

AWM4

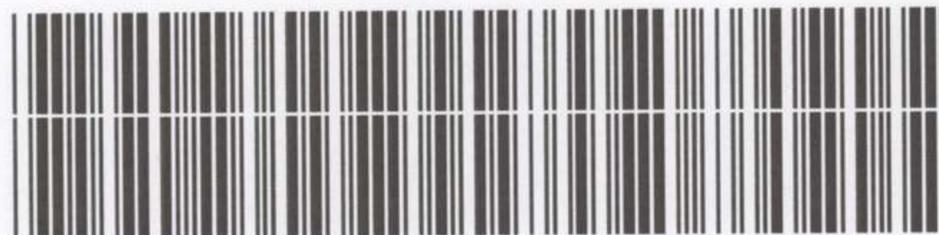
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Engineers

Item number: 14/13/25

Title: 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-14/13/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE.

TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

^{OF}
1ST Aust Pioneer Bn.

^{FOR}
March 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *R. Skell*

Signature of Officer Commanding *A. Murdoch*
LIEUT. COL.

C. O. 1st Pioneer Bn.

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
M14 D 8.5 R.E. Farm	1918 Mar 1		<p>A, D, Tpt & H.Q. move to new camp. Battalion located at follows: H.Q. and Tpt M10 d 2.6 (Godezonne Farm), A. Coy M6 D 7.9 B Coy M11 A 7.8 C Coy M5 d 3.3 D Coy O 1 C 3.5 Weather - cold & windy</p>	
M10 d 2.6 Godezonne Farm	1918 Mar. 2 nd		<p>Battalion distributed on works as follows: A Coy construction of O.P. at Hill 60. Machine gun shelter (S. 1.34) at the Bluff. Repairing tramway (Oak Dump line). Renovating Oak French. Construction of concrete wall at I 34 d 6.7. B. Company No 2 South Sector - Construction of 5. Pts. 5.0.3, 6.0.3, 1.I.33, 1.0.33, 3.0.3, Working at O.3. b. having duck-walk track I 28 a to I 34 a. No 1 South Sector - Construction of 5. Pts. 3.I.34, 1.I.34, 2.I.33, 8.I.34, and M.G. Position 1.I.34, 3.I.33, 8.I.34. No 2 North Sector Construction of 5 Pts. 2.I.35, 13.I.34, 2.I.28, 7.I.34, and M.G. position 13.I.34, 14.I.34, Wire entanglements 1st 2nd 3rd lines Wire entanglements I 34 a to 34 c.</p>	

Handwritten signature

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 3

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	
Niod 2.6 Godezonne Farm	1918		Battn distributed on works as follows:- (Continued)	Weather report 2 Windy cold 3 do 4 do 5 Fine 6 do 7 do 8 do 9 do 10 do 11 do 12 Cold 13 Wet 14 Cold 15 Fine 16 do 17 do 18 do 19 do 20 do	
	Mar.		<u>C Coy</u>		
	3 rd	4 th	5 th		6 th
	7 th	8 th	9 th		10 th
	11 th	12 th	13 th		14 th
	15 th	16 th	17 th		18 th
	19 th	20 th	Revesting, banking up and draining Imperial Avenue. Repairing Breaks, Olaf Avenue. Construction of S.Pts 1. I. 35, 10. I. 34, 11. I. 34, 2. I. 28, Wiring entanglements I 35 at 1.9, to I 29 C 1.4. Patrolling and maintaining Norfolk Plank Road, Verbrander Road, St Eloi to Eikhof Farm, O Track and Image Trench, Oak Track. Camouflage work in Divisional Area. <u>D. Coy.</u> Artillery gun pits and dugouts. at I 34 a 80.65, I 28 d 90.80, I 28 d 42.55, and O 3 a 7.9. French Mortar emplacements and ammunition pits at I 30 C 15.00 and I 30 C 7.2. Construction of Signal Station at O.H. d 1.2. Parts on Railway work. <u>L. G. D.</u> Anti-aircraft work in forward area		

[Signature]

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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
N 10.D 2.6 GODEZONNE FARM	1918 MARCH 21		<p>Battalion distributed on work as follows:</p> <p><u>A Company</u> Construction of Machine Gun Shelters (5. 1. 34) at The Bluff and (10. 1. 34) at 1. 34. d 35. 40. Repairing Oak Dump Bramling. Construction of concrete wall at 1. 34 d 6. 4 and O.P. at Hill 60</p>	21 Weather fine
	21		<p><u>B Company</u> Resting</p>	
	21		<p><u>C Company</u> Resting with the exception of 10 other ranks on roads and tracks in the Dunesval Area</p>	
	21		<p><u>D Company</u> Resting</p> <p>L.G.D. Anti aircraft work in forward area</p>	
N 10 D 2.6 GODEZONNE FARM	22		<p><u>A Company</u> Work held up owing to enemy gas</p>	Weather windy 22

