

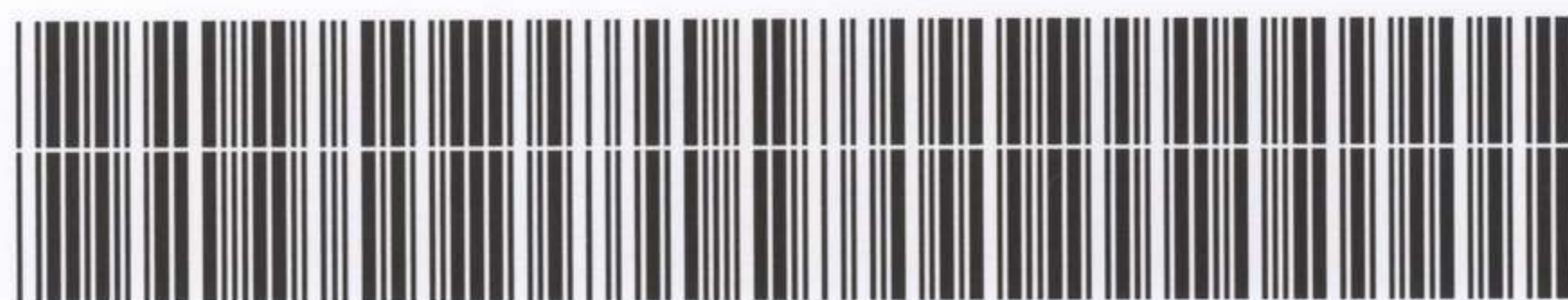
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/29 Part 12

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

July 1918



AWM4-1/50/29PART12

SECRET.

Corps Headquarters,

4th July, 1918.

Maj.-Gen. Sir J.J.TALBOT HOBBS, KCB., VD., ✓
Commanding 5th Australian Division.
Maj.-Gen. E.G.SINCLAIR-MACLAGAN, CB., DSO.,
Commanding 4th Australian Division.

I should like you to take into immediate consideration the question of getting rid of the re-entrant at present existing in our Front Line across the Valley of the SOMME.

The attached Map shows in black our approximate Front Line, while the green line shows, approximately, a desirable method of straightening our front, gaining ground, and disposing of this re-entrant.

I am opposed, at the present juncture, to undertaking any organised operation to achieve this purpose, but I am convinced that it will be comparatively easy to do so by a process of "nibbling" or sneaking ground.- A precedent for such a procedure is furnished by the gradual advances achieved between MARETT WOOD and the village of VILLE sur ANCRE with practically no loss to us.

In view of the disorganised state of the enemy forces South of the SOMME, it is quite probable that the ground in

/Square

- 2 -

Square P.5. could be taken, occupied by standing patrols, and denied to the enemy, without any fighting at all,- provided we act vigorously, and seize the opportunity before the enemy can re-establish himself in this vicinity.

If the spur in P.11 and P.5 thus comes under our control, it should not be a difficult matter, by a process of offensive patrolling by night or in the early dawn, to gradually force the enemy out of any trenches or shell-hole defences which he may be occupying in Squares K.35.d. and K.36.- The use of converging machine gun fire, from the South of the SOMME as well as from the direction of SAILLY LE SEC, and also the use of light trench mortars, should succeed in rooting out any machine gun positions which he may have established in this neighbourhood.- This process, so far as concerns the ground North of the SOMME, could be a gradual one and spread over a series of successive nights.

In the present definitely known very weak condition of the enemy division now astride of the SOMME Valley, it is quite safe to speculate upon the probability that it is impossible for him to undertake anything like a determined attack down the valley in the early future. - Consequently, there would seem to be very little risk in slightly weakening those battalions which are holding our ground astride of the SOMME, in order to provide the necessary patrols and small offensive parties, which would be requisite to

/carry

- 3 -

carry out these operations on the lines indicated.

At, or near the new inter-divisional boundary, it will be necessary for the "B" and the "C" Divisions to confer and work in collaboration.

John Monash

Lieut.-General,
Commanding Australian Corps.

To Antwerp
Post Corps
HEADQUARTERS,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS
No.
Date

SECRET

233

APPENDIX. 134

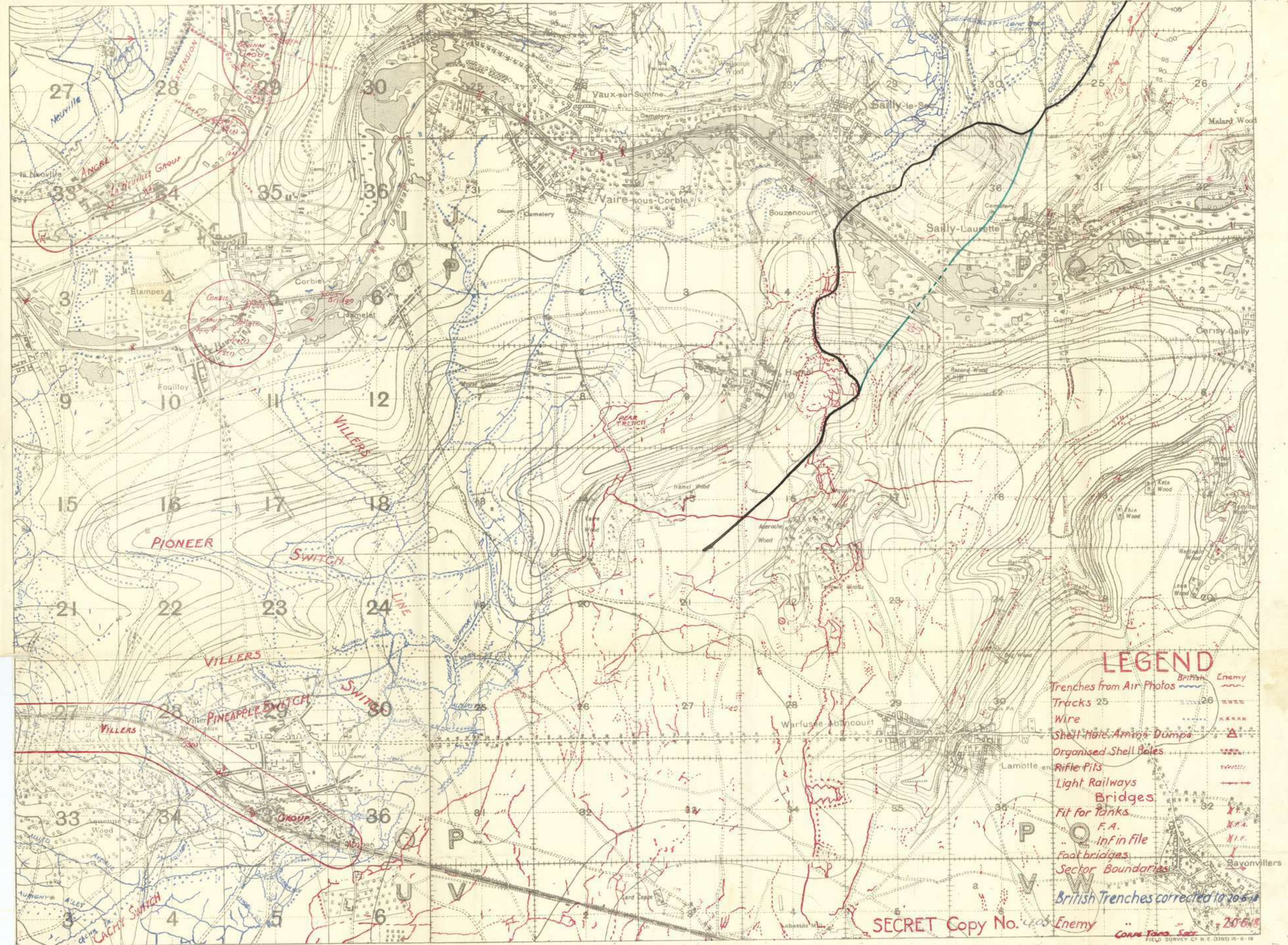
233
1:20,000

LA NEUVILLE 233

Parts of 62°N.W., 62°N.E., 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

EDITION I.

134



LEGEND

- Trenches from Air Photos — British — Enemy
- Tracks 25 — 26
- Wire - - - - XXXXX
- Shell Holes, Ammo Dumps ▲
- Organised Shell Holes ●
- Rifle Pits x
- Light Railways —
- Bridges —
- Fit for Tanks X
- F.A. X
- Inf in file X
- Foot bridges —
- Sector Boundaries —
- British Trenches corrected to 2064
- Enemy — —

SECRET Copy No. 405

Scale: 1:20,000



233
134

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
July 12 30
7/7/18
S. S. S. S.

SECRET.

