

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/15/19

Title: 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

May 1918



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A. I. F.

FOR

MAY 1918. 0.

Signature of Officer compiling

L. L. Andrew LIEUT.,
ADJUTANT, 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN.

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. W. ... LT. COL.,
C.O. 3RD AUST. PIONEER BATTALION.

WAR DIARY

XX

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

3rd Aust Pioneer Bn
Bray May

Army Form C. 2118.

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| HEILLY. | 1918 MAY 1st-3rd. | | <p>On the 1st MAY 1918, the 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. was located at HEILLY, the 3rd Aust. Div. occupying the same front as reported in our APRIL War Diary, i.e., a line conforming to the MERICOURT - SAILLY le SAC Road, with both flanks on the Rivers ANCRE and SOMME.</p> <p>The principal work in hand was the construction of dugouts, switch lines, C.T's, strong posts, wiring, emergency tracks, corduroying of bad parts.</p> <p><u>"A" COMPANY:-</u> was employed on emergency tracks in I.17.d. and I.18.c., I.12.d and J.13.a., Tunnelled dugout - J.11.a.6.9, Tunnelled Dugout - J.9.b.8.2; patrolling roads and tracks in the Forward Brigade Area, keeping same trafficable. Digging and wiring 8 front line Posts - J.6.d.2.6, J.6.d.2.4, J.6.d.2.3, J.6.d.2.1, J.12.b.4.7, J.12.b.4.5, J.12.b.4.2, J.12.d.4.9.</p> <p><u>"B" COMPANY:-</u> was employed on deepening and improving trench D.28.a.3.0 to D.22.c.5.4; trenches, including one Post connecting up MERICOURT Station to old French system - J.4.c.3.3 to J.10.b.6.8.</p> <p><u>"C" COMPANY:-</u> Constructing a defensive line J.17.c.6.5 to J.22.d.5.25; patrolling all roads in the Right Brigade Area.</p> <p><u>"D" COMPANY:-</u> Construction of "G" Dugouts, and completing French AMIEN Line to BRAY-CORBIE Road. Appendices 83 and 84 attached show in detail, all work done during this period. App. 85, is plan showing all work performed on this Sector up to 9th MAY 1918. Appendix 86 shows the location of the Bridge over the River ANCRE, SOUTH of BONNAY, which this Unit constructed, as reported in our APRIL Diary.</p> <p>On the night of the 4th/5th MAY, "D" COMPANY was attached to the 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. for the purpose of digging a line of Posts at approximately J.30.a.7.4 and J.30.b.2.6, J.24.d.4.2 and J.24.d.8.5, K.19.a.1.2 and K.19.a.7.1, J.19.d.2. This was in connection with operation carried out by the 9th Bde., which resulted in its line being advanced, and the capture of portion of the enemy system. "D" Coy. were allotted the task of constructing a line of posts as above mentioned, so that, after the Infantry had captured their objectives, they could occupy the Posts so dug. These Posts were eventually linked up by this Unit.</p> <p>On the night of the 5th/6th MAY, two further Posts were constructed by "D" Coy. from K.13.a.5.5 to K.7.c.5.7, two Posts in K.7.c, and 3 Posts in K.13.a and K.13.c.</p> <p>On the night of the 7th/8th, "C" Company of this Unit was attached to the 9th Inf. Bde in a further operation that was being carried out by that Brigade. The object was to capture a further portion of the enemy system, and for the Coy. of Pioneers attached to dig Platoon Posts on the objective, so that the Infantry could occupy them. During this operation, three prisoners and 2 "G's" were captured by "C" Coy. Two Platoon Posts were cut - K.19.b.0.6 and K.19.b.0.9</p> | <p>APP. 83, 84, 85, APP. 86.</p> |

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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|---------|----------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| HEILLY. | 1918. " A Y 8th/9th. | | On the night of the 8th/9th MAY, two Platoons of "C" Company cut through Road - K.13.c.9.1; linked up, deepened and widened old enemy trench to a depth of 3'6". Appendix 85 attached gives exact locations of the work carried out by "C" & "D" Companies. | APP. 85. <i>lb</i> |
| | 10th. | | On the 10th MAY, the 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. was relieved by the 2ND AUST. PIONEER Bn., and proceeded by route march to BUSSY-les-DAOURS, taking over the 2ND PIONEERS' Billets; the 2ND PIONEERS moving into the billets vacated by this Unit. Officers were sent from both Units to take over all details of work, so as to ensure continuity of same. H.Q. of this Unit was located in REFOR ST., BUSSY-les-DAOURS, the Companies occupying improvised shelters at Sheet 62D - H.35.d.5.9, with the exception of "B" COY., located in the village of DAOURS, and Transport Section, located at Sheet 62D - H.32.d.8.2. Appendix 87 attached, gives full detail of the relief. On the completion of the above relief, this Unit was placed at the disposal of the C.R.E., Rear Zone Defences for employment on the HALLUE Defences, SO ^{ME} Sector. Appendix 88 attached shows the action to be taken by this Unit, should the Division be ordered to man the SO ^{ME} Sector of the Front system of the 3rd Zone from CA ^{TON} inclusive to N.12.Central. | APP. 87. <i>lb</i> |
| | 11th/ 19th. | | The work carried out by this Unit in the abovenamed Zone, from the 11th to 19th MAY, is shown in full detail in Appendices 89 and 90 attached. During this period, in addition to the work carried out on the Rear Zone Defences, Battalion Schools were commenced. 60 men were put through a Lewis Gun Course, and 40 through a Bombing Course. 20 men were given instruction in Stretcher Bearers' duties; and, under Company arrangements, Coy. Signallers were put through a Signalling Course. On the 14th MAY, the Workshops of this Unit were established at DAOURS. Machinery from evacuated Villages was salvaged and used to advantage, enabling much important and necessary work to be completed. | APP. 89, 90 <i>lb</i> |
| | 20th | | On the 19th MAY, orders were received for this Unit to relieve the 4TH AUST. PIONEER BN. in "A" Divisional Area, on the 20th. Necessary arrangements were made direct between Units concerned. See appendix 91 attached - order for change over. "A" COMPANY relieved a Coy. of 4TH PIONEERS who were located in VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and took over all Tunnelled Dugouts being constructed by that Coy. "D" COMPANY relieved a Coy. of the 4TH PIONEERS, who furnished a garrison to the Keeps at VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and relieved such garrison. "B" & "C" COYS. moved to improvised shelters at N.23.a.1.1, no definite work being available for these Companies at the time. | APP. 91. <i>lb</i> |

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---|----------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ELANGY- TRONVILLE. LA VOTTE. VILLERS- BRETONNEUX. | 1918 MAY 20th. | | BATTLN. H.QTRS. moved to N.23.a.1.1 (BLANGY TRONVILLE) and the Transport Section to LA VOTTE. A Plan of the Keeps taken over by this Unit at VILLERS BRETONNEUX will accompany our next War Diary. | 2b |
| do. | 21st- 22nd. | | "A" COMPANY commenced work taken over from the 4TH AUST. PIONEERS on "G. Dugout 0.28.c.0.8, Tunnelled R.A.P. - 0.35.c.00.45, Tunnelled "G. position - 0.28.a.2.3. "B" COMPANY was allotted work on the French C.T. - U.4.a.8.8 to U.4.b.5.5, which it deepened and widened,; also deepening and widening of CACHY system. "C" COMPANY commenced work on the construction of dugouts, erecting Nissen huts, protective walls, and general carpentry work at D.H.Q.; patrolling and repair of roads and tracks in the Div. Area, and commenced the construction of two Artillery Dugouts at 0.19.d.5.8 and 0.15.a.7.8. "D" COMPANY worked on improvements to Keeps at VILLERS BRETONNEUX. | 2b |
| do. | 23rd- 24th. | | On the night of the 23rd/24th, "D" Coy. was relieved by "B" Coy. 42nd Inf. Bn., "D" Coy., moving to railway embankment at 0.26, where it dug in. On the 24th, "B" COY. moved from N.23.a.1.1 to the vicinity of 0.27, where necessary accommodation would be constructed by that Company, so that it would remain in close proximity of its work. See Appendix 92 re this move. Orders were then received for one Company to be placed at the disposal of the 11th Inf. Bde., for counter-attack purposes if required. "B" Coy. were detailed for this purpose, and, therefore, came under the tactical command of the G.O.C. 11th Inf. Bde. | 2b APP.92. |
| do. | 25th.- 26th | | On this the night of 25th/26th MAY, the enemy put down a very heavy and continuous Mustard Gas (Yellow Cross) and H.E. Bombardment. "A" & "D" Coys., plus 1 Platoon of "B" Coy. who were located in the vicinity of 0.35.a., sustained many casualties. 127 O.R. were evacuated from the Battln. gassed - chiefly through their eyes being effected by the gas, and Mustard Oil burning. | 2b |
| do. | 27th. | | On the 27th, "D" Coy. returned to shelters at N.23.a.1.1. | 2b |
| do. | 28th- 31st. | | Appendix 93 attached, shows work completed for period 21st/31st MAY '18. | 2b APP.93. |
| do. | | | On the night of the 27th/28th, "B" Coy. moved from XXXXXX 0.27, and took over Keeps at VILLERS BRETONNEUX, their orders being to hold them at all costs. This Coy. still remained under the tactical command of the G.O.C. 11th Inf. Bde. | 2b |

WAR DIARY

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|---|---------------|------|---|--|
| FLANGY- TRONVILLE. LA MOTTE. VILLERS- BRETONNEUX. | 1918. MAY. | | <p>During the month of MAY, at the Workshops of this Battln., 5,000 super feet of timber was salvaged and sawn into various sizes, for the construction of dugouts; 100 water tin attachments for the front of rear portion of G.S.Limbered wagons were constructed for various Units of the Division; also superstructures for limbers of cookers, and for watercarts. (Appendix 97 attached, gives design and dimensions of such superstructures, which were designed and manufactured by the 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn., and attached to vehicles of the Division).</p> <p>Appendix 98 attached, is plan of Tunnelled dugouts referred to in our APRIL War Diary.</p> <p>Please see Appendix 94 attached - Monthly Report of Transport Section; Appendix 95 - Monthly Report of Q.M.'s Department; and Appendix 96, Statement showing personnel struck off strength; taken on strength, and Casualties for month of MAY.</p> <p>A plan showing the exact location and amount of the whole of the work carried out by this Battalion in its present sector, will accompany our JUNE War Diary.</p> | <p><i>LB</i> APP. 97.</p> <p><i>LB</i> APP. 98.</p> <p>APP. 94, 95, 96.</p> <p><i>LB</i></p> |

L. J. Andrew
LIEUT. & ADJUTANT,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A. I. F.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

 M A Y 1918. 0.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 83 | - Work Report for week ending 3/5/1918. |
| 84 | - Work Report for week ending 9/5/1918. |
| 85 | - Blue Print showing work completed up to 9/5/1918. |
| 86 | - Blue Print showing position of Bridge over River ANCRE. |
| 87 | - Battalion Order No. 53 - re move to BUSSY. |
| 88 | - Battln. Operation Order No. 2 - re manning of SOME Sectr |
| 89 | - Work report for period 10th/19th MAY 1918. |
| 90 | - Plan showing work completed for period 11th/20th MAY '18. |
| 91 | - Battalion Order No. 54 - re relief of 4th Pioneer Bn in "A" Div. Area. |
| 92 | - Battalion Order No. 55 - "B" Coy. move to O.27. |
| 93 | - Work report for period 21st/31st MAY 1918. |
| 94 | - Monthly report of Transport Section. |
| 95 | - Monthly report of Quartermaster. |
| 96 | - Statement of Strength, Casualties, etc. |
| 97 | - Plans of superstructures for Limbered wagons, cookers and Water carts. |
| 98 | - Plans of Tunnelled Dugouts constructed for Machine Gun Battalion. |

L. F. Andrews
LIEUT. & ADJT.,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

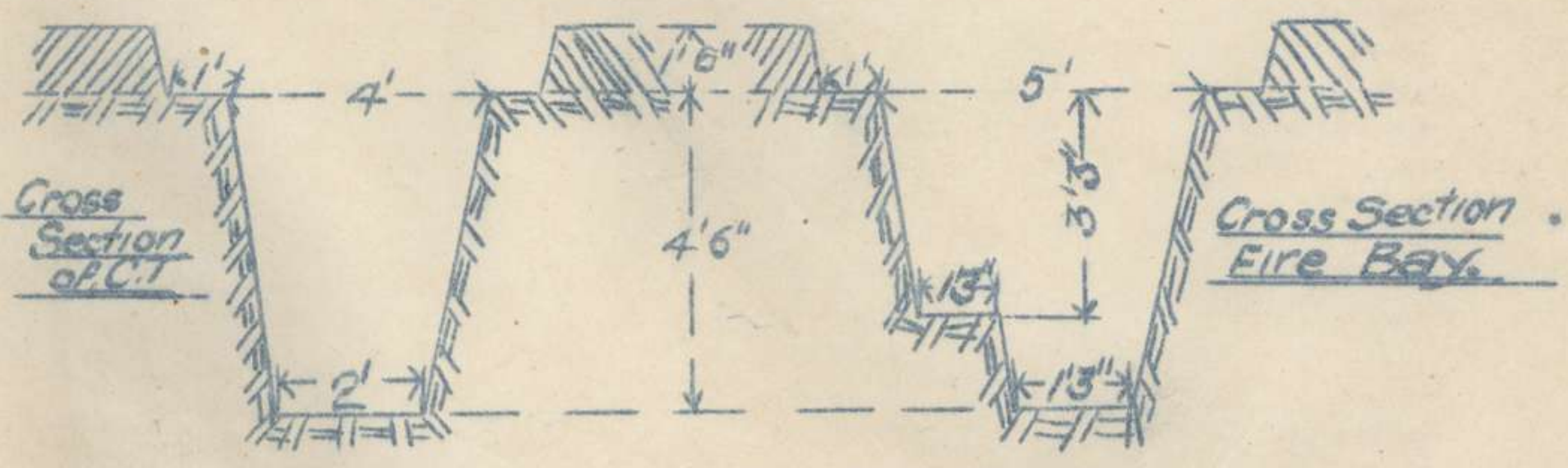
C. R. F.,
3RD ARST. DIVISION.

