

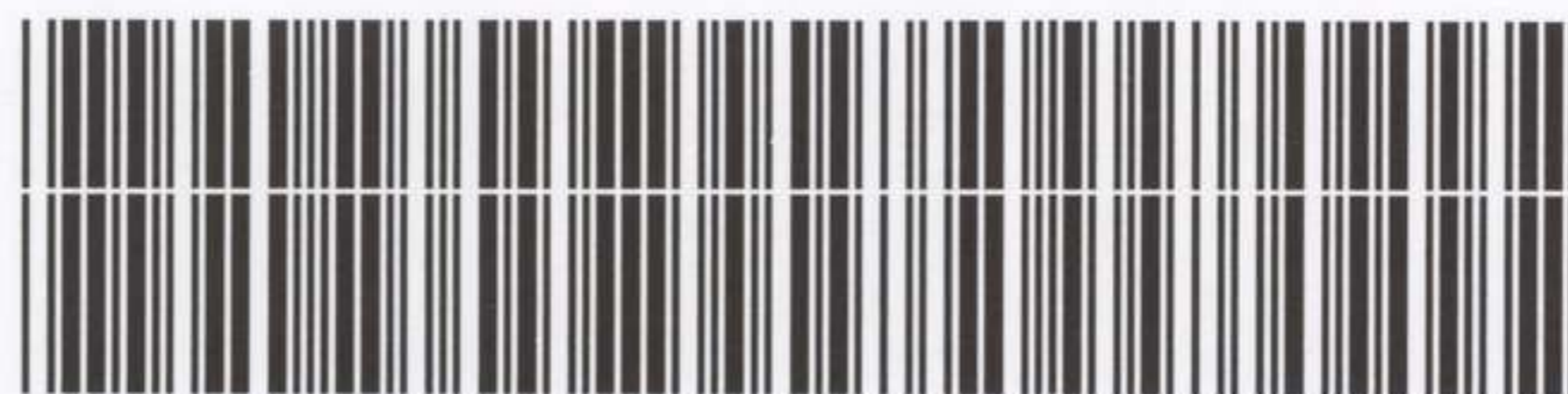
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Engineers

Item number: 14/31/29

Title: 12th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

July 1918



AWM4-14/31/29

12th Field Co., A.E.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

193

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

12th Field Coy A.E.

FOR

July 1918

Complete

Signature of Officer compiling AR Wright Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding Clare Riddell

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
O3a. central near La Neuville	7-7-18		Lt. Fraser. & No2 Section took over forward dugout work with 4 th Field Coy A.E.	
	12-7-18		Coy was relieved by 11 th Field Coy A.E. & moved to Rivery. Coy H.Q. & Horse lines at M 2 d 9.3. (Sheet 62 ^D). Nos 1+3 sections took over bridge guard in Camon + Longeau. Remainder of Coy resting.	
	23-7-18		Capt. Norman moved out to take command of the 13 th Field Engrs. during the absence of Major Law & Capt Farr on leave.	
	29-7-18		Lt Hunt & 5 OR. proceeded to Gentelles Wood TIG b 8.8. (Sheet 62 ^D) to take over from the 19/51 Cie de Genie.	

Clair Russell, Major
C. 12th Field Co., A.E.

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

WAR DIARY

APPENDIX.

195

OF

12th Field Coy. A.E.

FOR

July 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	<i>Operation Order No 1.</i>
2.	<i>Handing over state by 11th Field Coy. A.E.</i>

195

3

12th Field Coy Engrs. July 1918.

Precis

As diary - deleting black lead pencil markings

Include

July 2nd Appendix I in full

Appendix "Reparations for Operation"
to be found in HQ Engrs Coy Diary
only to go in on 5th July.

July 7th Shetchy marked Precis. for 7/7.

Copy to 1.

195

By C.O. 13th Field Coy A.C.

La Neuville
2nd July 1918

4

During forthcoming operations the Coy will act as a divisional reserve Coy and will be responsible for maintaining the bridges over the river Somme.

All men detached from their proper sections will be returned by noon on 3-7-18.

Guards on road-mines will be withdrawn and men returned to Coy H.Q. by 8 pm on 3-7-18.

C.O. No 3 Section will be responsible for the maintenance of the bridges over the Somme numbered from 1 to 7.

C.O. No 4 Section will be responsible for all bridges in CORBIE area, and for new barrel bridge for use of stretcher bearers.

C.O. Nos 1 and 2 Sections will be responsible for their respective groups.

Patrols C.O. No 3 Section will establish 2 patrols, each of 1 Junior A.C. and 2 men, provided with a bicycle.

The duty of patrols is to frequently inspect all bridges and report any serious damage or repair slight damage.

Each patrol will carry:- 1 hand-axe, 1 lb mixed nails, 20 yards $\frac{1}{2}$ " rope and 50 yards -hambro line or 1" rope.

The patrol should report every hour to repair party.

The patrol will be responsible that all bridges damaged beyond immediate repair are reported to C.O. No 3, for this purpose they will be provided with a form filled in except for No of bridge. These will be handed to 13th Field Coy runner at 4th Brigade H.Q. for transmission to C.O. No 3.

Repair Parties A Repair Party will be held in readiness by each section Officer to repair more extensive damage than can be dealt with by the guards or patrols.

The Repair Party for the VAUX group will be stationed at a place to be selected by Plait Hunt and will establish a dump of stores comprising cordage both light & heavy, poles, decking, nails, hammers, saws, axes & hand axes to be drawn from No 3 Section Tool Cart.

The Repair Party for the CORBIE group will be at gas works and for the LA NEUVILLE group, near bridge BONNAVILLE, suitable stores and tools being collected at each place. This to be completed by 6 PM 3-7-18.

A pontoon wagon and double timber will be available at Coy H.Q. for emergencies, and two front vans with superstructure held at horse-lines & railed on wagons ready to replace any that are damaged.

Comments The Dormant pontoon bridge will not be used except on special instructions.

Demolition
Charges

195

All demolition charges will be carefully inspected and stored, any Gun Cotton charges will be carefully wetted by C. P. M. on 3-7-18 or removed from bridges

Section Officers are responsible that every man is in possession of 150 rounds S.A.A., arms equipment and gas-helmet.

Rations

48 hours rations will be stored with each repair party for the members of that party and the patrols.

Equipment

Men on patrol will carry tin hats, rifles, 50 rounds S.A.A. and the necessary tools & stores. All other men on duty will carry fighting order with 150 rounds S.A.A.

Gas.

Men living in houses or in wooded areas will be warned of the probability of gas attacks

Clare Riddell

Major

CO 12th Field Coy R.E.

Distributions

- Copy to 1-3 War Diary
 " 4 Capt Normans
 " 5 Lieut Cooper
 " 6-10 Section Officers
 " 11 C.P.E. 4th Aust. Div
 " 12 CO 12th Field Coy

The work being done by the Coy. at present is as follows -

Continuous guards are being maintained on the following bridges & road mines -

Bridge - CANYON 1. M. 16 d. 7. 4.

" CANYON 2. M. 15 b. 2. 2.

" CANYON 4. M. 16 a. 1. 1.

" LONGEAU 1. M. 22 b. 6. 1.

" LONGEAU 2+3. M. 22 c. 8. 4.

" LONGEAU 4. M. 21. b. 2. 2.

" CAGNY 1+2. M. 34. a. 9. 2.

Road mine XA M. 34. b. 3. 8

" " V is patrolled by sentries on LONGEAU 1+2.

The charges on all above bridges except CANYON 4 & LONGEAU 3+4 are in process of being replaced by mobile charges. This is not yet completed.

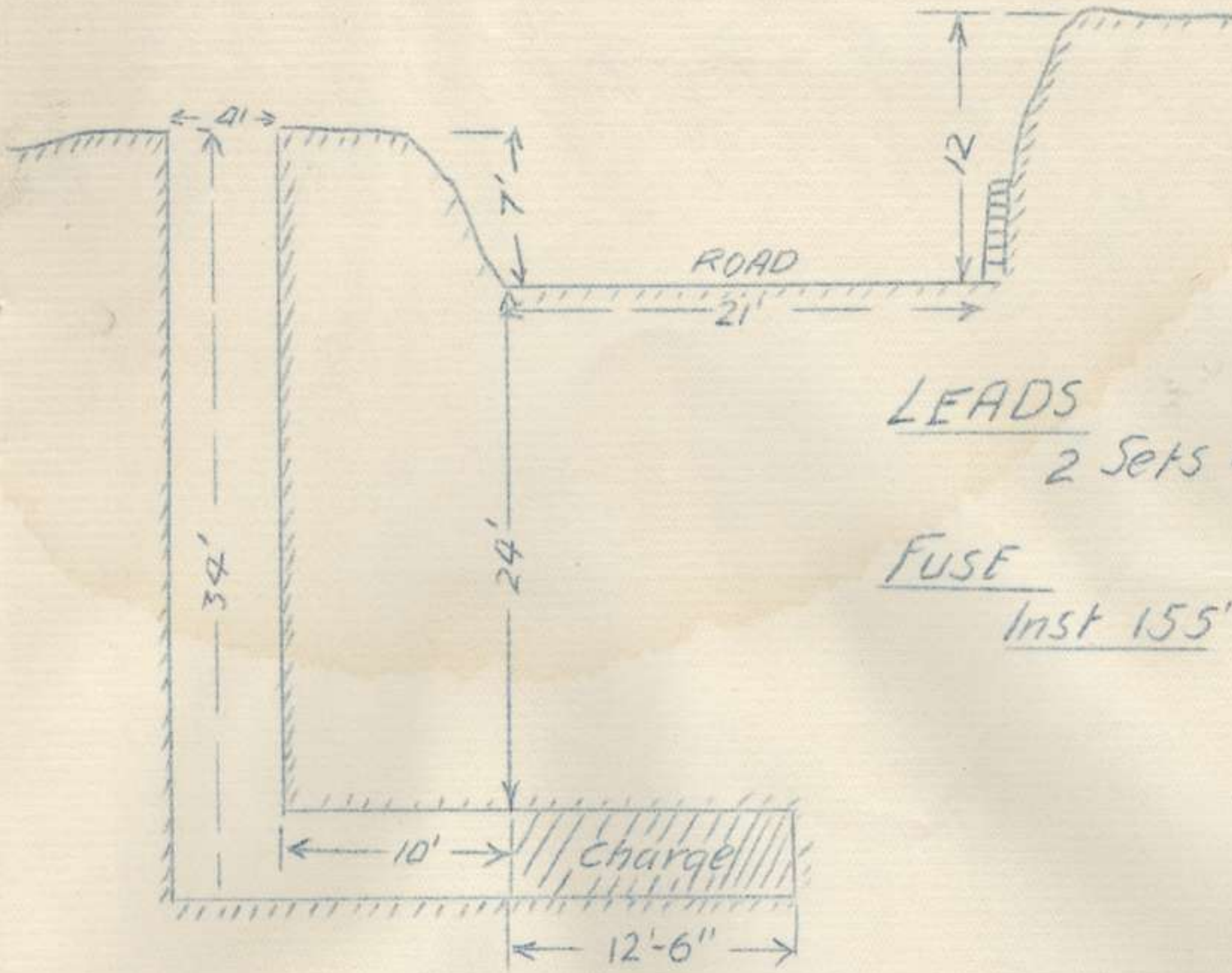
One section has been dismantling ADRIAN huts at RIVERY (M. 2 d. 2). Two huts have now been removed & there is only one more to be taken down. An ADRIAN hut at M. 17 d. 7. 6 is being repaired for the 129th U.S. Regiment.

There is 1 N.C.O. + 2 men (2 carpenters + 1 plumber) who are fitting gas curtains etc. at the Gas School at MONTMARS.

1 N.C.O. + 3 men (all carpenters) are working under O.C. POULAINVILLE R.S. dump at POULAINVILLE.

One officer is ~~attached~~ detached for work with the 567th A.T. Coy.

CAGNY
ROAD CRATER NO 6
M33 D 4 2



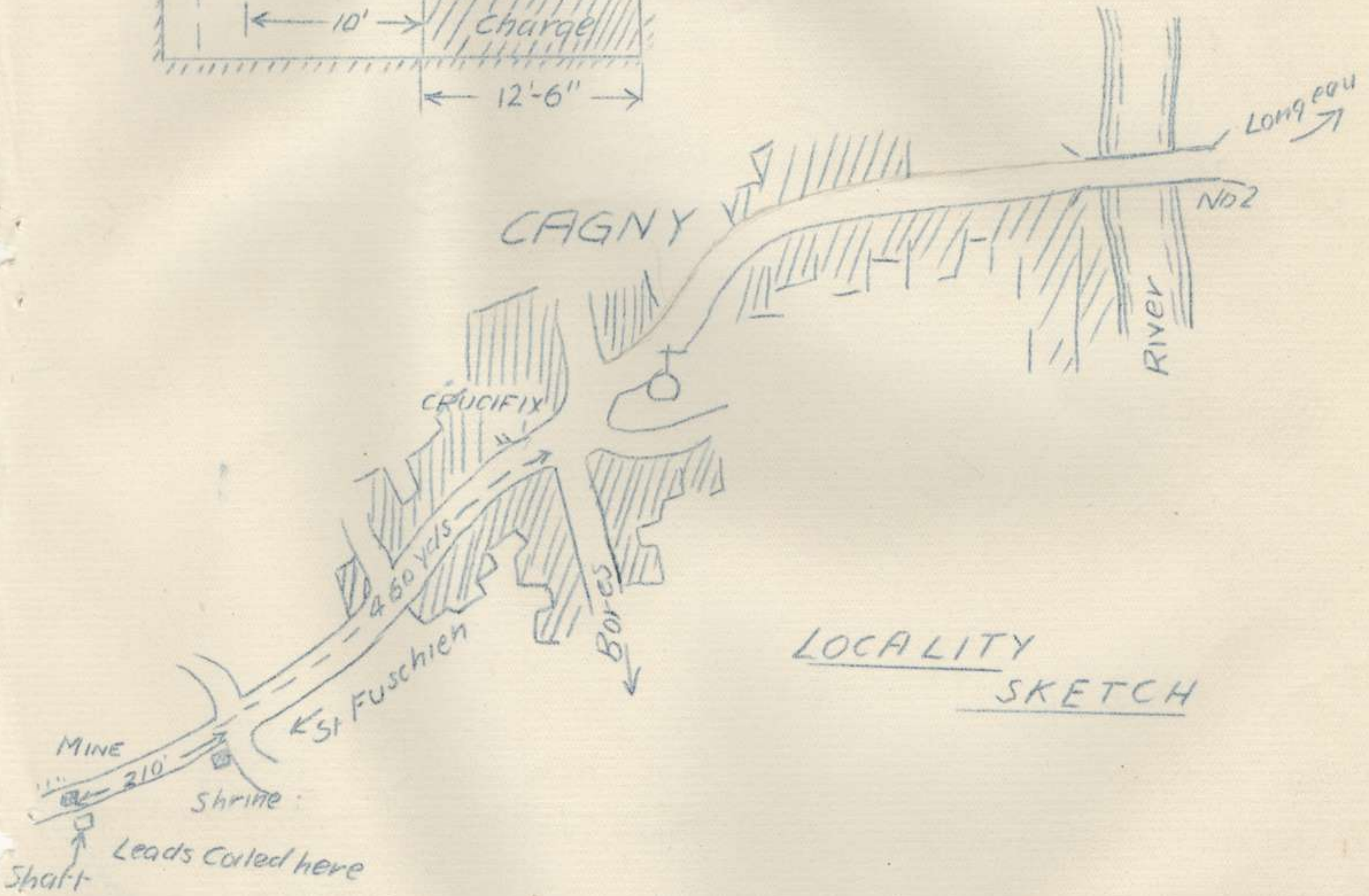
LEADS

2 Sets each 500' (Complete Circuit)

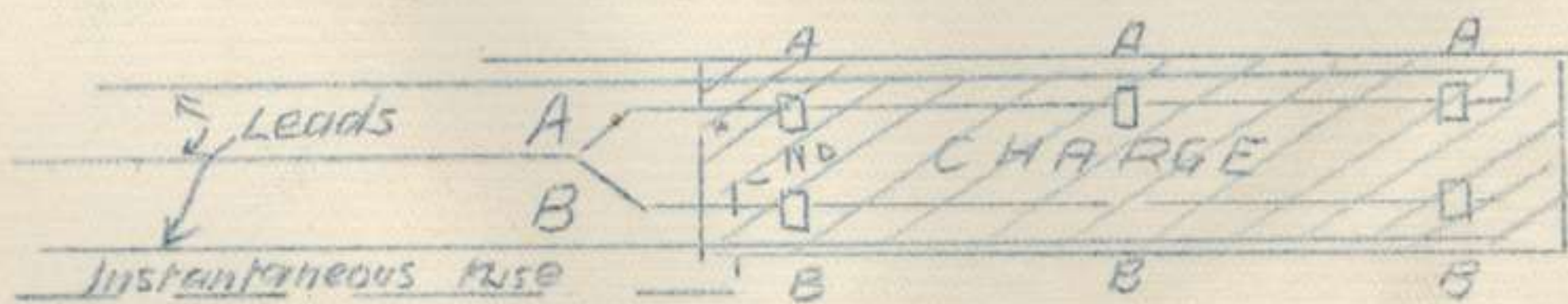
FUSE

Inst 155'

Scale 1" = 10'



LOCALITY
SKETCH



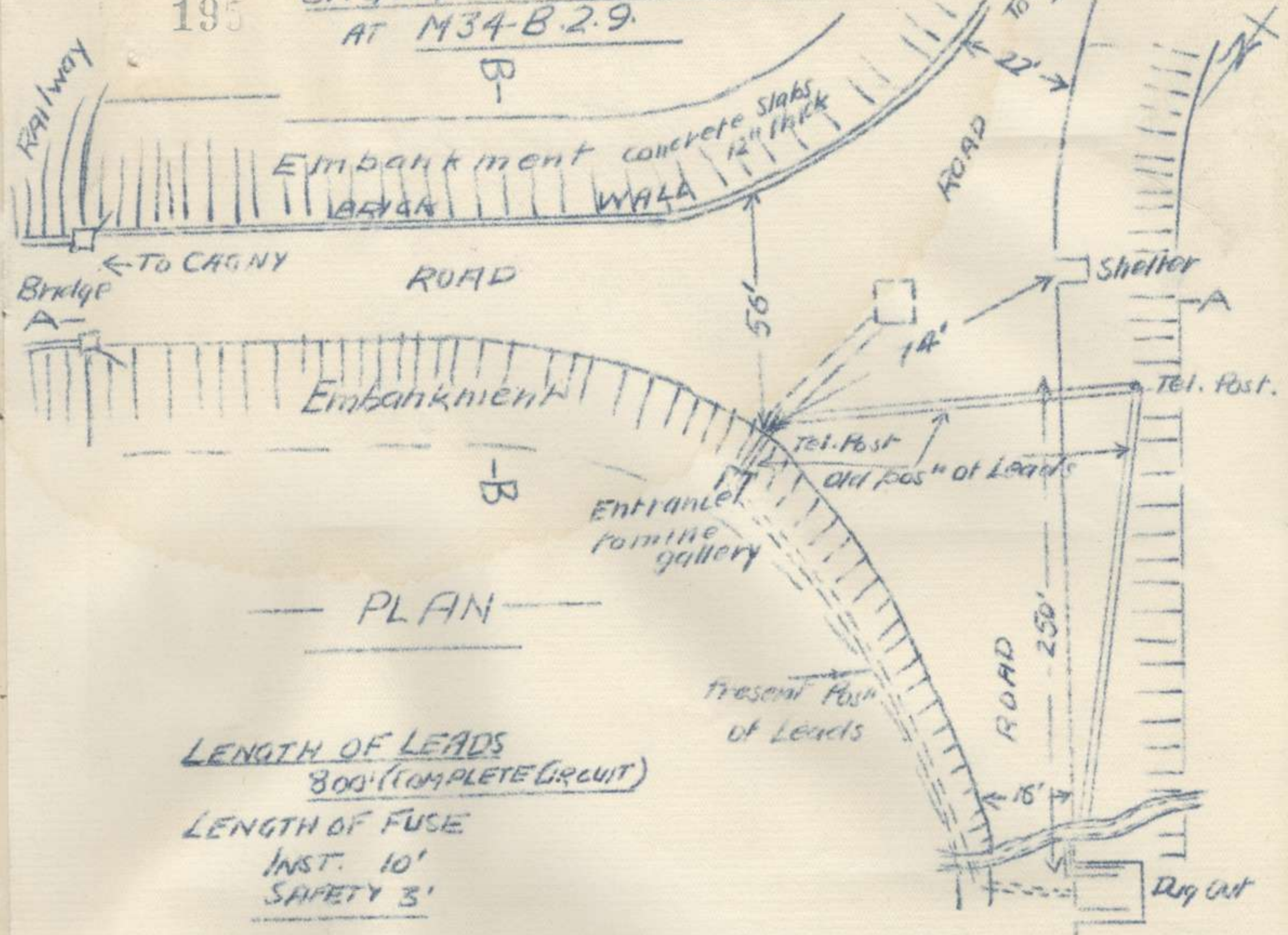
- Circuit A } Consist of Detonators & primers in
 - B } G.C. slabs on boxes of ammonal.
 - C } Slab of G.C. with primer detonator in box of Ammonal
 - D } Slab of G.C. on top of box of ammonal.
- C.C.D. fired by instantaneous fuse

11th Field Coy Engrs A.I.F.

APPENDIX 2

CAGNY ROAD CRATER XA AT M34-B.2.9.

