

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/69/18

**Title:** 52nd Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/69/18



# WAR DIARY

Sheet No.1.

or

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALDERSHOT CAMP.	1917. Sept. 1st		Marched via BALLIEUL and FLETRE to HONDEGHEM. Billets scattered but all comfortably settled. Cleaning up continued. Church Parade in morning. Cricket in afternoon.	App. "A" attd. Operation Order No. 69
do	2nd.		* 13½ miles. Operation Order for march attached to August Diary.	
do	3rd		Prepared to move to MATRINGHEM Area.	App. "B" attd. Syllabus.
do	4th		Marched out for MATRINGHEM Area, embussed near HAZEBROUCK, occupying 27 buses. Arrived at billets in DENNEBROEUQ. Battalion scattered. Billets not first class.	
DENNEBROEUQ	5th to 9th		Training as per syllabus interrupted by bathing, inspection of Gas Helmets & Lewis Gun and Bombing Instruction carried out.	
	10th		Battalion Sports were held to eliminate candidates for Brigade Sports.	
	11th to 15th		Training. Weather fine. Battalion Scheme carried out successfully.	App. "C" attd. O/O. No. 99.
	16th.		Brigade sports held today. Very successful. We were second on Prize List. Prizes to this Battalion amounting to 380 francs.	
	19th.		Brigade Scheme.	App. "D" attd. Bde. Order No. 87.
STEENVOORDE	20th		Embussed for STEENVOORDE Area occupying 32 buses. De-bussed at STEENVOORDE and marched to billets mostly tents and bivouacs (Sheet 27.K.27.d.9.7.)	
CHATEAU BELGE.	21st		Moved here per bus via ABEELE and POPERINGHE and took over <sup>ana</sup> billets from 22nd Battalion A.I.F. (bivouacs) (Sheet 27 H.24.a.3.9.)	
do & WESTHOEK RIDGE.	22nd.		Reconnaissance of forward area and routes made in morning by C.O., Intelligence Officer, Company Officers, and scouts. Battalion marched from bivouacs S.W. of YPRES in evening - left bivouac 5 p.m. and relieved 19th Battalion A.I.F. attached to 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade, on WESTHOEK RIDGE and forward Area. Relief completed by 8 p.m. and Battalion then came under command of 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade as support to their Left Battalion in the line.	App. "E" Att Memo M/101. App. "F" Att Prel. Instns & O/O 100.



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Sheet No.2.

or

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GARTER POINT.	1917 Sept. 23rd		<p>Battalion remained in Support during day - casualties slight, and reconnaissance made of front line area. 50th Battalion A.I.F. relieved 52nd Battalion in evening, relief completed by 11 p.m. 52nd Battalion relieved 21st Battalion A.I.F. in the front line, relief completed by 11.58 p.m.,</p> <p>DISPOSITIONS :- Battalion Headquarters in concrete "Pill Box" (GARTER POINT) at J.3.a.5.5. with "A" &amp; "D" Companies in the line from J.3.c.9.5. to J.3.a.1.6 and "B" and "C" Companies as right and left support respectively at J.3.a.5.1. &amp; J.3.a.4.1. to J.3.a.1.4., "C" Company also acted as Battalion reserve., R.A.P. at J.1.d.7.1.,</p> <p>Quiet night ; patrolling of Area in front carried out by "A" &amp; "D" Companies. Three prisoners of 49th. ERSATZ R.J. Regiment taken by a lightening Post patrol near Battalion Headquarters at 1 a.m.,</p> <p>Casualties :- 2/Lieut. W.F.B.CREECH wounded on morning of 23rd Sept. 13 Other Ranks Wounded. 6 " " Killed in Action.</p>	<p>App."G"attd. O/O No.W.1.</p> <p>App."H"attd. Bde Order No.88. &amp; Prel. Inatns.</p>
GARTER POINT.	24th		<p>Battalion in front line. Enemy shelled area consistently during day; casualties comparatively slight.</p> <p>Heavy ground fog in morning- lasted till 9-30 a.m. One prisoner taken about 9 a.m., an Officer of 49th. ERSATZ R.J. Regiment 1/Company (Lieut. OTTO RUSCH) He was on patrol, was seen by members of "D" Company, fired at, wounded, and then brought in. Papers in his possession sent direct to Brigade Headquarters prior to his evacuation to R.A.P., Hostile planes flying low over our trenches at intervals during day.</p> <p>Day fine- good observation possible. Trenches improved.</p> <p>Officers' patrols from "A" &amp; "D" Companies sent out at night to reconnoitre certain localities about 250 yards forward of our line. Both parties drew fire and definitely established the occupation of certain posts by the enemy.</p> <p>Casualties :- 6 Other Ranks Killed in Action, 13 Other Ranks wounded.</p>	<p>App. "I"attd Battn Message No. M 102.</p>
GARTER POINT.	25th		<p>Battalion in front line; preparations for an attack by 4th Aust. Infantry Divn., in co-operation of other Divisions of 2nd and 5th Armies, well advanced. (2nd phase of British attack on BECLAERE + BROODSEINDE RIDGE).</p>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Sheet No. 3.

or

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GARTER POINT.	1917. Sept. 25th		<p>Weather fine, good observation made. At night standing posts were put out about 200 yards along the Battalion front to cover work of parties from 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion, and Brigade Headquarters; laying jumping off tapes also the forming up of attacking Battalions. Hostile aeroplane activity - one plane brought down by our Lewis Gun fire in afternoon.</p> <p>Casualties :- 23 Other Ranks wounded. 5 " " Killed in action.</p>	
GARTER POINT.	26th		<p>50th. Battalion advanced Headquarters established in same concrete shelter as 52nd Battalion at 2 a.m., All preparatory arrangements formations completed by 4-30 a.m. and 52nd Battalion covering posts withdrawn to company trenches by 5 a.m., Morning dull excellent light for attack. 5-50 a.m. Artillery barrage opened and 50th Battalion advanced on 1st objective (Red Line) followed by 49th and 51st Battalions in artillery formations as attacking troops for final objective (Blue Line):</p> <p>Area occupied by 52nd Battalion heavily shelled throughout remainder of day. Messages from attacking Battalions transmitted through 52nd Battalion to Brigade Headquarters; communications difficult but well maintained. Red Line occupied by 6.20 a.m., Blue Line occupied by 7.20 a.m.,</p> <p>52nd Battalion then became Brigade Reserve, Companies remained in trenches and shell holes in preparatory formations. Carrying parties provided for Battalions holding Red and Blue Lines.</p> <p>Orders for 52nd Battalion to return to Canal Area received at 8-45 p.m.,</p> <p>Casualties :- 2/Lieut. W.K.SPENCE Wounded 2/Lieut. L.R.ARMSTRONG Wounded. 4 Other Ranks killed in Action. 23 " " Wounded. 6 " " missing</p>	<p>App. "J" &amp; Bde Order 89. Prel. Instn No. 2. BELECLARE Map. WESTHOEK Map. Prel. Instn No. 3. &amp; Map. Admin. Instns. Message Map &amp; German Map.</p>
de CHATEAU de BELGE.	27th		<p>Battalion moved at 4-0 a.m. from trenches occupied since night 23/24th Sept. 50th Battalion occupied our positions, and the troops from Blue Line (49th &amp; 51st Battalions) were disposed in greater depth.</p> <p>Battalion reached bivouac area (huts) S.W. of YPRES., Sheet 28.H.24.a.3.9., by 7.0 a.m., Working Parties provided from 1 p.m. onwards. Weather fine.</p>	<p>App. "K" Bde Order No. 90.</p>



Sheet No. 4.

## WAR DIARY

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

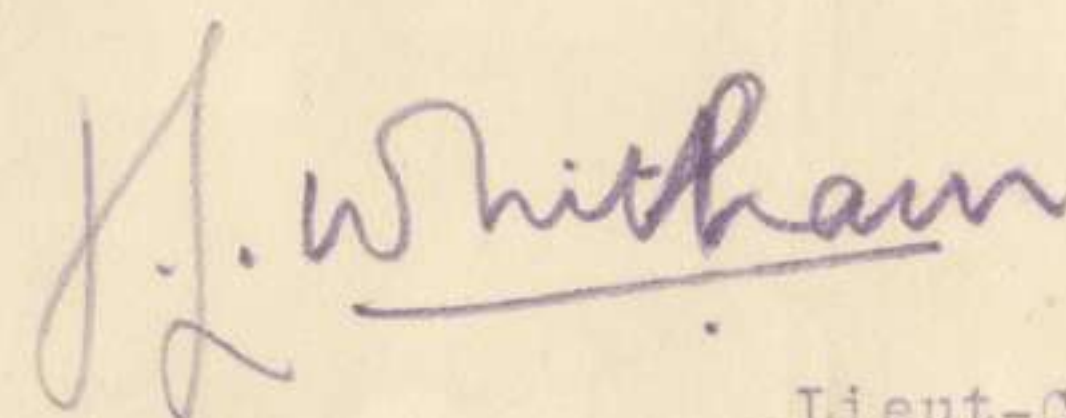
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages  
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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU BELGE.	1917 Sept. 28th		Battalion in hut camp; all ranks bathed at baths of 1st Aust. Pioneer Baths. Pay issued during afternoon. Working parties provided for forward area throughout day and night.	App "L" Bde Order No. 92
do	29th		Battalion in hut camp. Working parties provided for forward areas. Orders received at 8-45 p.m. for move to HALIFAX Camp area, en route to STEENVOORDE Area.	
do	30th		Battalion marched to WINNEPEG Camp (Huts) located at H.19.b.4.6. Sheet 28. distance approximately 3 miles) Move completed by 12 noon. Weather fine, heavy road traffic, very dusty. All ranks were bathed during afternoon and clean shirts and socks issued.	
			----- Also enclosed as appendices file of Brigade Preliminary instructions, administrative instructions, etc. with reference to Operation Orders issued for the attack on 26th September 1917.	App. "M". Strength Return.



Lieut-Colonel.  
Commanding 52nd Battalion A.I.F.



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by  
Lieut-Colonel J.L. WHITHAM, C.M.G.  
Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

3rd. SEPTEMBER, 1917.

Reference Map- Sheet 27. 1/40,000.

1. The 13th. A.I. Brigade will move to the MATRINGHEM Area to-morrow 4th. inst. The 52nd. Battalion will move to its billets in new area as under.

Dismounted personnel will fall in and be in position as under at 9 a.m.

Headquarters at N. side of Cross Roads at V.4.c.3.2.  
"A" Company 20 paces in rear of Headquarters.  
"B" " 20 " " "A" Company.  
"C" " at S. side of Cross Roads at V.4.c.3.2.  
"D" " 20 paces in rear of "C" Company.

They will then march to V.16.b.7.3. where the battalion will embus by 10-0 a.m.

2. DRESS - Full marching order with blanket and ground sheet (water bottle must be filled.)  
No troops will embus or debus until ordered by the embussing officer (The Assistant Adjutant) who will signal the orders with 2 blasts on the whistle.
3. TRANSPORT (a) Will proceed by road via HAZEBROUCK - AIRE and DELETTE under supervision of Lieut. WATKINS, 51st. Battalion, and will start from Cross Roads at V.5.c.5.1. at 9-0 a.m.  
(b) Distances of 200 yards will be maintained between units.  
Battalion Transport will proceed from billets in time to reach V.5.c.5.1. at 8-45 a.m.  
Battalion cycles will be carried by the Transport and will be delivered at Transport Lines before 7 a.m.
4. BAGGAGE. Company office gear and company Officers baggage will be delivered to the R.Q.M. Store before 7-30 a.m.  
Headquarters Orderly Room gear and all Headquarters officers valises will be stacked at entrance to Headquarters billet before 7-30 a.m. The Transport Officer will send a limbert to collect same at that time.
5. GUARD & PRISONERS. The Guard and prisoners will fall in in rear of "B" Company as it passes Headquarters billet.
6. GUIDES. The R.Q.M. will detail a guide/to report to the Brigade Intelligence Officer at RECLINGHEM Church immediately on arrival of unit in new area.  
The Signal Officer will detail a guide to report at Brigade Headquarters at 6-45 a.m. to-morrow to guide lorry to R.Q.M. Store.

