

AWM4

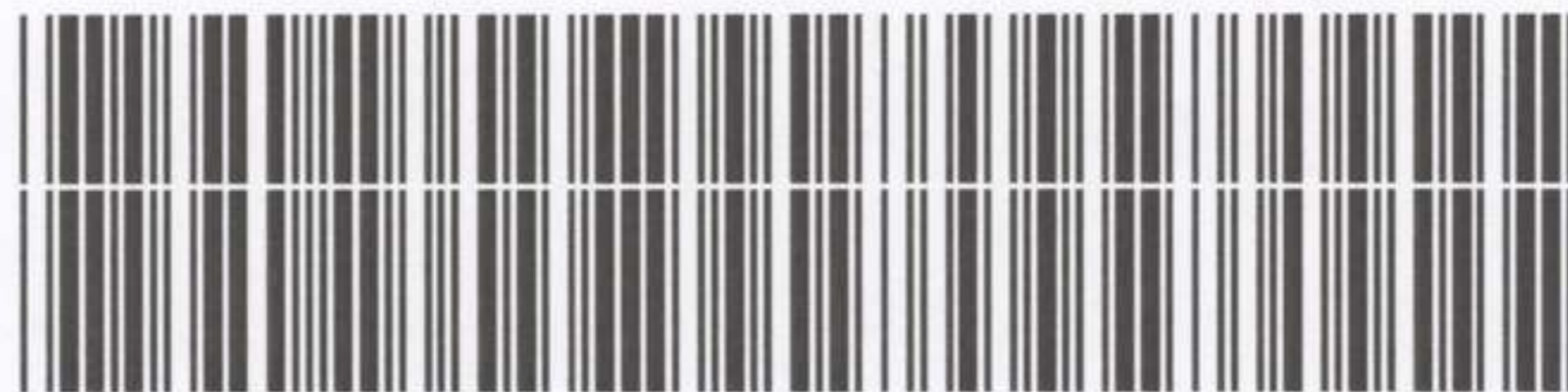
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/24

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-14/17/24

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINDENHOEK SPY. FARM	Feb 1.		Work allotted Coys as follows. A Coy. Fanny, Dorset & Bot C.T's. B Coy New Cross C.T. & 'C' Coy Olive Pioneer & Manchester C.T's with 1 platoon on Rt Bde trench tramways. 'D' Coy. Left Bde trench tramways, screens, & Roads. B & D started work today	
	Feb 2.	W/b	A & C carried out reconnaissance trenches. FANNY C.T. was found very bad out forward end. Work started all round on jobs as above. the fog of previous 3 days cleared at 10 am and the hoar frost on the trees melted very quickly as the sun came out. Lt. Stevenson returned from leave.	
	Feb 3.	W/b	Orders recd for one Coy to be detached for duty under C.R.E Corps troops. 'D' Coy ordered accordingly & work slightly rearranged. Clear day warm at midday. Am & Lewis guns are out on anti aircraft duty. C.S.M. Jurd, Sgt. Gibson & Nelson awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre.	N. 167. Bn Order No 34.
	Feb 4.	W/b	Rearrangement of work carried out. Fine day with cool change in afternoon. D Coy started work on strong points round S ^t ELOI.	
	Feb 5.	W/b	Fine day - quite warm & clear - considerable amount of work done all round. Orders issued for action in case of enemy attack. Main Messines Road now available for single traffic into MESSINES.	Bn Order No 35.
	Feb 6.	W/b	Fine day - warm & clear, very little activity indeed - front exceptionally quiet.	
	Feb 7.	W/b	Wet & unpleasant day. Work progressing well. Pioneer Lane is clear ^{day} thro' out but requires sides raising to enable use in daytime. Fanny S ^t is still wet right forward but is fast getting drained. Messines Road is improving & D Coy are well on with their strong posts	
	Feb 8.	W/b	Rainy day. Bn Strength 29 officers 1120 other ranks including 2/Lt A.W. Frazer who reported for duty today & is attached to 'A' Coy. A & C Coy bathed.	
	Feb 9.	W/b	Wet day. Capt WILKINSON went on leave. D Coy started work on 4 new strong posts.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINDENHOEK SPY FARM.	1918 Feb 10	H.S.B.	Fine but dull day. Only urgent work carried out; men rested in accordance with orders from Div ⁿ . G.O.C. visited Spy Farm. LT Perkins reported for duty & was posted to 'B' Coy	
	Feb 11.	H.S.B.	Slight showers. work carried on as usual. French Tramway from Wolverhampton to Messines badly damaged by shell fire last night - 3 direct hits. Repaired & line clear by 3.0 am	
	Feb 12.	H.S.B.	Fine. All works progressing well. Decided to make deviation at the end of Fanny-L.T. to bring same direct to front line. Present location is badly shelled.	
	Feb 13.	H.S.B.	Dull day with misty rain whole time - men got very wet at work. Having considerable trouble with R.E material all around - our demands being fairly heavy. Capt Halseham returned from leave.	
	Feb 14.	H.S.B.	Misty day - fairly thick at times but little rain. Have arranged to get infantry parties to help us on Pioneer Lane - principally in carrying. Lt England went on leave.	
	Feb 15.	H.S.B.	misty but fine day cleared towards afternoon. Major King went on one months leave of absence. Chaplain Braunes also on leave to Paris	
	Feb 16.	H.S.B.	Beautiful fine day but cold. Fair aeroplane activity & all balloons up. Front very quiet still.	
	Feb 17.	H.S.B.	Another fine day - artillery activity noticeably increased. We had 2 men wounded (one badly) at Wolverhampton while in their dugouts. Only urgent work carried on today - most of Bn resting. One bosche plane over us in evening. Revised orders issued as to action in case of attack. Capt Buchan went on leave.	By Order No 36.
	Feb 18.	H.S.B.	Fine clear day - visibility affected by haze. ^{Evening} Artillery activity again quiet but aeroplanes especially low flying active. D Coy starts on 3 new strong posts of Corps line. 4 are completed.	
	Feb 19.	H.S.B.	Clear day but poor visibility. Messines road now well in hand & a good deal of traffic over it.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A9001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2118/14

