

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/18/4

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters, 3rd  
Corps

October 1916



AWM4-1/18/4

SECRET

III CORPS.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAR DIARY

of

III CORPS OPERATIONS SECTION, GENERAL STAFF,

\*\*\*\*\*

From :- 1.10.16.

To:- 31.10.16.

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VOLUME XXVII.

\*\*\*\*\*



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Oct. 25	(contd)	(37)	
		p.m. 2.35	15th Division call attention to a number of batteries of 4th Canadian Division in their area, and ask to be given exact location of each.	
		6.0	II Corps report 4th Canadian Division now back in original trenches.	
		11.20	Addendum No.1 to O.O.151 issued. Ordering moves of Medical Units.	APP.II/11
	26.....		RAIN IN MORNING - FINE LATER.	
		a.m. 5.20	15th Division report FLERS LINE shelled until midnight. Otherwise quiet.	
		5.28	50th Division report heavy shelling of right sector of Left Brigade at 9 p.m. Intermittent shelling during rest of night.	
		8.20	50th Division report that their patrols found BLIND TRENCH occupied. Patrol was seen by the enemy from this trench and a white light, bursting into three red stars was fired, which produced a heavy barrage at once.	
		9.45	50th Division report that patrol sent last night to reconnoitre trenches S. of BUTTE reports that trenches at M.17.a.3.3. is obliterated, and not held. A post was located close to S. edge of BUTTE, whence Very Lights were fired and patrol was fired at. A working party was found emerging from S. of BUTTE and was caused to retire.	
		p.m. 4.45	15th Division report hostile artillery fairly quiet on front system but more active on back area.	
		5.20	50th Division report wires to right brigade are cut. Left brigade report front line continuously shelled with 15 and 10 cm. shells. BAUCOURT MILL, PIMPLE RIDGE, and HIGH WOOD also shelled considerably.	
		11.30	Addendum No.5 to O.O.148 issued. Postponing operations till Oct.30th.	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

APP.II/8



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Oct. 27.....		(38)	
		a.m.		
		5.19	15th Division report situation unchanged. Hostile artillery fairly quiet.	
		5.26	50th Division report front line shelled intermittently all night. Heavily at 5.20, 9.0 and 11.0 p.m.	
		8.45	Correction No.1 to O.O.151 issued. Alteration to March Table.	APP.II/11
		p.m.		
		5.20	50th Division report intermittent shelling of front line. THE PIMPLE, ABBAYE LANE and SNAP TRENCH shelled continuously. CRESCENT ALLEY near the MILL badly damaged. Battery position in STARFISH heavily shelled and ammunition store fired.	
		5.32	15th Division report hostile artillery fairly active all over Divisional area.	
		9.0	Addendum No.3 to O.O.148 issued, postponing operations till 1st November.	APP.II/8
		9.50	50th Division forward report on enemy signal lights sent up this afternoon. Single Red, single spiral red bursting into two stars, single red bursting into three stars, which were followed by a heavy barrage. Lights were sent up and barrage maintained for over an hour. After a lull, a single light bursting into golden rain was sent up, which produced a heavy barrage lasting for two minutes.	
	28.....			
		a.m.		
		5.20	15th Division report hostile artillery quiet on right. SCOTLAND TRENCH and neighbourhood heavily shelled.	
		5.31	50th Division report intermittent shelling during the night. 20 pink lights fired from WARLENCOURT.	
			11.0.....	







# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form O 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (40)	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Oct. 30	.....	WET.	
		a.m.	50th Division report a quiet night.	
		5.16		
		5.21	15th Division report situation unchanged.	
		p.m.		
		5.10	15th Division report a quiet day.	
		5.37	50th Division report usual intermittent shelling of forward area.	
		7.0	Operation Order No.152 issued: Operations to take place on 3rd or 5th Nov. according to weather conditions.	APP.II/12
	Oct. 31	.....	FINE	
		a.m.		
		5.25	15th Division report hostile artillery less active than usual. Our artillery shelled approaches and communication trenches from midnight onwards. Reliefs carried out.	
		6.20	50th Division report a quiet night.	
		p.m.		
		5.15	50th Division report wires to right Brigade down. Left Brigade report hostile artillery active on SNAG, ABBAYE and PRUE TRENCHES, RUTHERFORD ALLEY and STARFISH LINE.	
		5.20	15th Division report hostile artillery fairly active on SUNKEN ROAD in LE SARS and South of that village, and left of line generally.	
		7.5	1st Division ordered to move three battalions to MAMETZ WOOD to relieve three Battalions of 48th Division working on roads under C.E. Battalions of 48th Division to rejoin their Brigade at BECOURT.	
		9.0	Warning order issued for relief of 15th by 48th Division in left sector of Corps front - to be completed by 9 a.m. on 3rd (III Corps G.O.971)	APP.II/13
		11.45	Addendum No.1 to O.O.152 issued. Weather permitting, 50th Division will attack on 2nd Nov.	APP.II/12
			12 m.n. ....	



# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Oct. 31	p.m. 12 m.n.	(contd) 1st Division rejoined Corps. H.Q. established at BAIZIEUX. .....  MAP TO SHEW GROUND OF OPERATIONS DURING OCTOBER, 1916.  SUMMARY OF III CORPS OPERATIONS DURING OCTOBER, 1916.  SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES, OCTOBER, 1916.  SCHEDULES SHEWING POSITIONS OF HEADQUARTERS OF BRIGADES AND DIVISIONS IN III CORPS DURING OCTOBER, 1916.  <del>DAI</del> SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION ISSUED BY III CORPS DURING OCTOBER, 1916.  =====	APP.III/1 APP.III/2 APP.III/3 APP.III/4 APP.III/5

138.



SEAP II/11  
COPY NO. 2.....

III CORPS OPERATION ORDER NO. 151.  
.....

139

Reference Maps:-

25th October, 1918.

- (a) Sheets 57D and 62D - 1/40,000.
  - (b) 1/100,000 ALIENS - LENS - ABDEVILLE.
- .....

1. The 1st, 9th and 48th Divisions will move on 26th, 27th and 28th October as per attached March Table. The Pioneer Battalion of 9th Division will accompany any one of the three Brigade Groups as most convenient.
2. "A" Brigade of 48th Division will relieve the three battalions and other parties of the 9th Division working on roads under C.E., IIIrd Corps from the 27th inclusive, on which day these parties will rejoin their own Division. All arrangements to be made between Divisions. There is to be no cessation of work.
3. The working parties detailed in para. 1 of Addendum No. 1 to Operation Order 150 will be relieved by similar parties of the 48th Division under arrangements to be made between Divisions in sufficient time to enable parties of the 9th Division to rejoin their Division prior to departure. There is to be no cessation of work.
4. The working parties now found by 48th Division as detailed in para. 3 of Addendum No. 1 to O.O. 150 will be relieved by similar parties of the 1st Division during the 29th inst., under arrangements made between Divisions.
5. The permanent working party at present found by the 9th Division for the 214 A.T. Coy. R.E. will rejoin their Division on the 27th instant and will be replaced by a similar party found by the 1st Division on the 29th, in accordance with instructions contained in III Corps G.O. 824 of 22nd instant.
6. The 1st. Division will be re-transferred to the III Corps from midnight October 27th/28th.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

*B. D. S. Attys. Maj.*

*for* Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
III CORPS.

Issued by S.D.R. at 2 p.m.

As per Standard List

PLUS Copy No. 27 to 48th Division  
Copy No. 28 to 7th Field Coy. R.E.  
Copy No. 29 to 214 A.T. Coy. R.E.

MINUS Copies 12 to 18  
20.



# MARCH TABLE.

(To accompany III Corps  
Operation Order No. 151,  
dated 25th October, 1918)

