

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/14/22

**Title:** 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-14/14/22

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
PIONEER BATTALION.  
No. 2/903  
Date 21/3/18

18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2nd Aus Pioneer Bn*

FOR

*March 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling *Ch Bennett*

Signature of Officer Commanding *W. J. ...*

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.

①  
2nd Aus.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Pioneer Bn

March 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DRANOUTRE	15 <sup>th</sup>	-	N <sup>o</sup> 2364 Pte G. A. Elliott and N <sup>o</sup> 459 Pte F. C. Hallam won Semifinals of Aust Corps Boxing Competition in Feather weight & Light Weight grades respectively -	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Capt P. E. Potts and Lt JENKINS 14 days' leave to UK. - Pte Hallam won light wt championship Aust Corps Silver Cup trophy presented by G. O. C. A.I.F. - 1 O.R. joined from loop - 2 O.R. evad. to loop.	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Received orders to relieve 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aus Pioneers (NIEPPE) on forward works - Operation Order N <sup>o</sup> 2.4 A.I.F. issued - 1 O.R. joined from loop - 2 O.R. evad. to loop.	
	4 <sup>th</sup>		Condition of works on Divl front as taken over by us from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pioneers - 2 O.R. from loop - 3 O.R. to loop.	App 2
	5 <sup>th</sup>		1 O.R. joined from 5 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bn - 5 O.R. evad. to loop.	
	6 <sup>th</sup>		6 Lewis Guns posted by B.L.C.O for AA duty with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Divl artillery as follows 2 at V 19 b + 9 - 2 at V 27 C 11 - 2 at C 2 d 33 - 3 O.R. evad. to loop.	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		A Coy moved to NIEPPE relieving D Coy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pioneers on roads & dugouts - 1 O.R. joined from loop -	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		1 O.R. joined from P.T. Bn - 6 from loop - 2 O.R. evad. to loop -	
NIEPPE	9 <sup>th</sup>		Remainder of B moved to NIEPPE - Capt Roth returned from P.T. Bn 21 O.R. joined from loop - 9 O.R. from 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Rpts - 1 O.R. from P.T. Bn - 4 O.R. to loop, sick - 3 O.R. to loop, wounded.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		C. O sent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus Div report of visit to Rouen School - 1 O.R. from loop - 1 O.R. to loop, wounded - 3 to loop, sick - 2 O.R. transferred to Base - Lt Dewey reappointed Divl Camouflage Officer.	App 3

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Pioneer Bn

March 1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NIEPPE	11 <sup>th</sup>		Major H Grant and Lt T Smith 14 days leave to VK - 6 HE shells dropped into NIEPPE - 6 OR killed - 5 OR evaded wounded - Companies moved out of bullets, making boucaes around village - 10R from 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bn - 4 OR from hoop - 2 to hoop sick -	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		6 OR joined from hoop - 2 OR wounded & evaded - 10R to hoop sick -	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		3 OR from hoop - 41 OR from 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Rpts - 2 OR to hoop -	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		10R from 8 <sup>th</sup> Rpts - 1 from 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn - 2 OR to hoop -	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		NIEPPE again shelled - 1 OR killed - 2 wounded (hoop) - 1 OR joined from 51 <sup>st</sup> Bn - Recd word from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus Div that establishment of Bn raised to 39 Off + 1200 OR in lieu of 39 Off + 983 OR	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		2 OR from base - 1 from 12 <sup>th</sup> Rpts - 3 from hoop - 3 OR to hoop - 2 to base - Lt Hope to base physically unfit - Weekly works progress report to CRG - Gas attack by Brits stopped work.	App 4
	17 <sup>th</sup>		1 OR from No 1 Tunnelling Coy, 2 from hoop - 3 transferred to Aust Corps by hoop - 2 OR hoop wounded.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Lt M Baskill from Supy list (invalided) - 10R from Tunnelling Rpts - 5 from hoop - 3 to hoop. Letter from Miss D Connor Victoria re Pioneer March - Work stopped for Gas Projector attack -	App 5
	19 <sup>th</sup>		3 OR from hoop - 1 from 5 <sup>th</sup> Bn - 2 to hoop - C.O. report re Dover Conference forwarded to	App 6
	20 <sup>th</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus Div - 20 <sup>th</sup> . Lt RA Smith MC rejoined from seed list. 2 to hoop - Following upon increase in establishment of this Bn CO wrote 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus Div asking for extra NCO's, tools & wagons.	App 7

WAR DIARY

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2nd Aus

3

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Pioneer Bn

March 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NIEPPE	21st	-	10 R joined from hoop - 2 O.R. to hoop - following officers attached to Bn for temporary duty :- Lt Paterson ME 25th Bn - Lt REYNOLDS PE 21st Bn - Lt MURRAY SJ 18th - 2/Lt RIDLEY T DC.M. MM 17th Bn.	
	22nd	'	4 OR from hoop - 1 from 11th Apts - 2 evad, gassed - 3 hoop sick - Weekly Works Report to CRB	App 8
	23rd		3 from hoop - 2 evad, gassed - 1 to hoop -	
	24th		5 OR from 35th 9th + 12th Apts - 4 from hoop - 1 to hoop sick - Bn required to move to WULVERGHEM Area & act as Div tactical reserve - Movement Order N° 25 issued.	App 9
	25th		6 OR from hoop - 1 to hoop - Instructions re special training issued (App 10 & 11) - Lewis Guns on AA duty with Artillery, withdrawn & rejoined Bn -	App 10 and 11
	26th		Bn moved from NIEPPE area to WULVERGHEM area - 26 B to 4 B by to Sky Farm (N28C86) - A by to Tsd 26 - Card Coy to Tsa 71 - 10 R joined from hospital -	
WULVERGHEM	27th		Bn commenced training as laid down in App 11, relinquishing all forward work except Road & Driveway Controls & Patrols - 2 OR to hoop -	
	28th		30 R joined from hoop - 2 to hoop -	
	29th		Major H Grant transferred to 3rd Pioneer Bn as Lt Col. Major T. L. F. Rutledge absorbed on strength of this Bn as 2nd in command - 30 R to hoop -	
	30th		4 from hoop - 3 to hoop - Weekly Works Report to CRB	App 12
	31st		Received orders to move to Penninghelst Area on 1st prox	

## WAR DIARY

APPENDIX

OF

2nd Aus Pioneer Bn

FOR

March1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Operation Order 24 - relieving 3rd Pioneers.            |
| 2.  | Conditions of Works and Divl front on taking over       |
| 3.  | C.O.'s Report on visit to Rouen R E School.             |
| 4.  | Works Report Week ending 15 <sup>th</sup> March         |
| 5.  | Letter from Mrs D Connot re "Pioneer March"             |
| 6.  | C.O.'s Report re Conference at Rouen.                   |
| 7.  | C.O.'s request for extra N.C.O's, tools + wagons.       |
| 8.  | Works Report Week ending 22 <sup>nd</sup> March         |
| 9.  | Divl + Bn Orders re move to WULVERGHEM.                 |
| 10. | Instructions re Special training.                       |
| 11. | do  |
| 12. | Weekly Works Report. Week ending 29 <sup>th</sup> inst. |
| 13. | Graph showing Bn Strength March 1918.                   |
| 14. | Discipline Report for March                             |
| 15. | <del>C.O.'s</del> Transport Report                      |
| 16. | Health do -   |
| 17. | Graphs illustrating health report.                      |

C. L. Bennett

OPERATION ORDER (AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO) NO. 24.

BY

App 1

LT-COL. F. W. G. ANNAND, DSO., VD., COMMANDING 2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.  
=====

In the Field,  
March. 3rd 1918.

ATTENTION.

1. Battalion will march out of camps at present occupied on 7th inst., to relieve 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion at NIEPPE, taking over billets now occupied by that Battalion, and work being done by them.

ROUTE.

ADVANCE.

2. H.Q. (including Band) via NEUVE EGLISE to NIEPPE.  
Coys to arrange own routes.

MARCH

DISCIPLINE.

3. As laid down in previous orders, to be strictly maintained.  
(See A.R.Os. paras 356, and 433 to 451).

STARTING

TIME.

4. H.Q. from LURGAN CAMP at 10 a.m.  
Coys arrange own time and place.  
Coy Transport to accompany respective Coys and return to Transport Lines on completion of move.

ADVANCE.

PARTY.

5. Lieut. Henry and two H.Qrs Signallers will proceed to NIEPPE on 6th instant to take over H.Qrs billets.  
1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. per Company will report to 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion, NIEPPE on the afternoon of 5th to take over billets as previously occupied.

CAMPS IN

THIS AREA.

6. Camps at present occupied by all units of this battalion will be left thoroughly clean, including Huts, Shelters, Camp lines and adjacent areas. A certificate that this has been done will, after a searching inspection has been made by an officer, be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 9.45 a.m. on 7th inst. Inspection of Huts, Lines, etc., will not be made until every man is on parade in full marching order (not including blankets) ready to march out.  
If, after Coys or other units of the battalion have marched out, it is subsequently found that camp occupied by them has NOT been left clean when this could, and should have been done, orders will be given to the unit concerned to detail a party under an officer, to return the following day and clean up.

BLANKETS.

7. These will be moved under Coy arrangements - For transportation of same see para 8.

TRANSPORT.

8. T.O. will arrange for two G.S. Wagons to report to each Coy H.Qrs at 9 a.m. on 6th inst. These will be at once loaded with tools, gear, etc., and sent to NIEPPE. The wagons returning loaded with 3rd Pioneer Battalion's tools, etc., These wagons will then remain with Coy and be used to transport blankets, etc., when battalion moves.

3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion Wagons will arrive on 6th inst., and will take back any gear required to NIEPPE.

CLB

*App 1*

RELIEFS.

- 9. (i) B.L.G.O. will arrange for Six Lewis Gun Teams to report at Hyde Park Corner at 12 noon on 6th inst. to relieve 3rd Pioneer Gunners stationed with Artillery.  
T.O. will detail one Limber to report to Lt. Olfen at 7 a.m. on 6th inst. and one half limber to report to A Coy CSM at 8 a.m. on same date to transport Lewis Guns and Ammunition to Hyde Park Corner.
- (ii) B Coy will supply One N.C.O. and 8 men, one of which is a cook, to report to 3rd Pioneer Battalion H.Qrs on 5th inst., for the purpose of relieving 3rd Pioneer Railway Patrol, living at The Catacombs.

