

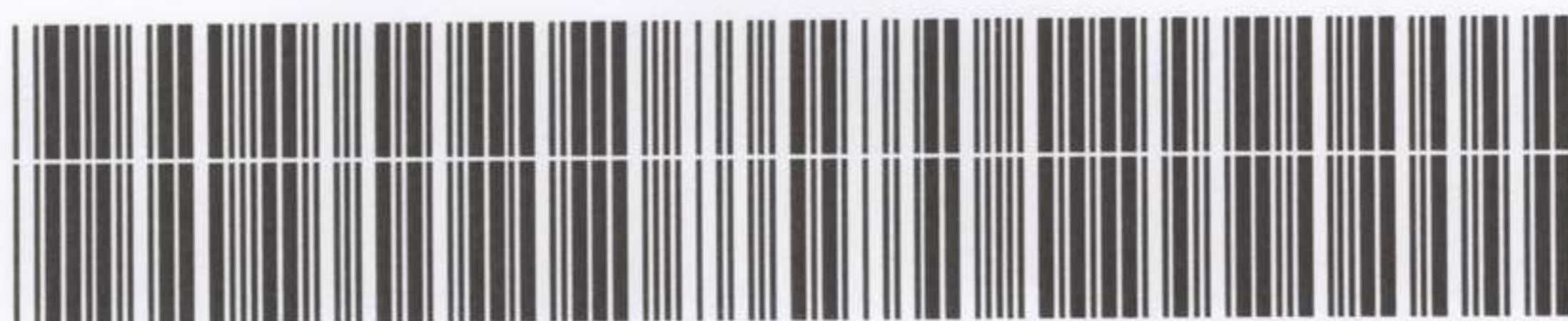
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/4/34 PART 2

**Title:** 4th Infantry Brigade

July 1918 Appendix 35



AWM4-23/4/34PART2

198

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Administrative instructions issued in conjunction with  
4th Aust. Infantry Brigade Order No. 21.

30th July, 1918.

1. TRANSPORT and Q.M.STORES. Transport (under Major W.R.WADSWORTH, M.C., 14th Battalion) and Q.M.Stores will be Brigaded at S.12.b.2.8. Alternative position if required to move S.6.c.
2. RAILHEAD. From 31st instant will be at SALEUX.
3. REFILLING POINTS. S.12.a.9.9.
4. 7th A.A.S.C. M.32.central.
5. "I" SUB-SECTION D.A.C. S.4.b.
6. WATER. Water points exist at CAGNY. Boves S.13.a.7.9., N.34.c.2.4. and T.11.d.5.8.
7. PETROL TINS. HOT FOOD CONTAINERS. TENTS & SHELTERS. SANDBAGS. Supplies will be obtainable from Brigade Q.M.Stores S.12.b.2.8. from 2.p.m. to-morrow.
8. NUCLEUS. Brigade Nucleus under Major G.F.DICKINSON, D.S.O., 15th Battalion, will assemble at H.21.a.central at 7.30.a.m. to-morrow and will move to RIVERY taking over from the 49th Battalion. 24 hours rations will be carried. Rations for the following day will be deducted by A.S.C. from units' supplies (already indented for) and delivered to Nucleus to-morrow afternoon. O.C. Nucleus will indent by Noon to-morrow for rations for the 2nd August and onwards.
9. SURPLUS KITS. 1 Motor Lorry (2 trips) is allotted to each Battalion for removal of mens' packs to Nucleus. Guides to report at Brigade Headquarters at 8.a.m. to-morrow.
10. BAGGAGE WAGONS. Will report to Units to-night.
11. D.A.D.O.S. Will be at N.27.c.6.2. BOUTELLERIE.
12. MOBILE VET. SECTION. At S.3.a.7.3.
13. SANITARY SECTION. At 4th Aust. Sanitary Section CAGNY.
14. MEDICAL. R.A.P's. at each Battalion Headquarters.  
Motor posts at T.5.central., T.10.b.9.5. and O.31.c.central about.  
A.D.S. N.28.c.8.2. near Le. Pt. Blangy Cabt.  
M.D.S. Sheet 62.E. R.16.d.0.1.  
That portion of BOVES East of the grid separating Squares S.12 and T.7. is prevalent with Bacillary Diarrhoea and will be out of bounds to troops except for transport passing through.  
All water in BOVES Area for drinking purposes will be boiled.  
1 Horse Ambulance will move in rear of Units marching via DAOURS, and 1 ambulance in rear of Units marching via BLANGY.
15. RESERVE RATIONS. Location. Unit taking over and responsible for guard.  
O.31.c.cent (about) 13th Battalion.  
TRONVILLE WOOD 16th Battalion.
16. R.E.DUMPS. O.31.c.central and TRONVILLE WOOD.
17. AMMUNITION. Sufficient supplies of ammunition, Bombs and Stokes Shells will be delivered at Brigade Transport Lines to-morrow afternoon. Each Unit will draw and deliver forward as required.  
16th Battalion will detail 1 N.C.O. and 2 Men and remaining Battalions 2 men (all to be bombers) to report to Sgt. YOUNG at Brigade Transport Lines by Noon to-morrow as guard for ammunition dump and to detonate bombs.

P.T.O.

17. AMMUNITION (Contd.) Sufficient S.O.S. Rockets will be taken over from the French to last over the period while French Artillery is covering the Brigade.
18. AREA STORES. Tents and Shelters will be handed over to relieving units and receipts forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 12 hours. In cases where there are no incoming units, stores will be returned to nearest Area Commandant and receipt obtained. All units will detail 1 Officer to ensure that the hand over is correctly made.
19. BATHS. At Hospice RIVERY - at CAGNY (M.34.a.7.5.) and will be established later at BOVES.
20. REINFORCEMENT. Staging Depot at Hospice RIVERY after the 31st instant.
21. Units Rear Orderly Rooms to be established at Transport Lines.

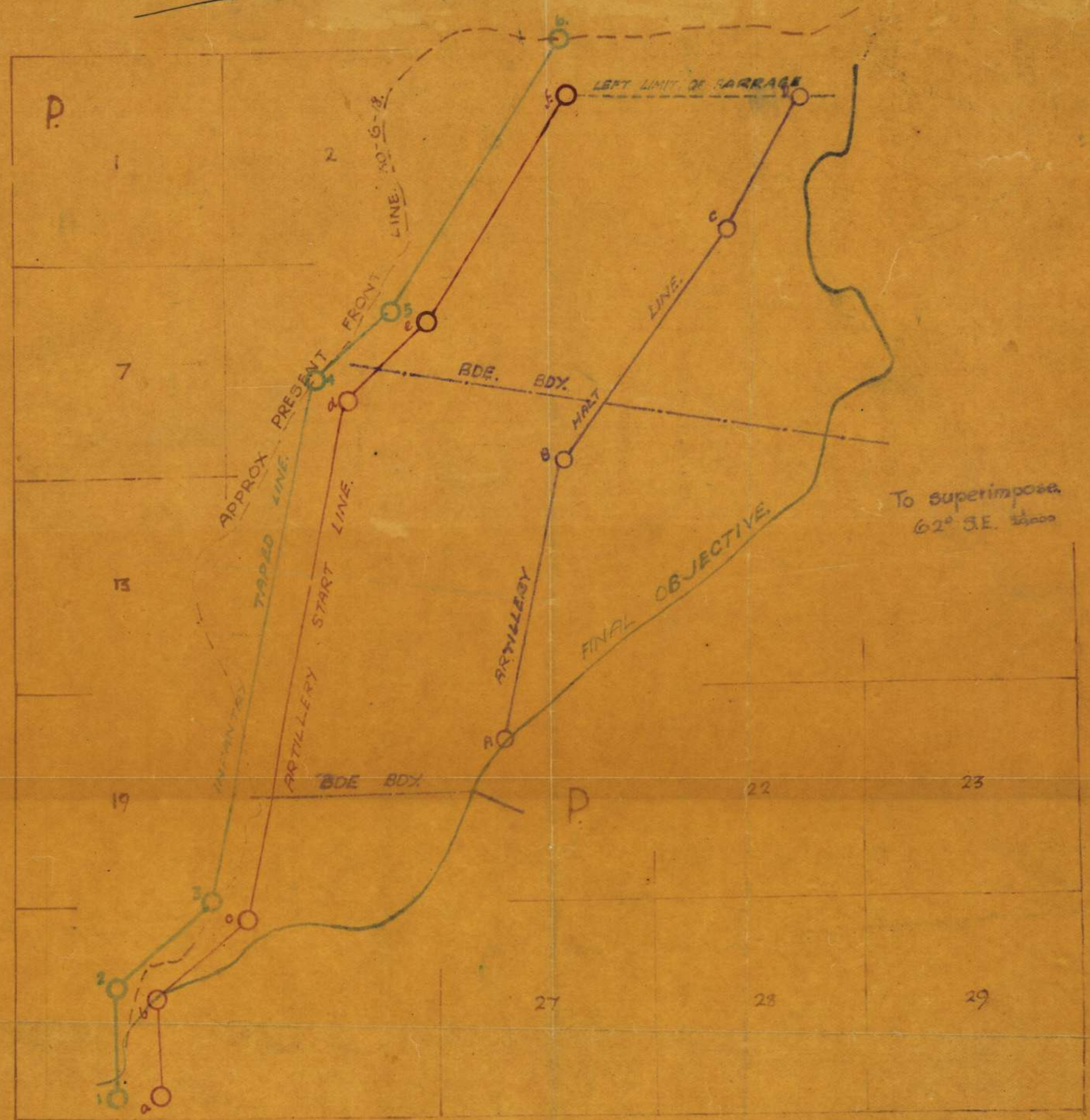
*R. Mackinnon*  
Lieut.  
Staff-Captain.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 8.30.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -

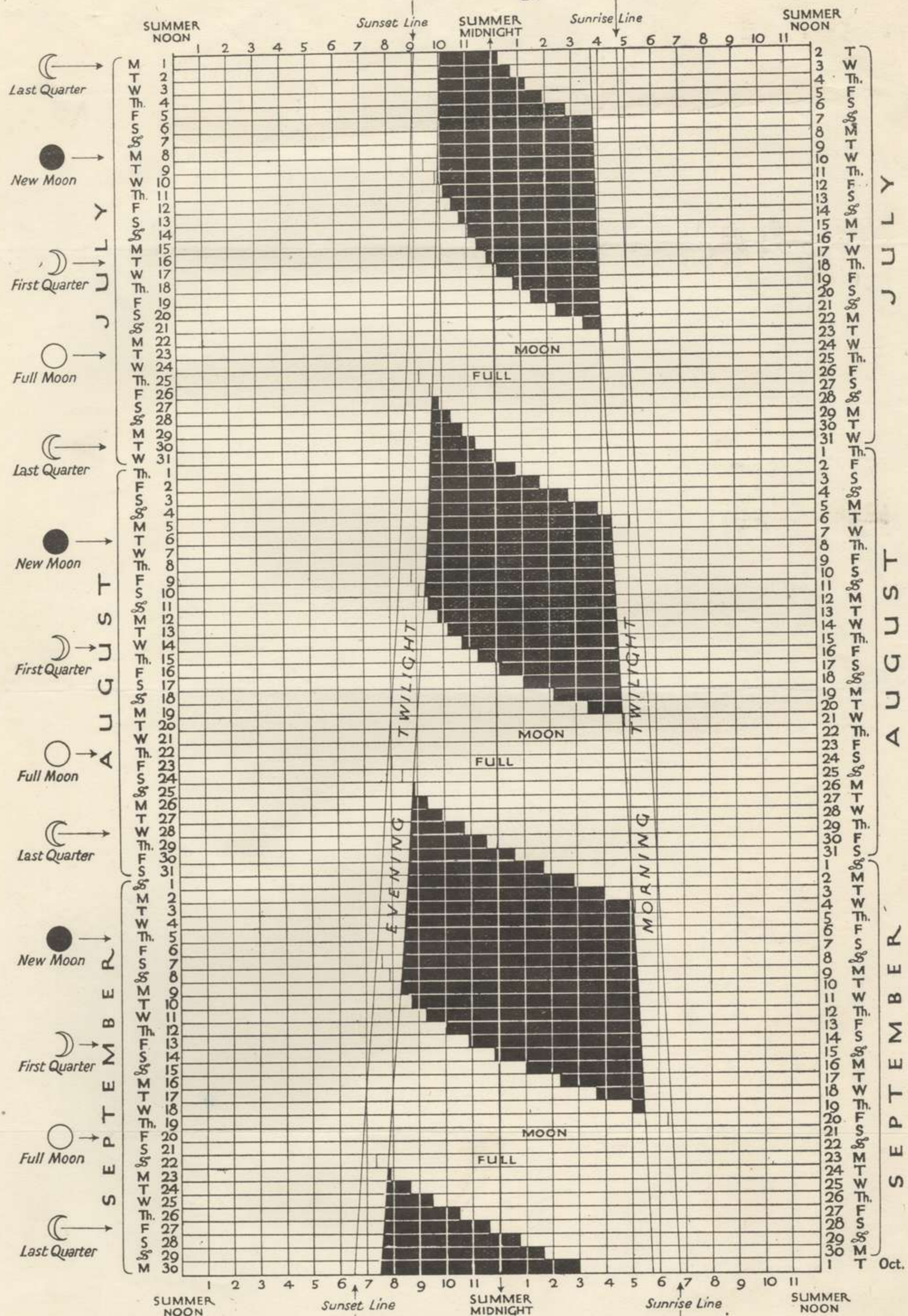
As for Brigade Order No. 21  
and  
Area Commandant, BOVES.

artillery map



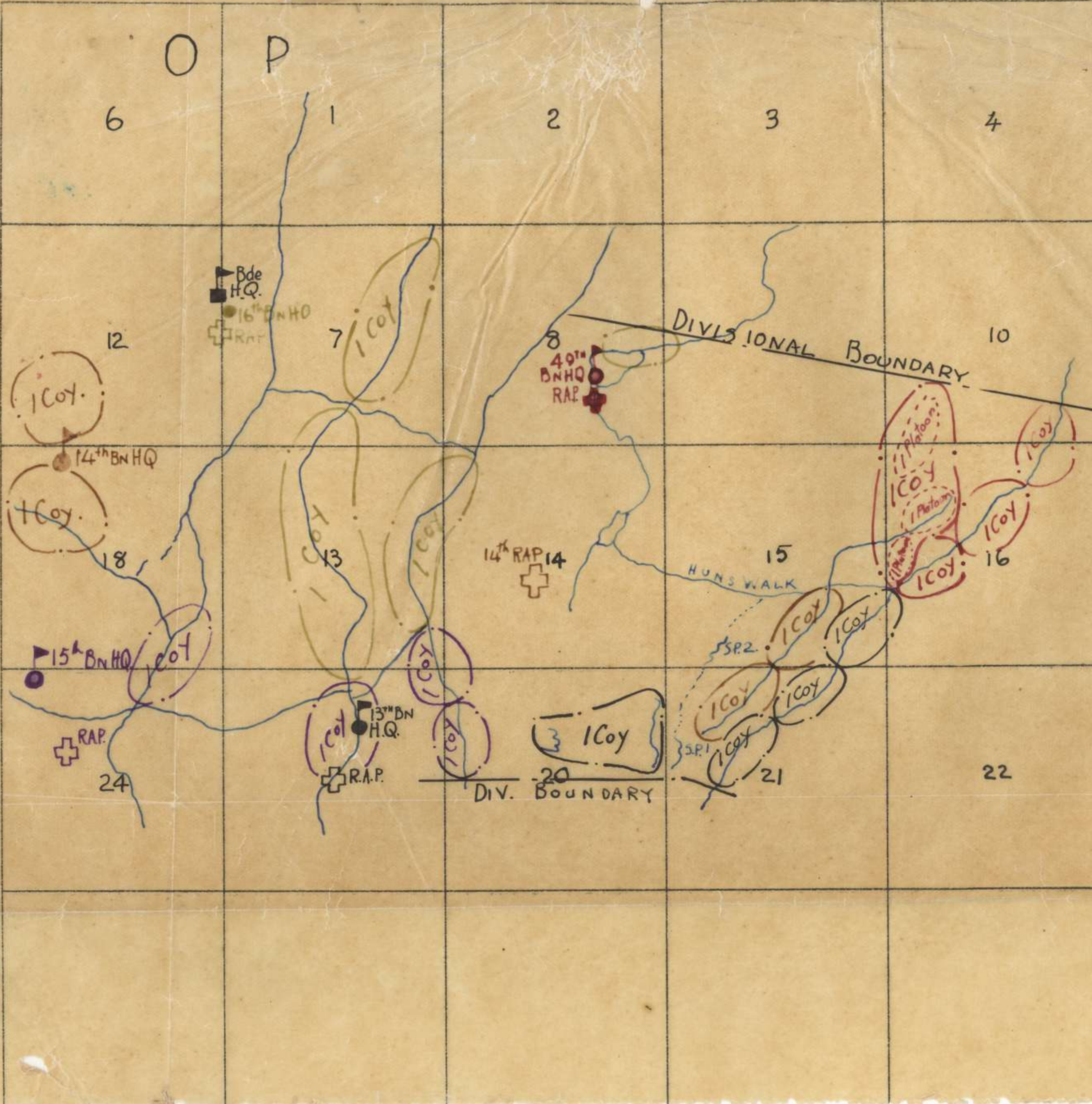
APPENDIX

# MOONLIGHT CHART for July, August & September, 1918



Times of sunrise are taken from Field Almanac, and computed for a point in the neighbourhood of Bethune

ion Trace for use with Artillery Maps.



Map Drawn  
SECRET  
 DISPOSITIONS at 6am. 6.7.18

1918

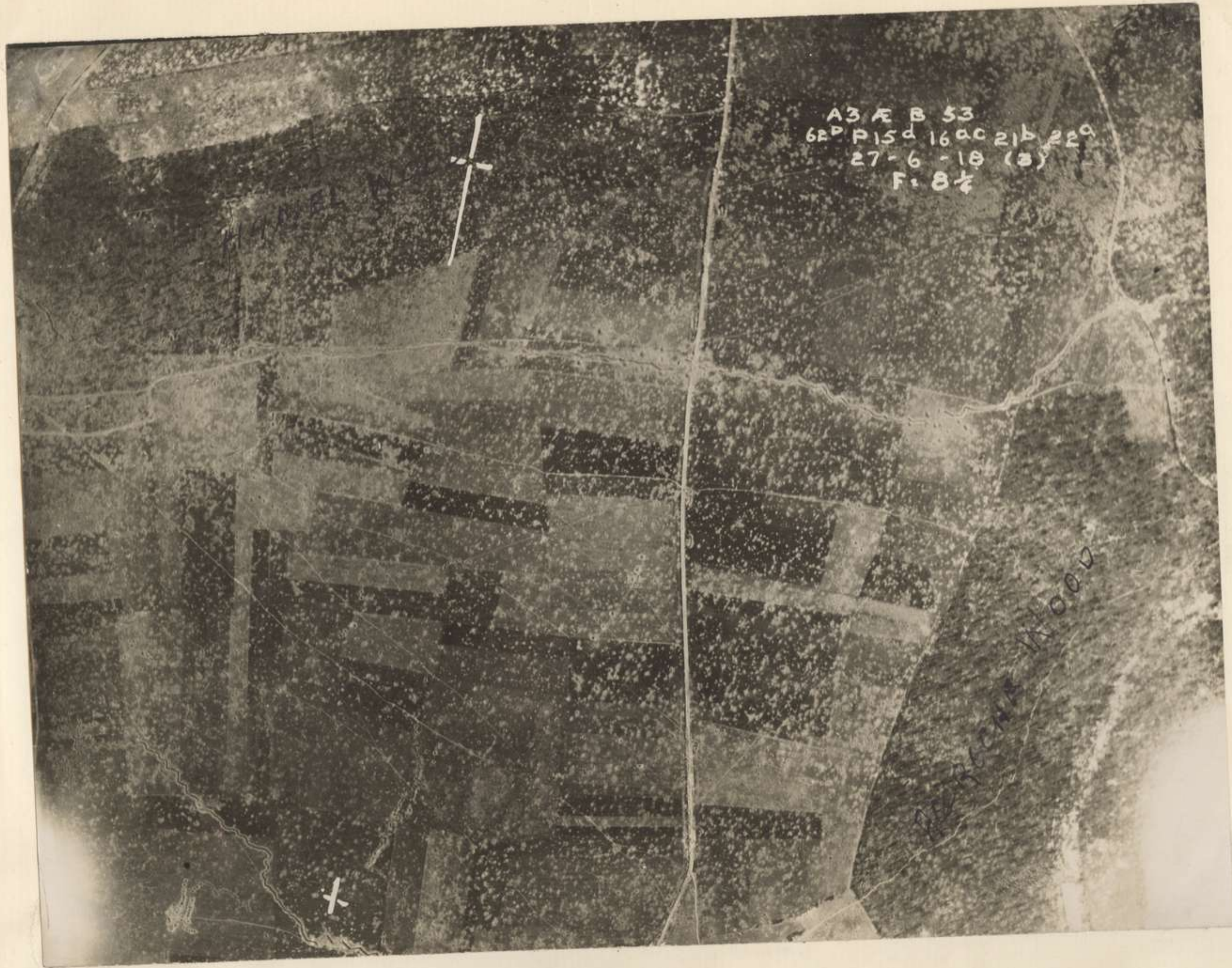
75

75

76.

APPENDIX.

198



198 ✓

APPENDIX.

78





86

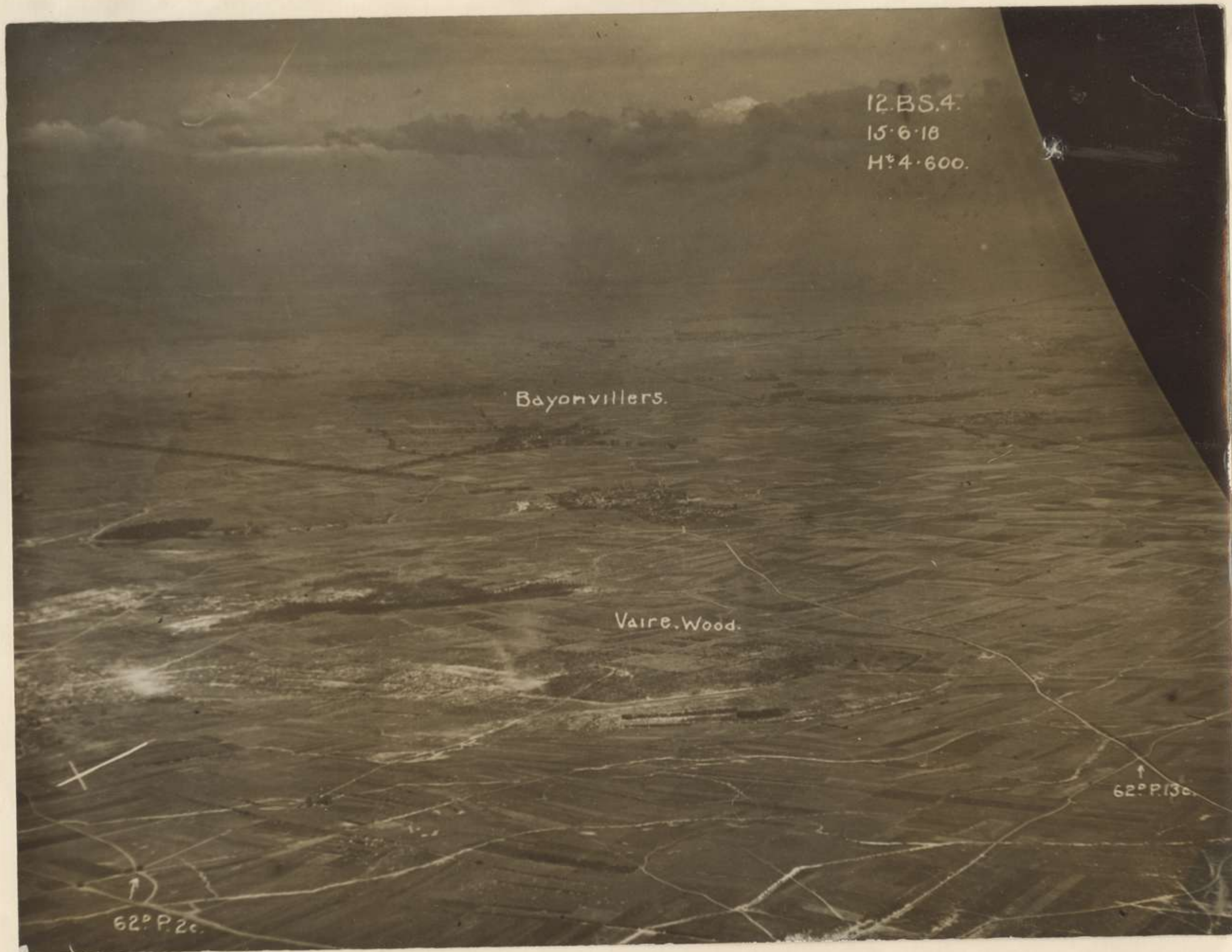
APPENDIX



A3A B 80  
62<sup>nd</sup> P10acd11016ab17a  
27.6.18 (3)  
F. 84

1987

198



APPENDIX.

99



G.  
Australian Corps,  
10th July, 1918.

-----

Following cable received from Defence Melbourne  
Begins AAA WS 262 Commonwealth of Australia desire to  
congratulate Monash and all ranks in his command on the  
splendid success attending the recent operations at HAMEL  
and VAIRE WOODS AAA That the casualties sustained were slight  
in character is especially pleasing and adds to the gratifica-  
tion with which the news has been received AAA Ends. D.A.G., A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

To all concerned.

*J. M. G. G. G.*  
for Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
Australian Corps.

# FOURTH OF JULY PRISONERS.

## 2,000 IN ALLIED HANDS.

### HAMEL REGAINED.

# GERMAN SOCIALIST TACTICS.

The War : 4th Year : 336th Day.

To-day the Allies report three very successful "minor" operations on the Western front—the British at Hamel, south of the Somme, and the French between Autrèches and Moulin-sous-Touvent, north-west of Soissons. Over 2,000 Germans were captured in these operations, and the Allied lines advanced and improved.

Australian troops, assisted by American infantry detachments and supported by Tanks, captured the village of Hamel, which fell into the hands of the Germans on April 4, and the Hamel and Vaire Woods, south-west of Hamel. The advance made here was to an average depth of 2,000 yards, while at Ville-sur-Ancre, north of the Somme, where other Australian troops carried out a cooperating movement, our line was carried forward 500 yards on a front of about three-quarters of a mile. In the two operations over 1,000 prisoners were taken.

Our Special Correspondent at British Headquarters describes the main attack as being "as successful and cleanly-executed a lesser operation as has been seen in this war."

The French attacked on Wednesday night west of Autrèches, and later the same night between Autrèches and Moulin-sous-Touvent, the result being an advance which reached a



depth of over 1,300 yards at some points on a front of over three miles. The prisoners taken number 1,066.

Six German machines were destroyed and four others driven down out of control by British airmen on July 3. The day was cloudy, and enemy activity in the air slight.

Further progress has been made by the Italians in the delta region of the Piave, where 223 additional prisoners have been taken, and on the Grappa front, the positions captured at the head of the San Lorenzo front being enlarged. British and French troops have made successful raids on the Asiago front.

Prince Arthur of Connaught has taken leave of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. His numerous visits to Japanese institutions have induced a relaxation of the conventions which keep the Japanese Court and aristocracy apart from the people, and he has been instrumental in diffusing a democratic spirit.

From the report of a debate in the Reichstag which has reached Amsterdam, it would appear that the Majority Socialists voted against the third reading of the Budget. The report is, however, incomplete.

The death is announced of the Sultan of Turkey. The Dutch Cabinet has resigned. The results of the elections so far tend to show that the Clericals will have a small majority in the Second Chamber.

Casualties to 97 officers are officially reported to-day, and in addition we announce unofficially the death of six-officers. The War Office has also issued lists of 1,810 casualties in the ranks.

# HAMEL WON BY THE BRITISH.

## AMERICAN TROOPS WITH AUSTRALIANS.

The following telegraphic dispatches were received from General Headquarters in France yesterday:—

10.7 A.M.—This morning we carried out a successful operation between Villers-Bretonneux and the Somme.

The village of Hamel has been captured, and our line has been advanced to an average depth of 2,000 yards.

Hostile artillery has been active in Robecq and St. Janscappelle sectors.

7.42 P.M.—The operation this morning south of the Somme was completely successful, and was carried out by Australian troops, assisted by some detachments of American Infantry, supported by Tanks. Our objectives were taken and held, and we have gained possession of the woods of Vaire and Hamel, as well as the village of Hamel.

In conjunction with this operation, an attack by Australian troops east of Ville-sur-Ancre was completely successful, and our line was advanced 500 yards on a front of 1,200 yards.

The prisoners captured by us in these operations exceed 1,000. Many machine-guns, as well as other material, have also been taken.

On the rest of the front there is nothing of interest to report.

\* Hamel, a little more than a mile south of the Somme, was captured by the Germans on April 4, a fortnight after they had launched their great offensive. But before it was yielded up, there was heavy fighting, not only at Hamel itself, but in all the immediate neighbourhood, different positions changing hands frequently in the course of the bitter struggle. Australian troops have made Villers-Bretonneux, since they recaptured this village on April 25, the jumping-off ground for raids and advances towards Hamel, and, generally for harassing the enemy positions in this region. Their minor offensive tactics have now culminated in the recapture of Hamel.

The Bois de Hamel and the Bois de Vaire, which are practically one wood, extend from about half a mile to a mile and a quarter south-south-west from Hamel.

GERMAN REPORT:—FRONT OF CROWN PRINCE RUPPRECHT—Artillery activity revived in the evening on isolated sectors. Since early morning, on both sides of the Somme, the enemy's artillery fire has been heavy. Infantry engagements developed in this region.

EVENING.—On both sides of the Somme strong English partial attacks on our fighting territory were frustrated.—Admiralty, per Wireless Press.

# SUCCESS SOUTH OF THE SOMME.

## VILLAGE AND WOODS CAPTURED.

### INFANTRY, AIRMEN, AND TANKS TOGETHER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

WAR CORRESPONDENTS' HEADQUARTERS, JULY 4.

Australians, with a number of American troops cooperating, this morning carried out as successful and cleanly executed a lesser operation as has been seen in this war. Attacking on a front of about four miles on the south side of the Somme, they advanced our line to a depth of approximately one mile and a half, capturing the village of Hamel and Vaire Wood, together with prisoners who will probably number not less than 1,500, with great quantities of machine-guns and at least one anti-Tank gun of field artillery type. In addition to the prisoners, the German losses in some parts of the attack were heavy, while the Allies' total casualties, including the slightest wounds, are not one-third of the number of prisoners taken alone.

The attack was made soon after 3 o'clock in the morning, the air at the time being very clear. The Australians had been advancing our line north of the Somme towards Morlan-



court until our present positions there were not only some 5,000 yards in advance of the furthest line to which we retired at the end of March, but also considerably beyond our positions about Vaire on the south side of the river. The time had come when it seemed best to adjust the lines on the north and south sides of the river.

The operation had been very carefully planned, and a large number of Tanks cooperated, having been brought up into the forward positions with great secrecy. So successfully was it done that the Germans were entirely surprised, and officers taken prisoner tell us that they had no idea that Tanks were in the neighbourhood.

A bombardment over a much wider front than that attacked began a few minutes before the infantry advance, which was covered by the usual accompaniment of smoke screens and so forth, while, simultaneously, aeroplanes swept overhead and dropped great numbers of bombs on the village of Hamel and other points. We had great numbers of guns, especially field guns and trench mortars, and the noise of the exploding bombs and the artillery together was stupendous. The Germans on this front have been recently subjected to a good deal of gas, and they apparently thought that this was another gas attack. When, through the uproar and amid the murk of the smoke, Tanks came rolling on, the enemy was found chiefly in gas masks and on the greater part of the front made no attempt to fight.

Among the prisoners are one battalion commander, two adjutants, and numbers of other officers. The German divisions opposed to us were the 13th, 43rd, and 77th, the two latter of which had been in the line here for some time, but the first mentioned had been newly brought in. All suffered alike.

There was one part of the line on the right where the formation of the ground made the use of Tanks impossible, and here the infantry had to attack formidable positions with bomb and bayonet. Here the enemy fought for a short while stoutly, and what casualties we suffered were chiefly here. Elsewhere victory was almost incredibly cheaply won. The Tanks beyond doubt contributed largely to this. They went forward with the men riding on top of them, and had few casualties. Less than half a dozen Tanks out of all those engaged had trouble of any kind, whether from engines, from the enemy, or from difficulties of the ground, and officers of the units engaged told me at noon to-day that only one was seriously injured. The whole Tank performance seems to have been very gallant and eminently successful.

The infantry engaged were loud in praise of our guns. The barrage appears to have been very good, and the counter-battery work so successful that the enemy artillery was practically neutralized and helpless. It did not get to work until our men were well forward, and the barrage which the enemy then put down on our now empty front-line positions was harmless.

This main attack accounted for about 1,200 prisoners, but in addition there were smaller raiding operations both to north and south of the main attack. One on the south, on the main Villers-Bretonneux road, took 60 prisoners and killed many Germans. North of the river there was a raid below Morlancoeur, where our men counted 100 German dead, and a small push by Ville-sur-Ancre, no larger than a raid in proportions, which had the object of definitely taking a small piece of ground, and which produced half a hundred prisoners and resulted in proportionately heavy casualties to the enemy.

It has been a lovely day, and many towns and villages in France are flagged in celebration of Independence Day, but there could have been no better celebration than this thoroughly successful attack.

1918

**SOMME SUCCESS.**  
**AUSTRALIANS WITH AMERICANS.**  
**1,500 PRISONERS.**  
**FRENCH CAPTURE 1,000.**

A swift and complete British success on the Somme yesterday, the Fourth of July, was especially notable for the fact that a pretty compliment was paid to the American Army, whose detachments advanced with the Australians a mile and a half. A village, two little woods, and, Mr. Beach Thomas, our special correspondent, says, 1,500 prisoners were taken, and our line at this point, east of Amiens, was considerably improved. Hitherto it had been enfiladed by the Germans.

**PLANES AND TANKS.**  
**OUR LOSSES VERY LIGHT.**

From W. BEACH THOMAS.  
 WITH THE BRITISH, Thursday.  
 One of our units, of whose "up and at 'em" mood I wrote in my last despatch, proved the mettle of the aggressive spirit this morning in one of the crispest and slickest attacks in the records.  
 At night, especially between 2 and 3 a.m., literally scores of our aeroplanes flew over Hamel Village, on the Somme, dropping 8 score of bombs in their last attack. Later in the day 50 of our aeroplanes together flew in one flock over my head, and this will give some idea of the weight of the air offensive.  
 These harpies of the air were in alliance with the dragons of slime. A large number of tanks followed the planes, and the two together altogether ousted the artillery, as before at Cambrai.  
 The battle opened in half silence, except from bursting bombs and humming planes. In the wake of tanks, or here and there in front of tanks, Australian troops, helped on both flanks by others, dashed to the assault just before sunrise tipped low clouds with a ruddy tinge.  
 The Germans seem to have thought that they had purchased a prescriptive right to the offensive, and were sore at the pre-



The British have advanced east of Amiens, and the French south-east of Noyon. The arrows show the points.

sumption of our troops. Only in one bit over which our infantry were forced to attack without aid from tanks did they stand firm and fight. Elsewhere their amazement was such that they allowed themselves to be plucked by handfuls without resistance. Among Rhineland troops who threw up their hands was a battalion commander and all his staff.

The double attack of aeroplanes and tanks appears to have cowed as well as surprised them. Our machines flew low over the backs of the tanks and used their Lewis guns and Maxims freely, especially over the enemy skeddadding from the remains of Hamel Village. The enemy was in the midst of a hail of machine-gun bullets coming from all sorts of angles.

Within an hour and a half the Australians and others had travelled a mile and a half in depth, cleared out trenches and coverts, and were forming a line on their final objectives before the sun was well up.

Prisoners flowed back in bulk almost at once, and probably now number 1,500. Our dressing stations were busier with enemy wounded than our own. Our total casualties in the morning fighting I know to be about less than a quarter of the total of prisoners. One battalion whose experiences I know in some detail had only 4 officer casualties and 16 other ranks. They took some scores of prisoners and killed a large number of enemy by rifle fire and light machine guns.

**BRITISH SMOKE CURTAIN.**

Smoke was used very freely in our attack, and our men showed such confidence that many of them rode outside on the back of their monsters.

The chief fight was fought alongside the southern marshes and canals of the Somme Valley, marking the foreground of one of the most beautiful views in France. From the abrupt cliffs on the north bank the enemy's lines across the river appeared before the attack to be well in the rear of our lines. The situation of the two armies was not quite so eccentric as it seemed on the spot, but the enemy in the last offensive succeeded in pushing forward a good length farther on the south than on the north side of the Somme, and in front of Hamel Village could fire at our flanks even from their rear. He had dug himself in there much more thoroughly than elsewhere, as if he intended to maintain his threat against the once-busy and picturesque town of Corbie, whose twin-towered church and old gateway have served as continual targets for German gunners since the March offensive.

The whole of this protuberance was taken, including a rather elaborate trench system west of Hamel Village, so that our line there now juts out rather than bends in.

While the Australians were "mopping up" trenches, villages, and prisoners a noted English division was engaged in a series of very lively raids north of the river and above the village of Sully. Prisoners trickled back here too. Quite a good amount of booty was gathered, and in the aggregate a good many posts and bits of trench were both raided and occupied.

Further evidence has been acquired of the extent of the ravages of Spanish influenza, or something like it, in the German ranks. A letter from a German doctor is in our possession saying that the symptoms quite baffle him.

**NO GERMAN BARRAGE.**

One of the most amazing features of the whole battle was the comparative absence of shell-fire. People stood in the open to see the men go over and march forward, and they were never shelled at all. This was altered, of course, towards midday, when the German guns became active, especially against Hamel Village and some favoured spots in the rear, but I suppose no considerable action has yet been in which shrapnel and high explosive played a smaller and less essential part.

The engagement, of course, was not on a scale that is likely to interfere with any future German attack in which the whole weight of the Army may be used, but it is symptomatic of the spirit in our ranks, and no more skilful little operation has been executed with so big a balance on the side of the attacking force. It proved, among other things, that the German can be rattled.

1918  
 Appendix P3

Barrage  
War Diary

HAMEL OFFENSIVE

For Official Use Only.FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION - INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 303.From 6 a.m. 3rd to 6 a.m. 4th July, 1918.NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO THE FRONT LINE.1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Infantry. In conjunction with the 6th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes. on the right and left respectively an attack was launched by the 4th A.I. Bde. at 3.10 a.m. this morning on a front between the main WARTUSEE - VILLERS BRETONNEUX road and the River SOMME. Tank Battalions co-operated in the attack. Our infantry assembled on forming up lines without interference from enemy fire, which after the attack was launched fell mainly between our front and support lines along the whole front of attack and did not cause serious casualties. The attack progressed well and the ground round HAMEL, HAMEL WOOD and VAIRE WOOD was vigorously searched and cleared of enemy resisting points with the assistance of tanks. At 3.40 a.m. our tanks were reported advancing north of HAMEL. The right brigade was able to report all objectives gained and consolidation in progress by 5.5 a.m.

The centre brigade had cleaned up VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD and had consolidation in progress by 5.25 a.m. On the front of the left brigade, objectives on the right near HAMEL were gained by 5.5 a.m. and the left battalion was on its objective by 5 a.m. The enemy's resistance to our infantry attack was not vigorous, his first line being overwhelmed by the rapidity of our infantry attack following the barrage. The infantry in enemy's second line appear to have been demoralised, many fleeing at once to the rear, so that the resistance at this point was also weak. After the infantry had settled down on their final objective Tanks advanced forward of this line for about 500 yards and patrolled the ground dealing with enemy posts and machine gun crews in that area. From latest reports our line now runs as follows :- P.25.C.95.95 along former enemy trench to P.26.A.60.85, P.26.E.45.80, P.21.A.5.4, P.10.D.65.05, P.10.D.95.75, P.11.A.35.00, P.11.A.03.72, P.10.B.8.7 following old enemy trench to P.4.A.9.0 to old line at J.34.D.95.05.

(b) Artillery. - Quiet during the day, shelling consisting largely of registration shoots, were carried out on enemy posts and M.G. positions. The barrage for the attack was very well placed and effective, and consisted of H.E., Shrapnel and Smoke. Barrage continued until 5.30 a.m.

(c) Trench Mortars. - 5" Stokes Mortars expended 40 rounds on enemy positions in J.30.D., J.33.D. and K.25.C. 6" Newtons fired 150 rounds on selected targets during the period.

(d) Machine Guns. - The usual programme of indirect fire was carried out until Zero, when M.G. Barrage opened in conjunction with Artillery Barrage. Ammunition expended 51,000 rounds.

(e) P + cols. - Special protective patrols operated on the Divisional Front continuously between 10 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. Reconnaissance patrols were also out but very little enemy movement was seen. Liaison patrols went out as usual and maintained touch with Flank Divisions.

(f) Aircraft. - Our planes were active during the period and succeeded in preventing E.A. from crossing our lines. Bombs were dropped on enemy areas during the night.

(g) Prisoners. - The total number of prisoners captured has not yet been ascertained, but the following have so far passed through the Divisional Cage :-

33 Officers (including 1 Bn. Commander and his Adjutant)  
1,061 Other Ranks.

APPENDIX

( 2 )

(h) Material. - Up to time of writing the following captures have been reported :-

- 90 Machine Guns.
- 12 Light Trench Mortars.
- 2 Heavy Trench Mortars.
- 1 77.mm. Gun.

Further material is still coming in.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. -

108th Division.

137th I.R. (South of VAIRE WOOD).

13th Division.

- 13th I.R. )
- 15th I.R. ) VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL
- 55th I.R. )
- 13th M.W. Coy.
- 7th Pioneer Bn.
- 525th Sanitats Coy.

43rd Reserve Division.

- 202nd R.I.R. (North of HAMEL)
- 243rd M.W. Coy.
- 27th Pioneer Bn.

Artillery.

- 58th Field Arty. Regt. (VAIRE WOOD)
- 43rd Res. Field Arty. Regt. (North of HAMEL)
- 59th " " " (North of HAMEL)
- 11th Foot Artillery Regt. (VAIRE WOOD)

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE AND DISPOSITIONS.

(a) Order of battle. N.to S. 202nd R.I.R. 55th I.R. 13th I.R.  
15th I.R. 137th I.R.

(b) Reliefs. The 13th Division had replaced the 77th Res. Division in the VAIRE Wood Sector. The relief was commenced on the night 30th June/1st July. The 55th I.R. relieved the 332nd I.R. on nights 1/2 and 2/3 July (P.S. and Doc.)

An inter-battalion relief in the 202nd R.I.R. was expected on night 5/6th July (P.S.)

(c) Strength. - The average Company strength throughout the 13th Division before our attack is said to have been between 60 and 70 (P.S.)

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. - Quiet during day with light scattered shelling except in J.30.C. which was heavily shelled. The enemy's reply to our barrage was very weak, and did not commence until 15 minutes after Zero hour.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE. Alert.



( 5 )

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine guns. Quiet before our attack. At the commencement of our barrage a heavy M.G. barrage was directed against SAILLY-LE-SEC.  
Trench Mortars. Inactive.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.- Enemy planes were observed patrolling their own lines during the day, but owing to the continual activity of our battle formations they did not attempt to cross our lines.

8. MOVEMENT.

(a) Men.- Enemy parties were observed at suspected O.P. at K.31.A.4.6., at house at Q.23.C.6.9., and in ARQUAIRE Wood. At 6.15.a.m. a party of 15 moved across from P.12.D. to low ground in P.17.C. At 7.a.m. 11 men with dogs came from P.24.B. to P.17.C. 9.30.a.m. a party of 50 turned off main road in Q.30.C. and disappeared from view in Q.24.C. From 5. to 11.a.m. considerable individual movement was observed in areas P.17.D., P.18., P.10.B. & D., and P.12.A. During the evening roads between PROYART and R.19. and R.25. were consistently used by men and transports

(b) Transports.- Main road through Q.30. and R.25. consistently used by transports. At 9.55.a.m. 15 horse transports left dump in R.26. coming W. along main road disappearing in Q.30.C.

(c) Trains. At 7.5.a.m. a train travelled through area W.6.D. towards PROYART. At 4.p.m. a train was seen travelling towards WIENCOURT. Two trains were shunting around dump in R.26. during the day.

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Signals. On commencement of our barrage enemy fired flares which burst into two Reds, and others into a single Green. During our attack about 20 message rockets were fired towards ACCROCHE WOOD.

(b) Casualties. The casualties suffered by the enemy during our barrage and attack are said to have been extremely heavy (P.S.) Heavy losses have been experienced by enemy supply and artillery columns from our artillery fire (P.S.)

(c) Gas. The 265th R.I.R. is said to have suffered heavy casualties from our gas projectors, practically a whole battalion becoming casualties on one occasion. Quite recently the 137th I.R. also suffered severely from our gas projectors. Their respirators are stated to have been ineffective against the gas used by us (P.S.)

(d) Moral. The moral of the 108th Division does not appear to be good. Prisoners complain of the long period the division has been kept in the line. Heavy casualties, estimated at 40 to 50 per company, are said to have been suffered during the tour in line of this division.

A document found in a bottle floating down the SOMME Canal also points to the lowered moral of the enemy. It reads :- "To our Dear Tommies. Many Greetings from Michel & Coy. Are you not fed up with this useless rot? We are longing for our rest. Let us go - we will do the same. Michel & Coy."

*Bate*  
for

Lieut-Colonel,  
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

*PM*

APPENDIX  
*War Diary*

AUSTRALIAN CORPS INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No. 181.

From 6 p.m. 3rd July, 1918 to 6 p.m. 4th July, 1918

NOT TO BE TAKEN FURTHER FORWARD THAN  
BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

For Official Use Only

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Infantry. At 3.10 a.m. this morning we attacked and captured HAMEL village and VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidated our new line east of these localities. The advance was made on a frontage of over 4,500yds. immediately south of the SOMME to an average depth of 1½ miles. At the same time we attacked east of VILLE-sur-ANCRE and captured the enemy's defences on a frontage of 1,200 yards to a depth of 400 yards. A successful raid was simultaneously carried out against enemy trench in K.13, which resulted in the capture of prisoners and machine guns.

The day's operations have resulted so far in the capture of 36 officers and 1191 O.R. unwounded and 2 officers and 78 O.R. wounded. In material 103 machine guns, 12 trench mortars, and 1 77mm. gun have so far been counted. Our casualties were light. Tanks successfully co-operated in the main operation. Heavy casualties are reported to have been inflicted on the enemy by both the infantry and the artillery.

(b) Artillery. During the night both heavy and field artillery co-operated in the attack with barrase fire. Successful counter-battery work and effective gas shoots were carried out. MORCOURT and the valleys leading to it were shelled, and a large party in Q.13 and Q.19.a. dispersed. Traffic on the AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN road was also successfully engaged. During the remainder of the day harassing fire was maintained on general targets and hostile batteries.

(c) Prisoners and Material. During the period 36 officers and 1191 O.R. unwounded and 2 officers and 78 O.R. wounded, 103 machine guns, 12 trench mortars, and 1 77mm. gun have been captured.

2. DISPOSITIONS OF ENEMY'S FORCES

Corps Front. The following identifications have been secured during the period:

108th Divn.  
3rd Bn., 137th I.R. 8.25 prisoners July 4th.

13th Divn.  
1st and 3rd Bns., 13th I.R. )  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bns. 55th I.R. ) VAIRE WOOD sector prisoners  
1st and 2nd Bns., 15th I.R. ) July 4th.  
1st Coy., 7th Pioneer Bn. )

The 13th Divn. is stated to have relieved the 77th Res. Divn. on the night 1st/2nd July. The order of battle is given from north to south as 55th I.R. - 13th I.R. - 15th I.R.

43rd Divn.  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bns. 202nd R.I.R. HAMEL prisoners July 4th  
243rd Minenwerfer Coy. " prisoner "  
525th Bearer Coy. " prisoners "

From evidence received to-day it is considered that this division has two regiments north of the river and one regiment south of it, the order of battle from north to south being 203rd R.I.R. - 201st R.I.R. - 202nd R.I.R. The southern divisional boundary runs through the southern outskirts of HAMEL.

*Per. 4/3*

4-7-18

- 2 -

No. 181

107th Divn.  
 232nd R.I.R. K.13 prisoners July 4th  
 52nd R.I.R. east of VILLE-sur-ANCRE prisoners July 4th

The order of battle of this division is confirmed.

77th Res. Divn. MERICOURT-sur-SOMME P.S.  
 July 4th.

Miscellaneous Units

16th F.A.R. VAIRE WOOD sector prisoners July 4th  
 59th F.A.R. " " " "  
 43rd F.A.R. " " " "  
 2nd Army Arendt-Gruppe " " "  
 49th Divl. Wireless Detachment " " "

From the above identifications it will be seen that in our main operation 11 enemy battalions were engaged south of the SOMME this morning.

3. AIRCRAFT

Our aircraft carried out successful contact patrols. A successful reconnaissance and bombing programme supported the attack this morning.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY

During the night enemy artillery was very quiet. Enemy reply to our barrage for the attack this morning was weak. From 3.30 to 4.20 a.m. a light barrage was placed between VAIRE and HAMEL. From 4.30 a.m. to noon heavy harassing fire was brought to bear upon HAMEL and HAMEL WOOD, trenches east of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and trenches west of MORLANCOURT. During the afternoon hostile artillery was quieter. Some harassing fire west of MORLANCOURT is reported. The only reports of back area shelling are those of AUBIGNY, FOUILLOY, T.5.a. and M.29, all by H.V. guns. No counter-battery work was carried out.

5. MOVEMENT

At 6.15 p.m. about 500 troops marching by platoons were observed from MERICOURT to MORCOURT and at the same time some 400 infantry were observed marching into MERICOURT from CHUIGNOLLES and movement estimated at one battalion was moving from MORCOURT into PROYART.

200 men were also observed marching from MERICOURT on road through Q.18.b. and d.

At 6.30 p.m. about 200 men were observed marching into GUILLAUCOURT along the road from W.21.b. through W.15.c. (Air Reconnaissance)

During the afternoon ground observers reported considerable movement north of MORLANCOURT which was engaged by our artillery.

198.

4-7-18.

- 1a -

No. 181.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 13th DIVISION.

Order of Battle. The 202nd R.I.R., 43rd Res. Div. is N. of the 55th I.R. South of this is the 13th I.R. and then the 15th I.R., then 137th I.R., 108th Divn. (P.S.)

Reliefs. The 55th I.R. relieved the 332nd I.R. on July 1/2nd. The 13th I.R. relieved the 419th I.R. on July 2/3rd. The 15th I.R. relieved the 257th R.I.R. on night July 1/2nd. It is rumoured that the 13th Divn. will be relieved in about 8 days time. (P.S.)

Recent History. After leaving the MOREUIL sector the 13th Div. moved to CALERAI where it remained 14 days, the 55th I.R. was at ELINCOURT, the 15th I.R. at CLARY and the 13th I.R. at HONNECHY. From here the whole division moved to VALVILLE S by rail and remained there 8 days. It then moved into line and relieved the 77th Res. Divn.

Names of Commanders. Divnl. Cdr. - Gen. von BORRIS., 13th I.R., Major BIELLER. (P.S.)

Roumanian Army. All men in the Roumanian Army under 35 were withdrawn in April and reinforced the divisions in France. One man formerly in the 89th Divn. gave the following route from ROUMANIA of his draft which left at the end of May, TARGOVEISTE, GRAEOVA, ZSEGD, BUDAPEST, ODERBERG, BRESLAU, SACHEN, ESSEN, AACHEN, BEVERLOO. They remained in BEVERLOO for 14 days and went thence to the Field Recruit Depot of the 13th Divn. at BRAY where there are 1000 men. Then they went to the MACHELPOT and joined the 15th I.R. (P.S.).

Drafts. On June 18th the division received a draft of 600 from BEVERLOO, mostly returned wounded. No 1919 class. This draft went from BEVERLOO, via NAMUR, and BREUX. (P.S.).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 13th I.R., 13th DIVISION.

Dispositions. The 1st Bn. was holding the line with the 3 and 4 coys. in front and the 1st and 2nd in close support. Another bn. is in support and another in rest near PROYART. (P.S.).

Tour of Duty. This regiment works on a 6 day cycle. (P.S.).

Routes. A prisoner of this regiment left RUSSIA at the beginning of November and travelled via the following towns: BERKHOFF, KOVNO, VILNA, KONIGSBERG, BERLIN, HALLE, COLN, TRIER, DIDENHOFEN, SEDAN and FREUEN. (P.S.).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 55th I.R., 13th DIVISION.

General. This regiment came into the line on July 1/2nd, having previously been resting at VILLERS CARBONIERES. (P.S.).

Dispositions. The 3rd Bn. was in the line this morning, the 10th Coy. being in support at P.15.a.5.0. (P.S.).

Strength and Casualties. 9th Coy. 36 men and 4 l.m.gs., 10th Coy. 49 men and 4 l.m.gs. Owing to influenza both these coys. were 1 platoon under strength. (P.S.).

Drafts. The 9th Coy. received a draft of 25 6 weeks ago, of whom 20 belonged to the 1919 class. (P.S.).

Minenwerfer. The Minenwerfer Detachment took over the 4 minenwerfer of the 332nd I.R. in open trenches N. of HAMEL WOOD on the night July 2/3rd. The Minenwerfer Detachment consisted of a Feldwebel, 2 unteroffizier, two gefreiter and 20 men. Dugouts were being constructed beside the positions. Ammunition was brought up by the detachment in reserve. At CLARY practices had been carried out with Minenwerfer in attacking strong points.

*lp3* *lp4*

4-7-18.

- 2a -

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 15th I.R., 13th DIVISION.

Dispositions. The 2nd Bn. held the line with 1coy. in support and another in reserve. The 6th and 7th Coys. were in the line with the other two 150 m. in rear in support. The 1st Bn. was in support 1 km. in rear, the 3rd Bn. either at VAUVILLERS or in a wood near MERICOURT-sur-SOMME. (P.S.).

Strength. Of 2nd M.G. Coy. 1 officer and 110 - 120 O.R. with 12 '08 machine guns. Losses are said to have been very heavy. (P.S.)

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 6th COY., 232nd R.I.R., 107th DIVN.

Dispositions. This regiment had apparently only one coy. in the line whose northern boundary was the BRAY - CORBIE Road, the 203rd E.I.R., 43rd Res. Divn. being on the south. The front line was very thinly held. (P.S.).

Miscellaneous. There was much sickness in the regiment, particularly in the 1st and 3rd bns., which had to be withdrawn from the line on this account. (P.S.).

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 52nd R.I.R., 107th DIVISION.

Dispositions. The 2nd and 3rd Bns. held the line, each with 3 coys. forward, the other coys. being on the railway lines in E.26.d., E.26.c. and K.2.b. The reserve Bn. is some 4 km. in rear. The order of coys. from N. to S. was: 6, 7, 5, 10, 11 and 9th with 8th and 12th coys. in support. The sunken road in K.3.a. and c. is a centre of activity but the road in K.2.a. and the quarry are unoccupied. (P.S.).

Strength and Losses. Coy. strength vary from 25 to 70. Losses in the lines near the river have been fairly considerable, particularly as the result of T.M. fire. Losses this morning are said to have been heavy. (P.S.).

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 137th I.R., 108th DIVISION.

Order of Battle. N. to S. - 137th I.R., 265th R.I.R., 97th I.R.

Dispositions. The 3rd Bn. was holding the line with the 10th, 12th and 9th Coys. in that order from N. to S. Platoons of the 11th Coy. were allotted to both the 10th and 12th Coys., the remaining platoon being in a trench 300 yards in rear, N. of the ST. QUENTIN - AMIENS road. Two of the front line coys. were N. of this road and 1 south. The 1st Bn. was in support about 1 km. in rear in trenches and rifle pits. The 2nd Bn. was in reserve in the Ravine near the old ammunition dump behind LA MOTTE. The divisional artillery are in the valley N. and S. of WARFUSEE. The divisional pioneers are in the valley N. of WARFUSEE with 1 coy. in the chalk pit at P.36.c.8.8. (P.S.).

Reliefs. An inter-battalion relief (the 2nd by the 3rd Bn.) occurred on the night 3/4th July. The tour in the line lasts 5 days. A divisional relief is imminent and the relieving division is said to be in the neighbourhood. (P.S.).

Various. The 108th Divn. has had severe losses since it came into the line in this sector.

There are 5 l.m.gs. per coy. (P.S.).

Commanders. 108th Divn. - Gen. Major CAMPE., 137th I.R., Oberst FROEGT. (P.S.).

4-7-18.

- 3a -

No. 181.

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 202nd R.I.R., 43rd RES. DIVN.

Order of Battle, N. to S. - 203rd R.I.R., 201st R.I.R., 202nd R.I.R.  
Dispositions. The 3rd Bn. held the line with the 11th and 10th Coys.

forward and the 9th and 12th in close support behind HAMEL. The  
 2nd Bn. is also in the line. The 1st Bn. is in reserve around Q.8.b.O.7.

Reliefs. The 2nd Bn. came into the line on 18th June, the 3rd Bn.  
 on 28th June. An inter-battalion relief is expected on July 5/6th. P.S.

Strength and Casualties. 10th Coy. 85., 8th Coy. 70.

The heavy batteries east of HAMEL sustained heavy casualties and  
 damage to their guns recently from our counter-battery work. (P.S.).

Drafts. On 1st May 200 men of 1919 class came to the 43rd Res.  
 Divn., about 35 coming to the 10th Coy. (P.S.).

Miscellaneous. There appears to be a certain amount of typhoid  
 fever in the 43rd Res. Divn. and also Spanish influenza, the 8th Coy.  
 having lost 20 men during the last 5 days out of 70. (P.S.).

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE 58th F.A.R. and 59th Res. F.A.R.

Relief. The 58th F.A.R. is to relieve the 59th Res. F.A.R. in the  
 line tonight.

77th Reserve Division. The division has gone back to  
 MERICOURT-sur-SOMME for the present. Its further movements are unknown.

*B. H. Murray*  
 for Brigadier-General,  
 General Staff, Australian Corps.

bbm

RECEIVED  
1917

Y. Bae



AUSTRALIAN CORPS INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No. 182

From 6 p.m. 4th July, 1918 to 6 p.m. 5th July, 1918NOT TO BE TAKEN FURTHER FORWARD THAN  
BRIGADE HEADQUARTERSFor Official Use Only1. OPERATIONS

(a) Infantry. Two attempted enemy counter-attacks were successfully repulsed during the night: (a) Against our new position east of HAMEL, which was repulsed leaving 50 prisoners and 10 machine guns in our hands; (b) against our new line east of VILLE-sur-ANCRE which was crushed in its initial stages.

(b) Artillery. Heavy harassing fire was maintained throughout the period. Barrage fire was brought to bear on the sectors where hostile counter-attacks were reported to be developing. Several gas concentrations were placed on centres of activity. Enemy batteries were effectively engaged by our C.B. A concentration was placed on MORCOURT at intervals.

(c) Patrols. Our patrols were active. Patrols of the right division brought in a prisoner. Encounters took place in E.26.a. in which several casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

(d) Prisoners. As a result of yesterday's operations, the total number of prisoners passed through Corps Cage up to 8 p.m. is now 36 Officers and 1129 O.R. and through C.C.S. 4 Officers and 288 O.R., making a total of 40 officers and 1417 O.R.

As a result of last night's operations 59 wounded and unwounded prisoners, 10 machine guns, and 1 anti-tank rifle were captured.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES

Corps Front. The following identifications have been secured during the period:

108th Divn.

10th Coy., 137th I.R. P.26 prisoners 5th July

13th Divn.

1st Coy., 13th I.R.) VAIRE WOOD Sector prisoners 5th July.  
2nd Coy., 55th I.R.)

43rd Res. Divn.

1st and 2nd Bns. 202nd R.I.R. East of HAMEL prisoners 5th July.

107th Divn.

52nd R.I.R. East of VILLE-sur-ANCRE prisoners 5th July.

3. AIRCRAFT

Several reconnaissances were carried out by our machines during the day. Bombs were dropped on known targets.

Hostile aircraft were fairly active, mainly scouts. Fewer R.E.A. are reported. One hostile machine was shot down by Lewis gun fire in the ANCRE Valley behind the enemy lines this morning.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY

Hostile artillery was fairly active during the period. Support was given to attempted minor counter-attacks. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and vicinity was actively shelled during the evening. MARRET WOOD, HAMEL, VILLE-sur-ANCRE and vicinity - AUBIGNY, and LA NEUVILLE were frequently shelled. BLANGY-TRONVILLE and FOUILLOY were also shelled.



198

APPENDIX

93

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVL ARTILLERY.
No. <u>C 5/41</u>

To :-

HEADQUARTERS,  
5th July 1918.

All Group, Brigade & Battery Commanders,  
Horse and Field Artillery  
Covering attack on HAMEL & VAIRE-WOOD Plateau.

-----

The Army Commander, G.O.Cs. Australian Imperial Force, Australian Corps and 4th Australian Division, have expressed to you their commendation and congratulations on your work of yesterday.

Many of the Artillery Brigades will shortly be leaving us. Before we separate I want to express to you all my appreciation and thanks for the willing and able efforts of all concerned which alone obtained the excellent Artillery results which so materially assisted the assaulting Infantry.

We appreciate most fully the commendation and high tribute which has been sent to us by the Higher Commanders, but without deprecating in the least this great honour from Headquarters, our most valued testimonial comes from the Infantry themselves.

Without exception, they have expressed their satisfaction and appreciation of the work of the covering Artillery, both in the preparatory, actual barrage and subsequent protective fire provided.

None of us can expect higher praise or more adequate commendation than this. We are all delighted to know that our efforts have been of service to our Infantry who are essentially in the best position to judge the efficiency and usefulness of the fire from their covering guns.

*W. L. H. Burgess*

Brigadier-General,  
C.R.A., 4th Australian Division.

/Overleaf

-----

94

INDEX

198

Issued to :-

Brigade and Battery Commanders of ---

16th ARMY Bde. R.H.A..

"SOUTHERN GROUP" --

23rd ARMY Bde. R.F.A., 179th ARMY Bde. R.F.A.,  
14th ARMY Bde. R.F.A., and D/26 Battery.

"RIGHT GROUP" --

10th Aust. F.A. Bde., 189th ARMY Bde. R.F.A.,  
78th Bde. R.F.A., 79th Bde. R.F.A.,  
236th Bde. R.F.A..

"CENTRE GROUP" --

11th Aust. F.A. Bde., 13th Aust. F.A. Bde.,  
14th Aust. F.A. Bde., 150th ARMY Bde. R.F.A..

"LEFT GROUP" --

298th ARMY Bde. R.F.A., 4th R.H.A. Bde. (3rd  
CAV. Division), 235th Bde. R.F.A..

D.T.M.O. and 4th Aust. Div. M.T.M. Batteries.

and Commanders of all Brigade and Divisional  
Ammunition Columns.

-----

*CMH for H.A. [unclear]*

*Van Deay*  
*HAMEL OFFENSIVE*  
*[Signature]*

Headquarters,  
4th Aust. Infantry Brigade.  
6th July, 1918.

My Dear Colonel,

It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that I have to inform you of the fine work done by the two Companies of the 132nd U.S. Infantry in the attack on VAIRE and HAMEL WOOD on the 4th July. The participation for the first time in battle shoulder to shoulder with Australians, has made this day an occasion of rare historic significance.

My Officers, N.C.Os. and men also speak in enthusiastic terms of the dash and gallantry of your men, and their steadiness under fire.

That we may co-operate in many similar successful operations until a lasting peace is assured is the wish of all ranks of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

*CMH*

Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Colonel Abel Davis,  
Comdg. 132nd U.S. Infantry Regiment.

*Original on Exhibition  
at Museum.*

*Hmea*

*14/7/21*

*W. D. D. D.*  
*HAMEL OFFENSIVE*  
*W. D. D. D.*

Headquarters,  
4th Aust. Infantry Brigade.  
6th July, 1918.

My Dear Colonel,

It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that I have to inform you of the fine work done by the two Companies of the 132nd U.S. Infantry in the attack on VAIRE and HAMEL WOOD on the 4th July. The participation for the first time in battle shoulder to shoulder with Australians, has made this day an occasion of rare historic significance.

My Officers, N.C.Os. and men also speak in enthusiastic terms of the dash and gallantry of your men, and their steadiness under fire.

That we may co-operate in many similar successful operations until a lasting peace is assured is the wish of all ranks of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

*C. M. D.*  
Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Colonel Abel Davis,  
Comdg. 132nd U.S. Infantry Regiment.

4/3 de  
July 18

W 95

to mid front

S E C R E T.

APPENDIX.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

12th July, 1918.

NOTES ON HAMEL OFFENSIVE.4th July, 1918.1. PRELIMINARY.

On 22nd June, 1918, the Brigadier was informed verbally that a minor operation was to be carried out by 4th Australian Division at an early date, having as its objective the capture of the Village of HAMEL, VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and the high ground beyond. No date had been definitely fixed but it was anticipated that the attack would take place during the first week in July.

Absolute secrecy was to be maintained up till the last possible moment, but preparations and plans were to be made at once and forwarded for approval of higher authority.

Three Brigades will be employed in the attack. The 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade in the Centre, having the two woods and high ground beyond as its objective. A Brigade of 2nd Australian Division will operate on the Right, pivoting on a point on its present front line just north of the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX - WARFUSSE ABANCOURT Road and swinging its left forward in conformity with the advance of this Brigade. On our left a Brigade from the 3rd AUSTRALIAN Division will capture the village of HAMEL and the old British works on the high ground beyond, at present occupied by the enemy.

A large number of Tanks will be allotted to the attacking troops and the enterprise will be covered by an Artillery Barrage.

The Brigade had now been in the line for 26 days, so with a view to resting, refitting and training, it was relieved on night 26th/27th June by 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade and passed into Divisional Reserve in the AUBIGNY SYSTEM.

The greatest difficulty was now experienced in maintaining secrecy as Officers of the various arms interested (Tanks, Artillery, &c.) were constantly seen reconnoitring the area and the suspicion of all ranks were aroused. It soon became patent to everyone that operations of some kind were contemplated, but as after events proved, the details, dates &c. were kept secret until a few days prior to the battle. Apparently the enemy had not got word of the preparation and the attack when launched at 3.10.a.m. on 4/7/1918 came as a complete surprise to him.

2. TRAINING.

Owing to the importance of maintaining strictest secrecy, and of not rousing the suspicions of the troops, training had necessarily to be on a very general basis. However specialists settled down and worked hard at their various branches. For three days (28th, 29th and 30th June) parties of 200 strong (1 Platoon per Battalion) proceeded to VAUX-en-AMIENOIS for a day's training in conjunction with Tanks. These trips proved very instructive and interesting, not only to the infantry but also to the Tank personnel who were to accompany them on ZERO day.

Physical training, swimming and cricket were also encouraged to make the men as fit as possible.

3. PLANS FOR THE ATTACK.

In calling for plans for the attack Higher Authority definitely laid down, inter alia, two points -

- (a) That the duty of clearing up definite localities (i.e. Village of HAMEL, VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS & C.) was to be allotted to definite Units, and
- (b) A Reserve of one Battalion was to be kept in hand by Brigades for any emergency which might occur.

In view of the above the following plan of attack was formulated ( see Map "A" attached).

P.T.O.

One Battalion (13th) was to attack South of VAIRE WOOD and one Battalion (15th) North of HAMEL WOOD each skirting the Wood. These two Battalions when they had passed the Wood were to junction just South of HUNS WALK and consolidate on the BLUE LINE.

The 16th Battalion was given the task of capturing and mopping up VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS, on the completion of which it was to withdraw to our old Front Line system and become Brigade Reserve Battalion.

The 14th Battalion was to follow in the wake of the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions (two Companies behind 13th Battalion and one each behind 16th and 15th Battalions) carrying R.E. stores and ammunition to forward dumps, sites of which had already been determined, and to dig a SUPPORT LINE about 400 yards in rear of the New Front Line. Three Platoons had been detailed for special training under Engineer Officers, in laying out and constructing strong points, and the Posts commenced by these Platoons were to form the nucleus of the New Support Line.

Infantry J.O.T. and Tasks, Field Artillery Start Line and Barrage, Blue Line, &c., are shown on the attached map "A". See Brigade Order No. 18 and Instructions No.s 1 and 2 issued herewith.

#### 4. INTELLIGENCE.

On the 1st July, 1918, a conference of the Division, Brigade and Artillery Intelligence Officers concerned in the operation was convened, by the G.S.O.II AUSTRALIAN CORPS. The object of the Conference was to discuss the operation from the Intelligence Officers' point of view and decide what action was necessary to expedite the transmission of identifications and assist all ranks in their knowledge of what they had to do.

The following Maps and Aeroplane photos were issued :-

1. Field Artillery Barrage Map - Down to Company Commanders.
2. Heavy " " " " " " " " " " " "
3. BAYONVILLERS Special Sheet - Down to Platoon Commanders.
4. Message Maps - Down to every N.C.O.
5. Contoured Mosaic of Corps Front - Down to every N.C.O.
6. Vertical aeroplane photos - Down to Platoon Commanders.
7. Oblique " " " " " " " " " " " "
8. Enlarged obliques - Down to Company Commanders.
9. Enemy disposition map with history of each Regiment on Corps Front - Down to Platoon Commanders.
10. Coloured Map showing task set each Battalion - Down to Company Commanders.

#### 5. ADMINISTRATIVE.

Supplies. Most thorough arrangements were made in this connection - large quantities of R.E. material, S.A.A. and Grenades, extra water and iron rations, &c., were collected at convenient places in the rear and two large dumps were formed in our Front Line by 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

The Divisional Pack Mule Train was reformed for the purpose of getting ammunition and rations up to the troops in the new front line.

By way of an experiment aeroplanes were detailed to drop boxes of S.A.A. attached to parachutes to our troops in the captured territory and this as a subsidiary means of supply proved quite successful.

Two Supply Tanks, each with a carrying capacity of 5 tons were employed taking ammunition, R.E. stores, &c. to the forward dumps, and these worked most excellently, getting up large supplies very quickly and with a minimum of manual labour.

An extra waterbottle was issued to each man.

For further details see "Administrative Instructions issued in connection with 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18" and Addendum thereto attached.

NARRATIVE.

For purposes of reference the day of the attack was to be known as "Z" day, the two preceding days "X" and "Y" respectively and the succeeding day "A" day.

On "X"/"Y" night the Brigade relieved portion of the 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade between the Southern Divisional Boundary and a line from P.8.central - P.1.e.G.O. - CANAL at O.5.a.5.O. - thence along the Canal.

Owing to the limited accommodation available for so large a body of troops in this area each Battalion left a nucleus of from one to two Companies in the Reserve Area and these moved up on "Y"/"Z" night.

ZERO hour was fixed for 3.10.a.m. on 4th July.

Immediately after dusk on "Y"/"Z" night the Tanks which had come up on "X"/"Y" to the shelter of woods and an orchard in the vicinity of AUBIGNY, moved up to their jumping off line which was approximately our old Reserve Line. Their movement was covered by light Artillery activity and several aeroplanes which successfully drowned the noise of their engines, only one Tank is reported to have been heard by the Infantry and it was subsequently learned that this one had been delayed by engine trouble on the way up and had had to go at full speed in order to reach the jumping off line on time.

For several days prior to the attack our Artillery had put down a harrassing fire over the enemy positions on the Brigade Front, mixing smoke and gas shell (when the wind was favourable) with H.E. and shrapnel.

Owing to the noise made by the Tanks it was necessary for them to form up some distance in rear of the Infantry jumping off tape, and it was estimated that twelve minutes would be required for them to travel from the site selected to where the Infantry were formed up on the taped line. As our barrage was to remain for four minutes on the Artillery Start Line it was arranged that the Tanks would move off at ZERO minus 8 minutes.

At this moment, to allow the Tanks to approach as close to the enemy positions as possible undetected, the usual morning "strafe" referred to above, opened. This apparently failed to raise the suspicion of the Hun and effectively drowned the noise of the Tanks.

At ZERO the barrage fell and our troops moved up as close under it as possible.

ARTILLERY. Is generally reported as having been excellent. Some of our guns were shooting short which interfered somewhat with the left of our advance. On our left the barrage fell in front of the Start Line and missed the enemy defences at PEAR TRENCH. The opposition met with here was very strong and severe fighting ensued. Owing to the necessity for maintaining strictest secrecy and the large number of batteries which move up during the last few days only a limited amount of registration could be carried out and much of the shooting was by map.

TANKS. Except on the left all the Tanks came up well on time and in one or two instances had to wait for the barrage to lift. Throughout the attack they kept well up to the barrage and rendered valuable assistance to the Infantry in suppressing strong points. During consolidation they patrolled the front and accounted for many enemy posts. All Tanks except two returned safely to our lines and the two disabled ones were subsequently salvaged. Communication with the Tank Commanders did not present any difficulties as it was all done personally. At least one case of the smoke grenade signal being observed and acted upon by the Tanks is recorded.

THE ATTACK. The task of forming up on the tape was carried out quietly and without hitch. When the barrage fell our men moved close up to the barrage and our casualties at this stage were not serious.



The enemy barrage did not come down until ZERO plus  $5\frac{1}{2}$  minutes by which time the whole of the attacking troops were clear.

(a) 13th Battalion advanced close up to the barrage ably supported by Tanks - During the advance several enemy machine gun nests were encountered, but these were effectively dealt with by Tanks, Bombers and Lewis Gunners and did not check the advance. During the 10 minutes halt just East of VAIRE WOOD, the new formation for the advance to the final objective was taken up without confusion. Little opposition was met with from this on and consolidation on the BLUE LINE was carried out without much interruption.

(b) 15th Battalion whose jumping off tape was very close to the enemy strong point at PEAR TRENCH met opposition from the very start. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulty in obtaining observation on PEAR TRENCH the artillery barrage fell too far over and allowed the enemy machine guns to come into action. The Tanks too, on account of the peculiar formation of the ground, missed the strong point. It therefore became a hand to hand infantry action and our troops made good use of the bayonet and bomb as was amply testified to by the number of enemy dead who were left on the field. Little opposition was met after this and the BLUE LINE was reached and consolidated according to programme. During consolidation fighting patrols moved out and aided by Tanks mopped up the enemy posts and Machine Gun nests which were inside our protective barrage.

(c) 16th Battalion was allotted the task of mopping up VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and for this purpose the Woods had been divided into four Sectors, each to be dealt with by one Company. The Battalion formed up on the tape line between the 13th and 15th Battalions and moved off well with the barrage. Considerable opposition was met with at certain parts of the wood but this was quickly overcome and in addition to the large batches of prisoners captured here, considerable numbers were left dead close to their strong posts. Much good bayonet work was done here.

14th Battalion. The task of this Battalion was to carry R.E. Stores and ammunition forward to pre-arranged dumps and then to dig a Support Line which had been taped out by the Engineers about 400 yards in rear of the Front Line. The troops formed up on the old Support Line and moved forward just in rear of the attacking waves, being well across NO MAN'S LAND before the enemy barrage came down. All went according to programme with the exception that one Company observing that the 13th and 15th Battalions had not connected on the BLUE LINE and that some opposition was coming from here, downed their tools and proceeded to fill the gap. The men worked excellently and an almost continuous trench of an average depth of 5 feet was soon excavated.

4th M.G. Company. Three Guns of 4th A.M.G. Company went forward with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions and were early in position in the BLUE LINE to cover consolidation. Two guns were also allotted to each of three strong points which were being constructed in the Support Line. The remaining four guns remained in Brigade Reserve.

4th A.L.T.M. Battery. Two Mortars were allotted to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and these went forward and established themselves in their respective lines but very little opportunity of coming into action was afforded them. The remaining two Mortars were held in Reserve. The Supply Tanks proved very useful in getting up ammunition for these.

4th Field Coy. A.E. Excellent work was done by the Engineers both prior to and during the operations. Amongst their many tasks were the siting and supervision of construction of the Strong Points in the Support Line and taping out this line, selection and marking of Mule and limber tracks, reconnaissance of enemy dugouts and defences.

198  
**COMMUNICATIONS.** Throughout the entire operations were excellent. The Brigade forward party went over with the first wave and established itself in the Sunken Road in VAIRE WOOD. All ground lines were cut but communication was speedily obtained by the "Loop set" and Lucas Lamp. Once the ground lines had been repaired connection was maintained throughout. In addition to the Brigade Forward Party each Battalion established a forward Report Centre with which they were at all time in touch. Runners did excellent work throughout, information to the progress of the battle was speedily brought back.

**AIRCRAFT.** Throughout the night aeroplanes were over our lines to drop the noise of Tanks. This proved very effective.

Contact planes were over and called for flares on the BLUE LINE.

Large flights were over the enemy lines at daylight bombing and Machine-Gunning any parties or movement seen.

Ammunition dropping planes were very busy and large quantities of S.A.A. were distributed over the entire forward system.

**MEDICAL.** On "Y"/"Z" night 8 stretcher bearers with stretchers reported to the R.M.O's. of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and 32 Bearers with stretchers reported to Staff Captain at the Quarry at C.12.b.8.4. A.D.S. and Motor Post were established at O.12.b.8.4. Casualties commenced to arrive shortly after ZERO and were dressed and evacuated per Motor Ambulance. About 6.a.m. there was a shortage of stretchers and casualties were arriving quicker than they were evacuated, at times there were up to 70 and 80 cases waiting at the A.D.S. A.D.M.S. was informed and a further supply of blankets and stretchers was sent up and allowed the Bearers to continue their work but there was still a congestion at the A.D.S. The 4th Field Company sent up two pontoon wagons which carried some of the more slightly wounded and on further representation the A.D.M.S. sent up Horse Drawn Ambulances which relieved things considerably. At about 4.p.m. there were no cases waiting at the A.D.S. and wounded were being evacuated as quickly as they arrived from the Front Line.

**ENEMY REACTION.** The enemy retaliation did not come down until Zero plus 5½ minutes and then it was thin and scattered, mostly between the old Front and Support Lines.

Later in the day heavy fire was directed against our new Front Line but no organised counter attack was launched and the enemy appeared to accept the situation. Considerable activity of Working Parties was reported by our patrols and listening posts during the night following the attack.

**ENEMY LOSSES.**

(a) Men. Severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy in PEAR TRENCH and in the woods but generally he surrendered freely. 14 Officers and 710 unwounded and 70 wounded prisoners were captured by the Brigade.

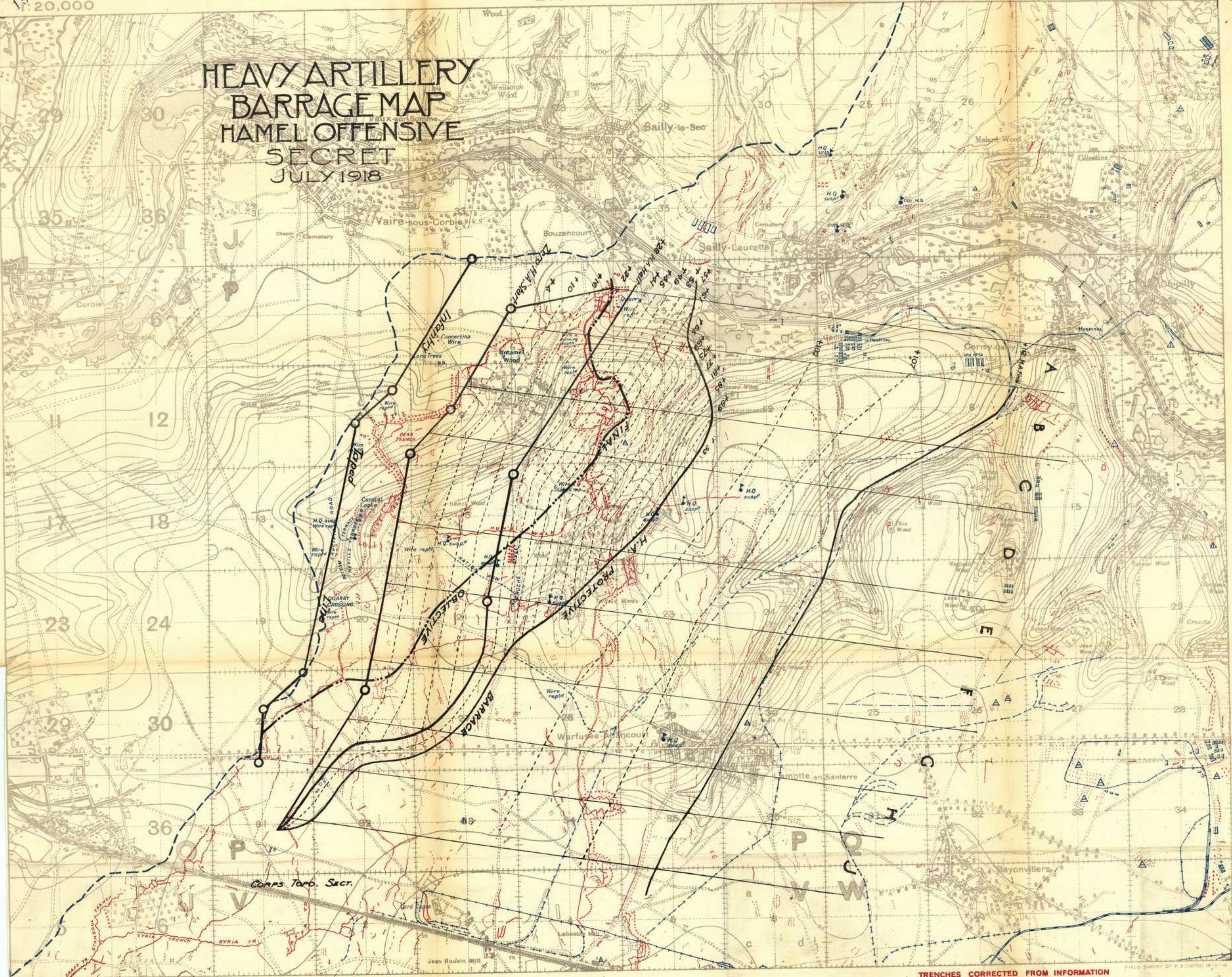
(b) Material. 12 Minenwerfers  
60 machine guns

in addition to large quantities of Rifles, S.A.A., Minenwerfer ammunition etc. were taken.

**ENEMY DEFENCES.** Very little defensive work appears to have been done in this area. The wire in many places was non-existent and where it did exist it did not prove a very serious obstacle. The trenches were roughly dug and badly undercut. Apparently no arrangements for sanitation had been made. Dugout accommodation was very limited and of a poor type.

**ATTACHED AMERICAN INFANTRY.** Two Companies of the 132nd Infantry Regt. United States Army were attached to the Brigade for the operation and were allotted one Company each to the 13th and 15th Battalions. These troops behaved magnificently throughout and proved themselves to be of excellent material. However as is only to be expected with new troops they were very inexperienced, were inclined to bunch, and very often their dash took them too close to our barrage.

# HEAVY ARTILLERY BARRAGE MAP HAMEL OFFENSIVE SECRET JULY 1918



Approximate British Front Line --- 22-6-18

Scale - 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

- 1 -

(1) ENEMY'S DEFENCES.

Up till recently the enemy has displayed little energy in the construction of forward defences opposite the Corps Front, and as yet there are no signs of new work in the immediate back areas at all.

During the past few weeks, however, there are increasing indications that he intends to develop a complete two line system with the usual saps, dugouts, and communication trenches. In certain areas the work is nearing completion and a considerable defence scheme is evidently contemplated, the tendency being to link up the already existing chains of rifle pits and incorporate them in the trench lines.

From the report of patrols, there is no doubt that wire obstacles do exist, but they appear to be hastily improvised and should not afford any great obstacle.

The only work on rear defences has been on the old French line, which has been cleaned out in places and wired. This should prove quite an effective line of resistance when the work is completed. Mined dugouts have been constructed in numerous places in the forward and battery areas, particularly in the sides of embankments for protection against our artillery fire.

(2) ORDER OF BATTLE.50th Reserve Division.

230th R.I.R.  
229th R.I.R.  
231st R.I.R.

The 50th Reserve Division came into the MEAULTE Sector at the end of May, relieving the 54th Reserve Division. Its southern boundary is the River ANCRE.

107th Division.

52nd R.I.R.  
227th R.I.R.  
232nd R.I.R.

This division relieved the 54th Division on 20/21st June in the MORLANCOURT sector.

43rd Reserve Division.

203rd R.I.R.  
201st R.I.R. (?)  
202nd R.I.R.

This division relieved the 24th Reserve Division in the SOMME sector on June 22/23rd, but it is probable that, unlike the latter division, it has 2 regiments north of the SOMME, not one, owing to the sideslipping further south.

77th Reserve Division.

332nd I.R.  
419th F.R.R.  
257th R.I.R.

This division relieved the 108th Division in the HAMEL Sector on 16/17th May. Its relief has been imminent since the beginning of the month.

108th Division.

137th I.R.  
265th R.I.R.(?)  
97th I.R.

This division relieved the Jager Division in the VILLERS ERETONNEUX Sector on 19/20th June and is due for relief.

Previous to this it had been in the HAMEL Sector, where it relieved the 9th Bavarian Reserve Division on April 30th, the relief of the Jager The relDivision being effected by sideslipping. For the first half of May the 2nd Bn., 265th R.I.R. was attached to the 107th R.I.R., 24th Reserve Division, north of the SOMME.

(3) ATTITUDE.

The enemy's general attitude is obscure in this area.

North of the SOMME, there seems little doubt that he is apprehensive of further operations on our part similar to those at VILLE-sur-ANCRE and north of SAILLY LAURETTE, and this nervousness has led to the hasty construction of a defence system during the past few weeks, with which he was content to dispense for so long. This and the appearance of trench mortars of heavier calibres point to a passive attitude, at any rate for the time being, though the absence of any rear organisations for defence seems to indicate that his present attitude is temporary.

South of the SOMME, the enemy's intentions are still more obscure and have been complicated by the recent sideslipping northwards, and the temporary withdrawal of the 265th R.I.R. from the 108th Division. This regiment was apparently the least shattered in the division and its withdrawal must have imposed a heavy strain on the two other and weaker regiments which had to hold their own sectors in addition, though there was an unconfirmed rumour that they had been reinforced by a battalion from another division.

To sum up, the attitude of the enemy is, at any rate for the present, purely defensive and he is apprehensive of our intentions. This attitude is abundantly disclosed by the frequent bombing of his own wire, amongst other signs of nervousness, and in general by the policy implied by his defensive works.

(4) 107th Division.

Engagements. After being on the Galician Front till 1917, the 107th Division proceeded to the Western Front. It has just arrived in the CAMBRAI area where our attack on the CAMBRAI front took place. On the 20th November, 1917, the 107th Division was drawn into the battle and lost heavily in prisoners. It took part in the German advance south of the CAMBRAI area on the 30th November and remained in the GONNELIEU sector till March of this year. It participated in the advance on the SOMME, on the 21st March and was relieved south of MERCATEL on the 20th April. After resting and training near CAMBRAI it came into line in the MORLANCOURT Sector on 16th May and remained in the line until the 23rd. It suffered heavily from our raids and artillery fire, particularly in our attack on VILLE-sur-ANCRE on the 18th May, when 150 prisoners were captured from one regiment alone. It went into rest near CAMBRAI until the 21st June when it again returned to the MORLANCOURT Sector.

Quality. The moral of the 107th Division is fair but it is not a good fighting division.

108th Division.

Engagements. The 108th Division was on the Eastern Front - GALICIA - till the end of 1917. At the beginning of April of this year it came into the line at WINTERBERG in the VOSGES and was relieved on the 13th April and went into rest at JUVENCOURT.

It came into line on the SOMME front near MARCELCAVE at the beginning of May and relieved the Jager Division by sideslipping northwards about May 18th. The 265th R.I.R. suffered heavily during its tour in the line, particularly in our operation on the 10th June.

It was last identified on the 22nd. inst. and is probably now relieved.

Quality. The moral of the 108th Division is good. As a fighting division it is not of the best as it has spent most of its time on the RUSSIAN Front.

43rd Reserve Division.

Engagements. The 43rd Reserve Division was first engaged in October, 1914, in the First Battle of YPRES. Part of the division remained in BELGIUM, proceeding to SERBIA about July, 1915. The remainder of the division was seriously engaged in the fighting about SOUCHEZ during the French offensive. One regiment lost 26 officers and 1320 men during the fighting. About the beginning of July elements of the division took part in the Mackensen offensive in POLAND, and one regiment, during 4 months, lost 63 officers and 3511 men.

After a short spell in SERBIA, the division returned to the Western Front, and was heavily engaged in the VERDUN fighting in February and March, 1916. It took part in the German counter-offensive in RUSSIA in June. In 1917 the 43rd Reserve Division took part in the fighting on the CHEMIN DES DAMES (July and August, 1917) and suffered severe losses. After another tour in RUSSIA it returned to the Western Front and took part in the LYS advance remaining in the line near FESTUBERT till the end of April. It went into rest near CAMBRAI and trained for 3 weeks and came into the line in the MORLANCOURT Sector about the 21st inst.

Quality. The 43rd Reserve Division has always been considered a good fighting unit. It is drawn from the depots of guard regiments and consequently contains "human material" of good quality.

In the end of 1917 it was used as a special counter-attack division. Owing however, to its many engagements and heavy losses, it has frequently been reconstituted.

198

77th Reserve Division.

Engagements. The 77th Reserve Division was first engaged on the Eastern Front taking part in the fighting at the ... It proceeded later in the year to GALICIA where it remained till the beginning of 1917, when it went into line on the RIGA front. In January, 1918, the division was transferred to the Western Front being in reserve in LORRAINE and later went into line in the WOEVRE. It moved up to the SOMME front in April, 1918, and went into the line on the 23rd of that month in the VILLERS BRETONNEUX sector where it suffered heavily in our counter-attack on the 24th April, both in casualties and prisoners. It was withdrawn at the end of May and rested till the 17th June when it was again in the line in the HAMEL Sector. It has suffered severely from our gas and artillery shoots.

Quality. The 77th Reserve Division is of poor quality and the moral is not good. One regimental commander was removed during April for giving vent to utterances prejudicial to moral.

108th Division

The 108th Division was on the Eastern Front ... At the beginning of April of this year it came into the line at WIMBERG in the VOEGES and was ... It was later in the line on the SOMME front near BARRIGUET ... The 108th R.I.B. suffered heavily during the ... It was last located ...

43rd Reserve Division

Engagements. The 43rd Reserve Division was first engaged in October, 1914, in the First Battle of YPRES ... The remainder of the division was seriously engaged in the fighting about ... One regiment lost 26 officers and 1500 men during the fighting. About the beginning of July elements of the division took part in the Mackerwan offensive in ... during a month, lost 65 officers and 3511 men. After a short spell in ... the division returned to the Western Front, and was heavily engaged in the VERDUN fighting in February and March, 1916. It took part in the German counter-offensive in ... in June, 1916, the 43rd Reserve Division took part in the fighting on the CHAMPAIGN DUE ... (July and August, 1917) and suffered severe losses. After another tour in ... it returned to the Western Front and took part in the LYS advance remaining in the line near ... in April. It went into rest near ... trained for 3 weeks and came into the line in the ... about the 1st July.

Quality. The 43rd Reserve Division has always been considered a good fighting unit. It is drawn from the best of ... and consequently contains "human material" of good quality. In the end of 1917 it was used as a special counter-attack ... Owing however, to its many engagements and heavy losses, it has frequently been reconstituted.

# PROBABLE DISPOSITIONS - OF ENEMY TROOPS - Between DERNANCOURT & VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

1-7-18

1 Com. 1 Batt

## RESERVES

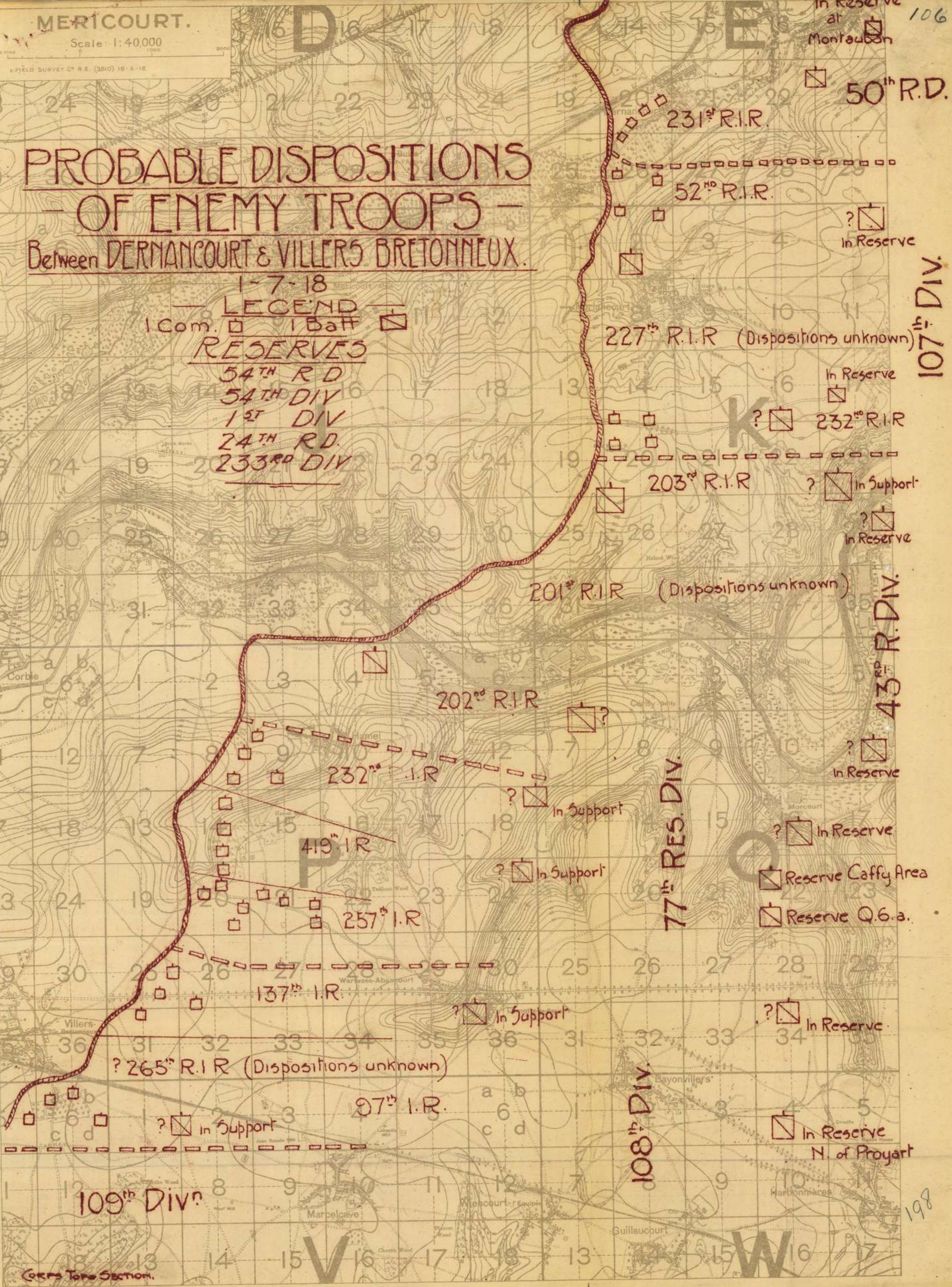
54th R.D.

54th DIV

1st DIV

24th R.D.

233rd DIV



In Reserve at Montauban 106

50th R.D.

107th Div.

43rd R.D. Div.

77th RES. DIV.

108th Div.



198

107



## APPENDIX

44. Pde. H.R.

4-7-18

We got away O.K. with the barrage only some of our guns were shooting short which prevented us following the main barrage sufficiently close to be able to prevent enemy putting his machine guns to work.

We are on our objective and in touch with both 13<sup>th</sup> & 44<sup>th</sup> Battalions.

We have occupied enemy trenches in P16b and our line runs through P16b 2.5. to P16b 4.1. to P16c 2.7.

The tanks did better work in the 44<sup>th</sup> Batt. sector than with us I saw no tanks tackle Pear trench and none of my officers saw them. We had a stiff fight for the Pear trench and that is where we got most of our casualties.

The Supply Tank dumped its load for us and got away safely.

We must have handled about 100 prisoners but they came from all directions and it is hard to say who got them.

Fritz fought fairly well in the Bear trench but our fellows crawled all over him.

There are about 50 Deadhuns in the Bear.

So far we have about 12 MGs and 2.8 inch mortars and other miscellaneous loot.

A 77 Gun is at approx K17 a 4.5. our chaps shot the Huns who were trying to get it away but it is too far out to get.

The aeroplane ammunition dropping worked OK.

all items belong to 55<sup>th</sup> Regt  
202<sup>nd</sup> Regt and 13<sup>th</sup> Regt.

I have lost Lieut Quater  
~~Spencer~~ killed, Capt Porter is  
fairly badly hit, Capt Carter, Lieut Rae  
Lt Black wounded a couple of  
officers we cannot trace so most  
likely they have been wounded.

Altogether I should say about  
80 Casualties, killed & wounded.

I am awaiting information  
about how the 14<sup>th</sup> digging is going on  
but as far as I can hear they  
have not got a swing on yet.

My strong point platoon  
was knocked out and Lt Black wounded  
and I cannot spare any men yet  
to do this.

Otherwise everything OK

Yours Respectfully  
J. M. [Signature]

195

C O P Y.4th Field Coy., A.E.  
4th July 1918.4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.Report No. 1 (5.30.a.m.)

1. Mule and Limber Tracks. By 12.30.a.m. wire had been cut and trenches filled in to our front line inclusive, thus completing mule and limber tracks shown on this Company's operation map.
2. Lieut. BUCKLER'S party selected S.P. at P.21.a.2.6. approx. with good field of fire forward. Infantry commenced digging at 4.10.a.m. No shelling or M.G. fire. Very little wire brought forward for wiring. Seven bays being dug. No casualties. 2nd Runner from Lieut. BUCKLER 5. a.m. S.P. is on reverse slope. 14th Battalion digging in on left front bit too close to front line. 15th Platoon ----- Both Platoon Officer PLAYER and sergeant casualties. Lieut. BUCKLER in charge of Platoon.  
No other reports in.

(Sgd) H. TOLLEY, Major.  
4th Field Coy. A.E.  
5.45.a.m.C O P Y.

Lieut. CARRICK reports reaching S.P. site at P.15.d.3.5. and started digging at 4.45.a.m. Digging completed 5.15.a.m. No casualties, no opposition. Front line on right seems to be dug in a little too close. Commenced wiring. Stores plentiful. Good field of fire.

Spr. MILLER reports reaching S.P. at P.16.a.central and setting out tape and getting infantry to dig at 4.a.m. This is in the Front Line. 14th Battalion digging in 250 yards in rear. Heavy shelling. Lieut. DAVIDSON missing and Cpl. STREET wounded. 3rd Division digging in 400 yards to left. Tanks most useful. Trench dug continuously 600 yards to the right. No wiring stores brought far enough forward.

6.30.a.m.

Lieut. BUCKLER reported back without casualties. He reports front line dug in on crest 500 yards E. and running N.E. direction. 6th Brigade digging in on crest to hill at Cross Roads at P.21.a.5.9. for front line. Field of fire from S.P. to front line very good.

(Sgd) H. TOLLEY, Major.  
4th Field Coy. A.E.  
6.45.a.m.

3.30.a.m.

Lieut. CARRICK'S party reported back without casualties. He reports that from a point 100 yards S. of HUNS WALK a more or less continuous trench 250 yards long runs from P.15.d.5.5. to P.15.d.1.1. A line of double apron fence 110 yards long about 100 yards in front. The Front Line is about 300 yards forward running approx. from P.16.c.1.4. to P.21.b.5.7.

9.a.m. Lieut. McLEAN reported back. Sgt. MACKAY severely wounded in back by our own shells. Lieut. McLEAN'S reconnaissance report attached. 2/Lieut. DAVIDSON found killed at P.8.d.3.3. 9.10.a.m. Lieut. WALKER selected dump sites at P.20.b.8.3. and P.15.a.8.4. The first site is at an old Hun trench, the second under a bank 10 feet high. Mule Tracks have been cleared and marked out with screw pickets and white painted arrows. The dump sites have been marked with sign boards. ~~2nd Corporal McDONALD wounded in right arm.~~

(Sgd) H. TOLLEY, Major,  
4th Field Coy. A.E.  
4/7/1918.

10.10.a.m.

C O P Y.

O. C.,  
4th Field Coy. A.E.

On morning of 4/7/1918 I reconnoitred the outskirts of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and parts of the woods themselves and beg to report :-

- At P.15.d.0.8. dugout with about 13 feet cover, room for 2 men.
- At P.15.c.5.8. 2 Small dugouts in Sunken Road. ....4th Brigade would occupy them.
- At P.15.c.15.70. 2 or 3 Small dugouts in Sunken Road.
- At P.15.c.0.0. Series of large holes. 14th Bn. digging H.Q.
- At P.14.d.3.3. deep dugouts 2 entrances connected by 40 feet gallery 6 feet by 3 feet.
- At P.14.d.3.4. As above but with only... 12' COVER.....
- At P.13.d.30.40. Also 20 feet drive
- At P.14.d.3.7. 9 feet drive.
- At P.14.d.4.8. 3 Enemy trench mortars
- From P.14.b.5.2. to P.14.b.6.4. in trench series of 2, 3 and 4 men dugouts more or less damaged
- In Terrace crossing P.9.c.0.4. seven or eight deep dugouts connected mostly about 10 feet down.
- At about P.8.d.4.5. several 12 and 15 feet drives in Sunken Road. 15th Bn. H.Qrs. cover on their dugouts varies from 10 to 20 feet.

(Sgd) A.G. McLEAN, Lieut.  
4th Field Coy. A.E.

## FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 18

Reference Sheet 62.D. B.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.  
VAUX 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters,  
1st July, 1918.

1. On a day and at an hour to be fixed the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidate on the Spur East of those Woods.  
The exact task allotted to the Brigade is shown on attached map "A".  
Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the Right will advance and capture and consolidate a line as indicated on the attached Map "A", and the 11th Brigade on the Left will capture the village of HAMEL and consolidate a position on the old British Line East of HAMEL (see attached Map "A").
2. Tasks.
  - (a) The 15th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.  
The 15th Battalion will attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".  
The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".  
The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 15th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.  
The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.
  - (b) The three platoons specially trained in the construction of Strong Posts will go forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves. The platoons supplied by 15th Battalion moving in rear of that Battalion and platoons supplied by 13th and 14th Battalions will move in rear of 13th Battalion.  
The Engineer Officers attached to these Platoons will determine the localities for Strong Posts to be constructed in the Support Line to final objective.
  - (c) The O.C., 4th A.M.G. Company will detail 3 guns to go over with each of 13th and 15th Battalions; 2 guns will be attached to and go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in (b) above. 4 Guns will remain in Reserve. Gun Crews with Guns &c. complete will report to the respective Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually.
  - (d) Two Trench Mortars are allotted to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions. T.M. Crews with Mortars will report to the Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually. The remaining two Trench Mortars will be held in Reserve.
  - (e) The 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions will be responsible for mopping up the areas respectively coloured Red, Blue and Yellow on the attached map marked "A".
3. American Troops.  
Five Companies of American Troops are allotted to the Brigade to take part in this operation - 1 Company is attached to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and 2 Companies to the 16th Battalion.
4. Brigade Battle Headquarters will be at O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry).

P.T.O.

5. Tanks. Will co-operate in these operations. The distributions of the Tanks allotted to this Brigade are as shown on attached diagram "C". Battalion Commanders concerned will make arrangements direct with Tank Unit Commanders for guiding Tanks to their positions of assembly and from there to infantry starting point.

6. The Infantry Jumping Off Line will be a taped line as indicated on attached Map "A". This tape will be put out by Units concerned on "Y"/"Z" night under supervision of Brigade Intelligence Officer.

7. Artillery.  
 (a) The artillery will put down normal harrassing fire, (in accordance with the programme lately instituted) with the exception of gas, from zero minus 8 minutes to Zero, to drown the noise of approaching tanks, who will leave their forming up line not less than 8 minutes before zero. The Tank Commander will make arrangements to ensure as accurately as possible synchronisation of arrival at the Infantry Taped Line.

(b) The actual barrage will drop at Zero on the "Start Line" shown on the attached map, and after remaining thereon for four minutes will advance by lifts of 100 yards at intervals of three minutes, as shown on the barrage map, (to be issued later), to the "HALT LINE" shown on the attached map "A" where there will be a pause of 10 minutes. After the pause the barrage will lift 100 yards at intervals of 4 minutes up to 400 yards beyond the BLUE LINE.

(c) On arrival at the "HALT LINE" a thick smoke screen will be built up to indicate the beginning of the 10 minutes halt. Eight minutes afterwards a thick smoke screen will again be built up to indicate that the advance is about to be resumed.

(d) After passing the BLUE LINE the barrage will advance at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes, to a line 400 yards beyond, where it will continue as a standing barrage to cover consolidation, for a period of 30 minutes.

(e) From zero hour on, a special programme of intense Counter-Battery action will be carried out.

8. Infantry Formations.  
 The 16th Battalion which is detailed for the capture and neutralisation of HAMEL and VAIRE WOODS will move in two waves supported by Tanks detailed for the purpose.

The Troops allotted for capture of final objective (13th and 15th Battalions and attached American Troops) will move in two waves and will be supported by special Tank formations which will move round the flank of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 14th Battalion will move in Artillery formation behind the assaulting troops at a sufficient distance to avoid being involved in initial fighting and will dig a Support Line in rear of BLUE LINE on a line which will be indicated by the establishment of the three Strong posts mentioned above. This Battalion will carry forward with it engineering material and ammunition. Special instructions concerning this are being prepared and will be issued later.

9. Special Task for 15th Battalion.  
 The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will detail 1 Company to co-operate with three Tanks allotted for the purpose of the capture of the "pear Shaped" Trench.

10. Flank Liaison.  
 Close Liaison must be maintained with the units co-operating in these operations on the right and left. The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 44th Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the left. The Commanding Officer, 13th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 21st Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the right. The Officers detailed to go with these parties will be responsible for keeping direction by compass bearing.

Page 3.

11. Synchronisation of Watches. Watches will be synchronised at 8.p.m. and 1 hour before Zero Hour on "Y"/"Z" night. Units will send an Officer to Brigade Headquarters for this purpose.
12. Signalling. Brigade Advanced Report Centre will be established at P.8.c.2.2. in the first instance. A party under Lieut. S.M.LARKINS will move forward with the Reserve Battalion (14th Battalion) and establish Brigade Forward Station at P.15.c.3.8. (approx.).
13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*R.W. Lovell*

Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3 p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -

1. 4th Aust. Division.
- 2 - 4. War Diary.
5. G.O.C.
6. Brigade Major.
7. Staff Captain.
8. 13th Battalion.
9. 14th Battalion.
10. 15th Battalion.
11. 16th Battalion.
12. 4th A.M.G. Company.
13. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.
14. 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
15. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 8th Tank Battalion.
18. 4th Field Coy. A.E.
19. 4th Aust. Div. Artillery.



OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.  
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.  
2nd July, 1918.

1. Tank Signals from Tanks to Infantry.
  - (a) "Infantry come on" Green and White Flag.
  - (b) "I am out of action" Red and Yellow Flag.
  
2. Infantry Signals to Tanks.
  - (a) Steel helmets on rifles held up perpendicularly mean "There is a point that the Infantry requires the Tanks to deal with".
  - (b) The firing of No. 27 Grenades on to or in the direction of a front indicates to the Tanks that such is a place required by the Infantry to be dealt with by Tanks.
  
3. Signals to Aeroplanes.

Contact aeroplanes will call for the show of ground flares to indicate the whereabouts of Infantry at Zero plus 90 minutes. Contact aeroplanes will sound a Klaxon Horn and fire very lights to so call. Commanding Officers must ensure that all ground flares are not lighted at one time as it may be difficult for aeroplanes to pick them up in the first instance. Arrangements must therefore be made that flares issued are so used that the infantry will be able to answer a number of calls.
  
4. Spare Lewis Guns.

A dump of spare Lewis Guns is being arranged at Zero forward dumps. Replacements required by Battalions will be made on requisition to Brigade: it must be borne in mind however that the Brigade has to account strictly for all issues of Lewis Guns to Battalions from dumps.
  
5. Communications.
  - (a) Previous to Zero Hour two metallic overland circuits will be established from Brigade Headquarters to Advanced Report Centre. A visual station will also be established at the Advanced Report Centre to work to the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.) and later, to work forward. Power Buzzer and Amplifier communications will also be established between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre. The Popham panel will also be set up at Advanced Report Centre for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. Rockets will also be used between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre.
  - (b) The forward party will move with the 14th Battalion and will lay two metallic circuits from the Advanced Report Centre to the Brigade Forward Station which will probably be established at P.15.c.3.8. or in that vicinity. The site will be marked by a rectangular Blue and white flag. A Lineman and Runner relay post will be established in the hostile front line system but the exact location will depend on circumstances.
  - (c) When the Brigade Forward Station is established it is expected that the following communications will be available to the rear :-
    - i. Two metallic message and speaking circuits to Advanced Report Centre.
    - ii. Wireless (Loop set) to Brigade Headquarters.
    - iii. Visual to Advanced Report Centre and Divisional Visual Station.
    - iv. Rocket to Advanced Report Centre.
    - v. Runner to Advanced Report Centre.
  - (d) When the Battalion Forward Command Posts are finally established two metallic lines will be laid by Battalion personnel from their position to the Brigade Forward Station. Two linemen from the party laying the lines will be kept at the Brigade Forward Station for the maintenance of their own circuits. Each Battalion

P.T.O.

will also send in two Runners to the Forward Station who will remain there for duty.

(e) Battalions will be supplied with Pigeons and Rockets. The latter must be fired to the Advanced Report Centre and not to the Brigade Forward Station.

(f) Units will also endeavour to get in touch with the Brigade Central Visual Station at P.8.c.2.2., or, failing that, the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.).

(g) Popham panels will be set up at Battalion Command posts for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. The code will be found in S.S.135 Appendix "B".

(h) Although every effort will be made to do so it is not expected that the telephone lines will be able to be satisfactorily maintained owing to their length and the absence of shelter for the establishing of lineman posts. The necessity for brevity, therefore, must be impressed on all concerned with the originating of messages as the alternative methods of communication, compared with speech, are necessarily slow and tedious.

(i) All lines laid must be at least 50 yards apart between test points and Signal Offices.

(j) An increased supply of pigeons may be available but is not to be counted on. If possible pigeon stations will be established at the Advanced Report Centre and the Brigade Forward Station

(k) Six visual men and eight runners will be supplied by Units as under :-

13th Battalion	2 runners	1 visual man.
14th "	2 "	2 " "
15th "	2 "	1 " "
16th "	2 "	2 " "

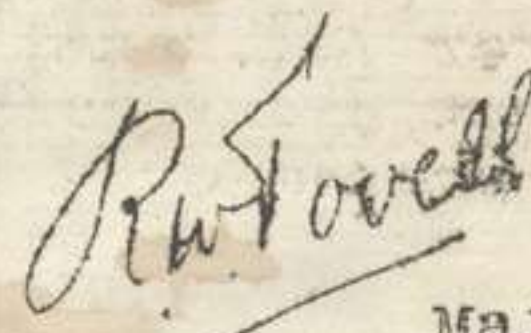
This personnel will report to Brigade Signal Officer at 2.p.m. on the 2nd instant.

#### 6. American Troops.

The American Companies attached to Battalions may be divided up and portions thereof attached to our Companies provided that such dividing up shall not divide the American Companies into smaller Units than Platoons.

#### 7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7 a.m. through Signals.



Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution -  
Normal.

198  
SECRET.

Copy No.....

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2.  
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.Brigade Headquarters.  
2nd July, 1918.

## 1. PRISONERS.

(a) Brigade Collecting Station will be established at the QUARRY (Brigade Headquarters).

(b) Prisoners sent back by units must be properly escorted and not merely sent towards the rear as has occasionally happened on previous operations.

(c) Officers and N.C.O's. only will be searched by a responsible Officer and all documents and maps taken from them immediately after capture. These will be sent at once to Brigade Headquarters.

## 2. DOCUMENTS.

Three, or at least two, reliable N.C.O's. or men will be detailed by each Battalion Commander for the purpose of searching dugouts, trenches and enemy dead for documents and maps, etc. All such documents, maps, etc. will be forwarded without delay to the I.C. Officer at Brigade Headquarters.

3. 16th Battalion will detail Capt. D.S.AARONS, M.C. to be stationed at A.D.S. at O.15.a.5.7.. This Officer will interrogate our own slightly wounded as to the progress of the battle, opposition met with, and any other useful information. Any information so gained will be transmitted to 4th Aust. Division, 4th, 6th and 11th Brigades by priority telegram.

## 4. AEROPLANE SIGNALS.

(a) Counter attack aeroplanes will indicate any counter-attack spotted by dropping a parachute flare over where the counter-attack is developing. This flare remains suspended for about 15 minutes. In the daytime it emits a good deal of smoke.

(b) In addition to the usual unit Ground sheets the Units hereunder indicated will display on the ground close to its ground sheet close to its Headquarters a number composed of white calico as under :-

	Unit.	Number.
	13th Battalion	6
	16th "	7
	15th "	8
	14th "	9

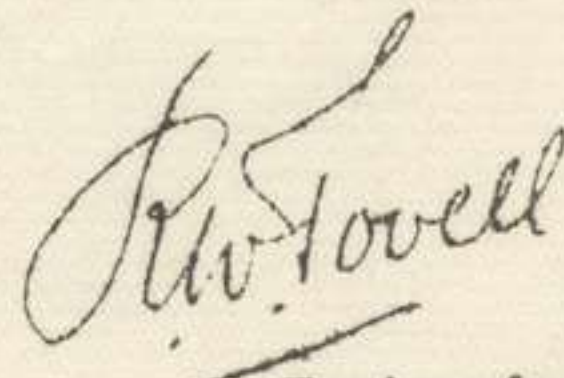
The above material will be supplied by Signals.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS.

A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at O.24.d.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Brigades, Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after Zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Brigade Headquarters and each Brigade Forward Station.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 3.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -  
Normal.

Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Administrative instructions issued in connection with  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.  
 Reference Sheet 62.D. 1/40,000. Brigade Headquarters.  
30/6/1918.

1. Supplies for distribution to the man.

The following will be drawn at Rear Brigade Headquarters on morning of 1st July. Grenades are at present undetoned.  
Ammunition.

	13th Bn.	14th Bn.	15th Bn.	16th Bn.	T.M.Bty.
S.A.A.	75000	75000	100000	100000	-
S.A.A. (A.P.)	1000	1000	1000	1000	-
Grenades No.5 or 23	640	640	840	840	240
" " 27	450	-	450	600	-
" " 34 (Egg)	750	750	950	950	100
" " 36	600	200	600	600	-
S.O.S. Flares	12	12	12	12	-
Red Ground Flares	150	150	150	150	-
Solidified Alcohol, tins	100	100	100	100	15
Message Rockets	10	10	10	10	-
Wirecutters	30	10	30	30	-
Waterbottles	400	400	600	560	40

The following will be drawn from R.E.Dump at FOUILLOY -

Picks	200	200	250	250	-
Shovels	200	200	250	250	-
Sandbags	1500	1500	2000	2000	250
Tape, yards	750	750	750	750	-
Illuminated signs (Bn. & Coy.H.Q.)	As provided			As provided.	

2. Supplies to be taken forward by Supply Tank.

One supply Tank is detailed for 13th Battalion and one for 15th Battalion. The following load will be carried by each Tank -  
 120 coils barbed wire.  
 120 long screw pickets.  
 240 short screw pickets.  
 50 sheets corrugated iron.  
 50 petrol tins filled with water.  
 150 T.M. Bombs.  
 10 boxes S.A.A.

The whole of this material (less S.A.A. and Petrol Tins) is at present in neighbourhood of Supply Tanks at ~~N.13.d.central~~.  
 13th and 15th Battalions will each provide - 0.13.a.4.2

- (a) 50 petrol tins filled with water.
- (b) 10 boxes S.A.A.
- (c) Loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men who will load Tanks by Noon on 1st July.
- (d) Guide to report to O.C. Supply Tanks at 51st Battalion Headquarters at O.6.b.7.2. (Square at HAMELET - opposite Church) at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.
- (e) Unloading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men to meet and unload Tank at ultimate destination.
- (f) For marking of Tank with Battalion colours by noon on July 1st.

Ultimate destination of Supply Tanks will be approximately -  
 13th Battalion Tank - P.15.d.2.2.  
 15th " " " P.15.b.8.8.

Guides provided must be capable of guiding Tanks to this approximate position.

3. Supplies to be carried forward by 14th Battalion and dumped in vicinity of Support Line.

These are at present equally distributed between 2 forward dumps at P.13.d.8.6. and P.8.c.5.4. respectively :-

- (a) Posts fitted for A.A. Defence - 12.
- (b) Chloride of Lime - 4 barrels.
- (c) Petrol tins filled with water - 150.
- (d) Sandbags - 10,000.
- (e) Barbed wire - 220 coils.
- (f) Screw pickets, Long 500; Short 1000.
- (g) S.A.A. - 200000.
- (h) Grenades No. 36 - 1500.  
No. 27 - 1000.  
No. 5 - 2000.

Supplies (a), (b) and (c) will be taken in any case, and as much of balance as possible. All R.E. material is made up in one man loads. All grenades in these dumps are detonated.

4. Additional S.A.A. will be taken forward by Fighting Tanks and also by aeroplane.
5. Rations and Water.
  - (a) Fighting Troops will take with them the rations for Zero day plus iron rations.
  - (b) One section pack mule train is being made available for each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions for "Z" / "Z" plus 1 night. Units will notify Brigade by Noon on "Y" day of time and place they require these to report.
  - (c) Fighting Troops will each carry 2 filled waterbottles.
  - (d) Waterbottles and iron rations for attached American troops will be made available.
  - (e) A rum ration has been authorized for "Y"/"Z" and "Z" / "Z" plus 1 nights and will be issued at discretion of Unit Commanders.
6. Medical.

Proposed R.A.P.'s.

13th Battalion	at	P.19.b.2.3.
14th "	"	P.8.c.
15th "	"	P.8.c.
15th "	"	P.8.d.central.

14th Battalion will ultimately establish R.A.P. clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.

A.D.S. - Quarry in O.12.b.8.4.

Motor post. " " "

Stretcher Bearers - 8 additional complete with stretchers to report to R.M.O. of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions, at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night.

*Respectively*

- 32 complete with stretchers to report to Staff Captain Brigade Headquarters QUARRY at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night.

Marking - Units will issue to each man a small strip of cloth or tape to be tied to rifle to draw attention to Casualties lying in crops &c.
7. Prisoners. Line of evacuation will be via Brigade Headquarters at Quarry in O.12.b.9.5. 20 Military police will be available there to conduct to P.O.W. Cage at about O.5.c.7.7.
8. American attached Troops. Additional Sandbags, Picks and Shovels are being made available for American Troops.
9. Casualties. American casualties are to be reported separately from Australian. Units will arrange to have representatives at A.D.S. or other centres to keep records of casualties.

Page 3.

10. Stragglers posts are being established. Hot drinks and food are available at each. Locations will be issued later.
11. Cemeteries - See separate Memo.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Thomson*

Captain.  
Staff-Captain.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at 10 p.m.

Distribution -

1. G.O.C.
2. Brigade Major.
3. Staff Captain.
- 4 & 5. 13th Battalion.
- 6 & 7. 14th Battalion.
- 8 & 9. 15th Battalion.
- 10 & 11. 16th Battalion.
12. 4th T.M. Battery.
13. 4th Aust. Division.
14. 4th M.G. Battalion.
15. 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
18. A.D.M.S.
19. A.P.M.
20. Tank Corps.
21. Pack Transport Troop
22. O.C., Supply Tanks.
23. Div. Train.
24. 4th Field Coy.
- 25 - 27 War Diary.
- 28 - 30 Spare.

Addendum to Administrative instructions issued with  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.  
2nd July, 1918.

1. Add to para. 1.

The following may be drawn at rear Headquarters on 2/7/1918 :-

- (a) New S.O.S. Flares (3 Green).
- (b) Solidified Alcohol - 100 tins additional per Battalion.
- (c) Message Rockets - 10 to Brigade Headquarters.
- (d) Wirecutters.
- (e) Food Containers - 10 each for 13th, 14th and 15th Bns.
- (f) Iron Rations, Waterbottles, Picks, shovels and Sandbags will be available for attached American troops during afternoon and will be drawn as follows :-

	13th Bn.	14th Bn.	15th Bn.	16th Bn.
Picks	120	120	120	-
Shovels	120	120	120	-
Iron Rations	120 240	120 240	120 240	240 480
Waterbottles	120 240	120 240	120 240	240 480.

- (g) 1 Box Very Lights may be drawn by each Battalion.
- (h) 300 rounds revolver ammunition per Battalion; 100 to T.M. Battery.

2. Add to para. 3.

Amended location of forward dumps is -  
Ammunition - P.13.d.15.40. and P.8.c.5.6.  
R.E. Stores - P.13.d.35.35. and P.14.a.05.90.

Load to be carried over by 14th Battalion will be as follows -

	Material.	Men required.
Chloride of Lime	4 barrels	8
Petrol tins filled	150	75
A.A. Posts	6	12
Sandbags	5000	50
S.A.A.	70000	70
Grenades No. 36	1500	63
© " " 27	500	21
© <u>Note.</u> Bursterns accompany but are not in No.27 Grenades.		
Grenades No. 5	2000	84
Coils Wire	100	100
Long Screw Pickets	250	50
Short " "	500	50
		<u>583</u>

14th Battalion will also provide themselves with two large white "N", arms 6 feet in length, to display near dumps at P.15.b.7.7. and P.15.d.2.2. as signal to aeroplanes carrying S.A.A.

3. Add to para. 7.

Prisoners are not to be used for stretchers Bearing unless the position absolutely warrants.

4. Add to para. 10.

- (a) Location of Straggler Posts -
  - No. 1 I.33.b.2.2.                      No. 3 O.9.a.8.3.
  - No. 2 O.2.b.5.3.                        No. 4 O.1.c.2.5.
  - No. 5 N.6.a.5.5.
- (b) Straggler Collecting Station - N.6.c.9.5.

5. 16th Battalion will detail 18 other ranks from American Reserve Company to report to O.C. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery by 8.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night and to be used for carrying purposes.

Issued at 7.a.m. through Signals.

*H. Thomson*  
Captain.  
Staff-Captain.  
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution -  
Normal.

FINAL OBJECTIVE

LEGEND

Expected main centres of resistance

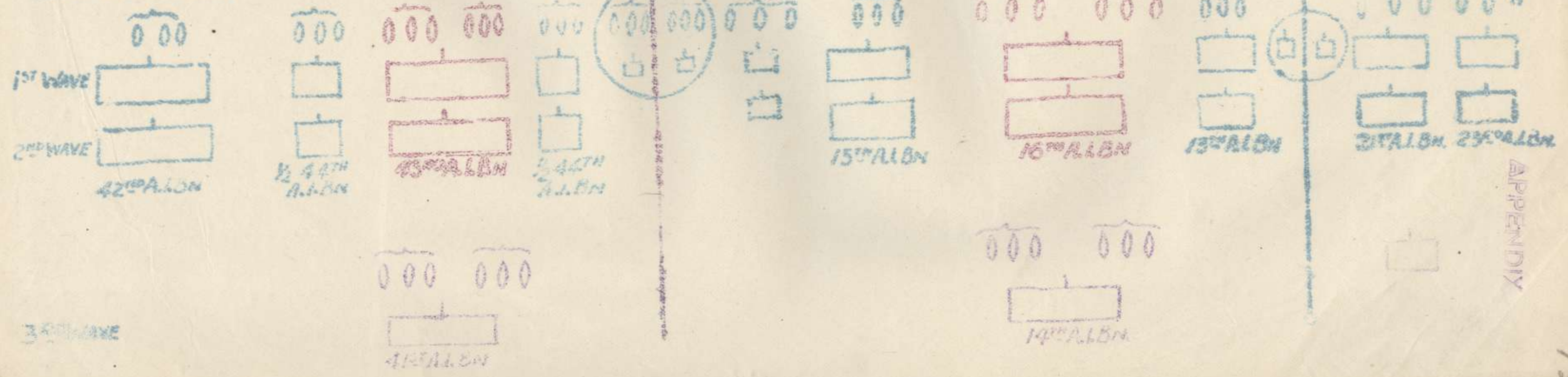
Single tanks

RED - Troops & tanks detailed for reduction of main centres of resistance.

GREEN - Troops detailed for capture of final objective

Purple Reserves

In Green circle: Liaison units moving up to blue line.



APPENDIX



1918  
1: 20,000.

LEGEND

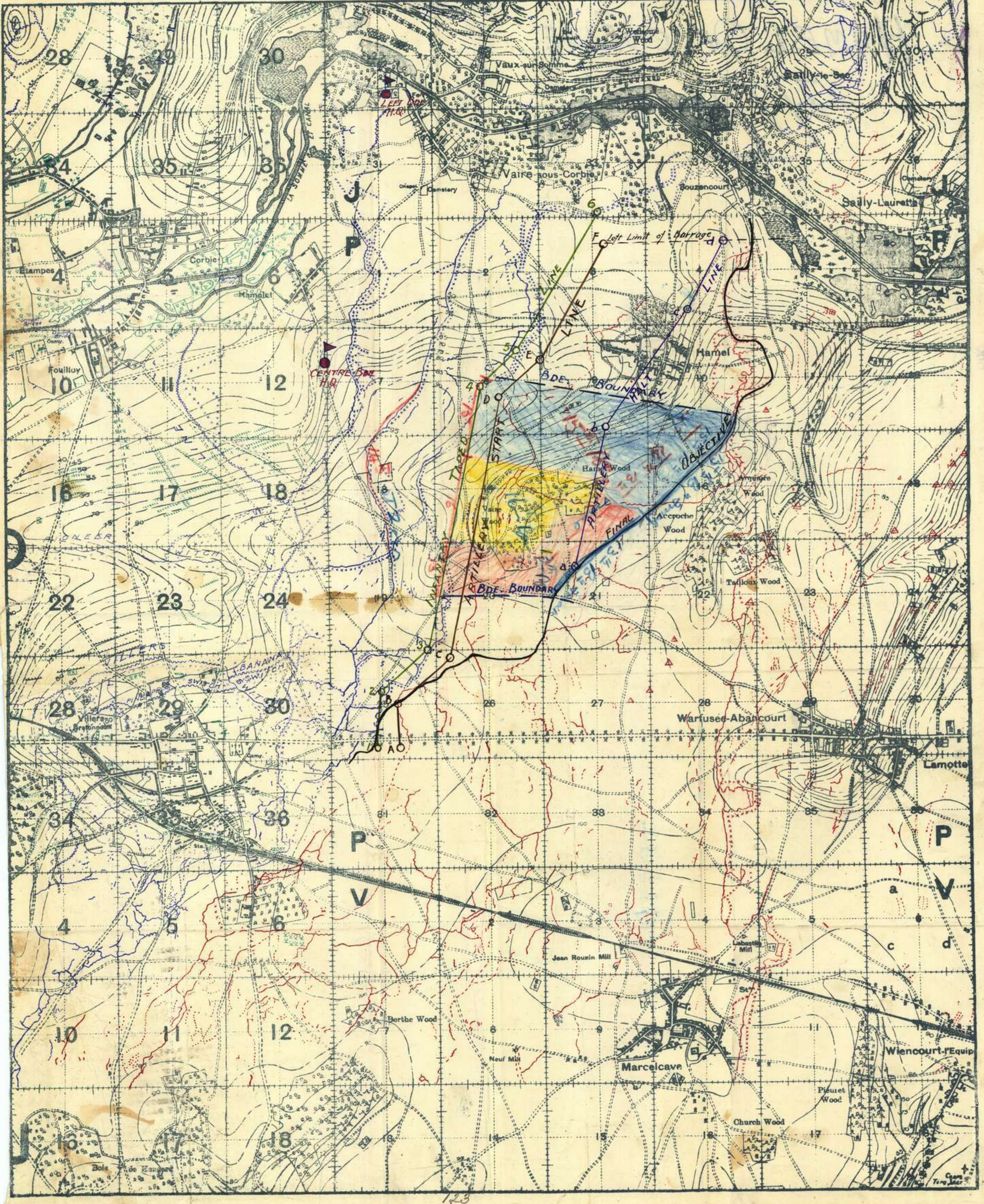
-VAUX-

123

CORRECTIONS TO GROUND DETAIL  
SHOWN IN GREEN.

	BRITISH	ENEMY		BRITISH	ENEMY
Trenches			New Roads		
Rifle Pits			Light Railways		
Boys reported burnt			Broad Gauge		
Machine Guns			Trench Markers		
Wire			Organized Shell Holes		
Bridges			A.A. Gun		
Footbridges			Dumps		
			Munition Areas		
			Headquarters		

BRITISH TRENCHES corr. to 5.6.18  
 ENEMY " " 4.6.18  
 SECRET COPY No 72



198

WAR LARKY

SECRET  
COPY

BRITISH TRENCHES GOVT. TO 2-8-18  
ENEMY

LEGEND

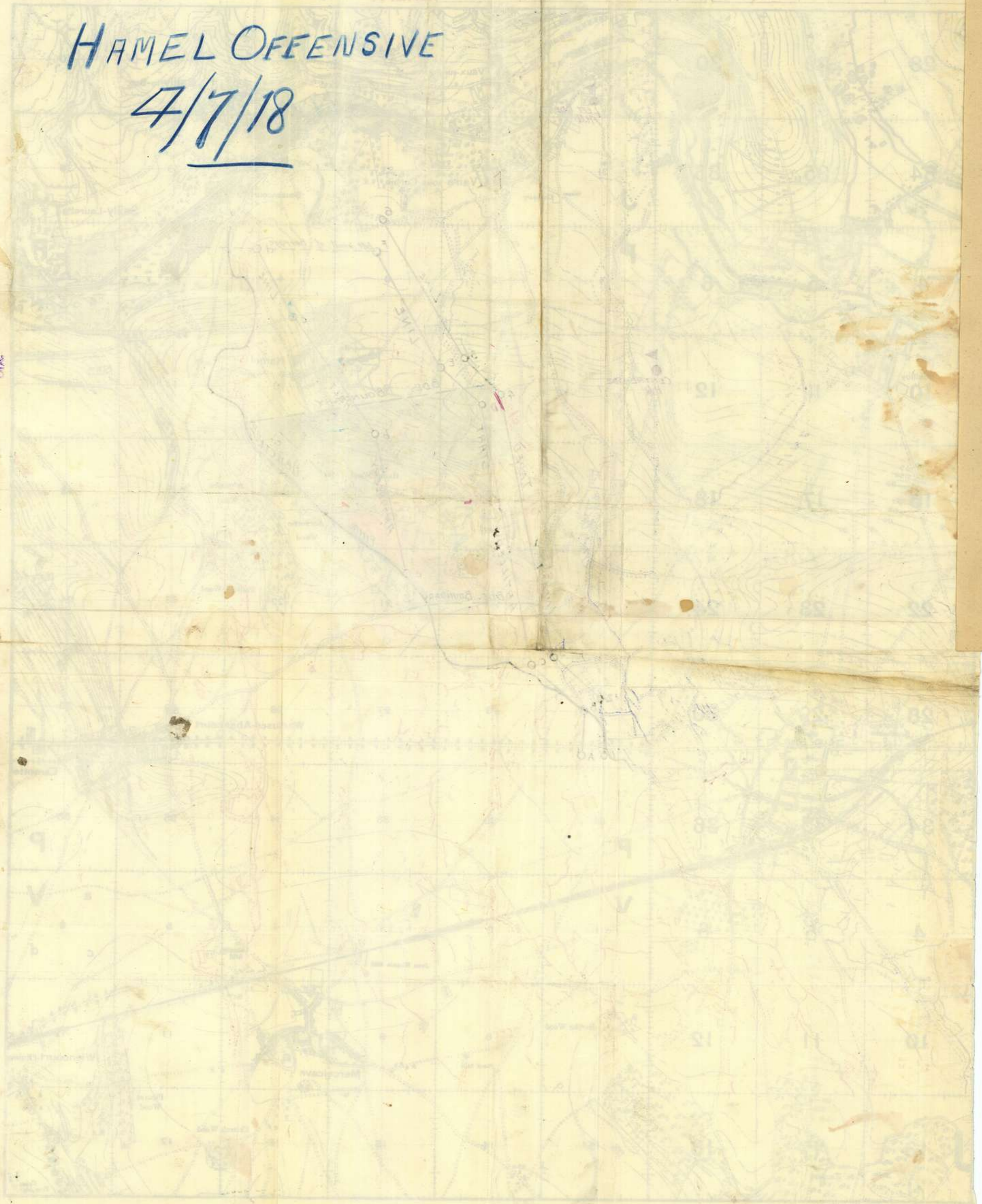
00000

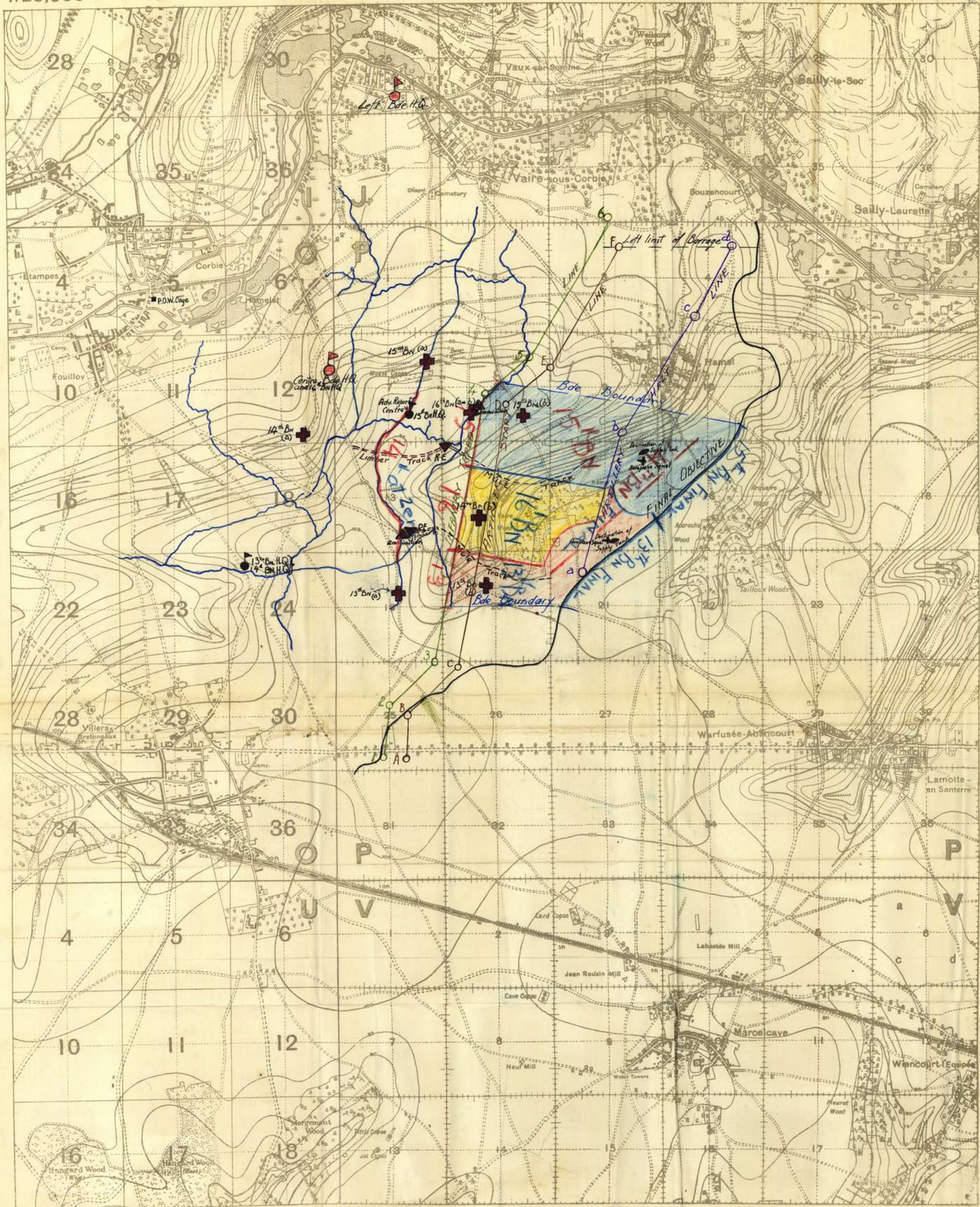
# HAMEL OFFENSIVE

7/7/18

DIX

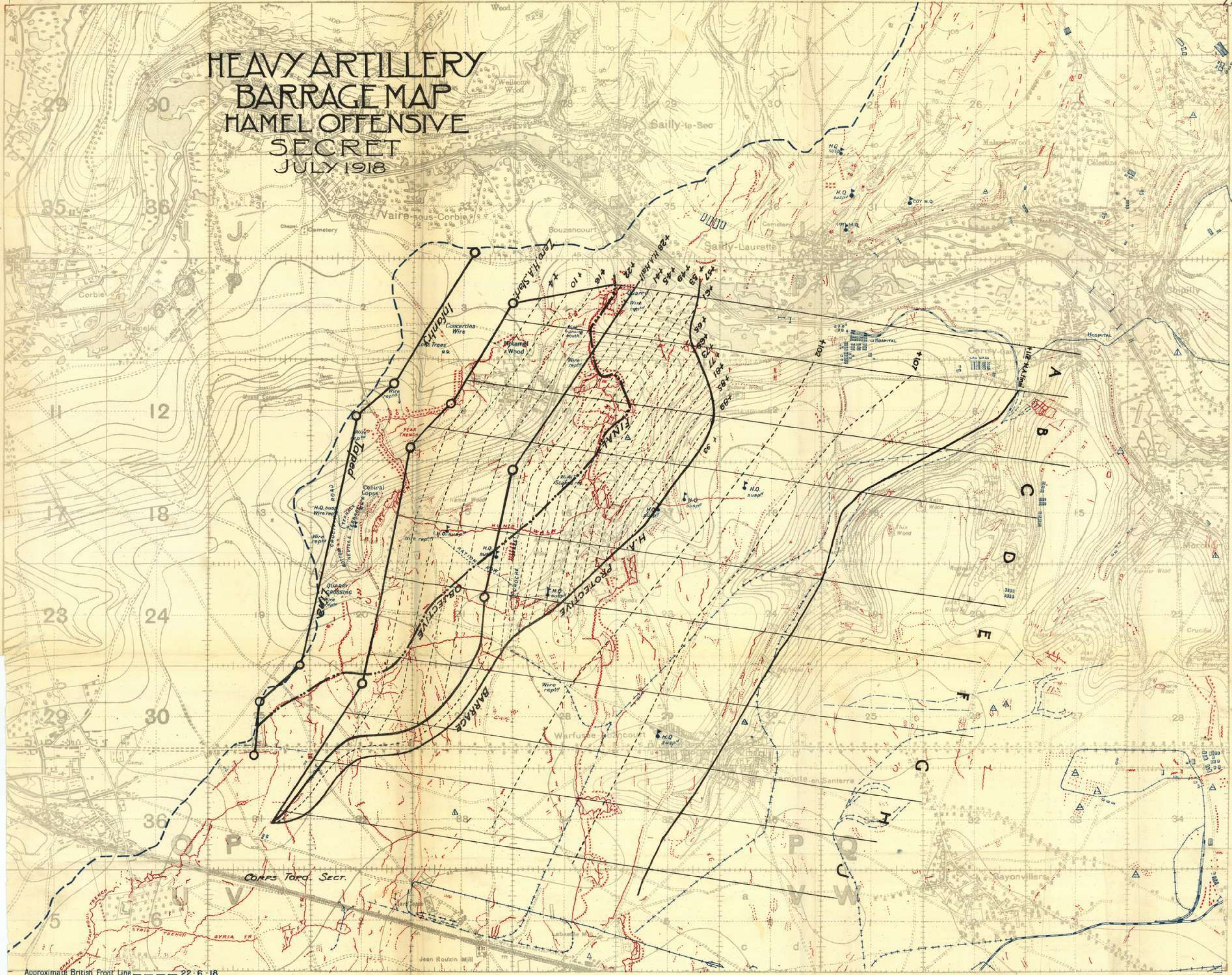
APPEND





1:20,000

**HEAVY ARTILLERY  
BARRAGE MAP  
HAMEL OFFENSIVE  
SECRET  
JULY 1918**



Approximate British Front Line 22-6-18

Scale 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

1:20,000

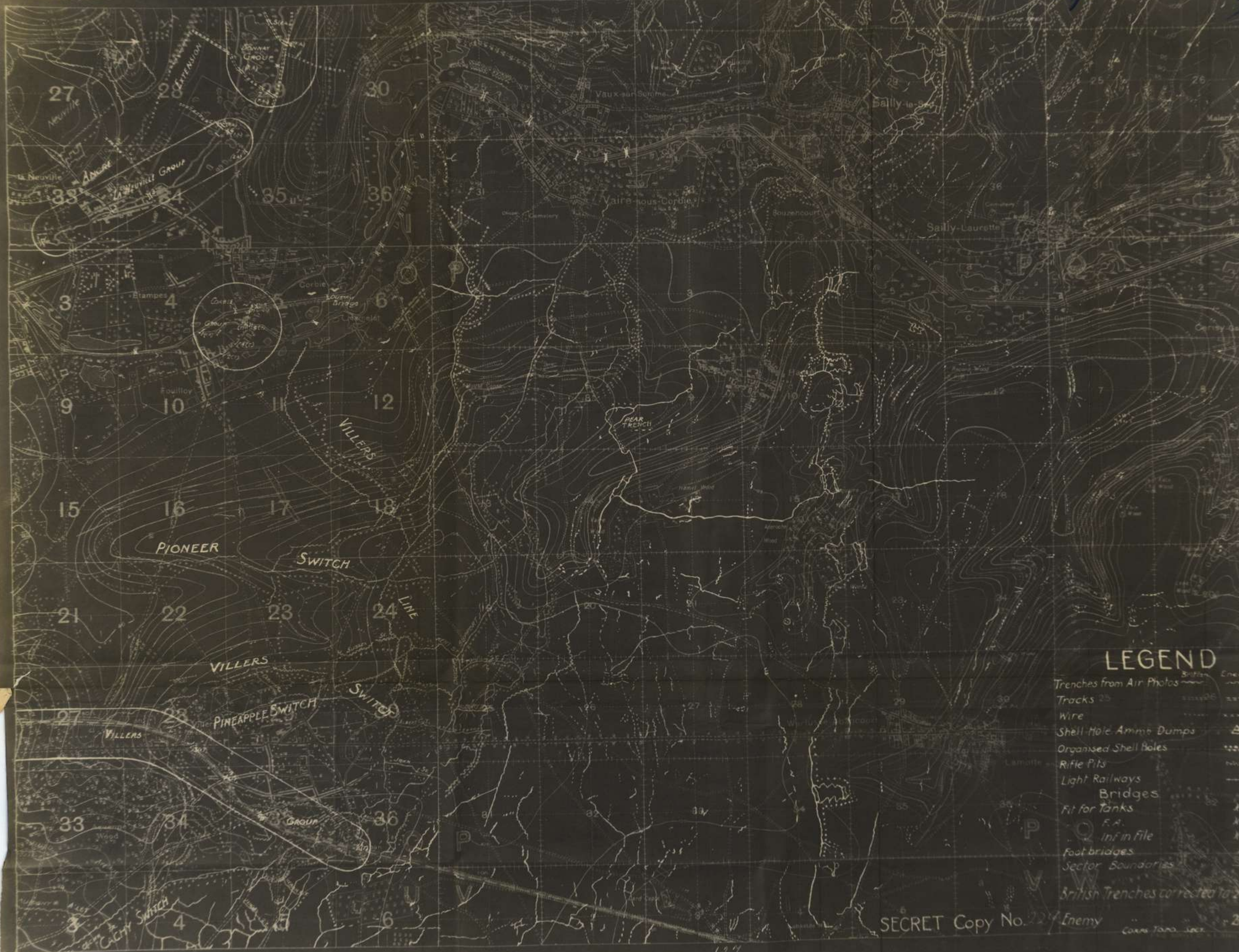
# LA NEUVILLE

198

Parts of 82°14'W 82°14' E, 82°14'W & 82°15' E

EDITION I

126



## LEGEND

- Trenches from Air Photos British Enemy
- Tracks
- Wire
- Shell Hole Ammo Dumps
- Organised Shell Holes
- Rifle Pits
- Light Railways
- Bridges
- Fit for Tanks
- F.A.
- Inf in file
- Foot bridges
- Sector Boundaries
- British Trenches corrected to 20-6-48
- Enemy

SECRET Copy No. 22

Scale: 1:20,000

127

198  
1:20,000

# LA NEUVILLE

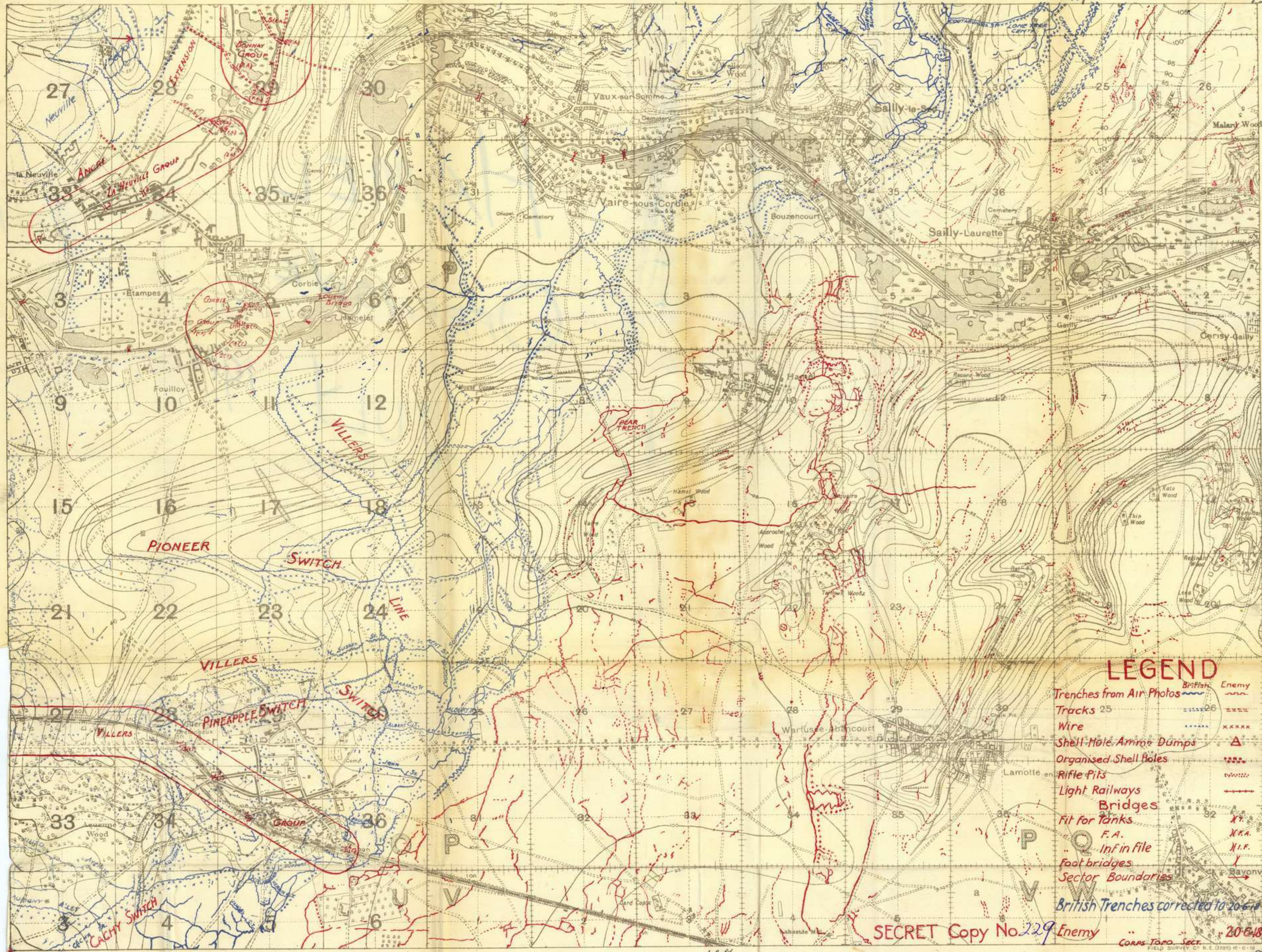
198

Parts of 62°N.W. 62°N.E. 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

127

EDITION I.

127



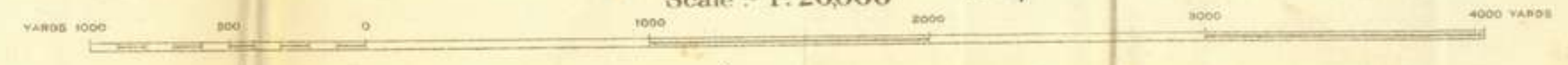
## LEGEND

- |                                       |         |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Trenches from Air Photos              | British | Enemy |
| Tracks 25                             | .....   | ..... |
| Wire                                  | .....   | XXXXX |
| Shell Hole Ammo Dumps                 | ▲       |       |
| Organised Shell Holes                 | .....   |       |
| Rifle Pits                            | .....   |       |
| Light Railways                        | .....   |       |
| Bridges                               | .....   |       |
| Fit for Tanks                         | X       |       |
| F.A.                                  | X.F.A.  |       |
| Inf in file                           | X.I.F.  |       |
| Foot bridges                          | .....   |       |
| Sector Boundaries                     | .....   |       |
| British Trenches corrected to 20.6.18 |         |       |
| Enemy                                 |         | ..... |

SECRET Copy No. 229

20.6.18  
CORPS TOPOG. SECT.

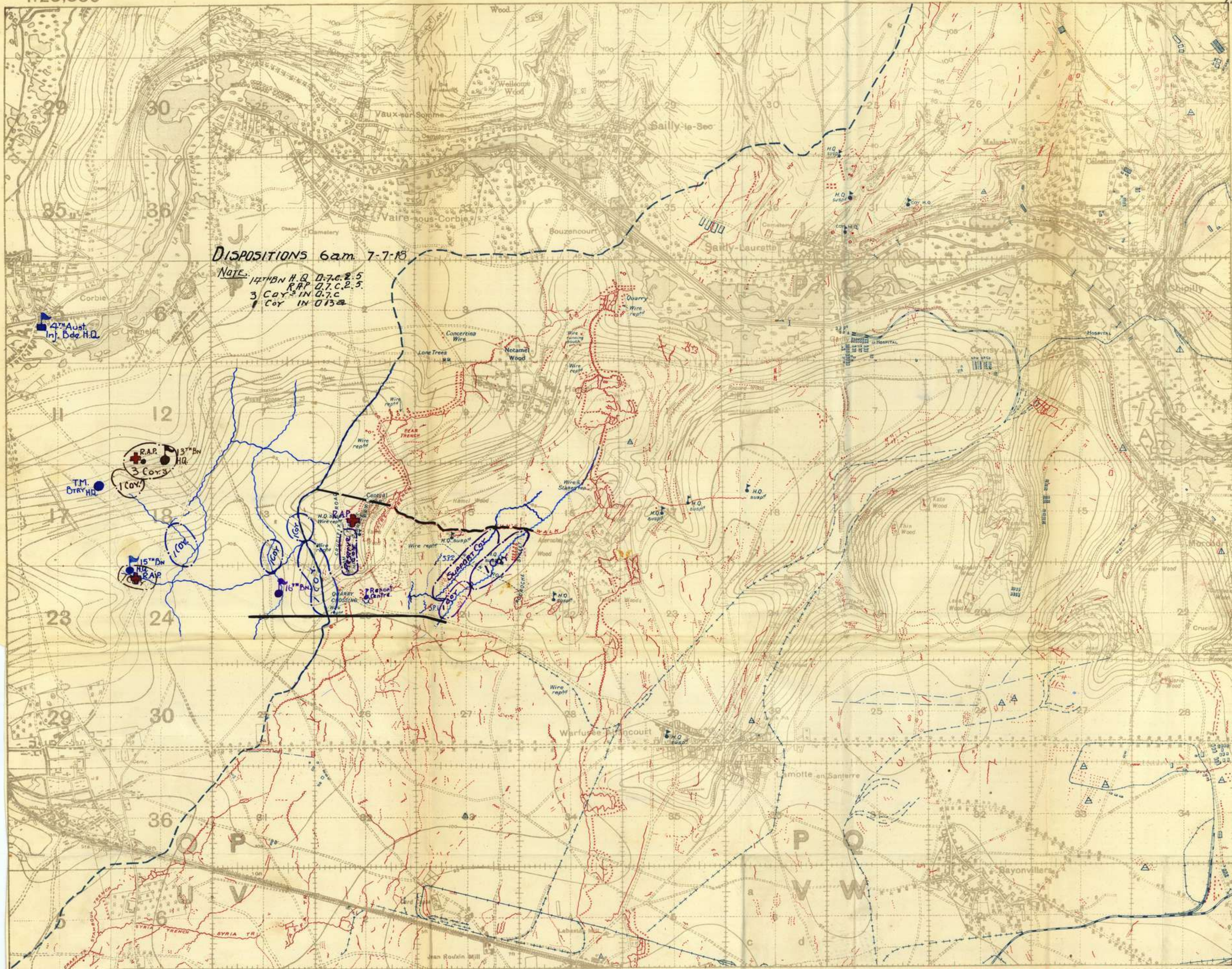
Scale: 1:20,000



HAMEL

OFFENSIVE

JULY 1918



DISPOSITIONS 6am 7-7-18

NOTE: 14<sup>th</sup> BN H.Q. D.7.C.2.5  
R.A.P. D.7.C.2.5.  
3 COYS IN D.7.C.  
1 COY IN D.13a

4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.

R.A.P. 13<sup>th</sup> BN H.Q.  
3 COYS  
1 COY

15<sup>th</sup> BN H.Q.  
7 COYS  
1 COY

H.Q. R.A.P.  
1 COY

SUPPORT COY.  
1 COY

Approximate British Front Line 22-6-18

Scale - 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

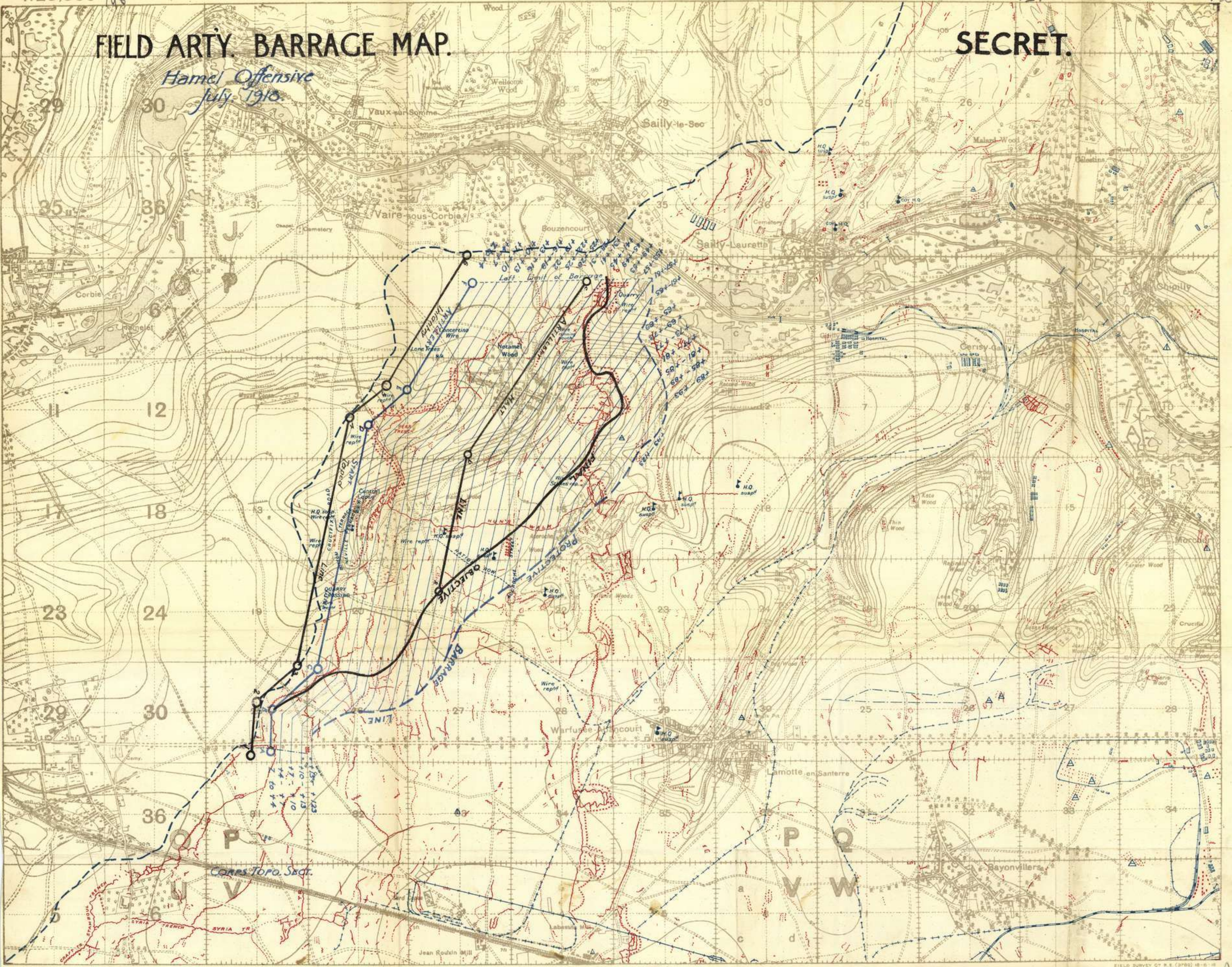
128



# FIELD ARTY. BARRAGE MAP.

*Hamel Offensive  
July 1918*

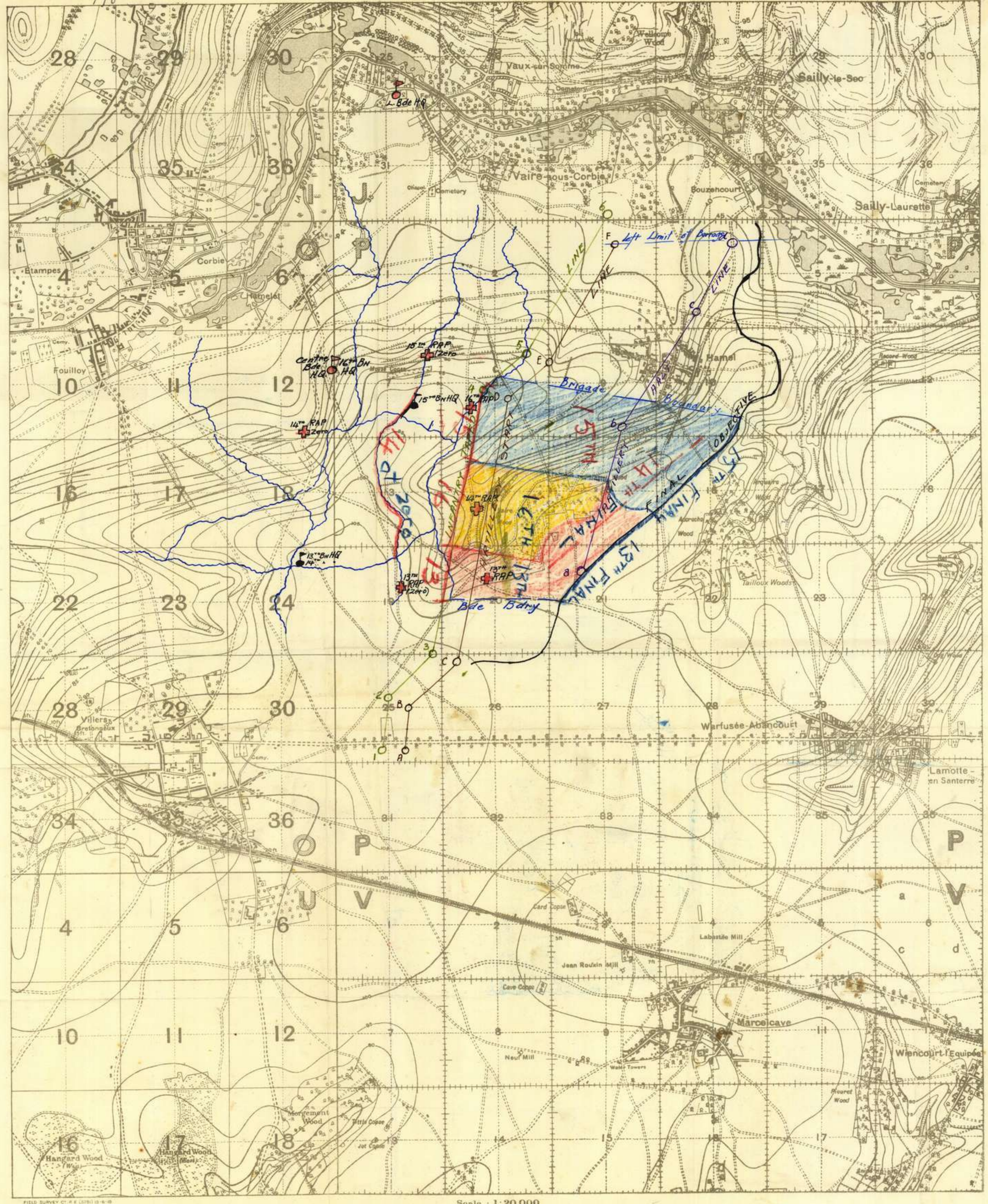
# SECRET.



Approximate British Front Line - 22-6-18

Scale - 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.



FIELD SURVEY C.T. 8 (S) (1911) 13-19

Scale 1:20,000  
130