

**AWM4**

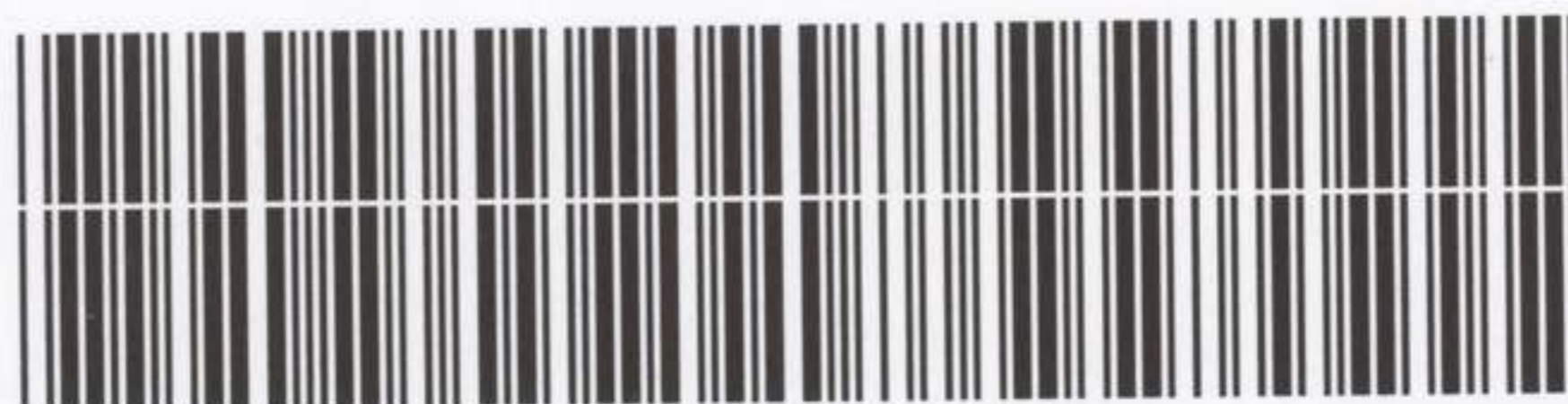
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/77/18

**Title:** 2nd Australian Sanitary Section

September 1917



AWM4-26/77/18

I San Sec

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOULIEU	1.9.17.		<p>pte LOWE. J (No 2196) 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn. att<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Sanitary Section. for orderly room changed with disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer in that he was not at the water point at DOULIEU at the time when his duty required him to be there. He refused to be tried by his O.C. &amp; elected for Court Martial. Accused was then placed under arrest &amp; necessary steps taken for trial by Court-martial.</p> <p>Sanitary work in the area is making good progress. Over 200 wells are now labelled according to quality of water, whether fit for drinking, fit for cooking purposes only, or absolutely unfit for use by troops.</p> <p>All units are now equipped with fly proof latrines &amp; other sanitary works. Good progress has been made in cleansing the ditches &amp; improving the get-away so that floods are not so liable to occur.</p>	
	2.9.17.		<p>pte Stevens temporarily detached from 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Sanitary Sectn to 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Divisional Reinforcement Camp</p> <p>Sgt HOLMES &amp; L/Cpl BRIMS reported back from Course of instruction at anti-gas school 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Division at VIEUX BERQUIN.</p>	
	3.9.17.		<p>Visited Bellets at Grand See Bois in connection with infectious disease. MEASLES</p> <p>Summary of evidence taken in connection with trial of No 2196 pte LOWE. J by Court-martial. Application made for court to be convened.</p> <p>Arranged with Area Commandant for the appointment of Wardens to keep track of all sanitary works erected in the various parts of the area in order to prevent the destruction &amp; removal of materials of construction by the civilians who break up latrines etc for use as firewood.</p>	
	4.9.17.		<p>Visited Le Beeque re case of Diphtheria in a billet there. All necessary precautions taken on the new types of German gas &amp; on anti-gas measures &amp; apparatus generally.</p> <p>Attended lecture by Chemical Adviser 2<sup>nd</sup> Army</p>	

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DOULIEU.	5-9-17.		<p>Pte ADAMS. } went on leave to United Kingdom. Both men had over 18 months service without leave.                      Pte DRISCOLL. }                      Pte ADAMS. received Furlough pay £15. under A.I.F. order 696.                      Nominal Roll of P.B. personnel (Australian) in employment of 2nd Aust. Sanitary Section was made out &amp; forwarded to D.A.G. A.I.F.                      Under instructions received from D.A.A.G. 1st Aust. Div. Mr. GUTHRIE is to be re-mustered Private as from date of transfer to 2nd Aust. Sanitary Section 1/6/16.                      Mr. MOULDS retains his rank as Sgt.</p>	
	6-9-17.		<p>Gas drill 1/2 hour held. Men drilled by Gas N.C.O.s of the Unit.                      Well at steint-je which had broken down, was put into repair by this Unit                      Instructions received from ADMS 1st Aust. Div. to report to O.C. 72nd Sanitary Section at H24 a.s.g. sheet 28. with view to taking over his area.</p>	
	7-9-17.		<p>Sent certificate to 1st Aust. Div. that Divisional Standing Orders 1917 had been read &amp; explained to the Unit on parade.                      Reported personally to ADMS 1st Angas for instructions. Then to O.C. 72nd Sanitary Section re sanitary matters in his area which I am to take over. Inspected portion of the area, &amp; returned to DOULIEU, reporting to ADMS 1st Angas on the return journey.</p>	
	8-9-17.		<p>P.B. men attached to this Unit were medically boarded to day by a Medical Board at 3rd F. Amb.                      Pte HEYWARD. reclassified "A". Pte LOWE &amp; GALVIN reclassified "C"                      Ptes WILLIAMS &amp; HARRINGTON. reclassified "P.B."                      Recalled men of my Unit from all outlying parts of the area to DOULIEU to be in readiness for the movement to the new area forward of YPRES.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOULIEU.	8-9-17.		Saw ADMS 1st Aust Div in water supply & sanitation generally in the new area (forward of YPRES) which is very bad.	
	9-9-17.		sent duplicate acquaintance Roll no 13 of 8/7/17 to Chief Pay office. Pay drawn & unit paid. Completed acquaintance Roll (no 17) & sent it to Detl paymaster Received instructions to move my unit to the new area tomorrow. Move to be completed by 12 (noon). Two lorries to report for transport. Medical instructions (DDMS 1st Aust Div.) no 28. Left these men (who are perfectly useless for forward area work) at Divisional Reinforcement camp viz pte Harrington & Williams (both P.B) & pte DRISCOLL class "C". Pending arrangements to return them to Base. Provided area Commandant (BERQUIN area) with a list of sanitary stores in his area.	11/11/17
YPRES.	10-9-17		Unit moved to new area with headquarters at Belgian Battery Company. Sheet 28 H 24 a 5.9. per motor lorry. Marched out of DOULIEU at 9 a.m. Marched into Camp at Belgian Battery Company at 1 p.m. Strength 1 officer 27 other ranks. Trial by Courtmartial (F.C.M.) of no 2196 pte LOWE J. 53rd Aust Inf Bn. att 2nd Aust Sanitary Section. Trial held at 6th Bn Hqr. President of Court. Major Magee. Charge "while on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer." After the trial Prisoner was handed over to 1st Aust Divisional Guard room for custody. Received certificates for the Gas N.C.O.s who attended the Course of Instruction at the Anti-gas school 1st Aust Div. from 29th August to 1st Sept.	11/11/17

