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

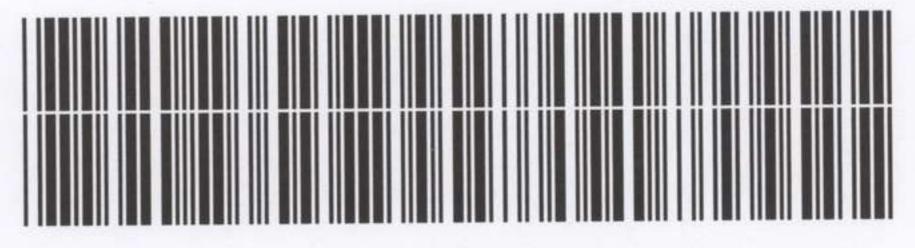
Engineers

Item number: 14/26/14

Title: 7th Field Company, Australian

Engineers

February 1917



AWM4-14/26/14

Army Form C. 2118.

Summa and the	ries are con	tained in nual respe	ries and Intelligence F. S. Regs., Part II. ectively. Title Pages cript. (Erase heading not required.)	253
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Buire	30/1/17	10 am	Company moved to MAMETZ Camp. and took over	
MAMETZ	2/2/17	_	Nos 2 and 3 sections moved to MARTIN PUICH, from 91st Field long. R.E.	
"	4/2/17	1/pm	Unit moved out from baup. drausport, with exception of tool carts, water	
		,	Cart + 2 RE limbers. and 6 horses, to position near LA-BOISSELLE Balance	
CAMP.			of Dappers to camp of 91st Held long RE in MAMETZ WOOD off BEAVER ROAD.	
BEAVER. Ry	dail	I/F	No 1 section carried out training and lectures given by Capitain Webt.	
			on Camouflage, Strong Points and Machine Gun Positions. Dections trained	
			in moving as a complete unit. Other section engaged in camp duties and	
"	11/21.7		Construction of drying room, work on borps fine Wire and on duckwalking.	
	///		Nº Mand A Section moved to Martinfruich to relieve Nº 2 2 4 Sections.	
	wal.	o ul home	"2 section completed drying room at Contalmaison	
	12/2/1	1 1/211	Marin former ASD detailed to att of REAR DE TO	
	26/2/	3 pm	Major Evans D.S.O. detailed to attend R.E. School at LE PARCA Coars Well Moto evacuated suffering with shell sheek owing to enemy retirem	
"	25/2/1	2. 30 A	in Transfert to the destate to move and an naws nouse, owing to enemy retirem	ent
			Unit stood to all day ready but a rush more	
	27.21	1 -	Unit stood to all day ready for a rush move. bajor Evano returned from RE. 5 chool.	
			For work in Forward area, attached reports supply full details	
		-	It Continuel acted S.O.E. Brigade	
			It Contungly acted. S.O.E. Brigade. Total casualties for month in rank and fire 3.	Table 1
A CONTRACTOR	of the land			101
	1		2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12. Commanding 7th Field Cay Engra A:	179 1
	*		Commanding 7th Field Coy Eugro A:	THE PARTY OF

7th. FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

Progress of Work on Front Line Posts. Left Brigade Area. 9th/10th. Feby. 1917.

Material carried forward from Railhead to Ferward Dump. (M.15. b.5.3)

87 "A" Frames.

41 Sheets Iron.

45' Battens (6" x 1")

Material dumped at Railhead. (M.21.c.2.6.)

82 "A" Frames.

22 Revettment Frames.

105 Sheets Iron. Pumps.

16 lengths Hose.

1 Roll Camouflage.

Working Parties. I Section of 7th. Field Coy.

1 Officer 40 Other Ranks. 20th. Battini 1 Officer 20 " " 20th. 2 Officers 60 Other Ranks.

No working party available to continue work of deepening Gilbert Alley Communication Trench. Owing to the Brigades changing over, no carrying of material was done to the Front Line Posts.

> Officer in charge. Lieut. Christian. 7th. Field Coy. Engrs.

Progress of work. Left Brigade Area. 9th/10th. Feby. 1917.