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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
LINDEN HOEK (SPY. FARM)	1918 Feb 20	-	<p><i>under LT PIERCE'S supervision.</i></p> <p>Dull day very wet towards evening - FANNY ST (C.T.) is now a good trench thro' out & requires chief maintenance. It is now clear to 0.35. a. 3.0. Extension beyond this point was considered as far as GARRARD but owing to the short distance (700 yds) the amount of material, the heavy maintenance due to enemy shelling & resultant casualties this extra trench was not thought worth while for the small extra use it would provide. PIONEER LANE is also being fast improved the main trouble being its shallowness & length - it was decided only to use revetting material where absolutely necessary. G.O.C. called at Spy Farm relative to the distance men had to march to their work. Sent him a memo on this subject. Position re R.E stores is better except for Road Metal. Issued Orders for A+C Coys to change over work on 24th.</p>	<p>memo re distance heavy by men daily.</p> <p>P.E. 67.</p>
	Feb 21	W/b	<p>Fine clear day. 100 tons metal rec'd at dump for Messines R.L. so work got on well. Arranged for 2 shifts to work at Sawmill so as to get more stuff thro' - the hardwood is rough on saws.</p>	
	Feb 22	W/b	<p>Dull day. Fanny trench badly knocked about but left in good order. Corps Reserve line is going ahead fast. LT. W. E. GREY was transferred today to one of the Corps Wireless sections - this makes us 9 officers understrength. LTs R.W. PALMER & G.W. Brown returned from Corps School.</p>	
	Feb 23	W/b	<p>Fine day but hazy. LT EWING & Padre ORRIS returned from leave.</p>	
	Feb 24	R/b	<p>Fine but dull day. LT Perkins to X Corps School. No work done today. A+C Coys took over each others work - LT Palmer is in charge of detached party at VIERSTRAAT on French tramway.</p>	
	Feb 25	W/b	<p>Fine windy day. LT Bailey to X Corps Musketry School. Work on Messines R.L. hampered thro' lack of metal. One casualty at Fanny's trench during evening.</p>	
	Feb 26	W/b	<p>Fine day. Capt Wilkinson returned from leave. Arranged to get 100 tons metal per day delivered on our road jobs. LT Murphy's party at Wulveyhem on French tramway moved camp to T.6.a. S.S. LT Palmer is now in charge at Vierstraat French tramway.</p>	
	Feb 27	W/b	<p>Fine day. Difficulty is being experienced still with metal - we can move about 100 tons (the tons delivered by Corps are about 1/2 ton) per day now. Messines Road being extended about 1 kilo beyond Messines.</p>	

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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
SPY FARM (LINDENHOEK)	1918 Feb 28	vllh	<p> Fine Clear Day. Orders Orders Received to detach 2 Officers & 40 other ranks from this Bn to form a tunnelling Coy. LT MCGOWAN selected - arranged with Div^l for the 2nd officer to be supplied else where owing to our present shortage of officers. Bn strength 30 officers 1135 other ranks - of these 100 7 officers & 186 other ranks are detached on leave & various duties. Casualties during month - 3 other ranks. Evacuated sick during month - 41 other ranks. Average no off duty daily (minor illness) - 20 other ranks. No of Reinforcements received - 1 of 43 other ranks. </p>	<p> Insp^r Insl^r No 80 </p> <p> H. G. <u>Beuter</u> Comd^g 5th Pioneer Bn </p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8c04) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/14

WAR DIARY

OF

5th. Aust. Pioneer Battalion. A.I.F.

FOR

Month of February 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	N.167. Re disposition of Battalion.
2.	Battalion Order No 34.
3.	Battalion Order No 35.
4.	Battalion Order No 36.
5.	Memo re distances walked by men to work.
6.	P.E. 67. Re "A" & "C" Coy's changing over.
7.	Engineer Instructions No 80.
8.	Movement of Officers during January and February.
9.	Summary of work done during the month.
10.	Quartermaster's Report.
11.	Medical Report.
12.	Lewis Gun Report.
13.	Transport Report.
14.	Re Sundays being observed as a Holiday.

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APPENDIX I

6

"C" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 100.)

