

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/32/20

Title: Headquarters, 4th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

November 1917



AWM4-13/32/20

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 No. Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
 and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
 will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Nov			
	17		2nd Aust Div Arty Order No 72 received & attached	P Barker <u>XI</u>
	18		" " " Location Statement No received & attached	" <u>XII</u>
			" " " Order No 73 received & attached	" <u>XIII</u>
	19		" " " Administrative Instructions reference Order No 73	" <u>XIV</u>
			" " " re relief of 2nd Aust Div Artillery by the 18th Army Bde & RFA.	" <u>XV</u>
			2nd Aust Div Arty addenda to Admin Instructions under	" <u>XVI</u>
			Order 73 received & attached	" <u>XVII</u>
	20		2nd Aust Div Arty Order No 74 received & attached	" <u>XVIII</u>
	"		4th I T A Bde Movement Order No 1 issued; attached	" <u>XIX</u>
	"		" " " addendum to Movement Order No 1 attached	" <u>XX</u>
Steenwerck Area	21		" " " Amendment No 1 to 2nd Aust Div Arty Order No 74 received	" <u>XXI</u>
			2nd Aust Div Arty Location Statement No 3 received	" <u>XXII</u>
			2nd Aust Div. moved to Steenwerck Area & arrived at new wagon lines about 5 p.m. Batteries of this Bde are accommodated in huts & all animals have covered standings. All the Batteries are considerably below strength & it is intended to get reinforcements if possible to bring Blys up to strength & to train fresh animals as far as possible. Batteries are cleaning harness & organizing until the 28th inst. when it is intended to start training.	" <u>XXIII</u>
	24			

Joseph H. Shillsham M. Lt.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																									
Steenhook Area	Nov 1917		4th A.F.A. Bde Routine Order No 115 issued & attached	Mark <u>XXI</u>																									
	24		Training of Personnel commenced																										
	28		Disposition Map & Map showing our & enemy positions received & attached	<u>XXII</u>																									
	30		Casualties etc																										
<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Officers</th> <th></th> <th>Other Ranks</th> <th></th> <th>Animals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>Killed</td> <td>4</td> <td>Killed 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>5</td> <td>Wounded</td> <td>73</td> <td>Evac to M.V.S. 55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evac Sick</td> <td>2</td> <td>Evac Sick</td> <td>61</td> <td>Received from M.V.S. 126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reinforcements</td> <td>6</td> <td>Reinforcements</td> <td>186</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Officers		Other Ranks		Animals	Killed	Nil	Killed	4	Killed 17	Wounded	5	Wounded	73	Evac to M.V.S. 55	Evac Sick	2	Evac Sick	61	Received from M.V.S. 126	Reinforcements	6	Reinforcements	186	
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Reinforcements	6	Reinforcements	186																										

Joseph H. Shillineau M.C.



REPORT ON THE ENEMY'S COUNTER-ATTACKS AGAINST THE SECOND ARMY ON THE 26th OCTOBER, 1917.

The enemy's efforts were confined to the front of the Second Army, against which five attacks were made, viz. :—

- "A." Attack on both sides of the Menin road, directed against our troops in the morning, just after they had penetrated Gheluvelt.
- "B." Determined attack about Bellevue at 4 p.m.
- "C" & "D." Two attacks along the Passchendaele road at 4.45 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.
- "E." Attack against Polderhoek Spur.

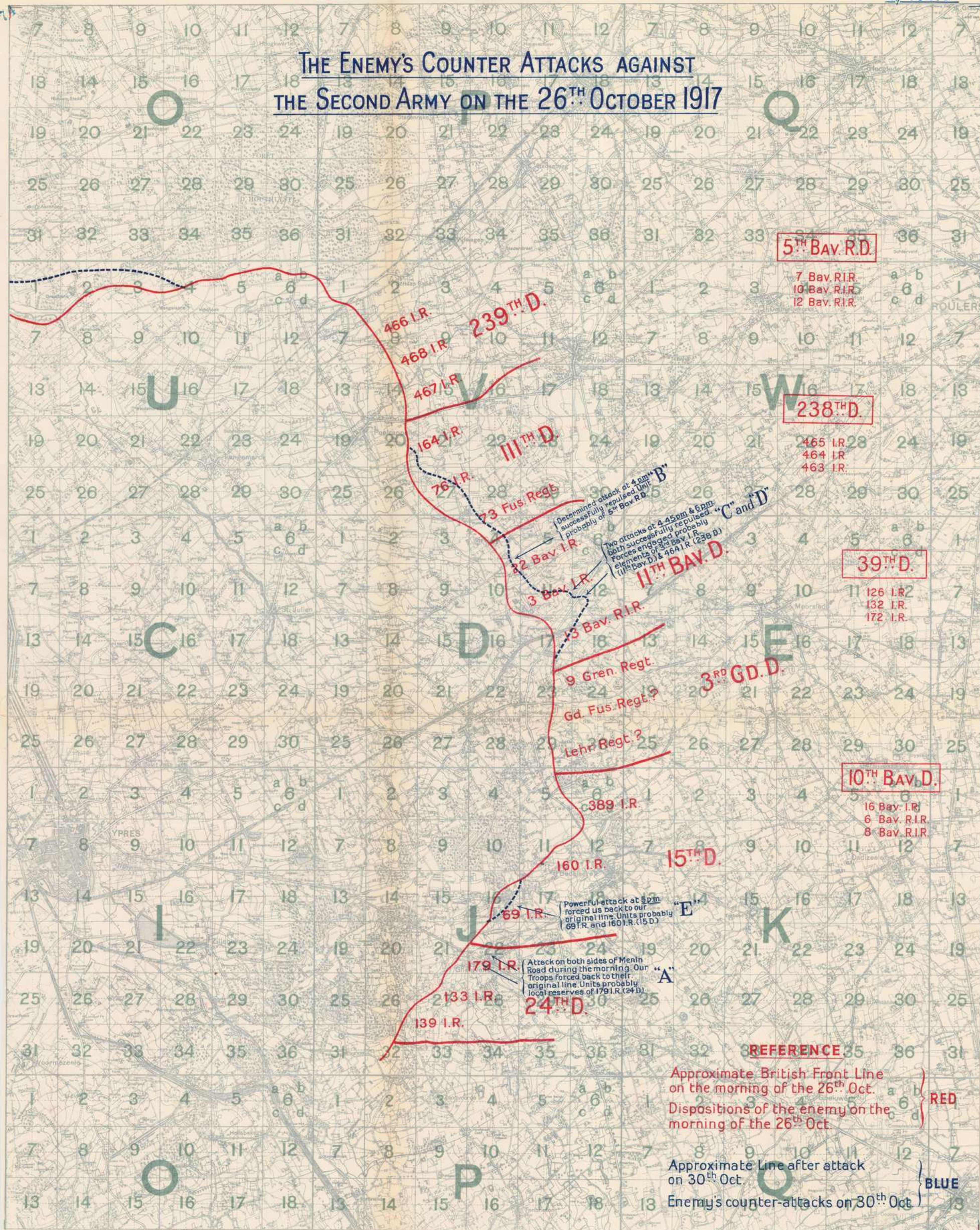
- "A." The counter-attack on both sides of the Menin road appears to have been carried out by local reserves, probably of the 179th Inf. Regt. (24th Div.). Our troops, unable to use their rifles and machine guns, which were choked with mud, were forced back to their original line.
- "B." This attack, launched about 4 p.m., was most determined, and was doubtless made by troops brought from the direction of Oostnieuwkerke, possibly a unit of the 5th Bav. Res. Div. The attack was successfully repulsed.
- "C" & "D." These attacks, on the ridge along the Passchendaele road at 4.45 p.m. and 6 p.m., were most determined, though both were successfully repulsed. The forces engaged were probably elements of the 3rd Bav. Inf. Regt. (11th Bav. Div.) and the 464th Inf. Regt. (238th Div.).
- "E." A powerful attack was launched against our new positions on the Polderhoek Spur at about 5 p.m. After heavy fighting, our troops were driven from Polderhoek Wood ; they finally evacuated Polderhoek Chateau and withdrew to our original front line. The units were probably reserves of the 69th and 160th Inf. Regts. (15th Div.).

General Staff (Intelligence),

Adv. General Headquarters.

11th November, 1917.

THE ENEMY'S COUNTER ATTACKS AGAINST THE SECOND ARMY ON THE 26TH OCTOBER 1917



PRINTING SECTION, LIEUT. F.S.C. RE. Adv. G.H.Q. (5640)

Scale—1:40,000. Metres 1000

Yards 1000

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Contour interval 5 Metres.

**REPORT ON THE ENEMY'S COUNTER-ATTACKS
AGAINST THE SECOND ARMY ON THE 30TH
OCTOBER, 1917.**

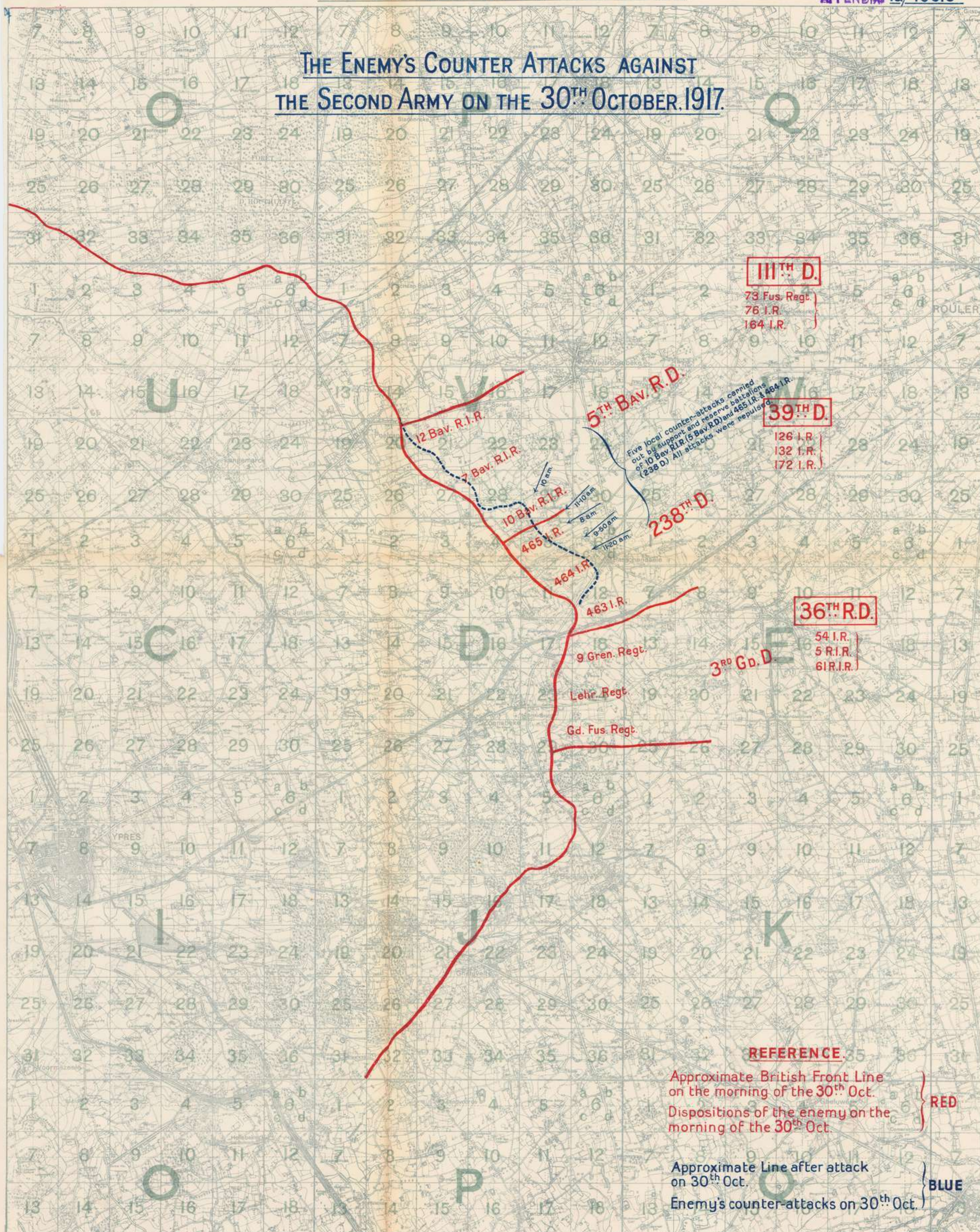
Five counter-attacks were made during the day, all against the Second Army, between 8 a.m. and 11.20 a.m.

The attacks were more prompt and more concentrated than has hitherto been the case, but they do not seem to have been in the same strength nor to have received the same artillery support as on previous occasions. They were all repulsed, captured German machine guns being effectively turned against the enemy in one instance.

It is apparent that the units engaged in these attacks were the support and reserve battalions of the regiments holding the sectors concerned, *i.e.*, the 10th Bav. Res. Inf. Regt. (5th Bav. Res. Div.) and the 465th and 464th Inf. Regts. (238th Div.), and not any elements of counter-attack divisions.

*General Staff (Intelligence),
Adv. General Headquarters,
11th November, 1917.*

THE ENEMY'S COUNTER ATTACKS AGAINST THE SECOND ARMY ON THE 30TH OCTOBER, 1917.



