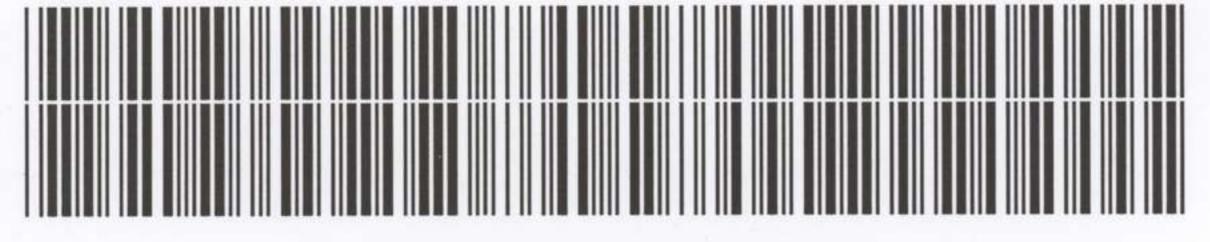
## AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

## Infantry

Item number: 23/60/24 PART 2

Title: 43rd Infantry Battalion

August 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/60/24PART2

43rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF JULY 8th 1918. EAST OF HAMEL.

Re rence Map. 62 D S.H.

SCHEME. 1. On 1st August the C.O. and Adjutant attended a conference at Brigade when details and plans were discussed.

The 3rd Division was to co-operate in a general attack, operating South of the SOMME from the Canal (inclusive) to about 3,500 yards south of the river. The 11th Brigade North on a 2,000 yards front, and the 9th Brigade Right, on a 1,500 yards front were to assault, with the 10th Brigade in reserve.

福 3 1 AOUT 1918 号

The Brigade objective was the Green line running through

Q.1.d. Q.7.b and D., Q.8.c., Q.14.a and c.

At ZERO plus four hours the 4th Brigade leapfrogged through 11th Brigade and continued the advance under open warfare conditions.

DISPOSITIONS. 2. The 44th Battalion, right, on a 1,500 yards front, and the 42nd left on a 600 yards front were to assault; the 42nd going going through to the Green line, in-P. wand the 44th Battalion going to an inter-mediate objective in P.12, when the 41st Battalion plus one Company 43rdnBattalion leap-frogged through 44th Battalion and carried on to the Green Line. The 43rd Battalion less One company (C.Coy) were Brigade Reserve.

2 Light Trench Mortars were attached to each Battalion.

PREPARATIONS 3. Owing to the limited time, preparations had to be hurried.

Personal reconnaissance by Commanders was carried out from 0.

Ps. on North Bank of the SOMME, where a good view of the whole ground of attack was obtained. A proportion of runners and signallers also reconnoitred tracks.

On the night of the 3/4th the Brigade was relieved in the line, the 10th Brigade taking over the whole Divisional front.

The 43rd Battalion moved back to bivouacs about 2,000 yards N. of CORBIE, Here the men were rested, and all preparations made. Frequent conferences of officers were held and all details were settled. On the night of the 5th and 6th the Battalion had to supply 300 men for working party - cable bury in area near VAIRE WOOD.

APPROACH MARCH.4. On the night 7th/8th at 11 p-m- the Battalion commenced the approach march following the 42nd Battalion along D.

Track which had previously marked out by the Engineers. An Officer checked the column as it passed over the SOMME. Some delay occurred as the 42nd opened out to large intervals, and it was not till ZERO minus 35 minutes that the Battalion was in position. Capt Gunter, and Lieut Cudmore supervized the forming up.

The Battalion lay up behind the 42nd in P.5,c.

The enemy did not interfere with our approach march, but he heavily shelled the 174th British Division Brigade on our left

· (North) and caused some anxiety.

At ZERB minus 15 minutes the tanks appeared, Enemy and must have been heard by the enemy who commenced to shell our laying up position, but fortunately we had no casualties.

DISPOSITIONS OF BATTALION. 5. C. Coy was attached to 41sh Battalion.

The Battalion followed in rear of the assaulting Battalions in line of Companies in platoons in artillery formation, from right to left D. B. and A. Coys.

Battalion Headquarters was in our old front line in P,10.b° 90.20.

90.20

6. Artillery (Field) worked out at one gun per 30 yards. The lifts were 100 yards in 2 minutes for the first 200 yards. then 100 yards in three minutes for 1,000 yards after, 100 yards in four minutes to the Green Line, and 400 yards beyond, where it was to rest till ZERO plus 4 hours, but was then to cut to 1 round per minute.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ARTILLERY.

## Operations. 8/8/18 con.

7. Tanks operated with the Brigade with the Kasault Battns TANK a and got well away in front of our infantry.

8. Our barrage fell at 4.20 a.m. and some of the rounds THE ATTACK fell short in P.10.b. AThe dense fog made the keeping of direction very difficult, and the prismatic compass proved of great value. Owing to the fog, the Battalions became somewhat mixed, but the attack was pressed on and the enemy put up very little resistance, as he was completely overwhelmed and surprised.

A. and B. Companies had some mopping up to do on ridge

HEAD-OUARTERS > 41.

in P.12.a. and b.

After the attack the companies consolidated on line P.7.a.12.a.and b.

Battalion Headquarters moved to P.17.a.90.60.

CASUALTIES. 9. Our casualties were light being 3 killed and 5 wounded.

101 120 prisoners, 25 Machine Guns including 12 heavies, CAPTURES. #1 Field Gun, and 1 anti-tank rifle, besides a quantity of signalling stores.

11. The R.A.P. was at B.H.Q. at P.10'.b.90.20. and all MEDICAL arrangements worked well. 16 ambulance bearers were attached, but most of the carrying was done by prisoners.

Lieut-Col. J. Farrell. Battalion. COMMANDERS 12. Captain. E.J. Colliver, Adjutant. Captain. D.A. Young. A. Coy Captain H.S. Cope. B. Coy Captain G.H. Oswald MC C. Coy Lieut. R.H. Martin. D. Coy

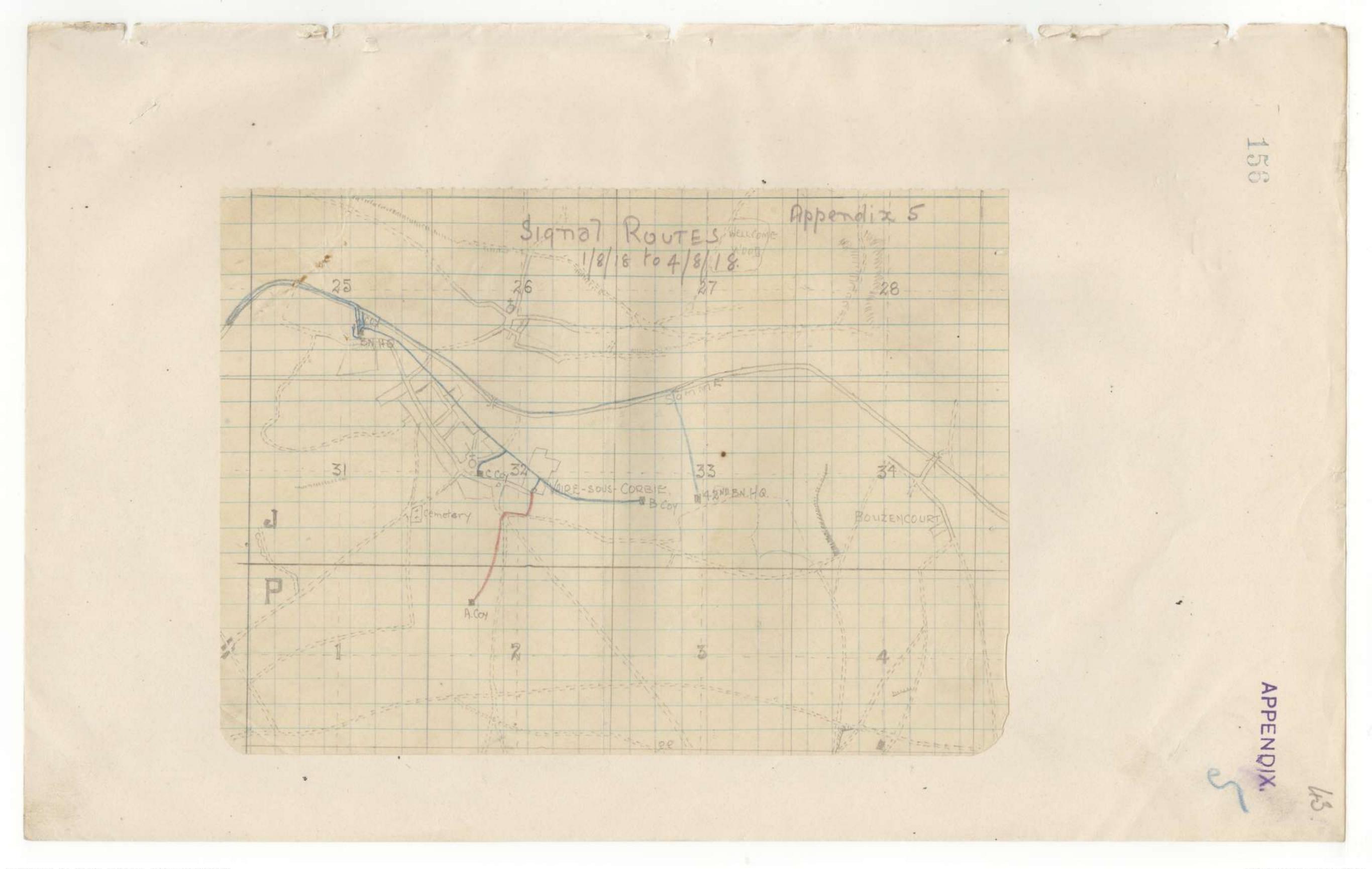
13. C. Coy attached to 41st had some fighting, but as the GENERAL battalions was in Brigade Reserve, it had very little work to do beyond mopping up. The men were in excellent spirits and were ready to do anything asked of them.

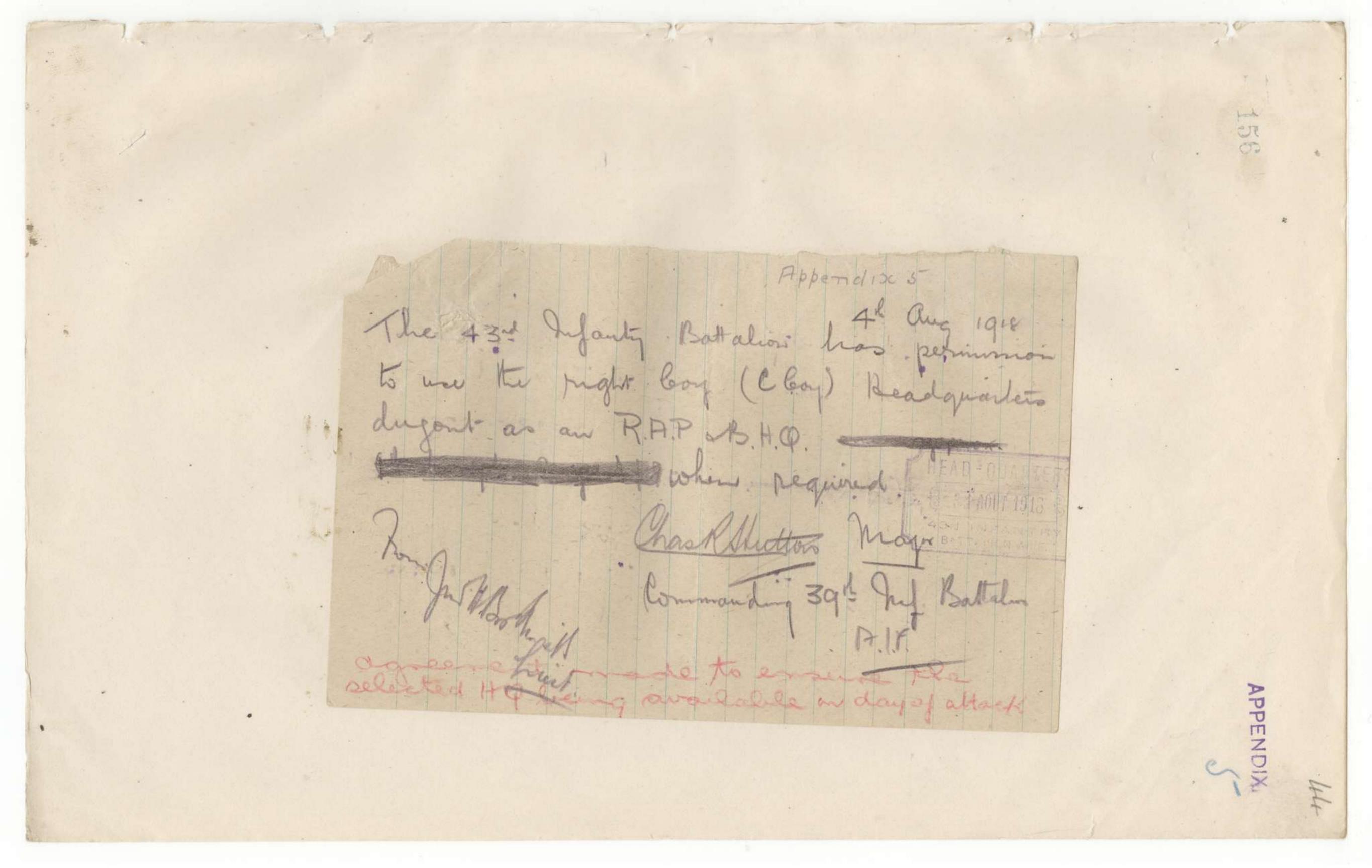
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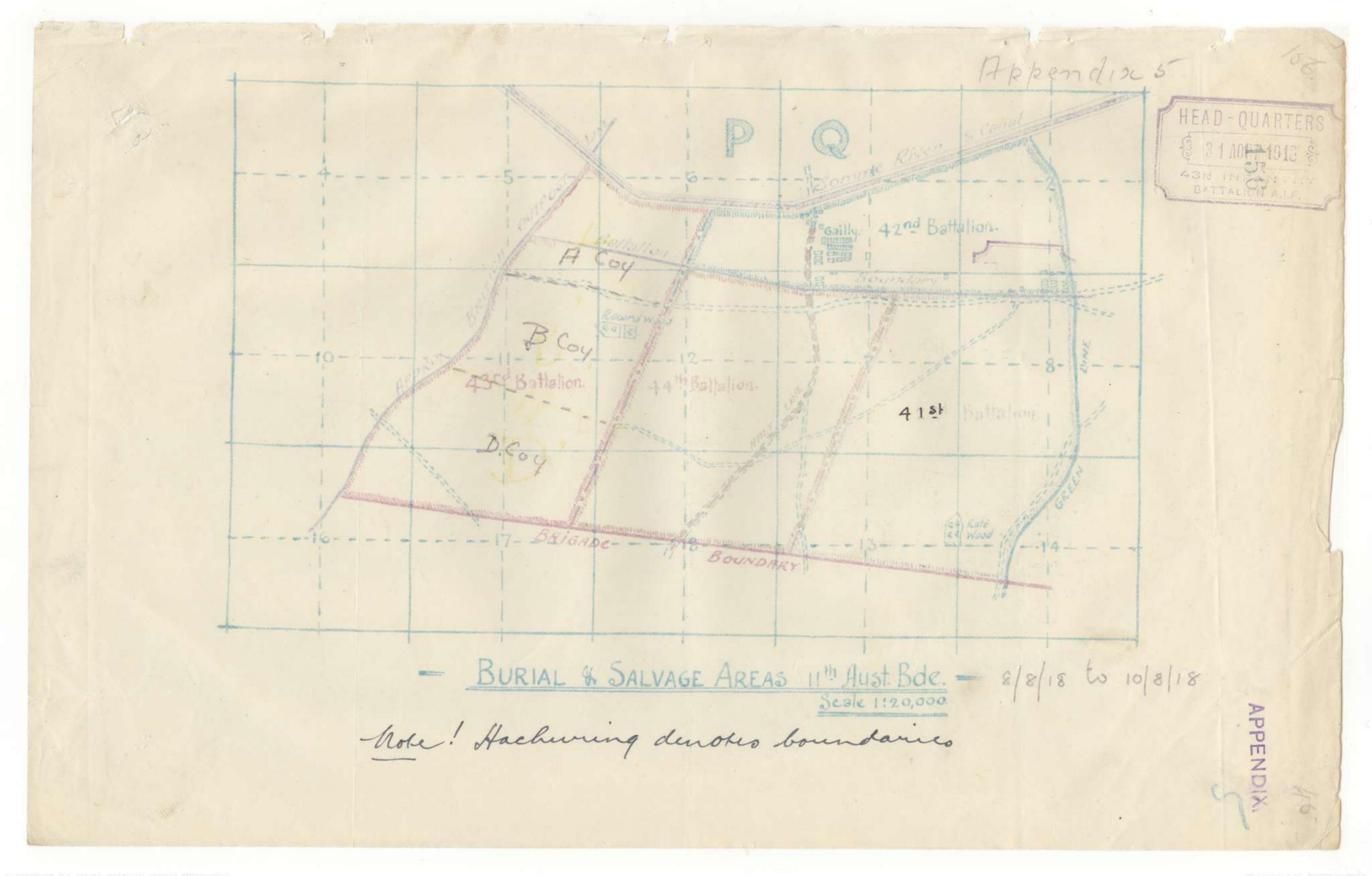
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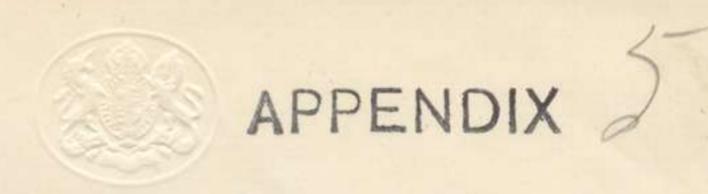
admin Cmo 0.0. 43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

156 APPENDIX Reference attached POUTE Diagram REF 620 Portion JEP. BDE (PUGO) - Iwo lines running in Canal - both weak. (PUGO) also obtainable through SOLA (M.G.). 42nd Br. (GODO) - Continuation of Bde OI - Direct overland. OC: OB: OA - Three coyo on one line direct overland M.G. (SOLA) - Direct overland. NOTE. Blue lines as taken our from 35th Br. Red Care laid on 1/8/18









SEU RET.

Headquarters.

Third Australian Division.



## Approach March.

- The following are the proposed details for the Approach March on "Y/Z" night.
- "C" Track to be used by 44th. and 41st. Battalions. "D" Track " 42nd. and 43rd. Battalions.
- Starting Points. "O" Track - Where the Track meets the SOMME at I. 36.d.O.O. "D" Track - Where the Track meets the SOMME at 0.6.a.75.57.
- Times of Passing Respective Starting Points: -

44th. and 42nd. Battalions. Zero minus 4 hours. 41st. and 43rd. Battalions. Zero minus 3 hours 30 minutes.

These times are based on the following calculations:-5.

> Length of both "C" and "D" Tracks - 4,500 yards. Length of any one Bn. when on the march - 1,500 yards. Halt for 15 minutes after head of the column has been marching for 45 minutes. Rate of advance - 50 yards per minute.

Hence: -

Assembly to be complete by Zero minus 1 hour = 60 minutes. Length of Column 1500 yards = 30 2250 yards march = 45 Halt = 15 2350 yards march = 45 For unforeseen eventualities = 15 Total = 210

Therefore the two rear Battalions must pass Starting Point at Zero minus 5 hours 50 minutes.

6. If the weather is wet and the going bad these times will be increased by 33 1/3. per cent.

Trench Mortar Battery will move with the Battalions to which they are affiliated.

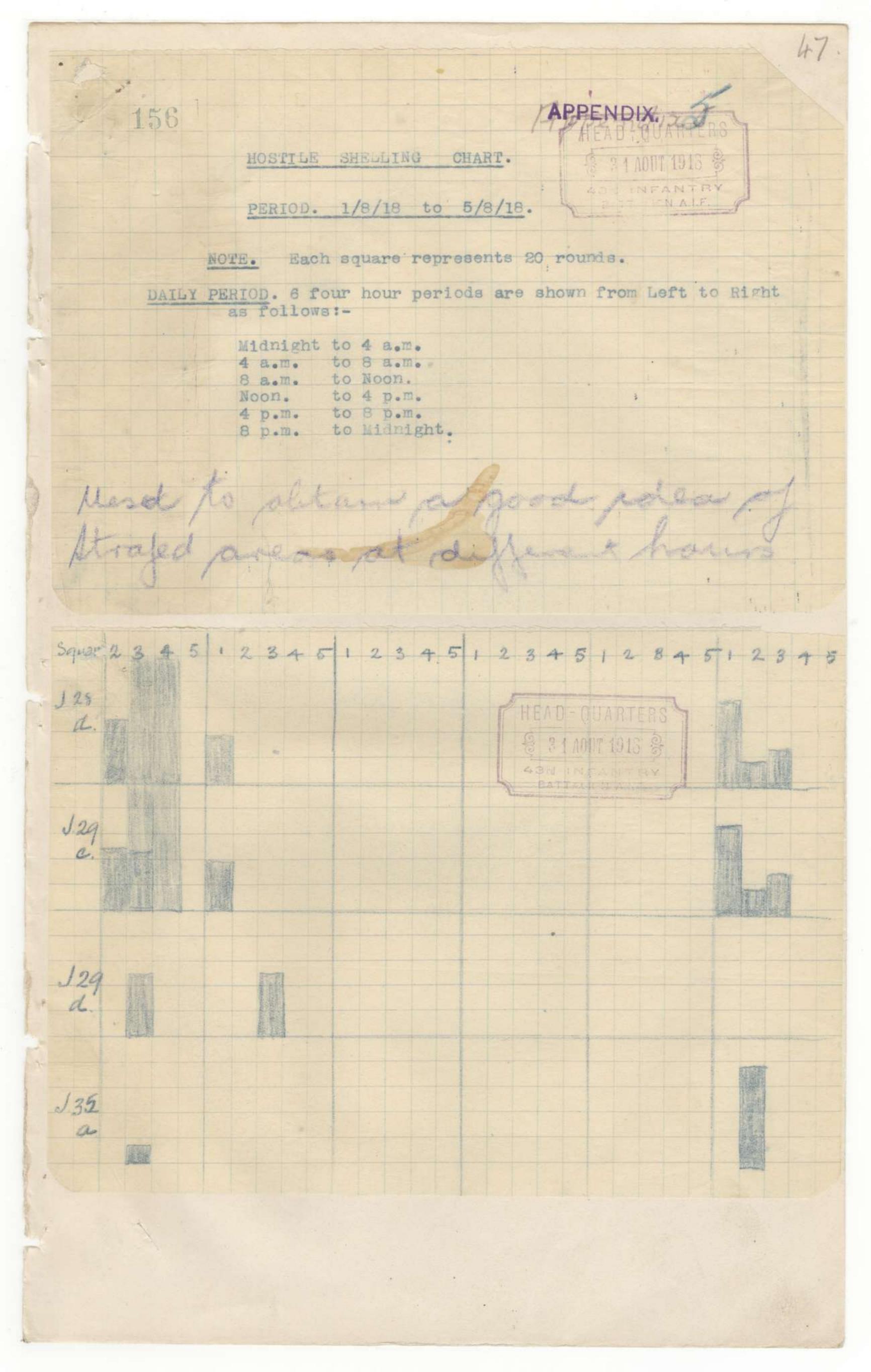
Machine Gun personnel will report to Headquarters of Battalions 8. with which they are operating at Zero minus 3 hours.