Prefix <i>SM</i> Code <i>GIP</i> Words <i>46</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect	From <i>2.5 PM</i>	At <i>7</i> m.	<i>AGE</i> <i>3/2/15</i>
Service Instructions <i>AYE</i>	By <i>99</i>	To	
Handed in at <i>5th Aust Div</i>	Office <i>3.45 PM</i>	Received <i>4.5 PM</i>	

TO

5th Aust BNR's

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA	
<i>N 167</i>	<i>3rd</i>		<i>Divided</i>	<i>to</i>
			<i>take</i>	<i>one</i>
			<i>boy</i>	
			<i>from</i>	<i>you</i>
			<i>for</i>	<i>Corps</i>
			<i>work</i>	
			<i>AAA</i>	<i>remaining</i>
			<i>thru</i>	<i>boys</i>
			<i>employed</i>	
			<i>as</i>	<i>follows</i>
			<i>AAA</i>	<i>one</i>
			<i>boy</i>	
			<i>maintenance</i>	<i>SANNY</i>
			<i>GT</i>	<i>and</i>
			<i>PNR</i>	<i>LANE</i>
			<i>AAA</i>	<i>two</i>
			<i>boys</i>	
			<i>maintenance</i>	<i>ROAD</i>
			<i>TRAMWAYS</i>	
			<i>and</i>	<i>SCREENS</i>

FROM

CRE 5th Aust Div

PLACE & TIME

3.5 PM

(B 5188) Wt. w. 7496-M557 250,000 Pads. 1/17 H & S (E489.) Forms/C.2123/3.
* This line should be erased if not required.

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APPENDIX 2

SECRET

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
3rd February 1918.

Copy No.....

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 34.

The following will be the allotment of work from 4th February, 1918:-

"A" Company.- Maintenance of FANNY'S TRENCH & PIONEER LANE.

"B" Company.- Maintenance of Right Brigade Trench Tramways (at present under "C" Coy.)
Construction of main MESSINES ROAD.

"C" Company.- Maintenance of Left Brigade Trench Tramways (at present under "D" Coy.)
Maintenance of Screens (at present under "D" Coy).
Maintenance of all roads North of MESSINES.

"D" Company. - Construction of Corps Reserve Line.

Companies will arrange to effect the necessary reliefs to-morrow, 4th instant, so that the new allotment may be in full progress on 5th inst.

Q.M. will arrange for necessary transport for blankets.

Reports will be sent to Orderly Room on completion of relief.

Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

P.T.O.

Copies issued as follows:-

C.O.	No.1.
2nd in Command	" 2.
Adjutant	" 3.
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 4.
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 5.
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 6.
O.C. "D" Coy.	" 7.
Q.M.	" 8.
T.O.	" 9.
M.O.	" 10.
C.R.E.	" 11.
8th Inf.Bde.	" 12.
14th Inf.Bde.	" 13.
War Diary	" 14-17
File	" 18.

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019

EXHIBIT 3

3

SECRET

H.Q., 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
5th February 1918.

Corp No. 19

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 35
ACTION IN CASE OF ENEMY ATTACK.

1. In the case of an attack by the enemy all ranks will at once stand to arms - Dress, fighting order & water bottles full.
2. All parties working in forward Communication Trenches or their vicinity will report at once to the nearest Battalion Headquarters, which should be known. Other parties will return at once to their Companies. Parties on Trench Traverses will remain at their work and be available for repairs or pushing.
3. The unexpected portion of the days ration will be issued forthwith to all ranks. *to Bombing Sections*
8 Hand Grenades per man will be issued: in the case of Rifle Grenadiers, 7 rifle grenades. Companies will see that a reserve of this amount is kept ready for issue.
4. Transport Section will be saddled up. Load rations, C.A.A. & Bombs will be kept ready for transport, either by wagon or pack. "B" Company will supply any necessary loading parties.
5. One Lewis Gun of each pair of anti-aircraft duty will remain at its post to repel any low-flying aeroplanes: the other will report back to its Company H.Q. as soon as possible, except "D" Company, whose gun will report to Battalion Headquarters. Companies will see that a supply of filled magazines is kept in reserve at Company Headquarters for this gun.
6. Companies must be ready to turn out either for late late fighting on short notice, or pioneer work: tools must, therefore, be kept handy. In this latter case, fighting order will be worn, but grenades P.T.O.

(*)

- will not be taken
- 7. Parties on Beach or Airways will endeavour to keep their line clear and in order, either for pushing forward of supplies, or carriage of wounded.
- 8. This Order is provisional only.

H. G. Carter

Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Copies issued as follows:-

S.O.	No. 1.		
Cmdr in Command	" 2	C.P.E.	No. 13.
Adjutant	" 3	5th Inf. Bde	" 13
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 4	14th Inf. Bde	" 14
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 5	War Diary	" 15-18
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 6	File	" 19
O.C. "D" Coy.	" 7		
C.M.	" 8		
P.O.	" 9		
S.O.	" 10.		
"G" Branch, 5th			
Aust. Div.	" 11.		

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SECRET

(F)

App 4 11

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
17th February 1918.

Copy No.....

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 35.
ACTION IN CASE OF ENEMY ATTACK.

