#### AWM4

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

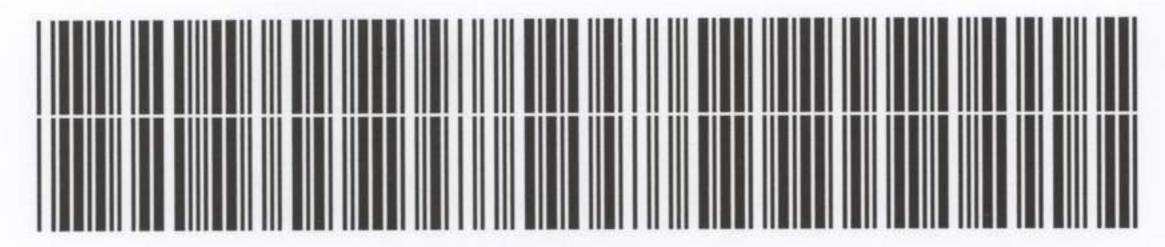
Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/41 Part 5

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st

Australian Division

June 1918



AWM4-1/42/41PART5

APPENDI 20th Div. No. C.G.S. 60/42. O.C. Spec.Coy., R.E. Second Army. It is not expected that this period will exceed 84 hours, when Liout. Colonol, G.S. 29th Division.

VERY SECRET.

86th Inf. Bdo. 87th Inf. Bdo. asth Inf.Bde.

C.R.E. C.R.A. 29th Bn. M.G.Corps. XV Corps. "L" Spoc. Coy., R. E.

1st Australian Division.

5th Division.

(a) A Gas Cylindor Attack will be carried out on the Divisional 1. front in the near future.

- (b) The cylinders will be installed in ditches along the read from E.22.b.1.4. to E.16.a.4.5.
- (c) The work will be carried out by "L" Special Coy., R. E., assisted, if necessary, by parties from "E" Special Coy., R.E., the whole under the orders of Major BERRISFORD, R.E., O.C. Special Companies, R.H., Second Army.
- (d) The period of proparation by Special Coys., R.E. will probably cover five nights, and will commence about night 5th/3th June. Exact date of commencement will be notified later.
- (o) About 40 G.S. wagons will be required each night to bring up material from Forward Dump. Those limbors are being arranged for by Corps "Q" to be drawn from all Divisions in the MY Corps. The first night those will be required will be notified later.
- (a) The C.R.E. will arrange to construct temporary bridges round road crators in E.13.c.8.4. and cut the barriors on 2. road in E.18.a.5.2. and repair the roads in that area for traffic as required by O.C. "L" Special Coy., R.E. This work to be completed by night 5th/Sth June. C.R.E. will report completion to Divisional Headquarters and to O.S. "L" Special Coy., R.E.
- The wind limit for discharging the cylinders will be between 3. Wost by South and Worth Wost by Worth.
- G.Os.C. Brigados in the line will consider the arrangements 120 for the defence of their fernard area during the period the cylinders are being discharged.

It will be necessary to evacuate all defences within the limits of the movement of the Gas.

evacuated tronches and posts can be re-occupied.

Special Maps defining the limits of the Danger Zone will be issued later by 0.0. "L" Special Coy., R. B.

The recipients of this order will treat it as "VERY SECRET", and will communicate it to no-one before it is necessary, excent 5. Officers ismediately concerned in the preliminary preparation.

ACKNOWLEDGE. 3.

2nd JUHE 1918.





VERY SECRET. Corps No. 65/139 G,

29th Division.

- 1. It is proposed to carry out a gas cylinder attack on the Right Division front with a view to releasing a heavy concentration of gas which will cause casualties to the enemy's troops for a considerable distance (eight to nine miles) behind their line.
- 2. The cylinders will be installed in ditches along the road approximately from E.22.a.7.3. to E.22.b.1.4. to E.16.a.4.5. to E.16.b.2.6.

The period of preparation will probably cover five nights and will commence about the night 4th/5th June.

- 5. The work will be carried out by "L" Special Company, R. E., assisted if necessary by parties from "E" Special Company, R.E., the whole under the direct orders of Major BERRISFORD, R. E., O. C. Special Companies, R. E., Second Army.
- About 40 G.S. limbers will be required each night to bring up material from forward dump. These limbers will be drawn from all three Divisions in the line.
- 29th Division will consider the necessary preparations for :-
  - (a) Constructing temporary bridges over craters in E.22.a. and E.16.c.
  - (b) Removal of barrier across the road about E.16.a.4.2. and replacement by a camouflage barrier.
    - (c) Repairing a short length of road about E.15.c.8.6.
  - (d) Arrangements for defence of the line during the period when it will be necessary to evacuate the defences to allow of the cylinders being discharged. It is not expected that this period will exceed 24 hours.

The wind limit will be between West by South and North-West by North.

6. Every effort will be made to keep secret as long as possible the preparations for this attack.

7. Detailed instructions will be issued later.

XV Corps, 30/5/1918. Brigadier-General, General Staff.

Copies to :- lst Australian Division.

9th Division.

"L" Special Company, R.E. Special Company, R.E.

C. Special Companies, R. E., Second Army.

Goe Free

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APPENDIX.

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XV Corps No. 65/139/3 G, dated 4/6/1918.

29th Division.

Reference XV Corps No. 65/139 G, dated 30/5/1918.

- The installation of gas cylinders is postponed owing to weather conditions.
- 2. In order to avoid a delay occurring between completion of installation and the release of the gas, it is not proposed to commence work until Meteorological Experts consider that the present spell of North-Easterly winds has broken.

XV Corps, 4/6/1918.

Brigadier-General, General Staff.

Copies to :-

1st Australian Division.

9th Division.

