

**AWM4**

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/13/31

**Title:** 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-14/13/31

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Australian Pioneer Bn.*

FOR

*September* 1918



Signature of Officer compiling *C. H. Colvill Lt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding *A. Murdoch Lt Col.*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheeh 62 <sup>nd</sup> Sept HAMMEL	1		Batta Church Parade - 22 other ranks rejoin from Hospital	Weather Showery
HAMMEL	2		Batta Continue Training A Coy Musketry, Platoon in attack, Lecture on exercise as practised, Artillery formation B Coy Lewis Gun instruction, Rifle Grenade practice, Company Drill, Gas Helmet Inspection & Lecture on Gas, Lecture on attack recuperation C Coy in attack, Guards and sentries palatiny, Lewis Guns Rifle grenades Musketry Instruction D Coy Physical training Gas drill Company in attack Lewis gunners special instruction in use of enemy machine gun Afternoon Recreational training	Weather Fine
HAMMEL	3		A Coy Company in attack as in open order Lectures on out posts B Coy General machine Gun instruction, Rifle grenade practice, Company Drill Gas drill and lecture on gas, Lecture on exploitation C Coy Platoon in attack on strong point, Training on Lewis Gun Rifle grenade and Musketry D Coy Musketry Gas Drill Company in attack Lewis gunners special instruction in use of enemy machine gun Afternoon Recreational training	Weather Fine

