

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/122/3

**Title:** 9th Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

February 1918



AWM4-13/122/3



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*7<sup>th</sup> A L I M Bty*

FOR

*February 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....



# War Diary

## Febry 1918.

~~THURSDAY~~ 1.2.18. The morning was spent improving conditions in the new Camp. Huts were cleared out & new cook houses fitted up. Sod walls around huts were improved & strengthened. Salvage material around Camp being used for purpose.

SATURDAY 2.2.18. Sod walls were improved & drainage of camp also improved. School carried on with syllabus of training in Stokes Course.

Afternoon no parades were held. Men rested.

No 1913 Pte SCHOFIELD commenced 14 days leave to United Kingdom.

No 2678 Gunr UPTON, No 2997 Gunr JONES, J.

No 1122 Gunr FITZGIBBON A.G. returned to unit from leave to United Kingdom.

R. Knowlton's Capt.  
 cc 9th A. L. I. M. Bty.



WAR DIARY OF 9<sup>th</sup> AUS. L. T. M. BATTERY  
FOR  
WEEK ENDING 9. 2. 18.

Reference Maps.

① BAILLEUL. 28. S.W. 3. 1/10000.

② BAS-WARNETON. 28 SW 4 R 28 5 E 3  
1/10000.

LOCATION OF BATTERY. BULFORD CAMP T 20 C 60-20.

SUNDAY. 3. 2. 18. Battery attended Church  
Parade at KORTERPYP CAMP. GENERAL  
Sir William Birdwood G.O.C. A.I.F. attended  
parade & decorated members of this  
Brigade.

448 Sgt. HAPGOOD A.E. of this battery was  
decorated with the Military Medal for  
gallant work during the MESSINES  
operations June-July 1917.

The brigade was afterwards addressed  
by the G.O.C. A.I.F. & then reviewed by  
him.

The G.O.C. addressed all the officers  
of the brigade after the march past.

The afternoon was devoted to recreational  
training & the battery football team played  
& defeated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aus. Div. Demonstration platoon  
Major PAIN. Brigade Major 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Brigade  
lectured the officers of the battery & explained  
the details of the Corps, Divisional, &  
Brigade defence schemes.

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On 1st Lt LIENT F.S. VARLEY reconnoitred  
the right section of the divisional front  
in connection with the divisional defence  
scheme.

MONDAY. 4. 2. 18. Capt. R.C. Nowland received  
instructions to get in touch with 10<sup>th</sup>  
Aus Inf Bde. The OC battery reported  
to 10<sup>th</sup> Aus. Inf Bde HQrs. The de SAC  
ROMARIN was instructed to assist  
10<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty in connection with  
operations of 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde  
Special party operations to  
take place on "Z" day.

Battery carried on training &  
School continued instruction.

TUESDAY 5. 2. 18. Lieuts. J.F. CAMERON  
& E.D. REDFERN, reconnoitred the  
right sector of the divisional front in  
connection with the Brigade defence  
scheme.

Capt. R.C. Nowland OC battery proceeded  
to the "Cotacombs" Hyde Park Corner, Bois  
de Ploegstert & a conference was  
held with OCS of 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> LTM Btys.  
in connection with 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade Special  
party operations to take place on "Z"  
day. See 10<sup>th</sup> Aus. Inf Bde Special party Orders  
Nos 1. 283 & any subsequent orders.

The intention of the operation was  
as follows: - On "Z" day at ZERO hour

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the 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde Special party will raid enemy's trenches between the following points:- U18A 28-55 - U18A 70-15  
U12C 50-25 - U12C 10-15.

The following dispositions were decided upon for the operation.

11<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty — Right.  
10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty — Centre  
9<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty — Left.

It was decided that the 9<sup>th</sup> Aus ALTM Bty should barrage enemy's front line between U11D 85-37 & U11B 80-30.

from Zero to Zero + 45 minutes with 8 mortars in connection with a "Chinese Attack" in NO MANS LAND opposite this sector, with the object of drawing the enemy's S.B.S. barrage on to this sector & away from the exact location of raid.

Lieut. A.S. VARLEY, it was arranged, would take command of 4 mortars & crews of 10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty & throw a smoke screen in front of enemy trenches from WICART FARM (U18C 00-10) & SPINNING MILL (U18C 95-80) with "VARLEY" smoke bombs. 1 NCO & 12 men of this ~~WEDNESDAY 6.7.18.~~ battery proceeded to Stokes dump at DEAD HORSE CORNER U21A 30-90 and carried 300 rounds of 3" Stokes ammunition by trench

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tramway to U11D 51-75. The party then returned to billets at 11-30pm.  
WEDNESDAY 6-7.18. Capt. R.C. Nowlan of battery. Lieuts. J.F. Cameron & E.D. Redfern proceeded to left sector of divisional front via ROMARIN - HYDEPARK CORNER - DOUVE DUCKBOARDS. Positions were reconnoitred for 8-3" Stokes mortars in U11A & U11C. Nos ① & ② of each gun team reported at positions at 4pm & proceeded to carry ammunition from dump at U11D 51-75 to various gun positions & to prepare emplacements. Enemy Artillery fired 6-9.7.5 & 7 heavy shrapnel into sector at 'Stand to' (evening). NO casualties. One of our scouting planes fired about 4 drums of SFA into enemy front line at 5pm.  
A working party of 12 men carried 800 rounds of 3" Stokes ammunition from DEAD HORSE CORNER to dump at U11D 51-75 by trench tramway & distributed same around the 8 guns. Both parties withdrew to billets at about 10pm arriving there at midnight. Men had a hot meal & feet washed in antiseptic foot liquid before "turning in" for night. Lieut. A.S. VARLEY reported to HQ of 10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty at 4pm.

New Army.



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THURSDAY. 7.2.18. Lieuts. J.F. CAMERON & E.D. Redfern and 12 Nos & men proceeded to live at 8.30 am.

Passage lines were laid out for each mortar & temporary pits & solid beds were prepared for "Z" day. Ammunition in pits was prepared.

General Sir William Birdwood G.O.C. A.I.F. inspected pits & trenches in the area during afternoon & conversed with the officers mentioned above.

Party returned to camp at 8 pm no casualties.

FRIDAY. 8-2-18. 2 Nos & 10 men proceeded to trenches & finished job of preparing ammunition. 8 mortars of this battery were transported to Catcombs HYDE PARK CORNER & left under guard.

Party returned from live at 6 pm & were met by transport at Catcombs & brought back to camp.

An issue of rum was given to all ranks.

SATURDAY. 9.2.18. Lieut. S.M. Mulholland / NCO & 5 men returned to unit from leave to United Kingdom.

Parades were held as usual & special instruction given in Always Just.

R. Snowland Capt  
oc 9<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty

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WAR DIARY of 9<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM Bty.  
for  
WEEK ENDING 16-2-18.

Reference Maps

① BAILLEUL 28 SW 3 1/10000

② BAS-WARENETON 28. SW 4 & 28 SE 3.

LOCATION OF BATTERY BULFORD CAMP T20C60-20

SUNDAY. 10-2-18. Notification was received from 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde that "Z" day would be 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. & Zero hour 10 pm for 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde Special party operations. Advance parties proceeded to trenches at 12 noon & all mortars were laid on bearings by daylight. Watches were synchronized at 3 pm by Lieut. S.M. Mulholland.

Capt. R.C. Howland O.C. battery proceeded to trenches at 2 pm via 10<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty HQs. HYDE PARK CORNER & DOUVE DUCKBOARDS.

Dispositions for the operation were made as follows.

LIEUT. J.F. CAMERON. Left Sector.

405 Cpl. MURPHY. W. ① ] N<sup>o</sup> 5 Gun.

1628 Gun<sup>r</sup>. ROACHE. A.E. ① ]

1419 " MILLS. H. ① ] N<sup>o</sup> 6 Gun.

3094 " M<sup>o</sup> LACHLAN. D.L. ② ]

31127 Cpl. FRASER. D.J. ① ] N<sup>o</sup> 7 Gun.

1227 Gun<sup>r</sup>. RAMSAY. T 2 ]

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1108 Lt DENNING J. J. N° 8 Gun  
1765 Gun: COX. E.L.] 2

LIEUT. E.D. REDFERN. RIGHT SECTION.

1284 Cpl. WARDHAUGH, F.V.] N° 1 Gun.  
2793 Gun: DOHERTY C.B.] 2  
2037 " ATKINSON, H.B.] 1 N° 2. Gun.  
1698 " TAYLOR, W.T.] 2  
1754 " BLEVIN, W.R.] N° 3. Gun.  
1603 " SMITH, B.] 2  
582 " ROOKE, A.S.] 1 N° 4 Gun.  
1662 " HOWARD, F.] 2  
1998 " SCOTT, J.] STRETCHER  
862 " NEILSON, N.] BEARERS.

The above were transported by G.S. wagons to DOUVE DUCKBOARDS & filed into various positions at 7-30 pm. All was correct at 8-30 pm & ALL CORRECT was wired to HQs 10<sup>th</sup> LTM Bty at 9 pm. The enemy was particularly quiet during evening. Barrage opened at 10 pm & was particularly heavy from the artillery. Barrage continued until 10-45 pm. S.O.S was thrown up from enemy sector immediately in front of Chinese attack as was anticipated.

enemy placed his SOS barrage down opposite left sector. The Chinese attack was most successful enemy machine gunning the dummy figures until 4 am 11.2.18.

Our mortars continued to barrage until 2 + 45 mins. & fired 600 rounds in all. Retaliation on our mortars was very severe & consisted of 5.9's & heavy Minnies.

The enemy obtained no hits on the emplacement of this battery but one 6" Stokes emplacement was blown in & 4 men killed.

The battery withdrew at 11 pm & transported mortars to Battalion HQs where they were left for the night. The party then withdrew to billets having suffered no casualties.

Lieut. A.S. VARLEY was in charge of 4 mortars of 10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty & from 2 to 2+45 minutes threw a Smoke Screen with VARLEY SMOKE BOMBS along the river bank between WICART FARM & SPINNING MILL to screen raiders from enemy positions on this flank. 1284 Cpl. WARDHAUGH, F.V. & Cpl. 495 MURPHY, W.

10<sup>th</sup> Army



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were recommended by officers of the battery for decorations for continued conspicuous work in the line.

The raid was a complete success & resulted in the capturing of 33 prisoners & the killing of at least 200 Bosch. & an adverse moral effect on the enemy troops.

Our casualties were very slight.

