

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/46/8 Part 2

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 3rd  
Australian Division

June 1917



AWM4-1/46/8PART2

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters.

17th May 1917.

"A"Q".  
 C.R.A.  
 C.R.E.  
 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 10th " " "  
 11th " " "  
 Div. Sig. Co. 88  
 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
 "A" Special Coy., R.E.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 11.

The following copy of Second Army No. G. 476 dated 14th inst. is forwarded for your information. -

"In making reference to times before or after which operations will commence, the following nomenclature will be adopted in future. -

1. Referring to days.

"Z" day is the day on which operations take place.

One day before "Z" ..... "Y" day.

Two days before "Z" ..... "X" day.

Three days before "Z" ..... "W" day.

Four days before "Z" ..... "V" day.

Five days before "Z" ..... "U" day.

Days before "U" day will be referred to as "Z" - 6.

~~Days~~ "Z" - 7. "Z" - 8, etc.,

One day after "Z" ..... "A" day.

Two days after "Z"  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..... "B" day.

Three days after "Z" ..... "C" day.

Days after "C" day will be referred to as -

"Z" + 4, "Z" + 5. "Z" + 6. etc.

2. Referring to hours on "Z" day.

Zero is the exact time at which operations will commence, and times will be designated in hours and minutes + or - from zero, even if they encroach on "Y" day".

(Sgd) J. H. F. PAIN.

Major,

General Staff.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
19th. May, 1917.

M. O. CIRCULAR NO. 12,Reference 1:10,000 Map - PLOEGSTEERT.

Preliminary instructions with regard to holding the line from daylight on the 24th. May until "Z" day, and from "Z" day on. ....

1. By daylight on the 24th. May, the 11th. Brigade will take over the line from the LYS on the South to WESTMINSTER AVENUE (exclusive) on the North. - The boundary will run along WESTMINSTER AVENUE, down ST. YVES AVENUE to DEAD HORSE CORNER, along HUNTER AVENUE to LOWNDES AVENUE, along LOWNDES AVENUE to ESSEX FARM.
2. By the same time and date the 9th. Brigade will take over the front from WESTMINSTER AVENUE (inclusive) up to ANNSCROFT AVENUE (exclusive). - The boundary of the 9th. Brigade will be ANNSCROFT AVENUE and its prolongation to POOLE'S COTTAGES, at present known as ONTARIO AVENUE.

3. .... NOMENCLATURE OF COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. ....

THE ONLY WAY will be clearly marked on maps, plans and the ground as such.

The present entry to ANNSCROFT (vide 1:10000 map) will cease to be known as ANNSCROFT, and the proper entry to ANNSCROFT, now known as ONTARIO AVENUE, will be labelled ANNSCROFT.

ONTARIO AVENUE will be given a new entry labelled as such, which will be located between POOLE'S COTTAGES and MUD CORNER in the vicinity of the Tramline.

4. "Q" Staff of the Division will issue the necessary instructions with regard to Back Areas and billeting accommodation.
5. Brigades will mutually arrange for the necessary traffic rights in each others areas.
6. Brigade Headquarters from the 24th. May will be as follows:-

11th. Aust. Inf. Bde.	-	PONT DE NIEPPE.
9th. " " "	-	NIEPPE.
10th. " " "	-	BRUNE GAYE.

O.C., Divisional Signal Company, will arrange for the necessary communications.

7. On or about 2nd June the 11th. Brigade will take over the remainder of the Divisional front from WESTMINSTER AVENUE to its present Northern boundary. - Headquarters will remain at PONT DE NIEPPE. - Divisional Signal Company will make the necessary arrangements for communications.  
9th. and 10th. Brigades will be withdrawn and accommodated in their proper billets in the Divisional Offensive Area. - "Q" Staff of the Division will issue the necessary instructions with regard to the allotment of these billets.

P.T.O.

8. When the two Defensive Battalions of 57th. Division arrive on or about 2nd. June, they will take over the front from the River LYS to WESTMINSTER AVENUE (exclusive), being controlled by the 11th. Brigade from PONT DE NIEPPE, up to, but exclusive of "W/X" night.  
"Q" Staff of the Division will arrange for the necessary billeting accommodation for the Battalions of the 11th. Brigade thus withdrawn.  
On and after "W/X" night the senior Battalion Commander of the two Defensive Battalions will be responsible for the line from WESTMINSTER AVENUE (exclusive) to the LYS, his Headquarters being established at PONT DE NIEPPE.
9. On or about "X" day Brigade Headquarters of the 9th., 10th., and 11th. Brigades will move into their Battle Headquarters.
10. On "W/X" night the 11th. Brigade will be located as follows.-  
One Battalion holding the line on the Offensive Front from WESTMINSTER AVENUE (inclusive) Northwards.  
One Battalion in the CATACOMBS.  
Two Battalions in Back billets.
11. On "X/Y" night they will be located as follows.-  
One Battalion holding the Offensive front.  
One Battalion in the CATACOMBS.  
One Battalion in Back billets - probably PONT DE NIEPPE.  
One Battalion in the Forward Area, South of the PLOEGSTEERT WOOD and probably East of PLOEGSTEERT Road.
12. On "Y/Z" night, as soon as it is dark, the Battalion from the CATACOMBS will move to its allotted position in the Northern end of the Subsidiary Line. - The Battalion East of PLOEGSTEERT Road and South of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD will move to its allotted position in the Southern end of the Subsidiary Line, using HUNTER AVENUE or 9th. Brigade approach march routes, provided that the tail does not foul the advance of the 9th. Brigade. - The Battalion from Back billets will move to BUNHILL ROW in rear of the 9th. and 10th. Brigades during their approach march, using any route suitable. - The Battalion from the line will, as it is relieved, move back by THE ONLY WAY and TORONTO AVENUES and assemble in the CATACOMBS. -  
Precedence will be given to troops going into the line who will be using ASH LANE, ANNSOROPT, ONTARIO, ST. YVES, and WESTMINSTER AVENUES. - Troops moving out must be prepared to halt and give way to troops moving in, if the necessity arises.  
The 11th. Brigade will leave a clear space in the Subsidiary Line in the vicinity of the 10th. Brigade Headquarters for use of that Brigade. - The amount of accommodation will be mutually agreed upon by the respective Brigadiers.
13. The object of moving one Battalion of the 11th. Brigade up on "X/Y" night is to have it in such a position that it will be able to move to its allotted place directly it is dark, and so be in position without any chance of fouling the approach march of the 9th. and 10th. Brigades.
14. The G.O.C., 11th. Brigade, will report to Divisional Headquarters how he proposes to accommodate the Battalion East of PLOEGSTEERT Road and South of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD on "X/Y" night.

P.T.O.

(3).

- 15. On and after the 24th. May the 9th. and 10th. Brigades will be so billeted that a maximum amount of work can be put in on their respective areas. - Work on the 11th. Brigade Defensive Front during this period may have to suffer somewhat owing to the distance back of possible working parties.
- 16. ACKNOWLEDGE.



Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION.

A.D.C. for G.O.C.	
A.Q.	2nd. ANZAC. (For information).
C.R.A.	57th. Division. (1 copy to file.
C.R.E.	do. (1 copy to hand
Div. Sig. Coy.	( to O.C. two
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.	( selected Bns.
10th. " " "	
11th. " " "	
A.D.M.S.	

*A special copy*

## THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Appendix No 43

Divisional Headquarters  
20-5-17.

M. O. CIRCULAR NO. 28.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS - GENERAL.

1. Positions vide Diagram attached. Appendix B.

2. MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

The various means of communication at the disposal of the Division are -

1. Cable.
2. Visual.
3. Visual to aeroplane.
4. Despatch Riders and Runners.
5. Pigeons.
6. Power Buzzer.
7. Wireless.

Details of above methods described later.

3. Great reliance is placed on the Earth Induction Sets (Power Buzzer and Amplifier) as a means of getting messages through a barrage which cuts cable and blocks Visual Signals. Signalling by Power Buzzer is confused by leakage from earth return circuits. It is therefore forbidden to lay or use any earth return circuits.
4. Each Brigade Forward Station is responsible for laying a metallic circuit to the next Brigade Forward Station on its right. All Units will observe the above principle - that is to say, they will, in the first instance, open communication with the corresponding Units on their immediate right. This, however, will in no way relieve them of the responsibility of opening communication with corresponding Units on their left, should such communication not have been established.
5. Units passing through, or relieving another Unit, will use the Headquarters of the Unit passed through or relieved. All non-unit stores such as Power Buzzer, Pigeons, etc., will be handed over to the passing through or relieving Units. Reliefs of Runners, Linemen, etc., will also be arranged at the same time.
6. Units will take into use their Unit Station Calls (already issued) as soon as they leave the offices to which Position Calls have been allotted. Station Calls of Forward Stations will be the same as those of Brigade and Battalion Headquarters, followed by the letter R.
7. For several hours it is not considered that it will be possible to maintain more than two cables across NO MAN'S LAND (one for Artillery and one for Infantry). In consequence. -
  - (a). All Messages must therefore be curtailed.
  - (b). Telephone conversation, except in cases of extreme importance, is forbidden.

It must be explained to all Officers that a telephone call will take some time to get through. The line, therefore, if employed for this purpose is meanwhile blocked and precludes, perhaps, the sending of 3 or more important messages.
8. For detail of personnel required for Brigade and Battalion forward parties and F.O.O.'s parties, see Appendix "A".

P.T.O.

(2).

9. Unless an acknowledgment can be obtained, all important messages sent across NO MAN'S LAND will be sent by alternative means. To prevent loss of time, such messages will be handed in in DUPLICATE.

CABLE.

See Diagram Appendix "B". - Infantry communications only.

All lines buried unless otherwise stated.

Buries forward of Brigade Headquarters 9 to 10 feet deep. Backwards to where buries join permanent open routes 7 feet deep.


Personnel of Brigade forward stations (vide Appendix "A") will move as follows:-

Right Brigade with 4th. wave, which is to take the 3rd. objective.

Left Brigade with the wave to take 3rd. objective.

Both parties will move to positions in vicinity of points shown on diagram.

Detachments "B" will lay 4 pairs of wire from cable head to these points following two separate routes, but lines will be brought in every 400 yards to a relay and test point thus. -

Cable head  Bde. forward Stn.

Two pairs on the right will be for the use of Infantry, and the two on the left for Artillery.

In addition to the above, F.O.O's may lay lines direct from the cable head to their forward positions.

To connect to the pairs laid out for Artillery use to Brigade Forward Station they should, if possible, lay their lines back from their forward position via Battalion Forward Station to Brigade Forward Station.

All arrangements for connection of F.O.O's lines at cable heads should be made through the Brigade Signal Officers.

Battalion Forward Station on arrival at position selected, will lay back a pair to Brigade Forward Station, and also a lateral to the Battalion Forward Station on their immediate right.

Lines will not be run to Companies until the consolidation of the position has commenced.

No lines will be laid by Infantry across NO MAN'S LAND.

All lines overland will be constructed of D.III twisted cable, and will be properly labelled at intervals of not more than 200 yards, and at all traffic centres such as trench junctions, etc.

As soon as practicable after assault has succeeded, the trunk lines running to cable heads will be continued on and buried to Brigade Forward Stations.

VISUAL TO AEROPLANES.

Brigades and Battalions will be in possession of duplicate ground Signal Strips, to admit of Ground Signal Strips being put out, both at Headquarters and at Forward Headquarters simultaneously.

For personnel to accompany Forward Stations, see Appendix "A".

Battalions and Brigades on establishing their Headquarters, will lay out their Ground Signal Sheets and Panels, but will keep them camouflaged until required for use. They will be screened immediately a hostile machine is sighted.

The marking of Liaison Aeroplane and Lines of Patrol will be notified later.

Instructions with regard to the use of flares will be issued later.

P.T.O.

(3).

VISUAL.

A central Visual receiving station (U.13) will be established at U.13.a.9.7., and will be in telephonic communication with Right and Left Brigades, and Left Divisional Visual Station.

Two parties will be detailed to watch the whole area within its range of vision, and pick up any messages readable. All messages sent to the station will be D.D. and no acknowledgment will be given.

A station (sending and receiving) will be established at each Brigade forward Station for communication back to Division and Brigade stations.

Any messages from Battalion Forward Stations to this station will be D.D.

Battalions will establish stations at their Forward Headquarters working back to Divisional and Brigade Stations, and, if the ground admits, to Brigade Forward Stations, but in the latter case messages will be D.D.

F.O.O's, if necessary, will establish stations working back to Divisional or Brigade stations.

Lucas Daylight Lamp and Venetian Shutter will be used at above stations. Flags will not be used.

Important messages sent D.D. will, if they have not been sent by an alternative route, be repeated after five minutes.

For night signalling, or during smoke screen, or through dust caused by barrage, the Lucas Signalling Lamp, fitted with the red disc, will be used, as signals are more easily decipherable than White or Green.

On the Right Brigade front, special precautions will be taken to prevent Visual Signals being read by the enemy from the South of the offensive front.

DESPATCH RIDERS & RUNNER SERVICE.

From Divisional Headquarters a special motor cyclist service will be maintained from Division to Reserve Brigade Headquarters, from which despatches will be delivered to Right and Left Brigades by Runners. 4 special motor cyclists will also be stationed at Reserve Brigade Headquarters. Forward of Brigade Headquarters, Brigade Section Officers will arrange a Runner Service and establish Relay Posts, where necessary. Table of Posts to be notified to Divisional Headquarters and promulgated to all concerned.

PIGEONS.

Pigeons will be supplied from lofts at STEENWERCK and NIEPPE.

Birds will be allotted for the day as follows:-

Each Brigade Forward Station,	8	Total	16.
To each Attacking Battalion,	12	"	84.
" " Reserve "	6	"	30.
8 F.O.O's per Group,	4 each	"	32.
			<u>152.</u>

After first twenty-four hours, allotment will be made according to the requirements of the situation. Demands for all Units in the Brigades should be sent to S I G S, Divisional Headquarters, by Brigade Signals at least 6 hours before they are required.

P.T.O.



(4).

SYSTEM OF SUPPLY.

Divisional Refilling Point will be at Reserve Brigade Headquarters, CATACOMBS.

The Corps Pigeon Despatch Riders will arrange to deliver for all Units, including those for F.O.O's, of their covering Groups, to the Divisional Refilling Point. All Units will arrange to collect the birds allotted them from the Divisional Refilling Point.

For the first day of the attack pigeons will be collected from the Refilling Point six hours before Zero.

The pigeon lofts will be in communication by telephone with Division from which messages will be transmitted to their destination.

Pigeon messages will be marked "PRIORITY" and will be addressed to Divisional Headquarters as well as to Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

WIRELESS.

A Wireless Station will be established in Right Brigade Headquarters, and will be in communication with Divisional Wireless Station, STEENWERCK.

It will also be able to communicate with BAILLEUL.

POWER BUZZERS.

Five Power Buzzers are available for the DIVISION. They will be allotted one to each attacking Battalion, whose Headquarters are to be established in the enemy's lines, and one to each Brigade Forward Station.

They will work back to an Amplifier at Right Brigade Headquarters. This receiving set will, in addition, be fitted with a Power Buzzer for the purpose of communicating with Corps Wireless Station on HILL 63, and Flank DIVISIONS in the event of other means of communication breaking down.

Messages sent by Wireless or Power Buzzer can be picked up or overheard by the enemy.

Up to Zero all messages sent by these means will be in Code or Cipher.

After Zero, although it is desirable that all messages continue to be sent in Code or Cipher, the tactical situation, and consequently the urgency of the message, will determine whether Code or Clear will be used.

Units to whom Power Buzzers are allotted will detail an Officer for code work to accompany the Forward Station.

The Power Buzzer should only be used when the station concerned is out of touch by telephone, and for short, important messages.



Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

D.C.

DISTRIBUTION.

A.Q. ....	1.
C.R.A. ....	6.
C.R.E. ....	4.
Div. Sig. Coy.	12.
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.	7.
10th. " " "	7.
11th. " " "	7.
3rd. Aust. Pnr. Bn.	1.

"A" BRIGADE FORWARD PARTY.

Signal Officer.	.....	.....	1	B.
Intelligence Officer.	(For cipher and code work).	.....	1	C.

Detachment "A".

Earth Induction Set.	.....	.....	3	B.
R.F.C. Liaison.	.....	.....	3	C.
Visual.	.....	.....	3	A.
Runners.	.....	.....	2	(per attacking Inf. Bn). C.
Telephone Mechanic & Operators.	.....	.....	3	B.
Pigeon Station.	.....	.....	2	C.
N.C.O. for traffic control in office.	.....	.....	1	B.
Linemen.	.....	.....	2	B.

NOTE: The four snipers or observers accompanying Battalion Intelligence Officers are available to carry stores for the Brigade Forward Party across NO MAN'S LAND. -  
(See S.S. 148, Section II, para. 5 and Section VII para 1 (b).)

Detachment "B".

Linemen (N.C.O).	.....	.....	1	A.
Linemen.	.....	.....	8	A. E. ) Subject to re- duction accord- ing to number of test points to be manned.
Runners.	.....	.....	4	C. D.

NOTES:-  
A. Detailed by O.C. Divisional Signal Company.  
B. Detailed from Brigade Signal Section.  
C. Detailed from Battalions.  
D. Two will man each relay post as soon as cable is through.  
E. Two remain each test point. Two return cable head.  
Two join Brigade Forward Station when lines through.

"A" BATTALION FORWARD PARTY.

Battalion Signal Officer.	.....	.....	1.
N.C.O. (not Sergeant).	.....	.....	1.
Runners.	.....	.....	6.
Signallers.	.....	.....	0.
Pioneers.	.....	.....	3. A.
Riflemen.	.....	.....	4.

NOTE:- A. Two are sent forward to Companies as soon as positions of Company Headquarters are reported.

"A" F.O.O'S PARTY.

Officer.	.....	.....	1.
Signallers.	.....	.....	3.
Linemen.	.....	.....	2.
Runners.	.....	.....	4.
Pioneer.	.....	.....	1. B.

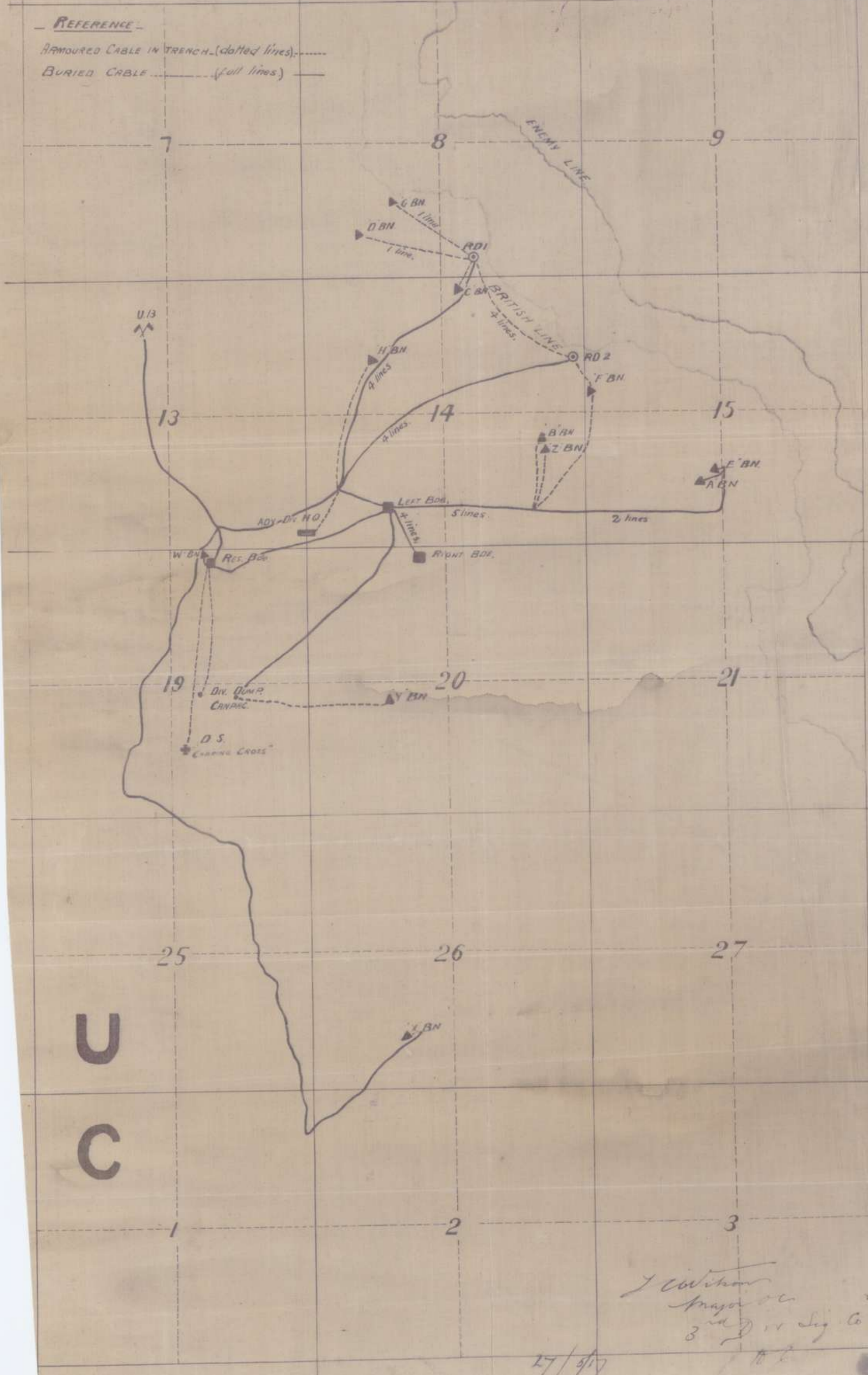
NOTE:- B. Officer's batman, if trained.

