

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/17/27

**Title:** 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-14/17/27



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*5<sup>th</sup> Aust Pioneer Bn*

FOR

*May* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*C. R. Drake* Lieut  
Adjutant 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H. G. ...*  
C. O. 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion



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5<sup>th</sup> Pn 12  
May Brig

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUSSY-LES-DAOURS	May 1	W/S	A + B Coys started in morning on our flank defence line + D Coy in afternoon. Forward end of trench was made continuous. C Coys are working on all odd jobs - Dull misty day.	
	2	W/S	Flank trench continued as yesterday. D.H.Q. dugouts near Bussy were completed by C Coy. Weather warm altho' hazy.	
	3	W/S	Flank trench continued + almost completed. Enemy shelling practically nil the whole time we have been working so far. Evening sultry day.	
	4	W/S	Flank trench completed by B Coy in morning. A + D Coy continued Aubigny support line. Some shells near our camp at night.	
	5	W/S	Flank Trench (now called PIONEER SWITCH) deepened by B Coy - A Coy dug bridge defences for railway bridge at CORBIE while D Coy completed AUBIGNY support system. Heavy rain in afternoon.	
	6	W/S	B Coy rested shield sports in afternoon. A + D Coy continued deepening of PIONEER SWITCH. Fine day but showery.	
	7	W/S	D Coy rested. A Coy continued PIONEER SWITCH back to AUBIGNY receive system while B Coy continued deepening of same. Orders received to hand over 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde deep dugouts to 254 Tunnelling Coy tomorrow.	
	8	W/S	Very wet day - misty in afternoon - some shells near our camp - one man wounded. A Coy continued deepening of PIONEER SWITCH. B Coy moved out to O. 14. h. preparatory to starting work of extending PIONEER SWITCH to front line which they started at night. D Coy moved out to VAUX SUR SOMME to carry out work on CT's in front system N of the River. C Coy handed over work on 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde dugouts to 254 Tunnelling Coy. Dull misty day - a bit warm.	
	9	W/S	B Coy dug 8 strong points on PIONEER SWITCH between front + reserve line while A + C Coys continued deepening of old trench. D Coy well billeted in cellars at VAUX. Fine clear day.	
	10	W/S	B Coy only dug 130 yds trench - 2 platoons got caught in bursts of shelling resulting in 24 casualties - 2 killed 13 wounded + 9 gassed. PIONEER SWITCH deepening was completed by C Coy - A Coy rested + had sports in afternoon. D Coy started work in deepening of ADELAIDE ST. near SAILLY-LE-SEC. LT BAILEY was wounded.	
	11	W/S	B Coy had successful night - no casualties - D Coy similar - Wiring of PIONEER SWITCH started by A Coy and C Coy continued <sup>work</sup> on bridge defences.	

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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
BUSSEY-LES-DAVOUS	1918 May 12		Work continued as on 11 <sup>th</sup> . A good deal of rain in afternoon. Capt BUCHAN took post as 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Comd of 'C' Coy & LT DUKE returned as Asst Adj <sup>t</sup> . LT Stevenson acted as instructor in musketry to an American Engineer unit close by. Chaplain HAREWOOD arrived.	
		13	Portion of 'C' Coy moved into CORBIE to undertake work of strong points round VAIRE. 'A' Coy carried out work on AUBIGNY reserve line pending some alterations to wiring of PIONEER SWITCH.	
		14	'B' Coy completed forward work on PIONEER SWITCH last night & returned to BUSSEY during the day. 'A' Coy continued wiring of same; difficulty experienced with wiring stores which we have to cast from QUERRIEU. Lt Pierce has been detailed for cutting long posts & is able to maintain with 25 men a sufficient supply for balance of Coy. LT. BAILEY reported died of wounds.	
		15	Chaplain Beames left the Bata. en route for Courhalia. 'A' Coy continued wiring PIONEER SWITCH. 'B' Coy resting - 'C' Coy doing Bridge Head Defence beyond Corbie. 'D' Coy at VAUX still on forward trench work. Fair amount of shelling in & around Corbie. Heavy bombing in early morning. 20 reinforcements arrived all old hands. Ten proceeded to join 5 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Battalion.	
		16	Work continued for 'A', 'C' & 'D' Coys as on 15 <sup>th</sup> . 'B' Coy doing small addition to Pioneer Switch - Very hot & sunny. American officer inspected transport section & commented very favourably thereon - great improvement has been effected to transport during last fortnight.	
		17	Work continued as for 16 <sup>th</sup> except 'D' Coy which dug-in near VAUX to escape gas etc. in the village - Weather very hot & dry - Both men & animal bathing in Canal & Gazon. Half a doz. men slightly gassed at Corbie brought back to BUSSEY.	
		18	Work as above except that 'A' Coy provided one party for cutting stakes & one platoon doing medication benches at LA MOTTE. 40 men transferred to machine gun Bata. Weather again very hot. Enemy active bombing at dawn & dusk - also shelled around village with medium weight stuff.	