MONDAY. 11.7.18. No 2070 Gun. GANTLEY. J.

No 705. Gun. ARBUCKLE. AG. were evacuated to No 2 A.C.C.S. Sick & were struck off strength.

No 1399 Gun. MCGEE. W. was evacuated to hospital.

No 1285. Gun. MCGRATH. H. was evacuated to hospital.

Limber party proceeded to trenches & transported mortars back to bullets.

TUESDAY. 12.7.18. 1000 & 20 men did a working party & improved the anti aircraft defences of the camp of 869<sup>th</sup> ASC. Coy. mortars were cleared.

WEDNESDAY. 13.7.18. Capt. R.C. Nowland & Lieut. A.S. VARLEY reconnoitred the right of the divisional front in connection with the brigade defence scheme & returned to billets at 4 pm.

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THURSDAY. 14.7.18. Capt. R.C. Nowland and ~~AS VARLEY~~ Lieut. J.F. Cameron reconnoitred portion of the ~~Brigade~~ front from Bois de PLOEGSTERT to LE BIZET.

Battery carried on with battery training. Anti aircraft defences of the camp were improved.

FRIDAY. 15.7.18. Battery carried on with training & improving of anti aircraft defences.

Experiments were carried out with the Stokes mortar as an anti aircraft weapon with some success.

SATURDAY. 16.7.18. Lieut. S.M. Mulholland and Capt. R.C. Nowland visited C.P. KEMMEL & viewed the Corps front. The ~~star~~ left of the divisional front from the DONVE RIVER to Bois de PLOEGSTERT was reconnoitred.

SUNDAY. 17.7.18. Capt. R.C. Nowland reconnoitred Bois de Ploegstert in connection with the Brigade defence scheme. Visibility was good & aircraft of both forces ~~was~~ were very active.

Lieut. W.W. SMITH returned from leave to the United Kingdom.

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Post Diary.



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

9th AUS L.T.M. BATTERY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELGIUM	18.2.18		O.C. Battery prepared defence Scheme for L.T.M. Battery of RESERVE BRIGADE. Battery carried on with Battery training	
BULFORD LINES	19.2.18	3 P.M.	Lt A.S. VARLEY gave demonstration of smoke bomb before Divisional & Corps Staffs at RAVELSBURG. Day was dispersed to Battery	
T 20 C 60-20	20.2.18			
T 20 C 60-20				
C 70 C 60-10	21.2.18	9 am	Dump prepared at previous location in connection with the defence Scheme, 200 rounds 3" STOKES ammunition prepared & placed in same. POSITION OF READINESS "A"	
T 24 t 40-65	"	4 pm	Dump prepared and 200 rounds 3" STOKES ammunition prepared & placed therein. POSITION OF READINESS "B" Lt MULHOLLAND & 6 MEN.	
U 18 C 90-50	"	"	Emplacement prepared in connection with defence Scheme	
T 24 t 40-65	22.2.18	"	Ammunitions in dumps, prepared on day previous, detonated & completed	
T 24 t 40-65	"	"		
T 24 t 40-65	"	"	100 rounds 3" STOKES carried & placed in emplacement prepared on 21st inst.	
U 9 a 60-10	23.2.18	"	Lt W.W. SMITH with party of 2 N.C.O.'s & 8 men prepared two @ emplacements at GREYS FARM in connection with defence Scheme	
			Cap't R.B. NOWLAND proceeded to CATACOMBS, HYDE PARK CORNER & conferred with O.C. 10th AUS L.T.M. Bty re relief shortly to take place	
	24.2.18	9 am	Cap't R.B. NOWLAND, O.C. Battery proceeded to H.Q. 10th AUS L.T.M. Bty & made final arrangements with regard to relief	
			Lt W.W. SMITH and No 1 of No 1. 2 384 gun teams proceeded to RIGHT SECTOR L17 BASSEVILLE. No 1 remained in sector, Lt SMITH returning same night	
			Lt S.M. MULHOLLAND & No 1 of No 5 46 gun teams proceeded to LEFT SECTOR near RIVER DOUVE via DOUVE DUCKBOARDS. No 1 remained in line. Officer re-turned to Battery 14.00 with report on sector	
BOESCHEPE	25.2.18	3 P.M.	Conference 4th Army L.T.M. Officers. Present Capt R.B. NOWLAND & Lt A.S. VARLEY	







Report on Operations of 9<sup>th</sup> AVS. LTM Bty  
for operations on Z over 7 nights

9<sup>th</sup> Bde Raids.

Headquarters  
9<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty  
5.3.18.

AMMUNITION.

In accordance with verbal instructions from GOC 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. I was held responsible for getting all the ammunition to the terminus of tramlines on right & left sectors for the 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> L T M Battalions who co-operated.

This was carried out as follows.

2202 rounds 3" Stokes complete were delivered at tramhead on left sector drawn from PROWSE POINT DUMP.

550 "Varley" smoke bombs & 3283 rounds of 3" Stokes (H.E.) were drawn from

DEAD HORSE CORNER DUMP & delivered to tram terminus on Right Sector.

Carrying parties were supplied from 35<sup>th</sup> & 36<sup>th</sup> Battalions & this battery for the work which was completed on night 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> inst.

Emplacements. In order to carry out bombardment & smoke screen as in 9<sup>th</sup> Avs Inf Bde Order N°15 emplacements were selected & prepared for the 8

26  
mortars of this battery as follows.  
Nos 1 & 2 mortars U 17 d 08-66 } SMOKE.  
Nos 3 & 4 mortars U 17 d 40-88 }  
" 5 & 6 " U 17 d 38-95 } H.E.  
" 7 & 8 " U 17 b 35-02 }

Lieut. AS VARLEY was in charge of Smoke mortars & Lieut. W.W. Smith was in charge of H.E. mortars.

2 mortars on left Battalion sector were handed over at 2-bowlers on "Z" A nights to 10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty & returned to SOS line immediately after operation on each night.

2 mortars were placed at disposal of this battery by 10<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty in lieu of the two mortars referred to above.

Z NIGHT. Zero hour was 11.45 pm & night was 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> inst.

At zero all mortars carried out programme as laid down  
250 "VARLEY" smoke shells were fired & 600 H.E.

Smoke screen appeared very effective.

Retaliation was fairly heavy on H.E. mortars from 2+5 to 2+25 consisting of man-overboard 5.9's - Whizz bangs.  
The battery suffered no casualties.



'A' NIGHT

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Zero was fired for 12-50am  
& Zero night was fired for night 4/5<sup>th</sup> cont.  
Gun teams were changed over &  
an almost complete relief was made  
in personnel for 'A' night.

At Zero all mortars ~~continued~~  
proceeded to carry out bombardment  
programme. At 2+8 nos  
5 & 6 mortars were subjected to  
very heavy Mmon wep fire.

Retaliation was lighter than on  
previous night but nos 5, 6, 7 &  
8 mortar positions appeared to  
receive special attention from the  
enemy.

At 2+30 No 6 mortar broke its  
base plate immediately afterwards  
a heavy Mmon wep fell in pit  
& destroyed this mortar. Gun team  
escaped injury.

700 Smoke shells were fired  
450 HE " " "

Beds were affected by wet weather  
& did not hold as well as on previous  
night.

ADV BATTERY HQs were established out  
U17d 35-85 for 'Z' & 'A' nights. Casualties  
NIL. Withdrawal was complete to  
CATACOMBS at 5am.

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All ranks worked to their almost  
capacity, debarking by day & carrying  
& preparing emplacements etc by  
night, in order to ensure the  
success of this operation.  
Carrying parties from Battalion with  
one or two exceptions worked very  
well indeed in getting ammunition  
forward.

(within battery)  
Relief of night & left sectors was  
carried out before day light  
this morning.

R Knowland last.  
cc 9<sup>th</sup> Aust LHA

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APPENDIX.



REPORT of OPERATIONS of 9<sup>th</sup>

Aus. LTM Battery

from

10<sup>th</sup> Bde. Road

4-2-18 to 11-2-18.

Ref map. BHS WARNETON 28SW4R 28SE3. 1/10000

Monday 4.2.18. OC battery was instructed to get in touch with HQ's 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde. OC, duly reported & was instructed to cooperate with 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Btys in 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde Special party's operations to take place at Zero on "Z" day.

Tuesday 5.2.18. OC's of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Btys held conference at HQ's of 10<sup>th</sup> AULTM Bty. Catacombs HYDE PARK CORNER.

The intention of the operation was as follows:- On "Z" day at zero the 10<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde Special party will raid enemy's trenches between the following points:-

U180 25-55 — U180 70-15

U120 50-25 — U120 10-15.

The following dispositions were decided upon for the operation.

11<sup>th</sup> AULTM Bty — Right.

10<sup>th</sup> do — Centre

9<sup>th</sup> do — Left.

It was decided that 9<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty should barrage enemy's front line

between U110 85-37 & U110 80-30 from Zero to Zero + 45 minutes in connection with a chosen attack on no-man's-land opposite this sector, with the object in view of drawing the enemy's SOS barrage on to this sector & away from the location of raid.

Lieut. A.S. Barley it was arranged was to take command of 4 mortars of 10<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty & throw a smoke screen in front of enemy's trenches from WICKERT FARM (U180 00-10) and SPINNING MILL (U180 95-80) with "Wartley" smoke bombs.

Arrangements for these 4 mortars were made with OC 10<sup>th</sup> AULTM Bty & Lt. Barley personally and Lt. A.S. Barley was lent to 10<sup>th</sup> AULTM Bty temporarily for the operation. I also & 10 men proceeded to Plothes dump at DEER HORSE CORNER U110 30-90 & carried 300 rounds by trench tramway to U110 51.75 at 4-30 pm.

Wednesday 6-7.18. OC battery Lieut. J.F. Cameron & Redfern reconnoitred positions for 8 mortars in squares U110 & U110. Working party worked on pits from 8 pm to 10 pm & 800 rounds were carried by tramway to dump at U110 51-75. P.T.D.



3  
THURSDAY. 7-2-18. 2 officers & 12 O/Rs  
proceeded to trenches & worked all  
day on gun pits & prepared  
ammunition.

FRIDAY. 8-2-18. Party proceeded to  
trenches & completed pits & preparation  
of ammunition.

SATURDAY. 9-2-18. Mortars were  
transported to line & left under  
guard.

Zero was laid down for 10 pm &  
"Z" day to be the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.

SUNDAY. 10-2-18. Advance parties  
proceeded to line & laid all mortars  
on their respective targets.