PRINTING SECTION, DEPT. F.S.C. RE. ADV. GEN. 5639

Scale: 1:40,000. Metres 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 Metres
Yards 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 Yards
Contour Interval 5 Metres

4th F.A. BRIGADE
A.I.F.
No. _____
Date _____

1

1

REFERENCE

3000

3000

3000

3000

THE SECOND ARMY ON THE 30th OCTOBER 1918

THE ENEMY'S POSITION AT THE TIME

THE BATTLE IN THE 30th OCTOBER 1918

THE BATTLE IN THE 30th OCTOBER 1918

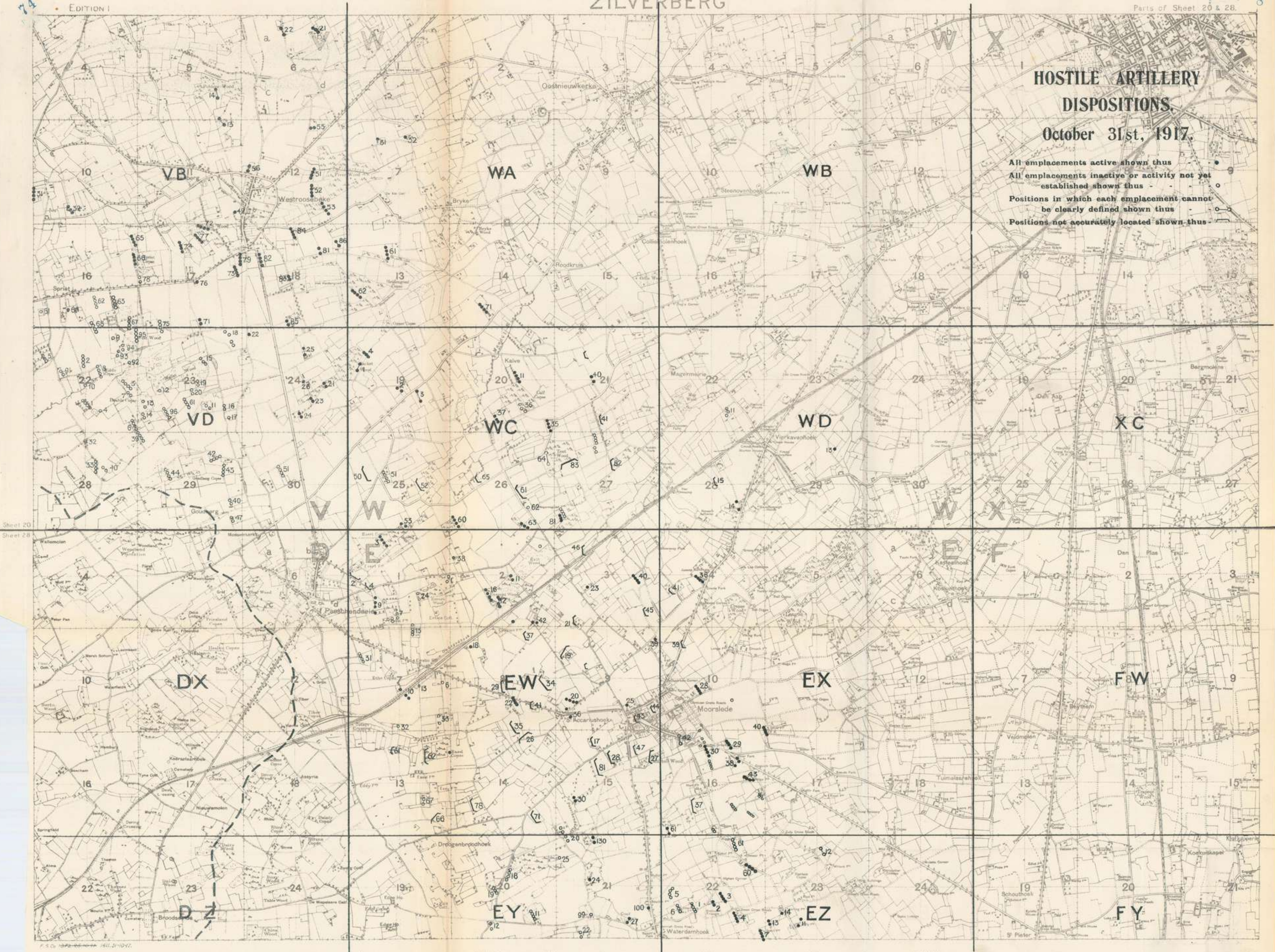
ZILVERBERG

Parts of Sheet 20 & 28.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY
DISPOSITIONS.

October 31st, 1917.

All emplacements active shown thus
All emplacements inactive or activity not yet
established shown thus
Positions in which each emplacement cannot
be clearly defined shown thus
Positions not accurately located shown thus



Scale 1:20,000

4th F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

II

No. _____
Date _____

SILVERBERG

HOSTILE INTENT

DISPOSABLE

October 31st 1917

WB

WA

VB

XC

WD

WC

VD

FW

BX

EW

DX

FY

EZ

EY

EY

ZILVERBERG

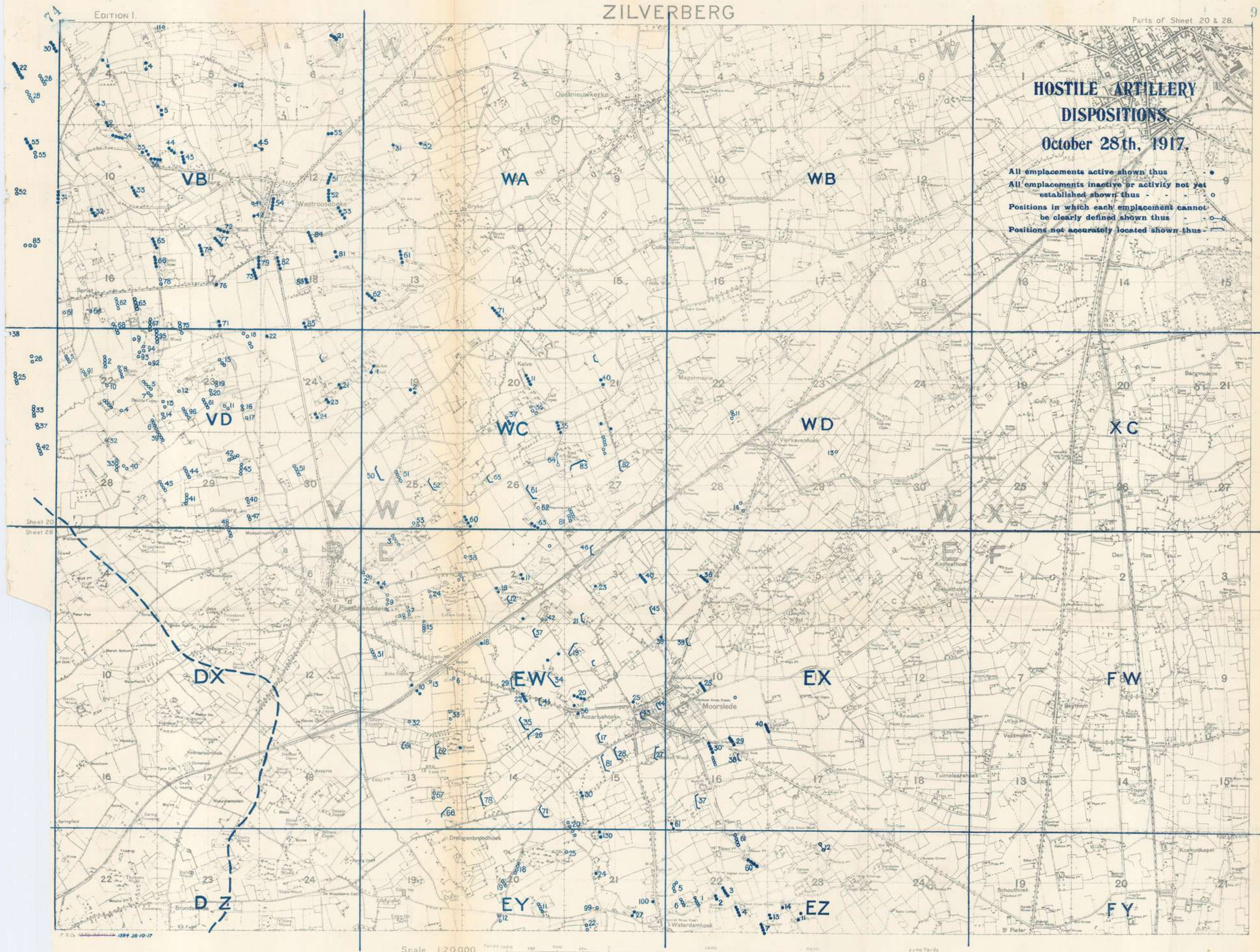
Parts of Sheet 20 & 28.

9

HOSTILE ARTILLERY
DISPOSITIONS

October 28th, 1917.

All emplacements active shown thus ●
 All emplacements inactive or activity not yet
 established shown thus ○
 Positions in which each emplacement cannot
 be clearly defined shown thus —○—
 Positions not accurately located shown thus —



4th F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

III

October 28th, 1917
DISPOSITIONS
HOSTILE ARTILLERY

Positions in which enemy employment is noted
in detail during night time
Positions in which enemy employment is noted
in detail during day time
Positions in which enemy employment is noted
in detail during night time
Positions in which enemy employment is noted
in detail during day time

XC

WD

WC

VD

FW

EX

FW

DX

FY

EY

EY

DZ

4th F. A. BRIGADE, A. I. F.
No.
Date.

APPENDIX. IV

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

ORDER No 67
-----000-----**SECRET**

Headquarters,

10th November, 1917.

1. Brigadier-General O.F. PHILLIPS, D.S.O., C.R.A., 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, will take over command of Artillery covering the RIGHT SECTOR, 1st ANZAC CORPS FRONT, from Brigadier-General A.J. BESSELL-BROWNE, C.M.G., D.S.O.,^{VD} C.R.A. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, at Noon, 12th November, 1917.
2. Headquarters, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery will close at 50 Rue de Lille, BAILLEUL, at noon, 12th November, and the Advanced H.Q. will open at LILLE GATE, YPRES at the same hour.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. D. Shorne
Captain,
For Brigade-Major,
2nd Aust. Div. Artillery.

Distribution

4th A.F.A.Bde,	1 - 5
5th A.F.A.Bde,	6 - 10
2nd Aust.D.A.C.	11-14
2nd Aust.D.T.M.O.	15
2nd Aust. Div.	16-18
5th Aust. D.A.	20
R.A., 1st ANZAC	21
66th Div.Arty.	22
66th Division	23
War Diary	24-26
File	27
Spare	28-30

*Copies for Pkys.
sent 5th Bde.*

74
SECRET

4TH F. A. BRIGADE.

A. I. F.

APPENDIX. V

Copy No 10

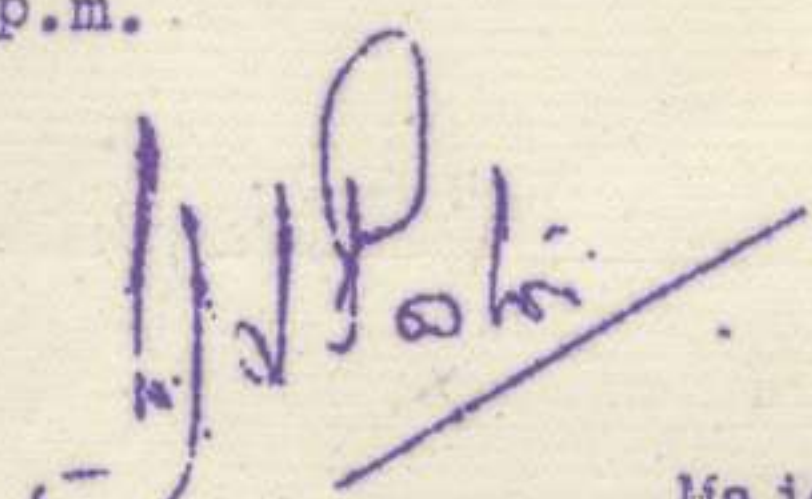
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

ORDER No 68

----000----

Headquarters,
13th November, 1917.

1. In preparation for the tenth phase of the attack, the following instructions will be carried out.
2. Vigorous counter-battery work will be continued, especially against those batteries firing on the Second Corps front.
3. Harassing and isolating fire on enemy's communications is to be maintained on the Divisional front and will be in the same proportion as heretofore during day and night. Allotment of ammunition is given in 5th Aust. D.A. Order No 71, para.4.
4. "H" DAY, an Army barrage will take place on the front of the LEFT DIVISION by the Field Artillery covering that sector and the Heavy Artillery.
 - (a) Zero hour - 6.0 a.m.
 - (b) Silent periods over the Army front:-
 - From 7.30 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.
 - 10.0 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
5. "I" DAY, Silent periods over the Army front-
 - From 6.0 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
 - 10.0 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.


 Major, R.A.,
 Brigade-Major,
 2nd AUST. DIV. ARTILLERY.

Normal Distribution.

4TH F. A. BRIGADE,

A. I. F.

No.....

Date.....

APPENDIX. VI

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

SECRET

LOCATION STATEMENT

No 1

-----oOo-----

Location of units at 10 a.m. 13th November, 1917.

UNIT	CODE NAME	LOCATION	WAGON LINES
2nd AUST. DIV. ART.	MOTH	LILLE GATE (I.14.a.30.15.)	
"B" GROUP (5th A.F.A.Bde)	MASK	HALFWAY HOUSE (I.17.c.4.8.)	G.29.a.5.9.
13th Battery,	EGG	J.2.a.83.64.	H.18.b.5.1.
14th Battery,	HARROW	J.8.b.60.80.	H.16.d.2.3.
15th Battery	ENVY	J.8.b.60.98.	H.18.d.5.7.
105th How. Bty.	HEAD	J.8.b.45.88.	H.18.d.5.7.
<u>4th A.F.A.Bde</u>	MART		H.19.a.70.05.
10th Battery,	ENGINE	J.8.c.47.48.	H.24.a.4.1.
11th Battery	HAZEL	J.8.a.70.75.	H.24.a.4.1.
12th Battery,	HOUSE	J.8.c.75.93.	H.23.b.1.8.
104th How. Bty.	EXPERT	(J.8.c.46.74.(2 guns) (J.7.b.47.00.(4 guns)	H.24.a.4.1.
2nd Aust.D.A.C.H.Q.	MIRE		G.18.c.6.8.
3rd Aust.D.T.M.O.	-	H.13.a.0.6.	

2nd Aust.D.A.H.Q.
12/11/17.

4TH F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

SECRET

APPENDIX. VII

Copy No 10

No.
Date. SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

O R D E R No 69.
-----OOO-----

Headquarters,
16th November, 1917.

"J" DAY

An Army Barrage will be carried out on "J" DAY by the Field Artillery covering 66th Division, and as many Heavy Artillery Batteries as can be brought to bear, at 6.50 a.m.

There will be two silent periods on the Army front-

From 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.,

9.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Normal Distribution.

Issued at noon.

"B" Group by Special D.R.

H. J. Polk
Major, F.A.
Brigade-Major,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

Not to be taken into the trenches

APPENDIX VIII

SECRET

2ND ARST. DIVISION
149
SECOND ARMY
SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE
DIV. ARTILLERY H.Q.

1st to 15th November, 1917.**1. General.**

During the past fortnight further operations have been undertaken, resulting in the capture of Passchendaele on the 6th November and in the advancement of our line along the high ground on the Passchendaele—Westroosebeke ridge on the 10th inst.

Following on the operations of 30th October, our artillery carried out intense counter-battery work, accompanied by harassing fire on the enemy's communications. His defensive works and forward shell hole positions were brought under heavy destructive fire.

The enemy's infantry has been active on the battle front. On the 6th and 10th November his counter-attacks were delivered early in the day, and probably only consisted of his support and reserve battalions.

On the afternoon of the 13th inst., after intense artillery preparation, an attack against our new positions North of Passchendaele was attempted. This attack was beaten off by rifle, machine gun and artillery fire, the barrage of the latter opening very quickly.

The enemy's artillery during the first week of the fortnight was extremely active, particularly on battery areas, gas shell being freely used at night. His reply to our attack on the 6th was not heavy, except from enfilade fire from the North. The groups South of the Menin Road have become exceptionally quiet, with a corresponding increase of batteries firing from positions North and East of Westroosebeke, and in the Houthulst Forest.