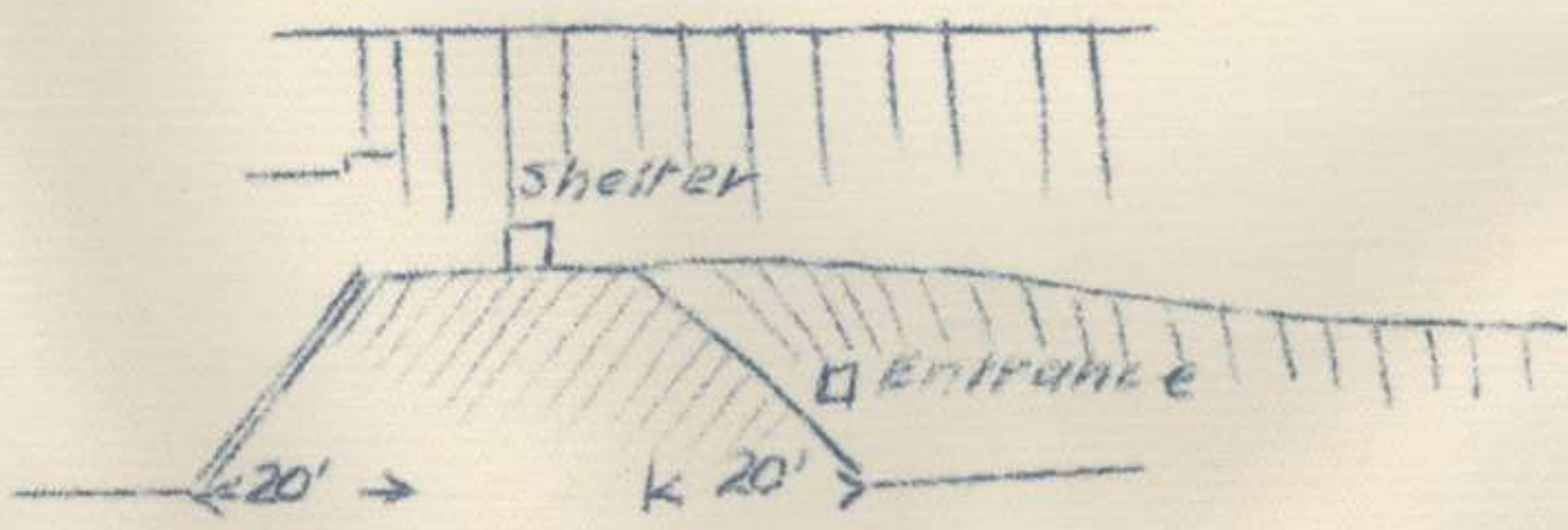
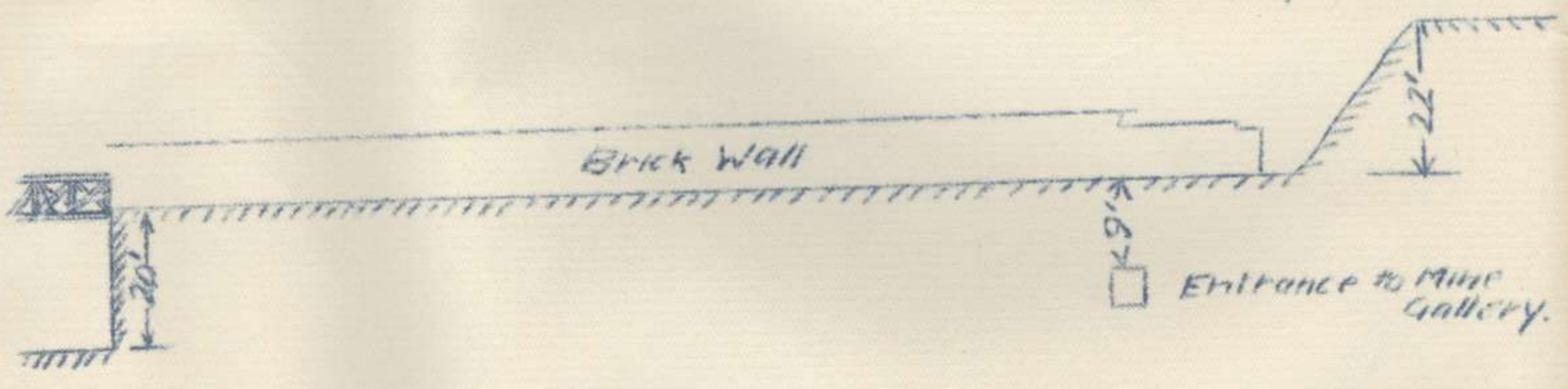
195



PLAN

LENGTH OF LEADS
800' (COMPLETE CIRCUIT)

LENGTH OF FUSE
INST. 10'
SAFETY 3'



SECTION B-B

Scale 1" = 30'

11th FIELD Coy Engrs. A.I.F.

ROAD MINE "V"

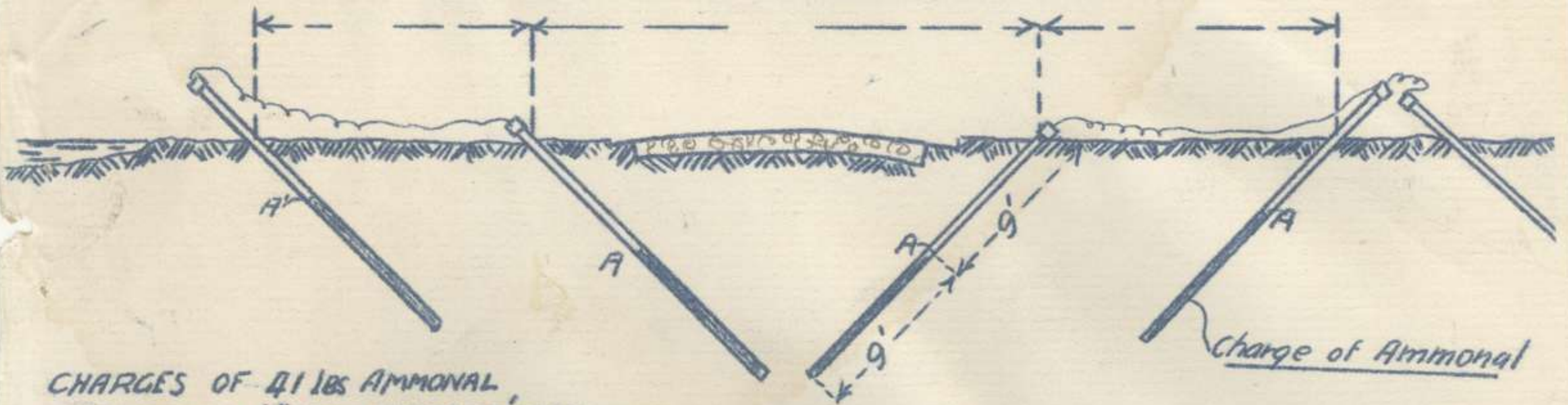
MAP REF.

195

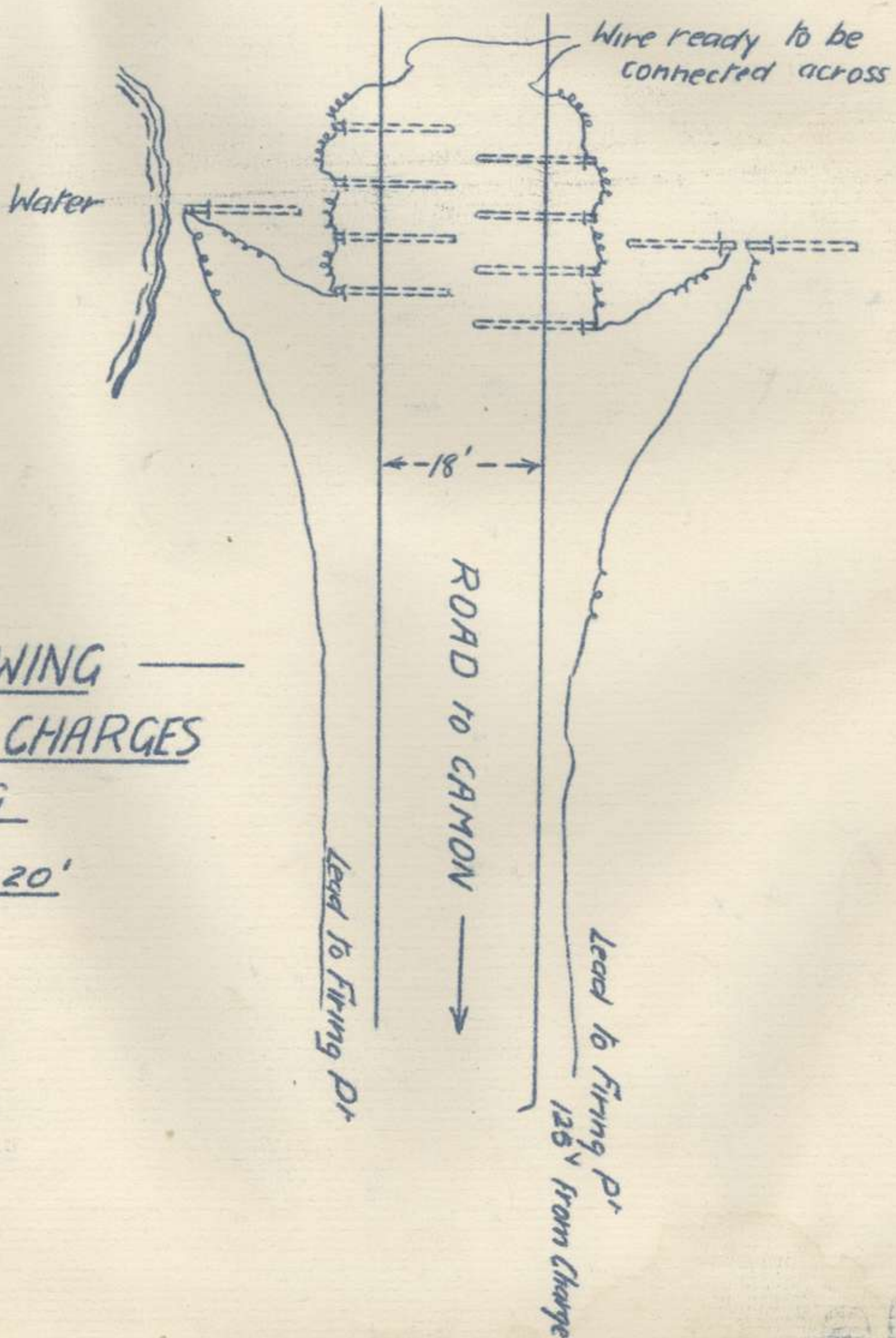
SECTION SHOWING POSITION OF CHARGES UNDER ROAD

Scale 1" = 10'

Map Reference M 22.b C.4



CHARGES OF 41 LBS AMMONAL
 PLACED IN 4 1/2" IRON PIPES 18' LONG
 FIRED BY ELECTRIC DET^R & G.C. PRIMER at "A"



PLAN SHOWING POSITION OF CHARGES & WIRING

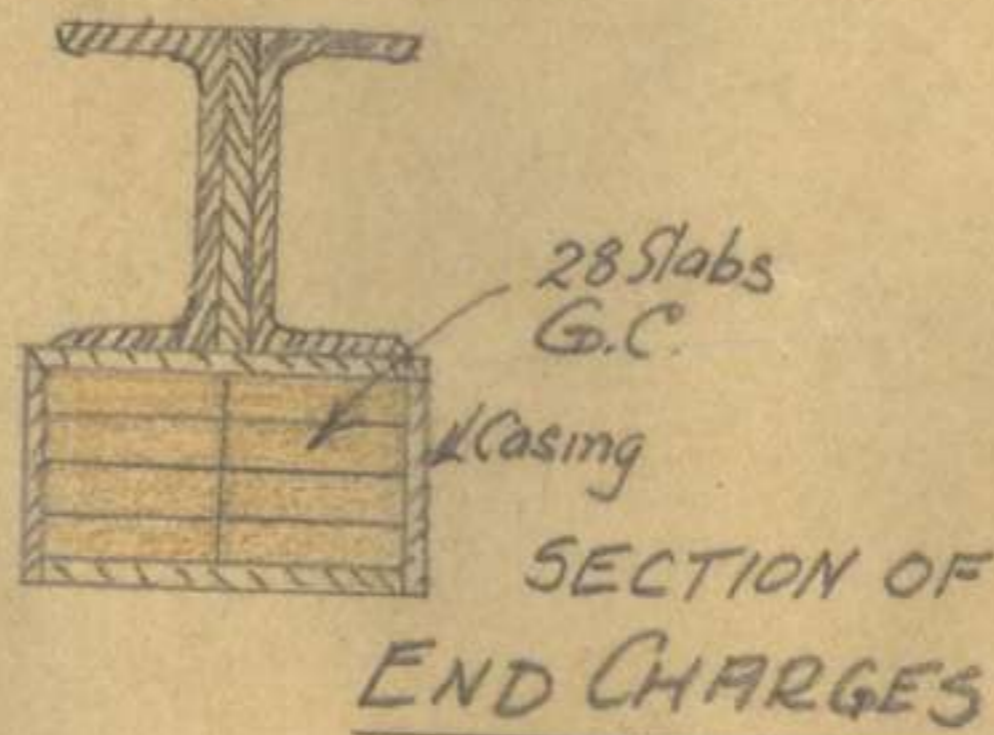
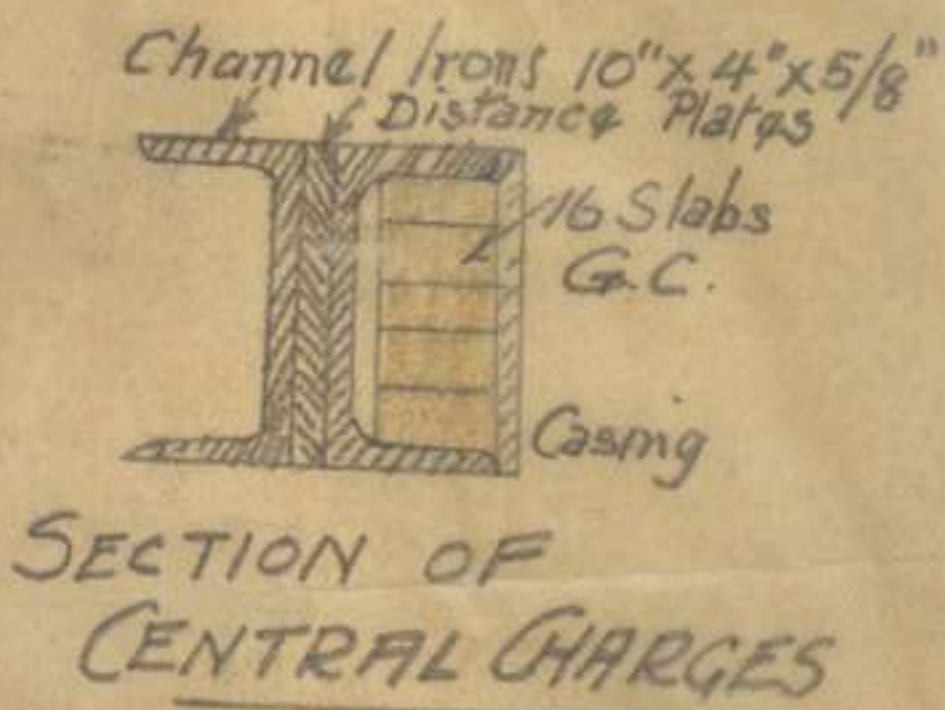
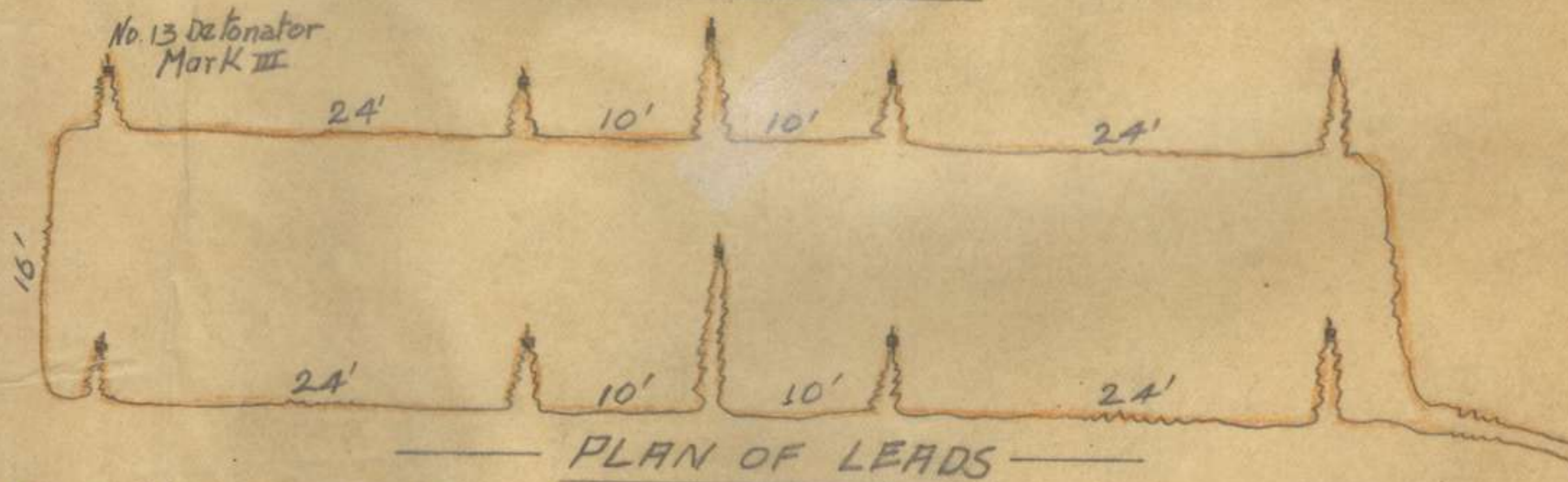
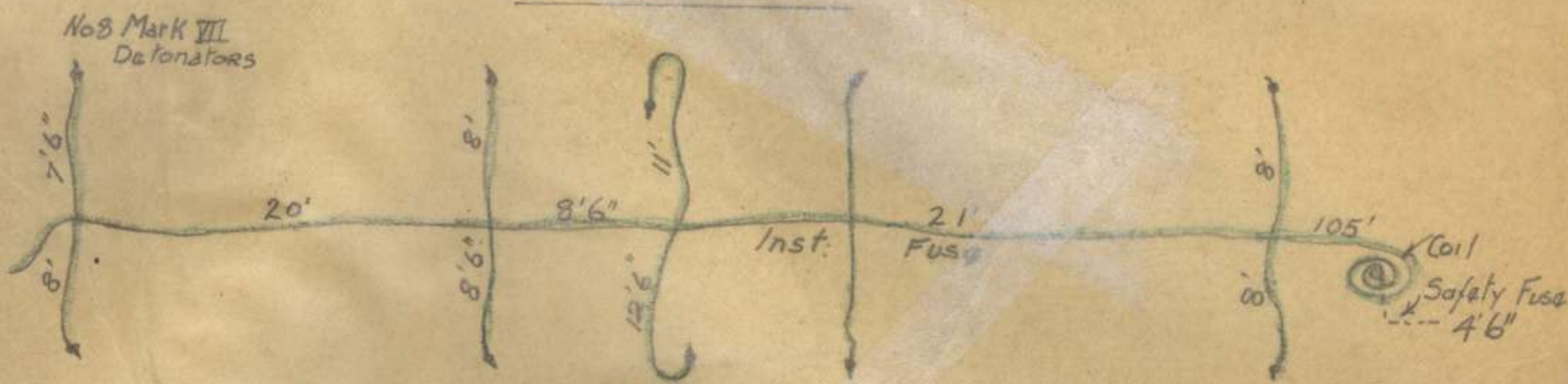
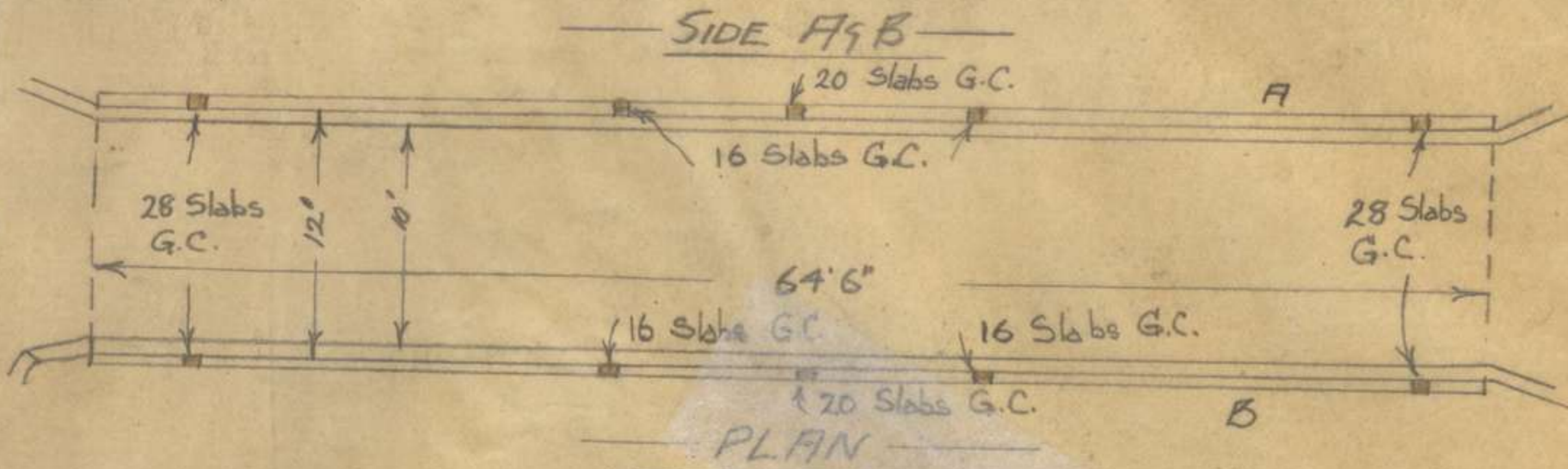
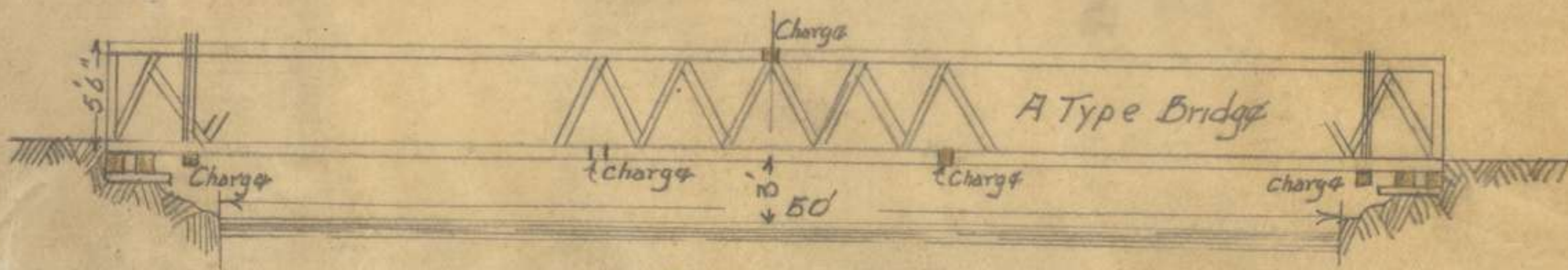
Scale 1" = 20'

LONGEAU BRIDGE No 2

195

M.22 C.3.4

Scale 1"=10'

