

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/13/27

Title: 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-14/13/27

43

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Aust Pioneer Bn

FOR

May

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Small [Signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. Muddish

LIEUT. COL.

C. O. 1st Pioneer Bn

1st Aust Pioneer Bn
May 1918

Brig

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
P35.2.60.	May 1		Location Head Quarters P35.2.60 Batter distributed on works as follows:- A Coy X.I.C 55.90 (HQrs). Engaged on RESERVE LINE of forward system. Working. Repairs and maintenance of Roads B Coy = ST JEAN FARM Q35, D. 1.4 (HQrs) RESERVE LINE General repairs to wire entanglements. Cutting gaps. DEFENCES of FLETRE. Repairs to Roads C Coy = P36 B. 40 (HQrs) SUPPORT LINE Erection of double apron fences and Erection of Bridges D Coy = COMMANDERIE Q33. C 15.35. (HQrs) RESERVE LINE. Trestle and duck-walk track for communication trench L.G. Detachments on anti-aircraft work. 50 other ranks on Artillery dugout supervision 10 off 50 other B HQ Body guard	Weather Fine
P35.2.60.	2		Working and digging trenches, road maintenance filling in shell holes Excavating trenches to connect strong points. cutting & pointing pickets Bridge completed with hand rail, cutting timber, wire entanglements Transportation of wiring materials and B.H.A. 240 coils of wire used 345 pickets and 1040 stakes. L Gunners on anti-aircraft	Weather Fine
P35.2.60	3		Wire entanglements excavating trench to connect strong points, draining trenches, cutting and pointing pickets, thinning hedges filling in shell holes and general repairs and maintenance of roads. Assembling MG post in house cutting timber Artillery dugout supervision Lewis gun Protection on anti aircraft work. Casualties Killed 3 other ranks Died of wounds 3 other ranks Wounded 3 OR	Weather Fine

43

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
P35.2.60	4		Trench construction, ditch line, wire entanglements, Road maintenance, filling in shell holes and general repairs to roads, Transporting 3 HA and material for wiring, cutting fascines, cleaning ditch and building trestle duck walk track for Comm trench, supervision of artillery dugouts. Dismantling of huts and erection 260 coils of barbed wire used 1000 stakes and 100 pickets 1 OR killed 10. Ramments marched in	Weather Cloudy and Fine
P35.2.60	5		Connecting strong points, Road maintaining, Building trestle duckwalk track for communication trench wire entanglements, Improving parapets, trench construction cutting and planting pickets, Huts defences removing huts cutting fascines Lewis Gunners on anti-aircraft, 8 other ranks supervising artillery dug outs 350 coils of barbed wire used, 780 stakes, 660 pickets, 50 duckwalks 10 feet wounded	Weather Rainy
P35.2.60	6		Connecting strong points and wiring. Road maintaining. COURTE-CROIX - ROUGE CROIX LABREDE THIEUSHOUK defences and continuance of wiring etc of previous day. 3 other ranks wounded. Party pulling down & erecting huts to prevent 20 other ranks report	Weather Fine
V6.a.44	4		Battalion HQs move to V6.a.44. and Transport located at V6.a.44 Companies continue on works trench construction, wire entanglements and repairing and maintaining LEFUEPIER-ROUGE CROIX-COURTE CROIX to the Div Boundary filling in shell holes and general repairs. Party engaged erecting huts for new camp. C Coy. move to V12.99	Weather Raining
V6.a.44	8		Companies continue on works of previous day. wire entanglements Improving widening and draining of trenches filling in shell holes and general repairs to roads. Preparing cables for fortifications. Gunners engaged on anti-aircraft work	Weather Fine
V12.99	9		Battalion hands over works to Pioneer Bn of 31st Division. HQs and two companies move to V12.99. B + D Companies move to BORRE Locations B Coy V13C.45.55. D Coy V24.2.4.6.	Weather Fine

