

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/28/14

**Title:** 9th Field Company, Australian  
Engineers

August 1918



AWM4-14/28/14



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

140

Australian Imperial Force.

# WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

AUGUST. 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*Brudenell* MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Brudenell* MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



CONFIDENTIAL-ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 1 Instructions regard 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.

9th Field Coy  
August

40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62D. J.19.c.6.4.	1/8/18.		<p>Work in Left Brigade Sector: improving trenches, digging new Reserve Line &amp; wiring same. Work on dup dugout and rendering dugouts in area gas-proof. Erecting Main Dressing Station at N.4.c.8.3.</p> <p>O.C. attended conference at CRE'S H.Q. at 6 p.m., and was advised that an offensive action of considerable magnitude would be launched on morning of 7th or 8th by 5 Aust. Divisions, 4 Canadian Divisions &amp; 2 British Divisions on one flank, and 2 French Divs. on the other flank. Ordinary defensive work in the sector was to cease &amp; Company concentrate on completing Main Dressing Station at N.4.c.8.3 &amp; any dup dugouts (P.M. H.Q., RAP'S etc.) that were in progress in forward area. Two sections were to work on marking out &amp; forming approach tracks for Infantry. The tracks are to be known as "C" and "D" tracks, commencing from Barrel pier bridges across R. SOMME, and ending at present front line. It was also announced that on the day before Zero day the whole of Company would come under C.E. Corps in connection with forward roads for artillery, &amp; this being the case, one section from 14th Field Company A.E. was attached to this unit so that they would become familiar with the area, &amp; enable them to work without difficulty when the area &amp; 9th Field Coy. came under control of Chief Engineer Corps.</p> <p>Weather: - Sunny, visi. fair.</p> <p>One section moved from J.19.c.6.4. to DRAVERS to work on main Dressing Station with sections already employed there.</p>	
	2/8/18.			



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62 D I. 19. c. 6. 4	2/8/18 (cont.)		Work in Left Brigade Sector continued. Weather: - Wet, visi. poor.	
	3/8/18		Reconnaissance made for Infantry Approach Tracks ("C" & "D") in plan in appendices. These were also partly marked out. No. 1. Work on Main Dressing Station at N. 4. c. 8. 3. Work on dugouts in Sector. Batter. H.Q. (dup dugout) at P. 4. a. 5. 5 completed.	
	4/8/18		Weather: - dull, visi. poor. "C" & "D" Approach Tracks - marking out & forming proceeding. Work continued on Main Dressing Station.	
	5/8/18		Weather: - Cloudy, visi. fair. Approach Tracks completely marked to support line. Work on Main Dressing Station. Constructing splinter-proof shelter for R.A.P. at P. 10. c. 3. 3.	
	6/8/18		Weather: - Wet, visi. poor. "C" & "D" Tracks completed. Work continued on Main Dressing Station until 9.30 p.m. Splinter-proof for R.A.P. at P. 10. c. 3. 3. completed.	
			Weather: - Wet, visi. poor.	
			12.m.p. Company came under directions of Chief Engineer, Australian Corps, for work.	
	7/8/18	11am	Dismounted Sections at DAOURS moved forward to I. 19. c. 6. 4.	
		8pm	Two Sections moved forward & took up positions in trenches at P. 3. c. 2. 8. in preparation for offensive actions.	
			One officer reported to 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. for liaison duties.	
			Weather: - unsettled, visi. fair.	

AMB



No. 3

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## WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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140

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shut 62 D J. 19.c.6.4	8/8/18	4.20 am.	Attack launched. Two sections of Company crossed old front line 25 minutes after zero, and commenced re-making forward roads (as shown on plan in appendices) for Field Artillery. This road was (in accordance with instructions) made passable 1 1/2 hours after zero. The day was very foggy, and it happened that assaulting troops missed a party of 20 of the enemy with a machine gun in the vicinity of the road, which were captured by No 3 section after several of the enemy had become casualties. Remaining two sections moved forward & relieved sections working on forward roads at 10.30 am.	No 2.
J. 32.d.3.2		11 am.	H.Q.S. and Mounted section moved to VAIRE (J. 32.a.3.2 and J. 25.d.2.5 respectively). G.M.S. store remaining at DAOURS. Casualties: - 4 O.R. wounded. Weather: - Heavy mist clearing towards 9 am. Good visibility in afternoon & evening.	
	9/8/18		Two sections moved forward and bivouaced at P. 18.c.5.0. Work continued on roads between WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT and GAILLY. Casualty: - 1 O.R. died of wounds. Weather: - Sunny, visi. fair.	
	10/8/18		Four sections improving road from WARFUSEE to GAILLY. This road was trafficable for lorries last night.	
	9 am.		G.M.S. store moved from DAOURS to VAIRE.	
			Weather: - Sunny, visi. good.	
	12.MN		Company came under orders of C.R.E., 3rd Aust. Div.	



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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chat 62D T. 32. a. 3. 2	11/8/18		Works on roads continued as yesterday. Four dismounted sections are now bivouacing in vicinity of Q. 21. a. 9. 1. Orders and Reports in connection with operations are attached in appendices. Weather: - Sunny, visi. good.	Nº 3.
Q. 21. a. 9. 1.	12/8/18	9 am 5 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	H.Q.s. moved forward to Q. 21. a. 9. 1. Mounted section transport + Q.M.S. moved to Q. 13. a. 9. 1. Company was relieved by 77th Field Company R.E. Complete unit moved to vicinity of BOUZENCOURT (T. 34. d. 2. 8.) bivouacing in trenches. Horse lines were established in the open fields. H.Q.s. + transport then had 2 moves in the one day. Casualty: - 1 O.R. wounded. Weather: - Sunny, visi. good.	
T. 34. d. 2. 8.	13/8/18 18/8/18		Standing - by for further offensive operations. During this time, too carts have been overhauled, otherwise men have been resting. Weather: - mostly dull, visibility generally good.	
do.	19/8/18		Two sections moved forward to Q. 5. a. 8. 2 and relieved 13th Field Coy. A.C. in Sector N of R. SOMME. Weather: - Dull, visi. fair.	
Q. 5. a. 8. 2.	20/8/18	10 am 12 noon	H.Q.s. and remaining 2 sections moved forward to Q. 5. a. 8. 2. mounted sections and Q.M.S. store moved to K. 31. c. 2. 7. Improving accommodation in Sector N of Somme. O.C. attended conference at C.R.E.'s H.Q. when role of Coy.	



## WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D Q.5.a.8.2 (cont.)	20/8/18		in forthcoming operations was explained. It was decided that unit would continue preparations for offensive until zero night when it would come into reserve. Work was commenced on Forward Battalion H.Q.s. for all 3 Battns. engaged in operations, also Command Post for 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.s. Weather: - Dull, visi. good.	
"	21/8/18		Forward accommodations for Battns. (as shown on plan) was completed also Command Post for Bde. H.Q. This work consisted of either re-organising old German dugouts or constructing several splinter-proof shelters as time was too limited for deep dugout construction. Since the Conference, when it was decided that the whole Coy. would come into reserve on zero night, one section has to be detailed to examine & report on dugouts in captured territory. No 2 section has been detailed for this work. Weather: - Sunny, visi. good.	no. 2
"	22/8/18		9th Aust. Inf. Bde. attacked, holding the flank to 47th Div. (3rd Corps, B.E.F.) on our left, i.e., 9th Bde. were the right of assault. Operation shown on plan in appendices. Three sections of the company came into reserve and No 2. section were engaged in enterprise & moved out from Coy. H.Q.s. at zero hour (at 4.45 a.m.) to reconnoitre captured area for deep dugouts & to examine them for mines or traps. The section officer's Report (attached) gives details of dugouts discovered & examined.	no. 2 no. 5



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
O. 5. a. 8. 7. (Sheet 62 D)	22/8/18 (contd)		The Section had a very rough day, having to pass through a very heavy enemy barrage both going out & coming back. Dugouts discovered were fitted out by Sappers for immediate use as new Battr. H.Q.s. for assaulting Battr. who occupied them at once. Weather: - Early morning mist, sunny, visi. good. Casualties: - 1 - OR. Killed in action	
	23/8/18		2 - OR. Wounded & remained at duty. Improving accommodation for Pde. and Battalion H.Q.s. All carpenters engaged, making water troughs, box latrines and notice boards. Troughs given to passing artillery so that they would have facilities for watering horses in forward area. Weather - Sunny, visi. good.	
	24/8/18		Improving accommodation for 9th Pde., Battalion H.Q.s in captured area, and R.A.P.S., also Dressing Station at T. 36. d. 8. 3. Making water troughs re. as yesterday. Weather - Sunny, visi. good.	
	25/8/18		Attack continued. Four Sections left camp at 3.30 am. to construct bridges over River SOMME & Canal near BRAY, and to make roads trafficable. Bridges A, B & C were made to take ambulances (see plan attached). Bridges D, E and F were made to take foot traffic only. A was a Pontoon bridge. By this route the wounded were to be evacuated. An additional Pontoon foot bridge was built at G for walking wounded.	



No. 7  
Date

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D G. 5. a. 8. 2.	25/8/18		Work was continued until 6.30 p.m., i.e., Sappers were working continuously for over 14 hours. Weather - Heavy mist, clearing towards 9 a.m., visi. fair.	
	26/8/18		D. E. and F. Bridges were re-constructed to carry Field Artillery, thus making complete route from one side of River to other. Weather - Rain in morning, visi. fair.	
L. 16. d. 8. 7.	27/8/18		Whole Company moved at 11 a.m. to L. 16. d. 8. 7 (Sheet 62D). One Section making and erecting signboards, and improving route from LA NEUVILLE to BRAY. Weather - Wet in evening, visi. fair.	
	28/8/18		No. 1 Section erecting footbridges and repairing tracks for crossing at SUZANNE and crossing at ECLUSIER. Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Sections making Field Artillery route & erecting bridges at CHAPPY. The whole Company have been working long hours. Men left camp at 5 a.m. and did not return till 8 p.m. Weather - Showery, visi. poor.	
	29/8/18		Nos. 2 and 4 Sections moved forward at 6.30 a.m. to (Sheet 62C) G. 16. c. 9. 0. 95, and commenced making tracks & erecting footbridges from G. 23 b. 3. 9. to G. 24 c. 2. 4. Remaining two Sections assembling material for bridges at ECLUSIER. One bridge completed to take traffic up to and including 3-ton motor lorries. Weather - Unsettled, visi. fair.	



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No. 8  
Date Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C G.16.c.90.75	30/8/18		Remainder of Company at L.16.d.8.7. moved forward to G.16.c.90.75. Two Sections commenced making route through FRISE good for Field Artillery. This route however, was not completed, but left for foot traffic only, in view of more important work. Two Sections carrying on with motor lorry route across SOMMES at ECHUSIER. Then two Sections were working from 6 a.m. till 9.30 p.m. Weather - Dull, vis. fair.	
	31/8/18		One Section commenced work on motor lorry route at FEUILLÉRES. Remaining Sections completing & improving motor lorry route at ECHUSIER, putting up Sign boards etc. Weather - Dull, vis. fair.	

*Brld Bunka*  
MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

8



Survey of events during the month of August 1918.

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From the 1st. to the 4th. ordinary trench defensive work was continued with.

On the 1st. at a Conference at C.R.E's Office, we were advised that an operation on a large scale would commence on 7th. or 8th. inst., therefore ordinary defensive works would be abandoned and until midnight 6th./7th. preparations for the offensive were pushed on with. The Company's chief works were completing a Main Dressing Station, also completion of Forward Battn. H.Q's. & Regimental Aid Posts, and marking out tracks, so as to be fool-proof by night, for the assembly of troops for the assault. Tracks are marked "C" and "D" on plan No.1 in appendices; these tracks were also formed as far as time would permit, and were indicated by frequent notice boards.

At 12 midnight 6th./7th. inst. the whole of 9th. Field Company became Corps Troops, and were detailed to work on roads under C.O. 3rd. Pioneer Battn. It fell to the lot of the Company to make roads (shewn in brown on plan No.2) good for Field Artillery. Work was commenced a little after Zero hour (4.20.a.m., 8th.). Roads were to be passable for Field Artillery two hours after zero hour. Two Sections worked only in the first instance, and 6 hours after zero they were relieved by the other two Sections. The roads allotted to this unit were made good to schedule time. One of the Sections took about 40 prisoners and a couple of machine guns; the morning was exceedingly misty, and the mopping up troops had missed a number of the enemy along the road that we were to make.

For the next two days (9th. and 10th.) we remained Corps troops, and went on improving and repairing roads in captured area.

Casualties - 4.O.R. wounded, two of which have since died.

Although the work went well, it seemed to me a pity that Field Companies should be detached from their C.R.E. at a critical time to work under an O.C. Pioneer Battalion, that is, to have new methods of receiving orders etc.

From 13th. to 18th. inclusive the Company rested, with the exception of details improving camps and making sanitary appliances for the Brigade.

On the 19th. & 20th. the Company moved into a new sector north of the SOMME. The line had become stationary here, and for the next few days we more or less settled down to ordinary trench routine, i.e., making Battn. H.Q's., R.A.P's., strong points etc. The offensive was to be continued again at short notice, and from 20th. to 22nd. we once more began making Engineer preparations, i.e., we built more Forward Battn. H.Q's., R.A.P's., Command Post for Brigade, Forward M.D.S' etc. At 4.45.a.m. on 22nd. the assault was continued by 9th. A.I.Bde. Three Sections of the Company were kept in reserve, and One Section was detailed to examine dugouts for mines in captured area, to report on same, and to locate suitable Forward Battn. H.Q's. One Corporal was killed and 2 Sappers wounded out of this Section.

On the morning of 25th. the attack was continued on a large scale, the line having been advanced in the interim resulting in the capture of BRAY on 24th. This Company was given the work of bridging the SOMME as the ground was captured. As all the bridges - had been completely demolished by the enemy, we had no easy task, but by working very long hours managed to keep communication open; first making footways close behind the front, about 2,000 yds. further back constructing bridges for field artillery, and as the advance continued, converting footbridges into bridges for field artillery and strengthening field artillery bridges to carry 3-ton motor lorries.

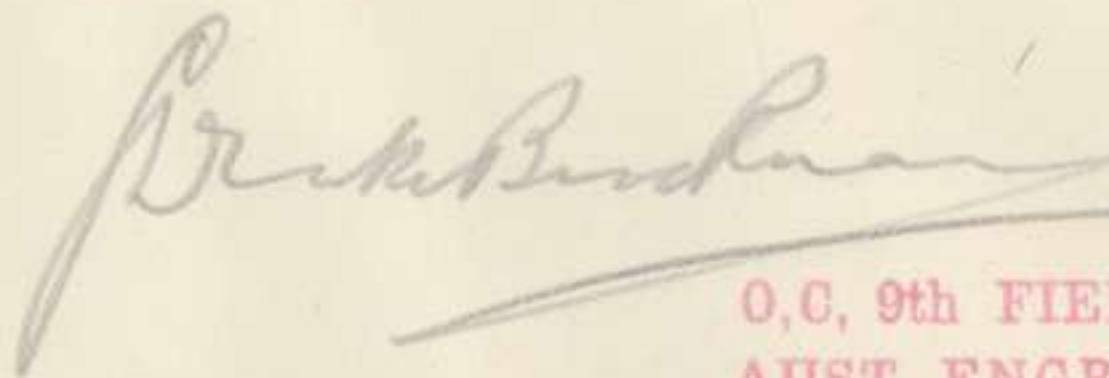
By the magnificent support of the whole Company, both Officers and Men, communication was restored and maintained along the River SOMME, and then in spite of very long hours and considerable shell-fire. From the 25th. to 31st. the Company constructed 772 feet of Foot bridges, 413 feet of Bridging for Field Artillery, and 224 feet of bridging for Motor Lorries. Details are shewn in appendices. Pontoons were used in two instances where streams were suitable.



Survey of events during August 1918 (contd.) -

140 The excellent early training of the Company stood the test well, for although it had done but little heavy bridging for nearly two years, was able to do what I consider very fine work. The Company naturally appreciated doing work of this nature, i.e., having the opportunity of showing that it could do what a Field Company was expected to do in open warfare, after having a long run at more or less ordinary trench routine.

31st. August 1918.



MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



140

## WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

AUGUST

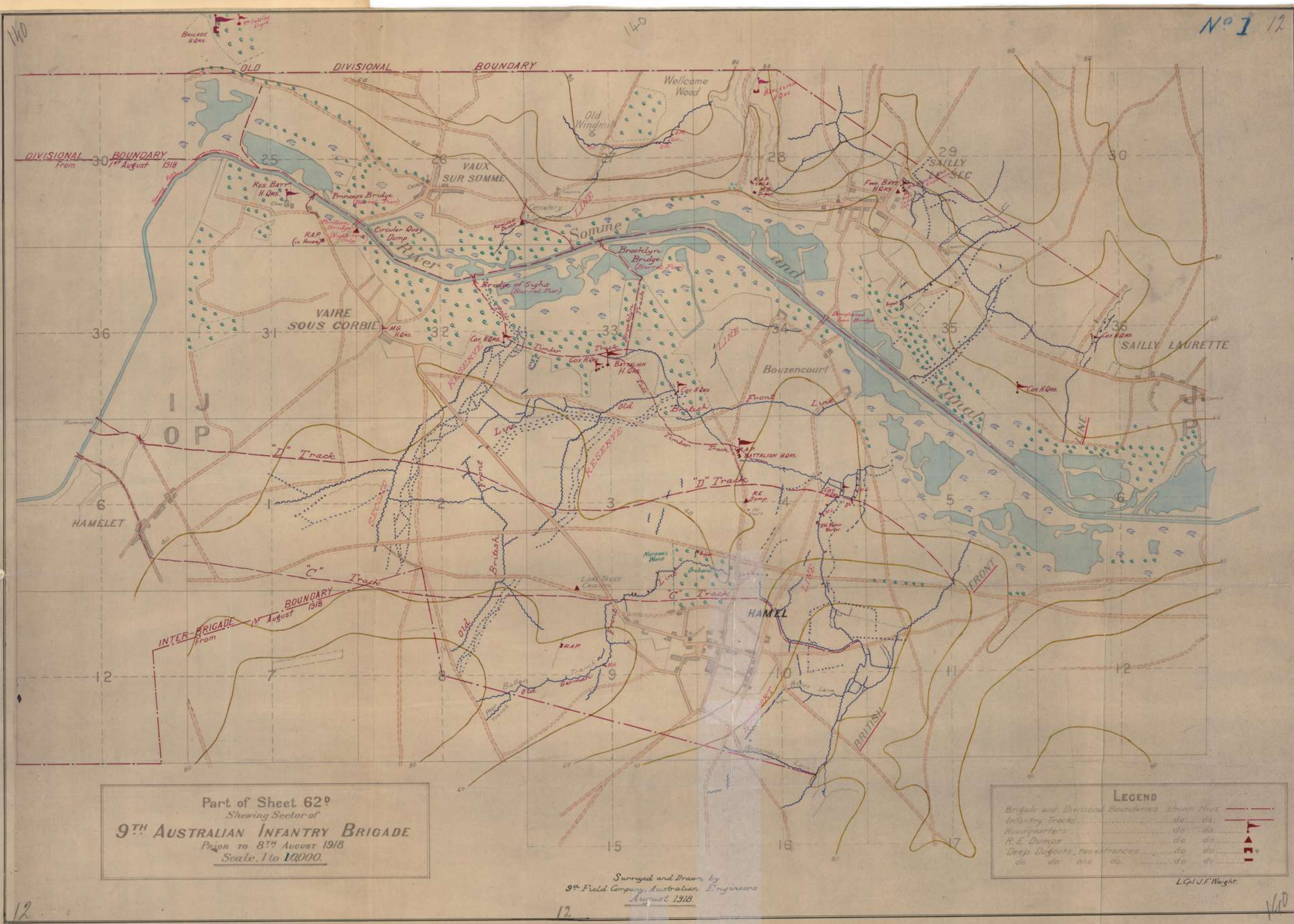
1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Map of Left Bde. Sector south of River SOMME, shewing Infantry Approach Tracks.
2.	Map of area astride River SOMME, giving barrage lines for operation of 8th., and objectives for operation on 22nd. west of BRAY.
3.	Orders and reports during operations on 8th.
4.	Reports during operation on 22nd. and to end of month, also list of bridges built and sketches.
5.	Message to Aust. Corps from Gen. Rawlinson.
6.	Notes on work of Mounted Sections and C.Q.M.S. during month.
7.	Chart shewing strength of Company during August.

