

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/15/30 PART 6

**Title:** 15th Infantry Brigade

August 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/15/30PART6



Date 27th inst, 1918

Volume VIII

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 1.

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Appendix 49

265

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
1.	10.20 p.m.	B.M. 498	15th Brigade	All Battalions 15th A.L.T.M.B.	Brigade Units will detail Officers to reconnoitre tomorrow forward <del>area</del> area at present held by 8th Australian Infantry Brigade so as to be ready if necessary to leapfrog through. Acknowledge.
28.8.18. 2.	9.27 a.m.	I.G. 1704	5th Aust.Div.	15th Brigade	Our line now runs N. and S. through M.23.Central in touch with enemy.
3.		S.C. 833	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	All Units will be prepared to move this afternoon. At least two hours definite notice will be given of time for move. All preparations for move to be completed immediately.
4.	11.26 a.m.	I.G. 1724	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	32nd Division believed reached ABLAINCOURT well E. SOYECOURT. 5th Australian Division N. and S. through M.23.Central, E. of FAY advancing towards ESTREES. 2nd Australian Division E. of DOMPIERE and HOSPICE WOOD. 3rd Australian Division operating against CURLU.
5.	11.30 p.m.	I.G. 1728	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	2nd Division line 11 a.m. M.12.D.0-0. to M.6.Central, G.30.D.7-4. G.24.D.9-5. Enemy holding MERECAUCOURT WOOD. 32nd Division line at 8.15 a.m. M.35.C.6-9. M.35.D.4-0. S.6.A.0-6. S.6.C.8-8. S.6.C.3-7. S.6.C.5-0. S.12.Central.
6.	12.33 p.m.	C.R. 2	Front Liaison	15th Brigade	Line 10.50 a.m. 8th Brigade in touch with enemy along the line. Opposition at ESTREE Machine Gun and Light Artillery. In touch with flanks. Line approx. M.18. 24. 30 Central slowly moving forward.
7.	7.10 p.m.	G 1747	5th Division	15th Brigade	Advanced Headquarters 5th Australian Division will close at present location and reopen at Q.30.C.7-5. at 3.30 p.m.
8.	8.7 p.m.	G 1770	5th Division	15th Brigade	15th Australian Infantry Brigade will be prepared to relieve 8th Australian Infantry Brigade by 12 noon tomorrow 29th inst. This relief will not take place until definite orders issued from this Office. 15th Infantry Brigade will bivouac tonight at present location and will be ready to move at one hours notice.

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No. 2.  
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BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
9.	10 p.m.	B.M. 502	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	15th Australian Infantry Brigade is to be prepared to relieve the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade by 12 noon tomorrow 29th inst. The Brigade will bivouac tonight at present location and will be ready to move at one hours notice. Get touch with line Battalion Headquarters. 8th and 15th Brigade Headquarters at M.30.A.1-3.
10.		B.M. 503	15th Brigade	5th Division	Brigade now in position. Brigade Headquarters M.30.A.1-3. 57th Bn. M.30.C.5-5. 58th Bn. M.30.A.3-9. 59th Bn. M.17.D.1-1. 60th Bn. M.29.Central. 15th A.L.T.M.B. M.29.Central.
11.		G 1751	<del>15th Brigade</del> 5th Division	15th Brigade	2nd Division report their front M.12.D.5-0. M.12.B.6-0. N.1.A.7-0. H.31.D.8-5. H.31.D.8-8. H.31.A.8-0. G.36.B.7-7. SOPHIE TRENCH, E. of BOUCHER WOOD Cross Roads G.24.B.95-70. G.24B.3-1. G.24.A.9-2. in touch with enemy on whole front.
12.		I.G. 1760	5th Division	15th Brigade	French have reached the line of the SOMME and intend to force passage S. of ESPREECOURT. 32nd report BERDY captured troops advancing in R.3.C. and R.9.C. Right Brigade has reached line MARCELPOT, HAZELCOURT T.16.Central T.10. T.16.
13.		B.M. 505	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Unit Commanders will rest the men as much as possible tonight. Bread making will be completed before 9 a.m. tomorrow. Restrict movement to a minimum.
14.		B.M. 507	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Brigadier will see Unit Commanders at Brigade Headquarters at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.
15.		B.M. 508	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Report timed 12.10 a.m. 8th Brigade have taken ASSEVILLERS. Line now approx. M.14.A.2-9. N.14.A.9-1. N.21.A.2-3. N.21.C.9-1. N.27.A.8-4. N.27.D.6-9. N.33.B.9-1.
16.		I.G. 1849	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	From 32nd Division. 97th Brigade moving to T.16.B. 96th Brigade coming into Divisional Reserve. From 2nd Australian Division 6th Bde. ready to seize ground C.25. H.A. instructed NOT to fire West of line K.17.Central, DOINGT to Divisional Boundary. 2nd Aust. Div. Arty. is relieving 1st Aust. Div. Artillery.

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15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
17.		G.1854	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	2nd Australian Division report capture of BIANCHES. 21st Division has retired across the SOMME blowing bridges P.S. 32nd Division T.24.Central. T.18.Central. U.7.A.6-6. posts in U.13.D. along ACTRICE trench left Battalion slightly in rear of this.
18.		B.M. 509	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Wire from 32nd Division states. Left Brigade will establish line for tonight T.11.A.0-4. T.4.A.5-5.-T.3.B.8-8. N.33.C.2-3. If already forward to remain. Left Brigade Headquarters is 14th English Brigade at S.6.B.3-8.
19.		B.M. 510	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Prisoners taken at ASSEVILLERS by 6th Brigade of 2nd Division Kaiser Alexander Regiment state intention withdraw if pressed to E. of ASSEVILLERS and dig in. Company Strength 80 including Officers. Guards
20		B.M. 511	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	8th Brigade line now runs N.14.A.9-9. N.14.A.9-0. thence approx. to N.21.A.2-2. N.27.A.2-8. N.27.D.6-9. N.33.B.9-9. N.33.B.9-4. N.33.B.8-0. In touch with both flanks. Our patrols operating in BELLOY.
21.	5.50 a.m.	1805	5th Division	15th Brigade	ASSEVILLERS captured. Line runs N.14.A.9-9. N.14.A.9-0. thence approx. across to N.21.A.2-2. South to N.27.A.2-8. to N.27.D.6-9. N.27.A.7-2. N.33.B.9-9. N.33.B.9-4. N.33.B.8-0. Touch on both flanks and in centre Our patrols operating in BELLOY.
22.	6.22 a.m.		5th Division	15th Brigade	BELLOY occupied. Line runs North and South approx. along Grid line between N.15. and 16. Slight opposition.
23	B.M.	B.M. 512	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	BELLOY occupied. Line now runs North and South approx. along Grid line between N.15. and N.16. Slight Opposition. Still Advancing.
24.		B.M. 514	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Stand by ready to move at 9 a.m.
25		B.M. 515.	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Unit Commanders report Brigade Headquarters 8.15 a.m.

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 4

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
26.	8.15 a.m.		5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	<p>15th Australian Infantry Brigade will move forthwith to the vicinity of FAY, and will be prepared to closely support or leapfrog through the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade. G.O.C. 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will establish his Headquarters in the vicinity of 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters M.30.A.2-3. On approaching the SOMME leading troops will push on and rush the enemy to prevent his escape across the SOMME bridges. This movement to be closely supported.</p> <p>Artillery will endeavour to seize the High Ground North of VILLERS CARBONNEL and cover the SOMME Bridges to prevent the enemy withdrawing without severe loss.</p> <p><del>THE</del> A Bridgehead will be established EAST of the SOMME and the High ground in O.23. and O.29.</p> <p>Necessary Flank protection will be provided by Units concerned after crossing the SOMME.</p> <p>Bridges if not destroyed will be mined.</p> <p>14th Australian Infantry Brigade will move forthwith to the vicinity of R.23. and R.29.</p> <p>Addressed all concerned.</p>
27	8.55 a.m.	G.1808	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	<p>5th M.G. Battalion will detail one company to report to G.O.C. 15th A.I. Brigade forthwith. 2 Companies in Reserve will be moved to vicinity of FAY, in 23 Central. Addressed 5th M.G. Battalion repeated 15th 8th 14th A.I. Brigades.</p>
28	10.56 a.m.	G.1830	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	<p>have reached Canal. Posts established O.26.C.8-4. O.32.A.6-3. by right Battalion. Left Battalion held up by M.G. Fire O.8.C. 32nd Battalion crossed N. Boundary and moving forward to guard flanks.</p>
29	10.50 a.m.	ImG. 1826	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	<p>Line reported at 7.55 a.m. by 8th Australian Infantry Brigade as N. and S. through O.13. Central. O.25. Central. VILLERS CARBONNEL captured 2 Prisoners 161 I.R. 185th Division captured N.28. Enemy holding line O.8. Central. O.14. Central. Prisoners statement.</p>

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
30	11.34 a.m.	3/6	57th Battalion	15th Brigade	We are intouch with Reserve Battalion of 8th Australian Infantry Bde. and in rear of them. Battalion Headquarters at N.29.D.5-2.
31.	11.15 a.m.	A8/52	59th Battalion	15th Brigade	29th Battalion Headquarters at N.18.C.7-7. I.am at Junction roads N.17.A.8-8. My Headquarters moving along road through BARLEUX in N.13.A. and B. There are no troops advancing on my left. Am pushing patrols further forward. Wounded N.C.O. of 7th Brigade reports our troops on the Canal.
32	12.5 p.m.	B.M. 518	15th Brigade	Brigade Forward Station 8th A.I. Brigade	Following received direct from General HOBBS. 15th Brigade will now relieve 8th Australian Infantry Brigade who will pass to Divisional reserve. 15th. A.I. Brigade will establish a Bridgehead on the EAST Bank of the River on the High Ground in O.23. and O.29. Actual time of taking over will be arranged between Brigadiers. The whole of the M.G. Battalion Units forward will come under the Command of G.O.C. 15th A.I. Brigade, as soon as command passes. Bridging train at disposal of 15th Brigade.
33	12.15 p.m.	B.M. 519	15th Brigade	Brigade Units 5th Division 8th Brigade 14th Brigade	Brigade Headquarters closes at present location and opens immediately at O.25.C.1-9.
34	12.15 p.m.	B.M. 520	15th Brigade	5th Aust. Div.	Front line reports being troubled by low flying E.A.
35	1.15 p.m.	A8/189	60th Battalion	15th Brigade	Have halted in rear 58th Battalion. Battalion Headquarters at present situated N.29.A.4-8. Please advise situation.
36			B.G.C. 15th Bde.	Bde. I.O.	This will be my Battle Headquarters. Please arrange lines here accordingly. O.31.E.3-3.
37	R.M.2				

