

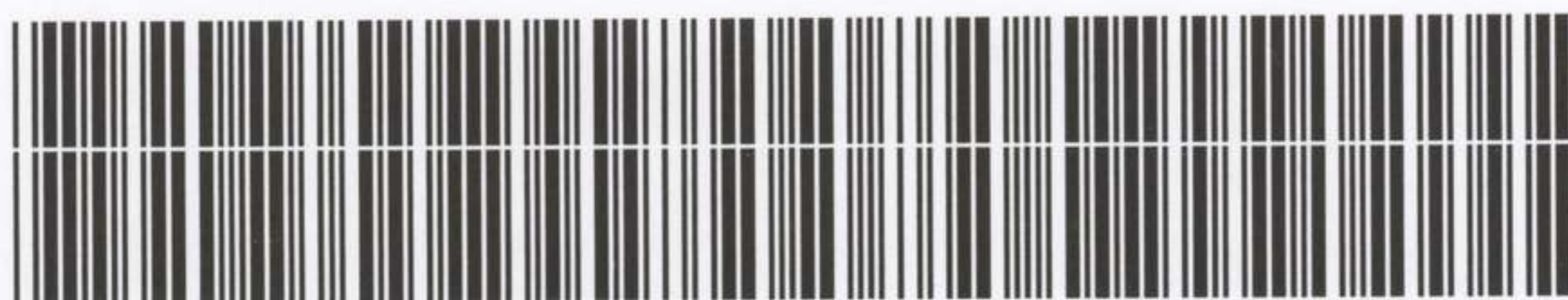
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/33/34 Part 1

Title: 14th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

December 1918



AWM4-14/33/34PART1

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

252

WAR DIARY

OF

14TH FIELD Coy. Aust. ENGINEERS

FOR

DECEMBER 1918

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER COMPILING

Eda pe Lt

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER COMMANDING

Eda pe Lt

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

14th F. CO
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

sheet 1.

252

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	ORIGINAL Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy. HQ ERROUART. Valenceyennes 100000 6.I.7095.	1918 Decr 1 st		<p>During the next week until arrival of remainder of Division and until forward march of the Australian Corps was resumed the policy of preparation for the march was adapted and besides recreational training and football. A general feet inspection was ^{held} this latter revealing a number of men unable to stand continuous marching. Weather was wet for the most part but this gave an opportunity to conduct some German lessons this being the first actual class under Educational scheme.</p> <p>On Novr 30th at 10.45 two single seater French aeroplanes came to ground in the fog both occupants being killed outright. This occurrence was immediately reported to French mission attached to 5th Aust Div HQ and effects collected.</p> <p>LT AB. LITTLER "MC" left for AIF HQ for return to AUSTRALIA under 1914 furlough scheme. LT RASHAW rejoined unit not having been accepted for transfer to Aust. Flying Corps, for medical reasons.</p> <p>Under instructions from 14th A.I. Brigade salvage of all war material</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

14 FCOAE

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 2.

252

Place	Date	Hour Date	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ	1918. Dec	2	in area as per appended sketch was to be undertaken.	APPENDIX 1.
ERRDUART.		4	Instructions received for despatch on furlough to Australia of other ranks embarked during first two months 1918 - No 442 Sapr. PHILIP C.R. being eligible for this leave left unit.	
Valence nne				
40000 6.I. 70, 95				
		5	Salvage operations were commenced and large amount returned to Brigade dump.	
		6 ¹ / ₄ 7 ¹ / ₄	Salvaging continued with good results.	
		8 ¹ / ₄	Two vrs sent to AUST EYM. M & B CO. on an Educational Attachment for one month - this being the first of such courses being arranged for the purpose of allowing qualified tradesmen to regain touch with their former work.	
		9 ¹ / ₄	Salvaging continued. Warning order received from Brigade re forward move.	APPENDIX 2
		10 ¹ / ₄	A General parade was held in billets and O.C. Coy lectured whole company on what proposals were put forth in Sir John Monash's lecture on Demobilization. This lecture was very much appreciated as it was the first official news of any kind from this new department.	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

14 F. COAE

sheet 3

252
252

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ	December		Salvaging continued.	
ERROUART. Valenciennes. 1100000 6I70.95.	11 th / 14th		The position with regard to the shortage of NCO's had been becoming critical and the amendment of DAG AIF Circular 151/02/61 of 15 Nov. by Circular memo 151/02/62 of 6 Dec. allowed several promotions and undoubtedly made this unit more efficient.	
	16 th		Salvaging of area allotted completed and Brigade advised, Efforts had also been made to remove a 210 mm German Howitzer, bogged in a shell hole but this proved impossible without mechanical assistance and its location was advised to Brigade HQ.	
	15 th		250 Demobilization forms with instructions were received from AIF HQ.	
	15 th		Brigade Order 186 appended by which detailed instructions for march to new area at SIVRY were given; Advance parties despatched.	APPENDIX 3.
	17 th		Coy under orders to move on 18 th but parade was called and as many as possible were completed of AIF demobilization forms in accordance with instructions.	[Signature]
			One or left unit for educational attachment to STETIENNE LOCO WKSHPs.	