TRANSPORT GUARD.

- 10. Q.M.Details to be H.Q.Transport Guard. Coys will arrange guards for respective transport.

TOOLS, AMMUNITION ETC.

- 11. Full complement of tools, equipment, grenades, 18,000 rounds of S.A.A. to be carried. All surplus gear to be dumped in a suitable place in each Coy's lines. No personal or other gear of any description to be left in this area. Any surplus good food to be handed over to Coy Cooks or Q.M.Store.  
R.S.M. will arrange to leave 82,000 rounds of S.A.A., behind ~~us~~ in exchange for similar amount left behind by 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion, at NIEPPE.

FIREWOOD AND FUEL.

- 12. No timber to be taken from new billets on arrival. Disciplinary action will be taken against anyone offending in this way.

NIEPPE CHURCH.

- 13. It is notified for information of all ranks that NIEPPE CHURCH is strictly OUT OF BOUNDS. Any man found entering the building, or trespassing around the church, will be dealt with severely by the Commanding Officer.  
Special steps to be taken by all officers and N.C.Os. to see that no thieving, pilfering or trespassing ~~is~~ is committed by any man against Public or Private property. The Commanding Officer will not accept the responsibility of personally or regimentally meeting any claims for such conduct, but will hold the Coy or platoon to which a traced offender belongs responsible to settle such demands.

- WATER. 14.)
- SANITATION. 15.)
- ALARM POSTS. 18.)
- GAS GUARDS. 17.)
- ENEMY BOM- 18.)
- BARDMENT. 18.)
- FIRE PICQUETS. 19.)

As laid down in Operation Order No. 22 of 12:12:17.

COMPLETION.

- 20. On completion of individual moves each unit of the Bn will at once report to B.H.Q., stating time move was completed.

RUNNERS.

- 21. Each Coy will send a runner to B.H.Q. to report to Signal Sergeant, and to conduct H.Q. Signallers over routes to Coy H.Qrs.  
Battalion Headquarters will be situated in Chateau at 36.B.16.e.2.8.

*C.R. Fatterson*  
Capt. & Adj.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

*Ch. 6*



(3)

DISTRIBUTION:-

Copy No. 1 - Commanding Officer.  
2 - Major Grant.  
3 - Adjutant.  
4 - O/C., A Company.  
5 - D/C., B "  
6 - O/C., C "  
7 - O/C., D "  
8 - Quarter Master.  
9 - Transport Officer.  
10 - R.S.M.  
11 - File.  
12/15 - War Diary.

*App 1**Ch 76*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

ADDENDUM TO OPERATION ORDER (AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO) NO. 24 of 3:3:18.  
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Reference para 9 "Reliefs" add :-

*App 1*

(iii) On proceeding to new area Coys will take over work as under:-

- A Coy - Roads and Dugouts.
- B Coy - Tramways.
- C Coy - Same job as before.
- D Coy - Left Sector.

*G.P. Dutton*

Capt. & Adj.

4:3:18. *Col 36* 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

SUMMARY OF CONDITION OF WORKS, AS TAKEN OVER FROM 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN.

UMPIRE DRIVE SOUTH - This trench is in good condition, except for about 100 yards from front line.

UMPIRE ROW - The back part is quite good, but the length between UMPIRE AVENUE and UMPIRE DRIVE SOUTH is very wet and the revetment is in a bad state of repair.

UMPIRE AVENUE. - The parapet in places is very low, and it is necessary to get rid of a lot of water. The main drain which crosses this trench is running well and there should not be any difficulty in getting the water away.

AYR STREET. - Quite good.

HNA SUPPORT - The parapet is low in places but the trench is much drier than when we left it. A lot of repairs are necessary to the revetment.

WARNAVE LANE - This is now an important C.T. and it requires a lot of work, both revetting and draining.

CECIL SUPPORT - The revetment is in a bad state of repair.

KIWI STREET - This trench is now well drained, but a few repairs are necessary to the revetment.

SUFFOLK AVENUE - Quite good.

FLAX ALLEY - This trench is now dry, but the back end is chiefly revetted with sandbags; these are very old and will start to fall in soon. In some places the trench is very narrow.

ST YVES AVENUE - Wants cleaning out and draining.

ULTIMO AVENUE - Condition fairly good, but wants revetting at various points. At forward end breastworks require strengthening and raising.

UGLY AVENUE - Also wants breastworks raising, by making borrow pits at side of trench. This work must be done at night.

MUD LANE AND DOUVRE RIVER - Duckwalks require maintenance and renewal at various places.

(Programme - Patrols of Ultimo & Douvre regularly).

BUGOUTS - These were full of soakage water. One short length of trench had been cleaned out to carry away some of the water causing the trouble, otherwise nothing done to improve matters.

ANDREWS DRIVE TRENCH - On taking over there were shelters sufficient for one Coy only. Trench requires draining and cleaning out, and duckwalks relaying.

(Programme - To provide shelters for a Battalion and B.H.Q. in St Andrews Drive).

WARNETON TRACK - Intact from U.29.b.central to U.10.d.8.4. This line is in fair condition but requires to be lifted and straightened in many places, also a number of bad lengths of rails to be removed.

LOOP LINE from U.10.d.8.4. to U.17.a.3.2. - This line is in a bad state of repair, being considerably knocked about by artillery fire. 100 yards of duckwalks are required on this line. Also wants lifting and packing in several places.

OLB

( 2 )

App 2

VANCOUVER TRACK (from U.20.b.central to U.17.a.3.2.) This line is fair state of repair, but was damaged by shellfire at U.16.d.7.5. and at U.17.c.3.8. This line also requires a lot of lifting, packing, and straightening and draining.

CALIFORNIAN TRAMWAY - (from U.22.a.5.8. to Motor Car Corner is in good repair, and from Motor Car Corner to Long Avenue is in good repair.

*C. B. Patterson*

14:3:18.

2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

Capt. &amp; Adj.

*CB*

Battalion Headquarters,  
March, 10th 1918.To/-  
2nd Aust. Division.  
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In accordance with instructions I visited the Pioneer Training School at R.E. Depots, Rouen on 7th, 8th and 9th February. With other inspecting officers I was taken all over the school, seeing students at work and examining the types of field engineering works recommended and the methods of construction followed. Our criticism was invited.

In most respects the school was eminently practical as well as experimental. For instance, certain men undergoing instruction having cut and revetted trenches, demolition students placed ammonal charges - calculated to equal certain sized shells - on and close to the parapet or traverses etc., of the trenches. The result of the explosions approximated fairly well to the trench-wrecking effects of shellfire, and demonstrated the relative values of various types of revetment. The classes doing practical revetting undertook repair of these ~~XXXXXX~~ damaged trenches.

The school was making a feature of revetting with rectangular gabions made of one sheet of small-mesh expanded metal, filled with loose earth. They are set at slope of 4/1 and gave good results in the demolition tests. It is found best not to tie the gabions to one another, as a shell may then displace one or two and not drag others with them. I saw some near the edge of a crater that had the upper ends pushed over the vertical and the trench face of the expanded metal 'wrinkled' by the pressure of earth from the explosion, and they were standing well after being ten days in the distorted position. As there was a tendency to break the metal in turning the corners over to make the square gabion I suggest the desirability of experimenting with one of slightly modified design, as per sketch herewith, that would not crack, and would cover a little more trench for each sheet of metal used. These gabions must be set right way up, as the segments of the metal network are set obliquely, so that they help to hold up sand or fine earth when right way up, and allow it to run out when reversed.

If the course could be slightly extended I think it would be well at least to double the time given to the work allotted to twentieth and twenty-first days. Practice on derricks, holdfasts, and the launching of girders is especially calculated to make 'handy' men of the N.C.Os.

A copy of the Syllabus of the Training Course is attached hereto. I also attach hereto copies of what I was informed G.H.Q. have adapted as standard types of Fire trenches and C.Ts.

The trenches having 'block' traverses, rounded at the rear, are said to be more easily laid out at night than the pattern having angles of 120°.

The site of the school and the nature of the soil <sup>are</sup> such that there are no drainage problems to contend with, such as Pioneer Battalions have generally to settle in practice. That is rather a disadvantage in the School, as drainage questions are so very important to us and should be considered prior to the commencement of each work.

