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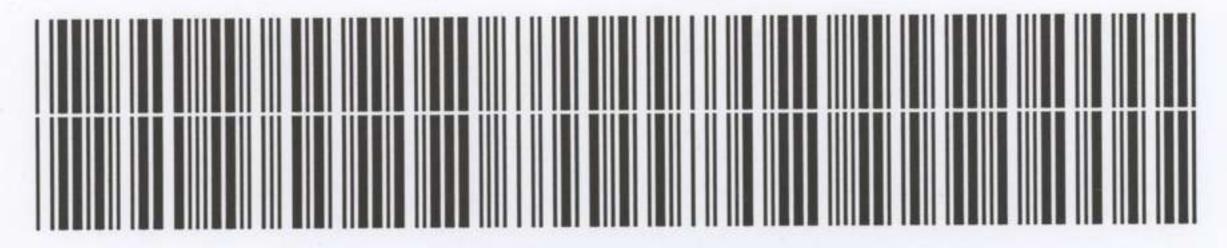
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/58/23 PART 2

Title: 41st Infantry Battalion

September 1918 Appendices

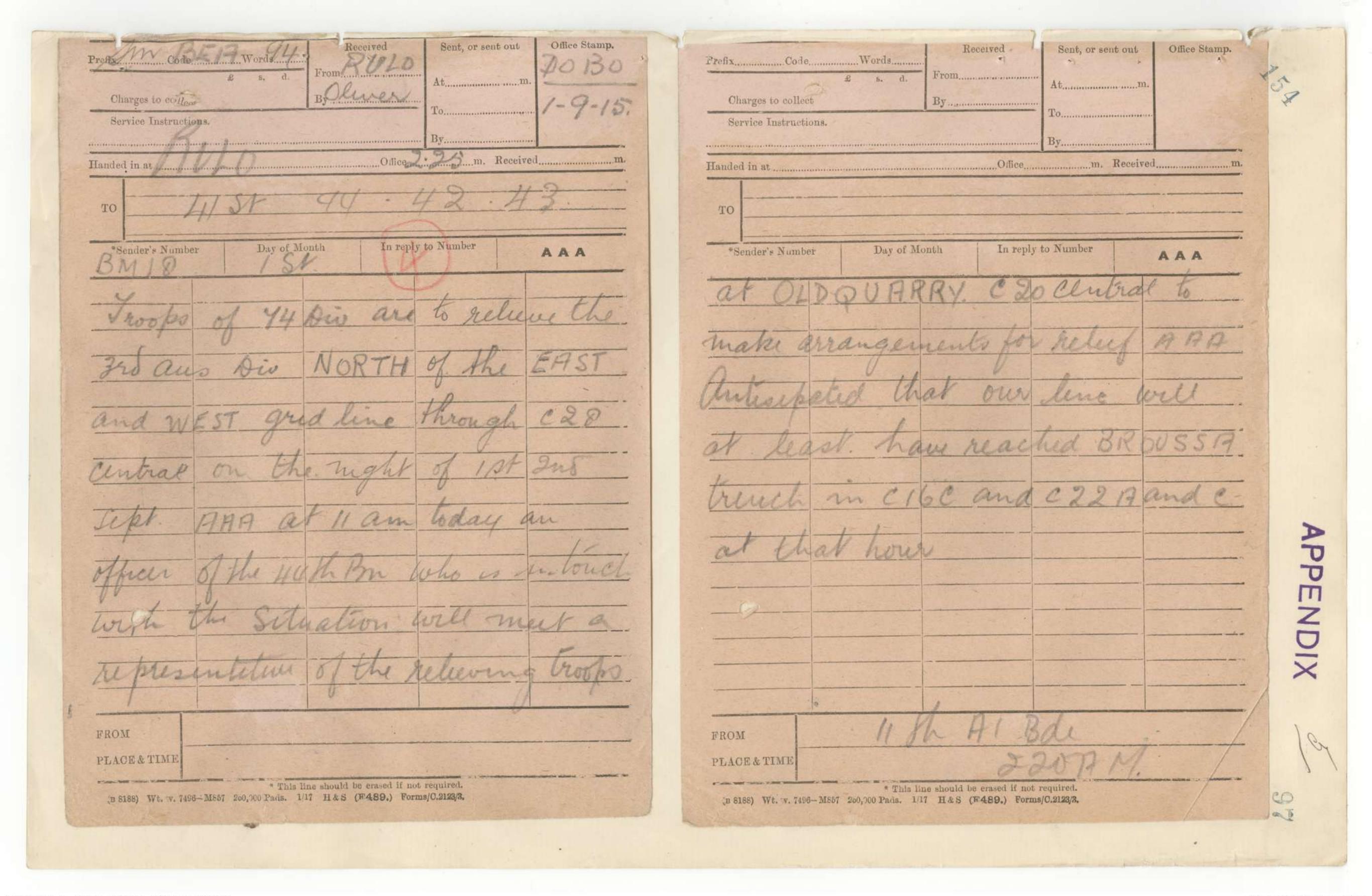


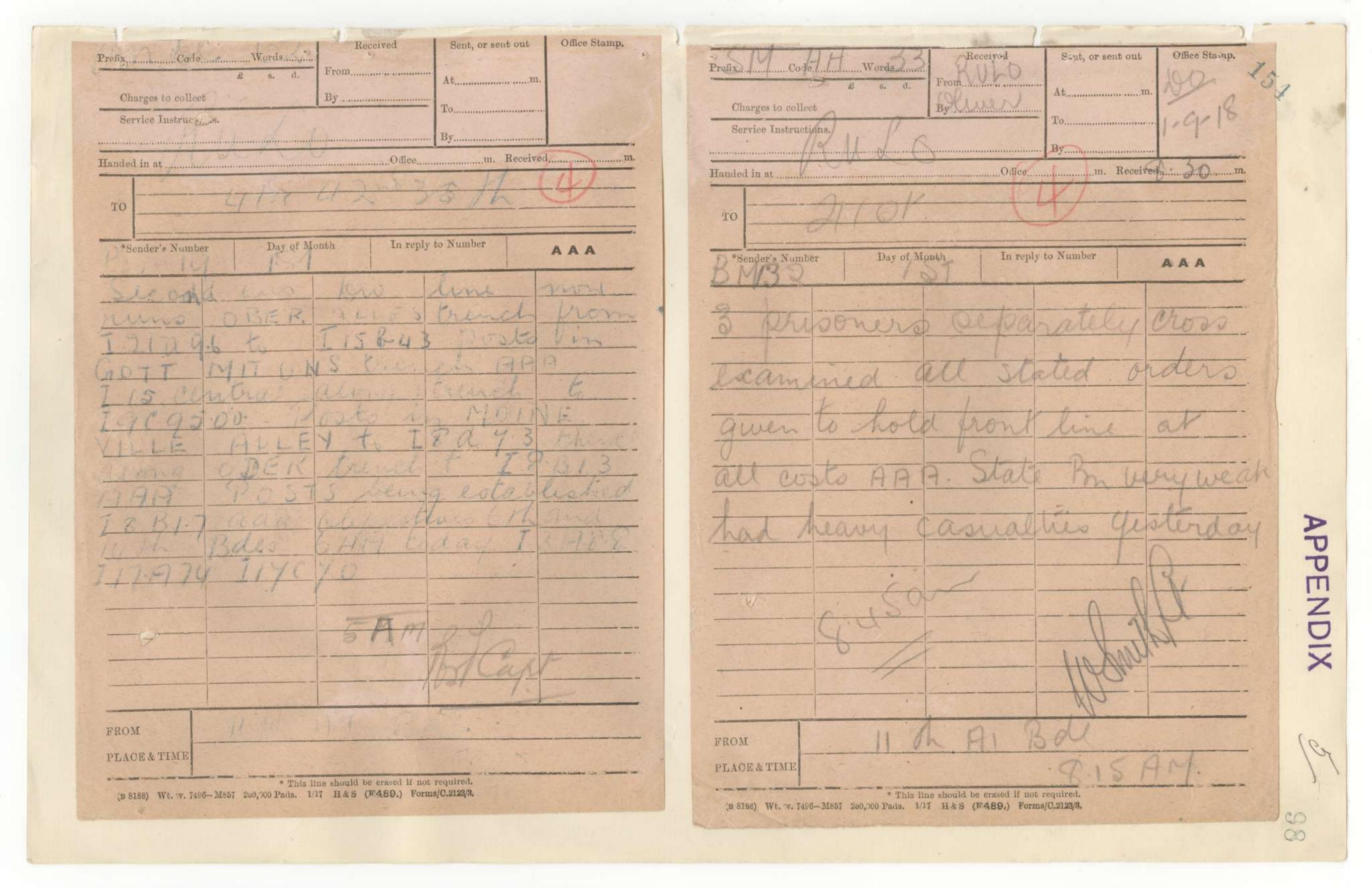
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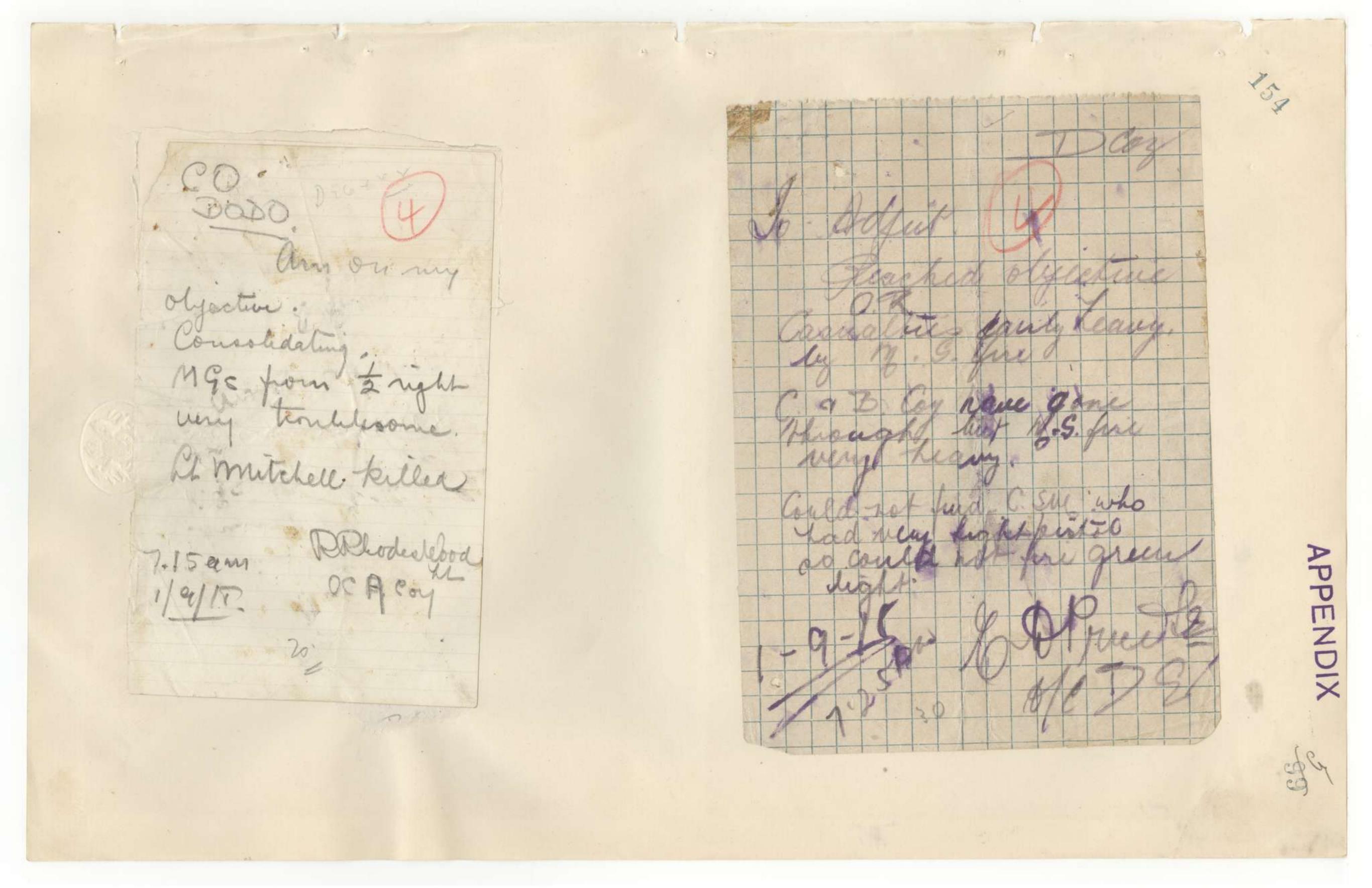
APPENDIX

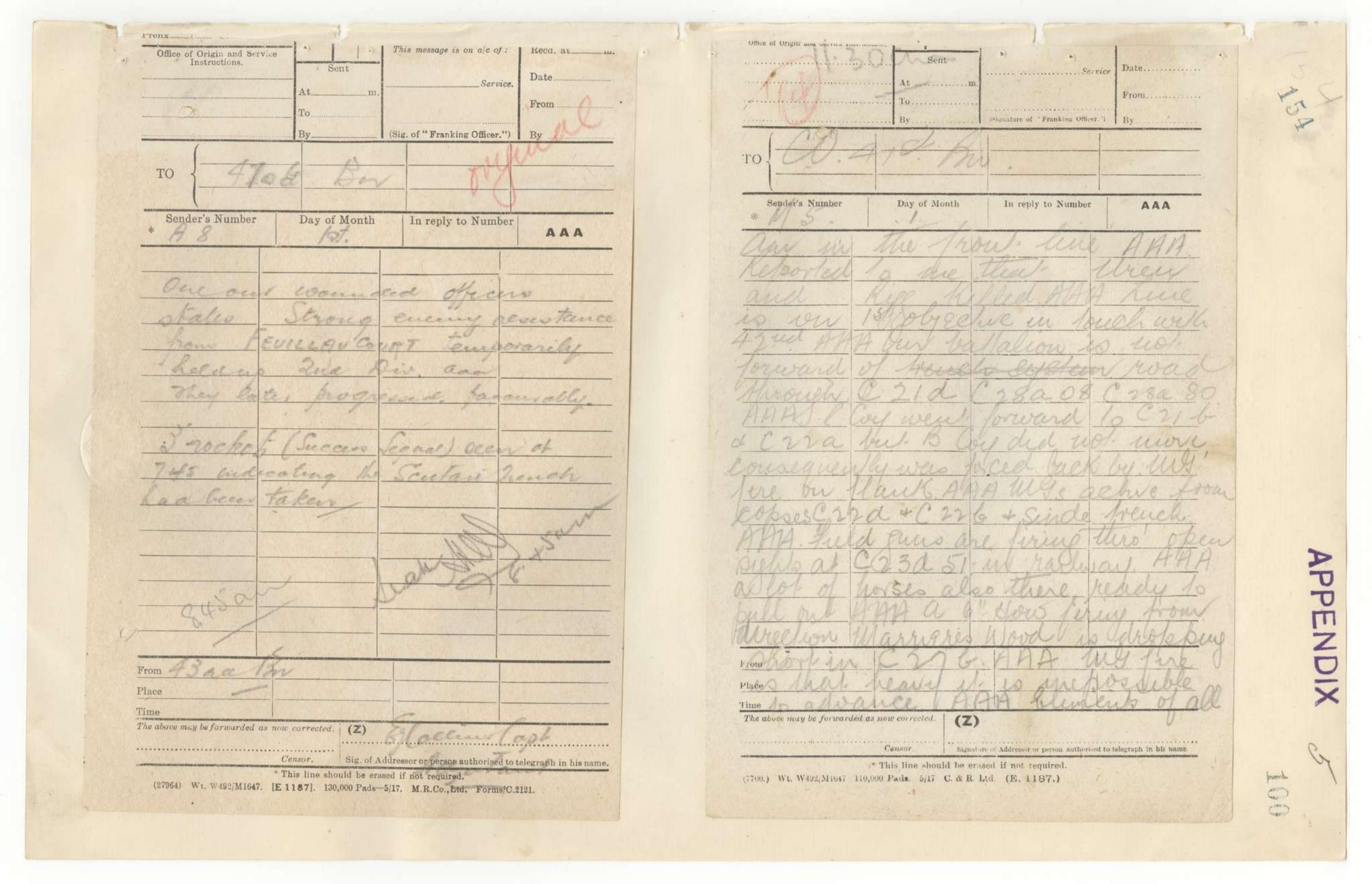
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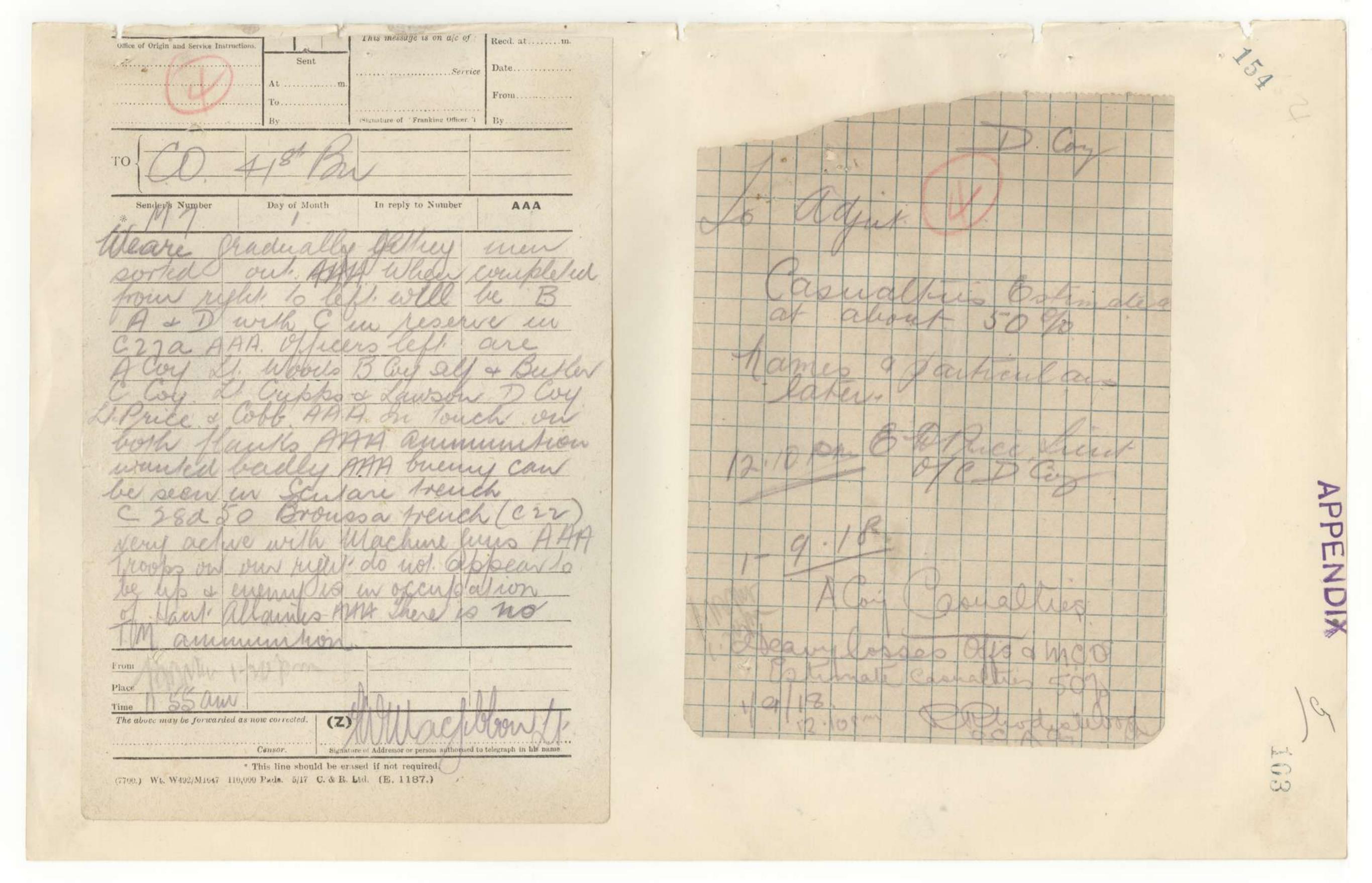


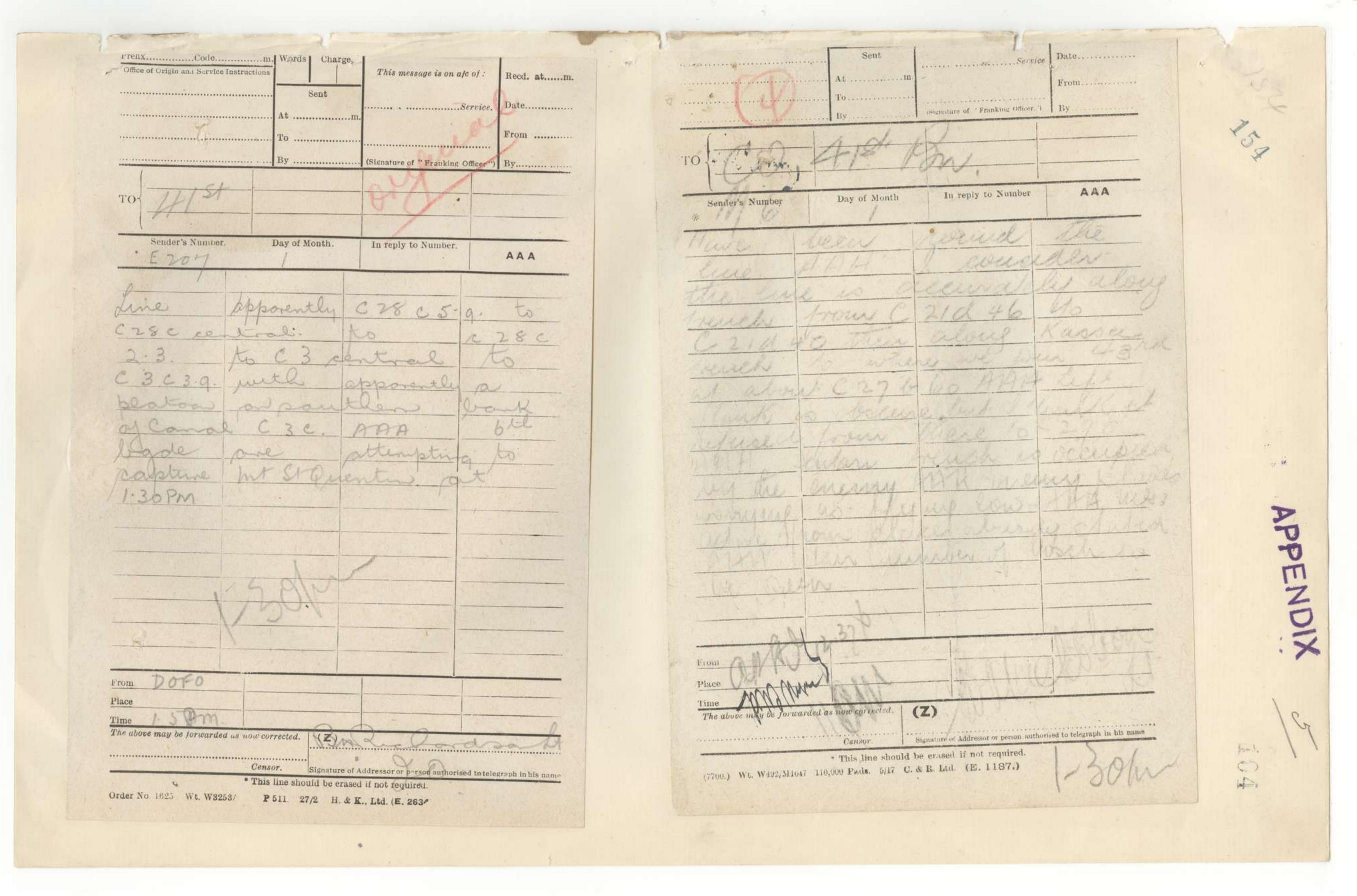


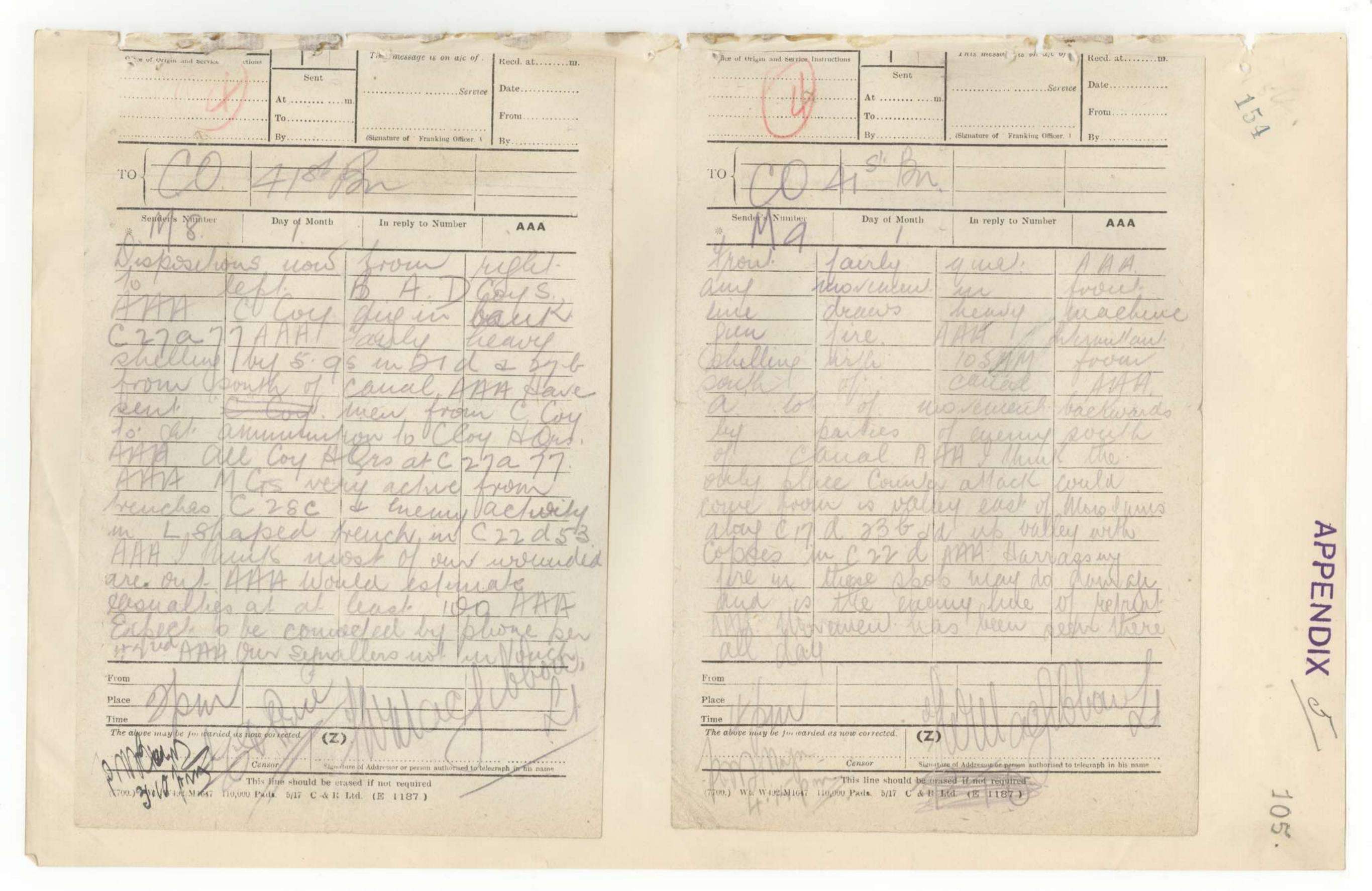


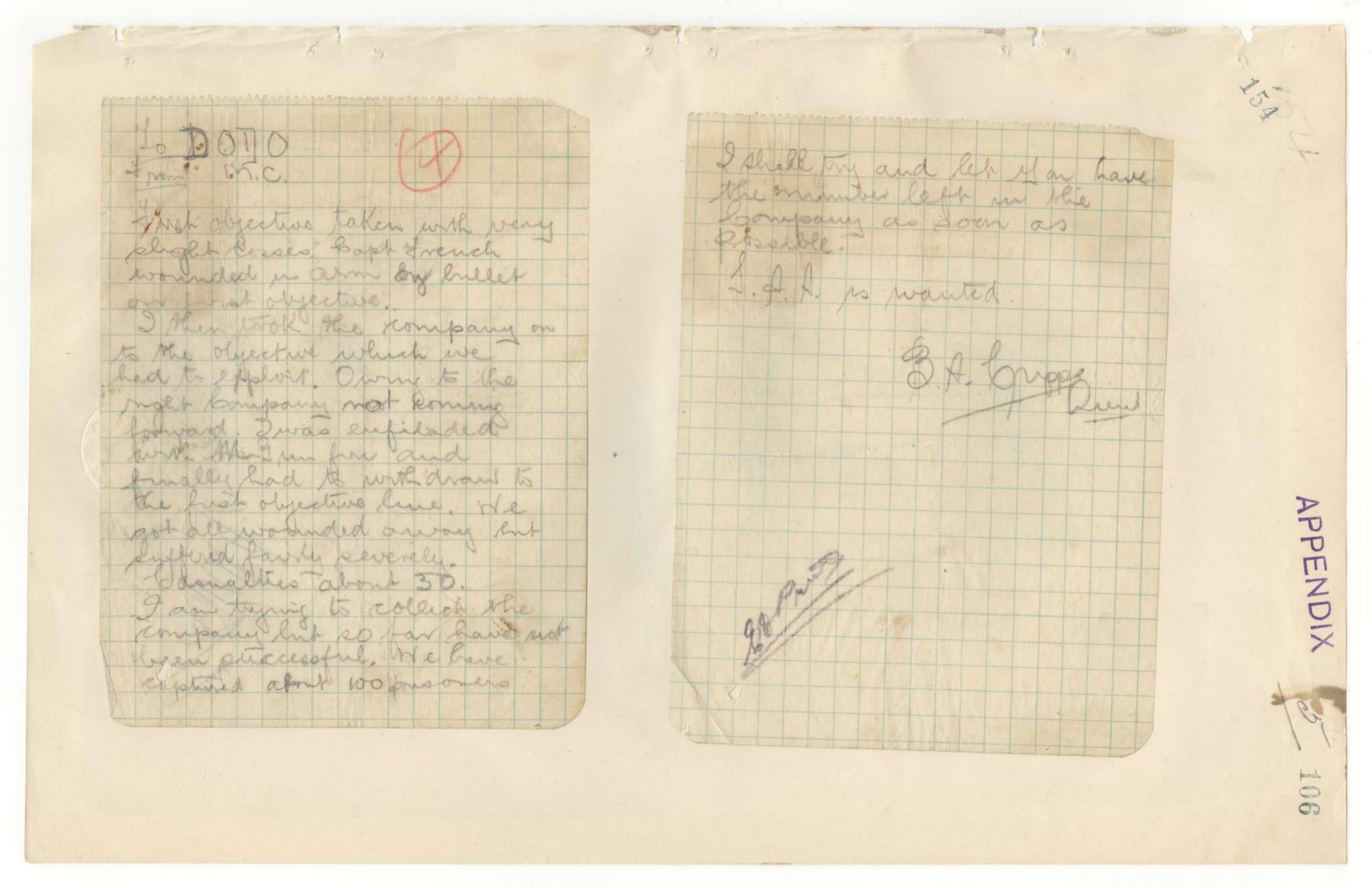


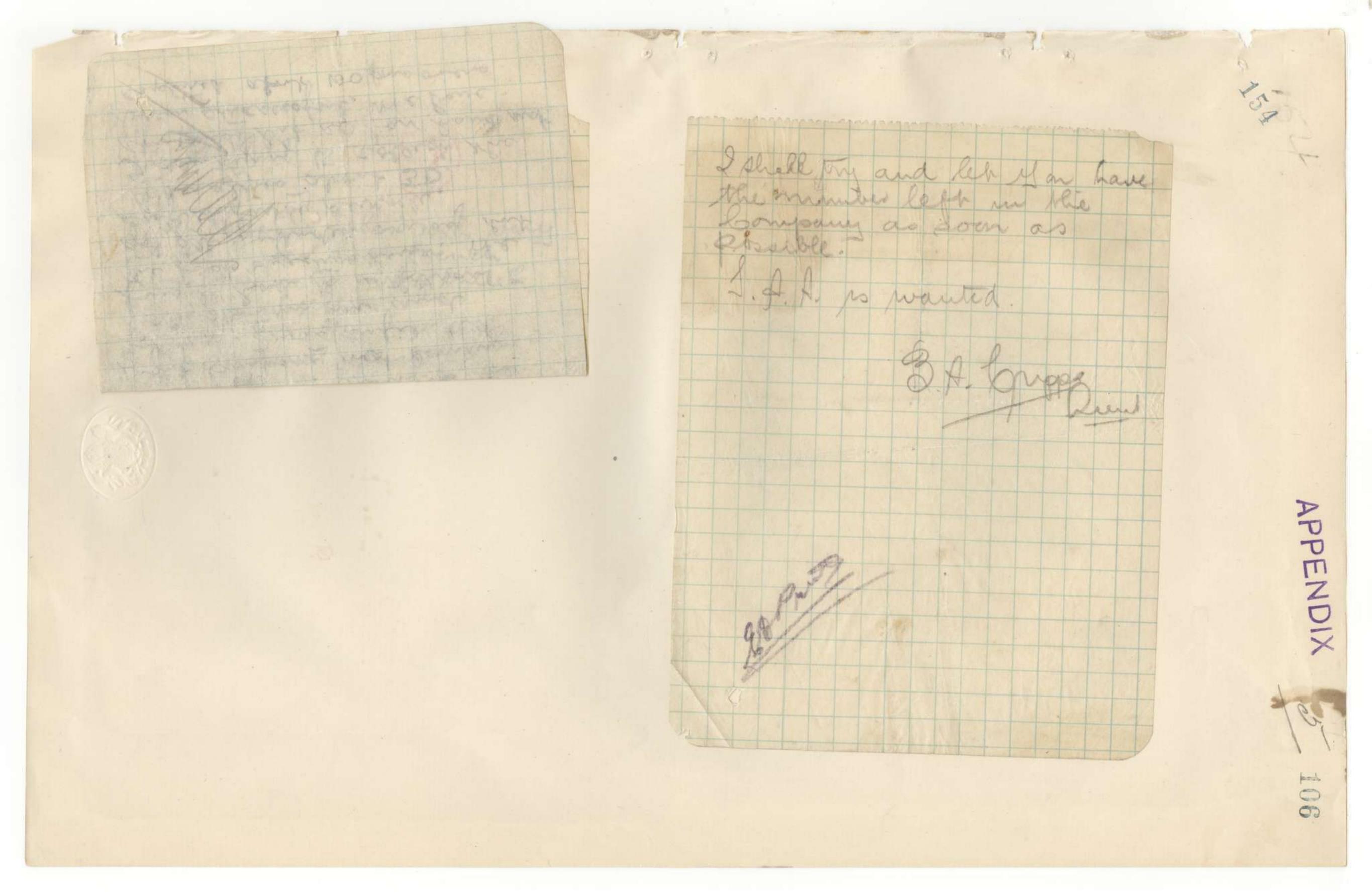
APPENDIX 101 Prefix rues message is on aje of Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Recd. at......m. Sent Date Service From TO Sender's Number Day of Month In reply to Number AAA From Place Time The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name This line should be erused if not required. (7700.) Wt. W192, MT647 110,000 Pads. 5/17 C. & R. Ltd. (E. 1187.)