*W. L. Wilson*  
Lieut  
for Captain.

Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



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FRIDAY.  
Sept. 7

NOTES. Company Signallers will report daily at 9 a.m. at Railway Station, near Battalion H.Q., to Battalion Signalling Officer, and will be trained with Battalion Signallers.

Lewis Gunners of two companies daily will be put through special course, firing on range, by Lewis Gun Officer.

Platoon schemes will be set by Company Commanders on the lines laid down at meeting of Company Commanders on 5th. Sept. When these schemes are being carried out, all members of the platoon will be present with their platoons.

Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 15th. SEPTEMBER, 1917.

Day & Date.	6-45 to 7-15 a.m.	9-0 to 10-0 a.m.	10-0 to 11-0 a.m.	11-0 a.m. to 12 noon.	2-0 to 3-30 p.m.
SUNDAY. Sept. 9	---	Church Parades and Recreation.			
MONDAY. Sept. 10	Physical Training.	Platoon drill. Rifle exercises. Bayonet fighting. Gas drill.	Platoon scheme : attack of a strong point.	Company Training.	Specialist Training.
TUESDAY. Sept. 11	Physical Training.	Platoon drill. Musketry exercises Bayonet fighting Gas drill.	Platoon scheme : consolidation of a position.	Company route : march, in drill order.	Specialist Training.
WEDNESDAY. Sept. 12	Physical Training.	Company Command- ers inspection. Close order drill and movements in extended order by platoons.	Company scheme - attack of a position, including prepara- tory march, communication, delivery of assault and consolidation.		Specialist Training.
THURSDAY Sept. 13	Physical Training.	1/2 hour Company route march to assembly position. Fighting order.	Battalion scheme : attack of a position. reconnaissance preparatory for- mations communications, delivery movement to "jumping off site", advance under barrage.		Specialist Training.
FRIDAY. Sept. 14	---	8-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Battalion Route march - in marching order - accompanied by transport.			
SATURDAY. Sept. 15	Physical Training.	Platoon training. Gas drill.	Company training - movements in artillery formations, occupation of an outpost position, digging of trenches		Half holiday.

REMARKS.

GAS DRILL will be practiced daily by all ranks - including employed men. Movements, wearing respirators, will be carried out on Wednesday night after dark.

Daily training of specialists will be conducted by Signalling Officer, Lewis Gun Officer, Bombing Officer and Intelligence Officer.

Training of riflemen will be conducted by companies.

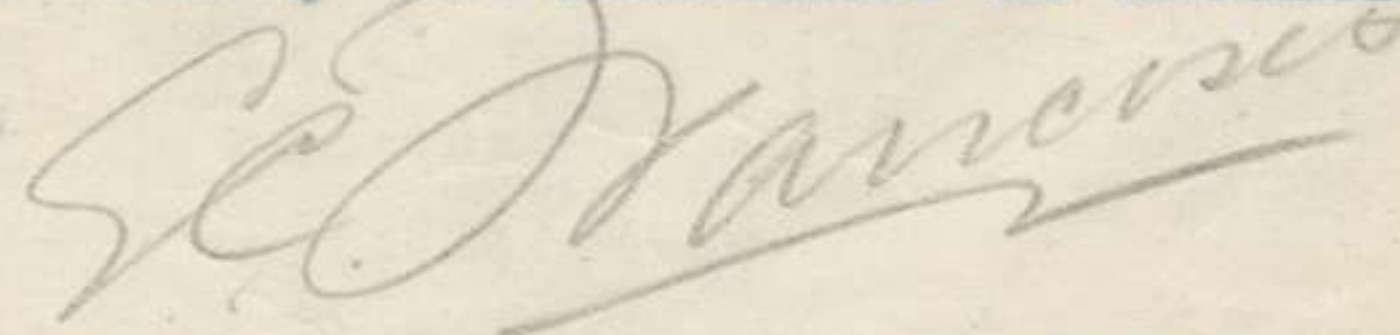
Company signallers will report daily at 9-0 a.m. (Thursday and Friday excepted) to Battalion Signalling Officer.

Numbers one of Lewis Gun Sections will report daily (Thursday and Friday excepted) to Lewis Gun Officer.

Lewis Gun Sections of two companies will be put through range practices.

Lectures will be held for Officers and N.C.O.'s : Syllabus will be issued.

Careful preparation of all work by all Commanders is essential.



Captain.  
Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



Headquarters,

52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

8th. September, 1917.

The O.C. "All" Coys.

Amendments to Syllabus of Training for week ending 15/9/17 have been found necessary and are as follows:-

On TUESDAY 11th. - "A" and "B" Companies will carry out range practices instant. at W.17.c.

"C" Company will attend at MATRINGHEM Baths in afternoon, but will carry out as much of the Syllabus in the morning as is possible.

"D" Company will adhere to Syllabus as laid down.

On WEDNESDAY 12th. instant. - The work as laid down will be carried out at such hours that companies are not absent at bathing parades: Company Commanders to arrange - when details of bathing hours are notified to them.

On THURSDAY 13th. instant. - "A", "B", & "C" Companies will carry out training laid down for TUESDAY, 11th. instant - morning parade.

"D" Company will carry out range practices on range near CROCQ.

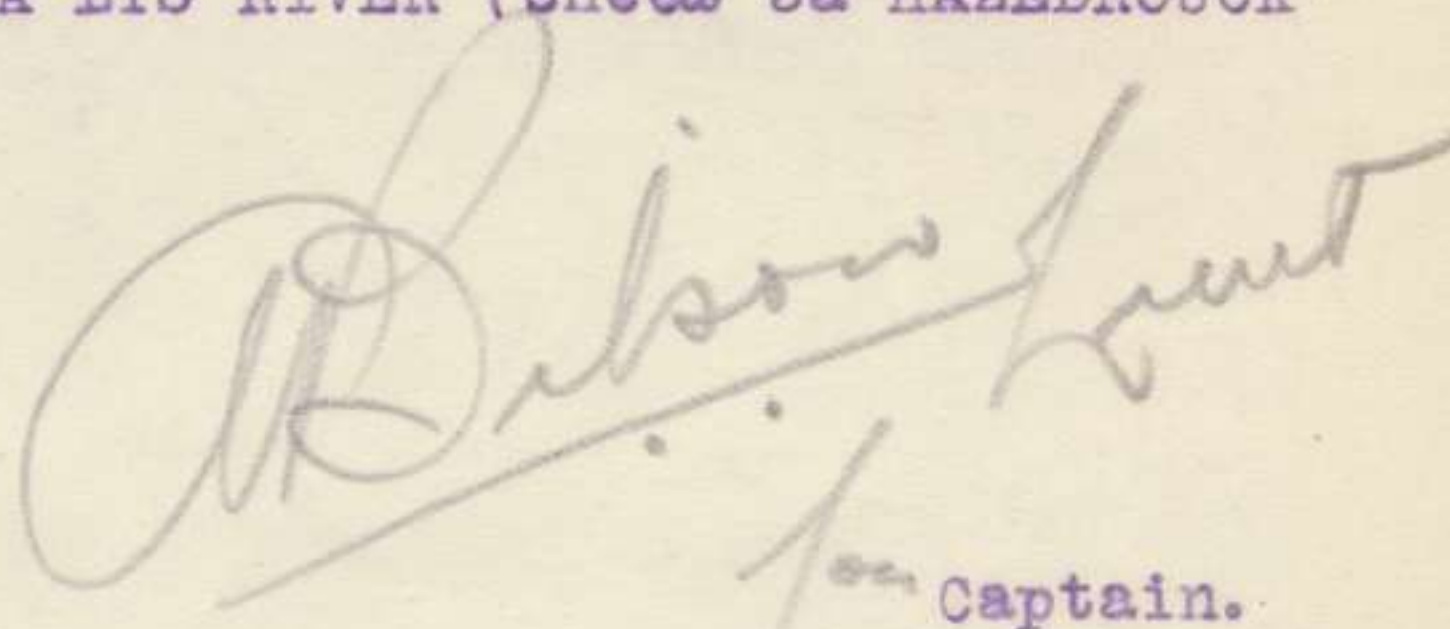
do 4 p.m. A lecture by Captain PARKES, 13th. Field Company will be given to all officers and N.C.Os on Elementary Field Work.

On FRIDAY 14th, instant. - Battalion scheme as laid down for THURSDAY, 13th. instant. (The Battalion route march will be cancelled).

On-FRIDAY,

#### N O T E.

On MONDAY, 10th. instant, all companies will parade for training (9 to 12 noon) on the battalion training ground, stubble paddock, S.E. of the DENNEBROEUCQ Cross Roads and immediately East of second "L" in LA LYS RIVER (sheet 5a HAZEBROUCK square B.6).



for Captain.

Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



## 52nd. BATTALION A.I.F.

## SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 22nd. SEPTEMBER, 1917.

Day & Date.	6-45 to 7-15 a.m.	9-0 to 10-0 a.m.	10-0 to 11-0 a.m.	11-0 a.m. to 12 noon.	2-0 to 3-30 p.m.
SUNDAY. Sept 16	---	(Church parades as ordered)		Brigade Sports Meeting.	
MONDAY. Sept 17	Physical Training.	<u>"A" &amp; "B" Companies.</u> Platoon training : Company Scheme - attack and Close order drill: consolidation of a position: and artillery : Repelling counter attack. formations.			Training of Specialist
		<u>"C" &amp; "D" Companies.</u> Specialist : March to range. Training.			Range practice on range near CROCC from 12 noon
TUESDAY. Sept 18	Physical Training : (C & D Coys only)	"A" & "B" Companies range practices near CROCC between 8-0 a.m. and noon: leave billets at 7a.m. ----- "C" & "D" Companies as for "A" & "B" on Monday 17-9-17.			Brigade scheme - Attack on a position in conjunction with another Battalion
WEDNESDAY Sept 19	Physical Training : for 3 Companies	(Battalion allotted use of Mattingham Baths from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.) Company Commanders will arrange for such platoon training as may be carried out: in addition to the platoon marches to baths and return.			
THURSDAY Sept 20	Physical Training	Company scheme attack and consolidation of a strong point	Battalion movements, artillery formation, under gas.	Specialist Training.	
FRIDAY Sept 21	Physical Training	Company route march in fighting order.	Battalion scheme - Attack of a position and consolidation	Specialist Training.	
SATURDAY Sept 22	Physical Training.	Company Commander's inspection of kit, clothing, equipment. Close Order drill.	Platoon drill : extended order and artillery formations.	Company Training.	Half Holiday.

REMARKS

GAS DRILL will be practiced daily by all ranks - including employed men. Movements, wearing respirators, will be carried out on Wednesday night after dark.

Daily Training of Specialists will be conducted by Signalling Officer, Lewis Gun Officer, Bombing Officer, and Intelligence Officer.