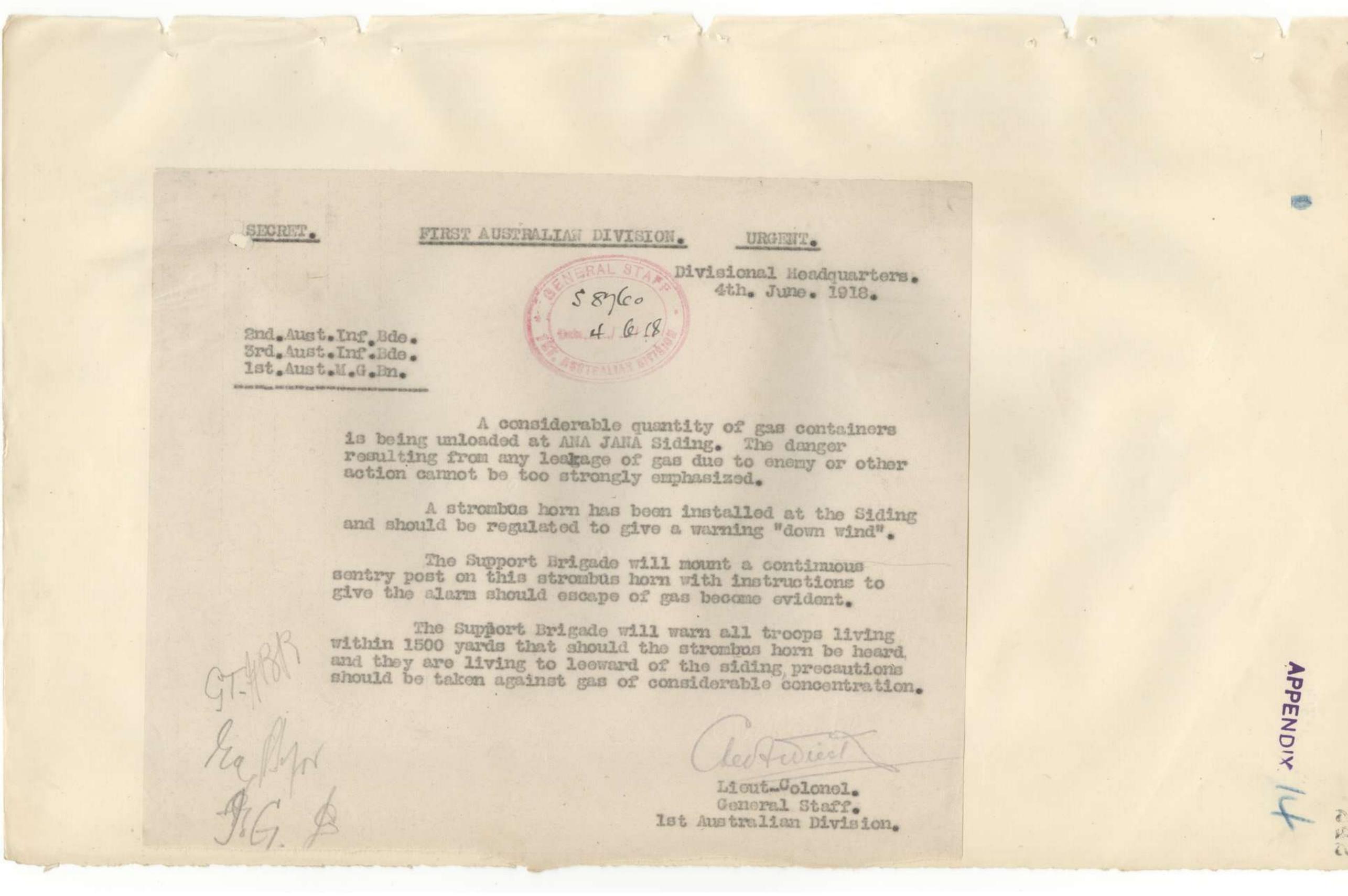
"L" Special Company, R.E. "E" Special Company, R.E.

O.C. Special Companies, R.E.,

Second Army. XV Corps "Q".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010100

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010100

APPENDIX. /4

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APPENDIX. 14

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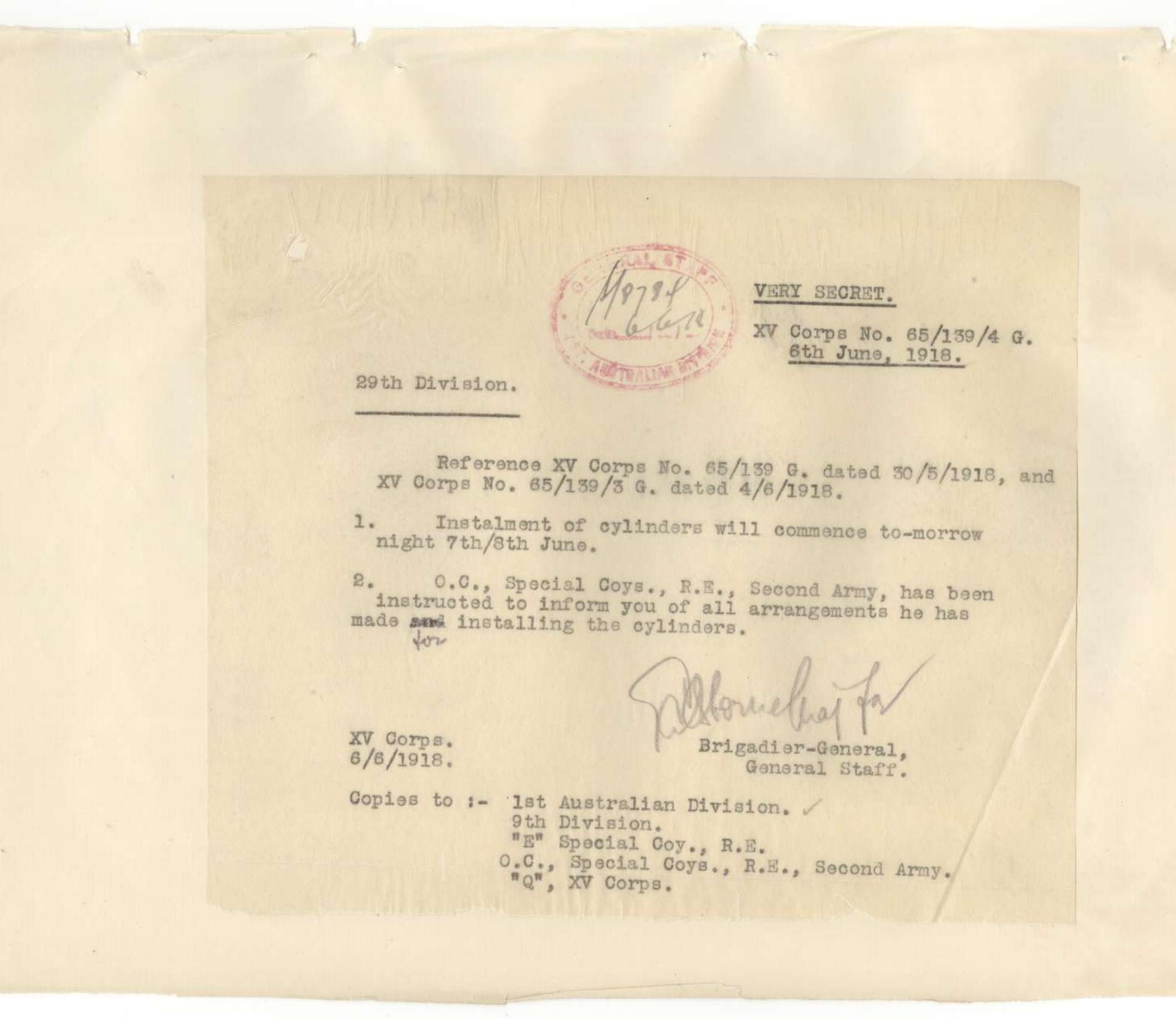
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APPENDIX. 14

