

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/29 Part 1

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

December 1917



AWM4-1/44/29PART1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C.2118.

OF GENERAL STAFF.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. XVII. Page. 1.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG.	1917. Dec. 1st to 4th.		Continuation of training mainly devoted to platoon and company exercises, musketry, training of specialists and training of raiding parties.	
	5th.	a.m. 11.0.	Conference at D.H.Q. attended by all Commanding Officers to discuss the winter policy.	
	6th.		Continuation of training.	
	7th.		Continuation of training.	
	8th.		Continuation of training. Major J. T. McCOLL, M.C., reported for duty and attached to "G" Branch.	
	9th.		Continuation of training.	
	10th.		Continuation of training. Orders issued for the relief of the 3rd Australian Division by the 2nd Australian Division in the Right Divisional Sector of the Corps front on the 14th, 15th and 16th December, 1917.	App. 1.
	11th.		Lieut-Col. A. H. BRIDGES, D.S.O., left for England to rejoin the Indian Army. Lieut-Col. C. G. N. MILES, D.S.O., became acting G.S.O.I. of the Division.	
	14th.		Issued Defence Scheme for Support Division - Copy attached. G.S. Circular No. 47 re Protection against Enemy Aircraft issued. Location of units issued.	App. 2. App. 3 App. 4
	15th.		2 Battalions, 5th A.I.Bde. and 2 Battalions, 7th A.I.Bde., relieved 2 Battalions of 9th A.I.Bde. and 2 Battalions 10th A.I.Bde. respectively in the Right and Left Sectors - Support - on night 14th/15th December, 1917. The 6th A.I.Bde. and 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. moved into reserve in relief of the 11th A.I.Bde. and 23rd Aust., M.G. Coy. Relief complete by 4 p.m.. G. S. Circular No. 48 re S.O.S. Signals issued.	App. 5.

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OF GENERAL STAFF, INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. XVII. Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG.	1917. Dec. 16.		5th A.I.Bde. relieved the 9th A.I.Bde., and 7th A.I.Bde. relieved 10th A.I.Bde. in the line between the rivers LYS and DOUVE by 6 a.m. 2nd Australian Division relieved the 3rd Australian Division at 10 a.m. and took up Headquarters in STEENWERCK. 38th Division on Right and 5th Aust. Division on the left. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 6
STEENWERCK.	17.		Light snow falling. Clear later. Morning situation report all quiet. Orders were issued by 1st ANZAC Corps during the day for the Headquarters, 2nd Aust. Division, to move back to RAVELSBERG, and for the 3rd Aust. Division Headquarters to move to STEENWERCK, the latter to relieve part of the 38th Division from the LYS to vicinity of RUE de BOIS. Evening situation quiet; enemy shelling below normal. 5 E.A. over PLOEGSTEERT WOOD at 5.15 p.m. engaged by our planes and one was brought down: pilot wounded and captured. Intelligence Summary issued. Major-Gen. BARRY, Lieut-Col. STEWART and Major RICHARDSON, American Army, attached to Division for 10 days.	App. 7 App. 8
	18.		Fine weather. Cold N.W. wind. Ground frozen. Divisional H.Q. removed to RAVELSBERG by 12 noon. Morning situation report. Situation quiet. Evening situation report; quiet; light shelling on LA BASSE VILLE during morning. Considerable movement of troops was observed by our Left Brigade in vicinity of GASOMETER in WARNETON at about 2.30 p.m. Probably a relief. Our artillery engaged these targets. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 9
RAVELSBERG.	19.		Frosty weather. Low visibility. Cold. Morning report; situation quiet. Evening report, quiet. Trenches U.15. and U.21 heavily shelled with Lachrymatory shells and 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. H.E. Enemy aeroplanes active over our lines, but flying at great height. Location of units at 6 a.m. issued. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 10 App. 11

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OF GENERAL STAFF, INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. XVII. Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG.	1917. Dec. 20.		Hard frost with heavy mist. Morning report all quiet. Evening report, at 7 a.m. 12 gas projector shells were thrown into our trenches at U.17.b.5.8. No casualties. At 8.30 a.m. between 20 and 30 enemy attempted to raid our post at C.11.a.1.9. under cover of light fog. Party were driven off by rifle fire and shortly afterwards the post and vicinity were subjected to M.W. and M.G. fire. At 2 p.m. enemy attempted to establish himself at C.11.a.3.3. Our Lewis Gun fire inflicted 5 casualties on enemy who at once withdrew, taking his wounded with him. Circular Memo. No. 49 re Divisional Class of Instruction, Signalling. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 12. App. 13.
	21.		Heavy frost and mist. Warmer towards evening. Morning report, situation quiet. Evening report, quiet day. 3rd Aust. Division relieved 38th Division in the Sector on our right from river LYS to RUE DE BOIS. Location of units and Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 14. I.S. 14A. L.
	22.		Milder weather during day, but intense cold at night. Clear. Morning situation, quiet. Hostile artillery were slightly more active against our left brigade front during the early part of the evening. Evening report, quiet. Enemy shelled FUSILIER TRENCH and KIWI LANE during the morning. Area C.10. bombarded by Minenwerfer. Intelligence Summary issued, also amendment to 2nd Aust. Division (G.301) Location of units.	App. 15. 15A.
	23.		Cold day. Clear weather, with sunshine. Morning and evening situation, very quiet. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 16
	24.		Cold weather. Light rain in afternoon, when thaw set in. Situation report, morning quiet. Evening report quiet. Intelligence Summary and location of units issued.	App. 17. 17A.
	25.		Fine in morning, but snow fell later in the day. Clear at night. Situation very quiet day. very little artillery activity. Intelligence Summary issued. M.G. tactical and technical lessons learnt during month.	App. 18. App. 19.

WAR DIARY

OF GENERAL STAFF,
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol. XVII. Page 4.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG.	1917. Dec. 26.		Generally fine weather, but with one or two light falls of snow. Visibility very good. Morning situation report quiet. Evening situation quiet. No abnormal artillery activity on the part of the enemy. Intelligence Summary issued. The Reserve Brigade (6th A. I. Bde.) is now employed on the Construction of the Second (or Corps) zone of the Defensive system. Lt-Col. C.G.N.MILES, D.S.O. left for Staff Course at CAMBRIDGE, and Mjr.J.T.McCOLL took up duties as GSO.I.	App. 20.
	27.		Fine day. Visibility fair. Light fall of snow. Morning situation quiet. Evening situation, slight artillery activity in morning otherwise very quiet. General BARRY, U. S. Army, and Staff, left Divisional H.Q. on conclusion of their attachment. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 21.
	28.		Fine day, but with strong N.N.E. wind. Visibility good. Situation very quiet. Only slight artillery activity on the part of the enemy. Intelligence Summary and location of units issued.	App. 22. 22A
	29.		Bright sunshine. Visibility very good. Very quiet day. Nothing of importance to report. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 23.
	30.		Weather cold and visibility fair. Slight thaw set in. Very quiet day. Intelligence Summary issued.	App. 24.
	31.		Dull weather, a little colder than 30th. Slight increase in enemy artillery activity during the day. Issued Intelligence Summary, also location of units. From the 19th instant the Reserve Brigade of the Division (6th A.I.Bde.) has been employed on the Construction of the Second Zone of Defence, which is organised in three lines in depth, each line running practically S. from the DOUVE at GREY FARM, AVENUE FARM and DONNINGTON HALL respectively with two switches below PLOEGSTEERT WOOD following the line of NICHOLSONS AVENUE and STATION AVENUE - LE BIZET.	App. 25. 25A

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. XVII. Page 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG.	1917. Dec. 31.		<p>To assist the Left flank of the Division on our Right Vickers machine guns are now sited to barrage the German line from the LYS to 4 HALLOTS FARM. In addition 8 Vickers Guns are in position at C.20.d. to barrage along the line C.22.central - C.28.central in the event of the enemy breaking through towards HOUPINES.</p> <p><i>b 50</i> <i>b 50</i></p> <p><i>L m. g. map</i> 91 Lieut Colonel. General Staff. Australian Division.</p>	

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App 1

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 156.

Copy No.....

Reference Maps - Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
10th December, 1917.

1. The 2nd Australian Division will relieve the 3rd Australian Division in the Right Divisional Sector of the Corps front on the 14th, 15th and 16th December in accordance with attached relief table.

2. Upon relief the 9th A.I.Bde. will take over from the 5th A.I.Bde. the duties of reinforcing brigade to the 38th (Welsh) Division. The 38th (Welsh) Division Defence Scheme and all orders and instructions in connection therewith will be handed over.

3. The distribution of Artillery will remain as at present until completion of the Infantry relief.

4. The relief of the Field Companies will be arranged direct by the C.R.E., 2nd Australian Division, with the C.R.E., 3rd Australian Division, and will be complete by 10 a.m., 16th December.

5. The 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion will relieve the 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion on the 14th December.

6. Instructions for the relief of Medical units will be issued by the A.D.M.S.

7. Defence schemes, works policy, maps and all available information concerning the divisional front will be taken over on relief.

8. Subject to the terms of this order all reliefs will be carried out by mutual arrangements between Commanders concerned.

Command of the Brigade Sectors will pass to the G.O's.C., 5th and 7th A.I.Bdes., on completion of relief which will be reported by wire to H.Q., 3rd Aust. Div. and repeated to H.Q., 2nd Australian Division.

9. The G.O.C., 2nd Australian Division, will take over command from the G.O.C., 3rd Australian Division, at 10 a.m., 16th December, at which hour D.H.Q. will close at RAVELSBERG and open at STEENWERCK.

10. Acknowledge.

G. H. H. H. H.
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Issued at 8 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. C.R.A.
2. C.R.E.
3. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5. 6th do.
6. 7th do.
7. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8. 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy.
9. 2nd Aust. Div. Train.
10. S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div.
11. 2nd Aust. Mob. Vet. Sect.
12. G.O.C.
13. A.Q.
14. A.D.M.S.
15. A.P.M.
16. D.M.G.O.
17. D.A.D.V.S.
18. D.A.D.O.S.
19. D.B.O.
20. D.G.O.
21. Camp Commandant.

FOR INFORMATION.

22. 1st ANZAC "G."
23. 1st ANZAC "Q."
24. 1st Australian Division.
25. 3rd Australian Division.
26. 5th Australian Division.
27. 38th (Welsh) Division.
28. 69th (Australian) Squad., R.F.C.
29. Area Comdt., LOCRE.
30. " DRANOUTRE.
31. " NEUVE EGLISE.
32. " RAVELSBERG.
33. " STEENWERCK.
34. 2nd Aust. Div. Rfts. Depot.
- 35- 36. File.
- 37- 39. War Diary.
- 40- 50. Spare.

RELIEF TABLE

To accompany Second Australian Division Order No. 156.

Date.	Unit.	FROM.	TO.	In relief of	Remarks.
Dec. 14th and night 14th/15th.	2 Bns. 5th A.I.Bde.	STEENWERCK Area.	Support. RIGHT Sector.	2 Bns. 9th A.I.Bde.	
	2 Bns. 7th A.I.Bde.	NEUVE EGLISE Area.	Support. LEFT Sector.	2 Bns. 10th A.I.Bde.	
Dec. 15th.	6th A. I. Bde.	LOCRE Area.	Reserve. RIGHT Divisional front.	11th A. I. Bde.	Relief to be complete by 4 p.m.
	22nd A.M.G.Coy.	LOCRE Area.	do.	23rd Aus. M. G. Coy.	do.
Dec. 15/16th.	5th A.I.Bde. (less 2 Bns.).	STEENWERCK Area.	Line. RIGHT Sector.	9th A.I.Bde. (less 2 Bns.).	Relief to be complete by 6 a.m.
	7th A.I.Bde. (less 2 Bns.).	NEUVE EGLISE Area.	Line. LEFT Sector.	10th A.I.Bde. (less 2 Bns.).	do.

Distances to be maintained between units on the march.

Companies.	-	-	-	100 yards.
Unit and its transport	-	-	-	100 yards.
Battalions.	-	-	-	500 yards.

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SECRET

8

FIRST ANZAC CORPS.

SUPPORT DIVISION - DEFENSIVE SCHEME.

Reference Map Sheet 88 S.W. 1/20,000.
Sheet 88 S.W. 1/20,000.

13th December, 1917.

1. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT.

(i) In the event of attack on the Corps front, the Support Division will, when so ordered, be assembled and moved to positions of readiness in rear of the 3rd or Army defensive system.

Nuclear garrisons for selected machine gun positions on this line are to be told off beforehand, so that they may, in case of need, and when so ordered, be rapidly despatched to their posts from positions of readiness.

See Appendix "A" for list of Selected S. S. Positions and unit by which each is garrisoned.

(ii) The Division will be employed offensively, either to counter attack and regain any losses on the first or main defensive system, or to follow up any success against the enemy.

(iii) In the event of a sudden overwhelming of the main defensive system, the Division may be employed to aid in the defence of the second or Corps system.

In case of an attack which denied the opportunity of employing the Division in defence of the main and second defensive systems, the third or Army defensive system has been subdivided and marked in eight Battalion sectors, the limits of which are shown on the attached map (marked "X").

It is not the intention to divide the southern portion of the system into Battalion sectors nor to occupy it.

When so ordered these eight Battalion sectors will be occupied by the two brigades of the Support Division quartered in the SHIVA BULISH and LOONE areas, the third brigade in the STENSWERCH area being entirely at the call of the adjoining Division on the south for the defence of ARHUSIUMS.

