

**AWM4**

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

Engineers

**Item number: 14/34/25**

**Title: 15th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers**

April 1918



AWM4-14/34/25

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

15TH FIELD COMPANY, AUST. ENGRS.

FOR

APRIL 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Alfred M. Haver*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*David Greenway*

*may*

*258*

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# 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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

I.

(Erase heading not required.)

15<sup>th</sup> F. Co. A.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918		ORIGINAL	
	APRIL			
CLAIRFAYE REF. MAP FRANCE 57 <sup>D</sup> Y40000 O.30. a. 1.3.	1 <sup>st</sup>		Company standing by ready to move at an hours notice. Gas helmet inspection and bolt drill during the morning. Water supply in LEAVILLERS AREA broke down this morning, resulting in nearest water point being at ACHEUX. LT <sup>S</sup> MARINI and GIBBERT investigated main pumping plant at HARBONVILLE during the afternoon and found that this was the cause of the trouble. Arrangements had been made by V Corps Army Troops Company to repair plant this evening. All personnel accommodated in Nissen Huts originally used as a Prisoner of War cage. All horses in the open. Fine day. Raining this evening.	
LEAVILLERS REF. MAP FRANCE 57 <sup>D</sup> Y40000 O.23. b. 6.1.	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Company standing by. Gas inspection, bolt drill and Lewis gun instruction during the morning. At 11am. Verbal instructions were received from CPT that Company was to be ready to move back to LEAVILLERS at 4 pm. LT AJ. EWART was sent on ahead with Adjutant CPT to arrange billets for Company. Owing to difficulties in finding up billets definite instructions were not received until 6pm to move. Company in billets at LEAVILLERS, all horses in stables. During the morning while at CAZAREVE, baths were fitted at the camp by MP SECTION, a BATH HOUSE being obtained from the RE DUMP. RE DUMP (O.30. b. 18) handed over to representative of CE 5 <sup>th</sup> CORPS.	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Company standing by ready to move at three hours notice. Company training included in. Training programmes being forwarded to CPT. Billets being cleaned out and made more or less habitable. Raining during the morning and early afternoon.	App. 1.
	4 <sup>th</sup>	5:45pm	Company ready to move at three hours notice. Company drill and gas inspection this morning. Wire received from CPT (N452) that 15 <sup>th</sup> F. Co would move with 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde Group probably to follow tomorrow. A runner sent to 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde HQ returns with the information that Brigade Group was embussing at 8:30am on 5 <sup>th</sup> on ROUVREMOY - ACHEUX ROAD. 15 <sup>th</sup> F. Co would follow 14 <sup>th</sup> F. Co who are to follow 14 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Coy. Head of 14 <sup>th</sup> MG. Coy should be at O.5. a. 7.8 (SHEET 57 <sup>D</sup> ) at 5am. Transport will move independently, at about 5am on 5 <sup>th</sup> list.	App. 2
	5 <sup>th</sup>	11:30pm 2am 4:15am 6:30am 3pm	Received wire BM 596 from 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf BDE. Received wire BM 597 from 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. BDE. LT W.C. GIBBERT and 1 Troop detailed for the Company parade, moving off to embussing point at 4:30 am. Transport parades independently under CAPT SE. EVANS and moved off at 4:45 am. Detailed Order from 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. BDE. mentioned in wire BM. 596 received by CO. These orders has been considerably delayed and should have reached the Company before 4 am. Dismounted personnel arrived at BLANGY-TERVILLE (SHEET FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> Y40000) and accommodated	App. 3. App. 4. App. 5. App. 6.
A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.				

P.P.E. /

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15<sup>th</sup> F. Co. A.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918		ORIGINAL	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE REF. MAP	APRIL			
	5 <sup>th</sup>		in billets near Church. 3.45pm. transport arrives BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	
FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40,000 N.22. Central.	6 <sup>th</sup>		Major GREENWAY and Lt HAROLD went to CORRIE to see 15 <sup>th</sup> INF BRIGADE who are in the line between VAIRE-SOVS. CORRIE and BOIS DE VAIRE (SHEET 62 <sup>D</sup> ). Conference at CRE this afternoon. Arranged that Lt HAROLD and NO 3 SECTION should move to CORRIE tomorrow morning and work with 15 <sup>th</sup> INF. BDE in forward area. Proposed that remainder of Company should move to either DROUES or Bussy owing to the congestion existing at BLANGY and also there being no crossing suitable for transport across the River SOMME at BLANGY. Company forward RE. dump is to be formed at HAMELET (SHEET 62 <sup>D</sup> O.G. d 7.9) near Church, this will be fed by Brigades and Company transport from Divisional RE. dump at AUBIGNY O.9 a.	
LA NEUVILLE REF. MAP	7 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Lt HAROLD with NO 3 SECTION and Section transport moved to the vicinity of CORRIE with instructions to billet in LA NEUVILLE.	
FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40,000. I 34.C. 2.7.		8.15am 8.30am	Were received from CRE that whole Company would move to the vicinity of CORRIE today. ORDER NO 3 issued by O.C. Major GREENWAY and CAPT EVANS went to CORRIE and arranged with the Town Mayor that Company would be billeted in LA NEUVILLE. Billets arranged in RUE DE LA REBELIAVE with Company Head Quarters at I.34.C.17. SHEET 62 <sup>D</sup> move completed by 3pm. SECTION OFFICERS and NCOs reconnoitering forward area of 15 <sup>th</sup> BDE SECTOR. Sector is held on c this battalion front. NO 1 SECTION to work L LEFT B <sup>n</sup> SECTOR, NO 3 SECTION in CENTRE and NO 2 SECTION in RT B <sup>n</sup> SECTOR. BRIGADE Boundary is RIVER SOMME on the NORTH and EUILLOY - WARFUSSE - ABANCOURT Road on the SOUTH. Three enemy aeroplanes bombs dropped near billets this afternoon - no casualties. Heavy rain during late afternoon and evening. Lt DRIVER commenced work on mine under road at O.18.b.53.	APP 2
	8 <sup>th</sup>		MAJOR GREENWAY also went around BRIGADE RESERVE LINE with CRE. Work commenced on the three battalion fronts by Sections working in forward area. NO 1 SECTION commenced digging S.P. NO 7 (I.31.c.8.3) NO 2 SECTION commenced construction of Battalion Headquarters in QUARRY at P.7.a.1.0. also S.P. NO 2 (P.13.a.0.8). NO 3 SECTION commenced S.P. 4 (P.7.a.2.5). SPLITTER PROOF BATT <sup>n</sup> Command Post erected at P.8.a.0.1.	APP 3. APP 4

S.P. 2

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15. F. Co. A.F.


3.

ORIGINAL

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE REF. MAP. FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40,000 I 34 C. 27	1918 APRIL 8 <sup>th</sup> (Contd)		<p>N<sup>th</sup> SECTION: Mines for cratering roads at 019 b 5.3 sunk 9 ft., 010 d 6.8 sunk 10 ft. 011. a. 5.1 sunk 10 ft.</p> <p>O.C. attended BRIGADE Conference. and DIVISIONAL CONFERENCE at 15<sup>th</sup> INF BOX H.Q. (0.5 c 5.7)</p>	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Rained all day. Work continued in forward area by N<sup>th</sup> 1, 2 and 3 Sections. and on mine craters by N<sup>th</sup> 4.</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> INF BOX relined 15<sup>th</sup> INF BOX in the line. L<sup>ts</sup> W.K. MARRIE and W.C. GILBERT reconnoitered BOUZERCOURT and ascertained that the Div<sup>n</sup> merely held one post 150 yards of the village and not the village itself.</p> <p>O.C. attended Conference of Field Coy Commanders at C.R.E. and received preliminary verbal instructions that an attack would be carried out about 30 hours later.</p> <p>The role of the Company was to be - Supervision of location &amp; siting of five Stream Points, the erection of a pontoon bridge between VAIRE and VAUX, the arrangement of forward dumps of RE material and the taping of the assembly line for the Brigades Assaulting troops. Digging parties available for the S.P.<sup>s</sup> were to be PIONEERS.</p> <p>A Conference was arranged for the following morning of C.R.E., CO 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS B<sup>n</sup>, and O.C. FIELD COMPANIES, by which time it was hoped that definite orders would be available.</p>	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	8am	<p>O.C. Company held a Conference of Officers. L<sup>ts</sup> MARRIE and HARDINGE were instructed that they would be responsible for the S.P.<sup>s</sup>. L<sup>t</sup> A.T. EWART MM for the taping out of the assembly line. L<sup>t</sup> C.K. OLIVER MC for the pontoon bridge. L<sup>t</sup> W.C. GILBERT for the supply of all RE material and formation of forward RE dumps.</p>	
		9am	<p>Conference at AUBIGNY and ENGINEER INSTRUCTIONS received.</p> <p>It was arranged that parties from B Coy 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS would be available for L<sup>t</sup> HARDINGE for S.P.<sup>s</sup> D &amp; E. and A Coy 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS for L<sup>t</sup> MARRIE for S.P.<sup>s</sup> F, G &amp; H. Parties were to billet in FOUILLOY on night of the 10/11. and move to assembly point arranged tentatively between Engineer and Pioneer officers concerned at Conference at 5 p.m. but all parties were to be in position one hour before ZERO HOUR. Asst Adjt of PIONEERS to be with O.C. F<sup>ld</sup> Coy at Box H.Q.<sup>rs</sup>. It was clearly pointed out that directly PIONEER parties arrived at Assembly Point, the responsibility was solely and wholly Engineers. By 12 noon situation was as follows, L<sup>ts</sup> MARRIE &amp; HARDINGE <del>arrived</del></p>	App. 10.5

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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15<sup>th</sup> F. C. A.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	ORIGINAL	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE REF. MAP FRANCE G2 <sup>D</sup> 1/40000 I. 34C. 27.	1918 APRIL 10 <sup>th</sup> (Cont <sup>d</sup> )			Has carried out their reconnaissance and the Assembly Point in O.12.d. and erected splinter proof battle Section HQ. Parties of 1 Officer and 4 NCOs per Assaulting Battalion has been arranged to meet Lt SWART at P.7a.1.0 at 9 pm and necessary tapes had been secured. Lt GILBERT was in process of forming dumps at O.12.b.9.3 and O.12.b.9.6. Lt OLIVER has commenced the throwing of the pontoon bridge at J.26.c.0.3, as the span was 102 ft. two extra pontoons had been demanded from C.R. and were being sent forward from BLANGY - TROUVILLE.	
		1 pm		Further conference of Section Officers and final instructions issued by O.C. COMPANY. (OPERATION ORDER 1918/1/1.)	App 6.
		6 pm		Verbal message received from B.M. 8 <sup>th</sup> Inv. Bde that proposed attack was cancelled, but Bde would require the pontoon bridge. Normal work was resumed, and the following S.P.s in the RESERVE line were developed. S.8 (J.31.c.1.7) S.7 (J.31.c.8.3), S.6 (P.1.b.0.5), S.5 (P.1.c.6.0), S.4 (P.7a.2.5), S.3 (P.7.c.7.7) S.2 <sup>A</sup> (P.7.c.6.2) S.2 (P.13a.0.0). Work was continued on Batt <sup>n</sup> R.A.P and HQ <sup>s</sup> at the BARRS (P.7a.1.0) and it was desired to make tunnel dugouts of these. Work on the Road mine was continued by No 4 SECTION.	
		11 <sup>th</sup> 4:30 am		Pontoon bridge was thrown in at 7.45 pm. 1 Sapper killed this morning while going down with pontoons to bridge site. Recd Bde Order No 173, C.R. Engineer Instructions, C.R. memo 1/114/s. Pontoon bridge broken and floated down stream. Material was taken out of the water and camouflaged. Work was continued on the RESERVE line as before. Timber was salvaged for tunnelling operations and the first sets were placed in three entrances. Charging of Road mine at O.18.b.5.3 was commenced. 200 lbs. blasting being used.	App 7 & 8
		12 <sup>th</sup>		RESERVE LINE work continued. On account of good visibility parties were changed over from day to night. Tunnel dugouts at P.7a.1.0 continued and a further entrance started for personnel. Salvage of French motor lorry from COEGLIE Lock commenced. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt MORTON and BEAN reported and taken on strength.	