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HAMMEL	Sept 4		<i>training</i> A Coy. Model platoon work, Company as advanced guard, Lecture by Company Commander, Lewis Gun work, setting up drill	Weather Fine
			B Coy Company in attack	
			C Coy Company in attack (advancing in artillery formation) Guards + sentries	
			D Coy Engaged on making rifle range	
		Afternoon Recreational training Lewis Gunners special instruction in use of Enemy Machine Gun		
HAMMEL	5		A Coy Platoon inspection, Company in attack (as in open order) Lecture on outposts	Weather Fine
			Rifle exercises, Gas helmet Drill Platoon drill	
		<i>training</i>	B Coy Rifle inspection Gas helmet inspection, Platoon in attack	
			C Coy Company in attack and assault	
		D Coy Construction of Rifle Range Lewis Gunners special instruction in use of Enemy Machine Gun		
		Afternoon + Recreational training		
HAMMEL	6		A Coy Musketry Gas Drill Company in attack	Weather Fine
			B Coy Platoon in attack on strong point training in Lewis Gun Rifle Grenade and Musketry	
		<i>training</i>	C Coy German machine gun instruction, Rifle Grenade practice Company drill	
			D Coy Guard drill and lecture on gas	
		D Coy Company in attack as in open order Lecture on outposts Lewis Gunners special instruction in use of Enemy Machine Gun	Appendix	
		Afternoon Recreational training		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMEL	September 7		Batta continues training with 2 <sup>nd</sup> HUST INF BCDE Lewis Gunners target practice. Batta parades in afternoon.	Weather Fine
SHEET 62C J226	8		Batta moves by bus to ST QUENTIN AREA embussing at P4d 8.2 arriving at debussing point 120 to 80 at 3 PM. Transport move via MORECOURT - PROYART - CHUIGNES - CAPPY - FRISES - FEUILLESES - CLERY - PERONNE leaving HAMEL at 8 AM and arriving at destination at 6 PM.	Weather Dusk Showery Ref. Appendix 2
J226 1.14 a 28	9		Batta patrolling round ST QUENTIN AREA and burying dead en route. 150 men of Batta transferred to 2 <sup>nd</sup> HUST INF BCDE 100 to 6 <sup>th</sup> BN, 25 to 4 <sup>th</sup> BN and 25 to 8 <sup>th</sup> BN	Weather Fine
J226 1.14 a 28	10		B Coy moves to TINCOURT AREA and engaged building advanced head quarters for 1 <sup>st</sup> HUST Div at TINCOURT. Advanced parties proceed to new area to select site for camp.	Weather Showery
J23 Central	11		Batta moves to TINCOURT AREA leaving ST QUENTIN AREA at 9 AM VIA PERONNE arriving at new area J23 central at noon. Companies engaged on building camps. B Coy building advanced head quarters for 1 <sup>st</sup> HUST Div	Weather Showery Ref. Appendix No 3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
J23 Central	Sept 12		<p>B Coy construction of advanced Div HQs at J16c 62. cleared sites and erected 4 Greenless Huts and 1 Messen Box hut. Revetted around G.O.C's Hut 40 yds duckwalk laid 1 cookhouse erected 1 Greenless hut built and roof and one side malthoused prepared site and excavated and fixed foundation blocks for 2 huts 270 feet duckwalks laid. Transporting material 45% bomb proof shelter erected around Messen Hut.</p> <p>D Coy Road repairs filling in crater 30% K21a.O.2 Two shell holes filled in roads renovated at K16c 250 yds road repaired cleaned and drained bridge repaired at J24 central Renovation of YMCA hut, TINCOURT A+C Coys move forward</p>	<p>Showery Weather</p>
J23 Central	13		<p>B Coy construction of advanced Div HQs at J16c 62 140 feet revetting and bomb proofing erecting 3 greenless huts malthousing 3 Greenless huts 200 feet duckwalks carried laid Sunday G.O.C's hut with 30 yds duckwalk 245 feet Super K29d 99 C Coy building dugouts 40 yds excavated 3 dugouts complete YMCA hut Tincourt's renovating. Filling in mine crater at K21a.O.2 A Coy Digging strong points and HQ positions L8c 5025 (approx) 100 cy of dirt trench excavated L14d 80.00 bomb proof and strong point across old trench at approx L14d 1.6 CASUALTIES: 22 other ranks wounded</p>	<p>Weather Showery Fine Heavy Rain</p>
J23 Central	14		<p>C Coy Digging 40 yards 4'6" x 2'6" strong point L20c 84 Trench repair L20c 14 Trench repair L26b 14 115 yds trench deepened &amp; repaired to 4 ft Digging ST L26b 52 Trench repair L26d 82 to L25d 65 50 Construction of dugouts at K29d 99 2 dugouts completed 21 cy of dirt excavated 2 shelters completed Road repairs at K21a 02, and at K33a 82 filling in crater and road cleared for traffic Construction of advanced Div HQs at J16c 62. A Coy digging strong points at L14d 91, L14d 14 L8c 15 L14d 26 L14d 12. 1 officer and 9 other ranks returned to Australia on furlough CASUALTIES: 1 other rank gassed.</p>	<p>Weather Fine</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
J23 Central	Sept 15		A Coy Maintenance of TINCOURT-HANCOURT ROAD from J24 central to K1 d 97 Draining and repairing C Coy Bleeding and repairing road from K21 a 0 2 - K22 b 10 8 900 yds cleared and drained Grater partially filled in B Coy Construction of Advanced Div Headquarters at J16 a 6 2 D Coy Road repairs 500 yds J24 a central. K20 b 5 7 to K21 a 0 2 Repairs to road partially completed	Weather Fine
J23 Central	16		A Coy Draining and repairing road from J24 cent to K1 d 97 25% completed. (Tincourt-Hancourt Rd) B Coy Construction of Div HQ (advanced) at J16 C 6 2. 8 Motor cars made windows screened & American partitions erected Renelement (splinter proof) completed 40% Overhead Camouflage hutting arranged. 350 yds road covered & improved material salvaged C Coy Bleeding & repairing road (500) between K21 a 0 2 and K22 b 10 80 (Near Poisel) Building splinter proof dugouts for Artillery (1st Bde) and salvaging building material - burghated from timber. D Coy Drained & prepared 500 yds road at Tincourt Bouchy (J24 a central) 50% covered / shell in dugout Carpenters from all Coys commenced construction of Dummy Tanks further details of which will be found in attached Appendix 2 - Issue of P.M. Order No 2. Giving distribution of P.M. in connection with intended Corps offensive operations	
J23 Central	17		A Coy Resting in Working Party on completion of Dummy Tanks which were loaded on light railway at Tincourt and taken to Poisel. From Poisel tanks were drawn as far as possible by mules & then by hand to forming up line. One tank disabled by shell fire on road, two others by traps. Remaining three put in position B Coy Construction of advanced Div. HQ. at J16 C 6 2 - 50 yds road drained, 120 bricks laid, 40 yard duckboards laid. In connection with intended operations, 700 Stakes cut, 33 signboards prepared. C Coy 9 Splinter proof dugouts for Artillery. Completed at K18 b 3 9, (Hestcourt) 1st Bde (ad) 12 splinter proof dugouts for Artillery. Completed at K29 d 9 7 (Hervilly) D Coy General repairs to road near Hamel, K20 b 5 7 to K21 a 0 2 300 yds road repaired, cleared & drained at J24 a central. 2 OR killed by explosion of enemy 'Booty trap'. 1 Wounded.	Weather Fine Reference Appendix A 004 x 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 c T 23 Central.	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.		<p>A Coy. Hauling dummy tanks forward of tapes forming up line by small roped parties. Heavy rain fell throughout the operation, greatly increasing the difficulty of the parties who accomplished their tasks. Their object, that of deceiving the enemy as to the actual number of tanks was only partially successful owing to continued fog and mist. 1 BR Wounded.</p> <p>B Coy. Marking out tracks by means of sign boards, tapes and pickets from forming up line to first objective (1<sup>st</sup>) of Brigade area. 'Stacy' track 4000 yards. 'Mone' track 4500 yards. from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. 2 BR Wounded.</p>	<p>Heavy Rain. Ref. Appendix Ar. 4 &amp; 5</p>
