

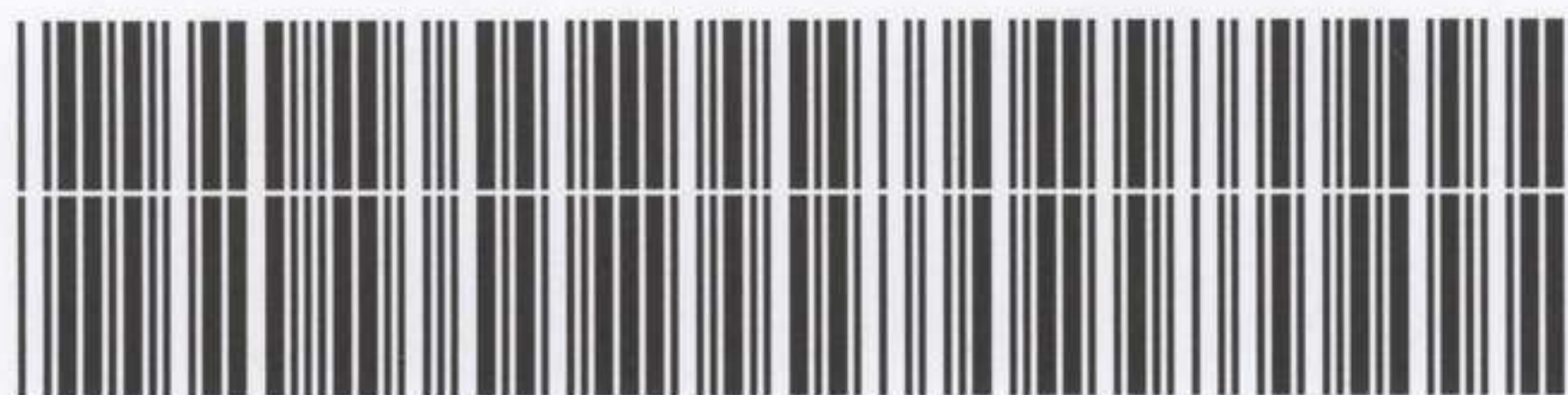
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/28/19

Title: 9th Field Company, Australian
Engineers

January 1919



AWM4-14/28/19

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

140

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

JANUARY 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

Almant Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Almant Captain.

9TH
AUSTRALIAN
FIELD COMPANY.

Confidential
Original

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

140

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
No. 1 Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
Date 1 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
AIGNEVILLE (SOMME)	1/1/19.		Holiday.	A.Y.
"	2/1/19.		Route march to Fenquiers for Baths.	A.Y.
"	3/1/19.	0900	Coq. Parade & Section Drill.	A.Y.
		1000	Lunch & Bookkeeping Classes. Section Parades & Recreation. Educational Classes:- Shorthand, Surveying & Architectural Drawing.	A.Y.
		1100		
		1400		
		1600		
"	4/1/19.	0900	Coq. Parade & route march	A.Y.
		1100	Lunch & Bookkeeping Classes.	A.Y.
			Afternoon - Football & recreation	
"	5/1/19.		Rest.	A.Y.
"	6/1/19.	0900	Coq. Parade & Inspection, Section Drill.	A.Y.
		1100	Lunch & Bookkeeping Classes.	
		1400	Section parades & recreation. Educational Classes:-	
		1600	Arithmetic, Surveying, Mechanical Drawing and Trade Mathematics.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AIGNEVILLE	7/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & Route March. Lunch and Bookkeeping	A.Y.
		1200 to 1400	Classes.	
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & Recreation. Educational Classes:— Architectural Drawing, Surveying and Shorthand.	
			Major G. Drake - Brockman, M.C., (C. C. 9th Field Company) and Lieut. L. F. Burgess, M.C. proceeded to U.K. for duty with Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept. A.I.F. Command of Coys. passed to Lieut. (T/Capt) L. Grant.	
"	8/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & Section Drill. Lunch and Bookkeeping	A.Y.
		1200 to 1400	Classes.	
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades and Recreation. Educational Classes:— Arithmetic Mechanical Drawing, and Trade Mathematics.	
"	9/1/19	0900 to 1200	Route march to Senquiers for Baths.	A.Y.
			3 O.B. marched out for return to Australia.	