Copy No. 8

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 132.

Headquarters,
7th July, 1918.

1. At Zero hour tonight (7/8th July) the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde., in cooperation with the 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left, will endeavour to push forward its front to approximately a straight line between P.11.A.3.0. to J.30.D.1.4. The 14th A.I. Bde. is extending this line to J.30.D.5.0.
2. South of the SOMME the operation will take the form of an advance without Artillery support covered by patrols, commencing at 10.30.p.m. 7th July.
North of the SOMME an Artillery lifting barrage is to be used as follows :-

Zero to plus 3 minutes	On present S.O.S. line plus 50 yards.	} Rate of fire. three rounds per gun per minute.
Zero plus 3 minutes	Lift 100 yards.	
Zero plus 4 minutes to) Zero plus 14 minutes)	Lifts of 50 yards per minute.	
Zero plus 14 minutes to) Zero plus 45 minutes.)	At final barrage line.	
3. Further Artillery cooperation is being arranged which will take the form of a barrage along the whole Divisional front, and on portions of the fronts of Flank Divisions, and of counter-battery work. The barrages along the front will be arranged in accordance with the wishes of Brigade Commanders concerned.
4. G.O.C. 12th A.I. Bde. will arrange the details of the advance, and for cooperation with flank brigades.
5. A contact aeroplane will fly at 4.30.a.m., and will call for red flares by sounding a succession of "A's" on the Klaxon horn.
6. Zero hour for the operation North of the SOMME will be 12.15.a.m., 8th July.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE. *MS*

Blavavack

Lieut.-Colonel,
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.I.

P.T.O.

Handwritten notes:
1/11/18
1/11/18
1/11/18

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy No. 1 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 2 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 3 13th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 4 4th Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 5 - 6 AUST. Corps.
- 7 2nd Aust. Division.
- 8 5th Aust. Division.
- 9 4th Aust. Div. Arty.
- 10 C.R.E.
- 11 4th Aust. M.G. Bn.
- 12 4th Aust. Div. Signal Coy.
- 13 A.D.M.S.
- 14 A.P.L.
- 15 A.Q.
- 16 3rd Aust. Division.

Handwritten mark: 7/11

Faint printed text:
The Australian War Memorial
153 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, N.S.W.

PTO

S E C R E T.

G 14. 134.64

Copy No. 6.

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 153.R of Map.
Sheet 62.D. N.E. 1/20,000.Headquarters,
7th July, 1918.

1. On the night 7th/8th July 1918. in conjunction with 4th Australian Division who are operating on the right, the 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade will advance their line from present line to J.36.b.1.3. to J.30 .d.50.00. (attached map shows objectives).
2. The operation will be carried out with 3 platoons of the 54th Battalion in 2 phases as follows:-
 - (a). At 10.50.p.m. 2 platoons will push out and scupper enemy posts at J.36.b.40.80. J.36.b.40.90. and consolidate posts on line J.36.b.30.40. - J.50.d.50.00.
 - (b). At 12.15.a.m. 1 platoon with objective a line J.36.b.1.3. - J.36.b.20.40. will advance in conjunction with 46th Battalion under cover of Artillery B arrage (map attached). On objective being reached platoon posts will be dug and consolidated joining up with (a) on the left and 46th Battalion on right.
3. Medical and administrative arrangements will be arranged by C.O., 54th Battalion.
4. An officer will be sent to 12th A.I. Brigade Headquarters (J.19.c.80.60) to synchronise watches at 9.p.m.
5. Reports will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters with greatest speed.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE. (by wire)

F. Merkel
 Captain,
 A/Brigade Major,
 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade

Issued through Signals atp.m. to:-

	<u>Copy No.</u>
53rd Battalion.	1.
54th Battalion.	2.
55th Battalion.	3.
56th Battalion.	4.
14th L.T.M. B.	5.
Copies to:-	
5th Aust. Division.	6.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.	7.
15th Aust. Inf. Brigade.	8.
14th M. G. Coy.	9.
25th M. G. Coy.	10.
Right Group Artillery.	11.
8th Field Coy. A.E.	12.
"Z" special Coy. R.E.	13.
G.O.C.	14.
Staff Captain.	15.
War Diary.	16- 18.
File.	19.
No 3 Sig Sec	20

File
11
3
D/O *Pen*

S E C R E T.

Headquarters,
5th Australian Division.

Herewith Maps showing objectives and artillery
programme to accompany this Brigade Order No.153. of even date.

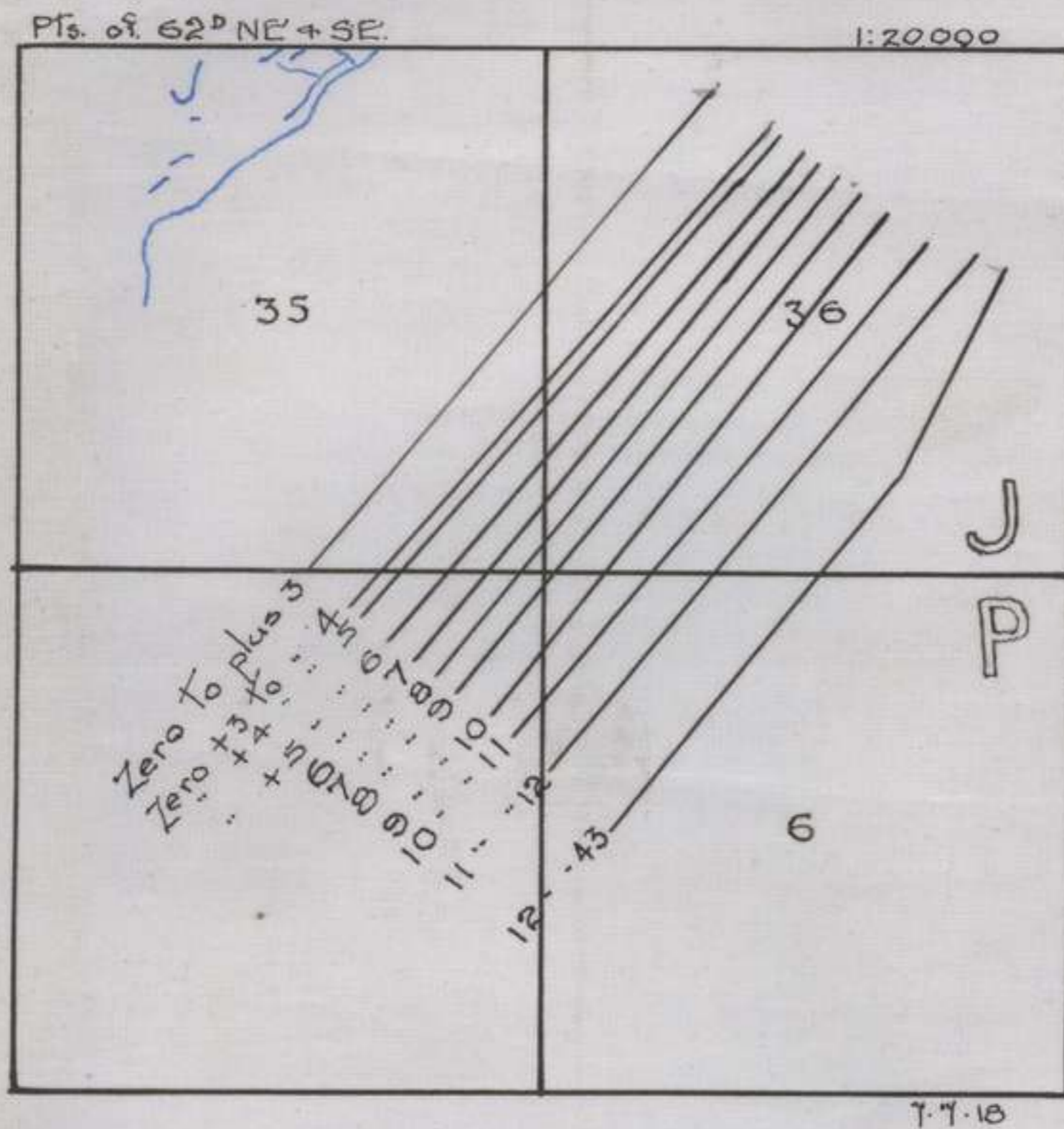
14th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION
No. 914/2477
Date.

7/7/18.

