AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

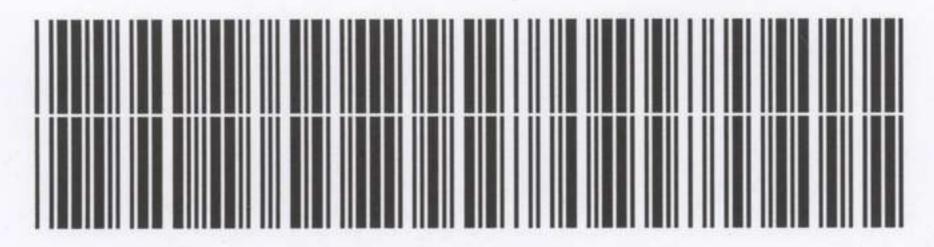
Engineers

Item number: 14/28/19

Title: 9th Field Company, Australian

Engineers

January 1919



AWM4-14/28/19

R.20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL. DUPLICATE. TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

FOR

JANUARY

1919.

Signature of Officer compiling.

Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding.

Mantaptain.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1016935

AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.

and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

will be prepared in manu	script. (Erase heading not required.)	
Place Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AIGNEVILLE //		
(Somme) /1/19.	I Holiday.	A.Y.
2/1/9	Route march to Jenquieres for Baths.	A.y
3/1/19.0900	Moy. Parade v Section Drill.	,,,
1000	French & Bookkeeping Classes.	NY.
1400	Lection Parader & Recreation Education Clarge.	
1600	I Shorthand Surveying & architectural Grawing	///
4/1/19.090	Jeog Parade stroute march	1,4
1200	French & Bookkeeping Clauses.	
	afternoon - Football V recreation	11,
	Rest.	129.
11 6/1/19 0900	Levy. Larade & Inspection, Section Drill.	
/>00	French & Bookkeeping Classes.	11,
- 1401	Section parades secretions. Educational Classes:	- 1,9,
1600	Sarithmetic, Surveying, Mechanical Drawing	
	and hade mathematics.	
	(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. S2a. Forms/C2118/15.	

9TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages

WAR DIARY

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Date and the	e Staff Ma	nual resp	ectively. Title pages cript. (Erase heading not required.)	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AIGNEVILL	E 7/1/19	1200	Levy Parade & Route Mearch. Grench and Bookkuping	LY.
		1400	Lection Parades & Recreation. Educational Classes:	
		1600	Major G. Drake - Brockman, M.C., CO. 6 9th Fild Compan	<i>y</i>
			and Lint. L. F. Burgers, M.C. proceeded to U. B. for	
			learning of Cox. passed to Litt (T/Capt) L. Grant.	
"	1	0900	Hay Parade esections Drill. French and Stockkeeping	N.Y.
		1200.	Starrer. Parades and Recreation. Educational Classer: arithmete	ic
		1600.	Mechanical Drawing, and Irade Moathematics.	19
**	9/1/19	200	Route march At Deugnières for Batha.	
			I off. marched out for return to austratia.	
			(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.	

AUSTRALIAN
FIELD COMPANY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages (Erase heading not required.) will be prepared in manuscript. references to Summary of Events and Information Place * Date Hour Appendices AIGNEVILLE 10/19.09002 boy. Parade , south march. French & Bookkreping 1400 } Section Parades & Recreation. Educational Classes: - Surveying 1600 architectural Drawing, Shorthand. 11/190900 Coy Parade & Section Drill French & Bookkeeping Class. Recreation. Inspection. French to Section Parades & recreation. Educational Classes: - arethmetic 1600. Michanical Drawing, Trade Mathematics, Surveying. 1490 Section Parades recreation Educational Clavers: - Surveying, 1600. Architectural Drawing, and Shorthand. (A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 82a. Forms/C2118/15.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place Date Hour Summary of Events and Information						
IGNEVILLE	15/1/19	1800.	Log Parade Action Drill. Brench & Bookkuping	My,		
		1400	Lection Parades & secretion. Educational Claren: - arithmetic			
		1600.	Mechanical Drawing, Irade mathematics.	1/1		
- 4			Route march & FRUQUIERES for Batho.	1.2.		
	7/1/19	0900	Con Parade & South march. French 1 Bookkerping	14.		
		1400	Section Parades & recreation Educational Classes: - Surveying,			
		1600	architectural Drawing, Shorthand.	,,,		
	18/1/19	0900	Log. Parade v route march. French & Bookkeeping	My.		
	111	1200	T. Classes.			
			Recreation of Fronts.	11.		
· ·	19/1/19	7	Rest.	1.4		
	20/1/19	0900	Loy Parade + Inspection. French & Bookkeeping	110		
		1200_	Clarges.	2.9		
		76	} Section Parades & recreations, Educational Classes: - Arithmetic			
		1600	Mechanical Parades Marketin Marketinal Classes: - Arithmetic Mechanics & Science - Arithmetic (A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Soh 52a. Forms/C2118/15.			

