

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/50/26 Part 8

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 5th  
Australian Division

April 1918



AWM4-1/50/26PART8

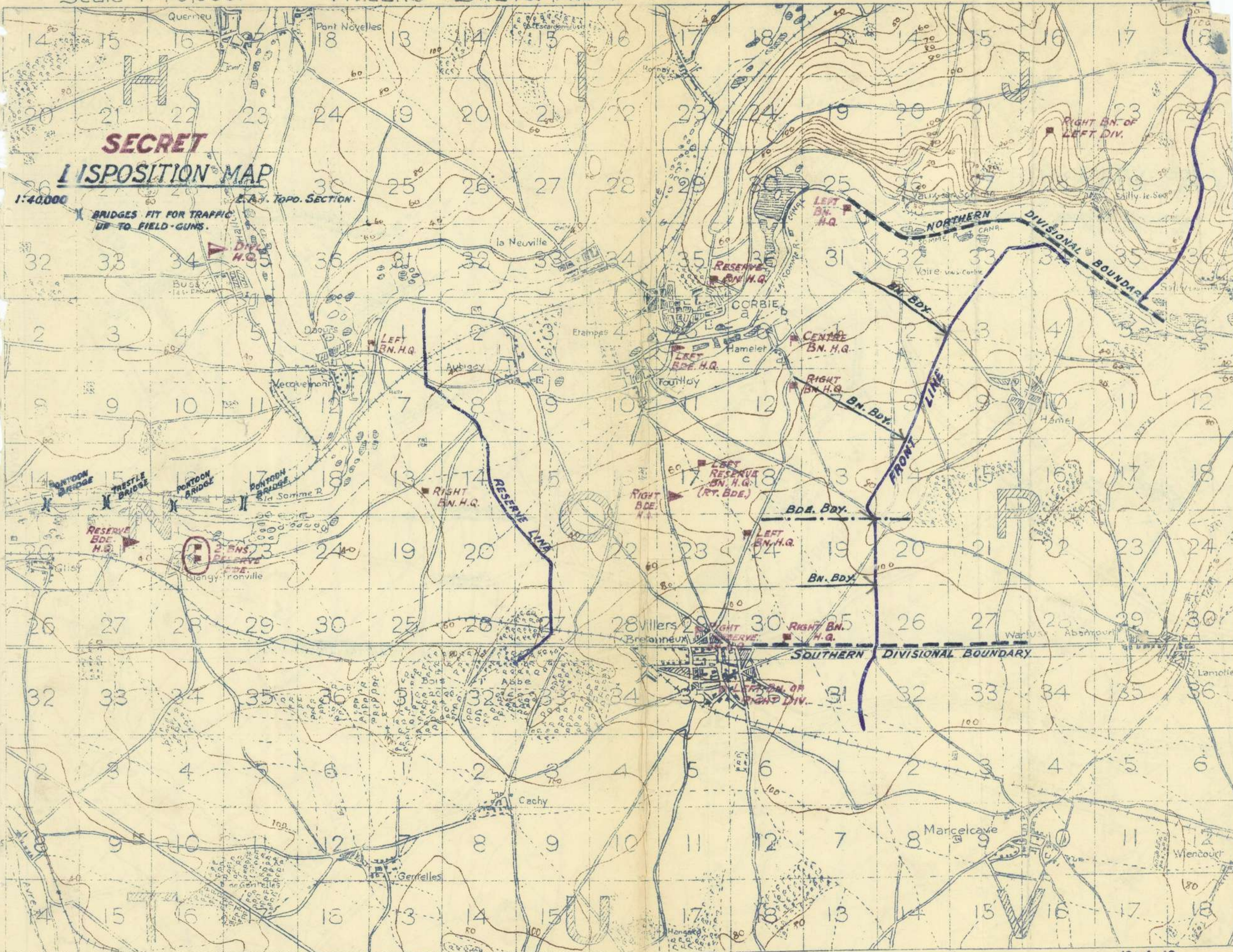
Scale 1:40,000. --- VILLERS-BRETONNEUX ---

**SECRET**  
**L ISPOSITION MAP**

1:40,000

E.A.Y. TOPO. SECTION.

