

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/25

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-14/17/25

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Aust. Pioneer Bn

FOR

March 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

H. G. Carter Col.
C. O. 5th Pioneer Battalion

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. G. Carter Col.
C. O. 5th Pioneer Battalion

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WAR DIARY

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SPY FARM (LINDENHOEK)	1918 Mar 1	H/b	Cold windy day. Lt M ^o GOWAN + 40 other ranks were transferred to form portion of a new Tunnelling Coy. Heavy bombardment by Boche in evening lasting for about 1/2 hr. 'B' Coy are getting well forward with Messines R.A. which is now passable for lumber to U.4.a.1.g. Lt Edgley is looking after this work.	
	Mar 2	H/b	Cold windy day with blizzards. Work difficult. Messines R.A. now passable for lorries into Messines + they can turn on cross Roads there. D Coy are now engaged chiefly in Corps Support line + wiring. A Coy found Roads in Left Bde area somewhat knocked about by last night's bombardment - several direct hits.	
	Mar 3	H/b	Dull misty day - no rain - no work done being Sunday. Had a theft at Peckham canteen last night about 200 fr taken from till. Series of Raids along our front at 11.45 pm.	
	Mar 4	H/b	Dull misty day - rained heavily in evening. Work proceeding as usual. French filled in across main Huno Walk making is now available for traffic up to Septieme Bam + beyond. Considerable artillery activity in evening.	
	Mar 5	H/b	Fine windy day. Messines shelled intermittently. Lt Stevenson got a slight cut on the nose from shell.	
	Mar 6	H/b	Fine but misty day. Fanny Trench is now practically complete as regards revetting of forward portions - rear portion by Messines Ridge now being attended to. Difficulty still being found in getting road metal - none in Corps Area at present. Trench Tramway to Rose Wood is being converted from 9 lb to 20 lb rails as far as Clarke Dump. Trench Tramway Party on Rt Bde sector have now definitely moved camp to Mortar Camp at about N.36.d.00.	
	Mar 7	H/b	Fine but misty. Pioneer Lane revetting getting on the back of the rock is broken Lt Hill has done very well here. Corp Smith 'C' Coy killed near Messines in evening working on rear portion of Fanny St. Infantry Party ascited here during afternoon + all clearing was complete - duckboards are all that are now required.	
	Mar 8	H/b	Fine day but poor visibility - 150 tons metal received for Messines R.A. Repair of Reuty Farm R.A. now complete - this was in very bad state. D Coy have completed 13 Strong Ports + are completing wiring of both Support + Reserve line.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8004) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 92 Forms/C2118/14

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SPY FARM (LINDENHOEK)	Mar 9	H.V.B.	Fine but Hazy. Messines road completed as a double motor road to Messines & a motor turning point put in. Repair of Reuty Farm Road now completed this is also a good job & makes road easily fit for motors now - in precarious condition previously. D Coy started on two new strong posts in rear of Wytechacte - these will complete Corps Reserve & Support line as far south as Wytechacte. Lt Murphy picked up a German propaganda balloon in N. 36.C.	
	Mar 10	H.V.B.	Fine but Hazy, all Coys resting - inspections carried out. Party of 30 men of B Coy with 3 ladders went out to Repair Huns Walk as far forward as Steignest Farm (U.S.A) preparatory to a raid tomorrow night. The Road is generally good - only one patch of shell holes requires filling to carry this out. Capt Helsham ill all day.	
	Mar 11	H.V.B.	Fine but hazy. Considerable amount of shelling around Messines with 77mm up till 11.30am - had 2 casualties on the road. Lt. C.R. Palmer went on leave. Raid by 15th Bde in evening.	
	Mar 12	H.V.B.	Fine & hazy - clear by evening. German Balloon came down quite close to Spy Farm - only two dummies on board. Messines Road now completed. Shelling around Messines all day.	
	Mar 13	H.V.B.	Fine day - Main Kennel-Vierstraat road shelled with H.V. guns rapidly in morning - also more shells after nightfall. Made a start on Road running N from Messines towards Wytechacte. Mist came up with rain in evening.	
	Mar 14	H.V.B.	Raids successful last night - our work now beginning to get cut out all round & more H.V. shells by Kennel during evening. Fine day.	
	Mar 15	H.V.B.	Orders issued for interchange of work between C & D Coys - Claking over Corps Work & D Coy the maintenance of P.T.'s. More H.V. shells in evening.	In Order 37.
	Mar 16	H.V.B.	Fine day. Arranged to take over maintenance of NEW CROSS S.T. from Monday next 18th. D Coy allotted this task with 1 officer & 20 men camped at PEACERIVER dump. Revetting of Fanny S.T. completed.	