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
V12 699	May 10		<p>A Coy not engaged on works proceed with Training (as per syllabus) B Coy engaged on COURTE CROIX SWITCH LINE C Coy ROUGE CROIX SWITCH digging drains, cleaning drains improving trench digging trench, cutting fresh timber + stakes D Coy Salvaging material STRAZELLE STATION ROUGE CROIX TRADELLE LINE Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft</p>	Weather fine
V12 699	11		<p>A Coy inspection of Kit etc. Gas drill and inspection. Section and platoon drill B Coy rapid loading and aiming Company drill Recreational training 3 Companies continue on work of previous day Lewis Gun detachment on anti aircraft Transport engaged on works</p>	Weather fine
V12 699	12		<p>A Coy Company Drill Bayonet fighting Gas Drill Basketry Rapid Loading Company Drill Recreational Training B Coy on ROUGE-CROIX SWITCH Digging and improving trenches, cutting stakes + timber B Coy on COURTE CROIX SWITCH Improving parapets and building parapets, deepening and traversing shallow trench wire entanglements D Coy salvaging 32000 sandbags trench construction and wire entanglements At 9 pm 2400 hour a practice of manning trenches as per defence scheme was carried out with satisfactory results. L.G. on anti aircraft</p>	Weather Fine
V12 699.	13		<p>A Coy Inspection of Company by Platoons by Commanding Officer and Company inspected by RMO. 3 Companies engaged on trench construction, salvaging material improving trenches, wire entanglements and placing ammunition and bombs in position in trenches 10000 rounds SAH placed in position and 500 bombs. Party engaged salvaging material at STRAZELLE. Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft - 46 Remfords marched in</p>	Weather Raining

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
V12.699	May 14		A Coy on Platoon Drill, Bayonet fighting. Musketry Training of platoons for offensive action + recreational training. Three Companies engaged on trench construction, filling in shell holes and general repairs to roads LE PEUPLIER-ROUGE CROIX-COURTE CROIX to Divisional boundary. SWITCH ROUGE CROIX Salving material and improving trenches on TRADELLES-ROUGE CROIX LINE. Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft.	Weather Fine
V12.699	15		A Coy Resting B Coy engaged on COURTE CROIX Switch Line construction of trenches COURT CROIX Defences Repairs to Road at W4A 5.45 C Coy strengthening parapets ROUGE-CROIX Switch Trenching and draining D Coy Salving material at STRAZEELE Improving trenches and building parapets on ROUGE CROIX - TRADELLES LINE. Lewis Gunners on anti-aircraft. 2 men killed	Weather Fine
V12.699	16		A Coy resume work at W18A communication trenches and connecting of same 80 yds completed W24. a. 4.8 Trenching and wiring: C Coy Improvements of existing trenches at STRAZEELE outer defences. Wiring at ROUGE CROIX Switch one platoon resting. D Coy Salving and casting material at STRAZEELE Improving trenches and building parapets at ROUGE CROIX - TRADELLES LINE B Coy resting. Inspection of kit, gas drill section and platoon drill. Musketry Company drill. Recreational training. 1 officer 130 other ranks from B Coy relieve 1 officer and 45 other ranks of D Coy as Divisional Guard. Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft work.	Weather Fine
V12.699	17		B Coy on Company Drill Bayonet fighting gas drill Musketry rapid loading Recreational training A Coy constructing communication trench at W23A C Coy on STRAZEELE defences excavation and construction of trenches D Coy Salving material at STRAZEELE Improving trenches building parapets at ROUGE CROIX - TRADELLES LINE. 1st Coy engaged on building splinter proof dug-outs for artillery. LED on anti-aircraft.	Weather Fine

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
V12699	18		B Coy training: Inspection by Battalion Commander, Guards and Captains Training of platoons for Offensives Action and recreational training. Instruction of platoon in use of Lewis Gun. C.A + D Companies continue on works of previous day. Lewis Gunners engaged on anti-air-craft.	Weather Warm
V12699	19		B Coy morning - Church parade - afternoon recreational training and sports. H Coy preparing bases for commencement of work on concrete dugouts. Scaffolding timber for taking communication trench. Improving and constructing defensive positions and road maintenance. C Coy S.P. excavation + communication trench. Barbed wire entanglements. D Coy Salvaging material + excavating trench wiring and cleaning cellars and excavation of communication trench. Lewis Gunners on anti-air-craft.	Weather very Warm
V12699	20		B Coy Resting. H Coy. Communication trench 400 yds of trench improved. Improving and constructing defensive positions. Hedge ditches out + in. Road and Road maintenance. C Coy STRAZEELE Barbed wiring and trench improving. M.G.P. and C.T. ROUGE CROIX Hedges thinned. M.G.P. head over improvements. D Coy STRAZEELE Salvaging material + excavating + improving trenches, wiring hedges and excavating communication trench. Lewis Gunners on anti-air-craft.	Weather very Warm
V12699.	21		B Coy Resting - Inspection of Kib. Gas drill + Inspection, Section and Platoon drill. - Musketry. Rapid Loading and Ammunition. Company drill + Recreational training. One company on trench construction, trenching and transporting material. Salvaging material. TRADELLES defences. Fixing hedges, wire entanglements. Improving trenches, fortifying cellars, excavating communication trenches. Erecting H.Q. accommodation. Improving and constructing defensive positions, concrete dug outs + Road maintenance. Lewis Gunners on anti-air-craft.	Weather Warm