Training of Riflemen will be conducted by companies.

Careful preparation of all work by all Commanders is essential.

*W. B. Lint*  
for Captain.  
Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



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*Battalion Scheme*

by  
Lieut-Colonel J.L. WHITHAM, C.M.G.  
Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

DENNEBROEUCQ.  
18th. SEPTEMBER, 1917.

Reference Map:-  
Special Manoeuvre area Map 1/40,000.  
HAZEBROUCK 5a 1/100,000.

1. 1st ANZAC CORPS is advancing from the line MATRINGHEM-MENCAS in a N.E. direction to capture the line BEAUMETZ - RECLINGHEM.  
  
1st Australian Division has reached the line VINCLY - DENNEBROEUCQ Road in W.10.a., W.9.b., W.3.d.  
  
4th. Australian Division is attacking the enemy on ridge between VINCLY and RECLINGHEM, and the 13th. Australian Infantry Brigade has been ordered to carry out the attack.
2. (a) 52nd. Battalion will attack and capture the ridge from W.10.b.3. to W.4.b.8.5., and will establish a line of posts on the BEAUMETZ - RECLINGHEM ROAD in W.4.d.  
49th. Battalion is attacking on our right through VINCLY to W.10.b. A known enemy strong point exists at W.4.c.8.0.  
  
(b) The attack will be made on a frontage of 340 yards by "C" and "A" companies.  
"C" Company from W.10.b.3.9. to W.4.d.1.3. both inclusive.  
"A" " " W.4.d.1.3. (exclusive) to W.4.c.d.5. (inclusive)  
  
(c) "D" " will move from in support and will co-operate with "A" company in securing strong point at W.4.c.8.0.  
  
(d) "B" Company - Reserve.
3. Lieut. L.C. BOASE, "B" Company will command "mopping up" platoon to be detailed from Reserve Company, and will move 100 yards in advance of Support Company to work in area between jumping off position and objective.  
Mopping up sections of "A" and "C" Companies will, if the situation so requires, be absorbed by Lieut. BOASE.
4. The battalion will move in artillery formation to a line immediately forward of VINCLY - DENNEBROEUCQ Road and will be in position to advance from jumping off line, marked by ground tapes, at zero.
5. Regimental Aid Post will be located at X Roads North of VINCLY. W.10.a
6. Carrying parties will be furnished by "Y" Battalion.
7. Companies will be at the assembly point at 1-30 p.m.
8. Battalion Headquarters will move from preparatory position with Support Company and will be located after zero at approximately W.10.a.5.5.

*[Signature]*

Captain.  
Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

Copies to:-  
No. 1-2 Bn H.Q.  
3-6 Coys.  
7 Bde. H.Q.  
8 49th. Bn.



13th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

BRIGADE ATTACK SCHEME.

Reference Map 1/100.000. HAZEBROUCK  
and Special Map attached.



G E N E R A L     I D E A.

For a lengthy period of Trench Warfare the First Army had been occupying a line running approximately BRAUMETZ-LEZ-AIRE-HEZECQUES-SENLIS. On the 1st September 1917 an offensive was begun and the Ridge South of the BRAUMETZ-MATRINGHEM Road was captured, but the advance was checked, and the I ANZAC Corps has been occupying the line coloured brown on the attached Map since 4th September.

Reports state that the enemy is holding the ground with isolated posts, and aeroplane photographs fail to shew any enemy trenches.

A further advance has been ordered to the Yellow Line and the task on the I ANZAC front has been allotted to the 4th Australian Division.

The 12th and 13th Australian Infantry Brigades have been ordered to carry out the attack, and the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade is in Reserve.

On the 18th September the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade bivouaged at LUGY and the attached Order was issued.

-----ooOoo-----

Brigade Headquarters.

17th September, 1917.

10-30 am  
J.C.  
18/9/17



NOTES ON ATTACK SCHEME.

1. The scheme will be carried out in the afternoon of the 19th. instant at an hour to be decided with Commanding Officers this afternoon. Distant Units will march to the ground in the morning and have lunch there.  
The positions of assembly will be indicated this afternoon.
2. Barrage. The Barrage will be simulated by a smoke screen under supervision of Brigade Bombing Officer.
3. Flanking Troops. The Companies on the flanks of the Bde will be represented by parties from the Bde. School under an Officer. Inter-Coy. Liaison should be practised.
4. The formation to be adopted by the Battalions attacking the Yellow line must be uniform. This will be decided on this afternoon.
5. When the 49th. and 51st. Battalions pass through the Blue line, the 52nd. Battalion automatically becomes the Bde Reserve; they should reorganise at once and report to Bde. Headquarters the approximate number of Officers, men and Lewis Guns available.
6. Communication. Attention is directed to this Office B.2/138
7. Dress: Fighting Order, Felt hats. All available picks and shovels will be carried.
8. Casualties will be simulated. A good plan is to have charts prepared before hand showing nature of wounds, which are handed to the men. No Field Ambulance personnel will take part, so that casualties will not be evacuated beyond the R.A.P.'s.
9. Distinguishing Marks. Runners, Signallers, Scouts, Carrying Parties and Moppers-up will wear the armbands as laid down in S.S. 135. If material can be obtained, troops detailed for each objective will wear a strip of that colour tied on their haversacks.
10. The Brigade Forward Party will wear a blue and white band on the left fore-arm.
11. Carrying Parties of 1 Officer and 20 men will be detailed by each Battalion to report to Staff Captain at Bde. Dump half-an-hour before Zero.  
50th and 51st Battalions will detail 4 Pack Mules each to report at the same hour as above.
12. Enemy Impersonation. Parties from the Bde. School under Major FITZGERALD will represent the enemy defence. These parties will be scattered over the area lying down. Some of the parties will stand up on the approach of the attacking waves and will be dealt with by them. Others will not get up till the attacking waves have passed, and these will be dealt with by the Moppers-up.  
The enemy will all wear felt hats turned down, with a white band

Bde. H.Q.'s.  
18/9/17.



R. Morell Major.  
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.



*App. D.*

*Brigade Scheme*

Brigade Headquarters.  
18th. September 1917.

Reference Maps attached.

1. The 13th Australian Infantry Brigade in conjunction with Units on Right and Left flanks will on the 19th instant attack and capture the Ridge running North-East from MATRINGHEM.  
  
ZERO hour will be notified later.  
  
The Brigade boundaries and objectives allotted to Battalions are as shewn on Sketch attached.
2. Machine Guns. 8 Guns have been withdrawn to assist in Barrage work under Divisional control.  
  
One section of guns will go forward with the rear wave of 52nd Battalion and establish themselves in position at about W.22.a.3.7 and be prepared to assist the attack on the Yellow line by direct overhead fire.  
  
After the final objective has been consolidated these guns will be distributed along and in front of the Blue line.  
  
2 Guns of the remaining Section will follow the last wave of the 49th Battalion and take up a defensive position at about W.16.d.1.2. The other 2 Guns will follow the last wave of the 51st Battalion and take up a position at about W.22.a.3.6.
3. Trench Mortars. 4 STOKES Mortars will be placed at the disposal of O.C. 50th Battalion and 2 Mortars each to the 49th and 51st Battalions.
4. Artillery action. Rates and lifts of the barrage are as shewn on the attached Sketch.
5. Each line will be consolidated as soon as possible after capture; posts will be pushed out to about 100 yards in front of the Yellow line, and the position wired as soon as material is sent forward.
6. Flares will be lit by the leading troops at ZERO plus 2 hours.
7. Separate instructions for Signal Communications are attached.
8. A Brigade Dump of Ammunition, Grenades, Water and Engineering material will be established prior to the attack at W.22.d.6.6.
9. Brigade Headquarters will be at W.22.d.6.1.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*R. Moxell* Major,  
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 9 A.M.

Distribution:-

Each Bn.	5 copies.	4th. Aus. Div.	1 copy.
M.G. Coy.	3 "	Lt. CARLTON.	1 "
L.T.M.B.	2 "	Lt. PARKER.	1 "
Bde. School.	4 "	Staff Captain.	1 "
O.C. 4th. Div.	1 "		
Sigs.		Spare.	6 "



## SIGNALLING INSTRUCTIONS.

=====

To accompany 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde Order No. 87.  
-----

Brigade Forward Party will assemble at Cable Head W.22.d.6.7.  
one hour before Zero.

When the attack on the Blue line is launched, the Brigade Forward Party will accompany the last wave and take up a position at W.22.b.2.3, and owing to the conformation of the ground will remain in that position during the attack on the Red Line. They will again move forward with the rear wave of the troops attacking the Yellow line and establish themselves at about W.16.c.3.2.

A Divisional Visual Station is established at W.23 Central. All signalling personnel should know the position of this Station before the attack. Messages to this Station must be sent DD.

Communication between Brigade Forward Party and Battalions.-

- (i) Power Buzzer to Amplifier at Brigade Forward Station.
- (ii) Visual.
- (iii) Runners.
- (iv) Cable (if necessary).

Wires will not be laid forward of Battalion Headquarters.

It is essential that Battalions whilst on the move should keep in touch with the Brigade Forward Party.

After Zero all messages will be sent in clear till orders are received to the contrary.

*R. Uorell*

Major.

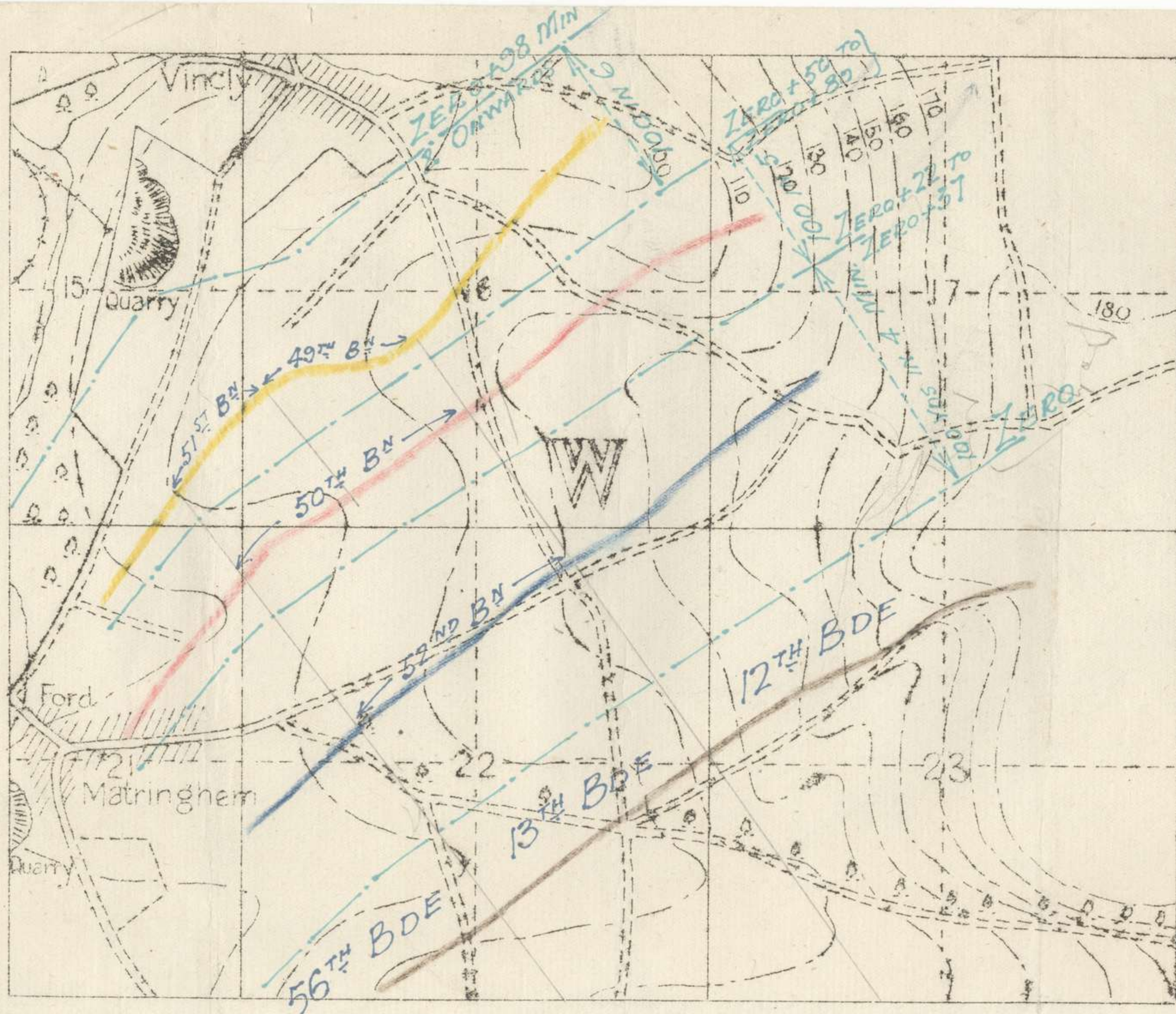
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Brigade Headquarters.

