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Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/14/26

Title: 14th Infantry Brigade

May 1918



AWM4-23/14/26

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

14th Aust. Inf. Bde

FOR

May 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*R. G. H. [unclear] Major
Brigade Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Stewart
Brig. Gen.
Commanding 14th Aust. Inf. Bde

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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PAGE 1.

14th Bde
Tracy Brig

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.c.6.8.	1st. MAY, 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Quite dry today but visibility was not good. There was little activity on either side during the day, either of artillery or aircraft, but the guns were more active during the evening and night. At 2.15.p.m. another enemy plane was brought down by A.A.M.G. fire falling in P.19.c. out of our area. Our planes during the night dropped bombs on the VAIRE WOOD. The enemy's patrols were more active especially in P.20.c. where one of our patrols encountered him and exchanged bombs, but caused no casualties. Our patrol returned for more rifle grenades and then endeavoured to outflank the enemy patrol which had disappeared in the meantime. Enemy minenwerfer were again in evidence and fired 20 rounds on our sector.</p> <p>A letter was received yesterday from G.O.C., 15th Infantry Brigade thanking all ranks of the 56th Battalion for the assistance rendered during the counter attack of the 25th April. This letter was promulgated and copies are attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Brigade on our left are to carry out a minor operation tonight but we have had no particulars as to time or type of operation. On our front it is expected that an enemy relief will take place tonight and we have arranged special M.G. and Artillery shoots on his roads and approaches.</p> <p>At 9.15.p.m. VILLERS BRETONNEUX was heavily shelled with Blue Cross Gas but as the shelling did not extend beyond the village we were not affected in any way.</p> <p>We have again been asked to submit a report on the Blue Cartridge and rings at present in use by the Stokes Mortars. These cartridges though giving an increased range give very erratic results, increase the difficulty of fire, lessen the rate, are more dangerous and also cause a great flare as they are discharged, so there is little wonder that the L.T.M.B. would prefer to revert to those previously in use.</p>	App. 1.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS. CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.c.6.8.	2nd.MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>During night 1st/2nd there was a considerable amount of activity. At 2.30.a.m. a heavy enemy bombardment opened on the Brigade on our right which affected our support line right Battalion a little. At 3.a.m. our bombardment on VAIRE WOOD caused a considerable amount of shouting etc., in the enemy lines. At 3.30.a.m. our planes were bombing VAIRE WOOD heavily. At 3.25.a.m. the right battalion reported heavy shelling near their Headquarters, and again about 5.a.m. they were fairly heavily gassed. Activity died down by 5.40.a.m. and was slight for the rest of the day as far as the guns were concerned. Air activity was above normal and three enemy planes were brought down, one behind his lines and two behind ours, while none of ours were reported casualties though they continually patrolled the enemy lines.</p> <p>The minor operation by the 29th Battalion carried out last night met with no success as they found the post unoccupied. They suffered no casualties however, so that the scores were even.</p> <p>Work is progressing satisfactorily in the area, most of the labour being employed on the support system and on the Battalion H.Q. deep dug-outs. Each of the Reserve Battalions (53rd & 55th) is supplying 125 working ranks for this work and each of the front line battalions supplies the parties for maintenance and wiring in the front line system of its own area.</p> <p>We received 5th Div. G.S.Memo. No.3. today giving the detail of an advance to be carried out by the 4th Division (on our right) in conjunction with the French. The advance is to be made with the object of improving the line in that sector, and probably of providing a deeper immediate battle area, if the enemy again attempts to take VILLERS.</p> <p>VILLERS was again heavily shelled with gas of all types and calibre from 9.45.p.m. to 10p.m. but it appeared to be only a direct retaliation to one of our shoots and not a prepared operation. The usual program of night shoots was carried out by our artillery.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.e.6.8.	3rd. MAY, 1918. FRIDAY.		<p>A heavy enemy bombardment of our support and reserve lines opened about 2.a.m. and continued for about an hour in answer to our own artillery shoots. At 6.20.a.m. heavy gunning was heard to the south. This was in connection with the an advance made by the Division on our right south of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Their advance was successful but they had to withdraw again because the French on their right ^{again} did not conform.</p> <p>The enemy on our front is still quiet but very alert in his front line. Shelling was not heavy today though slightly increased beyond yesterday, but aircraft were very active indeed owing to the excellent visibility. Enemy planes bombed our front line on two occasions during daylight without success.</p> <p>Instructions were issued today (see Appendix 2.) for the relief of the two line battalions by the two battalions in reserve, tomorrow night.</p> <p>Four enemy propaganda balloons were sent over into our lines carrying copies of nominally French papers published in the occupied territories, with anti-British leading articles purporting to represent the opinion of the French population.</p>	App.2.
	4th. MAY, 1918. SATURDAY.		<p>Cool and fairly clear during the morning, sultry in the afternoon with a shower of rain in the early evening. The rain was unfortunate since it had the effect of making the bivouacs and shelters of the units changing over damp and uncomfortable, but it did not last for very long.</p> <p>Our snipers were very active on enemy movement today and claim six casualties. Activity generally was not as great as yesterday, though our planes carried out several bombing raids on the enemy forward systems. Enemy artillery was fairly active on our battery positions and last night their minenwerfer fired intermittently during the early hours on the left battalion front line.</p> <p>We have obtained permission from Division to arrange for the turnover of our nucleus who have now been out of the line for a month. This is to be carried out on the 6th and 7th instants.</p> <p>The relief was complete by 10.30.p.m. without incident.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. Sheet 62.D. O.S.C.6.S.	6th.MAY, 1918, MONDAY.		<p>Day opened fine with good visibility but weather became unsettled during afternoon, and light rain fell continuing well on through the night.</p> <p>The A/Brigade Major went to 53rd, 54th, 55th Battalions, and along reserve line, everything was found correct, rain had made ground muddy but was drying well. Men were all fairly comfortable and all had cover from weather, and trenches were in tolerably good condition.</p> <p>G.O.C., Brigade, had conference with Battalion Commanders at 11.a.m. Points under discussion were:-</p> <p>(a). The anticipated enemy attack, precautions to be taken, mastery of No Mans Land must be maintained. Stress was laid on the point of the possibility of the enemy attacking under cover of a fog without any artillery preparation.</p> <p>(b). Works Policy. All energy must be concentrated in the joining up of the front posts, making a continuous line. Wire to be strengthened throughout.</p>	
	7th.MAY, 1918. TUESDAY. 9.45.p.m.		<p>Rain during morning but turned out rather nice day with fair visibility.</p> <p>G.O.C., Division, visited Brigade Commander at 10.a.m. Brigade Commander visited the four Battalions during the afternoon.</p> <p>Report over telephone from Division that Boscq prisoner captured last night opposite VILLERS BRETONNEUX, under special examination states enemy are to attack at 12 Midnight German time, (11.p.m. English time). All units were accordingly warned but nothing eventuated. Enemy artillery has been exceptionally quiet during last 24 hours.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.e.6.3.	8th.MAY, 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Fine day with fair visibility. Enemy artillery remains quiet. Arrangements were made for the discharge of 249 gas projector drums against the enemy defences in the BOIS DE VAIRE. Brigade Order 138 was issued and is attached as Appendix 3. The operation was successfully carried out at 2.a.m. in conjunction with a ten minutes artillery shoot on the same target. Inter-Battalion reliefs were carried out without incident and were complete at 10.40.p.m. An instructional and warning memo was issued and is attached as Appendix 4.</p>	App.3 App.4
	9th.MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>Fine during morning but a dull afternoon. Brigade Commander visited all four Battalions. Divisional Commander was out to Headquarters at 11.p.m. Relieved Battalions(53rd and 55th) were put through baths in CORBIE and received clean change of underclothing. Enemy Artillery quiet.</p>	
	10th.MAY, 1918. FRIDAY.		<p>Morning broke with heavy mist which hung low most of the morning and cleared about noon, from then on was fine with good visibility. Brigade Commander visited all four Battalions. A/Brigade Major and Intelligence Officer visited front line posts, everything was in order and garrisons of posts were alert. 54th, 55th, and 56th Battalions Headquarters were also visited, They are now fairly comfortable, 54th and 56th are underground, and 55th Battalion Headquarters are well on the way towards completion.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.c.6.8.	11th.MAY, 1918. SATURDAY.		<p>Nice morning and continued same throughout the day. Divisional and Brigade Commanders visited all four Battalions Headquarters, Pioneer Switch, and the reserve line and found everything in good condition. Report from Division says intercepted German wireless message says Artillery Area shoot is to be carried out against square O.17.a. at 7.p.m. and 3.a.m. 53rd and 55th Battalions whom are concerned were warned. At 7.p.m. 70 shells fell in O.17.a.& c. and Q.16.b., but no material damage was done. 55th and 56th Battalions send out percentage of men to the Nucleus Camp, PERNOIS. 56th Battalion fighting patrol under Lieut.R.J.POORE,M.C., attacked enemy patrol and killed 2 of them. Identification secured from papers - 10th Coy. 265 R.I.R. 108 Division.(normal). A copy of Intelligence Summary is attached as Appendix 5</p>	App.5
	12th.MAY, 1918. SUNDAY.		<p>Morning opened fine but towards afternoon mist set in and it began raining about 3.p.m. G.S.O. 1. of Division was at Headquarters to see Brigade Commander. Enemy artillery continued quiet. New Disposition Map was issued. (see Appendix) as in App.13 of last Volume</p>	App.
	13th.MAY, 1918. MONDAY.		<p>Weather uncertain, it has turned colder with intermittent rain. A/Brigade Major went around to 55th Battalion, also together with C.R.E., G.S.O.2, and D.M.G.O., and selected line for tactical wiring on Pioneer Switch; also sited Machine gun positions. Enemy artillery has shown increase, the reserve area coming in for a good deal of shelling between 3.a.m. and 8.a.m. No material damage was done. G.S.O.III, of the Army called at Brigade to see if there were any requirements in air photos, etc.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.c.6.8.	14th.MAY, 1918. TUESDAY.		<p>Dull morning, it has rained most of the night; towards midday weather became better and afterwards turned into a fine day.</p> <p>G.O.C., Division visited Brigade Commander.</p> <p>Enemy artillery has shown increased activity, most of the shelling being area shoots in the vicinity of the reserve line. 55th Battalion Headquarters were shelled at intervals all day. At 8.30.p.m enemy artillery again active on 55th Battalion Headquarters and they asked for counter battery work which was arranged and enemy ceased shelling about 10.p.m.</p> <p>Much enemy air activity over our lines during afternoon. At 3.p.m. 54th Battalion asked "What can be done as 12 E.A. are flying over sector, Lewis Gun fire not having any effect!" Division asked for fighting planes to be sent over and 5 scouts were sent out at about 5.p.m., but no effect was noticed and Bosch planes continued patrolling our front until dusk.</p> <p>Much enemy movement has been noticed during day, possibly indicating a relief.</p> <p>Light Trench Mortar Battery shifted their Headquarters on account of enemy shelling, from O.17.c.2.7. to FOUILLOY.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. 0.17.c.6.8.	15th.MAY 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Morning opened fine and weather continued fine throughout day. Enemy artillery has become more active and replies to our night artillery shoots retaliating on front line. During day FOUILLOY and CORBIE were shelled. Received orders from Division to increase our front north, taking over from 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, 1 Battalion and 2 Platoon front. This will mean our dispositions are changed, having 3 battalions in the line, and only one in reserve. (See Order No.139. Appendix 6).</p> <p>A/Brigade Major and G.S.O.III went round left battalion front line posts. Everything was correct and all men happy notwithstanding they have been in the line for some time.</p> <p>Aerial activity showed increase. Several E.A. crossed our lines. At 8.p.m. one E.A. was shot down by 5th Battalion with Lewis gun - plane fell just inside enemy's front line. Our artillery informed and shoot was arranged on disabled plane.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>App.6</p>
	16th.MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>Fine day. G.O.C., A.I.F., visited Brigade Commander at 12 noon to find out situation generally.</p> <p>Much aerial activity during the day. About 3.p.m. enemy plane after putting up a fight was forced down just outside our sector, and Pilot who was unhurt taken prisoner.</p> <p>Inter-battalion relief was carried out without incident, also taking over of new sector from 8th Brigade. Both reliefs were complete at 11.45.p.m.. New dispositions Map is attached as Appendix .</p> <p>Situation generally very quiet, and enemy artillery activity was below normal.</p> <p>At 10.30.p.m. our right Brigade (12th Aust.Inf.Bde.) report Gotha brought down by M.G.fire. One of the occupants made prisoner, but 2 yet at large. All our units were warned to be on the lookout for them.</p>	<p>App. See Appendices to Defence Scheme attached.</p>

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.C.8.8.	17th .MAY, 1918. FRIDAY.		<p>Dull morning with heavy mist which hung low until 10.a.m. then clearing, followed by a beautiful sunny day.</p> <p>At 5.a.m. 54th Battalion rang on telephone and said that right front line company report much enemy movement and noise close up to their front line, possibly tanks moving, also much aerial activity. They say they will get further details. All units were accordingly warned. At 5.30.a.m. 54th Battalion rang up to say everything again quiet.</p> <p>Owing to the fog all units pushed out patrols to avoid any surprise attack which the enemy may be attempting.</p> <p>G.O.C., Division, out to see Brigadier and discussed the placing of reserve battalion owing to alteration of dispositions on the Brigade front. Reserve battalion will have to be located more centrally. Enemy artillery has concentrated on area shoots and reserve positions came in for some shelling.</p> <p>One E.A. was brought down by our fighting planes and fell in O.30. Pilot was killed.</p> <p>56th Battalion commenced bathing their men, and half the battalion were put through baths, receiving a clean change.</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.3.6.8.	18th.MAY, 1918. SATURDAY.		<p>Bright and warm during the morning and the greater part of the afternoon except for a thunderstorm about 4 o'clock. The day was fairly quiet on the ground except for a fairly heavy bombardment of right battalion supports during the early afternoon, and aerial activity was not above the normal that one expects this weather.</p> <p>The Brigadier visited the 15th and 12th Brigades during the morning to discuss current defence questions with them. The Brigade Major returned to duty, Captain MERKEL moving to 8th Brigade, from which both the Brigade Major and Staff Captain have been evacuated suffering from the effects of gas.</p> <p>Brigade Order 140 (see Appendix 7), was issued providing for the handing over of the PIONEER SWITCH west of the VILLERS LINE, to the 60th Battalion. The 56th Battalion are to move to a more central position in O.12. as they are the only reserve battalion now and may be expected to have to operate at short notice at any point over the whole of our front. The 15th Brigade (i.e. Reserve Brigade) have now been made responsible for the provision of nucleus garrison and the defence of the PIONEER SWITCH. The hand over and the move of the 56th Battalion to their new position was reported complete at 10.30.p.m. without incident. Owing to the move of the 56th Battalion, the Trench Mortar Battery have to vacate their quarters in O.12. and are now occupying once again their reserve section quarters in FOUILLOY.</p> <p>We received notice this afternoon that the Division on our left are to carry out an operation tomorrow morning with the object of straightening out their line, in the vicinity of VILLE SUR ANCRE. Our artillery are to co-operate with a "Chinese Attack" on our front but our infantry are not to participate. Zero hour is 2.a.m. and our side show is to last 20 minutes.</p> <p>Last night we secured 3 prisoners and killed two, in a minor enterprise carried out by an officers patrol of 1 officer (Lieut. NEVILLE, D.C.M.) and 14 others of the 55th Battalion. It was a very daring exploit and the leader has deservedly received the congratulations of the Commanders of our higher formations. The prisoners appear to be stupid and gave little information, but we established new identification (419.I.R.) and learned that our gas bombardment of VAIRE WOOD (both projector and shell) have been taking very considerable effect and causing many casualties.</p>	App. 7

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.c.6.8.	19th. MAY 1918. SUNDAY.		<p>Bright and sunny for the greater part of the day though cloudy in the early afternoon. The evening was very bright moonlight and greatly restricted the movement of our patrols.</p> <p>The G.S.O.I. called during the morning and discussed current questions of policy with the Brigadier. We are to receive some assistance in the constructional work in the area as we have now a larger sector and only the one reserve battalion available for work outside their own area. The construction of the continuous support line is to be carried on by pioneers under engineer supervision, which will release men for work on cable burying and dugouts.</p> <p>The 56th Battalion completed their move from O.17.c. to the Terraces in O.12. today and removed their Headquarters to the latter location, having handed over their duty of defence of the PIONEER SWITCH to the 60th Battalion in accordance with Brigade Order 140 (see Appendix 7). The Terraces to which they have moved were recently vacated by the 53rd Battalion, and have since been bombarded fairly heavily. At present we have work in hand constructing shell proof shelters, each to hold 8 men, 12 of which have already been completed while several more are well advanced. These will ultimately provide excellent cover for the whole of the reserve battalion when the scheme has been completed.</p> <p>As far as artillery fire is concerned, today was fairly quiet, but aerial activity was much in evidence on account of the excellent visibility. One of our planes made a forced landing in our area this morning, being chased to the ground by several E.A. Both occupants were unhurt but they had had a stoppage with their Lewis Gun and could not continue the fight.</p> <p>A memo providing for the relief of the 54th Battalion by the 56th Battalion tomorrow night was issued today (see Appendix 8). The 54th Battalion should have four days out, and then move in to relieve the 55th Battalion in the event of a Brigade relief not being decided upon at an early date.</p> <p>Instructions were also issued today (see Appendix 9) providing for a further discharge of gas projectors against VAIRE WOOD at an early date. The projectors are already emplaced and we are awaiting only for the gas charges which have been delayed</p>	App. 7
				App. 8
				App. 9

