

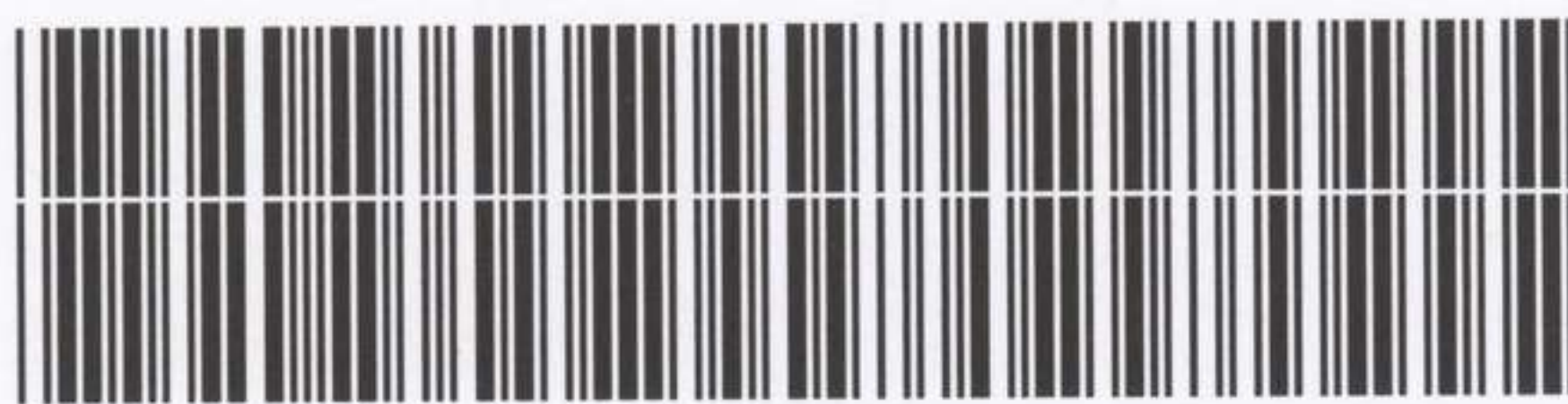
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/28/18

Title: 9th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

December 1918



AWM4-14/28/18

CONFIDENTIAL

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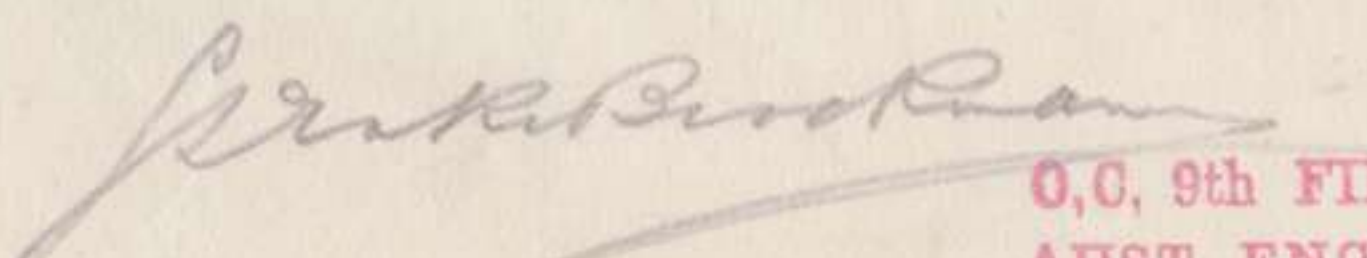
Australian Imperial Force