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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 (LINDERHOEK)	1918 Mar 17	H/S	Fine. men had holiday being Sunday. 8 th Army Tramway "took over" the French Tramways in Rt Bde area. This is merely nominal, an officer from this Coy lines near the job which represents the "taking over" - we carry on the work just the same. C + D Coys interchanged camp during morning. A + B Coys had football match in afternoon.	
	Mar 18	H/S	Fine almost sunny - very clear in afternoon - Enemy H.V. + long range guns very active especially in afternoon - 3 shells near SPY FARM. Our wet caulked did a roaring trade.	
	Mar 19	H/S	Dull wet day - H.V. guns active as usual. Work considerably interfered with by rain. Improvement of road from Messines along Bethlehem road commenced. Major King returned from one month's leave. Lt Scriven also reported for duty from 32 nd Bn & was posted to 'B' Coy.	
	Mar 20	H/S	H.V. guns active in back areas. D Coy started digging Fanny Ct. back thro' Messines Ridge as at present men show up on skyline before entering trench.	
	Mar 21	H/S	Artillery (enemy) very active in early morning with gas. Barrage put down at 6.30 & the stood to arms no attack beyond local raids, resulted. We stood down at 7.30 as all was quiet by then. The gas shelling remained active whole of morning & interfered considerably with work. Work Work on Corps Support & Reserve lines is now completed N of Wytschaete except for pill box near Hoopies & C Coy are now starting on series of strong points round Messines. One man killed near Wytschaete. Shelling in back areas continued. N.C.O.'s class in Bayonet fighting completed.	
	Mar 22	H/S	Fine but hazy. Artillery generally quiet & work carried on as usual. The St Etloi - Messines road now passable for limbers as far south as Swaynes Farm. Major King to 2 nd Army School & Capt Pettinson went on a month's leave. Our railways & roads were very little damaged considering heavy shelling of previous day.	
	Mar 23	H/S	Beautiful fine day. Leave to England stopped. Messines - St Etloi Rd passable throughout for limbers also Messines - Bethlehem Dump Road. Artillery only moderately active - a few shells near us. Recd word by telephone at 10.15pm that we were handing over work tomorrow.	

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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 LINDEYHOEK.	1918 Mar 24	A/Sb	Beautiful weather. Orders recd to withdraw all detached parties to their coys including the Lewis Guns - this was accordingly carried out - no work was done today. Received notification that Div ⁿ was moving on 27 th to new area. Case of small pox occurred in D' Coy at Peckham - man only recently returned from leave. Contacts causing a good deal of trouble.	Bn orders 38 + 39.
	Mar 25.	A/Sb	No work - Bn held in a state of readiness for move on account of Hun push down south - orders received during day that we would not entrain till 28 th but would move to staging area on 26 th . No definite orders recd as to details till late at night. D' Coy moved detached from Bn. Fine but dull & windy. Small pox case turned out chicken pox. Training done in musketry.	
RENINGHELST	Mar 26	A/Sb	Fine day but cold. D' Coy moved from Peckham at 9.00 & marched to camp between Caestre & Helre - they come under 8 th Bde group for move. Remainder of Bn moved at 10.00 o'clock for Reninghelst - arrived at billets 12 noon had quite good quarters. Men very chippy at prospects of battle shortly. Received orders to entrain on 28 th .	
	Mar 27	A/Sb	D' Coy moved to Railhead at Hopoutre to act as loading party for Div ⁿ (14 th Bde Group) 2 hours parade on musketry instr ^s - iron rations issued; bayonets sharpened - also obtained extra reserve of 100 pick handles & 250 shovels as these items are liable to be scarce. all loading complete by 8 pm. Very cold and turn in weather.	Bn Order No 40.
DOULLENS ARQUEVES	Mar 28	A/Sb	Left Reninghelst at 4.0 am - transport at 3.30 for Hopoutre where we entrained. This was done very quickly & train moved off at 7.45 an hour ahead of time. Journey was 16 hours 6 hours of which was spent in the last 3 miles - the railway congestion being bad. We detrained at Doullens - packs were loaded into motor lorries & carried direct to billets - Bn then	
	Mar 29	A/Sb	marched to ARQUEVES about 10 miles - arrived at 5.45 am, all fairly tired - only 5 men fell out; D' Coy had detrained at MONDICOURT and arrived about an hour previous to rest of Bn - they had to carry their own packs. Men rested till 4 pm when musketry parade & foot inspection held - arrangements made in case of alarm. Picquet was posted guarding all roads approaching ARQUEVES with orders to watch for spies & also give any alarm.	

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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
ARQUEVES	1918 Mar 30 Mar 31.	H.Y. 6. H.Y. 6.	<p>Men in good fettle after a thorough nights rest - a 2 1/2 hr parade held on musketry & bayonet fighting. We are under orders to move at 1-hour notice. Day passed otherwise uneventfully some H.V. shells fell near the village. War news seems encouraging.</p> <p>Rainy of rain - still awaiting orders all day but nothing came. We had usual morning parade in musketry & bayonet fighting. Real order in evening that notice to move has been extended from one hour to three hours.</p> <p>Total Casualties for March 1918.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 other ranks killed 1 officer + 7 other ranks wounded. 39 men evacuated to hospital sickness. 47 men struck off strength from the (sickness). <p>average men off duty daily minor complaints for 16. maximum " " " " " " 20 Average to minimum " " " " " " 9.</p> <p>maximum for strength during month 1183 other ranks minimum " " " " " " 1121 " " average " " " " " " 1144 " "</p> <p>6 officers + 68 other ranks joined during month.</p>	

H.Y. Carter
Assistant Quartermaster
Royal Pioneer Bn.

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AS,000-12/17 8723

APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

MARCH

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No 37. |
| 2. | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No 38. |
| 3. | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No 39. |
| 4. | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No 40. |
| 5. | Orders for Night Picquet. |
| 6. | Movement of Officers for month of March. |
| 7. | Summary of Work for month of March, Quarter Masters' Report, Bootmakers Report, Comforts Received, Fat Returned for month, Return of Blankets, Report on Rations, Tailors Report, Medical Officers Report, Clothing salvaged, Lewis Gun Officers' Report, Transport Officers Report. |

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APPENDIX /

SECRET

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
15th March 1918.

Copy No.....

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 37.