WAR DIARY

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or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 4.

14th F CO

252
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
move to <u>SIVRY AREA.</u>	1918 Decr 18 th	09.15	Coys marched out for first stage - BOULOGNE. - details of journey are set out in appended report of move	APPENDIX 4
	19 th	09.00	Coys marched out en route for second stage and halted for night at SAIN'S report on move giving details of journey.	" 4
	20 th	09.00	Coys marched out en route for SIVRY arriving 14.15 details of journey appd	" 4
	19 th		Major J COFFLAN MC O.C. 14 th F. Coy was called away to act as CRE 5 th AUST DIV. command passing to Capt RA HOLMES MC.	
SIVRY Coy HQ Namur /iooooo	21 st		LT FM BEST, left on special duty to UK for purpose of purchasing books and instruments to use in connection with proposed Brigade Technical Classes.	
	4. E. 20.05. 25 th		Christmas day was spent quietly and though every endeavour was made to purchase additional Christmas fare only a proportion was obtained and Section messes were allowed to defray the expenses of the dinner by a grant from Coy Funds of four francs per head.	
	27 th		Capt HOLMES O/C 14 th F. Coy was called away to command 8 th Field Co. and command passed temporarily to LT J.D. CRAWFORD.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

14th Coy

Sheet 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SIVRY. Coy HQ Namur/00000 4020.05.	Decr 1918 26 th		No 2 Section under Lt RA SHAW, moved to GRANDRIEU to undertake the construction of covered platform for A.S.C. dump. Plan appended.	APPENDIX 5
			The educational committee was formed and preparations made for classes, in motor engineering by salvaging a wrecked German motor lorry, in carpentry etc by the construction of benches	
			During the month in accordance with CRE instructions of the 20 th December 1918, reconnaissance parties had been sent out to secure particulars of all bridges, complete report on which will appear in war diary for January 1919	APPENDIX 6
	31 st		A review of the company strength shows a decline throughout the month chiefly owing to the rigid medical weeding out under instructions from Division in preparation for march and owing to the prevalence of influenza to those on leave in United Kingdom. The health of Coy was however very good as per appended sick report.	APPENDIX 8

Good

WAR DIARY.

of

252
14th FIELD COY. AUST. ENGINEERS.

for

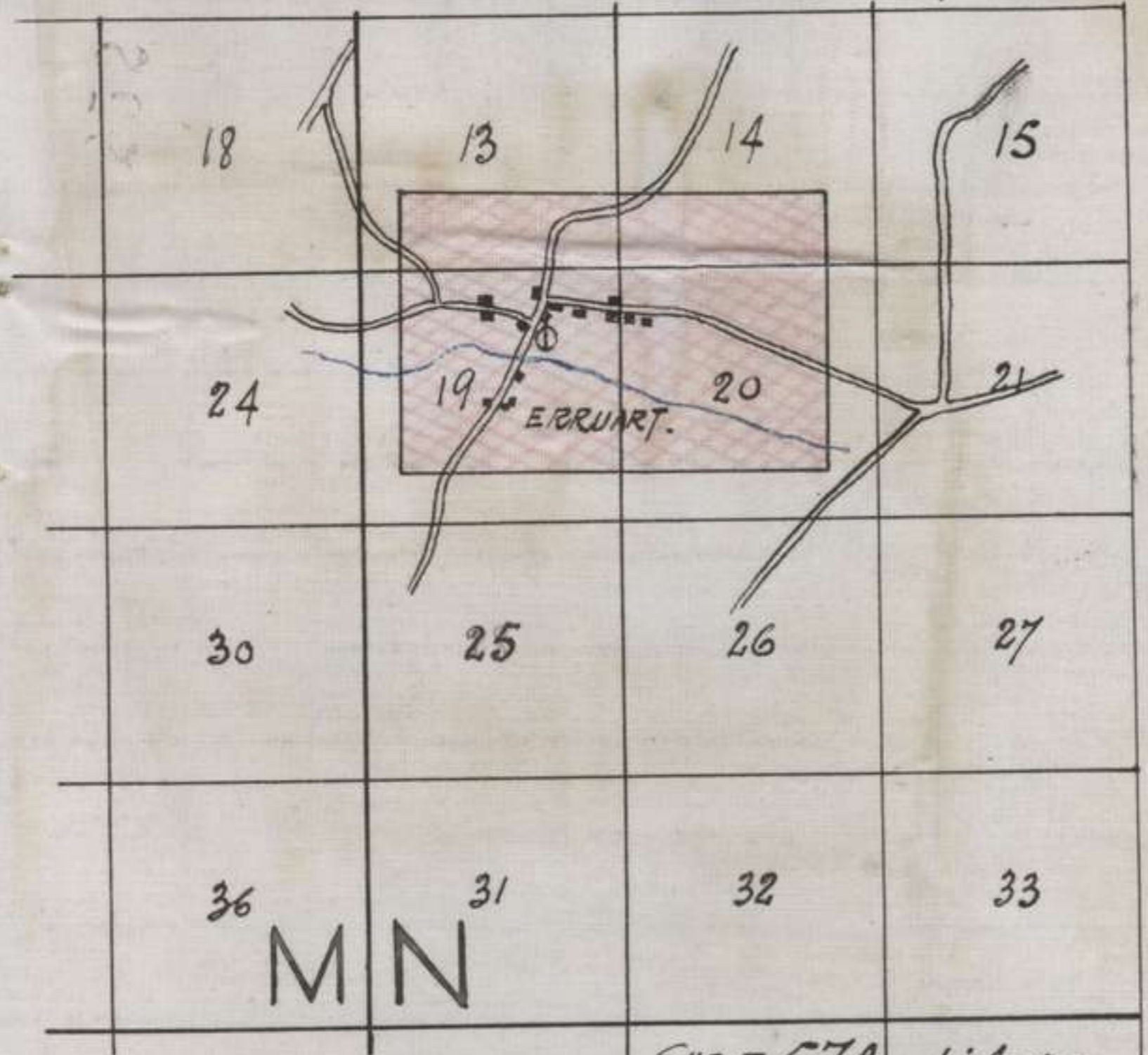
DECEMBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | <u>No.</u> | <u>Subject.</u> |
|------------|--|
| 1. | Area salvaged EROUART. |
| 2. | Warning Order 14th A. I. Brigade. |
| 3. | 14th Brigade Order No. 186 |
| 4. | Report on move from EROUART to SIVRY. |
| 5. | Plan of Ration ^U Dimp, GRANDRIEU. |
| 6. | C. R. E. Instructions for Reconnaissance of Bridges. |
| 7. | Q. M. S' Returns for month of December 1918. |
| 8. | Sick Report for month of December 1918. |
| 9. | Graph showing ^{ngth} strewing of Unit for month of December 1918. |