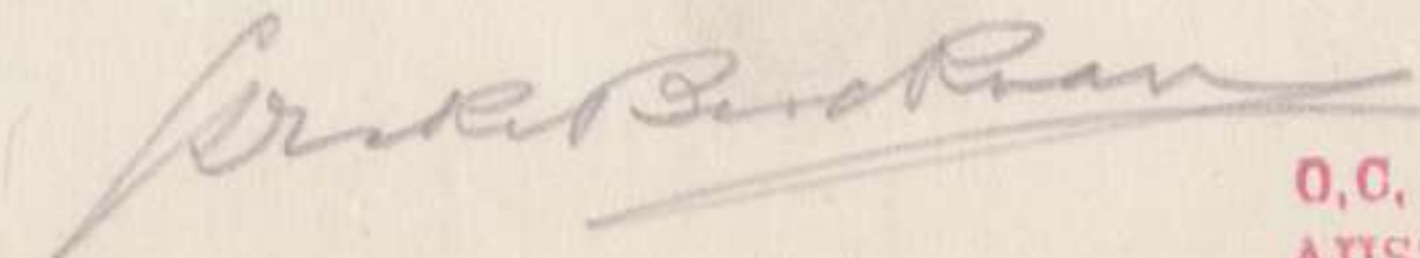
WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

For December 1918.


Signature of Officer Compiling
MAJOR,
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.


Signature of Officer Commanding
MAJOR,
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

FIELD COMPANY.

ORIGINAL

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wing. Av. Mont	1/12/18		Rest.	
	2.12.18	0900 to 1000	Company parade, inspection, Section Drill & rifle exercises	
		1000 to 12.00	Educational classes.	
		12.00 to 14.00	Sports.	
		14.00 to 16.00	Company Parade, Route March	
	3.12.18	0900 to 1000	Educational classes.	
		1000 to 11.00	Sports.	
		11.00 to 14.00	Company Parade, Musketry.	
		14.00 to 16.00	Educational classes.	
	4.12.18	0900 to 1000	Sports.	
		1000 to 11.00	Route March to Hallen Court for Parks.	
	5.12.18	0900 to 1400	Company parade & Musketry.	
	6.12.18	0900 to 1000	Educational Classes.	
		1000 to 12.00	Sports.	
		12.00 to 14.00	Company Parade route march	
	7.12.18	0900 to 1000	Educational Classes.	
		1000 to 12.00		

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

No. 7 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 Date Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wing-aw-Mont.	7.12.18	1400 1600	Rest	
-	8.12.18	-	Rest.	
Higneville	9.12.18		Complete Company moved to Higneville.	
-	10.12.18	0900 1000 1000 1200 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company parade French Classes Bookkeeping Classes Architectural Drawing, Shorthand, Surveying, Sports.	
	11.12.18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company Parade Bookkeeping Classes French classes. Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics, Sports.	
	12.12.18		Route March for Baths.	
	13.12.18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1200 1200 1400 1600	Company parade, route march. Bookkeeping Classes. French Classes, Lecture on Demobilisation Architectural Drawing, Shorthand, Surveying, Sports.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2118/14

No. 2
Date

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Agnewville 14.12.18 0900 Company parade
1000
1000 Bookkeeping Class
1100
1100 French Class
1200
1400 Recreation.
1600

- do - 15.12.18 - Rest.

16.12.18 0900 Company parade & Inspection
1000

1000 Bookkeeping Class
1100

1100 French Class, Debate.
1200

1400 Arithmetic, Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics,
1600 Surveying & Sports

17.12.18 0900 Company parade
1000

1000 French Class
1100

1100 Bookkeeping Class
1200

1400 Architectural Drawing, Shorthand, Surveying & Sports.
1600

18.12.18 0900 Company parade.
1000

POST

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Aigueville	18.12.18	10.00	Bookkeeping class	
		11.00		
		11.00		
		12.00		
		14.00		
- do -	19.12.18	09.00	Route March to Fenquiere for Baths	
		12.00		
		14.00		
		16.00		
		16.00		
- do -	20.12.18	09.00	Company route march & parade.	Casualty - No 9878 Sapper GIBSON, TR. acc. killed.
		10.00		
		10.00		
		11.00		
		11.00		
		11.00		
		12.00		
		14.00		
		16.00		
		- do -		
10.00				
10.00				
11.00				
11.00				
12.00				
14.00				
		16.00	Recreation & Rest.	
		16.00		