1. In the case of an attack by the enemy, or general alarm, all ranks will at once stand to arms - Dress, fighting order with full water bottles.
2. The unexpended portion of the day's ration will be issued forthwith to all ranks. 2 Hand Grenades per man to Bombing Sections will be issued - in the case of Rifle Grenadiers, 2 Rifle Grenades. Companies will see that a reserve of this amount is kept ready for issue. If time permits, A, B & C Companies will roll their blankets in bundles of 10 short way and all packs will be packed properly ready for immediate removal.
3. Transport Section will be saddled up. Iron rations, S.A.A. and Bombs will be kept ready for transport, either for Wagon or pack. "B" Company will supply any necessary loading parties.
4. Companies must be ready to turn out, either for immediate fighting on short notice, or pioneer work - tools must, therefore, be kept handy. In this latter case, fighting order will be worn, but grenades will not be taken. In the case of "D" Company the necessary reserve of tools will be kept at H.Q. The Q.M. will be responsible for this.
5. "D" Company will move by platoons at 100 yds interval to H.Q. as soon as possible after the alarm and will form up on the ground on opposite side of road to H.Q. One N.C.O. and 2 men will be left to guard their camp.
6. Detailed instructions have already been issued by the Brigades concerned to the officers in charge of parties working in PIONEER LANE and FANNY STREET. All other parties (except Trench Tramways) will return at once to their Companies, reporting on arrival. All parties working East of the St. ELOI - MESSINES ROAD at night will invariably be armed.
7. Parties on Trench Tramways will remain at their work. They will endeavour to keep their line clear and in order, either for pushing forward of supplies, or carriage of wounded.
8. All Lewis Guns will remain at their posts on anti-aircraft duty. They will take their orders from the Battery Commanders to whom they are attached.
9. This Order cancels Battalion Order No. 35.

H. G. Carter

Lieut.-Col.)
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion. *

Copies issued as under :-

C.O.	No. 1.
2nd in Command	" 2
Adjutant	" 3
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 4
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 5
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 6
O.C. "D" Coy.	" 7
Q.M.	" 8
T.O.	" 9
M.O.	" 10
"G", 5th Aust. Div.	11.
C.P.E.	" 12
8th Inf. Bde.	" 13
14th Inf. Bde.	" 14
T.T.O. WULVERGHEM	15
" VIERSTRAAT	16
War Diary	" 17-20
File	" 21

5

A.A. & Q.M.G.,
5th Aust. Division.

With reference to my conversation with the G.O.C. and yourself regarding the distance walked by the men working on the MESSINES ROAD, I attach below a Table showing the distances walked by the various parties throughout the Battalion.

The column "Maximum" shows the furthest distance that any man has to walk to his job, the first column giving the average distance :-

		<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM.</u>
A Coy.	PIONEER LANE	5,300 yds	5,500 yds
	PANNY ST.	3,000	3,300.
B Coy.	MESSINES ROAD	5,300	5,700.
	TRAMWAY PARTY.	3,000	5,000
C Coy.	ROADS & SCREENS	3,300	4,500
	TRAMWAY PARTY	3,500	3,000
D Coy.	St. ELOI	2,000	2,000
	WYTSCHAETE	4,000	5,000.

It will be seen that the Company at the greatest disadvantage in this respect is "A" Company, who, in addition to having the furthest distance to walk, are working under Machine Gun fire and occasional shell fire.

I am taking advantage of the inter-Brigade relief to interchange the work of "A" and "C" Companies to afford the men the necessary relief.

H.G.C.

Lient.-Col.

G.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Copy to C.R.E.

200

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APPENDIX 6

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

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

TO { A & C Coys. 11.40 AM

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* P.E. 67.	20.		

A & C Coys will arrange to interchange work on Sunday next 20th Feb. 11.40 AM will arrange necessary transport in the case of the party at RICK STANAT. etc.

Details of work will be arranged direct between companies without stopping work in any way. etc.

A Coy will hand over & get receipt for the orders regarding pattern working in RICK STANAT SS & RICK STANAT. etc.

any defence orders will also be interchanged.

From 5th Pioneer Bn.

Place

Time 11.40 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (3198.) Wt. W 1295 / M 1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V. Ld. (E. 818.)

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SECRET.

APR 1918

14

A U S T R A L I A N C O R P S . Copy No. 23

Engineer Instruction No. 80.

-- Issued under Australian Corps G.122/17 of 26/2/1918. --

1. Relief of 2 Sections 2nd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy.

- (a) 2 Sections 2nd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy at present employed in 'C' Divisional Sector are being withdrawn from the Corps Area.
- (b) 184 Tunnelling Coy. R.E. will arrange to take over all dugout work which the 2 sections Canadian Tunnelling Coy now have under construction. The relief will be gradual so that the loss of work will be reduced to a minimum.
- (c) The Infantry now placed by 'C' Division at disposal of 2nd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy. will be transferred to 184 Tunnelling Coy R.E. O.C. 184 Tunnelling Coy RE will arrange direct with the Division any alterations in billeting this labor which may be necessary on completion of relief.

2. Formation of 2 Temporary Aust. Tunnelling Sections.

- (a) Until more Tunnelling Coys. are available each Division will detail the following Pioneer personnel which will be formed into 2 Tunnelling Sections for work under the orders of 184 Tunnelling Coy R.E.

- 2 Officers. (Lieut. or 2/Lieuts - One can be detailed from Engineers or Infantry if desired).
- 1 Sergeant.
- 5 N.C.O's.
- 1 Batman.
- 30 O.R's. (Miners)
- 1 O.R. (Cook)
- 1 O.R. (Carpenter)
- 1 O.R. (Blacksmith).

i.e. in all 10 Officers and 200 O.R's from the 5 Australian Divisions.

- (b) C.O's of Pioneer Battalions will select Officers and men who have had previous military or civil experience in Tunnelling or mining work.
- (c) Pioneer personnel will report on 1st. March to 184 Tunnelling Coy R.E. at T.S.c.5.7. who will make all arrangements for billeting. 48 hours rations to be taken.
- (d) Additional Mechanical and Horse Transport will be detailed to 184 Tunnelling Coy R.E. to meet the requirements of the two Australian Sections.