Item No.	Date	Unit.	From.	To.	Route.	Time and Remarks.
1.	26th	A Bde. Group 9th Divn.	BECOURT	FRANVILLERS.	Main ALBERT ROAD.	Moves to be complete by 2 p.m.
2.	26th	A Bde. Group 48th Divn.	FRANVILLERS	BECOURT	HEHENCOURT - MILLENCOURT.	
3.	27th	A Bde. Group 9th Divn.	FRANVILLERS.	MOLLIENS*	BEHENCOURT.	All moves to be complete by 2 p.m.
4.	27th	B Bde. Group 9th Divn.	ALBERT.	FRANVILLERS.	Main ALBERT ROAD.	
5.	27th	B Bde. Group 48th Divn.	BRESLE.	ALBERT.	HEHENCOURT - MILLENCOURT.	
6.	28th	A Bde. Group 9th Divn.	MOLLIENS*	MAOURS & WARGNIES	VILLERS BOGAGE	Clear VILLERS BOGAGE by 12 noon.
7.	28th	B Bde. Group 9th Divn.	FRANVILLERS	TALMAS	BAIZIEUX -	To be clear of BAIZIEUX by 11 a.m.
8.	28th	B Bde. Group 9th Divn.	MILLENCOURT	MOLLIENS*	BEHENCOURT - MOLLIENS.	
9.	28th	C Bde. Group 48th Divn.	LA HOUSSEY & BEHENCOURT	MILLENCOURT	Main ALBERT ROAD & LAVIEVILLE.	To be clear of LA HOUSSEY by 9.30 a.m.

Item 10.....



Item No.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Route.	Time and Remarks.
10.	27th Oct <sup>8</sup>	All Transport 1st Division	Area 7	Ailly and ST. SAUVEUR.		March as directed by Fourth Army LOG.
11.	28th Oct.	All transport 1st Division	Ailly and ST. SAUVEUR	BAIZIEUX - HENENCOURT - BRESLE.	ST. SAUVEUR, ARGOEUVES, AMIENS, QUERRIEU, FRANVILLERS.	Start 8.30 a.m.
12.	28th Oct.	All dismounted personnel of 1st Division.	Area 7		Is being arranged by "Q", Fourth Army, as far as AMIENS, thence via QUERRIEU- ALBERT ROAD - FRANVILLERS, BAIZIEUX thence to D.S.B.C.C. & back to AMIENS.	Busses to commence arriving at in Area 7 at 8.45 a.m. Not to enter LA MOUSSOYE till 10.30 when going East.
13.	28th	9th Div. H.Q.	D.S.B. Central.	EALMAS.		D.S.B. central to be vacated by 11 a.m.
14.	28th	48th Div. H.Q.	BAIZIEUX	D.S.B. Central		BAIZIEUX to be vacated by 11 a.m.
15.	29th	1st Div. H.Q.	Area 7	BAIZIEUX		Not to enter BAIZIEUX till 11 a.m.

\* HOLLIENS denotes HOLLIENS-AU-BOIS - PIERREGOT and MIRVAUX.

† Any move of transport on the 28th to be arranged by the 1st Division.



"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2921  
(in pads of 100)  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/s of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions						Date	
Sent						Service	
At						From	
To						By	
By						(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO

Sender's Number.  
G.665

Day of Month.  
26

In reply to Number.

AAA

Addendum No.2 to O.O.151 begins AAA  
Move of JESSIE is cancelled AAA Unlikely that  
infantry will move before 31st October  
or 1st November AAA Addressed all recipients of  
O.O.151 AAA

From 3rd Corps

Place 4.30 p.m.

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

(sgd) F.H.DORLING

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

W 2186-M309. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2921  
(in pads of 100)  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/s of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions						Date	
Sent						Service	
At						From	
To						By	
By						(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO

9th Division 48th Division

10th Division Copy to D.D.M.S. A.C.

Sender's Number.

7659

Day of Month.

26th

In reply to Number.

AAA

Addendum No.1 to 3rd Corps O.O.151 begins AAA  
Para.1. The following medical moves will  
take place as a temporary measure 26th inst  
by 12 noon AAA  
Para.2. 48th Division AAA One battery  
sub-div. of the P.D.M.B. at BARRILLING will  
take over from the 97th Div. at BARRILLING AAA  
One battery sub-div. of the P.D.M.B. at  
BARRILLING will take over from 8.A.P.D.M.B.  
at BARRILLING AAA Relief of 98 P.A. already  
ordered AAA  
Para.3. 9th Division AAA Upon relief all  
Medical Units including Sanitary Section will  
proceed as detailed by 9th Division AAA  
Para.4. 10th Division AAA 10th Division  
will detail a Sanitary Officer to supervise  
sanitation of Night Forward Area until  
arrival of Sanitary Section 1st Division  
AAA ADDITION. 10th AAA  
Addressed 9th, 48th and 10th Divisions  
requested R.I.M.S. and 3rd Corps for  
information AAA

From 3rd Corps

Place 11.30 p.m.