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.e.6.8.	19th.MAY, 1918. SUNDAY		<p>Contd. on their journey from the base. It is proposed to vary the artillery program this time and distribute the fire over the back areas instead of confining it to the gassed area.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the 53rd Battalion during the early part of the night and inspected the whole of the defences in their sector. The defence is sound enough and raised no doubts as to its efficacy, but full advantage has not been taken in the original construction of the works. It will be possible to improve the existing work very considerably, as well as extend it to make the defence much more secure.</p> <p>We were informed today that the 2nd Australian Division on our left, carried out their operation last night with considerable success, gaining all objectives and securing 9 officers and 270 others, 2 Minenwerfer, and about 10 machine guns.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander has proceeded to ENGLAND on duty, and Brig.-Gen. TIVEY is temporarily in command of the Division.</p>	
	20th.MAY, 1918. MONDAY.		<p>Another bright and sunny day with very good visibility. Aircraft were not quite so active as yesterday, but artillery activity appears to have considerably increased. There was a very considerable amount of gunning on our left during last night, and our shoots were frequent. During the day the enemy bombarded our battery positions and the reserve portions of the forward areas intermittently with heavy calibre (9.2s. apparently), and during the early evening put over some 4.2. Blue Cross Gas in addition, but only in small quantities. During last night and the early morning enemy minenwerfer were in evidence on the left battalion sector for the first time for some considerable period. They were engaged by our 6" Newton's and silenced in a very short time.</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited all battalion H.Q. and in the right battalion</p>	

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HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, ORBIE. BATT 62.D. .17.5.18.	20th. MAY, 1918. MONDAY.		<p>Contd. sector went forward along the PIONEER SWITCH as far as the support line. From this position one can obtain a splendid view of the enemy defences in the VAIRE WOOD and towards the VILLERS-WARFUSEE road, and also of our own defences in the latter direction. It has only been possible since the last two days, to get on to the forward slopes of the ridge in that sector, and it will be possible to obtain quick and accurate information of enemy action on that portion of the front.</p> <p>The G.O.C. also warned Battalion Commanders that the big enemy attack is to be delivered tomorrow morning. This information was given us, more or less confidentially by Division this morning, but they do not appear to think that there is anything very much in it. Units have however, been warned to be specially alert and we will be ready if he comes over.</p> <p>The relief of the 54th Battalion by the 56th Battalion was carried out without event. The front sector relief was complete by 11.15.p.m. and the 54th Battalion had established themselves in the Terraces by 12.midnight.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft were active during the late evening and there are reports of bombing on our back areas. We are informed that two men and three mules of the Brigade Headquarters transport have been casualties in the vicinity of BUSSY (Div. Headquarters).</p> <p>Captain V.P.H. STANTKE, 29th Battalion, reported for duty today as Brigade Major learner.</p> <p>Provisional instructions were issued to the Officer Commanding the two companies of the 60th Bn. who have been allotted the task of the defence of the Pioneer Switch (see Appendix 10)</p>	Appendix 10

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HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.17.c.6.8.	21st. MAY, 1918. TUESDAY.		<p>Another bright day with a slight breeze throughout that rather dispelled the heat towards evening. We have undoubtedly reached the beginning of summer which promises, on its opening to be fairly warm. Visibility was good throughout the day and during the morning E.A. were particularly active, as ours were all day. Enemy shelling was not particularly heavy though, towards evening he sent over several separate lots of Blue Cross Gas which caused some annoyance (though no casualties) to our centre and left battalions. Our guns were very active during the day, with counter preparation schemes in the morning and engaging observation targets during the afternoon. They also put down a practice S.O.S. barrage in front of our right sector in the late afternoon which, from observation was entirely satisfactory.</p> <p>Both M.T.Ms. and L.T.Ms. were active during the evening and our guns carried out the usual type of program. The enemy attack promised did not, of course, eventuate this morning.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander (at present Gen. TIVEY) visited Brigade during the morning and talked on general topics with the Brigadier. He is at present suffering from the effects of gas sustained on the occasion during which his staff were sufficiently badly gassed to be evacuated.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the two right Battalions and the reserve Battalion in the afternoon and went forward in the right sector along the PIONEER SWITCH as far as the support line, to reconnoitre the country from the O.P. which the Brigadier visited yesterday. The switch certainly is a great asset as a valuable communication forward which enables reconnaissance in daylight, which has hitherto been impossible, unless the whole day was spent on the forward slopes of the ridge. From this O.P. the enemy lines along the whole of the right battalion sector, and the sector of the battalion on our right can be examined closely, together with the timber land ^{"hinterland"}, and any elaborate preparations for movement should be detected instantly.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.S.C.6.8.	22nd.MAY. 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Enemy aircraft were very active during the morning and throughout the whole day. One E.A. was driven down near HAMEL at 4.20.a.m. Our planes were also above normally active and during the evening both sides dropped several bombs on the forward systems.</p> <p>The day was one of the hottest we have had so far this summer and visibility was good. The enemy artillery was not particularly active on the forward areas, but the rear areas and CORBIE were intermittently shelled throughout the day with 5.9" and heavier calibre shells. Most of the shelling was on unoccupied areas however, and did little damage.</p> <p>Five Officers of the United States Army reported here today for a four days tour of duty with the object of gaining experience in line work. They have only been in France about a fortnight and this is the first time that they have been near the front. Colonel HAMILTON (137th Regiment) is to remain at Brigade H.Q., three battalion officers of the 140th Regiment are to be attached each to a battalion in the line, and a regimental supply officer is to go back to our rear H.Q. and see the work carried on there. The Brigadier took Colonel HAMILTON up to the O.P. during the afternoon and showed him generally the position and scheme of defence.</p> <p>We had intended to carry out our projector shoot on VAIRE WOOD tonight, but the wind did not prove favorable so that it had to be postponed. The gas charges have been taken forward but they were not put into the projectors, so that we should be able to keep them under cover from shell fire until we are sure that we can send them over.</p> <p>News was received today of an enemy counter attack in the vicinity of MERVILLE which, though it gained some initial success, was subsequently entirely driven off. We are not too clear why it should be called a "counter attack" since we have had no news of an attack by us in that vicinity except for an operation that was presented to us in the light of a raid. It was apparently rather more extensive than we were aware and must have been successful.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.c.6.8.	23rd. MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>The day was rather duller than yesterday but still very hot. During the afternoon it looked rather as though we could expect a thunderstorm. Enemy artillery activity was below normal but we carried out several very successful observation shoots. We brought fire on to an enemy O.P. south of VAIRE WOOD and saw the two occupants knocked out. The HAMEL chimney stack also fell during the day and in the afternoon the guns casualtied enemy transport wagons on three separate occasions.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander was down yesterday afternoon to see the Brigadier with reference to a report which had been forwarded on the 25th April about short shooting by the heavy artillery. The accusation was apparently hotly denied by the heavies and as the fragments of the shell which we had forwarded had been lost in transit, the Divisional Commander was of opinion that it would be preferable if the matter was dropped. The denial was rather misplaced however as such short shooting is not of infrequent occurrence, and it will not be long before we can put forward another case. We intend to take greater care of our specimens next time.</p> <p>The order for the relief of the 55th Battalion by the 54th Battalion was issued today and is attached as Appendix 11. A further memo was also issued with regard to the artillery program to accompany the projection of gas on VAIRE WOOD, which is attached to Brigade Order 141 (see Appendix 9.).</p> <p>Another American officer arrived today (Captain BONNEY, 137th Regiment) who is a regimental adjutant, and who is to remain at Brigade H.Q. to collect information as to the routine work of the Brigade Major to which appointment his own practically corresponds. The Brigade Major visited the Brigade transport lines and showed Col. HAMILTON and the U.S. Supply Officer round. The latter remained with the 55th Battalion rear Headquarters for instruction.</p>	App. 11. App. 9.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.c.6.8.	24th. MAY, 1918. FRIDAY,		<p>A wet day with bad visibility. There was little artillery activity except for a fairly heavy bombardment of our reserve area during the morning. Air activity was below normal owing to bad weather and poor visibility.</p> <p>Amendments were issued today to the Defence Scheme for the sector (see Appendix 12).</p> <p>A memo was also issued arranging for a test of the S.O.S. bugle scheme which we have arranged under instructions. The last test carried out was not successful even though it was done during conditions which in no way resembled those under which an S.O.S. would normally be called for. We intend to have an artillery shoot arranged coincidentally with our test on this occasion and so attempt to represent some of the noise which would be going on. The Repeating Stations have been rearranged so that the area between the line and Battalion H.Q. is more closely covered and from that point to the guns we must depend on communications. We do not expect very much but the test should be exhaustive (See Appendix 13.).</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited all Battalions today accompanied by Colonel HAMILTON. The Brigade Major, 9th Infantry Brigade (on our left) came across to exchange views on the subject of co-operation in the case of attack, and to arrange details of closer liaison between our two flanking battalions.</p> <p>We have been informed that tomorrow morning will be the morning of the attack. This was reported some days ago from information extracted from enemy prisoners but we have seen nothing on this front that indicates that we are likely to be involved. We are very satisfied about our own strength in defence and are sure of our flanks and do not intend to worry very much about these prophesies.</p> <p>Our patrols during the night did not find the enemy very active though he appeared to be working hard. We came across some suspicious looking holes in N.M.L. that had been recently worked upon and which closely resembled M.W. emplacements. They show up on photos a fortnight old however, but we will investigate them further tonight. Our snipers were very active during the 24 hours and claim six casualties.</p> <p>The relief of the 55th by the 54th Battalion in line right was complete without event, and reported by 11.p.m. This allowed us to put off our projectors (see Appendix 9.), in accordance with plan at 12 midnight which we did successfully having only one projector which did not function. There are no other reports yet to hand.</p>	App.12.
				App.13.
				App.9.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.S.C.6.8.	25th. MAY, 1918. SATURDAY.		<p>Fairly hot and close during the morning but with a cool breeze in the afternoon. Enemy were not very active during the day, but shelled CORBIE and the back areas fairly consistently.</p> <p>Our gas projector stunt went off very successfully last night only one charger failing to function. It brought no retaliation whatever which rather inclines us towards using the same place again for a further bombardment. There is little doubt that we inflict casualties, though unfortunately the nights are far too light to allow our patrols to get close enough in to his posts to obtain identifications. The 8th Brigade attempted a raid on our immediate left last night but it was not successful on account of the good visibility which enabled the enemy to locate and break up the raiding party before it had completely negotiated the wire.</p> <p>The G.O.C. took Colonel HAMILTON (U.S.) to the transport lines and Q.M. stores today, and in the afternoon the Staff Captain took Captain BONNEY (Colonel HAMILTON'S Adjutant) on the same trip. They were both very much impressed with what they saw and waxed quite enthusiastic on the subject of our methods.</p> <p>The Brigade Major and Divisional I.O. visited all Battalion H.Q. during the afternoon. There were several questions of work and operations to be discussed, the chief one being the investigation and obliteration on the Central Copse (P.14.central) this little wood escapes most of the attentions paid to VAIRE WOOD, and we intend to arrange a special show for its benefit. The question of raiding it was raised, but the 56th Battalion would prefer to investigate it by patrols tonight and decide about the raiding later. In any event we intend to bombard it.</p> <p>During the late evening we were informed that the Division on our right were being heavily shelled with gas in the vicinity of BOIS L'ABBE. This might even be a forerunner of another attack on VILLERS.</p> <p>We carried out a test of our S.O.S. bugle arrangements during the night having arranged for a special shoot to try the experiment under realistic conditions. As we expected the method was not a success. A report is attached as Appendix 13.</p>	App.13.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. O.S.C.6.8.	26th. MAY, 1918. SUNDAY.		<p>Dull and rather close during the day, and a cloudy evening. The weather forecast promises a foggy morning and in consequence counter preparation has been ordered. The day has been slightly more active than usual. This morning we had several light bombardments on this sector and heavy gas shelling on the sector on our right which had the effect of making our right battalion wear their respirators for some time. Aerial activity has not been above normal though several enemy planes were over during the day.</p> <p>The American officers who have been attached for experience to the Brigade for the last few days, left to rejoin their units. They appeared to profit by their stay and assured us that they had amassed great quantities of knowledge. As their first experience in the line they certainly had a model period as far as quietness and comfort was concerned. All matters of routine were of considerable interest to them and Colonel HAMILTON (U.S.Army) was very much interested in the comparison of our respective organisations.</p> <p>No other events of note occurred during the day, except a case of short shooting in O.22.a., which is believed to be the responsibility of the heavy artillery. We have reported the matter and forwarded specimens of the shell and driving band.</p> <p>During the late evening we received in succession, a message ordering counter preparation for 3.15.a.m.; a forecast to the effect that the morning was likely to be foggy; and a message to the effect that the Division on our right had moved an additional battalion forward as an immediate reserve for the brigade on our right in case of attack. These facts in conjunction with the heavy gassing of the reserve areas of that sector last night and this morning are rather the cause for suspicion, but higher formations have apparently refrained from predicting the usual attack.</p> <p>A memo was issued today arranging for a combined shoot on Central Copse (see Appendix 14.).</p>	App.14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU-CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.S.C.6.8.	27th MAY, 1918. MONDAY.		<p>The attack that might have been anticipated from the considerable number of promising events and forecast of yesterday did not eventuate. The morning was not particularly foggy, but the whole day was dull and visibility poor, though both our own and enemy aircraft were active throughout the day. Artillery was fairly quiet on the forward areas but FOUILLOY and CORBIE were heavily shelled with 5.9", and the reserve portion of our right sector (where two companies of the 60th Battalion are located) was heavily gassed with "mustard" for nearly two hours. It is reported that the 3rd Division lost fairly heavily from gas shelling on VILLERS and the BOIS L'ABBE yesterday.</p> <p>We received a G.H.Q. wire during the morning to say that the enemy had attacked at 3.30.a.m. on a wide front in the vicinity of SOISSONS and RHEIMS and on a small front in the vicinity of LOCRE. The situation was obscure at both points but it was believed that the enemy had not penetrated far at either point, though he had not been altogether unsuccessful.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander called but could not give us further news about the attack, except in confirmation of the wire already received. He told us however that we would probably be relieved on the 2nd June when the Division is due to go into rest for 10 days. This relief should come in the ordinary course of events but it is quite probable that there will be an attack before then which will possibly spoil our chances. We are not anxious to leave this sector for good, as we have done a considerable amount of work on it and turned it into a really good defensive system, but a divisional relief will necessarily mean that we go into a new divisional area on completion of our rest.</p> <p>Instructions were issued today (See Appendix 15.) for the relief of the 53rd Battalion by the 55th Battalion. The 53rd Battalion will in all probability not move into the line again owing to the date of our relief which falls on the night after the next battalion relief is due. The reserve battalion has had a spell out of four days only in each case which has made extensive work rather difficult. For their first day out few parties are called on, but for the next two we get about 120 to 150 working ranks. This labour has been mostly employed on a cable bury which should be finished tomorrow night, and on dugout accommodation. When the bury is completed they will be diverted to support line work. Another case of heavy artillery short shooting occurred today and was reported (with specimens) to Division.</p>	App.15.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS, CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.S.C.6.8.	28th.MAY, 1918. TUESDAY.		At 1.37.a.m. we carried out an S.O.S.Rocket test, the arrangements for and report on results are shown in Appendix 16. The test was an undoubted success and is far superior to the S.O.S. bugle method tested some nights ago.	App:16
			At 2.a.m. our shoot was carried out against Central Copse (see Appendix 14) but the night was too light for our patrols to investigate very closely. A considerable amount of movement and working was heard in the copse during the evening so it is probable that casualties were caused.	App.14.
			The 3rd Division on our right carried out a counter preparation bombardment at 2.05.a.m. in anticipation of an enemy attack. They had had news from a prisoner that an attack was projected and the C.P. program was precautionary. No attack eventuated.	
			The day was dull but close and visibility was good. Aircraft were correspondingly active on both sides. E.A. were rather more aggressive than usual and bombed and machine gunned our posts during the morning and evening. Our planes were also very active patrolling and bombing during the evening. Enemy artillery activity was rather above normal especially on the reserve and rear areas. FOUILLOY and CORBIE received a considerable amount of attention and small quantities of yellow cross gas were distributed over the area.	
			The Brigade Major visited 55th Battalion rear H.Q. during the morning to investigate a complaint lodged against some Tunnelling Company people who had set themselves down there without authority. In the afternoon the Brigade Major and Intelligence Officer attended a demonstration by the French of the use of the 37 mm. gun which they have in use. This gun has been suggested as an additional weapon for our infantry and those who have seen it are strongly in favour of its adoption. It should prove an excellent defensive weapon both for active defence, destruction of enemy M.G. and T.M. emplacements and for anti-tank defence. For offensive operations it does not appear to be so suitable as it is very conspicuous on its mobile mounting.	
			We received further war news today to the effect that the enemy attack between RHEIMS and SOISSONS had penetrated about 15 Kms. on a front of 30 Kms. SOISSONS was at one period in the enemy's hands but was eventually retaken and to the time of the report the enemy had been kept out. The enemy attack in the north appears to have failed and an American minor enterprise in the north was successful.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.c.6.8.	29th MAY, 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Relief of the 53rd Battalion by the 55th Battalion (see Appendix 15) was reported complete at 12 midnight 28th/29th without event. The 53rd Battalion had settled down in the reserve position three quarters of an hour later.</p> <p>During the night our T.Ms. were very active indeed on enemy working parties and posts and several successful shoots are claimed and enemy casualties reported. Throughout the day and evening enemy movement was greatly increased above normal. Our artillery engaged many observation targets and many successful shoots are reported. Enemy aircraft were also above normally active and continue in the aggressive attitude reported yesterday. During the evening two of their planes bombed our forward systems without success. Our planes were normally active. Enemy artillery again paid considerable attention to our reserve and rear areas. A fire started in CORBIE by a shell drew intermittent 4.2. and 5.9. shelling all the afternoon and evening, but as it was studiously avoided no casualties were caused.</p> <p>General BIRDWOOD called this morning to say good-bye to the G.O.C. and as many officers of the Brigade as could be spared from the line. He said a few words to each one present and expressed his regret at the parting saying at the same time that he intended to make every endeavour to get our Corps into his Army whenever it was possible. Major-General C.B.B. WHITE also said good-bye. We all regret the change very much as Gen. BIRDWOOD has earned the respect and loyalty of each member of the A.I.F. and has impressed himself upon us as our leader and Commander, and his personality will be missed by all.</p> <p>A British Armoured Car was on exhibition today and each unit sent officers to inspect it at Brigade Headquarters. Many of us have not seen one before though they were very much in evidence late in April according to report.</p> <p>All the C.O's. were here to see the car and to say good-bye to Gen. BIRDWOOD, and the Brigadier held a conference with them in the early afternoon to discuss current questions. The prospect of early relief was touched on and the date 2nd/3rd June mentioned. This is fairly definite but there is a possibility of either not being relieved or moving straight into another battle area on relief. We are to make every endeavour to complete all our work in hand before relief including a complete front line, and a communication trench in the left sector from support to front line. We should just</p>	App. 15.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.S.C.6.3.	29th.MAY, 1918. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Contd. about be able to do this in the four nights available. One other thing we want to do before leaving the sector is to get a prisoner, but that is difficult during clear nights unless the enemy sends out patrols. C.O's. brought up the question of Brigade Band versus Battalion Bands. They are very keen to split the Brigade Band up so that with the players and instruments they already have they may get unit bands working. The Brigadier has vetoed this proposal for the present on the ground that we can keep a Brigade Band intact by leaving it at nucleus, whereas battalion bands would necessarily have to go into the line.</p> <p>The G.O.C., 4th Brigade and his Brigade Major visited us today to talk over details of the relief. They are to move from CARDONETTE and we presume that we will take over their area, though it has been suggested that we are to go to the QUERRIEU Area at present occupied by the 13th Infantry Brigade.</p>	
	30th.MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>A very bright sunny day again but not very hot. Visibility was good and aircraft very active. One enemy plane was driven down in flames at 5.30.p.m. well behind the enemy line. Artillery were normally active during the day. The increased enemy movement still continues and in his front system he is very alert, though does little or no patrolling. Our artillery got many observation targets having an F.O.O. in the front line with a direct line to the batteries. Some very good shooting was done both by 4.5" Hows. and 18 pdrs.</p> <p>We received the Divisional Order for the relief in the morning and found that we are to be relieved tomorrow night and to stage back through the reserve brigade area, staying there one night and then moving on to the QUERRIEU Area. None of these things were anticipated and we would much prefer the original scheme. Resting at QUERRIEU is a doubtful quantity since the place is heavily shelled. We expected to go furthest back of the three brigades as we have had the longest tour in the line,</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS CHATEAU, CORBIE. SHEET 62.D. O.5.e.6.8.	30th.MAY, 1918. THURSDAY.		<p>Contd. but it is apparently not to be. The Brigade Major visited the 4th and 13th Brigades to arrange further details of the relief and take over. QUERRIEU offers very few facilities for training owing to the fact that the fields are covered with crop which is to be carefully preserved. One of our battalions is to be pushed out as garrison for the LA HOUSOYE defensive system and, as the 13th Brigade has now only three battalions, we are still short of accommodation for one Battalion.</p> <p>Order 143 was issued for a projector bombardment of Central Copse tonight (See Appendix 17.), but the O.C., H. Special Coy. rang up at 2.p.m. to say that the forecast was not favourable for tonight, so that it will probably have to be postponed until after the relief.</p> <p>A warning order was issued to battalions in the early afternoon indicating to which areas the battalions would move on relief and remain during the night 31st/1st. Order 144 was issued at 9.45.p.m. for the relief (see Appendix.19).</p> <p>A further amendment to the Defence Scheme was issued today (see App.12.)</p> <p>A letter was received from Colonel HAMILTON, 137th Regiment, N.G.U.S. Army, thanking us for the information he and his officers who had been attached to us, had received. A copy of this letter is attached as Appendix 18.</p> <p>During the late evening the enemy put down a heavy bombardment on CORBIE and FOUILLOY and managed to get one direct hit on the main bridge. The damage is not serious and will soon be repaired. No other damage of importance was done.</p>	<p>App.17.</p> <p>App.19.</p> <p>App.12.</p> <p>App.18.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS	31st. MAY, 1918. FRIDAY.		<p>The day was comparatively uneventful up to the time when the relief was in progress when there was a good deal of desultory enemy shelling. To our right there was a considerable amount of gas shelling which affected our right flank to a certain extent. There were two more cases of short shooting by our heavies but no damage was done. Up to 12 midnight the relief was proceeding satisfactorily though it was retarded slightly by the enemy bombardment and Machine Gun activity.</p> <p>The G.O.C., 4th Brigade and his staff arrived early in the afternoon and the officers of this Brigade Headquarters with the exception of the G.O.C., Brigade Major and Sig. Officer, went back to BLANGY CHATEAU which is to be our home for the night. The Asst. Staff Captain has been at QUERRIEU all day arranging camps and bivouacs and billeting. As this area has been occupied by the 13th Brigade (who have only three battalions) we have to make arrangements for a complete new camp for one battalion. There are plenty of excellent sites but cover is rather more difficult to procure. Training facilities also are very limited.</p> <p>A Works Report showing the condition of the Defences and the accommodation in the sector is attached as Appendix 20. It will be seen from this report and the Disposition Maps of the area, that the sector is well provided both from the point of view of defensibility and comfort. We had one or two tasks in hand that we should have liked to complete, but the hastening of the relief made it impossible to fulfil the whole of our program. The work has been left to the incoming unit however, in such condition that it can be carried straight on without delay.</p> <p>T.M.B. report on the month's work is attached as Appendix 21. Strength and Casualty returns for the month are attached as Appendix 22.</p>	<p>App.20.</p> <p>App.21. App.22.</p>

