

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/27 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st
Australian Division

April 1917



AWM4-1/42/27PART2

SECRET.

Copy No. 46

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 18.Divisional Headquarters.
15th. April 1917.

1. The 2nd. Aus. Infantry Brigade will relieve the 3rd. Aus. Infantry Brigade and the 20th. Battalion of 5th. Aus. Infantry Brigade in the line as far North as Sq.C.12 Central on 16/17th. April.
2. On relief Units of 3rd. Aus. Infantry Brigade will be located and allotted as follows :-

Unit.	Location.	Role. After relief.
Headquarters 3rd. Aus. Infantry Bde.)	PREMICOURT.	Divisional Reserve.
3rd. Aus. T.M. Battery.	do	do
3rd. Aus. Infantry Bde.) Machine Gun Company.)	Brigade Reserve Line.	Garrison Brigade Reserve Line.
A. Battalion.	LE BUGAUIERE.	Garrison Brigade Reserve Line. Right Brigade Sector.
B. Battalion.	Bivouacs now occupied by 8th. Battalion.	Garrison Brigade Reserve Line Left Brigade Sector.
C. Battalion.	VELU.	Divisional Reserve.
D. Battalion.	PREMICOURT.	Divisional Reserve.

3. The two Battalions of the 2nd. Aus. Infantry Brigade in the BEUGNY - YERLE line will be relieved by two Battalions of 8th. Aus. Infantry Brigade on the 16th. instant. The relief will be completed by noon.
4. The Units detailed to the defence of the Brigade Reserve line will be responsible for the provision of labour for the preparation of the defences.
C.R.E. 4th. Aus. Division and two Field Companies 4th. Aus. Division are being detailed for engineer work on this line.
G.O.C., 3rd. Aus. Infantry Brigade will arrange direct with C.R.E. 4th. Aus. Division as to working parties.
5. A nucleus of the garrison detailed for each post in the piquet line will go into the post as early as possible in order to ensure that the post is taken over correctly.
Where the situation permits this nucleus will go in by day.
6. Plans of work, maps, photographs and documents relating to operations, will be handed over on relief.
7. A sufficient number of machine guns and teams of 3rd. Aus. Infantry Brigade will be attached to 2nd. Aus. Infantry Brigade to maintain the present strength in machine guns in the Brigade sector.

(P.T.O.)

-2-

8. Details of the relief will be arranged between Brigade Commanders.
9. The relief will be completed by 9 a.m. on 17th. instant. Completion of the relief will be reported by wire to Divisional Headquarters.

Acknowledge.

T. B. Blaney

Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.

Distribution.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to</u>
1 to 3	D.E.Q.
4	C.R.A. 5th. Aus. Div.
5	C.R.E. 1st. Aus. Div.
6	Div. Signal Coy.
7	1st. Aus. Inf. Bde.
8	2nd. do
9	3rd. do
10	1st. Pioneer Bn.
11	A.D.M.S.
12	A.P.M.
13 to 14	1st. ANZAC.
15	1st. ANZAC H.A.
16	G.O.C., R.A. 1st. ANZAC.
17	D.A.D.O.S.
18	2nd. Aus. Div.
19	4th. do
20	5th. do
21	20th. Imperial Division.
22	21st. M.G. Coy.
23	File.
24)	
25)	War Diary.
26)	
27	C.R.A. 4th. Aus. Div.

Issued at 8.30 p.m.

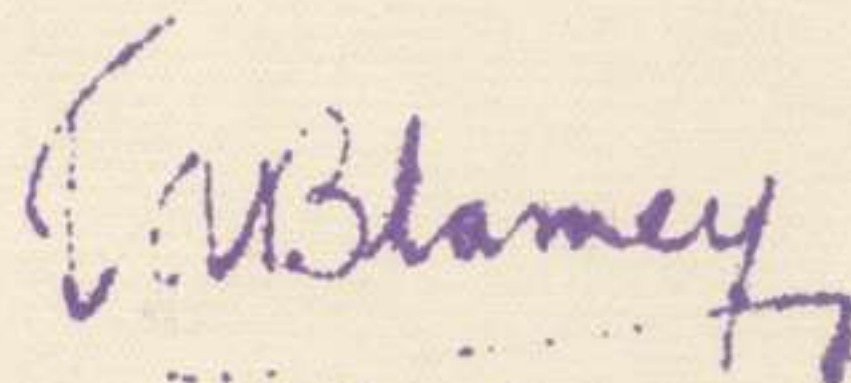
SECRET.

Copy No. 34.....

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 19.Divisional Headquarters.
17th. April, 1917.

1. The boundary between 1st. and 2nd. Australian Divisions will be altered to read as follows :-

From S.W. to I.4. Central as at present thence along a line drawn through C.23.b.5.5 - C.13.c.8.3 - C.18.b.5.0 - D.7. Central.
2. The readjustment will be arranged direct between G.O's C. 2nd. and 5th. Australian Infantry Brigades direct and will be completed by 5 a.m. on 18th. instant, completion will be reported by signal message to Divisional Headquarters.
3. Acknowledge.


Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.Distribution.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to.</u>
1 to 3	D.H.Q.
4	C.R.A. 5th. Aus. Div.
5	C.R.E. 1st. Aus. Div.
6	Div. Signal Coy.
7	1st. Aus. Inf. Bde.
8	2nd. do
9	3rd do
10	1st. Pioneer Bn.
11	A.D.M.S.
12	A.P.M.
13 to 14	1st. ANZAC.
15	1st. ANZAC H.Q.
16	G.O.C., R.A. 1st. ANZAC.
17	2nd. Aus. Div.
18	4th. do
19	5th. do
20	21st. M.G. Coy.
21	File.
2-2)	
23)	War Diary.
24)	

Issued at 10 a.m.

204

Appendix No 8

57

EDITION 6. A

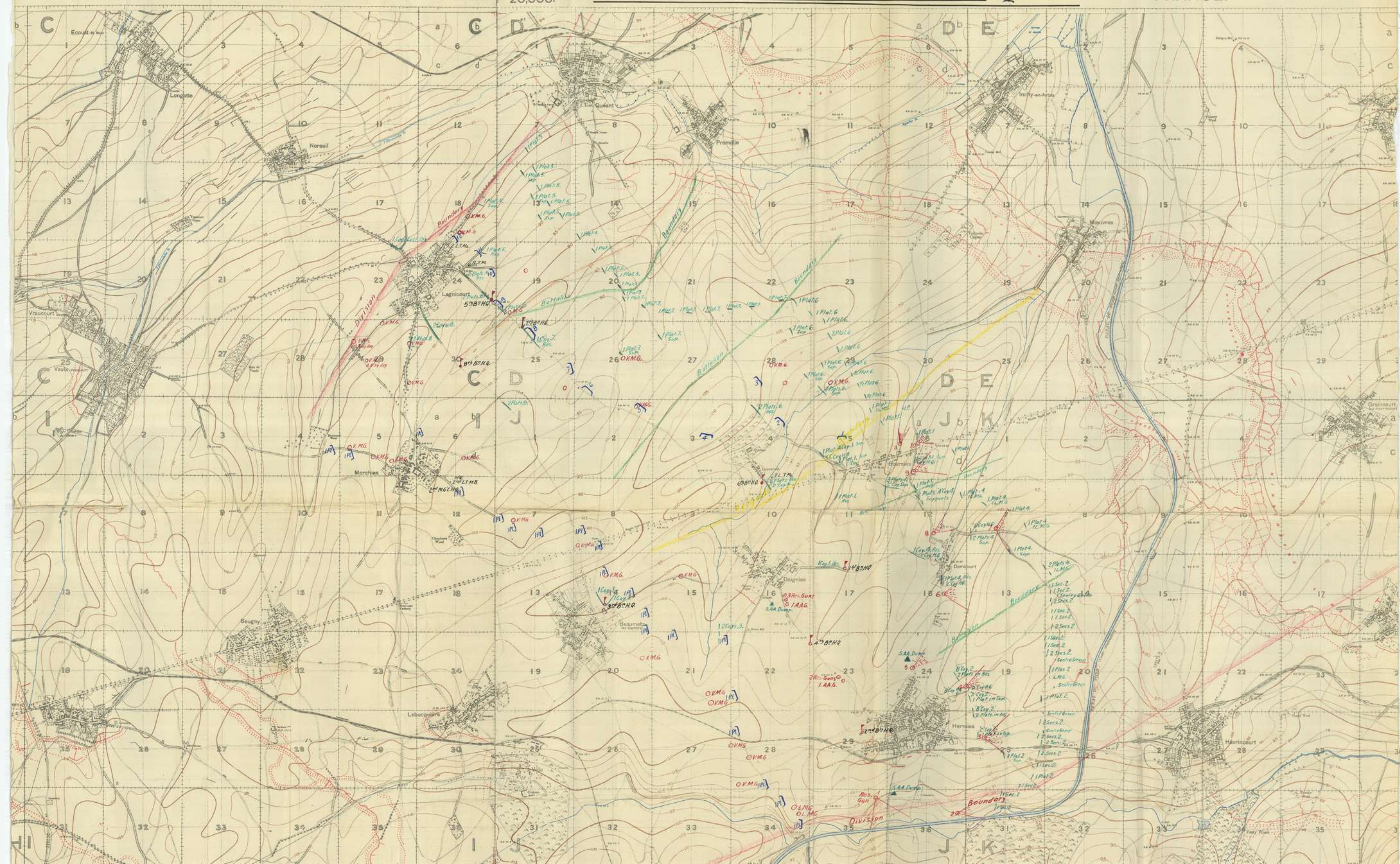
TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 7-2-17.

