
THE EXPERIMENT: TECHNOLOGICAL TESTING AT THE BATTLE OF HAMEL

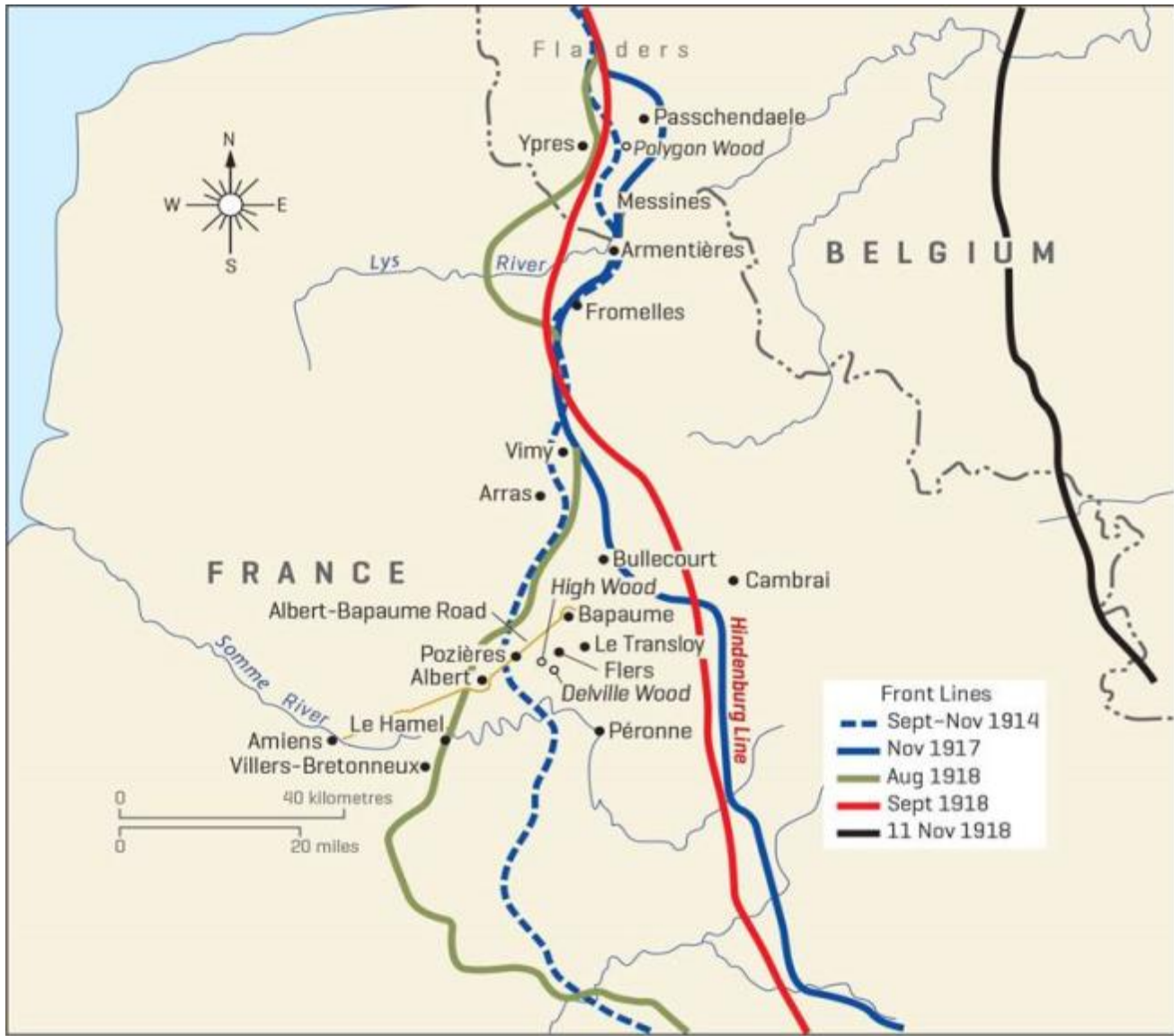
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OUTLINE

- Background to the battle of Hamel
- Innovations:
 - tanks
 - aerial ammunition drops
- Creating a battle plan
- Co-operation at Hamel
- Lessons and aftermath



MAP No. 3
THE ATTACK OF AUGUST 8th.
BATTLE OF AMIENS.