D. H. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Form C/2118/14

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
V12.6.99	May 22		C Coy. Company drill, Bayonet fighting, Gas drill, Musketry rapid loading, Company drill & recreational training. 3 companies continue on. Improving and constructing defensive positions, concrete dug outs. Road maintenance trench construction, preparing house for fortification. Wire entanglements. Salvaging material, erecting HQs for 1st Bde. Framing hedges, constructing machine gun positions Lewis gunners on anti aircraft	Weather Warm
V12.6.99	23		C Coy. Inspection by Battalion Commander Guards + sentries. Training of platoons for offensive action. Recreational training. D Coy salvaging material, carting material, erecting head quarters for 1st Bde artillery and communication trench at STRAZEELE. B Coy preparing cellars for fortification. Trench construction and wire entanglements. H Coy improving and constructing defensive positions. Shunning hedge & trench construction of concrete dug outs. Lewis gunners on anti aircraft	Weather Warm
V12.6.99	24		C Coy. Platoon drill, Bayonet fighting, Musketry, Training of platoons for offensive action. Recreational training. H Coy construction of concrete dug outs, bagging and loading. Maintenance COURTECROIX - ROUGE CROIX Roads. B Coy trench construction STRAZEELE and KLITE HILL defences, preparing cellars for defences wire entanglements. D Company excavating STRAZEELE communication trench, salvaging & carting material, erecting head quarters 1st Bde artillery. Lewis gunners on anti aircraft	Weather Raining
V12.6.99	25		C Coy. Instruction in Lewis Gun & Recreational training. H Coy construction of concrete dug outs, improving and constructing defensive positions, Road maintenance STRAZEELE - COURTE CROIX - ROUGE CROIX. B Coy trench construction preparing cellars for fortifications wire entanglements. D Coy salvaging and carting material. Erecting head quarters for 1st Bde artillery. Lewis gunners engaged on anti-aircraft	Weather Fine

WAR DIARY

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
V12.6.99	May 26		G Coy church parade B Coy STRALEE DEFENCES wire entanglements trench construction, reconstructing cellars for fortifications. D Coy salting and carting material excavating communication trench STRALEE erecting head of accommodation for 1st BODE HQs H Coy construction of concrete dugouts, improving and constructing defensive positions road maintenance loading concrete material Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft. Casualties 2 other ranks killed 3 other ranks wounded	Weather fine
V12.6.99	27		D Coy Resting C Coy salting and carting material, excavating communication trench STRALEE B Coy STRALEE defences, wire entanglements trench construction reconstructing cellars for fortifications, H Coy construction of concrete dugouts, improving and constructing defensive positions, road maintenance STRALEE-COURT CROIX-ROUGE CROIX roads, Lewis Gunners engaged on anti aircraft	Weather fine
V12.6.99	28		D Coy Resting B Coy take up position in Reserve defence line. H Coy construction of concrete dugouts, improving and constructing defensive positions Road maintenance STRALEE, COURTE CROIX + ROUGE CROIX roads, loading and unloading concrete material. C Coy Building artillery wireless dugouts, salting material improving and draining trenches. Lewis Gunners on anti aircraft.	Weather fine
V12.6.99	29		D Coy Resting B Coy in Reserve defence line. salting material and trucking to dumps from STRALEE STATION. Improving and draining trench PRADELLES defences. Salting and rivetting cellars construction of concrete dugouts COURTE CROIX trench improving and constructing defensive positions. Road maintenance STRALEE-COURTE CROIX-ROUGE CROIX roads, wire entanglements trench construction, reconstruction of cellars for fortifications. Lewis Gunners engaged on anti-aircraft.	Weather fine