Coal

APPENDIX N° 1
 ORIGINAL
 SKETCH SHOWING AREA CLEARED OF SALVAGE
 BY 14TH FIELD Coy. A.E. #



SHEET 57A 1:40000

① POSITION OF 210 MM. GUN WHICH
 REQUIRES MECHANICAL TRANSPORT TO MOVE IT.

Date	Location	Date	Location.

SECRET.

252

ORIGINAL
APPENDIX No 2

Copy No. 6

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No.18.

Reference 1/10,000 MAEUR. VALENCIENNES.

Headquarters,
8-12-18.

WARNING ORDER.

1. The further forward movement of the Australian Corps is dependent on the move of the 9th Corps, the Divisions of which are at present moving into BELGIUM from the North and South of our present Area.

2. The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade Group, as portion of the 5th Australian Division, will move into Winter quarters in the SIVRY Area at an early date, probably moving from this Area on the 17th instant.

3. (a) The move to the SIVRY Area is to be carried out in three stages as follows:-

1st day.	LA GROISE Area	to CARTIGNIES Area
2nd day.	CARTIGNIES Area	to SAINS Area.
3rd day.	SAINS Area	to SIVRY Area.

(b) Details as to the Areas, routes and reconnaissance instructions will be issued at a later date.

[Signature]
Major.
Brigade Major.
14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at to:-

	<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion	1	A.D.A.S. 5th Aust. Div.	10
55th "	2	C.R.E. 5th Aust. Div.	11
56/54th "	3	Staff Captain	12
14th L.T. Bty	4	War Diary	13-15
14th Field Amb.	5	File	14
14th Field Coy. A.E.	6		
5th Pioneer Bn.	7		
<u>Copies to:-</u>			
G.O.C.	8		
5th Aust. Div.	9		

SECRET

Copy No. 5

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 186

ORIGINAL APPENDIX No 3

Reference 1/100,000 VALENCIENNES. NAMUR.

Headquarters, 15-12-18.

1. (a) The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade Group will move on "A" day, in accordance with the attached March Table, to the SIVRY Area.

(b) Unless further Instructions are issued "A" day will be the 18th instant.

2. Instructions as to the movement of Advanced Parties and Administrative Instructions are being issued separately.

3. (a) Distances on the march will be maintained as under:-

- Between Battalions 500 yds.
- Between Companies 100 yds.
- Between Unit and Transport 100 yds.
- Transport to leave gap of 50 yds between each twelve

vehicles.

(b) Halts will be made for 10 minutes from 10 minutes to the clock hour.

4. HEADQUARTERS. Brigade Headquarters will close at present location at 9 a.m. on 18th instant and open at CARTIGNIES at same hour.

Closing and opening of Headquarters on 19th and 20th instants will be notified later.