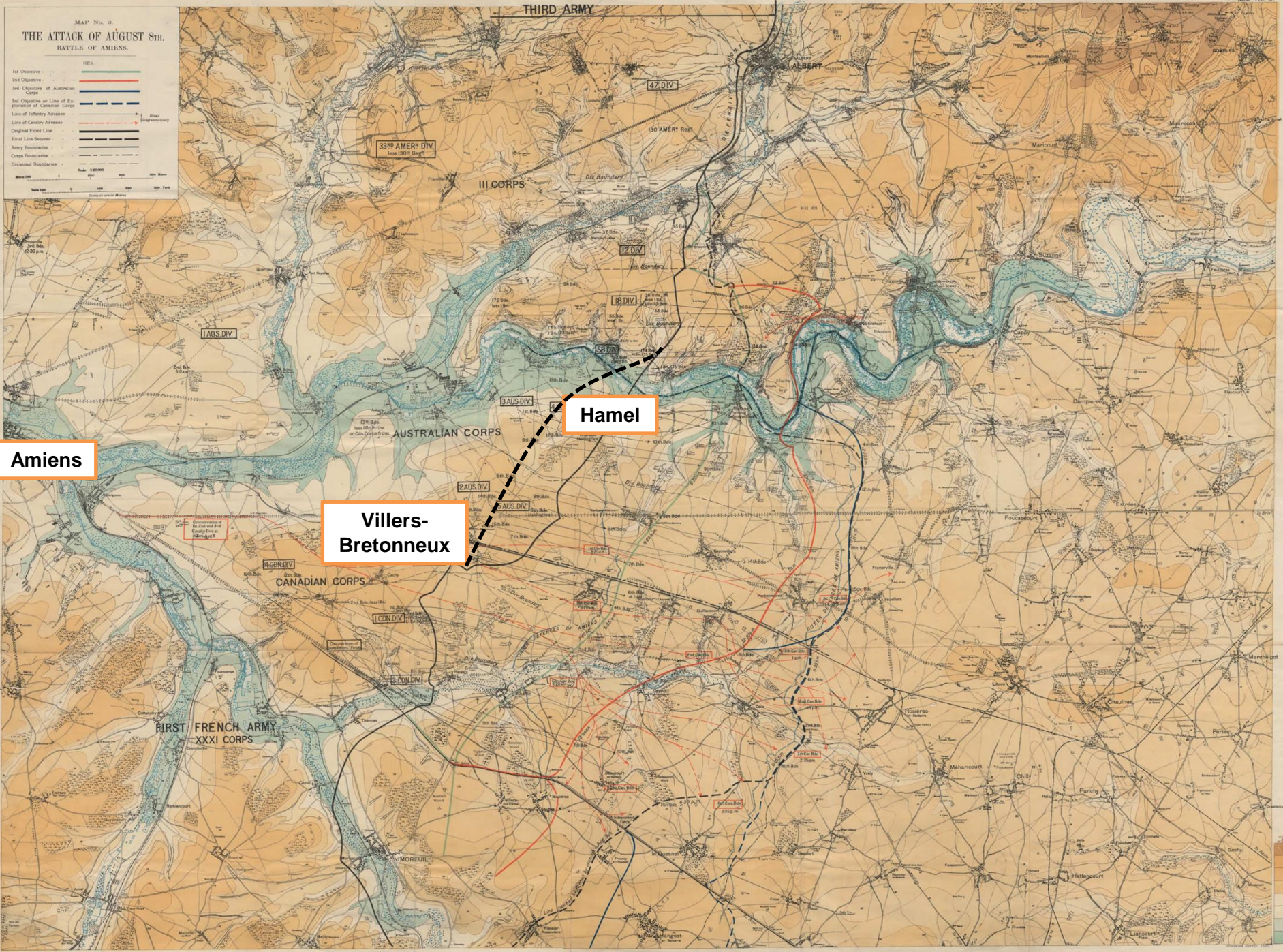
KEY

- 1st Objective —
- 2nd Objective —
- 3rd Objective of Australian Corps —
- 3rd Objective on Line of Position of Canadian Corps —
- Line of Infantry Advance —
- Line of Cavalry Advance —
- Original Front Line —
- Final Line Secured —
- Army Boundaries —
- Corps Boundaries —
- Divisional Boundaries —