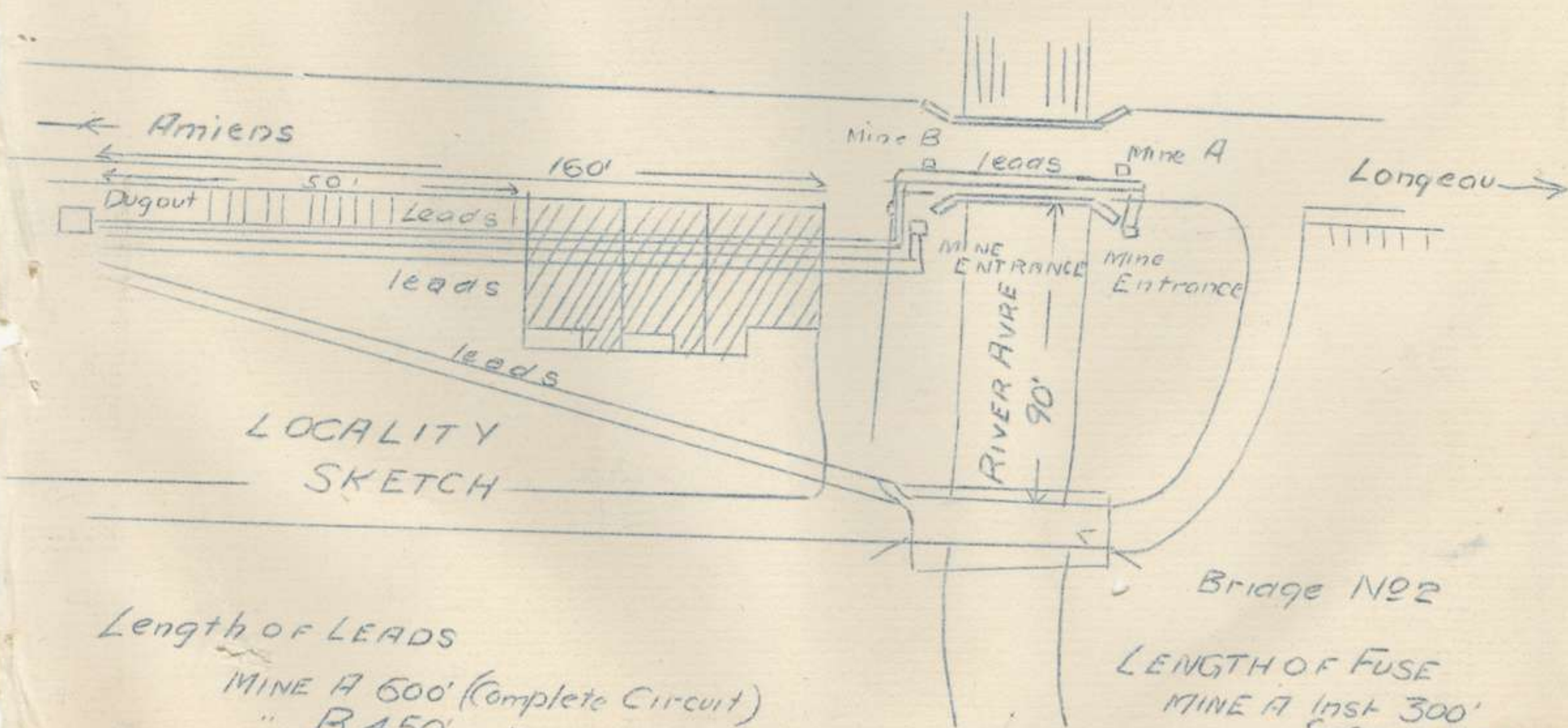
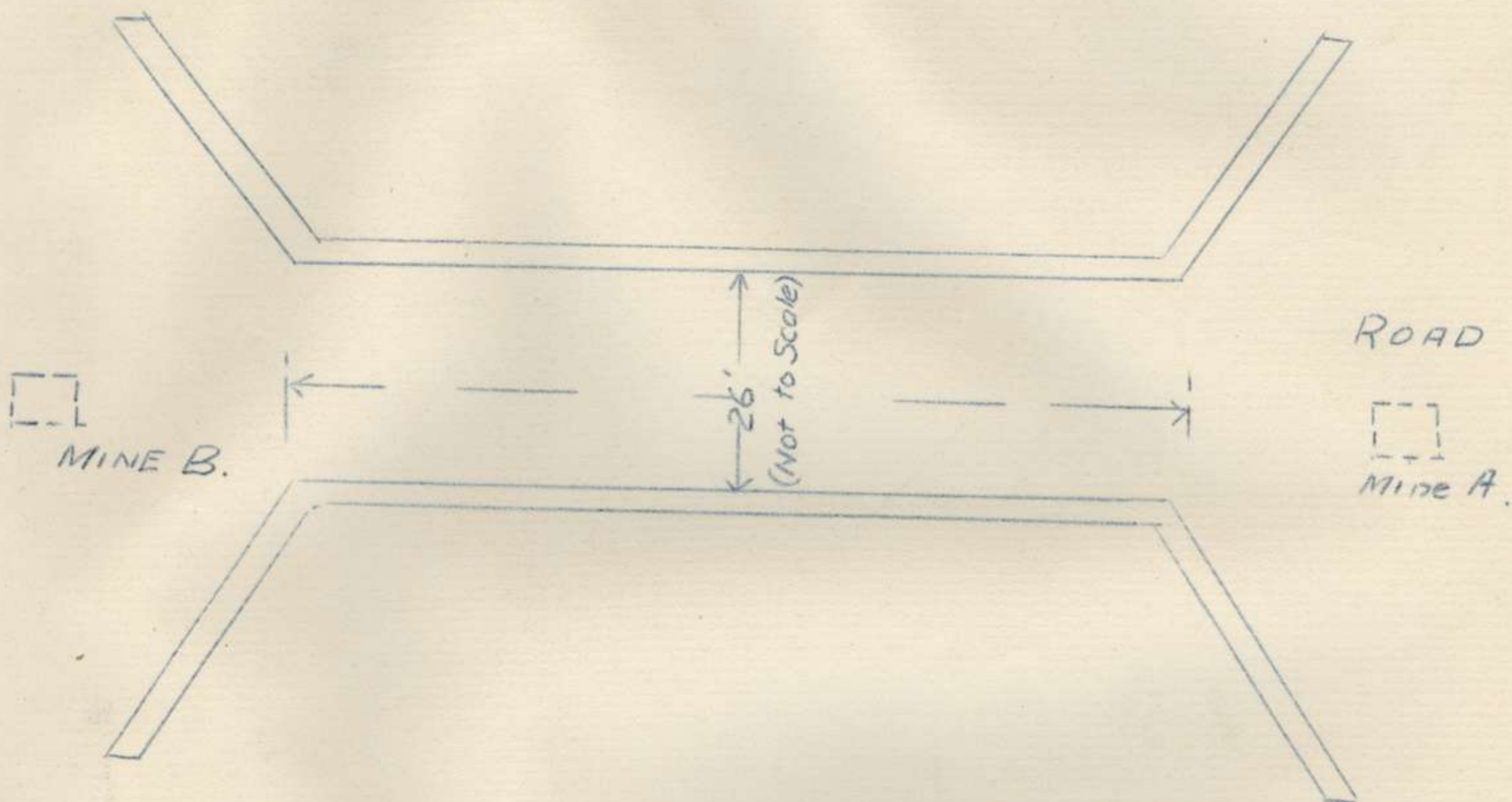
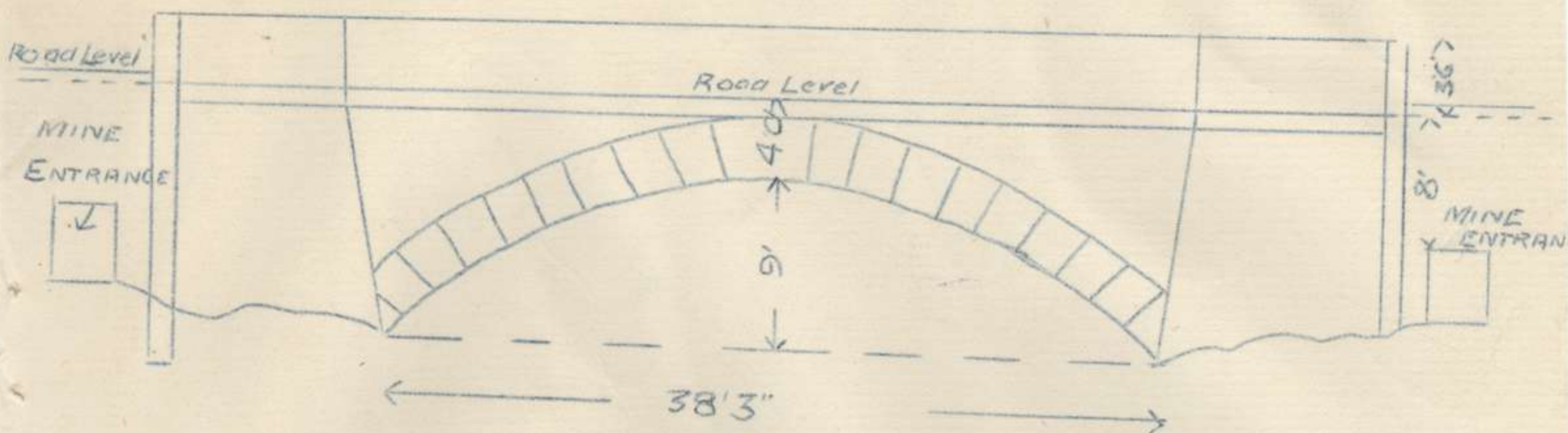


LENGTH OF LEADS
700' (Complete Circuit)

LENGTH OF FUSE
Inst. 243'
Safety 4'6"

NOTE

For Locality Sketch
See Longeau Bridge No. 3.



Length of LEADS
 MINE A 600' (Complete Circuit)
 " B 450' "

LENGTH OF FUSE
 MINE A Inst 300'
 Safety 4'6"
 MINE B Inst 250'
 Safety 4'6"

LONGEAU BRIDGE No. 4.

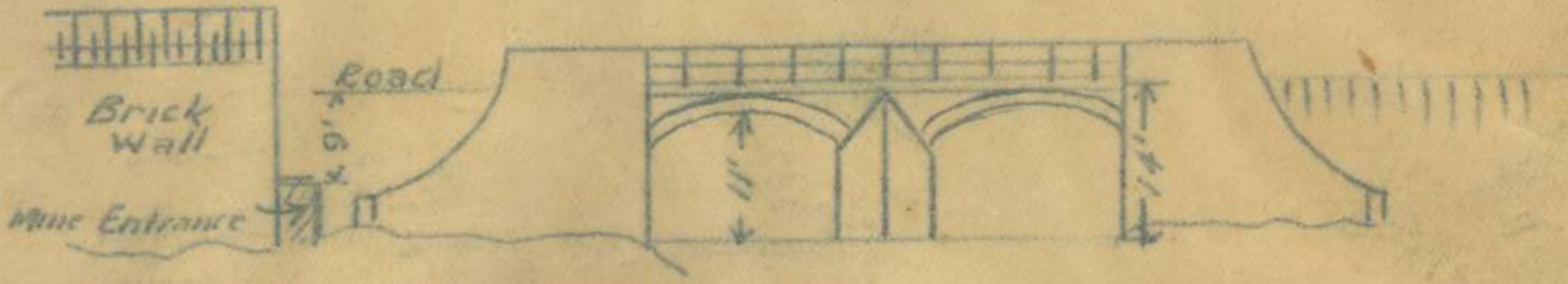
APPENDIX 2

13
7

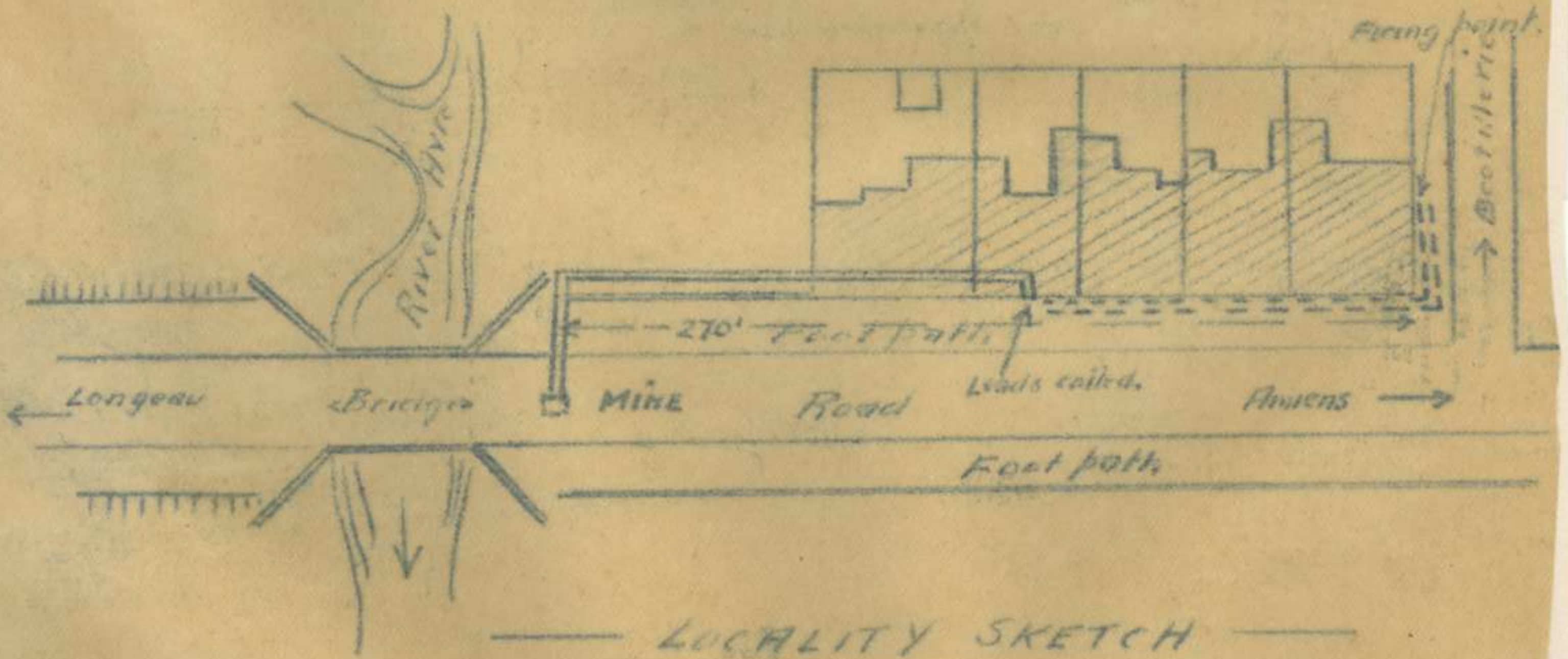
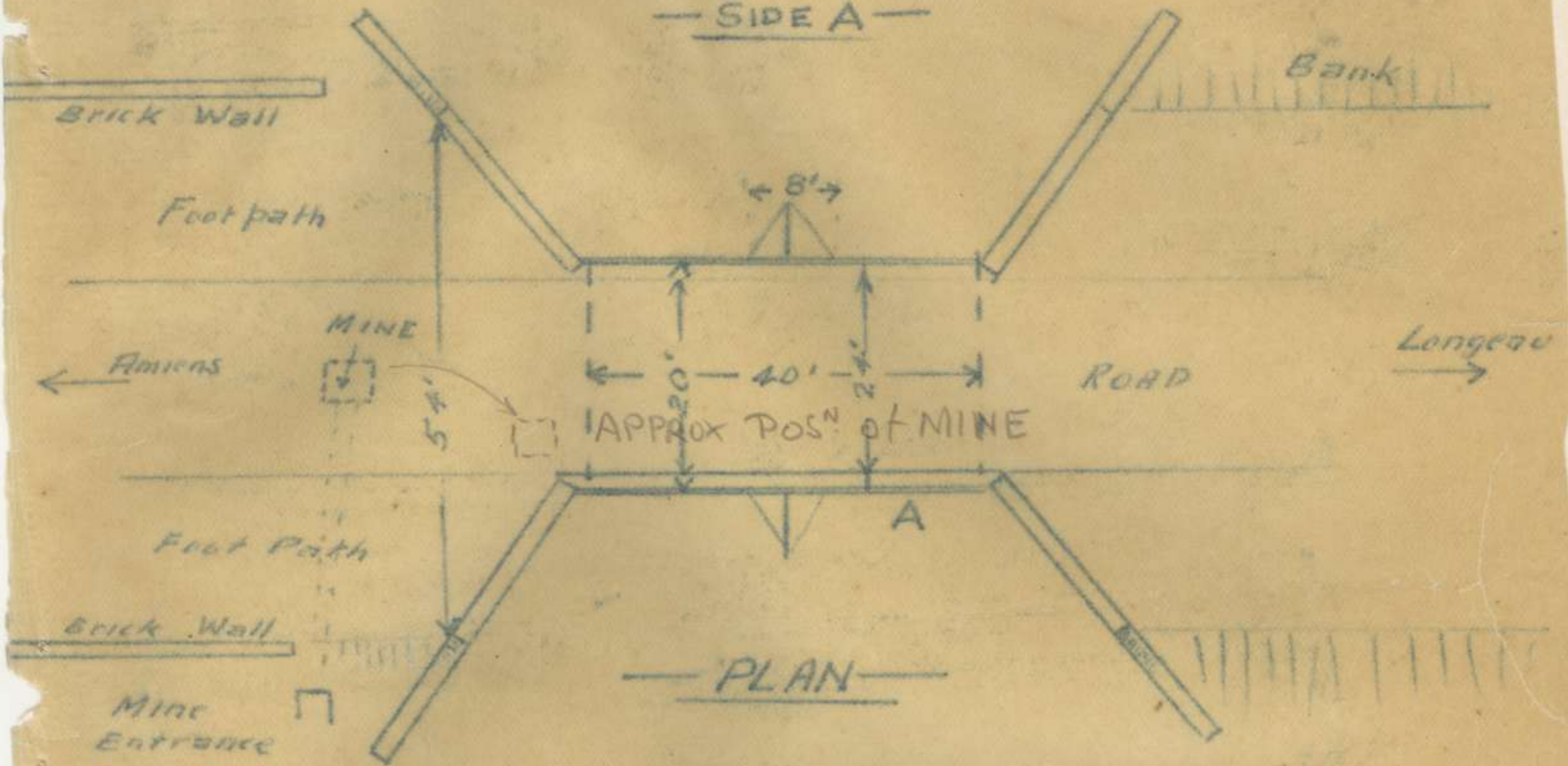
M21.B.22

195

Scale 1" = 20'



SIDE A



LENGTH OF LEADS

792 Ft (Complete Circuit)

LENGTH OF FUSE (coiled at mine Entrance)

last. 200'
Safety 3'

5th Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F.
21.6.18

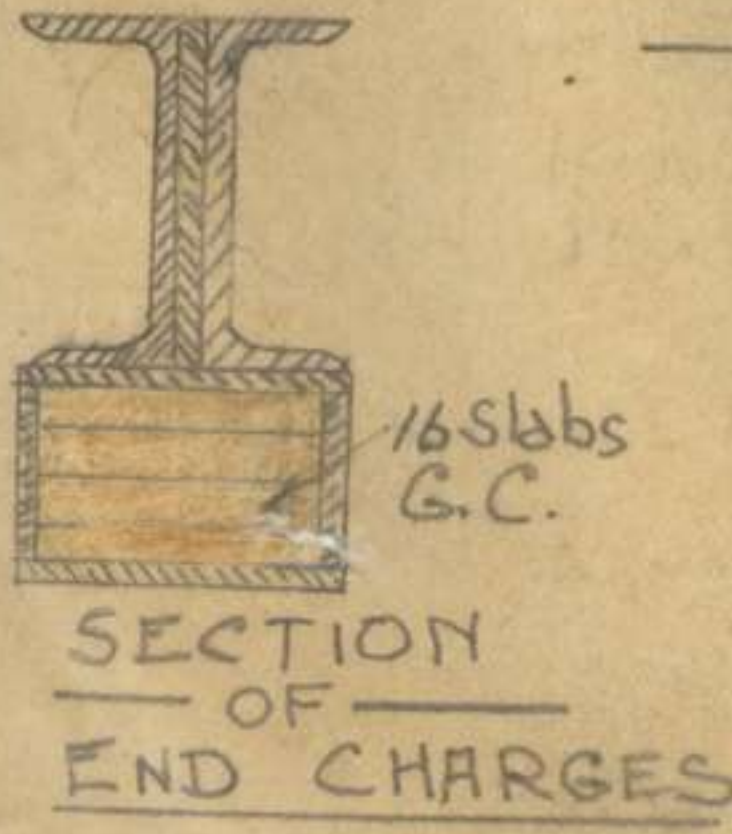
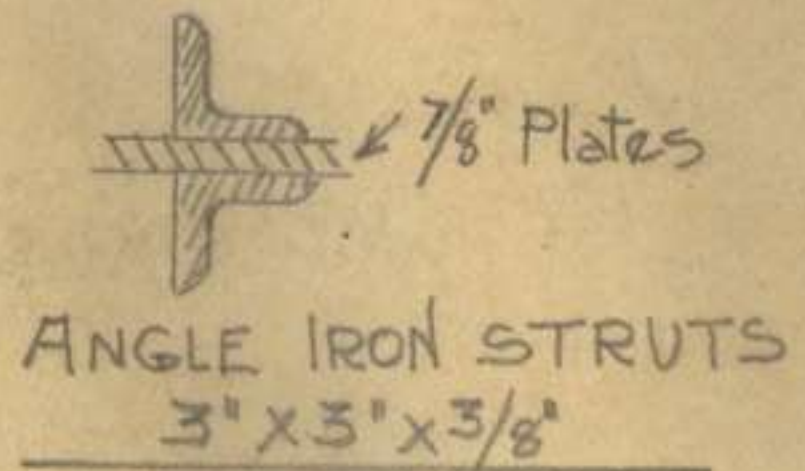
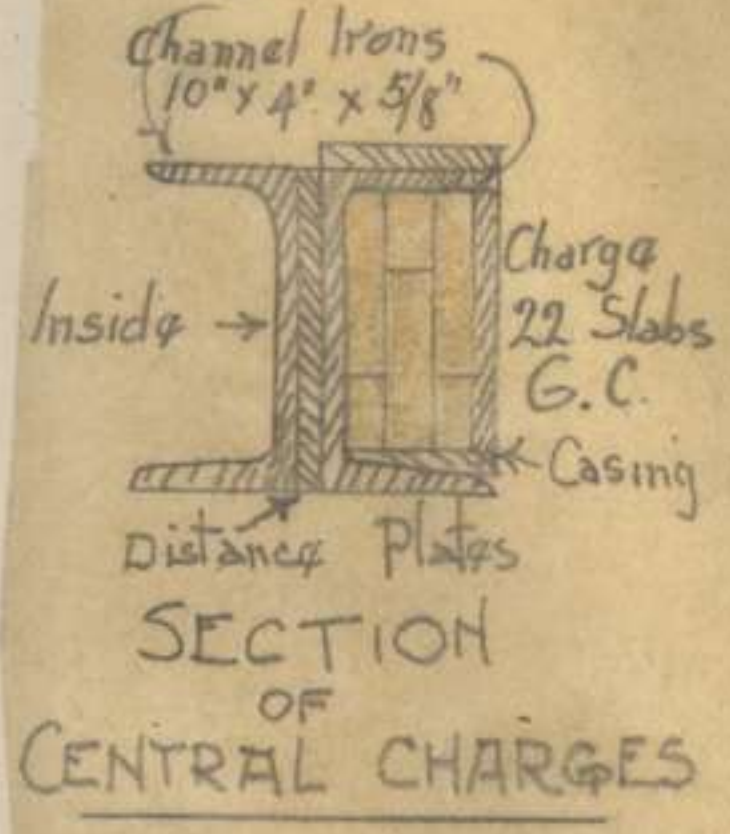
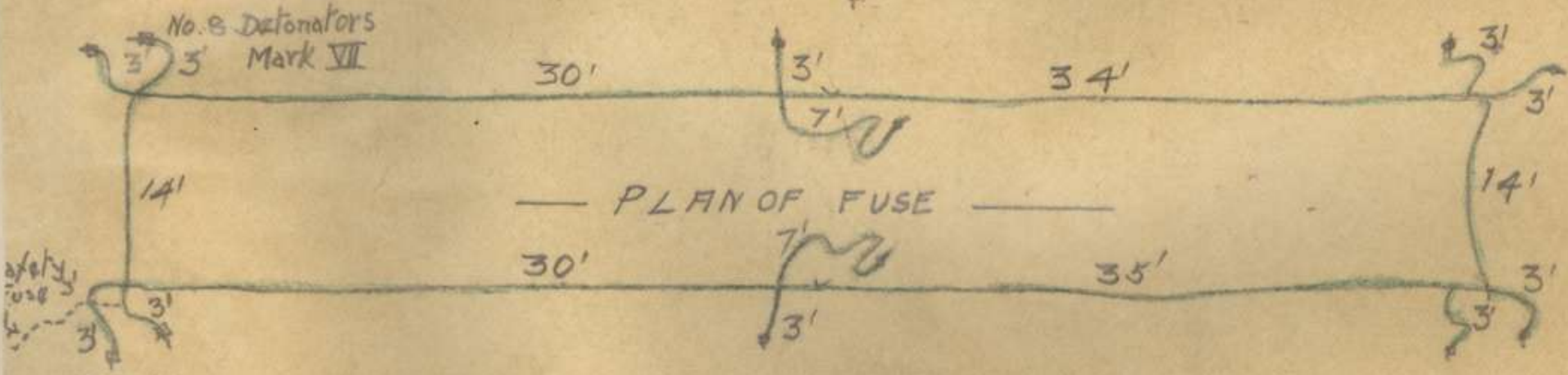
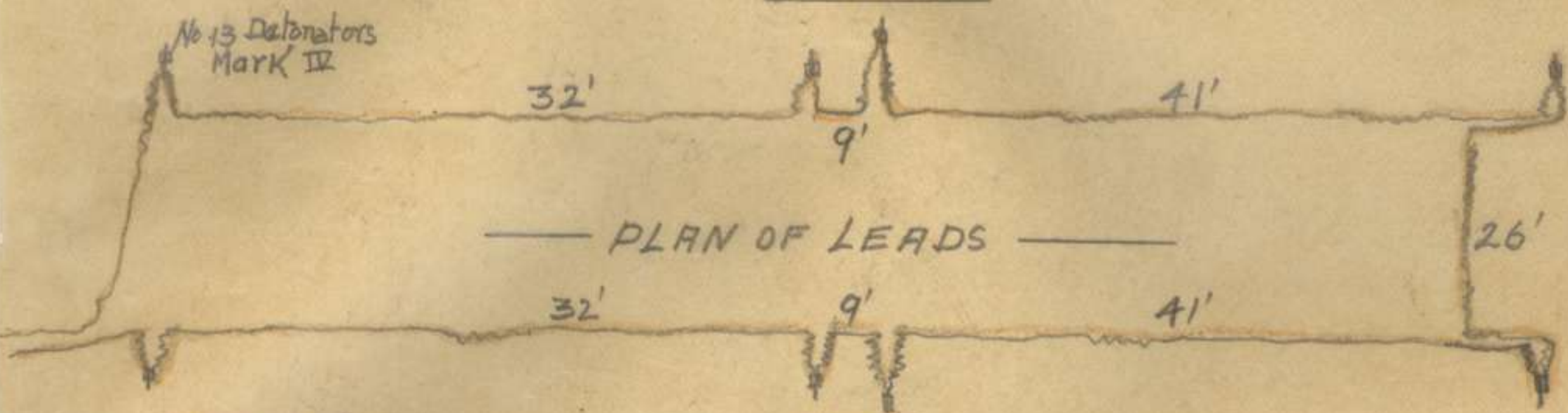
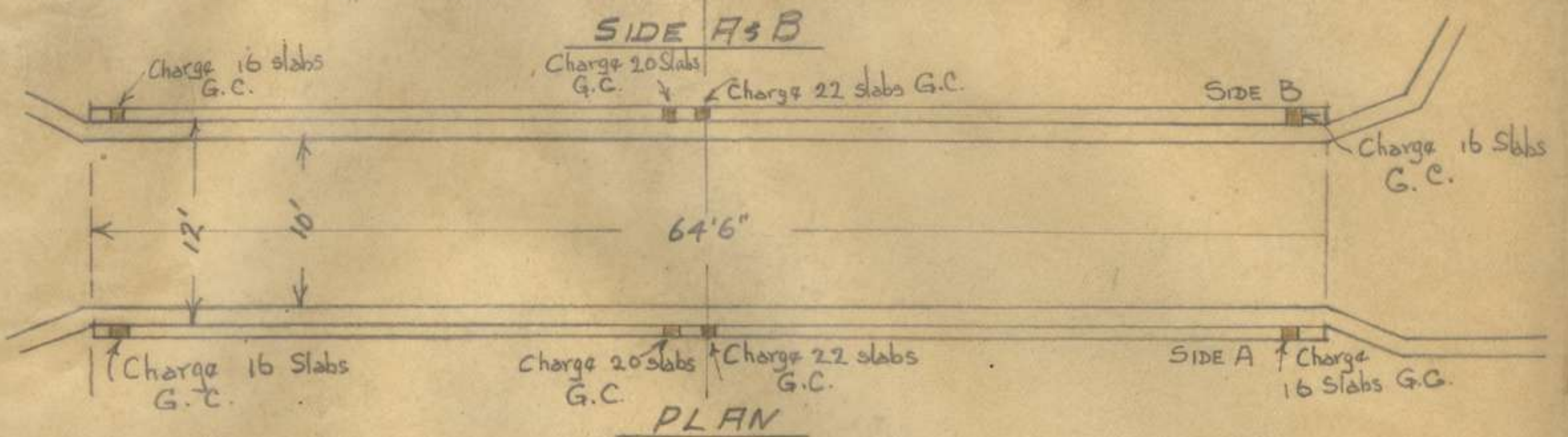
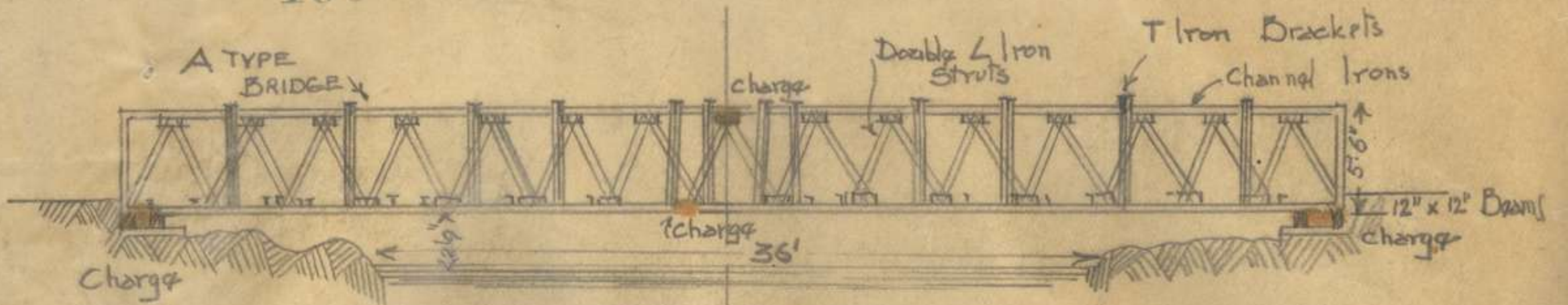
CAGNY BRIDGE No. 1