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No. 5 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
Ligneville	22.12.18		Lieut L. J. Burgess M.C. rejoined from Engr. Training Depot England.	
- do -	23/12/18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company parade. Inspection French Class Bookkeeping Class. Debate. Arithmetic, Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics Surveying. - Sports.	
- do -	24/12/18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company Parade & Route March French Class. Bookkeeping Architectural Drawing, shorthand Surveying Sports.	
- do -	25/12/18 26/12/18		Holiday. Route March to Tenquierees for Bath.	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Agnewville	27/12/18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company Parade and Section Drill French Class Bookkeeping Class Architectural Drawing, Shorthand, Surveying, Sports.	
-do-	28/12/18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1200 1200 1400 1600	Company Parade French Class Bookkeeping Class Recreation	
-do-	29/12/18		Rest.	
	30/12/18	0900 1000 1000 1100 1100 1200 1400 1600	Company Parade, Inspection, Route March French Class Bookkeeping Class Mathematical, Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics, Surveying, Sports.	
-do-				

BM

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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NINTH FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.SUMMARY OF EVENTS DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

During December the Company has only been filling in time, so to speak, till general demobilisation commences. To do this we have had a little military work daily (about 2 hours) mostly in the form of route marches. A certain amount of football and other recreational training was also carried out, and Educational Classes previously commenced were maintained. Of the latter, the Architectural Drawing, French and Bookkeeping Classes have proved themselves the most popular. The Surveying Class has also been very useful to a few students, and two men from the Infantry joined the Class during the month. Classes for Tinsmithing, Carpentry and Riggers were started for men from the Infantry, and these are now going concerns, doing a certain amount of useful work, but lack of material has been the great difficulty.

The Company had one move, having shifted from WIRY - au - MONT to AIGNEVILLE by route march. A move of about 15 miles like this helped to lessen the monotony for a few weeks. It was really quite welcome, especially as AIGNEVILLE is a cleaner and better village than the one we left.

One very regrettable incident occurred during the month ; the death of Sapper Gibson, who was accidentally killed. He was buried in ABBEVILLE Military Cemetery.

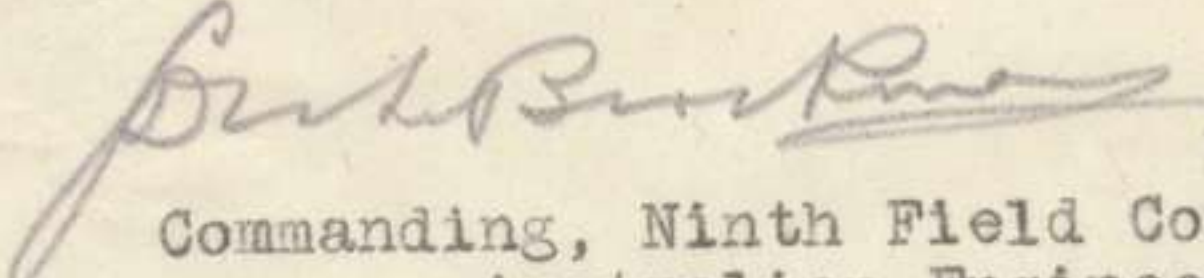
Christmas festivities were quite good. Numerous geese were secured in the neighbourhood of the village, and a liberal supply of beer was also obtained. On the whole, the Company had quite a merry time; certainly much happier than the previous two, when the unit was in the Line.

Men have been detached to outside units in connection with Civil Training as follows :-

1st. Heavy Repair Shops, Paris.	1
Offices of Inland Water Transport.	1
5th. Aust. Mechanical Transport Coy.	1
Aust. Corps Workshops.	1

Attached are copies of Essays written in connection with a Divisional Competition which may prove useful as records.

2/1/1919.
RvD.

 Major.
Commanding, Ninth Field Company
Australian Engineers.