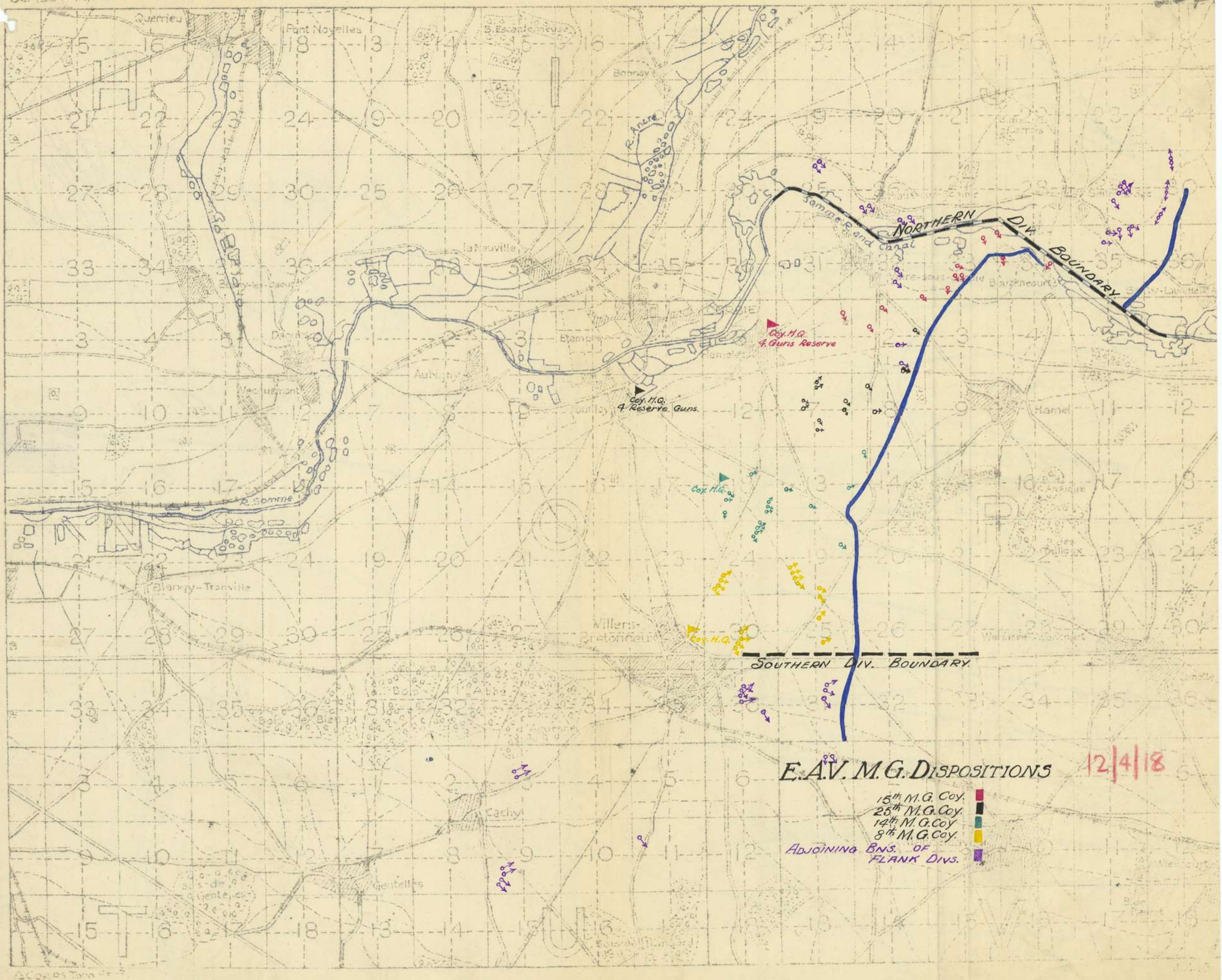
BRIDGES FIT FOR TRAFFIC UP TO FIELD-GUNS.



Scale of yards :- 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 Yards

12:4:18

SCALE 1:40,000



E.A.V. M.G. DISPOSITIONS

12/4/18

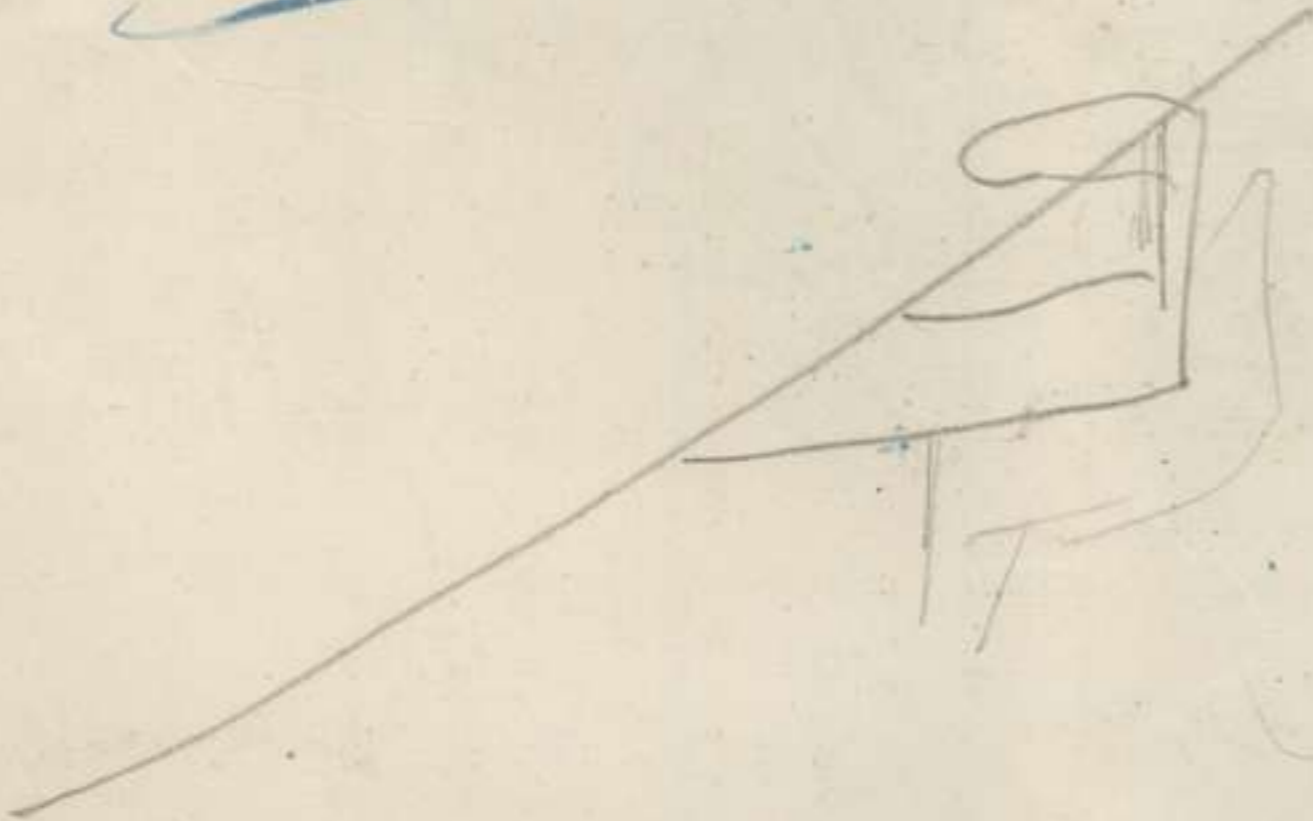
- 15th M.G. Coy. [Red square]
- 25th M.G. Coy. [Black square]
- 14th M.G. Coy. [Green square]
- 8th M.G. Coy. [Yellow square]
- ADJOINING BNS. OF FLANK DIVS. [Purple square]

Appendix 12.A

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Wm  
Deady

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12 April 1918.