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10528 Sgt HOLMES. E. S. & 137 I/Cpl BRIMS A. Entry made in these men's Pay Books accordingly.

## WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VPRES.	10.9.17.		Plt HEYWARD, B.S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Bn. att'd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. San. Sect, who was reclassified 'A' by a Medical Board on 8/9/17 was returned to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Bn. under orders from 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. <del>###</del>	
	11.9.17		Built workshops at the new camp. allotted inspectors to areas.	
	12.9.17.		Inspected back part of area. Found it in an extremely filthy condition. No sanitation, water supply mainly from Diekabusch lake, humped into overhead reservoirs. Troops also use water from stagnant water holes & canals.	
	13.9.17.		5 <sup>th</sup> F. amb. came into Belgian Battery corner. Sanitary section forced to build dugouts for their own accommodation as all other accommodation was utilised by ambulance.	
	14.9.17.		Inspected forward part of area. up to beyond Zillebeke. There is no sanitation or attempt at cleanliness. Zillebeke lake is fouled badly with excreta etc. Placed up numerous notices round the lake drawing attention to fact that the lake is a water supply & must not be fouled. Water supply of forward area is unsatisfactory, a good deal of water is drawn from the Diekabusch supplies & carried up in petrol tins (chlorinated). A large quantity of shell hole water is used also. There is only one water point in action in the forward area, namely at the east end of Zillebeke lake. It is supplied by a small petrol engine & pump from the lake. All other points are out of action, the pipe lines broken by shell fire. <del>###</del>	
	15.9.17.		Arrangements made with C.R.E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Augoe for supply of engineering material for sanitary works in the area. Men placed on water points at Diekabusch & Zillebeke for chlorination duties. Orders given re lights showing after dark. All lights to be thoroughly screened so as not to be visible outside dugouts etc. <del>###</del>	

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# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>YPRES</u>	16.9.17.		Inspected area between Gillebake + Hooze. a YPRES-MENIN Road. sanitary conditions are very bad throughout forward area.	///
	17.9.17.		Report prepared + sent to D.D.M.s 1st Angae re Sanitary condition of the area. Recommendations made re. Water supply - general sanitation - disposal of dead horses etc. (see Report). Sanitary work is being carried out. Units send their carpenters to sanitary section workshops where material is provided + the required number of latrines etc made. Material is drawn from C.E. 1st Angae Coys.	///
	19.9.17.		pte LOWE J. 5 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bn. att'd 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. San. Sectn. sentenced to 28 days F.P. No 2 on 10 <sup>th</sup> by F.G.C.M. Court martial proceedings received. pte LOWE. was removed from 1st Aust Div <sup>n</sup> Guard room, where sentence was promulgated, + was removed to 1st Angae Field Punishment Compound.	///
	20.9.17.		Inspected whole of back part of sanitary section area with sanitary inspectors + drew attention to matters requiring first consideration. Whole sanitary area has been divided into four parts, each under a sanitary inspector who is responsible for his sub area. The sanitary inspectors were taken along the lines of their boundaries. Promulgated court martial proceedings in case of pte LOWE, including charge, plea, finding, + sentence. to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust sanitary section on morning parade. Saw area Commandants of No 1 Canal area + of Chateau beyond area, re sanitary conditions in their areas, + arranged for supply of tobacco + material for carrying out necessary improvements. few camps + treatments going up, + all sanitary works should be put in without any delay. Bwouac Camps also require sanitary accommodation. //	///

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 44

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES.	22/9/17.		Inspected Chateau beyond area with the Area Commandant. Miscalculated men of Unit with T.A.B. (9m small dose).	///
	23.9.17.		Reaction to miscalculation in all cases, but none of men seriously affected	
	24.9.17.		Obtained water supply plan of the area from DDMS, 1st Ango. The plan shows a number of waterpoints which are not in use owing to enemy shell fire persistently breaching the main pipe lines. Inspection made of the new reservoirs at Geomancy Post. 4 x 9000 gall reservoirs of concrete at ground level. Pipe lines are very old and intact & reservoirs can seldom be supplied with water. Made arrangements for man of sanitary section to chlorinate all water pumped into these reservoirs. Paid Unit & sent Acquittance Roll (No 18) to Paymaster, 1st Aust Div	///
	25.9.17.		Recommended use of a well at Fillegate which supplies a limited quantity of good water, for establishment of a filling point for water bottles. A small hand pump, & 3 or 4 small galv. iron tanks with taps for filling <del>water bottles</del> <sup>one</sup> required. Tanks would have to be sandbagged. A water bottle filling point at this spot would save the use of shell hole water by troops, & since there are few facilities for filling water bottles further forward.	///
	27.9.17		Work at new hutment camp is going on satisfactorily. Memo sent to area commandant canal area re disposal of dead horses.	
	28.9.17		Inspected the Tister <sup>water</sup> sterilising outfit at Dickelurah. Very satisfactory.	
	29.9.17		Monthly report sent to DDMS, 1st Ango. Inspected portion of my area with DDMS, 1st Ango. & pointed out & discussed certain matters requiring attention from Corps, notably the disposal of dead horses.	///

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
 and the Staff Manual respectively. (The pages  
 numbered 1 to 100 are contained in Part II  
 of the Staff Manual.)

