

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/29 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

December 1917



AWM4-1/44/29PART2

FO OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.No 34.From 6 a.m. 21st to 6 a.m. 22nd December, 1917.NOTE: Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Our artillery was normally active throughout the period. Heavies fired intermittently during the day on back areas. Field artillery in addition to firing on enemy trenches fired on T.M.s emplacement in WARNETON, WICART FARM and SPINNING MILL. Between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. our artillery was active shelling DEULEMONT.

2. Machine Guns. Indirect harassing fire was maintained against known centres of movement and enemy M.G. positions were fired on at regular intervals. 6000 pounds were fired by our M.G.'s. on road from C.11.d.88.45 to C.12.c.3.0 and at bridge at C.11.a.45.00.

3. Sniping. Three men leaving post at U.11.d.75.85 at 7.30 a.m. were fired on and one man seen to fall and remain.

4. Patrols.

(i) Patrol of 1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from C.4.b.55.75 at 1.25 a.m. to proceed from BRICKFIELDS to WHITE FARM thence towards FRELINGHIEN ROAD. Sounds of unloading and hammering of iron were distinctly heard south of LAUNDRY. A M.G. fire on the patrol when it reached FRELINGHIEN road, but M.G. could not be located as our M.Gs. were playing on bridge at C.11.a.45.00. Patrol returned at 10 p.m. through C.11.a.00.15.

(ii) Patrol of 1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from LYS FARM at 4.30 p.m. and patrolled along river to a point C.11.c.2.8. All water-courses with exception of river LYS were found to be frozen. 2 M.Gs. were located at about C.11.c.5.5 and C.17.a.2.8. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned through C.10.d.15.30.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from C.4.b.6.8 at 5 p.m. to proceed to WHITE FARM thence south along river bank to FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE. Bridges at about C.5.a.3.5 and C.5.a.3.4 were examined, and it was found that the former was impassable, and the latter one may be crossed, but with great difficulty. Patrol reached the point C.11.a.00.15 and was fired on by M.Gs. Patrol then went to C.11.c.4.9 and here found a brick "T" head, built with loose bricks across the road. Patrol then went to C.11.a.45.39 M.G. was located at C.11.c.50.85 and M.W. at C.5.c.8.3. Patrol returned at 10 p.m. through C.11.a.00.15.

(iv) Patrol of 2 Offrs. and 25 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.29.a.5.6 at 4.30 p.m. Patrol reached the point U.29.a.9.2. thence to ruined buildings at U.29.b.4.3, thence along road to cross roads at U.29.b.2.7. None of the buildings show any sign of recent occupation. Patrol then went to MCAT FARM. M.G. and T.M. were located at about U.29.b.8.2. Patrol returned at 8.30 p.m. through U.23.c.8.3.

(v) Patrol of 2 Offrs. and 25 O.Rs. with Lewis Gun went out at 12 midnight from U.23.b.3.5 and reached the river at U.23.b.7.3. From here scouts searched the low-lying ground in U.23.b. Party then worked south to U.23.d.80.55. On account of flares and a searchlight playing on No-man's-land DOLLS HOUSE could not be examined. No trace of the enemy was found. Wheeled traffic could be heard in the direction of DEULEMONT. Patrol returned at 4 a.m. through MCAT FARM and U.23.c.95.20.

(vi) Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men working along bank of river saw enemy parties working on wire at about U.18.a.5.3. and U.18.a.35.40. Four 4.5 How. shells fell amongst parties and dispersed them, apparently causing casualties.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX. 15

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Patrols (continued).

(vii) A daylight patrol of 1 Off. and 2 O.Rs. left our lines at 4pm. to reconnoitre bed of river DOUVE. Patrol proceeded to about U.11.b.5.4 and found river bed badly cut up by shell fire and much fallen timber about, making progress slow and by night difficult. Ground level on north side not more than about 2 ft. above water level, but on the south it rises 10 feet high about 15 yards from the bank. About 6 dugouts and shelters along the southern bank were reconnoitred, two were found to be of concrete and habitable, but none showed signs of recent occupation.

(viii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 17 O.Rs. left our lines at 8 p.m. and moved out along river DOUVE to about U.11.b.5.4, they then worked south to U.11.d.6.8. Patrol reports that no trenches or undulations exist between these points which would give cover to any party. No enemy were encountered. Patrol returned to our lines at U.11.d.5.7.

(ix) A N.C.Os. patrol which went out on night 20th/21st bumped into enemy post at U.11.b.6.3 in the fog. They immediately came under rifle and M.G. fire and had to remain out until dawn enabled them to find their way back. From the talking and stamping of feet which they heard, patrol considered that enemy posts are about 50 yards apart and lightly held. Three belts of wire exist but they are not in good repair. Enemy could be heard working on wire further south.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy artillery was normally active throughout the period excepting between 11 a.m. and 12 noon when increased activity was shown on the whole front. This was mostly heavy Howitzer fire from the direction of KINGSLERE and WARNETON. Owing to poor visibility flashes could not be observed.

Gun flashes were observed on T.E. of 98° from U.29.e.71.42.

2. Machine Guns. During the period enemy M.Gs. showed normal activity their fire was scattered and our working parties were not disturbed.

3. Trench Mortars. T.Ms. were active on our left brigade front from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and again during the night, particularly from WYCAET FARM, SPINNING MILL and WARNETON. On our artillery replying they were quickly silenced. T.Ms. firing from DURIEZ FARM and FRELINGHIEN were active during the night. A heavy mortar at C.5.c.8.3 was active during the night.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

In the early afternoon enemy planes were heard over our lines but nothing could be seen through the mist, and the sounds passed away southwards.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility was bad, but sounds indicated that enemy was working on his defences both by day and by night. Hammering was heard periodically in enemy lines in U.18.c. and U.12.c. Working parties were heard in the direction of SPINNING MILL and transport behind WARNETON at 7 a.m. and 8.30am. Movement was visible at 8.30 a.m. about WARNETON TOWER. At 8.18 a.m. two men were seen at C.5.d.30.85

DEFENCES. The following defences have been erected during the period 6am. 18 to 6am. 21st.

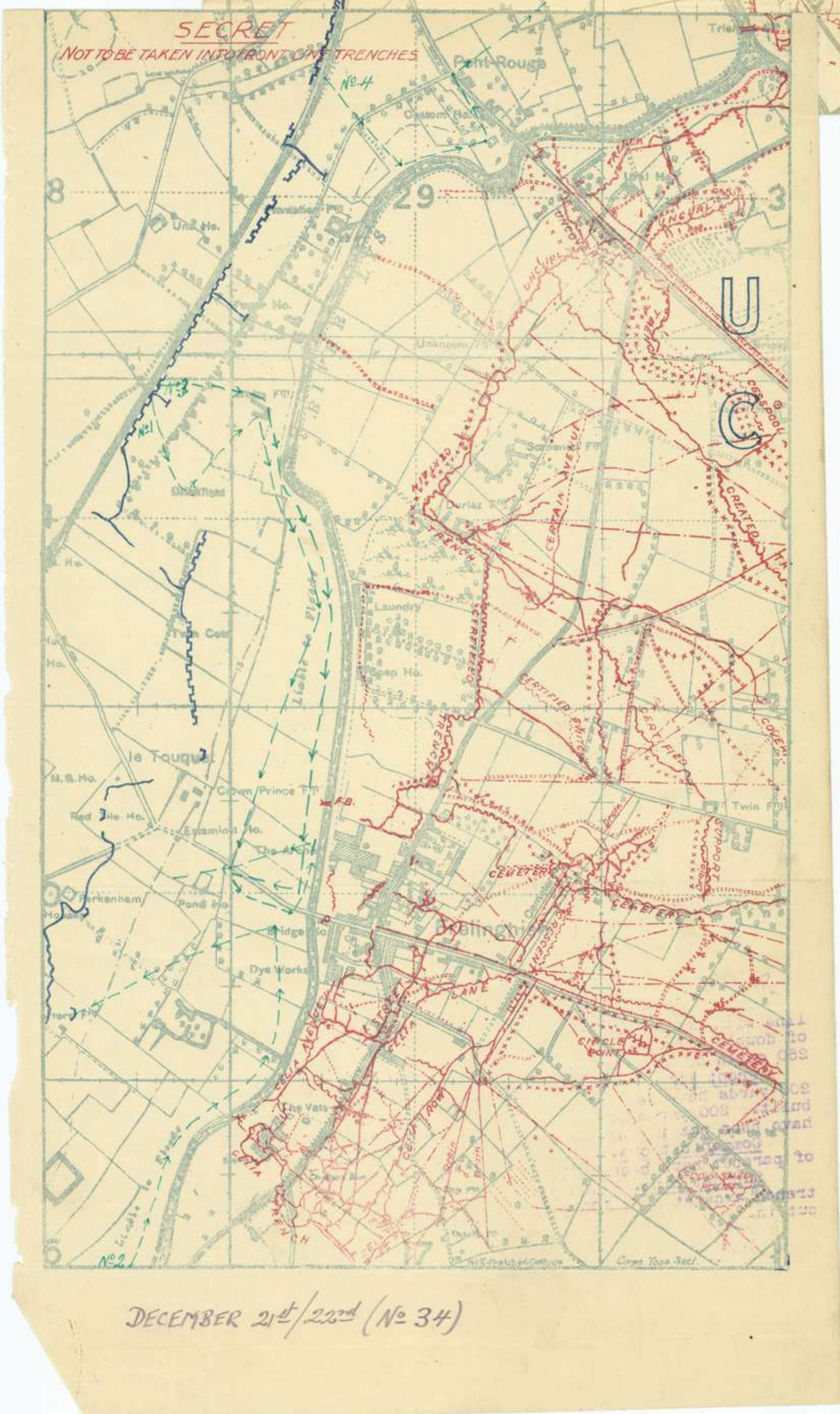
Wire. 1600 yards of double apron wire have been put out along our front line with 250 yards of trip wire in front of posts in U.11.b. 900 yards of double apron wire have been put out in front of support line, approx. 250 coils of wire being used.

Front line. The following improvements have been made:- 200 yards have been revetted. 250 yards excavated. 150 yards of parapet built. 200 yards of parapet raised and strengthened. Some fire steps have been put in and some forward posts duckboarded.

Communications. 100 yards of C.T. have been deepened and 350 yds. of parapet have been built up and improved.

Support Line. 160 yds. of revetting have been done. 475 yds. of trench excavated. 100 yds. deepened to 6 ft., and 60 ft. of fire step put in.

G. J. Bagley
Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.



DECEMBER 21st/22nd (№ 34)

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War DiaryApp. 15a

Ref Map
Sheet 28.
1/40,000

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S E C R E T .

G.301

Location of Units at 3.p.m. 23rd. December 1917

Reference this office G.290.

Artillery H.Q.

for STEENWEROK 36 A. 17.0.70.15.

read RAVELSBERG S. 17. Central

J. M. L. W. L. M. J.
for Lieut. Colonel
General Staff
Second Australian Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 35.

From 6 a.m. 22nd to 6 a.m. 23rd December, 1917.NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. During the period active Minenwerfer were engaged and silenced by 4.5" Hows. at C.11.c.95.77, C.11.c.7.5, C.11.d.10.35, C.11.c.8.6. Other suspected positions in the vicinity of WARNETON were subjected to bursts of harassing fire at intervals.

2. Machine Guns. Were normally active. Roads C.11.d.88.45 to C.12.c.25.00, buildings at U.24.a.32.83, M. Gun positions and tracks in and around WARNETON were subjected to bursts of indirect fire throughout the night.

3. Patrols.

(i) Patrol went out from C.4.b.60.45 and inspected bridge at C.5.a.3.5 which was found to be impassable. Patrol worked south to C.11.a.2.6 and returned to our lines at C.10.b.75.80. Nothing was seen of the enemy.

(ii) Patrol from LYS FM. (C.15.d) moved out to river bank at C.16.b.65.30. From this point a belt of good wire runs up to C.16.b.5.5. Patrol then moved to C.16.b.65.40. A flare was fired from the east side of and close to the bank of the river at this point. Patrol returned through C.10.d.1.2, having seen nothing of the enemy.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 25 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.29.c.1.4, through PAPER HOUSE to river bank at U.29.c.45.35. A listening post was established here and saw three of the enemy come down to the opposite bank of the river and go back again. Patrol worked north through PLANTATION FARM to U.29.b.40.45. Working parties could be heard in U.30.c. Patrol returned to our lines along PONT ROUGE road in U.29.b. and a.

(iv) Patrol of 1 Off. and 25 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.23.b.3.5 and moved to river bank at U.23.b.7.3, and then to U.23.d.80.65. Sounds of wheeled traffic were heard in DEULEMONT and a M.G. was firing into No-man's-land from DEULEMONT Church Tower. A search light then swept No-man's-land upon which 30 bombs were fired into PONT ROUGE and 7 into MOAT FARM (U.23.d). Ground between MOAT FARM and river bank opposite the DOLLS HOUSE (U.24.c) is very marshy and only covered with a thin layer of ice. Patrol returned to our lines through U.23.c.95.20.

(v) Patrol went out from U.17.b.95.25 to enemy wire at U.18.a.3.2. Movement was heard on the eastern side of the river, but nothing could be seen of the enemy. Patrol returned to our lines at U.17.b.95.25.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy artillery was rather more active than usual throughout the 24 hours. KIWI STREET (C.4.d) was shelled intermittently throughout the day on a T.B. of 97° from C.10.c.60.85. Areas C.2.a. and d. and U.1.c. and d. were intermittently shelled throughout the 24 hours. Between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. areas C.16.a, C.10.d, C.4.c and d. were shelled from a south east direction. From 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon road in U.14.d. and c. was shelled with 10.5 cm. Between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. area U.11.a. and c. was shelled by 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. At 2.30 p.m. area U.21.b. was shelled with 15 cm. The front line system of the Left Battalion, Right Brigade, and UMPIRE DRIVE, ULTIMO AVENUE and TILLEN FARM were heavily shelled during the morning, H.E. and gas shells being used.

2. Trench Mortars. At midday 20 M.W. bombs were fired on to our Left Bn. front line from U.12.c.30.05. At night about 20 M.W. bombs fired from the direction of the SPINNING MILL and WIGART FARM fell

P.T.O.

well behind our forward posts.

M.W. located at C.11.c.75. and C.11.c.8.6 were silenced by our artillery. M.W. are suspected at the following points :- U.24.a.3.6, U.29.b.60.25, C.11.c.6.6.

3. Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs. were very active during the night firing on our front line systems and sweeping no man's land. M.Gs. were located at U.24.a.60.35, U.24.b.7.9, C.5.c.65.40, DEULEMONT CHURCH, C.11.c.7.7, C.11.c.6.5.

3 A.A. M.Gs. were located at approx. C.5.c.8.5 in the wood in the rear of the LAUNDRY.

4. Aircraft. Enemy planes were very active all day flying over our forward area. Balloons were observed on T.Bs. of 110° and 140° from U.27.b.76.15, and 61° and 81° from C.9.d.25.40, also 106° and 159° from U.29.a.71.42.

5. Enemy defences. Trench at U.11.d.95.79 appears to have been deepened and strengthened, new earth being visible on the parapet. O.Ps. were located in a tree at C.12.c.70.75 and at C.5.c.65. There is a small white angular construction at the base of some trees at C.11.b.98.90.

What appears to be an armoured M.G. emplacement at C.11.c.52.85 and a Sniper's post at C.11.c.8.7 were also observed.

A length of newly constructed trench can be seen running from C.5.c.8.5 along ridge to C.5.c.65.70.

6. Movement in enemy lines. At 8 a.m. two men were seen at C.5.c.65.70. At 12 noon a motor lorry was seen on road at U.12.d.9.2. moving S.E. At 9.15 a.m. a working party of about 80 men in V.7.c. and V.13.b. were dispersed by our artillery fire. Two men were observed working on trench at U.29.d.80.95. Carrying parties frequently pass along this trench.

Smoke was seen coming from house at U.29.d.9.9. A number of men were seen to enter and leave this house during the day.

Movement was observed at SPINNING MILL, in houses at U.12.b.75.40, and U.18.b.5.5. A cottage at U.12.w.40.25 appears to be used as a H.Q. or a billet.

Smoke from locomotives was seen north of QUESNOY on a T.B. of 74° from C.9.d.25.40 at 1.30 p.m. and again at 2.30 p.m.

TWIN FARMS (C.12.a) and CELON FARM (C.6.c) are occupied.

7. Flares. At 6.10 p.m. enemy sent up 2 green flares bursting into stars, on our right Bde front. No enemy action followed.

At 6.30 p.m. 2 small red flares bursting into 2 white flares, were dropped from an enemy balloon or 'plane, upon which enemy guns opened up on our rear areas.

8. DEFENCES. Wire. 155 coils of wire were put out on our right Bde front, and wire strengthened in front of all posts on our left Bde. In addition 700 yards of wire was erected in front of the support line.

Front Line. The following improvements have been made. 200 yds trench excavated. 70 yds revetted. 200 yds parapet and parados built up. Several alternate machine gun positions were prepared and some new fire steps put in.

Support Line. 300 yds excavated. 40 yds revetted and duck-boarded.

