

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/28/11

Title: 9th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

May 1918



AWM4-14/28/11

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ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

M A Y 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Brake Burtina

Major.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Brake Burtina

MAJOR,
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

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No. 1 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

9th Aus F. Coy Engrs

Army Form C. 2118.

May 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62 D I.5.a.3.6	1/5/18		Construction of breastworks and wiring between BONNAY and HEILLY. Works on Artillery emergency routes, also Brigade and Battalion HQ's in Bridgehead Line and 2nd Zone Defence Systems. Extension to HEILLY - RIBEMONT Line continued. Weather - Cloudy, visibility poor.	
"	2/5/18		Change-over with 11th Field Company A.E. was completed by 12 M.N. last night. This unit is now engaged on improving works in the line, and on the following: - Brigade HQ at T.1.c.9.3, Battalions HQ's at T.13.d.3.4, T.17.b.3.7.7, T.21.c. central; R.A.P. at Battr. N.Q. at T.22.d.2.5. + digging communication trench from T.23.c.5.4 to T.23.c.3.3. Nos. 2 & 3 Sections are living in the line in the vicinity of the Battalion HQ. with which they are working. Weather: Bright, visibility fair.	PB
"	3/5/18		Work continued as on previous day, also salvaging tapes for enterprise and timber for dugouts. Brigade HQ at T.1.c.9.3	PBM

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 D				
I.5.a.3.6	3/5/18		was handed back to 11th Field Coy. A.E. to-day.	
"	(cont)		Weather: Sunny, visibility good.	
"	4/5/18		HONOURS and REWARDS - The Corps Commander has awarded the MILITARY MEDAL to the following N.C.O.:- No 9814 Cpl. (T/Serjt.) G. P. Austin.	PR
"	4/5/18		Work in line continued, also construction of Mess Rooms and Kitchens for Bde. HQ. at T.1.c.9.3. Sappers have been detailed for laying tapes for 8 (eight) Platoon posts, also for line of double apron fence in front of same, in connection with 34th Aust. Inf. Battalion's enterprise to-night.	PR
"			Operations orders of 9th Brigade and 34th Battalion attached to original	No 2
"	5/5/18		Weather: Sunny, good visibility. Work in Line continued. 34th Battalion's minor operations:- Tapes were laid by Sappers for 8 Platoon posts between points approx. T.18.d.77.15 and T.30.a.6.5, also for double apron fence in front. Posts were dug last night, but wire	PR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D I.S.a.3.6	5/5/18		not completed. Wiring will be continued on night of 6 th May. Casualty - 1 O.R. wounded.	
(contd)			Weather: Unsettled, visibility poor.	
"	6/5/18		Work on dugouts co. in Line. Sign Posts have been erected in trenches where necessary. Work on 2 Mess Rooms & Kitchens for Brigade H.Q. at T.I.C.9.3, and strengthening cellars for housing Brigade Staff. 35 th Aust. Inf. Battalion's minor operation was successfully carried out last night. Line now runs approx. from K.7.C.3.8 to K.13.a.3.3 thence to 34 th Aust. Inf. Batt'n. Advanced Posts. Trench wire, and in some places barbed wire, has been erected. Sappers were standing to all right and guarded prisoners. Section was later on organized into a carrying party to take urgently required stores up to outpost garrison.	
"	7/5/18.		Weather: Cloudy, visibility low. Work on deep dugouts and general work with the	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D I.5.a.3.6 (cont ^d)	7/5/18		two Battalions in the Line. Construction of 2 Mess Rooms and Kitchens for Brigade H.Q. at T.1. c. 9.3, and strengthening cellars for housing staff. Weather:- Dull, visibility poor. Casualty - 1 O.R. wounded.	
do.	8/5/18		Work in Line continued. Construction of Mess Rooms & Kitchens, also strengthening cellars for Bde. H.Q. at T.1. c. 9.3. An urgently required bridge over front line trench was on BRAY - CORBIE Road was constructed under heavy enemy barrage. Casualty - 1 O.R. wounded (remained at duty). Weather:- Cloudy, visibility fair.	BB
do.	9/5/18		Work on deep dugouts and general improvements to trenches in line, also work on Mess rooms &c. for Brigade H.Q. at T.1. c. 9.3. Preliminary reconnaissance by 5 th Field Coy. A.E. over line with officers of 9 th Field Coy, likewise 9 th Officers made	BB

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D. I.5.a.3.6.	9/5/18		reconnaissance over works on hand by 7th Field Coy. A.E.	
	(contd.)		Weather: - Sunny, visibility fair.	
"	10/5/18		Handing over to 5th Field Company A.E. and taking over from 7th Field Company A.E. Handing over report with plans of sector and dugouts, attached.	No 1
			N.Q., 2 Sections and Transport moved to billets at RIVERY	
			Sheet 62D - M.2.d.5.2. The two Sections working with	
			Battalions in line marched out + bivouaced for night	
			I.5.a.3.6.	
			10ff. + 3 O.P.B. reconnoitred positions for tape lines in connection with possible counter-attacks arrangements behind VILLERS BRETONNEUX.	
			2 Offs. reported to 567th A.T. Coy. R.E. for supervision of Defence works.	
			Weather: Sunny, ground mist, visibility poor.	
M.2.d.5.2	11/5/18		The two Sections bivouaced at I.5.a.3.6 route marched	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 140

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

No. 6 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Det 62 D M.2.d. 5-2	11/5/18		to RIVERY and joined Company. Remainder of Unit resting, cleaning up billets.	
	(contd)		Weather: dull, low visibility.	
	12/5/18		Party placing guide posts for tape laying in connection with possible counter-attacks arrangements behind VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Balance of Coy. resting, with exceptions of details required for overhauling tool-carts & cleaning billets.	PMB
	12/5/18		Weather: light rain, clear in evening.	
	13/5/18		Parade, Gas Drill & Rifle exercises by sections.	PMB
			Weather: Dull, light rain, visibility poor.	
			Casualties: 2 O.R.s. Wounded (remained at duty).	
	14/5/18		Wiring in rear of CACHY.	PM
			Inspection of Company. Gas drill, overhauling waggons.	
			Weather: Sunny, visibility good.	
	15/5/18		Wiring in rear of CACHY.	PM

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62 D				
M2 d 5.2.	15/5/18		Route march & recreation.	MS
	(Contd.)		Weather: Sunny, good visibility.	
	16/5/18		Working behind CACHY.	MS
			Training, recreation & overhauling vehicles.	
			Weather: Sunny visibility good.	
			Casualties: 2 O.R.s (wounded, remained at duty).	
	17/5/18		Working behind CACHY, from O.32 d.3.2 to U.1 d.6.4.	MS
			Training, overhauling waggon & recreations.	
			Weather: Sunny, good visibility.	
	18/5/18		Training & recreations.	MS
			Weather: Sunny, visibility good.	
	19/5/18		Training & recreations.	MS
			Weather: Sunny, visibility good.	
	20/5/18		Preliminary reconnaissance by Officers of this Company of works being carried out in Zone by 4th Field Company A.E., who are also being shown over work in rear zone	MS

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 8
Date

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62D				
M. 2. d. 5. 220/5/18			on which this Unit is engaged.	
(cont'd)			Remainder of Coy. - Training & recreation.	
			Weather:- Sunny, good visibility	
BLANGY TRONVILLE	21/5/18	1pm	Whole company moved by march route to Forward Area, & is disposed as follows:-	
			HQ and 1 Section - BLANGY - TRONVILLE	
			1 Section & Transport - H. 23. central.	
			2 Sections - O. 21. c. 2. 2.	
		3pm	Relief of 4th Field Coy. A.E. complete, also hand-over to that Unit. Work in left Brigade Sector commenced.	
			Weather: Sunny, visibility fair.	
	22/5/18		Improvements to existing trench system in line, construction of Company HQ's, erecting wire and notice boards, and taping out communications trench from Support to Front Line (location approx. P. 25. a. o. 6. to P. 25. b. 6. 7.).	
			Plan of Sector attached.	

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No. 9. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY TRONVILLE (cont'd)	22/5/18		Section billeted at BLANGY TRONVILLE moved to bivouacs at Horse lines (N. 23. central). 1 Officer rejoined from 567 th A.T. Coy. P.E.	POB
	23/5/18		Weather: - Bright day - good visibility. Work in line continued as previously. Weather: - Dull, visibility fair.	POB
	24/5/18		Work in Left Brigade Sector continued. Weather: - Rain, low visibility.	POB
	25/5/18		Maintenance and improvements to existing trench system, and construction of new works, wiring re. New communication trench from Support Line at approx. P. 25. a. 6. 6. to Front Line at approx. P. 25. b. 6. 7. - 540 yds. trench dug to depths of 4' 6" and parapet and paradose complete. New Switch Line (PINEAPPLE SWITCH) from approx. O. 29. b. 1. 5 to O. 29. a. 5. 3. commenced, and 400 yds. dug complete to depths of 4' with parapet and paradose. Weather: - clear, fair visibility.	POB

No. 10
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY TRONVILLE	26/5/18		Maintenance to trench system, and construction of new works in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch from approx. O. 29. b. 1.5 to O. 29. b. 3.4 & from approx. O. 29. a. 5.3 to O. 29. a. 35.30 - 350 yds. dug complete with firebays & traverses. New Communication trench from Support to Front Line - 270 yds. dug complete. Weather: Dull, visibility poor.	PB
N. 23. central.	27/5/18		H.Q. moved from BLANGY TRONVILLE to N. 23. central. Works continued in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch from approx. O. 29. b. 3.4 to O. 29. b. 4.4 & from O. 29. a. 35.00 to O. 29. a. 2.0. - 260 yds. dug complete. C. T. from Support to Front Line completed. Weather: Cloudy, visibility fair.	PB
	28/5/18		Works in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch from approx. O. 29. b. 4.4 to O. 29. b. 5.4 & from O. 29. a. 2.0 to O. 29. a. 0.0 - 350 yds. trench dug complete.	PB

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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No. 11 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62D N. 23. Central.	28/5/18		Weather :- Cloudy fair visibility.	
	(Contd) 29/5/18.		Maintenance of trench system & constructions of new works in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch - 400 yds. trench dug complete.	(RB)
	30/5/18.		Weather :- Sunny, good visibility. Works in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch - 350 ^x trench dug complete.	(RB)
	31/5/18.		Weather :- Sunny, visibility good. Maintenance, digging new trenches, and constructing new works in Left Brigade Sector. Pineapple Switch - 290 yds. trench dug complete, 90 ^x remains to be dug to finish this work. Kent Street C.T. - trench dug complete to support Lyrie. Sussex St. C.T. - 250 yds. trench dug complete. Approx. 600 yds. trench was dug during night. Works Report for period ending 6 a.m. 31/5/18, attached. Weather :- Sunny, good visibility.	(RB) No 4.

