

**AWM4**

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/29/20 Part 5

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters, 1st  
ANZAC Corps

September 1917



AWM4-1/29/20PART5

## WAR DIARY.

## APPENDIX (g)

## MAPS.

INFORMATION MAPS.

- No. 1 Second Army Outline Trench Map.  
 2 HOOGH Tinted Contour Map.  
 3 First ANZAC Forward Area Map - 30.9.1917.  
 4 Corps Area Map.  
 5 Map of 47th. Divisional Front.  
 6 Map of Enemy's Dispositions - 1.9.1917.  
 7 Map of Enemy's Dispositions - 16.9.1917.  
 8 Hostile Tactical Map - 16.9.1917.  
 9 Hostile Counter-attack Map (Second Phase) 23.9.1917.  
 10 Tracks used by Enemy. - 17.9.17.  
 11 Information Map. - 23/9/1917. (J.27 to J.10)  
 12 Information Map. (J.2 to J.16.)

BARRAGE MAPS

- 13 ✓ Army Barrage Map - First Phase - September.  
 14 ✓ Army Barrage Map - Second Phase - September.

CORPS SITUATION MAPS

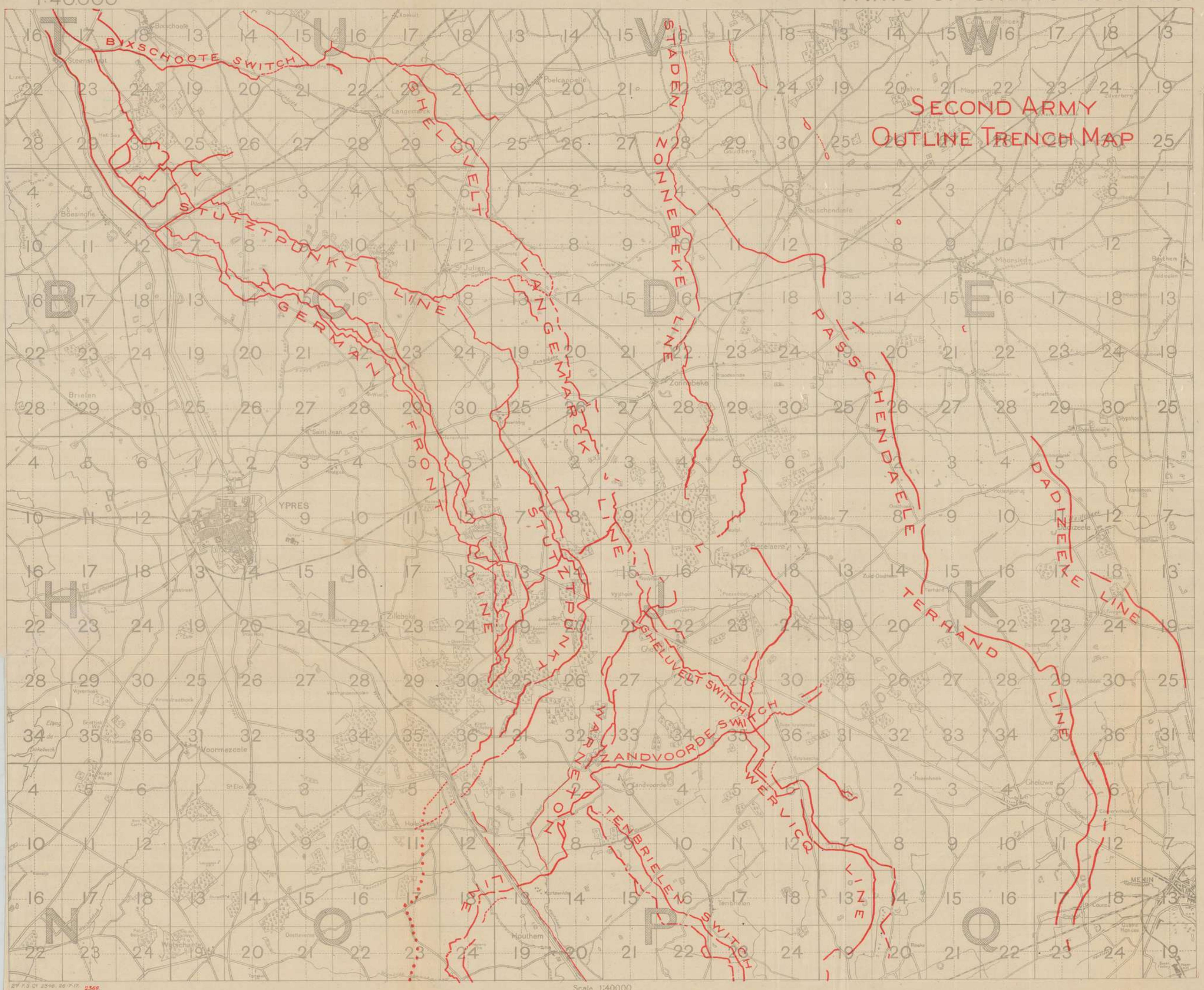
- 15 Corps Situation Map - 20.9.17.  
 16 Corps Situation Map - 26.9.17.  
 17 Corps Situation Map - 27.9.17.

CONTACT PATROL MAPS

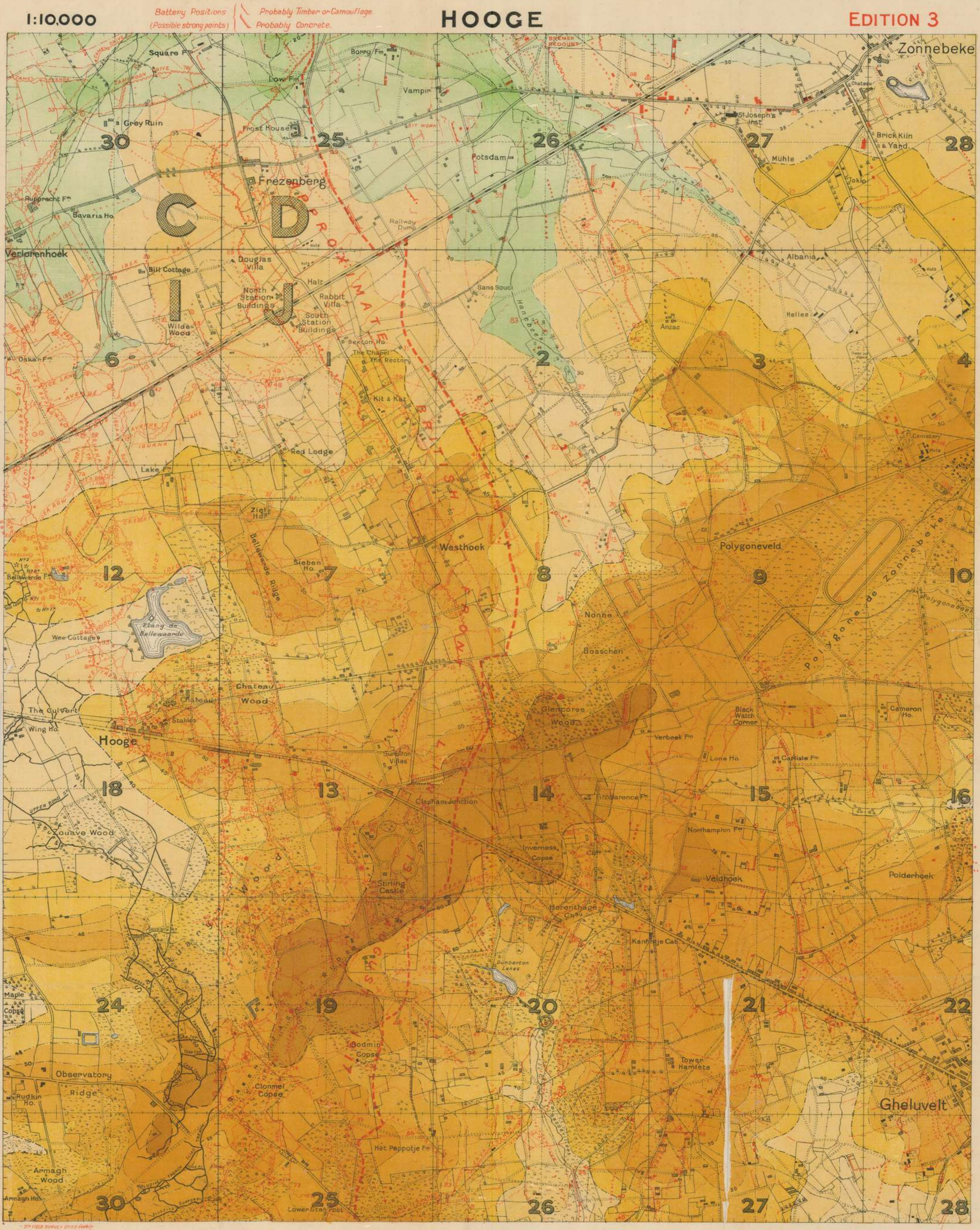
- 18 20.9.17.  
 19 20.9.17.  
 20 26.9.17.  
 21 26.9.17.

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## PARTS OF SHEETS 20 &amp; 28



EDITION 3



## BELGIUM AND PART OF FRANCE

30<sup>th</sup> Sept / 19

ED

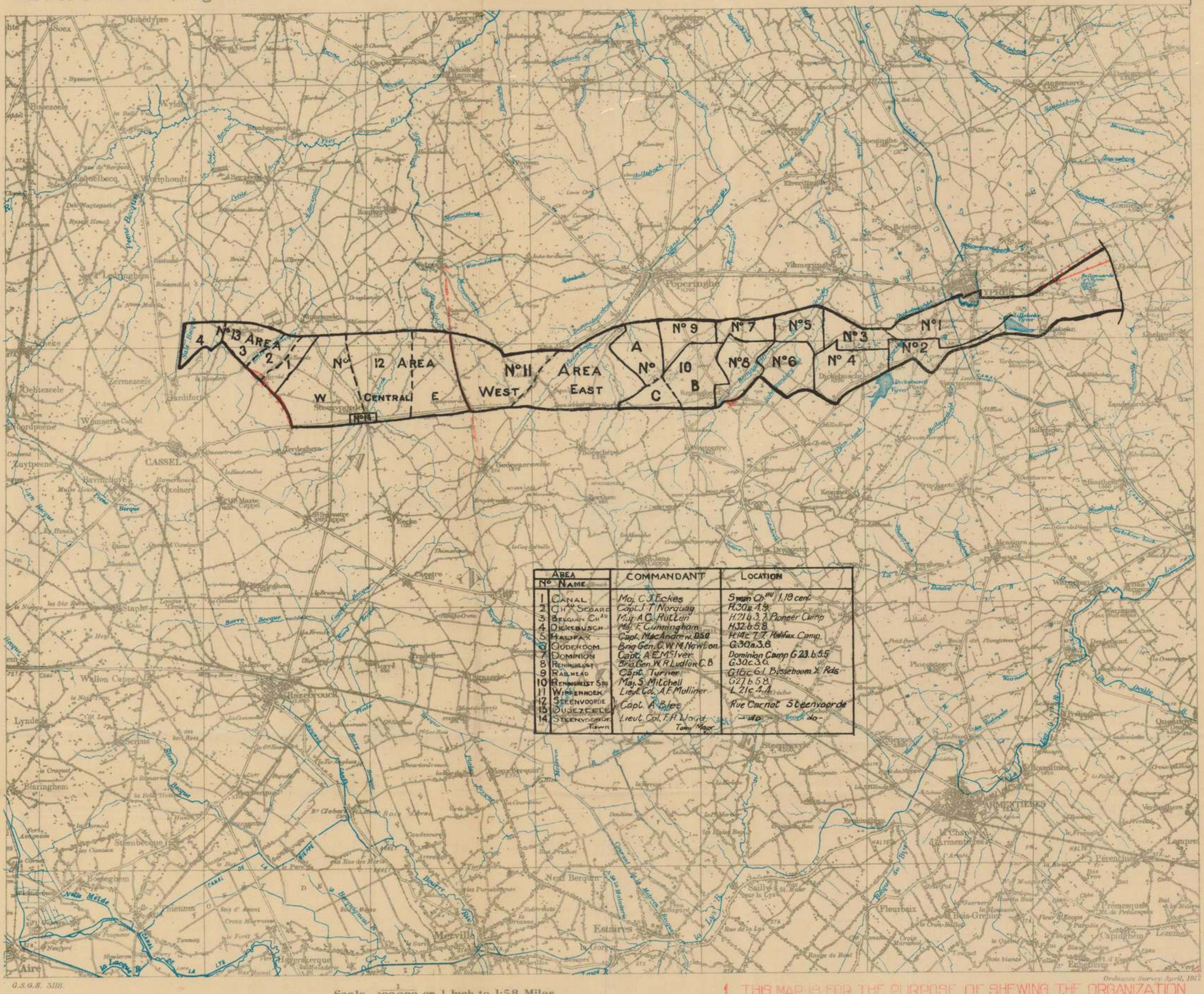


Copy No 53

Part of Sheet 5A (Belgium).

Sub Division of 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Corps Area  
SECOND ARMY AREA.