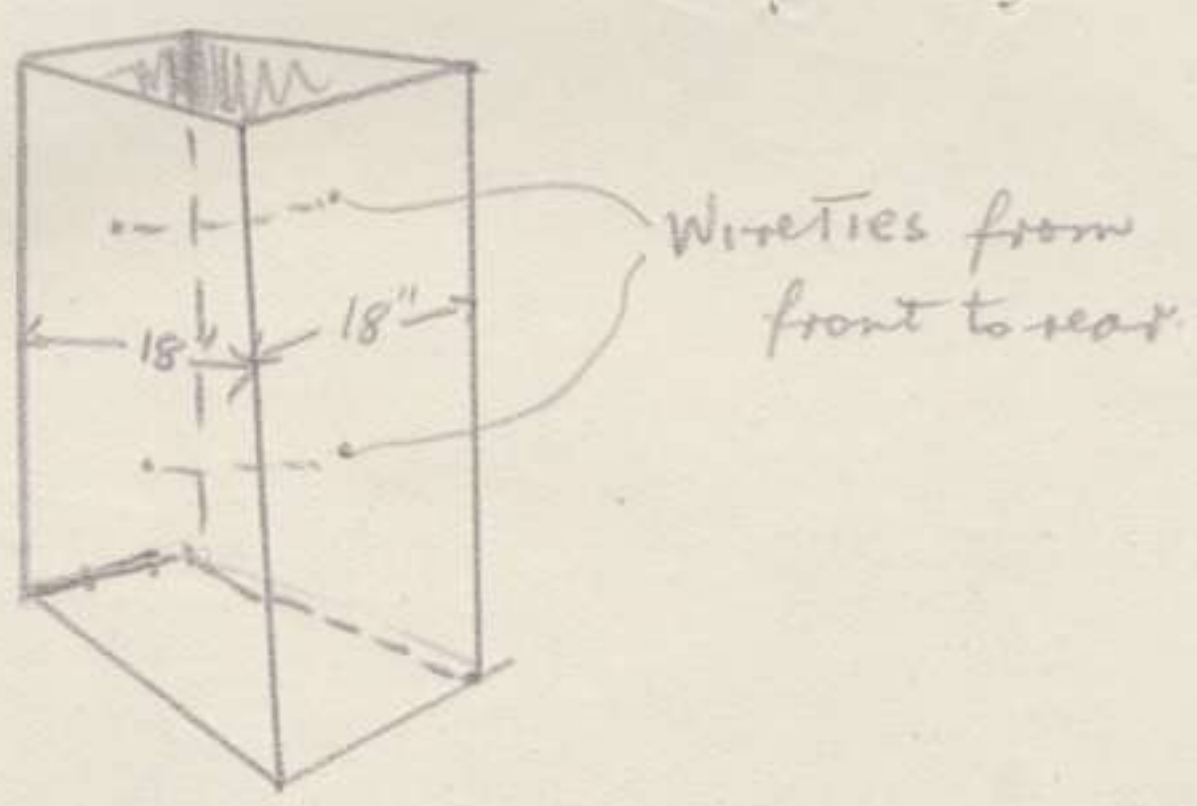
I also noted with interest that by authority of G.H.Q. the use of the term 'strong point' is being restricted to a work - generally of cruciform type - capable of all round defences, wired all round and sited always in rear of the support line, and containing some cover for its garrison. 'Advance posts' are as the name implies, always in the most forward area, and 'defended localities' are portions of the trench system behind the front line prepared for fire to front and flanks in the event of front line being overrun.

The points of last para are probably well known to your Staff, and I only presume to mention them here because I have frequently seen 'strong posts' mentioned in orders when 'advanced posts' or 'defended localities' were intended, and because I had recent experience that some officers are still prone to confuse the terms.

Lieut-Colonel.

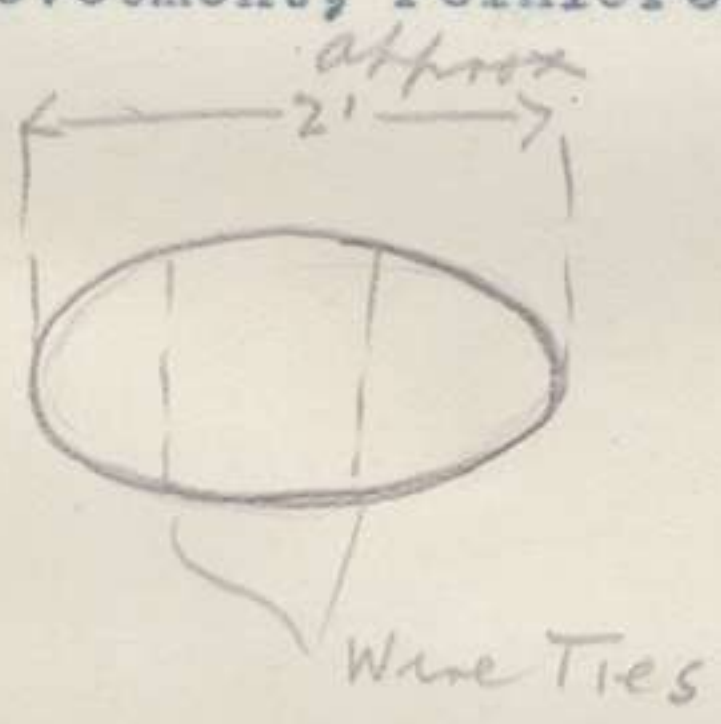
C.O. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

3



Expanded metal gabion constructed of one sheet. It is shaped by bending the metal round a stout wooden frame and lacing in the rough ends. Metal apt to break if corners are at all squarely bent.

Suggest to try gabions of oval section, giving approximately 2ft. linear of revetment, reinforced by 2 pr. of wire ties.



*B.L.B.*

SYLLABUS OF 3RD COURSE TO PIONEER OFFICERS AND N.C.O's.

First Day.

- 9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. Opening/ lecture to officers only, in Mess Room by C.O. R.E.T.S.
- 9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. Camp rules and arrangements, standing orders, etc. to N.C.O's. by Adjutant, R.E.T.S.
- 9.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. Lecture on general description of a trench system, dimensions of trenches, order of tasks, dimensions of breastwork, order of tasks. Factors affecting trace and design, siting of trenches. Drainage of trenches. Visit to School and tour of trenches.
- 2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Lecture on organization of work and material, filing on to work, use of tools, marking out of tasks.

Second Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. N.C.Os. to have practical work leading on to work and digging tasks, also distribution of men and direction of throws. Officers will have a scheme on organization of working parties on a trench also a breastwork.

Third Day.

- 9.45 a.m. - 11 a.m. Lecture on revetments, various types.  
11 a.m. Practical Revetting including setting of A frame and gabions breastwork and sand bagging.

Fourth Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Practical work, revetting.

Fifth Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 10.15 a.m. Lecture on Wiring.  
10.30 a.m. - 12 noon Lecture and detail of drill by Sgt. Mc Haul.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Visit school, examine standard types of wiring. Exhibition of wiring drill by special squad.

Sixth Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. Practical Wiring. (Half day)

Seventh Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12 mid. Practical wiring.  
1.30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Preparing staves for night wiring.  
6 p.m. Practical work, night wiring.

Eighth Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid. Lecture on consolidation, including construction of advanced posts and strong points. Consolidation scheme will be given including advanced posts and strong points. Scheme to be handed in at 9 a.m. the following morning. N.C.Os. will be divided into squads and will trace out various forms of strong points, and prepare sketches of the consolidation of various shell holes.

NINTH DAY.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid. Lecture by Capt. Mc GILL R.E. on cut and cover dugouts, splinter proof, shell and bomb proof. Visit school and inspect work in hand.
- 1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. Lecture on Mining.  
2.45 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Lecture on Concrete.

Tenth Day.

- 8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid. Officers tour of dug-outs and practical work.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. No.1 N.C.O. Squad tour of cut and cover dugout and practical work.  
No.2 N.C.O. Squad tour of concrete work and practical work.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Officers practical work cut and cover dug-outs.  
No.1 Squad, practical work on concrete.  
No.2 Squad, practical work on mine dug-outs.

Twelfth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Officers practical work on concrete.  
No.1 Squad practical work on ~~ENGINEER~~ mine dugouts.  
No.2 Squad practical work on cut and cover dugouts.

Thirteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Officers practical work on concrete.  
No.1 Squad practical work on mine dug-outs.  
No.2 Squad practical work on cut and cover dugouts.  
Lecture on road repairs, trench board tracks, and slab roads.

Fourteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Practical work on slab roads.  
The squads to be detailed off by Senior Pioneer Officer.

Fifteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Officer's squad to prepare written scheme for laying an overland trench board track after capture of enemy position.  
Write short essay on overland and trench board tracks, describing various methods.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

N.C.Os. to be divided into squads to reconnoitre for overland tracks, and prepare written report.  
Practical work laying out various types of overland tracks and laying trench boards.

Sixteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Lecture on Decauville Tracks.  
N.C.Os. Squad practical work.  
Officers laying out curves, etc.

Seventeenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  
10.30 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
Grade 6 p.m.

Lecture on map reading, use of prismatic compass and Abney level.  
Practical work.  
Night work with compass.

Eighteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - ~~10.30 a.m.~~  
11 a.m. - 12 Mid.

Lecture on screens.  
Lecture on Camouflage.

Nineteenth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  
10.30 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Lecture on Field Geometry and use of field level.  
Practical work.  
do do

Twentieth Day.

8.45 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  
10.30 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Lecture on knots and lashings, taking of sections and trestles.  
Practical work, knots and lashings.  
Officers will take sections of gaps and prepare design for bridging same.  
N.C.Os. Practical work on trestle bridging.

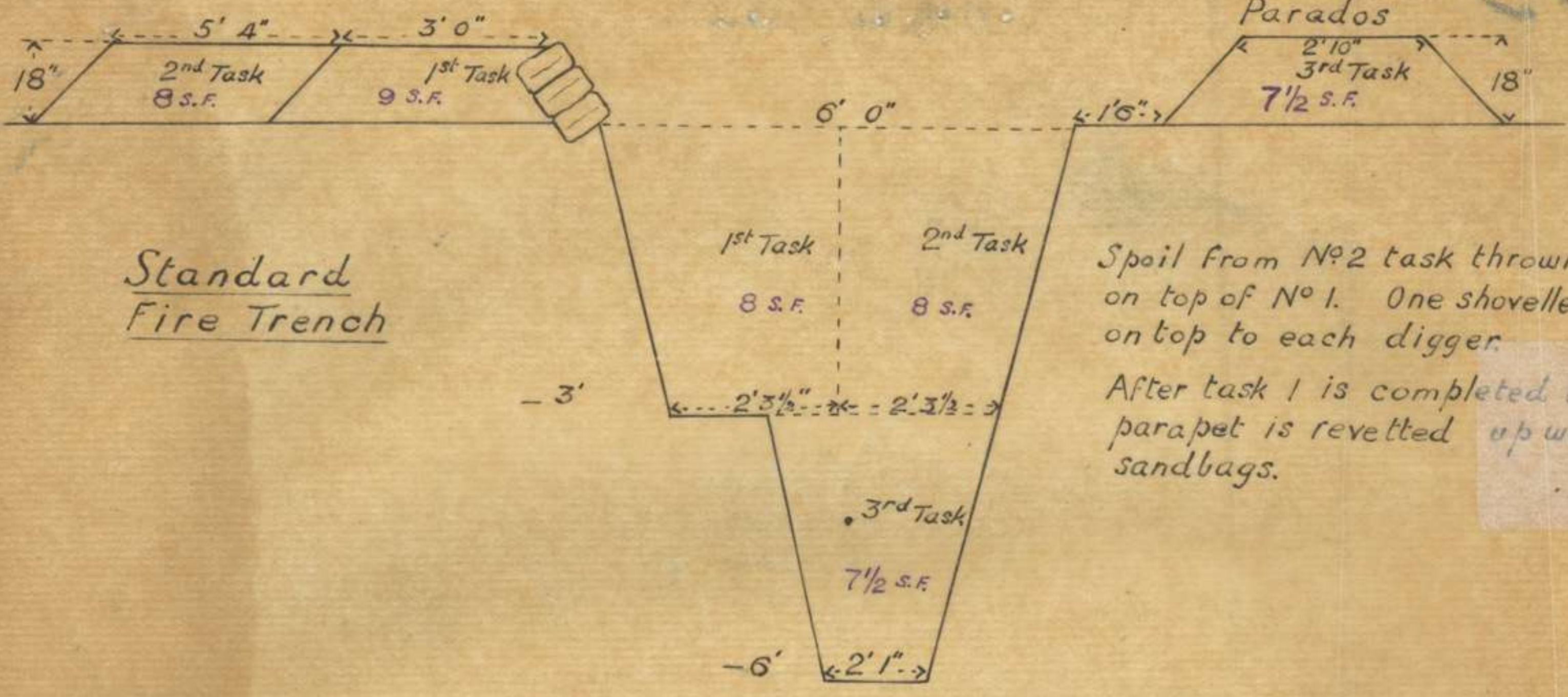
Twenty-first Day.