			<p>C Coy. Improving roads &amp; tracks to North of Hesbrouck, L 76 &amp; L 70. Cutting passages for artillery and improving light tracks close to Hesbrouck, L 130 a 53 to L 136 71. Clearing barbed wire and filling in trenches south of Hesbrouck, L 196 70 to L 196 59 and L 140 52 to L 140 33 55 - from 1:30 am to 11 am.</p> <p>Improving roads and tracks SW of Jeumont, L 31 a 88 85. Filling in trenches and cutting artillery passages through barbed wire entanglements close to Jeumont at L 25 61 and L 25 6 also squares L 15, L 19, L 26 L 31 - from 1:30 am to 11 am.</p> <p>All parties working in small groups until completion of tasks.</p> <p>Casualties 1 OR killed, 5 OR wounded.</p>	<p>Showery</p>
			<p>D Coy. Forming track known as 'Zulu' track, also bridging trenches, filling in craters on roads in Right (3<sup>rd</sup>) Brigade Area, at L 19 Central to L 17 a and forming track known as 'Porose' track, from L 25 Central to L 17. Both tracks being nearly 4000 yds in length, from tapes forming up line to Hall Line. Hours worked, 7 am to 3 pm.</p>	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		<p>B Coy. Construction of advanced D.H.Q. at 516 c 6 2 - putting in 500 p. roads and repairing tracks. Erecting 50 yard thesian. Erecting 16 cub. yards bomb proof. Laying 274 ft ductwalk and general improvements.</p> <p>C Coy. General improvement of road from K 22 a to K 22 b, in neighbourhood of Rousel. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Ant. Bde. HQ. Clearing &amp; repairing dugout Office and Coy house cleaned repaired &amp; examined for booby traps. 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde, work as detailed.</p>	<p>H. Fine.</p>
			<p>A Coy. Burial of horses etc. 3 Horses buried.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
J. 23. (Turcom)	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.		<p>A Coy. Maintaining Hancock - Turcom Road: Turcom + Poisel Areas. Salvaging R.C. Material - shell cases - S.A.P. arms equipment etc. and transporting same to dump.</p>	
			<p>B Coy. 300 ft duckwalk laid. 10 yds excavation. Bomb splinter barricade erected around one hut. General improvement of road.</p>	Weather
			<p>C Coy. General cleaning and improvement of road through south of Poisel. Barking metal for road repairs.</p>	Fine.
			<p>D Coy. Generally improving road near Marquais + Poisel.</p>	
	21 <sup>st</sup> "		<p>A Coy. Maintaining Hancock Turcom Rd. Salvaging R.C. Material shell cases equipment, and transporting same to dump.</p>	
			<p>B Coy. Road improvement - Advanced D.H.Q. Erecting bunkers, excavating earth for incinerator, Bomb-proof barricade.</p>	
			<p>C Coy. Road improvement from Westcourt to Hargicourt + from K120 to Hancock. From Herville to Hargicourt - from crossroad K120 through Templey to Hargicourt and from Herville to Road to Westcourt.</p>	Weather
			<p>Party attached for work to 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Inf. Bde as detailed.</p>	Fine
			<p>D Coy. Road repair at Turcom + Marquais. Forming Salvage Dumps at Square K21 a, b, c, and at K22a. Salvaging Material: 1000 Shell Cases 6 empty boxes 1 brass pump. 23 15 lb. projectors 5 heavy mortars etc.</p>	
			<p>Two Land Mines located at K21 a, 1, 2, about 10 yds south of road and about 120 yds east of the Hancock R. junction and at K21 b, 9 - adjoining old water point. Both labelled "Unexploded mine + are in a Damaged State."</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
T 23 Tincomt. -Bouchy.	Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> .		<p>A Coy. - Maintenance and repair of Haucourt-Tincomt Road. Burial of horses in Hervilly - Roisel Area.</p> <p>B Coy. Construction of Advanced DHQ. Completion of Incinerator 80 yds road repaired. 270 ft duckwalks laid. Erection of bomb and splinterproof shelters. - 30 bell tents.</p> <p>C Coy. General road repairs - Tincomt and Marquais. Salvaging parties working south of Roisel: salvaged 3000 shell cases 60-4.5 shells 150-4.5 charges. 120-4.5 gas shells. 4-18 lb. shells. 1 horse killed, 1 wounded.</p> <p>D Coy. Maintenance of road as follows. Hestecourt to Hargicourt. Jeancourt to Hervilly to Hestecourt. - Jeancourt to Hargicourt. and from K 12 d 2.3 through Templeux to Hargicourt &amp; Killers.</p> <p>Party at 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Inf. Bde for work as detailed.</p>	Weather Fine.
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>A Coy. Maintenance of Tincomt-Haucourt Road. Salvaging shell cases R.C. Material etc. and transporting same to dump.</p> <p>B Coy Construction of Advanced DHQ. Carrying material for erecting &amp; repairing roads. 110 ft Revetting on splinterproof barricade. Completed erection of Hut 20x30.</p> <p>C Coy. Road maintenance on road between Hestecourt, Hargicourt and Jeancourt. to Hervilly from Jeancourt to Hargicourt &amp; Killers. Party attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Inf. Bde as detailed.</p> <p>D Coy. Road repairs at Tincomt-Bouchy. Salvaging 500 cases (18 lb) and similar stores. 200 lb shells. 100 4.2 charges. 200-4.2 shells.</p>	Showery
	24 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Small party from C Coy. clearing out Rly cutting south of Roisel at K 22 a 37 - Remains of Pm. Standing by for anticipated move.</p>	Showery.
25 <sup>th</sup>			<p>Pm resting.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 <sup>c</sup> T23 Lincourt-Boulay	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept.		A Coy. Marquaiy (K14) 3 Messen BowHuts 40% erected. One large Messentul dismantled and transported to new site. Parties salvaging material.	Showery
			B Coy. Erection of advanced Dressing Station in F. 19a. ground cleared and levelled for huts and pegged. 70 Revetting stakes salvaged and driven. 50 blocks salvaged and used.	Appendix No 7. (CCS)
	27 <sup>th</sup>		C Coy. Excavating and clearing site for CCS. at Templey-le-Fuerard L2C70	
			A Coy Erection of Messen BowHuts at Marquaiy (K14) 3 completed. 1 Large Messen Hut 10% completed. Salvaging material for revetting	Weather Fine
			B Coy. Erection of ADS. at F19a. - 3 Hut-frames erected. 2 Hut foundation salvaging Building Material. Loading CCS Wagons at Boisel Dump.	Appendix No 7
			C Coy. Erection Building for CCS at L2C70. 5 huts 75% completed. 50 cub. yds. excavation. 25 yds. revetting and filling. Parties on salvaging material for work.	for CCS.
			D Coy. Road work at K14d87. Road formation.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		A Coy. Lincourt - Lincourt Road, Maintenance. Salvaging equipment etc. in Boisel and Lincourt area. - Burial of horses.	Weather Fine
			Marquaiy. Erection of 3 Messen Huts. 1 Large Hut transported and reerected. 70%.	
			B Coy. Construction of advanced OHQ at F19a. 2 Road Repairs Completion of Innumerator, 70' Duckboard laid. 22 yds splentuproof/shelter. 5 huts completed.	
			C Coy. Erection of CCS at L2C57 Erection of CCS. 5 huts and corridors completed.	
			D Coy Road formation at K14d87. Post warned for expected move.	Def. Appendix No 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Map 62°				
Tuncourt-Bouchy	Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>		B Coy. Construction of A.D.S. All huts completed. Passage ways erected & 90% covered. Tables and other fittings put in. Book house - stone hut - shelter shed completed. 100 yds road cleared and metalled.	Weather fine.
T23.			"D" K14d 8.7 Road work & improvements crossing.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		B Coy Three exha shelters for wounded erected. 60' revelling and bomb roaping. Loading and salvaging parties.	Rainy