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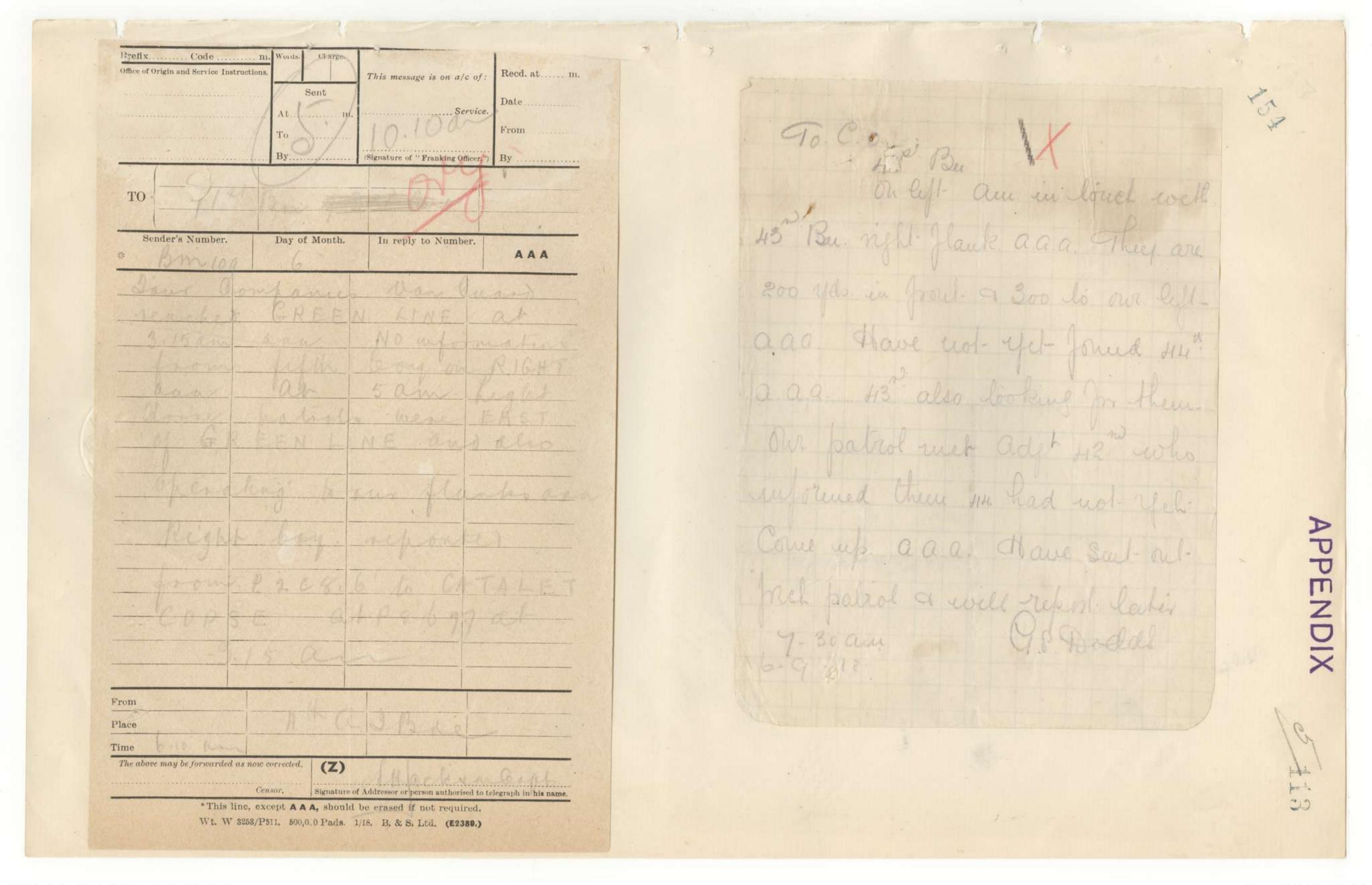
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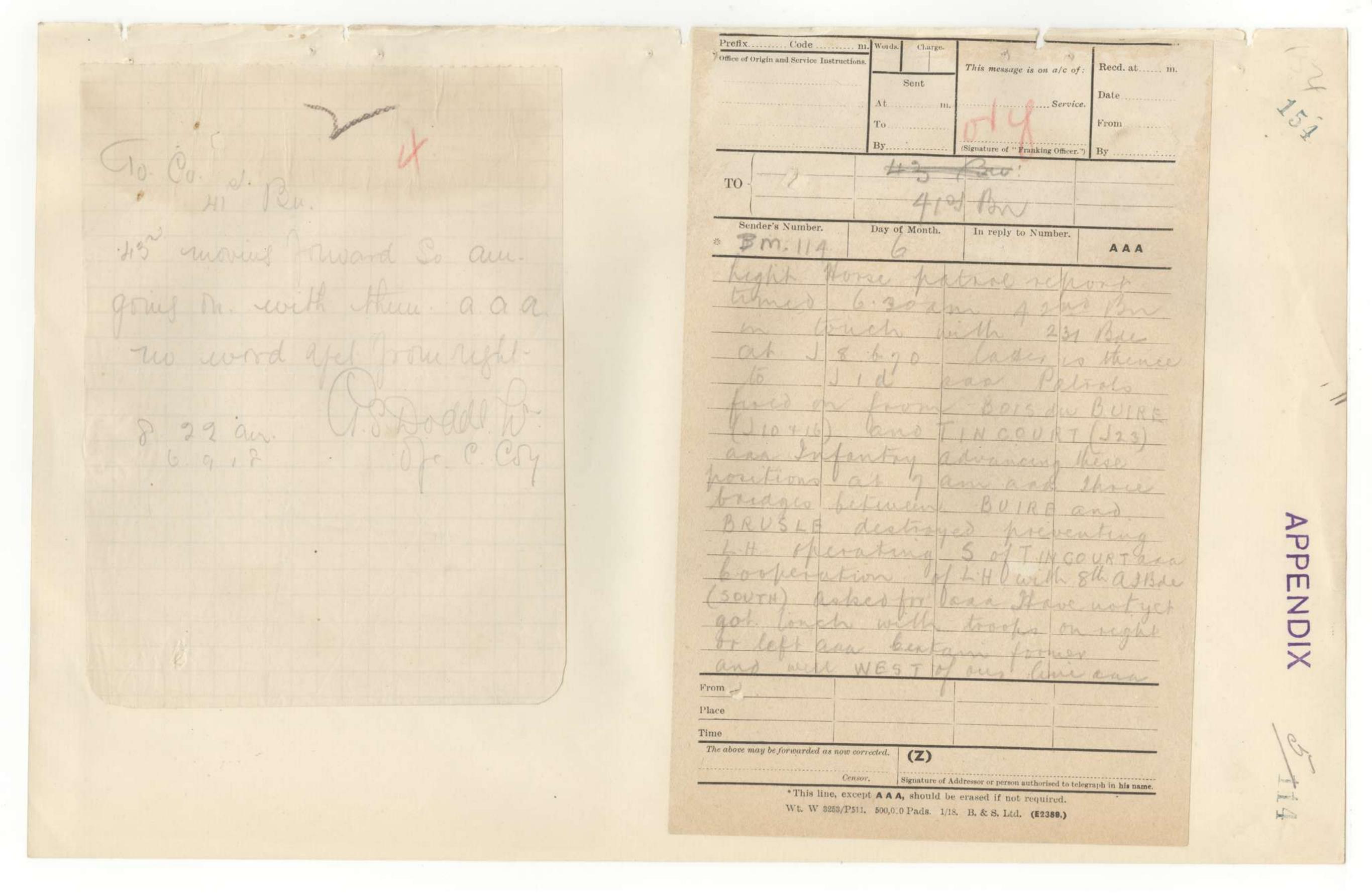
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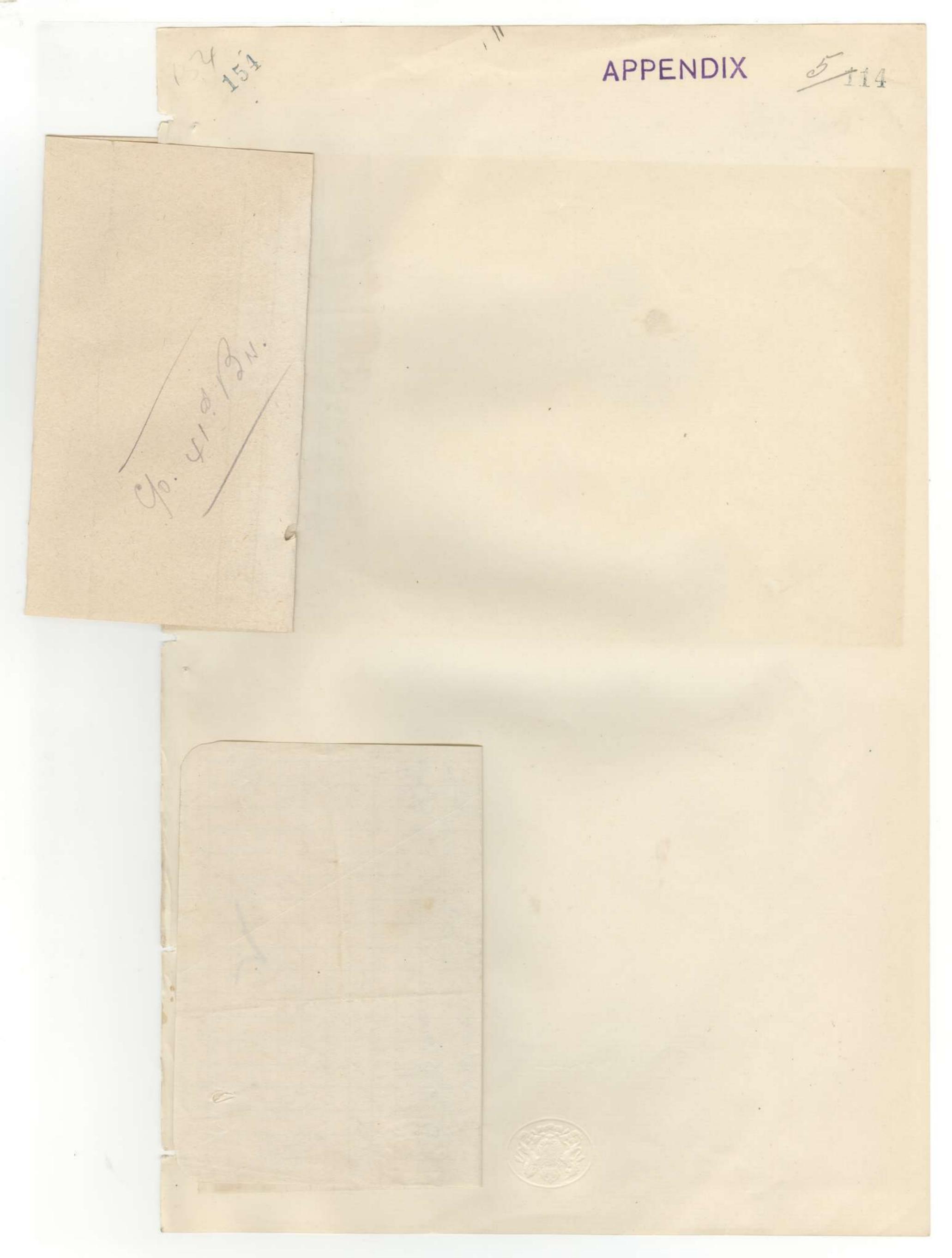
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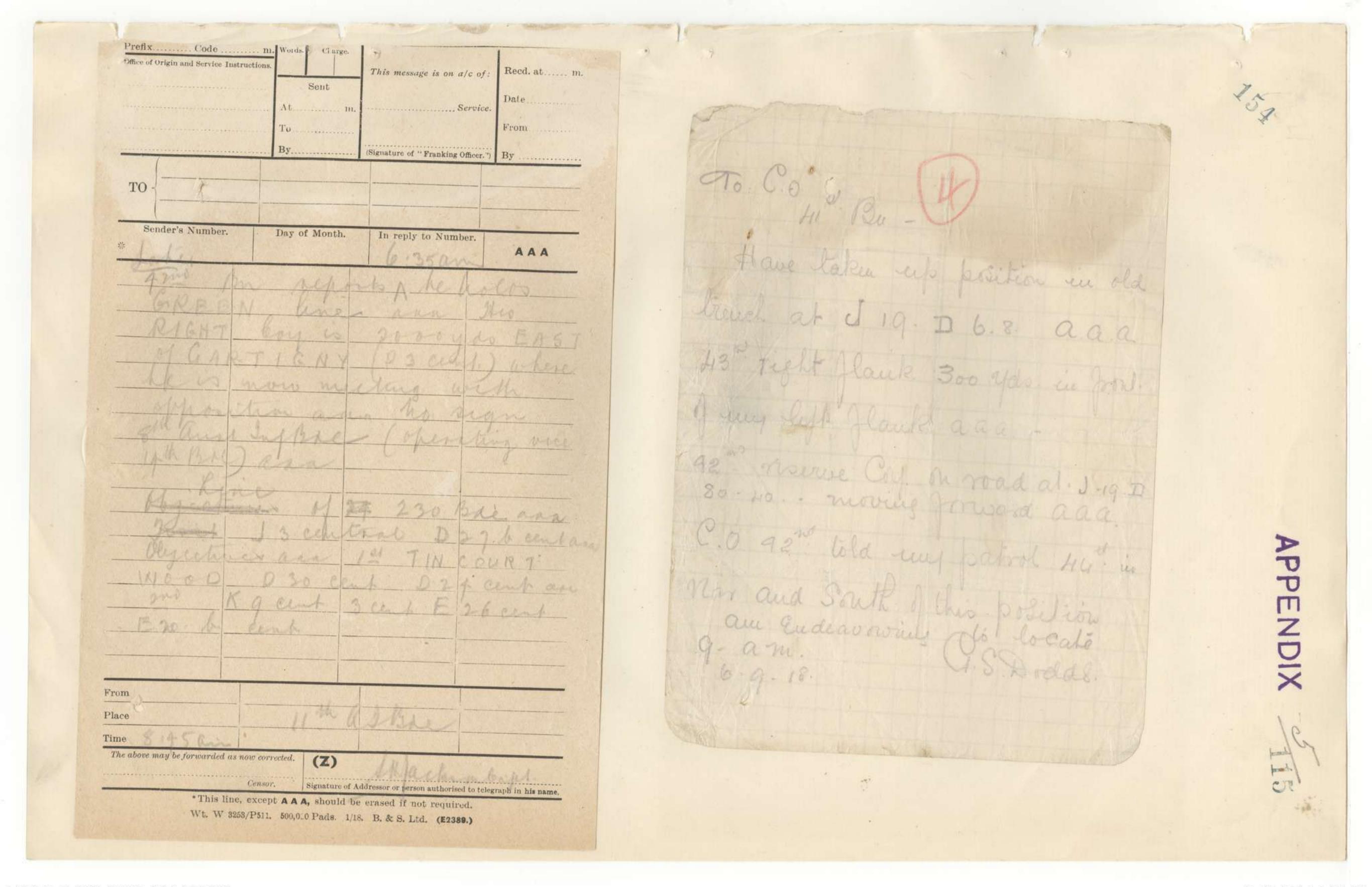
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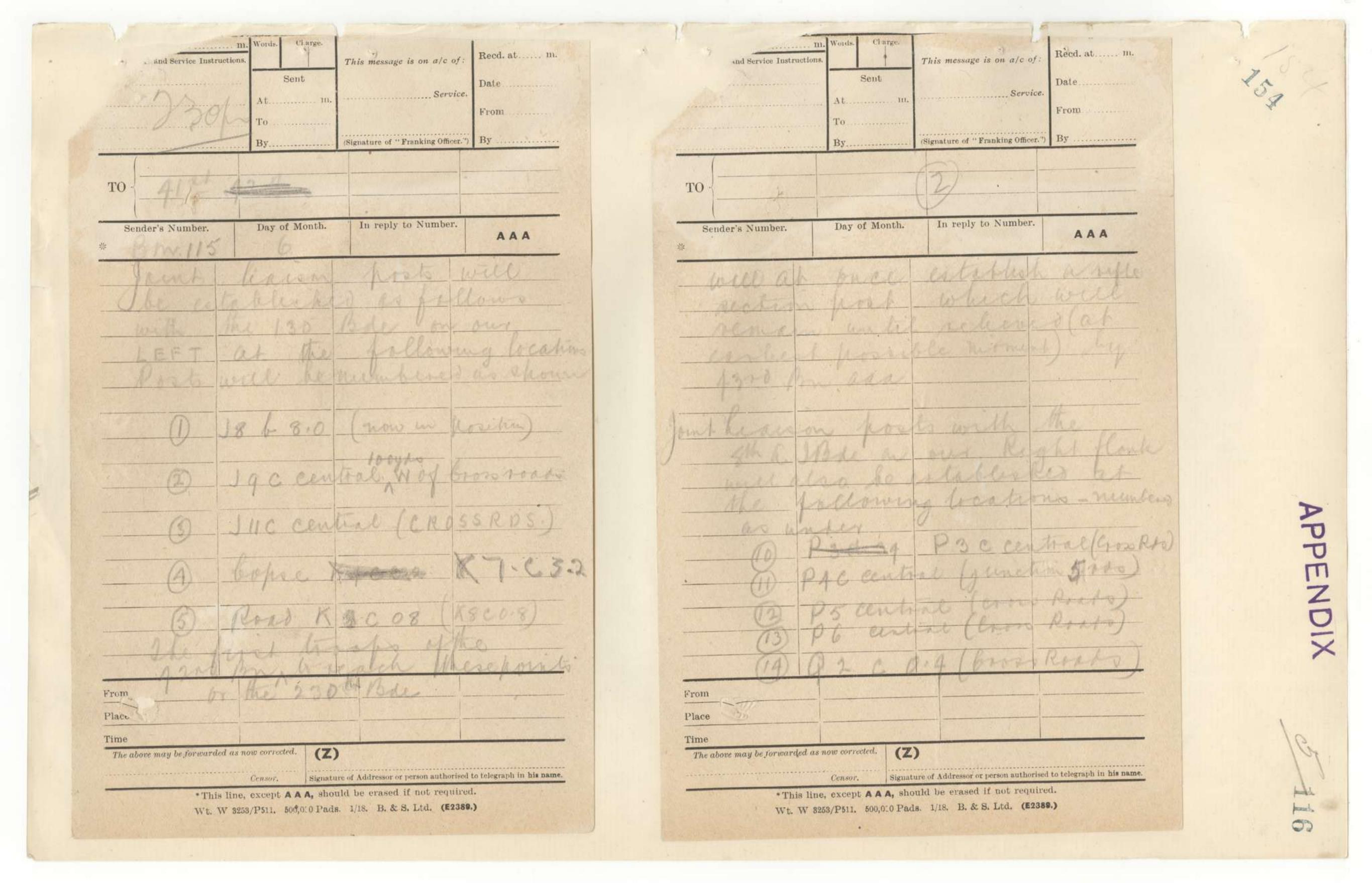
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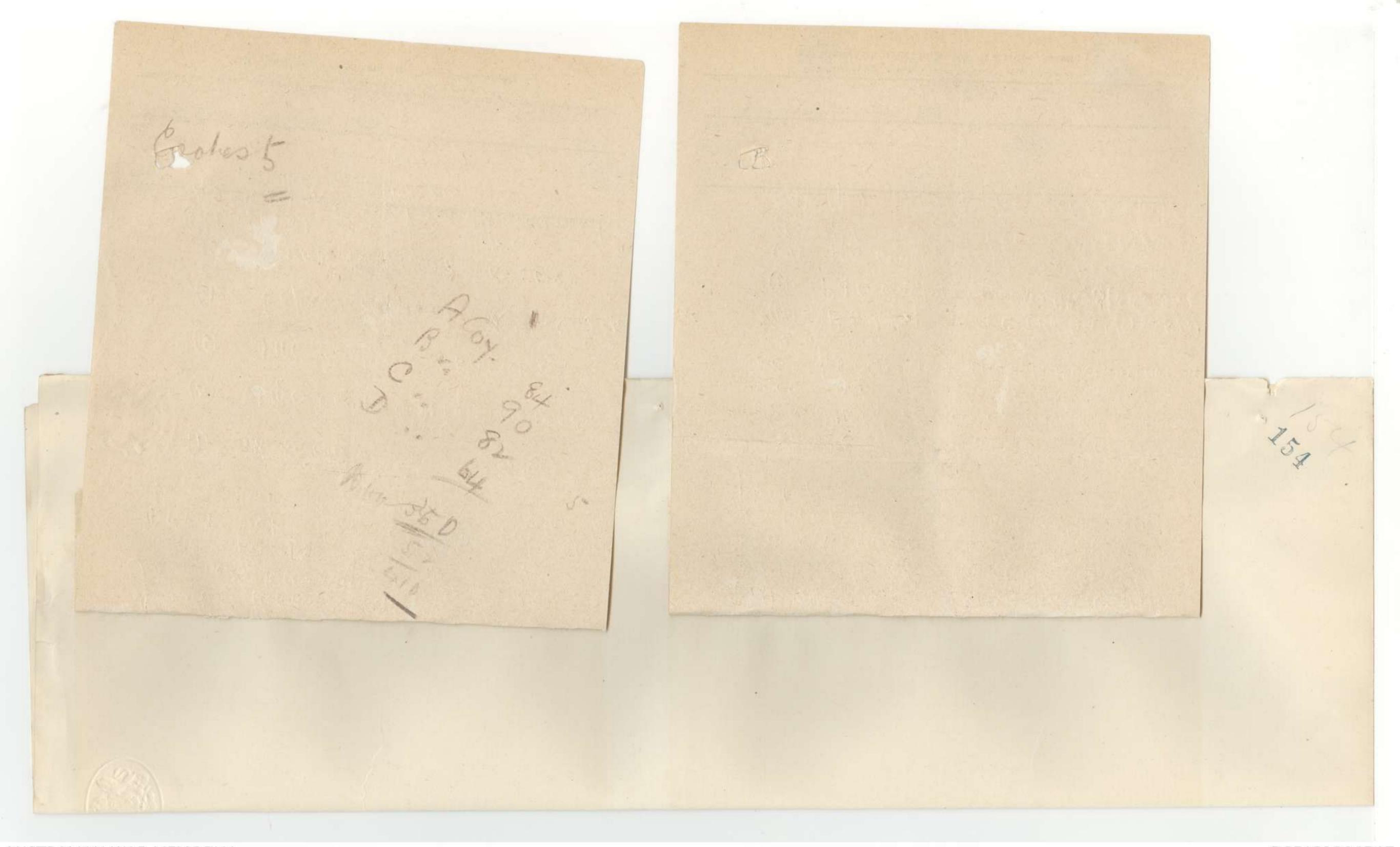


