

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/30/15

Title: 11th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

January 1918



AWM4-14/30/15

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

11th FIELD COY AUS. ENGINEERS

FOR

JANUARY

1918

18 FEB 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

F. J. Smalldon

Signature of Officer Commanding

F. J. Smalldon

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
DANSETTE FACTORY 36 B. 29 670 15	January 1918			
	1 st		Coy. continued work on CHAPELLE D'ARMENTIERES Sector 1 OR transferred to AGBD off strength	
	2 nd		Survey of Sector completed. 29 OR from 41 st Batt ^{ln} attached to Coy for duty, returned to Battalion - Handing over report to CRE	11E 62/44
"	3 rd		Maps plans etc, handed over to 502 nd Field Coy RE - Coy. moved out of DANSETTE FACTORY 36 B 29 670 15 with Coy transport from Horse Lines at 36 B 28 62 5 to MAHUTONGA CAMP 28 T 19 6 8 5	
MAHUTONGA CAMP 28 T 19 6 8 5	4 th		2 OR to Hospital 1 OR from Hospital	
	5 th		Coy improving camp, & work commenced on various camp improvements in the Area	11E 2/21
			Training Syllabus for 10 days drawn up & submitted to CRE. 1 OR transferred to A.I.F Depot. UK (Officers Training School). Lieut J. M. Horton & SW Matters proceeded on leave	
	6 th		2 OR Reinforcements taken on Strength. Weekly report to CRE	11E 62/45
	7 th		Nos 3 & 4 Sections commenced training as laid down in Syllabus	11E 2/21
		Nos 1 & 2 Sections employed on various work in camps occupied by Units of Division		
		2 OR to Hospital. 1 OR rejoined Coy (ex AGBD)		
	8 th		Training of 2 Sections continued but demands for Sapper work in Divisional Area increasing	

J. A. Mallick
Major

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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MAHUTONGA CAMP 28T1968-5	January 1918 9 th		8 OR reported to 871 st Artisan Coy RE at OULTERSTEEN ref. (HAZEBROUCK 5A 14 2-6) to relieve Sappers from 10 th Field Coy Aus. Engrs on erection of Horse Standings - Owing to work allotted to this Coy training as laid down in Syllabus has been abandoned.	11E 2/21
			1 OR transferred from 11 th Field Coy A. Engrs. to 10 th Field Coy A. Engrs.	
			1 OR transferred from 10 th Field Coy. to 11 th Field Coy	
	10 th		5 OR to Hospital	
	11 th		1 OR Returned from 2 nd Army Cookery School - 2 OR to Hospital - 1 OR from Hospital. 4 OR Instructors reported to 11 th Bde Officers School to assist in Map reading etc;	
	12 th		1 OR transferred to AGBD off strength. 1 OR Rejoined Coy from Engr. Training Depot AIF. 1 OR to Hospital. 1 OR from Hospital.	
	13 th		1 OR to Hospital. 2 OR from Hospital.	
	14 th		Work at various camps progressing. 1 OR to Hospital. 2 OR from Hospital.	
	15 th		4 OR from Hospital.	
	16 th		1 OR from Hospital.	
	17 th		1 OR from Hospital.	

J. Donaldson
Claji

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAHUTONGA CAMP 28 T. 196.8.5	January 1918 18 th		M. Henmaut (Belgian Interpreter attached) proceeded on leave - Received preliminary notice from C.R.E. of Relief of 5 th Field Coy Aus Engrs in "LE TOUQUET, PONT ROUGE" SECTOR by 11 th Field Coy Aus Engrs. ↗	G22/1
"	19 th		Capt ^m O.B. Williams x (Balman) proceeded to R.E. School BLENDEQUES ↗	
"	20 th			
"	21 st		Lieut S.W. Matters returned from leave 1.0R from Hospital ↗	
"	22 nd		Lieut J.M. Norton returned from leave 1.0R from Hospital ↗	
"	23 rd			
"	24 th		4.0R Reinforcements taken on Strength. ↗	
"	25 th		Major Donaldson, Capt ^m Thirkell, Lieuts Matters x Thomas visited "LE TOUQUET, PONT ROUGE" Sector with Officers of 5 th Field Coy Aus Engrs. x received particulars of R.E. work carried on in Bgde Area. 1.0R to Hospital. ↗	
"	26 th		Received from C.R.E. Div. Order N ^o 3 in reference to Relief of 2 nd Aus Div Engrs by 3 rd Aus Div Engrs - 20.0R moved to "WEKA LINES" 36 B 4 a 5.3 as advanced Party, attached to 5 th Field Coy Aus Engrs in "LE TOUQUET, PONT ROUGE" SECTOR - 1.0R from Hospital. ↗	DIV ORDER N ^o 3.