J. J. McCall Coy

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

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SCALE 1:10,000

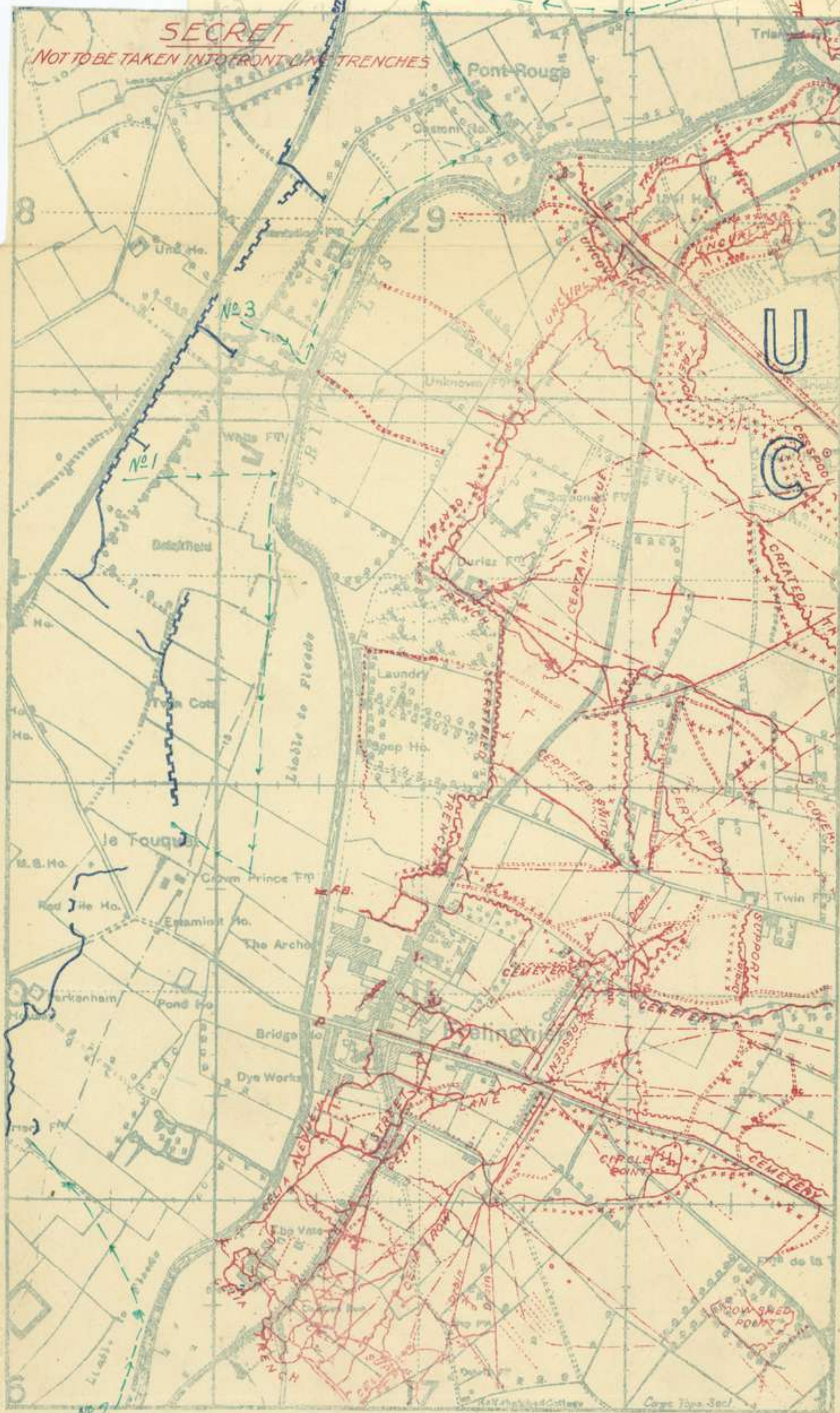
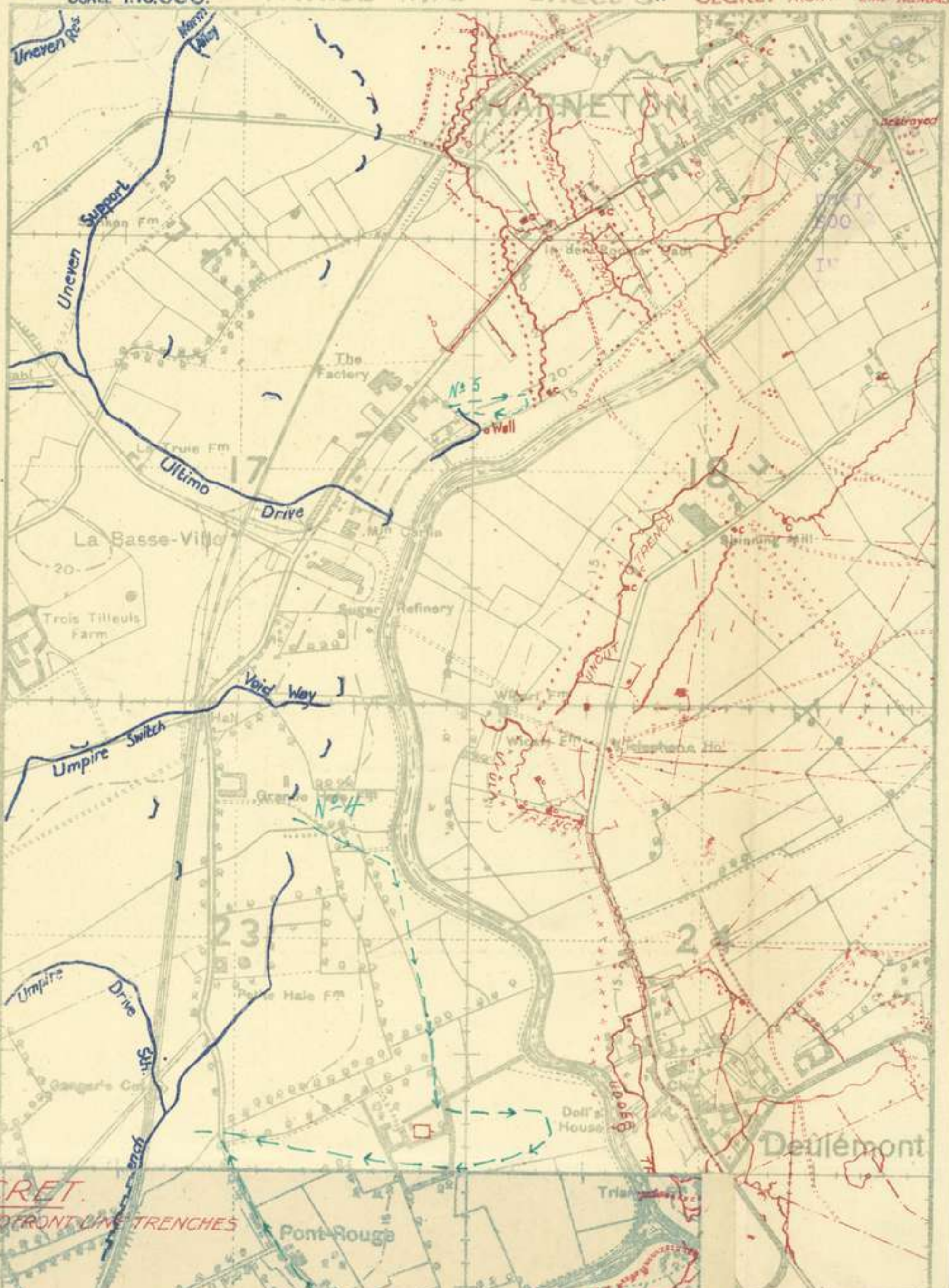
PATROL MAP

Sheet 3A

SECRET

Not to be taken into front line trenches

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DECEMBER 22nd/23rd (No 35)

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 36.

From 6 a.m. 23rd to 6 a.m. 24th December, 1917.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. During the period under review harassing fire was carried out against enemy front line, wire, tracks and activity centres in U.12.c. U.18.a.86, U.24.c. and d. C.6.b. C.11.d. V.13.c. 200 rounds were fired at irregular intervals on WARNETON cross roads, and DUELEMONT was shelled by our 18-pdrs. at 12.40 p.m. M.Ws. at C.11.c.60.55 and U.12.d.0.1 were silenced by 4.5" Hows and those at U.18.d.70.92, U.12.d.0.1 and U.12.c.55.72 with suspected M.G. positions at C.11.b.20.60, C.11.a.55.10 and C.11.d.5.5 were subjected to intermittent concentrations by 4.5 Hows. and 18-pdrs.

2. Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. positions, tracks and tramways were subjected to irregular bursts of indirect fire, road from C.6.a.95.75 to C.6.b.23.45 and bridge at C.6.b.65.65 receiving special attention.

3. Patrols. Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. went out from C.10.d.1.3 at 9.10 p.m. The ground about river bank from C.17.a.0.9 to C.11.c.2.0. and the canal in C.11.c. and C.10.d. was searched. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 11.10 p.m. through C.10.d.1.5.

(ii) Patrol of 2 Off. and 15 O.Rs. went out from C.5.a.2.6. at 8.30 p.m. and inspected bridge at C.5.a.30.55, ^{erected in this vicinity} was found to be practically impassable. Patrol returned at 11.30 p.m. through C.10.d.1.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 20 O.Rs. went out from U.23.c.95.20 at 4.45 p.m. MOAT FARM (U.23.d) was visited and walls of same showed signs of recent T.M. bombing. The M.G. previously reported at U.29.b.65.50 was again active. From MOAT FARM patrol went to PLANTATION FARM and after examining same moved south and established a listening post at U.29.c.4.5. Patrol returned at 8.20 p.m. via U.29.c.2.3. without seeing any enemy movement. Listening post remained in position for 4 hours during which time no enemy were seen.

(iv) Patrol of 1 Off. and 25 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.23.c.95.20 at 11 p.m. and moved via U.23.d.8.4 to duckboard track in U.24.c. On both sides of the track are deep ditches full of water. A M.G. fired on patrol from about U.24.c.75.95 and a search light played across No-man's-land from about URAL HOUSE, U.30.c.20.05. The patrol was bombed by T.Ms. both on leaving from and returning to our lines and as both of these points cannot be observed from river, patrol leader is of the opinion that enemy must have a post in No-man's-land. Patrol returned at 3.15 a.m. via U.23.d.20.85.

Protective patrols to inter-battalion reliefs were out during the night but no enemy activity was noticed.

4. Aircraft. Our planes were very active over enemy lines, apparently engaged in photography and reconnaissance. Numerous loud explosions were heard in WARNETON when our planes were above the village.

Artillery.

NEMY ACTIVITY. Enemy Artillery was active on right sector but below normal on left sector and battery areas. Tramline in C.9.d. was shelled during morning also squares U.27.d, U.23.c by 4.2 H. E. and U.27.b. and d. with gas shells. WARNETON track U.9.d. and U.10.c. were lightly shelled between 10 p.m. and midnight with 5.9s.

Gun flashes were observed on T.Bs. as follows:- From C.9.d.25.40, 75°: From C.4.b.50.35, 101½°: From U.29.a.71.42, 102°, 105°: From U.16.b.95.65, 95°, 60°, 70°, 85°.

Trench Mortars. T.Ms. were observed firing from SOAP HOUSE, U.11.a.8.3 (approx) and U.18.a.2.4. At 8.45 a.m. a few rounds were fired into PONT ROUGE.

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APPENDIX *16*

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ENEMY ACTIVITY (Continued).

Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs. were very active on A.A. work. Occasional bursts were fired during the night from FRELINGHIEN LAUNDRY and about C.11.c.50.75 and U.24.c.75.85. Frequent bursts were fired on front and support lines of our Left Brigade between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Movement. At 7.45 p.m. a train was heard in FRELINGHIEN. At 7.35 a.m. 4 men working at C.6.a.6.4 were using picks and shovels but no earth was thrown out; a camouflage was put over the work and the party finally disappeared into CESS PIT HOUSE in C.6.a. In U.12.c. and U.18.a. a number of enemy apparently on sentry duty were observed to be wearing white bands round their infantry caps. At 2.15pm. 2 men were observed pumping water out of trench at U.12.c.4.2.

During a momentary lift of the mist a working party of about 80 men were observed working at U.18.b.5.5. They dispersed almost immediately and before the nature of their work could be detected.

At 8.30 a.m. 2 men were seen leaving suspected H.T.M. position at U.18.a.2.1 and at 2 p.m. 6 more men were observed in same locality; these were sniped at but result could not be seen.

Flares. At 7.40 a.m. a red flare was fired from approx. C.11.b.6.3 followed by T.M. activity on area in U.11.b. in advance of our lines.

DEFENCES.

Wire. 126 coils erected on our Right and 50 coils on our Left Brigade front. 1700 yards have been erected in front of Corps line. 1,100 yards in front of Corps Support line and 1,000 yards in front of Corps Reserve line. 500 yards repaired in front of Corps Support line, and 500 yards strengthened.

Front Line. The following improvements have been made :-
"90 yards revetted; 90 yards widened and deepened; 270 yards parapet built up and strengthened. Lateral communications between posts carried on with and duckboards laid and fire-steps cut."

Support line. 450 yards excavated to 4 ft. 6 ins. deep. 160 yards parapet cleared and fire-stepped, and 500 yards of revetment completed.

Corps Line. 20 concrete dug-outs have been re-claimed and some shelters erected.

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

F.T.O.

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SCALE 1:10,000.

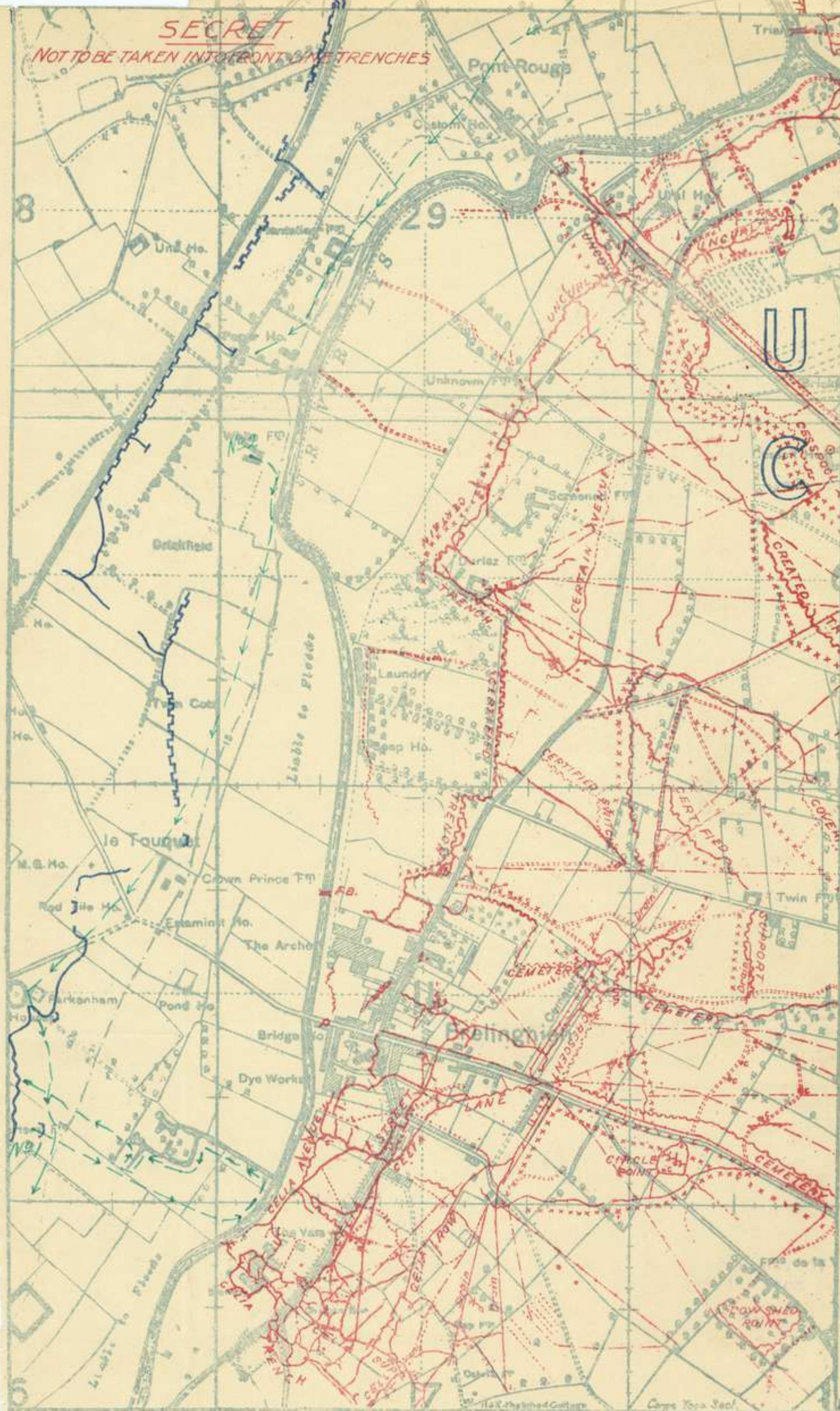
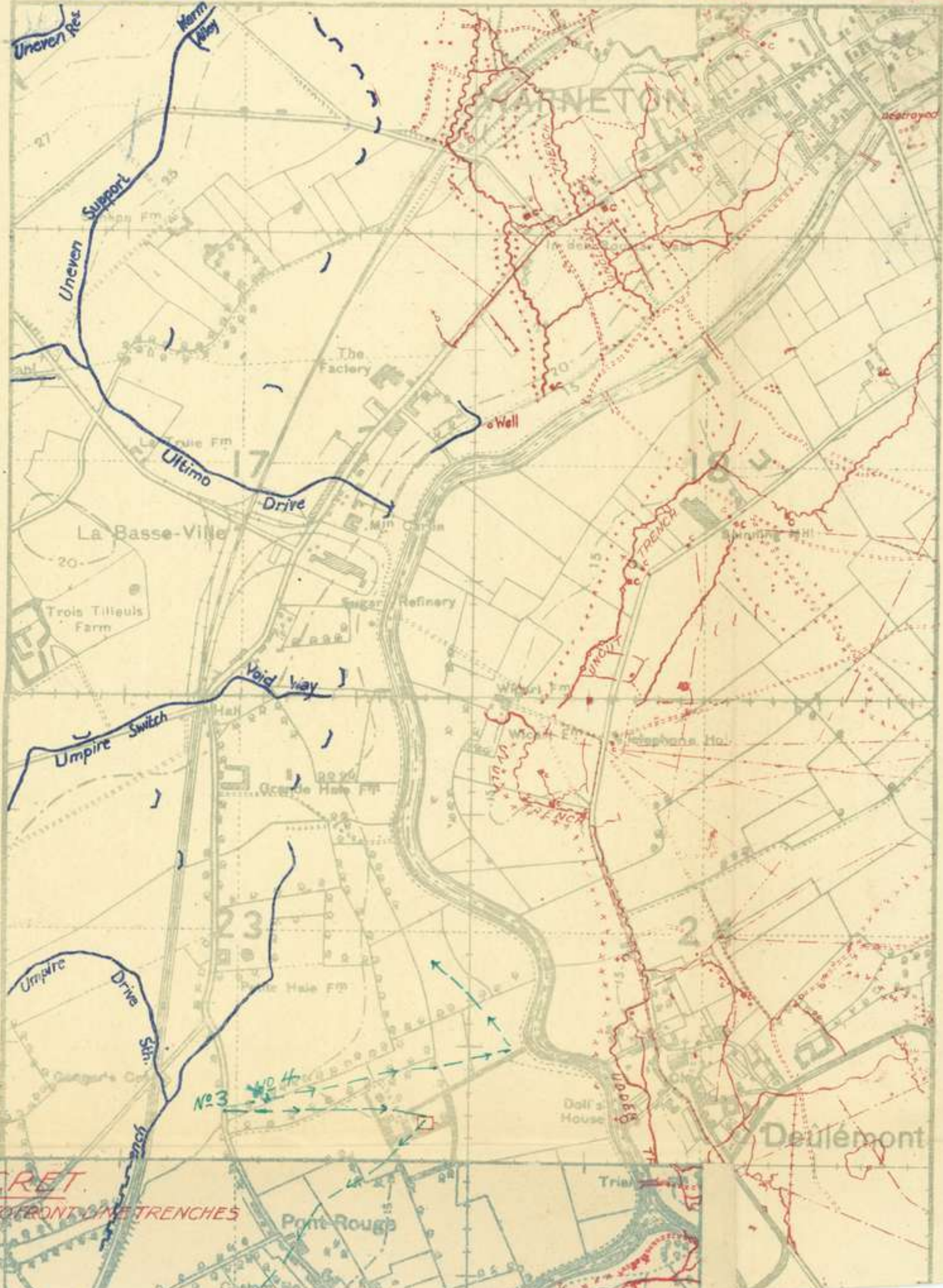
PATROL MAP

APPENDIX 17

Sheet 3A

SECRET

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Not to be taken into
FRONT LINE TRENCHESDECEMBER 23rd/24th (No 36)

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Ref. Map.
Sheet 28 -
1/40,000.