Emergency Copy

W Brig.-General,
Commanding 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

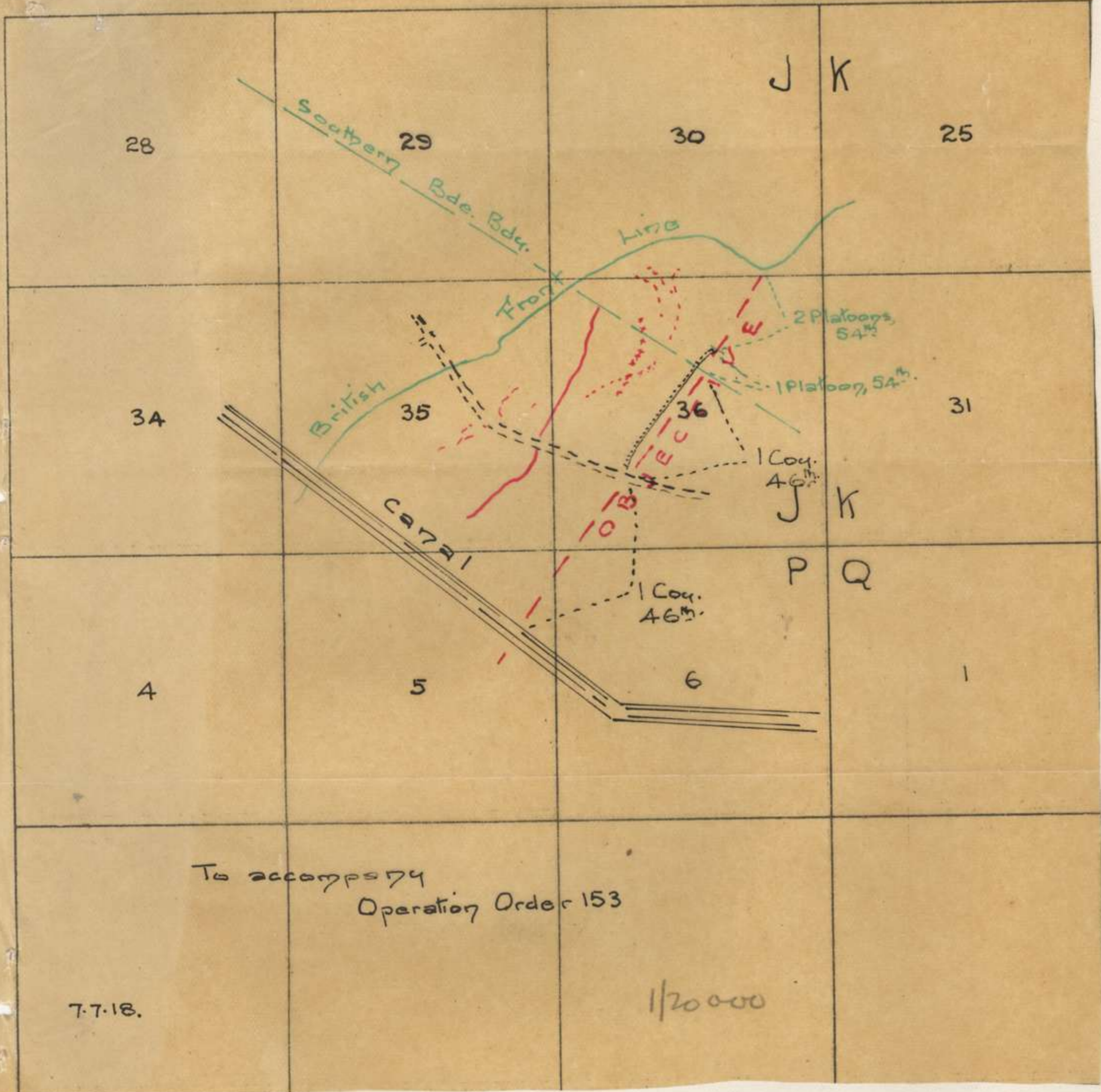
Artillery Programme
To accompany Order No 153.



1/20000

Sheet 62^D N.E.
" " S.E.

Identification Trace for



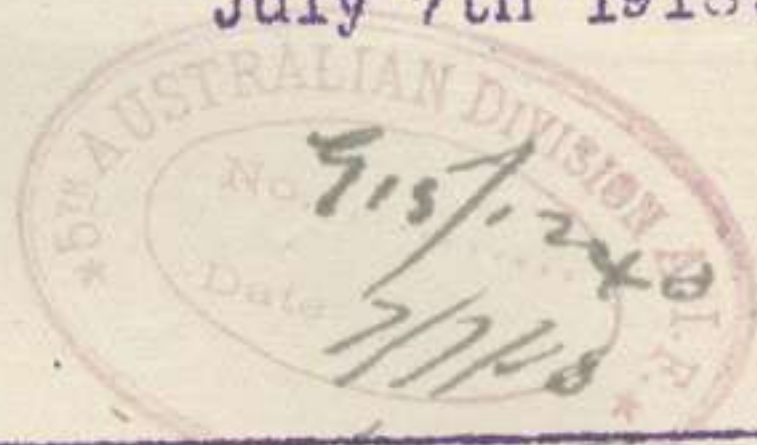
To accompany
Operation Order 153

7.7.18.

1/20000

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

SECRET

Copy No.....*5*Headquarters,
2nd Aust. Div. Arty.
July 7th 1918.*MM*
ORDER No. 126Ref. Map:
62D N.E.
(3A Local) 1/20,000.

1. A minor operation is being carried out by Division on our Right at 12.15 a.m on night 7th/8th July.
2. (a) Right Group will place a barrage on the S.O.S. plus 200 line from K.26.a.O.O. K.8.c.O.O.
- (b) Left Group will place a barrage on the S.O.S. plus 200 line from K.2.d.O.O. to River ANCRE.
- (c) Lifts of 100 yards will be made at Zero plus 3 and Zero plus 4, thence 100 yards in 2 mins. to Zero plus 14, remaining on this line till Zero plus 45.
- (d) Silent Batteries will NOT be used.
3. Rates of Fire
Zero to plus 14 - 2 rds per gun per minute.
Plus 14 to plus 45 - 1 rd. per gun per minute.
4. Ammunition.
50% A, 50% AX.
5. Acknowledge by wire *pb*

C. Phillip
Brigadier-General,
Commanding 2nd Aust. Div. Arty.

Issued at 10 p.m to

Right Group	1 - 2	} By Special D.R.
Left Group	3 - 4	
5th Aust. Div.	5	
File	6	
War Diary	7 - 9	
Spares	10 - 12	

91 *Full Lance file*

REPORT ON MINOR OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY 54th BATTALION, NIGHT
7th/8th JULY 1918.

1. Brief recountal of plan.

In conjunction with 4th Australian Division (46th Battalion) who were operating on right, the 54th Battalion were ordered to push out from their present line to a line J.36.b.1.3 - J.30.d.50.00.

- (a) Object. To straighten out line and improve present position.
(b) To kill or capture the enemy.

2. Recountal of events. The operation was carried out by 3 platoons.

2 platoons with objectives enemy posts J.36.b.4.8 - J36.b.4.9. Without artillery preparation and according to plan party rushed enemy posts and found them unoccupied. Consolidation began and new posts were dug. Just before reaching objective two stick bombs were thrown at party but no enemy were seen.

A platoon with objective enemy post J.36.b.2.3 advanced under artillery barrage, objective was successfully reached and found clear of the enemy.

This post was consolidated and touch was made with right (46th Battalion) and left flanks. Consolidation was carried out until daylight and ^{new} line is a series of posts on line J.3.b.10.30 - J.30.d.50.00.

At Zero plus 3 minutes in reply to our barrage enemy artillery barrage came down between front and support line, this was supported by minenwerfer and M.G. fire which continued intermittently until Zero plus 2 hours 40 minutes.

All posts showed recent signs of occupation; a number of M.G. belts and stick bombs were found in each post.

Our casualties were 11 other ranks slightly wounded. (M.G. and M.W. fire.

3. Deductions. Both parties kept good direction and objectives were reached without any hitch, again proving the fact that a thorough reconnaissance of objective and ground over which an operation is to take place, is essential.

8/7/18.

(Sgd) J.C. STEWART
Brigadier-General
Commanding 14th Australian Infantry Brigade

SECRET

G7/204

8th Infantry Brigade.
 14th Infantry Brigade.
 15th Infantry Brigade.
 5th Machine Gun Battalion.
 2nd Aust. Divisional Artillery.
 Divisional Engineers.
 Divisional Signal Co.
 Divisional Train.
 A.D.M.S.
 A.P.M.
 5th Pioneer Battalion.

BATTLE STATIONS PRACTICE

1. It is intended at an early date, and by night, to carry out the manning of battle stations on the Army front for practice purposes.

2. (a) On the evening of date selected the following telegrams will be sent by Australian Corps to Divisions and units allotted for garrisons in ARMY SYSTEM:-

"Battle stations practice acknowledge".