J. Donaldson
Major

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
MAHUTONGA 1918 CAMP 28T19685	January 27 th		19 OR returned from 871 st Artesian boy R.E. at OULTERSTEEN ref (HAZEBROUCK 5A I 4.2.6). Advance parties continue working with 5 th Field Coy Aus Engrs 1 OR to Hospital - 1 OR from Hospital. Report on "LE TOUQUET, PONT ROUGE" SECTOR to 11 th Bgde	11E 62/46
"	28 th		Advance parties continue work in "LE TOUQUET, PONT ROUGE" SECTOR - 5 th Aus Inf Bgde relieved by 11 th Aus. Inf Bgde.	
"	29 th		Work in new Sector taken over from 5 th Field Coy Aus Engrs - Divisional Front from RIVER DOUVE to RIVER LYS - 10 th Bgde on Left from R. DOUVE to 28U23 b.5.8 - 11 th Bgde on Right from 28U23 b.5.8 to R. LYS - 11 th Bgde Works Coy. formed to assist Field Coy, consisting of 1 Platoon from each Battalion - Distribution of Coy as in Weekly Report 62/49 dated 2/2/18.	11E 62/49
"	30 th		Coy. Transport moved to "WEKA LINES" 36B 4 a.53. Lieut Horton in charge.	
"	31 st		Remainder of Coy moved to "WEKA LINES" camp taken over from 5 th Field Coy A.E. - Maps plans etc taken over. M. Hennaut (Belgian Interpreter attached) returned from leave.	
<p><i>J. Donaldson</i> Major</p>				

WAR DIARY APPENDIX.

OF

11th Field Company, Aust. Engineers

FOR

J A N U A R Y, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
11E 62/44	1 Handing-over Notes
11E 2/21	Training Syllabus
11E 62/45	2 Weekly Report
11E 12/18 (G 22/1)	3 Preliminary notice of relief of 5th Field Co. A.E. by 11th Field Co. A.E.
Div. Engrs. Order No. 3	4 Relief of 2nd Australian Divisional Engineers by 3rd Australian Divisional Engineers.
11E 62/46	5 Report on Le Touquet - Pont Rouge sector (Support Line).
11E 62/49	6 Weekly report.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 11E 62/44
Date 3/1/1918

HANDING-OVER NOTES.

11th Field Company (3rd Australian Division) to 502nd Field Co. R.E.
(57th Division) 3/1/18.

1. SECTOR.

Brigade area with front between BOIS GRENIER and CHAPELLE D'ARMENTIERES from PARK ROW inclusive (36, I.20, d 5.2.) to PEAR TREE FARM (36, I.16. b.15.70) being right brigade of two holding Divisional front.

Company has only been in sector since 21/12/17.

2. BILLETS:

In factory (36.B.29.b.60.15), for Officers and dismounted personnel, with Officers' horses: Transport at 36.B.28.b.1.5. near TROIS TELLEULS.

3. DUMPS:

CR.E. feeds JUTE FACTORY DUMP alongside Company billets by Motor Lorries from Corps Parks. JUTE FACTORY DUMP supplies both Brigade reas by horse transport and is in charge of this Coy. Forward dumps at LEITH WALK (36.I.9.c.70.95) and WINE DUMP (36.I.14.b.80.45) with sapper living at each. Brigade draws wires, pickets, and sandbags direct from JUTE FACTORY and delivers direct to Infantry in line. Material handed over as per separate lists.

4. COMPANY DISTRIBUTION:

One section working in line, back to SUBSIDIARY line inclusive ~~back~~ on right half of area; one section in line on left. One section works behind Subsidiary line (roads, screens, drains, etc.) and one section on overhauling demolition charges and temporary bridges over River LYS.

5. TOOLS:

There are sufficient picks and shovels in area as trench stores but no hammers or saws.