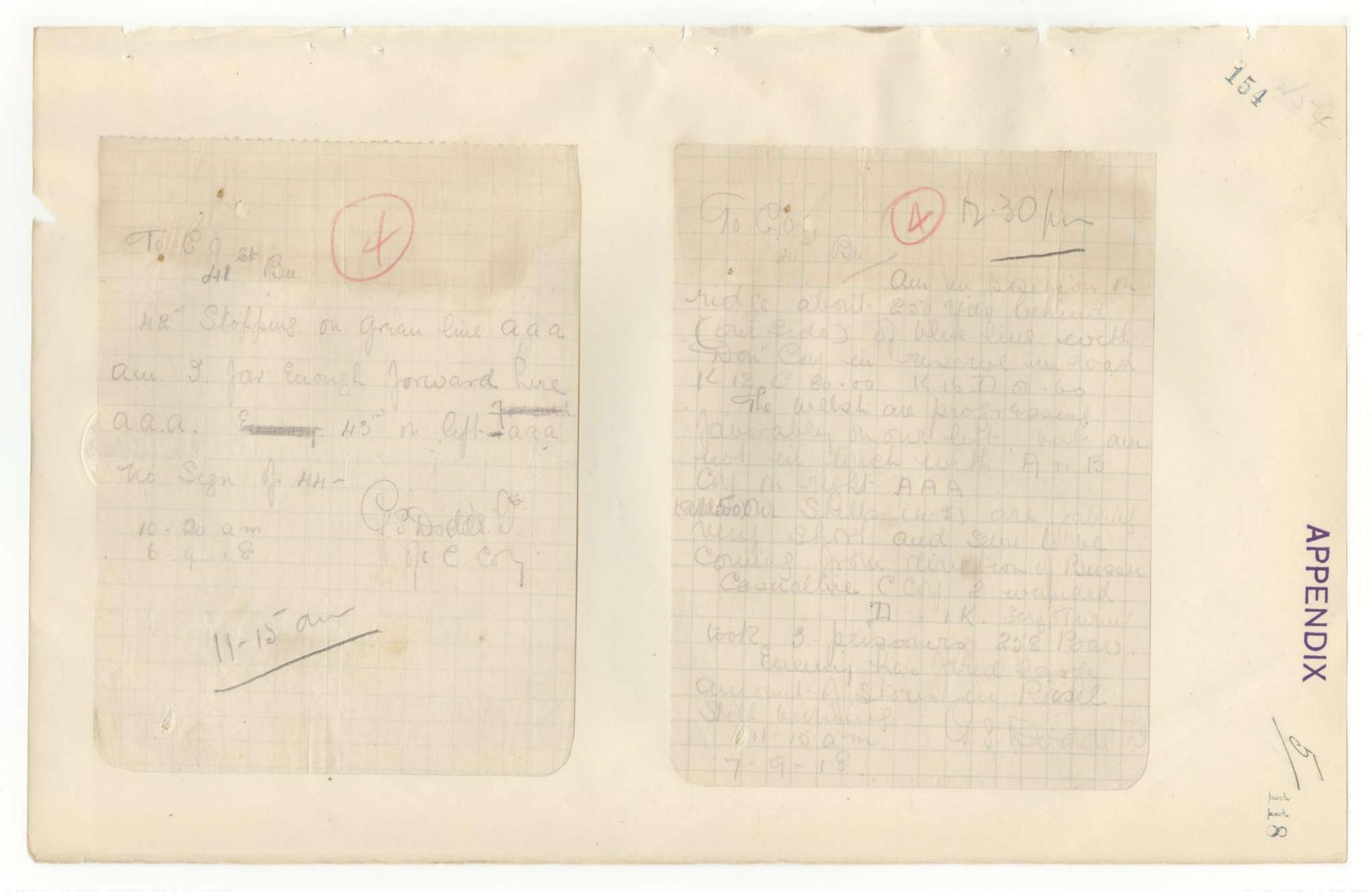


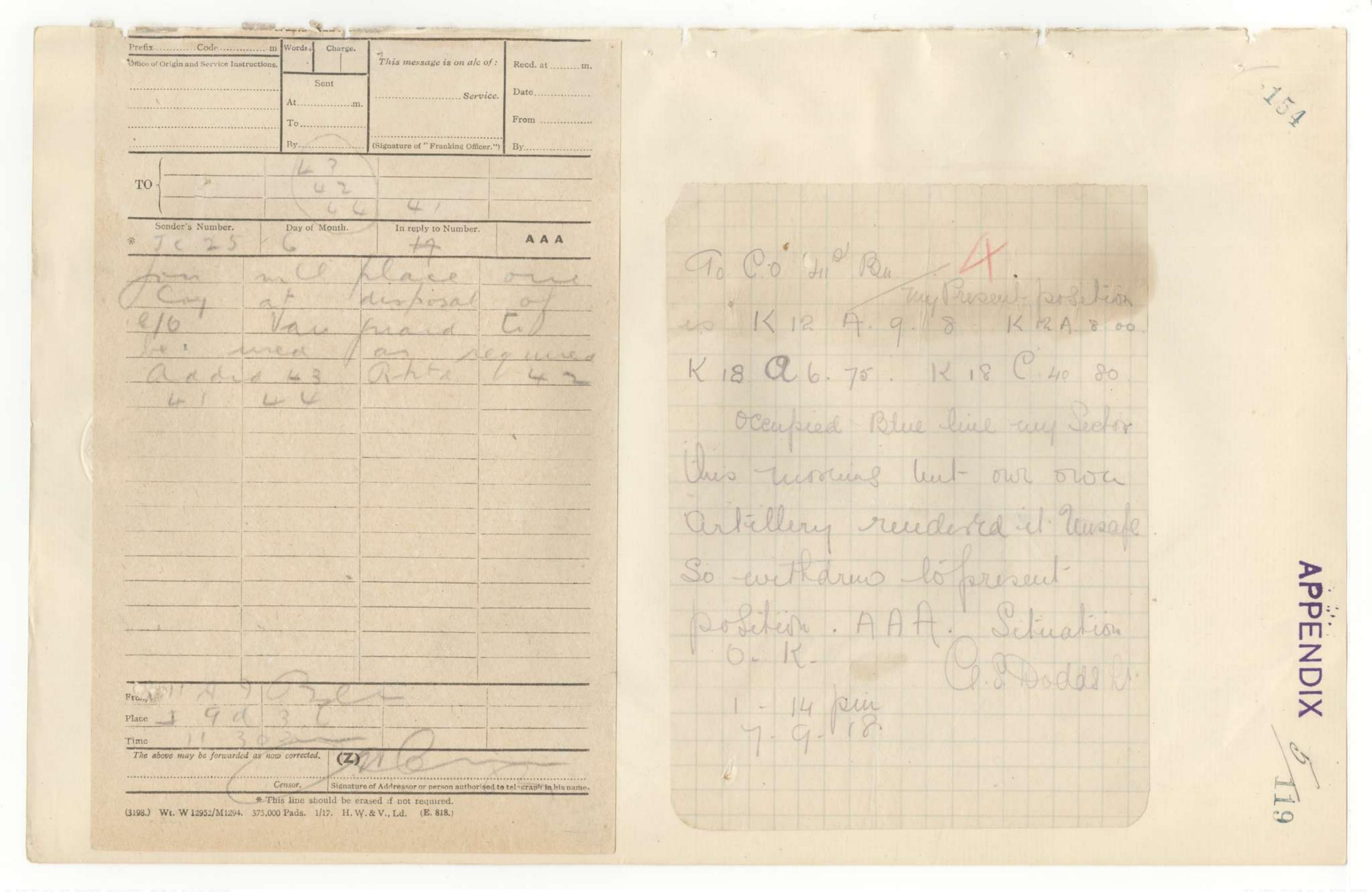


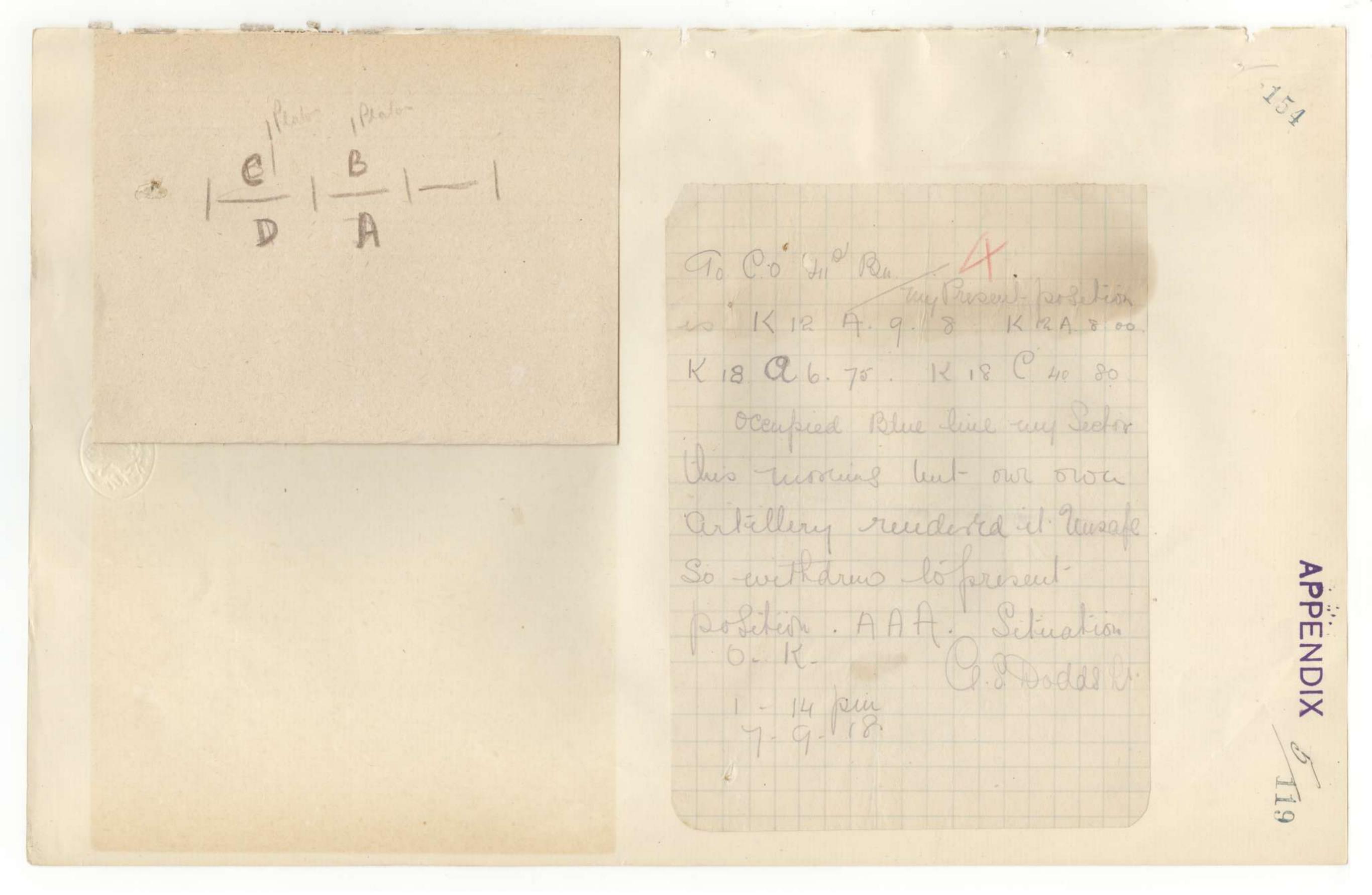




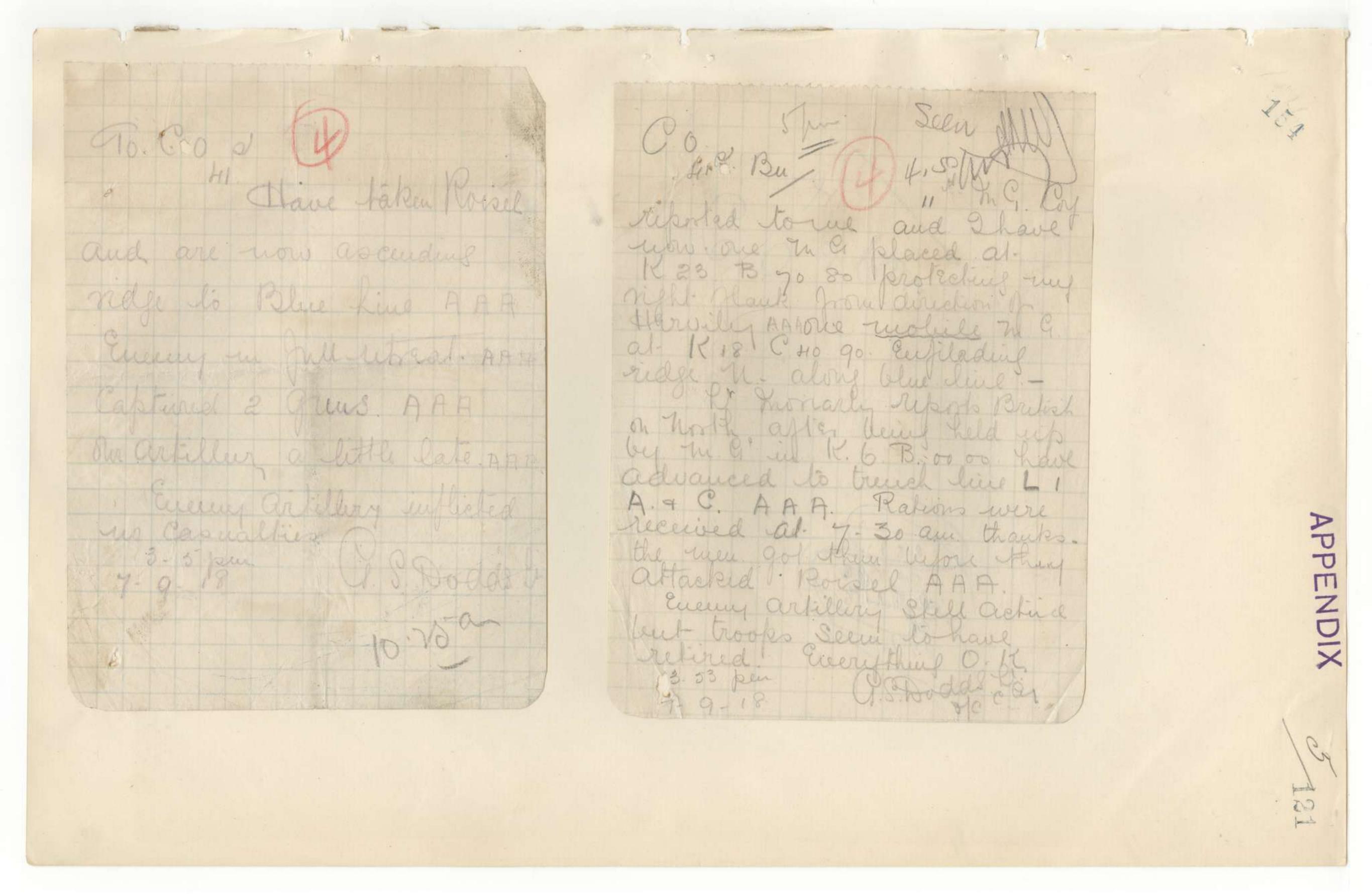


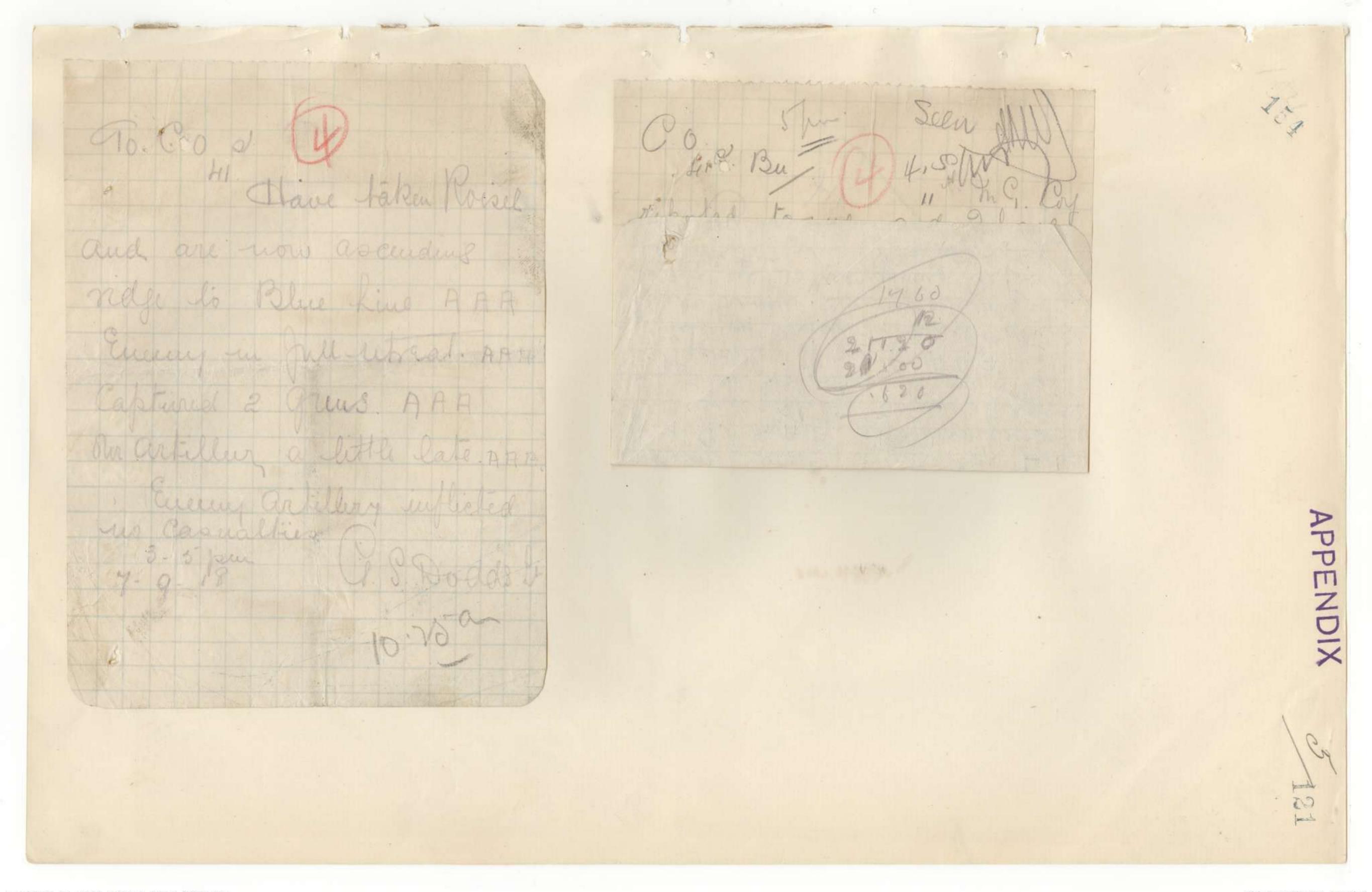






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APPENDIX

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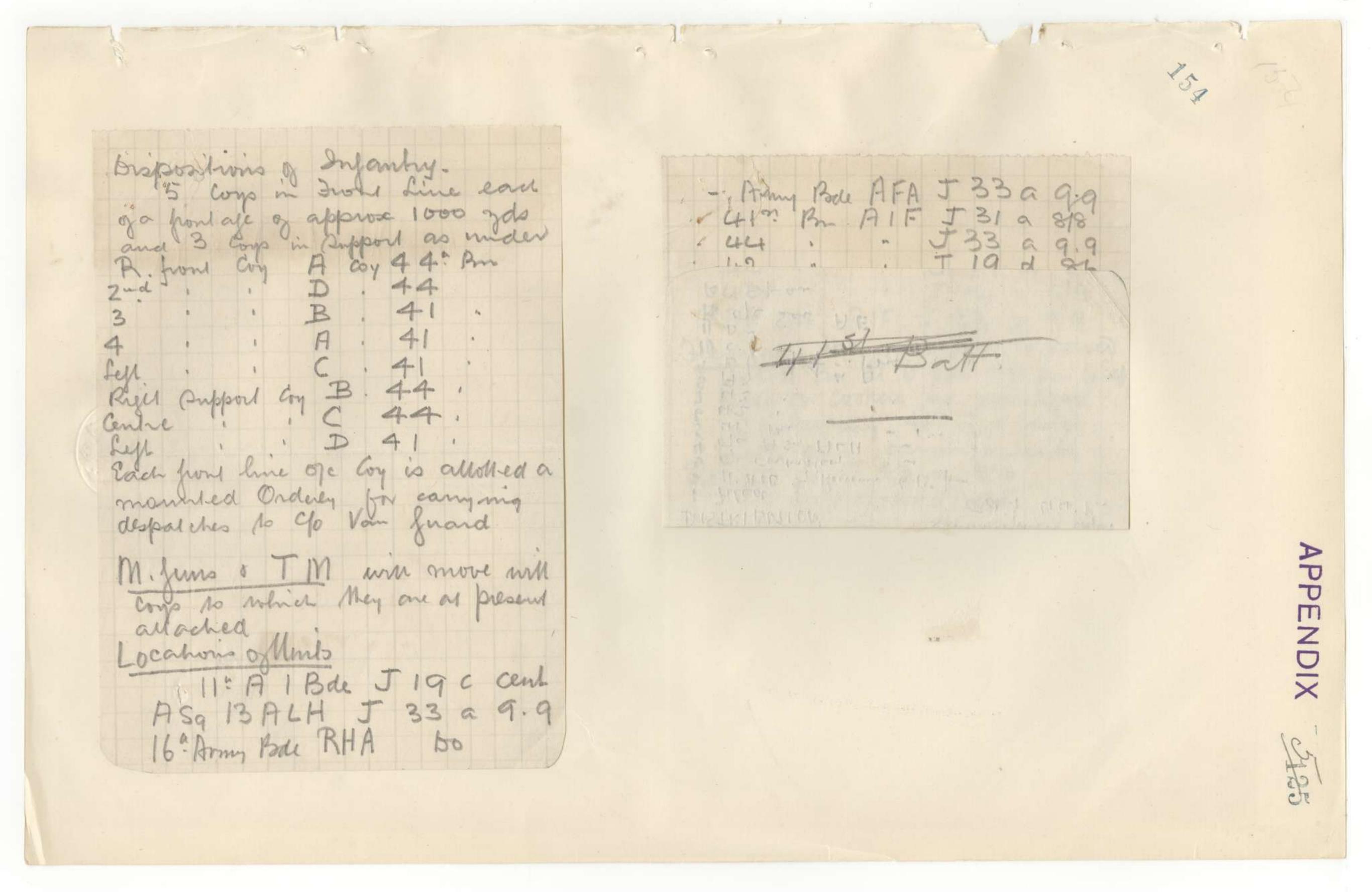
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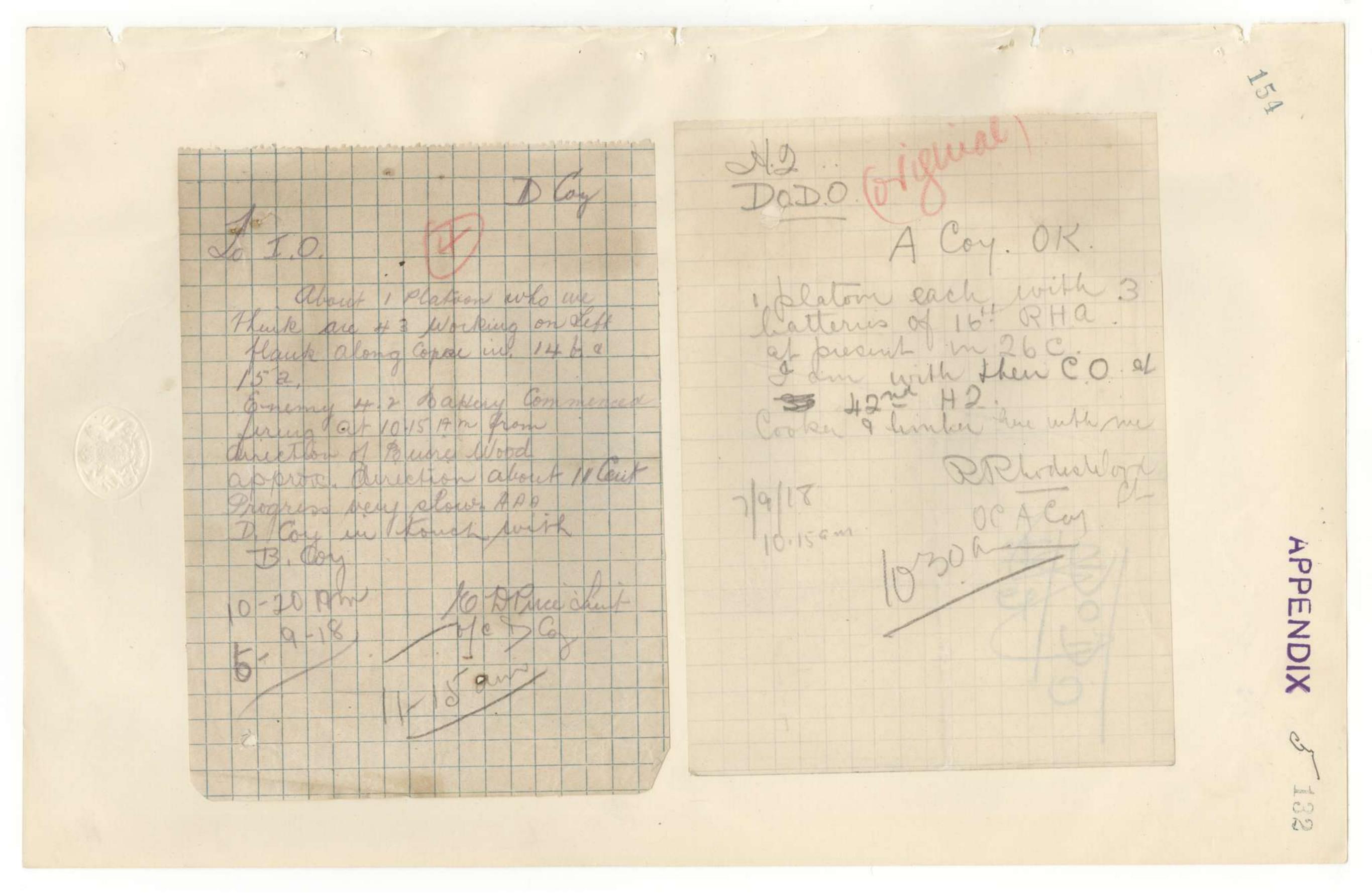
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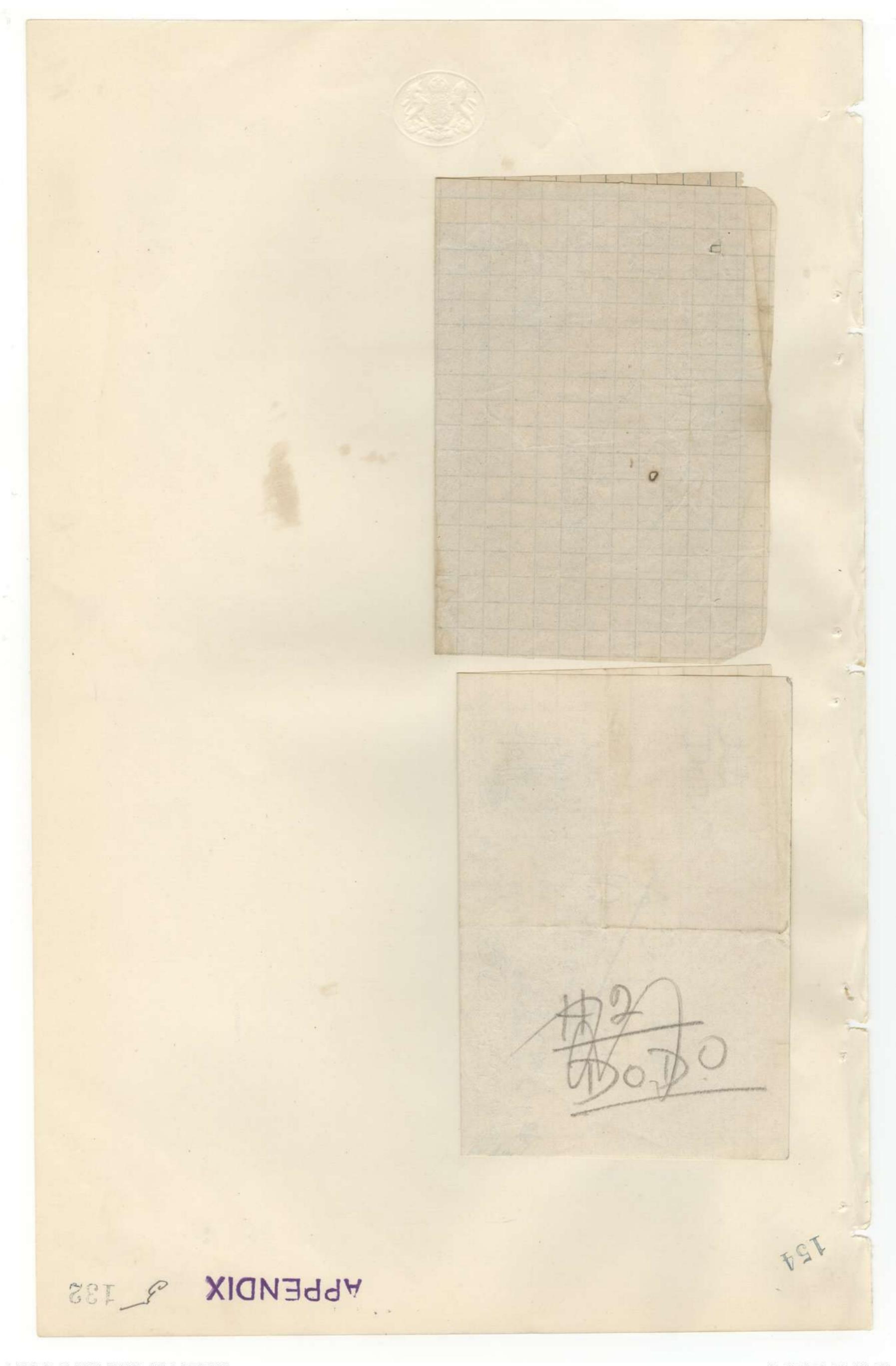
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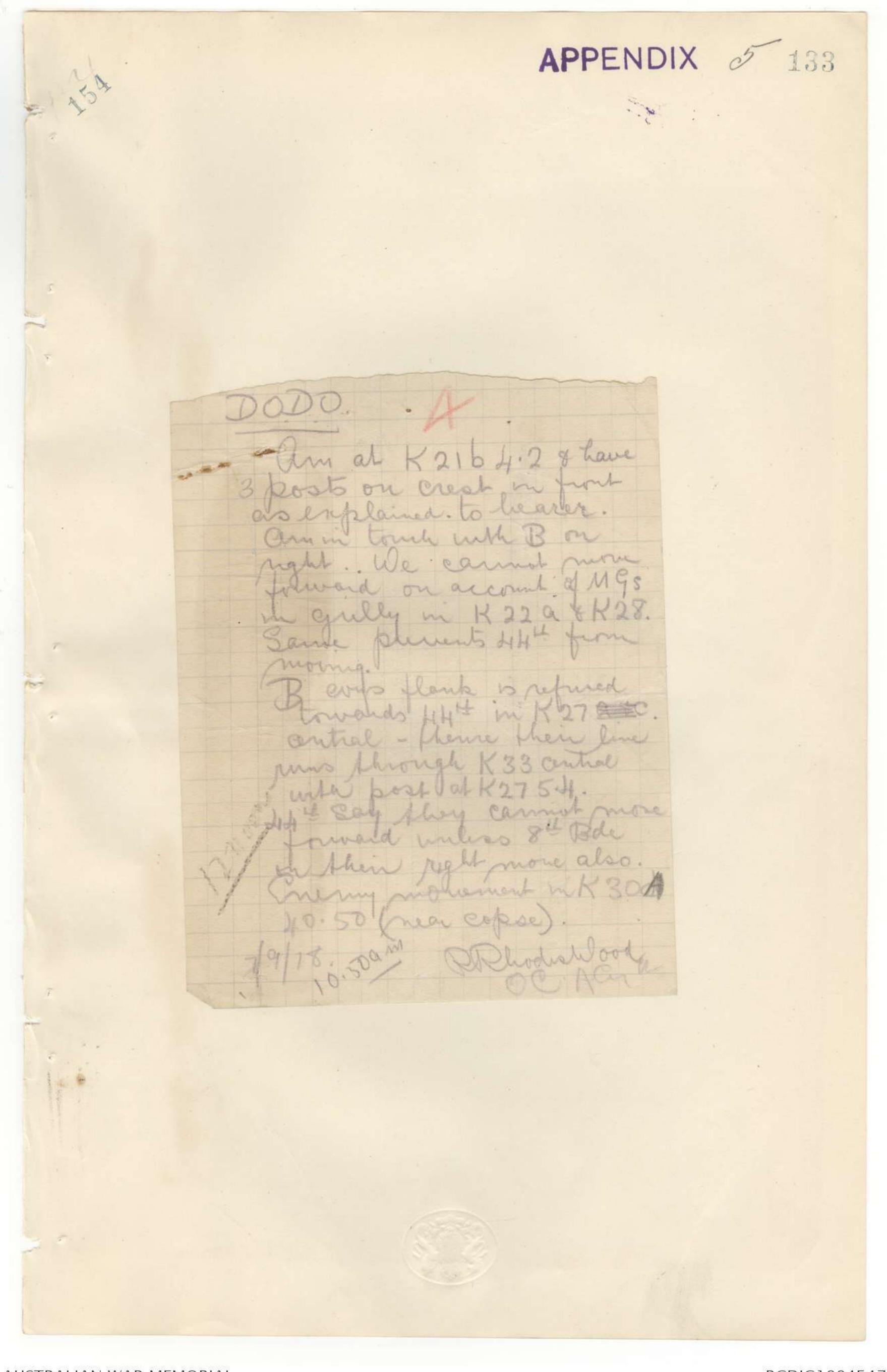
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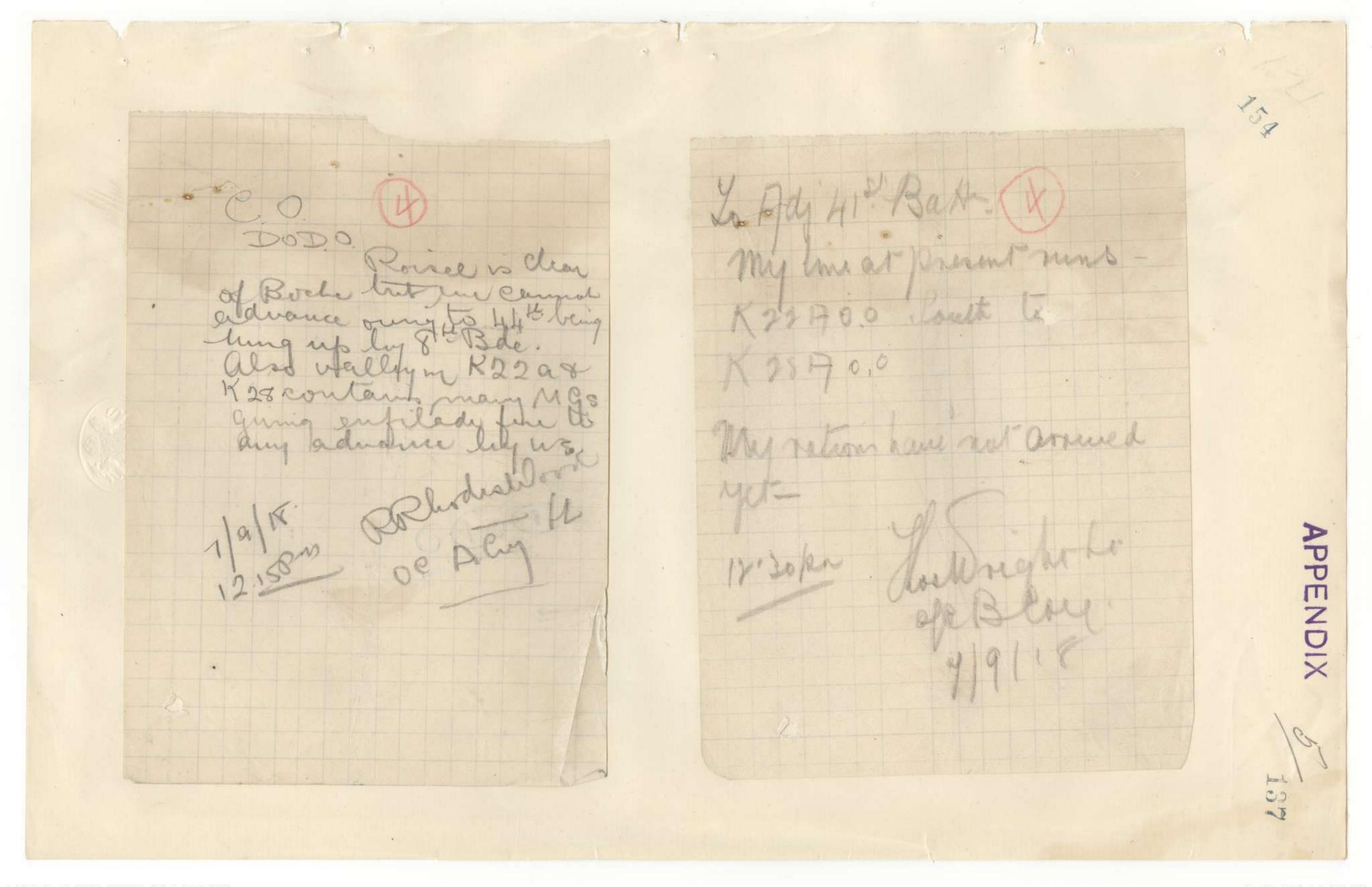
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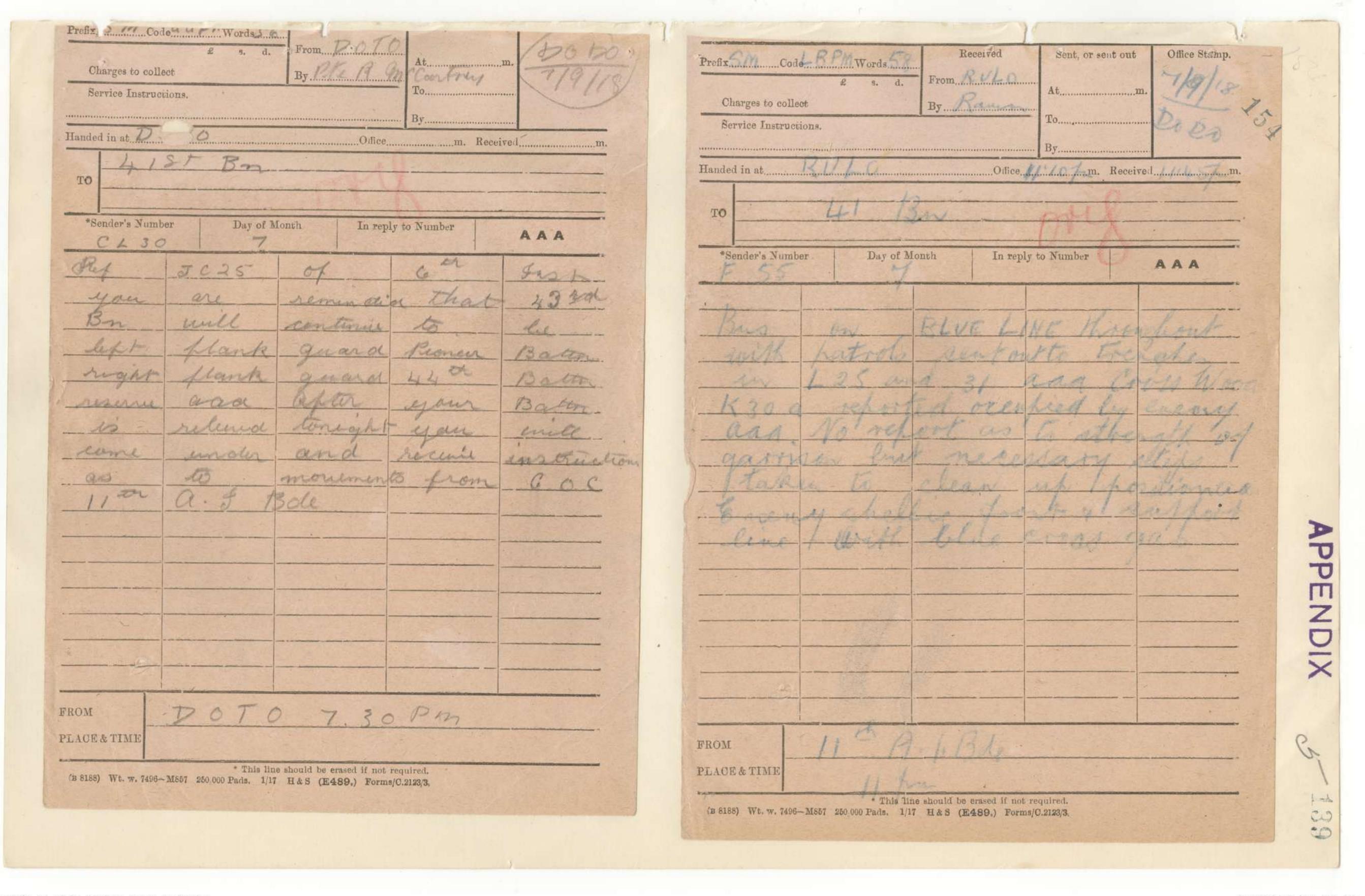