The following is Weekly Work Report of this Unit,
for work completed up to 6 a.m. 3/5/18:-

"A" COMPANY:- (Attached 10th Inf. Bde.)
 Re-laying Emergency Track, I.17.d.8.18.c. - 100 yds. completed.
 Emergency Track, I.12.d.2.J.13.a. - 370 yds. completed. Railway
 Crossing and culvert, 12' span also completed.
 Tunnelled Dugout J.11.a.8.9., excavation and timbering completed.
 Roof of chamber lined with corrugated iron.
 Tunnelled Dugout, J.9.b.8.2., commenced. Opening timbers of en-
 trance drives put in.
 Patrolling roads in Forward Brigade Areas. Metal dumps established
 along BRAY - COMBIS Rd., RICHMONT - WIRE Rd., and HEILLY - FRANVILLERS
 Rd. Shell holes repaired where found.
 Digging and wiring 8 new front line posts, J.6.d.2.6, J.6.d.2.4,
 J.6.d.2.3, J.6.d.2.1, J.12.b.4.7, J.12.b.4.5, J.12.b.4.2, J.12.d.4.9.

"B" COMPANY:- (Attached 10th Inf. Bde.)
 Deepening and improving trench, 1,000 yds 3' x 4 1/2', D.28.a.3.0. to
 D.22.c.5.4.
 Trenches, including 1 Foot connecting up HEMICOURT Stn. to old
 French system, 450 yds, 3' x 4 1/2', J.4.d.1.5 to J.10.b.6.8.
 Trench joining Posts 15 and 16, 352 yds. 3' x 4 1/2' J.8.c.
 " " Railway to Post 16, 270' " "
 " " Post 16 to Road 340 yds. " "
 " " Posts 11 and 12 220 yds. " J.14.a.
 " " Posts 6 and 7 300 yds. " J.19.b.
 " " Posts 7 and 8 240 yds. " J.19.b. & J.13.d.
 O.P. Dugout D.23.a.1.2 - 50% completed.

"C" COMPANY:-
 Defensive Line dug from J.17.c.6.5 to J.22.d.50.25 - 1,000 yds.,
 33 Fire bays (8x) constructed.



Roads patrolled and repaired in 11th Bde. Area.

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APPENDIX 83 7



(2)

"D" COMPANY:-

French AMIEN LINE completed to MRAY - CORPSE Road, 500x completed.

Work carried out on Company Alarm Posts in J.1.b. and J.2.a. one night.

Work commenced on Machine Gun Digouts Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, night of 30th APRIL/1st MAY.

This work is well in hand.

L. F. Andrew Lt for LT. COLONEL,
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN.

F I E L D,
3/5/1918. O.

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WEEKLY WORK REPORT 3RD/9TH MAY 1918.

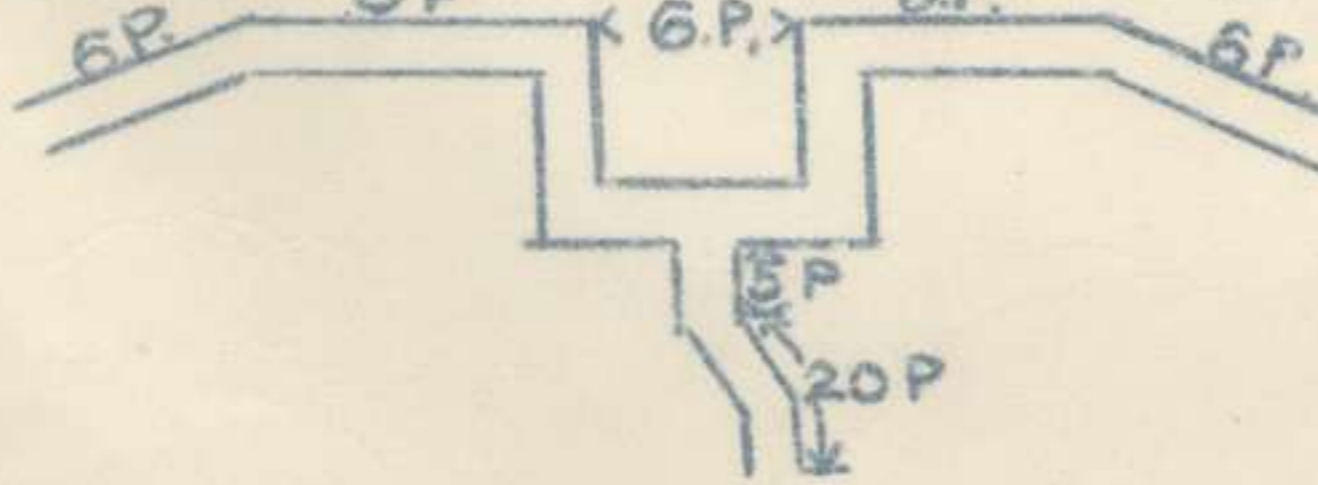
-o-

"A" COY.:-
 Emergency artillery track, 150 yds. corduroying and 1 culvert completed, K12.d. & J.13.a.
 Emergency track, 50 yds. new corduroy, I.18.c.
 E.H.Q. Dugout. Entrance drives advanced 51 feet. Entrance Drives 90% complete, J.9.b.8.1.
 Cutting timber for Mining Sets at H.c.b.8.8.
 Connecting up Posts in Reserve Line, J.10.b.6.4.
 Connecting up Bridgehead line of Posts, 8, 9, 10, J.14.
 Digging Bridgehead Supports Posts 2x to 13x inclusive, J.13.b.&d. J.19.a. and I.24.d. I.30.a.
 Machine Gun Dugout. Entrances and opening sets of entrance drives constructed., D.24.d.5.0.
 Timbering excavation for dugout for A.D.S., 15 sets completed. I.4.b.6.5.

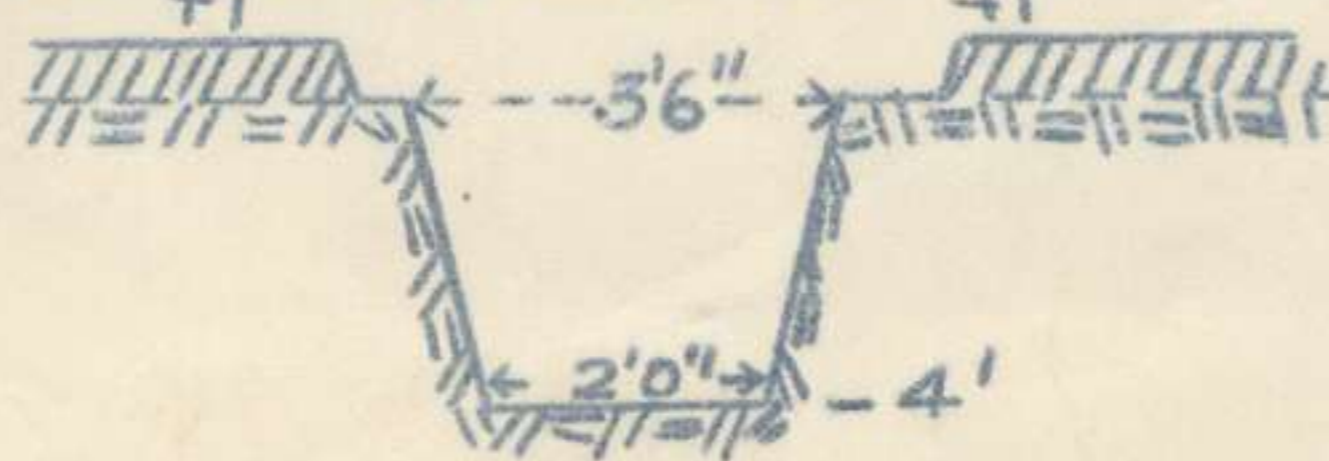
"B" COY.:-
 Constructed 240 yds. trench Posts 7 and 8, 3'x 4 1/2', J.19.b. to J.13.d.
 132 yds. Trench, two Posts, 3'x 3 1/2', D.26.a.5.9 to D.26.b.1.9
 200 yds. trench from Post 5 Forward, 3'x 4 1/2', J.19.d.
 1,100 yds. Wiring, double apron entanglement, D.23.b.5.0 to D.30.a.10.5.
 570 yds. trench, 3'x 6', K.7.c.0.0 to K.7.c.7.0.
 O.P. Dugout, - D23.a.1.2.

"C" COY.:-
 New Defensive Line from J.17.c.6.5 to J.22.d.50.25 continued on to J.22.d.2.0 (3'6" trench) and the line finished off.
 Dugouts:- D.O. at J.9.a.4.4 has each of two drives timbered 12'.
 D.O. at J.9.b.8.1. had 3 sets placed in each of the two Drives and was handed over.
 D.O. at I.4.b.5.2. Each of the two drives was 20' in.
 D.O. at J.1.c.6.8 has its drive 20' in, 18' of this is being timbered.
 300 yds. of old enemy trench was linked up, widened, and deepened, including cutting thro' the road at K.13.c.9.1. Trench now averages depth of 3'6".
 Improvements made to Posts in J.24.d.8.3.
 Posts cut at K.19.b.0.6. and K.19.b.0.9.
 Post connecting 3rd and 5th Div. Fronts dug 130 yds. K.19.c.4.9 to K.19.c.1.3. approx.
 160 yds. C.T. Du., K.13.c.7.3. to K.13.c.4.3.
 On the night of 7th/8th MAY, 3 Prisoners and 2 M.G.'s were captured by "C" Coy., in small local operations.

"D" COY.:-
 7 Posts cut from J.30.a.7.4 to J.18.d.0.5., as per plan:-



8 Posts cut from approx. K.13.a.5.5 to K.13.c. 300x fighting trench cut from approx. K.7.c.6.7 to 300x SOUTH to following section:-



F I E L D,
 40/5/1918. O.

L. L. Andrews
 LT. & ADJUTANT,
 For C.O. 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN.

WAR DIARY
May 1918
Ref Sheet 62 D

3rd Pnr Bn
WORK REPORT
To date 9-5-18.