SHEET 57^c N.W.

1
20,000.

APPENDIX No VIII for WAR DIARY

FRANCE.



Contour Interval 5 Metres

Published: Survey February 1917

G.S. G.S. 2742

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE USE OF THE SQUARES.

1. The large rectangles on the map, lettered D, E, F, etc., are divided into squares of 1,000 yards side, which are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. Each of these squares is subdivided into four minor squares of 500 yards side. These minor squares are considered as lettered a, b, c, d. (See Square No. 1 in each rectangle).
2. To locate a point within a small square, consider the sides divided into tenths, and define the point by taking so many tenths from W. to E. along Southern side, and so many from S. to N. along Western side; the S.W. corner always being taken as origin, and the distance along the Southern side being always given by the first figure. Thus the point Z would be 51; i.e. 5 divisions East and 1 division North from origin.
3. When more accurate definition is wanted (on the 1:20,000 or 1:10,000 scales) use exactly the same method, but divide sides into 100 parts and use four figures instead of two. Thus 0847 denotes 847 paces East and 47 paces North of origin (see point X). Point Y is 6000.
4. Use 0 but not 10; use either two or four figures; do not use fractions (19, 41, etc.).



- Any trench apparently organized for fire.
Enemy trench. Other trenches. Important ones are shown by thick lines. Old or disused by dotted line.
British front line trench.
Entanglement or other obstacle.
Ground cut up by Artillery fire.
Mine craters.
Hedge, fosse or ditch. (Unknown which).
Ditch with permanent water.
- Conspicuous points. (Position of point centre of circle. Dot shows that point trigonometrically fixed).
1st Class.
2nd Class.
3rd Class.
Footpath, Cart tracks.
Double.
Single.
Light or Footway.
All heights in metres.
- *NOTE:—The fact that an obstacle is not represented on the map does not necessarily mean that there is none there. It is often impossible to determine obstacles or to identify their character, or may be assumed that there are obstacles in front of all fire trenches (shown by thick line).

TABLE FOR CONVERTING METRES TO FEET.										
Metres	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	0	3.3	6.6	9.9	13.1	16.4	19.7	23.0	26.3	29.6
10	32.8	36.1	39.4	42.7	45.9	49.2	52.5	55.8	59.1	62.4
20	65.6	68.9	72.2	75.5	78.7	82.0	85.3	88.6	91.8	95.1
30	98.4	101.7	105.0	108.3	111.5	114.8	118.1	121.4	124.7	127.9
40	131.2	134.5	137.8	141.0	144.3	147.6	150.9	154.1	157.4	160.7
50	163.4	166.7	170.0	173.2	176.5	179.8	183.0	186.3	189.6	192.9
60	196.8	200.1	203.4	206.6	209.9	213.2	216.5	219.8	223.0	226.3
70	229.6	232.9	236.2	239.4	242.7	246.0	249.3	252.6	255.8	259.1
80	262.4	265.7	269.0	272.3	275.6	278.9	282.1	285.4	288.7	292.0
90	295.3	298.6	301.9	305.2	308.5	311.8	315.1	318.4	321.7	325.0
100	328.0	331.3	334.6	337.9	341.1	344.4	347.7	351.0	354.3	357.6

Scale 1:20,000



Nacelle	Ferry
Orme	Elm
Orphelinat	Orphanage
Ouvrier	On the bench
Ouvrage	Fort
Ouvrage	Hydraulicum Water works
Papeterie	Paper-mill
Parc	Park, yard
à arrosage	Arrosage ground
à charbon	Coal yard
à pétrole	Petrol store
Passe-à niveau P.N.	Level-measuring
Pâtisserie	Pastery
Pépinière	Nursery-garden
Peuplier	Poplar tree
Perron	Post
Plaine, Pl ^{te}	Plain
Plancher d'interce-	Drill ground
ption	Pump
Pont	Foot-bridge
Pontoon	Bridge
à levier	Drawbridge
Pont, à gâche	Coast-gate station
Station	
Potasse	Foot
Potasse	Pottery
Poutre	
Poutrière, Poutre	Wood magazine
Magnin à poutre	Water supply
Prix d'an	Pt. head, Shaft, Well
à arrosage	Artesian well
à élagage	Ventilating shaft
à ventilation	Boring
de sondage	
Quai	Quay, Platform
à marchandises	Cattle platform
des machines	Goods platform
Raccordement	Junction
Raffinerie	Refinery
de sucre	Sugar refinery
Régence	Regent

Remblais	Embankment.
Remise (aux machines)	Engine-shed.
Observoir, Ré	Reservoir.
Route cavalière	Bridge-way.
Ruine	Rubbish, Ruinary.
Ruines	
Le ruisseau	Rain.
Ruine - e	
Sabliers	Sand-pit.
Sablonnière, Sableux	
Sapin	Fir tree.
Sauze	Willow trees.
Sauze - e	Saw-works.
Silence, Siècle	Saw-mill.
Sondage	Boring.
Source	Spring.
Souris, Surtout	Sugar factory.
Tannerie	Tannery.
Tanneur, à la chaux	Leather.
Tissage	Weaving mill.
Tolère	Bolling mill.
Tonbeau	Tomb.
Tour	Tower.
Tourbière	Peat bog, Peat- bog.
Tourne	Small wheel.
Tourne	Turns.
Tournerie	
Uaine - e	Gas works.
Usine électrique	Electricity works.
Usine d'électricité	
Usine métallurgique	Metal works.
à agglomérer	Brickworks factory.
Verrerie, Verre	Glass works.
Viaduc	Viaduct.
Vivier	Fish Pond.
Voie de chemins de fer	
d'éclatement	
d'écrêtement	Siding.
de formation	
de manœuvre	
Zincurrie	Zinc works.

INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS.

SCALE 20.000

Bateau phare	Light ship
Blanchisserie	Laundry
B.M. (bombe militaire)	Miss stone
B ^a (borne)	
Boulangerie	Bakery
Fab ^r de boulon	Bolt Factory
Boulevard	Boulevard
Brasserie, Brass ^e	Bar
Briqueterie, Briq ^e	Brickfield
Brises-lames	Breakwater
Bureau de poste	Post office
de douane	Custom house
Buîte	Bt, Mountd.
Cabane	Hut
Caboret, Cab ^t	Inn
Câble sous-marin	Submarine cable
Canal	Canal
de dessèchement	Drainage canal
Canal d'irrigation	Irrigation canal
Fab ^r de caoutchouc	Rubber factory
(Arrière, Cour)	Quarry
" de gravier	Gravel-pit
Caserno	Barracks
Chemin de courses	Shopping course
" " manoeuvres	Drill-ground
" " tir	Kids range
Chantier	Building yard
	Ship yard
	Load yard
Chantier de	
Fab ^r de construction	Slip-way
Chapelle, Ch ^{ap}	Chapel
Charbonnage	Colliery
Château d'eau	Water tower
Chaussée	Highway
Chemin de fer	Railway
Chine	Chimney
Cimetière	Old tree
Cimetière, Cim ^e	Cemetery
Clocher	Belfry
Colombier	Dove-cot

Cour des marchandises	Goods yard.
Convent	Convent.
Crozier	Clog, hogg.
Croix	Shag.
Darso	Janitor door.
Décollé -	Destroyed.
Détruit - de, Dist	Wife.
Déversoir	Dike, sluiceway.
Digue	Distillery.
Distillerie, Dist	Dist.
Douane	Custom-house.
Bureau de douane	Customs-house.
Entrepôt de douane	Customs warehouse.
Dynamitère, Dynam	Dynamite.
Dynamiterie	Dynamite factory.
Ecluse	Sluice, lock.
Ecluseite, Ed	School.
Ecole	School.
Ecuelle	Stadle.
Eglise	Church.
Emallerie	Enamel works.
Emballerie, Emb	Landing place.
Estaminet, Estam	Pond.
Etang	Factory.
Fabrique, Fab	Chemical works.
Fab' de produits chimiques	Pottery.
Fab' de faïence	Farm.
Faïencerie	Spinning mill.
Ferme, F ^m	Foundry.
Filature, Fil	Spring, fountain.
Fonderie, Fout	Forest.
Fountain, Fout	Dry dock.
Forêt	Forge.
Forme de radou	Mine, Pit.
Forge	Meat, Ditch.
Fosse	Kiln.
Fossé	Le chauff.
Four	

SECRET.

Copy No.....

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 20.Divisional Headquarters.
19th April, 1917.