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14

WAR DIARY

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
V12699	May 30		D' Coy Resting. Construction of concrete dugouts, Road maintenance STRAZEELE COURTECROIX-ROUGE CROIX roads, filling in shell holes and general repairs, bagging and loading concrete. Trench construction, Construction of cellars for fortification. Trench construction KLITEHILL Improving and draining trenches STRAZEELE AVENUE. Constructing artillery dugouts, putting cellars and revetting. Lewis gunners on anti aircraft casualties 1 killed 1 wounded 2 M.C.O.P. moved to Power Sq Bn	Weather Fine
V12699	31		D' Coy Resting & Recreational training 3 companies at work. Improving trenches and draining TRADELLES Defences STRAZEELE AVENUE Salving material STRAZEELE STATION Improving dugouts and revetting, Construction of concrete dugouts Road maintenance STRAZEELE-COURTECROIX-ROUGE CROIX Roads, Bagging concrete material, Construction of O.P. Trench construction at STRAZEELE This entanglements COURTECROIX. Reconstructing cellars for fortification at STRAZEELE Lewis gunners on anti aircraft	Weather Fine

73

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Map Location V 12 E. 99. Sheet-2nd.	
			<u>MONTH OF MAY 1918</u>	
			Strength as at 1/5/18 43 officers 1289 other ranks	
			Strength as at 31/5/18 43 officers 1301 other ranks	
			Killed in action 9 other ranks	
			Evacuated Wounded 1 officer 19 other ranks	
			Evacuated to Hospital (Sick) 1 officer 58 other ranks	
			Taken on strength of Unit 36 other ranks	
			Returned from Hospital 1 68 other ranks	
			Wounded but remaining at duty 2 other ranks	
			Dead of Wounds 3 other ranks	

6

43

10

18,000-12/17-8723

WAR DIARY

OF
1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BN

FOR

May 191*8*

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Defence scheme No 4
2	Addendum to " "
3	Handingover reports to 3 rd Lev
4	Defence scheme No 5
5	Syllabus of training for A. Coy.
6	Syllabus of training for B Coy.
7	Syllabus of training for C Coy.
8	Additional inst. to Defence scheme No 5
9	additional inst to " "

1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION DEFENSIVE SCHEME No. 4. *appendix 1.*Battalion Headquarters,
30th April, 1918.

- ①
- This cancels defensive scheme No. 3 as from night of 1/2nd May, 1918.
 - In order to secure unity in command and to distribute the nucleus garrison in depth, the 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion will occupy as nucleus garrison the reserve system of first zone and "A" line of second zone in the Left Brigade sector. Posts will be selected for occupation which will afford mutual support by fire covering the intervening ground as far as possible.
 - The effect of this redistribution will be that in the event of a general manning there will be definite nucleus garrisons in the Right sector under the Commanding Officer, 17th Northumberland Fusiliers, and Left sector by the Commanding Officer, 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
 - On and after night of 1/2nd May, 1918, A Company will garrison Reserve Line from left divisional boundary to X.7.b.6.6. B Company - Reserve Line from X.7.b.6.6. to W.11.d.8.4. and also the defended locality of FLATRA. C Company - will garrison Reserve Line from W.11.d.8.4. to W.16.b.1.4. and also the defended locality of ROUGE CROIX. D Company - will garrison the Front Line of 2nd zone from Q.35.e.3.4. to W.14.b.3.4. Further instructions will be issued regarding the proportion of troops to be used between Reserve Line and defensive localities.
 - On a general attack being made by the enemy, platoons will at once move to the strong points to which they are allotted. Each man before moving will be provided with a total of 220 rounds per man, the extra 100 being supplied from company reserves.
 - The redistribution necessitates new Company Headquarters, platoon posts and L.C. positions. Companies will forward ^{now} locations to B.H.Q. as soon as possible.
 - C and D Companies will render to R.O.R. by 1 p.m. 1/5/18, a return of S.A.A., bombs and water stored in strong points running right from W.16.b.1.4. The 17th Northumberland Pioneer Railway Battalion will be responsible for the garrison of Reserve Line from W.16.b.1.4. to right flank from night 1/2nd May, 1918.
 - In all posts occupied by Companies, ammunition will be stored to the extent of 200 rounds per man (45 men to post); 3,000 rounds per Lewis Gun and Grenades where necessary. Arrangements should be made to ensure that this ammunition is protected against the weather. In small strong points not occupied by this Battalion ammunition will be stored to the extent of 200 rounds per man (20 men to post); 3,000 rounds per Lewis Gun and the necessary grenades. A reserve of 60,000 rounds will also be provided for in each defended locality. Water will be also stored in each post.
 - These instructions will be put into force immediately without delay and reports rendered to B.H.Q. as soon as completed. A detailed statement of amount of ammunition so deposited and the points of its distribution will be kept by each company and a copy forwarded to B.H.Q.