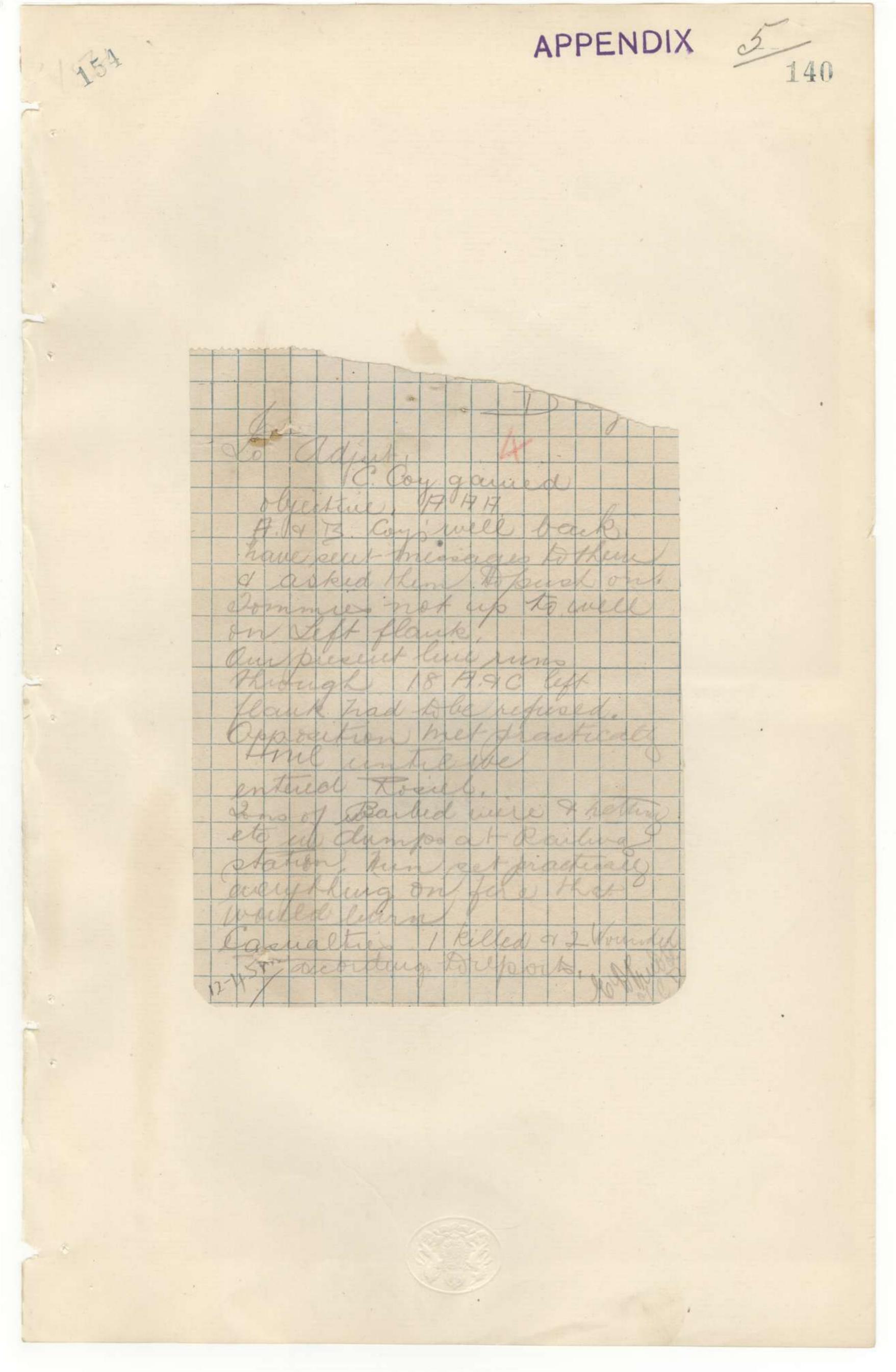
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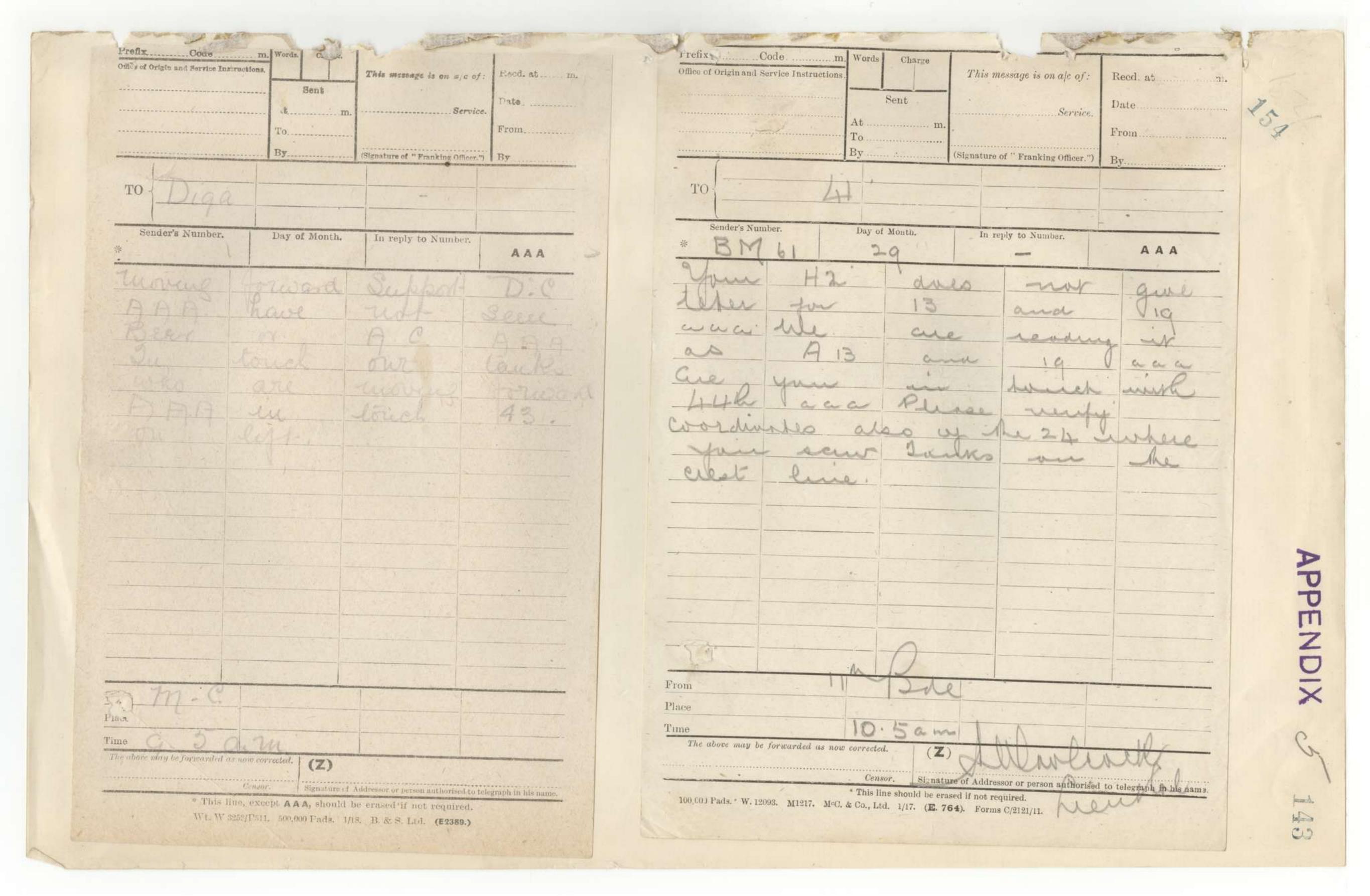
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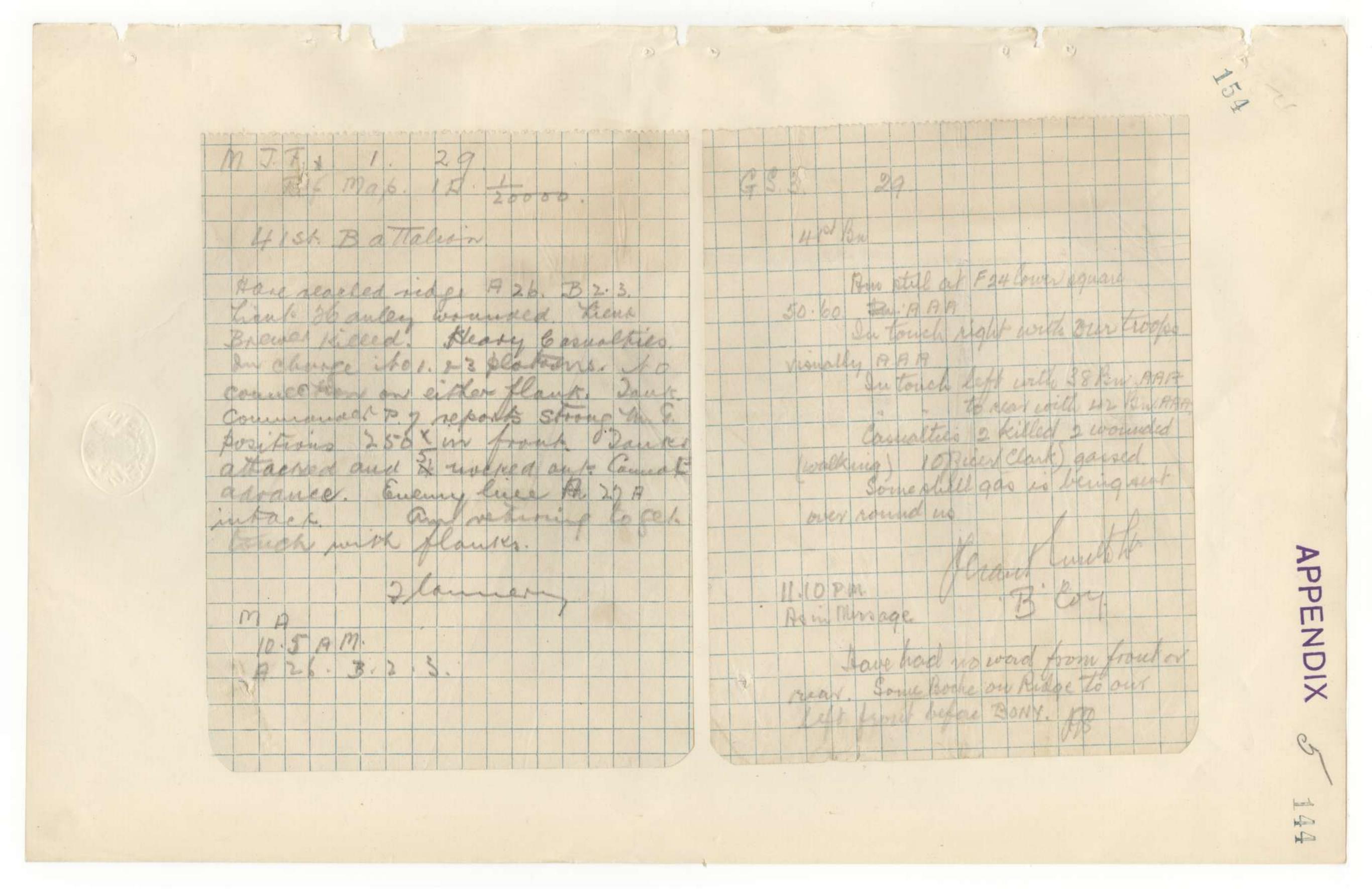


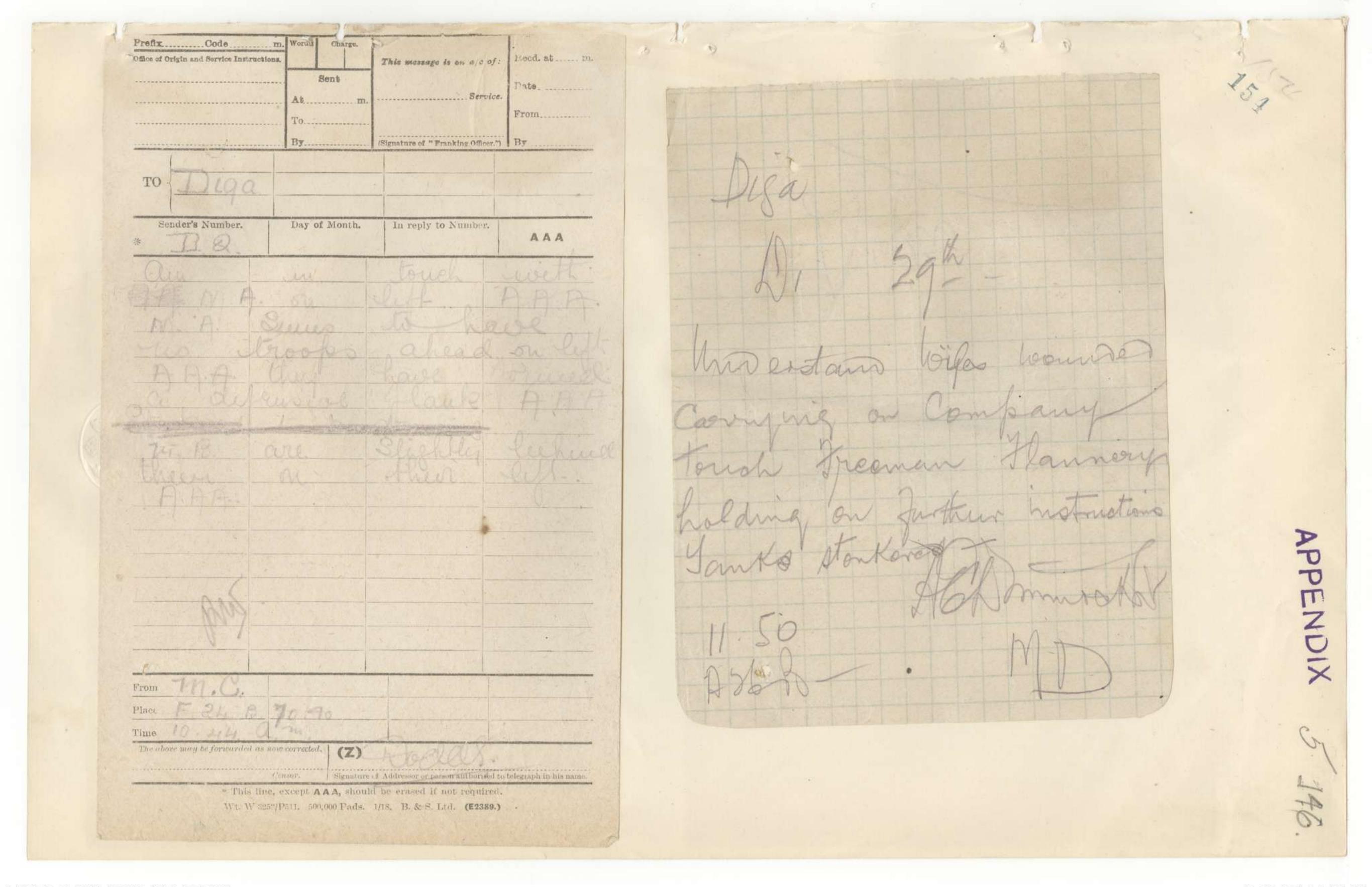


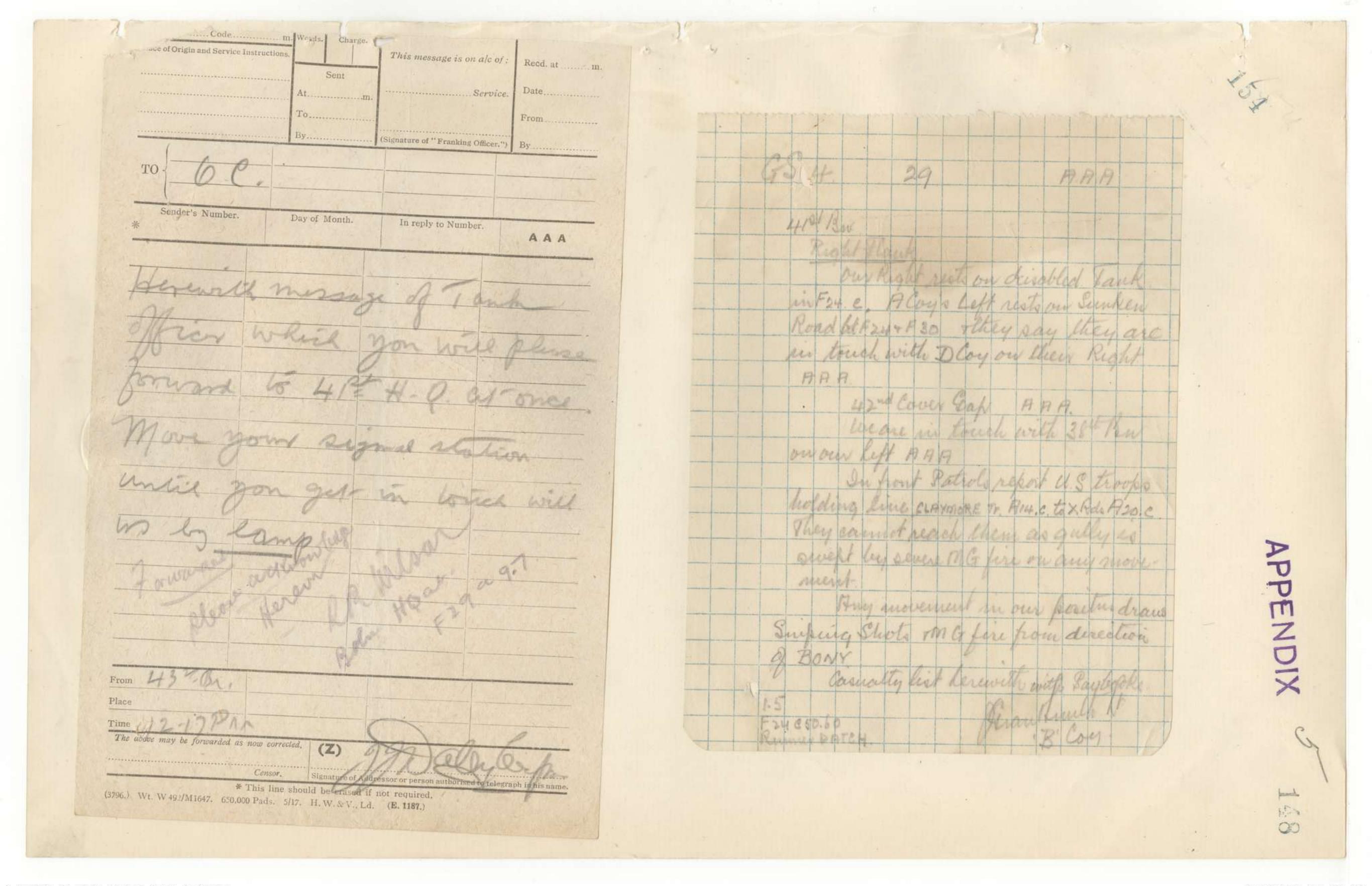
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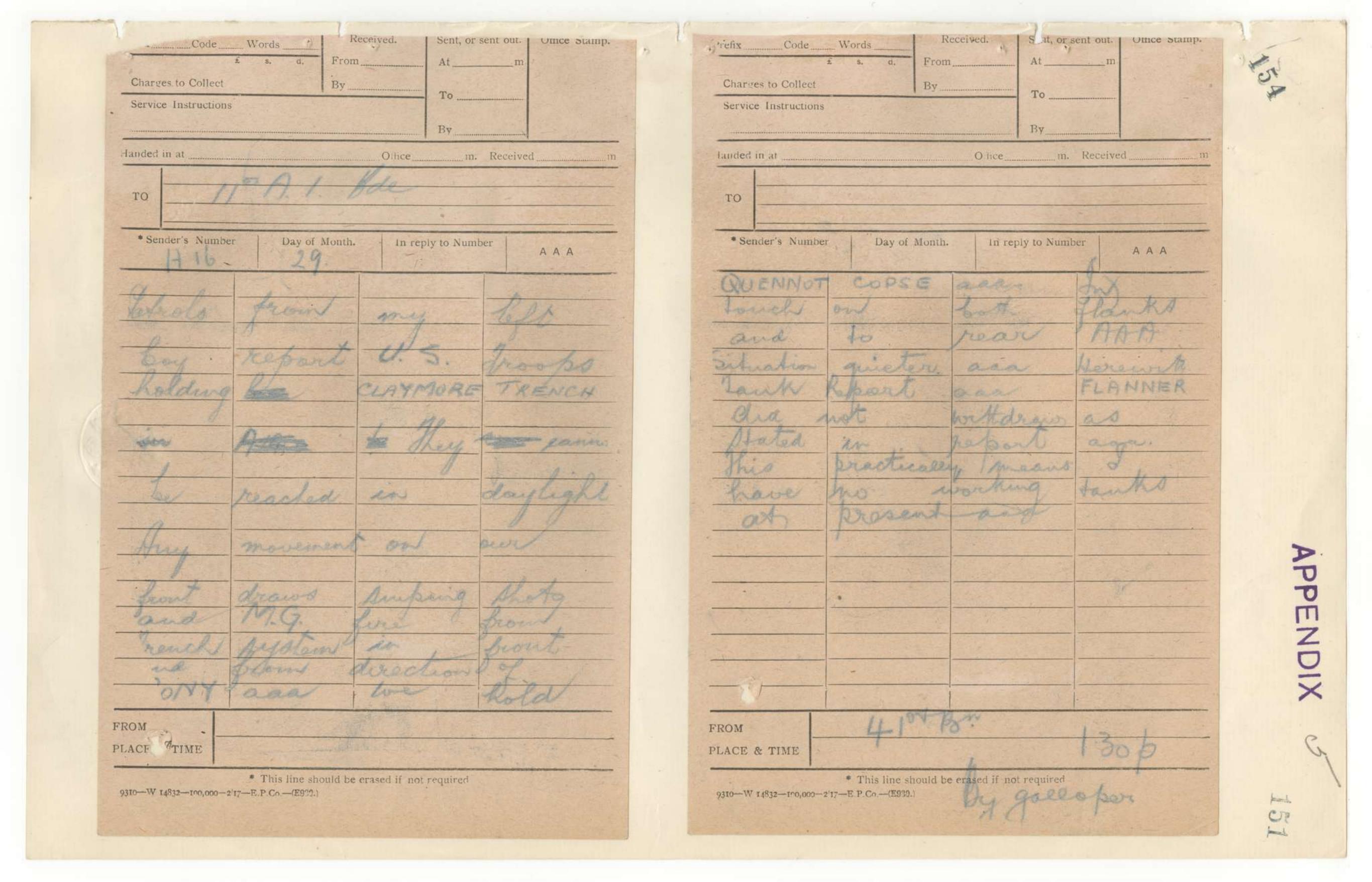