SECRET



G.S.G.S. 511B

Ordnance Survey April, 1918

1. THIS MAP IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHOWING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPS AREA INTO SUB-AREAS  
BOUNDARIES OF CORPS AREA ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN AS AUTHORITATIVE
2. AREAS 12 AND 13 WEST OF LINE XY ARE ARMY AREAS



REFERENCE: LIGHT SIGNAL STATION DUMPS = HUTS, BILLETS.  
TELEPHONE DUGOUT = LAGER ETC. DE-BUSSING POINT = LIGHT RAILWAYS  
COY. PLATOON = PLATOON AREA = BATTALION AREA

1:20,000

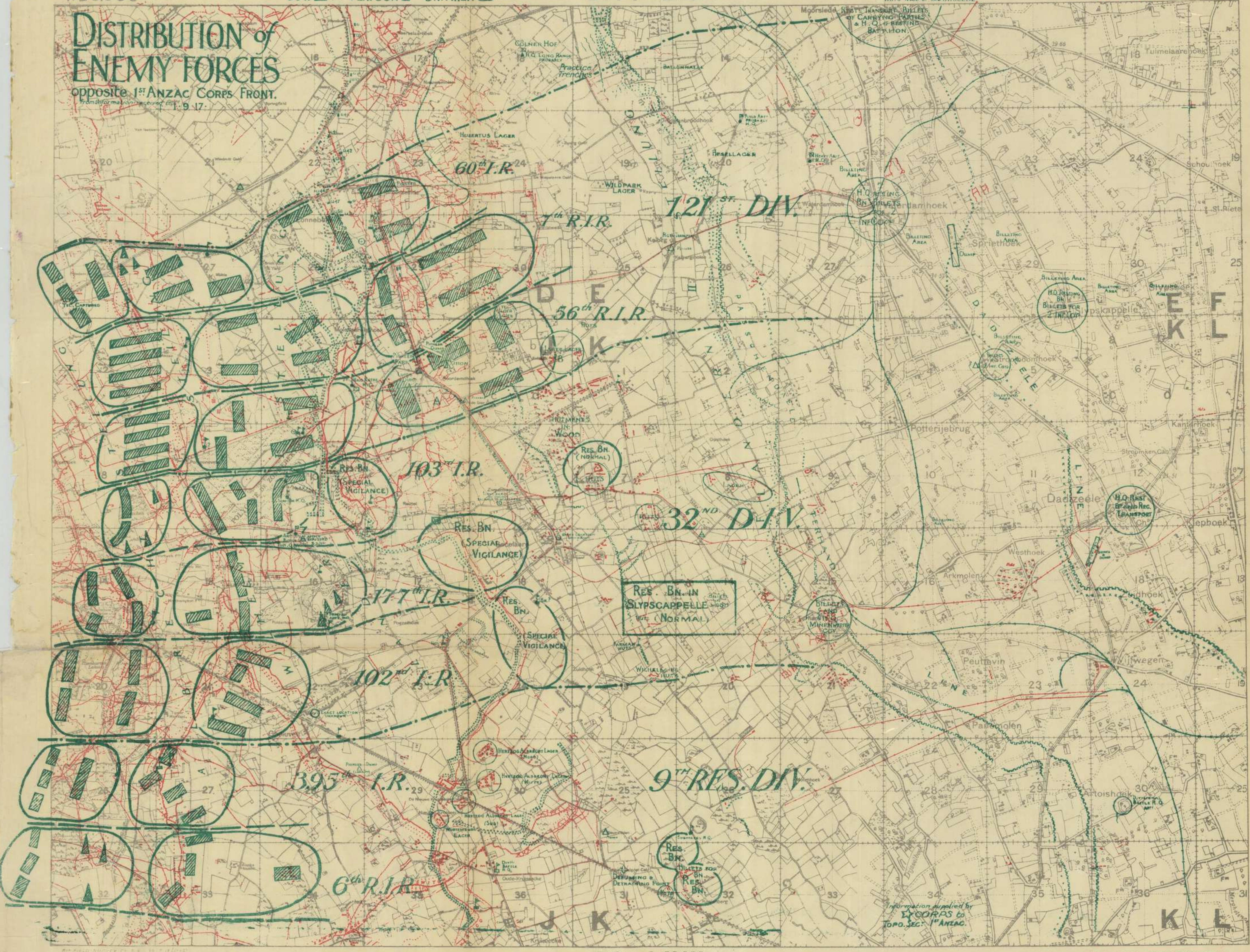
HEADQUARTERS (REGIMENTAL) ARTILLERY  
DUMPS = ARTILLERY SUPPLY

D.14 E.31.

Debussing Point on Hill one mile West of Moerslede

EDITION I.

(Without contours)



CONFIDENTIAL

## THE ENEMY'S TACTICAL METHODS EAST OF YPRES.

The accompanying "Hostile Tactical Map" shows the general method which appears to have been adopted by the enemy for defending the Gheluvelt-Zonnebeke Ridge. The sources of information from which it has been prepared are mainly prisoners statements, captured documents, photographs and the actual experience gained by our own troops in the severe fighting in this locality during the month of August. Reference has also been had to the enemy's typical methods of defence in depth and his principles of counter-attack which are now well known.

As to the experience gained by our troops in the recent fighting in this locality (by the Army on our left) the analysis of the enemy's actual movement and their sequence under those conditions in which he made his various counter-attacks shows that his scheme of defence was centred on that part of the ridge between Dumbarton Lakes and the North side of Polygon Wood and that he put his dependence upon his ability to heavily counter-attack there within a few hours after our objective had been gained.

Analysis shows further that it did not much matter—within say a thousand yards limit—where our front line had reached, these plans and their execution were much the same and were thus typical for this area and probably so perfected in their arrangements as to be always ready to be carried out under changing conditions. Then too his general characteristics are such that he will doubtless continue to use a well tried plan which has not been lacking in a measure of success.

It is therefore to be expected that the enemy, being committed to these plans of defence for this area, will put them into effect again in the same way as he did in August and that he will continue to fight desperately to retain this high ground as being essential to the safety of his various lines to the South.

The enemy's arrangements for defence in depth, his preparations and the promptness with which his larger counter-attacks were carried out, make it appear that he is applying to this battle the principles of his counter-attack policy to the fullest extent as outlined in those general orders on the subject issued by the Fourth German Army and the Ypres and Wytschaete Groups subsequent to the Battle of Messines. (Translation of these have already been issued with Second Army Intelligence Summary, August 31st: G.H.Q., Ia 38878). The following are extracts from such orders issued by the Ypres Group, June 13th.

"The following comprehensive orders for the action of Counter-Attack Troops are issued in view of present conditions:—

"The experience of all recent fighting has shown that immediate and rapid counter-attack carried out by reserve battalions, which have been kept concentrated in close proximity and are provided with field artillery held in readiness to move (counter-attack artillery), leads to the immediate recapture of the whole position.

"In such cases, it has been possible for the counter-attack artillery to gallop up in the open, and direct a very heavy fire on the English who had penetrated at certain points.

"Preparations for counter-attacks to be carried out within the divisional sector must be made by the division in that sector.

"The basis of the preparations should be that, at the approach of a hostile attack all reserves will be placed at the complete disposal of the divisional commander, the resting battalions of the division will, at the same time, be brought into and in front of the 3rd line position, and the counter-attack regiments will be brought closer up.

"If one division only is attacked, it can rely on the Group placing at its disposal for immediate counter-attack about three additional battalions and two or three batteries of field artillery.

"The employment of Second Line Fighting Divisions is to be prepared in the same way. The following general principles apply to their employment:—

"They will, at first, be billeted in the rear billeting areas. From there they will be brought forward into forward bivouacking areas, where they will bivouack in concentrated groups of infantry regiments with artillery. Billets must not be expected, as units must be kept together and villages and camps will, at this period of the attack, be for the most part under fire.

"On the approach of a hostile attack, troops will be brought forward from the forward bivouacking areas to their assembly positions for the attack, and will there be held in readiness. Attention must be paid to protection against aerial observation.

"The troops will be best disposed in infantry regimental groups. They must deploy at an early moment, so that when they receive orders, or a hostile attack takes place, the counter-attack can begin without any loss of time."

"Single batteries will be allotted to infantry regimental groups for tasks to be carried out in direct co-operation with the infantry (anti-tank defence and the engagement of machine guns). These artillery units should remain with their teams hooked in."

"The remaining batteries will remain in a position of readiness, which should face according to the requirements of the situation, their teams within easy reach."

"The schemes for the employment of the second line fighting divisions, must, above all, be based on the consideration that the counter-attack will have to be carried out between the 2nd and 3rd line positions and beyond the 2nd line position, with the object of at once retaking any of our guns which have been lost and eventually recapturing the whole position. The positions of readiness for batteries will be chosen correspondingly far forward, as also their observation posts and battery positions, which must be reconnoitred and fixed."

In view of the foregoing, the accompanying map may be studied with special reference to the area in question and the enemy's intentions can be readily seen.

The position of Divisional Reserves varies with the tactical situation and the nature of the ground. Whereas ordinarily in normal periods these may be 5,000 to 7,000 yards in rear they appear to be brought up to about half that distance when an attack by us seems imminent or when we have already attacked. In any case when, for greater security, there are three regiments of a division in line, all their battalions are pushed up closer to the front and consequently handier for meeting attack, but at the same time offer a better target for our artillery.

It is interesting to note in this connection that after the loss of his front line positions on July 31st and the consequent dispersion of the divisions holding those positions the enemy adopted the plan of keeping only two regiments in line and holding the third intact as an immediate counter-attack reserve. This regiment appears to have generally been in position about 5,000 to 7,000 yards in rear and to have been ready for immediate local counter-attack. Now, however, having resumed the three-regiment disposition again on this front he has lost the advantage of this strong compact local striking force.

The nature of the ground between the Menin Road and Polygon Wood is such that these reserve positions are up close under the crest of the ridge and their approaches are also well under cover. Such reserves being in temporary position are located in whatever cover can be secured, such as trenches, dug-outs, huts, or even farm billets; in some cases, as has been recently reported by prisoners, tents are used set out in the open at night but removed in day-time.

These forward positions (marked "S. V." on the map) being taken into use when "special vigilance" is in force, it is evident that the time element is important and the enemy may be expected to move from them without delay. He consequently will deploy direct from the positions themselves. Such deployment from the four "S. V." positions shown would be at about the normal distance from any objective he may have.

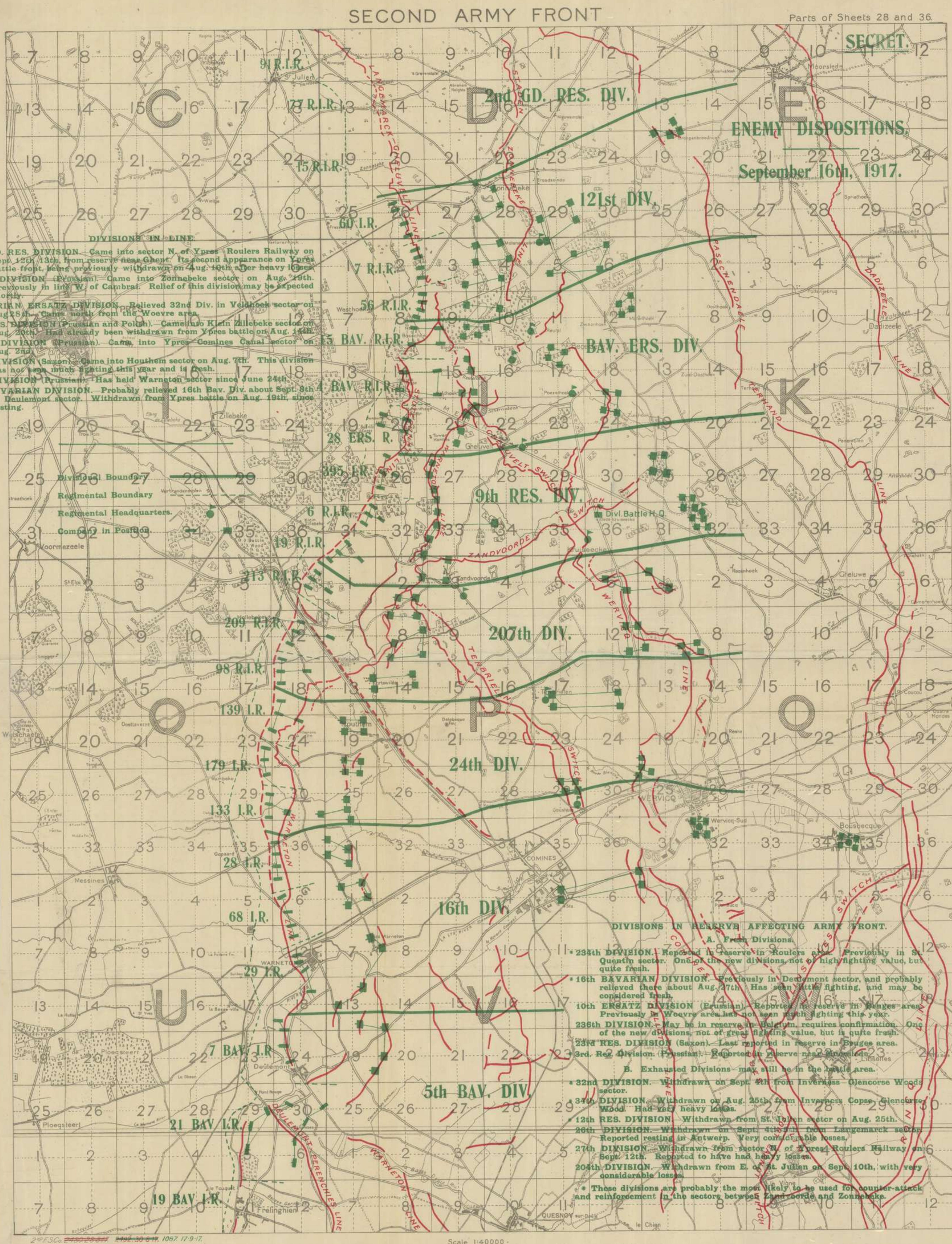
There are, in this case, several reserve divisions called "Counter-attack Divisions" at the disposal of the Group (Corps), and these may be sent to any divisional sector or may be split up amongst several. If a large counter-attack is made with, say, a division strength, the concentration would take some time (e.g., at Zonnebeke on August 16th), as it would have to come up from well in the rear, and considerable notice as to its time and place ought to be secured from R.F.C. and other sources. It is significant, however, that most of the enemy's counter-attacks were made with one or two battalions only, and the cause of this can be readily seen from the distribution of the reserve positions close up and convenient to the battle line or from his practice at the time of holding the third regiment intact in local reserve.