18th. September. 1917.



SCALE 1:10,000





Headquarters,

52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

22-9-17

5-15 p.m.

Headquarters,

13th. Australian Infantry Brigade.

1. The following is a precis of the verbal instructions issued by me to Company Commanders and others concerned on my return from the line this afternoon. An operation order has not been issued. (Brigade Preliminary Instructions No.1. issued).

2. The 52nd. Battalion will move from its present bivouac area near BELGIAN CHATEAU to-day. (march actually commenced at 5 p.m.) and will relieve the 19th. Battalion A.I.F., which is the support battalion to the Left Brigade, 2nd. Aust. Division.

3. The 19th. Battalion is in shell holes and trenches in the vicinity of WESTHOEK.

4. On taking over from 19th. Battalion, the 52nd. Battalion passes under command of 6th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Headquarters, 52nd. Bn. will be at J.7.b.7.9.

R.A.P. " " " J.7.b.7.9.

"A" Company. " " " J.3.c.7.5.

"D" " " " " J.3.c.4.8.

"B" " " " " J.2.c.40.35.

"C" " " " " J.1.d.80.05.

5. The Battalion is in support to the 21st. Bn. in the line, and will be kept in a state of readiness.

6. Carrying parties for rations and water will be arranged for by companies.

7. Movement by day in forward area will be avoided

8. Carrying parties will probably be called for during the night 22/23rd. Sept. for forward area.

9. The ration for 23rd. inst. will be delivered by limbers at a point on the plank road between BIRR X Roads and BELLEWARDE RIDGE.

Company Q.M. Sergrts will accompany Battalion to line to-night and will then return with carrying parties to ration dump.

10. Water bottles to be taken in filled: water may be obtained from Water Point near BIRR X Roads. Arrangements to be made to collect petrol tins and send them back to Transport Lines by empty ration limbers - where they will be filled and brought forward daily.

11. Ammunition will be obtainable in the rear area - each Company of the 19th. Battalion has a reserve of approximately 10,000 rounds.

12. No bombs are available for issue prior to 52nd. Battalion going into line. - early attention will be given to supply of bombs.

13. S.O.S. SIGNALS:- 2 at each Coy. H.Q.  
2 at Battn. H.Q.

14. Telephone communication exists between Battalion Headquarters and each company - direct wires to "B" & "C" Companies through Brigade Headquarters to "A" & "D" Companies.

15. 6th. Aust. Inf. Brigade Headquarters is at WESTHOEK at J.1.d.6.2.

16. (a) 22nd. Battalion is on our right in support to 23rd. Battalion in the line on the right.

(b) 27th. Inf. Bde. is in the line on our left.

17. Battalion will march to the line via YPRES, MENIN GATE Road, BIRR X Roads to WESTHOEK. 100 yards between platoons until reaching YPRES, thereafter 200 yards between platoons.

18. (a) Guides from 19th. Battalion will meet units as follows at BIRR X Roads. :-

2 for Battalion Headquarters,  
4 per Company.

(b) 52nd. Battalion guides sent to line this morning will meet Companies at BIRR X Roads.

P.T.O.



(2).

Appendix E

19. Trench stores, maps, etc. will be taken over and receipts given in duplicate and usual receipts submitted to Battalion Headqrs.

20. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by companies by the word "CHATEAU".

J. L. Whitham

Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

Appendix E



BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 100.

by  
Lieut-Colonel J.L. WHITHAM, C.M.G.  
Commanding 52nd, Battalion A.I.F.

*Off. L.*

Reference Map :-  
WESTHOEK.

CHATEAU BELGE.  
22/9/17.

\* The battalion will move forward to Reserve area WESTHOEK this afternoon at 2 p.m. and will relieve a battalion of the Left Brigade of the 2nd. Australian Division.

The Battalion temporary Headquarters will be at J.2.d.0.5.

The battalion will be temporarily attached to the Left Brigade of the 2nd. Australian Division, the headquarters of which is at Cross roads at J.1.d.6.2.

DRESS Fighting order with ground sheets.

Battalion temporary dump will be at present bivouac, where all battalion stores, gear, &c not going further forward will be taken charge of by the R.Q.M.

Personnel to remain at Transport Lines will stay here for the present, and all personnel, R.Q.M., R.T.O., and staffs will be under the orders of the Assistant Adjutant.

\* Bn actually moved at 5pm.

( This order was issued as a preliminary  
move order prior to completion of reconnaissance  
of forward area. See also para 1. of memo  
to 13/Bde HQ on 11/10/17 of 22/9/17. Appendix E )



Captain.

Adjutant, 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

*W*



SECRET

Appendix G  
OPERATION ORDER NOW/1

By  
LIEUT-COLONEL J. L. WHITHAM, C.M.G.  
COMMANDING 52 BATTALION A.I.F.  
23/9/47

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. is relieving the 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. in the line on night of 23/24<sup>th</sup> inst. From J.3.d.o.y. to J.3.a.2.8.
2. The 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn. will relieve the 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. in the line occupying the Brigade frontage.
3. The 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn. will be relieved in its present sector in support of 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. by the 50<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bn. Time of relief & arrangements for guides for companies of the 50<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bn. will be made direct between company commanders concerned. The relief of 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn. will be completed by 9 pm.
- 4<sup>a</sup> Reliefs of companies of 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. will be carried out as follows:-  
"A" Coy. 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. by "A" Coy. 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn.  
"C" Coy. 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. by "D" Coy. 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn.  
"B" Coy. 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. by "B" Coy. 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn.  
"D" Coy. 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. by "C" Coy. 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn.  
P.T.O.

(2)  
Appendix G  
4<sup>b</sup> "A" & "D" companies 52<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Bn. will be in front line, "B" company right support, "C" company left support and Battalion reserve

5. GUIDES. Five guides per company will be provided by 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. & will be at UNNAMED PILL BOX, J.3.C.4.8, at following times:-  
For "A" & "D" companies - 7-30 pm  
"B" & "C" companies - 8-30 pm
6. Movement for companies for front line will be in formations of half sections in single file at 25 yards interval. Companies for Right & Left Support will move in formations not larger than half platoons in single file.
7. All Ammunition, Bombs, Flares, Triples & Sand Bags in possession of 21<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bn. will be taken over & receipts given. Receipts in Duplicate to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by noon 24<sup>th</sup> inst.
8. A Dump of S.A.A. (150,000 rounds) is located at J.3.a.5.4.



(3)

Appendix G

9. Signal communications exist between all companies and Battalion H.Q. by Telephone, and from Battalion to Brigade H.Q. The existing advanced Brigade Report Centre is at J. 3. C. 4. b.

10. R.A.P. will remain at J. 7. b. 7. 9; a relay Post for bearers will be established by 4. pm. today at

11. RATIONS for the 24<sup>th</sup> will be delivered by limbers on PLANK ROAD near BELLE WAARDE. ETANG, and will be brought forward by carrying parties of two platoons detailed from "C" Company to J. 3. C. 4. b., present Headquarters of "A" & "D" companies.

All companies will arrange to take over rations at this point. WATER will be obtained by each company on PLANK ROAD near BIRR Cross Roads during today, and carried in petrol tins to the line tonight.

A reserve of water will be carried from present Bn Hqs. by a platoon to be detailed from.



224  
ESS

11 (4) "C" Company, to J. 3.2.54 Appendix G  
12 (b) Relief of 21st A. I. Bn. by 52nd A. I. Bn. to be completed by 5.0 am 24th instant, and completion of relief to be notified by code word BRICKBAT.

Adjutant, 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion A. I. F.



Appendix G  
List of names of soldiers who were killed in action during the war.

1. A. J. Smith  
2. B. C. Jones  
3. C. D. Brown  
4. A. B. White  
5. B. C. Green  
6. D. E. Black  
7. C. D. Grey  
8. D. E. Blue  
9. E. F. Red  
10. F. G. Yellow  
11. G. H. Purple

Appendix G  
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10. F. G. Yellow  
11. G. H. Purple



SECRET

## 13th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE

## PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Reference Map 1/10,000 WESTHOEK and  
1/40,000 Sheet 28.Headquarters.  
21st Sept. 1917.

1. (a) The 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions have secured the general line shewn in Green on the attached map.  
(b) The Corps and Divisional boundaries are also shewn on the map.
2. The 5th and 4th Australian Divisions are at an early date taking over from the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions and are attacking the general line JOISTS FARM .. J.4.d.5.0 - D.28.d.0.0 - BRICK KILN and YARD.
3. (a) The 4th Aust. Division attack is being carried out by the 4th Aus. Inf. Bde. on the Right and 13th. Aus. Inf. Bde. on the Left. The dividing line between Brigades has not yet been definitely fixed, but the frontage will approximately be divided equally.  
(b) On the night of 22/23rd September, the 52nd Battalion will move to WESTHOEK Ridge and on the night of 23/24th. will take over the line from a Battalion of the 5th. Aus. Inf. Bde.  
(c) The 13th Aus. Inf. Bde. attack will be carried out as follows:- first objective 50th Battalion, second objective 49th Battalion on the right and 51st Battalion on the Left.  
(d) 52nd Battalion will furnish carrying party for the 50th. Battalion, other Battalions will supply their own parties.  
(e) 12th. and 24th. M.G. Coys. are being employed on barrage work - the whole of the guns of the 13th. M.G. Coy. will be at the disposal of the Brigade for the operation.  
The 25% Machine Gun Coy. personnel detailed in para XXX of S.S. 135 are being retained in the Forward Area for the present, in order to assist in preparatory work prior to the attack. They will be sent back subsequently.
4. All Units of the Brigade will make careful reconnaissances of the Forward Area and especially of tracks East of YPRES.
5. Brigade Headquarters will probably be at BIRR Cross-roads at I.17.b 2.8 with Advanced Brigade Headquarters for the operations at J.1.a.9.5. J.7.6.9.9

R. Russell Major.

Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 11.55 p.m.

