

AWM4

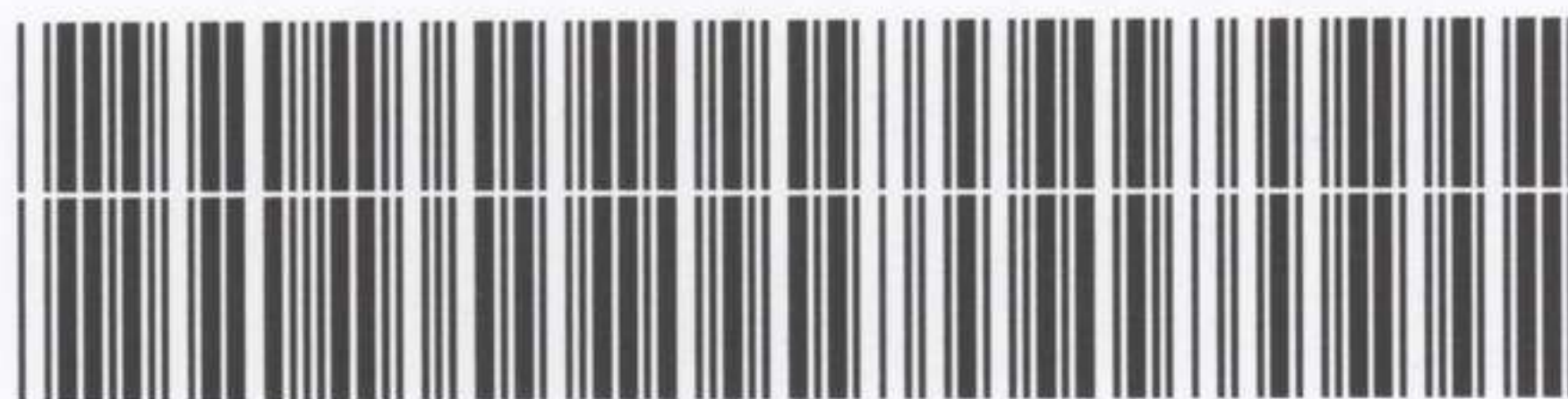
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/19/11

Title: 14th Australian Machine Gun
Company

May 1917



AWM4-24/19/11

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-5-17		Received operation order from 2 nd Australian Divisional Headquarters re attack on Howdenburg Line. (Appendix I)	
	2-5-17		The Company moved from Leguy Hill to position on defensive guns between Storcil & Laguerant; all 16 guns being in position by midnight on the 2 nd (Map showing disposition of Guns (Appendix II)). The 14 th A Coy is now under the Orders of the G.O.C. 5 th A I Brigade. Zero time (3-45 am) received at 8 pm on the 2 nd . My Headquarters were at C10 C70.95 (Appendix II)	Appendix II
	3-5-17		Attack started at 3-45 am with a very heavy bombardment. The four (4) south guns in C11A fired 110,000 rounds on to that part of the Howdenburg Line in U30 D and C6B. My Headquarters being blown in twice were moved to C16 B2.2 (Appendix II)	Appendix II
	4-5-17		At 7 am NO 13754 The J.L. Clarke was killed while manning a gun in C11A. Orders received from 2 nd Australian Division for my company to withdraw and report to HQ. quarters at Leguy Hill and be attached to the 1 st Australian Division	
	5-5-17		All guns were withdrawn by 3 am and the Coy arrived at Leguy Hill at 5 am. The men were rather exhausted but in good spirits. During the three days the Coy was in the line the morale of the men was excellent although under heavy shell fire day and night. I reported to 1 st Australian Divisional Headquarters and was instructed to remain at Leguy Hill pending further instructions. Lieut A.C. Leslie joined the Company from Reinforcements (Cade School England)	

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	6-5-17		Twenty four (24) reinforcements arrived today making the Effective Strength of the Company 7 officers 153 OR.	
	7-5-17		Orders received by wire from the 1 st Australian Division to rejoin our Brigade (14 th A & B Brigade) at Farnieul leaving Leging Shilong at 8 am on the 8 th inst.	
	8-5-17		The Company arrived at Farnieul at 11 am and where we once more came under the orders of our own Brigadier. Received orders from Brigade at 6 pm to move up and relieve the 3 rd and 7 th A & B Coys at present holding the extreme right of the Hendenburg Line captured by the 2 nd Australian Division on the morning of the 3 rd . The Company left Farnieul for the front line at 9 pm and took over 8 guns each of the 3 rd & 7 th A & B Coys. The relief was completed, under heavy shell fire all night, by 4-5 am on the 9 th . A ^o 5391 Sgt Jones being wounded, he being the only casualty. Disposition of Guns (Appendix III)	Appendix III
	9-5-17		My Headquarters were in the Southwest Road at C 16 A 5.0 and Battle Headquarters at C 5 D 6.6.	Diagram 1
	10-5-17		The enemy used Gas Shells round my Headquarters for 1 1/2 hours at 2 am this day. N ^o 1541 Sgt Kent of A was killed. A heavy day for the men but morale still excellent.	
	11-5-17		A ^o 3115 Sgt Howard A.E. was killed. Received orders from Brigade for 6 of my guns to assist our troops on the left in an operation by putting a barrage of barrage in Square U 23 A (Appendix III) at 3.40 am on the 12 th .	Appendix III
	12-5-17		At 3 am. Moved my Headquarters to Brigade Headquarters at Farnieul at C 10 C 85.10. Operations started at 3.40 am. My six (6) guns fired 6000 rounds. The men are beginning to feel the strain but the morale just	Diagram II

