Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/22

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st Australian Division

November 1916

POMMIER REDOUBT	3rd Nov 1916	Operations — Our activity :- During the day we shelled BAYONET - BARLEY and BACON trenches the back in N15a the road + trenches in N15d - At night various trenches + communications indirect machine gun fire was maintained day + night 15000 rounds being used. We established listening posts in Romans Land + sent out several patrols. our snipers claim to have shot some germans - Enemy activity - GUEUDECOURT - FLERS - DELVILLE valley, S6C, S5d and OPs in T1D were shelled during the day - At 4 pm the enemy placed a heavy barrage from LES- BOEUFS to W of GUEUDECOURT lasting about 10 minutes - a heavy barrage was also placed in rear of GREESE, BISCUIT and HILT trenches from 5 to 6 pm and at frequent intervals up till 9 pm. Enemy snipers were also active General. an order was received from Corps postponing the Major operation until 7th Nov (APPENDIX II) RB Smythe Maj RS

APP/II
S/1591

do	5th Nov 1916	Operations - Our action :- The attack of the 1st and 3rd Bde against HILT - BAYONET + LARD trenches in square N20 D about 700 yards North of GUEUDECOURT was launched at 0030 in the rain. The 1st Bn attacked HILT + BAYONET trenches across the open under cover of a creeping artillery barrage and the 3rd Bn made a bombing attack on LARD trench - Two attempts were made by the 1st Bn but both failed. The 3rd Bn was partially successful but had to withdraw as before daylight owing to the failure of 1st Bn 1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

POMMIER REDOUBT	5th Nov 1916 (contd) (2)	Details of the action are as follows - a jumping off trench was dug prior to the night of attack parallel to and about 50 yards in advance of BISCUIT trench which runs diagonally across sq N20 c This left 250 yards to be covered in the attack - C + D companies 1st Bn were formed up in this trench - and got wet through before the attack began - ^ It was intended to form up in shell holes in front of the trench but the enemy put up many flares and it is thought he saw the troops assembling ^ and followed with a barrage on our front line. The frontage of the attack was 250 x and each coy advances on a 1/2 coy front. ~~Our~~ artillery barrage began at 0030 on a line 150 x short of the enemy trenches and continued in this position for 3 minutes - The barrage then moved forward by a series of lifts of 50 yards with 1 minute between each lift. The attackers moved forward in two waves ^ keeping as close up to the artillery barrage ^ as they could but owing to the shell holes the darkness + the very slippery mud were not able to go ^ as fast as the barrage ^ On the advance our troops had to top a ~~crest~~ crest and attack a trench on the reverse slope - When crossing the crest they were met by machine gun fire from the front and from the left flank On reaching HILT trench they were met by a fusilade of bombs and rifle fire A few entered the trench but the remainder retired - A second attack was at once organized consisting of B company and the remainder of C + D The fact that they were unable to keep up with the barrage is partly accounted for by the fact that they did not form up in advance of our trench as intended 1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

POMMIER REDOUBT

5th Nov 1916 (Cont'd) (3)

This second attack was launched at 0104 but met with the same fate as the first. Nearly all our casualties occured near to the enemy wire The bombing platoon of the 1st Bn worked along a hollow road on the right flank of the main attack and attacked the enemy strong point formed by a triangle of trenches. The first two sections were wiped out by M G fire as soon as they came within view including their officer. The Sergt led the remainder + bombed the post but fell back when the main attack failed.

The total casualties in the 1st Bn were - Killed + missing 5 officers 77 OR
Wounded 4 " 84 "
total 9 " 161 " *(Appendix IV) *APP'X IV. S/1679

The 3rd Bn Cooperated by a bomb attack on LARD trench. There were 3 bombing parties each aprox 40 strong. 2 parties entered LARD trench about the middle one working north the other South. The party working north succeeded in bombing to the end of the trench killing 35 and taking 2 prisoners 5 Germans. They then began to consolidate. The party working South came under machine gun fire from the strong point at the southern end and had to withdraw
The 3rd party worked along the road from N20d79 to N20b6.2 and joined hands with the northern party. A trench was subsequently

R. Abury 4th Bty SS attd Bde

1875 Wt W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

POMMIER REDOUBT	5th Nov 1916 (Contd) (4)		dug from the German trench almost connecting with our sap at N20 b 7.1½ Owing to the failure of the Pr Br to take HILT trench the parties of the 3rd Bn were withdrawn from LARD trench and the new communication which we has dug. Casualties in 3rd Bn were 2 OR killed + 6 OR wounded. When day broke it was seen that the Germans had occupied the new trench dug by 3rd Bn.
		9.10am	* an attack was made by the division on our left 7th Aus Inf Bde under 5th Aus Div
		4pm	a further bombardment of enemy trenches in N21d was carried out by field and heavy artillery between 4 & 6pm and our trenches within 200 yards of the enemy trenches were cleared for the purpose - Notwithstanding this precaution shells fell short into our trenches and caused aprox 30 casualties There was a high wind blowing at the time - The matter is being enquired into
		3pm	An enemy shell hit a lorry on the MONTAUBAN - LONGUEVAL road causing 25 casualties 12 killed.
			Major DICKENSON GSO3 4th Aus Div visited div HQ to look round forward area - as the 4th Aus Div is eventually to relieve this Div. Weather - bright day

* APPX V G/1H3

R K Loughnan Maj Ed
1st Aus Div

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

SECRET. NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES. APPENDIX I

Appendix No. 1 18

203

1st AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No.47.-

Brigade Headquarters,
2nd November, 1916.

REFERENCE: 1st AUS.DIV. TRENCH MAP No.S. 1/10,000

1. INFORMATION.- Owing to weather conditions the main operations now pending have been postponed.
The Brigade will continue its preparations for the attack on the objectives allotted to it.

2. OPERATION.- In order to facilitate the main operation the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade will clear up the situation in N.20.central.
This requires the seizure of .-
(a) SUNKEN ROAD east of LARD Trench.
(b) LARD Trench.
(c) HILT Trench as far north as N.20.a.8.1½.
(d) The road Angle south of HILT Trench in N.20.D.
Date and time will be notified later.

3. ARTILLERY SUPPORT.- The assault will be carried out under cover of a creeping barrage.
At zero the artillery barrage will commence on the objectives and on a line 50 yds short of the enemy's front line. The infantry will immediately leave their position and get as close under it as possible. At 0.3 the barrage will creep forward at the rate of 50 yds per minute until at 0.7 it will have reached a line 150 yds beyond the trenches were it will halt until 0.13.
At 0.4 the barrage passes over the objective and the infantry will enter the trench.
During the attack, the howitzers and heavy artillery will engage the enemy's artillery commencing at zero.
A map showing barrage scheme is attached. A rehersal of the zero barrage will be carried out at 1800 tomorrow, 3rd instant. As many of the Officers who will take part in the operation as possible should witness the firing.
During the rehersal all trenches and saps within 200 yds of the enemy's position will be vacated.

4. ALLOTMENT of TRENCHES.- The 2nd Australian Infantry Bde. is to place the following trenches at the disposal of the 1st Bde without evacuating them .-
Sap from GARAGE Trench to N.20.d.7.9½.
WHALE LANE
HILT Trench.
PETROL Trench.

5. LEFT ATTACK.- The 1st Battn. will attack from a line of shell holes about 100 yds in advance of our first line trench on a frontage of about 250 yds. Their first objective will be HILT and BAYONET Trenches from N.20.d.1½.3½. to N.20.d.0.9. Their second objective will be HOLLOW ROAD at N.20.d.3.4. and part of HILT Trench forming the N.E. side of the TRIANGLE and the small trench on higher ground at N.20.d.2.6. A stop will be made about N.20.central. Bombers and Lewis Guns will be used on this left flank.
The attack will be in waves, each wave to consist of two half companies. Waves will be at 10 paces distance and will keep close up to barrage.
Each man of the second wave will carry .-
1 shovel and either 1 sack of bombs
1 Lewis Gun
1 pick
1 petrol tin of water
Aeroplane signalling gear
Sandbags
All men will carry at least two sandbags, two bombs and one aeroplane flare.

6. RIGHT ATTACK.- The C.O. 3rd Battn., will arrange,

Appendix No.7

to occupy PETROL and WHALE Trenches with machine guns and bombers in addition to the garrison of the 2nd Brigade. He will cooperate with 1st Battn. with bombers from the saps S.W. of WHALE LANE about N.20.d.4.5. as soon as the barrage moves forward up LARD Trench. These bombing parties will work up LARD Trench and will build a stop about N.20.d.4.9.

7 RESERVES.- The O.C. 1st Battn. will keep his reserves ready for instant action in CHEESE ROAD until they are required.

8. MACHINE GUNS.- The O.C. 1st Aus.Machine Gun Coy will place four Vickers Machine Guns at the disposal of the O.C. 3rd Battn. for use at point of sap at N.20.d.7.9½. (from where reverse fire will be brought to bear on the HOLLOW ROAD N.20.d.8.4. previous to the assault) Machine guns will be in action at points enfilading enemy trenches at N.20.d.2.5. and 3.6., LARD Trench and RAM Trench previous to the assault. Machine gun fire from N.20.c. 8.7. and from N.20.c.4.8. will protect the left flank of the attack by firing on targets to the north.

9. TRENCH MORTARS.- (a)OC1st Aust.Light Trench Morter Battery will direct the fire of four Stokes Guns on the area N.20.b.2½ 5. from zero until plus 2 minutes.

(b). No.2 Special Coy.R.E. is to create a smoke barrage from half a minute before zero until three and a half minutes past zero. All ranks are to be warned that the smoke is not dangerous.

10. CONSOLIDATION.- Strong points will be made as soon as the situation allows at N.20.central, N.20.d.6.9. and at N.20.d.7.9. After the position is entered, one company of the 1st Pioneer Battalion under Major Holland is to join up communication trenches to the captured trenches from GUN PITS at N.20.d.1½.2. and saps at N.20.c.8.5. and N.20.c.9.6.

11. BATTALION ORDERS.- Battalion Commanders, will, as early as possible, furnish a copy of their orders covering the following points.- Mopping up patrols, section of Lewis Guns, equipment to be worn, bombs and s.a.a. to be carried, supply of water, rations, ammunition and engineering material, medical arrangements, inter--communication.

12. RECOGNITION MARK.- To prevent any possibility of the two attacks firing into one another, all ranks will wear sleeves rolled up. If there be any doubt as to the identity of parties seen two short whistle blasts will be sounded, the answer to which will be three blasts.

The word RENIRE will not be used; if a party has gone to far, the word GET will be used instead.

13. TIME.- Watches will be synchronised through this office with 1st Aust.Division time at 0000, 1800, 1800 and 2400 preceding zero.

The Brigade Signal Officer will arrange that the same watch is used throughout.

14. REPORTS.- Reports will be sent to Brigade Headquarters, S.12.b.5.7.

15. This Order supersedes 1st Australian Infantry Bde. Order 45. Distribution will be the same.

Acknowledge.

(Sgd) S. L. MILLIGAN Major.

Brigade Major. 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.

20

REPORT on the ACTION of the 1st AUS. INF. BDE.

on 5th NOVEMBER 1916.

Appendix No. 4

1. The object of the operation was to seize the strong locality in Sq.N.20. to straighten our line with the view of a further attack on BARLEY TRENCH. The objectives were:-
(a) SUGGER ROAD east and south of LARD trench.
(b) LARD TRENCH.
(c) HILT TRENCH as far north as N.20.a.3.1½.
(d) The road single south of HILT Trench in N.20.d

2. The attack was arranged for the morning of the 5th Novr. zero hour was 0530 a.m. The 1st Bn. was detailed to attack HILT and BAYONET Trenches across the open under cover of a creeping barrage. The bombing platoon of the 1st Bn. was to push forward up the SUGARS ROAD from the GUN PITS. The 3rd Bn. was to make a bombing attack on LARD Trench.

3. The assembly trench was dug by the 1st Bde. prior to the night of the attack in advance of SUGGUIT Trench in Sq.N.20.c. The distance between this trench and the objective was about 250 yds.

C.& D. Coys. of the 1st Bn. were detailed for the attack and were to be supported by B.Coy. with A.Coy. in reserve in CHESES Road. It was intended to form up the assaulting Coys. about 100 yds in advance of the base of departure. It is believed that the movement of these two Coys. became known to the enemy, as rockets were sent up and at 11.30.p.m. a light barrage of high explosive was put on NO MAN'S LAND. A continuous shower of Very light was sent up from this time onward, which made it impossible to form up as previously intended in the open.

At 0.30 a.m. our artillery barrage opened and the advance commenced. Rain had commenced to fall at about 10 p.m. and there was a steady downpour from then onward until after the attack was launched. Owing to their not being able to form up outside the trench and to the very slippery nature of the ground, the troops were unable to catch up to the barrage, which passed over the enemy trenches as arranged. In order to reach the enemy's position, it was necessary for the infantry to cross the sky line of a slight roll of ground between the opposing trenches. As they crossed this crest they were met by heavy M.G. fire. The advance pushed on steadily in spite of the difficulties of the ground almost to the enemy's trench and as the troops arrived within range, they were met with a funilade of bombs; steady rifle fire was poured into the attack, which gave way. A few men entered the trench but the bulk retired. A second attack was promptly organised consisting of B.& D.Coys., A.Coy. was also called up from reserve in order to participate if in time. At 1.4.a.m. the second attack was launched with a similar result to the first.

4. The bombing attack of the 1st Bn. met with M.G. fire and suffered heavily; a second attack was made here also and met a similar result.

5. The attack of the 3rd Bn. was made by three bombing parties, each of about 40 strong and was directed on LARD Trench Two parties entered LARD Trench about N.20.d.5.9. one party worked to the north, one to the south. The party working to the north bombed right through the trench to its northern end and killed 35 and took 5 German prisoners. The party working in a southern direction came under M.G' fire and were obliged to withdraw. The third party appears to have worked along the road: the exact line of its movement are not clear, but it finally joined the northern party.

The 1st Field Coy. had dug forward in the strong point at N.20.b.7.1. towards the northern end of LARD TRENCH.

Owing to its isolated position, the bombing parties of the 3rd Bn. were withdrawn when it was discovered that the attack of the 1st Bn. had failed.

2.

Appendix No. 4

The enemy appears to have been ready for the attack and to have discovered it during the early stages. The heavy rain and the bad going and the long wait in the wet and cold after forming up must have had a considerable effect on the ardour of the men. Their inability to form up in advance of the assembly trench prevented them from closing up to the barrage thus making an interval between the time when the barrage passed over the enemy's position and when the infantry arrived before it.

A statement of casualties sustained is attached.

Appendix No. 24

CASUALTIES 1st AUS. INF. BDE. 5th NOVR.

	Officers		Other ranks.	
1st Battn.	Killed	2	Killed	6
	Wounded	4	Wounded	84
	Missing	3	Missing	72
2nd Battn.	-		Wounded	3
3rd Battn.	Wounded	1	Killed	4
			Wounded	23
4th Battn.	-		Killed	1
			Wounded	3

TOTAL.- Officers.- Killed 2; Wounded 5; Missing 3.

Other ranks.- " 11; " 113; " 71

S/1609.

Divisional Headquarters
November 5th 1916.

Circular Memorandum

1. The artillery programme on the divisional front up to 9th instant is given in the appended table.

2. During the hours of day firing, all infantry trenches within 200 yds of the enemy positions will be vacated.

3. During the night, action on targets close to the front line will be confined to searching with shrapnel. It will be unnecessary to clear the trenches, but all men in the trenches in the vicinity must be warned to keep low.

4. Table of artillery shoots.-

Date.	Time.	Nature of Artillery.	Location of targets.	Remarks.
6th Novr.	10 & 11 a.m. & p.m.	Heavy.	N.20.D.	searching Shrapnel, with 18 Pdr.
	2 p.m.	18 Pdr & 4.5Hsr.	N.20.D.& STOKAY Tr.	
7th Novr.	3.- 4 p.m.	Heavy		M.T Ms will be employed if available.
	4.30.p.m.	18Pdr 4.5Hsr.	N.20.D. and BACON Trench	Shrapnel searching with 18 Pdr.
	9. p.m	do. do	N.20.D. and STOKAY Trench.	
8th Novr.	7.30 a.m.	18Pdr.4.5Hsr	N.20.D.	
	8.30.-9.30am	Heavy	N.20.D.	
Night 8/9th	2 a.m.	18 Pdr.	N.20.D. STOKAY Trench	Shrapnel searching.

5. Acknowledge.

T.A. Blamey
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

APPENDIX A

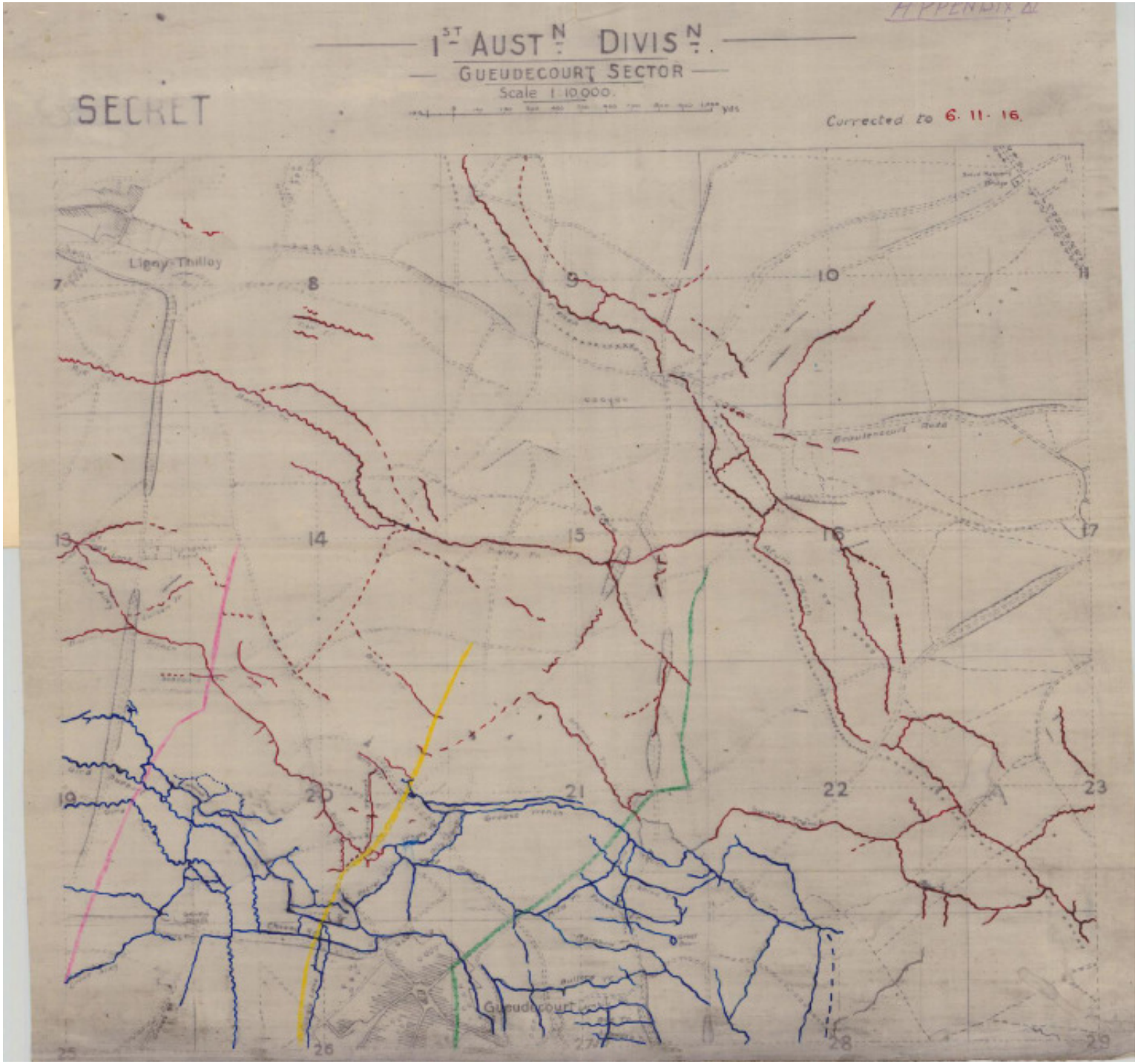
1ST AUST N DIVIS N.

GUEUDECOURT SECTOR

Scale 1:10,000.

SECRET

Corrected to 6. 11. 16.



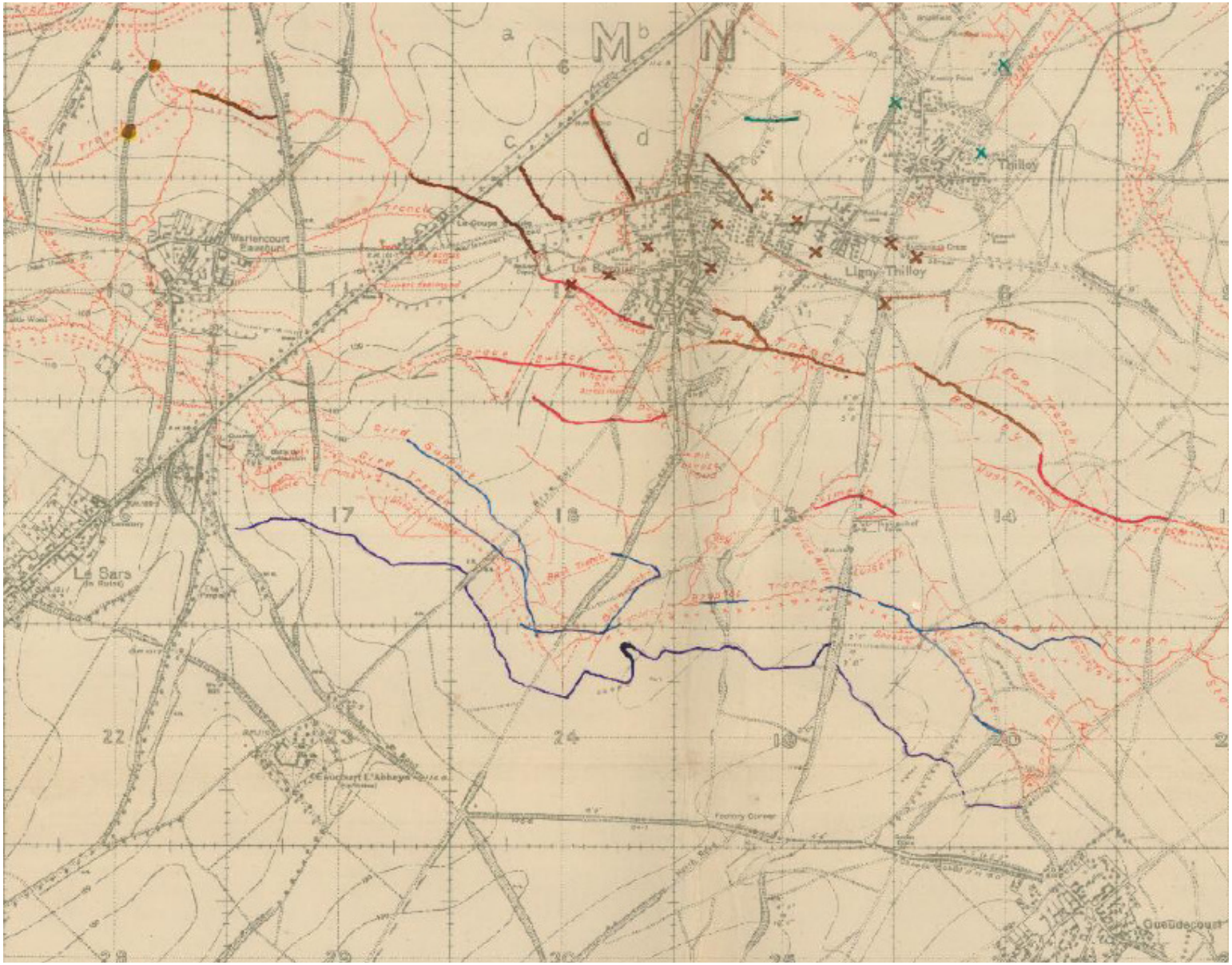
20
21
Grease Trench
Seven Dials
Cheese Rd
Gueudecourt
26
27

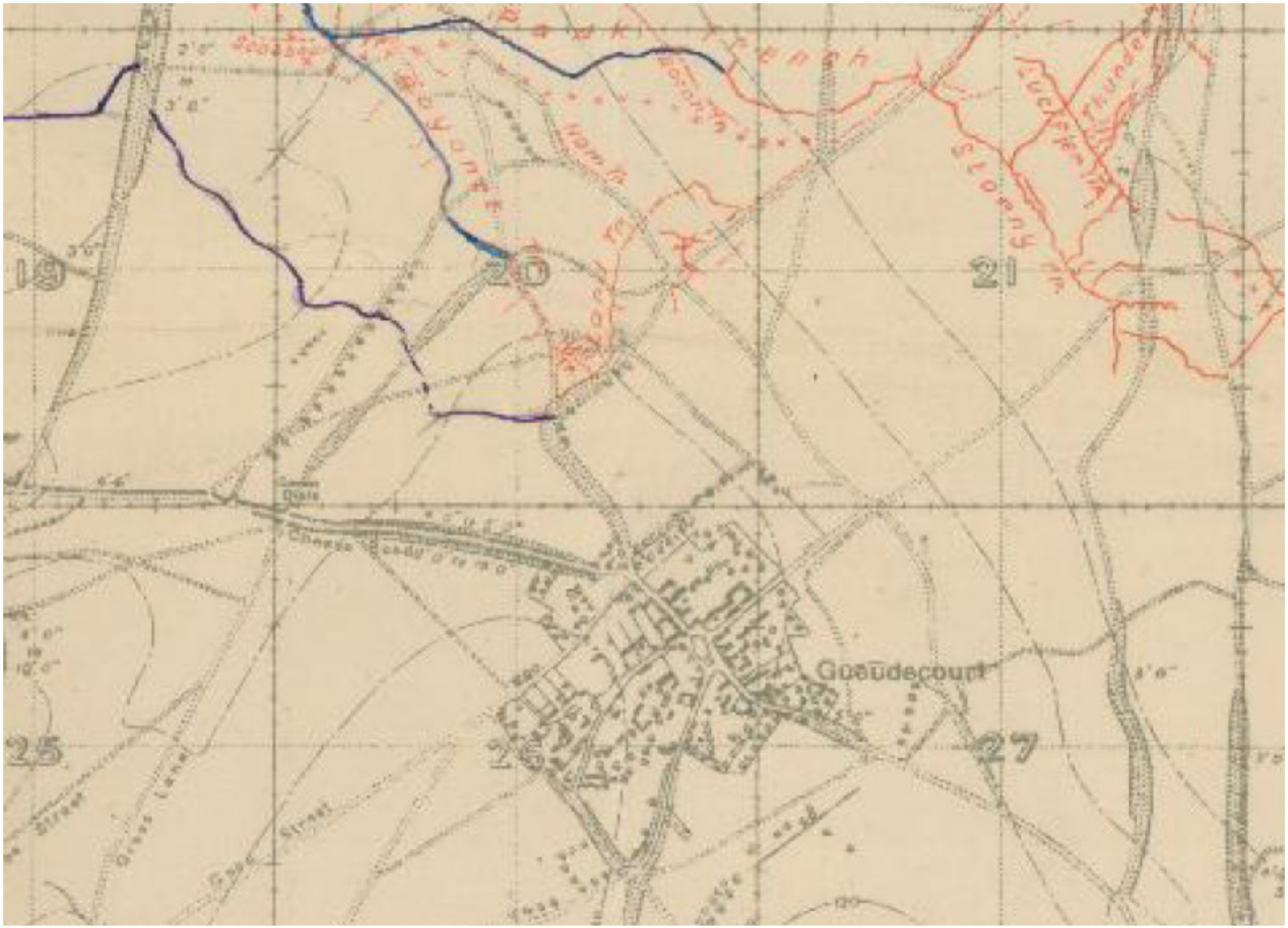
Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/25

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st Australian Division

February 1917


Warlencourt Eaucourt
Le Sars
Thilloy
Ligny Thilloy
Red Trench
Grand Support
Grand Traverse
Bapaume
Trench
Guedecourt



Original Line on 24th Feby. '17.
Position at noon 25th " "
" " " 26th " "
" " " 27th " "
1 " " " 28th " "
20,000

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/26

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st Australian Division

March 1917

FRICOURT Farm	5th March 1917	Our Operations. Artillery - we shelled the BAPAUME - PERONNE road, TILL Trench, the brickfields and tracks in H 33 and various other Targets Infantry - nothing of particular interest Enemy operations - Less shelling than usual - otherwise nothing of interest Relief. In connection with the relief of the Div in the line by 2nd & 5th Aus Divs the following moves were carried out without incident. day { ~~1 Bn 1st Bde BAZENTIN to FRICOURT~~ 2 Bns 3rd Bde. BAZENTIN to FRICOURT (shelter wood camp) { ~~1 Bn 2nd Bde " " MAMETZ~~ 1 Bn - 1st Bde from reserve to FRICOURT 1 Bn - " " line to BAZENTIN 2 Bns - 2nd Bde. support & reserve line to MAMETZ 1 Bn - " to support

SECRET. Table of Movements in Relief - To Accompany 1st. Aust. Div. Order No. 13 dated 4/3/17.

Day	1st. Australian Division. Unit	From	To	2nd. Aust. Division. Unit	From	To	Remarks.
5th March	3rd Bde 1 Bn	S.8.central	Shelter Wood	5th Bde A & B Bns	SHELTER WOOD Camp	S.8.central S.8.d.1.4.	Move by day. LAUNCESTON Camp is reserved for T.M.Btys & M.G. Coys of 5th.Aus Bde & 1st Aus Bde HOBART Camp is reserved for use of 2nd.Aus.Bde & M.G. Coy during relief.
	1 Bn	S.15.d.1.1.	do	C Bn	FRICOURT Camp	S.8.b.2.6.	
	"T.M.Bty & M.G.Coy.	S.8.b.2.6.	do	T.M.Bty & M.G.Coy.	do	LAUNCESTON Camp	
Night 5/6 March	2nd Bde D Bn	Bulls Road (Reserve)	MAMETZ Camp	5th.Bde. A. Bn.	S.8.central.	FACTORY CORNER	Relieves C Bn 2nd Bde in support,
	C Bn	FACTORY CNR (Support)	do				
	A Bn	Front Line	S.15.d.1.1.				On relief by Bn of 15th. Bde.
	1st Bde D Bn	COUGH DROP (Reserve)	FRICOURT Camp				
	B Bn	Front Line	S.8.central	6th. Bde. 1 Bn.	relieves B. Bn. 1st. Bde.		
6 March	1st Bde B Bn	S.8.central	FRICOURT Camp				
	2nd Bde A Bn	S.15.d.1.1.	MAMETZ Camp				
Night 6/7 March	1st Bde C Bn	BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE (Support)	S.8.central	6th. Bde. closes right and relieves C. Bn. 1st. Bde.			
	A Bn	Line	S.8.b.2.6.	5th Bde A Bn	FACTORY CNR	Line (Support)	relieves 1st.Bde.B.Bn and 1st Bde A Bn.
	2nd Bde B Bn	Line	S.15.d.1.1.	B Bn	S.8.d.1.4.	H.Q.LUISENHOF FARM (Reserve)	
				C Bn	S.8.b.2.6.	H.Q.FACTORY CORNER	
7 March	1st Bde C Bn	S.8.central	FRICOURT Camp	5th Bde D Bn	SHELTER WOOD	S.8.d.1.4.	
	A Bn	S.8.b.2.6.	X.23.d.				
	2nd Bde B Bn	S.15.d.1.1.	MAMETZ Camp				

Appendix No. 10

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/43/22

Title: Administrative Staff, Headquarters
1st Australian Division

November 1916

Pommiers	4-11-16	Contd	The Divisional Commander discussed the administrative aspect of an operation against Enemy trenches. AA&QMG stated that, in his opinion, the Communications were not yet in a fit state, more especially the Medical arrangements for Evacuation of wounded were in a backward condition. It was decided not to carry out the major operation. A minor operation was attempted on the night 4/5th Nov. but did not fully succeed. The casualties were heavy in view of the size of the enterprise. Report of O.C. 7th K.R. Rifles attached Appx C
	5-11-16		MONTAUBAN (1m Guage) R.H opened. Supply Sections were concentrated at Montauban and Regtl. 1st L.T. (Pack animals

Appx C

At 12.30 a.m. on 5/11/16 a minor operation was carried out by 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade; in anticipation of this, a dugout in "No man's land" had been taken over by R.M.O. of 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion, and at this post were stationed 12 Stretcher Bearers, 8 with R.M.O. 3rd Aust. Inf. Btn. at Tanks R.A.P., 80 at North Flers, 24 at Bull Trench, and 8 at each of the two Regimental Aid Posts in the right of the line, 28 at East Flers Relay Post and 8 at Wagon Rendezvous.

At 4 a.m. the remaining Bearers were called out increasing the number to 371 - at about 1.30 a.m. 50 men of the 2nd Aust. Inf. Battalion reported for duty as additional Bearers, by 10 a.m. about 100 casualties had passed through the Collecting Posts, practically all on the left of the line, and all Regimental Aid Posts were clear except the one in "NO man's land" where some half dozen cases were left in charge of the R.M.O. of 1st Aust. Inf. Battalion until dark, as one Bearer had been killed and another wounded in the attempt to clear it by day. This Regimental Aid Post was cleared the same evening.

At 11 a.m. the majority of the Bearers were withdrawn, leaving as establishment at North Flers and Bull Trench each 1 M.O. and 43 O.R. including 8 Bearers for each Regimental Aid Post, except that in "NO MAN'S Land" which had been abandoned, 1 M.O. and 47 O.R. at East Flers, and 4 O.R. at the Wagon Rendezvous, which establishment was maintained for the remainder of the period during which I remained in charge of the A.D.S. until on 14/11/16 it was handed over to the 4th Aust. Field Ambulance.

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/43/26

Title: Administrative Staff, Headquarters
1st Australian Division

March 1917

2/3/17		A A ~~Q~~ M. G. returnes to duty from leave. D ~~A A Q~~ M G visited FACTORY CORNER (N. 19. C. 5. 2. *) and EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE (M. 23. C. 5. 8*) with C R E and O/C 1st Pioneer Battalion re tramways and Decauville Railways.	*FRANCE Sheet 57C. S.W.