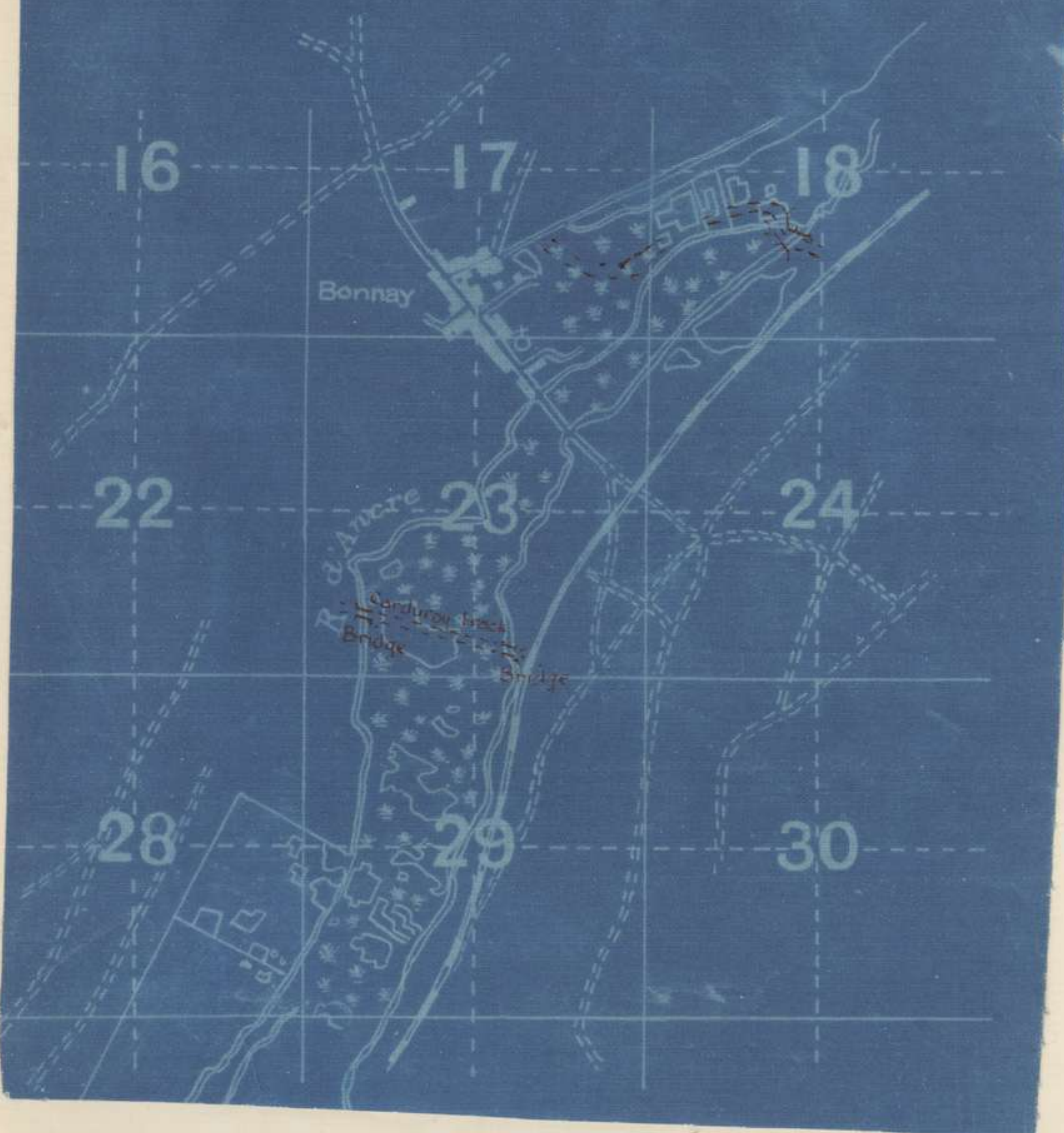
Work complete
" ~~under construction~~
~~Work done by this Bn~~ 9-5-18
Work done by this Bn



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3RD PIONEER BATT^Y Appendix 26
 Monthly War Diary Plan to 30-4-18.
 Shewing position of Bridge over Ancre.
 Scale 1:20,000

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SECRET.

COPY NO. WAR DIARY

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO. 53.

MAP REFERENCE:-

Sheet 62D & 62D N.W.

B.H.Q., 9th MAY 1918. O.

1. - INTENTION:- The 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. will relieve the 2ND AUST. PIONEER BN., and proceed to Billets at BUSSY on 10/5/18.
2. - STARTING POINT:- Cross Roads at J.1.d.1.3.
3. - ORDER OF MARCH:- H.Q.DETAILS and WORKSHOPS PARTY will pass the Starting Point at 8 A.M., followed by "D", "A", "B", "C" COYS. as under:-

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| "D" COY. | 9 a.m. | "A" COY. | 1-30 p.m. |
| "C" COY. | 4 p.m. | "B" COY. | 3 p.m. |
4. - ROUTE:- The route to be followed runs via the cross roads at I.17.a.4.1 NORTH of BONNAY, and Cross Roads at I.26.b.4.1 (Sheet 62D. N.W.1/20,000).
5. - MARCH DISTANCES:- Distances of 100 yds. between Platoons will be maintained during the march.
6. - DRESS:- Full Marching Order.
7. - RATIONS:- The unconsumed portion of the days rations will be carried; waterbottles full.
8. - TRANSPORT:- The following transport will be available tomorrow, 10th inst.:
 - 2 G.S. wagons per Company at 6 a.m., and 1 Limbered G.S.wagon per Company at Midday.

Only one wagon per Coy. will enter HEILLY at the one time, the remainder to rendezvous at J.6.b.3.6. When the wagon referred to has been loaded it will return to the rendezvous, and the second empty wagon will proceed to the village, load, and rejoin at rendezvous. They will then proceed to the new area under the T.O., moving off at 8 a.m. Wagons must be loaded with the greatest possible speed.

The Limber wagon reporting at midday will pick up all surplus goods and material. The Q.M. will have placed at his disposal, two Puggage wagons, for the removal of Q.M.Stores, B.H.Q. Officer, H.Q.Details, etc.

One Limber wagon will be placed at the disposal of the L.G.O. for the purpose of conveying Lewis guns, spare parts, magazines, etc., to the new Area; to report to Q.M.Store at 6 a.m. Companies will make necessary arrangements to have all Lewis Gun equipment at the Q.M.Store not later than 6 a.m. on the 10th.
9. - OFFICERS RIDES:- All Officers' Rides will be at the A.D.S. at J.6.b.3.6 half an hour before each Company moves off. Officers will arrange to take over their Hacks at that spot.
10. - ADVANCE PARTY:- Companies will each detail 1 Section to report to O.C. "D" Coy. not later than 8-30 A.M., on 10th inst., as an Advance Party, for the purpose of arranging billets, etc. This party will move off under the command of O.C. "D" Coy.
11. - REAR PARTY:- Companies will arrange to leave a rear party for the purpose of cleaning billets, and leaving them in a scrupulously clean condition. Attention is directed to Order No. 52 of today, para. 3.
12. - BILLETS:- Companies will arrange to take over Billets from the Company they relieve.
13. - BATTALION HEADQUARTERS:- B.H.Q. will close at HEILLY at 11 a.m. 10th inst., and re-open at BUSSY at same time.

L.F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

SECRET

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

MAP REFERENCE:-

D.H.C., 12th MAY 1918.

C.

MAP 62D.

1. - Should the Division be ordered to man the SOMME sector of the Front System of the Third Zone (from CANON + inclusive - to H.12.Central) the 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION will occupy the sub-sector from H.17.d.0.0 to H.12.Can
2. - The Battalion will man the sector with "C" Company from H.17.d.0.0 exclusive to H.15.Central, and "E" Coy. from H.15.Central to H.12.Central. "D" Coy. in Support in the main Trench System that runs through H.17.b. and H.11.a and b. "A" Coy. in Reserve at QUARRY about H.11.c.5.8.
3. - The Left of the Front Line of wire of the ELANCY System abuts on the South bank of the channel of the River about opposite the Right of "C" Coy's Sector, where there is a lot of undergrowth. "C" Coy. will cut lanes through this undergrowth, parallel to and on the N. side of this wire, and arrange posts on the S. bank of the channel to enfilade the lanes. "C" Coy. will also prepare posts for L.G.'s. in the bend of the SOMME Channel at H.24.d.1.5 to enfilade the S. side of the channel in H.15.c. and the S.E. side of the channel in H.18.d. and b.
4. - "E" Coy. will provide for a Post between top of brick abutment and decking of railway bridge in H.12.d. to enfilade S. bank of the channel in H.12.d and H.18.b., ~~and a post to enfilade the S.E. side of the railway abutment from the bridge in H.12.d. to HALYK in C.7.a.~~ and a post to enfilade the S.E. side of the railway abutment from the bridge in H.12.d. to HALYK in C.7.a.
5. - "E" Coy. must maintain close touch with whatever troops are holding the river crossings in VACQUEMONT and INCUSE and be prepared to place a L.G. or Snipers between top of S.E. brick abutment and deck of Railway Bridge in H.12.d. to fire on enemy troops attempting to cross the river channel by the lock at about H.7.a.0.5.
6. - The brick walls in the Cemetery at H.12.d.3.6 will be loop-holed to provide for enfilade fire up the road running N. and for all round defence should the villages be carried and the Battalion have to form a defensive flank to the left.
7. - "C" & "E" Coy. will secure boats or make dinghys or rafts to carry patrols or personnel of listening Posts over the SOMME channel.
8. - The channel is a perfect obstacle provided the enemy is not allowed to bring up material to rapidly bridge it, or to assemble troops close enough to rush and cross the railway bridge in H.12.d.
9. - "E" & "A" Coys. will reconnoitre the whole of the Battalion area with a view to re-inforcing or counter-attacking in any direction.
10. - "C" & "E" Coys. will prepare detailed plans for their respective sub-sectors and submit to D.H.C.
11. - R.A.P. at QUARRY, H.11.c.5.8.
12. - It is not known what Units will be on either flank, but constant touch must be maintained with flank Units.
13. - Reports to QUARRY - H.11.c.5.8.

L.F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Runner at 12 noon 12/5/18:-

- Copy No. 1 - D.H.C.
 2 - FILE.
 3 - "A" Coy.
 4 - "E" Coy.
 5 - "C" Coy.
 6 - "D" Coy.
 7/10 - WAR DIARY.

REPORT OF WORK 10th/19th MAY 1918.

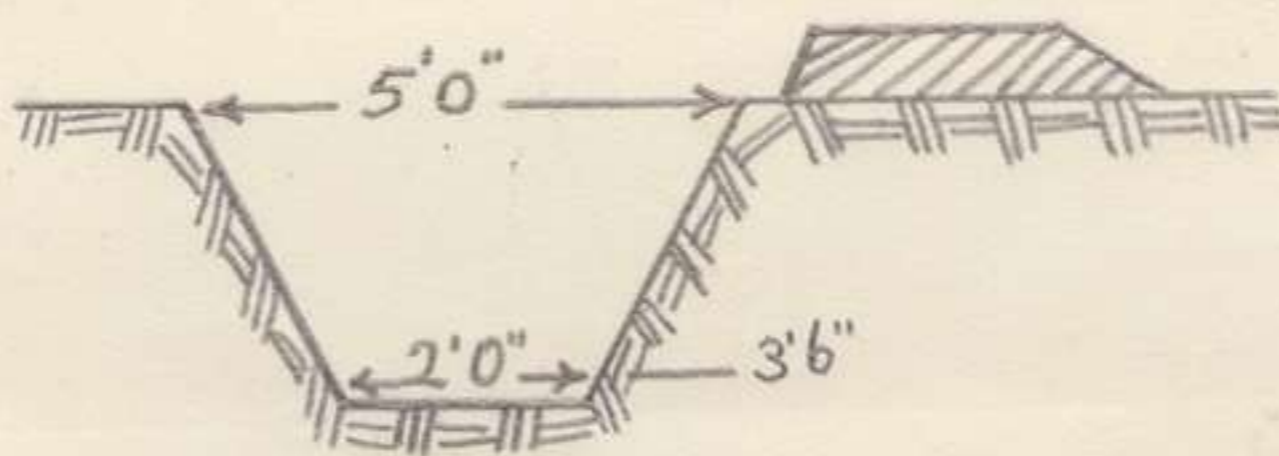
-o-

Digging trenches of 3rd Zone, according to design supplied by C.R.E., REAR ZONE, ST. GRATIEN. 248 yards completed.
Completing Posts in Front Line of 3rd Zone - 26 bays completed.