The reply to our barrage on the 10th inst. was prompt and very heavy on the front attacked. In general, the second week of the fortnight has been marked by the increase of fire from the North, rising at times—particularly on the afternoon of the 13th November—to an intense fire preparatory to the enemy's attack.

2. Operations Prior to 6th November.

In continuation of our attack of 30th Oct., a number of minor operations were undertaken on the nights of 1st–2nd and 3rd–4th inst., with the object of improving our positions. These, although meeting with strong opposition, were successful, a number of strong points being captured and our line materially advanced. A determined attack against the Canadian right and Australian left by the enemy on the night of 2nd–3rd November succeeded in regaining Graf (D 5 d central) but elsewhere the enemy was repulsed.

A number of small raids attempted against our posts North of Polygon Wood, West of Becelaere (two raids), and West of Warneton, were all driven off. A raid by us on 1st–2nd November East of Shrewsbury Forest was successful and we captured seven prisoners. A map showing these raids is attached.

3. British Attack of 6th November.

Our troops assembled successfully, and an attack by the Canadian Corps was launched at 6 a.m. The main attack was against Passchendaele and the high ground immediately North of it.

The operations progressed well, and in spite of some very hard fighting among the "pill boxes" at the North end of Passchendaele and round Mosselmarkt, the whole of the objectives were gained at an early hour and the line consolidated on Grun (D 12 b 4.0)—D 12 b 5.8—D 6 d 9.0—D 6 b 95.30—V 30 d 05.55—Valour Farm (incl.) V 29 d 8.6—Vanity House (incl.) V 29 c 5.6—Vapour Farm (incl.)

Counter-Attacks.—About 8.50 a.m. the enemy, to the strength of about one battalion, counter-attacked North of Passchendaele; this attack was driven off. A concentration of hostile troops was reported at 9.50 a.m. near Vindictive Cross-roads (V 30 d 3.7), and at 9.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. the enemy attempted to assemble and counter-attack in the area V 23 d and V 24 c. In every case the troops were dispersed by artillery. The prompt dispersion of these attempts to counter-attack is due in large measure to F.O.Os. who established themselves early in the morning on the Passchendaele Ridge and maintained communications.

No further counter-attacks developed subsequently against our new positions.

It is noteworthy that all these counter-attacks were made or attempted soon after our attack was launched, hence it may be concluded that no other troops than those of the local support and reserve battalions were employed.

The 11th German Division, in the Passchendaele sector, suffered very severe losses, both during our attack and in their abortive counter-attacks. Probably elements of the 4th Division to the N.W. of Passchendaele were also involved in these operations.

Simultaneously with the main attack on Passchendaele an attack by the X. British Corps on the Polderhoek Spur was attempted, but did not succeed.

4. Between 6th and 10th November.

The following days passed quietly and there was a noticeable decrease in hostile artillery activity South of Sanctuary Wood. This was probably owing to the fact that the enemy was moving guns northwards to the Westroosebeke area.

On the night of 6–7th November, the enemy raided one of our posts West of Becelaere and some of our men were missing.

5. British Attacks of 10th November.

The assembly of the assaulting troops was successfully carried out, and the attack launched at 6.5 a.m. The weather which had been threatening during the night broke badly before zero hour, and the operations were carried out under the most unfavourable conditions.

The objective of the attack was to widen the very narrow Passchendaele salient northwards and to seize the high ground N.W. of Passchendaele on a general line running through a point V 30 b 20.40, N. of Vindictive cross-roads—Vocation farm, V 30 a 1.6—Vat Cot (inclusive) (V 29 a 50.85) to Tournant Farm (inclusive), V 28 b 5.4, and was carried out by the Canadian Corps and II. Corps. The attack progressed favourably and all objectives were gained at an early hour, with slight opposition.

The enemy on this occasion had adopted a new scheme of defence, of which a captured document (of 11th Division) had given particulars. This consisted principally in a lightly held outpost line, which had orders to retire to a temporary line of resistance in the forward zone in the event of an attack. Behind this again ran his main line of resistance. The position of the latter corresponded roughly with our objectives. In accordance with the same policy the enemy put down a relatively light barrage in advance of his outpost line a few minutes after zero, but quickly withdrew it to a pre-arranged line, where the barrage was greatly intensified.

Throughout the day the shelling of our new positions was exceptionally severe, and forced the troops on our left back to their original positions.

Meanwhile, the troops of the Canadian Corps had maintained their objectives, but their left flank had to be thrown back to keep touch with the troops on their left.

Counter-Attacks.—Such hostile counter-attacks, as were made by the enemy, were carried out only by the local supporting troops of the 4th and 199th Divisions. These do not appear to have been pressed with great vigour.

In certain of the concrete posts, however, the enemy put up a very strong resistance.

A concentration of hostile troops seen N.E. of Vindictive cross-roads and near Venison trench, developed into a counter-attack about 1.45 p.m., but was repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire.

6. Period 11–15th November.

Apart from heavy shelling, the night of 10–11th November and 11th and 12th November, passed without incident on the battle front.

On night of 11th inst. we carried out a successful raid North-West of Warneton.

On night of 12th inst. a strong party of the enemy attacked one of our positions East of Wambeke, but was driven off.

The 13th November was marked by an intense artillery fire against the area North and North-West of Passchendaele and at about 4.30 p.m. the enemy attacked the left of the Canadian Corps. This attack, however, failed to reach our lines. It is estimated that two battalions of the 114th Regiment (199th Division) were involved. This Regiment was withdrawn from the line next day.

On night of 14th November three attacks were made on one of our posts North-West of Polderhoek Chateau and our positions North of the Menin Road.

Two of these attempts failed, but an attack directed against one of the concrete "pill boxes" succeeded in capturing the garrison of six men.

A strong raiding party attacked our lines North-West of Poelcapelle on the afternoon of 15th November, but were repulsed.

7. Prisoners.

During the fortnight the following prisoners have passed through Corps Cages and C.C.S.'s: 27 Officers and 721 O.Rs.

Four 77cm. guns were captured by the Canadian Corps during the 10th November.

8. Distribution of the Enemy's Forces.

During the past fortnight the following divisions have been identified:—

Sector.	In line on Nov. 1st.	Divisions subsequently appearing.	Latest Identifications.
HOUTHULST FOREST ...	27 Div. (Nov. 8th-9th)	41 Div.	November 15th Prisoner
S.E. of HOUTHULST FOREST	3 Nav. Div. (Nov. 3rd-4th)	239 Div. (Nov. 9th)	November 15th Prisoner
WESTROOSEBEKE ...	111 Div. (Nov. 2nd-3rd)	5 Bav. R. Div. (Nov. 4th-5th) reinforcing	November 15th Men killed
PASSCHENDAELE ...	39 Div. (Nov. 5th-6th)	11 Div. (Nov. 7th-8th)	November 15th Prisoners
MOORSLEDE ...	3 Gd. Div. (Nov. 1st-2nd)	11 Bav. Div. (Nov. 8th-9th)	November 14th Prisoners
N.E. of POLYGON WOOD ...	44 Res. Div. (Nov. 3rd)	36 Res. Div. (Nov. 8th-9th)	November 13th Prisoners
BECELAERE ...	15 Div. (Nov. 1st-2nd)	7 Div. (Nov. 5th-6th)	November 15th Prisoner
MENIN ROAD ...	18 Res. Div. (Nov. 2nd)	49 Res. Div. (Nov. 9th)	November 15th Document
ZANDVOORDE ...	1 Bav. R. Div.	18 Res. Div. (Nov. 15th-16th)	November 14th Prisoners
HOUTHEM ...	8 Div.	15 Div. (Nov. 12th)	November 14th Prisoners
WARNETON ...	32 Div.	7 Div.	November 14th Prisoner's statement
DEULEMONT ...	5 Bav. Div.	49 Res. Div.	November 13th Equipment

Note.—The date indicates when the division was relieved.

Evidence obtained during the fortnight establishes that the enemy has kept three divisions in line between the Ypres—Roulers railway and the Menin road; previously this had been in doubt, owing to his withdrawal on to the western slopes of Keiberg Spur and the consequent difficulty of obtaining identifications.

It has also been established that the Ypres Group embraces only three divisions in line, instead of four as formerly, and that its southern boundary runs just N. of Becelaere.

9. Alterations in Divisional Boundaries.

Very slight changes in divisional sectors have been noted. The division holding the Westroosebeke sector has contracted its western flank about 800 yards eastward, and the northern boundary of the Moorslede division now runs about 200 yards North of the Roulers railway.

Divisional Reliefs.—From the Menin road to our junction with the French the enemy has adhered to his new system of relief divisions relieving each other in the line every six days, and in some sectors divisions have appeared three times in 15–18 days, *e.g.*,—

5th Bav. Res. Div., in Westroosebeke sector.
 8rd Gd. Div., in Moorslede sector.
 15th Div., in Becelaere sector.
 8rd Naval Div., in S.E. of Houthulst sector.

The 39th Div. has appeared in three different sectors :—

Sector Moorslede	...	...	20th Oct.—27th Oct.
„ Passchendaele	...	...	31st Oct.—5/6th Nov.
„ East of Polygon Wood	...	...	8–9th Nov.

So far there is no instance of a division appearing more than three times in the line, with six day intervals of rest.

10. Dispositions.

A captured order of 11th Division issued on the 30th October lays down a new method of holding a defensive position. The following are the salient features :—

- A protective line of the forward zone.
- A line of resistance of the forward zone.
- The main line of resistance.

The depth from (a) line to (c) line is to be about 800 yards.

In case of attack the troops in the outpost line (a) should be withdrawn to (b), 15 minutes being allowed for this operation to take effect. At the expiry of this 15 minutes, the enemy increases to his heavy barrage, not hesitating to put it down in front of position (c) and behind (b).

Our attack on 10th November showed that these tactics had been put into force by the 4th Division. It appears probable that this order emanated from the German Fourth Army, and may apply to all the groups under its command. It is probable that our ill success on the left during our attack on 10th November was due to the enemy's final barrage coinciding with our objective.

11. Reserves.

In each sector on the Army front from the Menin Road sector northwards, there is a division in close reserve. So far as is known at present, these are probably the following :—

Houthulst Forest	...	...	38th Div.
South-East of Houthulst Forest	...	...	239th Div.
Westroosebeke	...	...	4th Div.
Passchendaele	...	...	44th Res. Div.
Moorslede	...	...	11th Bav. Div. or 3rd Gd. Div.
East of Polygon Wood	...	...	36th Res. Div.
Becelaere	...	...	15th Div.
Menin Road	...	...	18th Res. Div.

In addition, the following divisions are known or suspected to be in reserve in Flanders :—

119th Div.—Withdrawn from Merckem sector on Oct. 14th. Reported South of Bruges.
 10th Bav. Div.—Withdrawn from Becelaere sector on Oct. 25th.
 10th Ers. Div.—Withdrawn from Poelcapelle on Oct. 6th. Reported in Bruges area.
 16th Div.—Withdrawn from Poelcapelle on Oct. 16th.
 220th Div.—Withdrawn from Passchendaele sector on Oct. 22nd. Reported in area South of Bruges.
 123rd Div.—Reported to have been transferred from Russia to Flanders, but lacking confirmation.
 1st Bav. Div. }
 2nd Bav. Div. } Elements reported by a deserter to have been seen detraining in Bruges about
 21st Div. } Nov. 6–9th. Confirmation is required.
 103rd Div. }

12. Losses.

Prisoners' statements show that the enemy's losses from our artillery fire in the back areas continue to be considerable. During the fortnight the following divisions have been withdrawn with very heavy losses and are not likely to have any further fighting value without long rest :—

111th Div.	} From Westroosebeke sector.
5th Bav. Res. Div.	
11th Div.—From Passchendaele sector.	

In general, it may be assumed that after a division has done three tours in the line its efficiency is so impaired as to render its complete withdrawal necessary.

13. Air Reconnaissance.

Weather conditions were very unfavourable for war flying during the first seven days of the fortnight when misty weather prevailed.

Enemy aircraft has shown no abnormal activity except on the 8th and 24th inst., when enemy machines were very active reconnoitring forward and battery areas and dropping bombs.

During operations there has been considerable activity by low flying machines on both sides engaged in trench reconnaissances and in harassing the opposing troops with machine gun fire. In this respect the enemy showed considerable activity on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th instances, while the same applies to our machines throughout operations and notably on the 6th inst., when our aviators were extremely active harassing the enemy and carrying out contact patrols and artillery work.

During the latter part of the fortnight weather conditions improved slightly on certain days though visibility remained indifferent owing to mist. Advantage was taken of two or three fine days by our photographic reconnaissances, a total of 740 plates being exposed during the fortnight. The majority of these were taken in the vicinity of the front line so that it will be necessary to take full advantage of any improved weather conditions in order to supplement our information concerning the enemy's back area.

As a result of numerous combats in the air 22 enemy machines were crashed and 31 driven down out of control. 17 of our machines are missing.

There has been no exceptional activity by enemy machines as regards bombing, very few bombs have been dropped except towards the end of the last month and the first days of November, when Vierstraat, Reninghelst, Ouderdom, Hazebrouck, Bailleul and Cassel were bombed, besides the usual bombing of the forward area.

Our machines dropped a total of 237 bombs on various objectives behind the enemy's lines.

Enemy long distance reconnaissance machines have not shown any activity of special interest. In one or two cases patrols have ventured as far West as Cassel and Hazebrouck.

14. Artillery Activity.

During the fortnight, there has been an important change in the groupings of batteries, transfers apparently being made from positions south of the Ypres—Menin Road to the Westroosebeke—Moorslede area. This movement has been confirmed by the increased artillery activity and artillery-aeroplane activity in this area, and a corresponding decrease of artillery fire in the south. It is probable that the movement was completed by the 10th, as an extremely heavy barrage was put down during our attack in the Passchendaele sector on that date. Otherwise, the groupings of batteries probably remain unchanged, but it is difficult to say definitely as so few locations have been obtained owing to unfavourable weather.

Except in reply to our attack on the 6th and 10th, and in preparation of the enemy's attack in the Passchendaele sector on the 13th, hostile artillery activity has generally been about normal in the north and centre, but in the south there has been a marked decrease in activity, especially during the last few days. Shelling has been directed chiefly against our battery areas and tracks, heavy bursts of concentrated fire being used. Gas shells have been freely used against our battery positions, more especially at night.

In the north, there has been increased use of H.V. guns against our back areas and communications.

On the 12th inst. two long range naval guns, situated two miles South-West of Haubourdin, fired six rounds into Bailleul.

15. Enemy's Defences.

Very little fresh enemy work has been noticeable during the period. This is doubtless partly due to the bad visibility, which has prevented good observation and also hindered photography.

Forward Areas.—The principal areas from whence active work is reported are, from North to South, as follows:—(1) North-East and South of Passchendaele; (2) around Gheluvelt; (3) about the Ypres—Comines Canal; (4) East of Gapaard; (5) Warneton (strong wire). The work however, in general, has taken no definite shape, except perhaps North of Passchendaele, where shell holes have been connected up and short stretches of trenches have been constructed.