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**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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15<sup>th</sup> F. Co AF

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Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE REF. MAP FRANCE 62 <sup>o</sup> Y40000 I. 34 C. 2.7.	1918 APRIL 13 <sup>th</sup>		Work on RESERVE LINE continued by No 1, 2 & 3 Sections. Tactical wiring commenced. Work on Tunnels dugouts P.T.a. 1.0. continues. Charging completed at ROAD-MINES O.10 d. 68 and O.11 d. 61. and arrangements made to put a second mine in at O.10 d. 68. Wire strands for support of Dummy Bridges across Rive Somme located Sigs for Tunnels Brigades Headquarters at I 35c 3.4 selected and working parties arranged. French worm mines out of water. Tackle being obtained from cotton wire nearby. Wires and trenches of RESERVE LINE being continued. Switch RESERVE SP <sup>2</sup> at O.11 d. 6.7, O.11 d. 3.9	App 9.
	14 <sup>th</sup>		O.11 b. 2.1., O.11 b. 2.9. commences. Idea is to develop continuous lines from these Strong Points. Fire bay 24 ft. Traverses 12' x 12'. BOE HQ <sup>2</sup> dugouts I. 35c. 3.4. Timber cut and sets made. Over bunker removed. Further work on salvage of French motor lorry. Pontoons equipment from bridge between VAIRE and VAUX loaded on wagons and returned to Field Companies. Total reconnaissance of the Front line completed. Special report forwarded to CEE	App 14.
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Co's dull day with a few showers. 100 attached. Infantry reported from 8 <sup>th</sup> INF BOE and billeted near company in LA NEUVILLE. Work continued on RESERVE and SWITCH RESERVE lines. Charges for the 3 road mines complete and landed over to 5 <sup>th</sup> PIONEER BATT <sup>n</sup> . Dugouts at P.T.a. 1.0. continued also BOE HQ <sup>2</sup> dugouts where three entrances have been commenced. Salvage of French motor lorry. 4 barrel pier built and in position under lorry ready to float it up. RECEIVING SECTION VI of 8 <sup>th</sup> INF BOE Defence Scheme	App 10
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Dull day with cool wind blowing. Work continued on wiring and digging of RESERVE LINE and SWITCH RESERVE LINE also a Tunnels dugouts at P.T.a. 1.0. Tunnels dugouts for BOE HQ at I 35c. 3.4. No 1 Entrance driven 26 ft and timbered, No 2 Entrance driven 20 ft and timbered, No 3 Entrance 26 ft and timbered. Instructions from CEE that this work will be taken over by 254 TUNNELING COY RE, French motor lorry salvaged and handed over to French authorities. 1 <sup>st</sup> LT W. GIBB. m.m. reports and taken on strength	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Nos 1, 2 and 3 Sections continuing work on RESERVE LINE and No 4 Section on SWITCH RESERVE LINE; construction of trenches and section of defensive and tactical wire	

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15<sup>th</sup> F. G. A.E.

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Place	Date	Hour	Original	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE REF. MAP. FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40000 I 34. c. 2. 7.	APRIL 17 <sup>th</sup> (Contd)			Dugouts at P. 7. a. 1. 0. continued. Tunnels dugouts for Box HQ I 35 c 3. 4. No 1 Entrance driven 30 ft (total), No 2 Entrance total 25 ft. driven and No 3 total 30 ft. driven. Work handed over to 254 Tunneling Coy R.E.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>			1 <sup>st</sup> BRANCH transferred to 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Co and struck off Company strength. Work continued in forward area by Nos 1, 2 & 3 Sections. No 4 Section at work on SWITCH RES. LINE. 450 yards of double apron entanglement erected last night in front of FRONT LINE of LEFT and CENTRE Battalions. Battalion dugouts at P. 7. a. 1. 0. continued. Chambers commenced on R.A.P. and B <sup>th</sup> HQ dugouts. Two footbridges across lagoon at O.S.C. 9. 1. and O.S.C. 9. 2. 75% completed. Baths repaired at CORSE O.S.C. 3. 9. and handed over to 8 <sup>th</sup> INF. Bn in working order.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>			Excavation of RESERVE LINE and wiring continued by Nos 1, 2 & 3 Sections. 181 lin yds of trench excavated and 250 yds. single apron fence erected last night. No 4 Section employed on wiring of Switch Reserve Line 400 yds of double apron fence being erected. 275 yds of double apron fence and 169 yds of single apron fence being erected in FRONT LINE. Dugouts at P 7 a 1. 0. continued. R.A.P. driven 3 ft. B <sup>th</sup> HQ 2 sets placed and lagging fixed, SIGNALS dugout driven 3 ft, PERSONNEL QUARTERS driven 2 ft and 2 sets placed. Footbridges across lagoons at O.S.C. 9. 1. and O.S.C. 9. 2. completed. Dummy Bridges across Somme Canal erected at T 32 a 9. 7 and I 36 b 7. 1 consisting of less than 12 ft wide supported on wires. Reconnaissance made of Sector on north of Somme by LT. GILBERT preparatory to taking over from 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E. 8 G.S. Limber loads of wire and pickets drawn from CORPS R.E. DUMP and delivered at Coy. Dump at HAMELET. CAPT S.E. EVANS M.C. went to temporarily command 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E. vice Major H. Bachtold D.S.O, M.C. LT C.K. OLIVER M.C. temporarily in charge of transport. LT W.C. GILBERT in charge of No 4. Section. Weather cold and stormy with a very slight fall of snow.	
	20 <sup>th</sup>			Work continued in forward area by Nos 1, 2 & 3 Sections. 472 yds of trench excavated by Sections on Reserve Line and 300 yds of double apron entanglement erected. 50 yds of double apron wire erected in front of SWITCH RES. LINE. 250 yds of double apron fence and 120 yds of single apron erected in front line. Further work on dugouts at P 7 a 1. 0. Footbridges erected across lagoon at O.S.C. 7. 5. Dummy Bridge erected at O.S.C. 9. 9. Further reconnaissance of sector NORTH of SOMME. 8 G.S. Limber loads of wire and pickets drawn from CORPS R.E. DUMP and delivered at Coy. # 9.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE	1918 APRIL.		Original	
REF. MAP.	20 <sup>th</sup>	(contd.)	Wire received from C.R.E. to take over all work as far north as new divisional boundary from 9 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> F. Coys and work on 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H.Qrs. from 254 <sup>th</sup> Tnlg Coy R.E. Reliefs to be complete by 9 a.m. 21 <sup>st</sup>	APP. 11
FRANCE 62 <sup>B</sup>			8 <sup>th</sup> Aust Inf. Bde Order No 174 and Amendment No 1 to same, ref. changing of Bde & Divl boundaries received	APP. 12
1/40,000			Attached Inf. Party of 1 Offr & 25 O.R. of 29 <sup>th</sup> Btn. returned to unit. Weather Fine.	
I 34 C 2.7	21 <sup>st</sup>		Further work on Reserve Line. 321 yds of traversed trench excavated. 300 yds of single apron entanglement erected in front of Reserve Line. 150 yds of double apron wire erected in Front Line on Centre Btn. front. Dugouts for 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H.Qrs. at I 350.34 taken over from 254 <sup>th</sup> Tnlg Coy R.E. and work continued. Sector north of SOMME taken over from 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E. and work commenced on Forward Accommodation at J 19 C 8.4. Bridges on SOMME CANAL taken over from 9 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy A.E. Attached Inf. Party of 1 Offr and 34 O.R. from 32 <sup>nd</sup> Btn. reported for work on 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Qrs Dugouts. 15 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde Tactical Working Party Table No 2. received. 3 Sappers, No 4 Section wounded by Aeroplane Bomb at J 19 C 8.4. Fine sunny day with ground mist up to about 9 a.m.	APP. 13
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Work proceeded with in forward area by Nos 1, 3 & 4 Sections. No 2 Section guarding Barrel Pier Bridges on SOMME CANAL and salvaging timber. 370 yds of trench excavated in Reserve Line. 400 yds of double apron barbed wire entanglement (tactical wiring) and 275 yds of 3 wire fence (defensive wiring) erected on Reserve Line. 200 yds of double apron fence and 300 yds of single apron fence erected on CENTRE BTN. front. 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Qrs. Dugouts at I 35 C 3.4 continued with and opening out of chambers commenced in 3 places. Further work on Forward Accommodation at J 19 C 8.4. Two drives commenced for Btn. H.Qrs. at G 6 8.1 & J 28 a 7.8 2 Gas doors constructed at Btn. H.Qrs. at O 6 8.1. Barrel Pier Bridges over SOMME handed over to 5 <sup>th</sup> PIONEER BTN. Attached Inf. Party of 1 Offr and 25 O.R. from 32 <sup>nd</sup> Btn. reported. Spr. W. J. SMITH, No 3 Section wounded by machine gun bullet. Weather fine and bright.	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Digging and wiring of Reserve Line south of SOMME continued by Nos 1 & 3 Sections. 216 yds of trench excavated and 160 yds deepened and widened. 525 yds double apron Tactical wire erected and 400 yds of 3 wire defensive fence put up. 200 yds of double apron entanglement erected on right Btn. front and 570 yds of single apron on Centre Btn. front. Further work on 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Qrs. Dugouts at I 35 C 3.4, Forward Accommodation at J 19 C 8.4, & Btn. H.Qrs. at J 28 a 7.8. by No 4 Section. Communication Trench in Left Btn. Sector taped out and arrangements made for commencing work.	

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15<sup>th</sup> F. Coy. A.E

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Place	Date	Hour	Original	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE	1918 APRIL				
REF. MAP	23 <sup>rd</sup>	(Contd.)	No. 2 Section employed making Hot Food Containers and sawing timber for Dugouts		
FRANCE 62 <sup>B</sup>			6 timber loads of wire and pickets drawn from R.E. DUMP, AUBIGNY and transported to Coy H. Qrs.		
1/40,000			HAMELET and SOMME valley heavily bombarded with Gas Shells and Inf Working Parties cancelled by Divn on that account		
I 34 C 2.7	24 <sup>th</sup>		MAJOR GREENWAY accompanied C.R.E found Left Bn. Sector with view to siting defences and C.T. 80 yds of C.T. excavated in T 28 a, Left Bn. Sector. Weather Fine & Bright		
			Heavy enemy bombardment commenced on night about 3.30 a.m. and replied to by our ARTILLERY		
			About 4.30 a.m. enemy commenced shelling LA NEUVILLE with H.E. and GAS SHELLS, 15 direct hits falling on Coy. Billets, causing 3 immediate gas casualties and 3 delay action cases which became casualties later during the day		
			At 4.45 a.m. Coy. and attached Inftry stood to. At 7 a.m. Major Greenway went to 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H. Qrs. for Liaison purposes.		
			About 8 a.m. information received that enemy had attacked at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and had gained possession of the town and that the 14 <sup>th</sup> Bde's right flank had had to conform to the retirement of DIVISION on night at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX but had withstood the attack on their own Front. At 8 a.m. the C.C. issued orders that no further parties were to be sent out except those for pushing on work at 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H. Qrs at I 35 C 3.4, and that the remainder of the SAPPERS and Attached Inftry were to be kept rested and well fed and held in readiness for possible digging or consolidation they might be required for tonight. ALL possible precautions to be taken against GAS		
			At 10 a.m. Pontoon, Trestle, & G.S. Wagons were shifted to H 36 a 3.5 as shell fire around wagon lines was becoming heavy. Both pontoons were slightly damaged by shell fire but transport got clear without casualties.		
			At 11.00 a.m. it was decided to remove remainder of TRANSPORT with exception of G.S. LIMBERS and COOKSCART which were packed ready for moving in event of it being necessary to move the Coy. clear of the town on account of GAS SHELLING. The ground west of LA NEUVILLE was reconnoitred and an existing STRONG POINT chosen in which to locate the Coy. in event of being shelled out of the town		
			During the afternoon 4 men became gas casualties through gas shells falling amongst them as they were returning from work and 1 man was wounded in his billet by shell fire.		
			About 3 p.m. information was received that 15 <sup>th</sup> AUS. INF Bde were going to attack approx S.E. from OZU canal and the 18 <sup>th</sup> AUS. INF. Bde were moving up behind BOIS L'ABBE and that it was expected that the 8 <sup>th</sup> DIV would counter attack N.E. with view to enveloping VILLERS BRETONNEUX		
			At 11.10 p.m. information received that first OBJECTIVE of 15 <sup>th</sup> AUS. INF. Bde's counter attack apparently gained		
			at 11.10 p.m. work carried on at 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H. Qrs at I 35 C 3.4. C.R.E. wire N 648 received at 11.30 p.m. to have all Edging Mat on wagons ready to move, and for Coy. to stand by for orders, ready to carry out any necessary work		App. 1A
			Total Coy. Casualties - 10 gassed and 1 wounded. Attached Inf Casualties - 5 gassed, 1 wounded.		