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.396.

LOCATION OF UNITS AT 6 A.M., 25TH DECEMBER, 1917.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.290):-

17th Bn.	36.C.3.C.8.5.	-	-	Line - Right.
18th Bn.	56.B.10.D.7.8.	LE ROSSIGNOL	-	Support - Left.
19th Bn.	U.27.C.6.2.	-	-	Line - Left.
20th Bn.	38.B.35.C.2.3.	PONT de NIEPPE.	-	Support - Right.
25th Bn.	U.15.C.9.5.	-	-	Line - Right.
26th Bn.	T.18.D.7.3.	RED LODGE.	-	-
27th Bn.	30.B.4.A.3.8.	ROMARIN Camp.	-	-
28th Bn.	U.9.B.8.4.	-	-	Line - Left.

2nd Aust. Div. H. Q.,
24th December, 1917.

W. Parry
Lieut. Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 37.

From 6 a.m. 24th to 6 a.m. 25th December, 1917.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Our Artillery was very active throughout the period under review, the following targets being engaged :- WARNETON RAILWAY STATION, PONT ROUGE BRIDGE, SOAP HOUSE, SCREENED FARM, WICART FARM, SPINNING MILL, ST. BARBE CROSS ROADS, WAUSTINE FARM, TWIN FARMS. A minenwerfer at U.12.c.8.4. was silenced at 9 a.m. and M.W. at C.11.a.50.15, C.5.b.55.40 and a M.G. position at C.11.a.6.1. were also shelled.

2. Machine Guns. During the night road from C.11.d.88.45 to C.12.c.33.30, bridge at C.5.a.40.72, tracks in and around WARNETON and known M.G. positions were subjected to intermittent bursts of harassing fire throughout the night.

3. Patrols.

(i) Patrol went out from C.4.d.7.8. and moved north to C.4.b.7.8. and then east to WHITE FARM. Ground between here and the river bank was very marshy. Patrol returned via C.4.d.90.95, having seen and heard nothing of the enemy.

(ii) Patrol moved out from C.10.b.85.60. and worked S.E. A M.G. firing from C.11.c.50.85 prevented patrol from examining FRELING-HIEN Bridge. Patrol then moved to C.10.d.90.85, thence along avenue of trees to C.10.d.5.2, thence to river bank at C.16.b.8.8. Patrol returned via LYS FARM.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. went out from C.10.b.75.20 at 10.20 p.m. and worked east to the river, and thence north along river bank to WHITE FARM. Two enemy were seen patrolling on right bank of river. Patrol returned at 1.45 a.m. through C.4.b.7.9.

(iv) Patrol went out from U.23.b.15.65, and proceeded to MOAT FARM which was unoccupied. Patrol moved north again and a patrol of 5 enemy were observed at U.23.d.65.99, moving rapidly towards river. They disappeared before fire could be brought to bear on them. Our patrol returned through U.23.b.25.20.

(v) Patrol went out from U.29.a.5.6. to road at U.29.b.1.8. and worked along road and examined buildings as far as U.29.b.25.60, at which point enemy fired rifle grenades at them from the direction of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE. Patrol was also sniped at from a N.E. direction. Patrol then worked S.E. to PLANTATION FARM and PAPER HOUSE, both of which were unoccupied. Patrol re-entered our lines at U.29.c.15.10.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy Artillery was active throughout the 24 hours. At 11.30 a.m. a 10.5 cm. gun commenced firing and appeared to be registering on the posts of our right brigade. During the afternoon areas C.10.c. and C.9.d. and the Support Line of our Right Brigade were shelled with 15 cm. 10.5 cm. and gas shells from a S.E. direction. At the same time UNA AVENUE (U.28.b. and U.29.a.) and PONT ROUGE were lightly shelled from the direction of DEULEMONT. At 4.30 a.m. 10.5 cm. and gas shells were fired into area U.27.b. GUNNER FARM was shelled during the morning with 10.5 cm. from a S.E. direction.

About 6 p.m. 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. Hows. commenced shelling the front system of our Left Brigade, and area C.10.c. and d. One of our posts received a direct hit. About 8.30 p.m. the DOUVE VALLEY in U.8, 9, 10 and 11 was bombarded by field guns and Hows. firing at a fairly rapid rate for 10 minutes. At 11.15 p.m. a bombardment with 7.7 cm. Shrapnel started on our front line system in U.11. This was accompanied by Pineapple bombs and bursts of M.G. fire. This fire gradually slackened and all was quiet again by 1 a.m.

P.T.O.

ENEMY ACTIVITY (Continued).

2. Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs. were active on our Right Brigade front about 5 p.m., but quietened down shortly afterwards. Between 11.15 p.m. and 12 midnight our front line in U.11. was swept by enemy M.Gs. in conjunction with his artillery and M.W. activity. During the remainder of the night there was the usual intermittent firing. A machine gun was located at O.11.a.6.1, but this is believed to be only a night post. Occasional bursts came from the LAUNDRY and from FRELINGHIEN.

3. Trench Mortars. Minenwerfer were active during the day bombarding the BUTCHERS SHOP and WHITE FARM from the direction of the LAUNDRY. At 9 a.m. a M.W. fired 10 bombs into WHITE FARM from O.5.c.80.76. 20 bombs were fired into O.4.d.9.9 from the LAUNDRY at O.5.c.6.5. Between 11.15 p.m. and 1 a.m. in conjunction with his artillery and M.Gs. enemy fired 150 Pineapple bombs into our front line system in U.11. M.W. were located at O.11.50.15 and at U.18.a.3.9.

4. Movement in Enemy Lines. A man was seen carrying material from WARNETON TOWER to U.12.c.75.25. Individuals were seen at 9 a.m. in the vicinity of the SPINNING MILL. Two men were seen carrying timber through the bush in O.5.d. towards the LAUNDRY. Between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. train whistles were heard several times east of WARNETON. During the night trucks were heard moving at O.5.c.70.15. Dirt was seen being thrown from the M.W. position at O.5.c.80.76 before the mortar commenced firing. During the shelling of SOAP HOUSE two men ran from it into a trench or ditch behind

5. Flares. At 6.55 a.m. one golden cluster flare was sent up apparently in V.13.a. During the night double red flares were put up at irregular intervals from the SPINNEY, U.18.a.1.6 and other points on our left brigade front. No apparent action followed.

DEFENCES.

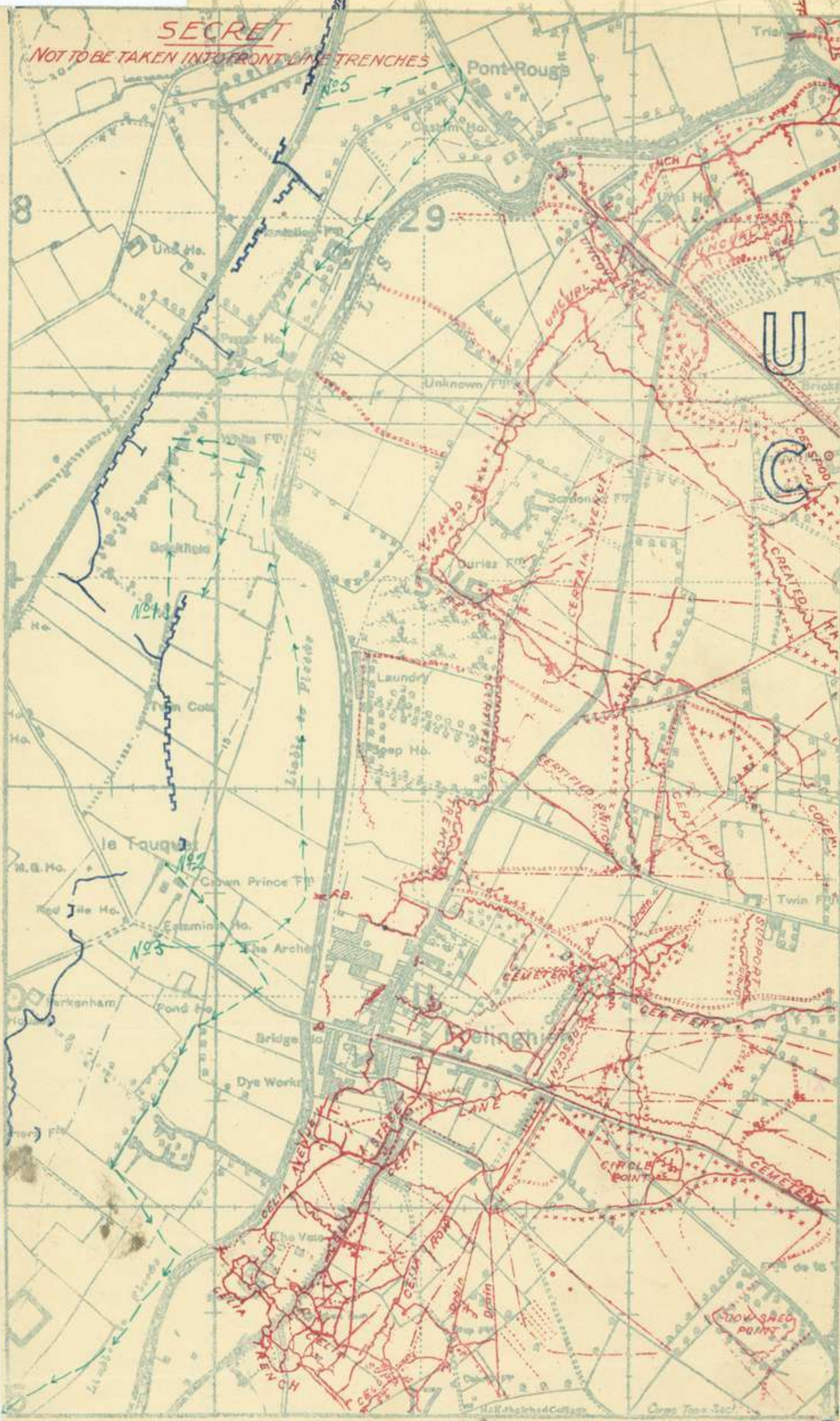
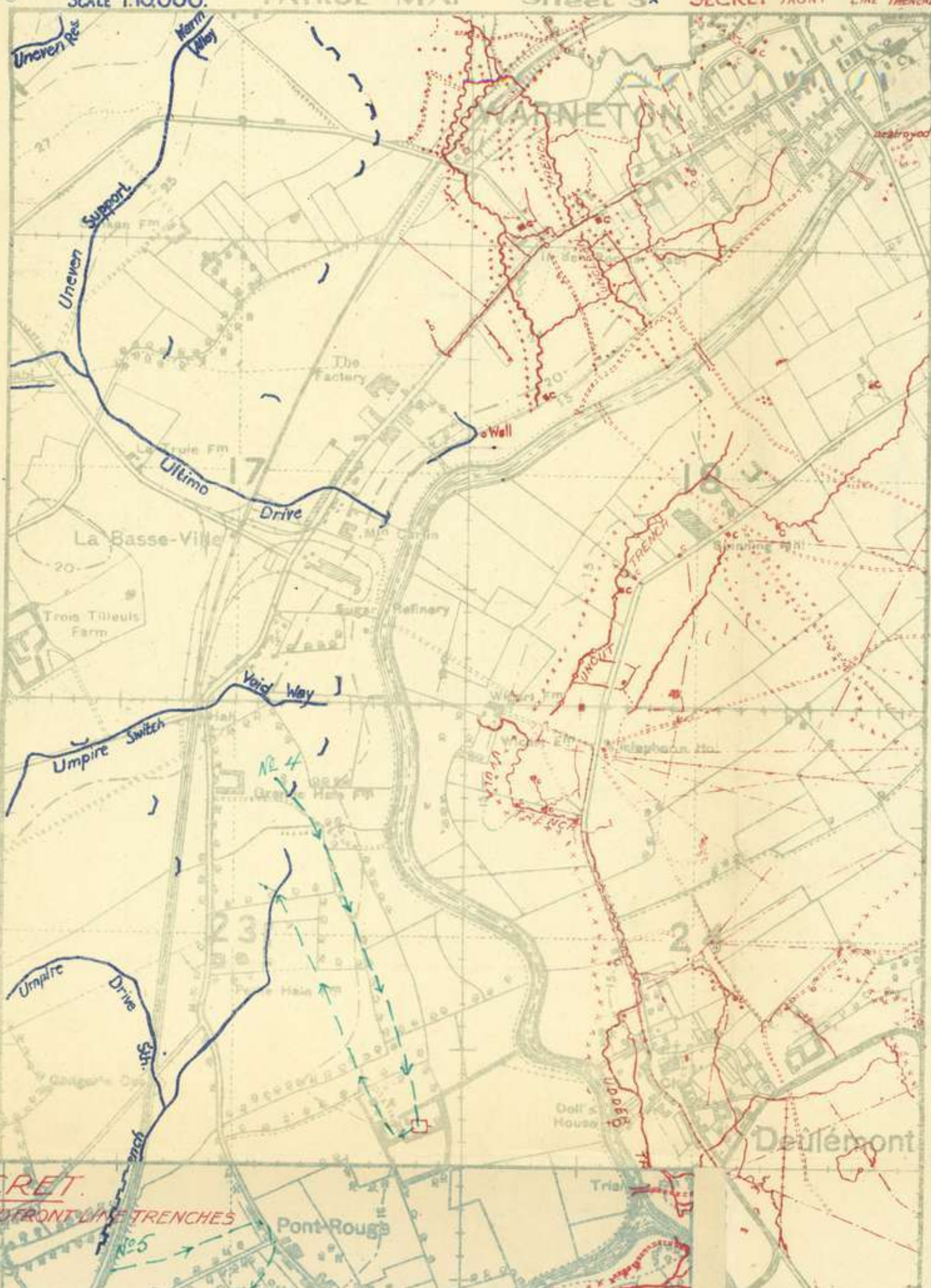
1. Wire. (a) Front Line. 34 coils of wire put out on our right Bde front. 150 yds put out on Left Bde front.
(b) Support Line. 700 yds double apron wire erected.
(c) Second Zone. (i) Front Line. 300 yds double apron fence.
(ii) Support Line. 300 yds " " "
(iii) Reserve Line. 700 yds " " "

2. (a) Front Line. 80 yds new trench opened up, 100 yds revetted, 130 yds parapet built up, work in dugouts and shelters.

(b) Support Line. 50 yds trench widened and deepened, work on dugouts and shelters. 300 yds O.T. cleaned out.

(c) Second Zone. 200 yds old trench opened up and deepened. 5 Pill boxes cleaned out.

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



DECEMBER 24th / 25th (N237)

63

55

App. 19
G.40/104.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
26th December, 1917.

Corps Machine Gun Officer,
First ANZAC Corps.

MACHINE GUN TACTICAL AND TECHNICAL LESSONS LEARNT.

"A." TACTICAL.

1. The necessity and great value of telephonic communication between Section Headquarters, M. G. Coy. Headquarters, and Battalions has been emphasised during the present month.

It has been found of great value in maintaining control in trench warfare and in "set piece" offensives and would apply equally well to open warfare.

As the present Signal establishment of one N.C.O., and three men and four telephones has been found inadequate, it is submitted for consideration that the establishment be raised to - 1 N.C.O., 7 men and 5 telephones.

2. When on the defensive it is considered better that barrage guns be employed in 4 (four) gun batteries instead of 8 (eight) as is usual now. Each could be provided with prepared direct fire positions which they could occupy in the event of the front line breaking. Thus the S.O.S. barrage guns could be converted into a defensive line in a very short space of time.

3. In an area subject to good enemy observation dummy gun positions have been found of value especially if fired from occasionally.

"B." TECHNICAL.

1. The Bull's Eye Lantern at present on issue must be painted on the face with a dark paint (preferably red) in order that the Radium foresight will remain visible and enable a sight to be taken.

2. Luminous paint has been proved of no value whatsoever, the only useful substitute being Radium paint in glass tubes such as are in use with the Radium backsight and foresight.

3. It is recommended that the slide of the bar foresight should be made so that the Radium foresight at present in use would fit on it.

4. Traversing dials should be made adjustable and this can be done at any armourer's workshop by cutting through the brass above the positioning studs and clamping the upper portion by means of a small thumb screw.

(Signed) H. W. Smyth.

Major-General,
Commanding Second Australian Division.

Copy to -
First ANZAC Corps.

War Diary

App. 20

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

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Max
Diary

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m., 25th to 6 a.m., 26th December, 1917.