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WAR DIARY
of
NINTH FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

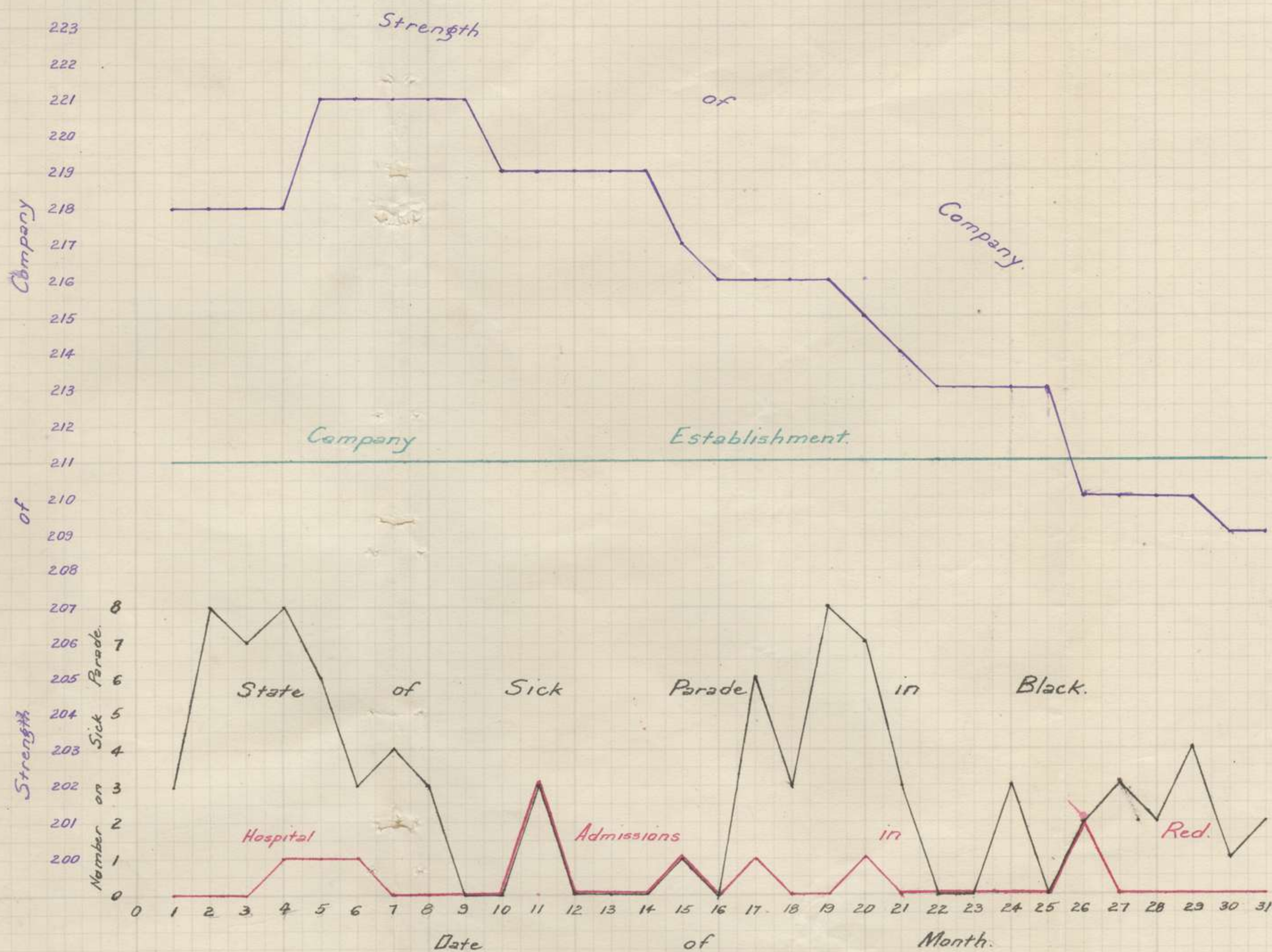
DECEMBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
1.	Chart shewing Strength of Company, Sick Parades and Hospital Admissions for month.
2.	The operations of the 9th. Field Company on 25th. August 1918.
3.	Description of a typical day in the life of an individual soldier.

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——— Chart Shewing ———
 STRENGTH OF COMPANY, STATE OF SICK PARADES
 AND NUMBER ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL
For month of December '18



No 1

140
ref. 9

Plan attached shews letter references.

Dispositions. -

H.Qrs. and Dismounted Personnel - Q. 5. d. 1. 8.
Transport..... - K. 31. b. 6. 2.