1. Gas projectors will be used against the enemy on the night 20/21st, April should the wind be favourable. A South Westerly wind is required for the operation. The projectors will be fired from K.7.d. The objective will be the enemy's position about LOCK 6 Sq. K.3.a.
2. The discharge will be supplemented by a brief artillery gas shell bombardment on the enemy trenches in Sq. K.3.a. and K.3.c. commencing at zero hour.
3. Zero hour will be 3 a.m.
4. Authority to discharge the projectors will be given by G.O.C., 1st. Brigade at 2 a.m. on 21st instant by the following priority wire to G.R.A. and O.C. "H" Company Special Brigade, D.H.Q. and G.O's in Right Sector. "Goods will be delivered".
If the wind is unfavourable the following priority wire will be sent to the same addresses: "No action".
O.C. "H" Company Special Brigade will arrange to keep in touch with 1st. Brigade Headquarters through Headquarters 10th. Battalion or Headquarters 4th. Battalion.
5. All troops will be warned and those in the forward area East of a North and South line through LOUVERVAL - DOIGNIES will wear gas helmets in the alert position.
6. Hostile enemy artillery fire is to be anticipated in retaliation.
7. Watches will be synchronised with 1st. Aust. Div. Signal Company at 12 noon and 6 p.m. on 20th. instant.

Acknowledge.

*T. Blamey*Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.Distribution.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to.</u>
1	1st. ANZAC.
2	2nd. Aus. Div.
3	20th. Div.
3 4	5th. Div. Arty.
5	1st. Aus. Inf. Bde.
6	2nd. do
7	3rd. do
8	21st. Machine Gun Co.
9	C.R.B. 1st. Aus. Div.
10	1st. Aus. Div. Signal Co.
11	H. Special Co. R.E.

Issued at 8.30 p.m.

ACTION of the 8th BATTALION against ENEMY STRONG POST.

1. On 21st April, C.O. 8th Battalion obtained permission from the G.O.C. 2nd Brigade to capture the enemy's strong post at Sq. D.14.c.5.5.
Preliminary reconnaissances had discovered that the post was strongly wired. Two small openings were known to exist in the wire immediately in front of our positions. It had been ascertained also that only one sentry post was employed to watch the right flank of the post in the valley. It was known that the enemy had machine guns within the post one of which had been located and the garrison of the post estimated to be 50 or 60.
2. It was decided to make a diversion against the enemy's flank in such a manner as to threaten his retreat and while he was occupied in dealing with this to endeavour to rush the post from the front. The hour selected for the attack was 4 a.m. and patrols kept NO MAN'S LAND clear during the night.
3. Direct liaison was arranged between the 8th Battalion and a battery of artillery. Each man carried 220 rounds S.A.A. and two Mills bombs, rifle grenadiers were well supplied with grenades. Wire cutting parties were told off with wire cutters and a small carrying party was detailed to follow up the attack with a supply of tools, S.A.A. and bombs. A telephone party was also told off to follow up the attack and open communication from the post.
4. At 3.45 a.m. the attacking force, strength 4 Officers and 70 O.R. was formed up in two parties, one in front of the enemy's post and the other on the right flank so posted as to move against the enemy's rear. Each party was formed up in two lines and a Lewis Gun was placed 50 yards to the left of the party attacking the enemy's front.
5. At 3.55 a.m. the parties moved close up to the wire, and at 4 a.m. the flank party attacked with bombs while wire cutters endeavoured to cut gaps through the wire. The enemy thus found his flank and rear threatened and his attention was entirely diverted from the front. The main party was enabled to push through the gaps which had already been discovered in the wire and rush the post. The enemy machine gun opened fire but the Lewis Gun placed on the flank of the main attack was so well posted that it was enabled to keep the enemy machine gun quiet by means of short bursts of fire. The flank party was then able to enter the post and join up with the main party.
6. A protective screen was at once moved out to the front and the flank. One party pursued the enemy down the sunken road for a distance of about 100 yds. and established a small block with a Lewis Gun. The battery of artillery kept up a steady fire covering the position.
7. It was not intended to hold the position if it appeared likely to necessitate an undue number of casualties and the party was withdrawn accordingly during the morning.
Our casualties during the action were one killed and 14 wounded. Enemy casualties were three casualties taken, 19 killed and a number known to be wounded. A machine gun tripod and machine gun were captured.
The attack was skilfully planned and was carried out with great determination by the men and it was due to this combined with the excellent leadership shown by the Officers that the action was attended with such success.

(sgd.) H.B. WALKER,
Major-General.
Commanding 1st Australian Division.

SECRET

Copy No. 31

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 21.

Divisional Headquarters
April 21st 1917.

1. The First Australian Division (less Artillery) will be relieved in the line by the 11th Imperial Division (less Artillery) on the 23rd and 24th instant in accordance with the attached table.
2. The boundaries between the right and left brigades at the conclusion of the relief are to be as follows.- Sq. J.6.d.2.0. to BEAUMETZ (inclusive to the right brigade) and thence as at present.
3. (i) The left battalion of the 2nd Aust. Brigade will not be relieved.
(ii) On the night 24th/25th instant, one battalion 2nd Aus. Brigade will relieve the right battalion of 7th Aus. Brigade.
(iii) At the conclusion of the relief the right boundary of the 2nd Brigade sector will be E.23.d.5.0. - I.14.central - I.9.d.0.0. - I.10.central. - I.5.d.2.3. - G.30.central. - D.19.b.5.0. - D.15.b.1.9.
(iv) The 2nd Aus. Brigade will come under the command of G.O.C. 2nd Australian Division at 9 a.m. on 25th April.
4. No relief forward of the BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES line will take place by day.
A nucleus of the relieving garrison of each post of this line may go in by day, but the main relief will not take place before dusk.
5. By day movement in the open must be made in artillery formation and no formed body larger than a section will move forward of the BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES line.
6. Plans of work, maps, photographs, documents and intelligence relating to future operations will be handed over on relief.
7. Details of relief will be arranged between Brigade Commanders
8. The Corps working parties now being furnished by 34th Brigade (Hqrs. THILLOY) will be provided by 3rd Brigade. Details of the relief will be arranged direct between Brigade Commanders.
9. Separate instructions will be issued for the relief of ..
(i) Engineer Field Companies and Pioneers.
(ii) Field Ambulances.
(iii) 21st M.G. Company.
(iv) Mobile Veterinary Section.
10. units will march out with full echelons of ammunition. Lumped ammunition, surplus to establishment will be handed over to relieving units.
11. No huts, tents, or trench shelters are to be removed. All will be handed over to relieving units.
12. Relief will be completed by 9 a.m. on 25th instant. At this hour, the command of the sector will pass to G.O.C. 11th Division Headquarters, 1st Australian Division will remain in the present location.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

T. A. Blaney
Colonel, G.S.
1st Australian Division.

Distribution.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to.</u>
1 to 3	D.H.Q.
4	C.R.A. 5th.Aus.Div.
5	C.R.A. 1st. do.
6	C.R.E. 1st. do.
7	Div.Signal Coy.
8	Div. Train.
9	S.S.O. 1st.Aus.Div.
10	1st.Aus.Inf.Bde.
11	2nd. do.
12	3rd. do.
13	1st. Pioneer Bn.
14	A.D.M.S.
15	A.D.V.S.
16	A.P.M.
17	
18	1st. ANZAC.
19	1st. ANZAC, H.A.
20	G.O.C., R.A. 1st. ANZAC.
21	D.A.D.O.S.
22	2nd.Aus.Div.
23	4th. do.
24	5th. do.
25	20th. Imperial Div.
26	11th. Div.
27	21st. M.G. Coy.
28	File.
29	
30	War Diary.
31	
32	3rd. R.F.C.

Issued at 10 p.m.

MOVEMENT TABLE to accompany 1st Australian Division order No. 21, dated 21-4-1917.

1st Aust. Division				11th Division			Remarks
Date	Unit relieved	From	To	Unit relieved	From	To	
Night 23/24. Apl.	"A" Bn. 1st Bde "A" Bn. 2nd Bde "B" Bn. 2nd Bde	Line Line Line	VELU Bde. Reserve Bde. Reserve	"A" Bn. 32nd Bde "B" Bn. 33rd Bde "C" Bn. 33rd Bde	BEAULENCOURT HAPLINCOURT BANCOURT	Line Line Line	H.G. Coys. & T.M. Btys. will be relieved under Bde. arrangements.
24th Apl.	"A" Bn. 1st Bde H.Q. 3rd Bde.	VELU FREMICOURT	BEAULENCOURT Pioneer Huts BANCOURT	H.Q. 34th Bde	THILLOY	FREMICOURT	
	"A" Bn. 3rd Bde "B" Bn. 3rd Bde "C" Bn. 3rd Bde "D" Bn. 3rd Bde 3rd H.G. Coy.	BEAUMETZ- MORCHIES Line do. VELU FREMICOURT BEAUMETZ- MORCHIES Line	HAPLINCOURT BANCOURT BEUGNY-YTRES Line do. Pioneer Huts near BANCOURT	One Bn. 34 Bde do. do. do. do. H.G. Coy. 34th Bde	BAPAUME THILLOY do. do. GREVILLERS do.	BEAUMETZ- MORCHIES Line do. do. do. do.	
Night 24/25. Apl.	H.Q. 1st Bde "B" Bn. 1st Bde "C" Bn. 1st Bde "D" Bn. 1st Bde H.Q. 2nd Bde "D" Bn. 2nd Bde	BEAUMETZ Line Line BEAUMETZ Sq. I. 11 c. 5.6. Bde Reserve	N. 24. central VELU BEAUMETZ BAPAUME D. 29. a. 4. 2. Line	H.Q. 32nd Bde "B" Bn. 32 Bde "A" Bn. 33 Bde "D" Bn. 32 Bde "C" Bn. 32 Bde "A" Bn. 7th Aus. Bde. "D" Bn. 33 Bde	N. 24. central BEAULENCOURT BEUGNY-YTRES Line BAPAUME la SUCRERIE Line BEUGNY-YTRES Line	BEAUMETZ Line Line BEAUMETZ Sq. J. 22. b. - Bde Reserve	
25. Apl	"L" Bn. 1st Bde "C" Bn.	VELU BEAUMETZ	BEAULENCOURT RIENCOURT				

Appendix No. 11

SECRET

Copy No. 10....