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Part of Sheet 62<sup>D</sup>  
Showing Sector of  
**9<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE**  
Prior to 8<sup>TH</sup> August 1918  
Scale, 1 to 10,000.

Surveyed and Drawn by  
9<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Australian Engineers  
August 1918

**LEGEND**

Brigade and Divisional Boundaries	shown thus	---
Infantry Tracks	do do	---
Headquarters	do do	---
R.E. Dumps	do do	---
Deep Dugouts, two entrances	do do	---
do do one do	do do	---

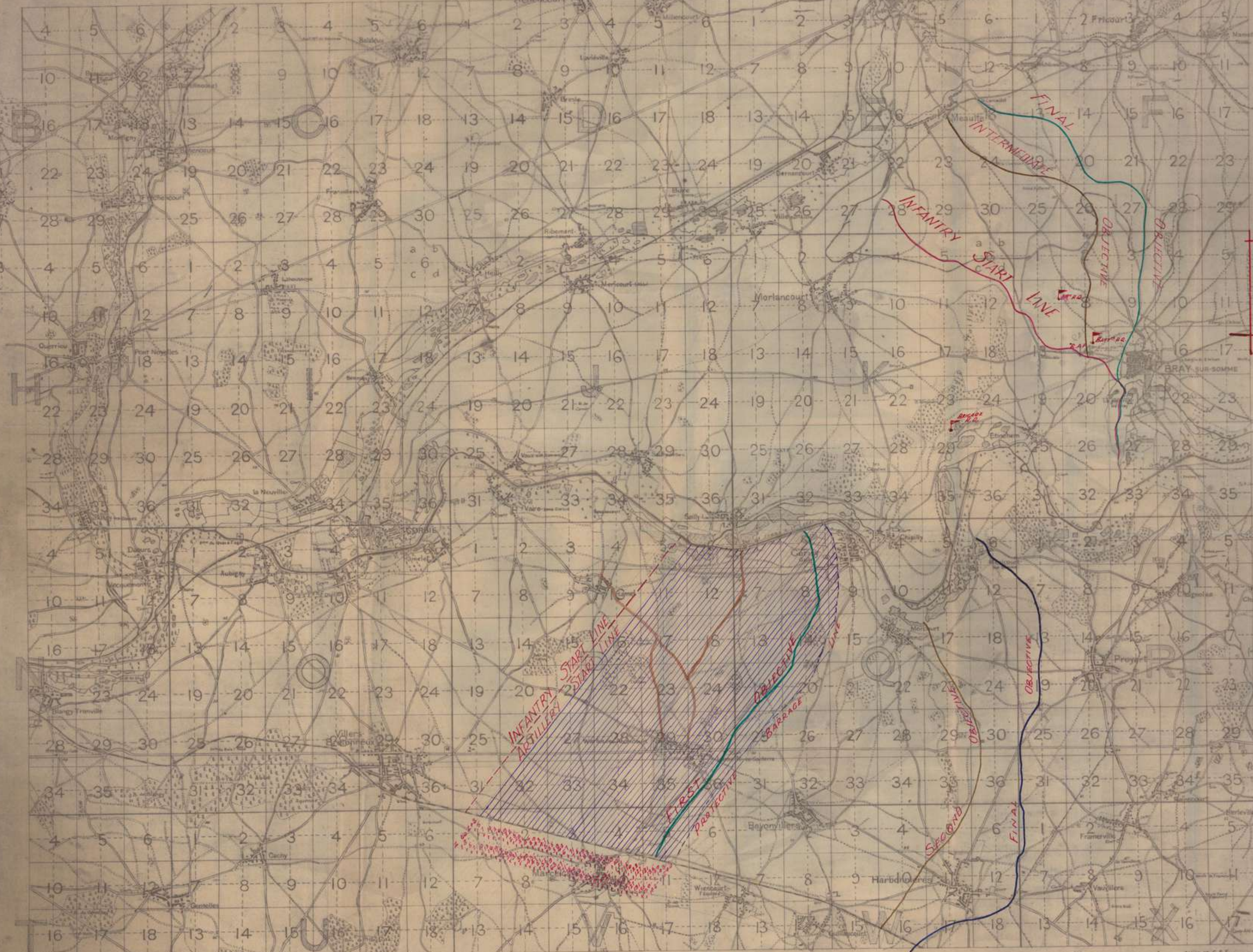
L. Col. J. F. Wright.



FRANCE.  
PLAN OF PART OF SHEETS 62<sup>D</sup> & 57<sup>D</sup> S.E. (1<sup>st</sup> Edn)

SCALE 1 : 40,000

N<sup>o</sup> 2 13



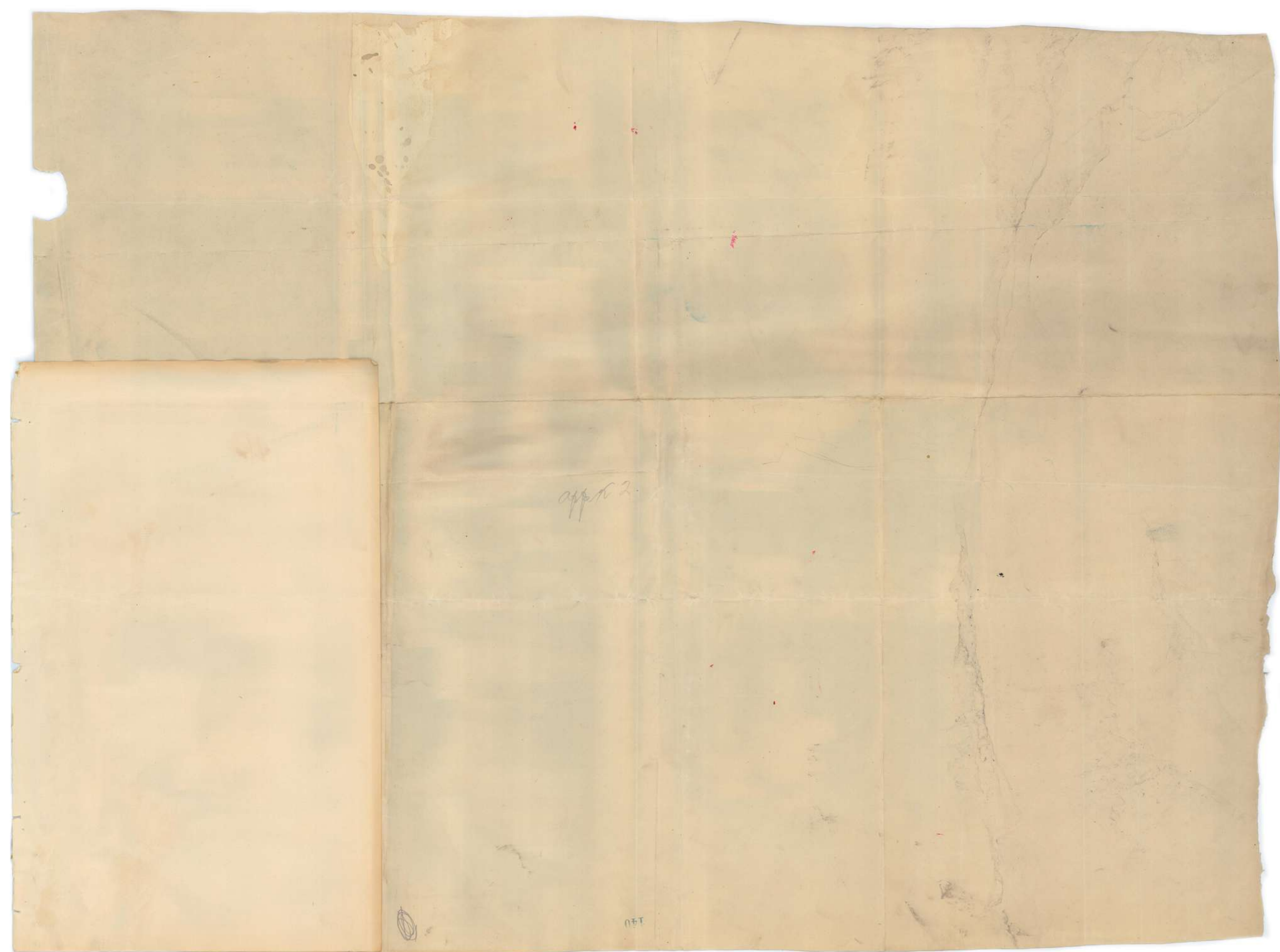
PLAN SHOWING  
INFANTRY OBJECTIVES IN  
OPERATIONS ON  
8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST

9<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Aus Engrs.

14 8 12 17 23 29 35  
17 23 29 35  
17 23 29 35  
17 23 29 35

Office of C.E.E.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. Division.







SECRET

ENGINEER INSTRUCTION NO.19

1 The 3rd. Australian Division in co-operation with other units of Australian Corps and III Corps is going to attack and capture the enemy positions opposite our front on a date and at a time to be notified. Objective of 3rd. Aust. Div. is the GREEN LINE shown on attached map.

2 At midnight 6/7th. August the following technical units of 3rd. Aust. Div. will come under the command of C.R.E. Australian Corps for work on roads in the divisional sector.

3 { 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
9th. Field Coy. A.E.  
10th. Field Coy AE less 2 sections  
O.C. Lieut- Col SANDAY M.C. 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
C.R.E. 3rd. Australian Division will have the following technical units at his disposal

{ 11th. Field Coy A.E.  
2 Sections 10th. Field Coy A.E.  
O.C. Lieut R.S. MOORE M.C.  
"A" Coy 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
"B" Coy do. do. do. do.  
O.C. Major E.E. KING 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
2 Officers ( Lieuts. J.E. ARMSTRONG and K. MAYOH )  
and 30 O.Rs. 1st. Aust. Tunnelling Coy.

The above units are detailed for work as under

11th. Field Coy.

Headquarters P.7.a.O.2.

1 Section (Lt. H.C. VALENTINE) with 9th. Inf. Bde.

1 Section (2/Lt. E.H. RHODES) with 11th. Inf. Bde.

the primary work of these sections is to provide accommodation for Brigade and Battalion Headquarters.

1 Section (2/Lt. R.A. ROBINSON) on water supply in the captured area

1 Section ( Lt. W.H. THOMAS M.C. ) in reserve

2 Sections 10th. Field Coy Headquarters with 11th. Inf. Bde.

Bridges over SOMME CANAL

On Y/Z night the existing dormant bridges at FAGOT FARM FOUILLOY and CIRCULAR QUAY to be swung and left across the canal until further notice. Two men to be left in charge of each bridge

On Y/Z night a new pontoon bridge to be swung across the canal on the enemy side of old BOUZENCOURT BRIDGE (from the stores already there vide Engineer Instruction No. 18) for use on Z day.

Lt. MOORE will arrange to have one trestle wagon loaded with light trestle footbridge material sufficient for 2 bridges for use on Z day

After zero hour Lt MOORE will receive instructions from the 11th. Inf. Bde. as to the construction of bridges east of BOUZENCOURT.

2 Coys. 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. Headquarters P.7.a.O.2.

"A" Coy. 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.

To clear the roads marked red green and blue on attached map, always keeping ahead of Corps troops mentioned in para. 2

Platoons to cross our old front line at Zero hour plus 15 minutes

"B" Coy 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.

1 Platoon to each of the 4 overland tracks shown in blue on attached map.

"A" track to cross the GREEN LINE at about Q.19.d.3.7.

"B" track to cross the GREEN LINE at about Q.14.c.4.4.

"C" track to cross the GREEN LINE at about Q.8.d.2.2.

"D" track to cross the GREEN LINE at about Q.8.b.5.9.

Platoons to cross our old front line at Zero plus 20 minutes

2 Officers 30 O.Rs. 1st. Aust. Tunnelling Coy.

1 Officer and 15 O.Rs. will work with each of the 9th (Lt. MAYOH) and 11th ( Lt. ARMSTRONG ) Inf. Bdes.

120



APPENDIX

Our work will be first to locate and make habitable enemy deep dugouts for Brigade and Battalion Headquarters and then locate and exploit all deep dugouts in the area up to the GREEN LINE

- 4 The trestle and pontoon wagons of 9th. and 10th. Coys. are at the disposal of C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Division.
- One trestle wagon of 10th. Field Coy. is detailed for work with LIEUT MOORE 10th. Field Coy.
- The remaining wagons will come under the command of Lieut. S.W.MATTERS 11th. Field Coy. at midnight 5/6th. August.
- The 9th. and 10th. Field Coys will each detail 2 mounted M.C.O's for duty with these 5 wagons.
- 5 3rd. Aust. Div. R.E.Dump is located in FOUILLOY O.10.b.7.6.
- 6 Captain O.B.WILLIAMS 11th. Field Coy. is detailed for liaison duty with 11th. Inf. Bde and Lieut F.M.MASON M.C. 9th. Field Coy with 9th. Inf. Bde.
- 7 C.R.E's headquarters will remain at BUSSY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGE

*Handwritten initials*

*H. Backwell*

Lieut-Col.,  
C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Div.

DISTRIBUTION

- 1 "G" 3rd. Aust. Div. (mah)
- 2 C.E. Aust. Corps.
- 3 C.R.E. 4th. Aust. Div. (map)
- 4 9th. Field Coy
- 5 10th. do. do.
- 6 11th. do. do. (map)
- 7 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 8 Major E.E.KING 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. (3 maps)
- 9 Captain O.B.WILLIAMS 11th. Field Coy (map)
- 10 Lieut. F.M.MASON M.C. 9th. Field Coy (map)
- 11 Lieut. R.S.MOORE M.C. 10th. Field Coy (map)
- 12 Lieut. K. MAYOH 1st. Aust. Tunn. Coy. (map)
- 13 Lieut. J.E.ARMSTRONG do. do. (map)
- 14 - 16 9th., 10. and 11th. Inf. Bdes.
- 17 - 19 WARDIARY
- 20 SPARE



THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERSSecret ENGINEER INSTRUCTION NO. 18

Copy No. 5.....

BRIDGES OVER THE SOMME CANAL

3.8.18.

10th. Field Coy. will make the following arrangements:-

1. BOUZENCOURT BRIDGE J.34.b.5.1. Present crossing over debris of old bridge to be improved to take infantry in file. Work to be done at night and be completed by 2 a.m. 6th. inst.
2. Take forward and conceal along the banks of canal between J.34.b.5.1. and J.35.c.0.8. the following bridge stores
  - a. pontoons and superstructure to make two medium bridges over canal without use of Weldon trestles.
  - b. 4 Weldon trestles and 2 bays of superstructure.  
Work to be done at night and completed by 2 a.m. 6th. inst.
3. At VAUX-VAIRE Crossing J.26.c.0.2. have one spare pontoon and one bay of superstructure, 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to be stationed there for forming bridge.
4. At FOUILLOY BRIDGE J.0.4.c.2.0. one spare Weldon trestle and one bay of superstructure 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to be stationed there for forming bridge.
5. At FAGOT FARM BRIDGE J.0.2.a.9.4. one spare pontoon and one bay of superstructure, 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to be stationed there for forming bridge.
6. Patrol all barrel pier bridges east of CORBIE and have spare stores available for quick repair work.
7. 10th. Field Coy. to acknowledge

P.T.O. for distribution.

*all oppus to note*  
*skip by afternoon*  
*for*

*W. Rank told*  
 Lieut. Col.  
 C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Div.

APPENDIX



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## APPENDIX 3

- |       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 1     | "O" 3rd. Aust. Div.      |
| 2.    | C.E. Aust. Corps.        |
| 3.    | C.R.E. 4th. Aust. Div.   |
| 4     | C.R.E. 18th. Div.        |
| 5     | 9th. Field Coy.          |
| 6     | 10th. Field Coy.         |
| 7     | 11th. Field Coy.         |
| 8     | 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Batt. |
| 9-11  | War Diary                |
| 12-15 | Spare                    |

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4th. August 1918.

Lieut. Burnett,

Our 3 Pontoon Wagons come under the command of Lieut. MATTERS, 11th. Field Company A.E. at midnight 5th/6th. August '18. Two Mounted N.C.Os are to be detailed by you for duty with these wagons. Get into touch with Lieut. Matters re the Wagons, this-morning & of 5th. inst.

4/8/18.

*Franklin*  
MAJOR.  
M.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

APPENDIX

18



THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS

Copy No. 3

SECRET

4. 6. 18.

ENGINEER INSTRUCTION NO. 20MARKING OF ROADS FOR HORSE TRANSPORT ETC.

HORSE TRANSPORT ROADS AND TRACKS will be marked by a pair of white equilateral triangles of 12" side placed on each side of the road. ~~at about 10 yards centre~~. Each triangle will be nailed to a post at a height of about 4 feet.