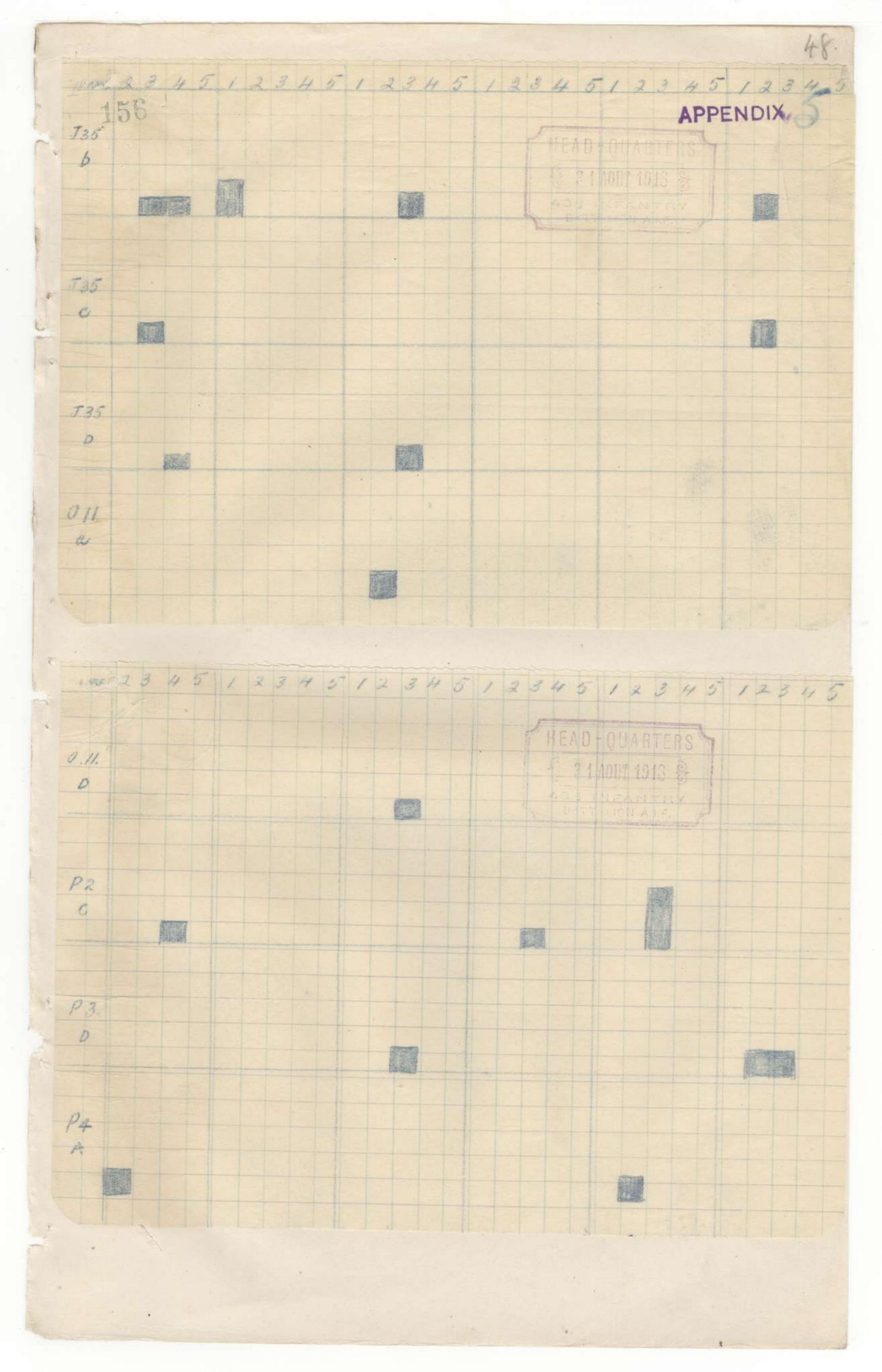
9. Approach of two platoons of allow the stranged with 174th. Brigade. Allowly Major Brigadier-General.

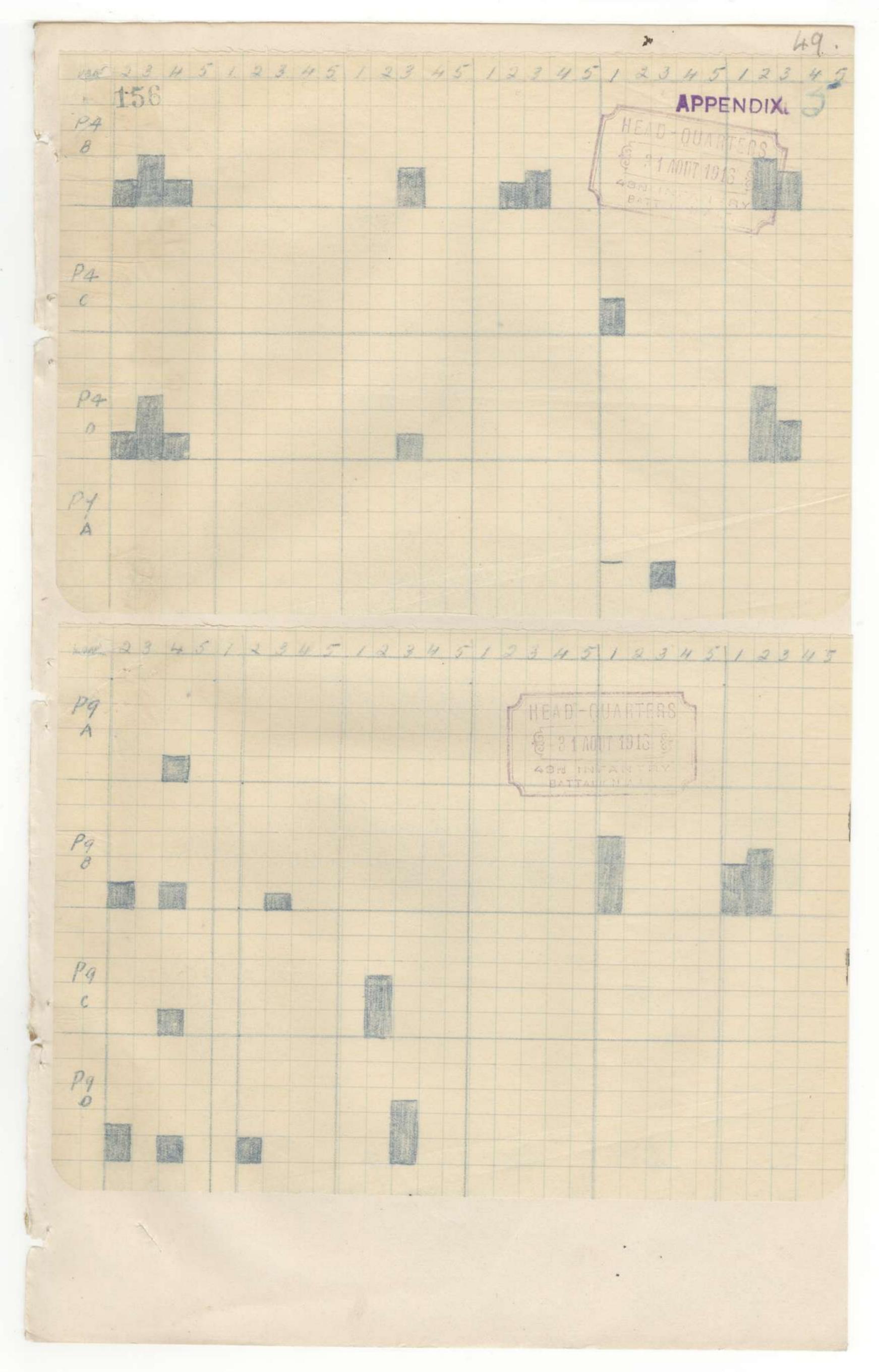
The intry Brigade. 9. Approach of two platoons operating on North of the River SOMME

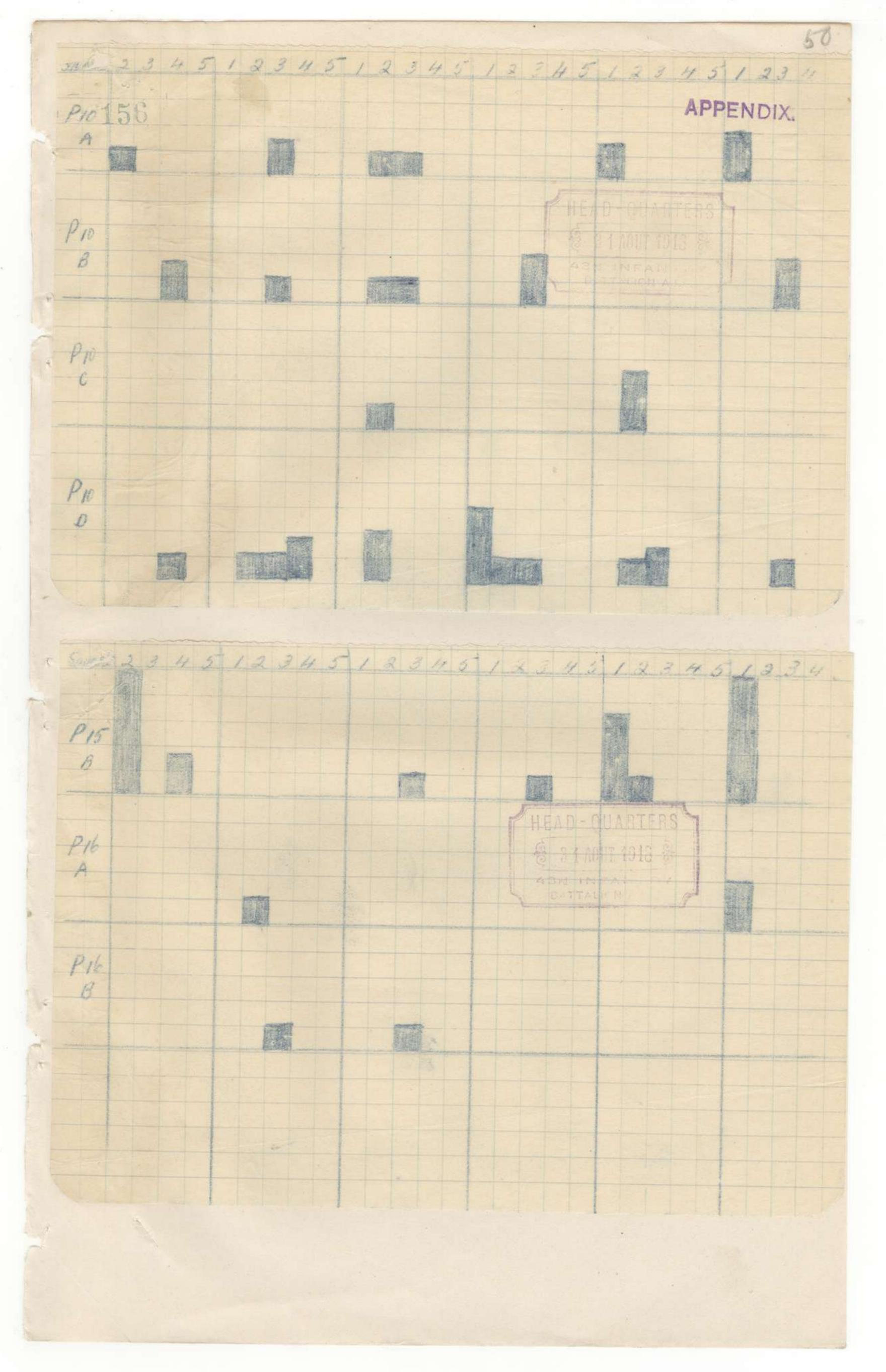
Johnanding, 11th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

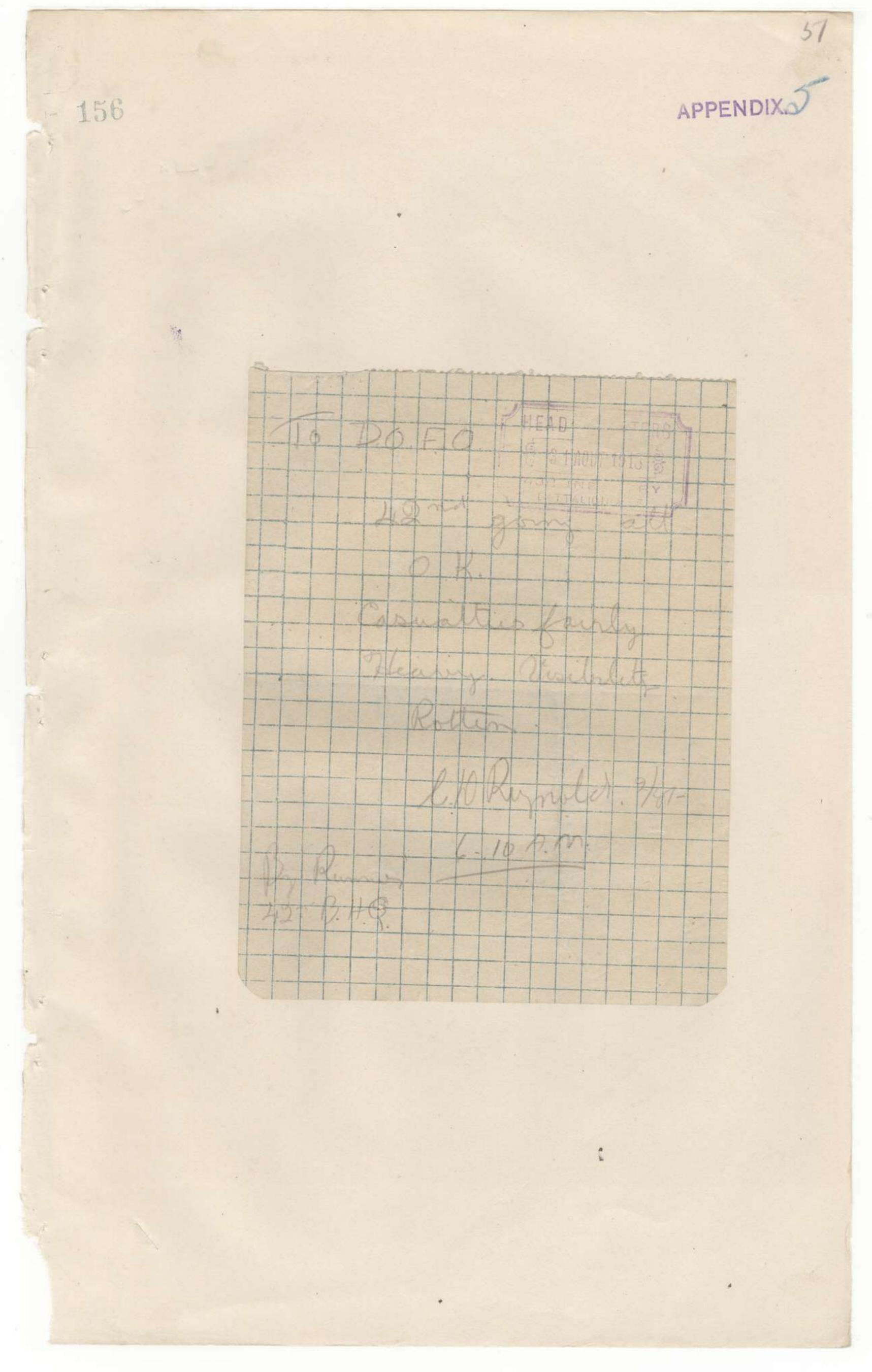
Copies to:-41st. Battalion. 43rd. Battalion. 42nd. Battalion. 44th. Battalion. T. M. Battery.