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Location - Hamel, sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> 40000.	
			Support - Bouchy " 62 <sup>C</sup> 40000.	
			Month of September 1918	
			Strength as at 1/9/18 36 Officers 1132 Other Ranks.	
			" " 30/9/18 37 Officers 889 Other Ranks.	
			Killed in Action 3 Other Ranks.	
			Died of Wounds 3	
			Evacuated Wounded 43	
			Evacuated Hospital (Sick) 1 Officer 62 Other Ranks.	
			Taken on strength of Unit 3 Officers 4 Other Ranks.	
			Returned from Hospital 1 Officer 64 Other Ranks.	
			Wounded Remaining at Duty 1 Other Rank.	

APPENDIX II

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18,000-12/17 8723

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# WAR DIARY

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion.*

FOR

*September. 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ 1	<i>Pm. Order No. 3 - 6/9/18</i>
2	<i>" Move Order No. 63 7/9/18</i>
3	<i>" " " " 64 10/9/18</i>
4	<i>" Order No 2. 16/9/18.</i>
✓ 5	<i>Design for six Summary Lists. used in connection with 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Div. Operation. - 18/9/18.</i>
✓ 6	<i>Pm. Move order No. 65-28/9/18</i>
✓ 7	<i>CCS. (Ground Plan) F19a. &amp; L2C.</i>
✓ 8	<i>Progress Plan (a Map 62<sup>c</sup> NW.) " " 62<sup>b</sup> NE.)</i>

SECRET.

Appendix No. 1

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1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 3.

## APPENDIX

Battalion Headquarters,  
6th September, 1918.1. INFORMATION.

The enemy is retiring on the Corps front and is being pressed by our advanced guards. We have taken DOINGT - LE MESNIL - BRUNTEL, and are on the western edge of ATHIES.

2. INTENTION.

The advance will be continued by the Divisions <sup>now</sup> in the line. On a date to be notified later the 1st Aust. Division will pass through the 3rd Aust. Division now in line.

3. MOVES.

(a) 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion will move by Bus on the 8th instant from present area.

(b) Debussing arrangements will depend on the rate of the general advance but it is probable that the Unit will move to vicinity of BUREL.

(c) The Battalion will thereafter stage forward by route march on leap-frog principle.

4. SANITATION AND SHELTER.

Company and Detail Commanders will on arrival in all new areas do their utmost to improve local shelter and sanitation.

5. WARNING.

(a) All troops will be warned constantly of the danger of booby traps and enemy ruses.

(b) The enemy is leaving delay-action shells in his ammunition dumps. It is not possible to distinguish these shells from others. Troops will be specially warned to avoid quartering themselves near such dumps.

6. Further detailed instructions will be issued later.

(SGd) C. J. DAVIS, Capt. & A/Adjutant,  
for C.O.,  
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION MOVE ORDERAPPENDIX 2

Ref. Maps. sheet 62D, 1/40,000.  
sheet 62C, 1/40,000.

Battalion Headquarters,  
7th September, 1918.

MOVE.

The Battalion will move by bus to the MOUNT ST. QUENTIN area on the 8th instant.

ROUTINE.

Reveille, ... 6 a.m.  
Breakfast, ... 6.30 a.m.

All wagons to be loaded and complete Battalion Transport parked at P.4.d.8.2. by 7.15 a.m. sharp, ready to move off.

ASSEMBLY.

Battalion will fall in on parade ground in front of "A" Company's lines at 9.30 a.m.

EMBUSSING.