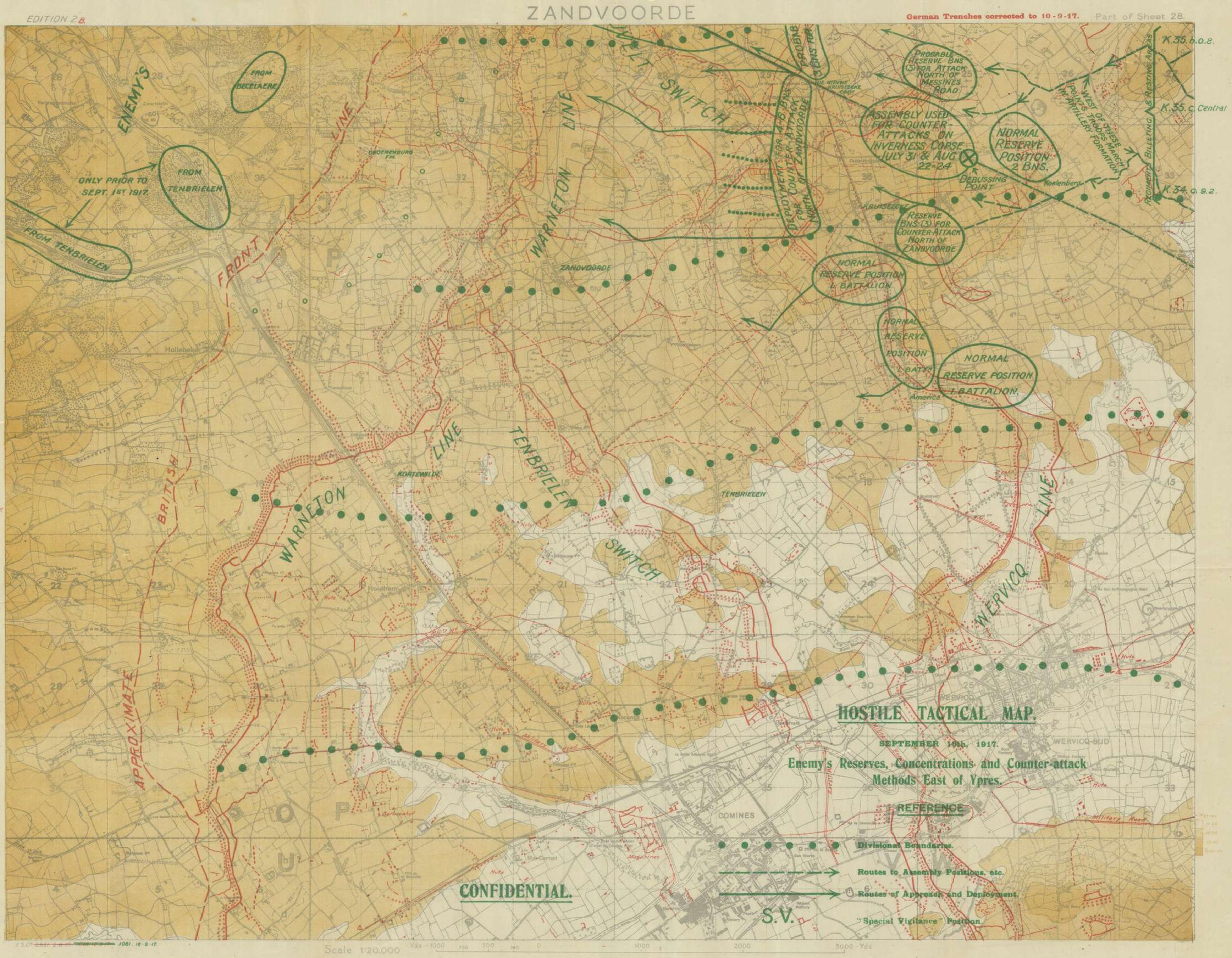
What the enemy will do just prior to an attack by us—if he suspects it—or after our attack is launched, can be surmised from the general position of his reserves which are close up. If he has not already pushed his "S.V." Battalions up from their normal positions he will do so without delay; if he has already done so he will bring up portions of his counter-attack Divisions to the normal positions which lie behind the threatened sector, and will, if he contemplates a large counter-attack, bring up the remainder of the Counter-Attack Division by various means, by say, both busses and railway and concentrate prior to attack. All of these movements to and from these known areas will afford targets for our Artillery and R.F.C. In general the small counter-attacks seem to have been launched within two or three hours after our zero, while in the larger attack seven to ten hours were required.

That the enemy will counter-attack within a few hours after zero is certain and it is equally certain that he will mainly employ the same methods as he did in August. As to where these may take place, a study of his action on the former occasions, having reference to the nature of the ground, makes it reasonable to expect that counter-attacks may be made:—(1) Astride or South of Tower Hamlets, (2) on the North of Menin Road, (3) on the North side of Polygon Wood, or (4) toward the Hanebeke, about Anzac, as before.

*Second Army Intelligence,  
September 16th, 1917.*

C. H. MITCHELL, Lieut.-Col., G.S.,  
for Major-General, General Staff, Second Army.





*FILE COPY*

EDITION 2B.

# ZANDVOORDE

German Trenches corrected to 10-9-17.

APPENDIX G  
Part of Sheet 2G  
201

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH

P  
RESENT

## HOSTILE COUNTER-ATTACK MAP (SECOND PHASE)

September 23rd, 1917.

Showing Enemy's Probable Assembly Positions and  
Counter-Attacks East of Ypres.

### REFERENCE

• Divisional Boundaries

→ Routes to Assembly Positions, etc.

→ Routes of Approach Deployment and Attack

S.V.

"Special Vigilance" Position.

PROBABLE  
COUNTER-ATTACK

DEPLOY

ASSEMBLY POSITION  
FOR COUNTER-  
ATTACK  
3 OR MORE BN'S.  
ASSEMBLY POSITION  
FOR SUPPORTS 3 BN'S

ASSEMBLY  
POSITION FOR  
COUNTER-  
ATTACK &  
RESERVE  
POSITION  
FOR 2 OR MORE BN'S.

ASSEMBLY  
POSITION FOR  
COUNTER-  
ATTACK &  
RESERVE  
POSITION 2 OR MORE BN'S.

NORMAL  
RESERVE  
POSITION  
1 BN.

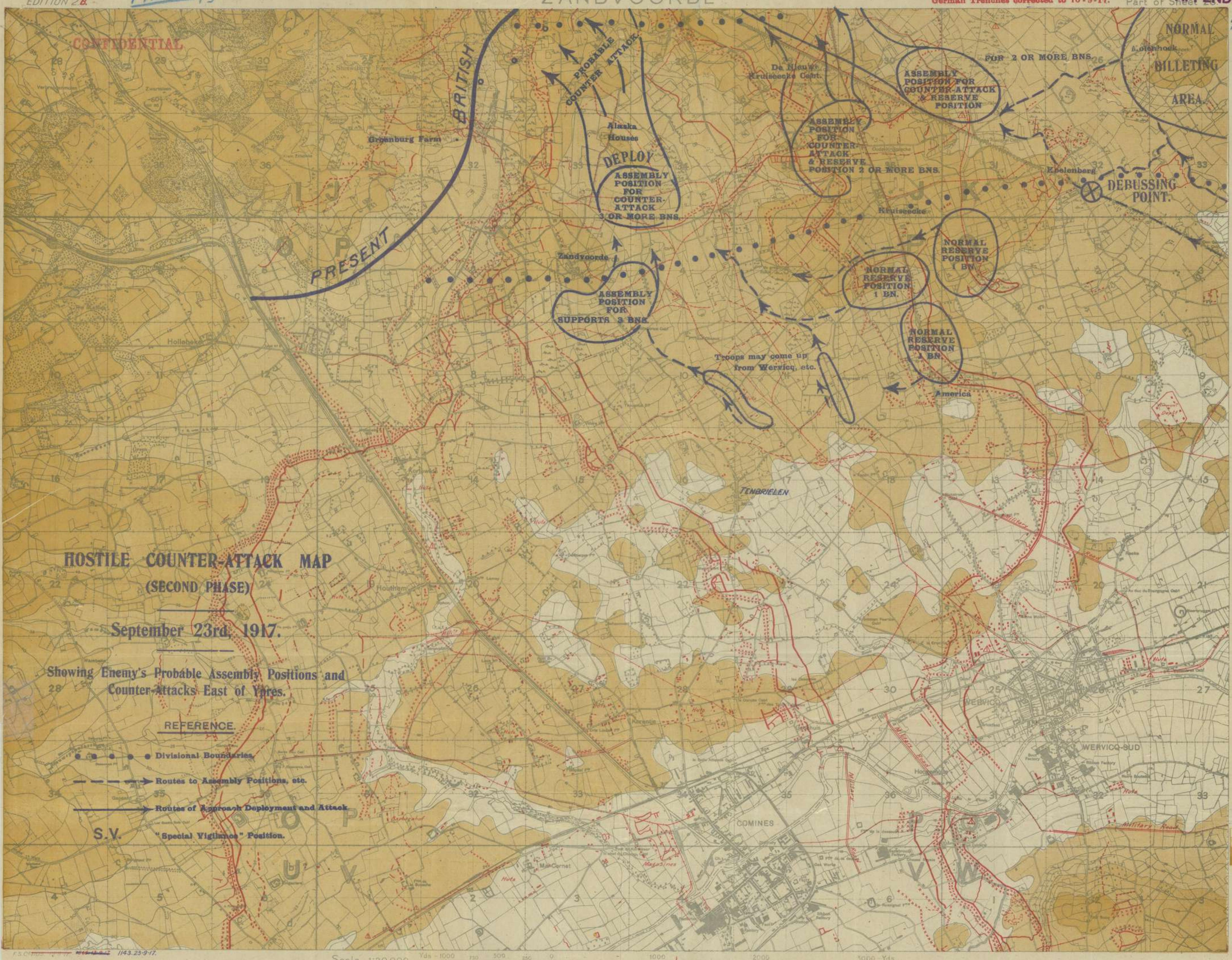
NORMAL  
RESERVE  
POSITION  
1 BN.

NORMAL  
RESERVE  
POSITION  
1 BN.

NORMAL  
BILLETING  
AREA.

DEBUSHING  
POINT.

Troops may come up  
from Wervicq, etc.



1:10 000 Map shewing PRINCIPAL S.A. TRACKS used by ENEMY EDITION 1.

10



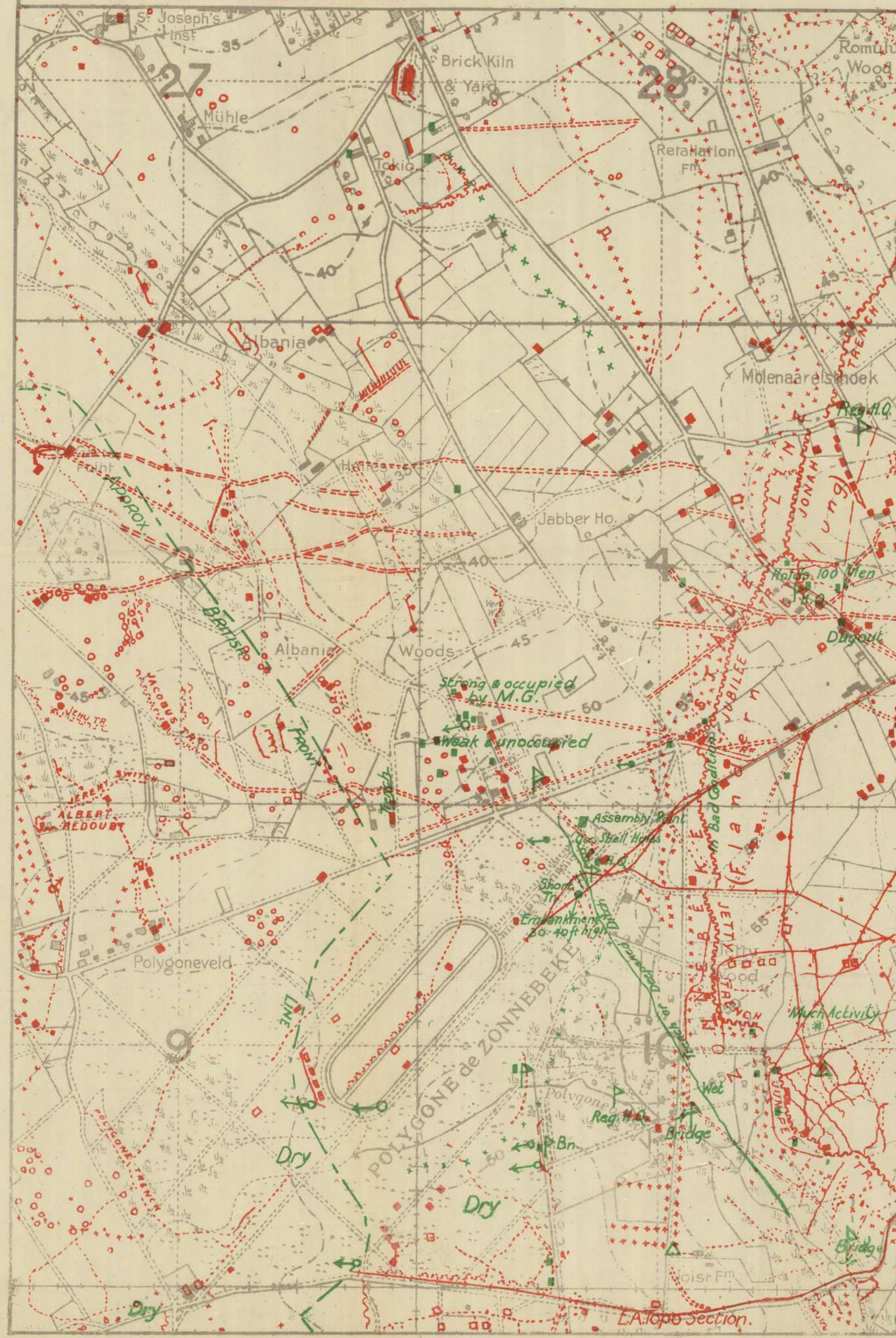
APPENDIX

205

## D. 27. to J. 10. Scale 1:5,000

Concrete Dugouts  
Trenches in good repair  
Machine Guns  
Occupied Shell Holes  
Marshy ground shewn is passable for Infantry in places without serious difficulty  
Trenches Corrected to 23.9.17