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**

**WAR DIARY**

Summary of Events and Information

(Dates heading not relevant)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
APRRES	25/11/17		<p>25.11.17. [Handwritten text describing military movements and intelligence reports]</p>
	26.11.17		<p>26.11.17. [Handwritten text]</p>
	27.11.17		<p>27.11.17. [Handwritten text]</p>
	28.11.17		<p>28.11.17. [Handwritten text]</p>
	29.11.17		<p>29.11.17. [Handwritten text]</p>
	30.11.17		<p>30.11.17. [Handwritten text]</p>

Appendices  
 references to  
 documents and



Sanitary Report for the Month of. SEPTEMBER. 1917

Areas.

BERQUIN. Area. 1.9.17 - 9.9.17.

1st Angae Corps Forward Area YPRES. { 10.9.17  
29.9.17.

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
SANITARY SECTION.

No. ....  
Date 29.9.17.

2nd Army.

2nd Australian Sanitary Section

29.9.17.

During the early part of September the 2nd Australian Sanitary Section was in the BERQUIN Area with 1st Aust. Division.

Orders were received on 8.9.17 to move to 1st Angae Corps Forward Area in front of YPRES

This move was made on 10.9.17. & this sanitary section marched into quarters at Belgian Bathing Corner sheet 28. H24 a 5.9 on that date.

Some days were spent by this Unit in making dugouts for its own accomodation, since no other accomodation was available.

Forward Area. 1st Angae Corps.

This Area extends from the vicinity of the northern extremity of Dickelbusch lake, up to the front line.

It has been divided for sanitary inspection purposes into four parts each under an N.C.O. Two sub areas are forward of YPRES Canal & two behind this Canal.

Part of the Sanitary section is stationed in the Railway dugouts forward of the Canal to look after sanitation of the forward areas.

The remainder of the Unit is stationed at Belgian

Battery corner, where workshops have been erected.

1. Billets & other quarters.

a. Nature. Troops in forward part of the area are billeted in shallow dugouts, & in ruins of buildings behind the canal.

Partly in dugouts & ruins of buildings

Partly in hutments. (lately erected)

Partly. bivouacs in the open.

b. Overcrowding. The area is very full of troops. Overcrowding necessarily exists.

General Condition. On taking over the dugouts etc were in a very dirty state. Sanitation had been absolutely neglected by the troops. Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in getting things cleaned up, as troops are moving so rapidly & have but little time for work of this nature.

a. Nature of Supplies.

1. From Siechabusch lake water points

2. From Zellebeke lake.

3. From a few wells which have been put in order

4. From canals, ponds & shellholes (bad).

The question of water supply is difficult.

In the area forward of the canal, enemy shell-fire is so persistent that pipe lines cannot be kept intact. Consequently most of the water points are seldom in operation.

One small water point in Zellebeke village has been kept in operation by its own small motor pump, & the water here is chlorinated by a man detailed from 2nd Aust. Sanitary Sectn.

The Geomaning Post reservoirs can seldom be supplied as the pipe line between them & the pumping station is seldom intact. When however pumpi-

WATER  
SUPPLY

WATER  
Supply

3.  
is possible, the water is chlorinated at the reservoirs by a man detailed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust sanitary section.

Several wells have been brought into use, & provide a limited supply.

One well near Lille Gate, is specially useful for replenishing water bottles of men moving forward, & recommendations for the erection of a few small tanks with taps at this spot have already been made. The water is of better quality than that usually obtained in this district, requiring only 2 meas B.P per 100 galls instead of the usual 4 meas, a water bottle filling installation at this spot would decrease the amount of shellhole water used by troops when water bottles run dry.

Water to the forward part of the area is to a large extent taken up from Dickelbusch in petrol tins. The troops however are using shell hole water also, & the practice is very difficult to check.

The Zillebeke lake has been badly polluted by the troops having made a practice of defecating at the waters edge. Large quantities of refuse have also been thrown into the lake. A similar condition existed at the Canal also. This has now been stopped almost entirely.

### Chlorination.

Tests. Tests carried out show that at the Dickelbusch & Zillebeke lakes 4 meas B.P. per 100 galls. are required to leave a trace of cl. in the water at the end of half an hour. The water from these lakes, & from all wells & other sources of supply, is frequently tested.

Notices. Notice boards have been erected at all water points & wells in the area, showing the degree of chlorination required.

44  
Water  
Supply  
Notices.

A number of notices have also been erected around the Zillebeke lake forbidding pollution of the water, & forbidding bathing & washing in the lake.

Notices have also been erected at various points to prevent pollution of canal & pond water, & also in connection with the use of well water. Eight wells have been found, tested & marked as follows.

Drinkable after chlorination	-----	2.
	----- measures B.P. per 100 galls.	
Fit for cooking purposes.	-----	3.
	----- measures B.P. per 100 galls	
For washing only	-----	2
Unfit for use by troops	-----	1
		<u>8</u>
		Total <u>8</u>

Inspection of Water Carts.

182 water carts have been inspected, & of these only 2 were found not to have been chlorinated.

Chlorinated	180	= 99% approx
Not chlorinated	2	= 1% approx
	<u>182</u>	

As regards water drawn in small receptacles such as dippers & petrol tins etc, the position is very different.

Out of 72 samples taken & tested, 50 were found not to have been chlorinated.