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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
BUSST-LES-DAOURS	1918 May 19	SUNDAY	Enemy shelled near camp in early morning of a.m. with H.V. staff about 2.45 p.m. 1 man killed & two slightly wounded - Two men slightly wounded. Work for A. Coy changed to artillery depots - Other Coys same as Sat. Spt KINGSBOROUGH D Coy left for O.T.G.	
			C. Coy had one man killed in camp by shell forward of Corbie. Work for Coys as follows: A. Coy wiring PIONEER SWITCH and digging artillery depots B. Coy digging NEW TRENCH near Pioneer Switch - C. Coy doing Bridge Defences & Picquets - D.H.Q. Depots, Salvaging in Corbie - D. Coy still forward near VAUX. C. Coy had 7 casualties 3 killed by shell fire! Three bombs dropped on end of village about 10 p.m.	
			Work continued as above. again very hot LT ENGLAND slightly wounded - at duty.	
			No new work - D. Coy job on support trenches imperilled by Major Mc Cleau at night Village twice bombed during night & one billet hit - Several 4 <sup>th</sup> Div. men wounded & one killed - all houses shifted out of village & officers & O.R. shifting over to bank outside village. Weather again very hot. LT. DICK & 40 reinforcements arrived - Lt Dick posted to B. Coy. Two American <sup>inf</sup> officers attached to unit for a few days for instructional purposes. One proceeded to D. Coy near VAUX - the other B. Coy.	
			Day much cooler & overcast. No change in work programme.	
			Very stormy & rain fell in late in day - quite cold. Orders put out for A & D Coy to change over work on night 24/25. SWITCH TRENCH off Pioneer Switch complete but for wiring <sup>by B. Coy</sup> and Bridge Head Defences completed by C. Coy.	
			Coys preparing to change over - A relieved D in evening - D relieved C of Bridge Picquets. Reliefs completed satisfactorily. B. Coy on artillery depots and wiring.	
			B.C & D. Coys now at Bussy - C & D bathing & resting - C. Coy holding sports in afternoon. The two American officers Lts BUELL & STOGSDILL left to rejoin their Division - both very keen & interested in what they saw. Bombs dropped over Camp about 11 p.m. 3 men wounded - 2 D. Coy - 1 C. Coy.	



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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
BUSSY- LES-DAOURS	MAY 27		Coy. working as follows - A digging trenches forward of VAUX - B doing Artillery depots & Hamlet Road repairs + C most of Coy. standing by, about 30 men on Etchilley depots. - D Bridge guards + Salvage Parties at Corbie - D.H.Q. depots also depots in bank for B.O.R. on Bridge guard party. News through in evening of enemy attacking at Lore & on the Aisne. D. Coy. had one man killed & 1 wounded.	
	28		Coy. working as above. B. Coy. had 1 man wounded on road work near Hamlet. Exhibition given near camp in afternoon of trench 1 p.m. & 2.7 p.m. Very little news through about German offensive on Chemin des Dames. 15th D.H.Q. in C. & D. Coys. partly resting. General BIRDWOODS said good-bye to 5th D.H.Q. in morning at 10.30 - British armoured car visited Bussy at 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.	
	29		Type similar to those used by British in Russia - inspected by post office of Unit. Mine reinforcements arrived - old hands from Hospital - Band started practice after about two months work at stretch bearing.	
	30		First word about Div. moving back - This unit simply changes over with 4th Pioneers. Bn. A. Coy still near VAUX - C & D Coys each had half Coy. doing Coy attack work - B. Coy. Artillery Depots - Sgt. Kellon & two Corporals left for T. B. Headquarters & bidely Rm. shifted out of village to bank. Orders but for A. Coy. to move from their camp near VAUX to BONNET. Preliminary arrangements made for change over.	
	31		Fourth Pioneer Bn. took over all work - A. Coy. moved to BONNET to work B.O. 44. on dismantling a Cooney. C. & D. Coys. to work on Rear Zone defences under Major Mc Cleun D.S.O. B. C. & D. Coys. remaining in banks near BUSSY.	
			Total Casualties for May 6 OR Killed 24 OR wounded, 1 Off Died of Wounds and 1 Off slightly wounded remaining at Duty. 36 OR gassed & 30 OR to Hoop Sick - 1 Off + 88 OR Reinforcements received Average of 9 men off duty daily through sickness. Max 17 Min 3. Max Bn Strength 1109 Min 1070	
			Average 1089 OR.	

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# WAR DIARY

OF

5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion.

FOR

MAY

1918

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No.  | Subject.  |
|------|---|
| ✓1.  | Message No.P.E.27.                                    |
| ✓2.  | Circular re additional Lewis Guns.                    |
| ✓3.  | Message No.P.E.31.                                    |
| ✓4.  | Amendment to 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No.41.  |
| ✓5.  | Message No.P.E.39.                                    |
| ✓6.  | Message No.P.E.40.                                    |
| ✓7.  | Message No.P.E.46.                                    |
| ✓8.  | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No.43.               |
| ✓9.  | Memo to C.R.E.5th.Aust.Div.re amount of trenches dug. |
| ✓10. | 5th.Aust.Pioneer Battalion Order No.44.               |
| ✓11. | Handing Over Paper.                                   |
| ✓12. | Report on work for month of May.                      |
| ✓13. | Q.M,Tailors ,Bootmakers and Medical Officers Report.  |
| ✓14. | Movement of Officers,and T.O.'s report                |
| ✓15. | Commanding Officers' Report and L.G.O's Report.       |
| ✓16. | 5 Air Photographs of Pioneer Switch.                  |

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Works Map  
Sketch of Dig Out

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APPENDIX 1

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2171  
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

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

TO } CRE 5th Aust Div

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* RE. 27	5		

Support system of AUBIGNY LINE is now complete throughout with communication trenches AAA Bridge defenses are also completed AAA the flank trench is being further deepened & widened.