Observation Posts  
Headquarters  
Old Battery Positions  
Strong Points  
Posts  
Prisoners & Captured Documents  
Enemy X & not verified by latest Air Photographs shewn. in Green

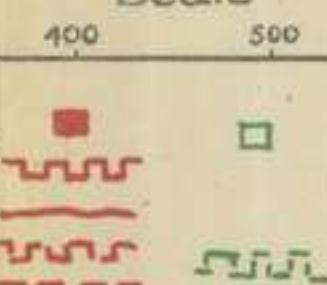


# J.2. to J.16. Scale 1:5,000.

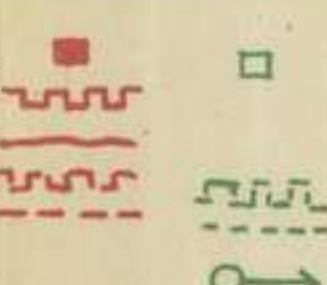
Scale  
YARDS 100 50 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 YARDS

Information supplied by Air Reconnaissance, Ground Observers, Prisoners & Captured Documents shewn in Green; Marshy Ground shewn is passable for Infantry in places without serious difficulty.

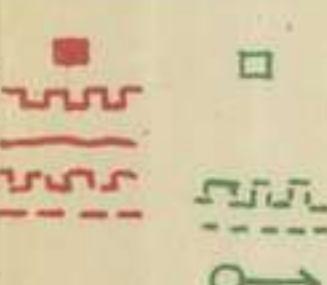
Concrete Dugouts



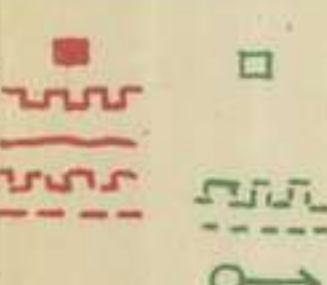
Trenches



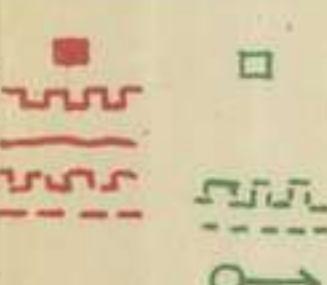
Good Repair



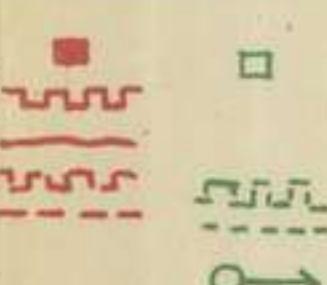
Badly Damaged



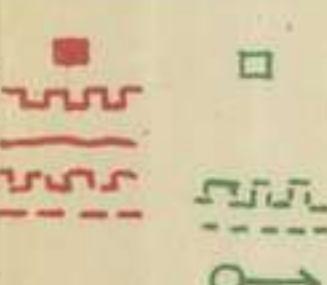
Machine Guns



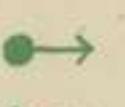
Trench Mortars



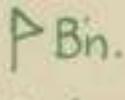
Occupied Shell Holes.



Observation Posts



Headquarters



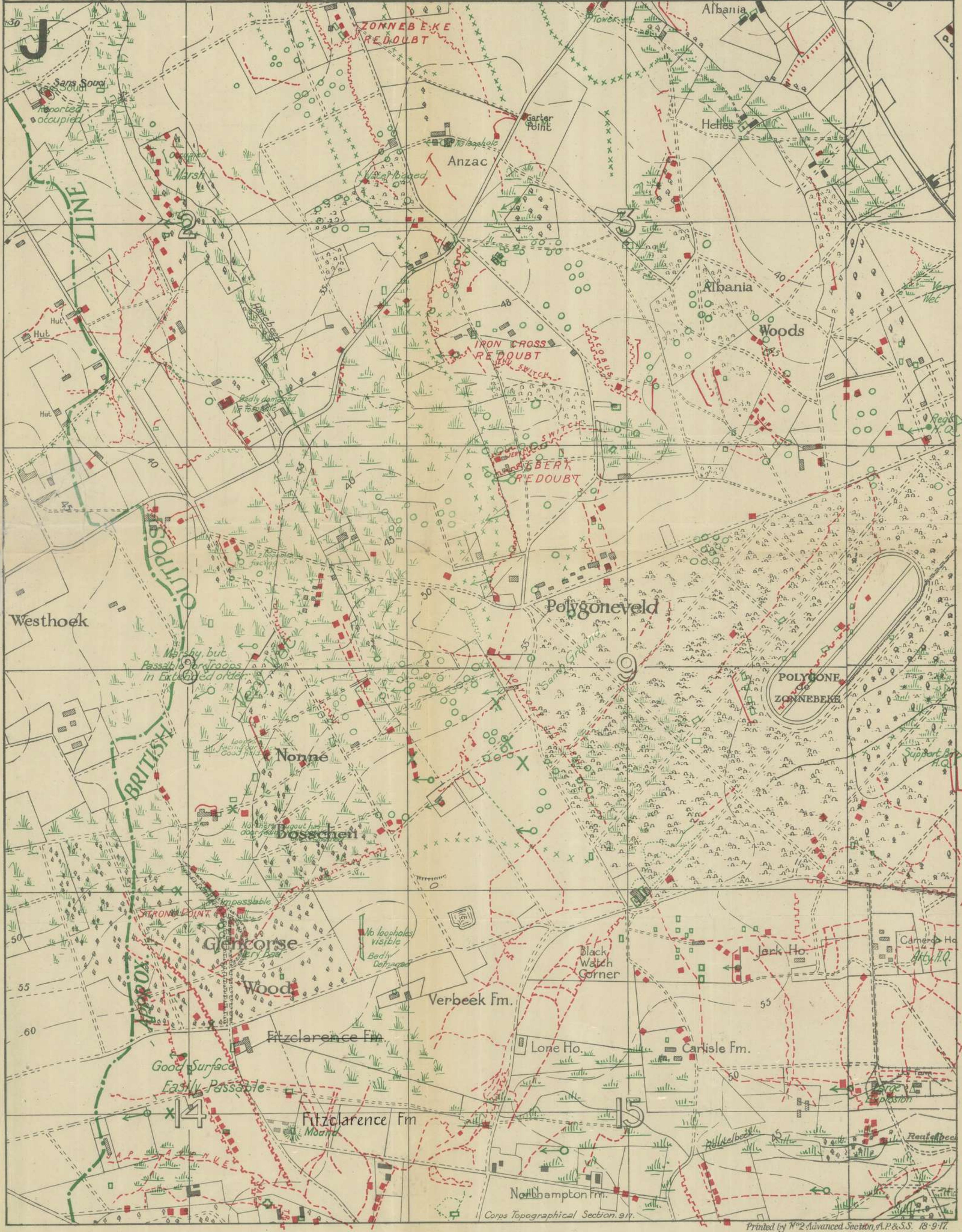
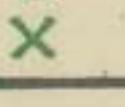
Old Battery Positions



Strong Points

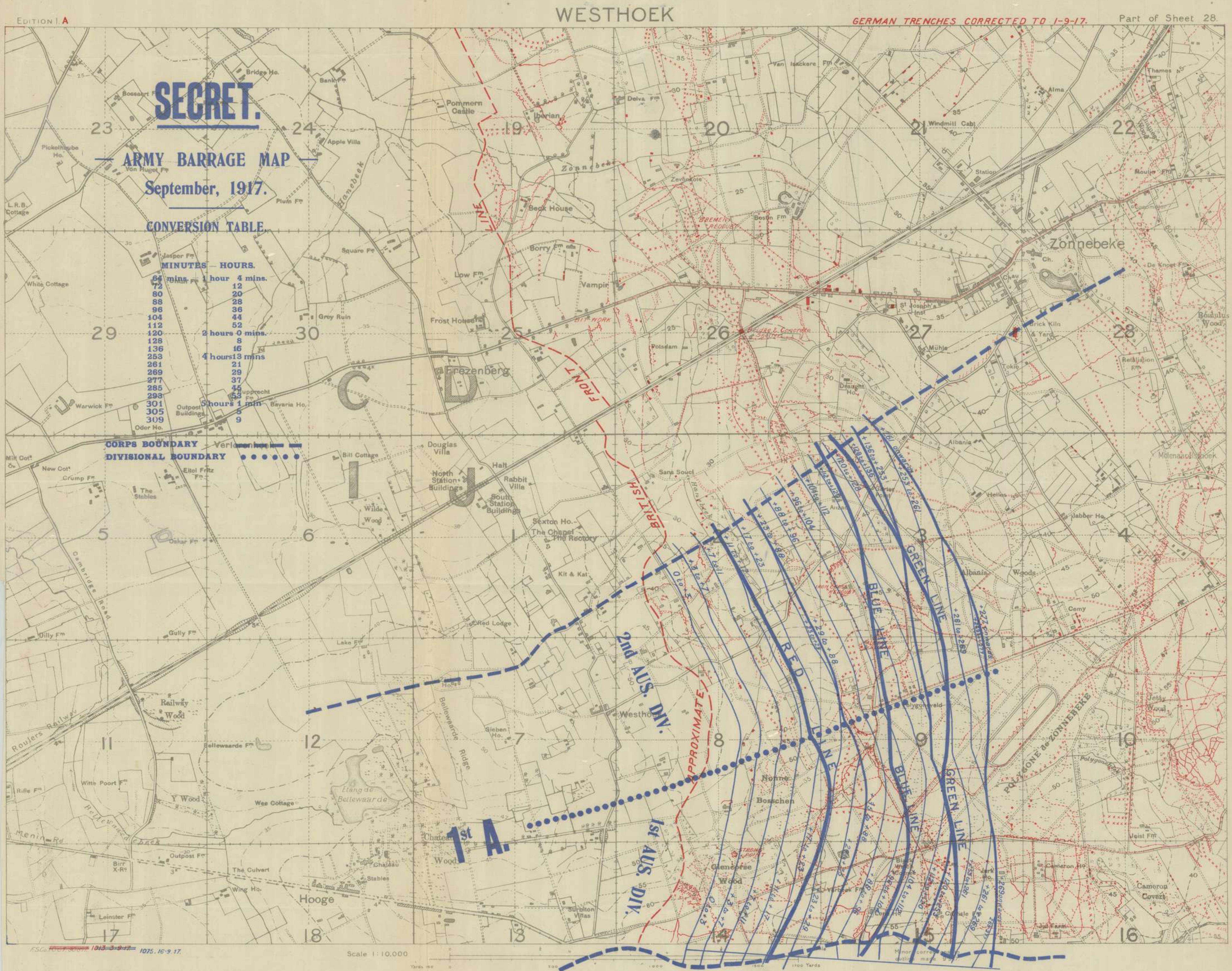


Posts



Corps Topographical Section. 917.