Date	Time	Engrs.	Inf.	Class of Work.	Romarks.
9/2/1	7				
11	Shrs.	6	40	Salving material	& building Shelters.
61	**	1	6	Extension to Brig	gade H.Q'rs. Mess Room.
**	4hrs.	-	4	R.E. Dump work.	

No night parties owing to change over of Brigades.

Officer in charge. Lieut. Cartwright. 7th. Field Coy. Engrs.

Drying Shed. CONTALMAISON CIRCUS.

One Shed completed, ready for Packs.

One Shed Frame erected.

DECAUVILLE Truck Top Frames.

3 4x 4' Frames and one 6' Frame completed.

WIRING DUCKWALKS.

1000 yds. completed.

Working Parties.

One Section of 7th. Field Coy.

Supervison Bergeaut Holl.

10/2/17

** 3

DAILY WORKS REPORTS 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Area

12 HZ 13 H

Date	Time		Engrs.	Inf.	Class of Work and M.R.	Remarks
12/2/17	8.30		6	40	Salving material and build- ing shelters in GUNPIT ROAD.	Bood
	8.30		1	10	Collecting and stacking ma- terial for road repairs, also sorting out material at WEST END DUMP.	
	8.30		1	6	Extension Bde H.Q. Mess Room.	Inf. reporte at 11.15 a.n
	5	pm	1	3.0	Maintenance of DECAUVILLE Track.	Inf. reporte
	6 12 1	pm mid n ig	ht 1	10	Maintenance of duckwalk Track.	
	6 %	pm	2	33	Road repairs and unload-	ons arrived 9.15 pm in- stead of 6pm
	6.30		1	20	Excavation and construct- ion of new bomb stores at M. 20.d. 2.2.	Fair pro- gress.
	6.30	p.m.		20	16 carrying and working for Tunnellers at New Bn. H.Q. M.20.d.5.3. 4 carrying and working for Tunnellers at Bde. H.Q.	
	6.30	n.m.	(13/2/17		New Bn H.Q. dugout at M.20.d.5.3.	Mining Plat- oon, 19th Bn.
	8.30	p.m.	-	4	Extension of dugout Bde. H.Q.	-do
		p.m.		•	Survey of wiring on intermediate line between ALBERT_BAPAUME ROAD and inter-brigade boundary.	

(sgd) A.R.McCOMB 2/Lieut.

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153 T.T.B.

AMENDED REPORT on

WORK CARRIED OUT IN LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR 18/13th Feby. 17.

Post	Garrison	Bors	rty Inf.	Time	Work %	completed	Remarks.
26 27 28	10)	3	5	48	Carrying mat- erial to Posts	25% 60%	These posts have a common dump.
M.15.b	.5.2.	2	8	51	Repairs to scre	en	Materials carted on to site.
Railhe M.15.c	VISITATE CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON OF THE PER	2	80	52	Carting material	al to	
M.15.c		1	20	51	Carting materia	al to	
to	nd dump	1	10	6 1	Trucking stores Railhead	s to	
M.15.0	.8.5.	2	40	51	Deepening GILBI		o yards from

Lieut. P.J.FEWTRELL, Officer in Charge.

5

WORKS REPORT - 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Area

13/14th February 1917.

ost	Garrison		Inf. Time	Work	% com- pleted.	Remarks
26	10				25%)	No party reported
27	10				60%)	for this work.
28	EO				80%	
29-30	300.00				80%	
	10)				100%	Emplyed in checkin
31 32	11)	1			100%	material on job.
23	10)				10%	
34	10)				10%	
36-37					90%	
39	123)	1			100%	-do-
40	21)				100%	
41	10)				200%	
42	8)	1			100%	-do-
43	5)				100%	
44	78)				700%	
5 6	10				15%	
5 7	18				30%	

The following work was carried out as shown below;

GILBERT ALLEY. No infantry on job this evening. Carrying
Railhead to intermediate dump:- 3 A Frames)

18 sheets iron) 2 sappers
21 panels) 15 Infantry
100' battens)

Carrying from intermediate dump
to forward dump:

160' battens) 2 sappers
9 panels) 7 Infantry
1 duckboard

Renovation of camouflage:

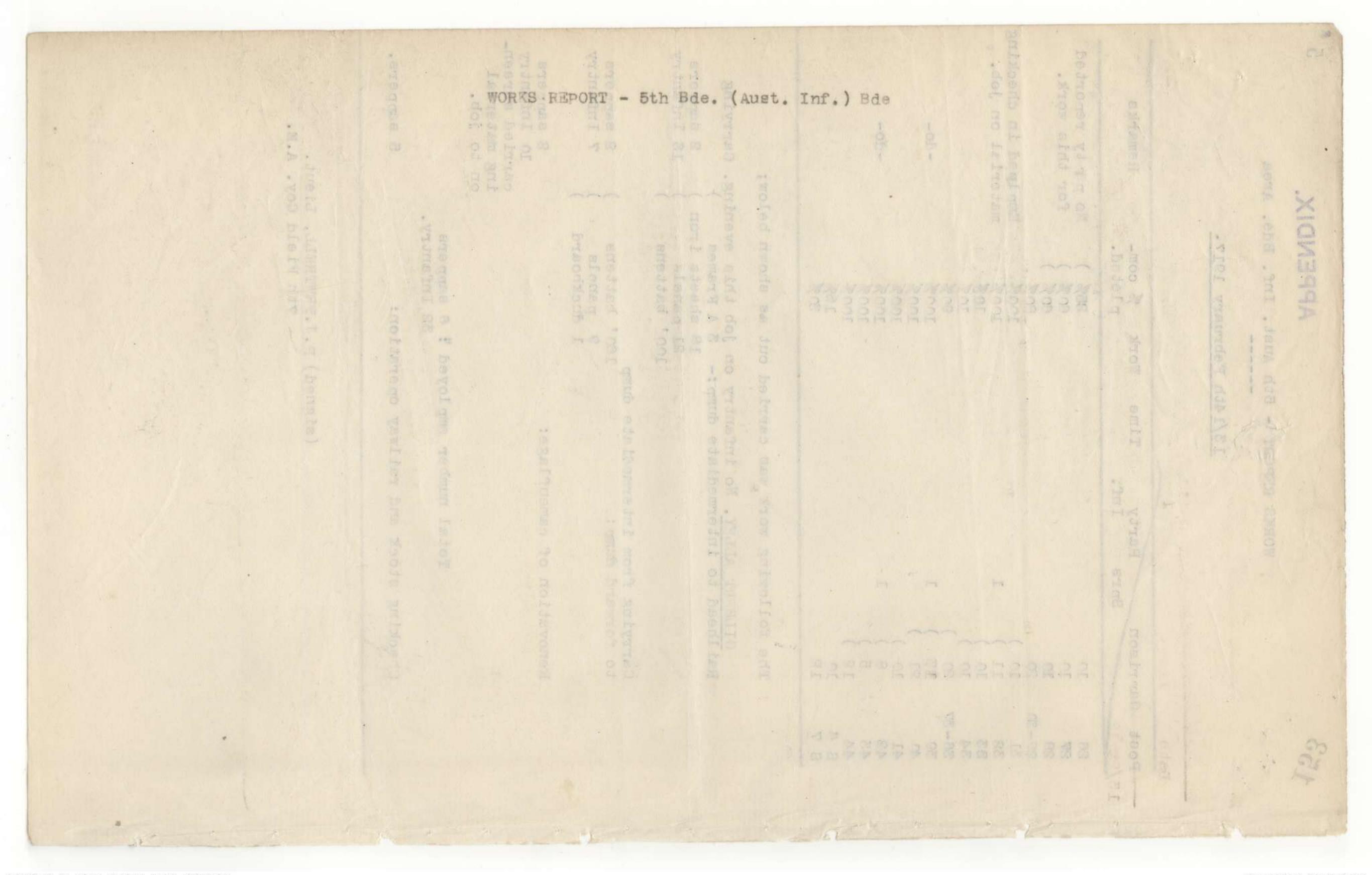
2 sappers
10 Infantry
carried screening material
on to job.

Total number employed ! 6 sappers 32 Infantry.

Checking stock and railway operation:

5 sappers.