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WAR DIARY

OF

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

FOR

M A Y 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓1.	Congratulatory Letter from G.O.C., 15th Infantry Brigade.
✓2.	Relief night 4th/5th May.
✓3.	Brigade Order 138 of 8th May.
✓4.	Relief 8th/9th May.
✓5.	Intelligence Summary 11th May.
✓6.	Brigade Order 139 of 15th May.
✓7.	Brigade Order 140 of 18th May.
✓8.	relief 20th/21st May.
✓9.	Brigade Order 141 of 19th May.
✓10.	Instructions to 60th Battalion forward.
✓11.	Brigade Order 142 of 23rd May.
✓12.	Defence Scheme.
✓13.	S.O.S. Bugle Test.
✓14.	G885. of 26th May - Combined Shoot on Central Copse.
✓15.	Relief 28th/29th May.
✓16.	S.O.S. Message Rocket Test.
✓17.	Brigade Order 143 of 30th May.
✓18.	Colonel HAMILTON'S Letter.
✓19.	Brigade Order 144 of 30th May.
✓20.	Works Report for Handover.
✓21.	14th L.T.M.B. Report.
✓22.	Strength and Casualty Returns for Month.

Headquarters,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.
29th April, 1918.

G.O.C.
14th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Dear General,

My Battalion Commanders have all spoken to me about the very excellent assistance given to their Battalions on the night of 24th/25th April by guides supplied from your 56th Battalion, and I feel I cannot let the opportunity pass without writing to you on behalf of the Brigade and thanking you for the very able assistance rendered.

The operation, as you may realise, was of a very difficult nature and success depended on the complete and thorough execution of all details concerning the assembly and advance to the objectives. Although a large proportion of the Officers and N.C.O's. had reconnoitred the area during the day they could not have been so conversant with the ground as were your officers and men, who had previously occupied that area. Especially was this so regarding the forward zone.

The capable manner in which your officers and men carried out their duties was a great factor in bringing the operation to a successful issue.

I hope you will convey to Lt. Col. Oatley and his officers and men our very heartfelt thanks for their assistance. We all trust that a time may come when we may be able to assist you in any other or similar circumstances.

Thanking you once again.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd). H.G. ELLIOTT.

*When Being Volume 27.
Appendix 1. Original*

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APPENDIX

2.

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S E C R E T.

53rd Bn.
54th Bn.
55th Bn.
56th Bn.
14th L.T.M.B.

1. In confirmation of this office B.M.954 of 3rd May, the 55th Battalion will relieve the 56th Battalion in the line right, and the 53rd Battalion will relieve the 54th Battalion in the line left on the night 4th/5th May.
2. Relieved Battalions will take over reserve positions vacated by their relieving Battalions.
3. Battalions at present occupying the line will be responsible for the protection of the relief.
4. The tour of duty of the ingoing battalions will be four days i.e. succeeding relief will be on night 8th/9th May and the tour of duty of the battalions ingoing on that date will be six days i.e. relief will take place on night 14th/15th May.
5. Subject to the terms of this memo usual conditions for inter-battalion reliefs will apply.
6. Completion of relief will be notified by the wire "G12/501 received".
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

3/5/18.

A. H. ... Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Austz Inf. Brigade.

*War Diary Vol 27
Appendix 2 Duplicate*

SECRET.

Copy No. 12

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 138.

Ref. Map.
Sheet 62.d. 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
8.5.1918.

1. Gas projectors are now installed at approximately P.13.b.0.0.
2. On the first night that the weather conditions are favourable, 250 drums will be loaded into projectors and fired on enemy defences in BOIS DE VAIRE.
3. Wind limits are S.W. through W. to N.W.W.
4. Following code words will be used in connection with this operation:-

BRISTOL.	-	OPERATION WILL take place tonight.
CARDIFF.	-	OPERATION WILL NOT take place tonight.
BEDFORD.	-	OPERATION COMPLETED.
5. All troops in P.13.b. and d. and P.14.a. will remain under cover as far as possible, and wear their box respirators from ZERO - 5 minutes until they receive orders from an Officer that all is clear.
6. Artillery will co-operate, details are being arranged by 298th A.F.A. Brigade.
7. O.C., D. Special Coy. will be at Brigade Headquarters from 11.p.m. Officers in charge Firing Party will be Lieut. GRAHAM and 2/Lieut. WHITLOCK.
8. ZERO Hour will not be before midnight and will be notified by wire.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Phenkel

Captain,
A/Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

<u>Issued through Signals at</u>	<u>p.m. to:-</u>
	<u>Copy NO.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th L.T.M.B.	5.
14th M.G. Coy.	6.
14th Field Coy.	7.
298th A.F.A. Bde.	8.
5th Aust. Div.	9.
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	10.
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.	11.
War Diary.	12-14.
File.	15.
G.O.C.	16.
Staff Captain.	17.

D. Special by RE. 10.

App. 3.
 War Diary.
 Volume 27
 Original

Appendix. 4

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53rd Bn.
54th Bn.
55th Bn.
56th Bn.
14th C.I.M.G.

14TH	
AUSTRALIAN	
HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE.	
No.	412/151
Date	7.5.18

SECRET.

APPENDIX. 4

1. In continuation of this office G12/1 dated 4th May, the 55th Battalion will relieve the 56th Battalion in the line right, and the 54th Battalion will relieve the 53rd Battalion in the line left on the night 8th/9th May.
2. Relieved Battalions will take over reserve positions vacated by their relieving Battalions.
3. Battalions at present occupying the line will be responsible for the protection of the relief.
4. The tour of duty of the ingoing Battalions will be six days i.e. succeeding relief will be on the night of 14th/15th May.
5. Subject to the terms of this memo, usual conditions for inter-battalion reliefs will apply.
6. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by code wire.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

F. Maxwell
 Captain,
 A/Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

7/5/18.

Copies to:-

- 5th Aust. Division.
- 5th M.G. Battalion.
- 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

War Diary Vol. 27
 Appendix 4. Original



14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 58.

From 6 a.m. 11/5/18. to 6 a.m. 12/5/18.

1. OPERATIONS. (a). Our Artillery fired on enemy working parties reported by right battalion observers as under:-

Time.	Place.	Result.
6 a.m.	P.21.a.5.2. & P.21.d.95.20.	Dispersed party.
9.35 a.m.)	P.21.a.2.1.	First shoot 150 Yds. right. Second shoot dispersed party.
10 a.m.)		
9.5 p.m.	P.21.a.5.4. P.21.a.5.6.	Too dark to observe.

At 9.5 a.m. artillery fire was secured on 20 enemy moving about in P.16.c. and P.22.a. making them disappear. At 11.5 a.m. heavy artillery carried out a shoot on P.16.d. central. At 2.10 p.m. 6 men were seen working in P.22.a.4.4. Artillery was informed but owing to sudden decrease in visibility result could not be observed.

A night firing programme was carried out as under:-

Time.	Duration.	Target.
3.50 p.m.	5 minutes.	S.O.S. lines in P.9.b., P.10.a. & b. P.11.a. Heavies P.10.b.
11.17 p.m.	6 minutes.	VAIRE WOOD and P.15.c.
11.17 p.m.	8 minutes.	Heavies P.15.c.
2 a.m.	25 minutes.	Counter preparation.
3.7 a.m.	5 minute.	P.16.b. P.9.a. & b. Heavies P.16.b.
3.15 a.m.	2 minutes.	Work W. of VAIRE WOOD.
3.20 a.m.	6 minutes.	S.O.S. roll.

One gun on work W. of VAIRE WOOD throughout the night until 3.15 a.m.

(b). Patrols. Beyond the regular liaison patrols the following were sent out:-

Left Battalion. 1. A patrol of 1 Officer (Lieut. C.W. HARVEY) and 13 O.Rs. with L.G. left post at P.14.c.0.9. at 2 a.m. and proceeded to P.14.c.5.9. on road. Patrol crossed the road and examined the small wood at P.14. central. No movement could be seen or heard in the wood. At this point patrol was twice fired upon by M.G. but no flash of the gun could be seen. Our artillery opened up on valley during 3.7 a.m. shoot and patrol was forced to return to our lines at 3.20 a.m. to same post at P.14.c.0.9.

2. A patrol of 1 Sgt. (BURTT) and 12 O.Rs. with L.G. left at 11.30 p.m. from post at P.8.c.4.2. and proceeded to examine small copse at P.14. central and bank to the N. of it. No movement could be seen or heard from here and there was no rifle or M.G. fire. Patrol returned to post at P.8.c.4.2. at 1 a.m.

3. A patrol of 1 officer (Lieut. J.H. BARTON) and 3 O.Rs. left our lines shortly after 2 a.m. from P.8.c.6.3. to investigate result of Stokes bombardment on enemy post at P.8.d.3.7. and if possible get into post. Patrol moved to P.8.d.4.6. and thence N. along the road and reached to within 5 yds. of wire around the post from where laughing and low talking could be heard. The trench or post is only about 10 yds. from the wire where it crosses the road. Patrol was apparently heard for a flare was sent up which showed the enemy right against the wire. 4 stick grenades were thrown at patrol with the result that it had to withdraw along the road and return to our lines.

Right Battalion. A patrol of 1 officer (Lieut. R.J. POORE) left P.20.a.2.7. at 11 p.m. and proceeded along road towards quarry. Patrol extended to right flank when half way the left flank keeping to edge of road in dead ground. A halt of 1 hour was made, then patrol moved towards quarry. At this time enemy sent up 3 Red flares followed by Golden clusters and barrage fell on VILLERS BP. FONNEUX.

Appendix 5. Van Druy. Original. Oct. 27.

2.

(b) Patrols. (Ctd). On left of VAIRE WOOD Red flares were also sent up followed by Golden clusters and Brigade front was shelled with 4.2s. for 5 minutes. No enemy movement was observed at the quarry. 2 men crossed road and fired rifle grenades towards enemy post to locate it. Enemy replied with stick grenades but post could not be seen. Patrol moved to road above quarry when 4 enemy appeared. When they passed patrol bombed them killing one and wounding another who died shortly after. The remaining 2 escaped. The identification was secured. L.T.Ms. co-operated with patrol by firing on post at P.20.a.7.8. Fire was effective in keeping down enemy M.Gs.

(2). A patrol of 1 officer (Lieut. COURTNEY) and 14 O.Bs. moved out from post on left flank of battalion to a position at P.14.a.4.4. where the patrol remained for 30 minutes. Patrol then moved to P.14.a.6.4. and S. returning at P.13.d.9.4. No enemy were seen but M.Gs. opened on patrol from copse at about P.14.d.1.8.

(c) M.Gs. Our M.Gs. traversed and searched roads and tracks in vicinity of VAIRE WOOD. 8000 rounds being expended.

(d) T.Ms. L.T.Ms. on right battalion front co-operated with battalion patrol. On left battalion front searching fire was directed on enemy post running from P.8.d.5.5. to 4.3.d.c.6. and vicinity. 100 rounds in all were fired.

(e) Sniping. Right battalion snipers fired on enemy movement in P.20.b. and VAIRE WOOD during early morning and claim 3 casualties. Left battalion snipers fired on enemy movement on front at 7.p.m.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 2 enemy killed by patrol in P.20.a. Identification 10th Coy. 265 R.I.R. 108 Division.

3. ENEMY SHELLING.

<u>Time.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>No. of shells.</u>	<u>Calibre.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
9.55.a.m.	P.13.c.	10.	4.2.	
11.10.a.m.	Support line P.19.b.	10.	5.9.	
1.10.p.m. to 1.25.p.m.	Scattered on front line	60.	4.2. & 77s.	
4.45.p.m.	O.17.c.	40.	4.2.	
6.30.p.m.	P.13.d. & c.	80.	4.2.	T.B. 101 and 108 degrees from P.13.a.45.50.
7.15.p.m.	O.17.a. & c.	60.	4.2.	
7.30.p.m.	O.17.a.	100.	4.2.	
2.a.m.	Front line.	100.	4.2.	

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Artillery fire showed increased activity taking the form of concentrated area shoots. Working parties have been active in P.21.a.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. At 7.p.m. 8 men endeavoured to carry timber to house in VAIRE WOOD, but were dispersed by artillery. (what appears to be a dug-out entrance shows at this house in photo 35 AE B 910). Left battalion observers report stacks of bricks and timber there. Right battalion report 4 posts along ridge from P.21.a.5.2. to P.20.a.5.6. about 20 yds. apart. Much work has been done there during past 2 nights. There is a line of posts along road from P.20.a.4.7. to P.14.d.2.3. These are wired. There is a continuous piece of trench from P.14.d.4.7. to P.14.d.40.95. This is also wired. There is a small piece of trench at P.14.d.30.85. A small post in copse at P.14.central also appears.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. There was little activity on both sides owing to low visibility.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. Right battalion report ration parties leaving VAIRE WOOD at 7.p.m. and were scattered by snipers. At 7.15.p.m. 2 parties of 4 men each seen at P.15.c.2.3. on road. Isolated movement was seen in P.22.d. P.10.d. P.15.c. P.9.c.

APPENDIX. 5.