APPENDIX 2 14

195

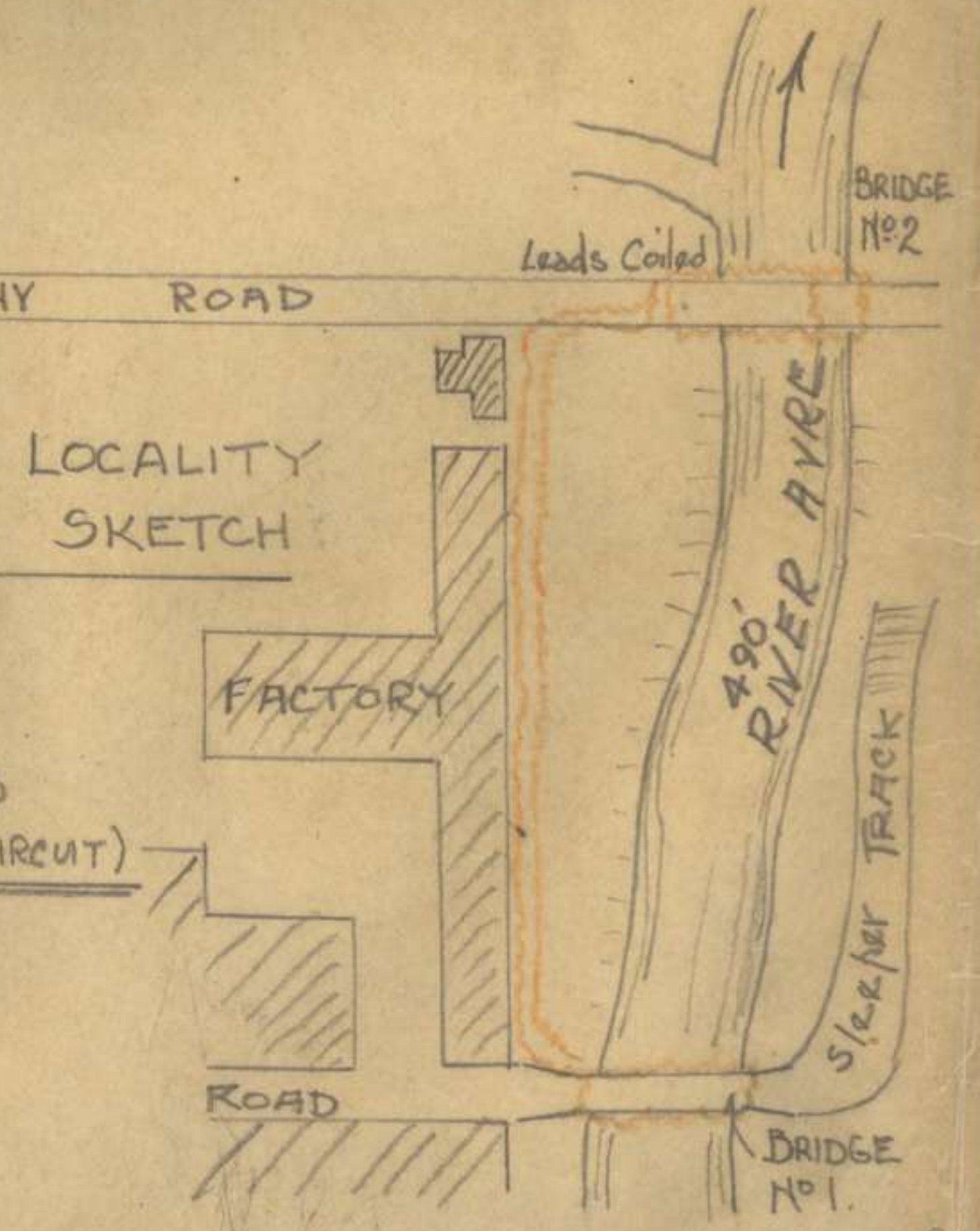
M.34A.9.2.

Scale 1" = 10'



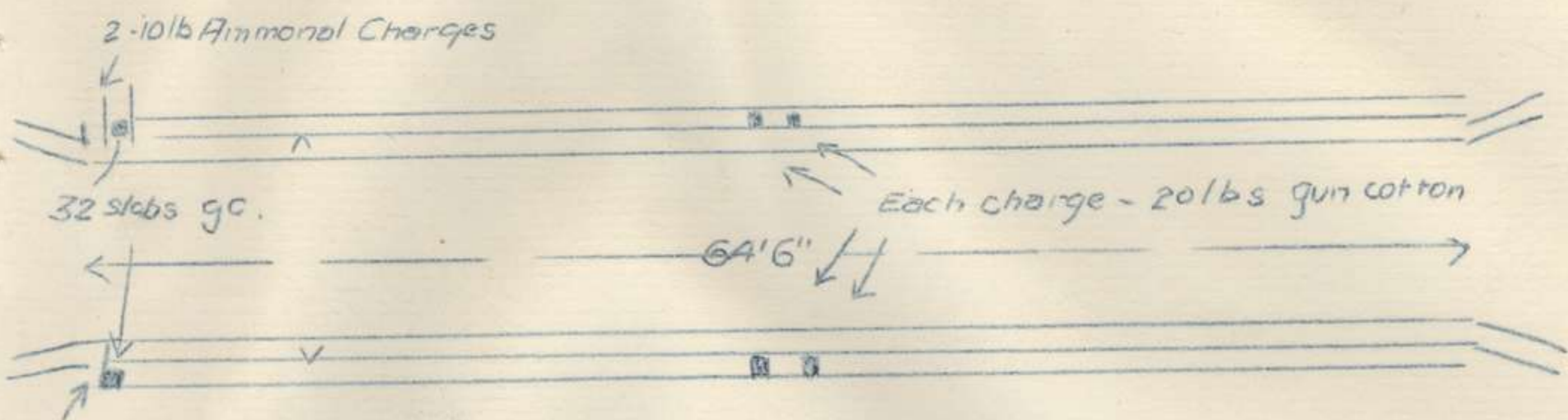
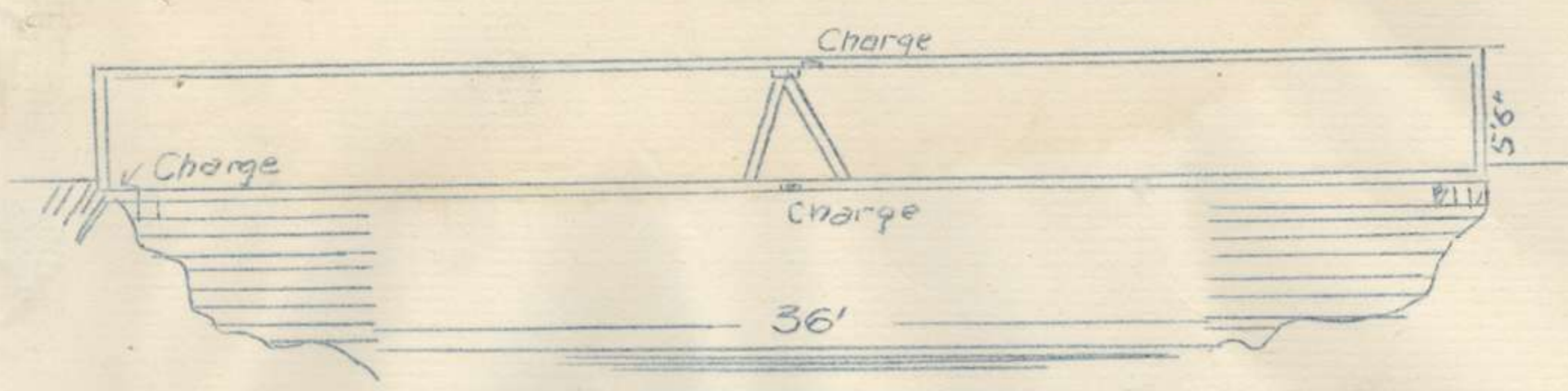
LENGTH OF LEADS
2390' (COMPLETE CIRCUIT)

LENGTH OF FUSE
Inst: 173'
SAFETY 3'

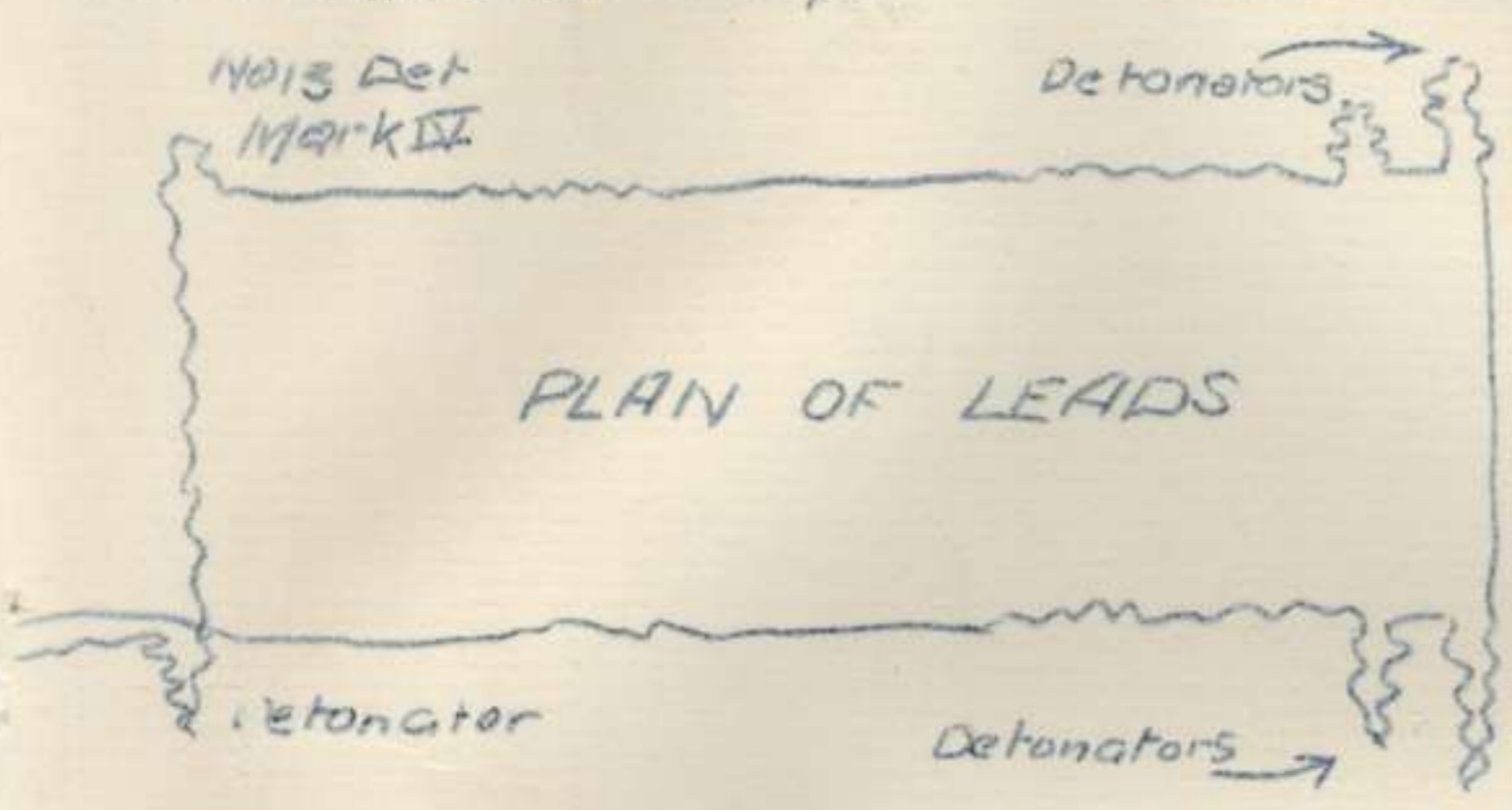


CAGNY BRIDGE No. 2
 195 at M.34 28.4

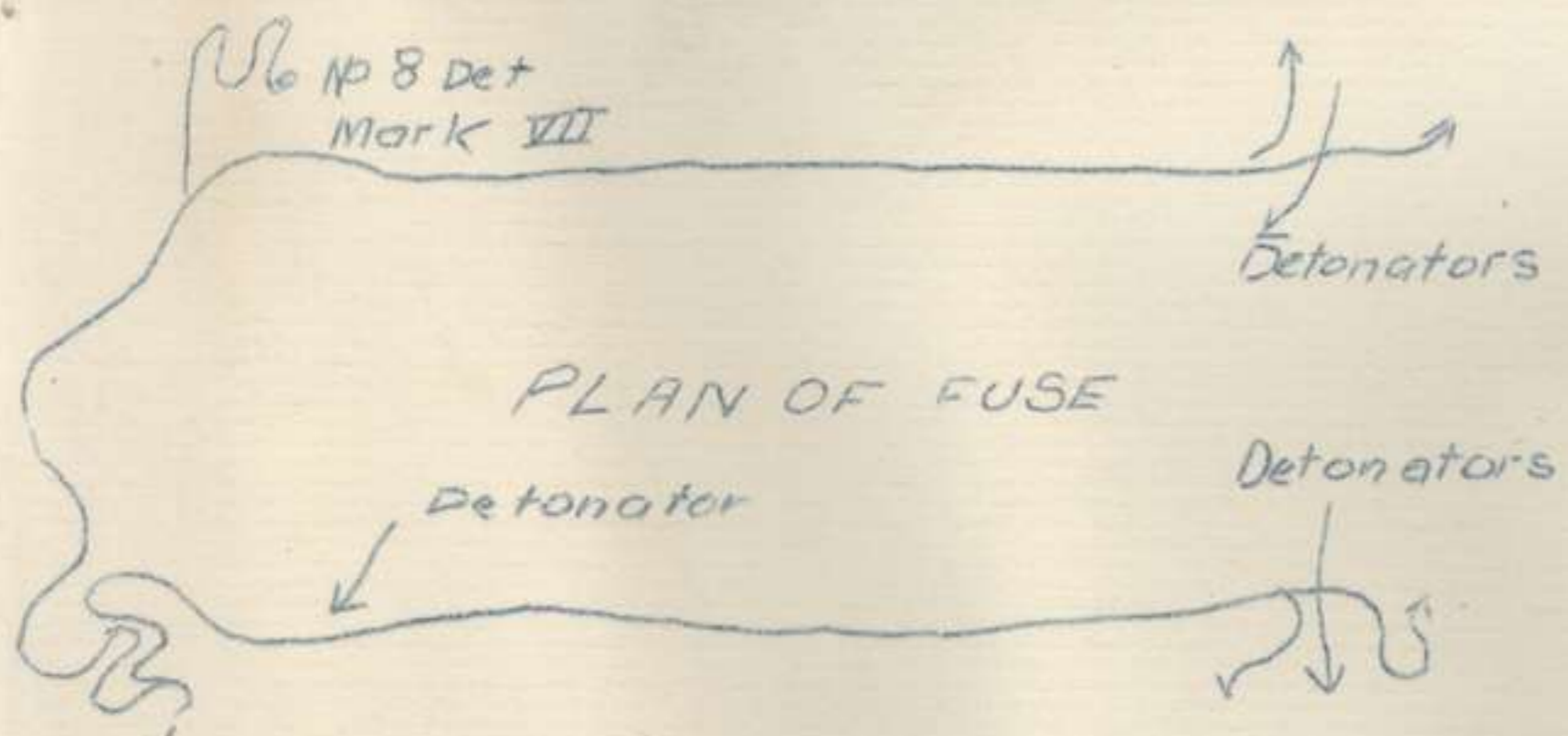
CAGNY BRIDGE NO. 2



1 - 20 lb Ammonal charge — PLAN —

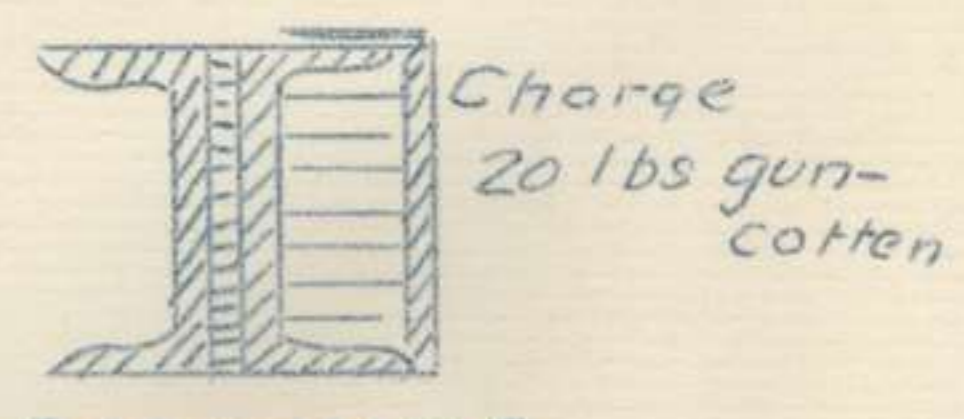


LENGTH OF LEADS
 1130' (Complete circuit)
 Coiled on Bridge

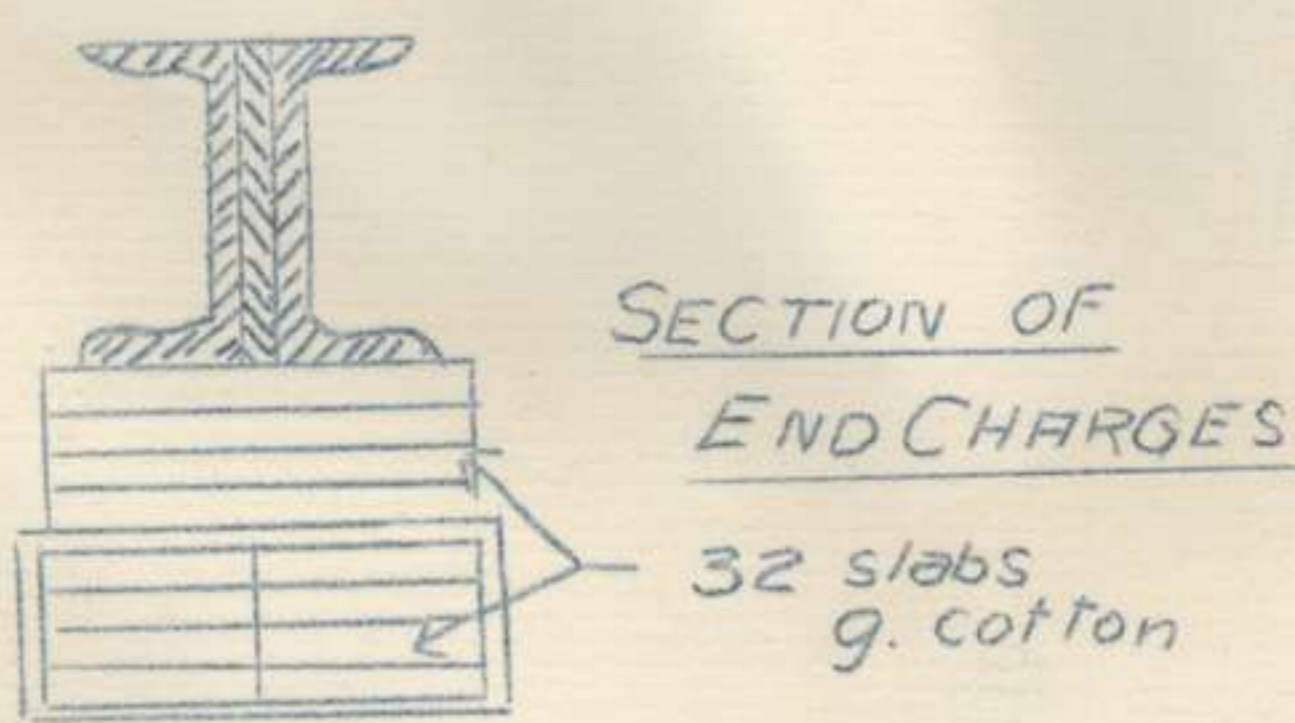


LENGTH OF FUSE
 Inst 126'
 Safety 3'

3' Safety fuse
 NOTE FOR LOCALITY SKETCH
 SEE CAGNY BRIDGE NO. 1.