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WAR DIARY

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AIGNEVILLE	10/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping Class.	14.
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & Recreation. Educational Classes:- Surveying Architectural Drawing, Shorthand.	14.
	11/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & Section Drill. Lunch & Bookkeeping Class.	14.
			Recreation.	14.
	12/1/19		Rest.	14.
	13/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & Inspection. Lunch & Bookkeeping Class.	14.
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:- Arithmetic Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics, Surveying.	
	14/1/19	0900 to 1200	Company Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping Class.	14.
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & recreation. Educational classes:- Surveying, Architectural Drawing, and Shorthand.	

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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
AIGNEVILLE	15/1/19	0900 to 1300	Coy. Parade & Section Drill. Lunch & Bookkeeping	14.
		1400 to 1600	Classes. Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:- Arithmetic	
			Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics.	
"	16/1/19	0900	Route march to FREQUIERES for Bath.	14.
"	17/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping	14.
			Classes. Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:- Surveying,	
		1400 to 1600	Architectural Drawing, Shorthand.	
"	18/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping	14.
			Classes. Recreation & Sports.	
"	19/1/19		Rest.	14.
"	20/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coy. Parade & Inspection. Lunch & Bookkeeping	14.
			Classes. Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:- Arithmetic	
		1400 to 1600	Mechanical Drawing Trade Mathematics & Surveying	

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALGNEVILLE.	21/1/19	0900 to 1200	Boy Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping	LY
		1200 to 1400	Classes.	
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:- Shorthand	
			Architectural Drawing & Surveying.	
"	22/1/19	0900 to 1200	Boy Parade & Section Drill. Lunch & Bookkeeping	LY
		1200 to 1400	Classes.	
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & recreations. Educational Classes:- Arithmetic	
			Mechanical Drawing & Trade Mathematics.	
"	23/1/19		Route march to FEUQUIERES for Bath.	LY
"	24/1/19	0900 to 1200	Boy Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping	LY
		1200 to 1400	Classes.	
		1400 to 1600	Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes:-	
			Architectural Drawing, Shorthand & Surveying.	
"	25/1/19	0900 to 1200	Boy Parade & route march. Lunch & Bookkeeping	LY
			Classes.	
			Recreation & Sports.	

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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
AIGNEVILLE	26/1/19		Rest.	
"	27/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & Inspection. French & Bookkeeping	P.G.
		1400 to 1600	Classes. Section Parades & recreations. Educational classes: -	
			Arithmetic, Mechanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics & Surveying.	
"	28/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & route march. French & Bookkeeping	P.S.
		1400 to 1600	Classes. Section Parades & recreations. Educational classes: - Surveying	
			Architectural Drawing & Shorthand.	
"	29/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & Physical exercises. French & Bookkeeping	
		1400 to 1600	Classes. Section Parades & recreation. Educational classes: - Arithmetic	P.G.
			Mechanical Drawing & Trade Mathematics.	
"	30/1/19		Route march to FEUQUIERES for Bath.	
"	31/1/19	0900 to 1200	Coys. Parade & route march. French & Bookkeeping	P.G.
			Classes.	

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Regarding War Diaries and Intelligence

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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NINTH FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

Summary of events during the month of JANUARY 1919.

The Company has been stationed at AIGNEVILLE for the whole period. Most of the time has been devoted to Educational and Recreational training, a couple of hours daily being taken for Military training. The latter has consisted mainly of route marches and section drill.

A number of Sappers have been detached to the Battalions of 9th. Aust. Infantry Brigade to supervise the erection of Nissen Huts. One Nissen Hut has been allotted to the Company for use as a Recreation Hut, and this has just been erected.

Of the Educational Classes, the French, Architectural and Book-keeping classes have proved the most popular. The Carpentry Class for Infantrymen has proved very successful, and much useful work has been done by it. The Tinsmithing and Rope Work Classes have been hampered by a lack of material.

LEAVE.- Five % of the Company can be now granted leave to Abbeville for the day, and every couple of days two or more men may go to Amiens, where they may stay overnight, returning the following day.

One Officer and 45. O.Rs were detached to Aust. General Base Depot, Havre, on 28th. instant, to erect Nissen Huts at the Base Camp.