1. "C" and "D" Companies will arrange to interchange work and billets on SUNDAY, 17th instant: "C" Company will take over work on CORPS SUPPORT and RESERVE LINES under C.R.E. Corps Troops, and "D" Company will take over work on PIONEER LANE and FANNY STREET.
2. "C" Company will have parties working in both saps on the night of the 16th/17th and will see that everything is in order for handing over. There will not be any work on the night of 17/18th unless specially demanded - if heavy shelling has been experienced during the day repair parties must, however, be sent out by "D" Company.
3. "C" Company will work in full strength on Corps Line on 18th inst., together with Infantry Company from Reserve Brigade.
4. Camps will be interchanged during the morning of the 17th. No parties larger than a platoon will move at any one time - a cross-country route will be taken. Company Cookers will not be interchanged but Cooks will take all their own cooking gear and utensils (but not boilers.) Q.M. will arrange for any transport required - second blankets should be carried by the men.
5. All copies of Company Orders as to action in case of enemy attack and other documents will be handed over and receipts given - these receipts to be sent to Battalion Orderly Room. When relief is complete Companies will wire H.Q. to that effect.

T.O. - *held*
M.O. *held N. J.M.*

H. J. Carter
Comdg. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion. Lieut.-Col.

P.T.O.

Copies issued as under :-

C.O.	No. 1
Adjutant	2
Q.M.	3
O.C. "C" Company	4
O.C. "D" "	5
C.R.E. 5th "	6
C.R.E. Corps Troops	7
War Diary	8-11
File	12

One copy to T.O. M.O. Os.C. "A" and "B" Coys. for notation



SECRET.H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
25th March 1918.

② Copy No.....

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 38

1. "D" Company will move from PECKHAM CAMP at 9 a.m. on the 26th by march route for GODEWAERSVELDE (Sheet 27, Q.18.)
2. Advance party of 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. will be sent by cycle to meet Captain TAPLIN at Town Major's Office, GODEWAERSVELDE, at 10 a.m. They will guide Company to their billets.
3. Transport consisting of Company Cooker and Company Lewis Gun wagon will accompany Column. 1 G.S.Wagon will report at PECKHAM at 7.30. a.m. for tools and Officers' baggage. This will return when loaded to Battalion H.Q. and will be sent on to Company billets later in the afternoon with Company rations. This wagon will then remain with "D" Company and entrain with them.
4. Dress - full marching order with blanket and W.P. sheet. Steel helmets to be worn. Distance between each platoon and transport, 50 yds. Strict march discipline will be observed.
5. Route - KEMMEL - LA CLYTTE - SCHERPENBURG - WESTOUTRE - BOESCHEPE - about 11½ miles.
6. "D" Company will send runner by cycle to Town Major's office, RENNINGHELST, at 4 P.m. to report location. This runner will act as guide to ~~the~~ G.S.Wagon in para. 3.

Edmund Husman Lieut.-Col.
Comdg. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
P.T.O.



Copies issued as under :-

O.C. "D" Coy.	No. 1.
C.O.	" 2
Adjutant.	" 3
Q.M.	" 4
T.O.	" 5
3th Infy. Bde.	" 6
War Diary	" 7-10
File	" 11.

Copy.No.

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 39.Ref. Maps. Sheet 28, 1/40,000.
HAZEBROUCK. 1/100,000.

1. INTENTION. The Battalion, less "D" Company, will move from its present camps to HOPOUTRE AREA, on TUESDAY, 26th March, via KEMMEL & RENINGHELST.
2. ORDER & TIME OF MARCH. The following will be the order of march - Sigs. "B" Company, H.Q., Details, "A" Company, "C" Company, Transport. Head of Column will pass POLKA CORNER at 10.15 a.m. 50 yds distance will be maintained between platoons. 100 yds between Companies. Transport will move in sections of 6 vehicles with 50 yds distance between sections. "A" and "C" Companies will join the Battalion at POLKA CORNER, KEMMEL, judging their own time of joining up. Strict march discipline to be observed. "D" Company will move according to separate orders issued.
3. ADVANCE PARTY. An advance party consisting of Assistant Adjutant (in command) 1 N.C.O. from each Company (less "D" Coy.) and Transport will report at B.O.R. at 5 a.m. and will march to RENINGHELST, reporting there to Area Commandant. They will meet Companies at RENINGHELST and guide same to their new billets.
4. DRESS. Full marching order with blankets and W.P. Sheets. Steel helmets to be worn.
5. RATIONS. Unconsumed portion of day's ration to be carried on person.
6. OFFICERS' KITS. All Officers' kits must be stacked at R.Q.M. Store at 9 a.m. ready for loading.
7. BAGGAGE GUARD. O.C. "B" Company will detail a sufficient number of Bandsmen to act as Baggage Guard.
8. BAND INSTRUMENTS. All Band instruments will be carried on the wagons.
9. CAMPS TO BE LEFT CLEAN. O.C. Companies will furnish certificates to B.O.R. that the various camps vacated have been left scrupulously clean.
10. MARCHING OUT & HANDING OVER STATES. Marching-out States in duplicate and Handing-over States in quadruplicate will be sent to B.O.R. not later than 9 a.m.
11. GUARDS. Guard will dismount at SPY FARM at 9 a.m., 26th March. On arrival at HOPOUTRE "A" Company will supply Guard of 2 N.C.O.s and 9 men
12. FATIGUES. "B" Company will supply all necessary fatigues up to arrival at HOPOUTRE. After arrival "A" Company will supply these. Q.M. may requisition direct on Company Commanders.

W. H. Musman Capt & Adjutant
Lieut.-Col.
Comdg. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Copies issued as under :-

C.O.	No. 1.
Adjutant.	" 2
Q.M.	" 3
T.O.	" 4
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 5
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 6
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 7
14th Infy. Bde.	" 8
C.R.E., 5th Div.	" 9
War Diary.	" 10-13
File	" 14.

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SECRET.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
27th March 1918.

Copy No. 10.

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 40.