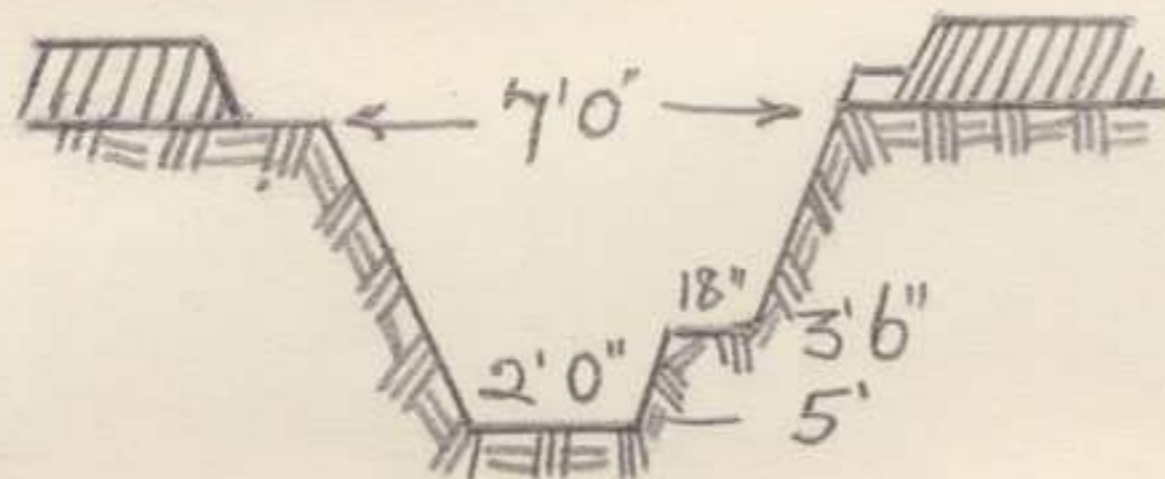
Deepening and widening trenches for C.R.E., REAR ZONE, ST. GRATIEN, 5'x 3'x 3', N.18.a.3.8 to N.12.c.0.8 - 310 yards; N.11.d.9.8, to N.11.b.3.3, 320 yards; N.11.d.5.8, 210 yards (Posts and C.T's).
C.T's, 5'x 3'x 2', N.4.b.3.9 - 84 yards.

103x C.T. from N.11.b.6.0 to N.11.b.6.6, widened and deepened.
188x fire bays made in same trench.
200x new trench cut, 5'x 3'x 2' in approx. N.14.a.5.0 to N.14.b.2.2, and N.14.c.3.5 to N.14.c.7.5.

8 Posts each 20 yards, cut to following section - N.11.a.9.9 to N.11.b.2.4.:-



795x trench firestepped and widened to following section - N.9.a.&.c, N.14.b. and N.15.a.:-



L. Andrews
LIEUT. & ADJT.,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION. A.I.F.

F I E L D,

19/5/1918. O.

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WAR DIARY
Work from 11-5-18
to 20-5-18
Ref. Sheet 62D

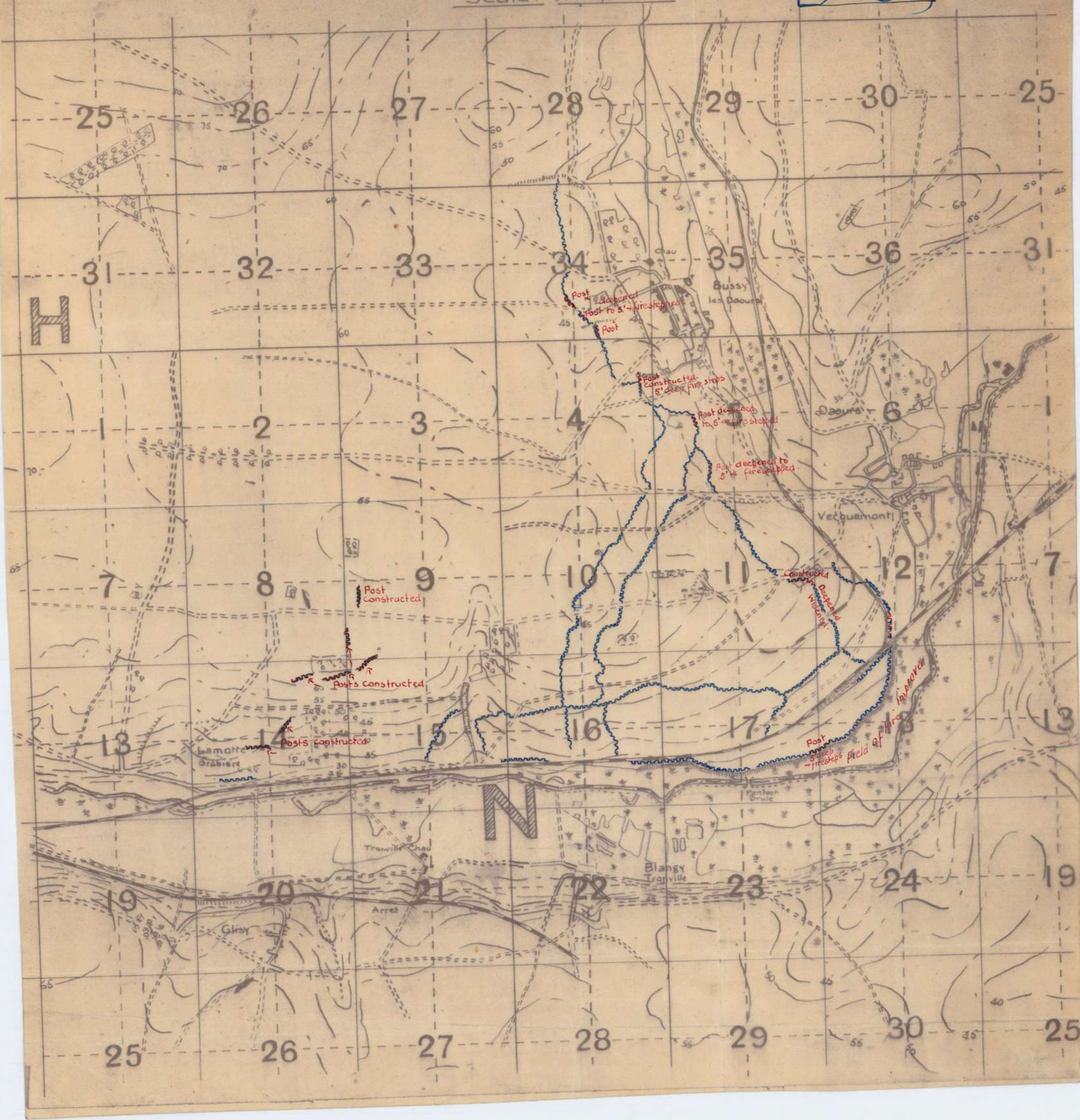
STANDARD PLAN.

Appendix 90
14

3rd Aust. Pnr Batta.

Scale: 1:20,000.

D Coy



MAP REFERENCE:-
Sheet 62D.

B.H.Q., 19th MAY 1918. O.

1. - The 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. will relieve the 4TH AUST. PIONEER BN. in "A" Divisional Area on the 20th instant.
2. - "A" COMPANY will relieve a Company of the 4TH AUST. PIONEER BN., who are located at VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and will take over all tunnelled dugouts at present being constructed by that Company.
"B" COMPANY will relieve a Coy. of the 4TH AUST. PIONEERS which is engaged in the wiring of M.G. Positions in BOIS 1'ABEE.
"C" COMPANY will take over from the Resting Company, 4TH PIONEERS.
"D" COMPANY will relieve a Coy. of the 4TH PIONEERS at present furnishing Garrison and constructing defences at VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
3. - "A" & "D" COMPANIES will be billeted at VILLERS BRETONNEUX; H.Qtrs. and "B" & "C" COYS. at BLANGY TRONVILLE (N.23.a.1.1).
4. - Company Commanders will report to the H.Q. of the 4TH AUST. PIONEERS, at N.23.a.1.1 (BLANGY TRONVILLE) at 9 a.m. tomorrow, for the purpose of taking over from the Companies they are to relieve.
The 4TH AUST. PIONEERS will likewise send Officers to take over from this Battalion.
5. - The Order of March will be as under:-
H.QTRS. will move off at 11-0 A.M. Companies will move independently "B" COY. at 1-0 P.M., followed by "D", "A" & "C" COMPANIES, at half hour intervals.
6. - HALTS will be at 10 minutes to every clock hour.
7. - The route to be followed will be via DACURS, along the road running SOUTH, N.12.a, to Junction of Roads N.11.b.5.0, SOUTH EASTERLY to N.17.a.38 thence by track SOUTHERLY across Railway Line, Pontoon Bridge, and corduroy road to N.23.a.1.1.
8. - DRESS, full Marching Order. The unconsumed portion of the days rations will be carried. Waterbottles filled.
9. - The Q.M. will make necessary arrangements direct with the 4TH PIONEERS to take over ammunition and grenades, and an equivalent number of shelters which are at present in possession of Companies, thus saving transport.
No tents or shelters will be moved by Coys. to the new area.
Companies will hand over all tents to the incoming Unit, obtaining necessary receipts. Tents include Shelters.
- 10.- The attention of C's C. Units is directed to MARCH DISCIPLINE contained in 4th ARMY R.O. No. 2039, issued yesterday.
MARCH DISTANCES of 100 yds. between Platoons will be maintained.
- 11.- The L.G.O. will be temporarily attached to "D" Coy., and will make necessary arrangements for that Company to be supplied with four guns, and for "A" COY. to be furnished with two guns. Guns will be delivered by transport to the respective Coys. at VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
Units will arrange for Lewis Guns, spare parts, magazines, etc., to be conveyed to the Q.M.'s Store not later than 8-0 A.M. tomorrow. Same should be carefully checked and receipts obtained from the L.G.O.
- 12.- All Trench & Area Stores will be handed over to the relieving Unit, lists of same to be forwarded, together with necessary receipts, to reach this Office within 24 hours of relief.
- 13.- All Defence Policies, schemes, and works policies will be handed over to the relieving Units.
- 14.- The Workshops will remain at DACURS until further Orders.

15. - "A" & "D" COMPANIES; on arrival at destination (N.23.a.1.1) will rest until dusk, when they will move forward to VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Care should be taken that these Companies rest under cover from observation.
- 16.- Company Officers' kits will be dumped at C.Q.M.Sgts' Stores; H.Q. Officers' kits at Q.M's Store, not later than 8 a.m., 20th inst.
- 17.- TRANSPORT:- Two (2) G.S.wagons will be placed at the disposal of Companies, reporting to Coys. at 9-0 A.M.
The T.O. will make necessary arrangements, direct with the Q.M., for the removal of B.H.Q. Officer's, Q.M's and L.G.O's stores, etc.
Immediately all stores, mobilisation tools, etc., are delivered to new billeting area, the T.O. will make necessary arrangements for the Transport to be parked at the site at present occupied by the Transport of the 4TH PIONEER BN.
- 18.- Billets:- Companies will arrange for an inspection of billets to be made prior to leaving, and for a certificate to be obtained from the incoming Units, that such billets have been left clean and in good order.
- 19.- Battalion Headquarters will close at BUSSY at 10-30 A.M. on 20th instant, and re-open at BLANGY TRONVILLE at same hour.

L. F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Runner at 11 p.m. 20/5/1918.

COPY NO. 1 D.H.Q.
2 FILE.
3 "A" COY.
4 "B" COY.
5 "C" COY.
6 "D" COY.
7 Q.M.
8 T.O.
9/12 WAR DIARY.

(WAR DIARY).

APPENDIX. ...92....

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO. 55.MAP REFERENCE:-
Sheet 62D.

B.H.Q., 24th MAY 1918. O.

1. - "B" COY., 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN., under arrangements to be made by O.C. "B" COMPANY, will move from its present billets, selecting a site in the vicinity of O.27., where necessary accomodation will be constructed.
2. - Area Stores, which include shelters, must NOT be taken. The present camp must remain intact.
3. - Packs and Surplus Kits:- O.C. "B" Company will make necessary arrangements for packs and surplus kits to be stored under Guard.
O.C. "B" Company will detail a Guard which will be responsible for all Area Stores, etc., which are at present on hand.

L. F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Runner at 11 a.m. 24/5/18:-

COPY NO. 1 "B" COMPANY.
2 QUARTERMASTER.
3 TRANSPORT OFFICER.
4 FILE COPY.
5/8 WAR DIARY.

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C. R. E.,
3RD AUST. DIVISION.

The following is consolidated work report of this Unit, for period 21st/31st MAY 1918:-

"A" COMPANY:-

Tunnelled M.G. position - O.28.c.0.8 - total advance 17'6" of standard 6'4" x 2'9" gallery. 10' on 45 degree incline.

Tunnelled R.A.F. - O.35.c.0.35 - Entrance incline advanced 41'3" horizontal on incline of 1 over 2.

Tunnelled M.G. position - O.28.d.2.3 - Completed as per plan. Entrance shafts, 51' of entrance drives (6'4" x 2'9") and 2' of 9' chamber.

Severe enemy H.E. and Gas shelling interfered with the work in the following manner - (1) Rendered it necessary to move the Company and dig in, in new positions, and (2) Entirely prevented access to the jobs for twelve hours.