6. TRENCH SYSTEM.

Front line is held by posts, which require maintenance and wire. The first continuous defensive line is the second support line - PARADISE ALLEY-QUEEN ST.-DRURY LANE-STURT ST, which is fair order but requires - Draining north or FARM DU BIEZ.

Draining, duckboarding and repairing from PARK ROW to road at 20.d.2.9. Cubby-holes in parapet filling, especially in vicinity of DEAD COW FM. Additional wiring, particularly south end.

The subsidiary line is in good order, many of the drains require boom and batter.

Communication trenches are generally in fair order, but duckboards require repairs. No slats have been obtainable so far.

The RUE FLEURIE SWITCH has been cleared of growth and rubbish and

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APPENDIX

is in fair order. The wire has been greatly strengthened. Where there are strong points, particularly where bays face south, wire should be extended all round.

7. TRENCH ACCOMMODATION:

In hand:

Company headquarters in ORCHARD (36.I.15.c.7.6.). 3' reinforced concrete over elephant.

Company Cookhouse (splinter proof) STURT AVENUE (36.I.20.b.9.5.). Elephant and bricks in cement complete.

Cookhouse in QUEEN STREET (36.I.15.c.8.7) requires covering.

Left Company Headquarters Subsidiary Line. Splinter proof extensions (36.I.9.c.2.4.).

Right Company Headquarters Subsidiary Line. Splinter proof cookhouse (36.I.20.a.45.75). Nearly complete.

R.A.P. Subsidiary Line (36.I.14.b.7.2.) 3' reinforced concrete. (Field Ambulance supplies working parties.)

Gum Boot store (36.I.14.d.4.2.) Shelter for foot treatment. Has not been pushed, and not required by 11th Aus. Inf. Bgde.

Proposed:

Reference attached letters from C.R.E. 3rd Aus. Divsn. (E.011/22 of 26/12/17).

In addition to works set out therein it is considered that a M.G. crew shelter is urgently required about I.20.a.3.6. in subsidiary line, and a suitable pay has been chosen about 60 yds. south of road.

The position of proposed shelter at I.14.d.7.9. has been examined and a site is suggested east of subsidiary line, alongside railway, as shown in sketches attached.

Very valuable mined dugouts at I.9.c.3.2. partly flooded. This company has not succeeded in getting a suitable pump. The shaft heads require strengthening.

Brigade Battle Headquarters is at ROLANDERIE FARM in Breastwork Shelters (H.11.c.5.5.) It is proposed to strengthen them by putting a burster layer over the most important chambers.

8. TRAMWAYS:

The broad gauge railway is usable up to I.21.a.1.7. Breastwork tramway is being extended behind PARADISE ALLEY to the ORCHARD to carry material for Company Headquarters there, and also 6" T.M. ammunition.

The Leith Walk line is not being continued owing to shortage of labor.

9. ROADS:

Require a small party to mend shell holes and maintain generally.

10. SCREENS:

Maps show position and state of screens. At present work is concentrated on erected screens along ARMENTIERES - ERQUINGHEM Road.

11. T.M. EMBLACEMENTS:

One for 6" Newton gun off LEITH WALK, complete except for concrete bomb store, in progress.

3.

APPENDIX.

12. O.Ps.

Brick and reinforced concrete tower in SCOTCH HOUSE (I.9.c.25.55) 80% complete. Difficult in frost and not urgent. Artillery provide working party.

13. MAPS:

List of maps herewith. Company surveyors have just completed new map of area, also copy of reconnaissance map showing state of trenches.

14. BRIDGES (Floating). AND DEMOLITION SCHEMES FOR EXISTING BRIDGES.

Erquinghem Church etc. This company is responsible for River LYS between ERQUINGHEM BRIDGE (H.4.c.1.4) and "G" Foot Bridge at C.19, c.7.7. inclusive.

A list of plans and documents handed over on these subjects also reconnaissance of ARMENTIERES Chimneys herewith. No information to hand referring to Railway Bridge at B.29.c.8.7. which is under charge of a Railway Company R.E.

(a) Floating Bridges. These have all been put in order and swung in position. They require side screens.

(b) Bridge demolitions: Charges for PONT DE NIEPPE BRIDGE require fitting with instantaneous fuzes, and a further length of cable.

Notes of various details handed over separately.