At 10.0.p.m. on 24/8/18 the O.C. received an urgent summons to Conference at C.R.E's., where detailed instructions were given for offensive operations the following morning. BRAY-sur-SOMME had been taken early that morning, and the advance was being continued (Zero hour 2.30.a.m.).

The work allotted to Company was the construction of Pontoon or other bridges over the River SOMME and Canal south of BRAY, and the repair of roads etc. in the locality, to ensure the speedy evacuation of wounded, and forwarding of supplies.

Nine pontoons were placed at Company's disposal, being collected at 11.0.p.m. from Pontoon Dump at K.31.c.5.0.

At midnight an Officer with two O.Rs left forward camp on bicycles to make a reconnaissance of site where Pontoon Bridge (D) was to be built. This necessitated a swim across the river by the former.

The four Sections of Sappers moved off at intervals at 2.0.a.m. on 25th. August. The O.C. went ahead with two men to reconnoitre, and with his batman for runner. Shortly afterwards the nine Pontoon wagons came along the road at a sharp pace. The moon was shining in a clear sky, but soon a dense mist began to form, which by daybreak confined visibility to a few yards. This made the work very difficult, though providing an excellent screen.

The Sappers reached rendezvous (D) at 3.30.a.m., where they were met by the O.C. No.2 Section started clearing the Canal Bank road and filling in shell-holes (A to B). They had first to construct a flying barrel pier raft to carry the men across the canal. No.3 Section commenced the erection of a bridge for Field Artillery over FROISY Lock (C), using material from Boche Engineer Dump nearby. The bridge was 22' span, closely made of steel rails.

Meanwhile the pontoons had arrived, and were unloaded at rendezvous (D). No.4 Section started erecting pontoon bridge to carry Field Artillery (D), the length being 75'. No.1 Section commenced pontoon footbridge (E), and clearing track for walking wounded (F to G).

Later, No.1 Section filled in a gap (H) where bridge had been destroyed. No.2 Section built three footbridges (I, J & K) near BRAY for walking wounded. The other two Sections were employed filling in shell-holes and clearing BRAY - FROISY Road.

Intermittent shelling was experienced throughout, but the work was completed by 3.0.p.m.

To make the way fit for artillery, footbridges (I, J & K) were reconstructed the following morning.