3.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Observers report that shrapnel used in enemy shoot at 5.10 am. (11/5/18) on left reserve battalion was 18 par. At 11.30 a.m. three horn blasts heard behind enemy lines and one blast at 3.15 p.m. behind VALLEY WOOD.

9. GROUND. Wet with recent raid.

10. LOCATIONS. Unchanged.

R. Sturges
Brig.-General,
Commanding 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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APPENDIX 6.

SECRET.

Copy No. 14.

14TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 139.

Ref. Sheet 62.d. 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
15.5.18.

1. The following readjustment of 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade sector, and inter-battalion relief will take place on night 16th/17th May.
2. 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade will increase their frontage North by taking over front line from 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade from P.8.b.4.0. north to VAIRE-sous-CORBIE-HAMEL ROAD (inclusivo) (P.2.b.70.80.). Northern boundary will run P.2.b.70.80. along Northern side of VAIRE-sous-CORBIE-HAMEL ROAD to J.32.a.3.0. thence West along East and West grid line to the SOMME River (exclusive).
3. Reliefs will be made in accordance with Table.A. attached.
4. All maps, documents and information appertaining to the sector will be taken over and receipts forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours after completion of relief.
5. Subject to the terms of this Order details of relief will be arranged direct between commanders concerned.
6. Completion of relief will be notified by wire "G12/433 received".
7. ACKNOWLEDGE. (Units by wire).

G. M. ...

Captain,
A/Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at 9.30 p.m. to:-

	<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th M.G. Coy.	5.
14th L.T.M.B.	6.
14th Field Coy. A.E.	7.
5th Australian Division.	8.
8th Australian Infantry Bde.	9.
12th Australian Infantry Bde.	10.
No. 3. Signal Section.	11.
5th Divisional Artillery.	12.
Staff Captain.	13.
War Diary.	14-16.
File.	17.

War Diary
 Appendix 6.
 Volume 27.
 Original

TABLE A.

ISSUED WITH 14TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.139.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Relieves.</u>	<u>Sector.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
1.	Night 16th/17th May.	55th Battalion.	56th Battalion.	Line Right.	On relief 56th Battalion will be in reserve and will take over position vacated by relieving Battalion.
2.	Night 16th/17th May.	53rd Battalion.	30th Battalion plus 2 Platoons 31st Battalion.	Line Left.	Existing dispositions will be taken over and sketch of same forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 18th instant.

NOTE. Battalions at present occupying the line will be responsible for the protection of the relief.

APPENDIX. b

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14th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. 47/554
Date 18-5-18

APPENDIX.

4

SECRET.

Copy No. 12.

14TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 140.

Ref. Sheet.
62.D.1/40,000.

Headquarters,
18th May, 1918.

Consequent on the alteration of the dispositions of the Brigade front:-

1. The 14th. Australian Infantry Brigade will maintain the support battalion in a central position ready to reinforce either flank as the necessity arises.
2. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will be responsible for holding the whole PIONEER SWITCH west of the Villers line in case of an attack, and will maintain a battalion in readiness to man this switch.
3. The 60th Battalion will relieve Nucleus garrison of the 56th Battalion at present in the PIONEER SWITCH on the night 18th/19th May.
4. The 56th Battalion will move from present position to terraces in O.12.c. on night 18th/19th May.
5. All ammunition and trench stores in PIONEER SWITCH will be handed over and receipts obtained and forwarded to Brigade Headquarters.
6. Completion of relief and move will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by wire.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]

Captain,
A/Brigade Major.
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at.....p.m. to:-
Copy No.

53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th L.T.M.B.	5.
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	6.
12th Aust. Inf. Bde.	7.
5th Aust. Division.	8.
15th Aust. Inf. Bde.	9.
G.O.C.	10.
Staff Captain.	11.
War Diary.	12.-14.
Filo.	15.

*Man Being Not 27
Apr 7. Original*

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APPENDIX. 8

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
 No. G12/611
 Date 19.5.18

SECRET.

- 53rd Battalion.
- 54th Battalion.
- 55th Battalion.
- 56th Battalion.
- 14th L.T.M.B.

1. The 56th Battalion will relieve the 54th Battalion in the centre sector, on the night 20th/21st May, in accordance with forecast.
2. The 54th Battalion will take over bivouacs vacated by 56th Battalion, on relief.
3. Details of relief will be arranged between commanders concerned.
4. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by priority wire "G12/608 received", by the 56th Battalion when command passes, and by 54th Battalion when established in reserve position.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE. (Units by wire).

W. Schuyler Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

19/5/18.

- Copies to:-
- 5th Australian Division.
 - 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 14th Field Coy. A.E.
 - 14th M.G. Coy.
 - No. 3. Sig. Section.
 - 13th Bde. A.F.A.
 - War Diary. (3).
 - File.

War Diary Vol 27
App. 8. Original

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APPENDIX. 9.

SECRET.

Copy No. 14.

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 141.

Ref. Map.
Sheet 62.d.1/40,000.

Headquarters,
19/5/18.

1. With reference to 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 138 of 8th May, it is proposed at an early date to repeat the bombardment as laid down in the abovementioned order, with the exception that the artillery program will be varied.
2. The same code words will be used.
3. Date and Zero hour will be notified by wire.
4. Arrangements for transport will be made by Staff Captain with "D" Special Coy. R.E.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. L. ...
Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at p.m. to:-

	<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th L.T.M.B.	5.
<u>Copies to:-</u>	
13th Bde. A.F.A.	6.
5th Aust. Div.	7.
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	8.
15th Aust. Inf. Bde.	9.
12th Aust. Inf. Bde.	10.
14th M.G. Coy.	11.
25th M.G. Coy.	12.
14th Field Coy. A.E.	13.
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G.O.C.	17.
Staff Captain.	18.
"D" Special Coy. R.E.	19.
File.	20.

(See Listing Vol 27
 Appendix 9. Original

SECRET.

53rd Bn.
54th Bn.
55th Bn.
58th Bn.
14th L.T.M.B.

1. With reference to 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order 141 of 19th May, a special artillery program has been arranged in addition to the sheets already notified.

A Machine Gun program has also been arranged.

2. The artillery program will begin at a Zero hour to be notified later (not coincident with the projector shoot) and is outlined as follows:-

Zero to Zero plus 10 minutes.

113th Battery will fire gas into ACCROCHE WOOD.

5 sections engage selected battery positions in the area likely to be affected.

Remainder of Group fire on line P.16.b.75.35. to P.22.b.60.00. at Zero and drop 100 yds. every two minutes.

Rate of fire 3 rounds per gun per minute.

3. Machine Gun program:-

25th M.G.Coy. Zero plus 5 minutes.

Fire on roads and tracks in P.14.b.& d. for 2 minutes.

14th M.G.Coy. Zero to Zero plus 15 minutes, on selected targets in P.14., P.15., P.20. and P.22.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. G. Lewis
Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

23/5/18.

Copies to:-

5th Aust. Div.

14th M.G.Coy.

25th M.G.Coy.

G.O.C.

War Diary (3).

File.

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Appendix. 10.

SECRET.

APPENDIX. 10.

Major F.V. TRICKEY.

The following provisional instructions are issued for your guidance as to action in case of an attack, which threatens the right flank of the "A" Brigade from the direction of VILLERS BRETONNEUX:-

1. (a). On receipt of the order "take action" from this Headquarters you will immediately occupy the PIONEER SWITCH from its junction with the VILLERS LINE westward to O.16.d. and arrange for its defence until receipt of further orders from your own brigade.
 (b). You will report action taken to "C" Brigade who will also be informed from this Headquarters.
2. In the event of a situation which threatens your defensive line and the right flank of "A" Brigade developing without the knowledge of this headquarters, you will take action as in 1 (a) and report action taken to both "C" and "A" Brigades.
3. Control of your command by this Headquarters is limited to the instruction contained in paras. 1 and 2, and instructions as to further action to be taken will emanate from "C" Brigade.

20/5/18.

Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

*then Basis Vol 27.
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War Diary

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APPENDIX II

SECRET.

Copy No. 15

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.142.

Reference 1/40,000 Sheet 62.D.

Headquarters,
23rd May, 1918.

1. The 54th Battalion will relieve the 55th Battalion in the right sector on the ^{night} 24th/25th May, in accordance with forecast.
2. The 55th Battalion on relief will take over Bivouacs vacated by 54th Battalion.
3. Battalions will arrange mutually for continuity of work on dug-outs in the Terraces. No other parties will be called for on night of relief, but details of parties supplied will be handed over by 54th Battalion to enable the 55th Battalion to continue work on 25th May.
4. Details of relief will be arranged direct between commanders concerned.
5. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by priority wire "G12/609 received", by the 54th Battalion when command passes, and by 55th Battalion when established in the reserve position.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE. (Units by wire).

R. G. Shaw Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

<u>Issued through Signals at</u>	<u>p.m. to</u>
	<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th L.T.M.B.	5.
<u>Copies to:-</u>	
5th Australian Division.	6.
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	7.
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.	8.
15th Aust. Inf. Bde.	9.
14th Field Coy. A.E.	10.
25th M.G. Coy.	11.
13th Bde. A.F.A.	12.
14th M.G. Coy.	13.
G.O.C.	14.
Staff Captain.	15.
War Diary.	16-18.
File.	19.

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Vol 27.

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APPENDIX. 12 / 43

SECRET.

DEFENCE SCHEME.

A. BRIGADE SECTOR.

B. DIVISION.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

1. Herewith copy No. *14* of Defence Scheme for A. Brigade, B. Division. This scheme will be taken into use forthwith.

2. Distribution as follows:-

- Copy No. 1. Sector copy.
- 2. 5th Australian Division.
- 3. 53rd Battalion.
- 4. 54th Battalion.
- 5. 55th Battalion.
- 6. 56th Battalion.
- 7. 14th Machine Gun Company.
- 8. 14th Light Trench Mortar Battery.
- 9. Right Group Artillery.
- 10. Right Brigade.
- 11. Left Brigade.
- 12. 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.

3. Please acknowledge receipt.

16 5 '18.

Emerson
Captain,
A/Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

*Alan Beving. Vol. 27.
Appendix 12 Original*

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APPENDIX 19

SECRET.

Copy No. 14

PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

A. BRIGADE SECTOR.

B. DIVISION.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Contents.

- SECTION I. Description of Brigade Area:-
 - (i) Frontage.
 - (ii) Boundaries.
 - (iii) Topography.
- SECTION II. Description of Defences:-
Defensive Zone.
- SECTION III. Principles of Defence.
- SECTION IV. Method of holding the line:-
 - (i) Troops available for defence.
 - (ii) Infantry.
 - (iii) Machine Guns.
 - (iv) Trench Mortars.
 - (v) Artillery.
 - (vi) S.O.S. signals and relay stations.
 - (vii) Anti-Aircraft Defence.
 - (viii) Anti-Tank Defence.
- SECTION V. Action in case of attack.
- SECTION VI. Works Policy.
- SECTION VII. Normal Withdrawal Scheme.
- SECTION VIII. Defence against Gas.

A P P E N D I C E S.

- A. Map No.1. showing dispositions and locations of Headquarters.
- B. Administrative Instructions.
- C. Map No.2. shewing Machine Gun dispositions.
- D. Map No.3. shewing Communications.
- E. Map No.4. shewing Anti-Aircraft Lewis Guns.

PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

A. BRIGADE SECTOR.

B. DIVISION.

Reference Map - Sheet 62.d.

1/40,000.

SECTION I.

Description of Brigade Area.

- (1). Frontage. The frontage held by the Brigade extends from P.20.a.0.0. to P.8.b.3.0. a distance of approximately 2300 yards.
- (2). Boundaries. (a). Brigade. The northern boundary runs from P.8.b.3.0. - O.5.d.2.9., thence along the river SOMME (exclusive)
 Southern boundary runs from P.20.a.0.0. along East and West grid line through P.19. central. - P.23. central.
 (b). Inter-Battalion. P.13.b.70.05. - Cross roads at O.18.b.4.2. (Map 1. Appendix A. shows boundaries).
- (3). Topography. The area is marked by distinct tactical features and has good defensive qualities in the shape of command and observation. The highest point is in P.19. from there north to boundary the ridge slopes. The country is undulating with many terraces, and is quite open. Guns and vehicles can move across country quite well under present conditions.
 The soil is chalk with top layer of clay which makes it difficult to camouflage any work.

SECTION II.
DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCES.

The defences and troops of the sector are disposed in depth. The defensive zone is organized in three systems of defence:-

- (a). Firing line system.
- (b). Support system.
- (c). Reserve system.

- (a). The firing line system consists of a series of posts in echelon with two continuous belts of wire along whole front.

The connecting up of posts to make a continuous trench line is under construction.

- (b). Support line system is a continuous trench throughout, with single row of wire continuous which is being strengthened.

- (c). Reserve system is a continuous trench throughout with single row of wire strengthened on left Battalion sector, and two rows of wire on right Battalion sector. Tactical wire exists throughout.

Pioneer Switch which in the event of the right flanking unit losing ground will form a defensive flank.

This trench is continuous and has defensive and tactical wire which is being continued throughout. (See Map No.1.).

Improvements are being carried out on three systems, A number of splinterproof shelters have been constructed and fire steps erected in support and reserve lines. (See Map No.1.).

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SECTION. III.

PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE.

The front line system is the main line of resistance and will be held at all costs. To guard against surprise it is essential that close and constant observation of the enemy territory be maintained.

"No Man's Land" to be constantly patrolled by fighting patrols and a complete mastery of that ground maintained.

In the event of the enemy penetrating any part of the front line system there will be no withdrawal from other parts of the line in order to conform, but immediate counter attack will be launched under order of the Company, Platoon, or Section Commander as the case might be, the support line forming the assembly position.

All Commanders will draw up and communicate in writing, their plans of action in case of eventualities to their subordinates and neighbouring Commanders.

Defence Schemes will be kept up to date and handed over on relief to incoming units.

All Headquarters personnel will be armed and trained to meet attacks.

Written instructions for the rapid destruction of documents in case of an overwhelming attack by the enemy will be communicated to all concerned.

All unit commanders will have a reconnaissance made of all approaches from support and reserve areas to the front line. These routes will be marked to facilitate night traffic.

Constant touch must be maintained between Battalions and with the Brigades on either flank, and mutual protection and support given.

SECTION IV.

METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

1. Troops available for defence.

Troops available for defence in the Brigade area are:-

- 1 Infantry Brigade.
- 1 Field Artillery Brigade. (Plus 2, 18 pdr. Batteries).

2. Infantry.

(a). The brigade sector is divided into two battalion sectors each held by one battalion echeloned in depth, with two battalions in reserve.

The front line system is held by two companies in each battalion sector.

The support line system is garrisoned by one company in each battalion sector.

The reserve line in each battalion sector is held by one company.

Pioneer switch is garrisoned by 2 platoons of right reserve battalion from reserve line O.24.a.8.5. to O.22.b.5.8.

For dispositions of all battalions see Map No.1.

(b). Pioneer Battalion. This unit will be under the orders of Division except working parties in the forward system, who will man the nearest defensive line as directed by the nearest Battalion Commander. Officers and N.C.Os. in charge of such parties will report to the nearest Battalion Commander before they start new work in any sector and obtain from him instructions as to their actions in case of alarm.

(c). Field Company. The Field Company in the case of a general attack will stand to at their camp and await order from Brigade Commander.

Parties in the forward area at the time will comply with general instructions and will report to the officer in charge of the nearest post for orders. When the situation permits, R.E. personnel will apply to the officer in charge of the post, for permission to report back to the Officer Commanding, Field Company.

An Engineer Officer will be detailed by Officer Commanding, Field Company, to report to Brigade Headquarters for liaison duties. The infantry parties attached to Field Coy. will stand to and report to O.C., Field Coy. for orders.

3. Machine Guns. The Brigade front is covered by 1 Machine Gun Company, 16 guns with flank guns co-operating with the outer flank guns of flanking units for mutual protection.

Guns are located and fulfil tasks as indicated in Appendix C. Map No.2.

4. Trench Mortars. There are 8 Light Trench Mortars in the area, 4 in position as follows:-

<u>Right Battalion.</u>	2 at P.19.b.65.70.	S.O.S. line Cross road P.20.a.3.6. and vicinity.
<u>Left Battalion.</u>	2 at P.7.d.9.7.	S.O.S. line in front of enemy post at P.8.d.

4 guns are held in reserve at Battery Headquarters O.17.c.2.9. 100 pounds of ammunition per gun is kept at gun position. Heavy Trench Mortars are emplaced as follows:-

2 guns at P.8.b.2.3.

5. Artillery. The Brigade sector is covered by the Right Group Artillery (one R.F.A. Brigade plus two 18 pdr. Batteries) with Headquarters at the ASYLUM, FOULLLOY. The group consists of five 18 pdr. Batteries and one 4.5. Howitzer Battery, all of 6 guns each. The 4.5. Howitzer Battery is engaged on harassing fire over the whole front. For the S.O.S. and 18 pdr. barrage is placed along the whole front on the line -

P.20.c.60.35., P.20.a.60.50. - P.14.c.70.00.- P.14.d.00.70., P.14.b.30.40., P.14.b.40.60. P.8.d.60.30. P.9.a.4.4.

When guns are silent they are loaded and laid on S.O.S. lines ready to open on S.O.S. signal.

Liaison barrages with the artillery on the right and left flanks whereby batteries covering the flanking Brigades if not required for the defence of their own sectors, would assist in repelling an attack on this Brigade sector.

The Corps Heavy Artillery is available for battery counter work or the destruction of enemy positions. Requests for fire from this artillery are made by brigade through the Artillery Group.

An Artillery Liaison Officer remains at Brigade and line Battalion Headquarters.

6. S.O.S. signals. The S.O.S. signal will only be used in the case of an actual attack. If the enemy are seen massing it will not be used, but warning will be sent by telephone to the artillery who will take necessary action. Repeating Stations are established at Battalion and Company Headquarters. Supplementary S.O.S. signal for use in fog:-

The means employed will be a series of short bugle calls which have been notified to units.

Alarm repeating stations have been established. These are located as follows:-

Right Battalion. P.19.b.3.7. O.24.a.4.6.
Right Reserve Battalion O.17.c.3.6. O.17.c.8.3.

Left Battalion. P.14.a.1.7. P.7.d.2.5.
O.18.b.9.4.