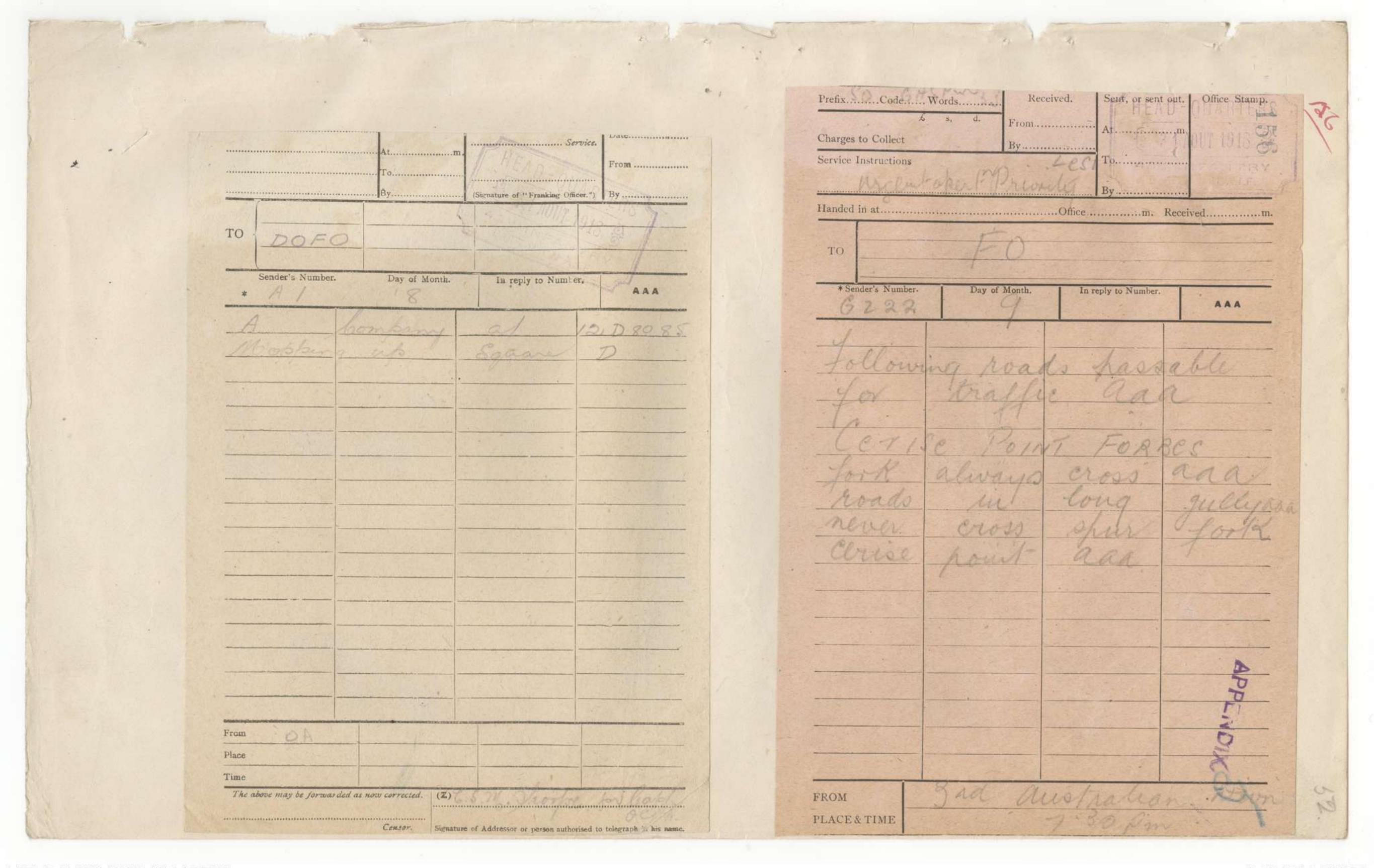


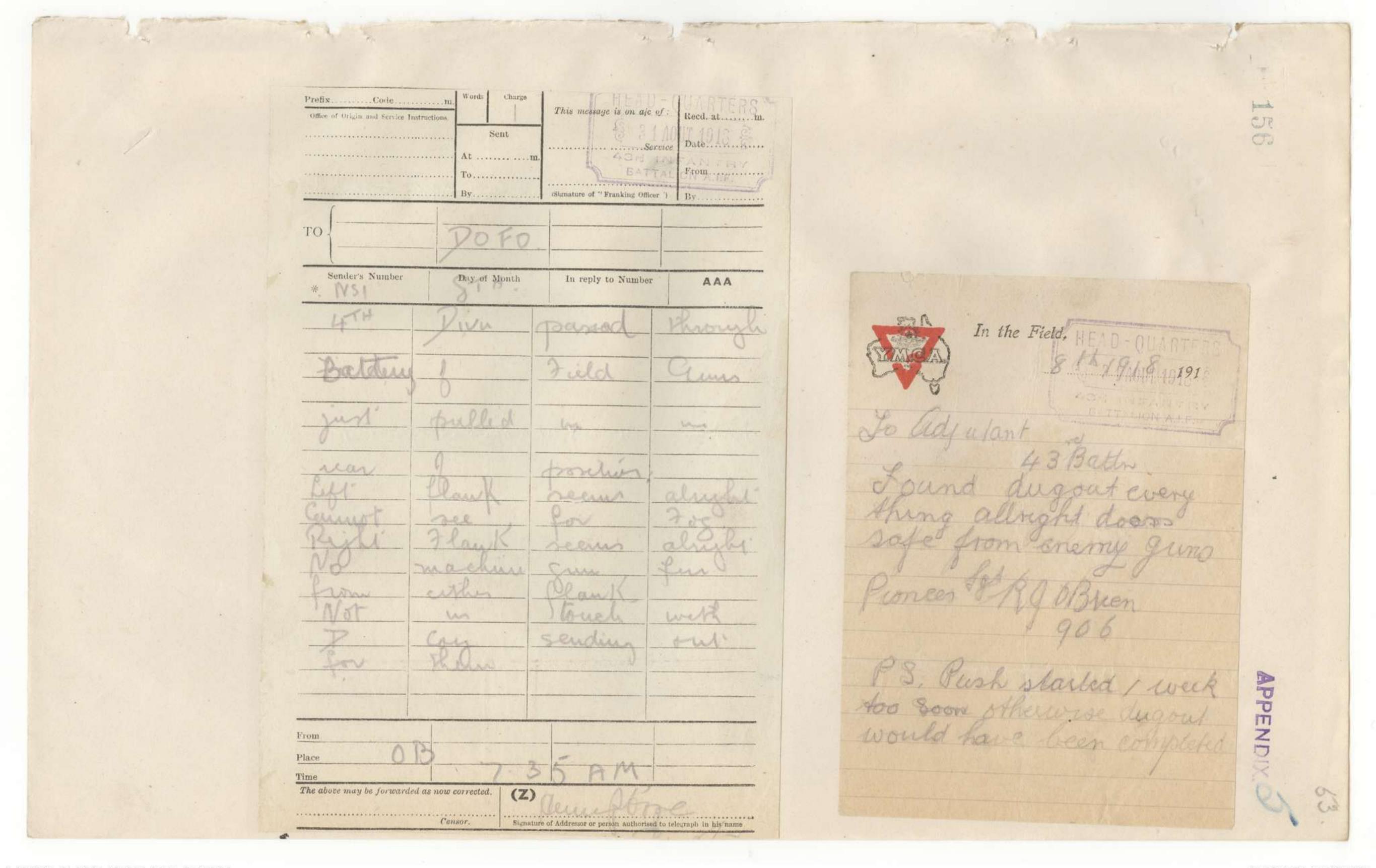


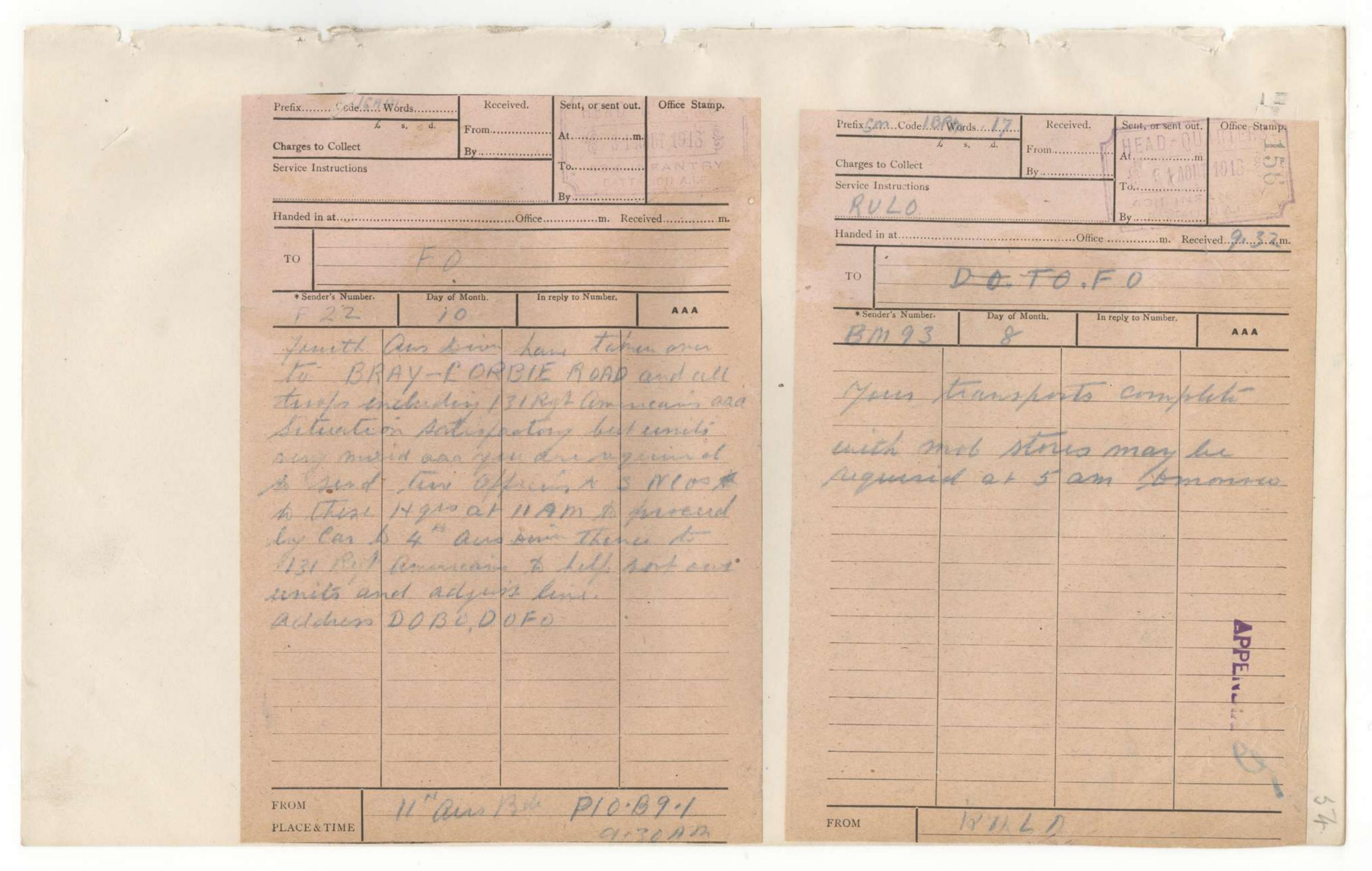


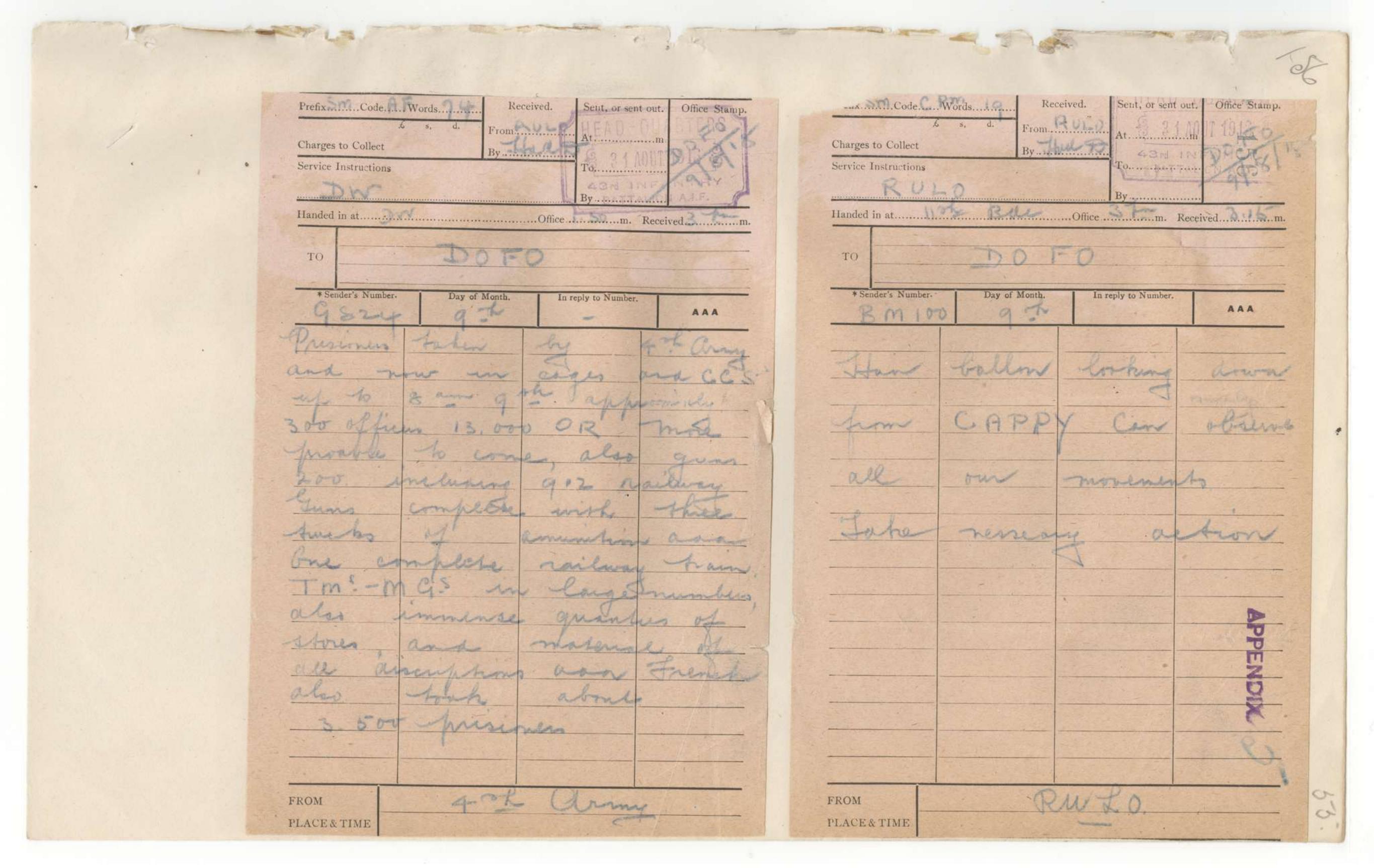


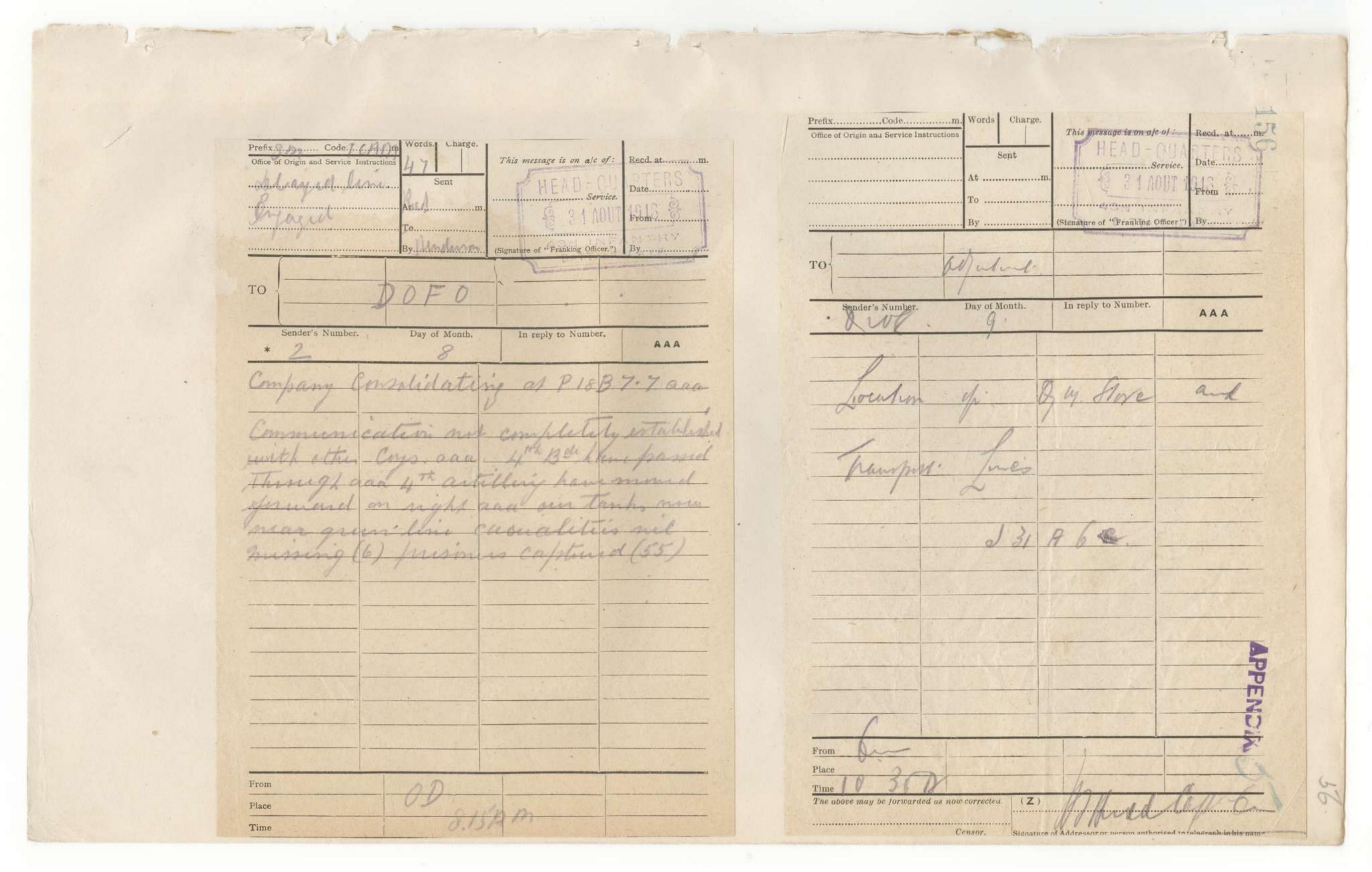


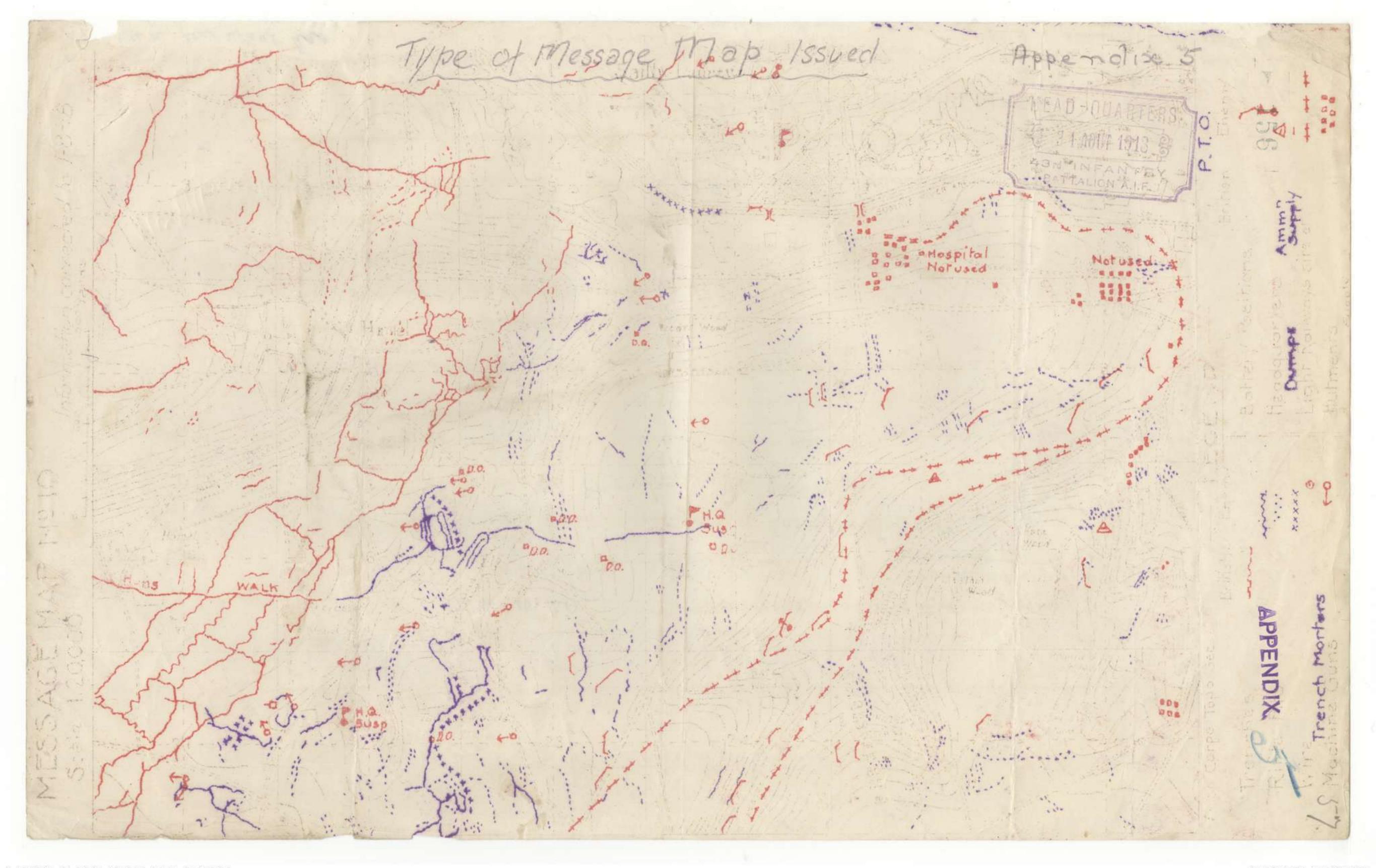








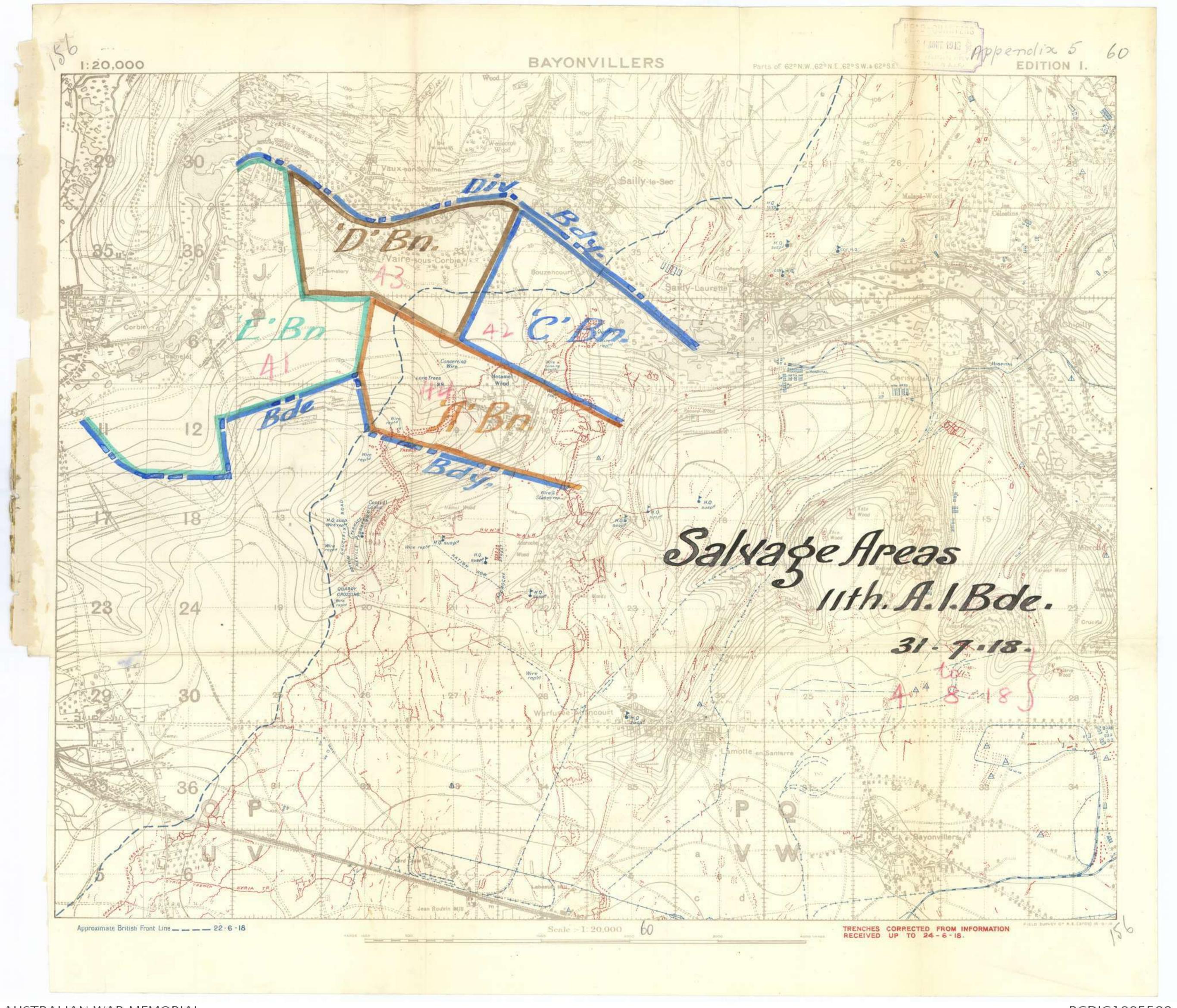




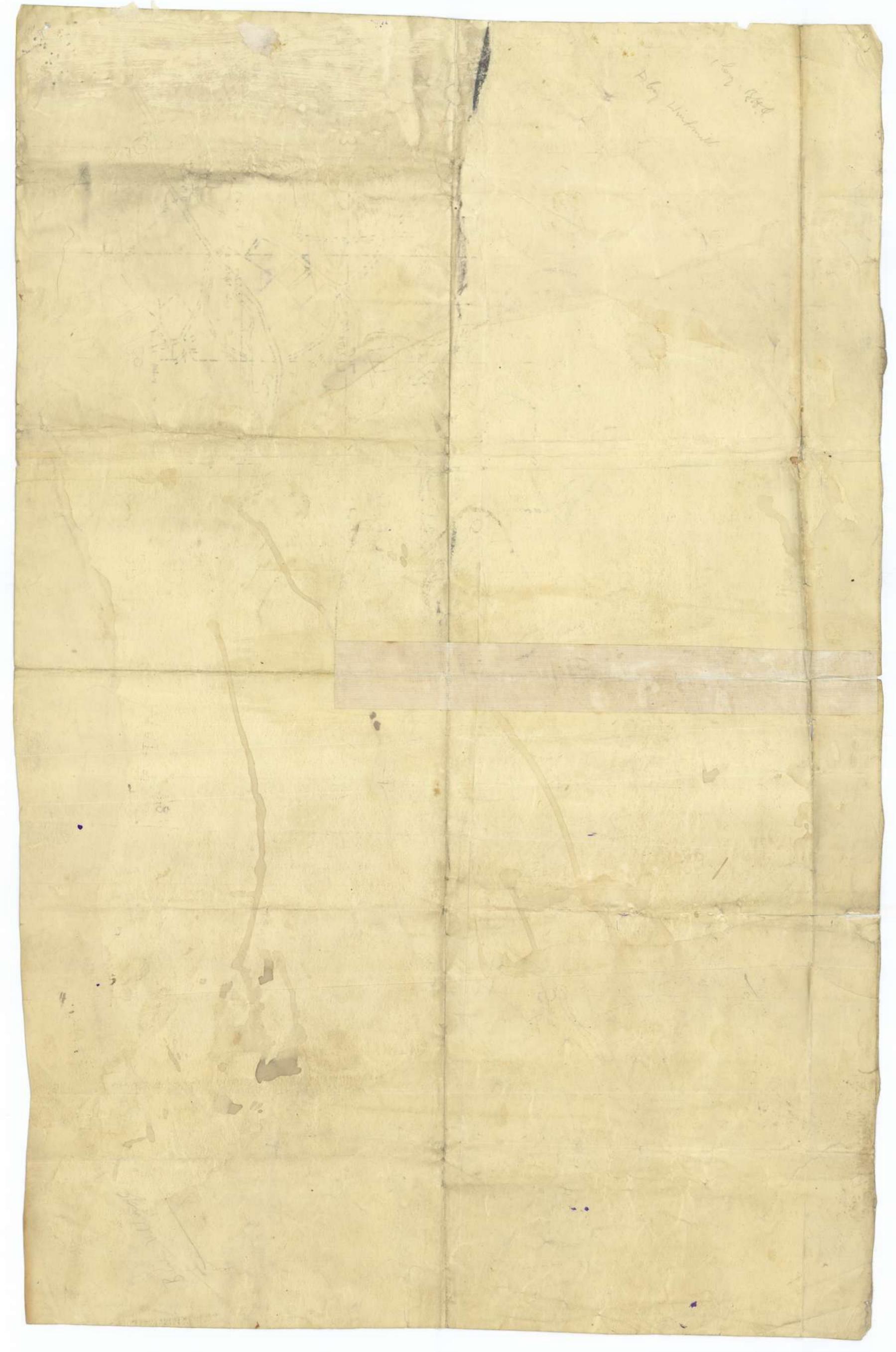
To POFO	
1 Lamat 12 d 10.50 2. have-reached the limits of my objective  3 My. (Pterson ) is at fame place 4 (is consolidating)  (Company) is at fame place 4 (has consolidating).	
5 Am holdstip by (Wire at 6 Enemy holding's. Pt 7 1 (am not) in touch with Pouly on (test) at	
8 Am shelled from 1 8 Am in need of	
10 Counter attack forming at II Hostile (M.S.) active at II Reinforcements wanted at IA D. in	
13 Estimate my present strength at 40 riftes  14 Add any other useful information  Plotoon Company 13	
Harris 43 Time 6.40 Am Date 8/1/18 1913.	
to per your hand in front of your 41 than gone on but a lot of me can see what has Rappeness on perfet or left. 2 of my platfor has no turned	un are bost of