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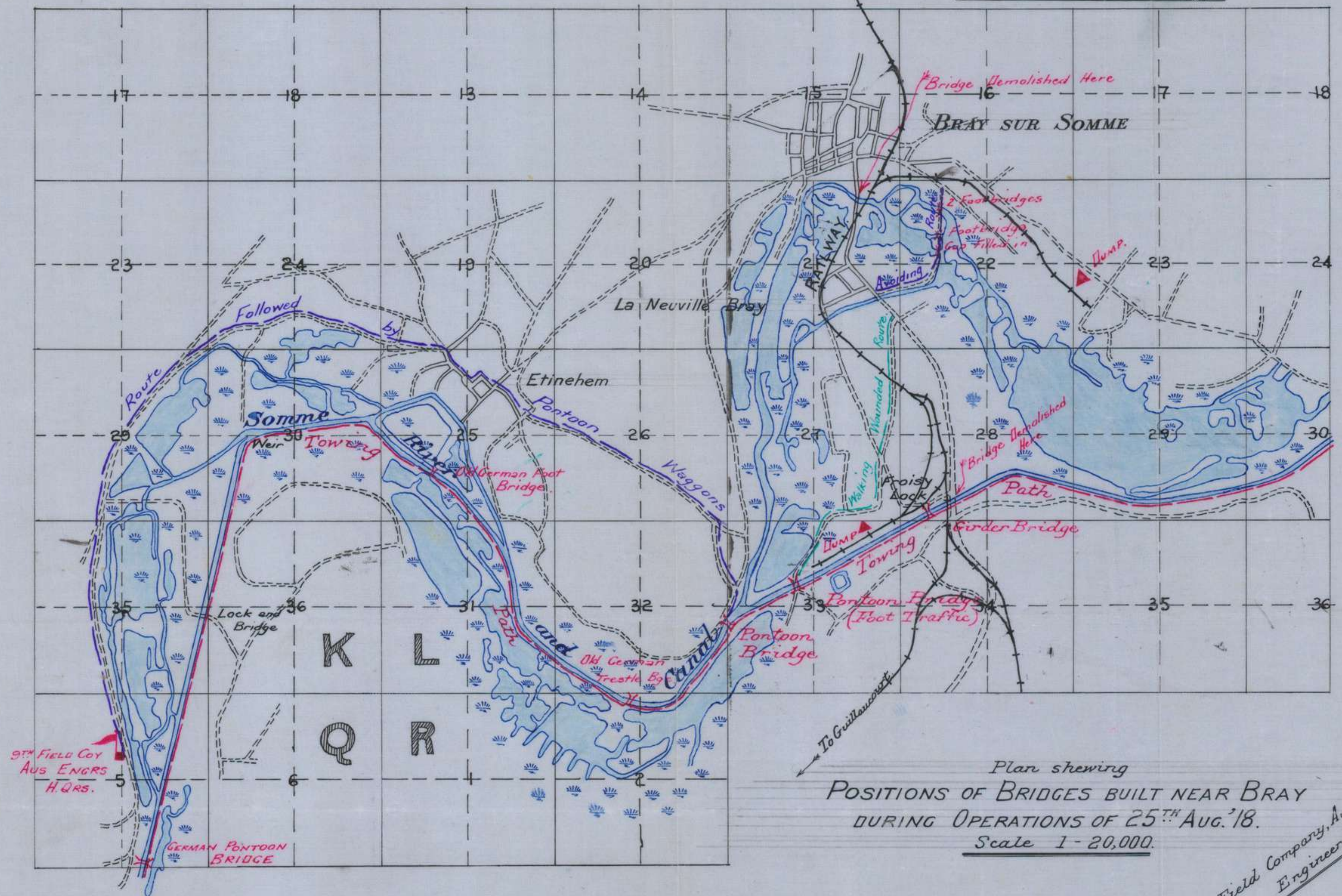
No. 9860

Serjeant R. V. Dearman,

Ninth Field Company, Australian Engineers.

No 2

PART SHEET 62D.



Plan shewing
POSITIONS OF BRIDGES BUILT NEAR BRAY
DURING OPERATIONS OF 25TH AUG. '18.
Scale 1-20,000.

9TH Field Coy, Australian
Engineers.

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER.

140

Our Camp was in a Wood (Sheet 62D - J.19.c.4.6.) in full observation of Fritz, after the type of the proverbial Cliff-dweller.

The Line was three miles distant, and I and three others were detailed to meet 100 Infantry at Company Headquarters for work in the Support Line close to HAMEL.

We started at dusk out along the tow-path of the SOMME, (much torn up by shell-fire) until we reached the "Bridge of Sighs", a barrel pier bridge previously our work. Passing over and finding our way through a tall timber track was no easy matter. We reached Company Headquarters and found that it was not safe to proceed for some time as the Boche was shelling.

Our work was deepening the old French Line of 1914, which had been shelled away until it was like a sunken road, leaving no semblance of cover. The work could only be done by night.

We filed up overland in battle order, picks and shovels at the slope, each party taking cover in between strafes. The first party reached the Support, and as they filed along the task was given - '3 paces by two feet deep per man'. The men lost no time in getting into it, as to stand erect was like being alone in a wilderness. At regular intervals Fritz's 5.9s and Machine Guns made one cling to mother earth and speed the task. Needless to say, portions of the trench were abandoned for some time until shelling ceased, but Fritz's star-shells illuminated the work and helped matters before the next salvo.

The work was completed by midnight, and on the command 'file out', a minor stunt opened on our left, Fritz retaliating on our Support. We were leaving it then with only a few minutes to comparative safety. We reached the Communication, and hopped out on the overland track, being much speedier, leaving Fritz's barrage in our rear.

Company Headquarters was reached without any mishap, after a usual night's work.

The Infantry Officer reports the task completed, and men are filed off to their various 'bivvies'.

No.16978.

Sapper C. W. Grew,

Ninth Field Coy. Aust. Engineers.

No. 140