Distribution:-

No. 1 - A Coy.	No. 5 - L.C.O.
No. 2 - B Coy.	No. 6 - War diary.
No. 3 - C Coy.	No. 7 - File.
No. 4 - D Coy.	No. 8 - spars.

Capt & Adjutant,
for C.O.*X. R. [Signature]*

Copy No. 6.

SECRET.

ADDITION TO 1st AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTAL DEFENSIVE
SCHEME No. 4.

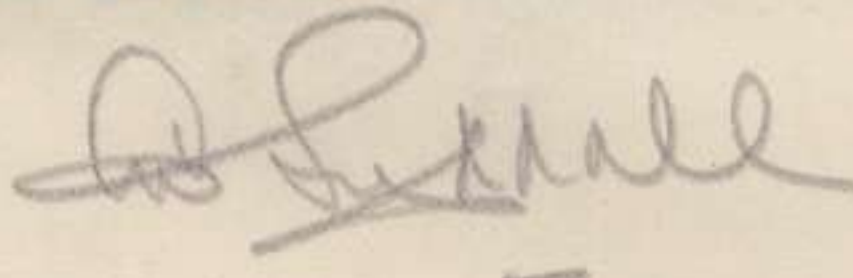
Battalion Headquarters,
1st May, 1918.

Reference para. 4

A Company will garrison the following:-
Two (2) platoon posts on the left of Road junction at
A.S.C.C.1. and 2 platoon posts on the right of this
location.

B and C Companies will garrison the Reserve Line
with 1 platoon divided into four (4) section posts.
Under these circumstances the platoon commander
should be situated with the centre section. The
remaining three (3) platoons will garrison the
defended localities of PLATRE and BOUCS CHOIX
respectively.

Companies will forward to B.C.R. by 2 p.m., 2/5/18,
the information asked for in paragraph 6 of
Defensive Scheme No. 4, together with proposed
positions of reserve ammunition.



Capt & Adjutant,
for C.C.

Distribution:-

- No. 1 - A Coy.
- No. 2 - B Coy.
- No. 3 - C Coy.
- No. 4 - D Coy.
- No. 5 - L.G.C.
- No. 6 - War Diary.
- No. 7 - File.
- No. 8 - Spare.



appendix 3 13

1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION HANDING OVER REPORT, 9/5/18.

Battalion Headquarters,
9th May, 1918.

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion will be relieved in the Left sub-sector by the Pioneer Battalion, 31st Division.

Present locations are as follows:-

Battalion Headquarters,	V.6.a.7.4.
Transport,	V.6.a.8.5.
A Company,	X.1.c.5.8.
B Company,	Q.35.d.7.4.
C Company,	W.1.d.5.9.
D Company,	Q.33.c.1.3.

The Battalion has been employed on the following works:-

RESERVE LINE OF FORWARD SYSTEM from W.12.c.9.5. to left boundary. Continuing widening of trenches to 3'6" at bottom, 5' at top, splinter-proof shelters, drainage, also additional wiring.

DEFENCE OF FLETRE. All earthworks completed with the exception of splinter-proof shelters and Lewis Gun positions in buildings. (See map attached).

ROADS. Maintenance of all roads forward of (D.G.F.) Line east from W.7.d.6.6. to Q.31.a.6.3.