COMMAND.- Major G. Drake-Brockman, M.C., (O.C.) and Lieut. L. F. Burgess, M.C. proceeded to England on 7th. January for duty with Demobilisation and Repatriation Dept. A.I.F.

Lieut. (T/Capt.) L. Grant assumed Command of Company.

DEMOBILISATION.- Three O.Rs marched for return to Australia on 9th. January. With the two who marched out on 26th. December 18, a total of 5. O.Rs have now left Company for return.

The first big allotment (provisional) for Demobilisation has been received, and it is expected that the draft will be moving about the middle of next month.

The following have been detached to units outside the Division in connection with Civil Training:-

Ordnance Base Workshops, Calais..... 2.

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Detachments to units outside the Division (contd.).-

Aust. Corps Workshops.....	2.
Aust. Corps Central School.....	3.
8th. Aux. Steam Company, Havre.....	1.

1st. February 19.

Alpant Captain.
O.C., Ninth Field Company,
Australian Engineers.

WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

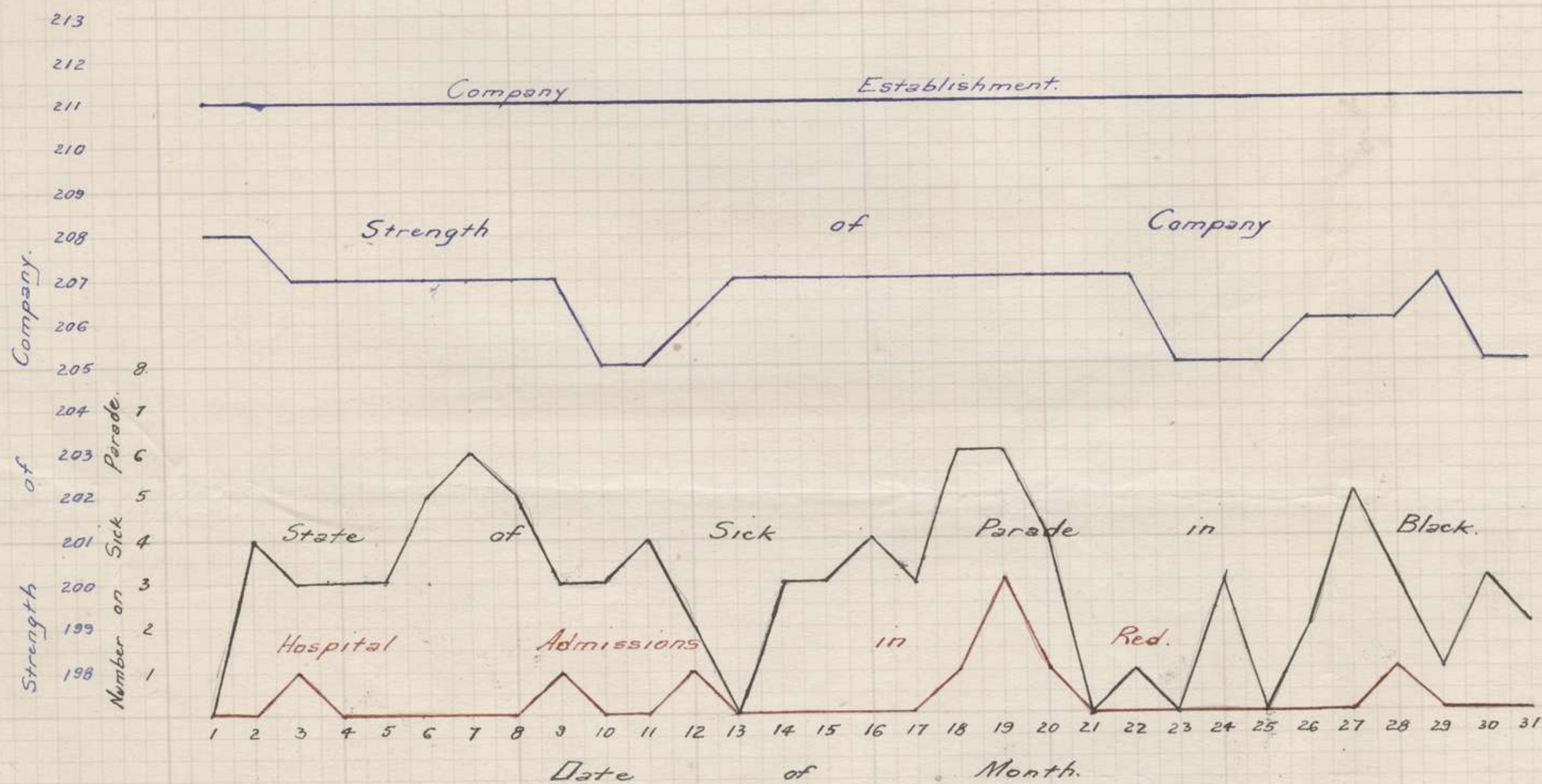
FOR

JANUARY 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Chart shewing Company Strength, Sick Parades, and Hospital admissions for month.
2.	Essays written in connection with Divisional War Records competition.

Chart Shewing
STRENGTH OF COMPANY, STATE OF SICK PARADES,
AND NUMBER ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.
For Month of January 1918



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We had been out all day on the 21st. ~~xxxx~~ preparing some captured dugouts at "A" for occupation by the 33rd. Battalion as B.H.Q.

They were on the side of a hill facing the enemy, and our work was mainly in making the entrances splinter-proof.

A direct hit by a 5.9 had already filled in one entrance, and we had ample evidence during the day that the recently vacated home had not been forgotten by the Boche.

That evening, we learnt that there was to be a "stunt" in the morning, and No.2 Section had been detailed for the job of examining and reporting on dugouts in the area as they were captured by the Brigade. This job appealed to the souvenir hunters, and all wanted to go, but the front was narrow, and the 'Green Line' not very distant (we were the Pivot Flank) it was decided to work three small parties, each taking a portion of the area.