(b) Recipients will acknowledge receipt by wire to Australian Corps:-

"Acknowledged Practice".

(c) As soon as all troops are in their allotted positions Divisions and Os.C. Sub-Sections Army System will wire Australian Corps:-

"Position Practice".

3. No movement in connection with the practice will take place before 8.30 p.m.; in the forward areas no movement will take place until after dark.

4. On receipt of wire from Australian Corps to Divisions and Os.C. Sub-sections:-

"Normal dispositions".

Normal dispositions will be resumed; when this has been completed Divisions and Os.C. Sub-sections will wire to Australian Corps:-

"Normal practice".

5. (i) ARMY SYSTEM.

Full strength garrisons of troops allotted to the ARMY SYSTEM under Australian Corps Instructions for the Defensive No. 54, will be employed; paragraph 6 of above instructions will not apply in this practice.

(ii) 2nd or CORPS ZONE.

All troops definitely allotted as garrisons in Divisional Schemes for Defence will man their stations, and counter attack troops will fall in on their alarm posts.

The above will not affect reliefs, or troops who normally stand to in the morning and evening.

P.T.O.

(2)

With reference to this, the Reserve Brigade, on receipt of message shown in 2 (a), will take action as detailed in para. 4 of Section F, "C" Division Defence Scheme. The messages shown in 2 (b) 2 (c) and 4 will also be used between Divisions and Brigades and Battalions.

(iii) FORWARD ZONES.

No troops in forward zone will be affected.

6. The artillery will not fire any special programme in connection with the exercise.

7. Every opportunity will be taken during the exercise to discover any points in connection with existing orders and arrangements which require adjustment, and all Staff Officers of formations concerned that can be spared from other duties must be employed throughout the practice for this purpose.

8. Communications will be tested during this practice; reports will be rendered later by units concerned giving the time taken from receipt of wire "Battle Stations practice acknowledge" to the completion of the meaning.

9. It is essential that no orders should be issued which can in any way be interpreted to indicate that an ^{actual} hostile attack is anticipated.

Care must therefore be exercised that all orders issued signify clearly that they are only concerned with a practice operation.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

8 July 1918

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

9/1/14

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Work carried out by the 5th Australian Division for week ending 6/7/18 is as follows:-

1. (a) TRENCHES. FORWARD ZONE.Right Brigade Area.

Front Line. 450^x new trench dug 700^x of existing trenches were deepened and widened.
 Burke Line. 85^x fire trench deepened and widened and 45^x fire stepped K.19.c.
 Clermont Line. 300^x fire trench fire stepped in J.23.b & d.
 Roma Line 85^x fire trench deepened in J.23.a.
 Marett Wood Switch 440^x traversed fire trench partially dug in J.11.d and J.12.c. & d.

C.T.'s.

Cootamundra Trench 400^x deepened and widened. 200^x C.T. dug from K.19.c.8.6 to front line.
 King Street. 400^x of trench deepened and widened K.13.a.

Left Brigade Area.

Front Line. 210^x new trench dug, posts constructed on new front line. 4 strong points made in E.25.a. 120^x existing trenches deepened and widened.
 Canberra Trench 280^x deepened.
 Culesirn Trench 270^x deepened.
 Cowra Support. 100^x deepened and widened.
 Bendigo Switch 130^x fire trench excavated J.11.a.

C.T.'s

Corn Sap 280^x trench excavated K.1.b.
 Coal Sap. 350^x trench excavated K.1.b and K.2.a.
 850^x deepened and widened K.1.b and 400^x new C.T. excavated from E.19.c.5.2. rearwards. 100^x excavated connecting Coal Sap to existing S.P.

BREASTWORKS

56^x completed D.30.d.3.7. and 24^x 50% complete at D.30.d.6.6.

(b) WIRING.RIGHT BRIGADE.
LEFT BRIGADE

450^x of D.A. wire were erected
 1550^x of wire were erected.

New trenches dug and new wire erected are shown RED on attached map.

2. DEEP DUGOUTS.

Bn.H.Q. J.17.b.3.7. Gallery (8'x 6'6"), progress 12'.
 82 bunks erected, 2 gas proof doors fitted.
 work completed.
 M.G. Dugout J.11.c.7.2. Galleries (6'6"x 2'9"), progress 45'
 Chamber, progress 13'
 M.G. Dugout J.6.c.5.3. No.1 Gallery (8'x 6'6"), progress 12'6"
 No.2 " " " " 9'6"
 Bn.H.Q. J.5.d.8.5. No.1 connecting gallery (8'x 6'6")
 progress 6'3".
 No.2 connecting gallery (8'x 6'6"),
 progress 6'3".
 Gallery (6'6"x 2'9"), progress 18'.
 A double gas proof door fitted.

M.G. Dugout D.28.b.7.4.	No.1 shaft, progress 9'3"
	No.2 " " 9'
M.G. Dugout J.5.c.14.74	No.2 Shaft, progress 3'6"
	No.2 Gallery, progress 12'6"
Signal Test Box. H.12.a.5.2.	No.1 M.G. emplacement, progress 1'6".
	Air shaft 2'9" sq. completed.
Signal Test Box. B.30.d.0.2.	Dugout finished.
	Gallery (6'6"x 2'9") completed.
Bn. H.Q. D.29.b.2.3.	Chamber (8'x 8') excavated.
	No.1 Gallery (8'x 6'6") progress 12'
Signal Test Box. D.26.d.2.8.	No.2 " " " 11'6"
	Expansion to chamber, progress 2'6".
	2 gas proof doors fitted.
	Dugout completed.
Bearer Relay Post J.10.b.4.1	No.1 Underlay (6'6"x 2'9"), progress 38'
R.A.P. D.30.a.9.1.	No.1 Underlay, progress 31'
Bearer Relay Post J.17.c.9.1	Underlay, progress 24'.
Old French Dugout J.23.central.	Dugout repaired and strengthened. New
	Gas proof doors fitted.

3. ACCOMMODATION.
Right Brigade.

11 splinter proof shelters 7' x 6' constructed in Roma Line J.22.d.
9 splinter proof shelters constructed (7'x 6') in Clermont Line, J.23.central.
3 splinter proof shelters 7'x 6' constructed at J.23.d.8.9.
3 other splinter proof shelters 7'x 6' constructed at K.13.a.5.6., K.7.d.15.30 and K.7.c.8.7. respectively.

Tank Coy.H.Q. HEILLY. Work of strengthening and gas proofing cellar completed.

Left Brigade. Splinter proof accommodation for 18 stretcher cases constructed at J.5.d.8.5.

Reserve Brigade. (Surface) Dressing room 40'x 16' completed for 14th Field Ambulance at I.4.b.9.3.

4. BRIDGES.

Foot bridge 35' long constructed across ANCRE at E.25.b.95.45
Bridge at E.25.b.2.2. repaired.
Single span timber bridge to take 5 ton axle load constructed at I.18.c.50.95.

5. ROADS

Roads in Divisional Area forward of Corps Line patrolled and maintained in good order.
Road screens on ALBERT-AMIENS Road between I.3.d. and C.30.a. and between C.30.b and D.20.c maintained. 250 yards of new screen erected in C.30.a.
Emergency road I.17.b.5.5. to I.18.d.4.3., 430 yards of formation constructed and 386 yards of side drains excavated.

6. HEILLY WATER SUPPLY J.7.a.3.5.

Engine shed constructed and sandbagged up to 3'. Frame for 1600 gallon canvas tank built and sandbagged up.
400 gallon tank and stand erected and water-bottle filler placed in position.
Excavation for horse troughs completed and 50' of troughing erected.
200' of trenching completed for pipes.

7. MISCELLANEOUS.

Dummy figures erected in K.25.c. for Chinese Attack. These figures have been reclaimed.
An O.P. completed at J.5.d.8.5.
Delousing plant completed at H.10.a.9.8.
Billet No.13, FRECHENCOURT, cellar gas-proofed.