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WAR DIARY

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12. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62D N. 23. central.			<p><u>SURVEY OF EVENTS DURING THE MONTH. —</u></p> <p>From the 1st to the 10th of the month the Company was working in the Right Brigade Sector of the line, as shown in plan No 1 in appendices. Deep dugout construction was of the first importance, i.e., providing as quickly as possible, safe accommodation for Battalion HQ's. The line was being advanced, during these days by minor enterprises, and the company's work was largely taping out approaches, strong points, and lines for wiring, i.e., the most important work was marking positions on the ground in connection with consolidating the newly won ground.</p> <p>From the 10th to the 20th the Coy. was out with Reserve Division, and half the unit was available for training and recreation, whilst one section was available for wiring on Rear Defences, and one section being held in readiness for any</p>	

Flavonoids

02

140

(Erase heading not required.)

T2184. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

9TH
AUSTRALIAN
FIELD COMPANY.

Confidential - Original.
Regarding War Diaries and Intelligence

WAR DIARY

07

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
No. 14 Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
Date and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D N. 23. central.			<p><u>Notes from the QMS' work. (contd).</u></p> <p>returned to Base through Railhead.</p>	
			<p><i>Orville Burtman</i></p> <p>MAJOR, O.C. 9th FIELD COY. AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.</p>	

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

T2184. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

14

WAR DIARY

OF

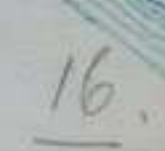
NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

M A Y 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

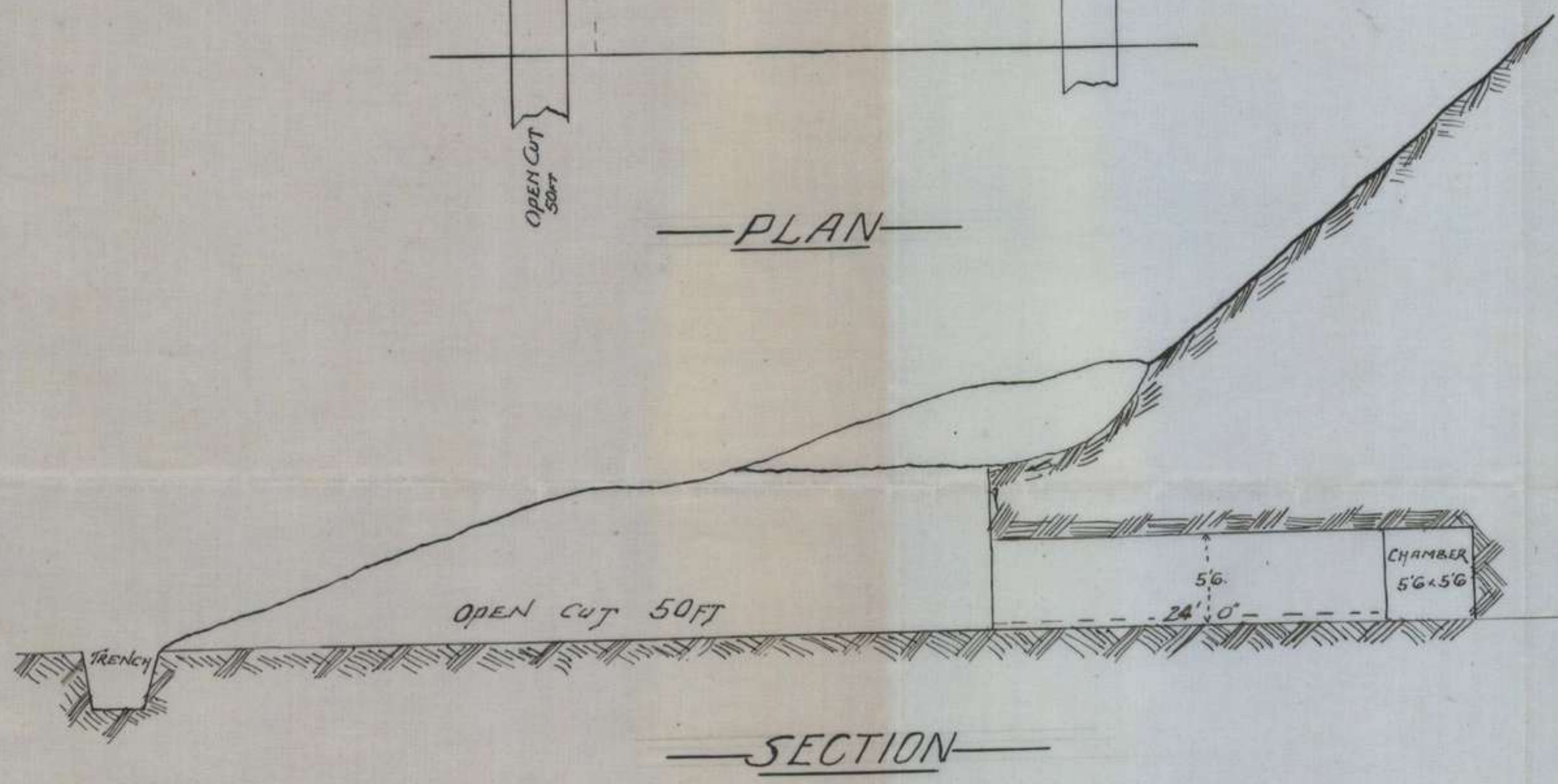
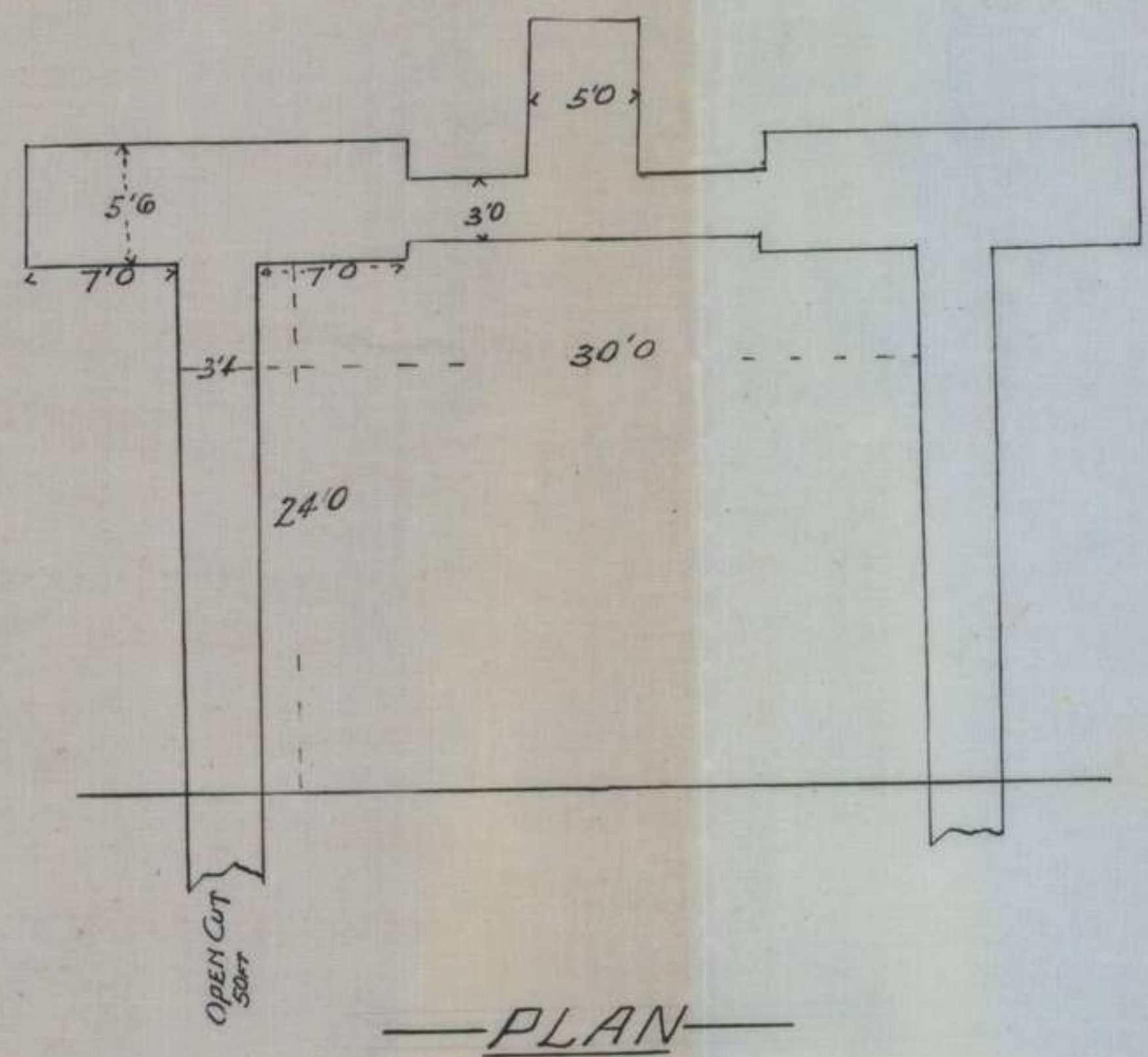
No.	Subject.
1.	Handing over Report to 7th. Field Coy. A.E., and Works Reports, plan of Sector, and sketches of dug-outs.
2.	Operation Orders of 9th. Aust. Inf. Bde. and 34th. Aust. Inf. Battalion for night of 4/5th.
3.	Plan of Sector N. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
4.	Works Report for period ending 6 a.m. 31/5/18.
5.	Notes on work of the Mounted Section during the month.
6.	Chart of Sick Parades and Hospital admissions for May.
7.	Chart shewing strength of unit and establishment during month.