Left Reserve Battalion. O.18.a.8.9.

Brigade Observation Post. I.30.a.5.2.
Right Battalion Observation Post. P.13.a.50.15.
Left Battalion Observation Post. P.13.a.55.30.

Anti-Aircraft Defence.

The Lewis Gun Anti-Aircraft defence of the sector is arranged in 2 echelons as follows:-

1st. Echelon. Lewis Guns are located at:-
P.8.c.10.40., P.13.c.00.50., P.13.b.80.25., P.13.a.25.15.,
P.13.a.70.70., P.7.d.00.10., P.7.d.50.80., O.24.b.05.35.

2nd. Echelon. Lewis Guns are located at:-
O.24.a.40.80., O.18.c.70.55., O.18.a.80.30., O.18.b.05.95.,
O.12.c.90.15., O.12.d.45.55., O.12.b.95.30., O.7.a.55.40.,
O.18.a.30.60., O.12.c.70.35., O.17.c.05.60., O.17.c.80.65.,
O.17.c.10.45.

8. Anti-Tank Defence. 2 anti-tank guns (15 pdrs.) are in position in the Brigade sector located as follows:-

Right Battalion Sector. P.19.b.00.90.

Left Battalion Sector. P.8.c.20.00.

100 rounds of H.S. ammunition are at each of these positions and they are manned by the personnel of the 10th Aust.M.T.M. Battery. Reliefs are arranged by the D.T.M.O.

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8. Anti-Tank Defence. (Otd).

In addition, one battery of the R.H.A. Brigade, in mobile reserve, has a roving commission south of the SOMME, with the special role of dealing with hostile tanks. Also one section of 18 pdrs. is detailed as an anti-tank section.

Anti-tank pits have been constructed at following locations:-

- P. 20.a.20.75.
- P. 8.c.50.30.
- P. 8.b.15.20.

SECTION V.
ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

Probable forms of Attack. Three forms of attack must be anticipated:-

- (a). A minor attack in the form of a raid to secure identification or seize a locality.
- (b). A deliberate prepared attack with artillery bombardment.
- (c). A surprise attack without artillery preparation.

The extent and intensity of the enemy's bombardment should be an indication of his objective.

In the event of the enemy penetrating our line, he is to be counter attacked from both flanks and from support trenches where such are in sufficiently close proximity. The counter attack will be launched immediately by the Company, Platoon or Section Commander as the case might be. Swiftness of delivery is essential for success.

Officers Commanding, Support Companies, will deliver counter attack at their own discretion.

Reserve Companies will stand to, arrange reconnaissance forward, and await orders from Battalion Headquarters, unless the situation demands otherwise. Reserve Battalions will at all times be ready to move at 10 minutes notice.

On receipt of word that a hostile attack has been launched, reserve battalions will warn all companies to 'stand to' and will await orders. Commanders concerned must realize that no action beyond the 'stand to' is to be taken except on orders from the Brigade Commander. Unless the immediate situation demands it, in which case Bn. Commanders will act, and immediately advise Brigade of action taken.

Action of Working Parties. All working parties in the Brigade area at the time an attack takes place, will form up in the nearest cover and report their position to the nearest Platoon, Company, or Battalion Headquarters, and place themselves under that commander until he considers that the situation will allow them to rejoin their units.

Immediately the S.O.S. Signal is sent up indicating a hostile attack, the S.O.S. barrage will come down on the line indicated in Section 4.

Rates of fire will be as follows:-

3	rounds per gun for 5 minutes.
2	" " " " 10 "
1	" " " " 5 "

If the S.O.S. signal or message is repeated after cessation of fire, the initial rate of fire will be reverted to at once and procedure carried out as above. fire

In the event of a break through, artillery will not be opened on the captured locality without the sanction of the G.O.C. Brigade.

Machine Guns will fire on S.O.S. as follows:-

8 guns from P.20.c.85.15. to P.20.b.15.15.

Remainder of guns will fire on definite targets and will switch on to any targets that present.

Rates of fire will be 150 rounds per gun per minute. 750 rounds per gun will be fired on S.O.S. remainder will be reserved for direct fire. 14 Belts of 250 rounds will be held in reserve, also 4000 rounds S.A.A. in bulk at each Machine Gun position.

SECTION VI.WORKS POLICY.

1. Each Battalion in the line will appoint an works officer who will ensure continuity of policy in each sector.
2. Order of importance of work to be carried out will be as follows:-
 - (a). Joining up of front line posts to make a continuous trench line. Strengthening wire along whole of front line.
 - (b). Improvement of support line, e.g., strengthening wire, erecting splinterproof shelters and general maintenance.
 - (c). Completing of Pioneer Switch from front line through P.13.d.-P.19.b.2.8. to reserve line at O.24.b.2.6.(approx.) e.g. connecting up of S.P's. and completion of defensive and tactical wiring.

Communications

General. / Maintenance and improvement of reserve line, Headquarters, O.P's. and gasproofing of all deep dug-outs. The Engineer, Field Company, attached to the Brigade will render technical assistance, but Battalion Commanders will be responsible for the actual work.

There must be continuity of work.

In event of normal reliefs, Works Officer will hand over to incoming units all work in progress and full details of the defences.

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SECTION VII.

NORMAL WITHDRAWAL SCHEME.

The Brigade is to hold the forward zone at all costs, but in case of an overwhelming attack against Front or Flanks, or both, units will withdraw fighting in zone marked on Map "Normal Withdrawal Scheme" already issued to units. It must be understood that the zone shown on Map only caters for a normal withdrawal, as circumstances may render it necessary for Commanders to depart from the plans laid down, therefore nothing definite can be laid down.

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SECTION VIII.

DEFENCE AGAINST GAS.

APPENDIX. 12

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GAS ZONES.

Authority III Corps No. G.O. 8885.
5th Divnl. Memo. G17/4502 of 11/4/18..

Alert Zone. East of Line boundary, LA NEUVILLE, AUBIGNY,
Cross Roads O.8.b.5.6., Railway Crossing O.25.c.7.4.
In this zone S.B.R's. will be worn in Alert position.
Between Alert Zone boundary and line AMIENS
to RAINEVILLE, S.B.R's. will always be carried.

ACTION IN CASE OF GAS ATTACK.

1. Cloud Attack.

- (i). Alarm will immediately be given by all means, rattles, gongs, voice.
- (ii). Units detecting cloud gas attack will immediately warn all neighbouring units (Battalions, Companies) by wire, wireless, visual signals; and the alarm will be sent on to Brigade Headquarters.
- (iii). Should cloud attack be made accompanied by Infantry action, no S.O.S. will be sent, but the letters G.A.S. followed by the name of the trench or location of the position opposite to which the gas is being liberated.
- (iv). This message will not be sent in case of gas shell, T.M., or Projector gas attack.
- (v). The attack will be immediately reported to Brigade Headquarters.
- (vi). Action to be taken within units will be governed by S.S. 534, March 1918 and S.S. 212. April, 1918.

2. Gas Shell Attack.

- (i). At first sign of gas shells falling in vicinity breath will be held and respirators will be adjusted immediately, without waiting for the presence of gas to be recognised.
- (ii). Alarm will be given by rattles, gongs, voice, after respirator has been adjusted. This alarm will be confined to the vicinity shelled. Strombos Horns will not be used.
- (iii). Brigade Headquarters will be immediately notified of the location of the area shelled, the number and kind of gas shells used, and the time.
- (iv). Further action in accordance with:-
S.S. 534. March 1918. and
S.S. 212. April 1918.

3. Projector Attacks.

- (i). Alarm will be given as in case of cloud attack except that signal G. A.S. will not be sent.
- (ii). All troops within 1500 yds. of front line will be roused.
- (iii). All units occupying localities anywhere in the Brigade Area which are down wind from the locality attacked will be specially on the alert in case of the cloud from the projector bombs reaching them.
- (iv). All units within 1500 yards of the front line will be specially alert for a repetition of the attack.
- (v). Further action within units in accordance with S.S. 534. March 1918, Sections viii - xxv inclusive omitting xvi and xxii.

F. Meerkel
Captain,
A/Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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APPENDIX 12

14TH
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE
G7/1073
30-5-18

S E C R E T.

AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

A. BRIGADE SECTOR.

B. DIVISION.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

SECTION IV. PARA. 7.

Anti-Aircraft Lewis Guns.

1st Echelon.

O. 34. b. 95. 35.	P. 13. c. 00. 50.	P. 13. a. 25. 15.
P. 13. a. 70. 70.	P. 7. d. 00. 10.	P. 7. d. 55. 60.
P. 2. c. 10. 95.	P. 2. a. 68. 30.	P. 2. c. 00. 15a.

2nd Echelon.

O. 24. a. 4. 30.	O. 18. c. 70. 55.	O. 18. a. 78. 30.
O. 18. a. 87. 87.	O. 12. c. 90. 10.	O. 12. d. 50. 50.
P. 7. a. 50. 40.	P. 1. c. 30. 40.	P. 1. a. 73. 45.
		J. 31. c. 35. 25.

Additional Guns Reserve Battalion.

O. 18. a. 50. 50.	O. 18. a. 55. 50.	O. 18. a. 60. 50.
O. 12. c. 55. 10.	O. 12. c. 60. 12.	O. 12. c. 65. 15.
O. 12. c. 30. 20.	O. 12. c. 60. 45.	O. 12. d. 50. 40.
		O. 12. d. 35. 35.

This cancels para. 7 of Section iv, Scheme dated 16th May, 1918.

Alfred
Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

23rd May, 1918.

Issued to recipients of Provisional Defence Scheme dated 16/5/18.

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Appendix. 12.

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Copy no 12
APPENDIX. 12

Attached find Amendments and Section I, dated 24th May,
to "Provisional Defence Scheme A. Brigade Sector, B. Division".
Please acknowledge.

26/5/18.

Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.



The following Amendments are issued to "Provisional Defence Scheme, A. Brigade Sector, B. Division" issued on 16th May, 1918:-

attached
SECTION I of original scheme is cancelled and should be destroyed and SECTION I dated 24th May, substituted.

SECTION IV. Para. 2. PIONEER SWITCH.

The holding of the PIONEER SWITCH east of the VILLERS LINE is the responsibility of A. Brigade, and will be utilised by the right battalion for the protection of its right flank in case of necessity.

The PIONEER SWITCH west of the VILLERS LINE has been taken over by C. Brigade and is at present garrisoned by a nucleus of two platoons with two companies (less two platoons) in support in O.17.c. to occupy the line if occasion arises.

SECTION IV. Para. 3. MACHINE GUNS.

The Brigade front is covered by one Machine Gun Company (16 guns) and 7 guns of a second Machine Gun Company, making a total of 23 guns. These are sited for direct and indirect fire covering the front line, and direct fire covering the support and reserve lines, and co-operate with flank guns of flanking units for mutual protection.

Guns are located and fulfil tasks as indicated in Appendix C. Map No. 2.

SECTION IV. Para. 5. ARTILLERY.

The Brigade Sector is covered by the Right Group Artillery and portion of the Centre Group Artillery, making about 6. 18pdr. batteries 2 4.5" Howitzer batteries with portion of a third artillery brigade superimposed. Headquarters of the Right Group Artillery are at the HOSPICE, FOUILLOY.

For the S.O.S. an 18 pdr. barrage is placed along the whole front on the line -

P.20.c.90.90. -P.14.c.70.00.-P.14.d. 00.70.-P.14.b.30.40.-P.14.b.40.60.-P.8.d.60.30.- P.9.a. 40.40.-P.3.c.50.00.-P.3.b.50.50.

The 4.5" Howitzers will bombard specially selected points.

When guns are silent they are loaded and laid on S.O.S. lines ready to open on S.O.S. signal.

Liaison barrages with the artillery on the right and left flanks whereby batteries covering the flanking Brigades if not required for the defence of their own sectors, would assist in repelling an attack on this Brigade sector.

The Corps Heavy Artillery is available for counter battery work or the destruction of enemy positions. Requests for fire from this artillery are made by brigade through the Artillery Group.

An Artillery Liaison Officer remains at Brigade and line Battalion Headquarters.

SECTION V. Rates of fire for S.O.S.

First 8 minutes - 4 rounds p.g. p.m.
Second 7 " - 3 rounds p.g. p.m.

24/5/18.

A. G. Lewis Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued to recipients of
Provisional Defence Scheme dated 15th May.

PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.A. BRIGADE SECTOR.D. DIVISION.Reference Map - Sheet 62.D. 1/40,000.SECTION I.Description of Brigade Area.

- (1). Frontage. The frontage held by the Brigade extends from P.20.a.0.0. to P.2.b.70.30. (VAIRE-HAMEL ROAD inc.), a distance of approximately 3,500 yards.
- (2). Boundaries. (a). Brigade. The northern boundary runs from P.2.b.70.30. along northern side of VAIRE -sous-CORBIE - HAMEL ROAD to J.32.a.3.0. thence west along E. and W. grid to the SOMME RIVER (exclusive).
Southern boundary runs from P.20.a.0.0. along East and West grid line through O.19. central - O.23. central.
- (b). Inter-Battalion. P.13.b.70.05. - Cross roads at O.18.b.4.2. & P.8.b.3.0. - O.5.d.2.9. (Map 1. Appendix A. shows boundaries).
- (3). Topography. The area is marked by distinct tactical features and has good defensive qualities in the shape of command and observation. The highest point is in P.19. from there north to boundary the ridge slopes. The country is undulating with many terraces, and is quite open. Guns and vehicles can move across country quite well under present conditions. The soil is chalk with top layer of clay which makes it difficult to camouflage any work.

24th May, 1918.

Volume No 27

War Diary

Map. 1.

Appendix 12

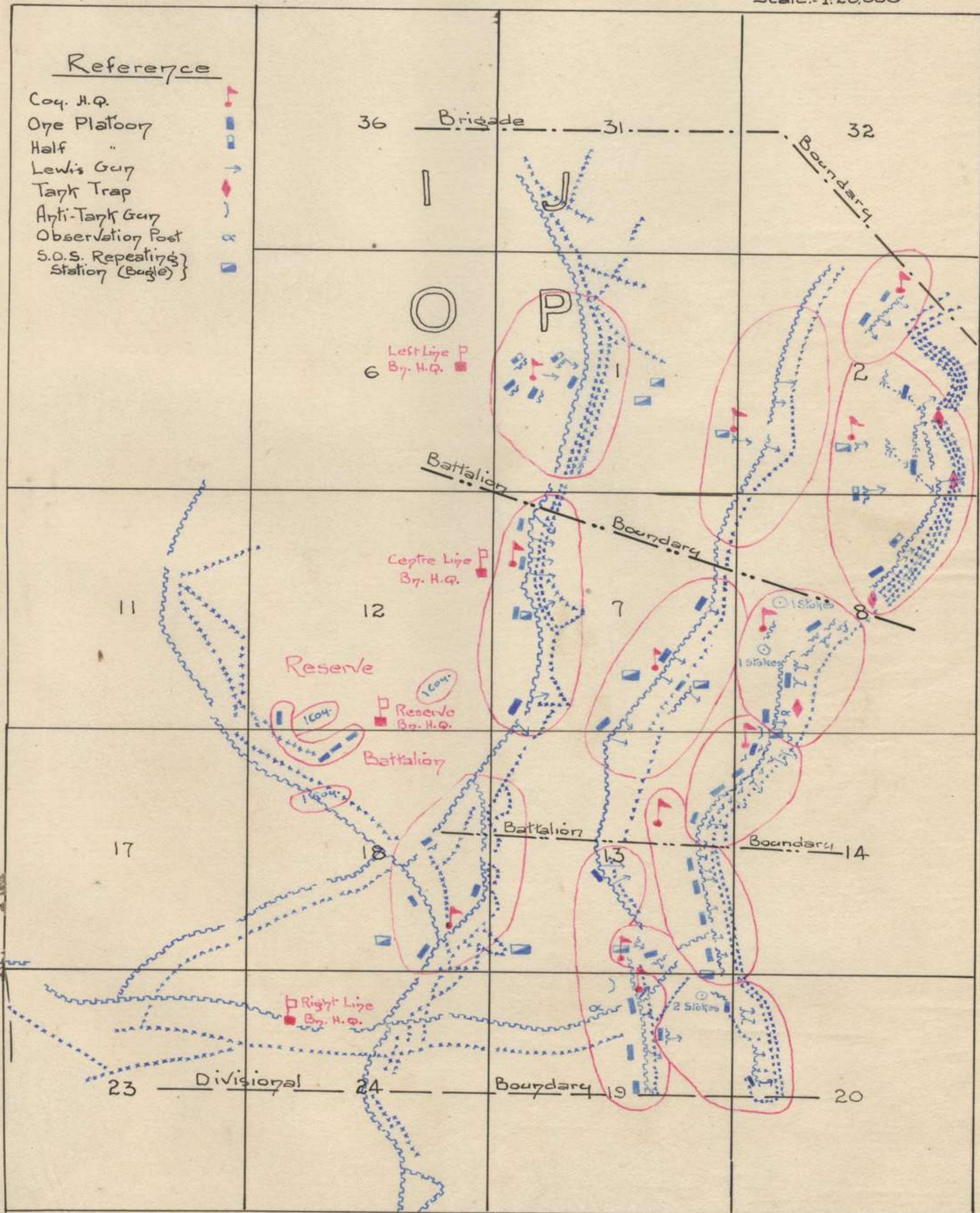
Distribution Plan

14th A.I. Bde.

Original

Part of Sheets
62° N.E., S.E., N.W., S.W.