Watchers were synchronized at  
10<sup>th</sup> Ave in the HQ at 3-15 pm.

P.C. battery sent J.F. Cameron &  
E.D. Redfern the nos 1 & 2 of  
each gun team with stretcher  
bearers proceeded to line leaving  
BULFORD LINES at 4 pm.

Everything was "correct" at 9 pm  
& teams all standing by.

The operation was a complete  
success. The artillery & T.M. barrage  
were very heavy & enemy sent  
his SOS up in front of left sector  
as was anticipated.

Enemy's retaliation was heavy

4  
concentrated in the main of 5.9s &  
munitions on our front line &  
supports opposite sector on our left.  
The battery fired 600 rounds in  
all, rates of fire being somewhat  
interfered with by messengers &  
sinking of sub beds in the mud.  
Battery withdrew via DOUVE RIVER  
DUCK BOARDS to billets at 11 pm.  
The battery suffered no casualties  
during the operation.

A. Snowdon Capt

OC 9<sup>th</sup> Ave L.T.M. 185

I beg to bring to the notice of the  
G.O.C. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. In the  
commendable actions of two  
members of this battery.  
See attached recommendations.

A. Snowdon Capt  
OC 9<sup>th</sup> Ave L.T.M. 185



## APPENDIX

SECRET.

Copy No. 12. ✓

10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.ORDER N<sup>o</sup> 1.Headquarters.10. A. L. T. M. Bty.6. 2. 18.MAP REFERENCE :- Trench Map - BAS. WARNETON.28. S. W. 4. and 28. S. E. 3. (Pts. of) Ed. 1<sup>st</sup> 1:10,000.INTENTION.

1. On 'Z' Day at ZERO HOUR, the 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Infantry Brigade Special Party will raid enemy trenches between the following points:
- U. 18. a. 28. 55' - U. 18. a. 70. 85.  
U. 12. c. 50. 25' - U. 12. c. 10. 15.

INFORMATION.

2. 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Infantry Brigade Special Party Orders Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and any subsequent orders that may be issued from 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Infantry Brigade.

STOKES MORTAR PROGRAMME.

3. For this operation, the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Batteries will be grouped under the command of Officer Commanding 10<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. Battery
- 11<sup>th</sup> Battery. on RIGHT.  
10<sup>th</sup> do. do. CENTRE.  
9<sup>th</sup> do. do. LEFT.

HIGH EXPLOSIVE SHELL.11<sup>th</sup> BATTERY.

- 4 guns will engage enemy Trench Mortars in WICART FARM at U. 18. c. 15. 00.  
2 guns will engage enemy Trench Mortars at U. 18. c. 65. 48. and U. 18. c. 65. 58.  
2 guns will engage enemy Trench Mortars in SPINNEY MILL at U. 18. c. 95. 80.

From ZERO to ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 8 rounds per gun per minute

From ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES to ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 3 rounds per gun per minute.



## APPENDIX.

STOKES MORTAR 10th BATTERY

PROGRAMME (contd) 2 guns will engage enemy's French Mortars in SPINNEY MILL  
H.E. SHELL 1 at U. 18. c. 95. 80.

From ZERO to ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 8 rounds per gun per minute.

From ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES to ZERO + 45 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 3 rounds per gun per minute.

2 guns will engage enemy's Machine Guns at U. 18. a. 28. 31.

From ZERO to ZERO PLUS 1. MINUTE:- (Then cease fire).

Rate of fire - 25 rounds per gun per minute.

These 2 guns will then be mounted so as to be able to engage the SPINNEY MILL at U. 18. c. 95. 80.

From ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES to ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 3 rounds per gun per minute.

4 guns of this Battery will fire SMOKE SHELLS (see para 4).

9th BATTERY.

8 guns will engage enemy's front line from ROAD-JUNCTION with RAILWAY at U. 11. d. 86. 37. to U. 11. a. 78. 26.

From ZERO to ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 8 rounds per gun per minute.

From ZERO PLUS 4 MINUTES to ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES:-

Rate of fire - 3 rounds per gun per minute.

SMOKE SHELL. 4.

From ZERO to ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES:-

4 guns of the 10th. Battery will fire SMOKE SHELL to form a smoke Barrage, and protect our RIGHT from observation from the SPINNEY MILL, ENEMY'S FRONT LINE, and WIGART FARM.

From ZERO HOUR:-

4 guns will fire 8 rounds per gun, rapid, to form an effective SMOKE SCREEN. Then 3 rounds per gun per 2 minutes, to maintain an effective SMOKE SCREEN.



## APPENDIX.

SMOKE SHELL  
(contd.)

- 3-
- (a) If wind is S.W. or N.E., smoke will be placed on WICART FARM, and along ENEMY'S FRONT LINE TRENCH, between this point and SPINNEY MILL and on SPINNEY MILL.
- (b) If wind is S., S.E., or E., smoke will be placed about 50 yards in rear of WICART FARM, ENEMY'S FRONT LINE TRENCH, and SPINNEY MILL.
- (c) If wind is W., N.W. or N., smoke will be placed about 50 yards in front of WICART FARM, ENEMY'S FRONT LINE TRENCH, and SPINNEY MILL.

ASSEMBLY OF BATTERIES.

5. Batteries will be in position, with guns laid on Barrage lines on 'Z' Day at ZERO MINUS 1. HOUR, and reports to O.C., 10th. Battery at this time.

WITHDRAWAL OF BATTERIES.

6. Withdrawal will not commence until ordered by the O.C., 10th. Battery.  
Under normal conditions, this Order will be sent as soon as the 10th. Battery is in position with guns laid on S.O.S. lines.

TRANSPORT.

7. Battery Commanders of 9th., and 11th., Batteries will make their own arrangements to get guns to DEAD HORSE CORNER. The trench tramway can then be used to RIGHT and LEFT of Brigade Sector.

DRESS.

8. Fighting Order as per S.S. 135, para XXI.  
Iron ration will be carried in haversack, and water-bottles filled.

HOT MEAL.

9. Battery Troops, on their return, will be provided with hot soup at CATACOMBS.

SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES.

10. Watches will be synchronised by an Officer from each Battery at 10th. Battery Headquarters (CATACOMBS), at 3 pm on ZERO Day, and again at ZERO MINUS 1. HOUR at Advanced Headquarters of 10th. Battery.



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REPORTS.

11. Reports to advanced Headquarters of 10th. Battery  
at 16.17. d. 39.40. (LA BASSE-VILLE).

ACKNOWLEDGE.

12.

Robinson Capt

DISTRIBUTION :-

- Copies Nos. 1, 2, and 3. - 2nd. Aust. Divn.
- " " 4, 5, and 6. - 10th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
- " " 7. - 9th. A.L.T.M. Bty.
- " " 8. - 10. "
- " " 9. - 11. "
- " " 10. - War Diary
- " " 11. - File.



APPENDIX

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17

AC

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017008-68

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*







Annexe to Third Aust. Div. Intelligence Summary No.58 of 11-2-18.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS BELONGING TO 1ST, 2ND & 3RD COMPANIES OF 228TH RES. REGIMENT, 49TH RESERVE DIVISION.

Taken on the night of 10th February 1918, at U.12.c.

Prisoners were taken from the Front Line in U.12.c. and from UNCLEAN TRENCH. A party of 20 men from the 5th and 6th Coys. under an N.C.O was working in UNCLEAN TRENCH repairing damage done by our Artillery on the 9th. The N.C.O and others were taken prisoners.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

North to South 226th, 225th, 228th R.I.R. 21st Bav.

DISPOSITIONS IN LINE.

The Front Line from U.18.a.30.30 Northwards is occupied by the first company, 2nd Coy., 3rd Coy; the 4th Coy. is in UNCLEAN TRENCH. The 5th and 6th Coys. are in cellars and dugouts in WARNETON. One Coy., near the TOWER and one Coy. near the Church. The cellar of the presbytery is occupied by a Platoon. The 7th and 8th Coys. are in LE BEAU CHENE (V.18.b). The third Battalion is in LE BLATON (W.15).

BATTALION SECTOR.

Two Platoons of the 3rd Coy., are to North of Railway; the Battalion Sector is therefore from the River to about U.12.c.00.95.

TROOPS IN REAR.

The 103rd Regt. (32nd Div) was seen in the LINSSELLES Area about 6 days ago.

RELIEFS.

Six days are spent in the front line, 6 in Support and 6 at LE BLATON. The first Battalion is to be relieved on the 14th/15th. No knowledge of a Divisional Relief was obtained.

ROUTE TO THE TRENCHES.

Owing to the wet state of the ground the following route is taken. LE BLATON, LE HALLOT Roads, through V.12 to COMINES over the Bridge at V.5.a. to the right at P.34.d.50.50, then straight along the COMINES-WARNETON ROAD to U.12.b.40.25, then Left to WARNETON SQUARE and Right, past the TOWER. If there is any heavy shelling the road is left earlier, and the Bridges near the Mound are used.

BRIDGES.

There is a conflict of opinion as to the Bridge at U.12.d.80.50. Some prisoners state that it is used for purposes of keeping touch, others say it is quite impassable, but that the bridge at U.12.c.35.70 is used for this purpose.

GARRISON.

On an average there seems to be 4 Posts of 2 men in each Company Sector, besides either two or three light M.G. Posts; each Platoon has one listening Post. The rest of the Garrison sleep or work.

PATROLS.

Since coming into the line each Company seems to have done only one small patrol of an N.C.O and 3 or 4 men. Listening Posts seem to have taken the place of patrolling activity. A strong investigating patrol was to have gone out last night.

DUGOUTS.

The dugouts in WARNETON are not considered proof against 6" shell. One was blown out before the raid started.

GENERAL.

A reliable prisoner is confident that the WARNETON TOWER, owing to heavy shelling, is no longer used as an O.P. An attack was thought probable on the night of the 9th, owing to our artillery activity, but the raid took the enemy quite unawares. No prisoner examined confessed to any knowledge of an impending attack, though talk of a big German Offensive somewhere on the Western Front is rife. No gas cylinders have been seen and no gas hand grenades issued. Morale of the Regt. is good. Some of prisoners thought we were using gas and had their masks on.

V.S.B



APPENDIX

*File  
Mentons*

SPECIAL ORDER

By General Sir W. B. BIRDWOOD, K. C. B., K. C. S. I., K. C. M. G., O. I. E.,  
D. S. O., A. D. S.

Commanding AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Headquarters,

12th February, 1918.