140

17

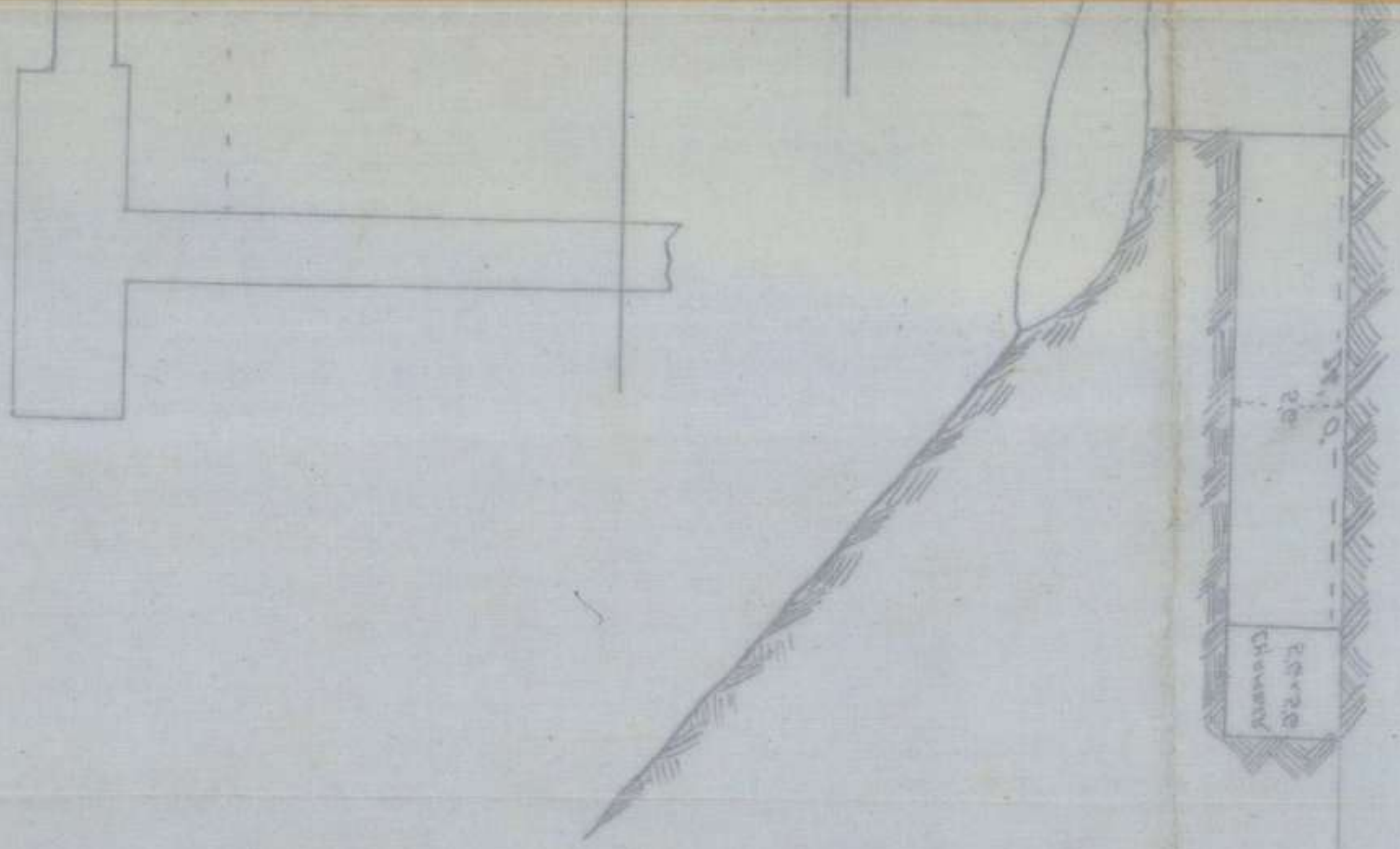
VERIFIED
No 1



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS
FOR SECOND ZONE SYSTEM AT 1.28.17.
Scale 1 in = 10 feet

9th Field Coy. Australian Engineers
31st May 1918.