Plans of dugouts are attached, showing in RED, all work completed.

"B" COMPANY:-

Deepening and widening C.T. 4'6" x 4'6" - 200 yds. U.4.a.8.8 to U.4.b.5.8.

Widening and deepening portions of CACHY LINE, 4'6" x 3'0" x 2'6", 300 yds., O.28.c.8.0 to O.28.c.8.3 O.28.c.4.0 to O.28.c.4.2. O.28.c.6.7 to O.28.c.8.8.

Keep "A" wire salving & pickets, Double Apron, 130 yds. O.35.c.7.9.

Keep "B" improvement of L.G. positions - O.35.a.8.7.

Keep "C" improvement of L.G. positions & lanes of fire, wiring street E and W - O.29.c.7.5, O.29.c.5.2.

Keep "D" building L.G. Post, 2 knife rests, and 49 yds. trench 3' x 3' x 2', O.24.d.9.8.

Construction of shelter accommodation in Railway Bank (3 men shelters) accommodation for about 120 men, O.27.Central, approx.

"C" COMPANY:-

At D.H.Q. - N.20.d.7.8. - 5 Hissen huts and kitchens erected and fitted. Protective walls and horse accommodation built. Dugout shelters excavated. Sgts' Mess erected. Pipe line excavated for water supply from Chateau. General carpentry work at Deep dugouts (making and fitting windows, bunks, etc.) Revetting and protecting entrances.

Drives for Dugouts excavated as per sketch attached, at O.19.d.5.8 and O.15.a.7.8.

660 yds. of Double apron fence erected, U.5.a.4.9 to U.4.b.1.7.

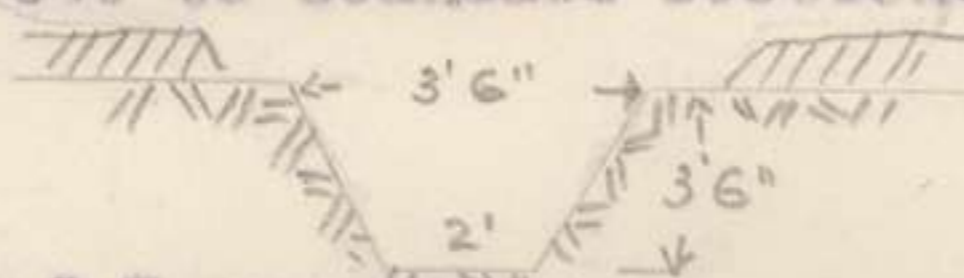
Roads and tracks patrolled and repaired, O.31, 32, 33, 34.

Plans of dugouts, showing work completed, in RED, are attached.

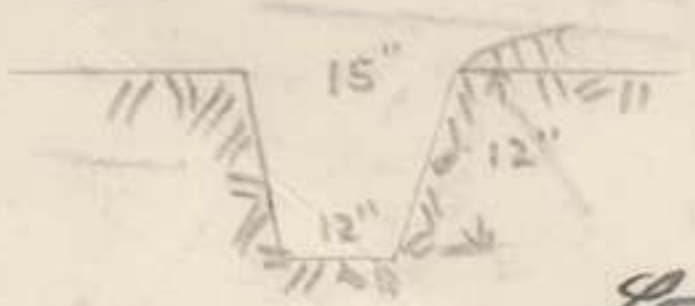
"D" COMPANY:-

Took over from "A" Coy. Pioneers (4th) on night of 20th/21st MAY in VILLERS BRITONNEUX. Work carried out on constructing and improving Keeps according to plans attached. The Company was relieved by "B" Coy. 42nd Bn. on night of 23rd/24th MAY '18.

320x new Switch trench cut in O.35.c. - Night 27th/28th & 28th/29th O.34.d.3.5. C.T. cut to standard section:-



Section of French C.T. approx:-



L. J. Anderson

LT. & ADJT.,
For C.O. 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

F I B L D,
31/5/1918. O.

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REPORT OF TRANSPORT SECTION,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTN.
FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

On the 1st MAY 1918, the Transport Section was located at FRANVILLERS, and was employed carting material for dugouts and wiring in forward area; also carting material for Workshops, HEILLY; rations, water, mail, Q.M's Stores, etc.

On the 5th MAY 1918, the transport moved from FRANVILLERS to FRECHENCOURT, where it still carried on the work in forward areas.

On MAY 10th, it carted the Battn. baggage, etc., to new Camp near BUSSY-les-DAOURS. While on the road to HEILLY in the early morning, the column was bombed by enemy aircraft, but no damage done.

On MAY 12th, the transport moved from FRECHENCOURT to a wood three kilos west of BUSSY-les-DAOURS. While in this area, the chief work was the carting of wire and pickets for rear defences; also shelters for the Bn, stores, mail, rations, etc.

On MAY 20th, the transport shifted Battn. baggage, etc., to BLANGY-TRONVILLE, and took tools, rations, etc., to VILLERS BRETONNEUX for "A" & "D" Coys, shifting to standings at LA MOTTE on completion.

On MAY 23rd and 24th, shifted "D" Coy from VILLERS BRETONNEUX to railway cutting three kilos WEST of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

On MAY 26th "A" Coy. shifted to new location WEST of V'B'NEUX. While in this area, the transport was used to full extent carting timber, wire, etc., to forward area; water, Q.M's Stores, rations, mail, etc.; also heavy timber from LA MOTTE to Mill at DAOURS. Heavy shelling was frequently encountered during the work.

| | |
|--|--|
| NUMBER OF VEHICLES USED FOR MONTH | 488. |
| APPROXIMATE MILEAGE COVERED. | 4,880. |
| ANIMALS SICK ON LINES. - | 6 - chiefly bad eyes & minor injuries. |
| EVACUATIONS FOR MONTH. | NIL. |
| ANIMALS, VEHICLES & HARNESS ARE ALL IN GOOD CONDITION. | |

J B Duncan LIEUT. & T.O.,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

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P.L.

REPORT OF QUARTER-MASTER,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BN.
FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

FAT collected for week & returned Railhead. - 1,382 lbs.
 SOLDER " " " " " " - 84½ lbs.
 PAPER " " " " " " - 1,307 lbs.
 CARDBOARD " " " " " " - 326 lbs.

BOOTS REPAIRED for month. 441 pairs.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF SALVAGE FOR MONTH.
 (Stores, material, etc., not included in the above). - £405.17.7d.

CLOTHING ISSUED, & RETURNED TO DADOS FOR MONTH.

| | JACKETS. S.D. | PUTTEES. PAIRS. | O'COATS. | BREECHES. D.S. | BREECHES. M.S. |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ISSUED. | 32 | 48 | - | 72 | 13 |
| RETURNED. | 116 | 66 | 36 | 63 | 48 |

| | HATS, FELT. | CARDIGANS. | BOOTS, prs. |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ISSUED. | 11 | - | 34 |
| RETURNED. | 45 | 539 | 92 |

DURING THE MONTH, ALL PERSONNEL OF THIS BATTALION HAS BEEN BATHED, THE INSIDE OF THEIR SERVICE BREECHES & TUNICS CLEANED & PRESSED, AND NEW UNDERCLOTHING ISSUED.

[Signature]

CAPTAIN & Q.M.,
3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

F I E L D,
2/6/1918. O.

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STATEMENT OF TAKINGS ON, STRIKINGS OFF STRENGTH, & CASUALTIES OF
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION,
 FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918.

TOTAL STRENGTH AS AT 1st MAY 1918 - 39 O. - 1086 O.R.

| DATE. | TAKEN ON. | | STRUCK OFF. | | CASUALTIES. | | | |
|------------|-----------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|----------|------|
| | | | | | KILLED. | | WOUNDED. | |
| | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. |
| 1/5/1918. | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3/5/1918. | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| 4/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| 6/5/1918. | - | 1 | - | 11 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| 7/5/1918. | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 1 |
| 8/5/1918. | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| 9/5/1918. | - | - | - | 8 | - | 1 | - | 7 |
| 10/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11/5/1918. | 2 | 9 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| 12/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13/5/1918. | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 14/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| 16/5/1918. | 4 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17/5/1918. | - | 3 | - | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| 18/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 20/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 21/5/1918. | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| 22/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 23/5/1918. | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 24/5/1918. | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| 26/5/1918. | - | 5 | - | 8 | - | - | 2 | 88 |
| 27/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 29 |
| 28/5/1918. | 1 | - | 2 | 121 | - | - | - | - |
| 29/5/1918. | - | 3 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 2 |
| 30/5/1918. | - | 9 | - | 12 | - | - | - | 1 |
| 31/5/1918. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| TOTALS:- | 6 | 45 | 4 | 195 | - | 3 | 3 | 157 |

TOTAL STRENGTH AS AT 31st MAY 1918 - 41 O. - 936 O.R.

L. H. Andrew
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F. LIEUT. & ADJT.,

F I E L D,
 2/6/1918. O.