1.- The corps commander desires to announce and record his appreciation of the operation carried out on the night 10/11th February by the 3rd Australian Division.

2.- The operation consisted of a raid, carried out by a special party under Capt. FAIRWEATHER, M. O., drawn from the 37th & 38th Battalions, 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. It was completely successful and resulted in the capture of 33 prisoners, 3 machine guns, and one mortar, and caused the enemy 190 estimated casualties.

3.- The success of the raid was due to the presence of three conditions essential to all military success -

- (i) Thorough preparation
- (ii) Efficient co-operation of all arms
- (iii) The dash, gallantry and determination of the men.

4.- General BIRDWOOD congratulates and thanks all the officers, N. O. O.'s and men concerned.

Such operations, carried to a successful issue, enhance the morale and esprit de corps of the units from which the men come and establish for them valuable tradition. Conversely, the effect on the enemy reduces his morale and steadily lowers his fighting efficiency.

G. E. S. WHITE, B. C. S. I.,  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.



FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ROUTINE ORDER NO. 338.

by

LIEUT-COL. H.A. GODDARD, D.S.O. COMMANDING 9TH AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,  
12th February, 1918.

COMMAED: 2677. Lieut-Col. L.J. WORSHEAD, D.S.O., relinquished command of the Brigade on return of Lieut-Col. H.S. GODDARD, D.S.O. from CAMIERS Course. - Dated 12-2-1918. Lieut-Col. H.A. GODDARD, D.S.O. resumed command of the Brigade - dated 12-2-1918.

LAUDATORY: 2678. The following message has been received from Brig-General W. RAISEN McNICOLL, D.S.O., Commanding 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade, dated 11th February, 1918 :-

"To G.O.C.,  
9th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Please convey to the personnel of your Machine Gun Company and Trench Mortar Battery our best thanks for their able assistance in last night's successful operation".

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS: 2679. 35th Battalion:  
To be Company Quartermaster Sergeant - Dated 8-2-1918.  
No.177 Sergeant (Temp. C.Q.M.S.) R.G. PAINE.


TRANSFERS: 2680: No.1418 Driver E.M. MORRIS is transferred from Headquarters 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade to 35rd Battalion, and to remain attached to Headquarters 3rd Australian Division - Dated 12-2-1918.

SALVAGE OF PAPER & CARDBOARD: 2681. The following figures show the amounts of paper and cardboard salvaged by units of this Brigade for week ending 8-2-1918.

	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Cardboard.</u>
Brigade Headquarters	29	--
35rd Battalion	18	27
34th Battalion	20	14
35th Battalion	121	84
36th Battalion	36	--
9th A.M.G. Company	7	0
9th A.L.T.M. Battery	10	5

241 lbs.

139 lbs.

  
Captain.  
Staff Captain.  
Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.

(37R)



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DEFENCE SCHEME OF LTM BATTERY  
OF  
RESERVE BRIGADE.

SHEET (1)

9<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM BATTERY

Information. In the event of the Reserve Brigade (9<sup>th</sup> AUS Inf Bde) being called upon to act offensively or defensively on the Divisional (3<sup>rd</sup> AUS) front it will be called upon to fulfill one or other of the following Roles -

- (1)
  - (a) Expect the enemy from any lodgement that he may have effected in our First Zone.
  - (b) Follow up any local successes obtained by our own troops in any offensive operation against the enemy.
  - (c) The defense of the SECOND (CORPS) ZONE<sup>OR</sup>.

(2) The operations of the LTM Bty of the Reserve Brigade (9<sup>th</sup> ALTM Bty) will be governed by defence Schemes A, B, C.

A Operations on the Right or Southern Sector of the divisional front.

B Operations on the Left or Northern Sector of the divisional front.

C " Operations of a general nature on the divisional front.

These 3 Schemes are dealt with separately as follows.

9TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.
No. <u>TM. I</u>
Date <u>20-2-18.</u>



## DEFENCE SCHEME "A"

Reference Map. Ploegstert. Ed. 5. 25 SW 4 1/10000.

Information. In the event of the Reserve Brigade being called upon to act offensively or defensively on the Southern portion of the divisional front, the operations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty will be governed by Defence Scheme "A".

- (2) It is probable that the battery will assist the Reserve Brigade (9<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde) in fulfilling one or other of the roles laid down in Para (1) a, b, c. Sheet (1).

Warning (3) The following warning will be immediately wired to all units of the Reserve Brigade "ASSIST FRELINGHEM" pass starting point at—

TRANSPORT (4) On receipt of warning "D" Bn will dispatch 10 pack animals & "C" Bn. 4 pack animals to H.Q.s Reserve LTM Bty to carry gun stores & ammunition of battery.

These will be packed immediately & will move with battery.

These animals will be returned to transport lines when OC 9<sup>th</sup> A LTM Bty cannot take them further.

ASSEMBLY (5) 9<sup>th</sup> Aus LTM Bty will immediately assemble on unit parade ground fully equipped in accordance with SS 135 para XXI & be prepared to move within 20 minutes of receipt of warning & will pass starting point road junction T 28C 20-37 (in accordance with March Table I attached hereto) to position of Readiness "A".

Each gun team will carry 40 rounds 3" Stokes per mortar.

Battery will move to position of Readiness in column of sub-sections.

Reports (6) (a) On receipt of warning an officer will immediately be sent to Breg. H.Q.s to await orders.

- (b) Whilst on the move from the position of assembly to the positions of Readiness the battery report centre will be at head of column.



SHEET 3 (c) on arrival at the position of readiness battery will send one officer to report centre marked  $\otimes$  on plan.

Advanced (7) Brig HQrs Advanced brigade HQrs will be established at C14040-63 marked  $\bullet$  on plan attached.

Advanced (8) Battery HQrs Advanced battery HQrs will also be at C14040-63

Action of Battery after arrival at Position of Readiness.

(a) If the action of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade is decided to be as in either Para (a+b) Sheet (1) then the actions & dispositions of the battery will be governed by the tactical situation. If it is decided to defend the 2<sup>nd</sup> zone then the battery will be disposed as follows & the previously prepared emplacements occupied as under.

(b) Right Section

N<sup>o</sup> 1 gun. — C13d 05-22

N<sup>o</sup> 2 gun. — C13c 95-40

N<sup>o</sup> 3 gun. — C14b 35-48

N<sup>o</sup> 4 gun. — C14b 20-80

Left Section

N<sup>o</sup> 5 gun. — C2d 68-18

N<sup>o</sup> 6 gun. — C2d 60-45

N<sup>o</sup> 7 gun. — U27a 94-16

N<sup>o</sup> 8 gun. — U27a 86-15

(c) Nos 5 & 6 mortars may be held in reserve at Brig HQrs as the G.O.C. 9<sup>th</sup> Div Inf Bde may decide.

(d) Sub section officers will immediately after occupying positions get in touch with the officer in charge of the defence of that particular sector & assist him in the defence of that sector as may be mutually arranged & will, in the absence of any such scheme being formulated, fight his his sub section mortars as laid down in the standing orders for each mortar. Every effort will be made to strengthen the positions with any material that may be to hand.



Communication. Sub section officers will submit reports  
(10) & every effort made to keep in communication with Advanced battery H Qrs.

Supplies. These will be drawn as usual from present  
(11) refilling point & distributed by 1st line transport to adv. battery H Qrs from whence they will be forwarded to each sub section.

Ammunition Brigade dumps will be established as  
S.A.A. (12) follows

Right — C89 2-6  
Centre — U25d 5-6  
Left — U19b 70-95.

R.E Dumps. Right  
(13) DELONNELLE FARM — C1d 6-1  
MOTOR CAR CORNER — C14c 8-9

Left DEAD HORSE CORNER — U21c 0-8  
TOUR SIDING — U19b 25-70  
RACINE — U20b 5-6

MEDICAL Advanced Dressing Station  
(14) Right at C1d 00-30  
LEFT R.A.P. U15d 90-65  
Relay points U21c 50-75  
" " U20c 40-80  
" " U19b 75-40  
Adv. Dressing station RED LODGE T18d 60-90  
Main " " PONT DE FACHELLES



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Reference Map PLOEGSTERT Eds 28 S.W. 4.  $\frac{1}{10000}$

Information (1) In the event of the Reserve Brigade being called upon to act offensively or defensively in the Northern Sector of the Divisional Front the operations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-T.M. Bty will be governed by Defence Scheme "B".  
 It is probable that the battery will assist the Reserve Brigade (9<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde) in fulfilling one or other of the roles laid down in Para (1) a, b, c Sheet I.

WARNING (2) The following warning will be immediately wired to all units of the Reserve Brigade "ASSIST IN ARNETON." pass starting point at —.

Transport (3) Same as in Para 4 Sheet II.

ASSEMBLY (4) Same as in Para (5) Sheet II only starting point in this case will be at T.27d 30-85, and battery will move to position of readiness "B" see attached map.

Reports (5) Same as in Para b a, b, c. Sheets II & III.

Advanced Brigade Hqrs (6) Advanced Brigade Hqrs will be at U.13.d.35-10 marked → on Map.

Advanced Battery Hqrs (7) Advanced Battery Hqrs will be at U.13.d.35-10.

Action of Battery etc. (8) Same as in para (9) Sheet III a.

b Right Section

- No 1 gun — U 21d 12-33
- No 2 " — U 21d 10-43
- No 3 " — U 21d 18-91
- No 4 " — U 21b 10-04

LEFT SECTION

- No 5 gun — U 15C 83-46 OR U 15C 10-47
- No 6 gun — U 15C 05-17

- No 7 gun — } U 9b 54-02.
- No 8 gun — }

(c) Nos 2 & 3 mortars may be held in Reserve at Brigade Hqrs as G.O.C. 9<sup>th</sup> Div Int Bde may decide.

(d) Same as in Para 9 Sheet III Subpara d.







N<sup>o</sup> 5 gun. — U 21 d 12-33N<sup>o</sup> 6 gun. — U 21 d 18-90N<sup>o</sup> 7 gun. — U 15 C 83-46 or U 15 d 10-47.N<sup>o</sup> 8 gun. — U 9 b 57-02.

In case any of any mortars being held  
in reserve these mortars would be  
N<sup>o</sup> 5, (1) & (5) guns.

As in para. 9 Sheet III Sub para. c.