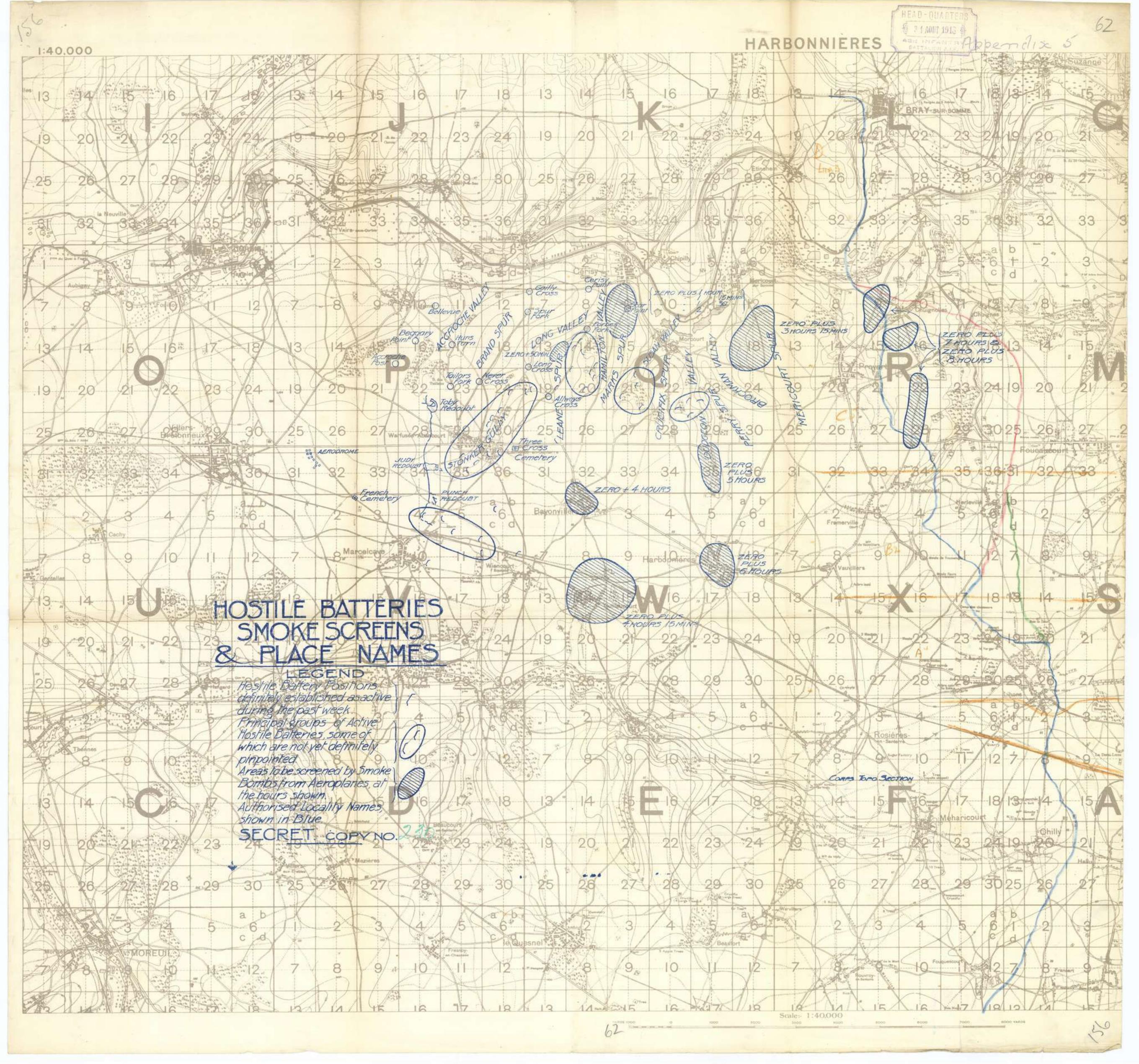
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

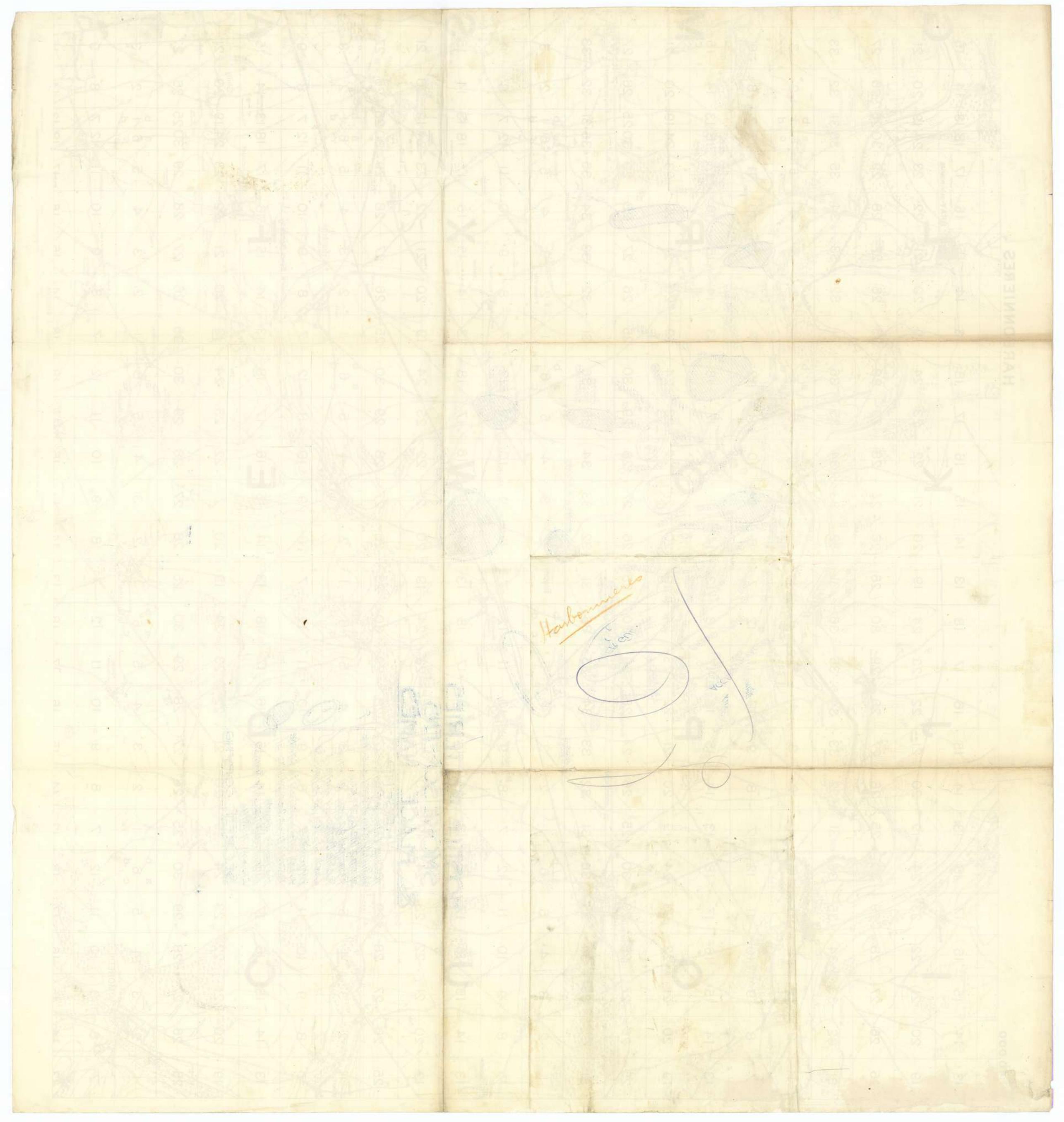
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	sion of	IT B IS	Enemy are retiring at 43m in Faring	R.D.
11	9 5 5 5	"F"	Enemy offering strong resistance at MANTE	911
ı ı		"GS"	Further bombardment required at	îi .
n		"Hs"	Lengthen range at	ii
H		"Js"	Raise barrage at	ii ii
11	F. B. T. Landschild	"Ks"	Lower barrage at	11 .
11	nd bast a	"Os"	Barrage wanted at	, 11
- 11	Part II. Title pages	"Ps"	Reinforcements wanted at	11
- 11	90 de 1	"Ns"	Short of amunition at	11
11		"Ws"	Short of water at	
11		"Ys"	Short of grenades at	
11		"Xs"	Held up by M.G. Fire at	"
tt		II ZSIII	Held up by wire at	
11	п н	o.K.	We are alright	11
17	TI	P.T.	Position taken	11
11	E	M.U.	HAMEL Mopped up (to be sent by B Coy	"
A	LIC	C.B.	Consolidation begun at	
E E	E I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	C.F.	consolidation finished at	H
b	OF HE	F.R.	Enemy threatening right	"
AR		FI.L.	Enemy threat ming left	il.
BX	(Libority	18	Stretcher bearers required at	H
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	EX	000	Caeraltie	
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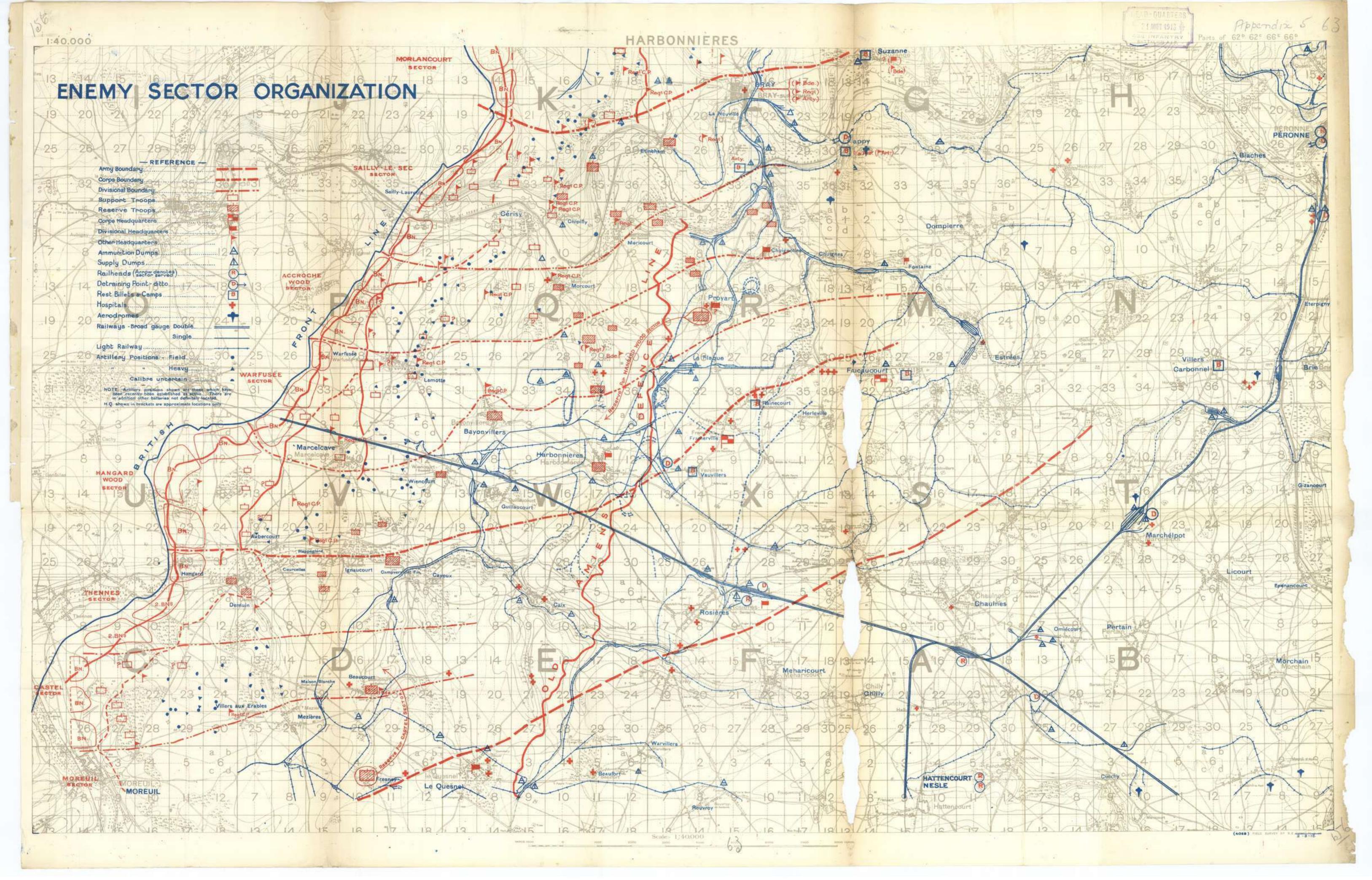