TRACKS FOR INFANTRY will be marked by a single white square of 12" side nailed to a post at a height of about 4 feet.

On the 4 special overland tracks black letters "A" "B" "C" "D" will be painted in the centre of the white square.

*Distribution*

- 1 "Q" 3rd Aus Div
- 2 C.R.E. 4th. Aus. Div
- 3 9th. Field Coy.
- 4 10 " - do -

*H. B. B. told*

Lieut-Col.,  
C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Div.

- 5 11 " - do -
- 6 3rd Aus Pioneers
- 7 Major & King. 2nd Aust. Pioneers
- 8-10 War Diary
- 11-14 Spare. I

APPENDIX

19



## BATTLE INSTRUCTION NO. 2.

No. ....  
 THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

APPENDIX 20

SECRET

1. Movement of transport wagons in the forward area has been such to-day, as to draw a certain amount of enemy shell-fire.

2. Commanders will realise the grave necessity for secrecy, and must, therefore, exercise the greatest amount of personal supervision to ensure that all officers and other ranks assist to obtain the desired result.

3. It must be impressed on all officers and n.c.os. that they are responsible for, and must insist on, the obedience of orders by all personnel, irrespective of the unit to which they belong.

4. To-day's fault may be turned to to-morrow's advantage by actions which will tend to lead the enemy into the belief that a Divisional or other relief is taking place. As no two units act the same in the line (as to VERY Lights, movement, night firing, etc), the relief of the 11th. Aust. Inf. Bde. by the two Battalions of the 10th. Aust. Inf. Bde. to-night may further help to deceive the enemy.

The enemy may have discovered that the Australians are taking over from the French in the vicinity of HANGARD, and may therefore surmise that another local operation of the size of recent ones is likely to take place to straighten out the CACHY re-entrant.

Therefore, every precaution will be taken that, after dawn to-morrow, no excessive movement is visible and that, in every way, the Divisional area appears normal.

Special measures will be arranged by Divisional Headquarters to stop traffic and, in the event of individual wagons or groups of wagons (other than those which are absolutely necessary) moving in prohibited areas, the Commanding Officer concerned will be held responsible for allowing such vehicles to leave transport lines on such a mission. Such traffic, after the name of the driver and his unit has been taken, will not be allowed to proceed forward, but will either be swung off the road to wait for night-fall, or ordered to return to rear areas.

Officers and men of incoming Brigades, in particular, must be warned against showing themselves in exposed areas. Excessive numbers swimming at one time must be prevented.

Troops from areas some distance from the river may be marched to and from swimming parades in small parties at considerable intervals.

No troops of any Brigade are to be permitted to leave their area, except on duty.

5. No fires will be allowed in the forward area between dawn and sunset, as numerous small columns of smoke will give the enemy the best clue to the number of troops in the area, and the location of their bivouacs.

6. Special vigilance in the foregoing must be exercised in this respect throughout to-morrow and succeeding days, particularly in the areas which will be occupied by the 10th, 4th. and 18th. Aust. Inf. Brigades.

Special aeroplanes are being employed to report any excessive movement, or other indication of other than normal activity, in the Divisional area.

4th. August, 1918.

## DISTRIBUTION.

"A.Q."

A.D.M.S.

10th. A.I. Bde.

12th. -do-

3rd. M.G. Bn.

3rd. Div. Sig. Coy.

C.R.A.

A.P.M.

11th. A.I. Bde.

12th. -do-

3rd. Pioneer Bn.

4th. Aust. Div. 2nd. Aust. Div.

C.R.B.

9th. A.I. Bde.

4th. -do-

3rd. Div. Train.

AUST. CORPS.

2nd. Aust. Div.

*Ch. J. J.*  
 Lieut.-Colonel.  
 General Staff.



BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Copy No. 1



The following instructions, consequent on Third Aust. Division Order No. 103, are forwarded for information.

INFANTRY.

(i). The assault will be carried out by the 9th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes., 9th A.I. Bde. on Right, 11th A.I. Bde. on Left. Forming up line is shown on Map issued to those concerned.

(ii). Forming up Troops detailed to the capture of the first objective will be deployed on the Forming Up Line by ZERO minus one hour.

(iii). The 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. will hold the forward line of the Divisional Area until the whole of the 4th Aust. Division attacking troops have passed through, when Battalions will be reorganized, and await instructions.

(iv). The Objective of the Division will be as shown by the GREEN LINE on Maps issued.

(v). On reaching the GREEN LINE, troops will consolidate and reorganize for defence in depth; at least one Battalion being maintained as a reserve in each Brigade Sector.

(vi). The 4th Aust. Division, on a frontage of two Brigades, with one Brigade in Reserve, will assemble in rear of the 3rd Aust. Div. assaulting troops prior to ZERO, and will follow the troops attacking the GREEN LINE at ZERO plus four hours.

The 4th Aust. Div. will pass through troops on the GREEN LINE, and advance to attack on BLUE LINE.

(vii). Command of troops on the GREEN LINE will pass to G.O.C. 4th Aust. Division at ZERO plus four hours.

(viii). From ZERO plus four hours the advance will be continued under the conditions of open warfare.

(ix). (a). Each Brigade will be allotted one Coy. of Mark V Tanks (12) of 13th Tank Bn. The Officers of these Coys. will maintain the closest liaison with Infantry Brigadiers.

(b). Tanks will move into positions on Y/Z night, and special tank tapes of White, with Black Centre, will be laid beforehand.

After the capture of the GREEN LINE these Tanks will reorganize and, under the orders of the Tank Bn. Commander, be available as a reserve for BLUE LINE Troops.

(c). One Carrying Tank of 1st Carrying Tank Coy. will also be allotted to each Brigade for the purpose of carrying forward stores and tools, and establishing dumps.

Localities for dumps should be selected beforehand, and "lookout men" appointed to guide the Tanks.

One Sapper will be detailed to each Tank, and two men per Brigade as loaders.

Loading will be carried out as soon as possible after the 4th instant.

(d). Carrying Tanks will arrange to pick up those Stokes Mortars of Infantry Brigades which are allotted special tasks during the barrage; and carry same forward to localities selected.

(x). The following Light Signals will be employed in the Aust. Corps:-

(a). S.O.S. - No. 32 Grenade - GREEN over GREEN over GREEN.

(b). Success Signal. No. 32 Grenade - WHITE over WHITE over WHITE.

The Light Signals of the III Corps are similar to those of the Australian Corps.

P.T.O.



(xi). (a). Red Ground Flares will be used to indicate the Infantry positions to Contact Aeroplanes which will fly along the line of the first objective at ZERO plus two hours thirty minutes. Flares will be lit by Infantry in the most advanced lines only.

(b). Flares will be called for by a series of "A's" on the Klaxon Horn, and by firing a WHITE VERY Light.

(c). Should the aeroplane fail to mark the line, it will return and repeat it's call ten minutes later.

(d). If flares have been utilized, and an aeroplane calls for flares, three or four rifles about 2 ft. apart laid, (pointing forward), across the trench, will be seen by the Contact planes.

(e). Metal discs, sewn in the inside of the cover of the Box Respirator, and displayed to aeroplane, may be used to indicate Infantry dispositions.

(f). In the case of our Aeroplanes observing an enemy counter-attack actually developing, the Artillery will be informed by Wireless, and a WHITE parachute flare fired by the aeroplane in the direction of the enemy troops moving for the counter-attack.

(xii). Message Carrying Rockets will be carried forward by Brigades, and relay posts arranged.

#### ARTILLERY.

(i). In view of the nature of the enemy defences, the fire of Heavy Artillery not employed on counter-battery work will be used to engage special strong points or localities.

(ii). Field Artillery allotted to the Division will be divided into three groups of three Brigades each.

(iii). After capture of GREEN LINE -

(a). 1 Brigade will be attached to each of the Inf. Bdes. of 4th Aust. Division.

(b). 3 Bdes. will move forward as defence guns for the GREEN LINE.

(c). 3 Brigades will remain as Corps Reserve.

(iv). It will be necessary for all field guns to move into forward prepared positions prior to ZERO day.

(v). Guns will not be dug in, but will be concealed as much as possible in old trenches, banks, and crops.

(vi). All Unit Commanders must ensure that men of their Units do not loiter round these concealed guns and so attract the enemy's attention.

(vii). Care will be taken that vehicles and ration parties at night do not displace Artillery aiming posts, or the Red and White Flags, which are placed in position by the Survey Section, R.E.

(viii). The necessary accommodation for Artillery personnel in the neighbourhood of the guns will be made available by the Infantry Commanders concerned.

(ix). (a). The field artillery 18-pdr. barrage will open at ZERO 200 yards in advance of the Forming Up Line. At ZERO plus three minutes the barrage will commence to advance; lifts will be 100 yards at two minute intervals. There will be two lifts at this rate.

The rate will then decrease to lifts of 100 yards every three minutes. There will be eight lifts at this rate.

From the eleventh lift inclusive until the GREEN LINE is reached lifts will be of 100 yards each at four minute intervals.

(b). The 4.5" Howitzer barrage will move 200 yards in advance of the 18pdr. barrage.

(c). A protective barrage will be maintained in front of the GREEN LINE until ZERO plus four hours. During this period



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approximately fifty per cent (50%) of the guns remaining in the barrage will be employed in a protective line barrage; the remainder will be employed to search and sweep deeply into the enemy's position. At ZERO plus four hours all barrage fire will cease.

Barrage Maps will be issued later.

(x). Artillery Smoke will be as follows:-

(a). Three rounds per gun will be fired during the first three minutes of the barrage.

(b). Three rounds per gun will be fired in quick succession, on the Field Artillery barrage reaching the Artillery halt line of the first objective.

#### MACHINE GUNS.

(i). The C.O. 3rd Aust. Machine Gun Battalion will arrange for a creeping barrage to be brought down by all available guns up to a range of 2,000 yards from the Infantry Jumping Off Line.

(ii). Machine Guns will be allotted duties as under:-

One half Coy. to each Attacking Bde. - Opportunity Guns.

One Coy. to each Attacking Brigade - for consolidation.

One Coy. with 10th A.I.B rigade - Reserve.

(iii). Guns employed as Opportunity Guns will not take part in barrage firing, but will form up and accompany the rear Units of the Infantry as desired by Brigade Commanders.

(iv). Barrage guns will fire at such times and rates as arranged by C.O. 3rd Aust. M.G. Bn. in accordance with Infantry movement and rate of Artillery barrage. At completion of their barrage task, the consolidation guns will move forward in rear of the Infantry Brigade to which allotted, and will organize a defence in depth, as desired by the G.O.C. Infantry Brigade.

(v). An outlined plan should be arranged beforehand, subject to the alteration necessitated by tactical requirements.

(vi). The Reserve guns, after completion of their barrage task, will reorganize and receive further instructions from the G.O.C. 10th Aust. Inf. Bde.

(vii). The C.O. 3rd Aust. M.G.Bn. will make the necessary arrangements for the provision of ammunition, belts, etc. for the barrage, and will assist Brigade Commanders in arrangement of details for later tasks.

*S. H. Jackson*  
for. Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.

4th August, 1918.

#### DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.  
1. A.Q.  
2-17. C.R.A.  
18-21. C.R.E.  
22. 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.  
23-26. 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
27-31. 10th -do-  
32-36. 11th -do-  
37. 3rd Aust. M.G. Bn.  
38. 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
39. A.D.M.S.

40. 5th Tank Bde.  
41-42. AUST. Corps.  
43. 2nd Aust. Div.  
44. 4th -do-  
45. 5th -do-  
46. 18th Division.  
47-49. War Diary.  
50. File.



## 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 8.

140  
MAP REFERENCE:-  
Sheet 88D.

B.H.O., 6th AUGUST 1918. O.

1. - The 3rd Aust. Division, in co-operation with other Units of the AUST. Corps, will attack the enemy positions between the SOUTHERN end of AGROCHE WOOD, inclusive, and the River SOUVE inclusive, at a date and time to be notified later. (See map attached).

2. - For this Operation, and in accordance with AUST. Corps Engineer Instructions No. 1, the following Units will come under the command of the C.O. 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn., at midnight on the night of AUGUST 6th/7th 1918:-

9th Field Company - A.E.  
10th Field Company - A.E.  
15th Field Company - A.E.

and will be responsible for roads in the Northern Sector.

3. - ROADS. Roads allotted as per map attached will be cleared as soon after ZERO hour as possible. Trenches will be filled in with earth and rammed; the top twelve (12) inches on all metalled roads being filled in with bricks. Shell holes will be treated in the same way. Any water or mud in the bottom will be removed before filling.

On earth tracks (for horse transport only) shell holes may be filled with chalk or the best material available on the spot.

It must be understood that a Unit is responsible for the maintenance of a section allotted, until such time as the whole, or any portion is taken off their hands. The map attached shows the roads only so far as approximately the line MARCHLOVE, WARWICK, GERTY-CHILLY. It is intended that N.T. and H.T. Roads shall be pushed forward as opportunity offers as far as the line WINCOURT - G.27.c.3-5 - MORGOURT. The C's C. allotted to roads will therefore arrange for the necessary reconnaissance.

4. - COMMENCEMENT OF WORK:- Work on all roads will commence at ZERO plus half an hour, under normal conditions. Work must be carried out under high pressure, as it is of the utmost importance that roads should be in a condition to carry guns, and for horse transport, at as early an hour after ZERO as possible; the ultimate success of the whole operation depending largely on this factor.

5. - REPORT CENTRES. There will be various report centres which will be notified later, from which it is important that a report should be sent as soon as a road is trafficable, as also information as to any branch that a Unit may pass while engaged on the roads allotted to it.

6. - ALLOTMENT OF DUTIES TO UNITS:- 9th Field Coy. Make and maintain roads from P.5.c.6-7 through P.10.a.7-7, through P.17.a.7-0 to P.29.c.2-5, and P.33.b.2-5.

10th Field Coy. Make and maintain roads from O.13.b.2-2, through P.20.a.3-7 to P.10.a.0-1. The 10th Field Coy. will detail 1 Section, working in shifts, to secure and load brick rubble in HAMEL for use by 9th and 10th Field Companies.

"A" Coy., 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. Make and maintain road from P.5.c.10-0, making it trafficable as far as possible; also H.T. Road from P.12.a.2-8 to G.8.b.2-0; also short length of road from cross-roads - G.7.a.3-7 to where road branches - G.7.b.2-7.

"A" Coy. will also detail a party to secure and load brick rubble for their own use in HAMEL.

"B" Coy., 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN., will be sent at ZERO plus 2 hours, "B" Coy. will detail 1 Platoon to rehabilitate the track from fork road in G.7.b. through G.13.a. and b, P.24.b. and d to WARWICK.

"C" Coy., 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN., will be responsible for H.T. Road P.2.c.7-7 to P.5.c.10-0, and H.T. Road from J.32.c.2-2 to P.10.c.5-0 to P.4.d.1-3 to P.5.c.10-0. "C" Coy. will draw material from HAMEL or VAIN, as most convenient, supplying their own labour to obtain and load same.



## APPENDIX 3

7.- RESERVES:- The 15th Field Coy. will remain in reserve, and will stand by and await orders.  
 "D" Coy., 3rd Pioneer Bn.  
 "B" Coy., DO. (Less 1 Platoon).

8.- DRAYS. 4 drays will be allotted to 9th Field Coy.  
 2 -do- "A" Coy., 3rd Pioneer Bn.  
 2 -do- "C" Coy., 3rd Pioneer Bn.  
 2 in reserve at VAINE.

These drays are at present at the dray standings in VAINE, where they can be drawn. The 9th Field Coy. will supply 2 Drivers for the purpose of driving two of the drays allotted as above. All drays must be loaded with brick rubble prior to ZERO hour, so as to be available for immediate use.

9.- STONE HURDS. These are being formed on the H.T. Road in J.S.S.C.

10.- HORSE TRANSPORT NOTICES:- Notice Boards will be available at Dray standings in VAINE, where Units may draw, for the purpose of marking roads available for H.T.

11.- ACCOMMODATION:- "D" Coy., 3rd Pioneer Bn. will reconnoitre a position in the vicinity of P.12.a.a.b., and will occupy same six (6) hours after ZERO hour, if conditions are favourable.

12.- SYNCHRONISATION:- Watches will be synchronised during the afternoon and evening of "Y" day.

13.- BATTALION HEADQUARTERS:- Two hours after ZERO, B.H.Q. will be established at J.S.S.d.7-8.

14.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

L.F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Runner at 6.30 p.m. 8/8/18.

C.E.,	AUST. Corps.	Copy No. 1.
C.R.E.,	3RD AUST. DIV.	2.
H.Q.,	-do-	3.
9th Field Company.		4.
10th Field Company.		5.
15th Field Company.		6.
"A" Coy., 3rd Pioneer Bn.		7.
"B" Coy., -do-		8.
"C" Coy., -do-		9.
"D" Coy., -do-		10.
COMMANDING OFFICER.		11.
FILE COPY.		12.
WAR DIARY.		13/16.



9th Field Coy

APPENDIX



## 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 11.

MAP REFERENCE:- (Issued with Order No. 8).

Sheet 62D.

B.H.O., 6th AUGUST 1918. O.

1. - SUPPLIES. Railhead - FOULAINVILLE.2. - DUMPS. The following Units are authorised to draw R.E. Stores from any Corps or Divisional Dump within the Corps Area:-

3RD AUST. PIONEER BN. 9th, 10th, and 13th Field Companies.

3RD AUST. DIV. DUMP will be located at FOUILLOY.

3. - WATER. Immediately after ZERO hour, the watercarts of this Unit will be allotted as follows:-

1 watercart to supply "A" &amp; "D" COYS. and HEADQUARTERS.

1 -do- "B" &amp; "C" COYS.

Chloride of Lime may be drawn from the H.O.O. 1/c of Dump at O.5.d.2-7.

The R.M.O. will make necessary arrangements.

Forward water points are at O.15.d.6-8 - 8,000 gallon tank.

~~XXXX~~ O. 8.d.0-5 - 8,000 -do-

A further point will be established at O.17.a.0-8.

To provide for the opening up of wells an Officer and party of Tunnellers are allotted to this Division, and will work under the C.R.E.

As soon as the party has located a well and opened it up, they will mark it "NOT TESTED". These wells will then be tested under medical arrangements and the above sign removed, and signs

UNFIT FOR USE.

or

FIT FOR USE -  
with ..... Scoops.

as the case may be, put up.

In the event of necessity arising for the use of water from the river, it should be borne in mind that the water from the peat lagoons is 55% purer than the canal.