Scale: 1:50,000

Scale in Feet: 0 1000 2000 3000 4000

Scale in Meters: 0 1000 2000 3000 4000



Amiens

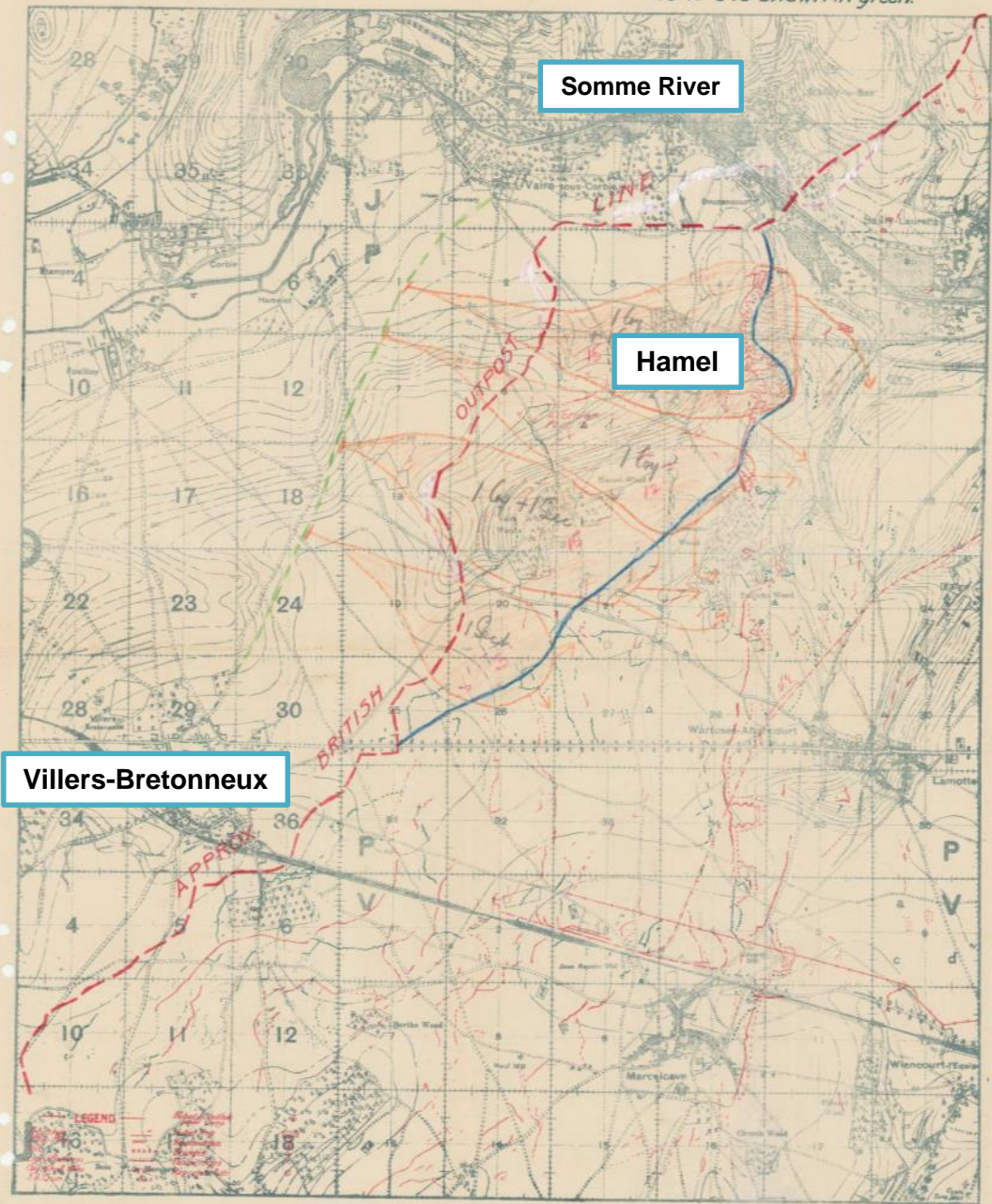
Hamel

Villers-Bretonneux

1: 20,000.

LEGEND
-VAUX- SECRET
- Approx Tank Starting Line
- Objective Line
- Tank operation Areas

In Campaign
Ann. Det. Sp. 1671
ENEMY WORK EXISTING AT 23-4-18
SHEW IN RED.
New work from 23-4-18
to 19-5-18 shewn in green.



Somme River

Hamel

Villers-Bretonneux

Position at Hamel
Sir John Monash papers,
AWM 3DRL/2316

Mark V tank after the battle of Hamel.
AWM E03843



“I venture to suggest that if this force be by degrees trained to co-operate with Tanks and Aeroplanes, not only will its potential hitting power be increased many times, but a new method of warfare may be inaugurated against which the enemy is at present impotent.”