Units will inform Brigade of location of their Headquarters on establishing.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. G. L. Major.
Brigade Major.
14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at to:-

	<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1	G.O.C.	9
55th "	2	A.D.M.S.	10
56th "	3	C.R.E.	11
14th L.T.M.Dty.	4	No. 3 Signal Sect.	12
14th Field Coy. A.E.	5	Staff Captain	13
14th Field Amb.	6	Area Comdt.	14
28th Coy. A.A.S.C.	7	CARTIGNIES Area	14
<u>Copies to:-</u>		War Diary	15-17
5th Aust. Div.	8	File	18

S. Brown

Copy No. 11

THE MURRAY OPERATIONS

15-12-1918

Blairy ...

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...

E. Campbell

M.T.

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Copy No. 11

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SECRET

MOVE TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 14th AUST. INF. BRIGADE ORDER No. 186

15-12-18.

(1)

Serial No.	Date	UNIT	FROM	TO	STARTING POINT.	TIME OF PASSING.	ROUTE	REMARKS.
1	"A" day.	55th Bn.	LE SART	BOULOGNE	C in LA COMTE 6.I.92.80	9 a.m.	LE SART- PRISCHES- CARTIGNIES.	252
2	do.	14th Field Amb.	LE SART	BOULOGNE	do.	9.10 a.m.	do.	
3	do.	14th Field Coy.	ERRUART	BOULOGNE	X Roads 6.I.91.91	9.30 a.m.	PRISCHES- CARTIGNIES.	X
4	do.	14th L.T. M.Bty	ZOBEAU	CARTIGNIES	ZOBEAU X Roads	9 a.m.	LE SART- PRISCHES	
5	do.	28th Coy A.A.S.C.	LA GROISE	BOULOGNE	Road Jn. 6.I.26.96	9 a.m.	ERRUART- PRISCHES- CARTIGNIES.	
6	do.	53rd Bn.	FESMY	BOULOGNE	X Roads 6.I.20.62	9 a.m.	LE SART- PRISCHES- CARTIGNIES.	To clear CARTIGNIES before halting for mid-day meal.
7	do.	14th BDE. H.Q.	FESMY	CARTIGNIES	53rd Bn. H.Q.	9.5 a.m.	LE-SART- PRISCHES	
8	do.	56th Bn.	LA GROISE	CARTIGNIES	Road Jn. 6.I.26.96	9.40 a.m.	ERRUART- PRISCHES-	
9.	do.	5th Pion. Bn.	do.	do.	do.	10 a.m.	do.	

Move Tables (2) and (3) forwarded later.

SERIAL No.	Day	UNIT	FROM	TO	STARTING POINT	TIME OF PASSING	ROUTE	REMARKS.
1	"P" day	14th Bde H.Qrs	CARTIGNIES	SAINS	Junct. 5.K.33.24	9.30 a.m.	via DESSUS du MOULIN-AVESNES - SAINS.	252
2	do.	14th L.T. M.Bty.	do.	do.	do.	9.35 a.m.	do.	
3	do.	56th Bn.	do.	do.	do.	9.40 a.m.	do.	
4	do.	5th Pion. Bn.	do.	SEMERIES	CARTIGNIES CHURCH.	9.45 a.m.	AVESNES - SEMERIES	May overflow into RAMOUSIES if more billeting is required.
5	do	55th Bn.	BOULOGNE	SAINS	To be notified later. All billets will be clear by 10 a.m.		BASSE BOULOGNE-CANTRAINNE-ZORRES.	
6	do.	53rd Bn.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
7	do.	14th Field Coy.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
8	do.	14th Field Amb.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
9	do.	28th Coy. A.A.S.C.	do.	RAMOUSIES	do.	do.	do. SAINS - RAMOUSIES.	

SERIAL NO.	Day	UNIT	FROM	TO	STARTING POINT.	TIME of PASSING.	ROUTE	REMARKS.
1	"0" Day	28th Coy A.A.S.C.	RAMOUSIES	FRASIES	Billets.	Clear before 9.40 a.m and move independently.		252
2	do.	5th Pion. Bn.	do.	HISTRUD		Billets clear before 10 a.m. and move independently.		
3	do.	14th Bde H.Qrs	SAINS	SIVRY	To be notified later.	All billets clear before 10 a.m.	RAMOUSIES - LIESSIES - NOSTRIMONT - FM. GRISMONT.	
4	do.	14th L.T. H. Coy	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
5	do.	53rd Bn.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
6	do.	55th Bn.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
7	do.	56th Bn.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
8	do.	14th Field Coy.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	X
9	do.	14th Field Amb.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	

REPORT ON MOVE FROM ERRUANT TO SIVRY.

TO C. A. ²⁵²
5th. Australian Division.

In accordance with 14th.

Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 186 of 15/12/18 the 14th. Field Company A. S. moved from ERRUANT to SIVRY on 18th., 19th., and 20th. December 1918 in 14th. Brigade Group.

FIRST STAGE :- ERRUANT to BOULOGNE Distance 8 Miles.

Company marched out at 7.15 am. on 18th. December and arrived at BOULOGNE at 12.30. Route followed :- via PRISCHES and CARÉ TIGNIES. Condition of Weather was wet and cold until about 11.00 and the roads were muddy for marching but in fair order for transport.