S.H.D. 8

# 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.)

15<sup>th</sup> F. Coy. A.E.

9

Place	Date	Hour	Original.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA NEUVILLE	1918 April				
REF MAP	24 <sup>th</sup>	(Contd.)	Weather misty with rain in evening.		
FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	2.20 PM	Message received from 14 <sup>th</sup> AUS INF Bde. that advanced post of 56 <sup>th</sup> Bn. report enemy m.o. fire from left of VILLERS BRETONNEUX		
1/40,000	25	4.10 PM	and that enemy had sent up double red flares resulting in increased enemy artillery fire otherwise situation fairly quiet with slight shelling on our front with 4.2's and 5.9's.		
I 34 C 2.7		4.10 PM	Following message received from 14 <sup>th</sup> AUS INF Bde. timed 3.35 a.m. "An officer and patrol from 60 <sup>th</sup> Bn. sent back to 54 <sup>th</sup> Bn. H.Q. reports as follows. 60 <sup>th</sup> Bn. within 500 yds. of their objective and a slight gap between them and 54 <sup>th</sup> Bn. right now being filled by Company moving up AAA. Small parties of the ENEMY with M.G.'s captured AAA 59 <sup>th</sup> Bn. are in touch with 60 <sup>th</sup> Bn. and have captured some prisoners."		
Transport Lines H 36 a 3.5		4.40 PM	Quiet on 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde front. 6.30 a.m. Quiet night. No further news.		
		6.45 PM	Information received that VILLERS-BRETONNEUX retaken by us and several hundred prisoners captured, our counter attack having apparently been entirely successful.		
		7.8 PM	Major Greenway returned to Coy. H.Q.s.		
			Work continued as usual on Front Line wire 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H.Q.s dugouts at I 35 C 3.4 Bn H.Q.s at J 28 a 7.8 + J 19 C 8.4 and R.A.P. at J 28 a 7.8. 94 yds of C.T excavated in J 28 a and J 27 b. Construction of hot food boxes gone on with and timber salvaged for dugout work. General SURVEY of FRONT LINE wire continued. R.E. material transported from AUBIGNY DUMP to Coy. H.Q.s. Debris removed from SOMME CANAL spillway at O 6 a 3.1. Weather dull but fine. 19 Reinforcements arrived and taken on strength.		
	26 <sup>th</sup>		Further work on Reserve Line and Front Line wire in Right and Centre Bn sectors by Nos 1 & 3 Sections. No 3 Section also working on 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde H.Q.s Dugouts at I 35 C 3.4. No 4 Section employed on Dugouts for Bn H.Q.s at J 28 a 7.8, J 19 C 8.4 and R.A.P. at J 22 d 24.45. also excavation of C.T in left Bn Sector. 175 yds being completed in J 27 b. No 2 Section making hot boxes and lowering water level in SOMME canal above CORBIE LOCK. Level reduced 1'.6". Repairs effected to two DUMMY BRIDGES on SOMME where damaged by shell fire. Salvage of timber for Dugouts continued. Transport of R.E. material from AUBIGNY to Coy. H.Q. Weather fine but dull.		

*S.H.* 6

# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

15<sup>th</sup> F. Coy A.E

10

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Original	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LANEUVILLE REF. MAP	April 27 <sup>th</sup>			Work on FRONT LINE and RESERVE LINE wire continued by Nos 1 & 3 Sections. Widening and forestopping of RESERVE LINE in Centre Btn. Sector gone on with by No 1 Section. No 5 Section also working on Bde H.Q. Dugouts at I 35 C 3.4 No 4 Section working on Btn H.Q.s at J 19 C 4.4 & J 28 a 7.8, R.A.P. at J 22 d 24.45 and Communication Trench in J 27 b, Left Btn. Sector. No. 2 Section making Hot Boxes. Survey work continued and all timber used on Dugout construction salvaged. R.E. matl. transported from AUBIGNY to Coy. H.Q.s. Weather - fine day with shower of heavy rain in evening.	
FRANCE 62 <sup>B</sup> 1/40,000 I 34 C 2.7					
Transport Lines # 36 a. 3.5	28 <sup>th</sup>			Development of Reserve Line trench in Centre Btn. Sector gone on with 200 yds of double apron defensive wire erected and concertina barbed wire made and placed at Artillery Gaps and Roads. Thickening of Front Line wire continued in centre and right Btn. sectors & 200' of double apron erected on Right Btn. Front. 3,200 yds of double apron entanglement have been erected on medium pickets in Left Btn. Sector Front up to date. Excavation of trenches across roads to form obstacles to ARMoured CARS completed at J 33 C 8.1 and commenced at P 2 b 5.7. Further work on Dugouts for Bde H.Q.s at I 35 C 3.4, Btn H.Q.s at J 28 a 7.8, R.A.P. at J 22 d 24.45 & Btn. H.Q.s at J 19 C 4.4. 100 yds of communication trench excavated in Left Btn. Sector from J 28 a 2.6 to J 27 b 57.20. PONTON BRIDGE 90' in length consisting of 2 welded Trestles and 3 Pontoons erected across SOMME CANAL at O 4 C 4.1. Trestles left in position and camouflaged. Approaches completed. Remainder of bridge disassembled and stacked & camouflaged on N. bank of CANAL adjacent to site. Further work on Hot Boxes, 50 now being complete. Salvaging of timber for Dugouts gone on with and R.E. matl. transported from AUBIGNY to Coy. H.Q.s. Survey work in progress and water level in CANAL above CORBIE LOCK lowered another 2". Lt. OLIVER detailed to report on BRIDGE said to have been damaged by shell fire at M 24 b 2.9. On arrival there he found that no BRIDGE existed at the location given and that only BRIDGES in the vicinity were intact. Sgt. Eishold, C.A.W & Cpl. Church, A.I. proceeded to Training Depot at Brightlingsea. Weather - dull becoming showery about 5 p.m.	
	29 <sup>th</sup>			Developing of Reserve Line trench south of CANAL continued and 200 yds of double apron fence erected in front of Reserve Line. Further work on FRONT LINE wire in Right and Centre Btns. Excavation of ROAD TRENCH OBSTACLES now completed at P 2 d 75.75, P 2 d 5.1, P 2 b 5.7, J 34 d 4.9 and J 33 C 8.1. Dugouts continued for Bde H.Q.s. at I 35 C 3.4, Btn. H.Q.s. at J 28 a 7.8 and J 19 C 4.4 and R.A.P. at J 22 d 24.45. 70 yds of COMMUNICATION TRENCH dug 4 ft deep in J 27 b, Left Btn. Sector.	

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

15<sup>th</sup> F. Coy A.E.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April		original	
LA NEUVILLE REF MAP FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40,000 I 34 C 2.7 Transport Lines H 36 a 3.5	29 <sup>th</sup>	1 P.M.	75 HOT FOOD BOXES constructed to date. Lowering of SOMME CANAL water level above CORBIE LOCK. Level now reduced 2 ft. Timber salvaged for dugout work. R.E. material transported from AUBIGNY to Coy. DUMP at LA NEUVILLE. Frames made for trench shelters. Survey work on FRONTLINE continued. C.R.E ORDER No 2. received that 15 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Coys. would relieve one another, details of relief to be arranged mutually by O.C. Coys and relief to be complete by 9 P.M. on 1/5/18. O.C. 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Coy arrived at up. to discuss details. Arranged that 15 <sup>th</sup> F.C. would vacate billets by 2 P.M. tomorrow and that an Advance Party of 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Coy. would arrive at LA NEUVILLE at 9 a.m. tomorrow to be shown works in progress and go over sector. weather - dull with light rain in afternoon and evening.	APP. 15
DAOURS REF MAP FRANCE 62 <sup>D</sup> 1/40,000 O 1 a 3.5 TRANSPORT LINES H 36 a 3.5	30 <sup>th</sup>	9 a.m.  2 P.M.	Advance party from 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Coy. arrived to see over Sector, and take over billets. O.C. and section officers showing O.C. and Officers of relieving Coy. over sector. Dismounted Personnel moved out, each section moving independently, with exception of shifts working on dugouts and guides remaining behind for purpose of showing 8 <sup>th</sup> F.C. round FRONTLINE, and proceeded to DAOURS O 1 a 3.5. taking over billets vacated by 8 <sup>th</sup> F.C. Horse Lines as before at H 36 a 3.5 work continued on development of trenches and thickening wire in the RESERVE LINE. Further thickening of FRONT LINE WIRE. More trenches cut across roads in forward area as obstacles to armoured motor cars. Deep Dugout work continued on Bde H.Q.s at I 35 C 3.9, B 11 H. Q.s. at J 23 a 7.8 and J 19 C 4.9, + R.A.P. at J 22 d 24.25. 20 more Hot Food Boxes made. Salvage of timber of Dugouts continued.	APP. 16

S.H.B. =

# WAR DIARY

OF

15TH FIELD COMPANY, AUST. ENGRS.

FOR

APRIL 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	COMPANY TRAINING PROGRAMME for 4.4.18
2.	COMPANY MOVEMENT ORDER No.3
3.	C.R.E. ORDER No.71/173/17 re MINING of ROADS (Sketches attached, original & duplicate only).
4.	AREA MAP (Attached to original only).
5.	C.R.E., ENGINEER INSTRUCTIONS for OPERATIONS of 10.4.18
6.	COMPANY OPERATION ORDER No.1918/1/3.
7.	8TH BRIGADE ORDER No.173 & AMENDMENTS.
8.	C.R.E. MEMO of 10.4.18 re OFFENSIVE OPERATION.
9.	C.R.E. ORDER No.83/21/37 re DUMMY BRIDGES.
10.	SECTION VI of 8TH BRIGADE DEFENCE SCHEME
11.	C.R.E. WIRE No. LM 27.
12.	8TH BRIGADE ORDER No.174 & AMENDMENTS.
13.	8TH BRIGADE WORKING PARTY TABLE No.2.
14.	C.R.E. WIRE No.648.
15.	C.R.E. ORDER of 29.4.18 re RELIEF.
16.	COMPANY MOVEMENT ORDER of 29.4.18.
17.	OBSERVATIONS on HUN ATTACK of 24.4.18.
18.	WORKS REPORTS, PERIOD 8.4.18 to 30.4.18.
19.	TRANSPORT NOTES.
20.	Q.M.S' NOTES.
21.	GRAPH SHEWING STRENGTH of COMPANY.