Boydell

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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
N10D26 GODEZONNE FARM	MARCH		<u>B. COMPANY</u>	Weather
	22	1918	No1 North Pector Construction of S points 2.1.30; 3.1.29, 4.1.29, 11.1.35; 1.1.36; 1.1.30; 5.1.29 Tachcal wiring front line. No2 South Pector Construction of S points 1.0.3; 1.1.33; 6.0.3, 5.0.3.3.0.3.	22 Windy
	22	23	Tachcal wiring front line. No1 South Pector - Construction of Strong points 8.1.34; 2.1.33.	23 fine
	24	25	1.1.34. Laying duckwalk track 128.c to 134 b. Tachcal wiring front line	24 fine
	26	27	No2 North Pector - Construction of S points 2.1.35, 13.1.34; 11.34; 2.1.28; and M.G Position 1.1.28. Wire entanglements 2 nd line	25 rain
	28	29	<u>C. COMPANY</u>	26 muggy
	30	31	Repairing breaks in Imperial and OLIFF Avenues. Construction of S Pts 2.1.28; 4.1.28; 3.1.28 and M.G positions (2) 128 b. 7.8. Throng Divisional switch Line. Camouflage in Divisional Area. Patrolling and maintaining roads and tracks in Divisional Area.	27 fine
			<u>D. COMPANY</u>	28 fine
			Construction of artillery dugouts and gun pits at O.3.a, 7.9; 128 d. 9.8; 128 d. 4.2.55 and shell-proof dug out at 134 a 80 65. A party of 1 officer 82 other ranks attached to 5 th Tramway Coy	29 wet
			L.G.D anti-aircraft in forward area	30 wet
				31 fine
	N10D26 GODEZONNE FARM	MARCH		<u>A COMPANY</u>
23		24	Continuation of construction of M.G shelter at 134. d. 35 40 (10.1.34);	
25		26	Concrete wall at 1.34. d. 6 7; Strong point 3.1.35 and Brigade Head Quarter	
27		28	Dugouts. Tramway work at PARMIE DUMP 0 4 d. 1.2. to	
29		30		
	31			
<p>Reference Maps Sheet 28 NE. 28 NW and 28 SE 1/20000 scale.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R. S. Hill</p>				

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 3

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
			<p>Niod. 2. 6. GODEZONNE FARM MONTH OF MARCH 1918</p> <hr/> <p>Strength as at 1/3/18 - 43 off 1231 other ranks Strength as at 31/3/18 - 44 off 1219 other ranks</p> <p>Killed in action - 2 other ranks Evacuated wounded 1 off 65 other ranks Evacuated to Hospital sick 1 off 45 other ranks Taken on strength of unit 1 off 35 other ranks Rejoined unit from Hospital - 1 off 99 other ranks</p> <hr/> <p>War strength increased to 39 OFF 1200 other ranks</p>	
			<p><i>AS</i></p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

1ST HUNT PIONEER BN

FOR

March 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Warning Order No 1 |
| 2 | Sheet 28 NE |
| 3 | Sheet 28 NW |
| 4 | Sheet 28 SW. |

I

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion (Mines) Order No. 1.

app. ①

Battalion Headquarters,

29th March, 1918.

Reference Map Sheet 28.

1. The Northern Divisional Boundary is altered to the line, NORTH FARM (sq. 32.a.7.4.) exclusive - GRASSBERRY FARM (sq. 31.b.1.5.) - sq. 36.b.6.65 - sq. 3.c.0.0. - sq. 28.b.7.4.
2. The Southern Divisional Boundary will run as follows:-
line of the HARBOR to C.M. central, thence to C.26.a.4.4.
3. Sections of reference and zone.
The Divisional Sector is divided into three (3) sections, viz., A, B and C sections.
"A" section from HARBOR up to and exclusive of DARK WOOD sq. C.V.0.
"B" section from and inclusive of DARK WOOD up to and inclusive of the CASAL.
"C" section from the CASAL exclusive up to and inclusive of the HILL of reference as far as the Divisional Boundary.
4. The reserve brigade of the Division is to be held as Corps Reserve (at present the 1st Brigade).
5. The Divisional Reserve will be constituted as follows:-
(a) Reserve Battalion Right Brigade,
(b) Reserve Battalion Left Brigade,
(c) 1st Pioneer Battalion (less detachments).
6. Preparations will be made to man the 2nd zone defences. Therefore, Company and Detail Commanders will ensure that all their officers, N.C.O.s and men are made thoroughly familiar with the whole of the 2nd zone defences and the routes up to same and front line.
7. Reference section XIX of A.S.135, January, 1918, edition. In no case are more than the following officers to go into action.
(a) One (1) officer per platoon.
(b) Two (2) officers per company headquarters.
(c) The C.O. company or 2nd in command company will remain out as detailed below:-
IXX B and C Companies - Company Commanders in.
A and D Companies - Company Commanders OUT.
8. In the event of precautionary action being ordered two (2) machine guns will be allotted to each company.