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12-5-17		The same. The following casualties reported today N° 327 Pte J E Dimeson killed, N° 324 Pte A J Miles killed, N° 2351 Pte Drewitt, E. N° 1731 Sgt J. E. Scott N° 2970 Pte R C Royce (subsequently died of wounds) N° 463 Pte Howell EP were wounded.	
	13-5-17		Gas Shells were again used at 6 p.m. today. N° 2 Section in C II Square relieved N° 4 Section in front line which was completed by 2 a.m. on 14 th inst.	
	14-5-17		An enemy plane flew over our line waiting for Taulp. at 3.30 p.m. but was turned back by our A G fire. Casualties for the day were N° 332 Pte A G Baird killed, N° 2161 Cpl C E Stocks, N° 2373 L/Cpl C J Hauser were wounded. Enemy fired Gas Shells over from 9 p.m. till 4 a.m. on the 15 th inst.	
	15-5-17		The enemy counter attacked our positions in the front line last night but was repulsed with severe losses. The following casualties reported N° 462 Pte A A Donalds killed, N° 1742 Pte A H Smith, N° 3244 Pte A Brannan, N° 1706 Pte J H Wall N° 3153 Pte J W Wilson, N° 1502 Sgt J B Lindell N° 5845 Pte R F Brown, N° 324 Pte A Brown were wounded, N° 1693 Pte H Lowe N° 1731 Pte J H Ryan, N° 477 Pte P G Hart, N° 1698 Pte H J H Ray were killed. The men are feeling the strain badly but their morale in holding them out excellently.	
	16-5-17		Position very quiet all day. Raining all day.	
	17-5-17		Weather conditions still bad. Artillery on both sides very active towards evening. Casualties reported for the day. N° 1293 Cpl R Rids N° 3108 Pte R J Hauser wounded N° 1708 Pte C L Heasby (gassed)	
	18-5-17		Received orders from Brigade that Company would be relieved on the night of the 19-20 by the 16 th A G Coy and that	

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	18-5-17		six (6) of my guns would take over the six (6) positions defending Stornieul manner by the 21 st A. M. G. Coy Capt. Munson O.C. 15 th A. M. G. Coy interviewed we re the relief at 4 p.m. My Headquarters were heavily shelled. Headquarters staff casualties were N° 2360 Pte S. J. Ely N° 2952 Sig R. N. Little killed other casualties N° 2528 L/Sgt E. W. Bell, Cpl W. W. Madigan, L/Cpl J. J. Loneriff wounded.	Appendix III Diagram III
	19-5-17		At 3 a.m. this morning an enemy fighting patrol approached one of my guns at C 6 C 2. 4. but was driven off suffering casualties. The O.C. 15 th A. M. G. Coy arrived at my Headquarters at 9.30 p.m.	
	20-5-17		The relief of my Coy by the 15 th A. M. G. Coy and the relief of part of the 21 st A. M. G. Coy by part of mine was successfully completed by 4 a.m. and none of the 3 Coys suffering any casualties. I opened my Headquarters at Farnieul at 9 a.m. I was thoroughly exhausted but wonderfully cheerful.	
	21-5-17		N° 2528 L/Sgt E. W. Bell reported to have died of wounds.	
	22/10/25		Six (6) guns in the line having a reasonably quite line, remainder of Coy at Farnieul resting.	
	26		Six (6) guns relieved by 139 th M. G. Coy relief completed without casualties by 12.30 p.m. Remainder of Coy arriving at Farnieul at 4 a.m. on the 26 th	
	27		The whole of the Coy moved to Reincourt into B. billets	
	28/10/30		Bathing, parades & general reorganising of sections cleaning up guns, gear etc.	

B. Spierkayor
O.C.
14th Aust. M. G. Coy.

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 7...

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 121.
 (Re-Typed with Amendments embodied).

Reference: Maps ECOUST-St. MEIN,
 Edition 2. Sheets
 51.b.SW and SE, and
 57.c.NW and NE.

Divisional Headquarters,
 1st May, 1917.

- General Intention. 1. The attack on the HINDENBURG line will be renewed on a date and at an hour to be communicated later, unless the enemy withdraw previously. In this latter case touch with the enemy will be maintained.
- Troops Concerned. 2. The 2nd Australian Division and the 62nd Division on its left will carry out the attack on the front allotted to the 1st Anzac Corps and the V. Corps respectively.
- Boundaries. 3. The boundaries between the attacking Divisions will be U.28.c.2.5 - U.28.a.6.6, thence to crossroads at U.22.c.98.20 - thence along the sunken road to U.22.b.8.5 - U.17.central - U.12.c.0.0 - U.12.c.6.6.
 The sunken road will be inclusive to both divisions.
- Objectives. 4. (a) The objectives of the 2nd Australian Division will be as shown on the attached map "A"
 Line marked "4th Objective" to be erased from this map.
 (Note: This map was forwarded with Order No. 121 of 18-4-17)
- Method of Advance. (b) The advance from the 1st to 2nd Objective will begin at zero plus 1½ hours and from 2nd to 3rd Objective at zero plus 2½ hours.
- 62nd Division. (c) The 62nd Division is responsible for the capture of BULLECOURT and is to attack simultaneously with the attacks on the HINDENBURG line, to the east and west of it. The objectives of this Division are also shown on Map "A".
 The advances of the 62nd Division are to be concurrent with those of the 2nd Australian Division, and close touch is to be maintained between the attacking troops of the two Divisions as the advances take place.
- (d) The 2nd Objective is practically only a starting point for the capture of RIENCOURT.
- Further Objectives. (e) The 3rd Objective will form three phases:-
 i. The capture of the outposts of RIENCOURT and the trench system in U.23.b. and U.17.c.
 ii. Completion of the capture of RIENCOURT.
 iii. The establishment of posts in U.18.a. and c. to connect RIENCOURT with the 62nd Division in HENDECOURT.

Artillery.

5. (a) Sketch map "B", showing field artillery barrages is attached. This deals with all barrages designed to cover the actual assaults on each objective.
(Note: Amended Barrage Map attached - previous one to be destroyed).

(b) Arrangements have been made for the following protective barrages to be put down if required after zero + 3.39:-

Red Barrage: As at zero + 2.54 to 2.59 from the left as far as U.18.c.5.5, thence to U.18.d.3.7.

Blue Barrage: As at zero + 1.40 to + 2.15, and zero + 1.40 to 2.18 for 37th, 39th & 41st, and 13th, 15th & 46th Batteries.

(Sketch showing these barrages has been forwarded).