Chlorinated	22	= 30.5%
Not chlorinated	<u>50</u>	= 69.5%
	Total <u>72</u>	

Where the water is drawn from authorised water points it is chlorinated, but where it is drawn from canals, ponds & shellholes as it often is, no chlorination is carried out. The drawing of water should be strictly limited to authorised water points. There should be

44  
Water supply

better control exercised by C. O's of Units to prevent water being drawn from unauthorized sources. at present, even in the area behind the canal water is drawn from the channel which carries overflow from Diekebusch lake into the YPRES canal. This water is absolutely unfit for use, receiving as it does drainage from horse stables & camps, & all kinds of filth. Water is also drawn from stagnant ponds. Water points. There are 4 water points in actual operation within this area. Chlorination is carried out by men of the Sanitary section.

a filter sterilizing plant has recently been installed at the water point on the Diekebusch YPRES road. water is precipitated, filtered thro' sand, tested for chlorination required. then chlorinated by chlorine gas, which is given 1/2 hour to act. Then dechlorinated by SO<sub>2</sub> leaving only a trace of free chlorine in the water! The water after treatment has no unpleasant taste.

Food

Food is good & plentiful & of fair variety. more care is required in the protection of food from flies, dust & rats, both during transport, & at supply dumps, & in QM stores & cookhouses & dugouts. Units do not take much pains to cover food. Dust & flies are bad. Cookhouses for most part are very rough. Cooking is largely done in the open. The Units are mostly on the move, into the line & out again, & settled camps are few. Most of the troops bivouac. Behind the canal, food waste & refuse is incinerated. Forward of the canal, it should be buried daily in

43.  
Food

6.

shellholes, but great carelessness has existed & refuse has been thrown about in all directions.

A certain number of disease traps & meat safes etc have been installed in more or less settled camps. (See Summary at end of Report)

4.  
BATHS

One small Bath has been started near the overflow canal from Seaburch lake. There are no Divisional Baths in this Area. Units have foot baths. Ground sheets in small hollows in the ground. Bathing is also done at the larger shell holes.

5.  
Latrines

nil.

6.  
Disinfection

of certain very filthy dugouts has been carried out. Also of foul ground about camps & lines of dugouts.

7.  
Latrines  
&  
Urinals

On taking over the area there were practically no latrines forward of the canal. Behind the canal there were not many & these were mainly of the open pit & beam type. In & around YPRES, there are pan latrines but they receive very poor attention. The whole area was badly polluted by indiscriminate defaecation, & the use of shell holes & gun pits as latrines. Water supplies have been badly polluted. Flies are numerous. The troops are rapidly on the move. It is very difficult to get any cleaning up done. As the troops are so much in bivouacs & not in camps, the sanitary section is having to put in the latrines. This is being done as fast as possible. A <sup>small</sup> gang of men provided by the Area Commandant works under the supervision of the Sanitary Section Inspector. New hutment camps are being equipped, & Public latrines for the use of moving troops are also being erected.

7.

during the month 52 latrines, with a total of 155 seats have been made at the Sanitary Section workshops for use in the area.

Animal pits are sunk in connection with each latrine. The summary at the end of this report shows the number of latrines & animals created during the fortnight in this area.

Behind the canal refuse is incinerated. Forward of the canal it is buried in shell holes. The number of incinerators is being increased as rapidly as possible. Large public incinerators are being created at suitable spots.

Unit incinerators, made of iron, or of the pit & tunnel type, are also being put in by units themselves, assisted by the Sanitary Section. Great difficulty is being experienced in getting the area cleaned up. There should be a permanent party of men under the area Commandant for this work.

These are wagon lines etc at the extreme rear of the area. Horse refuse is dumped at manure dumps. Efforts are being made to have these dumps covered with earth in the regulation way.

A difficulty arises in connection with the disposal of dead horses.

Numbers of horses are killed by shell fire on roads etc, & the general practice is to drag them off the road & leave them in the open to decompose. The Unit responsible is not easy to find. The Sanitary Section have buried 15 horses during the past 10 days, but this work interferes very much with their duties as inspectors & supervisors. On the other hand if they do not do the work, it is not done at all.

AA  
Latrines  
&  
Animals5.  
Refuse  
Disposal9  
Stables  
&  
Horse  
stabling

some definite order is required as to responsibility for burial of dead animals. Considering the difficulty of getting at the Unit ~~to whom the houses belong~~, the nearest unit should be saddled with the responsibility for this work. If this were done, we would know to whom to go in order to get the work done, & would procure the necessary working party.

10. antilouse & scabies measures, are carried out by Division, as is also disinfection of blankets & clothing.

12. Instruction in Sanitation, men from Battalion sanitary detachments are sent by their Unit to the sanitary section workshops for practical instruction in the building of latrines, incinerators, food safes etc.

13. Infectious disease Nil reported.  
Some cases of diarrhoea have occurred but there is no system of reporting to the Sanitary Officer.

14. Flies are fairly prevalent.

Labour is difficult to get as Units are moving so rapidly in & out of the line.

A few men are generally procurable from the Area Commandants & are used in sinks, latrine pits, & general cleaning up. work.

Material is obtained in sufficient quantity from C.R.E. Pt Angait.

The sanitary condition of the Area is improving

W. Holmes Capt  
O.C. 2nd Aust. Sanitary Coy

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
SANITARY SECTION.  
No. 29.9.17  
Date



BERQUIN 20/8/17 - 9/9/17  
~~1st ANZAC~~ AREA

SECOND ARMY

44  
 4130  
 1917

SYNOPSIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY AND UNDER SUPERVISION OF <sup>2nd Australian</sup> SANITARY SECTION DURING THE MONTH ENDING

SITUATION	NUMBER OF											
	LATRINES DUG PROOFED AND SCREENED	SEATS ON COMPLETED LATRINES	URINALS ERECTED	LATRINES PITS DUG OR IN COURSE OF DIGGING	URINE PITS DUG OR IN COURSE OF DIGGING	INCINER- ATORS ERECTED	REFUSE DUMPS DUG.	GREASE TRAPS AND SOAKAGE PITS CONSTRUCTED	BILLET INSPECTED	BILLET DISINFECTED	NOTICES ERECTED	WATER CARTS INSPECTED
BERQUIN AREA 27/8/17 - 9/9/17	31	95	28	42	40	5	17	5	all	11	125	35
1st ANZAC Corps Forward Area 10/9/17 - 29/9/17 Behind Canal	29	93	37	47	52	16	37	17	NO. Billets	-	51	147
Ditto Forward of PRE CANAL	23	76	21	37	33	7	Shell Holes Used	7	Troops in Dugouts Hutments & BIVOUACS	-	27	
Total.	83	264	86	126	125	28	54	29	all	11	203	182

2ND AUSTRALIAN  
 SANITARY SECTION  
 No. ....  
 Date 29.9.17  
 APPENDIX

15

1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Corps FORWARD AREA.

