

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/21/24

**Title:** 2nd Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

December 1916



AWM4-14/21/24



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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MELBOURNE CAMP MANTETZ	1-12-16 To		Nos. 1 & 3 Sections employed at SYDNEY CAMP. BECORDEL on erections of NISSEN BOW HUTS Nos 2 & 4 Sections employed at MELBOURNE CAMP. MANTETZ on building of Mats and	
	8-12-16		construction of corduroy road. Transport employed carting material. Weather cold & showery.	
	9-12-16		Nos 1 & 3 Sections left SYDNEY CAMP. arriving at MELBOURNE CAMP at 0900 After an hours halt each section moved off independently in charge of section Officer. No. 1 section leading. The Transport which were to form the advanced horse line bringing up the rear. LONGUVAL was reached at 1200 where a halt was made for lunch. The Sappers moved off from here at 1400 No. 1 Section again leading passing through DELVILL WOOD en route for deep dugouts in BULL'S RUN where they arrived at 1700. Here Nos. 1, 2 & 4 Sections were accommodated in two deep dugouts No 3 Section under Lieut Collins proceeded about 1000 yds further to deep dugouts in WATTLING STREET. The Rain train of pack horses arrived at BULL'S RUN at 2200. Weather cold & showery.	
Bull's Run	10-12-16		Capt. Brockman, Lieut. Cunningham, Lieut. Reid, Lieut. Collins & Lieut. Barbat made a Tour of all the trenches in view of distribution of work for the Sections. Weather Cold & Showery.	
	11-12-16		No 1 Section commenced work on Flinders Lane & Hill Trench, No Revetting material	

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Bulls Run.	10.12.16		<p>was available so work was concentrated on the cleaning out, draining and preservation of trenches. A few duckboards were salvaged from trenches and laid. No 2 Section were allocated the maintenance of FLARE ALLEY from B.M.Q to GAP also SWITCH. TCH. and the enlarging of DEEP DUGOUTS. ENGR. HQ. BULLS RUN. No 3 Section commenced work on GREASE TCH., DEEP DUGOUTS in CHALK CLIFFS and WATLING ST. enlarging and tunnelling.</p>	
	11.12.16		<p>No 4 Section worked on WHALE TCH. Frost TCH and Petrol Lane. The cleaning out and draining of these trenches was carried on. No 1 Section still unable to procure material for revelling. Carried on with the draining of trenches. No 2 Section also being unable to procure material carried on with draining. But in Bulls Run Eng H.Q. the excavation of Deep Dugouts was carried on. No 3 Section carried on draining GREASE TCH. and the excavation of DUGOUTS in CHALK CLIFFS and WATLING ST. No 4 Section carried on with the preservation of Whale TCH. Frost TCH. and Petrol LANE.</p>	



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17. the Field.	12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> .		<p>No 1 Section having procured material for Revetting carried on with shifts for night and day revetting aforesaid trenches. They also started driving into CHALK CLIFF. at N25. b52. for a new DEEP DUGOUT.</p> <p>No 2 Section also procuring Revetting Material carried on with the revetting and overboarding of trenches. The DUGOUTS. in Bulls Run. were continued. Excavating &amp; Mining Sets being placed.</p> <p>No 3. Section procuring Revetting material carried on Revetting GREASE TCH. and excavating DUGOUTS in CHALK CLIFF. and WATLING ST. mining Sets were also placed. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Sap Hewish was wounded by HE in afternoon.</p> <p>No 4 Section. carried on Revetting a portion of WHALE TCH. FROST TCH and PETROLKANE. SNOW fell on the 12<sup>th</sup>. weather Buttery cold and showery.</p> <p>No 1 Section handed out to No 4 Section the work in HILT TCH. and FINDERS LANE. owing to the condition of FROST TCH. and FATIGUE. COMM. TCM. being impossible for traffic.</p> <p>No 2 Sections and 3 Section carried on the same as the previous two days.</p> <p>No 4 Section carried on with trenches allotted also TCH 2 over from NO 1 Section.</p>	
	15-12-16			