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
37		R.M.2	Left Brigade Liaison	15th Brigade	BIACHES has been captured. General line of 7th Aust. Inf. Bde is along W. bank of the SOMME. In touch with 5th Brigade on left. 7th Brigade Headquarters now at H.32.C.6-8.
38		R.M.1	Left Brigade Liaison	15th Brigade	At 7.30 a.m. troops passed HERBECOURT. At 7.50 passed FLAUCOURT. At 8.30 a.m. our troops seen advancing over ridge N.6.A. and H.35.A & B Heavy Machine Gun fire from the direction of BIACHES. No M.G. Fire heard from right. At 8.45 a.m. above message received by 7th Brigade. 7th Brigade Headquarters is moving forward to HERBECOURT.
39	11.20 a.m.	W.S.9	58th Battalion	15th Brigade	Battalion in position on line approximately running through N.23.B. and D Battalion Headquarters now situated N.23.D.3-3. in touch with 59th Battalion on left, 60th Battalion in rear, 57th Battalion on right with "C" Company 30th Battalion (who are in support to 31st Battalion in front)
40			B.G.C. 15th Bde.	15th Brigade	Send me Artillery representative to Trench about O.31.E.3-3. just off road. Messenger will guide. I shall require if possible creeping barrage arranged from bank of Canal in squares 32, 33 and 34. so that I can get right Battalion across the River first under cover of this Barrage. Artillery is with 5th Brigade.
41		I.G. 1862	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	BIACHES, FLAUCOURT and BOS COURT captured. Air report states Bridges I.33.D. O.15.A. intact. O.26.D. O.32. U.S. destroyed. explosions at Road bridge I.33.C. Railway Bridge W.6.A. T.16.D. Crossroads N.30.D. blown up.
42		B.M.6	8th A.I. Bde.	15th Brigade	Word just received from Division that relief is not to be proceeded with. Line broken will ring up as soon as it is through.
43	6.58 p.m.	IR/195	15th Brigade	All Bde. Units	Battalions will remain in present locations until further orders. (Authority Telephone message with G.S.O. 2 5th Australian Division) This cancels all previous orders. Note and return.
44	7 p.m.	B.M. 524	15th Brigade	Brigade Units	Tonights operations temporarily cancelled. Brigade Units will remain in present locations until further orders.

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15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
45		G 100	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	There will be a conference of Brigadiers at M.30.a.2-5. at 8.15.p.m. this evening.
46	7.55 p.m.	R.S.16	Brigade Rearx	Brigade Forward	A conference of Brigade Commanders will be held at these Headquarters at 8.15 p.m. tonight. (Phone message from Div. 7.50 p.m.) PETTIGREW has gone forward along road with horses and will wait just West of Villers for General.
47	30.8.18. 8.30 a.m.		B.G.C. 15th A.I.Bde.	B.M. 15th A.I. Bde. C/o. 7th A.I.Bde.	Please carry on relief in small parties whilst observation bad. I consider relief in circumstances perfectly practicable. Am establishing Battle Headquarters O.3.A.750-95. Please arrange wire to me. Company Headquarters near me has earth line.
48	8.10 a.m.	3/12	57th Battalion	15th Brigade	Battalion Headquarters at O.14.B.1-1.
49	8.30 a.m.	TKL/14	60th Battalion	15th Brigade	60th Battalion Headquarters now approximately at O.13.A.9-8. Received order stand fast for the present.
50	7.5 a.m.	A8/54	59th Battalion	15th Brigade	In assembly position. No one on right or left as yet.
51	8.50 a.m.	W.S/14	58th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Battalion halted N.G.C in accordance with verbal order received from Brigade Major through Capt.Lay. Men in trenches below crest. Battalion Headquarters at N.6.C.3.2.
52	7.35 a.m.		58th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Am at assembly position. Headquarters at O.8.A.3.3. This is 26th Battalion Headquarters. They report their troops across Canal held up by the marshes of the SOMME RIVER. They are trying to use corduroy road in O.3.d. Reference not clear. Very little opposition. PERONNE Railway being shelled. Have not yet located 58th Battalion. Please advise me further action.
53	8.15 a.m.	B.M. 526	15th Brigade	57th Battalion	The second Division Battalions (26th, 28th, 27th.) Have been unable to effect a crossing over the river. Stand fast in O.13 a. and B. and await orders. 58th Battalion are coming into O.7.

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
54	7.45 a.m.	A.8/55	59th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Following received from Lieut. Christian forward Liaison Patrol. Begins. " Am at approximately O.3.C. central. 26th and 28th failed to cross the river owing to, swamp being impassable and have retired through me. Pontoon bridge in O.9. central still good but swamp on the other side impassable. Will wait her for orders.
55	7.45 a.m.		15th Brigade	5th Aust. Div. 14th Brigade. 8th Brigade.	7th Australian Brigade still on West bank of SOMME. G.O.C. considers relief impracticable during daylight. 28th Battalion crossed Canal one company but failed to find way across swamp beyond. No enemy opposition except heavy artillery on forward slope similar BRIE yesterday. Further bridging material urgently required so as to arrange passage during night. Have established Forward Headquarters O.2.c.2.7. Forward instructions.
56	7.a.m.	B.M.71	7th A.A. Bde	15th Brigade.	Impossible to be relieved by daylight. Your Staff Captain now proceeding to RENDEZVOUS troops in most suitable staging area.
57	10.55 a.m.	B.M.72	7th Brigade	15th Brigade.	It is impossible to be relieved during daylight as forward slope is exposed to both machine gun and artillery fire. Your Staff Captain has just reported and is now proceeding in direction of FLAUCOURT and BARLEUX to stop our troops from moving forward our front line. Will rendezvous any troops on the move in valleys between BARLEUX And FLAUCOURT. At the present moment an attempt is being made to cross the canal at O.9. central with a view to capturing trench system South West of DOINGT. Our Battalions ordered not to attempt to be relieved until dark. Brigade headquarters at H.32.c.6.8.
58			57th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Our Battalion Headquarters situated N.24.a.5.9. You instructed me to run a line to 60th Battalion can you give disposition please.
59	10.30 a.m.	3/13	57th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Battalion Headquarters at N.24.a.5.9.. All Companies in O.13 in good trenches.

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
60	9 a.m.		G.O.C. 15th A.I. Brigade	5th Aust. Div.	Have personally reconnoitred up to SOME. I consider daylight relief perfectly practicable. Am endeavouring to arrange accordingly unless haze lifts. Arrange for bridging material also artillery covering fire please.
61	10.45 a.m.	A.8/203	60th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Battalion in position. All men accommodated in trenches. Battalion Headquarters situated in QUARRY at N.12.c.3.5.
62	8 a.m.	B.M. 9	Major Aitchison	15th Brigade.	7th Brigade report 3 Platoons were across canal at 7 a.m. but cannot proceed further on account of the marsh also no river crossing. They are working South towards O.5. to try and cross there.
63	12.30 p.m.		15th A.L.T.M.B.	15th Brigade.	Battery in position Headquarters at N.18.c.2.2. (near 57th Battalion)
64			15th Brigade	5th Aust. Div.	No Artillery Liaison Officers neither Field or Heavy have yet reported nor Engineer officer. Could same report here O.2.c.1.7 soon as possible.
65			13th Light Horse.	15th Brigade.	Two Troops Light Horse are camped at N.16.d.20.20. A mounted D.R. is attached to 58th Battalion for inter-communication.
66	5.15 p.m.	B.M. 529	15th Brigade	13th A.L.H.	Stand fast where you are for the night. Send a runner to stand by at Brigade Headquarters to take any despatched to you.
67		G.103	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade.	Aeroplane reconnaissance report enemy occupying trenches in O.16 b and D and O.22 A. and C and O.28.A. Further South enemy is holding trenches on line U.9. central- U.15 central-U.21 central.

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
68		C.4	5th Aust.Div.	I5th Brigade.	Morning report from 2nd Australian Division. Right Brigade has been able to bridge canal and have patrolled on Eastern bank but is held up by marshy ground East of river and complete crossing of Battalions is doubtful. Left Brigade has bridged J.19.c.3.0 also held up marsh EAST of bridge. Heavy Machine Gun fire still coming from EASTERN edge of CLERY and prevents our crossing causeway at H.12.b which is intact. Three Battalions of 5th Brigade are going to cross at FEUILLES and attempt to reach objective through CLERY. 18th Battalion is remaining on OMNIECOURT peninsula. I Battalion 6th A.I. Brigade placed disposal 5th Brigade to replace 18th Battalion. Scattered shelling on our front including H.4 (H.V.) on back areas.
69	5.15 p.m.	B.M.528	15th Brigade.	To all Brigade Units.	By direction G.O.C. Division all that is to be attempted tonight is the establishment of patrol posts on minor objective. Major objective not to be attempted.
70	5.30 p.m.	B.M.532	15th Brigade.	I5th Field Co. A.E.	Tonight the Brigade will establish patrol posts on the EAST side of the river from the general line O.4. and I.34 central. Get into touch with Battalion Headquarters and give what assistance you can with bridges.
71		G.1957	5th Aust.Div.	I5th Brigade.	I5th A.I. Brigade will ensure that a guard of enterprising men is told off to protect the railway bridge at I.33.d.6.3 to prevent its destruction by enemy. Party of Sappers to accompany the guard to find and withdraw demolition charge from the bridge. Acknowledge.
72	6.35 p.m.	B.M.534	15th Brigade	58th Battalion and I5th Field Co. A.E.	Following received from 5th Aust.Division. 15th A.I. Brigade will ensure that a guard of enterprising men is told off to protect the railway bridge in I.33.d.6.b to prevent its destruction by enemy. Party of Sappers to accompany the guard to find out and withdraw demolition charge from the bridge. 28th Battalion Company Commander reports that the enemy made six attempts to destroy the bridge yesterday so that it is not considered likely that there any more charges there. 58th Battalion will supply the party of enterprising men as asked for Division. If you see Lieut. GIBB or any of I5th Field Co. instruct them to examine bridge at once.