Rear Lines.—Roulers line. More work has been carried out on the Support Line, further stretches of trench having been traced out North of Beythem, also just North of the Ypres—Roulers Railway and due West of Roulers. The traced front line trench is now joined up to the continuation of the Gheluwe Switch. A little fresh wire has been erected in places.

The projected line (Artillerie Schutz Stellung), shown on captured maps running parallel to the Roulers Line and between this line and the town of Roulers, has apparently been commenced, short traces of a trench South-West of Roulers having been noticed on photographs.

A noticeable feature is the work which is being carried out South of the River Lys and parallel to it, where a new switch line is in course of construction.

A new switch line has been commenced in front of the Linselles Switch, running from the Comines—Bondues Line in an almost northerly direction for about 1,200 yards; a line of wire has been erected going northward from the River Lys midway between Wervicq and Bousbecque, which may eventually have some connection with the switch mentioned above.

North of Wervicq short stretches of trenches have been dug and a certain amount of wire has been erected.

A good deal of work has also been done on and in the neighbourhood of the Hallot line. The wire has been extended to the River Lys and about 1,000 yards of support trench have been traced out South of the Lys parallel to the Comines—Wervicq Road in 28 V 6 a and b. A trench has been commenced just in front of the Fort Carnot switch running out from the Hallot line, and a support line is also being constructed which links up the communication trenches already dug.

16. The General Situation.

The strength of the German forces opposite the Second Army front from the Blanckaart Lake to the River Lys, namely:—14 Divisions in the line and 10 Divisions in close support show no change in the strength of the enemy since the beginning of the month.

The Divisions in close support reinforce Divisions between the Menin Road and our junction with the French. South of the Menin Road Supporting Divisions are not employed, showing that the enemy considers that the chances of an attack by our troops in that part of the line are slight. This is confirmed by prisoners.

In addition to the above there are about 10 to 12 Divisions in Flanders. These consist of Divisions who have completed their tour of duty on the battle front or have suffered so heavily that they are not likely to return for some considerable time. In case of an attack by our troops the majority of these Divisions would probably be available to reinforce the front.

From the examination of prisoners there is little doubt that the enemy expect us to continue our attack northwards from Passchendaele towards Westroosebeke. They as clearly recognise the importance of that village to us as they recognise the importance of Passchendaele to themselves.

This is borne out by the concentration of guns E. of Westroosebeke prior to the 10th inst., and their attack on Passchendaele on the 13th inst. There is every likelihood that the enemy will continue his attacks to regain Passchendaele, and attention is drawn to the fact that he has detailed two good Divisions, namely:—the 199th and 25th to oppose our troops in the salient.

On other parts of the front raids carried out by the enemy appear to have as their objective either the capture of prisoners, the destruction of "pill boxes" or the seizure of some small tactical feature of local importance.

Prisoners left in our hands as the result of these enterprises or of successful raids carried out by us deny any knowledge of any intended offensive in the areas in which they were captured. Moreover, a few prisoners recently captured astride the Menin road stated that they anticipated no attack by us in the vicinity of Gheluvelt.

A deserter who recently surrendered near Poelcappelle stated that a big German offensive was about to be undertaken between the coast and Schoore. He had been serving a battery near Ghistelles and affirmed he had seen regiments belonging to the 1st Bavarian Corps, who had recently arrived at Bruges. In the course of examination he made several statements to the effect that the construction of light railways had been completed, that ammunition dumps had been replenished and that hutments had been increased in the area Ostende—Ghistelles—St. Pierre Capelle—Leffinghe. Much of this information could be confirmed by air photos and previous knowledge of the areas concerned. It is considered however that further corroboration is required before these statements are too seriously entertained.

The fact that new divisions seen detraining at Bruges, who are subsequently intended for employment in this area, may also give rise to "talk" among the rank and file that an attack near the coast is contemplated by the Germans.

With reference to hostile artillery, in addition to the increase of guns in the Westroosebeke area, a noticeable increase has also taken place in the Houthulst Forest groups, where a large amount of registration by aeroplane has lately been carried out. As it is considered that a hostile attack is not contemplated in that area, these guns are probably intended to catch in flank an attack by our troops on Westroosebeke from the direction of Poelcappelle. They fire principally in a southerly direction.

As regards defences much new work is in progress between the Lys and Lille showing that no effort is to be spared to defend Lille from an attack from the North-West. The Roulers line is also being continued and it is expected that much work is likely to be carried out here during the winter months.

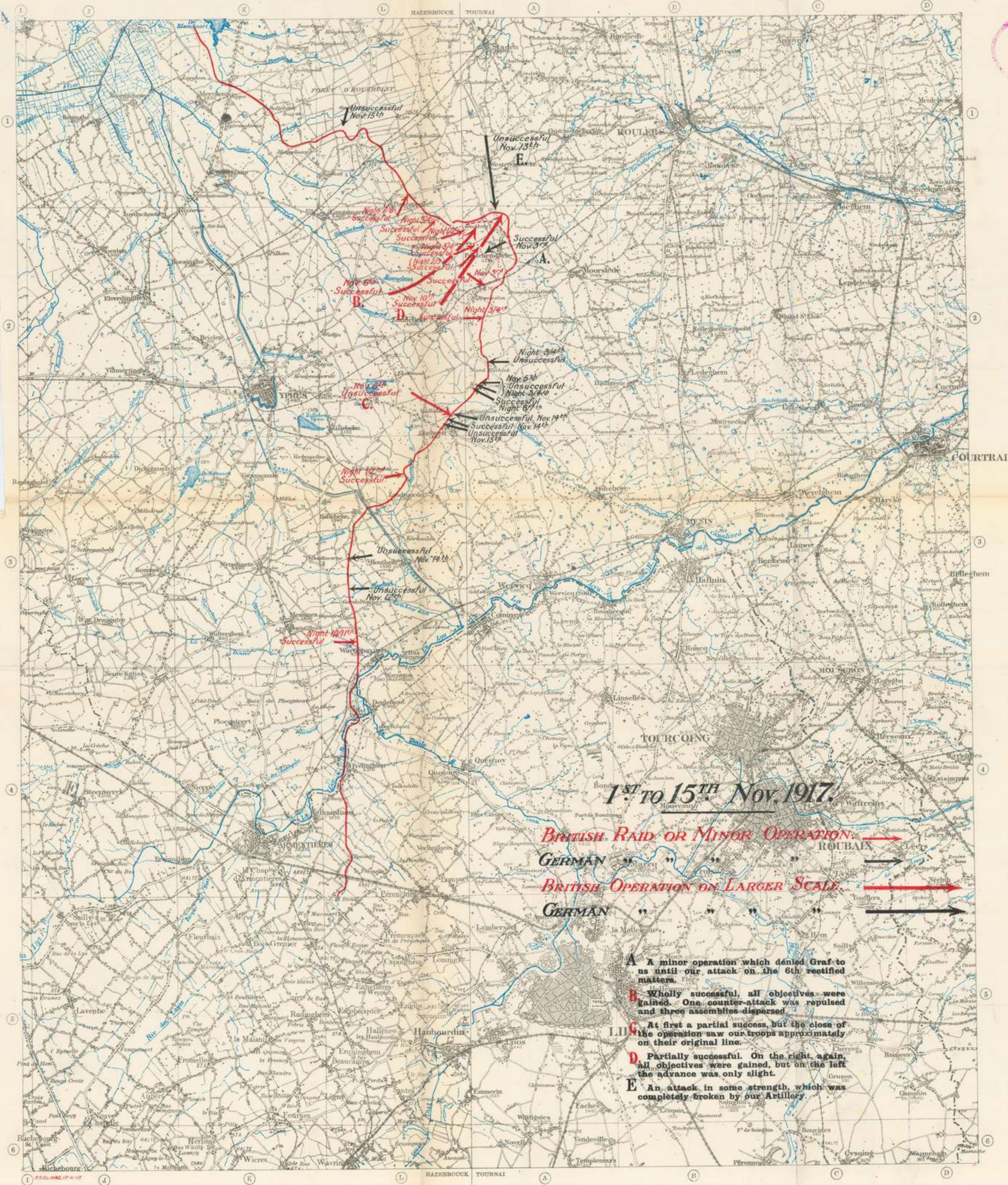
17. Annexes.

- (i.) Situation map showing Order of Battle.
- (ii.) Map showing the positions of attacks and raids.

V. VIVIAN, Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.,
for Major-General, G.S., Second Army.



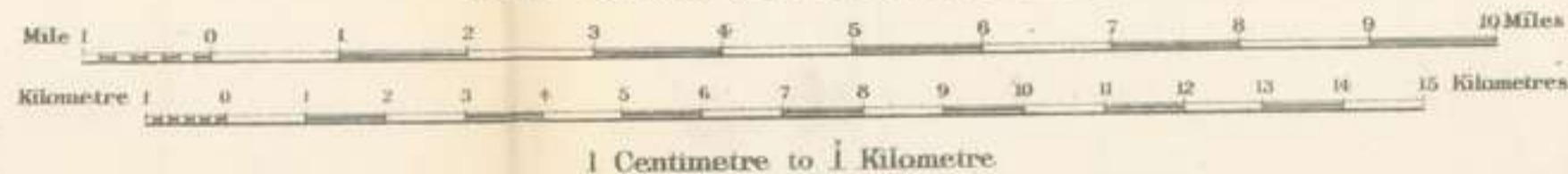
SECOND ARMY AREA (EAST).



G.S.G.S. 3151.

Scale 100,000 or 1 inch to 1.58 Miles

Ordnance Survey, January, 1917.





20



1 Centimetre to 1 Kilometre

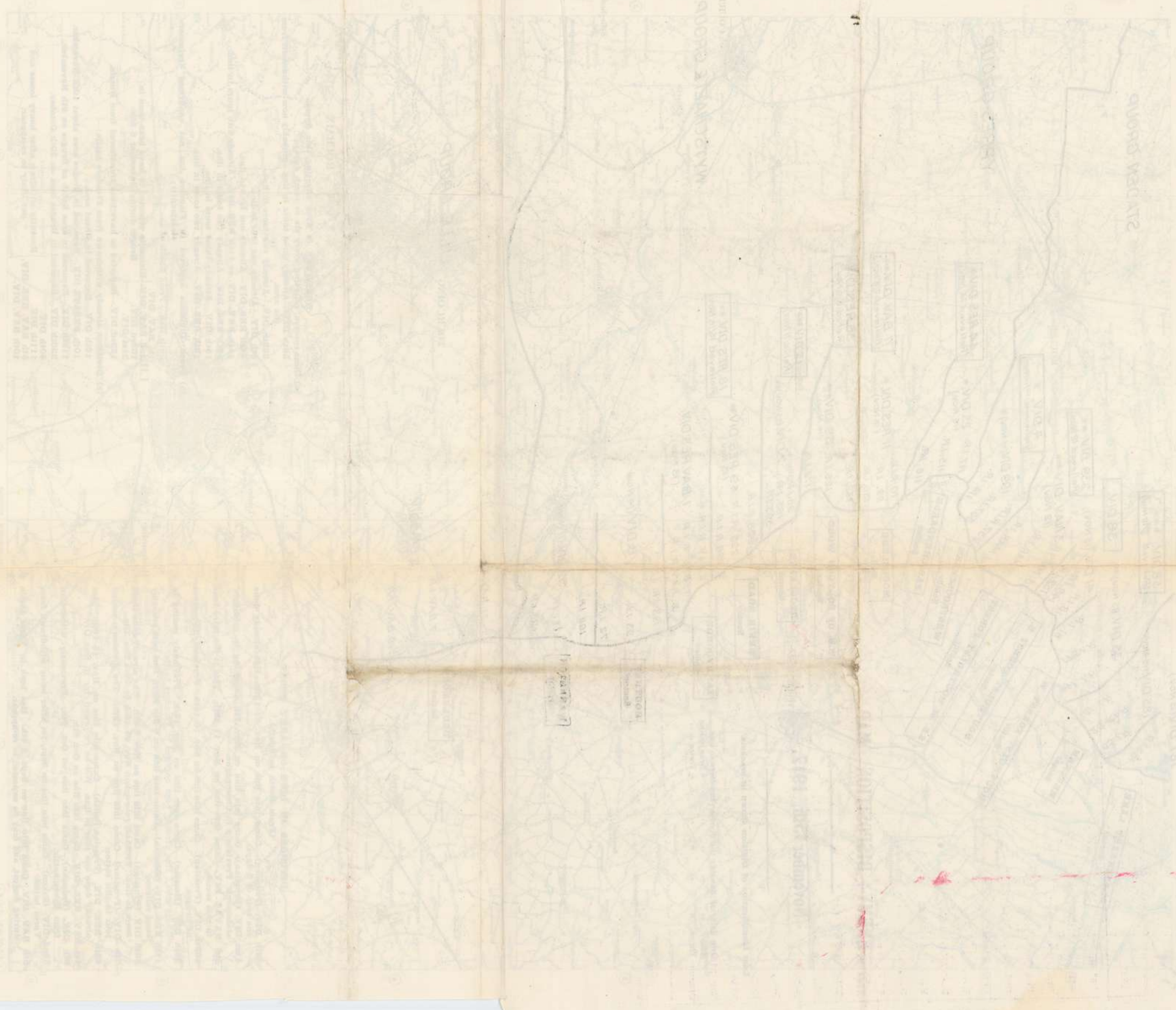
4th F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

VIII

4th F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

1941

1941



CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX. IXRIGHT DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY- 2nd ANZAC CORPS.
DISTRIBUTION LIST.

H.Q.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVL. ARTILLERY
16/11/17.
No.....
Date.....

UNIT	ORDERS	INTELLIGENCE	LOCATIONS
"B" GROUP	1 - 9	9	9
4th A.F.A.Sde	10	1	1
2nd Aust. M.A.C.	11	4	4
2nd Aust. D.T.M.O.	12	1	5
2nd Aust. Division.	13	-	5
49th Division	14 - 17	1	5
R.A., 1st ANZAC	18	1	6
R.A., 2nd ANZAC	19	1	6
H.A., 2nd ANZAC	20	1	1
C.B.S.O.	-	1	1
66th Div. Arty.	21	1	1
21st Div. Arty.	22	1	1
17th Balloon Coy.	-	-	1
4th Squad. R.F.C.	-	-	1
S-C.	23	1	6
E-H,	24	1	1
R-O,	25	1	1
File	26	1	1
War Diary	27 - 29	3	-
Spares	30 - 33	3	5
TOTAL	33	32	61

74
SECRET

APPENDIX. *X*

Copy No 10 22

4TH F. A. BRIGADE

A. I. F.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

O R D E R No 70

-----oOo-----

Headquarters,
17th November, 1917.