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

W 2186-M309. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Major.



SECRET

Copy No. 2

COORRECTION NO. 1

to

III CORPS OPERATION ORDER NO. 151. 27.10.16.

In March Table :

ITEM 5. Column 1. for "27th" read "29th".

ITEM 9. for "28th" read "29th".

ITEM 6. for "NAOURS and WARGHIES" read "TALMAS".

ITEM 7. for "TALMAS" read "MOLLIENS".

ITEM 8. for "MOLLIENS" read "RUBEMPRE and HERISLART",

and for Route delete "BAIZIEUX, BEHLNCOURT and  
MOLLIENS" and substitute "HERENCOURT, FARLOY, CO TAY".

In Column of Remarks delete "To be clear of BAIZIEUX by 11 a.m."

and substitute "to leave MILLENCOURT at 8.30 a.m."

ACKNOWLEDGE ON ATTACHED SLIP.

Issued at 8.45 a.m. by D.R.

To all recipients of O.O. 151.

Wired "Priority" 26.10.16. 11 p.m.

to :- 9th. Division.  
48th. Division.  
"Q" 3rd. Corps.  
A.P.M. 3rd. Corps.

*P.D. Dally*  
*for*  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
III Corps.



144  
**SECRET**

ADDENDUM NO. 3

Copy No... 2...

to

III CORPS OPERATION NO. 151.

28.10.16

In continuation of Addendum No. 2.

1st. Division will be transferred to 3rd. Corps from midnight October 30/31st. and will move to 3rd. Corps area in accordance with original March Table attached to the Operation Order except that date for item 10 will be 30th. October, and for items 11 and 12 will be 31st. and date referred to in footnote should be 29th. inst instead of 28th. Remaining instructions still hold.

ACKNOWLEDGE ON ATTACHED SLIP.

Issued by D.R. at 11.30 a.m.

To all recipients of O.O.151.

*Bob Dally*  
for  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
III Corps.



145  
SECRET

ADDENDUM NO. 4

Copy No. 2

to

III CORPS OPERATION ORDER NO. 151. 29.10.18.  
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.....  
The following moves of Medical Units will take place:

1st. Division. - on arrival.

One Field Ambulance to BAIZIEUX in relief of  
Detachment, 1st. S.M. Field Ambulance.

One Field Ambulance to LAVIEVILLE in relief of  
Detachment 2nd. S.M. Field Ambulance.

One Field Ambulance to LAVIEVILLE to remain closed.  
Sanitary section to Right forward area.

48th. Division.

Detachments 1st. and 2nd. S.M. Field Ambulances on  
relief to return to H.Q. of their own units.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE ON ATTACHED SLIP.

Issued by D.R. at 6 p.m.

To all recipients of O.O. 151.

*Brigadier-General*  
General Staff,  
III Corps.

6-7.  
MINUS - Copies Nos 12-22.  
23-29.



III CORPS OPERATION ORDER NO. 152.

146  
30th Oct. 1916

Reference:-

1/10,000 Map PYS-LE SARS-LIGNY-THILLOY dated 16.10.16.

1. Owing to the weather conditions the major operations planned by the Fifth (late Reserve) Army and VI French Army have been again postponed.
2. The provisional date now fixed for these major operations is 3rd November or if it is wet on the 31st inst. there will be a further postponement until the 5th November.
3. If the date is postponed until Nov. 5th, the 48th Division will relieve the 15th Division in the left sector of the Corps front, beginning on the 1st November, and be completed by 9 a.m. on the 3rd. Detailed orders for this relief will be issued separately.
4. The date of the attack of the 15th Division on the left of the III Corps front is dependent upon the action of the Fifth Army and will be carried out in conjunction with the attack of that Army. The objectives of this attack are the same as those shown in GREEN on Map No. 10 which accompanied III Corps Operation Order No. 148 dated 19th instant.
5. It is most important that the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT and that portion of the GIRD LINE still in the enemy's possession should be captured as early as possible.  
The 50th Division in the right sector of the Corps front will therefore be prepared to carry out an attack, in conjunction with the left Division of the 1st Anzac Corps on these objectives as soon as the weather conditions permit and irrespective of the attack of the Fifth Army. The objectives of this attack are the GIRD LINE as far North as an East and West Line drawn through M. 17.2.5.8. and the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT.
6. The date and hour of Zero, means of distributing correct clock time, and arrangements for contact patrols will be communicated later.
7. Should the attack of the 50th Division take place on a different date from that of the 15th, the 15th Division will place four brigades of Field Artillery at the disposal of the 50th Division to thicken up their barrage. Any field artillery batteries belonging to the left group not employed in covering the 50th Division front or in bombarding machine-gun positions which might fire on the attacking troops of the 50th Division, will bring intense fire on to the enemy's front line in front of the 15th Division from Zero onwards.
8. The boundaries between Corps and Divisions will remain as at present, vide Operation Order No. 148 and Addendum No. 2 to O.O. 148.

ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

*For duty*  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff, III Corps.

Issued by S.D.R. at 7 p.m.  
As per standard list dated 30.10.16.  
PLUS:- Copy No. 26 to O.O. Tanks.



147  
SECRET

COPY NO. 2...

ADDITION NO. 1-

to

III CORPS OPERATION ORDER NO. 152. 31.10.16.

With reference to para. 5 :

1. The attack by the 50th. Division and the Left Division of the 1st. Anzac Corps will be carried out, weatherpermitting, on the 2nd. November.

2. The attack will take place in the morning at an hour which will be notified later.

3. \*ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Issued at 1.45 p.m. by D.R.

To all recipients of O.O. 152.

Wired "Priority" at 12.50 p.m.

to :- 50th. Division.  
15th. Division.  
3rd. Corps H.A.  
E.C.A.A. 3rd. Corps.

*J. H. D. ...*  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
III Corps.



App II/13

G.O. 971. 148

III Corps

31st. October, 1916.

WARNING ORDER.

Copy No. ....

1. This Order is NOT to be put into effect until receipt of a telegraphic order to do so. All preliminary arrangements are however to be made so that the relief described herein can be commenced immediately the above telegraphic order is received.
2. — The 48th. Division (less Artillery) will relieve the 15th. Division (less Artillery) in the Left Sector of the III Corps front. The relief to commence at once and be completed by 9 a.m. November 3rd, at which hour the G.O.C. 48th. Division will take over Command of the Sector.
3. The 15th. Division as relieved will march back and billet in area BECOURT - ALBERT and MILLEMONT, with Headquarters in D.S.B. Central.
4. Route for 48th. Division via :- ALBERT - BOISSELLE and CONTAMPAISON.  
Route for 15th. Division via :- FRICOURT - ALBERT and Main ALIENS ROAD.  
Tactical trains for four Battalions of the 15th. Division may be available to take them back to VIVIER SIDING. Further instructions will be issued later.
5. The Left Field Artillery Group will remain under the command of Brigadier-General E.B. MACMURTON, D.S.O., R.A., until the present operations (vide Operation Order No. 152) are completed.
6. The command of the R.E. and Pioneers at present employed in the Left Sector under the 15th. Division will be taken over by the G.O.C. 48th. Division and the relief of the respective Companies and Pioneers will be carried out under arrangements made between Divisions.
7. Orders for relief of Working Parties now found by the 48th. Division and Medical Units will be issued later.
8. Reliefs of Corps Cavalry Detachments allotted to Divisions for traffic control and escorts for Prisoners of War will be arranged by G.O.C. Corps Cavalry and A.S.D. III Corps.
9. ACKNOWLEDGED BY WIRE.

Issued by D.R. at 9 p.m.

As per Standard Operation Order List dated 30th. October, 1916.

MINUS - Copies No. 15-18.

Brigadier-General  
General Staff,  
III Corps.



1249

III CORPS.  
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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS,

OCTOBER, 1916.

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III CORPS.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

October 1st. to 6th. 1916.

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Octr. 1st.

On the 1st. October at 3.15 p.m. an attack was made on BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE and on the FLERS LINE West of it up to a point 300 yards North-West of its junction with the ALBERT - BAPAUME Road - thence to the North corner of DESTREMONT FARM, already held by us. The New Zealand Division on the right simultaneously swung forward its left, pivoting on the junction of GOOSE ALLEY and the GIRD LINE, so as to join up that point to the right of III Corps objective, at a point 400 yards North-East of BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE.