~~MAGNUM~~ ~~0-105~~  
**INFANTRY COMMUNICATIONS**

SCALE 1/10,000.

REFERENCE

ARMoured CABLE IN TRENCH (dotted lines)  
 BURIED CABLE (full lines)



U  
C

Appendix No. H.3.

88

J. Colvin  
 Major  
 3rd Div Sig Co  
 17/5/17

649

Q Staff 6700  
Sec. P.A. with  
in a file of plans

RM

Divisional Headquarters,  
 21st May 1917.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 29

( Preliminary Instructions )

Reference 1/10,000 Map, FLOEGSTEERT Sheet.

1. Introduction  
of M.O.  
Circulars.

To avoid the issue of an Operation Order of great length immediately before operations begin, instructions for "Magnum Opus" have been issued from time to time numbered consecutively. Each Memorandum thus issued will be treated as if it formed part of the Operation Order, unless subsequently cancelled or revised.

2. List of  
Circulars  
already  
issued.

The Circulars already issued, and subjects with which they deal are shown below:-

- M.O.Circular No.1 - Outline of Plan submitted to Corps.
- 2.- Notes, including Tasks and Objectives for assaulting Battalions.  $\phi$
- $\phi$  Amended by Div. Commanders Conference
- 3.- Russian Saps for Communication.
- 4.- Assembly positions. Routes for Approach March etc.
- 5.- Battalions for Work.
- 6.- C.T's to be destroyed. Targets etc.
- 7.- Lines of Approach "Z" night.
- 8.- Notes on Conference at D.H.Q. 29th April 1917.
- 9.- Training of Moppers-up.
- 10.- Notes on Conference at D.H.Q. 13th May 1917.
- 11.- Nomenclature of days prior to and after Zero.
- 12.- Preliminary Instructions.
- 13.+ Forwarding tracing showing Creeping Barrage.
- 14.- Forwarding tracing of proposed Strong points and trenches for destructive bombardment.
- 15.- Area. Billeting and Transport lines
- 16.- Supplies.
- 17.- Pack Transport.
- 18.- Ammunition supply.
- 19.- Water.
- 20.- Trench tramways.
- 21.- R.E. Stores.
- 22.- Medical arrangements.
- 23.- Battle Stragglers.
- 24.- Reinforcements and surplus personnel
- 25.- Prisoners of War.
- 26.- Burial of dead.
- 27.- Salvage.
- 28.- Signal Communications.

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten initials*

3. Front of Attack and Tasks.

The front of attack allotted to the 2nd ANZAC Corps extends from ST YVES to the WULVERGHEM-WYTSCHAETE road. Of this front the Third Australian Division have been allotted the area from ST YVES up to, but exclusive of, LA PETITE DOUVE FARM. Lines of demarkation and consolidation are shown on the attached map No. 1.

The 10th Australian Infantry Brigade will be responsible for LA PETITE DOUVE River throughout the operations including the period subsequent to the proposed withdrawal of its Right Battalion.

The New Zealand Division have been allotted the front from the Third Australian Division left up to the vicinity of BIRTHDAY FARM (Square O.31.d.).

The intention is to reach the green line of consolidation on the first day and to capture as many as possible of the enemy's guns.

4. Brigade and Divisional boundaries.

Map No. 1 shows the Brigade and Divisional boundaries by the Red lines AA and BB - Lines on which to consolidate are shown in Black and Green. The areas to be dealt with by each Brigade are shown, Red and Blue for Right Brigade; Green and Brown for Left.

Lines of approach are shown Red and Blue for Right Brigade, Green and Brown for Left.

Strong Points.

SCHNITZEL FARM Locality will be converted into a strong point.

Brigade Commanders will submit their proposals with regard to other suitable sites for strong points in the enemy's territory.

6. Allotment of Artillery.

Artillery has been allotted to the Third Australian Division as follows:-

18 Prs	-	120
4.5 Hows		30
2" T.Ms.		24
Heavy T.Ms.		6

7. Action of Artillery.

A tracing has been sent out with M.O. Circular No. 14 showing the areas to be dealt with by artillery during the preliminary bombardment. If Brigadiers consider additional targets should be engaged during this period, they will notify the positions of such targets to Divisional Headquarters.

The provisional plan for creeping 18 Pr barrage was published in M.O. Circular No. 13. That for the action of 4.5" Howitzers and the standing barrage of 18 Prs is shown on maps Nos. 2 and 3.

The action of Heavy Artillery on "Z" day will be published later.

8. Clearing of dug-outs.

It has been found that 'P' bombs burn dugouts and render them incapable of being used by us; that 'P.S.' bombs (Vomiting) and 'S.K.' bombs (lachrymatory) have such a lingering effect that they also render the dugouts unsuitable for use. 'C.G.' or lethal bombs render dugouts uninhabitable for 4 to 6 hours and the most recent reports point to the advisability of using only Mills Grenades in small dugouts or Stokes shells in larger ones, if it is desired to use the dugouts ourselves later.

Wire Cutting

Wire cutting is already in progress, the intention being to cut, by degrees, suitable gaps in the enemy's wire opposite our selected points of issue from our own trenches. By degrees, these gaps will be extended until practically the whole of the enemy's wire will, it is hoped, be destroyed. Brigade Commanders will keep the Artillery informed with regard to the points where it is essential that gaps shall be cut. They will also take steps to keep gaps open. They will submit their proposals with regard to the removal of our own wire in order to allow our troops to issue. It is suggested that this should be done on the last night, provided the task will not take too long. Failing this, it will be necessary to cut a portion of our wire on previous nights, but so to conduct this operation that our intentions may not be detected, e.g. - the wire nearest to our own parapet might be cut, and some collapsible or easily removed wire, such as French wire, put in in place of it, which to the enemy would seem as though repairs had been carried out.

Infantry Brigade Commanders will arrange that the progress of the wire cutting shall be witnessed by Infantry representatives, and frequent examinations of the hostile wire will be carried out.

10. Preparatory work.

On and after the 24th May work required to organise our trenches for attack, including the completion of Observation and Command Posts will be undertaken by the respective Infantry Brigades. The C.R.E. will be prepared to hand over all details of the work in progress but will continue to be responsible for supervision. The C.R.E.'s Agenda Paper, issued on the 21st April, is attached; see Appendix 1.

11th Brigade - The 11th Brigade will allot personnel for Artillery work; and a Battalion for work under the direction of the C.R.E. if found necessary.

The numbers for work from a Battalion will be counted as 600, including Officers. They must not fall below this total. The work of the three Field Companies and Pioneer Battalion will be as allotted by the C.R.E.

11. Method of Approach and Assembly

M.O.Circular No. 4 dealt with a possible method of approach, assembly, and issue from our trenches. Brigadiers will, as soon as possible, submit their final proposals in this connection, in order that they may be embodied in the instructions. Care must be taken to avoid our gun positions as far as possible both on account of possible hostile shelling and on account of passing in front of our own batteries thereby masking their fire. Brigadiers will carry out experiments in order to ascertain exactly what numbers of yards of trench will be required for the assembly of the various Units detailed for the attack. So far the estimate has been  $1\frac{1}{2}$  men per yard of trench.

The clearing of obstacles between assembly and front line trenches must not be overlooked.

Various methods of making steps in order to issue from our trenches, and the proposed scheme for bridging have been discussed with the C.R.E. He will obtain Brigade Commanders views upon this subject, and direct Field Company Commanders to apply the methods best suited to the individual localities.

Brigades will obtain from the C.R.E. the necessary

11. (Contd) boards, shewing which Battalion, Company and Platoon moves to each position in the assembly area. Brigadiers have notified Divisional Headquarters which of their three main traffic routes in each Brigade area they wish to be reserved for "In" and which for "Out" traffic. The ONLY WAY and TORONTO AVENUE have been reserved for "Out" traffic. The marking of emergency routes as well as the routes for approach march will be carried out by the C.R.E.
12. TRENCH TRAFFIC CONTROL Infantry Brigade Commanders will detail special parties or individuals to control traffic. These parties or individuals will be posted at the end of Communication trenches to avoid congestion by "Out" trenches being used for "In" traffic, and vice versa. Further instructions concerning the general system of traffic control have already been issued.
13. SIGNAL Communications Signal communications will be as shown in diagram No. 4 attached. The detailed arrangements are given in M.O. Circular No. 28.
14. S.O.S. Measures with regard to S.O.S. action will be notified later, as regards guns, howitzers and machine guns.
15. Aeroplane Co-operation The co-operation of aircraft and contact planes will form the subject of further instructions.
16. O.P.'s. Observation posts are allotted as follows.-
- | Nos. | No. of O.P.  | To whom allotted.                              |
|------|--|--|
| 2    | U.4.   | Divisional Artillery.                          |
| 1    | U.4.b.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.5.a.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.6.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.8.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.8.a.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.9.a.   | do.  |
| 1    | U.11   | Div. Artillery (Room for an Infantry observer) |
| 1    | U.19.  | Divisional Artillery.                          |
| 1    | U.20.  | do.  |
| 1    | LA HUTTE CHATEAU                                       | Div. Artillery (Room for an Infantry observer) |
| 1    | P.O. ST YVES<br>Visual signalling)<br>Station. U.13. ) | Divisional Artillery.<br>Signallers.           |

Circular letter No. G 1/258/240 dealt with question of further O.P.'s for Infantry Brigades.

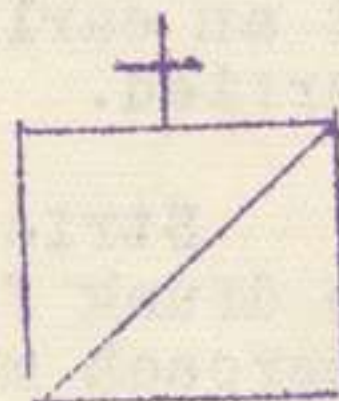
17. Liaison Details with regard to liaison officers will be as follows.- One senior R.A. Officer and one Intelligence officer R.A. will be attached to each Infantry Brigade on "Z" day. Accommodation will be required at Brigade Headquarters for these officers. A Divisional Staff Officer will visit Corps Headquarters and Infantry Brigade Headquarters when required, for the purpose of interchange of information. An officer detailed by the Heavy Artillery will be at Divisional Headquarters. A Divisional Staff Officer will be detailed to proceed to the New Zealand Division Headquarters as Liaison Officer. Each assaulting Infantry Brigade will exchange an officer with the assaulting Brigade or Brigades on its immediate flanks. Brigade Commanders will arrange for adequate liaison between Battalions.



18. Specialists  
&c. Accom-  
panying  
Assaulting  
Battalions. The number of officers, N.C.O's and specialists to accompany assaulting Battalions will be as laid down by S.S. 135 and amendment thereto. Liaison officers and special officers, and parties required to control the supply of stores, carrying parties, &c. will be additional to the authorized numbers. Special instructions have been issued with regard to numbers to be sent to MORBECQUE.
19. Maps. The following maps will be carried by all officers. -  
1/5,000 showing enemy line.  
1/10,000 do.  
1/20,000 do.  
Sun print 1/10,000 or 1/20,000 specially prepared at D.H.Q. to show approach routes, if it is found the three maps issued by Corps do not include the area.
20. TRENCH  
MORTARS. Infantry Brigade Commanders will decide what number of Stokes Mortars and Stokes ammunition to carry forward, and as to contributory action on the part of other Stokes Mortars previous to the assault. They will also decide the time when there will be a general move forward of Stokes Mortars to strengthen the newly consolidated position.
21. MACHINE  
GUNS. The action of massed machine guns will be as shewn on Diagram 5, and Appendix II.
22. Use of Gas  
and Smoke. If weather conditions are suitable, gas will be released from the defensive front to the South of our assaulting troops. Details with regard to this will form the subject of separate instructions.  
There are 48 special 4" Stokes Mortars for use with gas during the preliminary bombardment, and to put up a smoke barrage to the South of the 9th. Brigade during the attack. Details of this were explained at the Divisional Commanders Conference on 29th. April, 1917.
23. Reserve  
Brigade. It is probable that a Battalion of the 11th. Brigade will hold the line during the period of preliminary bombardment, supported by a second Battalion of the same Brigade in the CATCOMBS. These Battalions will have the necessary complement of Lewis and Vickers guns, Trench Mortars, etc.  
The balance of the 11th. Brigade will be withdrawn to billets in rear.
24. Bde. & Bn.  
Hqrs. The position of Brigade Headquarters will be as shewn on map No. 1. - Colours as below. --

Right Brigade.

Blue

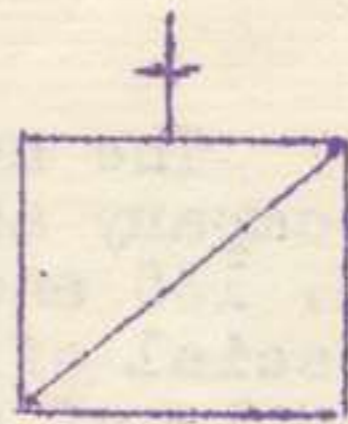


Red.

P.T.O.

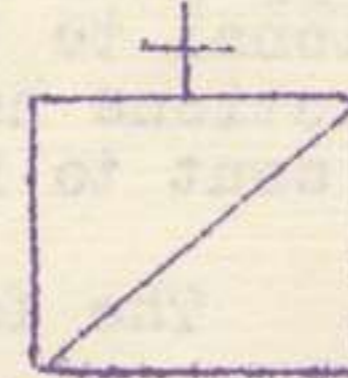
Left Brigade.

Brown.



Green.

Reserve Brigade.



Yellow.

Battalion Headquarters.

"A"		Red.	"C"		Green.
"E"		Red.	"G"		Green.
"B"		Blue.	"D"		Brown.
"F"		Blue.	"H"		Brown.

25. Dumps - R.E. Material, etc.

Dumps for R.E. material will be as shewn on Map No. 1. The employment of Engineer and Pioneer Units, after the assault, will be in accordance with instructions already issued, vide M.O. Circular No. 2. The C.R.E. will submit his plans in this connection.

Tramlines, and water dumps are shewn on Map No. 1.

Arrangements for keeping these dumps filled have already been communicated to those concerned.

26. Ammunition Dumps.

Dumps for ammunition, other than gun and howitzer, and for flares, rockets, etc., are as shewn on map No. 1.

Amounts to be dumped will be notified later by "Q" Branch.

27. Arm Bands & Destination patches.

Arm bands will be worn as laid down by S.S. 135. Destination patches will be in accordance with Divisional letter No. G. 1/258/248 of 15th. instant.

Counting from the enemy's front line inclusive, the first destination will be "Black", the second "White", the third "Pink", the fourth "Yellow", - any subsequent colourless. - Thus, men destined for the enemy's front line will wear a "Black" patch, men destined for the enemy's support line a "White" patch, and so on.

28. Fighting Equipment

Fighting kit will be decided by Brigades concerned, having due regard to the provisions of S.S. 135, and the proceedings at the Divisional Commander's conference which have been circulated to those concerned. Each Brigade will issue instructions at an early date detailing exactly what shall be carried.

29. Consumption of Water.

Strict orders will be given that no water is to be drunk from the men's water-bottles during the approach march.

30. Replacement of Ordnance Stores.

The quick replacement of lost or damaged Ordnance is of great importance, especially in the case of Lewis and Vickers Guns. Brigades will at once report any such loss or damage by signal message to the D.A.D.O.S., repeating the message to Divisional Headquarters.

31. Divisional Battle Headquarters

Divisional Headquarters for the operation will be at STEENWERCK, as at present, but advanced position for headquarters is being prepared at U.14.c.00.12. in case it may be necessary to move forward. All concerned will be duly notified if such a move is contemplated.

32. Reports.

Reports will be made at stated periods during the progress of the fighting, in addition to any special reports. This will ensure negative information being received, and will serve to remind all concerned that reports are necessary.

*L. H. Johnson*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION

- C.R.A.
- C.R.E.
- 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.
- 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 10th -do-
- 11th -do-
- 2nd ANZAC Corps (for information)

- G.O.C.
- A.Q.
- Div. M.G. Officer.
- File.

APPENDIX I to M.O. Circular No. 29, 21-5-17.AGENDA PAPER FOR C.R.E.

1. Construction of Battalion Headquarters.
2. Supervision of arrangements for 3 Brigade Fighting Headquarters.
3. Construction of O.Ps off HEATH TRENCH, GAS TRENCH, and near CHATEAU LA HUTTE for Divisional Staff.
4. Construction of shell-proof (5.9") Divisional Headquarters (room for 4 persons) in vicinity of LA HUTTE CHATEAU FORT.
5. Improvement of communication trenches so that the 6 to be used shall be easily repairable, in the event of heavy shelling. - shall be suitable for use by stretcher bearers and troops during approach march.
6. Construction of necessary cross-cuts in accordance with decision arrived at with G.S.O. I.
7. Construction of necessary assembly trenches and supply of duckboards.--  
NOTE:- If necessary, duckboards may be collected from other trenches where they are not required in the defensive areas. Suggestions as to where they should be taken from, or how supplied, will be submitted by the C.R.E.
8. Necessary reconnaissance for communication trenches to be made across NO MAN'S LAND. Estimate and provision of necessary personnel and tools for this work.
9. Submit proposals for Engineer and Pioneer work, and allotment of personnel subsequent to the attack.
10. (a) Supervision of work on Trench Mortar Emplacements and various dumps.  
(b) Supervision of work on Machine Gun Emplacements and dugouts.  
(c) Provision of necessary technical personnel to advise in construction of these.
11. Marking of routes for approach march, assembly positions, and carrying parties.
12. Supply of "IN" and "OUT" boards.
13. Blocking of useless trenches by means of wire, where wrong turnings are likely to be taken.
14. Provision of necessary assistance in construction of Artillery O.Ps.
15. Provision of personnel and material for work on "Strong Points" after the attack.
16. When nearing Zero day, trenches must be inspected by responsible Engineer N.C.O's or Officers every 12 hours, in order that there may be no chance of such blocks existing as would interfere with the assembly.
17. Selection of positions for forward tool and material dumps in captured territory, in conjunction with "G" Staff.
18. Possibility of digging shelters for bomb dumps and forward shelters for cooks to reduce portage, must be gone into.
19. The provision of mining sets for dugouts when we go forward must be considered.

P.T.O.

- 20. Preparation of bridges and other expedients, in consultation with 10th. Brigade, in relation to the problem of crossing the DOUVE, by 40th. and 37th. Battalions.
- 21. Consult with 9th. and 10th. Brigades re a limited number of sappers being placed at disposal of each, for special tasks proposed by the Brigadiers, during and immediately after the assault.
- 22. Action with regard to tram lines being carried forward into captured territory.

-----

Construction of necessary expedients and supply of materials. It is necessary, however, that the necessary expedients should be prepared in advance of the assault, and that the necessary materials should be supplied in advance of the assault. The necessary expedients should be prepared in advance of the assault, and the necessary materials should be supplied in advance of the assault.

Supplies of "IR" and "OW" should be prepared in advance of the assault, and the necessary materials should be supplied in advance of the assault.

Selection of positions for forward troops and material dumps in captured territory, in consultation with "S" Staff.

Responsibility of sappers for bomb dumps and forward positions for sappers to retain positions, must be considered.

The provision of mine nets for dumps when we go forward must be considered.

M.O.

(COPY) 23/5/17.  
SECRETTHIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONDivisional Headquarters,  
22/5/17.C.R.A.  
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th -do-  
11th -do-M.O. CIRCULAR No. 31.

Re M.O. Circular No. 29, para 17 (Liaison)

Commanders must remember that Liaison officers at the various Headquarters represent the Headquarters from which they come. In order to profit by their presence, the Commanders whose Headquarters they are at, must take them fully into their confidence and must give them every facility to keep in complete touch with the situation.

When it is necessary to transmit information to an adjoining unit or formation a Commander may decide to do so by means of his own staff <sup>or</sup> through the Liaison Officer of the Unit concerned.

Liaison Officers, in addition to knowing the situation as far as it affects the unit to which they are attached, must also know the intentions and plans of their own Commander, in order that they may be able adequately to represent him at the Headquarters to which they are allotted.

(sd) G.H. JACKSON,

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Luse

H. J.

19 J.F.

D/O J.M.

J.H.

(C O P Y) 23/5/17.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONDivisional Headquarters,  
22/5/17.

C.R.E.  
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th -do-  
11th -do-  
3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.

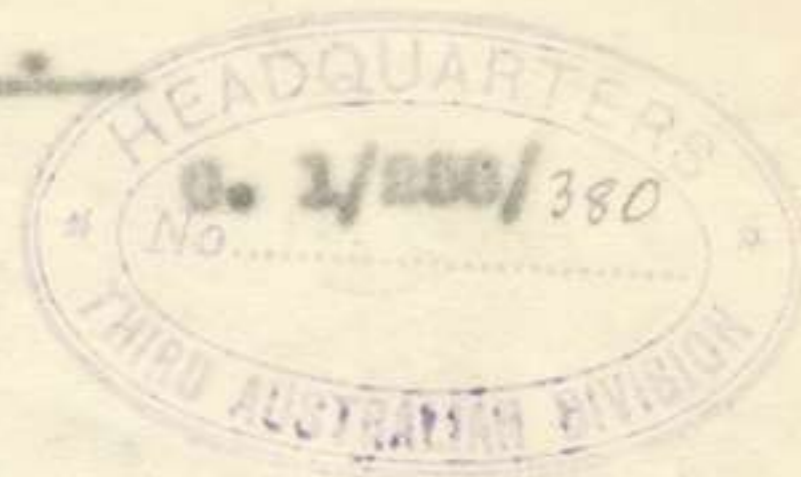
M.O. CIRCULAR No. 33.