C.R. Sheldon Capt R.E

for Brig. General.
Chief Engineer AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1-8 "G" Aust. Corps. | 20. O.C. 2nd. Pioneer Battln. |
| 9-10 "C" Aust. Corps. | 21. O.C. 3rd. Pioneer Battln. |
| 11. CE 4th. Army. | 22. O.C. 4th. Pioneer Battln. |
| 12. C. of M. 4th. Army. | 23. O.C. 5th. Pioneer Battln. |
| 13. CRE 1st. Aus. Divn. | 24. O.C. 184 Tunnelling Coy RE. |
| 14. CRE 2nd. Aus. Divn. | 25. O.C. 2nd. Canadian Tunn. Coy. |
| 15. CRE 3rd. Aus. Divn. | 26. Lt. Grant (Eng. Off. attd. CHA). |
| 16. CRE 4th. Aus. Divn. | 27. File. |
| 17. CRE 5th. Aus. Divn. | 28. War Diary. |
| 18. CRE CT Aust. Corps. | 29-35 Spare Copies. |
| 19. O.C. 1st. Pioneer Btn. | |

.....

30 Officers.

1135 other ranks.

Present Position of Officers

	present with unit	on leave	at schools	Total
H.Q.	6	-	1	7
A	4	2		6
B	6 (incl. T.O)	-	1	7
C	3	1	1 (1 st Troop Co)	5
D	4	-	1	5
Total	23	3	4	30

see re Capt. Pater

re lectures & educational

re P. T. M.F. instructor.

re Baker.

Lt Grey went to Corps wireless.

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 War Diary

Movement of Officers

During period 1. 1. 1918 - 28. 2. 1918.

Name	Date of Departure	Date of Return	Leave or Duty.	Remarks
Lt Col H.G. Carter. DSO	17. 12. 17	16. 1. 18	leave	United Kingdom.
Lt F. Hammond	21. 12. 17.	4. 1. 18	"	"
Lt. W. W. E. Gray.	28. 12. 17.	11. 1. 18	"	"
Lt C. R. Duke	11. 1. 18.	25. 1. 18	"	"
Lt. J. D. Stevenson	18. 1. 18	1. 2. 18	"	"
Capt G. H. Helsham	28. 1. 18.	11. 2. 18	"	"
Lt. R. J. Dark	1. 2. 18	15. 2. 18	"	"
Lt J. R. Ewing	8. 2. 18	22. 2. 18	"	Paris to United Kingdom
Capt W. J. Wilkinson	10. 2. 18.	24. 2. 18	"	United Kingdom
Lt R. W. Palmer	15. 1. 18	19. 2. 18	Duty.	Aust Corps School
Lt G. W. Brown	15. 1. 18	19. 2. 18	"	"
Lt J. England M.C.	15. 2. 18	Not yet returned	Leave	United Kingdom
Capt W. Buchan M.C.	17. 2. 18	"	"	"
Major E. E. King	15. 2. 18.	"	"	"
Major J. S. McLean D.S.O.	1. 1. 18.	"	Duty	Senior Officers School
Lt. R. H. Perkins	24. 2. 18	"	"	X Corps School.
Lt. W. L. Bailey	26. 2. 18	"	"	4th Army Musketry School.

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5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.
SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1918

COMMUNICATION TRENCHES.

PLACE	Company & Officer in charge	WORK DONE	MATERIAL USED
DOCKET STREET	"A" Coy.	Laid 40 duckboards, cleared 263 yds drains & cleared muck from under duckboards for 320 yds: revetted 58 yds trench	40 new duckboards, 80 "A" frames, 80 sheets corrug. iron, 58 revetting frames, 115 angle irons.
BOB STREET	"A" Coy.	Cleared muck from 480 yds trench: revetted 140 yds	150 revetting frames, 150 angle irons, 40 "A" frames, 50 sheets corrug. iron.
OLIVE TRENCH	"C" Coy.	Revetting of 35 yds trench repaired: 130 yds trench drained: 45 yds duckboards re-fixed.	
MANCHESTER St.	"C" Coy.	200 yds trench drained: 30 yds revetment repaired: trench generally put in order.	
PANNY St.	"A" Coy. Lt. PIERCE to 24.2.18 "C" Coy. Lt. EWING from 24.2.18.	Cleared muck from 950 yds trenches: cleared drains of falls of earth & muck for 850 yds - average depth of muck removed 1' deepening & clearing sap, 300 yds: built 350 yds of parapet: repairing damage by 8 direct hits on trench: repairing & re-placing duckboards over 950 yds. revetted trench 550 yds: revetted drains, 50 yds: Trench was impassable beyond O.34.c.7.8. on taking over & is now good to O.35.C.4.8.	550 sheets corrug. iron, 350 revetting frames, 300 "A" frames, 400 3' angle irons, 300 3' angle irons, 225 hurdles, 30 new duckboards.
PIONEER & LANE	A Coy. Lt. GRAY to 24.2.18 C Coy. Lt. HILL from 24.2.18.	Repaired duckboards in several places: cleared trenches for 450 yds: cleared drains 100 yds: built up 940 yds parapet: repaired 10 direct hits on trench: revetted 765 yds trench: draining 45 yds shell holes into trench: erecting 70 yds camouflage. Trench was in good condition, but parapet low: it is now in good condition, but incomplete.	450 revetting frames, 200 A frames, 500 3' angle irons, 300 3' angle irons, 50 sheets corrug. iron, 50 yds c. mouflage.
NEW CROSS St.	"B" Coy. Lt. MCGOWAN	Whole of drains cleared & trench left dry & good - much mud & water in trench on taking over.	40 hurdles, 50 duckboards.

