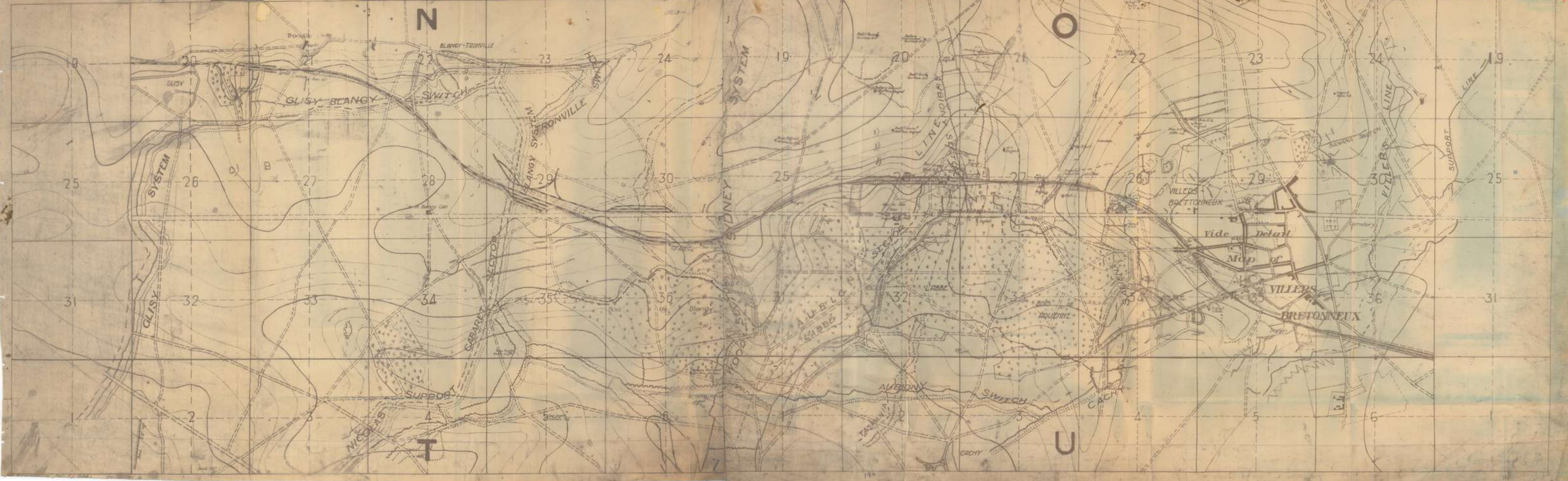
4TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ENGINEERS
ENLARGED FROM SHEET 62°5W
Checked & Corrected to