1. Artillery preparation for the next operation (phase 10) will be continued in accordance with the following instructions:-
2. Vigorous counter-battery work and Harassing fire on enemy's roads and communications will be continued. The Heavy Artillery will now pay special attention to the destruction of roads in use by the enemy.
3. Destructive bombardments and wire cutting will be carried out by the Heavy Artillery in consultation with Divisions.
4. "K" DAY: Silent periods from 7 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
from 10 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
5. "L" DAY: (a) There will be an Army Barrage in which all Artillery will co-operate. Diagrams will be issued later.
(b) Zero Hour will be 7 a.m.
(c) Rates of Fire - Normal, i.e. 18-pdrs 2 rds.p.g.p.
4.5" Hows 1 do do
(d) Starting ^{live} ~~time~~ for "A" Barrage will be notified later.
(e) Silent periods from 6.30pm to 7 p.m.
from 9.30 pm to 10 p.m.
6. "M" DAY (a) There will be a Corps Barrage in conjunction with the Canadian Corps. Details will be issued later.
(b) Silent periods from 7.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
from 10 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
7. "N" DAY (a) There will be an Army Barrage in which all Artillery will co-operate. Diagrams will be issued later.
(b) Zero Hour will be 6.30 a.m.
(c) Rate of Fire - Normal
(d) Starting ^{live} ~~time~~ for "A" Barrage will be notified later.
(e) Silent periods from 7.15 p.m. to 7.45 p.m.
from 9.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.
8. Owing to the small number of 18-pdr guns on the Corps front ^{our} creeping fire will be employed by these guns in all Barrages.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 11 a.m.
Normal Distribution

W. P. K.
Major, P.
Brigade-Major,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

SECRETAPPENDIX. XI

Copy No 10

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION L ARTILLERY

4TH F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

ORDER No 72.
-----000-----

Headquarters,
17th November, 1917.

BARRAGES - "L", "M", and "N" DAYS

1. Barrage Diagrams for "L", "M" and "N" DAYS are attached ("B" Group only).
2. Starting line for all Barrages will be the "Army Barrage Line" from E.15.c.5.0 to E.25.c.5.0.
3. Barrage on "M" DAY -
 - (a) Zero hour will be at 5.45 am,
 - (b) Rates of fire, Normal.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Handwritten signature]

Major, C. I.,
Brigade-Major,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

Distribution as for
Order No 70.

Issued at 2.30

DISTRIBUTION LIST

This office Distribution list of 16/11/17 will be amended as follows:
For "21st Div. Art." READ "New Zealand Div. Art."

4TH F. A. BRIGADE.
A. I. F.

No.....

SECRET

APPENDIX XII

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

LOCATION STATEMENT.

No 2

-----oOo-----

Location of Units at 10 a.m. 18th November, 1917.

UNIT HXIX	CODE NAME	LOCATION	WAGON LINES
2nd AUST.DIV.ART.	LOTH	LILLE CAT (I.14.a.30.15.)	
"B" GROUP (5th A.F.A.Bde)	MA3K	(HALFWAY HOUSE) I 17.c.4.8.	G.29.a.5.9.
13th Battery	EGG	J.2.a.83.64.	H.18.b.5.1
14th Battery	HARROW	J.8.b.6.8.	H.13.d.2.3.
15th Battery	EMMY	J.2.b.60.98.	H.12.d.5.7.
105th How. Bty.	HEAD	J.8.b.45.88.	H.13.d.5.7.
4th A.F.A.Bde	LART		H.19.a.70.05.
10th Battery	ENGINE	J.8.c.47.48.	H.24.a.4.1.
11th Battery	HAZEL	J.8.a.18.40.	H.24.a.4.1.
12th Battery	HOUSE	J.8.c.75.93.	H.23.b.1.8.
104th How.Bty.	EXPERT	(J.8.c.46.74.(2 guns) (J.7.b.47.00 (4 guns) J.1.d.60.10.	H.24.a.4.1.
LOOKOUT STATION			
D.P. (1)		D.23.c.2.1.	
D.P. (2)		D.29.c.60.73.	
2nd Aust.D.A.C.F.C.	MIRE		G.18.c.6.8.
2nd Aust.D.T.M.O.		H.13.a.0.6.	
HORNEY DUMP		I.25.a.4.7.	
TAYLOR DUMP		I.9.b.5.5.	
CORDOVA DUMP		G.24.d.7.6.	

2nd Aust. D.A.H.Q.,
18th November, 1917.

SECRET

4th F. A. BRIGADE

APPENDIX.

A. I. F.

XIII

COPY No. 10.....

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

Date.....

===== ORDER NO. 73. =====

Referencee Maps-

1/40,000 Sheet 28

1/20,000 Sheets 28NW and NE.

Headquarters,

19th November '17.

1. The 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery will be relieved by the 18th and 113rd Army Brigades R.F.A. on the 21st November.
2. Guns stripped, except for sights, aiming posts, breech and muzzle covers, will be taken over in situ by the relieving Brigades. The 2nd Aust. Divisional Artillery will not take over guns
3. The personnel of relieving Brigades will take over Group Headquarters and Batteries as follows:-

UNIT RELIEVED.	LOCATION.	GUNS AT POSITION.	RELIEVED BY.
H.Q. 5th A.F.A. Bde.	I.17.c.4.8.		H.Q. 113rd Brigade R.F.A.
H.Q. 4th Do.	H.19.a.70.05.		H.Q. 18th Brigade R.F.A.
10th AFA Bty.	J.8.c.47.48.	4.	A/18 Bty. R.F.A.
11th Do.	J.8.a.18.40.	6.	59th Battery R.F.A.
12th Do.	J.8.c.73.93.	5.	94th Battery R.F.A.
104th Do.	J.8.c.46.74.	2.	D/18 Battery R.F.A.
13th Do.	J.2.a.83.64.	5.	A/113 Battery R.F.A.
14th Do.	J.8.b.6.8.	5.*	B/113 Battery R.F.A.
15th Do.	J.8.b.60.98	6.*	C/113 Battery R.F.A.
105th Do.	J.8.b.45.88	6.	D/113 Battery R.F.A.
** 2nd Aust. D.A.C.	G.18.c.6.8.		18th & 113th B.A.C's.

* 14th Battery has 1 gun and 15th Battery 2 guns fitted with air recuperators but no tools.

** Relief on 22/11/17.

4. Advanced parties, consisting of 1 Officer and 3 other ranks per battery, will arrive at HELLFIRE CORNER (I.10.d.0.1) at 10 a.m. on 20th inst.. Batteries will send guides and carts to conduct them and kit to Battery Headquarters.

5. All maps, photos, and correspondence regarding the front will be handed over.

6. Personnel of Headquarters and the relieving Batteries will arrive at HELLFIRE CORNER (I.10.d.0.1) at 10 a.m. on 21st inst.. Group H.Q. and Batteries will arrange for guides. Battery personnel relieved will proceed in the lorries conveying relieving personnel.

7. O.P. No 1 (D.23.c.2.1.) and O.P. No 2 (D.29.c.60.73) will be taken over by 113th and 18th Bdes respectively at 2 p.m. on 21st inst. Officers for these duties will report at the H.Q. of 15th AUST. F.A. Battery (J.8.c.2.7.) who will supply guides. Bde. Liaison Officer at 147th Inf. Bde H.Q. (J.1.d.6.1) will be relieved at the same time by an officer of 113th Bde. "B" Group H.Q. will supply the guide.

8. Ammunition at Gun positions will be handed over and receipts forwarded to Staff-Capt., 2nd Aust. D.A., LILLE GATE, (I.14.a.80.15.)

4TH F. A. BRIGADE.

A. I. F.

APPENDIX. XIII

(2)

2nd AUST. D. A. ORDER 73 (Contd)

Date.....

9. All particulars of indents for guns and sights will be handed over to relieving batteries. Each Battery should hand over 6 guns and sights, either in action or indents for the deficiencies. Receipts to be forwarded to Staff-Captain, 2nd Aust. D.A.

10. 2nd Aust. D.A. will march with empty echelons from the wagonlines in accordance with attached march table. This is to be strictly adhered to so as not to block incoming batteries.

11. Incoming batteries will take over the Wagon lines of the batteries they relieve as in para.3.

12. 2nd Aust. D.A.C. will send 1 wagon per Battery to HELLFIRE CORNER by 10 a.m. on 21st to take up and bring back kit.

13. The 18th and 113th Army Bdes R.F.A. will find 1 Officer and 30 O.R. to man TAYLOR DUMP at I.9.b.5.5. They will take over *at noon* on 21st Nov. Personnel at CORDOVA and HORNBY Dumps will be relieved under 2nd ANZAC arrangements.

14. The Staff-Captain will issue orders for the move of the 2nd Aust. Div. Trench Mortars, regarding trench and area stores and billet-ting arrangements.

15. 2nd Aust. D.A.H.Q. will not be relieved.
Commands will pass on completion of reliefs.

16. Completion of reliefs will be reported to D.A.H.Q.
by the Code word "BOGGED"

17. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 8 pm
DISTRIBUTION:-

[Signature]
Major, R.A.,
Brigade-Major,
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV. ARTILLERY.

"B" GROUP	Copies 1 - 9
4th A.F.A.Bde.	10
2nd Aust. D.A.C.	11 - 15
D.T.H.Q.	15
18th Army Bde. R.F.A.	16 - 20
113th do do	21 - 25
2nd Aust. Div.	26
R.A., 1st ANZAC	27
R.A., 2nd ANZAC	28
49th Division	29 - 32
66th Division	33
N.Z. Div. Arty.	34
D.A.D.P.S., 2nd ANZAC	35
R.T.O., POPEERINGHE	36
A.P.M., 2nd ANZAC	37
Area Commandant, STEENWERCK	38
do KEMMEL	39
Staff-Captain,	40
R.O.	41
War Diary	42 - 44
File	45
Spares	46 - 50

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 73

M A R C H T A B L E

-----ooo-----

Date	Time	Unit	From	To	Route	Remarks.
Nov. 21	10 am	4th AUST.F.A. Brigade.	Wagon Lines	STEENWERCKE	KRUISTRAATHOEK X RDC- VIERSTRAAT - KEMMEL - NEUVE EGLISE	Not to arrive before 4 p.m.
Nov. 21	1 pm	5th AUST.F.A. Brigade.	Wagon Lines	KEMMEL	do do	do do do
Nov. 22	10 a.m.	2nd AUST.Div. Amm. Colmn.	Wagon Lines	LA CRECHE	OUERDON - ZEVEGOTEN- LOCRE - DRANOUTRE.	do do do

NOTE: 200 yards will be maintained between Batteries and Sections of the D.A.C.

Baggage wagons will march in rear of their Brigades under an Officer.

APPENDIX.

XIII

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
			From.....	At.....m.	
Charges to collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions.			By.....		

Handed in at..... Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO 4th F.A. Bde

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
SC 891	20		

Ref. adm. instruction issued under order 73 para 6 AAA INCO and IOR per battery and Bde Hqs will report to Lieut Jackson at ~~CHURCH~~ CHURCH in STEENWERCK at 9am tomorrow morning AAA Lieut Jackson horse and mounted orderly will be sent to same place at same time AAA ack'ge

FROM 2 Aus Div Ctry
PLACE & TIME in line

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message..... (In books of 100.)

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
			From <u>AGS</u>	At <u>4th F.A. BRIGADE</u>	
Charges to collect			By.....	At.....m.	
Service Instructions.			By.....	To.....	

Handed in at..... Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO 4th F.A. Bde

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
BM 70	20		

Ref. order 73 march table destination of all units STEENWERCK area AAA 5th Aust F.A. Bde will start at 11 am AAA acknowledge

FROM 2 Aus Div Ctry
PLACE & TIME

APPENDIX. XIV

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

4TH F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Headquarters,
(Issued under Order No 73) 19th November, 1917.

-----oOo-----

1. The 2nd Aust. Div. Arty. is being relieved by the 18th and 113th Army Brigades R.F.A. on 21st November in accordance with orders already issued.
2. All trench shelters and area stores will be handed over to relieving batteries. Each Brigade and D.A.C. will forward to 2nd D.A.H.Q. showing by Batteries and Sections of D.A.C. particulars of all area stores handed over. Receipts will be obtained and retained for all stores. All carriers, canvas, ammunition, 18-pdr and 4.5" How. in excess of 60 per 18-pdr Battery and 72 per 4.5" How. Bty. will be handed over to relieving Batteries.
3. Gumboots will not be handed over but will be retained by Batteries.
4. Batteries and D.A.C. will move with empty echelons. All ammunition at present in echelons will be returned to CORDOVA and HORNBY DUMPS or may be handed over to relieving Batteries, by mutual arrangement between Batteries concerned.
5. Supply arrangements will be notified later.
6. 4th A.F.A.Bde. will be billeted in the vicinity of STEINERCKE.
- 5th A.F.A.Bde. in the vicinity of KEMMEL and 2nd D.A.C. in vicinity of LA CRECHE. An Officer from each Brigade will be shown Wagon lines for respective units on 20th instant. Each B.H.Q., Battery and Section, D.A.C. will immediately detail 1 B.C.O. and 1 O.R. to be in readiness to proceed in advance of their unit as guides.
7. 2nd D.A.C. will detail 3 C.S. Wagons per Battery and 1 per B.H.Q. to report to Wagon Lines of B.H.Q. and Batteries by afternoon of 20th instant for conveyance of baggage and extra winter equipment. These wagons will return to D.A.C. on completion of move.
8. Personnel of relieving batteries and B.H.Q. will arrive by motor lorry at 10 am on 21st instant. B.H.Q. of 4th and 5th Bdes will proceed in lorries bringing Headquarters of 18th and 113th Brigades to their new area. Battery personnel when relieved will proceed in same lorries bringing personnel of 18th and 113th Bdes. to their new lines. Exact destination of these lorries will be notified later and arrangements made for guides to meet them.
9. 2nd Aust. Div. Trench Mortars will move on 22nd instant by 3 Motor Lorries calling at H.13.a.O.C. at 10 a.m. Exact location of their billets will be notified later to D.T.H.Q. from this office.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued to all recipients
of Order No 73.

R. B. K. H. M. Captain,
Staff-Captain,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

APPENDIX. *XV*

4th A.F.A. Bde.
A.I.F.
No.
Date
SECRET

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Headquarters,
20th November 1917.

ADDENDA TO ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED UNDER ORDER 73.

REFERENCE MAPS- Sheets 28 and 36 1/40,000.

1. 4th and 5th A.F.A. Brigades will be billeted in STEENWERCK and 2nd Aust. D.A.C. and Trench Mortars in locations given below.

2. 4th A.F.A. Brigade will take over wagon lines recently occupied by 46th Brigade R.F.A. Locations of respective lines to be taken over are as follows:-

Sheet 36	4th Bde. H.Q.	.....A.30.c.4.1.
	10th Battery	.....G.6.a.2.9.
	11th "	.....G.10.b.2.3.
	12th "	.....G.3.b.5.5.
	104th "	.....A.30.c.4.2.