4. - PRISONERS OF WAR CAGE. - O.5.d.5-1.5. - PICKS & SHOVELS. These are very scarce, and every care must be taken of them.6. - DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD:- Divisional Burials Officer - Lieutenant A. M. GUNNING - C/o 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn. H. Qtrs.

Burials will, as far as possible, be carried out in either established Cemeteries, or sites selected by the D.B.O. as Cemeteries.

The following Return will be rendered by Units to reach this Office by 12-0 Noon DAILY, "Nil" Returns to be submitted:-

GRAVE NO.	REG. NO.	RANK.	NAME & INITIALS. (in block).	UNIT.	DATE KILLED.	MAP LOCATION OF GRAVE.	REMARKS. (Any landmarks as indication).
(	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

7. - TRENCH SHELTERS. Units will be responsible for the Trench Shelters which they have at present on hand. If it is not desired to retain them, they will be returned to the Q.M.'s Store.8. - SALVAGE - COLLECTION OF:- All Working parties returning to billets from duty in the Forward Areas, must bring back salvage. Every man will be given something to carry. Unit Commanders will arrange for salvage to be deposited at their Cookers, or at a convenient place for removal, by return ration wagon, under arrangements to be made by Companies. Drays returning to standings after use, must also be utilised in the conveyance of salvage to cookers.9. - WIRE CUTTERS. Parties proceeding to the Forward Areas must be in possession of wire cutters.



6th. August 1918.

Lieut. J. Harding, M.C.  
Lieut. H. G. Witcombe,

Your Sections cease work on M.D.S. at 9.30 p.m.  
to-day. Two men are to be left behind to live with 11th. Field  
Ambulance.

You are to report with Sections here not later than  
11 a.m. to-morrow (7th. inst.). C.R.E. may transport you  
with lorry, failing which, try for Pontoon wagons.

Bring as much shelter material up as you can get.  
Would like to see one or both of you as early as  
possible, and I could then explain our actual jobs.

6th. August 1918.

*Paul Butler*  
MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGBS., A.I.F.

APPENDIX  
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9th FIELD COY.  
 10th -do-  
 13th -do-  
 "A" Coy., 3rd Pnr, Bn.  
 "B" Coy., -do-  
 "C" Coy., -do-  
 "D" Coy., -do-  
 M. O.  
 WAR DIARY.  
 F I L E.

S E C R E T.

Reference Third Australian Pioneer Bn. Operation  
 Order No. 8 - ZERO hour will be 4-20 A.M., 8th instant.

F I E L D,

7/8/1918. O.

*L. L. Andrews*  
 LT. & ADJT.,  
 3RD AUST. PIONEER BN.

APPENDIX

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SECRET.

9th FIELD COY.  
 10th -do-  
 13th -do-  
 "A" Coy., 3RD PNR BN.  
 "B" -do-  
 "C" -do-  
 "D" -do-  
 M. O.  
 WAR DIARY.

Reference Third Australian Pioneer Battalion Operation  
 Order No, 8 - ZERO day will be 8th. AUGUST - ZERO hour will be  
 communicated later.

F I E L D,  
 7/8/1918. O.

*L. Leckie* LT. & ADJT.,  
 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.



(2).

10. - SANITATION. Unit Commanders will take steps to ensure that adequate sanitary arrangements are immediately made on occupying a forward position and that steps are taken to provide the necessary appliances before any fouling of the ground occurs.

11. - DIVISIONAL SALVAGE DUMP. Located at HANLET.

12. - R. A. P. The Battalion R. A. P. will be established in the Quarry at P.#.C.10.15, from ZERO hour to ZERO plus 8 hours.

13. - VETERINARY. A Mobile Veterinary Section First Aid Post will be established at FOUILLOY.

14. - A C K N O W L E D G E.

L.F. ANDREWS, Lieutenant,

ADJUTANT, 3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION.

DISTRIBUTION:- By Runner at 8-0 A.M. 7/8/18.

Copy No.	1	-	D.H.Q.
	2	-	9th Field Coy.
	3	-	10th -do-
	4	-	13th -do-
	5	-	"A" Coy., 3rd Pnr. Bn.
	6	-	"B" Coy., -do-
	7	-	"C" Coy., -do-
	8	-	"D" Coy., -do-
	9	-	F.I.D.E.
	10	-	T. M.
	11	-	C. M.
	12	-	M. O.
	13/16	-	WAR DEARY.

APPENDIX

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7th Field Coy.

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APPENDIX

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7th. August 1918.

Lieut. Burnett,

RE TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

Headquarters and Transport Lines are to be at VAIRE by 12 midday on 8th. inst.

Two double tool carts and two spare horses should already be at VAIRE, and two limbers are to be at VAIRE at before 3.a.m. on 8th.

One limber to be at Camp at present H.Q. by 9 a.m. to-morrow.

Yourself, and balance of transport with you, are to move and be at VAIRE vicinity of J.31.b.9.6. by 11.a.m. to-morrow, with exception of Q.M.S. and G.S. Wagon (so that Q.M. can look after rations and get them up to new H.Q.). Assistant Q.M. to move forward with transport.

If unable to shift up complete with all gear leave balance with Q.M. and you can arrange to send back for it.

Transport is to move via present Company H.Q. in case of any possible alterations.

New Coy. H.Q. will be established at VAIRE, J.31.c.9.6. at midday to-morrow.

Water Cart - If this has not already gone forward to VAIRE, it will be satisfactory if it comes along with you, so as to be there by 11 a.m., but should be filled en route.

7th. August 1918.

P.S. - The two tool carts that are here can be moved to VAIRE to-morrow night.

*[Signature]*  
MAJOR.  
Q.O. 9th FIELD COY.  
POST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



Ninth Field Company, Australian Engineers, A.I.F.

## Operation Instructions.

Nos. 3 and 4 Sections to leave camp at 8 p.m. and bivouac at trench pointed out at P.3.c.20.80.

These two Sections to be at our old front line 30 minutes after Zero: No.3 Section going forward and getting track roughly fixed up for field guns and horsed transport. Holes to be filled with earth or chalk and to be covered with nine inches of bricks as far as possible. Routes indicated on plan.

No.4 Section will follow immediately in rear and generally improve, but for the first one hour on road, i.e. until 1½ hours after zero, both 3 and 4 Sections will get road roughly fit for traffic to point marked Z on plan.

A report will be sent back one hour after Zero stating how things are going, giving present condition of road and also stating how road will stand in an additional 30 minutes' time. Should the road require <sup>more labor</sup> to make it passable, for H.T. at two hours after zero, Nos. 1 and 2 Sections will be sent up.

Sketches with envelopes and paper for report attached.

Condition of roads to be written on plan.

Casualties and general remarks to be sent in.

Lt. Witcombe will submit a report on roads to R. and Q. (on plan) six hours after zero.

Four wagons are to move forward loaded to HAMEL accompanied by three Sappers each from 10th Field Coy. A.E. These Sappers will then remain in HAMEL and collect and load bricks for forward roads.

Nos. 1 and 2 Sections will relieve and carry on work on roads towards R. and Q. eight hours after zero and are to maintain portions already passable.

Men to have a shovel each, and 10 picks, 2 hammers, 1 rammer, 4 wire cutters, 6 axes, 1 saw, and 3 hand axes are to be taken by each Section.

Men to be in battle order. Iron rations, greatcoat, rifle, web equipment, water bottle filled, and day's rations.

Pioneer Bin. R.A.P. will be established at P.4.c.10.15 from zero to zero plus 8 hours.

Every man wants to realise that this road is being made for artillery to cross over about an hour after zero and that on the making passable of these roads in quick time the whole success of the operation depends. Every man is, therefore, expected to put his best energies forward.

Roads are to be marked with "H.T." Signboards; these boards are to go forward from VAIRE.

*Robert B. B. B.* Major,  
O.C. 8th Field Coy. A.E.

7/8/16.



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Operations South of River SOMME on 8th. August 1918.

APPENDIX

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"Arrived at old front line at Zero plus 25 minutes.  
Have made road good up to Cross Roads at P.17.a.7.2. To this point it is quite fit for Horse Transport.  
Casualties - 3 Sappers wounded."

8/8/18., 5.50.a.m.

Sd/ H. G. Witcombe, Lieut.

"Report on road from P.17.a.7.2. to WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT.-  
This road is not good from P.17.a.7.2. to P.23.a.5.5. but will be fit for Horse Transport by 9.30.a.m. From this point to WARFUSEE it is in very good condition and will be fit for all Horse Traffic by 8.30.a.m. The railway shewn crossing the road at P.29.a.9.8. does not exist. From "N" to "R" this road is in good condition and fit for Horse transport. From "R" to "Q" there is a good metalled road (22' metal) and can be made fit for any traffic in 4 hours. There is a Platoon of 2nd. Pioneer Bn. working on it now.

From P.4.c.4.3. to P.17.a.7.2. the road is fit for gun limbers and limber traffic.

Temporary Section H.Q. is at P.23.a.5.5.

I am going forward to look for Dump etc., but anyone reporting at Section H.Q. will be informed where I am.  
Casualty (additional) - 1 Sapper wounded."

8/8/18., 8.15.a.m.

Sd/ H. G. Witcombe, Lieut.

"(1) Road from "R" to "Z" was passable for Horse traffic from 5.20.a.m. to-day and is still passable. Considerable traffic is now passing over it.

(2) There is a badly graded stretch of 200 yds. length near point "Z" (see sketch attached). This part needs bricks, but at present it is not possible to get them owing to traffic.

(3) No bricks have been brought as far as "Z" so far, and shell-holes are filled in with surface spoil.

(4) I have also examined road from "R" to "X" (WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT). It is in fair condition with exception of piece, about 200 yds., near WARFUSEE which is in bad condition.

(5) So far there have been no casualties in No.4 Section."

8/8/18., 10.a.m.

Sd/ R. F. Massie, 2/Lieut.

"I have made a reconnaissance of the following roads, and find same to be, viz.:-

From Q.25.d.8.4. to Q.19.a.5.9. is fit for horse traffic the whole distance. Earth road, 3rd. class road.

From Q.25.b.5.9. to P.30.b.8.2. is fit for horse transport the whole distance. Earth road, 3rd. class road.

From Q.19.d.3.9. to P.30.b.8.2. is fit for horse transport the whole distance. Light metal road, 2nd. class road.

Hazel Wood - small quantities of mining timber, pit props, mining sets and shelter iron.

Rat Wood - shelter accommodation, at present all occupied.

Main WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT road from P.30.c.0.4. to Q.25.d.7.5. Main pave road, in good order.

Main BAYONVILLERS road from Q.25.d.7.5. to Q.32.a.3.2. trafficable, but quantities of broken trees have fallen across road and require removing.

Quantities of wire & concertina wire at road junction Q.25.d.7.5.

No casualties in my Section up to present time."

8/8/18., 3.40.p.m.

Sd/ J. Harding, Lieut.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

9th. August 1918.

C.O.,  
3rd. Aust. Pioneer Battn.

The following reports have been received from Section Officers re M.T. road between WARFUSEE and GAILLY:-

"Road from WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT to GAILLY is now fit for Motor Transport, although it still requires another 8 hours work to fill up some of the shell holes. Motor transport have been using it since 10.a.m. this morning."

Sd/ H.G. Witcombe, Lieut.

"Section has been working on road WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT to GAILLY from 18.b.central to cross roads at Q.7.a.4.5.

With exception of 100 yds. at cross roads, the road was in fair condition. Shell holes have been filled and bricks laid; bricks are obtainable in GAILLY (Q.1.d.).

The worst piece is the 100 yds. at cross roads. It is in a cutting and there has been a great amount of transport interrupting labor. Two loads of stone have been delivered up to now. At least six more loads will be required.

4th. Div. Pioneers have been at work on road from P.24.a.9.6. (Never Cross) to 18.b.central, but shell holes have not been bricked.

The only bad part is at cross roads mentioned, and labor should be concentrated on that part. Work should be complete in another 8 hours.

Sd/ R.F. Massie, II Lieut.

*[Signature]*  
MAJOR  
C.O. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.E.

9/8/1918.  
RvD.

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## APPENDIX

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9th Field Coy. A.E.

Works Report to noon, 9/8/18.

4 Sections employed on H.T. roads (shewn in blue on attached print) yesterday. All routes trafficable.

3 Sections employed to-day on M.T. road shewn in red. 2 Sections standing by for work this afternoon.

3 G.S.Ls. employed on carting road making material.  
No further casualties since yesterday's report.

McL.

*L. J. Moore*  
Capt.  
for O.C. 9th Field Coy. A.E.

NINTH FIELD COY. A.E.

Works Report to 12 noon, 10/8/1918.

Repairing and improving M.T. road from WARFUSEE to GAILLY as shewn in red on attached tracing. This road was made trafficable last night. Herewith copy of yesterday's report to C.O. 3rd Pns. Nos. 1 and 2 Sections are employed on this road this morning and 8 lorry loads of road metal have been ordered for the job, 5 of which had been received by 10/30 a.m.

Nos. 3 and 4 Sections will be employed this afternoon in improving H.T. roads shewn in blue.

Nos. 1 and 2 Sections are now located at P.19.c.5.0.

4 G.S.Ls. employed on carting bricks from WARFUSEE, GAILLY and HAMEL for filling in shell holes.

McL.

*L. J. Moore*  
MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
10/8/18. COMPANY.

No. ....

Date .....



**"A" Form.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 21.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

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

TO

9<sup>th</sup> F Co

Sender's Number. * <i>BI</i>	Day of Month. <i>10</i>	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
---------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------

3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneers 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Field  
Cops cease work under orders  
CE midnight 10/11 inst and  
rejoin their division and Pioneers  
and 9<sup>th</sup> Field Coy will remain  
as at present employed and  
10<sup>th</sup> Field Coy will concentrate on  
rapidly completing bridges  
at ROUTEN COURT and GALLY  
for limbers and 18 wounded  
and added 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneers and  
9 and 10 Field Cops & 3<sup>rd</sup> Amst  
Div and CE Amst Corps

From	<i>CRE</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Amst Div</i>
Place		
Time		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		
(Z)		<i>Burton L. G.</i>
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

\* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 509,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2359.)



THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS

Copy No. 4

S E C R E T

ENGINEER INSTRUCTION NO. 22

10. 8. 18.

On the night 10/11th. August 1918 the 3rd. Australian Division are relieving the 4th. Australian Division South of the River SOMME with main VILLERS -BRETONNEUX Road as Southern Boundary and the North Bank of the SOMME CANAL as Northern Boundary.

The 3rd. Pioneer Battalion .9th. and 10th. Field Coys. rejoin the Division from midnight 10/11th. inst.

3rd. Pioneer Battalion will remain working on roads.

11th. Field Coy. will move to Q.15.d. detailing 1 section for work with 11th. Inf. Brigade and will employ the remainder of the Coy. on water supply work taking over from 4th. Field Coy. H.Q. J.36.b.6.0 a number of wells.

9th. Field Coy. will finish working on roads on afternoon 11th inst. and will move to Q.15.d. detailing 1 section for work with 9th. Inf. Brigade. Remainder of Coy. to be held in reserve.

10th. Field Coy will remain on bridges over SOMME CANAL.  
ACKNOWLEDGE ( Field Coys. and Pioneers )

*H. R. ...*  
Lieut. -Col.,  
C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Division.

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX 3

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DISTRIBUTION

1. "G" 3rd. Aust. Div.
2. AG 3rd. Aust. Div.
3. C.E. Aust. Corps.
4. 9th. Field Coy
5. 10th. " "
6. 11th. " "
7. 3rd. Pioneer Battalion
8. 9th. Inf. Bde
9. 10th. Inf. Bde
10. 11th. Inf. Bde
- 11-13. War Diary
14. Spare



THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS

Copy No. 7

ENGINEER INSTRUCTION No. 83

12. 8. '18

- 1... Field Companies and Pioneers of the 3rd. Australian Division will be relieved by the Field Companies and Pioneers of the 17th. Division. on night 12/13th August 1918.
- 2... 9th. Field Coy A.E. will be relieved by 78 Field Coy. R.E.  
 10th. Field Coy A.E. will be relieved by 77th. Field Coy. R.E.  
 11th. Field Coy A.E. will be relieved by 93rd. Field Coy. R.E.  
 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. will be relieved by Yorks. and Lanc. Pioneer Bn.
- 3... After relief Field Companies will <sup>move</sup> travel back to the VAUX-VAIRRE. HAMELIN area and will make their own arrangements as to billets.  
 Pioneer Battalion will work on repair of bridge Q.3.d.90.35.
- 4... All other details will be arranged mutually between Units concerned
- 5... C.R.E.'s H.Q. at P.7.a.1.5. will close at 9 a.m. 13th. inst. and open at BUSBY at the same hour.
- 6... ACKNOWLEDGE ( Field Coys. and Pioneers )

*LAD*  
 P.T.O. for distribution.

*H. B. told*

Lieut Colonel  
 C.R.E. 3rd. Aust. Div.

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APPENDIX 3

DISTRIBUTION

1...	"G". 3rd. Aust. Div.
2...	AQ 3rd. Aust. Div.
3	C.E. Aust. Corps
4	C.R.E. 17th. Div.
5	9th. Field Coy. A.E.
6	10th. " " A.E.
7	11th. " " A.E.
8	3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.
9	9th. Inf. Bde.
10	10th. Inf. Bde.
11	11th. Inf Bde.
12- 14	War Diary
15	Spare



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.  
-----

Copy of report on dugouts in Captured territory by Lieut. Cook.

"O.C. 9th. Field Company,

I sent Baker and Barry with 3 men each to look along terrace in L.13.a. and b., and took Dearman, runners and 3 others with me past L.7.central.

Good deep dugout for 33rd. at L.7.b.9.2.

Dugout at L.14.b.3.7.- could be extended at back, but position is no good.

The 33rd. dugout is out in the open and was a M.G. Post. It is about 30 feet deep, with plenty of room.

Deep dugout at L.14.a.3.3.- taken by Major Connell for his H.Q.

Nothing in L.8.a. Am working home via L.20.

No material required to-day. Sets are available from other dugouts.

Had to walk through a very stiff barrage along road at L.7.a.3.0. None of our party hit, but have not seen Baker or Barry yet."

Sd/ N. Cook, Lieut.

10.15.a.m. 22/8/18.

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Works Report to 6 a.m., 24/8/1918 ( for 24 hours).

No.1 Section.  
R.A.P., Splinter-proof shelters for R.A.P. Excavation  
L.8.a.1.2. complete.