SECOND ARMY.

2<sup>nd</sup> AUSTRALIAN.

SANITARY SECTION.

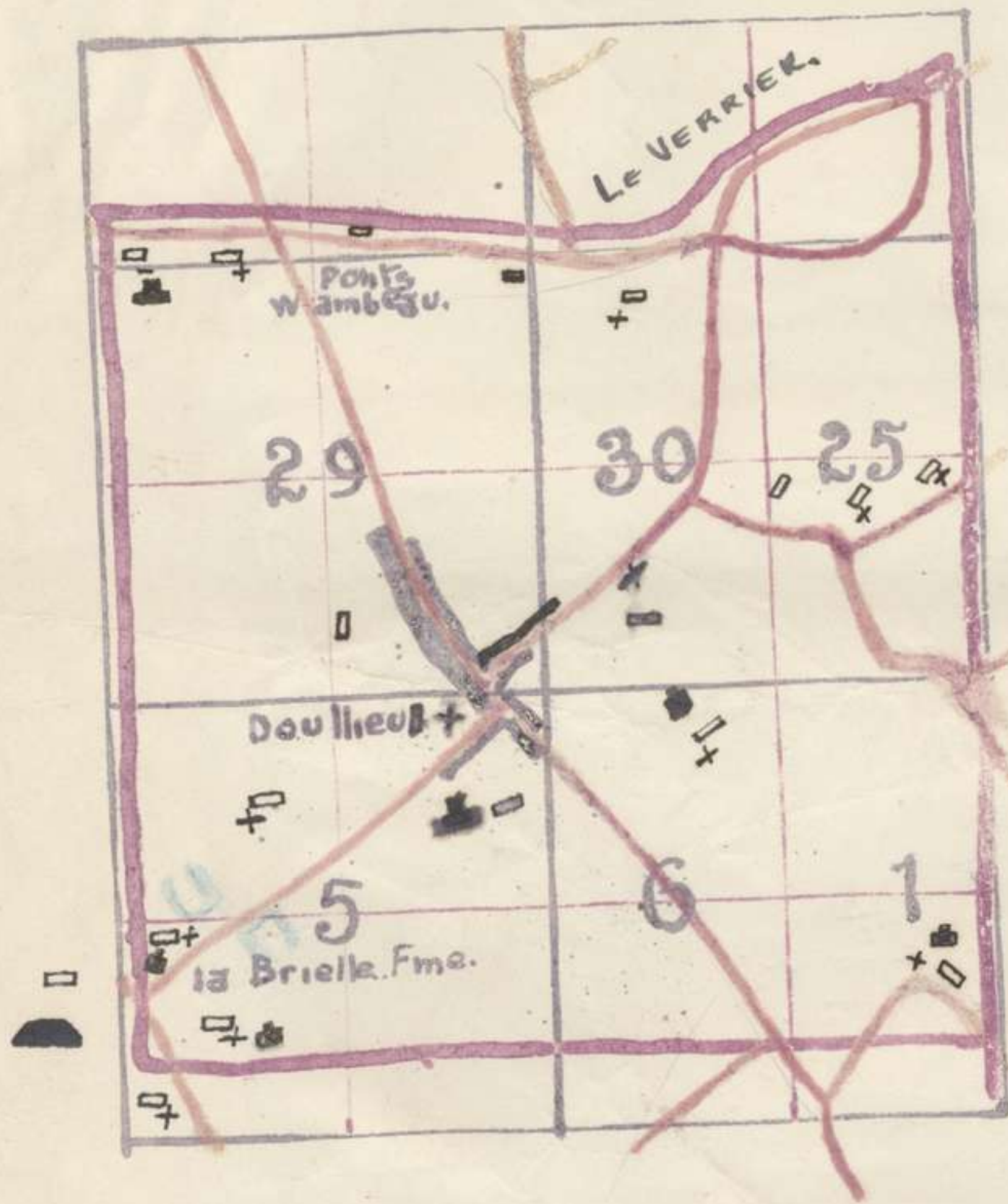
WORK IN PROGRESS MONTH ENDING September 29<sup>th</sup> 1917.

SITUATION.	Latrines	Urinals	Ablution Benches	Incinerators	Grease Traps.	Manure Dumps.
BEHIND CANAL	17	17	3	4	5	2
FORWARD of CANAL.	12	15	Nil	Nil.	Nil	Nil.
Total	29	32	3	4	5	2.

APPENDIX  
2<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
SANITARY SECTION  
No. ....  
Date 29.9.17