From 5th Pioneer Bn.  
Place  
Time 2.20pm  
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

\*This line should be erased if not required.  
(18965.) W.L. W12952/M1294. 187,500 Pads. 1/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E. 818.)





H.Q., 5th. Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
6th May 1918.

pl  
O.C. "A" Coy.  
O.C. "B" Coy.  
O.C. "C" Coy.  
O.C. "D" Coy.  
L.G. Officer.  
War Diary.

2

Four additional Lewis Guns have recently been received by the Battalion, and these have been distributed 1 per Coy.

The Lewis Gun Organization of the Companies will now be as follows :-

3 platoons of each company, which must include the flank platoons, will be provided with 1 Lewis Gun each, the remaining platoon being, for the present, without a gun.

Nos. 1. and 2 (at least) of each Lewis Gun Section must be thoroughly efficient trained gunners. All companies must effect ~~an~~ any transfers necessary to ensure that this is given effect to.

The ammunition and ~~guns~~ magazines for these additional guns will be carried on the forward half of the Company Limbers. The 5,000 rounds previously carried in boxes will now be carried in ~~boxes~~ magazines.

Companies should also see that some men of the platoon at present without a gun are trained as Lewis Gunners, so that in the event of the 4th. gun per company being obtained the organization will enable a section to be formed immediately.

Lieut. Colonel.  
Comdg. 5th. Aust. Pioneer Battalion. A.I.F.





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APPENDIX 3.

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

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

TO } B Coy

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* PE 31.	8		

Action in case of attack will be as follows - While working forward I receive line you come under orders of 14<sup>th</sup> Div Bde from whom you will get written instructions as to your action while in camp you will act as part of this Bn & will send 2 messages to Bn HQ as soon as possible reporting your fighting strength. You will not take orders from any other unit unless situation is urgent & you receive direct orders from a senior officer in writing. In this latter case you will report your action at once to Bn HQ. Otherwise you will stand by in your present location.

From location.....

Place.....

Time 4.00 pm

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

Censor.....

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(18965.) Wt. W12952/M1294. 187,500 Pads. 1/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E. 81B.)







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

AMENDMENT to GEN AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 41

In consequence of the issue of an additional Lewis Gun per Company the loads on the S.A.A. Limber allotted to Companies in Battalion Order No. 41 will be amended as under :-

FRONT -

10 cases S.A.A.	750 lbs.
15 cases Bombs (approx.)	<u>500 "</u>

TOTAL 1250 lbs.

NEAR HALF -

8 Lewis Guns at 27 lbs.	81 lbs.
3 Gun cases at 40 lbs	120 "
3 sets spare parts at 15 lbs	45 "
182 magazines, filled, at 4½ lbs	594 "
15 <del>xxxxxx</del> magazine cases at 8½ lbs	128 "
2 cases S.A.A. at 75 lbs	<u>150 "</u>

TOTAL 1138 lbs.

*J.P. Stinson* Lieut.-Col.  
Comd. 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion

Copies issued -

C.O.	No. 1.
All Coys.	" 2 - 5
T.O.	" 3
S.M.	" 7
L.S.O.	" 8
War Diary	" 9 - 12



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APPENDIX 5.

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

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

TO } All Coy's  
          } L.G.O.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* P.E. 39	15.		

Present Lewis gun classes  
will finish today  
will return for duty with  
their Coys. A further  
class of 10 per Coy will  
report to L.G.O. at 9 am  
on 17th Inst at Bussy. A  
Med should be chosen so as  
to have saving strength of  
Lewis gunners up to 10 per  
platoon.

From 5th Pioneer Bn.  
Place  
Time 2.40 pm

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.  
(18965.) Wt. W12952/M1294. 187,500 Pads. 1/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E. 818.)





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APPENDIX 6.

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(in pads of 100)

No. of Message.....

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

TO } D Coy.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* P.E. 40.	15		

Reference my P.E. 38 AAA  
 your work after completion of task  
 tonight is the continuation of  
 the main C.T. extending along  
 hillside rearwards - you have  
 spoken already about this AAA Major  
 Ferguson who is being instructed to work  
 cable out for you. AAA You may  
 spend all 16<sup>th</sup> & night of 16/17 in  
 moving out of VAUX AAA Suggest  
 your dispositions be as follows - One  
 platoon in main road North of VAUX  
 two platoons in road banks in  
 J. 25. a & b and one platoon scattered  
 along canal bank in @ J. 30. d. AAA  
 Dig shell proof HQ's ~~at~~ near 32<sup>nd</sup> Bn  
 AAA But trench systems that are used  
 other than C.T.'s should be used for accommodation  
 where possible.

From \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time 6.10 pm.  
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) H. G. Carter  
 Censor. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\*This line should be erased if not required.  
 (18965.) Wt. W12952/M1294. 187,500 Pads. 1/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E. 818.)





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APPENDIX

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

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

TO { OC 'D' Coy

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

\* PE 46 20  
 your work as arranged by  
 me today is again  
 altered. you are now  
 to connect up the support  
 line posts of the area  
 of the Left Bn of Right Bn  
 whose front runs from about  
 P. 2 to 6.4 to P. 5 to 4.0  
 An officer of 14th Field Coy  
 meet your officer at 9 pm  
 at Bridge No 4 (J. 25. d. centre)  
 The work is regarded a  
 particularly urgent. you  
 company should follow as soon  
 as possible afterwards.

From		
Place	SOBI	
Time		

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.

(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187





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APPENDIX. 8.

SECRET.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
24th May 1918.

Copy No...?..