*Harold Cummins*  
- master.

APPENDIX I

TRAINING CARRIED OUT 4. 4. 18.

N°1 SECTION

GAS INSPECTION.  
RIFLE EXERCISE  
BOLT DRILL.  
LECTURE ON EXPLODER.  
BAYONET EXERCISES.

N°2 SECTION

GAS INSPECTION.  
RIFLE EXERCISE  
BOLT DRILL.  
LECTURE ON EXPLODER  
DEMONSTRATION OF USE OF  
EXPLODER.

N°3 SECTION

GAS INSPECTION.  
RIFLE EXERCISE  
BOLT DRILL.  
LECTURE ON DEMOLITIONS.  
BAYONET FIGHTING.

N°4 SECTION

GAS INSPECTION.  
BOLT DRILL.  
LECTURE ON S.P.S.  
RECONNAISSANCE OF LEAL VILLERS  
FOR WATER SUPPLY.

DRIVERS GAS INSPECTION  
BOLT DRILL.  
CLEANING HARNESS.

LEWIS GUN is mounted and all sappers are being  
'put through' its use.

*Harold Greenway*  
Major.

OC. 15 FC. AE.

4. 4. 18.

15<sup>th</sup> F. C. AE

APPENDIX 2

MOVEMENT ORDER

MAP REF 62 D. 1/40000

1. Company will move from present billets at  
BLANGY-TRONVILLE to billets at LANDEVILLE.
2. LT HARDINGE with NO 3 section will proceed at 8 am <sup>7/4/18</sup>  
to LANDEVILLE and arrange billets for Company.  
An selection of billets two cyclists will be despatched  
to Coy HQ SMC BLANGY-TRONVILLE to act as guides.
3. Remainder of Company will move off at 2 p.m.  
to billets selected guided by guides of para. 2.

6.4.18.Harold Greenway Major.



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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS, 5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

O. C.

APPENDIX 3

15th Field Company.

You will prepare roads for demolition at following points -

- Sheet 62 D - 0.18.b.5.3 (cross roads)
- 0.10.d.6.8
- 0.11.a.5.1 (cross roads)

The explosive available will be 'BLASTINE' and the charge used will be 150 lbs at a depth of 12 feet.

Explosive should be available on 7/4/18 at Divisional R.E. Dump, AUBIGNY, but you will be notified later of that.

Charges will be laid but not fired.

Pioneers will take over when completed for the purpose of picketing and firing if necessary. That will be arranged by this office when you report O.K.

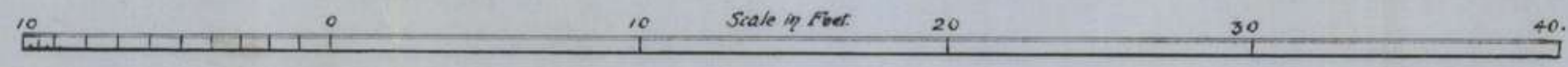
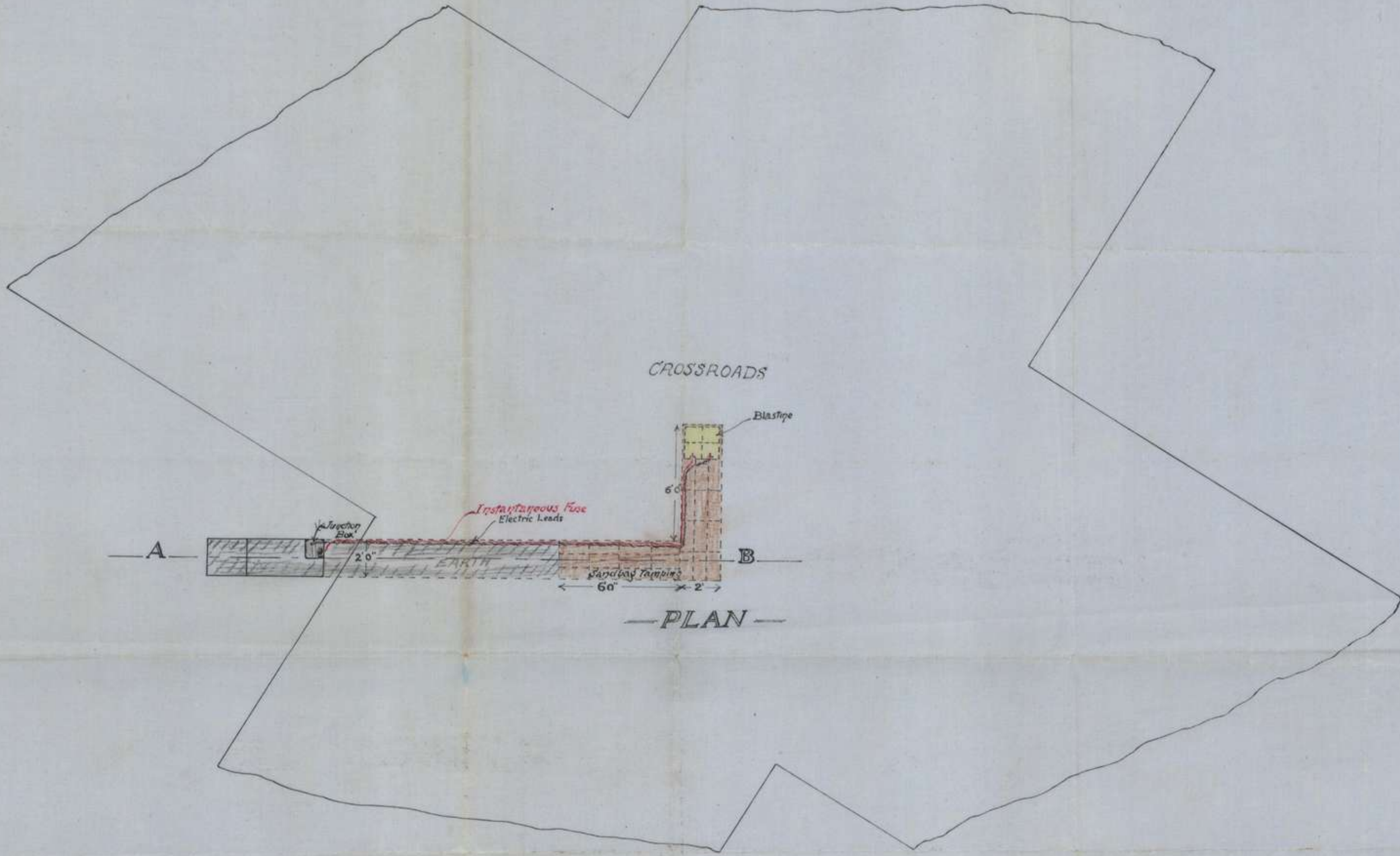
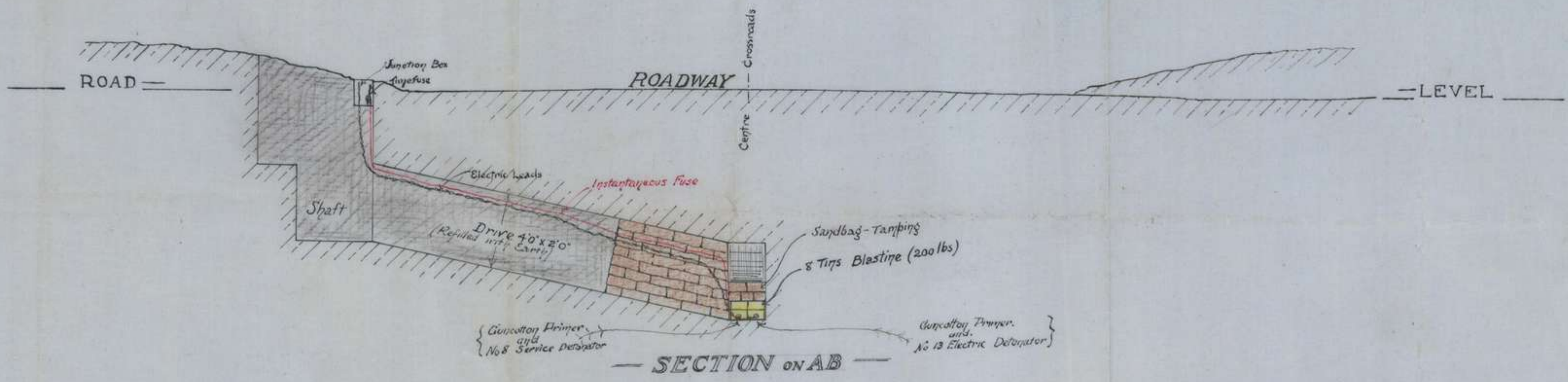
O. R. E.,  
 5th AUSTRALIAN  
 DIVISION.  
 No. 71/173/14  
 7/4/18  
 Date

*Almaugh*  
 Lieut-Col. A.E.  
 C.R.E.  
 5th Australian Division..



# MINED CROSSROADS.

253.



15<sup>th</sup> FIELD COMPANY A.E.  
PART PLAN FRAME 62<sup>d</sup> ENLARGED. SCALE 1:10,000.



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APPENDIX

5 18

5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

APPENDIX 5 SECRET

ENGINEER INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATION OF /4/18..

BRIDGES - The 15th Field Company, A.E. will construct a Medium Pontoon Bridge at J.26.c.0.3 to be complete by 8 p.m. on 10/4/18, and will police the bridge to ensure legitimate traffic over it for the period of the operations. One spare pontoon floored with T. & G. Timber will be moored on the upstream side, and will be available for transporting Field Gun ammunition upstream, if required by the C.R.A.

*A. E. Mather*

Lieut-Col. A.E.  
C.R.E.

5th Australian Division.

10/4/1918

Copies to - ~~14th Field Co.~~  
15th Field Co.  
~~5th Aust. Pioneer Bn.~~



OPERATION ORDER. 1918/1/1. MAP REF 62D  
/topoo

1. 5<sup>th</sup> AIDY is carrying out an offensive operation to capture HAMEL Bois Des ARQUES Bois Des TAILLOUX through P 28 central P 33 central + P 32 c. o. o. Date & time to be notified later
2. ISFCAR are responsible for the guarding of Pioneer parties to SPS D, E, F, G, H, at these points and supplying technical supervision in the digging of them.
3. The locations of these SPS are approximately as follows but full advantage must be taken of the ground  
SP D at P 22 c. 5. 8

SP E at P 16 c. 3. 3.  
F at P 17 a. 4. 0.  
G at P 16 b. 6. 4.  
H at P 11 a. 6. 6.

4. 2/LT RHARDINGE will be responsible for

SPs D and E and

2/LT WKMARNIE will be responsible for

SPs F, G, & H.

5. Two sappers will be detailed to

assist the PIONEERS at each S.P.

6. A Coy 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS will detail 10/11

25 OR for SPS F, G & H

B Coy 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS will detail 10/11 and

25 OR for SPS D & E.

7. Parties will arrange for to be at

ASSEMBLY POINT about P 7 a. one hour

before ZERO PIONEERS will carry tools  
necessary.

8. 2/L<sup>ieut</sup> MARNIE HARDINGE will meet representatives  
of A-B Coy 5<sup>th</sup> PIONEERS at AUBIGNY 5pm  
to 4.18 to arrange all necessary  
details.

9. S.P.s will be of the COMPANY TYPE  
viz 2 firebars on parallel 24ft  
long each separated by a 12x12 transverse  
and a flanking bar at 45° at each  
flank 24' long. Working will not be  
commenced till nightfall.

10. The SP parties will go forward 15  
minutes after the INFANTRY have gained

their objective.

11. Engineers are entirely responsible for  
location & construction of S.P.s. PIONEERS for  
digging only.

12. Parties will not be relieved until work  
is complete and reported to BDE HQ @ 00  
that that is so.

13. ~~of the INFANTRY~~ COMPANY OFFICERS will  
report to OC COMPANY by runner as to  
progress of work, particular attention being  
paid to the first report that parties have  
reached the S.P.s and are digging at the  
sites selected.