16

36A



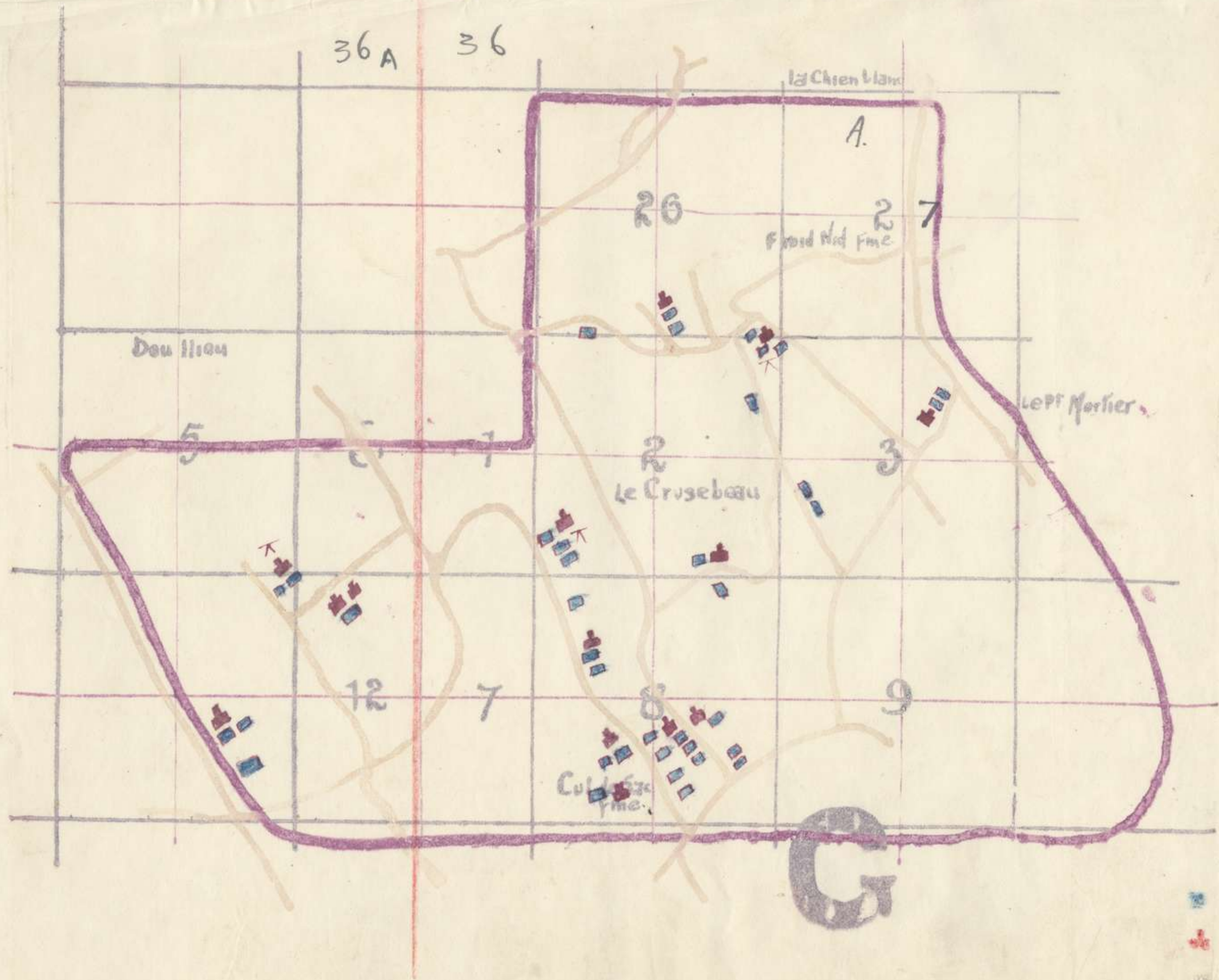
x Animals  
 □ latrines  
 ▣ Incinerator

Latrines □ Public  
 Animals + Public  
 Manure Dump  
 Incinerator ▣ Public

2ND  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 SANITARY SECTION.

No. ....  
 Date 17/8/18

plé Haut.