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No.22.Divisional Headquarters,
April 22nd 1917.

1. On "Z" day the 2nd Australian Division is attacking the enemy in co-operation with the 62nd Imperial Division on its left. The front of attack is from Sheet 57c N.W. Sq. J.30.a. 4.4. to a point northwest of BULLENGOURT.
The attack will be made by 5th and 6th Aus. Brigades.
The objectives of the attack are shown on a map issued herewith to those concerned.
2. (a) The 1st Inf. Brigade will be attached to 2nd Aus. Division from noon on "Y" day. At this hour Brigade Headquarters will be established at FAVREUIL now occupied by 7th Aus. Brigade.
(b) The nucleus garrison of the left divisional sector of the BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES - VAULX line between MARICOURT Wood and Sq. C.13.central, now consisting of two battalions (one battalion each of 5th and 6th Aus. Brigades,) will be relieved by one battalion of 1st Brigade on the afternoon of "Y" day. The relief will be completed by 6 p.m.
This relief will be arranged by G.O.C. 1st Brigade direct with G.O.C. 5th and 6th Brigades. Completion will be reported to 2nd Aus. Division Headquarters.
(c) The nucleus garrison of two battalions of Corps Main Line (BLUGNY-YTRES line) now furnished by 7th Aus. Brigade will be relieved by a similar garrison of 1st Inf. Brigade, under arrangements to be made by G.O.C. 1st Brigade with G.O.C. 7th Brigade on "Y" day.
Relief will be completed by 3 p.m. and completion will be reported to 2nd Aus. Division.
(d) Brigade Headquarters and the remaining battalion of 1st Brigade will be in divisional reserve in the BLUGNY-TRE-FAVREUIL Area.
3. G.O.C. 1st Aus. Inf. Brigade will detail two platoons to report to A.P.M. 2nd Aus. Division at NOREUIL by 6 p.m. on "Y" day to assist in guard and escort duties.
4. Orders are being issued for the co-operation of the 5th Aus. Div. Artillery by C.R.A.
5. Watches will be synchronised with 2nd Aus. Div. Sig. Coy at 12.30.p.m. and 5.30.p.m. on "Y" day.
6. Medical dispositions for the attack are as follows.-
R.A.Ps. To be communicated. Probably on Railway embankment U.28.c. to c.5.d.
Field Ambul- C.10.c.8.7. C.14.central.
-ance posts.- C.9.d.7.7. C.16.a.7.0.
C 15.a.8.8.
Advanced Collecting C.20.d.2.8.
Station.-
Advanced Dressing I.1.d.6.6.
Station.- (P.T.O.)

2.

7. Brigade Ammunition Dumps are being established as follows.-

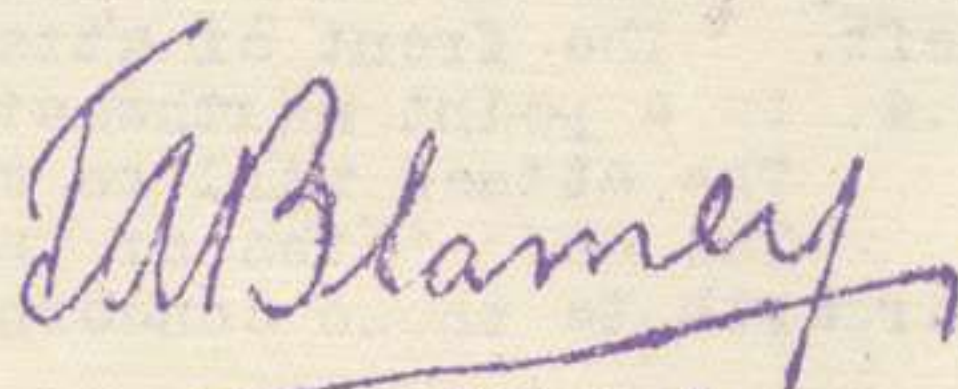
Right.- C.15.central
C.10.c.7.7.
C.5.a.2.5.

Left.- C.15.central.
C.5.a.3.4.

During the first phase brigades will carry ammunition forward from their battle dumps.

From zero plus two hours demands for further ammunition will be sent to D.A.C. Detachment at B.24.d.7.8. by guides who will conduct full limbers forward

ACKNOWLEDGE.



Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

Distribution

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to</u>
1	1st Aus.Inf.Bde. (with map)
2	2nd do.
3	3rd do.
4.	1st ANZAC.
5	2nd Aus.Division.
6	11th Division
7	C.A.A. 5th Aus.Div.
8	A.Q.
9	File
10-12	War Diary.

Issued at 2 p.m.

SECRET.

Copy No. 13

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 23.Divisional Headquarters.
28th April, 1917.

1. With reference to Divisional Order No. 22 and letter S/5460 dated 25-4-17 the 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will on 29th. April move into the VAULX - MORTHEMES line and the BEUGNY - YTHES line within the 2nd. Australian Divisional Area and will then come under the orders of the 2nd. Australian Division.
2. All arrangements for the relief of troops now occupying the lines mentioned will be made between the 1st. Brigade and 5th. and 6th. Brigades direct.
3. The 1st. Brigade will probably remain under the orders of 2nd. Australian Division until 2nd. May. Further orders will be issued for its return to this Division.
4. Acknowledge.

R. W. Smythe
Major.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.

Distribution.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to.</u>
1 to 3	D.H.Q.
4	1st. Aus. Inf. Bde.
5	2nd. do.
6	3rd. do.
7	2nd. Aus. Div.
8	11th. Division.
9	File.
10 to 12	War Diary.

Issued at 4.30 p.m.

R. M. May

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONCASUALTY REPORTFrom 1st April to 30th April 1917.

	<u>Officers.</u>			<u>O. Ranks.</u>		
	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>
Div Artillery.	-	3		18	34	1
Div Engineers.	1			1	5	
1st Pioneer Bn.					1	
1st Field.Amb.					4	
2nd Field.Amb.					2	
1st Battalion.	1	4		24	203	
2nd Battalion.	2	6		63	141	1
3rd Battalion.	1	2		45	79	5
4th Battalion.	1	7	1	46	108	63
1st A.L.T.M.Bty.					1	
1st A.M.G.Coy.		1			13	
5th Battalion.		1		15	51	
6th Battalion.		3		4	29	
7th Battalion.		2		7	34	
8th Battalion.		5		18	78	1
2nd A.L.T.M.Bty.					1	
2nd A.M.G.Coy.				2	6	
9th Battalion.	2	2		15	59	1
10th Battalion	2	4		37	85	8
11th Battalion.	2	5	4	25	94	176
12th Battalion.	2	9		84	214	110
3rd A.M.G.Coy.		1		1	6	6
21st M.G.Coy.			1	3	4	20
	14	55	6	408	1152	392

Killed.	422	
Wounded.	1207	
Missing.	398	
<u>Total.</u>	<u>2027</u>	= 2027. %

Sick Wastage for month of April 1917.	=	1005. %
13 Officers. 992 Other Ranks.		-----
Total.		3023.
		=====

% Includes Officers.

Number of Officers and Other Ranks received by this Division during the month of April:-

Officers:	45
Other Ranks:	1234

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Appendix No. 14

62

208

DAILY STRENGTH as at noon April 30th, 1917.

UNITS	On establishment.			Attached.			Remarks.
	OFF.	O.R.	TOTAL.	OFF.	O.R.	TOTAL.	
DIV. HEADQUARTERS	22	65	87	8	211	219	
DIV. ARTILLERY	80	2533	2613	3	25	28	
DIV. ENGINEERS	27	615	642	1	49	50	
DIV. SIGNAL COY.	10	231	241	-	76	76	
PIONEER BATTALION	39	1129	1168	1	7	8	
1st. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	2	21	23	5	26	31	
1st Battalion	30	789	819	3	-	3	
2nd Battalion	26	732	758	-	-	-	
3rd Battalion	29	886	915	-	-	-	
4th Battalion	20	671	691	1	3	4	
1st A.L.T.M. Bty.	4	40	44	-	21	21	
1st A.M.G. Coy.	7	177	184	-	-	-	
2nd Inf. Bde. Hdqrs.	7	21	28	6	97	103	
5th Battalion	40	916	956	2	7	9	
6th Battalion	40	1089	1129	1	6	7	
7th Battalion	36	859	895	2	6	8	
8th Battalion	35	1044	1079	2	3	5	
2nd A.L.T.M. Bty.	4	52	56	-	22	22	
2nd A.M.G. Coy.	12	175	187	-	24	24	
3rd Inf. Bde. Hdqrs.	2	8	10	3	55	58	
9th Battalion	25	819	844	1	6	7	
10th Battalion	20	709	729	2	6	8	
11th Battalion	22	636	658	2	7	9	
12th Battalion	22	691	713	2	10	12	
3rd A.L.T.M. Bty.	3	46	49	-	18	18	
3rd A.M.G. Coy.	6	182	188	-	-	-	
DIVISIONAL TRAIN	25	402	427	2	59	61	
1st Field Ambulance	10	255	265	1	4	5	
2nd Field Ambulance	12	224	236	1	40	41	
3rd Field Ambulance	10	267	277	1	18	19	
SALVAGE COY.	1	62	63	-	17	17	
Mobile Vet. Section	1	23	24	1	12	13	
21st A.M.G. Coy.	9	173	182	-	-	-	
Total:	638	16542	17180	51	835	886	

R. M. S. M. H. 28

208
FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION SCHOOL.

TIRANCOURT.