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APPENDIX. 14 orm. 100.) LEDSAGES AND SIGNALS. ....essage..... Prefix ...... Code ...... m. Words. Charge. This message is on a/c of: Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Recd. at ..... m. Sent Date ..... ..... Service. From ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") TO Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA market light From Place Time The above may be forwarded as now corrected, Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. \* This line should be erased if not required. (3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010100

APPENDIX.

004

XV Lorps No. 65/139/5 6.

29th Division. "L" Special Company, R.E.

In continuation of XV Corps No. 65/139/4 G, dated 6th June, 1918.

From to-night, 7th/8th June inclusive, until the gas has been discharged the following precautions will be taken to guard against the possibility of accidents in the event of some of the cylinders being exploded by hostile Artill-

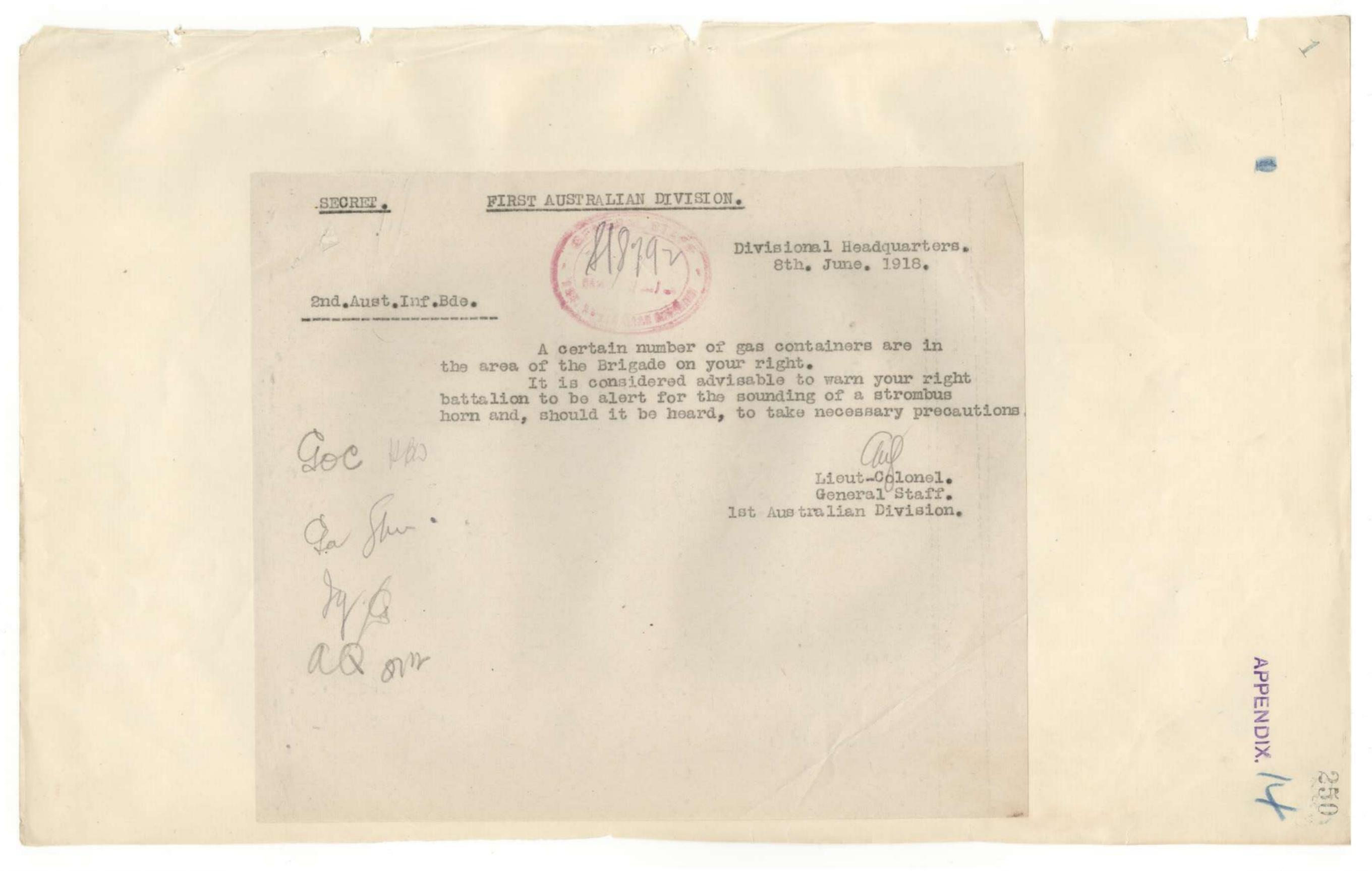
- (a) A Strombos horn will be placed in position near the site of installation by 29th Division, and "L" Special Company, R.E., will arrange for a sentry to be continuously on duty to give warning if any cylinders are burst.
- (b) Rigorous gas discipline will be enforced on troops in the vicinity and to leeward of the cylinders.
- (c) As far as possible, however, every effort will be made to prevent the knowledge that gas cylinders are being installed from becoming wide-spread. Where it is absolutely necessary to give any of the troops instructions on the subject, Officers should be ordered to describe the installation as a collection of projectors.

The enemy is accustomed to the use of projectors on this front, and if he captures prisoners who speak of a proposed projector attack, he will not be unduly alarmed.

XV Corps, 7/8/1918.

Brigadier-General; General Staff.