8. List of quantities and material issued for the above work is below.

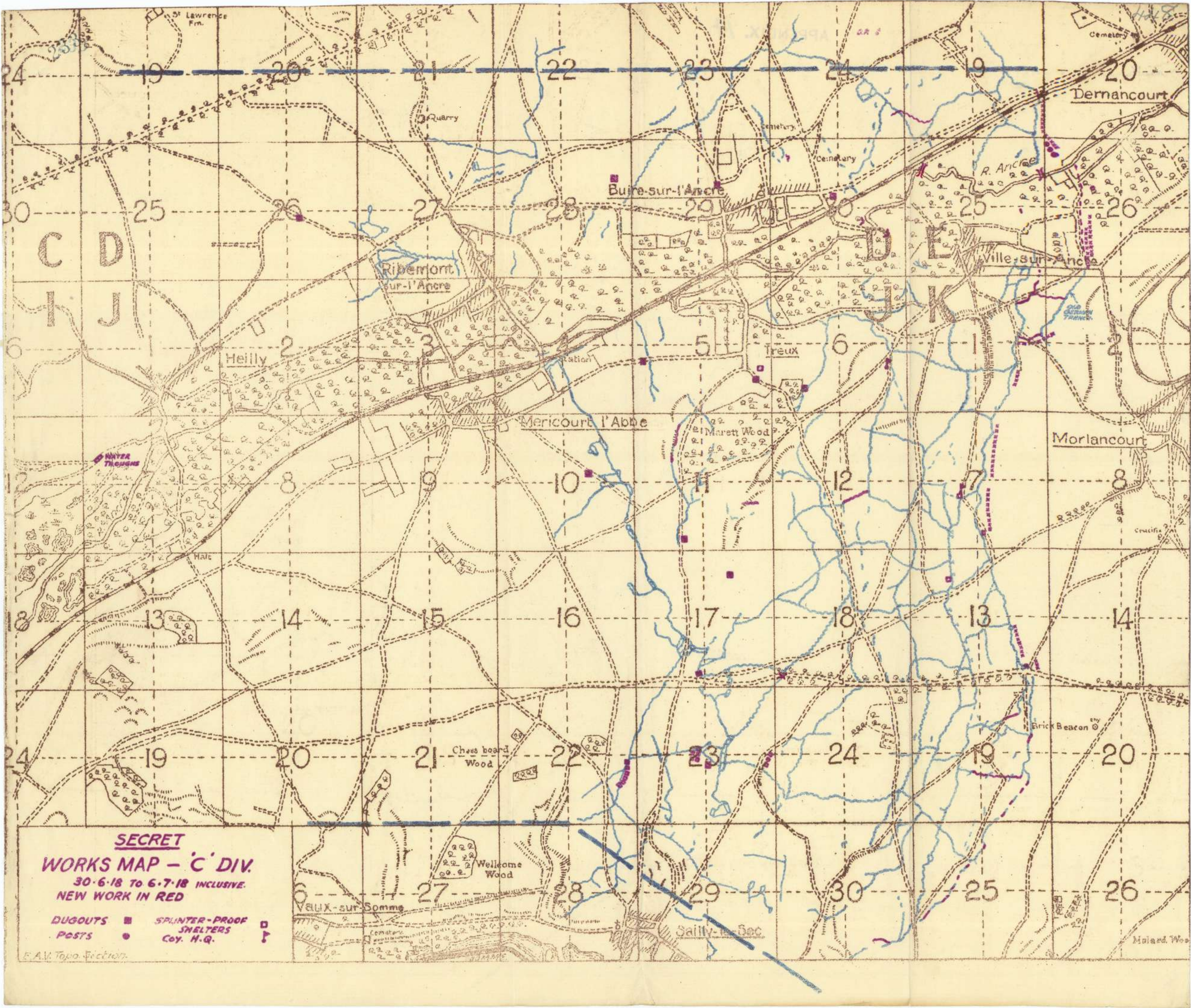
Material	Weight (in lbs.)
Artillery bridges	900
Cupola sheets "B" type	662
" " "C" type	2904
Camouflage, various	1510
Forest pickets	240
Girders	4752
" Shoes	1536
Iron, corrugated	4096
Malthoid	168
Mining sets 2'9"x 6'3"	22140
" " small	4000
Nails and clouts	748
Screw pickets	1380
Pickets, angle	720
Piping	1730
Pit-props (6" dia.)	10080
Picks, complete	4500
Sandbags	4230
Shovels	2683
Tracing tapes	263
Tanks, Troughs etc.,	410
"Union" Anti-gas cloth	206
Wire, barbed	6210
" French	2880
" concertina	1332
" netting	1120
" plain	80
Timber. "Lagging" asstd.	28400
" Spftwood " sizes.	32390
Miscellaneous items	114
	<u>142184 lbs. 63 tons.</u>

EXPLOSIVES

Guncotton slabs	60
Primers	112
Instantaneous fuze	100 yards
Nobels Lighters	150

9th July 1918.

M. M. M. M.
Major-General.
Commanding 5th Australian Division.
add



SECRET
WORKS MAP - 'C' DIV.
 30.6.18 TO 6.7.18 INCLUSIVE.
 NEW WORK IN RED

DUGOUTS ■ SPLINTER-PROOF SHELTERS □
 POSTS ● COY. H.Q. ○

F.A.W. Topo. Section.

8th Infantry Brigade	Divisional Engineers
14th Infantry Brigade	Divisional Signal Co.
15th Infantry Brigade	Divisional Train
5th M.G. Battalion	A.D.M.S.
5th Pioneer Battalion	A.P.M.
2nd Divisional Artillery	D.A.D.O.S.

1. A party of 25 good patrol leaders consisting of 1 officer (Scout Officer), 4 N.C.O.'s and 20 men is to be selected and held in readiness by Brigades as indicated below:

	Officer	N.C.Os.	Men
8th Infantry Brigade	1	1	6
14th Infantry Brigade	-	1	7
15th Infantry Brigade	-	2	7
TOTAL	1	4	20

2. It is proposed to exchange this party with a party of similar strength from III Corps.

3. This party will be employed by the III Corps to organize, train, and lead patrols. The object in view is to assist the III Corps units, which consist in a great measure of men who have had very little experience in FRANCE, to raise the standard of patrolling.

4. It is essential, therefore, that men of experience and knowledge in patrolling, and leading patrols should be selected. They will be withdrawn by the 15th July and put into training under the Commandant 15th Infantry Brigade School pending further detailed instructions. The G.O.C. Division desires that the 15th Infantry Brigade should provide the extra School Staff necessary to carry out this plan.

5. Similarly the party from the III Corps will be put through a short course at the School before being used in the line. They will then be distributed amongst units in the line and will take part in patrols.

6. The handbook to be used when training the above parties is S.S. 195 "Scouting and Patrolling". A syllabus based on the above will be drawn up by the Commandant 15th Brigade School and submitted through 15th Infantry Brigade to this office on the 14th instant.

7. A definite time limit for the absence from their units of the parties referred to in para. 1 to be arranged by Australian Corps with III Corps.

8. (a) Extra tentage etc. required for accommodation will be demanded from Divisional Headquarters.

(b) Any casualties to troops of III Corps while attached either to 15th Brigade School or afterwards to units will be reported separately from Casualty Reports of troops of this Division. A nominal roll is to kept by units of the men attached and should any casualties occur the fullest details available are to be forwarded for transmission to III Corps.

10th July 1918.

Copy to:

Australian Corps
Major H.G.D. FERREZ M.C.
"Q"

M. Peck

Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

233


15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 176. APPENDIX. 16

Ref: FRANCE.

62 D N.E. 1/20,000

10th July, 1918.

1. On a day and at an hour which will be notified later it is intended to carry out a minor operation against the enemy posts from E.20.C.20-00. to E.26.A.35-75.
2. (a) The operation will be supported by Artillery, Trench Mortar and Machine Gun fire, detailed tasks for which are shown on the attached sketch (Brigade Units only).
(b) "Z" Special Coy. R.E. is co-operating by projecting gas on the Northern outskirts of MORLANCOURT, especially the Sunken Road at K.2.D.9-4.
3. The 57th Battalion is detailed to carry out the raid all details for which will be arranged by C.O. 57th Battalion.
4. The objects of the raid are:
 - (a) To capture or kill as many of the enemy as possible and weaken his morale.
 - (b) To damage and destroy enemy material and defences.
 - (c) To obtain identifications, documents and other information.
5. Administrative Instructions relative to the Gas Projector attack will be issued separately.
6. Watches will be synchronised by a Special Despatch Rider calling at the line Battalions and Artillery Group Headquarters twice during the eight hours preceding zero.
7. Reports and prisoners to Brigade Headquarters with the greatest possible speed.
8. Acknowledge.


 Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 9-10 p.m. through signals to:

	Copy No.
57th Battalion	1.
58th Battalion	2.
59th Battalion	3.
60th Battalion	4.
15th A.L.T.H.B.	5.
Copies to:	
G.O.C. 15th Australian Inf. Brigade	6.
Staff Captain	7.
No. 4 Signal Section	8.
14th Australian Infantry Brigade	9.
173rd Infantry Brigade	10.
Left Group Artillery	11.
4th Australian F.A. Brigade	12.
Brigade Transport Officer	13.
"Z" Special Company R.E.	14.
"O" Company 2nd Battalion Tank Corps	15.
15th Field Coy. A.E.	16.
5th Australian Machine Gun Bn.	17.
15th Machine Gun Company.	18.
5th Pioneer Battalion	19.
File	20.
War Diary	21-23.