1. On 12th November 1916 1st. ANZAC ordered Divisional Schools to be established. A reconnaissance was made with a view to finding a suitable place for our School and TIRANCOURT Chateau near LA CHAUSSEE was the place decided upon.

2. The School was primarily founded with the view of training Officers and men in Infantry work and the course of instruction was to last 24 working days.

3. A suitable Staff ^{from the Div} was assembled with Lieut-Colonel A.B. STEVENS as Commandant. The 1st Course assembled on the 29th November and consisted of 44 Officers and 91 other ranks.

4. At the end of the 1st Course it was decided to extend the scope of the School to include the training of selected N.C.O's and men for commissions. These men were classed as Cadets and at the end of their course were classed in the following categories.

- (a) Suitable for a direct commission.
- (b) Recommended for further training at a Cadet School in England.
- (c) Recommended for a further course at the Division School.
- (d) To be sent back to their Units as unsuitable

31 Cadets attended the first course.

5. The second course which assembled on the 1st January 1917 was extended for 1 week so that the students should have further field training.

6. Concurrently with the 2nd Infantry course a Signalling Course was run by signallers from Infantry Units attended. In all three Signalling Courses were held and 2 Officers and 150 other ranks attended.

7. On the 17th March Lieut-Colonel A.B. STEVENS took over the 1st Australian Base Depot at ETAPLES, Major O. HARRIS acted as Commandant until Lieut-Colonel HILMER-SMITH took over the duties on the 26th March.

8. The total number of Students put through the School was 193 Officers, 138 Cadets and 571 other ranks. In all cases reports by Instructors and Commandant were sent to Divisional Headquarters. These reports proved very useful and were recorded at Divisional Headquarters. In the case of Officers, if the report was not good, the Officer was considered for supercession, if the report showed negligence the Officer was punished, either by stoppage of leave or by supercession. In all cases Battalion Commanders were instructed to keep close watch upon Officers who obtained bad reports and to be prepared to report on them if necessary.

In the case of N.C.O's the reports brought to notice N.C.O's suitable for commissioned rank.

Action was taken on the reports on Cadets as indicated in para. 4.

Out of the 138 Cadets that attended the course, 40 have gained commissions, 66 have been sent to England, 18 have had further instruction and 14 rejoined Units.

9. The Divisional School was closely supervised by the Divisional Staff. Each course was inspected at least once by either the Divisional Commander or the G.S.O., and occasional lectures were

208
given by the Divisional Staff. All examination papers were submitted to the Divisional Commander for approval.

The value of the training received at the School was quickly felt throughout the Division and all Commanding Officers have been eager to send Students.

10. The School was closed on 1st May, 1917 by Corps Orders and was reopened as a Divisional Wing of the Corps School, the object being to economise in Staff.

R. M. L. May 1917
1st Aus Div

Number of Officers and Other Ranks sent to Schools for month of April 1917.

Name of School.	Nature of Course.	Duration of Course.	Numbers sent. Off. O.R.		Remarks.
M.G. School. CAMIERS&	Training of Musketry Instructors.	17 days.	5	29	
" "	For advanced training of M.G. personnel.	17 days.	1	4	
5th Army School of Cookery.	For training beginners or men with little experience.	21 days.		12	
5th Army Sniping School.		6 days.	4	6	
5th Army Inf. School.	To train Coy, Cmdrs - C.S.M's - and Platoon Sgts.	6 weeks.	15	13	
5th Army Musketry Camp WARLOY.	Training Officers and N.C.O's as Instr- uctors. Giving men who are backward in musketry an opportunity of going through a short course including Field Firing.	6 days.	1	29 *	* Included 26 privates.
5th Army Anti-Aircraft M.G.	To train officers and Other Ranks in the use of special sights required for Anti- Aircraft purposes and also to enable them to recognise British Aeroplanes.	Depends on we- ather condit- ions.	2	6	
1st Aus Div. School.		24 working days.	36	104	
		Total.	64	203	

See Appendix No. XV

R. B. Smythe

Major. General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

Appendix No.

16
65

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Action of Division while in 'M' area. Remarks.

Division is in Corps Reserve.

ANZAC Order 126.

1st. Brigade. To be held in readiness to move
as follows :-

ANZAC Order 126.

ON "Y" DayOne Battalion " " to relieve
by 6 p.m. the nucleus garrison of 2nd.
Aus. Division in BEAUMETS - MORCHIES -
VAULX line.1st. Aus. Division
Order 22.-----
Two Battalions " " to relieve by 3 p.m. the nucleus
garrison of 2nd. Aus. Division in
BEUGNY - YTRES line.

do.

One Battalion " " less
2 platoons to move to BEUGNY -
FAVREUIL area as Divisional Reserve
to 2nd. Division.

do.

Brigade Headquarters, Machine Gun
Coy. and L.T.M. Battery " to
FAVREUIL and comes under 2nd. Aus.
Division.

do.

2 Platoons to report by 6 p.m. to
A.P.M. 2nd. Aus. Division. NOREUIL.2nd. Brigade.In line under orders 2nd. Aus. Division
from 9 a.m. 25th.ANZAC Order 132
done.1 Section 21st. Machine Gun Coy.
added to 2nd. Brigade.Division wire G.164
(Relief file)3rd. Brigade.2 Battalions " " and Machine Gun Coy, garrisons BEUGNY-
YTRES line in right Division Sector and
come under orders 11th. Division from
9 a.m. 25th. April.ANZAC Order 133
Division Order 21
(tables)2 Battalions " distributed in rear of Right Division
find working parties
L.T.M. Battery in BEUGNY - YTRES line.

ANZAC Order 133

Divisional Artillery.Headquarters - Standing by unemployed
Artillery Brigades and T.M. Batteries-
under 2nd. Aus. Division.Divisional Engineers.C.R.E. - Directs the improvement and
strengthening of BEUGNY - YTRES line -
and defence of PREMICOULT and HAPLIN-
COURT.ANZAC Q. 74/123
dated 21-4-17
(Relief file)Takes responsibility for repair and
maintenance of roads and works in
"M" Area from C.R.E. 11th. Division.

(P.T.O.)

-2-

Divisional Engineers.

1st. Company A.L.R.

Engr. Instruction 35
dated 21-4-17

2nd. Company) temporarily transferred
3rd. Company) to 11th. Division from
25th.

1st. Pioneer Battalion.

2 Companies with A.L.R.

do.

2 Companies) temporarily with A.L.R.
less 1 Company)

1 Company - digging Headquarters for
Brigade of 11th. Div.

Field Ambulances.1st. POZIERES - entraining station -
under Corps.DIV. A.M.C. Order No.11
(Relief file)2nd. Bearer division comes under
2nd. Aus. Division on

Remainder N.11. Central - evacuation stn.

3rd. Rest station S.26.b.3.3 under Corps.

Divisional Train. All under Division.

One Company moves with each Brigade.

Verbal arrangements
by "Q"1 Troop "B" Squadron ANZAC L.H.1. Patrol Corps - second line - once
every 4 hours of daylightANZAC wire G.97 dated
23rd.

2. Make themselves acquainted with
areas of Divisions on both flanks
so that they can provide guides.

(Relief file)
Verbally to O.C. troop
(lieut. MORRIS)
by G.E.O.2 25-4-17.

1st. Aus. Inf. Bde.

2nd. do.

3rd. do.

For information.

Divisional Headquarters.
25th April, 1917.

R. W. Smythe
Major.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.General Staff Memorandum No. 21.Divisional Headquarters.
2nd April 1917.SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE MOVE.

1. An advance which necessitates the move of Division and Brigade Headquarters every few days will entail a great deal of work on the Signal Service - and will reduce the number of lines which it is possible to maintain.

2. This work will be greatly reduced, communication will be improved and material will be saved if Infantry Brigades and Divisional Artillery act on the following lines.

(i) The next forward move of Brigade and Battalion Headquarters should be forecasted before the communications to Units and Companies are laid, and the Signal Officers concerned should be informed.

(ii) Communications to two or more Battalions or Batteries of the same Brigade should follow the same route as far as possible and this route should run through or near the position which Brigade or Battalion Headquarters will occupy when it moves forward.

(iii) Lines should not be reeled up without reference to O.C. Div. Signal Company as they may serve for Division and Corps moving up behind.

R. D. Smith for
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Summary of Operations for the Week ending 12-4-17.

1. The relief of the 5th. Australian Division by the troops of the 1st. Australian Division was completed on the night 6/7th. April and at 9 a.m. 7th. the command of the divisional front passed to G.O.C. 1st. Australian Division.

2. On taking over the Infantry of the division was distributed as follows :-

1st.Aus.Inf.Bde. on the right with two battalions in front line (3rd. Battalion on right, 1st. Battalion on left) one Battalion (2nd.) in the BEUGNY - YTRES Line and one Battalion (4th.) in support in FREMICOURT.