29  
31  
32  
30

*Appendix B*

G7/4765

8th Infantry Brigade  
14th Infantry Brigade  
15th Infantry Brigade  
5th Pioneer Battalion  
Divisional Artillery  
Divisional Engineers

DUMMY TRENCHES.

I am directed to draw your attention to the value of dummy trenches.

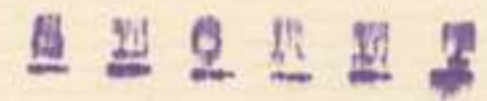
These trenches will not be more than 1 foot deep and the spoil should be well spread out to simulate the quantity of spoil thrown out from an ordinary trench.

Every endeavour should be made to render the line actually held inconspicuous, and dummy trenches if carefully sited will achieve this.

13th April 1918

(sgd) J.H. PECK Lieut-Col.,  
G.S. 5th Australian Division

Copy to: Australian Corps  
III Corps.



GS/4573

Divisional Engineers.

DEMOLITIONS

1. You will please make arrangements for the demolition of roads and bridges within the Divisional area at places already indicated.
2. You will maintain demolition parties in the immediate vicinity of the places where demolitions are to take place.
3. These parties will also be charged with the upkeep of the bridge, but in cases of damage of an extensive nature they will apply for the extra labour to repair same.
4. The parties will also be used as police to prevent bridges being used for purposes and at times other than those for which they have been constructed.
5. Technical men only, such as Pioneers, will be employed in these parties.
6. (i) Bridges will only be destroyed under the following conditions.-
  - (a) On the written orders of an officer not below the rank of Brigadier-General.
  - (b) In the event of our infantry or artillery having retired across the bridge, the latter coming under direct rifle or machine gun fire.
 (ii) The fact of any bridge having been destroyed will be reported immediately to 5th Australian Division.
 (iii) In all cases the damage done by the explosion or fire, whichever is employed, will be definitely ascertained.
7. Written instructions to the above effect will be given by C.R.E. to the O.C. or N.C.O. in charge of each demolition party.
8. The traffic control personnel at present in charge of bridges will be withdrawn when demolition parties take over. Reliefs will be arranged mutually between C.R.E. and A.P.M.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

12th April 1918.

*G. W. Weston*  
 Liout-Colonel G.S.  
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copies for information to.-

8th Infantry Brigade  
 14th Infantry Brigade  
 15th Infantry Brigade  
 5th Machine Gun Battalion  
 5th Pioneer Battalion  
 Divisional Artillery  
 Divisional Signal Co.  
 A.D.R.S.  
 D.A.D.V.S.  
 D.I.D.O.S.  
 A.P.M.  
 D.E.O.  
 Divisional Salvage Co.  
 Divisional Train

III Corps  
 Aust. Corps for record

SECRET

CG/4719

G.O.C.  
15th Infantry Brigade.

DEMOLITION OF BRIDGES

1. I am directed to ask you to consider yourself responsible for giving orders to the demolition parties for the demolition of the bridges on the River ~~SOME~~ mentioned below in case such a course should become necessary, viz:-
  - Steel Bridge in N.14.d.
  - Trestle Bridge in N.15.c.
  - Pontoon Bridge in N.16.c.
  - Pontoon Bridge in N.17.c.
  
2. The orders issued to the demolition parties are as follows:-
  - (i) Bridges will only be destroyed under the following conditions:-
    - (a) On the written orders of an officer not below the rank of Brigadier-General.
    - (b) In the event of our infantry or artillery having retired across the bridge, the latter coming under direct rifle or machine gun fire.
  - (ii) The fact of any bridge having been destroyed will be reported immediately to 5th Australian Division.
  - (iii) In all cases the damage done by the explosion will be definitely ascertained.
  
3. This order is to handed over to relieving Brigadier.

Lieut-Colonel G.S.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

13th April 1918.

## Copies for information to:-

8th Infantry Brigade  
 14th Infantry Brigade  
 5th Machine Gun Battalion.  
 5th Pioneer Battalion.  
 Divisional Artillery.  
 Divisional Engineers.  
 Divisional Signal Co.  
 Divisional Train.  
 A.D.M.S.  
 D.A.D.V.S.  
 D.A.D.O.S.  
 A.P.S.  
 D.B.O.  
 Salvage Co.  
 III Corps  
 Australian Corps  
 3rd Australian Division  
 58th Division.

Scale 1:40,000.