(c) In addition :-

i. The defences of RIENCOURT, particularly those in U.24.c., U.23.b. and a., and U.17.c., also the approaches to RIENCOURT from the east and the enemy trenches in V.19 & 25, will be kept under fire by heavy artillery. There will also be a H.A. protective barrage outside and to the east of the field artillery barrage and 6" Mk.VII. guns will sweep the approaches from CAGNICOURT.

ii. The counter-battery groups will neutralise hostile artillery fire as usual.

iii. The enemy's trenches in U.30.d., C.6.b., and D.1.a. will be kept under fire of heavy and field artillery throughout. Smoke and gas shell will be used if wind is favourable.

The right brigade will report to D.H.Q. one hour before zero regarding the wind.

iv. A 4.5" howitzer battery will be specially detailed to keep under fire the trenches in U.30, a. & b. between the standing 18-pdr. barrage and the posts to be occupied by the infantry at U.30.a.4.4 and 4.8 - allowing a safe margin from the posts.

(d) The C.R.A. will, as soon as RIENCOURT has been captured -

i. Move the left artillery group into suitable positions to cover the new front of the Division beyond RIENCOURT.

ii. Hold one artillery brigade ready to advance should an advanced guard be formed or a further advance made.

Infantry.

6. (a) The 5th & 6th Aust.Inf.Bdes. are detailed to make the attack and frontages and boundaries are allotted as shown in the map "A"

The 5th Aust.Inf.Bde. will be on the right and will attack between U.30.a.1.6 to 2.9. and U.29.a.8.7 to U.23.c.8.0. The road through U.29.c. and a. will be inclusive to this Brigade.

The 6th Aust.Inf.Bde. will be on the left and will attack between the road through U.29.c. & a. (exclusive) to U.22.d.5.0 to 5.3.

/(b) Patrols.

- 3 -

- Patrols.** (b) Active patrolling will be carried out during the night previous to the attack to prevent the enemy's patrols from operating in NO MAN'S LAND.
- Jumping-Off Line.** (c) Each brigade will tape a line 500 yards distant from the zero barrage line from which they will start at zero hour.
- Direction** (d) Special arrangements will be made in each brigade to ensure correct direction. The magnetic bearing will be taken beforehand and the necessary officers detailed to check direction on the flanks of each wave.
- Assault on Front Trench** (e) Assaulting troops will move forward punctually at zero hour at a rate of 100 yards a minute until close under the barrage. At zero plus 16 the barrage will lift off the front trench and as it lifts the trench will be rushed by the first wave.
- Flank Protection.** (f) Immediately the front trench is captured previously detailed trench clearing parties on the outer flanks of the leading wave of both brigades will bomb down the enemy trenches - the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. party on the right as far as U.30.a.4.4 - the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. party on the left as far as the Divisional Boundary. The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. party will establish a block near U.30.a.4.4 and make arrangements to hold off the enemy by means of light trench mortars, Lewis guns, and rifle and hand bombs. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. party will establish connection with the troops of the 185th Inf. Bde. as they advance through BULLECOURT and up the trench on the East edge of the village. At the same time specially detailed parties will commence working up each communication trench leading from the front to the support trench.
- Assault on Support Trench.** (g) At zero plus 33 the barrage will lift off the support trench and the second wave, which will meanwhile have passed through the front trench and closed up to the barrage, will capture it, sending previously detailed parties down the trenches to each flank as described above.
- Flank Protection.** (h) The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. party will go as far as U.30.a.4.8 and will clear the communication trench joining point 4.8 to 4.4. A total of four Stokes mortars will be established on this flank and suitable blocks with wire in front will be made. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. party will clear the trench as far as the Divisional Boundary at U.22.c.98.20 and gain touch with the British Brigade advancing through BULLECOURT.
- Moppers-Up.** (i) With each wave will be specially detailed Moppers Up, who will follow the wave closely and commence their work immediately the wave has captured its objective. The troops comprising the wave will cover the operations of the Moppers Up by firing on the enemy in front, working up communication trenches and holding off counter-attacks.

/Consolidation

- 4 -

Consolidation.

(j) As soon as the wave following passes through each objective to close up under the barrage before assaulting the next objective the troops will commence the consolidation of the objective gained; the Moppers Up will complete their tasks; the formation of dumps will be put in hand - the carriers being used to assist wounded back.

Dumps:

Carriers:

Wounded.

Flank

Protection

(k) Simultaneously with the advance of the first wave, previously detailed parties with Lewis guns will be sent to take up positions now in course of preparation in C.6.c. & a. and U.30.c., in order to protect the right flank and to connect up with the post to be established at U.30.a.4.4.

Three Vickers guns and one platoon (with bombers) will be placed in position about U.28.d.20.95 to engage hostile machine guns in U.28.a. These guns should be dug in during darkness before zero hour. Their task will be to neutralise and silence any hostile machine gun or rifle fire from the Eastern edge of BULLE-COURT.

Co-operation

with

185th Bde.

They will watch for the advance of the 185th Inf. Bde. and take precautions to avoid firing in their direction as they work up the edge of the village.

Second

Objective.

Advance.

(l) At zero plus 1 hour 15 minutes the western half of the protective barrage covering the consolidation of the first Objective will commence to lift till at zero plus 1 hour 40 minutes it lies on the road U.30.b.2.8 to U.22.b.2.9, which road, within the Divisional limits, forms the second Objective. Prior to zero plus 1.40 the third wave, followed by the fourth fifth waves, will close up under the barrage and when it lifts at zero plus 1.40 will occupy the road. and subsequent

This road forms a suitable forming-up place from which to launch the attack on RIENCOURT and its defences to the South and West.

Between zero plus 1.40 and zero plus 2.15, the third, fourth, fifth and subsequent waves will adjust their organisation, make special arrangements for the protection of the flanks, and close up under the protective barrage.

At zero plus 2.15, protective barrage will commence to lift at a rate of 100 yards in 5 minutes.

It is essential that these barrages be followed closely to gain full advantage from them.

Flank

Protection 2.15.

(m) Arrangements must be ready before zero plus 2.15.

i. for the continual posting of previously detailed parties with mortars, supplies of bombs, etc., for the protection of the right flank (and of the left flank should the Division on the left be delayed). The trench in U.24.c. appears to be of use on the right flank but will require a block about U.24.c.70.75.

