

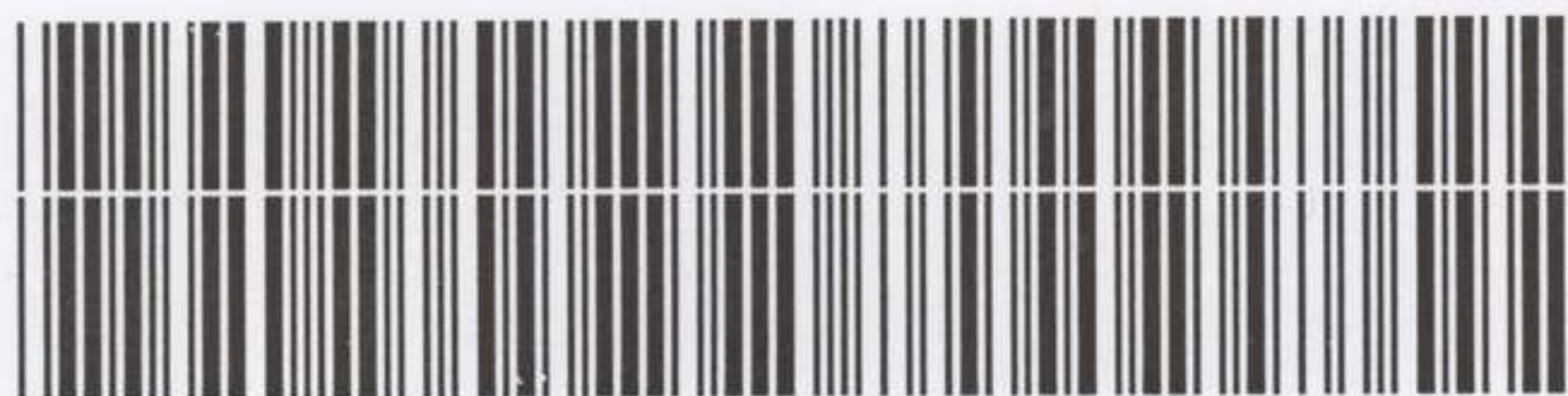
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/121/4

Title: 8th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

February 1918



AWM4-13/121/4

Original

WAR DIARY

Confidential

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page No. 1.

8th Aust. L.T.M. B. 5th DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/2/18		Reorganised dispositions and improved Gun Positions Etc as shown on Appendices A & B. Issued defensive orders to all N.C.O.s in charge of Guns, as shown on Appendix C. Carried out a mine operation against enemy works at 0.35, B.6.6. and 035, B.6.3. no retaliation from the enemy. and suffered no casualties. The Enemy has been quiet all day.	A, B, C
	2/2/18		Enemy Aeroplanes very active invariably flying at a very high altitude. His Field guns also showed increased activity. "No. Casualties"	
	3/2/18		At 1-30 am we fired 50 Rounds upon an enemy post at 035, D.9.5. no Enemy action followed. At 2 am our Guns were again in action upon the following lines, Machine Gun emplacements and dig-outs in Enemy Area. U6.C.15.90. and traversed to U6.A.30.05. - U6.C.55.7.5 and traversed to U6.C.60.95. - U6.C.15.90 and traversed to U6.A.40.00. The Enemy did not retaliate, but between 4-30 am and 5 am our front line was subjected to a heavy mine mortar barrage which was probably retaliation for our shoot. During the day enemy field Guns still below normal and his aircraft very quiet. At 10-45 P.M. a reported enemy machine Gun was engaged by our Mortars 20 Rounds being fired we've had no trouble from this M.G. Since at 11-35 P.M. we fired 50 Rounds at 036.C.3.5. and 036.C.4.4. in conjunction with the "Newton Gun". The Enemy did not retaliate to any of the above shooting. "No Casualties."	

8th Aust. L.T.M. B. 5th DIV.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4/21/18		<p>Visibility Fair. Our aircraft and artillery active. Enemy's field Guns a little more active than usual but his aerial activity ^{was} much below normal. Inter-Sub Section relief successfully completed by 6 P.M. At 9-30 P.M. we fired 70 Rounds upon an enemy M.G. whose flash was observed at about 029.B1.4. Successfully silencing same. Our Mortars were again in action when we fired 60 Rounds on the following targets U6.A.45.80 - U6.A.40.75. and enemy trenches at U6.A.5.8. traversing to U6.A.5.5. - U6.A.35.75. and traversed to U6.A.40.50. Slight enemy retaliation at about 11.0 p.m. "No Casualties"</p>	
	5/2/18.		<p>Visibility Good. Our aircraft ^{normal} and Artillery active. The enemy Artillery was moderately active. An Enemy Plane flying at a very high altitude was over our lines between 2 and 4 P.M. Defense scheme issued to Section Officers. APPENDIX "No Casualties"</p>	D
	5/3/18.		<p>Visibility Good. Our Aircraft and Artillery active. Enemy field Guns and Aircraft a little more active than usual. At 9-30 P.M. our Mortars fired 80 Rounds upon Enemy works in the vicinity of 023.D.1.8. At 10-30 P.M. we fired 50 Rounds upon an active M.G. at 023.D.0.3. and successfully silenced same. No immediate action followed. "No Casualties"</p>	
	7/2/18.		<p>Visibility Bad. Very Cloudy. - A little rain between 12 and 1 P.M. both Artillery's and Aircraft fairly quiet. At 1.00 we fired 60 Rounds at an enemy M.G. and trench at 029.A.9.2. traversing to 029.A.9.3. M.G. thereafter remained silent. 30 Rounds fired at enemy M.G. at 029.D.4.4. Heavy enemy retaliation with Minnie Waffer. "No Casualties"</p>	