Brigadier General Hugh Elles, Commander of Tank Corps, 3 January 1918

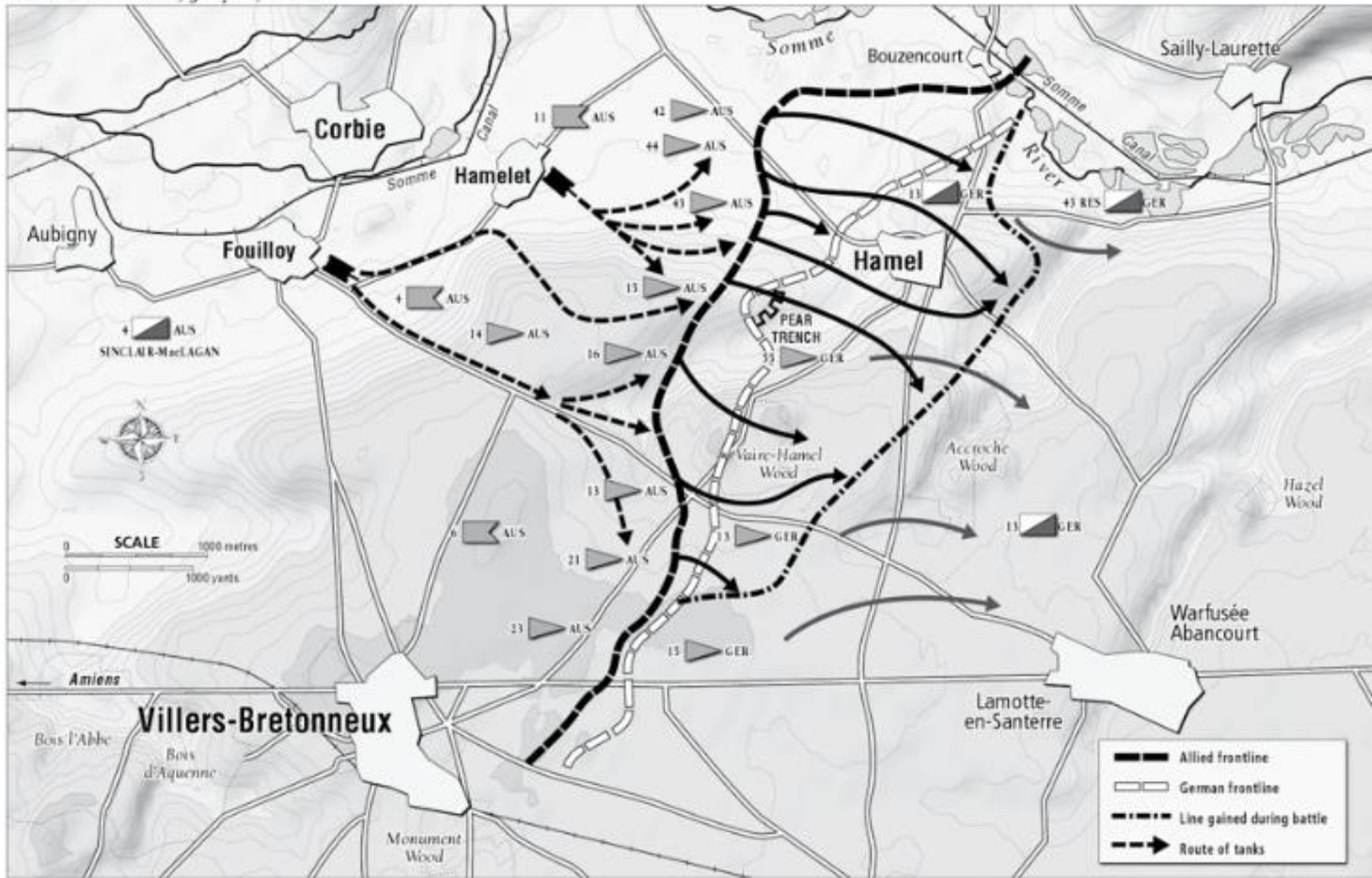


RE8s of No. 3 Squadron, Australian Flying
Corps
AWM E03677



Ammunition parachute used by No. 9
Squadron, Royal Air Force
AWM RELAWM11629

Battle of Hamel, July 4, 1918



- Object 1. go over all - settled
still to be settled.
2. Each to know what others going to do
∴ Each Commander states his plans.
3. Try settle each point finally now.
4. No alterations - only confusion
5. Secrecy - prime necessity
(a) losing men who will talk
(b) Clumsiness in our preparations.

Notes preceding conference on 30 June 1918.