14. L<sup>ieut</sup> C. OLIVER M.C. will throw pontoon  
bridge over the R. SOMME at VAIRE at

J26 C.O. 3. on the 10<sup>th</sup> west work to  
be completed before 8pm 10<sup>th</sup> west.  
Completion to be reported to OC Coy.

15. LT AT EWART M.C. will meet 1st and  
4th COS from each assaulting battalion  
at 9pm 10<sup>th</sup> west to tape out BDE  
ASSAULT ASSEMBLY LINE P8 C 5.0  
Kno' P3 central to J34 C 5.7. head  
ASSAULT is normal to this assembly line.

16. CAPT S. E EVANS M.C. will widen the  
fow paths on the N. bank of the R. Somme  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> west at O6a.7.5. in order  
that Ammunition may have a turning  
place.

17. 2/Lt W.C. GILBERT will arrange the  
formation of forward working material  
dumps at O12. b. q. 3. & O12 b. q. 6  
He will also be responsible for engineering  
supplies HAMELET forward.

18. CAPT SKEELARS M.C. will arrange  
supplies of RE STORES Au BIGNY to  
HAMELET.

19. <sup>ADVANCED</sup> Coy HQ Cos will close at LANDEVILLE  
reperat O5 C 5.7 at time  
to be notified later. Rear Coy HQ Cos  
will remain at LANDEVILLE.

20. All ranks are to be instructed in  
the particular duties assigned to them

Sections so that in event of casualties work  
will be carried on in the usual way.

James Chamberlain  
Major

10.4.18.

OC 157th A.E.





SECRET.

Copy No. 7...

8th Australian Infantry Brigade

Order No. 173

Reference Sheet 62 D  
1/40,000

Headquarters  
10th April 1918.

1. With reference to the plan of operations issued to those concerned assuming that the scheme to be carried out by 8th A.I. Bde in conjunction with 14th A.I. Bde is the RED Scheme, the following orders for the capture of the RED OBJECTIVE are issued so that units may make necessary arrangements.

- 1.(i) The attack will be carried out by the 8th Aust. Div. on or about April 11th. 58th Div. on the right may co-operate by advancing to the RED dotted line. 3rd Aust. Div. on left has been asked to render fire assistance and also to make a demonstration in addition thereto.  
(ii) The 14th A.I. Bde will be on the right, 8th A.I. Bde on the left and 15th A.I. Bde in reserve.  
(iii) on the right of 14th A.I. Bde <sup>is</sup> 175th Bde of 58th Div. and on the left of 8th A.I. Bde is 11th A.I. Bde of 3rd Aust. Div.

2. OBJECTIVES.

(a) The advance to the RED objective is to be carried out in one stage. The general line of the RED objective is shown on the map issued herewith.

The RED objective includes the capture of

BOIS DE VAIRE  
BOIS DE HAMEL  
BOIS DE ACOROCHE  
BOIS DE TAILLOUX  
BOIS DE ACQUIARE  
VILLAGE OF HAMEL.

and wood known locally as the FLAT IRON Wood in P 5 c & d

(b) Troops will consolidate on the RED line under cover of protective detachments which will be pushed out when the objective is gained.

(c) S.O.S. lines East of the RED objective will be marked by smoke shell.

- 3.(i) The Bde will attack on a three Bn frontage; 32nd Bn on right, 30th Bn centre, 31st Bn left; 29th Bn in reserve.

Formations to be adopted have been issued to Unit Commanders concerned. Objectives, boundaries and direction are shown on the map issued herewith.

(ii) The C.C. 8th L.T. Batt. will allot 2 guns to each Bn to come under the orders of Bn Commanders in the attack.

4. FLANKS. The 32nd Bn will detail parties to establish connection with flank units at the following points between 8th and 14th Bdes :-  
P 14 b 4 0 - P 15 c 0 5 - P 15 c 2 3 - P 21 d 84 90 -  
RED LINE P 23 b 40 32.

Between 8th and 11th Bdes, the 31st Bn will detail parties to establish connection at P 5 b 5 5.

5. ASSEMBLY POSITIONS.

(a) The assembly position will be reconnoitred in advance and a tape line laid out on the night preceding attack both laterally on which the troops will form up and forward to give the right direction at the start. 30th, 31st and 32nd Bns will each detail 1 Officer and 4 NCOs for this work to act in conjunction with 15th Field Coy A.E. as already detailed. The line at which the leading waves will form up will be approximately as shown on the attached map.

(b) The routes which will be used for bringing up the assaulting Bns to the assembly positions will be selected and marked under Bde arrangements. 1 Officer and 4 N.C.Os per Bn will be detailed to reconnoitre routes and arrangements for marking them will be made by the Bde with 15th Field Coy A.E.

(c) All assaulting troops will be in their assembly position 45 minutes before ZERO.

6. ARTILLERY.

(a) The plan showing the allotment of artillery has been issued separately.

(b) Barrage fire will not be used for this operation. Prior to the attack the ordinary bursts of fire as laid down for the artillery programme for foggy weather will be fired and during these bursts of fire the "WHIPPET" tanks will be moved into position. A burst of fire will take place at ZERO hour. Subsequently the method of artillery support will be as laid down for open warfare. Batteries will be controlled by observed fire and pushed up into close support of the infantry but in case the visibility is obscured arrangements to support the attack are being made.

(c) H.A. support will be arranged by C.R.A. 5th Aust. Div. The probable barrage line of the H.A. will be AUBERCOURT - MARCELOUVRE - WARFUSKE - ABANCOURT - LANOTTE - EN-SANTERRE, thence along the valley N.E. of WARFUSKE-ABANCOURT to CERISY GAILLY.

7. 8 "WHIPPET" tanks will be employed to follow the infantry and mop up strong points, woods, villages. Details as to their action during the action will be issued separately.

8. MACHINE GUNS.

O.C. M.G. Bn in conjunction with Brigade Commander will issue separate instructions for the employment of M.G. Bn.

9. STRONG POINTS.

S.P.'s will be constructed under arrangements of 8th A.I. Bde as under

"D"	at	P 22 c 54 80
"K"	"	P 16 c 8 3
"F"	"	P 17 a 4 0
"G"	"	P 16 b 6 4
"H"	"	P 11 a 6 6

The Strong Points will be dug by the Pioneers under the supervision of Officers of the 15th Field Coy A.I. Pioneers will advance a quarter of an hour after the objective is gained and the points will be then dug, but will not be wired until night.

R.E. dump is at HAMELET, opposite the CHURCH O 6 d 7 9. A pontoon bridge is being swung into position at J 26 c 0 3 tonight by 8 p.m.

10. CONTACT AEROPLANES.

(a) The hours at which contact aeroplanes of the 3rd Squadron A.F.C. will be in the air will be notified later.

(b) Leading infantry will be ready to light RED flares in bunches of 3 at 25 yards distance at hours which will be notified later or as soon as aeroplane calls for flares by medium of klaxon horn or by firing white very lights.

(c) The special distinguishing mark for contact aeroplanes will be notified later.

11. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Details of signal communications showing methods will be issued later.

12. H.Q. & REPORTS.

(a) Headquarters will be established as under:-

D.H.Q.	TRONVILLE CHATEAU	N 21 a 9 3
8th A.I. Bde H.Q.		O 5 c 4 6
14th A.I. Bde H.Q.		O 17 c 3 5 QUARRIES
15th A.I. Bde H.Q.		O 13 d central

(b) Instructions with regard to reports will be issued later.

13. Detailed Administrative arrangements have been issued.

14. SYNCHRONISING WATCHES. Watches to be synchronised under instructions to be issued separately.

15. A.A. DEFENCE. Special arrangements will be made by Bde Commander for dealing with low flying aircraft.

16. ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

*[Signature]*  
 Capt. 373  
 Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

25-

APPENDIX

7

253

Issued at 5.30 p.m.

29th Batt. lion	Copy No. 1
30th "	2
31st "	3
32nd "	4
8th L.T...B.	5
5th L.C.Bn	6
15th Field Coy A.M.	7
5th pioneer Bn	8
13th F.A. Brigade	9
14th F.A. Brigade	10
5th Aust. Div	11
R.G.C. 8th A.I.Bde	12
Staff Captain	13
14th A.I.Bde	14
15th A.I.Bde	15
11th A.I.Bde	16
No.2 Sig. Section	17
A.D...S. 5th Aust. Div	18
Bde R.C.	19
Bde Gas Officer	20
War Diary	21/23
File	24.

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 173 is Cancelled.

*J. M. Down*  
Captain,  
Brigade Major, 8th Inf Brigade

10/4/18

Issued to all recipients  
of Brigade Order No. 173.



4553  
4552  
4551

C. R. E.,  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISION.

APPENDIX 8

No. 1/1.9/18

~~SECRET~~

OC. ~~1/1.9/18~~ 15-11  
15-11

- ① All offensive is cancelled, as far as this Division is concerned, indefinitely.
- ② I am consulting with General tonight on present policy which is (naturally in view of ①) defensive, and will issue instructions when policy is laid down as to how we will cooperate with the Infantry.
- ③ In the meantime you can assume that great efforts must be concentrated in strengthening the Div. Res Line, by digging more S.P.'s, improving those now dug, and wiring the whole line of posts. Please act in accordance with this till further instructions.

10/7/18

Thomas Hol  
CRE 5 A.D.



APPENDIX 9

am 13

SECRET

Headquarters 5th. Australian Divisional Engineers C.R.E.,

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. 83/21/37

- O.C., 14th. Field Co.
  - 15th. Field Co.
  - 8th. Field Co. (for information).
- 

The 14th. and 15th. Field Companies will erect at once, dummy bridges consisting of a strip of hessian 12 feet wide, suspended in a horizontal plane, across the SOMME at sufficient height to allow tow path traffic.

The 14th. Field Company will take the strip of River from O.5.c.4.7. to N.17.c.7.4. and the 15th. from O.5.c.4.7. towards front line.

Sites should be chosen (and this Office notified when dummies are in position) which would NOT be suitable for actual bridges.

The object is to endeavour to deceive the enemy on his Aero-plane Photos so as to draw fire from actual bridges.

About 4 should be erected by each Company concerned.

*W. Mather* Lieut.-Col., A.E.,  
C.R.E., 5th. Australian Division, ...

12.4.18.



*9/10*  
SECRET.

Herewith SECTION VI of 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Defence Scheme.  
Distribution will be as under.

Please ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Signature]*  
Captain,  
Bde. Major, 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

29th Bn.  
30th Bn. 15th Fld Coy.  
31st Bn. 13th Bde. A.F.A.  
32nd Bn. 14th Bde. A.F.A.  
8th L.F.E.B. 290th Bde. R.F.A.  
5th M.G. Bn. No. 2 Sig. Section  
5th Aust. Div. A.D.C.  
14th A.I. Bde. Staff Captain,  
15th A.I. Bde. War Diary  
11th A.I. Bde. File.

*Acknowledged 9/25/41*  
*[Signature]*



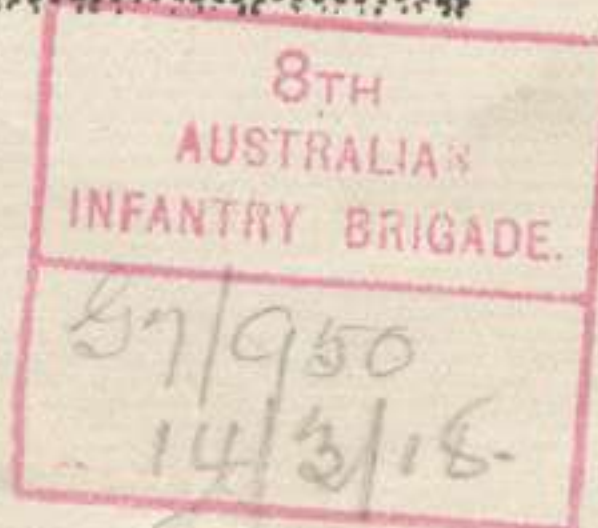
## SECTION VI.

