

AWM4

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/32 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

March 1918



AWM4-1/44/32PART3

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 84.

From 6 a.m. 20th to 6 a.m. 21st March, 1918.

NOTE Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS.

(A) Artillery. Our Artillery was normally active during the period and H.E. and shrapnel was directed in and around WARNETON particularly in vicinity of U.12.b.1.2., U.12.c.9.4., U.12.b.5.5. At a request from our Left Bn. neutralising fire was brought to bear on active M.Ws. at U.12.c.46.53., U.12.c.30.07., U.12.c.48.25., U.12.c.78.75. The fire of our 18-pdrs. was very effective. 7.15pm. a man disappeared behind ruins and immediately a T.M. fired from this spot (U.24.a.6.8.). Our 18-pdrs. were notified and three direct hits were recorded. Between 10 and 11 p.m. heavy artillery fire was heard on our extreme left.

Wood in C.5.d., working party at C.11.c.45.90, C.11.c.9.3., and defences in and around FRELINGHIEN were also shelled.

(b) Trench Mortars. At our request the 6" T.M's. fired and silenced active M.W's. in U.12.c. Out L.T.M's. fired 60 rds. during the night. 9 rds. in registration were put over on the SPINNEY U.18.a.2.5. At 10.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. 20 rds. were fired into SPINNEY and at 12.30 a.m. 25 rds. more. Front line report that M.G., which was troublesome has not fired since. On Left Sector 6 rds. were fired on L.P. at U.11.b.70.23. 10 rds. were fired on to T.M. position at C.5.d.38.17. Smoke Mortars co-operated with artillery during the raid.

(c) Machine Guns. 38,000 rds. were fired on ground from U.24.c.25.15. to U.30.a.75.85., bridge at U.30.a.8.9., and trench system from U.29.d.80.65. to U.29.d.9.8. 3.45am. - 4.5am. 8,000 rds. were fired on U.29.b.0.4. - U.29.b.2.2.; 16,000 rds. on U.23.d.8.4. - U.24.c.25.15.; 8,000 rds. on U.24.a.2.9. - U.24.a.6.8. and U.24.a.1.6. - U.24.a.5.5. 9pm. - 12 midnight 2,000 rds. were fired on U.12.d.52.18.; 12 midnight - 2am. 2,000 rds. on U.12.d.86.90.; 12 midnight - 4am. 1,500 rds. on U.18.d.04.74.; 4am. - 6am. 2,500 rds. on U.18.b.04.56.

(d) Raid. See attached report.

(e) Patrols.

(i) Patrol went out at 2 a.m. and moved along FRELINGHIEN ROAD. At C.11.c.20.95. there is a small belt of German concertina wire, 5' high. At C.11.c.25.95. there is a small wooden structure in which are peepholes facing our lines. The structure showed no signs of recent occupation. A flare was fired from C.11.c.44.90. Machine gun fire also came from this point.

(ii) Patrol went out at 9pm. and moved to a point opposite the SOAP HOUSE, thence N. along river to WHITE FARM. It was found that the river had slightly risen and bridge at C.5.a.30.35. was partly submerged.

(iii) Patrol went out from U.29.c.1.3. at 8pm. and moved along road in U.29.c. to PLANTATION FARM, thence to building at U.29.b.1.3. At the N.W. corner of building it was noticed that a shellhole and old trenches had been cleared and put in a state of defence. The trench faces N.E. and covers ground from MOAT FARM to KATHERINE POST, U.23.c.90.25. In anticipation of some enemy action the patrol took up a position at the building. Movement was heard in wire at about U.29.b.7.7. and later 2 men approached patrol position from direction of PONT ROUGE. At the same time, the main enemy party was seen moving along hedge at U.29.b.35.80. towards KATHERINE POST. The 2 men being now only about 20 yards away, were bombed and Lewis Gun fire brought to bear on main party, with the result that one of the enemy was wounded and the main party retired in direction of DOLLS HOUSE. It was also noticed that trenches running from U.29.b.10.80. to U.23.c.00.00. had been cleared of all wire and debris.

P.T.O.

1. OPERATIONS (Contd.).

Patrols.

(iv) Patrol went out at 11.30 p.m. and moved to MOAT FARM, on which the enemy fired with T.M. and M.G. U.29.a. and c. were swept by M.G. fire from vicinity of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE.

(v) A Patrol left U.17.b.57.75. at 9 p.m. and examined our wire and found it in good condition except for gaps at U.17.b.7.5. M.G's. were active sweeping NO MAN'S LAND. When our Stokes opened on SPINNEY, Sirens were heard otherwise all was quiet.

(vi) A patrol left U.17.b.9.3. at 2 a.m. and made a thorough reconnaissance of NO MAN'S LAND. Near our own line the ground is much shell torn. Our wire is good except between U.17.b.7.5. and U.17.b.7.6., where it is very poor. Enemy M.G. was active from SPINNEY, but otherwise no enemy were seen or heard.

(f) Aerial activity. The weather conditions prevented active patrolling, but after 4 p.m. our 'planes became active on reconnaissance work over enemy lines. During the night our bombing 'planes could be heard over enemy lines.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 102 I.R., 32nd Division.

3. ORDER OF BATTLE.

N. to S. 228 R.I.R., 103 I.R., 102 I.R., 17 I.R.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

More active than during the previous period. Destructive shoots were carried out on the following targets:-

C.10.a.b. and c. with 5.9 and 4.2 H.E. from T.B. 105°, 86° and 73° from C.9.a.25.40.; MONMOUTH TR., LONG and NAPOO AVS. with 5.9 and 4.2 H.E. from direction of FM. de la VACHERIE.

C.9.d.2.7. - with 4.2 H.E. from T.B. 105° from C.9.d.25.40.

GERMAN M.G. HO. with 77 mm. " 76° " "

KIWI STREET with 4.2 and 5.9 H.E. from direction FM. de la VACHERIE.

C.4.b. and d. - with 77 mm. from T.B. 89° from C.4.a.9.6.

DESPIERRE FARM - with 5.9 H.E. from T.B. 105° " C.9.d.25.40.

GUNNERS FARM - " " " " "

U.29.a. - - with 77 mm. from direction of UNKNOWN FARM.

UNA SUPPORT - with 77 mm. from direction of CESS PIT HOUSE.

U.23.c. - - with 5.9 H.E. from T.B. 124° from U.28.a.25.89

U.23.c. - - with 4.2 H.E. " 70° from U.28.a.25.00.

U.23.b. and d. - with 77 mm. " 94° " "

U.22.d. - - with 4.2 H.E. " 82° " "

PLOEGSTEERT WOOD with 5.9 H.E. from T.Bs. 109° & 119° "

At 4.50 a.m. and 6 a.m. the enemy opened a slight barrage along the front. The sectors North and South of us were heavily shelled.

PLOEGSTEERT WOOD was heavily shelled with Gas during this period.

The following T.B's. (SOUND) were taken from U.15.d.5.7.:-

8.00 a.m. on U.16.c. - - 32 rds. 10.5 cm. 78°.

10.00 a.m. on U.15.central. - 14 " 10.5 cm. 93°.

10.5 a.m. on U.16.c. - - 32 " 10.5 cm. 93°.

11.00 a.m. on U.16.c. - - * 75 " 10.5 cm. 93°.

* A big percentage of these were duds.

11.20 a.m. on U.15.c. - - 250 rds. 10.5 cm. 93°.

1.00 p.m. on U.15.c. and d. - 33 " 10.5 cm. 93°.

3.00 p.m. on U.10.a. (1 sec. Gunfire). 15 cm. 60°.

3.15 p.m. on U.17.c. and d. 10 rds. 15 cm. Unobserved.

3.15 p.m. on U.14.b. - - 80 " 10.5 cm. 90°.

3.20 p.m. on U.16.a. - - 25 " 10.5 cm. & Gas 90°.

3.30 p.m. on U.15.c. and d. - 45 " 10.5 cm. 93°.

6.15 p.m. on U.10.d. - - 30 " 10.5 cm. 98°.

8.10 p.m. on U.16.c. and d. - 31 " 10.5 cm. 87°.

Flashes from a Battery of 4 guns firing one round per minute were seen on a T.B. 89½° from U.11.b.2.1.

2 direct hits were recorded on ULTIMO AVENUE U.17.d.1.9. At 11.15 a.m. a few Gas Shells were sent over on U.9.b. The flash of a big gun was seen firing from a T.B. of 83° from U.11.a.85.05.

- 3 -

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE. Apparently defensive, although artillery fire was considerably heavier in period under review than during preceding 24 hours.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. The following targets were engaged:- C.10.d.3.8. by L.T.M. from C.17.a.60.95.; C.4.b. by M.T.M. from C.5.d.38.17.; Mortars firing from C.11.c.7.7. and UNKNOWN FARM were silenced by our artillery. At 8pm. 8 M.W's. were fired on U.17.d. (SUGAR FACTORY); 12 midnight 12 M.W's. on U.17.b. (SUGAR FACTORY); 3.30 a.m. 23 M.W's. were scattered over U.11.d.

(b) Machine Guns.

Bursts during the night came from C.11.c.7.7., C.5.c.70.66., C.17.a.35.60., C.11.b.2.6., C.11.c.55.85., and C.11.a.55.05. During the early part of the night M.G. fire came from DOLLS HOUSE and vicinity of PONT ROUGE Bridge.

(c) Defences. What appears to be the framework of a pill-box can be seen at CESS PIT HOUSE. This work is camouflaged. Two camouflage dumps are visible at V.13.c.5.5. This is verified by Artillery Liaison Officer from another sector. Working party was heard at approx. U.23.b.90.42. by one of our patrols. Another was heard at U.18.a.2.6. and dispersed by our T.M's.

(d) Sniping. At 9.30 a.m. about 10 shots were fired from approx. U.12.c.0.8., and throughout the afternoon an occasional shot was fired from this position.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Below normal. At 8.15 p.m. a low flying plane crossed our lines and dropped a RED and GREEN flare, upon which enemy artillery opened.

8. ENEMY MOVEMENT. At 4.50 p.m. 2 men ran from the LAUNDRY into wood in rear. At 12.30 p.m. 2 men left CESS PIT HOUSE and moved to UNKNOWN FARM.

An unusual amount of movement was noticed during this term and probably indicates the state of enemy trenches since the rain. At 8 a.m. 4 men went from U.12.d.0.5. to U.12.c.9.4. This was repeated immediately after by four others. Neither party carried anything, and it is thought that it may have been a local relief for M.W. crews. 8.15 a.m. 7 men carrying food containers appeared for a few seconds at U.12.c.75.30. At 8.40 a.m. 4 men at U.12.c.85.40. 5.30 p.m. glimpses of heads were seen in trench at U.12.c.7.3, also at U.6.c.4.2. 12.10 p.m. at approx. U.12.b.3.2. an Officer and man were seen. The Officer was wearing a Field Grey Uniform and a cap with peak and white braid around the cap. He was carrying a stick and moved quickly, disappearing behind the rise.

SIGNALLING. At 7.45 p.m. a lamp was observed on a T.B. of 50° from C.9.d.20.40. sending Morse.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. A light appeared at 8.20 p.m. near CEYLON FARM, and remained alight for 5 minutes. At 5 a.m. Gas Shells fell in MESSINES which necessitated the warning of the garrison in the Left Bn. Reserve and Support Areas. At dusk (7.30) two large stationary YELLOW lights were seen in the direction of DEULEMONT. They appeared to be attached to a captive balloon.

R. B. Walford Capt.
Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

P.T.O.

ANNEXE follows.

- 4 -

A N N E X E.

=====

Information obtained from prisoner of 102nd I.R., captured at U.29.b.1.8.

Name. - ERNST HENGE.

Rank. - Corporal.

Method of capture. - Whilst out on patrol with 10 men was wounded and taken prisoner.

Unit. - 2nd Company, 102 I.R., 32nd Division.

Order of Battle. - N. to S. - 228 R.I.R., 103 I.R., 102 I.R., 17 I.R.

According to prisoner the 177th I.R. was withdrawn into rest on night of the 18th instant. He expects they will soon be in line again.

Dispositions. - 1st Bn. Front Line; 2nd Bn. Support; 3rd Bn. rest at WAMBRECHIES.

Company Trench Strength. - 60.

M.G.'s. - 3 light M.G.'s. per Company.

Names. - Company Commander, Lt. GROSS; Bn. Commander, Capt. HEGER; Regt. Commander, Lt-Col. SCHLICK; Bde. Commander, Col. MÜLLER.

Rations. Plentiful and good.

Morale. Good.

GENERAL. - Prisoner knows nothing of tanks, gas or any attacks to be made in this sector.

He pleaded ignorance as to casualties caused by our gas attack, and even stated that he was unaware that one had taken place.

There is one company in FRELINGHIEN.

A N N E X E II.

=====

Report on raid carried out by 18th Bn. on centre of enemy activity at PONT ROUGE at 3.45 a.m. on the 21st March, 1918.

For 6 or 7 nights previous to the 21st March enemy patrols had been very active in and around PONT ROUGE, and on several occasions patrol encounters ensued.

It was strongly suspected that every night the enemy established a post somewhere in the trench running from U.29.b.3.9. to U.29.b.7.5., withdrawing just prior to daylight; it was therefore decided to raid this trench under cover of an artillery and T.M. barrage. Zero hour was fixed for 3.45 a.m., 21st March.

At about 10pm. on the 20th March one of our patrols encountered and dispersed hostile patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men at approx. U.29.b.1.8. The German N.C.O. was captured.

Our raiding party formed up on the jumping off line - hodge running from U.23.d.10.15. to U.23.d.40.25. without incident.

On our barrage coming down at Zero all enemy T.Ms. and M.Gs., which up to then had been normally active, ceased firing and were not heard again. Enemy artillery retaliation was very slight - a few shells only (10.5 cm. and 77 mm. falling along the WARNAVE in U.28.b.

The ditch running from U.29.b.5.4. to U.29.b.8.6. was found to be full of running water and was about 10 feet wide. The place had been roughly prepared for defence, and scattered along the bank of the ditch were planks, evidently used by the enemy as bridges.

Pill-box at U.29.b.60.45. was dry and showed signs of recent occupation. For a radius of 50 yds. around the pill-box fresh foot-prints in the mud were visible.

About 30 yds. from the bank of the river two belts of wire, French and barbed, covered the approach to the bridge at U.29.b.58.28. No gaps could be discovered in this wire, but eventually three men cut their way

- 5 -

ANNEXE II (Continued).