The allotment of Battalion sectors to Brigades is shown on the attached map ("X").

Brigades and Battalions will forthwith reconnoitre their sectors and the routes to them from the positions of readiness, and will decide on the manner of occupying the sectors.

(iv) The Artillery of the Support Division is allotted three alternative roles:-

(a) To reinforce the Artillery now protecting the main system.

(b) To occupy positions selected for the protection of the second or Corps defensive system.

(c) To occupy positions selected for the defence of the third or Army defensive system.

A list of these positions is given in Appendix "A" herewith.

2. POSITIONS OF ASSEMBLY.

The positions of assembly of all units are the unit parade grounds.

3. POSITIONS OF READINESS.

The positions of readiness of all units except the Brigades at

(2).

HEUVE BRIGADE and LOCKE are the same as their positions of assembly. The positions of readiness of the HEUVE BRIGADE and the LOCKE Brigade are shown in red on map "X."

4. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK ON THE CORPS FRONT.

(i) The order for the assembly of units on their unit parade grounds (Positions of Assembly) will be issued by Divisional H.Q., except in the case of the Brigade at STENWICK which will receive orders direct from the adjoining Division on the South. D.H.Q. will be notified immediately such orders are received, also of action taken by the STENWICK Brigade. Other units will report immediately they are ready to march. They will remain ready to move at 20 minutes notice.

(ii) The order for the movement of the HEUVE BRIGADE and LOCKE Brigades to their positions of readiness will be issued by Divisional H.Q. Brigades will report immediately their units are in position.

These units and all Divisional units will from the time of receipt of this order remain in a state of immediate readiness to move. If "immediate readiness" is not required, units will be informed of the degree of readiness which is necessary.

The STENWICK Brigade will continue to act under the orders of the adjoining Division on the South, reporting at the same time to D.H.Q.

(iii) The order for the despatch of nucleus garrisons to their positions in the Army defensive system (Appendix "A") will be issued by Divisional Headquarters.

(iv) The order for the several alternatives for the Artillery will be issued from Corps H.Q. to Divisional H.Q. and will be repeated by Corps to the Artillery Units concerned.

(v) Orders for the employment of the Divisions:-

- (a) Offensively.
- (b) In support of the defence of the second or Corps system.
- (c) For the occupation of the third or Army system.

will be issued by D.H.Q. immediately on receipt of instructions from the Corps.

(vi) In the case of defensive action on either the second (Corps) or third (Army) defensive system H.Q. of Division and Brigades will remain as at present:- viz.,

Divisional Headquarters at RAVELSBURG.	
HEUVE BRIGADE	- WATERLOO CAMP.
LOCKE Brigade	- LOCKE.

In the case of offensive action the positions of H.Q. will be named in the order detailing the operations.

5. Units referred to above will prepare and keep up to date a short defence scheme and draft orders, including march tables, in accordance with these instructions. These will be handed over on relief.

APPENDIX "A"

Nucleus Garrisons for the 3rd. or Army Defence System to be furnished by the Support Division when so ordered.

LOCHE Brigade

1	Machine Gun and Nucleus Detachment -	N.20.d.40.65.)	Covering KEMMEL from the West.
1	Do Do Do Do	N.20.d.72.35.)	
1	Do Do Do Do	N.27.b.15.45.)	Covering KEMMEL from the S.West
1	Do Do Do Do	N.27.a.9.2.)	
1	Do Do Do Do	N.27.d.70.65.)	Covering the LINDENHOF+ WYTSCHAETE Road.
1	Do Do Do Do	N.27.d.50.15.)	
1	Do Do Do Do	N.33.d.95.35.)	Covering the Road from WULVERGHEM
1	Do Do Do Do	N.33.d.80.05)	

NEUVE EGLISE Brigade.

1	Machine Gun and Nucleus Detachment -	T.9.d.7.4.)	Covering the NEUVE EGLISE WULVERGHEM Road.
1	Do Do Do Do	T.9.d.8.3.)	
1	Do Do Do Do	T.16.a.95.15.)	Shooting N.E.
1	Do Do Do Do	T.16.d.3.8.)	
1	Do Do Do Do	T.16.c.8.6.)	Shooting S.E.
1		T.16.c.65.10.)	

These positions have been marked.

APPENDIX "B."

1. Positions which Artillery of the Support Division would move into to reinforce present line, on orders of G.O.C.R.A.

LEFT GROUP.

U.14.b.87.50. (4 guns).
 U.14.b.80.50. (2 guns).
 U.14.a.18.18.
 U.14.a.88.60.
 U.19.b.10.60. (4 Hows.).
 U.19.b.88.68. (2 Hows.).

RIGHT GROUP.

G.2.a.0.6.
 U.28.c.7.4.
 U.28.c.2.8.
 U.28.a.18.80. (How.).

2. Positions to which Artillery of the Support Division would move (on the orders of the G.O.C., R.A.) to reinforce 2nd or Corps Defensive System.

LEFT GROUP.

T.29.d.30.35.
 T.30.c.08.08.
 T.24.d.47.16.
 T.24.d.10.78. (How.).

RIGHT GROUP.

B.18.b.20.80.
 B.18.c.88.60.
 B.18.c.88.10. (4 guns).
 B.18.b.20.70. (2 guns).
 B.17.d.25.50. (How.).

The following positions also are available if required:-

T.17.b.90.80.
 T.18.a.24.40.
 T.18.b.81.25.
 T.18.d.82.84. (How.).

T.24.a.70.40.
 T.24.a.90.30.
 B.11.d.60.75.
 B.5.a.50.60. (How.).

3. Positions to which Field Artillery of the Support Division would move, on the orders of the G.O.C., R.A., to reinforce 3rd or Army Defensive System.

LEFT GROUP.

B.26.d.68.88.
 B.26.d.98.80.
 B.26.d.80.08.
 T.13.d.18.18. (How.).

RIGHT GROUP.

B.13.a.80.90.
 B.13.b.10.88.
 B.13.c.18.20.
 B.19.b.08.25. (How.).

The following positions also are available if required:-

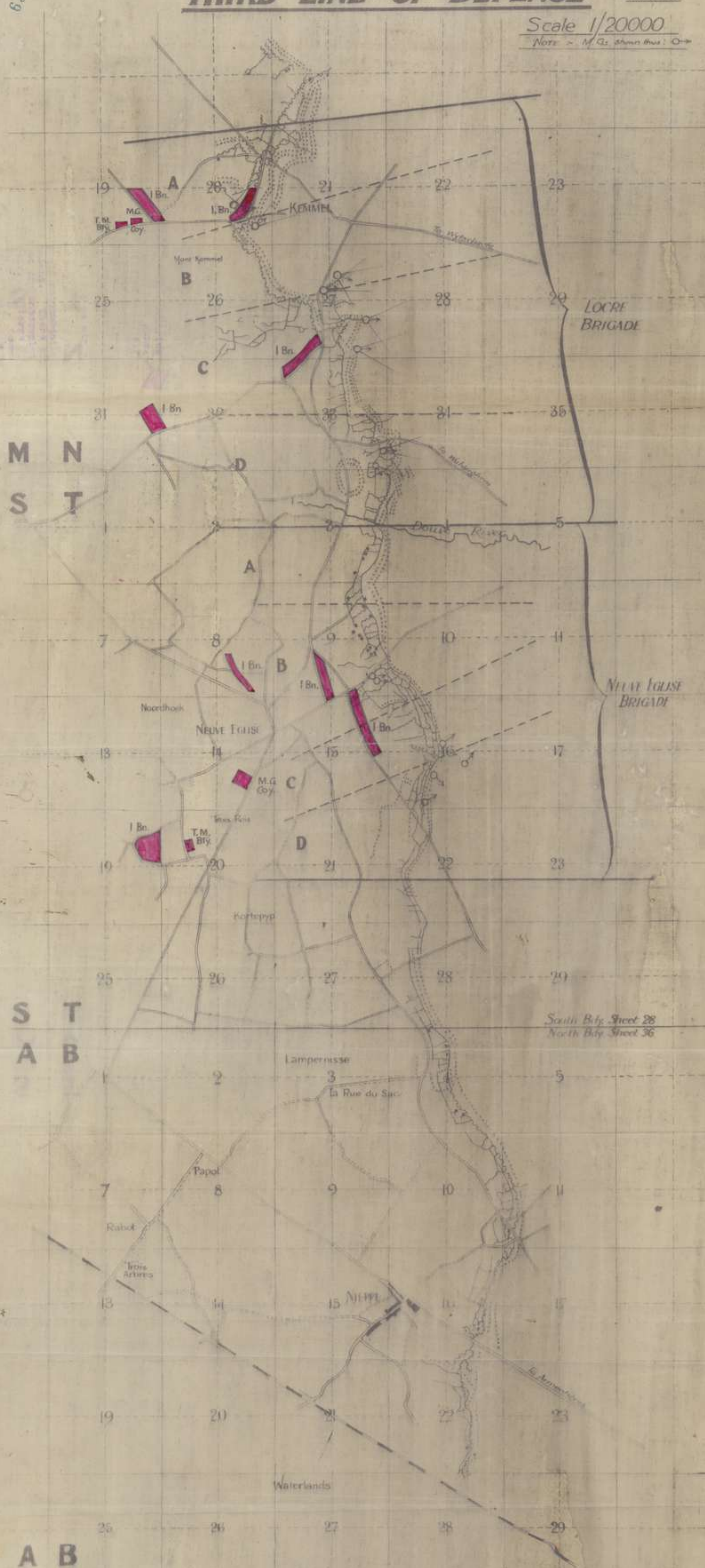

T.25.a.08.18.
 T.25.c.30.80.
 T.25.c.18.13.
 B. 1.a.00.88. (How.).

T.25.b.08.14.
 T.25.c.88.68.
 T.25.c.80.80.
 T.25.d.60.44. (How.).

SECRET.**S. 28/9****THIRD LINE OF DEFENCE**

14-12-17

Scale 1/20000

NOTE: M.G. shows thus: 

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy No.....
G.8/130.



Headquarters,
14th December, 1917.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 47.

Protection against Enemy Aircraft.

1. It is certain that the amount of bombing carried out by our aeroplanes will be very considerably increased. It is also certain that, to combat this, the enemy will attempt to increase the amount of bombing carried out by his machines. It is therefore essential that every precaution should be taken to reduce to a minimum the risk of casualties from enemy aeroplane bombs.

2. The following instructions are issued in amplification of previous instructions.

3. At each Battery position, anti-aircraft M. G. position, and Company, Battalion, etc., Headquarters a sentry will be posted to keep a look out for enemy aircraft. These sentries will be given written instructions regarding their duties.

On sighting an enemy aircraft the sentry will blow a whistle. Immediately on hearing the whistle all men will, if possible, take cover.

The action taken by Batteries in action will depend on the tactical situation and will be in accordance with the orders of the Battery Commander.

4. The action taken by various units when enemy aircraft are overhead will be as follows:-

In trenches movement will be restricted as far as possible, all men keeping under cover.

Troops on the march will move off the road and take any available cover, such as hedges, barns, etc.

Troops on parade will be dismissed and sent to cover.

Transport and horses on the march will continue their march.

Working parties and carrying parties will take any available cover.

NOTE - These instructions will not be in force during operations.

5. Men are on no account to look up at enemy aircraft; their white faces can be seen for considerable distances as if they keep still when no cover is available and do not look up they are very hard to pick up. The only men who should look up are sentries and those firing at the aircraft either with rifles or machine guns. The habit of rushing out of huts, billets, etc. when they gaze at enemy aircraft must be stopped. Men seen gazing at aircraft must be ordered under cover by any officer or N.C.O. present. Commanding Officers will be held responsible that this order is strictly enforced.

6. Orders for the screening of all lights must be strictly enforced.

7. ACCOMMODATION. Wherever dug-out and bomb-proof accommodation is available this will be utilised to the fullest extent. There are at present many dug-outs and bomb-proof shelters that are unoccupied and have been allowed to get into a state of disrepair. A large number of these can be made habitable with very little work. Commanding Officers of units in whose area they are situated will ensure that as many as possible are cleaned out and repaired and occupied.

P.T.O.

Attention is directed to the orders for the protection of camps forwarded under this office G.8/128. The work of building the protective walls will be pushed on as rapidly as possible. As soon as they are completed round huts and tents they will be built round all horse standings; as well as being built round stables walls will be built across the stables at various intervals throughout its length.

8. ANTI-AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUN DEFENCE. Full details and instructions re the anti-aircraft defence of the divisional area will be issued later. The principle will be:-

- (a) There will be no firing at aircraft from the front line.
- (b) Anti-aircraft machine guns will be mounted approximately along the support line of the front system, but if possible they should not be in this line itself but just in rear of it. Machine guns will be mounted in batteries of two or four guns each. Each battery will have one or more alternative positions at least 100 yards apart.
- (c) Anti-aircraft machine guns will be mounted in pairs at camps.
- (d) Special provision has been made for the anti-aircraft machine gun defence of divisional artillery groups and ammunition railheads.

9. The anti-aircraft gun batteries in the Corps area and the machine guns grouped with them are under Army command. Those in the right divisional area are located as follows:-

"J" A.A. Battery H.Q.	- 28.T.27.a.8.6.	BELMONT.
111th Sec. A.A. (half)	- 36.B.20.c.2.3.	Cite BON JEAN, (ARMENTIERES.)
111th " " "	- 28.T.21.d.1.2.	LIVERPOOL.
206th Sec. A.A.	- 28.T.28.d.7.8.	ROMULUS SIDING.