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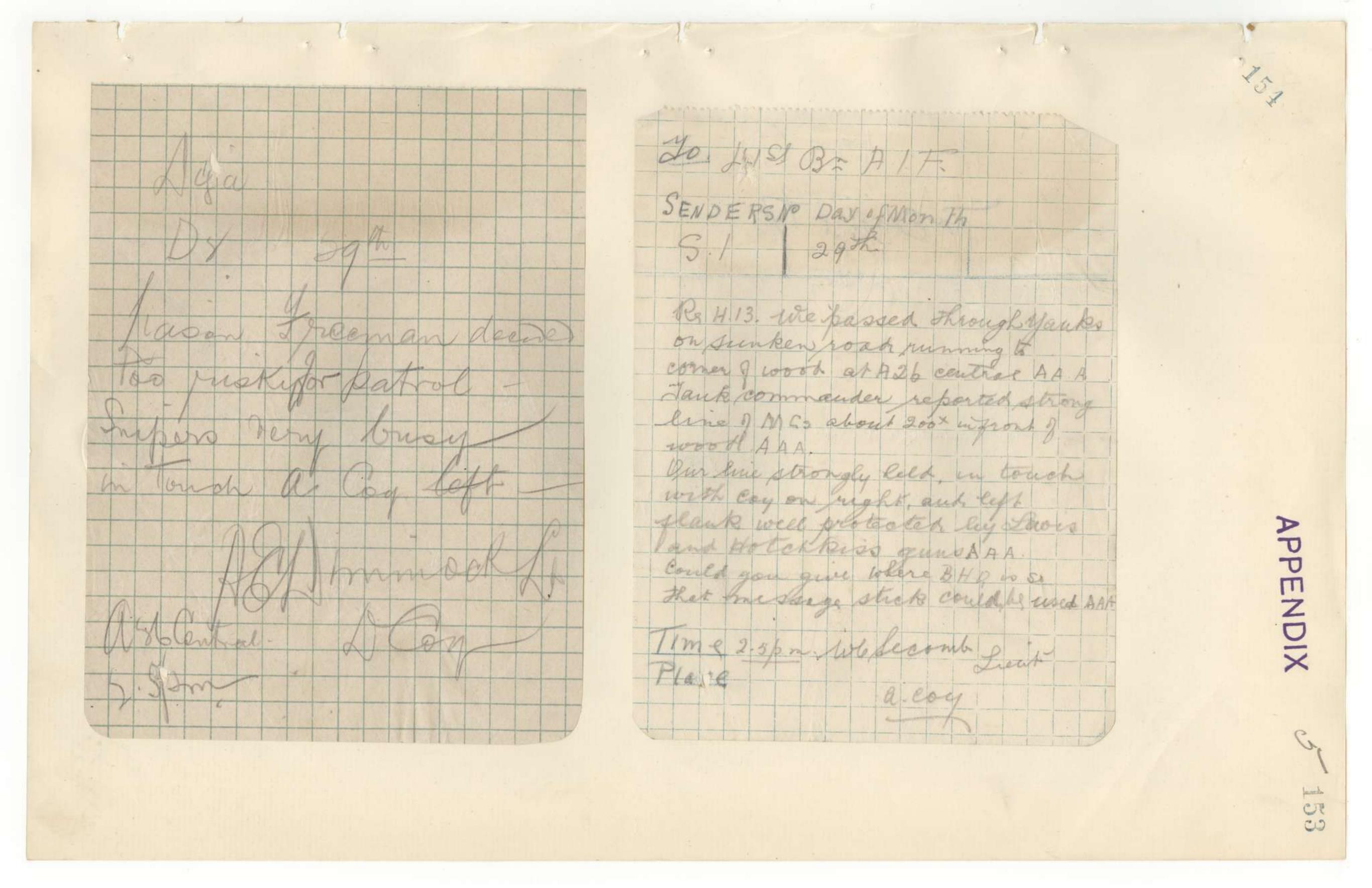
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154			A	PPENDIX	5 152
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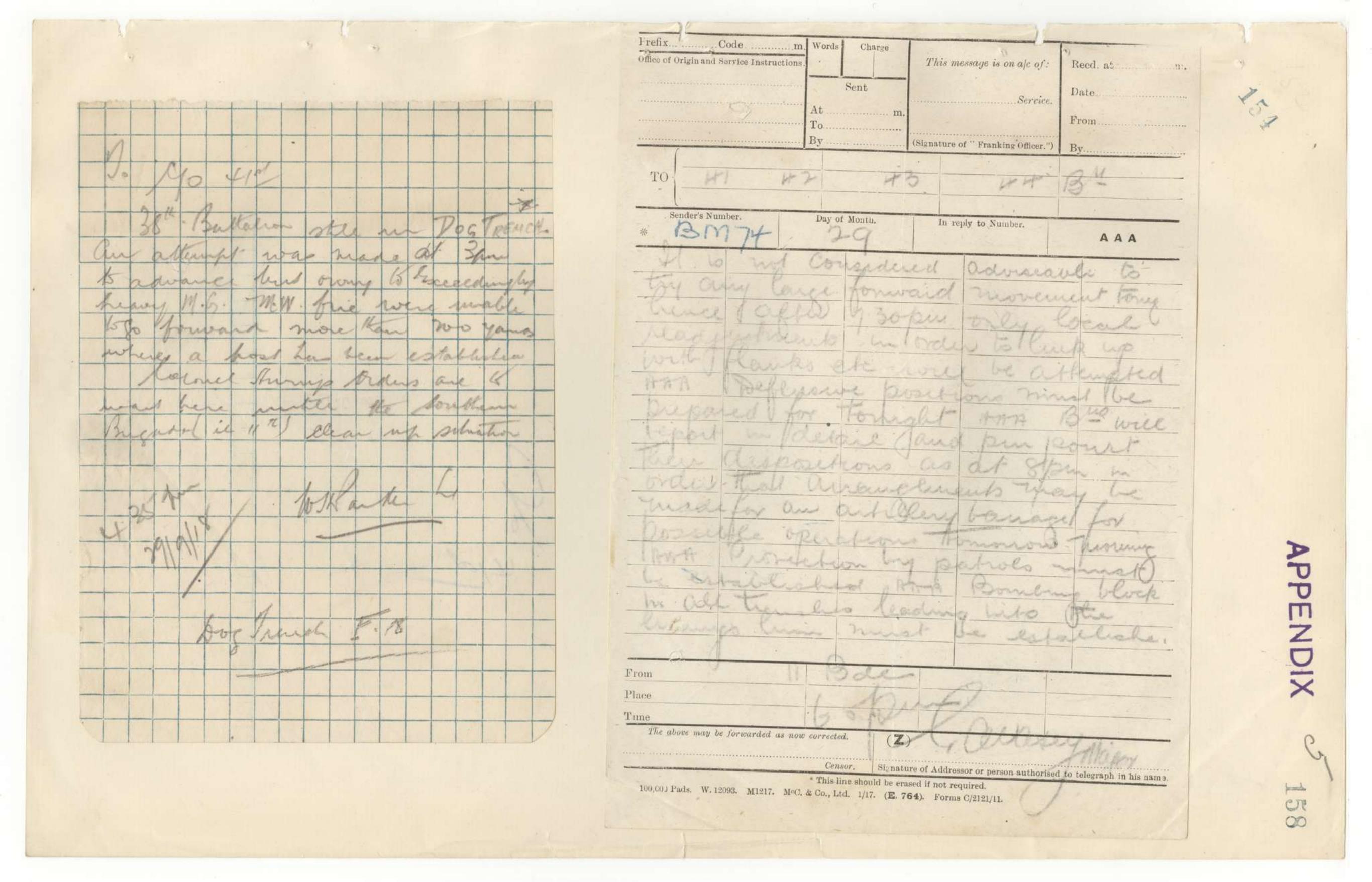
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Office of Origin and	Service Instructions.	This	message is on a c of:	Recd. atn
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and house may be	forwarded as now correct	eted. (Z)	1. avaso	1
	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	ensor. Signature of Addr	essor or person authorised t	to telegraph in his name.
100,000 Pads. W. 12	093. M1217. McC. & Co.,	Ltd. 1/17. (E. 764). Form	CONTRACTOR OF CO	

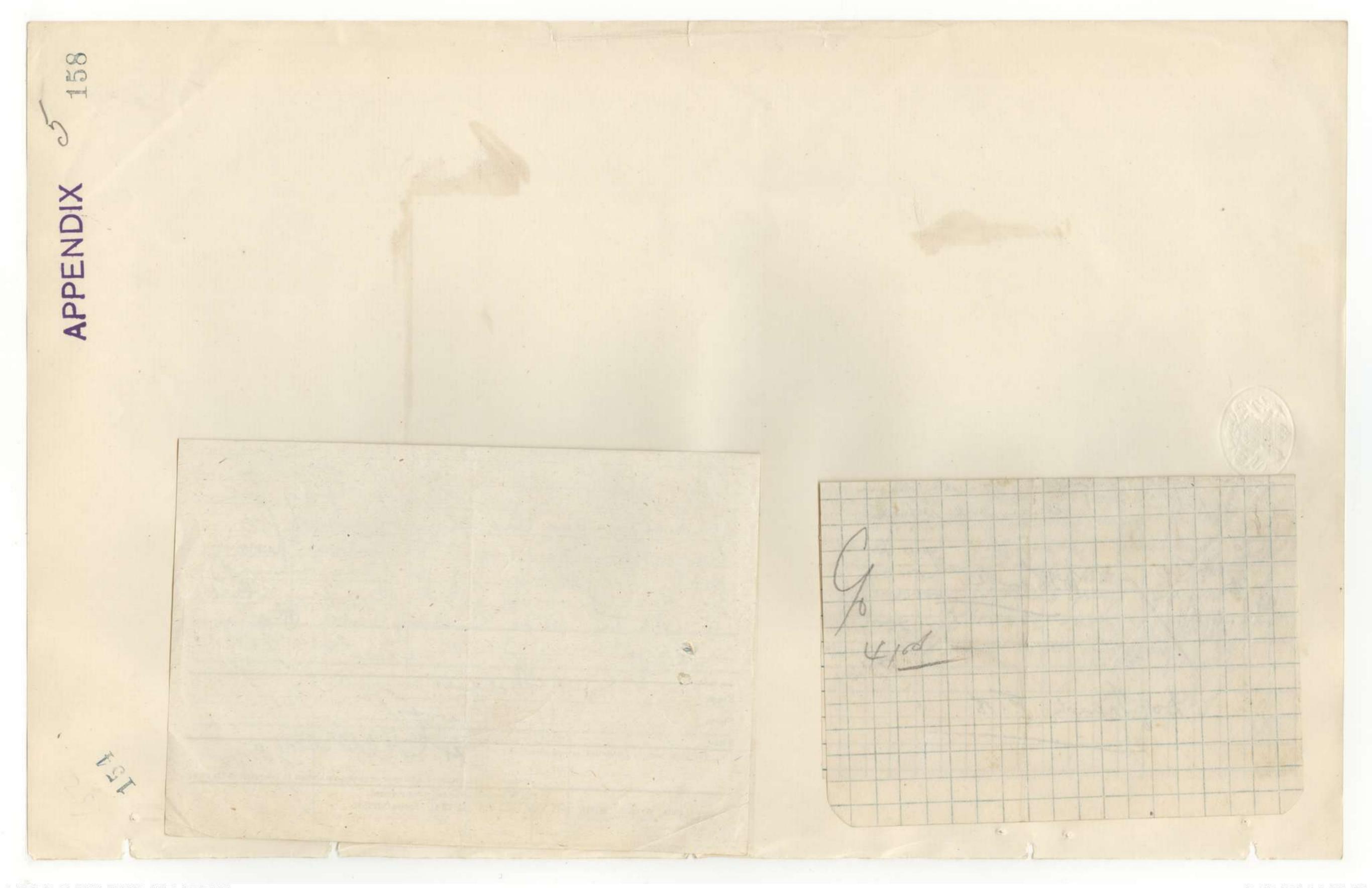
Prefix Code Words Charges to Collect Service Instructions Handed in at Office_ m. Received TO * Sender's Number Day of Month. In reply to Number AAA FROM PLACE & TIME * This line should be erased if not required 9310-W 14832-100,000-2'17-E.P.Co.-(E930.)

APPENDIX This message is on alc of: Recd. at.....m. omce of Origin and Service Instructions Sent Date..... Service. From By...... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By..... TO Day of Month. In reply to Number, Sender's Number. AAA From Place Time The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. * This line should be erased if not required. (4715) Wt W3053/P511 1-113-336 Shin 2/18 C. & Co. (2886)

Service Instruction	ctions, —	-7	29/11	Handed in at	Ha Aust 8	By	*
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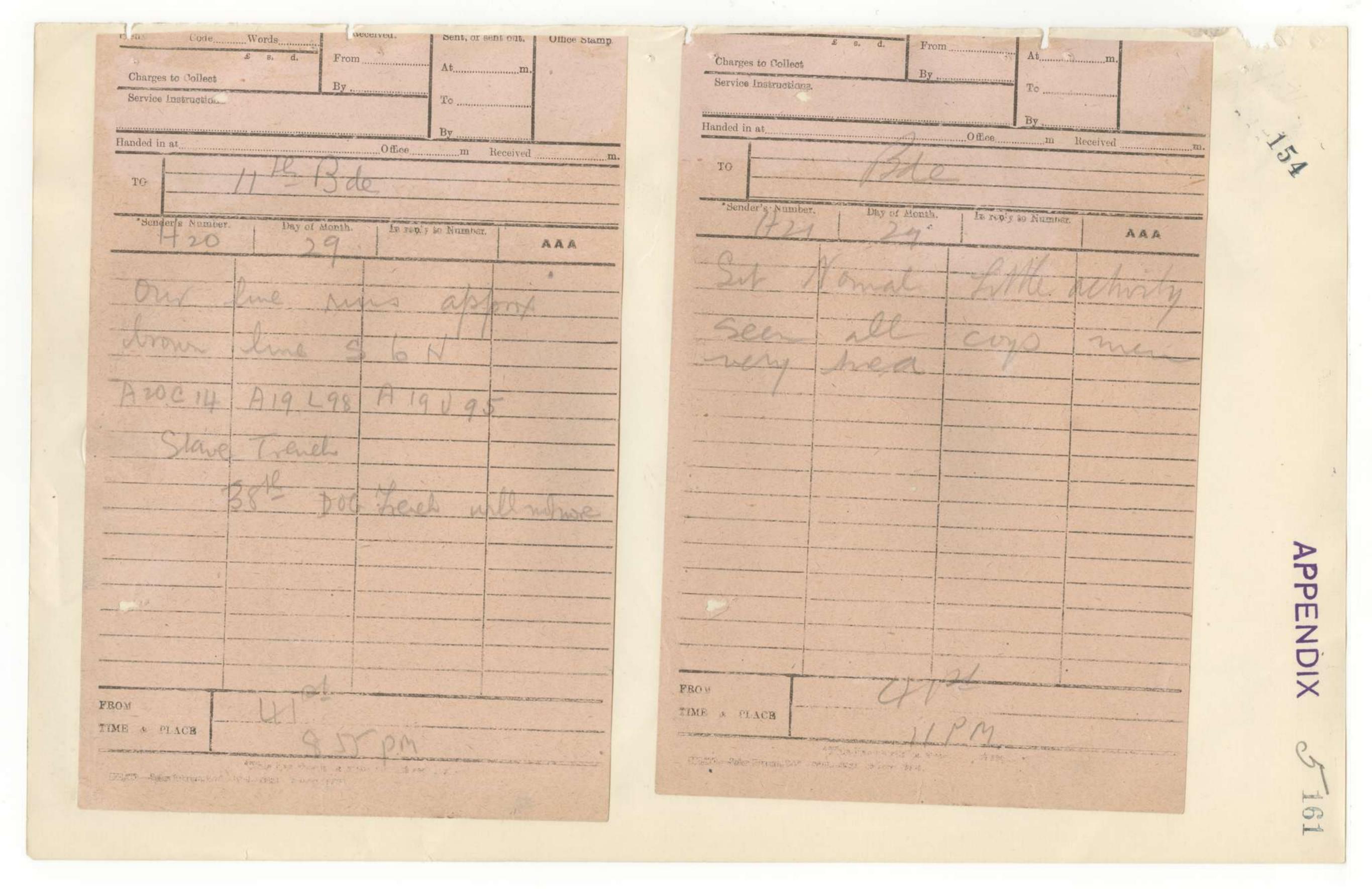


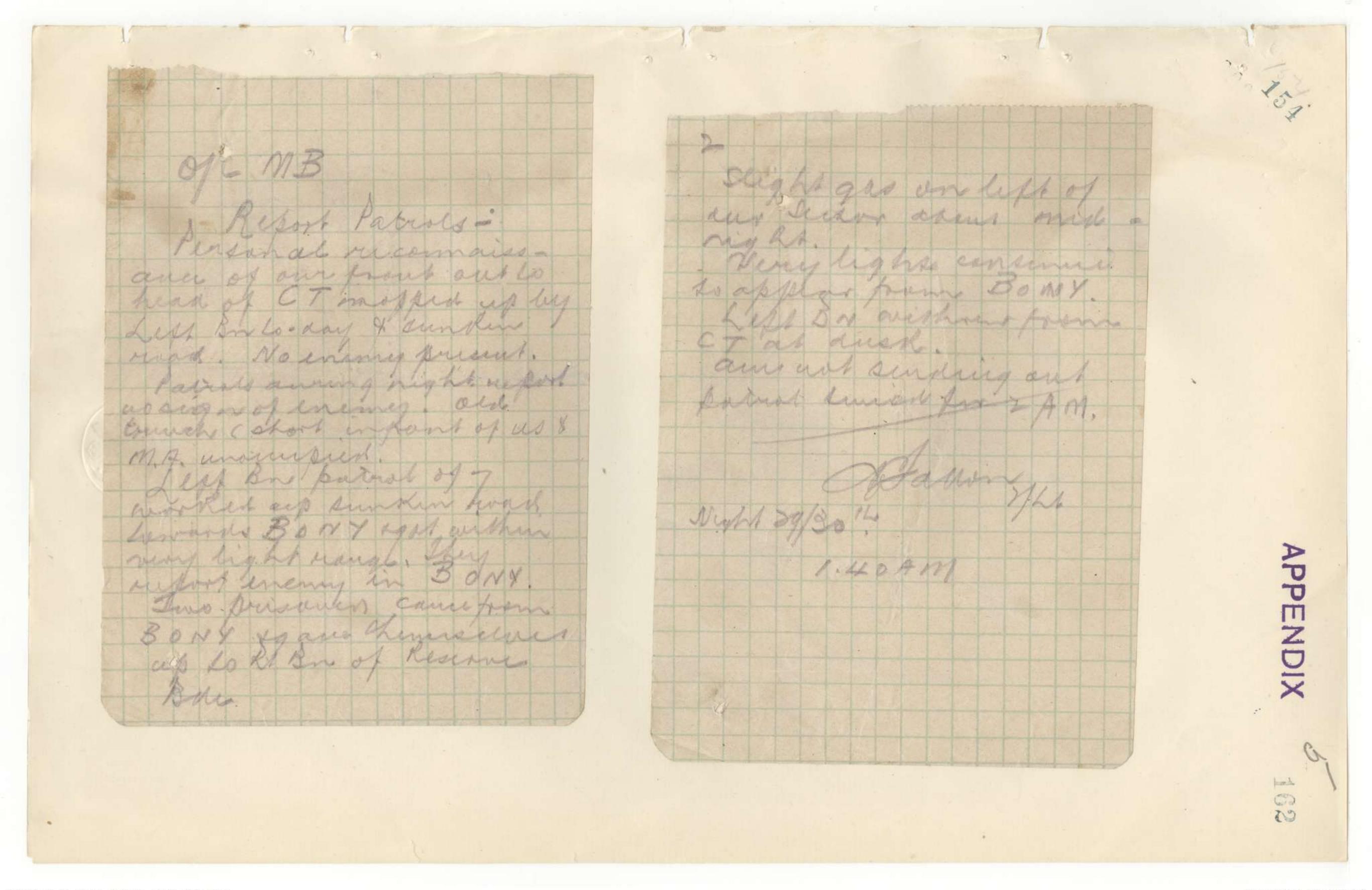
APPENDIX

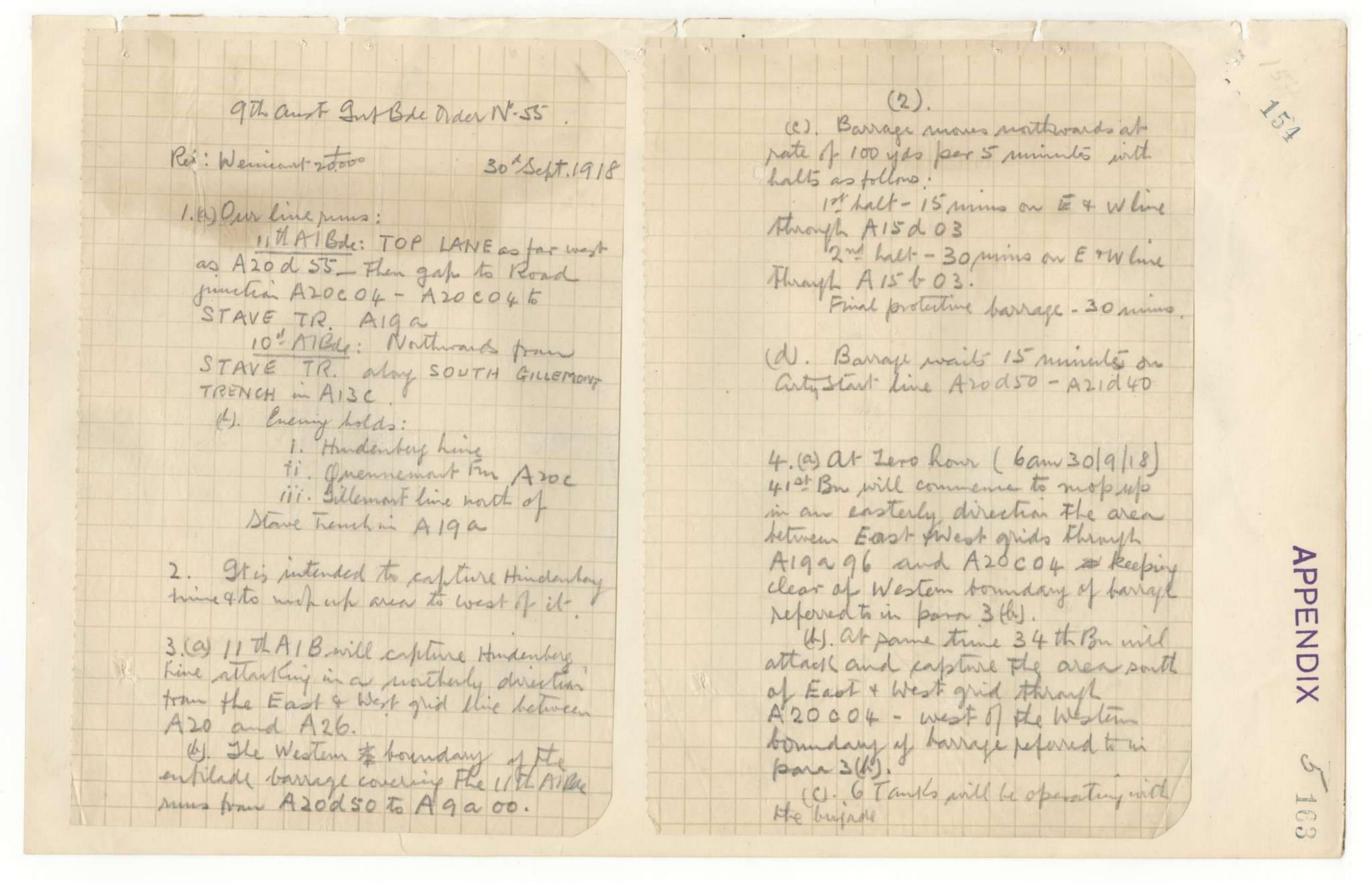
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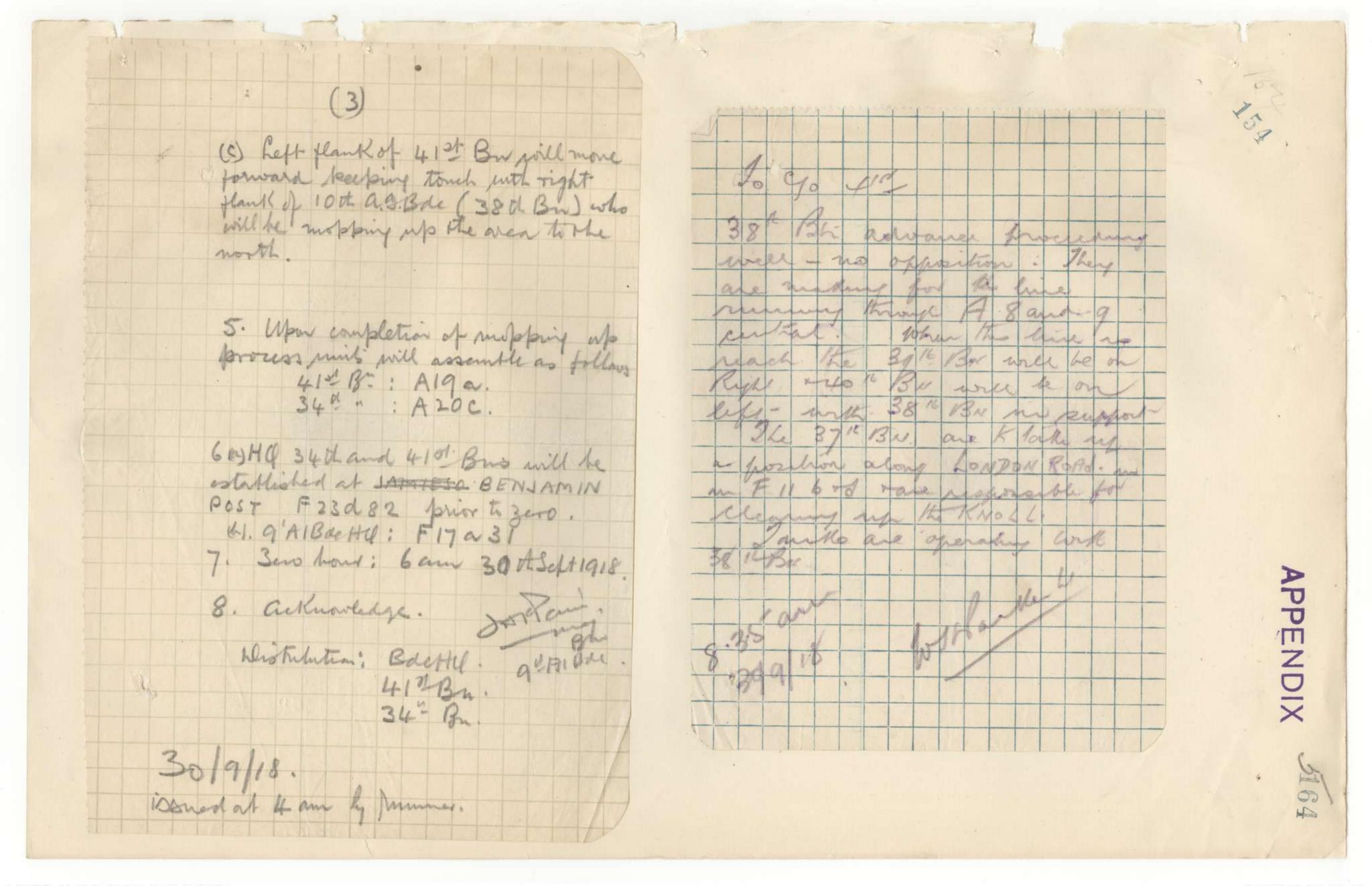
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	· Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person author	orised to telegraph in his name.
100,000 Pads. W. 12093. M1		Id be erased if not required. 7. (E. 764). Forms C/2121/11.	

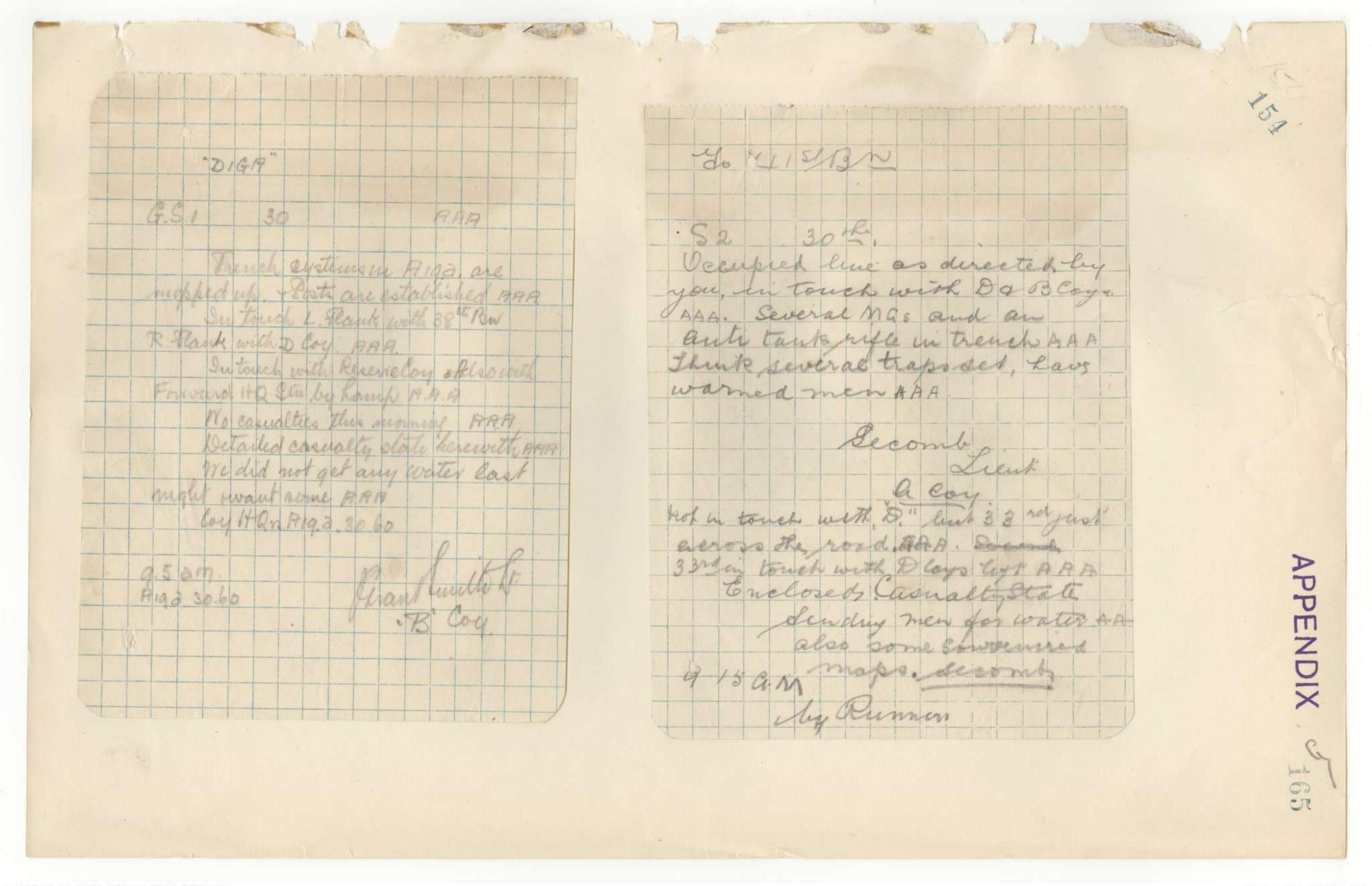
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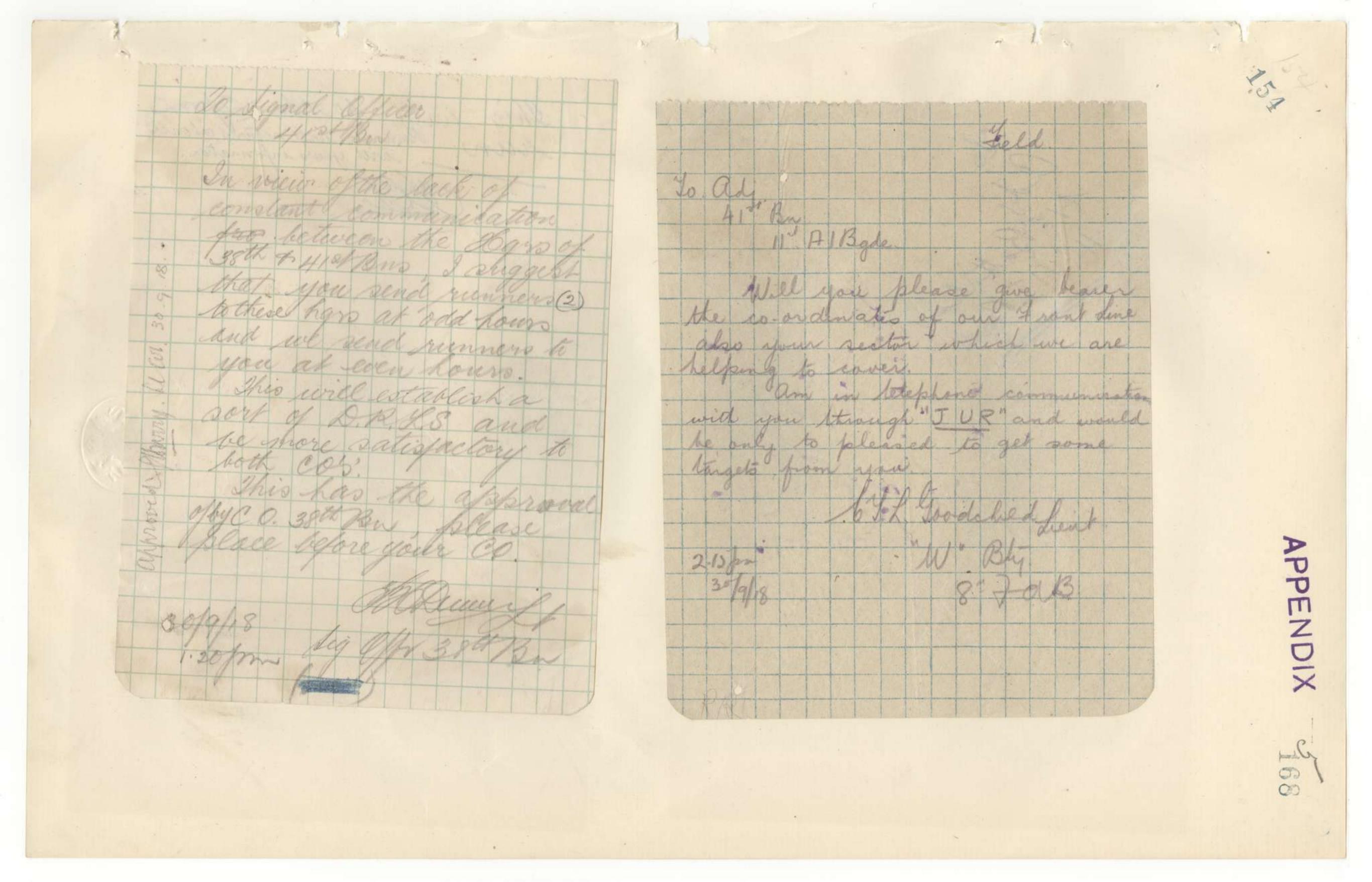