Communication as in Para (10) Sheet IV

Supplies (8) as in Para (11) " "

Ammunition " " (12) " "

RE. DUMPS (10) " " (13) " "

MEDICAL (11) " " (14) " "

P. Crowland, Capt.  
oc  
81<sup>st</sup> AUSTRALIAN  
LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BTY.



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# STOKES ACTION REPORT

No GUN

DATE	TIME	No of GUN	TARGET ENGAGED	ENGAGED FROM	No of Rounds FIRED	EFFECT	REMARKS



INTELLIGENCE REPORT for 12 hours

ENDING 1918

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

No  Guns

ARTILLERY

None

E. T. MORTARS

None

M. GUNS

None

INFANTRY

None

AIRCRAFT.

P. J. O.



OUR OPERATIONSARTILLERYM.GUNS.T.M.'s (3" STOKES ACTION REPORT Attached)INFANTRYAIRCRAFTWINDVISIBILITYENEMY MOVEMENT.



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~~File~~

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APPENDIX

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY BRIGADE
18 FEB 1918
B.M. No. B.M. 37/1.
A.I.F.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters.  
18th February 1918.

- Headquarters  
 53rd Battalion.  
 54th       "  
 55th       "  
 56th       "  
 9th A. H. C. Coy.  
 X 9th A.L.F.M. Bty.

It is proposed to carry out a raid on the enemy's trenches in the vicinity of WARRISTON in the near future.

Nominal rolls have been submitted by units to Brigade Headquarters. As it has now been decided that the raiding party, including Officers, is to total not more than 300 all ranks, each Battalion will be required to nominate 4 Officers and 70 other ranks to form the special party.

The detail from each Battalion will include 4 Lewis Gunners, 4 trained Scouts, and each Officer will be provided with a batman who will also be a runner.

In addition, Battalions will be called upon to furnish administrative personnel for duty with the special party as follows:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 53rd Battalion .. | 1 sanitary man. |
|                   | 1 cook.         |
| 54th Battalion .. | 2 cooks.        |
|                   | 1 bugler.       |
| 55th Battalion .. | 2 cooks.        |
|                   | 1 clerk.        |
| 56th Battalion .. | 1 cook.         |
|                   | 1 sanitary man. |

Administrative details will report to the Staff Captain at Brigade H.Q. at 2 p.m. tomorrow 19th instant and bring with them the unsuspended portion of the day's ration. Full marching order will be carried.

The 4 Officers and 70 other ranks detailed by each Battalion will report to the Brigade Major at BELFORD CAMP (T.20.C.S.S) at 10.30 a.m. on 20th instant.

Units will ensure that all details report fully equipped.

Major  
Brigade Major  
9th Australian Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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PROPOSALS for the Co-operations of 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM Btys with the operations of 9<sup>th</sup> AUS Inf Bde Special Party.

9<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM Bty

368 Smoke 4 mortars will throw smoke screen between RIVER LYS and WICART FARM, UNCUT TRENCH, SPINNING MILL to screen raiders from enemy position on Right bank of River  
1  
2  
3 Zero to 2+4 mins - 8 rounds per gun per minute to place screen.  
4 gun 2+4 to 2+45 mins - 3 " " " each 2 minutes to maintain screen effectively.

5+6 guns 2 mortars will fire 20 rounds per gun on MG at U18C 25-35 from 2 to 2+1 minute.

608 HE 2 to 2+45 these mortars will engage E. MG & TMS in UNCUT TRENCH (U18C 65-60) 3 rounds per gun per minute.

718 guns 2 mortars 2 to 2+1 20 rounds per gun on E. MG at U18C 70-72  
2+1 to 2+45 these mortars will engage E TMS & MG in vicinity of SPINNING MILL. 3 rounds per gun per minute. 1980

10<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM Bty

2 mortars 2 to 2+2 - 10 rounds per gun per minute on Sabot near Road & Railway crossing (U18D 55-38)  
2+2 to 2+45 3 rounds per gun per minute on E front line from Road to U18D 92-70.

1200 HE 6 mortars 2 to 2+3 will engage EFL from Road to Rue D'OUVE at U18B 75-45 8 rounds per gun per minute.  
2+3 to 2+45 3 rounds per gun per minute on same targets.

11<sup>th</sup> AUS LTM Bty

2 mortars 2 to 2+4 - mortars will engage TMS & MG in WICART FARM (U24C 10-97) 8 rounds per gun per minute.  
2+4 to 2+45 3 rounds per gun per minute.

2 mortars 2 to 2+4 will fire on ETMS in UNCUT TRENCH U18C 65-60. 8 rounds per gun per minute.

1144 2 to 2+45 will engage EFL between WICART FM & U18C 65-60 at 3 rounds per gun per minute

2 mortars will fire on ETMS & MG in vicinity of SPINNING MILL.

2 to 2+4 8 rounds per gun per minute.

2+4 to 2+45 3 rounds per gun per minute.

2 mortars will engage E MGs & posts at U24C 20-15

2 to 2+4 6 rounds per gun per minute

2+4 to 2+45 2 rounds per gun per minute

368 Smoke 2950 HE

2 mortars  
oe 9 mg



HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

It is of the greatest importance that information with regard to the attitude of the enemy artillery should be as accurate and full as possible.

The enemy's power to resist our attack or to attack himself depends on the strength of his artillery; and the success of our dispositions both for attack and defence depends to a large extent on our knowledge of the movement of his artillery.

Our knowledge of his artillery depends on :-

- (a) Information derived from examination of photographs and air reconnaissance.
- (b) Information gained by examination of prisoners, captured documents etc.
- (c) Evidence afforded by the location of active hostile batteries.
- (d) Deductions made from the volume and direction of hostile fire.

Information under (a), (b) and (c) is chiefly obtained from R.F.C. and Intelligence Corps, and Field Survey Companies.

Information under (d) is constantly being received from all sources, but the importance of careful reports on hostile fire is, perhaps, not yet sufficiently realised.

Information telephoned to G.S.S.O. that the enemy is shelling any given place will secure neutralising fire being brought to bear on the battery or batteries suspected, but it only provides a limited amount of information as to the strength and attitude of the hostile artillery.

Again a list of localities shelled, number of rounds, calibre, etc. in an Intelligence Report is of great value but most of it has already been sent by telephone and the most important item - the intention of the enemy or a guess at it - is not put on record.

Artillery fire in quiet periods or during preparation for a battle may be classed under various headings :-  
 Destructive shoots on batteries, trenches, wire, strong points &c.  
 Harassing fire and sniping.  
 Fleeting opportunities - working parties etc.  
 Registration of important points.  
 Sighting and calibration.

It should be possible, in many cases at least, to place a report of hostile fire under one of the above headings, and some such method of classification would be of the greatest value.

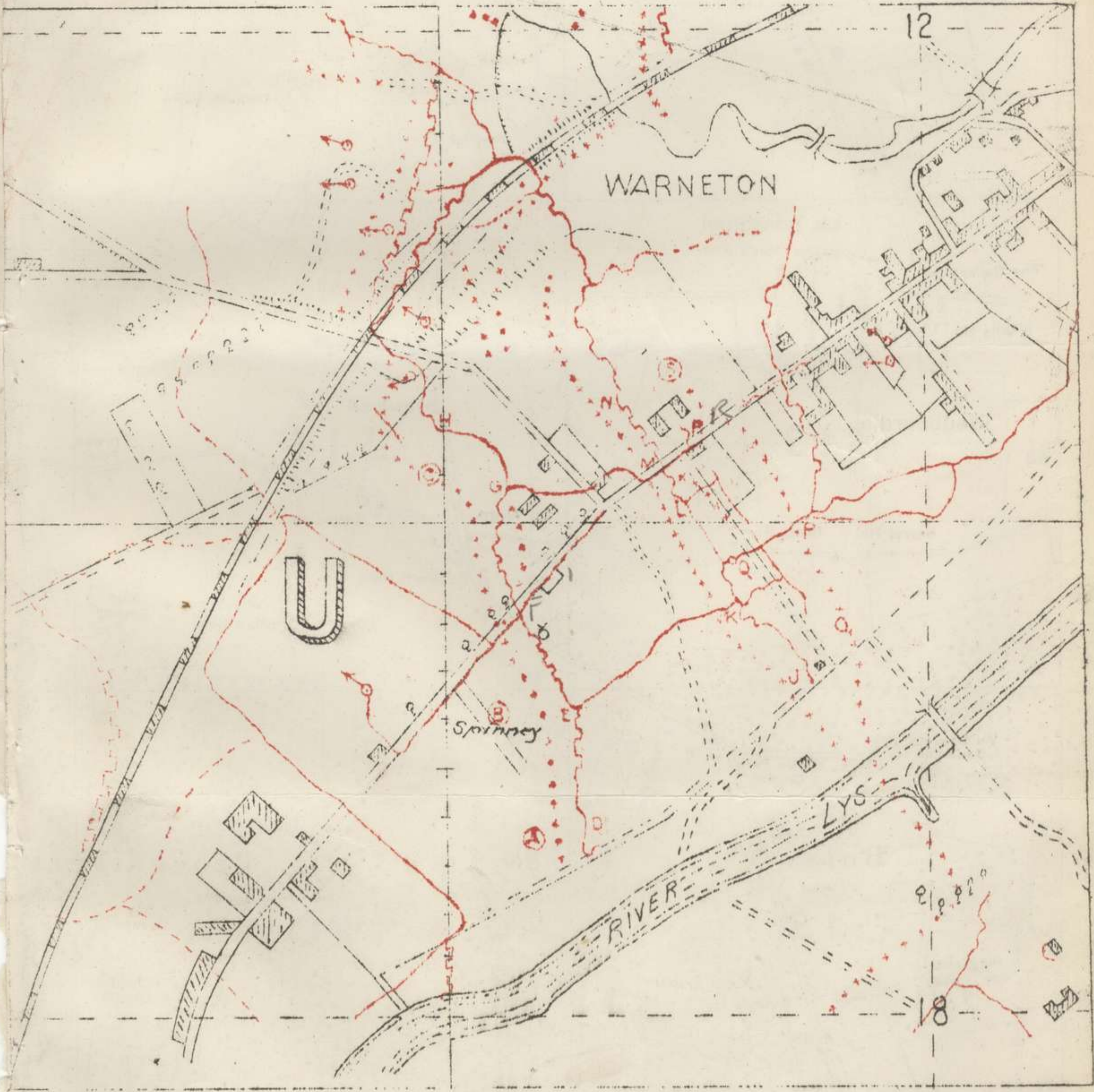


# SECRET.

MAP N<sup>o</sup> 340

--- PART OF SHEET 28 ---

Scale. 1:5,000



CORPS TOPO. SEC.



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G.S.G.S. 3551.