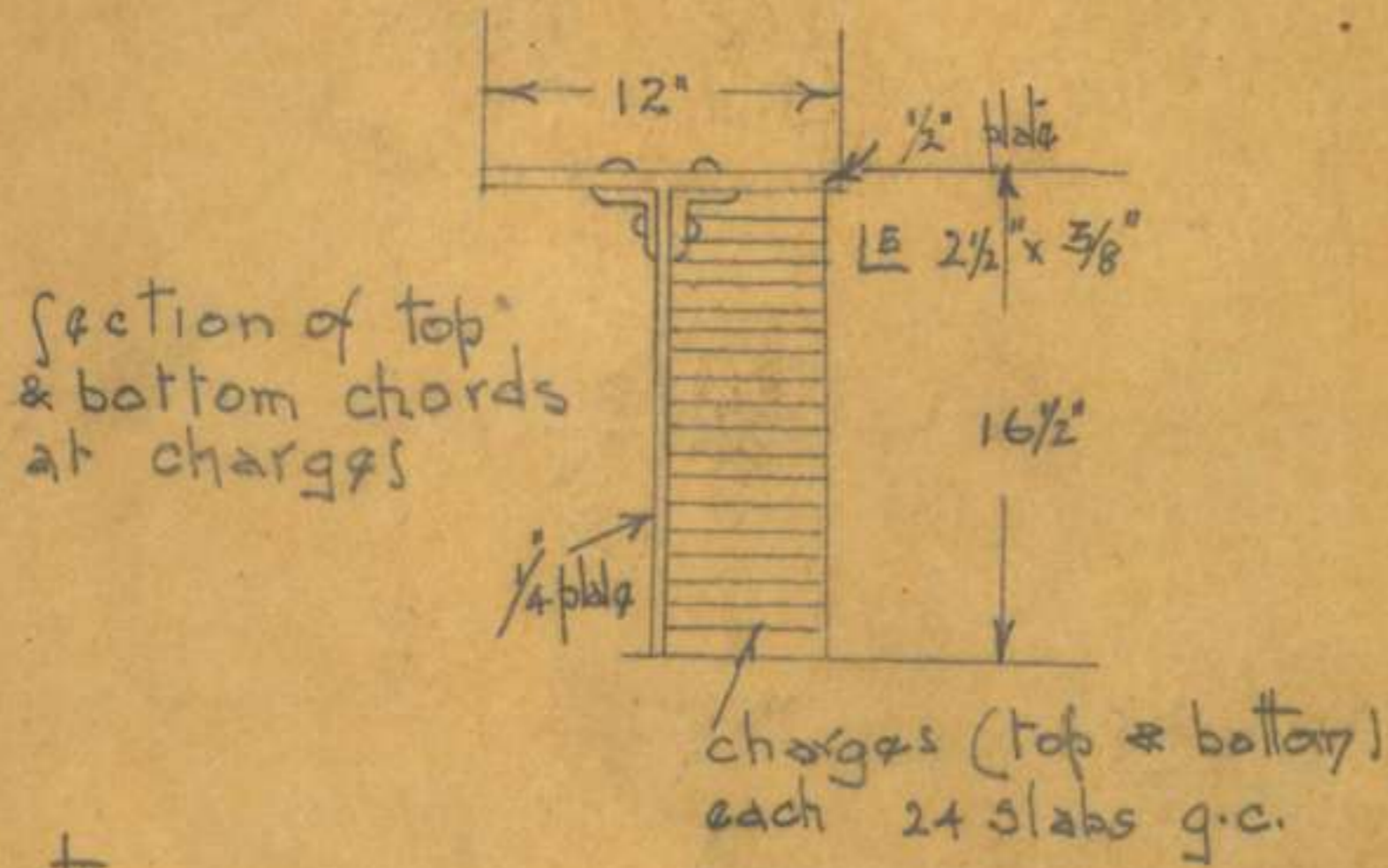
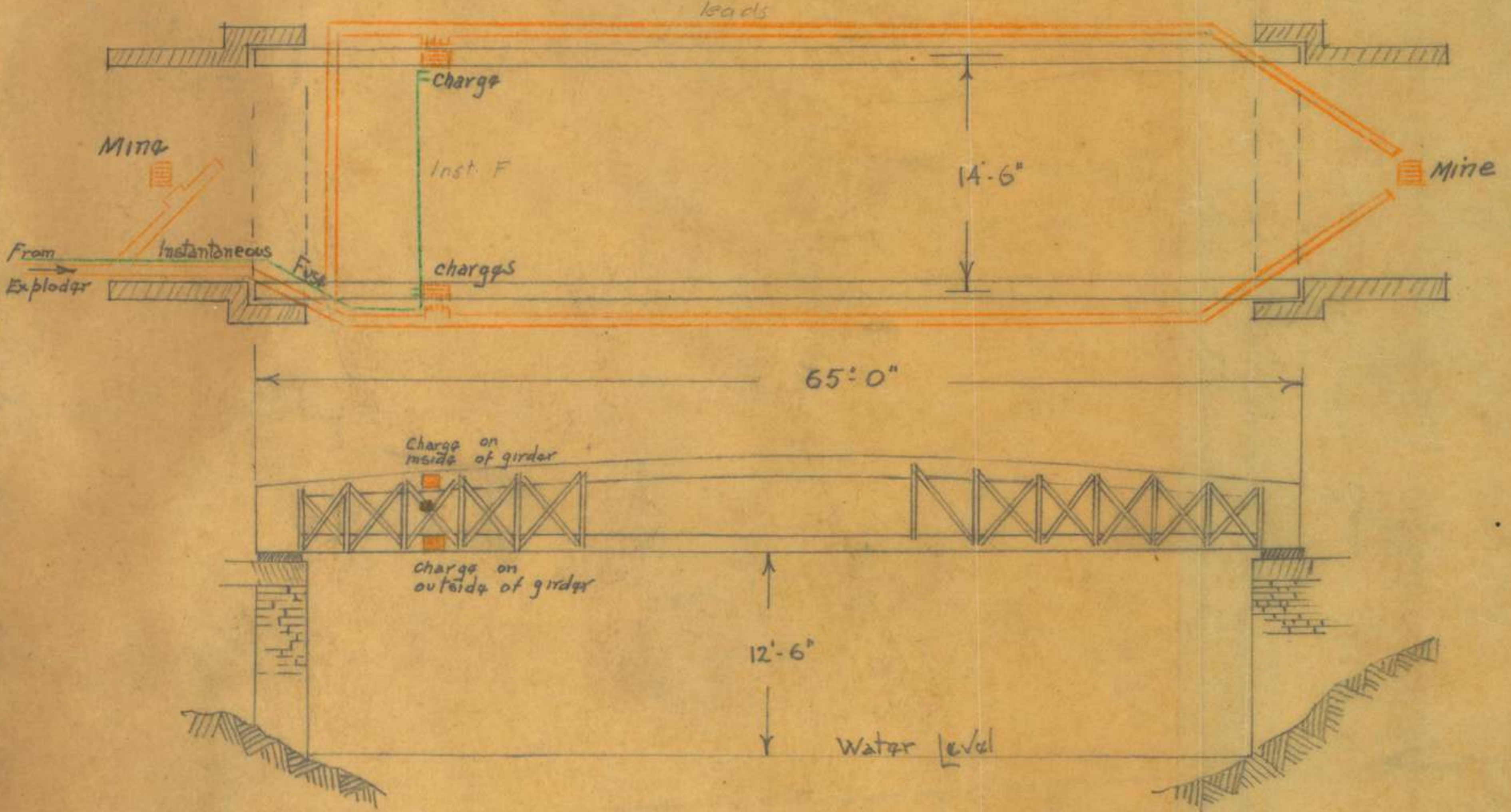
SECTION OF CENTRAL CHARGES



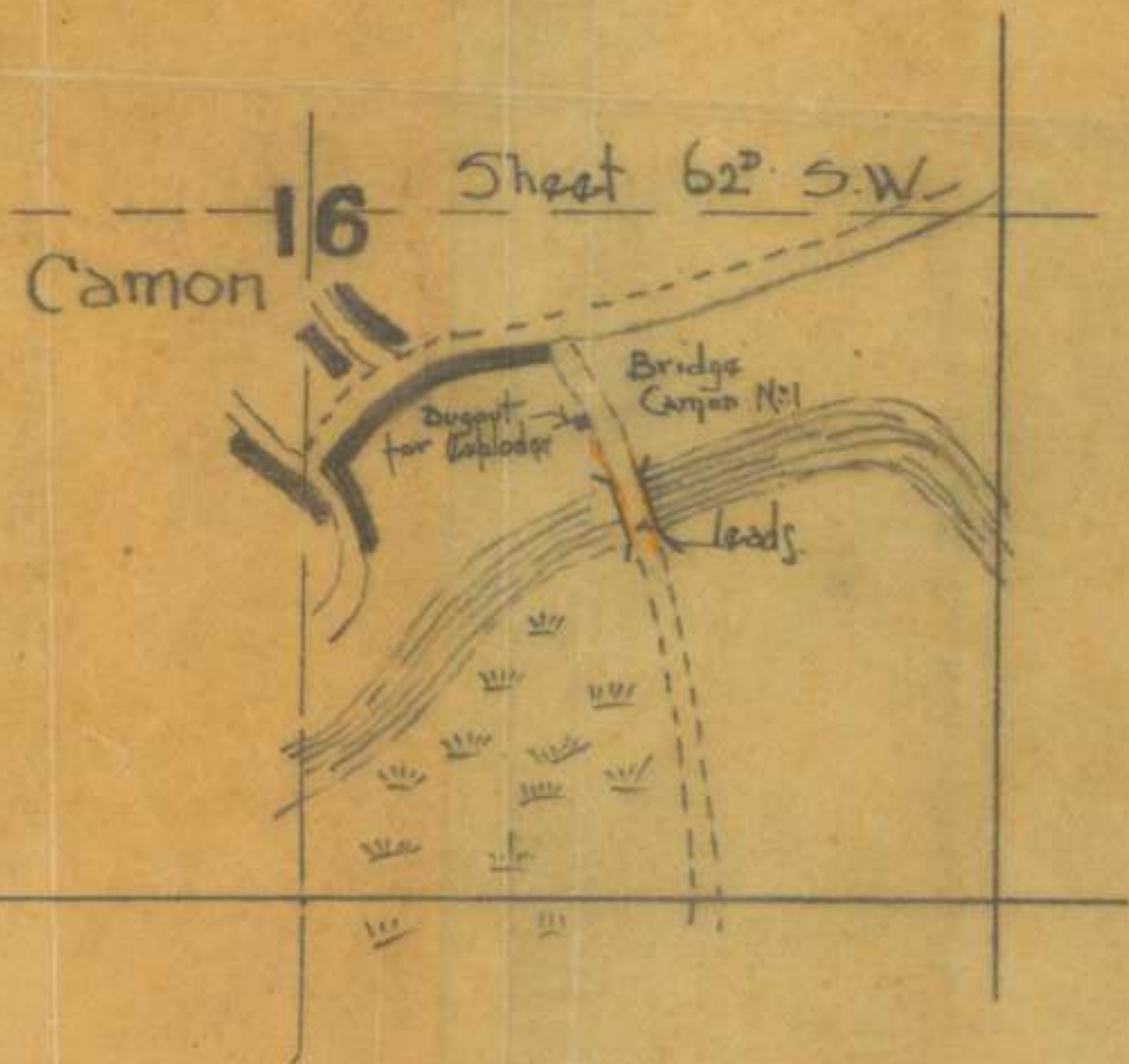
11th Field Coy Engrs A.I.F

BRIDGE Camon No.1 M16d35

Plan showing arrangements for demolition
Scale 10 ft to 1 in.



Tested to
13 ohm
Resistance
20/VI/18



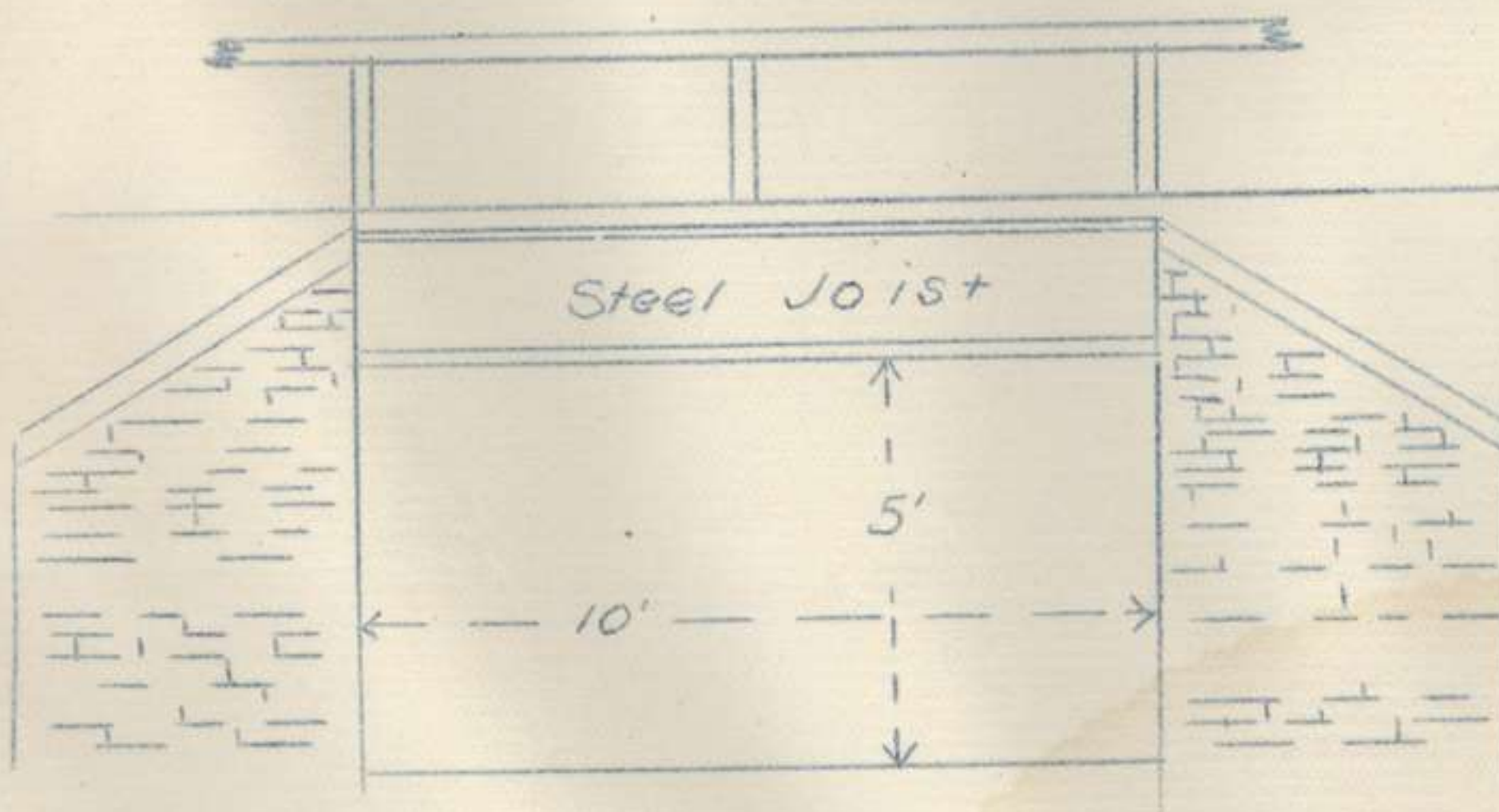
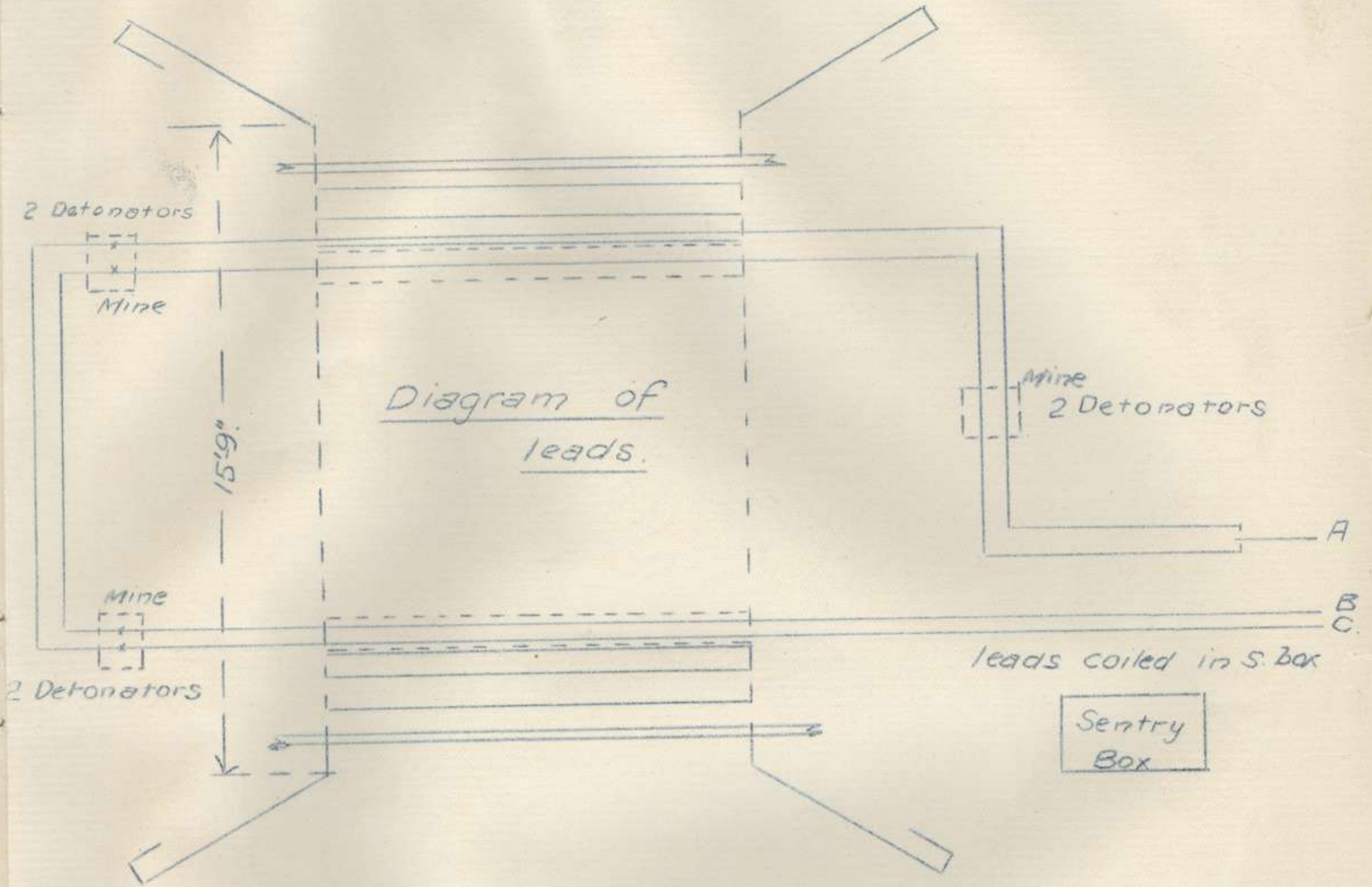
APPENDIX

4

BRIDGE - "CAMON No 2"

Scale - 4ft to 1in.

Map Reference M1621.0 Sheet 620.