SECOND STAGE :- BOULOGNE to SAINS via BASSE-BOULOGNE, CANTFAIRE, and ZORRES. Length of Route :- 6.5 Miles.

Company marched out at 09.00 in Brigade Group and arrived at SAINS at noon. Weather was cold and showery; roads muddy for marching but in fair order for transport. At about 1/2 mile from BOULOGNE a road deviation has been constructed around a mine crater and in taking this sharp turn the off-wheels of one of the pontoon wagons bogged in the side of the road. The wagon had to be off-loaded before it could be extricated and this caused a delay to the column of about 3/4 hour. The Trestle and other Pontoon Wagons were here drawn on to the side of the road to enable the column to proceed and avoid any further delay. One Officer and Section were detailed to remain with these three wagons, load and follow up the tail of the column. This Section of the Transport arrived at SAINS without any further accident at 13.30.

THIRD STAGE :- SAINS to SIVRY via RAMBOUSIES, LIESSIES, MOSTRIECHT and GRISMONT FARM. Length of Route 11.5 Miles.

The Company (less One Officer and Section of Sappers with Two Pontoon Wagons and Trestle Wagon) marched out at 09.00 in Brigade Group and arrived at SIVRY at 14.15. A halt for meal was made at noon for One hour. The Officer with Section and Pontoon Transport left SAINS at 10.00 in rear of column and arrived at SIVRY at 15.00 without accident. The weather was cloudy but rain fell

252 (2)
off. The roads were muddy for marching and rather heavy for
Transport.

In each instance advance parties were sent forward on
cycles to locate billets and light fires for cooks. No man or
animals fell out on route.

Comfortable Billets were secured at BOULOGNE and SAINS.
The Billets for men and accomodation for animals at SIVRY were
cramped and scattered but further accomodation is being provided
and efforts being made to improve existing accomodation.

21/12/18.

R. A. HOLMES. Capt. |
a/O. C. 14th. Field Company A. E.

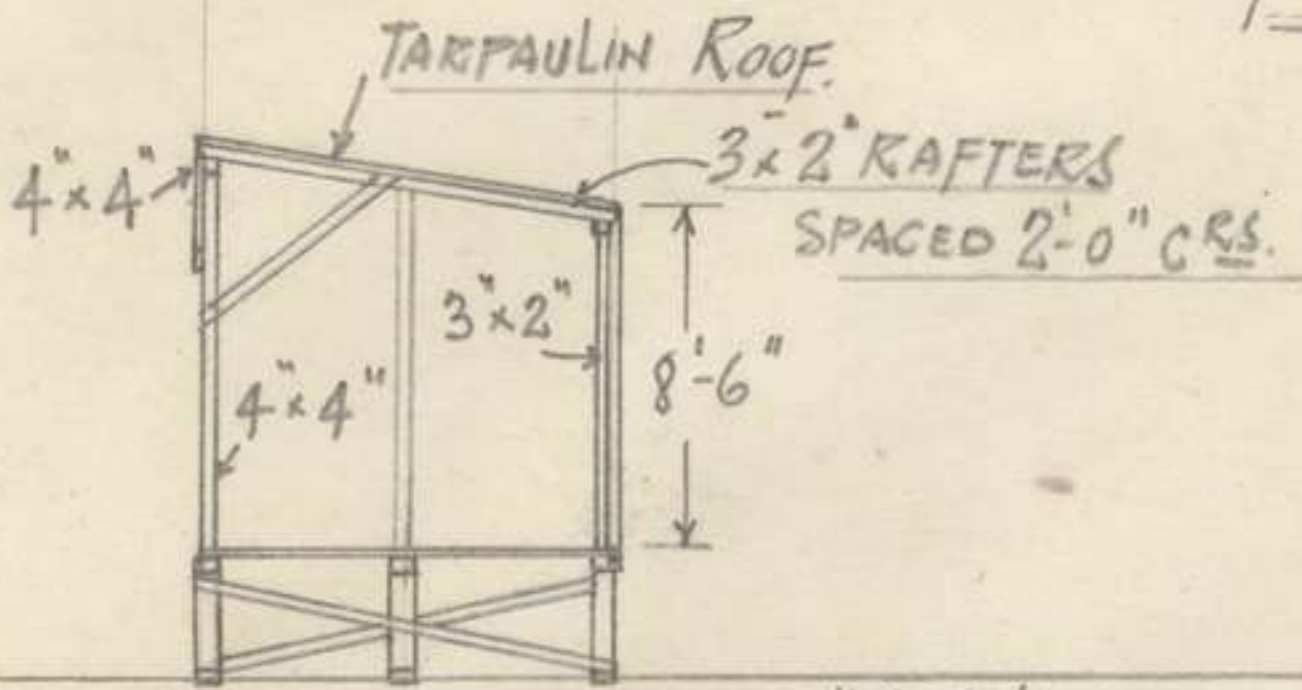
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PLAN OF COVERED PLATFORM