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Serial No.	Time	Senders Nos	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
73	7.p.m.	B.M.535	15th Brigade	5th Aust.Div.	Re your G.1957. Party will be detailed. Line Battalions report that enemy made six attempts yesterday therefore not anticipated any charges there now.
74	7.5. p.m.	B.M.536	15th Brigade	15th Field Co. A.E.	Division instructs us to protect railway bridge in I.33.d.6.3 and to obtain assistance Sappers in examining bridge for charges. May your men get in touch with 58th Battalion re this.
75		1963	5th Aust.Div.	15th Brigade.	Situation report. Right Battalion reports have established posts on EAST bank of Canal SOMME but now being withdrawn to WEST bank. Enemy holding trenches in O.27 - O.33 - very strongly with Machine Guns. Bridge at O.26.d.2.6. destroyed by T.M. fire from BRIE. Brick works R.30.d. being shelled by 5.9's from direction LE MESNIL. Left Battalion patrols are on EAST bank of canal but held up by marsh.
76			15th Field Co A.E.	15th Brigade	Reference your B.M. 532 there are bridges at O.9 central O.3.d.3.0 - O.3.b.7.9. ( the latter is a double foot bridge over the lock) in addition the railway bridge is passable to infantry - you have therefore sufficient bridges for the establishment of any posts. You will not be able to pass very far beyond the SOMME CANAL as the marsh and swamps are very wide, to tackle this will require bridges up to 250 feet in length beyond those on the canal. We have not sufficient pontoons to waste on small schemes. I am given to understand that the using of the pontoon for the swamps will require Divisional approval.
77	7.p.m.	B.M.536	15th Brigade.	Major Aitchison Liaison officer 7th A.I.Brigade.	Report to and take up duty with 5th Brigade.
78	7.50 p.m.	B.M.537	15th Brigade.	57/58/59th Bns	15th Field Co. report bridges at O.9. central - O.3.D.3.0. - O.3.b.7.9. the latter a double foot bridge over the lock. In addition to railway bridge is passable to Infantry.

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
79	7 p.m.	R.M.11	Major Aitchison Liaison Off 7th A.I. Brigade.	15th Brigade.	Report received from 5th A.I. Brigade timed 6 p.m. 3rd Aust. Div. have worked down BERLINGOE trench and CLERY COPSE to I.7.a.8.6 strong opposition met from I.1.d. and I.7.b. 5th A.I. Brigade passed through CLERY and line now runs I.7.a.8.6. to I.7.a.5.0 along PLANT ALLEY and BARGE ALLEY to H.6.d.5.1.
80	8.25 p.m.	A.8/208	60th Battalion	15th Brigade.	In position. Battalion Headquarters situated in trench at H.12.b.9.1.
81	10 p.m.	W.S./6	58th Battalion	15th Brigade.	C C C 309. ( <i>Relief complete</i> )
82	10.35 p.m.	B.M.542	15th Brigade		
83	10.40 p.m.	R.M.13	Major Aitchison Liaison Off. 5 th A.I. Bde.	15th Brigade.	Disposition of 5th A.I. Brigade. 19th Battalion holding the WEST bank of the SOME between H.12 central Grid line between H.24 and H.300. 19th Battalion intend crossing SOME tonight at H.12.b.1.1. Other Three Battalions are on a general line H.5.d. H.3.c and d. H.12.b. I.7.a. Enemy still occupying BERLIN COPSE and trenches in I.1.c. and 5th Brigade Headquarters at H.19.a.9.1
84	2.10 a.m.	G.1933	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade.	Corps Report. Leading Battalion 2nd Division progressing slowly but steadily now in EAST of CLERY. Enemy resistance obstinate. Unsuccessful counter attack CLERY COPSE 3.45 p.m. Line I.7.a.8.4 - I.1.a.5.0 - G.25 C.35 C.25 A.40 G.25 A 28. Time 6.30 p.m. Railway bridge I.33.d.6.1 blown up passable with difficulties to Infantry. Air report foot bridge at O.9.b.3.5. O.9.c.7.5 intact. M.G. fire from I.20.a.
85	11.55 a.m.	G.J.892	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade.	Following will attend conference at 7th Brigade Headquarters H.32.c.6.8 at 10.30 a.m. 31st. Infantry Brigadiers, C.R.A., C.R.B., O.C. Sig. O.C. H.C. Battalion. Acknowledge.
86	1.50 a.m.	A.8/160	59th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Headquarters I.32.d.3.3.

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
87	1.26		Intelligence Officer 58th Battalion.	15th Brigade.	Enemy has shelled ground between our lines and canal fairly heavily for the last two or three hours with Whizz-bangs and 5.9's. Our party which were reconnoitring to form post to guard railway bridge failed to return for some time and we found the whole party consisting of 2 officers and 2 other ranks were all wounded badly. Another party under Command of an officer will be sent forward to attempt to establish this post. Enemy has a M.G. post very close to the bridge and appears to be co-operating with his Artillery as when he opens fire his Artillery opens promptly on our line and the ground in front.
88	12.45 a.m.	A.8/59	60th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Patrol report as follows - Bridge 32 A 49 examined with break of 35 feet. Centre blown clean out. Width of canal at this point estimated 35 yards. Enemy shelling remnants of bridge. Bridge at 32 B 53 about 20 feet blown out. Bridge being shelled by 77 mm gun. Right company not yet reported.
89		B.M.10		15th Brigade.	Relief complete. Command passed to G.O.C. 14th Brigade 1.15 a.m.
90			57th Bn. I.O.	15th Brigade.	Herewith disposition of 57th Battalion at present. Patrols as reported per telephone have thoroughly searched the EASTERN side of Canal and all existing tracks examined. All lead to water. On each side of these tracks is water 3 feet deep with thick reeds. These tracks were apparently used for duck shooting and seem to have been built in pre-war days.
91	2.30 a.m.	A.8/61	59th Battalion	15th Brigade	Our patrol has crossed bridge at I.33.b.3.0 Machine Gun fire experienced from wood at I.4.b.0.8 and from I34.a.0.2 Artillery support being given. No further report from patrol. Another patrol being sent out.
92	3.a.m.	GCF1	5th Aust.Div.	15th Brigade.	2nd Division continue advance 5 a.m. principally for high ground and I.15.b. heavy engaging I.26.d. Cleared I.7.a. I.7.c. and I.13 a. capturing 140 prisoners

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Date

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
93	4.a.m.	B.M.546	15th Brigade	5th Aust.Div. 14th Inf.Bde. and 5th Inf.Bde.	Situation report. Patrols searched tracks. All end in deep swamp and appear to be old shooting tracks. No patrols able to get through swamp. Bridges at I.32.a.4.9 and I.32.c.5.3 have 35 and 20 feet break respectively. Patrol crossed bridge I.33.b.3.0 experienced M.G.fire from I.34 a.0.2. and 0.4.b.0.8. Enemy Artillery active on WEST edge of canal. M.G.'s active on roads and tracks.
94	6.5. a.m.	GCF 31	5th Aust.Div	15th A.I.Bde	2nd. Division will continue advance at 5.a.m. objective high ground vicinity MONT ST QUENTIN and as far EAST as MONT ST QUENTIN-ST DENIS ROAD. Trench system I.7.a. and c. and I.36.b. has been captured 140 prisoners. Acknowledge.
95	1.25 a.m.	B.M.547	15th Brigade	5th Aust.Div.	Patrols have reached EASTERN bank of canal but have so far failed to penetrate swamp owing water, mud and reeds. Reconnaissance is proceeding.
96	9.35 a.m.	B.M.553	15th Brigade	57/58/59th Bns.	14th A.I.Brigitade is to at once cross river at OMMIECOURT - LES -CLERY and move down to EAST bank and seize high ground in I.35.0.5 and 0.11. Details later.
97	8.5 a.m.	G261		15th Brigade.	5th Aust.Div. message begins- 14th A.I.Bde will at once cross river at OMMIECOURT LES CLERY move downEAST bank and seize high ground in I.35.0.5. 0.11. 14th A.I.Brigitade to try and establish communications with 5th Aust.Div. Headquarters.
98			15th Field.Co. A.E.	15th Brigade.	An old tramway on piers was found at 0.5.d.4.2. 70 yards was prepared to carry duck boards laid on rails. The EASTERNWARDS from this runs a pathway about a 100 yards long to an avenue of trees from then onwards there is a gap over water where the enemy had had a bridge and which was destroyed. It is intended to bridge this with cork piers. Beyond the water it is thought that the ground is firm because there is a plantation of big trees. This track has been used by the enemy as it is footworn. Sufficient duck boards and 30 % cork piers have been carried on to the job. A cork bridge at 0.9.b.25.65. over the canal gives access to the above track.

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 15.

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BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
99	9.15 a.m.	G.268	2nd.Aust.Div.	14th Brigade.	Recommend portion of Brigade should cross river at BOFCOURT remainder OMMIECOURT. All transport must cross at FEULLERES.
100	11.5 a.m.	B.M.555	15th Brigade	Brigade Units. 15th M.G.Co. 13.A.L.H. 15th Field Co.	2nd. Aust.Division have captured ground vicinity MONT ST QUENTIN I.16.b. 14th A.I.Brigade is moving at once by OMMIECOURT bridge H.12.central to EAST bank of SOMME, and will move SOUTH EAST and will attack and capture the ridge in O.11.05 and I.35. 15th A.I.Brigade will hold present front definitely.
101		G.2029	5th Aust.Div.	15th Brigade.	2nd. Aust. Div. Have captured ground vicinity of MONT ST QUENTIN I.16.1 14th A.I.Brigade will move at once by OMMIECOURT bridge H.12.central to EAST bank of SOMME, and will move SOUTH EAST and attack and capture the ridge in O.11. 0.5 and I.35 Artillery Liaison Officer is reporting to 14th Brigade Headquarters forthwith. 14th A.I.Brigade will temporarily establish battle Headquarters at H.32.c.6.8. The G.O.C. 14th Brigade will meet Div. Commander H.32.c.6.8 at 10 a.m. 15th A.I.Brigade will hold present front definitely.
102	10.15 a.m.	R.M.16	Major Aitchison	15th Brigade.	5th Infantry Brigade report timed 9.35 a.m. appears definitely all objectives definitely gained. Left Battalion captured 638 Centre 250 PRISONERS to date Left Battalion reports 10th Brigade well up on our flank. 18th Battalion instructed to move on the right flank of 10th Brigade 17th, 18th and 19th Battalions instructed to push forward to line I.24.a.- I.16 central MONT ST QUENTIN WOOD.
103	9.15 a.m.	R.M.14	Major Aitchison	15th Brigade.	5th Brigade report timed 8.20 a.m. all objectives taken. Over 800 prisoners and large number of Machine Guns. Slight casualties. Little resistance. Intend pushing on to line I.24.d.- I.16.a. FEULLEUCOURT.
104	11.45 a.m.	B.M.556	15th Brigade.	All,Battalions	Following on B.M. 553 and 55 6. If enemy on 15th Brigade front is not already retiring it must be anticipated he will do so. Battalions will take every opportunity to keep in touch with enemy and effect crossing over river. Report at once action on the front.