(signed) P.J.FEWTRELL, Lieut.
7th Field Coy. A.E.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1011038

DAILYBWORKS REPORT - 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Area.

Date	Time	Sprs.	Inf.	Class of Work and Mao Reference	Remarks
13/23/17	8.30 am 4.30 pm	6	35	Salving material and building shelters in GUNPIT ROAD.	Good progress made with these shelters.
	8.30 am 4.30 pm	1	10	collecting material for road repairs and carry- ing for work on messroom extension at Bde. H.Q.	
	8.30 am 4.30 pm	1	6	Extension to Bde. Mess- room.	
	6 am (14/2/17)		13	New Bn. H.Q. dugout at M.20.d.5.3.	19 Bn mining platoon. These men know very little about this dugout work.
	8 am 4 pm	-	2	Extension to Bde. H.Q. dugout.	Mining plate
	6 pm 11 pm	-	2	- do -	-do-
	6.30 pm 12.30 am		20	16 carrying and working at new Bn.H.Q. M20.d.5.3. 4 at extension of Bde.H.Q. dugout.	
	5 pm 11 pm	1 -	-	Maintenance of Becauville track.	
	8 pm 12 midn	ight	-	Maintenance of duckwalk track.	
	6 pm 11 pm	2	x 32	Repairs to road and un- loading at West End Dump.	20 G.S. wago: loads of bricks sprea
	6.30 pm 12.30 am	1	14	Construction of Bde.Bomb store at M.20.d.2.2.	Good progres
	8.30 am 4.30 pm	1	2	Gas proof doors for dugou	ts Completed Bd H.Q. dugout. Dugout at M. a.6.4. almos

(signed) A.R.McCOMB 2/Lieut.

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1	9.19
	0
2	00

Date	Day or Night Party	Engineers Daily	Infantry Daily	Class of Work and M.R.	Remarks
14th to 17th	Day Party	6	35	Salving Material, Excavating for and Building Shelters	These shelters are con- structed almost wholly of salved Material.
ff .	61 61	1	10	Salvage of Road repairing material	Hard bricks
"	Night "	2	40	Loading waggons & spreading * on Roads Martinpuich Main Road & Gun Pit Road	Work held up over non report of G.S. Waggons for 2 nights 4 to 6 waggons.
ti ti	Day "	1	6	Extensions to Bde. Mess Room	
	1 11 11	1	2	Fitting Gas proof Curtains & Jeans	
	8 a.m. to	4	10	Extensions to Brigade H.Q.Dugouts	
In shifts.	6 a.m. to	1	15	New Bn. H.Q's M.20.d.5.3	Very few of this tunnelling platoon were found to be miners & progress of work consequently slow.
	! Night Party	1	10	Repairs to Decauville Track	compoddonera prom.
		1	10	Repairs & wiring Duckwalks	Salving for old wire as all new stock used up.
	1 11 11	1	10.	Off - Loading Party R.E. Dump.	Construction of one nearly
	Nightly	2	20	Excavating & constructing Bomb Store M.20.d.2.2	completed. Excavations for two nearly completed. Excav- ations for another started.
					NOTE NO INFANTRY PARTIES REPORTED ON NIGHT 17th.

Many of the State of the State

(Signed) A. R. McCOMB, 2/Lieutenant 7th Engineers Officer I/c. of this work.

APPENDIX.

Nightly Party	Sappers	Infantry	Nature of Work & M.R.	Remarks
Nightly	1	5	Repairing to Camouflage Screen	Completed
***	8	40	Carrying & pushing parties from R.E. Dump to Railhead and issuing Material	These are materials to be drawn for completing stuff required for
	3	40	Deepening GILBERT ALLEY	Owing to hard nature of ground up to yesterday only little progress was made.
11 11	1 3	10 5	Carrying on Bn. H.Q. M.21.d.3.1 Excavating and clearing B.H.Q.	made.
	3	5	Driving in extension of B.H.Q. M.21.d.2.1	About 3 lin. feet drive excavated.
				NOTE NO INFANTRY PARTS
	Party	Party Nightly 1 ** 8	Party Nightly 1 5 # 8 40	Party Nightly 1 5 Repairing to Camouflage Screen M.15.b.3.1 Carrying & pushing parties from R.E. Dump to Railhead and issuing Material 3 40 Deepening GILBERT ALLEY Carrying on Bn. H.Q. M.21.d.3.1 Excavating and clearing B.H.Q. M.21.d.2.1 Driving in extension of B.H.Q.