The Pioneer Battalion and three Field Companies will move up on Y/Z night behind the 9th and 10th Brigades. C.R.E. will issue the necessary orders with regard to the approach march. He will arrange with the 11th Brigade not to clash with the Battalion proceeding to BUNHILL ROW - vide M.O. Circular No. 12. The Field Company of the Reserve Brigade, & Headquarters, and two Companies of the Pioneer Battalion will halt on reaching OOSTHOVE FARM, where they will remain ready for any work that they are called upon to do. The Field Company of the 9th Brigade and affiliated Pioneer Company, will proceed to a position of readiness in the drain West of HUNTER AVENUE. The Field Company of the 10th Brigade and the affiliated Pioneer Company, will proceed to a position of readiness to be selected and notified to Divisional Headquarters by the C.R.E.

(Sd) G.H. JACKSON,

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

SECRET.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,  
24th. May, 1917.

9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 10th. " " "  
 11th. " " "  
 C.R.A.  
 C.R.B.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 36.

The following is a forecast of the plan agreed upon this day with New Zealand Division for the continuation of the offensive after the capture of the "black line" at Zero plus 2 hours 5 minutes.-

1. The Artillery Barrage will "stand" on a line so as to cover the consolidation of the "black line" (for its whole length within the Divisional area) from Zero plus 2 hours 5 until Zero plus 3 hours 10 minutes. - During this time covering troops will remain out all along between the "black line" and this Barrage, and consolidation of the "black line" will proceed at utmost speed.-
2. At Zero plus 3 hours 10 minutes, the Barrage, North of the DOUVE only, will advance, at a rate to synchronize with the New Zealand Division (probably about 50 yards per minute), and will come to rest upon the line of the OWL TRENCH, UNGARRY TRENCH and UNDULATING TRENCH until it joins up with the halted Barrage at the DOUVE. - The Heavy Artillery will also "stand" on this line. - The length of time that these Barrages will stand on the lines named is uncertain, but probably for at least 4 hours, possibly until Zero plus 10 hours.-
3. Under cover of the barrage which advances North of the DOUVE at Zero plus 3 hours 10 minutes, -
  - (a) 9th. Brigade will push forward its left flank to the point where the Brigade boundary crosses the DOUVE, i.e. onto its "green line".-
  - (b) 10th. Brigade will push out strong patrols so as to take up and secure the following line, viz., a line running from the Divisional Boundary parallel to and, as near as the barrage will permit, to UNGARRY TRENCH, till it strikes the "green line" and thence by the "green line" to junction with the 9th. Brigade on the DOUVE.-
  - (c) Right Brigade of New Zealand Division will push out patrols backwards along UNDEARABLE TRENCH as far as the barrage permits, and will also probably take WHITE SPOT COTTAGE. - The line of New Zealand posts will run from DESPACHS FARM to WHITE SPOT COTTAGE.-
4. The troops employed by 10th. Brigade for the task mentioned in 3 (b) must not be taken from those detailed for the consolidation of the "black line".
5. The troops comprising these advanced posts will be instructed to establish themselves firmly on the line taken, and as opportunity offers, further troops will be pushed out with a view to strengthen this line of posts, and to consolidate on the portion of the "green line" captured by them.-
6. A further advance by 10th. Brigade to capture UNGARRY TRENCH, the trench junction at South end of same, and UNGARRY SUPPORT as far as HEN'S WALK, will take place at a later, but still uncertain, hour, probably not before Zero plus 10 hours.-

- - - - -

P.F.O.



(2).

In view of above, 10th. Brigade will as soon as possible submit proposals for carrying out the tasks allotted in para 3 (b) and 6 above, covering :-

- (a) Troops allotted.
- (b) Dispositions.
- (c) Assembly.
- (d) Advances from Assembly to "Black line".

D.C.

*L. H. Jackson*

Lieut-Colonel.-

General Staff.



Divisional Headquarters,  
26/5/17.

C.R.A.  
C.R.E.  
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th -do-  
11th -do-  
3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
A.Q.

M.O. CIRCULAR No. 35.

TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION.

1. The paramount importance of a continuous stream of accurate information, both positive and negative, from front to rear, has already been repeatedly emphasized. - Nevertheless, all Commanders must take further measures to ensure that all their subordinates fully understand their duties and responsibilities in this respect.
2. Insist on clear language and clear, large and legible writing, with plain legible signatures without flourishes. - Use HB pencils, not too hard to scratch the paper, not too soft to smudge with perspiration. - Forbid the use of indelible pencils. -
3. Whenever possible the clock time of the events reported in the message must be given in the body of the message itself, thus:-
  - " 'A' Battalion captured enemy support line at ten past four"
  - "All going well at twenty five to five"
  - "No sign of counter attack up to six o'clock"
  - "Heavy enemy barrage on my left opened at seventeen past six"
  - "No reports received from my centre company up to eight o'clock since twenty past seven. All then going well."
  - "Enemy Infantry estimated at three companies moving west along HUNS WALK passing UNCANNY TRENCH at ten to nine."
4. Runners must carry messages in the right hand breast pocket. If any one sees a dead or badly wounded runner, they should search in this pocket for the message and take steps that it may reach the person to whom it is addressed. After removing the message, the Runner's badge should be removed to avoid others wasting their time in searching for a message that has already been sent on. In sending on the message, the finder should add an endorsement stating time message was found and rough locality. E.G.- "Taken from dead runner in NO MAN'S LAND opposite ANTONS FARM at 12 noon."
  - "Signature"
  - "Date".

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

~~SECRET~~

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
16th. May, 1917.



- 9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 10th. " " "
- 11th. " " "
- 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.

H. D. SIRCHER No. 50.

The Commander-in-Chief during his recent visit, pointed out the necessity for infantry being detailed to deal with low flying hostile aeroplanes, Lewis Gun and rifle fire being employed. This is most necessary, as it is part of the German system now, to look for concentrations of our troops at daybreak. In order to defeat this system, 100 picked riflemen of the Reserve Brigade, and 6 Lewis Guns to be furnished by that Brigade, supplemented by Lewis Guns from the Pioneer Battalion, if found necessary (as Pioneers have had most of the training in anti-aircraft work) will be made available for use during assembly, and on all mornings from "Y" to "Z".

These guns and infantry will be stationed in or near the subsidiary line.

"Y" Battalion of the 10th. Bde. will furnish a similar quota on the morning of "Z" day during the actual assembly, i.e. - 6 guns and 100 picked shots.

Prior to "Z" day the 11th. Bde. personnel, supplemented by Pioneer guns at the discretion of C.O.C. 11th. Bde., will undertake the work on their own.

Brigades will forthwith report what numbers of anti-aircraft mountings they have for Lewis Guns. These will forthwith be placed at the disposal of the C.O.C., 11th. Bde., who will arrange to hand over an adequate proportion to C.O.C., 10th. Bde., for use on the morning of "Z" day.

The sooner the statement with regard to anti-aircraft mountings is received, the sooner will it be possible to take action with a view to obtaining further anti-aircraft mountings.

The distance to hold ahead of a hostile aeroplane must be carefully studied in the instructions already issued. The probable height at which hostile 'planes will fly is being ascertained and will be communicated later.

Fire will not be opened on any 'plane without the authority of an Officer, or a thoroughly reliable N.C.O., representing him.

Arrangements are being made for training a small number of officers with the A. A. Battery at WIMBORNE in the identification of hostile 'planes. 10th. and 11th. Bdes. will report whether they wish to send any officers in for this purpose.

It must be realized that on the morning of "Z" day nerves will be somewhat highly strung, and there will be a desire to shoot at all 'planes. Details of what of our own 'planes, if any, will be flying will be communicated to Bdes. and care will be taken not to shoot at our own machines, though at the same time immediate action must be taken with regard to hostile machines.

Orders will be given that troops other than the above, who are assembling are not to fire on hostile 'planes, as their collective action could immediately disclose the fact that the trenches are full of troops.

*E. H. F.* Lieut-Colonel. A.S.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
27th. May, 1917.



G.O.C. ✓  
A.Q.  
C.R.A.  
C.R.E.  
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th. " " "  
11th. " " "  
Divl. M. G. Officer.  
2nd. ANZAC Corps (For information).

Reference M. O. Circular No. 29, para 19. -

The maps therein mentioned will be available and may be carried, but it will not be necessary to carry more than are actually required.

Commanders will exercise their discretion in deciding which maps should be in possession of all Officers and taken forward.

*E. H. Jackson*

Lieut-Colonel.-

General Staff.

*Jm*  
*27/5/17*

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 36.

Reference 1/10,000 Map.

27/5/17.

1. Move into offensive area. The Division will be in its offensive area by dawn on the 1st June. Details with regard to this will form the subject of separate instructions.

2. Approach March. The approach march will be carried out in accordance with statement attached. Prints of the routes, Scale 1/10,000 are circulated herewith.

3. Reporting of times at which various points will be passed In order to enable those concerned to prepare the necessary plans and issue instructions for the approach march, the 9th and 10th Brigades will forthwith report to Divisional Headquarters.-

- (a) When the heads of their columns will reach the line MAISON 1875 -HYDE PARK CORNER
- (b) When the tails will be clear of this line.
- (c) When heads will leave allotted billeting areas, i.e. Red and Blue for 9th Bde., Green and Brown for 10th Bde., quoting the actual starting points and when the tails will be clear of these starting points.

This information will be circulated to those concerned by Divisional Headquarters as soon as received.

All timings will be worked back from Zero.

4. Keeping Roads Clear Where the coloured routes run along roads, these will be kept clear for the forward movement of troops during the approach march; other traffic will be suspended between hours to be notified later. The A.P.M. in conjunction with "Q" Staff will make the necessary arrangements for this.

5. Marking of Routes Infantry Brigades will take thoroughly adequate steps to render the approach march routes unmistakable. An officer, or reliable N.C.O., with an orderly, should be posted at all points where wrong turnings may be taken.

6. Submission of March Orders. Approach March Orders by those concerned, will be submitted to Divisional Headquarters for scrutiny as early as possible, as it will be necessary carefully to co-ordinate the moves of the various Battalions and smaller Units.

Issued at ...7....a.m.

*L. H. Johnson*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION

- |                          |                                 |
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| 3 A.Q. Staff             | 14. 2nd ANZAC (for information) |
| 4-6 C.R.A.               | 15. A.D.M.S.                    |
| 7 C.R.E.                 | 16. War Diary                   |
| 8 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.    | 17. File.                       |
| 9 10th -do-              | 18 O.C. Defensive Bns.          |
| 10 11th -do-             | 19-20 Spares. <i>APM</i>        |
| 11 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn. |                                 |

*20 Spare  
Div HQ/Pr*

*War Diary*

Unit.	Position of Assembly.	Route.	When to Move.	By whom orders are to be issued.	Remarks.
9th. Bde. - 3" T.Ms. & 4 M.Gs.	As already ordered.	Red & Blue.	To be in position one hour before Zero on "Z" day.	G.O.C. 9th. Bde.	Other M.Gs. move under orders of D.M.G.O.
10th. Bde., 3" T.Ms & 4 M.Gs.	do.	Green & Brown.	do.	G.O.C. 10th. Bde.	do.
1 Bn. 11th. Bde.	Subsidiary Line from ST. ANDREW'S DRIVE Westward.	From vicinity of TOUQUET BERTHE.	At such a time that it will not interfere with approach of 9th. & 10th. Bdes. To be in position before these Bdes.	G.O.C. 11th. Bde.	
1 Bn. 11th. Bde. 3" Mortars & 1/2 M.G. Coy.	CATACOMBS.	Probably billeted there on "X/Y" night	If not there already to move at such a time as not to interfere with 9th. & 10th. Bdes. To be in position before these Bdes.	G.O.C. 11th. Bde.	
1 Bn. 11th. Bde.	BUNHILL ROW.	Red & Blue.	In rear of 9th. Bde, but to be in position by Zero hour.	G.O.C. 11th. Bde.	G.O.C. 11th. Bde. to arrange with C.R.E. re Pioneer Co. & 9th. Field Co. who will be moving to HUNTERS AVENUE Drain. ∅ See below.
1 Bn. 11th. Bde.	From holding line to a position near TOUQUET BERTHE.	By "Out" tfc. routes.	When relieved by assaulting troops of 9th & 10th. Bdes.	G.O.C. 11th. Bde.	

Appendix No. 43

56

Unit	Position of Assembly	Route	When to Move	By whom orders are to be issued	Remarks
M.G. personnel other than the above & other than that already in position on X/Y night	To positions already fixed.	Any	Ahead of 9th and 10th Bdes. & so as not to foul them.	Div. M.G. Officer.	Guns to have been previously placed in position.
2" Trench Mortar Personnel not required at Zero or for defence of the line, who previously had been employed forward.	Position to be selected and reported by C.R.A.	"Out" Traffic Routes	As soon as no longer required forward.	C.R.A.	Give way to incoming troops wherever met.
1 Pioneer Co. 9th Field Co.	Drain West of HUNTER'S AVENUE.	Red or any ways East of it.	In rear of 9th Bde., but take precedence of Bn. of 11th Bde. moving to BUNHILL ROW.	C.R.E.	C.R.E. to arrange not to clash with 9th & 10th Bdes.
1 Pioneer Co. 10th Field Co.	To be selected and reported by C.R.E.	Green or Brown, to be fixed by C.R.E. in consultation with 10th Bde.	In rear of 10th Bde.	C.R.E.	

Appendix No. 413

57

Unit.	Position of Assembly	Route	When to Move	By whom orders are to be issued	Remarks.
11th Field Co.	WEBKA Lines, ROMARIN.	Previously in position here. When going forward will use any route available	Remains at WEBKA Lines till ordered forward after zero.	C.R.E.	
H.Qs & 2 Coys. Pioneer Bn.	OOSTHOVE Farm	Any suitable	After tails of 9th & 10th Bdes. & BUNHILL ROW Bn. of 11th Bde. are clear.	C.R.E.	
Artillery	- To be <sup>allotted</sup> in/positions on X/Y Night.				
Field Ambulances.-	do.	do.	do.		

Appendix No. H 3

58



THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 37

27th May 1917.

Reference - Map 1/10,000.

1. Information

(a) The enemy front opposite the Third Australian Division is at present held as follows :-  
North of the DOUVE.

- 4th ARMY.
- 19th CORPS.
- 40th DIVISION (Saxons).
- Divisional Headquarters is said to be at COMINES.

South of the DOUVE

- 6th ARMY.
- 2nd BAVARIAN CORPS.
- 4th DIVISION (Bavarian)
- Divisional Headquarters said to be at WAMBRECHIES - 3 miles North of LILLE.

(b) On a day to be known as 'Z' day and at an hour to be known as 'ZERO' hour the 2nd Army will advance to the capture of the MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE RIDGE.

The 3rd Australian Division will capture and hold the Southern portion of the ARMY objective.

The New Zealand Division will attack on the Left of the 3rd Australian Division up to the Black Line. A copy of the New Zealand Division plan shewing the hours at which the various positions will be reached has been forwarded to 10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

The New Zealand Division intend to carry black and yellow Artillery flags to indicate the line gained by the leading Infantry. These flags will not be stuck in the ground and will mean nothing unless they are waved. This is additional to the usual flares.

From the Black Line onwards the 4th Australian Division will co-operate on the Left of the 3rd Australian Division in the capture of the Green Line.

2. Intention

The 3rd Australian Division will attack with the 9th and 10th Australian Infantry Brigades in front and the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade in reserve. The positions of assembly and tasks are as already detailed.

The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will be responsible for the capture of the Green Line from the River DOUVE Southwards.

Map No. 1 issued with M.O. Circular No. 29 should be amended accordingly.

'C' Battalion of the 10th Australian Infantry Brigade will thus complete its task on reaching the Black Line.

Consolidation of the Black Line and Black dotted Lines will proceed simultaneously.

Provisional plan for the capture of the Green Line and enemy guns is as follows:-

After capture of the Black Line a protective barrage will be established in advance of it until plus 5.30. At this hour the barrage will commence to creep

*War Diary*

2.

Div. Order No. 37 27/5/1

2. Intention  
(Contd).

at a rate to be fixed later. This barrage will come to rest approximately 150 yards East of a line joining DESPARGNE FARM (O.33.b.) Point O.33.d.90.85 Road Junction O.33.d.80,10 to the Black Line on the Left boundary of the Third Australian Division. From plus 6.30 onwards the Field Artillery will be diverted on to suitable targets under Divisional arrangements but will be reformed on the 'S.O.S.' Signal.

Under cover of the above barrage the New Zealand Division have been directed to establish a line of strong posts to act as 'points d'appui' and jumping off places for the 4th Australian Division and as supporting points to the Green Line when captured.

The 3rd Australian Division are not affected as no advance will be made from the Black Line at plus 5.30.

At zero plus 9.40 the Field Artillery barrage will re-open and at plus 10 hours the 4th Australian Division will leave the line of posts and the 3rd Australian Division the Black Line in order to capture the Green Line, moving forward under a creeping barrage. During the period between the capture of the Black line and the capture of the Green Line the Green Line system of trenches will be subjected to bombardment by the Heavy Artillery.

3. Method of  
Attack.

At Zero the Artillery barrage will be put down and the Infantry will leave their assembly trenches. Every endeavour will be made to get the last waves into NO MAN'S LAND as quickly as possible.

4. Timings.

Timings for the Artillery action have already been issued. Infantry timings will conform following the advancing barrage closely. The following halts on our Left boundary will take place:-

(a) A halt by the Infantry from plus 11 to plus 16 covered by the halted barrage at U.8.a.72.80 Up to this point the advance will be at the approximate rate of 100 yards in two minutes.

(b) A halt from plus 16 to plus 27 covered by the barrage at U.8.a.83.87. From this point onwards the rate of advance will be about 3 minutes per 100 yards.

(c) A halt by the Infantry on the SCHNITZEL FARM system (ULGER RESERVE) while the barrage is halted from plus 45 to plus 1.56 on UNGODLY TRENCH.

(d) A halt by the Infantry from plus 2 hours 5 minutes to plus 10 hours on the Black Line.

During this halt the barrage will rest about 200 yards beyond the Black Line.

The timings subsequent to this will be published later.

All Infantry Commanders will study most carefully the plan of the creeping barrage noting especially the various prolonged halts on their respective Sectors.

5. Action of  
Reserve  
Brigade.

Instructions for the employment of the Reserve Brigade are contained in M.O. Circular No. 37 issued to the three Infantry Brigades.

6. Mines.

A special communication will be sent to those concerned with reference to the mines which it is proposed to blow.

Details with regard to Communication trenches and Russian saps have already been issued.

7. Wire

Lines of consolidation will be wired as soon as the required material can be brought forward.

8. Tanks.

12 Tanks have been detailed to operate against MESSINES. Any subsequent action of Tanks which may affect this Division will be published later.

9. Cavalry .

A squadron of Corps Mounted Troops will assemble in PLOEGSTEERT WOOD. The position of assembly task and control of these troops are so far undefined. Details will be published later.

10. Defensive Front.

The defensive front from WESTMINSTER AVENUE exclusive to the River LYS will be held on 'Z' Day by two Battalions of the 57th Division commanded by Lieut-Colonel GEDDES D.S.O. This Officer will give every assistance possible:-

(a) By observing and reporting the action of the enemy.

(b) By preventing the enemy from consolidating the mine crater which it is hoped to make, the location of which will be communicated to him.

(c) By the energetic use of Trench mortars and Machine Guns along the remainder of the front.

(d) By thinking out plans to create diversions and deceive the enemy as to the exact flank of the attack.

11. Gas.

If weather conditions are favourable gas will be discharged on the defensive front Trench U.21.2 to the River LYS at zero hour.

12. Smoke.

A sunprint is attached to copies of this Order issued to Divisional Artillery, Divisional Engineers 9th, 10th and 11th Australian Infantry Brigades and Lieut-Colonel GEDDES shewing the smoke barrages that will be created by the 4" Stokes Mortars in various conditions of wind. Troops in the vicinity must be warned that the smoke is absolutely harmless.

In addition to the above smoke clouds it is intended to employ <sup>Artillery</sup> smoke shell on UMBO ALLEY and UNCLE TRENCH South East of FLATTENED FARM.

13. Contact Planes.

A contact plane will be permanently allotted for work over the Divisional area. Dropping ground for machines will be selected in the vicinity of Divisional Headquarters.

The hours at which contact planes will fly will be notified later.

14. Synchronisation of Watches.

Watches will be synchronised by a Staff Officer from Divisional Headquarters at times and on a day to be notified later.

15.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*C. H. Jackson*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Issued at 3 p.m. on 28th May 1917.