140



of 100 feet —
at 128 ft —
HEADQUARTERS —

2nd Engineer Battalion
21st May 1918

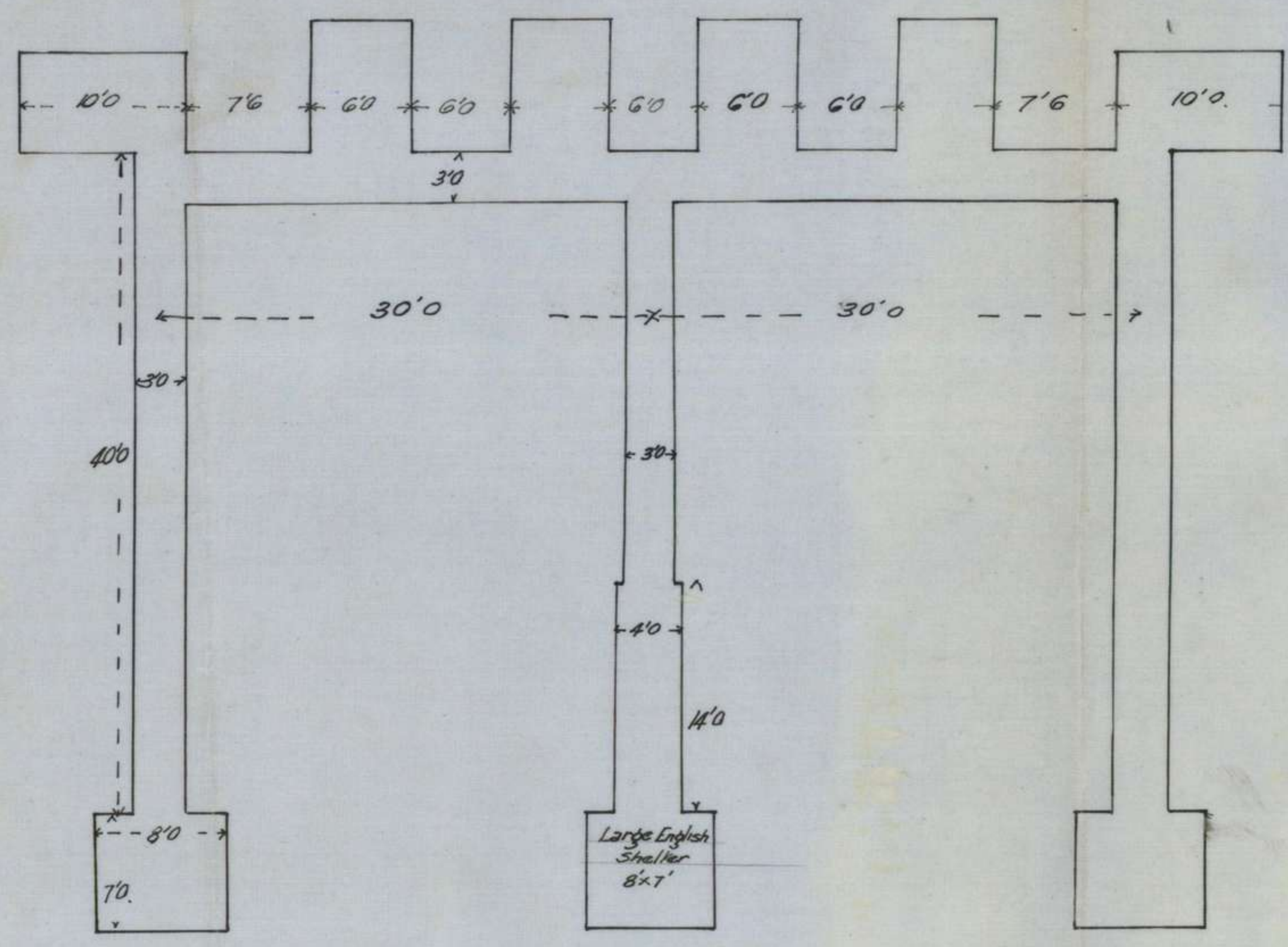
APPENDIX 1

No 1

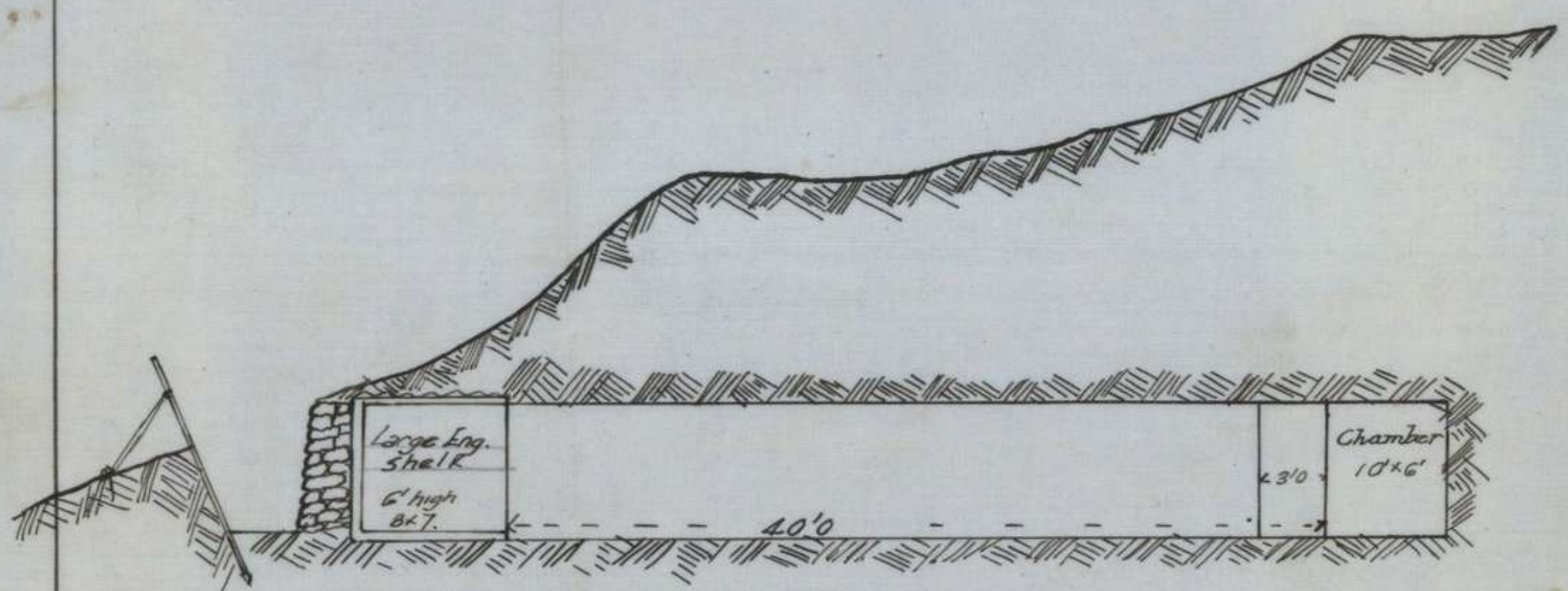
—MINED DUGOUT "C" BATTLN HDQRS.—

—MAP REFERENCE-SHEET 62 D.N.E. 1/164540—

—Scale Inch=10 feet.—



—PLAN—



—SECTION—

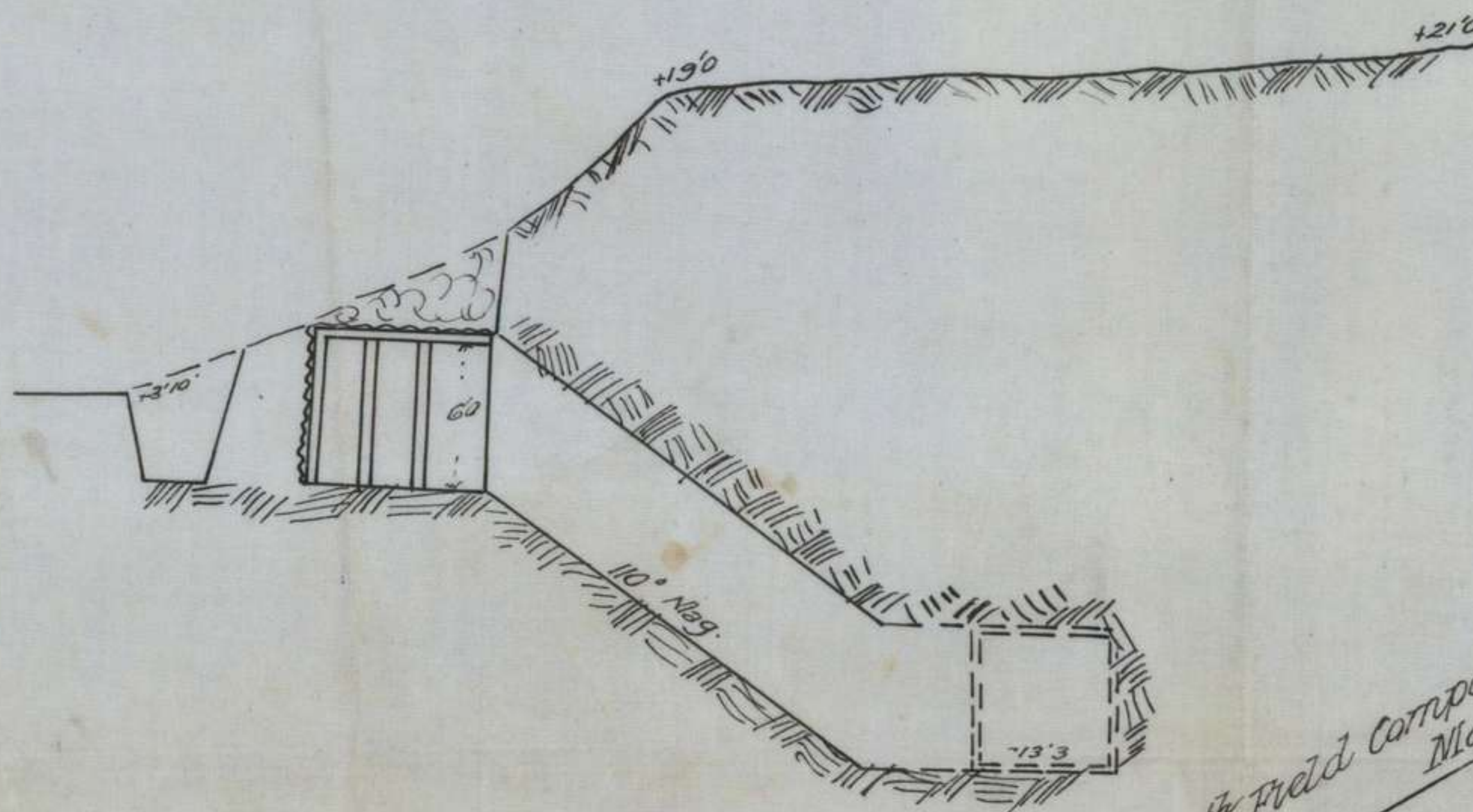
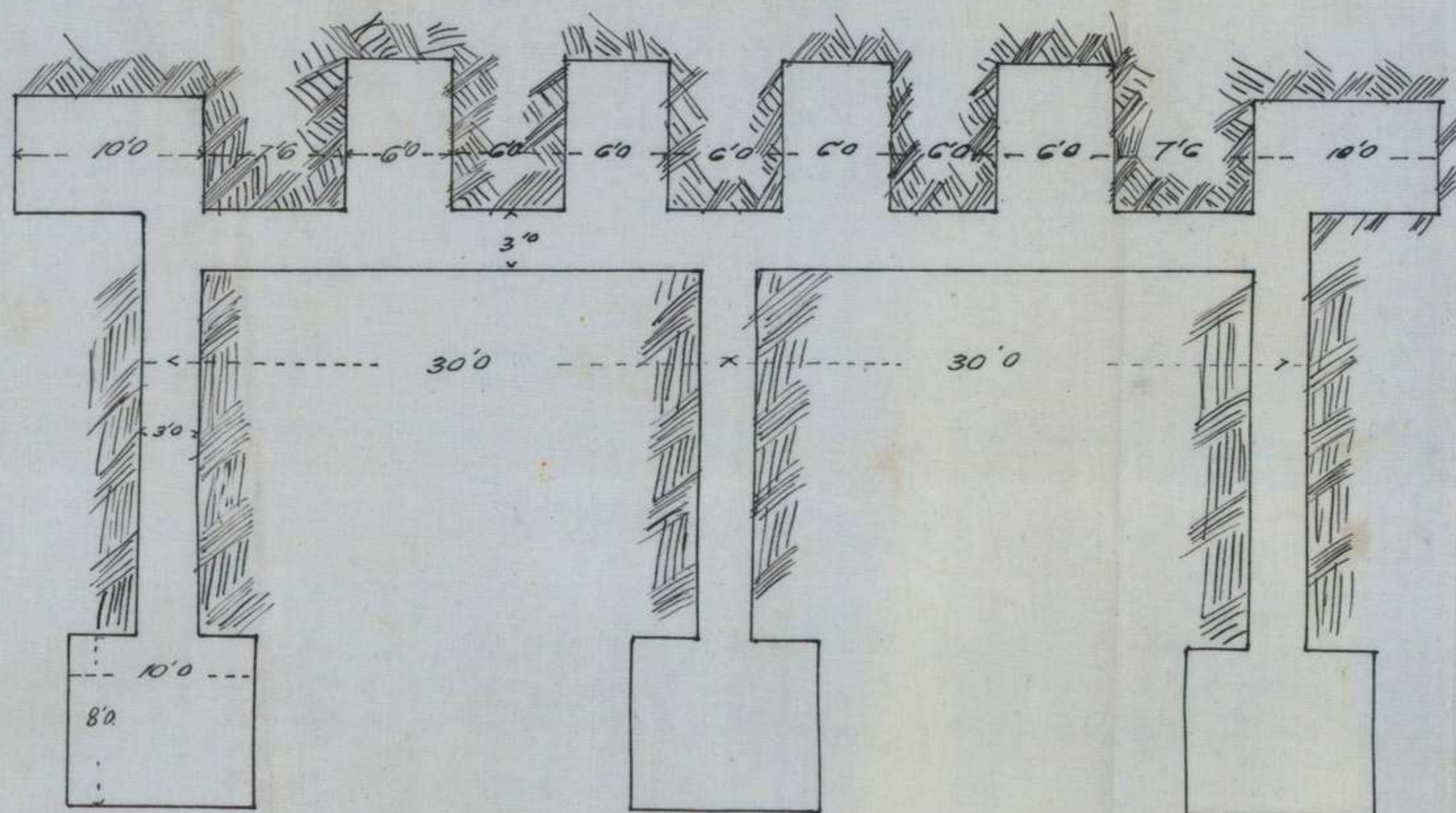
9th Field Company, Australian Engrs.
May 1918.