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Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his	Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name
750,000. W 2186 -M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16, Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

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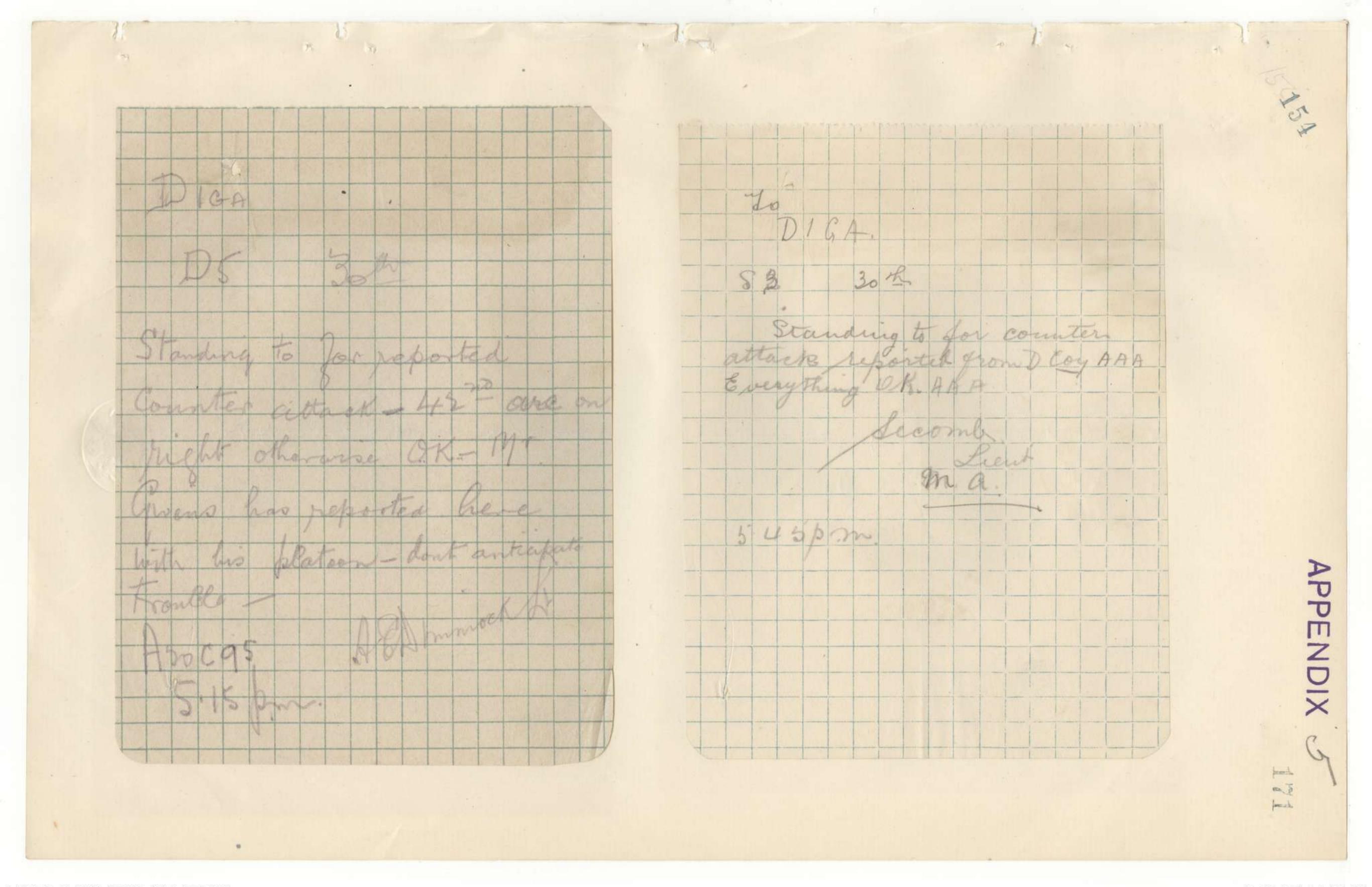
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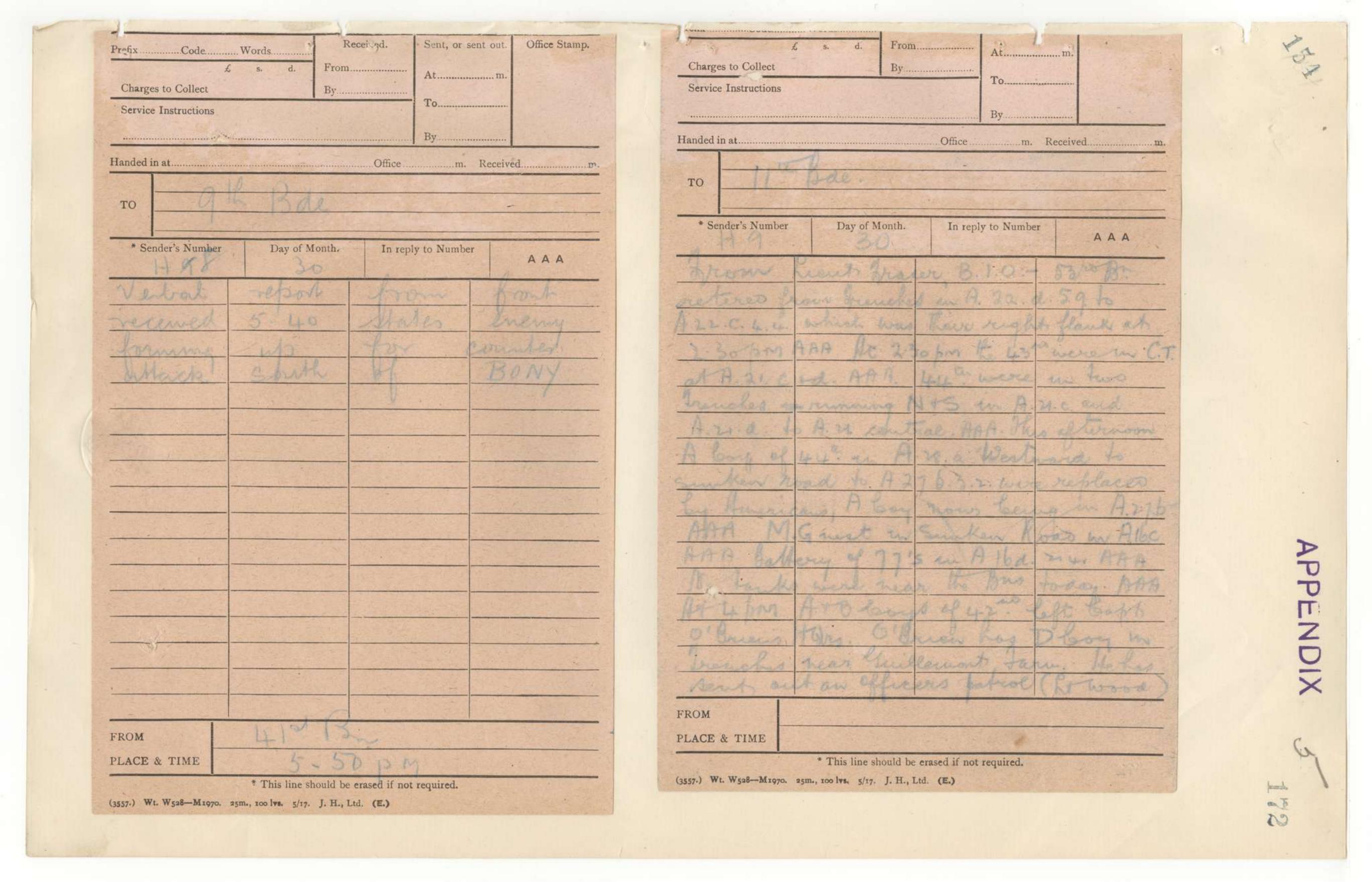
ENDIX

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refix SA Code	& s. d.	From Collaboration	At	Office Stamp.
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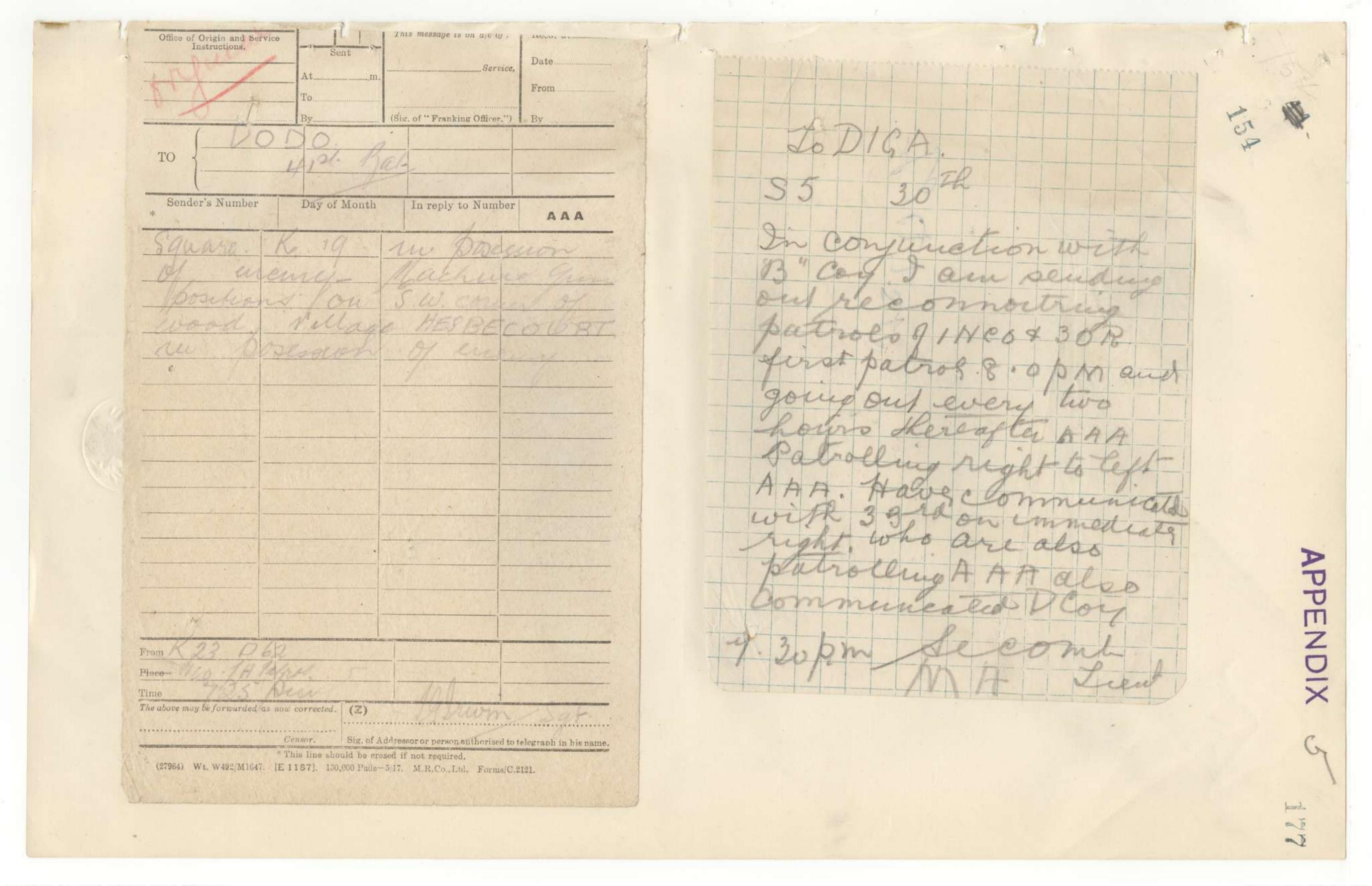
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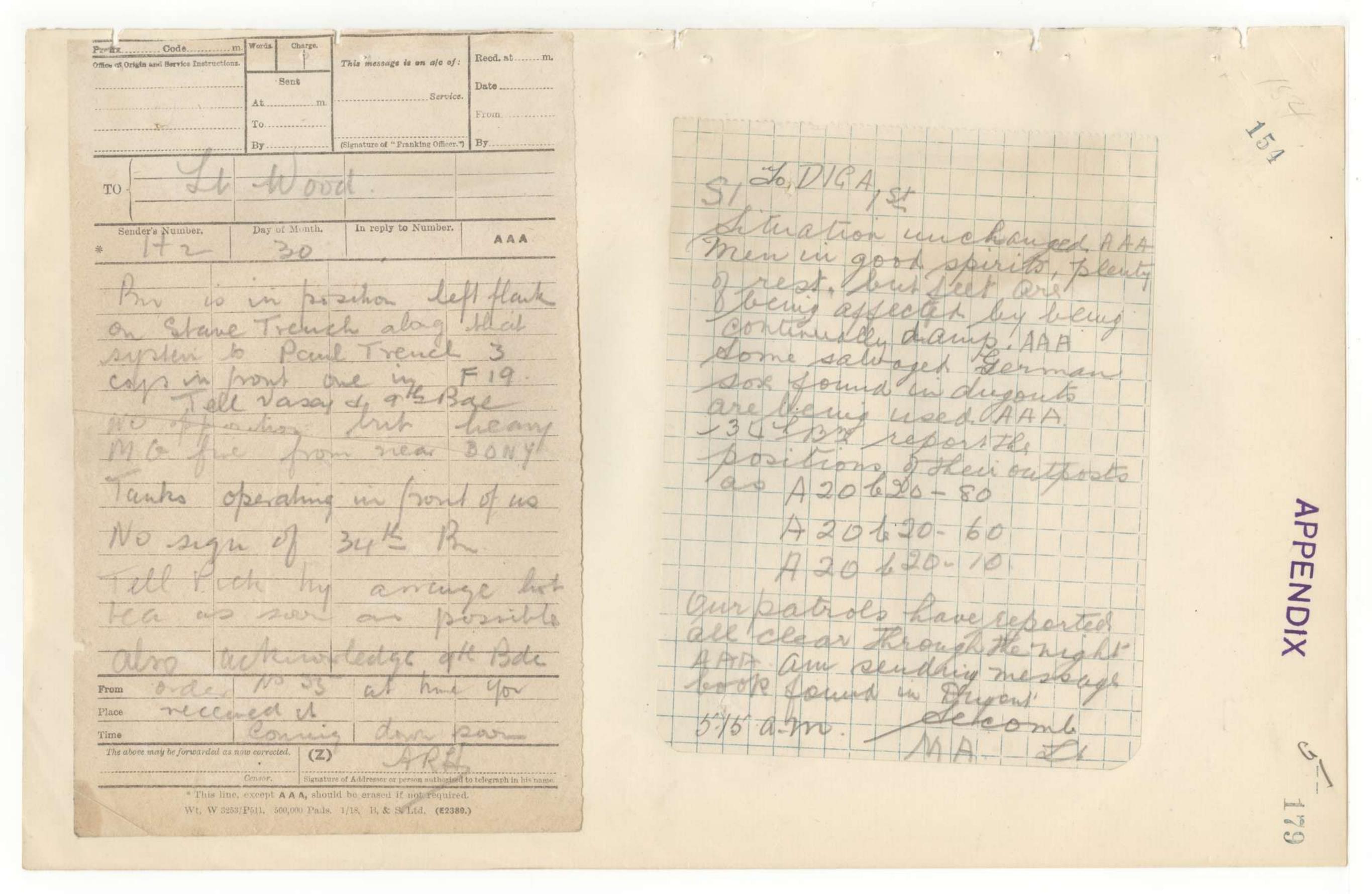
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C. & R. 7880 Wt. W	/14832/M1523 100,000. 3/17.	(E930). Forms C/2128.	

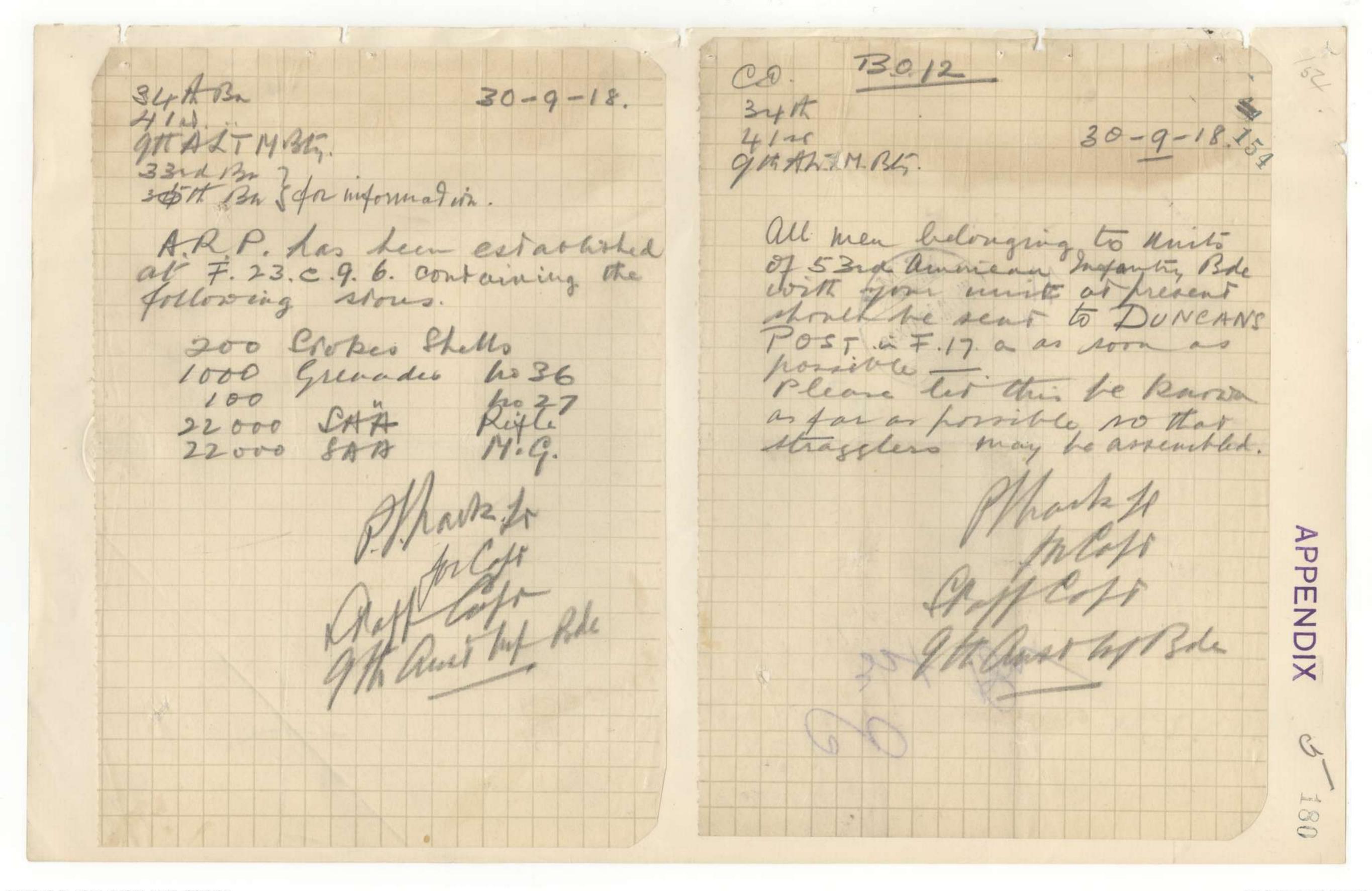
Prefix Code m. Words. Charge. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. This message is on a/c of: | Food. at ... m. Bent From..... A192 85 95. 6.20 P.m. Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA guns achive. runer renewy. marring 6.25 P.m. 3 Double red light insfermation East of Bony. 6.30 P.M. Owe strapnel missage Recep nuescage received alow acir Reen The above may be forwarded as now corrected. * This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required. WE W 3252/P51L 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

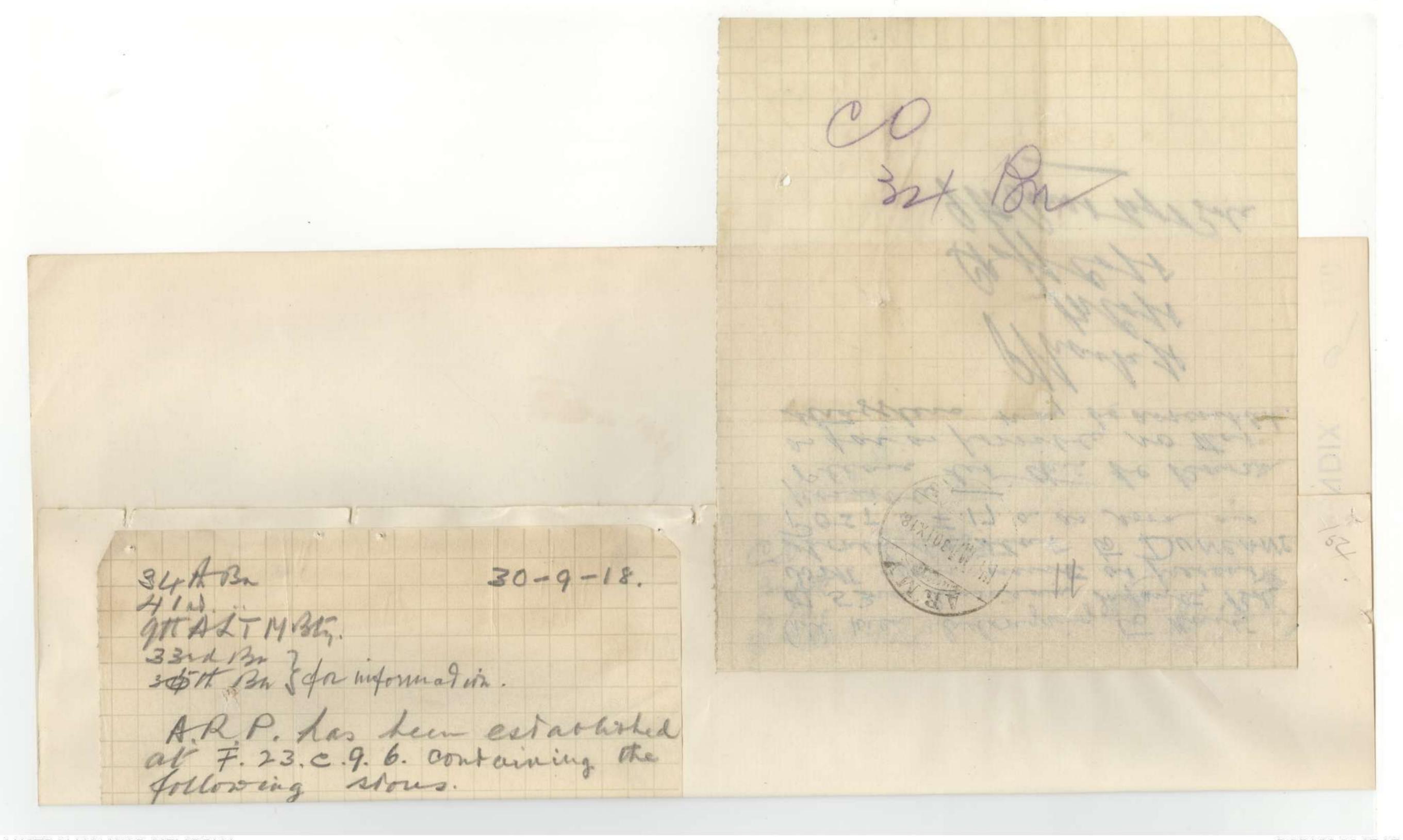
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	APPENDIX 5
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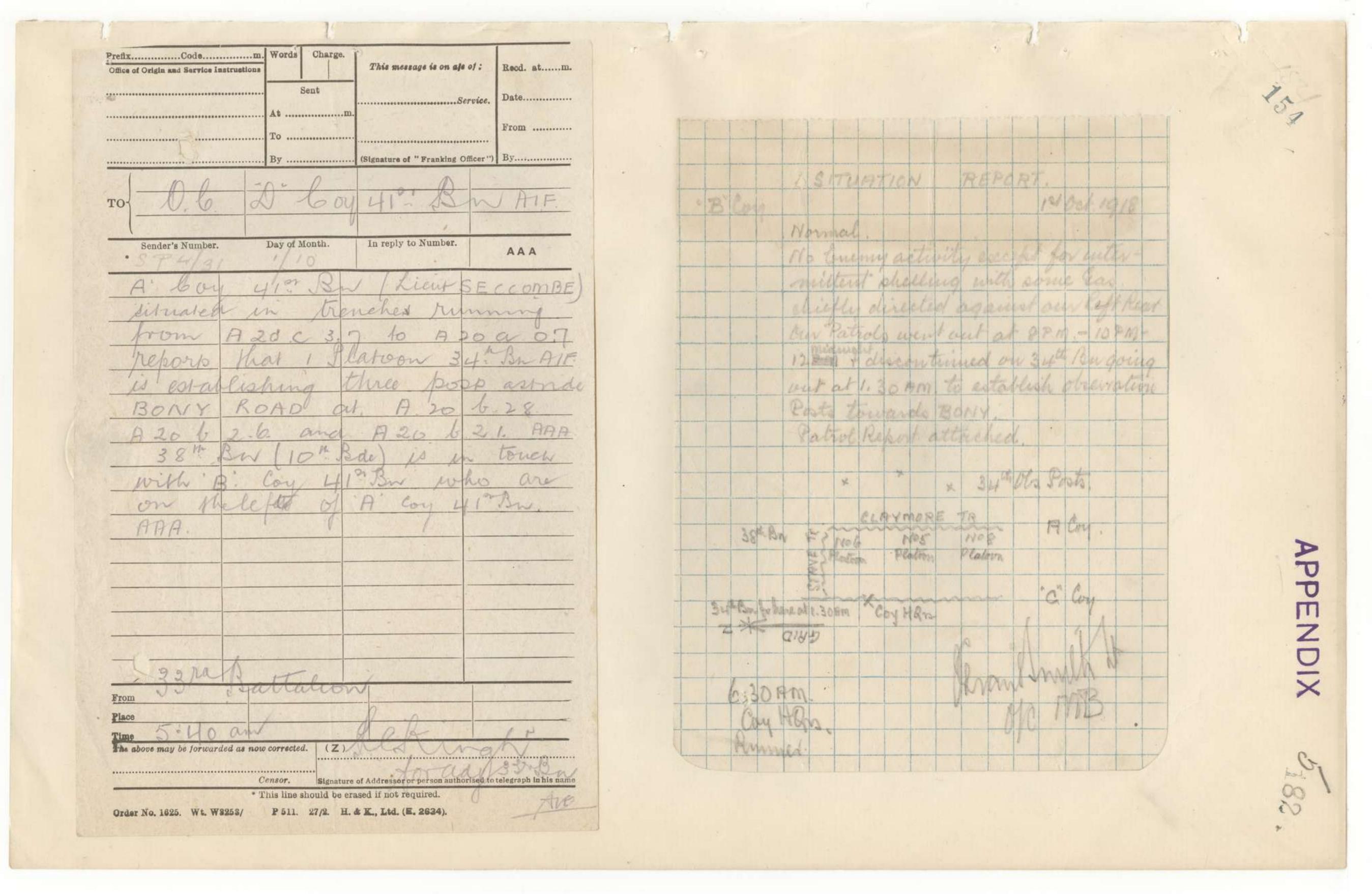