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No 1. G.O.C.
- 2-4 G.Staff.
- 5-6 AQ "
- 7-18 C.R.A. (Includes D.T.M.O.)
- 19. C.R.E.
- 20. Div. Sig. Co.
- 21. 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 22. 10th -do-
- 23. 11th -do-
- 24. 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 25. Lieut-Col Geddes O.C. Defensive Bns.
- 26. A.D.M.S.
- 27. Div. Train.
- 28. A.P.M.
- 29. Liaison Officer (major Massie).
- 30. 2nd ANZAC
- 31. 42nd Squadron R.F.C.
- 32. New Zealand Division.
- 33. 4th Aust. Division.
- 34. 57th Division.
- 35. B. Bn Heavy Branch M.G.C.
- 36. O.C. No. 2 Special Coy
- 37. B.M.G.O.
- 38. File.
- 39. War Diary.
- 40. ) Spare.
- 41. )

for information

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
30th. May, 1917.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OFFENSIVE.VICKERS MACHINE GUNS.PART IV - OPERATION I. - HARASSING FIRE.

1. GENERAL. All Machine Gun Units of 3rd. Australian Division; and the attached Sections of 4th. Australian Division, will participate in the action. -  
This should minimise exhaustion of personnel and wear and tear of material. -  
It should also afford all Units excellent practice and training.
2. TARGETS. Hostile wire systems, roads, tracks, trenches, hedges, tramlines, buildings, etc., within range will be subjected to intermittent fire throughout hours of darkness and also occasionally in daylight. Fire should be heaviest about dawn and dusk.
3. DUMPS FOR MATERIAL AND SHELTERS FOR CREWS. Existing dugouts are allotted as follows: -
  - 9th. AM. G. Coy.
    - (a). The Western dugout of the four deep dugouts in front of the subsidiary line at ADVANCED ESTAMINET.
    - (b). Dugouts in vicinity of U.19.a.8.7.
    - (c). Tunnelled dugout at LA HUTTE.
  - 10th. M. G. Coy.
 

Machine Gun dugouts in vicinity of U.20.a.85.99.
  - 207th. M. G. Coy.
    - (a). Machine Gun dugout at U.13.d.70.52.
    - (b). Machine Gun dugout at U.13.d.45.75.
  - 4th. A. M. G. Coy.
    - (a). Dugout at MOUNTAIN GUN FARM.
    - (b). Dugout at LANCASHIRE COTTAGE.
4. GUN POSITIONS. These will be selected in vicinity of dugouts and rendered secure from hostile observation.
5. PERSONNEL & MATERIAL. Personnel will be changed daily at 9 p.m. Guns and technical material will not be changed unless this is absolutely essential. -  
Gun crews will consist of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men per gun. An Officer must command, and supervise laying, for each section of guns.
6. S.A.A. 6,000 rounds per gun per day are allotted for this work. S.A.A. will be drawn from CANPAC DUMP and signed for by Section Officer expending it.  
5,000 rounds to be expended in hours of dusk and darkness, and 1,000 rounds in hours of daylight.

P.T.O.

(2).

30-5-17.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

7. TASKS.

Alotment of Tasks is shewn in Appendix V. Officers conducting the firing must carefully study the Intelligence Reports, and select a variety of suitable targets, with a view to denying the enemy all means of access to, and egress from, his front systems of trenches. -

The enemy must be prevented from re-wiring gaps out in his rearward wire systems. -

Whenever possible, Vickers Guns will enfilade the enemy support line and fire on hostile front line wire. -

Battalion Commanders should send their patrol reports to Divisional Machine Gun Officer at CATACOMBS as early as possible, in order to prevent any possibility of patrols being fired upon.

*J. Peck*

Lieut-Colonel. -

General Staff.

*Distribution*

*Go. G.*

*Go. I.*

*b. K. a.*

*b. K. g.*

*9th A. J. B. Co.*

*10th*

*11th*

*Div. Sig. Coy.*

*2nd Ammunition Corps*

*Div. G. O.*

*9th M. G. Coy.*

*10th*

*11th*

*12th*

*13th*

*207th*

*4th*

## ALLOTMENT OF TASKS TO MACHINE GUN COMPANIES, "W", "X", "Y" days &amp; "W/X", "X/Y" and "Y/Z" nights.

Coy.	No. of Guns to fire daily.	Targets situated in Square.	Standing Targets. (To be added to as occasion demands).	S.A.A. for period.	Remarks.
9th.	4	U.22.Central. U.2.d.8.b. 8.c. & 9 a.b.	1. Dump & tramline in U.22.central. 2. Wire at ULCER SUPPORT, ULNA SUPPORT and SCHNITZEL FARM.	72,000	Occasionally traverse open spaces
10th.	4	U.3.d. U.9.b.d. U.10.a.b.	1. Wire at UNGODLY TRENCH and ULSTER RESERVE. 2. Trenches, wire & tracks at GREY FARM. 3. All routes from LA POTTERIE Fm. system towards German front line.	72,000	do.
11th.	4	U.17. U.16. U.23.a. U.11.a.c.	1. Tramlines, tracks & roads from SUGAR REFINERY towards ULNA, UMBO, & UMBRIA trench systems. 2. Tramline along RIVER DOUVE & routes from LA DOUVE Fm. and AVENUE Fm. to GREY FARM. 3. Tramlines through U.11.c.a.	72,000	do.
207th.	4	U.9.c.d. U.15.a.b. U.9.a.-U.3.c.d. U.3.a.	1. Hedges, roads & tracks in U.9.c.d. 2. Trenches & wire in U.15.a.b. 3. Tramlines along ULNA AVENUE & through SCHNITZEL Fm. 4. ULCER SAP, and tramline & wire in vicinity of ULCER SAP.	72,000	do.
4th.	4	U.16.c.d. U.22.a.b.c.d. U.23.a.b.c.d. U.29.a.b.	UMBO LANES, UMBO ALLEY, UNCLE DRIVE, traversing South to PONT ROUGE BRIDGE and searching routes between.	72,000	do.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.SECRET.INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OFFENSIVE.ACTION OF VICKERS MACHINE GUNS.

Part III. M.G. "S.O.S." barrage covering the BLACK LINE after its capture.

1. RESOURCES.

44 Machine Guns of 3rd Australian Division.

24 " " " 4th " "

-----  
68 Machine Guns.

-----  
These <sup>numbers</sup> will probably be, less losses and guns sent forward to maintain consolidating guns of attacking Brigades (vide Part I, para. 5).

2. REQUIREMENTS.

The minimum number of guns which will cover our front is 52.

A reserve of guns and personnel is essential. Should it prove necessary to send forward in all eight guns for consolidation purposes in 9th Brigade Area after capture of BLACK LINE, this should prove possible without weakening the barrage.

3. DISPOSITIONS.

Six Batteries, lettered successively A to F, are to be in position by plus 140 minutes. These Batteries are arranged as shown in Appendix IV, Sketch Plan "C1".

Sketch Plan "C1" cancels Sketch Plan "C" (issued with Part II) which should be destroyed.

4. ACTION.

ON "S.O.S." call from any portion of the line, the Battery (or Batteries) covering that particular portion of the line will open fire at once, and continue as follows:-

Rapid fire for 10 minutes and then 50 rounds per gun per minute for 20 minutes.

After 30 minutes firing as above the guns will cease fire unless a further "S.O.S." signal be sent up.

Battery Commanders are responsible that all precautions are taken to observe signals and also that fire is promptly opened when called for. Special attention must be given to action of "F" Battery in answering "S.O.S." calls to the South-East.

5. S.A.A.

Ten thousand (10,000) rounds per gun must be maintained at the Battery positions. 2,000 rounds per gun in belts must always be available with each gun. Belts must be refilled as fired and not allowed to remain empty.

6. COMMUNICATION AND COMMAND.

A, B, and C Battery positions are connected by armoured cable to Right Brigade H.Q. D and E Battery positions are similarly connected to Left Brigade H.Q.

Battery Commander F Battery will arrange with O.C. "G" Battalion for telephone line to "G" Battalion H.Q. from whence he should be in touch with his Group Commander.

P. T. O.

..A.system.....



A system of Runners must be maintained.  
For "S.O.S." purposes Visual Signalling should prove most suitable.

Telephones should prove useful for "Cease Fire" messages and supplementary to the "S.O.S." Signals.

In answer to "S.O.S." calls Battery Commanders will act at once on their own initiative and then report their action to their respective Group Commanders.

7. "S.O.S." Signal.

This will be given later.

Divisional Headquarters,  
30th May, 1917.

Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.

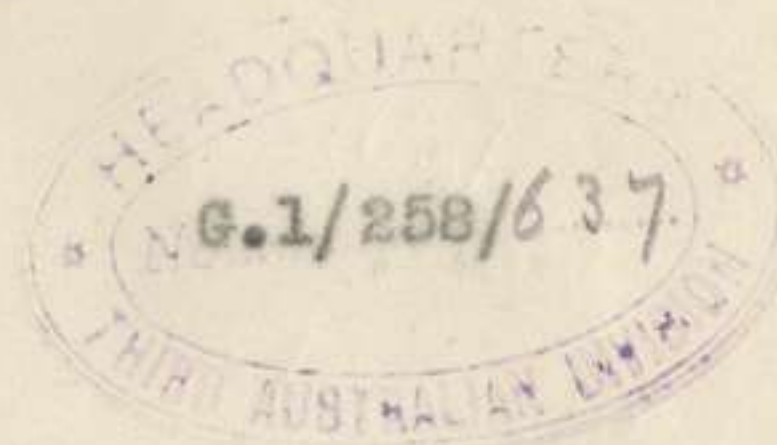
T.C.

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like 'ACTION', 'DISPOSITIONS', and 'COMMUNICATION' are visible.]*

S E C R E T .

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
31st. May, 1917.



C.R.A.  
C.R.E.  
Div. Sig. Coy.  
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th. do.  
11th. do.  
3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.-

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 42.

A ruling was given at Corps Conference on 16th. inst., that time references for "Z" day should be to minutes, not to hours and minutes. This ruling has now been cancelled, and it has been decided that on "Z" day all references to time shall be in hours and minutes, i.e. - plus 2 hours 10, not plus 130.

D.C.

*L. H. Jackson*

Lieut-Colonel.-  
- General Staff.

Appendix No. 43

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

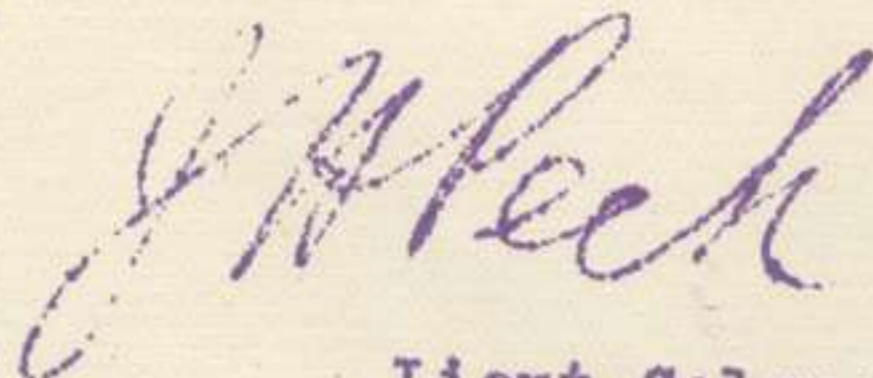
G.1/258/645.

S E C R E T.Divisional Headquarters,  
31st May, 1917.

Reference my G.1/258/631 dated 30th instant.

Herewith 1 copy of Sketch Plan, Appendix IV, cl.

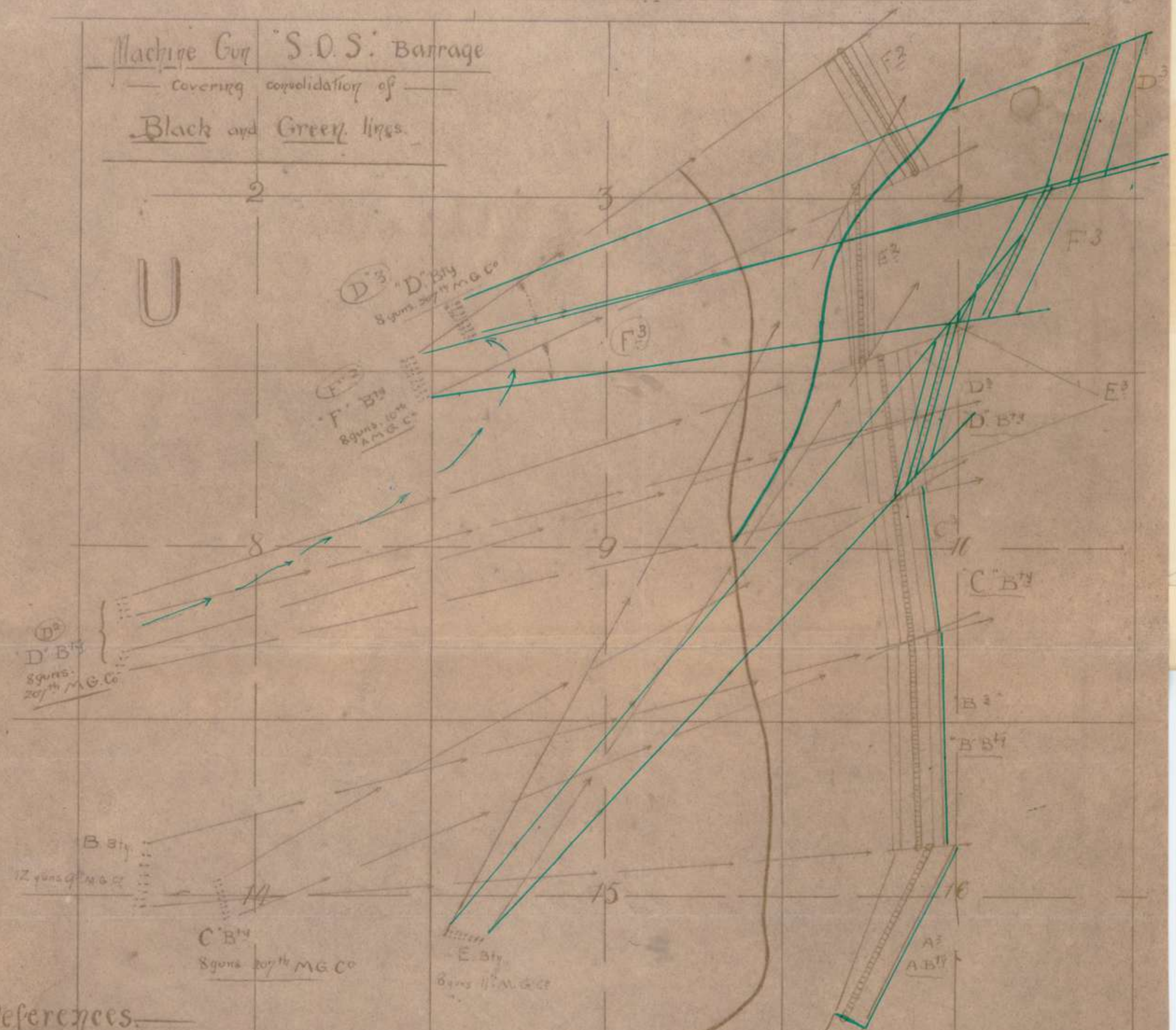
Please acknowledge.

Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.DISTRIBUTION.


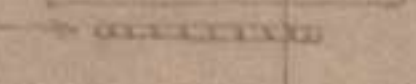
G.O.C. ✓  
 G.S.O. 1.  
 C. R. A.  
 C. R. E.  
 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 10th -do-  
 11th -do-  
 Div. Sig. Co.  
 D.M.G.O.  
 9th M.G. Coy.  
 10th -do-  
 11th -do-  
 12th -do-  
 13th -do-  
 207th -do-  
 4th -do-  
 2nd ANZAC Corps.

Appendix IV SKETCH PLAN C<sup>I</sup>

Machine Gun "S.O.S." Barrage  
 — covering consolidation of  
 Black and Green lines.



References.

- Line of fire for flank gun of each battery
- Area beaten by 90% of bullets — 
- Centre of beaten zone — 
- A, B, C, D, E, F are arranged as for covering fire (Sketch Plan B)
- F<sup>1</sup> battery should be established as shown at plus 2 hours & 45 minutes
- D<sup>1</sup> battery moves forward 4 guns to D<sup>2</sup> position at plus 9/2 hours, the remaining 4 guns of D<sup>1</sup> battery follow at + 12/2 hours

A<sup>1</sup> Bty 8 guns 4<sup>th</sup> AMG Co  
 (O.C. 220 8.3.)

Appendix No. 113. 70

SECRETTHIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONDivisional Headquarters,  
2/6/17.

C.R.A.  
 C.R.E.  
 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 10th -do-  
 11th -do-  
 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.  
 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
 Div. M.G. Officer.  
 207th M.G. Coy.

Reference 1/10,000 Sheet 28 S.W.4.

In order to obtain as early intimation as possible from our own aeroplanes of hostile counter-attacks, the following procedure has been approved. -

On the Hostile Infantry being seen to quit their trenches and advance the observer will send down by wireless S.O.S. followed by the Zone Call - no map co-ordinates will be given. This will constitute a request to our artillery to put up a barrage on their S.O.S. lines in that particular zone. That is to say, if enemy's Infantry were observed to be advancing from UNDATED TRENCH the observer would signal S.O.S. followed by the Zone Call for this particular trench and the artillery would form the barrage in front of the Green line (See map No.1)

In order to avoid unjustified calls, R.F.C. observers will be given to understand clearly that the S.O.S. signal is only to be used when hostile infantry have left their front trenches and are advancing in the open in the direction of our own lines.

The Zone Call, alone is used when a particular target such as an enemy's battery or Infantry in mass or on the march is required to be engaged by all available guns.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Mack".

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION      SECRETDivisional Headquarters, Copy No. 16  
3/6/17.

Reference 1/10,000 Map.

G1/258/773

MAGNUM OPUS - Approach March.

1. With reference to Third Australian Division Order No. 36, para. 3, the following details with regard to the marches are promulgated for information of all concerned.

2. Reference timings shown below.-

- (a) - When the heads of columns will reach the line MAISON 1875 - HYDE PARK CORNER.  
 (b) = When the tails will be clear of this line.  
 (c) = When heads will leave allotted billeting areas, i.e. Red and Blue for 9th Bde., Green and Brown for 10th Bde.,

3. 9th AUST. INF. BDE.  
 (a) Red Route Zero minus 3 hours 35 minutes.  
 Blue Route Zero minus 3 " 45 "  
 (b) Red Route Zero minus 2 hours 34 minutes.  
 Blue Route Zero minus 2 " 12 "

(c) Route	Starting Point	Head will pass at	Tail will be clear at
Red	B.23.a.00.95.	Zero minus 5 hours	Zero minus 3 hours 57 minutes.
Blue	B.11.c.20.12.	Zero minus 5 hours 10 mins.	Zero minus 4 hours 7 mins.

## 4. 10th AUST. INF. BDE.

- (a) Brown Route Zero minus 2 hours.  
 Green Route Zero minus 1 hour 55 mins.  
 (b) Brown Route Zero minus 1 hour 24 mins.  
 Green Route Zero minus 1 hour 37 mins.

(c) Route	Starting Point	Head will pass at	Tail will be clear at
Brown	T.29.d.87.62.	Zero minus 3 hours	Zero minus 2 hours 24 minutes.
Green	B.11.d.52.55.	Zero minus 3 hours 10 minutes.	Zero minus 2 hrs. 52 minutes.

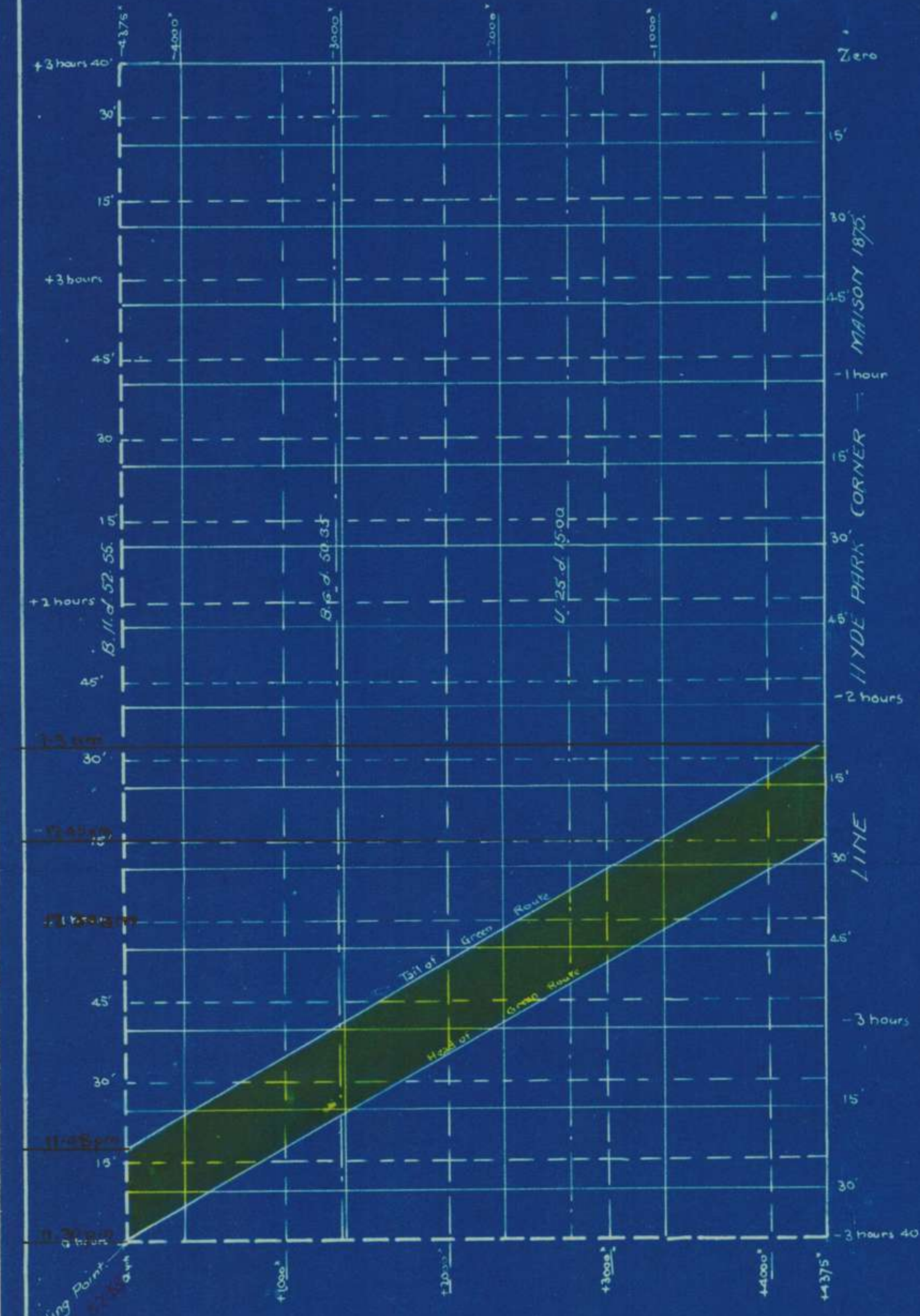
5. Units of the Division, other than those quoted above, will order their march so as to be clear of these routes at the times specified, so that the approach march of the 9th and 10th Bdes. to assembly positions will not be impeded.