1. The Battalion, less "D" Company, will entrain at HOPOUTRE for X by train leaving at 8.45 a.m. on the 28th instant.
2. Companies will march to entraining station by Companies at 100 yards interval - 50 yards interval between platoons. Route will be given later - distance is about 5 miles.
3. Head of column will pass the Square at RENINGHELST at 5.00 a.m. on 28th. Dress - full marching order, blankets and W.P. sheets to be carried: iron rations in haversack. Steel helmets will be worn. Water bottles full - water must be conserved.
4. Transport will move off at 3.30 a.m. from Town Square. All baggage must be loaded on wagons by 8 p.m. to-night, except mess gear necessary for midnight meal. This must be loaded by 2 a.m., 28th instant. "C" Company will provide all loading parties and fatigues on direct request of Q.M. Transport must provide breast ropes for the horse trucks.
5. Strict attention will be paid to train discipline - men will be told off in parties of 40 with Sergeant in charge (included in 40). There will not be any special accomodation for C.S.Ms. or C.Q.M.S
6. The actual detraining point is as yet unknown: all ranks must be ready to turn out for immediate fighting on approaching the war zone.
7. No wine, beer or spirits muste on any account be taken on the train. Offenders will be very severely dealt with.
8. Lieutenant DART will act as entraining officer.

Ed. Husman Capt
for Lieut.-Col. Comdg. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion

Copies issued as under:-

C.O.	No. 1.
Adjutant.	" 2
Q.M.	" 3
T.O.	" 4
M.O.	" 5
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 6
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 7
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 8
14th Infy. Bde	" 9
Entraining Off.	" 10.
War Diary	" 11-14.
File	" 15

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APPENDIX.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
21st. March 1918.

ORDER FOR NIGHT PICQUET.

1. The Picquet will be a platoon (at least 40 rifles) strong in charge of an officer. One Lewis Gun will also be attached.
2. The Picquet will find 4 night sentry groups on roads approaching ARQUEVES, as already detailed - also ~~1~~ 1 day and night sentry over Battalion Headquarters. The Lewis Gun will be on duty day and night for A.A. protection, as well as for defence in emergency.
3. With the exception of Lewis Gun and post on Battalion H.Q., the Picquet will mount at 7.30 p.m. nightly and dismount at 7.30 a.m.
4. The Picquet will be responsible for halting all detached men and civilians passing along the roads. Any suspicious cases will be examined before being allowed to pass. Special attention must be paid to civilian carts, which must be overhauled. The Picquet will also be responsible for giving the alarm throughout the village, should any emergency arise. Sentries will not fire unless the person called upon attempts to make off.

H. G. Carter

Lieut.-Col.
Comdg. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

O.C. "A" Coy.
 O.C. "B" Coy.
 O.C. "C" Coy.
 O.C. "D" Coy.
 War Diary (4 copies)
 File.

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MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS - MARCH 1918.

NAME	Date of Departure.	Date of Return	Leave or Duty	Remarks.
Lieut. J. ENGLAND, M.C.	15.2.18	12.3.18	Leave	U.K.
Major E.E.KING	15.2.18	19.3.18	Leave	U.K.
Lieut. B.C. SINGLETON.	23.2.18	6.3.18	Leave	Boulogne
Lieut. A.H. PERKINS	24.2.18	27.3.18	Duty.	X CORPS SCHOOL
Lieut. W. BAILEY	26.2.18	21.3.18	Duty	4th Army Musketry School.
Lieut. R.L. HASSALL		10.3.18	Sick	U.K.
Capt. J.R. KERR		10.3.18	Wounded	U.K.
Lt. J.H. DAVIDSON		10.3.18	Reinfts.	U.K.
2/Lt. J.T. CASEY, M.M.		10.3.18	do.	U.K.
Lt. H.E. PIERCE.	1.3.18	15.3.18	Leave	U.K.
Lt. W.F. SCRIVEN		19.3.18	From 32nd Battn.	
Capt. E.S. VIDAL	21.3.18	25.3.18	Duty	W&mareux.
Lt. J.H. DAVIDSON.	21.3.18	25.3.18	Duty	do
Lt. W. CUNNINGHAME		26.3.18	Reinfts.	U.K.
Lt. R.J. MCGOWAN	1.3.18	24.3.18	Tunnelling Coy.	
Major E.E.KING	22.3.18	27.3.18	Duty	2nd Army School.
Lt. W. CAMPBELL.	23.3.18	27.3.18	Duty	Musketry School LUMBRES.
Lt. C.R. PALMER	11.3.18	30.3.18	Leave	U.K.

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING MONTH OF MARCH 1918.

PLACE	Coy. & Officer in Charge	WORK DONE	Material Used
<u>COMMUNICATION TRENCHES.</u>			
PIONEER LANE	C & D Coys. Lts. CASEY & BROWN	Work consisted chiefly of revetting & building up parapets, clearing under & relaying duckboards & keeping drains open. Many direct hits repaired.	450 revetting frames 1000 angle iron pickets 70 duckwalks 15 Rolls wire.
FANNY TRENCH	C & D Coys. Lts. EWING & PALMER	Similar work to PIONEER LANE, but the rear portion of trench to from FANNY FM. Rd. to MESSINES was made usable. Work on both these trenches was delayed on several nights on account of raiding activity.	350 revetting frames 70 A frames 900 Angle irons 13 coils wire
NEW CROSS TRENCH	D Coy. - Lt. HASSALL	Trench taken over by Battn on 18th March. General maintenance etc.	Rev. frames, duckbds, A frame wire.

ROADS.