R. G. Williams.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

1/16. C.R.A.
17/20. C.R.E.
21. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
22/28. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
29/35. 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
36/42. 7th Aust. Inf. Bde.
43. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
44. 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy.
45/49. 2nd Aust. Div. Train.
50. 2nd Aust. Mob. Vet. Sec.
51. No. 1 Aust. San. Sect.
52/55. A.D.M.S.
56. D.A.D.O.S.
57. D.B.O.
58. D.G.O.
59. 2nd Aust. Div. Rfts. Camp.
60. 2nd Aust. Salvage Coy.
61. Camp Comm. it.
62. A.C.
63. A.P.M.
64/65. File.

66/67. War Diary.

68/75. Spare.

76/77. A large

78/79. A large

80/81. A large

82/83. A large

84/85. A large

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War Diary

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

App. 4
S E C R E T .

G.182.
Locations of Units at 8 a.m. 15th December 1917.

The following changes are notified to the last report. (G.100 dated 26th November 1917.)

18th Bn.	-	Pont de NIEPPE.	
19th Bn.	-	LE ROSSIGNOL. 36B.10.d.7.8.	Support Left
20th Bn.	-	Pont de NIEPPE. 36.B.23.b.2.3.	" Right
25th Bn.	-	ROMARIN CAMP. 36.B.4.a.6.8.	
28th Bn.	-	RED LODGE. T.18.d.7.3.	
2nd A.Pioneer Bn.	-	NIEPPE. 1 Rue de Warneton.	
2nd A.Div Reinft Depot. Closed. and replaced by			
2nd A.Div Wing.			
(Corps Reinft Camp) - CAESTRE.			

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
14/12/17

G. Miller
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Ref Map
Sheet 28.
1/40000

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S E C R E T .

G.183.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 16th December 1917.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	Moving to STEENWERCK 10 a.m.
<u>Artillery H.Q.</u>	-	BAILLEUL.	Rue de Lille.
4th A.F.A.Bde H.Q.	-	STEENWERCK.	W.L. at 36.A.30.c.4.1.
5th do	-	do	" " 36.G.5.e.2.1.
2nd A.D.A.C.	-	S.30.c.3.7.	
2nd A.D.T.M.O.	-	S.30.a.0.0	
<u>5th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	36.B.10.a.6.7.	BRUNE GAYE. Right Bde.
17th Bn.	-	" B.23.b.2.5.	Support Right.
18th Bn.	-	U.27.b.8.8.	Line, Left.
19th Bn.	-	36.B.10.d.7.8.	LE ROSSIGNOL. Support Left.
20th Bn.	-	36.C.3.c.8.5.	Line Right.
5th A.M.G.Coy.	-	" C.7.d.4.7 - Adv	36.B.23.a.2.3 - Rear.
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	" B.17.d.80.35.	Line.
<u>6th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	T.20.c.5.5.	
21st Bn.	-	T.20.c.5.1.	BULFORD CAMP.
22nd Bn.	-	T.26.b.8.3.	KORTEPYP CAMP "B".
23rd Bn.	-	T.26.c.4.3.	CANTEEN CORNER.
24th Bn.	-	T.26.b.4.5.	KORTEPYP CAMP "A"
6th A.M.G.Coy.	-	T.20.d.20.95.	PENZANCE LINES.
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	T.20.c.5.1.	BULFORD CAMP.
<u>7th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	36.B.4.c.2.8.	LE ROMARIN. Left Bde.
25th Bn.	-	" B.4.a.6.8.	ROMARIN CAMP.
26th Bn.	-	U.9.b.8.4.	Line Left.
27th Bn.	-	U.15.c.9.5.	Line Right.
28th Bn.	-	T.19.d.7.3.	RED LODGE.
7th A.M.G.Coy.	-	U.15.c.9.5.	Line.
7th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	U.19.b.3.7.	CATACOMES. Line.
<u>C.R.E.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	Moving to STEENWERCK at 10 a.m.
5th Filled Coy A.E.	-	36.B.1.d.8.5.	Moving to 36.B.4.a.5.2.
6th do	-	T.19.b.9.2.	do T.10.e.5.9.
7th do	-	36.B.1.d.6.5.	do T.10.c.7.0.
<u>A.D.M.S.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	Moving to STEENWERCK at 10 a.m.
5th A.Field Amb.	-	(T.18.d.5.3.	UNDERHILL FARM. A.D.S.
	-	(36.C.1.d.4.5.	BREWERY. A.D.S.
6th A.Field Amb.	-	T.19.b.5.4.	WESTHOF. D.R.S.
7th do	-	36.B.8.b.2.5.	PONT D'ACHELLES. M.D.S.
<u>DIV TRAIN H.Q.</u>	-	36.A.5.a.5.7.	LA CRECHE.
15th A.A.S.C.	36.A.5.a.8.5.	16th A.A.S.C.	36.A.5.a.7.7.
17th do	36.A.5.c.9.8.	20th do	36.A.5.d.8.8.
2nd Aust Pioneer Bn.	NIEPPE.	1 Rue de Warneton.	
22nd A.M.G.Coy (Div)	B.8.c.3.8(36)		
<u>Divisional Troops.</u>			
Paymaster. A.P.M.)		
D.A.D.V.S. D.M.G.O.)	RAVELSBERG	Moving to STEENWERCK 10 a.m.	
Salvage Coy.	-	LOCRE.	Birr Barracks.
Mob Vet Sect.	-	S.29.b.2.2.	
2nd A.D.S.C.	-	36.A.17.a.2.0.	
Div Gas School)			
D.G.O.)	36.B.20.b.4.3.		
D.A.D.O.S.	36.B.1.d.2.8.		
Div Bomb School)			
D.B.O.)	T.8.d.4.3.		
Div Wing Corps Reinft Camp.	CABESTRE.		

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT
OF A LATER ISSUE.

2nd Aust D.H.Q.
14/12/17.

Chittis
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET

Headquarters,

15th December, 1917.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 48.S.O.S. Signals.

1. Beginning at midday, 19th December, the S.O.S. Signal throughout the Army will be a rifle grenade signal breaking into two red and two white stars simultaneously.

2. First ANZAC "Q" is arranging to issue 200 of these rifle grenades to the Division by midday on the 18th December. 75 will be issued immediately to each Brigade in the line.

3. All S.O.S. signals now in use will be returned to the Divisional Bomb dump on the 20th December.

4. At the time and date mentioned in para. 1 above a "lengthen barrage" signal will be brought into use throughout the Army. This will be a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch Very light changing from WHITE to GREEN.

100 of these cartridges are being issued to the Division. This signal will be issued to Artillery F.O.O's. only, and further orders will be issued as to its employment.

5. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.R.A.
C.R.A., 3rd Aust. Div.
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6th do.
7th do.
22nd Aust. M. G. COY.
A.Q.
D.B.O.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Wm. Dwyer

War Diary

App. 6

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 28.

From 6 a.m. 15th to 6 a.m. 16th December 1917.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Throughout the period our artillery was normally active. Hostile working parties at C.6.d.0.6., U.18.c.6.5. and in U.12.a. were dispersed by our 18 pdrs. Hostile minenwerfers at U.12.c.42.13., U.12.c.79.30., U.12.c.76.34., U.12.a.41.27., U.12.d.20.53., U.12.d.51.60., U.18.c.17.60., were engaged by our 4.5" Hows. with H.E. and gas shell. Active minenwerfer at C.11.c.85., and C.17.a.17.70., were successfully neutralised. Bridges at U.12.d.15.92 and U.12.c.79.80., were also shelled.

During the night harassing fire was maintained on enemy roads, tracks, approaches, and known centres of activity.

Patrols. (i) A patrol from Right Bde moved out from C.10.b.92.20, and inspected bridge at C.11.c.40.95. It was found to be quite impassable. A foot bridge which had been erected alongside the original masonry bridge was badly damaged. Moving North patrol discovered another foot bridge at C.11.a.5.1. This was badly broken and quite impassable. Considerable coughing, talking and movement was heard about C.11.a.72.10 and a machine gun was observed firing from this point. At 1.30 a.m. a whistle was blown in FRELINGHIEN and the sound of wheeled traffic was heard. Patrol worked N to C.5.c.1.9 and returned to our lines via C.4.d.7.9.

(ii) A patrol moved out from U.23.c.9.5. and worked along road to PONT ROUGE. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. Ground covered was very muddy and intersected by a number of old dis-used trenches. Patrol returned to our lines at U.23.d.10.75.

(iii) A patrol left our lines at C.4.b.6.7 and moved due E to river bank and thence N to PAPER HOUSE at U.29.c.4.4. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. A duckboard bridge was discovered at C.5.a.4.9 only partially damaged. Patrol returned to our lines at C.4.b.6.7.

ENEMY ARTILLERY.

During the 24 hours enemy artillery was normally active. Between 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. battery position at U.27.c.3.0. was shelled with 500 rounds of 10.5 cm from direction 103° T.B. from U.15.d.95.55., and 107°30' T.B. from U.13.b.20.15. Between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. area C.2.d. received 100 10.5 cm shells from direction of FRELINGHIEN. Between 9.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m. area U.8.d. received 150 - 15 cm shells. Throughout the 24 hours MOTOR CAR CORNER (C.14.a.9.9) GUNNERS' FARM (C.2.d.2.2) LE BIZET (C.13.d.2.7) and SUFFOLK AVENUE in C.4.a., were intermittently shelled from direction of ST BARBE (Sheet 28&SE.3 - W. 21.c.) Gun flashes were observed on T.B. of 109° and 122° from U.15.d.95.55. and T.B. of 71°31' from SURREY FARM (C.7.d.25.40). Later gun was estimated to be firing from about C.3.d.5.5.

MACHINE GUNS - ENEMY.

Enemy M.Gs were normally active throughout the 24 hours firing from FRELINGHIEN, and THE LAUNDRY (C.5.c.3.5).

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy E.A. were below normal, and those 'planes which crossed our lines flew at a great height. At 10.30 a.m. an E.A. was brought down by one of our machines in the vicinity of GESS PIT HOUSE (C.6.a.) At 11.30 a.m. 3 E.A. attempted to cross our lines but were driven off by our A.A. fire. At 5 p.m. an enemy 'plane dropped 5 bombs in C.31.d.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX. 6

-2-

MOVEMENT IN ENEMY LINES.

At 9.a.m. 4 men wearing greatcoats and caps were seen at DURIEZ FARM (C.5.d.2.9) During the day working at C.6.d.0.6., U.18.a.6.5. and in U.12.a. were dispersed by our artillery fire. At 8.45.am a large enemy working party was seen in Y.7.c. During the day constant movement was observed around GASOMETER (WARRETON) and buildings at V.12.d.2.8.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At intervals between 6.p.m. and 7.15 p.m. the enemy bombed his own wire at several points opposite our right En front. During the night the enemy fired fewer flares than usual.

ADDENDUM.

Patrols. (iv) A patrol from Left Bde left our line at U.11.d.65.00. at 6.30.p.m. and proceeded due E for 200 yards. At this point the patrol was within a few yards of enemy wire, which was very thick and strong, and apparently in front of a pill box.

Three men were seen to walk out to a post at approx. U.18.a.2.5.

After moving S to approx.U.17.b.9.1. patrol returned to our lines at 10.30.p.m.

Very little hostile M.G. fire was experienced and no enemy patrols were seen.

H. H. Call Capt
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

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SCALE 1:10,000.