TESTED - JUNE 22nd 1918

Resistances:-

Circuit A-B - 13 ohms

" A C - 10 "

" B.C - 13 "

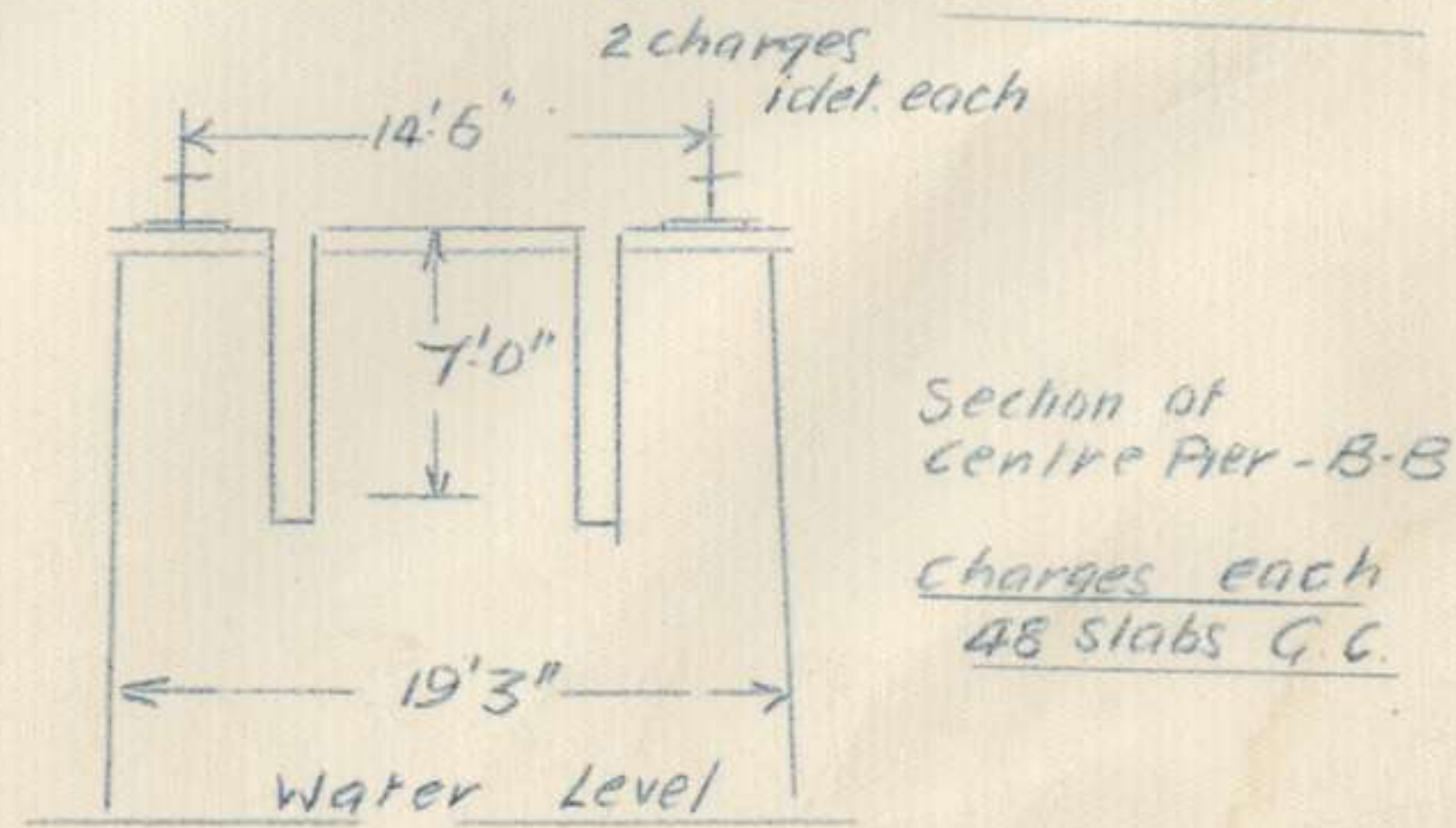
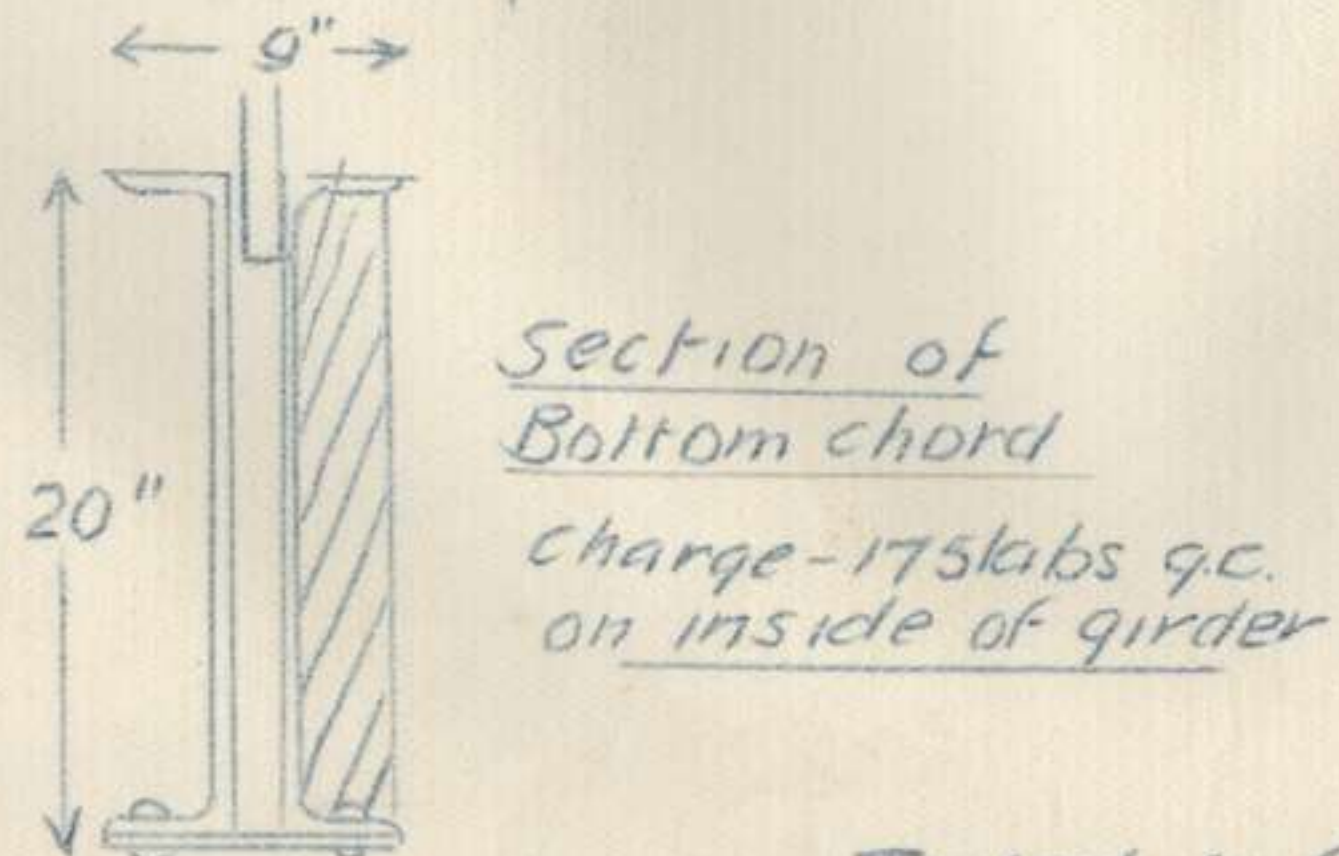
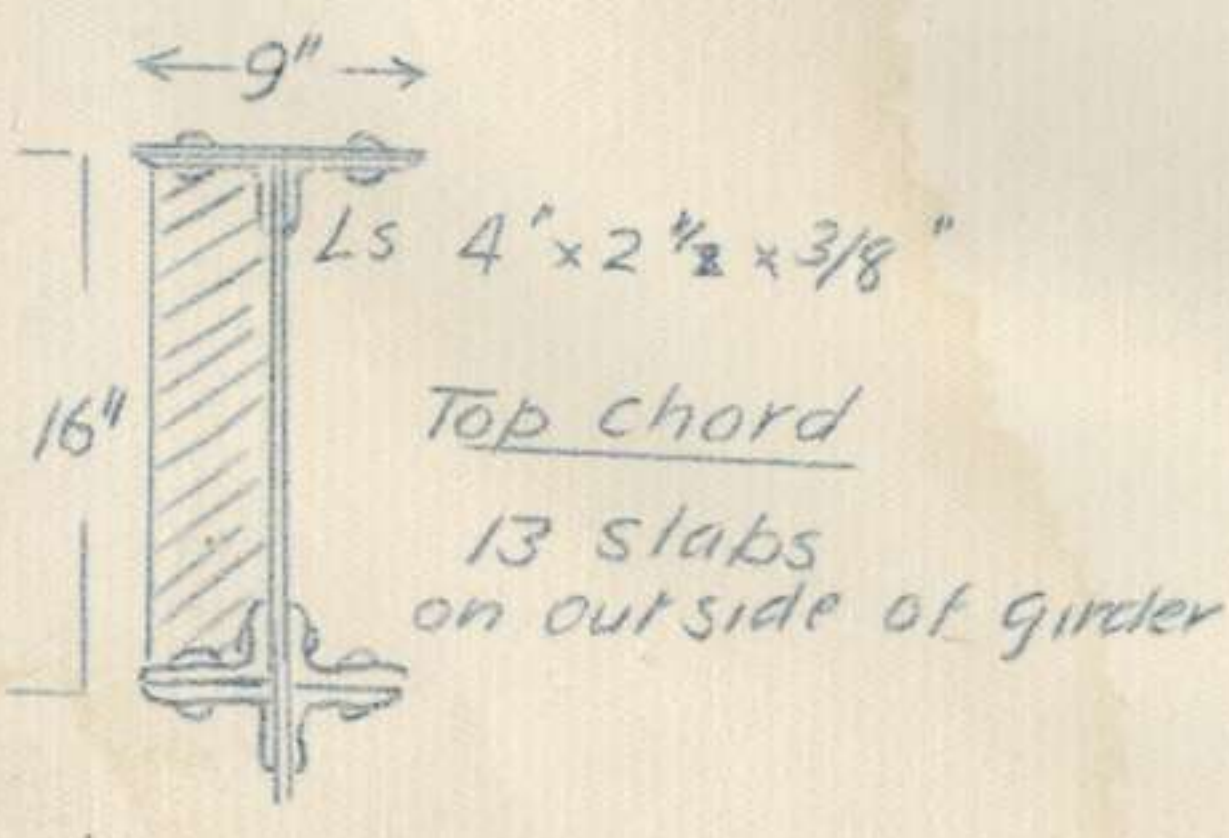
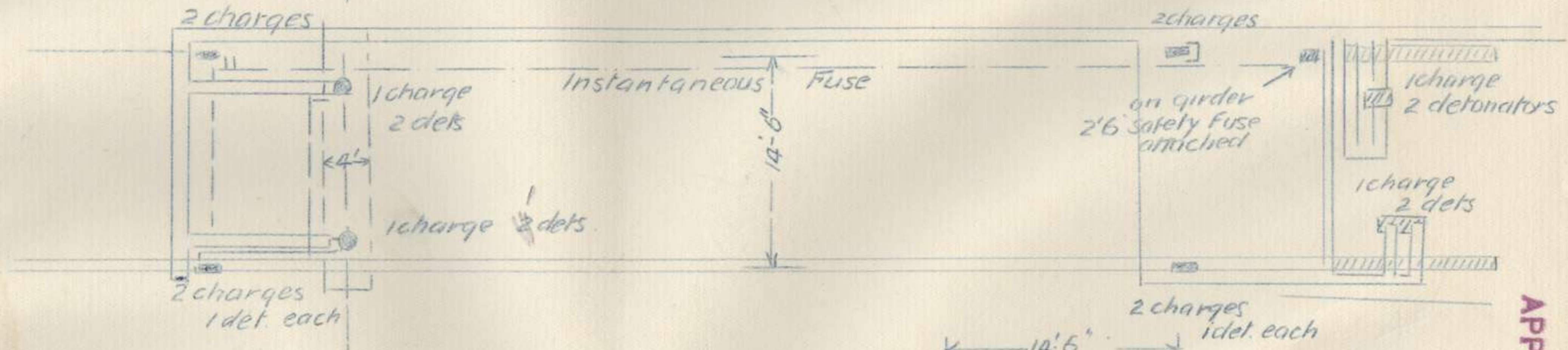
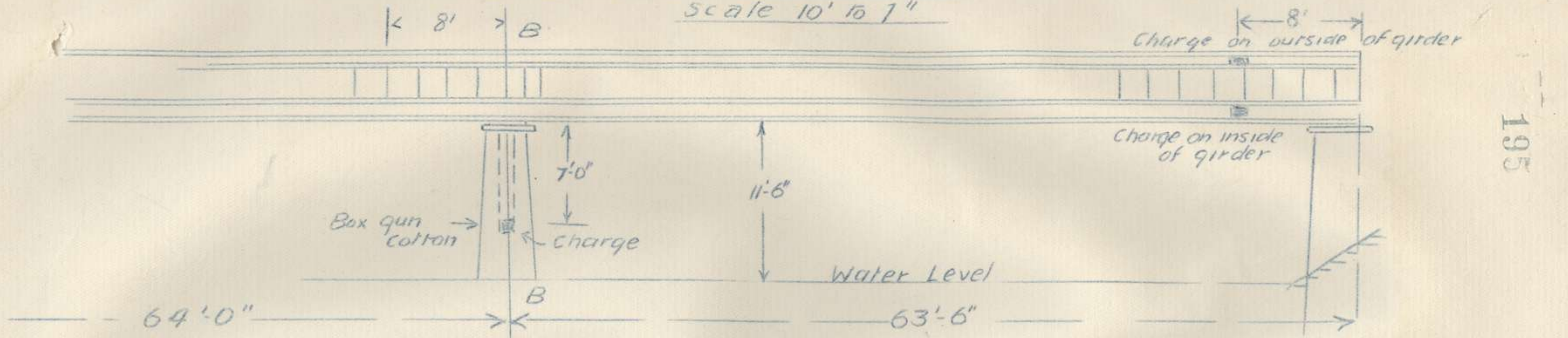
11th Field Coy Engrs A.I.F.

12-7-18.

BRIDGE "CAMON" ²/₃ " AT M 15 623 11th Field Coy Engrs A.I.F

Scale 10' to 1"

195



Tested 21.6.18

APPENDIX.

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From O.C. 5th Field Company, A.E.

To O.C. 11th Field Company, A.E.

Herewith report on bridges and road mines, with sketch showing disposition of charges and circuits.

 Captain
a/ O.C. 5th Field Company, A.E.

Field
26th June 1918

Copy to - Chief Engineer, Australian Corps

195

3rd. Australian Division
11 Field Company Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS,
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
11E 42/145
No.....
Date 12.7.1918.

C.R.E.
3rd. Australian Division.

Received from the 11th. Field Company A.E.
. 11 Exploders

Taken over by.....12th. Field Coy. A.E

Handed over by *Wm Williams Capt*.....11th. Field Coy. AE
for o.c.

Wm Williams
Captain
for O.C. 11th Field Coy.

3rd. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
1 1th. Field Company Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
ENGINEERS,
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
11E 50/29
No.....
Date 12.7.1918

Certified that the camp RIVERY , M.S.d.S.2 (sheet 62D)
vacated by 11th. Field Company Aust. Engrs. on 12 July 1918 ,
was left in a clean and sanitary condition

A Base List
.....
for. O.C. 12th. Field Company A.E.

Date 1918

3rd. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th Field Company Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS, 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.	
No.	E115029/
Date	18/7/18

LIST OF VARIOUS STORES HANDED OVER TO 11th. FIELD COY.
AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ON 18th. JULY 1918

Shelters, canvas

No. 7

Handed over by 11th F.C.A.E.

Taken over by *D. Massey* 11th F.C.
A.E.

O.C. 11th. Field Coy. A.E.

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3rd. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th. Field Company Engineers

11TH FIELD COMPANY
 ENGINEERS,
 8th AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. 11E 50/89

Date 12/7/18

LIST OF STORES AT BRIDGES AND ROAD MINES IN LONGEAU
 CAMON AND CAGNY AREAS HANDED OVER TO 11TH FIELD COMPANY A.E.
 By 11th. Field Company A.E. on 18th. July 1918.

LONGEAU BRIDGE No. 1

Boring Gear, six pieces and spanner.

Primers 38

Instant. Fuse 50 yds

Safety Fuse 9 yds.

Detonators No. 13 Mk. 111 8 and rectifier.

Tape and rubber tins 2

Electric leads 80yds.

Exploders 75 and 55 ohms. 2

Bolts and nuts 30

Nameplates various 18

LONGEAU BRIDGES Nos. 2 3 and 4

Detonators No. 8 cases 27 20

" No. 13 18 10

Fuses No. 14 200

Fuse Instant. 100 FTMS

Ammonal Charge "C" type 10 lbs 10 tins

" " "B" " 25 "

Wheatstone Bridge 1

Galvanometer 1

Exploders 2

Fuses friction 200 50

Fuse SAFETY 64 FTMS

GUNCOTTON 3 CASES

CAGNY BRIDGES 1 and 2 and 3 Road Mines

Guncotton 10

" primers 80 20

Fuses inst. 185 20 tins

" safety 12 2

Detonators No. 13 Mark 4 70 tins 20

Tubes friction 50

Exploders 3

CAMON No. 1 BRIDGE

Exploder 1

Emergency Fuse set 1

No. 13 Detonator 25

No. 8 " 6

Guncotton 2 Boxes

Primer s 20

Solution tubes 1

Spare Electric Leads fathoms 6

Time fuze fathoms 3

Plyers pairs 1

Boat 1

Pick and shovel 1 each

Rectifier 1

Ammonal tubes "B" type 30lbs. 4 (diam 4" x 2'6")

GAMON No. 3 Bridges

195 Detonators No. 8 12
 Detonators No #3 25
 Fuze set 1
 Exploder 1
 Guncotton cases 2
 Spare lead fathoms 6
 Safety fuze " 8
 Inst. = " 6
 Matches box 1
 Plyers 1
 Solution 1
 Rectifier 1
 Primers 20
 Rubber tape roll 1
 Pick and shovel 1 each
 Boat 1

*Note: Also received Foulbow
 Equipment Complete except
 for 7 Rack hashtings.*

*Signed A. Ross Lieut for o.c.
 12th Coy*

*Wm Williams Capt
 for o.c. 11th Coy*

GAMON No. 4 Bridge

Boat 1
 Exploder 1

Handed over by *Wm Williams Capt* 11 F.C. A.E.

Taken over by 12 F.C. A.E.

*Wm Williams Capt
 for O.C. 11th. Field Coy. A.E.*

O.C. 12th. Field Coy A.E.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
11th. Field Company EngineersHANDING OVER NOTES ON BRIDGES IN LONGEAU CAMON AND CAGNY
AREAS TO 12th. FIELD COMPANY A.E. on 12 July 1918

An order has been given but not promulgated that all bridge charges shall be mobile. They are to be stored near the bridges and all leads and detonators are to be stored near to hand. The necessary work is now in hand, so that on the promulgation of the order they can at once be stored as required. To carry it out the position of the charge will have to be marked and numbered on the girder and the charges marked with the same number. Arrangements will have to be made so that they can quickly be slipped into position and that they will have absolute contact with the member.

A magazine will have to be built at the main CAGNY bridge in which to store the charges of CAGNY 1 and 2 bridges. It is suggested that these charges be marked as follows. The boxes containing charges for Cagny No. 1 should be marked C1 and those for Cagny No. 2 be marked C2 and the charges themselves be marked 1, 2, 3, etc. according to the position on the bridge.

It is not proposed to store any of the abutment charges such as those on CAGNY land 2, LONGEAU 1 2 3 and 4, CAMON 1-5 or 4 or any of the road mines except "V" road mine.

The storing of charges other than Cagny can be done at the guards' sleeping quarters.

Road MinesLongeau Group.

V. This is a new type or method of making a crater, and the charge consists of Ammonal in tin tubes, three to a pipe, the top tube being provided with a reserve for detonator and primer. Tubes are stored at guard house. *recess*

Cagny Group.

6 Mine under the center of roads. Having approximately ¹⁷⁰⁰ 2600 lbs. of H.E., it is really in excess of that amount. Tamping, 10", should be taken out across end of shaft and 3 ft. up shaft.

XA Mine under X road. No definite information as to amount of charge. It was proposed to untamp ~~it~~ and ascertain this

Notes on Bridges.Camon Group.Camon 3

See sketch, there are no charges on the diagonals, and it was proposed to place one on these between the charges on the top and bottom booms.

Camon 2

This does not exist.

LONGEAU GROUP

No. 2 The charges are as shown on the sketch, but arrangements were made to alter them, cutting out the centre charge on each side on the top boom and putting a charge on the diagonals, and on the top boom above the bottom as shown on sketch.

No. 3. Charges on abutments are 700 lbs. H.E. and placed as shown in sketch

No. 4. One abutment charge only. Gallery goes in 18' feet then four feet to the right, 3' to the left and then turns to right

2.

The right again, the charge beginning there and consisting of 700 lbs. H.E.

LEADS Leads on Longeau 3 3 and 4 and Road Mine ~~TA~~ are ^{seven} ~~eight~~ blue in color and are French telephone cable consisting of ~~eight~~ steel strands and one cu. strand all approx. 1/64" diam. This has been tested on a balancing test to go 2.8 ohms per 100 yards.

On most of the bridges instantaneous fuse is used as an alternative method. This, it is suggested, should be rearranged on some bridges so that all cuts on members should be simultaneous and should fire before any abutment charges. See sketch of leads.

*Walter Williams, Capt.
for oc. H. B. May
Abutment only*

5th Field Company, A.E.

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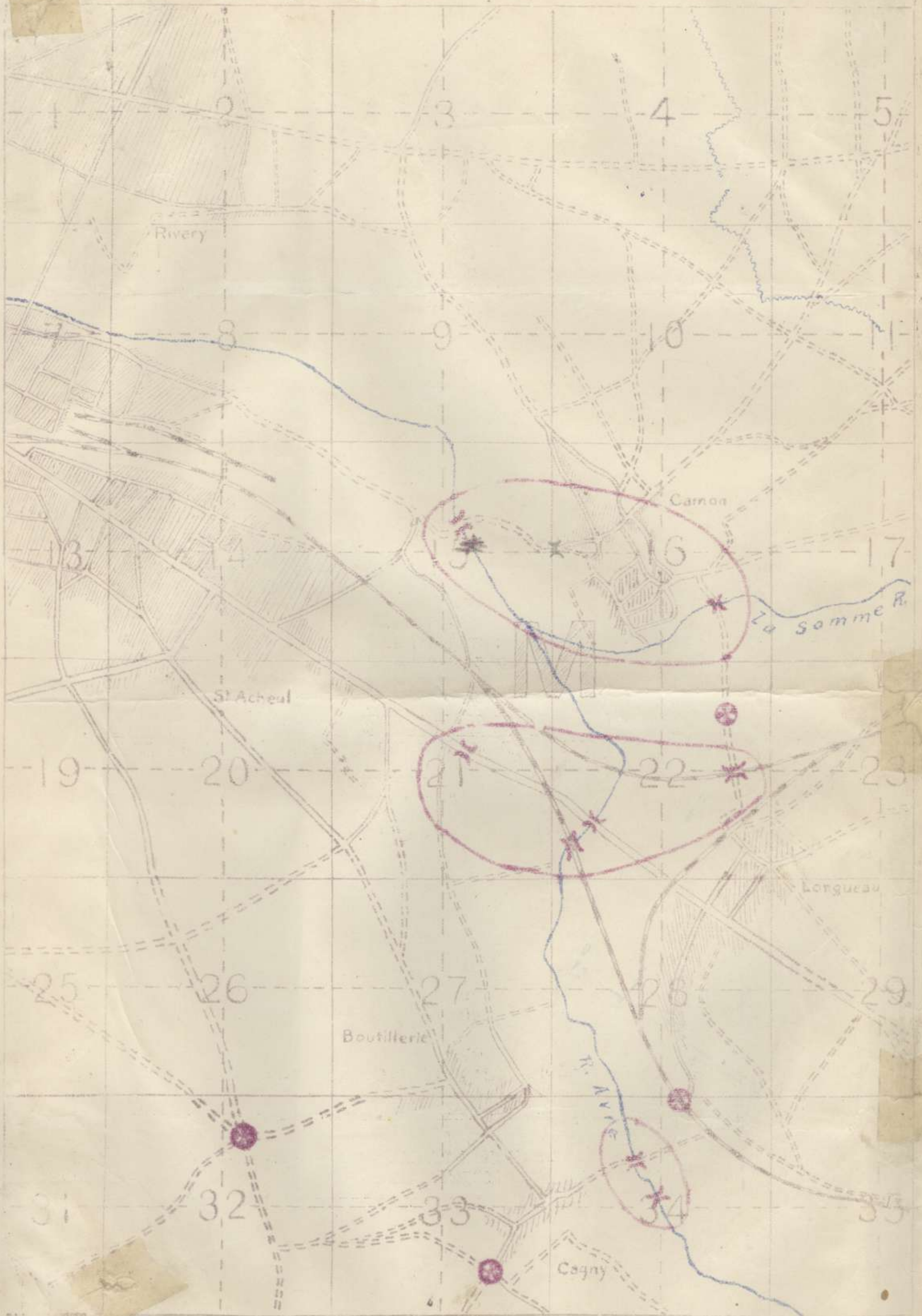
REPORT ON BRIDGES AND ROAD MINES

Group	No	Location M.	Nature	Condit- ion of Circuit	Condition of Charges	Condition of Girders Abuts	Remarks
CANON	4	16.a.0.1.	Bridge	O.K.	-	Not known	In the case of mined and mined abutment charges in all but one - (CAGNY 6, road mine) we have no record of the amount of the charges.
"	1	16.d.7.4.	"	O.K.	Good	"	In the case of all girder charges the charges have been renovated and repacked.
"	3.	15.b.2.3.	"	O.K.	Good	"	
LONGUEAU	1.	22.b.6.1.	"	O.K.	Good	"	
LONGUEAU	V.	22.b.6.4.	Road mine	-	-	-	Not yet complete; to consist of total charge of 400 lbs ammonal in 8 -4" pipes; all pipes at present in position, but no charges. (see below)
LONGUEAU	2.	22.c.4.4.	Bridge	O.K.	Good	-	
"	3.	22.c.4.5.	"	O.K.	Good	Not known	Masonry arch.
"	4	21.b.3.3.	"	O.K.	Good.	"	Masonry arch.
CAGNY	X ^A	34.b.3.3.	Road mine	O.K.	-	"	
"	1.	34.a.8.3.	Bridge	O.K.	Good	-	
"	2.	34.a.7.6.	"	O.K.	Good	-	
"	6.	33.d.4.1.	Road mine	O.K.	-	Good	2,000 lbs of H.E. in mine.