Scale: 1:20,000



260

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Original

Volume 27

Appendix 12

Defence Scheme

Vickers Machine Guns

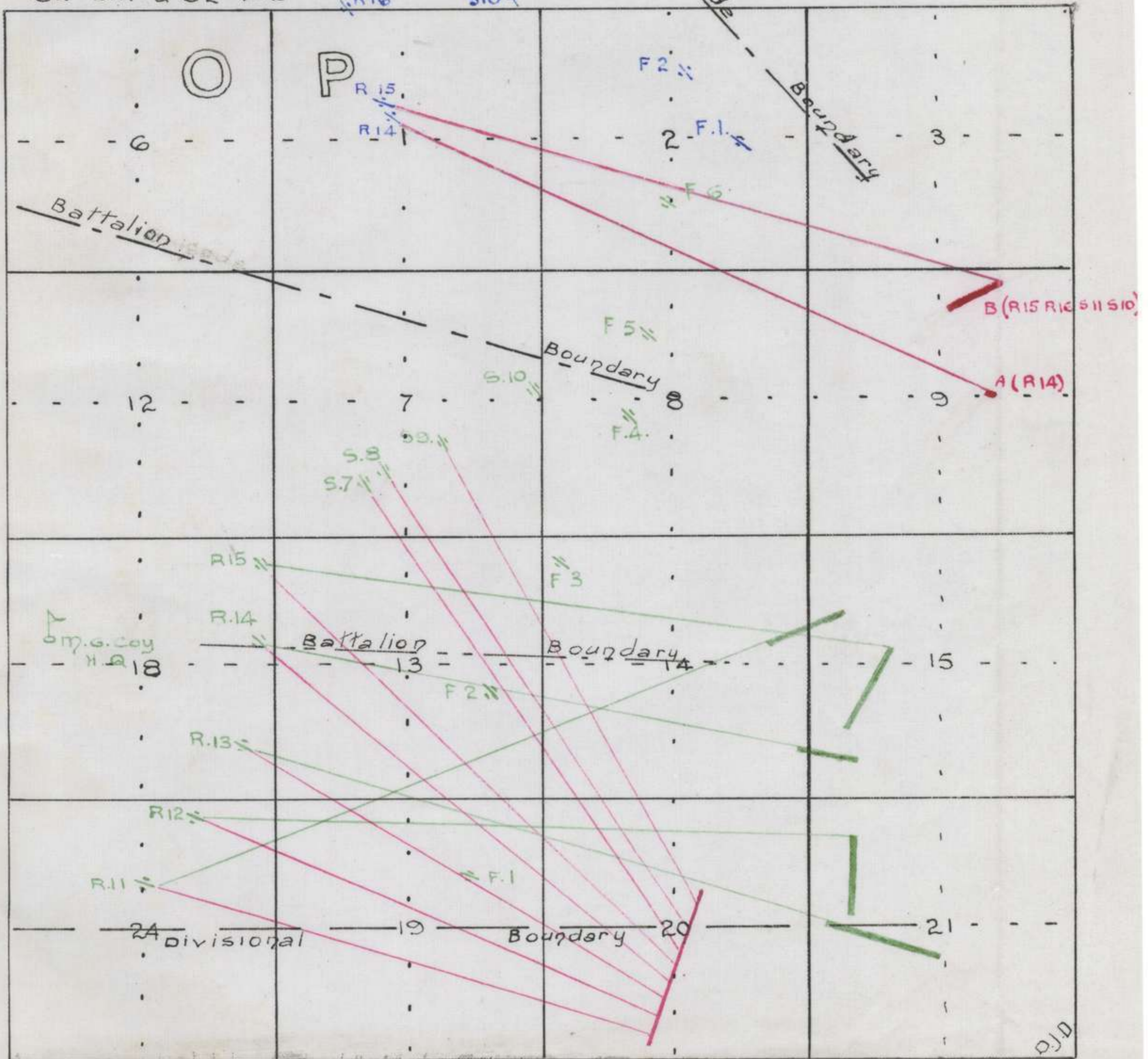
Secret

14th A. I. Bde.

Map 2

Traced from sheets
62° S.W. & 62° S.E

1:20000



Reference

Vickers Machine Gun (Right Coy) ———

(Left Coy) ———

S.O.S. Line ———

Harassing Fire Tasks ———

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WAR DIARY

Original.

Volume No. 27.

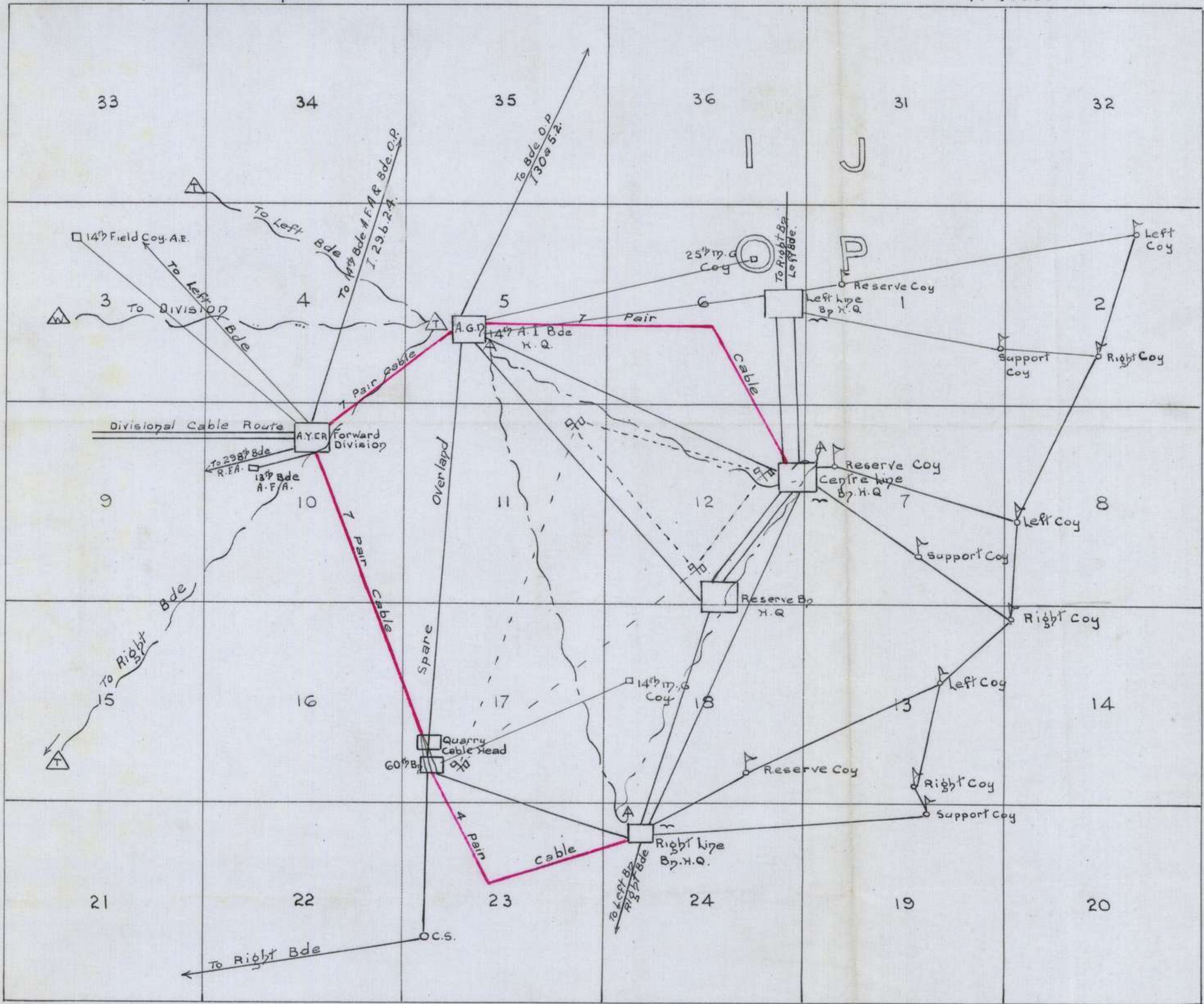
Appendix 12

Signal Communications 14th A.I Bde

map 3

Traced from sheets
62° D.W. D.E. S.W. and S.E.

1:20000



Reference	
metallic ground wires	—
visual stations	⊗ . . . ⊗
wireless	~~~~~
trench set	△
wilson set	△
P. B and A.	↑
pigeon	⋈
Brigade Cable Route	— (pink)

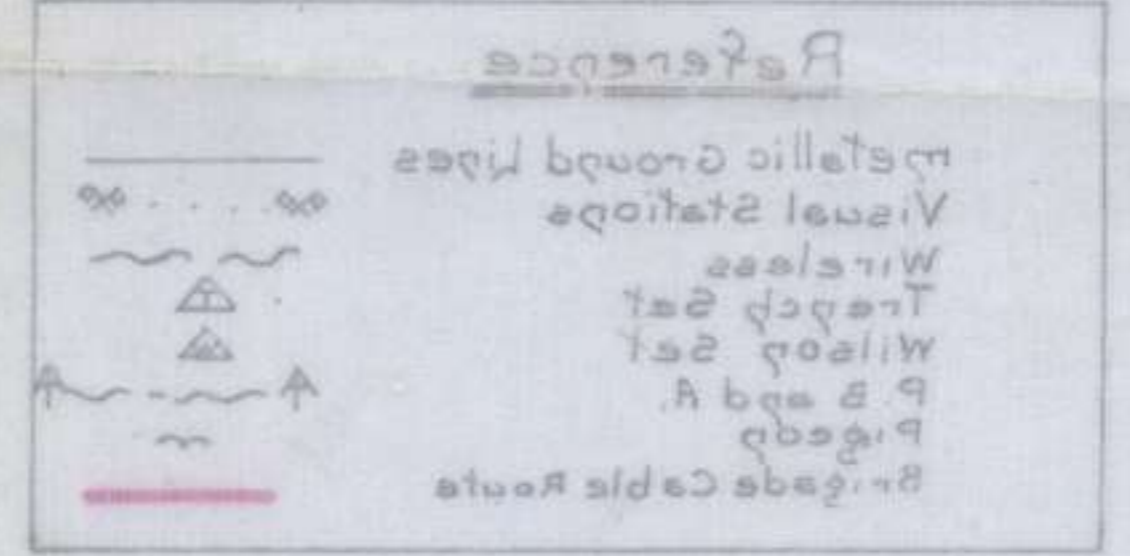
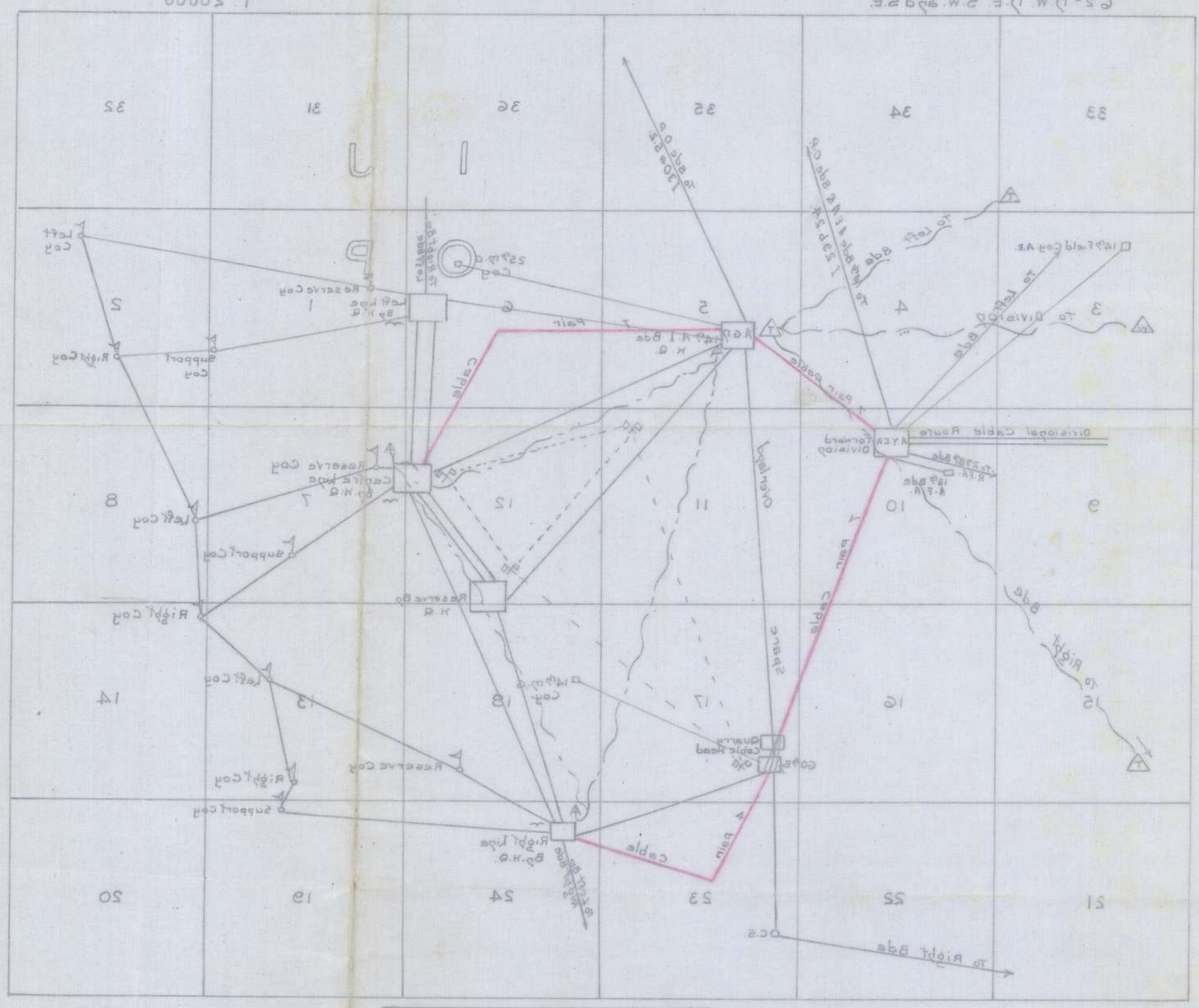
Signal Communications

14th A I Bde

Map 3

Traced from sheets
ESD.W.D.E.S.W. 528.8

1:50000



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Appendix. 12.

62

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War Diary

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Volume No 27

Appendix 12

Anti Aircraft Lewis Guns

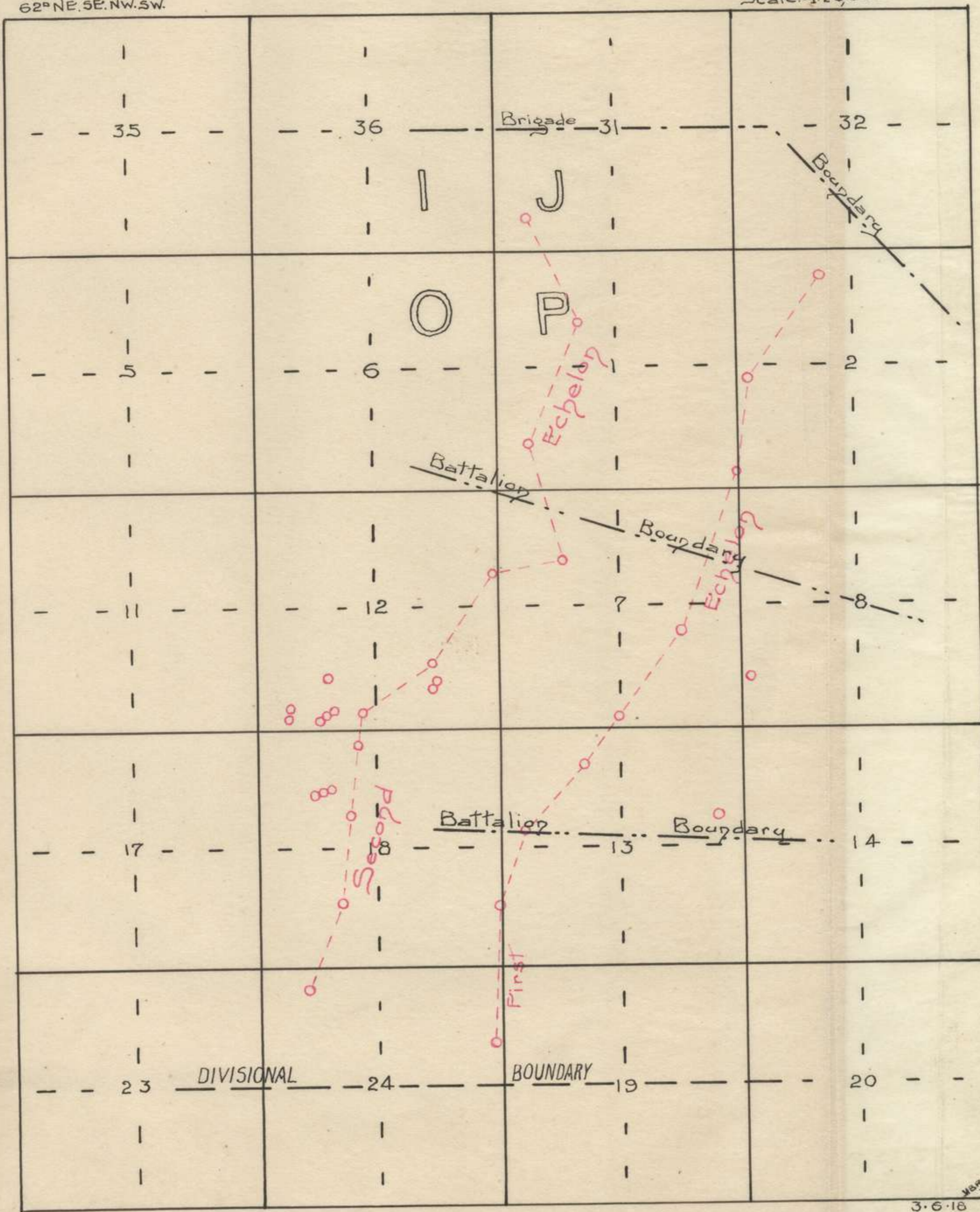
Map 4

14th A.I. Bde.

Original.

Part of Sheets
62° NE. SE. NW. SW.

Scale: 1:20,000



3.6.18

APPENDIX. 13

Supplementary S.O.S. Bugle Calls.