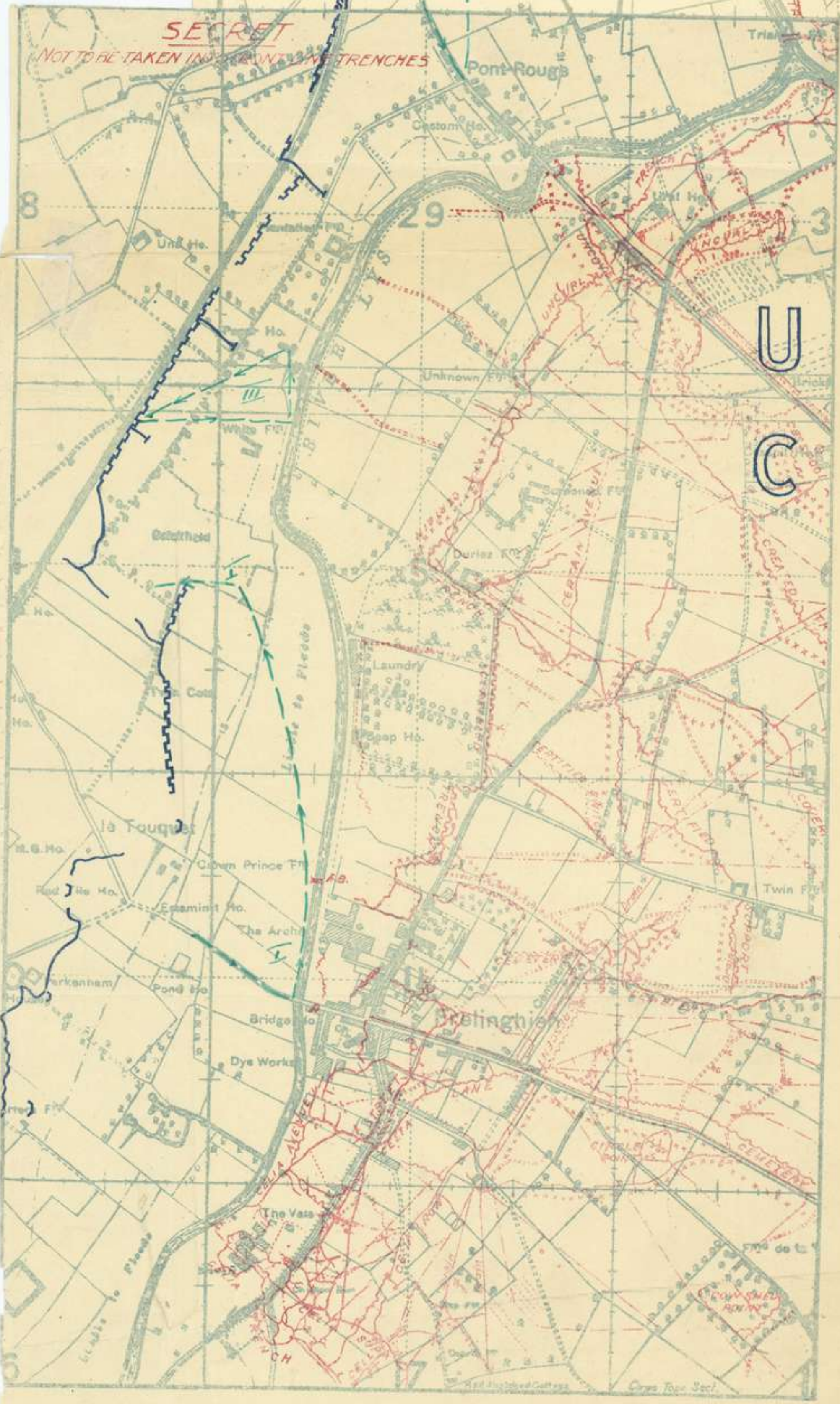
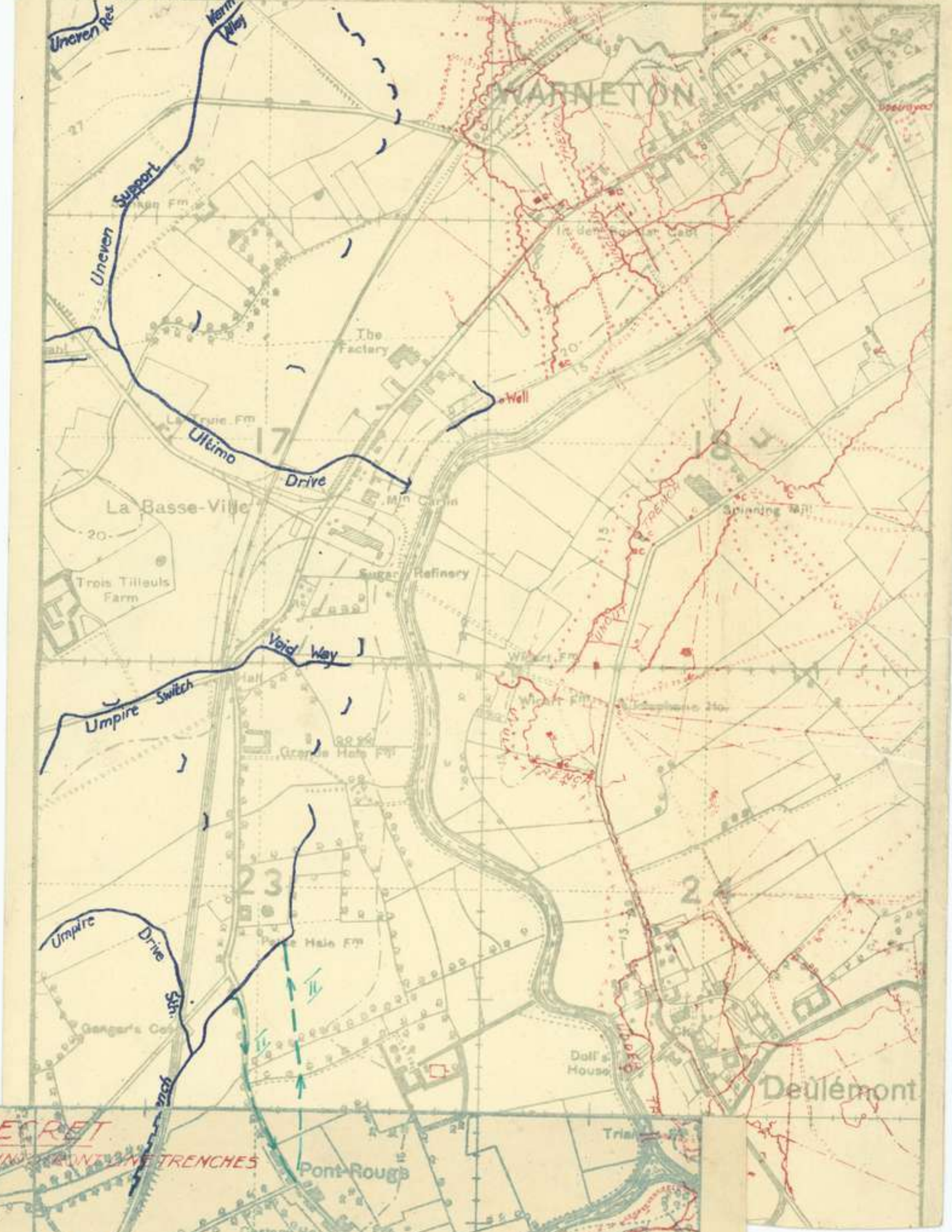
PATROL MAP

APPENDIX 6. Sheet 3A

SECRET

Not to be taken into front line trenches

20



Nº28.

15-16/12/17

APPENDIX 6

63
War Diary App 7

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No 157.

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)

SECRET.
Copy No 37

Headquarters,
17th December 1917.

Reference Maps: Sheet 28 1/40,000.
Sheet 36 1/40,000.

1. Headquarters 2nd Australian Division will close at STEEN-
WERCK at 12 noon on 18th December and open at RAVALSBURG at the
same hour.
2. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 5 p.m.

W. H. H. H.
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff, 2nd Aust. Division.

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR ORDER 156.

App 8

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No. 29.

From 6 a.m. 16th to 6 a.m. 17th December, 1917.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Our Artillery activity was below normal, the main targets engaged being the support line in U.18.a., U.24, U.30.b. and d., V.25.o., V.13.a. and roads near FARM DE GRAND VERQUIN (D.7.c).

The Hows. fired gas shell and H.E. on enemy billets and trench mortar positions.

T. Ms. Our 6" T.Ms. fired 10 rounds on M.W. position at U. .b. 80.15 - 2 direct hits observed. 9.45 T.Ms. fired 4 rounds on M.W. position at C.5.b.50.40 - 1 direct hit obtained.

Patrols. (i) A patrol left our line at U.11.d.7.0. at 3 p.m. and examined wire from U.12.c.1.0. to U.11.d.9.3. Two belts of thin wire about 15 yards apart and 20 yards in front of enemy line were discovered. A M.G. enfilading the WARNETON - LA BASSE VILLE railway line was located at U.11.d.9.4.

(ii) A patrol moved out from U.11.b.20.55 at 7.45 p.m. and reconnoitred a line of shell holes at U.11.d.75.50, which were found to be unoccupied and connected by a trench one foot in depth. M.Gs. were observed firing from U.11.d.9.4 and U.11.d.8.8.

(iii) A patrol reconnoitred NO MANS LAND from U.17.b.5.2 to U.17.b.60.75. The ground here is fairly good and dry with the exception of shell holes. A L.M.W. was observed firing from vicinity of U.11.b.65.30 into the Brigade area on our left. At 11.30 p.m. an enemy patrol of 30 men moving south in single file was seen at U.11.d.7.8.

(iv) A patrol examined a bridge at C.11.a.5.5 and found that only the bridgehead remained. Near the bridge were two pontoons made of casks and strapped together with timber. The two pontoons are 30 yards apart and running between them is a barbed wire fence 18 inches high. A M.G. was seen firing from C.11.a.5.2.

(v) A patrol of 1 Officer and 25 O.Rs. examined old trenches at U.29.a.9.3. and found them badly battered. A pill box at U.29.a.9.3 was found to have its floor under water. Whilst at PLANTATION FARM six enemy were seen to move towards PONT ROUGE. These were followed but they disappeared. A M.G. was seen firing from PONT ROUGE bridge and a T.M. from about U.29.b.7.3.

(vi) At midnight a patrol visited MOAT FARM in U.23.d and found it unoccupied. A hedge running from about U.23.d.8.6 to U.23.b.75.00. was followed. This hedge practically runs along to the edge of a marsh and makes the passage to the river in that sector almost impossible.

ENEMY ARTILLERY.

Hostile fire during the day was above normal, but during the night slackened down and was quite normal. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. enemy shelled C.2.central and C.1.d. with 8" 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. - approx. 450 rounds. The objective appeared to be the RAILWAY LINE, although a large number of rounds fell very close to the Centre Section of the 26th Battery. - damage Nil.

At 10 a.m. and again at 10.4 a.m., enemy carried out small concentrations, lasting one minute, of 50 rounds, 15 cm. 10.5 cm. and 77 mm. on trenches in C.10 and C.16 respectively.

M.Gs. ENEMY.

Enemy M.Gs. were active on A.A. work without effect. During the night LA DOUVE duckwalk at U.10.a.2.5 was subjected to bursts of indirect fire which were too high to have effect. The firing came from the direction of the GASOMETER in WARNETON. During the morning

P. T. O.

W. Deary

APPENDIX. 8

- 2 -

occasional bursts of fire came from FRELINGHIEN, and a light M.G. occasionally fired from about U.11.b.65.30.