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APPENDIX

97

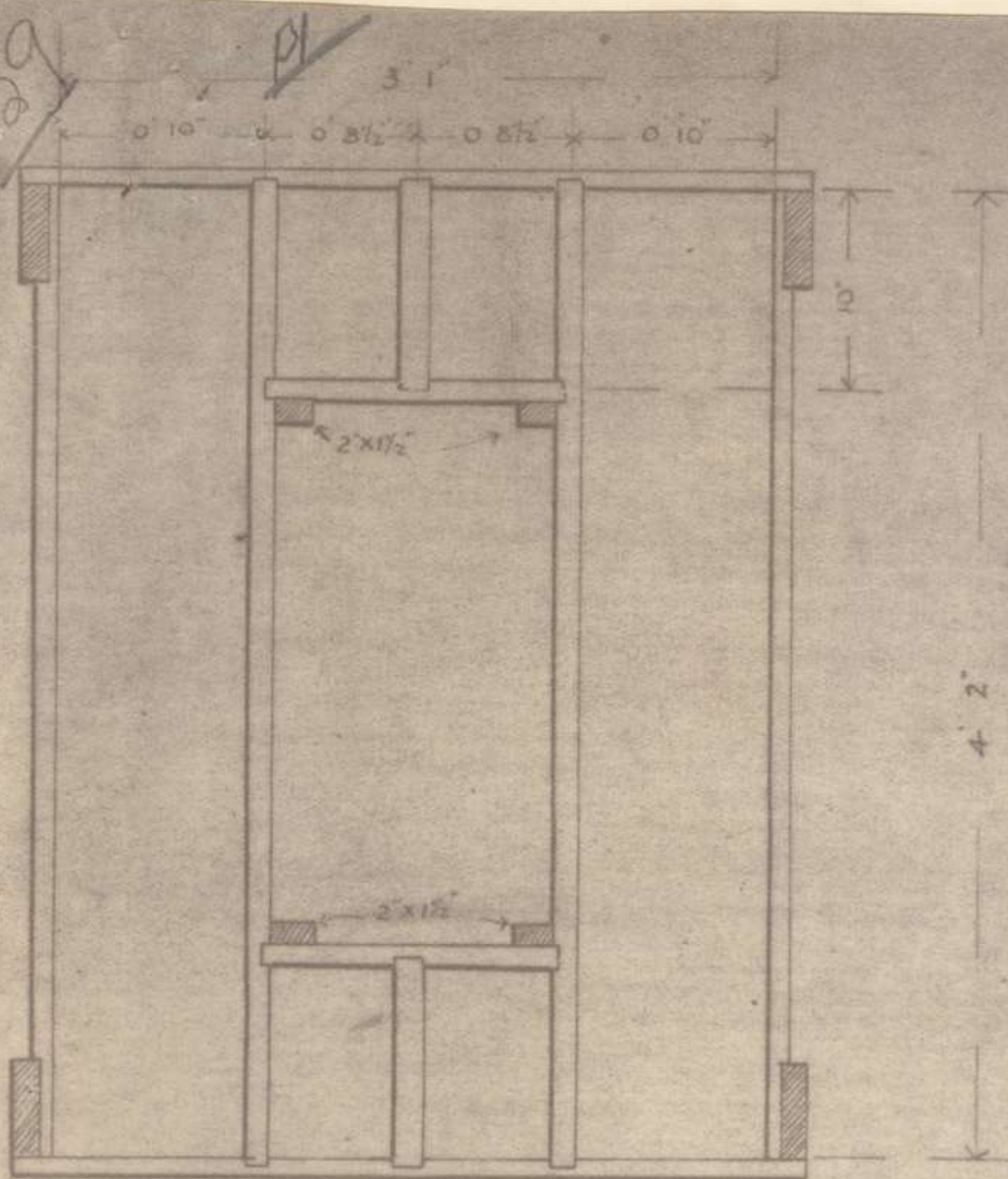
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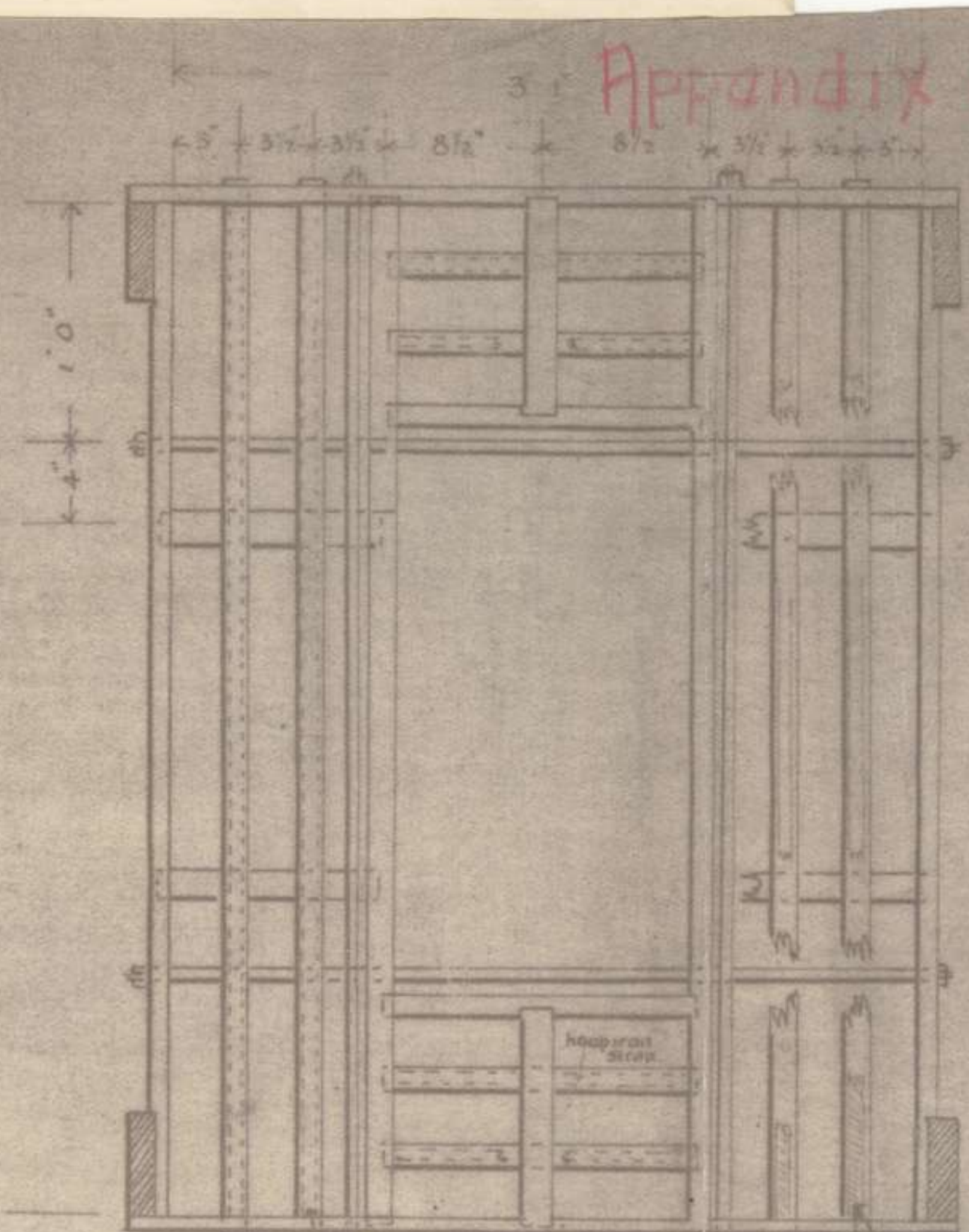
159

Appendix 97

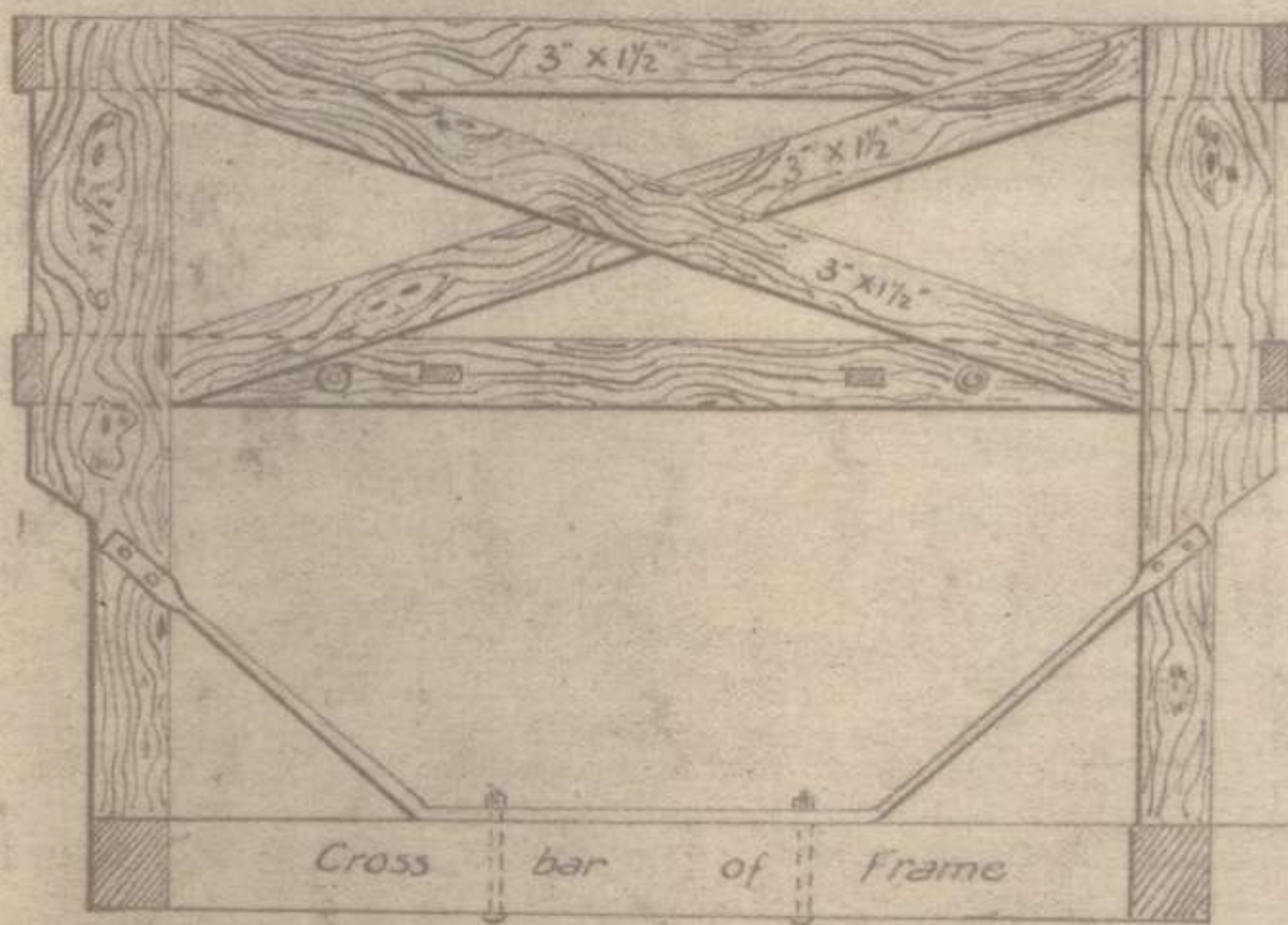
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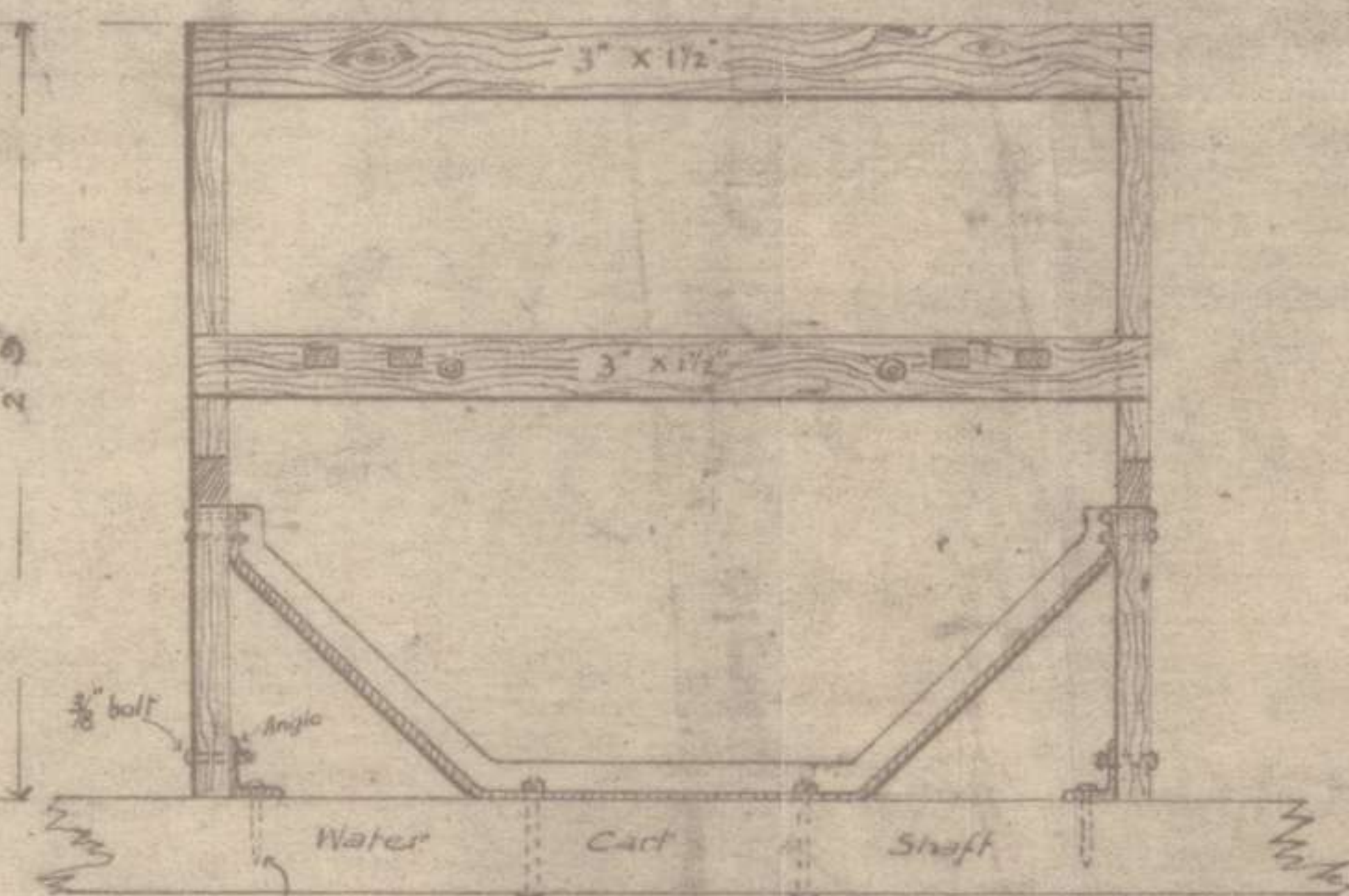
TOP PLAN