Embussing will commence at 10 a.m. at about P.4.d.8.2. Allotment of buses will be given to Company and Detail Commanders at 9.30 a.m.

DEBUSSING POINT.

Debussing point will be at I.20.b.8.0.

TRANSPORT.

Transport under Lieut. R. C. STORRY will move off at 7.30 a.m. and will take following route:-

MORCOURT - PROYART - CHUIGNES - CAPPY - FRISES - FEUILLERSES -  
H.9.a.1.0. - CLERY - PERONNE to I.8.0. where they will park.  
They will water between CAPPY and FRISES.

TENTS AND SHELTERS.

All tents will be struck and shelters will be rolled in bundles of ten and stacked ready for collection by 8 a.m. Lieut. C. W. KING, M.A. will be responsible for correct number drawn being returned to Area Commandant, and Company and Detail Commanders responsible for returning correct number issued to them.

COOKING ARRANGEMENTS.

As Transport will not reach destination till about 8 p.m. Companies and Details will take sufficient dixies, etc., with them on the motor lorries for the midday and evening meals.

(Sgd) C. J. DAVIS, Capt & A/Adjutant,  
for C.O.,  
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.



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SECRET.

1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION MOVE ORDERS No. 64

Appendix No. 3  
APPENDIX

3 15

Reference:- Sheet 62D,  
1/40,000.

Battalion Headquarters,  
10th September, 1918.

MOVE.

Battalion will move from present area to TINCOURT AREA to-morrow, 11th instant.

PARADE.

Markers will report to R.S.M. at 8.40 a.m.  
Battalion will fall in at 8.50 a.m. March off 9 a.m.  
Companies will send a runner to report to R.S.M. at 8.30 a.m. for location of parade ground.

ORDER OF MARCH.

Battalion Headquarters, A Company, C Company, D Company.

DUGOUTS.

As these dugouts are being occupied as soon as we leave them, care will be taken to see that they are left clean.

SANITATION.

Immediately on arrival in new area, flyproof latrines will be constructed by each company.

WATER.

Water may be obtained in the vicinity at J.24.a.3.8.

Transport.

Transport will report to Transport Officer by 8.30 a.m. Transport will follow in rear of Battalion.

MARCH DISCIPLINE.

Strict march discipline will be maintained.

(sgd) C. J. DAVIS, Capt & A/Adjutant,  
for C.O.,  
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