8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid.  
1.30 to 3.30 p.m.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Officers lecture on Explosives.  
Practical work 8.45 a.m. - 12 Mid. Practical work erecting derricks and launching girders.  
ditto.

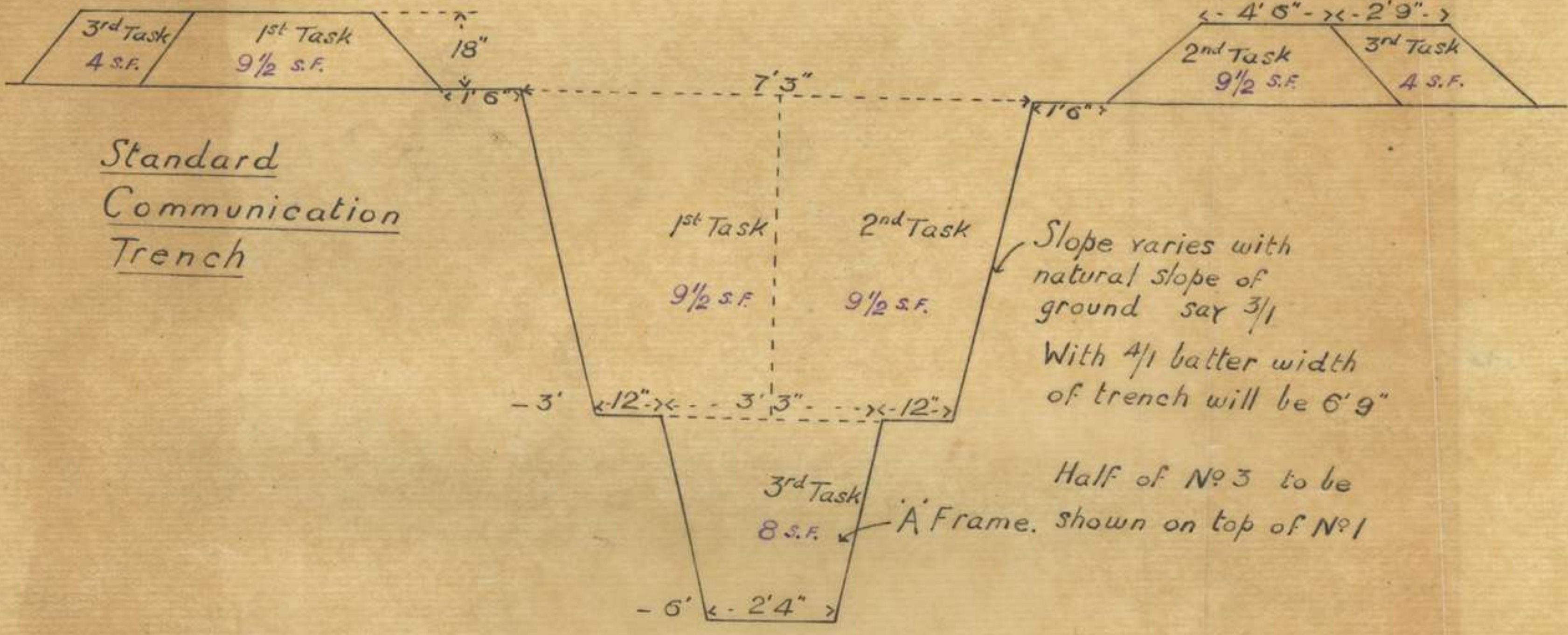
*CLZ*





Spoil from No 2 task thrown on top of No 1. One shoveller on top to each digger.

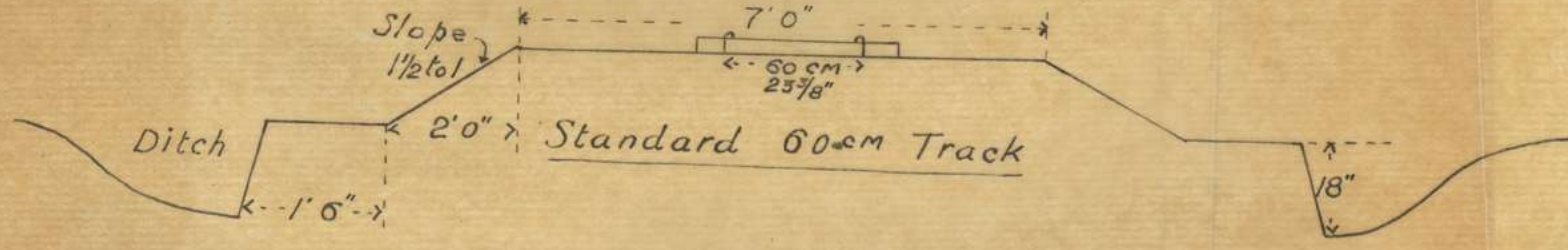
After task 1 is completed the parapet is revetted up with sandbags.



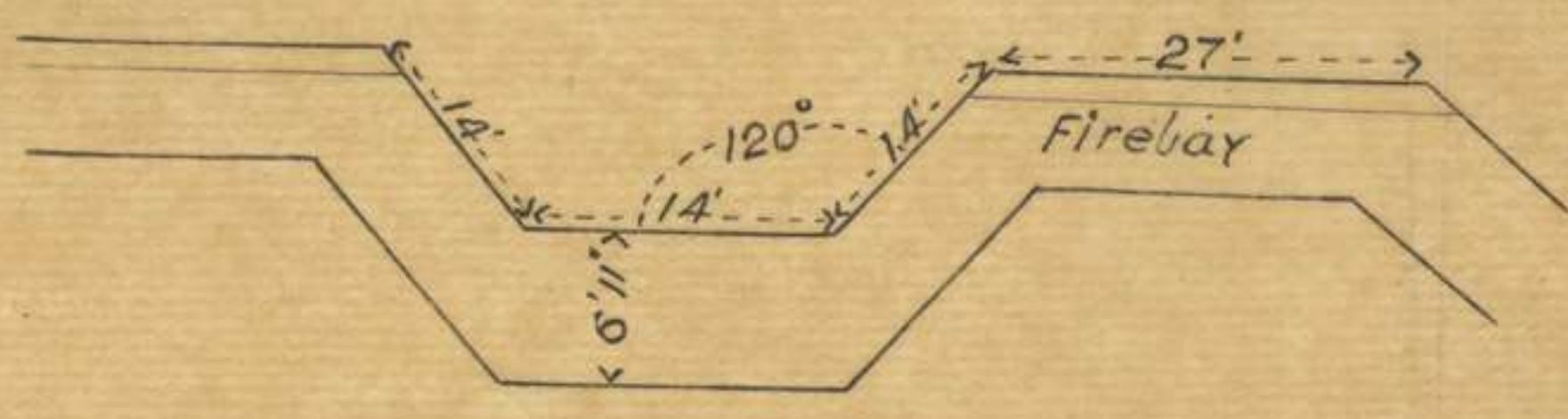
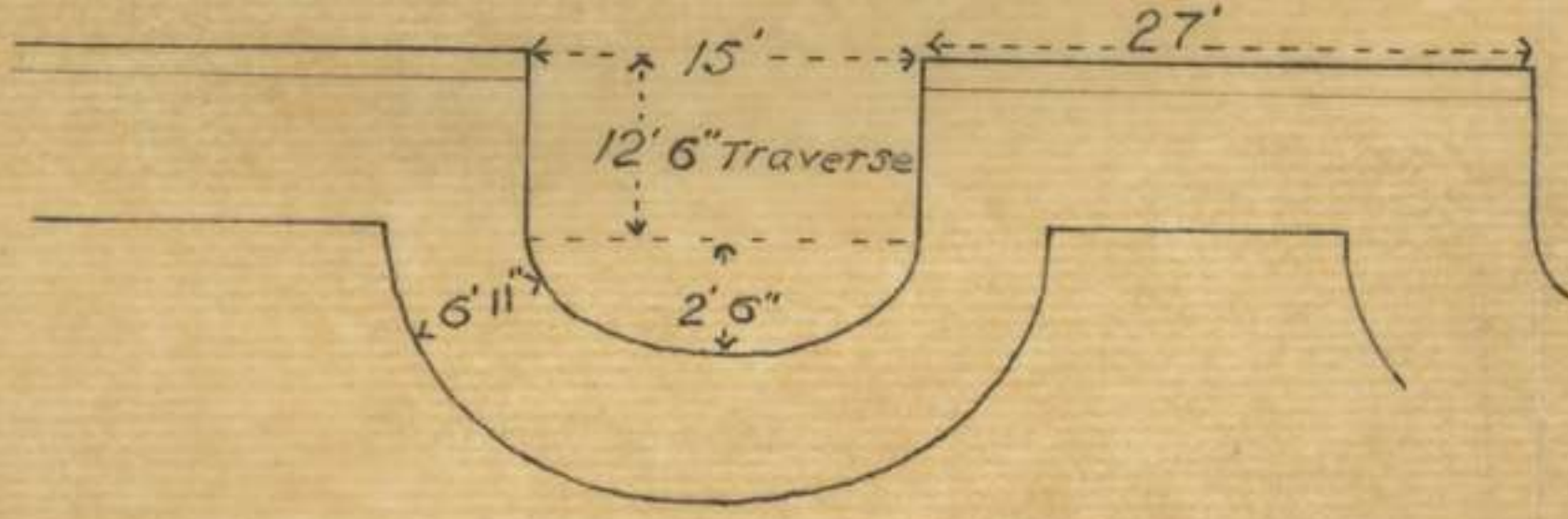
Slope varies with natural slope of ground say 3/1

With 4/1 batter width of trench will be 6' 9"

Half of No 3 to be A Frame. shown on top of No 1



Standard Types of Trench



6/26

105  
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

16

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT - FOR WEEK ENDING 15:3:18.