\*\*\*\*\*

Works Policy.

1. The Battalions in the line are responsible for the organization preparation and maintenance of the Outpost System of the Forward Zone and the policy to be followed aims at making the positions safe and tenable, by wiring with low apron wire, construction of new defensive positions, providing accommodation for the garrison thereof and construction of Company and Battalion Headquarters.
2. All work will be carried out under the supervision of 15th Field Coy A.E. and in furtherance of this 1 Officer from this Coy is attached to each Battalion in the line for the purpose of giving advice and superintending technical work. The Battalion Works Officer will work directly in conjunction with the Engineer Officer, and is responsible for allotment of tasks and arrangements for all working and carrying parties.
3. Main forward R.E. dump is situated at CHURCH in HAMELET. Battalions arrange direct with Engineer Officer attached to draw what material they require from these dumps.

\*\*\*\*\*





MESSAGE

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Sent		
.....		At.....m.		.....
.....		To.....		.....
.....		By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO { 15 F. C. A. E. APPENDIX 11

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* <u>LM.27.</u>	<u>20</u>	—	

You will take over all work as far north as new divisional northern boundary now being done by 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Field Coy's a a a  
 Also you will take on the work at 8 Bde HQ's deep dugouts. a a a  
 Reliefs to be complete by 9 am on 21<sup>st</sup> Inst. a a a I will afterwards arrange that either Peoniers or Tunnellers again relieve you of guarding bridges and work on dugouts after we join our own Coys. a a a Tunnellers may not be available as the 257 Coy remains with III Corps only.

From: CRE  
 Place: 5 A. D.  
 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]  
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pals. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187)



SECRETAMENDMENT No.1 TO 8TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No.174

For para.2 (d) read

2.

(d) The boundary between 8th and 14th Aust. Inf. Bdes will be as follows:-

P.8.b.3.G. to O/b.c.7.7, then West along Southern bank of Canal (inclusive to 8th Infantry Brigade) to O.10.a.O.9. Chateau at O 5 c 5 6 is inclusive to 14th Infantry Brigade.

19/4/18

F.A.WISDOM Capt.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued to all recipients of 8th A.I. Bde Order No. 174.



253

APPENDIX

1200

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

Prefix..... Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent			.....Service.
<b>COPY</b>	At.....m.			From.....
	To.....			By.....
	By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { **15th Field Coy. A.E.**

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
* <b>G.51</b>	<b>20th</b>		

**Ref. Bde. Order No. 174 para 1. line 6 aaa**

**For J.34.c.7.0. read J.24.c.7.0.**

From **8th A.I. Bde**

Place

Time

*The above may be forwarded as now corrected.* **(Z)** **Sgd. F.A. WISDOM**

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\*This line should be erased if not required.

(18965.) Wt. W12952/M1294. 187,500 Pads. 1/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E. 818.)



COPY

29th Bn.  
 30th "  
 31st "  
 32nd "  
 8th L.T.M.B.  
 5th M.G. BM.)  
 15th Fld.Coy)

SECRETWARNING ORDER

The following reliefs will take place on the night 21/22nd April.

(i) 32nd Bn. will be relieved by units of 14th A.I. Bde as follows-  
 Right Line Coy. by Coy. of 54th Bn.

Left Line Coy., Support and Reserve Coys by Coys of 53rd Bn.  
 32nd Bn. will move to billets in CORBIE vacated by 29th Bn.

(ii) The right line Coy. of 30th Bn. will be relieved by Coy. of 53rd Bn. Relieved troops of 30th Bn. will move into VILLERS LINE.

(iii) 29th Bn. will relieve a Bn. of 11th A.I. Bde. with frontage RIVER SOMME to J 24 c 7 O.

(iiii) T.M.s of 8th L.T.M. Battery at P 8 c 5 8 & P 8 a 5 0 will be relieved by 14th A.I. Bde. Personnel and guns relieved will move to Battery H. Qrs.

19/4/18

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain  
 Brigade Major, 8th Inf. Bde.



253  
SECRET

8th Australian Infantry Brigade

Copy No. 17

Order No. 174.

APPENDIX 12

Reference Map  
62d 1/40,000

Headquarters  
19th April 1918.

1. Consequent upon the Southern boundary of III and Aust. Corps being adjusted to run from P 19 central Westwards along Grid line to N 24 a 0 0 along BLANGY TRONVILLE Road (inclusive to Aust. Corps) Railway at N 22 c 4 2, along Railway to N 24 a 6 9 and the Northern boundary between 5th and 3rd Aust. Divisions to run from J 24 c 7 0 Westwards along Grid line, there will be a re-arrangement of frontages of 8th, 14th and 11th A.I. Brigades.
2. (a) 14th A.I. Bde are taking over 8th A.I. Bde front as far North as P 8 b 5 0 on the night 21/22nd Inst.  
(b) 8th A.I. Bde will take over 11th A.I. Bde front as far North as J 24 c 7 0 on the night 21/22nd Inst. and the Reserve area J 27 a on night 22nd/23rd Inst.  
(c) Reliefs and moves will be made in accordance with attached Table  
(d) The boundary between 8th and 14th A.I. Bdes will be from P 8 b 5 0 to P 8 a 0 5 thence on an east and west line.
3. All maps, aeroplane photographs, S.O.S. signals, gas appliances will be handed over and taken over respectively and receipts forwarded to Bde H.Qrs.
4. No movement of troops will take place before 8.15 p.m. Precautions against hostile aircraft will be observed.
5. Units being relieved will arrange to have strong covering parties out on the front of their sectors until relief is complete.
6. Subject to the terms of this order details of relief will be arranged between C.O's concerned.
7. Completion of relief will be wired to Brigade H.Qrs at RED CHATEAU 0 5 c 5 6 by priority code wire.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Madon*

Capt.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at	p.m.			
29th Battalion		Copy No. 1	14th A.I. Bde	Copy No. 12
30th	"	2	15th A.I. Bde	13
31st	"	3	11th A.I. Bde	14
32nd	"	4	13th Bde A.F.A.	15
5th L.T.M. Batt.		5	14th Bde A.F.A.	16
5th Machine Gun Bn		6	290th Bde R.F.A.	17
15th Field Coy A.E.		7	Area Commandant CORBIE	18
No. 2 Sig. Section		8	18th Coy A.A.S.C.	19
B.G.C. 8th A.I. Bde		9	War Diary	20/22
Staff Captain		10	File	23.
5th Aust. Div.		11		

P.T.O

MOVE TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No.174

Date	Unit	From	Moves. To	Relieved by	In relief of	Remarks.
Night 21/22nd April	32nd Bn	Line RIGHT	CORBIE	Right Line Coy by Coy 54th Bn Remainder of Bn by 53rd Bn		
ditto	Right line Coy of 30th Bn	Line CENTRE	VILLERS Line	Coy of 53rd Bn		
ditto	2 guns of 8th L.T.M.B.	Line RIGHT	Battery H. Qrs			
ditto	29th Bn	CORBIE	Line LEFT Advance parties will move into line night. 20/21st April	44th Bn, 11th A.I.Bde		Bn H.Q. J 28 a 7 8. Dispositions 1 Coy OUT- POST LINE, 2 Coys MAIN LINE, 1 Coy SUPPORT. All details of relief to be arranged by C.O's concerned.
Night 22/ 23rd April	32nd Bn	CORBIE	Reserve Area J 27 a	41st Bn 11th A.I.Bde		Bn H.Q. J 21 c 4 3 Advance parties to go forward 10 am 22nd Inst. Movement by day not more than parties of 2 at 100 paces interval.
ditto	2 guns 8th LTMB	Battery H. Q.	LINE LEFT	2 guns 11th LTMB		

APPENDIX 12



15th Australian Infantry Brigade  
BRIGADE TACTICAL WORKING PARTY TABLE NO 2.

Dated 20.4.19

Brigade Serial No.	Unit Supplying	STRENGTH Offs.	O.R.	Nature of duty	Report to	Rendezvous	Time & Date	Remarks.
1.	57th Bn.	4	200	Work on AUBURNY LINE.	Lieut. PATON 8th Fd. Co. A.E.	Rendezvous "A" O.20.b.5.4.	6 a.m. daily	Tools supplied by 57th Bn. 50 per cent picks and shovels.
2.	57th Bn.	4	200	-do-	-do-	-do-	7-5.30 p.m. daily	-do-
3.	58th Bn.	4	200	-do-	Lieut. DUNS 8th F. Co. A.E.	Rendezvous "B" O.8.c.9.7.	6 a.m. daily	Tools supplied by 58th Bn. 50 per cent picks and shovels.
4.	58th Bn.	4	200	-do-	-do-	-do-	5.30 p.m. daily	-do-
5.	59th Bn.	2	100	Work on Reserve Line Forward zone.	Off. of 14th F. Co. A.E.	14th F. Co. H.Q. O.8.b.5.5.	6.30 p.m. daily	Each man to carry a shovel.
6.	59th Bn.	2	100	-do-	-do-	-do-	7 p.m. daily	-do-
7.	59th Bn.	2	100	-do-	-do-	Road Fork O.25.e.5.4.	6.30 p.m. daily	-do-
8.	59th Bn.	2	100	-do-	-do-	-do-	7 p.m. daily	-do-
9.	60th Bn.	2	100	-do-	Lieut. HARRIS 15th F. Co. A.E.	HAMELET SHRINE P.1.A.5.6.	8.30 p.m. daily	-
10.	60th Bn.	2	100	-do-	Lt. HARDINGE 15th F. Co. A.E.	HAMELET GEMETRY P.1.G.1.2.	8.30 p.m. daily.	-

APPENDIX

13  
2019



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11.	60th Bn.	2	100	Work on Reserve Line Forward Zone	Lt. EWART 15th F. Co. A.E.	FOUILLOX CHURCH O. 10. b. 4. 7.	8.30 p.m. daily
12.	60th Bn.	2	100	-do-	Lt. OLIVER 15th Field Co. A.E.	-do-	8 a.m. daily

- (a) All previous Tables are hereby cancelled.
- (b) 15th A.L.F.M.B. will work as a Special wiring party under direct orders of 8th Field Co. A.E.
- (c) Serials 1 - 4 must report a minimum strength of 200 men. Any surplus men will be employed on AUBIGNY LINE in Battalion Sectors as Battalion Commanders may direct. Every man will be employed.
- (d) Four hour tasks will be set.
- (e) Parties for Reserve System of forward zone will report to strength. Any shortage will be at once reported to Brigade Headquarters.
- (f) This table will take effect from 21st inst.

*G. J. Goller*

Captain.  
A/Brigade Major.  
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution:-  
57th Battalion  
58th Battalion  
59th Battalion  
60th Battalion  
15th A.L.F.M.B.

Copies to:-  
5th Aust. Div.  
C.R.E. 5th Aust. Div.  
8th Field Co. A.E.  
14th Field Co. A.E.  
15th Field Co. A.E.  
Staff Captain.  
File.  
War Diary.

APPENDIX 13

58



953

APPENDIX 14 39

"A" FORM. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 4141. (In pads of 100.)

Prefix.....	Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	No of Message.....	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				This message is on a/c of:	
<i>Confidential</i>				Reed. at ..... m.	
				Date.....	
Sent				Service.	
At..... m.				From.....	
To.....				By.....	
By.....				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { *OC 3rd Field Coy* *APPENDIX 14*

Sender's Number. *154* Day of Month. *24* In reply to Number. *AAA*

*N648*

Situation stands as far as can be ascertained as follows. The *Barracks* hold *Villers Bretonneux* line (our) runs *P19 033 43* All bridging material is to be in wagons & ready to move and Companies are to be ready to carry out any necessary work & are to stand by for orders. Two runners are to be sent to this office from each Coy.