Phase 1 Zero to Zero plus 2

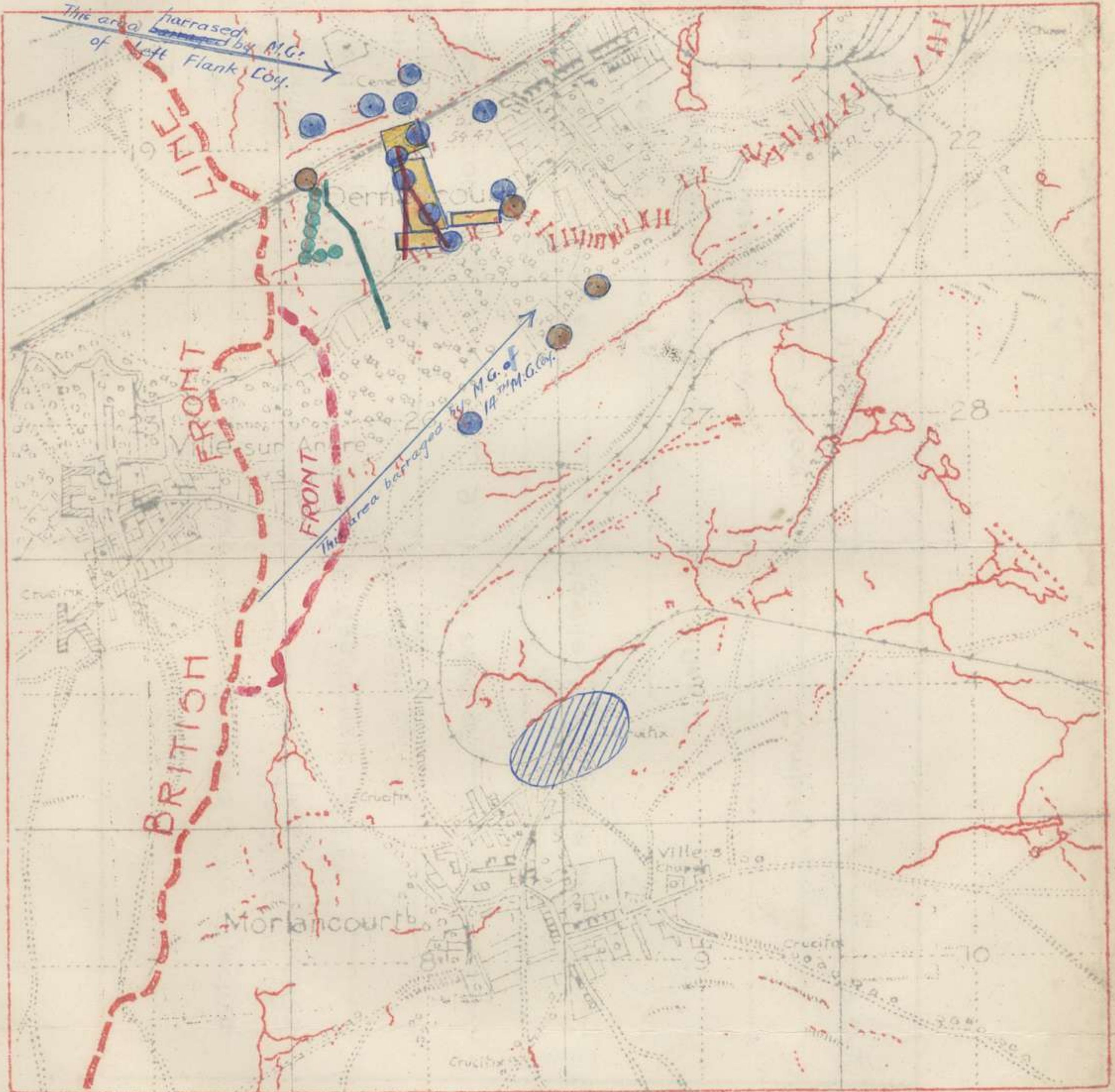
233

- (a) Light Trench Mortars bombard posts to be raided.
- (b) 18 pdrs. form protective barrage and carry out neutralising fire as shown on sketch.
- (c) 6" Newtons, 4.5" Hows. and Machine Guns maintain neutralising fire on known enemy trenches and positions.

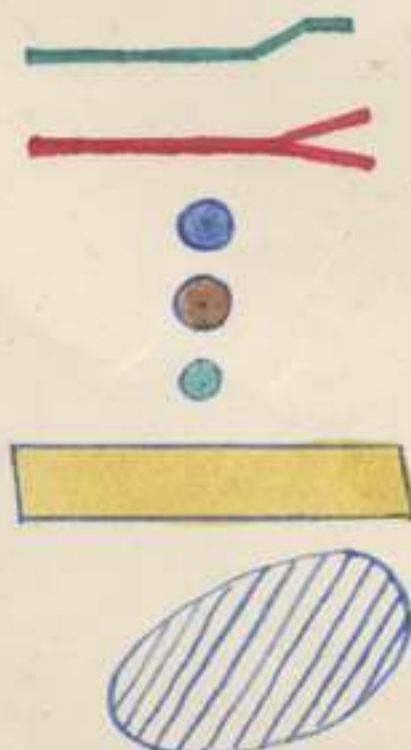
Phase 2 Zero plus 2 to Zero plus 30 or "Cease Fire"

- (a) Light Trenches Mortars lift to the left and form a block 100 yards from the left flank of the attack.
- (b) 18 pdrs., 4.5" Hows., 6" Newtons, and Machine Guns continue as for page 1.

MESSAGE MAP



LEGEND



- 18 pdr. barrage line.
- 18 pdr. neutralising fire.
- 4.5" Howitzers.
- M.T.M.'s.
- L.T.M.'s.
- Machine Guns
- Gas Cylinder Target.

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 26

922/1800
11 JUL 1918
6.10 pm

15th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
AUSTRALIAN

REFERENCE 15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 176.

dated 10-7-18.

11th July, 1918.

-
1. Zero Day will be the night 11th/12th July,
 2. Zero time will be 12.15 a.m.
 3. Acknowledge.

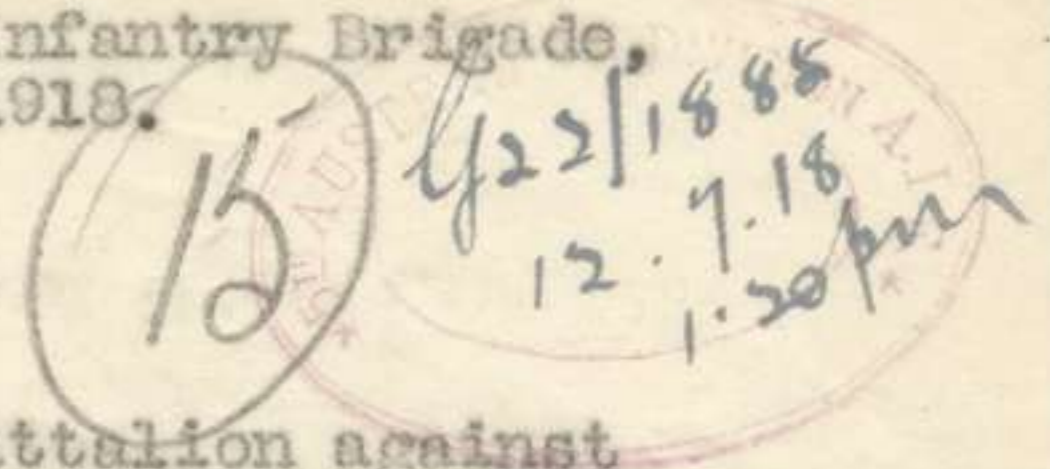
G. J. Gollan
Captain,
Brigade Major,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to all recipients of 15th
Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 176.



Headquarters,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade,
12th July, 1918.

Headquarters,
5th Australian Division,



Report on Raid carried out by 57th Battalion against
Enemy Posts at E.26.A.2-9.