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

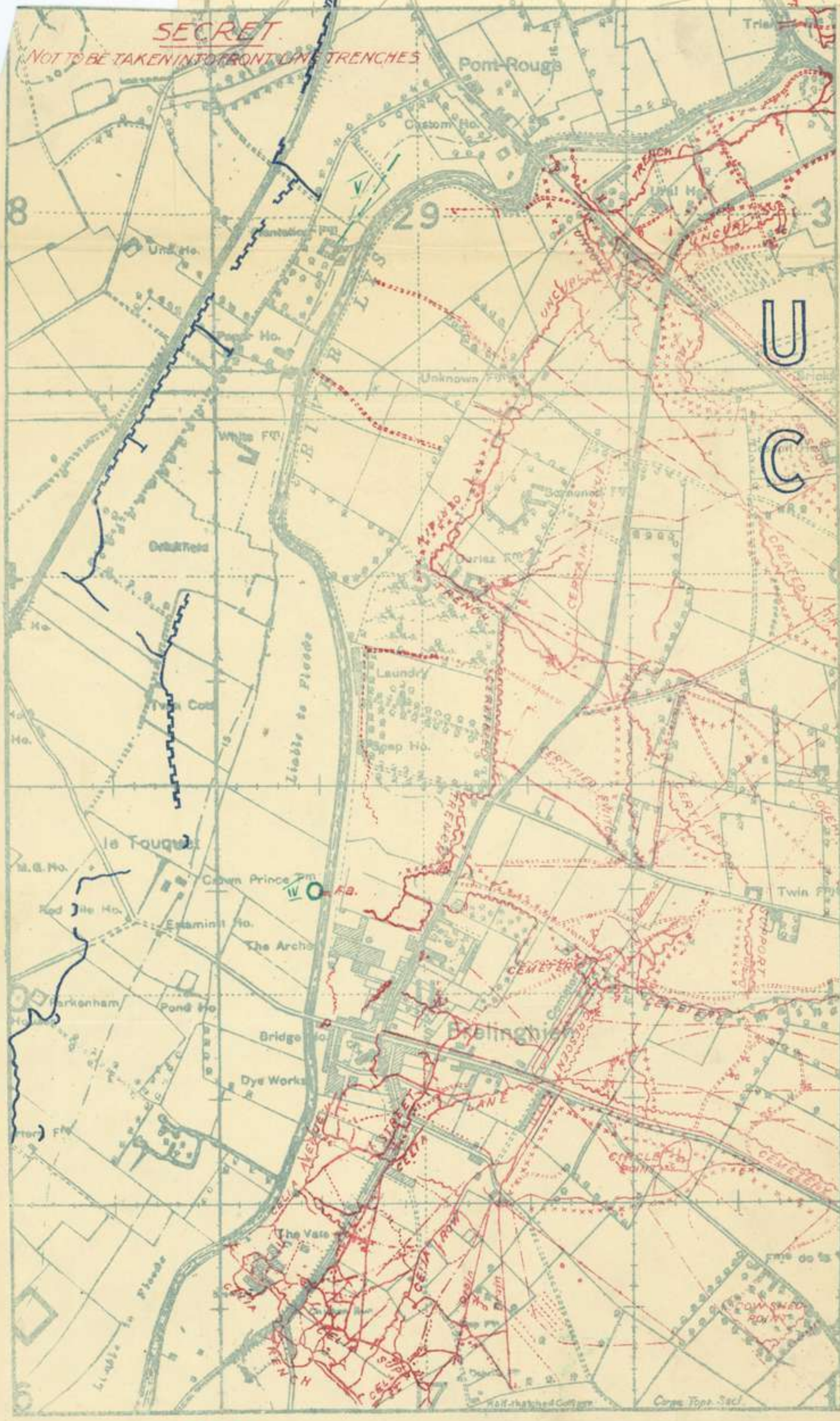
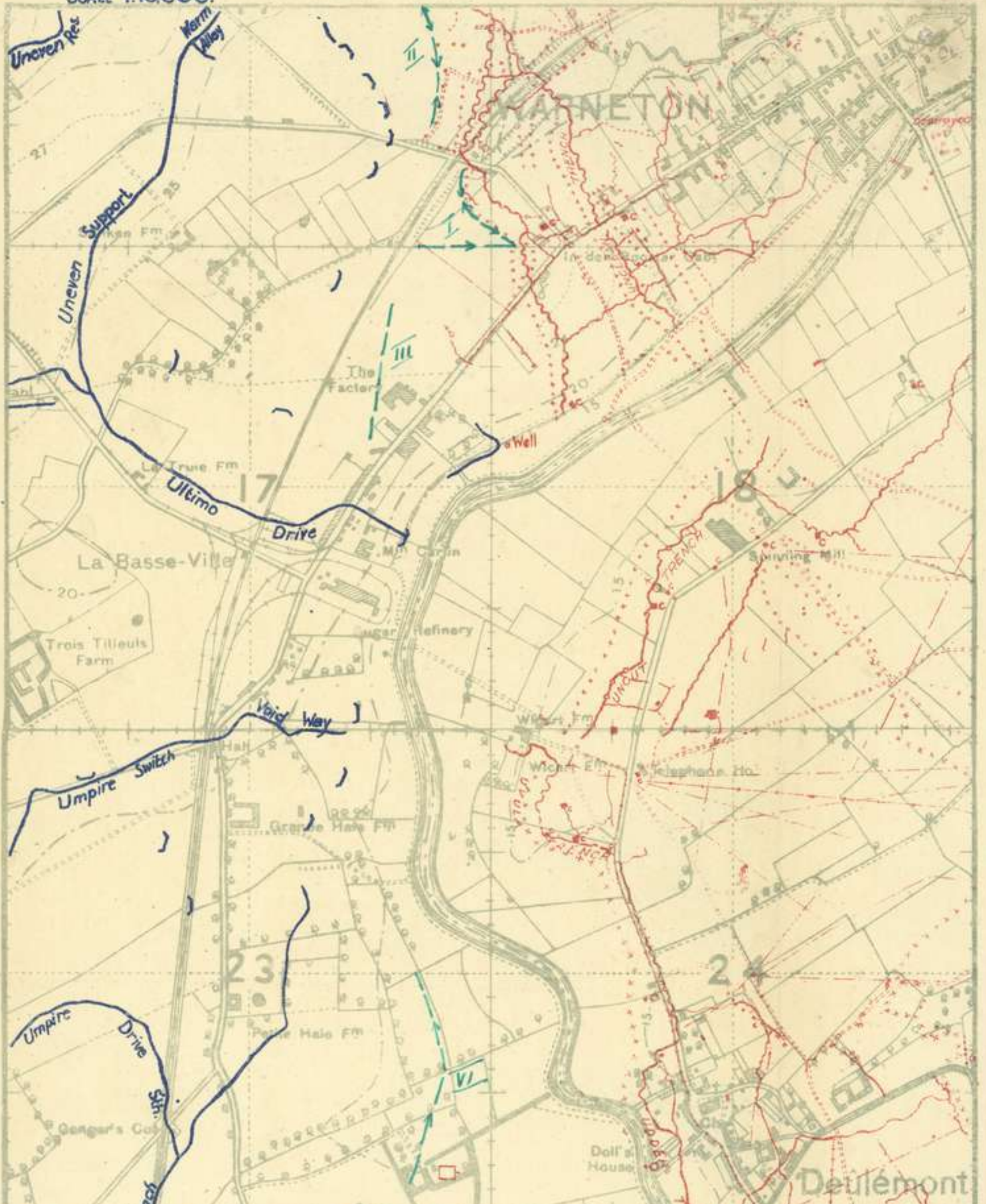
At 10.5 a.m. 5 planes flew for 10 minutes over our lines and at 12.30 p.m. 3 planes flying low were driven off by A.A. fire.

A balloon was seen on a T.E. of 85° from C.9.d.25.40.

MOVEMENT.

3 men wearing no equipment were seen rushing from U.24.c.9.5 to U.30.b.3.6. One man was frequently seen moving at GASOMETER during the day and small parties were observed in trench at U.12.c. There were three men in a shell hole at U.12.a.25.40.

J. L. M. Call
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.



No 29

16-17/12/17

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 30.

From 6 a.m. 17th to 6 a.m. 18th December, 1917.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

(a) ARTILLERY. Our artillery was normally active throughout the 24 hours. Enemy trenches, posts, roads and centres of activity were subjected to bursts of harassing fire at intervals. WARNETON was shelled by our Heavy Artillery during the afternoon.

(b) MACHINE GUNS. Indirect harassing fire on the enemy roads and tracks in the neighbourhood of FRELINGHIEN was carried out during the night by M. Guns of our Right Brigade.

(c) PATROLS.

(i) A patrol moved out at 4.30 p.m. from C.4.b.5.5 and examined river at C.5.a.3.3. At this point patrol reports that river is fordable with difficulty. Ground covered by patrol was in good condition. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy.

(ii) Patrol moved out from C.4.d.9.9. and worked from C.5.c.0.9 to C.11.a.0.2. M. Gun reported on 17th instant as being active at C.11.a.5.2 was not active while this patrol was out. Patrol returned to our lines via C.10.b.2.7.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Officer and 25 O.Rs. with a Lewis gun went out from U.23.c.95.20 at 4.30 p.m. and proceeded south along road as far as U.29.b.20.63, from thence to river bank at U.29.b.15.25, where there is an old disused trench. Pill box at U.29.a.7.3 were unoccupied. No enemy movement was noticed. The ground near the river bank is marshy but passable for small parties. Patrol returned to our lines at 9 p.m. via U.29.a.5.2.

(iv) Patrol of 21 O.Rs. went out from U.23.c.9.6 and moved to MOAT FARM (U.23.d.7.1). The ditch round the farm at U.23.d.65.10 is knee deep, 4 to 5 feet wide and thick with undergrowth. Patrol moved along ditch to U.29.b.6.9 and found the ground here badly torn up by shell fire and intersected by several old trenches. There is a lot of old wire here. Patrol then worked round south of MOAT FARM to U.24.c.1.0. From U.29.b.80.85 east the ground is very marshy and impassable for large parties. At U.23.d.2.0. there are two stacks of timber. Patrol returned to our lines via U.23.c.95.20.

(v) Patrol went out from U.29.a.5.8 and moved due east 150 yards and thence north to U.23.b.2.4. Ground covered was dry. An enemy M.G. was firing from about U.23.b.9.6.

(vi) A patrol left our lines at U.17.b.8.4 and proceeded along road towards WARNETON as far as the SPINNEY (U.18.a.0.6). Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy here. On the northern side of the road there is a thin belt of wire about 30 yards long.

(vii) A patrol went out to reconnoitre the suspected M.G. position at U.11.d.8.8 when about 100 yards off 6 rifle shots were fired at patrol from M.G. position and flares were sent up from about U.11.d.90.35, and U.11.d.95.80. There was no machine gun fire and the post at U.11.d.8.8 appeared to be only a listening post. Ground hereabouts is fairly level except for a slight rise of about 12 inches or 18 inches about 100 yards from our lines. This rise runs U.11.d. and gives cover from direct rifle fire to men lying down.

P.T.O.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) ENEMY Artillery was not very active throughout the day. STREET and U.28.d.8.1 were lightly shelled from a N.E. direction.

At 10.10am. and 1.5pm. 10.5 cm. shells fell in POINT ROUGE and were fired on a T.B. of 92° from U.29.a.71.42. This same gun fired occasionally during the day and night on U.29.a. and U.23.c. Other areas lightly shelled were C.10.d, U.10.c, U.17.b, U.13.d, and U.15.c. Gun flashes were observed from U.29.a.71.42 on T.Bs. of 86°, 92°, 94° and 95°.

Between 3pm. and 4.30 pm. enemy anti-aircraft shells fired in the divisional sector on our left appeared to burst with yellowish smoke and project a shower of balls of fire.

(b) ENEMY TRENCH MORTAR ACTIVITY. Enemy Trench Mortar Activity was below normal. Our line in U.23.b. was fired on by T.Ms. from about U.24.a.20.25, and our line in U.10.b. from about U.11.c.7.6. During the night T.M. fire was directed on to and damaged several of our posts in vicinity of the SUGAR REFINERY (U.17.b.5.5). Enemy Trench Mortar is suspected at SPINNING MILL (U.13.d.20.9).

(c) MACHINE GUNS. During the night MOTOR CAR CORNER (C.14.a.85.90) and LE TOUQUET STATION (C.9.d.85.60) were subjected to bursts of indirect M.G. fire from the direction of FRELLINGHIEN. Our posts near the SUGAR REFINERY were subjected to several short bursts of fire during the night. Hostile M.Gs. are suspected at U.29.b.5.3, U.29.b.8.3, and U.29.b.5.1.

(d) ENEMY AIRCRAFT. About 5 p.m. 8 enemy 'planes crossed our line and were engaged by our A.A. guns, M.Gs and our 'planes. One enemy 'plane was forced down at about C.9.c.0.6. and the pilot who was wounded was taken prisoner. The machine was only slightly damaged.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A dugout with smoke coming from it (apparently from a chimney) was located at C.5.d.40.54.

MOVEMENT IN ENEMY LINES.

Constant movement of individuals and small parties was observed in WARNETON throughout the day.

At 2.10 pm. smoke was observed from train travelling N.W. at 95° T. from U.15.a.55.90.

A considerable amount of white smoke from a train was seen at 5 p.m. north of QUESNOY on a T.B. of 70° from C.9.d.25.40.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Searchlights were observed at 52°, 69°, and 75° T.B. from U.13.b.20.

WORK.

The following work was carried out during the period 6a.m. 16th to 6 a.m. 18th.

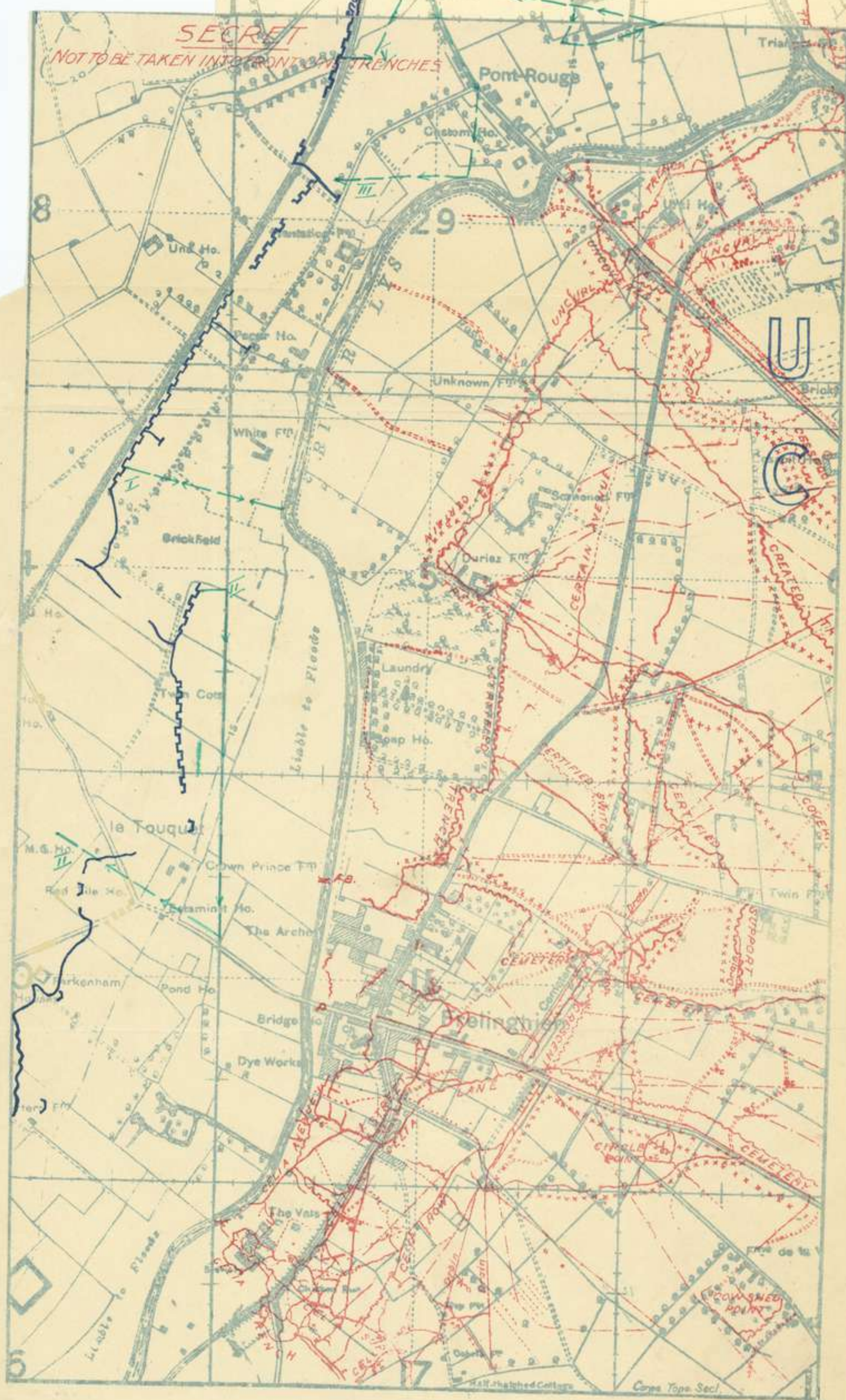
95 coils of wire (barbed) put out.