Right Brigade Area (MESSINES) WULVERGHEM-MESSINES HUNS WALK. MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE BETHLEHEM Rd.	B Coy. Capt. Wilkinson.	WULVERGHEM-MESSINES Rd. improved & made good for motor traffic right up to MESSINES: brick spread: shell holes repaired, drains cut & kerbing fixed. MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE Rd. started on 14th March - in very bad order. Made passable for horse transport, single width - all material for filling salved. HUNS WALK made passable to STEIGNEST FARM & roads East of MESSINES generally cleaned & repaired, so that this area now has very fair road communications, whereas none existed previously. The supply of metal for roads was very meagre & nearly all filling etc. was salved brick. Enemy shelling interfered with work somewhat, especially about 21st & 22nd inst. 1000 baulks beech slab were taken up, cleaned & stacked for use from old plank road.	270 tons metal 460 tons brick Timber stakes & filling for repairs & revetting.
Left Brigade Area (WYTSCHAETE Sector) GORDON Rd. VERNE Rd. ANTRIM Rd. BAY Rd. GUN Rd. FANNY FM. Rd. RENTY FM. Rd. TORREKEN CNR. Rd. ROSE WOOD Rd. HOSPICE. St. ELOI & VIERSTRAAT Rds	C & A Coys.	All kept in repair, cleaned of mud, shell holes filled, drains dug, culverts put in & metal & brick spread on surface. OASIS DRIVE & the continuation of the St. ELOI Rd. were new work in this Sector OASIS DRIVE was considerably improved for horse transport (untimbered portion) & planking of timbered portion repaired & made good. Formation for single width dryweather track was made through to St. ELOI. Brick mostly salved from HOSPICE, also some metal.	80 tons metal 420 tons brick Timber for culverts, revetting breaks & filling.

Timber salved.

PLACE	Coy. & Officer in Charge.	WORK DONE	Material Use
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S C R E E N S .

Right Brigade Sector.	B Coy.	Practically no new screens erected during the month, but the whole of the camouflage & screens throughout the Divisional Area were constantly patrolled and kept in repair.	
Left Brigade Sector	A Coy.		20 coils wire 50 posts (salved) 300 yds camou- flage.

T R E N C H T R A M W A Y S

Right Brigade Sector	B Coy. Lts. MURPHY & STEVENSON	Maintenance & upkeep - increased enemy shelling caused many breaks, which were promptly dealt with by patrols & communications practically unhindered. Substituted 20 lb rails for 9 lb in many places & system left good through-out. SWAYNES LINE extended 400 yds.	400 yds 20 lb rails
Left Brigade Sector	A & C Coys. Lts. R.W. PALMER & HILL	Relaying & reballasting chiefly constant patrol kept for breaks & general maintenance.	170 yds 20 lb rails, ballast, et

L I N D E N H O E K W O R K S H O P S .

During the month 16-18 men were employed daily in sawing timber, cleaning & preparing same - average of 2500 ft run was cut daily. Carpenters making targets, signposts, various articles of furniture etc. Blacksmith on signposts & solder-salving plant. Signwriter printing signposts. Labourers cleared up dump & knocked bunks to pieces for timber. Engine trouble caused delay at times.

C A M P W O R K .

All camps were maintained & improved. Lieut. MURPHY shifted from WULVERGHEM to new camp about 1200 yds up SWAYNES LINE. Considerable amount of tarring and sanding of all iron work, drainage, etc. & new accommodation completed at all camps for both officers and men.

C O R P S D E F E N C E L I N E

D & C Coys. Altogether 10 Strong Posts were completed during the month and 4 more were started - Capt. VIDAL & Lt. CAMPBELL also a start was made on a reinforced concrete M.G. Post at HOSPICE. Large belts of wire were completed both on the Support and Reserve Lines. On an average 40 Infantry men assisted with this work daily. They also carried material etc. Special attention was paid to camouflaging & results were most satisfactory as shown by air photographs, the Strong Points being quite indistinguishable. Material used - 600 A frames, 500 sheets corrug. iron, 600 hurdles, 4000 sandbags, 1300 angle iron stakes, 30 coils wire, 30 rolls camouflage.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.

ACCOUNT WITH D.A.D.O.S.

Clothing.

	Debit	Credit
Breeches, M.S. pbs.	19	29
" " D.S. "	80	86
Tunics. S.D.	40	45
Puttees, prs.	-	79
Coats, Great, M.S.	2	-
" " D.S.	6	24
Hats, C.P.	-	1
Jackets, Sheepskin	-	234
" cardigan	-	67
Respirators, Small, Box.	49	60
Containers, S.B.R.	-	33
Anti-Dimming outfits	200	-

Tools.

A considerable quantity of tools and transport material was drawn from D.A.D.O.S. and some returned - also Cooker equipment, Lewis Gun equipment & small kit.

Salvage as below was handed in to D.A.D.O.S.-

Rifles	35
Bayonets	12
Scabbards.	21
Web equipment parts (sacks.)	6

BOOTMAKER'S REPORT.

During the month 110 prs Ankle Tan Boots were drawn from D.A.D.O.S. against 95 prs returned unserviceable.

7 prs. Field Boots returned to D.A.D.O.S.

On taking over SPY FARM the Battalion took over 150 prs Gum Boots, Thigh, from 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

On handing same over to Camp Commandant for that district, a receipt for 162 prs was obtained and 8 prs returned to D.A.D.O.S. as unserviceable, making the total handed over, 170 prs.

Boots repaired (half soled & heeled) numbered 347 prs & numerous minor repairs were carried out by bootmakers.

COMFORTS RECEIVED FROM AUST. COMFORTS FUND.

During the month the following articles were drawn and issued :-

10.3.18. 8 cases Cocoa & Milk.