140

MINED DUGOUT-B BATT^N HbQRS

MAP REF. SHEET 620 J.176.37.

Scale 1 in. = 10 feet



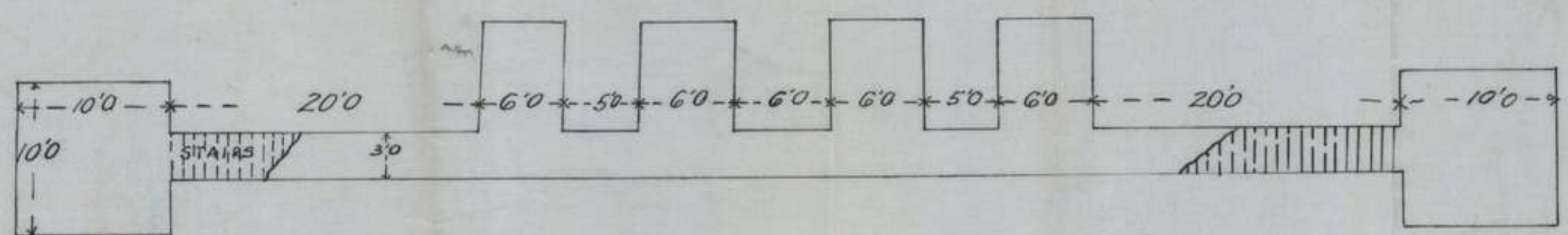
9th Field Company Aust^l Eng^rs.
May 1918

No. 1

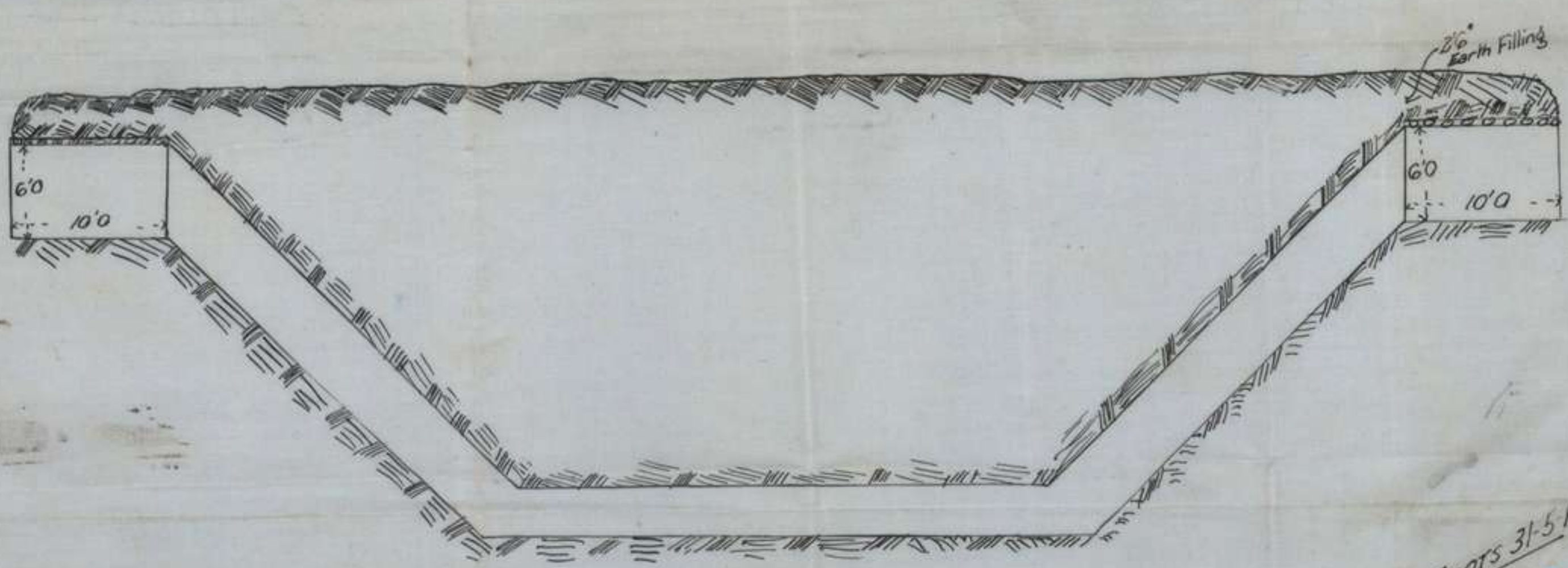
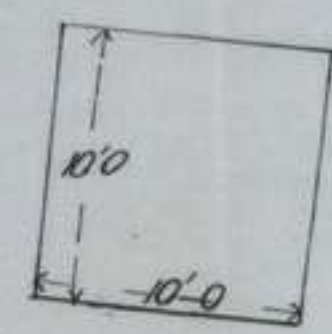
140

21

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS
FOR SECOND ZONE SYSTEM AT I II C. 95.10
Scale 1 in = 10 feet



PLAN



SECTION

Gen Field Coy Aust Engrs 31-5-18

No 1

Works Report for 168 hours ended 6 a.m., 3rd MAY, 1918.

1. 1st Line, 2nd Zone System, Heilly-Ribemont - Two platoon posts put in to connect with existing works (shewn as 7B and 8B on plan). Six Posts on low-lying ground, as outpost for main line of S.Ps., were sited and 5 of these (2B to 6B shewn on plan) were dug but still require extending.
1st Line 2nd Zone System, Bonnay-Heilly - Outposts in front of Posts E to K were continued; these are marked on plan 1A (I.23.a) to 6A (I.18.b) and are breastworks - work about 50% complete. Wiring one standard double apron fence in front of outpost line from A to K (on plan) complete - total length approx. 3,000 yds.
2. Bridgehead Line - A second line of Posts as Support Line between I.24.d. and J.13.b. was sited and numbers 1X to 13X on plan. Work not commenced.
Bln. H.Q. at J.13.c.05.55 - Work continued. Total length of drive completed - 27'.
3. Dugouts - Bln. H.Q. for Second Zone System at I.28.a.1.7 - Drive and first chamber completed. This could now be occupied as a Bln. H.Q. if required.
Bde. H.Q. at I.1.d.5.2 - 3 splinter-proof shelters at entrances for mined dugouts - 80% complete.
Bln. H.Q. at I.14.b.55.10 - 2 splinter-proof shelters at entrances for mined dugouts under construction, 50% complete.
Bln. H.Q. at I.9.c.9.8 - 3 splinter-proof shelters for entrance to mined dugouts - commenced.
Bln. H.Q. at I.11.c.95.70 - Splinter-proof shelters at entrances - commenced.
4. Artillery Routes - Patrolled regularly.
5. Surveys - Surveyors employed in fixing on plan all trenches dug by units in our area. Result of survey shewn on plan.
6. Hand-over - All the above jobs were handed over to 11th Fld.Coy. A.E. on night of 1/2nd inst.
The following jobs were taken over from 11th Fld.Coy. A.E. on night of 1/2nd inst. and work continued:-
R.A.P. at Bln. H.Q. at J.22.d.2.5.
Excavating for 3 small shelters for 18 men at J.22.d.2.5 -
Work on North tunnel at J.21.c. central - total distance 19'.
Work on C.T. from J.23.c.5.4 to J.23.c.3.3.
"B" Bln. H.Q. at J.17.b.3.7 - centre tunnel advanced 4', excavation on left completed and frames made for dugout.
"D" Bln. H.Q. at J.13.d.3.4 - tunnel advanced 3'.
Bde. H.Q. at J.1.c.9.3 - tunnel advanced 7'. This job has since been handed back to 11th Fld.Coy. A.E.
7. General - Notice Boards are being made and erected on all trenches and S.Ps. as constructed.
8. Transport - Transport has been fully occupied during the week and a total mileage of 723 miles covered.
9. Plan - Herewith print shewing all work done in the Sector.

MAJOR
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
A.I.F.

HANDING-OVER REPORT TO 5th Field Company, Aust. Engrs. 10/5/18.