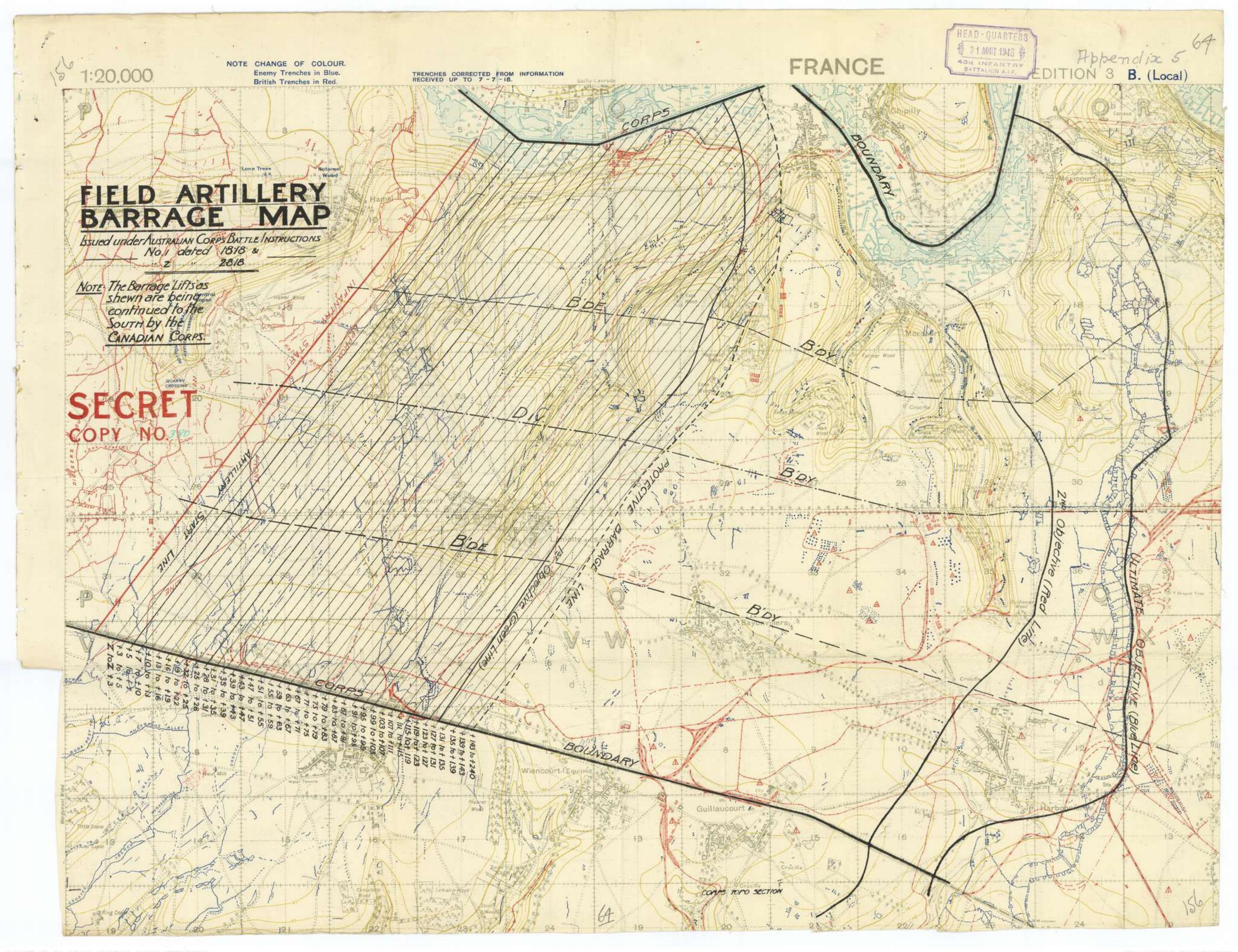


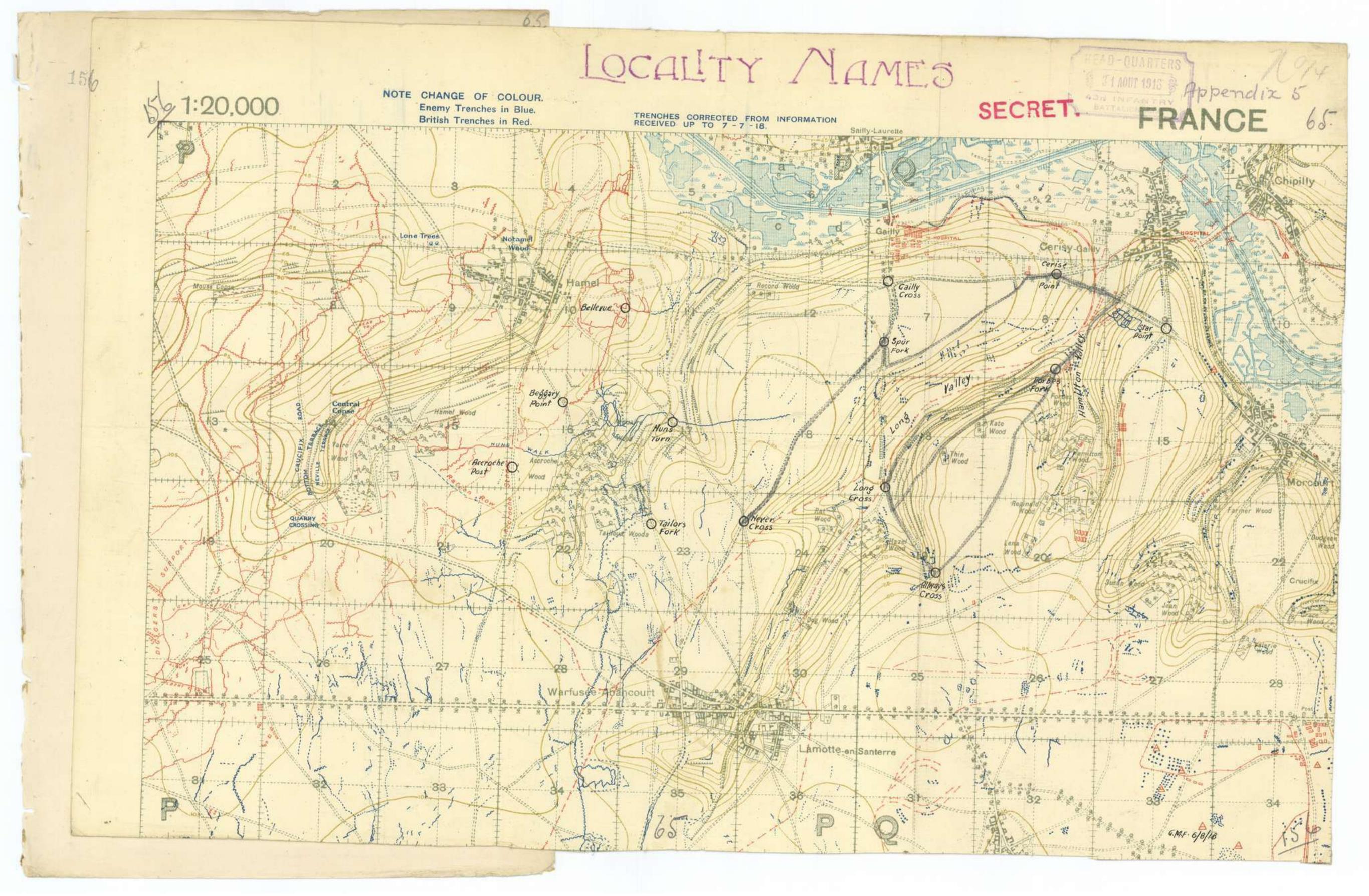


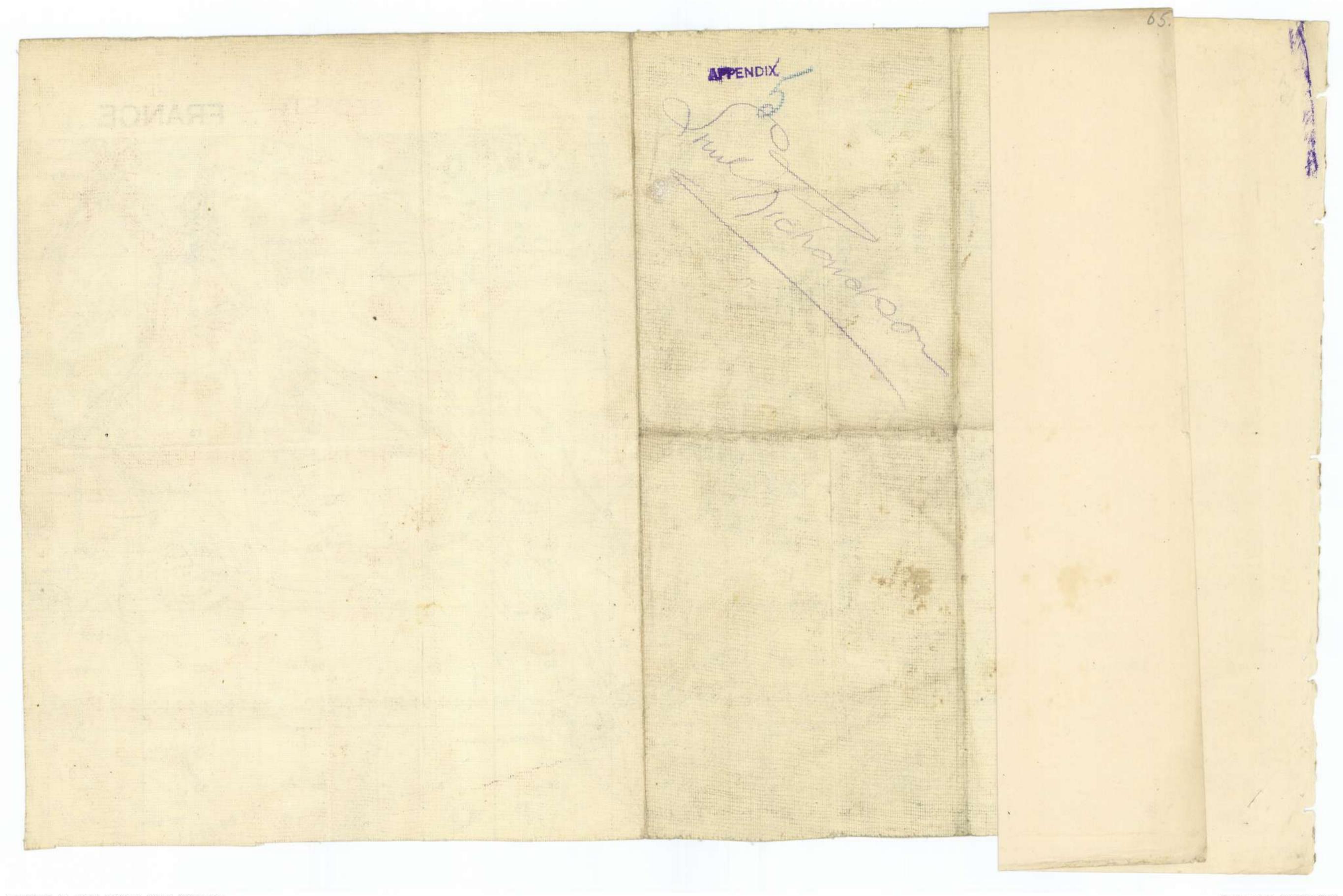




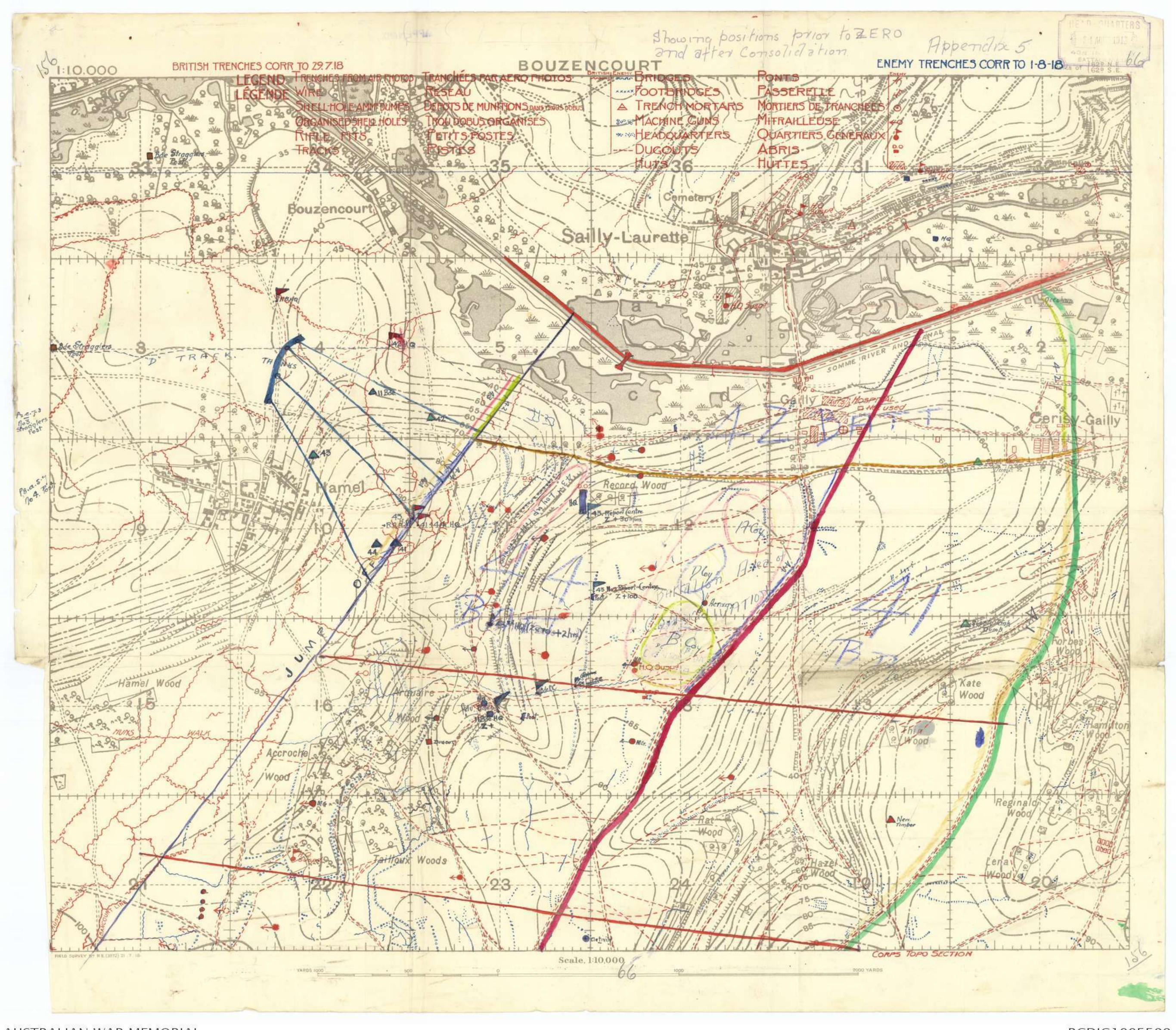


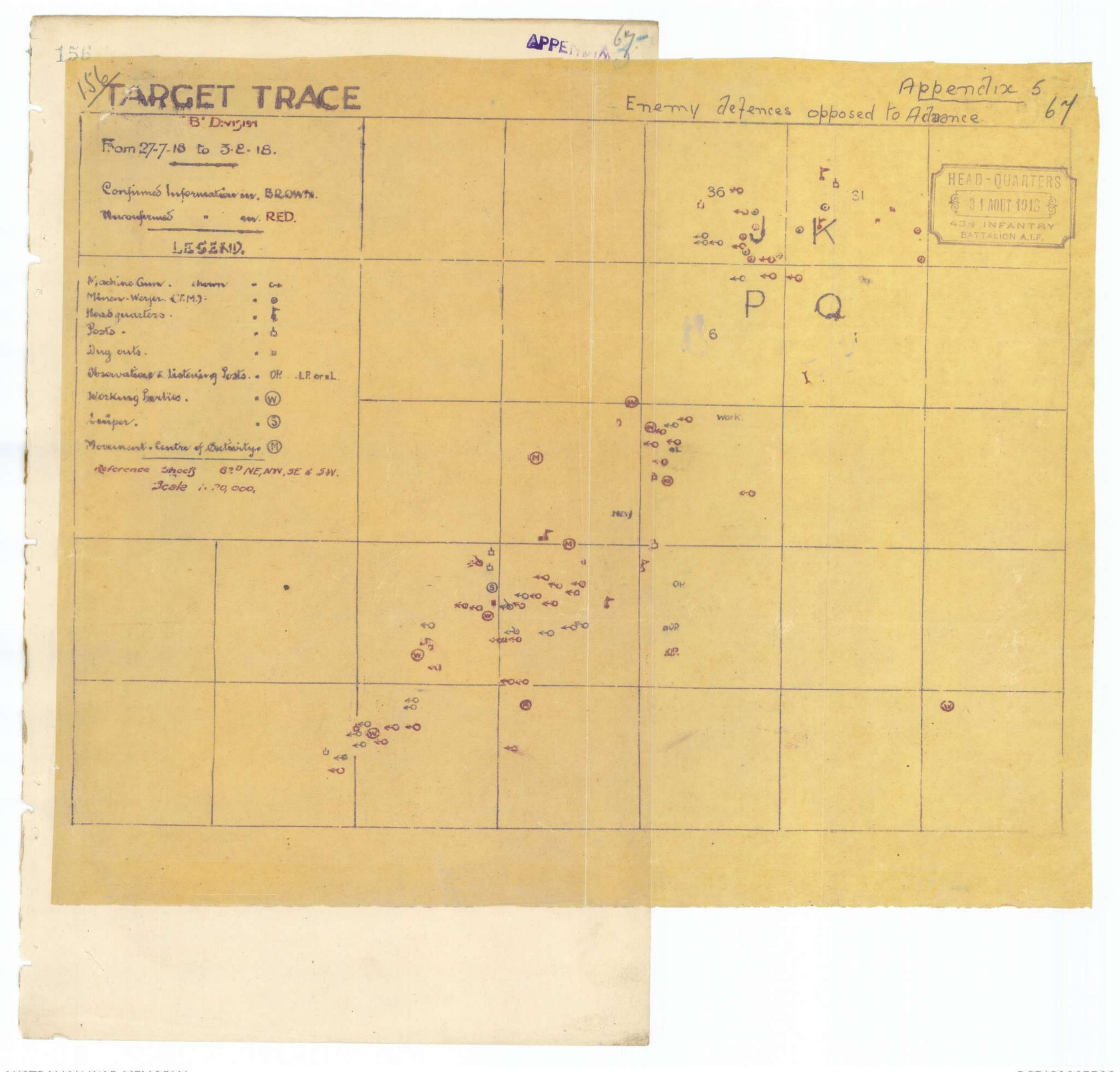


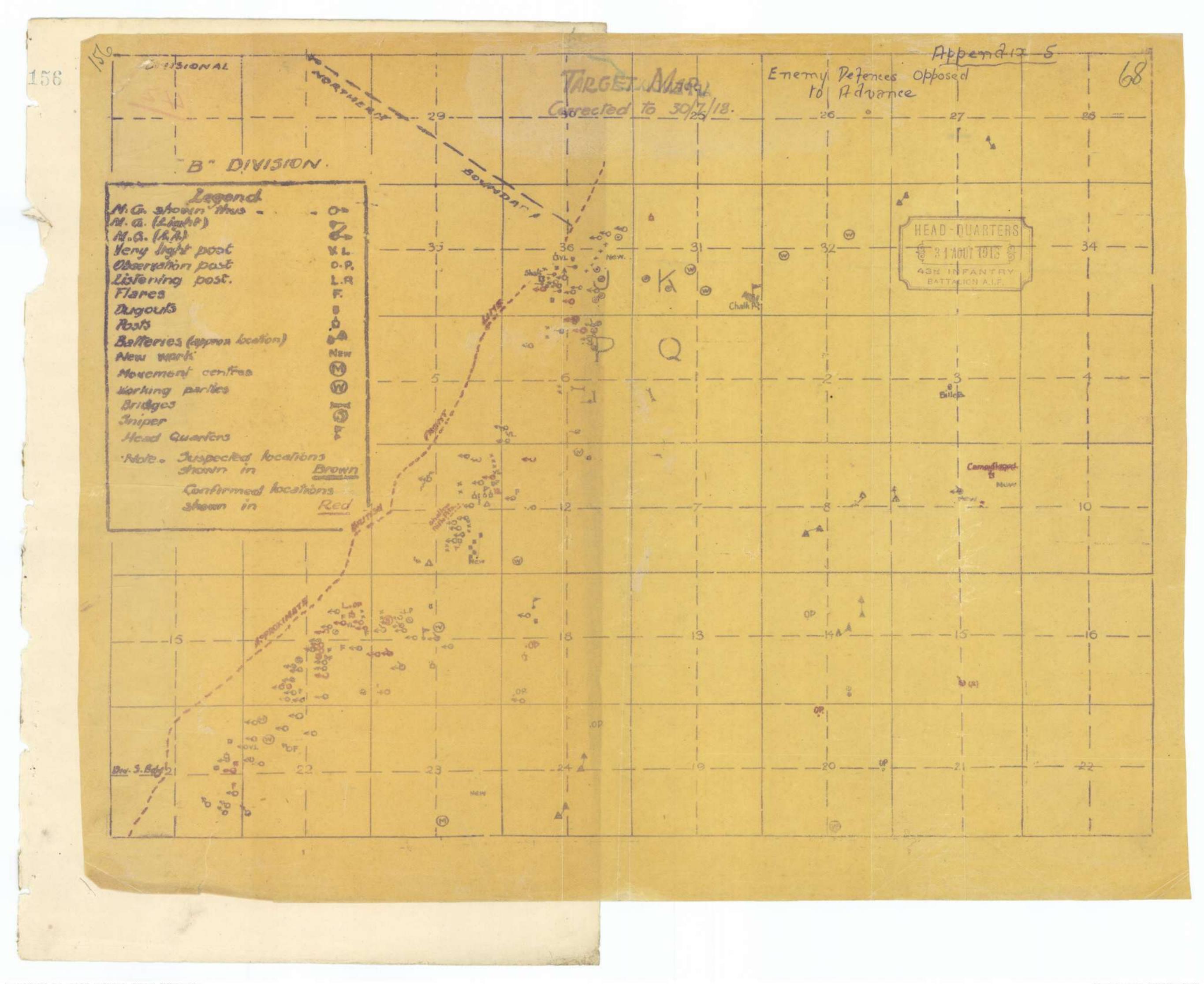


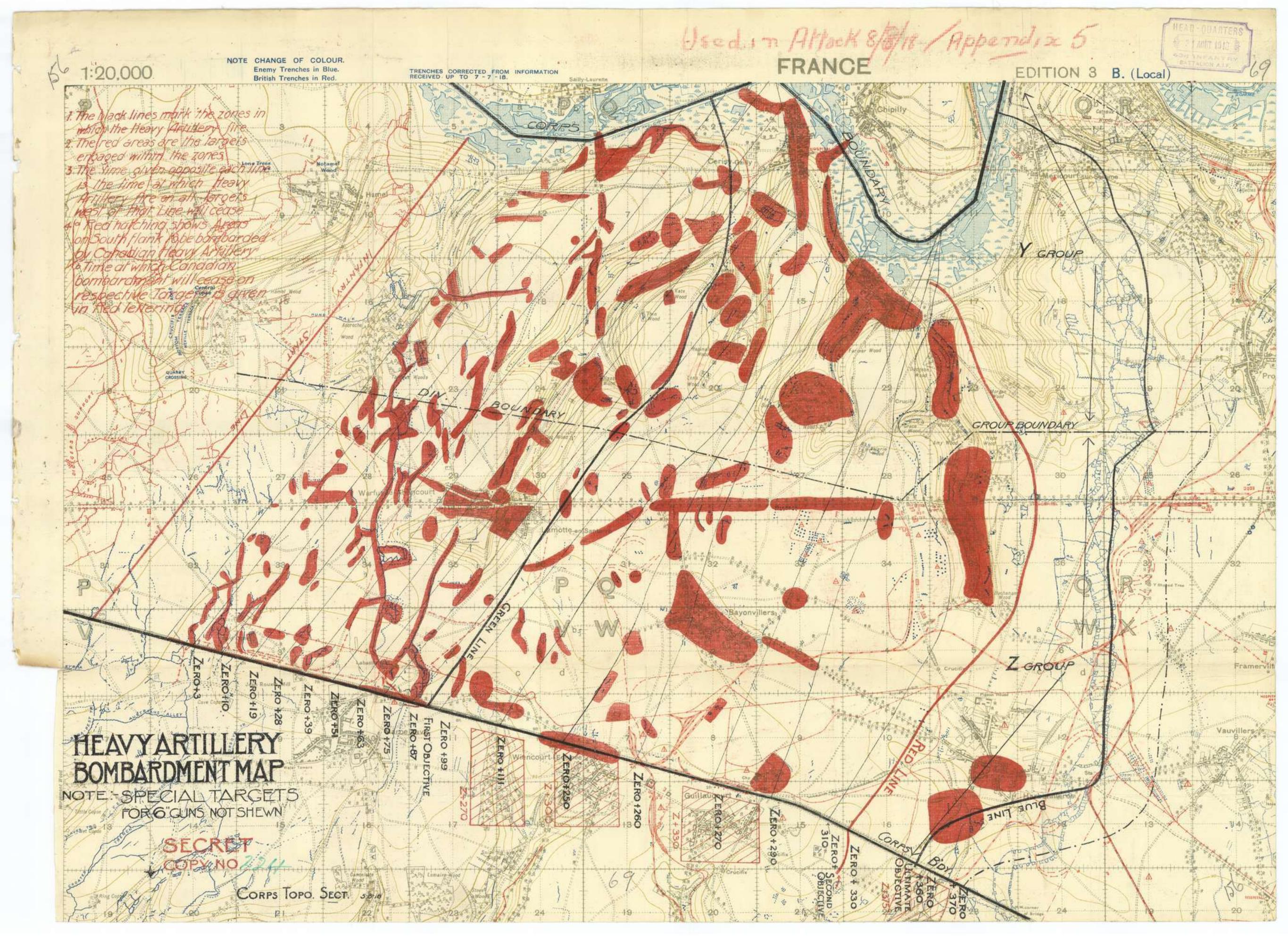


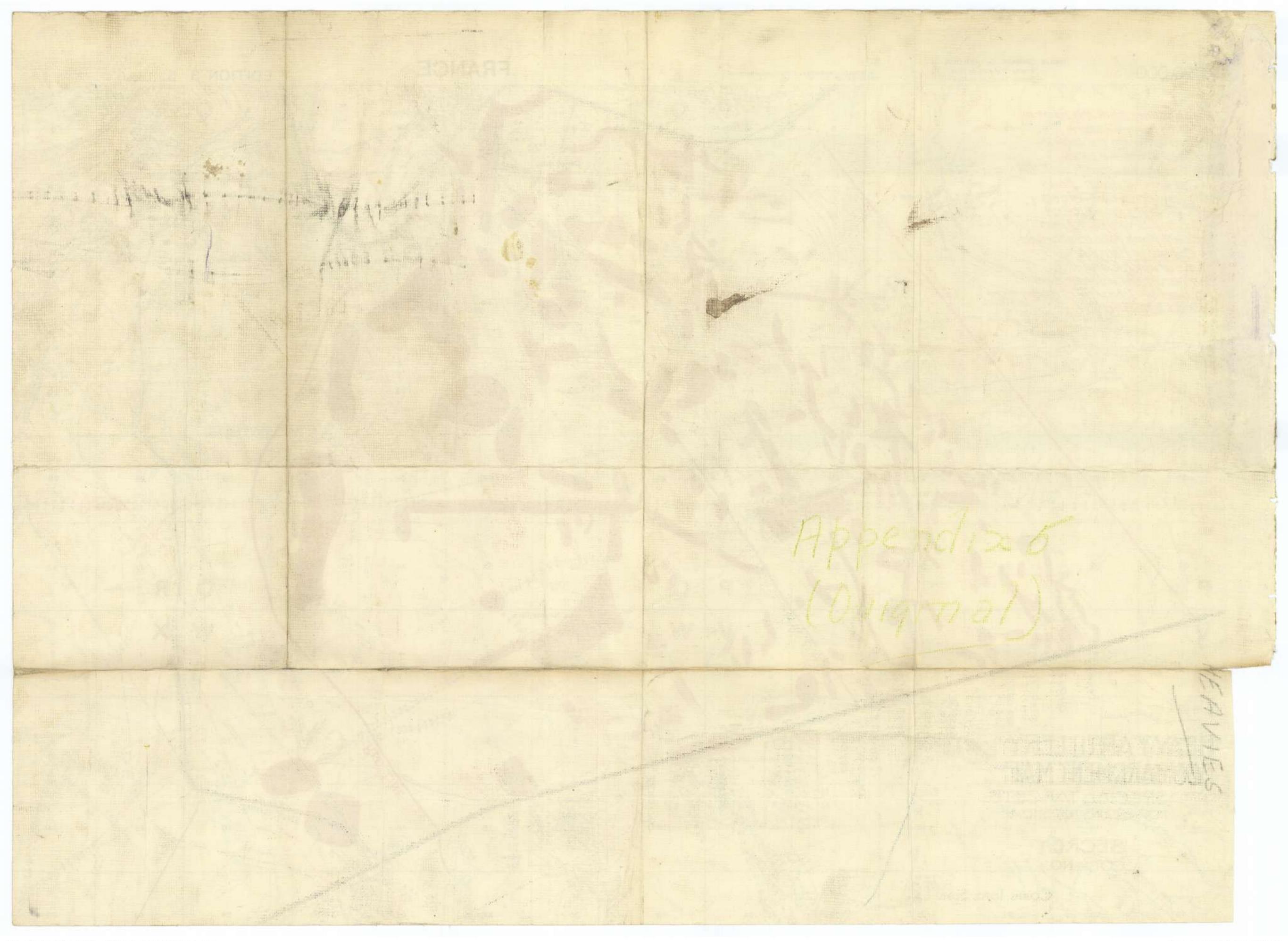
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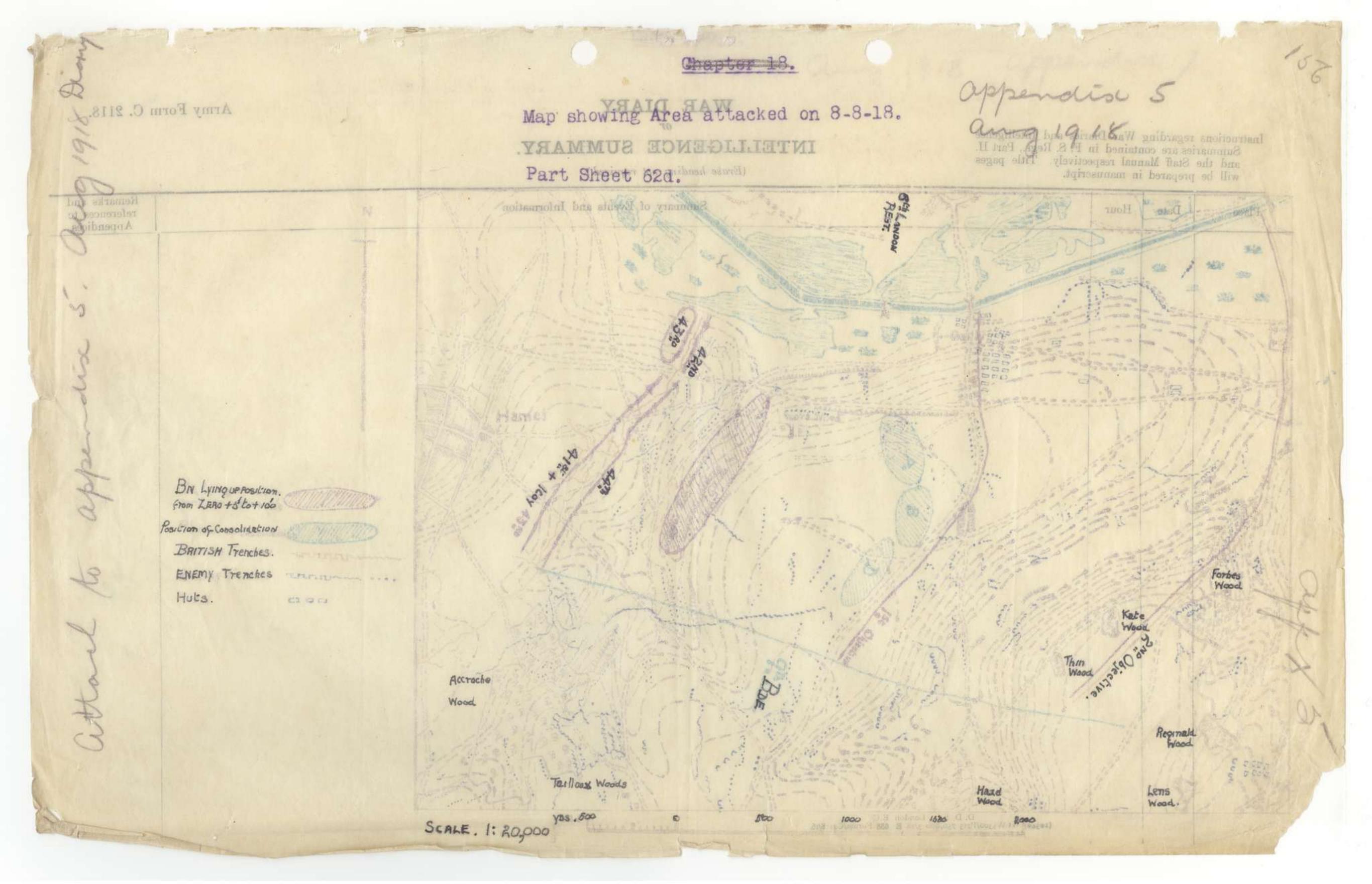