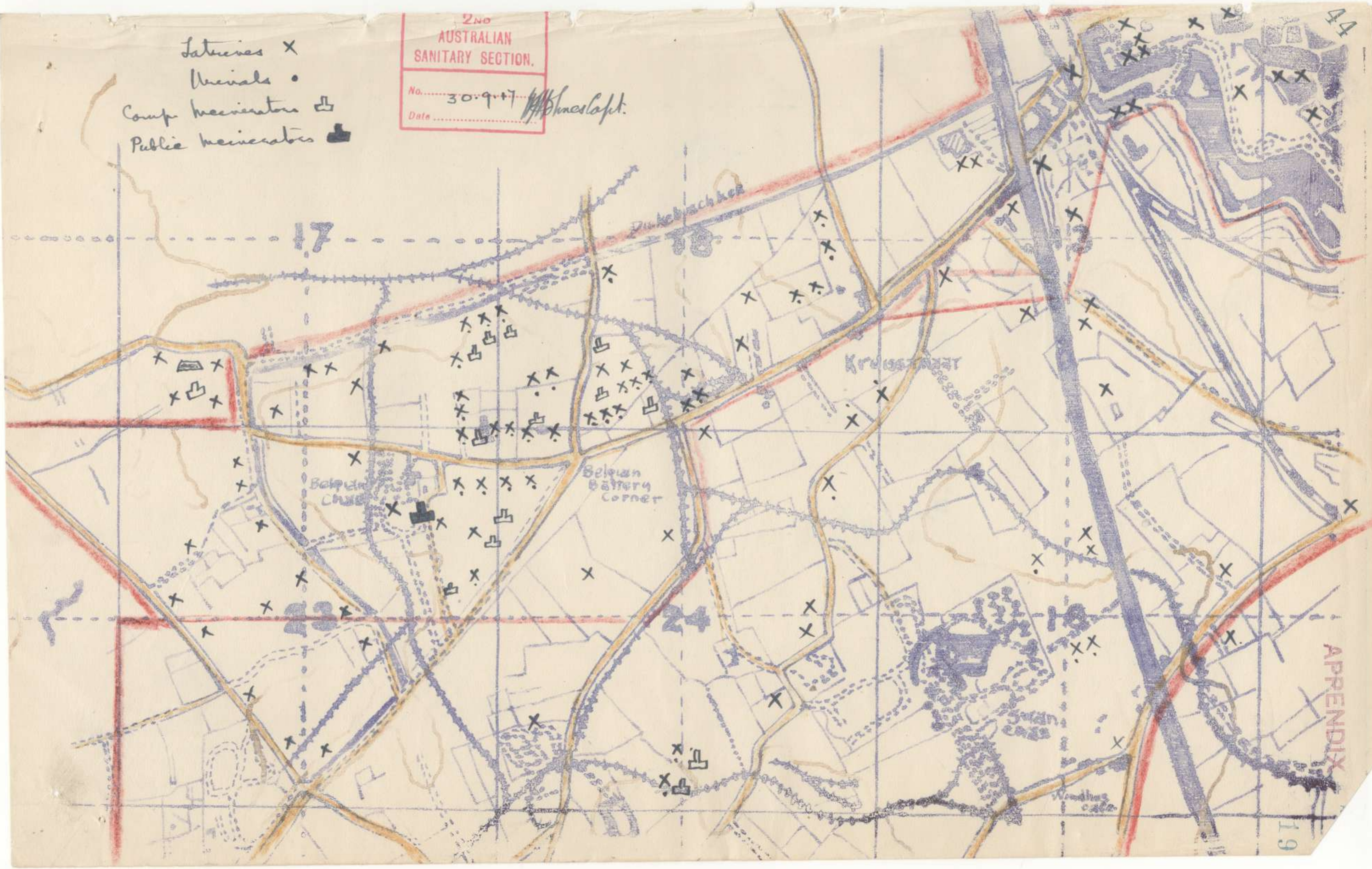


■ Sappers  
+ Mines

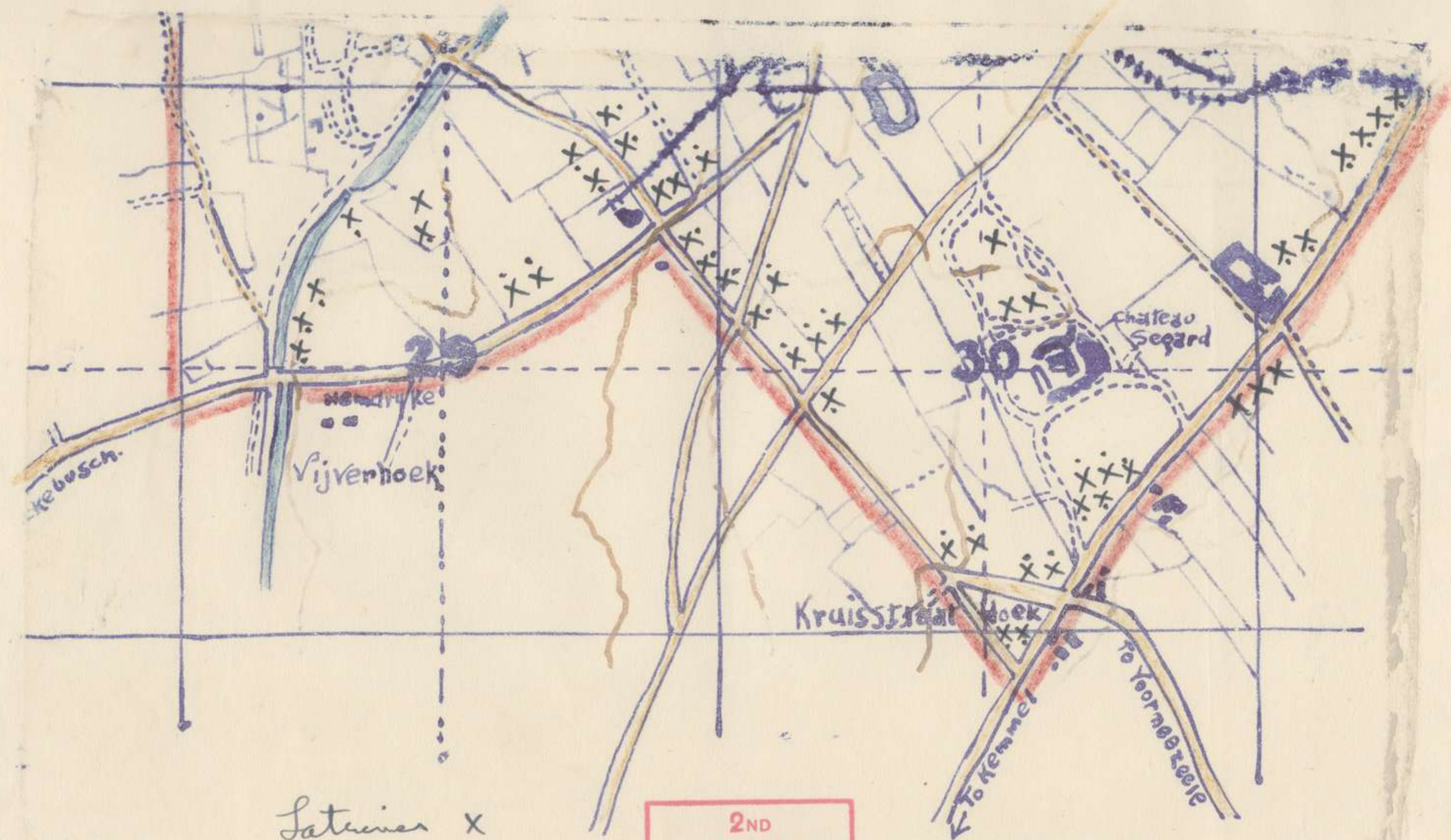
APPENDIX

Latrines X  
Urinals •  
Camp incinerators ☐  
Public incinerators ▣

2ND  
AUSTRALIAN  
SANITARY SECTION.  
No. 30917  
Date 11/11/1917



H



Latrines x  
 Urinals .

2ND  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 SANITARY SECTION.  
 No. ....  
 Date 30.9.17

*W. Holmes Capt.*

The C.O.

Now that summer has come fly breeding will take place very extensively unless strict precautions are taken to destroy all refuse about camps. There is a great danger that dysentery and other fly borne diseases, which have already begun to make their appearance will become very prevalent during the summer, with consequent serious wastage of men from these diseases unless camps are maintained at the highest sanitary level by the immediate destruction of refuse of every description to prevent fly breeding and by careful protection of food supplies from flies and dust.

Your attention is directed to the following matters noted in an inspection of the  
occupied by your unit on the  
which require to be remedied.

Date Stamp.

C.O.  
2nd Australian Sanitary Section.