Copies to :- 1st Australian Division. 9th Division. "E" Special Company, R.E. O.C. Special Companies, R.E., Second Army. "Q", XV Corps.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010100

SECRET.

and the of tementally estering northwest control Copy No.

XV CORPS ORDER No. 198.

. (8)

9th Juns, 1918.

Reference Map, Scale 1/20,000,
Sheet 36a, N.E., (Edition 7.A, local).

1. Gas orlinders are being installed in ditches along the road in E.16.a. and c.

The gas will be discharged on the night llth/12th June, or on the first subsequent night when weather conditions are suitable, i.e., a wind of not less than four miles an hour, between North-West and West.

- 2. The following code messages will be sent from Corps Headquarters to all concerned :-
- (a) "BOSTON," meaning "conditions are favourable. Discharge will probably take place to-night."
  - (b) "PRETORIA," meaning "conditions are unfavourable.
    Additional cylinders will be installed to-night."
  - (c) "MADRID," meaning "conditions are unfavourable. Full number of cylinders have been installed. No action to-night."
- (d) "DOG," "weather conditions all right. Discharge of gas will take place to-night. Take action as laid down in XV Corps Order No. 198."
  - (e) "RAT," "weather conditions unfavourable. Discharge will not take place to-night."
  - (f) "BULL," "weather conditions have become unfavourable".
    Discharge will not take place. Line to be reoccupied forthwith.

Messages (a), (b) or (c) will be sent from Corps Headquarters before noon and will be based on the meteorological report at 10 am.

Messages (d) or (e) will be sent about 7 p.m. if message (a) had been sent and will be based on report received from Major BERRISFORD, M.C., R.E., Officer Commanding Special Companies R.E. Second Army, who will be at 29th Division Headquarters.

Weather conditions have changed and will be based on report from Major BERRISFORD, M. C., R. E.

Table.

- 4. The attached map shows the approximate area from which troops will be evacuated. (Issued to Divisions only).
  - 5. (1) Arrangements for withdrawal of troops will be made by lat Australian Division and 29th Division as far as concerns their respective fronts.

. anolaivid differ home date . matigratum tel . west weeken

P.T.O. (2).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Copy no3 on My Copie Filly

APPENDIX /4

- EECRET. (2) If the 6.0.C. of either Division does not consider that the tactical situation permits withdrawal he will report the fact to Corps Headquarters.
- (3) It is important that the withdrawal once decided on be carried out without delay and that its completion be promptly reported.
- (4) Each Division will send a Staff Officer to a suitable point, and will arrange for this officer to receive reports stating completion of withdrawal. Their positions will be chosen with a view to ensuring that reports are received in as short a time as possible. ear groin sellotib at bellevent wated ear areballon a
- (5) When these Staff Officers have satisfied themselves that withdrawal is complete, they will report the fact in writing to Ligutenant HEIMENS, Officer Commanding Special Company R.E. at the Farm E. 16.a. 30.45. , dnow bas dnow-ddwck
  - (6) All massages dealing with this operation will :-
    - The following code measures will be sunt from the (a) If sent by wire, be contained in a Code word.
- (b) If sent by runner, be forwarded in duplicate, each copy going by separate runner.
- .sidstuovainu eta anoitibaco" animaem ".Alkoring" €. Before evacuating forward positions troops will cover up with earth all ammunition, grenades, or any other metal stores, which would be corroded by the gas discharge. number of cylinders have been included to the telling to
- 7. The 29th Division will arrange for a section of Machine Guns to be in position about E.18.a.2.5 by 10 p.m. on the night on which the gas is to be discharged. The role of these guns will be to fire overhead fire at extreme elevation with the view to covering the noise made by the explosions which discharge the cylinders. The officer in charge of this section will report to Lieutenant HEMMIENS, R.E., and will open fire when instructed by this officer.
  - 8. Action to be taken by Lieutenant HEIMENS, R.E., on the night of discharge will be as follows :-
    - (a) His Headquarters will be at the Farm E.16.a.30.45.
    - .m. d V Sueda dmen of file (a) (b) On receipt of message laid down in paragraph 5 (5) above he will select hour for discharge of the cylinders.
      - (c) He will arrange with officer in charge of Machine Guns, see paragraph 7 above, to cover the noise on discharge.
      - (d) He will on no account order the discharge unless in possession of the messages laid down in para. 5 (5) abov
- (a) As soon as the cylinders have commenced discharging he will report the fact to Major BERRISFORD at 29th Division Headquarters.
- arous a Moin's cont sens classicorus eda avens qua beloadas eda 9. On receipt of message from Lieutenant HELMENS to the effect that gas is being discharged, Major BERRISFORD will inform Corps Headquarters, 1st Australian, 9th and 29th Divisions. Lily account to lawarability not athensymmetra (1) at

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7 - 3

APPENDIX.

10. Artillery will be prepared to open fire :-

- (a) One Brigade, Field Artillery, to cover discharge of gas. Details will be issued separately to 29th Division.
- (b) When from the number of lights ... : sent up from the German lines, it is obvious that the discharge of gas has been discovered.
- (c) On receipt of the message, "COMMENCE FIRE," from
- Corps Headquarters;

  (1) Field Artillery,

  suitable targets with a view to harassing the enemy's communications and preventing him moving to a flank to escape the gas.
  - (2) Heavy Artillery,/. ... one-and-ahalf hours with the same object on targets beyond the range of Field Artillery.
- 11. The re-occupation of evacuated area will be carried out under orders of Divisions, who will report progress and completion to Corps and to flanking Division concerned.
- 12. There is to be no reference to this operation on the telephone, and every possible step is to be taken to keep it secret.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 11.30 p.m.

Brigadier-General, General Staff.

Copy No. 1 A.D.C. to Corps Commander.

2 - 3 1st Australian Division.

4 - 5 9th Division.

6 - 7 39th Division.

8 -10 G.O.O. R.A. 11 XI Corps.

18 0.0. Special Companies, R.E.,

13 "L" Special Company, R.E. 14-15 Second Army.

16-20 G.S. and File.