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In the Field.	15.12.16		The work in MALT TCH. and FLINDERS. LANE.	
	16.12.16		No. 1 Section working night and day shifts on FATIGUE TCH. and FROST. TCH. night work	
	to		Consisting of (a) digging Sump holes. (b) digging new saps. where trench has fallen (c) carrying material for day shifts. Day shifts revetting with A. frames and screens and duckboarding.	
	18.12.16		There are two shifts on CHALK CLIFF DUGOUTS. Eight (8) DUGOUTS which were	
			Captured from the Germans. These are situated in SUNKEN ROAD. and called FRITZ'S FOLLY.	
			Night work can only be done on these.	
			No's 2-3 & 4 Sections carried on with the usual work allotted to them.	
	19.12.16		LIEUT. CUNNINGHAM received a telegram stating that he with No 1 Section were to give over work in FRONT LINE and work on a DEFENCE LINE. The work of the	
			No. 1 Section with the exception of GERMAN DUGOUTS. was taken over by NO 4 Section	
			No 2 Section carried on with the laying of OVERLAND TRACKS in FLARE ALLEY. and the	
			Revetting and preservation of same whilst in SWITCH TCH. Draining, cleaning out and revetting was done.	
			No 3 Section carried on with the preservation, draining & cleaning out of GREASE TCH and excavating of WATLING ST and CHALK CLIFF DUGOUTS.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	19/12/16		No 4 Section carried on with their work of preservation of trenches and took over from No 1 Section the preservation of the FRONT LINE. SNOW fell cold & showery.	
	20/12/16		No 1 Section pegged out and surveyed NEW <sup>REVERSE</sup> LINE. Sappers started work on (a) M.G position at N32 C28 and revetting in POSSUM TCH. at N26 C71 for a strong point with a view of utilising the present Deep Dugouts for garrison. No 2 Section still carried on with the laying of OVERLAND TRACK near FLOES ALLEY and the preservation of SWITCH TCH. No 3 Section with the preservation & Reversing of <del>WHALE TCH. FROST TCH</del> <sup>GREASE TRENCH.</sup> and <del>PETROLINE</del> and excavation of Deep Dugouts in WATLING S+ and CHALK CLIFFS. Sap Davis was wounded in the face by HE Shell.	
	21-12/16		No 4 Section carried on with the preservation of WHALE TCH. FROST TCH and Petroline and the preservation of the FRONT LINE. Cold & Showery.	
	to		No 1 Section carried on with their usual allotment. No 2 Section do do WEATHER. BRIGHT and CLEAR.	
	22/12/16		No 3 Section do do. No 4 Section do do.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	23-12-16.		<p>No 1 Section carried on with the improvement and maintenance of work as usual.</p> <p>Due to Lieut Barbat going on leave his section (No 2) was handed over to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Dikworth. Thus the work of the Section went on as usual the laying of OVERLAND TRACK. SWITCH. TCH and COCOA LANE.</p>	
			<p>No's 3 and 4 Sections carried on with their usual work. Weather misty and dull.</p>	
	24-12-16.		<p>No's 1-3 and A Sections carried on with the individual work of each Section.</p> <p>No 2 Section took over from 1<sup>st</sup> Field Coy. OBSERVATION POST and DUGOUT in SWITCH TCH.</p>	
	25-12-16		<p>All sections carried on with the work that was allotted each.</p>	
	to		<p>On the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. No 1 Section worked on three</p>	
	31-12-16		<p>Strong points in POSSUM TCH. No 1. Strong point. being mentioned on page 5. No 2. STRONG Pt. at about N 25. bc 2. No 3 at N 26 c 54.</p>	
			<p>Sharp Transport from 9<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> worked on Ration Taignes from LONGUEVAL</p>	