The DDMS  
at Angas.

The sanitary condition of the forward  
of the Corps area, which has recently come  
under the supervision of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian  
Sanitary Section, is so bad that it is  
necessary to draw your attention at once  
to some of the worst of the conditions  
existing. I have personally inspected the  
whole area & am confining my report to  
things I have personally seen.

In the area forward of the Canal it is evident  
that even the crudest principles of sanitation  
have been absolutely neglected. No effort has  
been made by units to install latrine accommodation  
of any kind. Refuse of all kinds is thrown about  
indiscriminately, & numerous dead horses  
in all stages of decomposition lie about unburied.  
The troops certainly are engaged in urgent  
military work of all kinds & the amount of time  
that can be spared for sanitary work is small,  
but sanitation need not be absolutely neglected.  
As an example of the filthy condition of things  
generally, the Units camped in dugouts round  
the Gillebeke lake have been in the habit of  
going to the edge of the lake for defaecation  
purposes, with the consequence that the lake  
edge is thick with faeces which will pass  
directly into the lake with the first rain that  
falls. This lake is a main drinking water supply  
at the Canal also a similar condition exists, but  
to a less extent.

I have put up notices all round the lake drawing  
attention to the fact that the lake is a drinking  
water supply & must not be fouled, or used  
for bathing & washing.



There is only one water point in working order forward of the Canal, & that is at Zellebake village, & is supplied by a small pump & pipeline from the lake. Other water points are being erected.

Water is mostly brought from Dickelbusch in petrol tins, but shell hole water is also used to a considerable extent.

Chlorination is by no means regularly carried out. The use of shellholes as latrines, & for drinking water purposes is common, & it is a matter of fact that shell holes which when dug are used as latrines, fill with water in wet weather & this water is used by troops for drinking purposes, & usually without chlorination. Units must make some latrine provision, even if it can be only a shallow trench, with earth spread over the faeces from day to day. The use of shellholes is highly dangerous considering that diarrhoea is not at all infrequent among the troops; & that shell hole water is only more or less dilute sewage.

In the area behind the Canal, water is mainly obtained in water carts from Dickelbusch, but in addition a considerable amount is drawn from the canal leading from Dickelbusch lake to YPRES canal. This canal is foul, & receives surface drainage from house standings & camps. Its use as a water supply should be forbidden. All troops in this area should draw only from authorised water points.

Latrine accommodation throughout this area is very bad. Very few fly proof latrines exist. House refuse, & food waste are not properly dealt with.

we are dealing with individual units, & are getting improvements made, & the 1st Aust Division units now moving in are making considerable improvements; but I suggest that it would facilitate matters if a memo could be sent out from Coops drawing attention to the dangerously insanitary condition of the forward part of the Coops area, & embodying the following

1. Water for drinking & cooking purposes must be drawn only from the subsoiled water points & not from surface collections such as that in ~~shell~~ shell holes, waterholes & canals to which surface drainage gets access.
2. All water must be chlorinated <sup>at the water point</sup> where drawn.
3. Drinking water supplies such as Zellebake lake & Bellemeade lake must be carefully protected from pollution. Bathing & washing in these lakes is forbidden. No latrines are allowed, on or within the embankment surrounding the lake.
4. Dead animals must be buried by the unit nearest to whom they lie.
5. In the area behind the canal all refuse must be incinerated day by day. In the area forward of the canal all refuse must be buried daily.
6. Latrine accommodation must be provided immediately by all units, & the unit commander must take all necessary steps to prevent indiscriminate defaecation in shell holes, gun pits, diked trenches etc.

2ND	
AUSTRALIAN	
SANITARY SECTION.	
No. ....	
Date 17.9.17	

W. H. Jones Capt  
O.C. 2nd Aust. Sanitary Secp.

Record of watercarts, dixies, petrol tins and tanks tested to check the regularity of water chlorination

DATE	SAMPLES TESTED				RESULTS	
	Watercarts	Dixies	Petrol TINS	TANKS	Chlorinated	Not Chlorinated
26/8/17	-	3	-	-	-	3
27/8/17	-	2	-	-	-	2
30/8/17	1	-	-	-	1	-
31/8/17	4	-	-	-	4	-
1/9/17	3	-	-	-	3	-
2/9/17	5	-	-	-	5	-
3/9/17	2	3	-	1	3	3
4/9/17	3	4	-	-	2	5
5/9/17	4	2	-	-	4	2
6/9/17	8	10	1	-	16	3
7/9/17	5	4	-	-	8	1
8/9/17	-	6	-	-	4	2
11/9/17	6	4	-	-	8	2
13/9/17	3	4	1	1	3	6
14/9/17	11	3	3	-	11	6
15/9/17	11	2	1	1	13	2
16/9/17	14	3	-	1	17	1
17/9/17	12	1	1	-	13	1
18/9/17	14	4	-	-	15	3
19/9/17	12	4	-	-	12	4
20/9/17	12	1	-	-	12	1
21/9/17	2	1	-	-	2	1
22/9/17	14	1	-	-	14	1
23/9/17	8	-	-	-	8	-
25/9/17	18	-	-	-	18	-
26/9/17	10	2	1	-	10	3
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>52.</b>

2ND AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION. 29.9.17

September 1917

26

From August 26<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> ninety wells were listed in the Berquin area and labels as follows attached.

Drinkable after Chlorination	15.
Fit for cooking purposes only	36
Unfit for use by troops	<u>39</u>
Total	<u>90</u>

In Ypres area eight wells have been listed & marked as follows.

Drinkable after Chlorination	2.
Fit for cooking purposes only	3
Fit for washing	" " 2
Unfit for use by troops	<u>1</u>
Total.	<u>8</u>

12 notices have been put up at various points to prevent pollution of canal & pond water by men washing close to the stream or pond

15 notices have been put up around the Zillebeke Lake to prevent bathing & washing or otherwise polluting this source of drinking water supply.

Other notices have been put up indicating direction to manure dumps, latrines & refuse pits.

E. S. Holmes.

26/9/17.

2ND AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.
No. ....
Date 29.9.17