21 War Diary.

P. T. O.

## TABLE ISSUED WITH XV CORPS ORDER No. 198.

	Action to be	By Major BERRISFORD, M.C., R.E.  O.C. Special Coys. R.E. Second Army.	Remarks.
BOSTON.	It sue necessary instructions to Wirn all concerned to be prepared to act on Code Message, "DOG".	Move to 29th Division H.Q. Establish Meteorological Stations. Issue necessary instructions to Special Companies, R.E.	Major BERRISFORD will arrange direct with 29th Division for the trans- mission of Code Messages to and from forward Mete- orological Stations.
PRETORIA.	As required.	Will continue installation of cylinders.	
		As required.	
MADRID.	As required.	Give orders to Special Companies	Any time after the issue of this message from
DUG.	proa shown on Map, to commence as scon as darkness and tactical situation permits. Send forward a Siaff Officer to receive reports, vide para. 5 (4).	for final preparations. Keep in touch with Meteorological Stations and report weather conditions hourly to Corps.	Corps Headquarters.
RAT.	Is sue necessary orders to troops.	Return to Second Army H.Q. after issuing necessary instructions to Special Companies, R.E.	
aull.	Of message "DOG", and order reoccupation of evacuated zone.	Do .	
	ATTENDED TO STATE OF THE PARTY		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

### S E C R E T.

COPY NO. 2.

#### 29th DIVISION ORDER NO. 215.

Reference Map Sheet 36 A. Edition 7A Local.

10th June 1918.

1. Gas cylinders are being installed in ditches along the road in E.16.a. & c.

The gas will be discharged on the night of the 11/12th June, or on the first subsequent night that weather conditions are suitable i.e. wind of not less than 4 miles per hour between N.W. and W.

- 2. The following code messages will be sent from Divisional Headquarters to all concerned :-
  - (a) BOSTON meaning conditions are favourable, discharge will probably take place to-night.
  - (b) PRETORIA meaning conditions are unfavourable, additional cylinders will be installed to-night.
  - (c) MADRID meaning conditions are unfavourable, full number of cylinders have been installed, no action to-night.
  - (d) DOG weather conditions alright, discharge of gas will take place to-night. Take action as laid down in 29th Division Order No. 215.
  - (e) RAT weather conditions unfavourable, discharge will not take place to-night.
  - (f) BULL weather conditions have become unfavourable, discharge will not take place to-night. Line to be reoccupied forthwith.

Messages (a) (b) or (c) will be sent from Divisional Headquarters before Noon and will be based on the meteorological report at 10 a.m.

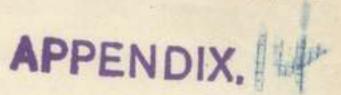
Messages (d) or (e) will be sent about 7 p.m. if message (a) has been sent and will be based on report received from Major BERRISFORD, M.C. R.E., Officer Commanding Special Companies R.E., Second Army, who will be at 29th Divisional Headquarters.

Message (f) will be sent if message (d) has been sent, and weather conditions have changed, and will be based on report from Major BERRISFORD, M.C. R.E.

- 3. Action will be taken on above messages as shown on attached table.
- 4. The attached map shows the approximate area from which troops will be evacuated.
- 5. (i) Arrangements for withdrawal of troops will be made by 86th and 87th Inf, Bdes. as far as concerns their respective areas.
  - (ii) If the G.O.C. of either Brigade does not consider that the tactical situation permits withdrawal, he will report the fact to Divisional Headquarters.

Gus Cloud file

/It



It is important that the withdrawal once decided on be carried out without delay and that its completion be promptly reported.

- c. A Divisional Staff Officer will be detailed to receive reports in writing, stating completion of withdrawal. His position, which will be chosen with a view to ensuring that reports are received in as short a time as possible, will be notified later. When this Staff Officer has satisfied himself that the withdrawal is complete, he will report the fact in writing to Lieut. HEMMENS, Officer Commanding Special Coy. R.E., at the farm XX E.16.a.50.45.
- 7. All messages dealing with this operation will:-
  - (a) If sent by wire be contained in a Code Word.
  - (b) If sent by runner, be forwarded in duplicate, each copy going by separate runner.
- 8. Before evacuating forward positions, troops will cover up with earth all ammunition, grenades, or any other metal stores which would be corroded by the gas discharge.
- 9. The O.C. 29th Bn. M.G. Corps will arrange for a section of machine guns to be in position about E.16.a.2.5. by 10 p.m. on the night on which the gas is to be discharged. The role of these guns will be to fire overhead fire at extreme elevation with the view to covering the noise made by the explosions which discharge the cylinders. The Officer in charge of this section will report to Lieut. HEMMENS, R.E., and will open fire when instructed by this Officer.
- 10. Instructions as to the action of artillery will be issued separately.
- Reoccupation of evacuated area will be carried out under orders of Brigades concerned, who will report progress and completion to Divisional Headquarters.
- 12. There is to be no reference to this operation on the telephone, and every possible step is to be taken to keep it secret.
- 13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

* 5	- 4	
Issued	27.	

(Sd) H.E. BOAK, LT Colonel for Lieut-Colonel. G.S. 29th Division.

Copies 1 - 2.General Staff.

3.86th Inf. Bde.

4.87th Inf. Bde.

5.C.R.A.

6.C.R.E.

7.29th Bn. M.G. Corps.

8/8815.

Divisional Headquarters. 10th. June. 1918.

Bnd.Aust.Inf.Bdo.

- right on the night lith/12th June, or on the first subsequent favourable night when weather conditions are suitable, i.e. a west.
- 2. The following code messages will be used by Divisional H.C.

(a) "BOSTON", meaning "conditions are favourable.
Discharge will probably take place tonight."

(b) "PRETORIA", meaning "conditions are unfavourable.

Additional cylinders will be installed tonight."

(c) "MADRID", meaning "conditions are unfavourable.
Full number of cylinders have been installed. No action

(d) "DOG", meaning "weather conditions all right.
Discharge of gas will take place tonight. Take action as

(e) "RAT", meaning "weather conditions unfavourable.
Discharge will not take place tonight."