Wire-

cutters.

ii. for wire-cutters, mats, etc., for getting through the wire.

/ On

- 5 -

On reaching the line marked "1st Phase" the troops allotted for mopping up will commence their duties and they will be responsible for cutting gaps in the wire to allow carriers, etc. to get through easily - gaps to be marked by flag or other means.

Moppers- (n) The waves allotted for the final Objective Up for will not pause but will keep close up to the barrage and RIENCOURT follow it through. It is essential that the leading wave should not stop in the village to deal with enemy details holding out. These must be left to specially detailed Moppers Up to deal with.

New front (o) As the final objective is reached the front of 5th of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. will have automatically changed to Aust. Inf. face East. This front line must be placed in the best defensible positions and work commenced at once to obtain cover whilst the protective barrages are maintained, and to prepare for counter-attack.

Whether it will be best to take up the line of the edge of the village or to move forward a short distance, must be left to the commanders on the spot. The village will draw fire which a forward position will often escape.

Direction (p) The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will require to carefully maintain its direction during the advance to the front of third Objective, keeping its right in close touch throughout with the left of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

On reaching the line marked "2nd Phase", complete units (previously detailed) will at once be sent forward to secure positions on the spur in U.18.a. & c. facing East.

These posts must connect the left of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. with the right of the 62nd Division.

The line marked "2nd Phase" will be organised as a support line.

Defens- (q) Simultaneously with, or as soon as practicable ive after, taking the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Objectives, a strong defensive flank will be formed on the approximate line - C.6.c. - U.30.a.1.6 - U.30.a.2.9 - U.24.c.5.8 - U.18.c.95.10 - U.12.c.6.6 facing the DROCOURT - QUEANT line.

Trench 7. Medium. The C.R.A. will, by arrangement with the Mortars. 62nd Division, send 3 medium trench mortar batteries and ammunition into BULLECOURT, to aid in the defence of the village or of other strong points.

These batteries will not advance until the strong point for which each is intended has been established.

Two medium trench mortars will be established by order of the right brigade commander, on the line U.30.a.1.6 - 2.9. as soon as the third, fourth, fifth, and subsequent waves have occupied the 2nd Objective. A special infantry ammunition party of 3 officers and 80 O.R's will be detailed by the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. to carry up ammunition for these mortars.

The task of these mortars will be the protection of the right flank.

These, and the Stokes mortars mentioned in para.6, will only fire when enemy counter-attacks are taking place.

/ Light

- 6 -

Light
Trench
Mortars.

Light. Two light trench mortar batteries (8th and 15th) from the 5th Australian Division, are transferred to this Division for the operation about to take place.

The 8th L.T.M. Battery is detailed to provide the four mortars and crews for the posts in U.30.a.4.4 and 4.8; the remaining mortars of this battery will be in position on the railway embankment at C.6.c.0.4 to co-operate in the defence of a strong post capable of all round defence, which will be established here under the orders of the G.O.C., 7th Aust. Inf. Bde.

The 8th L.T.M. Battery is placed under the orders of the G.O.C., 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less 4 mortars under 7th A. I. Bde.)

The 15th L.T.M. Battery is placed under the orders of the G.O.C., 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.

The above arrangement will permit of the 5th and 6th L.T.M. Batteries each being available to go forward, under the orders of the respective brigade commanders, to assist in clearing the village of RIENCOURT and to assist in the protection of the flanks.

Smoke. Mortars for the discharge of smoke will be established about C.6.c.0.4. Their object is to create a screen to hide the advance from zero to zero plus 40. Smoke will only be discharged if the wind is S. by W. to S.W.

Machine
Guns.

8. The 8th and 14th Aust. Machine Gun Companies of the 5th Aust. Division are attached to this Division for the purpose of aiding flank protection during the attack.

The amended orders for these two companies and for the Divisional (22nd) Machine Gun Coy., are attached.

Arrangements will be made for a heavy machine gun fire for at least six hours, for the protection of the right flank.

Engineers.

9. The C.R.E. will attach a liaison Engineer Officer to each of the 5th & 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. on the morning of "Y" day, for duty during the operation.

One section of Engineers will be placed under the orders of each G.O.C., to assist in the clearing of dugouts in the captured position, in the construction of strong posts at points to be selected by the brigade commanders concerned, and in rendering harmless traps left by the enemy.

The C.R.E. will also arrange for clearing gaps in the wire entanglements after each position has been captured, to facilitate communication forwards or backwards. Such gaps will be marked by flags. As soon as the village of RIENCOURT has been secured, he will also send parties to search for wells, and to report on them.

Strong
Points.

10. In addition to any others arranged for by Bde. Commanders, strong points will be established -

- i. at or near U.24.c.1.2 in the right brigade area, and
- ii. in the left brigade area on the spur about U.23.c.0.4.

/ Communications

- 7 -

Communi- 11. Amended orders regarding communications are at-
cation. tached as "Signal Instructions".
 Brigade commanders will include in their orders special arrangements for obtaining information quickly as to the result of each advance, whether by rocket or flare signal, or by Signal service.

Reserves. 12. (a) "C" Squadron, 13th Light Horse, Half Coy. 1st Anzac Cyclist Bn., and the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be in Divisional Reserve

These will be disposed as follows at zero hour:-

"C" Squadron 13th Light Horse and Half Coy. Cyclist Bn. on the S.E. outskirts of VAULX, Squadron Headquarters in Sunken Road at C.26.d.3.6.

The above will each send an officer to report at Advanced Divisional Report Centre in the same Sunken Road at zero hour.

One battalion 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. holding the railway line from C.6.c.5.3 to C.5.a.5.2 but disposed in depth with its reserves about NOREUIL.

One battalion 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. along the railway from C.5.a.5.2 to U.28.c.2.4. This battalion will be disposed to be readily available to move forward in case of need via the Eastern edge of BULLECOURT to reinforce the assaulting troops.

The remaining two battalions 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be disposed, one about C.4.c. and the other in the NOREUIL-LONGATTE Road, 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Battery in the NOREUIL-LONGATTE Road.