(c) Erquinghem Church Tower: The arrangements for the demolition of this tower do not seem altogether satisfactory. It is suggested



APPENDIX



1. I

2. II

3. III

4. IV

5. V

4.

that it might be better to place the charge lower in the tower and
arrange it so as to get more concentrated effect on the side wall
by the window.

Sgd/ R.J. DONALDSON: Major.
O.C. 11th Field Coy. Aust. Engineers.

6. VI

7. VII

8. VIII

9. IX

10. X

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS
APPENDIX.
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. 2/21
Date 5/1/18

TRAINING SYLLABUS.

Day:	1st Hour	2nd Hour	3rd Hour	4th Hour	5th Hour
I. Monday	Inspection, March past & Rifle exer- cises.	Lecture on Syllabus & Section dis- cussion	Squad Drill	Lecture on Discipline 1/2 hour	Physical Training and Game
II. Tuesday	do.	Lecture on Camouflage	do.	Lecture on Gas. March with respi- rators on.	do.
III. Wed'day.	do.	Lecture Map Read- ing.	Cross country march in respirators	Lecture Dugout con- struction	do.
IV. Thursday	do.	No. 3 sec: Study ground No. 4 sec: Use of Pris- matic com- pass.	do.	Lecture Equipment of a Field Co.	do.
V. Friday	do.	Lecture Map Reading and Sketching	Squad or Company Drill	Marching order parade and route march	
VI. Sat'day.	do.	No. 3 sec: Lecture Prismatic compass. No. 4 sec: Lecture or Practise in Map reading	No. 3 sec: Musketry and Squad drill No. 4 section Wiring.	HALF HOLIDAY.	
VII. Monday	do.	Lecture: Geography of Western front	Bombing	Lecture Screens.	do.
VIII. Tuesday	do.	Lecture or Section dis- cussion.	No. 3 sec: Wiring. No. 4 sec: Musketry & Squad drill	Lecture Infantry Organisation Duties in connection with Infantry	No. 3 sec: Musketry on 30 yds. range. No. 4 sec: Games
IX. Wed'day.	do.	Use of Pris- matic com- pass	Wiring	Lecture Infantry Trench Work	No. 3 sec: Games. No. 4 sec: Musketry
X. Thursday	do.	Lecture Tracing Trenches	Practical Tape- laying	Lecture or Section Discus- ion	Cross country run.

B. J. Donaldson

Major.
O.C. 11th Field Co. Engineers.

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11th Div
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11th Div

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY

ENGINEERS,

3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.

11E 62/45

No.

5th January, 1918.

Date

APPENDIX 2

C. R. E.,
11th Bgde. A.I.F. (for information).

WEEKLY REPORT TO 8 p.m. THURSDAY, 3rd JAN. 1918.

1. GENERAL:

Company handed over sector to 502nd Field Co. R.E.
57th Division, Handing-over notes already forwarded.

2. INFANTRY WORK:

Wiring has received most attention, the wiring of second support line, of C.Ts., and of the RUE FEURIE SWITCH having been greatly improved.

Firebays in C.Ts. complete (including PARK ROW); also repairs to damaged bays in Second support line.

3. ACCOMMODATION:

Frost has again been severe.
R.A.P. I.14.b.7.2. Excavation 55%, Forming 7%, concrete 5%.
Co. Headquarters, I.15.c.7.6. Shelter complete. Concrete 20%.
Co. Headquarters, I. 9.c.2.4. Excavation 90%. Brick walls 75%.
Cookhouse, STURT TRENCH, complete.
Cookhouse, Subsidiary Line, I.20.a.4.7., nearly complete.

4. TRANSLINES:

ORCHARD extension, Formation 80%, Laying 60%.

5. TRENCH MORTAR emplacement at I.16.a.3.8. nearly complete.

6. SCREENS:

Repairs continued. 150 yards of new screen erected along ERQUINGHEM - ARMENTIERES Road.

7. ROADS repaired after shelling near GRISPOT.

8. SURVEYS:

New maps almost complete, and will be handed over to 502nd Field Company, R.E.

9. LYS RIVER BRIDGES.

All floating bridges have been put in order and tried.

All demolition charges have been overhauled and various small shortages reported and indented for.

Reconnaissance of chimneys made and reported.

10. TRANSPORT.

Transport has continued stocking forward dumps.

A. J. M. M. M.

Major.

O.C. 11th Field Coy. Engineers.