I have to report as follows regarding the Raid carried out last night by the 57th Battalion on the posts above mentioned.:

1. "Zero hour was 12.15 a.m. . The barrage fell exactly to time and was satisfactory throughout. The 3" Stokes Mortars bombarded the posts from Zero to Zero plus 2 and then lifted to the left of the posts to be raided where they formed a block. Though the BLUE cartridges were used the firing was accurate and by concentrating the whole eight mortars of the battery on this task the decreased rate of fire was made up.
2. "From Zero to Zero plus 6 minutes the enemy fired ordinary white flares from the vicinity of where the barrage was falling. A few Orange Clusters also went up. At Zero plus 6 minutes double Green flares were fired from the enemy posts to the North of the objective and repeated to the rear in relays.
3. "On the 3" Stokes barrage lifting the Raiding Party advanced and about 12 of the enemy were seen leaving the trench and making for the rear. Bombs were thrown at them but on account of the crop the result could not be ascertained. A subsequent search in the vicinity did not lead to the discovery of any enemy casualties. The enemy wire was found to be effectively cut and the enemy posts were rushed and found to be unoccupied. The posts and vicinity were searched but no enemy or dead were found.
4. "From members of the Raiding Party it has been ascertained that the enemy defences in this locality consist of a series of posts about 4'6" to 5'6" in depth, fairly wide, resembling organised shell holes connected by little more than a spillovered trench. There were two small listening posts about 25 yards in front. The main posts contained a poor class of trench shelter which were badly knocked about by our trench mortar fire.
5. "At Zero plus 8 the enemy placed a heavy barrage on our front and support lines. This is the first time since being in the sector that the enemy has retaliated on our front line in the left subsector of the Brigade front. Scattered shelling reached as far back as the Reserve Company.
6. "Our casualties were one killed and four wounded (slightly). All these casualties occurred in our own trenches when returning.
7. "Strength of Raiding Party, 1 Officer and 40 Other Ranks. O.C. Raid Captain W.H.L. McDONALD. O.C. Attack, Lieut. F.J. KENEALY, 57th Battalion.
8. "No identifications were obtained and no equipment or material, posts being badly knocked about and quite empty.
9. "There is no doubt that casualties were inflicted on the enemy in rear. During the preliminary wirecutting shoots on the 10th July casualties were inflicted. 3 wounded left a post, one being a stretcher case.
10. "All arrangements for the raid worked well and there is nothing special to be brought to notice.

Handwritten initials and scribbles.

Handwritten signature: H. K. H.

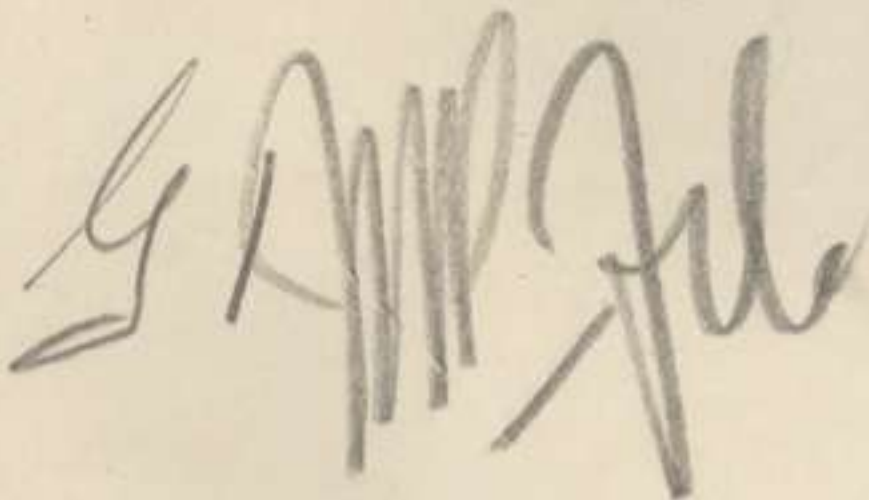
Lieut. Colonel,
T/Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade,
12th July, 1918.

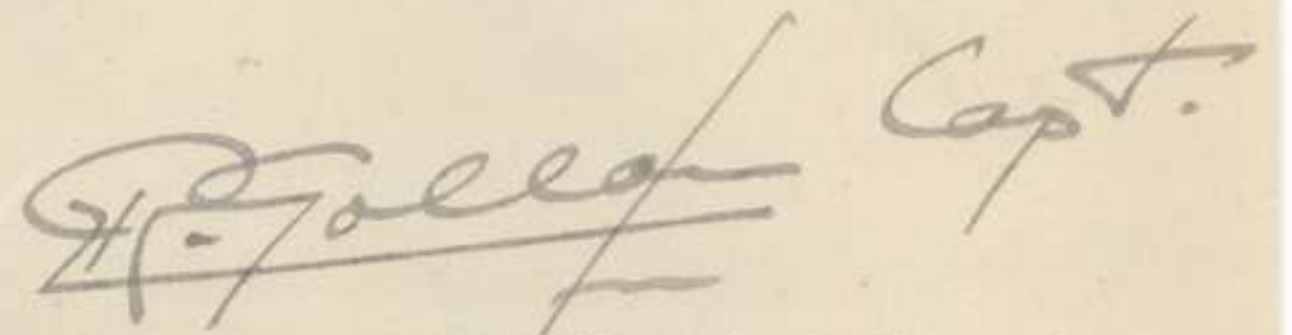
Headquarters
5th Australian Division,

Addendum to Report on Raid by 57th Battalion.

11. "Owing to inclement weather the Gas cylinder projection arranged to take place on the Northern outskirts of MORLANCOURT had to be postponed".



T/Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.



Lieut. Colonel,

Capt.

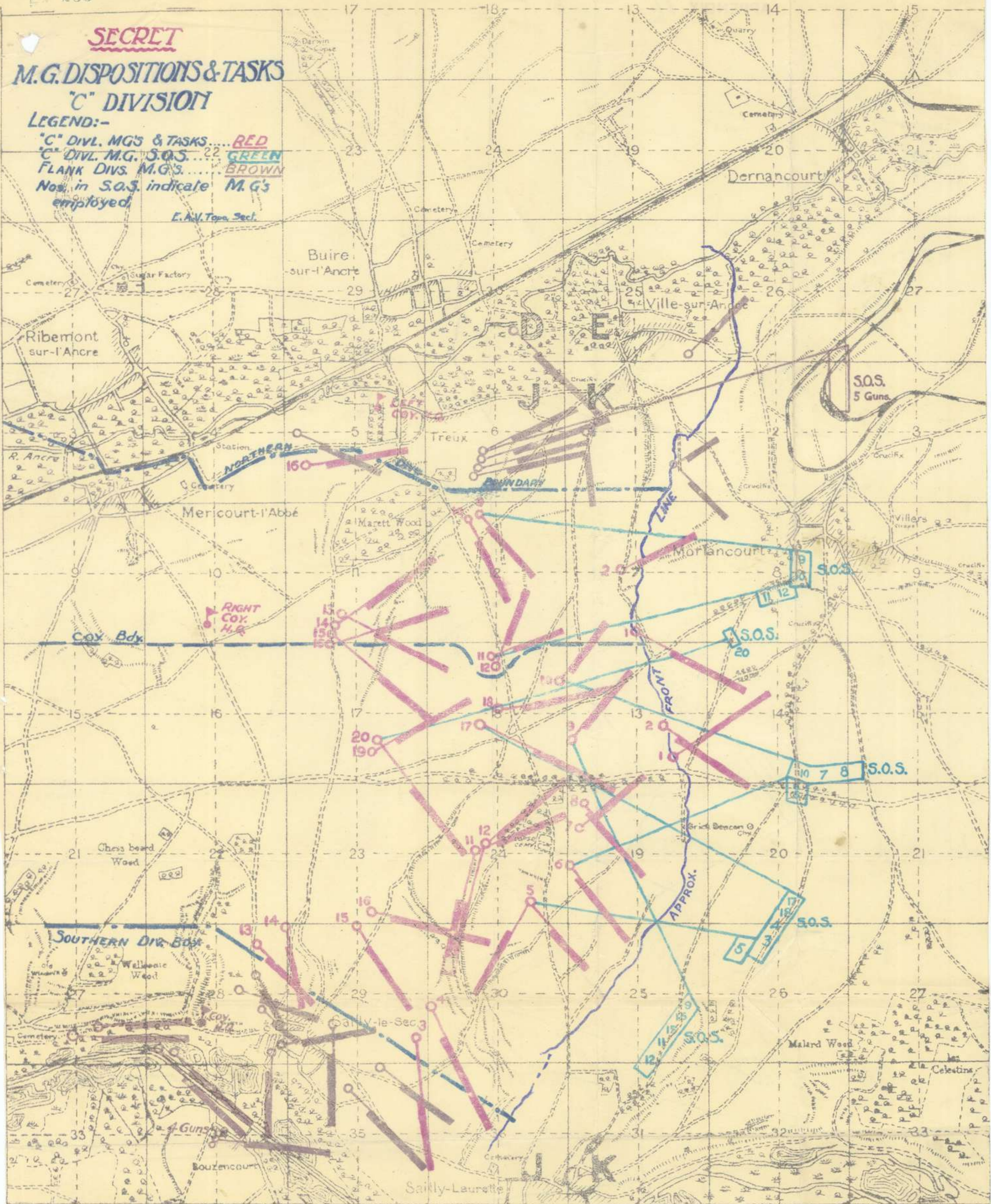
SECRET

M.G. DISPOSITIONS & TASKS "C" DIVISION

LEGEND:-

- "C" DIVL. M.G.'S & TASKS..... **RED**
- "C" DIVL. M.G. S.O.S..... **GREEN**
- FLANK DIVS. M.G.'S..... **BROWN**
- Nos. in S.O.S. indicate M.G.'s employed

E.A.V. Topo. Sect.