Ammunition and grenades are stored as follows:-

<u>S. A. A.</u>	<u>BOMBS.</u>	<u>LOCATION.</u>
2,000	...	W.12.c.0.4.
2,000	...	W.12.d.1.5.
5,000	...	W.12.d.50.65.
2,000	...	W.12.d.80.75.
2,000	...	W.12.a.8.9.
3,000	...	W.12.b.8.1.
3,000	...	W.12.b.90.35.
2,000	...	X.7.a.1.6.
2,000	...	X.7.a.30.75.
2,000	48	X.7.a.80.75.
5,000	...	X.7.a.90.75.
3,000	48	X.7.b.00.75.
2,000	...	X.7.b.3.6.
25,000	...	X.3.c.7.5.
30,000	120	X.3.c.4.4.
17,000	144	X.8.a.9.9.
12,000	24	X.8.a.7.8.
54,000	804	X.2.c.95.40.
Switch Line		
4,000	.12	X.2.d.10. to X.3.c.6.5.
	<u>FLETRE DEFENCE LINE.</u>	
12,000	96	W.12.a.5.5.
12,000	...	W.12.b.2.4.
12,000	...	W.6.c.7.8.
12,000	144	W.6.d.4.5.
8,000	...	W.12.d.40.65.
	<u>FRONT LINE, 2nd SYSTEM.</u>	
8,000	...	W.4.d.20.85.
4,000	...	W.4.c.25.75.
8,000	...	W.9.b.85.25.
5,000	...	W.9.cent. to W.9.b.50.00.

Lieut-Colonel,

Commanding 1st Aust. Pioneer Bn.

43

appendix 4
14
Copy No. 6
(No 5)

SECRET.
H

1st AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION DEFENCE SCHEME No. 5.

Battalion Headquarters,
10th May, 1918.

Reference sheet 27, S.S.
1/20,000.

1. Defence scheme no. 4 dated 30th April, is cancelled.
2. In the event of an attack the Battalion will be called upon to garrison the following:-

A COMPANY the defended localities of HOUSE CHICK and PRADERS.

B COMPANY nucleus garrison for COURTS CHICK switch from W.25.d.d.d. to W.18.b.8.8. (two platoons); also Reserve line between W.12.c.9.d. to W.11.c.8.2.

C COMPANY nucleus garrison of Reserve line from W.11.c.8.2. to W.12.b.7.5.

D COMPANY nucleus garrison of Reserve line from W.11.b.7.5. to Railway at E.3.c.3.3.

These lines and defended localities will be occupied by posts which will not be less than one (1) section of riflemen and one (1) Lewis Gun section, or two (2) sections of riflemen.

3. In the event of an alarm the following messages will be sent to companies (a) "stand to," (b) "take up defensive positions". On receipt of the order "stand to" companies will stand to arms in billets and await orders. Press - fighting order, water bottles filled, 200 rounds of S.A.A. On receipt of the order "take up defensive positions" companies will move at once to defensive positions. On arriving at positions companies will immediately get in touch with units on flanks.
4. Companies will forward to S.H.Q. by 5 p.m., 11/5/18, a sketch showing the strength and location of each post and company Headquarters.
5. The instructions re ammunition and water in defence scheme no. 4 will be adhered to.
6. Practice manning will be carried out by each company at the earliest opportunity.
7. Special attention will be paid to signal communications by all concerned.

[Signature]

Capt & Adjutant,
for C.O.,
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

- Distribution:-
- No. 1 - A Coy.
 - No. 2 - B Coy.
 - No. 3 - C Coy.
 - No. 4 - D Coy.
 - No. 5 - L.C.O.
 - No. 6 - War diary.
 - No. 7 - File.
 - No. 8 - Spare.
 - No. 9 - Spare.

~~X R~~

10/5/18. 13
appendix 5.
425 P1
SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR "A" COMPANY, 1ST. AUST. PIONEER
BATTALION, 11th to 14th May, 1918 (inclusive).

By Lieut-Colonel T. MURDOCH,
C.O., 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

<u>11th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Inspection of Kit, etc.
	9.30-10 a.m.	Gas Drill and Inspection.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Section and Platoon Drill.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and lecturette by platoon commanders).
	11-11.45 a.m.	Masketry - Rapid Loading and Aiming.
	11.45-12 noon.	Company Drill.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>12th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Company Drill.
	9.30-10.30 a.m.	Bayonet Fighting.
	10.30-10.50 a.m.	Gas Drill.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and Lecturette).
	11-11.45 a.m.	Masketry - Rapid Loading.
	11.45-12 noon.	Company Drill.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>13th May.</u>	9-10 a.m.	Inspection by Battalion Commander. Dress - Fighting Order.
		Note - This will be by platoons.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Guards and Sentries.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and Lecturette on Fire Control).
	11-12 noon.	Training of platoons for offensive action.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>14th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Platoon Drill.
	9.30-10 a.m.	Bayonet Fighting.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Masketry (Rapid loading).
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and Lecturette on Fire Control).
	11-12 noon.	Training of platoons for offensive action.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.