Part Sheet 62°

1:10000 SECRET

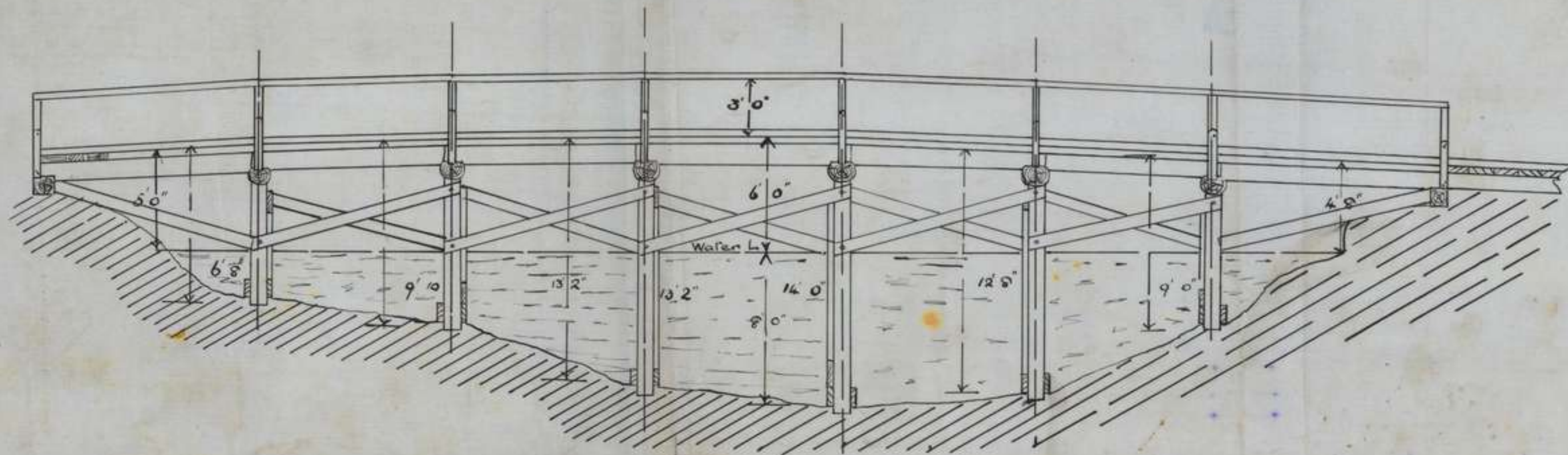
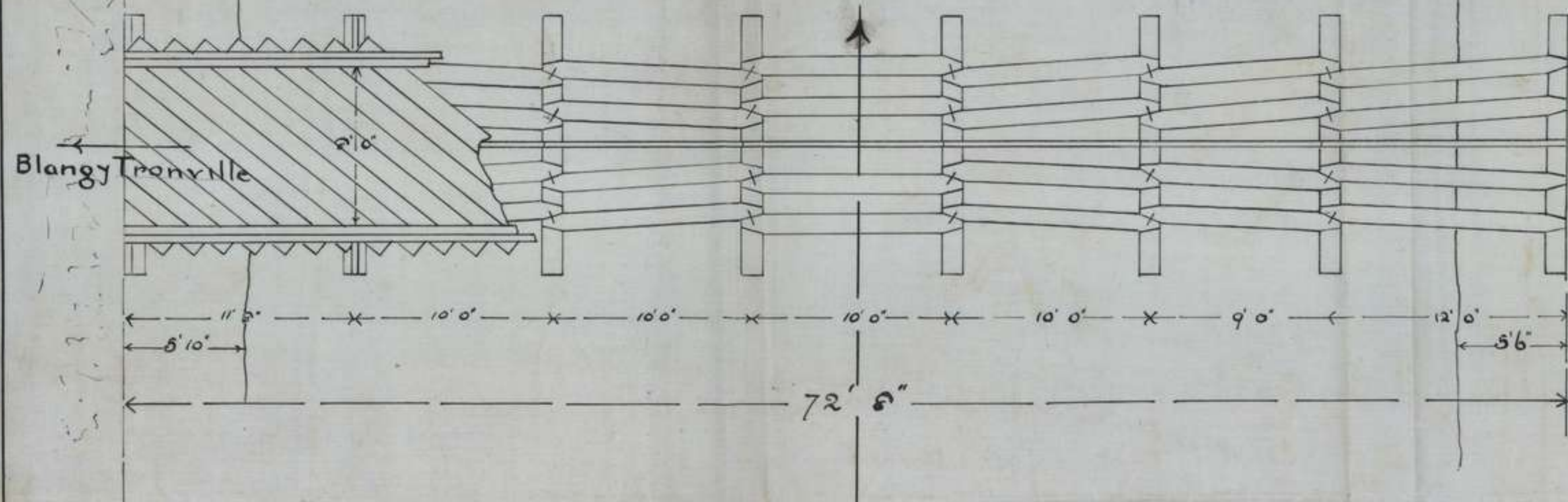
Part Sheet 62° (ENLARGED FROM 1:20,000)