3. 5th A.F.A. Brigade will take over wagon lines being vacated tomorrow by 8th Aust. F.A. Brigade. Location of respective wagon lines to be taken over are as follows:-

Sheet 36	5th Bde. H.Q.	.....G.5.a.2.1. or G.3.b.9.4.
	13th Battery	.....A.28.a.3.0.
	14th Battery	.....G.10.a.8.6.
	15th Battery	.....A.28.a.7.8.
	105th Battery	.....G.10.a.9.8.

4. 2nd Australian D.A.C. will take over wagon lines being vacated by 5th Aust. D.A.C. as follows:-

Sheet 28	Headquarters	.....S.30.c.3.7.
	1st Section	.....S.30.a.0.0.
Sheet 36	2nd Section	.....B.21.a.5.3.
	"B" Echelon	.....B.8.a.9.7.

5. 2nd Australian Divisional Trench Mortars will be billeted with 1st Section, 2nd Aust. D.A.C., Location as in para 4.

6. Guides for Batteries and Brigade Headquarters on 21st instant will be at CROSS ROADS at A.16.a.2.6. (Sheet 36)- The same Cross Roads are shown on BHAZEBROUCK 5A" Map at "INN" 200 yards West of the large "E" in FRANCE. 4th A.F.A. Brigade guides will be there from 1 p.m. onwards and 5th A.F.A. Brigade guides from 4.30 p.m. onwards.

R. C. Shaw
Captain
Staff Captain,
2nd Australian Divisional Artillery.

DISTRIBUTION- To all recipients of 2nd Aust. D.A. Order 73.

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SECRET

APPENDIX. XVI
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

31
Copy No. 10

ORDER No 74.
-----oOo-----

4TH F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

No.....
Date.....

Headquarters,
20th November, 1917.

1. On the night of 21st/22nd Nov. the 147th Inf. Bde. (49th Div) will take over the front at present held by the 66th Division, from the present Northern Boundary of the 49th Div. to D.17.d.3.0.
2. Nov. 22nd. LEFT BDE.H.Q. MOULIN FARM,
" 23rd BRIGADE H.Q. D.26.c.1.3.
3. At 6 pm on 21st Nov., the 104th Army Bde. R.F.A. will come under the orders of the C.R.A., 2nd Aust. Division, and cover 49th Div. from the present Northern Boundary to D.17.d.3.0.
4. The S.O.S. Line will remain as at present.
5. On the 23rd November, at an hour to be notified later, the 104th and 113th Army Brigades R.F.A. will come under the orders of the C.R.A., New Zealand Division and cover that Division; the C.R.A., 66th Division will take over command of the 104th Army Bde.R.F.A.
6. The Boundaries of the New Zealand Division are:-
On the South - the REUTELBEEK
On the North - E & W Grid Lines through J.6. Central.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 4.45pm.
Normal Distribution, also
18th Army F.A.Bde,
113th do do
104th do do

[Signature]
Major, F.
Brigade-major,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

APPENDIX. XVII

4th F. A. BRIGADE,
A. I. F.

MOVEMENT

ORDER

No. 1.

Headquarters,
4th. A.F.A. Brigade.
20th. Nov. 1917.

1. Reference 2nd. Aust. Div. Arty. Order No. 73. with subsequent Administration Instructions issued to Batteries.
The 2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery will be relieved by the 18th. and 113th. Army Brigades R.F.A. on the 21st. November.
4th. A.F.A. Brigade will move to STEENWERCKE on 21st. instant.
2. All Trench Shelters and Area Stores will be handed over to relieving Batteries. Batteries will obtain receipts in triplicate for all Area Stores handed over. All Carriers Canvas Ammunition 18-pdr. and 4.5" How. in excess of 60 per 18-pdr Battery and 72 per 4.5" How. Battery will be handed over to relieving Batteries.
3. Gum Boots will not be handed over but will be retained by Batteries.
4. Batteries will move with empty Echelons. All ammunition at present in Echelons will returned to CORDOVA and HORNEY DUMPS or may be handed over to relieving Batteries by mutual arrangement between Batteries concerned.
5. Supply arrangements will be notified later.
6. 4th. A.F.A. Brigade will be billeted in the vicinity of STEENWERCKE. Each Battery will immediately detail one N.C.O. and one O.R. to be in readiness to proceed in advance of their unit as guides.
7. D.A.C. has been instructed to detail 3 G.S. Wagons per Battery to report to Battery Wagon Lines on afternoon of 20th. instant for conveyance of baggage and extra winter equipment. These wagons will return to D.A.C. on completion of move.
8. One Forage and one Baggage Wagon will report from 20th. Coy. A.S.C.
9. The following will be the order of march:-

104th. Battery
10th. "
11th. "
12th. "
4th. A.F.A. B.H.Q.

The column will be in charge of Capt. JUATELIUS, 104th. Battery.
10. Personnel of relieving Batteries and B.H.Q. will arrive by motor Lorry at 10.a.m. on 21st instant. B.H.Q. of 4th. ~~and 5th.~~ Brigade will proceed in Lorry bringing H.Q. of 18th Brigade to their new Area. Battery personnel when relieved will proceed in same lorries bringing personnel of 18th Brigade to their new lines. Exact destination of these lorries will be notified later and arrangements made for guides to meet them.
 1. Starting point will be KRUISSTRAATHOEK Cross Roads (H.30.d.3.1.) (Sheet 28 N.W.)
 2. Time to leave starting Point 10.a.m.

Stanley Smith
Lieut.
A/Adjt.
4th. A.F.A. Brigade.

APPENDIX XVII

MOVEMENT ORDER No. 1.

MARCH TABLE.

Date	Time	Unit	Route	Remarks.
Nov. 21	10a.m.	4th. AUST. F.A. BDE.	KRUISTRAATHOEK X RDS VIERSTRAAT - KEMMEL NEUVE EGLISE <i>To STEENWERCKE</i>	Not to arrive before 4.p.m.

NOTE 200 yards will maintained between Batteries.
Baggage wagons will march in rear of Brigade, under an officer.

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APPENDIX. XVIII

SECRET.

HEADQUARTERS?

4th. A.F.A. Brigade,

20th. Nov. 1917.

REFERENCE MAPS - sheets 28 and 36 1/40,000.

Reference Movement Order No. 1.

1. The 4th. A.F.A. Brigade will take over Wagon Lines recently occupied by 46th. Brigade R.F.A. Locations of respective Lines to be taken over are as follows:-

Sheet 36. 4th. Bde. H.Q.	...	A.30.c.4.1.
10th. Battery	...	G.6.a.2.9.
11th. "	...	G.10.b.2.3.
12th. "	...	G.3.b.5.5.
104th. "	...	A.30.c.4.2.

2. Guides for Batteries and Brigade Headquarters on 21st instant will be at Cross Roads at A.16.a.8.6. (Sheet 36) - The same Cross Roads are shown on HAZEBROUCK 5A" Map at "INN 200 yards west of the large "E" in France. 4th. A.F.A. Brigade guides will be there from 1.p.m. onwards and 5th. A.F.A. Brigade guides from 4.30.p.m. onwards.

Stanley Smith Lieut.
Adj.
4th. A.F.A. Brigade.

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SECRETAPPENDIX. XIX XVII

AMENDMENT No 1 to

COPY No 11

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

ORDER No 74

-----000-----

Headquarters,
21st November, 1917.

4TH F. A. BRIGADE.

A. I. F.

No.....

Date.....

CANCEL PARA 5 and SUBSTITUTE:-

1. On the 23rd November at 10 a.m., the 49th Division will take over one Brigade (198th Inf. Bde: H.Q. RAILWAY DUGOUTS, D.26.c.1.5.) from 66th Division and hold the front J.5.b.2.3 to TIBER (D.12.d.0.6.)

2. At the same time and date, the C.R.A., 66th Division, (H.Q. (RAMPARTS, I.14.b.1.6.)) will assume command of the Artillery covering the 49th Division, i.e.- 18th Army Brigade R.F.A.,

113th " " "

104th " " "

66th Div. Artillery.

and the Headquarters, 2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY. will withdraw from action and rejoin 1st ANZAC.

3. Headquarters, 2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY. will close at LILLE GATE at 10 a.m. and reopen at BAILLEUL at 12 midday.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9 p.m.
DISTRIBUTION:-

"E" Group,	Copies 1 - 9,
18th Army Bde. R.F.A.	10
4th Aust. F.A. Bde.	11
5th A.F.A. Bde	12
2nd Aust. D.A.C.	13
2nd Aust. D.T.M.O.	14
2nd Aust. Div.	15
49th Div.	16- 19
1st ANZAC R.A.	20
2nd ANZAC R.A.	21
N.Z. Div. Arty.	22
66th Div. Arty	23
2nd Aust. Div. Art. Sigs.	24
S-C.	25
War Diary	26- 28
File	29
Spares	30- 35

[Signature]
Major, R.A.
Brigade-Major,
2nd AUST. DIV. ARTY.

APPENDIX

XX

4TH F. A. BRIGADE

A. I. F.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

SECRET

LOCATION STATEMENT No 3

Location of Units at 6 p.m., 21st November, 1917.

UNIT	CODE NAME.	LOCATION	WAGON LINES
2nd AUST. DIV. ART. MOTH		LILLE GATE (I.14.a.80.15.)	
13th Bde. R.F.A.H.Q. ZOO			H.19.a.70.05
A/18 Battery	SNAKE	28/J.8.c.47.48.	H.24.a.4.1.
59th Battery,	FOAL	28/J.8.a.18.40.	H.24.a.4.1.
94th Battery,	PIG	28/J.8.c.75.93.	H.23.b.1.8.
D/18 How. Bty.	PUSS	28/J.8.c.46.74	H.24.a.4.1.
113th Bde. R.F.A.		I.17.c.4.8.	
Headquarters	AFFLUENT (HALFWAY HOUSE)		G.29.a.5.9.
A/113th Battery,	A/AFFLUENT	28/J.2.a.83.64.	H.18.b.5.1.
/113th Battery	B/AFFLUENT	28/J.8.b.6.8.	H.16.d.2.3.
/113th Battery	C/AFFLUENT	28/J.8.b.60.98.	H.18.d.5.7.
/113th Battery	D/AFFLUENT	28/J.8.b.45.88.	H.18.d.5.7.
9th & 113th B.A.C's			G.18.c.6.8.
"D" GROUP			
104th Army Bde	COIN	28/I.6.b.90.00	H.29.d.5.3.
R.F.A. H.Q.			
A/104 Battery,	BOOK	28/J.3.c.55.75.	H.28.b.
/104 Battery	CHAMPION	28/J.3.c.10.50	H.28.b.
D/104 Battery,	DESIRE	28/J.3.c.10.60.	H.28.b.
D/104 Battery.	CLAN	28/J.3.c.50.50.	H.28.b.
4th AUST. F.A. Bde			
Headquarters	MART		36/A.30.c.4.1.
10th Battery.	ENGINE		36/G.6.a.2.9.
11th Battery,	HAZEL		36/G.10.c.2.3.
12th Battery,	HOUSE		36/G.3.b.5.5.
104th How. Bty.	EXPERT		36/A.30.c.4.2.
5th AUST. F.A. Bde			
Headquarters.	MASK		36/G.5.a.2.1.
13th Battery,	EGG		36/A.28.a.3.0.
14th Battery,	HARROW		36/G.10.a.8.6.
15th Battery,	ENVY		36/A.28.a.7.8.
105th How. Bty.	HEAD		36/G.10.a.9.8.
2nd AUST. D.A.C.			
Headquarters	MIRE		28/G.18.c.6.6.
2nd Aust. D.T.M.O.		28/H.13.a.0.6.	
LOOKOUT STATION		28/J.1.d.60.10.	
O.P.(1)		28/D.23.c.2.1.	
O.P.(2)		28/D.29.c.60.73.	

2nd Aust. D.A.H.Q.,
21st November, 1917.

H.Q.
4TH AUSTRALIAN
F. A. BRIGADE.

APPENDIX. XXI

BRIGADE ROUTINE ORDERS.

No.

Date

No. 115.

By
Major F. HARTILL, D.S.O.
Headquarters,
4th. A.F.A. Brigade

24th Nov. 1917.

APPOINTMENT.

1.

Lieut. J.S. SMITH is appointed Adjutant 4th. A.F.A.
Brigade vice Capt. D.A. KOWLER evacuated 15.10.17.
(Authority A.I.F. list 259 of 16.11.17.)

SECONDED.

2.

The under-mentioned officers evacuated wounded have been
placed on the Regimental Secoded List.-

Capt. H.S. LYNN 30.10.17.

Lieut. H.J. DRISCOLL 30.10.17.

(Authority A.I.F. list 258 of 13.11.17.)

RELINQUISHMENT.

3.

Capt. (T/major) H.J.F. COE relinquished the temporary
rank of MAJOR on being evacuated wounded 9.11.17.
(Authority A.I.F. list 259 of 16.11.17.)

PRECAUTIONS
AGAINST FIRE

4.

Special attention is called to "Precautions Against Fire"
(Extract from G.R.O. 2717) which reads.-

"1. Fires, stoves, braziers, naked lights and smoking
are forbidden in any room or barn which contains hay
straw or other inflammable material.

2. Where stoves and braziers are allowed in billets
or huts, they must be placed on sheet iron or an earth
or brick floor and definite precautions must be taken
to prevent ashes or bits of burning coal from falling
out of the stove or brazier.

3. No open lighted brazier or naked light is to be
left unattended in any hut or billet.

4. Cookhouses, Field Cookers, Forges and Incinerators
will not be placed against the walls of any buildings
or in the vicinity of ricks or stacks of inflammable
material. Their precise position will be fixed by
an Officer.

5. Tent lanterns when available, will always be used
in billets, huts or tents, when these are not available
and candles are used, they must be fixed in an empty
tin to protect them on three sides and top and bottom,
and placed as far as possible from any canvas or tarred
material in the billet.

6. Petrol must not be used in any heating or cooking
stove. Petrol, paraffin, oil and candles, must not be
stored near any stove, brazier, fireplace or lamp.

7. Buckets or tins containing water, sand or dry earth
will be kept ready to hand in every billet or hut or
tent for use in case of fire.

8. The greatest care must be used in throwing away
matches or cigarette ends, knocking out pipes or handling
lighted candles. It is the duty of every man to realize
the danger to life and property caused by
carelessness in such matters."

This Order must be read at three successive parades.

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4TH F. A. BRIGADE.
 A. I. F.
 No.
 Date.

APPENDIX **XXI**

B.B.C.
No. 115.
(Contd.)

HONORS
&
AWARDS
5.

Under authority granted by his majesty the King, the Field Marshall Com-in-Chief has awarded the following decoration:-

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

6434 Sgt. W.L. WALLACE 10th. Battery 4th. A.F.A.Bd.

PROMOTIONS
6.