8

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 43

1. The following reliefs will take place on the 25th instant :-
  - (a) "A" Company will take over work of "D" Company in the forward areas about R.SOMME. "A" Company will move out at nightfall on the 25th. 5 Pack Mules will also be relieved. Men will carry full marching order. Blankets will be taken by G.S. Wagon - the one wagon taking "A" Company's blankets will return with "D" Company's.
  - (b) "D" Company will take over the Bridge Guards on R.SOMME from "C" Company, and also the Salvage Party working in CORBIE, on evening of 25th instant.
  - (c) "B" Company will carry on with "A" Company's work on Artillery Dugouts on the 25th and continue until completion.
2. "A" Company must be in a position to commence work on WELCOMEWOOD and SAILLY-LE-SEC on the night of the 26/27th. An Officer from "D" Company will remain with "A" Company for 24 hours to indicate the work generally.
3. On the 27th, "D" Company will arrange to relieve their own men on Bridge Guards and at CORBIE. They will also relieve "C" Company's men on D.H.Q. Dugouts.

*W. Leuter*

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

Copies issued as under :-

C.O.	No. 1.	C.R.E.	No. 8.
2nd in Command	" 2	War Diary	" 9 - 12
Adjutant	" 3	File	" 13
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 4	G.M., T.O. & M.O.	
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 5	(For information) No. 14	
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 6		
O.C. "D" Coy.	" 7		





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APPENDIX 9.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
28th May 1918.

(9) C.R.E.,  
5th Aust. Division.

Referring to my conversation with you the other night regarding the length of trenches dug by this Unit. I have made a computation and arrived at the following result :-

Aubigny Support Line.	5,900 yds.
C.Ts. from Supports to Front Line.	5,250
Pioneer Switch & cross trench on Plateau.	7,400
Linking of Support Line and Right Brigade Sector	1,500
Fire Trench running from Adelaide St. to top of hill by Battn.H.Q.	1,000
Deepening of Adelaide St. equivalent to	700
Welcome Wood Trench	500
Bridge Head Defences	<u>2,000</u>

Total of 22,250 yds of trench.

equals 12 1/2 miles.

This length is an air line only, and does not include traverses, nor does it include 3 1/2 miles of trench dug for buried cable.

The Aubigny Line includes portion of the Right Divisional Sector that was dug by us.

*H. G. B.*

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

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~





SECRET.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
30th May 1918.

Copy. No. ....

5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No.44

Map Reference FRANCE. 62D.

1. The Battalion will be relieved by the 4th Pioneer Battalion by 12 noon on the 1st proximo. The Battalion, less "A" Company, will remain in Banks near BUSSY. The details of the relief will be as set out below.
2. An Officer from the 4th Pioneer Battalion will report to Lieut. CUNNINGHAME at No.7 Bridge at 9 a.m., on the 31st instant, and will arrange details of the taking over of the Salvage Party and Bridge Guards. This relief is to be completed on the night of the 31/1st.
3. An Officer will report to "C" Company at 9 a.m. on the 31st inst. with reference to taking over all deep dugout work for the 49th ~~Bt~~ Battery near FOUILLOY. This work will be discontinued after the 31st instant.
4. An Officer or N.C.O. will also report to "D" Company at 9 a.m., 31st instant with regard to taking over deep dugouts at Divisional Headquarters near BUSSY. The time of handing over will be mutually arranged.
5. "A" Company will be relieved on the night of the 31/1st. An Officer from the 4th Pioneer Battalion is reporting to "A" Company H.Q. at 12 noon on the 31st inst. to whom all details of the work in both Brigade Sectors will be given. "A" Company will also arrange to leave one Officer and one N.C.O. behind for 24 hours to act as guides and give any further information necessary. "A" Company will arrange to be clear of their present camp by 10 p.m.
6. On completion of the relief "A" Company will move to Billets occupied by a Company of the 4th Pioneer Battalion near BONNAY, I.10.c.6.8. One Officer from "A" Company will report to the Company H.Q. of the 4th Pioneer Battalion at 1 p.m., 31st inst., to get details of work and billets. The Company will rest on the 1st proximo and will be ready to continue work on the 2nd. The work consists of dismantling a Conveyer.
7. "C" and "D" Companies will be employed after the 1st proximo on rear zone defences. Major McCLEAN, D.S.O., will be responsible for the conduct of this work and will make all necessary arrangements for same with the C.R.E. Rear Zone Defences, (North).
8. "B" Company will, for the present, ~~after~~ rest, after completion of the Battery Dugouts.

*H.G. Gault*

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

Copies issued as under:-

C.O.	No.1	C.R.E.	No.8.
Major McClean, D.S.O.	" 2	Lt. CUNNINGHAME	" 9
Adjutant.	" 3	C.O., 4th Pioneer Bn.	" 10
O.C. "A" Coy.	" 4	War Diary	" 11-14
O.C. "B" Coy.	" 5	File	" 15.
O.C. "C" Coy.	" 6	T.O., Q.M. & R.M.O.	" 16 (For information)
O.C. "D" Coy.	" 7		





APPENDIX 11

SECRET.

H.Q., 5th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
31st May 1918.

(11)

C.O., 4th Pioneer Battalion.  
C.F.E., 5th Aust. Division.  
War Diary.

HANDING OVER PAPERS.