DISTRIBUTION

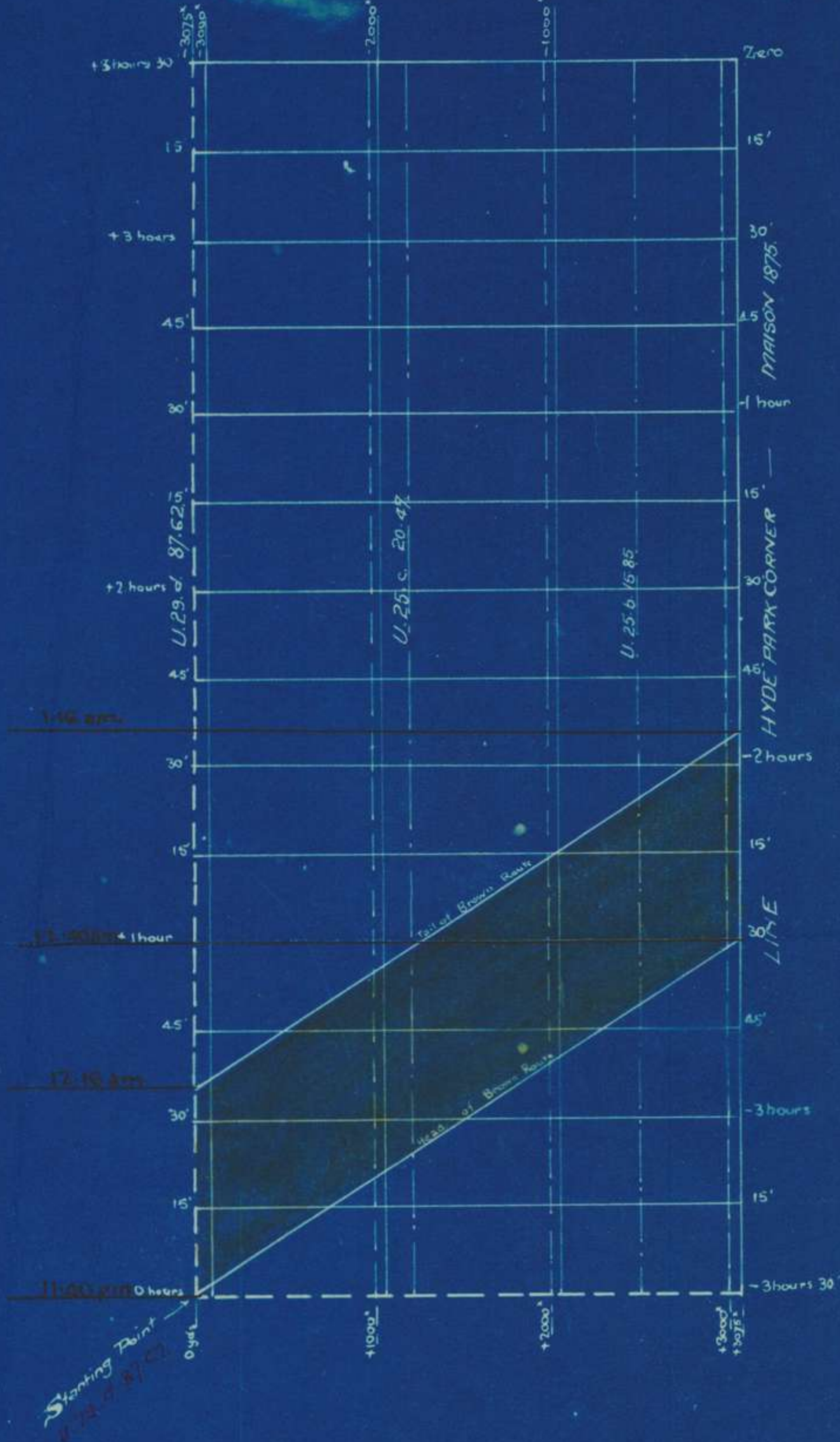
Copy No. 1 G.O.C.  
 2 G Staff.  
 3 A.Q. Staff.  
 4-6 C.R.A.  
 7 C.R.E.  
 8 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 9 10th -do-  
 10 11th -do-  
 11 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.

*W. Beck* Lieut-Colonel,  
 General Staff.

12. 3rd Aust. Div. Train.  
 13. 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.  
 14. 2nd ANZAC (for information)  
 15. A.D.M.S.  
 16. War Diary.  
 17. File.  
 18. O.C. Defensive Battalions.  
 19-2 A.P.M.  
 20-21 Spares.  
 22 "L" Special Co. R.E.  
 23 O.C. No.2 Specia. So. R.E.



GREEN ROUTE.



BROWN ROUTE.

Graph to be read from  
LEFT CORNER

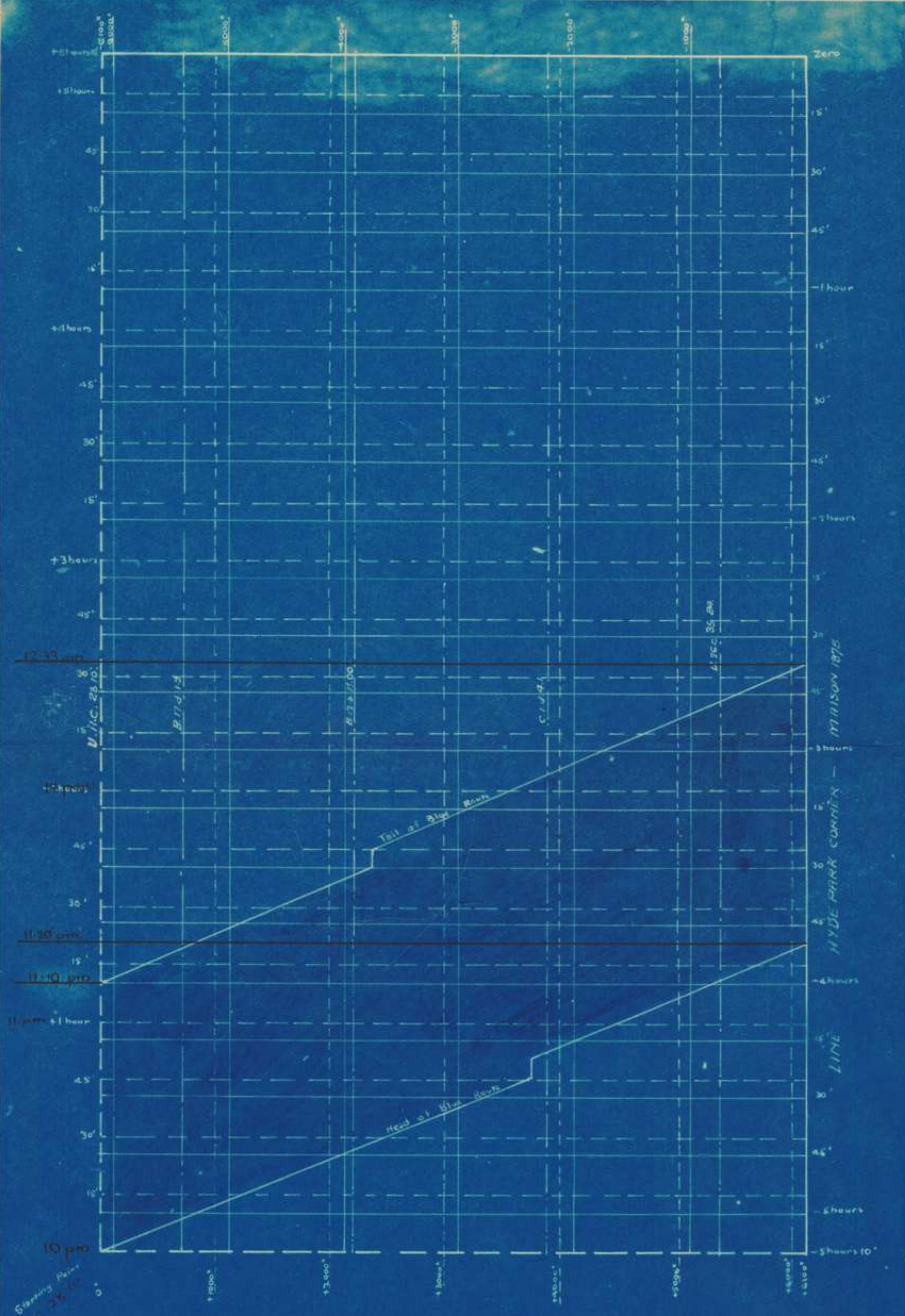
NOTE - Broken Line System shows timings and locations at and after leaving Starting Point.

Full Line System shows timings and locations before Zero Hour.

F. F. M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Flus Div. H. Ocs  
6-6-17

Appendix No. 43  
98

6/19

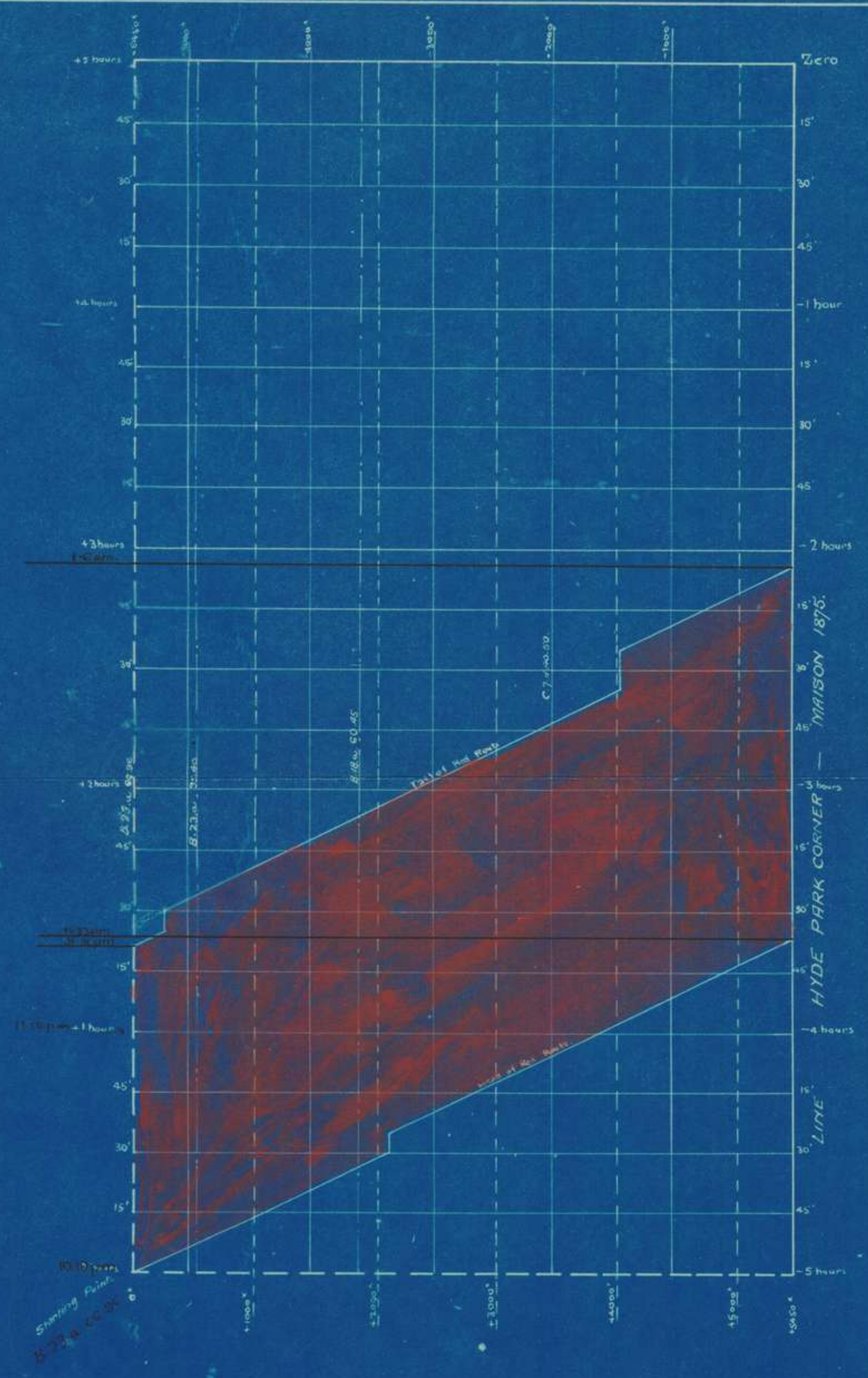


BLUE ROUTE

This Graph to be read by Broken Line System, i.e. from LEFT CORNER.

E.E.M. 3rd Aust. D.M.A. 4-2-17.

NOTE: Broken Line System shows timings and locations at and after leaving Starting Point. Full Line System shows timings and locations before Zero Hour.



RED ROUTE



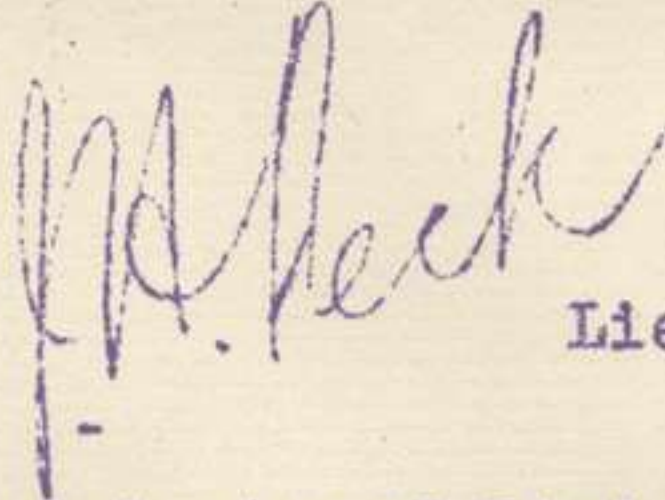
**SECRET.**THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G1/258/787

Divisional Headquarters,  
4/6/17.AMENDMENT to DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 39.

Page 3 top line, for "Order 38" read "Order 39"

Page 5 top line, for "Order 38" read "Order 39"

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Addressed to all recipients of Divisional Order No. 39.

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,  
4th. June, 1917.

G.O.C.  
 "G" Staff.  
 "A.Q" Staff.  
 C.R.E.  
 Div. Sig. Coy.  
 Lieut-Col. GEDDES )  
 C.O. Defensive Bns.)  
 Major MASSIE. (Liaison Officer).  
 2nd. ANZAC Corps "G".  
 4th. Aust. Division.  
 N.Z. Division.  
 No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.  
 "L" do.  
 3rd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy.  
 D.M.G.O.-

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 45.

Reference M.O. Circular No. 29 dated 21st. May,  
 para 7 (Preliminary Instructions). -

Forwarded herewith are plans -

No. 2. - 4.5" Howitzer Barrage.

No. 3. - 18-pr. Standing Barrage. -

referred to therein. No. 3 cancels former Standing Barrage map.

Barrage maps are not to be taken nearer than 1,000  
 yards of our front line before "Y" day.

Please acknowledge receipt.

*R. H. Jackson*  
 Lieut-Colonel.-  
 General Staff.

*G. B. Whelpley*  
*A. Q.*

*D. O.*



O

U

32

33

Scale 1:10,000

34

Map No 3

Standing Barrage

600-634

634 onward

2

3

4

121 to Zero + 10 Hours

Black Line Protective Barrage

60 Onward

Barrage

8-41

41-115

115-121

56-60

8-56

11-152

8-60

8-11

0-8

14

15

16

0-Onward

Appendix No 43

78

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
4th. June, 1917.



G.O.C.  
"G" Staff.  
"A.Q" Staff.  
C.R.E.  
Div. Sig. Coy.  
Lieut-Col. GEDDES )  
C.O. Defensive Bns.)  
Major MASSIE. (Liaison Officer).  
2nd. ANZAC Corps "G".  
4th. Aust. Division.  
N.Z. Division.  
No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.  
"L" do.  
3rd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy.  
D.M.G.O.-

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 45.

Reference M.O. Circular No. 29 dated 21st. May,  
para 7 (Preliminary Instructions). -

Forwarded herewith are plans -

No. 2. - 4.5" Howitzer Barrage.

No. 3. - 18-pr. Standing Barrage. -

referred to therein. No. 3 cancels former Standing Barrage map.

Barrage maps are not to be taken nearer than 1,000  
yards of our front line before "Y" day.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

War Diary

SECRET

Copy No. 32

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 40

Reference 1/10,000 Map.

4/6/17.

1. INTENTION

Under cover of a practice barrage, Infantry Patrols will enter enemy's trenches tomorrow night at 9.30 p.m.

2. ARTILLERY.

The Divisional Artillery will put down a thoroughly good barrage on the enemy's front line on the whole of the offensive front of the Division from zero, 9.30 p.m., to Zero plus 3.

- Plus 3 to plus 5 On support line.
- Plus 5 to plus 7 100 yards beyond support line.
- Plus 7 to plus 20 200 yards beyond support line.
- Plus 20 Cease fire.

Heavy Artillery will co-operate and be employed for counter-battery work under arrangements to be made by C.R.A. with Corps Heavy Artillery Headquarters.

3. SMOKE

A smoke cloud from 4" Stokes Mortars will be used north of ULRICA ROW.

4. GAS

O.C. No. 2 Special Co., 4" Stokes Mortars, will arrange that there shall be no gas activity between the hours of 7 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. on the night of 5th/6th June.

5. INFANTRY.

Brigadier-General J.H.CANNAN, C.B., commanding 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be in charge of the whole operation, and will make all detailed arrangements with those concerned, including artillery, Stokes Mortars, and others. The 10th Brigade will place 2 strong patrols, and the 9th Brigade one strong patrol, under his orders.

Battalion Commanders of Battalions concerned reported to General CANNAN at his Headquarters at 9 p.m. to-night for instructions.

Details of patrols are as follows.-

- 9th Inf. Bde. 1 officer and 20 other ranks to enter enemy's lines at U.15.b.48.48.
- 10th Inf. Bde. 1 sergeant and 10 other ranks to enter enemy's lines at U.9.c.15.25.
- 1 sergeant and 10 other ranks to enter enemy's lines at U.8.d.98.64.
- 11th Inf. Bde. A patrol from the 42nd Bn. to enter the enemy's lines at U.15.a.98. 50
- A patrol from 43rd Bn. to enter enemy's lines at U.15.a.50.75.

The G.O.C. 11th Brigade will decide the strength of these patrols. He will issue definite orders with regard to the distance all patrols penetrate, the intention being to reach the enemy's support line, and discover the condition of wire, condition of dugouts and trenches, and obtain prisoners.

6. MACHINE GUNS.

The Divisional Machine Gun Officer will arrange to co-operate in accordance with the instructions issued to him to-night by the G.O.C. 11th Inf. Bde.

P.T.O.

## 7. TRANSPORT

2 lorries will be furnished by "Q" Staff of the Division, to be at the Church near the Cross-roads, NIEPPE, at 7 p.m. ; and 2 others to be at the Church near the Cross-roads PONT DE NIEPPE at 7 p.m., to act under General CANNAN'S orders to-morrow night. He will arrange that representatives with orders for the lorries, are at the points of rendezvous.

8.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 11.30 p.m.

*A. H. Culson*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION

- |          |       |                             |
|----------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1     | G.O.C.                      |
|          | 2     | "G" Staff                   |
|          | 3     | "A.Q." Staff.               |
|          | 4.-   | 15 C.R.A.                   |
|          | 16    | C.R.E.                      |
|          | 17.   | 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.         |
|          | 18    | 10th -do-                   |
|          | 19    | 11th -do-                   |
|          | 20    | 3rd Aust. Div. Signal Co.   |
|          | 21    | 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.       |
|          | 22    | Div. Machine Gun Officer.   |
|          | 23    | 207th Machine Gun Co.       |
|          | 24    | A.D.M.S.                    |
|          | 25    | No.2 Special Coy. R.E.      |
|          | 26    | "L" Special Coy. R.E.       |
|          | 27    | 3rd Canadian Tunnelling Co. |
|          | 28.   | New Zealand Division        |
|          | 29    | 25th Division               |
|          | 30    | O.C. Defensive Battalions.  |
|          | 31    | 2nd ANZAC (for information) |
|          | 32    | War Diary                   |
|          | 33    | File                        |
|          | 34-35 | Spares.                     |

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,  
5th. June, 1917.