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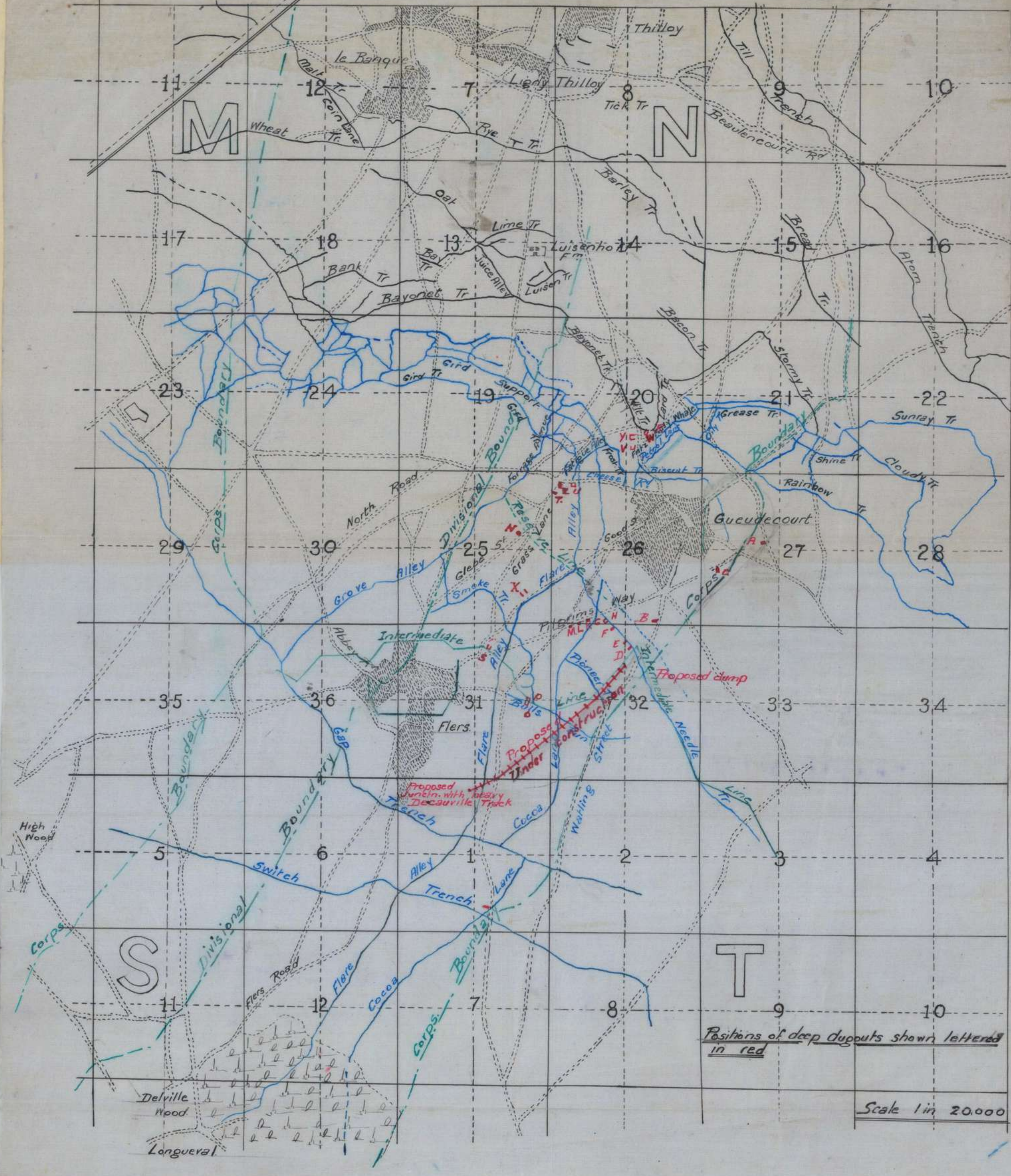
399

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In the Field	9-12-16 To 31-12-16		<p>BULLS RUN Bringing the rations up on Pack Horses. The remainders of the transport doing Transport Duty in that they were carrying ENGINEER STORES.</p> <p>Appendix Attached.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General plan of Area.</li> <li>2. Deep Saps Bulls Run (Eng. H.Q.)</li> <li>3. Observation Post and Saps on Swiss Trench</li> <li>4. Machine Gun Post with Saps.</li> </ol>	

*Robert ...*  
..... Capt  
O.C. 2nd Field Coy. E A.I.F.