Our track took us through a dense mist in the valley at "B", and the gas was pretty bad also. However, by picking up landmarks which we had noticed the day before, we reached a small quarry at "C", near the BRAY - CORBIE main road, where we divided into three parties. While we were having a breather here, two Infantry runners came to us for direction to their H.Q. at "D". They were supplied with a sketch of the road (distances marked in paces), so if they did not lose count their message must have been delivered.

Each party, having a map of the area and the rendezvous "E", also time for reports, we divided and set out in different directions.

We (No.1 Party) went on the left, and the farther we went the thicker the barrage seemed to get. The runners' bicycles were becoming awkward over the torn up ground, so they were left in a shell-hole at "F", landmarks being noted so that they may be found again.

After half a minutes spell behind a disabled tank, we spread out a bit and went on. The thickest part of the barrage was just ahead of us along the road at "G", and only by sheer luck could we hope to pass it. A party of about 12 Infantry were blotted out by a 5.9 immediately in front of us. At any other time our first thought would be "First Aid", but in a stunt the rule is "Get on with your job", and leave them for the bearers, so on we went.

The first dugout was a Machine Gun post in the open at "H", and well camouflaged. The gunners had been killed by shell fire, also one of the message dogs. The other was very much alive, and savage. We got busy with our torches, and searched every inch of the dugout for booby traps, but found nothing suspicious. The Battalion Signal Officer had already established himself here.

The remainder of this area was then searched for Tank mines and booby traps, but apparently there had not been time to prepare any, although there were dozens of splinter-proof shelters.

As the other two parties had not reported at the rendezvous, we then searched the other two areas, which included three deep dugouts "J", "K" and "L", and a hastily arranged tank mine "N" which was on the main road. This was made up of stick grenades, and was very easily dismantled and thrown clear of the road.

About 10.0.a.m. we were fortunate enough to dodge a squadron of enemy aeroplanes which dropped a full load of bombs around us.

We had some 'false alarms' booby traps in the deep dugouts, but no broken steps or hidden springs or wires.

The job being completed so far, runners were sent back to the O.C. of the Company and the Liaison Officer with reports and dimensioned sketches of the dugouts.

The barrage had considerably slackened by this time, so the runners were able to locate their bicycles and get back quickly.