APPENDIX

3

3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS

G 20/1 APPENDIX

COPY.

- O.C. 9th Field Coy.
- O.C. 10th Field Coy.
- O.C. 11th Field Coy.

11TH FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS. 18th January, 1918. 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 12/19
Date.....

War Diary

It is desired that Field Company Commanders should become familiar with the areas they are about to take over from the Field Companies of the 2nd Division, as early as possible, so as to be well acquainted with all the requirements so as to delay works as little as possible.

The disposition is as follows :-

- 9th Field Company - Reserve Field Coy. on Corps Line.
- 10th Field Coy. Left Brigade Area
- 11th Field Coy. Right Brigade area.

Sgd. T.R. WILLIAMS: Major.
A/C.R.E. 3rd Aust. Division.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS ORDER No. 3.

26th July, 1918.

APPENDIX 4

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 12/18
Date.

DIVISIONAL AREA - This extends from the LYS on the South to the DOUVE River on the North.

Right Brigade - 11th Infantry Brigade
Left Brigade - 10th Infantry Brigade.

Area	Brigade	Field Company	Field Co. to be relieved	Billets	Date of change over.	Remarks.
Right	11th A. I. Bde.	11th	5th	WEKA LINES Romarin.	29.1.18	These dates
Left	10th A. I. Bde.	10th	7th	T.16.a.9.9.28.1.18 Sheet 28.	28.1.18	signify when
Corps Line	9th A. I. Bde.	9th	6th	T.4.c.50.90 Sheet 28.	30.1.18	responsibility commences.

PER Band 10th FIELD COYS. - From the 26th instant all parties on Corps Works will leave 1/3rd of their number on each work until relieved by the Field Companies of the 1st Australian Division.

All companies will send about 1/3rd of their usual party to work with the Companies of the 2nd Australian Division to ensure a continuity of work and policy. This should be done at least three days before the relief.

WORKS: - 10th and 11th FIELD COYS.

- Technical assistance to repair of trenches.
- Drainage back to Subsidiary Line.
- Shelters.
- Salvage of R.E. Material in their area.
- Forward dumps.
- Survey of maps of area.

9th FIELD COY.

This Company works under direction of Lt-Col. CLOGSTOUN R.E. on Corps Line.

3rd PIONEER BATTALION: - BILLETS: Nieppe.

1 Company with each front line Brigade on Communication and immediate drainage of these.

1 company - Tramways.

1 company - Roads and Back area drainage (behind Subsidiary Line).

Accurate plans of all works should be kept.

NOTE:- As it is to be expected that during the month of February, wet weather may be experienced, it is essential that revetting of all permanent elements should be pushed forward as fast as possible, and the maintenance of drains maintained. In the case of C.Ts. ULTIMO AVENUE will require a superhuman effort to put in a trafficable state as the recent thaws have made it practically impassable, and the bottom is a sea of mud.

MAPS: - Field Companies and Pioneers are requested to send to this office as soon as possible a map showing in detail the state of the trenches and C.Ts. taken over, so that at the end of their period in the line when the final map is made out, the result of the work of the Division may be very clearly demonstrated.

Brigade Area Maps showing all details should be got out as soon as can be done, maps should show old lines (in different coloured inks) as these may have some tactical value for defence purposes.

DUMPS: +

HYDE PARK CORNER (TOR DUMP)
DEAD HORSE CORNER (RACINE)

DUMPS (Contd.)

INGERSOLL (PLOEGSTEERT)
DELENELLE FARM and MOTOR CAR CORNER.

Field Companies will take over these from the Field Companies of the relieved Division and two sappers placed in charge of each.

Also 2 O.R. per company will be sent to Corps Dump, STEENWERCK) to take charge of loading and unloading material required by the Companies.

SALVAGE:- Owing to shortage on this front of R.E. Material, it is essential that this work should be pushed on as there is a great deal to salvage from old disused trenches, now beyond repair. Also in Corps Line work certain C.Ts. are being filled in and the material from these should be utilised in more forward works.

TRAMWAYS:- Upkeep of present system and the connection of the CALEDONIAN Line and the BOYD Line.

ROADS:- All roads forward of D.G.T. line as directed before when the Division was in this area.

REPORTS: Weekly reports with maps where work is being done and progress should reach C.R.E's Office by 6 p.m. on each Friday.