SECRET.

## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 15

## Reference maps:

Sheet 23. 1/20,000.  
BAS WARETON. 1/10,000.

Brigade Headquarters.  
23th February 1918.

## INSTRUCTION.

1. (a) On "Z" and "A" days at Zero hours, details of which will be notified later, parties, each representing all four Battalions of the Brigade, will raid the enemy's trench system in the vicinity of WARWETON.

(b) The area to be raided on both occasions is bounded as follows :-

Southern boundary: River LYS.  
Northern boundary: Line through U.12.e.00.20 and U.12.e.33.37.  
Eastern boundary: Line N.W. and S.E. through U.12.e.70.05.

(c) The strength of each of the two raiding parties is approximately 300 men.

(d) Concurrently with the raid on "Z" day, other raids will be undertaken by the Divisions on both flanks. The salient in U.S.d., 1,000 yards to the North of our left point of entry, is to be raided by 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Ten minutes before Zero on "Z" day, if wind conditions are suitable, the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade will launch a gas projector attack against FRELENGHELEN.

(e) It is expected that on "A" day diversions will be carried out by the Division on our left and by 11th Australian Infantry Brigade on our right flank. The latter will probably be in the shape of a gas projector attack similar to that to be launched on "Z" day.

## OBJECTS OF THE RAID

2. The objects of the raid are :-

- (a) To capture or kill as many of the enemy as possible;  
(b) To damage or destroy material or defences;  
(c) To obtain equipment, identifications, documents and other information.

## RELIEF.

3. (a). The 10th Australian Machine Gun Company will relieve the 9th Australian Machine Gun Company on "Z" day by 2.0 p.m. Details of relief will be arranged mutually by O.O.s. concerned, and completion of relief reported to Headquarters 9th Australian Infantry Brigade. The 9th Australian Machine Gun Company will then move into position for action in connection with raids.

(b) On completion of operation on "Z" day, 9th Australian Machine Gun Company will withdraw to the CATACOMBS and will reoccupy their barrage positions by Zero minus two hours on "A" day. At the conclusion of the raid on "A" day, 9th Australian Machine Gun Company will resume normal defensive dispositions and the 10th Australian Machine Gun Company will return to PENZANCE DUNES.

## INFANTRY ACTION.

4. Orders for the detailed action of infantry parties will be issued separately by the O.C. Raid.



**WIRE CUTTING.**

5. (a) Wire will be cut on "Z" minus 1 day and on "Z" day, in front of the point to be raided. Details concerning the cutting of wire appear in 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery Order No. 47 dated 27.2.1918. (App No 1)

(b) The cutting will be observed by both artillery and raiding Officers. The latter will inform O.C. Raid as to whether sufficient is cut. If necessary, cutting will be repeated on "Z" day under arrangements to be made by O.C. Raid direct with Left Group Artillery.

(c) "A" and "B" Battalions will clear the front line in certain places, during wire-cutting sheets. Detailed instructions will be issued later.

**ARTILLERY ACTION.**

6. (a) The 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery and the 6th (Aust.) Army Brigade will bombard enemy defences on "Z" minus 1" and "Z" days, and during the progress of the two raids - tasks as per attached Maps, Appendices No. 3 and 8.

At ZERO artillery opens barrage on wire 50 yards in front of enemy front line.

At ZERO plus 1 minute barrage lifts to enemy front line.

At ZERO plus 4 minutes barrage lifts to area between front and support lines.

At ZERO plus 5 minutes barrage lifts to support line

At ZERO plus 8 minutes barrage lifts to a line 50 yards East of support line.

At ZERO plus 9 minutes barrage lifts to final protective line and forms box.

At ZERO plus 35 minutes withdrawal of infantry commences.

At ZERO plus 45 minutes barrage lifts Eastward to search for a depth of 500 yards through WARNETON.

At ZERO plus 50 minutes Divisional Artillery cease firing.

(b) As much Corps Heavy Artillery as possible has been allotted to counter-battery work.

(c) Counter-battery work will commence at ZERO and continue until ZERO plus 60 minutes.

**MACHINE GUN ACTION.**

7. (a) The action of the 9th Australian Machine Gun Company (vide Appendix No. 4) will be as follows :-

10 guns will barrage the line U.12.d.45.10 to U.12.e.90.72.

2 guns will fire on bridge over LYS at U.18.b.00.55; and

1 gun will fire on road at U.12.d.55.80.

(b) Rates and times of fire will be as under :-

Zero plus 3 to Zero plus 10 minutes.

" " 10 " " " 13 "

" " 13 " " " 20 "

" " 20 " " " 25 "

" " 25 " " " 30 "

" " 30 " " " 35 "

" " 35 " " " 40 "

Cease fire at Zero plus 40 minutes.

Rate of fire .. RAPID.

(c) Further details have been issued to units concerned by the D.M.G.C. direct.

**LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR ACTION.**

8. The 9th, 10th and 11th Australian Light Trench Mortar Batteries will co-operate in carrying out the following bombardment, (vide Appendix No. 5).

(a) 9th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.

4 Mortars will throw a smoke screen between the River LYS and WIGART FARM, UNOUT TRENCH, SPINNING MILL to screen raiders from enemy positions on right bank of River LYS.

Zero to Zero + 4 minutes: 3 rounds per Mortar

Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 per minute to place screen

Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 mins: 3 rds. per Mortar per minute to maintain screen



(3).

**TRENCH MORTAR  
ACTION  
(cont)**

2 Mortars will fire 20 rounds per Mortar on machine gun at U.18.a.25.35 from Zero to Zero plus 1 minute.  
Zero + 1 to Zero + 45 minutes these Mortars will engage machine gun and Trench Mortars in UNOFT TRENCH (U.18.e.65.80) - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute.

2 Mortars will fire 20 rounds per Mortar on machine gun at U.18.a.70.72 from Zero to Zero + 1 minute.

Zero plus 1 minute to Zero + 45 minutes - these Mortars will engage machine gun and Trench Mortars in vicinity of SPINNING MILL - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute.

**(b) 10th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.**

2 Mortars. Zero to Zero + 2 minutes - 10 rounds per Mortar per minute on salient near RAILWAY CROSSING (U.11.d.85.38).

Zero + 2 to Zero + 45 - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute on enemy front line from RAILWAY CROSSING to U.11.d.92.70.

6 Mortars. Zero to Zero + 3 - will engage enemy front line from RAILWAY CROSSING to RIVER BEND at U.11.d.78.85 - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute.

Zero + 3 to Zero + 45 - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute on same targets.

**(c) 11th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.**

2 Mortars. Zero to Zero + 4 minutes - 8 rounds per Mortar per minute on machine gun and trench mortar in WIGART FARM (W.24.a.10.97).

Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 minutes - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute on same targets.

2 Mortars. Zero to Zero + 4 minutes - 8 rounds per Mortar per minute on Trench Mortars in UNOFT TRENCH.

Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 minutes - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute on enemy front line between WIGART FARM and U.18.e.65.80.

2 Mortars will fire on machine gun and trench mortars in vicinity of SPINNING MILL.

Zero to Zero + 4 minutes - 8 rounds per Mortar per minute  
Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 minutes - 3 rounds per Mortar per minute.

2 Mortars will fire on machine guns and posts at U.24.a.20.55.

Zero to Zero + 4 minutes - 8 rounds per Mortar per minute.

Zero + 4 to Zero + 45 minutes - 2 rounds per Mortar per minute.

**SIGNAL  
COMMUNICATION**

8. Communication from O.C. Raid to O's C. Assault Parties will be by telephone and runners.

From O.C. Raid to Brigade Headquarters communication will be by wire (2 routes) and P.B. and A.

The Brigade Signal Officer will supervise the maintenance of forward communications from the panel point "U.S."

In the event of a breakdown of these means, runners held in reserve at the Headquarters of O.C. Raid will be employed back to panel point "U.S."

**S.O.S.**

10. The S.O.S. Signal will be inoperative on the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade front from Zero - 30 minutes to Zero + 60 minutes. This applies to both Artillery and Machine Guns.

**SYNCHRONIZATION OF  
WATCHES**

11. Watches will be synchronized by reference to Brigade Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on "Z" day and again on "A" day.

P.T.O.



## APPENDIX.

## REPORTS.

12. The progress of the raid will be reported in quantity by wire to Brigade Headquarters (U.20.a.5.9).

## O.C. RAID.

13. Lieut.-Colonel J.A. MILNE, D.S.O., 56th Battalion, is O.C. Raid. During both raids the Headquarters of O.C. Raid will be established at U.17.b.8.5.

PRISONERS  
and  
CAPTURED  
MATERIAL.

14. (a). Prisoners will be deprived of any papers and documents they may have, and will be sent back under escort to Brigade Headquarters where they will be interrogated. They are not to be allowed to converse with one another.

(b). A cage will be established at Brigade Headquarters. The A.P.M. 3rd Australian Division will take over prisoners at this cage after interrogation.

(c). Captured equipment and material will be delivered at Brigade Headquarters under the orders of O.C. Raid. Special attention will be given to the securing of any anti-gas equipment.

"A" and "B"  
BATTALIONS.

15. (a) "A" and "B" Battalions by fire action will prevent the enemy from repairing his wire on Z - 1 days on "Z" day and on "A" day. O.C. Raid will consult with Commanding Officers "A" and "B" Battalions on this matter.

(b) "A" Battalion will clear all approach routes of traffic from Zero - 3 hours until Zero + 1 hour.

DEFENCE of  
la BASSE  
VILLE.

16. From Zero to Zero + 60 minutes the responsibility for the defence of la BASSE VILLE will devolve upon the O.C. Raid.

MEDICAL  
ARRANGEMENTS.

17. (a) O.C. Raid will arrange for the evacuation of wounded back to Advanced Aid Post (U.17.d.5.8). From Advanced Aid Post to the rear, evacuation will be carried out by 9th Field Ambulance.

(b) During the operation the normal medical arrangements for "A" and "B" Battalions will obtain.

18. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J.A. Milne*

MAJOR  
Brigade Major  
5th Australian Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

JB.



APPENDIX.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To whom.</u>
1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
4	Brigade Signal Section.
5-8	Lieut.-Colonel J.A. MILNE, D.S.O.
7	53rd Battalion.
8	34th "
9	35th "
10	36th "
11	9th Aust. Machine Gun Company.
12	9th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty.
13	9th Field Company A.E.
14	9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
15	Left Group Artillery.
16-17	3rd Australian Division.
18	C.R.A. 3rd Australian Division.
19	C.R.E. 3rd Australian Division.
20	3rd Aust. Divisional Signal Coy.
21	A.D.M.S. 3rd Aust. Division.
22	10th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
23	11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
24	15th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
25	Liaison Officer "G" Branch.
26-29	War Diary.
30	File.