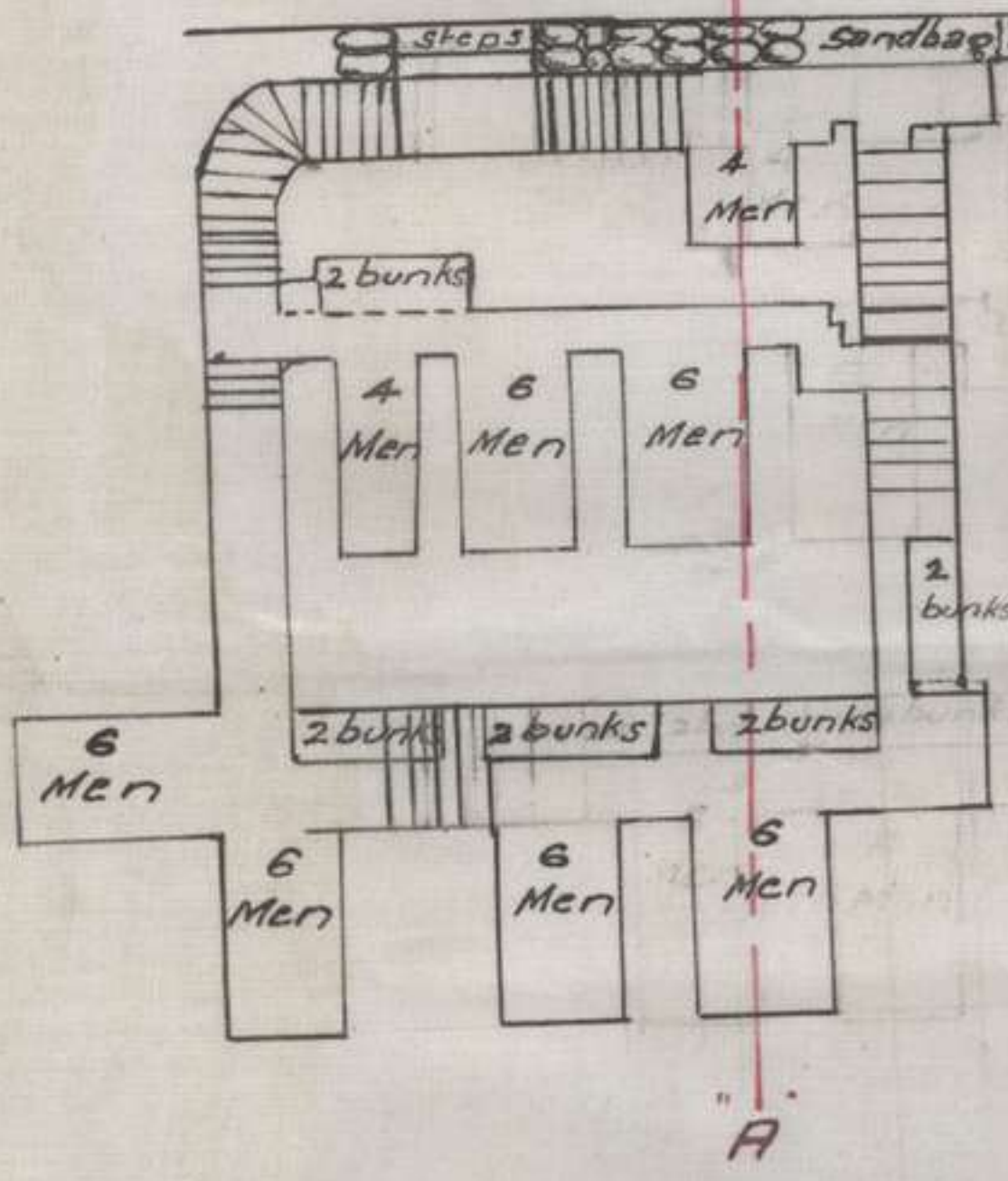
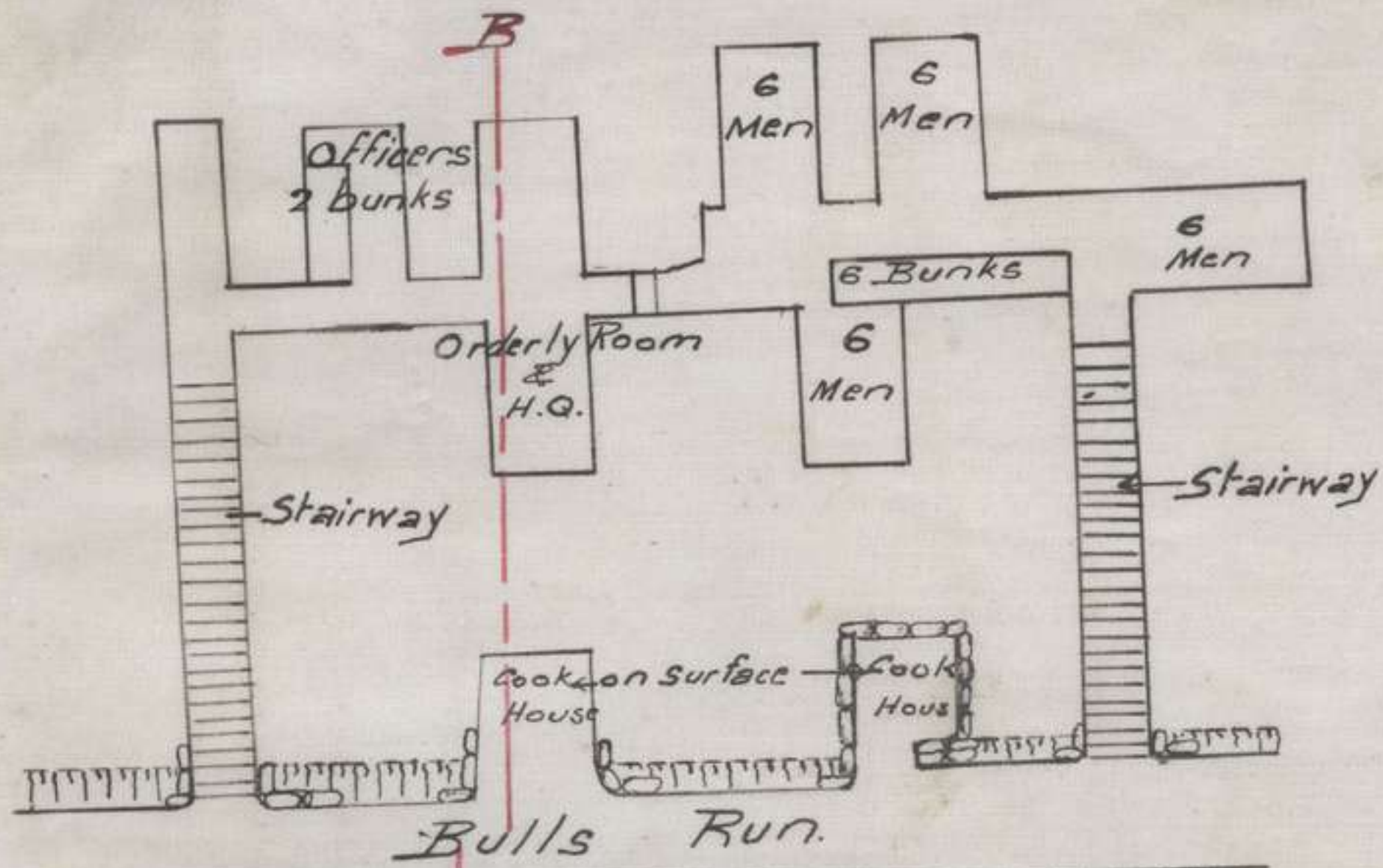
Plan showing area covered by operations of 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Coy Engrs