*App 4*

TRENCHES.

UMPIRE ROW - 57 yards repaired at U.22.d.4.4. - U.22.d.2.4. - U.22.d.1.3. - U.22.c.9.3. and U.22.c.6.4.  
CECIL SUPPORT - 35 yards repaired at C.4.b.2.0. - C.4.a.9.5. and C.4.a.7.8.  
UMPIRE AVENUE - 25 yards cleaned and repaired at U.28.a.1.5.  
WARNAVE LANE - 26 yards cleaned and revetted at U.28.a.5.6.  
16 yards of Duckwalks laid at U.28.a.5.6.  
UMPIRE AVENUE - 200 yards revetment, duckwalks repaired and trench drained from U.22.c.9.2. to U.22.d.0.3.  
KIWI TRENCH - Erecting camouflage to screen trench at C.4.d.6.7. 50% work completed. Two shell holes repaired.  
ULTIMO AVENUE AND ULTIMO LANE - Repairing, revetting and draining at various places from U.15.c.6.9. to U.17.d.6.3.  
UGLY AVENUE - Draining and improving revetments between U.11.a.5.1. and U.11.d.1.3. Trench from ULTIMO LANE U.17.d.6.3. to U.23.b.1.4. deepened to afford 6ft of cover.  
Average number of men employed :- 212.

DUGOUTS.

Four dugouts pumped out cleaned at ADVANCED ESTAMINET - U.14.a.5.4. Two floored, others not floored (unsafe and unlikely to be usable).  
150 yards of main drain cut and shell holes in vicinity of dugout drained into this.

SHELTERS.

Nine Shelters completed at ST ANDREWS DRIVE - U.14.a. and 6. In addition excavations for six more completed. Latrine and Cookhouse 75% completed.  
200 yards of trench cleared of mud. Three side drains cut. Revetting strengthened and restored where required.  
Average number of men employed :- 110.

CAMOUFLAGE.

22 men employed under Divisional Camouflage Officer.

ROADS.

All roads in Divisional Sector patrolled and maintained.  
Average number of men employed :- 30.

TRAMWAYS.

VANCOUVER TRACK LINE - drained, formation improved, line lifted in low places, packed and ~~xxxxx~~ straightened. Line now in good order from U.20.b.4.6. to U.16.d.6.5.  
WARNETON TRACK LINE - drained, formation improved, line lifted in low places, packed and straightened. Line now in good order from U.20.b.4.6. to U.9.d.5.2.  
All lines patrolled and kept open for traffic. Shell holes repaired at U.22.a.8.9. - U.16.d.3.3. - U.11.c.1.9. and U.9.d.4.2.  
128 Trucks located, 94 numbered, labelled and repaired.  
Average number of men employed :- 32.

16:3:18-

*W. Patterson* Capt. & Adj.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

*Cliff*

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APPENDIX

3

H. Henry printing

From Dorothy V. Connor  
Sandringham  
Victoria

24.1.18

To the  
Officer Commanding  
The 12th Pioneer Battalion  
A. I. F  
Abroad.

Apr 5

Dear Sir

I am sending to you, under separate cover, some music for the use of your Battalion Band (or the band connected with your Battalion). Will you please forward same to the Bandmaster.

If my Pioneers March can be any help or cheer to the boys for whom it was written - I shall be very glad indeed.

Mr. Percy Code has arranged the march for Band. Will you kindly acknowledge receipt of the music to me or to my brother in France. (No 3086 PTE. H.N. CONNOR. 2nd PIONEER BATTALION.) I will send duplicate set of parts by next mail.

As the music was written expressly for the Pioneers, the Bandmaster will understand that no copies of the music may be made, without my consent, or that of my brother.

With every good wish for you & all your Boys  
Believe me, Sincerely Yours  
Dorothy V. Connor.

3086

## SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

To 2nd Aust Division

*appb*

In accordance with orders I attended the conference of C.Os & Seconds in Command of Pioneer Battalions held at R.E.School ROUEN on 25th 26th & 27th February.

1st 2nd 3rd & 4th Australian Pioneer Battalions were represented, also one New Zealand, several Canadian and practically all the British General Staff and other officers from G.H.Q. were in attendance throughout, Major General Heath, who I understand is Director of Engineer Services G.H.Q. presided on the final day.

I attach a copy of the Syllabus.

At the morning session of the first day it was pointed out that until the question of the organisation and status of Pioneer Battalions had been more or less determined the courses of training for Officers & N.C.Os could not be intelligently discussed and so the presiding officer introduced discussion of question (b) Organisation set down for discussion on the third day. The employment of Pioneer Battalions was discussed simultaneously.

The G.S. officer from G.H.Q. read out the detail of the proposed new organisation for British Pioneer Battalions which was identical to that of Infantry Battalions and was based on the assumption that they were to be primarily infantry. (Battalions of 3 Companies).

During the discussion it transpired that some British Divisions have not got a Pioneer Battalion and that in consequence Pioneer Battalions were often left in the line when their division was withdrawn and had to work with staffs that did not understand either their capabilities or their limitations. Then they may be ~~drawn~~ withdrawn a few hundred yards to work on a Corp line. Some have been engaged practically continuously on field works for 14 months with no opportunities at all for training. This continued labouring and absence of training spells, had resulted in depreciating the Esprit-de-Corps. Several of the Battalions had been involved in the German counter offensive near CAMBRAI and at times had to hold part of the line and garrison certain localities.

Some of the officers testified that most of the relatively new men they had were almost useless, for fighting, having had no training for many months, and that they had to rely on the leaven of "old soldiers" for effective use of the rifle and the fighting qualities.

After an interesting discussion and exchange of views the presiding officer invited us to submit memos in writing on the questions of organisation and employment.

Copy of my memo is attached hereto.

Major General Heath told me during an interlude that he had been considering the provision of a Battalion of Field Engineers & a Pioneer Battalion for each Division. In respect to that the British have a complaint that it is not fair to have men of relatively equal attainment doing identical classes of work in a Divisional Area and those of one Corps to be paid nearly twice as much as their comrades of the other Corps.

The general experience was that no matter what may have been in the mind of the late Lord Kitchener when he ordered the organisation of Pioneer Battalions, the experience has been that they are practically technical troops employed on field engineering. That this is recognised by the authorities is shown by the syllabus of training for Officers & N.C.Os at the R.E.School ROUEN and the course of training at the excellent Pioneer School at READING, ENGLAND.

The C.Os were unanimous in opinion as to the need of occasional periods for rest and training in which the Battalions could be brushed up in musketry tactics and enough drill to maintain the soldierly spirit and realisation of cohesion that are apt to languish when men are sent out month after month in what are usually small scattered working parties.

*Ch 26*

The lecture on Camouflage by Colonel Wyatt was a particularly interesting and instructive event. App 6

The discussion and exchange of opinions and experiences on the second day were very interesting and useful. The School Staff appeared very anxious to secure and make use of latest practical experiences.

During the consideration of the question of training on the third day the C.O. of Pioneer Training School at Reading, England, outlined the course and circulated copies of papers set for final examination of Officers and invited criticism and suggestions. It is a very good course in field engineering.

It transpired that the large number of officers and thousands of N. C. O's who have passed through that school have been sent to a general reinforcement depot and were promiscuously scattered through the army, the Pioneer Battns. receiving only a very small percentage of the Officers and N. C. O.s who had been specially trained for their work.

I was glad to be able to assure them that the Australian Army ~~manages~~ manages better than that.

Many of our Officers and N. C. Os. from the Pioneer Training Battalion have attended the Reading School with valuable results.

It was announced at the conference that the Reading School was to be converted into more of a depot and that the Canadians were setting up a Pioneer Training School of their own.

If the Reading Training School is not to be any longer available to the Officers and N. C. O's. from our Training Battalion, I respectfully suggest the addition of such a course to the functions of the Pioneer Training Battalion or some other provision to provide their special training.

After a short discussion on the subject of "Technical Equipment" in which the need of amendment was unanimously recognised the matter of settling the details was left to a Committee of which I was a member.

The Committee met after the general conference had ended and went carefully through the Mob Store Tables making recommendations for additions and omissions in accordance with the views of the majority. The recommendations were to be sent to G. H. Q.

As I have already reported on a visit to the Pioneer Training School at Rouen I will not incorporate other reference to it in this report.

The conference was exceedingly interesting and instructive and should serve a useful purpose in having brought the Staff of G. H. Q. into more intimate touch with the comparatively unknown Pioneer Battalions.

*F. W. S. [Signature]*

Lieut Col.  
C. O. 2ND AUST. PIONEER BATTALION,

4: 3: 18.

*Bl 26*

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COPY.

SYLLABUS FOR CONFERENCE OF PIONEER  
COMMANDING OFFICERS.

APPENDIX 6

Commencing February, 25th 1918.

First Day.