[Signature]

Capt & Adjutant,

for C.O., 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Distributed by number:-

No. 1 - 1 Coy.

No. 2 - 3 Coy.

No. 3 - 4 Coy.

No. 4 - 5 Coy.

No. 5 - 1 C.

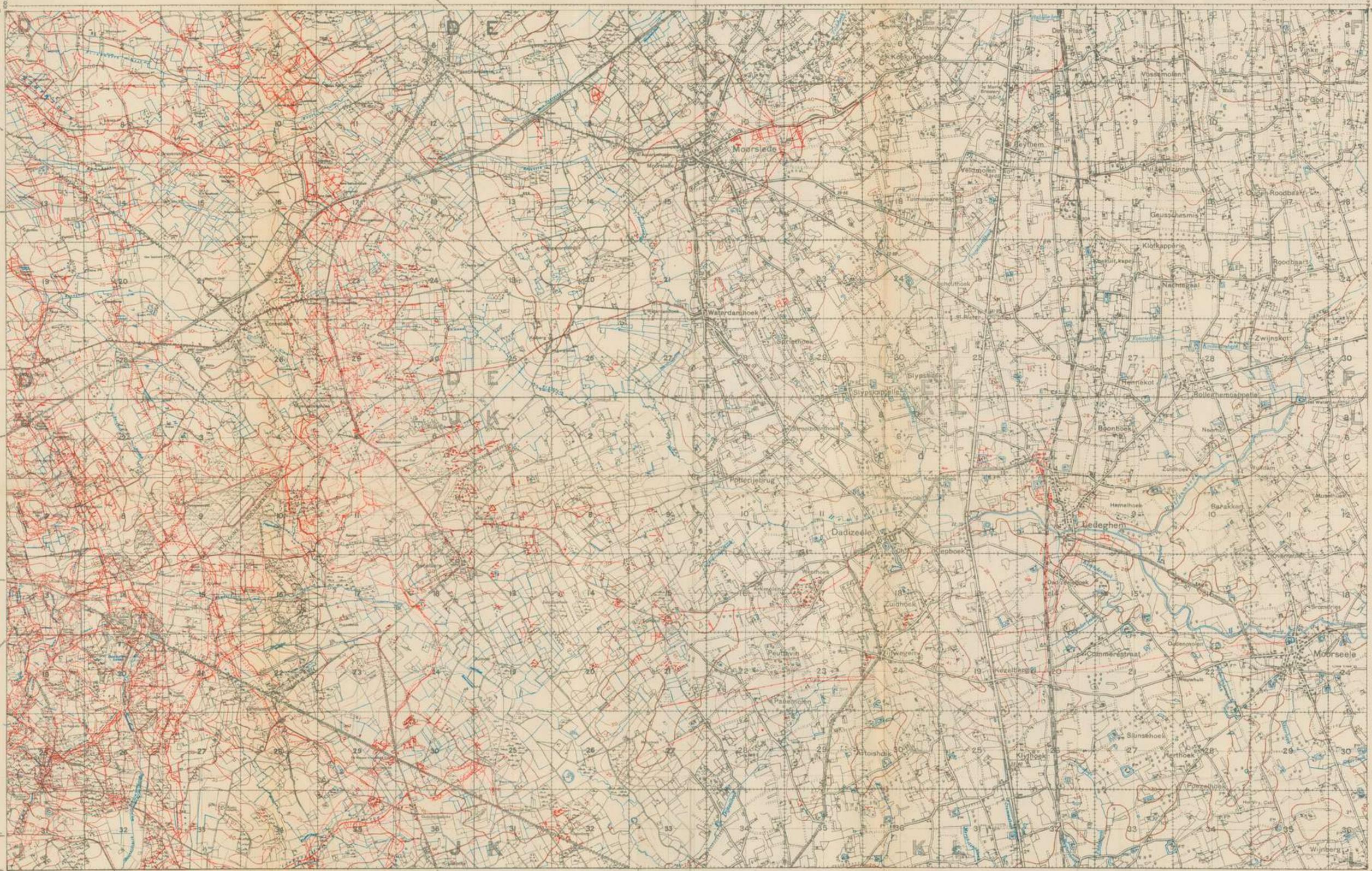
No. 6 - 1 C.O.