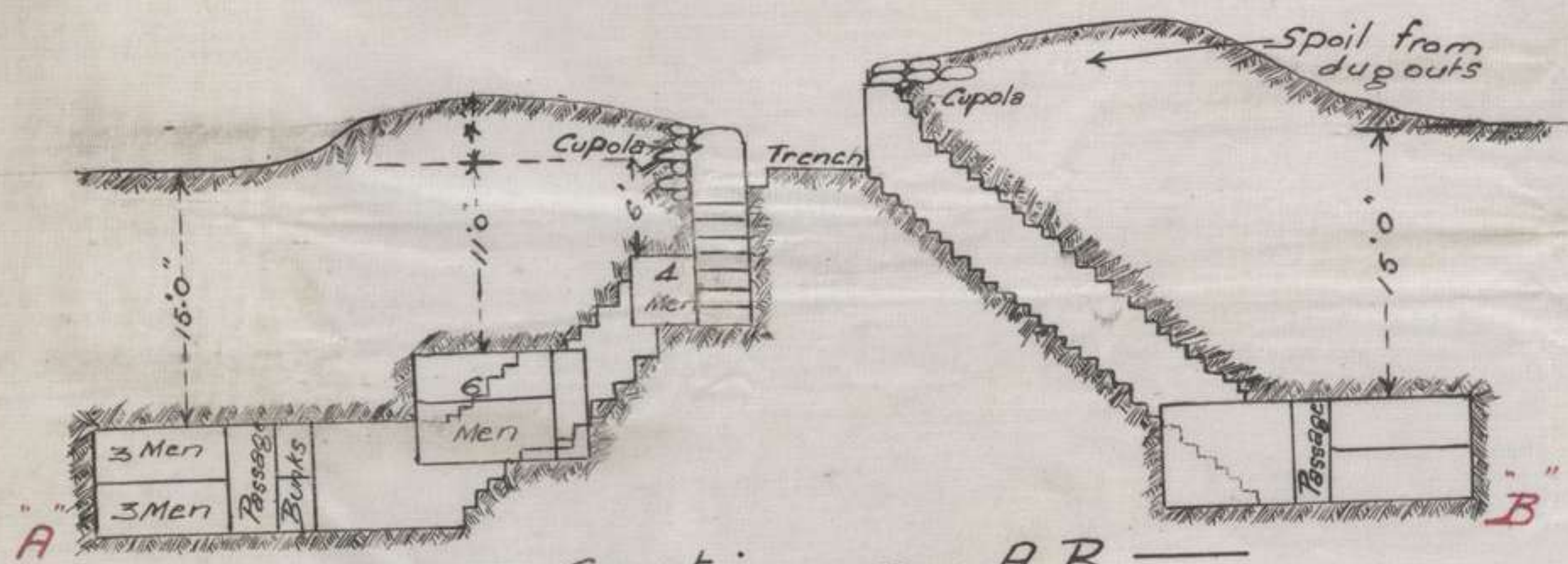
Scale 1 in 20,000

Appendix No. 1



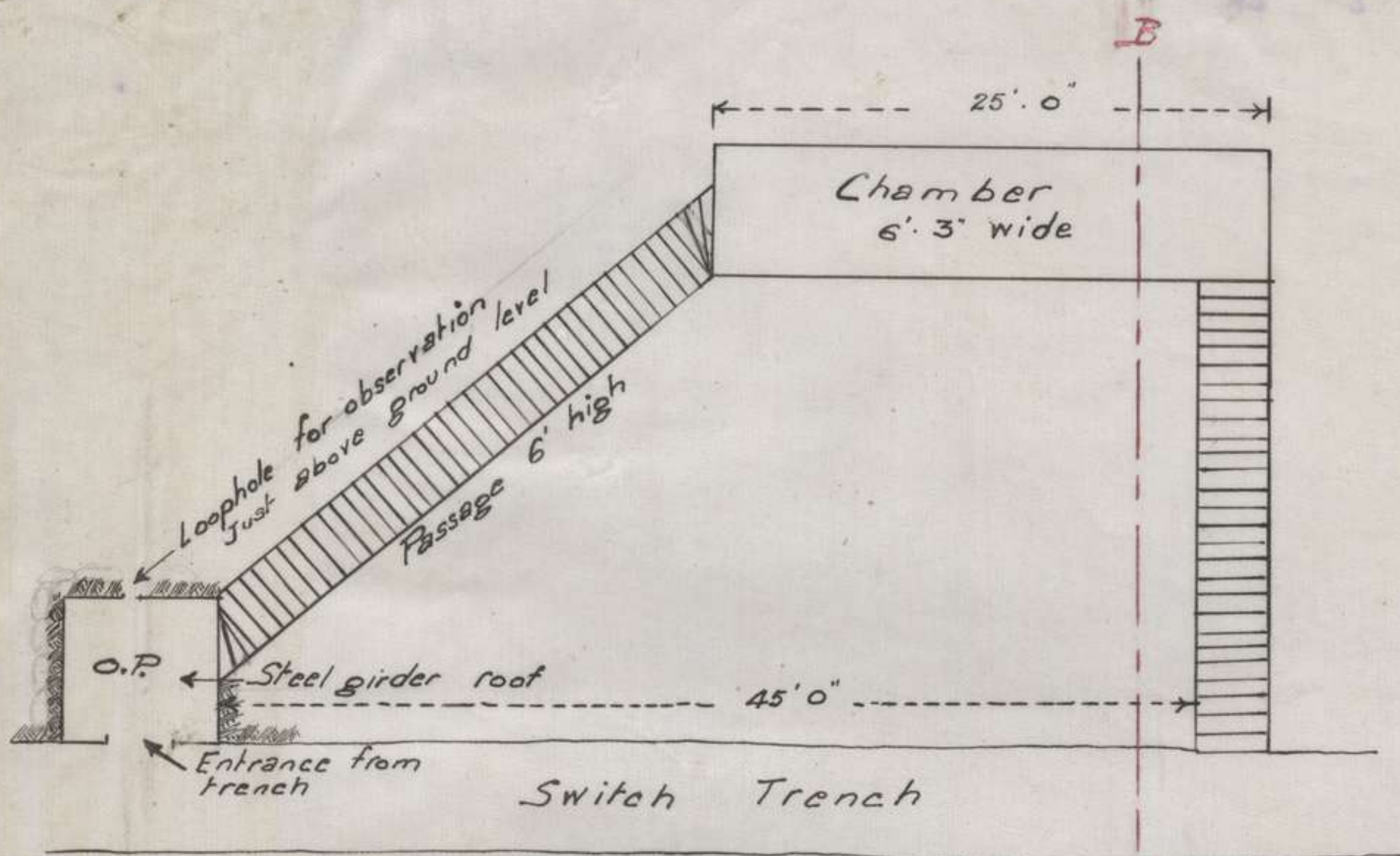


Bulls Run  
Deep Dugouts  
 Scale 15' = 1"