20.3.18 5 Cases Cocoa & Milk

3 Bags Rolled Oats.

1 Case Condensed Milk.

23.3.18. 960 Xmas Boxes were drawn & issued on Ration State for that date.

72 Xmas Boxes were drawn for men detached & issued at various ~~dates~~ dates.

Received from Major ORAMES - 2 Sacks Socks (Issued)

3 Bundles (Shirts) (In Store)

FAT RETURNED.

1405 lbs Fat was forwarded from Battalion to A.A.S.C. during the month.

BLANKETS, G.S.

The winter issue of 1 blanket per man was recalled and 1009 Blankets, G.S. were returned to D.A.D.O.S.

RATIONS.

Rations for the month were very good up to the 29th. From 29th to 31st Meat & Bread Ration averaged 20% for the Battalion, Bully Beef and biscuits being issued in lieu of above articles.

TAILOR'S REPORT.

During the month 45 Tunics were altered to fit men.
About 165 Colour Patches were sewn on Tunics and Great Coats
30 prs Breeches were altered to fit men.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Sickness during the month has been chiefly due to Coughs and Colds. This predominates over all other ailments to a very great extent. Rheumatic ailments are next on the list.

The following is a scheme showing total and relative statistics for sickness in Companies for the month :-

Company -	A	B	C	D	Total
Cases Reporting Sick.	69	200	139	219	627.

Average for Battalion per day - 20.2

Evacuated to Hospital -

A Coy.- 10. B Coy. - 17. C Coy.- 8. D Coy.- 17. Total - 52

Cases of Venereal evacuated - 12

Scabies. 7

The Battalion was bathed throughout twice during the month and obtained clean change of clothing.

CLOTHING SALVAGED.

On the 26th inst. the following articles were despatched to O.C., 5th Aust. Divisional Baths and credited to Battalion as salvage :-

Shirts, flannel.	70
Singlets.	20
Drawers, prs	34
Socks, prs	180
Towels.	7.

LEWIS GUN OFFICER'S REPORT.

Total rounds fired, 3000, including tracer and armour piercing. Nature of work and map locations, same as for February. Log Books were kept by each post showing when enemy aircraft were engaged and number of rounds fired. Very little activity by enemy planes to locate batteries. On 6th inst. one of "C" Company's guns brought down a propoganda balloon and on March 7th, the other "C" Company gun brought down a similar balloon.

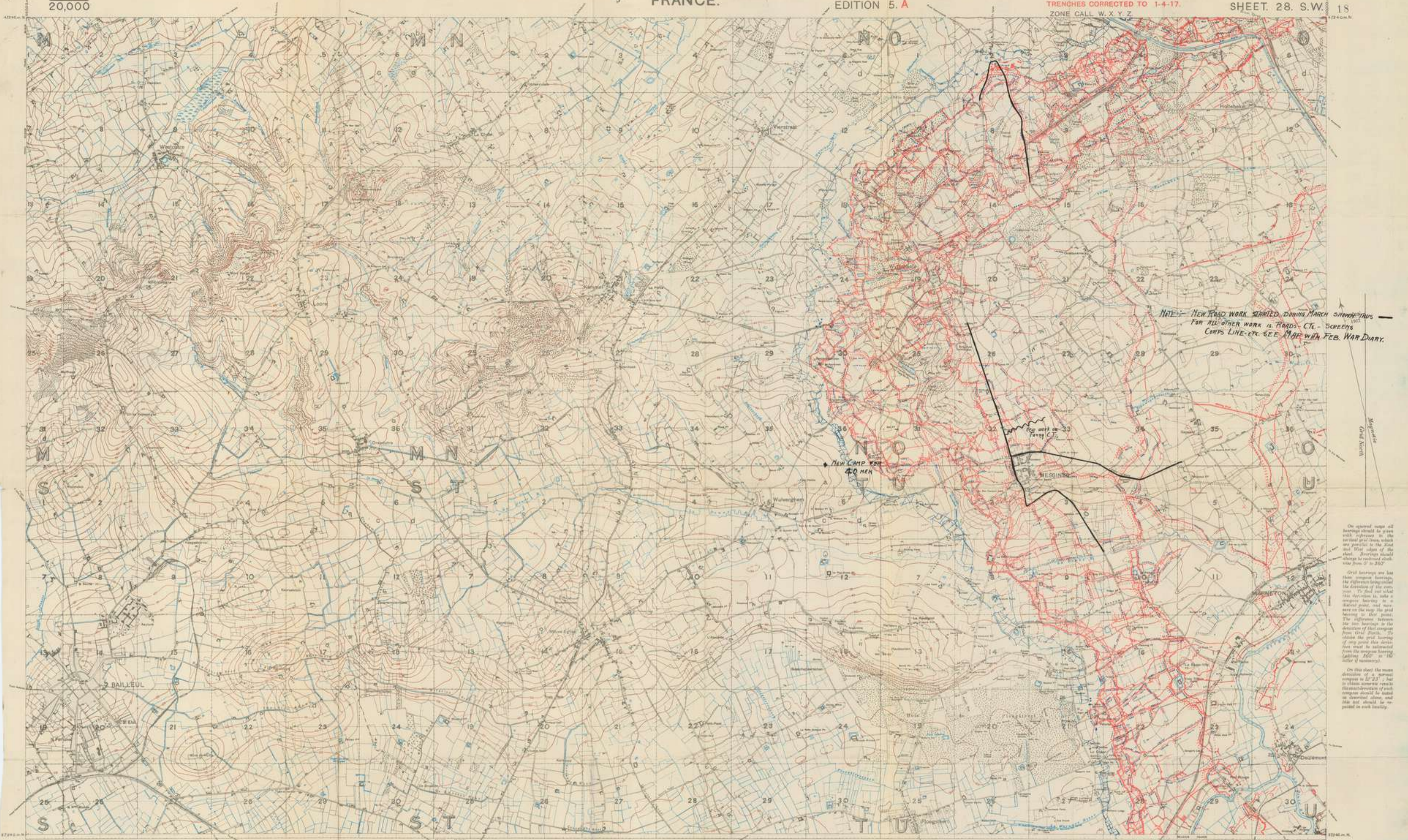
On night of 15/16th "C" Company gunners at St. ELOU were very heavily gas shelled and had to wear their masks for 5 hours: 5 of the 6 men in the team have since been evacuated to hospital as the result. From 20th to 22nd all positions heavily shelled. While moving to new area guns were mounted on transport & train for A.A. work. Two new sights have come to hand during the month - both for A.A. work.