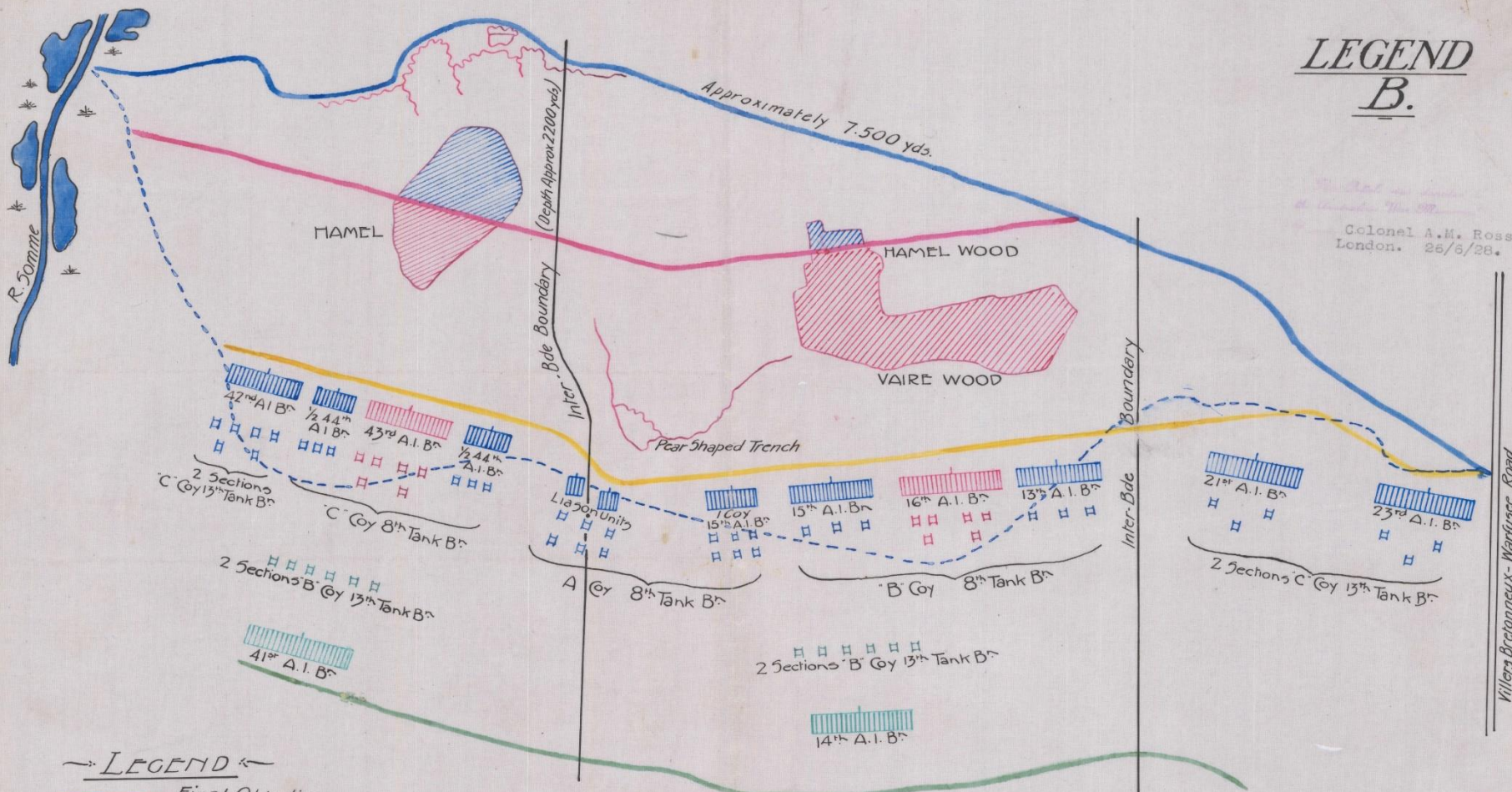
Sir John Monash papers, AWM 3DRL/2316



Senior Staff of Australian Corps,
Bertangles Château, 1918.

AWM E02750

DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING FORMATION OF INFANTRY AND TANKS FOR ATTACK ON 4th JULY 1918.



LEGEND
B.

Colonel A.M. Ross.
London. 26/6/28.

LEGEND

- Final Objective
 - 10 Min Halt Line
 - Inf Taped Line
 - Original Front Line
 - Tank Forming up Line
 - Tank
 - Tanks detailed for capture of Blue Line
 - do do Centres of Resistance
 - Tanks in support detailed for Blue Line
- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| | 36 Tanks |
| | 12 do |
| | 12 do |
| Total | 60 Tanks |

“Good liaison between our officers and the tank officers was maintained all the time.

The tank officers attended some of the battalion conferences and dined with us, so that a real spirit of friendship and confidence was promoted.”

Report on Operations, 43rd Battalion, 31 July 1918



George Bell, *Dawn at Hamel 4 July 1918*, [1921, oil on canvas, 168.5 x 273.5 cm].
AWM ART03590



CAPTURE OF HAMEL VILLAGE, JULY 4th 1918, BY AUSTRALIANS ASSISTED BY A DETACHMENT OF AMERICANS.
From Original painting specially executed for the Australian Comforts Fund
by A. PEARSE. WAR ARTIST.

American and Australian troops after
the battle of Hamel, 4 July 1918.

AWM E02690



Stretcher-bearers carry wounded past an RE8
that crashed near Le Hamel, 4 July 1918.

AWM E04888





Will Longstaff, *Breaking the Hindenburg Line*, [1918, oil on canvas, 156.5 x 243.5 cm].
AWM ART03023