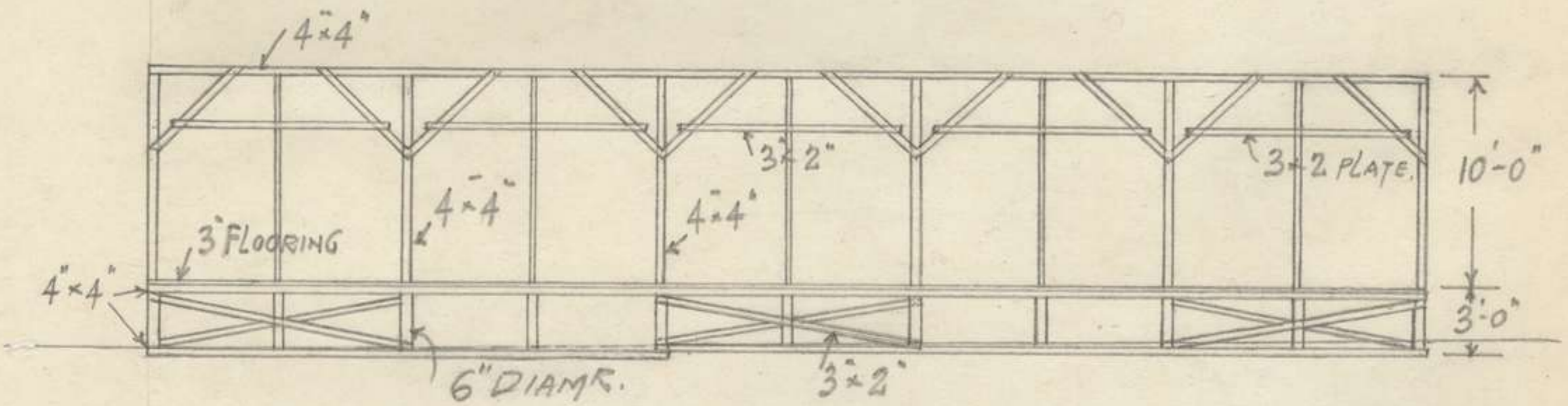
AT GRANDRIEU FOR 28TH A.A.S.C.

14TH FIELD Coy. A.E.

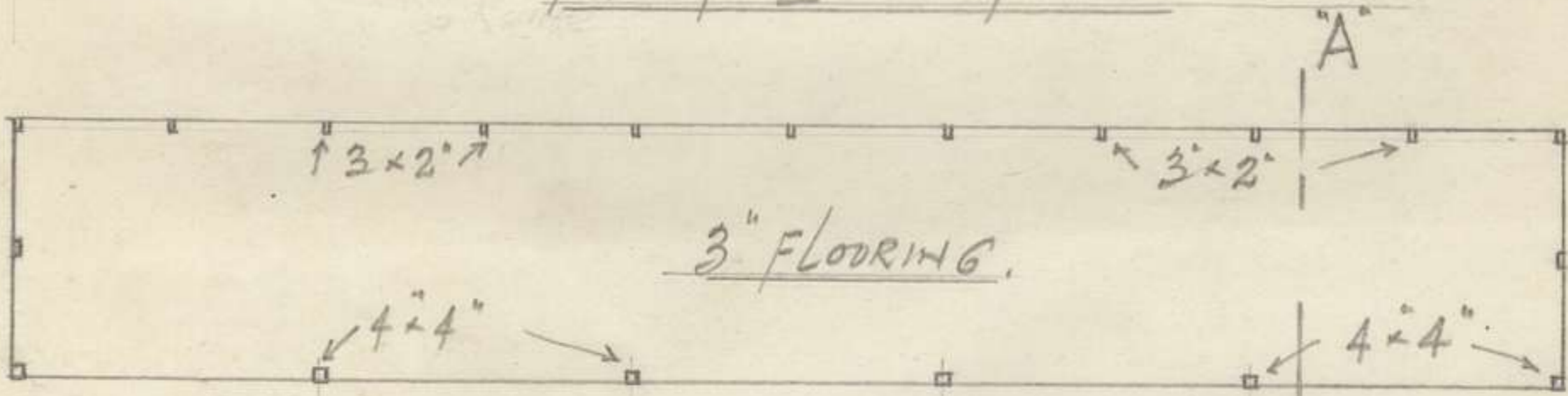
27. 12. 1918.