BOTTOM PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION

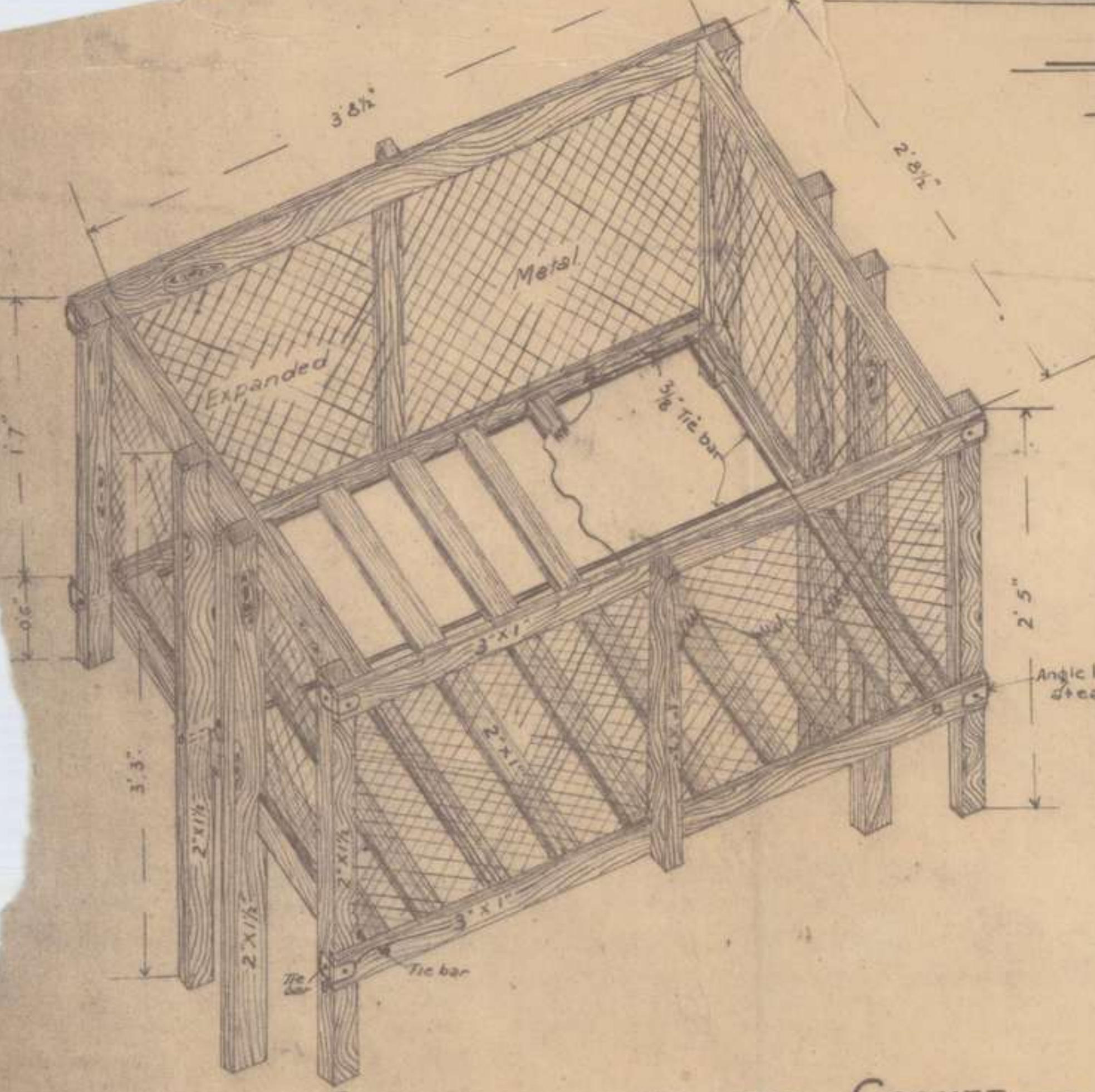


SIDE ELEVATION

WATER - CART SUPERSTRUCTURE

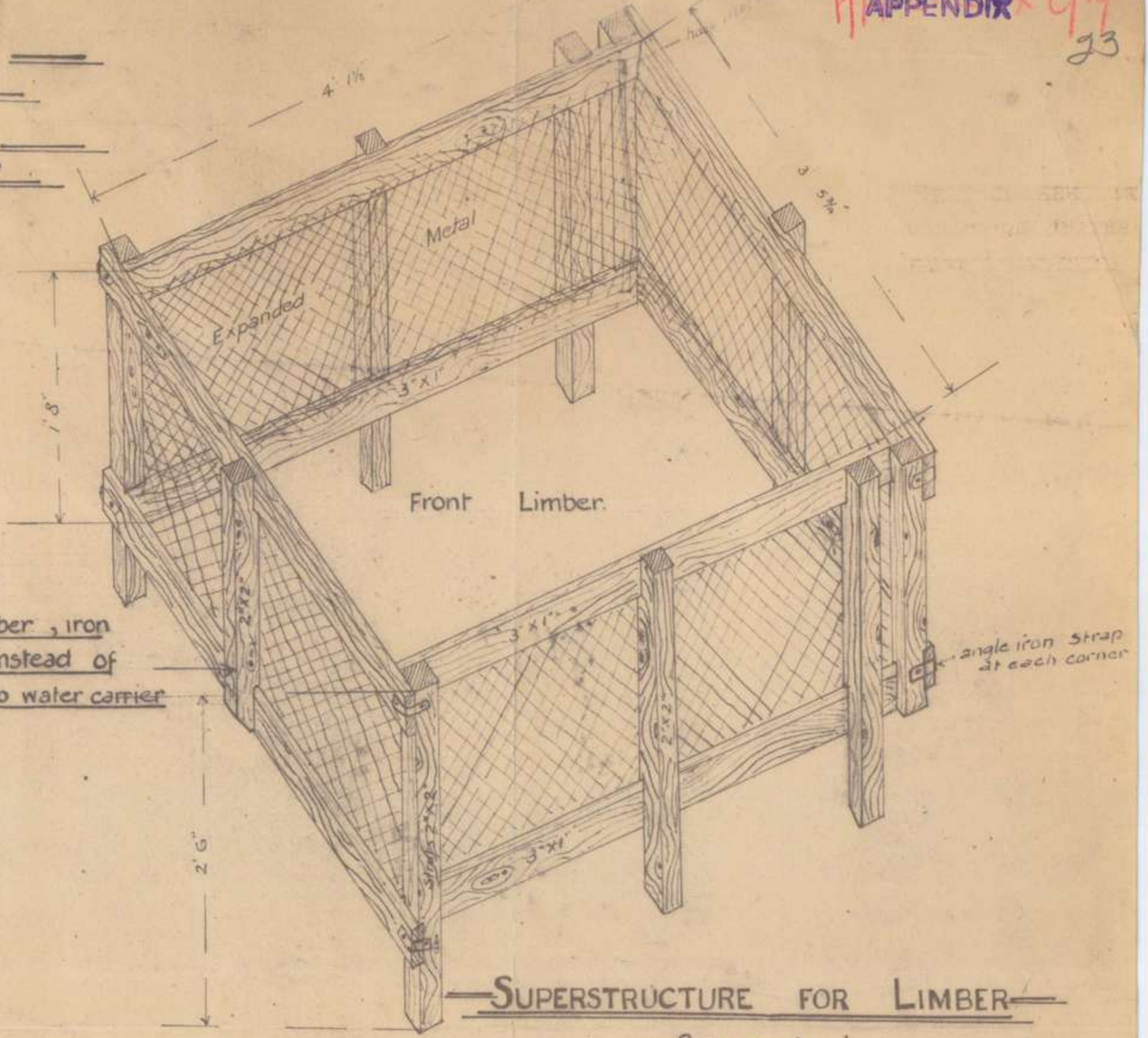
Scale 1 inch = 1 foot

War Diary
Plan.



SUPERSTRUCTURE FOR COOKER

SCALE 1" = 1'