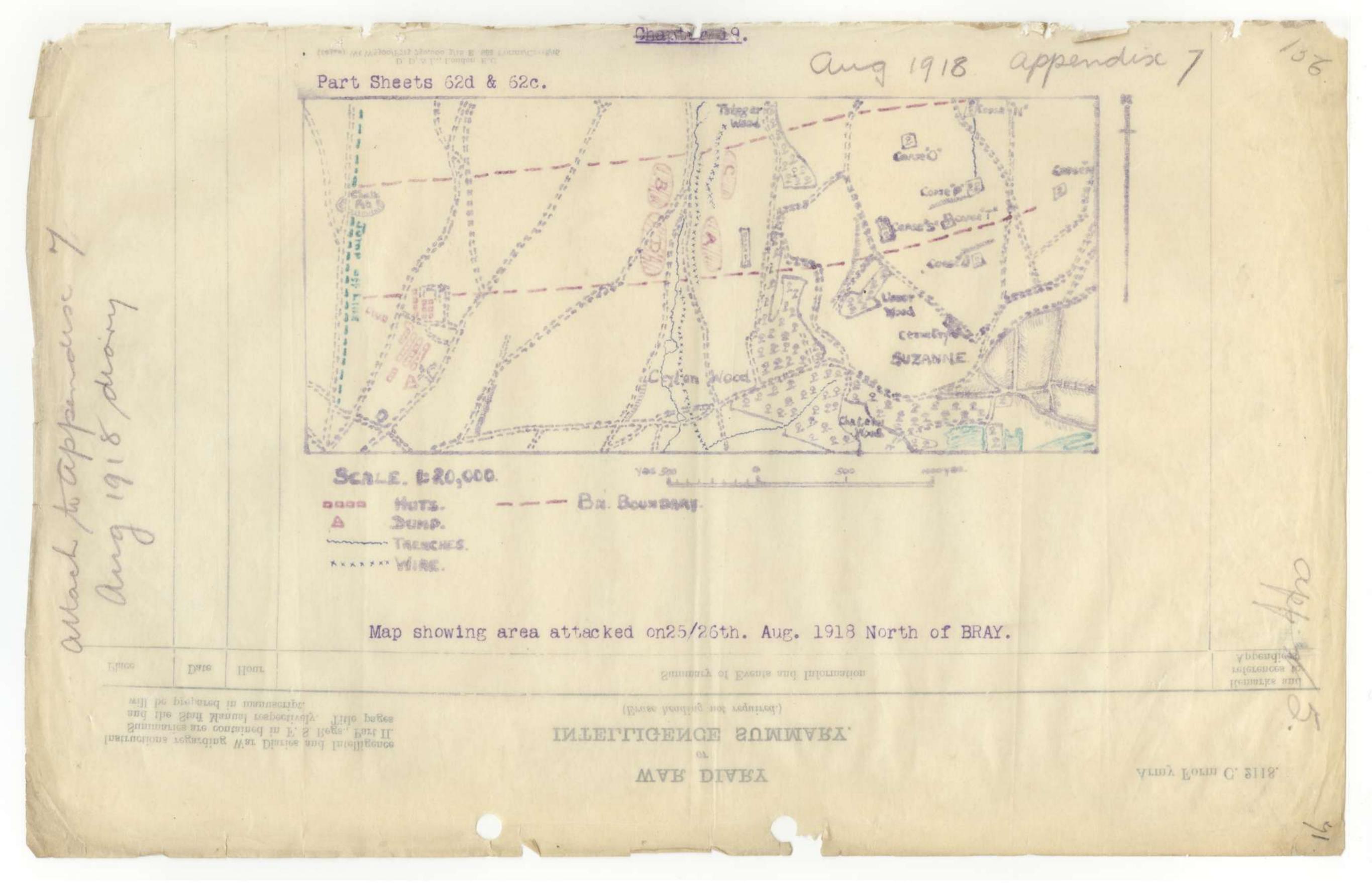


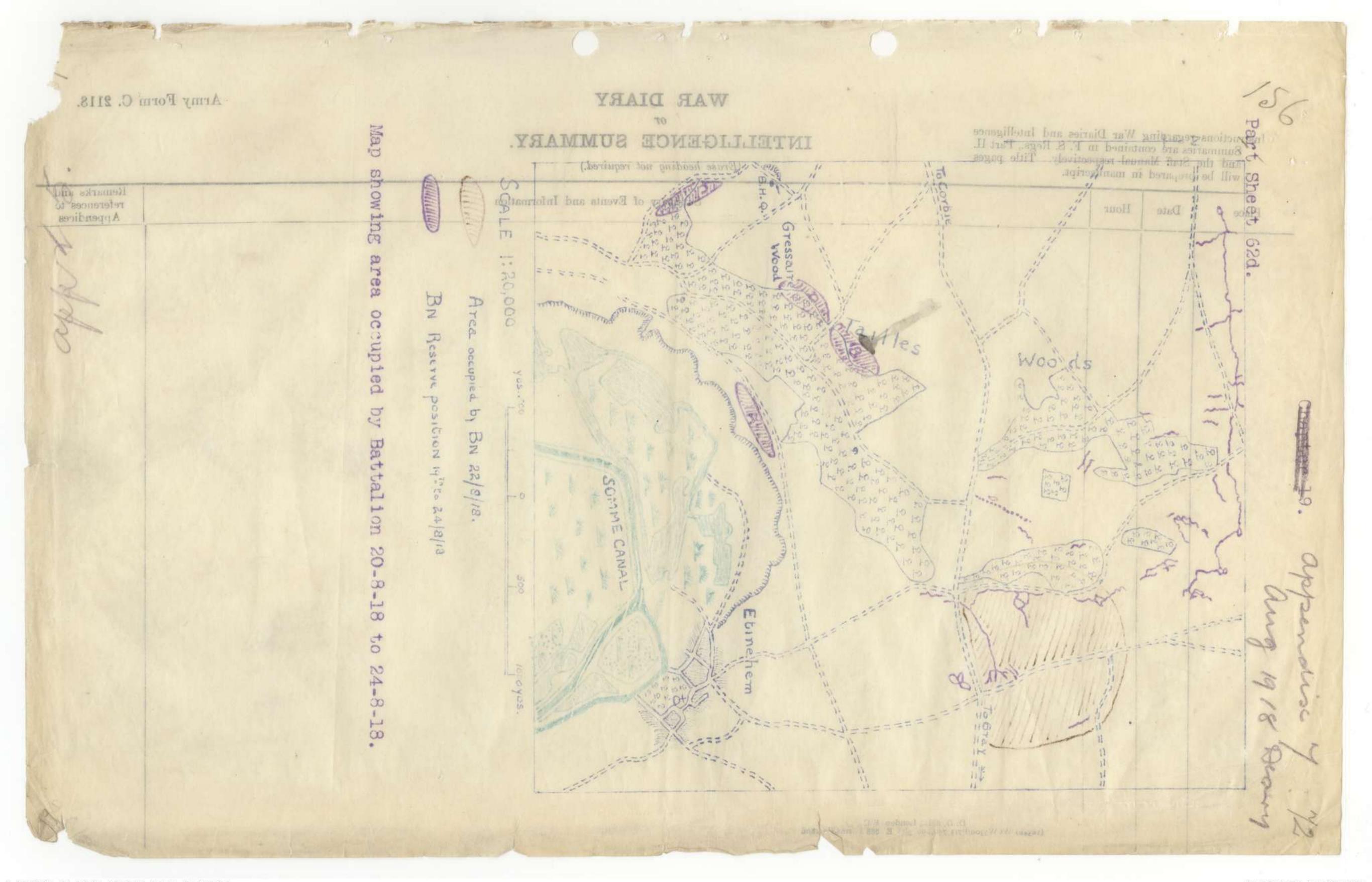




[23/60/24, Part 2]
Appendix 5, pages 71-72.

The next 2 pages belong with Appendix 7.





"OPERATIONS FROM 10th to 13th August, 1918." PENDIX: 6 43rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. Reference Map. 62 D. S.E. 1/10,000.

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The Battalion moved from position in P.12. and relieved the 16th Battakion A.I.F. in the old BRAY Line east of MORCOURT on the night of the 10/11th. During the approach march and the relief, enemy aircraft heavily bombed MORCOURT and the roads in the vicinity, but our casualties were only 1 killed and 1 wounded.

The position was as follows in the sector which we took over .-Owing to the failure of the attack of the 58th British Division on the 8th August, North of the SOMME, our line had to be swung back from the BRAY Line at R.7.a.90.10. south of MERICOURT sur SOMME to the canal at Q.5.d.20.00. in the direction of the high ground at CHIPPLLY.

The 41st Battalion were on the right of the Brigade front, holding the BRAY Line as far North as R.7.a.90.10. with the 43rd Battalion between that point and the River at Q.5.d.20.00, facing North.

The enemy was still in possession of the village of MERICOURT sur SOMME, the pocket in the SOMME to the North of that village, and the BRAY Line between the 41st left flank and the River, at R.1.b.70.00.

He had the position heavily defended with Machine Guns, and had also some 500 troops in the Area mentioned. He was very active with Machine Guns and sniping.

The Battalion front line ran from R.7.a.5.0. through Q.12.b.3.0 .-Q.12.a.4.4. to Canal at Q.5.d.20.00., and was held by three Companies A. B. and D. from right to left, with C. Coy in reserve in Q.12.d. The defences consisted of a line of pot-holes and posts which gave

very poor cover. B.H.Q. was at Q.16.d.90.60 with a forward commandpost in Q.12.c.80.20 On the 11th the enemy was very active with snipers and Machine Guns and no movement could take place. 2/Lieut W.G.Carter was badly wound by a sniper.

The situation was rather obscure North of the SOMME, where our Brigade plus American troops had taken over from the British 58t Division. We were reported to hold the village of ETINEHEM a: of the high ground east of it. The enemy guns were active on the Line from the North East.

On the night of the 11th/12th, the 41st Battalion attacked and tured the BRAY Line between R.7.a.9.2. northward to the river in R. thus cutting off the enemy in the pocket in Q.S. R.l. K.36. and L.3

On the morning of the 12th at 4.20 a.m. the 43rd Battalion mopped this area including the village of MERICOURT. A. Coy advanced and occupied the high ground in Q.6.d. while B. and D. Coys mopped up the village. The three Companies then advanced and cleaned up the whole area including CATEAUX Wood. C. Coy was in reserve.

The operation was completed without a casualty, though later in the day one officer and two men were wounded by enemy shell fire. The enemy commenced to shell our position at 11 a.m.

Our captured included 85 prisoners, 13 light Machine guns and a large quantity of signalling stores including a cable wagon.

A Regimental Headquarters in CATEAUX Wood was found unoccupied. A British prisoner belonging to the Signalling Section of the H.A. was re-captured from the enemy.

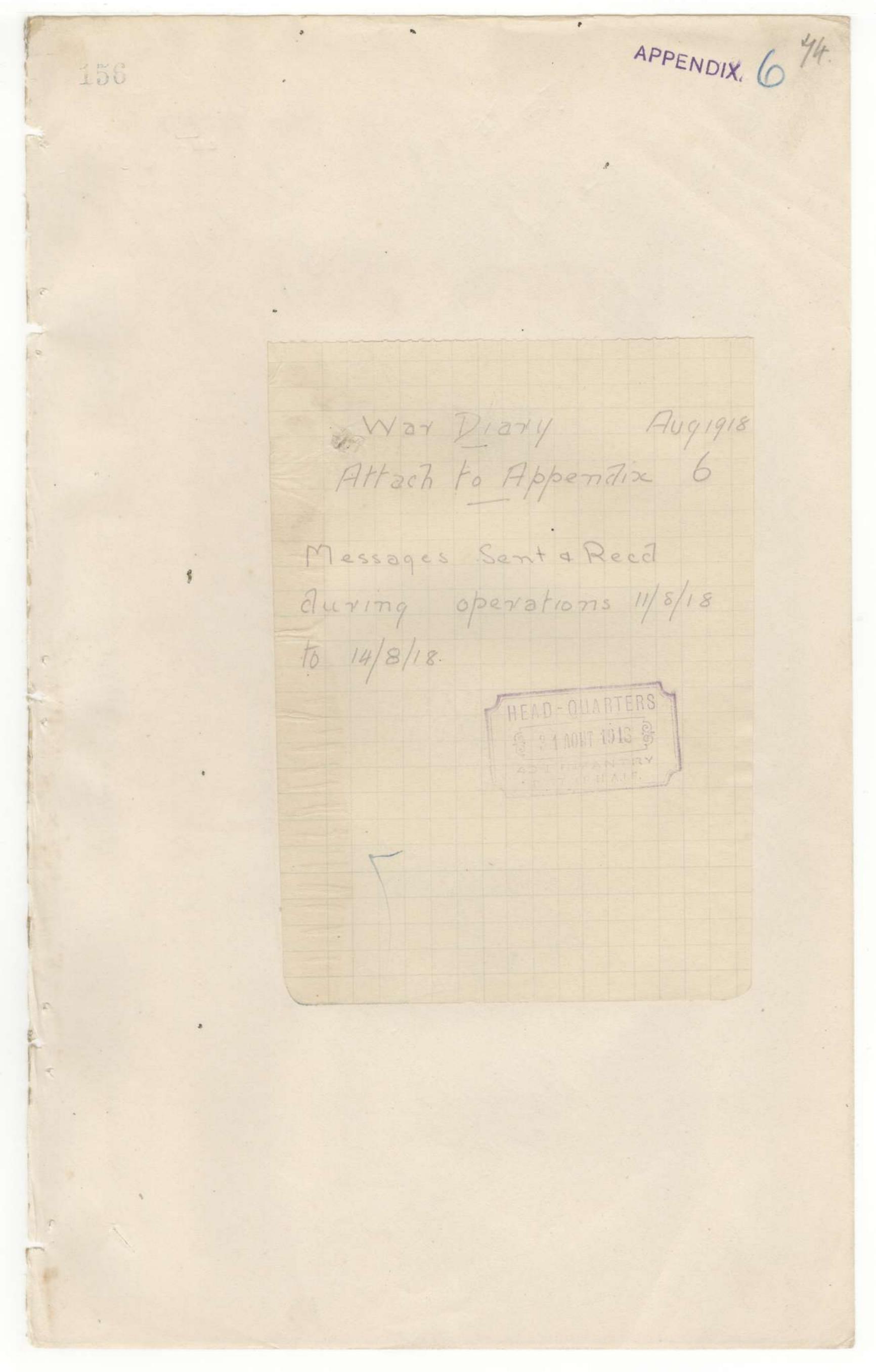
On the morning of the 12th, the 42nd Battalion worked out and made good the ground as far east as R.8.d. and R.14.b. Their left flank rested on the road running N.W. from R.9.central, and as their flank was unprotected, the 43rd Battalion was ordered to send up a company to fill the gap between the road and the River SOMME.

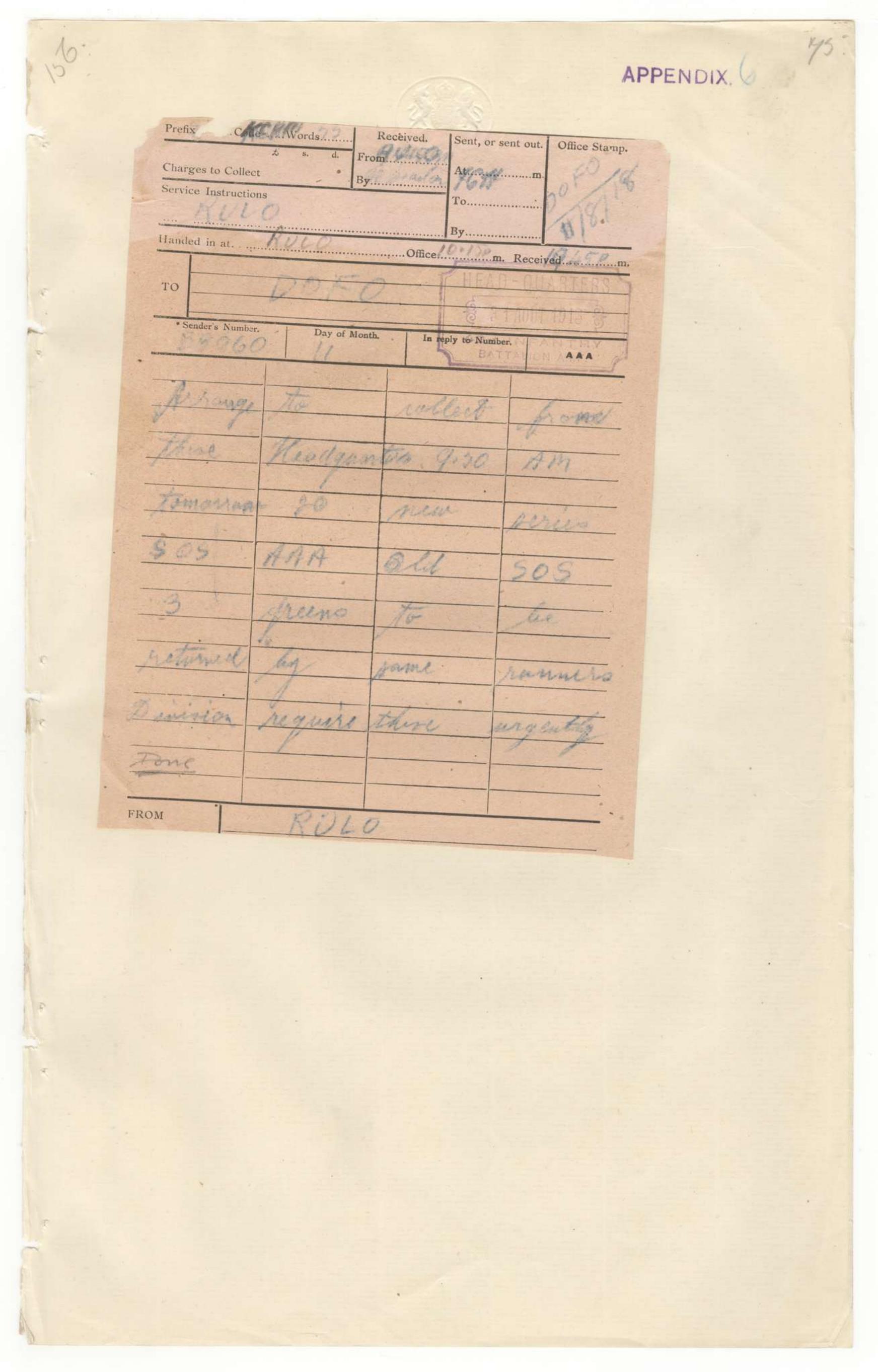
C. Coy under Capt Oswald MC moved outto take up this position. When the Coy reached R.2. east of our front line, the enemy put down a heavy barrage of H.E. and Gas. Although the Coy suffered casualties, they pressed forward and reached their objective linking up with the 42nd.

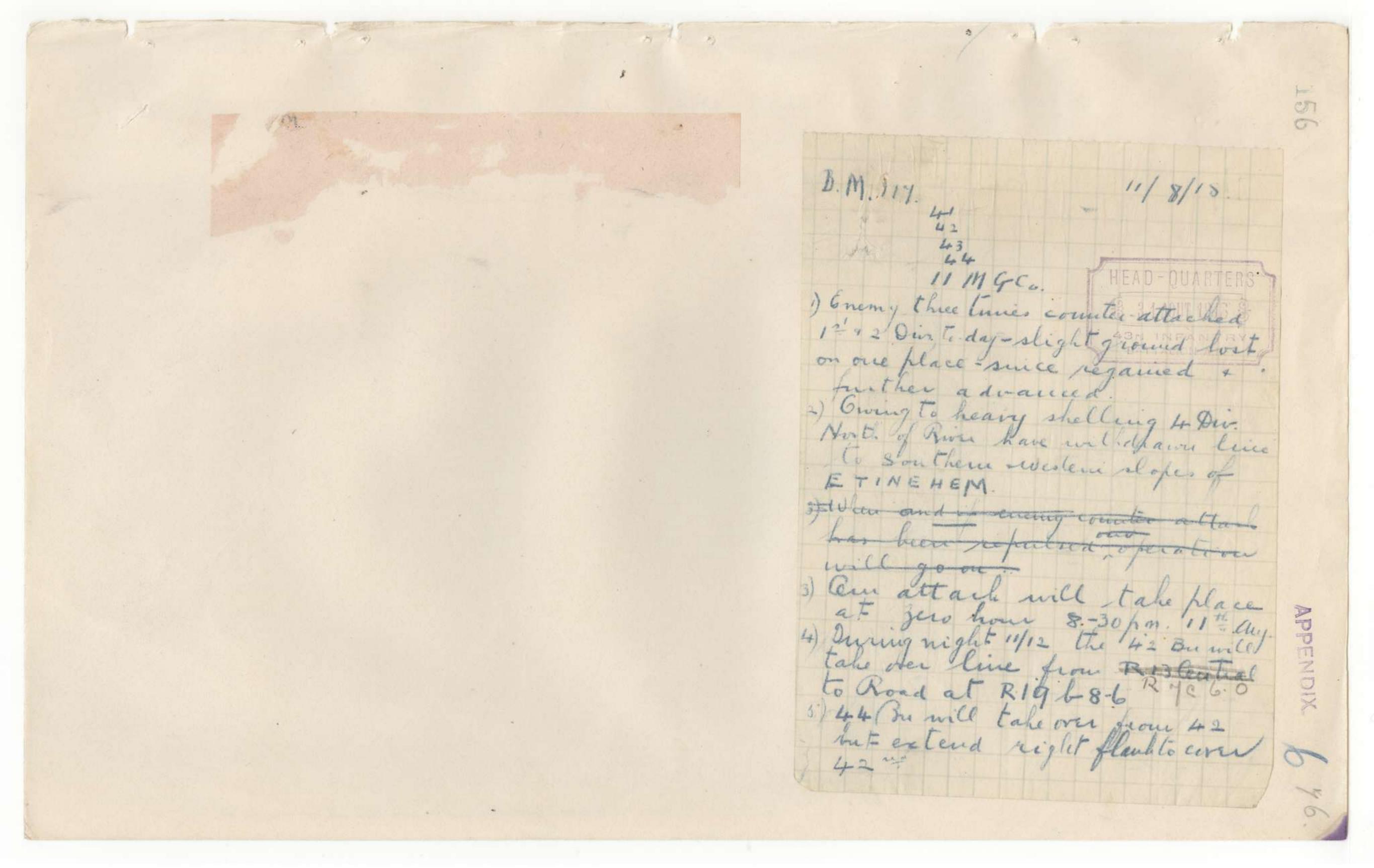
The casualties were 2 killed and 22 wounded. Cpl Shaw who so gallantly won his D.C.M. at HAMEL on July 4th, died of wounds.