Manufacture of the second seco

(Signed) P. J. FWTRELL, Lieutenant, 7th F.Co. Officer I/c of this work.

APPENDIX.

REPORT "A"

Left Division

Front Line System.

1. Wire entanglements.

(c). Reserve Line Entanglements: The whole Reserve Line has one belt of double apron wire existing with French wire improvements to strengthen the entanglement. A second belt has been commenced and from a point on inter Corps boundar N.15.c.4.9, to a point M.15.c.9.9. where the system crosses GILBERT ALLEY a double belt of wire has been completed. From point M.15.c.9.9 to the point inter brigade boundary wire consists of a single wave of 15th Division pattern wire (as shown per sketch). The second wave of this pattern has been commenced and exists from M.15.c.9.9 to .M.15.d.2.8 a distance of 100 yards. About 900 yards of this second wave has yet to be completed. "Chevaux de Frise" have been made for BAPAUME FOAD at M.21.b.5.8.

2. Fire tranches and strong posts.

(a). Fire posts in Front Line number 22 and all consist of very poor trenches approximately 15 yards long. Revetting of these has been commenced but up to present no revetment frames have been placed owing to the nature of the ground.

3. Communication Tranches.

(b). In hand: - GILBERT ALLEY from O.G.1 at a point M.15.c.8.4
to a point 150 yards N. of O.G.1, work has been commenced on widening and deepening with a view to revetting eventually.
The trench is now 4 feet deep. No revetments have been placed.

4. Overland Routes.

(b) On hand:- Maintenance of both Decauville and duckwalk tracks in the area has been attended to under sapper supervision. A considerable quantity of netting for duckwalks has been salved. 12 rolls of netting has been put on duck-boards.

5. Mined dugouts . Front System.

(a) Completed :- Nil.

(b) In Hand: - One dugout just commenced at M.15.b.6.4, one set put in gallery which is intended for Company Headquarters
Intermediate System.

(a) Completed: Work completed at New Battalion head quartre M.20.d.5.3. shewn on tracing "B". This work was carried out by 5th and 6th Brigade Mining Platoons.

The 5th Brigade Mining Platoon (19th Bn) were unpractical men, and failed to carryout detailed instructions in many instances.

(a) Completed: - Battalion headquarters .M. 21.d. 3.l.
Extension of Signallers chamber for a distance of 6 feet.

Additional Accommodation has been provided at Brigade headquarters as shown on sketch "C".

Work carried out on Bde Hd Qrs by 5th and 6th Brigade Mining platoons under Sapper Officer's supervision.

9. Cover for Artillery.

Extra Brigade Bomb store accommodation has been provided at P.7.0

REPORT "A" continued.

9. Cover for Artillery (Continued).

one Bomb store 8'x 6' inside dimensions has been fully completed.

Two are under construction, one of which is ready for storage of bombs.

Two bomb stones completed in Gilbert alley MISE-7.3 on 7/2/7
MISCHILLANDOUS WORKS IN SUPPORT AREA.

At POZIERES end 250 yards (single belt) completed.

Material distributed for 300 yards more to complete double belt.

At MARTINPUICH and 200 yards (single belt) completed.

Material distributed for 400 yds more to complete.

Type of wire. :- 4 rows long pickets, 2 rows short with corresponding aprons.

Drying sheds.

Shed and Store at CONTALMAISON CIRCUS.X.12.d.0.9 completed and in working order night 15th.

Shed at SUSSEX CAMP S.15 .a.3.7. complete less furnace which is almost ready.

Camp. S.13.d.4.8. Hut for attached infantry under construction.

SURVEYS, made of Corps Line Wire.

Duckwalks. Old duckwalk from VILLA STATION to WEST END DUMP.

MARTINPUICH completely covered with wire netting.

Joo yards of duplicating walk completed less netting.