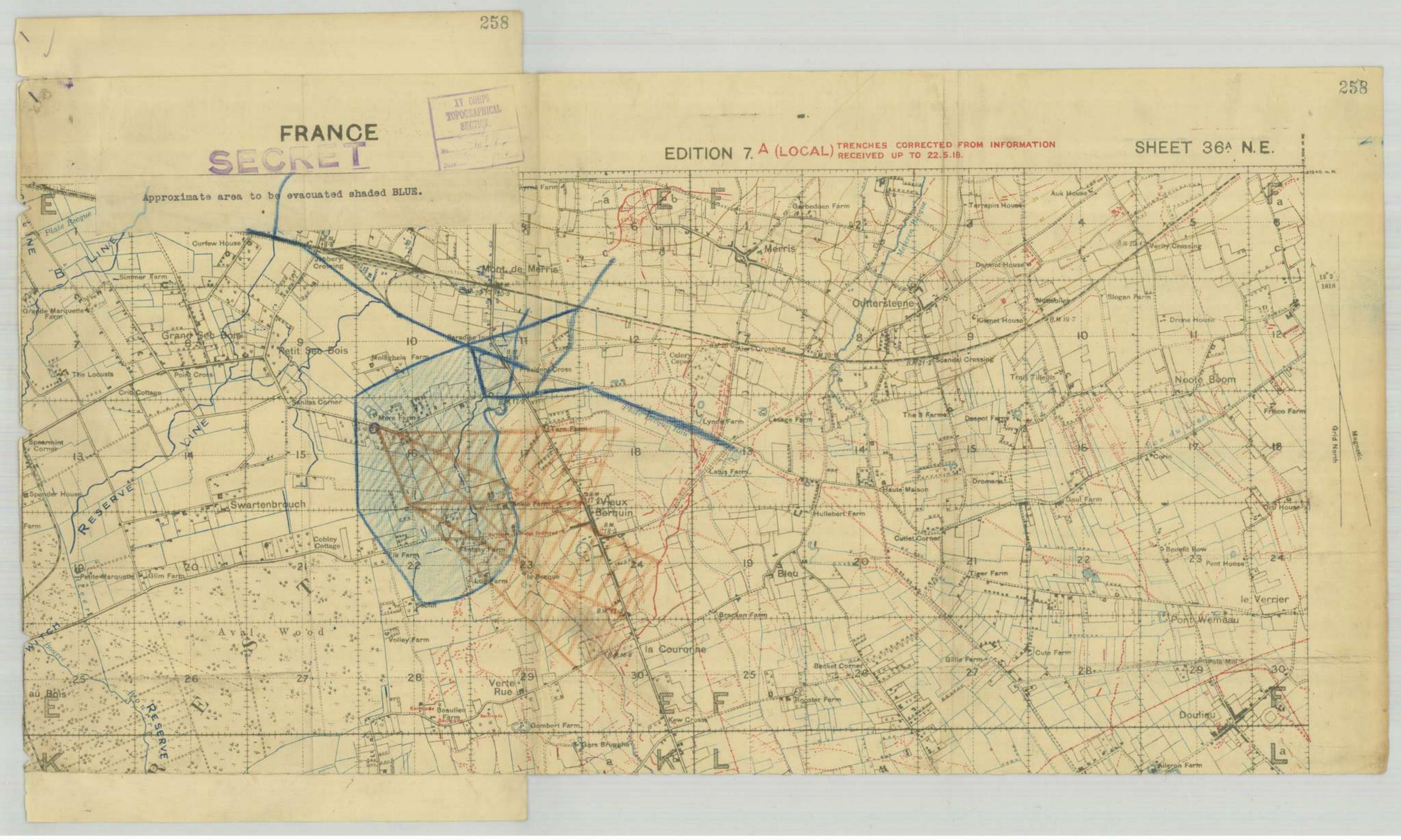
(f) "BULL", meaning "weather conditions have become unfavourable" Discharge will not take place. Line to be re-occupied forthwith."

- 5. If message (d) is received all troops of this Division, EAST and SOUTH of the line E.II.A.8.2. E.II.C.O.9. will be withdrawn. Out without delay and promptly reported.
- 4. A Divisional Staff Officer will be present at the Headquarters of the right battalion to receive reports stating completion of withdrawal. Reports if by wire should use the code words "SALVAGE READY" meanging "withdrawal complete".
- will report the fact in writing to Lieut. HEMMENS. Officer Commanding the Sectial Company R.E. at the Farm E.16.A.30.45. The message will battalion will provide the runners.
- 6. Before evacuating the forward positions troops are to cover up with be corroded by the gas discharge.
- 7. C.R.A. will arrange direct with 29th D.A. for any artillery co-
- 8. Re-occupation of the forward positions will be carried out under instructions from Divisional H.Q.
- 9. Every possible steps are to be taken to keep this operation secret.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieut-Colonel. General Staff.

1st Australian Division.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010100

APPENDIX 14

SECRET. XV Corps No. G.S. 2/147, dated 10/6/1918.

29th Division.

Reference XV Corps Order No. 198, dated 9th June, 1918, paragraph 10 (a).

1. 29th Division will detail one Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, to fire from "Z" minus two minutes to "Z" plus six minutes on about 1,000 yards of the enemy's front line to leeward of the gas discharge, with the object of :-

- (a) Covering the noise of the explosion which dis-
- (b) Keeping down the heads of the enemy's infantry, and preventing them from seeing the approach of the cloud.
- 2. A Liaison Officer from this Brigade, connected by wire to Brigade Headquarters, should report to Lieutenant HEMMENS, R.E., at E.16.a.50.45., by 11 p.m. on the night of discharge. Lieutenant HEMMENS will give this Officer about quarter of an hour's notice of the exact time of discharge, ("Z").
- 3. At the conclusion of the above eight minutes fire, the R.F.A. Brigade concerned will switch on the targets detailed, in ac-cordance with paragraph 10 (c) (1) of the above Order.

XV Corps, 10/6/1918.

Brigadier-General, General Staff.

Copies to :- G.O.C. R.A.

"L" Special Company, R.E.
O.G. Special Companies, R.E.,
Second Army.

1st Australian Division.
Sth Bivision.

#### Table issued with 29th Division Order No. 215.

Message.	Action to be taken. 86th and 87th Inf.Bdes.	29th Bn.M.G.Corps.	Remarks.
BOSTON	Issue necessary instructions to warn all concerned to be prepared to act on Code Message "DOG".	warn section of M.Gs. to be ready to move to E.16.a.2.5.	
PRETORIA.	As required.	None.	
MADRID.	As required.	None.	
DOG.	Order evacuation of troops from area shown on Map, to commence as soon as darkness and tactical situation permits. Send Reports to Divisional Staff Officer vide para. 6.	Order section of M.Gs. into action in position near E.16.a.2.5.	Any time after issue of this message from Div.H.Q. Officers of Special Coys.R.E. will be entitled to frank Urgent Operations Priority Messages.
RAT.	Issue any necessary instructions to Troops.	As required.	
BULL:	Cancel orders issued on receipt of message "DOG" and order reoccupation of evacuated area.	Withdraw section of machine guns from E.16.a.2.5.	