VILLERS - BRETONNEUX

**SECRET**

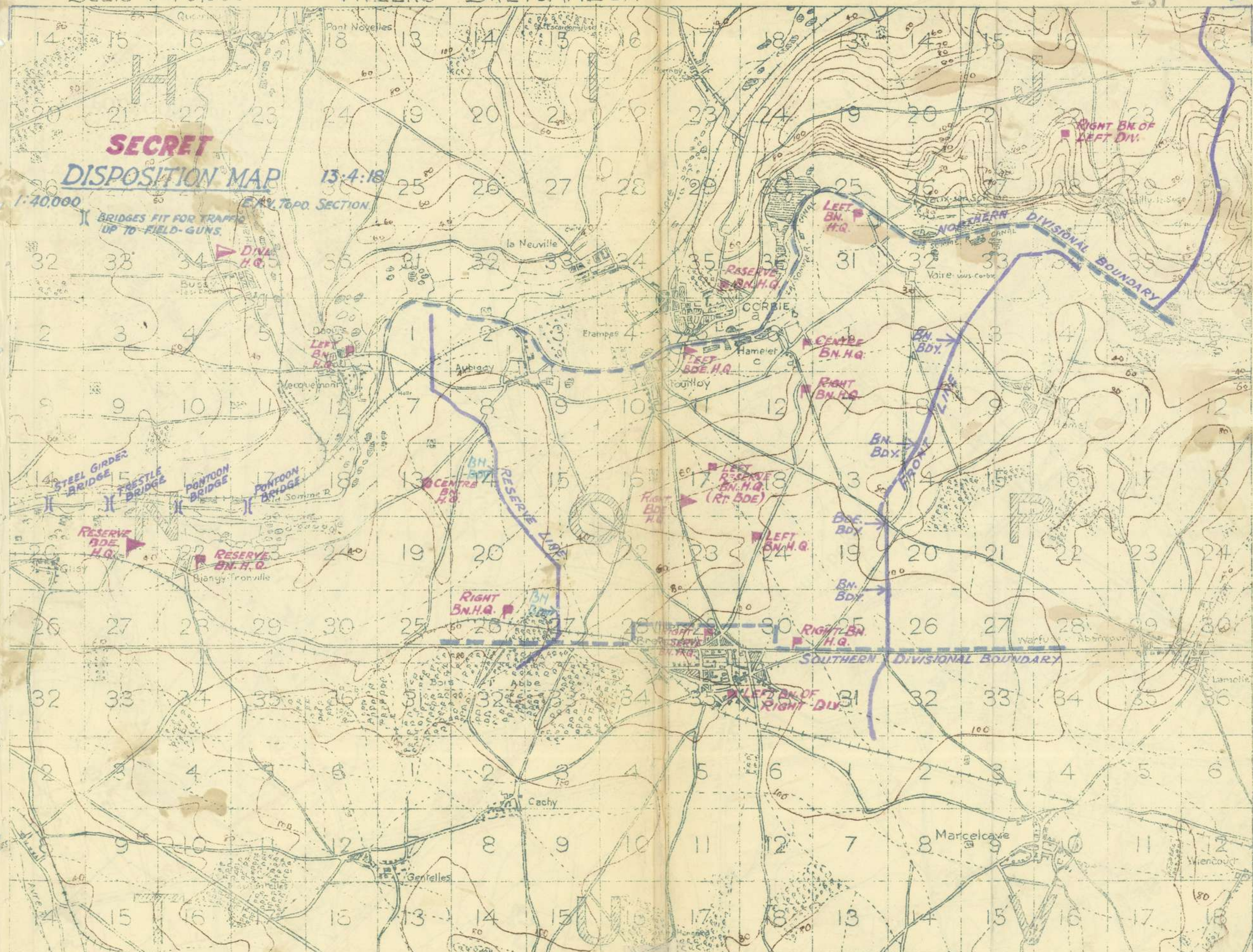
**DISPOSITION MAP**

13.4.18

EARLY TOPO. SECTION

1:40,000

BRIDGES FIT FOR TRAFFIC UP TO FIELD-GUNS.



Scale of yards :- 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 Yards



WORKING PARTY TABLE, NO. 1.

233

No. of Party	Strength of party.		Report to	Rendezvous	Time	Date	Remarks
	Off.	O.R.					
1	4	200	Lt. PATON, 8th F. Co.	O. 20. b. 5. 4.	9.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	Picks 100, shovels 100.
2	4	200	Lt. DUNN, 8th F. Co.	O. 8. c. 9. 7.	9.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	Picks 50, shovels 150.
3	4	200	Lt. PATON, "	O. 20. b. 5. 4.	2.0 a.m.	15.4.18.	Picks 100, shovels 100.
4	4	200	Lt. DUNN, "	O. 8. c. 9. 7.	2.0 a.m.	15.4.18.	Picks 50, shovels 150.
5	2	150	Officers of 14th Fld. Co.	14th F. Co. H. Q. O. 8. b. 5. 5.	7.30 p.m.	14.4.18.	Each man to carry a shovel
6	2	150	do.	do.	8.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	do.
7	2	150	do.	Road fork O. 25. c. 5. 4.	7.30 p.m.	14.4.18.	do.
8	2	150	do.	do.	8.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	do.
9	1	100	Lt. MARNIE, 15th F. Co.	Hamelet Shrine P. 1. a. 5. 6.	8.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	Work on reserve line.
10	1	100	Lt. HARDINGE, 15th F. Co.	Hamelet Cemetery, P. 1. c. 1. 2.	8.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	do.
11	1	100	Lt. EWART, 15th F. Co.	Fotilloy Church, O. 10. b. 4. 7.	8.0 p.m.	14.4.18.	do.
12	1	100	Lt. OLIVER, 15th F. Co.	do.	8.0 a.m.	14.4.18.	Work on reserve switch.

APPENDIX

16 232

APPENDIX 17

SECRET.

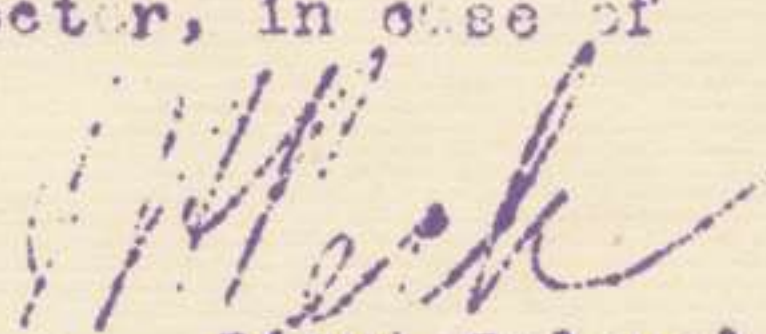
G7/ 4768

15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

BOUNDARIES.

1. The Northern boundary of the Division has not been finally decided.
2. Until the decision is made the Northern boundary will be the River SOMME as far West as GLISY - the village of GLISY itself being exclusive to the Division.
3. The Southern boundary is shown on a map which has been issued separately.
4. The map referred to in para. 3. also shows the systems of defence within the Divisional area, and the boundaries have been drawn on the basis that the Division is responsible for the defence of the following Zones and Lines :-
  - (a) Forward Zone of which the VILLERS Line is the Reserve System.
  - (b) The Second or AUBIGNY Zone consisting of three systems.
  - (c) The SYDNEY LINE.
  - (d) The BLANGY LINE and TRONVILLE Switch.
  - (e) The GLISY Line.
  - (f) An extension of the GLISY Line - (not shown on map, but to be selected by G.O.C. 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. for approval of G.O.C. Division) which will be held in conjunction with troops of the Southern Divisional sector, in case of withdrawal.