## Distribution:-

Each Battalion	5	Copies.
M.G. Coy.	2	"
L.T. Coy.	2	"
13th. Pa. Coy.	1	"
Staff Captain.	1	"
Sig. Officer	1	"
War Diary	1	"
File	1	"



Section Jack No 1

Base Op. Ord.

Adm. Order with

Base Op. Order 88

Base Op. Order W/1



SECRET.

Copy No. ....

13th. AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No. 88.  
=====Headquarters.  
22nd. September, 1917.Reference Map Sheet 28. 1/40,000.

1. (a) The 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve the 6th. Aus. Inf. Bde. in the front line from J.3.d.0.7 to J.3.a.2.8 and 5th. Aus. Inf. Bde. in rear area on the nights 22/23rd and 23/24th instant in accordance with Table overleaf.

(b) Details of Relief will be arranged between Commanding Officers concerned.

(c) Movement. East of the YPRES - COMINES Canal movement will only take place by small columns not larger than Platoons and, if necessary, by Sections.

2. All maps, documents in connection with Sector, area stores, dumps etc. will be taken over from outgoing Units.

3. Administrative Instructions will be issued later.

4. Completion of Relief and distribution of Troops will be forwarded without delay.

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

R. M. M. M. M.

Major,  
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.Issued at 6.15 p.m.

Extra Copies to :-

- 12. - 13th. Field Ambulance.
- 13. - 13th. Field Coy.
- 14. - A. D. M. S.
- 15. - 27th. A. A. S. C.
- 16. - A. P. M.
- 17. - C. R. E.
- 18. - 2nd. Aus. Division.
- 19. - 5th. Aus. Inf. Bde.
- 20. - 6th. Aus. Inf. Bde.

Noted  
Rus  
5 am  
23/9/17

W. C. E.

22  
9  
17  
11/40 pm



## TABLE OF MOVES.

Date	Unit	From	To	Relieves	Remarks.
Sept. 22/23rd	52nd Battalion	CANAL AREA	WESTHOEK and Red Line in Left Sector.	19th. Bn. 5th. Aus. Inf. Bde.	
" 23rd	51st Battalion	do.	ESPLANADE Sap.	18th. Bn. 5th. Aus.) Inf. Bde.	Relief to be completed by 6 a.m.
" "	50th Battalion	do.	RAMPARTS	17th. Bn. 5th. Aus.) Inf. Bde.	
" "	Bde Headquarters	do.	Y. WOOD, MURIEL Sap, I.12.c.3.5	5th. Aus. Inf. Bde.) Headquarters.	
" 23/24th	52nd Battalion	WESTHOEK and Red Line.	Front Line.	21st. Bn. 6th. Aus.) Inf. Bde.	Relief to be compl by 5 a.m. 24th. Sep
" "	50th Battalion	RAMPARTS	WESTHOEK and Red Line.	52nd Battalion	
" "	13th M.G. Coy.	CANAL AREA	Front Line & Forward Area.	6th Aus. M.G. Coy. in) Left Sector Divl. ) Front.	
" "	13th L.T.M. Batty.	do.	do.	6th L.T.M.B. in Left) Sector Divl. Front.)	
" "	13th Bde. H.Q's	-	-	6th A.I. Bde. in line but remain at I.12.c.3.5.	



224

SECRET.

Appendix

Appendix H

26

Copy No. ....

13th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

Headquarters,

23rd. September, 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS-----  
issued in conjunction with Brigade Order No. 88.  
=====

TRANSPORT. The Brigade Transport Lines are situated at H.22.b.5.7 and will be under the command of Lieut. S. CARROLL. Pack Transport Troop is at H.21.d.9.4.

SUPPLIES. Supplies will be delivered by Divisional Train to Brigade Transport Lines and will be carried from there by Pack Transport Troop to the Forward Area.

WATER. Water is stored at Brigade Dump J.7.b.4.7 in petrol tins and tanks for Units forward of Brigade H.Q's. Petrol tins must be returned to the Dump immediately they are emptied of water. Main water point is at I.11.d.5.5.

AMMUNITION. The Brigade Ammunition Dump is situated at J.7.b.4.7 and will be in charge of Lieut. CHURCHER to whom all incidents for ammunition will be submitted. Forward dumps are being established at J.2.c.6.5 and J.3.a.1.3.

ENGINEERING MATERIAL. Engineering material can be drawn at Brigade Dump J.7.b.4.7 and BIRR Cross-roads I.17.b.2.8.

MEDICAL SERVICES. Line of evacuation is from R.A.P. by hand stretcher to Relay Posts at I.12.c.5.7 or I.13.b.5.8 to Ambulance Collecting Post at I.13.a.2.8 or BIRR Cross-roads I.17.b.2.8 to Corps Advanced Dressing Station I.19.c.8.6.

QUARTER-MASTERS. All Quartermasters will remain at Brigade Transport Lines and will personally accompany Mule Transport with rations and water to their Unit each day.

*A. Nicholson*  
Captain.  
Staff Captain, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 9.30 a.m.

Extra Copies to:-

27th. A.A.S.C.  
O.C. Pk. Transport Troop.  
Lieut. S. CARROLL.  
Bde. Bombg. Officer.  
Lieut. RUDALL.  
13th. Fa. Coy.

Noted

J.W. C.O. 52/13m  
bpm 23/9/17



224

Headquarters,

52nd. Battalion A.I.F.

24th. September, 1917.

Headquarters,

13th. Australian Infantry Brigade.

Herewith:-

Identity Disc.

Shoulder strap & numerals & Button.

Pocket book containing private & official papers

taken from a German Officer captured this morning by a party from "D" Company, 52nd. Battalion. The officer -

Lieutenant OTTO RUSCH,

ERS. Battalion R.J.R. 2.

1 K. No. 2553.

has been evacuated, badly wounded by rifle shots in stomach and left shoulder, through R.A.P. 52nd. Battalion.

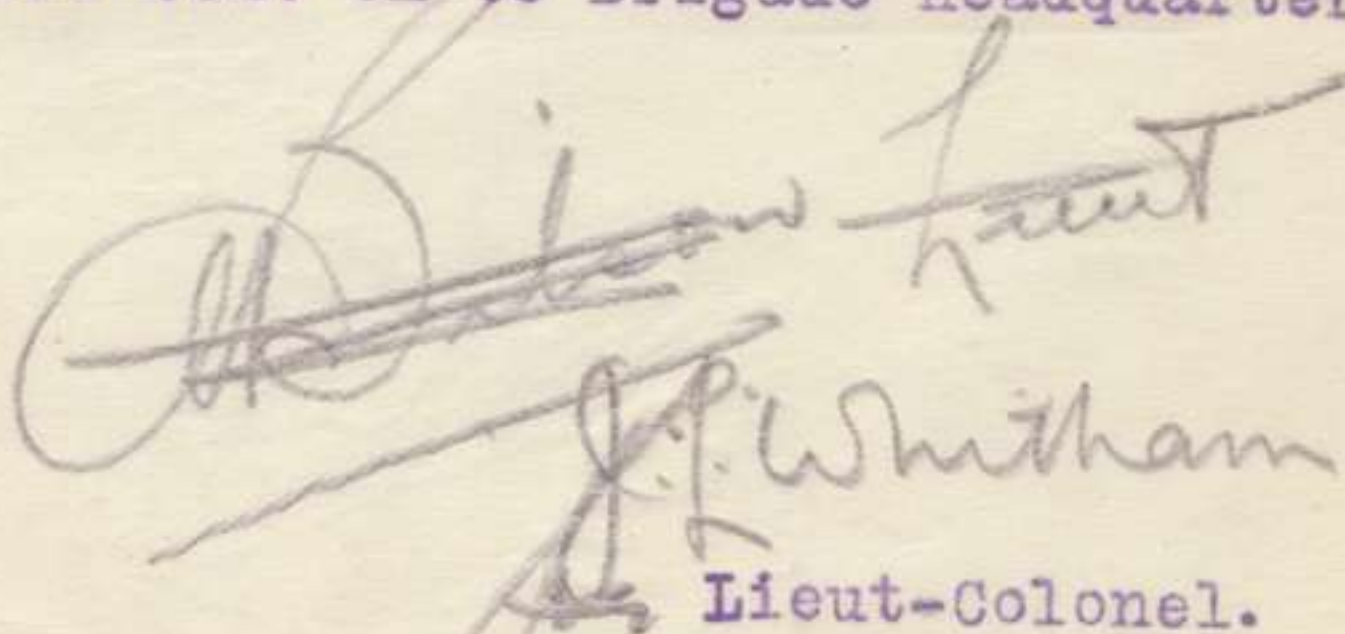
There was a heavy ground fog this morning and our patrol at 9 a.m., saw two figures: they endeavoured to cut them off and on the men moving off our patrol fired: both were hit but one man, possibly the officers servant, managed to get clear. Further search is being made as the fog lifts.

The Officer spoke English, and stated he and the man with him were looking for lost "comrades". In German, he made a few remarks, which were interpreted for us by one of our stretcher bearers who speaks German well.

There is a big possibility that the officer will die before he is able to give further information.

The spot where he was captured was in J.3.a.5.7.

We are of opinion that he may have been looking for the three men of the 49th. R.I.R. who were brought in by the same company at 1 a.m. to-day: and who were sent on to Brigade Headquarters about 3 a.m.

  
Lieut-Colonel.

10-30 a.m.

Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.



224  
SECRET

Bn HQs  
13th AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No. 89.  
=====

Appendix 3

Copy No. 4... 28

App. J.

Headquarters.

25th. September, 1917.

Reference Map WESTHOEK 1/10.000.

1. (a) On "K" day at an hour to be notified later the 4th. Aust. Division in conjunction with the 5th. Aust. Division on the Right and the 3rd. Division on the Left will continue the operations against the PASHENDAELE Ridge.  
(b) The attack of the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be carried out as per instructions already issued.  
(c) The Left of the 4th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will direct and Officers of the Right Coys. of the 50th. and 49th. Battalions will arrange to get in touch before Zero with Lieut. KERR (Intelligence Officer, 16th Battalion) and Lieut. JOHNSTON (Intelligence Officer, 14th. Battalion), who will be the directing Officers. In addition to the above, in the case of mist or fog, one Officer and one Other Rank in the centre of each Battalion will be prepared to lead by compass.
2. (a) Posts will be pushed out to a distance of about 100 yards in advance of the line that is being consolidated.  
(b) When the final protective barrage ceases at Zero plus 327 minutes, patrols properly supported will be pushed forward and tactical points within 200-250 yards found unoccupied will be occupied and consolidated.
3. In the event of attack by hostile aircraft during the advance certain Lewis Guns must be ready to engage them.
4. The Machine Gun barrage will commence at Zero plus 7.
5. (a) A contact patrol distinguished by a black streamer on near edge of left wing will fly over the front from Zero till the final objective is reached.  
(b) Red flares will be lit by leading troops 20 minutes after reaching each objective, at which time a contact plane will call for them by Klaxon Horn or firing a White Very light.  
(c) In addition, Infantry will light flares whenever an aeroplane calls for them.
6. Each Unit will send an Officer to Advanced Brigade H.Q.'rs. to synchronise watches at 12.30 A.M. on morning of attack.
7. All messages after Zero will be sent in clear till otherwise instructed.

A C K N O W L E D G E

*25/9/17*  
R. Morell, Major.  
Bde. Major, 13th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 2.30 p.m.

Copy to:-

- F 504 4-27/9/17*  
*52*  
*C.O.*
- 12 - 13th Ed. Ambce.
  - 13 - 13th Ed. Coy.
  - 14 - Lieut. CARLTON.
  - 15 - 4th. East. Inf. Bde.
  - 16 - 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
  - 17 - 76th. Bde.
  - 18 - C. R. E.
  - 19 - "D" Group Artillery.