3rd.Aus.Inf.Bde. on the left with two battalions in front line, (12th. Battalion on right, 9th. Battalion on left) one Battalion in the BEUGNY - YTRES Line (10th.) one Battalion (11th.) in support in sunken roads in the vicinity of MORCHIES.

2nd.Aus.Inf.Bde. (less 1 Battalion and 1 Company on works) in Divisional Reserve about HAPLINCOURT and FREMICOURT.

3. The 5th. Australian Divisional Artillery plus the 14th. (Army) F.A. Brigade was already emplaced to cover the front of this Division, the 1st. Australian Divisional Artillery being attached to 4th. Australian Division.

4. In accordance with orders preparations were at once put in hand for the capture of HERMIES by noon 8th. April, but on the representations of the Divisional Commander the Corps Commander consented to postponing this operation 24 hours.

5. On the night 7/8th. our patrols reconnoitred the whole front with the object of gaining as much information as possible about the positions to be attacked and the left Brigade fought to gain the high ground lying N.W. of BOURSIES and succeeded in establishing themselves in a favourable position for an attack on that village. The enemy replied with heavy artillery and machine gun fire and the Brigade suffered about 90 casualties.

6. On the 8th. plans were matured for the capture of HERMIES, DEMICOURT and BOURSIES on the early morning of the 9th. The 2nd. Battalion was relieved in the BEUGNY - YTRES Line by a Battalion of the Reserve Brigade, to free it for the attack on HERMIES.

7. At 10.30 p.m. 8th. the enemy heavily counter-attacked the positions gained by the 12th. Battalion near BOURSIES on the previous night. Under heavy barrage of bombs the enemy gained a footing in the sunken road in J.5.c but was immediately ejected by a counter-attack delivered by a company of 12th. Battalion. Fighting in this locality continued until 1.30 a.m. 9th. and seriously interfered with the dispositions of the 12th. Battalion for the attack on BOURSIES timed for 4.30 a.m.

8. At 4.30 a.m. on 9th. simultaneous assaults were delivered on HERMIES and BOURSIES by the 1st. and 3rd. Brigades respectively while DEMICOURT was kept under artillery fire.

The operation was wholly successful and resulted in the capture of HERMIES, DEMICOURT and BOURSIES together with one Officer 198 O.R. prisoners, 3 machine guns, 4 automatic rifles and 2 T.M's.

By night of 9th. our line was consolidated from the Canal du Nord (J.36.d.) East of the 3 captured villages to D.28. central where it connected with our old line.

A separate report dealing with this operation is in course of preparation.

9. During the 9th. the enemy was observed to be massing in HAVRINCOURT and a counter-attack on HERMIES was expected. Artillery fire was opened on HAVRINCOURT and the counter-attack did not materialize.

208
10. Since the 9th. the enemy has been comparatively quiet on our front and opportunity has been taken of this to improve our defences as follows :-

(i) Front line posts have been strengthened and in most cases the troops have made themselves cover from the weather.

(ii) A system of defence in depth is being organised viz :-

(a) The advanced line of resistance.

(b) The Brigade reserve line.

(c) The BEUGNY - YTRES line.

Garrisons have been detailed to these lines and work on all of them is in hand.

(iii) Machine Guns have been mounted for A.A. defence in the neighbourhood of every considerable body of troops.

(iv) Some Strombos Horns have been installed and others are being put in position in accordance with a definite plan which will give warning throughout the whole Divisional Area.

R. H. Smythe *Major-General*
for

Major-General.
Commanding 1st. Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.SUMMARY of OPERATIONS for the Week ending 20th April, 1917.

208
1. General. The operations of the week have consisted mainly of advancing our line close up to the HINDENBURG line.

The actual move forward necessitated fighting at several points and the fact that we did move close to the enemy line brought on an attack by the enemy on a large scale.

The front which the Division holds measures 13,000 yards and runs as follows :-

K.31.a.7.3 - SQUARE COPSE - K.20.a.4.8 - K.14.a.4.1 -
K.7.c.8.8 - K.7.c.2.6 - J.6.b.2.0 - J.5.b. Central -
D.29. Central - D.28.b.1.9 - D.22.c.8.4 - D.22.c.0.4
D.21.d.6.3 - D.20.d.7.3 - D.20.d.1.9 - D.14.c. Central
D.13.b.0.4 - D.7.c.7.1 - D.7.c.2.0.

2. Operations. (i) Our own.

(a) (b) & (c) On 13th April the Division was ordered to advance during the night to suitable positions within approximately 1,000 yards of the HINDENBURG line with the object of threatening that line to the East of QUANT.

This involved an advance all along the Divisional front except on the left flank, for a distance of from 1,000 to 1,500 yards.

(d) Two Battalions in each Brigade sector were involved, the 3rd, 4th, 9th and 11th Battalions.

(e) Considerable resistance was met during the advance, the Right Brigade finding the enemy in force at K.7.c.8.7 and in SQUARE COPSE (K.25.d.) and the Left Brigade encountering strong posts at D.21.a.0.4 and D.20.a.0.9.

(f) We captured 2 prisoners of 95 R.I.R. and one Lewis Gun.

(g) Our casualties for 13th were O.R. 9 killed 37 wounded.

(h) Everywhere the enemy was driven out with loss and our line was advanced as ordered.

By the morning of the 14th our new line was established and organised in a series of strong posts, but there had been little time for digging and in many places no digging could be done in daylight.

The new line occupied then became the picquet line, the forward line of resistance of the Division, and the old front line became the support line.

Owing to the boundaries of the Divisional Area being divergent this advance of 1,000 yards increased our already extensive front by approximately 1,000 yards.

(i a) During the night of 14th we made further slight advances to straighten our line and effort was concentrated on strengthening posts, and owing to the extent of our front and our closeness to the enemy line supports were moved up from the Battalion in Brigade Reserve, one Battalion being sent up in the Left Brigade sector to reinforce the support line.

(ii) Enemy.

(a) At 10 a.m. on the 14th the enemy rushed and occupied two of our sentry posts in the Left Brigade sector at D.23.d.2.8 and D.22.d.3.9 and captured 9 men and one Lewis gun. The enemy was at once counter-attacked and driven out of these posts which we re-occupied.

(b) In the early morning of 15th the enemy in great strength attacked all along our front and also in part of the front of the 2nd Australian Division on our left, the attack being delivered in greatest strength against the front LAGNICOURT - NOREUIL.

At 3.30 a.m. heavy hostile artillery fire was developed against the villages in rear of our front line and against our battery positions. It was especially severe against HERMIES, LEMICOURT, DOIGNIES, LAGNICOURT, MORCHIES and their vicinities.

At 4.15 a.m. the enemy attacked along our whole front in great force.

On our right Brigade front the attack was made in greatest strength against HERMIES, but was repulsed with very heavy losses to the enemy, 150 dead being counted on one Company's front alone. Further North in the vicinity of DEMICOURT and BOURSIES our troops were forced to give ground by sheer weight of numbers after inflicting severe casualties.

On our left Brigade front the company on the extreme left was holding a frontage of about 1,000 yards with three platoons in the line. After putting up a strenuous resistance found itself attacked both front and rear owing to the enemy having broken through the troops on its left flank.

The three platoons were overwhelmed. The support platoon resisted the enemy in Sq. C.18.a until the attack worked round its left and rear. This company lost between 60 and 70 percent of its effectives.

The company on its right, although surrounded on three sides through the same cause held its ground and continued to punish the enemy severely.

The Division on our left formed a defensive flank facing East and covering MORREUIL. The attackers moved through the gap and swung to the South and captured LAGNICOURT.

One of our machine guns which had been moved to C.29.a.0.8 inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy as they attempted to come over the ridge in C.22.d and C.23.e.

The enemy pushed on to about the track running East and West through Sq.25.a.0.5. A counter-attack by two companies of the Brigade Reserve and the Reserve of the left Battalion in conjunction with a counter-attack by a Battalion of the 2nd. Australian Division on our left, succeeded in driving the enemy back to his original line with very heavy losses, many of them surrendering. From D.20.a.9.9 to the right of the Brigade front in J.5. our troops retired slowly in face of superior numbers to a line from two to three hundred yards in rear of their original line.

Throughout the engagement very heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, being a conservative estimate of their dead left in front of our lines.

We captured prisoners and a machine gun. Our casualties were comparatively light.

We lost 4 machine guns and had 6 field guns damaged in LAGNICOURT.

3. Patrols. Our Activity.

Great activity has been maintained throughout the last week, no less than two Officers and 14 other patrols left our lines, only very few of these patrols met with resistance, and the location from which the resistance came was definitely located, and accordingly dealt with.

Enemy's Activity.

From all accounts enemy activity as regards patrols, seems far below normal; only three patrols, one of 6, and 2 of 3 men strong, have been seen during the last 7 days.

4. Machine Guns.

(i) Our own.

The distribution of our machine guns is generally as follows:- Lewis guns in the front line Vickers guns in support and reserve lines and in defended Villages. Lewis or Vickers mounted for defence against aircraft in the neighbourhood of every considerable body of troops.

During the week the machine guns have been freely used both for direct and indirect fire. They were well handled and played a decisive part in repelling the enemy attack on 15th.

(ii) Enemy.