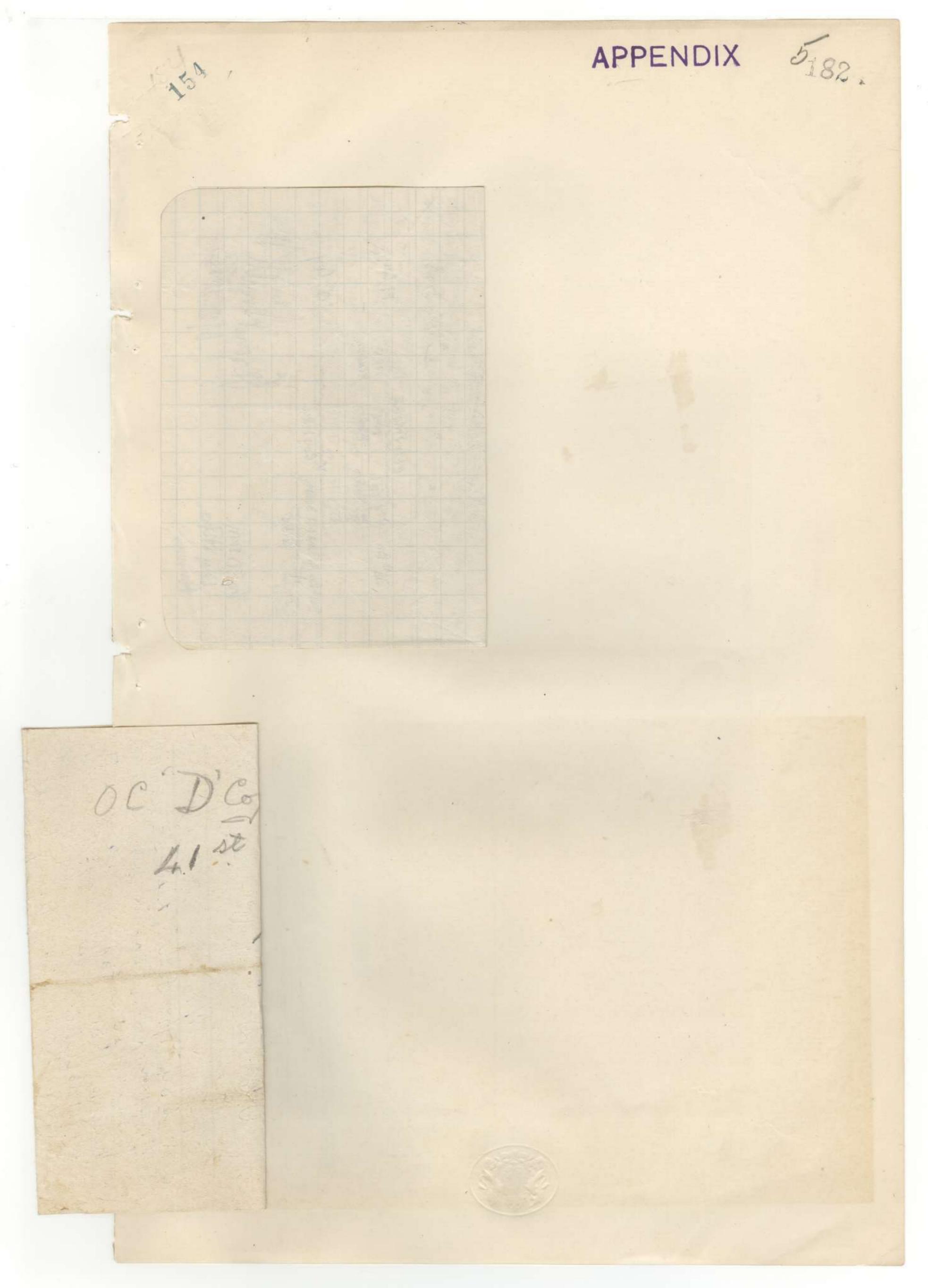




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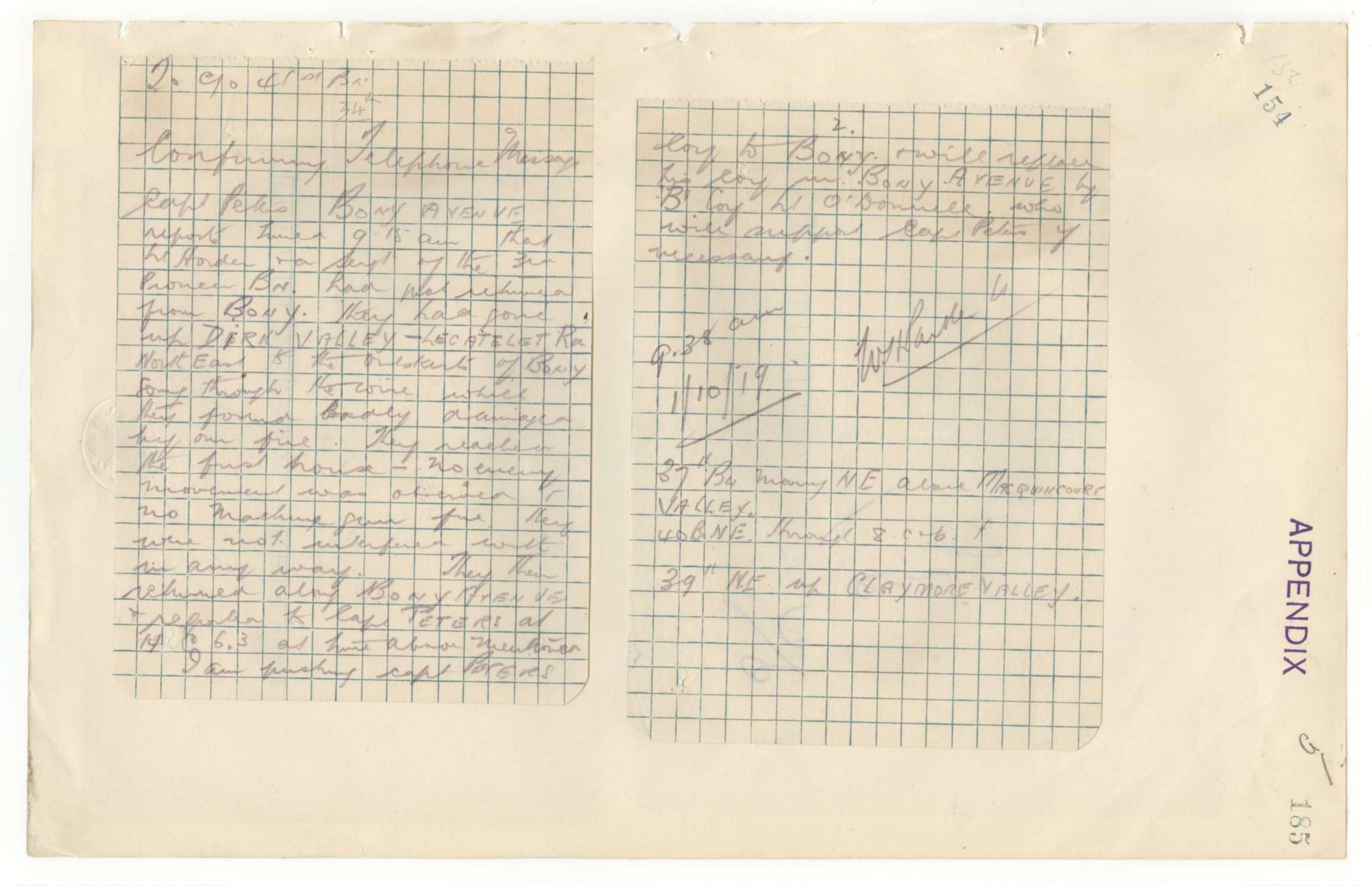


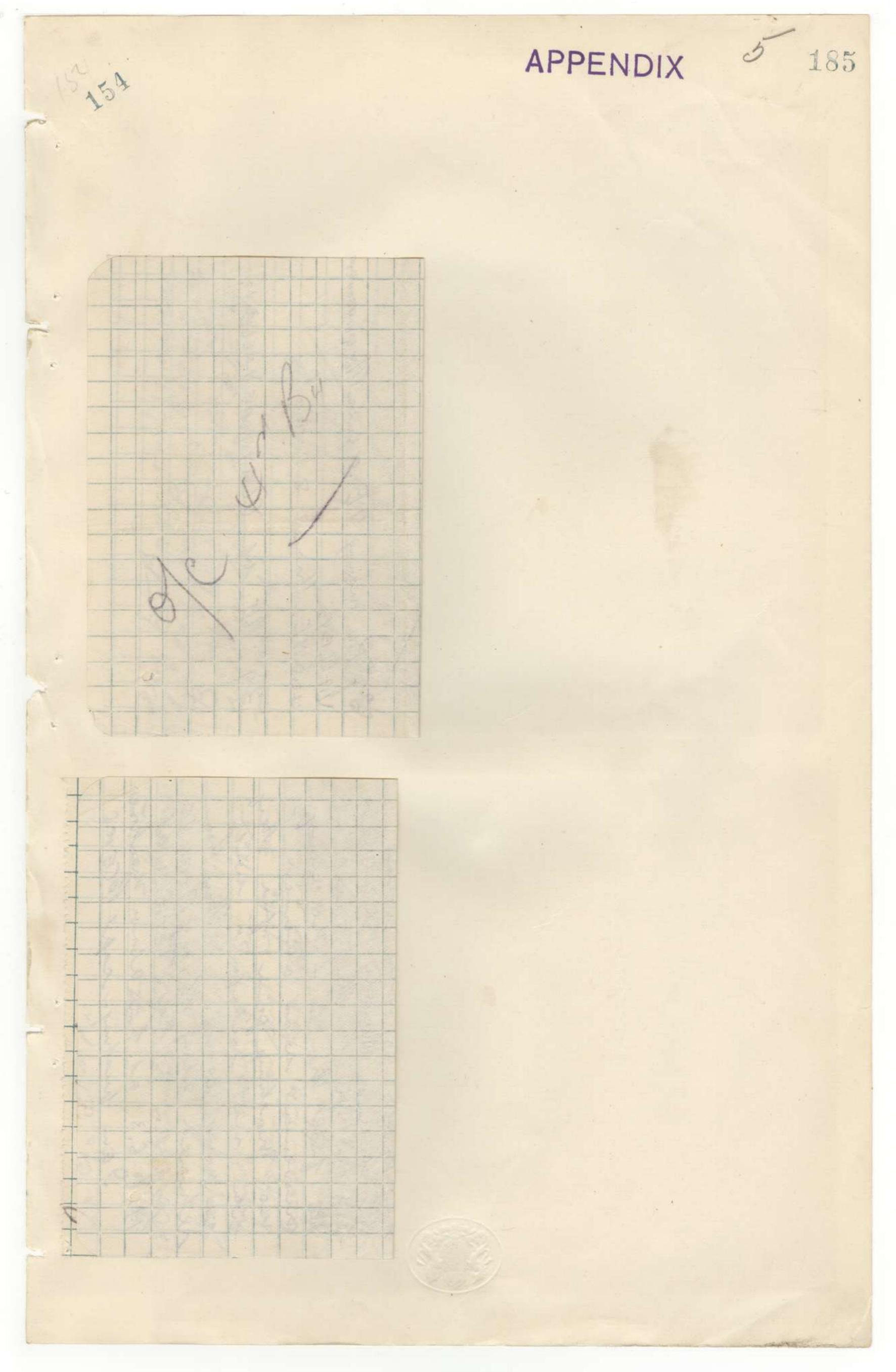


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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004547

1th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters. 14th. September, 1918.

154

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS.

4th. September - 9th. September, 1918.

Reference Map: -680.1/40,000.

1. DISPOSITIONS.

on the 4th. Septomber Battalions were concentrated to rost.

in the area about CURKU.

The Brigade had been withdrawn from the line on the night of the 3rd: after operations which commenced with the attack on the 1st. September.

The Brigade was distributed as under:-

н.Q.-H.8.b.60.95. Brigade Headquarters. ... 41st. Battalion. ... H.2.d. 42rd. Battalion. ... H.l.c. and d. H.Q.-H.l.c.3.8. 43rd. Battalion. ... B.25.b.& H.1.b. H.Q.-H.1.b.4.3. 44th. Battalion. ... H.2.b. H.Q.-H.2.b.2.6. llth.T.M.Battery.... H.2.b.

II. GENERAL SITUATION.

After the operations on the 3rd. September, enemy resistance on the front of the Australian and III Corps had shown a marked decrease and it was thought he was likely to withdraw at any time to the HINDENBURG Line.

FILL PREPARATION FOR ACTION.

(1) At about 11.p.m. a verbal instruction was received from Division to the effect that in the event of the Division being required to go into action the 11th. A.I. Brigade, who were nearest the front line, would act as Advance Guard and that they must therefore be prepared to move at about three hours' notice. The Pioneer Battalion (less 1 Coy.) was made available to the Brigade. One Machine Gun Coy., Artillery and a Squadron of Light Horse were being arranged for and would be allotted to the Brigade.

(2) Instructions as follows were at once issued to Battalions: The 42nd. Battalion and Pioneer Battalion (less 1 Coy.) would form Van Guard under Lieut .- Colonel A.R. WOOLCOCK, D.S.O.

The Main Guard would move - 44th. Battalion on RIGHT, 43rd.

Battalion on LEFT and 41st. Battalion CENTRE.

The Van Guard was to be prepared to move at half an hour's notice and the remainder at an hour's notice.

(3) At 12.15.a.m., 5th. Septomber, the following WARNING ORDER

was received from Division:-

" In the event of enemy withdrawal the following action will "be taken. 11th. A.I.Brigade and 3rd. Pioneer Battalion(less "one Coy.), one Brigade of Field Artillery, one Machine Gun Coy., "will be ready to move as Advanced Guard under Brigadier-"General CANNAN at short notice. When ordered, this Advanced "Guard will take over the area between grid lines 0.3. Cent., "P.3.Cent., I.12.Cent., J.12.Cent., relieving portion of the "5th. Australian Division in that area". *

(4) Further instructions were at once issued to Battalions giving the boundaries of the attack and advising Battalions that they must be ready to move to the vicinity of MT.ST.QUEN-TIN to take over from the 8th. A.I.Brigade who were holding the line in that vicinity.

(5) During the morning of the 5th. September information was received that the 16th. Brigade, R.H.A., "A" Squadron 13th. Australian Light Horse and the 9th. Machine Gun Coy, were allotted to the Brigade.

The respective Os.C. reported early to Brigade.

Iha Fouthern boundary was later altered to run P.3.d.Cent .-Q.3.d.Cent.

194 APPENDIX 6 PAGE NO. POSITION OF DEPLOYMENT.

At about 12,30 p.m. verbal instructions were received from Divis on that the Brigade was to move as early as possible.

Units were ordered to move at once under Seconds-in-Command in order as under:-

A The

"A" Squadron 13th, A.L.H. (less 2 Sections).

42nd. Battalion. 3rd. Pioneer Battalion. (less 1 Coy.)

1 Section 9th. Machine Gun Company.
1 Coy.41st. Battalion. (escort to 16th.Army Brigade, R.H.A.)

43rd. Battalion.

9th. Machine Gun Coy. (less 1 Section):

44th. Battalion.

41st. Battalion. (less 1 Coy).

11th. Field Coy. Engineers.

11th. Field Ambulance.

25th. Company, A.A.S.C.

Instructions were also issued that, where possible, transport and troops were to avoid using main roads.

Tho 16th. Brigade, R.H.A., moved from the vicinity of .C.25. where guns were in position ready for action.

V. CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION.

A Conference of Commanding Officers and Adjutants was held at Brigade Headquarters at 1.30 p.m., at which hour Units were on the move.

The position as then known was as follows!
(a) We held the general line ETERPIGNY in 0.15.c. where 14th.

Australian Infantry Brigade, 5th. Aust. Division, were crossing,

thence I.30.Central - J.13.Central (Town of BUSSU)-D.15.Central
D.9.Central -D.4.Central (Town of NURLU).

(b) During that morning the 74th. Division had reported that there were remnants of the enemy in MIDINETTES TRENCH D. 19.-D. 25.

(c) The 74th. Division was continuing its advance as was the 5th. Australian Division.

VI.BRIGADE TASK.

At 2.45 p.m., while the Conference was still on, a wire was received from Division ordering the Brigade to move forthwith to the vicinity of PERONNE and take over from the 8th. A.I.Brigade as early as possible and prior to that Brigade reaching the line of the BUIRE-DRIENCOURT Road.

The Brigade was then to continue the advance in successive

bounds capturing the lines (See Map attached) !-

GREEN: J.9.Cent. - J.15.b.4.0. - J.21.Cent. - J.28.a.2.0. - J.34.a.7.0. - P.4.a.1.0.

RED: K.7.a.0.0.- K.13.a.Cent. K.13.d.8.0.- K.19.Cent. K.19.d.4.0.- K.25.b.4.0.- K.86.c.0.0.- K.32.a.0.0.- K.32.a.0.0.- K.32.a.6.0.-Q.2.a.5.0.- Q.2.c.4.0.

BLUE: K.12.a.8.0. - K.12.d.3.0. - K.18.Cent. - K.24.Cent. - K.30.a.6.0. - K.30.o.2.0. - K.36.a.4.0. - Q.6.a.3.0. - Q.6.o.0.0.

BROWN: L.10.b.5.0.- L.22.d.3.0.- L.28.Cent.- R. 4.d.0.0.

The 8th. A.I. Brigade, 5th. Aust. Division, was to operate on the RIGHT flank and the 231st. Brigade, 74th. Division, on the LEFT.

OUT.



Page 3.

VII. ORDER OF BATTLE.

(a) The Van Guard under Lieut, ~Colonel A.R. WOOLCOCK, D.S.O., consisted of :-

42nd, Battalion,

3rd. Australian Pioneer Battalion (less 1 Coy.)

"A" Squadron, 13th. A.L.H. (less 3 Sections).

1 Section, 9th. Machine Gun Coy. (3rd. M.G. Battalion).

Sections of the 11th. Field Coy: were attached as the tactical situation demanded. In addition Engineers were engaged on the special duty of making good bridges across the COLOGNE River.

(b) The Main Guard was as follows !-

Brigade Signal Section -with Cable Wagon detachment and one Section "A" Squadron 13th. Aust. Light Horse.

"A" Coy., 41st. Battalion.

16th. Brigado, R.H.A. 44th. Battalion. (RIGHT).

43rd. Battalion. (LEFT).

9th. Machine Gun Coy. (less one Section).

41st. Battalion(less one Coy.) ZCENTRE).

lith. Field Coy. Engineers.

11th. Field Ambulance. 25th. Company, A.A.S.C.

VIII. APPROACH MARCH AND DEPLOYMENT.

All Battalions were well on the way at 2.30 p.m., and in spite of the tired state of the men and heavy traffic on the roads the Van Guard had reached MT.ST. QUENTIN by 4.30 p.m.

As Battalions reached this area they deployed and at about 6.45 p.m. were situated as follows:

Van Guard.

42nd. Battalion and Pioneer Battalion (less 1 coy.) with Light Horse in front on the line I.11. Central to D.5. Central.

Main Guard.

44th. Battalion (RIGHT) MT.ST. QUENTIN moving to

43rd. Battalion (LEFT) I.10.0.

41st. Battalion (less 1 Coy.) CENTRE I.16.a. and b. 16th. Brigade, R.H.A., in the area between MT.ST QUENTIN and PERONNE.

At 4.30 p.m. Brigade Headquarters opened at I.9.d.7.8. and communications were established with the H.Q. of the O.C. Van Guard and with the C.Os. of Battalions of the Main Guard by means of Runners and Mounted Orderlies.

From this time the 16th. Brigade, R.H.A., was attached to

the Van Guard.

At 3.30 p.m. the G.O.C.Brigade assumed responsibility for the front, and 8th. A.I.Brigade, 74th. Division and 3rd. Australian Division were informed accordingly.

IX. OPERATIONS.

1. Advance to GREEN Line.

At midnight the advance to the GREEN Line was continued. The RIGHT flank met with strong resistance 500 yards WEST of CARTIGNY.

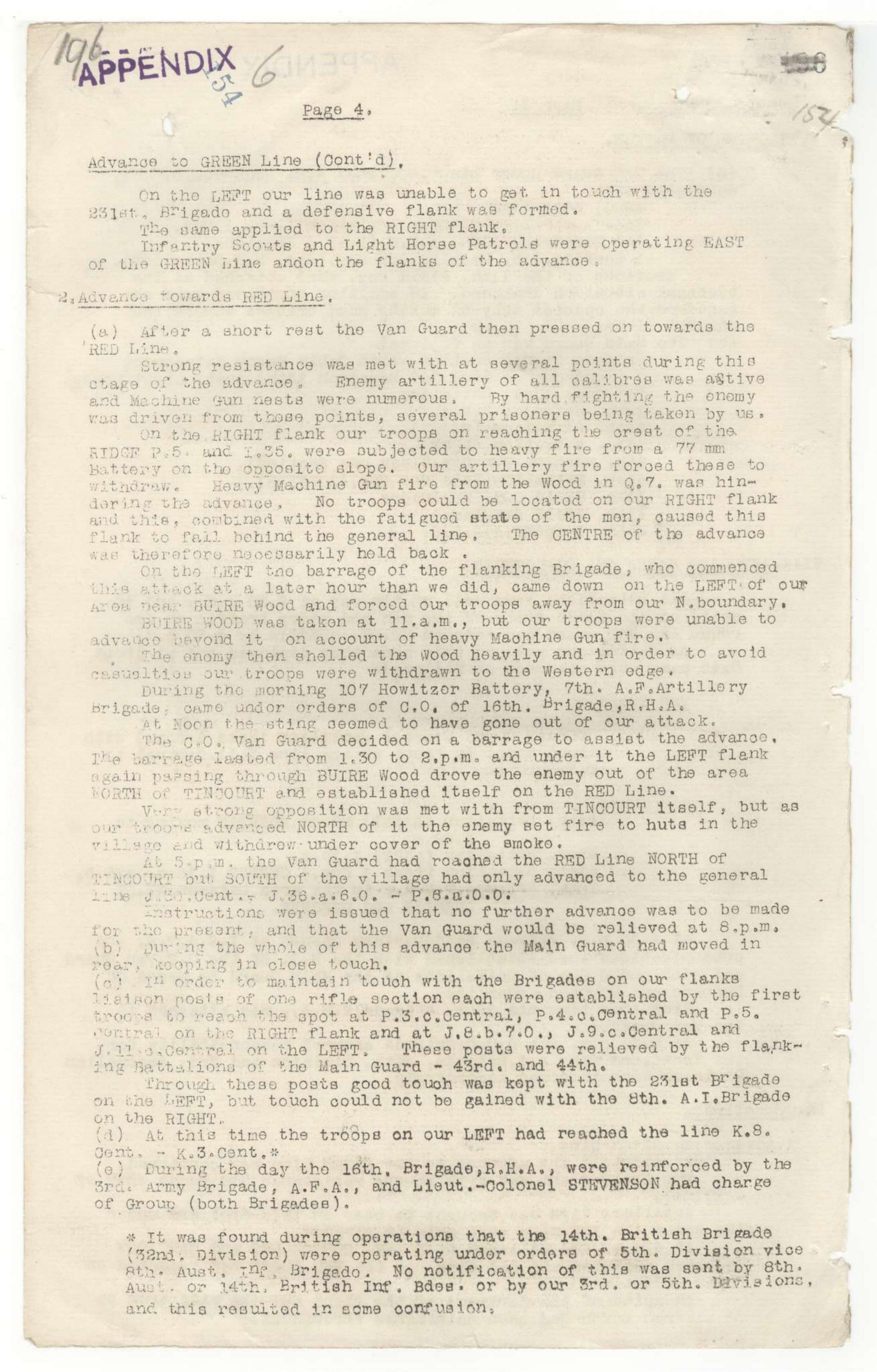
Artillery fire was brought to bear on this spot and under

its cover the Infantry were able to advance,

At 4.a.m. the Villages of BUIRE, COURCELLES and CARTIGNY had been captured and all coys, of the Van Guard had reported on their objective.

In spite of the darkness of the night and the wide area to

to severed touch had been maintained throughout.



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Page 5.

APPENDIX 6 0197

Advence towards RED Line (Cont'd).

At Bip.m. on the 6th., Command of the van Guard lassed to Lieus.-Gol. J.P. CLARK, D.S.O. The 44th. Battalion relieved the

Wan Quard on the RIGHT and the 41st. on the LEFT.

The 43rd, remained on the LEFT flank of the Main Guard, The Pioneer Battalion took up a position on the RIGHT flank and as the advance continued the 42nd. Battalion moved in the CENTRE. (g) At 3.a.m. in conjunction with Brigades on either flank the advance was continued.

By 6,20 a.m. the village of TINCOURT had been occupied and

the RED Line was captured throughout.

At this time the RIGHT flank was in visual touch with the 8th. A.I. Brigado on the RIGHT and in physical touch with the 231st, Brigado on the LEFT.

3. Advance to the BLUE Line.

As our troops advanced towards the BLUE Line, Machine Gun and Artillery fire became heavier. Again the RIGHT flank was held back on acsount of the Brigade on our RIGHT not moving forward till 6.a.m.

At about 8.a.m. touch was gained with this Brigade and from

that time on was maintained with Brigades on both flanks.

Considerable resistance was encountered in the vicinity of ROISEL which the enemy apparently intended to hold as long as was possible. In this vicinity our troops were met by heavy Machine Gun fire and fire from guns firing over open sights.

The Van Guard, avoiding the actual Town itself, pushed forward to the NORTH and SOUTH of it, causing the enomy holding it to

withdraw. At 10.12 a.m. the Town was taken.

By 11.a.m. the line K.11.Central -K.17.Central- K.22.Central-

K.28 · Central - K.34.a. - Q.3.a. was reached.

The advance on the RIGHT continued slowly from this time

until the BLUE Line was captured at 7.20 p.m.

Touch on RIGHT by 44th. Battalion was somewhat lost with 29th. Battalion (8th. A.I.Brigade), and it is considered that C.O. 44th. Battaliondid not make the best use of his Light Horse to clear this situation.

Light Horse and Infantry protective patrols were sent out. (b) Throughout this portion of the advance liaison posts were established at the following locations in conjunction with Brigades on either flank:-

SOUTH. - Q.2.d.8.6. SUGAR FACTORY Q.4.8.2.0. CRUCIFIX ... Q.4.b.8.0.

NORTH .-- K.8.0.7.6. K.8.d.4.8. K.10.c.0.6. OLD BALLAST PIT .. K.10.b.5.2.

This system worked well during the second day of attack when troops on either flank were advancing approximately in line with our own.

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

During this operation the principle was followed of moving Headquarters of Units forward by bounds. That is to say, Headquarters forward was formed with a Report Centre some distance further EAST connected by 'phone. When it became necessary to move forward, the Commanding Officer took up his position at this Report Centre and again established a Report Centre.

The Cable Wagon attached to Brigade allowed of this system working very well as far as Brigade Headquarters was concerned.

on the 5th., Brigado Headquarters was established at I.9.d.8.3. with Report Centre at J. 19.0.4.5.

on the 6th., Brigade Headquarters moved forward to J. 19.0.4.5. and at the same time a Report Centre was established at J. 18.a.1.6.

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XI. OPELACIONS TO RELIEF BY 10th, A.I. BRIGADE.

During the early night of the 7th. September, the 37th. and 38th. Battalions of the 10th. A.I. Brigade took over from the Van Guard on the BLUE Line and the two Battalions - 41st. and 42nd. - withdrew to the Areas J.30.a. and J.30.b.

The 43rd. Battalion and the Pioneer Battalion retained their positions, the 44th. Battalion took the place of the 42nd. Battalion, and at about 5.a.m. on the 8th. September passed under the command of Lieut.-Col. LORD, D.S.O., 10th. A.I.Brigade, who assumed responsibility for the area.

During the 8th. no further advance was made, and at about 8.p.m. the 43rd.,44th. and Pioneer Battalions were relieved by the remaining Battalions of the 10th. A.I. Brigade taking up position.

Units of the Brigade Group were concentrated as follows:-

 41st. Battalion.
 J.18.a.

 42nd. Battalion.
 J.18.b. and d.

 43rd. Battalion.
 K.9. and K.10.

 44th. Battalion.
 K.32.c. and d.

H.Q.- J.18.a.1.5.
H.Q.- J.18.d.4.6.
H.Q.- J.18.d.4.6.
H.Q.- J.24.c.6.0.

Pioneer Battalion... 1 Coy. K.33.b.

1 Coy. K.26.a. H.Q.- J.33.b.6.8.

1 Coy. J.30.d.

9th. M.G. Company. J.28.a. and b.

(This Coy. then came under the orders of the 3rd. M.G.Battalion Artillery and the Squadron of Light Horse had passed under the command of the 10th. A.I. Brigade.

XII.MOVE TO RESERVE AREA.

On the night of the 9th., orders were received that the 11th.

A.I. Brigade would change areas with the 1st. A.I. Brigade.

During the morning of the 10th. September the Brigade moved into areas as follows:-

Brigade Headquarters remained at J.19.c.4.5.
41st. Battalion... Wood I.30.b.

42st. Battalion... J.25.a.

42st. Battalion... J.32.a.

43rd. Battalion... J.32.a.

44th. Battalion... J.32.a.

1.36.a.

1.36.b.0.4.

11th. T.M.Battery... I.36.b.0.4.

11th. Field Coy... BUIRE-COURCELLES.

3rd. Pioneer Bn... BUIRE-COURCELLES.

(Pioneer Battalion then came under the orders of the C.R.E.).

APPENDIX I.

COMMANDING OFFICERS.

11th A.I.Brigade - Brigadier-General J.H.CANNAN, C.B., C.M.G.
41st. Battalion . . . Major E.J. DIBDIN.
42nd. Battalion . . . Lieut.-Colonel A.R. WOOLCOCK, D.S.O.
43rd. Battalion Major T.A. FERGUSON.
44th. Battalion . . . Lieut.-Colonel J.P. CLARK, D.S.O.
3rd. Pioneer Battalion.Lieut.Colonel W.H. SANDAY, M.C.

APPENDIX II.

LESSONS LEARNED DURING OPERATIONS.

1 3 Marking of Headquarters.

The careful marking of Battalion Headquarters was again found to be of vital importance. In order to standardise this marking special instructions have been issued to all Units of the Brigade. (See Appendix III).

2. Liaison Posts.

It is considered that liaison, both to the RIGHT, LEFT and FORWARD can best be maintained by means of definitely fixed posts, Officers' patrols, O.P's., and by the interception of messages being sent through the Signal Service.

Runners require further training in accordance with F.S.R.

Part I. Chap. 2, Section 20.

Where liaison posts are used on the flanksof an advance it is not necessary to have more than two in operation at one time. As new posts are established, posts in rear should be relieved.

3. Visual Signalling.

Good use was made of this means of transmitting messages. Messages were passed forward as well as towards the rear. It is considered that the same regulations as apply to the sending of Wiroless massages in clear must also apply to the transmission of messages forward by 'Visual'.

The Officer on the spot must take the responsibility of sending messages in a direction wherethey may be read by the enemy.

4.Co-ordination between the flanks of Corps.

The question of co-ordination between the flanks of Corps is put forward for consideration.

It is not possible for Brigades in the front line to co-ordi-

hate times of attack.

During this operation, on one occasion the Artillery barrage of the Corps on our LEFT came down on BUIRE Wood while our troops were still in it. (See Para. IX, Sub-para, 2(a) of Narrative).

This was due to the troops on that flank starting their advance at a later hour than ours.

5. Heavy Artillery under Corps.

It is considered that during semi-open warfare such as we are at present engaged in, Heavy Artillery operating under Corps cannot be used offectively as movement forward is so rapid that it is difficult for such Heavies to keep in touch with thesatuation of our troops.

On one occasion Heavies fired into one area 1000 yards

behind the front line.

6. Relief of Troops during Attack.

A long advance, such as the one under consideration, even when opposition is alight, is very fatiguing to the troops. The men cannot be expected to fight for more than 24 hours continuously without a rest, food and sleop.

It is thought that after an advance of three miles a fresh lot of troops should be sent in to carry on the operation.

7.Frontages and Strengths.

It is considered that the frontages which have been allotted

to Brigades during the operations have been too great. The attack on the 1st. was launched on a frontage of 2500 yards by a total number of approximately 1500 all ranks, including In the advance on the 8th. a frontage of 5250 yards was Reserve Battalion. -

Frontages and Strongths. (cont'd).

allotted to less than 2000 men. (This latter advance consisted of a

series of attacks against positions).

It is thought that a minimum of one man per yard should be used with the support of Tanks and Artillery over strongly held positions, and that a minimum of one man per two yards is necessary in an advance insemi-open warfare.

B. Training in Night Operations.

It is thought that more training is required in night operations, and the suggestion is put forward that at least one night

per week be allotted to this training.

As night work is more fatiguing to men, this would entail exchango of about 5wo hours' night work for eight hours' day work. For example, if two hours' night operations were to be carried out on Friday night two hours' day work would be done on Friday morning and no training on Saturday.

9. Balloons. It is thought that Balloons should be allotted to a Formation fromwhich they can be supplied with early information.

As Heavy Artillery are allotted to Division it is suggested

that they also should be allotted.

One case has come to notice where a Balloon Section was only able to select a position when it obtained information from this Brigade and had run a line to the Brigade Switch Board.

APPENDIX III.

0.0., 41st., 42nd., 43rd., 44th. Battalions.

11th. Trench Mortar Battery. In order to systematise the marking of Headquarters, etc., of Units the following methods will be adopted:-

I.By Day. (a) Battalion Headquarters will be marked by a conspicuous flag, preferably the Battalion Colours.

Flags of a single colour which normally mark Watering places, etc.,

(See F.S.Pocket Book) will not be used.

(b) Four signs will be erected on main lines of traffic. These will be designed as shown on sketch below.

It will be an understood thing throughout the Brigade that these signs are approximately 500 yards from Battalion Headquarters.

II. By Night. a) Battalion Headquarters will be marked by a Green Light.

(b)"Light" signs will be erected at the same points as those mentioned in para. I(b) above.

These may be made of damaged petrol tine, with the number of the

Battalion marked on them by punching holes in the side. A candle or oil lamp placed inside will show up these numbers.

An arrow punched in the side in the same way will give the direct-

ion of Battalion H. J. III. Latrines: will be marked by day by a Yellow flag as laid down and by means of a Yellow light at night.

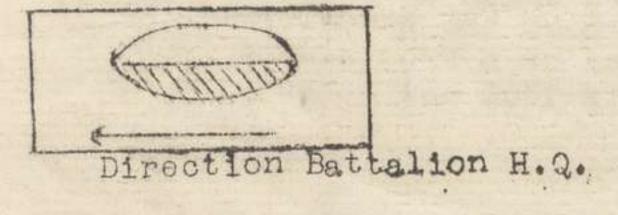
IV. (a) Care must be taken that lights are screened from aeroplane

observation; (b) All signs must be removed when a Battalion leaves any area. It is suggested that Runners have the duty of looking after

signs and lights definitely allocated to them.

(Sgd).S.W. HAWKINS, Captain. Staff Captain, 11th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Bn. Colours.