Sgd/ G.E. TEAGUE. Lieut.
for Major,
C.R.E. Third Australian Division.

Copy to War Diary/Feb.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11th FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS,
8th AUSTRALIAN DIV.
11E 62/46
No.
Date 27th January, 1918.
Date

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5

11th Aust. Inf. Brigade,
C.O., 42nd Aus. Inf. Battalion.

Plan to use Batten.

LE TOUQUET AND PONT ROUGE SECTOR.
Notes on work in Support Line.

This line runs along WIDOWS SWITCH (South of STATION REDOUBT) BARKENHAM AVENUE, HOREKAU AVENUE, LONG AVENUE, MONMOUTH TRENCH, SUFFOLK AVENUE, NEW SUPPORT, UNA SUPPORT, UMPIRE SUPPORT.

Three companies of D Battalion have been allotted to work in this line.

Right Coy.: (1) Right Flank to 3.c.95.42:
Extending WIDOWS SWITCH.
About C.9.d.7.3.
Connecting BARKENHAM and HOREKAU AVENUES east of BUTCHERS SHOP.
Improving Field of fire at AMEN CORNER.
C.4.c.75.40.
Making defensible T heads off MONMOUTH TRENCH.
Fill in old German trench off UNA SUPPORT.

Centre Coy.: (2) 3.c.95.42 to 22.d.32.35.
Firebays off SUFFOLK AVENUE.
Firebays, Latrines and parapet, NEW SUPPORT.
Excavation for shelters.
Parapet and clearing foreground, UNA SUPPORT.

Left Coy.: (3) U.22.d.32.35 to Brigade Boundary.
Building parapet, particularly from U.22.d.35.35. to U.22.d.60.60.
Filling in old trench at U.22.c.80.20.
Latrines.
Excavation for shelters.

Along the whole line it is suggested that shovel works, such as the formation of a rough but massive parapet from a borrow pit in front, should be pushed while the ground is soft and not under snow.

The wire throughout is good, but a small number of men on each company front might be allotted to improving it. There is a considerable amount of wire lying about the support line.

It is suggested that companies should work three platoons by night (including carrying platoons) and one platoon by day, in small parties clearing berms, revetting, clearing duckboards, firestepping &c. Material is very scarce and revetting should be confined as far as possible to actual firebays.

Screw pickets should be reserved for front line wiring.

Sandbags should only be used for finishing top of firebays.

Engineer dump at MOTOR CAR CORNER C.14.s.90.95 (storeman here) and RENDEZVOUS DUMP U.22.c.05.75.

11th Field Coy. Engineers

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Coy. Engineers
(2)

In addition to three companies on support line one platoon has been allotted task of wiring north side of UMPIRE ROW to connect Corps Wire north of LE GHEER to Support line wire about U.22.d.6.4.

R. D. Maddy

Major.
O.C., 11th Field Coy., Engineers.

This line runs along WIDOWS SWITCH (South of STATION ROAD) BARKER AVENUE, HOREAU AVENUE, LORAIN AVENUE, WOODMOUTH THROUGH, UWA SUPPORT, UWA SUPPORT, UWA SUPPORT. The companies of B Battalion have been allotted to work in this area.

Work to be done:
1. Night work to U.22.d.6.4.
2. Extending WIDOWS SWITCH.
3. About U.22.d.7.5.
4. Connecting BARKER AVENUE and HOREAU AVENUE east of BUTCHERS SHOP.
5. Improving field of fire at WEAVER CORNER.
6. U.22.d.7.50.
7. Making defensible T heads off WOODMOUTH THROUGH. Will in old German trench off UWA SUPPORT.

Work to be done:
1. U.22.d.7.55 to U.22.d.7.55.
2. Improving off BUTCHER AVENUE.
3. Improving, latrines and parapet, UWA SUPPORT.
4. Excavation for shelters.
5. Parapet and clearing foreground, UWA SUPPORT.

Work to be done:
1. U.22.d.7.55 to U.22.d.7.55 to replace boundary.
2. Building parapet, particularly from U.22.d.7.55 to U.22.d.8.00.
3. Filling in old trench at U.22.d.8.00.
4. Latrines.
5. Excavation for shelters.

General notes:
The trench the whole line it is suggested that shovel work, such as the excavation of a trench but massive parapet from a borrow pit in front should be made while the ground is soft and not under snow. The wire throughout is good, but a small number of men on each company front might be allotted to improving it. There is a considerable amount of wire lying about the support line.