Reference LONGUEAU V. - For information - we exploded one 4" pipe 18' long, in ground at 45° with a charge of 45 lbs of ammonal the centre of charge being 12' below surface. A crater 24' in diameter and 8' deep was formed. Only tamping of charge was wooden plug in mouth of pipe.

[Signature] Captain
a/ O.C. 5th Field Company, A.E.

Field
27th June 1918



1:20,000

Legend

- Road Craters (red circle with cross)
- Mined Bridges (red X)

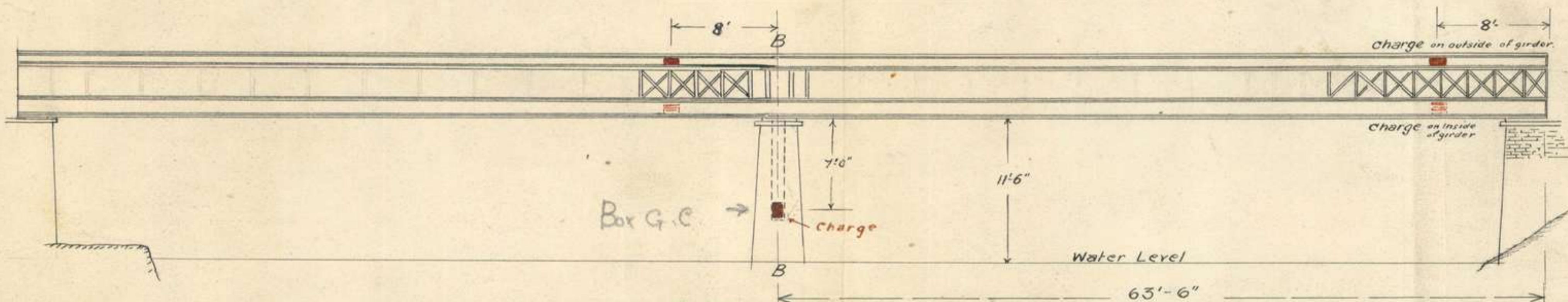
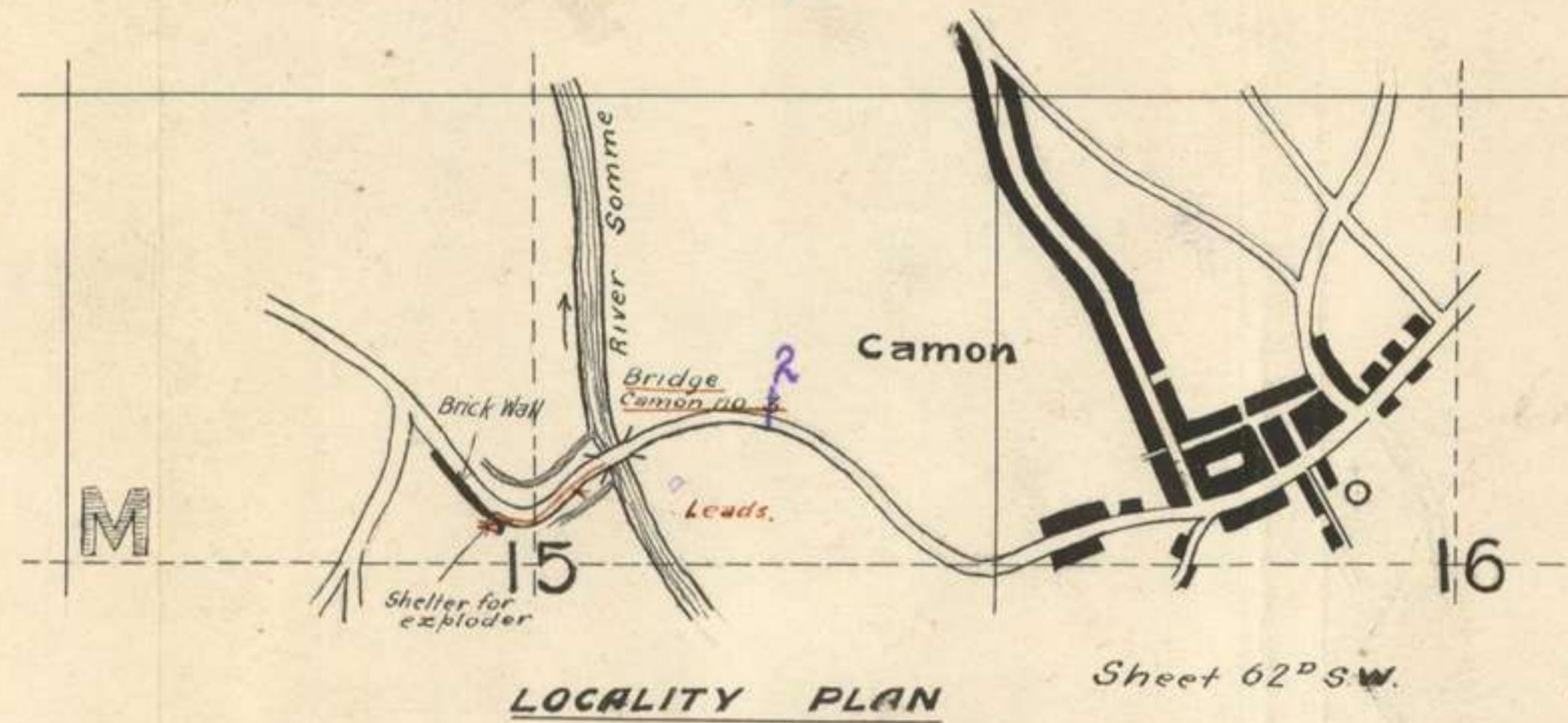
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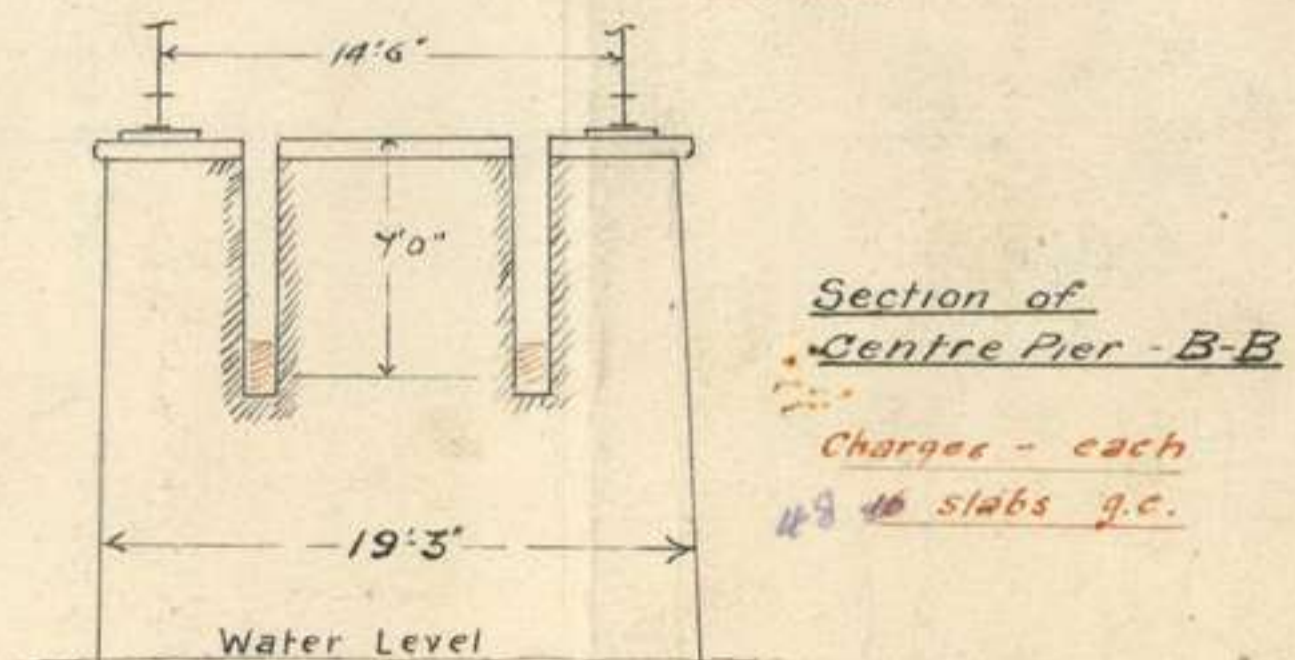
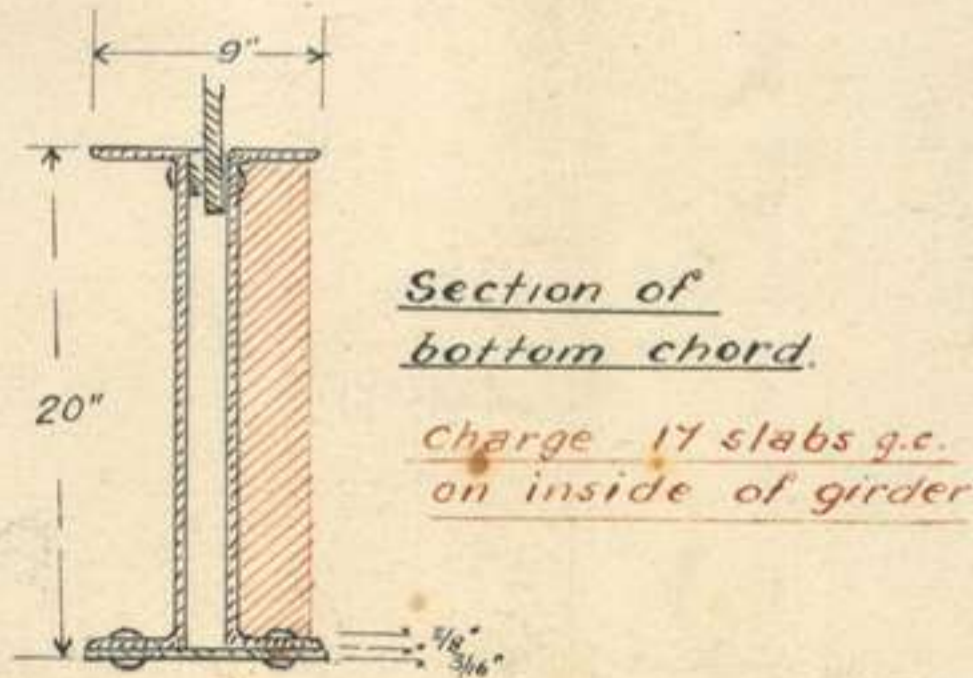
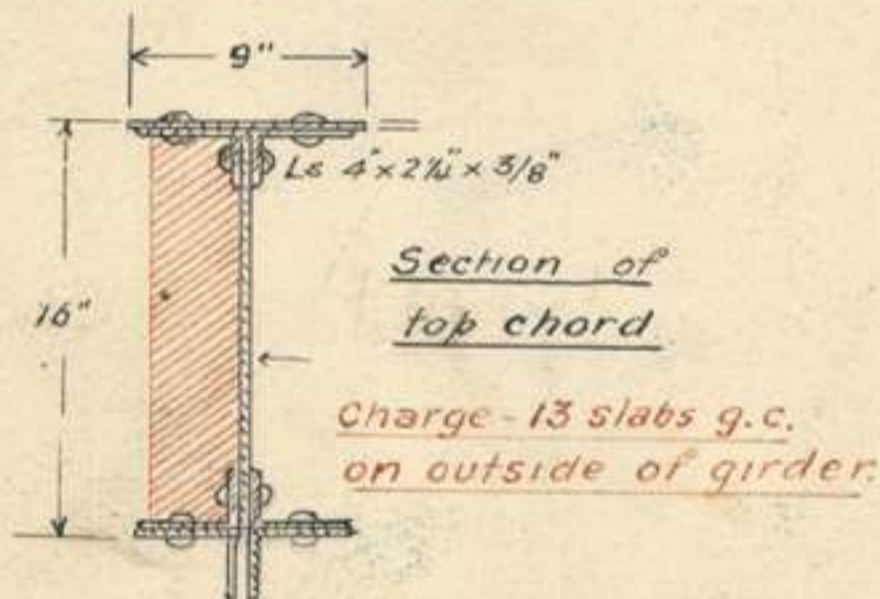
BRIDGE "Camon"

Plan showing arrangements for demolition

Scale = 10 ft. to 1 in.



Tested on 21st June 1918
Resistance = 20 ohms

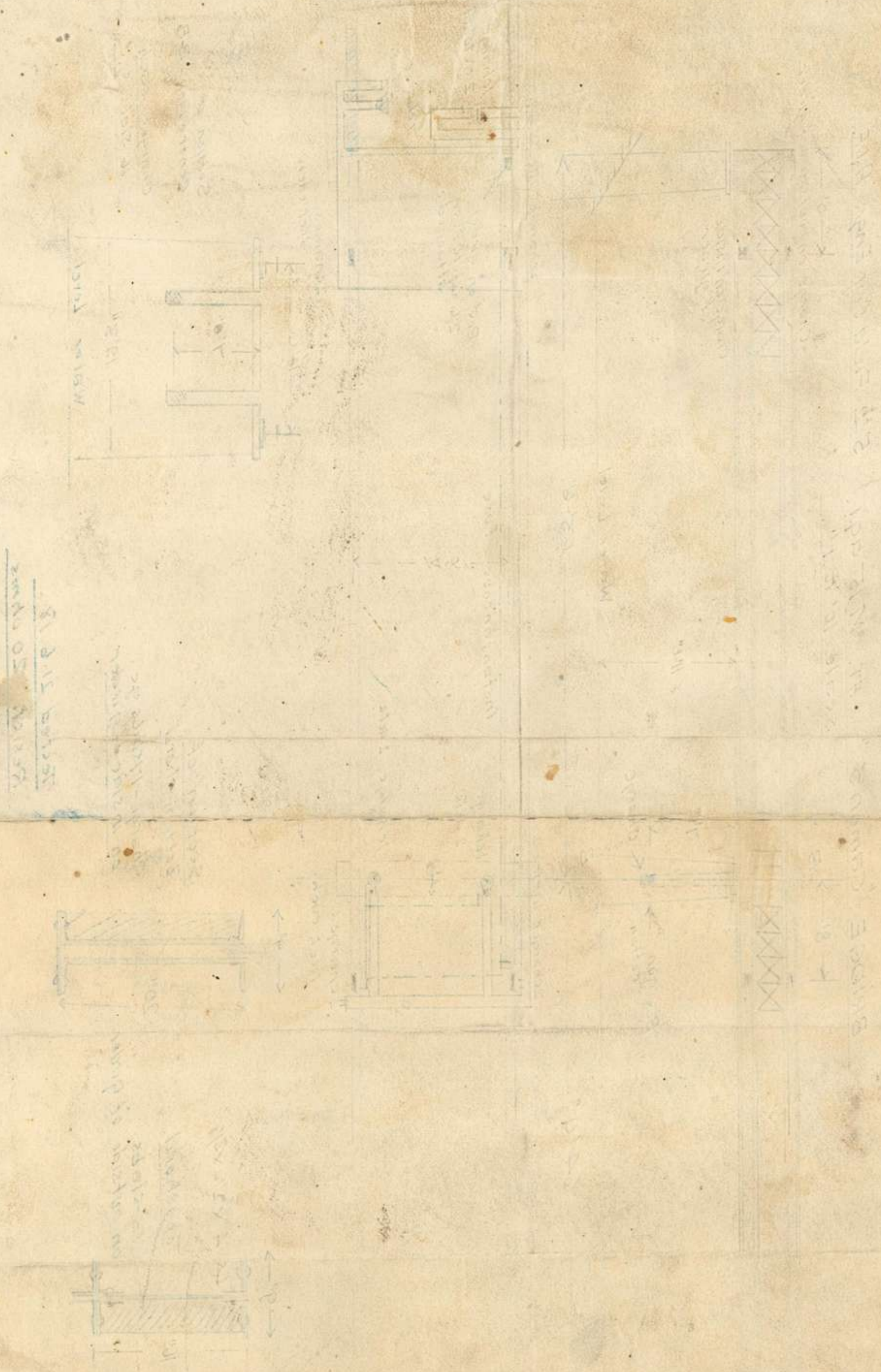


5th Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F.

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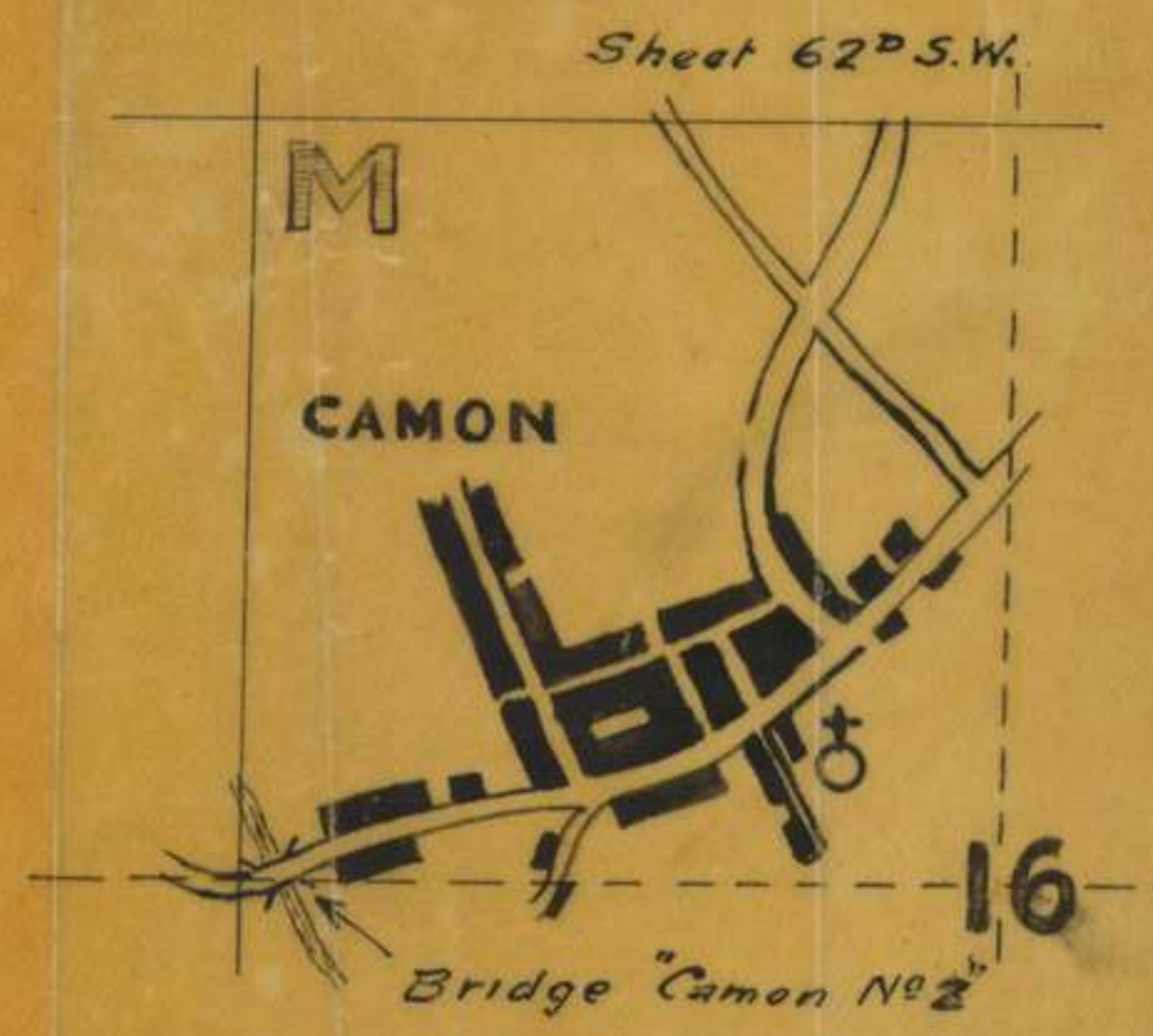
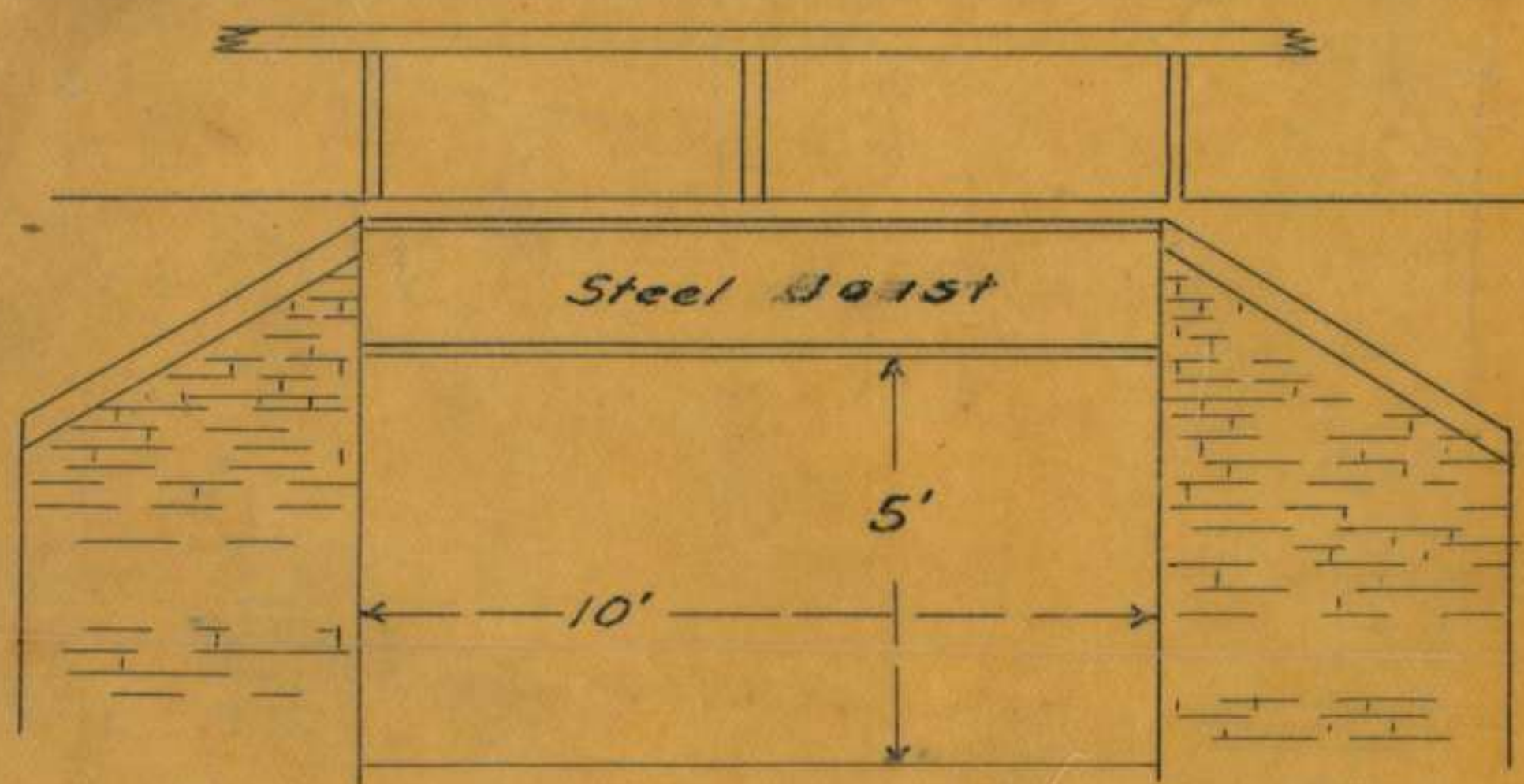
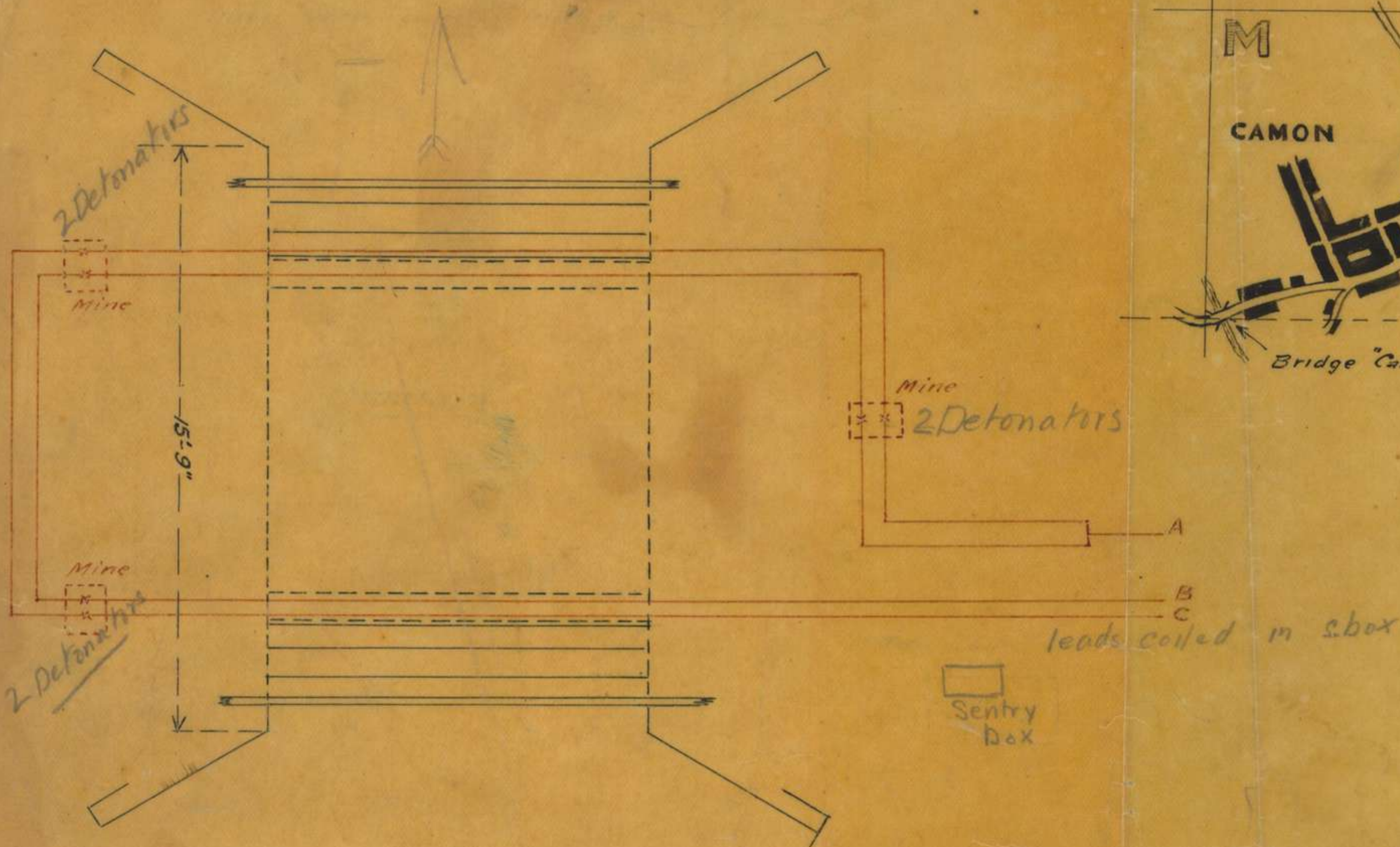
APPENDIX