No. 38.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Our artillery was active during the 24 hours. DEULEMONT CHURCH, SPINNING MILL, WICART FARM, WAUSTINE FARM, TWIN FARMS, DURIEZ FARM, activity centres about U.29.b.7.2., C.12.c.2.4., CROSS ROADS at C.11.b.35.90, road from C.11.d.88.45 to C.12.c.33.30, were all subjected to bursts of harassing fire at intervals. In addition enemy front line trenches in U.30.a., U.29.d, and C., and C.5.a., received bursts of fire during the night. A persistent working party heard at C.11.a.6.1. was fired on by our 18 pdrs & 4.5" Hows. at 9.40 p.m., 11.20 p.m., 2.25 a.m. and 5 a.m. An active minenwerfer at U.12.c.55.72 was silenced by our 18 pdrs.

2. Machine Guns. Our M.Gs were active during the night firing bursts on enemy roads and tracks, and on enemy M.G and minenwerfer positions.

3. Patrols. (i) Patrol went out from C.4.d.8.2 to River bank at C.5.c.6.5, and thence north along river. Bridge at C.5.a.33.36 was examined and was found to be a very old one with a large amount of drift wood piled up against it. It would be passable, but with difficulty. Patrol returned through C.4.b.5.6.

(ii) Patrol went out from post at C.10.b.9.5. and moved south to FRELINGHIEN ROAD. They were prevented from moving down the road to examine the bridge by M.G. from C.11.a.58.28., C.11.c.50.89, and C.11.c.56.52. Patrol moved to Avenue of trees at C.10.d.9.8. and thence back to our lines via C.10.d.2.8.

(iii) Patrol moved out from U.23.c.7.2 to MOAT FARM and thence S.W. to PONT ROUGE ROAD about U.29.b.1.7. At this point patrol came under M.G. fire from the direction of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE. Patrol returned via U.29.a.4.2., having seen nothing of the enemy.

(iv) Patrol moved out from U.29.c.1.4, worked through PAPER HOUSE and thence north to PLANTATION FARM when they came under M.G. fire from an easterly direction. A party of 6 men were seen at C.5.d.20.75, near DURIEZ FARM. Patrol re-entered our lines at U.29.c.4.4.

(v) A patrol went out from U.23.b.3.3. and moved via U.23.b.6.2. An enemy party was seen at about U.24.a.1.9, but quickly disappeared. Patrol then visited MOAT FARM and re-entered our lines at U.23.c.9.2.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy Artillery activity was rather above normal during the period under review. The DOUVE VALLEY and WARNETON TRACK received marked attention, most of the shelling coming from the direction of BAS-WARNETON. During the morning area C.4.b. was shelled with 77 mm. and 10.5 cm. Hows. from a S.E. direction. At intervals during the day areas C.9.d. and C.10.c., U.10.b. and c. were lightly shelled throughout the day with .H.E. and gas shells. U.29.a, U.23.c. U.28.a. and b. and c. were lightly shelled during the day with 77 mm. and 10.5 cm.

2. Machine Guns. Our patrols working in the vicinity of PONT ROUGE and FRELINGHIEN Bridge came under heavy M.G. fire but otherwise enemy M.G. activity was rather below normal. M.Gs. were located at C.11.a.58.28, C.11.c.50.89 and C.11.c.56.52. At 8.20 p.m. M.G. position at U.12.c.39.90 was fired on by our 18-pdrs. and since then this M.G. has been inactive.

3. Trench Mortars. Heavy M.W. fired from U.29.d.9.7 on our wire between U.29.a.5.2 and U.29.a.5.5. Between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. 34 light M.W. bombs were fired into U.25.b.5.2.

U.11.d. and U.17.d. received over 60 Light M.W. bombs during the night. An active M.W. was located at U.12.c.60.75.

P.T.O.

4. Enemy Movement. A listening post was established at approx. U.17.d.72.75 at 9.30 p.m. From here a party of 6 men were observed moving backwards and forwards from WICART FARM along creek to U.18.c.03.10. About 10 men in small parties of 2 and 3 were seen moving about in U.18.c. near the river and movement was noticed on road from U.18.a.9.0. to U.18.a.60.25.

At 2 a.m. an enemy working party at U.30.c.3.2 was seen and engaged by our artillery. At 9.40 p.m. 11.20 p.m., 2.25 a.m. and 5 a.m. enemy working parties at C.11.a.6.1. were engaged and dispersed by our Artillery fire. At this point there is an active M.W. and work was apparently in the nature of improving and strengthening the emplacement.

Every hour for 6 hours during the night two men were seen to apparently relieve two others on duty at the SPINNEY. Smoke from a train was seen at 3.30 p.m. in V.7.b. Just after sunrise a light, apparently the reflection from the lens of a telescope, was seen at the top of WARNETON TOWER. During the day movement was observed in the vicinity of WARNETON TOWER and in the afternoon sounds of hammering on metal were heard in WARNETON.

5. Flares. During the night a few double red flares were sent up by the enemy but no apparent action followed.

DEFENCES.

1. Wire. (a) Front Line. 136 coils of wire put out on our Right Bde. front and 150 yds. double apron wire erected on our Left Brigade front.

(b) Support Line. 925 yds. double apron wire erected in front of Left Brigade support line making the 3rd belt in front of this line.

(c) Second Zone. 2330 yds. of double apron wire and ordinary wire entanglement erected.

2. General work.

(a) Front line. The following work was done on Right Brigade front. 18 yds. trench ^{cleared} 30 yds. parados built up, 46 yds. revetted; on left Bde. front: 20 ft. trench revetted between 2 posts, 75 yds. C.T. between 2 posts excavated, 7 fire steps erected in posts, and several posts deepened. (20 yds. revetted in Right Bde. Sector)

(b) Support Line. 100 yds. trench excavated, 50 yds. trench revetted, 55 yds. duckboarded, 100 yds. trench prepared for revetting. Work on shelters and deepening support line.

(c) Second Zone. 55 yds. of breast work cleared. 180 yds. old trench cleared and 70 yds. duckboarded. 14 shelters excavated, 1 Bomb proof shelter completed.

NOTE. - Work on the front and support lines was considerably hampered by enemy artillery fire, our working parties showing up very clearly against the snow.

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

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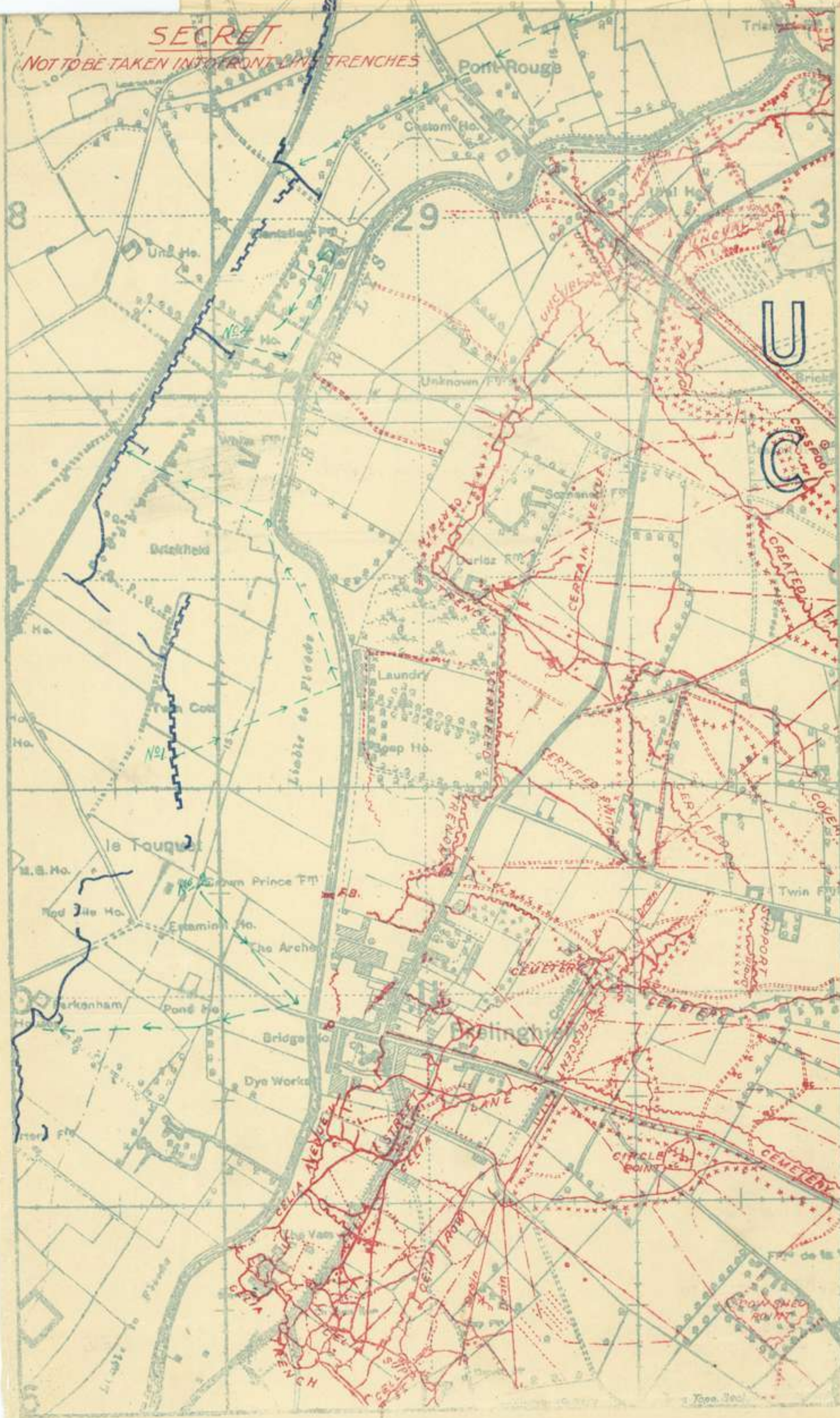
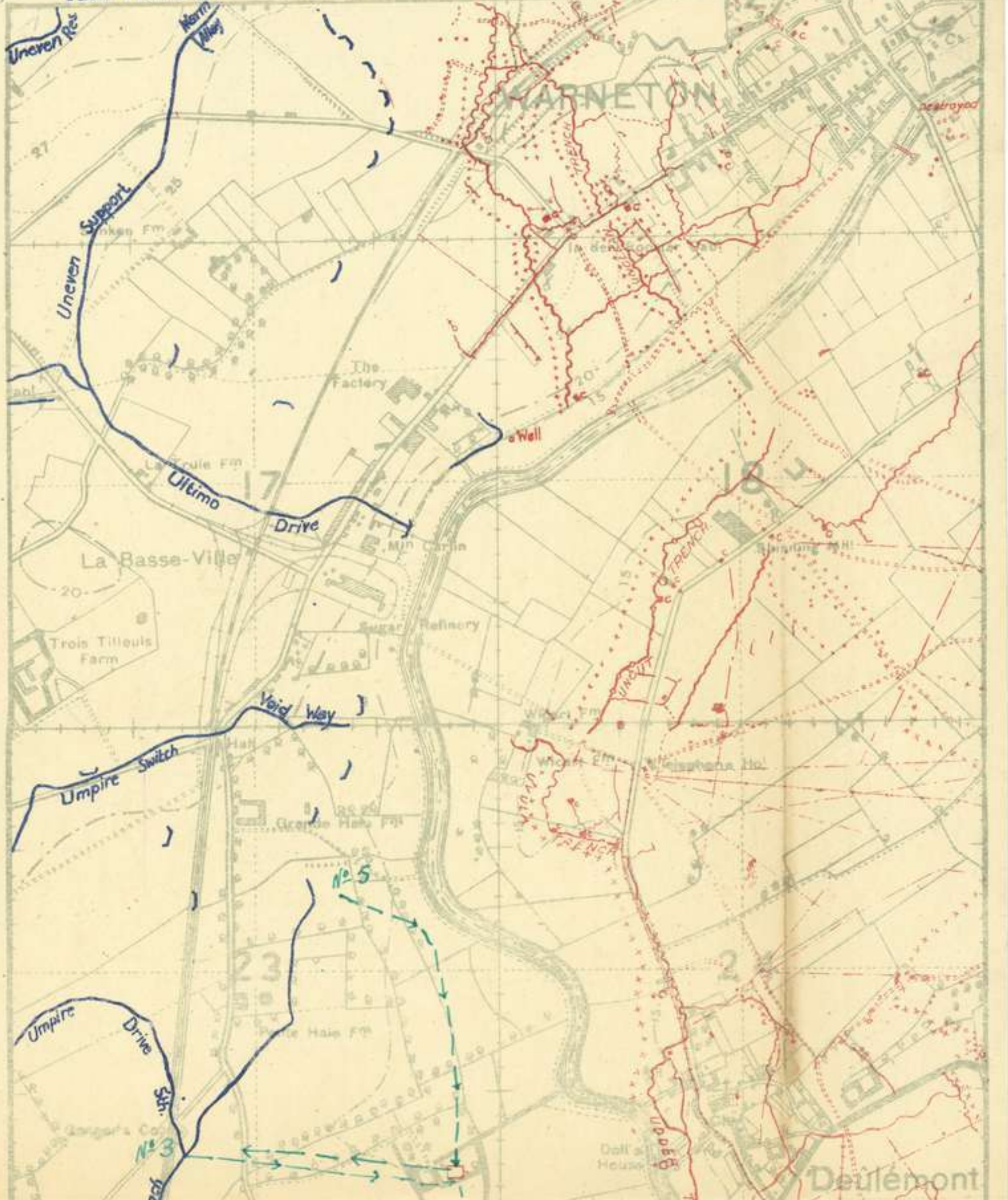
SCALE 1:10,000.

PATROL MAP

Sheet 3A

SECRET

Not to be taken into FRONT LINE TRENCHES

DECEMBER 25th/26th (No 38)

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 39

From 6 a.m. 26th to 6 a.m. 27th December, 1917.

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

1. Artillery. Registration and calibration on TELEPHONE HOUSE and GASOMETER. Harassing fire was carried against the approaches to and the structures of SPINNING MILL, WICART FARM, WAUSTINE FARM, LAUNDRY, SOAP HOUSE, DURINZ FARM, TWIN FARMS throughout the period. M.W. and M.G. positions in DEULEMONT, FRELINGHIEN and U.12.c. were subjected to bursts of 18 pdr and 4.5" How. fire. Road and railway in U.30.b., road C.11.b.57.92 to TWIN FARM and road through C.12.b. had shrapnel concentrations occasionally.

2. Machine Guns. Known centres of activity were subjected to bursts of fire for ten minutes hourly during the night. A working party at U.24.a.10.99 and a party in the process of relieving the M.G. crew at U.11.d.9.4. were fired on. The Cross Roads at U.30.b.40.65. and the bridge at U.30.b.20.30. were subjected to a heavy fire: enemy aircraft were also fired on.

3. Patrols. (i) Patrol of 1 off and 15 o.r.s. went out from C.10.d.2.5. at 4.30 p.m. and proceeded to a point C.10.d.5.2., thence to FRELINGHIEN ROAD. Patrol moved along the road in S.E. direction and was fired on by a M.G. from BRIDGE HOUSE. Patrol returned at 8 p.m. through C.10.b.9.5.

(ii) Patrol of 1 off, 15 o.r.s. went out from C.4.d.7.6. at 6 p.m. and worked in N direction along hedge running from C.5.c.2.3. to C.5.a.20.15., thence to WHITE FARM thence along river to C.5.c.6.5. Between LAUNDRY and WHITE FARM no means of crossing the river were seen. Two M.W. were firing from about C.5.c.80.35. Patrol returned at 10 p.m. through C.4.b.7.9.

(iii) Patrol of 1 off and 15 o.r.s. went out from C.10.b.9.5. at 11.15 p.m. and worked in S.E. direction to a point C.11.a.2.0., thence to C.10.d.05.65. Enemy M.G.s were observed firing from C.11.c.50.85. and C.11.a.03.75. Ground between C.10.b.9.5. and C.10.b.9.0 is broken and hard to cross owing to shell holes and ditches.

(iv) Patrol of one off 15 o.r.s. went out from C.4.b.45.15. at 2 a.m. and proceeded to Bridge at C.5.a.35.55. and found it to be impassable, thence along river bank to C.5.c.6.5. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 5.30 a.m. through C.4.d.8.4.

(v) Patrol of 1 off 24 o.r.s. with Lewis Gun went out from U.23.d.15.95. at 12.30 a.m. and proceeded in S.E. direction to U.23.d.95.30. Here a moat was crossed by a timbered bridge about 8 ft wide. Patrol then proceeded to U.24.c.55.25. where it was fired on by rifle fire from DOLLS HOUSE; this was followed by fire from two M.G.s from U.24.c.7.2. and U.24.c.7.9. Patrol moved back through MOAT FARM and was again fired on by M.G. from U.24.c.7.9. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned through U.29.a.6.3. at 4.30 a.m.

(vi) Patrol of 1 off and 12 o.r.s. with Lewis gun went out from U.29.c.1.4. at 6 p.m. and proceeded to PAPER HOUSE, thence to PLANTATION FARM, thence along road from U.29.a.5.0. to U.29.b.1.6. From here officer and 2 o.r.s. worked along hedge to unused trench at U.29.b.25.30. and thence to building at U.29.b.4.3. There was no sign or sound of any enemy on the west side of the river. From U.29.b.4.3. a small section of bridge 12 ft above water level could be seen. Patrol returned at 12 midnight through U.23.c.9.2.

(vii) Patrol of 1 M.C.O. and 2 men moved out at 9.30 p.m. to U.12.a.1.5. from which spot the SPINNEY was kept under observation until 11.30 p.m. Some movement was seen here but its object could not be ascertained.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy artillery was above normal. Between 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. 200 rounds 15 cm How. fell at about U.8.c. Approx. 400 10.5. and 15 cm Hows. fell about C.2.c. and d. Between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. MOTOR CAR CORNER and CHAPELLE ROMPUE, C.7.c. were heavily shelled.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX. 21

Artillery (Continued).

- 2 -

At 8.30 a.m. 18 gas shells were fired into PLOEGSTEERT WOOD. Gun flash was observed on a T.B. of 90° from C.5.a.12.58. A 77 mm. battery was observed firing from T.B. of 100° from U.28.d.82.55; U.23.c. and U.22.d. were lightly shelled with 4.2 H.E. from T.B. of 90° from U.28.d.82.55.

2. Machine Guns. Occasional bursts came from C.5.b.4.5 and from FRELINGHIEN. From 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. consistent firing came from DEULEMONT, and was directed at trenches in U.23.b. and d. M.Gs. were located firing at aircraft from C.5.c.7.5, U.29.b.65.20, and about U.29.d.64.44. Our artillery fired on M.G. firing from C.11.c.55.55 and succeeded in silencing it.

3. Trench Mortars. At 7.15 p.m. M.W. opened fire on C.10.b.90.25 and C.10.d.15.30. Several shrapnel bursts were fired on C.10.d.15.30. T.M. from FRELINGHIEN fired 50 pineapple bombs about C.10.c.45.80. Between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. about 30 pineapple bombs fell in the vicinity of U.23.b.2.C; position of the mortar is not known. Light T.M. located at about U.30.d.2.0.

Between 7.45 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. about 85 light and heavy M.W. bombs fell in U.11. from direction of U.12.c. Several of these bombs are reported to have made a very slight detonation, and gave off dense clouds of smoke smelling like burning charcoal. A special report is being made on this matter.

4. Enemy Movement. Between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. 3 men passed through hedge at C.5.c.1.2, and moved to C.12.a.2.6, thence along road to TWIN FARMS. They were unarmed and wore soft caps. 2 men carrying buckets passed through hedge at C.5.c.1.2 and moved towards house at C.6.c.2.5. and returned later with buckets full to C.12.a.0.6. One man on bicycle carrying a despatch case rode along track towards house at C.6.c.2.5. Shortly after a man with a note in his hand came from same house and disappeared behind trees at C.12.a.0.6.

A locomotive on a T.B. of 70° from C.9.d.25.40 was seen at 2 p.m. moving towards QUESNOY. 1 man on bicycle left CEYLON FARM, C.6.c., at 2.40 p.m. and rode along track to C.12.b.40.99, thence toward DEULE MANSION. At 8.40 a.m. 4 men wearing caps walked along trench in U.29.d. to UNKNOWN FARM, U.29.d.5.1, one of whom appeared to be carrying corrugated iron.

At 10.15 a.m. three men left sap at U.12.c.15.05 toward TOWER. 10.25 a.m. four men at point 150 yds. south of Gasometer disappeared along SUNKEN TRACK. 8.50 a.m. eight men with rifles and equipment proceeded along road in direction of Supports. 9.30 a.m. ten men entered Pill-box at U.12.c.45.22. 8 a.m. four men appeared to unload a transport wagon at U.18.b.8.2. 8.30 a.m. three huns wearing service caps and greatcoats seen at U.12.c.20.05. 9.30 a.m. ten huns ran from a trench at U.12.c.15.05 to U.12.c.20.05.

5. Flares. At 11 a.m. signalling came from a tree about C.5.d.50.95. This was observed from C.10.c.5.7.

Flares above normal. 2 greens from enemy trenches, clusters of yellow and double reds brought no enemy action.

Miscellaneous. There is a footbridge across river at the foot of the old bridge just above water level at U.18.a.55.25. This has not been noticed before.

DEFENCES.1. Wire. (a) Front Line.Right Brigade.

169 coils put out.

Left Brigade. gaps in wire repaired and wire strengthened in front of posts.(b) Support Line.Right Brigade.

35 coils put out.

Left Brigade.

1400 yds. double apron completed.

(c) Second Zone.

2500 yds. erected. 700 yds. pickets erected ready for wiring. Strengthening wire around strong points.

P.T.C.

- 3 -

2. GENERAL WORK.

- (a) Front Line. Right Brigade. 150 yds. revetted.
Left Brigade. 300 yds. O. T. dug from Right Coy.
 H.Q. to front line. General repairs and work on shelters
 and fire steps.
- (b) Support Line. Right Brigade. 30 yds. revetted and drained.
 Bridges erected over drains and work on shelters and
 reclaiming old dugouts.
Left Brigade. 30 yds. excavated. 70 yds.
 prepared for revetment and 2 M.G. emplacements constructed.
- (c) Second Zone. Accommodation completed for 280 men in shelters,
 dugouts and cellars.
 400 yds. trench cleared for occupation.

Corrigenda.

- Reference Div. Intelligence Summary, No. 38, para. DEFENCES
 1. (b) for "3rd belt in front of this line" read "1 belt from
 ULTIMO AVENUE to SUNKEN FARM and 2 belts from there on to
 R. DOUVE."

R. C. Wertheim Capt.
 for Lieut-Colonel,

General Staff, 2nd Aust. Division.

ANNEXE.

Information from aeroplane photographs taken, 26:12:17.

PONT ROUGE.

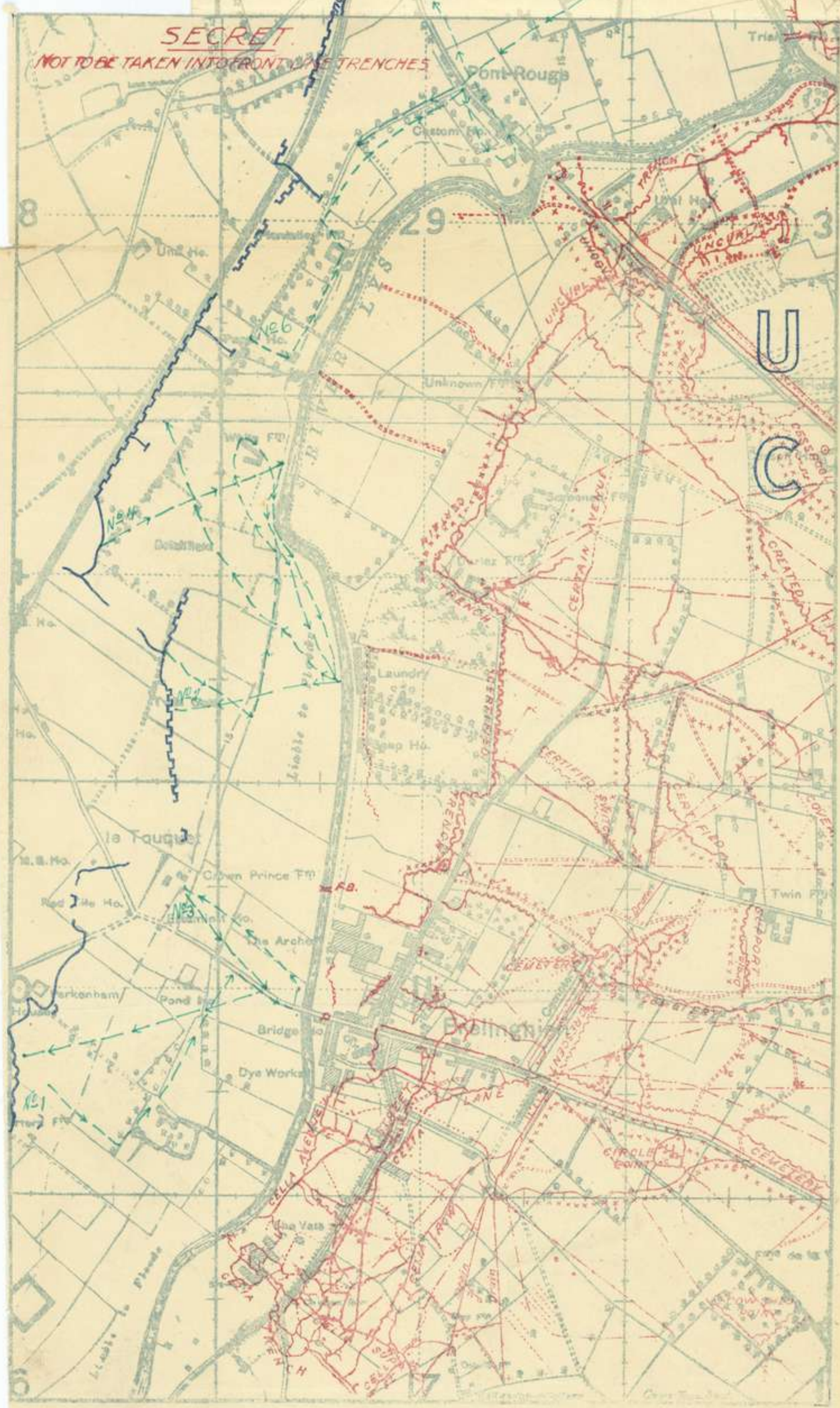
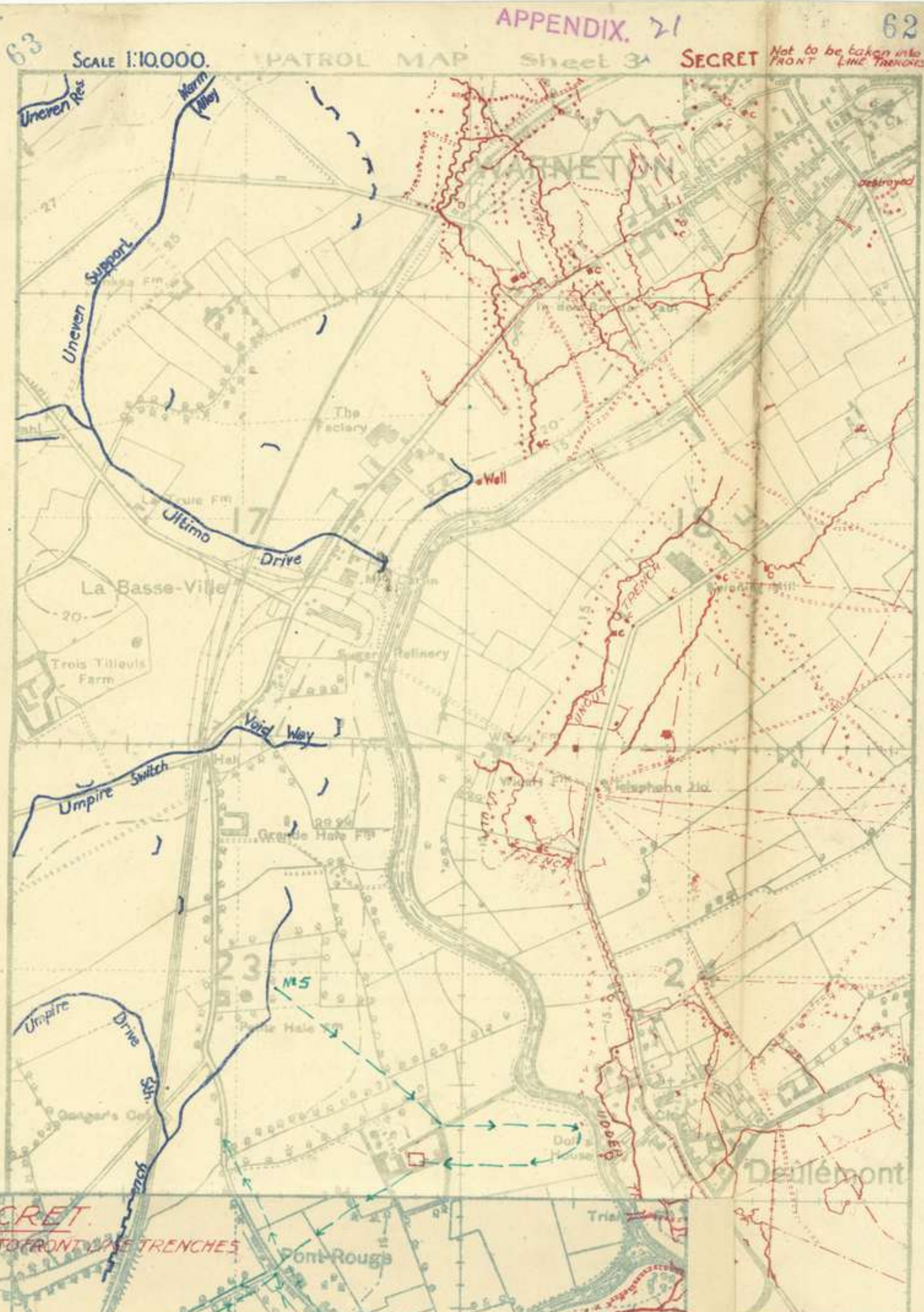
A new foot bridge has been erected over the RIVER LYS from
 U.29.b.73.40 - U.29.b.75.32. Some form of breast work has
 been thrown up on both sides of a shallow ditch running from
 U.29.b.73.40 - U.29.b.68.45, where a sand bag horsehide

M.G. emplacement can be seen facing almost due West. A
 row of fairly thick wire has been put up by way of protection
 from U.29.b.48.35 - U.29.b.61.44. From this point to U.29.b.
 65.50 wire is very thin and probably consists of a few strands
 lying on the ground so as not to be cut by fire. From U.29.b.
 65.50 wire runs back to river at U.29.b.77.40. there appears to
 be a dugout at U.29.b.68.50 which has recently been used as the
 snow appears melted. (This might only be a listening post).

DEFENCES
 1. Wire (a)

2. (c)

3. (b)



DECEMBER 26th/27th (N°39)

APPENDIX 21

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 27th to 6 a.m. 28th December, 1917.

No. 40.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Harassing fire was directed at intervals on DURIEZ FARM, PONT ROUGE, SPINNING MILL, WICART and WAUSTINE FARMS. Trench system in C.12.c. and d. was fired on at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. and subjected to bursts of fire at intervals during the remainder of the night. Roads through V.13.d. and c. and ST. BARBE CROSS ROADS were fired on by 18-pdrs. during the night.

A working party in V.13.a. was dispersed at 9.15 a.m. and a party moving along road at C.12.a.7.5. was fired on at 11 a.m.

Active M.W. at U.12.c.98.80, U.12.c.30.05, U.18.a.1.6, C.11.c.80.85 and M.G. position at C.11.a.55.25 were fired on at intervals by 4.5 Hows. and 18-pdrs.

2. Machine Guns. Enemy M.Guns, roads, tracks and activity centres, and bridges at C.11.c.45.90, C.11.a.45.00, and U.18.a.52.25. were subjected to bursts of fire throughout the night.

3. Patrols.

(i) Patrol went out from C.4.d.9.4. at 4.0 p.m. and moved in a N.E. direction to a point covering bridge at C.5.a.3.5. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. Patrol returned at 9 p.m. through C.4.b.7.8. (ii) Patrol moved out from C.4.d.8.2. to approx. C.5.c.4.1. and thence southwards to about C.11.a.3.3. Coughing was heard at C.11.a.7.7. and a listening post is suspected here. M.Guns were firing from C.11.c.4.9 and C.11.c.5.5. Traffic was heard in FRELINGHIEN. Patrol returned through C.10.d.2.3.

(iii) Patrol went out through C.4.b.7.8. and proceeded to WHITE FARM. Drift wood at C.5.a.3.3. was examined and showed no traces of having been recently used by the enemy.

(iv) Patrol moved out from C.10.d.3.0. and moved to C.11.c.1.0. and thence to C.11.c.3.7. Whilst moving along river foot-prints were seen apparently leading to FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE. A search light playing on No-man's-land was located at C.11.c.9.5. Patrol returned via C.10.b.8.3.

(v) Patrol went out through U.29.c.1.4. and moved along river from PAPER HOUSE to PLANTATION FARM, thence along road to U.29.b.1.6. Enemy M.G. was playing on road junction at U.29.b.20.65 from direction of DEULEMONT. A search light at approx. U.30.c.2.7. was playing on PONT ROUGE and BRIDGE. Patrol returned by same route as used coming out.

(vi) Patrol moved out from U.23.b.2.2. and examined MOAT FARM. On leaving farm patrol came under M.G. fire from DEULEMONT. Patrol returned via U.23.b.2.2, having seen nothing of the enemy.

(vii) Protective and liaison patrols were active throughout the night on our Left Brigade front but report nothing of interest.

4. Snipers. Left Brigade Snipers shot a german at the foot of WARNETON TOWER during the morning.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy artillery was rather less active than usual during the period. During the day the DOUVE VALLEY was shelled by 15 cm. Area U.23.c. received 100 gas shells. PLOEGSTEERT WOOD was shelled by 10.5 cm. from T.Bs. of 107° from U.23.b.2.1. and 71° from U.29.c.15.35. The following areas were also shelled:- C.2.a., b. and c., U.21.d., U.7.a. and b., U.11.a. and c., U.17.c.

2. Trench Mortars. Enemy M.W. were very inactive on our Right Brigade front. At 9.5 p.m. M.W. fired on C.10.c.40.85. Between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. front and Support lines in Left Brigade Sector were bombarded by M.W. lying in the area - U.12.c.55.75. to U.12.d.8.4. At 11.30 p.m. 3 gas M.W. projectiles fell in U.11.b. The noise of explosion of these bombs was less than the usual bursts and was followed by a dense cloud of gas. The smell of phosgene has been confirmed from several sources. M.W. at C.11.c.85.85. was silenced by our artillery fire. An active M.W. is suspected at U.24.a.25.55.

P.T.O.

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ENEMY ACTIVITY (Contd)

3. Machine Guns. Enemy machine guns were less active than usual throughout the period. The position at U.11.d.9.4. has been silent for 3 days now. Active M.Gs were located at C.11.c.4.9., C.11.c.55.20., U.18.c.2.0.

4. Movement in enemy lines. At 8.15 a.m. two tram trucks were being pushed along tram line from V.19.c.05.40 as far as VANISHED INN where they disappeared from view. About 30 men were with these trucks (apparently a fatigue party).

At 8.30 a.m. between 30 and 40 men were observed unloading trucks at V.20.a.5.8. They carried the material to CROSS ROADS at V.14.c.3.0. During the next 40 minutes small parties from all directions congregated at this point, and at 9.12 a.m. a train of 6 trucks loaded with men moved off and disappeared from view at V.20.a.95.30.

At 9 a.m. about 30 men were seen working along a line from V.13.a.1.6. to about V.13.a.4.7. They appeared to be filling in a trench. Party was dispersed by our 18-pdrs.

Constant traffic was observed during the morning along the road from LE FOND DE L'EAU to ST. BARBE.

CHEMIN DU TEMPLE in V.13.b. and d. was also used constantly during the morning.

At 9.55 a.m. about 100 men congregated at train terminus about 200 yds. S.E. of CROSS ROADS at V.14.c.3.0. They were wearing great-coats and at 10.15 a.m. moved off in parties of 20 in single file, along the CHEMIN DU TEMPLE to V.20.a.95.10 and then along road to V.25.d.8.8. disappearing at 10.35 a.m. before artillery fire could be brought to bear on them.

Between 9.50 a.m. and 10.25 a.m. about 400 men moved along the road from C.6.a.3.8 to FARM DU GRAND VORQUIN in D.7.c. These parties were engaged by our artillery.

Small parties were seen moving about C.6.d.0.8. At 10.10 a.m. a light railway engine and 4 trucks were seen moving along railway from D.9.a.00.32 to DEULE MANSIONS and back again at 10.25 a.m. Movement was observed around UNKNOWN FARM (U.29.d.5.2) between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Trains were heard to arrive in rear of WARNETON at 12 mn. 3 a.m. and 6 p.m. and dept. at 12.20 a.m. and 3.15 a.m.

At 8 a.m. two men left WARNETON TOWER one carrying a small leather case and the other Field Glasses. The second one was shot by our Left Brigade Snipers.

At 10.15 a.m. a party of 17 moving S.E. along track at U.18.a.5.3. were joined by a larger party at U.18.a.9.0. and the whole lot then moved into house at U.18.b.25.00 before fire could be brought to bear on them.

The snow in the vicinity of enemy wire at U.12.d.1.5. was observed to be considerably trampled. Evidently a party had been working here during the night.

5. Flares. At 10.40 p.m. an enemy plane dropped a white flare over WARNETON followed in quick succession by a succession of flares - green - red - green.

No action followed.

6. Signalling. A signal lamp was observed sending morse from steeple of BAS - WARNETON church, also from a building in DEULEMONT (approx. U.24.c.80.55).

DEFENCES. 1. Wire. (a) Front Line. 188 coils put out by right Bde.
(b) Support Line. 600 yds double apron wire. 100 yds trip wire. 200 yds French wire. 200 yds loose 'Zig Zag' and festoon wire erected by Left Bde.
(c) Second Zone. 1600 yds erected.

2. General Work.

P.F.O.

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APPENDIX 22

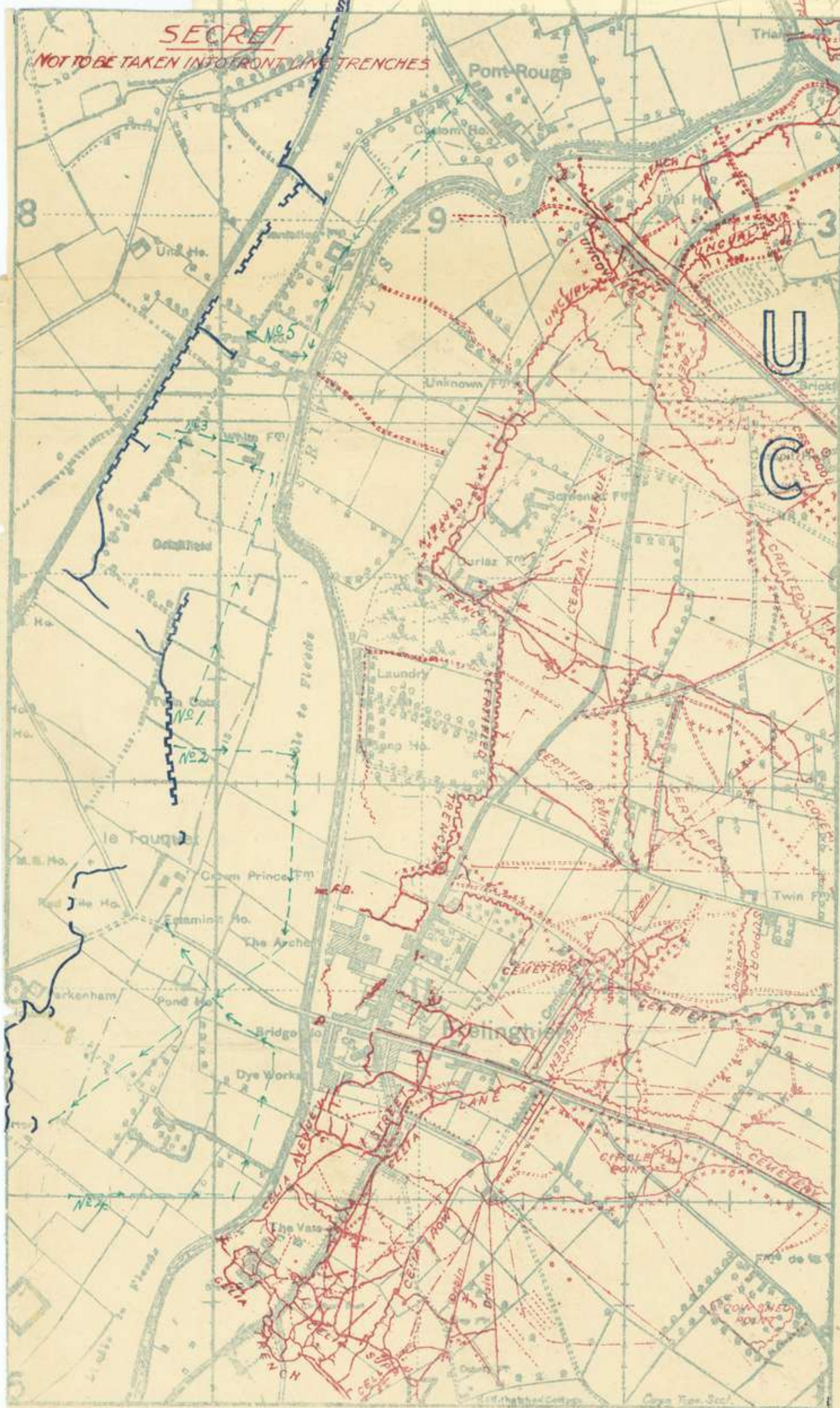
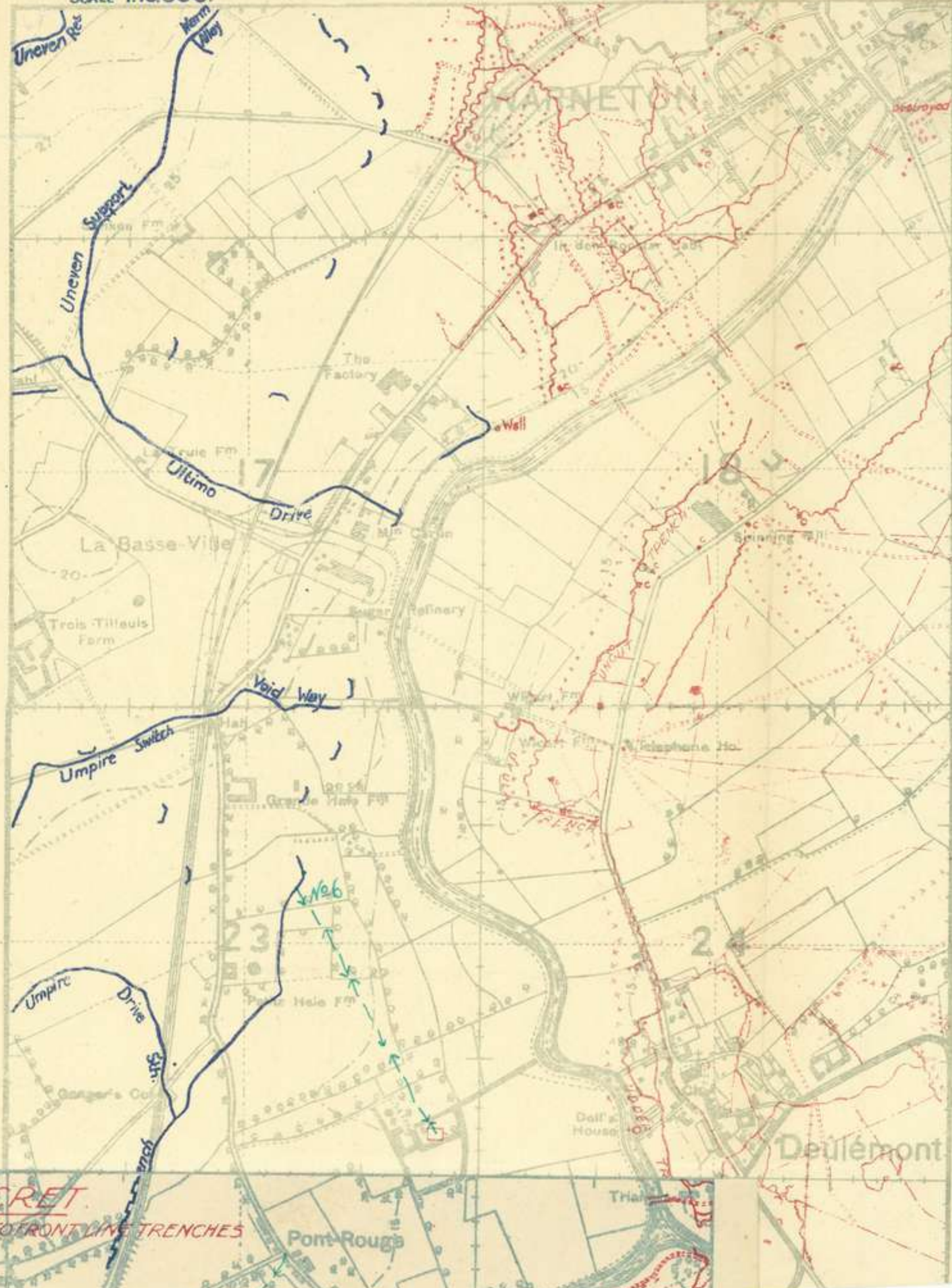
2. General Work.

- (a) Front Line. Right Brigade. 100 yds. trench cleared out;
100 yds. revetted; 50 yds. built
up.
Left Brigade. General work on trenches.
- (b) Support Line.
Right Brigade. 150 yds. revetted; 300 yds.
worked on, deepened and
improved.
Left Brigade. 100 yds. trench dug.
15 yds. revetted.
- (c) Second zone. 300 yds. trench cleared. Work on dug-outs,
shelters, Machine gun emplacements, reclaiming
old dug-outs and old trenches.

ADDENDUM.

Left Brigade reports that at 3 a.m. 22 small bursts of
flame and detonations at half minute intervals was observed
at U.12.0.5.5, corresponding in every way to the firing of
the ordinary trench mortar. No sound of projectiles in
flight or further explosions followed.

J. F. M. Call
Capt
Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.



DECEMBER 27th/28th (N° 40)

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.425.

Location of Units at 8 p.m. 30th December 1917.

DIVISIONAL H.Q.	-	RAVELSBERG.	-	S.17.central.
Artillery H.Q.	-	RAVELSBERG.	-	S.17.central.
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.
5th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.	-	36.B.10.a.6.7.	BRUNE GAYE.	Right Bde.
17th Battalion.	-	36.C.3.c.8.5.	-	Line Right.
18th do	-	36.B.10.d.7.8.	Le Rossignol.	Support Left.
19th do	-	U.27.b.8.2.	-	Line Left.
20th do	-	36.B.23.b.2.3.	Pont de Nieppe.	Support Right.
5th A.M.G.Coy	-	Adv. 36.C.7.d.4.7.	Rear 36.B.23.a.2.5.	
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	36.B.17.d.80.35.	-	Line.
6th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.	-	T.20.c.5.5.	-	Reserve Bde.
21st Battalion.	-	U.19.b.	-	CATACOMES.
22nd do	-	T.26.b.9.5.	-	KORTEPYP CAMP "E".
23rd do	-	T.26.c.6.0.	-	CANTEEN CORNER.
24th do	-	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.
7th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q.	-	36.B.4.c.2.8.	LE ROMARIN.	Left Bde.
25th Battalion.	-	U.15.c.9.5.	-	Line Right.
26th do.	-	T.18.d.7.3.	RED LODGE.	
27th do.	-	36.B.4.a.6.8.	ROMARIN CAMP.	
28th do	-	U.9.b.8.4.	-	Line Left.
7th A.M.G.Coy.	-	36.B.8.c.2.0.	-	Line.
7th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	U.19.b.3.7.	-	CATACOMES. Line.
C.R.E.	-	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.	-	
A.D.M.S.	-	RAVELSBERG.	-	S.17.central.
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 do.	-	T.19.b.5.4. WESTHOF.	D.R.S.	
7th do	-	36.B.8.b.2.5. PONT D'ACHELLES.	M.D.S.	
Div Train H.Q.	-	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.	36.B.16.c.4.9.		NIEPPE.	1 Rue de Warneton.
22nd A.M.G.Coy (Div)	36.B.8.a.4.1.			
Divisional Troops.				
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. (Gas School)	36.B.20.b.4.3.			
D.A.D.O.S.	36.B.1.d.2.8.			
D.B.O. (Bomb School)	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.
28/12/17.

[Signature]
Major.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

War Diary *App 23*
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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 4b.

From 6 a.m. 28th to 6 a.m. 29th December, 1917.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out against DEULEMONT, FRELINGHIEN, SPINNING MILL, WICART FARM, WAUSTINE FARM, and dug-outs at C.6.b.25.75. Trench systems in U.18.a. and C.11.d. were shelled by 18-pdr. Shrapnel. During the period between 4.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. WARNETON STATION was shelled with 225 rounds of 18-pdr. and 30 rounds of 4.5" Hows.

M.W. and M.G. positions in U.11.c., U.12.c. and d., U.18.c., C.12.a.80.45 and C.12.b.10.40. were subjected to concentrated fire by 18-pdr. and 4.5" How. Direct hits were obtained on M.W. positions at C.11.c.80.85 and C.11.c.92.42 with 4.5" How. also M.G. at U.29.d. 64.44 was silenced.

Bridge at U.18.a.55.25 was engaged by 18-pdrs. but, owing to observation being interrupted, results were not ascertained.

A working party in U.18.c. was fired on at 10.30 a.m. and dispersed.

2. Machine Guns. Roads, tracks and railways in and around WARNETON received bursts of fire at irregular intervals; also cross roads at U.30.b.40.65.

3. Aircraft. Several of our planes crossed into enemy territory during the day. These were all subjected to heavy A.A. fire without result. One of our planes engaged an enemy machine and forced it to land near SCREENED FARM (C.5.b.) at 11.50 a.m.

4. Patrols. (i) Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. went out from C.16.a. 2.8. at 4.50 p.m., and moved east until the river was reached, thence north to C.16.c.2.7. Patrol investigated the foot-prints leading to FRELINGHIEN Bridge (see Intelligence Summary - 28th - Patrol iv) and found them to be made by one of our own patrols. Heavy traffic was heard in FRELINGHIEN. Patrol returned at 8 p.m. through C.10.b.8.3.

(ii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs., with Lewis Gun, went out from C.4.b.7.8. at 8 p.m., and visited post at WHITE FARM. They then moved to C.5.a.30.35, and examined the drift wood which had collected there. They found that the river could be crossed by single men, but with great difficulty. Patrol then went south to C.5.c.5.5. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 11 p.m. through C.10.d.2.3.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. left our lines at C.10.b. 82.90 at 1 a.m. and moved in a south-east direction to C.11.a.4.2. From this point coughing could be heard coming from about C.11.a.55.00. Patrol then moved south and crossed FRELINGHIEN road at about C.11.c. 30.95 and moved to C.11.c.2.7. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 4.30 a.m. through C.10.d.2.3.

(iv) Patrol of 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. went out from C.4.b.3.2. and moved to river. From there coughing could be heard at about C.5.c. 95. A listening post is suspected as being established at this point. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 5 a.m. through C.10.b.85.90.

(v) Patrol of 1 Off. and 21 O.Rs., with Lewis Gun, went out from U.29.a.6.4. at 12 midnight and moved along POIT ROUGE road to U.29.b.2.6, and thence to MOAT FARM, U.23.d. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol moved north from MOAT FARM, and returned at 4pm. through U.23.b.25.25.

Gia. ✓

Patrols (c- id.).

(vi) Patrol of 1 Off. and 20 O.Rs. with Lewis Gun went out from U.29.a.6.9. at 6 p.m. and moved to U.29.b.1.8, thence S.E., examining buildings on both sides of the road to U.29.b.4.4. The house at west U.29.b.45.30, which is merely a heap of bricks, is wired on the side. This wire appears to be kept in good repair. Loud talking was heard coming from about U.29.b.7.2. No other trace of the enemy was found. "***"

(vii) The extremely good visibility prevented extensive patrolling being carried out on our Left Brigade front. Protective and Liaison patrols were active along this front during the night, and report nothing of interest occurred.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

A. Artillery. Enemy artillery activity was below normal during the period. ULTIMO AVENUE in U.16.a and b, and U.17.a., was kept under irregular fire by 5.9" and 4.2"H.E. It is suspected that registration is being carried out. Vicinity of SURREY FARM and trenches in C.10 b and d, were lightly shelled with 4.2" H.E. from S.E. of FRELINCHIEN. BUTCHERS SHOP and LE TOUQUET STATION were intermittently shelled.

Flashes were observed on the following T.Es:- From O.P. at U.11.a. 90.10, 67° 77° 104° 106° 118° 129° 140°: From U.16.b.95.65, 77° 79° : From O.P. U.15.d.6.6. 80° and 78°: From C.9.d.25.40, 50°.

Flashes from 4.2 Battery were observed firing from clump of trees at approx. V.13.b.4.5. at 1.30 p.m.

2. Trench Mortars. M.W. firing on LONG AVENUE and HOREKAU from about C.11.a.80.85 was silenced by our artillery. BUTCHERS SHOP, LE TOUQUET and round SURREY FARM was actively shelled by M.W. from the direction of FRELINGHIEN during the afternoon. Batteries were observed firing on T.B. of 114° from O.P. at U.11.a.90.10, and on a T.B. of 123° from C.5.c.35.80. A pineapple mortar is suspected at U.11.b.85.25.

3. Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs. were below normal. The usual bursts of fire were directed on trenches and No-man's-land on our Right Brigade sector and duck-walks and tracks on our Left Brigade sector. The M.G. at U.12.c.39.90. has been inactive since our artillery concentration on the night of the 25th instant.

4. Aerial Activity. Enemy planes were moderately active during the day. E.A. which patrolled our lines during the morning were vigorously engaged by our machine guns but were not driven off for about half-an-hour.

Balloons were observed on T.Bs. of 91° , 131° , and 71° from U.29.c.
10.25: 103° , 122° , 72° , and 138° from U.29.a.6.4: 84° from C.9.d.
25.40: $95\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from C.5.a.12.58.

5. Movement in Enemy Lines. At 8.15 a.m. a scattered party of approx. 60 huns was seen between U.18.b. and V.13.c. apparently doing nothing. They eventually disappeared in the vicinity of V.13.c.3.7.

At 8.25 a.m. movement was seen at the opening at the top of the WARNETON TOWER. Party of approx. 30 men was seen at V.14.c.5.3. These men went down track running south to CHEMIN de TEMPLE road at V.20.a.6.7. At 11.15 a.m. 4 men were seen pushing truck along tram-line at V.20.b.0.5. going S.E. At 12 noon a small party of about 6 men were seen working east of UNKNOWN FARM at U.29.d.6.1. At 12.15 p.m. a sentry was seen walking up and down in trench at U.24.c.75.95. He was later joined by 6 more men.

"***" Patrols. (vi) Contd.

Patrol then worked along trench from U.29.b.35.25 to U.29.b.10.25, thence via hodge at U.29.a.85.15 to PLANTATION FARM and PAPER HOUSE. Patrol returned at 10.15 p.m. through U.29. .2.4.

P.T.O.

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Movement in Enemy Lines (Contd).

Smoke was seen issuing from the following localities - Pill box at U.18.c.9.7., post at U.18.a.1.9.

Smoke was observed coming from a train at about C.5.d.9.8 moving in a northerly direction.

6. Enemy Defences. New trench work can be seen at approx. U.18.a.2.8, and new work - approx. 20 yds - at U.12.c.9.4.

7. Signals. A lamp was seen flashing at V.13.a.2.9., apparently from the MAIRIE de WARNETON.

8. Miscellaneous. At U.18.a.2.8 at 2.30 p.m. a Hun was seen to place a bird (a plover - doubtful) on the parapet; it fed about for a few moments and then disappeared into the trench.

ruined Two telephone wires run from half way up WARNETON TOWER to the building 50 yds S.E of same at about U.12.c.8.3. A hand was seen pointing from the hole three parts way up the Tower.

DEFENCES.

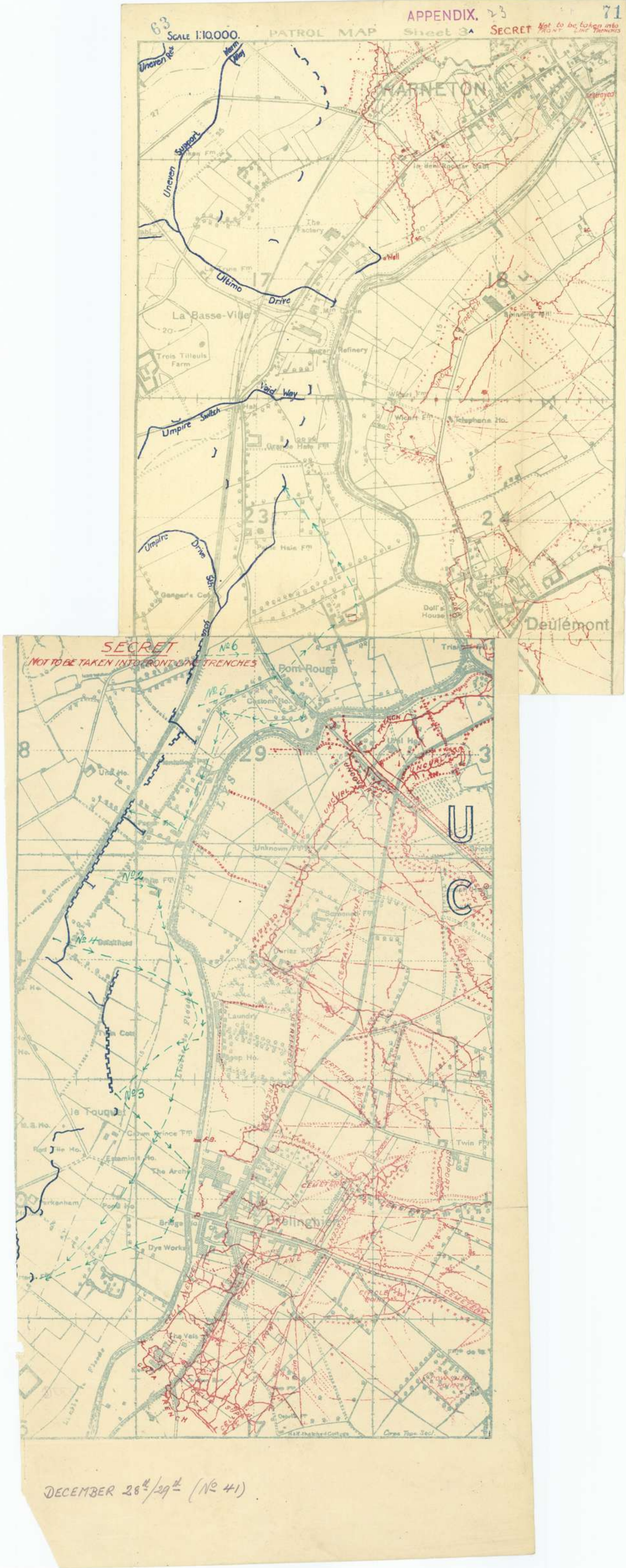
- Wire. (a) Front Line. 273 coils of wire put out by Right Bde.
Wire thickened by Left Bde.
(b) Support Line. 300 yds of double apron wire were erected.
(c) Second Zone. 3000 yds wire erected.

General Work. Front Line. 100 trench revetted. 25 yds of parapet built up and strengthened. Post garrisons of left Bde employed widening and deepening saps connecting up posts.

Support Line. 120 yds revetted. 48 yds duckboarded. 30 yds fire-stepped. 200 yds deepened to take 'A' frames. 170 yds deepened 2 ft.

Second Zone. 700 yds trench cleared. 5 concrete dug-outs pumped out and cleaned. Accommodation built for 70 men.

H. B. B. B. B. B.
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.



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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 42.

From 6 a.m. 29th to 6 a.m. 30th December, 1917.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Harassing fire was continued on WICART FARM, TELEPHONE HOUSE, WARNETON STATION and approaches, SPINNING MILL, UNKNOWN FARM, TWIN FARM throughout the period. Bursts of fire were put on activity centres in U.12.a. and roads from C.12.b.8.3 to C.6.b.4.1, and from C.6.b.2.5 to C.6.b.30.18. Roads and tracks including cross roads in U.13.a. and c. were fired on with shrapnel during night. Fire was brought to bear on active M.W. at U.12.d.9.3., U.12.c.98.80, U.18.c.3.1 and U.18.d.1.9. A shoot on the LAUNDRY was carried out by 4.5" Hows. with satisfactory results. Machine Gun positions in C.11.c. were shelled from 4.30 a.m. to 5 a.m. M.W. positions in U.12.c. were harassed during the night. A working party behind UNKNOWN FARM was shelled by 18-pdrs.

2. Machine Guns. M.Gs. fired on roads from U.24.d.55.35 to U.24.d.7.5, from V.19.c.00.60 to V.19.c.22.52, on tracks in U.12.d. and on GASOMETER (WARNETON).

3. Trench Mortars. T.Ms. fired 50 rounds into the LAUNDRY and the SOAP HOUSE during the night. This brought no enemy retaliation. At 10.30 p.m. L.T.Ms. of Left Brigade fired on trenches at U.11.d.8.4. Enemy quickly retaliated but wide of the mark.

4. Patrols.

(i) 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. with L.G. left C.4.d.8.2, and moved to river bank at C.5.c.52.95, where they remained for 45 minutes. Voices were heard at approx. C.5.c.70.95. There was sufficient duck-board material on east bank of river to make a bridge at this point. The river was not frozen over though there was thin ice near the bank. Patrol then moved to WHITE FARM and re-entered our lines at C.4.b.7.8 at 8.50 p.m. having seen nothing of the enemy.

(ii) 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. left C.4.b.45.50, and moved to C.5.a.30.35. Drift wood was examined at this point and with great difficulty a man might cross the river here. Patrol then moved south to within 100 yds. of the LAUNDRY. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. Patrol returned via C.4.d.8.5.

(iii) 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. with L.G. left C.16.a.8.5. at 6 p.m. and moved to C.10.d.7.5, thence to C.11.c.3.5, thence north to FRELINGHIEN road about C.11.a.15.00, thence to C.11.a.4.5. Ground round this spot is marshy and the ice breaks under foot. Patrol returned through C.4.d.8.2. at 10 p.m., having seen and heard nothing of the enemy.

(iv) 1 Off. and 15 O.Rs. left C.10.b.9.0. at 1 a.m. and moved to river at C.11.c.3.8, thence south along the bank to about C.16.b.6.5 and into our lines at C.16.a.8.5. at 5.15 a.m. having seen and heard nothing of the enemy.

(v) 1 Off. and 10 O.Rs. left U.29.a.60.35 at 5 p.m. and moved to U.29.b.40.42 and searched all buildings in vicinity of this point, then moved N.E. round MOAT FARM to U.23.b.5.2 and back into our lines at U.23.c.9.2 at 9.30 p.m. Nothing was seen of the enemy.

(vi) 1 Off. and 20 O.Rs. with L.G. left U.23.c.9.5. at 12 midnight and moved out to Cross Roads at U.29.b.2.6, thence along road to U.29.b.45.45. From U.29.b.2.6. sound of tapping, talking, shovelling bricks and clanking of iron could be heard coming from the vicinity of URAL HOUSE (U.30.a.). A belt of good wire crosses the PONT ROUGE Road at U.29.b.5.4. Aeroplane photo 69.B.194 confirms this. Patrol found no signs of any new work having been done on our side of the river. Patrol returned through U.29.c.10.25 at 3 a.m.

(vii) 4 O.Rs. from U.11.b.05.50. reconnoitred the DOUVE VALLEY, Pill box at U.11.b.4.4 was empty but tracks in the snow indicate a recent visit by a large enemy patrol. From Pill-box. bridge at U.11.b.82.52 can be observed. It is of wood and about 18" to 24" wide. A M.G. fired on patrol from U.11.b.85.60. 7 or 8 men were observed around pill-boxes at

P.T.O.

U.12.a.2.2. There is a C.T. to the rear from here. A belt of wire 3' high and 20' deep extends from about U.11.d.9.9 to U.11.b.95.30.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy artillery was active during daylight. From 10.20am. to 3.30pm. 500 rnds. 15 cm. fell in U.26.a. and c., and 300 rounds 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. fell in U.2.a. and c. and C.1.b. Our front line in C.4.b. and d. was lightly shelled during the day with 15 cm. from an Easterly direction. 7.7 cm. and 10.5 cm. registered on tracks and trenches between C.16.a.8.5 and C.10.d.2.3 and the BUTCHERS SHOP. PLANTATION FARM was shelled with H.E. on a T.B. of 98° from U.29.a.6.4. GRAND HAIE and PETIT HAIE FARMS, and UMPIRE DRIVE SOUTH were intermittently shelled during the day. At 11.30 p.m. a number of gas shells fell in vicinity of C.8.c.5.8.

Gun flashes were observed on a T.B. of 90° from C.5.a.12.58, and 78° and 130° from C.4.b.45.15.

2. Trench Mortars. T.Ms. shelled WHITE FARM, C.10.b. and d. NAPOO AVENUE and U.29.a. in our Right Brigade Sector, but were less active than usual in our Left Brigade sector. The flash of an active M.W. has been frequently seen on a T.B. of 111° from U.11.a.9.1. An active M.W. has been located at C.11.a.75.90, and one is suspected at UNKNOWN FARM (U.29.d.41)

3. Machine Guns. M.Gs. were active on our Right Brigade front firing during the night from THE ARCHES at C.11.a.60.15, BRIDGE HOUSE at C.11.c.50.75, and DYE WORKS at C.11.c.55.60.

4. Aerial Activity. Was above normal. Enemy planes continually patrolled our lines during the morning. A flare dropped from an E.A. flying over C.4.a. brought artillery fire on to the area. About 3 p.m. an enemy plane with blue painted body flew low over the front line of our Left Brigade.

5. Movement in Enemy Lines. At 7.5 a.m. 3 men were seen working at N.E. corner of UNKNOWN FARM. They appeared to be erecting camouflage.

At 8 a.m. smoke was observed coming from a ditch or trench at C.5.c.90.25.

At 8.40 a.m. a man was seen carrying something like a shell into UNKNOWN FARM.

Front line posts of our Right Bde report having heard more singing and whistling than usual in the enemy lines over the river during the last 24 hours.

Throughout the day slight movement of individuals and small parties was observed in U.18, about the SPINNING MILL and in U.12.c.

Transport was heard behind WANNETON between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Noise of digging and wiring was heard during the night in the enemy lines just north of the RIVER DOUVE.

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

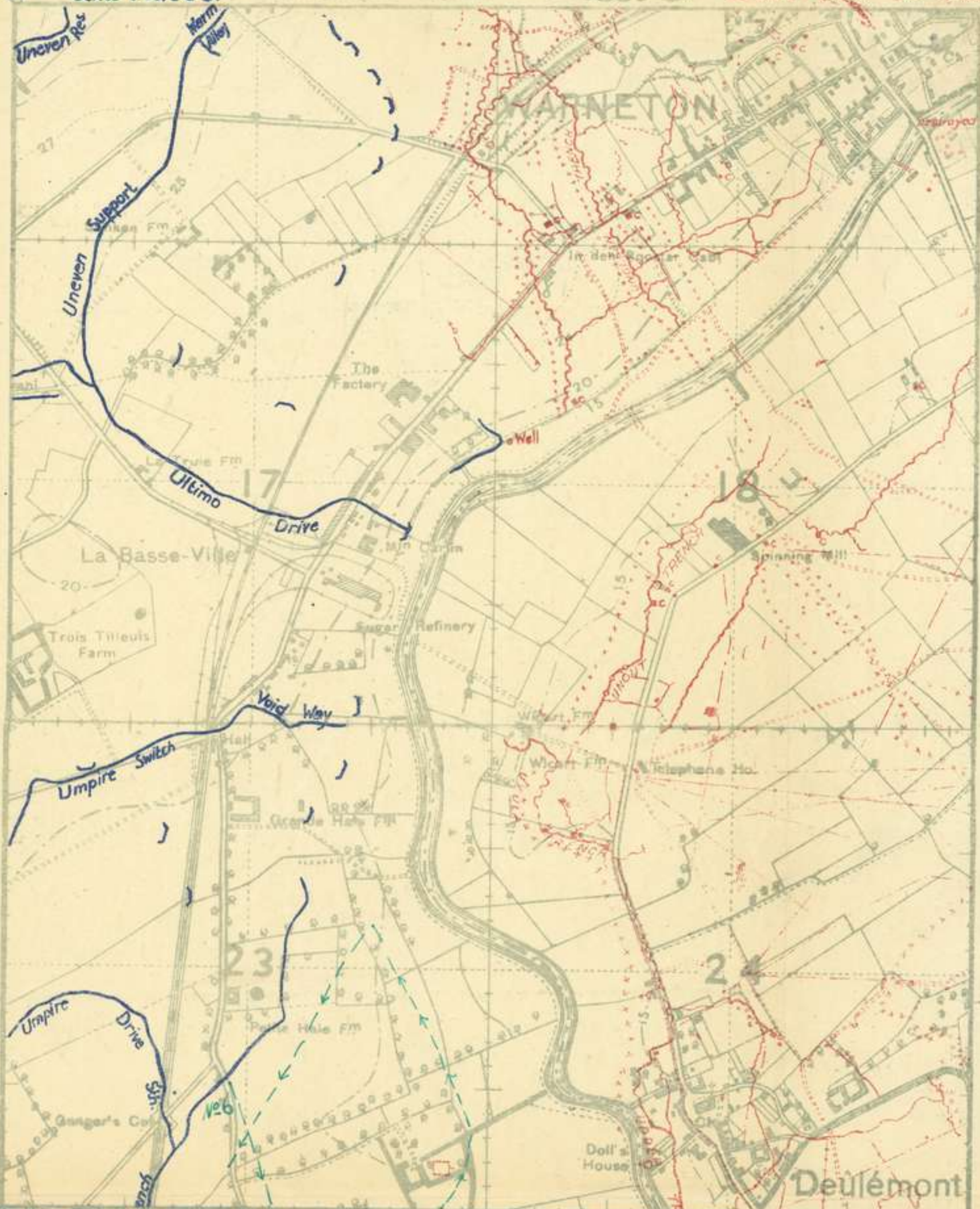
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PATROL MAP

Sheet 3A

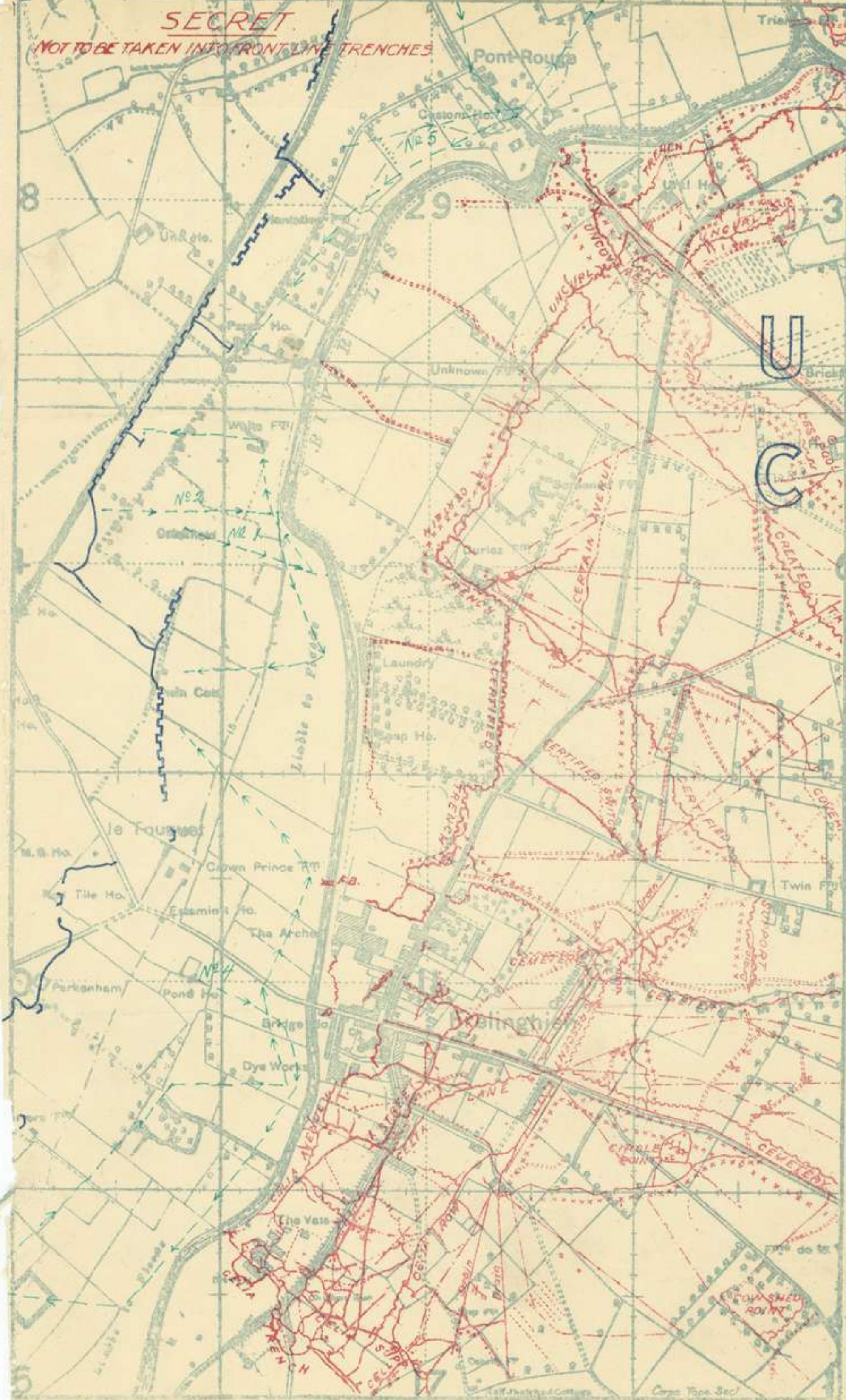
SECRET

~~Not~~ to be taken into
FRONT LINE TRENCHES



~~SECRET~~

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES



DECEMBER 29th/30th (No 42)

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 30th to 6 a.m. 31st December, 1917.

Nc43.

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

OPERATIONS.

1. Artillery. Suspected emplacements and vicinity of WICART FARM, WAUSTINE FARM, SPINNING MILL, CEYLON FARM and DURIEZ FARM were subjected to destructive fire. Cross Roads on DEULEMONT-COMINES ROAD and the branch roads up to V.14.c.80.50. were systematically searched with shrapnel and 4.5" Hows. at frequent intervals throughout night. Approaches to FRELINGHIEN were shelled. Minenwerfer and M.C. positions in U.12.c., U.24.c., U.11.a. and c. were harassed. U.30.c.20.70. (reported location of a search light) was fired on by 4.5" Hows. Approaches and vicinity of Bridge at U.12.d.75.65 were brought under fire.

2. Machine Guns. 6,000 rounds were fired on road from C.11.d.88.45 to C.12.c.25.00 and bridge at U.29.b.57.30.

3. Trench Mortars. C.11.a. and LAUNDRY were shelled by our T.Ms. during the day and night. 25 rounds were fired on enemy M.G. position at U.11.b.60.15, and trench at U.11.d.8.4. In each case enemy retaliated with his T.Ms. on our right Battalion sector.

4. Patrols.

(i) Patrol of 1 Off. 15 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from C.4.d.8.2. at 5pm. and moved to C.5.c.5.2, thence N. along river bank.

The duck-boards reported to be at C.5.c.50.95 on the night 29th/30th were found to be an old wooden footbridge up against the bank on E. side of river. Sneezing was heard at C.5.c.65.95. None of the enemy was seen, and patrol returned at 9pm. through C.4.b.7.8.

(ii) Patrol of 1 Off. 15 O.Rs. went out from TOOL HOUSE at 10pm. and moved E. until the river was reached, thence N. crossing a ditch at C.11.c.25.15, thence to breastwork along FRELINGHIEN ROAD. The FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE was examined and found to be badly damaged, but passable. There are no bridges between C.16.b.7.8 and FRELINGHIEN. No trace of the enemy was found, and patrol returned at 1.20am. through C.10.b.9.0.

(iii) Patrol of 1 Off. 15 O.Rs. went out from C.4.b.7.8 at 1am. and visited WHITE FARM and driftwood at C.5.a.30.35. The framework of the old bridge at this point is of iron. It would be extremely difficult to cross it. The patrol moved S. along the river to about C.5.c.6.5. The river was found to be frozen for a distance of 3 yards from the bank. Patrol returned at 5am. through C.10.b.82.90.

(iv) Patrol of 1 Off. 20 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.29.c.10.25. at 6pm. Patrol examined PAPER HOUSE, then along river to PLANTATION FARM, thence to disused trench at U.29.b.50.65 and down trench towards river and to house at U.29.b.60.45. No sound was heard of the enemy. Flashes of 4 T.Ms. were seen in vicinity of U.24.c.5.5. Patrol returned at 10pm. through U.29.a.6.8.

(v) Patrol of 1 Off. 20 O.Rs. with L.G. went out from U.23.b.3.3 at 12 midnight and moved in S.E. direction, passing on the east of MOAT FARM, and to U.29.b.65.56. Whilst at about U.23.b.6.2. flashes from T.M. were observed at U.24.c.75.65. Voices were heard and work was being done apparently wiring at U.24.a.3.5. A train was heard at about 2am. and iron was heard being dumped. No trace of the enemy was found. Patrol returned at 4am. through U.29.a.6.4.

(vi) At midnight two Officers reconnoitred sap leading from U.17.b.80.37 to river bank, and found it in good condition but under direct observation from U.18. From this sap excellent observation can be gained of No-man's-land to the left and good enfilade fire could be directed on troops attacking our left sector. Five corrugated dugouts on the river bank were searched and found to be in fair repair but wet and had entrances facing WARNETON. The sap had entanglements all along and the wire crossed it in several places.

(vii) One N.C.O. and 10 men with L.G. left U.17.b.70.95 at 6.30pm. and moved along railway to U.11.d.90.23, when they encountered a party of 4 enemy moving down hedge on their right, and another party of 3

P.T.O.

Patrols (Contd.).

- 2 -

moving down hedge along railway. Our patrol emptied nearly two L.G. magazines into them and later engaged a wiring party at U.11.d.85.36. From 10 to 12 enemy were hit during these encounters, but no identifications were obtained owing to their being behind their wire.

(viii) 1 Off. 12 O.Rs. with L.G. left U.11.d.40.88 to reconnoitre old trench between U.11.d.70.45 and U.11.d.80.75. Shell holes in vicinity U.11.d.8.8. were examined and found to bear no traces of recent occupation. Party then moved down trip wire from U.11.d.80.75 to U.11.d.80.60, crossed trip wire and were fired on by M.G. from trench at U.11.d.80.45. Much coughing, but no other sound emanated from this trench. There is a strip of about 50 yds. of trip wire 4 or 5 inches high in front of this trench and plain wire about 15 ft. deep but in disrepair and should not present much obstacle to troops. The ground passed over is in good condition and passable for troops.

A permanent listening post has been established at U.17.d.6.4.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

1. Artillery. Enemy Artillery was much less active than during previous period. There was light scattered fire during the night and some gas about PLOEGSTEERT. During the period a 77 mm. firing from a T.B. of 101° from C.5.c.35.80 shelled WHITE FARM and the brickfield, and a 4.2 from a T.B. of 103° from C.5.c.35.80 shelled BRICKFIELD. LE TOUQUET, LONG AVENUE, BUTCHERS SHOP and BARKENHAM AVENUE were lightly shelled with 4.2 H.E. from S.E. of FRELINGHIEN. U.23.c. was shelled with 4.2 H.E. from due east of U.23.c.95.20. ULTIMO AVENUE the DOUVE VALLEY and WARN track were shelled intermittently with bursts of 5.9" and 4.2" H.E. The rear of our support was also lightly shelled with 7.7 cm H.E. during the day from direction of BAS-WARNETON.

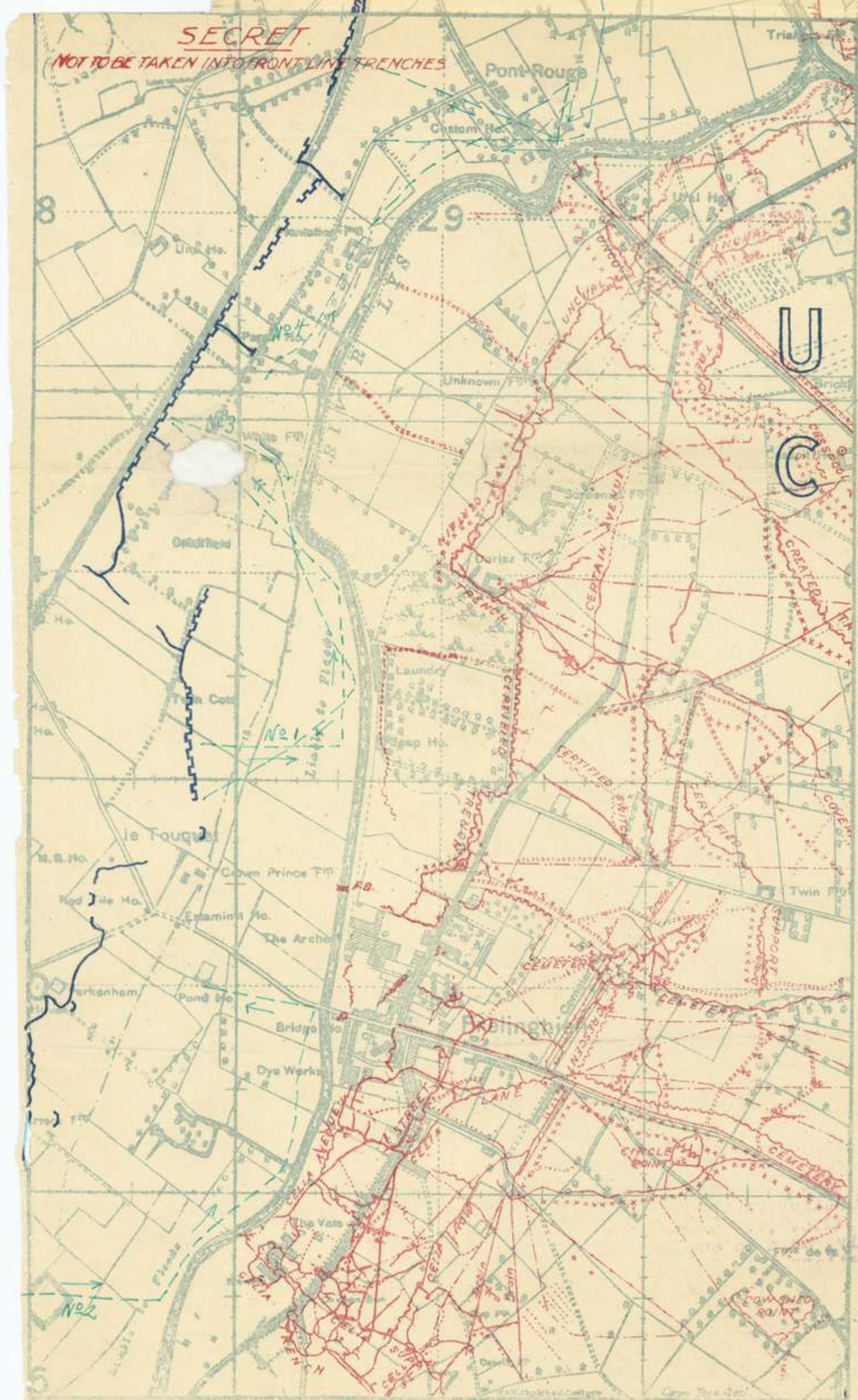
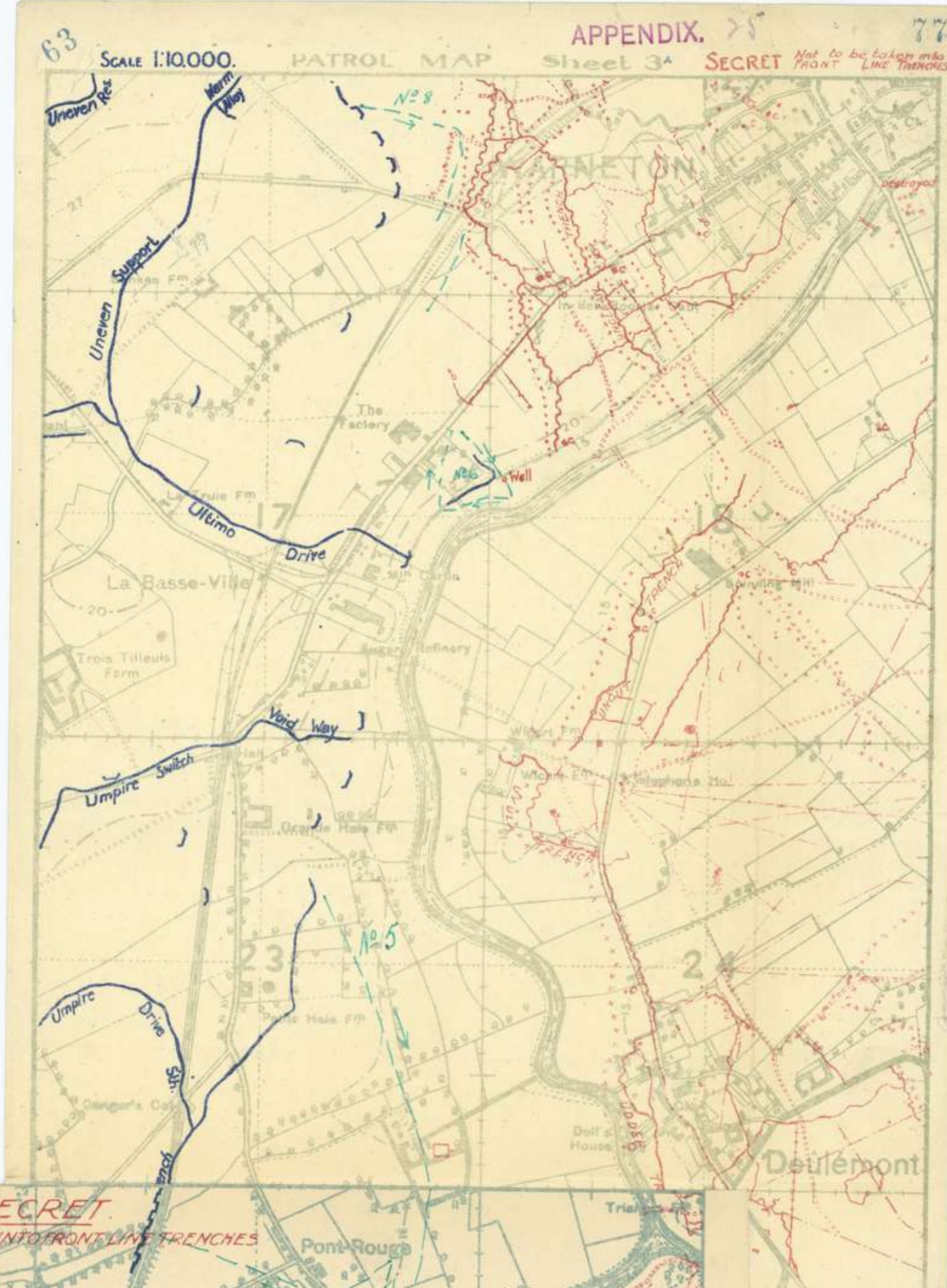
2. Trench Mortars. Enemy T.Ms were generally inactive. A light T.M. firing from C.11.a.60.25 put a few rounds into C.4.d, C.10.b, and a medium T.M. fired on HOREKAU AVENUE. U.23.a.8.4. was lightly shelled from about U.24.c.7. .6. At 11 a.m. 8 M.W. shells fell near LE TOUQUET STN, and at 12.30 p.m. 4 M.W. fell on CARTERS FARM from direction of FRELINGHIEN. 3. Machine Guns. During the night occasional bursts came from THE ARCHES, C.11.a.8.2., THE LAUNDRY, and from URAL HOUSE (U.30.a.20.02) Bursts of indirect fire swept our supports during the night from T.B. of 98° 113° 121° and 128° taken from O.P. at U.11.a.30.10., but activity was below normal.

4. Movement. At 7.10 a.m. two men coming from direction of River entered Wood at C.5.c.70.85. thence into sap at C.5.central. At 8.5. a.m. and 8.30 a.m. hammering could be heard from behind the LAUNDRY. At 9 a.m. two men working with pump near C.5.d.10.99 disappeared upon being fired on by M.G. At 9.40 a.m. one man left sap C.5.central and drew water from a tank 20 yds from sap. This was repeated three times. At 10 a.m. three men were seen walking along trench about C.5.c.8.8. carrying sandbags and going in direction of DURIEZ FARM. At 2.30 p.m. 5 men working in trench U.29.d.7.5; they came from UNKNOWN FARM. Two men walked from U.29.b.85.00 to U.29.b.70.25. returning with what appeared to be a telephone reel. At 2.20 p.m. three men carrying what appeared to be a stretcher were seen at U.30.a.1.2, two of whom were wearing a dark coloured uniform, and the third one field grey. At 4.5 p.m. smoke from a small fire at U.23.b.6.2 was seen. 7. Four men were seen digging a trench U.12.c.35.95. 11.25 a.m. two men entered Tower, one carrying a roll of maps (?) 8.50 a.m. a dog and a Hun left the SPINNING MILL, ran quickly and disappeared at U.18.b.20.05. The presence of the former animal is not considered to bear any particular significance.

5. Miscellaneous. At 1 p.m. some 7.7 cm shells fell in approx. U.11.b.4.4. and immediately 4 orange flares were fired from U.11.b.6.4., each bursting into 7 or 8 golden stars. The shelling then lifted to approx. U.11.a.7.4. 11.30 a.m. a gun was seen firing three shots into the Div. ar. a on our left from approx. V.19.a.6.8. 11.45 a.m. the hostile battery reported on the 29th inst was again observed in action firing over the SUGAR REFINERY to our back areas. The location of the battery is approx V.13.b.4.5.

R. H. Hein Capt

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.



DECEMBER 30th/31st (No. 43)

App 25a

S E C R E T .

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.443.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 1st January 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.425)

17th Battalion.	-	36.B.23.b.2.3.	Pont de Nieppe.	Support R.
20th do	-	36.C.5.c.8.5.		Line Right.
26th Battalion.	-	U.9.b.8.4.		Line Left.
28th do.	-	T.18.d.7.3.	RED LODGE	

J. M. G.
Major,
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.