C.R.A. - C.R.E. - O.C.29th M.G.Corps will ensure that none of their personnel are in the danger zone (shown in Blue on attached map) during the hours of darkness until such time as the operation has been completed.

APPENDIX 260

APPENDEX 14

M	"A" For	D SIGNALS	Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)
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		Form. AND SIGNALS.	Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100). No of Message
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100,000 Pads. W. 12093, M1217, M	C. & Co., Ltd. 1/17. (E	. 764). Forms C/2121/11.	01

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APPENDIX. 14

"O" Form.	Army Ferm C. 2123. (In books of 100.)
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No.	of Message
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9810—W 528—100.000—10/5/17—E.P.Co.—(E1213).	
	ACTION AND ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX. altached filease find Order from 29 th Div. Arty groing artillery cooperation with gas discharge. The 64 th army Bregad R.F.A. will cooperate as detailed in para, 3 of attached order. Alee. M. Forbes BEG MAJOR INL AUST, BIV. ART for C.R.A.

SECRET.

15th Brigade R.A.A.
17th Brigade R.F.A.
119th Brigade k.F.A.



Reference 1/20,000 Map Sheet 36-A Edition 7.

With reference to S.m. 542 dated 10th June 1918, Artillery will co-operate as under :-

- From "Z" minus 2 minutes to "Z" plus 3 minutes, 119th Brigade n.F.A. will engage about 1000 yards of the enemy's front line to lesward of the gas with the object of :-
- (i) Covering the noise of the explosion which discharges the oylinders.
- (11) Keeping down the heads of the enemy's infantry and preventing them from seeing the approach of the cloud.

Rate of fire :- SLOW.

An Officer from 119th brigade R.F.A. will report to Lieut:
HEMMENS R.E. at E.18.a.30-45 by 11-0 p.m. tonight and on every
succeeding night until the gas is discharged.

The exact time of discharge ("A") will be notified to this officer by Lieut: Amanual's about a quarter of an hour before it

is to take place.

with this officer and will arrange a simple code by which the hour of "Z" may be notified to the brigade.

- or when the number of lights sent up from the enemy's line indicates that the discharge of gas has been discovered, listh and 17th brigades will fire for one hour on suitable targets with a view to harassing the enemy's communications and preventing him moving to a flank to escape the gas. Il9th brigade A.F.A. will join in this fire after "Z" plus 6 minutes and lst Australian Divisional Artillery have arranged for one brigade to co-operate.

  Fire will be in bursts averaging "SLOW".
  - B. If the wind is from the WEST. Brigades will engage selected targets in areas as under:-

17th brigade E.F.A. E.83.Central - IA COURONNE - E.84.b.5-0 - E.83.b.0-5.

15ta Brigade n.d.A. 2.25.b.0-5 - E.24.b.5-0 - F.13.d.0-0 - E.17.d.0-0.

119th Brigade h.F.A. E.17.b.0-5 - F.13.a.5-5 - F.7.c.8-5. - E.11.d.0-0.

1 Brigade lant by 1st Australian D.A.
B.11.d.0-0 - F.7.c.3-5 - F.1.d.0-0 - PRESIDENT OROSS.

P.T. 0. /0./

2.

3. C. If the wind is from the NORTH V. LST, Brigades will engage selected targets in areas as under:-

17th Brigade A.F.A.

K.5.d.0-0 - KEW CROSS - E.29.c.5-0.

15th Brigade R.H.A. E.29.c.5-0 - KEW CROSS - E.23.c.5-3.

119th Brigade R.F.A. E.25.b.0-3 - LA COURONNE - E.24.b.4-0 - B.17.d.0-0.

1 Brigade lent by 1st Australian D.A. E.24.b.4-0 - F.13.c.0-0 - E.17.d.0-7 - E.17.d.0-0

- 4. Heavy Artillery are co-operating by engaging targets beyond the areas engaged by the Field Artillery.
- 5. Acknowledge by wire.

APPENDIX.

Captoin 16.6

Srigade major 29th Divnl. Artillery.

SALES DE SELECTE PROPERTY

A THE OWNER OF THE PARTY.

11th June 1918.

Copies to 23th Division "3"
D.I.J.J.

1st Australian D.A.

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APPENDIX 1/8827

XV Corps Heavy Artillery Operation Order No. 53.

Reference Map, Scalo 1/20,000, Sheot 33, N.E. (Edition 7.A, local). and Map attached.

> 1. Gas cylinders are being installed in ditches along the road in E.16.a. and c.

The gas will be discharged on the night 11th/12th June, or on the first subsequent night when weather conditions are suitable, i.e., a wind of not loss than four miles an hour, botween North West and West.

- 2. The following code message will be sent from Corps Hoadquarters to all concerned :-
  - (a) "BOSTON", meaning "conditions are favourable. Dischargo will probably take place to-night".
  - (b) "PRETORIA", meaning "conditions are unfavourable. Additional cylinders will be installed to-night".
  - (c)"HADRID", moaning conditions are unfavourable. Full number of cylinders have been installed. No action to-night."
  - (d) "DOG", "woather conditions all right. Discharge of gas will take place to-night.
  - (e) "RAT", "woather conditions unfavourable. Discharge will not take place to-night."
  - (f) "BULL", "weather conditions have become unfavourable". Discharge will not take place. Line to be ro-occupied forthwith.
- 3. Area shadod blue on attachod map shows approximate area to be evacuated by troops; the brown line is the line from which gas is being dischargod.
- The Field Artillery are firing Vest of the green line on attached map with a view to harassing the enemy's communications and preventing movement during the discharge.
- Counter-Battery work is being arranged by C.B.S.O. 5.

6. Batteries, unless required by C.B. office will carry on

normal harassing fire until the gas discharge.

After the start of the gas discharge, which will be notified to brigades concerned by this office, harassing fire will be carried on E. of the green line on attached map by 34th Brigado and batteries of 45th Brigado not required by C.3. office for 14 hours at a slow rate throughout.

45th Brigade will fire on their own sector, 64th Brigade will carry on harassing fire on 1st Brigado Sector as well as

their own.

No reference is to be made to this operation on the telophone.