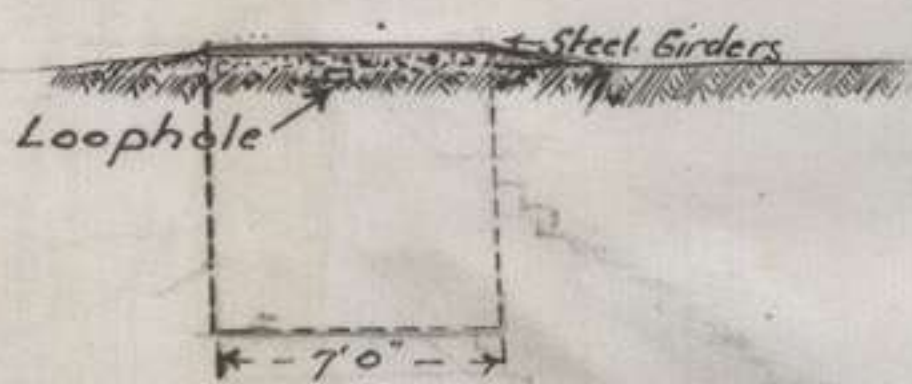
Section on A-B  
 Scale 15' = 1"



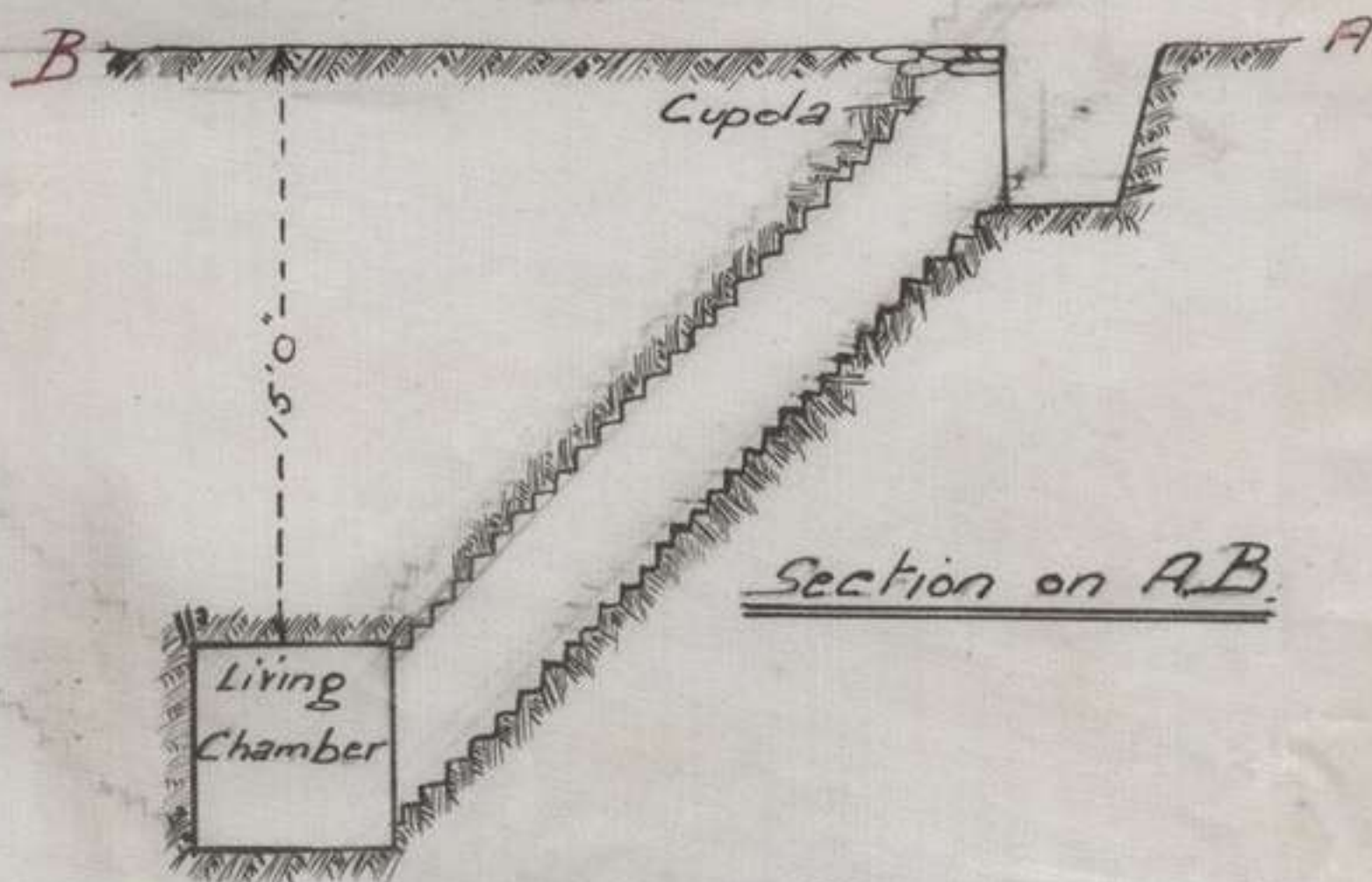


— Plan —

— Observation Post —  
 — Situated in Switch Trench —  