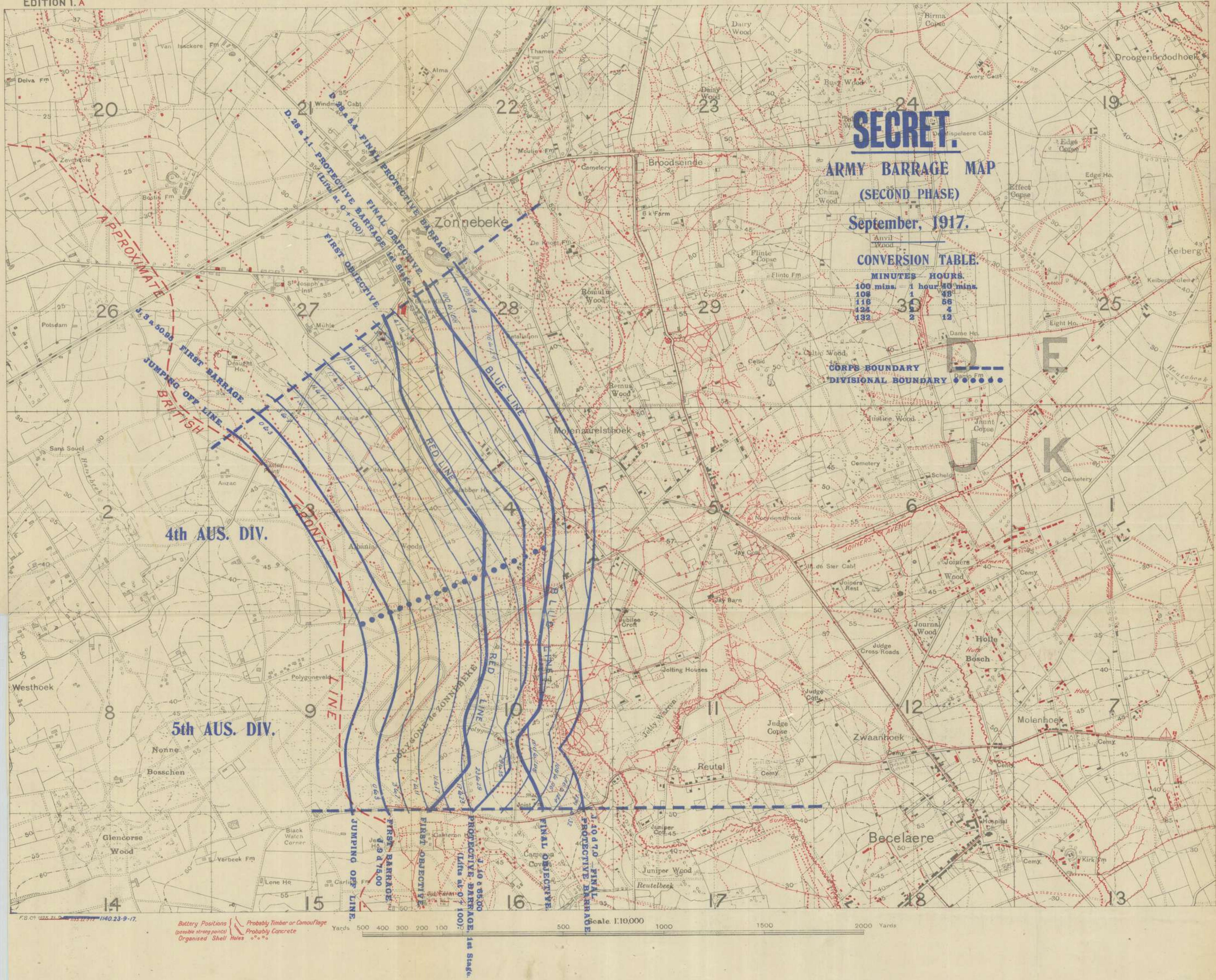
Printed by No. 2 Advanced Section, A.P.S.S. 18.9.17.

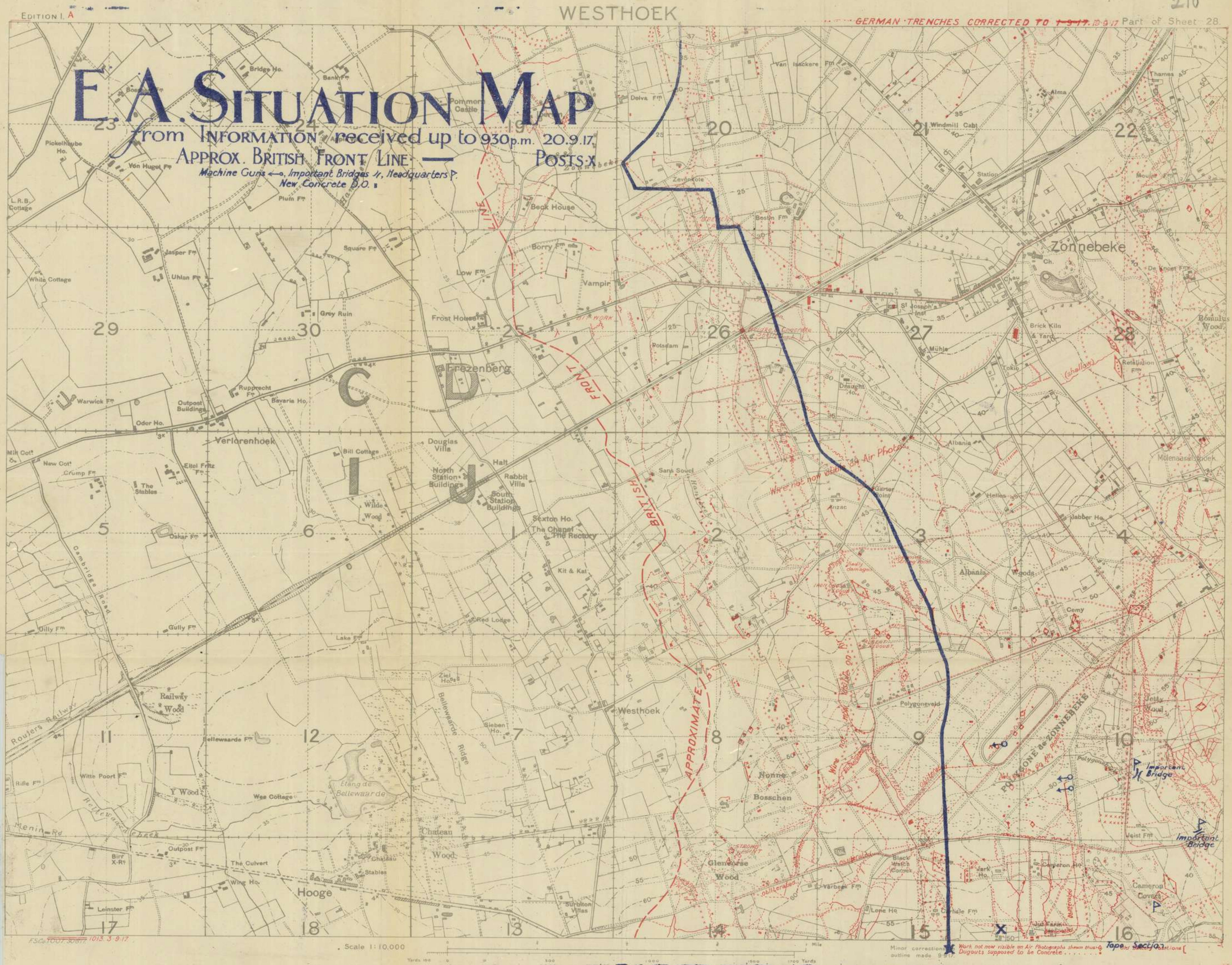


## BECELAERE

German Trenches corrected to 21-9-17.

Part of Sheet 28.

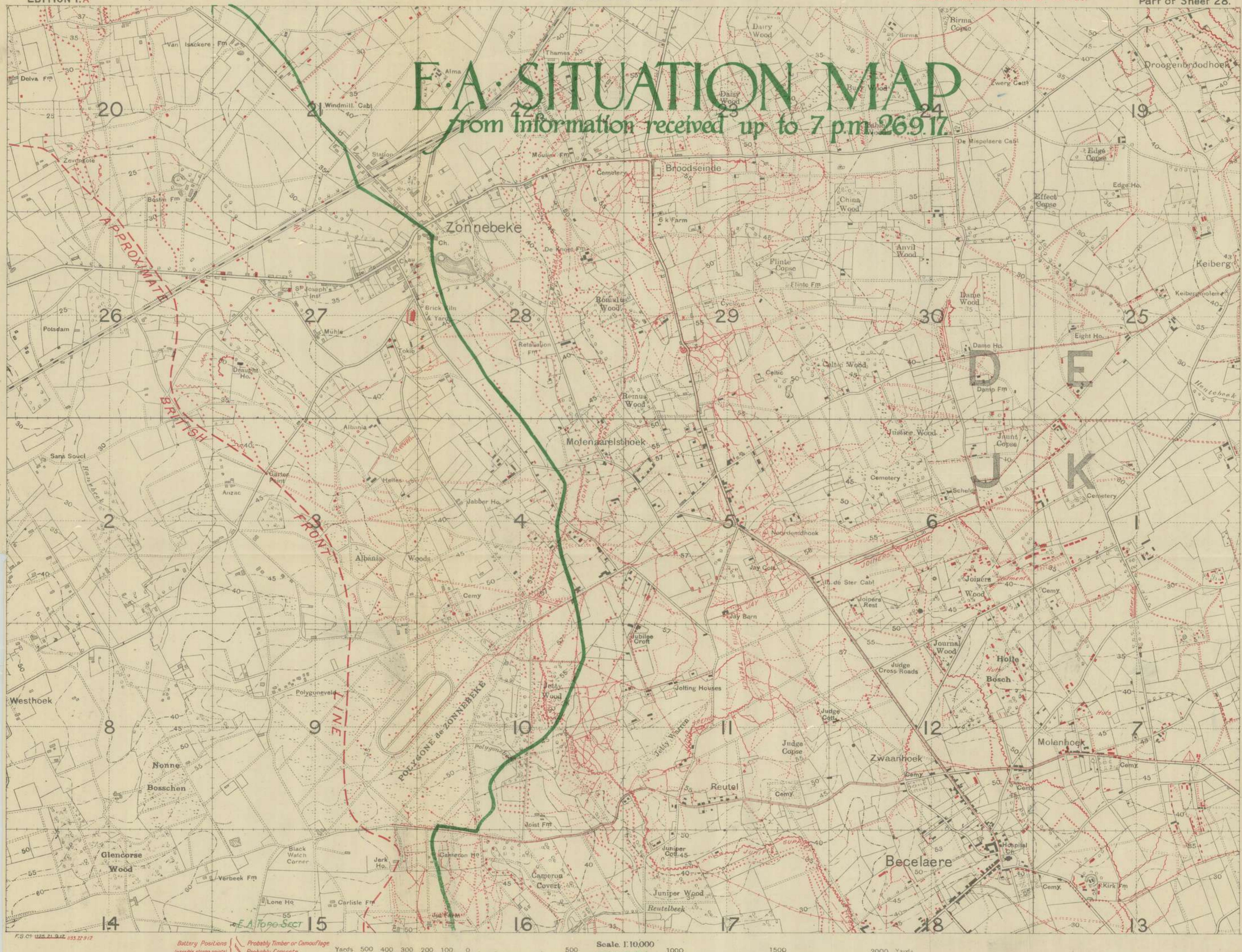




BECELAERE

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Part of Sheet 28.

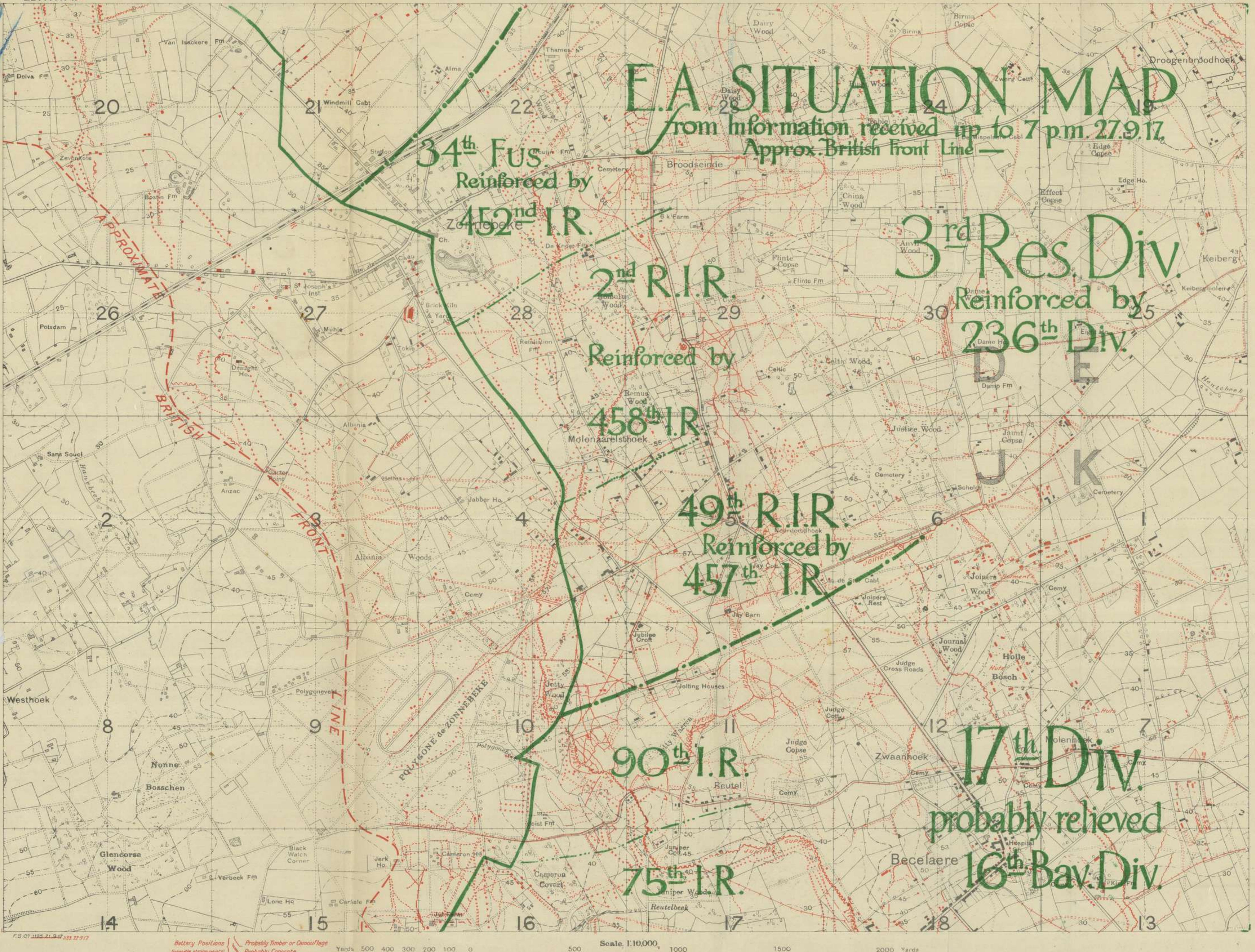


EDITION 1.A

BECELAERE

German Trenches corrected to 21-9-17.