ROADS.

WILVERGHEM- MESSINES	"B" Coy. Capt. WILKINSON, Lt. EDGLEY.	On taking over this road was not passable beyond MOULIN DUMP, O.32.c.6.0. It is now available for motor traffic as far as MESSINES, and for horse traffic to U.4.a.1.9. Light railway alongside road has been improved.	About 550 tons road metal, 500 tons bricks, 50 yds 10lb rails, 50 yds 9lb rails.
VERNE Rd.			P. T. O.

Handwritten signature/initials

R O A D S (Continued).

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PLACE	Company & Officer in charge.	WORK DONE	MATERIAL USED
VERNE Rd.	"C" Coy. to	These roads have been con-	
ANTHONY Rd.	24.2.18.	stantly patrolled & im-	208 tons metal
BAY Rd.		proved by drainage: cul-	294 tons brick
GUN Rd.	"A" Coy. from	verts put in: mud clear-	
RANBY FARM Rd.	24.2.18.	ed: metal & salvaged brick	
St. ELOI Rd.		spread & rapped: kerbing	
FANNY FARM Rd.		put in in many places.	
HOSPICE Rd.		These roads are all fit for	
RAVINE WOOD Rd.		motor traffic.	

SCREENS.

Right Brigade "B" Coy. Sector
 repairs & maintenance only: considerable amount of work through screens being blown down. Condition now very good.

Left Brigade "C" Coy to Lt. HILL 1150 yds new screens erected, 24.2.18 and all existing screens "A" Coy maintained & repaired. from 24.2.18

TRENCH TRAMWAYS.

Right Brigade "B" Coy. Lt. MURPHY
 General maintenance of existing 3 tracks, which are in good condition throughout, including 2 1/2 mile tracks.

Left Brigade "C" Coy. Lt. HILL
 Re-laying & fettling throughout: general maintenance & patrolling lines for blow-outs.

Ballast, 700 yds 20lb rails, 250 yds 9lb rails, 3 20lb points, 1 concrete culvert, 1 box drain.

LINDENHOEK WORKSHOPS.

10 men employed on engine saw - 4 carpenters - signwriters.
 Average of 2,000' run of timber was cut daily & 250 signposts & boards made & painted.
 Carpenters doing various articles of furniture etc, and, latterly, dummy figures. Difficulties with saw & engine caused delay at times.

CAMP WORK.

Considerable improvement made both at PECKHAM & SPY FARM Camps in the way of drainage, camouflage, tarring & sarding dugouts - completing dugouts and constructing new ones.
 At SPY FARM, in addition to Battalion R.Qrs, there is now good accommodation for 1 Company of 3 Officers & 200 O.R. PECKHAM is now capable of accommodating 2 strong Companies complete.
 At WHITEHALL CAMP (D Coy.) considerable improvements, such as Cook house, foot-paths & dugouts for men & Officers.

CORPS DEFENCE WORKS .

"D" Company.

PLACE .	WORK DONE	MATERIAL USED
CORPS SUPPORT LINE	6 Strong Posts have been undertaken 4 of which are completed. These posts are all properly revetted & drained - a good parapet is also provided.	350 "A" frames 700 iron. 350 hurdles 4500 Sandbags
CORPS RESERVE LINE	7 Strong Posts have been undertaken, 4 of which are complete, and 2 almost so: the last is about 70% complete and has been troublesome, owing to it being an old German trench and all the old revetment had to be withdrawn, and the trench collapsed. An average of from 40 to 50 Infantry men have been assisting on this work, chiefly being employed in carrying material.	350 Duckbeds. 1250 L iron stakes & large quantity salvaged. 20 coils bar wire. 50 coils camou - flage & large quantity salvaged.