1. One platoon each day will have instruction in Lewis Gun for 45 minutes in morning's training.
Lewis Gunx Section will be placed at the disposal of a platoon each day.
2. At least one lecture should be given to illustrate the most recent tactical developments. This lecture should include:-
 - (a) Instruction in the development of the employment of the light machine gun in the attack.
 - (b) The German method of penetration at weak spots and of endeavouring to avoid losses by refraining from directing attacks on strong positions,
 - (c) The German method of employment of gas shells and the recent method employed as regards preliminary bombardment.



Capt & Adjutant,

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

43
War diary
6

appendix. 6. 16
14/5/1918.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR "B" COMPANY, 1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION, 16th to 19th May, 1918 (inclusive),
By Lieut-Colonel T. MURDOCH,
C.O., 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

<u>16th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Inspection of Kit, etc.
	9.30-10 a.m.	Gas drill and inspection.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Section and Platoon Drill.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and lecturette by Platoon Commandrs)
	11-11.45 a.m.	Musketry - Rapid Loading and Aiming.
	11.45-12 noon.	Company Drill.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>17th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Company Drill.
	9.30-10.30 a.m.	Bayonet Fighting.
	10.30-10.50 a.m.	Gas Drill.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and lecturette).
	11-11.45 a.m.	Musketry - Rapid Loading.
	11.45-12 noon.	Company Drill.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>18th May.</u>	9 - 10 a.m.	Inspection by Battalion Commander. Dress - Fighting Order.
		Note - This will be by platoons.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Guards and Sentries.
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and lecturette on Fire Control).
	11 - 12 noon.	Training of Platoons for Offensive Action.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.
<u>19th May.</u>	9-9.30 a.m.	Platoon Drill.
	9.30-10 a.m.	Bayonet Fighting.
	10-10.50 a.m.	Musketry (Rapid Loading).
	10.50-11 a.m.	Smoke (and Lecturette on Fire Control).
	11 - 12 noon.	Training of Platoons for offensive Action.
	2 - 4 p.m.	Recreational Training.

1. One platoon each day will have instruction in Lewis Gun for 45 minutes in morning's training.
Lewis Gun section will be placed at the disposal of a platoon each day.
2. At least one lecture should be given to illustrate the most recent tactical developments. This lecture should include:-
 - (a) Instruction in the development of the employment of the light machine gun in the attack.
 - (b) The German method of penetration at weak spots and of endeavouring to avoid losses by refraining from directing attacks on strong positions.
 - (c) The German method of employment of gas shells and the recent method employed as regards preliminary bombardment.

Capt & Adjutant,
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Appendix 7.17
20/5/1918.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR "C" COMPANY, 1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION, 21st to 24th May, 1918 (Inclusive).
By Lieut-Colonel T. MURDOCH,
O.C., 1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.

21st May. 9-9.30 a.m. Inspection of kit, &c.
9.30-10 a.m. Gas Drill and Inspection.
10-10.50 a.m. Section and Platoon Drill.
10.50-11 a.m. Smoke (and lecturette by Platoon Commanders).
11-11.45 a.m. Musketry - Rapid Loading and Aiming.
11.45-12 noon. Company Drill.
2 - 4 p.m. Recreational Training.

22nd May. 9 - 9.30 a.m. Company Drill.
9.30-10.30 a.m. Bayonet Fighting.
10.30-10.50 a.m. Gas Drill.
10.50-11 a.m. Smoke (and Lecturette).
11 - 11.45 a.m. Musketry - Rapid Loading.
11.45-12 noon. Company Drill.
2 - 4 p.m. Recreational Training.

23rd May. 9 - 10 a.m. Inspection by Battalion Commander.
Dress - Fighting Order.
Note - This will be by platoons.
10-10.50 a.m. Guards and Sentries.
10.50-11 a.m. Smoke (and lecturette on Fire Control).
11 - 12 noon. Training of Platoons for Offensive Action.
2 - 4 p.m. Recreational Training.