No.2 Section.  
Bln.H.Q., Repairing entrances of old German 90% complete, gas-  
L.14.b.2.4. dugout. proofing yet to  
be done.

No.3 Section.  
9th Fld.Coy. Making water troughs, notice boards,  
H.Qrs. and latrine seats.

No.4 Section.  
9thBde.H.Q., Repairs to existing H.Qrs. In progress.  
K.29.b.2.7.

3 men on R.E.Dumps.  
1 man with electric light plant.

Herewith copy of further report with sketches from Lt. Cook regarding D.Os., Well, and Tank Mine in newly occupied area:-

"In yesterday's report I stated that the 35th Battn. had reserved the dugout at L.14.a.3.3 for their H.Q. They are, however, located in a dugout at L.14.b.2.4 and are using the former dugout as a R.A.P.

I also stated that the dugout at L.14.a.3.3 required only 9' to meet at the back; this would appear so at first sight as the entrances are not visible one from the other and it is necessary to produce their lines of direction to obtain the measurement for connection. I surveyed this dugout and found that, owing to the directions of the drives diverging, the ends are 39' apart on a compass bearing of 132°, and one is 15" higher than the other - the Western one being the higher - see sketches.

Well- There is a deep well with water in at L.14.b.5.0 but no windlass.

Mines - Tank mine at L.14.c.75.75 dismantled and thrown clear of road. This mine was in two parts, one for each tractor of the tank. Each consisted of 21 stick bombs on top of which was a lump of iron weighing about 56 lbs. There were 3 bundles of 3 bombs bound together and the strings all tied to a length of cable. The two cables were laid along the road to a dugout 100 yds. East so that the mines could be exploded as soon as the tank reached the spot.

It appeared to be a hurriedly constructed work and the only attempt at concealment was an ammunition basket thrown on top of each. It would have been less conspicuous had they not been exactly opposite each other on the wheel tracks.

sd/ N.Cook, Lieut."

McL.

*[Handwritten signature]* not



NINTH FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.  
-----9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.No. 25/8/1918:  
Date

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

Up to date pontoon bridge with approaches has been completed at L.33.c.1.9. A bridge for field artillery has been constructed at L.28.c.3.1. At L.22.a.5.3 gap is being bridged by stone bank (as bridge is only over a back water) and is about completed. At L.22.a.6.6 three gaps still remain to be bridged. Col. Sanday has just been down making a reconnaissance of these demolished bridges with the idea of commencing to re-make them this afternoon as he states that this was his job and as my men are worked out, I propose handing him over the three gaps at L.22.a.6.6 to bridge. He will take over at about 12.30 p.m. Steel rails are available in Hun Dump for girders. Col. Sanday anticipates having bridges completed some time this evening. Road has been made fit for traffic from L.33.c.1.9. to L.22.a.6.6. and the road along canal has been improved and made passable to German Pontoon Bridge south of my Headquarters (Q.5.d.2.1.). A pontoon footbridge has been put in at L.33.a.8.3. and the track has been marked out and repaired from L.33.a.8.3. to L.21.d.9.3. A temporary footbridge has been put in at the first gap at L.22.a.6.6.; the other two gaps can be crossed, but only with difficulty.

*Jr. G. Drake Brockman*

MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., Afor

Captain.

25/8/1918.



NINTH FIELD COY. AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.  
-----

25/8/18:

C.R.E., 3rd Aust. Divn.

We finished work on bridges, etc. at 12/30 p.m. for the day. The road was fit for light traffic to L.22.a.6.6, i.e. ambulances could go to that point.

In advance of this, three gaps over streams still require bridging. They have, however, been roughly footbridged so as to take walking wounded, etc.

Reconnaissance of tram lines, bridges, etc. will be forwarded to-morrow.

McL.

*Arthur B. ...*  
MAJOR,  
9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.  
-----Copy of Reports to C.R.E. - 26th. August 1918.

"From Pontoon Bridge at L.33.a.3.0. to L.22.a.6.7. was fit for traffic by 6.p.m. to-day, i.e., 3 bridges have been constructed over gaps. Bridges should carry Field Artillery."

26/8/18. 7.p.m.

Sd/ G. Drake-Brockman, Major.  
O.C. 9th. Field Company A.E.

"I have examined demolished road bridge at L.22.b.6.6. It would take several days to clean up the old site, but it would be possible to erect a bridge, between the road and railway bridge, fairly quickly.

The section over river has not yet been taken but the water is at least 12 feet deep. I am of the opinion that the Company could construct a bridge there in 1½ days, but as they have been working ~~kan~~ hard and for long hours for the last few days, I would sooner have more time, especially as a trestle bridge is always a doubtful proposition on account of foundations.

I will ~~not~~ not commence this bridge unless you definitely instruct me, but will have Section ready to commence construction."

26/8/18. 7.p.m.

Sd/ G. Drake-Brockman, Major.  
O.C. 9th. Field Company A.E.  
-----



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

26th. August 1918.

C.R.E.,  
Third Australian Division.

The following is report on bridges in forward area :-

L.22.a.5.3., Sluice Gates. - Three bays; southern bay 12', centre bay 14½', northern bay 18'. Brick abutments and piers. N bay superstructure completely demolished. Superstructure 5 double 8 x 3½ joists.

L.22.a.5.6., Bridge over stream. - Span 21', brick abutments, superstructure completely demolished.

L.22.a.50.65., Bridge over stream. - Span 20', pile abutments. Superstructure completely demolished.

L.21.b.6.8., Railway bridge ( sketch of span attached ). - Brick abutments, two pile piers.

L.21.b.5.8., Road bridge. - Span 67½', brick abutments. Superstructure completely demolished.

L.21.d.25.40., Standard Gauge Railway Bridge. - Span 10'9". Brick abutments. - Timber superstructure. In good order.

L.21.d.20.35., Road bridge. - Brick arch. Good condition.

L.28.c.65.25., Road bridge. - Brick arch, demolished. Span 42' measured square between abutments.

268/18.

MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



O.C., 9th. Field Company.

G.25.b.4.4x - Road Bridge. Appears to be Lift Bridge. Centre Bay and two Shore Bays, Centre Bay demolished. Span 23'8". Shore Bays 13', badly shattered.

G.25.b.4.4., north of Road Bridge - Light Railway Bridge. Brick abutments, span over canal 21'10"; demolished. Shore Bay (south side only) 23'9", badly shattered.

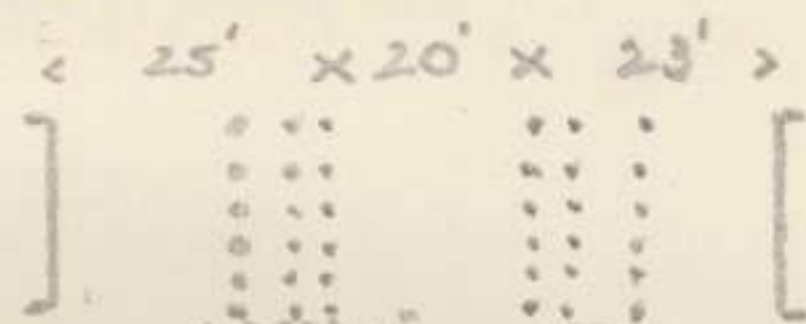
G.25.b.00.55.- Steel Bridge over stream. Superstructure and brick abutments demolished. Span 13'7".

G.25.b.00.55.- Steel Bridge over stream, brick abutments. Superstructure demolished. Span 26'8".

L.30.a.55.70.- Steel Bridge over Stream, brick abutments. Span 10', Superstructure demolished. Abutments - south side demolished, north side shattered.

L.30.a.40.80.- Remains of Steel Bridge over stream. Span 14½'. Brick abutments, concrete foundation for centre pier.

G.14.c.95.70.- Remains of timber lift bridge, superstructure demolished.



Timber trestle in good order.

G.14.b.2.7.- Timber trestle bridge, 5 bays 12', destroyed. Piles in four trestles cut with explosives.

G.14.b.2.9.- Timber trestle bridge, 3 bays 15', legs to both trestles destroyed.

G.22.a.35.70.- Site of one time Steel Bridge, stone and brick abutments, span 21'9".

East of above - Draw Bridge, superstructure demolished, three bays, pile piers damaged, centre span 26½', shore bays 15'.

Bridge over swamp, approach to Draw Bridge - 5 - 14' bays. Two bays completely destroyed, remainder smashed.

G.16.c.55.15. - Bridge over watercourse, gap 20', bridge demolished.

G.16.c.55.20.- Bridge, destroyed, gap 17' 22', brick abutments (shattered).

G.16.c.65.40.- Bridge, demolished, brick abutments shattered, gap 20'.

27/8/18.

Sd/ N. Johnson, Lieut.



29/8/18.

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

The following is copy of Lieut. Massie's  
Bridge Reconnaissance Report:-

"Sappers are making footpath trafficable from G.24.c.2.4 to G.23.b.3.9 (Sheet 62c NW).

I did not reconnoitre whole length as it is only a footpath 3' wide.

Re road from Frise to Test Wood via La Grenouille - the girder bridge across canal lock has been demolished. Span of lock 21' in clear. Depth approx. 25'.

There are 5 bridges across the Somme marsh vide rough sketch attached.

No.1 - Small wooden bridge - intact - blocked by wire.

No.2 - Wooden pile bridge - demolished. Central gap of 18'. 2 shore bays of 15' - the Northern bay being in good condition. There is also a girder bridge 5 bays being completely wrecked. Average gaps of 10' each. Shore bays good. Piles shattered.

No.3 - Two bridges - On left - Girder bridge demolished. 2 girders intact 26' long. Gap 17' in clear.

On right - Wooden pile bridge burnt and still smouldering. Gap 37' in clear. 6 sets of piles.

No.4 - Two bridges - On left - Girder bridge - demolished. Gap 26' in clear. 3 trestles-burnt. 2/28' girders intact.

On right - Wooden trestle bridge - burnt and smouldering. Gap 50' to solid abutments (this gap is full of knife rests).

No.5 - Small wooden bridge - intact.

No.6 - Streams are shallow - about 3' deep on average. Track between bridges is in good condition and corduroyed throughout.

There is very little material available for hasty bridging of these gaps.

Sappers will be making footbridges across Somme Canal and Marsh this afternoon and should complete by 6 p.m. Am sending back runner to Mr. Cook for more Sappers.

sd/ R.F. Massie, II/Lt.  
12/30 p.m."

Mclm

*[Signature]*  
for MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

29th. August 1918.

C.R.E.,  
Third Australian Division.

The following is copy of report just received from  
Lieut. Cook :-

" The road from G.18.a.3.9. to H.7.a.5.9. is ready for  
foot traffic only.

All bridges are built on the left to allow for the  
vehicular bridges being built along the corduroy road."

Sd./ N. Cook, Lieut.

*[Signature]*  
Captain.  
for MAJOR,  
O.C. 9th FIELD COY.  
AUST. ENGRS., A.I.F.

29/8/1918.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

Particulars of Bridges built over River SOMME and Canal from 25th.  
to 31st. August 1918.

APPENDIX

(see tracing attached).

	Type of Bridge.	Length Bridged.	For			Location.
			Foot Traffic.	Field Artly.	Motor Lorries.	
A.	Pontoon.	96'		96'	<del>96'</del>	Junctn. of River and Canal.
B.	Road.	40'		40'		<del>Avoidg. road</del> Canal at Froissy Locks.
C.	"	25'		25'		Avoidg. road between Bray-Froissy & Bray-Cappy Roads.
D.	"	36'	36'	36'		do.
E.	"	28'	28'	28'		do.
G.	Pontoon.	75½'	75½'			Canal at L.33.a.
H.	Road.	45'		45'		Canal at Cappy Locks.
I.	"	20'		20'		Across Bray-Cappy Rd.
J.	"	26'		26'		do.
K.	"	34'		34'		do.
L.	"	37'		37'		do.
M.	Footbridge.	39'	39'			Corduoy Rd., Suzanne-Cappy.
N.	"	80'	80'			do.
O.	"	82'	82'			do. (across Canal).
F.	Road.	45'	45'	45'		Road from Dragon Wood to Eclusier.
Q.	"	32'	32'	32'		do.
R.	"	29'	29'	29'		do.
S.	"	43'	43'	43'		do.
T.	Footbridge.	30'	30'			Causeway across Swamp Dragon Wood - Frise.
U.	"	87'	87'			do.
V.	"	26'	26'	26'		At Frise Locks.
W.	"	48'	48'			Track from Frise to N.East.
X.	"	28'	28'			do.
Y.	"	64'	64'			do.
Z.	Road.	25'			25'	Feuilleres.
A1.	"	60'			60'	do.
TOTAL.			772'	413'	234'	

Iron girders and timber for Road Bridges were salved from demolished bridges.

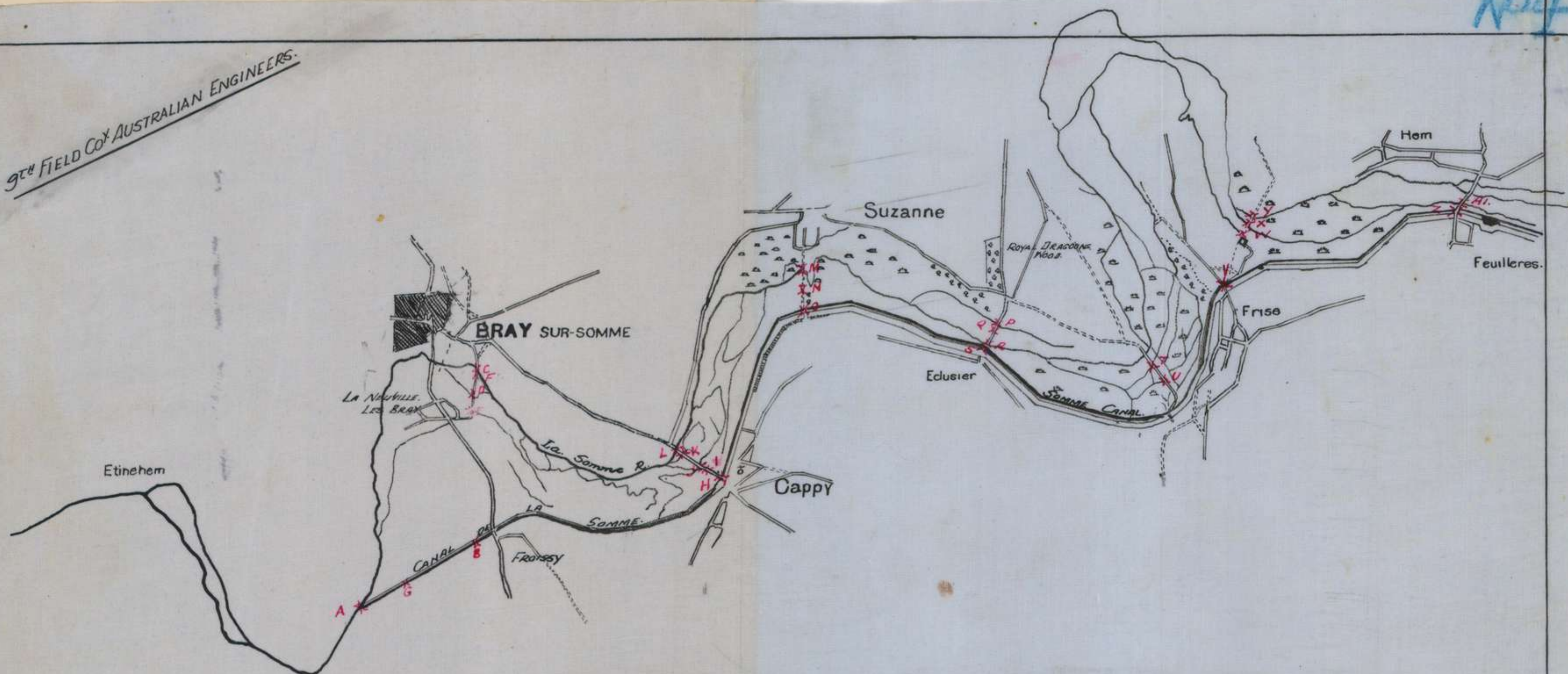
No. 7



## APPENDIX

4

NO 4

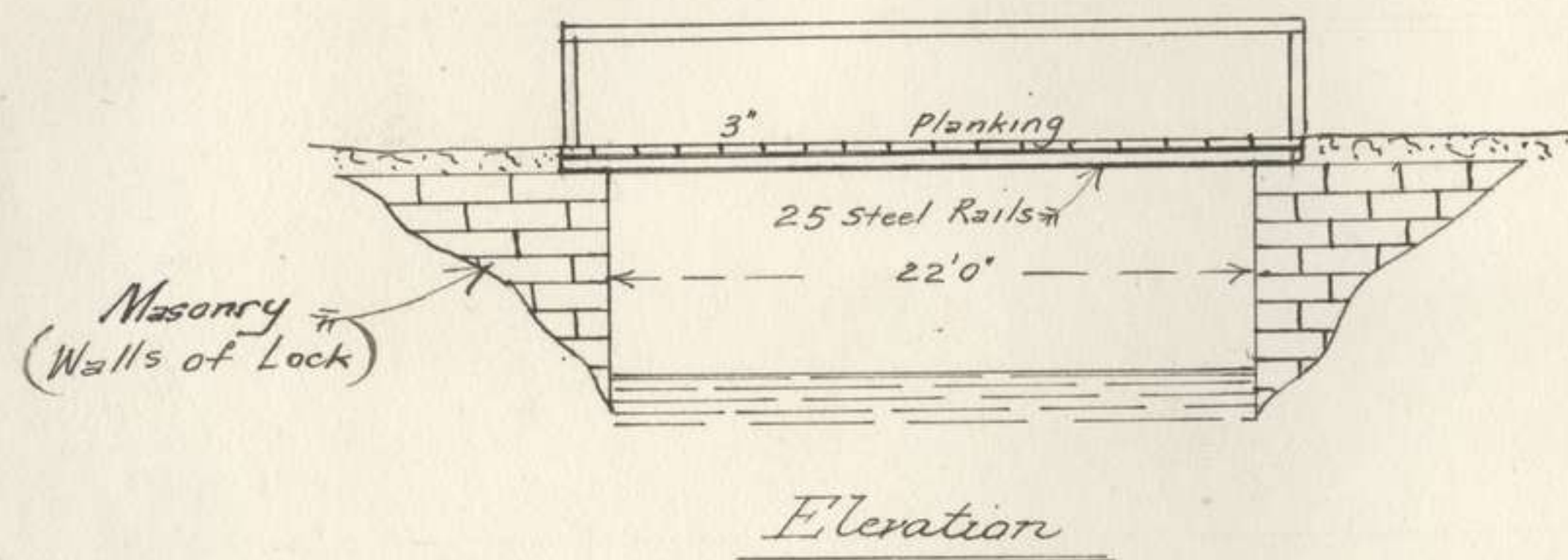
9<sup>th</sup> FIELD COY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