The following promotions in 104th. How. Battery are approved to date from as shown:-

No. 10137 Cpl. F.G. CORNISH to be Sergt. from 1.11.17.
 vice No. 8965 Sgt. Har ~~older~~ G.W. Killed in Action. 1.11.17
 No. 8930 Cpl J. LANGWELL to be Sergt. from 10.11.17
 vice No. 2095 Sgt. H.M. SHALE wounded 10.8.17.
 No. 7547 Cpl.G. BURLING to be Temp/Sergt. from 15.9.17.
 vice No. 8891 Sgt. H. HICKS wounded 15.9.17.
 No. 8777 Bdr. T. CARPENTER to be Temp/Cpl. from 19.9.17.
 vice No 40 Cpl. P.E. DAVIS wounded 19.9.17.
 No 802 Bdr. R.B. BAILEY to be Cpl. from 1.11.17. vice
 No. 9348 Cpl. P.F. BRAGUE, died or wounded.
 No. 10261 A/Bdr. W.J. JENKINS to be Bdr. vice No ~~8832~~
 9560 Bdr. S.V. HARRIS evacuated 23.8.17.
 No. 8749 A/Bdr. C.J. BYRNE to be Bdr. vice No. 8832
 Bdr. O. EDWARDS deceased.
 No 8940 A/Bdr. H.F. LYON to be Bdr. from 6.7.17. vice
 No. 8756 Bdr. E.A. BENNETT evacuated 6.7.17.
 No. 23594 A/Bdr. H. WOXON to be Temp/Bdr. from 29.10.17
 vice No. 8981 Bdr. H.I. NICOLLS, EVACUATED ~~from~~ 29.10.17.
 No 11611 Gnr. W.O. CONNOR to be A/Bdr. from 1.11.17
 vice 21037 Bdr. M. WASH evacuated 1.11.17.
 No. 9100 Dvr. H. WALKER to be A/Bdr. to complete
 establishment. from 24.11.17.
 No. 8731 Dvr. A.E. ANDERSON to be A/Bdr to complete
 establishment. from 24.11.17.
 No. 17231 Dvr. F.J. ROBERTS to be A/Bdr. to complete
 establishment. from 24.11.17.

CHURCH SERVICE A voluntary Church ~~Service~~ Service will be held at the
(Protestant) School Room at 12th. Battery Wagon Lines at 5.30.p.m.
on 25th. instant.

ORDERS
8.

Attention is called to following 2nd. Army Routine Orders:-

No. 1335	Lights.
1339	Inspection of animals before transfer.

J. Stanley Smith Lt. t.
 Adj. t.
 4th. A.F.A. Brigade.

Not to be taken into the trenches.

SECOND ARMY
SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

16th to 30th November, 1917.

1. Operations.

During the period under review no attack on a large scale was undertaken by either side, action being limited to minor operations and raids.

By the British, six minor operations were carried out, chiefly north of Passchendaele. In this area on the nights 16th/17th, 18th/19th and 21st/22nd and on the 26th November slight advances with the object of improving our positions were made. South-West of Gheluvelt we advanced our line 150 yards unopposed during the night 22nd/23rd November, but on November 25th we were unsuccessful, in the same area, in an attempt to capture Berry Cotts (28 J 27 a). During the night 30th Nov./1st Dec. two very successful raids were carried out by the Australians near the Warneton Railway, many casualties being inflicted on the enemy and prisoners taken.

The results of the above minor operations are as under :—

Successful	...	...	7	
Unsuccessful	...	...	1	Total = 8

By the Germans, frequent raids were undertaken, chiefly against the southern portion of the Army front, between the Ypres—Comines Canal and the River Lys. For the most part the enemy's object—to obtain identifications—was frustrated. On eight occasions we obtained identifications as the result of his attempts. On three occasions, however, he was successful in capturing prisoners.

On November 30th, at 6.50 a.m., the 1st Battalion of the 237th R.I.R. (199th Div.) attacked our positions North of Passchendaele from the direction of Venison trench. The attack was easily repulsed. It is interesting to note that this attack was determined on about November 22nd, the 1st Battalion being withdrawn from the line to Roulers for a few days' rest prior to carrying it out. This information was obtained from a document found on the dead body of a man belonging to this regiment, killed on the 28th/29th inst. The objective of the attack is not certain, but statements made by prisoners indicate that the enemy intended to regain their former outpost line.

The results of the above minor operations are as under :—

Successful	...	...	3	
Unsuccessful	...	...	13	Total = 16

A map (issued on a limited scale) is attached, showing the date, position and result of all operations, both our own and the enemy's, for the period 16th to 30th November, 1917.

2.—Prisoners.

The number of prisoners passing through Corps Cages and C.C.S. during the period from November 15th to 30th is 115 O.R.

3. Distribution of the Enemy's Forces.

During the past fortnight, the following divisions have been identified, viz. :—

Sector.	In line on Nov. 16th.	Divisions subsequently appearing.	Last Identification.
MERCKEM	185 Div. (Nov. 17th)	8 Bav. Res. Div.	November 25th Document
HOUTHULST FOREST	35 Div. (Nov. 17th-18th)	58 Div. (Nov. 28th-29th)	November 30th Document
STADEN	41 Div. (Nov. 16th-17th)	38 Div. (Nov. 23rd-24th)	November 30th Prisoner
S.E. of HOUTHULST FOREST	3 Nav. Div. (Nov. 17th-18th)	239 Div. (Nov. 23rd-24th)	November 30th Prisoner
WESTROOSEBEKE	4 Div. (Nov. 23rd)	199 Div. (Nov. 30th) (Reinforcing elements)	November 30th Prisoner
PASSCHENDAELE	25 Div. (Nov. 19th-20th)	44 Res. Div. (Nov. 26th)	November 29th Prisoner
MOORSLEDE	11 Res. Div. (Nov. 16th)	12 Res. Div. (Nov. 22nd)	November 30th Document
N.E. of POLYGON WOOD	3 Gd. Div. (Nov. 16th-17th)	36 Res. Div. (Nov. 23rd-24th)	November 30th Prisoner
BECELAERE	7th Div. (Nov. 16th)	17 Res. Div. (Nov. 22nd-23rd)	November 30th Man killed, 7th Div.
MENIN ROAD	49 Res. Div. (Nov. 21st-22nd)	18 Res. Div.	November 30th Man killed
ZANDVOORDE	1 Bav. Res. Div.		November 30th Document
HOUTHEN	8 Div		November 29th Prisoner
WARNETON	32 Div.		November 30th Prisoners
DEULEMONT	5 Bav. Div.		November 29th Equipment

Note.—The date in brackets indicates when a division was relieved. During the period under review, the enemy's distributions present practically no new features. On the battle front, the short relief system has generally continued in force, except in the Merckem and Houthulst Forest West sectors, where the 8th Bav. Res. Div. and 58th Div. have been in line for 12 days. The enemy has, however, evidently departed from the exact six day reliefs in most sectors and is making both inter-battalion and divisional reliefs more irregular and at rather longer intervals, apparently 9 days. It is probable that our being able to accurately reckon the days of reliefs caused him very considerable losses.

The 58th, 35th and 36th Res. Divs. also furnish the first instances of a division doing four tours in line.

4.—Movements of Divisions.

Four fresh divisions have been brought into line, viz.:—38th Div., 204th Div., 12th Res. Div., 16th Div. Elements of the 24th Res. Div. also appeared in the Westroosebeke Sector.

Three divisions have been withdrawn to rest, viz., 3rd Naval Div., 4th Div. and 39th Div.

Five divisions have left Flanders, viz.:—3rd Gd. Div., 119th Div., 49th Res. Div., 185th Div. and 220th Div. for the Cambrai battle area. These are all fairly fresh divisions.

Two divisions have been transferred to other parts of western front, viz.:—5th Bav. Res. Div. to the Oppy sector and the 27th Div. to Alsace.

Two divisions have been transferred to Russia, viz.:—40th Div. and 10th Ersatz Div.

5. Possible Alterations in Divisional Sectors.

There is no change in the number of divisional boundaries opposite the Army front. It is anticipated, however, that a re-organization of the line will take place with a view to eliminating certain divisional sectors and reducing the number of divisions in the front line.

The most likely parts of the line for this re-adjustment are the Houthulst Forest and between Moorslede and the Menin road.

6. Reserves.

To each divisional sector on the battle front there is still, so far as is known, one division in close support, carrying out the usual system of short spells in line. These are:—

Houthulst Forest, W.	...	...	...	58th Div.
" " E.	...	...	...	? Div.
S.E. of Houthulst Forest	...	...	...	24th Res. Div.?
Westroosebeke	...	...	...	199th Div.
Passchendaele	...	...	...	44th Res. Div.
Moorslede	...	...	...	11th Res. Div. or 26th Res. Div.?
N.E. of Polygon Wood	...	...	...	16th Div.
Becelaere	...	...	...	17th Res. Div.
Menin Road	...	...	...	? Div.

In addition, the following divisions are known or suspected to be in reserve in Flanders, viz.:—

- (a) Having had at least one month's rest. Considered to be fresh:—
 - 10th Bav. Div.—Withdrawn from Becelaere sector Oct. 25th.
 - 11th Bav. Div. " " Moorslede " Oct. 27th.
 - 15th Div. " " Becelaere " Nov. 15th.
 - 16th Bav. Div. " " Lombartzyde " Nov. 22nd.
- (b) Exhausted, i.e., withdrawn less than one month:—
 - 3rd Naval Div.—Withdrawn from S.E. of Houthulst Forest sector Nov. 18th.
 - 39th Div. " " N.E. of Polygon Wood " Nov. 16-17th.
 - 114th Div. " " Passchendaele " Nov. 7-8th.
 - 4th Div. " " Westroosebeke " Nov. 23rd.

The number of hostile divisions in reserve in Flanders has undergone a marked decrease during the fortnight. Estimated at 23 on Nov. 16th, there are now not more than 17, of which only two (24th Res. Div. and 16th Bav. Div.) are entirely fresh.

The large concentration of the enemy's forces in the Cambrai area, for which he has drawn partly on his reserves in Flanders, makes it probable that divisions will be left much longer in the line, opposite this Army front, than has recently been the case.

His local dispositions will, in consequence, probably show some change. Battalions spending longer in the line, will probably be drawn to rest into billets farther in rear, in accordance with a more normal system of relief. This is borne out by prisoners, who state, for instance, that winter quarters are being prepared in Wervicq and Rumbeke.

7. Losses.

Appear to be considerable, in back areas, from our artillery fire. Reports of prisoners show that troops on their way up to relieve battalions in the front line have frequently been caught by our fire. Machine gun fire has apparently been particularly effective. It would appear that the casualties thus inflicted have caused the enemy to adopt more irregular periods of relief. The divisions which have suffered most heavily during the fortnight are the 3rd Naval Division, in sector S.E. of Houthulst Forest, and the 4th Division and 199th Division in the Westroosebeke sector. An attempted attack on the morning of 30th November, by one battalion of 199th Division, was entirely broken up: it is likely that heavy casualties were inflicted. One bombardment of Polderhoek Chateau area undoubtedly caused a number of casualties, as did a raid carried out by the Australians near the Warneton railway.

8.—Morale.

Generally speaking, the morale of prisoners taken has been good, distinctly higher than was the case two months ago. Confidence in ultimate German success is expressed by all ranks. Complaints of poor feeding appear to have nearly ceased. At the same time, the attitude of the hostile infantry remains passive, and such raids as have been attempted have, in nearly all cases, been easily dealt with.

9. Air Reconnaissance.

The weather has been most unfavourable for flying. On two days no flying at all was possible, and of the remainder there were only five days on which visibility was fair. Although low clouds, mist and rain have interfered considerably with artillery work and air photography, there has been a good deal of fighting in the air.

A total of 121 indecisive combats have been fought, in addition to which, 4 E.A. have been seen to crash, 17 E.A. were driven down out of control, while 10 of our machines are missing.

Trench reconnaissances have been carried out with regularity, especially on the Passchendaele front, and co-operation with counter-batteries has been undertaken on all occasions when weather conditions permitted of observation. Flash reconnaissances were made as opportunity offered, and were frequently carried out whilst waiting for chances of artillery observation or pre-arranged shoots.

Our low-flying machines fired a large number of rounds into the enemy's trenches, and at small parties of infantry and transport seen on roads. About 400 bombs were dropped at various points in the enemy's lines, including large bombs on points of special interest, such as the railway sidings and stations at Courtrai, Menin, Thourout, etc.

As regards photography, 723 plates were exposed, resulting in a good number of prints, mostly of the enemy's front line system. There is still, however, a lack of photographs of the counter-battery and back areas.

Enemy aerial activity has been normal. Low flying E.A. have been frequently reported by our troops over the front line, and have, on several occasions, been successfully dealt with by machine gun fire from the ground. Apart from this, there have been very few attempts at long distance patrols, nor have the enemy's artillery machines been more successful than our own. Such machines as have endeavoured to carry out registration have frequently had their work interrupted by our special patrols.

There has been a certain amount of bomb dropping by night, including bombs on Hazebrouck, Abeele, Proven and the forward areas.

10. Artillery Activity.

Activity has decreased during the fortnight, especially on the northern flank of the Army. The Passchendaele Ridge, however, continues to be shelled regularly and at times very heavily. Towards the latter part of the fortnight, the shelling of our battery areas, especially South and West of Fokker Farm has been less severe. The decrease in the number of positions reported active between the Reutel Beek and Tenbrielen has continued, only 35 positions being reported active during the week ending November 28th as against 115 reported active during the week ending October 31st. H.V. guns have been more active against our back areas in the North.

Owing to adverse weather conditions, very little information has been obtained from the R.F.C. and F.S.C. regarding the movement of hostile batteries, but the reduced activity opposite our left is thought to indicate a reduction in the strength of hostile artillery in that sector. Very few locations have been obtained in the battery area extending roughly 2000 yards North and 1000 yards South of the Ypres—Roulers Railway. The evidence is not yet, however, sufficiently definite to assume a reduction in the strength of the artillery in this sector. Otherwise there is no change in the disposition of the artillery.

11. Enemy Work.

Very little new work has been located during this period. Bad visibility has prevailed practically the whole time; photography was only possible on five days and then under unfavourable conditions.

I.—DEFENCES.

(a) *Forward Area.*—The most important areas of activity have been (i.) North of Frelinghien, particularly about the Laundry (C. 5 c); (ii.) South of Deulemont; (iii.) West of Gheluvelt, air photographs show new trench elements in J. 21 c and J. 27 a; (iv.) North and West of Becelaere; (v.) Zandvoorde Ridge.

With regard to the latter area prisoners recently captured state that duckboard tracks are being laid down to the front line South of the Menin road and that mined dug-outs are being constructed for the troops in support East of the Zandvoorde Ridge in P. 3 b and d. Continual movement of working parties has been reported by ground observers in this sector and air photographs dated 25th November show a marked increase of enemy tracks running West in P. 3 a, 2 b, c, d.

(b) *Back Area. South-West of Roulers.*—Air photographs dated the 28th November show two short lengths of shallow untraversed trench in W. 12, 18 and X. 7, 13. This is undoubtedly the commencement of the projected line (*Artillerie Schutz Stellung*) shown on captured German maps.