The work on which the Battalion has been engaged is as follows :-

1. TRENCHES.- A Reserve Trench is being dug west of SAILLY-le-Sec running from about J.28.b.S.O. in a South-westerly direction. This trench is about half finished, there being about 500 yards more to complete. It is being dug as a Fire Trench facing South-east.  
A Switch Trench is being dug from P.3.a.S.3. to P.1.a.S.1.- about 500 yards in all having been completed, leaving about another 500 yards still to complete. The trench is being dug as a series of Strong Posts in the first instance, and then filled in between. The whole is marked out and can be immediately continued.
2. DUGOUTS.- A series of dugouts is being carried out for the Artillery. These, with the exception of one dugout near FOUILLOY for the 49th Battery, have been completed.  
Work is also being carried out in conjunction with the 254th Tunnelling Company on some deep dugouts near BUSY.
3. BRIDGES.- Guards are supplied for the demolition and protection of 7 Infantry Foot Bridges on the River SOMME, between FOUILLOY and the front line. The Officer in charge of these Guards is located at No.7. Bridge, at O.4.c.S.O.
4. DETACHED PARTIES.- There is only one detached party - that of 20 men working under the Town Major at COMBIE on salvage duty. This party is camped near No.7 Bridge and is generally supervised by the Officer in charge of the Bridges.
5. The whole of the work is being carried out from the Battalion Billets near BUSY-las-DACHES, except one Company, which is dug in at I.19.d.S.O. This has been found quite satisfactory - in one case, in order to cope with forward work in P.18 and P.19. it was found necessary to move a Company into O.15.a. temporarily.

*W. Hunter*

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

*[Handwritten signature]*





REPORT ON WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1918.

The main work for the month was Defences, i.e. digging trenches and erecting wire - defensive and tactical.

The AUBIGNY SYSTEM and the Flank Defence Line (Pioneer Switch) were the main jobs for the earlier part of the month. Later, "D" Company moved out to VAUX and worked on Communication Trenches and Reserve trenches on both sides of the R. SOMME, and the other Companies did general work - perhaps the most important being shell-proof Artillery Dugouts, of which close on 50 were completed for various Batteries.

Much work was done, too, on Bridge Defences - in many places it was impossible to dig trenches and breastworks had to be erected. For the wiring of these, and also the main wiring of PIONEER SWITCH, it was not always possible to get stakes from R.E. Dumps, and one platoon was engaged for nearly a fortnight in cutting same, both long and short.

A Platoon worked for a week at building barriers at intervals across the VECQUEMONT Ammunition Dump. Only a very few sandbags were available and the barriers were constructed chiefly of stakes and wire netting.

From 45 to 50 men were employed continually during the month in picqueting the various Bridges from near CORBIE up to the front line - "C" Company found this party for most of the time, and its H.Q. were at CORBIE.

A Salvage Party of 15 to 20 men was attached for nearly the whole period to the Town Major in CORBIE for salvaging material in the town. The first party to go out all became Gas Casualties, and it had to be replaced entire. Much valuable material, especially cotton and wool, was salvaged.

Other minor jobs were, about 850 yds of indication trenches for Defences at LA MOTTE, clearing out, shoring up, and making gas-proof, many cellars, both for artillery and A.M.C., cable burying at BUSSY, repairs and maintenance of FOUILLOY-HAMELET Road, deep dugouts for the Divisional and Brigade Staffs at BUSSY and TRONVILLE Chateaux respectively, fencing in the AUBIGNY Military Cemetery, Improvements were also made to the living quarters of both men and Officers in the Banks near BUSSY. Towards the end of the month Orderly Room and H.Q. shifted over to the Banks from the village and good accommodation was built.





275  
 (13)  
 QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

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

Articles.	Debit.	Credit.
<u>CLOTHING etc.</u>		
Breeches, M.S.	prs. 30	81
" D.S.	" 65	92
Tunics, S.D.		46
Puttees	prs 100	86
Coats, Great, D.S.		48
" " Fur-lined.		11
Hats, C.P.		8
Sheets, Ground, W.P.	50	23
Jackets, sheepskin.		103
" Cardigan.		148.
Respirators, S.B.	48	54
Containers, S.B.R.	96	55
Tins, Mess.	125	47
Boots, Ankle, tan.	34	59
" Field Service		5
A quantity of Holdalls, Housewives, Knives, Forks, Spoons, Razors, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Brushes, Combs, Braces and Boot laces, were also drawn from D.A.D.O.S.		
<u>TOOLS etc.</u>		
Various tools were drawn from D.A.D.O.S. and others returned.		
<u>BOOTMAKER'S MATERIAL.</u>		
Soles, $\frac{1}{2}$ Billed, prs	225	
Leather soles, Binds.	8	
Rivets, iron, $\frac{1}{2}$ ", lbs	14	
Lifts, Heel, prs	100	
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>		
Quantities of Lubricating oil, <del>xxxxxx</del> flannelette, cordage etc. drawn.		
<u>TRANSPORT SUNDRIES</u>		
Material drawn in connection with maintenance & repair of harness, wagons etc.		
<u>COOKER PARTS.</u>		
Bodies, Travelling Kitchen.		1.
Pans, Frying.	8	8.
Boilers, without taps.	8	
Gratings, K.T.	8	8
Kettles, Camp.	12	6
<u>LEWIS GUN, PARTS.</u>		
Lewis Guns, complete.	2	
Various spare parts & material for maintenance & repair was drawn.		
<u>RIFLES &amp; EQUIPMENT.</u>		
Rifles.		50
Bayonets.		47
Scabbards.		48
Web Equipment, Parts, (Sacks)		6



QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT (Contd.)RATIONS.