—PLAN SHOWING—

—BRIDGES ERECTED BY 9<sup>th</sup> FIELD ENGINEERS.—

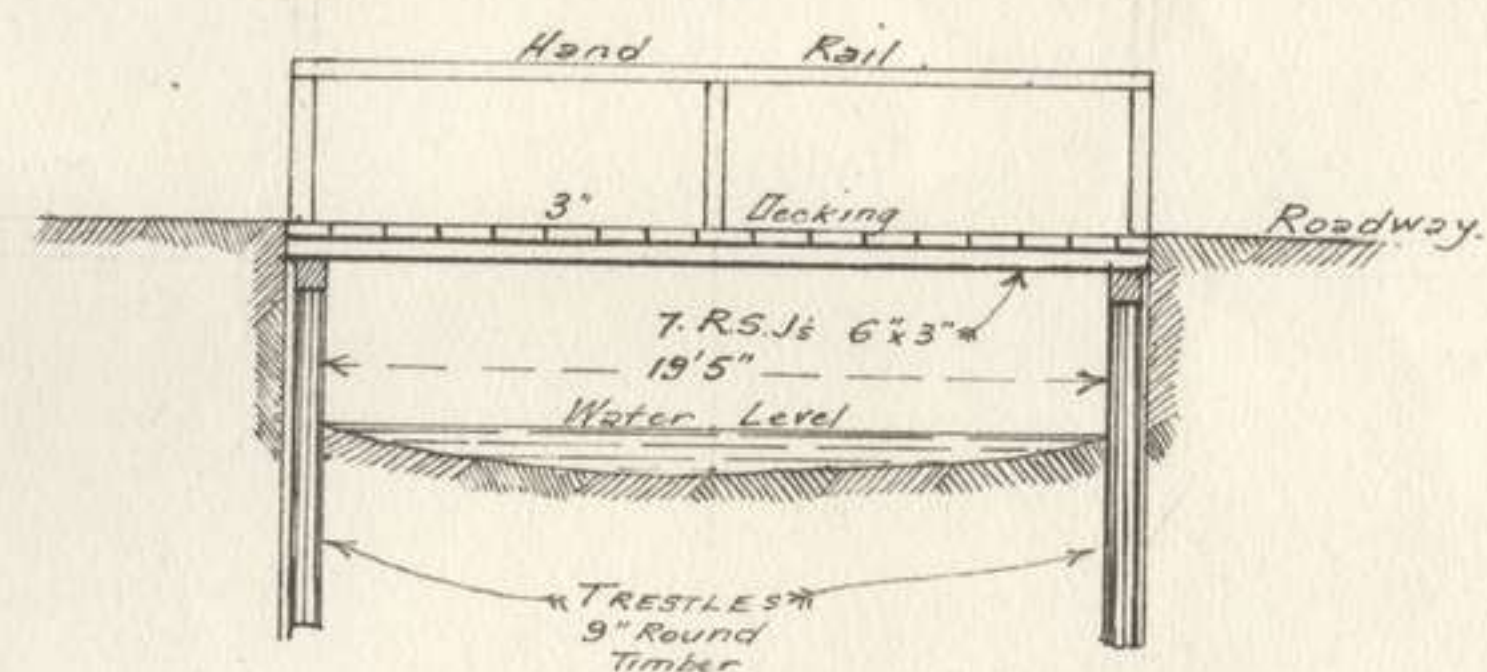


FOOT BRIDGE AT "B"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



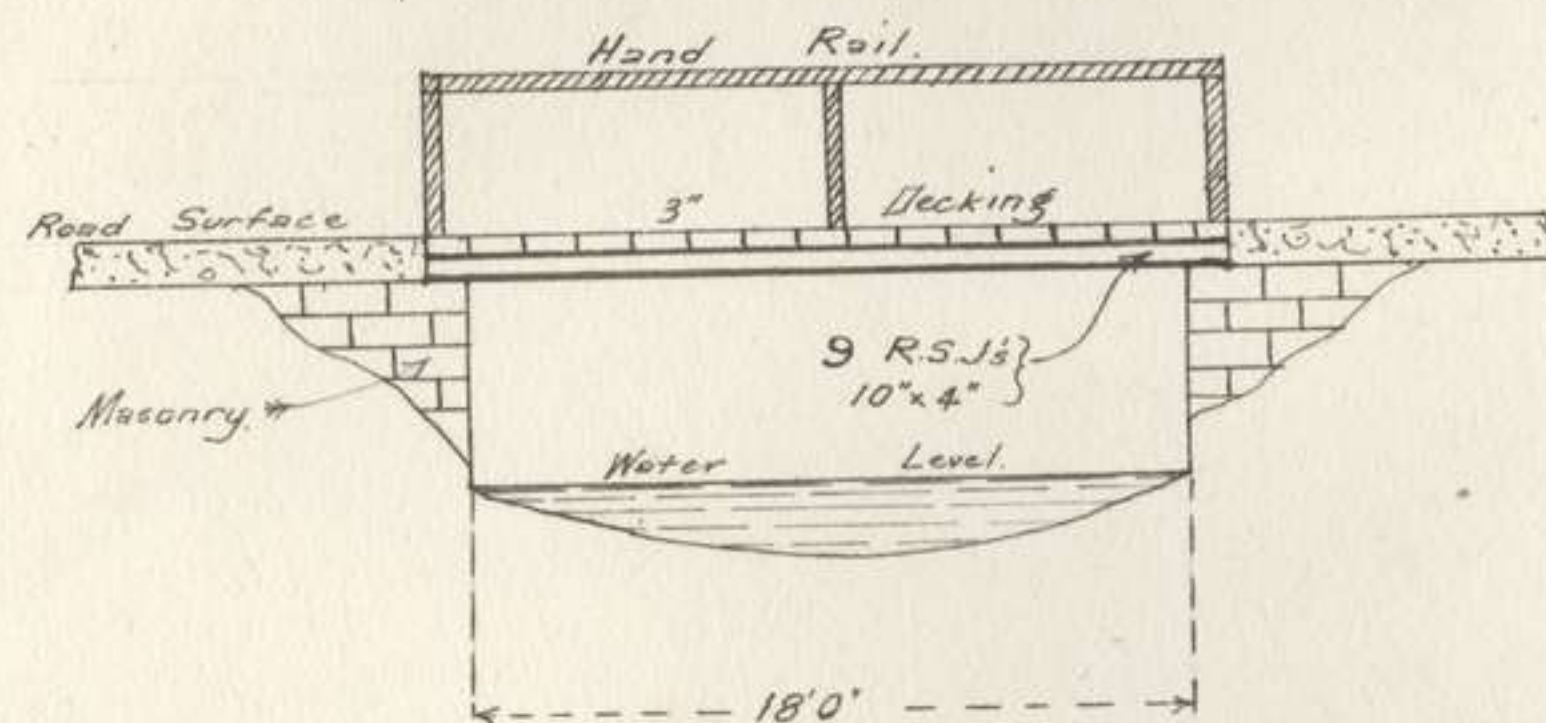
9th Field Coy Australian Engrs.  
 August 1918.  
 JFW

ROAD BRIDGE AT "C"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch





ROAD BRIDGE AT "D"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch.



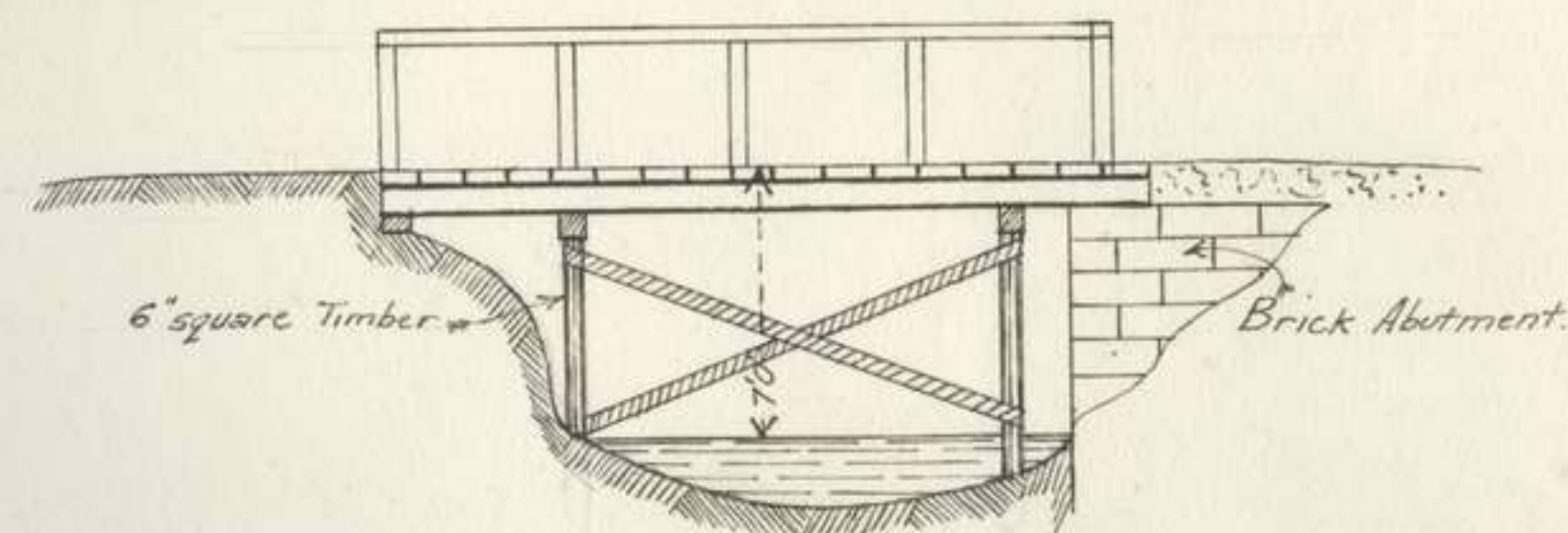
Elevation.

9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

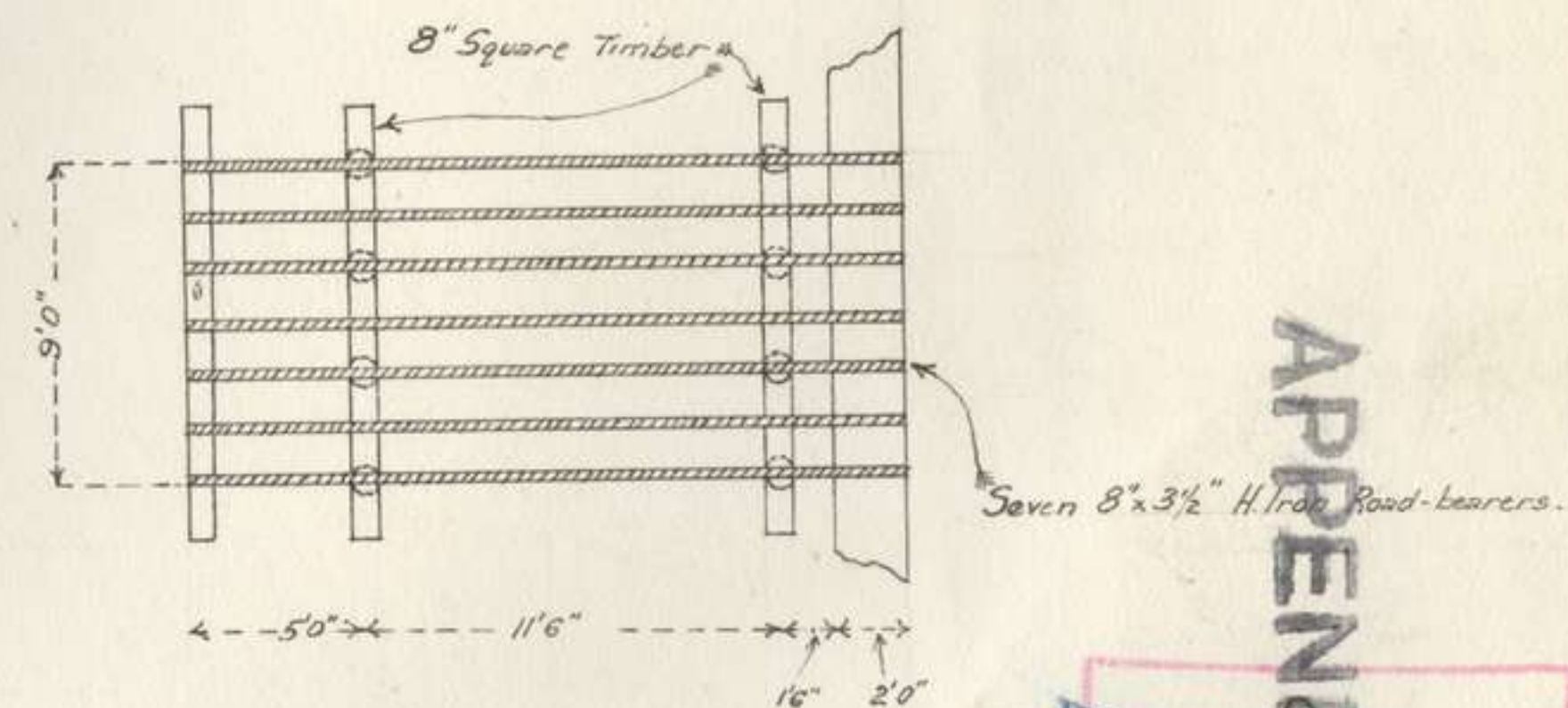
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date August '18

J.F.W.

ROAD BRIDGE AT "I"  
Scale 10 ft. = 1 in.



Elevation



Plan  
Decking Removed

APPENDIX

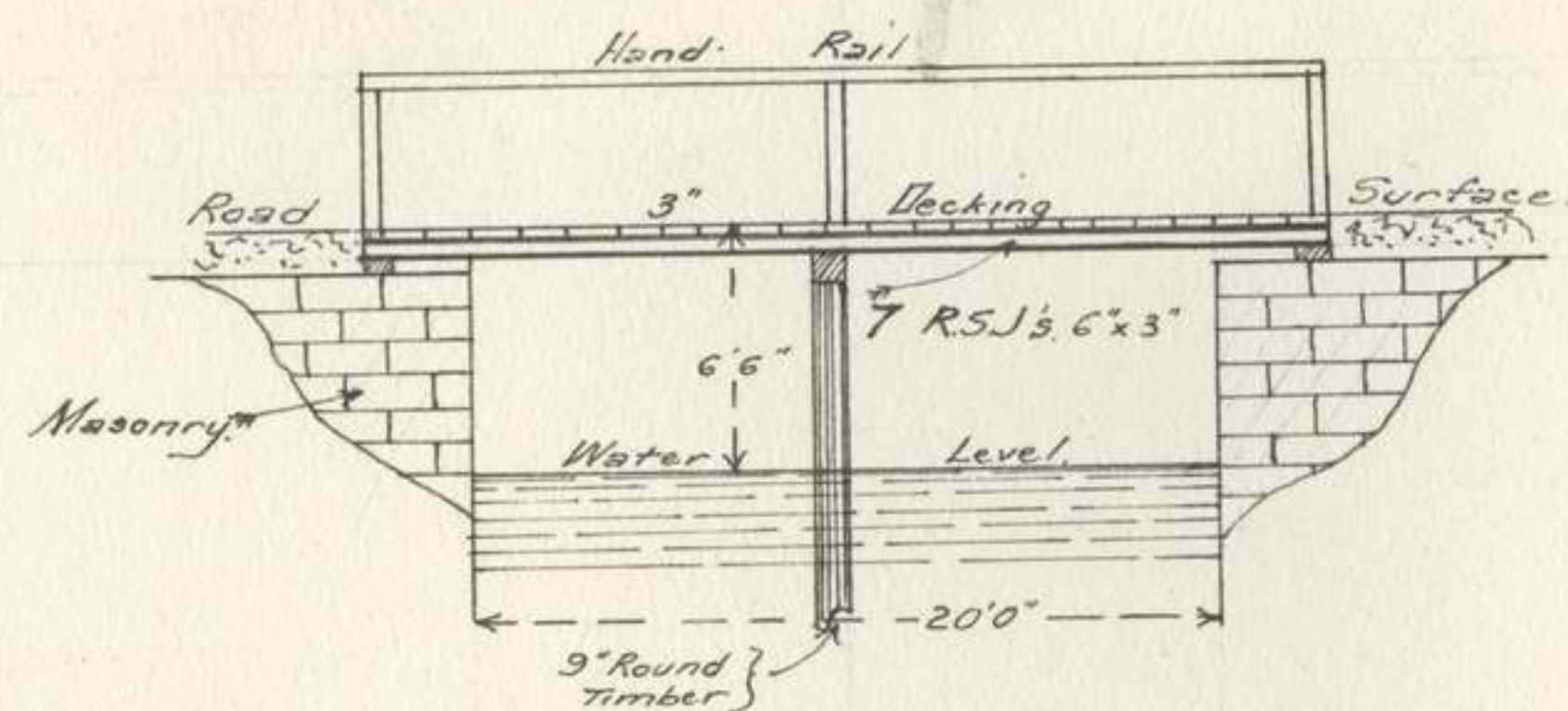
9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date August '18

J.F.W.



# ROAD BRIDGE AT "J" Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



Elevation.