14th April 1918.

  
 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,  
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

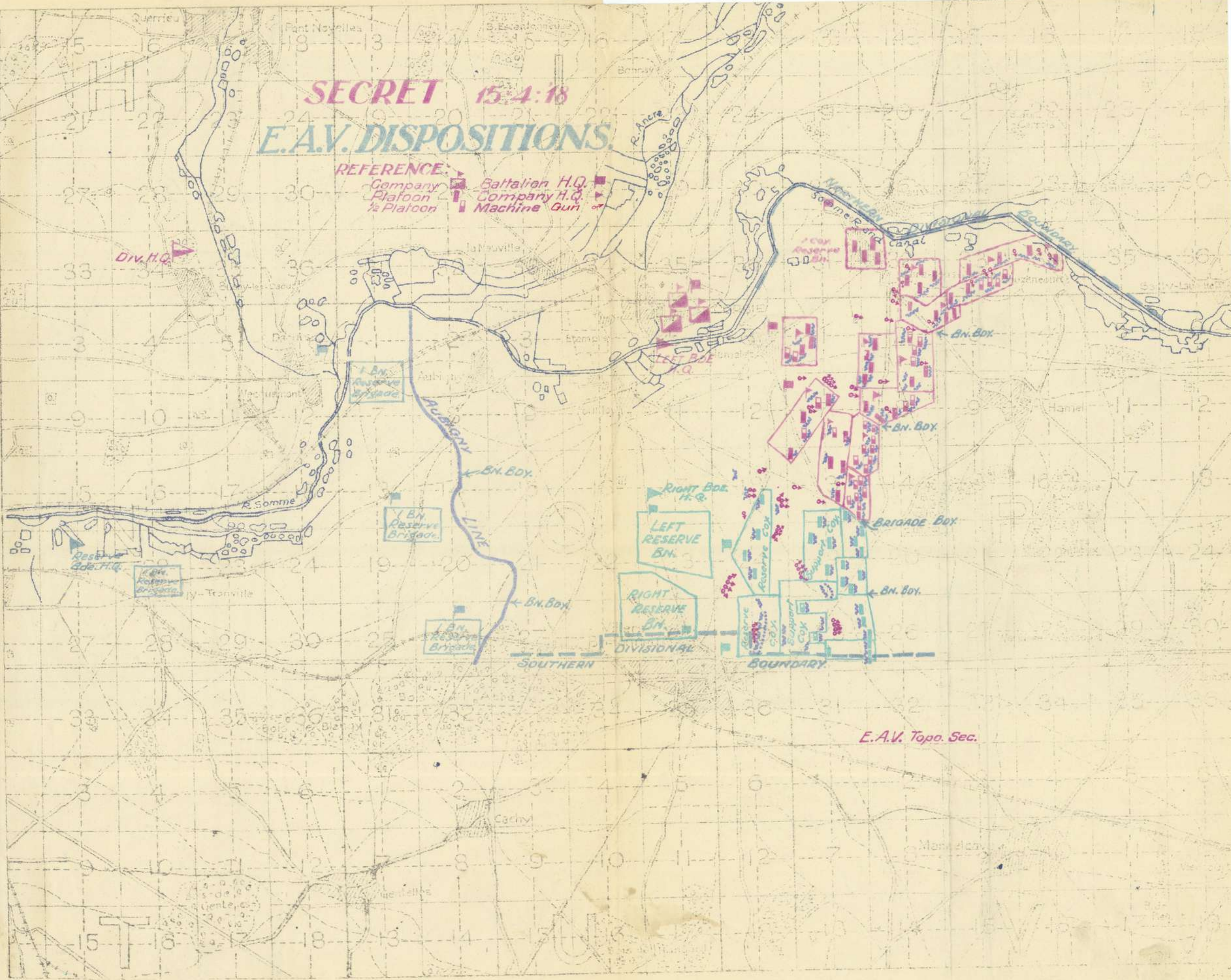
Copies to :-

8th Infantry Brigade  
 14th Infantry Brigade  
 5th Machine Gun Bn.  
 5th Pioneer Battalion  
 Divisional Artillery  
 Divisional Engineers  
 Divisional Signal Co.  
 Divisional Train  
 A.D.M.S.  
 A.P.E.  
 "A.Q".