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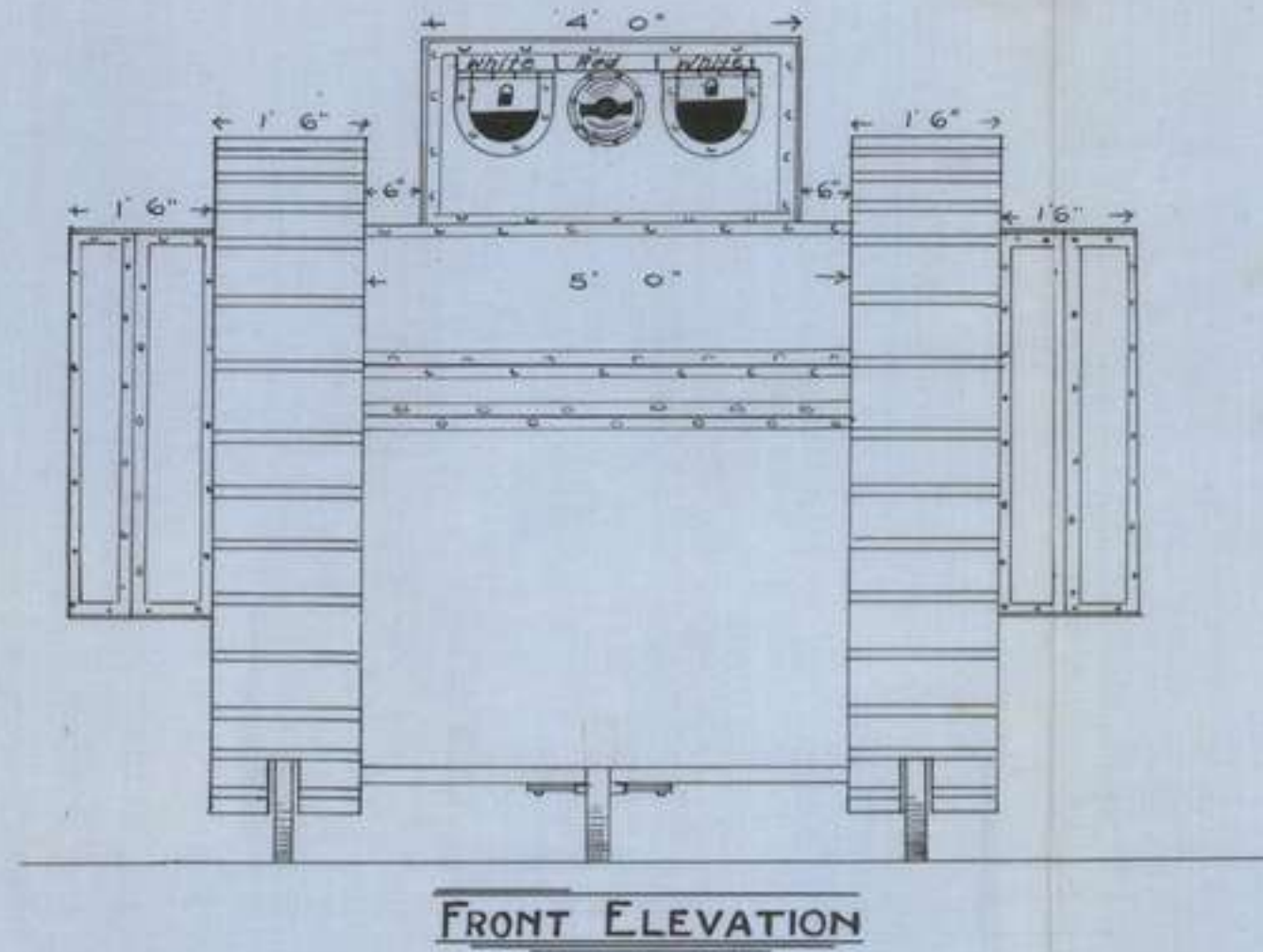
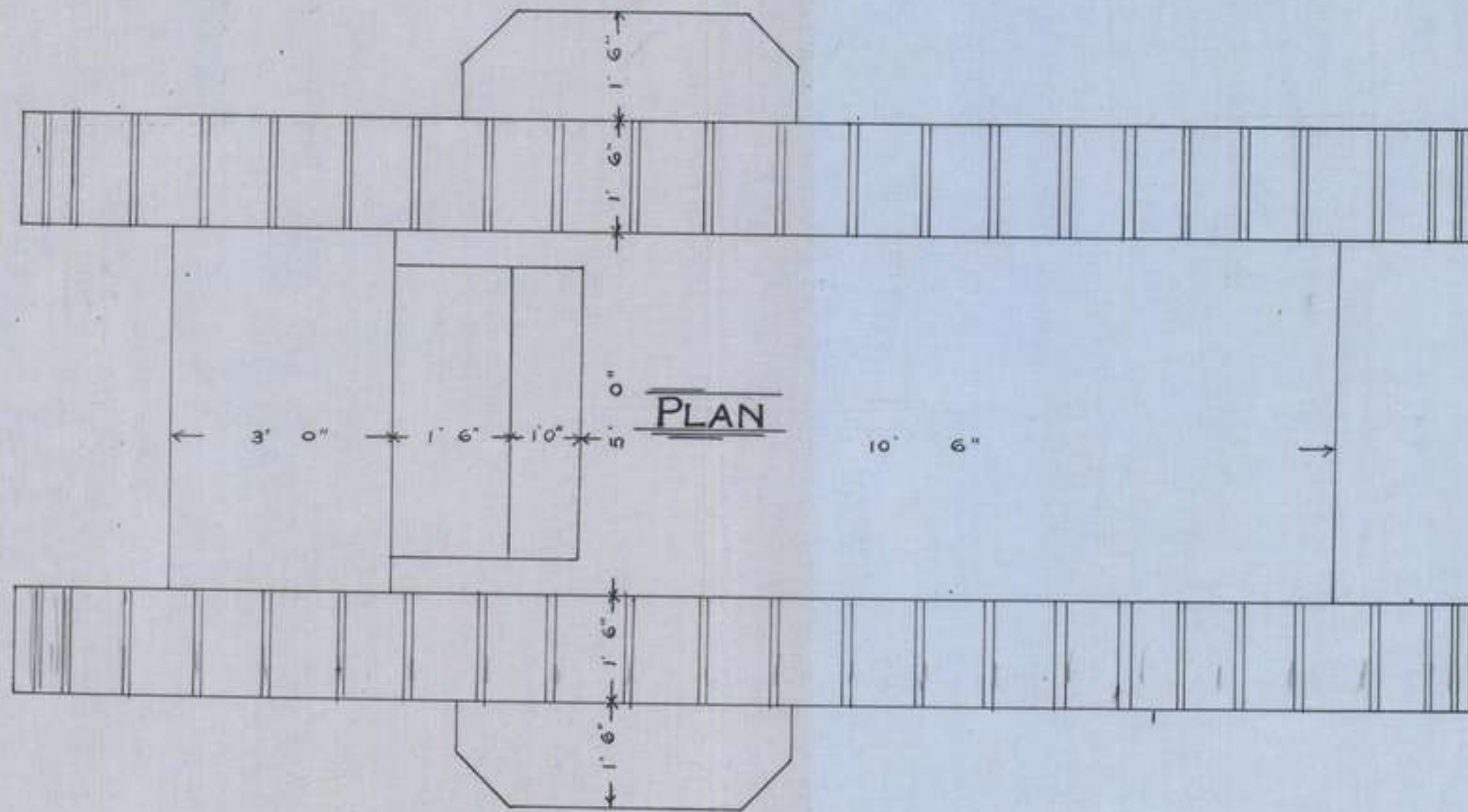
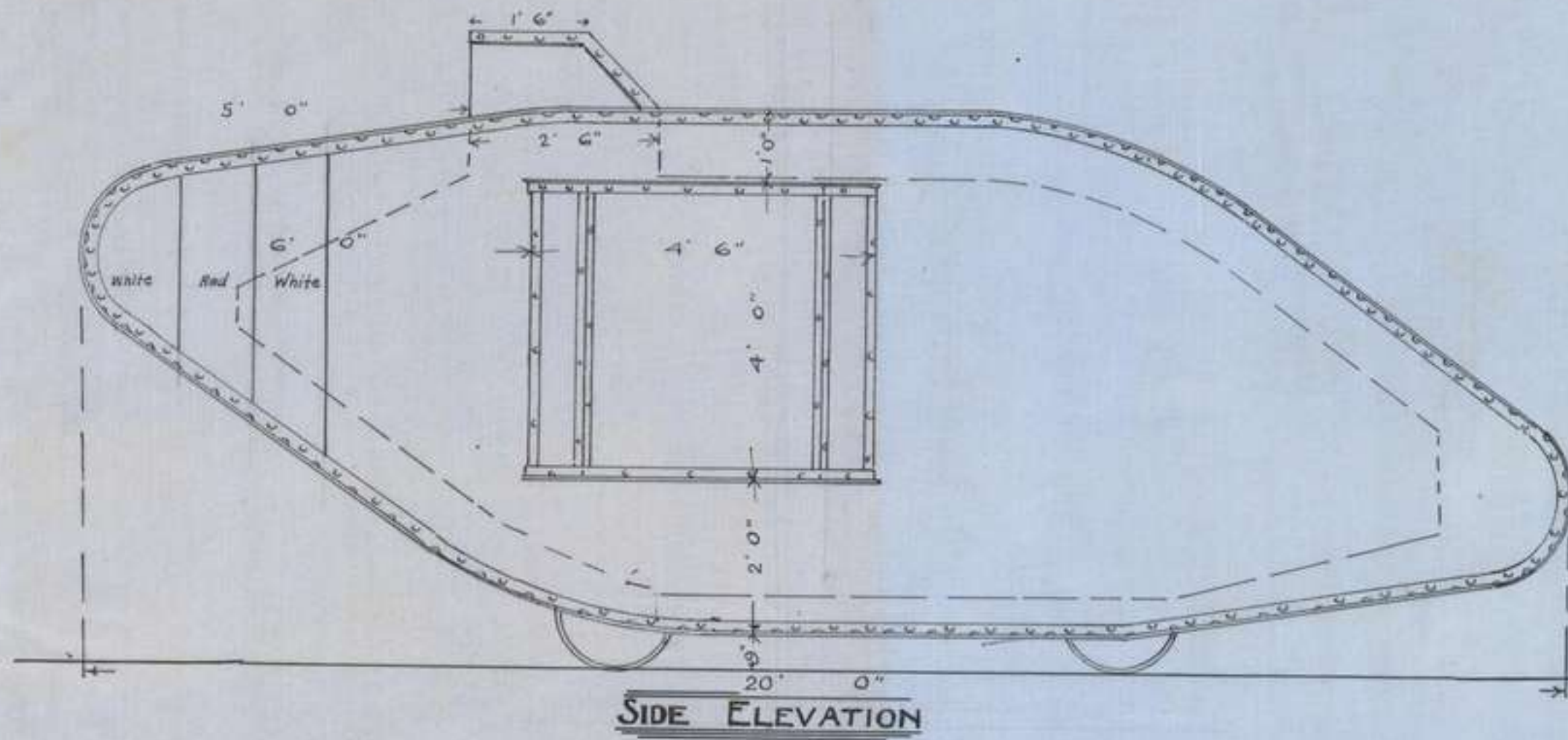
Battalion Headquarters,  
16th September, 1918.