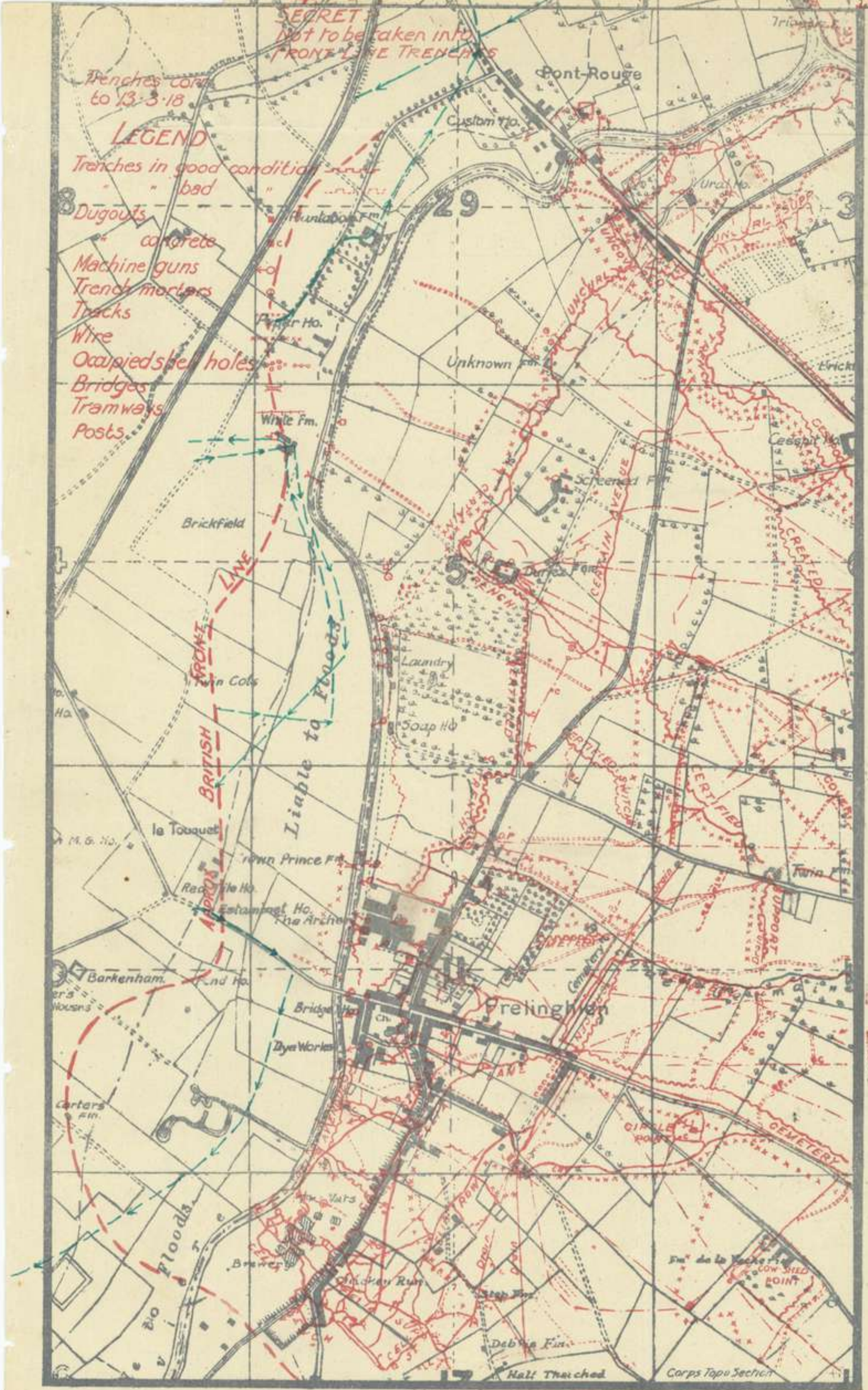
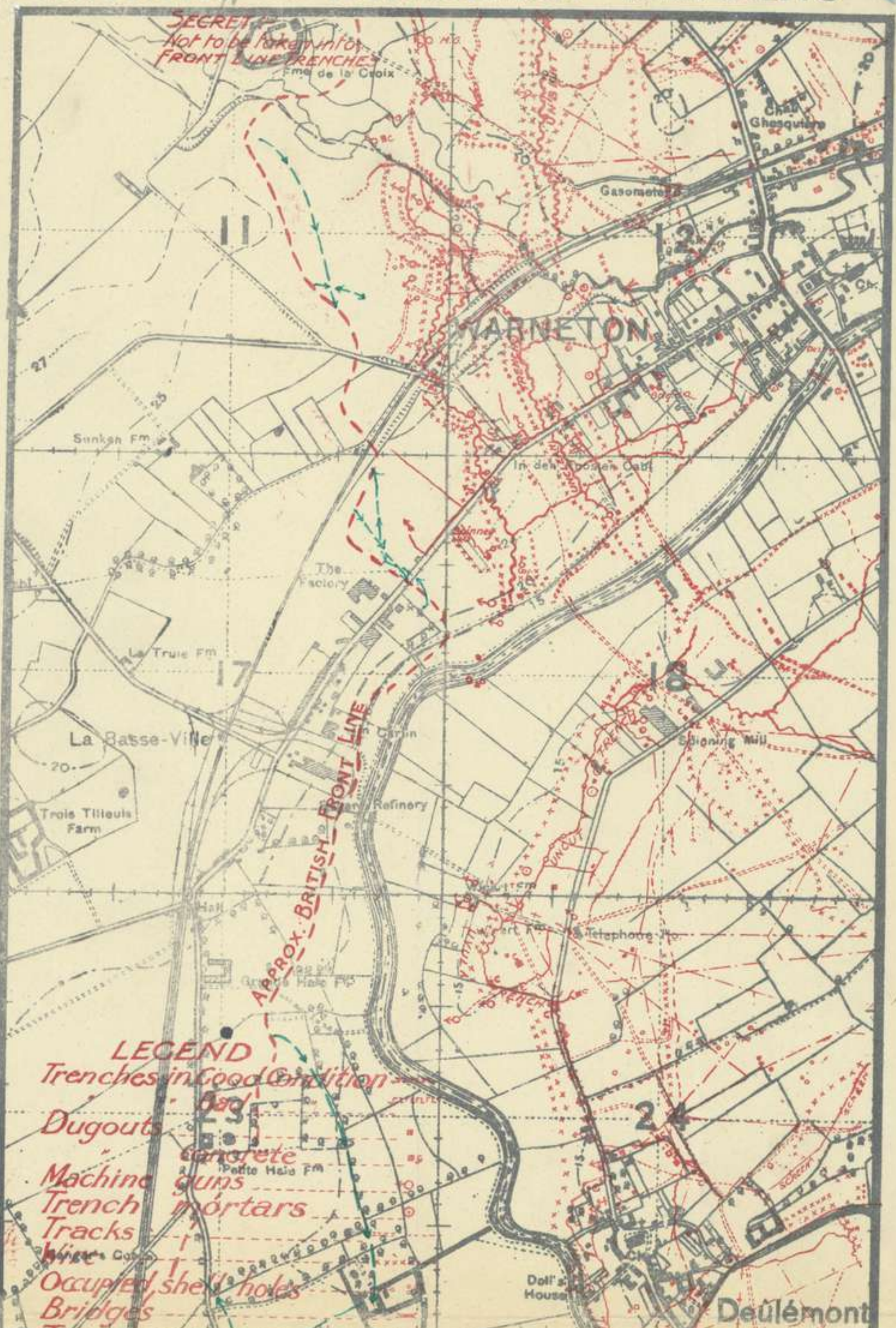
through and reached the river. Search was made inside the wire, but no enemy were discovered.

It is extremely probable that the patrol encounter earlier in the night had alarmed the enemy and caused him to withdraw over the river.

The iron bridge over the river at U.29.b.58.28. was badly damaged. The wooden bridge could not be seen, although a thorough search was made and it is thought that it had either been blown up or pulled up under cover on the enemy side of the river.

After a thorough but unsuccessful search of PONT ROUGE the raiding party returned to our lines, having suffered no casualties.

Throughout the operation telephone lines held and no recourse to runners or visual signalling was necessary.



Trenches Corrected to 12-3-18

app. 27

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF)

Y2/8

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
22nd March, 1918.

AUST. Corps.

Report on enemy raid on 21st Battalion, 22nd March, in front of
LA BASSE-VILLE. Ref. Map (Secret) Sheet O.31 - U.24, 1/10,000.

At 3 a.m., 22nd March, the enemy put down a heavy barrage of
15 cm., 10.5 cm. shells and heavy M.W. on our posts in front of
LA BASSE-VILLE, on the village itself and the support trenches in
rear. At the same time our trenches in U.11.a. and b. were also
heavily shelled.

Under cover of this bombardment the enemy attempted to raid
our front line posts:- 5.U.17., 6.U.17., 7.U.17., 8.U.17. and
9.U.17.

The raid was apparently carried out by two separate parties
of a total strength of about 80 (a prisoner who was captured gives
the enemy strength as 3 Officers and 150 O.R's.).

No. 1 enemy party moved along the railway line in U.11.d. and
attacked Nos. 9 and 8 posts.

No. 2 enemy party made for posts 6 and 7.

Under cover of the fog and smoke the enemy were able to get
very close to our posts before they were observed.

No. 9 Post put up a very good fight with rifles and bombs
and eventually drove the enemy off.

Of No. 8 Post nothing is as yet known. When the post was re-
established this morning the dead bodies of the Officer-in-charge
of the post and a private, not yet identified, were found. The
post had been completely wrecked by M.W. fire and it is probable
that the remainder of the garrison were blown up or buried. *Strength of
this post was 1 officer, 14 other ranks and 1 Lewis gun.*

The garrison of No. 7 post were driven out by the intensity
of the barrage, 2 M.C.O's. being wounded. They do not seem to
have encountered the enemy at all.

War Diary G.M.

- 2 -

At No. 6 Post it appears that three of the garrison were killed and two wounded during the bombardment. The survivors withdrew and joined No. 5 Post. This latter post put up a strong defence, and after beating off several attacks, a party from the post along with an N.C.O. and 6 men from the platoon in support, followed the enemy out into No-man's-land as far as his wire, rescued one of our wounded men from No. 6 Post, who had been captured, and succeeded in capturing one of the enemy.

This party counted 8 dead Germans near the small ruins at U.17.b.85.50. and a number of others a little further on. Several dead were also seen in front of No. 9 Post.

Parties from the supporting platoons re-established all our posts and by daylight our dispositions were again normal.

Posts 6, 7, 8 and 9 were all badly smashed by M.W. fire, and the Lewis guns of Posts 7, 8 and 9 were blown out during the preliminary bombardment.

Our losses as far as can be ascertained at present are:-

1 Officer and 6 O.R's. killed.
 1 " " 12 O.R's. wounded.
 // ~~12~~ O.R's. missing.

It is thought probable that ^{some of} the // O.R's. "missing" were blown up or buried during the bombardment.

Throughout the action our L.T.M's. did excellent work firing 200 rounds on their S.O.S. lines and undoubtedly accounted for a large number of enemy killed

From 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. the enemy artillery heavily bombarded the Headquarters of the Right, Left and Support Companies of the 21st Battalion, which were all established in old German Pill-boxes, and at the same time enemy machine guns kept up a steady fire on the entrances to these Pill-boxes.

All telephonic communications from Battalion Headquarters to Forward and Support Coys., and from Forward Coys' H.Q. to the front line were broken 5 minutes after the bombardment started.

Lamp signalling was impossible owing to the heavy fog. The first lot of runners despatched from Forward Coy. H.Q. to Bn. H.Q. all became casualties.

No S.O.S. signals were observed by our artillery, but in reply to the hostile fire the Left Group batteries opened on their S.O.S. lines at the rate of one round per gun per minute, and maintained this rate of fire for about three-quarters of an hour.

G. J. L. M. Ball Capt
 Major-General,
 Commanding Second Australian Division.

app. 28

War Diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 85.

From 6 a.m. 21st to 6 a.m. 22nd March, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery.

Time.	No. of rounds.		T a r g e t s.		
	18-pdrs.	4.5" H.	Description.	Map. Ref.	R e m a r k s.
7.48 a.m.	15		Working Party.	C.11.c.45.90.	{ Reported by (Inf. Dispersed.)
8.50 a.m.	10.		Working Party.	C.11.c.45.90.	
9.5/9.30am.	30.		Movement.		
			(SCREENED FM.)	C.5.b.57.38.	
4.10 p.m.		100	T.M. positions.	U.12.c.	
5.40 p.m.	20		CESS PIT HO.	C.6.a.96.52.	
12.30 a.m.		60.	M.W.	U.12.c.	
3.15/4.30am.	301		T.M. positions.	U.12.c.	
3.25/4.5am.	799	229	S.O.S. Lines.		Protective barrage in reply to enemy heavy bombardment.
10 a.m.	10 rds.	6" T.M.	M.W.	C.11.a.6.5.	Satisfactory.

At 3.15 a.m. Left Group opened on S.O.S. Lines at the rate of one round per gun per minute, in answer to the hostile fire. It transpired later that the enemy had carried out a raid on our trenches in U.11.b. As no "S.O.S." signals were seen, however, rate of fire was not increased. Enemy fire had practically died out by 4.5 a.m.

(b) French Mortars. Our L.T.Ms. fired 200 rds. into NO MAN'S LAND between LA BASSEVILLE and WARNETON during the enemy raid. Excellent shooting was observed and casualties inflicted on the raiders.

(c) Machine Guns. Our M.Gs. were active and fired on the following targets:- 10pm. to 12 midnight 8,000 rds. on U.12.d.10.53., U.18.c.99.78. and U.18.c.99.53. 12 midnight to 4am. 3,000 rds. on U.12.a.65.50. and U.12.c.75.30.

(d) Sniping. 4 men were seen in trench at U.12.a.4.4. observing with glasses; after a shot was fired they were not seen again.

(e) Patrols. Our patrols report coughing could be heard from across the river at FRELINGHIEN. A patrol left U.17.b.90.35. at 8.30 p.m. and moved towards SPINNEY from and to the right of which M.Gs. were firing. No man's land was in good condition, but is shell torn near our wires in U.17.b.

(f) Aerial activity. Our 'planes were not active during the morning owing to the ground mist, but during the afternoon the usual reconnoitring 'planes were over enemy lines; the enemy M.G. and A.A. fire was feeble. Three of our 'planes were heard during the night to drop bombs in the direction of DEULEMONT.

PRISONERS. One prisoner was captured. (see attached report).

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

During the early hours of the morning (21st) 4.45 a.m. - 7.45 a.m. the enemy shelled the areas in U.14.b. and d., and U.15.a. and c., with 10.5 cm. mixed with gas. It is estimated that 3,000 shells fell during these hours, and the ground was full of gas. We suffered casualties.

The DOUVE WALK was subjected to harassing fire by 77 mm. from 108° T.B. (SOUND) from U.11.a.85.05.

P.T.O.

[Handwritten signature]

APPENDIX 2D

- 2 -

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. (Contd).

It was noticed on our Left Battalion that the Artillery fire at 3 a.m. was put down on roughly the same lines as previously reported, i.e., in the form of a triangle U.10.b.5.9. - U.11.b.3.8. - U.11.c.6.6. During the raid ULTIMO AVENUE received particular attention and was badly damaged.

The following T.B's. (SOUND) were taken from U.15.d.5.7.:-

8.00 a.m.	U.10.c. and d.	40 rds.	10.5 cm.	Unobserved.
8.10 a.m.	U.19.b.	10 "	10.5 cm.	Unobserved.
8.30 a.m.	U.15.d.	10 "	77 mm.	95°.
1.00 p.m.	U.16.central.	20 "	10.5 cm.	87°.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. These were rather active on Left Battalion sector and all along our front during the raid co-operating with enemy artillery. At 12.30pm. 5 M.Ws. were fired on U.11.b.05.40 from U.12.c.8.9.; 1pm. 12 M.Ws. on U.11.b.05.40. from U.12.c.8.9.; 1.10pm. 12 M.Ws. on U.11.c.7.3. from U.12.c.5.7.; 4.20 p.m. 8 M.Ws. on U.11.d.4.5. from U.12.c.9.6.: 10.30 p.m. 8 M.Ws. on U.17.b. from U.12.central.; 12.15am. 8 M.Ws. on U.17.b. from U.12.central. Between 3am. and 4am. the front of the Left Brigade was bombarded heavily by the enemy with M.W. and artillery, particularly the former.

(b) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were quiet except during the raid when they fired on our Support Areas.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. No hostile activity was reported except at 9 p.m. when hostile planes were heard apparently flying towards our back areas.