1. Dispositions - H.Qrs., 3 Sections complete, details from two other Sections, Mounted Section and Horse Lines are located in the open at Sheet 62D - I.5.a.3.6.
1 Officer and party of Sappers are adjacent to each of the advanced Bln. H.Q.
2. Water - All drinking water is drawn and carted from a pump at HEILLY. Horses are watered at FRANVILLERS.
3. Works - In handing over the works of the Coy., there is little to be given in the way of definite jobs under way, with the exception of deep dugouts.
During the last five days nightly offensive operations have been about the only consideration and laying out approaches, placing tapes for wire and S.Ps., arranging dumps and forwarding material has been the chief work of the Company.
During this period ordinary trench developmental work has practically ceased: Wiring, etc. in the advanced areas has been pushed on with by Infantry as far as was possible with parties that could be spared.
Attached hereto are copies of last daily and weekly reports which give locations of dugouts, etc.
4. Plans
(O). Drawings of dugouts shewing proposal for complete dugout and amount completed.
(P). Plan (1/10,000) - tracing and 4 prints - shewing F.L. trench system and approximate lines on which out-post posts have been established. These lines are only very approximate.
(Q). Print shewing works in Rear Divisional Area (1/30,000).
(R). Print of whole Divisional Area shewing trenches (1/30,000).
(S). --
On the main trench plan I have marked in pencil a proposed C.T. that is of the greatest importance. I have also shewn in pencil the best routes to Bln. H.Qs., (1) For transport by night (2) safe walking by day.
5. R.E. Dumps Divisional Dump is at FRANVILLERS.
Attached is a list of stores left in Dump at Coy. H.Q. (I.5.a.3.6).
6. R.E. Material A considerable quantity of wire is in dumps at forward Bln. H.Q.
Timber for carrying on work will be left at each of the dugouts under construction if possible.
7. Area Stores List attached.

McL.

MAJOR,
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS. A.I.F.

10th May, 1918.

C.R.E., 3rd Australian Division.

O.C., 5th Australian F.C. Engineers (for information).

Works Report for 168 hours ended 8 a.m., 10/5/18.

During this period there has been very little work done in the repair and improvement of trenches, as, owing to the nightly offensive operations, no working parties have been available.

Our outpost line has been pushed out along the whole Brigade front, posts have been dug and a considerable amount of wiring carried out.

Sappers have been employed on marking out and taping for the posts and wire and grid tracing attached shows approximate location of our new outpost system; it is impossible to give accurate details at present.

Dugouts : The accompanying prints give details of the various dugouts under construction. Work completed is shown in red.

A number of cellars in the vicinity of Right Bde. H.Q. have been strengthened. These are for housing Bde. staff and a second entrance was made into Bde. H.Q.

Gas-doors : Gas doors have been constructed for the following-Bln. H.Qrs. - J.21.c.central (5th. tunnel) complete.

Coy. H.Qrs. - J.23.c.5.8 - complete.

-do- - J.17.d.5.1 - -do-

R.A.P. - J.22.d.8.5 - -do-

Notice-boards : Notice-boards have been made and erected where required in the trenches and S.Ps., and for various H.Q. dugouts, etc.

Hand-over : Herewith copy of hand-over report to 5th Field Coy. A.E.

Officers and N.C.Os. from the relieving Coy. have been shown over the Sector and the various jobs on hand, and arrangements made for relief to be completed this morning.

Two Officers and four N.C.Os. from this Coy. have been sent to 7th Field Coy. A.E. to take over various works which they have on hand and relief will be completed to-day.

Transport : The Coy. transport has had a particularly heavy and arduous time during the week carting materials to transit and forward dumps and following casualties occurred amongst animals:-

3 L.D. horses killed.

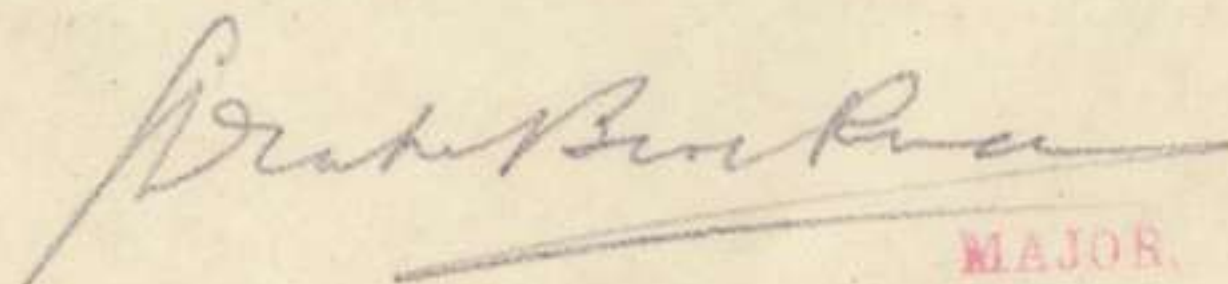
1 Riding horse wounded and evacuated.

Casualties for week : 3 Sappers wounded.

1 Driver -do-

General : Two Officers with their Sections have been living in line with forward Battalions, and owing to offensive operations during the past week, have been called upon several times to stand to, and carry rations, water, etc. forward to new outpost line.

McL.



MAJOR.
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS. A.I.F.

APPENDIX

LIST OF MATERIAL IN COMPANY DUMP, I.S.A.3.0 - 10/6/18.

Camouflage, rolls	5.
Corrugated Iron, sheets	35.
Cupola, English, sections	2.
Duckboards	6.
Hessian, rolls	2.
Mining sets	51.
Malthoid, rolls	4.
Pickets, wooden	70.
Sandbags	7,000.
Tape, tracing, yards	400.
Wire, barbed, coils	118.
" french "	2.
" tie "	8.
Camouflage, dummy trench	500 ^x

15th. May 1918.

Received the above.

O.C. 5th. Field Company
Australian Engineers.

140
~~SECRET.~~

26
APPENDIX *✓*

Copy No. *15*...

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters.
4th May 1918.

To all recipients
of 9th Aust Inf. Bde. Order No. 28.

Reference 9th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 28
dated 4th May 1918, para. 6:

SERO HOUR will be 9.0 p.m.

[Signature]
Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

140
SECRET.

APPENDIX 27

Copy No. ...

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 28.

Reference map:
62 D. H.E. 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
4th May 1918.

1. The 34th Battalion will advance the picquet line tonight to a general line running approximately K.13.c.0.0. - J.24.d.7.0. - J.30.a.central.

2. (a) The advance will be protected by strong battle patrols under cover of which a double apron wire entanglement will be constructed by 33rd Battalion in front of the new picquet line.

(b) The left flank of the new picquet line will be linked up with the old picquet line by advancing the post at J.18.d.8.1.

3. One Company 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion has been placed at the disposal of 34th Battalion for the purpose of digging the line of picquet posts.

4. Forward dumps for R.E. material have already been established.

5. (a) Artillery will not fire upon ground West of the North-South grid line through K.19.central on the 34th Battalion front during the operations.

(b) the operation will be carried out without artillery preparation.

6. Zero hour, at which time battle patrols will emerge from the old picquet line, will be communicated separately.

7. Acknowledge.

msd 4/5/18.

Major

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1-3 Brigade Headquarters.

4 Brigade Signal Section.

5-9 34th Battalion.

10 33rd Battalion.

11 35th Battalion.

12 10th Aust. M.G. Coy.

13 11th Aust. L. T. H. Bty.

14 Right Group Artillery.

15 9th Field Company A.E.

16 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copy No. 17

10th Aust. Inf. Bde.

18 3rd Aust. Division.

19 C.R.A.

20 C.R.E.

21 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.

22 3rd Aust. M.G. Bty.

23-25 War Diary.

26 File.

34th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

ORD R No. 1.

REFERENCE MAP - 1
SHEET 62 D M.E. 10,000



APPENDIX

Copy No. 9

IN THE FIELD.
4/5/18.