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT.

178 G.S. Wagons worked 679 hours - average time per wagon, 3 hrs. 44 mins.

90 G.S. Limbers worked 332 hours - average time per Limber, 3 hrs. 45 mins.

Material carted, approximately 280 tons road metal, 2700 revetting frames & angle irons, rations, forage, fuel, water & canteen supplies for the unit.



NOTE - NEW ROAD WORK STARTED DURING MARCH 1917.
FOR ALL OTHER WORK IN ROADS - CTS - SCREENS -
CAMPS LINE - ETC. SEE MAP WITH FEB. WAR DIARY.

On general maps all bearings should be given with reference to the vertical grid lines, which are parallel to the Meridian. (The sides of the sheet bearings should change to read from 0° to 360°.)

Grid bearings are less than magnetic bearings, the difference being called the variation of the compass. To find out what this variation is, take a magnetic bearing to a natural point, and measure on the map the grid bearing to that point. The difference between the two bearings is the variation of that compass from the grid bearing. (The grid bearing of any point also differs from the magnetic bearing of that point by the same amount, unless it is necessary.)

On this sheet the mean deviation of a compass from 1917 to 1918 has been assumed to be the same as in 1917. In those compasses which show a constant deviation of each compass should be noted as indicated above, and this should be recorded on each bearing.

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE USE OF THE SQUARES.

- The large rectangles on the map, lettered M, N, O, etc., are divided into squares of 1,000 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 numbered as lettered A, B, C, D. (See Square No. 9 in each rectangle.)
- A point may thus be described as being within Square D.6, M.2, N.3, etc.
- To locate a point within a small square, subdivide the whole divided into fourths, and define the point by taking its exact position from W. to E. along the bottom side, and so many from S. to N. along the top side; the S.W. corner always being taken as origin, and the distance along the bottom side being given first for the first figure. Thus the point Z would be 61.7 in 6 divisions East and 2 divisions North from origin.
- When more accurate definition is wanted for the 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 scales use exactly the same method, but divide each into 100 parts and use four figures instead of two. Thus 2847 denotes 28 parts East and 47 parts North of origin (see point X). Point Y is 805.
- Use 0 for 10; use either two or four figures; do not use fractions (e.g., 41.5).



REFERENCE

- Key trench apparently repaired for fire.
- Enemy Other trenches. Important ones are shown by thick line. Old or closed by dotted line.
- British Front Line Trench
- Entrenchment or other obstacle
- Ground set up by Artillery fire
- Mine craters. Mine craters fortified.
- Hedge, fosse or ditch. (Distance which.)
- Ditch with permanent water
- Discontinuous points. (Position of point in centre of circle. Dot shows that point is trigonometrically fixed.)
- 1st Class
- 2nd Class
- 3rd Class
- Footpaths, Cart tracks
- Disables
- Railways Single
- Light or Tramway
- Alt heights in metres.
- Church Any Inc. Mill
- Funnel
- Well