**SECRET 15.4.18**  
**E.A.V. DISPOSITIONS.**

**REFERENCE:**

- Company
- Platoon
- 1/2 Platoon
- Battalion H.Q.
- Company H.Q.
- Machine Gun

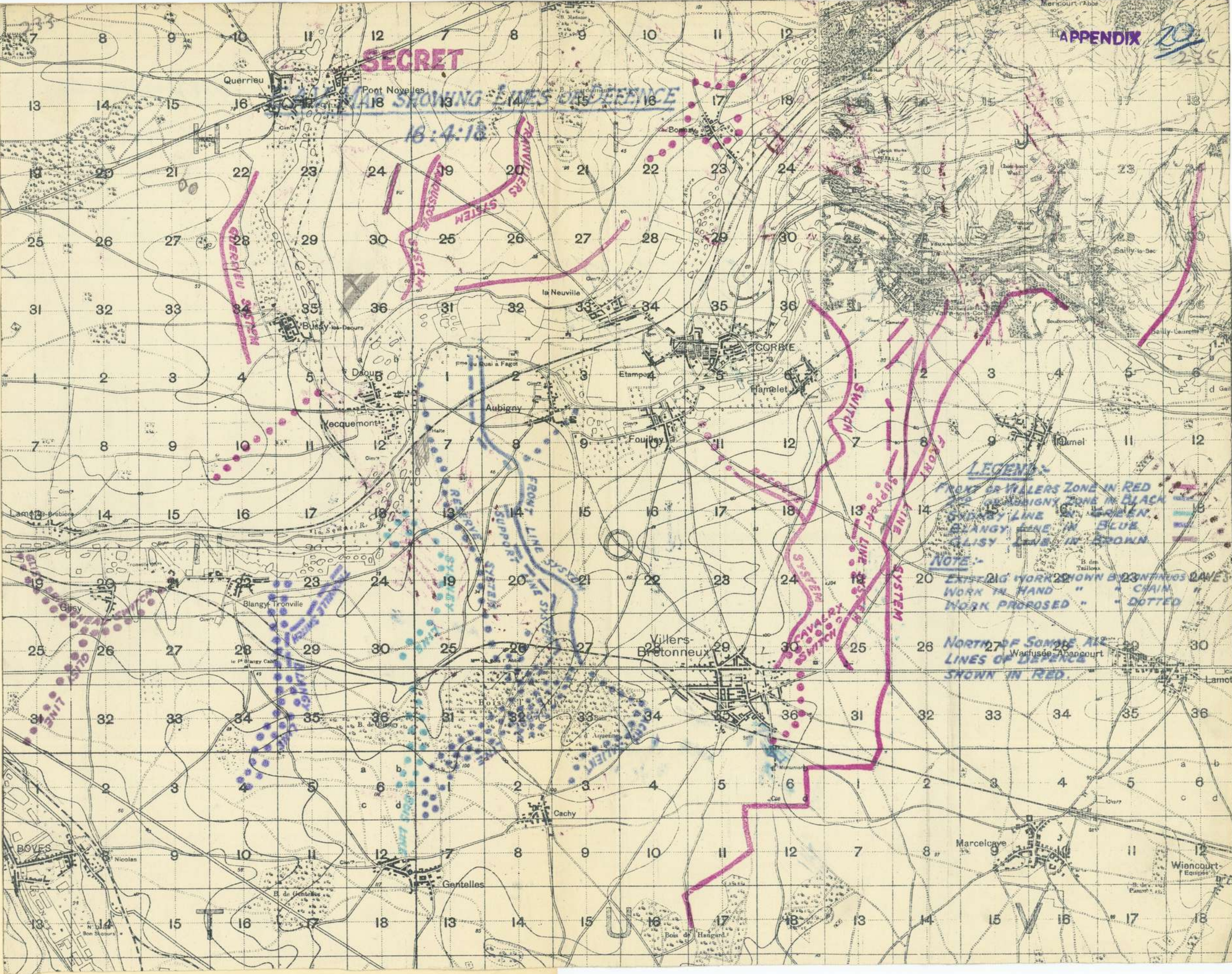


E.A.V. Topo. Sec.

SECRET

SHOWING LINES OF DEFENCE

18:4:18



**LEGEND**

- FRONT LINE ZONE IN RED
- RESERVE ZONE IN BLACK
- BOUNDARY LINE IN GREEN
- BLANGY LINE IN BLUE
- GLISY LINE IN BROWN

**NOTE**

- EXISTING WORK SHOWN BY DOTTING
- WORK IN HAND " " CHAIN "
- WORK PROPOSED " " DOTTED "

NORTH OF SOMME ALL LINES OF DEFENCE SHOWN IN RED.

*Appendix 21*

GT 5.

18th April 1918.

Headquarters,  
5th Australian Division.

Re gas bombardment in 14th Brigade area starting 17th  
April at 4.45 a.m.

The principal areas affected were P.25.a. and the village  
of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The gases used were yellow cross, blue and  
green cross, the calibre 77 mm., 4.2" and 5.9".

The 54th Battalion appear to have been most subjected to  
the bombardment, their casualties being particularly heavy. The  
bombardment was intense and the concentration of gas remarkably  
strong. Had the respirator been worn throughout the bombardment,  
casualties should have been a very few, the fault being, not applying  
the tests laid down prior to removing the respirator. The gases  
used were well known, or should be by everyone concerned; particularly  
the Yellow Cross which was most in evidence. No doubt the delayed  
action of the Yellow Cross gas caused most of the trouble, this  
should not have occurred had the respirator been correctly used.

(Sd) G. MYLES THOMPSON.



SECRET.