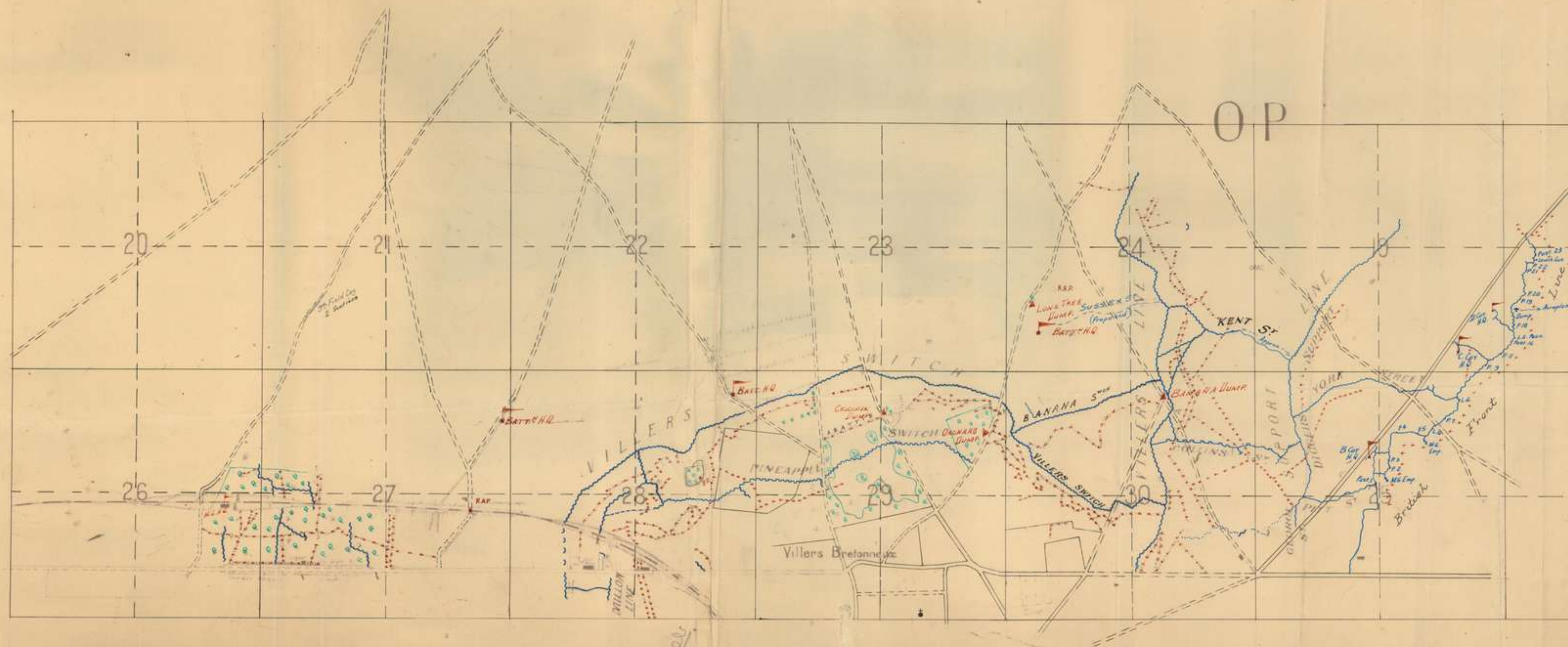
1. The 34th Battalion will advance its present Piquet line on the night of April 4/5th to a line J.19.d.80.10. K.19.a.80.93. K.19.c.80.70. J.24.d.15.00. J.30.a.80.60.
2. At 9 p.m. three (3) battle patrols of 1 Officer 14 Other Ranks will move out in advance of new line to cover the laying of tracing tapes for wire and eight (8) posts in Piquet line.
3. Platoon Officer of "B" Coy. 34th Battalion, will site and trace ~~with tape~~ the position of new Piquet line. When Piquet line is sited, tapes will be laid for position of double-apron wire by ~~layers~~ ~~detainees~~ as detailed.
4. Tracing tapes in position, "B" Coy. 34th Battalion will move out in advance of new line, and assisted by the three (3) Battle Patrols will act as covering troops during wiring and digging of new line.
5. The 3rd Battalion will move to a position of readiness in re-entrant J.24.c. pa ing cross-roads J.24.d.53.53. at 9 p.m.
6. "A" Coy. 3rd Battalion will wire from J.30.a.80.50. to J.24.d.33.10. drawing material from No.1. Camp at J.30.a.80.90.
"C" Coy. 3rd Battalion will wire from J.24.d.33.10. to K.19.c.10.72. drawing material from No.2. Camp at J.24.c.80.60.
"B" Coy. 3rd Battalion will wire from K.19.c.10.72. to K.19.a.10.51. drawing material from No.3. Camp at J.24.b.10.13.
"D" Coy. 3rd Battalion will wire from K.19.a.10.51. to K.19.c.10.13. and to J.19.d.77.15. drawing material from No.4. Camp at J.24.b.36.63.
7. On completion of wiring Pioneers will move on to their tasks in Piquet line and dig posts.
8. "B" Coy. 34th Battalion on completion of wiring will withdraw in rear of wire, the battle patrols continuing to operate in front throughout the operations. "B" Coy. plus three (3) Battle patrols, will be responsible for the protection of wiring and digging parties.
9. On completion of task by Pioneers "B" Coy. 34th Battalion will occupy the new Piquet line.
10. As soon as "B" Coy. moves forward as covering troops, "A" Coy. 34th Battalion will occupy the present Piquet line with H.M.s. at J.24.a.15.10.
"D" Coy. H.M.s. will advance to J.24.d.77.60.
11. Advanced R.A.F. Sunken Road J.24.a.30.20.

No. 2

34TH BATTALION.code for 4th/5th May 1918.

1.	Patrols Out	GILBE
2.	Tape Party Out	PIDDIS
3.	"D" Coy. Covering troops in position	MURIE
4.	"D" Coy. Here in position	ORANGE
5.	"A" Coy Here in position	YOUNG
6.	Taping Complete	DUPES
7.	33rd Batt. in position of readiness	GOBE
8.	33rd Batt. commenced wiring	CAITRO
9.	Half Wiring Complete	RIANA
10.	Three-quarter wiring Complete	LIMORE
11.	Wire Complete	HATFIELD
12.	Pioneers in surken road	COMPA
13.	Pioneers digging in	BOURGE
14.	Trenches complete	PARKES
15.	33rd Batt. has moved off	FORBES
16.	Enemy active with machine Guns	STOCKTON
17.	" " " " " Right	MONDI
18.	" " " " " Left	MANLY
19.	" " " " " Centre	BULLI
20.	" " " " " Artillery	CLIFTON
21.	" " " " " Right	COOPORD
22.	" " " " " Left	DEMAN
23.	" " " " " Centre	OGHAN
24.	Pioneers moved off	DECHOCK
25.	Covering troops "D" coy in new position	CLYDE

N°3



3rd Field Company, Australian Engrs
30th May 1918

APPENDIX 3

31st May, 1918.

C.R.E., 3rd Australian Division.

Works Report for 168 hours ended 6 a.m., 31/5/1918.

Relief and Take-over - The Coy. marched in from RIVERY on 31/5/18 and took over the Left Brigade Sector from 4th Field Coy. A.E. - relief being completed by 3 p.m. on that date.

Disposition - Two Sections were camped forward in shelters on sunken road (O.31.c.4.5) and the other two Sections were located at Transport Lines (N.23.central). H.Q. at BLANGY Tronville but since moved to N.23.central.

Works - The following works were taken over from 4th Field Coy. A.E.:-

Tactical wiring of Villers Switch, and filling in of pot holes in front.

Wiring of Diggers Support Line.

Wiring of Collins St. C.T. and making one-man firebays in trench.

Deepening, improving and wiring Banana Switch.

Constructing bunking accommodation and furnishing of deep dugouts.

Completing ~~subintentional~~ screens at R.A.P., O.27.d.7.9.

Strengthening cellar at R.A.P. referred to above.

Making gaps in tactical wiring along Villers Switch.

Maintaining and running electric light set at 9th Bde.

H.Q., O.25.c.50.30.

The above works have been continued and new jobs commenced as shewn hereunder:-

New Trenches -

New C.T. (York Street) from front line at P.25.b.65.80 to Support Line at P.25.a.30.60 has been dug to a depth of 4'6" with parapet and parados. Approx. length 900 yds. This has been firestepped where necessary.

New C.T. (Kent Street) between Support Line at approx. P.19.c.35.10 and Villers Line at O.24.d.60.30 has been commenced and is completed with the exception of about 30 yds.

New switch line (Pineapple switch) running in front of Villers Switch has been dug from O.28.d.35.95 to O.29.b.75.25 - this trench is fire-bayed and traversed throughout and there remains about 300 yds. to be dug to complete the line.

New C.T. (Pitt Street) between front and support lines has been linked up a distance of approx. 380 yds.

New C.T. (Sussex Street) from Villers Line at O.24.d.25.55 approx. to Bln.H.Q. at O.24.c.30.40 has been commenced. Trench

No 4

II.

has been dug complete from former point to approx. O.24.c.96.40.

Existing trenches -

A fair amount of work has been done in deepening and improving existing trenches, particularly Villers Switch, Banana Switch and Collins Street. One-man fire positions have also been constructed in C.Ts. where required.

A short piece of new trench of approx. 60 yds. has been dug between Villers Line and Collins Street, O.30.b.3.6 to O.30.b.40.45, and the bottom end of Collins St. is being filled in. Men can now enter Collins St. unobserved by enemy.

Wiring. -

Neither men nor materials have been available for carrying out a large amount of wiring, but under the circumstances, fair progress has been made. Approx. 1670 yds. of s.d.s.f. have been erected as follows:-

Banana Switch - 300 yds.
Villers " - 350 "
Collins Street - 450 yds.
York Street - 570 "

It was intended to continue wiring along York Street last night, but owing to heavy enemy shell-fire, party had to be withdrawn after having suffered seven casualties.

In addition to the above, about 450 barbed wire concertinas have been made up for wiring in front of outpost line. A large number of these have been put out and a quantity of existing wire has been thickened.

Dugouts. -

The following mined dugouts are under construction by this Coy:-

Sigs. Testing Point at O.27.a.9.0 - 70% complete.
M.G.Coy.H.Q. at O.28.b.5.2 - Sth. tunnel 10 ft.
Nth. do. 5 ft.

M.G.position at O.30.c.5.8 - Excavations commenced.

Sketches of above herewith with completed portions shown in red.

Shelters. -

Shelters for housing Coy.H.Q. have been constructed as follows:-

Front Line Left Coy. P.19.d.95.45..
do. Centre " P.19.d. 6. 1..
do. Right " P.25.a.9.3.
Support Company P.19.c.2.1.
O.23.d.3.8.

The above H.Qs. each consist of three C.I. shelters one for Coy.H.Q. and one each for runners and Sigs.

A shelter for R.M.O. at R.A.P., O.27.d.7.9 has also been constructed.

Emergency ration dumps (C.I. shelters) have been constructed at O.24.c.3.3, P.19.c.2.1, O.28.a.5.6.

Miscellaneous -

Two gas-proof doors have been erected complete on

APPENDIX

tunnel entrances at R.A.P., O.27.d.7.9.

APPENDIX

Kitchen has been constructed at mined dugout at O.22.a.8.9 and bunking accommodation at dugout is complete.

Notice boards have been made and erected throughout the trenches. Front line posts have been numbered as indicated on tracing. Direction boards to Bln.H.Qs. have also been erected where necessary.

Transport -

Transport has been kept very busy during the period carting materials from various dumps to forward area, etc.

Standings have been considerably improved and breastworks constructed for protection of animals against bombing.

Casualties for period - 1 horse killed.

General -

Grid tracing herewith giving details of all work carried out in this Sector, shewing corrections of old works.