24th May. 9-9.30 a.m. Platoon Drill.
9.30-10 a.m. Bayonet Fighting.
10-10.50 a.m. Musketry (Rapid Loading).
10.50-11 a.m. Smoke (and lecturette on Fire Control).
11 - 12 noon. Training of Platoons for offensive action.
2 - 4 p.m. Recreational Training.

1. One platoon each day will have instruction in Lewis Gun for 45 minutes in morning's training.
Lewis Gun section will be placed at the disposal of a platoon each day.
2. At least one lecture should be given to illustrate the most recent tactical developments. This lecture should include:-
 - (a) Instruction in the development of the employment of the light machine gun in the attack.
 - (b) The German method of penetration at weak spots and of endeavouring to avoid losses by refraining from directing attacks on strong positions.
 - (c) The German method of employment of gas shells and the recent method employed as regards preliminary bombardment.

Capt & Adjutant,

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

H 3
108

appendix 8.18

SECRET.

Copy No.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DEFENCE SCHEME No. 5. (No. 5.)

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion
23rd May, 1918.

Battalion Headquarters and Regimental Aid post will be situated at W.13.d.6.2.

WORKING PARTIES.

- (1) Working parties will always carry their arms with them.
- (2) Officers and N.C.Os in charge of working parties in the 2nd Zone will always have written instructions as to what to do in case of attack.

GAS ATTACK.

- (1) Gas shell or projector attacks are the most probable forms of attack.
- (2) Appliances such as shell cases, are to be installed for the purpose of spreading alarm (at once).
- (3) Gas sentries must be posted in all posts or billets and the most rigid gas discipline insisted upon. For full details see standing orders for defence against gas.
- (4) Cellars and dugouts unprotected are to be evacuated during a gas shell bombardment, and will not be re-entered except on the direct order of an officer.

NOTICE BOARDS.

All strong points, machine gun positions, works, trenches and Headquarters must be clearly marked.

ACTION DURING PRECAUTIONARY STAGE.

- (1) Should indications point to the enemy making a general attack within 48 hours a "Precautionary stage" will be ordered. The message from Battalion Headquarters to Companies will be - "ADAPT PRECAUTIONARY STAGE."
- (2) On receipt of the message from Battalion Headquarters the following action will be taken forthwith:-
The Companies will occupy the trenches and posts to which they have been detailed as nucleus garrisons.
- (3) Completion of any part of the action ordered under para. 2 will be reported to Battalion Headquarters.
- (4) Iron rations to be issued to the troops if not already done.

RATIONS.

Twenty-four (24) hours reserve rations of food and water will be held in defences as under:-

RESERVE SYSTEM OF FORWARD ZONE AND SWITCHES.

For the nucleus garrison, calculated on a basis of the present strength of each company.

Reserves will be placed in position and a permanent trench guard posted by Companies. Companies will indent on R.C.M. at once.

Reserves will be normally held at company or Battalion Headquarters.

W. J. Hall

Distribution.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| No. 1 - A Coy. | No. 5 - L.C.C. |
| No. 2 - B Coy. | No. 6 - War Diary. |
| No. 3 - C Coy. | No. 7 - File. |
| No. 4 - D Coy. | No. 8 - Spare. |

Capt & Adjutant,
for C.C.

~~X Press~~
~~X [unclear]~~

H3

Appendix 9

19

SECRET.

Copy No. 6

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DEFENCE SCHEME No.5

1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion,
28th May, 1918.

In the event of any unusual activity being displayed by the enemy which may denote the beginning of an attack, the senior Officer in charge of working parties will get into touch by telephone ~~by~~ with Battalion Headquarters or Brigade Headquarters of the Line Brigade and ask for instructions.

Should any undue delay occur in getting instructions by telephone parties will be marched to their positions as laid down in Defence Scheme No.5.

A reconnaissance should therefore be made to find out where the nearest telephone line is.

Capt & Adjutant,
for C.O.

Distribution.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| No.1 - A Coy. | No.5 - L.G.O. |
| No.2 - B Coy. | No.6 - War Diary. |
| No.3 - C Coy. | No.7 - File. |
| No.4 - D Coy. | No.8 - Spare. |

~~X Recd~~