Contour Interval 5 Metres

TABLE FOR CONVERTING METRES TO FEET

Metres	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
0	0	16.4	32.8	49.2	65.6	82.0	98.4	114.8	131.2	147.6	164.0	180.4	196.8	213.2	229.6	246.0	262.4	278.8	295.2	311.6	328.0	344.4	360.8	377.2	393.6	410.0	426.4	442.8	459.2	475.6	492.0	508.4	524.8	541.2	557.6	574.0	590.4	606.8	623.2	639.6	656.0	672.4	688.8	705.2	721.6	738.0	754.4	770.8	787.2	803.6	820.0	836.4	852.8	869.2	885.6	902.0	918.4	934.8	951.2	967.6	984.0	1000.4	1016.8	1033.2	1049.6	1066.0	1082.4	1098.8	1115.2	1131.6	1148.0	1164.4	1180.8	1197.2	1213.6	1230.0	1246.4	1262.8	1279.2	1295.6	1312.0	1328.4	1344.8	1361.2	1377.6	1394.0	1410.4	1426.8	1443.2	1459.6	1476.0	1492.4	1508.8	1525.2	1541.6	1558.0	1574.4	1590.8	1607.2	1623.6	1640.0	1656.4	1672.8	1689.2	1705.6	1722.0	1738.4	1754.8	1771.2	1787.6	1804.0	1820.4	1836.8	1853.2	1869.6	1886.0	1902.4	1918.8	1935.2	1951.6	1968.0	1984.4	2000.8	2017.2	2033.6	2050.0	2066.4	2082.8	2099.2	2115.6	2132.0	2148.4	2164.8	2181.2	2197.6	2214.0	2230.4	2246.8	2263.2	2279.6	2296.0	2312.4	2328.8	2345.2	2361.6	2378.0	2394.4	2410.8	2427.2	2443.6	2460.0	2476.4	2492.8	2509.2	2525.6	2542.0	2558.4	2574.8	2591.2	2607.6	2624.0	2640.4	2656.8	2673.2	2689.6	2706.0	2722.4	2738.8	2755.2	2771.6	2788.0	2804.4	2820.8	2837.2	2853.6	2870.0	2886.4	2902.8	2919.2	2935.6	2952.0	2968.4	2984.8	3001.2	3017.6	3034.0	3050.4	3066.8	3083.2	3099.6	3116.0	3132.4	3148.8	3165.2	3181.6	3198.0	3214.4	3230.8	3247.2	3263.6	3280.0	3296.4	3312.8	3329.2	3345.6	3362.0	3378.4	3394.8	3411.2	3427.6	3444.0	3460.4	3476.8	3493.2	3509.6	3526.0	3542.4	3558.8	3575.2	3591.6	3608.0	3624.4	3640.8	3657.2	3673.6	3690.0	3706.4	3722.8	3739.2	3755.6	3772.0	3788.4	3804.8	3821.2	3837.6	3854.0	3870.4	3886.8	3903.2	3919.6	3936.0	3952.4	3968.8	3985.2	4001.6	4018.0	4034.4	4050.8	4067.2	4083.6	4100.0	4116.4	4132.8	4149.2	4165.6	4182.0	4198.4	4214.8	4231.2	4247.6	4264.0	4280.4	4296.8	4313.2	4329.6	4346.0	4362.4	4378.8	4395.2	4411.6	4428.0	4444.4	4460.8	4477.2	4493.6	4510.0	4526.4	4542.8	4559.2	4575.6	4592.0	4608.4	4624.8	4641.2	4657.6	4674.0	4690.4	4706.8	4723.2	4739.6	4756.0	4772.4	4788.8	4805.2	4821.6	4838.0	4854.4	4870.8	4887.2	4903.6	4920.0	4936.4	4952.8	4969.2	4985.6	5002.0	5018.4	5034.8	5051.2	5067.6	5084.0	5100.4	5116.8	5133.2	5149.6	5166.0	5182.4	5198.8	5215.2	5231.6	5248.0	5264.4	5280.8	5297.2	5313.6	5330.0	5346.4	5362.8	5379.2	5395.6	5412.0	5428.4	5444.8	5461.2	5477.6	5494.0	5510.4	5526.8	5543.2	5559.6	5576.0	5592.4	5608.8	5625.2	5641.6	5658.0	5674.4	5690.8	5707.2	5723.6	5740.0	5756.4	5772.8	5789.2	5805.6	5822.0	5838.4	5854.8	5871.2	5887.6	5904.0	5920.4	5936.8	5953.2	5969.6	5986.0	6002.4	6018.8	6035.2	6051.6	6068.0	6084.4	6100.8	6117.2	6133.6	6150.0	6166.4	6182.8	6199.2	6215.6	6232.0	6248.4	6264.8	6281.2	6297.6	6314.0	6330.4	6346.8	6363.2	6379.6	6396.0	6412.4	6428.8	6445.2	6461.6	6478.0	6494.4	6510.8	6527.2	6543.6	6560.0	6576.4	6592.8	6609.2	6625.6	6642.0	6658.4	6674.8	6691.2	6707.6	6724.0	6740.4	6756.8	6773.2	6789.6	6806.0	6822.4	6838.8	6855.2	6871.6	6888.0	6904.4	6920.8	6937.2	6953.6	6970.0	6986.4	7002.8	7019.2	7035.6	7052.0	7068.4	7084.8	7101.2	7117.6	7134.0	7150.4	7166.8	7183.2	7199.6	7216.0	7232.4	7248.8	7265.2	7281.6	7298.0	7314.4	7330.8	7347.2	7363.6	7380.0	7396.4	7412.8	7429.2	7445.6	7462.0	7478.4	7494.8	7511.2	7527.6	7544.0	7560.4	7576.8	7593.2	7609.6	7626.0	7642.4	7658.8	7675.2	7691.6	7708.0	7724.4	7740.8	7757.2	7773.6	7790.0	7806.4	7822.8	7839.2	7855.6	7872.0	7888.4	7904.8	7921.2	7937.6	7954.0	7970.4	7986.8	8003.2	8019.6	8036.0	8052.4	8068.8	8085.2	8101.6	8118.0	8134.4	8150.8	8167.2	8183.6	8200.0	8216.4	8232.8	8249.2	8265.6	8282.0	8298.4	8314.8	8331.2	8347.6	8364.0	8380.4	8396.8	8413.2	8429.6	8446.0	8462.4	8478.8	8495.2	8511.6	8528.0	8544.4	8560.8	8577.2	8593.6	8610.0	8626.4	8642.8	8659.2	8675.6	8692.0	8708.4	8724.8	8741.2	8757.6	8774.0	8790.4	8806.8	8823.2	8839.6	8856.0	8872.4	8888.8	8905.2	8921.6	8938.0	8954.4	8970.8	8987.2	9003.6	9020.0	9036.4	9052.8	9069.2	9085.6	9102.0	9118.4	9134.8	9151.2	9167.6	9184.0	9200.4	9216.8	9233.2	9249.6	9266.0	9282.4	9298.8	9315.2	9331.6	9348.0	9364.4	9380.8	9397.2	9413.6	9430.0	9446.4	9462.8	9479.2	9495.6	9512.0	9528.4	9544.8	9561.2	9577.6	9594.0	9610.4	9626.8	9643.2	9659.6	9676.0	9692.4	9708.8	9725.2	9741.6	9758.0	9774.4	9790.8	9807.2	9823.6	9840.0	9856.4	9872.8	9889.2	9905.6	9922.0	9938.4	9954.8	9971.2	9987.6	10004.0



Scale 1:20,000