Handwritten signature and date: 5/5/18

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PAGE 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8/2/18.		Visibility Fair Very bloody. both Artillery's and Aircraft fairly quiet. Inter Sub-Section relief successfully completed by 6 PM. Fired 30 Rounds at Enemy MG Position with Good Effect. "No Casualties"	
	9/2/18.		Visibility Very fair. our Artillery active, aircraft quiet. Enemy Artillery replied feebly. We made 4 Special positions and carried 100 rounds to each position in readiness in readiness to assimilate a raid in front of KIWI. FARM. tomorrow. No. 1. and No. 4. positions were provided with 25 rounds of Incendiary Shells which are being used for first time tomorrow. "No Casualties"	
	10/2/18		Visibility fair our Artillery active but aircraft quiet. At ZERO to ZERO. plus 15. (10% to 10-25%) we fired 350 Rounds upon the following enemy works (Incendiary Shells 50 Rounds) 036.C.5.0. and traversed to 036.C.1.1. - 035.D.9.7. traversed to 036.C.3.7. (HE Shells 300 Rounds) 035.D.9.5. traversed to 036.C.1.2. - 036.C.1.1. traversed to 036.C.4.2. - 036.C.3.6. traversed to 036.C.5.2. Enemy retaliated very heavily with Artillery and Minnie Tapes, and he used an abundance of flares of all colors. (NOTE) The new Incendiary Shell burst well and threw out showers of burning Phosphorous at the same time forming a heavy smoke Barrage into which the Enemy threw scores of flares. At 10 PM to 10-15 PM our left Section fired 80 Rounds of HE upon Enemy MG position and trenches at 023.D.1.9. and 023.D.65.40. Enemy retaliated with light field guns. "No Casualties"	
	11/2/18.		Visibility very fair. our Artillery quieter than usual. Enemy Artillery also below normal. Aircraft Activity. Nil. "No Casualties"	
	12/2/18.		Visibility fair both Artillery's fairly quiet. Aircraft Very quiet. Enemy M.G.s fairly active after dusk. Enemy T.M. active until about 10 PM. when they were silenced by our Mortars. We established a new battle emplacement at U.S. B.2.8. Between 9 and 10 PM. we fired 20 Rounds upon enemy works at 036.C.45.80. in retaliation to Enemy T.M. with good effect. At 9-30 PM. we fired 10 Rounds at an active Enemy M.G. in the vicinity of 023. Central. After the shoot the M.G. remained quiet until 11-20 PM. We again engaged this target with 20 Rounds and silenced same for remainder of the night. "No Casualties"	

Darker Color
O.C. got dark 4.15 PM

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

PAGE 4.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13/2/18		Visibility Bad. Slight rain all day. both Artillery's quiet, Aircraft very quiet At 10:15 PM. we fired 15 rounds in retaliation to Enemy T.M. with Good results At 10:30 PM. we fired 20 Rounds at an active enemy M.G. at approx 036 C.H.H. "No Casualties"	
	14/2/18		Visibility Bad. Very foggy. both Artillery's and Aircraft below Normal. Enemy M.G. usual activity. but T.M. fairly quiet. During the night we fired 20 Rounds upon an active enemy M.G. at 023 D.O.3. and Silenced Same Effectively. At 12:30 PM. the Enemy landed a L.M.W. into No. 8. Gun Position. where it Exploded and caused the detonation of 60. Stokes Shells. which blew the gun to fragments. and totally destroyed the position. "No Casualties".	
	15/2/18		Visibility Good. both Artillery's and Aircraft fairly quiet. A new position was dug, about 20 yds North of the one destroyed on the 14 th inst. and the Ammunition replaced. No. 5. Gun was withdrawn from its defensive position and sent up to replace the Gun which was destroyed. At 12:30 am we fired 20 Rounds in retaliation to enemy M.G. fire with good effect. At 5:30 am we fired 30 Rounds upon an enemy working Party and quickly dispersed them at 035 B6.5. and at various targets During the period we fired 75. Rounds. in retaliation to enemy T.M. and M.G. fire invariably Silencing Effect. At 8:45 PM. we fired 30 Rounds upon an enemy post at 035 B6.5. - Slight Enemy retaliation. At 12 M.D. night an active enemy M.G. was engaged and silenced with 10 Rounds.	Shaker Cap O.C. of the Unit T.M.B.

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PAGE 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15/2/18		Continued. At 8.30 P.M. 30 Rounds were fired on RIFLE FARM, and vicinity At 8.45 P.M. we fired 20 Rounds along enemy line from 023D 23.80 to 023D 30.25. At 9 P.M. another 10 Rounds were fired on Rifle Farm. The Enemy retaliated vigorously with T.M. and M.G. around the vicinity of Wall Farm. at 9.30 P.M. we fired 10 Rounds upon 023D 5.7. No Casualties. Visibility Good. Both Artillery's and Aircraft fairly active. At 2 am we fired 18. Rounds on an enemy M.G. approx. 029.30.3. (The 18 th Round of the above shoot was a misfire and upon raising the barrel it was discovered that the basecap had been blown off, and snapped the recess screw. This Mortar was thus withdrawn to Section Hd Qtrs. and is being replaced ^{tonight} by No. 1. Gun from STEIGNAST FARM) We fired 40 Rounds at various times during the period in retaliation to enemy weapons with good effect. at 3 P.M. an Enemy. Aeroplane flew over our Sector. at a very low altitude it was engaged by our Mortars and finally beaten off by 4 P.M. At 9 P.M. we fired 35 Rounds upon enemy trenches at U5.A. as retaliation to enemy T.M. Shoot. An Active enemy M.G. was fired upon and silenced after 5 Rounds. Infantry Observers say that we registered one direct Hit. 20 Rounds were fired on enemy Trenches at KIVI Farm. At 10 P.M. we fired 5 Rounds in retaliation to enemy T.M. and silenced same At 7.15 P.M. 5 Rounds were fired on Rifle Farm. At 9.20 P.M. 10 Rounds on JULY FARM. also Another 10 Rounds on Rifle Farm.	
	16/2/18			

