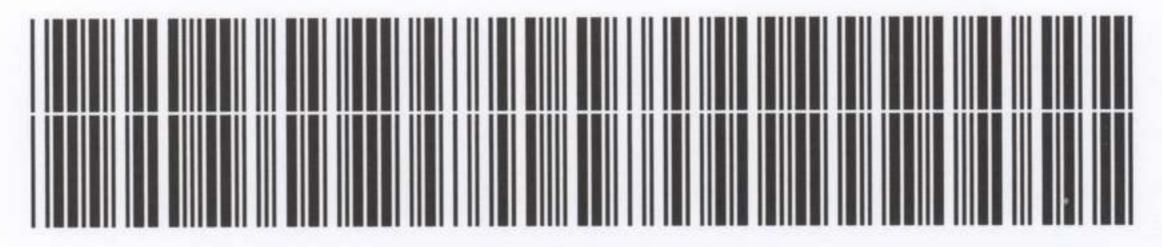
# AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/50/19 Part 4

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th Australian Division

September 1917



AWM4-1/50/19PART4

APPENDIX O

G1/ 3446

Headquarters, I ANZAC Corps.

With reference to telephone conversation regarding the visit of the Army Commander on Monday 3rd instant to the 15th Infantry Brigade, 3 copies of the proposed scheme to be carried out by Battalion Staffs and Company Commanders of the 57th and 59th Battalions, are forwarded herewith for your information.

1st Septr. /17. Commanding 5th Australian Division.



# BATTALION SCHEME for 3rd instant.

Reference Sheet 36A.

#### GENERAL IDEA.

RED FORCE, based to the West of the ROMAN ROAD, occupies advanced positions running through SERCUS-Mn.FONTAINE-BOESEGHEM.

BIUE FORCE, based East of the ROMAN ROAD, has its advanced trenches along the general line of that Road.

The C. in G. BLUE issues S.S. 574 "The Construction of Defensive Position". In accordance therewith a support line is chosen running in rear of the first line through C.24, 18, 12, 6.

Rendezvous C.18.a Central at 9 a.m. 3rd instant.

### SPECIAL IDEA (BLUE)

Your Battalion plus 1 Section M.G. Co. is in support in the sector C.16, 17, 18. (BOIS HUIT RUES exclusive le ROMARIN exe.)

Having regard to the instrauctions in 8.8. 574.

- (a) Select exact position of support line in rear of the crest in your sector and decide on a plan of defence of the sector.
- (b) Reconnoitre the ground forward to the ROMAN ROAD.
- (c) Draw up the order carrying that plan into effect.
- (d) Make an enlarged sketch showing distribution of your troops when the enemy attack commences.

Orders and sketches tobe handed in at C.18.a Central at 11.30 a.m.

(Sgd) R.G. LEGGE Captain, for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.

Copy No .....

BATTALION ORDER NO.

# Reference 1/40,000 36A.

3. 9. 1917.

- 1. The enemy has reached the line C.17.A.8-7 C.16.B.0-9 .. C.16.D.5-2. Strong points on that line are still in our hands.
- 2. The Battalion is to counter attack and gain the line of the ROMAN ROAD.
- Attack will be carried out as detailed in Defence Schame;
  A Company No.1, B Company No.2, C Company No.3 and
  D Company No4. Move on receipt of this order.
- 4. Battalion Headquarters will be established at C.17.D.0-5 at 12.15 a.m.

For Brigade Major. 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 11.40 a.m.
Two copies to each recipent.

Regiment

"A" Company

"B" Company

"C" Company

"D" Company

Lewis Gun Officer

Q.M.

File

War Diary

1.

2.

3.

3.

4.

5.

5.

6.

7.

9.10.11.

NOTE: - These times are liable to be altered in the actual scheme.

# QUILINE OF DEFENCE SCHEME,

Solution (a). Scheme 3-9-17.

Ref. 1/49,000 36A. Attached sketch.

#### BOUNDARIEST

The Sector is bounded as follows :-On the North a line D.7.c. 0-0 - C.10.c.0-0. On the South a line Del3.c. C-0 -C.16.c. 0-0. The line of the STEERIE CQUE RIVER divides the front line battalica area from the support battalion area. The sector will be held by two battalions; one in front line system and one in support system, and one Section M.G. Company to each battalion.

LIMES of DEFENCE. (a) The line of Defence occupied by the support battalion will be located as shown in attached sketch. The system will consust of three trench lines connected by oblique communication trenches as shown.

Company boundaries C.18.4.0-5. - C.18.c.3-8. Garrison - two companies first line. two companies second and third line between boundaries shown apove.

Machine Guns - see sketch. Wire - (as in 89574.) located as on sketch about 70 yards in front of first line. Done in the three lines about 7 wards deep and lines 7 yards apart. Lengths of about 70 yards gaps of 15 yards, each gap covered by the length in rear of ite

#### METHOD of HOLDING SECTOR.

The defence of the secont will be organised on the

following lines .

The front line battalion is distributed in depth holding shell-holes and strong points (See sketch) in echelon to the rear from left to right. expected that if the enemy pushes through to the line of strong points they will be held up approximately on the line Caleada Ono .CallacaOno.

It is imize then intended that a support battalion shall be moved up by the covered approaches in Col7.c & d , deploy in Col7.d and attack in the direction of the present frant line trench,

This attack will be carried out by the two Companies in the front line of support system, supported by the two remaining companies.

The objective will be the front shell-hole trench on the line of the ROMAN ROAD and each company will attack in four waves on a one platoon frontage of about three hundred yards.

The company boundary for the attack will be right company - C.17.c.9-4. (RUE SERCUS exclusive) C.1.6.b.9-0. (inclusive) C.10.c.0-3. The right company (No.1) in the line will operate to the North of that boundary and the left company (No.2) to the South.

No.3. and No.4 companies will conform to the movements of No.1 .- No.2. respectively moving at a distance of four hundred yards in rear of the last wave of the leading companies.

The movement to the line of deployment (the road C.17.c.9-0 - 0.17.d.3.9.) will carried out in columns as ground permits. The attack will be launched; each of the leading companies in four waves, men at interval of 7 yards, waves at distance of about 200 yards. Signal for the launching of the attack will be the first lift of the barrage.

Officers' Patrols of one officer, 8 other ranks will cover the advance to the line of deployment of each of the leading companies, contact being main tained

by rimner .

#### ARTILLEMY.

A barrage will be put down on the lines shown in attached sketch when information as to the enemy's advance is available. Artillry will be informed by regimental headquarters.

The artillery table allows for the covering of the whole area taken by the enemy and the barrage lifts to avoid strong points known to be still occupied by us.

Contact aeroplane will be informed by signal from C.17.d.0-5. when the attack has reached the position of deployment and is ready to move.

The barrage will move by one hundred yard lifts

every four minutes. . . ro. the aeroblane

The signal from the infantry, will be made by shutter from battalion headquarters and at the same time the firing of two green and one red light. This wil; be arranged by the battalion signalling officer.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATION.

A line is to be run from present battalion headquarters to the advanced battalion headquarters at C.17.d.0-5. to which point the battalion headquarters will move when the leading companies in the attack have reached the position of deployment.

ARRANGEMENTS.

1. as in a Nached administrature addenda

(not attached)

for Brigade Major.

15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters, 15th Australian Ingantry Brigade, 5th September, 1917.

57th Battalion, 58th Battalion, 59 th Battalion, 60th Battalion, 15th M.G. Company. 15th A.L.T.M.B.,

The following arrangements have been made to facilitate the carrying out of the scheme on 6th/and 7th insts.

The RED Barrage is to be representanted by white signalling flags. These will be controlled by Lieut. McIvor, Brigade Intelligence Officer and two Officers and 56 Other Ranks of the 58th Battalion.

There will be no BLUE Barrage actually

representated for their counter attack.

The Company Commanders of the two front Companies and the left rear Companies 58th Battalion will act as umpires. The two former and Lieut. McIvor will decide when the flags representing the two forward Companies are to be pulled down as having been put out of action. These decisions must be strictly impartial and the umpiresmust be guided in their decisions by consideration of the weight of the Barrage and the strength of the forces engaging the posts. The O.C. left rear Company 58th Battalion ( after his local counter) will act as umpire to halt the main counter attack. This will be halted on the line shown in sketch issued to 58th Battalion.

The two forward Companies of the 58th Battalion are to be represented each by 30 men carrying RED flags. These will be placed in accordance with instructions already issued and wikk each flag will represent a post of 5 men, two flags together representing a Machine Gun Position and detachment.

Flags will be waved when garrisons are in action and must be controlled carefully while the barrage is on them. The 58th Battalion will launch and halt local

counter attacks as already instructed.

Attention is directed to the necessity of impressing on themmen that as little damage as possible is to be done to cultivated fields. Beet and Potato Fields are passable to a certain extent but Bean fields must on no account be crossed.

Breaches may be cut in hedges where necessary but these will be limited to the fewest possible.

The 58th Battalion are detailing two companies (less two Officers 60 men ) to report to Captain SMITH Brigade Headquarters at C.15.A.0-6 at 11.30 a.m. These men are to be employed to follow up the 60th Battalion and block up any breaches that have been made in hedges and close all gates openings etc.

The Brigade Signal Section is establishing Stations at C.10.D.0-0 and C.16.B.3-8. Battalions of all Brigades will establish visual communication with one or each of these points. This is not included in the scheme but is for control purposes only so that stations need not be concealed.

> for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

90C

## TIME TABLE OF EVENTS 15th BRIGADE SCHEME 8-9-17.

ZERO

Attacking battalions (57th battalion in front) advance under barrage.

ZERO plus 35 minutes. General line of first objective reached.

Fighting for strong point in B.16.d.3.3. continues.

ZERO plus 45 minutes. Local counter attack from C.17.c. in the direction of C.16.d. developes.

Mopping up and consolidation of area covered by 57th battalion continues and 60th battalion gradually moves forward to its lying out position in readiness to move, until ZERO plus 95 minutes.

ZERO plus 95 Minutes. The 60th battalion passing through 57th moves behind barrage towards its objective.

ZERO plus 2 hours. The 60th battalion reaches its objective with the exception of strong point in C.16.b.9.0. which holds out.

ZERO plus 2 hours. The 59th battalion counter attack begins to move from support trenches in C.18.a and c. and should debouch from hedge line in C.17.c. about Zero plus 2 hours 25 minutes.

58th right rear company carry out local

counter attack from strong point in C.17.a. at same time.

(sgd) R.G. LEGGE Captain, for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade. BRIGADE SCHEME for 6th inst. and 8/9/17.

Reference Sheet 1/40,000 36A.

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A RED Force based west of the ROMAN ROAD occupies advanced positions immediately west of that road.

A BLUE Force, based east of the ROMAN ROAD has its advanced positions on the general line of that road.

RED is preparing to attack and capture the BLUE positions to the general line of the STEENBECQUE RIVER.

The 5th RED DIVISION occupies the sector bounded by a line BLARINGHEM - BELLE HOTESSE on the south and the LYNDE - SERCUS - C.10.a.7.8 road on the North.

#### SPECIAL IDEA (RED)

The 15th RED Infantry Brigade (Brigade Hqrs. 57th, 60th, 61st, 62nd Battalions, M.G. Company & Trench Mortar Battery) occupies the sector C.16.c.0.7 to C.10.c.3.2.

The 57th Battalion & 60th Battalion move into front line and support trenches on the night 3rd-4th September to prepare for the attack.

Brigade Order -- is issued.

(a) Reconnoitre the ground and consider your dispositions prior to the attack.

(b) Write Battalion orders for the attack in accordance with Brigade order already issued. (not attached).

(sgd) R.G. LEGGE Captain, for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

NOTE: - The 59th Battalion will act as enemy.



# BATTALION SCHEME for 8/9/17.

Reference Sheet 36A.

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A RED Force, based to the west of the ROMAN ROAD, occupies advanced positions running through SERCUS - Mn.FONTAINE - BOESEGNEM.

BLUE Force, based east of the ROMAN ROAD, has its advanced trenches along the general line of that road.

The C. in C. BLUE issues S.S.574 "The construction of defensive positions". In accordance therewith a support line is chosen running inrear of the first line through C.24. - 18 - 12 - 6.

Rendezvous C.18.A. Central at 9 a.m. 3rd inst.

#### SPECIAL IDEA "BLUE".

Your battalion plus 1 Section M.G. Co. is in support in the sector C.16.17.18. (BOIS HUIT RUES exclusive Le ROMARIN exe).

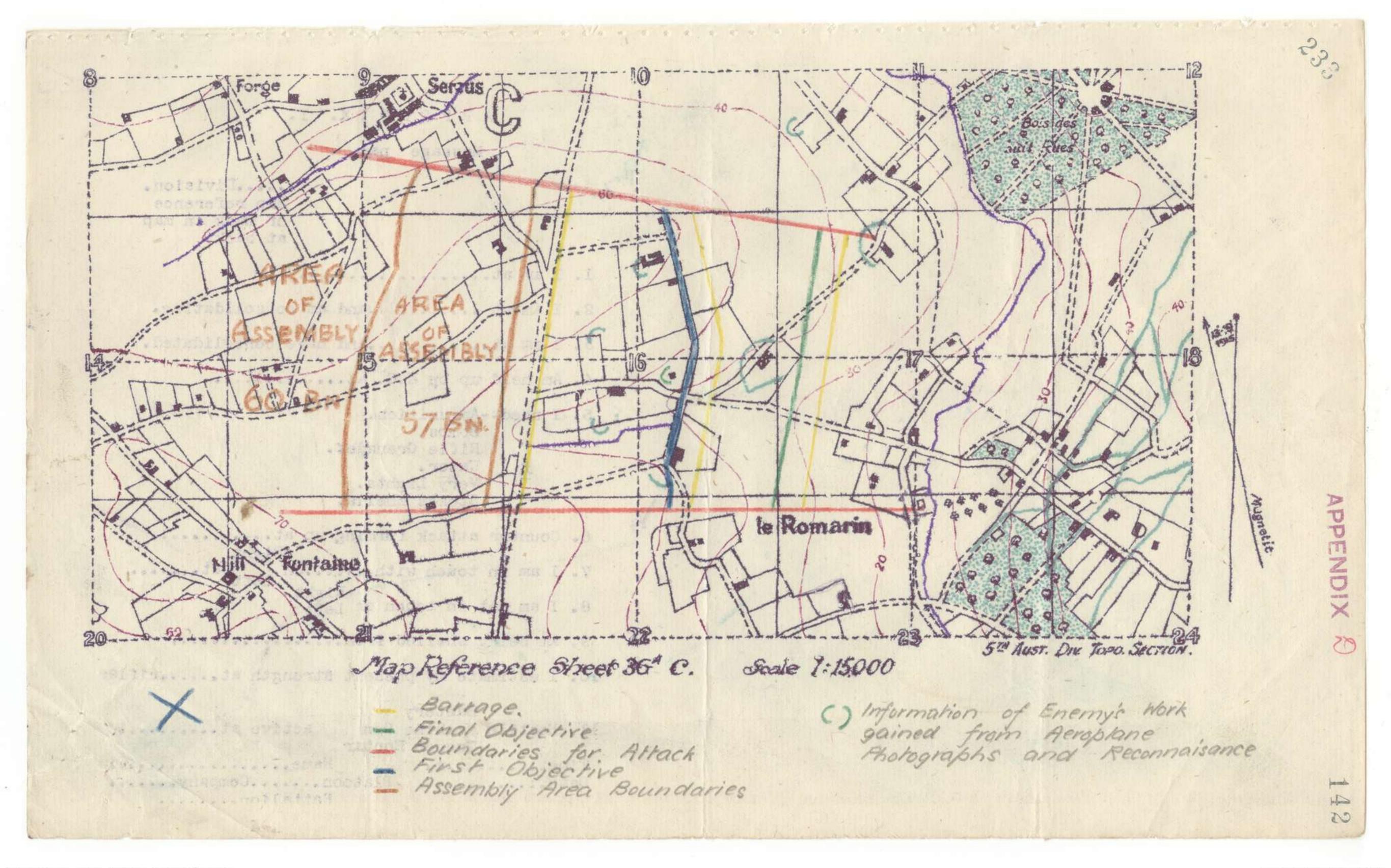
Having regard to the instructions in S.S. 574.