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks an references to Appendices
ENEVILLE.	2/1/190901	Log Parade i route march. Grench & Bookkeiping	ly
	1490	Section Parades , recreation. Educational Clarece: - Shorthand	N - 1
	1600	3 architectural Drawing, & Surveying	
- 1/	22/1/19/0900	Blasses.	My.
		Section Parades , rurations. Educational Classes: - arithmetic	
U		Route march to FEUOVIERES for Batho.	14
	24/1/19 0900	boy. Parade & souto march. Frinch & Bookkuping	14
	1400	Section Parades & Secretion. Educational Classes: -	,,,,
	1600	Loy Parade + route march. French & Bookkeyeing	111
м	25/1/9 0900	Classes.	2,
		Recreation & Sports.	
		(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 82a. Forms/C2118/15.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

. Army Form C. 2118.

Confidential AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY. Army Form C. 2118. WAR DIARY Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.) will be prepared in manuscript. Remarks and references to Summary of Events and Information Place Appendices AIGNEY 4 & 3/1/9 1400 Section Parades & recreation Educational Classer: The meritarious service medal has been awarded to the undermentioned, 9860 Sent R. V. Dearman ENGINEERS ALE A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

NINTH FIELD COMPANY AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

100

Summary of events during the month of JANUARY 1 9 1 9.

nThe 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 Carpentery 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 98th. 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 95th. 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:-

n o

Detache	ents to	units o	utside	the :	Division	(contd.)
Aust.	Corps W	orkshops				. 9.
Aust.	Corps C	entral S	chool			. 3.
8th. A	ux. Ste	am Compa	my, Hav	re		. 1.

Mant

1st. February 19.

20,000-5/18-11,069

WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD COMPANY ENGINEERS.