Rations drawn from A.S.C. for the month were of good quality and quantity, with the exception of potatoes. During the Month the Battalion purchased 500 kilos of Potatoes, the cost of same being borne by Regimental Funds. Iron Rations for the Battalion were turned over to Companies on various dates.

FAT RETURNS.

On the 12th instant all Companies' and Details' Cooks were paid for fat returned for the previous three months, total weight of same being 3,015 lbs. During the month of May the Unit returned 50 Drums of Fat, Total weight, 2,500 lbs., to A.S.C.

TAILOR'S REPORT.

35 prs Breeches and 11 Tunics were altered to fit men. Colour patches were also put on men's tunics and Great Coats. Numerous repairs were carried out.

BOOTMAKER'S REPORT.

351 prs Boots were half soled and heeled by Battalion Bootmakers. 30 pairs new boots were clumped and heels raised. Other repairs were also executed during the month.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918

1. GENERAL HEALTH.- Good: the prevailing diseases were furunculosis and influenza, the latter lasting 3 - 4 days, with rapid recovery. Diarrhoea has been rare.
2. WATER SUPPLY.- from Water Standpoint in village of BUSSY-les-DAOURS, requiring 1 measure of bleaching powder. Water carts are kept clean and in good order.
3. FOOD.- Good in quantity and quality. Cooking and cookhouses good, and men have received 3 hot meals a day.
4. LATRINES.- Flyproof box latrines have been substituted for all trench latrines. Urinals are deep soakage pits - flyproof.
5. MANURE.- is dumped and covered
6. REFUSE.- is incinerated and remains buried.
7. BATHS.- have been provided: a large proportion of men have been bathing in the river. No change of clothing has been issued, but men have had opportunity of washing underclothing.
8. SCABIES & LICE.- A few cases of Scabies have reported: lice are prevalent.
9. GENERAL.- 6 men are to be paraded for medical boarding.



5TH AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS DURING MONTH OF MAY 1918.

14

Lieut. F. HAMMOND left for Training Battalion, England. 2.5.18  
 Lieut. W.J. BAILEY. Died of wounds. 10.5.18  
 Capt. W. BUCHAN, M.C. Rejoined from leave & duty. 10.5.18  
 Chaplain E.J. HAREWOOD. Joined to relieve Chaplain  
 (4th Class) B ORAMES (3rd Class) 12.5.18  
 Lieut. W.W.E. GRAY. Rejoined from Corps Wireless Section. 13.5.18  
 Chaplain B. ORAMES (3rd Class). Left en route to Australia. 15.5.18  
 2/Lieut. R.L. DICK. Joined from O.T.C. 23.5.18

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S WORK REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

No. of G.S. Limbers turned out during period 95.  
 Total number of hours worked 378  
 Average hours worked per limber - 3 hrs 59 mins.

No. of G.S. Wagons turned out during period 115  
 Total number of hours worked 469  
 Average hours worked per wagon - 4 hrs 4 mins.

Repairs, etc.

7 G.S. Limbers, 2 watercarts and 3 G.S. Wagons, repaired and painted (2 coats)

5 G.S. Wagons repaired and oiled (2 coats)

Shoeing for the month.

15 sets heavy draughts, new, including A.S.C. Heavy Draughts attached.

10 sets Riders, new.

2 sets Medium Draughts, new.

49 ~~sets~~ sets Mules, L.D., new.

3½ sets Mules, pack, new.

7 sets Mules, L.D., removed.





COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

During the past month the Battalion has been engaged mainly on defensive works.

In all, over 14 miles of trenches have been dug on the Divisional front.

The Battalion was hard put to it to cope with the work, especially during the middle of the month, when every available man was working. As the various tasks were completed, some relaxation was allowed. The health statistics, however, have suffered very little on this account.

Practically all work has been done on the task principle, which has been found very satisfactory, but considerable judgment has been found necessary in allotting the tasks owing to the very different natures of digging experienced. In trench digging the task has varied from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yds per man to as much as 6 yds per man.

The majority of the casualties have been from Gas, and these chiefly amongst detached parties. On two occasions whole parties - the Road Mine Garrison in VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and the Salvage Party in CORBIE - were evacuated.

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

LEWIS GUN OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MAY 1918.

On May 4th four new guns arrived, bringing the total strength up to 12 guns for the Battalion. They were allotted 1 to each Company. On the same day classes were commenced to train men to man these guns.

This class, amongst other things, was given lectures and simple exercises in tactical handling of the gun, range practices at 250 and 300 yards, including stoppages on the range, and firing with Box Respirators on. They were also shown how to use the Barr & Stroud rangefinder, and how to make range cards.

On May 17th new classes were commenced to train a team per Company in readiness for a further issue of guns. This brought the Company Lewis Gun strength up to 40, except in the case of "C" Company, who have had a number of casualties of late amongst their gunners.

Four elliptical sights were issued towards the end of the month for A.A. work.

Type  
 Extract





2/5



A.3 AE. A. 314.  
 629 0.18. b. c. d. 24. b. d. 19. 5. d. c. 19. 6. b. d.  
 15. 5. 18. 11.

16

Pioneer Smith  
 forward end



APPENDIX 16

22





1915

Waldman

Proves Finito  
Forwarded 5/10



P3

1915



275



*Boneser Switzer  
Forward End.*

APPENDIX 16.

23



*Handwritten in green ink:*  
A

*Handwritten in brown ink:*  
Waldrain

*Handwritten in brown ink:*  
Poulsen Switels  
Forwarded



*Handwritten in brown ink:*  
B3



Pioneer barbed after first Night's work.



front line showing line of posts for Pioneer barbed.