Tracing herewith shewing a design of M.G.Coy.H.Q. and M.G. emplacement under construction.

[Signature]
MAJOR,
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

MCL.

NOTES ON THE WORK OF THE MOUNTED SECTION DURING MAY 1918.

- FORAGE - The supply of forage has been good. A fair amount of green forage has been received.
- ANIMALS - Have been picketed in the open during the whole period. The Divisional Inspecting Officer reports their condition good. The following casualties occurred :-
- 8/5/18. - 2 L.D. Horses killed (shell-fire).
 - 9/5/18. - 1 Ridg. " wounded "
 - 21/5/18. - 1 L.D. Mule to Mob. Vet. Section.
 - 22/5/18. - 1 L.D. Horse killed (shell-fire).
- On the 4th. inst. 4 L.D. horses were received from Base Remounts.
- Horse rugs were returned to Ordnance on 19th. instant.
- The following animals are required to complete establishment :-
- 2 Riding Horses.
 - 3 L. D. do.
 - 1 L. D. Mule.
- HARNESS &)
VEHICLES.) Both are in good serviceable condition.
- WORK - From the 1st. to the 9th. of the month, transport work was heavy, and much R.E. material was carted up to Forward Area under very trying conditions.
- On the Company moving into Reserve Area on the 10th. May, vehicles were thoroughly overhauled and painted. An inspection of Company Transport was held by the C.R.E. on the 17th. May.
- From 21st. until the end of the month the Mounted Section has again been fully occupied carting R.E. materials from Divisional to Forward Dumps.
- Breastworks have been erected round picket lines for protecting animals against hostile bombing.
- MILEAGE - Total mileage for month approx. 2075 miles.

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N/5/5

P3

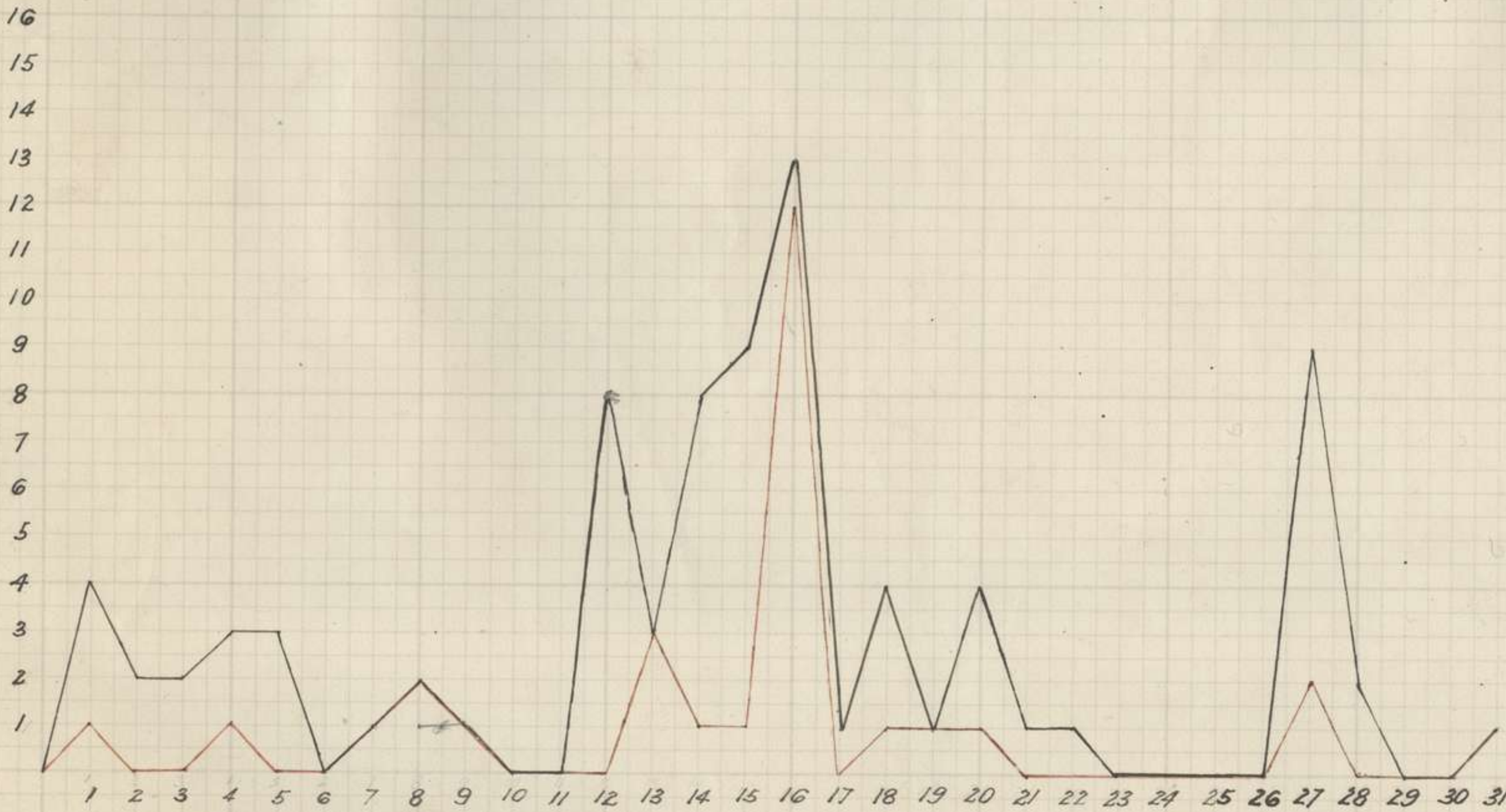
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APPENDIX
9th Field Coy. Aust. Engineers

CHART SHOWING

STATE OF SICK PARADES FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918

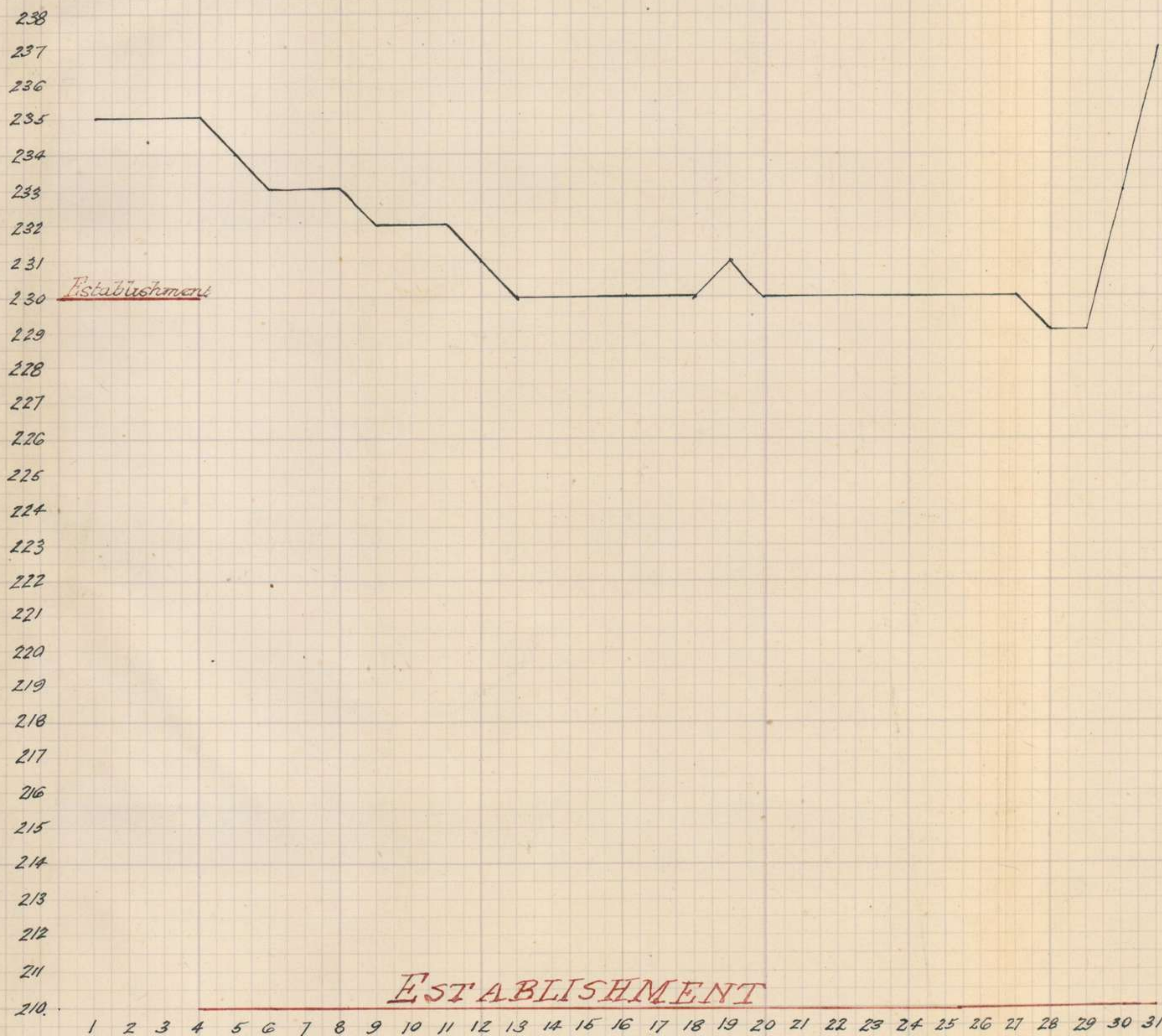
Hospital admissions shown in red



9th Field Compy Austn Eng^{rs}

— CHART SHOWING —

— STRENGTH OF COMPANY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1918 —



107