SECRET.

Copy No. 4.....

13th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No.2.Reference Map attached.

1. The Divisional, Brigade, and Battalions boundaries and objectives will be as on attached map.
2. There will be two stages in the operation :-
  - First Stage. Establishment on Red Line, J.4.c.65.45 - J.4.c.8.8.  
D.27.d.9.4. - D.27.d.8.8.
  - Second Stage. Establishment on Blue Line, J.4.d.4.6. - J.4.b.5.9.O.  
- D.28.a.2.2.
3. (a) The 4th AUST. INF. BDE. on the Right and the 76th Brigade on the Left will operate in conjunction with this Brigade.  
(b) The 50th Battalion will secure the Red Line in conjunction with the 16th Battalion on the Right flank and the 8th Royal Lancs. Regiment on the Left.  
(c) The 49th and 51st Battalions (with the 14th Battalion on the Right of the 49th Battalion and the 2nd Suffolk Regiment on the Left of the 51st Battalion), will capture the Blue Line.
4. Routes of Approach. The 49th and 51st Battalion will use the Rifle Farm track as far as WESTHOEK ridge. From there onwards three separate routes have been taped forward to the place of assembly.
5. (a) The jumping off line will be marked out tonight under supervision of the Brigade Intelligence Officer and will be taped the night prior to the attack. Direction tapes from the jumping off line will also be laid.  
(b) The flanks of the Battalions on the forming up lines and at the assembly places will be marked with boards.
6. All troops must be in position one hour before Zero.
7. (a) The barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of our forming up line at Zero.  
(b) It will begin to advance at Zero plus three minutes at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes for 200 yards.  
(c) Thereafter, and up to the Red Line the rate will be 100 yards in 6 minutes.  
(d) The barrage remains in the protective position in front of the Red Line for 41 minutes. Just prior to movement it will be increased in intensity and troops will move up close under it.  
(e) The rate of movement from Red to Blue Line will be 100 yards in 8 minutes.  
(f) Smoke will be fired by each Battery as it arrives on its protective barrage line in front of each objective so as to indicate the position to the troops.
8. Machine Guns. All the guns will go forward with the rear wave of the troops for the Blue Line.  
2 Guns will take up position at about D.28.c.7.4. cover ground towards and beyond D.28.central.  
2 Guns to about D.28.c.4.7. to fire in the direction of Retaliation Farm.  
2 Guns D.28.c.1.6. and 2 guns, D.27.d.6.7. to protect the Left flank and assist the troops on our left, if necessary.  
The remaining 8 guns will be employed under Divisional arrangements on barrage fire.

F. T. O.



9. O.C. L.T.M. Battery will place 4 guns at the disposal of the 50th Battalion and 2 each to the 49th and 51st Battalions. After the objective is captured these guns should be utilised for defence in strong points, and for repelling small counter-attacks. Guns must be pushed forward and keep up with the advancing troops.
10. Strong points should be constructed in each objective.  
 2 by the 50th Battalion at D.27.d.8.7. and J.4.a.3.7.  
 1 by the 49th Battalion at D.28.c.9.0.  
 2 by the 51st Battalion at D.28.c.6.7. and D.29.c.3.9.  
 This work will be supervised by special R.E. parties who will join the Battalions on the evening prior to the attack.
11. All carrying parties for both objectives should move in rear of the Blue Line Battalions. Special Parties for strong points with the stores required be definitely allotted and moving with engineer parties mentioned in Para. 10 above.
12. The 4th Squadron, R.F.C., will cooperate with the Division. Red flares will be used.
13. (a) Instructions regarding Intelligence and Disposal of Prisoners, Signalling arrangements, and barrage maps are attached.  
 (b) The following special instructions will be issued :-

Machine Gun Instructions.  
 Administrative Instructions.  
 Notes on aeroplane Photographs and latest information regarding the ground, points from which counter-attacks may be expected and known enemy strong points.

#### A C K N O W L E D G E.

*R. Morell* Major.

Bde. Major, 13th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 9.30 p.m.

Bde. Headquarters,  
24th September, 1917.

#### Distribution :-

Each Battalion.  
 13th M.G. Coy.  
 13th L.T.M. Bty.  
 13th Field Coy.  
 13th Field Ambulance.  
 Lieut. CARLTON, H. C.  
 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 76th Brigade.  
 C.R.E. 4th Aust. Div.



ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS issued in conjunction with  
Preliminary Instructions No. 2.

Headquarters.  
25th Sept. 1917.

Reference Sheet 28.

1. AMMUNITION etc. Units have been issued with their full complement of ammunition, grenades, flares, sandbags, tools etc.
2. DUMPS (Ammunition) The Battle Dump is established at J.3.c.2.9. and an Intermediate Dump at J.2.c.5.5, the Main Dump being at J.7.b.4.9.
3. R.E. STORES. A Dump of Engineering material has been established at J.2.c.9.7, and is being pushed forward to the vicinity of GARTER POINT. Small bunnies of wire and pickets are being prepared and will be available for issue.
4. RATIONS: Rations will be delivered to Units by Pack Transport. Troops going into the attack will carry:-

2 days Dry Ration.  
Emergency Ration.  
Ration of Chocolate.  
Double Ration of Chewing Gum.

RESERVE RATIONS: At present 500 rations are available at the Bde Battle Dump and a further 500 are being sent forward. 1500 Rations are will be held at the Main Bde. Dump J.7.b.4.9.

5. WATER: Battalions taking part in the offensive have been issued with 100 filled petrol tins. In addition, 300 filled petrol tins will be at the Battle Dump with an adequate reserve at the Main Dump J.7.b.4.9. The adequacy of the water supply depends largely on the celerity in which empty petrol tins are returned to the Bumps and this must be impressed on all concerned. 1 Extra Water-bottle per man has been issued to Units taking part in the offensive.

6. PRISONERS of WAR: The Prisoners of War Cage is situated at SHRAPNEL CORNER I.20.a.5.6. The 52nd Battalion will detail a guard of 2 N.C.Os. and 12 men to be attached to Bde. H.Q.'rs. to conduct prisoners to the Cage. This Guard will reconnoitre the routes to the Prisoners of War Cage immediately and report at Brigade Headquarters for duty at 8 p.m. the day prior to ATTACK DAY.

All escorts with prisoners from Units on handing over to this Guard at Bde. H.Q.'rs. will return immediately to their own Units.

7. BATTLE STRAGGLER POST. A Battle Straggler Post has been established at J.7.b.8.9.

*A. Nicholson*  
Captain,  
Staff Captain, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copy to:

13th. Ed. Coy.  
O.C. Pk. Transp. Troop.  
Lieut. CARROLL.  
Bombing Off. (Bde).  
4th. Aus. Inf. Bde.  
12th Aus. Inf. Bde.



Brigade Headquarters,  
25th September, 1917.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No. 3.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO JUMPING OFF LINE AND ATTACK.

Reference Map attached & WESTHOEK 1/10,000.

1. From RAMPARTS and CANAL Areas to WESTHOEK Ridge.
  - (a) The Rifle Farm track will be used by the 49th & 51st Battalions and Brigade Forward Party as far as WESTHOEK Ridge.
  - (b) Control posts under Captain FOWLER will be established along this route; in addition boards have been placed at intervals along the track and two Red Lamps will be placed at Advanced Brigade Headquarters.
  - (c) The 51st Battalion will be clear of I.S.d.5.5. by 6.30 p.m. The 49th Battalion & Brigade Forward Party will be clear of same point by 7.30 p.m.
2. Assembly WESTHOEK Ridge. Advance parties will be sent to reach Advanced Brigade Headquarters by 4 p.m. where they will be shown the area in J.7.b. which they will occupy while waiting to move forward to the Jumping Off Line.
3. From WESTHOEK to Jumping Off Line. Units will move forward from WESTHOEK as under:-
 

50th Battalion	to leave WESTHOEK Area at	1.00 a.m.
49th	" " " " " "	1.30 a.m.
51st	" " " " " "	1.30 a.m.
4. Tracks as shown on sketch have already been allotted to Battalions and lamps will be placed along each route.
5. Place of Assembly and Jumping Off Line.
  - (a) Intelligence Officers and tape laying parties will report to the Brigade Intelligence Officer at 6.30 p.m. at Advanced Brigade Headquarters, J.1.d.65.15.
  - (b) The 50th Battalion will be formed up on a taped line and will occupy a depth of 60 yards.
  - (c) Immediately in rear of the 50th Battalion the 49th & 51st Battalions will be formed up on a depth of 90 yards. The outer flanks of these Battalions will be taped and the dividing line between them will be marked.
6. Advance to the Attack.
  - (a) At Zero plus 2 minutes the 50th Battalion will move off and deepen out to its attack formation.
  - (b) At Zero plus 8 minutes the troops for the Blue Line will move slowly forward, clear of the enemy barrage keeping 300 yards distance of the Red Line troops.
  - (c) On crossing the swampy ground in J.3.b. opportunity should be taken of checking the line of direction. Direction of attack is approximately 72° 30' magnetic.
  - (d) The Blue Line troops will remain in rear of the Red Line troops till they move forward in time to anticipate the lift of the protective barrage at Zero plus 100.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*R Morell* Major.  
Bde. Major, 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 12.30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

13th Field Company.  
Lieut. CARLTON.  
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.

13th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
76th Brigade.  
C.R.E. 4th AUST. DIV.  
"D" Group Artillery.



use with Artillery Maps.