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## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

265

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
105	11.55 a.m.	B.M.557	15th Brigade	15th Field Co. A.E.	5th A.I. Brigade have gained all objectives and are pushing on past MONT ST QUENTIN. Anticipated that enemy will retire on our front. Battalions instructed to keep touch and get across river. Will you please render what assistance you can. Would like to see you here. 14th A.I. Brigade are to cross at OMMIECOURT and attack SOUTH EAST through PERONNE.
106	11.50 a.m.	B.M.165	14th Brigade.	5th Aust. Div. 8th Brigade. 15th Brigade.	The 14th Brigade has been ordered to move at once via OMMIECOURT - LES- CLERY down to EAST bank of the river and seize high ground in I.35.05 and O.11. Units will move due NORTH in present relative positions 53rd, 54th to H.17 and H.23 55th and 56th to H.16 and H.22 by cross country route in artillery formation. On reaching those positions the 53rd Battalion will cross river and establish themselves in I.8. facing SOUTH EAST and guard arrival of 54th who will follow them across and form up in I.7. (on right of 53rd) facing SOUTH EAST 55th and 56th follow (in that order) and resume their normal positions covering 53rd and 54th. Battalions will arrange their own forward reconnaissance. Rear Battalions will maintain touch with forward Battalions throughout. C.O's and Officers Commanding attached units will meet G.O.C. at H.17.b.central at 12 noon.
107	10.40 a.m.	C.R.4	14th British Brigade H.Q.	15th Brigade.	14th British Brigade Headquarters at M.30.c.1.9. Dispositions 1 Battalion 1st Dorsets in front line Headquarters at N.30.b.0.7. 2 Battalions Royal Scots and 15th H.L.I. in support on same alignment. Can you let me have 62 C map.
108	1.25 p.m.	A.8/63	59th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Our Shrapnel bursting in 14.A. and C. enemy can be seen retiring along road in 8 central towards FAULLAUCOURT.
109	1.35 p.m.	W.S.20	58th Battalion.	15th Brigade.	Intermittent shelling continues on sector same direction and calibre. Isolated movement occasionally observed by Battalion O.P. and artillery informed. Nothing unusual on this sector and so far no signs of retirement.

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Date

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 17.

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

265

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
110	2.35 p.m.	A 8/64	59th Battalion	15th Brigade.	No enemy movement on front. Have ordered patrols to push forward across railway bridge. Intermittent bursts M.G. fire still coming.
111	4.10 p.m.	B.M.560	15th Brigade.	5th Aust.Div.	Situation report. Enemy artillery quiet on this front. Patrols active have crossed canal in search of paths through River Swamp but have been fired upon heavily by M.G. and forced to retire. Places have noted which will be exploited by night. No signs of retirement. All movement engaged by our artillery. Our Artillery specially engaged much movement in Squares I 16 and 17 and inflicted casualties forcing troops to trenches. One of our planes crashed in 0 2 B occupants unhurt.
112	3.30 p.m.	A 8/65	59th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Patrol crossed canal in 32B about I.32.b.5.3 fired on by M.G.'s from SAINTE RAD AGONDE an establishing posts covering bridge on NORTH EAST bank of canal at 32 B at 50.35. Right patrol on bridge in I33.b.30 came under rifle fire scouts are working forward. Enemy still holds SAINTE RADAGONDE. No movement observed in I.34 35 occasional M.G. fire experienced 04 and 05.
113	4.20 p.m.	B.M.561	15th Brigade	5th Aust.Div.	Patrol crossed canal in I.32 B 5.3. fired on by M.G. from SAINTE RADAGONDE. Posts covering bridge are being established at I 32 B 5.2. Right Patrol on bridge in I 33 B 3.0 came under rifle fire. Scouts are working forward. Enemy in SAINTE RADAGONDE 04 and 05.
114	3.45 p.m.	K.862	58th Battalion	15th Brigade.	Situation report. Unchanged on sector but absence of artillery fire. Great deal of movement observed between BUSSU and MOUNT ST QUENTIN chiefly in I.12 central and along road in I.11.D and I.17.A. Our artillery firing on these areas with fair success. One of our planes (Single Seater) forced to land at 0.2. c.0.4 and overturned. Aviator unhurt.
115	5.p.m.	I 60	Brigade I.O.	15th Brigade.	At least one Battalion enemy has moved into wood I 21 C during afternoon. At least a Battalion moved into woods I 16 A. Appears certain our troops not in this vicinity.

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Date 31st August, 1918

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 19.

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
122		G 2032	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	Move at once to N.5. and N.11. reserve to 15th Brigade. Keep in touch whole time and notify Division when new Headquarters established. Addressed 7th Inf. Brigade, repeated 15th Brigade and C.R.A.
123	1.30 p.m.	G 64	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	Following from 2nd Australian Division. 6th Infantry Brigade are to move from support positions I.34. and I.20. I.26. and pass through 5th Australian Infantry Brigade in its Battle positions and advance N.E. along line D.19.Central. EAST of AIZECOURT J.8.Central. Advance being supported by two Brigades Artillery. 7th Brigade moving at 12.30 p.m. from present position and will cross river in rear of 14th Brigade crossing to be mutually supported arranged by Brigadiers. 7th Brigade moving to I.14. and I.20.
124	<del>G.2055</del> 6.5 p.m.	G.2057	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	Div Sig. Coy. will establish Divisional Forward Report Centre at H.32.C. 6-8.
125	5.50 p.m.	G.2060	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	2nd Australian Division is to Advance in accordance with previous instructions. 2nd and 5th Australian Inter-Divisional Boundary remain the same. 5th Australian Division will advance with 2nd Australian Division and will form a defensive flank to their advance. This defensive line to run O.15. Central O.6.A. Central, P.I. Central J.32. Central. J.22. Central Eastern Edge of BOIS DE BUIRE to Divisional Boundary, E.30. Central. 14th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture ridge in O.5. and I.35. Further advance to be registered by rate of advance of 2nd Australian Division.
126	6.5 p.m.	G.2054	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	Artillery observers report enemy Artillery now West in Squares J.31. J.32. P.1. and P.2. All Artilleries have been informed and their movement is being engaged.
127	6. p.m.	G.2058	5th Aust. Div.	15th Brigade	14th Australian Infantry Brigade have established Battle Headquarters at H.17.A.9-0. 2nd Australian Division please inform your Brigades.
128	9.4 p.m.	IO. 63	59th Battalion	15th Brigade	60 of enemy advanced from WOOD in O.21.C. to trench at O.20.B.2-2.

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Date 31st August, 1918

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 20  
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BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
129		Order No 175	14th Brigade	15th Brigade	<p>1. The second Australian Division have established line facing East on the Mt. St. QUENTIN - FOULIAUCOURT ROAD and are endeavouring to clear squares I.21. and 22 with the object of advancing their line to the HAUF ALLAINES - BUSSU ROAD. The attack is to be carried out by the 6th Brigade.</p> <p>2. It is not known whether the enemy will still be in possession of PERONNE when the attack is launched or whether the waterways on the Northern outskirts of the village are passable.</p> <p>3. The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade has been ordered to clear the high ground in I.35 and O.5 and 11 and to maintain touch with the 6th A.I. Brigade at I.24.</p> <p>4.(a) The final objective (from N to S) is to be approximate line :- Road through I.24 b and c - I.30 a and c, thence I 35.d.2.2., thence south along Road to I.11.a.8.7. (b) The inter-Battalion boundary on the final objective will be the COLOGNE River inclusive to Left Battalion.</p> <p>5. (a) Method of Attack. The attack will be carried out with the 54th Battalion (line right) 53rd Battalion (line left) 56th Battalion right support. 55th Battalion left support. (b) The 53rd Battalion are to have the 23rd Battalion (assembling I.20.B.) on their left during the attack. 53rd Battalion will therefore arrange to get touch with 23rd Battalion, and, to occupy before Zero positions from which they can move ( in conformity with the 23rd Battalion attack) to the vicinity of I.22. and thence attack S.E. towards their objective, protecting their own right flanks during the move. (c) The 54th Battalion will follow 53rd Battalion as far as I.22. and will then move South under cover of 53rd attack and secure high ground in I.36. and 35. thence exploiting to the limits of their objective (d) The 56th Battalion will mop up PERONNE and will carry out the task from both flanks and by infiltration where possible. After completion of task will move into support of 54th Battalion and maintain touch.</p>

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Date 31st August, 1918.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

O.21.

BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
130					<p>(e) 55th Battalion <del>will follow</del> will move (after 54th have passed North of PERONNE) to a position in support of 53rd Battalion maintaining close liaison with that Unit.</p> <p>6. Further instructions as to Communications will be issued later.</p> <p>7. Reports to Battle Brigade Headquarters O.17. Central.</p> <p>8. Acknowledge.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sgd. R.G. LEGGE Brigade Major 14th A.I. Brigade.</p>
131		Order No. 176	14th Brigade	15th Brigade	<p>1. The 2nd Australian Division is to attack and capture the line running approximately through I.17. Central at 6 a.m. 1st September. Southern Divisional Boundary S.E. E. and W. Grid in I.14.</p> <p>2. The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade is to clear up the ground between that boundary and PERONNE, establishing a line approximately on the grid between I.23. and I.24. and subsequently to capture the high ground in I.35. and O.5. making a defensive flank to the SOMME in O.4.</p> <p>3. (a) The 54th Battalion and 53rd Battalion will take over the Trench line I.19.D. O.0. to I.14.D.0-0. before Zero. (6 a.m.). Inter-Battalion Boundary road at I.20.A.2-1. (b) The 54th Battalion (Line right) and 53rd Battalion (line left) to carry out the first stages of the attack, clearing the areas indicated in conference. One Company 55th Battalion will act under orders of C.O. 53rd Battalion until 55th Battalion pass through the area cleared by 53rd Battalion when the Company revert to C.O. 55th Battalion. (c) The 56th Battalion will follow 53rd Battalion to I.22. and will then turn South and attack the High Ground in I.35. and O.5. establishing the line mentioned in (2).</p>

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Date

31st August, 1918.