- 9.45 a.m. (a) Object of the Conference.
- (b) Explanation of the course for training of Company Commanders and N.C.Os. giving detail of syllabus with explanation of method of training and points dealt with in lectures.
- (c) Discussion of same and amendments, if any.
- (d) Opinions with reference to continuation of course etc.
- (e) Visit to the Field works.
- 3.0 p.m. (f) Lecture on Camouflage by Colonel Wyatt.

Second Day.

- 9.45 a.m. Lecture on the principles taught at the school, followed by discussion.
- (a) Wiring.
- (b) Revetments.
- (c) Standard types of trenches.
- (d) Cut and cover dug-outs.
- (e) Roads and tracks.
- (f) Mining. (Dug-outs).

Lecture on concrete and its uses.

Third Day.

- 9.45 a.m. (1) Lecture on General Principles of Defence.
- (2) Discussion by C.Os. in reference to question of
  - (a) Technical equipment.
  - (b) Organization.
  - (c) Training.

and any other subjects that may be brought forward.

The afternoon to be left open for a final discussion of all points arising out of the conference.

*Ch 26*

*APP 6*

105

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APPENDIX

7

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

*Copy*

Battalion Headquarters  
March, 20th 1918.

To  
2nd AustN Division

*app 7*

Reference 57/115, D.A.G. 21/203 A.I.F., intimating temporary increase in establishment of Pioneer Battalions to bring them up to 1200 other ranks.

May I be informed, please, whether authority can be given to appoint a proportion of extra Corporals?

To effectively employ the extra hands in emergency, it will be necessary to carry extra shovels.

Our transport is severely taxed, as it has been found essential from time to time to get many tools that are not provided for in our Mob; Store Table, and in order to be ready to do again work such as we have been called on to do in the past we have to carry these extra tools with us.

May we have an allotment of two extra G.S. Wagons, please?

Our establishment of pack animals might be cut down if desired to balance animals, as they are scarcely ever used for pack transport.

*Sgd. F. W. G. Annand* Lieut-Colonel  
C.O., 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion.

*Ch 26*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

*aff*

PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 22nd MARCH 1918.

TRENCHES.

ULTIMO AVENUE trench cleaned out, drained, revettments and shell holes repaired at numerous places between U.15.c.5.5. and U.17.a.4.4.

ULTIMO LANE. trench cleaned out and repaired, breastworks heightened revetments and shell holes repaired at numerous points between U.17.a.4.4. and U.17.d.6.8.

UGLY LANE. revetments repaired, breastworks raised at U.11.d.2.7. U.11.d.0.3. U.11.c.7.8. U.11.c.80.76. & U.11.c.8.9.

Note:- UGLY LANE is not shown on map. UGLY LANE runs from EGMONT AVENUE at U.11.a.54.09. to U.11.d.4.8. marked on map as EGMONT AVE: EGMONT AVENUE should run from U.11.a.1-1. to WALK ALLEY at U.11.a.30.13.

UMPIRE TRENCH. Blasting concrete and obstacles at U.17.d.5.4. and U.17.d.40.05., deviation cut from ULTIMO LANE U.17.d.50.84. to U.17.d.53.76. Trench cleaned out and deepened at U.17.d.54.50. and U.17.d.5.3. U.23.b.1.2. U.23.b.2.5. 90 yard duckwalk laid from U.23.b.22.15.45. & U.23.b.2.5. 23 yards revetment erected U.23.a.6.4.

MUD LANE. 650 yards wire taken off and renewed between U.19.b.4.7 and U.20.a.1.9. also from U.14.c.8.1. to U.14.d.3.3. Shell holes repaired at various points.

UMPIRE SUPPORT. 23 yards dug U.23.a.6.3.

KIWI STREET. 10 yards revetments repaired at C.4.d.7.6. 56 yards cleaned and duckwalks lifted C.4.d.7.6.

CECIL SUPPORT, 123 yards duckwalk repaired C.4.a.7.8.

WARNAVE LANE. 70 yards repaired U.23.a.5.6. 125 yards drained and duckwalks relaid U.23.a.60.35. 22 yards cleaned and drained and 10 yards revetted at U.23.a.70.33.

UMPIRE AVENUE. 580 yards repaired U.22.c.7.9. to U.22.d, 0.3. 55 yards revetted at U.23.a.1.5.

UMPIRE ROW. 4 shell holes repaired at U.22.c.8.3.

UMPIRE DRIVE SOUTH. 150 yards duckwalks repaired at U.23.a.4.9. Material carried 141 duckwalks 55" AB frames 58 revetment frames 60 sheets iron 1/2 cwt: nails

Average number of men employed 214.

SHELTERS.

4 Shelters completed 1 partially completed 1 cook house completed U.14.c.5.5. 5 shelters completed 3 partially completed 60 yards trench dug U.14.d.3.3. 6 shelters completed 1 excavation completed 1 excavation partially completed 1 cook house completed at U.14.c.5.3. 4 dugouts pumped out at U.14.c.5.5.

Average number of men employed 90.

TRAMWAYS.

VANCOUVER TRACK. Line drained, formation, improved, rails lifted and packed where sunk and straightened. In good state of repair from U.20.b.4.6. to U.17.a.3.1.

WARNETON TRACK. Lines drained, formation improved, rails lifted and packed where sunk & straightened, In good state of repair from U.20-b.4.5. to U.10.d.4.3.

*Bl 2*



PROGRESS REPORT CONTINUED (2).

*Apr 8*

LE GHEER TRACK. 345 yards new track laid from U.22.c.05.20 to U.22.c.6.6.  
Formation completed to U.22.c.9.5. 500 sleepers and 238  
lengths rail salvaged from PLOEGSTREET WOOD and carried  
to U.22.c.05.20.

All lines continually patrolled shell holes repaired and lines kept  
open for traffic. All trucks collected and controlling depots established  
at U.20.b.4.6., C.7.b.5.9., C.14.a.9.9.  
32 trucks repaired & 158 trucks greased.  
Average number of men employed daily 120.

5 men engaged on Electric light at HYDE PARK CORNER, U19.b.3.7.  
24 men on camouflage work under Divisional Camouflage Officer.  
Roads in Divisional area reconnoitred and separate map forwarded.

7TH FKD AMB. 4 men - Constructed incenerator, pulled down and rebuilt  
shed over same, built concrete slab.

184th TUN COY.R.E. 2 Officers and 38 o,r.

*G. B. Latimer*

*Ch 6*

Capt. & Adj

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

105

*448*

ROAD REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 22 : 3 : 1918.

Place and Location	Officer I/C.	No of Men	Hours Worked	Nature of Work	Remarks
PLOEGSTEERT-LE GHEER U.25.c.9.4 to U.21.d.7.0.	Major J.F. Donnelly D.S.O.	Average 30	Average 8 1/2	125 yards repaired 140 yards drain cleaned 7 G.S. waggon loads and 33 limbers of metal spread	Roads in good order to U.21.d.7.0.
GUNNER ROAD C.7.b.5.1. to C.3.d.4.8.				40 yards repaired 80 yards drain cleaned 4 shell holes filled 4 limbers metal spread.	Road in good order to C.3.d.4.8.
CAR MOTOR CORNER ROAD C.13.b.3.4. to C.14.a.9.9.				80 yards repaired repaired 150 yards drain cleaned 1 shell hole filled.	Road in good order to C.14.a.9.9.
ASH AVENUE. U.14.a.5.4. to U.15.a.1.8.				37 shell holes filled in WRR 200 yards drain cleared.	Road in good order to U.15.a.1.8.
				Approx: 17 tons of metal & 13 tons of brick debris used.	

*G. B. Patterson*  
 Capt. & A.D.J.  
 C.O. 2nd Aust Pioneer Lieut-Colonel  
 Battalion

APPENDIX 8  
*[Handwritten signature]*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

off 9

EXTRACT FROM 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 164 of 24/3/18.

Para 3. 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Battalion will move from NIEPPE into Divisional Reserve at camps in vicinity of WULVERGHEM on 26th March. Anti Air-craft Lewis Guns and crews of 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion., at present attached to 2nd. Aust Div. Artillery, will rejoin unit on 25th March.

(Signed) T. I. Borwick. Major..  
General Staff,  
Second Australian Division.

Ch 36

105

MOVEMENT ORDER (and ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO) No. 25.

2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION  
7008

BY

aff 9

LT-COL. F.W.G. ANNAND, DSO., VD., COMMANDING 2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

In the Field,  
March 24th 1918.

- INTENTION. 1. Battalion will march out of camps at present occupied, on 26th inst, to WULVERGHEM.
- ROUTE. 2. H.Q. (including Band) via 'xxx' and to be Divisional Reserve. to WULVERGHEM. Coys to arrange own starting time and route.
- MARCH DISCIPLINE. 3. As laid down in previous orders, to be strictly maintained (See A. R. O's para's 356 and 438 to 451)
- STARTING TIME. 4. H. Q. 9 a.m.
- ADVANCE PARTY. 5. Lieuts. Henry and Proctor and 2 H. Q. Sigs will proceed to WULVERGHEM on the 25th inst., to take over and allot camp sites also one Officer and one N. C. O. from "A" Coy to make reconnaissance of Trenches and Roads in extension of Div. Area. One Officer and one N. C. O. from "B" Coy to make reconnaissance of Tramway system. One N. C. O. and man from "C" and "D" Coys to take over Coy Camps. Cpl Sankey and one man from Pioneer Section to take over Lindenhoek Dump (N.27.c,9.8.) Transport Sgt. to arrange for Transport Lines.
- BLANKETS. 6. One Blanket and Ground Sheet will be carried, attached to pack. No special method is laid down but it is desired that each Unit of Battalion use its own method which should be uniform in that unit.
- TRANSPORT. 7. T. O. will arrange for Coy Transport to report to Coy H. Qs at 6 p.m. on 25th inst. On completion of move Transport will return to Transport Lines.
- TRANSPORT GUARD. 8. Details from Q. M. Store to be H. Q. transport guard. Coys will arrange Guards for respective transport. ( Note :- No men except Transport Guards to ride on vehicles. )
- TOOLS, MUNITION. 9. Full complement of tools, equipment, grenades, S. A. Ammunition to be carried. All surplus stores to be neatly stacked in a suitable place in each Unit's Lines. No personal or other equipment of any description to be left in this area. Any surplus food to be handed to Coy Cooks or Btn. Q. M. Store.