Darker Capt. J.C. 8th Aust. L.T.M.B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/2/18.		<p>Visibility good. Both Artillery and aircraft active :- He Received 2 Mortars from the 15th A.S.M. Battery, to replace the two recently blown out. One Gun sent to the Right Section and one to the Left Section. At 2.30 am we fired 5 Rounds Retaliatory fire, at 3.30 am 36 Rounds were fired on an active enemy MG at 029.B20.25. Several direct hits are claimed. MG very effectively silenced. Between 8 PM and 12 midnight we fired 40 Rounds upon enemy positions in front of KIWI FARM. "No Casualties".</p>	
	18/2/18.		<p>Visibility ^{fairly} Good Both Artillery's Moderately active Both Aircraft normal From 12.30 am to 5 am we fired 30 Rounds in retaliation to active enemy Weapons, and successfully quietened them. At 5 am we fired 30 Rounds upon Beck Farm 029.B.19. At 11.30 am, an enemy Aeroplane approached our lines in vicinity of 023.C.14. it was engaged by our guns, and successfully turned after 9 rounds had been fired. At 11.40 am another enemy Aeroplane appeared over our lines in vicinity of 029.A.14. - we fired 3 Rounds and caused it to hastily withdraw. At 9.15 PM we fired 20 Rounds on Guard farm - 9.30 PM we fired 12 Rounds upon an active enemy MG. Approx. 029.D45.35 and successfully silenced it. At 9.45 PM. 20 Rounds were fired upon an active enemy MG. at 029D.35.55, with silencing effect. At 10 PM, we fired 12 Rounds upon another enemy MG. at 029B6.0. with good results. "No Casualties".</p>	<p>Platoon Capt O.C. of the Unit - T.M.B.</p>

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~~OR~~
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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PAGE 8.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	21/2/18.		Visibility Good. Both artilleries moderately active. Both aircraft active. At 10 pm the 1/2 Battery at Rear HQ was moved to LINDENHOEK CAMP. 15 th Bty took over our Rear HQ @ 2 pm. Relief completed successfully @ 9 pm relieved crews proceeded to Old Rear HQ where guides awaited them. Arrived new camp @ 10.30 pm where a good hot meal was provided.	
In Billets (In Reserve)	22/2/18		Have allowed the men to sleep until 10 am. Nothing done today. Men have good rest.	
"	23/2/18		Reveille 7.30 am Breakfast 8.0 pm Parade 10 am Full Marching Order. Blankets rolled. At 2.30 am three lorries loaded with all battery stores removed to new camp. Move complete by midday. Dinner 1. pm Tea 5 pm Talk 9 pm Light Out 10 pm. At 8 pm a wire was received to man the assembly position in order to resist a supposed Boche attack. The skeleton forces left @ 8.12 pm and arrived @ assembly position @ 9.10 pm Runner was immediately despatched to brigade with word of the arrival. Skeleton force then returned to billets.	Quaker, Capt. P.C. got down 2. T.M.B.
In Billets	24/2/18		Reveille 8 am Breakfast 8.30. Parade 9.30 Both + Sidearms Church Parade @ Germania Hall Kemmel 10 am. After	