300 yards new trench excavated.

200 yards of old trench revetted and drained.

J. J. L. M. Callaghan
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Hostile Batteries active. Flashes were observed -
82°, 83°, 84°, 85°, 73° and 96° T.B. from U.13.b.20.15.
116° T.B. from U.15.a.80.70.
84° T.B. from U.14.b.80.80.



17-18/12/17

War Diary

App 10

Ref Map
Sheet 28.
q1/40,000

S E C R E T .

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.275

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 19th December 1917.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.183)

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
C.R.E.	-	"	"
A.D.M.S.	-	"	"
Paymaster,	-	"	"
A.P.M.	-	"	"
D.A.D.V.S.	-	"	"
D.M.G.O.	-	"	"
18th Bn.	-	U.27.b.8.2.	
<u>6th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.</u>	-	T.20.c.5.5.	Reserve Bde.
21st Bn.	-	T.20.c.4.2.	BULFORD CAMP.
22nd Bn.	-	T.26.b.9.5.	KORTEPYP CAMP.E.
23rd Bn.	-	T.26.c.6.0.	CANTEEN CORNER.
24th Bn.	-	T.26.b.5.6.	KORTEPYP CAMP.A.
6th A.M.G.Coy.	-	T.20.d.20.95.	PENZANCE LINES.
6th A.L.T.M.Ety.	-	T.20.c.4.2.	BULFORD CAMP.
7th A.M.G.Coy.	-	36.B.8.c.2.0.	
22nd do	-	36.B.8.a.4.1.	
Salvage Coy.	-	36.B.7.d.7.3.	
<u>ADD.</u>			
<u>3rd Aust Div Art H.Q.</u>		STEENWERCK.	36.A.17.c.70.15.
7th A.F.A.Bde.	-	36.B.11.d.15.48.	Right Group.
8th do	-	T.21.d.2.1.	Left "

J. L. M. Call Capt

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 31.

From 6 a.m. 18th to 6 a.m. 19th December, 1917.

NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

(1) Artillery. Our artillery was normally active throughout the period. In addition to the usual bombardment of enemy trenches, roads and tracks, enemy T.Ms. at U.12.d.2.5 and the DOLL'S HOUSE (U.24.c.7.2) were engaged by 4.5 Hows. and also dug-outs at U.30.b.45.64 and U.24.a.65.82. At 5pm., 8pm., and 10pm. Creeping barrage (18 pdr.) was placed on road from V.1.d.46.32 to V.2.a.52.00.

(2) M. GUNS. During the night indirect M.G. fire was directed on enemy roads, tracks and trenches particularly in FRELINGHIEN and WARNETON.

(3) Patrols.

(i) A patrol went out from C.4.b.5.7 and attached two Mills bombs to a trip wire at river crossing at C.5.a.3.4. An enemy patrol of 2 men were seen east side of river moving south. During the time patrol was out everything was very quiet.

(ii) A patrol of 2 Officers and 20 O.R. went out from C.4.d.8.8 at 4.50 p.m. and worked south along river. M.W. was located at C.5.c.80.15. A torch light was seen at the laundry C.5.c.7.5, and sounds of unloading iron in FRELINGHIEN near BRIDGE HOUSE. The ground was found to be extremely swampy.

(iii) A patrol of 2 Officers and 20 O.R. went out from post at C.10.b.9.2 at 2.45 a.m. and worked along FRELINGHIEN road. On account of the state of the ground and the M.G. fire the bridge at C.11.c.4.9 could not be inspected. The patrol returned at 5.30 a.m. through post at C.10.d.7.9.

(iv) A patrol of 1 Officer and 20 O.R. went out with Lewis gun from U.29.c.25.40 at 4.30 p.m. PLANTATION FARM at U.29.c.6.9 was found to be unoccupied. River bank at U.29.c.7.7 was very marshy and cut about. The River at this point is about 20 yards wide. From U.29.c.7.7 to U.29.c.85.98 the bank is marshy and was partly frozen. The ground between U.29.b.5.2 and U.29.b.15.25 has several trenches and a good amount of wire. When at U.29.b.30.25 two M.Gs. opened fire from S.E. of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE. While on the same point 12 small T.M. bombs fell close to the patrol in 1½ minutes. Sounds of enemy working parties about U.29.d.85.30 could be heard at intervals. The patrol returned at 8.30 p.m. through U.29.a.60.75.

(v) Patrol of 1 Officer and 25 O.R. with Lewis Gun went out at 12 midnight from U.29.c.1.4 and examined PLANTATION FARM which was unoccupied. From river bank at U.29.c.70.75 patrol worked along river to U.29.b.3.2 and thence to cross roads at U.29.b.20.65. When nearing our own trenches 8 small T.M. bombs fell near the patrol and killed one man. Patrol returned at 4 a.m. through U.29.c.95.20.

(vi) 2 men went out before daylight and remained all day in ruin d house at U.17.b.85.55 on LA BASSE VILLE - WARNETON road. 4 Germans were seen to leave SPINNEY (U.18.a.1.6) at dawn and return at dusk. Talking, chopping and sawing were heard. The bushes in the SPINNEY are laced thickly with barbed wire, and in front of trench behind SPINNEY there is a line of concertina wire. A belt of wire running from about U.18.a.0.7 to U.11.d.9.3 appeared very strong and thick, particularly between U.17.b.9.7 and U.11.d.9.1. M.Gs. fired after dark from enemy's lines at approx. U.18.a.4.5, and U.18.a.35.75. Nothing was seen of enemy working in any of his trenches.

P.T.O.

- 2 -

(vii) 1 Officer and 6 O.R. reconnoitred rise in ground about U.11.d.60.95. This rise was found to be very slight but there is a basin at this point some two feet deep and 20 yards in diameter which gives good cover.

ENEMY ARTILLERY. was normally active throughout the period. About 11.30pm. 50 gas shells and H.E. fell in SUFFOLK AVENUE and MONMOUTH TRENCH. Areas U.23.b. and d., C.2.c., C.9.central, C.16.a. and c., and C.17.a. were also shelled at intervals during the day.

A 4 gun battery was observed firing on a T.B. of 73° from C.9.d.25.40.

A.A. Batteries were seen firing on our planes from C.12.c. Gun flashes were observed from U.29.c.10.55 on T.Bs. of 61° 30', 62° 30', 46° 30', 41°, 63° and from U.29.a.71.42 on T.Bs. of 60°, 90° and 92°.

TRENCH MORTARS. Between 5.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. area C.10.c and d. was subjected to M.W. fire from approx. C.17.b.3.2. Between 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. HOREKAU AVENUE and the BUTCHER'S SHOP were fired on by the same T.M. At 10.30 a.m. a heavy T.M. fired 9 shells in the vicinity of U.23.d.7.1 on a T.B. of 60° from U.29.a.71.42. A T.M. was seen firing on a T.B. of 114° 30' from U.29.c.10.25. Throughout the 24 hours enemy T.Ms. were very inactive on our left Brigade front.

MACHINE GUNS. During the day enemy A.A. M.Gs. fired on our planes from C.11.b.4.9 and C.11.b.2.3. MOTOR CAR CORNER and LE TOUQUET STATION were intermittently fired on during the night. A M.G. was active throughout the night from the vicinity of PONT ROUGH BRIDGE. A patrol reports being fired on by an enemy M.G. at U.11.d.8.6.

PATROLS. As the garrison of our night post at C.10.c.95.20 arrived there an enemy patrol of 7 men fired at them from point blank range; fire came from 4 revolvers. At the same time 6 bombs fell amongst our party. The enemy then made off and could not be seen again though the ground was immediately patrolled. We suffered no casualties.

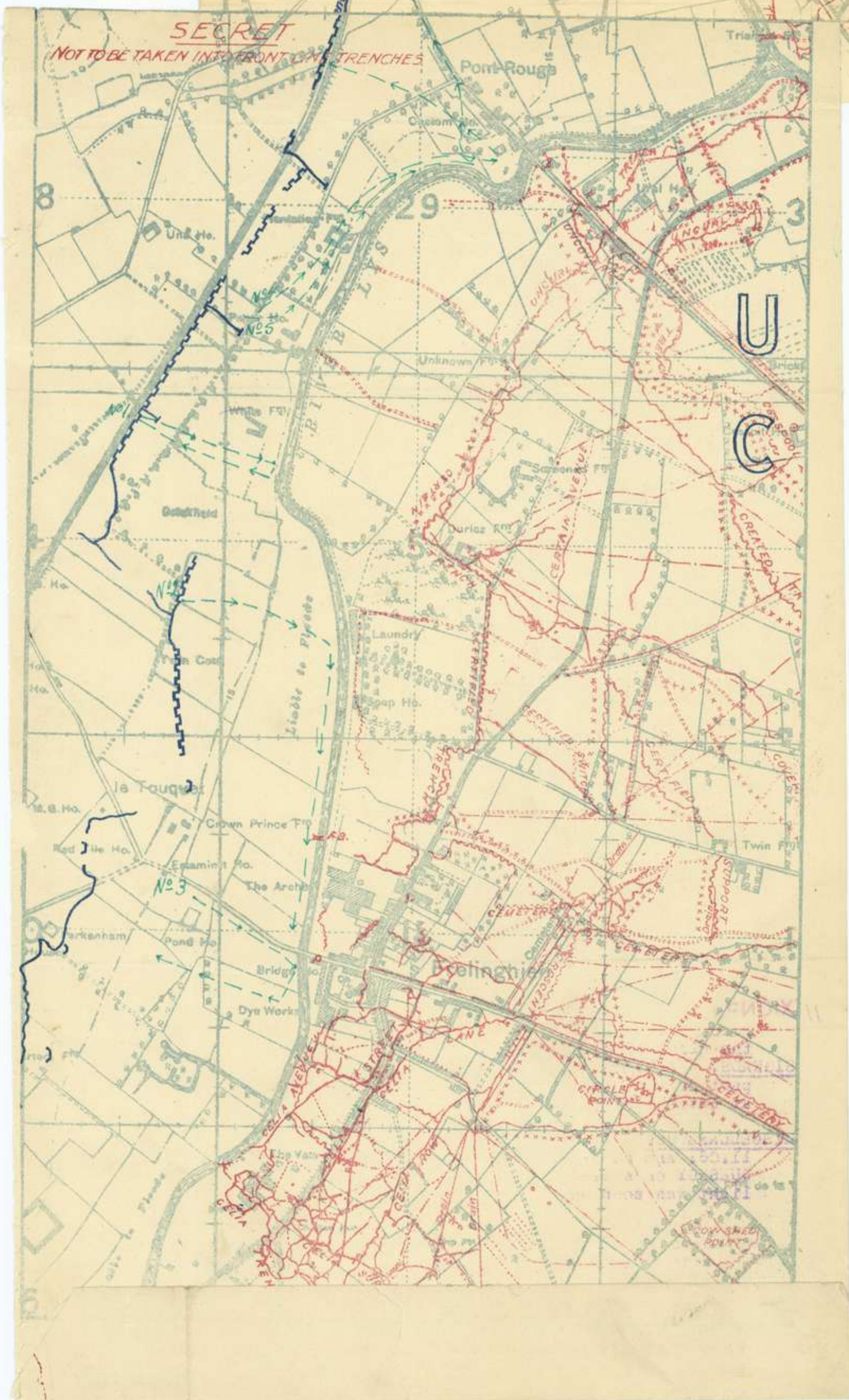
ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Enemy planes were active flying over our forward area throughout the day. At 4.30 p.m. an enemy plane flew over FRELINGHIEN and fired a white light. Almost immediately a flare bursting into two whites was sent up from the centre of the village.

MOVEMENT IN ENEMY LINES. At 9.50am. a party of approx. 30 men were seen to move from V.14.d.35.30 to trench at V.13.b.9.4. Throughout the day more movement than usual was observed about WARNETON especially from the GASOMETER along a path to U.12.d.2.8. Small parties were observed moving along trenches in U.18.a. and U.12.c. and more than the usual No. of flares were sent up from these trenches between 6pm. and 12 mn. Many of the men seen during the day were carrying full packs; a local relief is suspected here. Men were seen entering WARNETON TOWER and the glint of glasses was observed in the top slit of the tower.

SIGNALS. A light was observed in the direction of LILLE during the early part of the night sending (in morse) SITE. These letters were repeated at intervals.

MISCELLANEOUS. At 8.30 a.m. smoke was seen rising from trench at U.30.a. 11.08, and at U.29.d.5.2. At 2.20 p.m. a fire was observed near QUESNOY on a T.B. of 130° from C.9.d.25.40 at 5.40 p.m. A search light was seen on a T.B. of 57° from C.9.d.25.40.

J. H. M. Callaghan
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.



App. 12

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)

G.30/390.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
-----Headquarters.
20th December 1917.GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No 49.Subject :- DIVISIONAL CLASS OF INSTRUCTION IN SIGNALLING.

Reference this office Circ Memo No 44 of the 14th November.

1. The first Divisional Class of Instruction in Signalling will conclude on Saturday the 22nd instant, and personnel will return to their units on that day.

2. The second course will assemble on Sunday the 23rd December at 10 a.m. at Sheet 28.S.15.d.7.5. (Between RAVELSBERG and BAILLEUL).

The class will commence on Monday the 24th instant.