1. In the event of a heavy hostile bombardment, it is considered that bugle S.O.S. calls may not be picked up by the repeating stations now in existence. It has, therefore, been decided to decrease the distances between such stations between the front line and Battalion Headquarters.
2. S.O.S. Bugle "Alarm Posts" and "Alarm Repeating Stations" will be established as follows:-

<u>Right Battalion.</u>	P.13.d.8.0.	P.13.d.1.2.
	P.13.c.2.2.	O.18.d.1.3.
<u>Centre Battalion.</u>	P. 8.c.3.0.	P. 7.d.5.4.
	P. 7.d.1.5.	P. 7.a.3.0.
<u>Left Battalion.</u>	P. 2.d.6.3.	P. 8.c.9.4.
	P.1. d.9.5.	P. 1.d.2.8. P.1.d.3.9.
3. A test S.O.S. (Bugle) Call will be carried out on night 25/26th May, 1918.
4. All "Alarm Posts" will sound the call (note "G" in groups of three) at 10.p.m. and it will be picked up and repeated by all "Alarm Repeating Stations". Time of receipt of signal at Battalion Headquarters will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by telephone.
5. An artillery shoot will be arranged for 10.p.m. so that the scheme may be tested during artillery fire.
6. Watches will be synchronised with Brigade Headquarters at 7.p.m.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

23/5/18.

13th A.F.A.Bde.

Would you please arrange a program for a shoot to take place in accordance with Para. 5 above, from 9.58.p.m. to 10.5.p.m. providing for postponement if it is found that arrangements are not yet complete on the relays.

23/5/18.

(Sgd).R.G.LEGGE, Major,
Brigade Major, 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Report on S.O.S. Test.

As a test of the Supplementary S.O.S. Bugle Calls held on night 7/8th instant showed that "Alarm Posts" and "Alarm Repeating Stations" should be situated closer together, a re-grouping of these posts was effected and a further test was carried out on night May 25/26th during a shoot by our artillery.

The wind was Westerly and consequently adversely affected the passing of the Bugle Call.

The right battalion "Repeating Stations" could not pick up the call owing to the noise of our bombardment and that of the enemy on their right flank. The call did not reach Battalion H.Q.

In the Centre Sector the call was picked up at Battalion H.Q. 8 minutes after being first sounded in the front line but difficulty was experienced by "Repeating Stations".

The "Alarm Post" sounded six groups (of three G's.) before the call was heard by the first "Alarm Repeating Station".

The left battalion could not carry out the test as sufficient competent buglers were not available.

From these tests the Bugle Call does not appear to be satisfactory for Supplementary S.O.S. Signal, and it is believed that, in the event of a gas attack and the consequent wearing of S.B.R's. it would fail entirely.

26/5/18.

Appendix 13
 Don & Drury
 Vol 27
 Original.

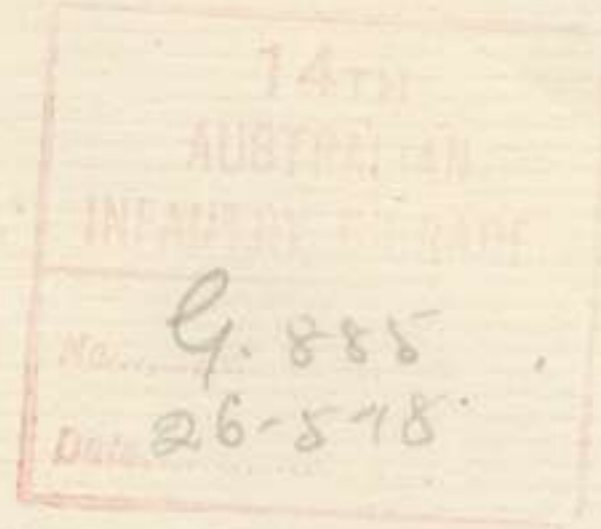
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APPENDIX. 14

SECRET.

- 53rd Battalion.
- 54th Battalion.
- 55th Battalion.
- 56th Battalion.
- 14th L.T.M.B.
- 14th M.G.Coy.
- 25th M.G.Coy.
- 13th Bde. A.F.A.
- 10th A.M.T.M.B.



1. A combined Artillery, H.T.M., L.T.M, and Machine Gun shoot is to be carried out against the enemy defences in the copse at P.14.central. at a time and date to be notified later.
2. The artillery program will include a destructive shoot by five 18 pdr. batteries firing at 3 rounds per gun per minute on P.14.d.00.70. to P.14.b.00.20. and one 4.5" How. battery firing at 2 rounds per howitzer per minute from P.14.d.25.40. to P.14.b.50.20., from Zero to Zero plus 10 minutes.
3. The 6" T.Ms. will fire 50 rounds on the southern end of the copse and the 14th L.T.M.Battery will fire 100 rounds on the same target.
4. (a). Two guns 14th M.G.Coy. will engage targets at P.14.c. 95.95. and P.14.b.10.10. from Zero to Zero plus 15 minutes.
(b). The 25th M.G.Coy. will engage targets on the copse at P.14.central. and the arm extending N.W. through P.14.b.
5. Date and Zero hour will be notified later.
6. Watches will be synchronised by units concerned with WFO at 7.p.m. on date notified.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

26/5/18.
 Copies to:-
 5th Aust. Div.
 5th Div. Arty.
 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 Adv. H.Q., 60th Bn.
 14th Field Coy.
 War Diary. (3).
 File.

R. J. Ross Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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 Original.

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Appendix. 14

APPENDIX. 14

14TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.	
No.	614/925
Date	27-5-18

SECRET.

Reference para. 5 of this office memo of 25th instant arranging combined Artillery, Trench Mortar and Machine Gun Operation against Central Copse.

Date and hour of ZERO is 2.a.m. night 27th/28th May.

Units acknowledge.

[Signature]
 Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

27th May, 1918.
 Issued to recipients of above memo.

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APPENDIX. 15.

14TH
 AUSTRALIAN
 INF. BRIGADE.
 817/918
 Date 27-5-18

S E C R E T.

- 53rd Battalion.
- 54th Battalion.
- 55th Battalion.
- 56th Battalion.
- 14th L.T.M.B.

1. The 55th Battalion will relieve the 53rd Battalion in the left sector, A. Brigade front on the night 28th/29th May, in accordance with forecast.
2. The 53rd Battalion on relief will take over bivouacs vacated by 55th Battalion.
3. Completion of relief will be notified by acknowledgement of G12/610.
4. Provisions of 14th Brigade Order No. 142. of 23rd May will be observed.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE (Units only).

R. G. ... Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- 27/5/18.
 Copies to:-
- 5th Aust. Division.
 - 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 14th Field Coy. A.E.
 - 25th M.G. Coy.
 - 14th M.G. Coy.
 - 13th Bde. A.F.A.
 - G.O.C.
 - Staff Captain.
 - War Diary. (3).
 - File.

War Diary Vol. 27.
 Appendix 15
 Original

1. An issue of message carrying rockets is being made to Battalion and Artillery for S.O.S. purposes in foggy or bad weather as an alternative to the bugle call scheme.

2. "Alarm Posts" and "Repeating Stations" will be established as under:-

Right Battalion.	"Alarm Posts". P.13.b.30.20. P.19.b.20.90.	"Repeating Stations". O.24.a.30.60. O.17.a.30.30.
Centre Battalion.	P.14.a.10.90. P. 8.c.10.80.	O.12.b.90.50. O.17.a.30.30.
Left Battalion.	P.2.b.40.60. P.2.c.90.35.	O. 6.b.70.00. O.12.d.10.30. O.17.a.30.30.

The "Repeating Station" at O.17.a.30.30. will be manned by the Artillery.

3. A proportion of message carrying rockets will be set apart for S.O.S. purposes and will be prepared and held ready at all times for instant despatch, the rocket being specially marked "S.O.S. message rocket".

4. A test will be carried out tonight May 27th/28th. Zero hour will be 1.37.a.m.

5. The message in the rocket used will be "Test S.O.S." May 27th/28th. Only one rocket from each station should be used except in the case of a failure.

6. A report on the test will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 6.a.m. 28th instant.

7. Watches will be synchronised at 8.p.m.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

27/5/18.

With reference to your G3/274 - Supplementary S.O.S. Signals.

A trial was carried out with message carrying rockets on night 27th/28th.

At 1.37.a.m. rockets were fired from the vicinity of all front line Company Headquarters to their Battalion Headquarters where they were picked up at times varying from 30 to 60 seconds later.

Rockets were immediately despatched to 51st Battery A.F.A. in O.17.a.3.3. which served as a "Repeating Station" to Headquarters, 13th A.F.A. Brigade.

The test was most successful and the result points to the superiority of the message carrying rockets for Supplementary S.O.S. over the bugle call system.

28/5/18.

*Appendix 16. Original
War Diary. 1st 27.*

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14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
4114/1053
30-5-18

APPENDIX. 14
Copy No. 13..

SECRET.

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 143.

Ref. Map
Sheet 62.d. 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
30.5.18.

1. Gas projectors are now installed at approximately P.13.b.0.0.
2. On a date and a time to be notified later, 250 drums will be loaded into the projectors and fired on enemy defence in Copse at P.14.central.
3. Wind limits are S.W. through W. to N.N.W.
4. Following code words will be used in connection with this operation:-
 - LUMI. Operation will take place.
 - DUST. Operation cancelled.
 - DULL. Operation did not take place.
 - DOPE. Operation completed.
5. All troops in P.13.b.& d. and P.14.a. will remain under cover as far as possible, and wear their box respirators from ZERO - 5 minutes until they receive orders from an officer that all is clear.
6. Artillery will co-operate. Details are being arranged by 13th A.F.A. Brigade.
7. O.C., "H" Special Coy, R.E., will be at Brigade Headquarters.
8. ZERO hour will not be before midnight and will be notified by wire.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. G. Hesse
Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at ²⁴⁵ p.m. to:-

	Copy No.	
53rd Battalion.	1.	
54th Battalion.	2.	
55th Battalion.	3.	
56th Battalion.	4.	
14th L.F.M.B.	5.	
Copies to:-		
8th M.G. Coy.	6.	
14th Field Coy. A.E.	7.	
13th A.F.A. Bde.	8.	War Diary. 13-15)
5th Aust. Division.	9.	G.O.C. 16.
8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	10.	Staff Captain. 17.
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.	11.	"H" Special Coy. 18.
15th Aust. Inf. Bde.	12.	File. 19.
		25th M.G. Coy. 20.

*Appendix 17.
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Original*

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APPENDIX. 18

69

Headquarters 137th Infantry,
May 27th, 1918.

Brigadier General J.C. Stewart, D.S.O.,
14th Brig., 5th Australian Div.,
(Thru Hq. 30th (British) Div.)

My dear General:-

I take this occasion to express in writing my deep appreciation of your courtesy toward the American Officers sent to your Brigade and toward myself. It seems to me that nothing which you could have done to make our stay both interesting and profitable was left undone. I know that this is true in my own case and I have every reason to believe that it is true in all cases. The element of personal interest shown by yourself has been a factor of ~~in~~expressible helpfulness. It is a matter of regret to me that I know of no material way in which I can express the appreciation which I feel.

We have all returned with the feeling that the Australians, both officers and men, are the "best ever". The enthusiasm among our people over your brains, quality and spirit is very high.

With kindest personal regards to you and your officers, and the very best wishes for your personal success and advancement, I am,

Cordially yours,

(Sgd). C. HAMILTON.
Colonel 137th Infantry, N.G.U.S.A.

eld.

*Has diary Vol. 27.
Appx. 15. Original*

14TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. 912/1071
Date 20-5-18

APPENDIX 19

Copy No. 19

SECRET.

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 144.

Reference 1/20,000 Sheet 62.d.S.E. & S.W.
1/40,000 Sheet 62.d.

Headquarters,
30th May, 1918.

1. (a). The 8th Australian Division (less Artillery) will be relieved by the 4th Australian Division in the "B" Division Sector on 31st May/1st. June and 1st/2nd June.
(b). On relief the Division will be in Corps Reserve.
2. (a). The 14th Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 4th Infantry Brigade in "A" Brigade Sector on night 31st/1st. and will move into Divisional Reserve.
(b). On 1st June the 14th Infantry Brigade will move to QUERRIEU and take over the area vacated by the 13th Infantry Brigade.
3. Moves will be made in accordance with the attached move table.
4. (a). The 56th Battalion will be the advanced battalion of the Brigade in the AUBIGNY system and will be responsible for the provision of a nucleus garrison of two platoons in the PIONEER SWITCH (supported by two companies less two platoons in O.17.c.) at present supplied by 60th Battalion. Reconnaissance will be made in accordance with instruction already issued.
(b). The 55th Battalion will be the advanced battalion of the Brigade in the QUERRIEU area and will be disposed as the nucleus garrison of the LA HOUSOYE system. Separate instructions will be issued giving detail of this task.
5. (a). Defence Schemes, Works Policies, and all Maps and photographs relating to sector information will be handed over and receipts obtained.
(b). All trench stores, shelters, ammunition, S.O.S. Signals, Rockets, General Purpose and Reserve Rations will be handed over on relief. Particular attention is directed to General Purpose and Reserve Rations.
The usual Handing Over and Taking Over Certificates showing consolidated stores, etc., in each Battalion sector will be passed between units. A copy will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by first D.R. on 2nd June.
6. Administrative instructions and details of administrative arrangements will be issued separately by the Staff Captain.
7. Nucleus garrisons of incoming units have already gone forward. Subject to the terms of this Order details of relief will be arranged direct between units.
8. Completion of relief in the "A" Brigade Sector will be notified to this Headquarters by priority code wire. Completion of move to AUBIGNY system will be notified to Brigade at BLANGY CHATEAU. Completion of move to QUERRIEU area will be notified to QUERRIEU CHATEAU.
9. On completion of relief Brigade Headquarters will move to BLANGY CHATEAU. On 1st June Brigade Headquarters will close at BLANGY CHATEAU and open at QUERRIEU CHATEAU at 9.a.m.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. G. Lewis Major,
Brigade Major,
14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Appendix 19 - Blangy. 27.27

Issued through Signals at 9.45 p.m. to:-

- | | Copy No. |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 53rd Battalion. | 1. |
| 54th Battalion. | 2. |
| 55th Battalion. | 3. |
| 56th Battalion. | 4. |
| 14th L.T.M.B. | 5. |
| Copies to:- | |
| 5th Australian Division. | 6. |
| 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade. | 7. |
| 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade. | 8. |
| 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade. | 9. |
| 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade. | 10. |
| 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade. | 11. |
| 5th Div. Artillery. | 12. |
| 13th Brigade A.E.A. | 13. |
| 8th M.G. Coy. | 14. |
| 25th M.G. Coy. | 15. |
| 14th Field Coy. A.E. | 16. |
| G.O.C. | 17. |
| Staff Captain. | 18. |
| War Diary. | 19-21. |
| File. | 22. |

(a) Defence Orders, Works Policies, and all maps and photographs relating to sector information will be handed over and to be retained.

(b) All known stores, shelters, ammunition, S.O.S. Signals, etc., General Reports and Heavy Batteries will be handed over on relief. Particular attention is directed to General Reports and Heavy Batteries.

The Relief Handing Over and Taking Over Certificates show the consolidated stores, etc., in each Battalion sector will be passed between units. A copy will be forwarded to Brigades Headquarters by time D.S. on 2nd June.

Administrative instructions and details of administrative arrangements will be issued separately by the Staff Captain.

Various questions of incoming relief have already been forwarded. Subject to the terms of this Order details of relief will be arranged direct between units.

Completion of relief in the "A" Brigade Sector will be notified to this Headquarters by priority code wire. Completion of move to AUGUSTY sector will be notified to Brigades at BANGY. Completion of move to QUERRIU area will be notified to QUERRIU CHATRAU.

On completion of relief Brigade Headquarters will move to BANGY CHATRAU. On 1st June Brigade Headquarters will close at BANGY CHATRAU and open at QUERRIU CHATRAU at 2 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

14th Aust. Inf. Brigade
 Brigade Major
 Major

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including a large 'X' and some illegible text.

TABLE OF MOVES - ISSUED WITH 14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 144.

Serial Number.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Relieved by.	Relieving.	Remarks.
1.	31st. May.	53rd Battalion.	Ede. Sector Reserve.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	13th Battalion.		Area now occupied by 59th Battalion.
2.	31st. May.	54th Battalion.	Line Right.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	14th Battalion.		Area now occupied by 57th Battalion.
3.	31st. May.	55th Battalion.	Line Left.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	15th Battalion.		Area now occupied by 58th Battalion.
4.	31st. May.	56th Battalion.	Line Centre.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM & PIONEER SWITCH.	16th Bn. and 2 Coys. 60th. Bn.		Area and sector now occupied by 60th Battalion.
5.	31st. May.	14th. L.T.M.B.	Line.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	4th L.T.M.B.		Area now occupied by 15th L.T.M.B.
6.	31st. May.	14th. Bde. H.Q.	Line.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	4th. Bde. H.Q.		BLANGY CHATEAU.
7.	1st. June.	55th Battalion.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	LA HOUSBOYE SYSTEM.	To be notified later.	51st. Bn.	To clear bivouacs by 8.45. a.m. H.Q. K.17.b.9.5. (PONT NOYELLES).
8.	1st. June.	54th Battalion.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	Vicinity of QUERRIEU.	To be notified later.	49th. Bn.	To clear bivouacs by 8.45. a.m. H.Q. H.16.d.70.95. (QUERRIEU). Bn. in tents & bivouacs about H.11. Cen.
9.	1st. June.	56th Battalion. (loss 2 Coys.)	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	Vicinity of QUERRIEU.	To be notified later.	50th. Bn.	H.Q. & unit in tents and bivouacs about H.28.a.2.9. To clear bivouacs by 8.15. a.m.
10.	1st. June.	53rd Battalion.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	To be notified later.	To be notified later.		To clear bivouacs by 8.30. a.m.
11.	1st. June.	14th. L.T.M.B.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	QUERRIEU CHATEAU.	13th. L.T.M.B.	13th. LTMB.	

APPENDIX 1972

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2.

TABLE OF MOVES - STATION TO STATION

Serial Number.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Relieved by.	Relieving.	Remarks.
12.	1st June.	14th Bde. H.Q.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM.	QUARREAU CHATEAU.	15th Bde. H.Q.	15th Bde. H.Q.	
13.		2 Coys. 55th Battalion.	PIONEER SWITCH.	Rejoin Unit.	2 Coys. of 30th Bn.		To move independently when relieved on night 1st/2nd to rejoin unit.

Formation and route from line to AUBIGNY SYSTEM on relief to be decided by Battalion Commander according to conditions.