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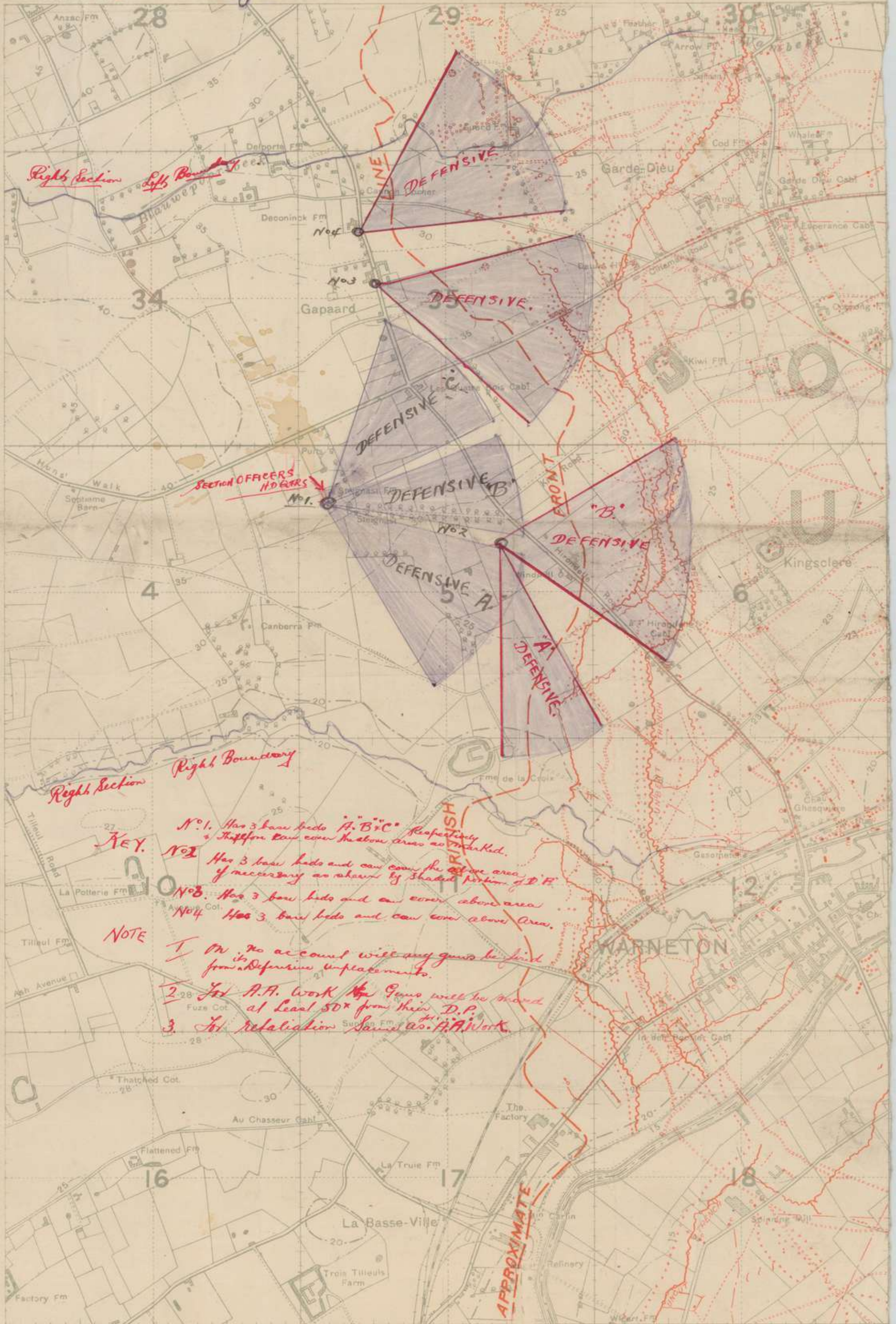
PAGE 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In Bellet	27/2/18		<p>forbidding troops to speak to prisoners. Should enemy desire to surrender he may be permitted provided he advances without weapons. Any attempt at parleying or fraternising by enemy will be answered by fire and report sent to Bde. HQ, DRO III. Care must be taken that all unseizable men items are returned.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions from B.H.Q. we sent our eight guns to 15th Ant. BDE Headquarters. @ 9 pm this morning for use by the 15th Ant. L.T.M.B. in support of a large raid. 15th Ant. L.T.M.B. are providing all personnel.</p> <p>At 4 pm this afternoon special message received from 8th B.H.Q. to move assembly position "Concentration Scheme B," with a skeleton force, consisting of 33% Officers + N.C.O.s. The force left camp @ 4:10 pm and arrived at assembly position @ 4:35 pm. Message of arrival received by 8th B.H.Q. @ 4:40 pm</p>	<p>W. J. G. A. and L. T. M. B.</p>
"	28/2/18		<p>Reveille 7.30 am Breakfast 8.0 am Parade 9.0 am Fighting Order. Inspection of huts by Orderly Officer 10 am Dinner 12.30 pm Tea 5 pm Tattoo 9 pm Lights Out 10 pm</p> <p>Completed bomb proof barricades along front of huts.</p> <p>All equipment scrubbed.</p>	

APPENDIX
A
EDITION 3. A

Original

WARN



Right Section
Left Boundary

Section OFFICERS
HOUSERS

Right Section

KEY

- N°1. Has 3 base beds A, B & C respectively & thick for cover the above areas as indicated.
- N°2. Has 3 base beds and can cover the above area if necessary as shown by shaded portion of D.P.
- N°3. Has 3 base beds and can cover above area.
- N°4. Has 3 base beds and can cover above area.

NOTE

- 1. Do not take account with any guns be fired from defensive emplacements.
- 2. For A.A. work the guns will be moved at least 50' from their D.P.
- 3. All retaliation same as A.A. work.

F.S. CP 1240 8.10.17

Battery Positions (possibly strong points) Probably Timber or Camouflage Probably Concrete