E.A.V. Topo. Sect.

WD

8th Infantry Brigade
 14th Infantry Brigade
 15th Infantry Brigade
 5th M.G. Battalion
 5th Pioneer Battalion
 2nd Divisional Artillery
 5th Divisional Artillery
 5th Divisional Engineers
 5th Divisional Signal Co.

Appendix 18

Ig26/645

The attached lecture received from Australian Corps is forwarded for distribution down to Platoons, or equivalent units.

The Divisional Commander directs that this be given at least once a month and where possible once a fortnight to every platoon or equivalent unit, all reinforcements joining their respective units and at Brigade Schools.

12th July 1918.

Jim. A. Chapman, Capt.
 10/17 Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

L E C T U R E.

GIVING AWAY INFORMATION.

To be given to every Platoon of the Australian Corps
at fortnightly intervals.

As you all know, information about the enemy is essential to the winning of a battle. The bulk of the information and the most valuable, is that which is obtained from prisoners of war.

If by any chance one of you should be taken prisoner, the only information which you are required to give is your NAME AND RANK. The enemy knows this as well as you do and resorts to many means of endeavouring to obtain the information which he requires in order to make his plans for the slaughter of your comrades. He will bully you, and threaten you, he may even threaten to shoot you or to starve you, in order to try and bluff you into giving away information. Sturdy men will not be overcome by this means, and so, the enemy resorts to more cunning methods. By a careful collection of information from all sorts of sources, he has obtained the names of a certain number of commanders of battalions and brigades. He has also discovered the movement of certain divisions. He uses this knowledge with great cleverness, and the man is sometimes surprised to find that the friendly German he is talking to appears to know more about the affairs of the A.I.F. than he himself does. This put him off his guard and he quite unconsciously gives away information which leads to the loss of the lives of many of his comrades.

General Ludendorff in his recent instructions to the German Army on this matter says :- "Recently there has been an increase in the number of French prisoners who give extraordinary little information. They state as a rule they have recently arrived as drafts or have recently arrived from leave. It appears that they have been trained to give the replies stated above when captured and thus avoid being asked further questions. I direct that the troops be instructed to give similar answers". This method of the French of avoiding giving information is one, which we may well follow. If a man allows himself to be drawn into conversation on military matters he is bound to give away valuable information without the least intention of doing so, and even though he does not know that he is doing so.

The most dangerous method for us, and the cleverest means which the enemy has adopted to outwit our men whom he may capture, is the introduction of decoys for getting information. These are men wearing Australian or British uniforms with Australian or British badges, and with certain knowledge of units to which they pretend to belong. They mingle in an unobtrusive way with the prisoners and listen to their conversation with one another, and engage in conversation with them, and so matters are brought out. These decoys are used in Prisoner of War cages and numerous instances have been discovered where they have been brought into hospitals bandaged up and apparently suffering from wounds. Their dummy wounds are dressed every day and they are put in beds beside the prisoners.

The enemy has another trick of using a listening instrument which records all conversations carried on between prisoners even when in their huts. Even faint whispers can be recorded by this instrument.

If you want to play the game by your comrades, if you do not want to sacrifice their lives, follow one single rule SAY NOTHING TO ANYBODY. Avoid conversations, give your NAME and RANK only, do not start trying to bluff, but refuse to give any further information. The enemy at one time captured some of our Australians in the neighbourhood of WARNETON. A German Intelligence Summary spoke of these Australians as absolutely refusing to give any information whatever and refusing point blank to discuss any military matters at all. The Germans paid a great tribute to these men and held them up as an example to the German Army.

A German Summary of the 109 German Division issued in May, which fell into our hands, gave the details of the Headquarters of a Brigade and a camp where Australian troops were billeted in our present sector. These places were immediately shelled and bombed and several of our good men were killed and wounded. A map captured at HAMEL showed a headquarters of one of our Brigades in the vicinity, and the headquarters of two of the battalions in the line, and the boundaries between battalions. All of this information was given by men who had been captured.

A man who is captured should not imagine that he is going to gain any further consideration from the enemy by giving information. It will not make any difference to his treatment. Silence and endurance will gain the respect of the enemy - giving information will gain their contempt. In either case you will not receive any very great consideration at the hands of the enemy.

Ludendorff in another instruction to the German Army says that it has been established that the German attack of the 9th June was revealed to the French by the statements of prisoners, and it was due to this information alone that the French were able to meet the German attack. He goes on to say the majority of the men who were made prisoners do not realise to what extent statements, even on insignificant matters, not only endanger the lives of their comrades but compromise the success of their attacks and raids. This is equally true in our case.

Remember that your speech may cause the loss of the lives of your best friends and comrades: that no harm can come to you by maintaining silence and keeping a still tongue.

War diary

SECRET
Appendix 19

G.2/794

- 8th Infantry Brigade.
- 14th Infantry Brigade.
- 15th Infantry Brigade.
- 8th Infantry Bde. School)
- 14th Infantry " ") Through Brigades.
- 15th Infantry " ")
- 5th Divisional Artillery.
- 2nd Divisional Artillery.
- 5th Machine Gun Battalion.
- 5th Pioneer Battalion.
- 5th Divisional Engineers.
- 5th Divisional Signal Coy.
- Cyclists Platoon. (attd. 5th Aust.Div.).
- No. 1 troop, "B" Sqdn, 13th A.L.H.
- O.C., Div. Reinf. Camp.
- A.P.M.
- 8th Brigade nucleus.)
- 14th Brigade nucleus.) Through Div. Reinf. Wing.
- 15th Brigade nucleus.)

1. The above copy of Australian Corps G.188/1848 for information and necessary action with regard to paras. 4 and 6.
2. The following extracts from 5th Division G.2/3012 of 19th June and G.2/3336 of 22nd June are repeated for information :-
 - (a) "All British Tanks will fly a Tri-color flag when returning to our lines after being in action. By this means it is hoped that there will be no danger of our troops mistaking our Tanks for hostile ones".
 - (b) "The following flag signals from Tanks to Infantry will be used :-
 - (i) GREEN and WHITE indicates COME ON
 - (ii) RED and YELLOW indicates I AM BROKEN DOWN GO ON.
 When used these flags will be waved out of the top of the front cab".

13th July, 1918.

John Chapman Watson
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy to :-

"A. Q."

P.T.O.

G.188/1848
Australian Corps.
12th July, 1918.

2nd Aust. Division.
4th Aust. Division.
3rd Aust. Division.
5th Aust. Division.

1.- A satisfactory practice was carried out near VAUX-en-AMIENOIS on 10th instant, by units of 3rd Aust. Division, to demonstrate the co-operation of Tanks with Infantry in the attack.

2.- The normal formation for the attack was adopted and the five Tanks started at zero some distance behind the "jumping off line", and passed through the infantry at the first halt of the barrage.

3.- No. 27 phosphorous rifle grenades were satisfactorily used by the Infantry as a signal to the Tanks to indicate hostile points of resistance which were holding up the Infantry advance.

The new Stokes Mortar flare bomb was also successfully used for this purpose by a section of a Stokes Mortar battery which was supporting the attack.

The Tanks responded well to both the above signals and in all cases at least two Tanks turned on seeing the signal and dealt with the opposition. As soon as the Tanks considered they had dealt with a hostile strong point, they flew a green and white flag (signal to the Infantry to "come on") and waited in the vicinity until the strong point was "taken over" by the Infantry.

4.- The simple flag signals from Tanks to Infantry do not appear to be universally known and quickly recognised by Infantry Officers and N.C.O's. There was obvious hesitation on the part of the Infantry on a Tank flying a flag of any sort.

5.- The experiment was tried of having a trained Infantry scout or observer in the turret of each Tank to act as liaison between the Tank and the Infantry Company which it was supporting. His duty was to watch closely the movements of the Infantry, to watch for signals from them and to look out for hostile points of resistance. The experiment worked well.

His presence in the Tank does not unduly crowd the Tank crew.

6.- The steel helmet raised on the top of a rifle proved a useful general signal from the Infantry to indicate "we want a Tank to help us". The signal is not yet fully understood by platoon and section commanders.

(Sgd) T.A. BLANEY Brig-General,
General Staff.
Australian Corps.