OK 26

WATER. 10. ))  
Sanitation 11. ))  
ALARM POSTS. 12. ))  
GAS GUARDS. 13. ))  
ENEMY BOM-  
BARDMENT. 14 ))  
FIRE  
PIQUETS. 15 ))

As laid down in Operation Order No. 22 of

12: 12: 17-

*Atkg*

- CAMP SITES. 16. Camps to be left in clean and sanitary condition and certificates to be forwarded to B. O. R. by 9 a.m, 28th inst.
- COMPLETION. 17. On completion of individual moves each unit of battalion will at once report to B. H. Q. stating time move was completed.
- RUNNERS. 18. Each Coy will send a runner to Battalion Headquarters to report to Signal Sergeant and to conduct H. Q. Signallers over routes to Coys Headquarters. Battalion Headquarters will be situated at a position to be notified later.

*G. B. Patterson* Capt and Adjt.  
2nd. AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.

*Cl 56*

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APPENDIX

10

SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters  
25th March 1918.

O/C	A Coy.	T. O.
	B "	Sig. Officer.
	C "	B. L. G. O.
	D "	R. S. M.
	Q. M.	Gas N.C.O.



*App 10*

In accordance with Divisional Orders received, only the minimum number of men required for Patrols and necessary repair of roads, tramway system, and electric light duty at Catacombs will be employed. The remainder of the Btn, including Band, Pioneer Section and attached details (including Batmen) are to be exercised in musketry exercises, such as rapid loading, Trigger pressing, Aiming practice and fire control; organisation of Machine Gun Sections Bombers, and Signallers.

Necessary action will be taken to ensure that Equipment, Rifles, Ammunition and Bombs are efficient and up to all requirements. Special precautions will be taken that all gas appliances are in good order and that men are exercised in adjusting same quickly and correctly.

ALL RANKS WILL BE SPECIALLY WARNED THAT THEY ARE AT ALL TIMES TO BE READY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION, and therefore must not be absent from Camps except on duties for which they have been detailed.

Working parties, except those above mentioned, will be withdrawn from Works now in progress.

A Syllabus of Training is being arranged and will be forwarded early.

*G. Patterson* Capt and Adjt.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

*CL 36*

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters.  
25th March 1918.

O/e	A	Company.
	B	"
	C	"
	D	"

*app 11*



SUGGESTIONS RE SYLLABUS OF SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL TRAINING (vide Btn 3/716 of 25/3/18.)

The present need for men to be able to use all weapons at their disposal is apparent to all, and while it is late to attempt to train untrained men, it seems opportune to make most of all opportunities for rehearsing training already done in the past. The special subjects requiring attention are as under :-

- MUSKETRY. { Aiming and Trigger Pressing.  
Rapid Loading and Fire Control.
- BOMBING. As part of a Platoon both in attack and defence.
- MACHINE GUNNERY. From a Platoon and Company standpoint both in attack and defence.
- SCOUTING AND PATROLLING. General idea.
- SIGNALLERS AND RUNNERS. Specially refers to runners and passing of messages.
- GAS DRILL. Rapid adjustment of appliances.

For the purposes of training recourse should be made to Issues of Training Manuals forwarded to Companies from time to time, i.e., "The Training and Employment of Platoons" "Instructions on Bombing" "Scouting and Patrolling" etc.,

Please draw up a syllabus of Training including above mentioned subjects, forwarding copy to B.H.Q.

*CLZ*

*C. Patterson* Capt and Adjt.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

## SECOND AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Weekly progress report for week ending 29: 3: 18. APPENDIX *12*TRENCHES.

- UMPIRE DRIVE SOUTH. 162 yards duckwalks repaired U23.c.2.8, U23.c 4.9  
U23 c. 80.65 U.22 d.4.3 U 22.d.8.6. 4 yards revetted U 22 d 5.4
- SUFFOLK SUPPORT. 12 yards revetted U 28. c. 5.6
- O.G.1. 82 yards generally repaired U 28.a. 8.3. *app 12*  
36 yards revetted U23 a.8.8.
- UMPIRE AVENUE. 130 yards generally repaired. U22.d.0.2. 15 yards  
revetments and duckwalks repaired. U28.a. 75.00. 12 yards  
revetted U22 d.0.2.
- UMPIRE ROW. 5 yards drained U.22c.8.4. Two shell holes repaired  
~~U22 d.25.27.~~
- UMPIRE TRENCH. A frames erected and duckwalks laid 72 yards between  
U 23 b 3.6. and U 23 b 20.25. Shell hole repaired U 23 b 3.7  
35 yards deepened and graded U 23 b 3.6. Trench widened and  
deepened and berm cut between U 17 d 6.8 and U 17 d 5.0. Trench  
graded and drained U 17 d 55.60.
- ULTIMO LANE. Trench cleaned out, revetted with pit props, duckwalks  
relaid U 17 d 5.9 . Trench repaired where necessary from  
U 17 d 5.8 to U 17 d 4.9.
- ULTIMO AVENUE. Parapet raised U 17 a 3.5. Trench revetted between  
U 16.b.8.3 and U.17.a.3.5. and drains cleaned and duckwalks  
relaid.
- St. IVES AVENUE. Trench cleaned out and duckwalks relaid U.15.c.5.6.
- MUD LANE TRACK. Duckwalks renewed and wired approx. U.14.d.6.7.
- DOUVE TRACK. Patrolled and kept in order.

93 duckwalks, 92 "A" frames, 30 revetment frames, 50 sheets of  
iron carried from dump to site of work. Average number of  
men employed 241.

Note. Owing to move, except for patrol of tramways and roads,  
only three days work done during week.

TRENCH TRAMWAYS.

- WARNETON TRACK. Line drained, formation improved, rails lifted and  
packed when required and straightened, from U.10.d.4.3. to  
U.11.a.3.2. Duckwalks repaired and wired. Line ~~now~~ now  
in good order from U.20.b.4.6. to U.11.a.3.2.
- VANCOUVER TRACK. Lines drained formation improved rails lifted  
and straightened where required. Duckwalks repaired and  
~~rewired~~ rewired from U.17.a.3.i. to U. 16. b.8.9. Line now  
in good order from U.20.b.4.6 to U.16.b.8.9.
- LE GHEER TRACK. 465 yards of track salvaged and laid from U.22.c.6.6.  
to U.22.d.3.7. Formation completed from U.22.c.9.5. to  
U.22.d.4.7. Culverts erected at U.22.c.6.6. and U.22 c.9.5.  
All lines in Divisional area patrolled and kept  
open for traffic. Truck controls carried on at U.20.b.4.6.  
C.1.d.7.1. C.14.a.9.9. T.5.b.1.4. O.31.c.8.5. T.12.b.5.2.  
143 lengths rails and 400 sleepers salvaged in Ploegsteert  
Wood and dumped at Le Gheer Dump or used on Le Gheer Track.  
Average number of men employed 109.

SHELTERS.

- U.14.d.3.6. Two ~~excavations~~ excavations partially completed . One cookhouse  
and one latrine partially completed . 15 yards trench ~~is~~ deepened.
- U.14.c.5.5. One shelter completed, partially completed one rebuilt
- U.14.c.5.3. One shelter partially completed, three shelters improved  
One excavation deepened.
- U.14.c.7.7. Excavation for B. H. Q. partially completed. Coy H.Q.  
partially completed.



(2).

WELL SINKING. U.9.a.6.2. Well pumped out and cleaned. Bricks prepared.  
 U.9.a.3.3. Well completed.  
 U.10.a.3.5. Well pumped out, cleaned and widened. Six sets of timber erected.  
 U.10c.7.8 Well pumped out, cleaned and deepened one foot. Six sets of timber erected.

Average number of men employed ~~128~~ 129.

24 men on Camouflage under Divisional Camouflage Officer .

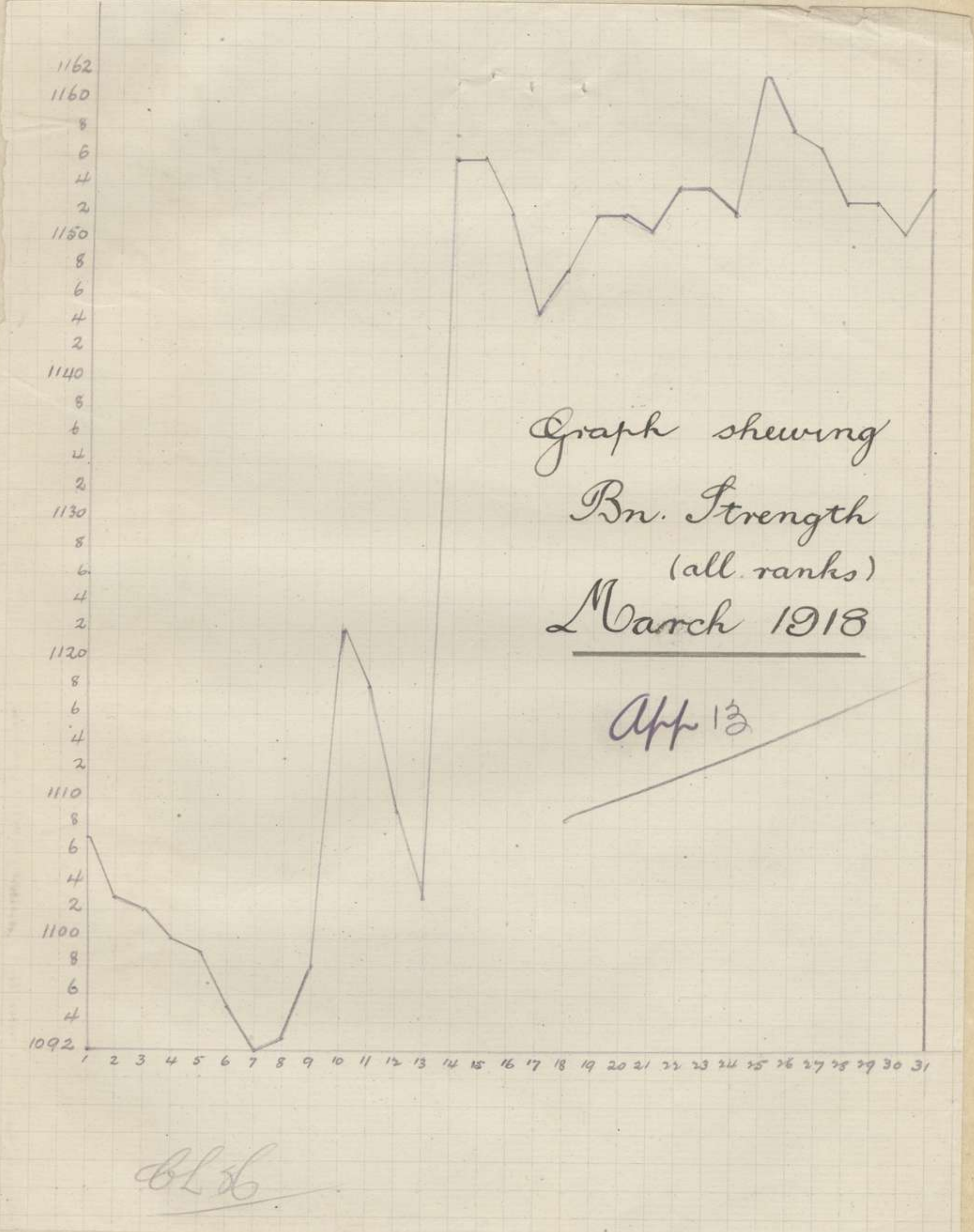
5 men on Electric Light Plant at Hyde Park Corner.