The 47th. Division on the right attacked from the FLERS SWITCH Trench, its objectives being BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE and the Mill: The 50th. Division attacked from trenches dug in the last few days in advance of the FLERS SWITCH, its objectives being the FLERS LINE nearly as far as the South-West end of LE SARRS : the 23rd. Division attacked from DESTREMONT FARM and trenches to the South-East of it its objective being the FLERS LINE opposite the South-East end of LE SARRS.

The artillery began a deliberate bombardment of the objectives at 7 a.m. and an intense bombardment of the German trenches at Zero; the Field Artillery barrage was at first 50 yards in front of the German line and raked back on to the trench at Zero plus 2 minutes; at Zero plus 4 minutes it raked slowly back to the line of the final objective. The Infantry was ordered to follow closely behind this barrage, leaving their trenches at Zero.

An experienced Officer of the Royal Flying Corps was observing the fight from the air and reported that he

saw the.....



151  
saw the barrage open all along the German position like a solid wall. On the left and in the centre the infantry appeared to walk straight forward at once and drop into the enemy trench without any difficulty whatever. On the right he observed an appreciable interval between the opening of the barrage and the advance of the infantry. This appears to have been what actually took place and the result was exactly what was to be expected from recent experience. The left of the 47th. Division attack failed. The 23rd. and 50th. Divisions gained their objectives as did the right of the 47th. Division which gained the FLERS LINE and passed on to EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE which was also occupied.

After taking the FLERS FRONT TRENCH the Right Battalion of the 50th. Division (6th. Durham Light Infantry) was driven out owing to their right flank being in the air: A fresh attack was promptly organised which captured the trench; the Reserve Battalion (9th. Durham Light Infantry) then passed through and took the FLERS SUPPORT TRENCH.

Two tanks were used in this attack. They started from the STARFISH at Zero and followed DROP ALLEY: they crossed both trenches of the FLERS LINE at 4 p.m. and turned to the left along the FLERS LINE, one on the North and one on the South side, to assist in the attack on EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE, the infantry following close behind the tanks. On arriving opposite the Abbey both tanks were ditched. The enemy counter attacked and drove the infantry. Both tanks were then set on fire in order to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy. Up to the time when the tanks were put out of action they were of very great assistance to the attack.....



attack.

At 6.30 p.m. the position as reported to the Corps was that the FLERS FRONT and SUPPORT LINES had been occupied between the MARTINPUICH - WARLENCOURT Road and the ALBERT - BAPAUME Road, the front line being also occupied for 300 yards to the West of the road. From the WARLENCOURT Road to a Point South of the West corner of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE the attack on the FLERS LINE had failed. In front of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE the FLERS LINE trenches were taken and the buildings of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE occupied. The objective of the New Zealand Division had been gained.

Early in the evening the main bomb store of the 47th. Division in the COUGH DROP was blown up. It was probably due in a large measure to the shortage of bombs caused by this accident that the enemy were able later in the night to capture a portion of the FLERS LINE held by the 47th. Division and to re-occupy EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE.

55 Prisoners were taken in the days operations.

Octr. 2nd.

On the morning of the 2nd. the position was that the 23rd. Division were holding 600 yards of the FLERS front trench and 250 yards of FLERS SUPPORT TRENCH, the right of the Division being in touch with 50th. Division in both trenches. The 50th. Division were holding both trenches up to the MARTINPUICH - WARLENCOURT road: for 800 yards both trenches of the FLERS LINE were held by the enemy; 150 yards South-West of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE the 47th. Division had blocks in both trenches and was holding the FLERS FRONT TRENCH thence Southwards and their old  
trenches.....



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trenches South of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE: they also held a short length of the FLERS SUPPORT TRENCH, the remainder being held by the New Zealand Division. The 47th. Division also held a trench 300 yards long on the North of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE the right of which was in touch with the New Zealand Division from whom rations and ammunition were obtained. During the day the 47th. Division gained 50 yards of the FLERS LINE by a bombing attack, while two bombing attacks made by the enemy on the 50th. Division were beaten off by Stokes Mortar and Machine Gun fire and by the prompt co-operation of the Divisional Artillery.

During the night of the 2/3rd. October the front occupied by the 50th. Division was taken over by the 23rd. Division.