APPENDIX 16.



13

front line showing  
line of posts for Pioneer Section

War Draw



Pioneer Section  
after 1st night's work

War

for

Pioneer

13



216

*Process twisted trench showing  
junction with main reserve line*



36Æ.Z.386  
62°O.18.23.24.  
3.5.18-12

APPENDIX. 16.

25



9/10

Wai Dray

Pioneer Surtel French  
showing junction with main  
reserve line

1/10

X 1/10

Pioneer Surtel

Pioneer Surtel French  
Showing junction with  
main reserve line

Pioneer Surtel





275



35A.Z.384  
 62°0.17.18.23  
 3.5.18-12

*Plover Point*

APPENDIX

16

26





1/2

Mar 1891

96

Powell Scott

B

275

19



276

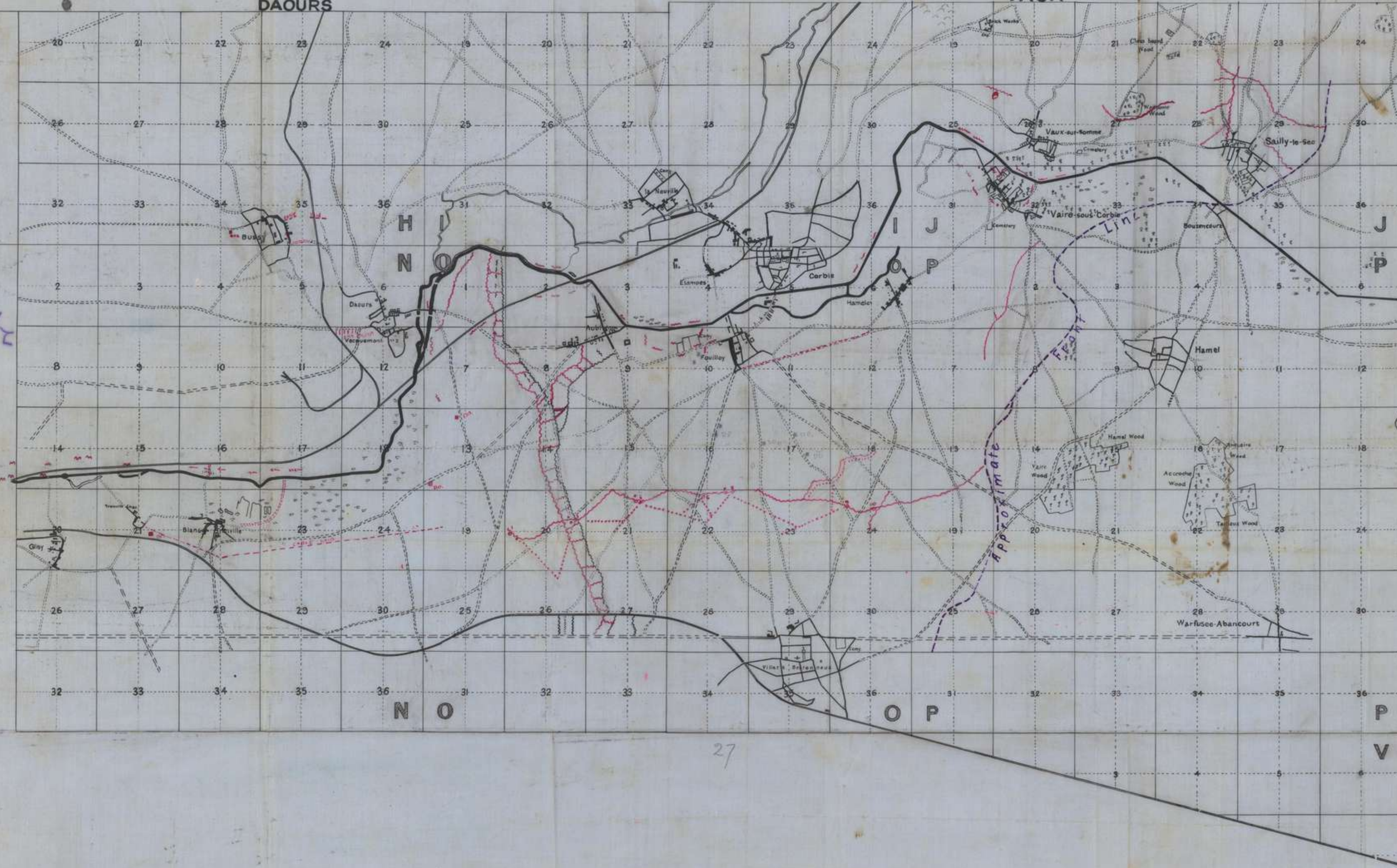
275

275

275

DAOURS

VAUX



SLZ

APPROXIMATE  
FRENCH LINE

27

275

27

276



APPENDIX, 18.

5TH. AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.Headquarters,  
17th June 1918.ARTILLERY DUGOUTS.

This type is specially suitable for banks or sunken roads of medium depth. They are quickly constructed and require very little R.E. Material. The excellent protection given against shell fire is illustrated by the fact that one of this group had a direct hit with an enemy 5.9" H.E. shell and suffered no damage. The roof being level with the ground on the road in front, gives complete protection from splinters. Gas protection is provided by means of a Gas Proof Door, which is rolled up when not in use.