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 22

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
133	7.30 p.m.	B.M. 564	15th Brigade	All Battalions 15th A.L.T.M.B. 15th M.G.Coy. 15th F.Coy. A.I. 13th Light Horse	<p>(d) The 55th Battalion will follow 56th Battalion, mop up I.28. and then take up a Support Position South or South East of PERONNE in readiness to assist 56th Battalion.</p> <p>4. Artillery: Supporting Artillery programme is as shown on map submitted to C.O's.</p> <p>5. A Brigade Advanced Report Centre will be established in I.17.A.4-9. (present 53rd Battalion Headquarters, and will move later to vicinity of QUARRY in I.23.Central. Units will be notified of change.</p> <p>6. Prisoners will be sent under escort to Brigade Report Centre via I.13 Central and I.7.A.4-9.</p> <p>7. Brigade Headquarters will remain in present location.</p> <p>8. Acknowledge.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sgd. R.G.LEGGE, Major, Brigade Major. 14th Australian Infantry Brigade</p> <p>2nd Australian Division is to advance along the General line of advance N.E. Northern Brigade Boundary remains the inter-Divisional Boundary. 5th Australian Division is to advance with 2nd Division and will form a defensive flank to their advance as follows O.15.Central. O.6.A.Cent P.1.Central. J.32.Central. J.22.Central. Eastern edge of BOIS DE BURE The Divisional Boundary in E.30.C. 14th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture ridge in O.5. and I.35. Further advance will be regulated by advance of 2nd Australian Division. Addressed all concerned.</p>

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Date August, 1918.

## 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 23

## BRIGADE STAFF OPERATION DIARY

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Serial No.	Time	Senders No.	From	To	Text of message or telephone conversation.
134	10.40 p.m.	R.M.18.	Liaison 5th Bde.	15th Brigade	5th Brigade line approx. I.21.A.9-6. - I.15.D.5-5. - I.15.B.0-3. - I.9.C.9-1. - I.8.D.9-2. - I.8.C.5-9. 10th Brigade line approx. I.17.B.9-5. - L.2.A.8-0. - C.26.A.9-0. C.20.D.2-1.
135	10.5 p.m.	G 2083	5th Division	15th Brigade	Bridges H.12.B.2-7. and H.17.A.50-95. completed for Horse transport. Bridges at H.24.D.65-95. I.19.A.30-65. I.19.C.25-05. I.19.D.0-9. I.19.C.25-05. by canal du Nord I.19.A.35-05. completed for Infantry in file. Addressed all concerned.
136	1.30 a.m.	B.M. 150	5th A.I. Brigade	15th Brigade	Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward area. Some Gas shelling in CLERY. Enemy Rifle, Machine Gun and Artillery fire has eased considerably. Prisoners passed through Brigade Headquarters total 770 all ranks, including two parties of men doing stretcher bearer work sent back to 6th and 7th Brigades. Line now runs UBERALLIES TRENCH, I.21.A.9-6. I.15.B.3-3. North Post in GOTT MITT UNS, TRENCH I.15.Central. along trench to I.9.C.95-000 Post being established by two companies 18th Battalion in Mineville alley to I.8.D.7-3. thence line runs along OURCQ TRENCH to I.8.B.1-3. Posts being established at I.8.B.1-7. Vickers M.G. at I.15.D.2-5. I.15.D.25-55. I.14.D.5-5. and 6 along trench from I.15.C.1-7. to I.15.A.7-3. Location of M.G. 20th Battalion sector not yet to hand.
137	120 a.m.	B.M. 546	<del>All Battalions</del> 15th Brigade	All Battalions	Brigade on left is advancing at 5 a.m.. Objectives I.19.C.6-5. I.16.C.8-0. I.21.A.1-0.

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APPENDIX 50

Volume VIII

Appendix 50

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY  
Summary of Intelligence  
to 7.30 a.m. 31-8-1918.

1. OPERATIONS

Our artillery were active on positions E. of SOMME. Between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. they concentrated on and in rear of PERONNE. This neutralised fire on our centre Battalion Sector.

Patrols

Very active but not successful in finding paths through SWAMP Tracks that appear suitable on aeroplane photos were found on investigation to end in the morass.

Following information gained about bridges.

RAILWAY BRIDGE at I.33.D.5-5 is covered by 2 M.G's.

Bridge I.32.B.4-3. has break of about 20 feet in centre but could be easily repaired.

Crossing in O.15.A. and B.

This appears good in air photos. Enemy kept a very heavy fire on locality throughout the night and prevented us from reconnoitring the position.

2. ENEMY SHELLING

Very active on forward slopes W. of SOMME. All bridges were kept under fire to prevent repairs. Movement was vigorously sniped at with whizzbangs.

3. DEFENCES

M.Gun posts along river covering bridges and tracks. Light Guns emplaced on forward slopes to engage movement. Otherwise no definite lines of defence reported.

Sd/ D.B.DOYLE

Captain.

for B.G.C.15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

31-8-18



German Divisions encountered by 15th Australian Infantry Brigade during offensive operation commencing 8th August 1918.

41st Division

The enemy Division holding the line opposite to 15th Australian Inf. Brigade on 8th inst. was the 41st Division. It so happened that the Divisional Boundaries of the enemy Division practically corresponded with the Boundaries of our Brigade for the attack.

The 41st Division was considered a good trench Division but had been holding the line for a considerable time, their company strengths were low and they had been expecting relief for some time. During our advance on the 8th prisoners were taken of every Regiment of the 41st Division and in addition many artillery, signalling and other specialist units were identified.

117th Division

On the afternoon of 8th August 2 prisoners belonging to a 117th Div. Signal Unit were captured at GUILLACOURT.

This Division had previously been resting in GHENT and were just about to relieve the 41st Division.

Owing the fact that the latter Division were absolutely disorganised by our attack their relief was expedited.

The consequence was that our troops on advancing on the 9th found themselves opposed by remnants of 41st Div. and units of the 117th Div.

The 117th Div. suffered heavily on the 9th inst. both in attack by 15th Australian Infantry Brigade and later in attack of 1st Australian Division who passed through us to 2nd Objective.

21st Division

15th Australian Infantry Brigade were withdrawn on 10th and did not go into line again until night 17/18th August when they relieved 51st Infantry Brigade in sector immediately South of the SOMME.

It was understood that the troops opposing us here were the disorganised elements of three broken Divisions - 108th Division, 43rd R.D. and 107th Division.

Our troops commenced to patrol actively and before 12 hours had elapsed a Regiment of 21st Division was identified by 14th Australian Infantry Brigade on our Right. Before 24 hours had elapsed troops of this Brigade identified the two remaining Regiments of 21st Division - definitely establishing the presence of this German Division in the sector immediately South of the SOMME.

The 21st Division before the 8th of August had been in Reserve N. of the SOMME. On or about the 9th/10th they had moved South and come into RESERVE EAST of CHAULNES.

They had then moved into CHUIGNOLLES sector on 16th inst. 21st Division were a fresh Division of good quality and were very alert.

On 23rd inst the 1st Australian Division attacked through us and took about 200 prisoners of 21st Division. It may therefore be assumed that they can be placed on the "Exhausted" list.



8th Infantry Brigade  
 14th Infantry Brigade  
 15th Infantry Brigade  
 5th Machine Gun Bn  
 5th Pioneer Battalion  
 Divisional Artillery  
 H.Q. Australian Corps )  
 H.Q. 32nd Division ) For  
 H.Q. 2nd Australian Division ) information.  
 AQ )

The following reconnaissance and reports of 5th Australian Divisional Engineers are forwarded for information:

1. Reconnaissance by 2nd Lieut. BULLEN 15th Field Co:-  
 He crossed river (canal) at O.26.d.2.4 on remains of a light railway bridge alongside the demolished main road bridge. Infantry can get over this way. Due east of this bridge is a demolished timber bridge (30' span) over mill race at O.26.c.3.4. Infantry can cross on the debris. East of this again are a Warren-girder bridge and a timber bridge over small streams, all demolished but passable to infantry. Decking intact; bridge might be cribbed up later. BULLEN then re-crossed to W. bank of canal and went north. There have been several foot bridges, but all have been destroyed, and are not passable at all. There is a sunken barge at O.26.b.5.6 in centre of canal which might help as a crossing place. Road along west bank; good metalled, fit for M.T. and not damaged. All foot bridges have been pile bridges - piles cut off at water level. All roads very good except craters shewn in 8th Field Co. report.
  
2. 8th Field Co. reports:  
 Bridges over river at O.15.a.6.5, O.15.a.55.30, and O.21.a.25.65 have been demolished. All piles sheared off close to water. Party of 29th battalion crossed river on left today (morning 29th instant) but had to withdraw. Bridge at O.26.d.2.4 although blown can be crossed by infantry.  
 ROADS: M.23.b.6.6 to N.13.b.0.6 thence N.E. and S.E. through ASSEVILLERS, thence generally easterly to N.18.a.5.2 is good and will take M.T. N.18.a.8.2 to N.30.b.5.3, 14' metalled road good for M.T. after repairs to crater at N.18.c.8.1 and shell holes near village. Crater in road at N.30.c.2.4 has been filled sufficiently to take single traffic, and crater in VILLERS at cross roads N.30.d.1.6 sufficient for all transport round side. Other crater at N.30.d.4.6 requires filling to allow transport to pass.  
 WELLS: N.18.a.5.5, brick well with pump out of order, diameter 2'6", depth 22', water 6'. N.16.b.3.5, 7" bore presumably into spring, depth 30', water 8'6", fitted with hand pump, cog driven, delivery pipe broken. N.18.a.9.2, brick well 3'6" diameter, depth 16', water 8' fitted with hand pump in good order (Note: Cellar under house adjoining this well full of gas - notice put up). Samples of all wells as above sent back. Message timed 7 p.m. 29th August 1918).

30th August 1918.

*John A. Chapman* Capt  
 for  
 Lieut-Colonel  
 General Staff,  
 5th Aust. Div.



Ref. Map:  
Sheet 62C

Headquarters  
31st Aug. 1918

1. SUPPLIES Refilling point has not changed.
2. AMMUNITION S.A.A. Section - Location M.29.B.8-2.  
Units will wire requirements of ammunition to Advanced Brigade H.Q. by 10 a.m. daily. Rear Battalion Headquarters will be notified by their Forward Headquarters to draw the ammunition wired for from Brigade H.Q. rear H.32.C.6-4.
3. WATER SUPPLY The water at the following locations has been tested and is good. Requires 1 scoop per water cart:
- | FLAUCOURT  | HERBECOURT    | BARLEUX     |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| N.4.A.4-8. | H.26.C.3-0.   | N.18.A.4-5. |
| N.4.A.3-6. | H.32.A.55-85. | N.18.A.2-9. |
| N.4.A.3-5. | H.32.A.65.75. |             |
| N.4.A.6-3. | H.32.A.5-5.   |             |
- Units requiring further assistance will wire Brigade H.Q.
4. D.A.D.O.S. Location - M.27.C. Central.
5. R.E. MATERIAL Location of Dump - Q.27.C.5-2 (MATHER DUMP).
6. MEDICAL
- | R.A. Ps.    | Motor Loading Posts        |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| O.8.C.3-2.  | Forward L. Ps. H.36.C.9-8. |
| N.12.b.9-1. | N.17.B.8-8.                |
| O.2.C.4-6.  | N.4.B.5-4.                 |
| A.D.S.      |                            |
| HERBECOURT  | H.26.C.7-2.                |
7. A.P.M. The A.P.M. will be established at FAY at 10 a.m. on the 31st Inst.  
Prisoners of War Cage - FAY.
8. Divisional Burials Officer Location ASSEVILLERS.
9. Mobile Veterinary Section The M.V.S. is situated at R.22.b. Central.
10. Baths Officer and Clothing Stores Main WARFUSEE Road Q.30.C.
11. Comforts Fund Depot - PROYART
12. Reinforcement and Nucleus Personnel Near LA NEUVILLE I.28.a.
13. IRON RATIONS Instructions previously issued will remain in force. Men will continue to carry 2 Iron Rations. Greater care and supervision must be taken with regard to these. All losses and unauthorised use of these rations will have to be made good by corresponding underdrawals.
14. Y.M.C.A. Headquarters - PROYART, Bde. Depot - FLAUCOURT.
15. Divisional Canteen Location - FAY

*C. W. Kay*  
Captain.  
Staff Capt.