Part of Sheet 28.



1:10 000

S.4.

EDITION 1.

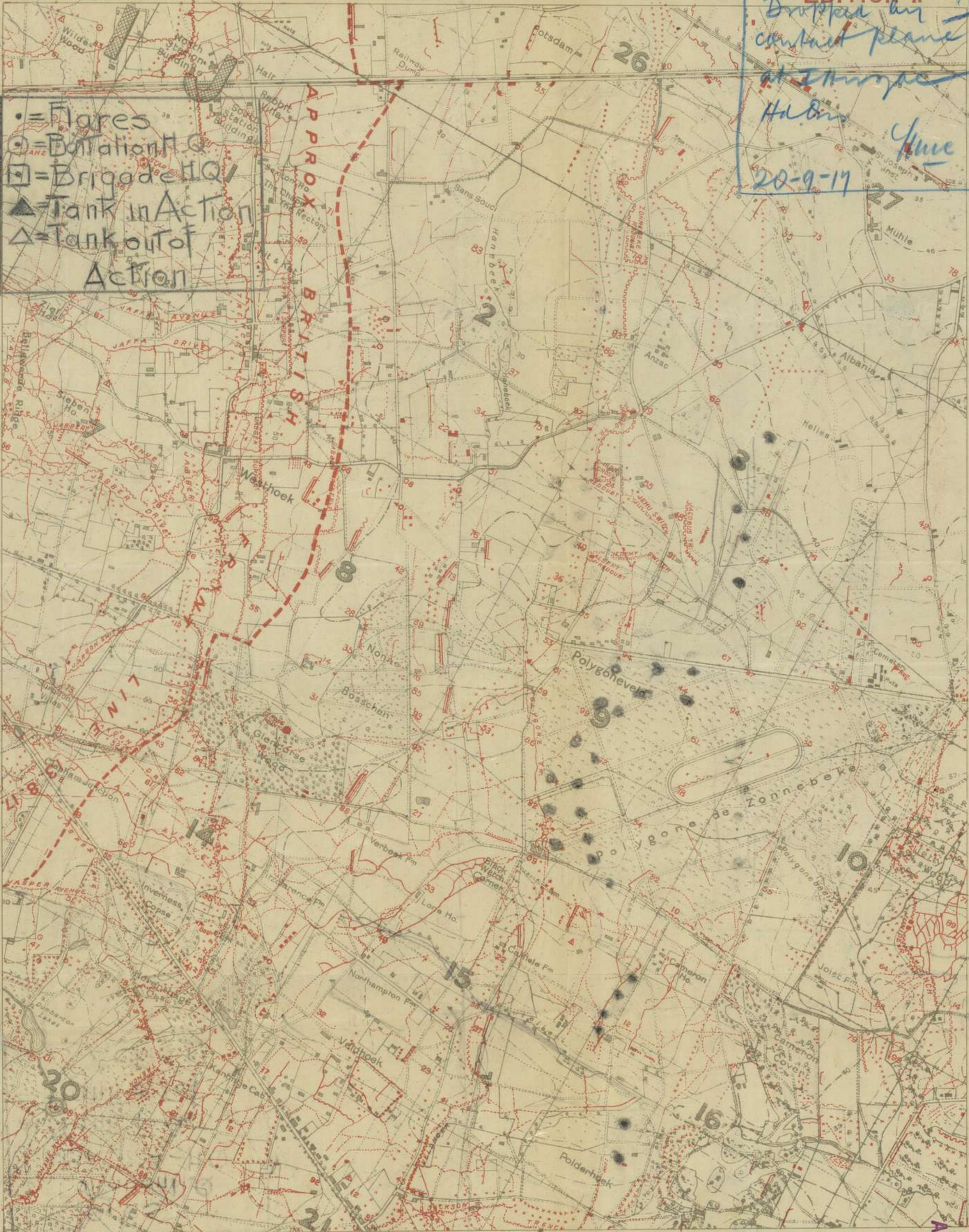
181

Dropped by  
contact plane  
at 1100 hrs

Halbe

Ypres

20-9-17



1:10 000

S.4.

EDITION 1.