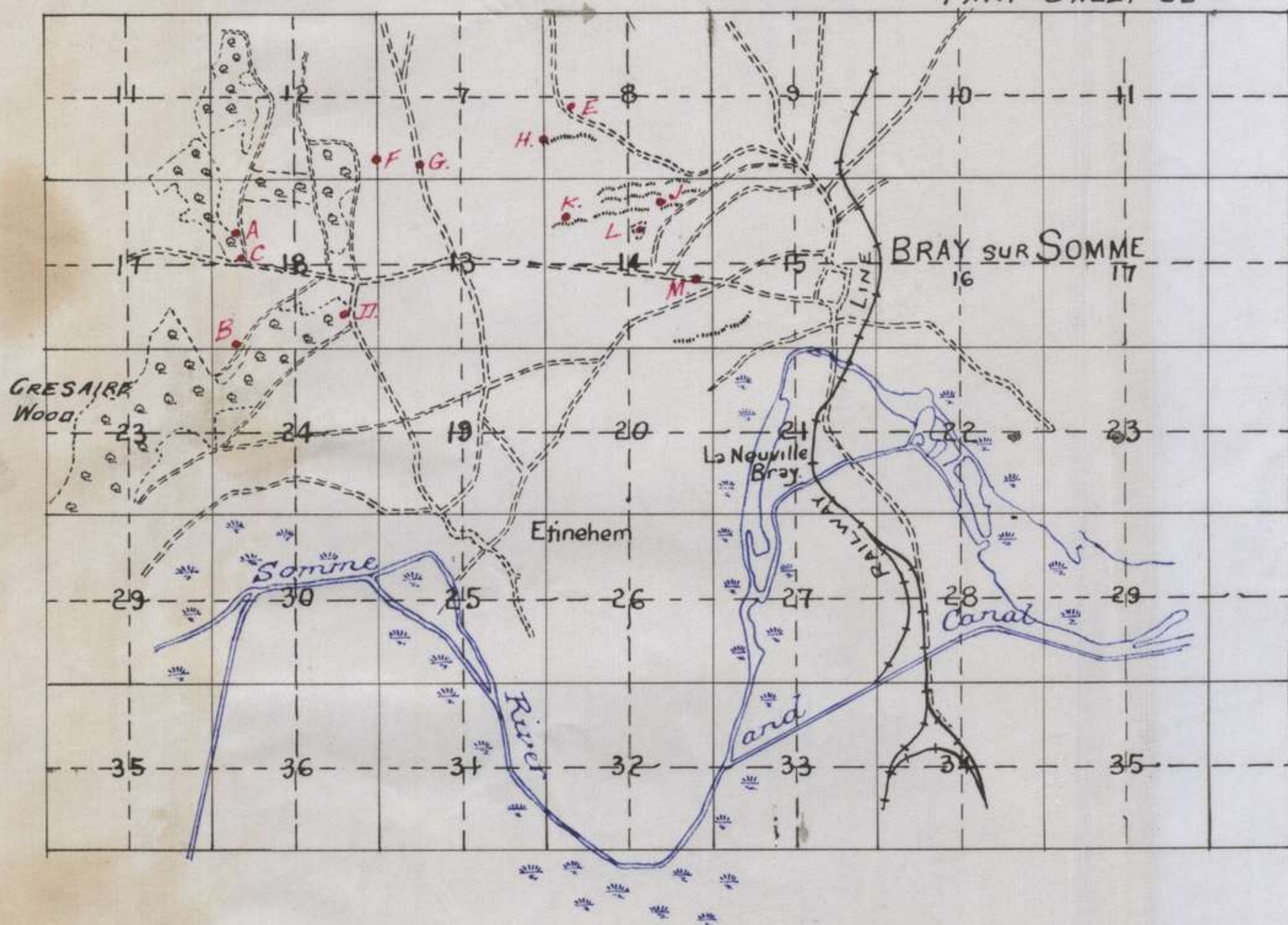
It was an extremely hot day, and the wounded had a bad time with the flies.

The other two parties got broken up in the barrage, the Corporal in charge of one party being killed, while the Second Corporal and a Sapper of the other party were slightly wounded, and considerably shaken. The remaining Sappers were returned to Camp.

On our way back we found that a Boche shell had landed in the first dugout we had entered, and had killed the other message dog.

A swim in the SOMME and a welcome sleep ended a long and tiring day.

Lieut. N. Cook, 9th. Field Coy. Aust. Engineers.

PART SHEET 62^d

Sketch illustrating
 Essay on Operations of 22nd August 1918 at BRAY SUR SOMME
 Scale 1-40,000

9th Field Company, Australian
 Engineers