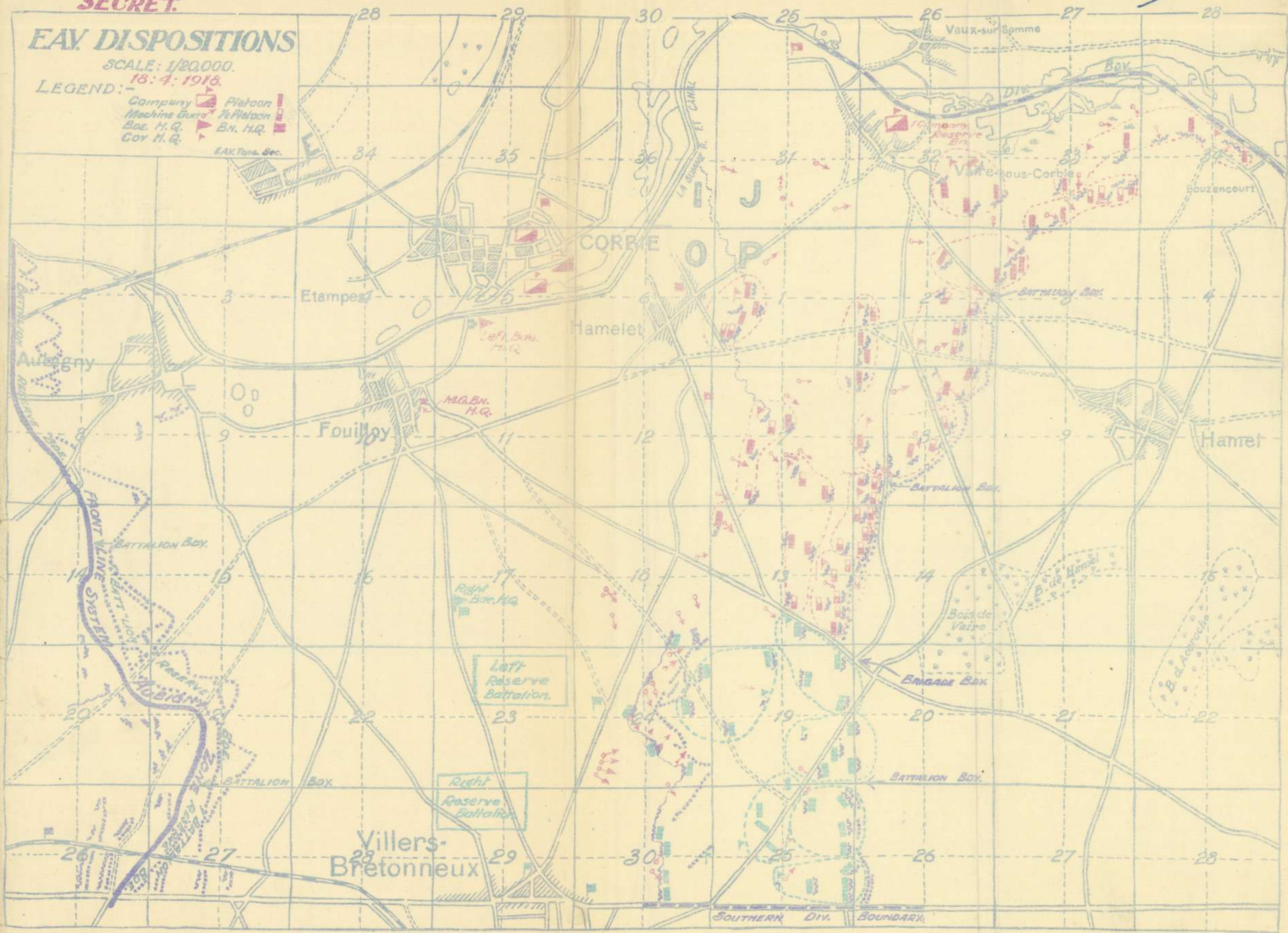
# EAV DISPOSITIONS

SCALE: 1/20,000.

18:4:1918.

LEGEND:-

- Company
- Machine Gun
- Bn. H.Q.
- Coy. H.Q.
- Platoon
- 1/2 Platoon
- Bn. H.Q.
- EAV. Topo. Sec.



*Appendix 23*

G16/363.

8th Infantry Brigade  
14th Infantry Brigade  
15th Infantry Brigade.

The following extract from III Corps Heavy Artillery Instructions are forwarded for information and are to be made known to all concerned:-

"Co-operation of Artillery with R.A.F.  
"S.O.S." calls will be answered as for "S.O.S." calls from the ground.  
In addition to sending the "S.O.S." call by wireless the pilot will fly towards the enemy's troops advancing sounding his Klaxon Horn and will drop a white parachute light over them. The parachute light descends very slowly. "

ACKNOWLEDGE.

19th April 1918.

(Sgd) G.F. WOOTTEN,  
Major, G.S.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



## WORKS REPORT for week ending 13th April 1918.

1. The Divisional area was taken over from the 3rd Cavalry Division on the morning of the 6th April. At that time the defences in the area consisted merely of a few posts covering the bridge heads from VAIRE Westwards to AUBIGNY inclusive, and a series of rapidly sited and constructed posts and rifle pits forming front and support lines, many of which were necessarily not sited in the best positions. During the first few days the Division was in occupation the front line was advanced in three places extending practically along the whole Divisional front and in consequence the greater part of the existing front line defences ceased to be of use as such. Part of these defences was utilised as Support Line, but a great deal of it had to be "scrapped" altogether. To organise the forward zone defences it was necessary to dig and wire a complete new front line system, practically the whole of a support system and the whole of a reserve system.
- The Second or AUBIGNY Zone consisted of a series of rifle pits - without traverses, pits being approximately 30 feet long and from 50 to 400 yards apart.
- A continuous single belt of wire was in existence along the front of this line. This wire ran parallel to the line and was not sited tactically in conjunction with machine or Lewis Guns.
2. As regards defences, work during the period 6/4/18 to 13/4/18 was concentrated on all three systems of the forward zone, and the firing line system of the second or AUBIGNY Zone.
3. Details of work carried out are as follows :-
- (a) Strong Points, Trenches and Wiring completed to 13th April 1918 are shown on attached map.
- (b) Headquarters. The following work in connection with Headquarters was carried out :-
- |                                       |                          |                             |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bn. H.Qrs.                            | ) P.7.a.1.0.             | 9 feet driven and timbered. |
| R.A.P.                                |                          | 9 " " " timbered.           |
|                                       |                          | Shelter erected 9' x 7'.    |
| Coy. H.Qrs.                           | P.13.a.3.1.              | Constructed.                |
| Bn. H.Qrs.                            | O.12.b.9.3.<br>(Quarry). | Partly constructed.         |
| Alternative<br>Bde. H.Qrs.<br>(Bank). | I.35.c.2.3.              | Partly constructed.         |
- (c) The following points on main and cross-roads have been prepared for demolition :-
- |             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| O.18.b.5.3. | Cross-roads.                |
| O.11.a.5.1. | "                           |
| O.10.d.6.8. | "                           |
| O.29.c.9.4. | cross-roads.                |
| O.36.a.3.6. | "                           |
| O.30.c.2.3. | Just east of road junction. |
- (charged to form craters 24' to 30' in diameter and 12' to 15' deep).
- (d) Bridges. Pontoon bridges were built at
- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| N.16.c.7.2. | (No. 16.) |
| N.17.c.7.3. | (No. 17.) |
| J.26.c.0.3. |           |
- 220 yards of corduroy track were laid on Northern approach to No. 16 bridge, 709 yards of corduroy and 43 yards of metalled road have been laid on Southern approach of No.17 pontoon bridge. The pontoon bridge at J.26.c.0.3. has since been demolished, being no longer required.
- Bridges for Field Artillery were erected at
- |             |
|-------------|
| N.5.b.4.1.  |
| I.29.c.5.9. |
| I.29.c.8.8. |
| I.29.a.3.0. |



Dummy bridges were erected at  
 O.4.c.2.0.  
 O.2.a.2.8.  
 N.18.d.0.5.  
 N.18.c.1.4.