 — Scale 10' = 1" —

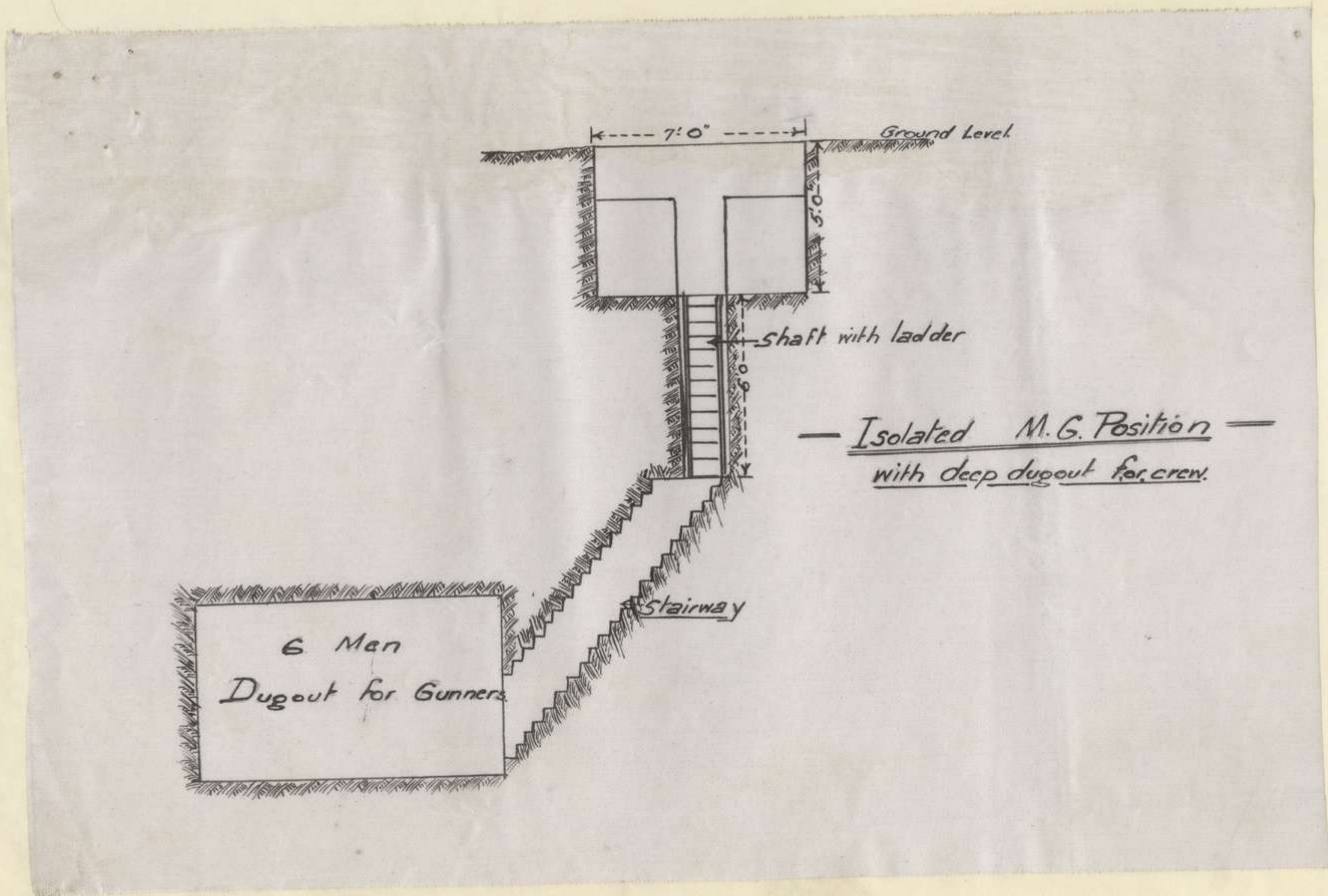


Observation Post  
 showing loophole above  
ground



Section on A.B.





Appendix No. 4