8. ENEMY MOVEMENT. There was a slight increase in enemy movement during this period. 10am. 2 enemy carrying rifle and equipment were seen for a moment at U.12.c.8.3. 10.45am. 3 enemy moving at U.12.c.9.4. 11am. 1 man at U.12.c.9.4. 11.40am. 2 men at U.12.c.8.3. 3.50pm. 1 man at U.12.c.9.4. 5.30 p.m. 1 man at U.12.a.8.5. 5.30pm. 2 men at U.11.b.9.6.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Flares. These were normal. During the raid GOLDEN Clusters, two GREENS and three REDS were fired from opposite our Left Battalion sector. 11.30 p.m. strings of WHITE flares (5 in a string) were fired from enemy front line. Our planes were patrolling at the time.

A T.M. was seen to fire from a new position U.6.c.8.1. and fired on U.11.b. and d. Men were seen at U.12.a.8.5. evidently observing for this gun.

R. C. Westring Capt

Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE I.

Follows:

A N N E X E . I.

Report on prisoners captured in U.17.b. on morning of 22nd March 1918.

NAME. MUSKETIER SICHELSCHMIDT.

NARRATIVE. Prisoner states that he was graded as GARNISONSDIENST-FAHIG, i.e., fit for garrison duty in Germany. Up to the 7th March when he was called up, he had been plying his trade as a carpenter.

He, as one of a batch of 150, left STRASSBURG for the front 4 days ago, and arrived at NEUVILLE where he remained 3 days. Last night at 11 p.m. he left COMINES for the front with a raiding party consisting of 3 officers and 150 O.P.s.

The object of the attack, which took place between 3.30 a.m. and 4 a.m., was to determine on what principle our line was held.

The prisoner, who was one of a draft for the 132nd I.R., never reached his Regiment, and as he had not yet been allotted (eingeteilt) to any other formation, was totally ignorant as to what unit he belonged.

METHOD OF CAPTURE. Prisoner was one of the raiding party. On seeing the stiff opposition, he hid in a shell hole close to our wire, and on being discovered surrendered to our party who went out to bring him in.

ORDER OF BATTLE. Unknown.

DISPOSITIONS. Unknown.

ENEMY INTENTIONS. Prisoner had seen no German tanks, nor had he any idea as to enemy intentions, gas, etc.

A N N E X E II.

GERMAN SUMMER TIME.

According to the German Wireless Press, German Summer Time will commence at 2 a.m. on the 15th April, and will continue until 3 a.m. on 16th September.

Consequently Franco-British and German time will be the same until 2 a.m. on the 15th April, when German time will again be one hour in advance of Franco-British time.

P.T.O

APPENDIX 2D

- 4 -

Report on Enemy Raid made against our Posts in U.17.b. at 3.30 a.m., 22:3:18.

At 3.5 a.m. the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on our front, Support and communication trenches, also on LA BASSEVILLE, with H.E. Shrapnel and M.W's. This bombardment lasted for 1 1/2 hours.

At approx. 3.30 a.m. a large enemy raiding party attacked our Left Company Posts, Right Battalion, U.17.b., and attempted to enter our Posts but was driven off, leaving one prisoner in our hands and many dead on our wire, and in no man's land. (Left Bde)

A few of our men are missing, but it is believed that they were probably buried during the bombardment, but this has not been verified yet, and search is being made for them.

Our telephone communications were cut almost immediately the bombardment opened, but were restored as soon as possible.

Our casualties to date are -

KILLED. WOUNDED.

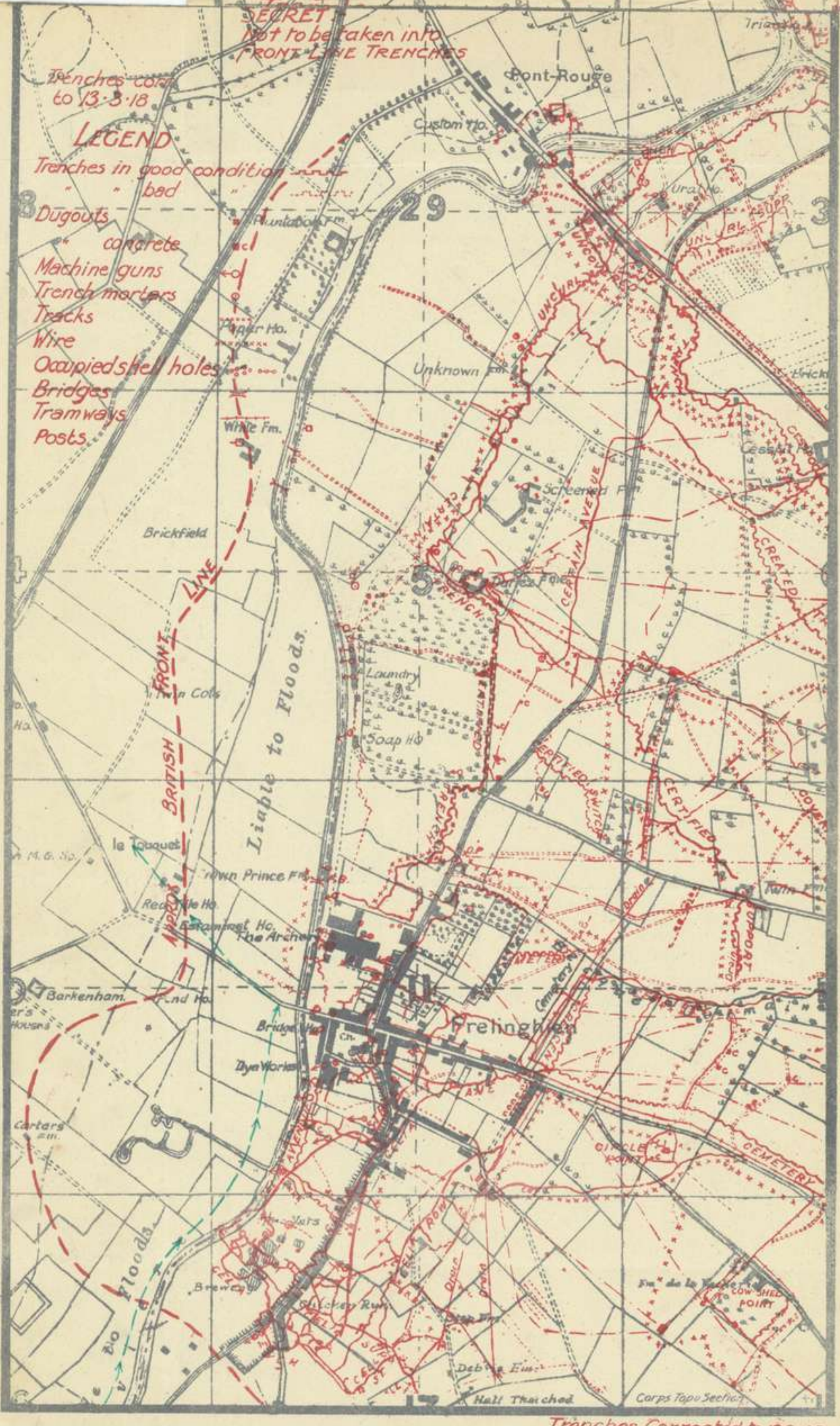
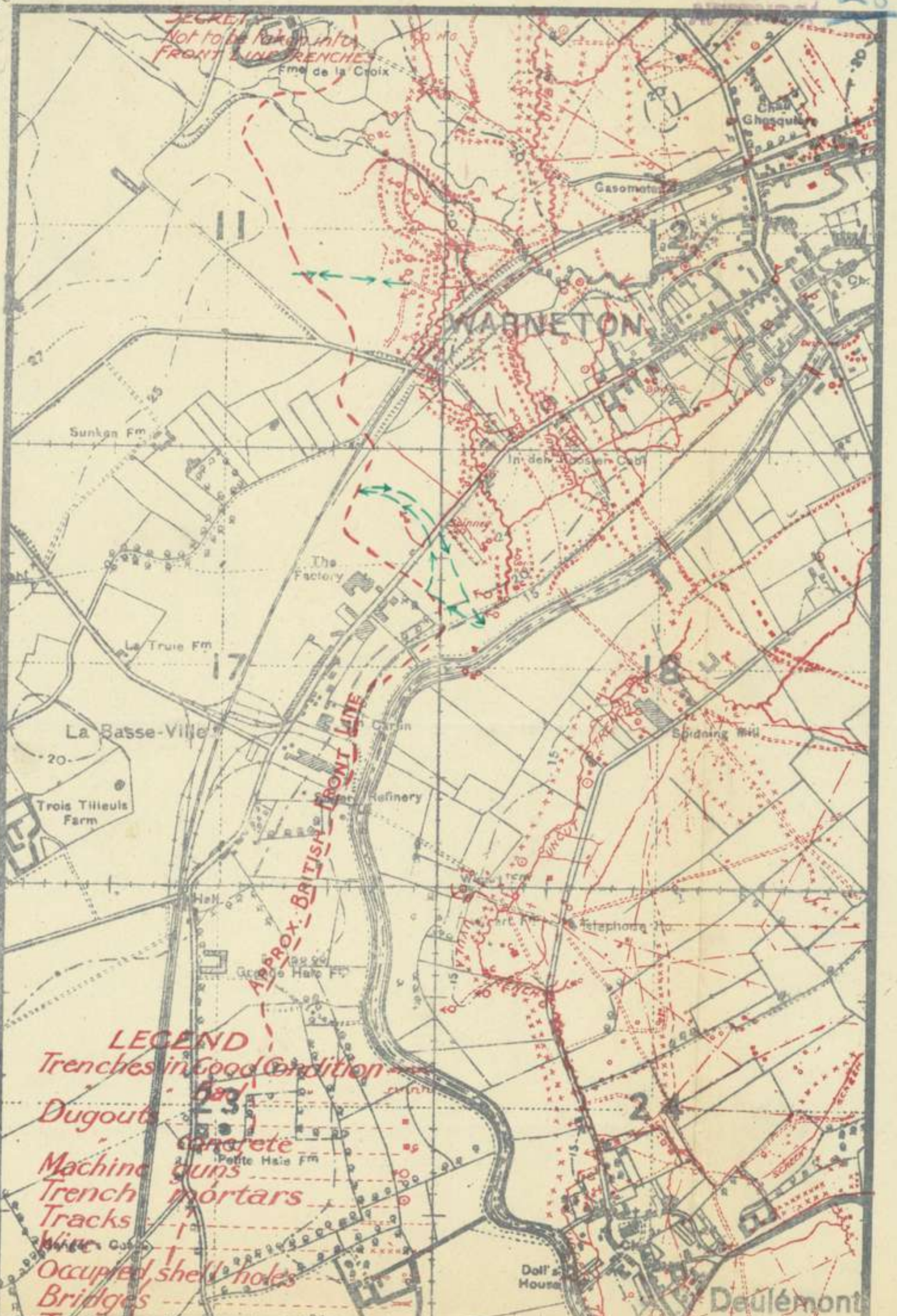
Officers.	1.	1
O. Rs.	6	12

Further details are being obtained.

APPENDIX 2E

According to the German reports, the German attack on the 18th April, and will continue until 3 a.m. on 19th September.

Consequently Franco-British and German lines will be held until 3 a.m. on the 18th April, when German lines will again be the best in advance of Franco-British lines.



Trenches Corrected to 12-3-18

Ref. Maps -
28 and 36 -
1/40,000.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

G.255.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 22nd March, 1918.

DIVISIONAL H.Q. - -	RAVELSBERG.	-	S.17.Central.
Artillery H.Q. - -	do.	-	do.
4th A.F.A. Bde.H.Q.-	T.21.d.40.44.	-	Left Group.
5th do. - -	B.11.d.15.48.	-	Right Group.
2nd Aust. D.A.C. H.Q.	S.30.c.3.7.		
D.T.M.O. - - -	NIEPPE.	-	10 Rue de la Gare.
3rd A.M.T.M. Bty.H.Q.	C.7.c.98.56.		
4th do. - - -	U.14.b.99.10.		
5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	T.20.c.5.5.		TROIS ROIS Cp. RESERVE Bde.
17th Battalion. -	T.26.b.5.6.		KORTEPYP CAMP "A."
18th do. - - -	B.4.a.9.3.		ROMARIN CAMP.
19th do. - - -	T.26.c.5.1.		CANTEEN CORNER.
20th do. - - -	T.26.b.9.4.		KORTEPYP CAMP "B."
5th A.M.G. Coy. -	C.7.d.4.7. (Adv.)		B.9.b.6.2. BONANZA Cp. (Rear)
5th A.L.T.M. Bty. -	T.20.c.5.0.		BULFORD CAMP.
6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	{U.20.a.7.8. (Adv.)		BIG SAM. LEFT Bde.
	{B.3.d. (Rear)		LE ROMARIN. Rue de Sac.
21st Battalion. -	U.15.c.9.5.		ST. YVES. LINE Right.
22nd do. - - -	T.18.d.7.4.		RED LODGE. Support.
23rd do. - - -	U.9.b.5.3.		GREY FARM. LINE Left.
24th do. - - -	U.19.b.4.8.		CATACOMBS. Reserve.
6th A.M.G. Coy. -	{U.15.c.9.4. (Adv.)		ST. YVES. LINE.
	{B.14.a.2.9. (Rear)		
6th A.L.T.M. Bty. -	U.19.b.3.7.		CATACOMBS. LINE.
7th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	B.10.a.6.7.		BRUNE GAYE. RIGHT Brigade.
25th Aust. Inf. Bn. -	B.10.a.8.9.		INGERSOLL Cp. Support Right.
26th do. - - -	U.27.b.8.2.		- LINE Left.
27th do. - - -	C.3.c.8.5.		- LINE Right.
28th do. - - -	B.10.d.7.8.		LE ROSSIGNOL. Support Left.
7th A.M.G. Coy. -	T.20.Central.		PENZANCE LINES.
7th A.L.T.M. Bty. -	U.28.c.7.4.		- LINE.
2nd A. Pioneer Bn. -	B.15.d.5.2.		NIEPPE.
2nd A.M.G. Battalion. -	B.9.c.2.8.		TAHUNA CAMP.
A.D.M.S. - - -	RAVELSBERG.		S.17.central.
5th A. Field Amb. -	B.8.b.2.5.		PONT D'ACHELLES. M.D.S.
6th do. - - -	{B.16.c.7.7.		NIEPPE. H.Q.
	{T.18.d.5.5.		UNDERHILL FARM. A.D.S.
	{C.1.d.4.5.		BREWERY - A.D.S.
7th do. - - -	T.19.b.4.5.		WESTHOF. - D.R.S.
C.R.E. - - -	RAVELSBERG.		S.17.central.
5th Field Coy. A.E. -	B.4.a.5.2.		6th Field Coy. A.E. - T.16.a.9.9.
7th Field Coy. A.E. -	T.26.d.2.2.		
Div. Train H.Q. -	BAILLEUL.		118 Rue de la Gare.
15th Coy. A.A.S.C. -	LA CRECHE.		A.5.d.6.8.
16th Coy. A.A.S.C. -	B.15.b.1.9.		17th Coy. A.A.S.C. B.9.c.8.1. (MUSTER)
20th Coy. A.A.S.C. -	B.8.a.4.0.		- GREEN JACKET LINES. (lines,)
Divisional Troops.			
Paymaster. A.P.M. }			
D.A.D.V.S. D.G.O. }	- RAVELSBERG.		S.17.central.
D.A.D.O.S. -	B.1.d.2.8.		Mob. Vet. Sect. - B.8.d.5.7.
Salvage Coy. -	B.7.d.8.4.		
Div. Bomb. Officer. -	T.9.c.5.3.		- EMU CAMP.
Div. Reinforcement Camp.	-		- CAESTRE.
3rd A. Sanitary Sec.	B.3.c.5.6.		No.2 A.Div.M.T.Coy. - S.29.b.0.1.
22nd A.M.G. Coy. - -	{C.13.d.2.7. (Adv)		
	{B.3.a.2.0. (Rear)		
2nd Aust. Div. H.Q.,			
21st March, 1918.			