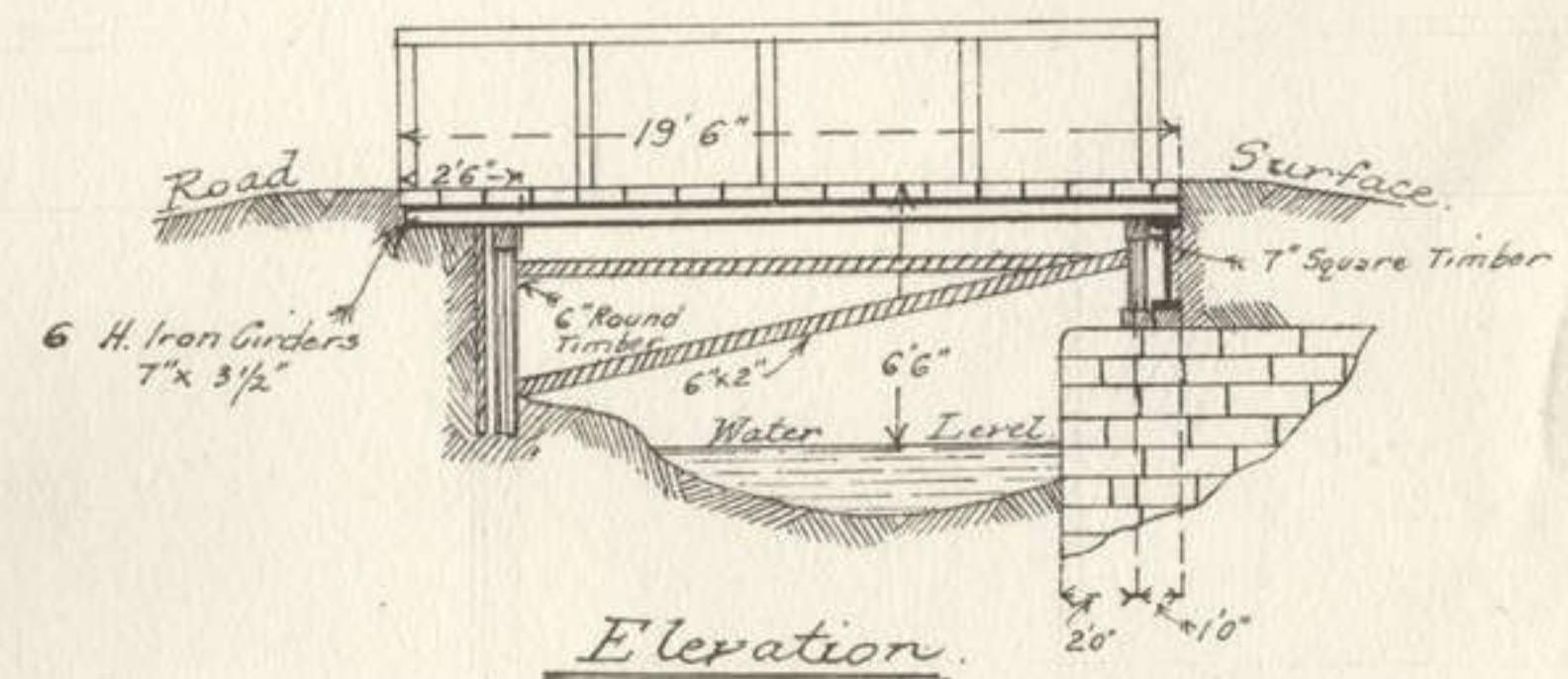
9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....

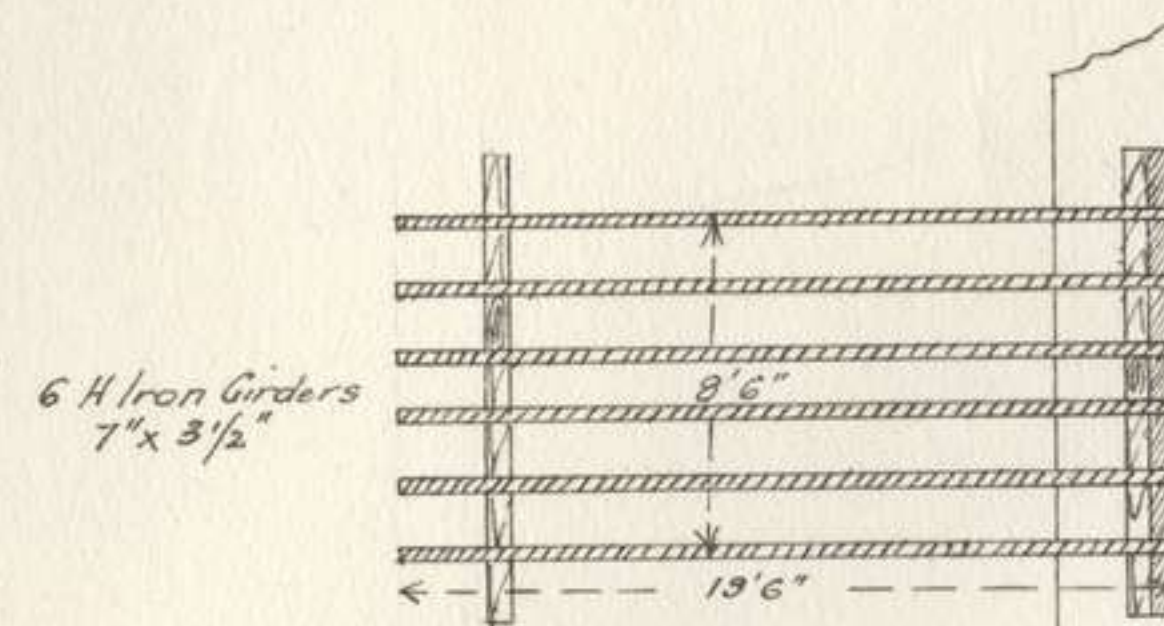
Date August 18

J.F.W.

# ROAD BRIDGE AT "K" Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



Elevation.



Plan.

APPENDIX

9TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

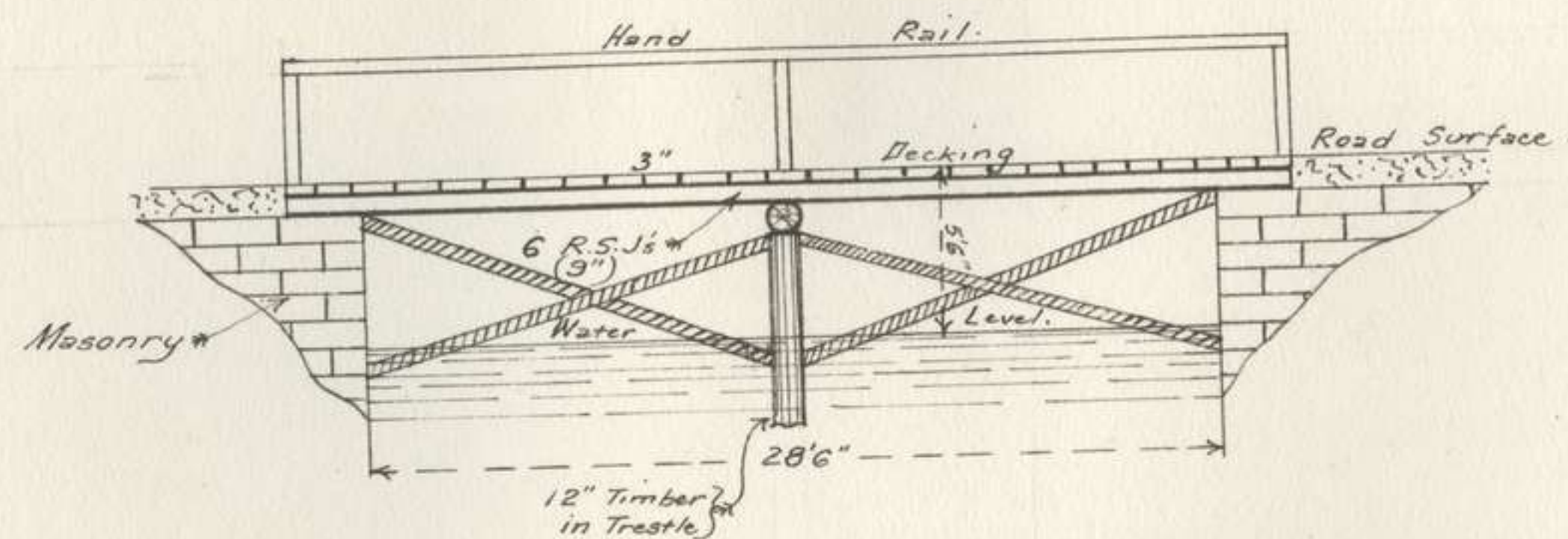
No. ....

Date August 18.

J.F.W.



ROAD BRIDGE AT "L"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch.



Elevation.

9<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....  
Date August '18

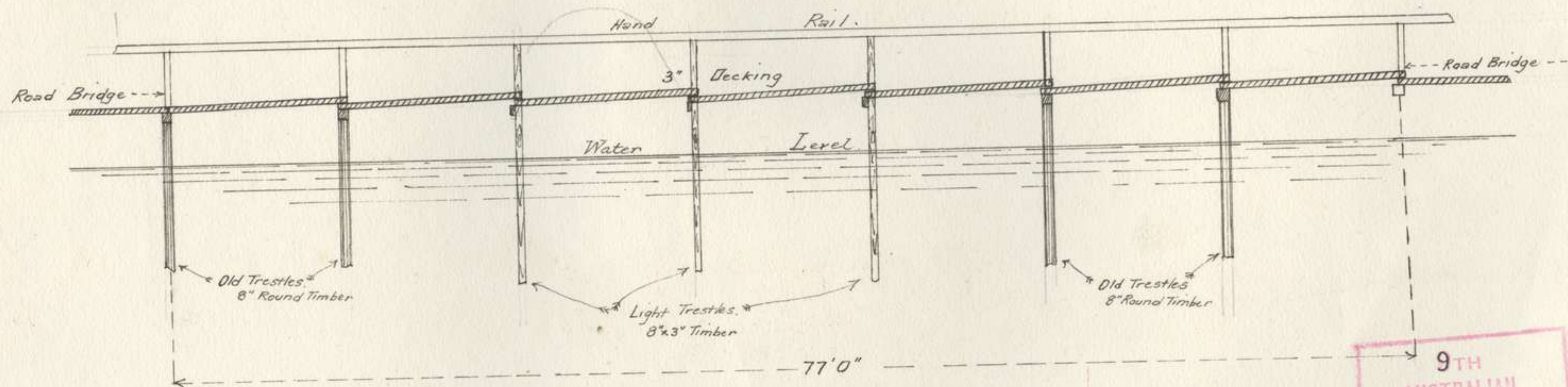
J.F.W.

APPENDIX  
4

51



FOOT BRIDGE AT "N"  
over Gap in old Road Bridge  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



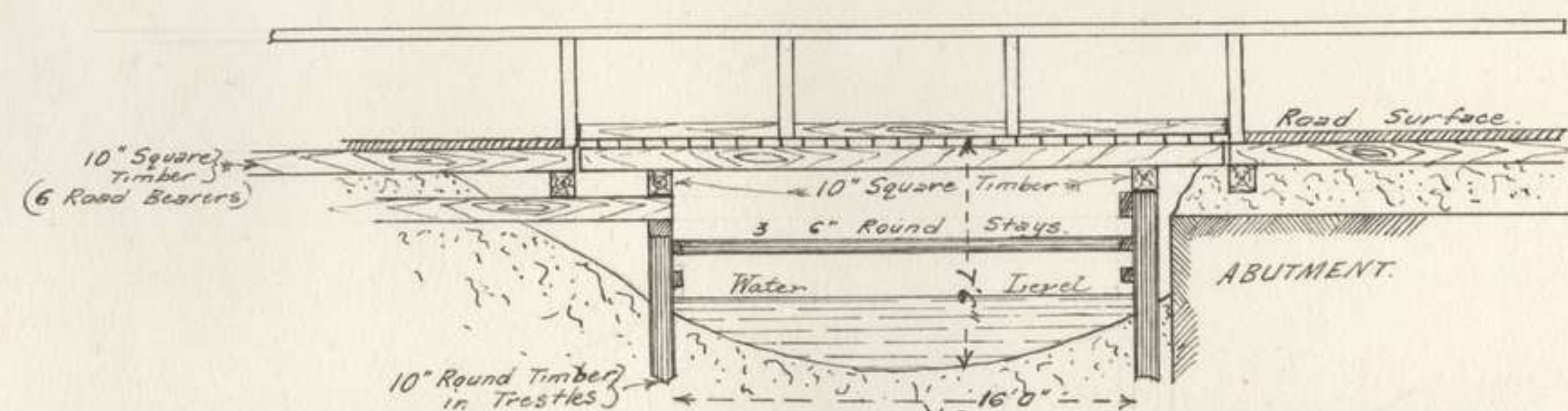
Elevation



APPENDIX 4

55



Elevation

ROAD BRIDGE AT "P"  
Scale 10 ft. = 1 inch.

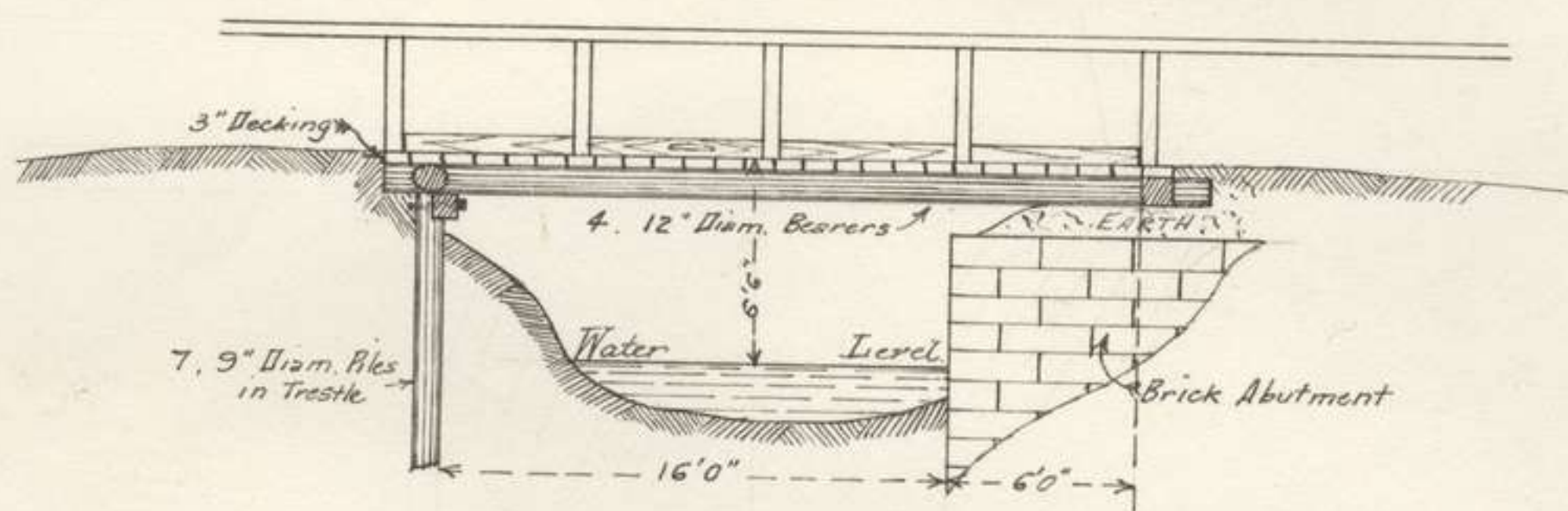
9 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY.	
No.	
Date	August '18

JFW

APPENDIX  
4

56



Elevation.

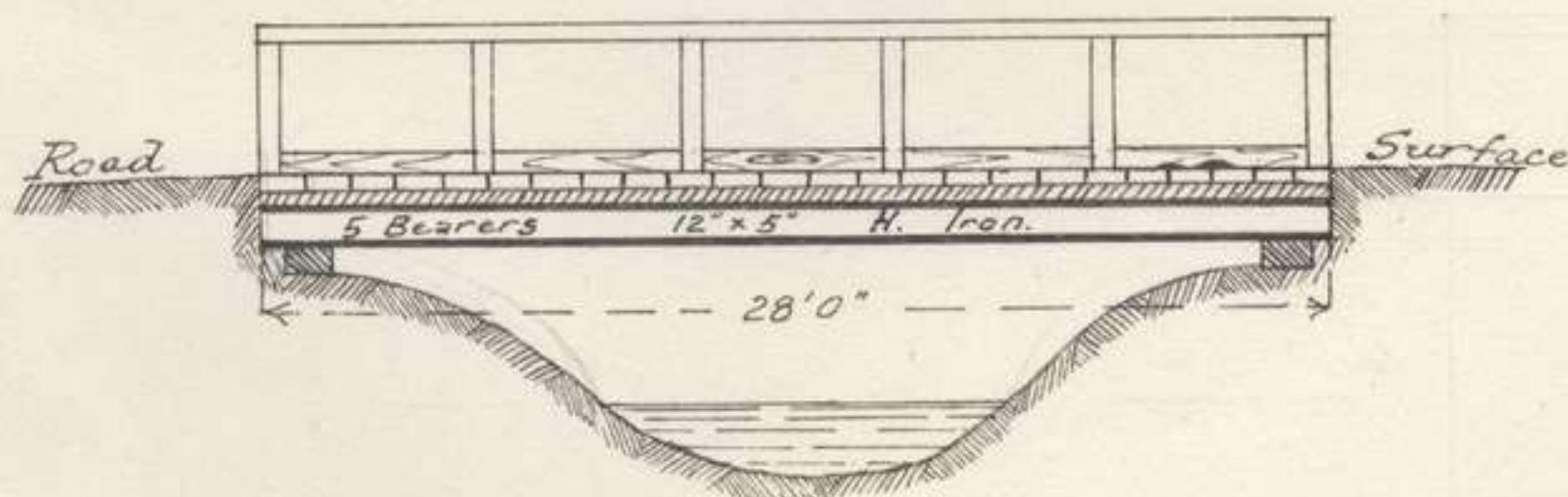
ROAD BRIDGE AT "Q"  
Scale 10 ft. = 1 inch

9<sup>TH</sup>  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....  
 Date August '18

J.F.W.

ROAD BRIDGE AT "R"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch

Elevation.

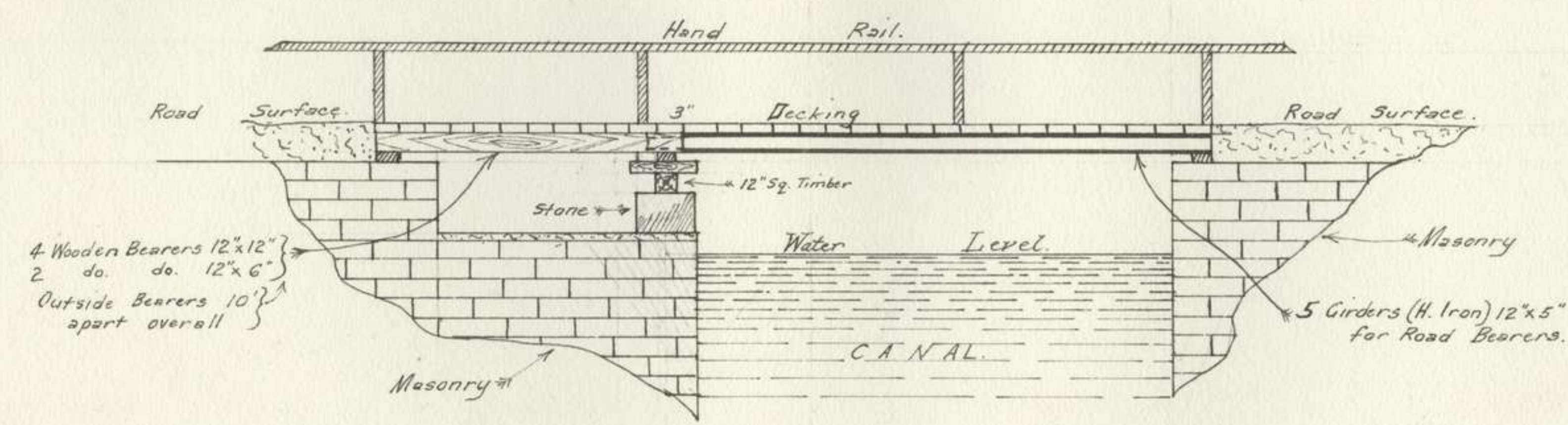
9<sup>TH</sup>  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....  
 Date August '18

J.F.W.