On the night of 12/13th the Battalion was relieved by the 7th Border Regt. 17th Division, and moved back into our old front line near HAMEL. The men were very tired having had no sleepfor 48 hours.

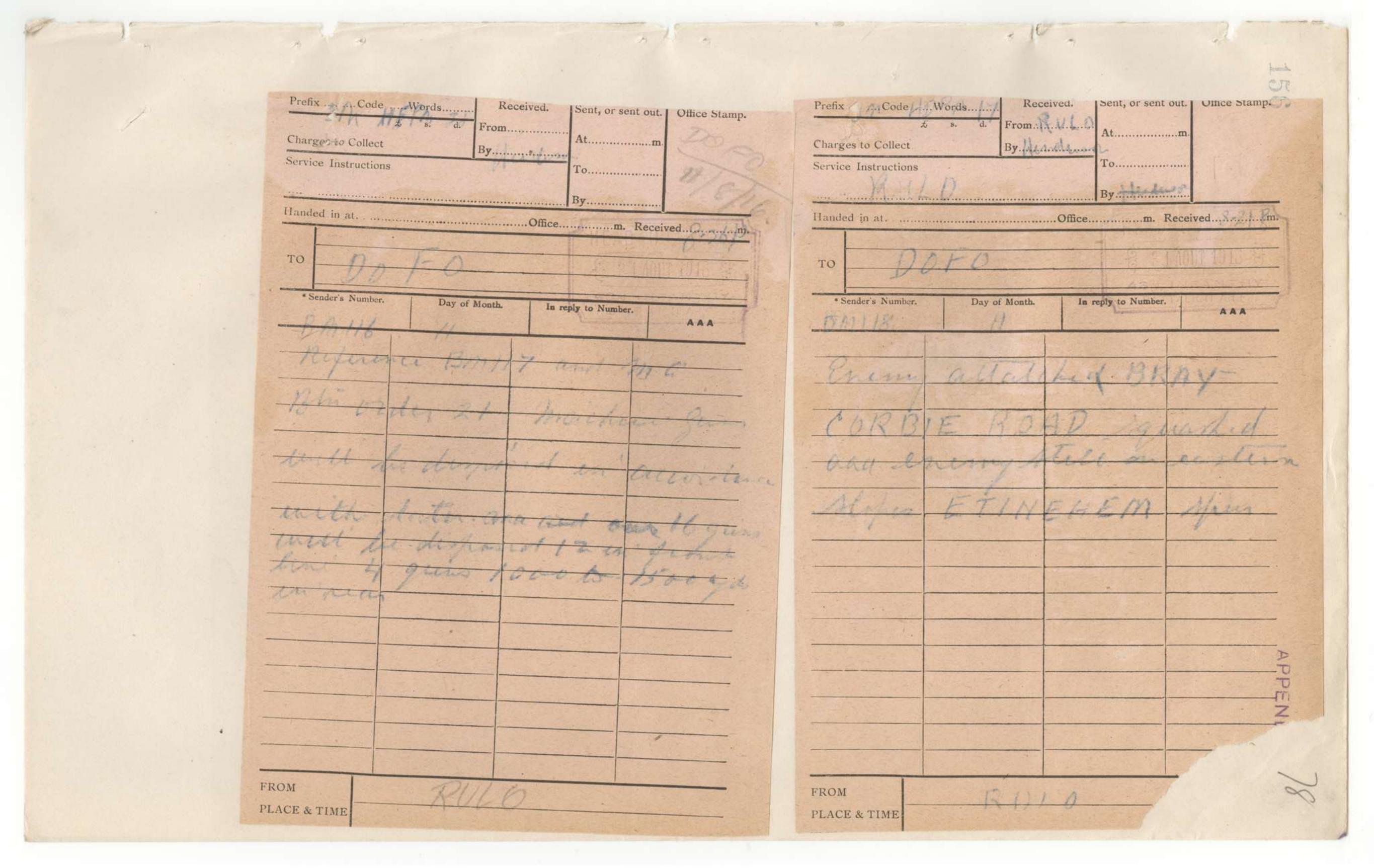
admir Con O. 43 RD Intantry Battalion A. I. F.

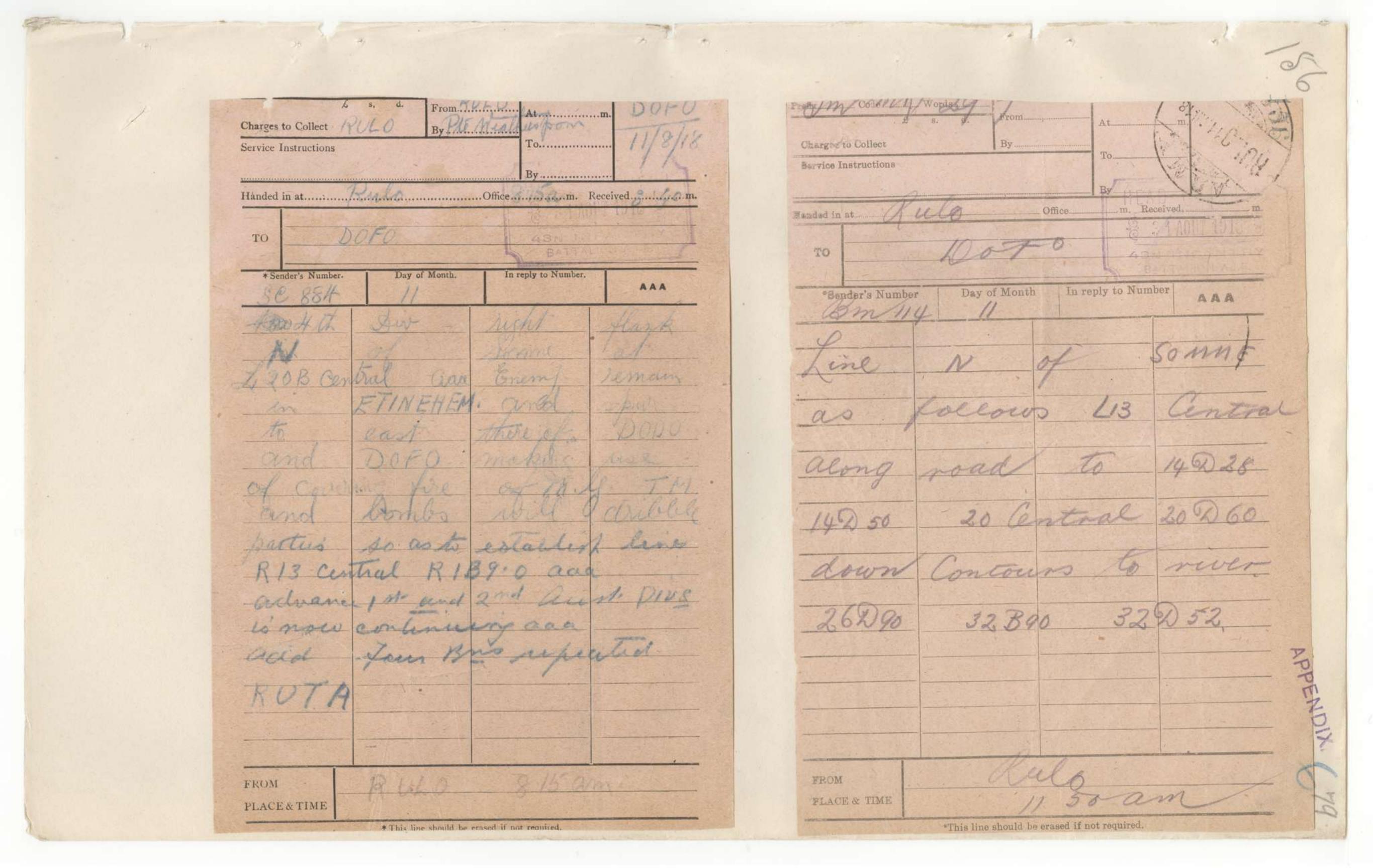




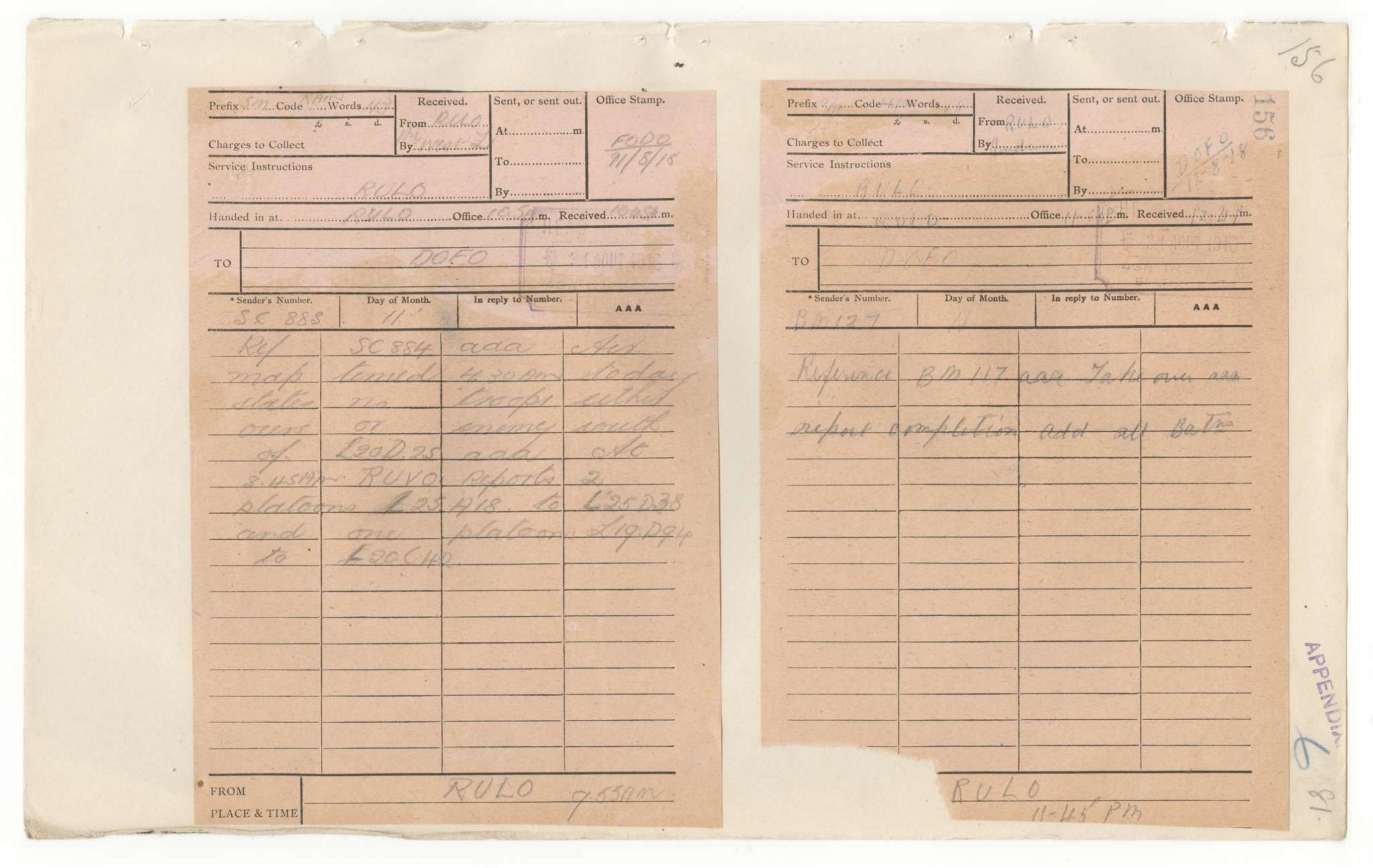


6) 43 Bi will be support 10) acro photo show Britis 41 Bu millie lleft budges vicinity RI -41 Buto have use of one Rea 8-9. SIMONIONS Coy of 43 Br in Chice if 1) 42 Pu line right 11) 10 Osac: mill that a Road R19 6-86 to RYC 6.0 front line Man WARTUSE 44 Bri lite support an to right 8) Machile fuis libe jeggeoufred Road to R196-8.6 1-) 9 By mill be come link Left - 2 Right Support Bu - 2 teft support the. 1500 to 2000 yards West of our wet live & to be phepaied to put down are 5.05 in R 8 c to state state to 1968.6 SE GERMANS WOOD 9) 43 Bu will send flauk patiols North deport thristene & disprosi to our.

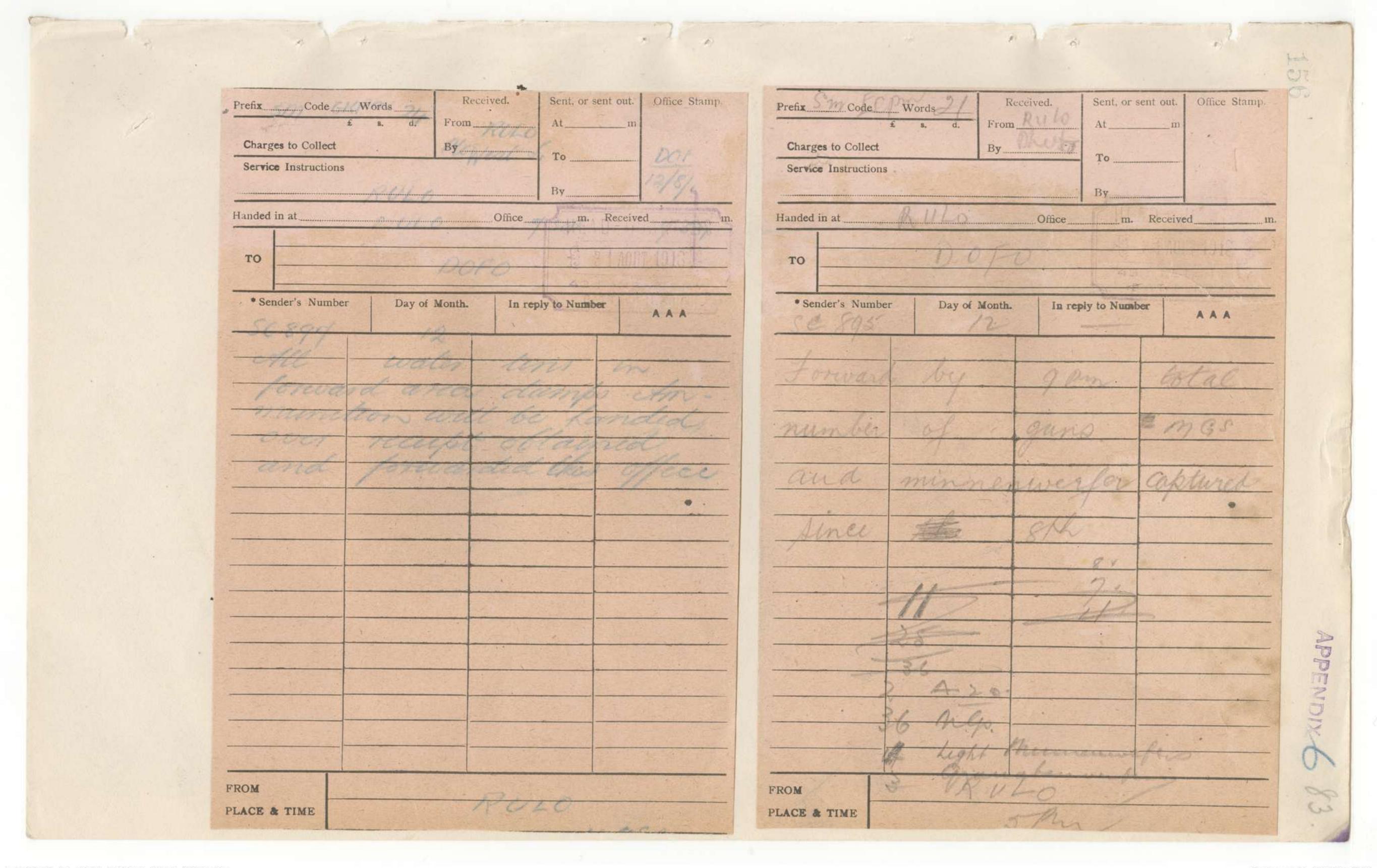




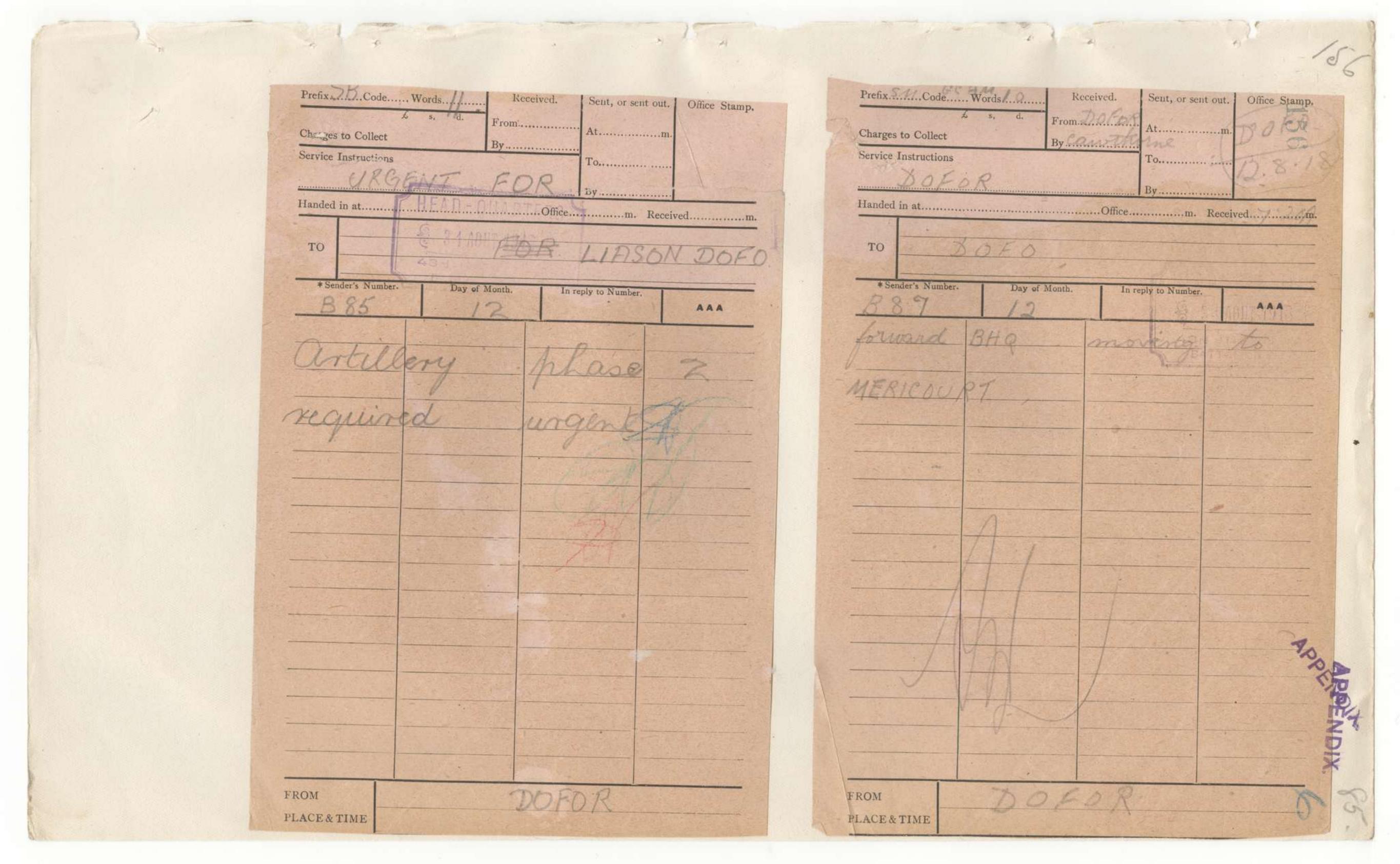
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FROM PLACE & TIME	FROM PLACE & TIME  RULO 10 4577