Scale
Yards 100 0 100

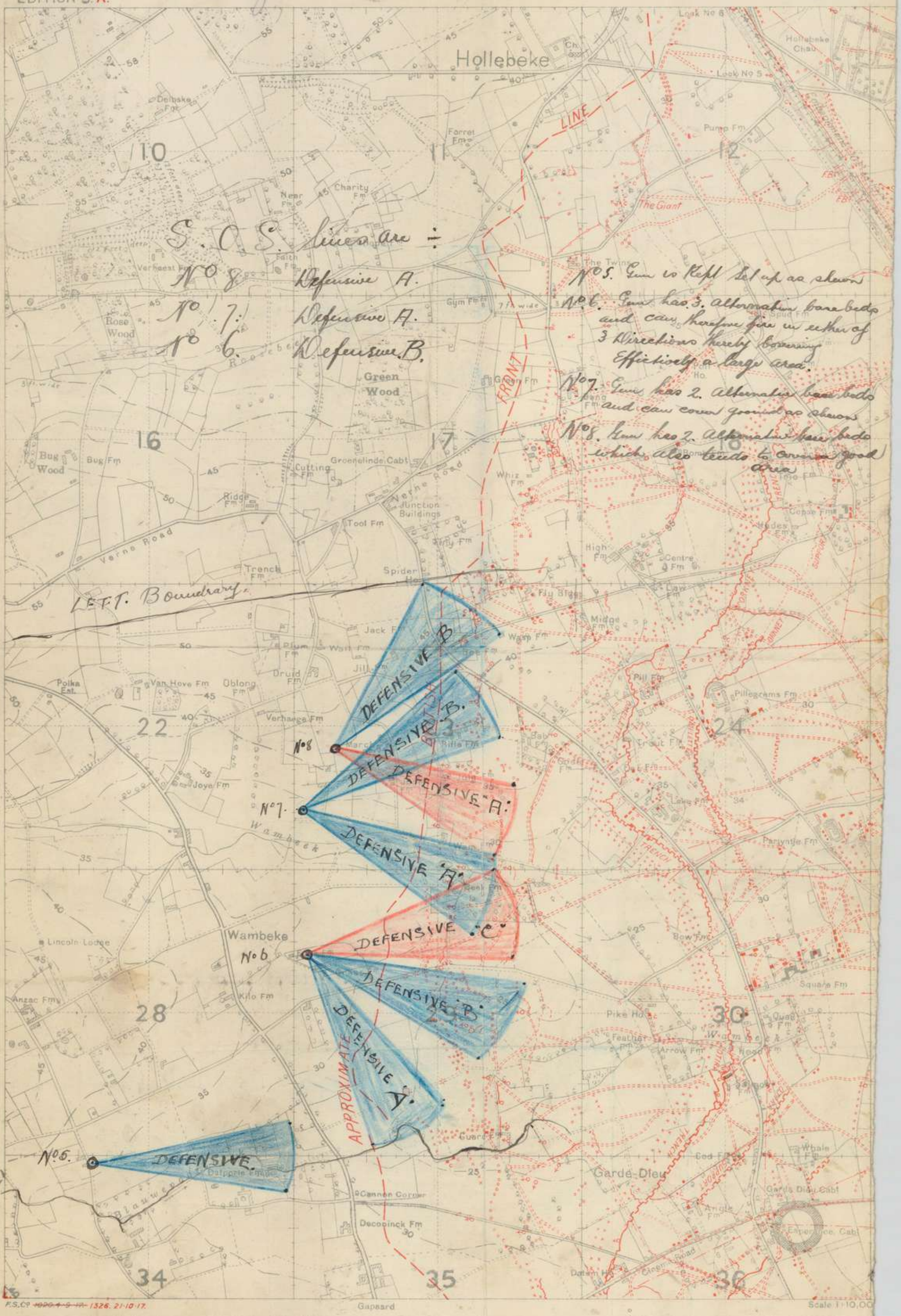
APPENDIX B

Map Showing Stokes Mortar Positions on the Left Sector as arranged for Offensive Scheme.

Original

EDITION 3. A.

HOUTH



S.O.S. lines are :-
 No 8 Defensive A.
 No 7 Defensive A.
 No 6 Defensive B.

No 5. Gun is kept set up as shown
 No 6. Gun has 3. Alternating base beds and can therefore fire in either of 3 directions hereby covering effectively a large area.
 No 7. Gun has 2. Alternating base beds and can cover ground as shown
 No 8. Gun has 2. Alternating base beds which also tends to cover a good area.

LEFT. Boundary.

DEFENSIVE B

DEFENSIVE B

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE C

DEFENSIVE B

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

DEFENSIVE A

M.S. CP 1090-4-9-17-1326. 21-10-17.

NOTE: A feed-water canal exists along the western side of the canal from P. 25 b 7.4 northward to O. 12 d 9.6, and from O. 12 b 2.6 to O. 6 c 8.1, and is conducted in tunnels at three points indicated.

Section Officer's Head Qtrs
 DERRY. House 027. A 3.6.

Scale 1:10,000

Original

as issued to N.C.O.

No. 1. Gun. Upon receipt of S.O.S. signal this gun will NOT open fire. Acting under the directions of the Officer present, it will ^{act} upon the most favourable line and traversing fire will be opened when the Enemy troops come within Range. When the situation renders it necessary, and this will be determined by the Officer present, the gun will be withdrawn to U4.B15.25. and under his direction open fire upon the most favourable line of the Enemy when within Range. The crew will remain at its post, and serve the gun until the last moment, and to prevent the gun from falling into the hands of the enemy will destroy it by blowing up. Personnel will then attach themselves to the nearest Infantry formation.

No. 2. Gun. Upon receipt of S.O.S. the gun will open fire upon its S.O.S. line, with traversing and Searching fire. Range - 500 yds. (1 Ring) Rate of Fire 20 Rounds per Minute. The N.C.O. in charge of the gun will keep in constant touch with the Senior Officer Commanding his portion of the Sector, and find out exactly on what portion of the front the enemy attack is developing. He will then assist the infantry by checking the enemy advance or dislodging him from captured positions. Should the Attack be on his own immediate front, the gun will fall back to its alternative emplacement at the most favourable opportunity. But no gun will fall back unless absolutely necessary. I.E. (1) when all ammunition is expended or (2) the enemy have broken through the outpost line. In withdrawing only the barrel and baseplate (accessories) will be taken back. The alternative defensive emplacement for this Gun is "STEIGNAST." On arrival there the N.C.O. will keep in touch with the Senior Trench Mortar or Infantry Officer present and find out the progress made by the Enemy. The Gun will be set upon the most favourable line and traversing fire opened when the Enemy troops come within range. When the situation renders it necessary, and this will be determined by the Officer present, the gun will further withdraw to U4.B15.25; and, ^{under} direction of the officer present open fire upon the most favourable line at the Enemy when within Range.