H. G. Carter

Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

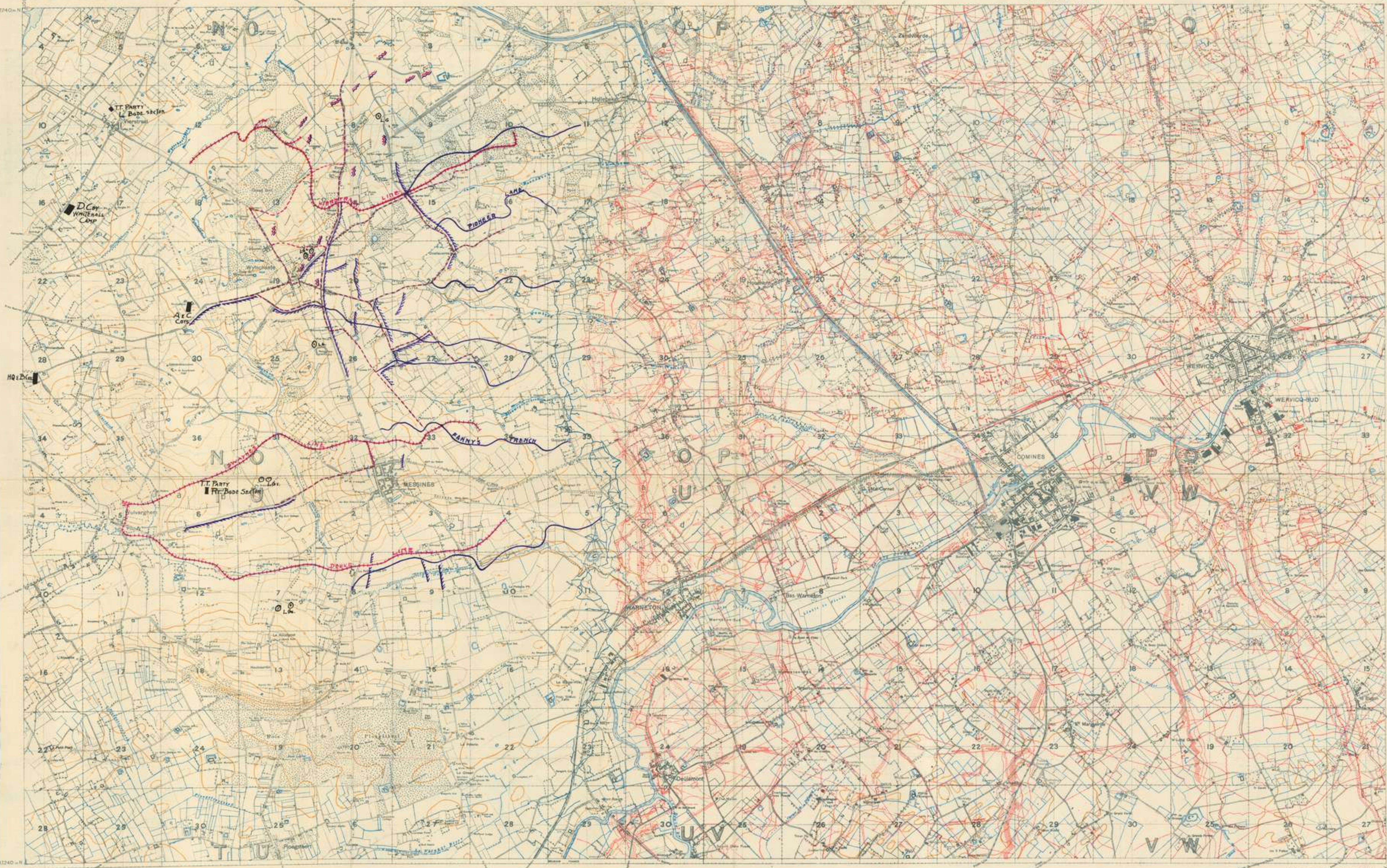
DATA:
 Roads marked on shown Trps: ---
 T.Ts. ---
 Caret. Line S.Ps. ---
 C.Ts. ---
 Screens ---
 Bath. A.A. L.Gs. ---

BELGIUM

TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 1-11-17.
 EDITION 3 A

SHEET 28 S.W. & S.E. (parts of)

20,000



27N0	28N0	29N0
27N1	28N1	29N1
27N2	28N2	29N2

12 23 1917

On squared maps all bearings should be given with reference to the vertical grid lines, which are parallel to the East and West edges of the sheet. Bearings should always be reckoned clockwise from 0 to 360°.

Grid bearings are less than compass bearings, the difference being called the deviation of the compass. To find out what this deviation is, take a compass bearing to a distant point, and measure on the map the grid bearing to that point. The difference between the two bearings is the deviation of that compass from Grid North. To obtain the grid bearing of any point the deviation must be subtracted from the compass bearing (adding 360° to the latter if necessary).

On this sheet the mean deviation of a normal compass is 12° 23' but to obtain accurate results the exact deviation of each compass should be noted as described above, and this note should be repeated in each locality.

REFERENCE

- Any trench apparently organized for fire
- Other Trenches
- British Trenches
- Wire Entanglement or Other Obstacle
- Enemy's Trenches
- Buried Pipeline or Cable
- Airline
- Supply Dumps
- Machine Gun
- Earthworks
- Dug-outs
- Huts
- Works reinforced by concrete
- Hedge, Fane or Ditch
- Ditch with Permanent Water
- Conspicuous Points
- Houses
- Normal Gauge, Double
- Light
- Trench Tramway
- Main Gauge Railway
- Observation Posts
- Listening Posts
- Mine Craters
- Fortified
- Organized Shell Holes

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE USE OF THE SQUARES.

1. The large rectangles on the map, lettered R, O, P, etc., are divided into squares of 1,500 yards side, which are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. Each of these squares is subdivided into four minor squares of 500 yards side. These minor squares are considered as lettered A, B, C, D. (See Square No. 8 in each rectangle).

2. To locate a point within a small square, consider the sides divided into tenths, and define the point by taking as many tenths from N, S, E, along Southern side, and so many from S to N, along Western side; the S.W. corner always being taken as origin, and the distance along the Southern side being always given by the first figure. Thus the point Z, would be 63, i.e. 6 divisions East and 3 divisions North from origin.

3. When more accurate definition is wanted (on the 1:20,000 or 1:10,000 scales) use exactly the same method, but divide sides into 100 parts and use four figures instead of two. Thus 0147 denotes 01 parts East and 47 parts North of origin (see point X). Point V is 6903.

4. Use 0 for not 10; use either two or four figures; do not use fractions (01, 4), etc.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METRES.

Scale 1:20,000

ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES

TABLE FOR CONVERTING METRES TO FEET.