Dugouts are constructed by means of an open cut, side frames, roof and ridge supports are then put in position. The cut is again filled up providing overhead cover. The weight on the roof is taken by side frames of round timber and by ridge pole supported by two props.

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

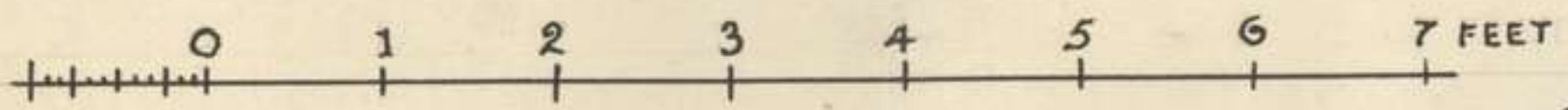




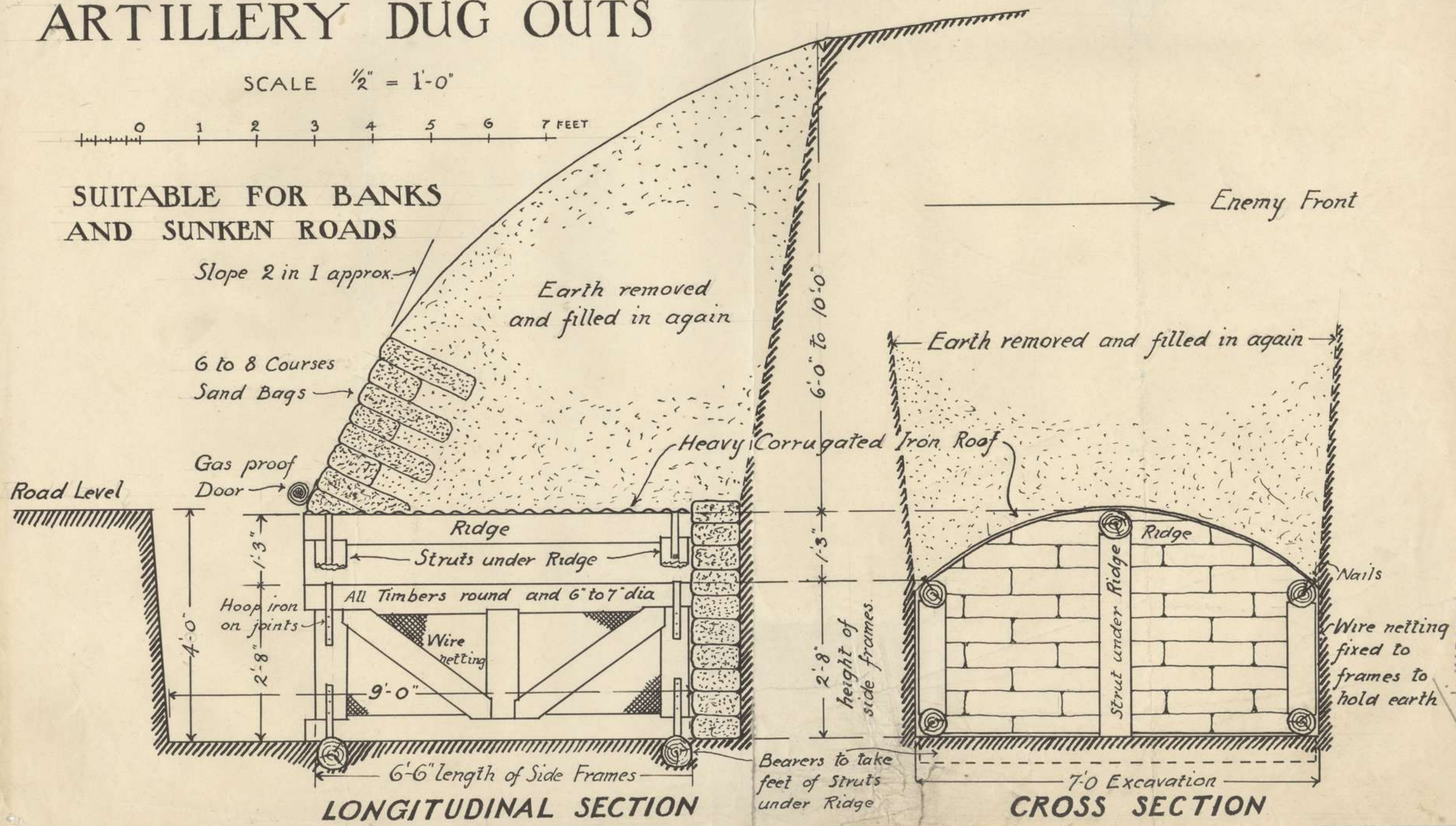
Appendix 18

# ARTILLERY DUG OUTS

SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



SUITABLE FOR BANKS AND SUNKEN ROADS



Slope 2 in 1 approx.

Earth removed and filled in again

6 to 8 Courses Sand Bags

Gas proof Door

Heavy Corrugated Iron Roof

Earth removed and filled in again

Enemy Front

Road Level

Ridge

Struts under Ridge

All Timbers round and 6" to 7" dia

Hoop iron on joints

Wire netting

9'-0"

6'-6" length of Side Frames

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

6'-0" to 10'-0"

1'-3"

2'-8" height of side frames.

Bearers to take feet of Struts under Ridge

Heavy Corrugated Iron Roof

Ridge

Strut under Ridge

Nails

Wire netting fixed to frames to hold earth

7'-0" Excavation

CROSS SECTION

Appendix 18 29