282^{No}
(2)

Original

The crew will then remain at its post and serve their gun until the last possible moment and then blow up the gun to prevent it falling into enemy hands. Personnel will then attach themselves to the nearest Infantry formation.

No 3 & 4 Guns.

Upon receipt of the S.O.S. the Guns will open fire upon their S.O.S. Lines, with traversing and Searching fire: Range: 660 yds (2 Rings)
Rate of fire: 20 Rounds per Minute. The N.C.O. in charge of Guns will keep in constant touch with the Senior Officer commanding the Sector and find out exactly on what portion of the front the Enemy attack is developing. They will then assist the Infantry by checking the enemy advance or dislodging him from captured positions. Should the attack be on their own immediate front, the gun will fall back. The guns will fall back to their alternative implacements at the most favourable opportunity. But no guns will fall back unless absolutely necessary. I.E.

- (1) When all ammunition is expended. or.
- (2) The enemy has broken through the outpost line. In withdrawing only the barrels and baseplates (+ accessories) will be taken back. The Alternative ^{defensive} implacements for these guns are O 34. Central. On arrival there the N.C.O. will keep in touch with the Senior Branch Mortar or Infantry Officer present and find out the progress made by the enemy. The guns will be set upon the most favourable line and traversing fire opened when enemy troops come within Range. The crews will remain at their posts and serve their guns until the last possible moment, and then blow them up to prevent them falling into the hands of the Enemy. Personnel will then attach themselves to the nearest Infantry formation.

Action in case of Hostile Gas Attack.

In the event of a hostile cloud gas attack on the Brigade Sector. A light barrage will be put down on Barrage line. A intense barrage will be put down unless the S.O.S. Signal is sent up.

Defence against Hostile Aircraft

All hostile aircraft will be engaged whenever opportunity offers.

Water Capt

O.C. 8th Sect. L.T.M.B

Original

Defensive Scheme to be carried out by Nos 5, 6, 7, and 8 Guns.

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Left Sector.

as issued to N.C.O's

Immediately the S.O.S. Signal is fired Nos 6, 7, and 8 Guns will place down a barrage on their respective S.O.S. barrage lines, traversing No man's land.

The N.C.O's in charge of guns would immediately get in touch with O.C. front line and find out exact location of enemy attack and bring fire to bear on approaching enemy.

Each Gun will give every assistance possible to the Infantry in either checking the advance of the enemy or dislodging him from captured positions. Should the checks of the advance be impossible, each gun will at the most favourable time, fall back to its alternative defensive

implacements and will continue to assist the Infantry in checking the advance of the enemy. Each crew will remain at their post, serving the gun until the last possible moment and on no account will any gun fall back unless absolutely necessary. Should the advance of the enemy continue and the N.C.O's unable to withdraw their guns, ^{they will continue to serve their guns.} until the last possible moment and then blow them up to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy.

No 5. Gun will keep in touch with O.C. Support Company and will place down a barrage immediately enemy get within range.

The Sub section in support will, immediately the S.O.S. Signal is fired double out and take post at the alternative defensive implacements and will prepare the ammunition and await the arrival of the guns. Should they be forced to withdraw.

Should the enemy break through on one portion of the front only, the remaining guns will remain at their posts and if possible bring fire to bear on positions of line penetrated. About 100 Rounds will be kept at each ^{defensive and} alternative defensive implacements in view of a Hostile Attack.

Palmer Capt
O.C. 8th Aust L.T.M.B.

APPENDIX C 15

Reference Map - 28 SW $\frac{1}{20,000}$ APPENDIX

D

Description of Brigade Area

(1) Frontage

The frontage held by the Brigade extends from V.11.B.36. to O.23.B.0.8 - a distance of approx 4,400 yds.

(2) Boundaries

- (a) Brigade - the southern Brigade Boundary runs from V.11.B.3.6 along the DOUVE RIVER to V.8. Central thence to T.4.D.0.7.
- (b) The northern Brigade Boundary runs from O.23.B.3.8. OOSTTAVERNE - O.20.B.5.9.
- (c) Inter-Battalion - the grid line from O.36.C.0.0 to HUNS WALK, thence along the road to V.4.A.3.7.
- (d) From O.29.C.5.0. along the BLAUWEPPOORTBEEK to O.33.B.45.55. to O.31. Central.
- (e) The WAMBEEK - O.21.D.9.4 along the road to GUN FARM - PICK HOUSE.

Topography

- (3) The most important tactical feature in the Brigade Area is the WYTSCHAETE - MESSINES Ridge running from N.W to S.E through squares 0.19 - 0.26 & 0.32. From this main ridge projects eastward three minor spurs named respectively from right to left, the GAAPARD - WAMBEEK & OOSTERVERNE spurs. The ground slopes gradually to the east from the main ridge & except where broken by folds is practically all under direct observation from the enemy. The low lying ground in the valleys of the DOUVE * BLAUWEPPOORTBEEK & WAMBEEK is very marshy & after rain impassable by troops - but in very frosty weather presents no obstacle.

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The defences of the Brigade area are divided into (2) two zones, Front and Second Zone.