C.R.A.  
 C.R.E.  
 9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 10th. do.  
 11th. do.  
 No.2 Special Coy., R.E.  
 2nd. ANZAC Corps "G". (For information).  
 New Zealand Division. do.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 47.

There will be no Cavalry assembling in PLOEGSTEERT WOOD.- Mounted Troops have been ordered to push forward reconnoitring detachments after Zero plus 11 hours 5 minutes in the direction of O.35.central and U.5.central.

These troops may come under view of our Artillery and Infantry, and observers must therefore look out for them.

*G. A. Dawson*  
 Lieut-Colonel.-

General Staff.



SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters  
5th. June, 1917.

G.O.C.  
"G" Staff.  
"A.Q" Staff.  
C.R.A.  
C.R.E.  
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th. do.  
11th. do.  
Div. Sig. Coy.  
3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
O.C. Defensive Battalions.  
A.D.M.S.  
Div. Train.

A.P.M.  
Liaison Officer (Major MASSIE)  
2nd. ANZAC Corps "G".  
42nd. Squadron, R.F.C.  
New Zealand Division.  
4th. Australian Division.  
57th. Division.  
"B" Bn. Heavy Branch, M.G.C.  
O.C.; No. 2 Special Coy. R.E.  
O.C., "L" do.  
3rd. Canadian Tunnelling Coy.  
D.M.G.O.

For inf.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 48.

The Army Commander has decided that there will be a "New Zero" hour for the advance to capture the GREEN LINE. No change in plan is involved, and all orders and conclusions will be based on an interval of 10 hours between Zero and the "New Zero". The "New Zero" hour will not necessarily be at Zero plus 10, but it will not be before Zero plus 10. It is practically certain that we shall know the "New Zero" hour by Zero plus 6. Everyone will work to the "New Zero" being Zero plus 10, but as stated above, it may be later.

In view of the foregoing Zero plus 9.30 will be designated as "New Zero" minus 30, provided the "New Zero" is ordered to represent old Zero plus 10 hours.

*R. H. Jackson*  
Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

S E C R E TTHIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONDivisional Headquarters,  
6/6/17.

G1/258/862.

M.O. CIRCULAR No. 49.

The attached copy of a letter from Corps Headquarters on the synchronisation of watches marked "A", showing that watches are to be set with their second hands corresponding to the minute hands; and another letter marked "B" with regard to an officer going round with a watch, which will be considered the official time; are forwarded for your information and guidance.

Your attention is invited to Divisional Order No. 39, para.15.

*L. H. Jackson*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION

G.O.C.  
G Staff.  
A.Q. Staff  
C.R.A. (Includes D.T.M.O.)  
C.R.E:  
Div. Sig. Co.  
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th -do-  
11th -do-  
3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
Lieut-Colonel GEDDES, O.C. Defensive Bns.  
A.D.M.S.  
Div. Train.  
A.P.M.  
Liaison Officer (Majro Massie)  
2nd ANZAC.  
42nd Squadron R.F.C.  
New Zealand Division  
8th Australian Division  
57th Division  
'B' Bn. Heavy Branch M.G.C.  
O.C. No.2 Special Co. R.E.  
O.C. 'L' Special Co. R.E.  
O.C. 3rd Canadian Tunnelling Co.  
D.M.G.O.  
File  
War Diary  
Spares.

"A"

6/6/17.

COPY.SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES.

The following is the procedure to be adopted with regard to the synchronisation of watches to ensure correct time being obtained by the Officers detailed to fire Mines.

1. On the 3 days prior to ZERO, firing Officers will visit Headquarters allotted to the Brigades operating on the fronts affected by the Mines at least twice in each 24 hours. Visits should be paid at the hours at which the telegraphic time signals are received at the Brigade Headquarters, usually 3 times per day.
2. All watches are to be set with their second hands corresponding to the minute hands, on the first day of comparison. The minute hand should agree to the nearest minute of signalled time. After the setting of the minute hand as above, no further setting of the watch should be necessary or be carried out.
3. Each time watches are compared with signal time, a note should be made as to whether the watch is fast or slow and a table should be kept thus, e.g.

		<u>Signals.</u>	<u>Watch</u>			<u>DIFFERENCE.</u>
			<u>H.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>S.</u>	
W day	1.	8.5 a.m.	8	4	50	-10.
	2.	4.10 p.m.	4	9	49.	- 11.
X day	1.	7.57 a.m.	7.56.		47.	-13.
	2.	etc.	etc.			-
Y day	1.	etc.	etc.			-
	2.	4.5 p.m.	4. 4.		43.	-17.

Assuming that ZERO time is 8 a.m. on "Z" day, this watch would be 19 seconds slow by signal time, so correct ZERO time by watch would be:-

7 hours 59 minutes 4 seconds.

4. It is possible that a steady rate may not be kept by the watches available, but if a reading be taken within 8 hours of ZERO and an average correction be made, correct time within one second should be obtained by this method.
5. The important point is to work out the calculated time of your watch to agree with correct time of firing, and fire the Mine when your watch reaches that reading.

-----

"B"

6/6/17.

(C O P Y) S E C R E T

2nd ANZAC.

No. G123/-/90.

4/6/17.

SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES.

1. Standard time will be that received by wireless from the EIFFEL TOWER at Corps Headquarters at 11.45 a.m.

A cross-check will be arranged by A.D.A.S., with time obtained at the Second Army Headquarters.

2. Standard time will be telegraphed by Corps Signals to Divisions, Heavy Artillery Headquarters, and 42nd Squadron, R.F.C. at-

9. 0 a.m.

1. 0 p.m.

In addition an officer from Corps Headquarters will visit Divisional Headquarters, Heavy Artillery H.Q., and 42nd Squadron, R.F.C., between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to synchronise watches. The time communicated by him will be taken as final.

3. From Division, and Heavy Artillery Headquarters to lower units synchronisation of watches by telephone is prohibited - watches must be actually compared.

4. Divisions will be responsible for synchronising watches with the following:-

25th Division -	171st Tunnelling Company
N.Z. Division -	'A' Special Company R.E.
3rd Aust. Div.-	3rd Canadian Tunnelling Co. R.E.
	'1' Special Co. R.E.
	No.2 Special Co. R.E.
57th Division -	D Special Co. R.E.
	M Special Co. R.E.

Arrangements are being made with XI Corps to give 57th Division time from 2nd ANZAC Headquarters.

5. Reliable watches must be used for synchronisation, and they must be set so that the Second and Minute hands agree. Watches without a Second hand must not be used for synchronisation.

In synchronising watches the exact error of the watch should be noted and written down.

No attempt should be made to set the watch to the exact right time.

6. 2nd ANZAC G 123/-/73 of 31st May. is cancelled.

(Sd) C.W.GWYNN,

B.G., G.S.  
2nd ANZAC Corps.

SECRET  
THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Divisional Headquarters,  
6/6/17.

GI/258/854

M.O. CIRCULAR No. .50.

Reference Divisional Order No. 39 para 3 and para 6.

The New Zealand Division will reach the line of posts at plus 5.51, and the protective barrage in front of the line of posts and of our BLACK LINE will continue until plus 6.45 instead of to plus 6.30 as formerly stated.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*C. A. J. Johnson*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION

- G.O.C.
- G Staff
- A.Q. Staff
- C.R.A. (Includes D.T.M.O.)
- C.R.E.
- Div. Sig. Co.
- 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 10th -do-
- 11th -do-
- 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- Lieut-Col. GEDDES, O.C. Defensive Bns.
- A.D.M.S.
- Div. Train
- A.P.M.
- Liaison Officer (Major Massie).
- 2nd ANZAC )
- 42nd Squadron R.F.C. )
- New Zealand Division )
- 4th Australian Division )
- 57th Division ) For information.
- 'B' Bn. Heavy Branch M.G.C. )
- O.C. No.2 Special Co. R.E. )
- O.C. 'L' Special Coy. R.E. )
- O.C. 3rd Canadian Tunnelling Co.
- D.M.G.O.
- File
- War Diary
- Spares.

*G. B. ... 6/6/17* *D. 10.*

SECRET.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters.  
6th June, 1917.

9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th do.  
11th do.  
C. R. E.  
3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.



M. O. CIRCULAR NO. 51.

During operations evacuation of wounded and all rearward traffic, except runners, must give way to fighting troops advancing to attack or reinforce.

*L. H. Jones*

Lieut-Col.  
General Staff.

Appendix No. 43

SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters,  
6th. June, 1917.

9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.-  
 10th. do.  
 11th. do.

M. O. CIRCULAR No. 54.

The following extract of an order just received is forwarded for the information of your troops. -

"Our aeroplanes will fly over New Zealand assembly trenches on Y/2 night from 12.30 a.m. to 2.30 a.m. and form a noise barrage for Tanks."

A large, cursive handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. H. Jackson".

Lieut-Colonel.-  
 General Staff.

*Share*

SECRET.Copy No. 24.....THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 41.

9-6-17.

## Reference Maps:-

1/20,000 28 S.W.  
 1/20,000 36 N.W.  
 1/40,000 36 Sheet.

1. 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade will take over front now held by 2 Battalions of 57th Division (River LYS-WESTMINSTER AVENUE, U.15.d.5.4. inclusive) during night of June 10th/11th.
2. Relief to be completed by 6 a.m. June 11th, 1917.
3. Details of the Relief will be arranged between G.O.C. 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade and O.C. Defensive Battalions (Lieut-Colonel GEDDES).  
A.Q. Branch will make necessary Administrative arrangements.
4. On completion of relief the 2 Battalions of 57th Division will pass to the command of 57th Division. The 4th New Zealand Light Trench Mortar Battery will pass to command of 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade.
5. G.O.C. 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade will assume command of ST. YVES Sector on completion of relief.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. H. Beck*  
 Lieut-Colonel.  
 General Staff.

Issued at 11.45 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |       |                                  |     |                       |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| No. 1 | G.O.C.                           | 17. | New Zealand Division. |
| 2     | "G" Staff.                       | 18. | 57th Division.        |
| 3     | "A.Q." Staff.                    | 19. | 4th N.Z. Inf. Bde.    |
| 4.    | C. R. A.                         | 20. | O.C. Defensive Btns.  |
| 5.    | C. R. E.                         | 21. | 207th M.G. Coy.       |
| 6.    | 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.              | 22. | D.M.G.O.              |
| 7.    | 10th        -do-                 |     |                       |
| 8.    | 11th        -do-                 |     |                       |
| 9.    | 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.         | 24. | War Diary.            |
| 10.   | 3rd Aust. Div. Train.            | 25. | File.                 |
| 11.   | 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.            | 26. | Spare.                |
| 12.   | A.D.M.S.                         | 27. | Spare.                |
| 13.   | A.P.M.                           |     |                       |
| 14.   | 2nd ANZAC "G" (for information). |     |                       |
| 15.   | "L" Special Coy., R.E.           |     |                       |
| 16.   | No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.         |     |                       |

T.C.



SECRET.

Copy No. 2.3....

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 42.  
9-6-17.

## Reference Map.-

1/10,000 PLOEGSTEERT, Edition 4B.

1. The 13th Brigade, 4th Australian Division, will take over the front held by the 11th Brigade, 3rd Australian Division, North of the DOUVE River. Relief to be complete by morning of 11th June, 1917.
2. Boundary between 3rd and 4th Australian Divisions will then run along River DOUVE Westwards to LA HUTTE-MESSINES ROAD, thence to old boundary of 3rd Australian Division at our old front line U.S.c.4.7.
3. All arrangements will be made by Infantry Brigadiers direct and G.O.C. 13th Australian Infantry Brigade is to assume command on completion of relief, which will be reported to Divisional Headquarters.
4. On relief the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be disposed as follows:-
  - 1 Battalion CATACOMBS.
  - 1 " BUNHILL ROW.
  - 1 " CRESLOW.
  - 1 Battalion, Machine Gun Coy., and L.T.M. Battery in "D" billeting area.
  - A.Q. Branch will make necessary administrative arrangements.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Peck*  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.

Issued at 11.55 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |        |                          |     |                          |                         |
|--------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| No. 1. | G.O.C.                   | 16. | 4th Australian Division. |                         |
| 2.     | "G" Staff.               | 17. | 207th M.G. Coy.          |                         |
| 3.     | "A.Q." Staff.            | 18. | D.M.G.O.                 |                         |
| 4.     | C.R.A.                   | 19. | 2nd ANZAC                | } for infor-<br>mation. |
| 5.     | C.R.E.                   | 20. | New Zealand Division.    |                         |
| 6.     | 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.      | 21. | 57th Division.           |                         |
| 7.     | 10th -do-                | 22. | O.C. Defensive Btns.     |                         |
| 8.     | 11th -do-                | 23. | War Diary.               |                         |
| 9.     | 3rd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.  | 24. | Spare.                   |                         |
| 10.    | 3rd Aust. Div. Train.    | 25. | Spare.                   |                         |
| 11.    | 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.    | 26. | File.                    |                         |
| 12.    | A.D.M.S.                 |     |                          |                         |
| 13.    | A.P.M.                   |     |                          |                         |
| 14.    | "L" Special Coy., R.E.   |     |                          |                         |
| 15.    | No. 2 Special Coy., R.E. |     |                          |                         |

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 43

10th June, 1917

Reference Map 1/10,000 PLOEGSTEERT Sheet.

1. INTENTION At Zero hour ~~plus~~ plus 5, it is intended to push out posts to establish themselves in and beyond the POTTERIE System of Trenches, in order to prevent the enemy from carrying out repair work, and in order to facilitate further operations to be carried out on a later date. It is also intended to capture UNDULATING TRENCH as far south as River DOUVE.
2. ACTION OF 9th Bde. The 9th Brigade will establish the following new line of posts.  
 No.1 at FUZE COTTAGE  
 No.2 half way between FUSE COTTAGE & AVENUE COTTAGE  
 No.3 at AVENUE COTTAGE  
 No.4 in the vicinity of LA POTTERIE MOAT.  
 No.5 at the Eastern end of KNOLL 27.  
 No.6 close to the River DOUVE.  
 Each post will consist of approximately 1 officer and 30 other ranks, with a proportion of Lewis Guns. Posts will take out an ample supply of rifle grenades, bombs, water, food "S.O.S." Signals, and flares for aeroplane signals.  
 G.O.C. 9th Bde. will detail an adequate number of moppers up, who will thoroughly clear the POTTERIE system and make sure that no Germans whatever are left in any dugouts. When this has been done, the 'moppersup' will be available to assist in the consolidation of the posts. As soon as the 'mopping up' has been completed and the posts have been consolidated, troops other than the allotted garrisons of the posts will be withdrawn at the discretion of the G.O.C. 9th Bde.  
 The existing line of posts from THATCHED COTTAGE Northwards will be used as a jumping off place for the troops detailed to establish the new line of posts. They will also act as a rallying line for the new posts. The assaulting troops will be in position on the THATCHED COTTAGE line of posts by 10.30 p.m. Precautions will be taken in order to prevent their being seen by the enemy during the approach march.
3. Action of 11th Bde. The 11th Bde. at Zero hour plus 5 will take the remaining portion of UNDULATING TRENCH as far as the River DOUVE, and the remaining portion of UNCEDELY AVENUE as far as its junction with UNDULATING TRENCH, G.O.C. that Bde. will decide whether to make this a bombing attack along the trenches named.
4. Action of Artillery The G.O.C. Corps Artillery has agreed that the action of the ~~main~~ artillery shall be as follows - There will be two hours bombardment by Heavy Artillery ~~main~~ of the POTTERIE SYSTEM some considerable time before zero, probably starting at 5 p.m. At Zero the Divisional Artillery will open an advancing Barrage 200 yards beyond the THATCHED COTTAGE line of posts. i.e. 200 yards beyond the line joining THATCHED COTTAGE with the River DOUVE Bridge on the MESSINES road. North of the DOUVE the advancing barrage will

4. Action of Artillery (Contd.) start 200 yards beyond our "GREEN" Line. At plus 5 minutes this barrage will advance at the rate of 50 yards in 1½ minutes until it reaches 200 yards East of the line of new posts and 550 yards beyond our "GREEN" Line. It will remain there for 30 minutes, after which it will cease but be ready to re-open on the same line 200 yards beyond the new posts on the S.O.S. signal being given. At zero the Heavy Artillery will open on a back barrage on selected points, none of which must be ~~xxxxxx~~ nearer than 400 yards to the new line of posts.  
Counter battery groups will stand by for work in silencing the enemy's artillery. The other artillery along our front at zero hour will open up a bombardment for 15 minutes on their S.O.S. lines, in order to divert the enemy's attention from the POTTERIE system.
5. Action of M.Gs. The Divisional Machine Gun Officer will consult the G.O's C. 9th and 11th Bdes. with regard to any action required by M.Gs.
6. Zero Zero hour will be 11 p.m.
7. Synchron-ization of watches. Watches of 9th and 11th Bdes. Heavy Artillery, and Div. Artillery will be synchronized by an officer from 3rd Aust. Div. Headquarters.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(sd) G.H. JACKSON,

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Issued at 4.45 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No. 1 C.H.A.  
2 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
3 11th -do-  
4 Anzac Corps H.A.  
5 Corps R.A.  
6 2nd ANZAC "G" (for information)  
7 D.M.G.O.  
8 FILE.

SECRET

Copy No. 25

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 44

Ref. 1/20,000 Map.

11th June, 1917.

1. Divisional Relief. The New Zealand Division will relieve the 3rd Australian Division less Artillery, south of the DOUVE, commencing 12th June, relief to be completed by 6 a.m. 13th June. The 3rd Australian Division on relief will be withdrawn into Corps Reserve, Headquarters at BAILLEUL.
2. Relief of 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde., 4th Aust. Division, will relieve the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde., and take over the area north of the DOUVE River by 6 a.m. on the 12th June, in accordance with instructions already issued. The 11th Inf. Bde. on relief will move to Sub-area "B" of "D" Billeting area in the vicinity of NEUVE EGLISE. Reliefs will be carried out under arrangements to be made by respective Brigade Commanders. The New Zealand Division have agreed to clear the NEUVE EGLISE billeting area by 7 a.m. in order that the 11th Brigade may move into it.
3. 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. Two Battalions of the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. moved today to the Subsidiary line south of WULVERGHEM, where they will remain while employed under direction of the Chief Engineer, 2nd ANZAC.  
The 10th Inf. Bde. less two Battalions will move to-morrow to Sub-area "A" of "D" Billeting area in the vicinity of KOTEPYRE, taking over the billets vacated by the 1st New Zealand Infantry Brigade. Move to be completed by 6 p.m. The move will be carried out under arrangements to be made by the G.O.C. 10th Inf. Bde.
4. Relief of 9th Inf. Bde. The 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be relieved in the area south of the DOUVE during the day of the 12th and the night of the 12/13th inst., by the 2nd New Zealand Inf. Bde. The relief will be completed by 6 a.m. on 13th. Brigadiers may mutually arrange that units in the front line system shall be relieved considerably earlier in order to take advantage of the hours of darkness. On being relieved, the 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. will proceed to Sub-area "C" of "D" Billeting area, west of NEUVE EGLISE. This area is at present occupied by the 2nd New Zealand Inf. Bde.
5. Move of Divisional Headquarters & Div. Arty. Headquarters. Divisional Headquarters will move to BAILLEUL on the 13th inst. The command of the ST YVES sector will pass to the G.O.C. New Zealand Division at 11 a.m. on the 13th inst.  
Though Divisional Artillery will not move, the Headquarters Divisional Artillery will accompany the Headquarters of the Division to BAILLEUL, Command of the Artillery passing to C.R.A. New Zealand Div. at 11 a.m. on 13th inst.

P.T.O.

11/6/17

6. 4th New Zealand Inf. Bde. will come under the orders of the G.O.C. New Zealand Division on transfer of command.
7. Divisional R.E. The three Field Companies of the 3rd Australian Division less personnel required for tramlines &c. will move under instructions to be issued by the C.R.E. in consultation with the "Q" Branch. The Companies will move on the 12th inst. New billeting areas and times of move will be reported by C.R.E. to Divisional Headquarters.
8. Pioneers. The 3rd Australian Pioneer Bn. will move on the 12th inst. at a time and to a billeting area to be notified by "Q" Branch.
9. M.G.Coys. & L.T.M. Batteries. Machine Gun Companies and Light Trench Mortar Batteries will accompany their own Brigades. The 207th Machine Gun Co. will move on the 12th inst at a time and to a billeting area to be notified by "Q" Branch. The Div. Machine Gun Officer will accompany Divisional Headquarters.
10. Administrative Units. Divisional Units such as Div. Train, Field Ambulances, &c. will move under directions to be issued by "Q" Branch in consultation with the A.D.M.S., the O.C. Div. Train, &c. The moves will be completed by 6 a.m. on 13th inst.
11. Routes. G.O's C. Brigades &c. will select their own routes, but will arrange so to move that they will not block other traffic.
12. Artillery Activity. C.R.A. will arrange for the minimum amount of artillery activity to take place during relief of Units in the front line in order to avoid losses from retaliation. He will, however, make sure that counter-battery groups are standing by during such reliefs in case they are required.
13. Reporting Completion of Moves. The actual time and date of completion of each move will be reported to Divisional Headquarters.
14. Reports. Reports will be received at Divisional Headquarters STEENWERCK up to 11 a.m. on 13th inst., after that they will be directed to No. 50 Rue de LILLE, BAILLEUL.