Appendix J

Amm. Dump  
△

WESTHOEK

J

I

Etang de  
Bellewaarde

12

11

G RIFLE FARM

10

9

MENIN ROAD

Tracing taken from Sheet

of the map of

Signature

Date

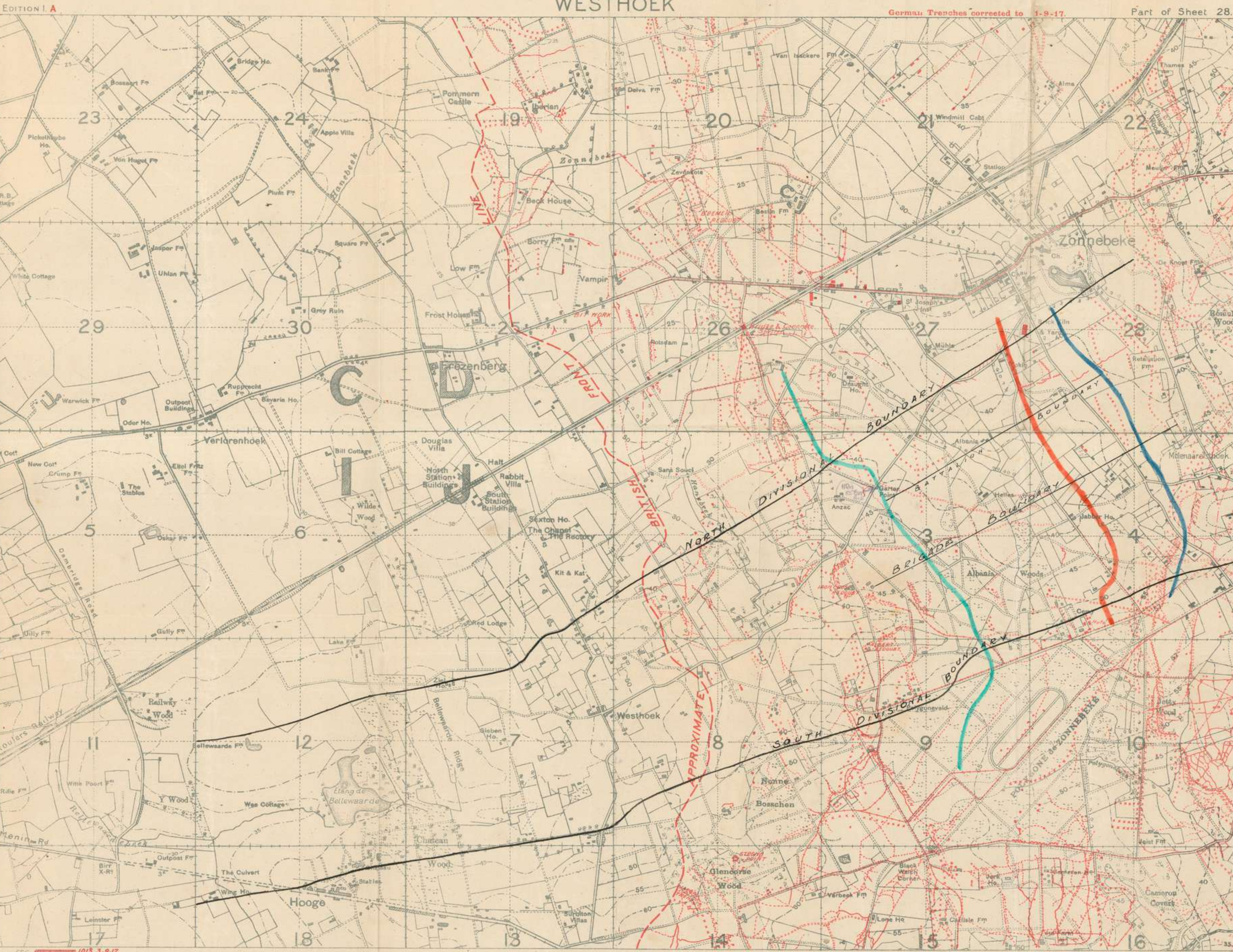
seen located on a squared map.  
scale, and 2,000 yards in length  
on the trace. Sufficient  
own map. A little detail  
be always given. The trace

ARM 6 22/04/18

21/10/18



# WESTHOEK





WESTHOEK  $\frac{1}{10,000}$  Map

attached is 52<sup>nd</sup> Bn copy of

13 Aus Inf Bde Operation Order

Nº 89 of 25.9.1917

J. Whitham  
CO 52<sup>nd</sup> Bn  
MI



52 Bn Map  
attached k

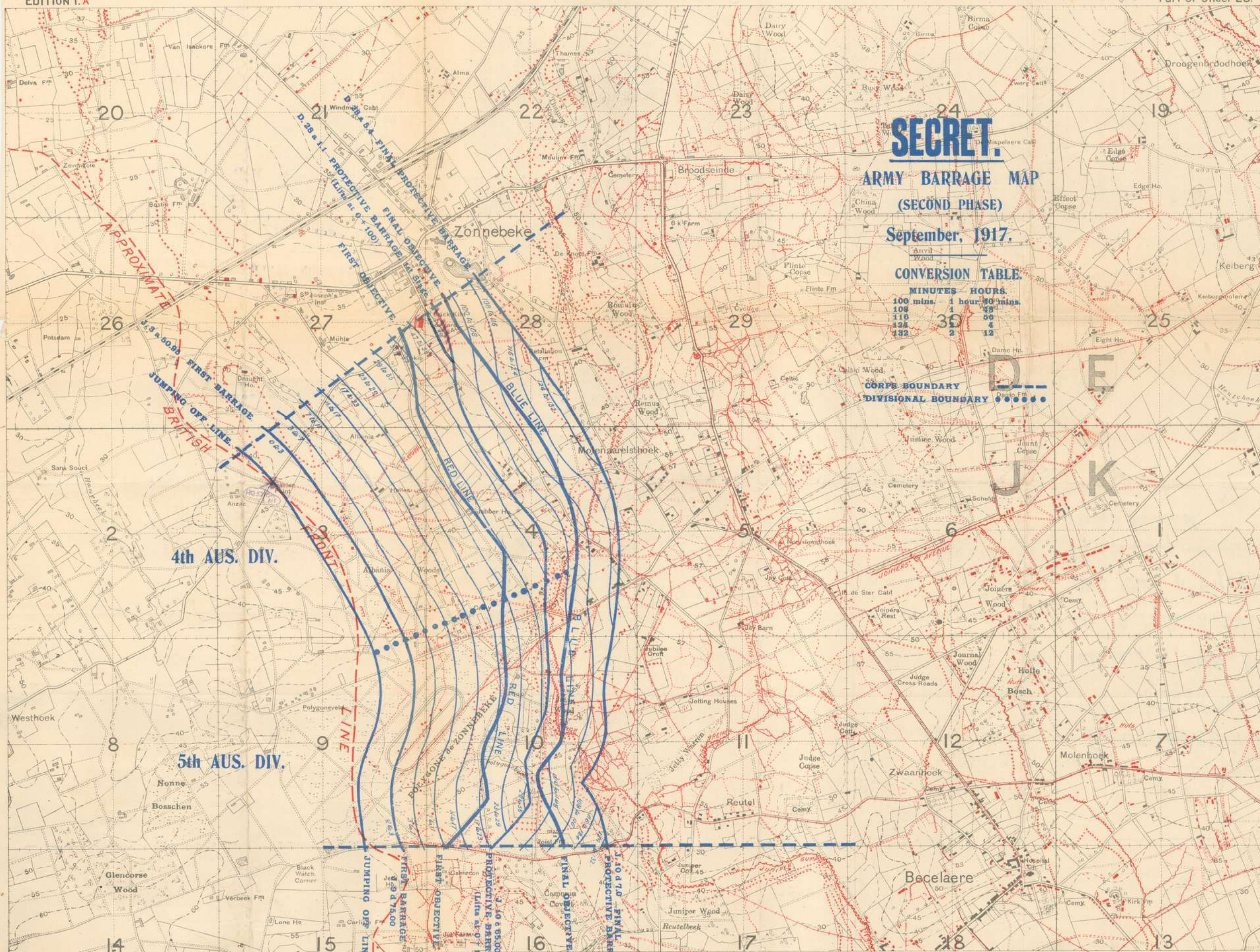
52/Bn AIF

Appendix J

EDITION 1.A

BECELAERE

Map attached to 13/Bde Operation Order N° 89 of 25/9/17  
and Adm. & Preliminary Instructions issued March 1917  
German Trenches corrected to 21-9-17. Part of Sheet 28.



**SECRET.**

**ARMY BARRAGE MAP  
(SECOND PHASE)**

**September, 1917.**

**CONVERSION TABLE.**

MINUTES	HOURS
100 mins.	1 hour 40 mins.
105	1 45
110	1 50
115	1 55
120	2 00
125	2 05
130	2 10
135	2 15
140	2 20
145	2 25
150	2 30

**CORPS BOUNDARY**  
**DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY**

**4th AUS. DIV.**

**5th AUS. DIV.**

Battery Positions (possible strong points)  
Probably Timber or Camouflage  
Probably Concrete  
Organised Shell Holes

Scale 1:10,000  
500 1000 1500 2000 Yards



52/Bon map

BECELAERE Map  
1/10,000 (Sheet 28)  
attached to 52/Bn AIF  
copy of 13/Aus Inf Bde  
Oper. Order N° 89 of 25,  
+ preliminary instructions  
issued therewith.

100	3	13
150	3	4
200	1	20
250	1	10
300	1	400. 90

REMARKS: NONE

COZAE8210Z 14BTZ

geheimpol. ital.

(GROUP 1172)

THINK ABOUT IT

[illegible]



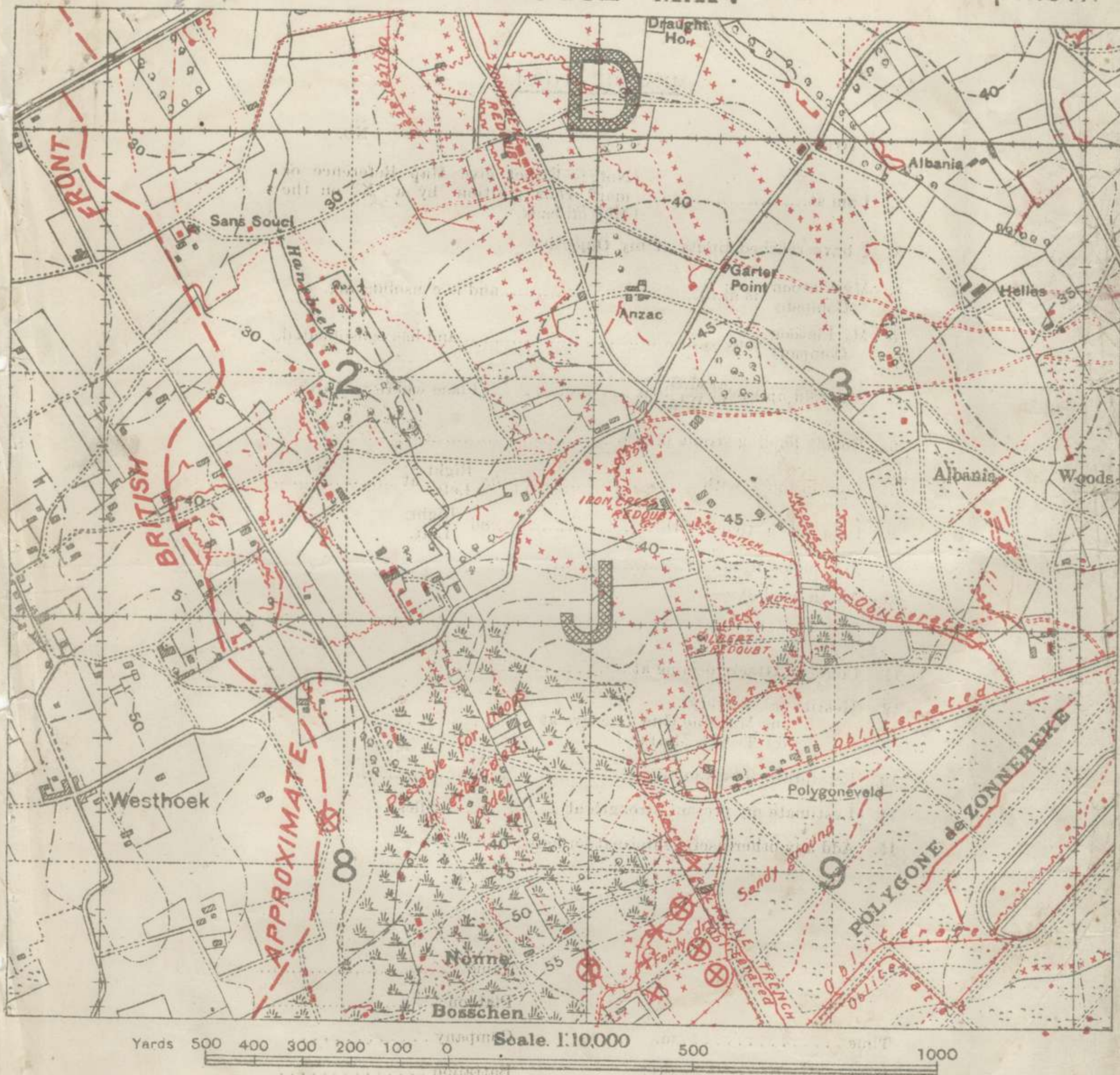
No 3.