*ROAD BRIDGE OVER CANAL AT "S."*  
Scale 10 feet - 1 inch



Elevation.

9TH  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....

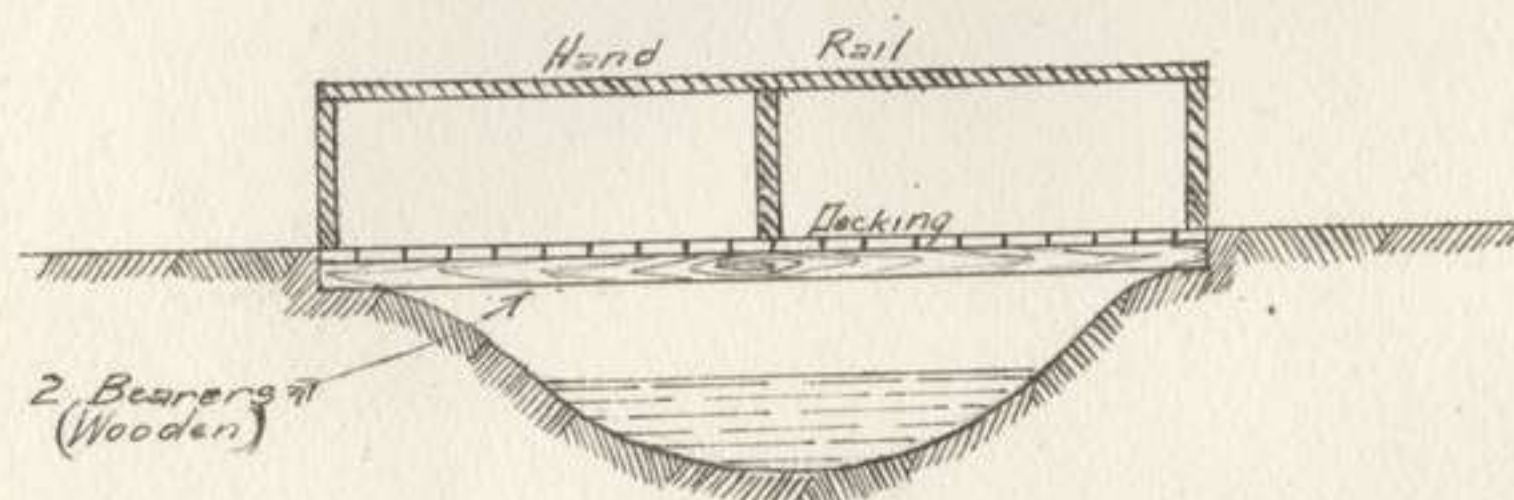
Date August '18

J.F.W.

APPENDIX  
 4



FOOT BRIDGE AT "T."  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch

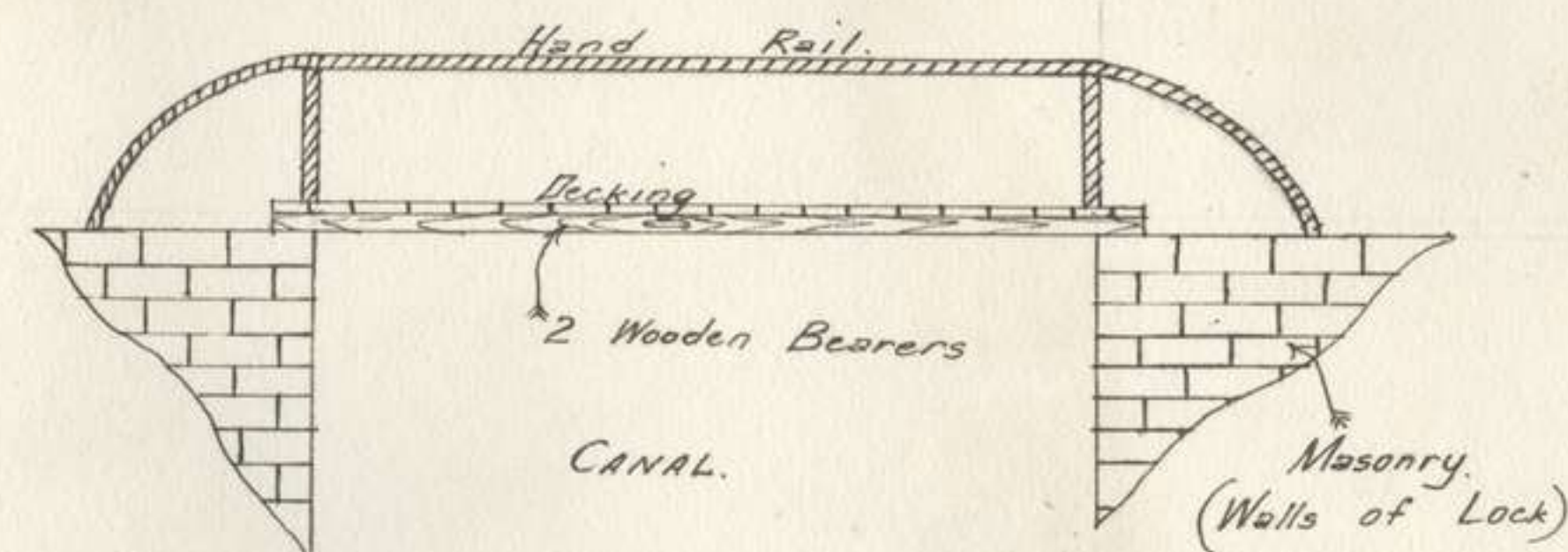


Elevation.



J.F.W.

FOOT BRIDGE AT "V"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



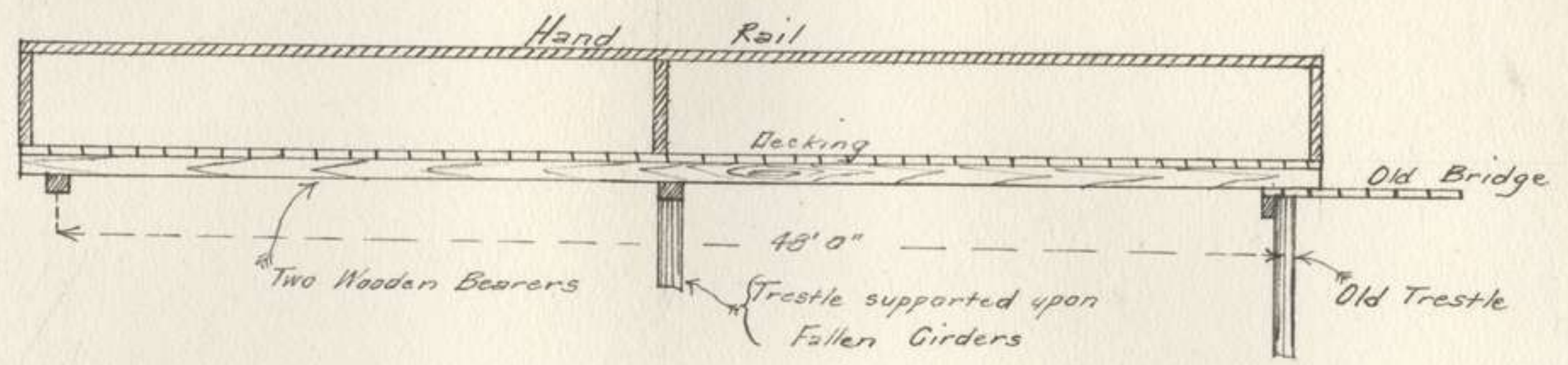
Elevation



J.F.W.



FOOT BRIDGE AT "W"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



Elevation.

9<sup>TH</sup>  
 AUSTRALIAN  
 FIELD COMPANY.

No. ....  
 Date August '18

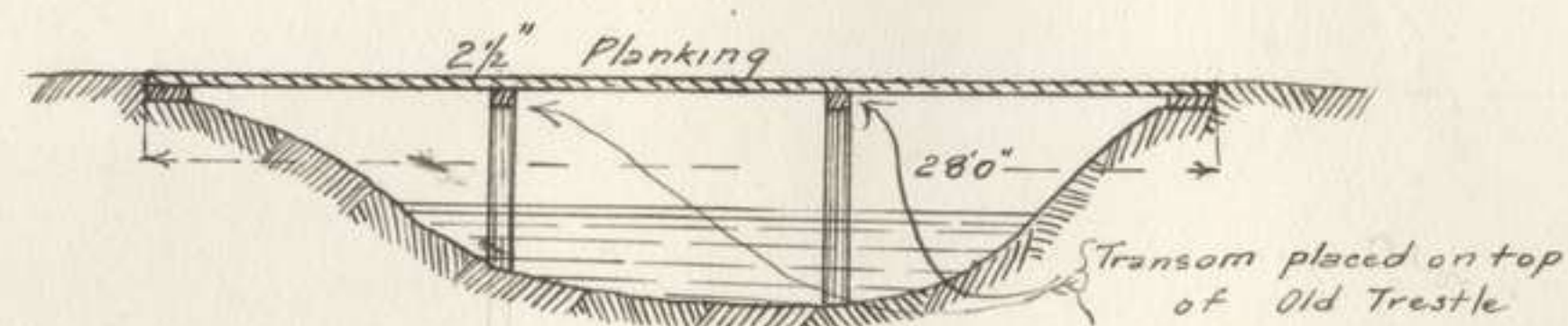
J.F.W.

APPENDIX  
 14

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FOOT BRIDGE AT "X"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



Elevation.

9 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY.	
No. ....	
Date	August '18

J.F.W.

APPENDIX

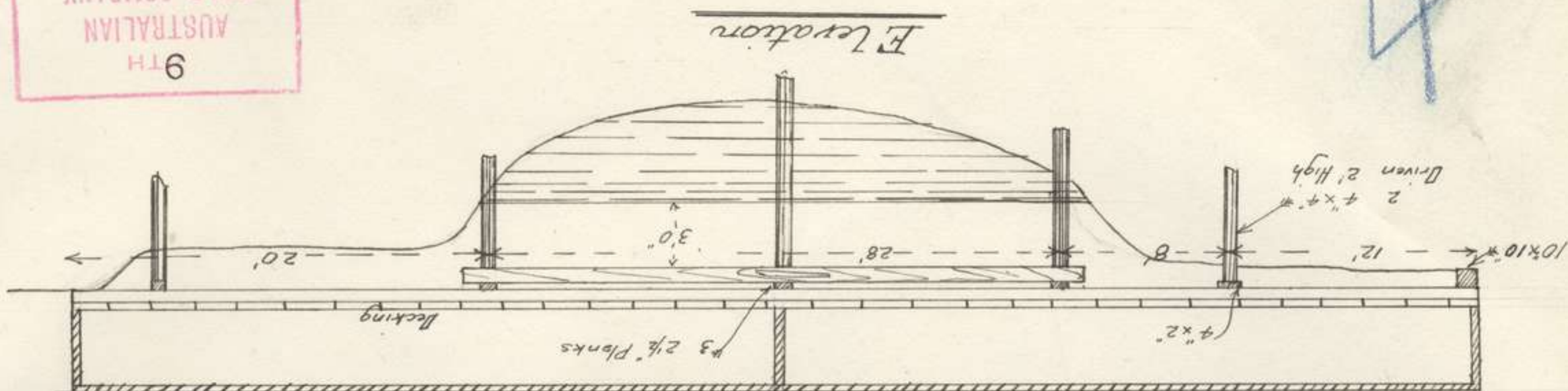
14

61



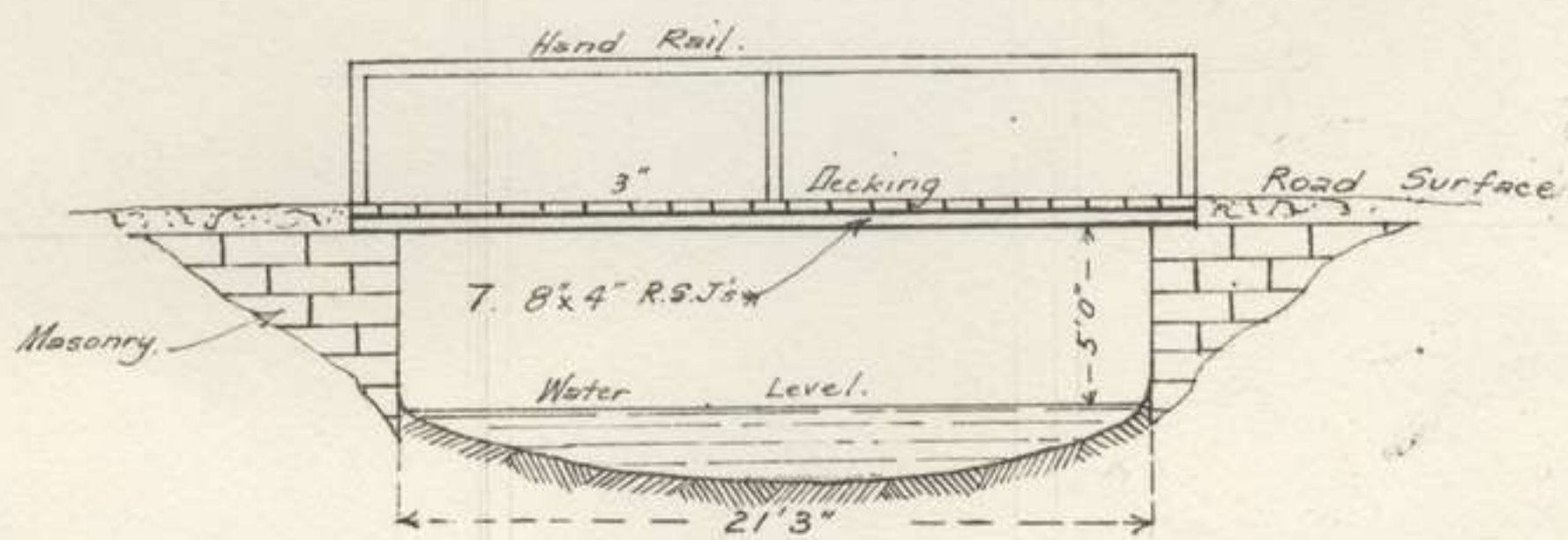
140  
Date August '18  
No.  
9<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.

APPENDIX  
4  
62



FOOT BRIDGE AT "Y"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch.

ROAD BRIDGE AT "F"  
Scale 10 feet = 1 inch



Elevation.

9<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD COMPANY.  
No.  
Date August '18



To G.O.C. Australian Corps.

I desire to express officially to all ranks of the Australian Corps my sincere appreciation of their splendid victory over the enemy on 8th. August and the succeeding days.

The task that was allotted them depended largely for its success on the element of surprise. The care that was taken prior to 8/8/18 to camouflage the arrival of the Canadian Corps interfered to some extent with the Australian Corps dispositions. In spite of this and other difficulties, the assembly of the Corps, the distribution of the Tanks, and the disposition of a large force of heavy and field artillery, were accomplished by night without attracting attention.

From zero onwards everything went according to programme and without a hitch. It was no ordinary feat to win all the objectives allotted, to effect a penetration of 10 miles into the hostile position, and to reach the most distant objective half an hour before scheduled time.

The three points which I desire specially to eulogise are (1) the splendid gallantry and drive of the Infantry (2) the thoroughness and precision of the Staff work of the Corps, Divisions and Brigades, and (3) the skill and rapidity with which the mobile artillery was brought forward in close support of the Infantry for the attack of the more distant objectives.

I offer my ~~most~~ heartiest congratulations and warm thanks to all ranks of the Australian Corps, though I feel that whatever words I may use all Australians realise that "Victory is her own reward". It was a splendid performance and as fine a feat of arms as any that even this war can produce.

H.Q., 4th. Army.  
16/8/18.

Sd/ H. RAWLINSON,  
General.  
Commanding Fourth Army.

No 5-



NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

140  
Notes on Work of Mounted Section and C.Q.M.S. during the month  
of AUGUST 1918.

-----  
MOUNTED SECTION.

APPENDIX 6

FORAGE.- Supply has been satisfactory.  
ANIMALS.- Have been picketed in the open during the month. Their  
condition is good.  
One L.D. Mule was evacuated to Mobile Veterinary  
Section on 7/8/18 suffering from lameness. No casualties  
occurred during period.  
The following are required to complete establishment :-  
One L.D. Horse.  
One L.D. Mule.  
WORK.- The three pontoon wagons were detached for special work  
during operations on 8th. instant. Drays were available  
for carting bricks for repair of roads, but were too heavy,  
and Limbers were used in their stead.  
On the 25th. pontoons were taken up for bridging River  
SOMME in vicinity of BRAY.  
Mounted Section has been constantly employed through-  
out the period under review.  
MILEAGE.- Approximate mileage for month - 2636 miles.

-----  
QUARTERMASTER SERJEANTS' WORK.

RATIONS.- Supply has been good. In spite of the nature of  
operations, supplies were received without any trouble.  
CLOTHING.- Supply has been satisfactory.  
ECONOMY.- FAT. 121 lbs. of fat was returned to Base through  
Railhead during the month.  
SALVAGE.- CARDBOARD AND PAPER. The undermentioned weights were  
collected and returned during August.-  
Cardboard. Paper.  
48-lbs. 77-lbs.  
JAM CARTONS. Have been collected and returned.  
WAR MUSEUM.- A number of trophies have been collected and sent to  
Depot.

No 6



No. 7.

140

CHART SHOWING  
STRENGTH OF COMPANY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 1918.



APPENDIX 7

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9th FIELD COY. AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.