The front zone

- a) The outpost System consists of a system of Detached outposts on a general line U11.B4.6. - U5.B8.9. - O35.A5.6. - O29.C2.6. - O23.A2.3.
- b) Support System consists of a line of Strongpoints on a general line U5.C2.3. - O34.Benthal - O28.C8.1. - O22.C5.6. - O22.A3.6.
- c) The reserve System consists of a line of trenches and Strongpoints on a General line. U4.D2.2. - O33.B7.3. - O27.D3.3. - O21.D0.0. - O21.C8.8. - O21.A5.7.

The Second Zone.

This System lying in an area of the front zone is under Divisional control.

Principals of Defence.

The area is held as thinly as is consistent with security - Distribution in depth being adhered to.

Alert and constant observations must be maintained upon the enemy Territory in order to guard against surprise.

All posts Machine guns, and Light Trench Mortars are so sighted as to give Mutual support and cross fire. - All Trench Mortars are in such positions that any portion of our own front line may if necessary be unflashed.

In the event of an enemy break through at any point, troops must not fall back from one line to the next but all ground must be defended as long as possible whether the flanks are turned or not. By this means the break through will be localised.

Upon receipt of the S.O.S. All Stokes Mortars will open fire upon their S.O.S. lines with traversing and searching fire (rate of fire 20 rounds per minute).

The N.C.O. in charge of each Mortar will keep constant touch with the Senior Officer commanding his portion of the Sector, and find out exactly on what portions of the sector the enemy attack is developing he will then assist the Infantry by checking the enemy advance or dislodging him from captured positions. Should the attack be upon his own immediate front the gun will fall back to its alternative defensive emplacement at the most favourable time.

Each crew will remain at their post and serve their gun until the last possible moment and on no account will any gun fall back unless absolutely necessary. Should the advance of the enemy continue and the N.C.O.'s find it impossible to withdraw, they will continue to serve their guns until the last possible moment and then blow them up to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy. Personnel would then attack them selves to the nearest Infantry formation.

No. 1 Gun and No. 5 Gun will not open up on receipt of the S.O.S. but will keep in touch with the Senior Infantry or Trench Mortar Officer present and will find out the progress made by the enemy. The Guns would then be set upon the most favourable line and traversing fire opened when the enemy troops came within range.

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Offensive Positions

Alternative Defensive Positions

- Nº 1. U5 A2.6
- Nº 2. U5 B3.3
- Nº 3. O35 A5.1
- Nº 4. O35 A4.5
- Nº 5. O34 A6095.
- Nº 6. O29. A14.
- Nº 7. O23 C14.
- Nº 8. O23 C2085

- U4. B1525
- U5. A2.6
- O 34 Central.
- O 34 Central.

- O 28 B6.1.
- O 22 D2097.
- O 22 B35.00.

A good supply of Ammunition will be kept at above positions for immediate use.

Anti Aircraft Defense

All Mortars will be continually supplied with both Incendiary and H.E. Anti Aircraft shells. Hostile Aircraft will be engaged whenever opportunity offers.

Action in case of Gas Attack.

Standing Orders for defence against gas (S.S. 193.) will obtain. In the event of a hostile gas cloud attacks on the Brigade Sector the Message to be sent will be "Gas" followed by the locality when a light barrage by all Guns in the Passed Area will be put down in front of our posts to prevent hostile patrols following up the gas. No intense barrage will be put down unless the S.O.S. Signal is sent up.

Parker Capt.

O.C. 8th Aust. Light. Trench Mortar Battery.

Distribution

- | Copy no. | To Whom |
|----------|---------------------|
| Nº 1 | Bde Hd Qtrs |
| Nº 2 | O.C. |
| Nº 3 | Right Section Comd. |
| Nº 4 | Left Section Comd. |
| Nº 5 | War Diary. |
| Nº 6 | |
| Nº 7 | |

Appendix A.

APPENDIX D

Locations of Hd Qtrs.

Brigade in Line	Midland Dergouts.	T6C.6.8.
Right, French Mortar Bty.		U3A1.1.
Right Battalion Hd Qtrs		U4C4.3.
Right Centre Battalion Hd Qtrs	Leun Farm	034B2.2.
Left Battalion Hd Qtrs	Torriken Farm	026D1075
		020D12.

Front and Support Line Company Hd Qtrs.

Right Battn.	Right Centre Battn	Left Centre Battn	Left Battn.
Right Line Comp. (U5C2.5)	Right Line Comp. (035D2005)	Line Comp. (028D5.1.)	Line Comp. (023C2.6.)
Left Line Comp. (U5B3.2.)	Left Line Comp. (035A53.)	Support Comp. (027D1595)	Support Comp. (021D9085)
Support Comp. (U4C9.5.)	Support Comp. 034B1.2.		

Administrative Arrangements.Ammunition Supply.

Main Divisional Dump — LA. POLKA. N21.D7.3.
Advanced Divisional Dump — SOUVENIR FARM. T5D5.6.

Brigade Dumps

Right Sectol. SCHNITZEL DUMP — U3C.9.1.
MOULIN-DE-L'HOSPICE — U2A7.9.

Left Sectol. PICK HOUSE 026A6.5.
VERNE DUMP. 021 Central.

L.T.M.B. Dumps. GUN FARM. 027A.8.8.
STEIGNAST FARM. U5A3.6
BATTERY. H.R. U3.A11.

R.E. Dump.

Main Divisional Dump T3D3.9.

Brigade Dumps.

Pearl River Dump (Late Currie Dump) T12.C6.4.

Bell Farm Dump 031.C1.4.

An Auxiliary Dump is situated at —
Staynes Farm 032.D3.9.
Walter House 027A1.1.

Rations.