- (a) Select exact position of support line in rear of the crest in your sector and decide on a plan of defense of the sector.
- (b) Reconnoitre the ground forward to the ROMAN ROAD.
- (c) Draw up the order carrying that plan into effect.
- (d) Make an enlarged sketch showing distribution of your troops when the enemy attack commences.

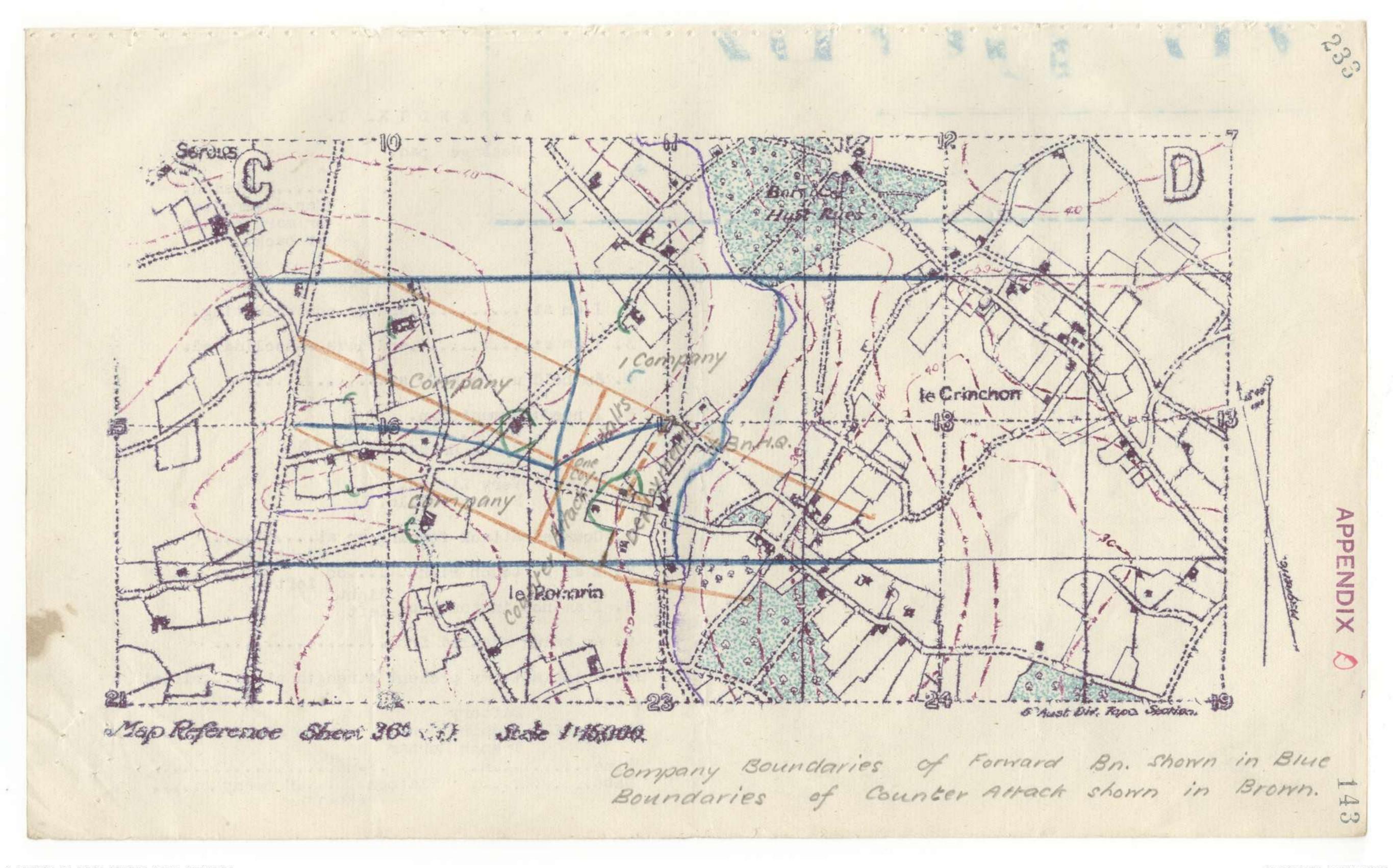
Orders and Sketches to be handed in at C.16.a.5.8. at 11.30 a.m.

sd. R.G. LEGGE Captain, for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

NOTE :- Remainder of Brigade act as enemy.



# APPENDIX. I. Message pad. ....Division. Map reference or mark on map at back. 1. I am at....... 2. I am at ......and am consolidating. 3. I am at .....and have consolidated. 4. Am held up by M.G. at...... 5. I need:-Ammunition. Bombs. Rifle Grenades. Water. Very Lights. Stokes shells. 6. Counter attack forming up at. Right Left at .... 7. I am in touch with....on Right 8. I am not in touch on Left 9. Am being shelled from ....... 10. I estimate my present strength at .... rifles Battery active at ...... 11. Hostile Machine Gun Trench Mortar Time.....m. Platoon................. Fattalion.....



Copy No .....

#### BRIGADE ORDER NO.

Ref. 1/40,000 36 A. - 1/15,000 (sketch attached)

5th September, 1917.

- The Brigade will attack and occupy the enemy's positions up 1. to the line 0.17.c.0-0 to 0.17.A.8-8 on 8th September 1917. Tho 3th Infantry Brigade on the Right and the 14th Infantry Brigade on the Left are attacking with objectives on the same line.
- 2. The Boundaries for the attack will be:on the South a line C.21.B.5-9 to C.23.B.10-95. on the North a line C.9. D.5-3 to C.17.A.8-7.
  - OBJECTIVES. The first Objective ( ELUE line in sketch attached) 3. is to be carried and consolidated by the 57th Battalion. It includes the Road C.16.D.3-3 to C.10.D.0-3 taking in the remains of the houses at each of those points. The Battalion will be responsible for the mopping up of the area covered.

The second Objective ( GREEN line) will be taken by the 60th Battalion, It consists of the forward slopes of the ridge on the 8.9.0 line C.17.C.C.O. C.17.A.3-8, including the strong point at C.16.B.C

The 60th Battalion will have to pass through 57th Battalion to reach this line and flanks will be directed on the ruins at C.23.B.10-95. ( Right flank) and C.17.A.8-7. (Left Mank)

It must be impressed on O's C. flanking Companies that they are responsible for their own protection, although Units on each flank of the brigade are endeavouring to carry out the same tasks as ourselves.

- AESHAVES, The 61st and 62nd Battalions and two subsections T.M.B. will act as Brigade Reserves.
- The 57th and 60th Mattalions will construct their own assembly 5. trenches in the area shown in attached sketch on the night 5th/6th September. These will be constructed with intervals and distances in the formation in which the preliminary advance is to be carried out.
- These assembly trenches will form the jumping off trenches for the attack and will be occupied by zero unnes one how
- A crosping Barrage will be put down at Zero on the line 0.22.A.1-9 to 0.10.0.4-2 and will advance by 100 yard lifts at the rate of 100 yards in 5 minutes to the line C.22.B.4-9 - C.16.B.6-2 - C.10.D.4-0 and will remain there until Zero plus 95 minutes.

At Zere plus 95 minutes the barrage will advance in 75 yard lifts each minutes to the line 0.17.0.2-0 to 0.17.A.5-8 and will remain there until Zero plus 3 hours and then die down.

Details are shown in attached Artillery Table ( not attached) This line will form the U.O.S line until definite information is received as to the exact line we have reached.

The B.U.S. Signal will be given by the firing of 2 Hed and One Green light.

Attacking Battalions will arrange for B.O.B relay posts to be established near their forward Command posts to repeat 0.0.5. signals.

The 61 st Battelion will move at U plus one hour to the present front line and 57th Battalion assembly tronches. The C.O. 61st Battalion will keep in close touch with the 57th and 60th Eattalions and be prepared to rake action in case the attack is definitely held up.

The 62nd Battalion will move at U plus 14 hours to the assembly

trenches constructed by 60th Eattalion and await orders.

10. The O.C. Machine Gun Company will arrange for one section Mack

bine Gun Company to occupy position on the line of the present Front Line. These Guns will support the attack until the final objective has been taken when they will be moved forward under arrangements to be made between O.C. Machine Gun Company and the 60th Battalion.

The Machine Gun Company less one Section will be utilised to provide Barrage Fire in accordance with the Machine Gun Table

attached . (NOT ATTACHED)

The 0.0. Trench Mortar Battery will place one subsection at the disposal of each of the 57th and 60th Battalions. The 0's 0. of these subsections will report before 4 p.m. 5th inst. to their Battalion and receive orders and anaxwax as to their action

The Tremch mortar Battery (less 2 subsections) will move with the 61 st Battalion at 0 plus one hour to about 0.15.D.5-5 and

await orders.

- 12. Contact Patrols will be in the air at the following times:...
  O plus 15, O plus 35, O plus one hour 35, O plus two hours,
  O plus 2 hours 30, O plus 2 hours 45 minutes.
- 13. DRESS. Fighting Order will be worn. Contents of Packs and loads are given in appendix L. (not attached)
- 14. DUIPS.

A Brigade Dump is to be formed at C.15.A.0-5.

Battalion Dumps will be formed under Battalion

arrangements at C.15.B.9-4. (57th En.) and C.15.B.9-8 (60th En)

by 6 p.m. on 5th inst.

Mose Battalions will also choose sites for forward

dumps in the areas they are to consolidate.

A Brigade Dump will be formed at C.15.B.9-4 on the night 5th/6th September which will be available to supply the Battalion dumps forward of that point.

Material will be collected in these dumps in accordance

with administrative addends attached.

- Watches will be synchronised with Exigade Maadquarters at 12 midnight 7th/8th and 6 a.m. on 8th September.
- 16. The Brigade forward station will be established at about C.16.A.8-7 at Zero plus 40 minutes.

  Advanced Brigade Readquarters will remain in its present position at 3715.A.8-6.

17. Zero hour will be at . Youw. 10.30 am

for Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at ...... to

No 1 57th Battalion
2 60th Battalion
3 61st Battalion
4 62nd Battalion
5 15th M.G.Coy.
6 15th A.L.T.M.B.

No 7 Division.

8 Right Brigade.
9 Left Brigade.
10 0.C. Nth F.A.Bde.
11 15th Field Amb.
12 Filed.

13 War Diary. 14 Spare.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDA to BRIGADE ORDER NO.\_\_\_\_

A Brigade dump is already established at C.15.a.0-5.

A Forward Brigade Dump, containing the following will be formed on night 5th-6th September at C.15.b.9-4. under Brigade Bombing Officer and will be available to supply dumps forward of that point. A leading perty of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men will be furnished by 61st Battalion for duty at dump.

100,000 rounds S.K.A.
4,000 grenades (No.23)
2,000 1" Very Lights.
100 S.O.S. Hockets
200 Ground Flares.
800 rounds Stokes Morter Ammuntion
100 " Trench " " (2")

A.B.Stores:-

200 picks, 400 shovels, 5,000 sandbags. 200 coils barbed wire, 1,000 screw pickets.

5,000 preserved meat, biscuit and rum rations. 200 petrol tins of water.

Battalion dumps will be formed at C.15.b.9.4. (57th Battn) and C.15.b.9.8. (60th Battalion) by 6 p.m. 5th inst under Battalion arrangements and will contain.

50.000 rounds S.A.A.

2.000 Grenades.

1.000 Very Lights.

500 S.O.S. Rockets.

100 Asroplane flares.

B.B.Stores: -

100 Picks, 200 shovels,

100 coils barbed wire, 500 screw pickets,

5.000 sandbags,

100 petrol tins of water.

Battalions will also choose sites for forward dumps in the areas they are to consolidate and will move the rear dumps forward as soon as possible after the position has been taken.

2. CARRYING PARTIES.

The 61st and 52nd Battalions will each detail a party of 1 N.C.O. and 20 other ranks to act as carrying party between Brigade and Battalion dumps. Parties to carry forward of Battalion dumps will be detailed and arranged by 57th and 60th Battalions.

A party of 1 N.C.O. and 50 other ranks will be detailed by 62nd Battalien to act as Stokes Mortar carrying party. They will work right through from Brigade dump to the mortars in action and will work under the orders of the BatteryCommander.

- 2 -

3. RATIONS.

on with September by wheeled transport to C.15.a.0-5. where they will be loaded on to the Section of Divisional Pack Troop allotted to the Brigade. Transport officers of 57th & 60th Battalions must reconneitre the route to their units during daylight. The Pack convoys must be sent off immediately after dark and will carry rations to Battalion Headquarters at least and if possible further. Battalions must provide the necessary parties to carry the rations on from pack animals to the Companies in the front positions.

4. WORKING PARTIES. - Working parties will be supplied as per attached table (not attached).

Captain 18th Australian Inf. Brigade,

at Loupey

#### UMPIRES ONLY.

TABLE OF EVENTS. 15th Aust.Inf.Bde. Scheme 8-9-1917.

58th Battalion Advances under Barrage to within 40 yards ZERO. of it.

ZERO plus 35' Counter attack launched against 58th Battalion from field C.18.B.3.3.

ZERO plus 41' 58th Battalion reach the RED LINE.

ZERO plus 66' 60th Battalion passing through 58th Battalion moves behind barrage towards its objective.

ZERO plusico' Counter attack launched against 60th Battelion from C.12. D.2.2.

ZERO plus 1.06! 60th Battalion reach the BLUE LINE.

57th and 59th Battalions passing through 60th Battn., ZERO plus 141 move behind barrage towards their objective.

Counter attacks launched against 57th and 59th ZERO plus 180° Battalions from C.12.C.5.9. and C.11.D.8.9. respectively.