6. G.S. wagonm loads of material (metal) unloaded and spread. Salving of timber and bricks in progress.

Divn'l Anti Gas & Bomb School. One "Amien" hut dismantled and re erected.

Duckwalk. Friceurt-ContalmaisonRd. 40 yds duckwalk laid and netted. 40 yards ready.

Cinema Theatre & 21.d.5.9. Theatrex pegged out and a start made with excavations for posts.

for. O.C. 7th Field Coy Aust Engrs.

21/2/17

APPENDIX.

Shows progress and state of works as at 21/2/17

REPORT "B"

Left Divisional Sector.

1. General Condition of trenches.

(a). Front Line. This consists of a number of posts all about 15 yards long. The majority have not been revetted.

(b) Support Lind, is similar to front line.

(c). Reserve Line.

(d) Communication trenches: - Only one of these exists in the area. For the most part it is impassable. The reconstruction and revetting have been commenced.

2. The state of entanglements.

(a) Front Line.

(b) Support Line.

(c) Reserve Line. The whole Reserve line has one belt of double apron wire. At present, strengthened with French wire, a double belt has been completed from .m.15.c.4.9. to M.15.c.9.9 From here to the right inter brigade boundary the entanglement consists of first band of 15th Divisional wire. The second wave of this style is completed from M.15.c.9.9 to .M.15.d.2.8 approximately 900 yards of this second belt is awaiting completion.

3. Amount of Peep dugoutx accommodation completed.

(a). Additional accommodation provided shown on tracing "B2 viz: - a chamber 18' x 8' x 6'. The total completed floor space in this dugout is now approx. 340 sq ft with a roof height of 6 ft.

Additional accommodation provided for Brigade Hd Qrs as shown on Sketch "C" viz: - 54 sq ft floor space.

Wiscellancous Works.

Work on shelters in Gun Pit Road has been carried on with salved material.

Skatch "A"

9A -- Excavation commenced.

9B Excavation completed Temporary shelter

Construction in progress) provided.

9C do

9D Excavation and construction completed.

15A Excavation and construction completed 17. It was necessary to re-sandbag this shelter

22 Construction and sandbagging completed

23 Excavation completed. Construction commenced

Excavation commenced.

Each shelter (splinter proof) to accommodate 6 men.

Road Repairs.

The work of repairing and drain MARTINPUICH- GUN PIT ROAD has been continued. 134 G.S. wagon loads of salved brick has been spread. Material for revetting sides is being salved daily. Work delayed by absence of transport on several occasions. BRIGADE MRSS ROOM.

An extension has been put on to Brigade Hd Qrs Mess Room and other improvements made.

thed and

continued.

MISCRILAN ROUS WORKS (Cntinued)

Gas proof dugout-doors. Gas proof doors have been provided in the following dugouts,

2 doors in each entrance being constructed .: -Completion of Bde Hd Qre Dugout at M. 32.a.b.4.

M.32. b \$.65.

M. 32.b.0.4

M. 32 a.9.2

M. 32.b.32.2

DECAMULTATE TRUCKS Three decauville wagons 4' x 3'.6" re-decked and side frames ? fixed on same.

One decauville wagon 6'x 3' 6" redecked and side frame fixed on same.

Sour Kitchen. 'A shed for a soup kitchen has been built in Gun Pit Road

for ot Bde.

West End Dump. This dump has been run under Sapper Officer's supervision.

Survey. A survey of wiring on Intermediate Line between posts "G" and " "H" was made in accordance with instructions. Tracing of same supplied on 13/2/17.

Support Area.

styletylytylen manua Corps Line Wiring.

250 yards (Single belt) completed at Pozieres end.

300 yards more to complete double belt.

200 yards (single belt) completed at Martinpuich end.

400 yards to complete double belt.

Drying sheds.

Shed and store erected at Contalmaison Circus. X.12.d.0.9

completed and in working, order. Shad at Sussex Camp. S.15.d.4.8.

Camo. Hut under course of erection.

Duckwalks. Duck alks from Villa Stn to West End Dump, Martinpuich,

completely covered with wire netting.

300 yards of duplicating walk completed less netting.