3. The class is for the instruction of personnel specially selected from Battalions, Batteries, etc, and for those who have not previously had instruction in signalling.

4. Candidates selected must be educationally qualified to become signallers.

The names of any found unfit within the first week will be forwarded to D.H.Q. with a view to their being returned to their units.

5. The following will be the instructional staff:-

Lieut. BRENNAN	-	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
" JACKSON	-	22nd Aust. Inf. Battalion.
Sergt. OWENS,	-	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
Corpl. QUIST,	-	" " "
" WATSON	-	" " "
" MINGAY	-	" " "
" LYSAGHT	-	" " "
" THOMSON	-	" " "
" GUY	-	" " "

6. Personnel for the course will be detailed as follows:-

Per Inf. Batt'n.	-	4 O.R.	=	48.
" Pioneer Batt'n.	-	4 O.R.	=	4
" Machine Gun Coy.	-	8 O.R.	=	8.
" Field Battery.	-	3 O.R.	=	24.
" L. & M. T.M.Bty.	-	1 O.R.	=	6
				= TOTAL 90.

7. Candidates completing the present course will leave their two small flags at the School. These will be returned to units on completion of School.

8. The course will last about 4 weeks. Notification of termination will be given.

9. Nominal rolls of personnel selected will be forwarded to D.H.Q. by 22nd instant, and a copy sent to the O.C., Div. Sig. Coy.

DISTRIBUTION over leaf.

James Main
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

War Diary

C.R.A.	-	-	-	4	Copies.
2nd Aust.Div.Sigs.				1	Copy.
5th Aust.Inf.Bde.				7	Copies.
6th	do.			7	"
7th	do.			7	"
22nd Aust.M.G.Coy.				1	Copy.
2nd Aust.Pioneers.				1	"
Lt. BRENNAN,					
Div. Sig. Coy.				1	"
A.Q.	-	-		1	"
War Diary			-	3	Copies.
File	-	-		2	"

3
War Diary

App. 13

34

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 32.

From 6 a.m. 19th to 6 a.m. 20th December, 1917.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. In addition to the ordinary harassing fire directed on enemy roads, tracks and trenches, T.M. emplacements reported active on the 16th, 17th and 18th instant were bombarded. Dug-outs in certified trench (C.5.c) were bombarded with gas shells by 4.5 Hows. During the morning enemy trenches in U.12.a. and c. were effectively shelled. From 11 p.m. to 12 midnight the trench tranway leading from DEULE MANSIONS (C.6.b) to DURIEZ FARM (C.5.d.20.95) was searched by 18 pdrs.

2. MACHINE GUNS. The following targets were subjected to intermittent bursts of fire throughout the night:- roads from C.11.c.9.4 to C.11.c.7.0 and from C.11.c.9.4 through FRELINGHIEN to C.11.d.9.4; bridges at C.11.c.45.98 and C.11.a.55.45; enemy M.G. positions at U.11.d.9.4, U.12.c.9.8; tracks and trenches in U.12.c, and roads in vicinity of the GASOMETER (WARNETON).

3. Sniping. At 1.45 P.m. a german was shot while looking over parapet at U.12.c.4.2 by one of our left Brigade snipers. He was wearing a navy blue greatcoat, vany blue cap, with a black glazed peak and a band of a very dark blue. One cockade was visible on the cap but could not be identified.

4. Patrols.

(i) Patrol went out from C.4.d.9.7 to examine bridge at C.11.a.50.45 and was fired on by M.W. and M.Gs. shortly after leaving our line. 2 Officers worked up to within 50 yards of the bridge where a good view of it was obtained. The bridge is complete and passable being made of duckboard work on pontoons and stands about 2 ft. 6 ins. above water. The approach from our side is graded and protected by a few strands of wire. During time patrol was out sounds of iron stakes being driven into the ground and iron material being dumped were plainly heard in FRELINGHIEN, also sounds of horse transport. Patrol returned to our lines at C.10.b.8.7.

(ii) A patrol from C.10.d.20.85 moved out to the river bank south of FRELINGHIEN road. Nothing was seen of the enemy. Patrol returned via our post at C.10.b.9.2.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Officer and 25 O.Rs. with a Lewis gun went out from U.29.c.2.9 to river bank at U.29.c.7.8. The river is frozen near the bank but in the centre it is running freely. Patrol worked along river to U.29.b.4.2, where they were fired on by 2 M.Gs. from the vicinity of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE. Party of about 40 germans were heard working between U.29.d.7.4 and U.30.c.8.7. Much hammering of iron could be heard and the men were whistling and singing. Patrol returned to our lines at U.29.a.50.65.

(iv) Patrol of 1 Officer and 12 O.Rs. went out from U.23.b.2.2 and found MOAT FARM (U.24.d.8.2) unoccupied. There was a lot of tear gas here. A duckwalk track was seen running along hedge from U.23.d.7.5 through U.25.c.00.68 to river at U.24.c.2.8. This track is badly smashed but is quite passable. A M.G. was firing along this track from river bank at about U.24.c.4.8. Sounds of wheeled traffic was heard in DEULEMENT. Patrol returned to our lines via U.29.a.5.8.

(v) A party of 30 germans were found working on their wire at U.11.d.8.8 by two of our patrols. Much loud talking was going on and sounds were heard as of sheet iron being carried through trenches. Patrol returned to our lines and artillery fire was brought to bear on enemy working party.

P.T.O.

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ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(1) Artillery. Showed increased activity during the last 24 hours. At 9.30 a.m. and again at intervals during the day and night PLOEGSTEERT WOOD and PROUSE POINT (U.14.d) were fairly heavily shelled with gas shells mixed with H.E. Phosgene was most in evidence though a little Mustard gas was noticeable. Owing to the low temperature the gas hung about the locality most of the day. No casualties were caused.

At 1 p.m. 2 - 15 cm. Hows. commenced firing into PONT ROUGE and along our front line. These two guns were firing on T.Bs. of 115° and 118° from U.29.a.71.42. KIWI and UNA trenches were heavily shelled during the afternoon with 7.7 cm. and 15 cm. from an easterly direction. Front system of our Right Bn. was shelled at intervals throughout the day by batteries east of FRELINGHIEN.

Gun flashes were observed on T.Bs. of 92° and 95° from U.29.a.70.42, and 137° from C.10.b.8.8.

(2) Trench Mortars. Heavy M.W. fire was directed on to posts about C.10.b.9.2 from the LAUNDRY, SOAP HOUSE, and FRELINGHIEN. At 4 p.m. a medium M.W. fired 12 shells into PONT ROUGE on a T.B. of 115° from U.29.a.71.42. At 10.15 p.m. a heavy M.W. opened fire on our line in U.29.c. Fire ceased at 10.20 p.m.

During the day there was practically no M.W. activity on our Left Brigade front, but at 7.30 a.m. 12 gas projectiles of the projector type were fired from the direction of the SPINNING MILL (U.18.d.0.8) and the SPINNEY (U.18.a.1.6) on to our posts at U.17.b.5.8. These projectors travelled and detonated in a similar manner to ordinary Heavy M.W. No casualties were caused to our troops, (further details will be forwarded later).

(3) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were active firing from the SOAP HOUSE, FRELINGHIEN, PONT ROUGE BRIDGE, U.24.c.4.8. During the night ULTIMO LANE and HILL 30 in U.16.b. were subjected to bursts of M.G. fire.

(4) Infantry activity. At 8.30 a.m. on 20th December, between 20 and 30 enemy were seen advancing towards our post at C.11.a.1.9 in extended order at about 5 paces interval. When they were about 70 yards away the post opened fire and the enemy made off. It is impossible to tell if any casualties were inflicted. No shots were fired by the enemy party. Shortly afterwards the post and the ground in rear of it were subjected to M.W. and M.G. fire apparently indicating that the enemy party had regained their own trenches. The weather at the time was slightly foggy with sleet falling.

(5) Aerial Activity. At 2.50 p.m. an enemy plane with green wings and a red body flew over our front. At intervals throughout the day hostile planes flew over our lines at a good height and were driven off by A.A. fire.

An enemy balloon was observed up during the morning on a T.B. of 85° from C.9.d.23.40.

(6) Movement and organisation in enemy lines. Between 6.45 a.m. and 7.15 a.m. motor lorries could be heard on the WARNETON - WAUSTINE FARM road in V.13.c. At 7.30 a.m. and at 8.30 a.m. 3 two-horsed wagons were seen moving south along road in V.13.c. At 7.40 a.m. an enemy working party was seen at U.30.c.7.1. At 8.20 a.m. party moved off and disappeared in house at U.30.c.05.81. At 8.5 a.m. 2 men moved eastwards from trench at U.30.a.2.8; they appeared to be pushing something in front of them. At 8.45 a.m. 2 men were seen running in PONT ROUGE at U.29.b.3.5; one man was seen to leave the trench at U.30.a.12.06 and disappear in house at U.30.a.16.05.

Early every morning train movement can be heard just behind WARNETON. Smoke was seen rising from U.18.c.7.1 during the morning and also from U.30.a.05.05.

(7) Flares. The enemy fired fewer flares than usual along our front during the night. On several occasions white flares bursting into a shower of white stars were sent up but brought no enemy action.

.O.T.F

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

War Diary APP 14

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 20th to 6 a.m. 21st December, 1917.

No. 33.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Our Artillery was normally active throughout the period under review. At 9.45 a.m. H.E. and gas shells were fired into FRELINGHIEN. After dark the following targets were engaged with gas shells:- DYE WORKS (C.11.c) BRIDGE HOUSE (C.11.c) FARM WAUSTINE Dug-outs (V.12.c.). At 10.30 p.m. group concentrations were carried out on WARNETON and the approaches thereto from the East.

2. Machine Guns. At 11 a.m. and 4p.m. M.Gs. fired on bridges at C.11.c.45.98 and C.11.a.52.46. During the night roads east of FRELINGHIEN from C.11.d.55.50 to C.12.c.25.00, and enemy tracks and roads near the GASOMETER (U.12.b) were subjected to intermittent bursts of M.G. fire.

3. Patrols.

(i) A patrol visited bridge at C.5.a.32.52 and found that the trip wire and bombs placed there on night 18th/19th instant were untouched. Patrol found a clip of german cartridges here.

(ii) A patrol went out from C.10.b.8.8 to C.11.a.4.6. to cover wiring parties in C.10.b. Nothing was seen of the enemy. Patrol returned via C.10.b.8.0.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Officer and 25 O.Rs. with Lewis gun went out from U.23.b.2.4 to river bank at U.23.b.7.4 and via U.25.d.8.6 to U.23.d.70.45. The ground about here is normally marshy, but is now frozen. MOAT FARM was examined and found unoccupied. At about U.23.d. 5.5 there is a good trench 60 yards in length, traversed, duckboarded and rivetted. Patrol returned via U.23.c.8.6.

(iv) Patrol went out from U.29.a.35.25 and crossed an old sunken track at U.29.a.80.15. The track is narrow and has an old tramway running along it. Patrol then examined the CUSTOM HOUSE at U.29.b.4.4, which was unoccupied. A M.G. opened fire on patrol from direction of house at PONT ROUGE Cross Roads U.29.b.20.65. Sounds of talking and the moving of timber could be heard. Patrol opened fire in the direction of these sounds, upon which they heard timber being dropped and men running about. 2 minutes later M.G. and Trench Mortar fire was opened up on patrol which withdrew to our lines via U.23.c.95.20.

(v) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men went out from U.11.d.5.5 and losing their way in the mist crossed the railway line about U.11.d.8.3 and found themselves in the enemy wire. An enemy party outside the wire and about 20 yards north of our patrol was challenged and in reply fired 4 revolver shots at patrol. Flares were put up and a M.G. opened up from about U.11.d.3.3. Patrol withdrew to our lines via U.11.d.6.0. They report that the enemy wire was low but thick and consisted of two belts each about 12 feet wide and 20 to 30 yards apart. Enemy appeared to be constructing some new work just behind the M.G.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Hostile artillery fire during the 24 hours was rather below normal. C.10.b. and d. and C.2. were lightly shelled by 10.5 cm. from a position south-east of FRELINGHIEN. During the night C.10. was shelled with 77 mm. shrapnel from a T.B. of 70° from C.9.d. 25.40. At 11-30 p.m. front line system of our left brigade was lightly shelled by 77 mm. shells.

2. Trench Mortars. At 8.30 a.m. 40 M.W. bombs fell in C.4.b. At 12.20 p.m. a few bombs fell in U.23.c. Between 8 p.m. and 12 midnight about 200 pineapple bombs fell in the vicinity of U.23.b.2.4 and a few into LA BASSE VILLE. About 10.30 p.m. M.W. bombarded C.10.a from FRELINGHIEN.

3. Machine Guns. M.G. fire on our right brigade front was below normal. Our left brigade front line system was subjected to bursts of fire at intervals throughout the night. M.Gs. were reported firing from PONT ROUGE Cross roads, U.11.d.9.3 and C.17.a.3.9.

P.T.O.

- 2 -

4. Infantry Activity. At 10.30 a.m. 3 enemy were seen working at about C.11.a.3.3. They were fired on by our Lewis guns and disappeared. At 11.35 a.m. one man was seen to leave C.11.a.3.3, and move to a shell hole at C.11.a.4.4. 10 minutes later earth was seen being thrown up from the hole and 3 heads were seen. Fire was brought to bear on them, upon which 8 men jumped out of the hole, one man carrying another on his shoulders. Before they reached cover two men were shot down and 2 others were seen to be wounded. The party proceeded in the direction of the bridge at C.11.a.5.1, where they were lost to view in the mist. Almost immediately heavy M.W. fire was brought to bear on our positions in C.10.b.