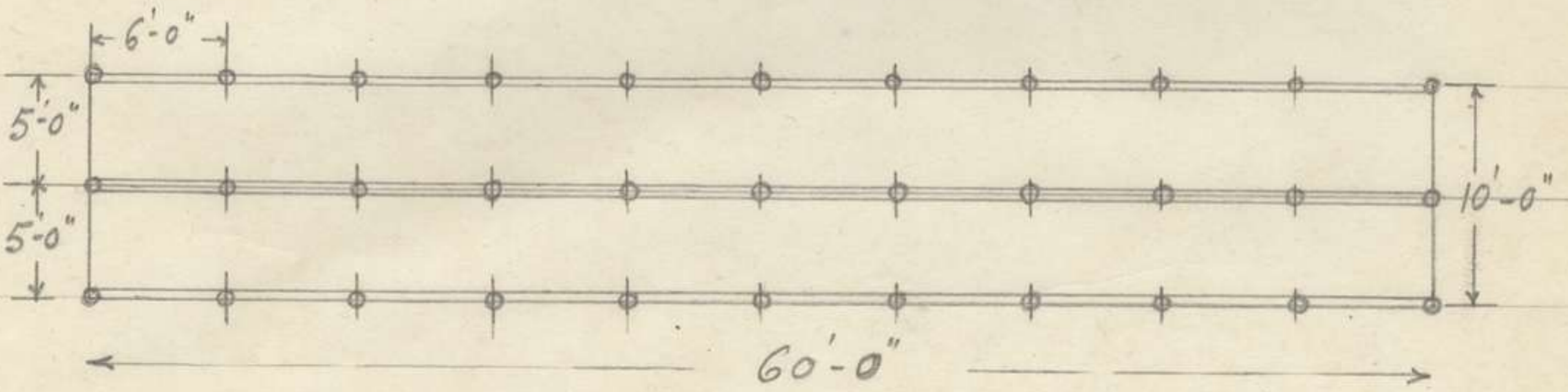
SECTION "AA"



FRONT ELEVATION.



PLAN



PLAN (UNDER FLOOR).

8th Field Coy.
14th Field Coy.
15th Field Coy.

Will you please have the area shown on attached map reconnoitred and a report made as to the axle weights which can be taken by Bridges in the area and forwarded to this office as soon as possible.

On the attached map the Known Bridges are shown, but an examination of these bridges is necessary. Reports will be made out as per pre-forma attached.

Read Bridges over railways must be considered in addition to Road Bridges over Rivers, Canals and Streams.

To ensure uniformity in reports the following Bridge load will be adhered to. :-

a	AA Class	lead	...	Tanks
b	A	do.	do. ...	17 tons axle
c	B	do.	do. ...	13 tons axle.
d	C	do.	do. ...	8 tons axle
e	B	do.	do. ...	5.5 tons axle
f	E	do.	do. ...	1.75 tons axle.

Please treat this matter as urgent.

20th December 1918.

Sgd. J. COGHIAN Major A.E.
a/C. R.E.

5th Australian Division.

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Q. M. S. RETURNS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

The following articles were drawn from D. A. D. O. S.

during month of December 1918 :-

Jackets S. D.		10
Pants, Cord, M. S.		--
Breeches D. S.		4
Hats, felt		3
Boots, ankle		25
Puttees		--
Braces		--
Tins, Mess, D. S.		7
" " M. S.		6
Greatcoats, M. S.		2
Greatcoats, D. S.		1
Sheets, Ground		6
Covers, breech		22
" Mess Tin D. S.		5
Bags Ration		50
Blanket, G. S.		12
Dressings Field		50
Straps, Mess Tin, M. S.		6
" Greatcoat "		6
Haversacks M. S.		2
Palliasses		150
Soda Crystals	lbs.	28
Knives, clasp		10
Soap, yellow, bars		50
Plates, toe, boot		100
" heel, "		100
Laces, boot, ankle		100
Oil, lubricating		5
Shoes, horses	c/s.	8
Rugs, horse		15
Seles, half, billed		75
Brushes, horse		10
" dandy		40
Blocks brake		24
Bags, Nose		80
Rubbers, horse		30
Girths, steady		2
Bars, support, P. D.		2
Swingle trees		4
Legs, foot iron		1
foot iron		2
Caps, dust		3
Washers, drag		12
Covers, 6 x6 G. S.		1
Cells, elect. dry		1
Chamois leather		1
Dubbing	lbs.	30
Files, saw, tapper		21
Wire, gal.	lbs.	11
Levels; spirit rule		1
Brushes, sable		4
Lamps, F. S.		1
Crow bars 4' 6"		2
Flags, distin. W. sup. white		1
Guncette n dry primers		200
" slabs, wet		80
Detonaters, No. 8		150
" No. 13 electric		25
Fuze, safety, No. 11,	faths.	160
Cartridges, S. A. .303		10,000

252

14th FIELD COY. A. E.

ORIGINAL
Appendix No. 7Q. M. S. RETURNS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

The following articles were returned to Salvage
during month of December 1918. :-

Jackets, S. D.	8✓
Boots, ankle	12
Pants, cord, M. S.	3
Hats, felt	2
Mess tins, D. S.	2
Great coats D. S.	2
Sheets ground	5
Outer covers, bicycle	2
As per reduction in Machine gun spare parts :	
Reflectors, mirror	2
Springs, cart, guide	12
Spanners, mouthpiece B	21
Springs, paul, S. Mag.	4
Strikers	4

RETURNED TO A. A. S. C.