19

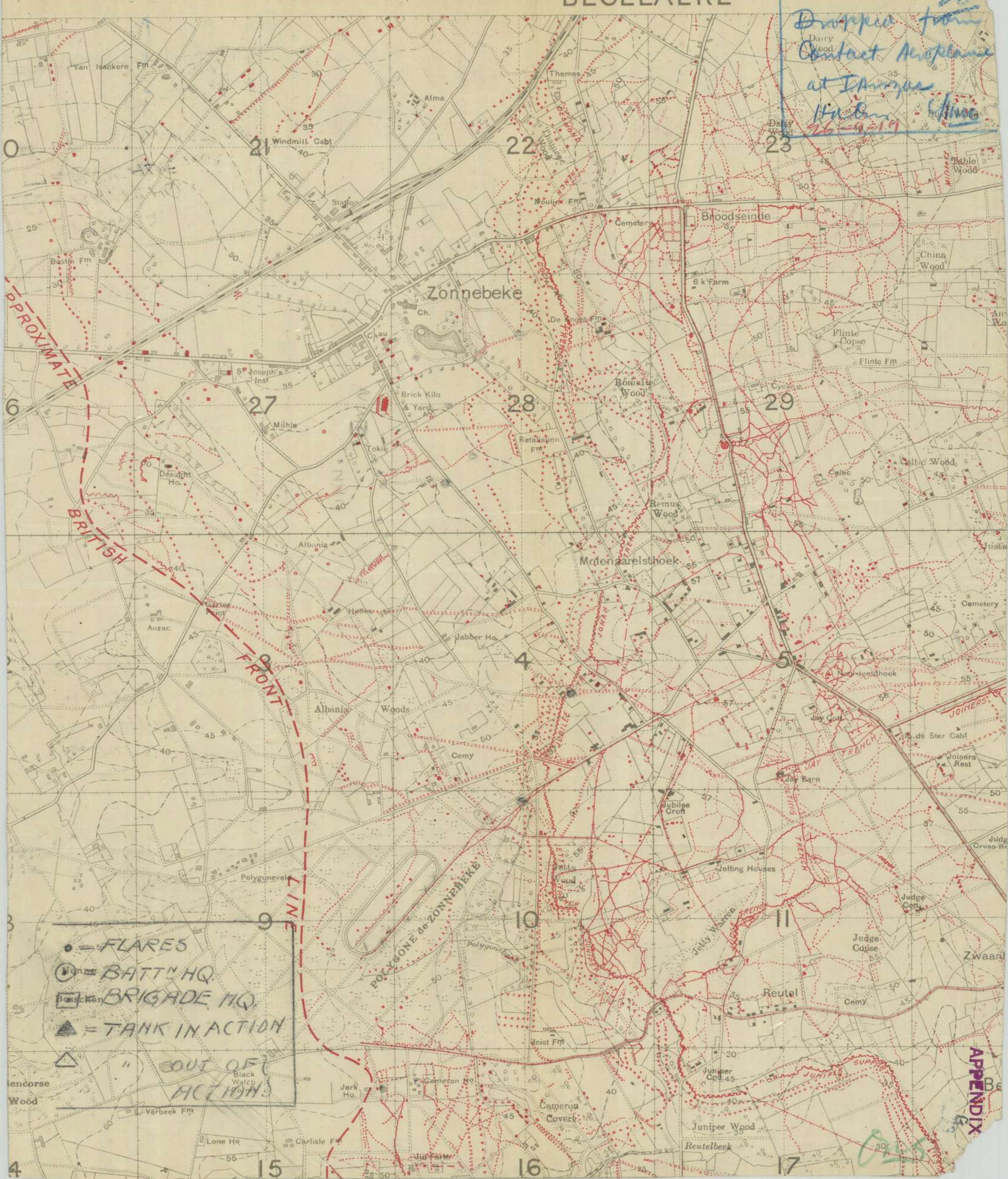
Dropped by  
Contact Plane

at I Anzac  
Hd Crs. June  
20-9-19



APPENDIX G

# BECELAERE



APPENDIX

## BECELAERE

21

Dropped from

Contact aeroplane  
at I Anzac

Hill 21

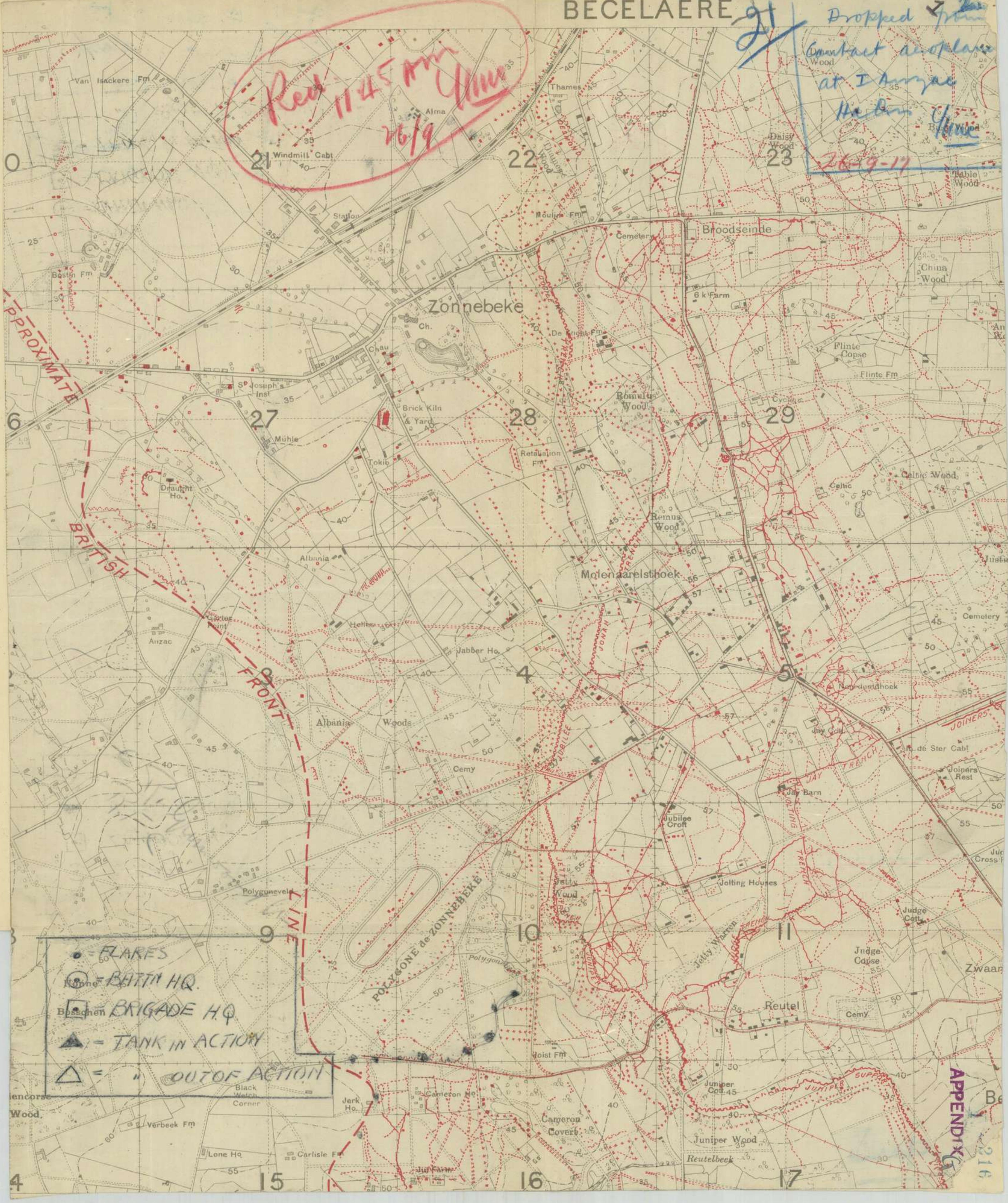
By Wood

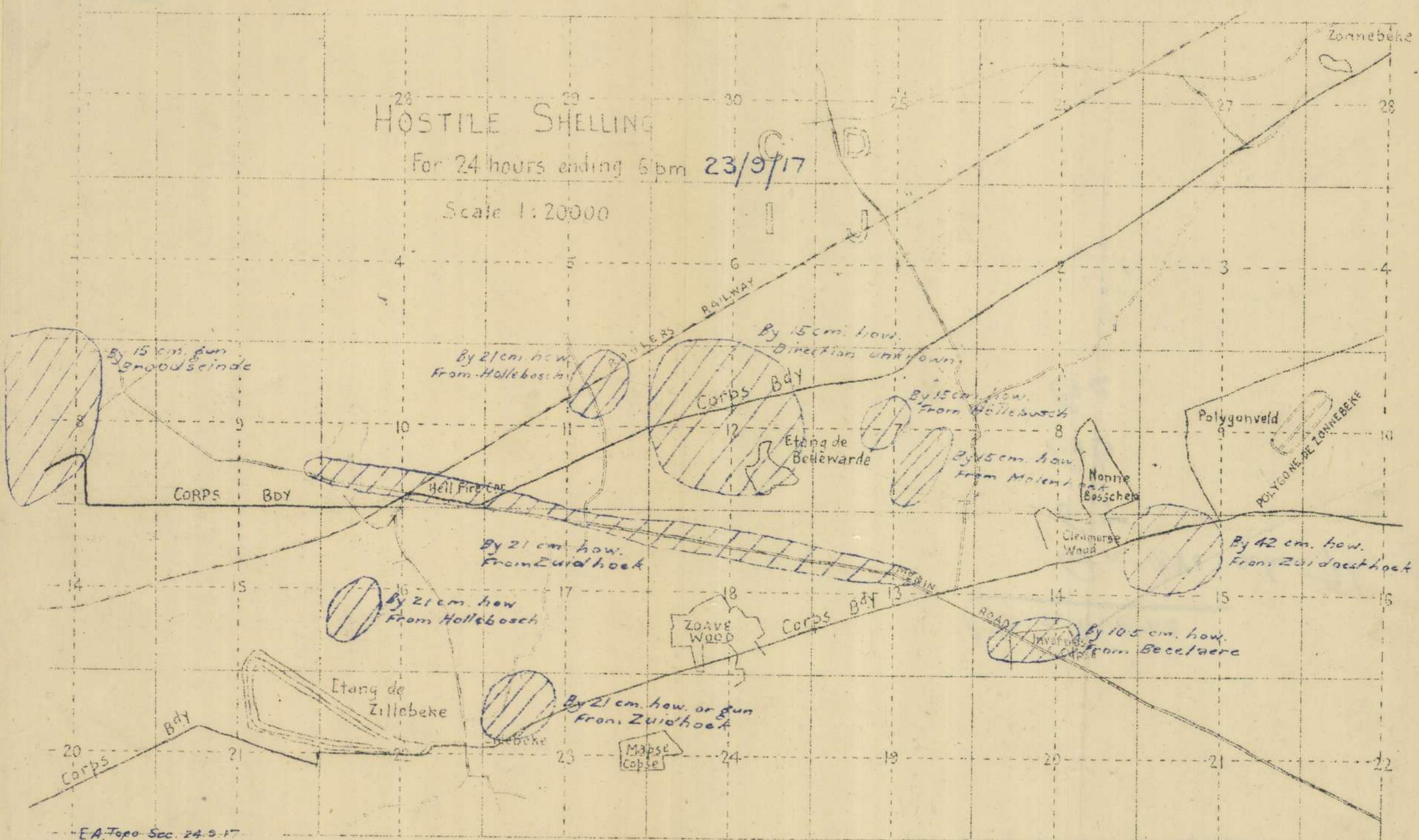
26-9-17

Table Wood

China Wood

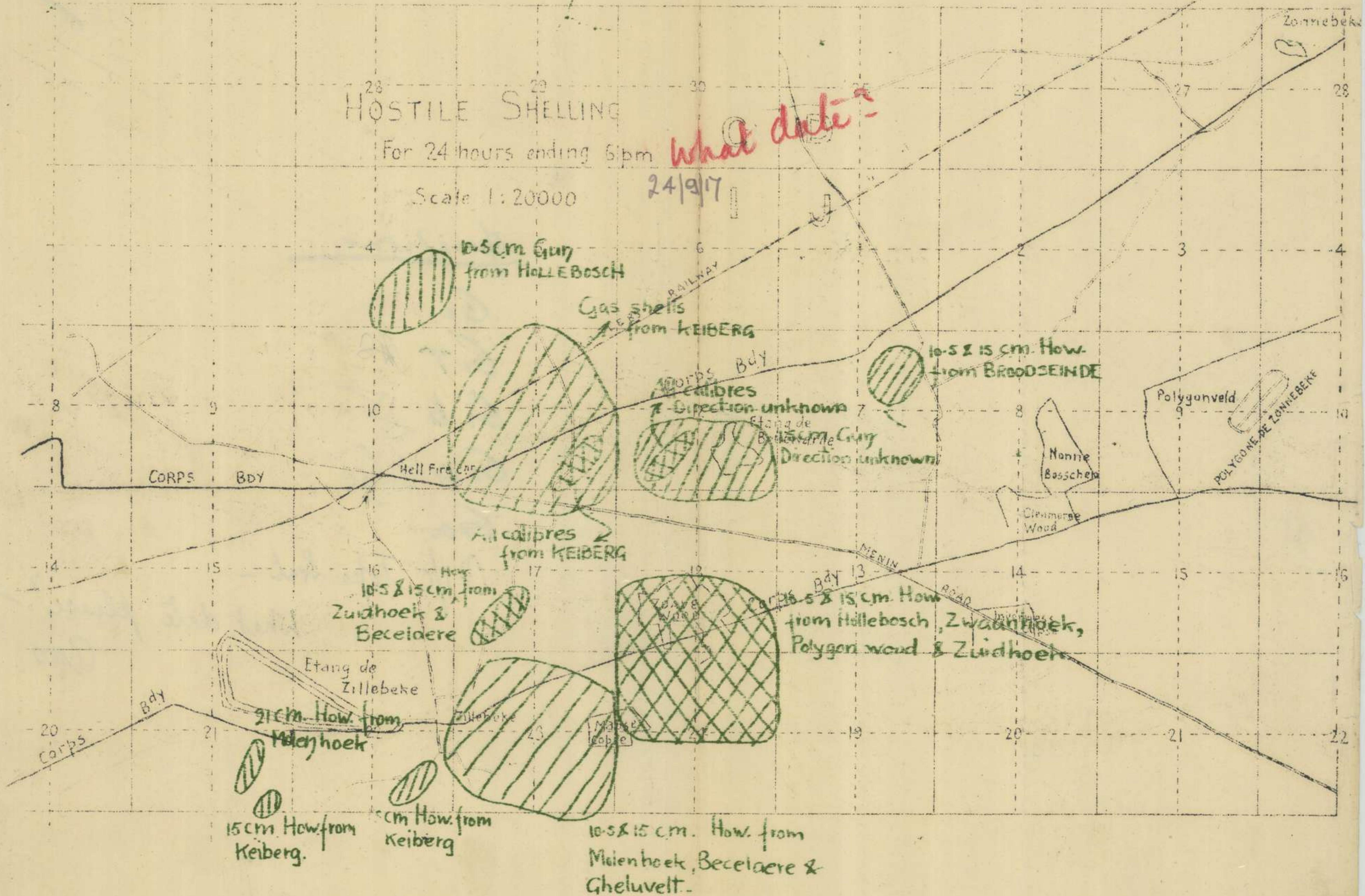
An





Operations

Ga RHO return pl  
GT  
Gb  
Gc



OTHER AREAS SHELLED.

H24 by 15cm Gun Zuidhoek.

191  
94operations

Ga RMO

Gt H.

Gib S.

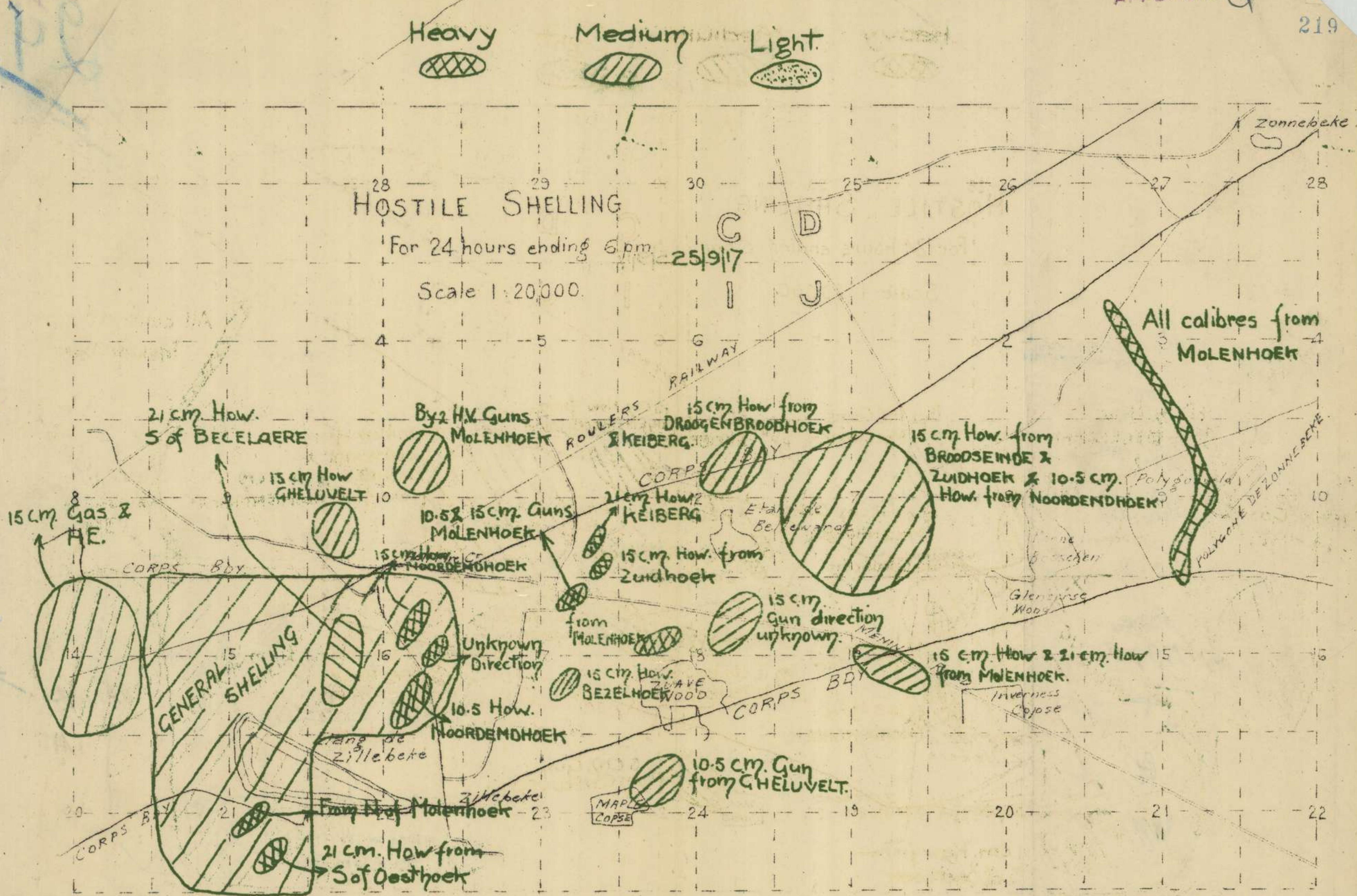
Grc wine

Gra

Oil Topo. Sect -

What date please? ↗

RMO.



OTHER AREAS SHELLED.

Ypres by 10.5 cm. Gun, Gas shell Molephoek, & by 15 cm. Gun from Zonnebeke  
Warrington Road, Gas shell Zwaaphoek.