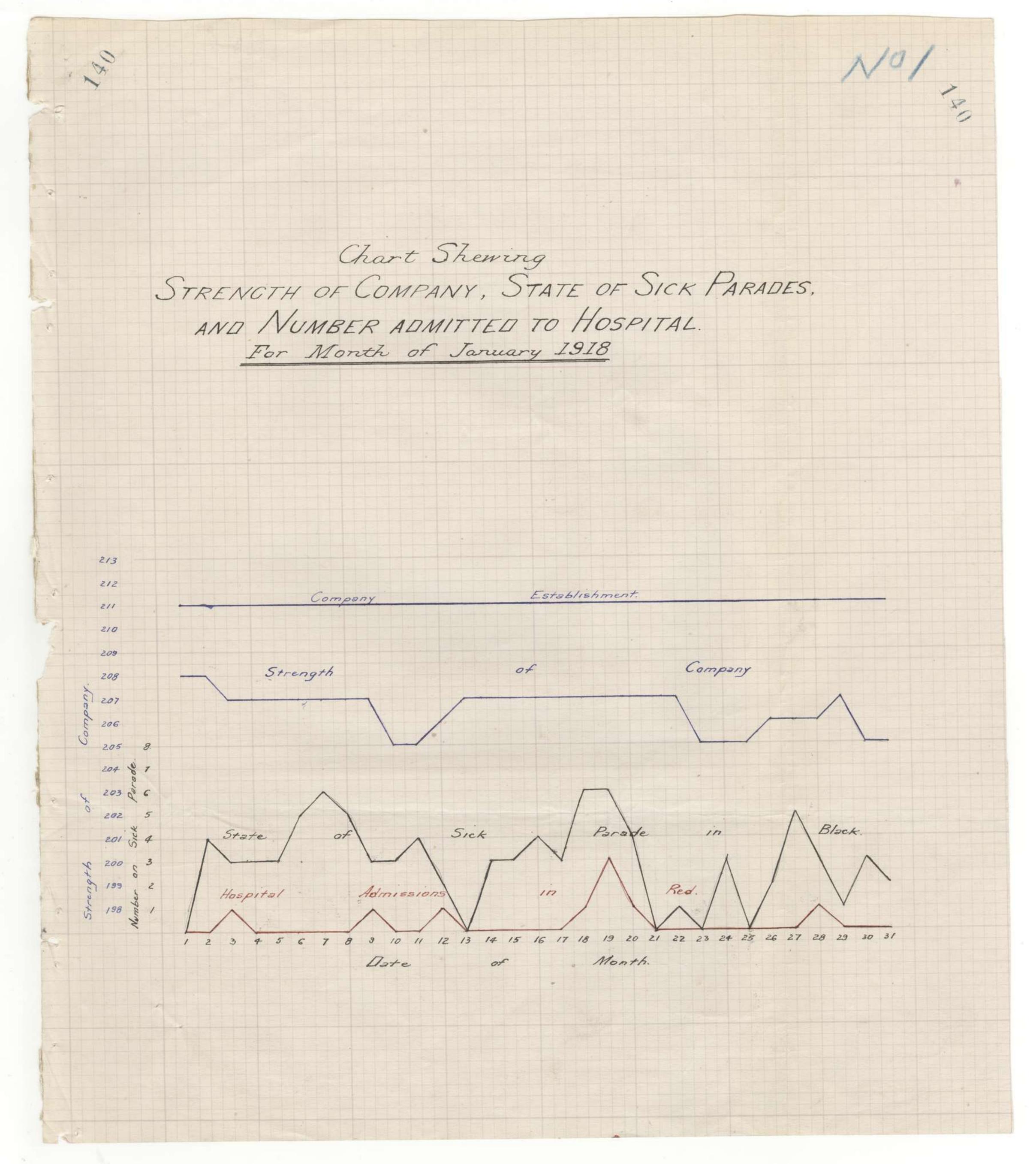
FOR

JANUARY 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No. Subject.

- chart shewing Company Strength, Sick Parades, and Hospital admissions for month.
- 2. Essays written in connection with Divisional War Records competition.



----- A DAY IN A DRIVER'S LIFE -----

YPRES - 17th. OCTOBER 117.

Midnight! The picquet awoke us to prepare for the road. Qur luck was out for it was raining and the night black. Stumbling in and out of shell-holes half full of water, we made our way to the horses, harnessed up, and then hooked into wagons, previously loaded with Engineer materials.

All ready, the column moved into position in the seemingly endless traffic stream moving forward. Passing the Cloth Hall and Cathedral ruins, looming weirdly in the darkness, we reached the Cemetery and were blocked just as Fritz commenced shelling a fifteen inch gun a hundred yards on our right. The minutes were anxious, for we must keep positions and take our chance, so with feelings of relief eventually we proceeded on our way. Leaving the cobbles we ploughed into the mud of Menin Road. At the Laggon there was an hour's delay in the cold and rain, whilst ahead of us tractors were drawing out heavy guns. Onward again, past Bavaria Dump, we topped the ridge, and Fritz was shelling. Suddenly on the road, thirty yards ahead, there was a blinding flash and deafening report, as the shell burst. The horses reared, but "steady good horses, all safe", and forward through the smoke we dashed past the danger spot. by the advanced dump we could see shells bursting, but "C'est la guerre", the job must be done, and arriving at our destination, unloading was expeditious. Heads then for home, and as each yard took us out of danger, so nerves relaxed their tension. The braak of dawn shewed how desolate was this shell-torn ground, littered with disabled tanks, broken wagons, overturned guns, dead animals, and all the horrors of a modern battlefield. There were lines and lines of artillery, and as we drew abreast, the guns opened a morning salutation to the enemy with the gunners glorying in their task. The scene truly was inferno. Back then to camp where our horses, comrades in work and danger, were fed and watered, and men breakfasted. We slept until dinner time and then there was feed and water again for the horses and dinner for ourselves, after which we groomed up and overhauled harness making ready for next morning's trip. Feed and water once more and tea. Finally we turned in hoping Fritz would not be over bombing to disturb our slumbers until midnight.

9830

Driver H. O. Bastian, Ninth Field Company, Aust. Engineers. We had been out all day on the 21st. kmax 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 werenthe 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", land-marks 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

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.