Bags, oat	60
" bread	40

SICK REPORT.MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

1. NO DUTY 44
 LIGHT DUTY 32
 M. & DUTY 8

2. No. OF EVACUATIONS - 13.EVACUATED "SICK"

Spr. Saunders	Influenza	Spr. Adams W.	Stiff Joint
" Donaghy J.	Septic Thumb.	L/Cpl. Clarke	Bad feet
Dvr. Aiken	V. D.	Dvr. Robinson	Septic Finger
Spr. Greenfield J. H.	Corneal Ulcer	Spr. Nankivell A;	Rheumatism
" Ramsay A. D.	P. U. O	Dvr. Chase	Conjunctivitis

3. ACCIDENTALLY INJURED - 3

Spr. Willey Fractured Rib.
 " Williams H. C. Cut Feet.
 Spr. Longridge Bullet wound in Hand.

4. DENTAL CASES - 6

5. Men to Hospital on U. K. and Paris Leave. - 5
 To Hospital From Company - 16
 No. of men returned from Hospital - 5
 Nett loss to Company - 16

sgd. G. O. Bywater L/Cpl.

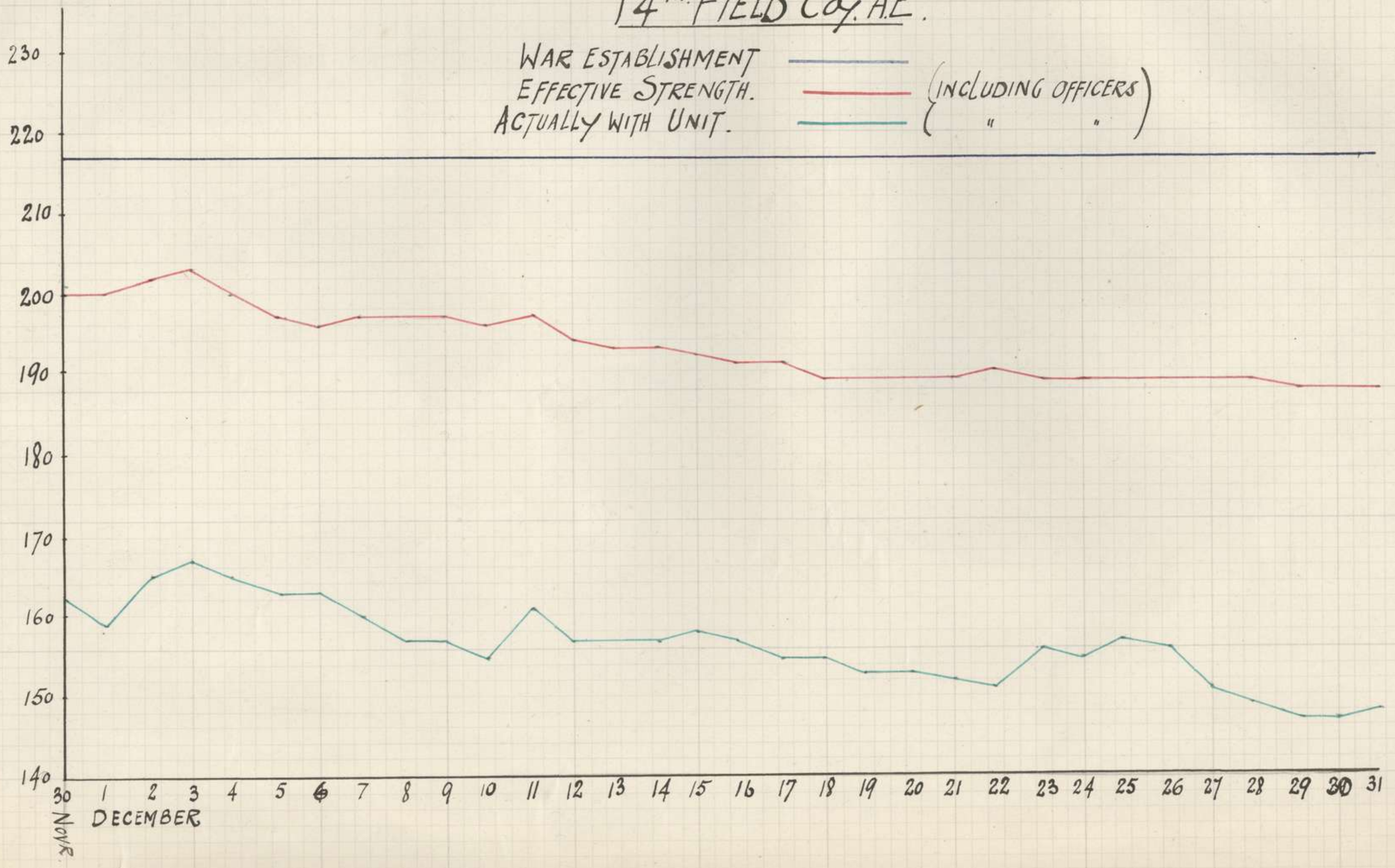
8th Field Ambulance.

GRAPH

STRENGTH OF UNIT FOR DECEMBER 1918.

14TH FIELD Coy. A.E.

252



76) 509 (6.
400