Metres	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	0	3.3	6.6	9.9	13.1	16.4	19.7	23.0	26.3	29.6
10	32.8	36.1	39.4	42.7	45.9	49.2	52.5	55.8	59.1	62.4
20	65.6	68.9	72.2	75.4	78.7	82.0	85.3	88.6	91.9	95.1
30	98.4	101.7	105.0	108.2	111.5	114.8	118.1	121.4	124.6	127.9
40	131.2	134.5	137.8	141.0	144.3	147.6	150.9	154.1	157.4	160.7
50	164.0	167.3	170.6	173.9	177.1	180.4	183.7	187.0	190.2	193.5
60	196.9	200.2	203.5	206.8	210.1	213.4	216.7	220.0	223.2	226.5
70	229.6	232.9	236.2	239.5	242.7	246.0	249.3	252.6	255.9	259.1
80	262.4	265.7	269.0	272.2	275.5	278.8	282.1	285.4	288.6	291.9
90	295.3	298.6	301.9	305.2	308.5	311.8	315.1	318.4	321.7	324.9
100	328.1	331.4	334.7	338.0	341.3	344.6	347.9	351.2	354.5	357.8



QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1918.

Accounts with D.A.D.O.S.:-

Boots.- 155 pps drawn, 55 pps returned.
 Breeches.- 100 pps drawn, 58 pps returned.
 Breeches, W.S.- 8 pps drawn, 29 pps returned.
 Puttees.- 200 drawn, 75 returned.
 Hats, S.P.- Nil drawn, 58 returned.
 Respirators, S.B.- 58 drawn, 18 returned.
 Helmets, P.H.- 50 drawn, 814 returned (all called in)
 Sheepskin Jackets.- Nil drawn, 22 returned.
 Cardigans.- 250 drawn, 5 returned.
 Sheets, ground.- 80 drawn, 80 returned.

Considerable amount of small kit drawn, also bootmakers kit and mending material. A certain amount of Transport material was also drawn during the month.

Blankets.- 58 were drawn from Reinforcement Wing for Reinforcements arriving during the month with only one blanket.

Bootmaker's Report.-

During the month 571 pairs of boots were half soled and healed. About 85 pairs were patched. 40 pairs of boots were received from D.A.D.O.S. not clumped; these were all clumped and heels raised before being issued to men.

Tailor's Report.-

During the month 18 new tunics were altered to fit men. About 95 pairs of colour patches were sewn on tunics and greatcoats. Numerous repairs were also effected.

Fat returned to A.A.S.C.-

The fat returned to A.A.S.C. from this Battalion during the month amounted to total weight of 933 lbs, made up as follows:-

A Coy. returned 4 tins	weight 193 lbs.
B Coy " 4 "	" 193 "
C Coy. " 4 "	" 193 "
D Coy. " 4 "	" 181 "
Transport Section returned 3 tins,	" 110 "
H.C. Details returned 1 tin.	" 57 "
	930 lbs
1 tin from previous month	3 "
Total returned to A.A.S.C.	933 lbs

Ration Report.-

During the month the Rations issued from A.S.C. were very good, with the exception of potatoes for the first 18 days. 4 bags of potatoes were brought from Regimental Funds and were issued to Companies. Since the 18th instant potatoes have been issued from A.S.C. at an average of 5 men to 1 lb. Iron rations were turned over on the 14th of the month, the old rations being issued on Ration Note and a new issue drawn from A.S.C.

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MEDICAL REPORT.

Sick Casuals for the whole Battalion have produced on an average 25 cases of varying ailments per diem. 7 evacuated weekly.

Prevailing ailments were chiefly colds and influenza. Diarrhoea, one of the greatest plagues to any Battalion in the field, has been infrequent: when present, there was always some reason to believe that unauthorised water supply had been used.

Bathing provided approximately 3 baths per man for the month with 2 changes of clothing. The resulting condition was fairly good. During the month 5 cases of Scabies were evacuated.

Gonorrhoea and Venereal diseases generally have been rare recently.

Trench Feet. - Nil

Legs. - There were few complaints, unless RTM is not issued

N.J. MACKAY, Capt. R.F.C.



LEWIS GUN REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING 28.2.18

1 Gun (C. Coy) attached to 3rd Brigade, A.F.A.
4 Guns attached to 15th Bde. A.F.A.
3 Guns attached to 14th Bde. A.F.A.

Total rounds fired, 4,000.- including tracer and armour piercing.

No apparent damage done, although on several occasions enemy observation planes have been harassed and prevented from making observations.

No apparent attempt has been made to observe battery positions on which Pioneer Lewis Guns are posted, consequently all firing has been done at extreme ranges, and very little firing at that.

R. J. DART. Lieut.

L.G.O.

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APPENDIX

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MONTHLY REPORT - TRANSPORT.

199 G.S. Wagons worked 810 hours - average time per wagon
4 hours 4 minutes.

145 G.S. Limbers worked 580 hours - average time per
Limber. 4 hours.

Material carted, approximately, 500 tons road metal,
5,500 revetting frames and angle irons, building material
for camps, rations, forage, water, fuel and carted supplies
for the unit.

F. HAMMOND. Lieut.

T.O.

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H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
9th February 1918.

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

- O.C. "A" Coy.
- O.C. "B" Coy.
- O.C. "C" Coy.
- O.C. "D" Coy.

With reference to P.E. 56, the Corps Commander has approved of SUNDAYS being observed as a holiday, except for urgent repairs, if the work of the ~~Battalion~~ ^{Division} has been satisfactory during the week.

In order that this rest may be granted it is necessary that Companies should be fully worked during the week.

It is noted that during the past week not more than an average of two thirds of Companies' strength have been at work - this will have to be improved.

H.G. Carter

Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.