The Headquarters of the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be established at NOREUIL, C.16.a.4.8 at 6 p.m. on "Y" Day.

1st Aust. Division (b) An Inf. Brigade to be detailed by the G.O.C., 1st Aust. Division will be attached to the 2nd Aust. Division from noon on "Y" Day, at which time it will be assembled about BEUGNATRE, ready to move on receipt of orders. On arrival it will be disposed as laid down in para. 13.

Bde. H.Q. will be established at F.12.c.8.6 (now occupied by 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.)

(Note: 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. has been allotted).

MORCHIES-VAULX & BEUGNY-YTRES lines. 13. (a) The nucleus garrison for the MORCHIES-VAULX line - between MARICOURT WOOD and C.13.central - will be furnished from the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde., by whom the garrisons supplied by the 5th & 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. were relieved on the 29th inst.

The nucleus garrison will consist of two battalions and 8 machine guns, as at present.

(b) The nucleus garrison of two battalions and 8 machine guns for the BEUGNY-YTRES line furnished by the 5th & 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. was relieved by a similar garrison detailed by the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. on the 29th instant.

Contact Patrols. 14. No. 3. Squadron R.F.C. will be responsible for Contact Patrol work on the front of the attack.

The front line of Infantry will mark their positions to Contact Patrols by lighting red flares at -

1. Zero plus two hours:

11. Zero plus four hours

and at other times when called for by KLAXON Horn or VERY light.

Flares must be collected from casualties and kept with troops in the front line.

/ They

- 8 -

Contact
Patrols
(Ctd.)

They will not be lit at the hours mentioned unless the Contact Patrol is in sight.

When the Contact Patrol calls for flares these will be lit not only by those troops in the front line as it exists at the moment, but also by those on each flank, to show how each flank is situated.

It is essential that sufficient, but not too many, flares be lit. The rule to guide company officers is that there shall be a flare to about every 100 yards.

Success
Signals.

15. The following "Success Signals" will be used : -

(a) 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. (Left).

1st
Objective

Front line trench gained - 1 White flare to be repeated at intervals of 10".

Support trench gained - 1 Red flare to be repeated at intervals of 10".

2nd

Objective

(1 Red and 1 White flare alternately in quick succession.

(b) 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. (Right).

1st
Objective

Front line trench gained - 2 Red flares fired together, repeated 10" later.

Support trench gained - 3 Red flares in quick succession.

2nd

Objective

(1 Red and 2 White flares alternately in quick succession.

Except the above, and the "S.O.S." Signal, no other light signals are to be used.

Watches. 16. The O.C., 2nd Aust. Div. Signal Coy. will arrange for watches to be synchronised with A.D. Signals on "Y" Day at 12.15 p.m. and 5.15 p.m.

All units taking part in the attack will synchronise watches with the Div. Signal Coy. at 12.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on "Y" Day.

Medical
Arrange-
ments.

17. Amended arrangements were forwarded 30-4-17.

Dumps,
Ammuni-
tion

18. Orders for these are issued herewith as an appendix to this order.

Supply &c.

Brigade orders will include plans for forming forward dumps as early as possible and by the least exposed route.

(Amended Orders were forwarded 30-4-17.)

Prisoners
of War &
Stragglers'
Posts.

19. (a) All prisoners of War captured will be sent by brigades under escort (not exceeding 10% of the number of prisoners) to NOREUIL, where the A.P.M. will arrange for their custody and despatch to the Corps Cage in batches.

G.O.C. of 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. will detail two platoons to report to the A.P.M. at NOREUIL by 6 p.m. on "Y" Day to assist in guard and escort duties. The infantry escorts from brigades in front will rejoin their units as soon as prisoners have been handed over to the A.P.M.

/ (b)

- 9. -

Straggler Posts. (b) Amended orders regarding Straggler Posts were forwarded 30-4-17.

Details to be left behind. 20. All those details ordered to be left behind under the orders contained in Section XXX of the "Instructions for the Training of Divisions for Offensive Action" (SS. 135) will be collected at the transport lines of units. They will not on any account be allowed to go forward without permission obtained through D.H.Q.

Liaison. 21. The following Liaison Arrangements will be made:-
 2nd Aust.Div. with 62nd Div.- Capt. HATTON
 2nd Aust.Div.with 2nd A.I.Bde.Capt. HOFFMEISTER
 6th A.I.Bde.with 185th Inf.Bde. } To be detailed by
 Left Bn.6th A.I.Bde.with Right } G.O.C.6th A.I.Bde.
 Bn. 185th Inf.Brigade

Report Centres. 22. Report Centres will be established as follows at 6 p.m. on "Y" Day : -

2nd Aust.Div. at C.26.d.3.6 (N.E. corner VAULX).
 5th A.I.Bde. NOREUIL, C.10.c.9.1 with forward exchange at C.5.b.1.7.
 6th A.I.Bde. about C.5.a.1.3.

Both operation and administrative matters in connection with the attack will be dealt with at the Divisional Advanced Report Centre.

23. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9 p.m.

W. Bridges
 Lieut.-Colonel,
 General Staff, 2nd Aust. Div.

DISTRIBUTION -

1 C. R. A.
 2 C. R. E.
 3 5th Aust.Inf.Bde.
 4 6th -do-
 5 7th -do-
 6 8th M.G. Co.
 7 14th -do-
 8 22nd -do-
 9 8th L.T.M.Battery
 10 15th -do-
 11 2nd Aust.Div.Sig.Co.
 12 C.Squad., 13th A.I.H.
 13 G.C., Detach Anzac Cyc. Bn.
 14 A.D.M.S.
 15 A.Q.
 16 D.B.O.
 17 A.P.M.
 18 1st Aust.Inf.Bde.
 19 2nd Aust.Div.Train

For information:-

20 1st Anzac G.
 21 -do- G.
 22 1st Aust. Division
 23 4th -do-
 24 5th -do-
 25 2nd Aust.Pioneer Bn.
 26 11th Division
 27 62nd Division
 28 Anzac Heavy Art.
 29 3rd Squadron R.F.C.
 30 O.C., Special Co. R.E.
 31 G.O.C.
 32 D.G.O.
 33)
 34) War Diary
 35 2nd Aust.Inf.Bde.
 36)
 37) File
 38)
 39) Spare
 40)

SPECIAL MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTIONS (Amended).

(Issued as an appendix to 2nd Aust. Div. Order No 121).

1. The 5th and 6th Aust. Infantry Brigades will, on a date and at an hour to be notified later, attack the enemy's trenches from U.30.a.1.6 and 2.9 to about U.22.d.4.0 and 4.3; RIENCOURT will then be attacked.
2. The 8th and 14th Aust. Machine Gun Companies have been placed at the disposal of the Division and, with the Div (22nd) M.G.Coy., will be employed as ordered in para 4, below.
3. The hour at which all guns ~~are to~~ be in position will be notified later.
4. Dispositions and tasks will be as under:-
 - (a) Attack Guns. To cover infantry advance.

14th A.M.G.Co.

4 guns at about C.17. central to fire on enemy front trench from U.30.b.5.0 southwards to road in C.6.b.

4 guns at C.11.a.5.8 to fire on same target.

8th A.M.G.Coy.

6 guns in Sunken road at C.4.d to traverse enemy trenches in U.30.a, b and d, particularly on the higher ground.

Western limits of traverse to be the communication trench U.30.a.7.4 to 7.6 up to zero plus 15, thereafter the western limit will be U.30.b 0.3 to 0.6.

2 guns in sunken road at C.4.d to enfilade the enemy's communication trench in U.24.c.1.3 to 4.8 up to zero plus 1.40, thereafter to fire on trenches and sunken road in U.30.b.

22nd A.M.G.Co.

4 guns in sunken road at C.4.c.3.0 to enfilade communication trench in U.23.d.10.05 to 2.9 and road U.23.c.85.05 to U.23.b.2.5 till zero plus 20, then fire on same targets U.23.d 1.5 and 0.5 northwards till zero plus 1.15 (from then cease fire.

2 guns in road in C.9.a to enfilade road C.22.d.0.2 to C.22.b.4.0 till zero plus 20, then lift 250 yards till zero plus 60, then cease fire.

(b) Protective Guns.

To protect right flank from counter attack.

14th A.M.G.Co.

4 guns about C.18.c.2.2 to fire towards QUEANT.

4 guns about C.11.a.4.3 to fire towards QUEANT.

The "attack guns" of this Coy. are also suitably sited as "protective" guns.

8th A.M.G.Co.

8 guns dug in on railway line in C.5.d to fire on any enemy counterattack from hostile trenches in U.24.b and d and U.30.b and d and to enfilade enemy trenches in V.25.a and c.

(c) A.A.guns/

(c) Anti-Aircraft Guns.

To prevent hostile planes from flying low over our artillery.

22nd A.M.G.Co.

4 guns in the neighbourhood of C.15. Exact positions will be given to O.C., 22nd A.M.G.Co, by C.R.A. Already in position.

(d) Reserve.22nd A.M.G.Co.

6 guns in sunken road N.E. of VAULX (C.26.d.1.7)

5. The Machine Gun Companies of the 5th, 6th and 7th A.I. Brigades will be at the disposal of their respective Bde. Commanders.

The Vickers guns should not normally be used in place of Lewis Guns in the attack but should follow up as each objective is secured to deal with possible counter attacks.

6. Ammunition - Bulk reserve ^{at} dump in C.15.central. 14 boxes per gun to be with gun.

7. All guns to be prepped ^a to stand by for 36 hours after zero.

8. Rate of fire:

Attack guns - 5000 rounds per gun 1st hour.
1500 rounds per gun subsequently
for guns in action.

Protective and Anti-Aircraft Guns. - As required.

SIGNAL INSTRUCTIONS (Amended).

(Issued as an appendix to 2nd Aust. Div. Order
-----)

(21)

The following will be the arrangements for the attack on the HINDENBURG line by the Second Aust. Division:-

1. Between Divisional and Brigade Headquarters - buried and ground cable, wireless and mounted D.R's.
2. Between Divisional Headquarters and Artillery - buried and ground cable.
3. Forward of Brigades:

(i) Ground cables from Advanced Brigade Headquarters to battalions in line, to be metallic circuit, and in addition one metallic pair from 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. to the 17th Battalion forward station, and one metallic pair from 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. to the 24th Battalion forward station for artillery working.

These lines will be run and maintained by the Brigade Signal Officers concerned, assisted by artillery personnel.

These artillery lines will be continued forward and maintained from the 17th and 24th Battalion Forward Stations respectively, to the respective F.O.O's. by artillery personnel.

At the Battalion stations lines will be put through Battalion exchanges.

(ii) a. Amplifier at 5th A.I.Bde. H.Q. working with power buzzers from advanced points. Position of power buzzers to be at Advanced Brigade Headquarters if such is used. If not, Brigade Section Officer will decide on position.

b. Another amplifier at an intermediate point (Advanced Brigade Headquarters if used) to work with two power buzzers, which will be carried forward after 1st objective has been captured.

(iii) A trench wireless set will push forward into RIENCOURT in the event of this village being occupied. This set will link up direct with any rear set.

4. (a) A central visual station G.K.V. will be established at C.9.d.5.9, which station will receive all messages from any new forward position. This station will be connected to the 5th A.I.Bde. Headquarters by cable: the latter Brigade will provide all necessary visual station personnel (vide Sect. II para 3, sub-para 2) "Instructions for Training of Divisions for Offensive Action".

(b) The exact location on the ground must be explained to all signallers, including regimental signallers.

(c) Each message to this station must be sent in its entirety and then sent twice again.

5. Pigeons. Eight (8) pigeons will be allotted to each Bde.

6. As battalions advance in the attack, Brigade Sections will, as normally, keep telephone communication intact. It is advisable to concentrate all efforts on one or two lines instead of running many alternate routes.

ive/

7./

-2-

7. The ordinary rules regarding communication with aircraft will be carried out.
When a Brigade or Battalion moves into a new position, it will display its ground sheet and strips.

8. Runners. Arrangements should be made for runners to be detailed as early as possible and their duties should be carefully explained as to what is required of them.

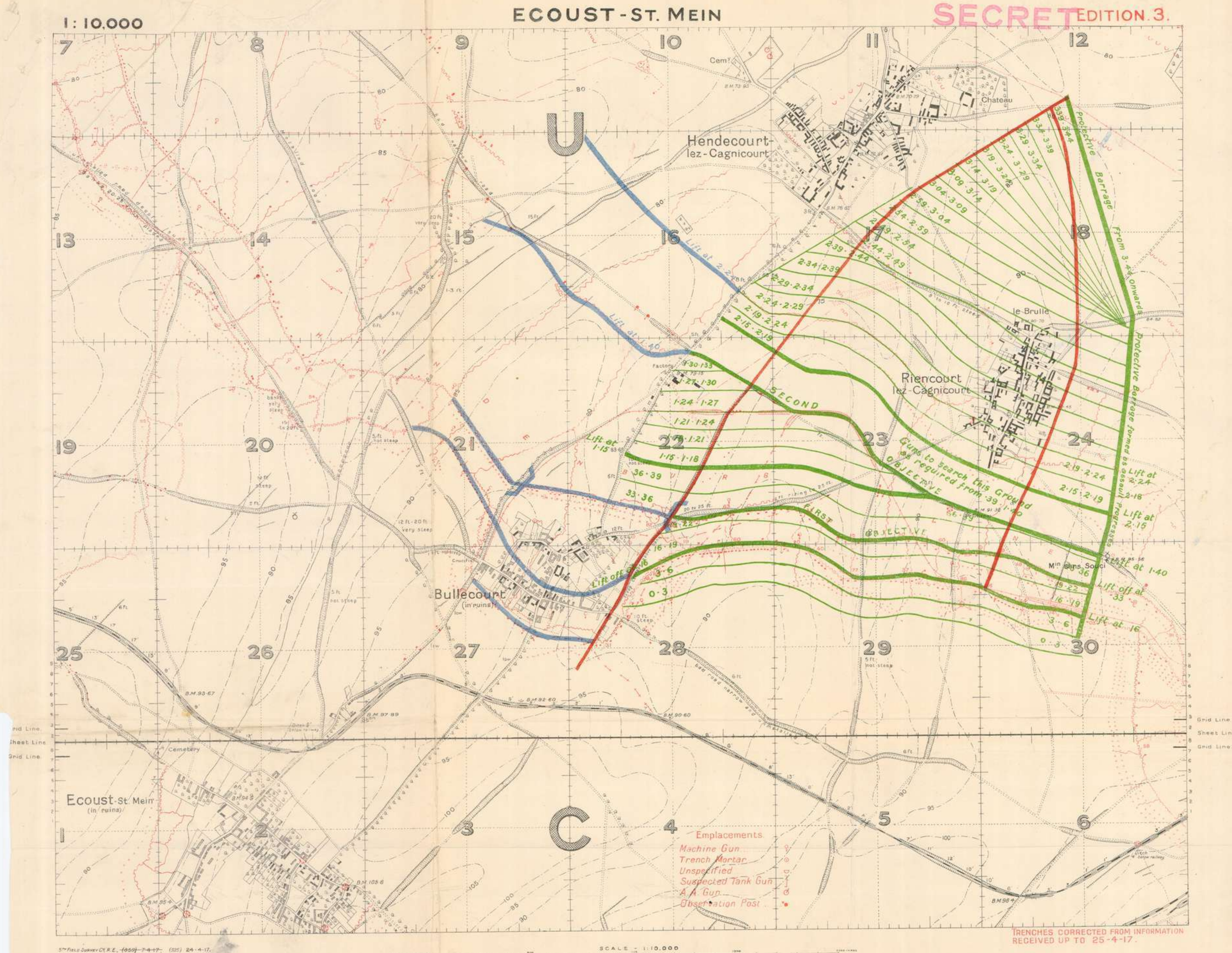
They should be clearly instructed as to the position of all stations and headquarters in the area, or to those with which they will operate.

On no account should verbal messages be sent by runners.

Runners should not be used as guides but only as despatch carriers.

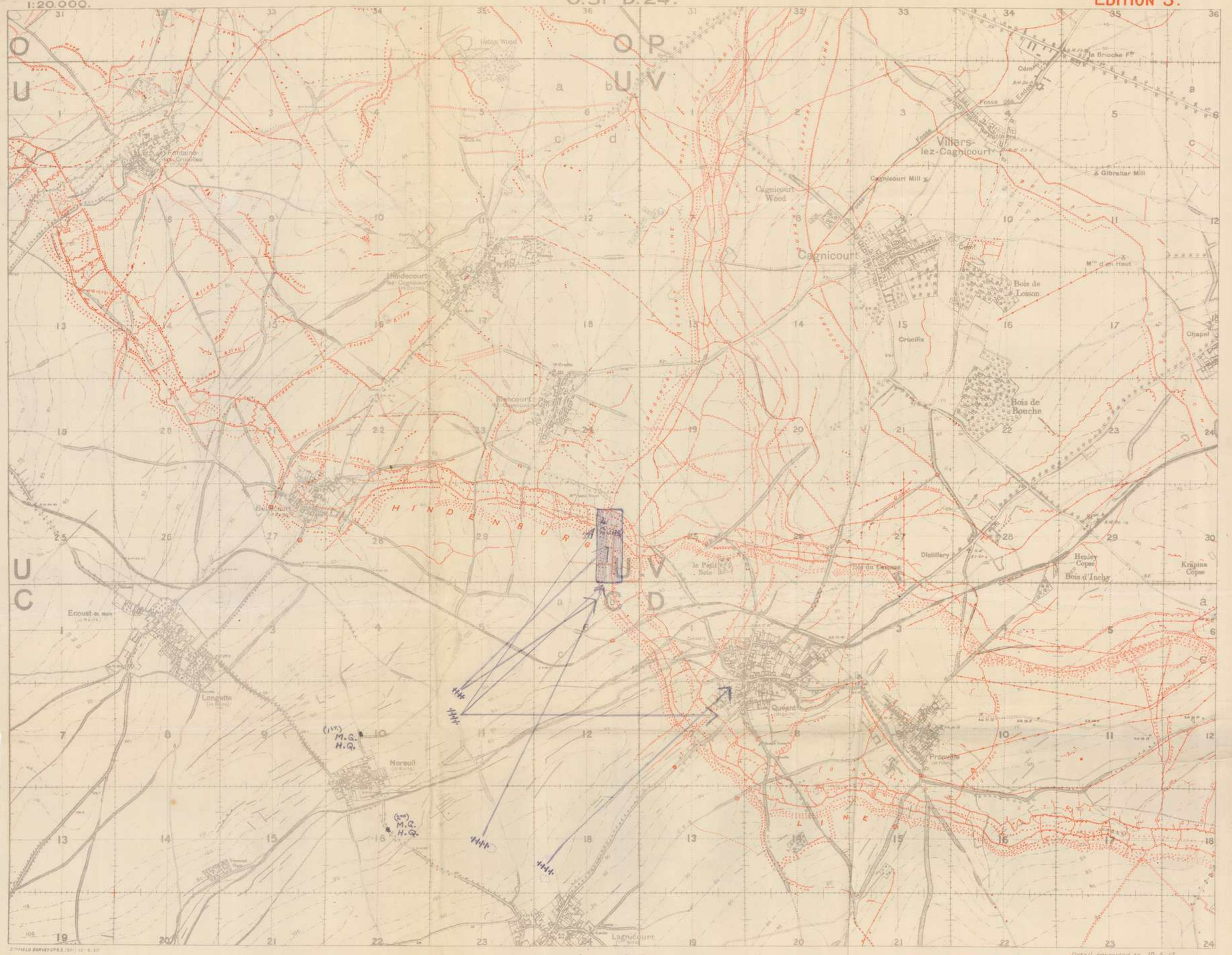
9. On each Brigade front all signal arrangements, both of the infantry and artillery supporting them, will be under the control of the Infantry Brigade Section Officer.
-

SECRET EDITION 3.



O.31-D.24.

1:20,000.



SCALE 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 13-5-17

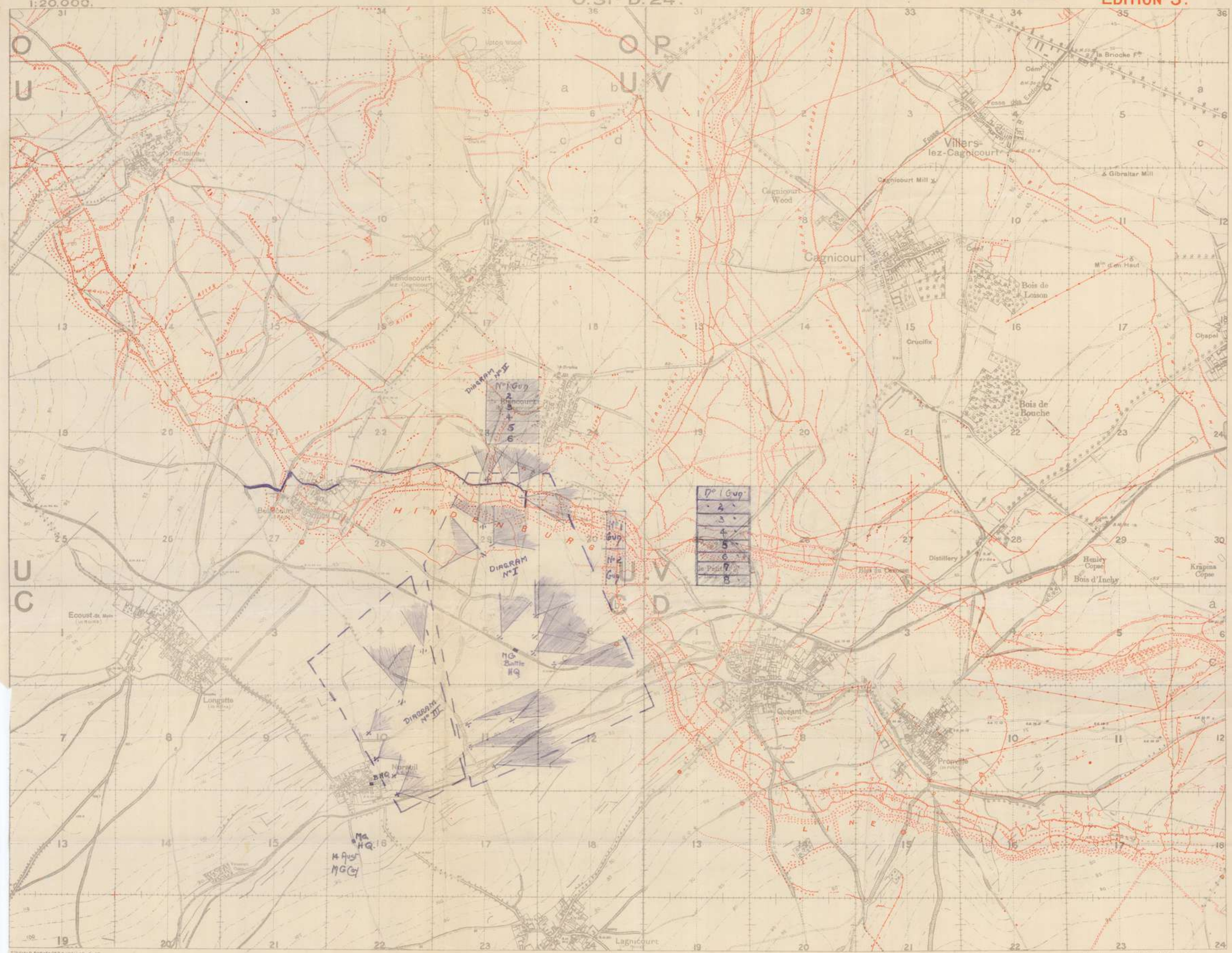
Detail corrected to 10-5-17

APPENDIX III

EDITION 3.

O.31-D.24.

1:20,000.



7° 1 Gup
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

11° 1 Gup
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

Diagram N° I
1
2
3
4
5
6

Ma HQ
H Aug
MG Coy