

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

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Brigade Headquarters.  
24th May 1918.

Lieut. T. H. Britton, M. C.

34th Battalion A. I. F.

Dear Mr. Britton.

Please accept my hearty congratulations upon the award to you of the Military Cross. I was very pleased to hear of the honour conferred upon you.

Lieut. Colonel  
Commanding 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.  
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Brigade Headquarters.  
24th May 1918.

Lieut. H. Kitching, M.C.

33rd Battalion A.I.F.

Dear Mr. Kitching.

Please accept my hearty congratulations upon the award to you of the Military Cross. I was very pleased to hear of the honour conferred upon you.

Lieut.-Colonel  
Commanding 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE  
-----

Brigade Headquarters.  
24th May 1918.

Lieut. R. C. King, M.C.  
(33rd Battalion A.I.F.)  
3rd London General Hospital  
Wandsworth.

Dear Mr. King.

Please accept my hearty congratulations upon the award to you of the Military Cross. I was very pleased to hear of the honour conferred upon you.

I trust you are making rapid progress towards recovery and will soon find yourself quite fit again.

Lieut.-Colonel  
Commanding 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

255a George Street,

S Y D N E Y.

31st October, 1922.

Major J.H.F. Pain, D.S.O., M.C.,  
Headquarters,  
11th Infantry Brigade,  
Victoria Barracks,  
BRISBANE. QLD.

My dear Pain,

I sent you Yesterday a very rough narrative on the Villers-Bretonneux fight. I am sorry that pressure of time made it impossible for me to supply you with details.- For the same reason I can not forward you sketches, though I had promised myself, I would send you rough sketches of the positions at the important periods of the fighting.

The casualties were as under.

Yours faithfully,

| Unit.           | KILLED. |      | WOUNDED. |     | MISSING. |     |
|-----------------|---------|------|----------|-----|----------|-----|
|                 | Off.    | O/R. | Off.     | O/R | Off.     | O/R |
| 33rd Battalion  |         | 7    | 3        | 75  |          |     |
| 34th Battalion  |         | 20   | 5        | 100 |          |     |
| 35th Battalion  | 3       | 45   | 6        | 191 |          | 44  |
| 36th Battalion  | 4       | 26   | 8        | 106 |          | 1   |
| 9th A.M.G. Coy. |         | 1    | 1        | 15  |          | 4   |
| TOTALS. . .     | 7       | 99   | 23       | 485 |          | 49  |

255a, George Street,

Sydney, 29th. June 1931

Dr. C. E. W. Bean, Lit, D.,  
Official Historian,  
Victoria Barracks,  
Sydney.

Dear Sir,

I return herewith the six draft chapters  
British Official War History together with seven  
Sketch Maps relating to operations south of the  
Somme 29th. March - 4th. April 1918.

Attached you will find one or two notes  
which you may send on if you think them of suffi-  
cient importance.

I will be happy to be at your disposal  
if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Notes on draft chapters British Official War History  
Operations XIX Corps 29th.March to 4th, April 1918.

FIFTH ARMY , 30th.March 1918

PAGE 200 "XIX CORPS ORDERS AS TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
"THE NIGHT" -

Note - Actual orders received by 35th.  
Battalion A.I.F. were to relieve 61st.  
Division (Copy order attached hereto)  
The 61st.Division went into reserve at  
Gentilles.

PAGE 20. "DISPOSITIONS NORTH OF THE LUCE ON MORNING  
"OF 31st."

Note - Last 7 lines on page. The 33rd.  
and 34th.Battalions were relieved by the  
18th.Division - see attached copy of  
9th.Brigade order -This order was received  
by 35th.Battalion about 10 p.m. 30th.March.

FOURTH ARMY , 4th.April 1918.

PAGE 17 - Lines 12 to end of para -

Note - The subaltern in charge of right flank  
Company finding this flank open and the enemy advancing  
on it detached part of his Company in an endeavour  
to hold them. Unfortunately some men of 35th.  
Battalion mixed with some of the 33rd.Battalion  
seeing these moving to their rear took it for a  
retirement and came back on the town. These with  
the exception of a few were rallied and went forward  
again. The 35th.Battalion less 291 battle casualties  
remained in line throughout operations until relieved  
5th.April.

PAGE 20 - 4th line - should read 33rd.34th.& 35th.  
Battalions.

PAGE 18 - 2nd.Para, 2nd.Line - After 33rd.Battalion  
read 35th.Battalion.

CAVALRY. I am sure every Australian engaged in  
these operations would appreciate special mention  
being made of the very fine work of the British  
Cavalry. Their opportune arrival on our left on  
the morning of the 4th relieved us of a great  
~~task~~ ~~by~~ ~~guarding~~ that flank.

6th.London. The eagerness to co-operate from all  
ranks and particularly their C.O. was most helpful.  
Their exchange of clean Lewis guns for our mud  
choked weapons was greatly appreciated.

B.G.

26th.June 1931

7th. November 1934

The Official Historian,  
Victoria Barracks,  
Paddington.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your circular Memo of 19th. ~~inst~~  
your reference Vol X1/45. The information you have  
is correct with the exception of date of birth.  
This is 13th. Dec. 1869.

I have no interesting information in connection  
with my occupation. As recorded I was engaged in  
a merchanting business of a somewhat extensive  
character. I had my own establishments in the  
several States. I was also interested in agriculture  
and ~~at~~ much pioneering work in connection with  
the growing of malting barley on the Darling Downs  
where I was also interested in the Malting industry.  
I was operating largely in Hops chiefly from Nurnberg  
in Bavaria where I spent much time. Left  
Australia without even the usual four days leave,  
a somewhat costly effort. This for you information  
only, and not for publication.

Yours faithfully,

7th. November 1934

My dear Bean,

Reference the Villers Bretonneaux operations April 1918, although life has been very strenuous with me since my return from France and I have had no time to give thought to my war experiences, it may be that I can dig up some information which should be in your possession before you go to press. If you would care to see me I will be happy to call on you if you make an appointment.

There are also the Morlancourt and Bray events' which fell to my lot to handle' about which I may call to mind matter which may be of interest. Also the incident of my arrival at Doullens, 26th. March, I think the date was, and received an order from the Conference then sitting at the Town Hall' which informed me the enemy had broken through, and that his cavalry was advancing on the town and asking me to proceed immediately with what troops I had available and hold them.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. C. E. W. Bean, M.A., B.C.L., Litt.D.,  
Victoria Barracks.



255a, George Street,

Sydney, 13th. May 1935

My dear Bean,

Reference your enquiry last Monday night. The officer who tried to make a flank with what came nearly to disastrous results on the afternoon of 4th. April was Lieut. W.W. Warden. His explanation to me after the action was - seeing the troops on his right had retired and his flank exposed he sent some men to his right rear to cover that flank. His action was correct enough with the exception that he does not appear to have given them definite location to rest upon. Unfortunately some of the 35th. and 33rd. Bns. seeing these men apparently retiring also commenced to fall back.

Warden was doing good work and I have no blame for him, Taking into consideration the strain of the two fights, and the urge to act quickly in a very critical situation, I consider that he may be forgiven for the lack of that little foresight which might have prevented the awkward results of his good effort,

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. C. E. W. Bean, M.A., B.C.L., Litt.D.,

Official Historian,  
Victoria Barracks.