Rations are drawn at Daylight, bornes (N23.C8.8.)
and are sorted out at Fort Pinkie (T6A.5.5.)
The limber conveys left section rations to DERRY HOUSE (027.A4.6.)
and the right sections rations are man handled.

Cooking of Hot Food.

Cooking for the left section is done at Gun Farm 027.A8.8.
where the men have two hot meals every 24 hours.
Right section cooking is done at FORT PINKIE, T6A5.5.
and sent up in hot food containers at night

Traffic

During daylight the limber which conveys the rations
to the left section will not proceed past T63.C3.6.

Prisoners of War.

During the present enemy attitude, any prisoners
will be sent to Bde Hd Ctr under an escort immediately
on capture.

Salvage.

As reliefs returns from the line they will bring back all
possible Salvage to section Hd Ctr and from there
it will be sent down by ration parties to
FORT PINKIE.

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Appendix C.

Medical Arrangements.

APPENDIX D

R.A.P.

Relay branch Post

Left Sector. RAVINE 0.10.C.2.5
 VERNE ROAD, 0.21. Central
 CABIN. HILL. 0.33. B.1.9.

CABARET CORNER 0.15. A.9.1.
 ONTRANCT FARM. 0.14. C.5.8.
 WHIZZLANG 0.27. C.3.0
 LUMM. FARM. 0.26. D.2.8.
 FANNY'S Post 0.33. B.5.4.
 SWAINS Post 0.32. Central
 R.E. DUMP 0.31. C.3.4.

Right Sector. MOLLY'S Post. 0.34. A.9.1.
 LOND'S Post. U.10. A.2.9.

CLAYTONS. Post. U.8. B.8.8.
 GOOSE BERRY. FARM. U.7. B.5.8.
 BOYLE'S FARM. U.1. C.1.9.
 WYTSBHAËTE 0.19. D.2.8.
 KANDAHAR FARM. T.10. B.8.7.

Right Sector. WAGGON LOADING POST.

A.D.S Left Sector.

Right Sector.

M.D.S 2nd Aust Field Ambulance

YONGE. STREET. N.29. C.2.6

Evacuation of Wounded.

Left Sector. From RAVINE R.A.P. to A.D.S. by light railway trolley.
 " VERNE ROAD. to A.D.S. by wheeled stretcher or hand
 " CANIN HILL to LUMM. FARM. by hand then to A.D.S.
 by wheeled stretcher or hand.

Right Sector. From MOLLY'S Post. to FANNY'S Post. by hand.
 to BOYLE'S FARM. by trolley.
 to A.D.S. by Car.

From BOND'S Post. to GOOSEBERRY. FARM. by trolley
 to BOYLE'S FARM. by hand.
 to A.D.S. by bar.

Dental units are situated at M.D.S (YONGE STREET)
 D.R.S. LOCRE. WULVERGHEM. and DRANOUTRE.

8th Aust. L. T. M. B.

Order No 2.

Reference MAP SHEET 28 SW - 1/20,000.

H.Q. 20/2/18

- (1) (a) The 15th Aust LTMB is relieving the 8th Aust LTMB in the line on the night 21/22 February 1918
 (b) on completion of relief the Brigade becomes Divisional Reserve.
- (2) Relieving units will take over all existing dispositions.
- (3) Upon completion of relief the gun crews will rendezvous at Rear H.Q.s. & will await a guide from the new camp at LINDENHOEK.
- (4) (a) The gun crew commanders of the incoming unit will be going into the line tonight.
 (b) Lieut Ranson will send two guides to Battery H.Q. at dusk, the two gun crew commanders who go up to the O. guns will be taken to right section H.Q.s by Pte Scott. The two special runners from Right section H.Q.s will guide the remaining two gun crew commanders to the D. guns.
 (c) Lieut Davis will arrange to have four guides in readiness at his H.Q.s by dusk.
 (d) Pte Davis will guide the four gun crew commanders to Left section H.Q.
- (5) all maps, aeroplane photographs, local information trench stores will be handed over receipts obtained.
- (6) (a) Gun Boots will not be handed over. Right section will return their gun boots to "Stinking farm" & obtain receipt for same.
 (b) Left section will return their gun boots to the 31st Bn store & obtain receipt for same.
- (7) Lieut Davis will hand over the dixie on his sector & obtain a receipt for same.

Original

APPENDIX E Continued

- (8) Lieut Ranson will send out all spare Gun Boots tonight.
- (9) Completion of relief will be wired to Battery M Gts by the code name, MAY.
- (10) Acknowledge.

Stalker Capt

Copies to :-

- 1 o.c.
- 2 o.c Right Section
- 3 o.c Left section
- 4 } war diary
- 5 }
- 6 }

o.c.

8th Aust L.T.M.B.

Original

SECRET

Copy No 4

APPENDIX

"B"

20/2/18

- 1/ (a) Appendix "A" is cancelled & will be destroyed.
- (b) Following orders are substituted.
- 2/ The 15th Battery NCO's on the Left sector will return to Section H Gts at dawn 21/2/18 & on arrival of their crews the same night they will guide them to their respective gun positions.
- 3/ The 15th Battery NCO's who proceed to Nos 0.1 & 0.2 guns of Right Section will return to section H Gts at dawn 21/2/18 & on arrival of their crews the same night they will guide them to the positions. The relieving NCO's on D1 & D2 guns will remain at the positions. The guides for those guns will be provided from our own personnell & will report to Battery H Gts by 4-30 pm 21/2/18. On arrival of the relieving crews they will take them to the "D" positions.
- 4/ Guns will be handed over, less accessories

Walker Capt 9th Aust Lt MRB