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Reference:- Sheets 62C, 62B,  
1/40,000.

1. The Fourth Army in conjunction with the 1st French Army on the Right and Third Army on the Left is to attack the enemy's defensive position in front of the HINDENBURG LINE. The Australian Corps is to attack in the centre of the Fourth Army Front, IX Corps is attacking on the Right, III Corps on the Left.  
Date and Zero hour will be notified later.
2. (a) The 1st Australian Division will attack on the Left of the Australian Corps.  
(b) The 4th Australian Division will be on the Right of the 1st Australian Division. The 74th Division will be on the Left of the 1st Australian Division.
3. (a) Objectives and boundaries are shown on attached map.  
(b) The 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade will attack on the Right. The 1st Australian Infantry Brigade on the Left.  
(c) One half section (2 Tanks) is allotted to each Brigade.
4. (a) Each Brigade will attack on a frontage of two battalions.  
(b) The Infantry will form up on a taped line prior to Zero. The barrage will open at Zero hour and the Tanks and Infantry will press close up to the barrage.
5. Dummy tanks will be used.
6. Distribution of Battalion:-  
(a) A Company will be responsible for placing dummy tanks in position and manipulating same. Further instructions will be issued later regarding these.  
(b) B Company will be responsible for roads and tracks in Left Brigade Area.  
(c) C Company will work in conjunction with Artillery for construction of Group shelters and filling and bridging of trenches where required in the Areas.  
(d) D Company will be responsible for roads and tracks in Right Brigade Area.
7. (a) Tracks will be formed in each Brigade Area following the approximate line shown, but actual location fixed on the ground.  
(b) In the Right Brigade Area (3rd Brigade) two tracks will be formed and marked by the 3rd Field Company.  
The Right Track of the Right Brigade will follow approx. line L.25.B., L.21.C., L.17.c., and will be marked "BROSSE TRACK."  
The Left Track will follow L.20.A., L.15.C., L.16.A., L.17.A., and will be marked "ZULU TRACK".  
These two tracks will be laid out by 3rd Field Company and improved by "D" Company, 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.  
(c) In the Left Brigade Area (1st Brigade) two tracks will be formed picking up the two existing tape lines which lead up to the forming up lines.  
The Right Track Left Brigade will follow approx. L.14.C. central - COOTE WOOD (L.10.C.) to BOBBY FARM - L.11.A.9.5. This track will be named "STACY TRACK".  
The Left Track Left Brigade will follow approximately L.8.A.C.O. HAKEY QUARRIES (L.4.C.) - HARGICOURT CEMETERY to L.6.central. This track will be marked "MOORE TRACK".  
"B" Company, 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion, will lay out/tracks in the Left Brigade Area.
8. The Field Companies will be responsible for laying out the tape forming up line which will follow a straight line drawn from between L.27.C.0.6. and L.1.D.7.0.
9. "B" Company, 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion, will prepare notice boards for "STACY TRACK", "MOORE TRACK", also boards with "To 1st and