11/9/18.

FOR PERIOD	4th. JULY	to 8th.	SEPTEMBER,	1918.
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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

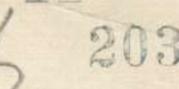
GENERAL SUMMARY OF MATERIAL CAPTURED AND TERRITORY RECAPTURED DURING PERIODS OF ACTIVE OPERATIONS FOR 11th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE BETWEEN 4th.JULY-8th.SEPTEMBER, 1918.

	Field Pieces.	Machine Guns.	Trench Mortars.	Barbed Wire- ROISEL Dump.				
superficial Area of territory recaptured during the period 52 square miles.	Calibre. 12 Guns. 105 mm. Hows. 77 mm	70 66 95	13 15	Estimated at 35,000 coils.				
	27	231	28 35,000 coils.					
Transport	Wire Netting.	Royal Engineers' Supply Dump. Large dumoof war material, containing principally Engineers' requirements. Enemy efforts to destroy this by fire unsuccessful.						
80 vohicles including Red Cross Transport and Cookers in ROISEL and TINCOURT.	Large stack estimated at several thousands of Rolls in ROISEL.							

Much Artillery Ammunition distributed in small Dumps over areas captured, including many Gas shells.

APPENDIX

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Particulars of Villages and Material captured by 11th, Australian Infantry Brigado during active operations July , August and September, 1918.

4th, July. Captured HAMEL Village and about one and two-thirds square miles of territory, together with one Anti-Tank 77 mm Gun, 13 Trench Mortars, 70 Machine Guns, 2 Anti-Tank Rifles, 600 rounds Trench Mortar Ammunition, 153,000 rounds of S.A.A. (recaptured British), quantity of Engineering and Signalling apparatus.

8th. August.

Enemy territory penetrated 3,500 yards on a frontage of 2000 yards, capturing over 2 square miles of territory. Villages of GAILLY

and CERISY-GAILLY taken.

War Material: 10 Field Fieces 87 mm, 2 heavy, 2 light, 2 medium Minenwerfers. One Gian, Anti-Tank Rifle, 12 heavy Machine Guns, 67 light Machine Guns, one Range Finder- O.L. Lamps and considerable recaptured British material.

11th. to

13th, August. Villages of MERICOURT-sur-SOMME and PENINSULA captured and line advanced EAST of ST. GERMAIN WOOD, adding 32 square miles to recaptured territory. A considerable quantity of War material, including Machine Guns, taken, but no records were kept of these captures.

August 24th. to 27th.

Approximately 4 square miles of territory captured EAST of BRAY Village and our line advanced nearly 6000 yards EASTWARDS to FARGNY WOOD. Large quantity of enemy artillery ammunition stacked in abandoned artillery positions.

31st. August

4th.Septomber. Advanced our line approximately 2000 yards EASTERLY in locality CANAL-DU-NORD, capturing 11 square miles of territory, 92 Machine Guns, eight 10.5 cm. Howitzer Guns, together with Ammunition supply.

4th. September

8th. September. Penetrated 12,000 yards on a frontage of 5,250 yards, capturing a superficial area of approximately 20 square miles, which included the Villages of COURCELLES, BUIRE, BRUSLE, TINCOURT, BOUCHY, HAMEL, MAR-QUAIX, HERVILLY, and the important Town of ROISEL with its railway junctions and road communications. In ROISEL was found a very large and valuable dump of war material containing approximately 35,000 coils of wire, thousands of rolls of wire-netting, huge stores of picks and shovels, with other tools - about 80 transport waggons of many descriptions including Cookers and Ambulance carts. Enemy attempts to destroy this by fire were unsuccessful.

24th September 1910

During the past twelve months the organization of the British Army has been converted so as to bring all Infantry Brigades to a 3-battalion basis. - This has been completed throughout the Army, partly on account of the man-power situation, but partly also on account of tactical considerations, on the analogy of the French, American and German regiments. -

ian Government to follow suit in this reorganization, and convert all Brigades of the A.I.F., to a 3-battalion basis. The Australian Government and the A.I.F., Authorities were, however, very loath to do this, on account of the fine traditions which had been won by every one of our Infantry Battalians - particularly those which had made such a name for themselves on GALLIPOLI. It was, therefore, agreed to allow the Australian Imperial Force to postpone any such reorganization until towards the end of this year's fighting period, and until the man-power situation as regards Australian reinforcements became more scute. -

In spite of this, it was found necessary in May last to bring the 9th, 12th and 13th Brigades of the A. I. F., down to a 3-battalion basis, because there was no longer any prospect of maintaining these brigades on a 4-battalion basis, having regard to the available reinforcements. -

The time has now arrived when the necessity for action has arisen. The War Office has pressed for an immediate carrying out of the same reorganization in the remaining brigades, in order to secure uniformity throughout the Army. The A. I. F. Authorities are still disposed to delay to the last possible moment the Reduction in the number of battalions throughout all Brigades; but, in view of the inadequacy of the available reinforcements to maintain the present inadequacy of the available reinforcements to maintain the present fifty-seven battalions, it has become essential at once to reduce to not more than fifty battalions - ultimately coming down to the normal organisation of nine battalions per Division.

The strongest possible representations have already been made and fully discussed in order to obviate this disagreeable course. For example, it has been suggested to put all the Companies on a 3-platoon basis, and this has in fact been done in practice, if not in platoon basis, and this has in fact been done in practice, if not in platoon basis, and this has also been made that the battalions should be theory. A proposal has also been made that the battalions should be reorganized on a 3-Company basis, but this, after careful consideration, has been definitely turned down for good tactical reasons. It in, has been proposed that we should break up one, if not two whole has also been proposed that we should break up one, if not two whole has also been proposed that we should break up one, if not two whole but sions; but this has been rejected because it would mean the Divisions; but this has been rejected because it would mean the Medical and Supply Units, and would seriously impair the fighting value of the Australian Army.

Not only is the problem of deciding which battalions are to go, a very difficult and invidious one, but also it is desired to do everything that is possible to maintain the traditions and history of these battalions.

The selection of the battalions which are to go depends on a careful study of the resources available in the Depots in ENGLAND, and in Hospitals, on a territorial basis, as well as upon other considerations, and can only be decided by those in supreme authority. -

P. T. O .-

Naturally, every battalion in the A. I. F., rightly considers itself to be the best battalion, with the finest history, and every battalion naturally considers that some other battalion should be selected. It is, however, possible, to ensure that at least all ranks may be retained in their own brigado, and this is a substantial concession, because, after all, it is the brigade and not the battalion which is the fighting Unit. - No battalion ever fights by itself, but only as part of its Brigade, and the question involved is really the large one as to whether it is better to employ a given number of soldiers, available for each Brigade, in 3-battalion groups or in 4-battalion groups. -

As the men of every battalion owe loyalty to their Brigade next only to the loyalty which they owe to their Battalion, it is a substantial concession to the men to do everything possible to ensure that

no man is removed from his own Brigado. -

In addition to this, it must not be forgotten that nothing that can happen can destroy the place in history of the Battalion, even though it may cease to exist as a separate unit, for the remainder of this Campaign. Its number as a battalion will continue to be represented in its training cadres in ENGLAND and will also be definitely preserved in the reorganization after the war of the Commonwealth Military Forces in AUSTRALIA. -

Moreover, as far as possible, men will be transferred in complete Company units or Platoon Units, so that comradeship will be preserved, and doubtless also, in many cases, concessions can be made in the mainter of wearing colour patches. Moreover, efforts while made (although this cannot be absolutely guaranteed) to reassemble the Officers and men of these battalions during the domobilization period, so that the original battalion, with its original number, may return to AUSTRALIA as a separate unit.

The real and urgent question, at the moment, is to carry on the war, with the available number of men, to the best possible tastical advantage, and to achieve victory over the onemy in the speedlest time possible. This cannot be done with Brigades having only four weak battalions, as the fighting power of four weak battalions is, for tastical reasons, not to be compared with the fighting power of three strong battalions.

nown of the Australian Imperial Force, that every man affected by the present reorganization will be prepared loyally to accept the situation, and to do his best, in companionship with the other men of his own Brigade, to continue, until the end of the war, our glorious victories.

ies, based on sentimental grounds, while, on the one hand, they would be powerless in any way to alter the decision of the War Office and the A.I.F., Authorities, they would, on the other hand, incur, by a refusel to obey orders, the danger of a scandal which would cast a deplemable slur upon the great reputation and prestige of the Australian Corps. This is a result which no man in the Corps would willingly bring about. -

SENSONAL PROPERTY CONCERNS AND AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS OF

154 APPENDIX 206

Summary of Operations of 41st Battalion. 29.9.1918 and following days.

PREPARATION.

Was short and consisted of two Brigade Conferences in which everything was discussed, and several Battalion Conferences. On the 26th, the Battalion conducted a practise operation over the ground between COURCELLES and BUSSU as nearly resembling the actual operation as possible.

"Q" arrangements could hardly considered satisfactory and a good deal of delay and inconvenience were caused through inability to deliver the specified articles at arranged times and places.

HE APPROACH.

On the 27th orders for the approach march were received and the necessary route and Area reconnoitering parties despatched. On their return however we were informed that the roads reconnoitred could not be used and others had to be found. Intelligence personnel with the Intelligence Officer were then sent away to guide the column after it had reached ROISEL. This arrangement worked perfectly, and no unnecessary delays were caused, although one had been over the route previously.

The route actually followed was from our camp at I.30 just north of TINCOURT-HAMEL-MARQUAIX X roads at ROISEL in
K.19.a - K.5 central - K.6.c.5.0 - K.2.b.4.8 - F.26.d - to our

bivouac area in F.27.

We left camp in time to pass the starting point J.19.d.5.4. at 7.15pm, and reached the bivouac area at 12 midnight, the only hitch being a block in the traffic at HAMEL which split wo our Companies and cut our Cookers off. This however was remedied just before entering ROISEL. No trouble was experienced at ROISEL, where it was feared the congestion of traffic would be great. Companies were bivouaced in the banks in F.27 with B.H.Q. at F.27.c.8.6. Soon after our arrival a few Gas shells began to arrive in our gully, and this continued intermittently all night with the result that "A" and "B" Coys and Headquarte a were unable to get any rest. A pronounced smell of mustard was noticeable and it was not until morning when the bross sprung up that the men were able to sleep and remove their Respirators. Our casualties during this period were one man who was evacuated next morning as a result of Gas.

DAY OF 28th.

At 6.0am all Officers and a proportion of NCOs set out to do a forward reconnaissance, and proceeded as far as BENJAMIN POST in some instances. As a result of this reconnaissance a good deal of doubt was exp ressed about the front line, and it was almost unanimously agreed that the Americans did not hold the GILLEMONT FARM - QUENNEMONT FARM trench system, but that the front line was nearer the CAT-POST, BENJAMIN POST system. It was also found that the troop s holding the line had only the vaguest idea as to where any of the lines were.

The Brigade Order was received on the morning of the 28th, from which a Battalion Order was issued and gone into in every detail, at a Conference of all Officers in the afternoon.

All Tank Officers working with us arrive in the morning and had awlong talk with the various Officer with whom they were to be associated. The afternoon was spent in finally equipping the men and making all final arrangements for feeding etc.

OUR TASK.

Roughly the Battalion task was as follows.—

As left front Battalion of the 11th Brigade with the 44th on the right and 38th on the left we were to exploit the success of the American Division in front of us from the GREEN LINE to the RED LINE. To do this we were to pass various points as follows.—

Road running N.E. and S.W. through F.28.a. and c. and F.21.d.....7.30am

F.21.d.....7.30am Brown Line...9.0am Canal Tunnel.lo.5am OUR TASK.

THE 29th.

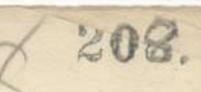
The first p ortion of the advance to be done in lines of Platoons, and the Battalion to be fully deployed before reaching the Canal Tunnel at 10.5am. Careful instructions were issued that the Battalion was not to become engaged in the fight for the GREEN LINE, but to reserve its energies for the exploitation. These instructions were further emphasised as a result of the reconnaissance.

To assist us in the exploitation we had the assistance of 4 Tanks, and also had 4 Machine Guns, 2 Trench Mortars and some Field Artillery. On arrival at the GREEN LINE we were to take up d fensive p ositions and not to move from this line until further orders. the method by which the Battalion proposed to do this is shown in the order attached.

At 7.15am the Battalion was assembled in the N.W. - S.E. line through F.28.a. and c. and F.21.c. and at 7.30am commenced its forward march to reach the BROWN LINE by 9.0am, where it was hoped to get in touch with the 38th Battalion on our left. On moving up the slope towards BENJAMIN POST trench system it was thought that enemy MXX Machine Guns could still be heard in action, and this was supported by bursts of bullets chipping the ground near by. Accordingly the Intelligence Officer was desp atched to finally warn all Company Commanders that they were not to become involved in the fight for the p resent, which he did. When the Battalion passed over the BENJAMIN POST trench system and Battalion Headquarter was established LITTLE BENJAMIN TRENCH it became evident that things were not going well. Many enemy Machine Guns were heard to be in action, and the air was thick with bullets, the slopes in F.24. and F.30 and CLAYMORE VALLEY being swept continuously. A heavy mist descended at this stage and made it impossible to see at all. In addition a fairly heavy and continuous enemy barrage was being placed on the trench system in F.24. Accordingly the Battalion in touch throughout and also in touch with 38th Battalion by this time, lay up in any available cover there was, acting under instructions from the C.O. This was the position for about half an hour with no one able to see more than a few yards, when a number of Americans appeared through the mist and got into the BENJAMIN POST trench system. This number rapidly increased and it was then learned that they had been definitely checked on the line GILLEMONT - QUENNEMONT, had suffered very heavily, and it was apparent their morale and organization no longer existed as a fighting Unit. A message was d spatched to Brigade to this effect, and a reply asked for as to further action. The reply stated the attack had gone well in the south, and it was p resume the Americans had gone on our front without mopping up. Efforts were made by all to get kke patrols round the enemy Machine Guns and to move forward, but we only succeeded in getting forward about 200 yards, with the exception of 1 Platoon which got into the trench system near QUENNOT COPSE, and started to work its way up when it met with stiff bombing resistance and heavy wire obstacles in the trenches themselves. Snipers were also particularly active, and it was very difficult to move at all. Individual acts which invariable cost the person his life were not wanting, one Lewis Gunner jumped out of the trench and swep t the enemy Machine Gun positions from the hip with his Lewis Gun, but was sniped through the head. Lieut DODDS stood up to urge his men forward in the face of the fire and was killed instantly. Altogether nine Officers were lost during the morning and about 6

0 men

APPENDIX



THE 29th. (cont)

and 60 men, and as the 38th Battalion were meeting with similar opposition and sent word to the effect that they could not advance, it was decided to wait a while before making any further effort. During the afternoon an attempt was made to organise numerous Americans who were everywhere, and resulted in three Platoons of about 30 each and a l pound Gun crew (roughly 100 men) being despatched up to and absorbed by the Battalion to swell their numbers. At the close of the day we occupied TROLLOPE and TRIANGLE Trenches, QUENNOT COPSE and a small portion of GILLEMONT Trench, but the left had not been able to get past the escarpment in F.24.a.8.4.

As soon as darkness fell an effort was made to get into GILLEMONT Trench and was successful, several Bosch being killed and 5 Machine Guns captured. A company Commanders Conference was then held, and it was decided to try and take the whole of the system next morning if

p ermission was granted.

During the night we passed to the 9th Brigade and were ordered to take the whole of square 19, which we did at 6.0am without opposition, capturing 20 machine Guns, 1 77mm and 1 Anti Tank Rifle.

The Battalion was then reorganised and was in position

as follows .-

Three (3) Companies in the line from STAVE Trench to PAUL Trench (QUENNEMONT FARM inclusive).

One (1) Company in GILLEMONT Trench.

One Company of the 34th Battalion then went through us to clear up Square 20, and did so as far as the road running up DIRK VALLEY.

From this time we were a Battalion in the Reserve Brigade, and had practically no fighting, our only activities being night patrolling on the 30th.

We were eventually withdrawn on the night of 2nd Octobe

CASUALTIES.

CAPTURES.

GENERAL.

9 Officers 85 Other Ranks.

1 77mm, 23 Machine Guns actually sent to D.A.D.O.S, 1 Anti-

(1) One of our Platoons in touch with 44th Battalion went with them forward, and did not return for 36 hours.

(2) It is considered the heavy Officer casualties were due to the fact that when under heavy fire the natural desire of an Officer is to try and see what is going on, with the result that he is observed.

(3) Two Officers were gassed by a shell bursting at their feet

(4) It is considered that the Battalion would have suffered much more severely if it had not been forewarned several times in regard to a possible failure, or partial failure of the assaulting troops.

(5) All our Tanks were knocked out before the BROWN LINE was reached.

Alex Rolleron Lt.C.
Commanding 41st Battalion A.I.F.



41st BATTALION A. I. F. - R. M. O. S. REPORT for WAR DIARY for SEPTEMBER 1918

During the early part of the month the Battalion took part in the advance past BRAY and PERONNE and in what was described as the Peaceful Penetration action which consisted in ramidly following up the retreat of the enemy. This they did to just beyond ROISEL. They then went into reserve for a few days and then back to rest neat DOINGT. During that period Capt. Lever was R.M.O. of the Battalion, the present R.M.O. taking over on the 14th September. During the peaceful penetration scheme casualties were light - very light. Each Battalion had 12 F.A. Bearers attached to it and on its ration strength. They had little to do for the Motor Ambulances could go right up to the R.A.P. and in one instance they brought some stretcher cases down from some distance in front of it. The R.A.R. was always in close proximity to Headquarters. Supplies from F. Amb. were satisfactory. Shelling was light. Further details cannot be given by present R.M.O. On Tuesday 10th September the Battalion moved out to rest near DOINGT and to the time of writing they were still there. The billet huts are in a wood on the side of a hill. The place is well drained and has a fine ground for training and sports. The 11th Field Amb. is in the same Camp and some British CC.C.S. are established in the neighbourhood of the sports ground. (1) General condition of Men . At first they were rathe tired but under rest and training they soon picked up and now are pretty fit. (3) General Health. Good. Sick Parade averages about 20, prevailing diseases being Coughs Colds Boils Daerrhoea and Gastric Enteritis, and P.U.O. probably influenza, in that order. A few injuries such as Mule kicks and sprained ankles from football occurred. One anti-aircraft casualty occurred, a slight flesh wound in the forearm. (3) Food, Cooking, Clothing, The food has been god with a fair variation but with the new reduced rations the cooks find it difficult to put up the meat in different ways and find

they have to fall back on stew. The present fresh meat ration is very light and is not up to the 8 oz. allowed. The Cooking has been very satisfactory and the

cook houses clean

Baths - Three Bathing parades with clean changes have been held during the fortnight. The clothes were not ironed at the Baths

The Clothing of the Battarion is quite good. They are carrying one blanket at present. The Foden Lorry disinfected these once. Boots were savisfactory three pairs were not so but the bootmaker's services were availed of. Fitness as regards marching. Two route marches have been held. On each occasion about 10 men were excused the march on various medical grounds - chiefly temporary illness. On the first occasion no men fell out, on the second occasion four men fell out. Two with diarrhoea, one with an injury, one with flat feet. Both marches were with full equipment., the first 8 miles the second 13 miles.

Special Inspection The M.O. attended one one the Bahhing Parades . Two cases of scabies were detected and treated regimentally. The men appeared to be in good condition. After the second March a sick Parade was held which was attended by about 30 men. Their complaints were chiefly corns and slight ingrowing toenails. These were attended to. In order to improve the men feet during the last few days every man is having a nightly foot bath of warm water and potassium perman (6)

Rest Hut. A Rest Hut of 8 huts was established 8 stretchers and 16 blankets were obtained from 11th F.A. The Amb, also supplied comforts such as custard tinned rabbit biscut

R.M.O. Report

milk and cocoa. The daily average of patients was five They were in Rest Hut for about three days . Several cases of spraned ankle gastro-enteritis and influenza were evacuated.

Work of Water and Sanatary details :-(1) Water. One water detail accompanied

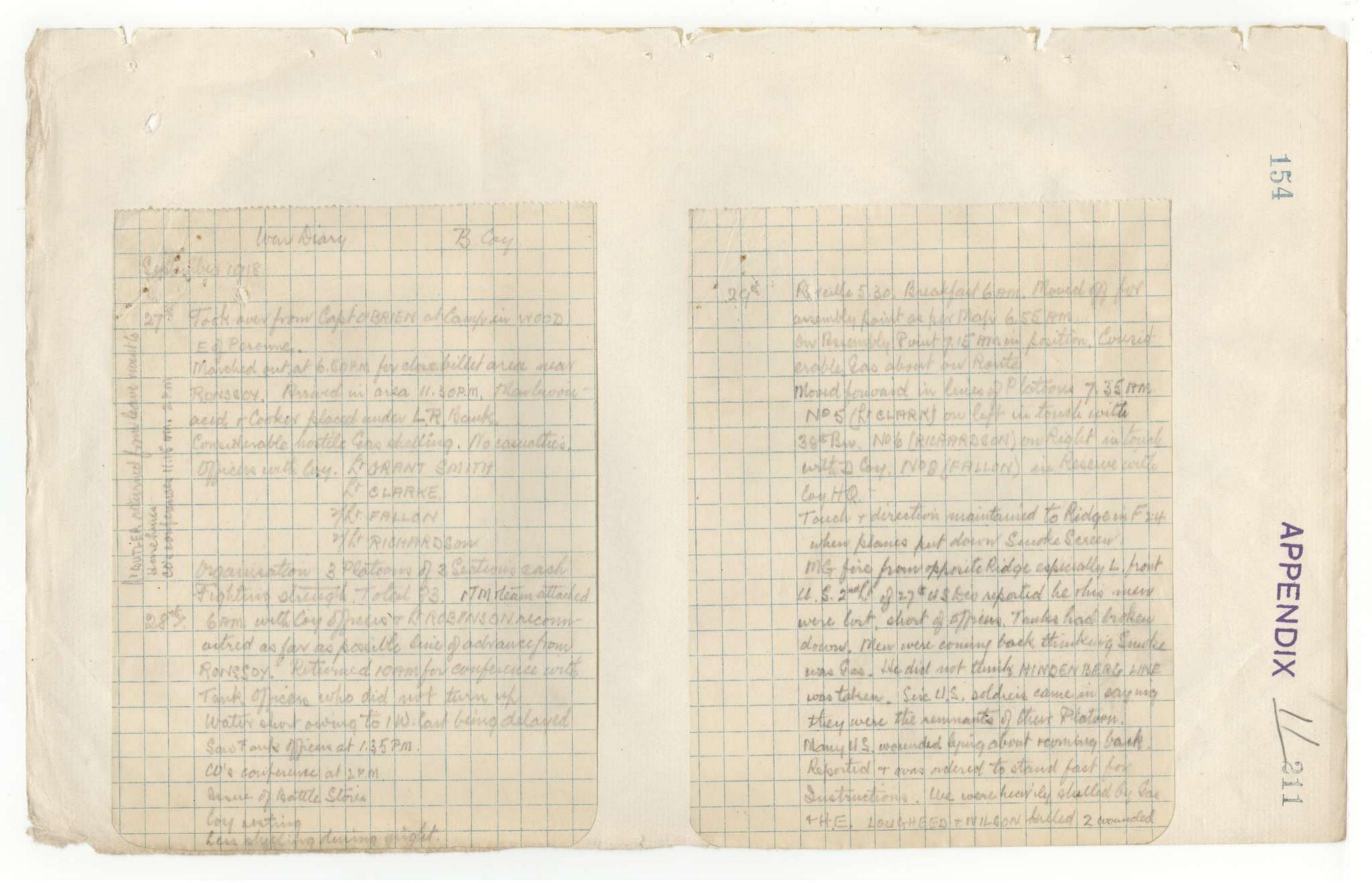
each water cart and saw to clorination. Two scources were available. One a water point where the detail chlorinated the water and a sterilizing wagon where the water was already sterilized. The water carts were always clean. The Sanitary men worked very well. latrines were used. Rufuse was buried in pits and part was burned. Owing tomanti aircraft the incinerator was only used int the daytime. Incinerator was made of sheet iron was quite effective. Manure was buried. Speaking generally the daily sick rate was about 5% and the most prevailing diseases were :- Coughs influenza boils diarrhoea (about 19 cases) and minor

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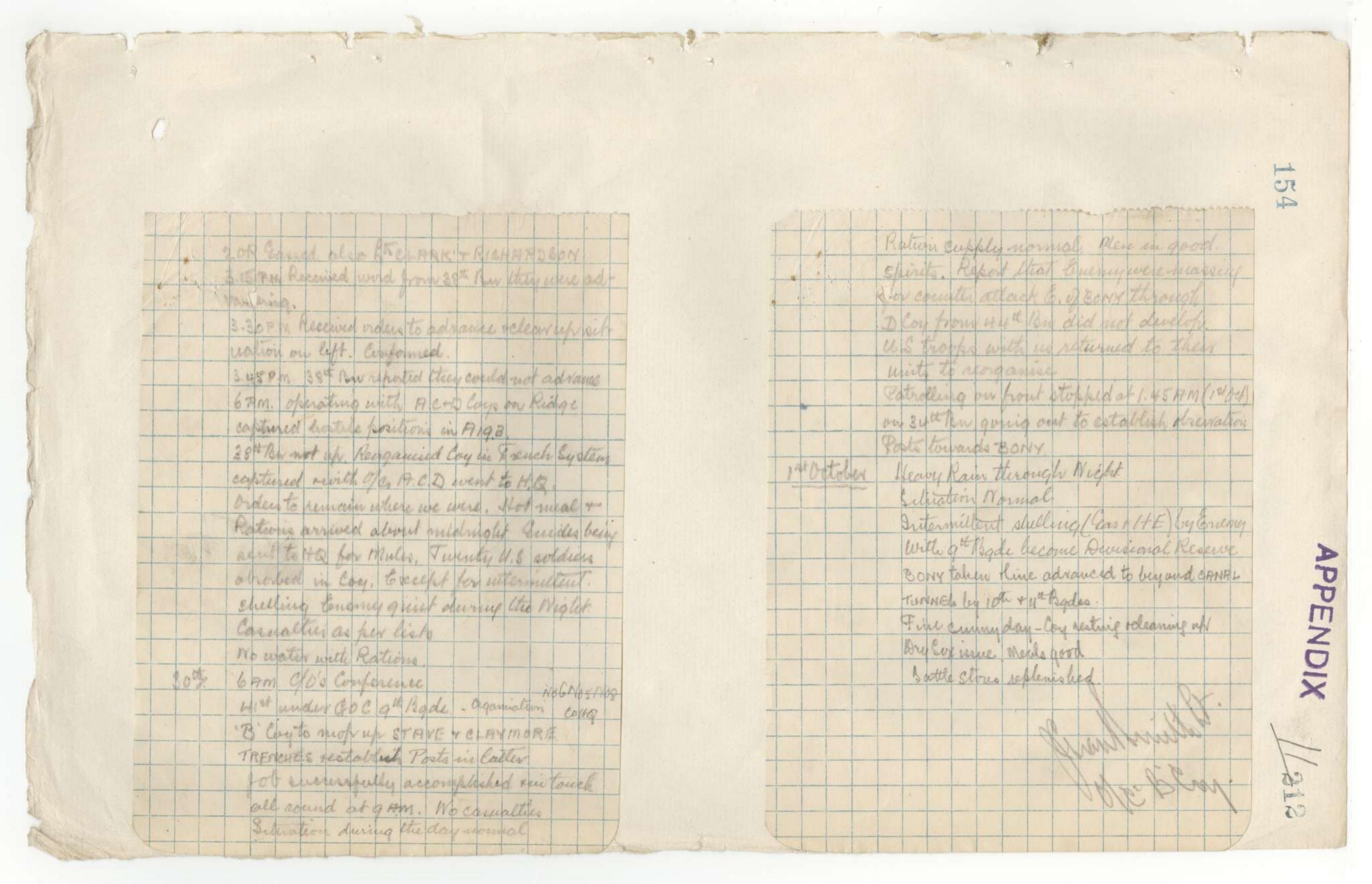
injuries.

(Sgd.) E.J.B. Miller Capt.

R.M.O. 41st Battn. A.I.F.



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War Diary for September 1918 - by O.C. "B" Coy.

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With. Took over from Capt. 9'BRIEN at Camp in WOOD East of PERONNE. Marched out at 6.30 p.m. for close billet area near RONSSOY Arrived in area 11,30 p.m. Men bivouaced and cooker pe placed under L.R. Bank. Considerable hostile shelling. No casualties. Officers with Coy. :- Lt. GRANT BRITH, Lt. CLARKE, 2/ t. FALLON, 3/ t. RICHARDSON, Lt. BUTLER returned from leave and went to Horse Lines. C.O. Conferences 11.15 a.m. 3 p.m. Organisation 5 platoons of 5 sections each, Fighting Strength Total 53 . L T.M. and team attached. 38th 6 a.m. With Coy. Officers and Lt. Robinson reconneitred as far as possible the line of advance from RONESOY. Returned 10. a.m. for Conference with Tank Officers who did not turn up. Water short owing to one water cart being delayed. Saw Tank Officers at 1.35 n.m. C.O.s. Conference at 2 p.m. Issue of battle stores. Company resting. Less shering during night. 30th Reveirle 5.30 a.m. Breakfast 6 a.m. Noved off for Assembly Point as per Man 6,55 a.m. On Assembly Point 7,15 a.m. in position. Considerable Gas about on route, Moved forward in lines of platoons at 7.00 a.m. No. 5 CLt. Clark) on left in touch with 38th Battn. . No. 6 (Lt. Richardson) on right in touch with "D" Coy. No.8 (Lt. Fallon) in reserve with Goy. H.Q. Touch and direction maintained, to Ridge in F. 34. when planes put down smoke screen. M.G. Fire from onposite ridge especially left front. U.S. 3/Lt. of 27th U.S. Division reported that he and his men were lost, short of Officers. Tanks had broken down . Men were coming back thinking smoke was gas. He did not think HINDENBURG Line was taken. Six U.S. Soldier came in saying they were the remaments of their platoon. Many U.S. wounded lying about and coming back. Reported and was ordered to stand fast for instructions. We were heavily shelled by gas and H.E. LOUGHEED and WILSON killed two wounded two U.R. gassed, also Lt. CLARK and RICHARDSON, 3, 15 p.m. received word from 35th Battn, that they were advancing. 3. 30 p.m. received orders to advance and clear situation on left, Conformed 3.45 p.m. 38th Battn, reported they could not advance. 6 p.m. operating with A.C and D Coys, on ridge captured hostile posi tions in A 10 d. 30th Battn not up. Reorganised Coy, in Tench System captured and with O.C.s. A C and D went to H.Q. Orders to remain where we were. Hot meal and rations arrived about midnight guides being sent to H.Q. for mules. Twenty U.S. Soldiers absorbed in Coy. Expect for intermittent shelling enemy quiet during the night. Casualties as ner lists. No water with rations 30th. 6 m.m. C.O. Conference, 41st under G.O.C. With Brigade organisation No. 9 plateon left No. 5 central No. 8 right. B Coy. to mop up STAVE and CLAYMORE trenches and ostablish posts in latter. Job successfully accomplished and in touch all round at Da.m. No. casualties. Situation during the day normal Ration . supply normal, men in good spirits. Report that enemy were massage ing for counter attack East of BONY through D Coy, from 44th Battn. Did not develone. U.S. troops with us returned to their Units to reorganise. Patrolling on front stopped at 1.45 a.m. (1st October), on 34th Battalion going out to establish observation post towards BONY.

Shing on Shings