57th and 59th Battalions reach the GREEN LINE, ZERO plus 185' and barrage halts 200 yards beyond objective.

All Troops will stand up and positions will be ZERO plus 195' checked.

Brigade Major.

15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

# TIME TABLE OF EVENTS.

ZERO. 58th Battalion advance to within 40yards of barrage.

ZERO plus 31 Barrage moves forward.

ZERO plus 41' 58th Battalion reach RED LINE.

ZERO plus 667 The 60th Battalion passing through 58th Battalion.

ZERO plus 106! The 60th Battalion reach Blue LINE.

ZERO plus 141' 57th and 59th Battalions passing through 60th Battalion move behind barrage towards their objective.

ZERO plus 1851 57th and 59th Battalions reach GREEN LINE - barrage halts 200 yards beyond objective.

ZERO plus 195' All troops stand up and positions will be checked.

Brigade Major.

15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

33 Mar Mary.

G1/4/17

15th Infantry Brigade.

In connection with the 15th Australian Infantry Brigade scheme, carried out on 8th instant, the Divisional Commander wishes attention called to the following points:-

- 1. The attack was too stiff, and there was too much restraint. Troops paid more attention to dressing than they did to the barrage.
- 2. In schemes of this kind the halts should only be represented proportionately, thus saving mauch training time. A halt of 1 hour should be represented by one of say 10 minutes, but this must be made clear to all troops taking part.

APPENDI

- 3. Get across NO MAN'S LAND quickly to avoid enemy's barrage, and then get proper distance,
- 4. Troops must be practised in making use of sound fire positions. One company when delivering counter attack failed to use a ditch which would have been ideal for their purpose.
- 5. Reorganize after extending.
- 6. Pass through gaps, and around obstacles correctly.
- 7. The position of Brigade Headquarters should be known to all.
- 8. Adequate arrangements for communication with M.G. batteries should be provided.
- 9. There is no need to give orders for the advance all should watch the barrage and go forward with it.
- 10. The word RETIRE must never be used.
- 11. The dispositions and movements of the force representing the enemy in schemes must be reasonable and tactically sound. The right flank of the counter attack delivered by BLUE would have been, in reality, mixed with the left Brigade of the attacking force.
- 12. Troops should keep still when they reach their position.

Points for criticism raised by the Army Commander are attached.

General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

September 10th 1917. Copy to:

8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade

Points raised by Army Commander in reference to 15th Australian Infantry Brigade scheme, on September 8th 1917 which have not yet been published in General Staff Memoranda:-

- 1. The movements of the troops, as a drill, were well carried out.
- 2. The men used their rifles freely. This is good and must be kept up on every occasion.
- 3. Practise sending verbal messages during the action.
- 4. Moppers-up must have something to search for and find. Small detachments of men can be hidden in different places for this purpose.
- 5. A great deal of determination and discipline is required when strong points are attacked.
- 6. Supporting troops should be kept as close up as possible to deal with small local counter attacks.
- 7. It must be explained to the men that are not to be alarmed if there are gaps in the line; it is much worse for the enemy than for us.
- 8. Definite orders should always be given as to what action is to be taken when the final objective is reached. Outposts a short distance in advance to cover the consolidation will be necessary. Patrols would probably be a source of danger.
- 9. During practise schemes the troops should be made to stand fast and stand up; The director can then check the dispositions and make sure of a proper distribution of supports and reserves.

ECRET.

Copy No .....

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 999

Sheet 36A N.W. 1/20,000 & attached MAP 1/10,000.

12th September 1917.

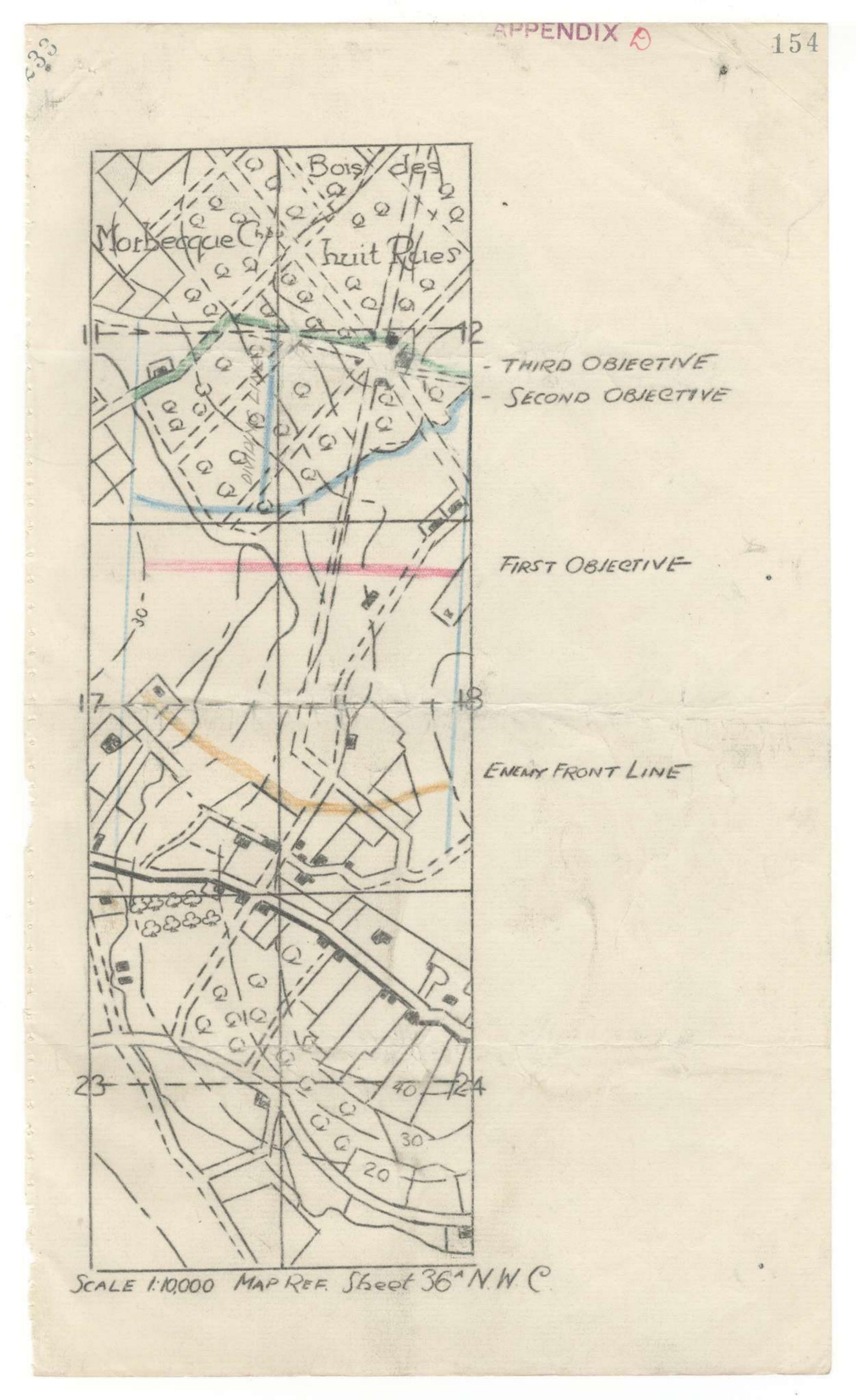
- The enemy is holding a series of fortified Shell holes and craters and various strong points on the line C.18.B.5-2 C.18.C.Central C.17.D.5-7 C.17.A.6-6 C.11.C.5-3 extending Northwards up to and beyond the BOIS DES HUIT RUES.
- 2. At 10.0 a.m. (hereinafter referred to as ZERO) on the 13th September the 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will attack and capture that part of the enemy position shewn on attached map in co-operation with similar attacks on either flank the 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade being on the right and the 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade on the left.
- 3. The boundaries and objectives for the attack are as shown on attached map.
- 4.(a) The first objective (RED LINE) will be captured and consolidated and the area mopped up by the 58th Battalion.
  - (b) the second objective (BLUE LINE) will be similarly dealt with by the 60th Battalion who will pass through the 58th Battalion.
  - (c) The third objective (GREEN LINE) will be captured and consolidated by the 57th Battalion (right) and 59th Battalion (left), both Battalions passing through the 58th and 60th Battalions. The dividing line will be from the road junction (inclusive to 57th Battalion) at C.12.C.1-9 to C.11.D.9-0.
  - (d) Al though units are operating on the flanks, flanking Companies Will be responsible for their own protection.
- 5.(a) The 58th Battalion will construct their own assembly trenches on the general line of the road in C.17.D and C.18.C on the night 12th/13th September. These will be constructed with intervals and distances in the formation in which the preliminary advance is to be carried out.
  - (b) The 60th Battalion will form up near the road in C.17.D. and C.24.A. whilst the 57th and 59th Battalions will move up through the Wood in C.23.B.
  - (c) The assembly tranches mentioned in sub-para (a) will be the jumping off tranch for the attack.
- 6.(a) The barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of the jumping off trench at ZERO. Troops will move up close under the barrage at ZERO and the barrage will not move forward until ZERO plus 3 minutes when it will advance 200 yards at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes.
  - (b) Thereafter and up to the HED LINE the barrage will advance at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes and will halt 150 yards in front of the RED LINE for 25 minutes.

(2)

- (c) Thereafter and up to the BLUE LINE the barrage will advance at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes and will halt 150 yards in front of the BLUE LINE for 35 minutes.
- (d) From the BLUE LINE forward the barrage will advance at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes and the final protective barrage will be put down 200 yards in advance of the GREEN LINE.
- 7. The S.O.S. Signal will be the firing of 2 Red and 1 Green light.
- .8. After the 60th Battalion has passed through the 58th Battalion, the latter will immediately re-organize on the line given as the objective and be prepared to take action as a reserve if the situation demands.
  - 9. The 15th Machine Gun Company will arrange for one section to occupy positions in the present front line. These guns will support the attack until the final objective has been taken when they will be moved forward under arrangements between the O/C M.G. Coy. and O/C 57th Battalion. The remainder of the Company will provide barrage fire in accordance with attached table (Appendix 1).
  - 10. The 15th L.T.M.B. will place I Sub-section at the disposal of each of the 57th, 58th, 59th and 60th Battalions. The Commanders of these sub-sections will report to the units to which they are allotted by 4.0 p.m. on 12th inst.
  - Il. Instructions as regards contact patrols by as noplanes will be issued separately.
  - 12. Troops will wear fighting order and the special equipment given in Appendix 2.
  - 13. Dumps of S.A.A., Granades, Water, Rations, R.E. Stores, etc. will be formed in accordance with Appendix 3.
  - 14. Watches will be synchronized through the Brigade Signal Office at midnight 12 th/13 th inst. and 6.0 a.m. 13 th inst.
- 15. Signal communications will be in accordance with attached table (Appendix 4)
- 16. Brigade Headquarters will be established at C.23.D.8-2 and Advanced Headquarters will be opened at C.23.B.8-9 at 9.0 a.m. on 13th inst.
- 17. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Captain.
Brigade Wajor.
15th Australian Imfantgaderigade.

Copy No.	Copies to	No.
i.	B.G.C. 15th A.I.Bda.	8.
2.	14th A.I. Bda.	9.
3.	8th A.I. Bda.	10.
4.	5th Aust, Division.	11. \
5.	"X" Squadron R.F.C.	12.
6.	15 th Field Ambulance.	13.
Bde.Signal Officer. 7.	War Diary.	14.
	File.	15.
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	B.G.C. 15th A.I.Bde.  2. 14th A.I. Bde.  3. 8th A.I. Bde.  4. 5th Aust.Division.  5. "X" Squadron R.F.C.  6. 15th Field Ambulance.  War Diary.



APPENDIX A 155 Miscellaneous Training attack Schemes while in Blaninghem area

SLORET.

55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 70.

Ref.Maps; - France 27 & 36A, 1/40,000.

8.9.17.

- 1. As protection for the 5th Australian Division, which will be resting in EIBLINGHEM and RENESCURE to-day and to-night, the 14th Aust.Inf.Bde. will take up an outpost position on the high ground S.E. of EBBLINGHEM. The enemy, who is holding the HAZEBROUCK-THIENNES Railway in force, has small outposts on the ridge N. and N.W. of SERCUS.
- 2. The 55th Battalion will immediately take up outposts on the sector T.30.b.0.3 (Lynds-Ebblinghem Road inclusive) -- U.25.a.4.6.

  The 54th and 56th Bns will be operating on our right and left respective.

  The 53rd Bn will be in support in EBBLINGHEM.
- 3. The outpost positions will be occupied by "A", "C", and "D" Companies, the frontages being as shown hereunder. "B" Coy will be in support under cover in T.24.d.

"A" Company....T.30.b.0.3 (Lynde-Ebblinghem Road inclusive) to T.80.b.4.3.

"D" Company....T.30.b.4.3 to T.30.b.9.5.

"D" Company....T.30.b.9.5 to U.25.a.4.6.

2010 V

VOICE TO PERSON

- 4. Reports to Eattalion Headquarters which will be established under cover of hedge at T.24.d.2.O. Signalling Officer will make all necessary arrangements to ensure good communication, and will notify Companies as to location of stations, etc.
- 5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9.30 a.m. by runner to:-

Captain,
Adjutant 55th Bn, AIF.

Copy No. 0.0.55th Bn. 1. O.C."A" COY. 2. 3. O.C."B" Coy. O.C."I" COY. 4. 0.0."D" Coy. 5. Sig.Officer. 6. 0.0.56th Bn. 7. C.O.56th Bn. 8. H.Q.14th A.I.Bde. 9. War Diary. 10 to 12. 13. File.



#### 55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

outpost Scheme for Saturday 8th September 1917. (Ref. Maps 27 & 36A).

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A KHAKI (N.W.) Force is advancing in a S.E. direction and on morning of 8.9.17 has reached the line STAPLE-EBBLINGHEM-WARDREQUES; where the force will rest for a day prior to making at attack on the HAZEBROUCK-THIENNES Railway which is believed to be held in force by a WHITE (S.M.) Force.

WHITE has small parties of advanced troops on the high ground No and Now. of SERCUS.

G.O.C. Centre column, Khaki, decides to employ one Brigade to protect the column with an outpost line on the high ground S.E. of EBBLINCHEM, and instructions are issued accordingly.