*Operations.*

La AM

LT AD

LB AS

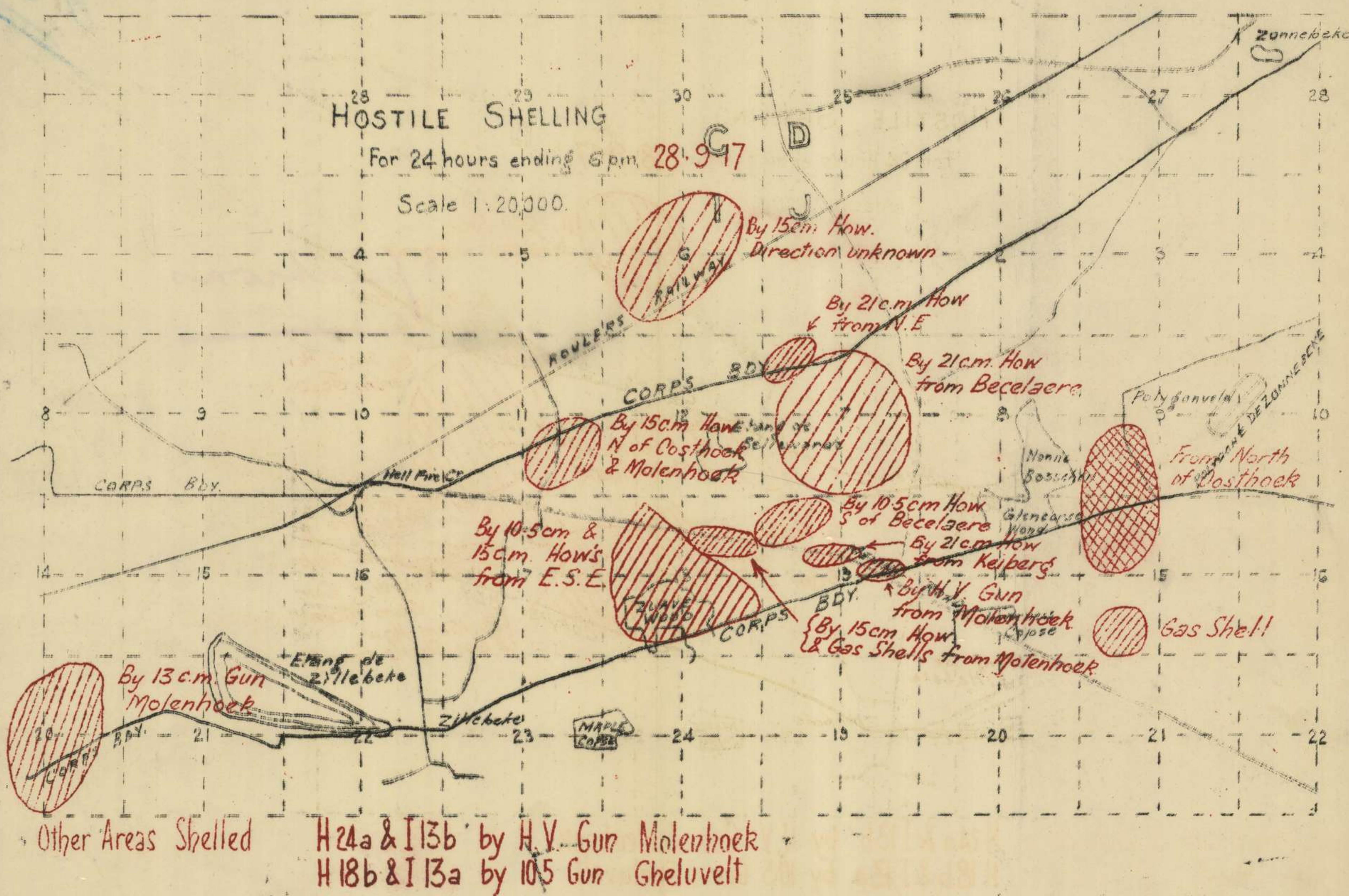
LC AS

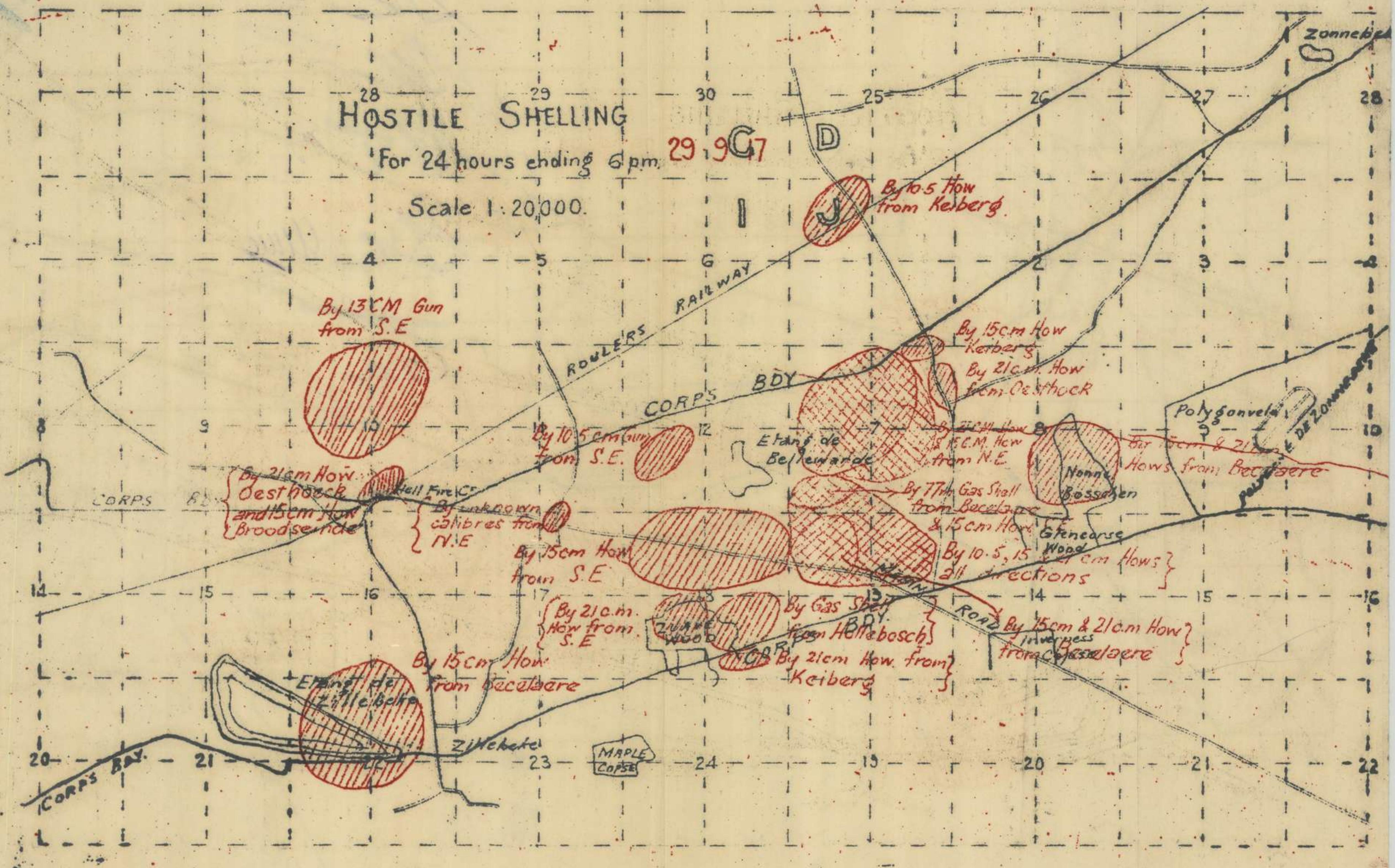
LA

OTHER AREA CHECKED

SB

SB





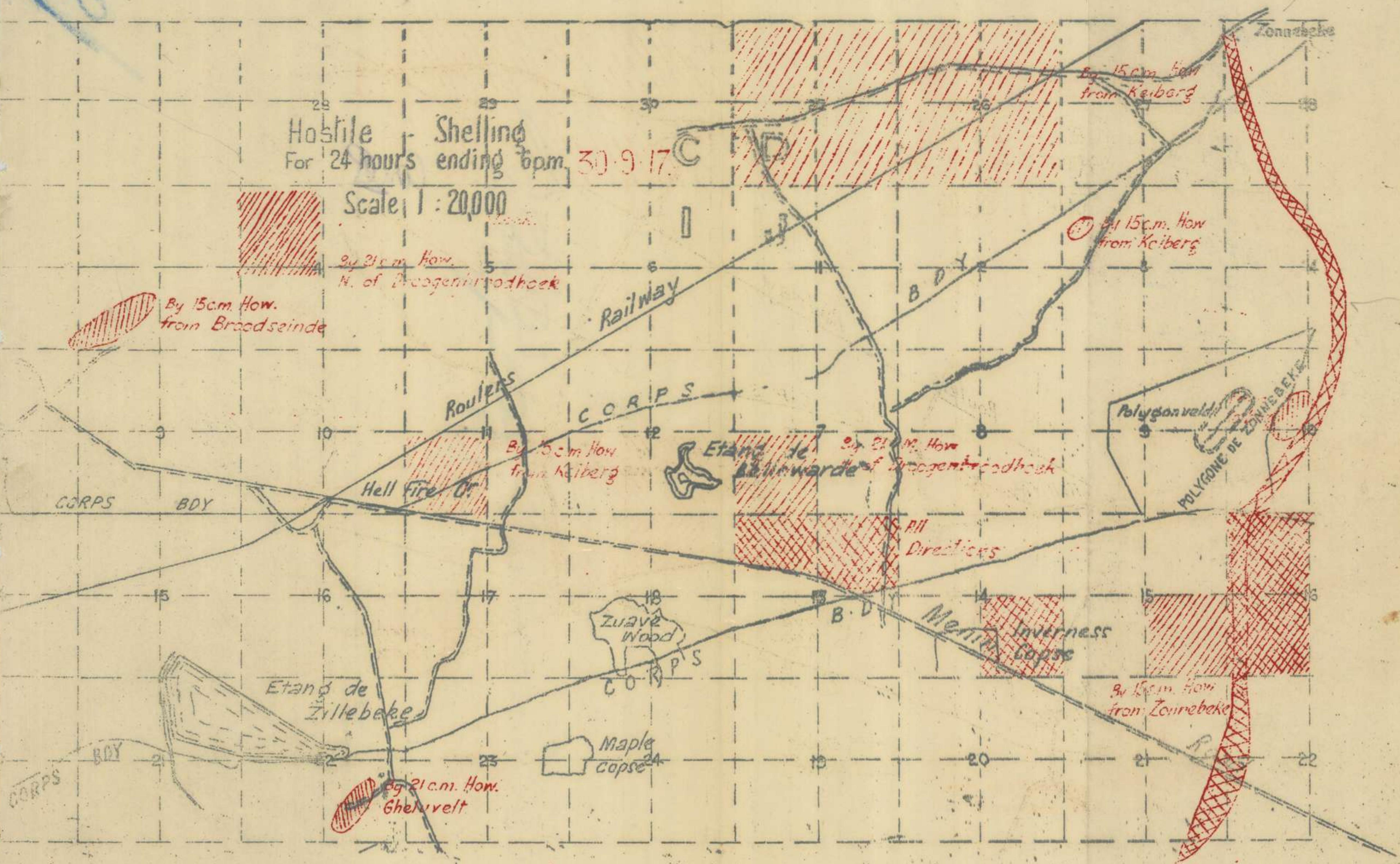
## APPENDIX

## HOSTILE SHELLING

For 24 Hrs. ending 6 p.m.

Scale 1: 20,000





98

Ga AmR  
Gb  
Gt  
Gc

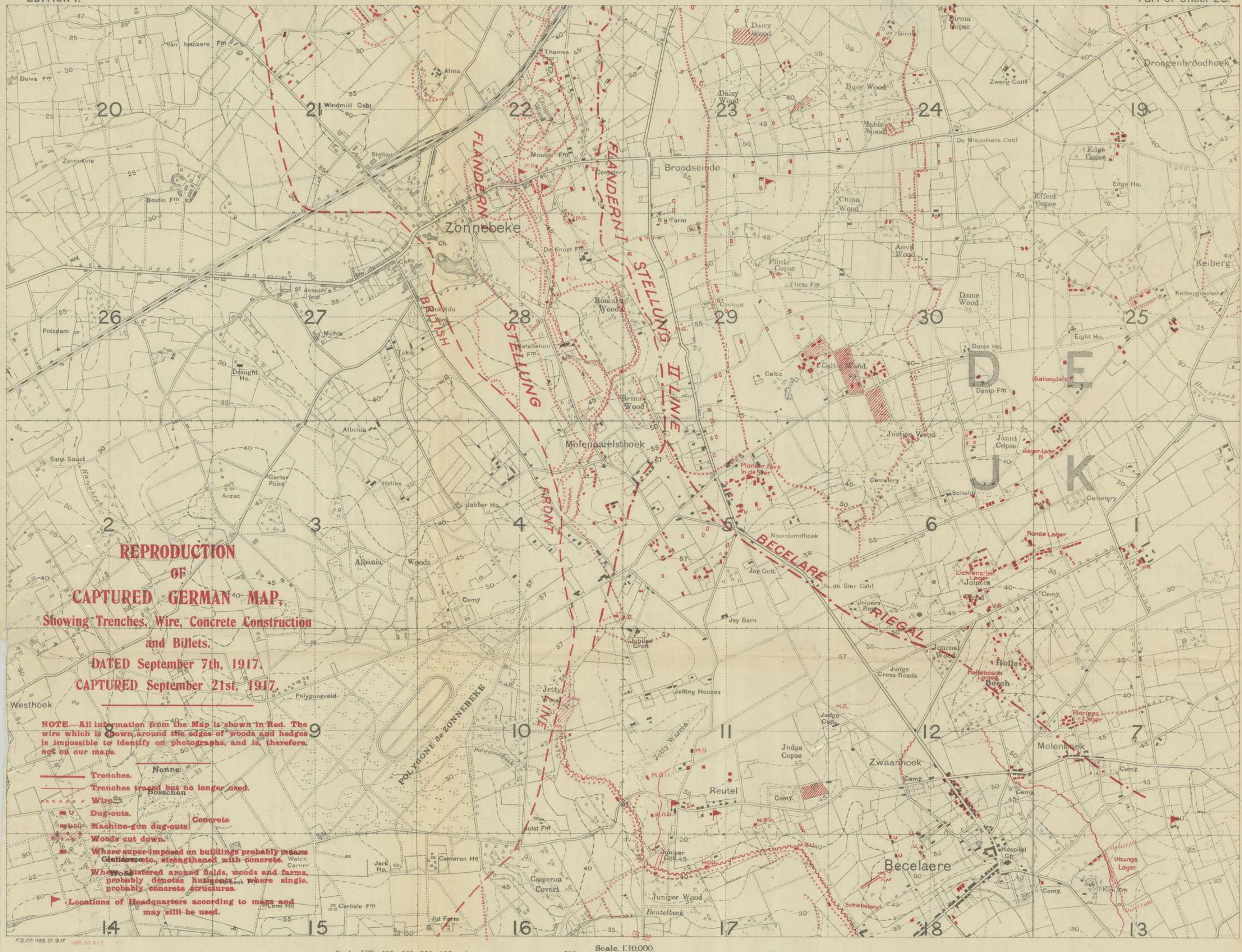
REVISED EDITION, 30th SEPT., 1917.

COMPRISED INFORMATION FROM FURTHER  
CAPTURED ENEMY MAPS.

Edition 1.

# BECELAERE

Part of Sheet 28.



Ga Am P  
Gb Si  
Gt H  
Gc <sup>Cline</sup> Wardham

100% of the men were  
killed or wounded in  
the first two days of the  
battle.

100% of the men were  
killed or wounded in  
the first two days of the  
battle.