15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution:

57th Battalion  
58th Battalion  
59th Battalion  
60th Battalion  
15th A.L.T.M.B.  
13th A.L.D. (att'd)

Copies to S.A.A. Section  
Field Amb, 15th  
15th Field Co.  
29th A.A.S.C.  
Brigade Q.M.  
" T.O.  
5th Aust. Div.  
War Diary  
File



STRENGTH MADE UP TO NOON FRIDAY

30th AUGUST 1918

26

Unit	1 Strength for previous week, compiled in accordance with A.G.'s instrctns.		2 Increase during week due to drafts etc., taken on strength of unit.		3 Totals from 1 and 2.		4 Decrease during week - casualties etc. deducted from strength of unit		A Strength excluding attached, the-diseases		B Not present with unit and not at the disposal of C.O. included in Col.A.		Available Fighting strength, including personnel of Bn. transport and Q.Ms.Stores.	
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
57th Bn.	42	861	-	2	42	863	2	10	40	853	14	106	26	747
58th Bn.	41	686	1	20	42	706	3	13	39	693	13	150	26	543
59th Bn.	37	641	2	20	39	661	5	13	34	648	16	140	18	508
60th Bn.	35	630	3	27	38	657	6	11	32	646	12	190	20	456
TOTAL	155	2818	6	69	161	2887	16	47	145	2840	55	586	90	2254

DETAILS OF COLUMN "B"

Unit	"A"		"B"		"C"		"D"		"E"		"F"		On Command		TOTAL		Remarks.
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	
57th Bn.	5	19	4	8	3	10	-	-	1	56	1	-	-	13	14	106	A.W.L. 5. Det. 8.
58th Bn.	5	28	-	5	3	39	1	10	3	48	-	-	1	20	13	150	Lt. H.D. HARVEY Base Depot for Med. Board.
59th Bn.	1	20	2	37	6	16	-	-	3	43	2	-	2	24	16	140	14 AWL, 6 Army Rest. Camp
60th Bn.	3	30	-	12	6	15	-	-	3	100	-	-	-	24	12	190	Command. 6 O.R. AWL 13 Indian Army Capt. BURSLEY Retn. to Aust. Lt. CUZENS
	14	97	6	62	18	80	1	10	10	256	3	-	3	81	53	586	A.W.L. 15. Det. 9.

*M. Dawson*  
Brig. General.  
Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

4576

APPENDIX 984



48  
APPENDIX 34

CHANGES IN NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS

(i.e. Explanation of Increase and Decrease)

Unit.	Joined	Struck off	Cause.
57th Bn.	<del>Capt. W. H. L. McDONALD</del>	Capt. W. H. L. McDONALD	Seconded Wounded
"	<del>Lieut. D. McFARLANE</del>	Lieut. D. McFARLANE	" Wounded
58th Bn.	2/Lieut. J. L. H. CAMPBELL		From Gen. Inf. Reinf'ts. ex. Cadet Bn.
"		Lieut. E. L. STEPHENSON	Seconded Wounded List 371
"		2/Lt. D. E. TRUSCOTT	" "
"		2/Lt. J. H. GARBUTT	" "
59th Bn.	Lieut. J. B. SUTHERLAND		( From Seconded List 1-8-18
"	Lieut. T. J. C. GARNON		
"		<del>Capt. J. B. HENSON</del>	<del>Re-hospital-2-8-18</del> <del>Sick.</del>
59th Bn.		<del>2/Sgt. R. B. BIRNBY</del>	<del>Wounded: 23-8-18.</del>
"		<del>Lieut. T. J. GARNON</del>	<del>Re-hospital-23-8-18.</del>
"		Capt. B. C. S. SOUTHWELL	Seconded
"		Lieut. W. F. STEVENSON	"
"		Lieut. G. F. FINCHER	"
"		Lieut. J. W. STEWART	"
"		2/Lt. W. J. HANKEY	"
60th Bn.	Lieut. J. M. THORBURN		Ex Seconded.
"	Lieut. F. T. GIBBLE		Ex Supernumerary
"	Lieut. L. C. REEVES		Ex Cadet Bn.
"		Capt. R. JAMES	To Seconded.
"		Lieut. R. A. CALDEN	-do-
"		" C. R. BUCHANAN	-do-
"		" M. H. GORDON	-do-
"		2/ " H. WALKER	-do-
"		Lieut. C. F. ANSWERTH	Embarked for Aust.



# APPENDIX 34

265  
ATTACHMENT TO WEEKLY FIGHTING STRENGTH 30-8-18

458

-----  
Details of Column 2 ----- INCREASE DURING WEEK  
-----

Unit	Off.	O.R.	Particulars.
57th Bn.	-	2	Transferred from Corps H.Q. and S.A.Sc.
58th Bn.	1	16	With Draft.
		2	Ex Hospital.
		2	From Illegally Absent.
59th Bn.	2	20	Reinforcements.
60th Bn.	1		From seconded.
	1		From Supernumerary List.
	1		Reinft. from Cadet Battalion.
		5	Other Ranks from detention.
		14	From Sick.
		6	From wounded.
		1	From prison.
		1	Transferred from Cyclist Battalion
	6	69	

-----  
Details of Column 4 ----- DECREASE DURING WEEK  
-----

Unit	Off.	O.R.	Particulars
57th Bn.	2		Seconded
		6	Evacuated.
		2	Wounded.
		1	Transferred to 59th Bn.
		1	To O.T.B.
58th Bn.	3		Officers seconded.
		10	Evacuated Sick.
		1	Transferred to Aust. Corps School
		1	" to Supernumerary List O.T.C. England
		1	Committed to Prison.
59th Bn		1	Struck Off Strength ex A.W.L.
		1	O.C.B.
		1	Struck off Strength ex leave.
		10	Casualties.
	5		Seconded.
60th Bn.	5		Seconded.
	1		Embarked for Australia.
	1	6	Evacuated.
		1	Transferred to A.P.M.
		2	Returned to Australia.
		2	To Compound.
TOTAL	16	47	



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

265

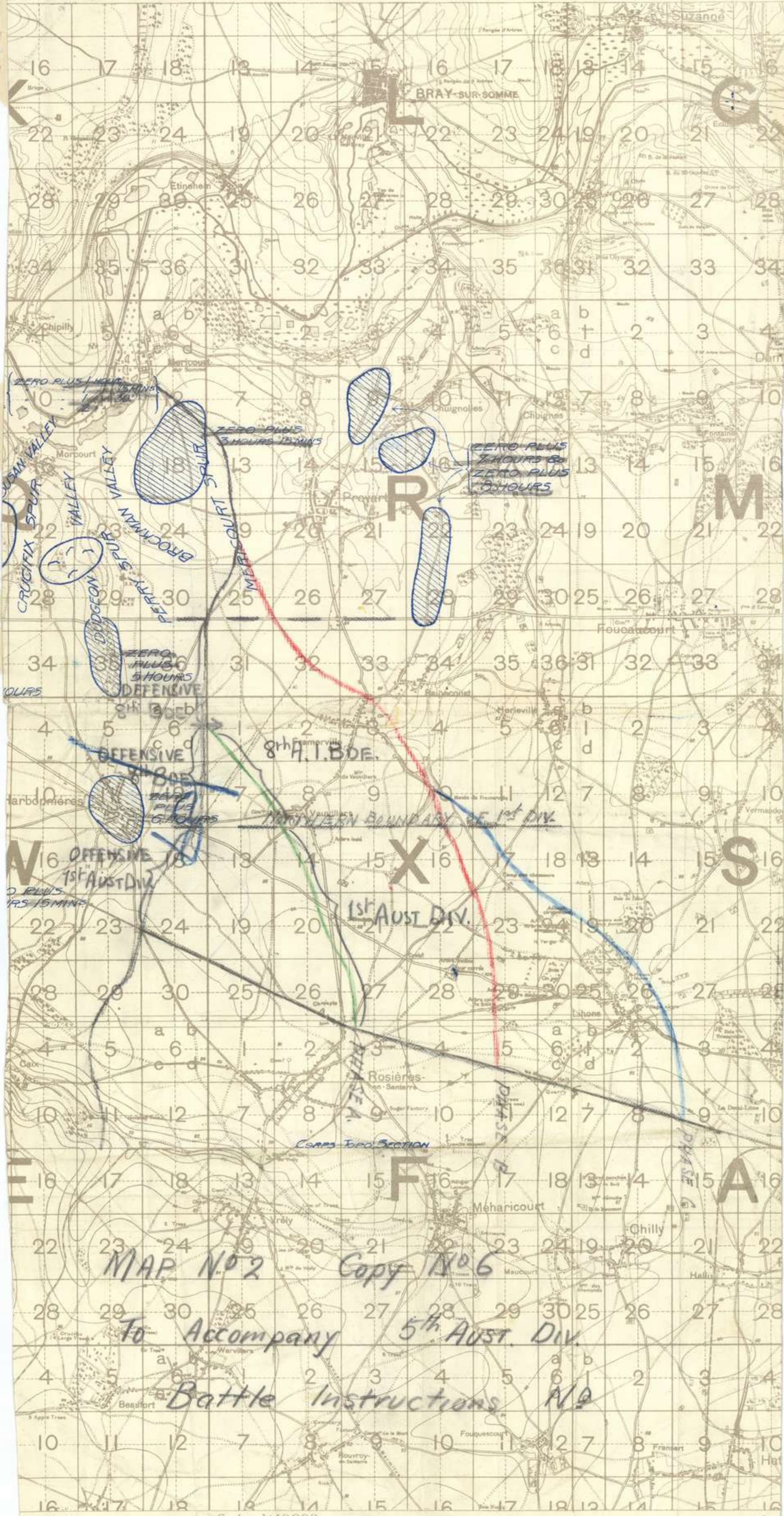
CASUALTIES FROM 28TH AUGUST to 31st AUGUST (INCLUSIVE)