#### SPECIAL IDEA. (KHAKI)

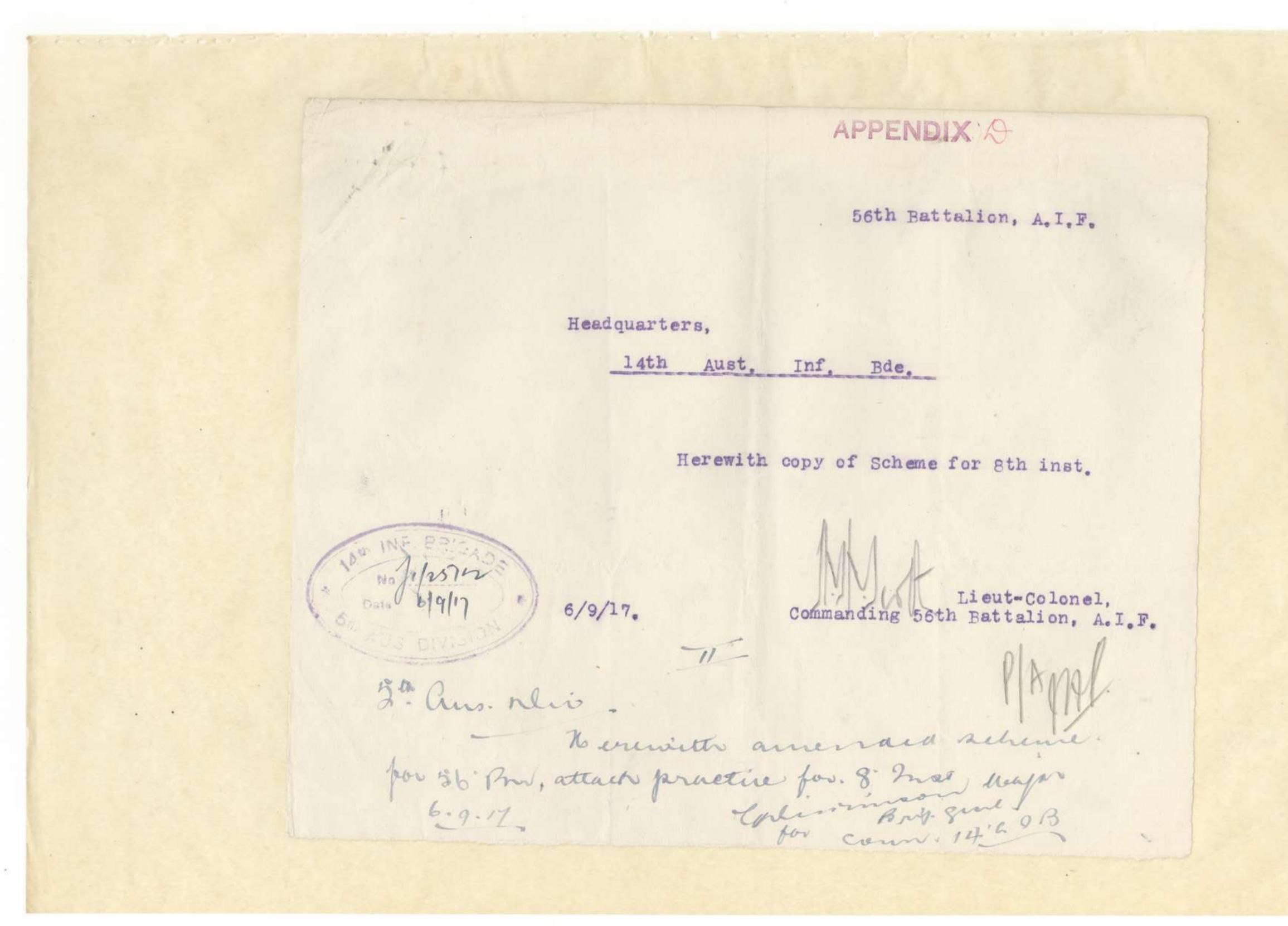
G.O.C. Outpost Brigads decides on the line T.29.d.8.7--T.50.b.O.3-U.25.b.9.9 as his approximate line of resistance. This will be held by
three Battalions, with one Battalion in support at EBBLINGHEM.

The 55th Battalion is allotted the sector T.30.b.0.3 (Lynde-Ebblinghem Road inclusive) to U.25.a.4.6.

The Sean and Soth Bus will be on the right and left respectively of the 65th Bn.

The 53rd En will be in support in MEBLINGHEM.

Note: - Flag onemy will be employed.





# APPENDIX A

# 56TH BATTALION SCHEME FOR 8/9/17.

Map ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000

In the Field, 6/9/17.

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A RED FORCE is entrenched between WALLON-CAPPEL and LYNDE with strongposts in vicinity of U.20.

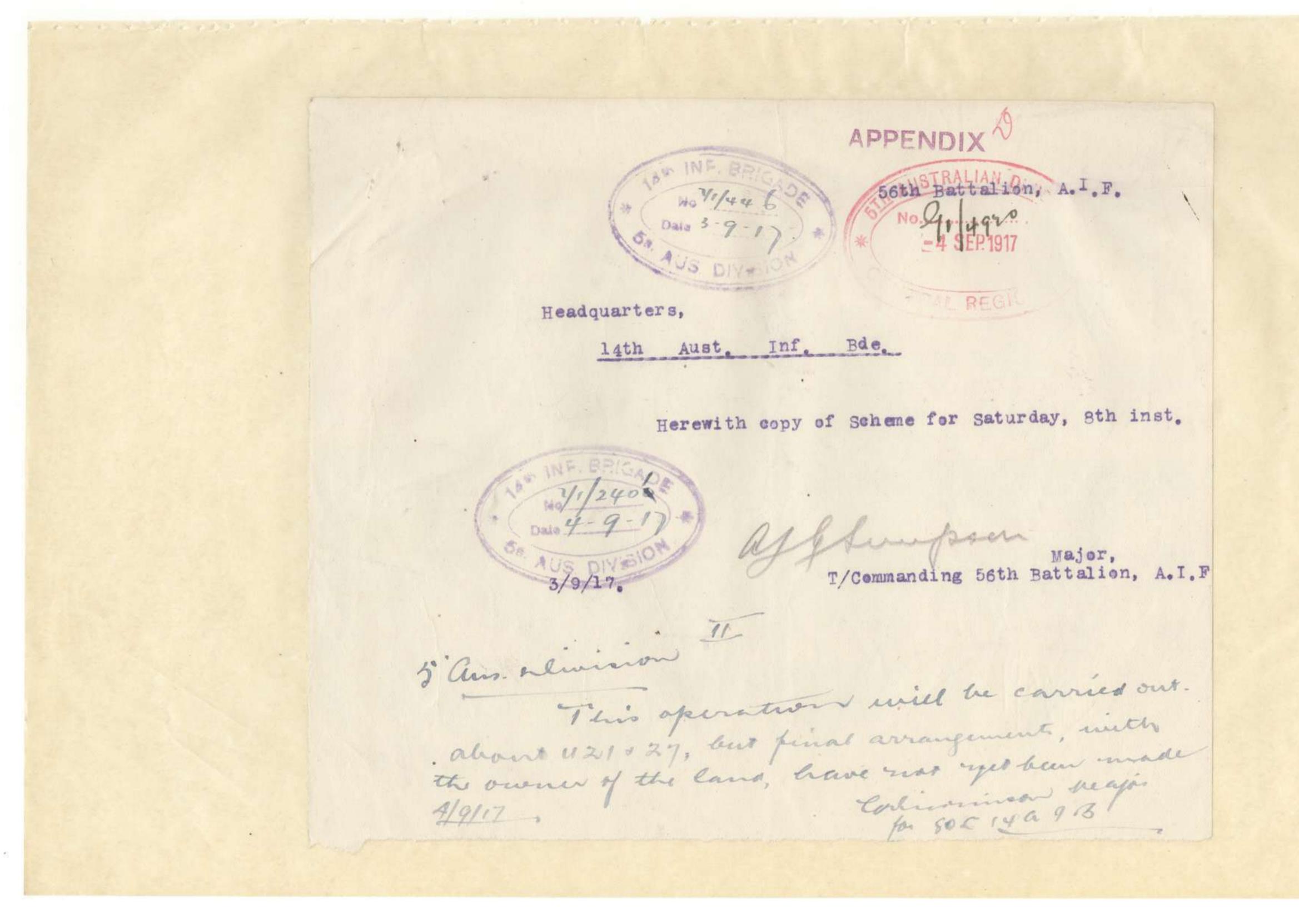
A BLUE FORCE entrenched on main EBBLINGHEM-HAZEBROUCK Railway line has orders to attack RED'S position and consolidate on high ground in vicinity of U.26.a.

#### SPECIAL IDEA.

1 Inf. Bn. 1 Sect. M.G. 1 Sect L.T.M.B.

At 9 a.m. on 8th Sept 1917 O.C. BLUE FORCE, strength as per margin, has received orders to attack and make good the high ground in vicinity of U.26.a.

Stength of RED is approx. 2 Companies Infantry and 1 Section Machine Guns.



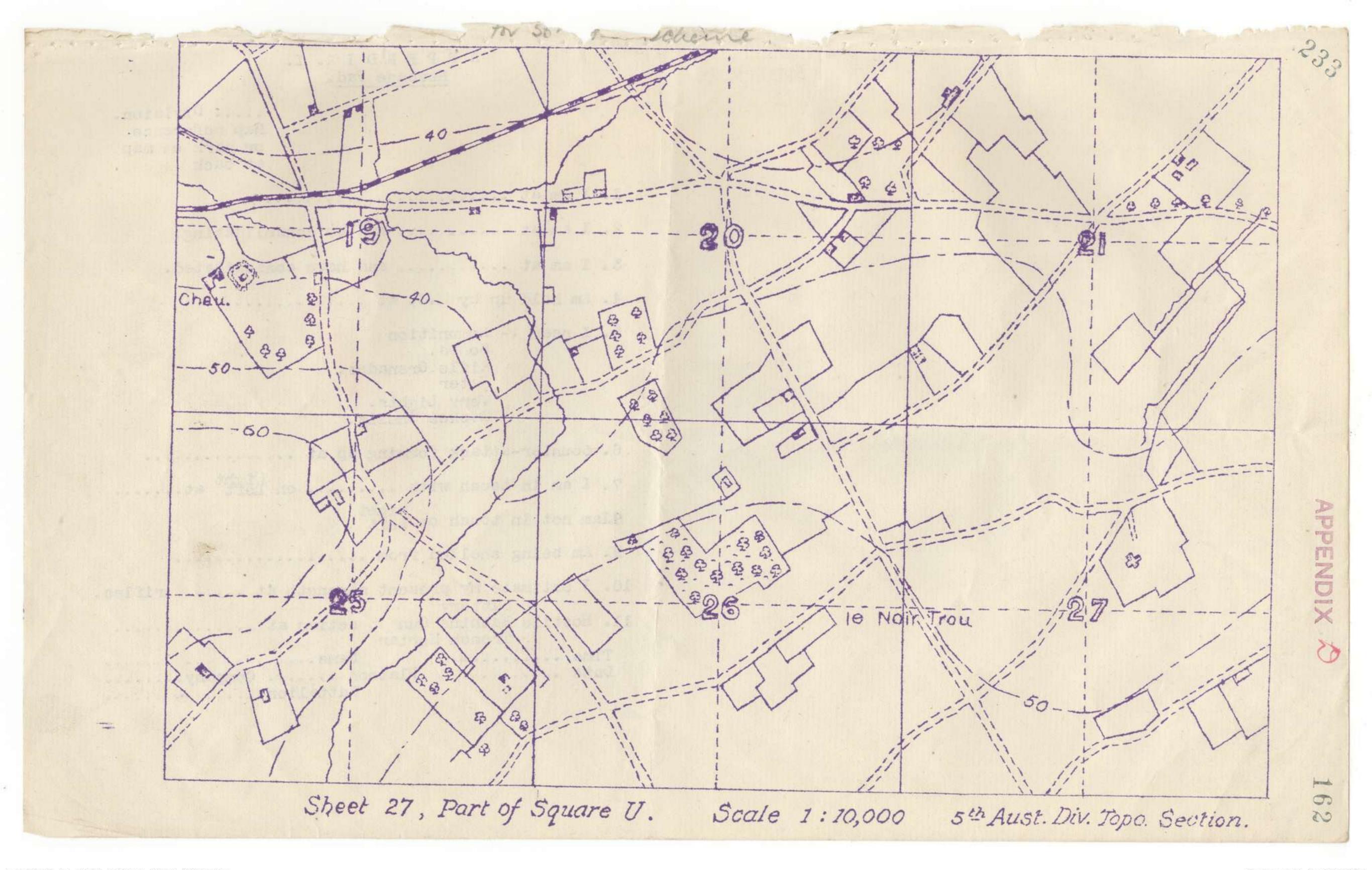
# APPENDIX A

#### GENERAL IDEA.

Advanced posts have been established in front to a depth of 400 yds approx.

#### SPECIAL IDEA.

A KHAKI FORCE will attack and drive in Fremy Advanced Posts and consolidate on enemy line at.....



8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. Order No. 125

Reference 36A N.W. 1/20,000 & Sepcial Map, 1/5,000 attached.

11th September 1917

- 1. A Practice Attack will be carried out by the 29th and 32nd Bns on the RACQUINGHEM COMMON on the mooning of Wednesday 12th Sept. Zero hour will be 10 a.m.
- 2. The Attack will be carried out on a one Battn front, 29th Bn attacking and making good the area up to the first objective and the 32nd Battn moving through the 29th Bn and making good a further area up to the final objective.
- 3. A sub-section of the 8th L.T.M.B. will be attached to each of the attacking Bns for the operation and will come under the orders of the respective Bn Commanders from 4 p.m. on 11th Inst.
- 4.(a) Our front line trench runs from A 24 A 77 30 to A 24 B 05 80
- · m(b) The first objective runs from A 24 D 85 77 to B 19 A 12 30 (c) The final objective is the line of the fence from B 19 C 54 42
  - to B 19 D 37 75 (D) Our Right Forward Boundary is from A 24 A 77 30 to B 19 C 54 42
  - (e) Our Left Forward Boundary is from A 24 B 05 80 to A 24 B 30 64 to B 19 D 37 75
- The attack will be carried out under a creeping barrage as under:
  (a) Ar Zero, the barrage will come down on a line 150 yards ahead of our front line (from A 24 B 07 15 to A 24 B 36 62) and will remain on this line for 2 minutes. (from 0 till Zero plus 2)

(b) A zero the infantry will move close up under the barrage which will move forward at (zero + 2) minutes.

(c) The barrage will move forward at a uniform pace of 30 yards per minute until it reaches a line 100 yards in advance of the first objective (from B 19 C 0 7 to B 19 A 30 22) where it will halt from (zero + 18) to (zero + 48) minutes.

(d) At (zero + \$48) minutes the barrage will again move forward at the rate of 20 yards per minutes until it reaches a line 300 yards in advance of the final objective (from B 19 D 0 1 to B 19 D 9 5) where it will halt and remain as a protective barrage.

6. A number of Strong points are known to exist in the area to be attacked. These will be dealt with by the troops allotted to each area and will be garrisoned by them one by one as they are reduced.

7. The main defensive line is to be consolidated on the line of the final objective.

A line of outposts covering the main defensive line will be established at a suitable short distance in front of this line and behind the protective artillery barrage.

8. Advanced Bde H.Qrs will be at A 24 A 6 7 until the first objective is captured.

Bde Forward Station will be established at about A 24 B 9 1.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

pletasey

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 12 noon.
29th Battn Copy No.1
32nd " ' 2

32nd " 32nd B. 33

Copies to

5th Aust. Div.

War Diary

8
30th Battn

5 War Diary

9 & 10

32st Brigade Commander 7



#### INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED WITH 8th AUST& INF. BDE. ORDER 125

The Brigade Commander wishes to bring the following points to the notice of Battalion Commanders in connection with the practice attacks to be carried out on Wednesday 12th Inst and Friday 14th Inst.

1. The Left and Right flanks of the attack will be marked by a large signal flag, carried under Brigade arrangements. This flag will be moved in an irregular way and Coy Commanders on the flanks will have to conform.

The flag being moved 100 yards more to the left of our boundary will indicate that the Battn on our left has failed on this portion of its front and we have to extend our front correspondingly.

- care will be taken that troops in rear do not press forward on top of the line of beaters and the free first line Coys. Just sufficient numbers will be sent forward to reduce any opposition met with. The area will be "picketed" in depth as each objective is gained.
- Both Coy and Bn Commanders will keep a reserve in hand to deal with unexpected contingencies.
- 4. The contents of 5th Aust. Div. G.S. Memos 159 and 160 and this office letter G6/851 of 7th Inst. will be explained to all officers prior to the exercises.
- of 32nd Bn. The officers will report to Bde H.Qrs for further instructions at 8 p.m. this evening.
- 6. A total of 25 Officers and 650 O.R. only per attacking Bn will be used in the exercise. Officers and O.R.s in excess of this number will watch the operation from B 19 A 0 7.
- 7. Sections will move in single file, front Coys moving at the 'high port', rear Coys with arms slung
- 8. Both Coy and Bn carrying parties will be organised. The organisation of an N.C.O. and 11 men as a Coy carrying party is suggested, vide 74th Bde Operation Order File.
- of the line of beaters' will, of course, conform to the barrage.
- Dress for attacking Bns, Fighting Order and steel helmets.

  Dress for enemy, if weather is fine, without tunics, felt hats with white band.
- 11. The 31st Bn will represent the enemy, under instructions issued separately.
- of 'beaters' gets to within 100 150 yards of each point. Leading platoons will tackle each point with in accordance with the situation and will not rush' each point frontally in face of sustained fire from it.
- The 30th Bn will provide 5 officers (Coy Commanders if possible) to act as Umpires (white band on each arm).

  These Officers will report to Brigade Major at B 19 A 4 4 at 9.30 a.m.
- The Brigade Commander will act as Birector of the practice.
  The 32nd Bn will lay the following tapes:-
  - (a) Front line trench for 29th Bn from A 24 A 77 30 A 24 B 05 80 (b) Front assembly trench for 32nd Bn A 24 A 65 A 24 A 9 9
  - (c) First objective. A 24 D 85 77 B Ta A 12 30 Pularen

11th Sept. 1917.

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENEMY.

- 1. The 31st Bn will represent the enemy.
- 2. One Coy will find garrisons for 15 centres of resistance in the area to be attacked.

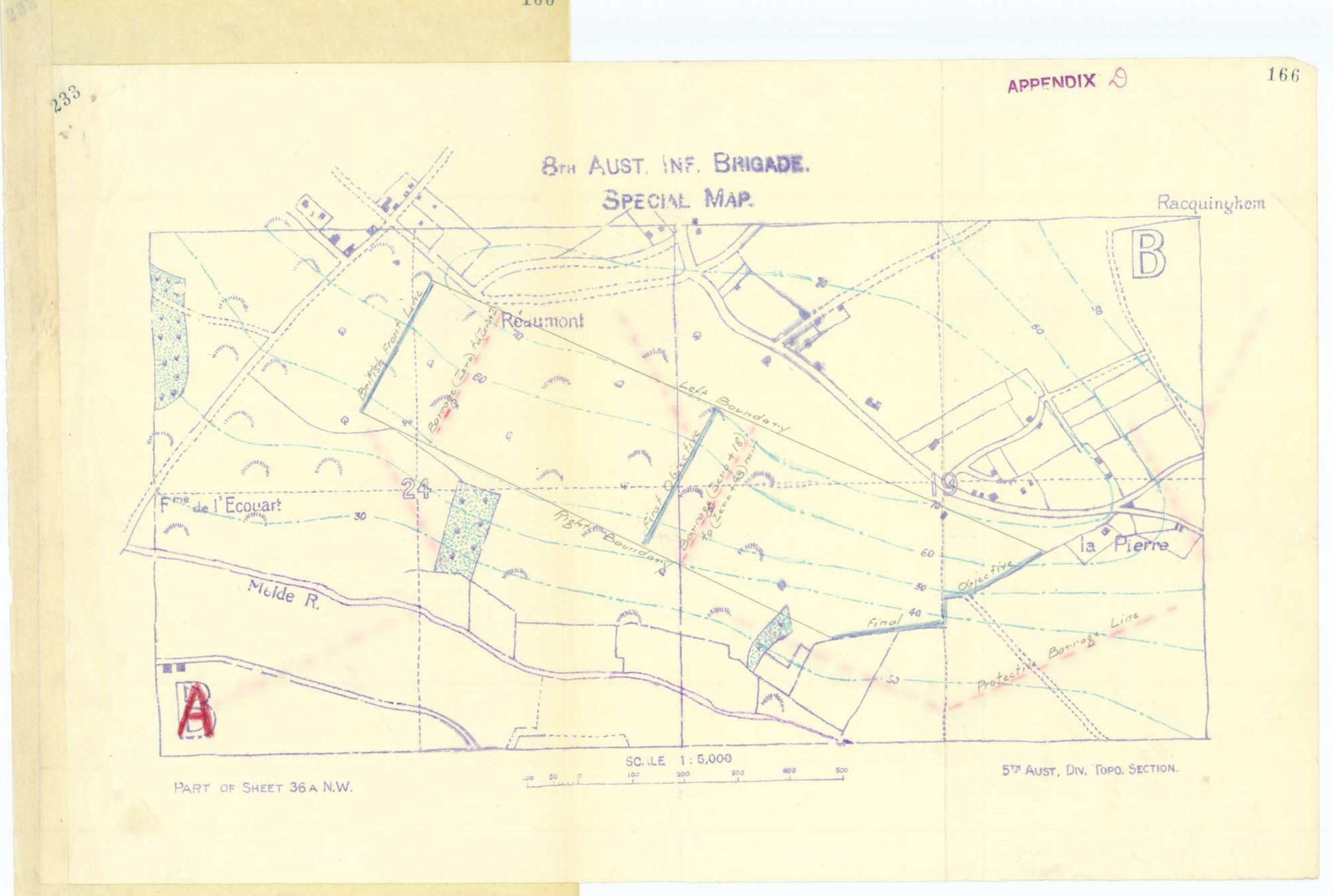
  Thes Coy will be provided with blank ammunition (5 rounds per man)
- One Coy will counter-attack in 2 waves from the vicinity of A 24 D 8 4 on a front of about 150 yards, due north, on the 29th Bn reaching the first objective, at about (zero plus 18) minutes.
- 4. One Coy will counter-attack in 2 waves from the vicinity of B 19 B 5 0 in a South Westerly direction, on the 32nd Bn reaching the final objective, at about (zero plus 78) minutes.
- 5. One Coy will be held in hand/at about B 20 C 1 7, prepared to launch a further counter-attack under instructions from Bde H.Qrs, which will be issued on the ground.
- 6. If the day is fine, the enemy will not wear tunics whilst counter-attacking.

  The garrison of the Strong Points will take off their tunics when attacking troops get to within 300 yards of them. All ranks will wear felt hats with white bands.
- 7. Fire will be opened from the Strong Points when the line of "beaters" get to within 100 150 yards of each point in order to force the attacking columns to extend.
- 8. The enemy will be in position by 9.45 a.m. and will not disclose their positions, either Strong Points or counter-attacking troops.
- 9. A representative officer of the "enemy" will meet Brigade Major at B 19 A 4 4 at 9.30a.m.

-ple Cases

11th September 1917

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde



233

29th Battalion.
32nd "
8th L.T.M.B.

5th Aust. Div.)
30th Battalion) For information.
31st "

In continuation of the Brigade Order for the practice attack tomorrow, the following points will be noted by all concerned:-

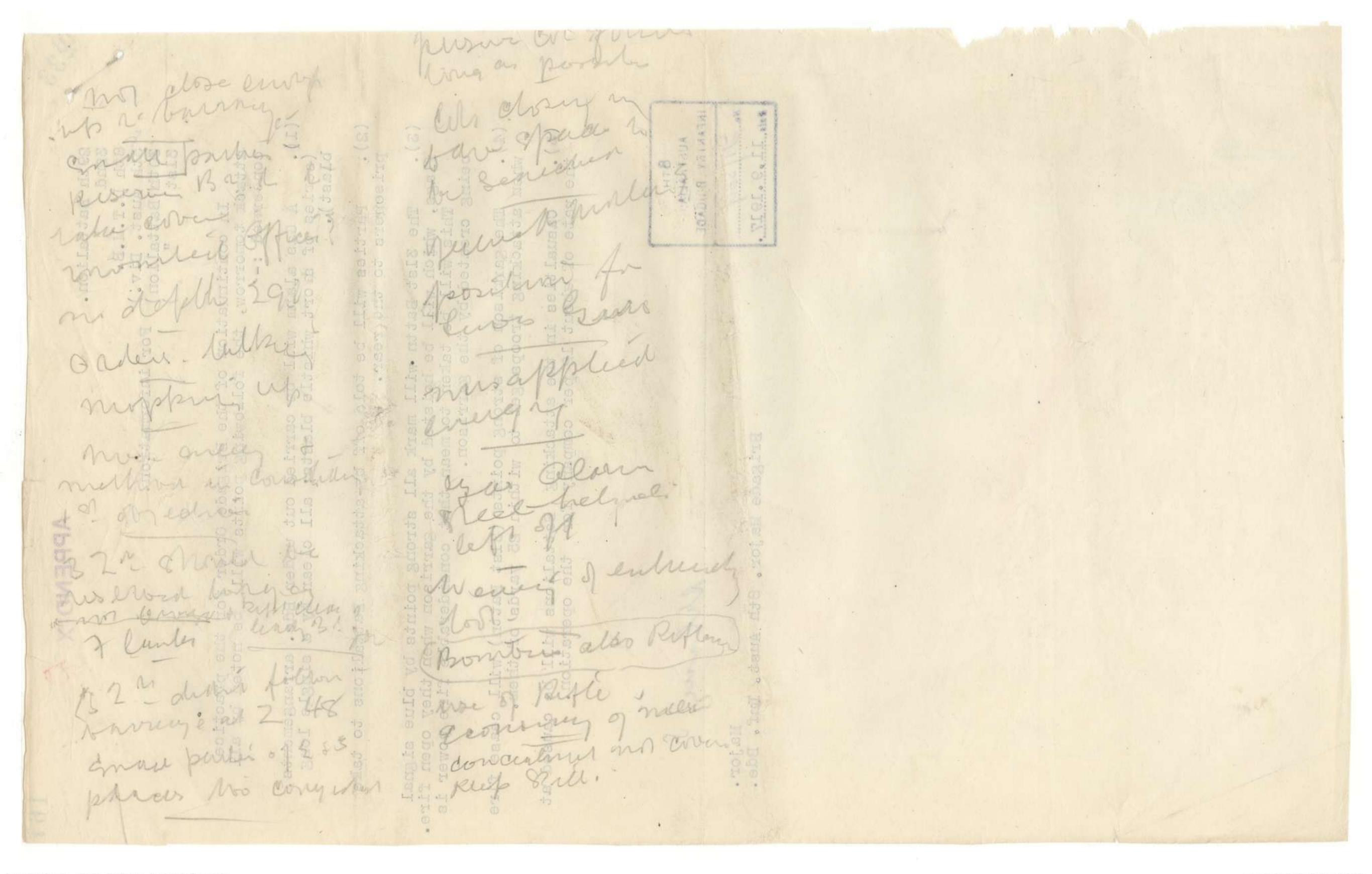
- (1). A Gas alarm will be carried out under Bde. arrangements, (series of short whistle blasts; all clear by a single long blast).
- (2). Parties will be told off by attacking Battalions to take prisoners to the rear.
- (3). The 31st Battn will mark all strong points by blue signal flags, which will be hoisted by the garrison when they open fire. This will be taken to mean that considerable fire power is being created by the garrison.
- (4). The garrison of strong points (31st Battn) will cease fire when attacking troops get to within 25 yards of them.
- (5). Casualties in the attacking Battalions will be caused at the rate of about 12 per company for the operation.

BTH
AUSTRALIA
INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 91/889
Date 11.9 . 1917.

Rheans

Brigade Major. Sth Aust. Inf. Bde.



#### 8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE Order No. 126

Reference 36A N.W. 1/20,000 & Special Map, 1/5,000 attached.

12th September 1917

- 1. A Practice Attach will be carried out by the 29 and 32 Bns on the RACQUINGHEM COMMON on the morning of Thursday 13th Sept. Zoro hour will be /\ a.m.
- The Attack will be carried out on a one Bn front, 29 Bn attacking and making good the area up to the first objective and the 32" Bn moving through the 14 Bn and making good a further area up to the final
- Brigade boundaries, assembly trenches, objectives and barrage positions will be as shown on map attached.
- The attack will be corried out under a crooping barrage as under: (a) A zero, the barrage will come down on a line 150 yards ahead of our front line and will remain on this line for 2 minutes (from 0 to zoro + 2)

(b) At zoro, the infantry will move close up under the barrage which will move forward at (zero +8 ) minutes.

(c) The barrage will move forward at a uniform pace of 30 yards per minute until it reaches a line 100 yards in advance of the first objective where it will halt from (zero + 22) to (zero + 37) minutes.

(d) At (zero +37) minutes the barrage will again move forward at the rate of 20 yards per minute until it reaches a line 300 yards in advance of the final objective where it will halt and remain as a protective barrage.

5. A number of Strong Points are known to exist in the area to be attacked. Those will be doubt with by the troops allotted to each area and will be garrisoned by them one by one as they are neduced.

6. The main defensive line is to be consolidated on the line of the final objective.

A line of outposts covering the main defensive line will be established at a suitable short distance in front of this line and behind the protective artillery barrage.

Mdvancod Brigado Hoadquartors will bo at A 24 A 6 7 until the first objective is captured. Brigado Forward Station will be established at about A 24 B 9 1

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Milarey

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 4 p.m. :: 29th Battn C. py No. 1 30th " 3lat " 32nd " Copies to √ 5th Aust. Div Brigado Commandor Filo War Diary



### INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED WITH 8th AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No.126.

the notice of Battalion Commanders in connection with the practice attacks to be carried out on Thursday 13th Inst.

- 1. Troops will be in position at (zero -15) minutes for each operation.
  2. The left and right flanks of the attack will be marked by a large signal flag, carried under Brigade arrangements. This flag will be moved in an irregular way and Coy Commanders on the flanks will have to conform the flag being moves 100 yards more to the left of ourboundary will indicate that the Battn on our left has failed on this portion of its front and we have to extent our front correspondingly.
- attacking one will get past out front line trench and 150 yards in advance of it, with as little delay as possible, keeping well blocked up and as close to our barrage as possible, inorder to avoid the hostile barraged area. Distances will be made up after passing a line 150 yards in advance of our front line trench.
- care will be taken that in later stages of the attack troops in rear do not press forward on top of the line of "beaters" and the first line coys. Just sifficient numbers will be sent forward to reduce any opposition met with. The area will be picketed in depth as each objective is gained.
- 5.
  5. Both doy and Bn dommanders will keep a reserve in hand to deal with unexpected contingencies.
- The contents of 5th Aust. Div. G.S. Memos 159 and 160 and this office letter GG/851 of 7th Inst. will be explained to all officers prior to the exercises.
- The barrage for both operations will be represented by 2 Off. and 100 0.k. of 32nd Bn
- A total of 25 officers and 650 O.R. only per attacking Bn will be used in the exercise. Officers and O.R.s in excess of this number will watch the operation from B 19 A 0 7.
- Sections will move in single file, front Coys moving at the high port, rear Coys will arms slung.

  Bn Commanders will consider the possibility of rear Coys of the rear Bns moving in a more compact formation that section columns during early stages of the operation, say platoons in file.
- Both coy and Bn carrying parties will be organised. The organ--isation of an N.C.O and ll men as a Coy carrying party is suggested, vide 74th Bde Operation Order File.
- The barrage will not hecessarily move as a straight line. The movements of the line of "beaters" will, of course, conform to the barrage.
- Dress for attacking Bns, fighting order and steel helmets.

  Dress for enemy, if weather is fine, without tunics, if

  weather is wet, felt hats with white bands.
- The 32nd on will represent the enemy for the operation to be carried out by the 30th and 31st Bns and the 31st Bn for the operation to be carried out by the 29th and 32nd Bns.

  Instructions will be issued separately.
- line of "beaters" gets to within 100-150 yards of each point. Leading platoons will tackle each point in accordance with the situation and will not 'rush' each point frontally in face of sustained fire from it.

(continued)

Page 2.

- 15. The 29th Bn will provide 4 Officers (Coy Commanders if possible) to act as Umpires for the first operation and the 30th Bn will provide 4 Officers for the second operation.

  These officers will report to Brigade Major at B 19 A 4 4 at 8.45 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. respectively.
  - 16 The 32nd on will lay the following tapes :-

(a) Front line trench for (b) Front assembly trench ) as indicated on attached map.

(c) First objective

Tapes will be laid by 8.45 a.m.

- 17. A series of shorts and longs on the whistle will indicate that the operation is finished. The men will close and be marched off either to their positions for the second operation or back to billets after the second operation.
- 18. Officers will assemble at about B 19 A 8 2 immediately after each operation.
- 19. Gas Alarm will be carried out under Bde arrangements, a series of short blasts on the whistle indicating "gas shells" and a single long blast "all clear".
- 20. The Brigade Commander will act as Director for both Practices.

plelary

12th September 1917

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Instructions for Enemy for Operation to be carried out by 29 and 32 Bns . Zero time 1) a.m.

- 1. (a) One Coy will be distributed in depth in 15 Strong Points in the area to be attacked.
  - (B) Two platoons will counter-attack from the vicinity of A 24 D 83 on the 29th Bn neaching the 15' objective.
  - (c) Two plations will counter-attack from the vicinity of B 258 Central and one company from the direction of B19 D 7525 on the 32 nd Bn reaching the final objective:
- 2. If day is fine, the "enemy" (both in Strong Points in area to be attacked, and for the counter-attacks) will not wear tunics. Felt hats will be worn.

  If day is cold, felt hats, with white bands, will be worn.
- 3. Enemy will be in position by 1045 a.m.
- counter-attacks will be carried out with surprise effect and with vigour.
- by a largo hessian (brown) flag which will be hoisted and kept erect whilst the garrison is remisting.
- The garrison of Strong Points will cease fire when attacking troops get to within 25 yards of them.
- on a series of "shortshlasts and longs" on whistle "enemy" will close and get into poistion for the next operation.

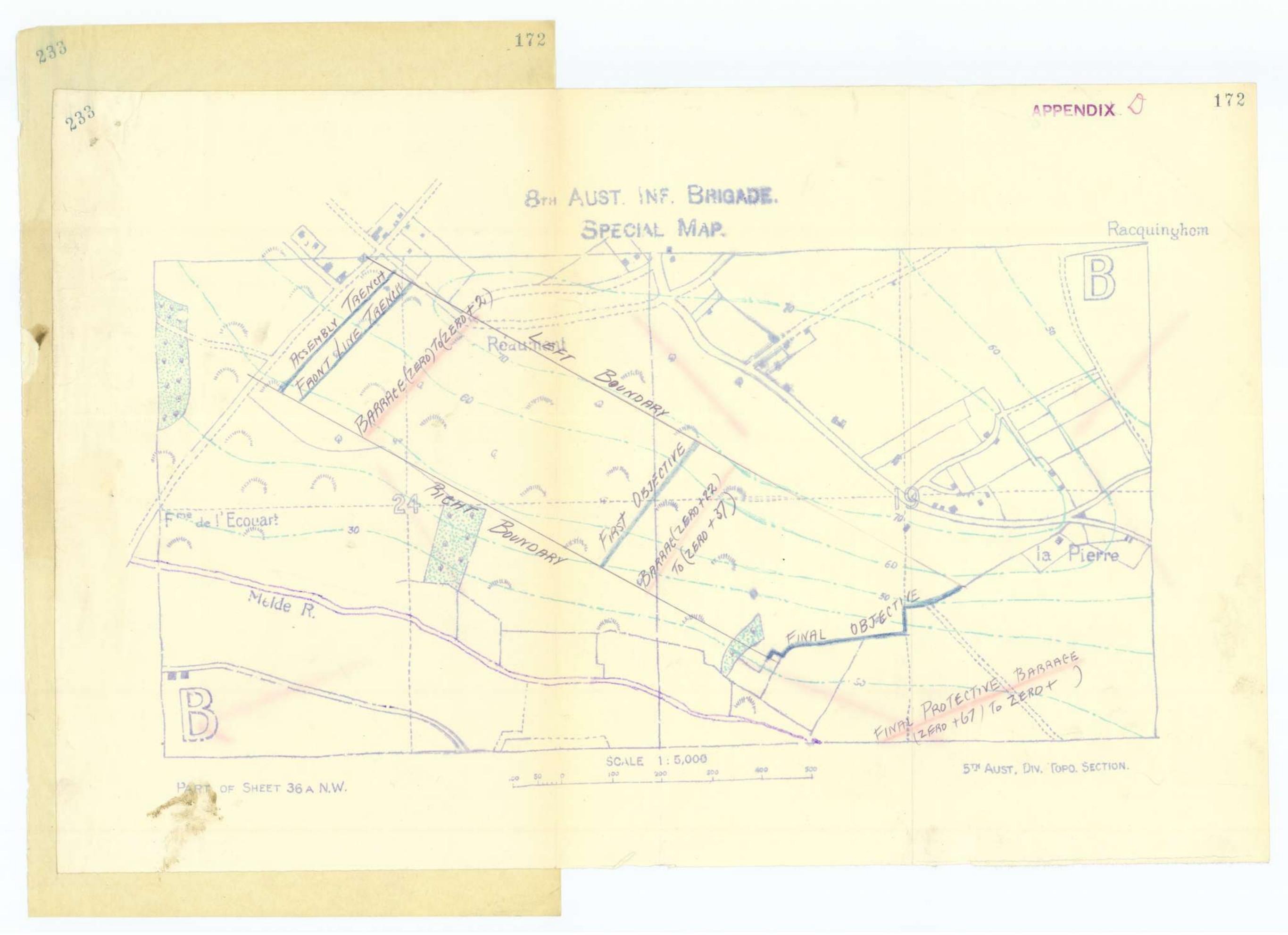
  C.O. and Coy Commanders of enemy will assemble for conference at 8 19 A 8 2.

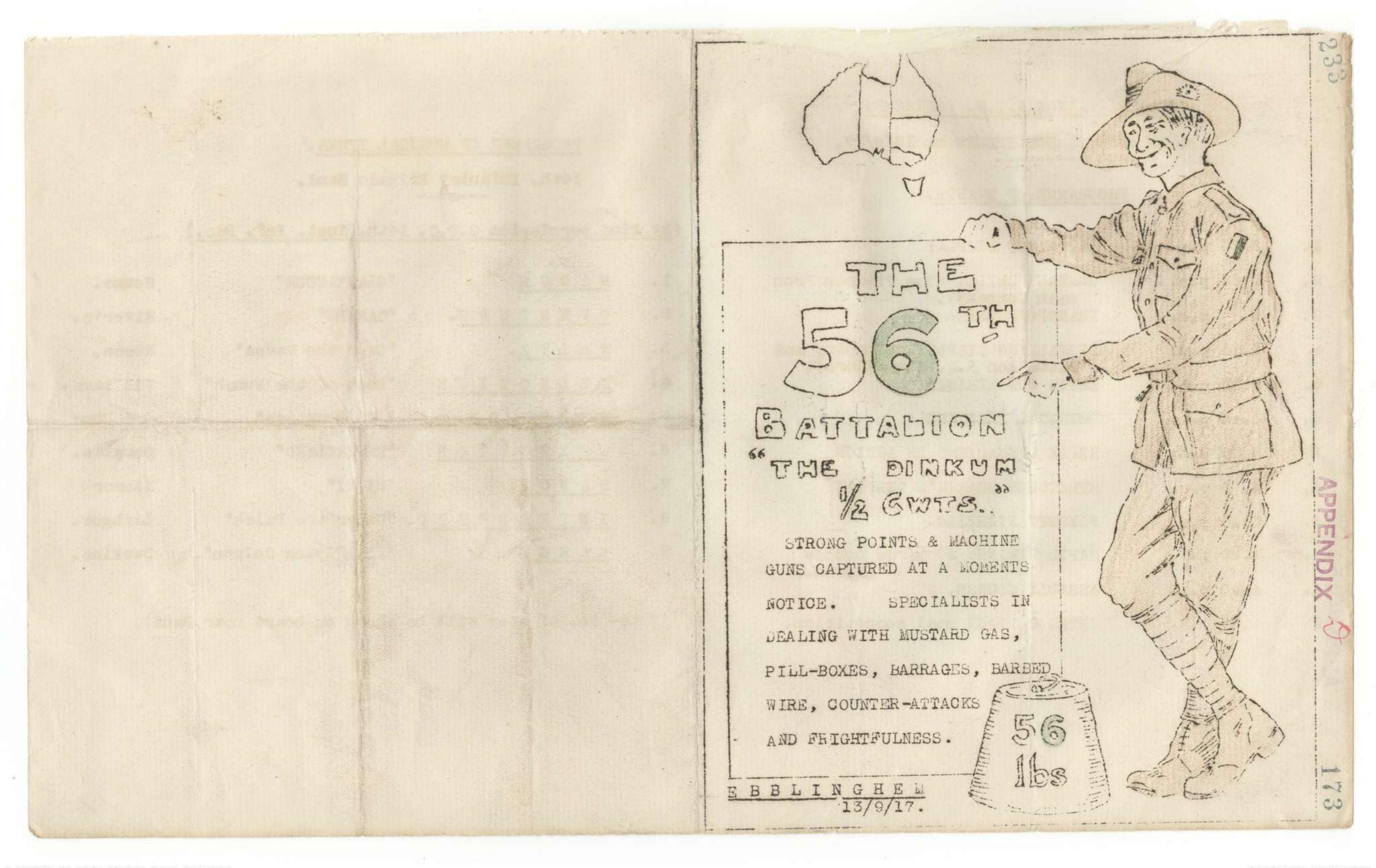
Mcary

12th September 1917

Brig we Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde

5"- aust Div"





### 56th. BAITALION A.I.F. TOURNAMENT

To be held at EBBLINGHEM on 13/9/17.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

1.	2.30	p.m.	BATTALION DISPLAY
2.	2.50	p.m.	COMPANY DRILL. (One Platoon from oach Company).
3.	3.	p.10.	TRANSPORT DRILL
4.	3,15	p.m.	BIGNALLING DISPLAY. (Company and Battalion H.Q. Signallers).
5.	3.55	p.m.	LEWIS GUN EXHIBITION.
6.	5,45	p.m.	PHYSICAL TRAINING.
7.	3,55	p.m.	RIFLE GRENADIERS IN ACTION
8,	4.5	p.m.	STRETCHER BEARER'S DISPLAY
9.	4.15	p.m.	PAYONET FIGHTING.
0.	4.30	p.m.	RAPID WIRING: 30 yards Double (Apron.)
.1.	4,40	p.M.	ASSAULT COURSE.
2.	4.45	m.	INTER-COMPANY meal competition.

### PROGRAMME OF MUSICAL ITEMS .

14th. Infantry Brigado Band.

### (By kind permission G.O.C. 14th. Aust. Inf. Bdo.)

1.	MARCH	"GLADEATEUR"	Sousa.
2.	OVERTURE.	"CARMEN"	Riverio.
3.	WALTZ.	"Over the Waves".	Rosas.
4.	SELECTION	"Best of the Bunch"	Williams.
5.	SERENADE,	"In Morrocco"	Ord llume
6.	SELECTION	"EMPIRELAND"	Douglas.
7.	DANCE.	"MI MI"	Rimmor
8.	INTERMEZZO.	"Under the Palms"	Lithgow.
9.	MAROH	"The Flying Column".	Dawkins.

' (Note - No. of item will be shown on board near Band).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Reference HAZEBROUCK 5A 1/100,000 & 36A N.W. 1/20,000

## GENERAL ID E A.

- 1. The first stage of our offensive has advanced our line from the General Line ECQUES RENESCURE to the line of the THEROUANNE EBELINGHEM Road.
- 2. The enemy country has been effectively prepared by heavy and constant shelling and definite trench lines have ceased to exist.
- 3. The enemy is known to be holding his present area with posts disposed in depth.

### SPECIAL IDEA.

1. The 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, which has taken over a sector in A 24 A, has been ordered to advance our line on a narrow front to a depth of about 1,200 yards, in conjunction with similar actions by flank formations.

8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. Order No. 127

CODY No.

Reference 56A N.W. 1/20,000 & Special kap 1/5,000 attached.

13th September 1917.

The enomy is known to be holding the area on the Brigade front in depth with concreted shell hole positions and defended posts. His policy is to rely on the immediate counter-attacks to regain any ground lost.

No posts have been definitely located although a number are

known to exist in the area to be attacked.

- 2. The Brigade will attack on a 300 yards front in conjunction with formations on the flanks, on the morning of Friday 14th September. Zoro hour will be 10.30 a.m.
- 3. The attack will be carried out by the 29th and 32nd Bns, on a one Bn front; the 29th Bn will attack and make good the area up to the first objective and the 32nd Bn will move through the 29th Bn and make good a further area up to the final objective.
- The Brigade forward boundaries, assembly trenches, objectives and barrage positions will be as shown on attached map.
- The attack will be carried out under a creeping barrage which will move as under :-
  - (a) At zero, the barrage will come down on a line 150 yards ahead of our front line and will remain on this line for 2 minutes (from 0 to zero +2)

(b) At zorp, the infantry will move close up under the barrage

which will move forward at (zero +2) minutes.

(c) The barrage will move forward at a uniform pace of 30 yards per minute until it reaches a line 100 yards in advance of the first objective where it will halt from (zero + 22) to (zero +52) minutes.

(d) At(zero + 52) minutes the barrage will again move forward at the rate of 20 yards per minute until it reaches a line 300 yard. in advance of the final objective where it will halt and remain as a protective barrage.

Defended posts and concrete works will be garrisoned by parties to be detailed from the attacking Bns as they are reduced. In this way the whole area will be picquotted.

The main defensive line is to be consolidated on the line of the final objective.

A line of outposts covering the main defensive line will be established at a suitable short distance in front of this line and behind the protective artillory barrage.

8. A sub-section of the 8th L.T.M.B. will be attached to each of the attacking Bns to come under the orders of respective Bn Commanders from receipt of this order.

The sub-section attached to 29th Bn will remain in the first

objective for defense.

Advanced Brigade H. Qrs will be at A 24 A 6 7 till the first objective is captured. The Brigade Forward Station will be established at about A 24 B 9 1.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

palary

Major. Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. Issued at 4 p.m. 29th Bn Copy No. Brigade Commander 32nd Bn 2 Copy No.9 31st Bn 8th L.T.M.B. 10 File 11 Copies to War Diary 5th Aust. Div. 4-8 12 & 13

## INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED WITH 8th AUST. INF. BRIGADE ORBER 127.

- 1. Troops will be in position by 10.15 a.m.
- 2. The 32nd Bn will lay the following tapes by 9.45 a.m.:Front line trench
  Assembly trench
  First objective.
- The 32nd on will detail 2 officers and 80 O.R's for duty as "barrage". They will report with all available signal flags to Brigade Intelligence Officer at A 24 B 3 7 at 10 am. The deficiency of signal flags will be made up by Bde Signal Section and 31st Bn.
- ately.

  The fact of the garrison of the Strong Points being in action will be indicated by a large hessian flag being waves from side to side and by firing blank rounds.
- 5. The 29th Dn will detail 2 officers and 30th Bn 4 officers to act as Umpires.

  These officers will wear white bands on each arm.

  They will report to Brigade Major at 8th Field Coy. H.Qrs

  B 19 A 4 4 at 10 a.m.
- 6. 32nd Bn will detail a bugler (mounted) to report to Bde Major at 8th Field Coy H. Qrs at B 19 A 4 4 at 10 a.m.
- 7. Dress for attacking Bns, fighting order, steel helmets, (with strap under chin).
- 8. A total of not more than 25 officers and 650 O.R's will be employed in attacking Bns.
- 9. Dress for enemy, no tunics, felt hats.
- Rifle covers will be carried attached to the rifle.

  All Lewis guns will be fitted with slings.

  Bayonets will be covered by the scabbard.
- 11. "Gas alarm" will be given by a series of short whistle blasts, "all clear" by a single long blast.
- 12. When the brigade Commander considers that the operation has proceeded far enough, the "cease fire" will be sounded on the bugle. Troops will close and officers will assemble at B 19 A 8 2 as quickly as possible.
- 13 The Brigade Commander will act as Director for the Practice.

pacary

13th September 1917

Brigade Hajor 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE "ENEMY". (31st Battn)

- 1. One Coy will be distributed in depth in 15 Strong Points in the area to be attacked.
- 2. Two platoons will counter-attack from the vicinity of B 19 central on the 29th Bn reaching the first objective (at zero + 22 minutes)
- 3. One Coy will counter-attack from the approximate line B 25 B 6 9 B 19 D 9 1 on the 32nd Bn reaching the final objective (at zero + 32 minutes)
- 4. One Coy will be kept in hand under cover at about B 19 D 8 8 prepared to carry out any further counter-attack that may be ordered.
- A representative officer of 31st Bn will be at B 19 central throughout the operation to receive any subsequent orders that may be issued.
- 6. The enemy will be in position by 10.15 a.m.
- garrison is supposed to be in action.
- 8. Each man of the Coy holding the Strong Points in the area will be provided with 5 rounds blank S.A.A. prepared under Bn arrangements.
- 9. Officers will be warned that counter-attacks are to finish when within 25 yards of the enemy.
- 10. As soon as a counter-attack has been delivered and has finished, all ranks will lie down and remain where they are until attacking troops have passed on, when they will be reformed and marched off the ground quickly.

Rulan

13th September 1917

Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

233

# APPENDIX &

Headquarters,

5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION



Forwarded herewith Scheme for 14th.

AUST. INF. BRIGADE attack practice for 14th. Inst.

Commanding 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE

Headquarters, 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade., 13th. Sept. 1917. 233

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE SCHEME FOR 14/9/17.

Ref. Local Map ) 1/10,000

13/9/17

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A state of Trench Warfare has existed on the HAZEBROUCK - St. OMER front for the past year. On the 11th. Sept. 1917 BLUE began an offensive and captured RED front line system. RED next line runs along the LYNDE-WALLON-CAPPEL road, but between this road and his present front line, he is holding the ground with strong posts and defended shell holes.

### SPECIAL IDEA.

At 1.30 p.m. on 14th. inst. BLUE will continue the offensive and will make good a line through U.25.c. and d. and U.26.a. and b., clearing up the area between this and present line.

The advance is to be made in two bounds:
1st. OBJECTIVE from U.20.a.4.6. to U.20.b.0.7.

2nd. OBJECTIVE U.20.c.7.3. to U.20.d.1.5.

FRank boundaries of 14th. Infantry Brigade are as follows:RIGHT BOUNDARY Through point U.14.c.0.3. - U.20.a.4.8. thence
to U.20.c.7.3.

LEFT BOUNDARY Through point U.14.c.3.6 - U.14.c.6.0 times to U.20.d.1.5.

Other Brigades are similarly advancing on the right and left of the 14th. Brigade.

Copy No

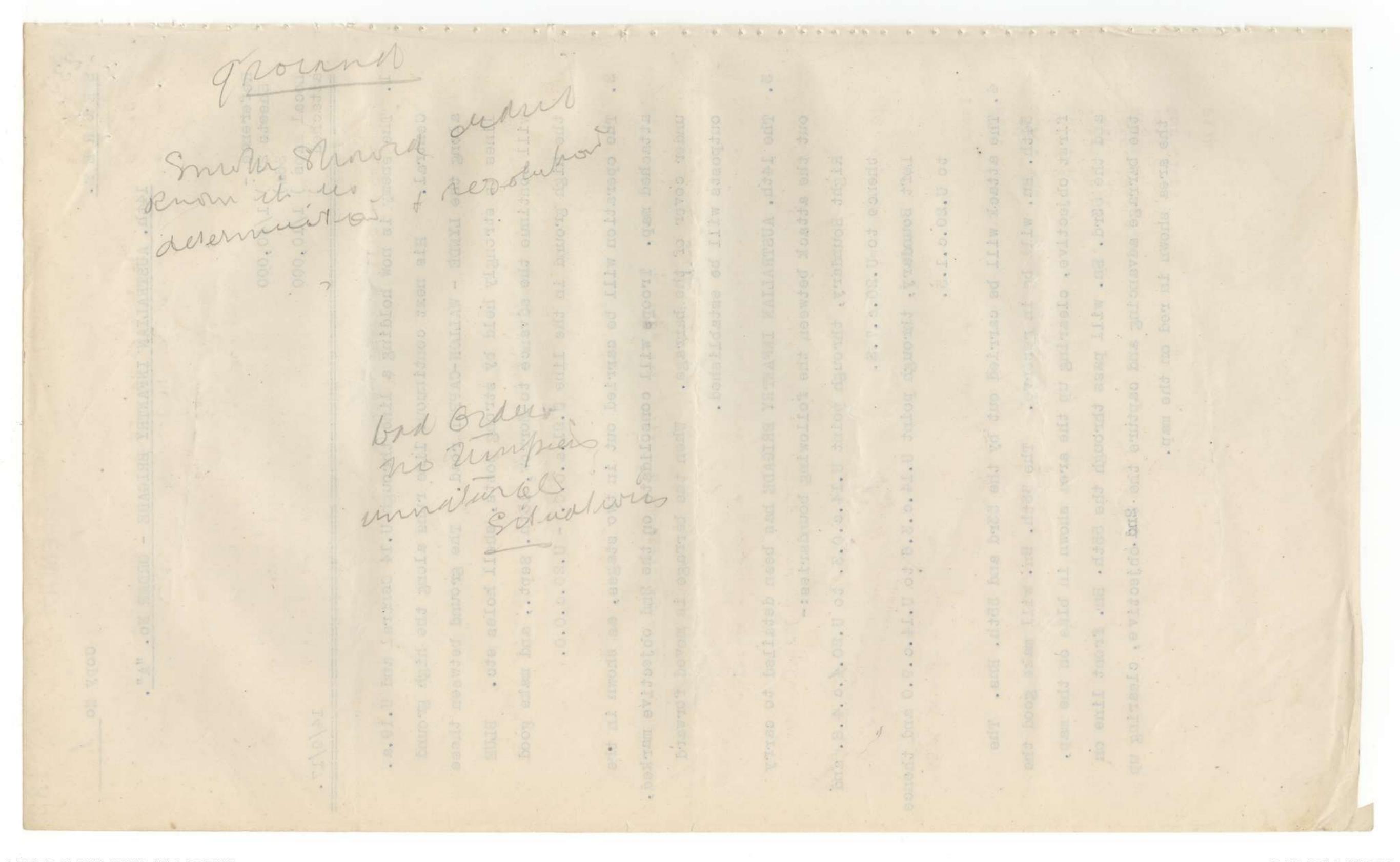
### 14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE - ORDER No. "A".

Reference Sheets 27 ) 1/40,000
36a)
Local Maps ) 1/10,000
attached )

14/9/17.

- 1. The enemy is now holding a line through U.14 Central and U.19.a. Central. His next continuous line runs along the high ground along the LYNDE WALLON-CAPPEL road. The ground between these lines is strongly held by strong posts, shell holes etc. BLUE will continue the advance to-morrow, 15th. Sept., and make good the high ground in the line U.21.a.0.0. U.20.c.0.0.
- 2. The operation will be carried out in two stages, as shown in the attached map. Troops will consolidate on the 2nd objective marked, under cover of the barrage. When the barrage is moved forward outposts will be established.
- out the attack between the following boundaries:
  Right Boundary, through point U.14.c.0.3. to U.20.4.c.4.8. and thence to U.20.c.7.3.

  Left Boundary, through point U.14.c.3.6 to U.14.c.9.0 and thence to U.20.c.1.5.
- 4. The attack will be carried out by the 53rd and 55th. Bns. The 54th. Bn. will be in reserve. The 55th. Bn. will make good the first objective, clearing up the area shown in blue on the map, and the 55rd. Bn. will pass through the 55th. Bn. front line on the barrage advancing and capture the 2nd.objective, clearing up the area shown in red on the map.

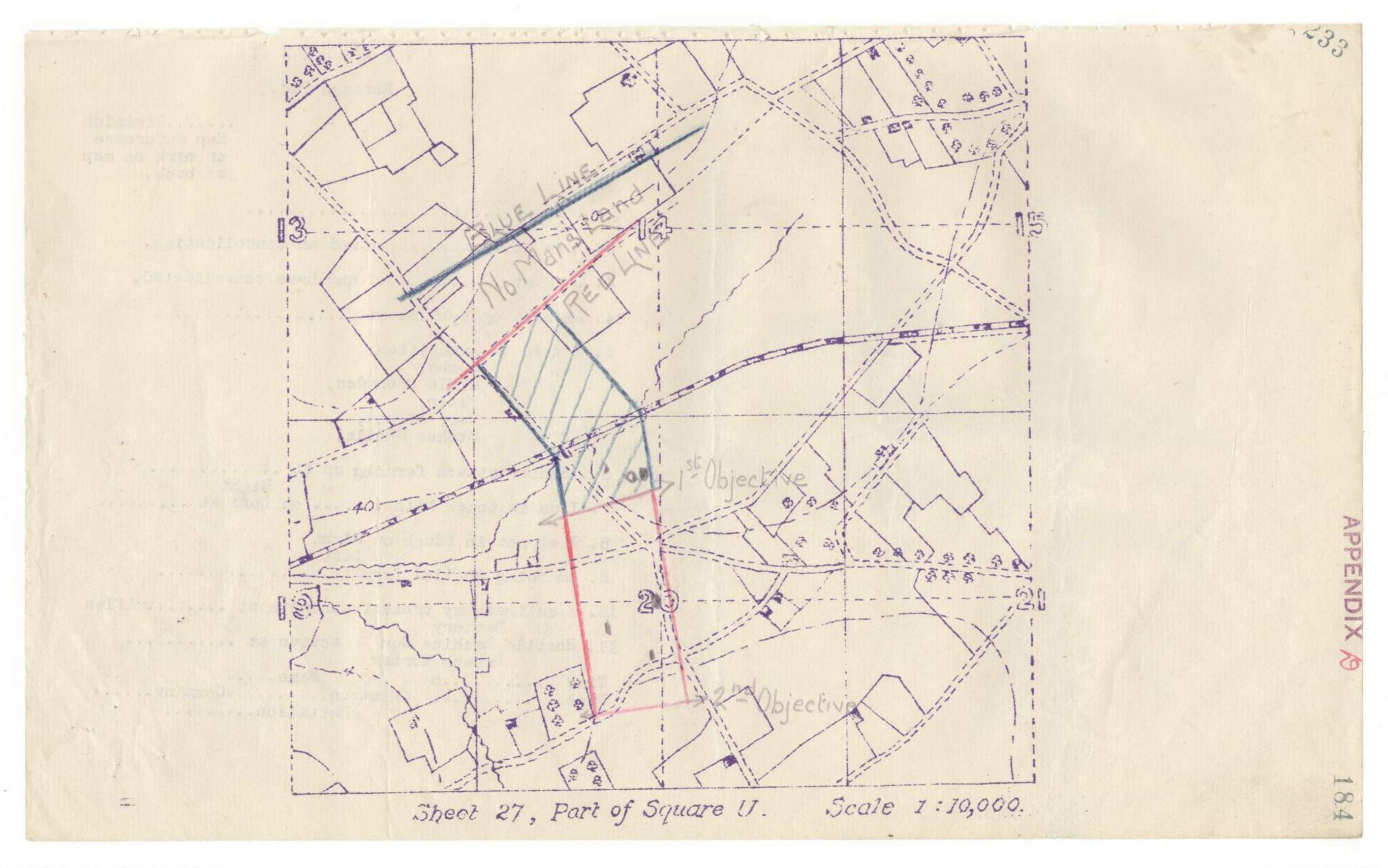


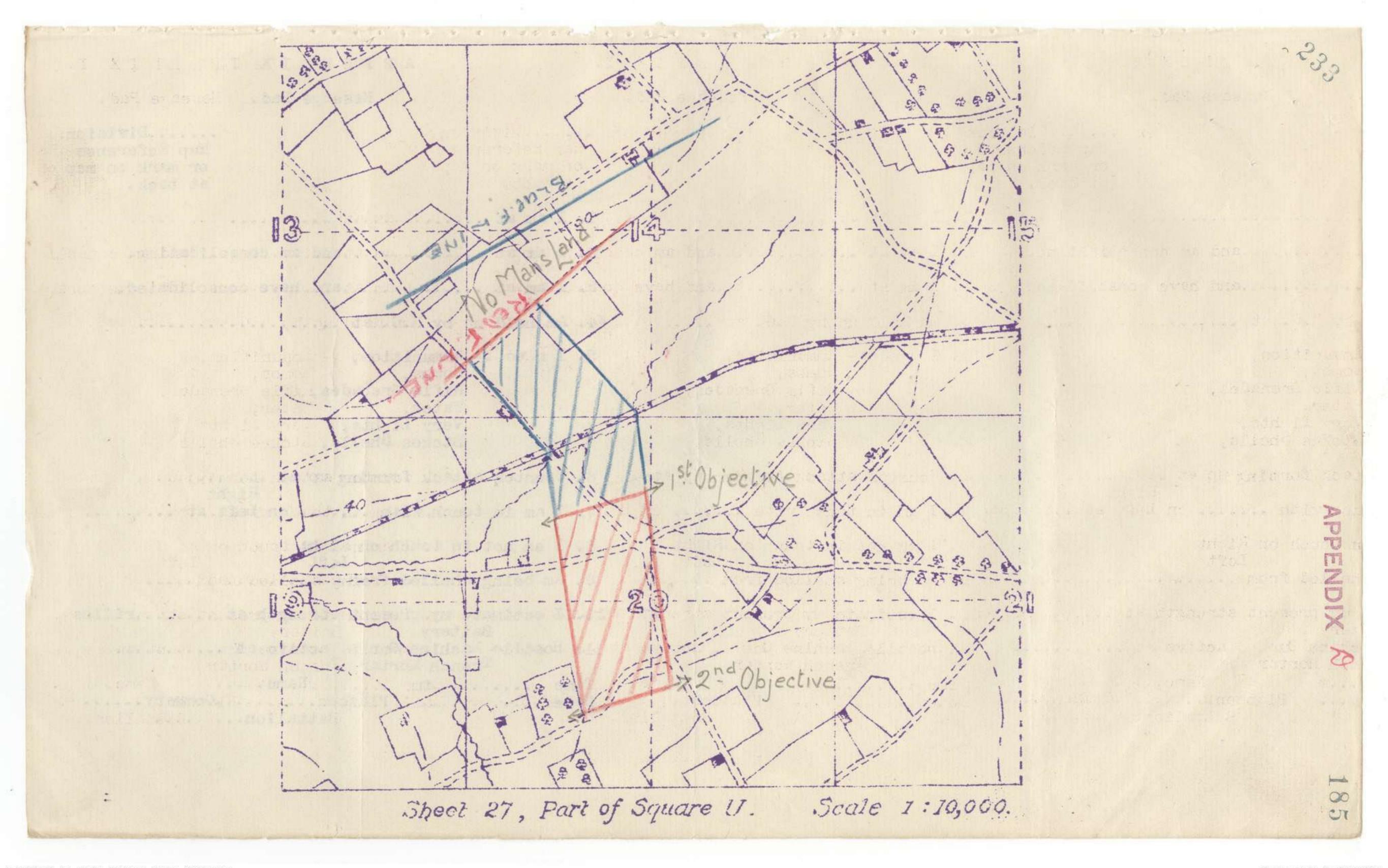
- 233
  - 5. The ZERO hour will be at 9 a.m. The Barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of the Infantry line at ZERO. At ZERO plus 4 minutes it will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in four minutes during the first stage and will halt 150 yards in front of the first objective for \( \frac{3}{4} \) hour. It will then move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes, till it reaches a distance of 200 yards in front of the 2nd objective, when it will halt and Troops will consolidate, outposts being pushed forward.
  - 6. The Artillery programme is attached.
  - 7. The 53rd. and 55th. Bns. will be formed up on their "jumping off" lines by ZERO minus 30 minutes.
  - 8. The 14th. M.G. Coy. will act under special instructions.
  - 9. O.C. 14th. L.T.M.B. will attach a sub-section each to the 53rd and 55th. Bns.
  - 10. Administrative instructions will be issued separately.
  - 11. Reports will be forwarded to ADVANCED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS at point U.7.d.0.0.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

BRIGADE MAJOR 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

Issued atthrough Sign	nals:-
To	Copy No.
5th. Aust. Division	1
G.O.C.	2
53rd. Bn.	3
54th. Bn.	. 4
55th. Bn.	5
56th. Bn.	6
14th. M.G. Coy.	7
14th. L.T.M.B.	8
Right Brigade	8 9
Left Brigade	10
War Diary	11
	12
File	13.





# APPENDIX A

# 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

A demonstration will be given on Saturday next September 15th, near RAC UINGHAM, by the 8th Australian L.T.M. Batter, illustrating the advantages of firing Stokes Mortars with slings instead of using the stand.

All Officers are invited to attend.

The Rendezvous will be at the Red tiled cottage A.24.a.7.9. Sheet 36A., 1/40,000. Time 11.30 a.m.

September 12th 1917.



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8th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.

Was brang

TIME TABLE FOR DEMONSTRATION: 15 9 17. 4. 300mm

### Reference attached map Scale 1/5,000

- 11.30 a.m. Rendezvous A 24 A 7 9
- 11.35 a.m. New Battery Drill A 24 B central
- 11.45 a.m. Battery formed up in line of detachments in Single File on an assembly tape (A 24 A 8 4 to A 24 B 1 6).

  Two Goys of Infantry are assumed to be advancing to the attack in a South Easterly direction from this line, each supported by a section of 3 guns. 2 guns in the centre are held in reserve under the Battery Commander.

  Battery advances about 100 yards and opens fire with smoke shell (3 rounds per gun for each of 6 guns) on known Strong Points at about "A" and "B".
- 11.50 am. Two concrete h.G. emplacements (at about "C" and "D") are found to be holding up the infantry advance. The 2 reserve guns fire 5 rounds per gun smoke shell. Emplacements assumed to be reduced by the infantry.
- Advance is continued and 6 guns come into action again against Strong Boints at "A" and "B".

  Fire will be as follows (per gun):(2 ranging rounds: 3 H.E.: 1 smoke: 3 H.E.: 1 smoke: 3 H.E.
  Strong Points are then presumed to be reduced.
- 12.5 p.m. Infantry having taken strong points, a smoke barrage is placed 100 yards in advance of the Strong points to racilitate rapid consolidation.
- 12.10 p.m. As smake clears, counter-attack is seen advancing from direction of B 19 C 0 7.

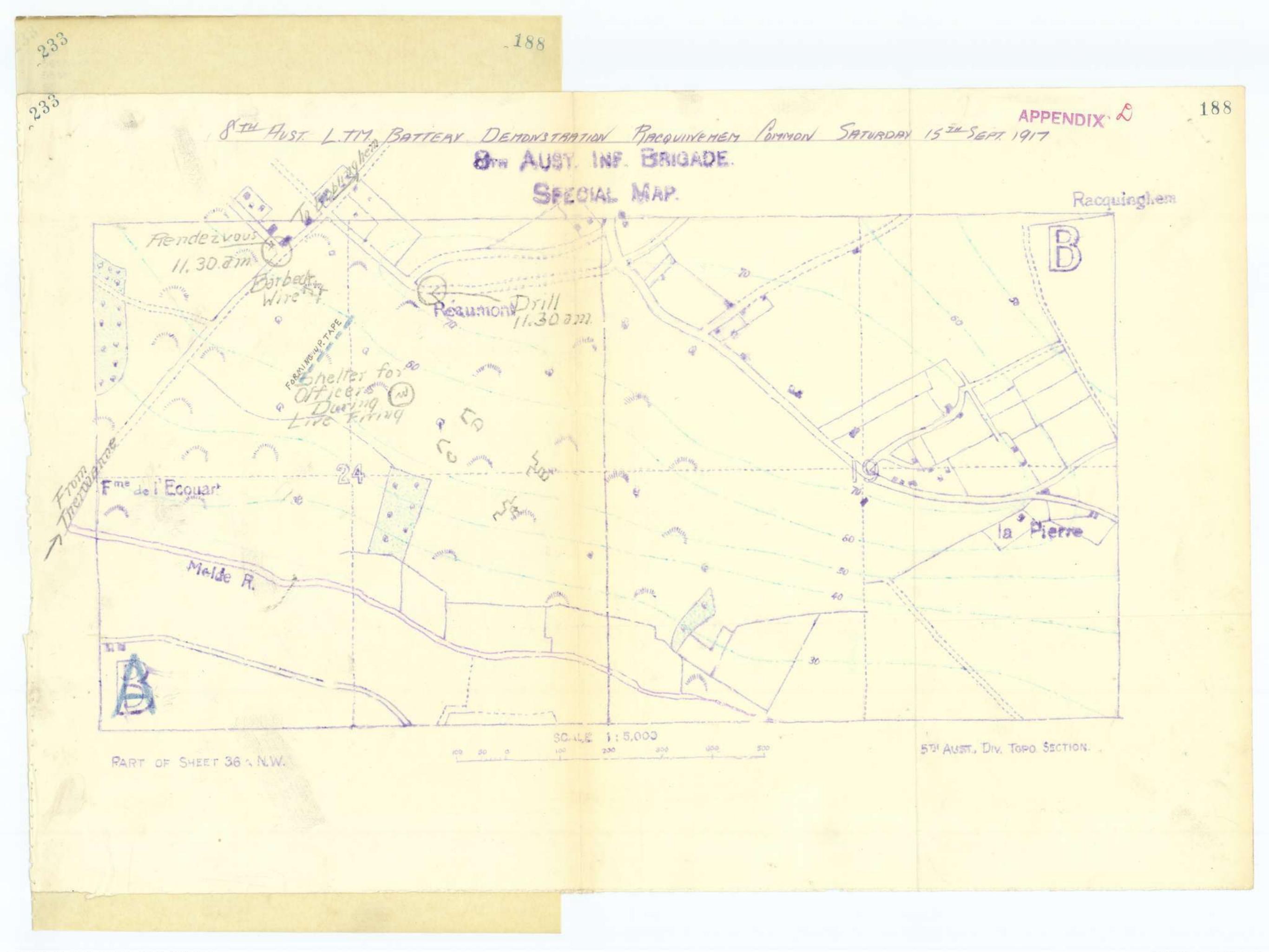
  All guns brought to bear off this point and 3 rounds per gun fired.
- NOTE(a)Spectators will please move as under:11.30 a.m. From rendezvous at A 24 A 7 9 to A 24 B 3 7 to see DRILL.
- 11.45 a.m. From A 24 B 3 7 to A 24 B 1 7 to see BATTERY IN LINE preparatory to advance.
- 11.50 a.m. From A 24 B 1 7 to prepared shelter at A 24 B 3 3 to see offect of SHOKE SHELL on Strong Points at "A" and "B" and on M.G. emplacements at "C" and "D" and subsequent H.E. and smoke bombardment of Strong Points at "A" and "B".

  Spectators will remain in shelter at A 24 B 3 3 until signal received from Battery Commander that no more H.E. will be fired.
  - (b) A Demonstration of an imrpovised anti-aircraft shell (filled with contents of smoke case Type S, for purposes of Demonstration) will be carried out subsequent to the above.

    The shell has been made by cutting down a ordinary Stokes shell to a bength of about 6", rethreading and refitting the top guide and pistol head.

    The fuze is cut to about 8 seconds for use with No. 2 charge, giving burst at approx. 1750 feet when fired at about an angle of 85°

    The shells may be seen at the shelter at B 24 B 3 3 prior to firing.
  - (c) An improvised new type of Clinometer, designed to give rapid readings of tanges, particularly for use during sling firing will be used when firing the above anti-aircraft shell.



53rd Battalion 54th Battalion 55th Battalion 56th Battalion 14th L.T.M.B. Signal Officer War fun

APPENDIX A

- 1. The 53rd and 55th Bartalions will co-operate in an attack for inspection by the Divisional Commander to-morrow 15th inst.
- 2. (a) 55th Bn. will attack 1st objective which lies between points U.20.A.4.6. and U.20.B.0.7.
- (b) 53rd Bn. will move through the 55th Bn., olear up ground between 1st and 2nd objectives and make good the line U.20.0.7.3. to U.20.D.1.5.
- 3. 53rd and 55th Bns. will be in the jumping off positions at 8.45 a.m. They will be formed up in attack formation as follows:-
- (b. 55th. Bn. with front line of Scouts between U.14.0.3.0.
- (c). 53rd. En. will halt with head of column at cross roads U.14.c.0.3. and will form up in attack formation in rear of 55th. Bn., as soon as the 55th. Bn. is in position.
- (d). 56th. Bn. Companies acting as enemy will report at Cross roads U.20.a.9.3. at 3.30 a.m.
- (e). 56th. Bn. Barrage and flanking parties will report at LEVEL CROSSING U.20.a.4.8. at 8.30 a.m.
- 4. 0.0. 14th. L.T.M.B. will attach one sub-section of hortars to each 53rd and 55th. Bns.
- 5. Assaulting Bns., will bring smoke bombs and dummy granades with them.
  - 6. Transport will not be on parade.
- 7. The protective Barrage will be represented by white flags and will move to the first objective at the rate of 25 yards per minute and on the second objective at the rate of 17 yards per minute.

This Barrage will halt 100 yards in front of the first objective for ten minutes, to allow the 53rd. Bn. to pass through the 55th. Bn. and creep up close to Barrage before it begins to move on the second objective.

APPENDIX A

(ii)

3. The troops of the Brigades acting on our flanks will be represented by RED flags (sumplied by Brigade Headquarters).

These flags should be closely watched by the attacking Battalions, as they may be held up at any time.

- 9. The enemy positions will be represented by white and blue flags.
- 10. The Brigade Signal Section will establish Telephonic communication with the attacking Bns., and where possible will also establish visual communication.
- 11. REPORTS to Brigade Headquarters at U.13.d.8.6. after 3.45 a.m.

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PRICADE MA TOR

BRIGADE MAJOR 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

14th. sept. 1917.