Roulers Line.—Photographs dated 28th November show that both front and support lines are still only traced and untraversed.

II.—RAILWAYS.

(a) *North of Oostnieukerke.*—New light railways have been located (i.) from Q. 28 d running in a south-westerly direction to W. 8 c; (ii.) from W. 18 c in a south-westerly direction to W. 23 a.

(b) *South of Dadizeele.*—(i.) Light railway extended from K. 18 d to K. 23 b; a new branch line leaves this in K. 18 c and runs into K. 24 a. (ii.) The branch line from the dump at Artoishoek has been extended in K. 29 d and c.

12. The General Situation.

There has been a marked change in the statements of prisoners captured since the 20th November with regard to the intentions of the enemy. Up to that date, several prisoners stated that it was the general talk in their division that an attack on Passchendaele was contemplated. Information from other sources obtained up to the 15th inst., also pointed to the probability of this. Since the 20th inst., however, prisoners have denied all knowledge of any intended offensive, on their part, either at Passchendaele, or elsewhere. A document found on the body of a German killed North of Passchendaele on the night of the 28th/29th inst., and dated the 23rd Nov., stated that a battalion of the 237 R.I.R. (199th Division) was to carry out "an operation" at some date subsequent to the 25th inst. This "operation" took place on the morning of the 30th inst., and shows that the enemy has not altogether given up an idea of offensive action in that neighbourhood.

It seems quite certain that any advance made by our troops will be resolutely opposed, and that counter-attacks will be made, either immediately or within a short period of time, should our troops succeed in gaining ground to any appreciable extent. The enemy still continues to carry out his tactics of attempting to withdraw his outpost line when attacked, but, according to prisoners, his Main Line of Resistance is to be held at all costs.

The enemy is fully alive to the likelihood of our attacks continuing in the Passchendaele area. An attack by us was expected on the 28th inst., all troops being warned to be on the alert: this information was obtained from a captured German document, and points to the probability that the information was given away by British prisoners of war.

On all other parts of the front no attack by our troops is expected.

From information received on the 30th inst., it appeared at one moment possible that the enemy might be contemplating a withdrawal between Merckem and the East of the Houthulst Forest. Prisoners, however, taken on that day denied all knowledge of this, and it appears more probable that the movement observed in that area indicates a readjustment of Divisions.

With regard to the strength of the German forces opposed to the Second Army, the number of Divisions remains constant, namely, 14 Divisions in line, supported by 10 Divisions. On the other hand, the reserves in Flanders have decreased, owing to at least four Divisions being sent to the Cambrai area. Several Divisions in the forward zone are, however, remaining in line for longer periods than formerly, and this practice is likely to become more general except, perhaps, opposite the Passchendaele salient.

With regard to Artillery, a noticeable decrease of activity has taken place during the last week of the month in the Houthulst Forest Groups, pointing to the reduction in the number of heavy batteries in that area. Unfortunately, bad weather has prevented confirmation of this by air photographs.

High velocity guns, on the other hand, have increased, not only in this area, but also South of the Menin Road.

Since the 20th inst. (the day of the attack by the Third Army at Cambrai), there has been a slight diminution of fire along the whole front, except, perhaps, against the Passchendaele area. This may be accounted for by the supply of ammunition being cut down with a view to greater expenditure in the Cambrai battle front, or to withdrawal of batteries. This cannot be decided, however, until atmospheric conditions enable aeroplane reconnaissances to be carried out.

Hostile raids, of which there have been a large number, were usually carried out under the protection of heavy artillery bombardments.

To sum up, the successes of the Third Army have affected this battle front by compelling the enemy to weaken his reserves in Flanders. It is also probable that he has withdrawn some of his guns. The latter statement, however, requires confirmation.

13. Annexes.

- (a) Situation map showing order of battle (full issue).
- (b) Map showing lines of defence, including new work during the month (issued on limited scale).
- (c) Map showing raids carried out by our troops and those of the enemy (issued on limited scale).

V. VIVIAN, Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Second Army.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ENEMY DISPOSITION MAP.

November 30th, 1917.

Last identification of Division shown in brackets.
One asterisk denotes the Division has been once in line.
Two asterisks denote the Division has been twice in line.
Three asterisks denote the Division has been thrice in line.

DIVISIONS IN LINE.

8th BAV. RES. DIV. Came from Roumania into line on 25th Oct. in Merckem sector.
35th DIV. (Prussian). Came into line on 25th Oct. Previously in St. Quentin area.
41st DIV. (Prussian). Came into line on 11-12th Nov. Previously in Champagne.
204th DIV. (Wurt.). Came into line 23-24th Nov. Previously in line West of Cambrai.
38th DIV. (Prussian). The 38th Div. was in process of relieving 199th Div. on 30th Nov. Relieved in Staden sector on 23-24th Nov.
25th DIV. (Prussian). Came into line on 15th Nov. Previously in reserve in Ghent after being withdrawn from Flanders battle.
12th RES. DIV. (Silesian). Came into line on 17th Nov. Previously in St. Quentin area.
16th DIV. (Prussian). Came into line on 23-24th Nov. Previously in reserve in Bruges area, after being withdrawn from Flanders battle.
7th DIV. (Prussian). Came into line 1st Nov. Previously in line North of Lens.
18th RES. DIV. (Prussian). Came into line on 29th Oct. Previously in line in Quent sector.
1st BAV. RES. DIV. Has been in line since 8th Oct. in Zandvoorde.
8th DIV. (Prussian). Has been in line in Houthulst sector since 9th Oct.
32nd DIV. (Saxon). Has been in Warneton sector since 1st Sept.
5th BAV. DIV. In Deulemont sector since 3-4th Sept.

DIVISIONS IN RESERVE.

(a) Known to be in Close Reserve, Relieving Every 10-12 Days:
199th DIV. Already one tour in line.

Division	Count	Notes
58th	four	
239th	three	
199th	two	
44th RES.	three	
11th	two	The presence of this division is doubtful.
16th	one	
17th RES.	one	

In addition the following are reported in close reserve:
24th RES. DIV. A fresh division transferred from Russia. Appears likely to come into line in Houthulst Forest area.
26th RES. DIV. Resting since 28th Oct. in Flanders. Prisoner stated this division would come into line in Moorslede sector.

(b) Thought to be in Reserve in Flanders:

Division	Location	Date
11th BAV. DIV.	Withdrawn from Moorslede sector	Nov. 4th.
10th	Beelaere	Oct. 26th.
15th	"	Nov. 15th.
38th	"	Nov. 17th.
11th	N.E. of Polygon Wood sector	Nov. 7th.
11th	Passchendaele sector	Nov. 23rd.
11th	S.E. of Houthulst Forest sector	Nov. 18th.

G.S.G.S. 3627. Field Survey Coy R.E. (7860). 2-12-17.

Scale 100,000 or 1 inch to 1.58 Miles

Mile 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles
Kilometre 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 Kilometres
1 Centimetre to 1 Kilometre

STADEN GROUP.

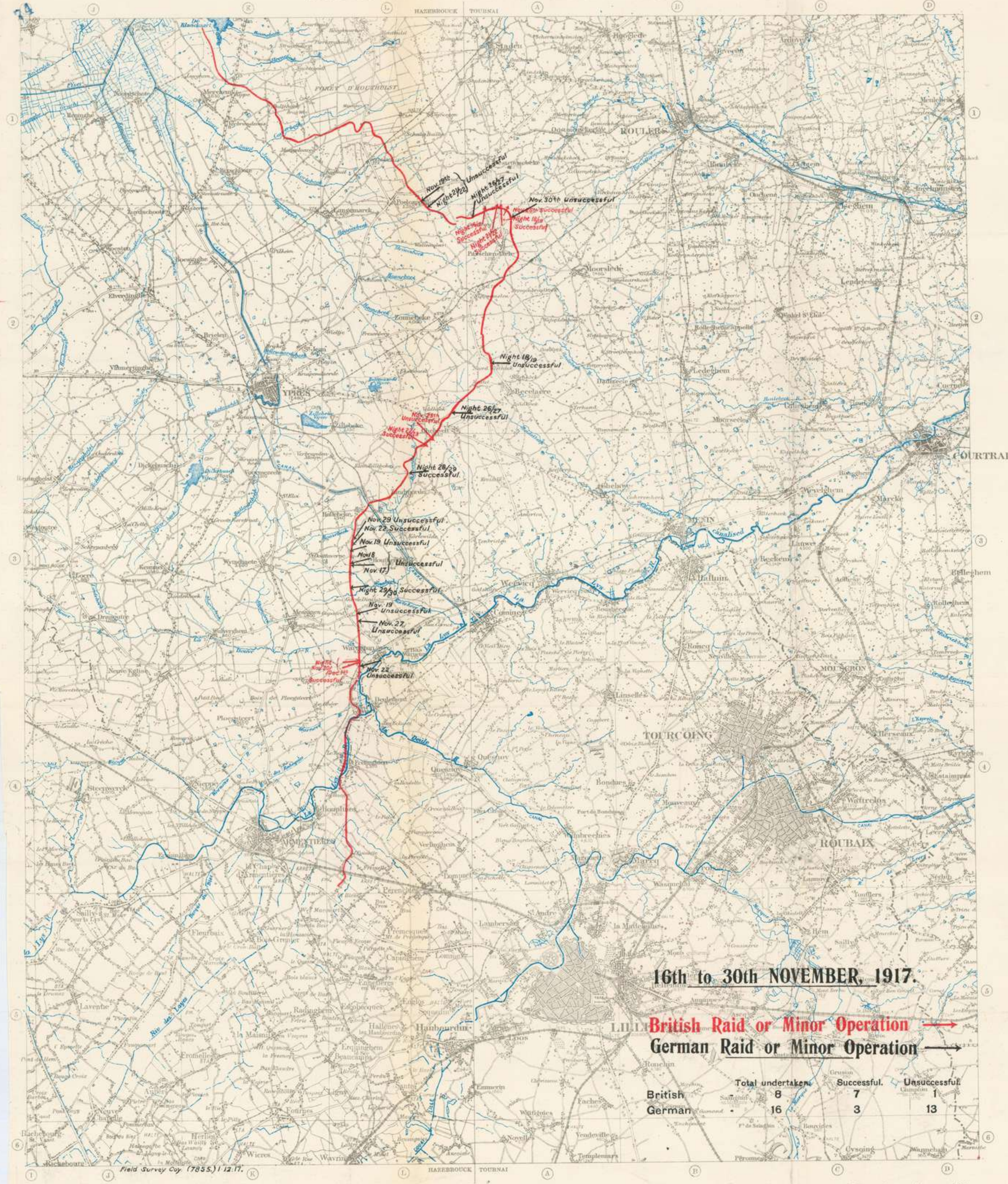
YPRES GROUP.

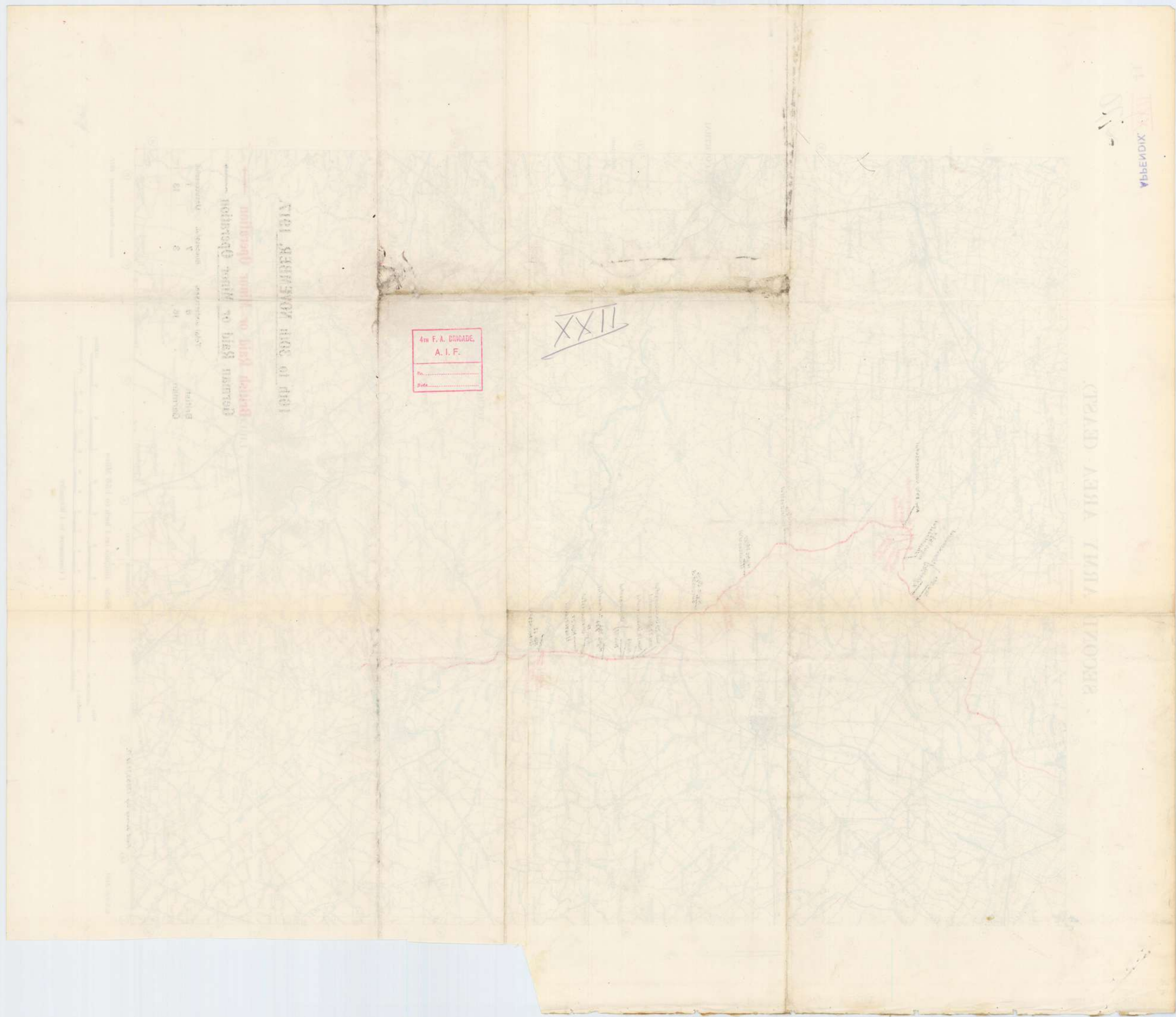
WYTSCHAETE GROUP.

TOURCOING LILLE GROUP.

Ordnance Survey, October, 1917.

SECOND ARMY AREA (EAST).





Distance	Direction	Remarks
10	S	
20	S	
30	S	
40	S	
50	S	
60	S	
70	S	
80	S	
90	S	
100	S	

10th to 30th NOVEMBER 1917

4th F.A. BRIGADE,
A.I.F.
No.
Date

XXII

RECOGNITION MAP

APPENDIX