**DESIGN FOR SIX DUMMY TANKS.**

*to be used in connection with 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. operations.  
on the 18-9-18.  
Scale = 1/2 inch to one foot.*

SURVEY OFFICE  
1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEER  
BATTALION.

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APPENDIX 7-19



*War Diary*

*Appendix No. 6*

SECRET.

1st AUST. PIONEER BATTALION MOVE ORDER NO. 65.

Battalion Headquarters,  
28th September, 1918.

MOVE.

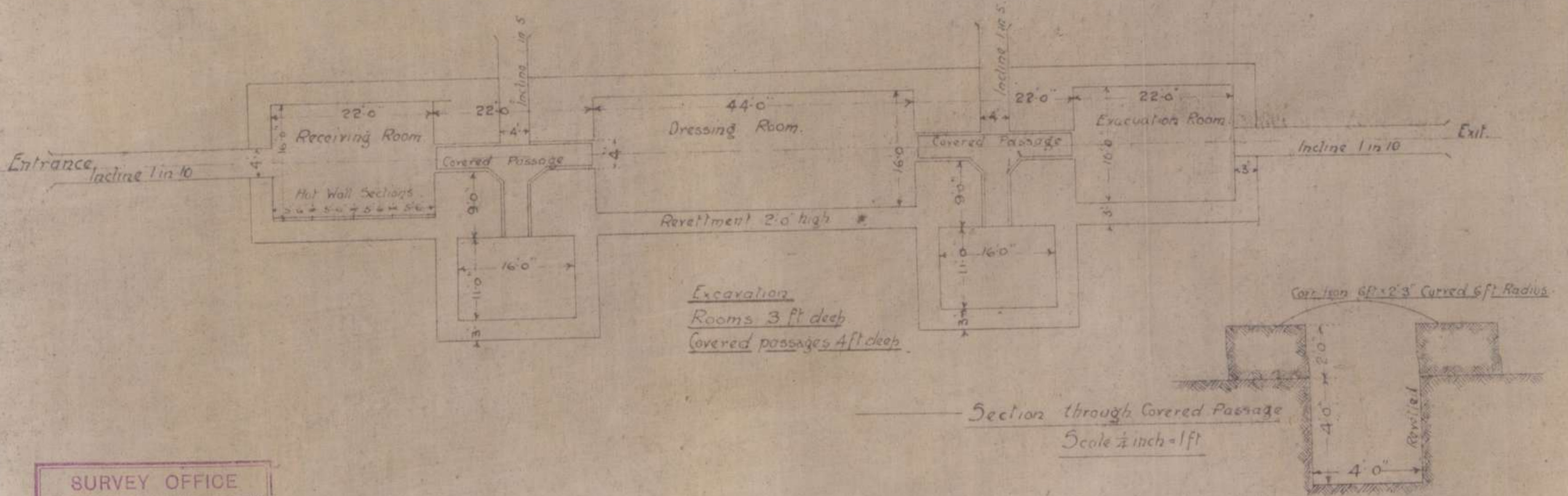
The Battalion will stand fast from 8 a.m., 29/9/18, and be prepared to move forward at one hours notice to a village which will be specified later.

(sgd) A. H. LYDDALL, Capt & Adjutant,  
for C.O.,  
1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Ground Plan of C.C.S.

Scale 1 inch = 15 ft

Fig. 254.  
Loc. 7.5'



SURVEY OFFICE  
1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEER  
BATTALION.

20,000.

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.  
Enemy Trenches in Blue.  
Objective in Red.

FRANCE

EDITION 5. A. (Local)

SHEET 62° N.E.

20,000

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.-  
GERMAN TRENCHES IN BLUE.

FRANCE

EDITION 5. 4<sup>3</sup>. A

SHEET 62° N.W.

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**PROGRESS PLAN**  
Showing work carried out by 1<sup>st</sup> Pioneer Battalion for the month of  
September 1918

*Flapendix N/29*

**LEGEND**

- Divisional Boundaries shown thus
- Brigade
- Proposed Tracks before attack
- Tracks adapted after attack
- Roads repaired and maintained
- Objective Lines
- C.C.S. and Dressing S<sup>ts</sup>



SURVEY OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS PIONEER  
BATTALION

Scale 1:20,000

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21

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Pioneers