Roads Bazentin to Martinpuich. Metal unloaded and spread. Salving of timber and bricks in prograss.

Divn'l Anti-Gas & Bomb School. One "Amien " hut dismantled and re-erected.

Duckwakk. Fricourt-Contalmaison Road. 40 yds. duckwalk laid and netted. 40 yds. ready.

Cinema Theatre. X.21.d.5.9. Started.

for o.c 7th/Freed Cympany Aust Engrs

THREE DAILY REPORT from 22nd/23rd to 24th/25th

105+2		NAME AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE OWNER.			
4/25th	Day	5	40 35	Salving Material & erecting shelters in Gun Pit Road. ** & Collecting Material for Road Repairs) This work is now temporarily) abandoned owing to more urgent
		0	0	Improvement & additions to B.H.Q.	This work now completed.
11	11	7	0	Gas proof Curtains	THE WOLK HOW COMPLETED
11	Nightly	-	10	Off loading Party at R.E.Dump.	- Dugouts at M.22.d.l.5.5. M.32.b.3 completed.
11	11	1	10	10 11 11 11	
11	11	7	10	Decauville Maintenance	Blowout near MILL RD repd.
11	11	i	10	Duckwalk Maintenance	Putting up Duckwalks on bags 500
11	11	1	60	New Duckwalk Track	
11	11	1	10	Brigade Bomb Store M.20.d.6.2	4th Store completed
100	0	1	10	Bombers shelter Gilbert Alley M.20.d.5 . 5	Excavation nearly complete.
11	11	2	12	Shafts for new Signal Dugouts "S" M.20.c.5.4 & T.W. M21.c.3.5 (This map ref. differs from one given in E.2/333 but is spot pointed out by Sig. Officer.	Shafts about 6' down.
11	11	1	40	Road party MARTINPUICH and GUN PIT ROADS	No transport available. This wor
11	11	1	10	Forward Coy. H.Q. Dugout M.15.b.6.4	This work now temporarily abando
11	22	1	40	Deepening Gilbert Alley (This work now temporarily) abandoned	25 Inf. of party failed to repor
# ,,	- 11	1	14	New Left Bn. H.Q's M.20.d.6.2	Lagging now completed.
II .	11	1.	30	William Alley Deepening and 4 yds of revetment placed	This work temporarily abandoned.
40	11	8		in position	
89	11	8		Supervising Revetting posts Front Line System	15 16 16 16
11	***	2	40	Repairing BAPAUME, LE SARS RD, and filling in shell holes from GUN PIT ROAD towards LE SARS.	th Fld. Coy. ration limber required titioned for this work and 4 load brick carted.
	1-3.30 p.m		30	Clearing POZIERES - LE SARS ROAD of fallen trees between DESTREMONT FARM and LE SARS	This work was done before allotm of new road areas.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1011038

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THREE DAILY REPORT 25th to 27/28th

Date	Time	Eng.	Inf.	Class of work & M.R.	Remarks.
25th to 28/2/17	6 p.m. to 6 a.m.	8	300	BAPAUME ROAD through to LE SARS cleared to M.16.c.S.7. (some shell holes to be filled)	Working party suffered casualties nightly from hostile shelling of road. This work now temporarily abandoned.
	8 a.m. to 12 m/n	2	8	Unloading party WEST END DUMP	
	***	2	12	Signals Dugouts & shafts "S" M.26.c. 5.4. and "T" M.21.b.2.5.	Shaft sunk 12 feet and timbered. Work on "T" M.21.b.2.5. abandoned
	6 p.m. to 12 m/n	1	10	Bombers shelter M.20.d.5.8. GILBERT ALLEY.	Completed.
	8 a.m. to 12 m/n	5	60	New Brigade H.Q. M.20.d.6.2. Mess Room & Kitchen, G.O.C's Room, Officers' Room, Orderlies Room, Officers Latrines, and Mens' ditto.	This work is now almost complete P Ballasting tranck & repairs
10	5 p.m. to 11 p.m.	1	10	DecauvilleTrack maintenance	Ballasting tranck & repairs
	ditto	1	10	Duckwalk maintenance	Lifting Duckwalks & wiring same.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL