

**AWM4**

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

**Infantry**

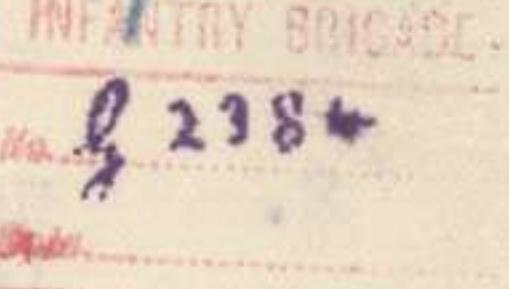
**Item number:** 23/3/29 PART 2

**Title:** 3rd Infantry Brigade

**March 1918 Appendices**



AWM4-23/3/29PART2

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

B rigade Headquarters  
1st April 1918.

Report on Works Done for Period 1st to 31st March 1918.

On taking over the HOLLEBEKE Sector on 1st March, the Brigade commenced to improve the three defensive systems of the Forward Zone.

For the first three weeks the Brigade supplied approximately 1,200 men daily on works throughout the sector. These, with the exception of the special wiring parties of the two front line Battalions, and the Brigade Mining Company, worked under the supervision of the 2nd and 3rd Field Companies, North and South of the YPRES-COMINES Canal respectively.

The difficulties to face were mainly the long carry for R.E. Material, which in many cases was carried over very rough ground throughout pitch black nights (for the first 10 days). Gas shelling also interfered with these working parties.

During the last ten days the working parties were reduced to approximately 600 men per day, which was due to the taking over of a larger sector, and the condition of the men. On three days the working parties were cancelled in order to give the men a rest. Wet days were taken advantage of for these rests, which were ordered by the Divisional Commander.

The following is a summary of the work done, and material used, by the Brigade for the period, the Mining Company statistics being shown separately.

1. Work done and material used by the four Battalions.

- (a) Work. 9,930 yards barb. wire entanglements, being mostly double apron, about 700 yds. being double apron over French wire.  
 1,107 yards parapet sandbag revetted.  
 740 yards parapet thickened by banking with earth.  
 505 yards trench revetted.  
 291 yards trench and drains lower revetted.  
 231 yards trench upper revetted.  
 500 yards drains dug.  
 347 yards trench dug.  
 650 yards cable trench dug 6' and electric cable laid.  
 583 yards track cleared for duckboarding.  
 605 yards duckboards laid.  
 57 cupola dugouts erected to accommodate 3 men each.  
 3 Footbridges constructed across the canal

(b). Material used on above work:-

- 2,176 coils barb wire.  
 111 coils French wire.  
 9,822 corkscrew pickets.  
 26,940 sandbags.  
 279 cupolas (Large and Medium).  
 698 sheets corrugated iron.  
 656 'A' Frames.  
 1,153 Duckboards.  
 539 Panels (revetting).  
 886 Angle iron pickets.  
 124 windles (stay wires).  
 96 yards expanded metal (duckboards).  
 5 rolls camouflage.

In addition to the above, a new R.A.P. was constructed by the Right Forward Battalion, a double hatted Canteen was erected in Canal Walk, and the accommodation at LOCK 3 was increased by erecting 3 new dugouts to accommodate 20 men. from salvaged material.

P.T.O.

2. Work done and material used by the Brigade Mining Coy.  
(4 Officers and 141 men reduced to 3 Officers and 84 men).

(a) Work completed.

7,260 yards double apron erected on Support System and tactical wiring.

352 yards trench revetted.

285 yards trench and drain lower revetted.

20 yards trench upper revetted.

880 yards drain dug and cleaved out.

650 yards duckboards readjusted.

24 dugouts erected to accommodate 3 men each.

(b) Material used on above.

1,057 coils barb. wire.

5,680 corkscrew pickets.

14,160 sandbags.

66 cupolas

360 sheets corrugated iron.

443 'A' Frames.

245 Duckboards.

231 Panels.

170 Windles.

293 Angle irons.

176 Forest stakes.

up with earth.

Although the working was interrupted at times by unfavourable conditions, and had to be carried on under most trying circumstances, the amount of work done represents the energies of both the Infantry and the Sappers.

The Field Companies throughout were always at full working pitch and kept in close liaison with Brigade, endeavouring to secure the labour of every available man.

*J. S. Anderson* Major.  
Bde. Hjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued to -

9th Battalion.

10th Battalion.

11th Battalion.

12th Battalion.

3rd Bde. Mining Coy.

2nd Field Coy.

3rd Field Coy.

1st Aust. Division.

War Diary (3 copies).

MACHINE GUNS  
TRENCH MORTARS  
TRACKS  
WIRE.  
OCCUPIED SHELL HOLES  
BRIDGES  
TRAMWAYS  
POSTS.

Patrol Routes Night 18-19<sup>th</sup> March

## APPENDIX

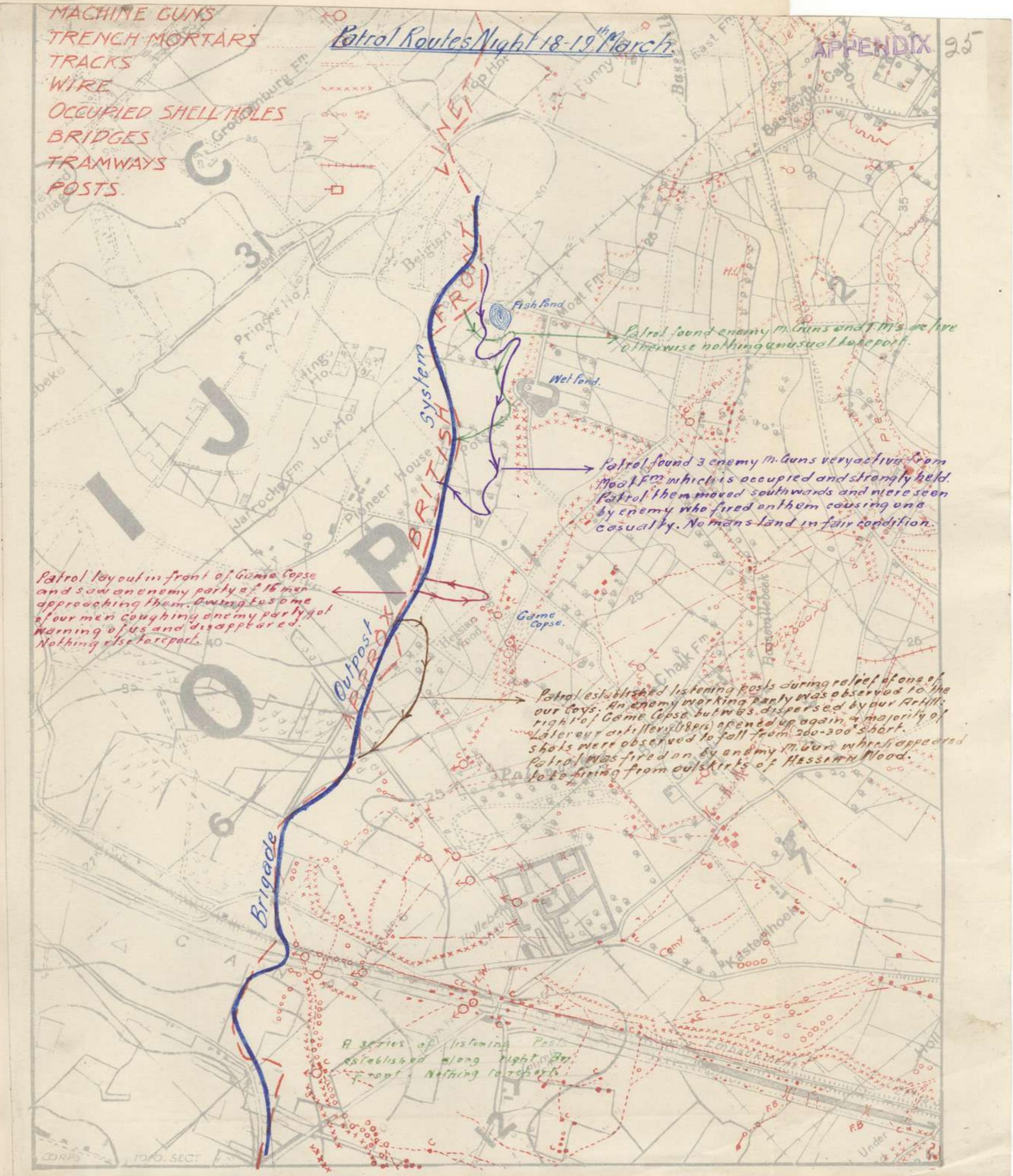
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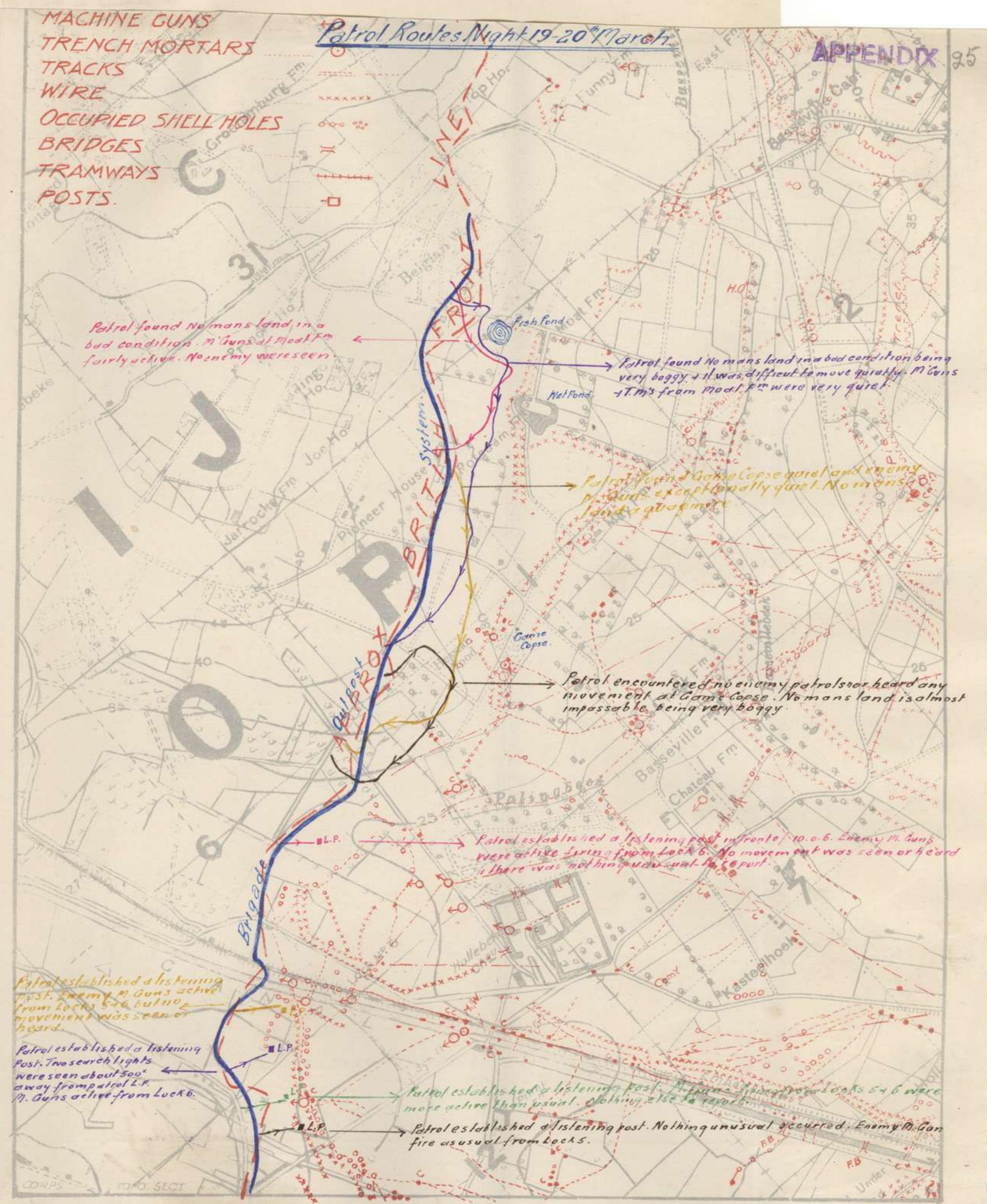
Patrol layout in front of Gomo Copse  
and saw an enemy party of 16 men  
approaching them. Owing to some  
of our men coughing an enemy party go  
warning of us and disappeared.  
Nothing else to report.

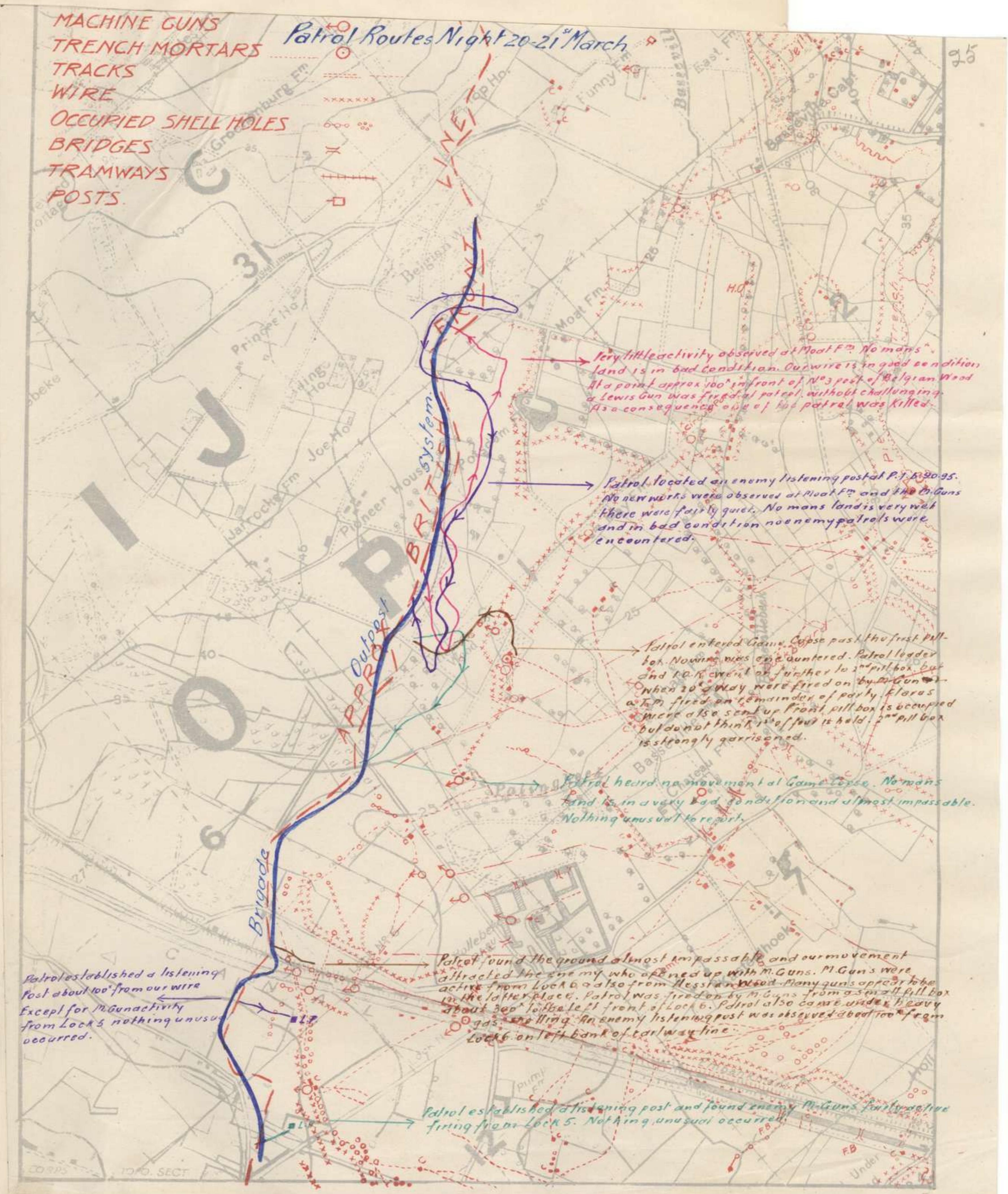
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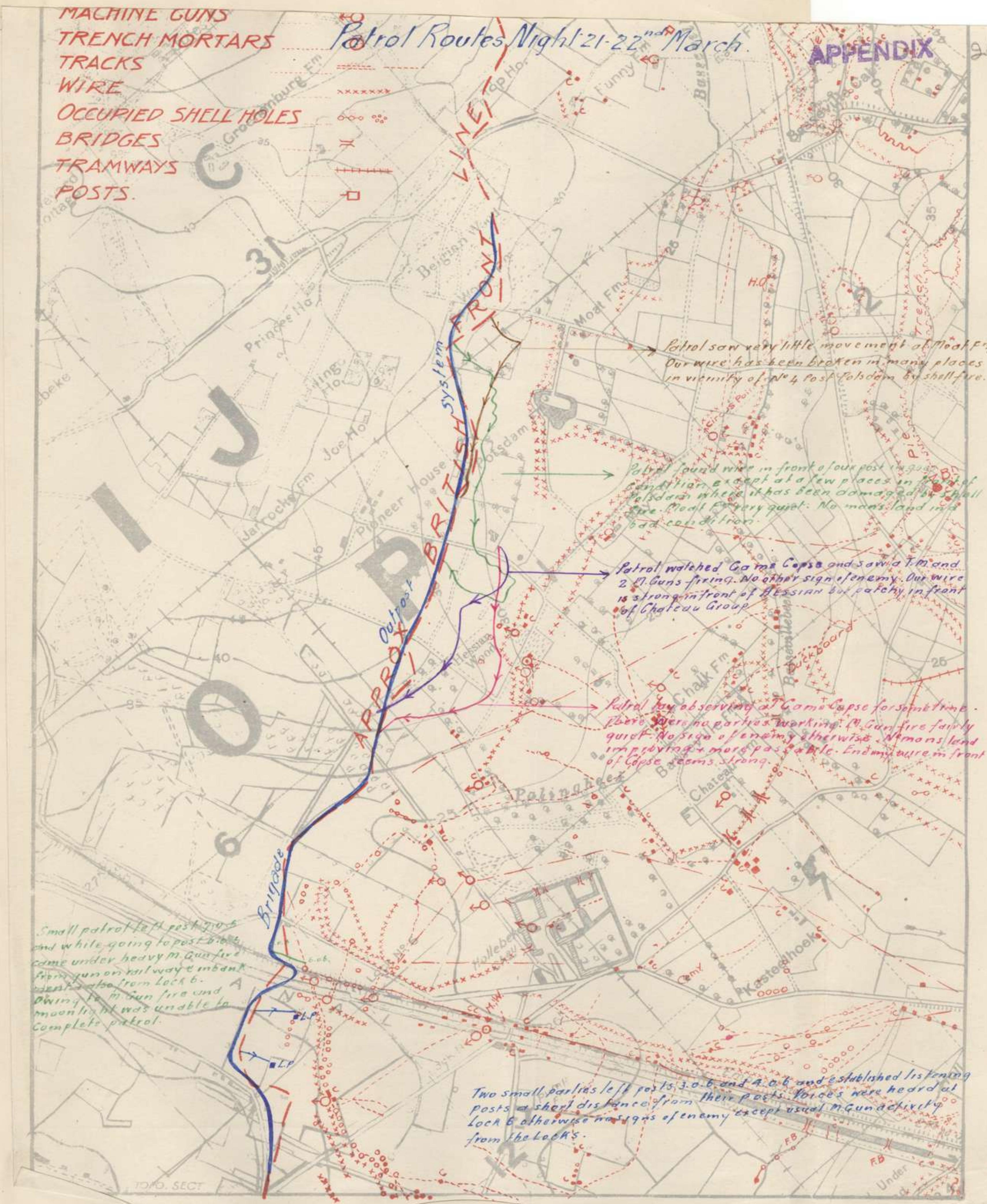
Patrol found 3 enemy M.Guns very active from  
Moor Fm which is occupied and strongly held.  
Patrol then moved southwards and were seen  
by enemy who fired on them causing one  
casualty. No mans land in fair condition.

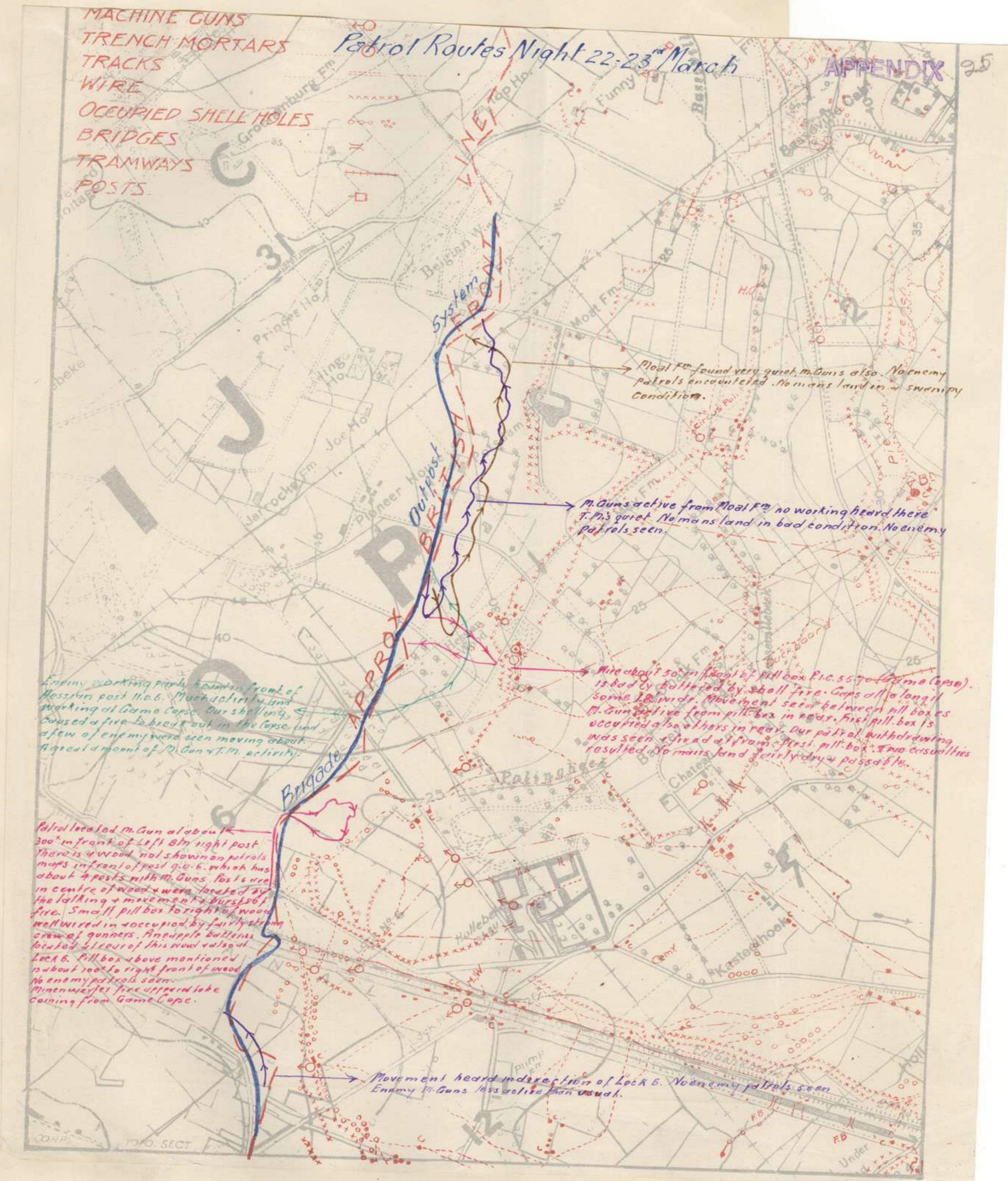
Patrol established listening posts during relief of one of our boys. An enemy working party was observed to the right of Come Copse but was dispersed by our Artill. Later our artill (18 pds) opened up again & a majority of shots were observed to fall from 200-300' short. Patrol was fired on by enemy M. Gun which appeared to be firing from outskirts of HESSIAN Wood.



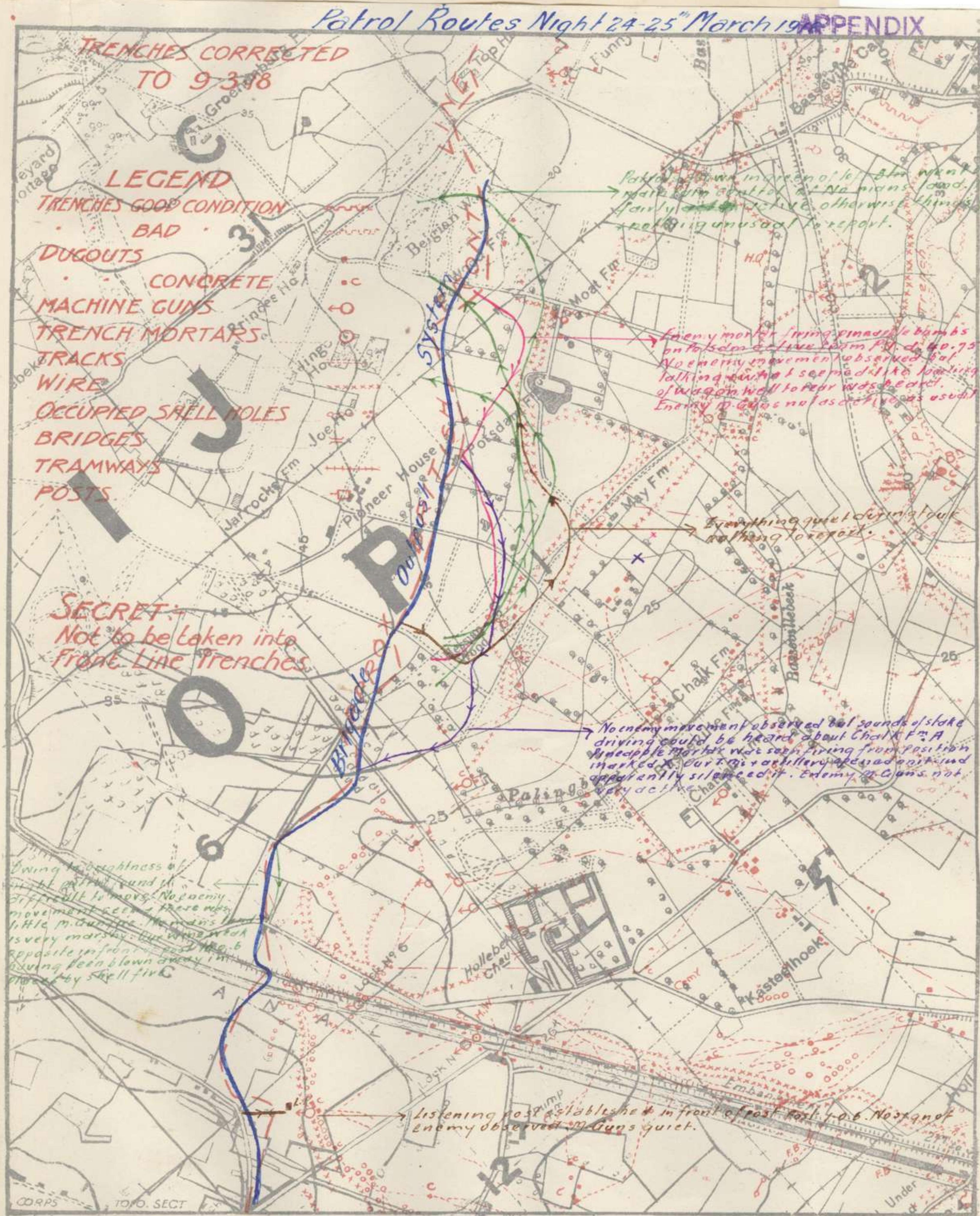


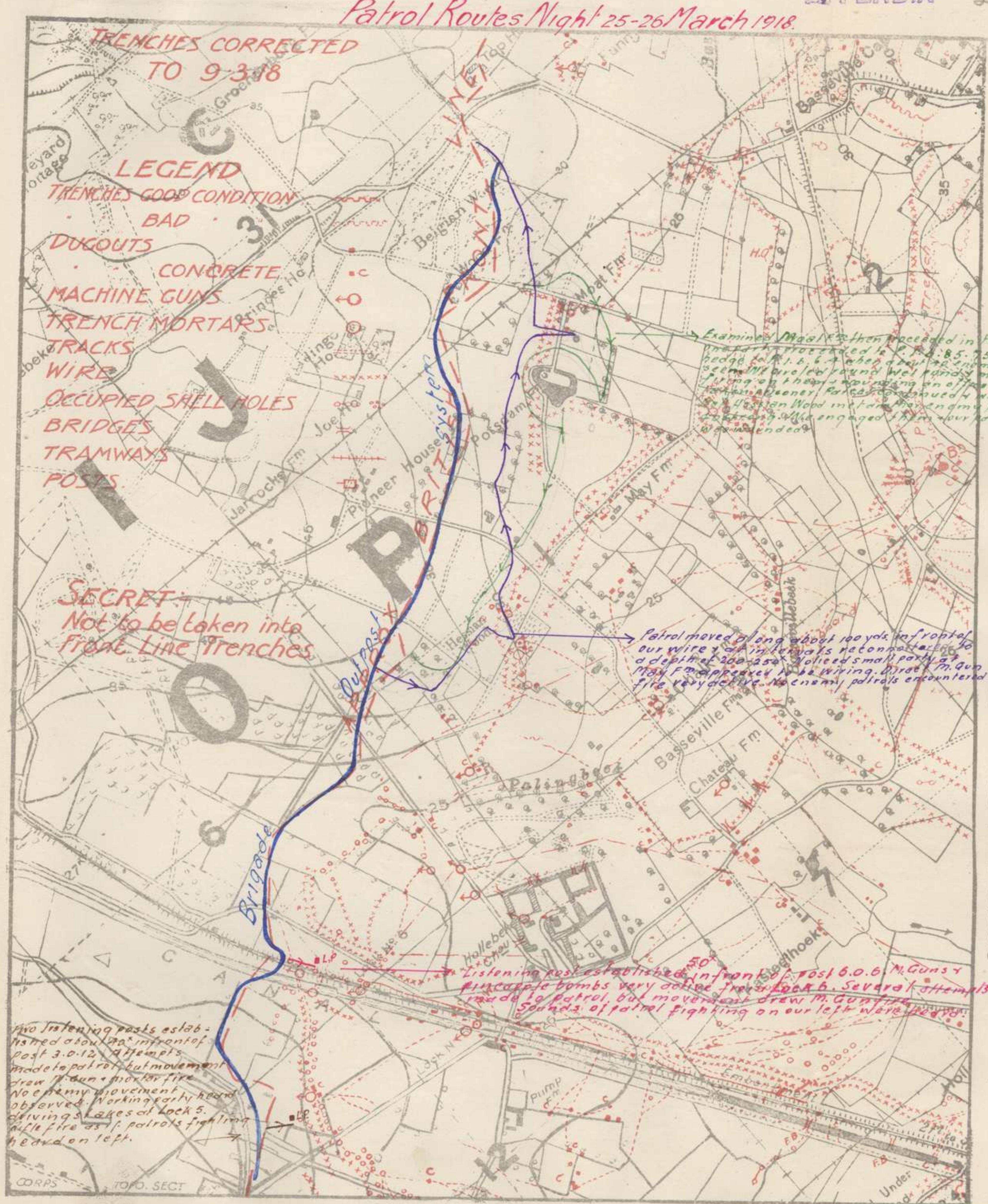


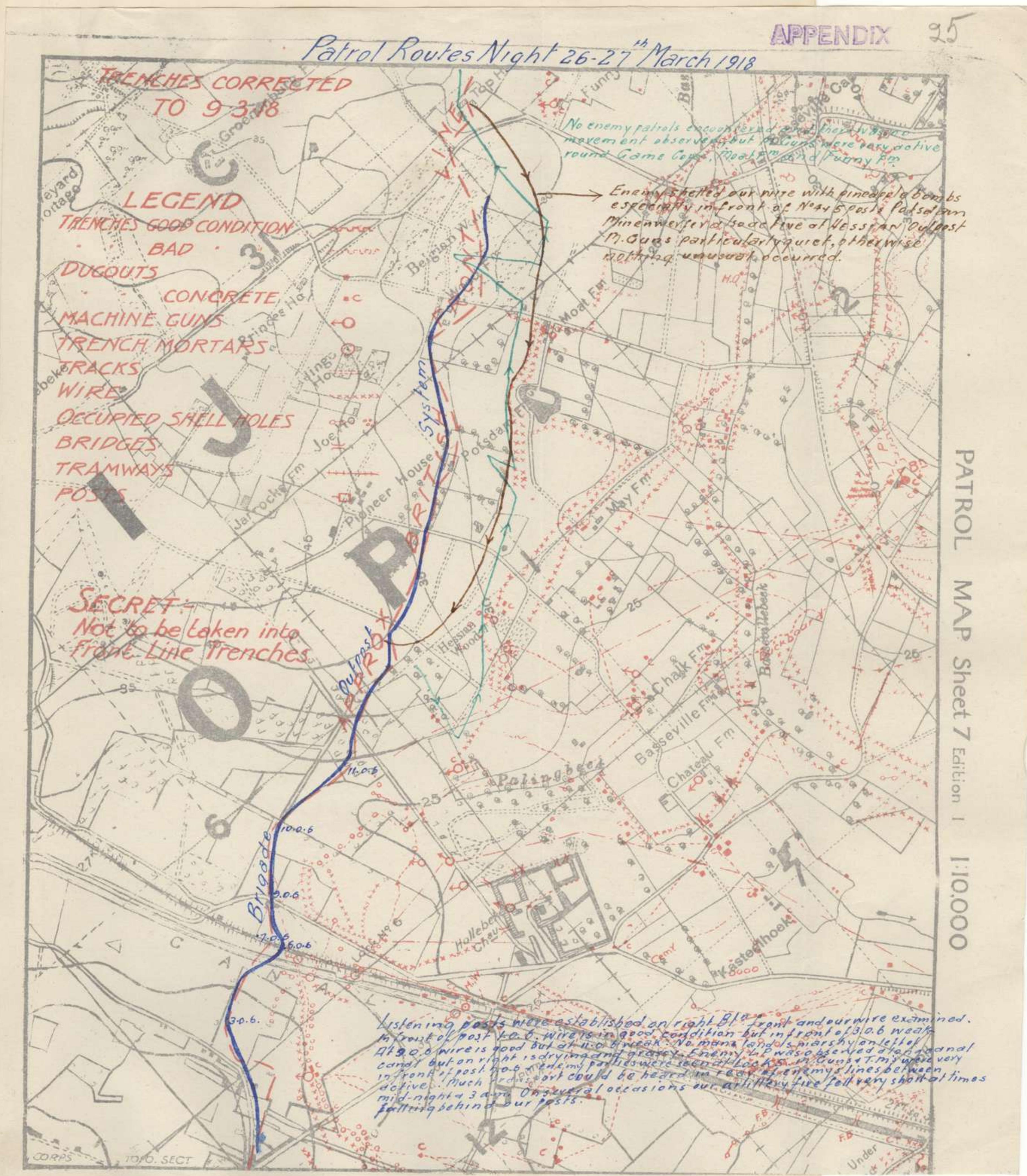




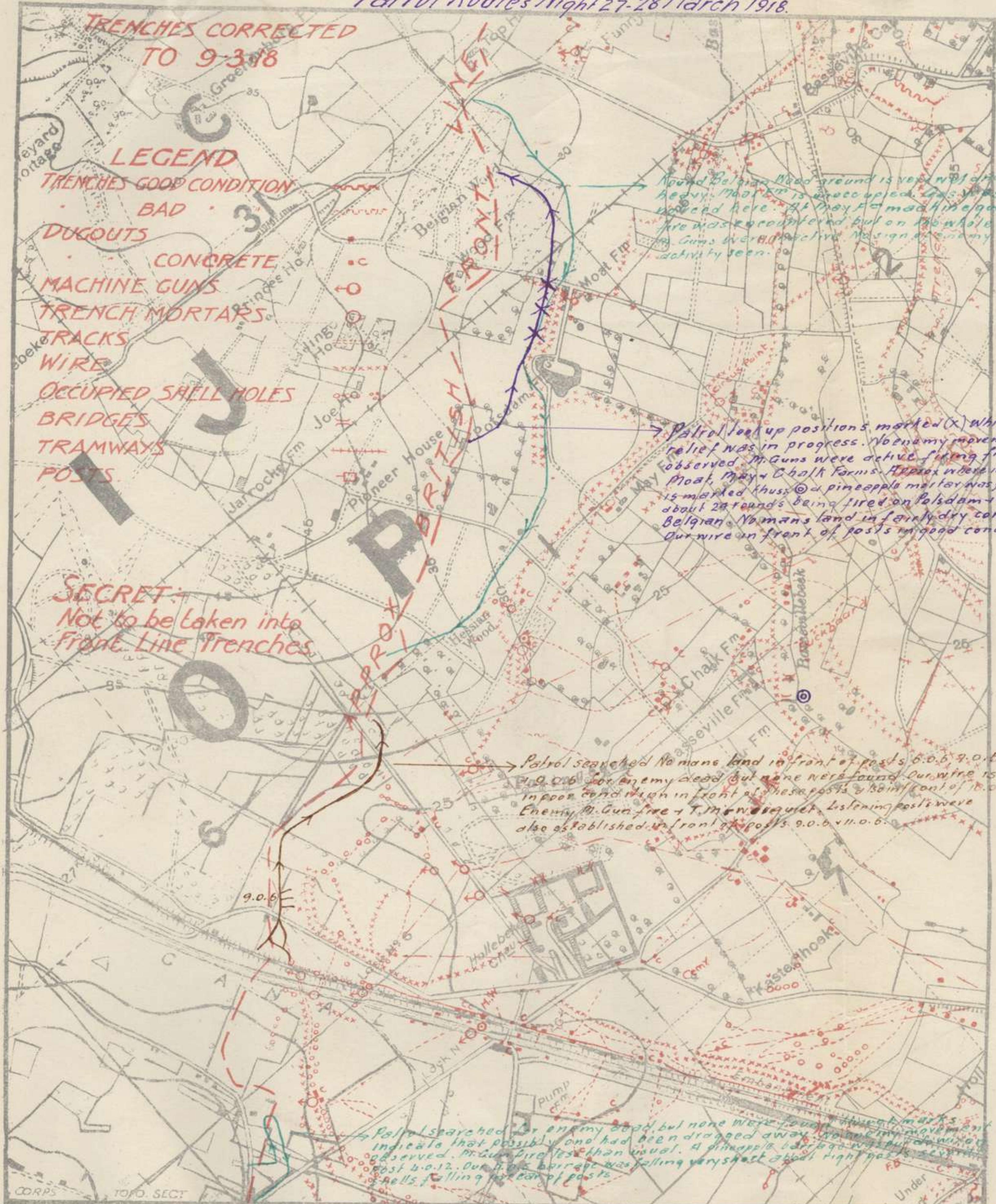








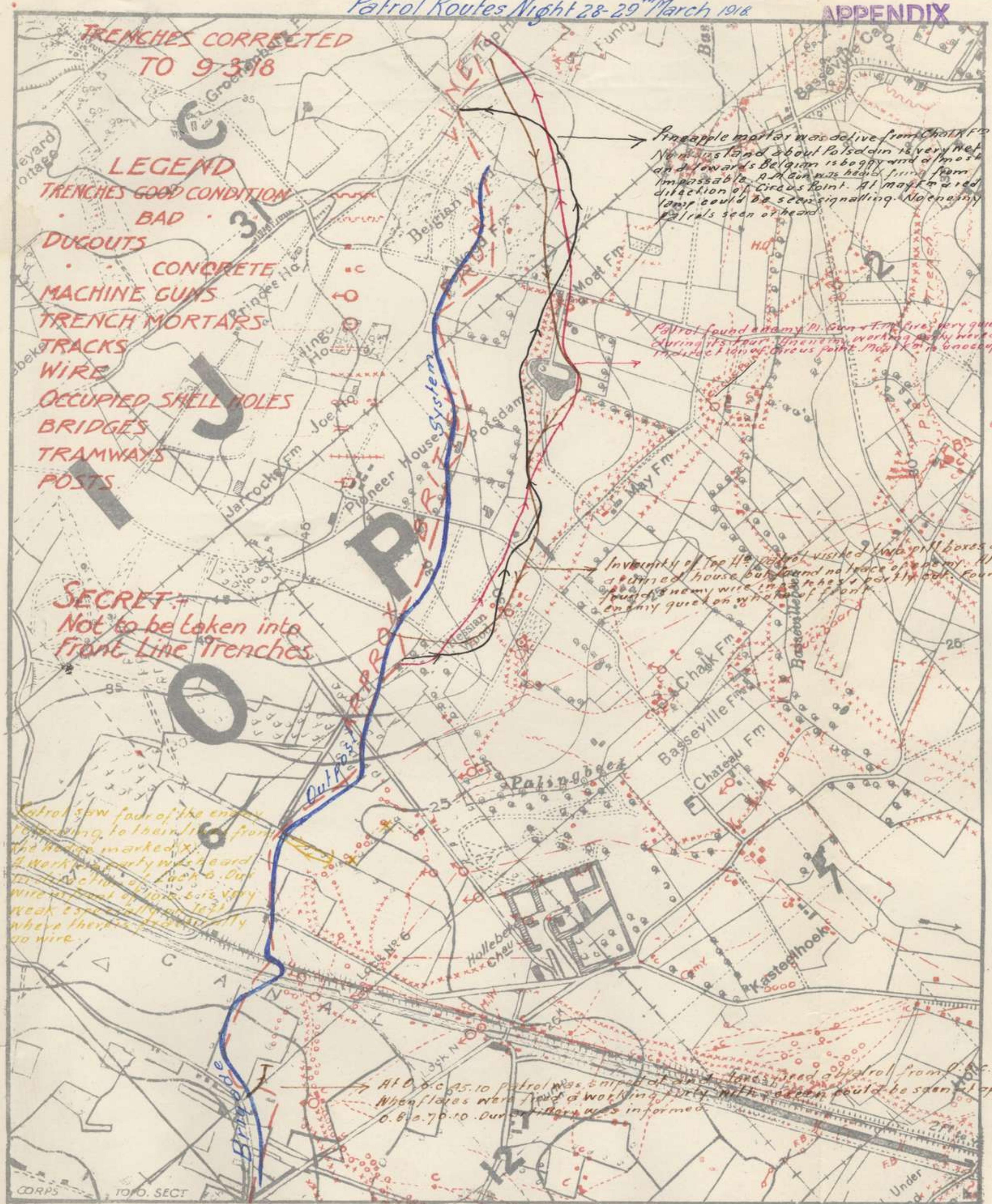
Patrol Routes Night 27-28 March 1918.

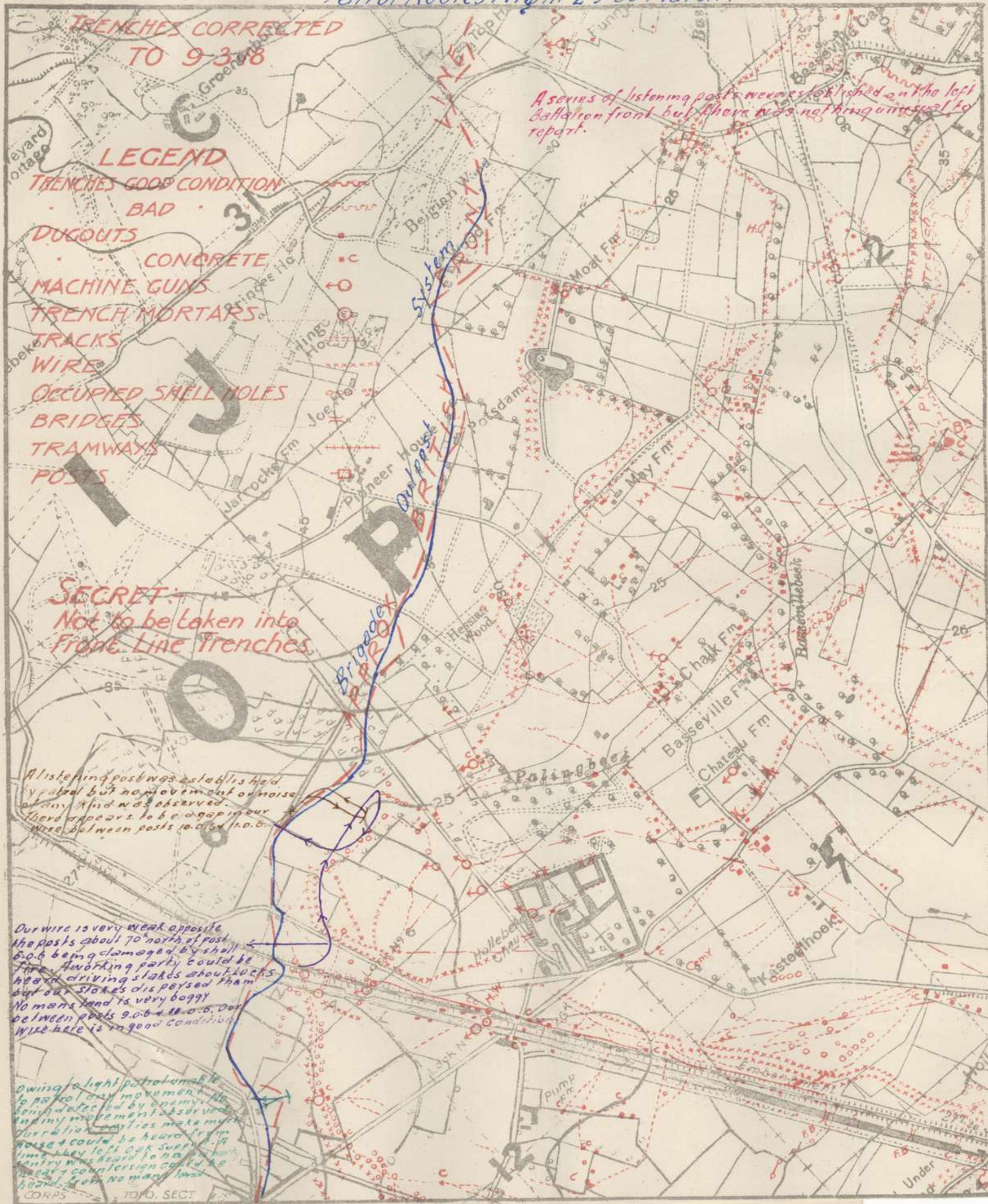


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## APPENDIX

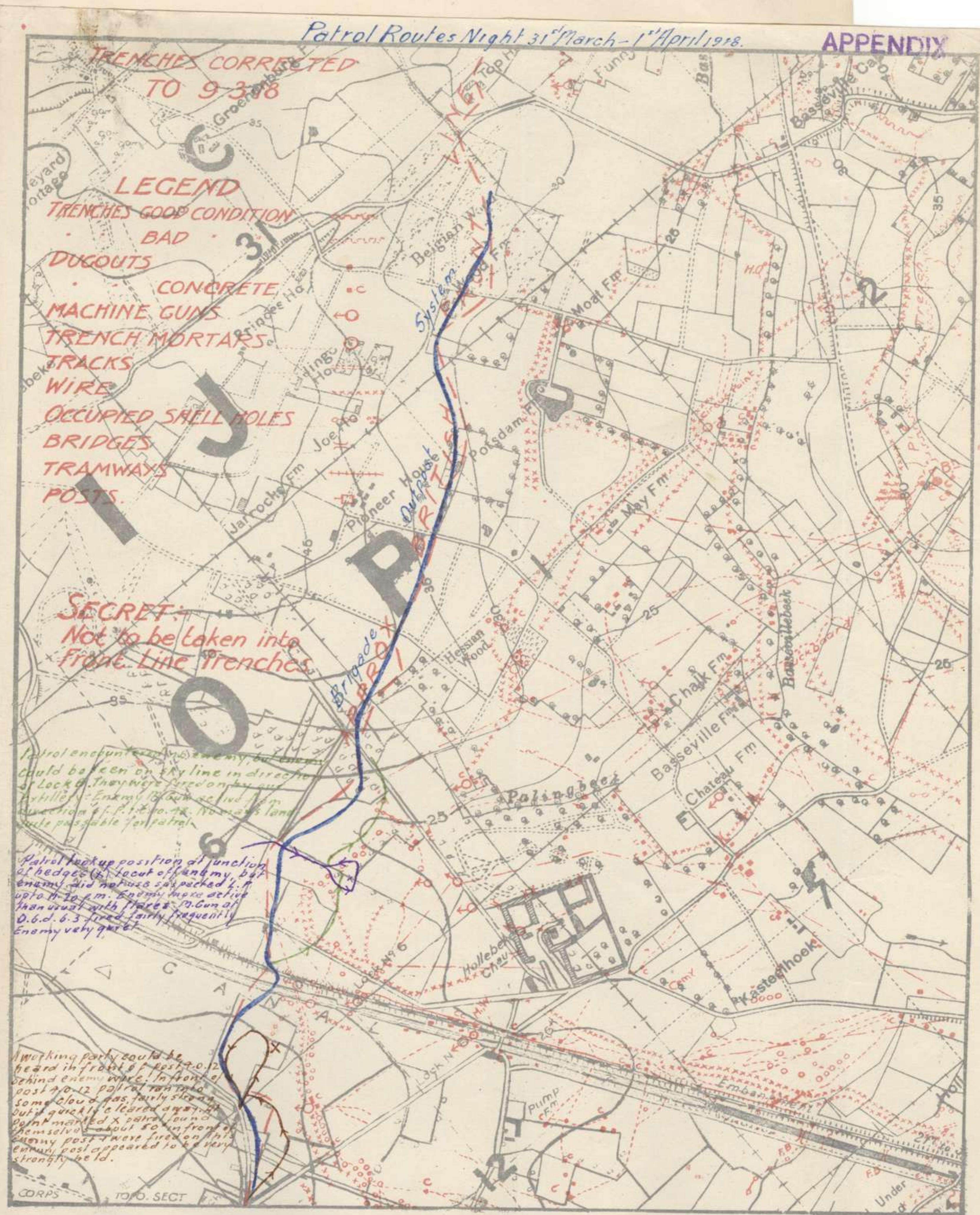
**PATROL MAP Sheet 7 Edition 1** 1:10,000  
*and*  
*Potsdam*



Patrol Routes Night 29-30<sup>th</sup> March.

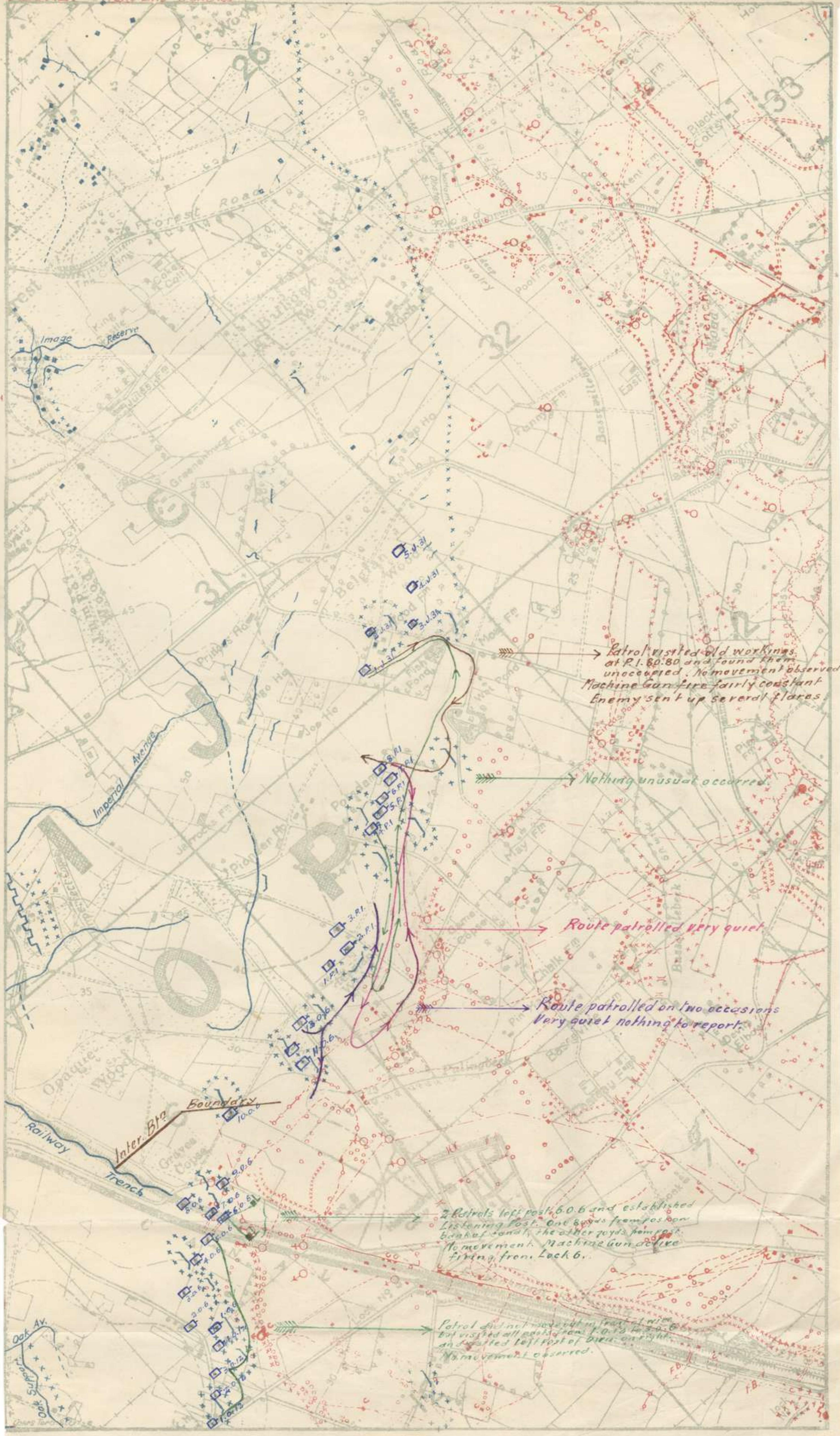
PATROL MAP Sheet 7 Edition 1  
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**SECRET**Not to be taken into  
Front Line Trenches

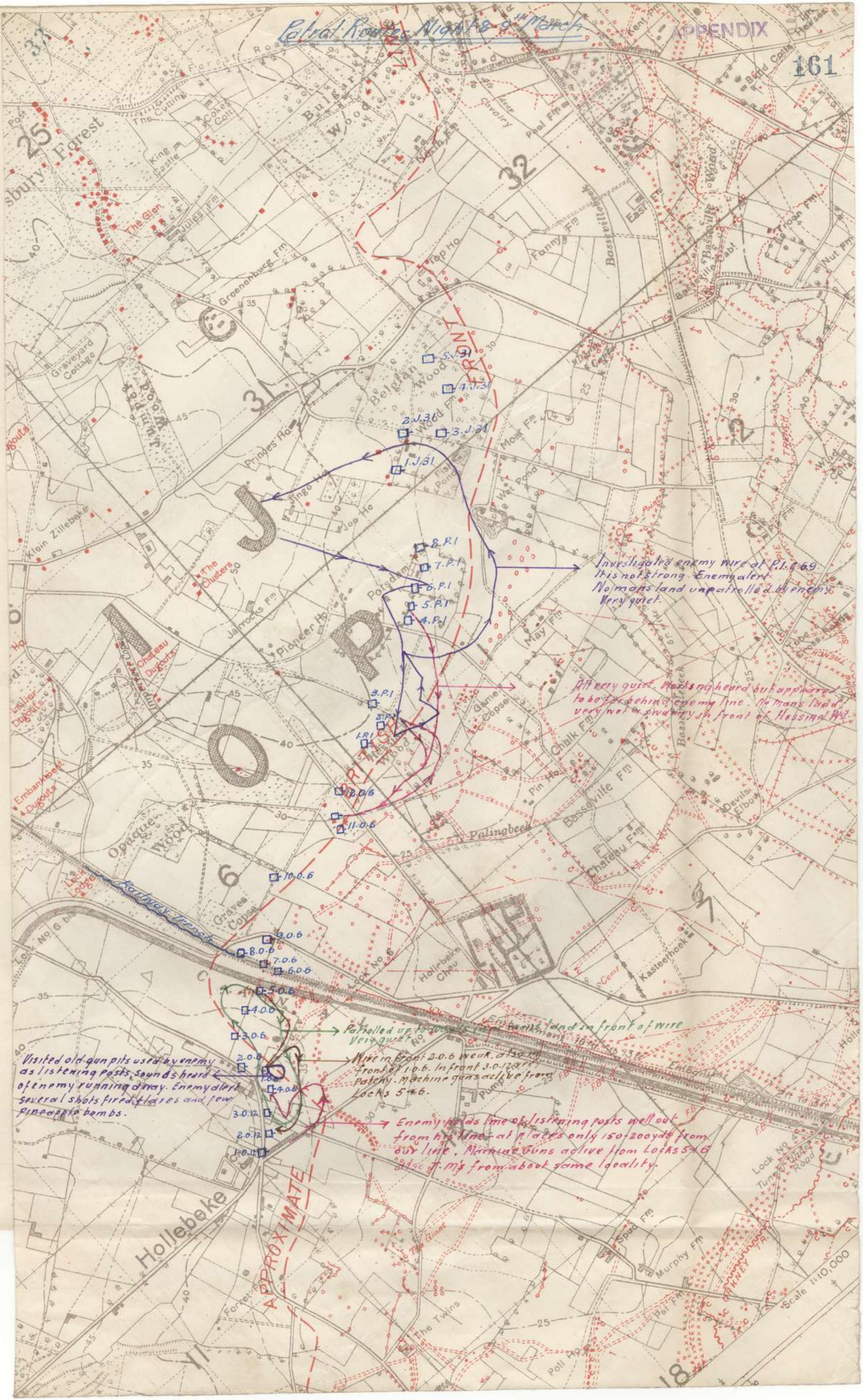
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3rd ABde

Further issue coming tomorrow

6/3 J.R.



*Patrol Routes 9-10<sup>th</sup> March.* PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 4-3-18

**LEGEND**

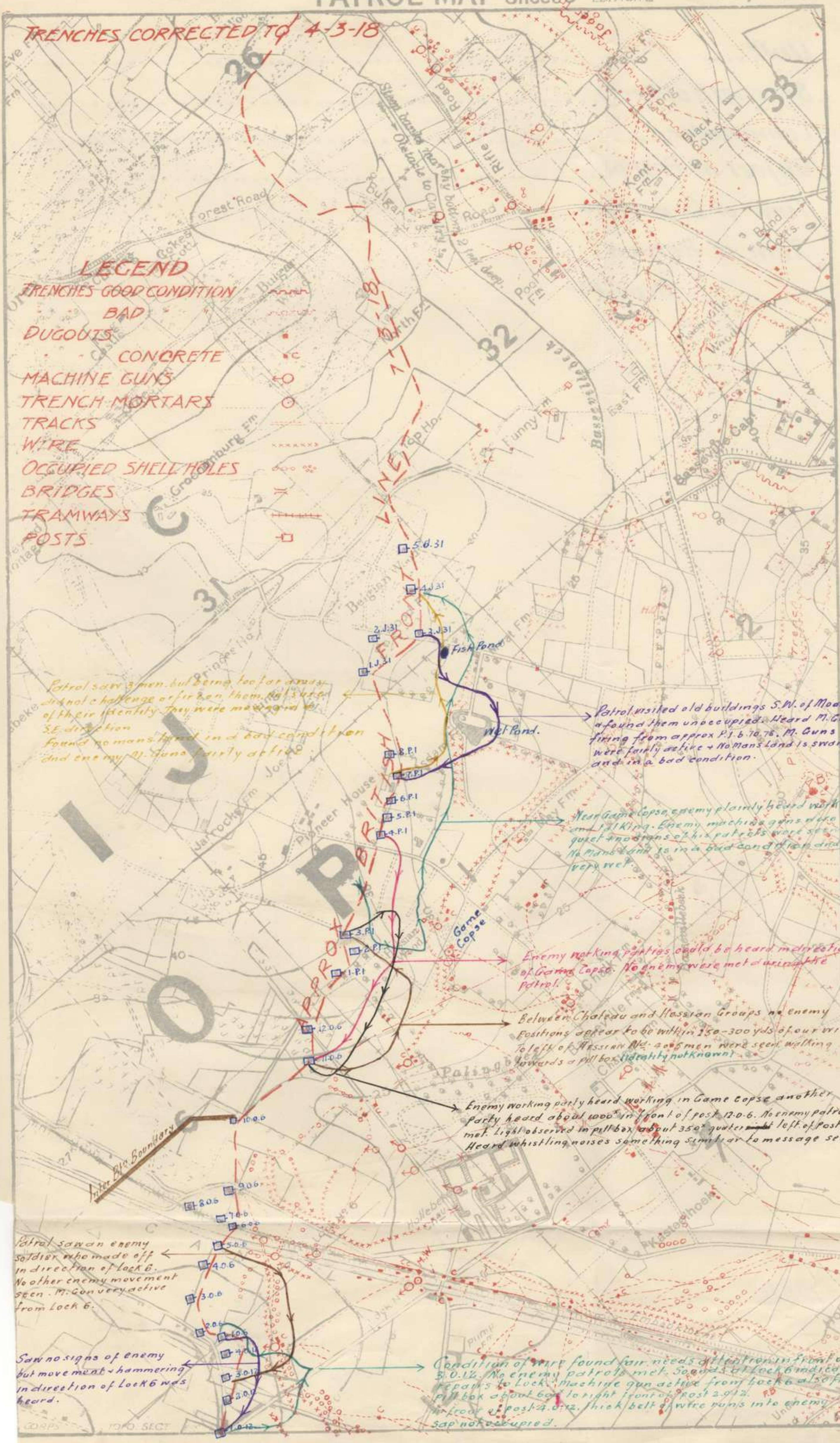
- TRENCHES GOOD CONDITION
- BAD
- DUGOUTS
- CONCRETE
- MACHINE GUNS
- TRENCH MORTARS
- TRACKS
- WIRE
- OCCUPIED SHELL HOLES
- BRIDGES
- TRAMWAYS
- POSTS

**Map Annotations:**

- Patrol 1:** Left J. 31. C. 4.2. and proceeded to Dots down Group 4 thence to Be. Group 4 on towards Dampforsc and met enemy wire at approx J. 31. Wire strong. Ground in front of J. for about 150 yds very marshy so traverse. Patrol encountered 100 Infantry F. which is very cloth N. M. Land & front line marks.
- Patrol 2:** Met with enemy wire at approx. J. 31. Wire strong. Position held as a M. Gun. Ascertained from sounds & appearance turned earth that enemy has saps 10 points around Moat Fm. from Damp Co. Enemy patrols encountered.
- Patrol 3:** Also left J. 31. C. central to examine of WET. Pond. Ground found to be very wet.
- No. 2 Patrol:** At Game Copse enemy is putting in much wire and revetting. His wire appears to be very strong. No enemy posts met within 200 yds right front of Chateau Group or to left.
- No. 3 Patrol:** No German post, met with on right front of Chateau Group. The ground here is very wet and swampy.
- No. 1 Patrol:** Wire in front of Hessian Group in good condition but in front of Chateau Group very patchy.
- Brigade Outpost:** Visited posts to 5.0.6. Enemy working parties heard at Lock 6. M. Guns active from Lock 6 and from direction of Lock 5.
- Patrol 4:** Patrolled wire to post 3.0.6 and visited posts to 5.0.6. Enemy working parties heard at Lock 6. M. Guns active from Lock 6 and from direction of Lock 5.
- Patrol 5:** Dispersed into two parties intended attacking enemy working parties at gun pits. Enemy working parties large. Patrol threw a burst of grenades at them our artillery dealing with them.
- Patrol 6:** Met with snipers in front of posts 1.0.6 & 2.0.12. M.G. fire also directed on them as they moved further out. Enemy working party working on L.P.s in vicinity of Lock 5 were by our artillery.

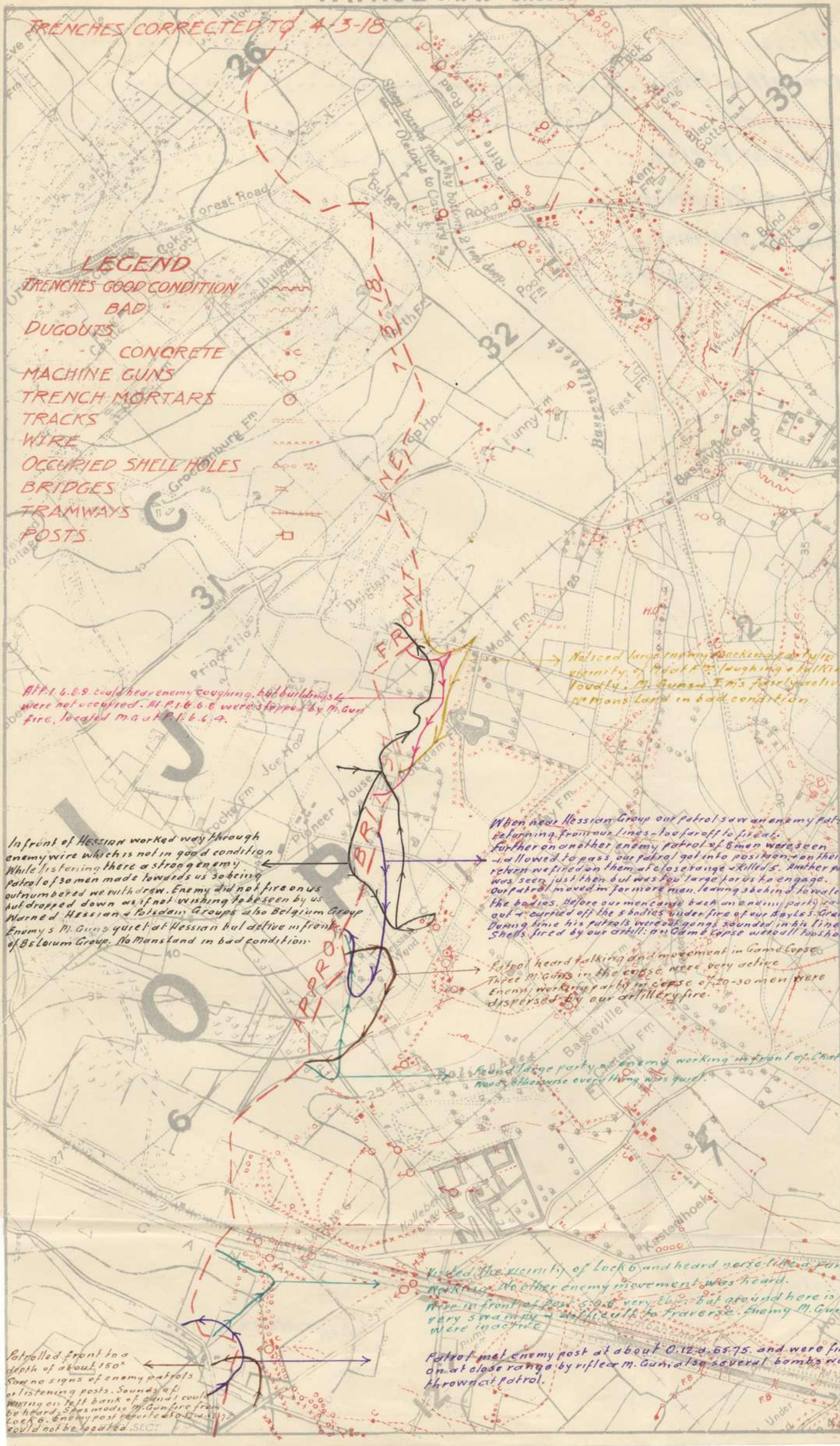
## PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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## PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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**PATROL MAP** Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 4-3-18

96

38

**LEGEND**

TRENCHES GOOD CONDITION  
BAD

DUGOUTS

CONCRETE  
MACHINE GUNS  
TRENCH MORTARS  
TRACKS  
WIRE

OCCUPIED SHELL HOLES

BRIDGES

TRAMWAYS

POSTS

Group number 35

**Patrol lay listening near Moat for the farm is strongly held with 5 M. Guns by the Germans. It is strongly garrisoned. About 100' E of the farm enemy has a well equipped signalling plant. Occasionally heron & bell to noise like a siren was heard. Flares were going up continually. When moving back to our wire we were seen and two M. Gs were turned on us. The enemy was very watchful and had a MG gun posted forward further than formerly.**

**Halting at Wet Pond, no enemy movement was seen. Halting again at P. 1. b. 7. 3 patrol located enemy T.M. at approx. P. 2. a. 1. 3. This mortar harasses both Poldam & Belgian Groups with pineapple bombs. Voices were heard from vicinity of Moat Fm. Except for M.Gs at Fannys Fm. enemy M.Gs were less active than usual. No enemy patrols were encountered.**

**Working parties of enemy were heard behind Game Copse his front line + wagons were heard moving on his roads. Our patrol lay in wait for enemy for 15 hrs. at Game Copse but none of his patrols were encountered.**

**Patrol established a listening post about 80' in front of post 6.0.6 on canal bank. No enemy movement observed there but enemy M.Gs were fairly active.**

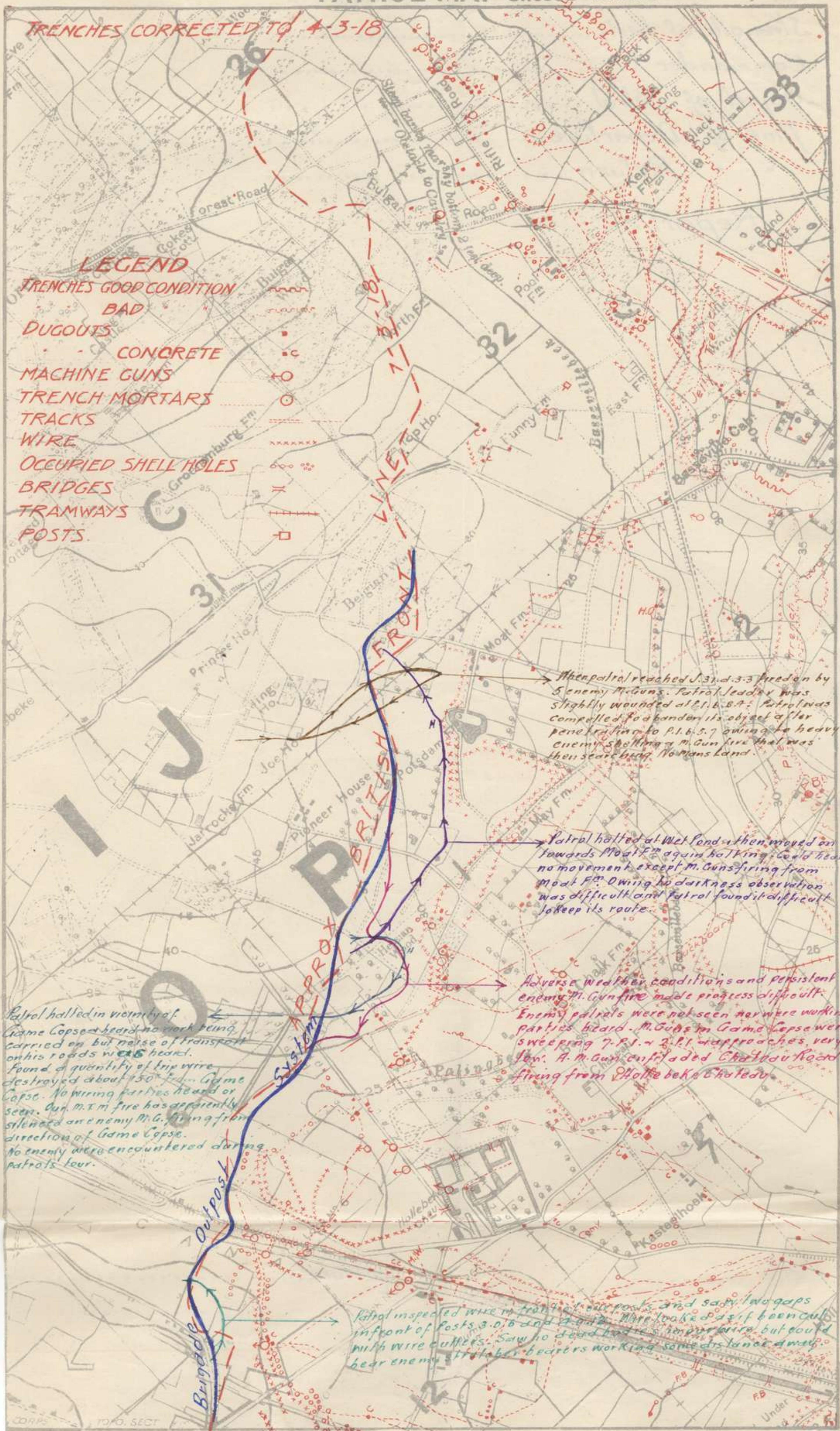
~~Patrol established  
at listening Post about 80' in front  
of post 6.0-6 on canal bank.  
No enemy movement observed.  
but enemy M.Gs were fairly active.  
Our artillery fired on Loc. 6.~~

→ Patrol moved down canal to a point about 80° from Lock 6. No movement observed. Patrol then moved southwards and met with old wire defences of enemy. Nothing seen or heard there. No enemy patrols encountered.

No sign of enemy patrols. Enemy M.G.s active making patrol work difficult.

## PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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## PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 4-3-18

## LEGEND

TRENCHES GOOD CONDITION

BAD

DUGOUTS

CONCRETE

MACHINE GUNS

TRENCH MORTARS

TRACKS

WIRE

OCCUPIED SHELL HOLES

BRIDGES

TRAMWAYS

POSTS.

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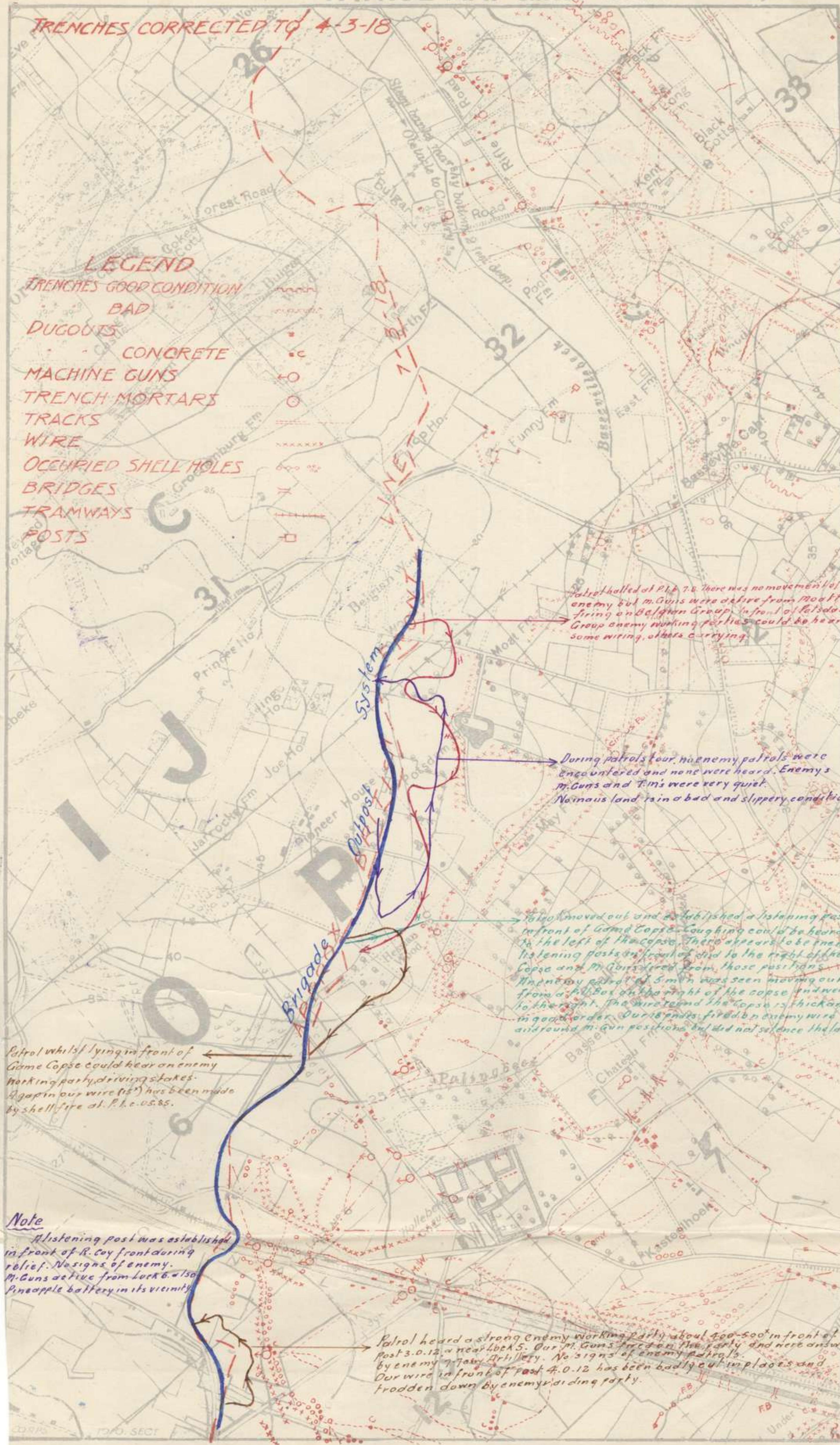
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## PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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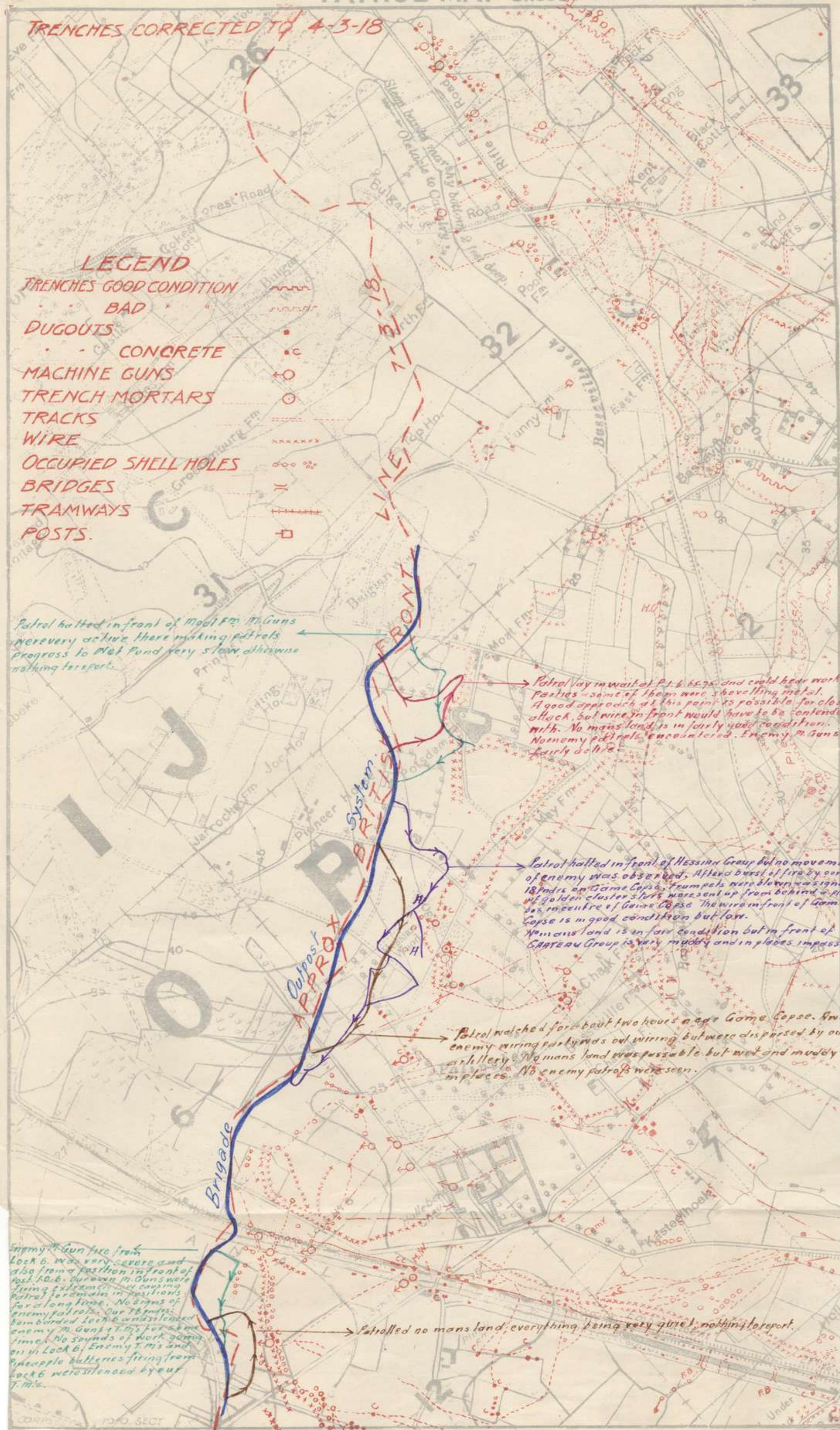


Patrol Routes Night 16-17 March

APPENDIX

PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

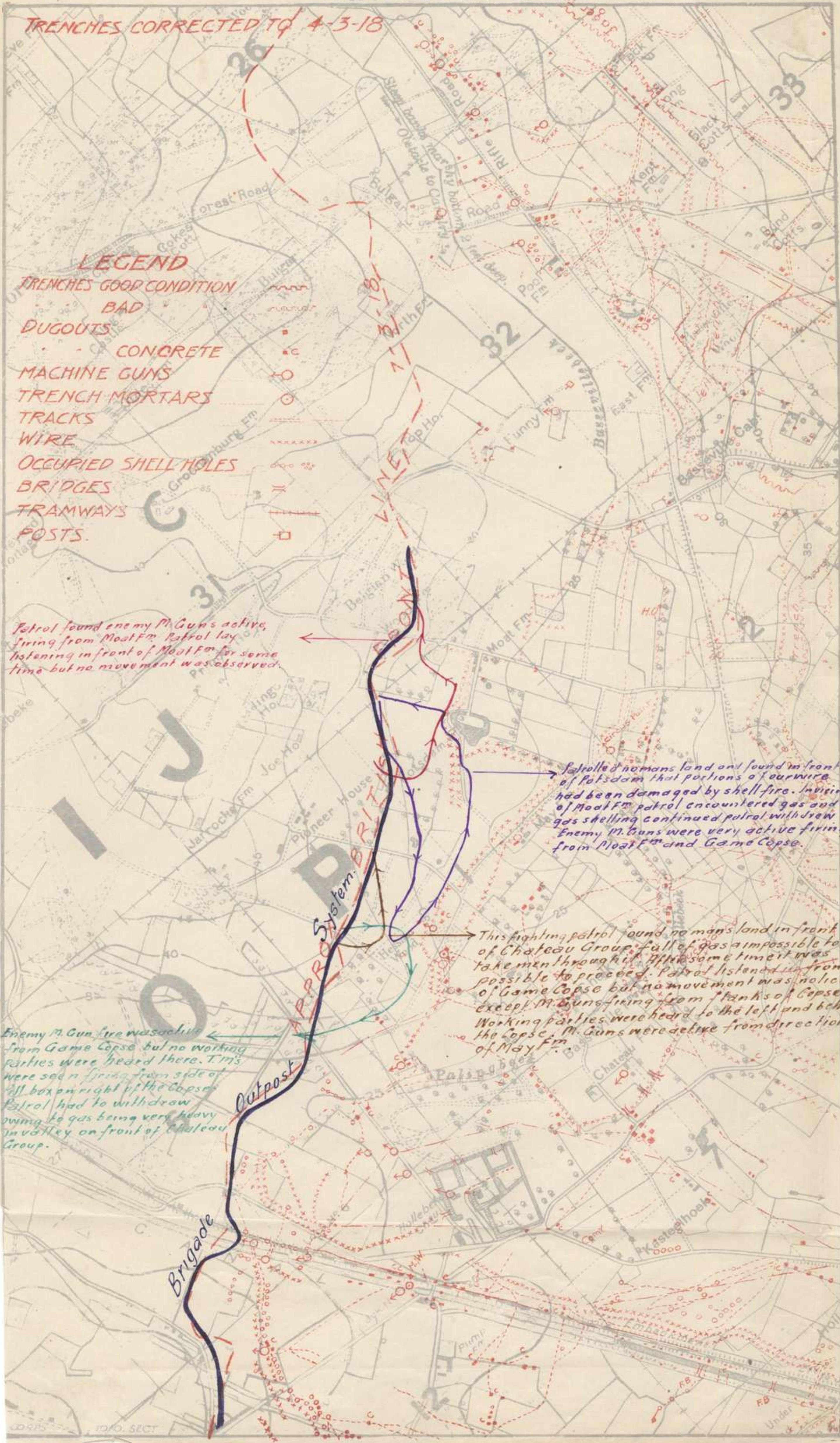
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Patrol Routes Night 17-18 March

PATROL MAP Sheet 5 EDITION 2

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# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33.  
From 6 am 6/3/18 to 6 am 7/3/18

			15 cm HE Destructive	100 rds 15cm HE		1500 rds Gas (Aero)		
32	33	34		Destructive		mostly 19 cm		31
2	3	4	25 rds HE and Shrapnel	12 rds 10cm HE 22 rds 15cm HE Registration and Destruction	12 rds 10cm Shrap	15 cm HE Registration	0 P	
8	9	10	10 cm HE Destructive		10 rds 10cm HE Scattered		12	7

Registration was also carried out on Communication Trenches

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6 am 7/3/18 to 6 am 8/3/18 33

## APPENDIX 9

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 8/3/18 to 6am 9/3/18

33

32	33	34	35	36	37
		36 Rds 15cm HE RAVINE Wood		15 Rds. 4.2 HE	19 Rds. 5.9 HE
		8 Rds 15cm HE		13 Rds. 5.9 HE	19 Rds. 15cm H.E.
2	3	4	5	6	7
		16 Rds 4.2 HE	20 Rds HE Calibre 8	17 Rds 7.7 HE	6 Rds 5.9 HE
		32 Rds 10.4 7.7 cm H.E or Shrap.			
8	9	10	11	12	
		40 Rds 7.7 HE	11 Rds 7.7 HE		
		47 Rds 4.2 HE			

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6 am 9/3/18 to 6 am 10/3/18.

33

32	33	34	35	36	31					
		7Rds 21cm HE		15cm & 7.7cm HE	20Rds 7.7cm H.E.	65Rds 7.7cm H.E. mainly in S. 31.D				
2	3	4	5	6	0	P 100Rds 7.8 HE				
		22Rds Gas Shell	40Rds 10.Cm.	65Rds 15cm HE	25Rds 10cm HE	75Rds 7.7cm HE				
8	9	10		97Rds 7.7cm a few 85cm and Shrapnel	12Rds Pineapples					

APPENDIX 36 174

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 10/3/18 to 6am 11/3/18

33

32	33	34	35	36	31							
		50 Rds 7.7cm H.E.		238 Rds 15.10.47.7cm H.E. Majority fell in squares C & D.						12 Rds 7.7cm H.E.		
				58 Rds 15cm H.E.					98 Rds 7.7cm H.E.			
2	3	4	5	119 Rds 7.7cm + 15cm H.E. 11.12.15cm H.E.	6				55 Rds 7.7cm + 15cm H.E.	P 144 Rds 7.7cm HE		
8	9	10	11	12	13							

12 Rds  
7.7cm H.E.

50 Rds  
7.7cm H.E.

238 Rds  
15.10.47.7cm H.E.  
Majority fell in squares C & D.

58 Rds  
15cm H.E.

119 Rds  
7.7cm + 15cm H.E.  
11.12.15cm H.E.

55 Rds  
7.7cm + 15cm H.E.

P 144 Rds  
7.7cm HE

12 Rds  
7.7cm H.E.

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

From 6am 11/3/18 to 6am 12/3/18

32	33	34	35	36	37						
		47 Rds. 21 & 15cm H.E.			7 Rds. 7.7cm HE	84 Rds 21cm HE	45 Rds 10 & 7.7cm HE				
2	3	4	5	6	7	87 Rds 7.7, 15 & 21cm HE	100 Rds 7.7 HE	P 105 10 & 7.7cm HE			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

Handwritten notes and circled entries:

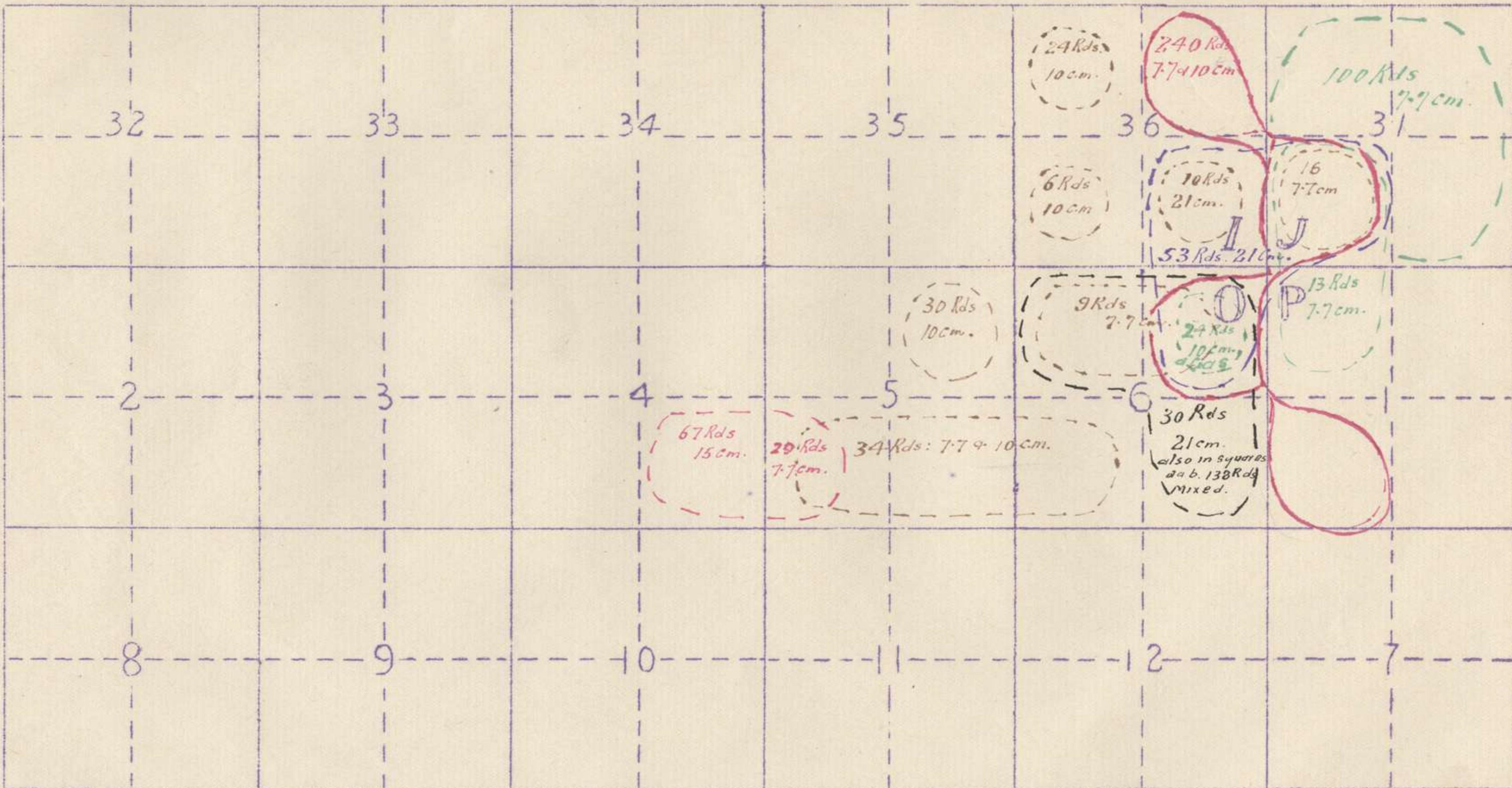
- Cell 34: 47 Rds. 21 & 15cm H.E.
- Cell 36: 7 Rds. 7.7cm HE
- Cell 37: 84 Rds 21cm HE
- Cell 4: 32 Rds 10 & 7.7cm HE
- Cell 5: 115 Rds 10 & 7.7cm HE
- Cell 6: 26 Rds 10cm HE
- Cell 7: 124 Rds 7.7 + 15cm and GAS.
- Cell 8: 87 Rds 7.7, 15 & 21cm HE
- Cell 14: 48 GAS Shells

APPENDIX 176

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

From 6am 12/3/18 to 6am 13/3/18.



APPENDIX 2  
177

## DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 13/3/18 to 6am 14/3/18

33

32	33	34	35		36		37					
			40 Rds. 10,15+21cm 7.7cm		15 Rds. 7.7+10cm		25 Rds. 7.7+10cm		30 Rds. 7.7+10cm			
2	3	4	18 Rds 7.7cm	27 Rds 7.7cm	6 Rds 7.7cm	7 Rds 7.7cm	(24 Rds) 56 Rds 7.7, 10 & 21cm 15 Rds 7.7cm					
			4 Rds 7.7cm	114 Rds 7.7, 10 & 15cm 33 Rds 10cm	38 Rds 10+7.7cm 10cm							
8	9	10				23 Rds 10.0cm						

A barrage was put down on Squares O.6.d and P.1.a.

APPENDIX 178

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 14/3/18 to 6am 15/3/18.

33

32	33	34	35	36	31
		20 Rds. 10cm		45 Rds 7.7cm	8 Rds 7.7cm
		15 Rds 10cm	51 Rds 10cm	44 Rds 10/15cm	71 Rds 10, 15, & 7.7
2	3	9 Rds 7.7cm	112 Rds 10/7.7cm	59 Rds GRANATEN- WERFER	48 Rds 7.7cm
8	9	43 Rds 10cm	30 Rds 10cm	30 Rds 15cm	103 Rds 10/21cm
10					
12					
17					

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 15/3/18 to 6am 16/3/18. 33

32	33	34	35	36	31
2	3	4	5	6	7
1					
8	9	10	11	12	13

Scattered but fairly heavy gas shelling (mustard or phosgene) of 132 & 133 from 3am / 4.30am.  
From 1.15am - 1.35am heavy shelling of forward area by Granatenwerfer gas bombs.

80 Rds.  
10 cm.

180 Rds  
7.7 109 15cm.  
II J

119 Rds.  
7.7 + 10 cm.

P 24 Rds  
10 cm.

115 Rds  
10 cm.

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6 am 16/3/18 to 6 am 17/3/18

33

32	33	34	35	36	31
			15 Rds 10cm	125 Rds. 7.7 10 + 15cm	40 Rds 7.7cm
			35 Rds H.E. Shrap.	140 Rds 7.7cm	20 Rds 7.7 + 10cm
2	3	4	44 Rds 15 + 24cm	150 Rds 7.7 + 10cm	20 Rds 15cm 31 Rds 10cm
8	9	10		50 10cm	7

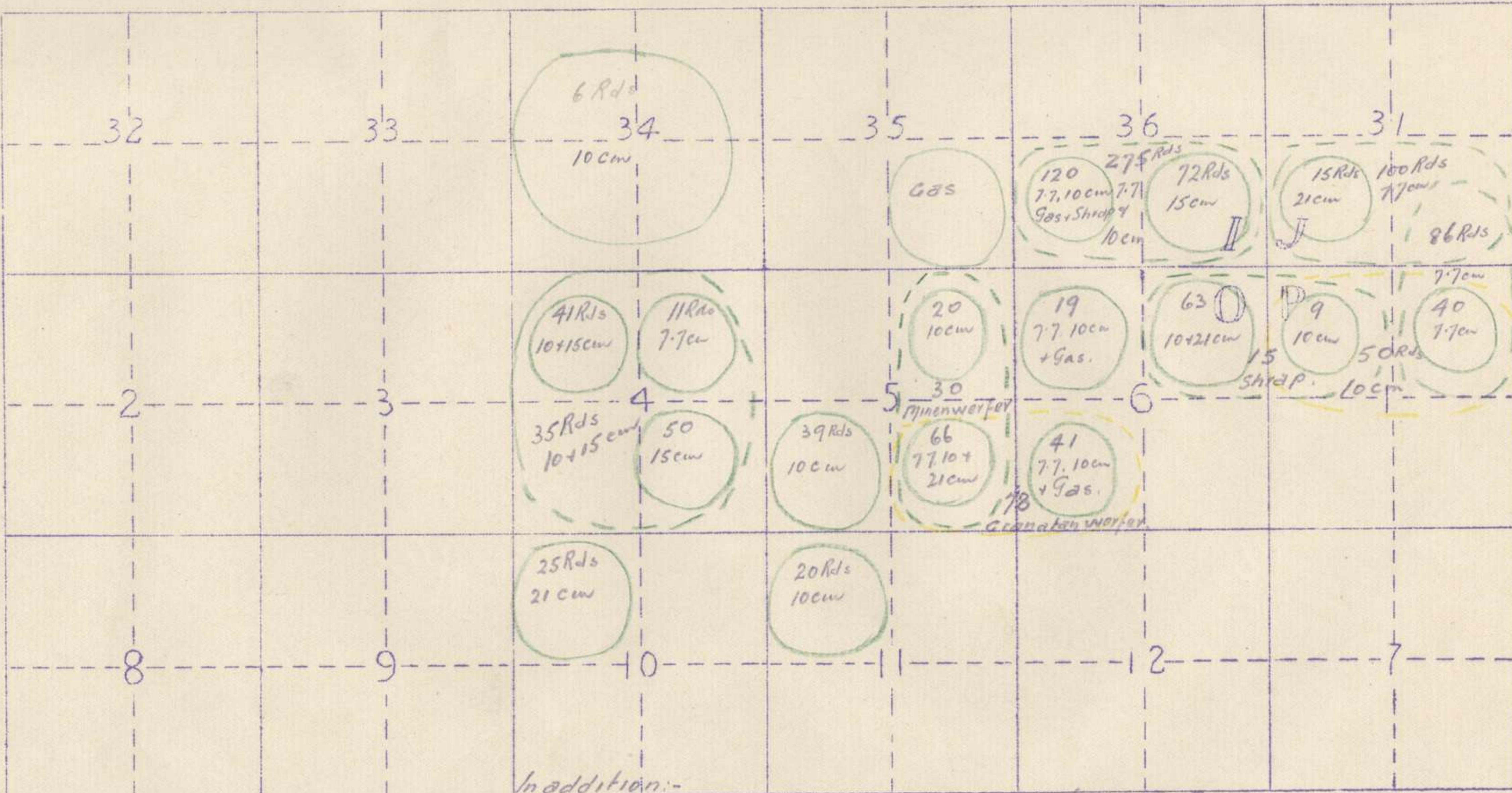
APPENDIX 181

26

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

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From 6 am 17/3/18 to 6 am 18/3/18.



In addition:-

130 Rds of Gas + H.E. on Squares {O. 6. C & P. 1. 8.}

130 Rds of Gas + H.E. on Squares {0.6.c & P.1.a}.  
A barrage of gas shells + H.E was put down on Squares 0.4.a + 0.5.

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

From 6am 18/3/18 to 6am 19/3/18.

32	33	34	35	36	31
				170 Rds. 7.7cm II	250 Rds 7.7+10cm J
2	3	4 120 Rds 7.7cm 30 Rds 10cm 32 Rds 21cm	5 60 Rds 7.7, 10 & 21cm	6 140 Rds 10cm O	P 70 Rds 7.7+10cm
8	9	10 20 Rds 7.7, Gas and H.E.		12 Hollebeke 15 Rds 7.7cm	7

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 19/3/18 to 6am 29/3/18

33

32	33	34	35	36	31
2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13

Left Cov HQs (S.31d) was subjected to shoot by 7.7 and 15cm guns from 11.30 a.m. - 1 P.m.  
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. 17.21cm shells fell along OLAF AVENUE in 1.36 d, two hits being obtained.

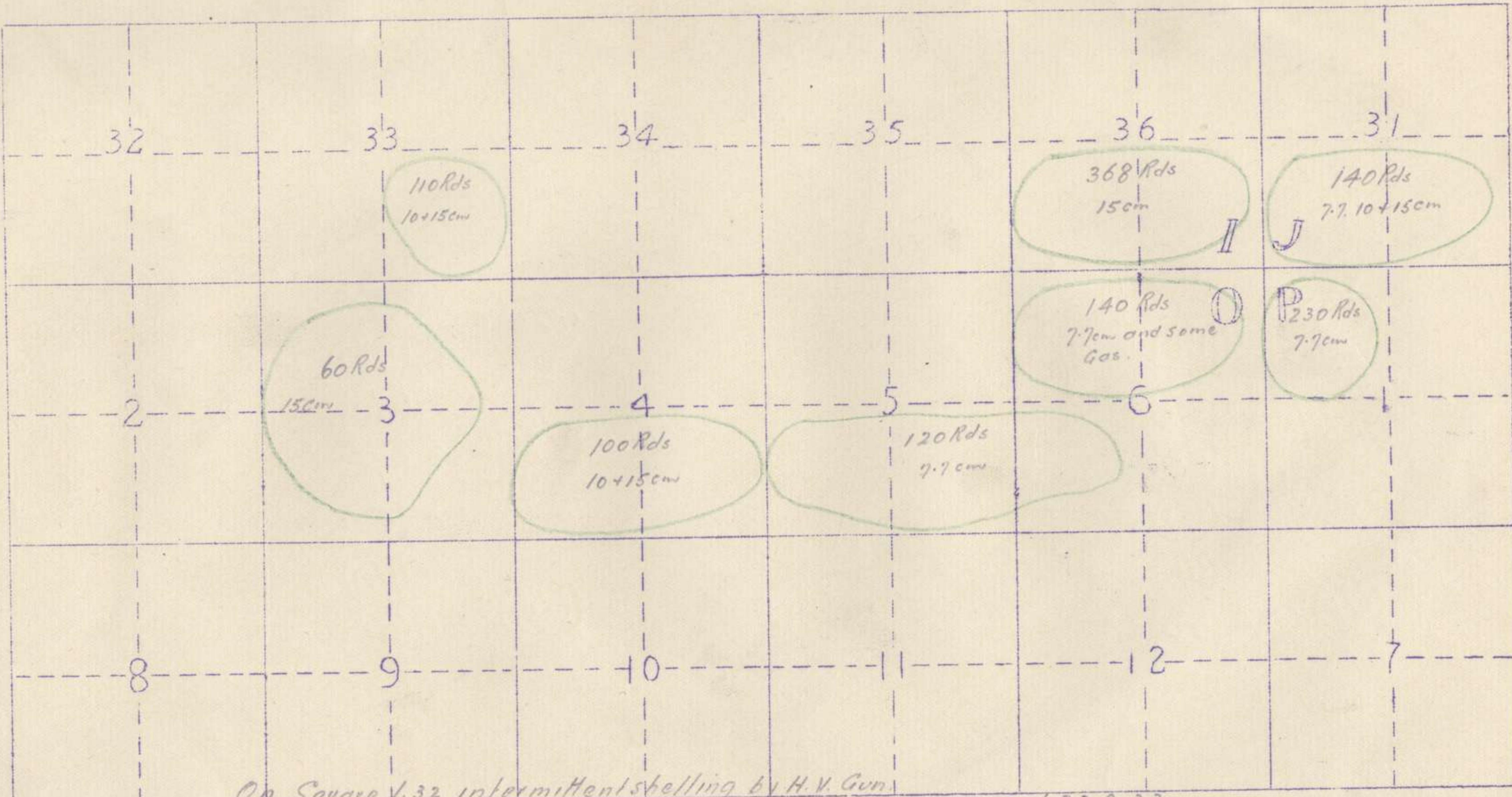
APPENDIX

184

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 20/3/18 to 6am 21/3/18

33



On Square V.32 intermittent shelling by H.V. Gun.  
In addition a gas concentration was put down on squares 1.32 & 33

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6am 21/3/18 to 6am 22/3/18

33

32	33	34	35	36	31
				Light Intermittent Shelling.	
2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13

445 Rds  
10x15cm

275 Rds  
7.7x10cm

50 Rds  
10cm some Gas

20 Rds  
7.7cm

II J D P

Outposts Right B19 were shelled with 20 rds. 10cm.

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

From 6am 22/3/18 to 6am 23/3/18

32	33	34	35	36	31
2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	7

Right Coy Posts Right Rtn were shelled with 15 rds of 7.7 x 5cm  
Left " " " " " 18 rds " "

370 Rds  
7.7cm

260 Rds  
7.7 x 5cm

135 Rds  
10cm

280 Rds  
7.7, 10 x 16 cm

P 265 Rds  
7.7cm

220 Rds  
10cm

Right Coy Posts Right Rtn were shelled with 15 rds of 7.7 x 5cm  
Left " " " " " 18 rds " "

APPENDIX 187

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6 am 23/3/18 to 6 am 24/3/18.

33

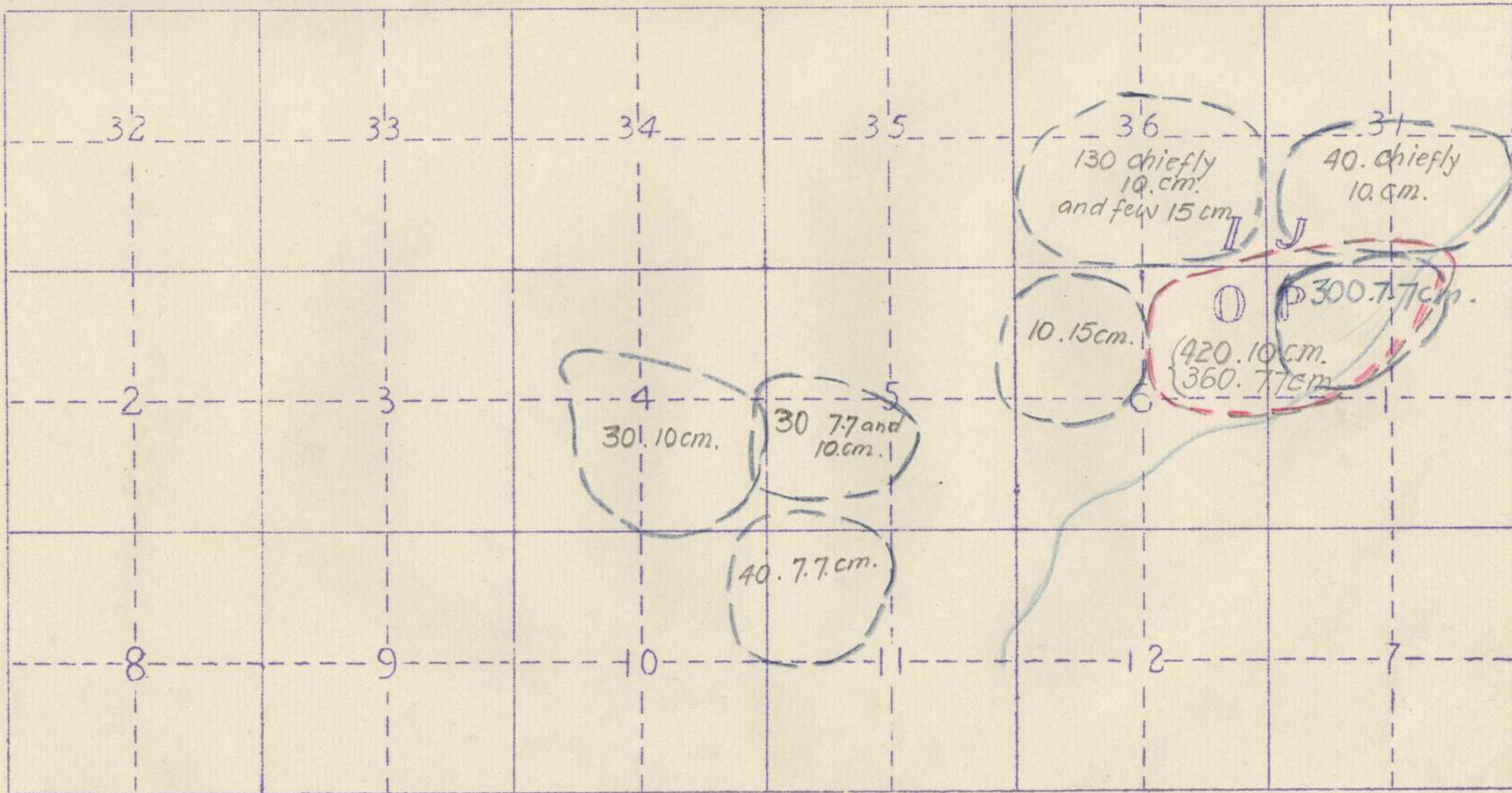
32	33	34	35	36	31
	20 Rds 10cm		50 Rds 7.7cm	55 Rds 7.7cm	20 Rds 15cm
2	3	4	5	6	0
8	9	10	11	12	7

CHATEAU Wood (0.4 A) shelled 35 Rds 7.7cm

# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

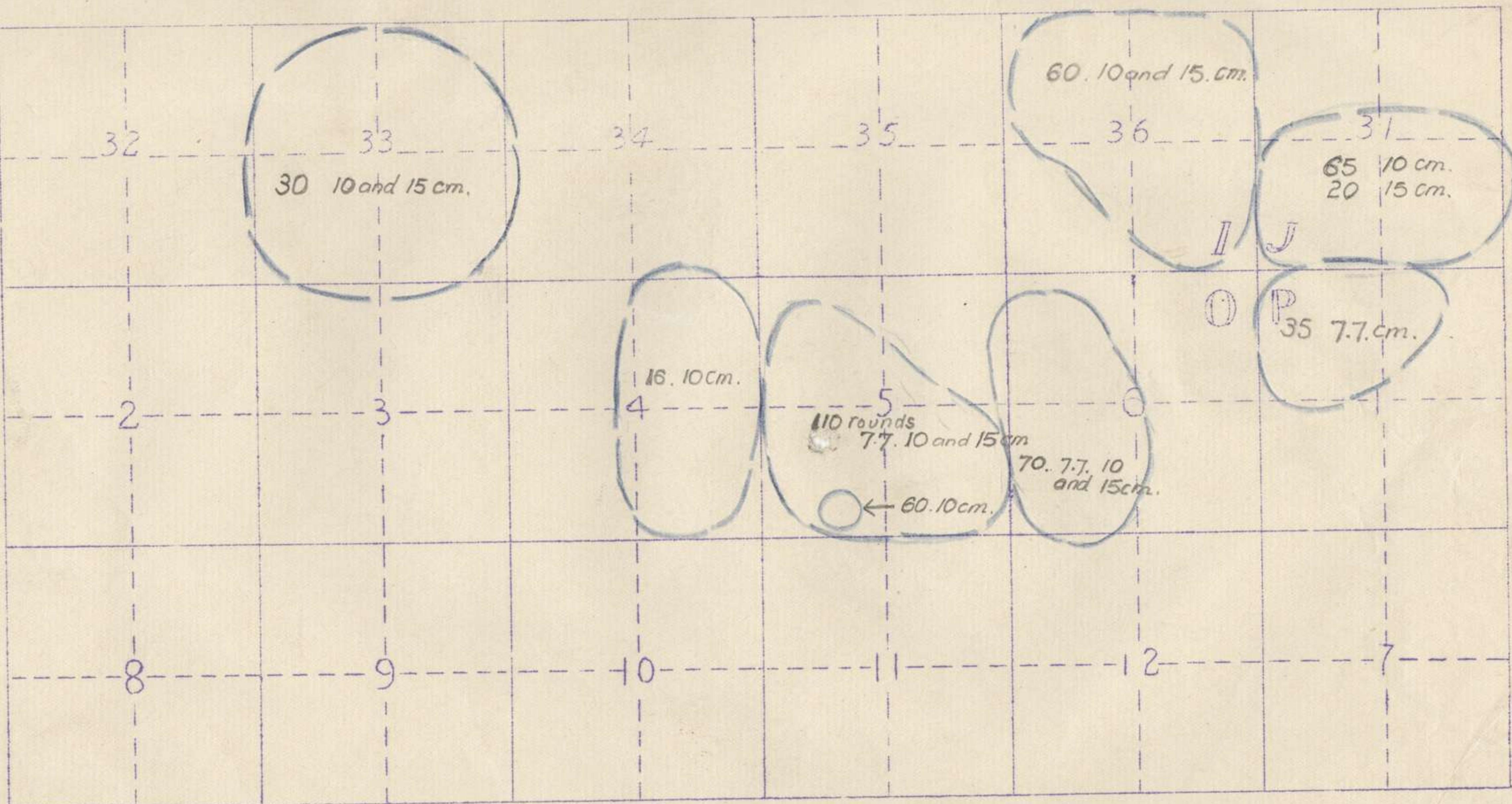
From 6 a.m 24/3/18 to 6 a.m 25/3/18.



DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

From 6 am 25/3/18 to 6 am 26/3/18.

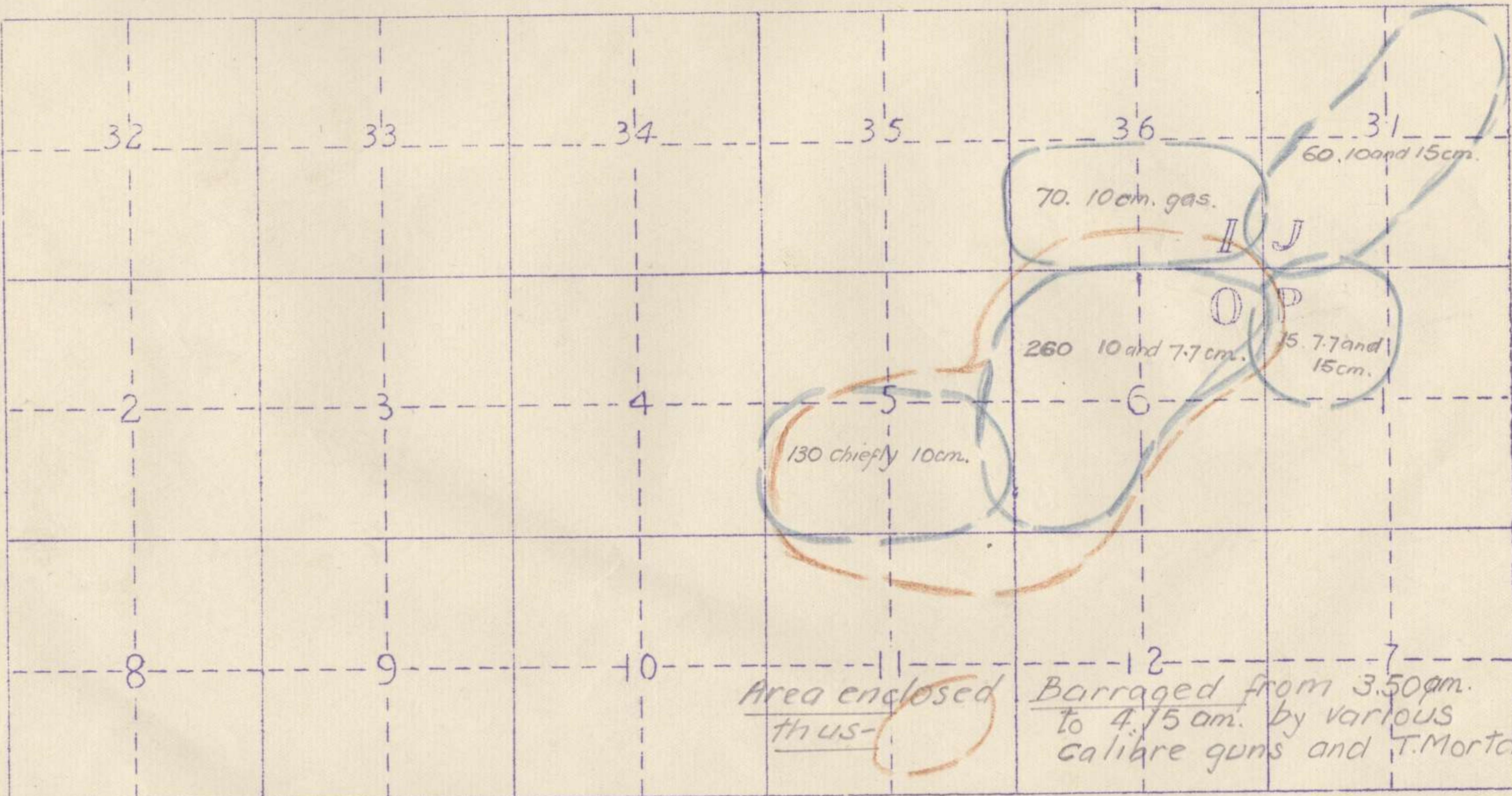
33



# DAILY SHELLING REGISTER

33

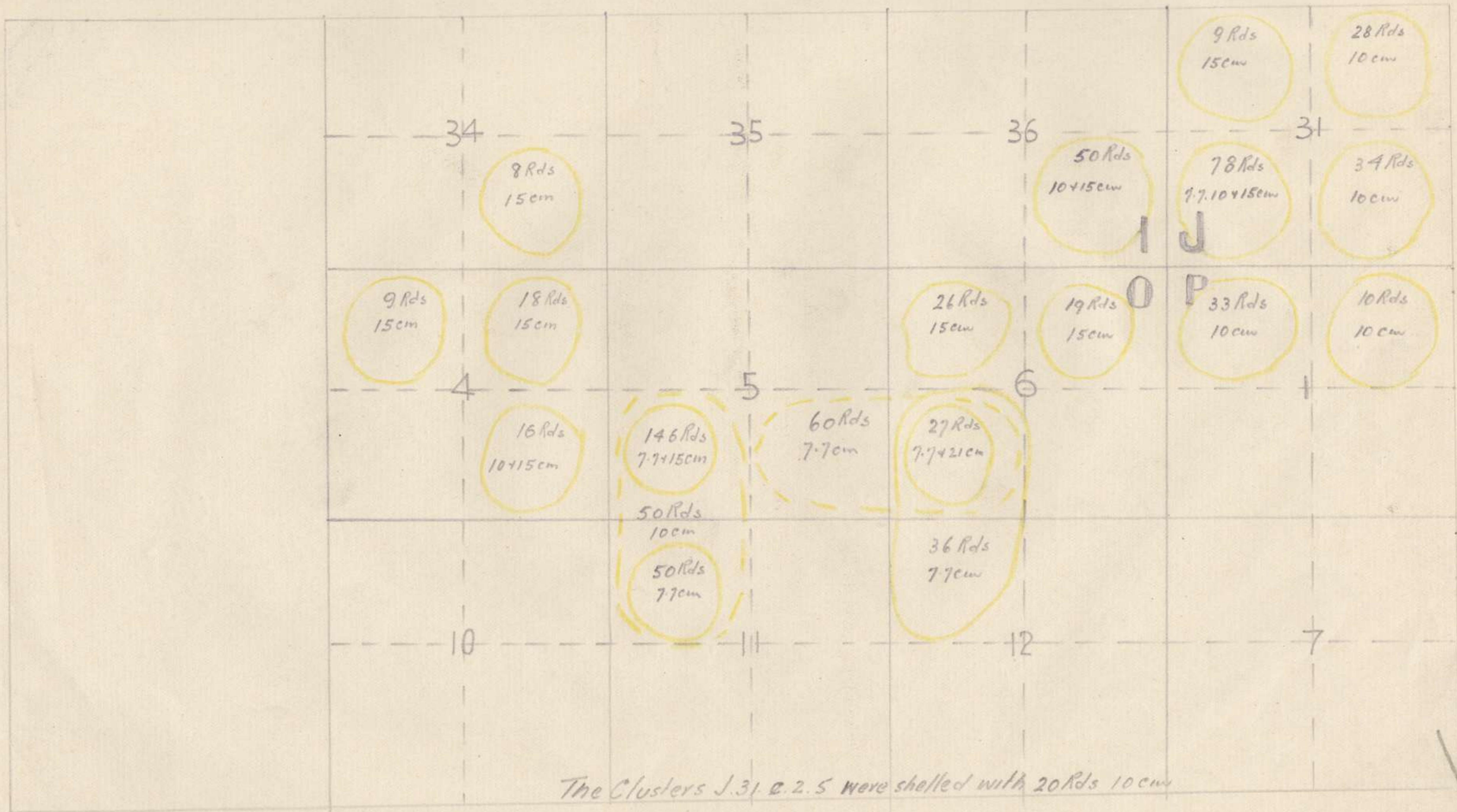
From 6 am 26/3/18 to 6 am 27/3/18



# DAILY SHELLING REPORT

From 6am 27/3/18 to 6am 28/3/18.

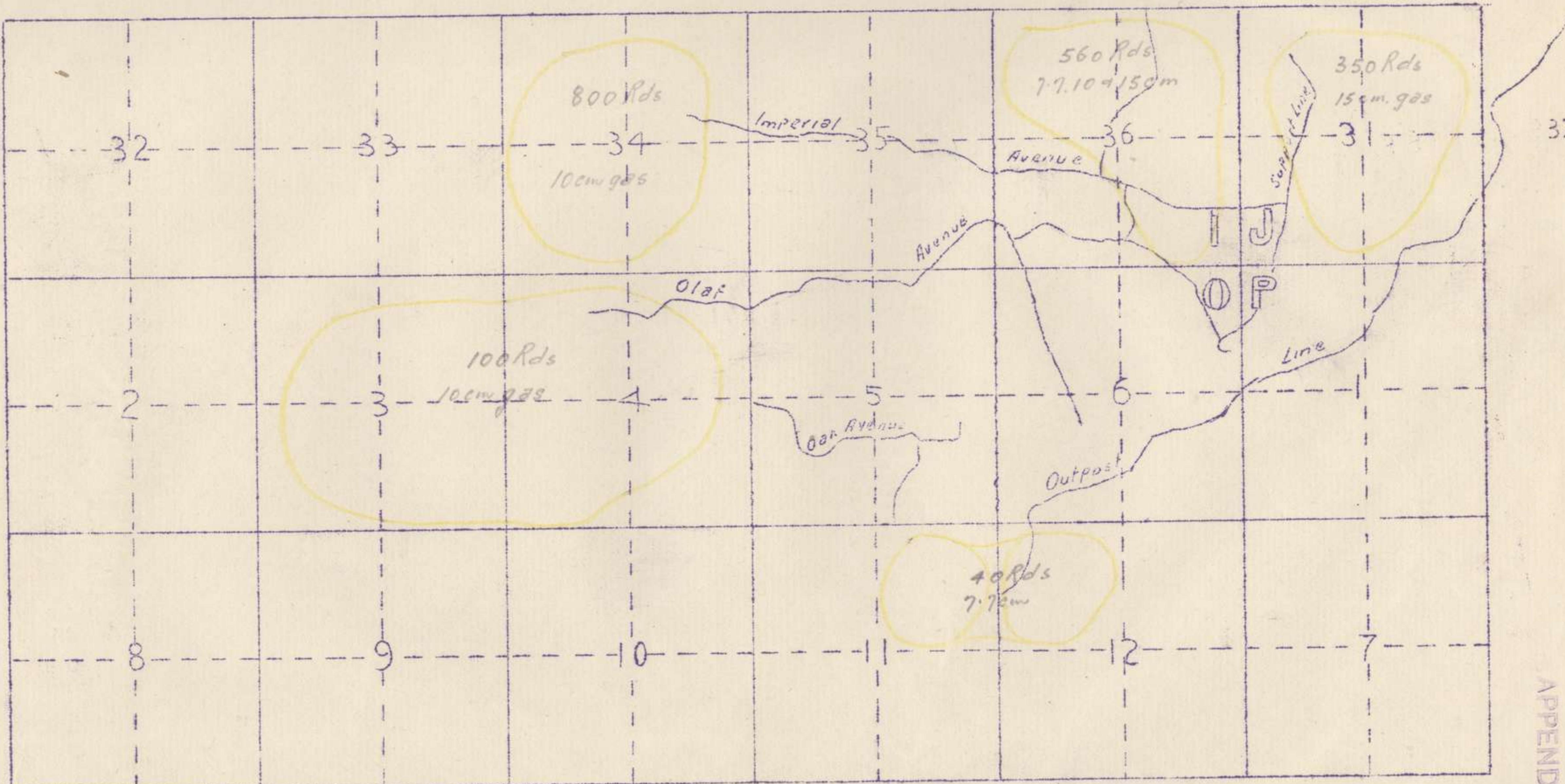
33



DAILY SHELLING REPORT

33

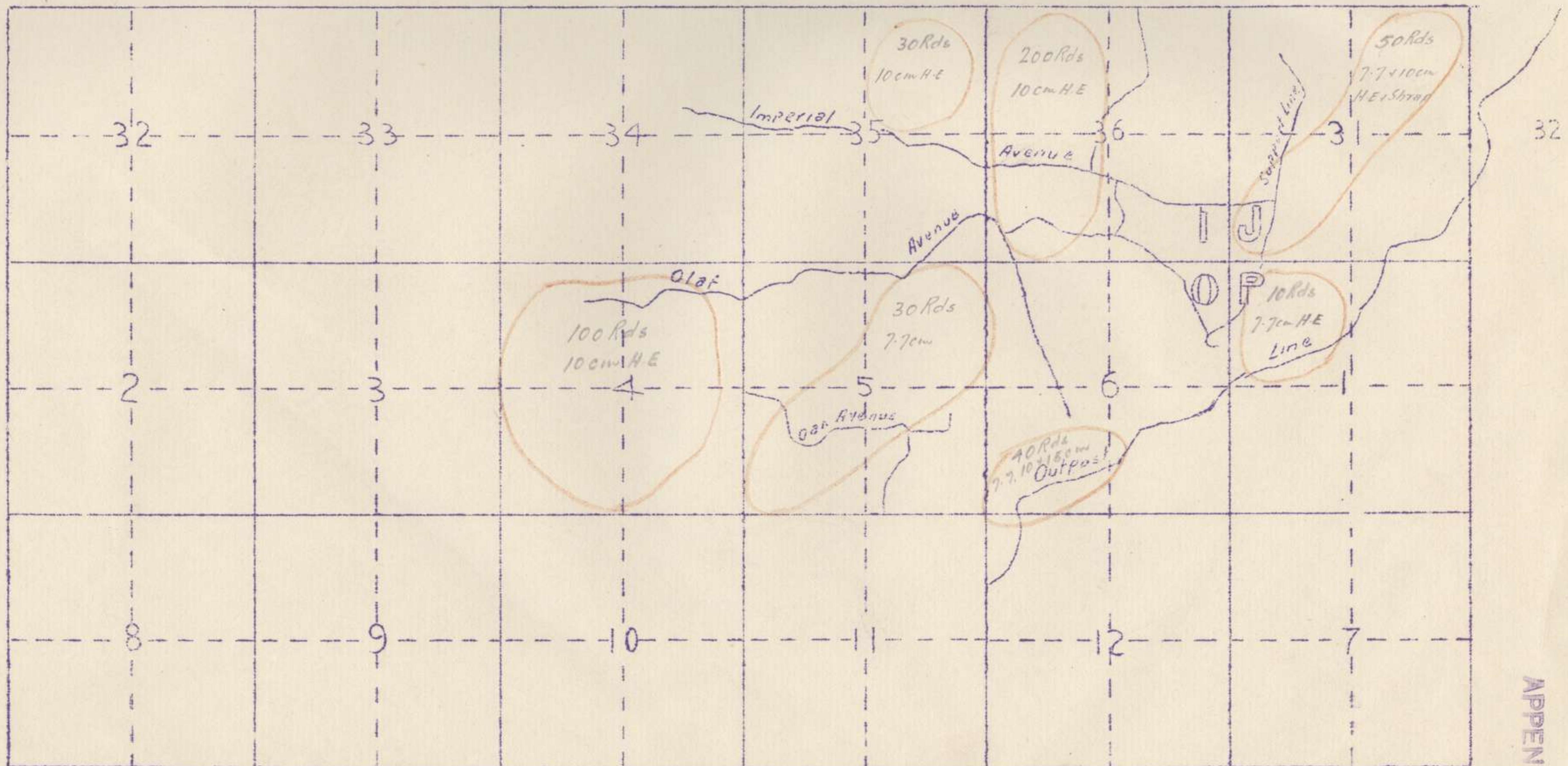
From 6 am 28/3/18 to 6 am 29/3/18



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DAILY SHELLING REPORT

From 6 am 29/3/18 to 6 am 30/3/18

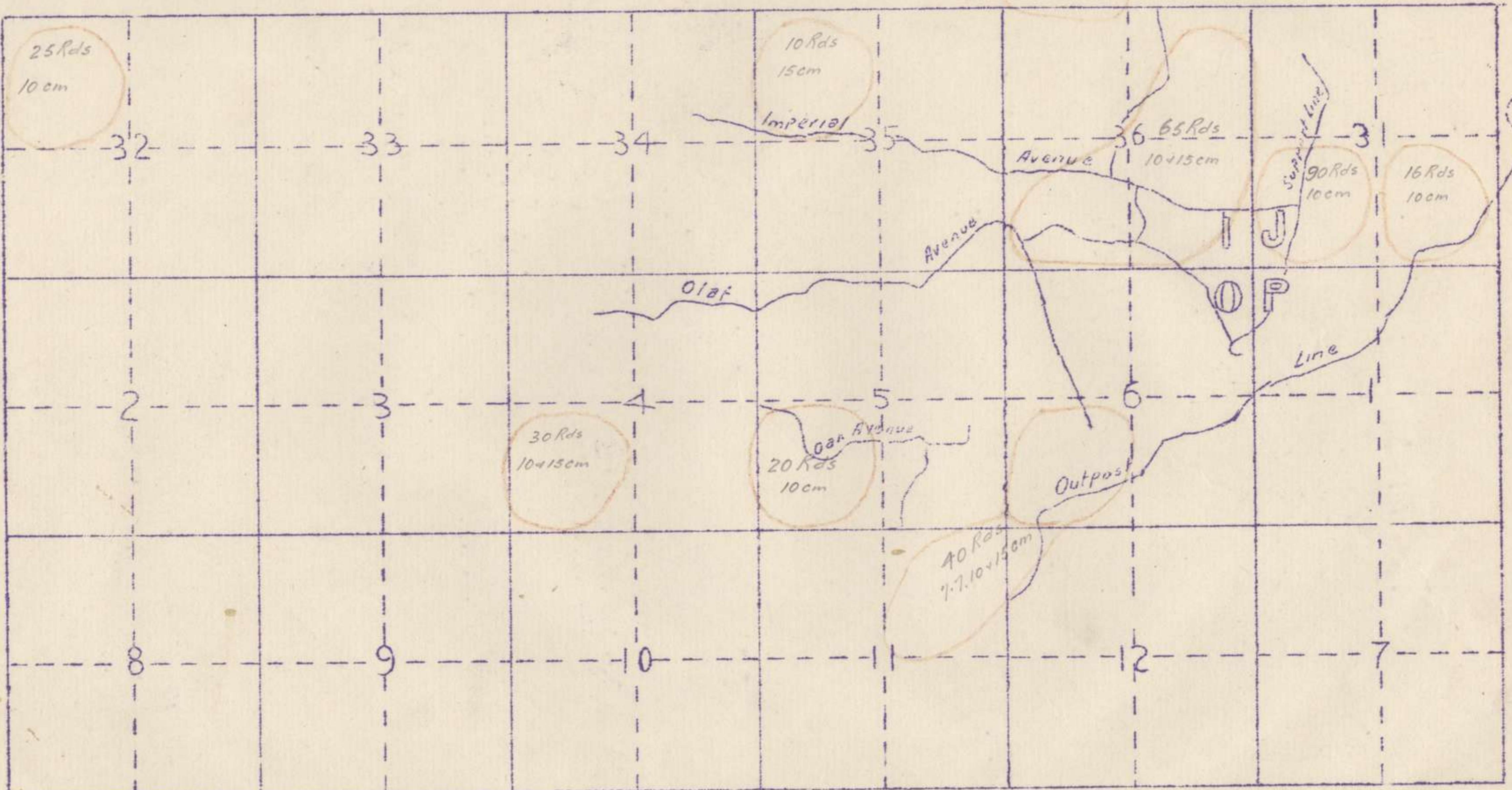


DAILY SHELLING REPORT

40Rds  
10cm

From 6am 30/3/18 to 6am 31/3/18  
130.c

33



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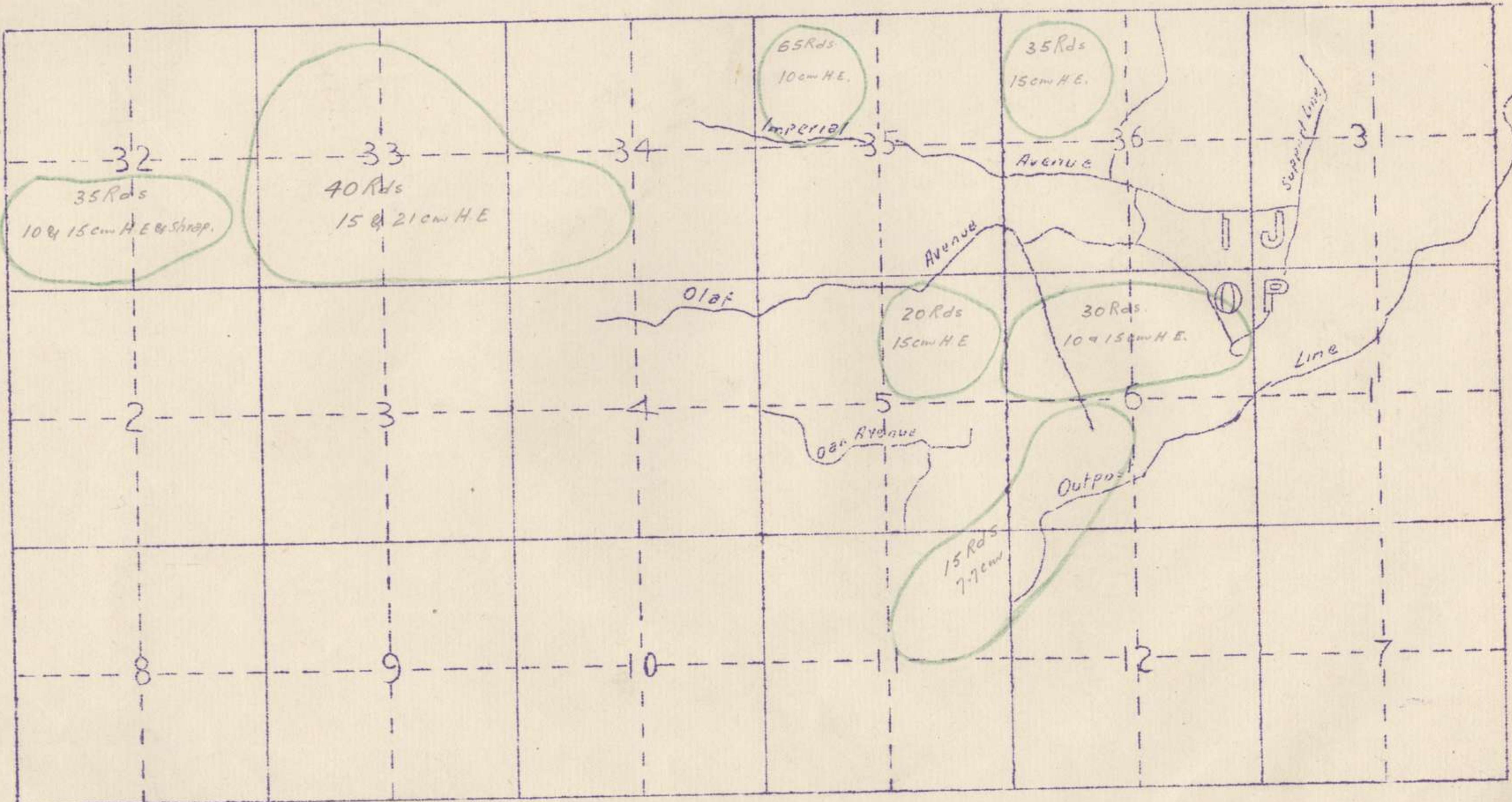
195

DAILY SHELLING REPORT

From 6am 31/3/18 to 6am 1/4/18

33

32



APPENDIX

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