Distances on the march on 1st June as in A.R.O. 2050 quoted separately.

Route for Brigade units (less 55th Bn), BACURS-BUSSY. 55th Battalion move independently.

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APPENDIX. 19
SECRET.

53rd Battalion.
 54th Battalion.
 55th Battalion.
 58th Battalion.

Nr G12/1054

Date 30/5/18

1. Battalions of this Brigade will take over on relief night 30st/1st. as follows:-

53rd Battalion from 13th Battalion in present bivouacs of 59th Battalion.
 54th Battalion from 14th Battalion in present bivouacs of 57th Battalion.
 55th Battalion from 15th Battalion in present bivouacs of 58th Battalion.
 56th Battalion from 16th Battalion in present bivouacs of 60th Battalion, together with the PIONEER SWITCH tasks.

Reconnaissances should be made forthwith.

2. The Battalions of the 4th Brigade are sending advanced parties of approx. 4 officers, 50 others, to you tonight.

30/5/18.

R. G. G. G. Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.



14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE SECTOR.

(a). Wiring.

1. Front Line On Right Battalion Sector two belts of D.A. wire extend across the whole sector front. On Centre Battalion front there is one belt and on the Left Battalion Sector there are three belts of D.A. wire.
2. Support Line. A defensive belt of wire has been erected in front of the Support Line from P.19.b.5.2. to J.32.d.2.1.
3. Reserve Line. Both defensive and tactical wiring has been completed on the Reserve Line from O.24.b.2.0. to J.31.c.2.8.
4. Reserve Switch. Line has been both defensively and tactically wired from O.23.d.6.4. to O.12.a.1.6.
5. Defensive wiring has been erected from O.23.b.2.5. to O.18.b.3.1. in front of Reserve Switch Line to right flank switch.
6. Tactical and defensive wire has been erected from P.13.d.6.0. to O.21.a.1.3. in front of PIONEER SWITCH.

(b). Digging.

1. Front Line. On Right Battalion Sector posts have been linked up with a continuous trench except from P.20.a.1.7. to P.20.a.1.5. Between P.13.d.8.1. and P.20.a.1.3. there are two gaps of 50 yards each. There is also a gap at P.13.d.75.35. Altogether 250 yards of trench require to be dug to complete a continuous line, and 40 yds. in the left Coy. sector require completion - now only 1'6" deep.

In the Centre Battalion Sector there is a continuous line except from P.13.b.3.0. to P.13.b.7.3. and from P.8.c.7.3. to P.8.central. In front of this line there is a line of small posts. This line requires deepening as being only 3' deep in many places.

Left Battalion. Gaps in the line exist on the right from P.8.central to P.8.15.25. and on the left from P.2.b.3.1. to P.2.b.2.4.

2. A Support Line 3'3" deep has been dug across the Brigade front from P.19.b.4.2. to J.32.d.1.3.

3. A Reserve Line 3'3" deep has been dug from O.24.a.8.0. to J.31.c.1.7. across the Brigade front.

A reserve switch line was dug from O.18.d.5.3. to O.5.d.6.2. and reserve switch lines have been dug from O.18.d.25.35. to O.18.b.35.60. and from O.23.a.95.80. to O.18.central.

(c). On the right the PIONEER SWITCH line from P.13.d.8.4. to O.24.b.6.2. has been dug and serves as a right flank switch and also as a C.T. to right battalion sector.

In the Left Battalion Sector a switch line to serve also as a C.T. has been taped between Reserve and Support Lines. From P.2.b.6.5. to P.1.b.5.5. this line has been dug with the exception of three gaps of 50 yds.

From Support Line at P.2.a.4.0. a C.T. has been dug forward to about P.2.central.

(d). Miscellaneous.

1. Dummy Bridges have been erected across the SOMME at O.4.c.9.1. O.2.a.2.8., N.13.c.9.5. and N.13.c.1.4.

At N.5.b.4.1. two bridges have been built to take field guns.

2. O.5. and O.6. tracks and bridges have been constructed across the marshes and communications have been generally improved.

3. At P.8.b.2.2., P.8.c.45.30. and P.20.a.1.3. Tank traps 8' wide by 4' deep have been laid across roads.

(e). Accommodation is shown on separate sheet attached.

Appendix 20. Original
 War Diary. Vol. 27.

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List of Accommodation completed in 14th A.I. Brigade Sector.

- O.17.b.40.25.)
- O.10.b.1.3.)
- O.10.c.9.3.)
- O.17.d.45.33.) 13th. Bde. A.F.A. Gas-proofing of dugouts, and cellars.
- O.17.d.65.90.) 21 Gas-proof doors erected and 6 windows gasproofed.
- O.17.c.55.95.)
- O.10.a.5.4.)

- O.6.b.3.3. Left Line Bn.H.Q. Strutting up cellars and gas-proofing.
- P.19.b.2.8. Coy.H.Q. (Right Sect) Right Line two 4.2. proof shelters put in.
- P.13.b.7.1. Coy.H.Q. (Right Sect) Left Line one 4.2. proof shelter put in
- P.19.b.2.7. " " " " Support " two " " " " "
- O.18.d.5.3. " " " " Reserve " two " " " " "

- P.14.a.2.3. Coy.H.Q. (Centre Sect) Right Line 2 4.2. proof shelter and splinter proof put in.
- P.8.c.30.23. " " " " Left " " " " " "
- P.7.d.25.45. " " " " Support " " " " " "
- P.7.a.25.10. " " " " Reserve " " " " " "

- P.1.a.3.2.) Coy.H.Q's. (Left Sector) One 4.2. proof shelter for reserve ammunition and rations put in at each H.Q.
- P.1.d.9.3.)
- P.2.d.1.3.)

- O.18.a.2.9. Accommodation for Reserve Battalion.
- O.12.c.9.2. 23. Dug-outs completed each 7'x7'x8' over head cover.

- O.3.a.9.7. Accommodation for field Coy.H.Q. and 4 sections.

- O.24.a.4.8. Right Line Bn. R.A.P. shelter completed.

- O.18.a.4.3. 14th M.G.Coy.H.Q. and control post. 1 deep dugout 15' overhead cover.
- O.5.c.45.70. Emergency Bde.H.Q. Doors Gas-proofed.

- O.17.c.3.5. Bde.H.Q. Temporary accommodation 10 Corr. Iron Huts in Quarry.

- P.7.c.1.9. Centre Line Bn. H.Q. 4 separate chambers (20' head cover) in chalk pit.

- O.24.a.4.3. Bn.H.Q. (Right Line) Deep Dug-out 2 entrances. 20' head cover.

- O.5.c.6.7. Brigade H.Q. strengthening cellars by strutting &c. Entrances and windows gasproofed. Windows and doors of upper story splinter proofed.

- O.17.c.3.5. Battle Bde. H.Q. Deep Dugout 2 entrances 20' headcover.

- O.18.a.95.95. Reserve Battalion H.Q. Deep dugouts 2 entrances 20' head cover.

- Do. Reserve Battalion H.Q. Two splinterproof ammunition shelters erected 6'x4'.

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Work incomplete in 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade Sector.

Right Sector.

Reserve Ration and Ammunition shelters to be put in at each Company H.Q. - 2 in line, 1 in support and 1 in reserve.

Centre Sector. Nil.

Left Sector.

2/4.2. proof shelters to be put in each Coy.H.Q. for Company Commander and Sig. officer. - 1 in line, 1 in support and 1 in reserve.

Reserve Battalion Dug-outs.

23 completed.)	
14 - 70% completed.))	
1 - 50% "))	Top terrace.
2 - 25% "))	
5 - 5% "))	
9 - 50% completed.))	
1 - 30% "))	Bottom terrace.

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14th. A.L.T.M. BATTERY.

WAR DIARY.

MAY 1918.

The month has been spent in the line in the CORBIE - VILLERS BRETON-NEUX sector and has been one of marked trench mortar activity.

No defensive firing has been called for, but our L.T.Ms. have been pushed well forward and close liaison maintained with the forward companies with the result that enemy wiring and working parties, patrols, etc., have been fired upon and dispersed with casualties on many occasions.

A regular programme of night harassing fire has been carried out on hostile machine guns and posts with good results.

On night May 13th/14th a successful shoot in co-operation with artillery was carried out on Quarry at P.20.b.15.30.

On night May 28th/29th a shoot on Central Copse was undertaken in co-operation with Artillery, Machine Guns and Medium Trench Mortars. 180 rounds were fired on this occasion and many direct hits were observed on works in southern end of copse.

Beyond registration no ammunition has been fired from our defensive positions, and absolutely no movement permitted therein by day, with the result that they have apparently not been marked down as positions of any importance, and have escaped enemy shell fire.

In carrying out offensive shoots, as many alternative positions as possible have been utilised to deceive the enemy, with the happy result that while firing every night our battle casualties have been nil. Enemy trench mortar fire has been very slight and has been effectively dealt with by our Artillery and Medium Trench Mortars.

The Battery was relieved in the line on night May 31st/June 1st. by 4th A.L.T.M. Battery and on relief marched out to billet for the night in DAOURS. Relief was completed without incident at midnight.

The weather has been fine throughout the month and the health and morale of the men excellent.

Casualties.

Nil.

Ammunition expended during month.

1825 Rounds.

(Sgd). K.H.BROCK, Capt.,
O.C., 14th.A.L.T.M. Battery.

Man Henry
Appendix 21
Oct. 27
Original

Casualties for Month of May 1918.

Date.	B.76 B.		53 rd Arr.		54 th Brr.		55 th Brr.		56 th Brr.		44 th Mob Coy.		44 th S.I. No. 3.		Total.		Daily Grand.	
	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.	off.	of R.
	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	K.M.W.S.	off.	of R.
1				1 1		2		1		6				1		3 9		12
2				1				2		2 1						4 2		6
3				2		1 4		2 1		3						5 8		13
4						4		5		1						1 9		10
5				1		3		3								1 6		7
6				2		1		4 5		4						4 12		16
7	2			2		1		4		2						4 5	2	9
8				1 3		2				2						1 7		8
9				2		2		1 2		1 3 1				1	2	5 6	2	11
10				1	1	1 6		2		7 3				1		10 11	1	21
11			1	2 2											1	2 2	1	4
12			1	2	1	1 4		1 4 1							1 1 1	5 7	2	13
13						3		2								5		5
14				2		1 1		4		1 1 1					1	2 8		11
15						1 2		6 3		1 2 2					1	9 7	1	16
16				1				8		6 8						15 8		23
17				2	1	1		1		2					1	4 2	1	6
18						1		4 1		1						5 2		7
19				2		2		1		3						3 5		8
20				1	1	1		1 2								1 3 2		6
21		2								1 3					1	5 1		7
22				1		1 1		1	1	1 9					1	3 11	1	14
23				2 1		1 1		2 1	2	2			1		2 1 5 5		13	
24				2		1 1		1 1		1						2 5		7
25				2		2		1 3		1 1					1	6 3		10
26				1				1		1						3		3
27								2	1	2						1 4		5
28								3 2		1 1						4 3		7
29				6				2						1		2 7		9
30						1			1	1					1	2		3
31				5		1 1		4		1						10 2		12
	2	2	2	19 32	1 2 1	14 4 2	1 2	57 35	1 2 6	32 5 4				1 1 4	6 5 9 1 25 16 7	11	30 2	
	2	2	2	51	3	57	1	94	3	92				6	11	30 2		31 3

APPENDIX. 22

War Diary. Vol. 27.
Appendix 22. Duplicate. Original.

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 22.60

Weekly Fighting Strength

week ending 4.5.18.

Unit.	A. Total strength excluding attached.		B. Not present with unit (and not at disposal of C.O.)		A minus B. Available fighting strength (including personnel of Bn transport & A.M. stores).		C. Untrained and Part Trained.		Particulars of Increase			Particulars of Decrease			
	off.	OR	off.	OR	off.	OR	off.	OR	of	off.	OR	of	off.	OR	
53 rd Bn.	33	654	7	128	26	526			Ex OTC England 55 th Bn Reinfs	1	30	1	wounded as 1 Killed in action Evacuations Ret ^d to Aust. Secounded	2	12 6 3 14 1
54 th Bn.	33	757	7	175	28	582			Ex Hospital wounded T.B. 60 th Bn	1	8	2	22 Affo ^d in error Killed wounded Evacuations Ret ^d to Aust	2	3 2 10 36
55 th Bn.	46	753	14	110	32	643			Ex Base		35		Killed wounded Evacuations	1	6 46 3
56 th Bn.	37	786	12	145	25	641			Ex Secounded Reinfs Sick wounded 55 th Bn	1	37	1	Secounded O.A. Killed wounded Transferret Evacuations	1	1 24 1 20
	149	2950	40.	558.	111	2392				8	143			6	188

Increase of Officers -

- M. W. Smith ex O.T.C. England
- Lt. Col. Act Holland Ex 55th Bn.
- Lt. Col. Marshall O.S.O. ret. from 60th Bn.
- Lt. F. Morley ret. ex wounded
- Capt. S. Webster from 60th Bn
- Lt. H. L. Davies ex Secounded
- M. J. J. Louke " Reinfs.
- Lt. Col. H. Cameron M.C. from 55th Bn.

Decrease of Officers -

- Capt. J. W. Silva Secounded
- M. E. P. Dahl
- Major J. Stanson ret. to Aust.
- Hon. Lt. F. W. Bennett
- Capt. J. J. Marshall Killed in action
- Lt. H. P. Pennefather Secounded O.A.

APPENDIX 22.60

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 22. 260

Weekly Fighting Strength.

Week ending 11. 5. 18.

Unit.	A. Total strength excluding attached.		B. not present with unit (and not at disposal of C.O.)		A. minus B. Available fighting strength (including personnel of CW Transport & A.M. stores).		C. Untrained and Part Trained.		Particulars of Increase.		Particulars of Decrease.	
	Off.	Other.	Off.	Other.	Off.	Other.	Off.	Other.	Off.	Other.	Off.	Other.
53 rd Bn.	33	642	7	115	26	527			Reinfs.	6	wounded gassed evacuations transferred	3 13 1
54 th Bn.	32	733	2	161	30	572			Wounded transferred to T.B. Hospital	1 3 1	wounded transferred evacuations	1 4 25
55 th Bn.	45	747	10	94	35	653			at Base Hospital	14 5	wounded evacuations	14 11
56 th Bn.	46	786	18	108	28	678			Reinfs Sept. 17. Sick wounded Sick	1 6 5 7	transferred wounded evacuations	1 6 7
	156	2908	37	478	119	2430			* 10 officers restored to strength under instructions.	10		1

Increase of officers -
 Maj. E.W. Oatley wounded
 Cpl. Lucas
 Capt. G.A. Williamson M.C.
 Lt. J. Bull
 Lt. J. H. N.Z.C. DCM
 Lt. W. Bartlett
 Lt. A.H. Brimsley
 Lt. R. Wilson Sick
 Lt. A. Heath
 Lt. A.F. Keogh

Decrease of officers -
 Lt. R.H. Reid. Transf. 5th AM.C. Bn.

APPENDIX 22-21

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 2250

Weekly Fighting Strength.

week ending 18.5.18.

Unit.	A. Total strength excluding attached.		B. Not present with unit (and not at disposal of C.O.)		A. minus B Available fighting strength (including personnel of transport stores).		C. Untrained and both names.		Particulars of Increase.		Particulars of Decrease.		
	off.	O/R.	off.	O/R.	off.	O/R.	off.	O/R.	off.	%.	off.	%.	
53 rd Bn.	34	671	8	141	26	530	.	.	Reinfs.	1	47	wounded evacuated transferred	4 13 1
54 th Bn.	38	741	10	188	28	553	.	.	Co Hosp. wounded Reinfs T.B. (Officers wounded not yet accounted)	14 16 8 1 5		Evacuations transferred wounded killed	21 5 3 1
55 th Bn.	51	770	22	161	29	609	.	.	Co Base Co Hosp. wounded (not yet accounted)	4 1 2	47	Killed wounded evacuated transferred	1 19 4
56 th Bn.	46	792	19	192	27	600	.	.	Reinfs Co Sick wounded	10 20 14		Killed wounded transferred evacuated	1 12 1 24
	169	2974	59	682	110	2292	.	.		14	176		1.110

Decrease of Officers -

- Lt. E. Elthouse Reinforcements
- Lt. C. Upfold T.B.
- Lt. F.P. Holder not yet accounted
- Lt. A.C. Askham "
- Lt. H. Bremer "
- Lt. W.P. Palmer "
- Lt. F.C. Small "
- Lt. R.H. Wilkin "
- Lt. E.B. Siden "

- Lt. L. Chadwick Co Base
- Lt. W.G. Morris "
- Lt. W.F. J. McGeer "
- Lt. W.T. Piddington "
- Lt. L.M. Stafford "

Decrease of Officers

Lt. Col. A.C. Holland to 53rd Bn.

APPENDIX 2250

14th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 22.

1760

Weekly Fighting Strength

Week ending 25.5.18.

Unit.	A.		B.		A. minus B.		C.		Particulars of Increase.		Particulars of Decrease.	
	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.
	Total strength including attached		Not present with unit (and not at disposal of C.O.)		Available Fighting Strength (including personnel of Bn. Transport and Q.M. Stores)		Untrained and Part-trained.					
53 rd Bn.	34	662	9	142	25	520			Reinfs:	2	Wounded Evacuation To Cadet Bn. Transferred	4 4 1 2
57 th Bn.	38	712	12	183	26	529					Evacuation Wounded O.T.C. Killed N.C.O. promoted to Comm. Rank	18 8 1 1 1
55 th Bn.	53	747	23	152	30	595			ex. Base	2	Wounded Evacuations O.T.C.	8 14 1
56 th Bn.	46	753	19	175	27	578			ex. Cadet Bn. " wounded	1 2	Transferred Killed Wounded Transferred Evacuations	1 3 7 5 26
	171	2874	63	652	108	2222				3 4		1 104

Increase of Officers

- 2/Lt. L. G. Wood m.m. ex. Base
- 2/Lt. W. Dillon " "
- 2/Lt. W.H. Oldham " "

Decrease of Officers -

Lt. E.J. Grive Transferred to 60th Bn.

APPENDIX 22
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