28.2.1918.







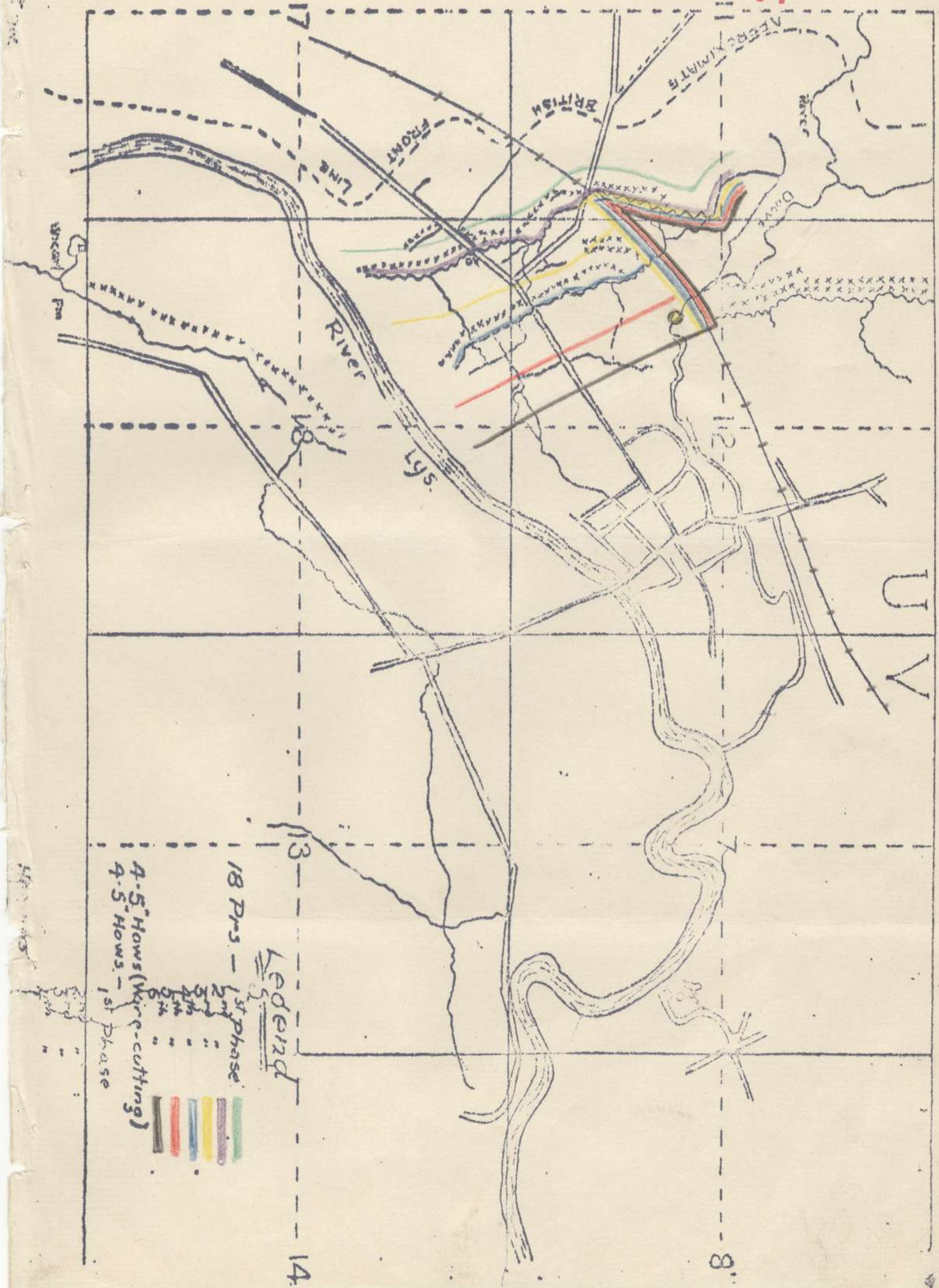
Appendix No 2  
Copy No 12

MAP "A"

Part of sheets Warneton and Deulemont.  
Scale 1-10,000

SECRET.

(2)



Legend

18 Pns - 1st Phase  
 2nd Phase  
 3rd Phase  
 4th Phase  
 5th Phase

4-5 Hows (Kire-cutting)  
 1st Phase  
 2nd Phase

171

3rd Part One

4th Part One





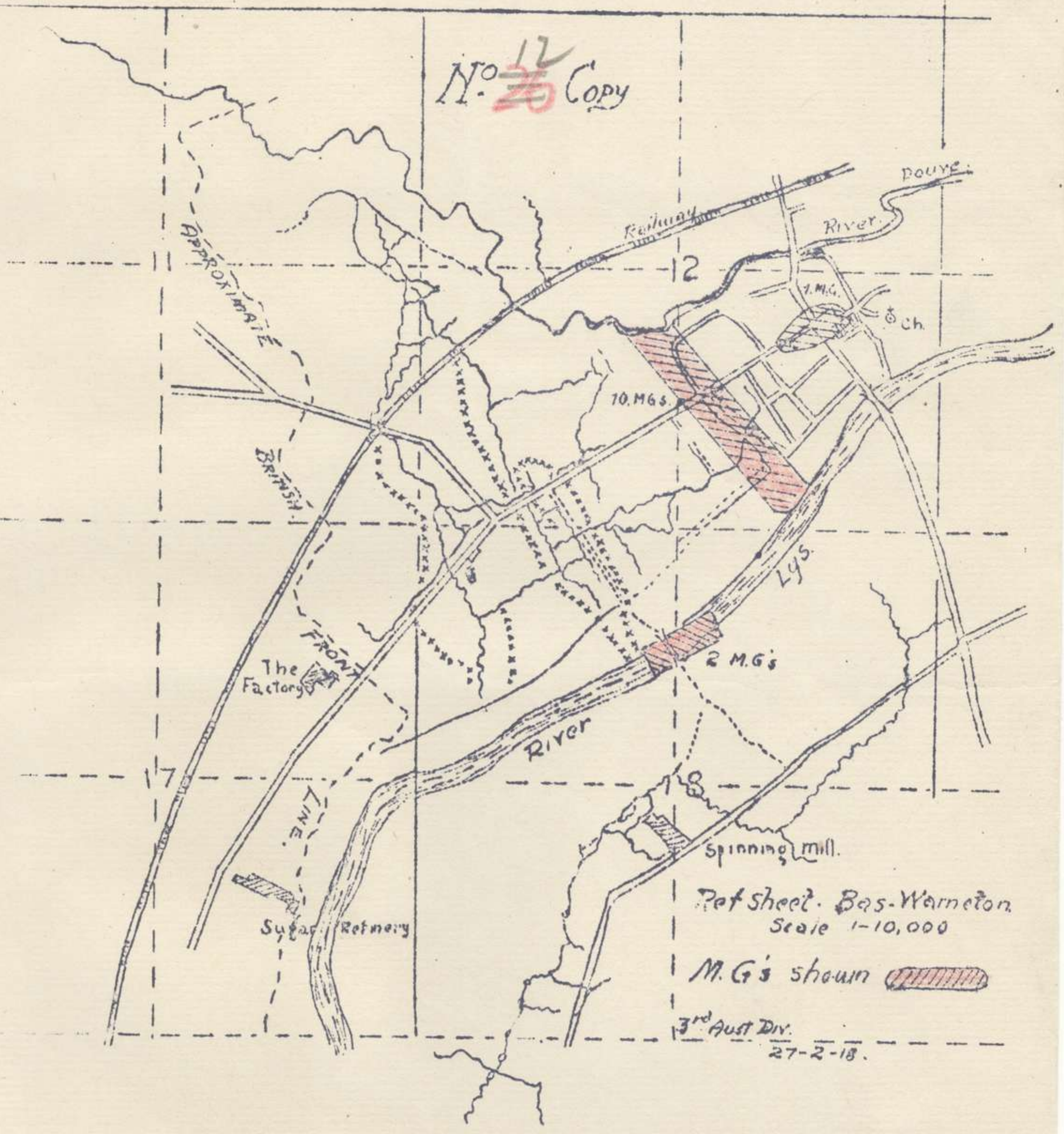


# Appendix No 4


## 9<sup>TH</sup> AUST INF BDE.

### SECRET.

No. ~~20~~<sup>12</sup> Copy



Ref sheet. Bas-Warneton  
Scale 1-10,000

M.G.'s shown 

3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Div.  
27-2-18.