APPENDIX



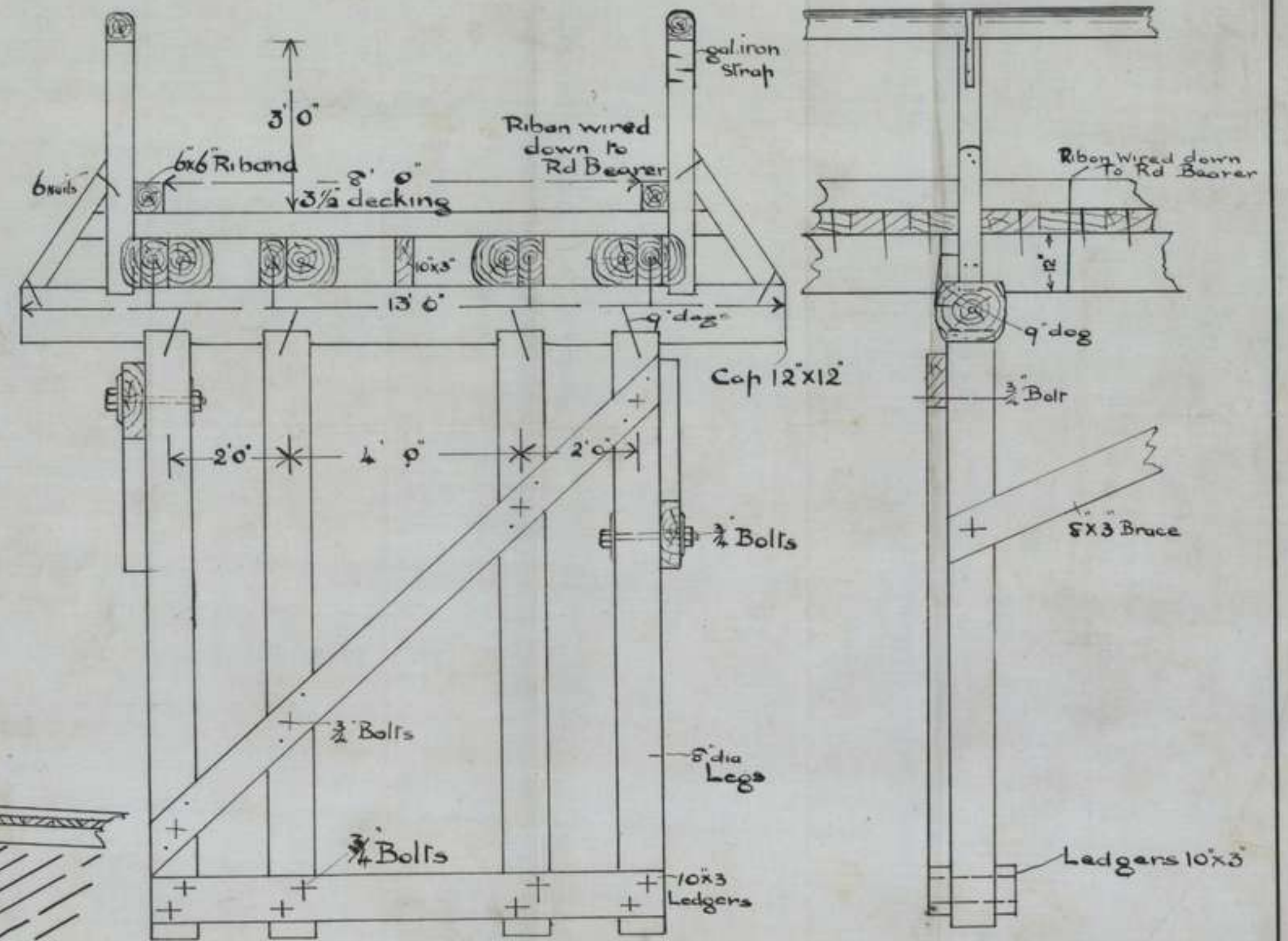
60 Pounder Bridge

Sheet 62^D N.17c.5.5



Plan and Section 1/50

Details Scale 1/2"



P3
19H ✓

SKETCH

APPENDIX N°4

9

shewing

Village Defences

VILLERS BRETONNEUX

Scale 1:5,000

Reference

- Trench S P
- Wire Entanglement
- Stakes Mortar Empl^s
- Machine Gun
- Tank trap
- Road mined
- Bridge mined
- Gas-proofed cellar



Gen. L. P. ... 1918/19