8. Brigades please acknowledge.

Miloldner H.Q. H.A. XV Corps, 11th June, 1918. Brigade Major, Heavy Artillery, XV Corps.

Copies to :- 1st Brigade, RGA. C.B.S.O. 1st Aust. D.A. 45th Brigade, RGA. 64th Brigade, RGA. R.A., XV Corps.

29th Div. 29th D.A.

1st Aust. Div.

APPENDIX. "A" Form. Army Form C, 2121 (in pads of 100). MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No of Message ..... Charge This message is on a|c of: Office of Or' and Service Instructions. Recd. at ..... m. Sent Date Service. At ..... m. From ..... To ..... Ву..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By..... TO Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA ninety minus NEPE From Place Time The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his same. \* This line should be erased if not required. 100,000 Pads. W. 12093. M1217. McC. & Co., Ltd. 1/17. (E. 764). Forms C/2121/11.

APPENDIX. "C" Form. Army Form C. 2123. (In books of 100.) MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message Prefix. Received. .Code\_ Sent, or sent out, Words Office Stamp. From Charges to Collect By\_ To \_ Service Instructions Trooning By Handed in at\_ Office. m. Received TO • Sender's Number Day of Month. In reply to Number AAA FROM PLACE & TIME 9810 -W 598-100,000-10/6/17-E.P.Co.-(£1213)

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APPENDIX, 14

10	"C"	AND SIGNALS.	Army Form C. 21 (In books of 100, No. of Message
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APPENDIX. 14	
	* 1000
Army Form.  Army Form. (In passive of 202)	
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No of Message	
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9810—W.598—100,000—10/5/17—M.F.Co.—(E324)	

	"A" MESSAGES	Form. AND SIGNALS.	Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).
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	"A" MESSAGES	Form. AND SIGNALS.	Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100). No of Message
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9310-W.528-100,000-10/5/17-E.P.Co(E1214).				

## APPENDIX, 14

	"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNAL	Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).  No of Message
Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words Charge This message is  Sent  At	on a/c of: Recd. at
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м12303 М1217. МоС. &	Co., Ltd. 1/17. (E. 764).	Forms C/2121/11	emen in mi name.
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			Form. AND SIGNALS.	No of Message
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APPENDIX, 14

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XV Corps No. 65/139/10 G.

16th June, 1918.

29th Division. 1st Australian Division. "L" Special Coy., R.E.

If gas is not discharged during the hours of darkness, the evacuated area will not be reoccupied before dawn and the gas discharge will take place at the first moment the wind is suitable.

ACKNOVLEDGE by wire.

XV Corps. 15/3/1918.

Copies to: - 9th Division.
XI Corps.

Second Army.

O.C., Special Coys., R.E., Second Army.

Brigadier-General, General Staff.

APPENDIX.

298

PrefixCode	15	6-3	177	GNAL cived.	1	or sent o	Message _	e Stamp.
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1st Australian Division. 29th Division.

SECRET.

XV Corps No. 65/139/9.9.

Date 1616.108

Reference proposed discharge of gas this evening.

1. The Meteorological forecast is as follows :-

The wind will be between West and North-West after about 10 p.m. this evening but a velocity of over three miles an hour cannot be guaranteed. The velocity may be as great as six miles and hour, but will be at its lowest about 2 a.m. = 3 a.m. After this hour the velocity will increase and the direction is almost certain to be between West and North-West. Tomogrow night will probably be calm, and after tomorrow night easterly conditions are expected to set in for a period of some days.

2. From the above it is obvious that every effort must be made to release the gas tonight. Evacuation of the line will therefore be carried out as expeditiously as possible, and if the velocity of the wind has sunk so low as to render the operation dangerous the gas will be released. however the conditions be such, that when the evacuation is complete it is impossible to release the gas and, provided that the meteordogical forecast received about 10.30 p.m gives a definite promise of a suitable wind about or shortly after daylight tomorrow morning, the order for re-occupation of the line will not be sent from Corps Headquarters. Troops will remain in the positions to which they have been withdrawn and the gas will be released by daylight as soon as the weather conditions make it possible. \* If the operation is carried out in this manner the element of surprise may be to a large extent lost, but the effect on the enemy do be such as to enable our troops to move forward after the gas cloud has passed, and re-occupy at any rate a portion of the forward positions without opposition. Divisional Commanders in consultation with their Divisional Gas Officers will decide whether it is adviable to take any action of this nature.

XV Corps. 18th June 1918.

Brigadier General. General Staff.

Copies to: 2 9th Division.
"L" Special Company R.E.

APPENDIX, /4

SECRET

Copy No. 4

PRELIMINARY REPORT.

ON

GAS CYLINDER DISCHARGE BY "L" SPECIAL COY., R.E.

ON 17.6.18.

Reference: XV Corps Order No. 198 dated 9.6.18.

Map - Sheet 36.A., N.E. 1:20,000.

17th. June 1918.

The ground in front having been cleared of troops for the purpose, approximately 4,000 gas cylinders, equivalent to over 100 tons lethal gas, were discharged simultaneously by an electrical method at 10.25 a.m. today from the road between E.16.c.8.4. and E.16.a.4.6. in the front at present held by 88th. Brigade, 29th. Division.

The wind was about North West and the main discharge complete in about 4 minutes. The cloud was seen to drift off in a South Easterly to South South Easterly direction and certainly enveloped FANTASY FARM, LUG FARM, and LA BECQUE.

Enemy action consisted of artillery retaliation, starting about 20 minutes after gas discharge, and not long sustained, principally a slow barrage laid down across the

path of the cloud a few hundred yards in advance of the

cylinder position

4.

Kindly acknowledge.

O.C. "L" Special Company, R.E.

Copies to :-

XV Corps, G.

(2) XV Corps, Intelligence.

(3) 29th Division, G.

(4) First aust. Div. G. V

(5) 86th. Inf. Bde.

(6) 87th. Inf. Bde.

A8th. Inf. Bde. 171

SPECIAL COMPANY, R.E. 4517

Tate. 19.6,18

	"G"	Form.	ALS. No.	Army Form O. 2128 (In books of 100.)
refixCode	Words	Received.	Sent, or sent	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER. THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER.
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Service Instructions.		By	To A	VA 17 VI.13:
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.CM.—Jako Blacor, Bes.	-MinBres. Former	E.L.	( court grant)	

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	"A" Form.	Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).
Prefix Code	MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.	No of Message
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