Notes:
It is suggested that companies should work three platoons by night (including carrying supplies) and one platoon by day, in small parties, working, clearing, and repairing. It is suggested that the trench be very narrow and revetting should be done as far as possible.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company, Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS, 8th AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 62/49
2nd February, 1918.

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WEEKLY REPORT TO 6 p.m. FRIDAY, 1/2/1918. LE TOUQUET AND PONT ROUGE SECTOR.

1. GENERAL:

11th Inf. Bgde. took over defense of sector on night 28/29 Jan. from 5th A.I. Bgde. and 11th Field Coy. relieved 5th Field Co. A.E. "C" Co., 3rd Aus. Pioneer Battn also allotted to area for work on C. T.s For two days previously Officers, N.C.Os. and sappers worked with 5th Field Co.

On Jan. 31st company took over WEKA CAMP, Le ROMARIN, (Sheet 36, B.4.a.5.2.) from 5th Field Co.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR.

Field Co. has two sections in line (one in each battalion area) One section drainage and also supervision of timber cutting in PLOMG-STEERT WOOD; and one section on transport and back area works.

Pioneer Co. has taken over all C.Ts. 11th Brigade have allotted a Works Co. consisting of 1 complete platoon from each battalion, for work under Field Co., one platoon with each line section and two platoons on drainage. The engineer officer i/c drains thus has a section of sappers (less wood-cutting details) and two platoons of infantry.

Each line battalion is responsible for work in its own front line.

One reserve battalion ("D") allots three companies for work in support line, each company having a definite area, one platoon for wiring of UMPIRE ROW SWITCH, and two platoons for building parapet along UMPIRE DRIVE South.

Engineer work in right battalion area consists of new Company Headquarters near BUTCHERS SHOP (36 C.10.c.6.8.); strong points on railway near old Subsidiary Line; gas-proofing accommodation, surveys and general supervision. On the left, shelters in support line, gas-proofing, surveys and general supervision.

3. PLANS:

Good plans were taken over from 5th Field Co. and surveyors have commenced amplifying them. Accompanying Works Map shows condition of defences in area to date, with improvements effected indicated by green wash.

4. FRONT LINE:

Right Battn: Maintenance and slight improvement to UNA TRENCH.

Left Battn: Parapet is very low in places and good progress is being made in building up from borrow pit outside.

5. SUPPORT LINE:

Following works show progress:

WIDOWS SWITCH: New firebays (good progress).

Repairs to BARKENHAM AVENUE.

Repairs to HOREKAU AVENUE.

AMEN CORNER: Clearing (fair).
 MONMOUTH T-HEADS (slight).
 SUFFOLK AVENUE: Firebays (6 new started).
 NEW SUPPORT: 130 yds. parapet raised.
 UNA SUPPORT: N.E. end - revetting, duckboarding; good work:
 UMPIRE DRIVE: U.22.d.35.35. to 60.60.: parapet raised.
 UMPIRE SUPPORT: Good progress raising parapet. One new shelter,
 3 others completed.

6. COMMUNICATION TRENCHES:

Pioneers have already considerably improved C.Ts. throughout area; and have started the big work of reconstructing UMPIRE DRIVE South.

7. DRAINAGE:

Has been generally considerably improved. The river LYS is falling. System of patrolling has been organised.

8. ACCOMMODATION:

Company Headquarters near BUTCHERS SHOP (C.10.c.55.66.):
 Screens 100%: Excavation 60%: Walls 50%:
 Good progress made ~~fixing~~ fixing gas doors on various dugouts; blanket or gas union is wanted to complete.

9. WIRING:

About 700 yds. double apron fence along UMPIRE ROW completed.

10. MATERIALS:

Supplies have been sufficient. ^{CAR}
 Three wagon loads have been sent to MOTORACORNER DUMP.
 Four wagon loads have been sent to LE GHEER DUMP.
 chiefly trench frames, duckboards, hurdles, iron and sandbags.
 It is proposed to establish a railhead dump for tools and materials at INGERSOLL, on east side of PLOEGSTEERT VILLAGE.

J. Donaldson

Major.
O.C., 11th Field Coy. Aus. Engineers.

ENC: Map to C. R. E.