459

UNIT.	KILLED		WOUNDED		DATE	REMARKS.
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.		
15th A.L.T.M.B.				2	31.8.18	
57th Battalion.		1		3	29.8.18	
		3	2	8	30.8.18	2/Lieut. G.G. Selleck Lieut. A.H. Hedgecock.
58th Battalion.				2	29.8.18	
		1	2	2	30.8.18	Lieut. L.S. Davis 2/Lieut. S.E. Beach
		1		3		
59th Battalion.			1		29.8.18	Lieut. F.J.C. Gannon.
				4	30.8.18	
		5		19	31.8.18	
60th Battalion				2	29.8.18	
		2	2	8	30.8.18	Lieut. W.R. Gannon 2/Lieut. L.C. Reeves
			1		31.8.18	Lieut. A. Allardyce.
TOTAL.		13	8	53		



# HARBONNIERES



MAP No 2 Copy No 6  
 To Accompany 5th AUST. DIV.  
 Battle Instructions No 1

Scale: 1:40,000

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 YARDS

461

265



HARBONNIERES

ZERO PLUS  
7 HOURS  
ZERO PLUS  
5 HOURS

ZERO PLUS  
3 HOURS 15 MINS

ZERO PLUS  
3 HOURS

ZERO PLUS  
3 HOURS

ZERO PLUS  
3 HOURS



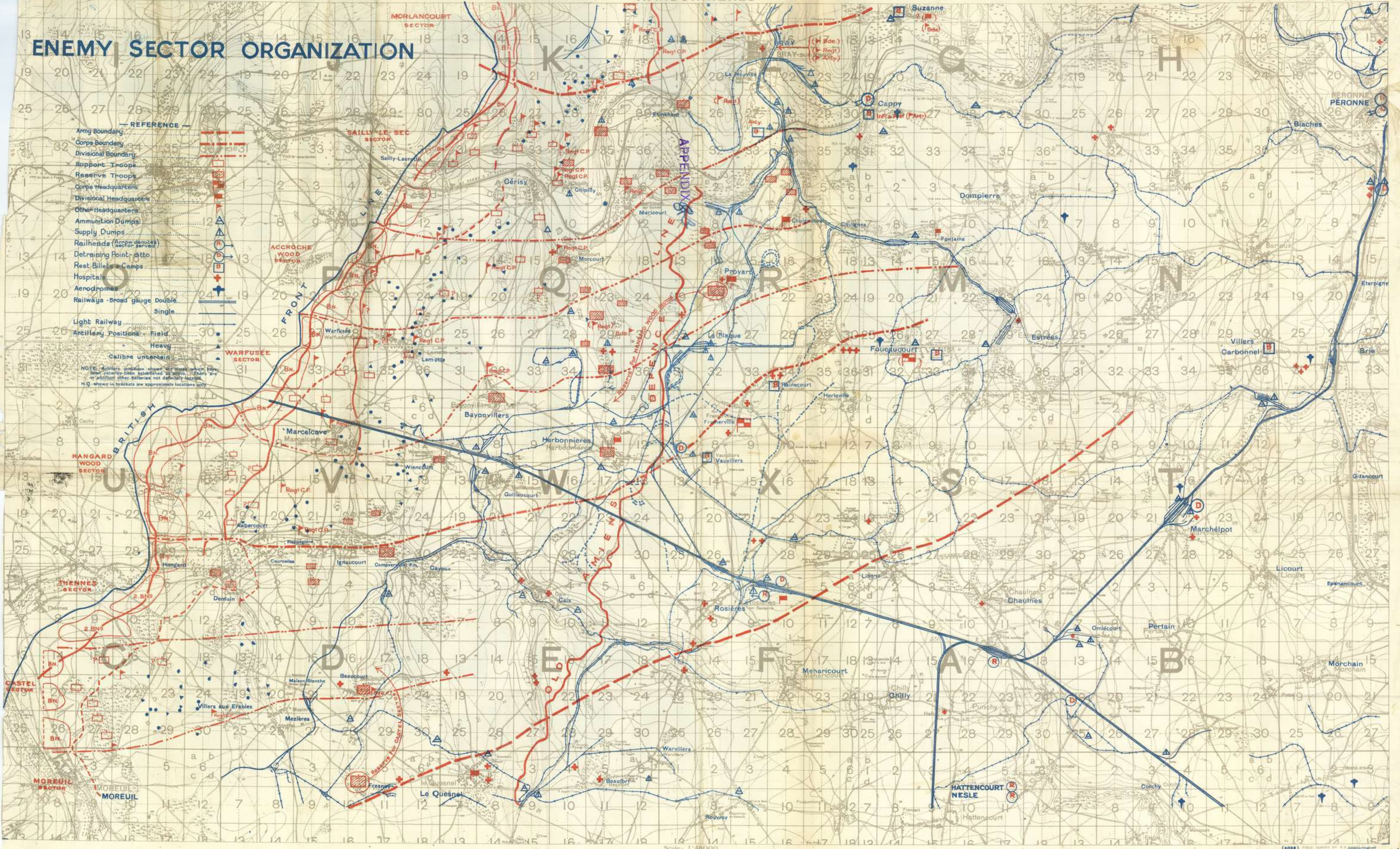
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# HARBONNIERES

Parts of 62° 62' 66" 66°

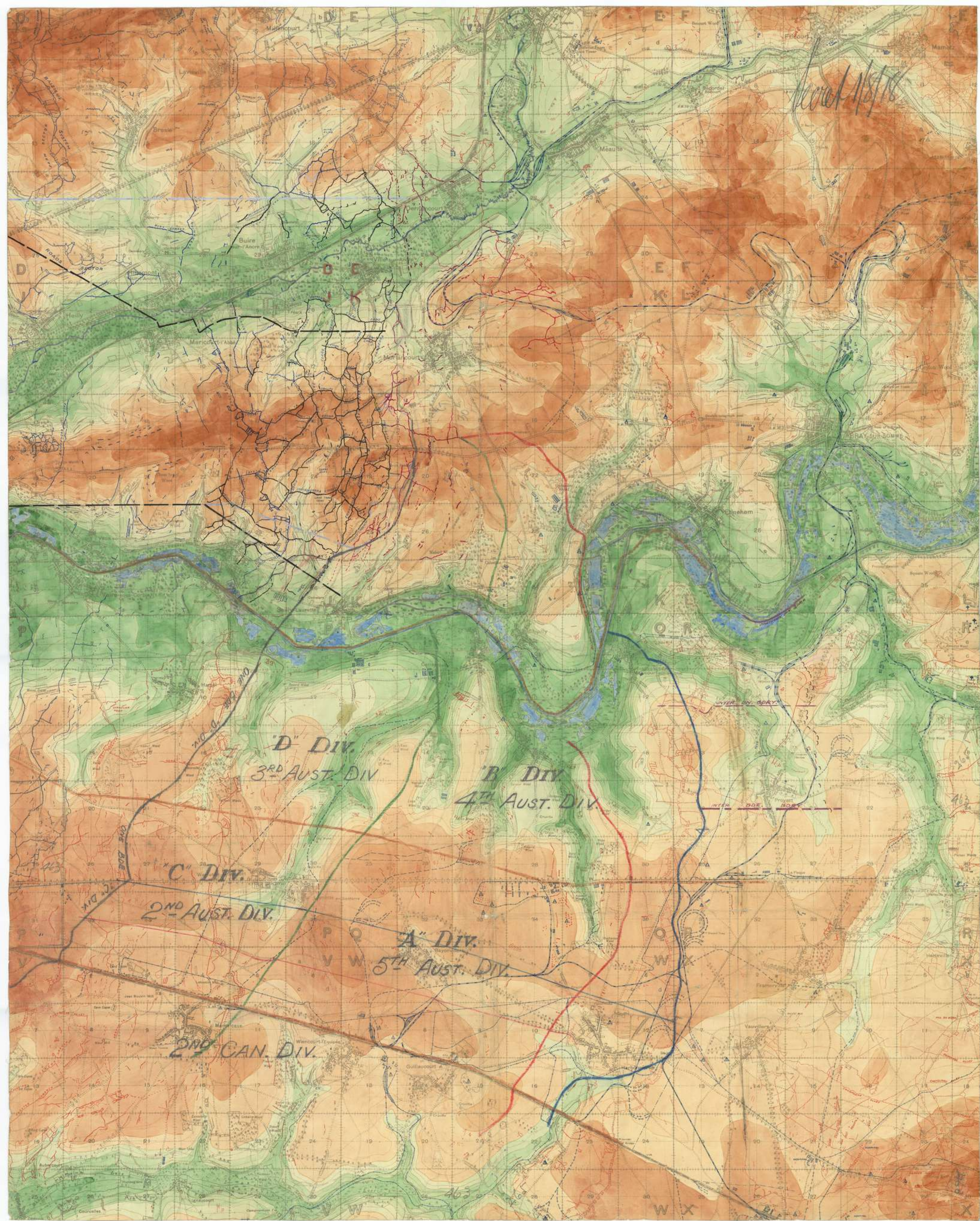
## ENEMY SECTOR ORGANIZATION

- REFERENCE**
- Army Boundary
  - Corps Boundary
  - Divisional Boundary
  - Support Troops
  - Reserve Troops
  - Corps Headquarters
  - Divisional Headquarters
  - Other Headquarters
  - Ammunition Dumps
  - Supply Dumps
  - Railheads (Arrow denotes aspect)
  - Detaining Point, ditto
  - Rest Billees & Camps
  - Hospitals
  - Aerodromes
  - Railways - Broad gauge Double
  - Single
  - Light Railway
  - Artillery Positions - Field
  - Heavy
  - Calibre uncertain
- NOTE: Artillery positions shown are those which have been recently established as above. There are in addition other batteries not definitely located. H.Q. shown in brackets are approximate locations only.



Scale: 1:40,000





18/11/18

"D" Div.  
3<sup>RD</sup> AUST. DIV.

"B" Div.  
4<sup>TH</sup> AUST. DIV.

"C" Div.  
2<sup>ND</sup> AUST. DIV.

"A" Div.  
5<sup>TH</sup> AUST. DIV.

2<sup>ND</sup> CAN. DIV.



APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E

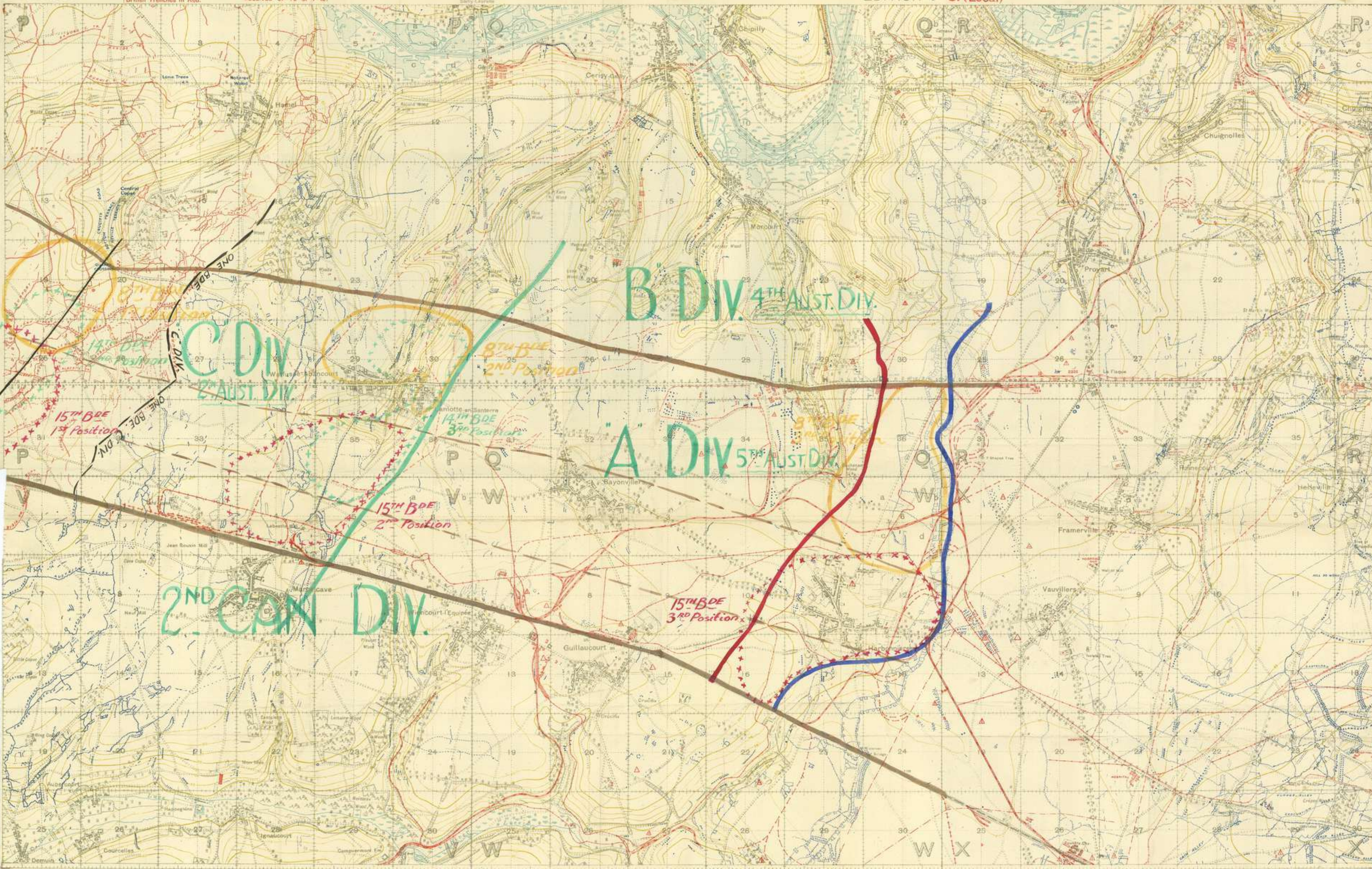
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464

<p>Any trench, especially organized for fire</p> <p>Enemy Trenches (Important ones are shown by thick lines. Old or disused by dotted line)</p> <p>British Trenches</p> <p>Wire Entanglement or Other Obstacle</p> <p>Enemy's Tracks</p>	<p>Buried Pipeline or Cable</p> <p>Supply Dumps</p> <p>Communication Earthworks</p> <p>Dug-outs</p> <p>Huts</p> <p>Works reinforced by concrete</p>	<p>Gun Emplacements</p> <p>Machine Gun</p> <p>Trench Marker</p> <p>A.A. Gun</p> <p>Observation Posts</p> <p>Listening Posts</p> <p>Mine Craters</p> <p>Fertilizer</p> <p>Organized Shell Holes</p>	<p>Height, Fence or Ditch</p> <p>Ditch with Permanent Water</p> <p>Conspicuous Points (Position of point is given in circles. Dot shows that point is trigonometrically fixed).</p> <p>House</p>	<p>Permanent</p> <p>Normal Gauge, Double</p> <p>Light</p> <p>Trench Tramways</p> <p>Mine Gauge Railways or Road</p>	<p>CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METRES.</p> <p>ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES</p> <p>Scale 1:20,000</p> <p>1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000</p>
--	---	--	--	---	--

NOTE: The fact that an obstacle is not represented on the map does not necessarily mean that there is none there. It is often impossible to distinguish obstacles or to identify their disposition. It may be assumed that there are obstacles in front of all line trenches (shown by thick line).



APPENDIX

8

265



865

465

1:20,000

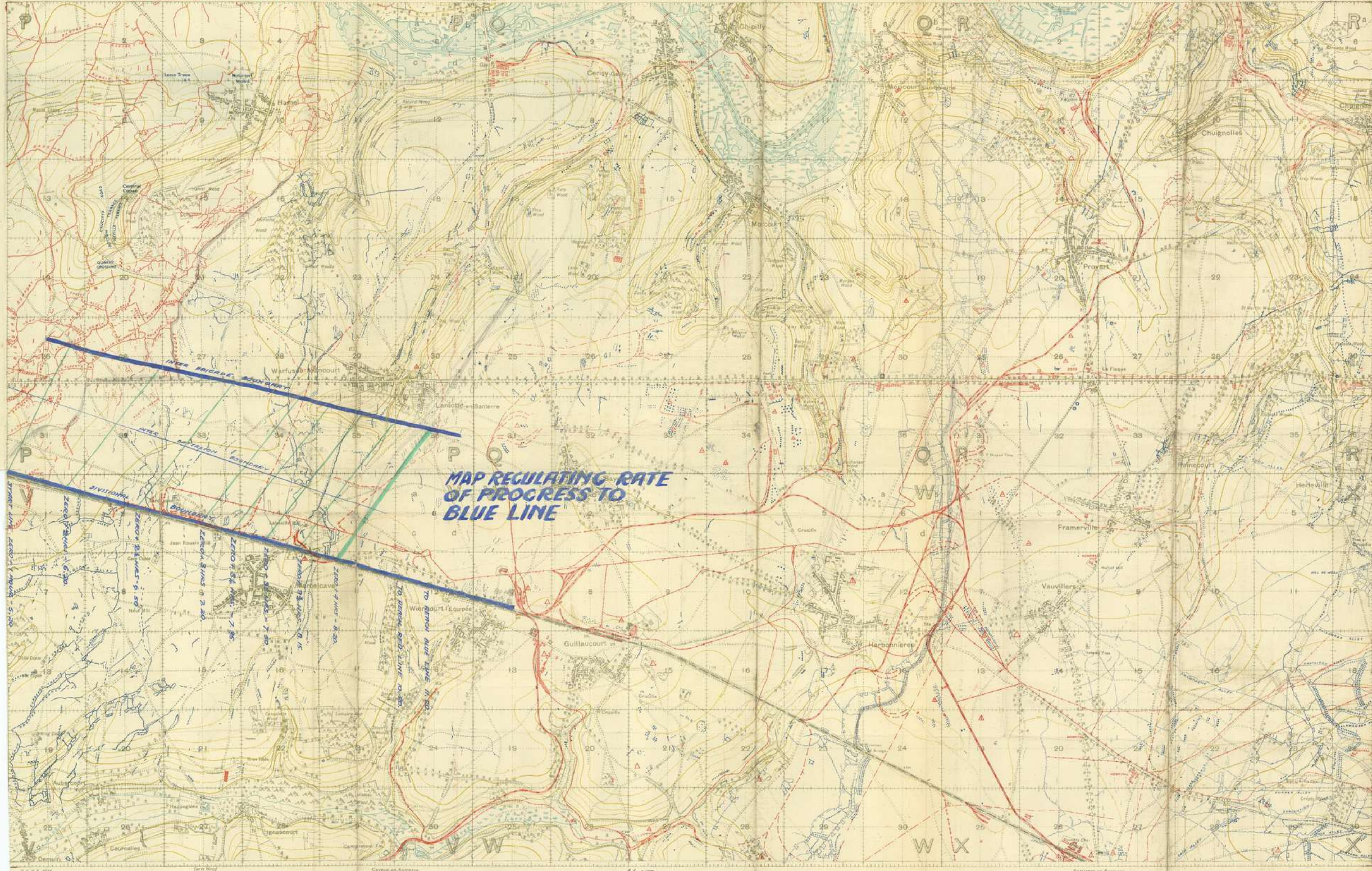
NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.  
Enemy Trenches in Blue.  
British Trenches in Red.

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION  
RECEIVED UP TO 31-7-18.

FRANCE

EDITION 3 C. (Local)

SHEET 62<sup>D</sup> S.E.



MAP REGULATING RATE  
OF PROGRESS TO  
BLUE LINE

REFERENCE

- Any trench apparently organized for fire
- Other Trenches
- Important ones are shown by thick line. Old or disused by dotted line.
- British Trenches
- Wire Entanglement or Other Obstacle
- Enemy's Tracks

- Buried Pipelines or Cables
- Airline
- Supply Dumps
- Ammunition
- Earthworks
- Dug-outs
- Hills
- Works reinforced by concrete

- Observation Posts
- Listening Posts
- Wire Cutters
- Fortified
- Organized Shell Holes

- Hedge, Fence or Ditch
- Ditch with Permanent Water
- Conspicuous Poles
- (P) Point of point is centre of L.P. (L.P. shows that point is trigonometrically fixed).
- Houses
- Shrine

465

- Normal Gauge Double
- Light
- Temporary
- Metre Gauge Railways - 50 cm.
- Tramways

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METRES.

ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES

Scale 1:20,000



NOTE: The fact that an obstacle is not represented on the map does not necessarily mean that there is none there. It is often impossible to distinguish obstacles or to identify their character. It may be assumed that there are obstacles in line of all fire trenches (shown by thick line).

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APPENDIX 8F

EVINCE

503