From *CRE*

Place *5th Aust Div*

Time *10 35 AM*

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required. (3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 630,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)



253

HEADQUARTERS, 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

SECRET

APPENDIX 15

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS INSTRUCTION No.2

1. The 8th and 15th Field Companies will relieve each other on 1st proximo; the 8th Field Company taking over 15th Field Company billets and transport lines and vice versa.  
Relief is to be complete by 9.0 a.m. on 1st proximo.
2. Os. C. Companies will arrange mutually all details of relief. No break in the continuity of work is to occur.

29th April 1918

Sgd L.F.S.Mather. Lt-Col.A.E.  
C.RE.  
5th Australian Division;

Addressed 8th Field Co.  
15th Field Co. ✓  
Copies to 14th Field Co.  
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
15th " " "



753

15FC. AE

APPENDIX 6

MOVEMENT ORDER

MAR-REF. 62.D. 1/40000

1. Companies will move from present billets at LANEUVILLE to billets vacated by 8<sup>th</sup> F.C. AE at DAOURS 0. 1. a. 3. 6.
2. 8<sup>th</sup> F.C. will take over billets vacated by 15FC at LANEUVILLE.
3. 8<sup>th</sup> F.C. AE to rehearse 15FC AE on evening 30/1<sup>st</sup>. Officers in charge of sectors of the line will personally guide officers rehearsing log over their sectors.
4. 8<sup>th</sup> F.C. AE are sending N.C.O.s men to take over work on evening of 30/1<sup>st</sup> but N.C.O.s men of 15FC AE will carry on usual night duties on that evening. The

753

changing personnel of SPC AE not being responsible

for work till 9 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> prox.

5<sup>th</sup> ISF.C AE will take over all work handled by

3<sup>rd</sup> FC AE.

Lt MARNIE (N<sup>o</sup> 1 section) will be responsible for  
deep dugouts 59<sup>th</sup> & 60<sup>th</sup> Bata Hdqrs.

Lt GILBERT (N<sup>o</sup> 4 section) will be responsible for  
right sector (57<sup>th</sup> Bata) of AUBIGNY LINE.

Lt EWART (N<sup>o</sup> 2 section) will be responsible for  
left sector (55<sup>th</sup> Bata) of AUBIGNY LINE.

Lt HARDINGE (N<sup>o</sup> 3 section) will be responsible for  
water supply bridges etc.

6<sup>th</sup> Lt MIDDLETON & GIBB will proceed to DOURS and

arrange billeting for Company at present SPC

billets.

29. 4. 18.

David Green Major

OBSERVATIONS ON RECENT Heavy  
ATTACK 24. 4. 18.

The enemy commenced their preparation by throwing a heavy gas shell barrage (YELLOW CROSSES) on the valley of the R. Somme considerably N. of the actual objective with the idea apparently of creating the impression that by making communication difficult in a given sector they would attack in that sector. Shelling of approaches was carried on during the night.

at 3.45 am 24. 4. 18 heavy bombardment became general, attempts were made to neutralise batteries with gas shells (BLUE CROSSES). Accurate fire was maintained on all approaches - exits (bottle-necks) round  
CORDIE AUBIGNY <sup>LANEVILLE</sup> FOUVILLOY. It was noticed that even minor bridges & emergency tracks were accurately shelled. This was very deliberate & must have been undertaken carefully, in one case a minor bridge at a factory in LANEVILLE was even

shelled. HE + gas <sup>shells</sup> mixed were principally used. This fire was extremely accurate.

A minor raid was made on the front of the area which had been gas shelled the previous afternoon. The bombardment lasted about 2 1/2 hours when the assault ended by three tanks was launched to the right of this position who immediately threw out a defensive flank.

Throughout the day shelling was

maintained as approaches monitored all bridges were shelled at intervals.

From the supper tank, now it would seem very worth while when operations available of this sort take place to have a track and bridge site carefully reconnoitred beforehand and directly the situation requires it, an emergency bridge should be thrown + traffic diverted to this. This <sup>route</sup> site should never be used beforehand it is important to not have the bridge

under before hand. Careful policing  
 of traffic through the new route  
 provided should be provided. As  
 regards the sapper work the only possible  
 thing to do was to keep the men fresh &  
 well fed & undisturbed by the battle  
 it is essential that an emergency position  
 not likely to be shelled or gassed should be  
 reconnoitred so that the sappers could  
 in emergency be moved to it. Transport

had to be cleared from the line.

Emergency tracks to & from the line  
 should be readily chosen and staked  
 out but not used [directly used  
 the tracks marked], whatever required was  
 so NEW ROUTES unknown to the enemy.  
 These tracks should be chosen marked  
 staked & fenced properly to prevent use  
 until required.

In this attack these operations

supplies were kept fresh ready  
for eventualities they were not required but  
were available.

It is to be carefully remarked the  
length of time the gas layed in the  
River valley. It would seem from the  
experience gained that the Somme  
valley could be blocked almost perfectly  
by gas. If the valleys were blocked  
by gas then the ridges would only require  
to be defended particularly if proper

gas ditching; took place.

To prevent the actual working down  
of battle headquarters by location of buried  
cables. Trenches thrown out by means  
of push piping off the main routes would  
possibly help.

Howard Green  
26. 11. 16. CC. 157C. AC.



(I) WORKS REPORT For Period 8/4/18 to 19/4/18

SUBJECT	LOCATION	PROGRESS OF WORK	STATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
<u>FRONT LINE</u>				
WIRING	Left Bn. Front	550 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected 289 " SINGLE " " "		
	Right Bn. Front	Now wired to an average depth of 10ft right across front low wire entanglement		
	Centre Bn. Front	DOUBLE APRON FENCE across front requires 300 yards to complete		
SPLINTER PROOF SHELTER	P8a.0.I.	SPLINTER PROOF Bn. Command post	Complete	
<u>SUPPORT LINE</u>				
STRONG POINTS	P2c.2.5. P2c.1.1 & P7b.8.8.	3 Strong Points for Centre Bn.	Complete	
	Splinter Proof Shelters P7b.5.3.	2 SPLINTER PROOF SHELTERS erected for BATTLE POSTS	Complete	
<u>RESERVE LINE</u>				
WIRING	in J.3I.a	50 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected		
	" J.3I.c	700 " " " " "		
	" J.3I.d	200 " " " " "		
	" P.I.a	1000 " " " " "		
	" P.I.b	100 " " " " "		
	" P.I.c	750 " " " " "		
	" P.7.a	850 " " " " "		
	" P.7.c	300 " " " " "		
TRAVERSED TRENCH	In J.3I.c	400 yards TRAVERSED TRENCH dug 3ft9"		
	" P.I.a	450 " " " " "		
	" P.I.c	450 " " " " "		
	" P.7.a	500 " " " " "		
	" P.7.c	500 " " " " "		
	" P.I3.a	100 " " " " "		
	" P.I8.a	200 " " " " "		
<u>SWITCH LINE</u>				
WIRING	in O.II.b	280 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected		
	" O.II.d	520 " " " " "		
TRAVERSED TRENCH	" O.II.b	513 yards TRAVERSED TRENCH dug 3ft9"		
	O.II.d	510 " " " " "		

2) WORKS REPORT For Period 8/4/18 to 19/4/18 Inc

SUBJECT	LOCATION	PROGRESS OF WORK	STATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
GENERAL GOUTS IN BARRY	P7.a.1.0.	R.A.P. Entrance drive 6ftx3ft driven and timbered 7ft. Chamber 7ftx6ft driven and timbered 9ft. Bn.H.Q. Entrance drive 6ftx3ft driven and timbered 6ft. Chamber 7ftx6ft driven and timbered 4ft. Signale. Entrance drive 6ftx3ft driven and timbered 6ft. Chamber 7ftx6ft driven and timbered 3ft. Personnel. Entrance drive 6ftx3ft driven and timbered 5ft.		
ROAD MINES	0.I8.b.5.3. 0.I0.d.5.8. 0.I0.d.6.8. 0.II.a.5.I.	MINE placed and TAMPED " " " " " " " " " " " "	Complete " " "	
R.E.DUMPS	0.6.d.7.9. 0.I2.b.9.3. & 0.I2.b.9.6.	Forward DUMP established (HAMLET) 2 DUMPS established; now being depleted.		
RIDGING	J26.c.0.3.	PONTOON BRIDGE 105ft THROWN over SOMME RIVER; now dismantled, stored and camouflaged. Later Pontoons returned to Companies.	Complete	
FOOT BRIDGES	0.5.c.9.2. & 0.5.c.9.I.	Two FOOT BRIDGES completed	Complete	
DUMMY BRIDGES	J32a.9.7. 1.36b.7.I. & 0.5d.9.9.	Three DUMMY BRIDGES erected	Complete	
SALVAGE	CANAL CORBIE	SALVAGE OF FRENCH MOTOR LORRY, 4 BARREL PIERS built under Lorry & Motor salvaged and handed over to FRENCH AUTHORITIES.	Complete	
Bde.H.Q.	1.35c.3.4.	No.1 Entrance driven 30ft & timbered No.2 " " 25ft " " No.3 " " 30ft " " Work handed over to 254th Tun.Co.R.E.		
BATHS	0.5c.3.9.	Baths repaired & handed over to 8th Aus.INF.BDE.		
TOWPATH	0.6a.7.5.	Turnout for Ambulances constructed on Towpath.	Complete	

## WORKS REPORT For Period 20/4/18 to 26/4/18

SUBJECT	LOCATION	PROGRESS OF WORK	STATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
<u>FRONT LINE</u> WIRING	Centre Bn. Front	600 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected 1020 " SINGLE " " " 300 " DOUBLE " DEFENSIVE wire erected BELT now complete across front & being thickened		
	Right Bn. Front	350 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected 200 " SINGLE " " " 200 " DOUBLE " DEFENSIVE wire erected CONCERTINA barb wire made for gaps in tactical and Defensive wire		
	J28a.2.6. to J27b.9.5.	174 yards Communication trench excavated		
<u>RESERVE</u> <u>LINE</u> Traversed Trench	Between S2 & S2 <sup>1/2</sup> S5 & S6 S6 & S7 S7 & S8 S5 & S6	88 yards of Trench excavated 952 " " " 40 " " " 235 " " " 140 " " developed to a width of 5ft and a depth of 5ft3"		
	Right of S8 Centre Bn. Front	80 yards of Trench developed Development of trench continued		
WIRING	Between S3 & S5 S4 & S6 S5 & S6	300 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected 900 " " " " " 350 " " " Tactical wire erected		
	in Front of S6	275 yards 3 wire fence Defensive wire erected		
	Left of S5 from S6 Northwards	375 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected 150 " " " " " 400 " DEFENSIVE 3 wire fence "		
	Between S5 & S6	3 gaps in wire cut between S5 & S6 and guide wires run from gaps to Reserve Line		
<u>SWITCH LINE</u> Traversed Trench Wiring		4 1/2 Firebays & 10 Traverses Excavated 50 yards DOUBLE APRON FENCE erected		
<u>GENERAL</u> DUGOUTS	J19c.4.4.	Bn.H.Q. Forward accomodation:- "A" drive 6ft6"x4ft driven 28ft, 8 Sets put in and side and back lathed "B" drive driven 21ft and 6 Sets put in and side and back lathed		