15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*L. H. Jackson*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Issued at...7.P.M.....

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No.1	A.D.C. for G.O.C.	16	A.D.M.
2	G Staff	17	Div. Signal Co.
3	A.Q. Staff	18	Camp Commandant
4	New Zealand Division	19	A.D.V.S.
5	4th Australian Div.	20	No.2 Special Co.
6	57th Division	21	"L" Special Co.
7	4th N. Z. Inf. Bde.	22	3rd Can. Tunnelling Co.
8	C.R.A.	23	42nd Squadron R.F.C.
9	C.R.E.	24	2nd ANZAC (for information)
10	9th Aust. Inf. Bde.	25	War Diary
11	10th -doe	26	File
12	11th -do-	27-28	Spares.
13	3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.		
14	3rd Aust. Div. Train		
15	A.D.M.S.		

SECRET.

Copy No. 36

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 45.

11th. June, 1917.

Reference 1:10,000 Map.

1. Information. The enemy is believed to be withdrawing Eastward to the WARNETON LINE (U.12., U.6., O.36). It is believed that he is still holding his trenches in and South of U.16.  
The Third Australian Division is holding a forward line of posts to the East of the line UNDULATING TRENCH, UNCERTAIN SUPPORT, THATCHED COTTAGE, and is establishing today an advanced post at KNOLL 30 North of AU CHASSEUR CABARET.  
"L" Special Coy., R.E. and No. 2 Special Coy., R.E. will, if the wind be favorable, discharge cloud and Stokes gas from the front LE GHEER to River LYS at 5 p.m. this day, or after. This gas discharge will not affect any country North of the line LE PELERIN-GRANDE HAIE Fm. (U.23).
2. Intention. To establish a line of posts East of our present line, and to push forward reconnaissances East of such new line.
3. Mounted Troops. 2nd. ANZAC Corps Mounted Troops (1 Regiment and Anzac Cycle Battalion, less Motor Machine Gun Battery) attached to Third Australian Division will establish tonight a line of posts between HUNS WALK and the River LYS on the line STEIGNAST FARM, Fme. DE LA CROIX, SUNKEN FARM, LA TRUIE FARM. To exploit success and under favorable conditions they will seize and occupy the SUGAR REFINERY and reconnoitre to the East of the line of posts which they have established.
4. Signal Arrangements. 9th. Australian Infantry Brigade will establish and maintain an Advanced Telephone Report Centre at THATCHED COTTAGE.
5. Lewis Guns. 10th. Australian Infantry Brigade will hand over to 2nd. Anzac Corps Mounted Troops 16 Lewis Guns and necessary magazines. Receipts for same to be passed.
6. Divisional Artillery. The "S.O.S" Signal will become inoperative South of HUNS WALK after 10 p.m., and will not be reinstated except on orders from Divisional Headquarters.
7. Guides. 9th. Australian Infantry Brigade will provide 8 reliable guides, under an N.C.O., to meet the force at HYDE PARK CORNER at 7.30 o'clock.
8. Heavy Artillery. The Heavy Artillery will bombard -

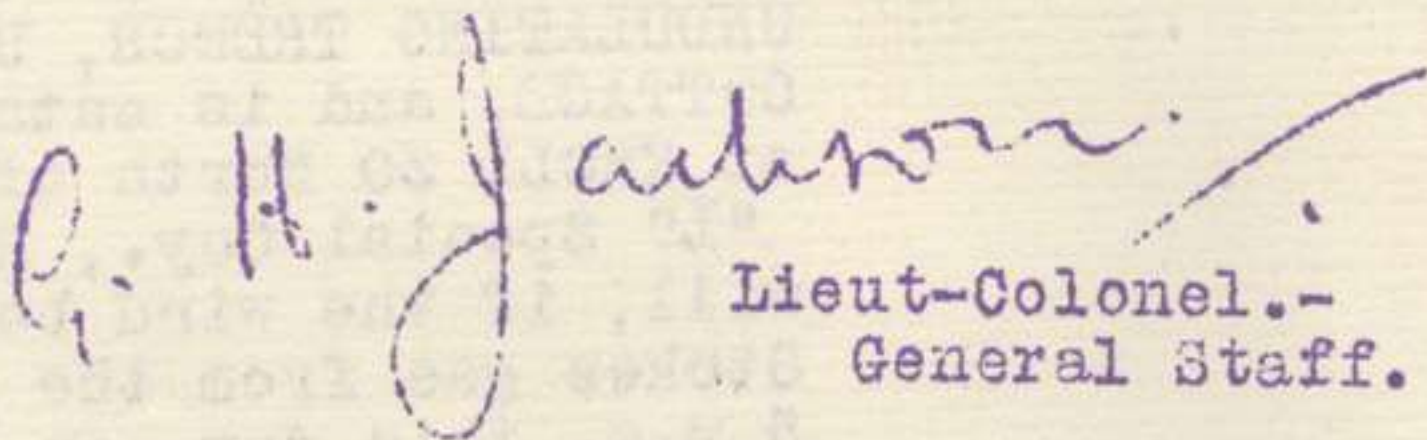
P.T.O.

8. Heavy Artillery.  
(Cont).

SUGAR REFINERY from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Western approaches to WARNETON from 10 p.m.  
to 2 a.m.The UNCOMMON TRENCH System (U.23) from 10 p.m.  
to 2 a.m.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGE.


Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

Issued at 6.30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1	G.O.C.
	2	"G" Staff.
	3	"A.Q" Staff.
	4-15	C.R.A.
	16	9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
	17	10th. do.
	18	11th. do.
	19	3rd. Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
	20	New Zealand Division.
	21	4th. Aust. Division.
	22	4th. N. Z. Inf. Bde.
	23	13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
	24	Corps H.A.
	25	G.O.C. Corps R.A.
	26	2nd. ANZAC "G".
	27	"L" Special Coy., R.E.
	28	No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.
	29-34	Corps Mounted Troops.
	35	42nd. Squadron, R.F.C.
	36	War Diary.
	37	Spare.
	38	"
	39	"

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

June 16th, 1917.

Operations of Battalions of Third Australian Division  
night of June 6th/7th to night of June 12th/13th, in the Battle for  
MESSINES RIDGE.

The following account has been obtained from Battalions  
of their Operations, and Reference is to Map Sheet 28 S.W., PLOEG-  
STEERT, 1/10,000.

*F. M. Lestock*

Lieut.-I.C.  
for Lieut-Colonel.-G.S.

T.C.



38th BATTALION.

The Battalion assembled between ASH Trench and the left of SEAFORTH FARM, with centre on MESSINES ROAD. About SEAFORTH FARM there was some crowding with the 40th Battalion.

The three waves were -

1st wave D Coy., and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of B Coy.  
2nd wave A Coy., and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of B Coy.  
3rd wave C Coy.

At ZERO plus 3 minutes the waves went over and the 40th Battalion having disposed of PETIT DOUVE resistance, the first wave reached ULCER RESERVE without difficulty. There was no Machine Gun fire from the Left Flank. At ULCER RESERVE the second wave went on, leapfrogging the first wave, and later were joined by half of D and half of B from the first wave, which left half of D in ULCER RESERVE. From UNGODLY Trench the second and third waves went on together and the BLACK LINE was reached with 12 Platoons and 12 Lewis Guns. Casualties were very small.

During the halts for about 10 minutes east of SCHNITZEL Farm, and about 1 hour 8 minutes before UNGODLY Trench, there was very little enemy shell fire. The enemy barrage, such as it was, remained on his old front line and NO MAN'S LAND until well on into the forenoon. At about 10.30 a.m. near UNGODLY Trench one of our aeroplanes flew over the Battalion's lines and called for flares. Shortly after these had been given the enemy Batteries shortened their range, and from that time onwards they never lifted off the UNGODLY and BLACK LINE vicinity.

Battalion established the BLACK LINE and put in a block on UNGODLY AVENUE just east of the POTTERIES-MESSINES Road in U.3.d. By the morning of the 9th the BLACK LINE had been dug 7 ft. deep and fire-stepped in places. A strong point had also been established at U.3.d.8.9. with a good field of fire north, east and south (1 machine gun and 2 Lewis guns), and another strong point just North of the DOUVE behind the BLACK LINE with 2 Lewis Guns. Connection on right and left flanks was very good throughout.

On morning of June 8th 4 enemy aeroplanes flew low over the BLACK LINE and enemy barrage again came down heavily.

Mules came up as far as the old front line on the MESSINES Road. Hot food was brought up on the afternoon of June 8th.

Battalion Headquarters were on our old front line on MESSINES Road, with Forward Report Station on ULCER Trench just north of ULNA Avenue.

Battalion was relieved early on the morning of June 9th by 42nd Battalion

37TH BATTALION.

The 37th Battalion assembled between ~~LE ROSSIGNOL~~ and ADVANCED ESTAMINET with Battalion Headquarters at the latter place. At ZERO plus 7 hours the Battalion moved forward in Artillery formation with A Coy. and D Coy. in the first wave, C Coy. and D Coy. of the 44th Battalion in the second wave, and B Coy. in reserve behind the second wave. There was heavy enemy barrage on the Subsidiary line. Two Platoons of 40th Battalion were carrying behind B Coy. After the Battalion had moved off an order was received saying that new ZERO was delayed two hours and instructions were sent out to the Battalion to halt for that period in any available cover in the vicinity of the BLACK LINE. The Battalion moved up to SCHNITZEL FARM across country and then advanced in extended order to the BLACK LINE. By the time they arrived at the BLACK LINE they had lost about 10% of their effectives. They lay down in open order about 150 yards behind the BLACK LINE for a little over 2 hours.

At 3.10 p.m. the waves having been reformed passed through the BLACK LINE behind our barrage and advanced towards the GREEN LINE. The Left Flank reached UNCANNY SUPPORT without difficulty, and joined up at HUN'S WALK with the 47th Battalion. There was some fighting with 3 machine guns and their crews in the 2 houses immediately North of WHITE SPOT COTTAGE Road by UNCANNY SUPPORT, but these were put out of action. The small wood in the angle of UNDULATING Trench and UNDULATING Support hid a nest of Snipers and Machine Guns which could not be overcome, and the line was bent back around that angle. The second wave on the Right entered and consolidated UNCANNY Trench. The leading wave arrived in UNCANNY Support with 43 other ranks, of whom 5 or 6 were N.C.Os. Their last Officer was wounded after bombing the machine guns in the houses already referred to. Along the whole of this GREEN LINE, which including the bend at UNDULATING CORNER was about 1200 yards long, the Battalion had only about 230 men. The 4th Division on their left seem to have fallen back at some time towards the end of the day on to the BLACK LINE that is what the 37th Battalion understood, and in the evening they too fell back to the BLACK LINE. About 3.30 a.m. (June 8th) the 44th Battalion came up to their relief, found them not established on the GREEN LINE, and on completing the relief had no difficulty in making an advanced line which ran from SEPTIEME BARN south-west to the MESSINES Road about 200 yards North of the DOUVE Bridge.

On the following night (June 8th/9th) the 37th Battalion again came up to relieve the 44th Battalion, and did in fact relieve it for about 10 minutes. The order for this relief was then cancelled and the 44th Battalion took over again.

Headquarters of Battalion June 8th were triangular wood on the DOUVE in U.S.d. On the night of the 8th/9th it was established in a shell hole on ULCER RESERVE near ULNA AVENUE Junction.

There were no communication trenches at all during this period and enemy shell fire on the southern MESSINES Slope was heavy and consistent from DEULLEMONT and WARNETON. There was a telephone from Cable head at SEAFORTH FARM to Advanced Brigade H.Q. on ULCER RESERVE, and the Battalion made a connection up to BETHLEEM Farm. Nearly all Battalion Runners were put out of action.

A and C Companies had most of the fighting. D Coy. to the South had no trouble. Four of our M.Gs. were put out of action. The Battalion T.M. was blown up with its crew before it got to UNCANNY SUPPORT. Battalion had about 8 Lewis Guns between UNCANNY and the River, but only one on the left flank where the fighting was heaviest. Rations were got up on the evening of the 8th by mules as far as SEAFORTH, thence by hand. Water was scarce and men got some out of shell holes.

39th BATTALION.

The route up to the assembly trenches on the night of 6th/7th June lay from OOSTHOVE FARM via PLOEGSTEERT Corner and ANSCROFT AVENUE. The Battalion set out with A, B, and D Coys. less 1 Platoon (Battalion Reserve). C Coy. was Brigade Reserve. Considerable enemy shell fire hampered the progress of the Battalion almost from the beginning. At PLOEGSTEERT Corner one enemy shell burst in the middle of the leading Platoon, and this, with a heavy bombardment by gas shell in this vicinity, disorganised the Battalion. It was almost impossible for Officers and some of the N.C.Os. to wear their masks properly owing to the necessity for directing the men. As it was Officers and men were overcome at every few yards, and their track up through BUNHILL ROW and MUD LANE was strewn with men overcome by the gas. The Battalion leader was one of the casualties. A Senior Company Commander reached the R.A.P. in ANSCROFT AVENUE at about 2.20 a.m. with only about 12 men, though stragglers, much dazed, gradually dribbled in afterwards. This Officer procured all available Ammonia Capsules from the R.A.P. and distributed them amongst all the men whom he could collect along ANSCROFT AVENUE.

At about 20 minutes before ZERO there were about 120 men (out of 360) in the Battalion assembly trenches to the left of ANTON'S Farm. These men were reorganised and it was decided that they should go to the assault in one wave instead of two. At ZERO hour the enemy barrage opposite them came down on the enemy front line very heavily. It was a zig-zag barrage and the Battalion got through a gap successfully without a casualty. The Left Flank successfully bombed several dugouts south-west of DOUVE Farm. The enemy barrage was put on his front line while his men were in that line in dugouts. The two flanks joined up about the line of the track from the DOUVE down to ULRICA Avenue at about U.9.c.6.7. Flares were sent up to aeroplanes to show position at about 3.45 a.m. when the Battalion was advancing at about the situation of the hedge running from the DOUVE at U.9.b.2.5. to U.9.d.4.8. Almost immediately our barrage lifted from this point to beyond GREY FARM, thus leaving unharmed 2 Machine Guns to North of GREY FARM. One of them mounted on the roof of the dugout at U.9.b.6.3. temporarily held up the Battalion which took cover in the hedge already mentioned and shell holes along it. The Officer in charge of the left flank shot the enemy Machine Gunner who was working the M.G. on the roof of the dugout, and his men then rushed the position. Two machine guns were captured here. The Battalion then linked up with the 34th Battalion on the right which had advanced across ULSTER RESERVE to the right of GREY FARM, and they consolidated together on the BLACK LINE.

The portion of the Battalion when reorganised on the BLACK LINE at about 4.30 a.m. numbered 88 men.

The 34th Battalion was to have taken over from 39th Bn. at about 7 a.m. but was unable to do so until 11 a.m. During this time the 39th continued digging without much interference by enemy fire.

At 11 a.m. the 39th Battalion was ordered to stand by on the North side of the River below SCHNITZEL FARM. C Coy. (100 strong) came up to reinforce at about 8 p.m. on the evening of June 7th.

Mules came up to South of SCHNITZEL FARM on the night of June 7th and brought hot food.

P. T. O.

On the morning of June 8th the Battalion was collected in an abandoned enemy trench between UINA AVENUE and DOUVE Farm - whether the ditch trench dug by the 40th Bn., or the drain shown just east of that is not clear. During the day of June 8th and the night of June 8th/9th the Battalion continued digging communication trench in vicinity of ULCER RESERVE towards SCHNITZEL and BETHLEHEM FARMS. This trench ran parallel with UINA AVENUE and just south of it.

Battalion was relieved early morning June 9th.

At about 50 minutes before 2.00 there were about 100 men left of 800 in the Battalion assembled in the trench east of UINA AVENUE. There were two waves of assault in one wave instead of two. At 2.00 hours the enemy started to come down on the trench line very heavily. It was a zig-zag barrage and the Battalion got through a gap successfully without a casualty. The left flank successfully broke several depots south-west of DOUVE Farm. The enemy barrage was on the front line while his men were in that line in 2.00. The two lines joined up about the line of the track from the DOUVE down to UINA AVENUE at about 2.30. Lines were sent up to reinforcements to their position at about 2.45 a.m. when the Battalion was advancing at about the position of the house running from the DOUVE to U.S.S. to U.S.S. Almost immediately our barrage lifted from this point to beyond GUY FARM. One then leaving captured a machine gun to north of GUY FARM. One of them mounted on the roof of the depot at U.S.S. temporarily held by the Battalion which took cover in the hedge already mentioned and shell holes along it. The Officer in charge of the left flank shot the enemy Machine Gunner who was working the M.G. on the roof of the depot, and his men then rushed the position. Two machine guns were captured here. The Battalion then linked up with the 3rd Battalion on the right which had advanced across ULCER RESERVE to the right of GUY FARM, and they consolidated together on the BLACK LINE.

The portion of the Battalion when reorganised on the BLACK LINE at about 4.30 a.m. numbered 88 men. The 3rd Battalion was to have taken over from 2.30 a.m. but was unable to do so until 11 a.m. During this time the 3rd continued digging without much interference by enemy fire. At 11 a.m. the 3rd Battalion was ordered to stand by on the north side of the River below SCHNITZEL FARM. Coy. 100 (strong) came to reinforce at about 3 p.m. on the evening of June 11th. This came up to South of SCHNITZEL FARM on the night of June 11th and brought out food.

40TH BATTALION.

D Coy. of 40th Bn. made the assault with the 38th Battalion. One Platoon of A, and one Platoon of B, made the assault with the 37th Battalion. This left 40th Battalion for the assault with 10 Platoons, 5 of which (C Coy. and 1 Platoon of B) assembled North of the DOUVE, and 5 (3 Platoons of A and 2 of B) South of the River.

The 5 Northern Platoons went up to their assembly trenches by the BROWN route. There was much shelling on the way which caused some temporary disorganisation and delay. They arrived in their assembly trenches about 10 minutes before ZERO and 50 strong. The Company Commander re-allotted objectives - he and his Batman, for example, took one, and the others were distributed in similar proportions. They reached UNLA Support 27 strong. The right hand Platoon of the Northern Party laid bridges across the DOUVE between MESSINES Road and the enemy old front line and maintained them.

The Southern 5 Platoons assembled between SEAFORTH Farm and the MESSINES Road. They crossed NO MAN'S LAND and reached ULNA SWITCH without difficulty at about 3.30 a.m. The 10 Platoons having joined up then advanced and dug in along a ditch between ULNA AVENUE and DOUVE FARM running almost due North of the Farm. Their total casualties between assembly trenches and this point were about 100. By 10.0 a.m. the ditch trench was dug and some beginning made with a communication trench running forward to ULCER RESERVE.

Some casualties were caused by enemy machine guns - one on the tip of ULNA BEAK on the MESSINES Road, and one in ULNA SUPPORT near ULNA SWITCH Junction. Another Machine Gun was captured in ULNA SWITCH. Most of our casualties, however, were due to the eagerness of the men who ran into our own barrage, especially one Platoon of B Coy. This was due to inexperience, as was also the fact that in advancing across NO MAN'S LAND some of the men of the Southern 5 Platoons put on gas masks, believing that fumes from the shell holes were asphyxiating gas fumes. There was not much fighting, and the enemy surrendered rather than ran.

After digging the ditch line the 40th Battalion went up to the BLACK LINE to reinforce. There was no enemy barrage short of his old front line until about 10.30 a.m. although there was occasional shooting along ULNA AVENUE and the DOUVE.

Some of the men went on through our barrage as far as UNGODLY Trench and came back through it. Most of them were re-collected in the ditch trench by about 5 a.m.

The 10 Platoons were re-organised at about 3 p.m. and at about 9 p.m. went up to BLACK LINE to reinforce. They had to get through enemy barrage, but reached the BLACK LINE without heavy loss, and were then about 100 strong. The BLACK LINE was then a good trench. At 3.0 a.m. Battalion retired to the ditch trench in U.S.b. and remained there until relieved (early morning June 9th). The 10 Platoons came out of the fight 70 or 80 strong.

44TH BATTALION.

The 44th Battalion was on the night of June 7th attached to 10th Brigade for operations and at 11 p.m. on the night of June 7th/8th they were ordered to proceed from Reserve in CATACOMBS and retake the GREEN LINE North of the DOUVE. The Battalion marched up HEATH Trench and ONLY WAY, crossed NO MAN'S LAND and entered old front line about PETIT DOUVE Farm. They proceeded across country south of ULNA Avenue, and deployed at SCHNITZEL Farm, taking their line by the trees of BETLHEEM. The order was - C Coy. to take UNCANNY Trench; B Coy. to leapfrog them and take UNCANNY Support, and the trench junctions at UNCANNY CORNER; A Coy. to take the GREEN LINE on the right, and link up with a Company of the 40th Bn. which was supposed to be on the GREEN LINE just North of the DOUVE. D Coy. was in reserve, but half of D Coy. was detailed to swing in to the right of A in case the Company of the 40th should not be in the position North of the DOUVE where they were expected.