195
195
BRIDGE - "CAMON No 2"

4 La Bolton,
from Army

Scale - 4 ft. to 1 in.



TESTED JUNE 22nd 1918.

RESISTANCES :-

CIRCUIT A-B	13 OHMS
" A-C	10 "
" B-C	13 "

5th Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F.

23.6.18.

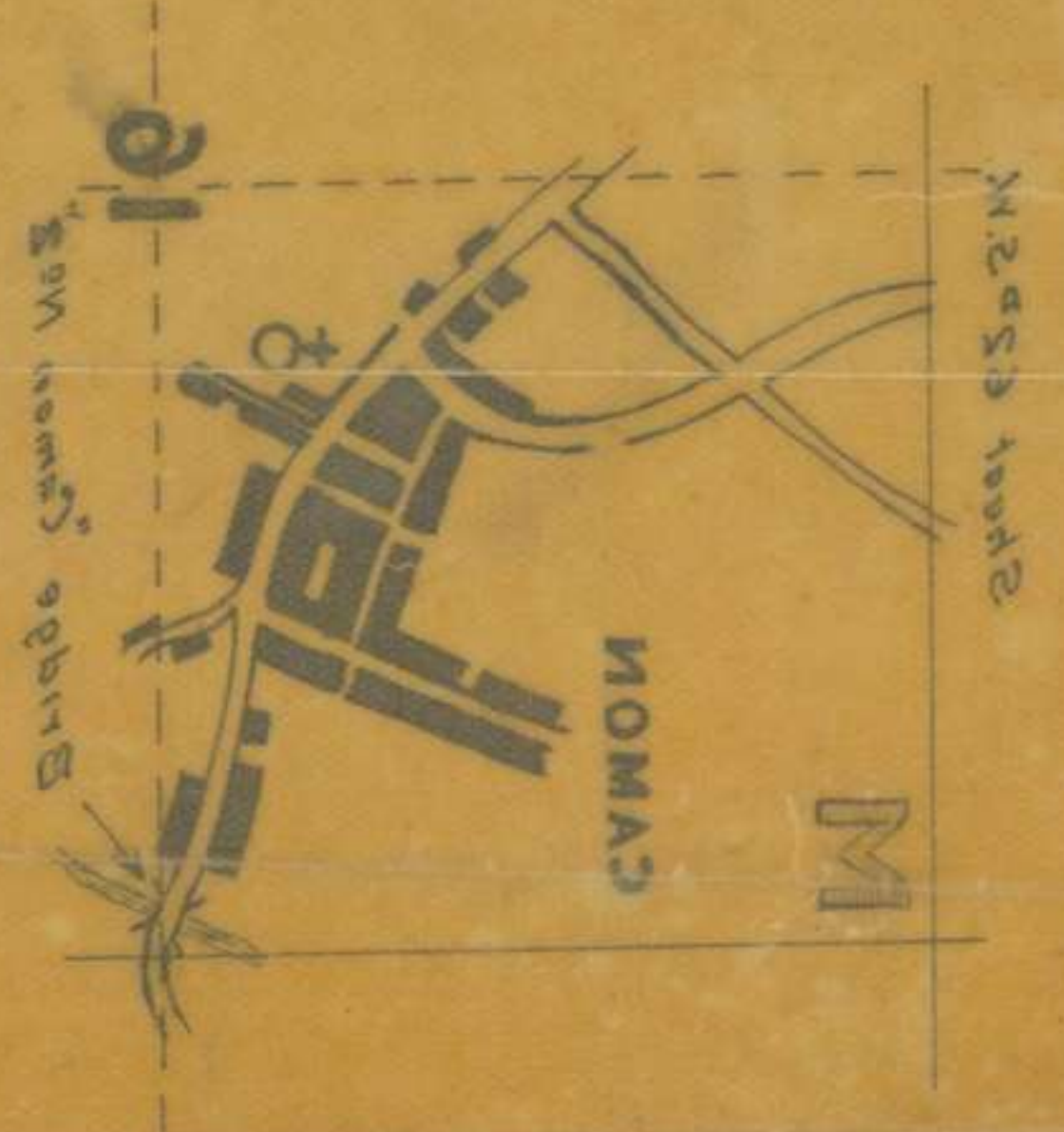
APPENDIX 5

APPENDIX 2 29

31.2.28
2nd Field Coy. Engrs. A.I.F.

REGIMENT - 2304123AR
COMPANY - B-A-TWO
SERIAL - B-C-12
SERIAL - A-C-10
SERIAL - B-A-TWO
SERIAL - B-C-12

Called in 2pm
A
B
C



29

195 30

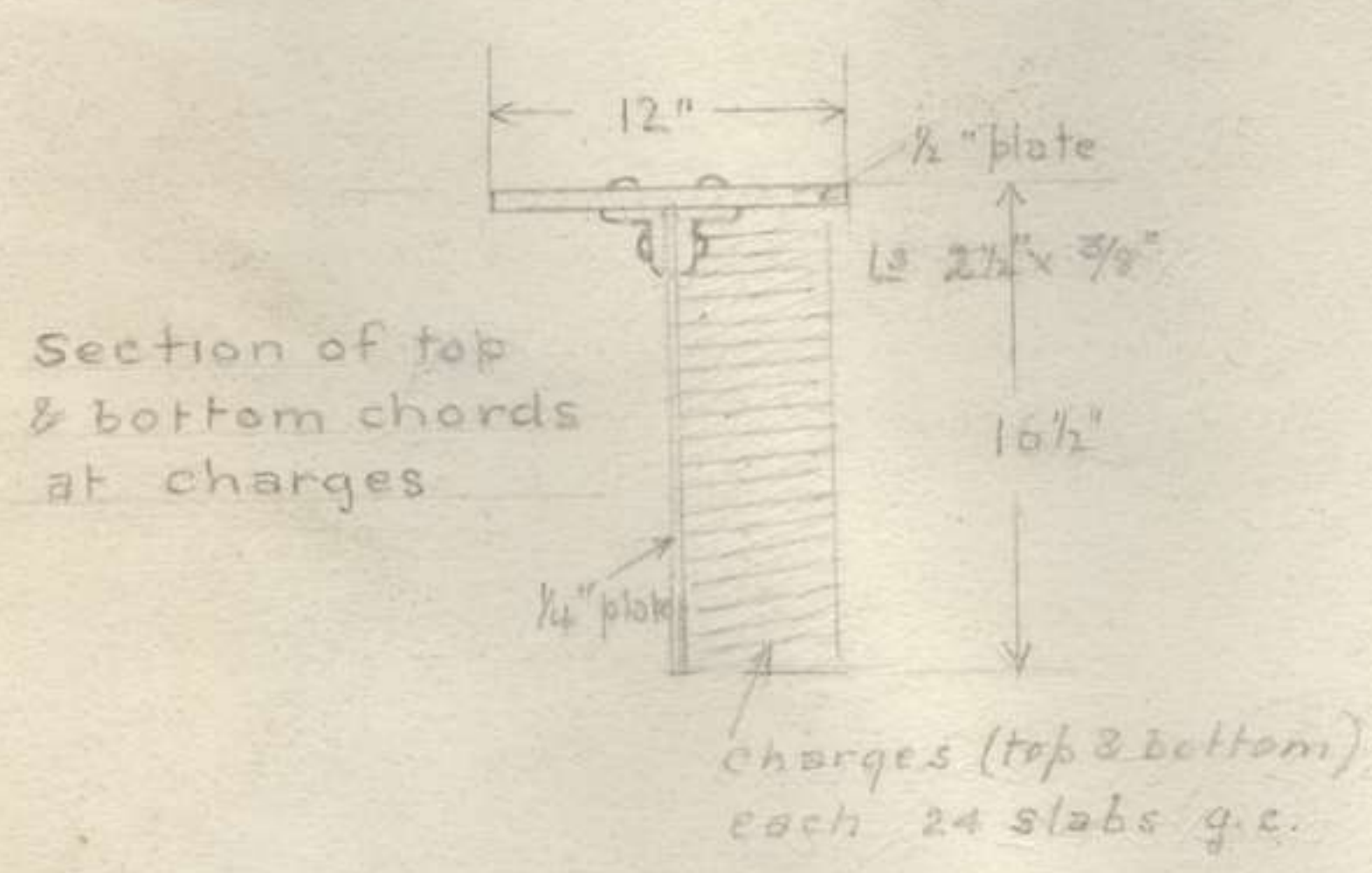
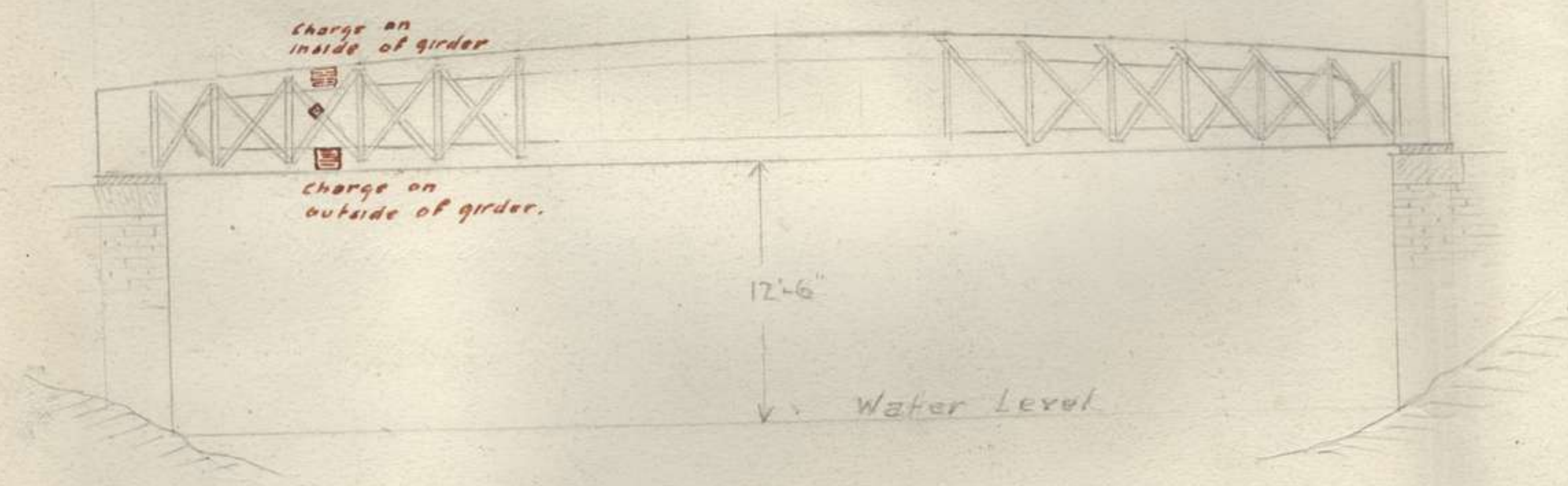
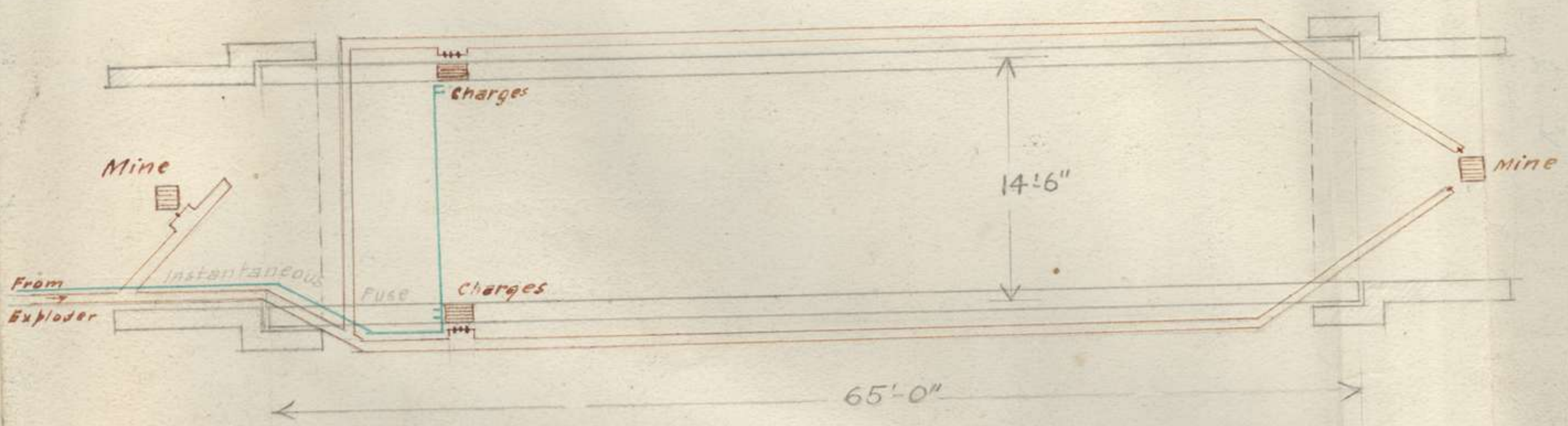
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APPENDIX 2

BRIDGE Camon No. 1 M 16 d 35

Plan showing arrangements for demolition
Scale 1/10 ft to 1 in

195



Tested to
13 tons resistance
20 VI 18

5th Field Coy. Engrs A.I.F.

1915

APPENDIX 2

31.

1915

1:20,000



APPENDIX 2

3

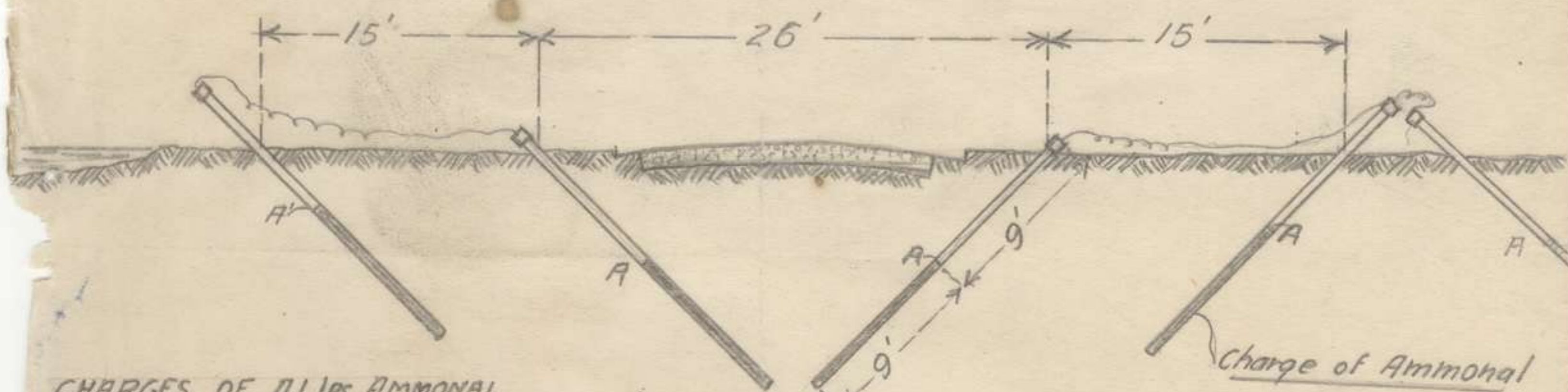
ROAD MINE V

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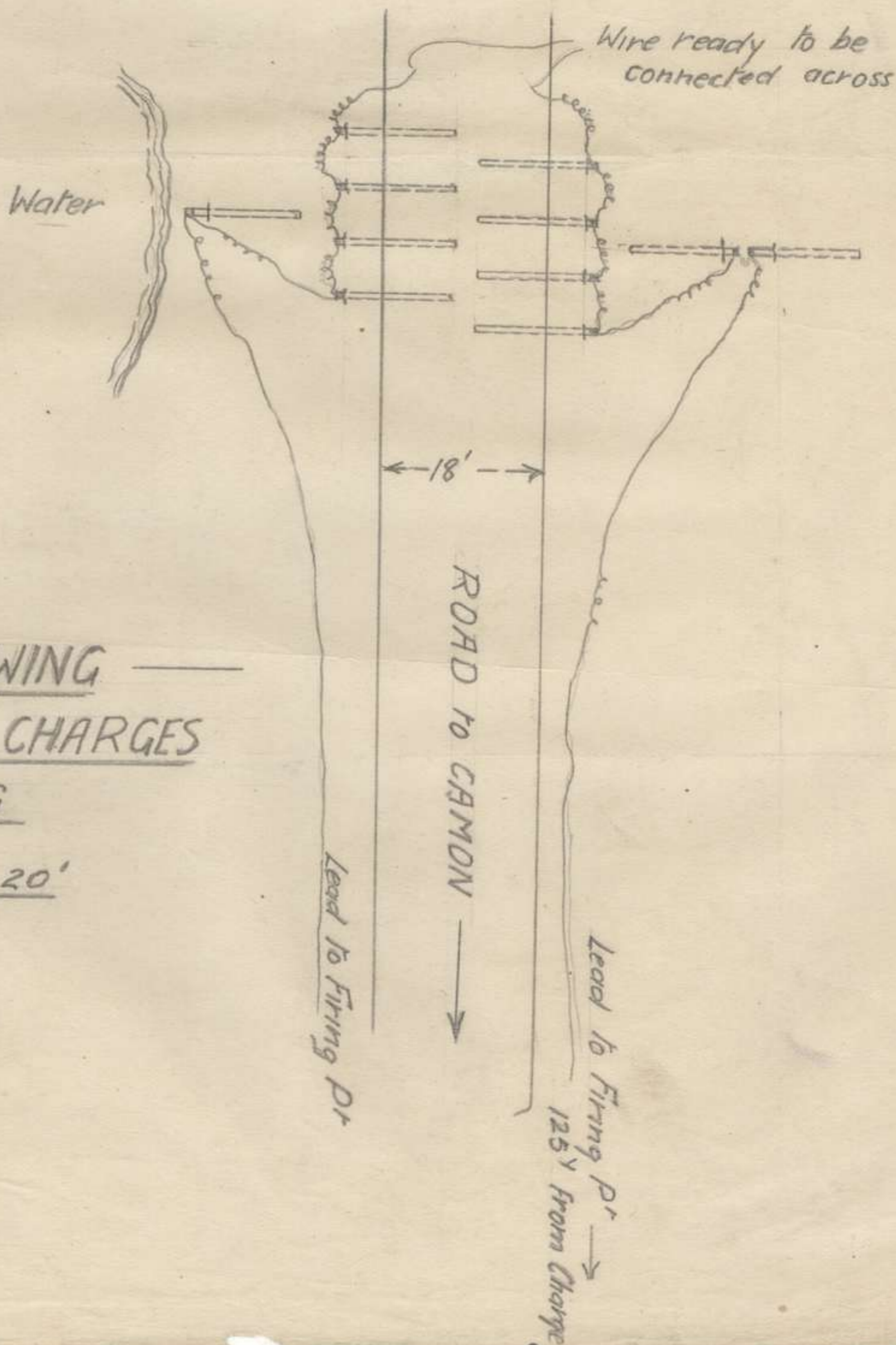
MAP REF M 22 b 6.4

SECTION SHOWING POSITION OF CHARGES UNDER ROAD

Scale 1" = 10'



CHARGES OF 41 lbs AMMONAL
 PLACED IN 4½" IRON PIPES 18' LONG
 FIRED BY ELECTRIC DET^R & G.C. PRIMER at "A"



PLAN SHOWING
 POSITION OF CHARGES
 & WIRING

Scale 1" = 20'