No. 7 - Capt. Bordin,

No. 8 - War diary.

No. 9 - File

Appendix 2



INDEX TO SQUARES

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36			

The printed height will however be given with reference to the vertical datum, which is the level of the East and West coasts of the sheet. It should be noted that the height of the spot is not the height of the spot above the datum of the spot.

Grid bearings are not the same as magnetic bearings. The difference between the two is the magnetic declination of the spot. The declination is given in the margin of the map. It should be noted that the declination of the spot is not the declination of the spot above the datum of the spot.

On this sheet the mean declination of a normal compass is 12° 23' but this declination varies from time to time and the declination of the spot should be noted in the margin of the sheet. It should be noted that the declination of the spot is not the declination of the spot above the datum of the spot.

REFERENCE

Any trench apparently repaired for fire		Ridge, Fence or Ditch	
Enemy Trenches		Ditch with Permanent Water	
British Trenches		Observation Points	
Wire Entanglement or Other Obstacle		House	
Enemy's Tracks		Normal Gauge, Double	
British Pipelines or Cables		Single	
Airline		Railways	
Supply Drops		Temporary	
Ammunition		Observation Posts	
Barbed Wire		Listening Posts	
Dug-outs		Machine Gun	
		Truss Mortar	
		Hammer	
		Fortified	

All heights in metres.

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE USE OF THE SQUARES

1. The large rectangles on the map, lettered D, E, F, 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 considered as lettered a, b, c, d. (See Square No. 6 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 W. to E. along the Southern side, and so many from S. to N. along the 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 61; i.e. 6 tenths East and 1 tenth North from origin.

3. To locate a point within a small square, consider the sides divided into tenths, and define the point by taking as many tenths from W. to E. along the Southern side, and so many from S. to N. along the 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 61; i.e. 6 tenths East and 1 tenth North from origin.

4. Use 0 but not 10; use either two or four figures; do not use fractions (e.g. 41.5).

Scale 1:20,000

Metres 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000 4500 5000 5500 6000 6500 7000 7500 8000 8500 9000 9500 10000

DIAGRAM

TABLE FOR CONVERTING METRES TO FEET.

Metres	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Feet	0	32.8	65.6	98.4	131.2	164.0	196.8	229.6	262.4	295.2	328.0
Metres	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210
Feet	360.8	393.6	426.4	459.2	492.0	524.8	557.6	590.4	623.2	656.0	688.8
Metres	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320
Feet	721.6	754.4	787.2	820.0	852.8	885.6	918.4	951.2	984.0	1016.8	1049.6
Metres	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400	410	420	430
Feet	1082.4	1115.2	1148.0	1180.8	1213.6	1246.4	1279.2	1312.0	1344.8	1377.6	1410.4
Metres	440	450	460	470	480	490	500	510	520	530	540
Feet	1443.2	1476.0	1508.8	1541.6	1574.4	1607.2	1640.0	1672.8	1705.6	1738.4	1771.2
Metres	550	560	570	580	590	600	610	620	630	640	650
Feet	1804.0	1836.8	1869.6	1902.4	1935.2	1968.0	2000.8	2033.6	2066.4	2099.2	2132.0
Metres	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760
Feet	2164.8	2197.6	2230.4	2263.2	2296.0	2328.8	2361.6	2394.4	2427.2	2460.0	2492.8
Metres	770	780	790	800	810	820	830	840	850	860	870
Feet	2525.6	2558.4	2591.2	2624.0	2656.8	2689.6	2722.4	2755.2	2788.0	2820.8	2853.6
Metres	880	890	900	910	920	930	940	950	960	970	980
Feet	2886.4	2919.2	2952.0	2984.8	3017.6	3050.4	3083.2	3116.0	3148.8	3181.6	3214.4
Metres	990	1000	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090
Feet	3247.2	3280.0	3312.8	3345.6	3378.4	3411.2	3444.0	3476.8	3509.6	3542.4	3575.2

Contour Interval 5 Metres

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000 4500 5000 5500 6000 6500 7000 7500 8000 8500 9000 9500 10000

43



X3.BA.185
28.1.30cd36
16.2.18. 2

Appendix

11

1st Pioneer
Box

11

11

11



Appendix

34

1st Aust Pioneer
Bn

15

1st Aust Pioneer
Bn

43



X3.B.A. 205
28.0 ac 4c 9.10 ac
21-2-18 2

Apprentice

13

15/11/51
Mrs. D. J. ...

13

off ...

43



X3BA182
28.0.3bd4
16.2.18 2

X

Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly 'M. J. ...'

14

15/11/1914
15/11/1914
15/11/1914

Whitmore

14



Appendix

34

PT 100
101ST
BN

Wherry

61

43



appendix

16

43

FROM
15/11/51
TO
PIONEER

subm...

01

17

Appendix



X3BA.142
28.1.33.030b
S. P. 18. 2

43

33

From
1st
Aust Pione
Bx

Albany

11



X3.B.A.144
28.1.34.0.40
S.2.18.2

Appendix

1st Pioneer
BN

Appendix

18

27

19

Alphons



X.3.B.A.164
 28.I.35cd.O.5ab
 16.2.18. 2

43

From
1st
Hust P
BN

Whangarei

10

Appendix



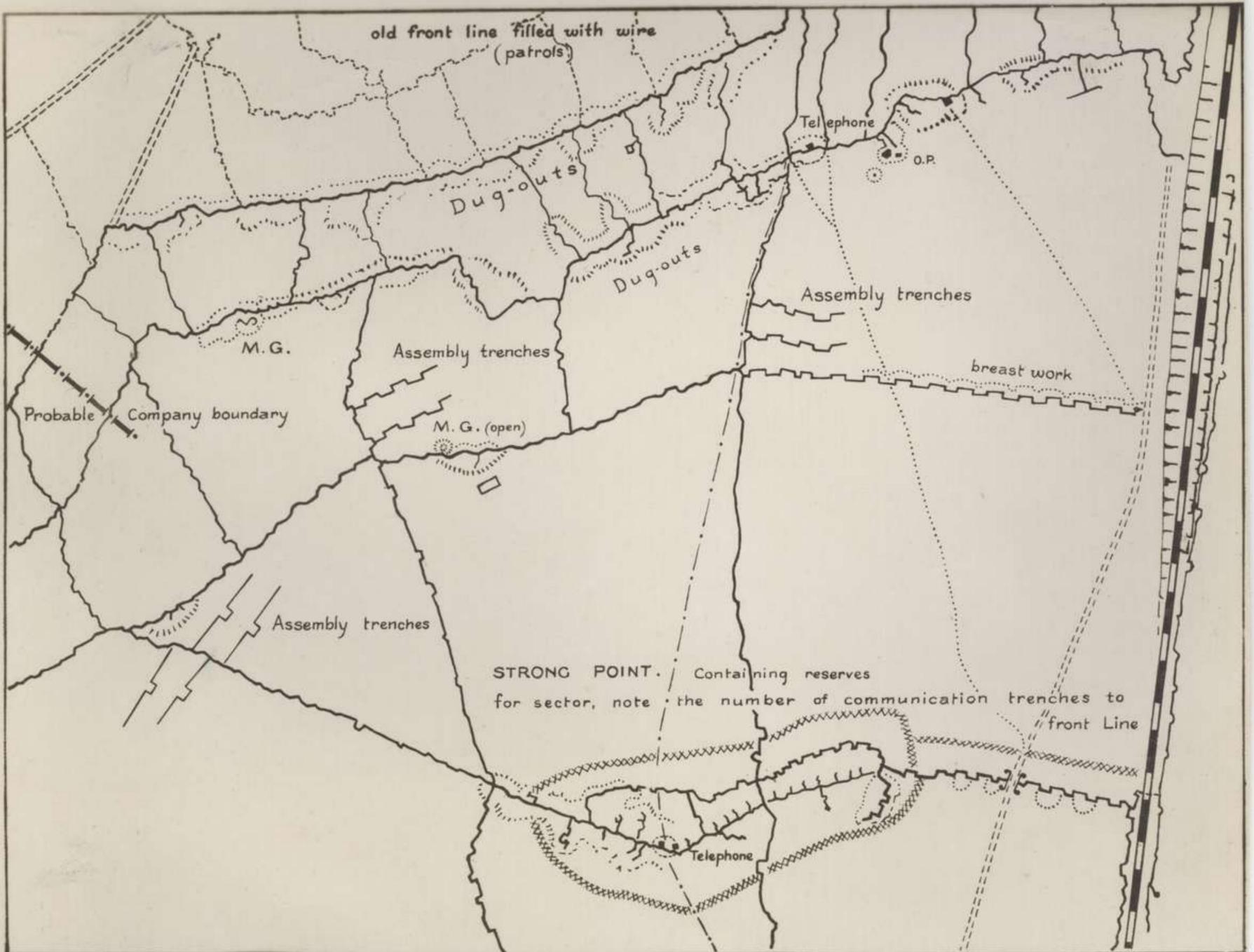
x 3BR 218
 28.T. 28cd 3435ac
 21 2 18 2

43

Front
15/11/51
15/11/51
15/11/51
15/11/51

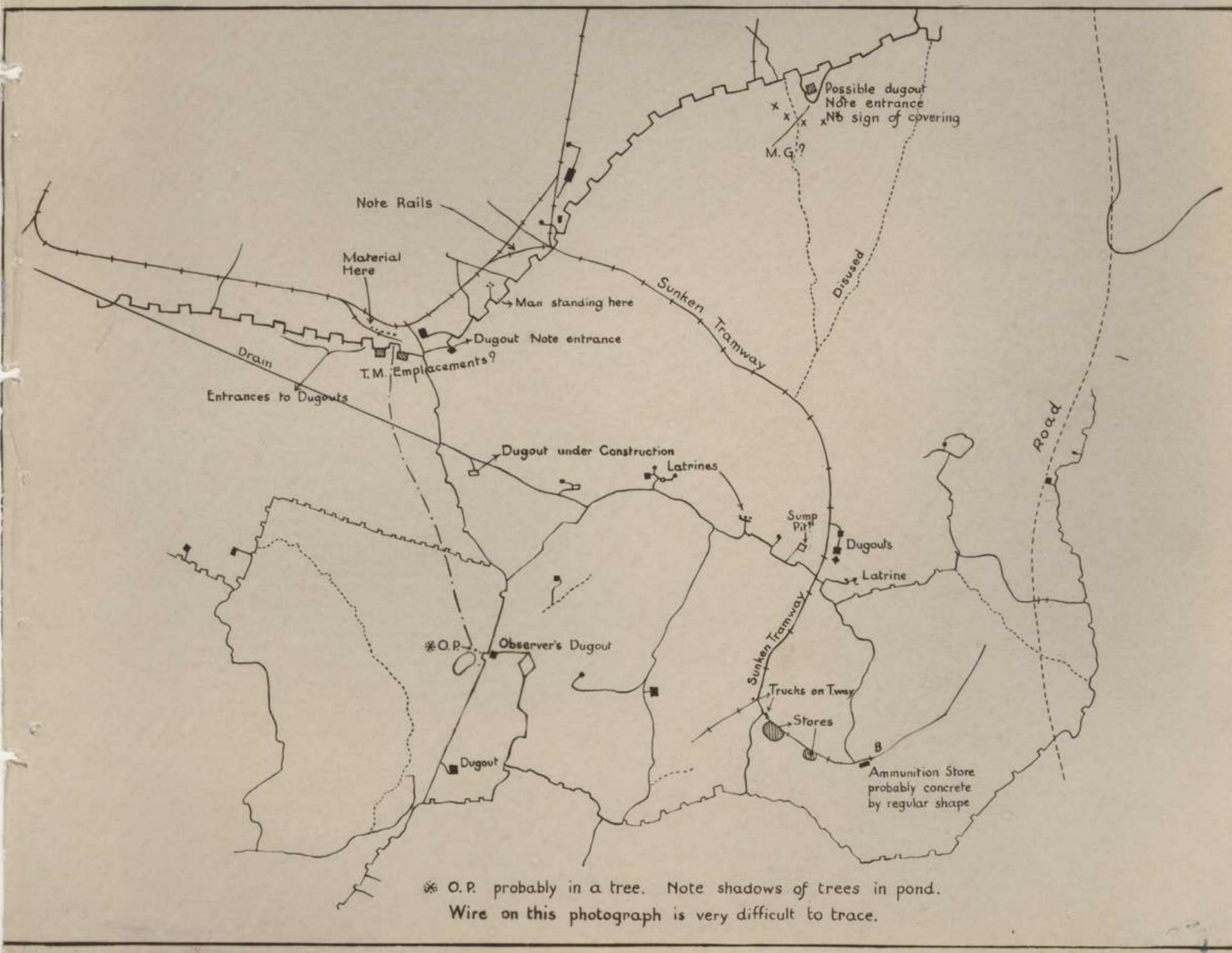
50

W. J. ...



FROM

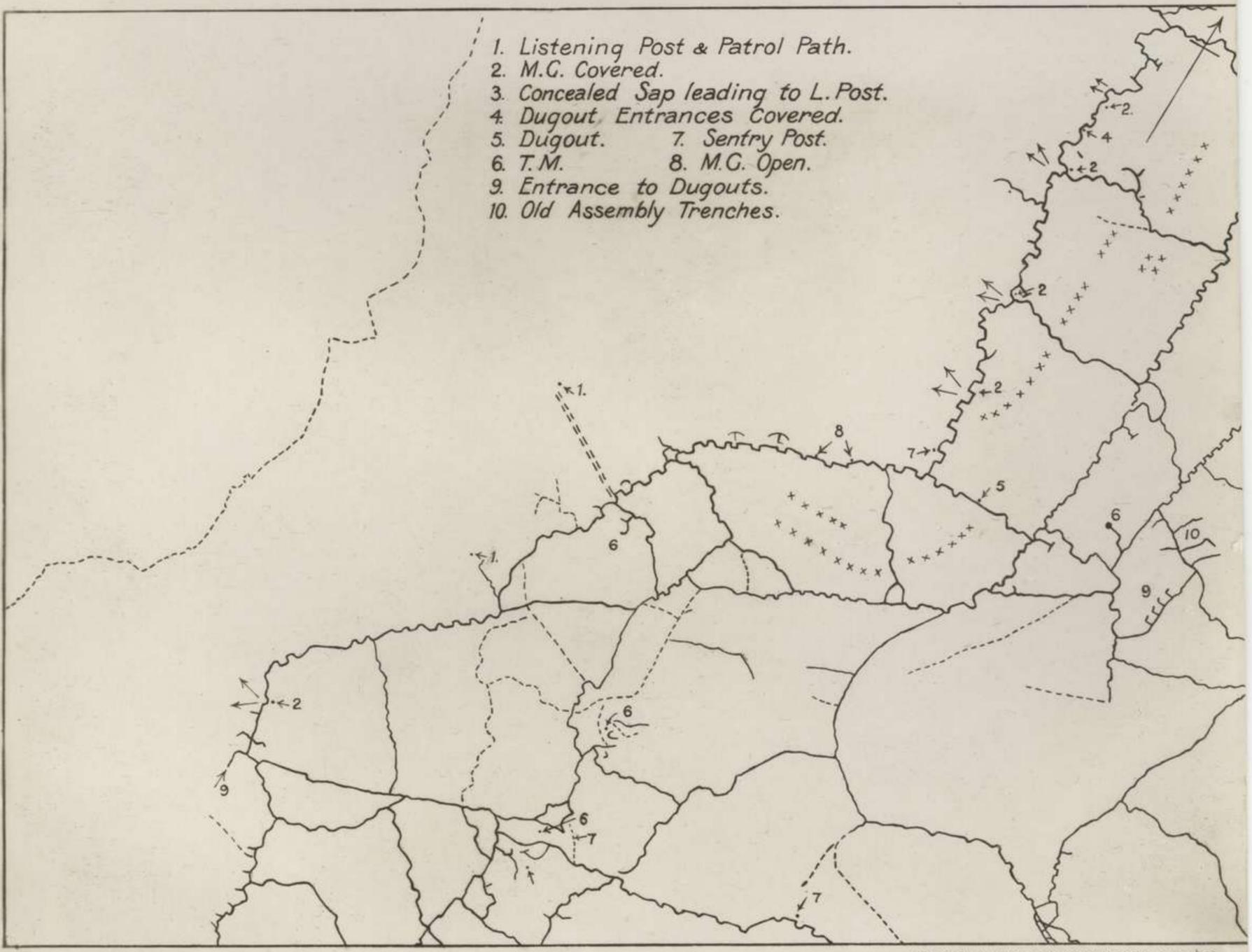
1ST AUST PIONEER BN



* O.P. probably in a tree. Note shadows of trees in pond.
 Wire on this photograph is very difficult to trace.

IRON
1ST HUST PIONEER B_N

Area :- La Bassée Canal to River Scarpe.

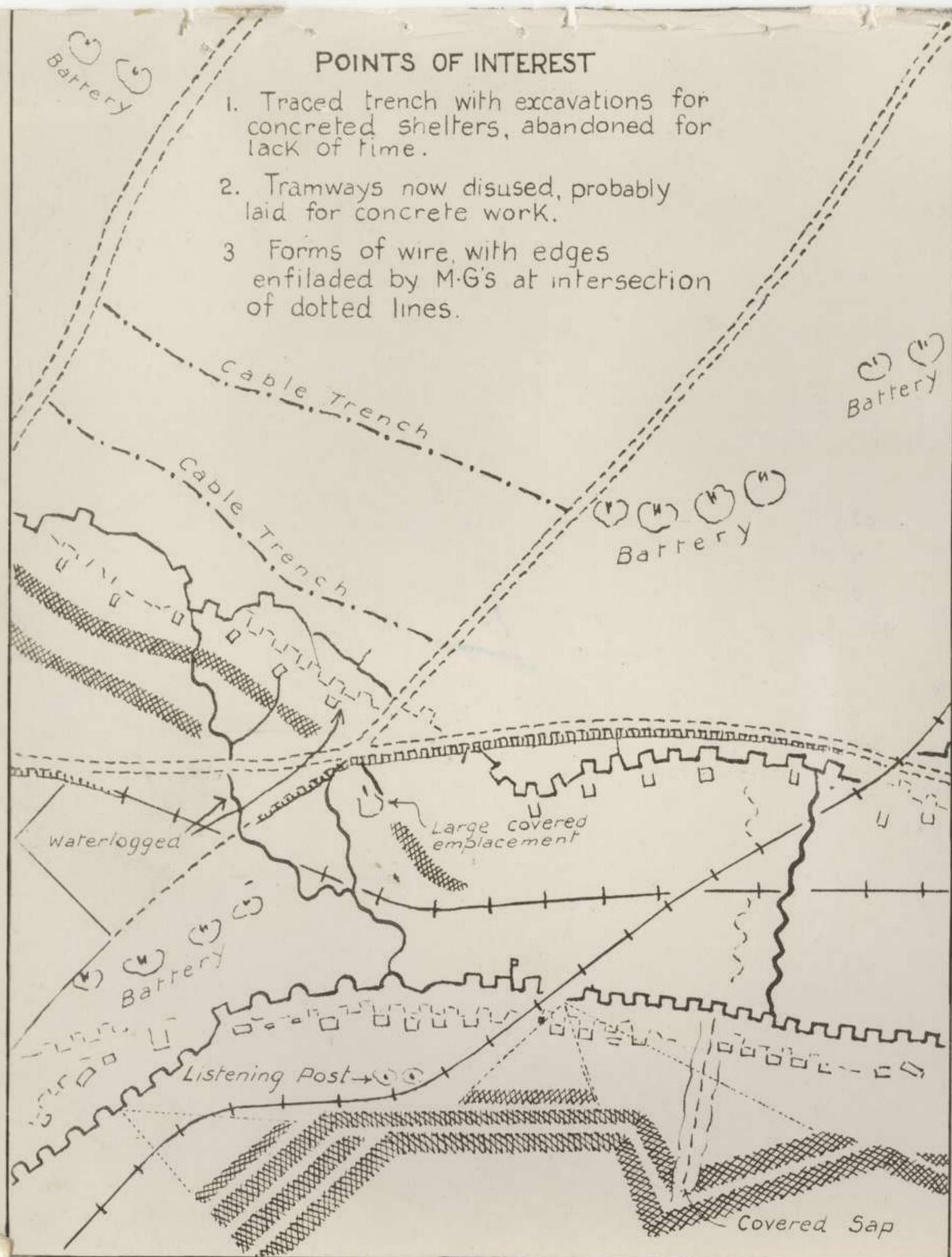


6A
FRONT

1ST JUST PIONEER BN

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Traced trench with excavations for concreted shelters, abandoned for lack of time.
2. Tramways now disused, probably laid for concrete work.
3. Forms of wire, with edges enfiladed by M-G's at intersection of dotted lines.



11
A RENT

1ST HAVST PIONEER BN

Area - Canal du Nord to River Oise



REF. N. 25/10.
 21.6.28. A. 21.6.28.
 24.9.17-9.

- A. - Small Pioneer Dump.
- B. - Note the way the Germans have avoided continuing communication trenches straight through the Support Line.
- C. - Probable underground connection.



KEY.			
EMBANKMENT		CUTTING	
TRENCH MORTARS	Shewn thus: - ○	ROADS & TRACKS	----
MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENTS	⊙	TRENCHES. Constructed	—
GAPS IN BARBED WIRE	xxx)xxx	-Do- Spittocket	- - -
		BARBED WIRE
		RAILWAY	====
		TRAMWAY	----
		DUGOUTS	○
		LISTENING POST	○

From

1ST
AUST PIONEER BN