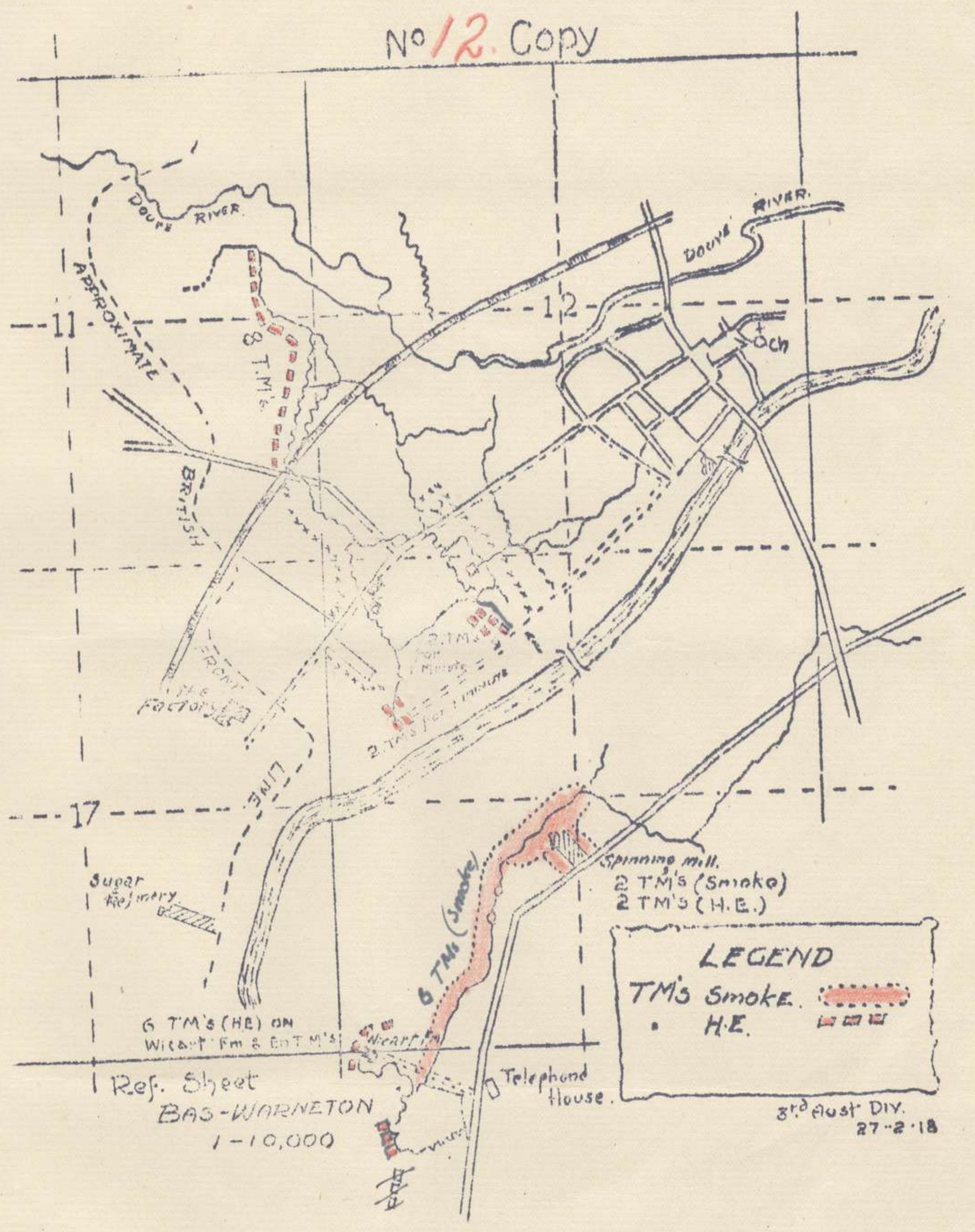


Appendix No 5


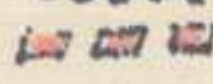
SECRET.

# 9<sup>TH</sup> AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

No 12. Copy



Ref. Sheet  
BAS-WARNETON  
1-10,000

**LEGEND**  
 T.M.'s Smoke.   
 H.E. 

3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Div.  
27-2-18



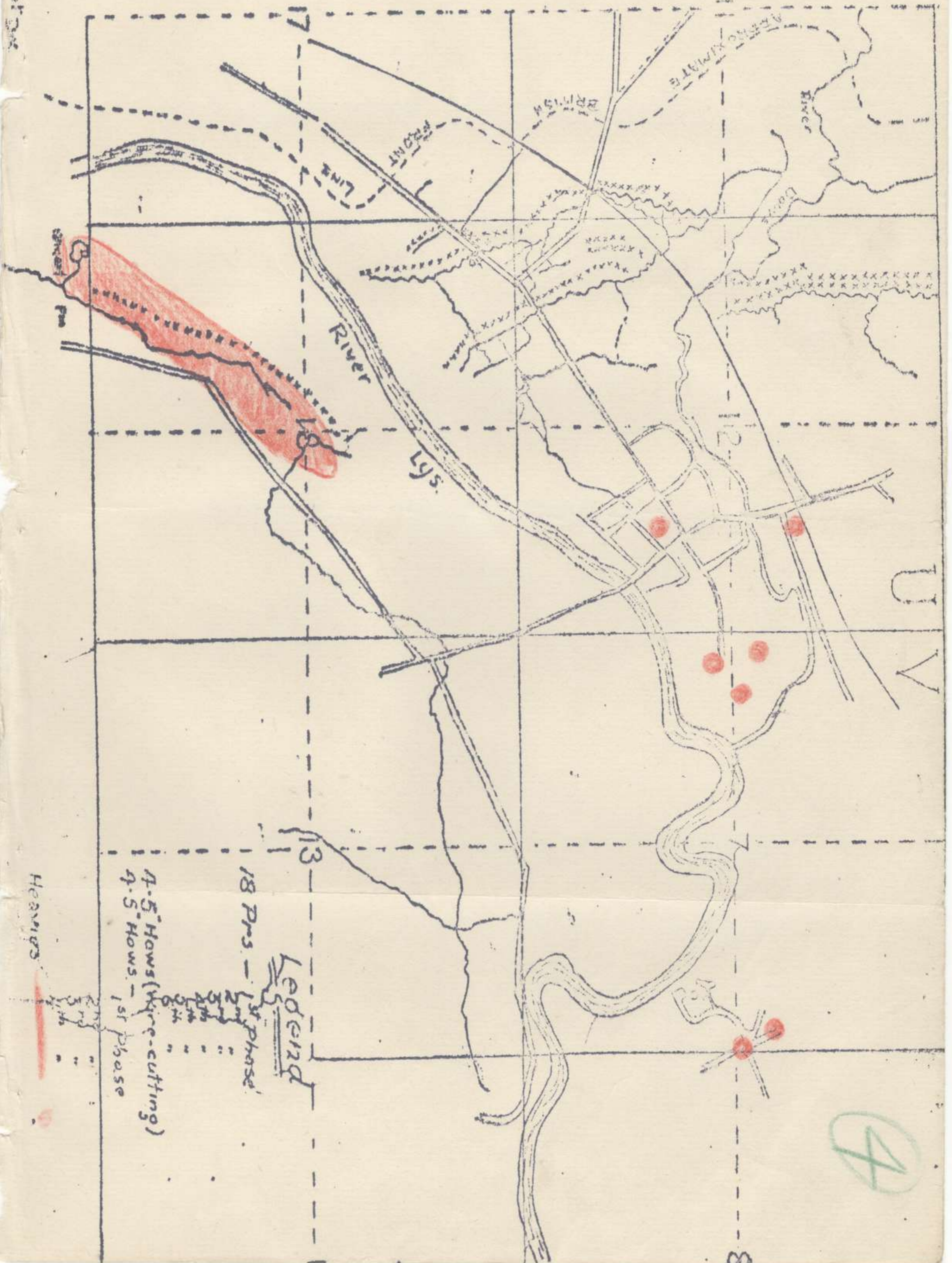
Copy No 12

MAP "A"

Part of sheets Warneton and Deulemont.  
Scale 1:10,000

SECRET.

3rd North



Legend

18 Pps - 1st Phase

A-S Hows (Wire-cutting)

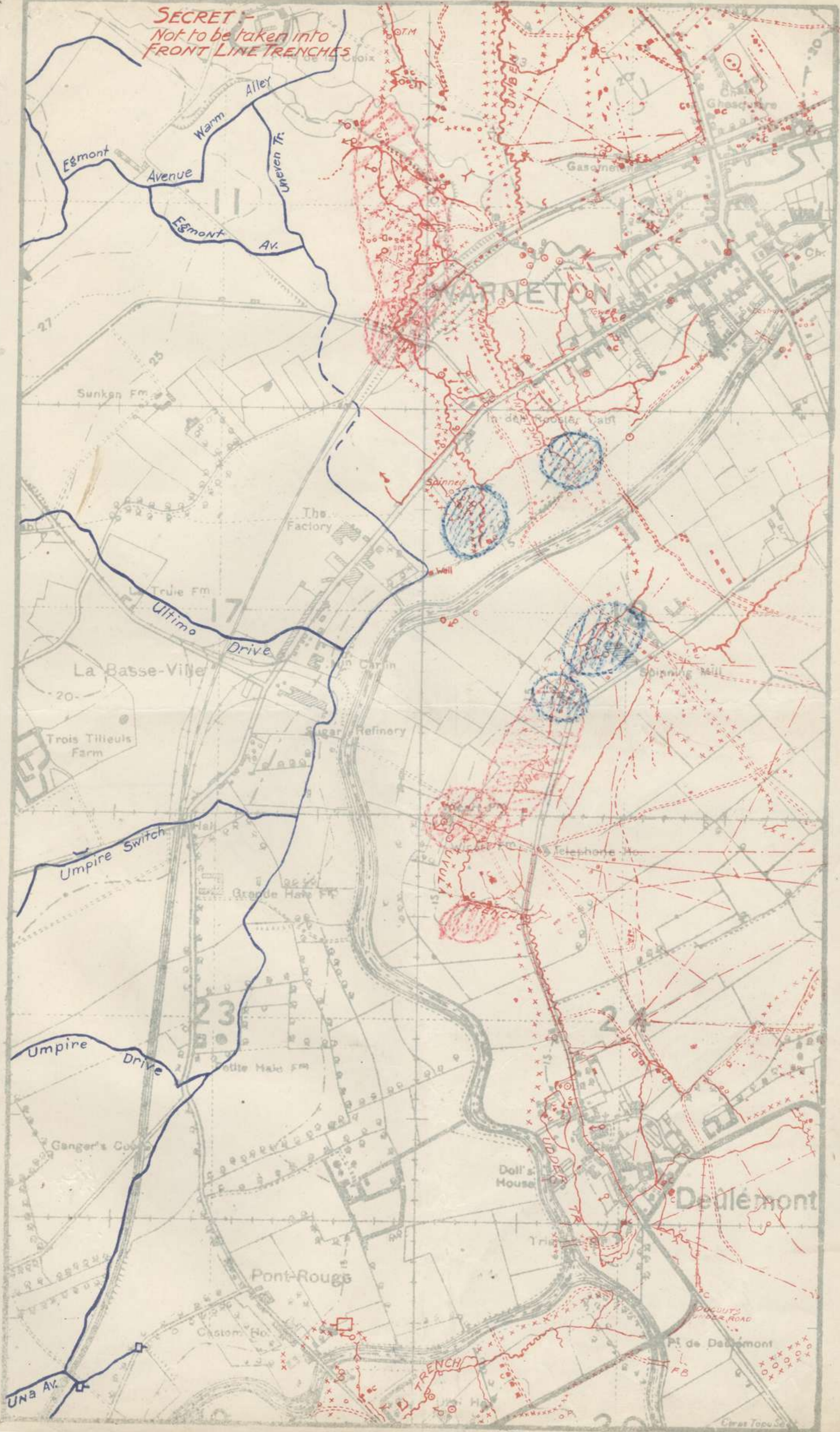
A-S Hows - 1st Phase

Heavily

A



*SECRET -  
Not to be taken into  
FRONT LINE TRENCHES*



*Trenches Corrected to 10-2-18*



115

— Originals —