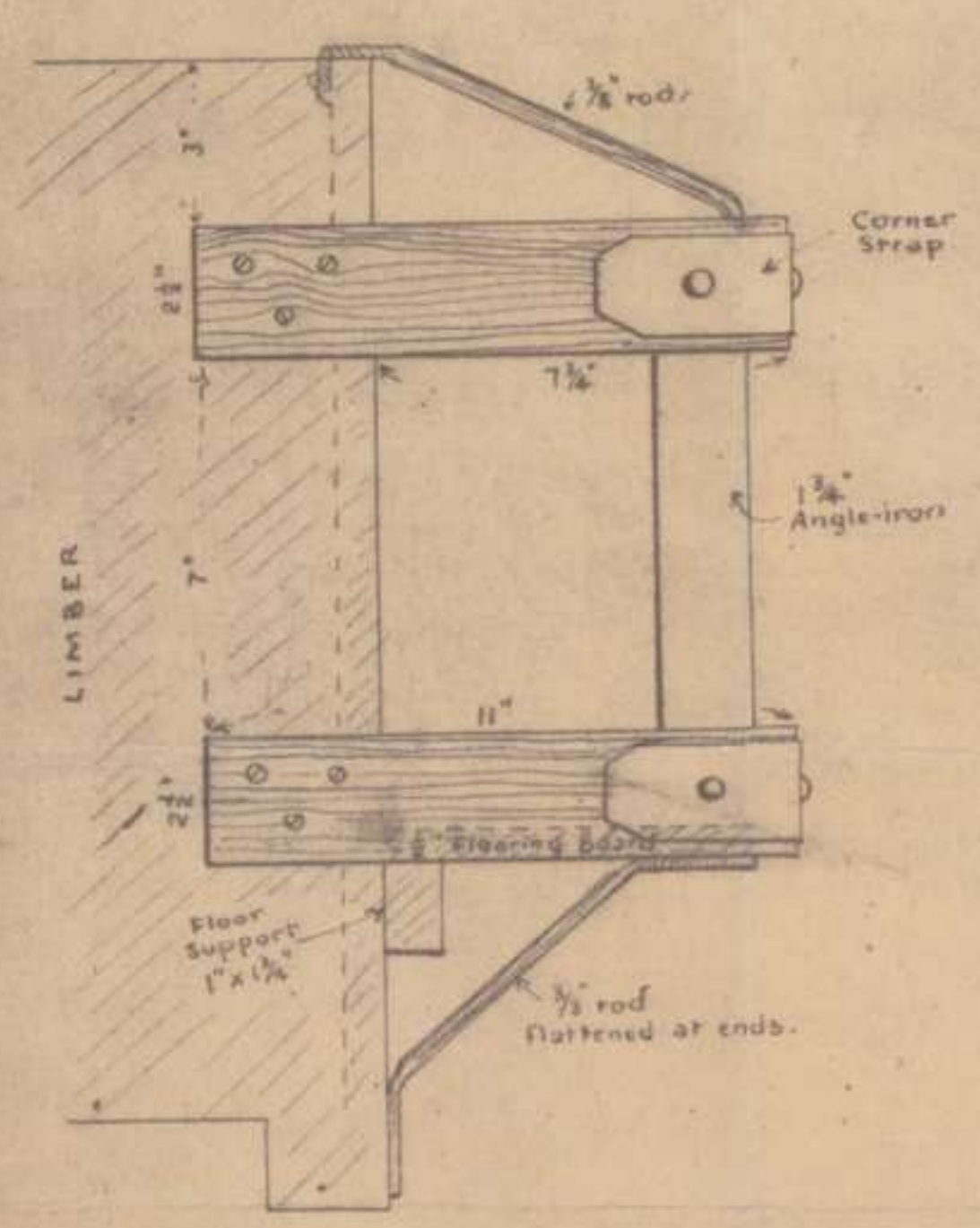


SUPERSTRUCTURE FOR LIMBER

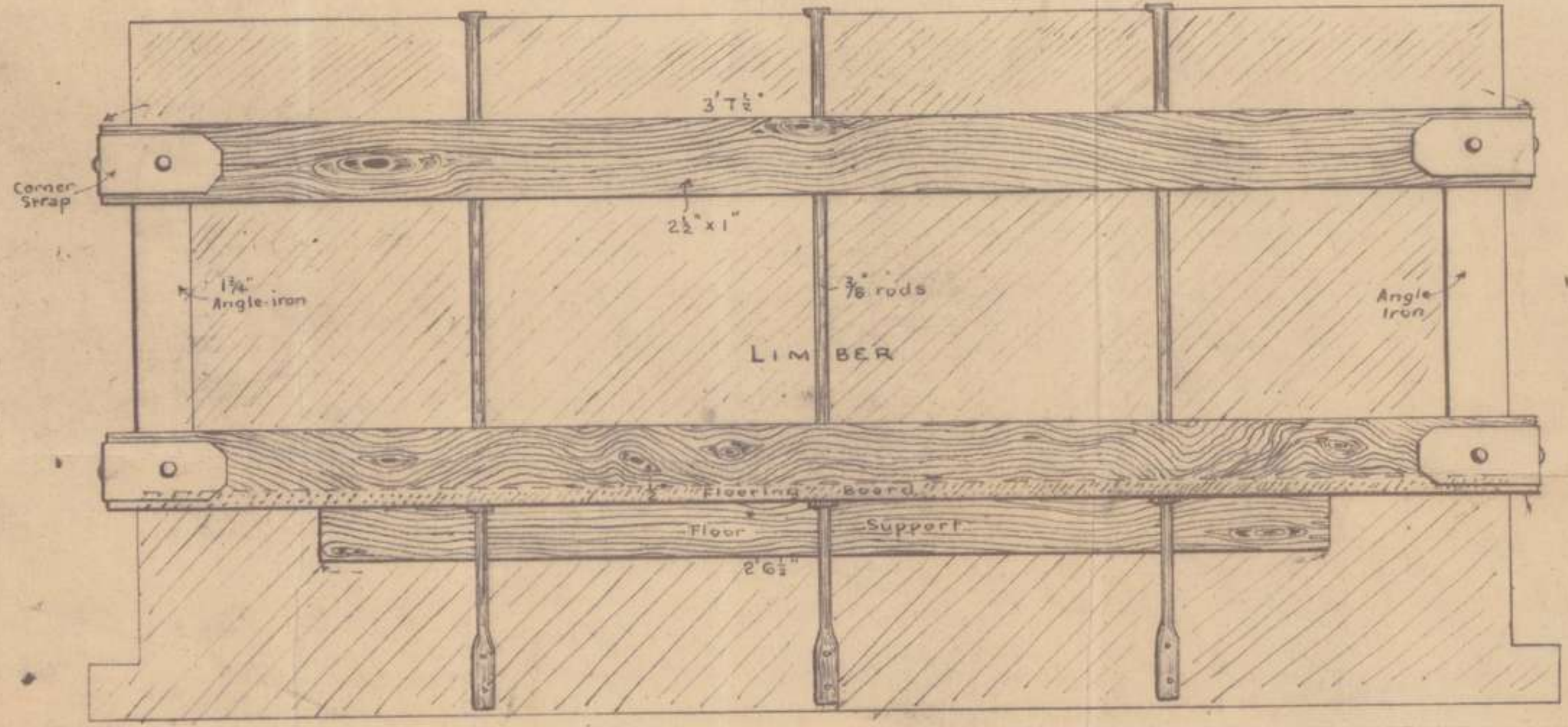
SCALE 1" = 1'

Front of Rear Limber, iron strap on inside instead of this post, owing to water carrier

WATER-CARRIER ATTACHMENT FOR FRONT OF REAR LIMBER. (Scale 1:5)



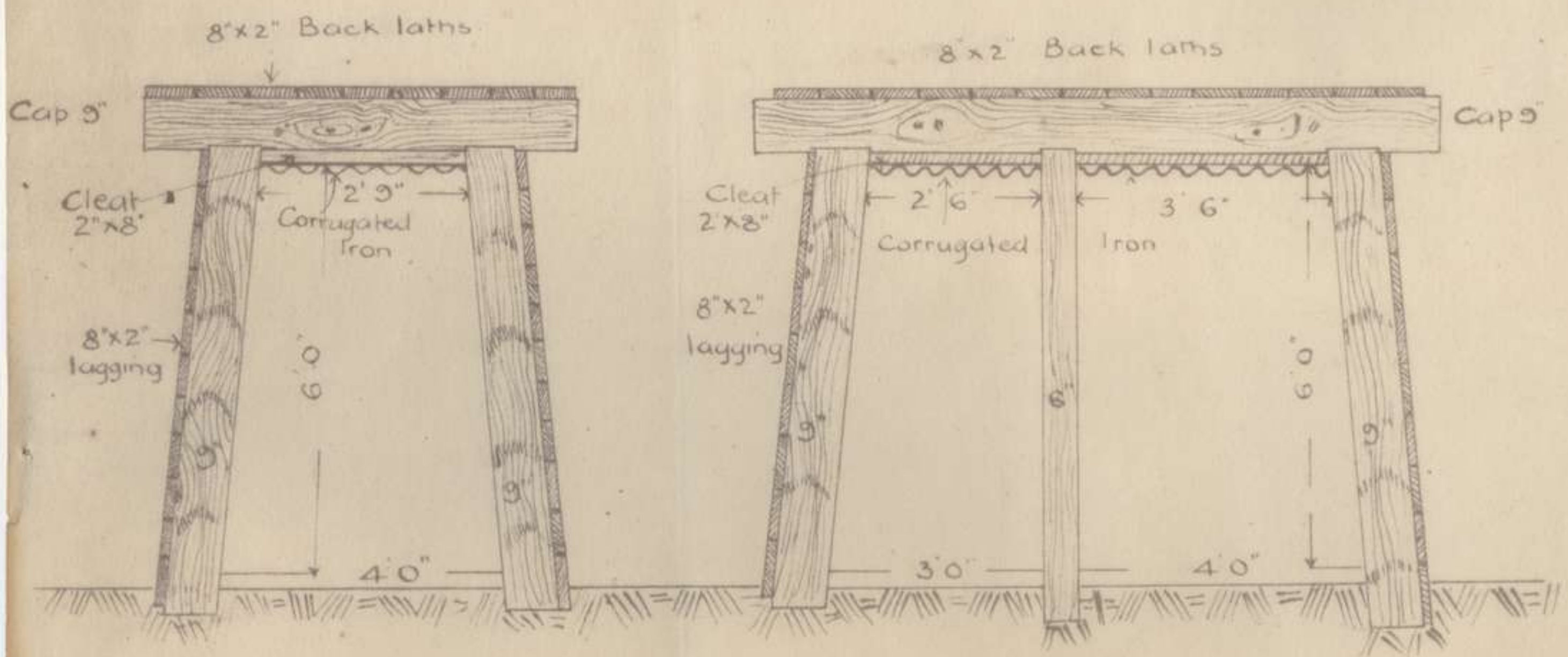
SIDE ELEVATION.



FRONT ELEVATION.

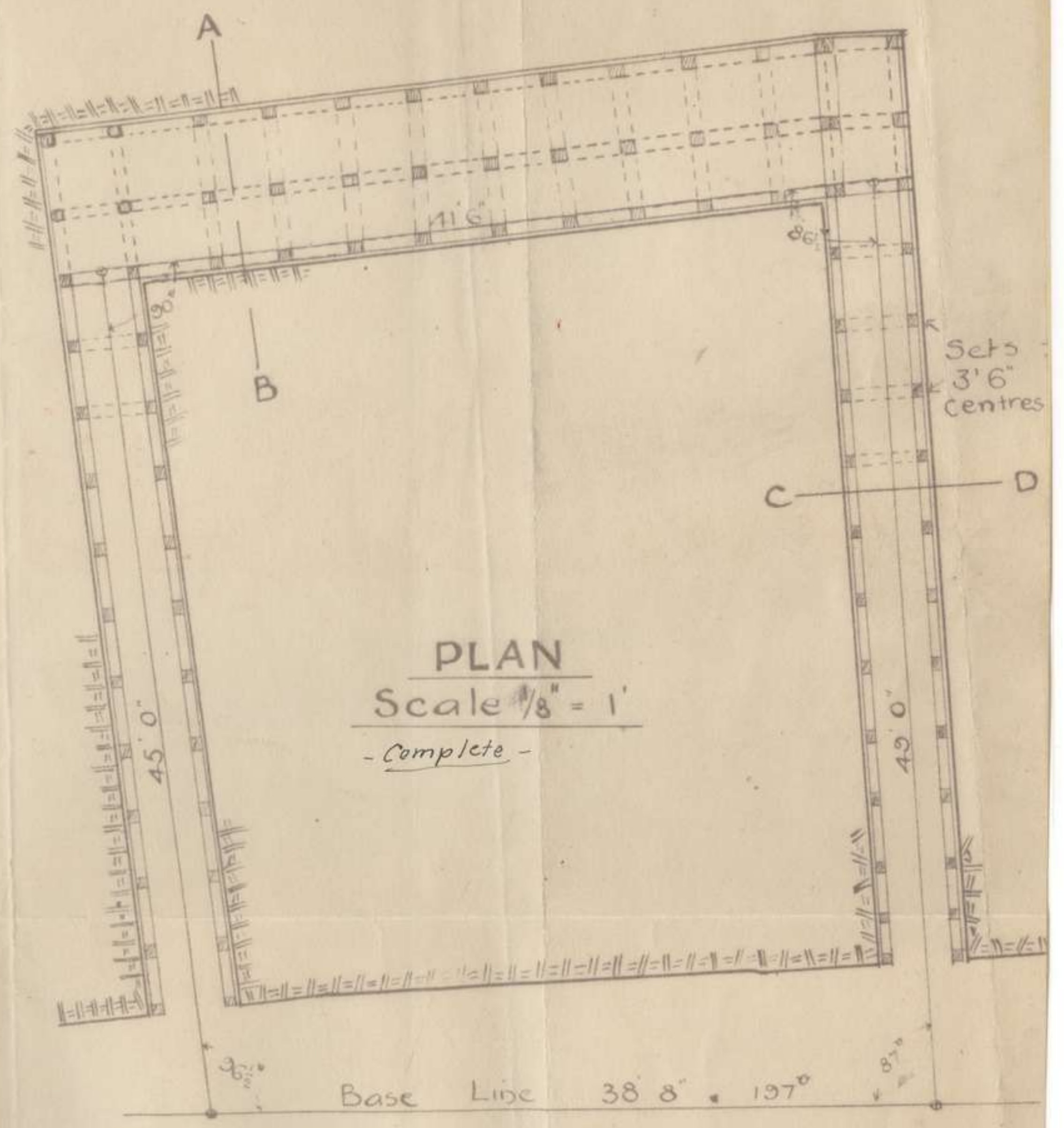
P.1

TUNNELLED DUGOUT At Sheet 62^D J.II.b.6.8.
Constructed by 3RD Aust^D Pioneer Batt^D.



CROSS SECTION AT C-D
Through Drive
Scale $\frac{1}{3}'' = 1'$

CROSS SECTION AT A-B
Through Chamber
Scale $\frac{1}{3}'' = 1'$



PLAN
Scale $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$
- Complete -

Confidential

WAR DIARY OF R.M.O. 3rd. AUST. PIONEER BATTALION
FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1918.

On the 1st. of May this battalion was located at Heilly engaged in the construction of dugouts C.T's strong posts, wiring etc.

The R.A.P. was located in Heilly. Shelling only occurred at occasional times, one H.E. exploding at the door of the R.A.P. without inflicting any casualties.

One company was stationed at Buirre and acted as an infantry unit.

B. The condition of the men was very good and the health excellent. It was only after 3 or 4 weeks of very strenuous work.

2. Involving usually a march of 4 and 5 miles to and from the work that the men showed the effects of the strain. There was no special epidemic of sickness.

3. The food and cooking were exceptionally good the rations of the men being supplemented by various salvaged foodstuffs and vegetables. A hot bath was erected and the men had regular bathings. The supply of clean underclothes was inadequate. Some men complaining of lousiness having had no change of underclothes for 3 weeks. However at the time the clothing was not procurable. The boots were good. The boot makers shop keeping the boots in good repair.

4. The men marched very well, but after some days the older men complained of inability to march such long distances. On arrival at the work they were unable to work and it was with great difficulty that they walked back to their billets.

5. There was no opportunity for any special inspection of the men.

C. The work of the water and sanitary details was excellent. All the wells and pumps in the village were tested and notices posted accordingly. Straddle trenches were at first used for latrines but as soon as was possible fly-proof latrines and proper urinals were constructed.

The total casualties for May were 3 O.L.R. killed and 3 officers and 15 O.R. wounded.

Confidential

WAR DIARY OF R.M.O. 3rd. AUST. PIONEER BATTALION
FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1918.

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One company was stationed at Buirre and acted as an infantry unit.

B. The condition of the men was very good and the health excellent. It was only after 3 or 4 weeks of very strenuous work.

2. Involving usually a march of 4 and 5 miles to and from the work that the men showed the effects of the strain. There was no special epidemic of sickness.

3. The food and cooking were exceptionally good the rations of the men being supplemented by various salvaged foodstuffs and vegetables. A hot bath was erected and the men had regular bathings. The supply of clean underclothes was inadequate. Some men complaining of lousiness having had no change of underclothes for 3 weeks. However at the time the clothing was not procurable. The boots were good. The boot makers shop keeping the boots in good repair.

4. The men marched very well, but after some days the older men complained of inability to march such long distances. On arrival at the work they were unable to to work and it was with great difficulty that they walked back to their billets.

5. There was no opportunity for any special inspection of the men.

C. The work of the water and sanitary details was excellent. All the wells and pumps in the village were tested and notices posted accordingly. Straddle trenches were at first used for latrines but as soon as was possible fly-proof latrines and proper urinals were constructed.

The total casualties for May were 3 O.R. killed and 3 officers and 15 O.R. wounded.