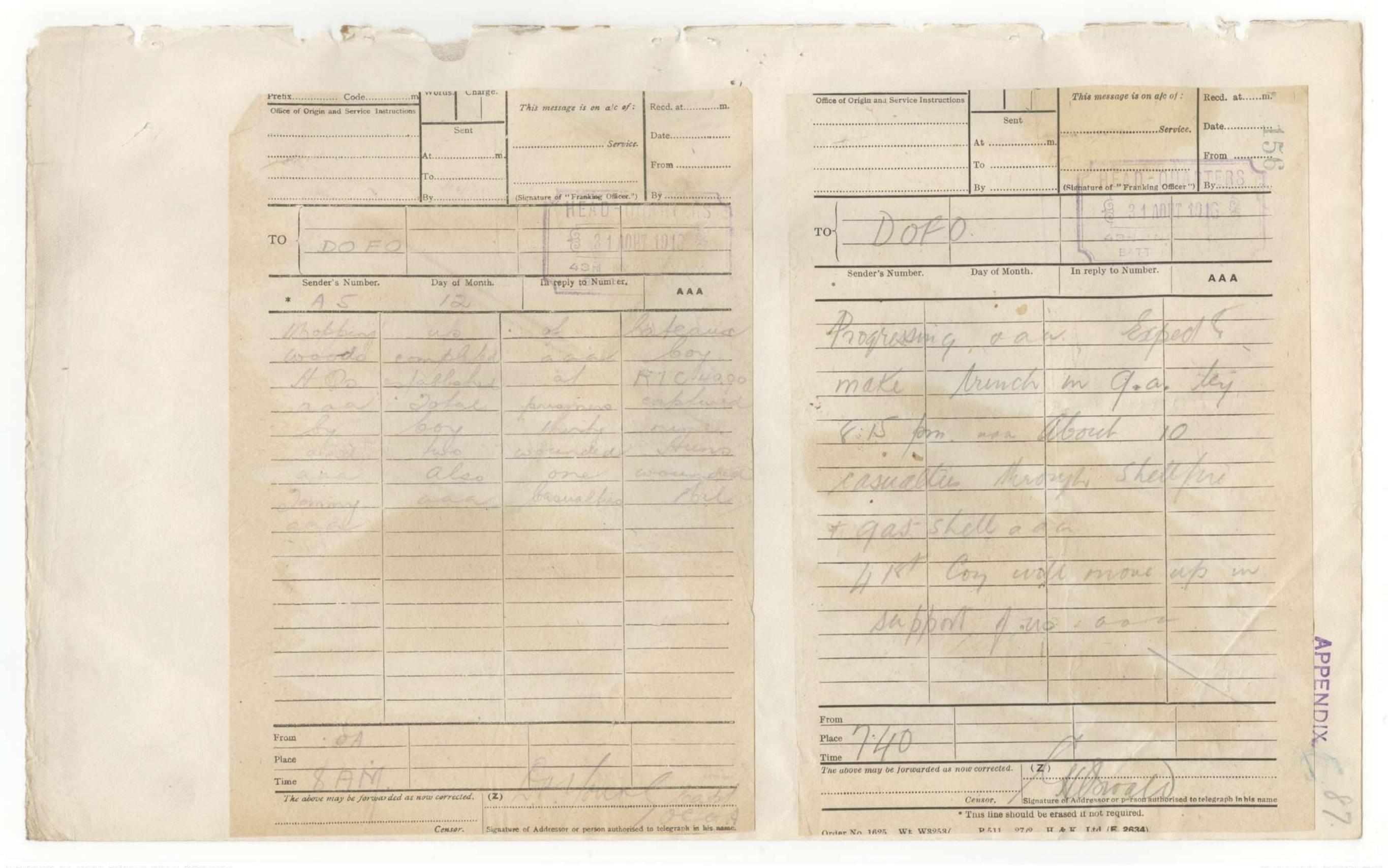
APPENDIX 62 156 telegenous Coy have not moved to 4th cum and my

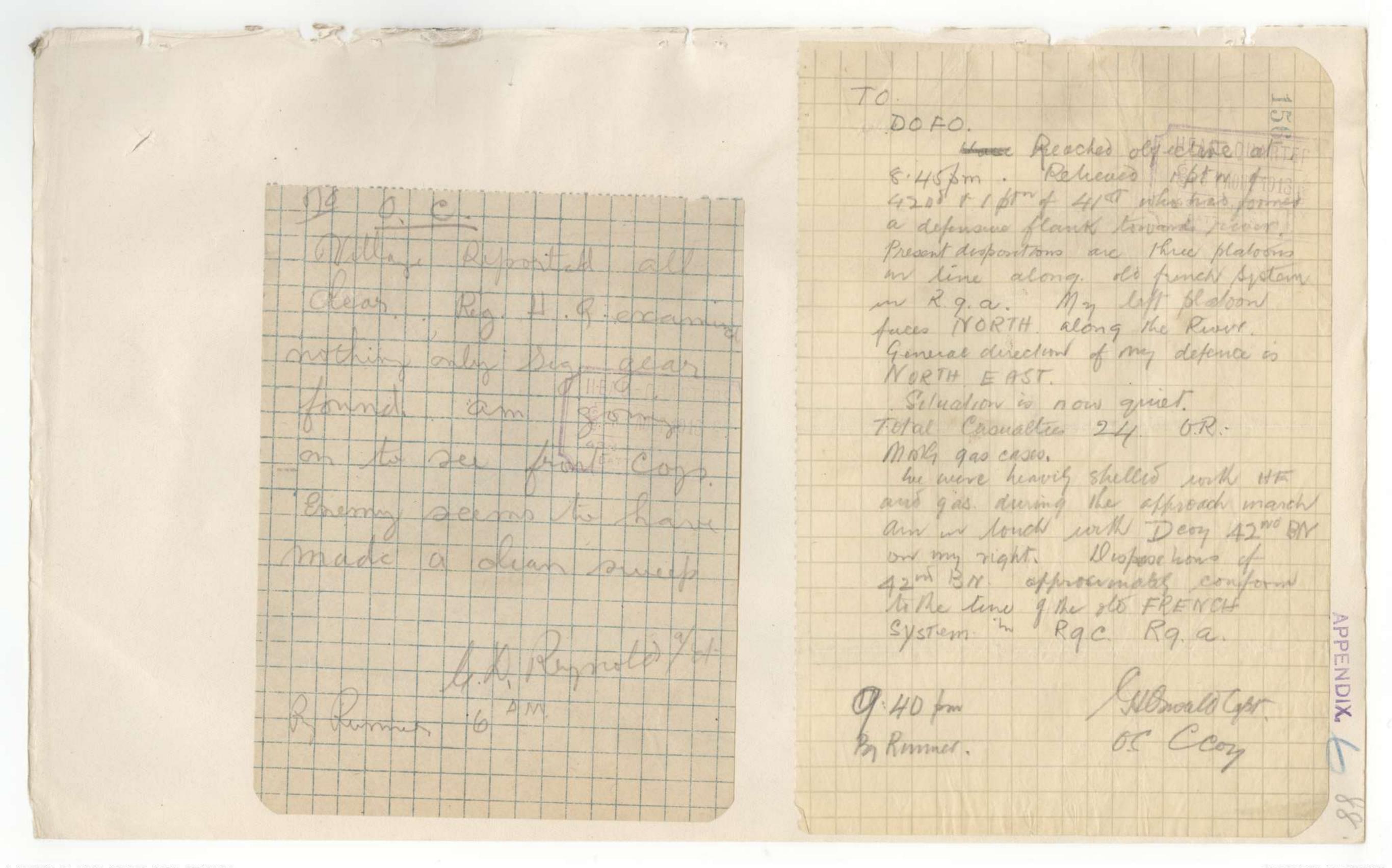


APPENDIX. 156 This mothing 12-8-18, No 13 Pm found a Bhitish plane on the ground N of Mericourt. The body of the airman was lying near by but no identification was to be found. The No of the plane was 2396 and the squadron mark was The airman had been dead affrod. 6.71 Patterson Fet



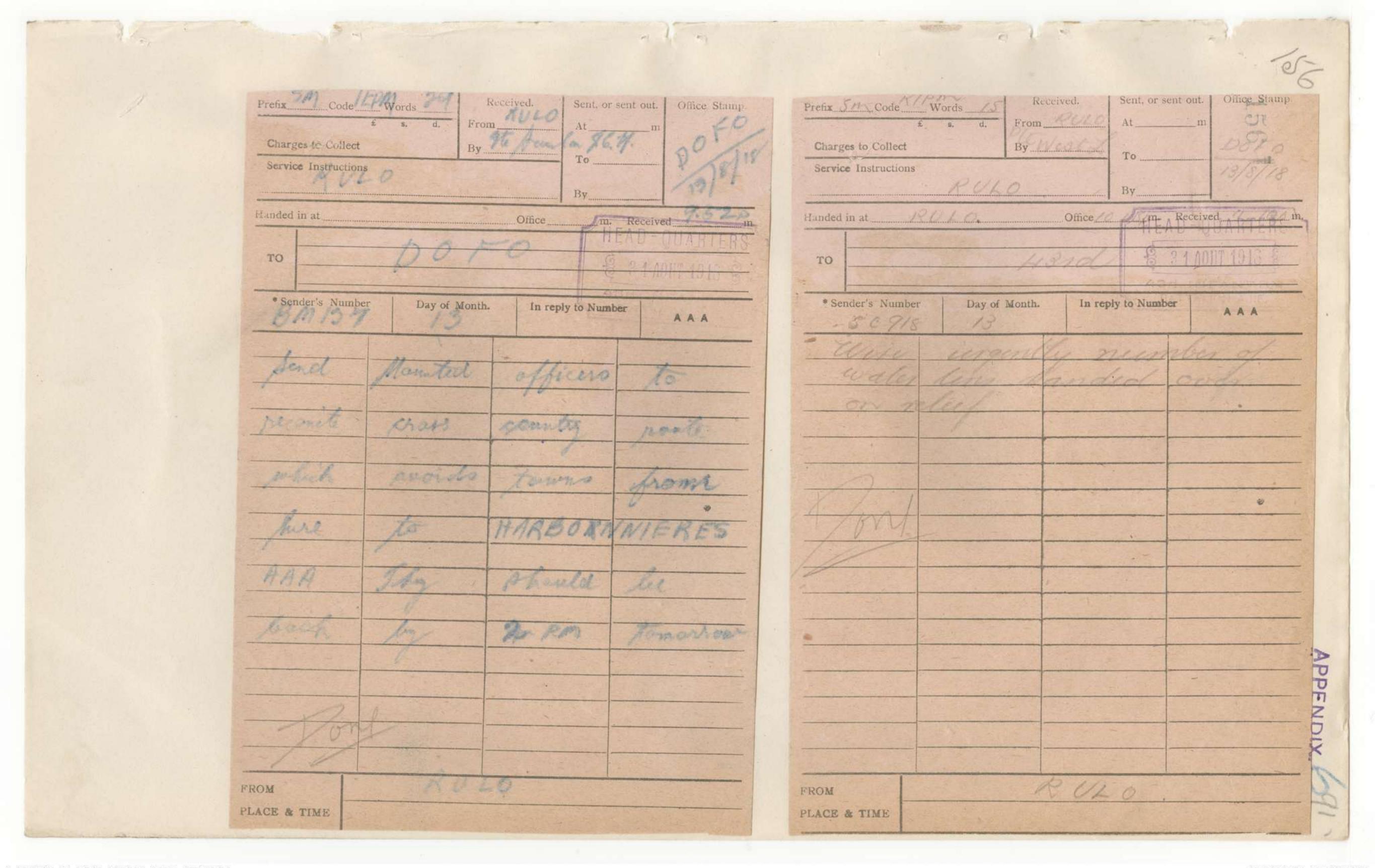
APPENIDIX 156 necessary arrangements now a Oswald is, I understand well on this way of has left word with my left Coy come, what he is

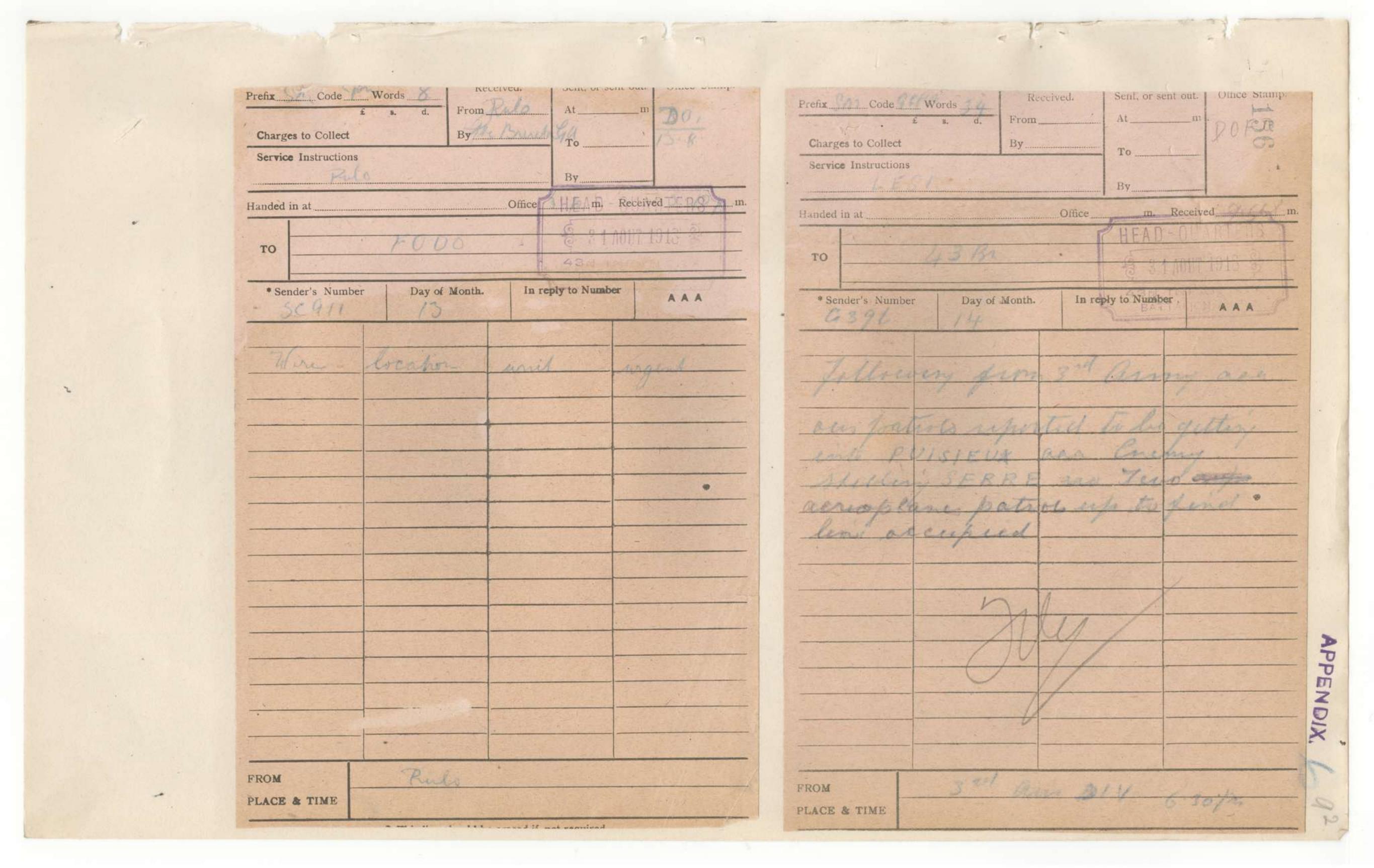


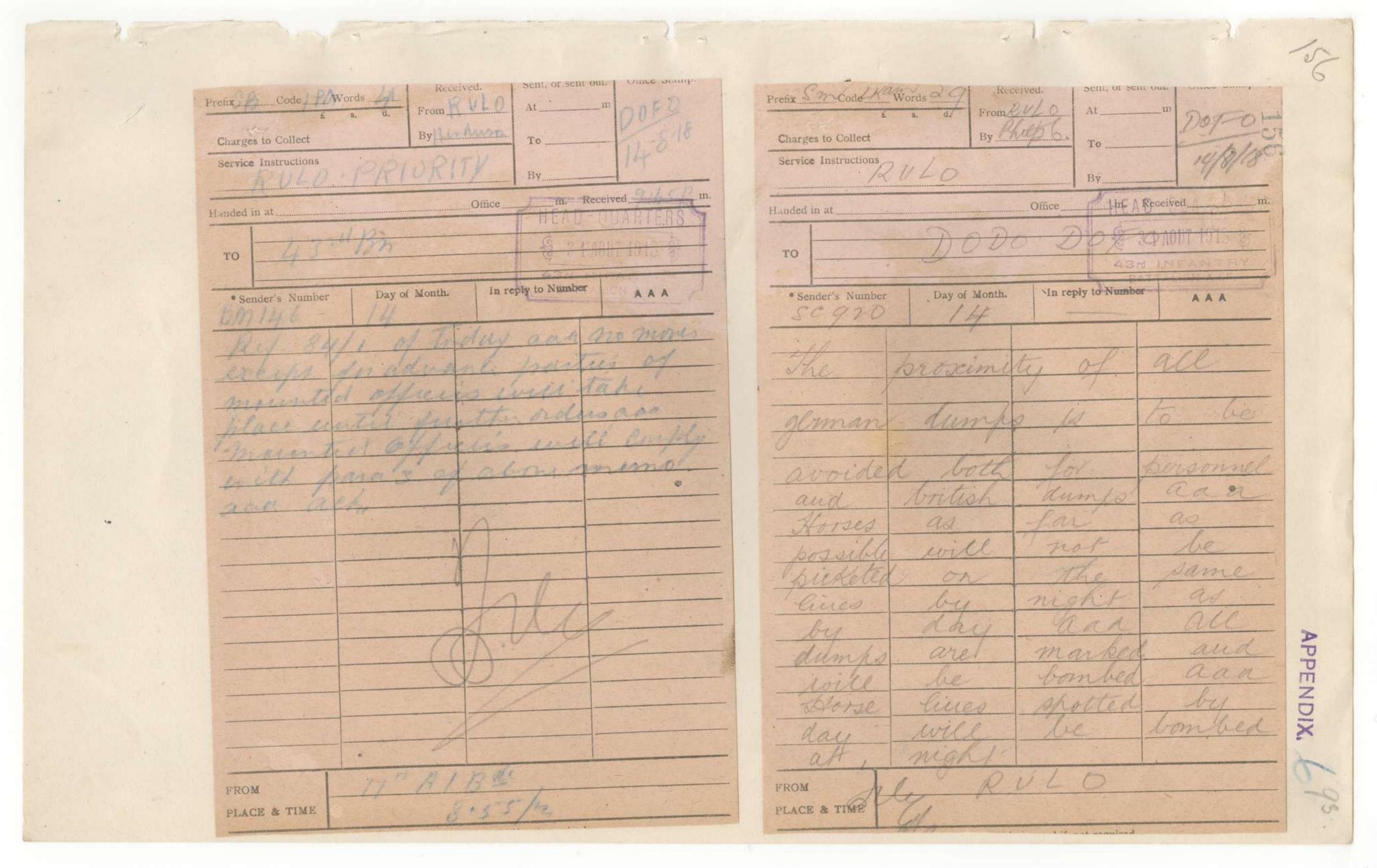


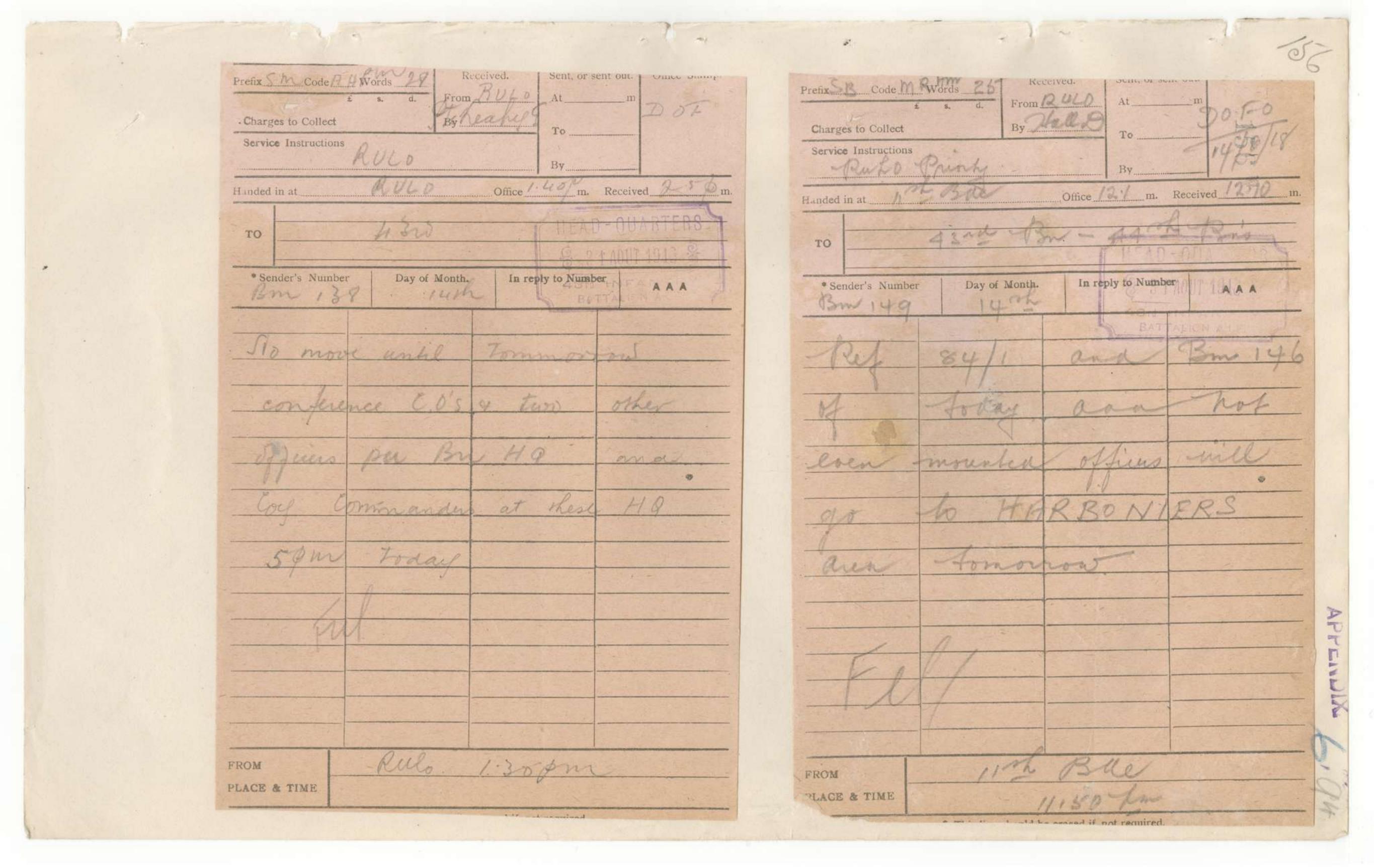
Have advanced 800 K Repealing my NO.1. along old French System. Have advances 8005 along ols an in touch with Doon in kerson and the phone FRENCH System on the noute Suggester. an in with with D boy in Have fust intercepted 42 person and with A toy by phone Have just intercepted a 42 m runner who work mossage instruction his people 9. runner with message mobuding Tycans to their old line An people to with draw to then old line lucause 10th BDF had facus enterprise has failed. Aft BN have NOT mondo BN on right have Not forward. moved forward. Thave taken cover in old Fam for bresent could where French system at Q. 12d. 50.60. and and fuell protected from fire I think the only allemations ofer + observation Ithough the only alternatives to me are . W To bush on ander cover gund to me are: new barrago anth more. (1) To puch on anda coan of (2) To well trans to old line new barrage with smoke under court of smake. (3) 10 with draw to old line Snipen are active and make under cover of mist or smoke morement very difficult. · Exprovato Caple (3) To romany here and amount developments or instructions

APPENDIX 6 90 156 Sintend to take the thirt course more and active and make Casualties 3128 Pto Tregorya A. B. S. W. Lectter B- 01/2 Trips By Rumer (Rogers) Allowald Coff









APPENDIX 95.

Prefix SM Code A 6	VV OI (IS F	Sent, or s	
Charges to Collect	s. d. From	eaky st_	DOTO
Service Instructions	KILL	10	14/8/18
Handed in at	RULD	Office / 30/m.	Received 2.192 m.
		Omes_/	received
то	4320	THEFT	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Numb	er AAA
30126	1400	48M	
all	16 Enh	lows	to almi-
			147000
Bno	Forthwite	ac19	nucledge
	Maria de la companya della companya		
911			
124			
FROM	11/6	Bac	
PLACE & TIME			

156