2 Officers and 28 other ranks detached; with 184th Tunneling Coy.

*App 12*

*G. B. Patterson* Capt. and Adjt.  
 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

*CL 26*



CLB

2nd Aus Pioneer Bn.

Report on Discipline - March 1918.

App 14

During the month of March 1918 ~~2~~<sup>7</sup> NCOs and men were remanded for trial by F&CM as follows

- Sgt - AWL 7 days Reduced to Cpl.
- Cpl - Leaving his guard Reduced to ranks.
- AWL and escaping confinement 60 days FPN02
- AWL 64 days One year's IHL
- AWL + attempting escape Two yrs IHL
- Sentry leaving post without relief 6 mths IHL
- AWL 45 hrs 7 days FPN02

Two other men were tried by the C.O. on charge of AWL for 147 hours each & were awarded 28 days' FPN02

There were only fourteen other orderly room cases for the month - minor cases - such as AWL for a period of hrs - neglect of duty - obscene language etc -

These were dealt with by the C.O. & sentences ranging from forfeiture of 2 days' pay to 7 days' FPN02 awarded.

Report on Transport March 1918

App 15

The Bn transport has been kept very busy during the past month, owing firstly to the necessity of using it for the cartage of stone, gravel & RE stores on forward works, and secondly to the frequent recent moves of the Bn -

It is calculated that approx. 150 tons of RE stores were carried for 360 miles on forward works - while ASC supplies, Canteen Stores & Bn material amounting in all to some 320 tons were carried for a total mileage of 700 miles -

The condition of the animals has proved healthy, none being evacuated sick during the month - 200 light draughts were killed by shell fire on 11th March -

The issue of a Chaff cutter to this unit is largely responsible for the very satisfactory condition of the animals.

*Chaff cutter*

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APPENDIX 16<sup>34</sup>

2nd. AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters.

31: 3: 1918.

*App 16*

To - A. D. M. S.

2nd. Australian Division.

The health of the men of this unit for March has been satisfactory, there being no prevailing disease and no trench feet.

Evacuations to Field Ambulances for Scabies, Venereal Disease, Diarrhoea and Pyrenia cases have been ordinary and compare favorably with other units of the Division.

Except for a short period the men were in comfortable billets or huts.

Bathing arrangements were satisfactory although interfered with owing to moving to fresh area.

Blankets were all fumigated.

Some of the reinforcements which arrived during the month were unfit both physically and mentally for this unit.

The sick parades have been normal and except in a few cases consisted of minor ailments.

During the month some men were evacuated suffering from Gas, probably Mustard and Phosgene but to date no deaths have resulted.

*[Handwritten signature]*

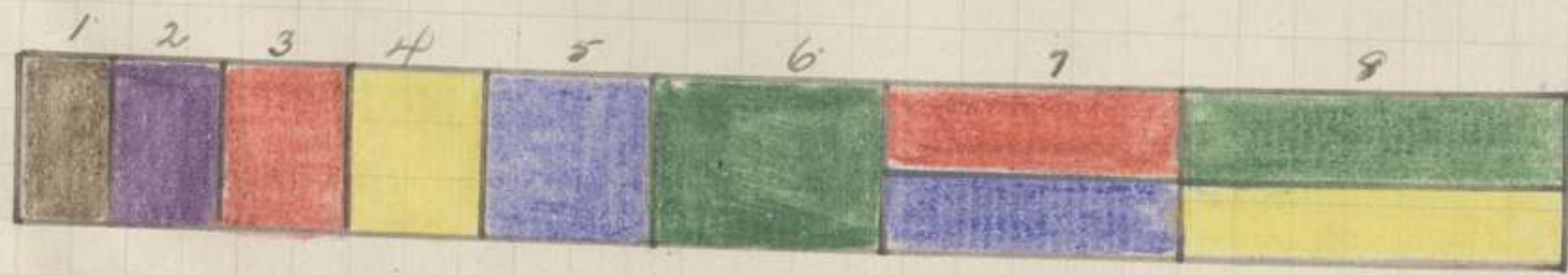
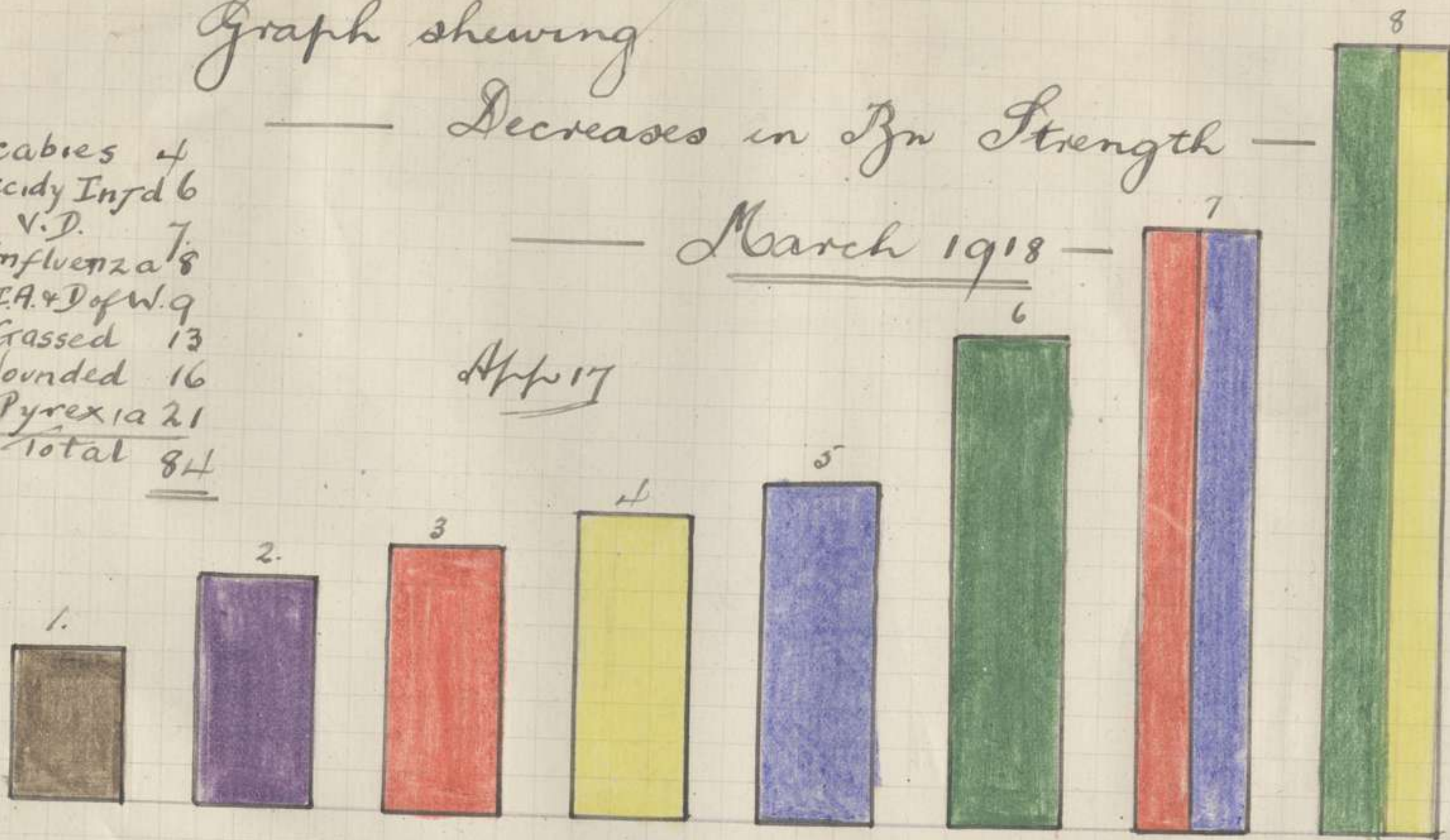
*R. M. O.* Major,  
R. M. O.  
2nd. Australian Pioneer Battalion.

Graph shewing  
Decreases in Bn Strength

- 1. Scabies 4
- 2. Acidy Infd 6
- 3. V.D. 7
- 4. Influenza 8
- 5. K.I.A. & D of W. 9
- 6. Grassed 13
- 7. Wounded 16
- 8. Pyrexia 21
- total 84

March 1918

Apr 17



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