At 3.30 a.m. C Coy. went forward and reached UNCANNY Trench. They began digging in on a line almost due South of SEPTIEME BARN from about U.4.a.5.5. to U.4.a.4.1. At this time the 48th Battalion on their left had not made touch and as the left flank of C Coy. was in the air, B Coy. was ordered to form a defensive flank which bent back from C Coy's left almost due west towards the BLACK LINE. Meanwhile A Coy. made good the line on the right from C Coy's right flank from a distance of about 500 yards south. The half of D Coy. already detailed came out from BETLHEEM FARM (the reserve position) and established on A Coy's right flank down to DOUVE Bridge. This position was maintained till about 1 p.m. on June 8th, when patrols reported that the 48th Bn. had got up to OWL Trench. B Coy. then swung round from their defensive flank and connected with the 48th near SEPTIEME BARN.

During the night of June 8th/9th the 48th on the left apparently went forward into OWL Support, Patrols of the 44th reported their situation there with right flank in the air at about 10 a.m. on June 9th. At noon B Coy. were ordered to advance to UNCANNY Support and connect up with the 48th, and C Coy. to swing round half right and join up with B. This position was successfully established by 4.30 p.m. Patrols put a block forward in UNDULATING Trench where the track crosses it at about U.4.c.8.7. During the night June 9th/10th a Patrol worked down UNDULATING Trench to about U.4.d.00.35 and reported Southern end strongly held by the enemy. A patrol from the right flank which went out south of UNGODLY AVENUE were driven back by rifle and machine gun fire. The original GREEN LINE, however, was established during June 10th, and on the night of June 10th/11th the Battalion was relieved on it by the 43rd, in small parties under heavy enemy bombardment.

On the afternoon of June 8th at about 4 p.m. considerable numbers of the enemy were seen massing for counter-attack between GAPAARD and STEIGNAST Farm, but they were smashed by our barrage. On the following afternoon there were evidences of enemy massing in the little copse in U.11.a. but these also were dispersed.

At about 5 p.m. on June 9th B Coy. was obliged temporarily to withdraw from the GREEN LINE by our own barrage which was short. An hour later however on our Artillery lengthening they returned to it. On the evening of June 10th at about 7 p.m. the Coys. on the right flank had similarly to retire for about 150 yards because our Heavy Artillery was falling short. After they had retired some of our heavy rounds fell still shorter and they retired again almost to the BLACK LINE. They returned however to the GREEN LINE about an hour later.

7.

42ND BATTALION.

At 1 a.m. on night of June 8th/9th the Battalion received orders to take over BLACK LINE from the 10th Brigade and clear up the situation between BLACK and GREEN LINES. The Battalion marched from CATACOMBS up the MESSINES Road to the enemy old front line. A and C Companies moved overland south of SCHNITZEL Farm, B Coy. North of SCHNITZEL Farm and D Coy. into Reserve in the ditch between ULNA Avenue and the DOUVE previously consolidated by 39th and 40th Battalions.

A Coy. took over from the River DOUVE to the SUNKEN Road U.3.d.65.10.

B Coy. took over the line left of A up to hedge corner U.3.d.8.6.

C Coy. took over remainder up to boundary with Left Division just South of WHITE SPOT BOTTAGE. This was about 3.30 a.m. June 8th/9th. There was a slow fire of 15cm. shell going on at the time, which ceased about an hour later. The fire was directed principally on SCHNITZEL and BETLHEEM Farms.

The Battalion continued organising the BLACK LINE which was completed to 6 ft. deep, fire-stepped and revetted all along. There were good fire-bays. Strong points were established at

U.3.b.75.00.

U.3.d.65.50.

U.3.d.65.30.

U.9.b.5.9.

These were in good order by the afternoon of June 9th.

From 4.30 to 8 a.m. June 9th enemy fire was very quiet. There was some intermittent shelling up to early afternoon. At 3 p.m. a very heavy enemy fire opened and lasted until about 4 a.m. June 10th. UNGODLY Trench and BETLHEEM Farm, also the DOUVE VALLEY, were especially bombarded.

By 5 p.m. June 9th wire had been put out in front of BLACK LINE to a depth of about 12 ft. with tracks through it.

A captured enemy Machine Gun with 2,000 rounds of ammunition was installed at U.9.b.45.95. and used against the enemy. 8 Vickers guns were set up along the BLACK LINE.

Enemy bombardment continued all day on June 10th and during the night of June 10th/11th. The morning of June 11th was quiet, but at noon bombardment was resumed and lasted with short intervals throughout the night.

Battalion was relieved on the night of June 11th/12th by the 4th Australian Division. Casualties during the three days were about 200.

During the night of June 10th/11th patrols were sent out along the middle line from SEPTIEME BARN to the DOUVE Bridge.

Each morning and evening (about 4 a.m. and 8.30 p.m.) enemy aeroplanes flew at about 300 feet over the BLACK LINE spotting for Artillery fire and on at least one occasion firing into our trenches with his machine gun. There was no interference with this by our aeroplanes. The Battalion directed heavy fire on these aeroplanes with machine guns and Lewis guns and it could be seen that his wings were riddled with bullets but otherwise the fire appeared to have no effect.

P.T.O.

43RD BATTALION.

The 43rd Battalion relieved 44th at about 10 p.m. June 10th/11th.

While A and C Coys. were relieving the 44th, D and B Coys. were ordered at 11 p.m. to the attack on UNDULATING Trench. One Platoon of D on the left was detailed to take the collection of houses at U.4.b.2.3. The other 3 Platoons and the whole of B Coy. were to assault UNDULATING Trench and establish Lewis Gun posts beyond. There was a strong communication trench not shown on the map running from about U.4.d.5.7. to about U.4.c.95.30. UNDULATING Trench was taken without much difficulty by 12.30 a.m. and blocks were made forward of it in the communication trench just mentioned, in another communication trench parallel with it about 200 yards to the North, and in UNDULATING Support at about U.4.b.0.1. Lewis Gun posts were established at U.4.c.9.8. and U.4.d.2.1. The Platoon of D Coy. on the left was unable to take the houses for which it was detailed owing to the fact that both our barrage and the enemy's was on this spot. On the next day (June 11th) a patrol from A Coy. found a large number of our dead belonging to 37th and 38th Battalions in these ruins. These men must have got out beyond our barrage on the first day of the battle and been unable to return.

Communication trenches were dug on June 11th from about U.4.c.9.4. to U.4.c.4.4., and from about U.4.c.8.7. to U.4.c.75.55. By the morning of June 11th UNDULATING Trench was cleared to 6 ft. deep, traversed, and fire-stepped, down to the DOUVE, where touch was made with the 9th Brigade. 2 Lewis Guns were captured from the enemy in this trench during the night and a 7.7 cm. gun was found on the DOUVE at U.10.b.10.95. A Battery of abandoned guns of the same calibre could be seen in STEIGNAST Farm, but were not firing. The enemy however was still in this place, for several machine guns opened fire during the morning from the Farm upon one of our aeroplanes.

The Artillery barrage during the night's operation was excellent.

On the morning of June 11th patrols reported UNDULATING Support as far as U.4.d.7.4. to be unoccupied by the enemy.



10.

9.

All the Battalion of 41ST BATTALION.  
 up to the assembly trenches early through enemy  
 the assembly trenches. This ~~41st Battalion was in reserve throughout the battle~~  
 in our old lines. ~~which were its main strength, got through~~  
 the approach march without any casualties at all, and attending  
 this to the valuable reconnaissance work done on the previous  
 approach march on "Y" night, when all four Companies marched  
 up through an enemy gas shell bombardment, but only one Company  
 succeeded in reaching the assembly trenches.

10

10.

All the Battalions of the 9th Brigade on their way up to the assembly trenches suffered severely through enemy gas shelling. Only one Battalion reached its assembly trenches with good time to spare before the attack -- the 35th. This Battalion, which wore its gas masks throughout, got through the approach march without any casualties at all, and attributes this to the valuable reconnaissance work done on the practice approach march on "Y" night, when all four Companies marched up through an enemy gas shell bombardment, but only one Company succeeded in reaching the assembly trenches.

35TH BATTALION.

The 35th Battalion assembled between ONTARIO and TORONTO Avenues, and were drawn up for the assault in the order B Coy. C Coy. D Coy. from right to left. A Coy. was carrying. During the approach march they had considerable difficulty under enemy fire from DELLENVILLE Farm onwards. They had assembled, however, at 2 a.m. without casualties. The Battalion was intended to go over in two waves but assaulted actually in only one. The men were rather over-eager and some of them ran into our own barrage. D Coy. on the left went over NO MAN'S LAND in gas masks. The enemy barrage was on our old front line and did not come down until the Battalion was well across. The enemy did not put up any severe resistance in his front line system, and heavy casualties were caused to him by the bombing of dugouts found there.

The Battalion reached its objective on the site of the BLACK DOTTED LINE and dug in on it. They also dug communication trench from ULSTER AVENUE back towards the enemy old front line at about U.5.a.7.7.

The Battalion remained on the BLACK DOTTED LINE digging until relieved on the night of June 9th/10th by the 36th Battalion. From the afternoon of June 7th onwards enemy shell fire was especially heavy along the BLACK DOTTED LINE and in rear of it, and the Battalion suffered rather heavy casualties.

By 4 a.m. on the morning of June 10th the Battalion was back in BUNHILL ROW and at 2.30 a.m. on June 10th/11th it relieved the 33rd Battalion in the sector immediately south. At daybreak on June 11th the Battalion had established a post at FUZE COTTAGE, but later the post was withdrawn from this point to about 200 yards further back along the same road at U.10.d.15.30. During the following night (June 11th/12th) a patrol established a post at U.16.b.7.9. The enemy were in occupation of KNOLL 30 with machine guns.

The Battalion was relieved by New Zealand Division during the night of June 12th/13th.

P. T. O.

34TH BATTALION.

The 34th Battalion had 40 casualties on the approach march owing to gas and the last Company reached the assembly trenches just in time to take part in the assault. The order of the assault was from right to left, C Coy. B Coy. A Coy.— with A Coy. on ANTON'S FARM. Half of D Coy. was on the right of C, and half was kept in reserve for the assault on the GREEN LINE. The Battalion got over NO MAN'S LAND ahead of the enemy barrage and met with very little resistance in the enemy front line system. All enemy dugouts were bombed and their occupants killed or wounded. During the advance towards GREY FARM system there was some distant machine gun fire from the front, probably from GREY FARM, but damage caused was slight. The BLACK LINE was reached by 4.25 a.m. There was practically no resistance in GREY FARM and ULSTER RESERVE, as our men got into the works there smartly behind our barrage. Four machine guns were captured in this position.

The BLACK LINE was consolidated without interference by enemy shell fire, which seemed to be directed mainly on GREY FARM, the BLACK DOTTED LINE, and on carrying parties in the rear.

By 7.20 a.m. the BLACK LINE was about two-thirds complete, and by the morning of June 8th was a continuous trench sandbagged, and fire-stepped. At 7.45 a.m. June 7th the enemy could be seen assembling in POTTERIE FARM and also just east of the MESSINES Road in U.L.O.a. Stokes Mortars, however, dispersed them. They looked like new troops as their uniforms were bright and clean.

The attack on the GREEN LINE by D Coy. was timed originally for 1.10 p.m. The order depaying the new ZERO did not reach these troops until late. The Officer in charge of the operation waited until 1.30 p.m. and then failing our Artillery barrage which he expected, he moved out without it to the site of the GREEN LINE and commenced digging in along it. The Company continued organising this line while the delayed attack for the GREEN LINE on their Left continued shortly afterwards.

During the night of June 7th/8th an enemy party attempted to advance towards GREY FARM from POTTERIE direction but were dispersed by rifle and machine gun fire.

Shelling on the BLACK LINE was not heavy until the afternoon of June 8th. During the morning of June 8th an enemy aeroplane reconnoitred the line flying very low. Enemy bombardment of the BLACK LINE was very heavy throughout the day of June 9th.

At intervals on June 7th/8th some of our 6" howitzers were firing short and caused a number of casualties. One gun that was particularly short seemed to be directing its fire on TILLEUL FARM.

The Battalion was relieved on night of June 9th/10th by the 36th Battalion.

13.

36TH BATTALION.

The 36th Battalion relieved the 34th and 35th Battalions in the sector immediately South of the DOUVE on the night of June 9th/10th. The Battalion took over the line with C, D, and A Companies from Right to Left, and B Coy. in reserve. During the same night forward posts were established on the MESSINES road at U.10.a.3.1. and U.10.c.4.7.

At 11 p.m. on the night of June 10th/11th under a heavy 18-pdr barrage 200 men left the GREEN LINE to the assault of POTTERIE FARM Trenches. Their objective was the line from the DOUVE down to about U.10.c.9.9. Just prior to the hour when our men left the trenches a heavy enemy barrage came down on our parapet in response to red light signals which began at a point on the DOUVE and followed along the whole POTTERIE System. The assaulting party was disorganised for a moment, but quickly recovered and got forward up to our barrage. The POTTERIE LINE, North of POTTERIE FARM, was held by Bavarians (elements of the 9th Bavarian I.R. principally), but POTTERIE FARM itself was held by a Company of the 1st Guard R.I.R. The Bavarians put up a poor fight, and what was left of them fled after the first encounter back towards CROIX FARM. The Garrison of POTTERIE FARM itself came out from the North evidently to offer resistance but were caught under our Lewis Gun fire from the parapet of UNCERTAIN Trench and practically annihilated. The Battalion established four strong posts forward of UNCERTAIN Support at U.10.a.85.78, U.10.a.90.50. U.10.b.05.10., U.10.d.15.90. The Officer in charge reconnoitred UNCERTAIN Support as far down as U.10.d.0.7., where, not finding connection with assaulting troops from the right, he put in a block.

A half-hearted counter-attack was attempted on these POTTERIE FARM posts by the enemy shortly before dawn, but was dispersed by Lewis Gun Fire. Enemy shelling on POTTERIE FARM was heavy throughout the day of June 11th. On the afternoon enemy aeroplanes flew over POTTERIE FARM and the BLACK LINE at a height of about 1,000 ft. The men had orders for this emergency to conceal themselves, and it is considered that owing to this precaution the enemy aeroplanes did not detect the location of our advanced posts, which afterwards remained practically immune from bombardment. During June 12th enemy shelling was severe especially in the afternoon, but enemy Batteries did not appear to have the range of the Farm.

Prior to the attack on POTTERIE FARM at about 6 p.m. June 10th, while our Heavy Artillery was bombarding the Farm, one gun appeared to be shooting very short, and shells

began falling on our own trenches in the BLACK LINE. The Heavy Artillery lengthened on request but one gun was still short and a shell from it completely knocked out a Lewis Gun Team in the Northern post on the MESSINES Road.

P.T.O.

The Battalion was relieved on the night of June 12th/13th.

P.T.O.

33RD BATTALION.

The 33rd Battalion assembled between ST. YVES and the North of LONE HOUSE AVENUE. Two Companies were in position by 2.50 a.m. (20 minutes prior to ZERO hour); but one Company did not get into the assembly trenches until just as the mines went up, and another Company, which arrived just in time to join the assault, was never in the assembly trenches at all. The delay on the march up was due to Gas-Shelling by the enemy and the bad state of the trenches, particularly HAYMARETT. The assault went over in some confusion but the Companies quickly righted themselves on reaching the enemy front line. The order of the assault from right to left was D, C, and B Coys. with A Coy. in reserve. Ten minutes after ZERO the right Company was digging in on the BLACK LINE, and a little later the whole of the BLACK LINE was established. By noon the trench was about 4 ft. deep in localities. The Battalion had some opportunity of bayonet work in the enemy front and support lines but the enemy generally surrendered readily. The only disturbance on the right flank was from one machine gun a little to the south-east of ULTIMO LANE, but this was put out of action by bombing. There was no enemy shelling on the BLACK LINE until about 4 hours after ZERO. An enemy aeroplane at about 6 a.m. flying at 500 ft. up evidently detected the Battalion's location.

Enemy shell fire during the day of June 7th was limited almost entirely to a 15 cm. Battery firing from near DEULIEMONT. A heavy bombardment, however, began at about 7 p.m. and lasted with intervals throughout the ensuing 48 hours. By the end of the second day the trench here was dug to 6 ft. deep, linked up, and fire-stepped. A support line was dug to connect with LONE HOUSE AVENUE from a point in the old enemy support trench about U.15.b.65.60. At 2 p.m. on June 9th a post was established of 2 men in THATCHED CO at 11 p.m. on the same night another post 15 strong was installed in the house on ASH AVENUE, U.10.c.5.3. A field gun was captured in the ASH AVENUE house.

At 11 p.m. under Artillery barrage an organised attack was made on the trenches south of POTTERIE FARM in conformity with the operations of the 36th Battalion on POTTERIE FARM, North trenches. The attack on the front of the 33rd Battalion met with little opposition, and posts were established in UNCERTAEN Support at U.10.d.1.6. and at FUZE COTTAGE. The latter post was afterwards withdrawn about 150 yards in rear.

T.C.

Divisional Headquarters,  
18/6/17.



9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
10th            -do-  
11th            -do- 115

The following notes prepared by "G" Staff for the Conference at Divisional Headquarters on 17th inst., are promulgated, as suggestions to Infantry Brigades. -

1. The Division will be out of the line for 4 days.  
This period will be devoted to.-  
(I) Reorganization.  
(II) Training.

2. REORGANIZATION

The steps to be taken in the work of reorganization are as follows.-

- (I) Bringing M.C.Coys up to strength by the attachment of selected men from Infantry Battalions, if reinforcements for these units are not available.
- (II) Bring L.T.M.Battery up to strength by attachment of selected men from Infantry Battalions.
- (III) Bring Signal, Lewis Gun, Rifle Grenade, Bombing and Transport sections, and runners and administrative personnel up to strength.
- (IV) Bring Rifle Sections up to strength.

3. The principle to be borne in mind in reorganizing units is that all formations should be built up from a nucleus of highly trained personnel, and this has been catered for by leaving a proportion of such personnel out of the line during the operations (33 1/3 %) In the cases of units which have suffered so severely as to have insufficient personnel to provide such nuclei even when augmented by the 33 1/3 % reserve personnel, resources in men should be pooled and distributed to produce a level standard throughout the Unit.

4. Arrangements are in train for -  
(i) The return of all detached personnel which are not indispensable  
(ii) The return of reinforcements of this Division which have been pooled to supply other units, but which have not yet been forwarded to such units. (N.B. - it is unlikely that reinforcements of this Division - which have actually reached other Divisions - will be returned.)  
(iii) Quickening of the supply of reinforcements from the Base.  
(iv) The granting of direct commissions to selected N.C.O's.

5. Vacancies caused by the evacuation of N.C.O's should be filled at once by selected N.C.O's who should be given temporary rank until they have proved themselves.

6. The work of reorganization will be facilitated if the records of the Battalion are carefully checked at once, and an accurate return of casualties sent to A.A.G., 3rd Echelon at the Base (A.F.B.213)

TRAINING

7. The training facilities are limited, and that being so, will give unit commanders an opportunity to exercise their ingenuity in overcoming the obstacles besetting them in this respect.

8. For the most part training will be devoted to -  
(i) Recuperation of all ranks by means of games etc.  
(ii) Training officers and N.C.O's  
(iii) Training specialists.  
(iv) Keeping old soldiers fit by means of route marches, physical training &c. (v) *Finishing the education of reinforcements*
9. Rifle ranges exist at F.21.V.1.9. and L.17.B.5.9.

*War Diary*

18/6/17.

## 9. (Contd.)

For training Lewis Gunners, dung heaps can be used as stop butts, always provided <sup>due</sup> precautions are taken to prevent accidents, i.e. by posting flank sentries, &c.

Training in the use of Rifle Grenades can be carried out in any field or back yard - "dud" grenades being used.

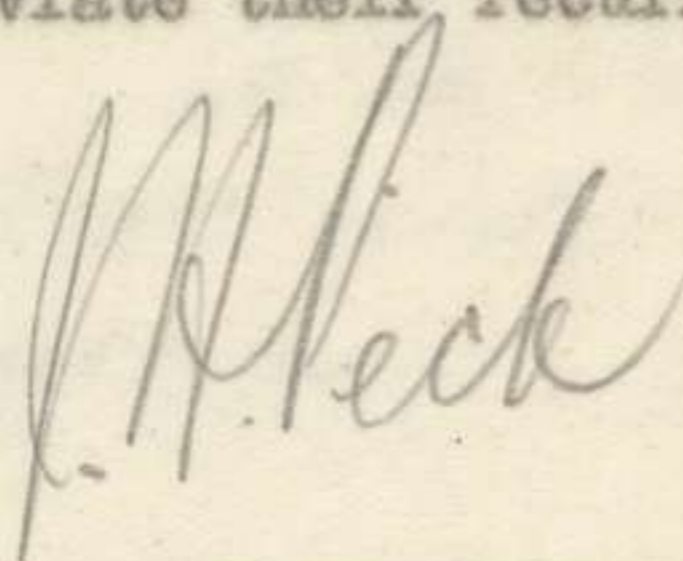
Indoor tactical schemes and outdoor schemes in miniature for officers and platoon sergeants, can be carried out without difficulty.

Men can also be 'brushed up' in protective duties.

Material for the practice of rapid wiring can be drawn and practice in this given in any of the fields.

The services of Divisional Staff Officers for lecturing and other instructional work are available, and may be obtained on application.

Finally, much good will be derived from this period in rest if all ranks will think over the mistakes made during the last operations, and take steps to obviate their recurrence in the next operations.



Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.