5. Movement and organization in enemy lines. At 11.30 a.m. about 7 men were seen about U.29. d.4.7. They had apparently been down to the river for water. At 2 p.m. 4 men were seen working on trench about C.5.b.1.1. Sounds of hammering could be heard in enemy trenches in U.29.d, U.30.a. and U.24.c. throughout the day.

6. Enemy Attitude. From 8 p.m. to 5.30 a.m., with the exception of a few 77 mm. shrapnel shells and some M.W. bombs, the enemy was exceptionally quiet along the whole Div. front. Only 2 flares were fired during the night on our right brigade front.

J. J. L. McCall Capt
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY, No. 351, DATED 17th DECEMBER, 1917.

1. TRANSFER OF AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY TO THE WESTERN FRONT.

Various reports indicate that Austrian Heavy Artillery has reinforced the Western front. Austrian Artillery Officers are reported to have been seen at NAMUR Station on the 13th instant, and Austrian Heavy Batteries are reported to have arrived in FLANDERS and also in the LAON Area.

Austrian Heavy Howitzers took part in the 1914 campaign in BELGIUM and in the first battle of YPRES, but there is no evidence of their employment since then on the Western front.

2. LOSSES IN GERMAN GUNS. With a view to encouraging counter battery work the German General Staff have been at some pains to reassure their troops on the question on the wastage of guns due to wear and tear.

They have produced figures shewing the following percentages of total losses in 1,450 guns on one Army front during active operations:-

Losses due to wear and tear from firing:-

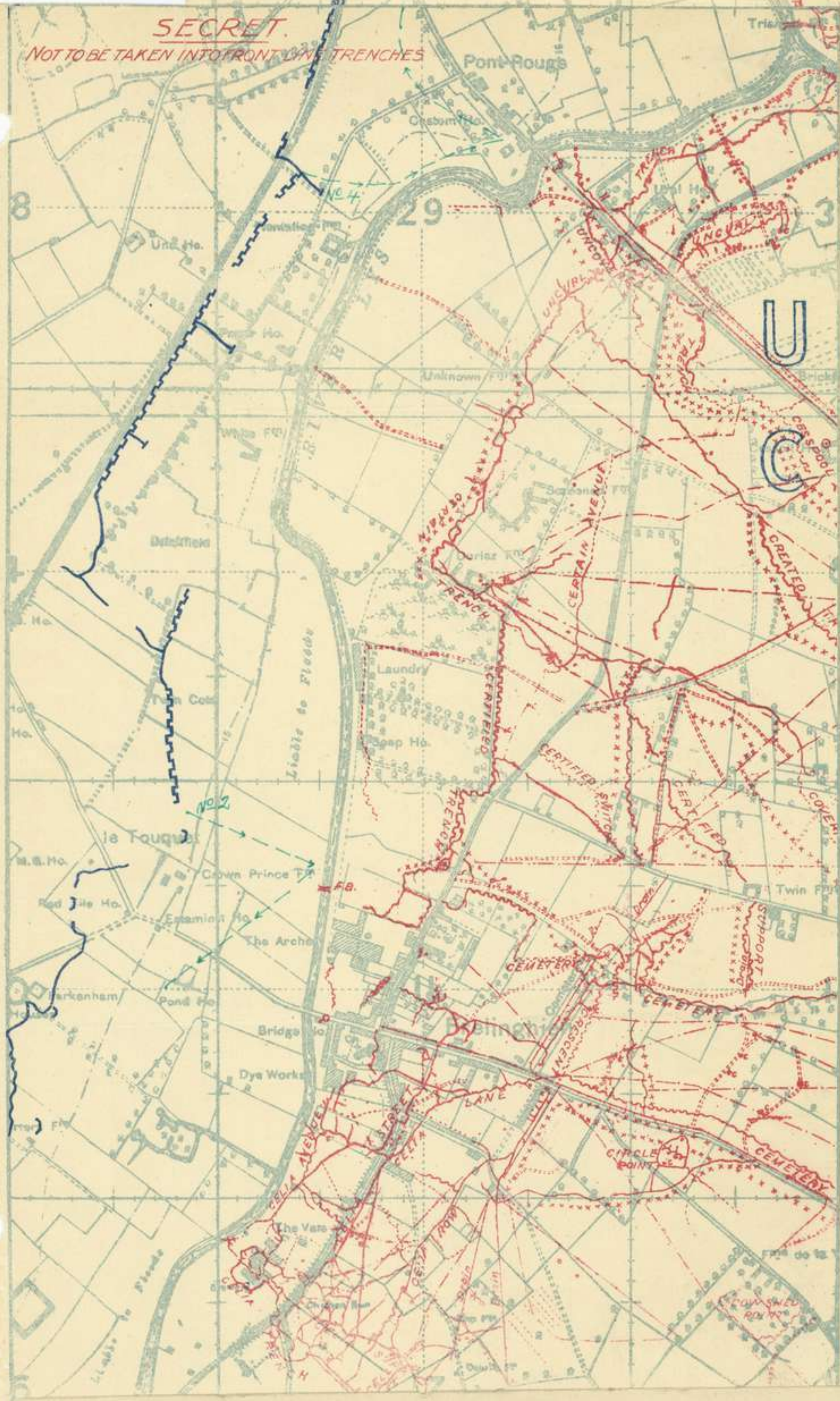
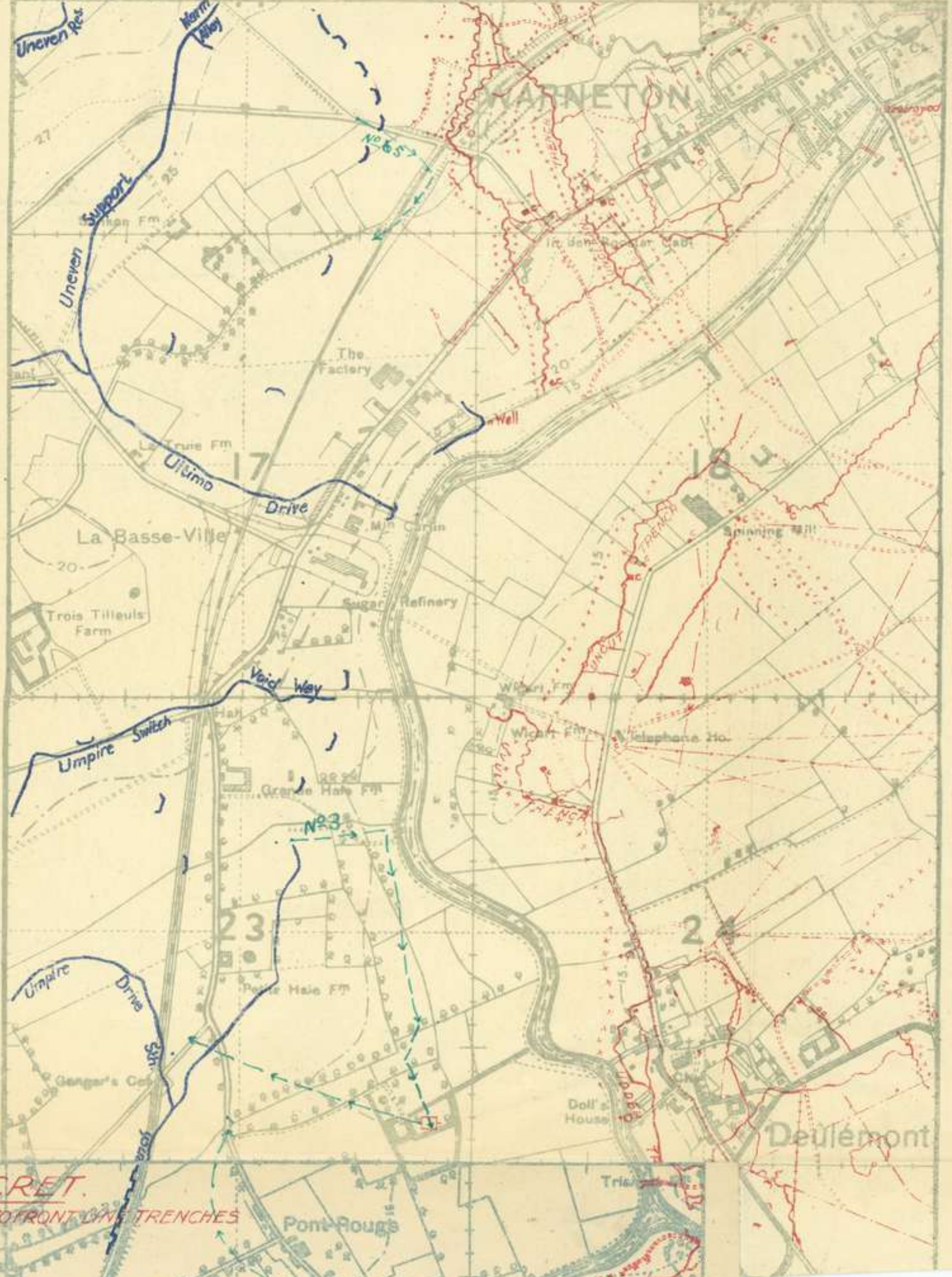
Field Artillery..... 47%.

Heavy Artillery..... 41%.

Losses due to hostile fire:-

Field Artillery..... 53%

Heavy Artillery 59%.



Ref Map
Sheet 28.
1/40,000.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.290.

Location of Units at 8.p.m. 23rd December 1917.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
<u>Artillery H.Q.</u>	-	STEENWERCK.	36.A.17.c.70.15.
4th A.F.A.Bde H.Q.	-	T.21.d.20.10.	Left Group.
5th do	-	36.B.11.d.15.48.	Right Group.
2nd Aust D.A.C.	-	S.30.c.3.7.	
D.T.M.O.	-	36.B.15.d.9.8.	NIEPPE.
Trench Mortars H&M	-	NIEPPE.	(billets)
<u>5th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.</u>	-	36.B.10.a.6.7.	BRUNE GAYE. Right Bde.
17th Bn.	-	36.B.23.b.2.3.	Pont de Nieppe. Support, Right.
18th Bn.	-	U.27.b.8.2.	Line Left.
19th Bn.	-	36.B.10.d.7.8.	Le Rossignol. Support Left.
20th Bn.	-	36.C.3.c.8.5.	Line Right.
5th A.M.G.Coy.	-	36.C.7.d.4.7.-Adv.	36.B.23.a.2.5.-Rear.
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	36.B.17.d.80.35.	Line.
<u>6th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.</u>	-	T.20.c.5.5.	Reserve Bde.
21st Bn.	-	U.19.b.	CATACOMBS.
22nd Bn.	-	T.26.b.9.5.	KORTEPYP CAMP. "B"
23rd Bn.	-	T.26.c.6.0.	CANTEEN CORNER.
24th Bn.	-	T.26.b.5.6.	KORTEPYP CAMP "A"
6th A.M.G.Coy.	-	T.20.d.20.95.	PENZANCE LINES.
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	T.20.c.4.2.	BULFORD CAMP
<u>7th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	36.B.4.c.2.8.	LE ROMARIN. Left Bde.
25th Bn.	-	36.B.4.a.6.8.	ROMARIN CAMP.
26th Bn.	-	U.9.b.8.4.	Line Left.
27th Bn.	-	U.15.c.9.5.	Line Right.
28th Bn.	-	T.18.d.7.3.	RED LODGE.
7th A.M.G.Coy.	-	36.B.8.c.2.0.	Line.
7th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	U.19.b.3.7.	CATACOMBS. Line.
<u>C.R.E.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
5th Field Coy.A.E.	-	36.B.4.a.5.2.	
6th do	-	T.10.a.5.9.	
7th do	-	T.10.c.7.0.	
<u>A.D.M.S.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
5th A.Field Amb.	-	(T.18.d.5.3.	UNDERHILL FARM. A.D.S.
6th do	-	(36.C.1.d.4.5.	BREWERY. A.D.S.
7th do	-	T.19.b.5.4.	WESTHOF. D.R.S.
Div Train H.Q.	-	36.B.8.b.2.5.	PONT D'ACHELLES. M.D.S.
15th A.A.S.C.	-	36.A.5.a.5.7.	LA CRECHE.
17th do	-	36.A.5.a.8.5.	16th A.A.S.C. 36.A.5.a.7.7.
2nd Aust Pioneer Bn.	-	36.A.5.c.9.8.	20th do 36.A.5.d.8.8.
22nd A.M.G.Coy. (317)	-	NIEPPE.	1 Rue de Warneton.
22nd A.M.G.Coy. (317)	-	36.B.8.a.4.1.	
<u>Divisional Troops.</u>			
Paymaster. A.P.M.)			
D.A.D.V.S. D.M.G.O.)		RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
Salvage Coy. -		36.B.7.d.7.3.	
Mob Vet Sect. -		S.29.b.2.2.	
2nd A.D.S.C. -		36.A.17.a.2.0.	
D.G.O. (D.Gas School)		36.B.20.b.4.3.	
D.A.D.O.S. -		36.B.1.d.2.8.	
D.B.O. (D.Bomb Schl.)		T.8.d.4.3.	
Div Wing. Corps			
Reinft Camp.		CAESTRE.	

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT
OF A LATER ISSUE.

2nd Aust D.H.Q.
21/12/17.

J. J. L. M. Callaghan
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.