The enemy has many machine guns on this front some of which have been located. Access to certain parts of our front line is unsafe by day on this account.

Little indirect machine gun fire has been experienced.

5. Trench Mortars.

(i) Our Trench Mortars. Have not been used.

(ii) Enemy.

On 19th the enemy used trench Mortar fire throughout the night against our posts in X.20.a and K.7.d.5.5.

6. Artillery.

(i) Our own.

Our general policy has been (a) to engage at once any favourable target which presented itself and (b) by maintaining a close liaison between Infantry and Artillery to ensure the instant co-operation of the guns in repelling any enemy counter-attack. As an instance of (a) on 20th. 2 enemy Battalions were caught in the open by field guns and heavies and dispersed. Generally speaking the volume of our artillery fire has been greater than that of the enemy during the period. As an instance of (b) on 15th. the enemy during his attack suffered heavy casualties from our artillery fire especially in the vicinity of his own wire, where many of his dead can be seen.

(ii) Enemy.

(a) Front System. All villages in the front line system are consistently shelled, particularly LAGNICOURT.

The enemy has also searched sunken roads and has been quick to fire on any movement seen.

(b) Intermediate Areas. The villages of MORCHIES, BEAUMETZ, DOIGNIES and BEUGNY are regularly shelled.

The main BAPAUME - CAMBRAI road is also often shelled, chiefly from BEAUMETZ to BEUGNY.

The enemy guns constantly search for our heavy guns.

The enemy shells are nearly all high explosive and guns and howitzers of all calibre are used up to 15cm.

7. Changes of Brigade Fronts.

The left boundary of the Division has been changed, reducing the frontage of the left Brigade by approximately 800 yards.

8. Casualties for the Week ending 20th April, 1917.

	Date.	Unit.	Officers.			Other Ranks.			&
			K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.	
From		V.I.A/H.T.M. Batty.				3	4		
		Div. Artillery.						1	
		1st. Battalion.		1		6	28	2	
12		2nd. do				3	17		
		3rd. do		1		16	46	3	
noon		4th. do	1	6	1	32	98	73	
		1st. A.M.G. Coy.					4		
		1st. A.L.T.M. Bty.					1		
12/4/17.		5th. Battalion.					7		
		6th. do				2	5		
		7th. do				1	4		
		8th. do				11	15		
		9th. do	1			9	30	1	
		10th. do		1		7	21	1	

208

Date.	Unit.	Officers.			Other Ranks.		
		K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.
to	11th. Battalion.	2	2	4	7	54	176
12	12th. do		4		23	52	107
noon	3rd. AM.G.Coy.		1		1	3	6
19/4/17.	21st. do			1	1	2	20
	2nd. Field Ablee.						1
Total.		4	16	6	122	392	390.

R. B. Lester M. E. S.
for

Major-General.
Commanding 1st. Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

74

SUMMARY of OPERATIONS - 21st April to 25th April 1917.1. GENERAL.

There has been no general forward move during the period. The Division has been consolidating the Line gained during the recent operations. On the night of 21st/22nd April we raided a strong point at D.14.c.5.5. The relief of the Division took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th inst.

2. OPERATIONS.Our Activity.

(a) (b) (c).

On the night of 21st/22nd April a raid was organised to destroy a strong point at D.14.c.5.5. which was strongly wired. The garrison of the strong point was estimated at 50- 60 men and a Machine Gun.

The raid was divided into two parties, one working round to the right rear of the post and the other making a frontal attack.

(d) 4 Officers and 700.R. of the 8th Battalion made the raid.

(e) The enemy developed strong resistance against the right rear party. The party making the frontal attack was met by machine gun fire which was quickly dealt with by cleverly placed Lewis Guns and carried by assault by both parties after hand to hand fighting.

(f) Three prisoners were taken, 19 of the enemy were killed and a number of the enemy were wounded. The enemy were able to carry off their machine gun leaving however, the tripod. Our casualties were 1 killed and 14 wounded. We held the post until morning and then withdrew.

HOSTILE ACTIVITY.

Nil.

3. PATROLS.Our Activity.

Patrol activity has been maintained throughout the period. Eleven Officers patrols, sixteen other patrols, and numerous contact and protective patrols leaving our lines. In all cases the patrols achieved their object.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

The enemy's patrol activity was below normal, only two small patrols of the enemy being met by our patrols.

4. MACHINE GUNS.Our Activity.

Our machine guns have been employed on the following tasks:-

1. Dispersing hostile working parties.
2. Firing at anti-aircraft.
3. Firing by night on enemy's communications.

Owing to our large front our machine guns have numerous alternate positions. This permits of intensive use of the guns by day.

208
HOSTILE ACTIVITY.

Enemy machine guns have been active along our front. They frequently traversed posts in our front line by day and night, and fired frequently at our aircraft.

5. TRENCH MORTARS.

1. Our Activity.

Our trench mortars have not been in action during the period under review owing to the enemy line being out of range of our L.T.M. except in one place which is too exposed for their use.

2. Enemy Activity.

The enemy constantly fired bombs into our front posts. Fortunately the shooting was erratic and little damage was done. The mortars in most cases were located and dealt with by our artillery.

6. ARTILLERY.

1. Our Activity.

Our general policy has been (a) to engage any favourable target which presented itself (b) by maintaining a close liaison between infantry and artillery to ensure the instant co-operation of the two arms in the case of any hostile move.

(a) Our field artillery has engaged various enemy strong points along our front, and has daily dispersed parties of the enemy with good results. Field guns and 4'5" howitzers also bombarded portions of the enemy's wire and trenches, and the villages immediately in front of us.

(b) The heavies have been called upon on several occasions to silence hostile batteries. In most cases they were immediately effective. They have also bombarded enemy strong points and villages in our front.

2. Brief report of hostile shelling.

(a) Shelling on our front system has been below normal, but at times the enemy concentrated on definite areas. Our counter batteries usually effectively dealt with them.

(b) Below normal. At certain periods the villages in the intermediate areas were shelled heavily.

(c) Negligible.

7. The Inter-Brigade boundary has not changed. The Divisional left boundary has altered to the following line:- I.4.(central) C.23.b.8.5. - C.18.d.5.8. - D.7.central.

8. Casualties up to 12 noon 25th April.

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Killed :	nil	30
Wounded:	8	130
Missing:	nil	1
<hr/>		
TOTAL:-	8	161
<hr/>		

(20) 24th Walker
Major-General.
Commanding 1st. Australian Division.

SECRET.

Copy No.....

ORGANISATION FOR DEFENCE.1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Divisional Headquarters.
11th April 1917.

S/5284

Description
of Locality.

1. The Division occupies the main HERMES RIDGE and a series of parallel and gently undulating spurs running Northeast from this. These parallel spurs slope very gradually to the valley of the AGANNE along which runs the main German position, the HINDENBURG Line. Our line runs across the forward slopes of these spurs. There is very little tree growth, the field of view is remarkable. The country is particularly suited to defence by means of concealed machine guns. There are a number of villages in the area which constitute centres of attraction and must be defended.

Role of the
Division.

2. Although the German withdrawal is caused primarily by a shortage of men, it has also been made with the probable intention of freeing troops for an offensive blow. So far there is nothing to indicate exactly where this offensive may be expected. While it is incumbent upon us to exert continual steady pressure upon the enemy, our arrangements must take into consideration a possible counter-offensive. Our objects are :-
 - (i) to advance our line until we are in a situation from which we can attack the HINDENBURG Line.
 - (ii) to arrange our dispositions in such a way as will ensure the defeat of a counter-offensive on any scale.

Policy.

3. The policy therefore is to consolidate the present position thoroughly. In addition it is intended to advance the front gradually and systematically by establishing posts and strongly supporting them until the Divisional line is firmly established within attacking distance of the HINDENBURG Line. During this advance the progress of the line of posts is to be carefully controlled. The great extension of the Divisional front requires that the advance should be carefully co-ordinated. The posts are to be established in mutually supporting localities to prevent isolated counter-attacks against individual posts.

Systems of
Defence.

4. The defence is organised in depth in three systems :-
 - (1) The Advanced Line of Resistance. This will be line of outposts.
 - (2) The Brigade Reserve Line.
 - (3) The BEUGNY - YTRES Line. (The Corps Main Line.)

(P.T.O.)

-2-

Systems of Defence Contd.

G.O.'s.C. Brigades in the line are responsible for the preparation of the 1st. and 2nd. systems.
The G.O.C. Reserve Brigade is responsible for the preparation of 3rd. system under instructions from the Divisional Commander.
The attached map shows the system of defence and the organisation of the area.

Distribution of Infantry.

5. The position is held with two Brigades in the line and one in reserve. Each Forward Brigade has two Battalions in line. The remaining Battalions are distributed in depth.
Each Battalion in the line holds an outpost section.

Details of Defensive Organisation.

6. The Advanced line of resistance will be held against all attacks. Lewis Guns will be freely employed to ensure this.
All posts are to be wired.
Every post will be provided with S.O.S. signals.
The supports to the outposts will be in consolidated positions and localities.
A garrison will be told off to remain in the position if the supports are called upon to reinforce the posts or to counter-attack.
The Defence organisation of each Section of outposts will make arrangements to counter-attack the enemy immediately if the line of posts is penetrated at any point. Similar arrangements will be made to assist the flanking posts of neighbouring sections.
The Brigade defence organisation will ensure that complete arrangements are made for counter-attacking the enemy at once if the outpost system is penetrated. If the counter-attack is not carried out before the enemy has time to reorganise, it will have no chance of success unless carefully and deliberately prepared.

Brigade Reserve Line.

7. The Brigade Reserve Line will be organised in a series of strongly consolidated defended localities which are capable of affording mutual support.
All villages are to be prepared for defence and definite garrisons allotted.
Concealed machine gun positions are to be freely employed. Half the Brigade machine gun company is to be detailed to this duty.
Where machine guns from the Divisional Company are made available, the numbers allotted from the Brigade companies may be reduced by an equal number if required for forward positions, but the emplacements for the extra guns must be prepared.
Machine and Lewis Gun positions will be camouflaged when not in Infantry posts.

(P.T.O.)

-3-

Reserve Infantry Brigade.

8. The Reserve Brigade will furnish two Battalions and Brigade Machine Gun Company for the garrison of BEUGNY - YTRES Line. Special instructions have been issued for the preparation of this line..

The remainder of the Brigade will form a mobile reserve in the hands of the Divisional Commander. It will be prepared to move at short notice.

Officers of the units of the Divisional Reserve will reconnoitre the following routes forward by night as well as by day. -

- (a) VELU - HERMIES.
- (b) LEBUQUIERE - BEAUMETZ - DOIGNIES.
- (c) MAIN ROAD.
- (d) BEUGNY - MORCHIES - LAGNICOURT.

Artillery.

9. The artillery S.O.S. lines will be arranged to deal with possible directions of attack instead of a complete barrage line.

The 3rd. Brigade (Army) A.F.A. is allotted to the right forward Brigade and the 13th. Brigade A.F.A. is allotted to the left forward Brigade.

The 14th. Brigade A.F.A. is at the disposal of the Divisional Commander and is at present allotted a special task.

Engineers.

10. One Field Company Engineers is allotted to each of the forward Brigades.

O.C. 1st. Pioneer Battalion is responsible for the roads and will arrange with Divisional Headquarters for any necessary working parties.

Engineer Dumps will be prepared at :-

- I.20.d.5.7. (Divisional Dump.)
- J.25.a.5.3. (Right Brigade Dump.)
- I.17.a. central. (Left Brigade Dump.)

Supplies and

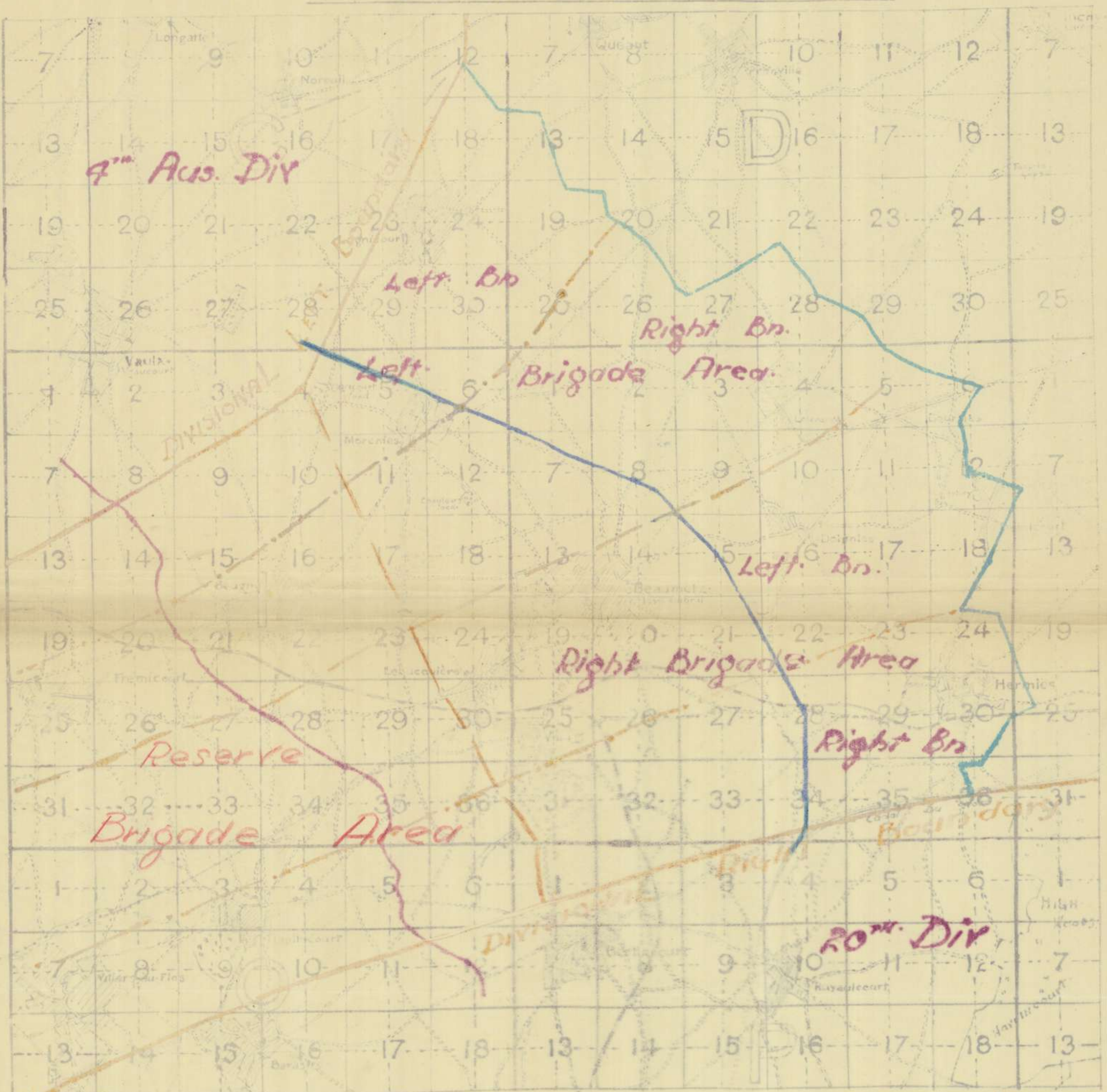
Ammunition.

11. Refilling Point is at Sq. H.30.a. central.
D.A.C., S.A.A. Section is at Sq. O.4.c.1.8.

T. A. Blamey

Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION SYSTEMS & DEFENCE



SCALE 1:40,000

11-4-17

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Advanced line of Resistance | | Corps Main Line of Resistance | |
| Brigade Reserve line | | Inter Brigade Boundary | |
| Division Boundary | | Inter Bn. do. | |

Appendix No. 22 79

S B C H E

Copy No.....

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S/5284/e.

Headquarters.
17th. April, 1917.

- ORGANISATION OF DEFENCE -

The following alterations will be made in the organisation for defence of the Divisional Area (S/5284 dated 11th. instant.)

BLAUMETTE - MORCHES Line. 1. The former Brigade Reserve Line will be known as the BLAUMETTE - MORCHES Line. This line will be organised by G.O.C., Reserve Brigade under the orders of the Divisional Commander.

2. G.O'sC. Brigades in the line will be responsible for the organisation of the 'Forward System of defence' within their respective areas. The 'Forward System' will consist of the 'advanced line' of resistance' and supporting localities and points organised in rear of this line. The preparations of these supporting points and localities will be put in hand at once. They will be consolidated and protected by wire. The reserves of the outposts sections and the Brigade reserves of Brigades holding the 'forward system' will be quartered in these supporting localities. Nucleus garrisons will be told off to hold each locality in the event of the reserves being ordered to move to the support of the 'advanced line of resistance'.

Distribution of Infantry and Machine Guns. 3. The position will be held with two Brigades in the line and one Brigade in Reserve, each Brigade in the line will have three battalions in the line and one in Reserve. In the forward system of defence Lewis Guns will be employed in the advanced line of resistance and Vickers guns will be employed in the supporting points. Machine guns will be employed in concealed positions as far as possible.

Reserve Infantry Brigade. 4. The Reserve Infantry Brigade will furnish two battalions and Brigade machine gun company for the garrison of the BLAUMETTE - MORCHES Line. The remainder of the Brigade will form a mobile reserve in the hands of the Divisional Commander. It will be prepared to move at short notice. Officers of all units of the Reserve Brigade will reconnoitre the routes through both forward Brigade sectors by night as well as by day.

BLUGNY - YVERES Line. 5. The BLUGNY - YVERES Line is garrisoned by two battalions and the machine gun company of 8th. Aus. Infantry Brigade 5th. Aus. Division.

Artillery. 6. The Divisional Front is covered by three artillery Brigades as follows :-

3rd. (A) 'A' Group covering A & B Battalions
A.F.A. Brigade. Right Brigade. Frontage E.31.a.8.7 to J.6.d.7.0.

208

-2-

Artillery
Contd :-

58th. Brigade 'D' Group covering C. Battalion Right Brigade.
R. P. A. A. Battalion Left Brigade.
Frontage J.6.d.7.0 to D.16.a.7.9.

13th. A.F.A. Brigade. 'B' Group covering D & G Battalions
Left Brigade. Frontage D.16.c.7.9 to
D.13.a.2.8.

14th. A.F.A. Brigade. 'C' Group is detailed to a special task.

T. Blamey

Colonel.
General Staff.
First Australian Division.