Ypres - Roulers  
Railway

## MESSAGE MAP

For Comparison with attached GERMAN Map 1:10,000

Sept: 1917.



Sunken Road in Glencorse Wood—Bank on Western side,  
20ft. high—Slight, gradually sloping bank on East—  
Impassable at North end—Very bad at South end.

Probably unoccupied. X  
Strong Points " occupied X  
Dug-outs believed to be concrete ...

NOTE.—Air Photographs show practically no signs of wire anywhere in this area.

F.3.C. 1052.11.9.17.

Printed by No 2 Advanced Section, A.P. &amp; S.S.



MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

- (Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.)
1. I am at.....
  2. I have reached limits of my Objective.
  3. My Platoon is at.....and is consolidating.  
Company
  4. My Platoon is at.....and has consolidated.  
Company
  5. Am held up by (a) M.G. at . . . . . (Place where you are).  
(b) Wire
  6. Enemy holding strong point.....
  7. I am in touch with ..... on Right at .....  
Left.
  8. I am not in touch with.....on Right.  
Left.
  9. Am shelled from.....
  10. Am in need of:—
  11. Counter Attack forming at . . . . .
  12. Hostile (a) Battery  
(b) Machine Gun } active at . . . . .  
(c) Trench Mortar }
  13. Reinforcements wanted at.....
  14. I estimate my present strength at ..... rifles.
  15. Add any other useful information here:—

Name.....

Platoon.....

Company . . . . .

Battalion . . . . .

Time . . . . . m.

Date . . . . . 1917.

- (A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.
- (B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—  
Name, Rank, (Number) and Regiment.
- (C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

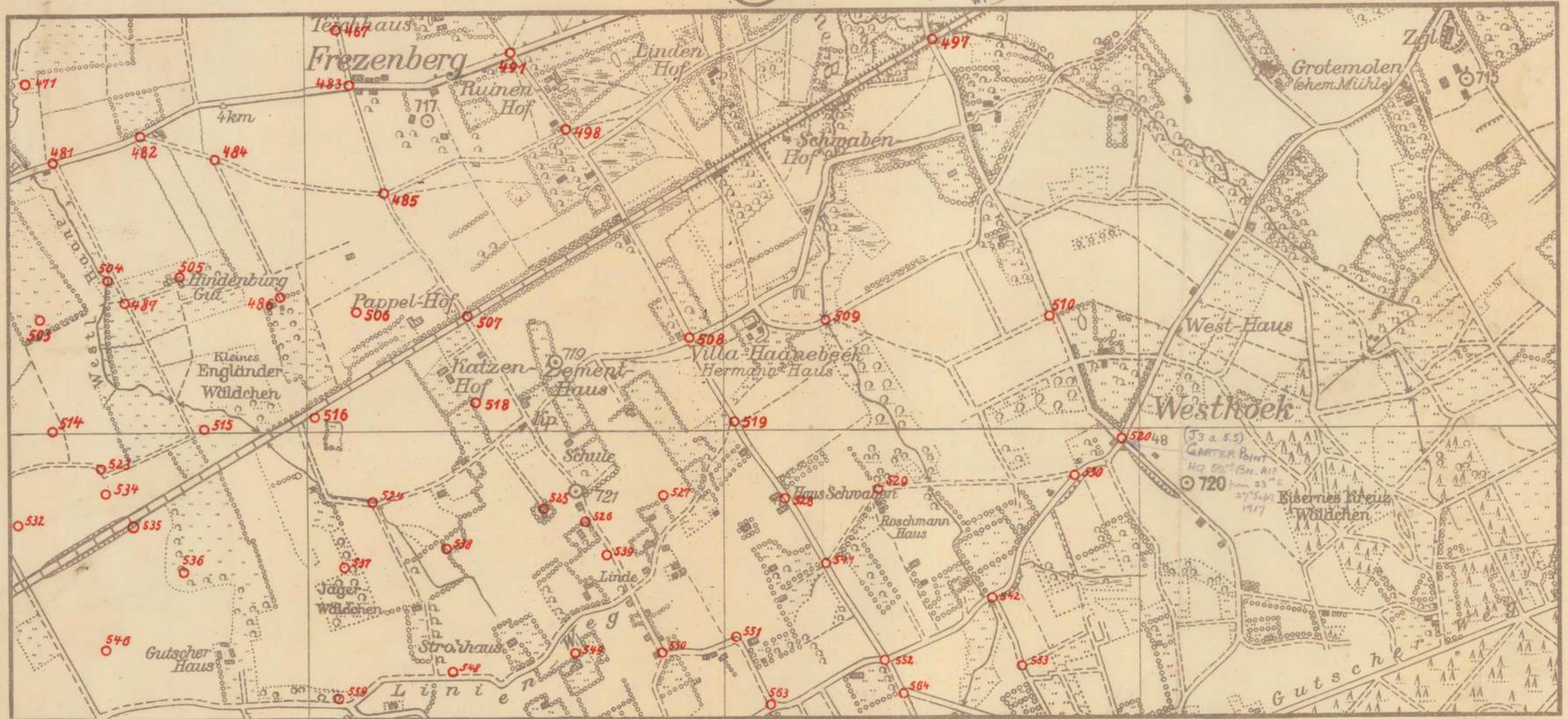


224

**D** Mitte.

German Map of locality partly occupied by 4<sup>th</sup> AusDw., including 13<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. prior to attack on 26/9/17

Appendix J. Whitlam  
15 ca  
20 52/400 RTF



Maßstab 1:10 000

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 Meter

Compare this map with attached British Message Map 10,000, dated Sept 1917, although the strong point in pill box shown in Red circle numbered 520 is identical with GARTER POINT (J3 a. 5.5) on British Map.



13th. AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No. 90.

Headquarters.

26th September 1917.

Reference Map WESTHOEK and Sheet 27.

1. (a) The 4th. and 13th. Australian Infantry Brigades are redistributing their troops in depth, and the following moves will take place at 4 A.M. 27th. instant.

Unit	From	To	Relieves.
52nd Battalion	ANZAC Ridge	CANAL Area	
50th. "	RED Line	ANZAC Ridge	52nd Battalion.
1 Coy. 49th Bn.	RIGHT Sector Front Line.	RIGHT Sector RED Line.	2 Right Coys. 50th Battalion.
1 Coy. 51st Bn.	LEFT Sector Front Line.	LEFT Sector RED Line.	2 Left Coys. 50th Battalion.
13th M.G. Coy.			
13th L.T.M.B.	Remain as at present.		
13th Bde H.Q.			

- (b) The 49th. and 51st. Battalions will redistribute their Coys. in depth, 2 Coys. each in the Front Line, one in Support and one in the RED Line.

- (c) Units must move at 4 A.M. neither sooner nor later.

- (a) Each Unit should arrange to send advance parties to the Area or Trenches they take over, and also arrange for Guides.

- (b) Advance parties from the 52nd. Battalion will report to Capt. W.M. FOWLER at BELGIAN CHATEAU at 4.30 A.M.

3. (a) The 45th. Battalion, 12th. Aust. Inf. Bde., will come under the tactical command of G.O.C. 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde., and will close over to the left so as to be clear of the 4th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Area.

- (b) A Liaison Officer from the 45th. Battalion will report to 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.'rs. on receipt of these Orders.

ACKNOWLEDGE, URGENT.

Runell

Major,

Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 9.30 p.m.

Order read  
to Coy Comd'rs  
at 11.30 pm  
26/9/17 and  
Special memo  
no 520 issued

Done 27/9/17  
CO  
52/17



SECRET

Copy No. 11

15th AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No. 92.

*App 2*

Brigade Headquarters,

29th September, 1917.

Reference Map 1/40,000. Sht. 28.

1. The 15th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE will move to the STEENVOORDE Area on October 1st.

Table of moves as under :-

Date.	Unit.	From	To	Remarks.
Sept. 30th.	52nd Bn.) L.T.M.B.) M.G. Coy)	CANAL AREA.	HALIFAX Area. H.13.c. & d. & H.19.a.b b.	Move to be completed by noon.
Sept. 30th/ October 1st	50th Bn.	CHINA WALL	do.	To be clear of CHINA WALL by 5 p.m.
	51st Bn.	WESTHORN RIDGE.	do.	Relieved by 47th Bn.
	49th Bn.	do.	do.	Relieved by 48th Bn.
	Bde. H.Q.	BIRR X BDS	do.	Opens at 10 p.m.
October 1st	15th A.I. BRIGADE.	HALIFAX AREA.	STEENVOORDE Area.	Further orders regarding this move will be issued

2. ADVANCE PARTIES. Units will send advance parties for the HALIFAX AREA to report to Captain FOWLER at Brigade Transport Lines at 8 a.m. 30th instant.

ACKNOWLEDGE

\*\*\*\*\*

*Handwritten:*  
JRW  
C.O. 52nd Bn.  
8.45pm  
29/9/17

*Handwritten:*  
Acknowledged

*Handwritten:*  
R. Murrell, Major.

Bde. Major, 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1.30 p.m.

Extra copies to :-

- 4th AUST. INF. BDE.
- 12th AUST. INF. BDE.
- C.R.E. 4th Aust. Div.
- A.P.M. 4th Aust. Div.
- 13th Field Coy. Engrs.
- Adjut. RULAIR.
- G.O. 15th Bde. Details. CARRENE.



## STRENGTH OF BATTALION ON 1st &amp; 30th. SEPTEMBER, 1917.

(INCLUSIVE).

Strength on 1/9/17.		Increase		Total.		Decrease.		Strength on 30/9/17.		Details.	
OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.
35	881	5	98	40	979	5	1800	35	799	6	86
								X			

X Includes - R.M.O. &amp; Chaplain.

INCREASE.

Captain L.G. TASSIE (R.M.O.) rejoined from hospital.  
 2/Lieut N.G. HATTON. from Seconded List (Wounded)  
 Captain W.H. CHRISTOPHERS " " (Wounded)  
 2/Lieut V.E. DENNE " " (13th. Training Bn.)  
 2/Lieut G.M. TRAVERS. T.O.S. from Reinforcements

23 Other ranks  
 2 " " Reinforcements. T.O.S.  
 72 " " Military Staff Clerks, Reinforcements.  
 1 " " Details T.O.S.  
 Attached (R.M.Os Batman).

DECREASE.

Captain D.M. STEELE (R.M.O.) Returned to 13th. Field Ambulance  
 Captain W.F. WILMOTT Seconded.  
 Lieut. R. DICKSON "  
 Lieut. T.G. TURNBULL "  
 Lieut. B.P. REVENALL Returned to England. S.O.S.  
 2/Lieut W.K. SPENCE Wounded.)  
 2/Lieut W.F.B. CREECH " ) Shown as in hospital until  
 2/Lieut. E.R. ARMSTRONG " ) Seconded.

21 Other ranks  
 76 " " killed in action.  
 5 " " Wounded.  
 14 " " Missing.  
 1 " " To Detention. S.O.S.  
 1 " " To Base LE HAVRE S.O.S.  
 2 " " Transferred to Base. Aust. Dental Unit.  
 53 " " To O.T.C. England.  
 1 " " S.O.S. Hospital.  
 5 " " S.O.S. Attached R.M.O. Batman.  
 1 " " To 13th. Training Battalion.  
 from detached duty to England.

*Robert Lunt*  
 Lieut-Colonel.  
 Commanding 52nd. Battalion A.I.F.