E. J. Boyle
Major,
General Staff,

Second Australian Division.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT
OF A LATER ISSUE.

Alterations or Corrections to above
to be notified at once.

War Diary

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

G.293.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 23rd March, 1918.

The following alterations are notified to the last report (G.255).

5th A.M.G. Coy.	-	T.20.Central.	PENZANCE LINES.
7th do.	-	C.7.d.4.7. (Adv.)	B.9.b.6.2. (Rear).
22nd Battalion.	-	T.18.d.7.4.	RED LODGE. REserve.
24th Battalion.	-	U.19.b.4.8.	CATACOMBS. Support.
25th Battalion.	-	B.10.d.7.8.	LE ROSSIGNOL. Sup. Right.
28th Battalion.	-	B.10.a.8.9.	INGERSOLL Cp. Sup. Left.

E. J. Bazley
Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

2nd Aust. Div. H.Q.,
22nd March, 1918.

29

app. 30 97

63

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS,
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)
Copy No.
G.37/527.

Headquarters,
23rd March, 1918.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 53.

Subject:- "S.O.S. Signals."

1. Beginning midday, 28th March, S.O.S. Signal throughout the Army will be a Rifle Grenade Signal, bursting into coloured stars - RED over GREEN over YELLOW.
2. AUST. Corps "Q" is arranging to issue 250 of the above S.O.S. Rifle Grenade Signals to this Division.
3. All S.O.S. Signals now in use will be collected and returned to Div. Bomb Dump by 30th March.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE on attached slip.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1/3.	C.R.A.
4.	5th Aust. Inf ^e Bde.
5.	6th do.
6.	7th do.
7.	2nd Aust. M.G. Battalion.
8.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
9.	A.Q.
10.	Div. Bomb Officer.
11.	58th Division.
12/13.	File.
14/16.	War Diary.

War Diary

File

63

98
app. 3/20

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No 163.

Copy No. 20

Headquarters,
23rd March, 1918.

Ref. Map - Sheet 28 SW and SE (parts of)
Edition 3A 1/20,000.

1. The Second Australian Division will take over as under that portion of
 - (a) the 5th Aust. Div. front now held by the 8th A.I.Bde. from the River DOUVE northward to the river WAMBEEK (inclusive). This sector of the front is known as the MESSINES SECTOR.
 - (b) The 5th A.I.Bde. will relieve the three Battalions of the 8th A.I.Bde. holding the front between the rivers DOUVE and WAMBEEK on the nights 24th/25th March and 25th/26th March.
All details of relief not provided for in this order will be arranged mutually between G.O's.C., 5th and 8th A.I.Bdes.
 - (c) Nucleus garrisons in the Second Zone System of defence in the Second Australian Div. area now furnished by 5th A.I.Bde. will be relieved by 6th and 7th A.I.Bdes. on night 23rd/24th March under arrangements to be made between Brigadiers concerned.
2. Command of the Right Group Artillery covering the MESSINES Sector front of the 5th Aust. Div. will pass to the C.R.A., 2nd Aust. Div. at 6 a.m., 25th March.
3. The 7th Field Coy. A.E., will be attached for work to the 5th A.I.Bde., and will take over engineer duties in the MESSINES Sector by 12 noon, 25th March.
4. The new Northern boundary of the 2nd Aust. Div. will be the river WAMBEEK inclusive (Squares O.23.c., O.22.d. and c.) westward through WYTSCHAETE.
The 1st Aust. Div. will hold the sector North of the River WAMBEEK.
5. All maps, photographs, defence schemes and trench stores will be taken over and receipts furnished.
6. Communications will be opened between the Infantry Bde. H.Q. at NORTH MIDLAND FARM, T.6.c. and 2nd Aust. Div. H.Q. and between Right Artillery Group H.Q. of 5th Aust. Div. and 2nd Aust. Div. H.Q.
7. 2nd Aust. Div. H.Q. will remain at RAVELSBERG as at present.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7 p.m.

A. Borwick
Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION - Over leaf.

War Diary

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. To.

1. C.R.A.
2. C.R.E.
3. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4. 5th A.I.Bde.
5. 6th A.I.Bde.
6. 7th A.I.Bde.
7. 2nd Aust. M. G. Batt'n.
8. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
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.A.D.V.S.
17. D.A.D.O.S.
18. D.B.O.
19. D.G.O.

FOR INFORMATION.

20. AUST. Corps "G."
21. Aust. Corps "Q."
22. 38th Division.
23. 5th Aust. Div.
24. No. 3 Squad. A.F.O.
25. 2nd Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.
26. "L" Special Coy., R.E.
27. No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.
- 28/29. File.
- 30/32. War Diary.
- 33/37. Spare.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 88.

From 6 a.m. 22nd to 6 a.m. 23rd March, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our Artillery was below normal during the period. Our 18-pdrs. maintained bursts of intermittent fire on active M.W.'s. with good neutralising effect. They also shelled targets in the vicinity of U.12.b.1.2. Our Heavies shelled the QUADRANGLE V.13.d. at 12 noon and 3 p.m. The shooting of our 4.5 Hows. and 18-pdrs. seemed to be well placed and good bursts were observed.

TIME.	No. of Rounds.		T A R G E T.		Remarks.
	18-pdr.	4.5" H.	Description.	Co-ordinate.	
6.5 a.m.	20.		SCREENED FARM (Movement).	O.5.b.67.20.	Unobserved.
2/2.20pm.	47.		TELEPHONE HO.	U.24.a.	Checking Reg- istration & Calib'n.
3.0 p.m.	35		GASOMETER.	U.12.b.03.20.	Calibration.
Midnight to 2am.		80.	M.W.	U.12.o.	
4/6am.		80	M.W.	U.12.o.	

Following out a plan for keeping enemy M.W. quiet, 4 batteries fired 80 rounds each in bursts of fire throughout the night, each battery firing for 2 hours. The first started at 10 p.m. and the last ended at 6 a.m. No M.W. were reported during the night and the plan proved most successful.

(b) Trench Mortars. Our 9.45" T.Ms. fired 3 rounds into FRELINGHIEN CHURCH on suspected T.M. position. Our L.T.Ms. fired 10 rounds from Left Bn. Sector on to enemy front line and known M.G. positions apparently with good effect.

(c) Machine Guns. Our M.Gs. were active and fired 12,000 rds. on the following targets:- 7pm. to 10pm. 2,500 rds. on U.12.d.53.80.; 10pm. to 2am. 2,500 rds. on U.18.b.72.47.; 2am. to 6am. 5,000 rds. on U.12.d.15.50 and U.12.e.70.50.; 12 midnight to 2am. 2,000 rds. on U.12.e.70.50. and U.12.d.85.30.

(d) Patrols. Our patrols report:-
From the bank of the river transport was heard moving in FRELINGHIEN, and voices were distinctly heard near the BREWERY O.17.a.2.7. A M.G. was fired at intervals from this direction sweeping from O.10.d.4.3. to O.10.e.6.2. Other M.Gs. in FRELINGHIEN were firing bursts along road running N.W. from FRELINGHIEN Bridge.

Much talking and coughing were heard from across the river, particularly from post at Bridge U.5.a.4.4.
2 Officer Patrol leaders are of the opinion that an enemy relief was in progress during the night, from the amount of movement and talking heard.

A patrol moved along hedge running S. from U.23.b.57.37. to DEEP MOAT FARM. The ditch here is 3 to 4 feet wide, over which there is a small wooden bridge at U.23.d.75.85. Working along to DEEP MOAT FARM, patrol passed several disconnected and disused trenches, and halted for half an hour at about U.23.d.6.3. where a big tree had fallen across another ditch running between two hedges. Enemy was firing two M.Gs. into DEEP MOAT FARM from direction of U.29.d.central. Patrol then moved to junction of road at U.29.b.2.7., crossing old and broken trench with fresh tracks in it. An old belt of German wire was discovered 40 yards N.E. of the road, (about 20 feet wide)

P.T.O.

APPENDIX

- 2 -

1. OPERATIONS.

Patrols (continued).

A patrol went to PAPER HOUSE, searching all buildings in the vicinity, and then proceeded across a marshy field and a high embankment, and searched PLANTATION FARM and vicinity. At U.29.a.7.4. the least movement drew M.G. fire from U.29.a.85.00. Proceeding to PONT ROUGE, they searched the buildings from U.29.a.97.60. to U.29.b.20.63., the high visibility necessitating slow movements, as the ground W. of the road junction was constantly under M.G. fire.

At approx. U.17.b.80.52. 4 dead Germans (raid casualties) were found, and these and the ground in the vicinity were thoroughly searched, but no identifications could be found. From about the SPINNEY a M.G. was active, also a sniper (unobserved).

Our wire was examined in the vicinity of U.17.b.55.65., and is in poor condition. 7 enemy were searched, but no identifications were obtained. The cellars of ruined house in U.17.b.87.52. were examined, but were unoccupied and showed no signs of recent occupation.

(e) Aerial activity. Our 'planes were fairly active and patrolled over enemy lines. They were repeatedly engaged by A.A. and M.G. fire, but enemy fire is reported as being only moderate.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

DESPIERRE FARM, vicinity of Right Bn. H.Q., and road from GUNNERS FARM to RESERVE FARM, both places inclusive, were subjected to intermittent bursts of 4.2 and 5.9 shelling throughout the day. Destructive shooting was carried out against our Left Bn. Sector. 40 rds. 5.9 fell on C.3.c.85.70. from a T.B. of 115° from C.4.a.95.45. The following were observed from U.29.c.38.35:- 106 rds. 4.2. on Supports and rear area of Right Bde. from 106°; occasional shelling with 5.9's. on S. edge of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD from 125°; 50 rds. gas and H.E. on Support and rear areas, Right Bde., from 80° (U.15.d.5.Y)

The following T.Bs. were observed from (SOUND):-
U.17.b., 12 rds. 10.5 cm. and 10 rds. 77 mm.; U.14.b. 50 rds. 10.5 cm. and U.15.central 115 rds. 10.5 cm. all from 87°; U.10.d. 63 rds. 10.5 cm.; U.11.a. and c. 160 rds. 10.5 cm.; VIC WAY 30 rds. gas, all from 78°. U.15.c. and b. 40 rds. 10.5 cm.; U.10.c. 120 rds. 10.5 cm.; U.9.d. 40 rds. 15 cm.; U.11.b. 20 rds. 10.5 cm. gas all from 115°.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. During period under review has been purely defensive.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. It is reported that the enemy is bursting some of his M.W's. with H.E. shrapnel effects 100 to 200 feet in the air. The concussion is very great, and 10 of these were put over during the day on our Left Bn. Sector.

Scattered M.W's. fell in U.17.b. at intervals throughout the day. At 11.20 a.m. 4 M.W's. fell on U.11.b.1.2. At 11.45 a.m. 30 M.W's. fell on U.18.a.05.20.

(b) Machine Guns. Normally active.

(c) Defences. During the night a working party was heard across the river opposite U.17.d.4.0. There appears to be considerable new work and camouflage near BRIN CHATEAU FM. V.19.b.3.9.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Very few hostile 'planes were seen, but sounds of enemy machines passing over head were heard at 8.30 p.m.

Balloons. The following T.B's. were taken from U.15.d.5.7:- 65°, 66°, 70°, 73°, 80° An enemy balloon broke away and drifted over our lines during the afternoon.

8. MOVEMENT.

Constant movement is observed around Dugout at U.12.b.3.3. between 5 and 6 p.m. 4.20 p.m. 2 Germans, one with a Field Service Cap and one with a sandbag cover on his hat, were seen at U.12.c.35.12. 4.20 p.m. 4 men with helmets, the two in rear carrying rifles, the two in front smartly dressed apparently officers, walked across clearing at U.12.c.7.5. and disappeared at U.12.c.6.0. During our shelling in the afternoon on V.13.c.4.3. 14 Germans ran for cover.

SIGNALLING. At 7.30 a.m. 2 signal lamps could be seen far back in enemy's rear on T.B's. of 148° and 100° from U.11.a.85.05.

Flares. Were normal. At 8.30 a.m. GOLDEN Clusters went up in enemy's back area on a T.B. 103° from U.11.a.85.05., possibly this was a signal for returning 'planes. At 8 p.m. two WHITE flares, 5 in a string, (reported previously) were fired from enemy lines. Our 'planes were patrolling at the time.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. The absence of WHITE flares during the night was very noticeable, adding some weight to the presumption of an enemy relief.

At 5.45 p.m. two pigeons disappeared at S. of SOAP FACTORY C.5.c.75.20. "Trail" lights appear to come from this place at night.

At 7.30 p.m. a lamp was seen on a T.B. of 127° from C.9.d. 25.45. repeating "S.I.T.E." many times.

At 8 p.m., when one of our squadrons passed over enemy lines "Trail" lights were sent up which were answered by heavy A.A. fire.

It is reported that there is too much movement by our troops on the road in C.9.c. by day time.

At 2.30 p.m. a small dump was set on fire by our artillery on a T.B. of 65° from U.15.d.5.7. It burned for 10 minutes.

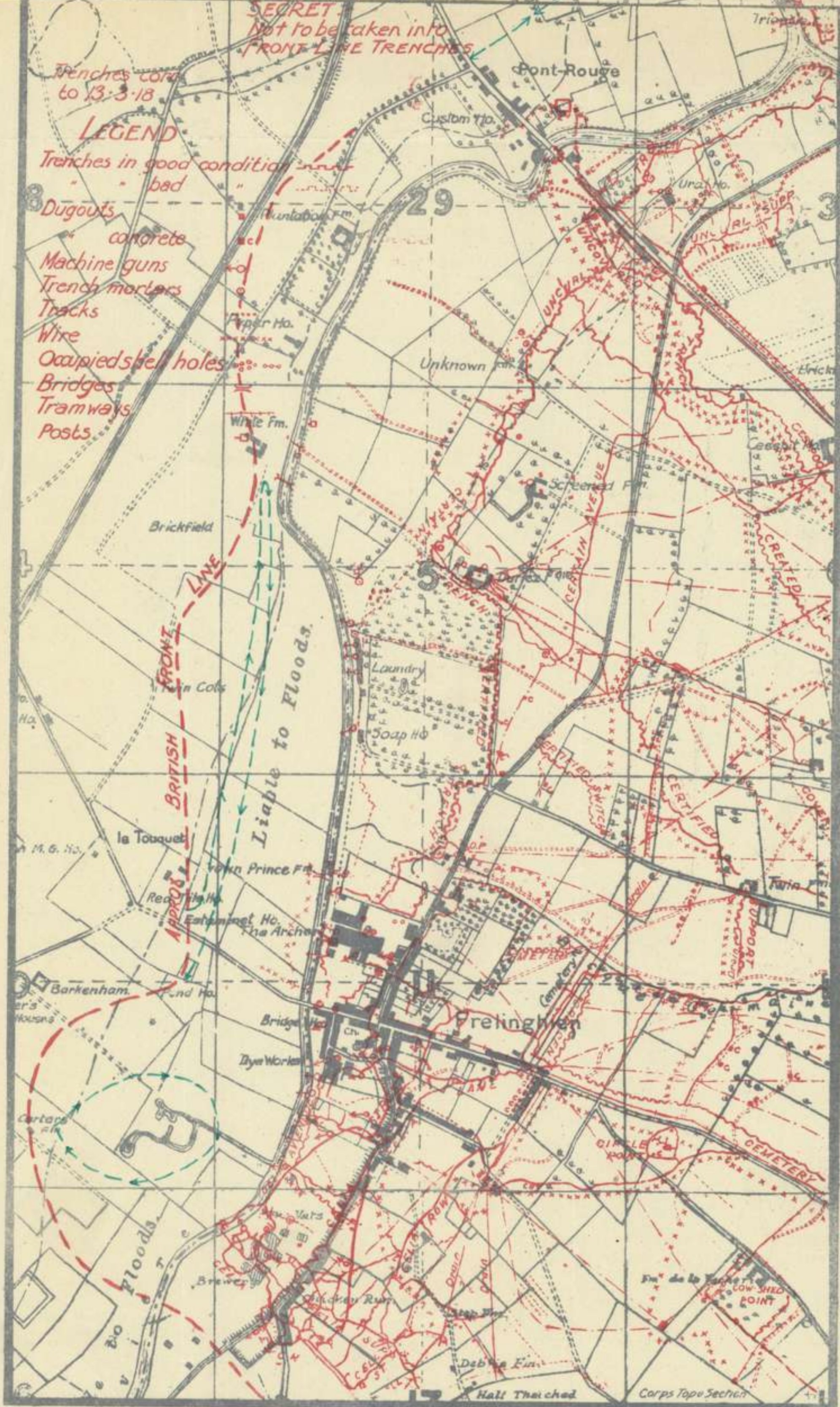
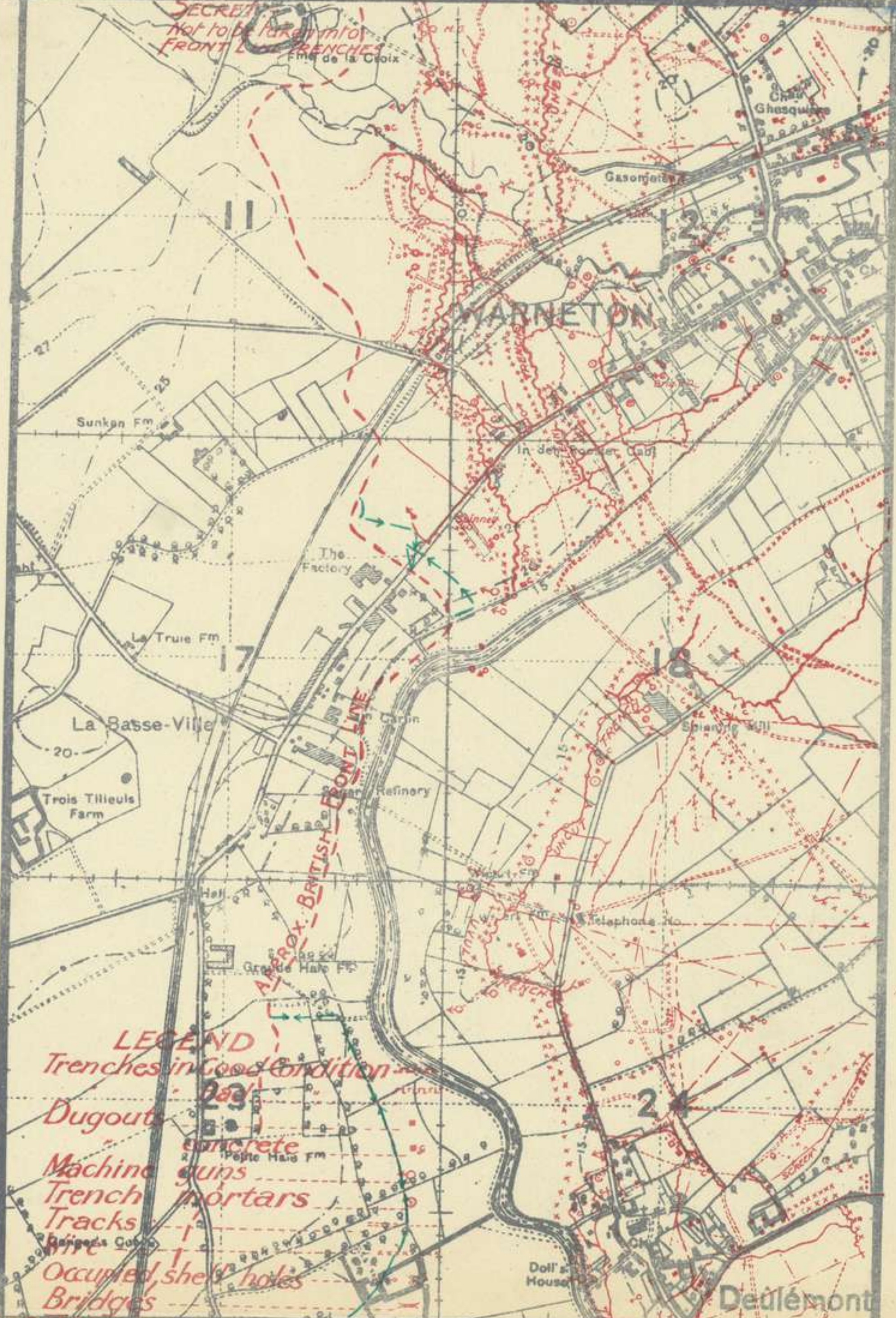
At 6.15 p.m. smoke from what appeared to be a stationary train was seen on a T.B. of 76° from U.15.d.5.7.

*R. B. Wertheim Capt.
for Major,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.*

A N N E X E.
=====

Further report on enemy raid made against our posts in U.17.b. at 3.30 a.m., 22nd March, 1918,

Further detail proves that the attack was even on a larger scale than was at first thought. The lack of any identifications on the prisoner or the dead, also the fact that every German was armed with a new type of automatic revolver, point to a determined effort on his part to obtain identifications without leaving any behind. The night was excellent from the attackers point of view; a thick fog, half light, aided by smoke etc. from the bursting shells, proved an effective screen for the raiders until close to our posts. Our patrols have located 11 dead in no man's land.
enemy.



Trenches Corrected to 12.3.18

App 33

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 164.

Copy No. 32.....

Ref. Map -
 Sheet 28 S.W. & S.E. (parts of)
 Edition 3A. - 1/20,000.

Headquarters,
 24th March, 1918.

In continuation of Second Australian Division Order No. 163 -

1. The 5th A.I.Bde. will take over from 15th A.I.Bde. the nucleus garrisons in Second Zone between the River DOUVE and new Northern boundary of 2nd Aust. Division, on night 25th/26th March, under mutual arrangements between Brigadiers concerned.

2. 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. will relieve 5th Aust. M. G. Bn. between the River DOUVE and new Northern boundary of 2nd Aust. Div. on night 25th/26th March, under mutual arrangements between O.O's. concerned.

3. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will move from NIEPPE into Divisional Reserve at camps in vicinity of WULVERGHEM on 26th March. Anti Aircraft Lewis Guns and crews of 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn., at present attached to 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery, will rejoin unit on 25th March.

4. 5th A.I.Bde. will be clear of present billets as follows:-

KORTEPYP "A" and CANTEEN CORNER Hutments -
 4 p.m. on 24th March.

ROMARIN, KORTEPYP "B" and BULFORD Hutments -
 4 p.m. on 25th March.

5th A.I.Bde. H.Q. (T.20.o.5.5) - 5 p.m. on 25th March.

5. On completion of relief of 8th A.I.Bde. by 5th A.I.Bde. on night 25th/26th March, command of new Brigade Sector will pass to G.O.C., 5th A.I.Bde., who will come under the command of G.O.C., 5th Aust. Division. Completion of relief will be notified by wire to D.H.Q.

6. Para. 2 of 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 163 is cancelled. Command of 6th Army Bde. A.F.A. and superimposing Brigade of 5th Aust. Div. Artillery will pass to C.R.A., 2nd Aust. Div., at 10 a.m. on 26th March.

7. Command of sector held by 5th A.I.Bde. will pass to G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div. at 10 a.m. on 26th March.

8. Separate instructions are being issued by the Administrative Branch.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

A. Bonack Major,
 General Staff,
 Second Australian Division.

Issued at 1.15 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION - Over leaf.

War Diary M

APPENDIX

33

- 2 -

DISTRIBUTION.Copy No. To.

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. M.G. Battalion.
8. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
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.A.D.V.S.
17. D.A.D.O.S.
18. D.H.O.
19. D.G.O.

FOR INFORMATION.

20. AUST. Corps "G."
21. AUST. Corps "Q."
22. 38th Division.
23. 1st Aust. Division.
24. 5th Aust. Division.
25. No. 3 Squad., A.F.O.
26. 2nd Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.
27. "L" Special Coy., R.E.
28. No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.
29. Area Comdt., KORTEPYP.
- 30/31. File.
- 32/34. War Diary.
- 35/40. Spare.

63

App 34

WAR DIARY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 87.

From 6 a.m. 23rd to 6 a.m. 24th March, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our batteries carried out shoots against M.W. when they were troublesome. Retaliation caused the fire to cease for several hours except on the front of the Right Bn. Left Lde, where the effect was only temporary. At 9.45 a.m. and at 10 a.m. our 18 pdrs. shelled enemy front line in the vicinity of C.5.c. Between 10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. one of our listening posts detected sounds from FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE, apparently a working party; the Artillery were informed and their first shots brought forth loud cries of pain and much hurrying from the spot.

Targets were engaged around WARNETON including GASOMETER, U.12.c. 5.7., U.12.c.8.3., U.12.c.6.6., The heavies also fired on enemy back areas including pill-box at U.18.a.2.9.

20 rds. 18-pdr. on to SCREENED FARM (C.11.b.), 20 rds. on U. 30a. 15.10 (T.M.), 25 rds. 18-pdr. on UNKNOWN FARM (U.29.d.), 200 rds. 18-pdr. and 80 4.5 Hows. on U.12.b. and c., 20 rds. 18-pdr. on U.18.c., 80 rds. 18-pdr. on U.24.c., 32 rds. 18-pdr. on U.24.a. (TELEPHONE HO.).

(b) Trench Mortars. Our H.T.Ms. fired for registration purposes. The 6" T.Ms. assisted the Artillery in silencing active M.Ws. The L.T.Ms. fired into WICART FARM U.18.c., SPINNEY U.18.a., M.G. position U.18.a.20.55. in rear of SPINNEY.

Our 6" Mortars fired 17 rds. on C.11.c.6.6. with satisfactory results.

(c) Machine Guns. Our M.Gs. were active during the night firing on places frequently used by the enemy. 1,000 rds. were fired on FRELINGHIEN Bridge between 10 and 10.30 p.m. The following targets were also engaged during the night:- Road at V.13.a.10.60., U.12.c.52.80., U.12.b.10.20., U.18.a.99.53., U.18.c.99.78., expenditure 16,000 rds.

(d) Patrols. A patrol went out from C.16.a.80.20. at 1.30am. to traverse ground on W. side of river as far as C.10.b.85.55., and to ascertain possible places for enemy to cross the river, and places of assembly. It is possible for the enemy to cross practically at any point of the sector, but only probable at C.16.c.25.75. and opposite the BREWERY. Suitable ground for assembly is in vicinity of both of these points, although the ground is level and marshy and can be swept by our M.G. fire.

A patrol left U.29.a.65.40. at 1 a.m. and proceeded along S. side of sunken road (U.29.a.) in an easterly direction until reaching U.29.b.20.60. From here the patrol turned S. and reached a point 20 yds. S. of OUSTOM HOUSE. The ruins of PONT ROUGE on both sides of QUESNOY Road and ground 100 yards on either side were thoroughly examined. No signs of recent occupation were discovered. Enemy could be heard working, possibly with iron pickets, on the other side of the river. A detachment from the main patrol proceeded to a point U.29.b.30.25. Nothing was seen of the enemy.

A patrol went out at 8.20 p.m. to examine DEEP MOAT FARM and then proceeded to river at U.24.c.3.7. to search for moorings. The patrol proceeded in a southerly direction along hedge at U.23.b.35.10. where there was a ditch about 4 feet wide, which would prove an Infantry obstacle. From here they went due East along another hedge at U.23.d.50.83. through very boggy ground. Patrol then made for N.W. corner of DEEP MOAT FARM, and made thorough search of FARM and surroundings but found no trace of enemy occupation. After waiting at the Farm for some time patrol proceeded along road running from U.23.d.80.57. to river. At U.23.d.90.65. a bridge covering swampy ground was discovered. Bridge was about 12 feet wide, and made of timber strong enough to carry transport.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX

- 2 -

1. OPERATIONS. Patrols (Contd.)

A patrol left U.11.d.4.8. at 9 p.m. and observed enemy wiring party at approx. U.11.d.7.9. This party was protected by M.G.'s. on each flank and flares were fired on its front. Our L.T.M.'s. were notified and dispersed the party. NO MAN'S LAND is in fair condition.

M.G. opened from approx. U.11.b.9.0.

(e) Aerial activity. During the day our patrol and reconnaissance 'planes flew well over enemy's lines. Large formations of bombing 'planes passed over at intervals during the day. From 8 p.m. to midnight our 'planes passing to and from enemy back areas were heavily engaged by A.A. guns. Loud explosions were heard in rear of enemy lines.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. DESPIERRE FARM, GUNNERS ROAD and SEMEN TREES AVENUE again received special attention. On our Left Bde. sector enemy fire was mostly scattered in U.15. and 16. Gas shells were mixed with 10.5 cm. The vicinity of DOUVE WALK U.9. and 10. was harassed at intervals during the day with salvos of 77 mm. The light railway at U.11.c.5.9. received a few rounds. Registration shooting was directed occasionally on trench junction U.11.c. 80.85. During the night enemy artillery was quiet.

The following T.Bs. were taken from C.9.d.25.45.:- On C.4.a. with 4.2 from 91° (SOUND). On C.3.d. with 5.9 from 45°. LEBIZET with 4.2s. from 92°. C.3.a. and c. with gas shells from 70°.

The following T.Bs. (SOUND) were taken from U.15.d.5.7.:- U.9.central with 10.5 cm. from 90° and 95°. U.14.b. with 10.5 cm. from 95°. U.15.a. with gas shells from 95°. U.16.c. and b. with 77 mm. and gas from 80°. U.17.d. with 15 cm. from 88°. U.9.a. with 10.5 cm. from 88°. U.15.c. with 10.5 cm. from 100°.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet and purely defensive during the period under review.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Targets which are usually unmolested by enemy were engaged, i.e., the road through LA BASSEVILLE and U.17.d. 35.45. Between 9.50 p.m. and 2 a.m. 72 M.Ws. fell along front line in U.17.b. During the day U.11.a. b. and c. were shelled by M.Ws. from the following positions:- U.12.c.5.7., U.12.c.8.2., and U.12.c. 5.3. The rail head at U.11.c.6.7. seemed to be a target for Heavy M.Ws. at midnight.

Trench Mortar fire closed down when our artillery retaliated except on Right Bn. sector, Left Bde. No damage to defences and no casualties were caused.

(b) Machine Guns. Normal.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Only one E.A. was observed over our sector, this was flying very low and evidently spotting for artillery shoot on DESPIERRE FARM. A number of enemy 'planes crossed our lines during the night, but evidently proceeded well back, as no explosions were heard and machines were away some hours before they recrossed our lines.

8. MOVEMENT. 2 men were seen talking and observing from approx. U.30.b. 05.80. Transport was heard along DEULEMONT - FRELINGBIEN Road between 10 p.m. and midnight. Voices and coughing were heard in the vicinity of the BREWERY. 7am. 2 men seen at Pill-box U.12.c.45. .10. 6 p.m. man observing at U.12.b.1.8.

FLARES. 2 single REDS were fired at 9pm. N. of PONT ROUGE. No action followed. Many trailer lights were observed throughout the night. PALE GREEN flares in strings were fired at intervals of about 5 minutes between 8pm. and 1am. Our 'planes were active over enemy lines at the time and this may possibly have been a signal to enemy A.A. guns, though nothing developed. When our 6" T.Ms. opened a WHITE flare changing to RED, then to WHITE again was observed. Enemy Heavy M.Ws. opened a little later.

APPENDIX 24

-3-

Flares (Contd).

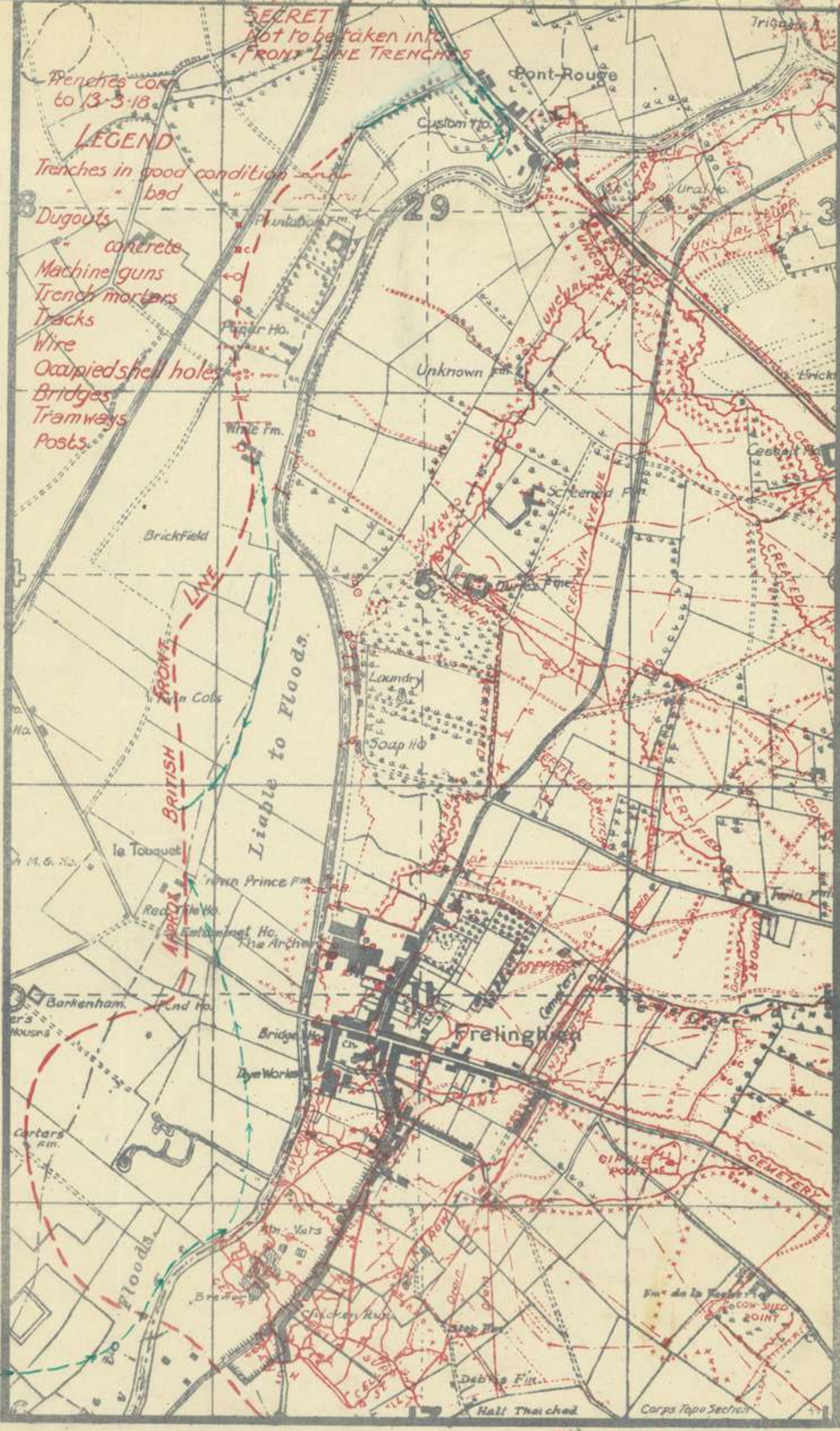
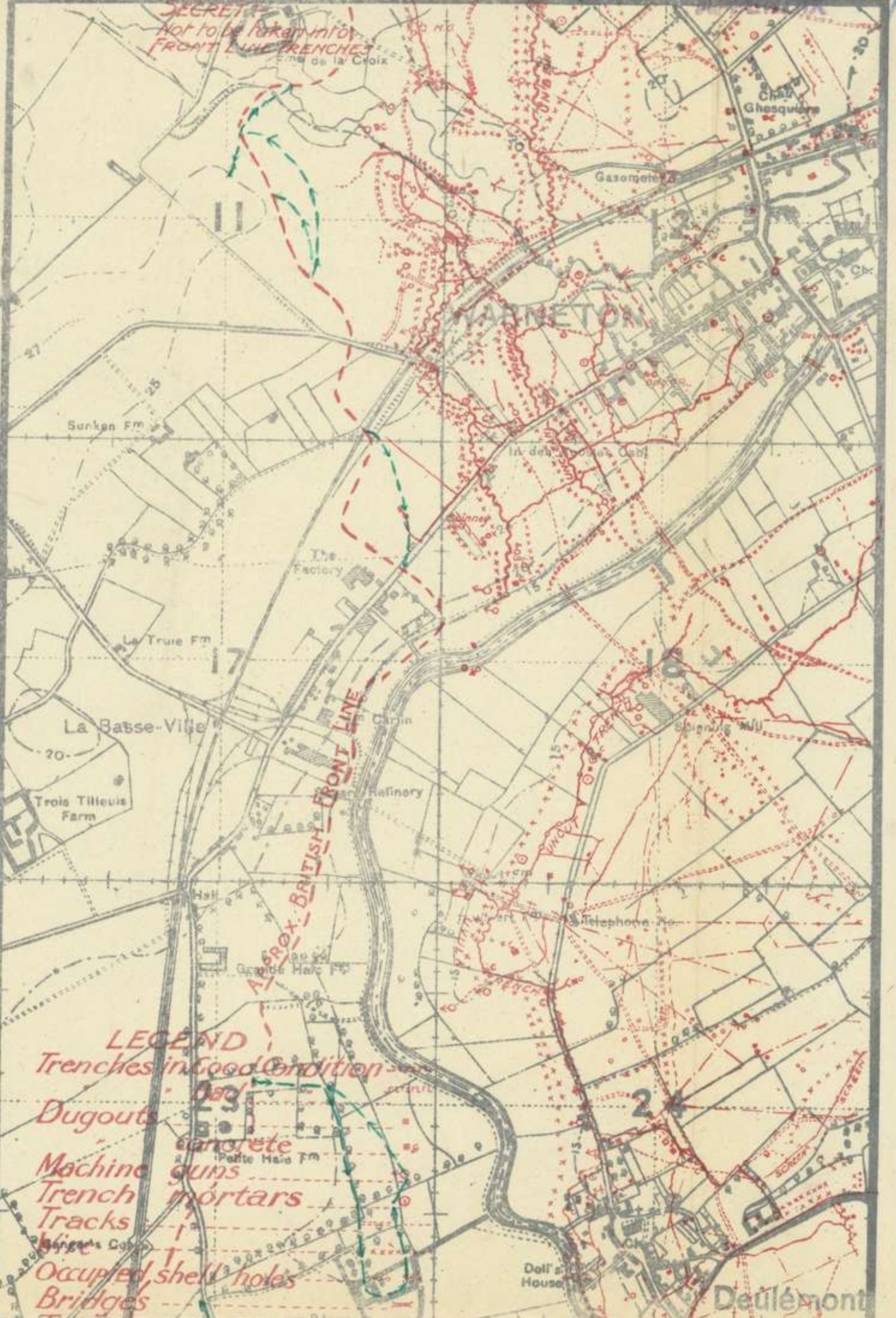
H.E. shrapnel was put over at ^U.17.b.80.40 - one dropped short and immediately a WHITE flare breaking into two GREENS was fired.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

Smoke was seen at U.12.c.4.1. and U.12.c.5.7. During the night talking and sounds of stakes being driven in were heard from approx U.11.d.80.40.

R. C. Wertheim Capt.

for Major.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.



Handwritten: App 35

Ref Maps
28 & 36
1/40,000.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 26th March 1918. G.333.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
<u>Artillery H.Q.</u>	-	RAVELSBERG.	S.17.central.
4th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	-	T.21.d.40.44.	Centre Group.
5th do	-	B.11.d.15.48.	Right Group.
2nd Aust D.A.C., H.Q.	-	S.30.c.3.7.	
6th Army Bde A.F.A.	-	T.6.c.15.75.	Left Group. (at 10 am)
D.T.M.O.	-	NIEPPE.	10 Rue de la Gare.
3rd A.M.T.M. Bty. H.Q.	-	C.7.c.98.56.	
4th do	-	U.14.b.99.10.	
<u>5th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	T.6.c.6.6.	NORTH MIDLAND FARM. <u>Left Ide.</u>
17th Battalion.	-	U.4.c.25.25.	LINE Right.
18th do	-	O.26.d.1.7.	LINE Left.
19th do	-		LINE Centre.
20th do	-	O.32.d.4.6.	Support.
6th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	U.3.a.1.1.	LINE.
<u>6th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	U.20.a.7.8.	(Adv) BIG SAM. <u>Centre Ide.</u>
21st Battalion.	-	U.19.b.	CATACOMES.
22nd do	-	U.15.c.9.5.	ST YVES. LINE Right.
23rd do	-	U.19.b.4.8.	CATACOMES.
24th do	-	U.9.b.5.3.	GREY FARM. LINE Left.
6th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	U.19.b.3.7.	CATACOMES. LINE.
<u>7th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.</u>	-	B.10.a.6.7.	BRUNE GAYE. <u>Right Ide.</u>
25th Battalion.	-	B.10.d.7.8.	LE ROSSIGNOL. <u>Support Right.</u>
26th do	-	U.27.b.8.2.	LINE Left.
27th do	-	C.3.c.8.5.	LINE Right.
28th do	-	B.10.a.8.9.	INGERSOLL Cp. <u>Support Left.</u>
7th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	U.28.c.7.4.	LINE.
<u>2nd Aust M.G. Battalion.</u>	{	T.18.d.7.4.	RED LODGE Adv. H.Q.
	{	B.9.c.2.8.	TAHUNA CAMP. Rear H.Q.
6th do	-	U.15.c.9.4.	ST YVES. LINE.
7th do	-	C.7.d.4.7.	LINE.
22nd do	-	C.13.d.2.8.	LINE.
5th A.M.G. Coy.	-	U.3.a.1.1.	LINE.
2nd A. Pioneer Bn.	-	B.15.d.5.2.	LINE.
C.R.E.	-		NIEPPE.
5th Field Coy. A.E.	-	RAVELSBERG.	WULVERGHEM
6th do	-	B.4.a.5.2.	S.17.central.
7th do	-	T.16.a.9.9.	
	-	T.6.c.8.4.	

P.T.O.

D.M.S.	-	-	RAVELSEBERG	S.17 central.
5th Field Amb.			E.8.b.2.5.	PONT D'ACHELLES. M.D.S.
6th do			(S.16.d.9.4.	RAVELSPERG. H.Q.
			(T.18.d.5.5.	UNDERHILL FARM. A.D.S.
			(C.1.d.4.5.	BREWERY. - A.D.S.
7th do	-		(T.19.b.4.5.	WESTHOF. - D.R.S.
			(T.10.b.8.7.	KANDAHAR FARM. A.D.S.
Div Train H.Q.	-		A.8.b.2.4.	BLANCHE MAISON.
15th Coy A.A.S.C.			A.5.d.6.8.	LA CRECHE.
18th do	-		E.15.b.1.9.	
17th do	-		E.9.c.8.1.	MUSLER LINES.
20th do	-		B.8.a.4.0.	GREENJACKET LINES.
<u>Divisional Troops.</u>	-			
Paymaster. A.P.M.)				
D.G.O. D.B.O.)			RAVELSEBERG.	S.17 central.
D.A.D.V.S.)				
D.A.D.O.S.	-		E.1.d.2.8.	
Mob. Vet. Sect.	-		B.8.d.5.7.	
Salvage Coy.	-		E.7.d.8.4.	
3rd A. Sanitary Sect.			B.3.c.5.6.	
No 2 A. Div. M.T. Coy.			S.29.b.0.1.	
Div. Reingt. Camp.	-		CAESTRE.	

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

2nd Aust D.H.Q.
 25th March 1918.

Any alterations or corrections to above to be notified at once to D.H.Q.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.

63

War Diary

APP 112
36

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 24th to 6 a.m. 25th March, 1918.

No. 88.

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

OPERATIONS.

a) Artillery. Active during the day on hostile M.G. and T.M. positions, and at night paid special attention to FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE. Targets in and around WARNETON were engaged by 18 pdrs, especially in the vicinity of U.12.c.50.30., U.12.c.8.7., U.12.b.10.30. 10.30 pm our Heavies silenced an enemy battery of 15 cm which was firing on LA BASSE VILLE.

(b) Trench Mortars. 7 p.m. our L.T.Ms fired 6 ranging shots on M.G. position at U.11.b.8.3. 12 mdnt to 1.30 a.m. 50 rds of harassing fire were put on SPINNEY U.18.a.2.5. This had a good effect though no definite observation was possible. H.T.Ms fired 2 ranging shots from Left Bn sector, and six rds from the Right Bn Left rds.

(c) Machine Guns. 10,500 rds were expended on bridges and centres of activity during the night. The following targets were also engaged. 7/9pm. 4,000 rds on V.13.a.10.58. 7pm/4am 1,500 rds on U.12.b.10.20. 7pm/9pm 1,500 rds on U.12.d.52.80. 7pm/6am 5,000 rds on U.12.d.58.80.

(d) Patrols. A patrol left C.10.b.9.5. at 2.15 p.m. and patrolled river bank. The ground traversed is dry for the most part, but overgrown with tall weeds, and the noise made by a party moving through it could be heard for a considerable distance. The river bank is wet and marshy to a depth of 100 yds from the river, and is intersected with numerous ditches waist deep. No part of the river appeared suitable for pontoons. The enemy posts, being closer to the river than ours, he has the advantage of seeing approaching figures against the skyline.

The bridge at C.5.a.3.4. is now an accumulation of low drift wood, and has had a light tram-way across it. Small parties could use it with care. An enemy listening post was discovered on the eastern bank 30 yds from the river, and the ground here appears to be dry and in good order. The ground on our side is wet and marshy for a depth of about 100 yds, but passable. The BRICKFIELD is the most difficult obstacle on the sector patrolled, and is well wired. Pontoons could be used in this portion of the river as both banks are fairly firm and suitable. Nothing could be seen on the river at C.5.c.6.0.

A patrol went out at 9 p.m. to examine supposed moorings on eastern bank of river at U.24.c.29.79. At 9.30 p.m. on reaching U.23.d.68.52, where there is a brick cupola bridge with earth and grass overgrown on it, 6 Germans were seen moving from U.24.a.50.15. in a southerly direction. Other working parties could then be seen in U.24.a and c, east of the river. Patrol officer, with a Sgt and one man, then moved along hedge running east from U.23.d.68.52. to the river, leaving remainder of the party and the Lewis gun on the bridge, and proceeded to within 20 yds of the river. On reaching this point 4 Germans were seen approaching along the bank of the river on his side from the right. There appears to be some wire on this bank as the men seemed to step over some obstacle at times. One of our 18 pdrs then opened fire into the enemy position just across the river, causing the Germans to lie down and remain there. Our party then returned to our lines, and the patrol officer states that the very high visibility prevented any manoeuvring of their patrol to clear up the situation. A bridge runs from U.23.d.78.52. and along the north of the ditch to the river. It is built on wooden piles averaging 1 ft in diameter, with cross planks 8" x 3", and hand rails 3 ft high. It is smashed in places by shell fire, and the ground along the bridge is swampy, but pass ble to infantry. No piles or moorings could be seen on either side of the river. A M.G. was observed playing on DEEP HOAT FM. constantly from the direction of U.24.b.75.00. A clanging noise as though from working parties was again heard. Transport was heard in or near DEULMONT, also a noise, similar to that made by a tractor, just in rear of this place.

PL P.T.O.

1. OPERATIONS.(d) Patrols (Contd).

A patrol examined dugouts in U.18.a.1.2. and found them unoccupied. A M.G. was fired across the river from approx. U.18.a.4.1. Talking could be heard across the river, but no enemy were seen. Our patrol report a small enemy working party busy in the rear of the SPINNET. M.G. was active at approx. U.18.a.2.4.

No Man's Land is muddy and much shell torn in the vicinity of U.17.b.85.90.

Pill Box at U.11.b.3.4. is unoccupied.

M.G. fire from U.11.d.80.99, and sound of men walking on duckboards was heard from U.11.b.80.10.

A M.G. from U.11.d.90.90. fired at intervals. Enemy were heard working at approx. U.12.a.09.10.

(e) Aerial Activity. Our 'planes were active during the day, and were always engaged with A.A. and M.G. fire when flying over enemy lines. At 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. our bombing 'planes could be heard over enemy lines, and 4 bombs were dropped in the vicinity of DEULEMONT.

Sniping (f) Two men were moving in trench at U.12.d.7.8. and one was shot by our snipers.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

During the shelling of U.27.c. a certain amount of 'sneezing' gas was sent over. Between 7.10 pm and 7.30 pm enemy put over gas shells in the vicinity of C.13.d., and C.19.b. At 2.30 p.m. approx. 300 rds of gas shell on ARMENTIERES. Gas from this bombardment was easily noticeable at O.P. and caused men to wear S.B.R.

9/11 a.m. 60 rds 7.7 cm fell on U.11.a.9.5. from direction 151° M.B. from U.15.b.05.85. (shrap). 10/11 a.m. 150 rds 10.5 cm fell on U.27.b. and d. 11 a.m. 100 rds 15 cm fell on U.17. c and d. 11.20 am 70 rds 15 cm fell on U.27.c.45.85 from direction of 112° T.B. from C.1.b.75.35. 5/6.30 p.m. 300 rds 10.5. cm fell on C.8.c.3.8. from direction of 78° T.B. from C.9.d.2.4. (Sound). 6.55 p.m. 40 rds 7.7. cm fell on C.14.a., C.13.b and d., from direction of 78° T.B. from C.9.d.2.4. (Sound). 2.40/3.30 p.m. 300 rds 10.5. cm fell on C.14.a., C.13.b. and d., from direction of 81° T.B. from C.9.d. 2.4. (Sound).

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

During the last 24 hours the enemy has been quiet and is maintaining his defensive attitude; an increased use of gas shell is noticeable within the last few days.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Below normal during the period along the whole sector. A T.M. Bty was seen firing at approx. U.24.c.7.9. At 7 a.m. 6 M.Ws were fired on the FACTORY U.17.d.; 7.10 a.m. 30 M.Ws on U.11.d.6.5. from U.12.c.9.3.; 8.30 a.m. 36 M.Ws on U.17.d.; 12 noon 19 M.Ws on U.17.d.; 12.30 p.m. 8 H.T.Ms fell on LA PASSE VILLE and at 1.30 p.m. 10 M.Ws on U.11.d.6.5.

(b) Machine guns. These were below normal, firing occasional bursts from U.11.d.80.90.

(c) Patrols. Between 4 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. the enemy were active in No Man's Land between U.17.b.95.25. and U.17.b.80.35. Movement was heard and several figures seen approx. 100 yds in front of U.17.b. 95.25. A L.G. was pushed out and 3 magazines were fired. Enemy were heard to call out after L.G. had fired, but it cannot be definitely stated that casualties were inflicted.

(d) Enemy Defences. At 3 p.m. 3 men were seen working, and new earth is visible at, U.30.c.10.65., and earth was thrown up in U.29.d. 9.8. A small party were also seen at work in trench at C.5.d.40.65. A white tape was seen running from Pill-Box at U.12.c.4.1. along the side of trench, past ruins of tower, and out of view at U.12.d.0.5. It does not seem probable that it is a guiding tape, as it runs alongside the road. Communication was made with the artillery on the assumption that it marked a task on which men would be working during the night.

- 3 -

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.(d) Enemy defences (contd.).

Camouflage is visible at CESS PIT HOUSE (C.6.b.0.8) and a structure of some sort is apparently being erected there. At 9.50 p.m. an enemy wiring party at U.11.d.95.20. was scattered by our 18-pdr. shrapnel. At 4 a.m. our men at U.17.b.95.25. report the sound of work on enemy wire as though snipping at it. Whether repairing or cutting it is impossible to say. 6 p.m. a party was digging at U.12.b.3.7.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

A large E.A. was driven down in the direction of DEULEMONT. No low flying planes were seen during the day, but several passed over our lines at night, although no bombs were dropped.

8. MOVEMENT.

Considerable movement was seen at intervals, and this may point to a relief. A German with spiked helmet was seen at U.12.c.4.2. 7.20 a.m. 15 men in single file at U.12.d.10.60. walked to U.12.c.80.30; this may point to a local relief for M.W. crews located there. 12 men seen at U.12.c.8.4. Wheeled traffic was heard in DEULEMONT from 8.30 p.m. until 3 a.m.

SIGNALLING.

From 7.45 to 8.30 p.m. a lamp in the direction of LILLE continually signalled "S.I.T.E." "Trail" lights were sent up during our aircraft operations at night. At V.8.c.25.40 a signal lamp sent the following - "R R S H A T I H R H E S O R U T R U T C." Flares. Were below normal. Pale GREEN streamers were again fired from enemy lines, also the strings of WHITE flares reported previously.

R. F. Wethering Capt

for Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

MOVEMENT. (1.15 p.m. 25th.)

3 trains on Light Railway. Showing much activity between W.19.a. and b., and W.21.a and b. From W.21.a. and b., to W.25.c.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 165.

SECRET

Copy No. 19

Ref. Maps:- BAS WARNETON - 1/10,000.
Special Tracing (to 5th A.I.Bde. only).

Headquarters,
25th March, 1918.

1. On a date and at a zero hour to be notified later, No. 2 Special Coy., R.E., will carry out an operation with 4" Stokes Mortars with the object of gassing the enemy in his trench systems about U.12.a., U.11.b., U.5.d., U.6.a. and c.

2. The operation will only take place provided the wind is between N.W. and S.S.W. inclusive, and provided wind velocity is not less than 2 miles per hour.

3. (a) In Centre Brigade Sector troops in the front line between and including Posts 1U.11. and 9.U.11. will wear box respirators from zero minus 5 minutes until warned by officers of No. 2 Special Coy. that they may be removed.

(b) In Left Brigade Sector troops will be withdrawn from all trenches within angle marked on special tracing from zero minus 5 minutes, and will not re-occupy same until warned that they may do so by Officers of No. 2 Special Coy., R.E.

(c) Brigades will be responsible for warning all personnel of 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion concerned in above areas.

4. O.C., No. 2 Special Coy., R.E., will be present at Left Brigade H.Q., and an Officer of No. 2 Special Coy., R.E., at Centre Bde. H.Q. during the operation.

5. The following code will be used:-

"RATIONS" will mean "Conditions favourable."

"RUM" will mean "Conditions unfavourable at present."

"RETURNS" will mean "Conditions unfavourable and operation cancelled."

6. On completion of operation, Brigades will notify this Office by wire.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE on attached slip.

Issued at 10 p.m.

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

DISTRIBUTION - Over leaf.



DISTRIBUTION.

- | <u>Copy No.</u> | <u>To.</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 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. M. G. Battalion. |
| 8. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. |
| 9. | A.D.M.S. |
| 10. | D.G.O. |

FOR INFORMATION.

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 11. | AUST. Corps. |
| 12. | 38th Division. |
| 13. | 1st Aust. Division. |
| 14. | "L" Special Coy., R.E. |
| 15. | "Z" Special Coy., R.E. |
| 16. | No. 2 Special Coy., R.E. |
| 17/18. | File. |
| 19/21. | War Diary. |
| 22/24. | Spare. |

"HATIONS" will mean "Conditions favourable"
"RUM" will mean "Conditions unfavourable at present"
"BURNS" will mean "Conditions unfavourable and
operation cancelled."



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

G. 1/357

Headquarters,
27th March, 1918.

Reference 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 165.

Zero hour will be 10.30 p.m. on 27th March, 1918.

ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

HEADQUARTERS, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. (GENERAL STAFF.) G. 1/357.

DISTRIBUTION.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

To all recipients of 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 165.

W. D. King *RDW*

App 38

63

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.No. 89.From 6 a.m. 25th to 6 a.m. 26th March 1918.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our artillery was normally active throughout the period. Hostile M.W. at U.12.c.82.22., U.12.c.43.53., U.12.c.04.74., C.11.c.70.75., C.6.b.0.6., C.11.c.85.85., C.11.c.70.67., C.11.c.6.8., O.36.c.5.5., U.6.b.2.3., O.36.a.80.65., were all engaged with satisfactory results. Harassing fire was maintained on roads in V.13.a. and c., V.7., and on cross roads and tram ways at U.24.d.35.28.

An enemy relief was expected during the night 25th/26th in the WRENTON sector, so roads in rear of WRENTON were subjected to searching fire at intervals throughout the night.

(b) Trench Mortars. L.T.Ms of Centre Bde fired 50 rds during the night on enemy M.G. position at U.18.e.2.3. Shooting appeared to be accurate and M.G. was silenced. H.T.Ms fired 10 rds into RELLINGHAM during the night.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged. C.11.a.52.46., C.11.c.45.90., U.29.b.75.35., U.24.c.69.22., U.12.b.1.2., U.12.d.52.80., V.13.a.10.55., Roads from C.11.c.45.98. to C.11.d.5.6., and from O.36.a.1.1. to O.36.a.58.30.

(d) Patrols. (i) A patrol examined DEEP MOAT FARM and vicinity and report as follows: - The greater part of the western wall of the farm is still standing, and is about 20 ft high at its highest point. The southern and eastern walls of the farm are demolished. Cellars were full of water. Farm showed no signs of recent occupation. The Moat is, on an average, 20 ft wide. There is an improvised bridge over the S.E. corner of the Moat. A second bridge 50 yds further east is made of a bank of stone and rubble and is firm enough for wheeled transport. Bridge on N.E. corner of moat is of wood and strong enough for wheeled transport.

(ii) Other patrols out on our Right Bde front report: - Enemy transport heard on road leading into SOAP WORKS from the east; Bridge at C.11.c.4.9. apparently passable, but difficult to get at on account of the thick wire on our side of the river; Considerable amount of traffic heard in RELLINGHAM; Wire around Bridgehead at U.29.b.63.47. about 18 ft wide without any gaps; at U.29.b.10.18, and for 200 yds on either side of this point, the river is clear of weeds, and river banks are very low.

(d) Patrols (Contd.)

(iii) Patrol from U.17.b.6.8. at 8.30 p.m. located enemy wiring party at U.18.a.05.90. Our Artillery was notified and 18-pdrs. dispersed the party. Enemy sniping post located at U.11.d.8.1. Hostile M.G. active at U.18.a.10.85.

(iv) Other patrols on Centre Brigade front report Hostile working party of 4 at approx. U.18.a.25.35 dispersed by M.G. fire. Working party of 6 men seen at U.18.a.2.5. dispersed by L.T.M. fire. Wheeled traffic heard throughout the night in WARRINGTON. Hostile M.G. located at U.11.d.99.95. NO MAN'S LAND in U.11.b. and d. is very firm and going good.

(v) Patrol from O.29.a.2.1. moved to O.29.a.50.25. where 4 dugouts were found containing dumps of 15 cm. shells, H.E. and gas. 2 pill-boxes were examined at O.29.a.53. and found unoccupied. From O.29.a.56.45. talking was heard at about O.29.b.1.7. Judging by the noise coming from this point, patrol leader is of the opinion that it is a strong point. Enemy T.Ms. fired on O.29.a.5.4. from vicinity of O.29.b.8.8.

(vi) Patrol from our Left Bn., Left Bde., engaged enemy patrol at dawn, with the result that 3 enemy were killed and one of our men wounded. As this patrol was furnished by the Out-post Company, further particulars will not be available until nightfall.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. This was below normal throughout the period. The following areas received attention:- C.3.c., C.4.d., PLOEGSTEERT Village, WHITE FARM, Area U.28.b., U.17.d., U.11.a. b. and d., U.3.d., HUNS WALK, STEIGNAST FARM, O.34.b. and d.

Gun flashes were observed on the following T.B's. from O.27.d.91.68:- 52°, 65°, 77°, 92°, 107°, 109°, 126°.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. During last 24 hours enemy has been extremely quiet and unaggressive.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Forts. These were very inactive on the Divisional front. The following points received attention:- U.11.central., U.11.c., U.17.d., O.5.d., STEIGNAST FM., O.35.c. and d.

(b) Machine Guns. M.G. activity below normal on right and left Bde fronts. On centre Bde front hostile M.Gs were not unusually active but appeared to be very alert and fired on the least sign of movement in our front line.

(c) Enemy Defences. The white tape reported yesterday running from U.12.c.4.1. to U.12.d.0.5., is still in position. During the night this line was subjected to artillery and M.G. fire, in case enemy parties were working there. Fresh earth can be seen on enemy parapet at U.12.a.4.2. This spot was fired on by our 18 pdrs during the day.

Enemy Defences (Contd).

Work is in progress at U.29.d.72.57. A good deal of movement has been observed around here. A windgauge can be seen on top of Pill-box at U.29.d.73.57. Portion of UNION FARM has had a wooden structure built over it and is covered with camouflage.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aircraft were very inactive. Only 3 planes were reported as having crossed our lines during the period. Balloons were observed on T.B.s of - 96° from O.35.d.6.3., 103° from U.4.b.15.20., 76° from U.15.d.9.8.

8. MOVEMENT.

7.50 a.m. 4 men were observed on road at U.12.c.8.4. 3 p.m. movement was observed round URAL HOUSE. 1.45 p.m. a two-horse G.S. Wagon was seen at U.15.d.3.5, moving towards COMINES. 2.10 p.m. 4 men were observed digging at pill-box at O.30.b.5.0. Movement has been observed daily at U.12.a.6.5. Our observers are of the opinion that this is an enemy O.P. 4.45 pm. a large body of enemy, estimated strength about one Bn., were observed on roads in V.23.a. and b. They were engaged and dispersed by our Heavies.

Train Movement.

<u>TIME.</u>	<u>FROM.</u>	<u>TO.</u>	<u>TIME.</u>	<u>FROM.</u>	<u>TO.</u>
a.m.			a.m.		
11.10.	COMINES.	WERVICQ.	11.30.	WERVICQ.	COMINES.
11.45.	WERVICQ.	Moving N.	p.m.		
p.m.			12.15	WERVICQ.	Moving N.
1.15	WERVICQ.	COMINES.	2.0.	HALLUIN.	WERVICQ.
2.20	HALLUIN.	BOUSLEQUE.	2.25.	HALLUIN.	PENBRIELEN.
2.35	BOUSLEQUE.	Moving S.	2.40	WERVICQ.	COMINES.
	ITE.	Moving S.	6.0.	WERVICQ.	Moving S.
6.10.	WERVICQ.	Moving S.			
6.50.	HALLUIN	Moving S.			

SIGNALLING. What appeared to be signalling was observed on a T.B. of 99° from O.35.c.58.90. at about 8pm. The signal - "881 291 BX" was being repeated. Another signalling lamp was observed on a T.L. of 99° from U.4.b.15.20.

Flares. On our Right and Centre Bde. fronts occasional WHITE flares were fired during the night. During some artillery activity on our Left Bde. sector a number of RED flares bursting into two REDS, and a number of single GREENS were sent up.

P.T.O.



- 4 -

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

What appears to be a pump was observed on parapets of trench at U.12.a.4.5. Our Centre Ede. report that steel helmets are now being more generally used by the enemy than was the case a few days ago.

M. G. Cooper
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

EXTRACT FROM 5th AUSTR. DIV. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

At 2 p.m. on the 24th inst. the enemy fired 3 strange projectiles from the direction of P.19, which made noise in the air like a slowly revolving propeller. Some of the shells fell in O.21.d. In some cases they are reported to have fallen flat on their sides, but did not make much noise on explosion. Several were 'duds'. Size of shell 3 ft long, 6" diameter, driving band 2" in width. The holes made by the explosion of these shells were about 5 ft wide by 3 ft deep.

EXTRACT FROM 1st AUSTR. DIV. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY dated 26/3/19.

In a patrol encounter in P.1.d.4.P. this morning one wounded officer was captured. Identification - 157rd I.S., 8th DIV.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 6 a.m. 26th to 6 a.m. 27th March 1918.

No. 90.

NOTE - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1.
OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Active chiefly in retaliation to hostile T.M. fire. At 4 p.m. the 4.5" Hows were active on the SPINNING MILL and later on FM WAUSTINE. The front line posts report this shooting was good. Targets were engaged during the day at DATUM HO., KIWI FARM., ANGLE FM., O.30.central., COMINES CHURCH., and other enemy defences.

(b) Trench Mortars. Our H.T.Ms fired 4 shots on enemy front line U.11.b. and d. Enemy replied with 10.5 cm. 12.30.a.m. 6" mortars fired 30 rds on U.18.a.13.82. The result could not be observed. The L.T.Ms fired 75 rds during the night as follows - 10 rds on M.G. at U.11.b.8.3., 6 rds dispersed a working party; 10 rds silenced M.G. at U.18.a.2.9; 10 rds on S.P. at U.18.a.25.30; 10 rds on M.G. near SPINNEY; 15 rds into SPINNEY, and 15 rds into trench at U.18.a.16.80. The shooting was excellent in all cases.

(c) Machine Guns. Our M.Gs engaged the following targets - 7.30.p.m. to 6 a.m. 3,000 rds on U.12.d.10.20., and 3,000 rds on U.12.d.52.80. 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. 7,500 rds on U.12.d.53.80., U.18.a.99.53 and U.18.c.99.78; 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. 4,000 rds on V.13.a.10.55. 16,000 rds were fired on the following targets - O.36.b.30.52., O.36.a.78.72., O.36.a.34.26 and O.36.d.19.60. 400 rds were fired at enemy aircraft.

(d) Patrols. An enemy working party was heard at the N.E. corner of U.29.d., and 8 men were seen working outside a building at this point. A L.G. magazine was emptied into them, the range apparently being correct, and the shooting effective, as sparks could be seen flying from objects at the spot where party was working. Patrol then withdrew to watch the effect, and about 10 mins. later several granatenwerfer were fired into position from which Lewis gun had fired (U.29.a.88.14), and shortly afterwards a number of heavy T.Ms were fired into No Man's Land. What appeared to be a raised d/board track was seen running from building at U.29.d.85.97 to bend of river at U.29.b.50.00., and at U.29.b.12.15. There was a small wooden jetty about a yard square actually over the water. A track shows plainly on enemy side of river through squares U.29.a. and d. - possibly an old tow-path.

A party went to within 150 yds of the road junction at U.29.b.2.7., when 2 Germans were seen for a moment at the junction, which was on the skyline. These disappeared at once and were not seen again. It was obvious that they had seen our patrol, as 3 WHITE flares were sent up from approx. U.29.b.7.3., three or four minutes later. These two men were not wearing steel helmets, and since the night was so bright, it is considered that the flares were a warning to some other party. The patrol then proceeded to U.29.a.9.5., thence to U.29.b.3.4., where a reconnoitring party consisting of the officer and one N.C.O. left the main party and went to the river at U.29.b.30.25., where the river could be seen for 200 yds in either direction. No bridges or moorings could be seen, nor enemy tracks on our side of the river. Heavy transport could be heard at U.30.c.

About 9.50.p.m. much movement was seen at approx. U.11.d.75.30., and on rifle fire being brought to bear movement ceased. At 10.p.m. movement again commenced and 20 or 30 enemy were observed apparently forming into groups on either side of the railway. The L.G. opened and dispersed them. At 10.20.p.m., supported by M.Gs. the enemy were observed advancing down the railway. Our patrol, supported by our men at U.11.d.20.55., drove them back with L.G. rifle fire, and bombs. The enemy got within 20 yds of our patrol who moved back to U.11.d.20.55. until things had settled down again. During the above a flare bursting into 2 REDS brought artillery fire from the enemy. It is thought that casualties were inflicted on the

P.T.O.

Patrols (Contd).

Enemy though no bodies could be found later. Our officer (patrol leader) was slightly wounded.

2 officers and a scout left U.11.b.11.42. at 11 p.m. and proceeded east to Pill-box at U.11.b.cent., then S to road at U.11.d.6.4., where voices were heard coming from U.11.b.8.2. No Man's Land is dry and in good condition except for shell holes which are partially filled with water.

Patrol of 1 off. and 25 O.Rs with L.G. went out from O.29.c.2.9. at 10.30 p.m. and moved to O.29.a.55.15. then E along road running through O.29.a. Hearing noises in front coming from the enemy wire, the patrol extended in front of ditch at O.29.a.65.15. At this stage a party of men approached the patrol position from about O.29.a.9.4. At the same time a second party appeared to the N, and at once opened fire with bombs, and rushed our party, who immediately charged, with the result that the enemy turned and ran. Owing to the thickness of the wire they could not be followed. Whilst our patrol was on the wire a third party opened fire from the S with M.G., rifles, and bombs. The centre party meantime maintained a heavy fire, and the northern party re-formed, and again opened fire. Our patrol was then formed in a hollow square facing outwards, opened rapid fire, and advanced outwards towards the enemy party. The firing continued for about 10 minutes, when the L.G. ammunition began to give out. On calling to the front line however, more was brought forward. Our patrol continued to advance, and when close to the enemy he retired, leaving in our hands one wounded prisoner and four dead, from whom all papers etc were taken. During the action the enemy used 4 M.Gs, one from each section of the patrol, and one from his front line at O.29.b.1.7., which was brought into action by a signal of 3 blasts on a whistle. Patrol leader estimates the strength of the centre party to be 20 or 30, and each flank party 10. Patrol returned at 10.30 pm through O.29.c.2.9. We had one man (the Cpl) killed.

(e) Aerial Activity. Our 'planes were constantly over enemy's lines during the day, but his A.A. and M.G. fire was poor. Our 'planes were observed to fire on enemy front lines with M.G., and at 4 p.m. they scattered an enemy party working near GASOMETER.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

As a result of patrol encounter a wounded prisoner belonging to 165rd I.R. - 17th RES.DIV. was captured. Prisoner died before he could be interrogated.

A pack containing an overcoat was found, and shoulder straps were marked 103, but as pack is very old no great importance is attached to this identification.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Locality shelled.	Rounds.	Calibre.	Direction.	Remarks
10.30.am/12.30.pm.	U.9.c.	22	10.5.cm		
10.35.am/11am.	U.14.a.	4.	"		H.E.
11/11.45.am	F.L.T.	20	10.5.cm.	105° from	Position spy O.33.a.24.33.eered to be P.31.d.20.95.
9 am.	STEIGNAST FARM.	11	"		
10 a.m.	THE FACTORY.	8	T.M.		GASOMETER, WARNETON.
10.40.a.m.	O.35.central.	18.	7.7.cm.		
11.30.am/	PLOEGSTEERT WOOD				
12.50.pm.	& PLOEGSTEERT.	50.	10.5.cm	D.1.a.	
11.30am/1pm.	U.25.c.and d	50	"	TB.106° from	C.1.b.75.35.
1.30 pm.	C.1.b.	3	"	"	"
9.40 p.m.	PLOEGSTEERT VILL.	40.	7.7.cm	DEULEMONT.	Gas.
11pm/mant.	U.29.a.	80.	15 & 10.5.cm.		
12.45.am.	U.29.a.	18.	L.T.M.		UNKNOWN FARM.
2.30.am/3am.	PLANTATION FARM.	12	"		DURIEZ FARM.
4.a.m.	do	30	T.M.		UNKNOWN FARM.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY (Contd).

Special fire was directed on our Posts between U.17.d.4.2. and U.17.d.5.4.

Gun flashes were observed on the following T.Bs. 97, 90, 104, 87, 93, 102, 95, 84, 81, 82 and 65 degrees from O.27.a.20.42., and 72 and 79 degrees from O.33.b.6.3. *44, 104*

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

During the period under review the enemy has adopted distinctly offensive tactics, and is evidently endeavouring to secure an identification. He was repulsed with loss in three different patrol encounters.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Fairly active between 9 a.m. and noon, some damage being done to CEDILLA RESERVE and KIWI ST. by M.W. from direction of CHURCH and LAUNDRY at FRELINGHIEN. A bomb of the "flying pig" variety was used yesterday for the first time during our tour in the line. They had three fins on the base similar to our 9.45, and 50% were duds. 30% of the other heavy T.M. bombs were also duds. A heavy T.M. was seen firing from approx. U.29.d.6.0. T.Ms were more active around U.17.d.4.2. than usual. From 1 to 3 p.m. enemy was ranging on front line posts of Right Bn, Left Bde, from O.36.c.5.5., O.36.d.3.5., U.6.b.05.45., and U.12.c.05.07.

(b) Machine Guns. On the whole - quiet; but heavy fire was brought to bear on our 'planes from WARNETON. There is a suspected M.G. position at O.29.b.2.3.

(c) Patrols. At 4.45 a.m. a party of 15 enemy approached our forward listening posts at O.29.c.25.70., and O.29.a.20.05. The enemy threw bombs, upon which the L.P. withdrew to the piquet line and were fired on by M.G. The enemy made several attempts to get through our wire but was beaten off by fire from the post. By the light of a flare fired by us, the enemy was seen retiring. A small patrol was immediately sent out from the post to search the ground, and returned with a German rifle, a box of M.G. ammunition, and some stick bombs. No further trace of the enemy could be found.

At 5.30 a.m. 4 enemy were observed opposite U.18.a.00.15. They disappeared in the direction of the river.

(d) Defences. Dense white smoke was seen rising from trench in front of DURIEZ FARM during the day. At 10 a.m. 10 men were apparently working on a S.P. 98th T.B. from U.29. c.38.35. There is a camouflage structure in CESS PIT HOUSE.- not UNKNOWN FARM as previously reported. The roof is 5 ft higher than the roof of house and is of considerable dimensions. Enemy wiring party at approx. U.18.a.15.35. They were dispersed by our Stokes mortars. Camouflage can be seen around TELEPHONE HOUSE U.24.a.6.9. - a gunflash, also movement, were observed here. Our 18-pdrs were notified and fired here with good effect. Fresh earth is apparent at U.16.a.1.5. near SPINNING MILL.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

At 8 a.m. an enemy 'plane engaged by one of ours was forced to land at a point E. of MESSINES. Smoke was seen coming from the 'plane as it landed.

E.A. were more active than during the previous period. At 3 p.m. an E.A. flying at about 200/300 ft patrolled our lines, and although actively engaged by A.A. fire, continued to patrol for 1 hour.

8.MOVEMENT.

1 man, apparently on sentry duty, at O.5.b.35.70. at 5 p.m. Another at Pill-box U.29.d.72.55. at 1.15 p.m. 7.15 a.m. a train on a light railway travelling S from U. .b.2.8. to U.12.b.4.4. Train moving on light railway on T.Bs 105 and 115 degrees from U.11.a.88.02.

8. MOVEMENT (Contd.).

Small party of enemy on Camouflage track U.24.b.8.0. to V.19.a.00.35. Three men running at U.12.c.4.3. One man observing at U.12.c.5.4. 3 men observing at U.11.d.9.7., and another man later. Two men observing at U.12.a.5.3. Movement near Pill-box U.12.c.5.2. Observer at U.12.a.6.5. 2 men wearing leggings and carrying sticks moved from U.6.d.25.30. to pill-box at U.6.b.05.12. A dog was seen to leave Pill-box at V.7.c.9.5. 3 men carrying a bag left pill-box at V.7.d.75.81. and disappeared in rear of WARNETON. During the day men were seen carrying papers to SALMON FARM, (0.30.c.99.50). Throughout the day men were seen moving past camouflage at 0.29.c.central. 2 men on top of trench at 0.29.b.1.4 appeared to be laying telephone wire.

The following were observed from U.14.c.16.43:- At 6.40am. light steam train moving South, from T.B.115°. It was held up at T.B.116° probably at crossing D.9.d.9.4.; 7 to 8am. Light steam trains were using line through D.12.a. and b. and D.5., both coming forward and then moving back to rear.; At 8.30 a.m. Light steam train moving S.E. drawn by 2 engines, probably just south of LE BLATON. Train travelling N. through W.14. - T.B.95°. 8 to 8.40am. Light train engines were working just S. of LE BLATON, on T.B. 92° and 93°, - probably at terminus. 9.10 a.m. train observed moving N. in V.23.c. 10.30am. train moving to rear behind ST. MARQUERITE. 3.40pm. party of 6 men seen to enter ruins in U.30.d.9.9. Later 3 of them left carrying what appeared to be a rolled blanket and moved along road towards DEULEMONT.

Train movement.

Time.	From.	To.	Time.	From.	to.
a.m.			a.m.		
7.40.	WERVICQ.	COMINES.	11.25.	HALLUIN.	Moving N.
7.40.	ST.MARGUER-		12.30pm.	HALLUIN.	Moving S.
	TE.	COMINES.	12.37pm.	HALLUIN.	"
8.30.	WERVICQ.	HALLUIN.	3.5 pm.	"	"
9.50.	HALLUIN.	Moving N.	5.10pm.	"	"
10.10.	HALLUIN.	Moving S.	6.30pm.	"	"

SIGNALLING. The lamp sending "S I T E" was again seen in the direction of WILLE from 7 to 8 p.m. "Trailer" flares were sent up during our aircraft activity during the night.

Commencing at 9.30pm. a RED light flashed at intervals during the night from a point on a T.B. of 67° and 90° from 0.34.b.26.22. No message was picked up.

Flares. YELLOW clusters fired from sector on our left brought Artillery and M.G. fire from that sector.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Thick white smoke was observed about 1300 yards behind enemy line on a T.B. of 67° from 0.9.d.25.40. for 10 minutes at 6.38 a.m. and again at 3.45pm. At 9am. 4.15pm, and 4.30pm. smoke was observed from trains moving backwards and forwards as if shunting about 4,000 yards behind enemy line and between T.Bs. of 70° and 75°.

It is observed that none of the enemy seen opposite our right Bde. wear steel helmets, but forage caps with red bands.

Periscope was seen in support trench U.12.c.4.3.

A message dog came into our lines near U.11.b.15.25. at 1pm. He carried no message or identification. A dead German was seen close to enemy wire by one of our patrols. He was wearing an overcoat but no shoulder straps. The moon was too clear to allow of closer investigation, but efforts will be made later. A man was seen in tower in DEULEMONT at approx. U.24.d.1.8. This is probably an O.P. 4pm. to 7pm. a smoke barrage was put down between P.13.a.5.5. and 4.7.2. There were 6 different clouds each lasting 30 minutes. At 6pm. a similar barrage was put down from direction of KORTWILDE.

R. G. Vertleim Capt.
for Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