(e) Dumps. R.E. Dumps have been established at the following points :-

O.9.a.7.4.  
 O.10.d.6.8.  
 O.6.d.7.9.

(f) Accommodation. Accommodation for 160 men has been made at

O.17.c.3.5.

Two shelters were built at O.23.a.5.6.

Two small shelter dugouts at P.7.a.1.0.

4. The amount and weight of stores issued in connection with the above work is as follows :-

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Axes, felling.	30	150	
Camouflage, rolls.	20	800	
Iron, corrugated.	100	1,600	
Picks.	910	7,280	
Pick helves.	250	375	
Pickets, screw, short.	730	3,650	
" Medium (screw)	1245	8,715	
" screw, long.	150	1,350	
" wood.	175	1,750	
Malthoid, rolls.	33	2,508	
Mauls.	20	240	
Nails 6".		448	
Shovels.	2050	7,175	
Sandbags.	39550	15,042	
Tracing tapes.	400	400	
Timber, 1" planking.	3000	5,000	
Wire, barbed, coils.	1005	30,150	
Wire, plain, coils.	52	5,200	

-----  
 91,833 lbs. (41 tons).  
 =====

Explosives.

Blastine.	1200
Primers.	10
Fuse lighters.	12
Detonators, No. 8.	31
" No. 13.	6
Fuse safety, Fathoms.	24
Fuse, Inst. Yards.	150
Matches, boxes.	6
Tape, rubber, yards.	1
Solution.	$\frac{1}{2}$ .

*J. J. Hobbs*

Major-General,  
 Commanding 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

68/462

Headquarters  
3rd Corps  
Australian Corps.

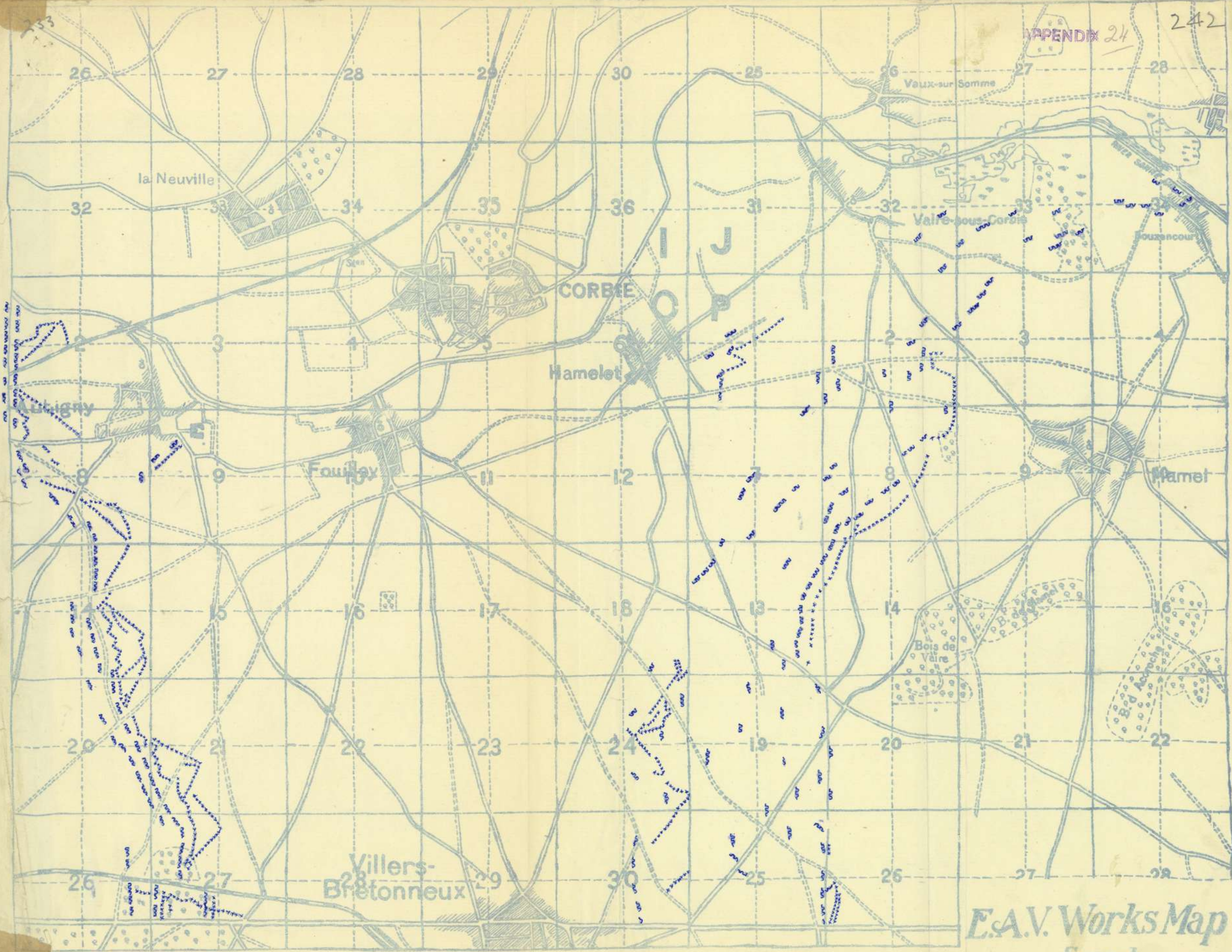
Copy of 5th Australian Division Works Report for week  
ending 13th April 1918 is forwarded herewith.

*Blackett*  
Major-General,  
Commanding 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

20th April 1918.

*Appendix No 24*





E.A.V. Works Map  
 Secret