(2)		WORKS REPORT		
SUBJECT	LOCATION	PROGRESS OF WORK	STATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
Bn. H.Q.	J28a.7.8. R.A.P. P7;A.I.O.	"A" drive 6ft6"x4ft driven 27ft, 8 Sets put in and side and back lathed "B" drive 6ft6"x4ft driven 7ft. 8ft excavated for entrance. 3ft driven & 3 c.yds. chalk excavated R.A.P. driven 2ft 6" I Set put in and lagging fixed Bn.H.Q. driven 1ft. Signals " 2ft. Personnel " 2ft.		
BDE.H.Q.	1.35c.3.4.	"A" drive 6ft6"x4ft driven 6ft and 2 Sets put in "B" drive " " " 11' and 3 Sets put in "C" drive " " " 19ft and 5 Sets put in "D" drive " " " open cut 25ft, driven 5ft and 2 sets put in and back and side lathed "A", "B" & "C" drives side lathed for the whole length of drive. "a" Cubicle 7ft x 9ft complete "b" " 10ft x 10ft " Offset for "c" driven 5ft and 3ft of Cubicle driven and 2 Sets put in Offset for "d" driven 5ft and 2 Sets put in Offset for "e" driven 5ft and 4ft of Cubicle driven and 1 Set put in Offsets "c", "d" & "e" sidelathed 2 Latrines constructed and stream bridged to give access to same		
GAS DOORS	06b.8.I. 1.35c.3.4.	2 Gas doors completed 3 " " "		
BRIDGES				
Foot Bridge	05c.7.5.	Foot Bridge erected across Lagoon		
Dummy Bridges	J32a.9.7. & 1.36b.7.I.	Repairs to 2 Dummy Bridges where damaged by shell fire		
Hot Food Boxes		Hot Food Boxes for 8th Bde. 20 Containers 90% complete. Material salved for 50 containers		
Clearing Canal	0.6a.3.I.	Debris removed from Canal offtake		
Lowering Water Level	Somme Canal	Lowering level of water in SOMME Canal by sluices at Corbie Lock, level lowered 1ft 6".		
Salvage		All timber used in construction of dugouts salvaged		

(I) WORKS REPORT For Period 27/4/18 to 30/4/18

SUBJECT	LOCATION	PROGRESS OF WORK	STATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
<u>FRONT LINE</u> WIRING	Left Bn Front	3200 yards DOUBLE APRON fence on medium screw pickets erected up to date.		
	Centre Bn Front	500 yards DOUBLE APRON fence erected. Thickening of wire continued.		
	Right Bn Front	500 yards SINGLE APRON fence erected and thickening of wire continued.		
<u>RESERVE LINE</u>				
Traversed trench Wire	Centre Bn Sector "	Development of trench continued  Thickening of wire continued. Making Concertina barb wire for <del>gaps in tactical</del> gaps in tactical and defensive wire. 400 yards DOUBLE APRON defensive wire completed		
C.T. <u>GENERAL</u>	Left Bn Sector	345yds C.T. excavated in J28a & J28b		
Road trench	J33c.8.1.	Complete		
Obstacles	J34d.4.9.	"		
	J35a.4.4.	"		
	J35a.7.7.	"		
	P2b.5.7.	"		
	P2d.75.75.	"		
	P2d.5.1.	"		
<u>DUGOUTS</u>				
<del>J28xxx7x2.</del>	J28 a 7.8.	Bn.H.Q. 18ft 6" driven and 12 sets 8ftx6ft placed and backlathed		
	J22d 24.45.	3 cubic yards chalk excavated		
	J19c 4.4.	3ft 6" driven 4sets 8ftx6ft put in "A" drive driven 12ft 6" and 5 sets side and back lathed "B" drive driven 12ft6" and 5 sets side and back lathed		
Bde.H.Q.	I.35c 3.4.	"A" DRIVE (c) Cubicle 8ftx7ft close timbered and floored (d) Offset driven 5ft and cubicle completed (e) Cubicle 8ftx7ft completed "D" DRIVE open cut 26ft excavated 21ft6" driven and 5sets placed "B" DRIVE Bottom cleaned up and 10 Sets sidelathed.	Complete " "	
HOT FOOD BOXES		95 Hot Food Containers completed all timber salvaged		
Water Level	Somme Canal	Lowering level of water in Somme Canal by sluices at Corbie Lock Water lowered 2ft from original level		
BRIDGE	04.c.4.1.	Pontoon Bridge 90ft span consisting of 2 Weldon trestles & 3 pontoons erected. Trestles left standing and shore bays camouflaged 3 pontoons and 4 bays disassembled & stacked & camouflaged on N.Bank of river.		

## TRANSPORT NOTES - April 1918

The health of the horses during the month has been good and there have been no evacuations for sickness.

Two horses had to be shot, one on account of a broken leg caused by a kick and the other on account of wounds caused by shell fire.

The fodder throughout the month has been excellent; oats and hay having been requisitioned from civilian supplies in CORBIE for greater portion of time, instead of being drawn through A.S.C. The hay in particular, obtained from this source, was of very good quality.

The horses have also been grazed for a few hours each day whenever practicable.

All vehicles are in good order and shortly before the end of the month painting was commenced the intention being to repaint the whole of the boys' vehicles.

Pontoon equipment has been put into bridge across SOMME CANAL and handed over to 8<sup>th</sup> F.C. The 8<sup>th</sup> F.C.'s equipment which is also in a bridge across the SOMME has been taken over.

Throughout the month the transport has been kept busy a large quantity of R.E. material having been transported and distributed.

30/4/18

Allen River Lt.

15<sup>th</sup> F.C. A.E.

War Diary April  
1918

### A.S.C Supplies

The supplies received for the past month were good with the exception of the first five days when a very low percentage of fresh meat and bread were received. The meat ration consisted of 25% fresh meat & was made up with preserved meat. Bread was 30% and made up with biscuits which were of a very hard nature. The remainder of month fresh meat averaged 60% & bread 70%. The meat of late has not been up to previous quality, practically all forequarters which consisted of considerable bone, being received.

No issue has been made of oatmeal for the last month and as this cereal is very much appreciated by the troops and of great benefit to them, it seems strange that issue of same should be cut out.

Acting under Divisional orders, potato rations, hay ration, oat ration and fuel ration were written off for 22 days as these commodities were found in area in which this unit

### A.S.C Supplies (2)

was billed. Figures for amount so consumed were handed to the S.S.O so as to enable the French people who owned same to be paid.

It was necessary owing to important mining work to be done to indent for extra candles, these candles were sent up from Base and as these require so much attention re relighting that it might be suggested that the ordinary issue candle be supplied for this purpose.

### Fat

205 lbs of first class fat were returned to Base during the month.

### Ordnance

with the exception of one level spirit rule and one prismatic compass, which were indented for on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 no difficulty was experienced in drawing stores from this branch. As these two articles are two of the most useful appliances in the equipment of a field company and difficulty has always occurred in

(3)

Ordinance

obtaining these articles.

Salvage

The following list of Salvage was returned to Salvage and receipts obtained for same:

Boots	prs	136	Buckets canvas	6
Breeches	M.S.	16	Tins Mess	3
do	D.S.	16	Tinies	12
Shirts		9	Box Respirators	15
Drawers		10	water bottles	6
Coats great		9	Periscope	1
helmets steel		7	do covers	3
Coats sheepskin		3	Rifles	7
Socks	prs	88	Blankets	48
Sheets Ground		6	Saddles universal	5
Puttees	prs	39	Traces wire prs	8
Leather equipment		1	Reins	4
web do		11	Girths	5
Collars breast		4	Collars head	5
Buckets rifle		2	pack saddle	1
Shoes horse prs		98	Petrol Tins	
Horse hides		2	(with stoppers)	263

(4)

Boot Repairing

During last month the bootmaker repaired 63 prs boots

Harness Repairs

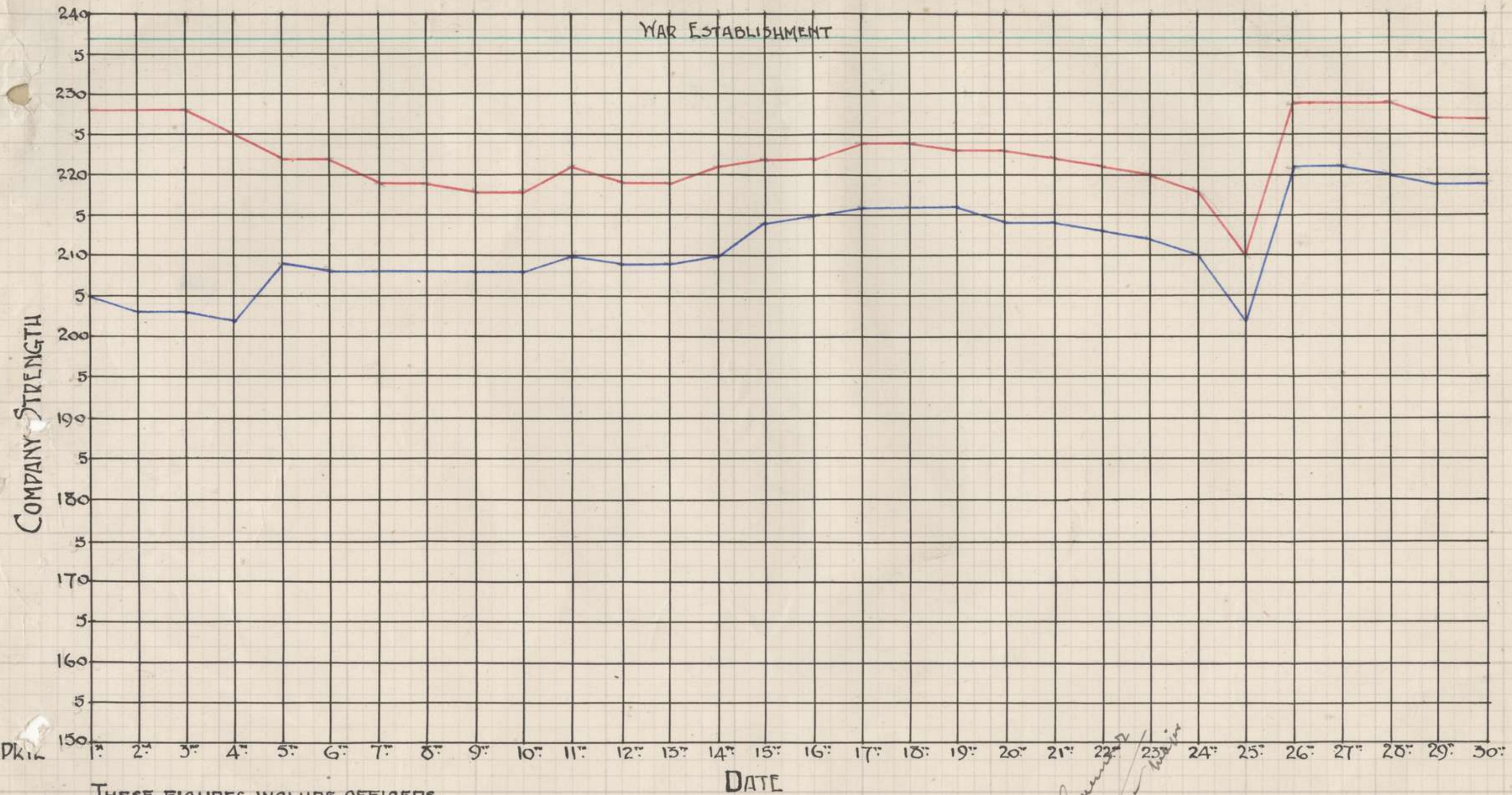
Repairs to Traces breast collars reins breechings head collars and all necessary repairs were effected by the Saddler during month

1<sup>st</sup> May 1918

John Baxter  
C.O.M.  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Engrs



# GRAPH SHOWING STRENGTH OF UNIT FOR APRIL 1918



THESE FIGURES INCLUDE OFFICERS

WAR ESTABLISHMENT —

TOTAL STRENGTH —

ACTUALLY WITH UNIT —

*Handwritten signature*

APPENDIX

*Handwritten mark*

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