Octr. 3rd. On the 3rd. at 3.35 p.m. an attack was made by two companies of 47th. Division from their old position in the FLERS SWITCH which captured the remainder of the FLERS TRENCHES with very little opposition. They pressed on through EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE clearing it and establishing a line on the North of it in continuation of the trench taken on the 1st. October.

Octr. 4th. On the 4th. an attempt was made by the 23rd. Division to extend their hold on the FLERS LINE North of the BAPAUME road. This was unsuccessful, but the attempt was repeated

Octr. 5th. on the following day when our hold on the FLERS FRONT TRENCH was extended to a point 600 yards North of the Road. At 9.30 p.m. the 47th. Division occupied the MILL 300 yards North-West of EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE. A bombing attack on this

Octr. 6th. position made by the enemy on the following day was easily repulsed.

On the.....



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On the afternoon of the 2nd. October, Major-General GORRINGE took over the command of the 47th. Division from Brigadier-General GREENLY who had been in temporary command since Major-General Sir. C. BARTER, left on September 27th.

Since the first of the month which was very fine there has been heavy rain nearly every day.

OCTOBER 7th. to 15th.  
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Octr. 7th.

At 1.45 p.m. on October 7th. an attack was made by both Divisions holding the line - the 47th. on the right and the 23rd. on the left. The first objective of the 47th. Division was the new German trench about 300 yards, in front of our line in M.17.c. and d. afterwards known as SNAG TRENCH. The second objective of the Division was the WARLENCOURT line as far West as the LE SARS - BAPAUME Road. The first objective of the 23rd. Division was the road running through the middle of LE SARS. The second was the remainder of the village and a line running due East and West from the BUTTE de WARLENCOURT to the Quarry 200 yards North-West of LE SARS. The XV Corps attacked on the right and the Canadian Corps were to have attacked on the left, but their attack was countermanded on the day before that on which it was to have taken place.

One tank - the only one remaining in the Corps - took part in the attack on LE SARS. It crossed our line and the German trench, traversed the "Tangle" on the East of the village, and entered the sunken road beyond. Here it was struck by a shell and caught fire.

The 47th. Division's attack failed to gain its

objective.....



objective, but ground was gained on the sunken road on the extreme right and also on the left at 23.a.1.7. and 6.7. in line with the road running through LE SARS.

The attack of the 23rd. Division on LE SARS was very successful. The FLERS front line trench up to the DYKE Road (The Corps Boundary) was taken at once, but the enemy offered a stubborn resistance in the second line trench and also in the TANGLE on the right of the village. A second attack captured the part of the support trench in the neighbourhood of the village and at 4.50 the 23rd. Division were able to report the capture of the Southern part of LE SARS. This had actually taken place about an hour after the commencement of the attack. At 4.19 a.m. before the receipt of the above message, a pigeon message had been received from 13th. Durham Light Infantry, stating that they had reached the end of LE SARS at 3.42 p.m. This was confirmed by the Division two hours later.

During the night the consolidation of the village proceeded satisfactorily and progress was made in the FLERS support trench. At 9.45 a.m. on the following morning the Division reported that both trenches were in their hands up to the Corps Boundary.

12 Officers and 450 other ranks were taken prisoners by the 23rd. Division in this operation and 8 Machine Guns were captured. A great number of German dead were found in LE SARS. The total casualties of the Division did not equal the number of prisoners taken.

On the morning before the attack Sergeant STEWART of 13th. Durham Light Infantry left his trench, and went over to the enemy. He was fired on by his men but was apparently not hit. Reports from the Battalion seem to indicate that he was out of his mind, but a German Officer captured in LE SARS said that he gave information of the attack, in consequence of which the garrison of LE SARS was considerably increased. This probably accounts.....



accounts for the large number of prisoners taken by the 23rd. Division.

Octr. 8th.

At 9 p.m. on the 8th. an attack on the SNAG TRENCH was carried out by two Battalions of 142nd. Brigade which crept up to within 100 yards of the trench apparently unobserved. One minute's intense bombardment was then opened on the trench and an attempt to rush it was made. Directly our bombardment began an intense machine gun fire was opened causing heavy casualties. The attack failed except on the extreme left where posts were established in advance of our line.

At dawn on the 8th. the Canadian Corps captured REGINA TRENCH and the Quadrilateral formed by the junction of BELOW and GALLWITZ Trenches immediately on the left of the 23rd. Division. These positions were lost, however, as the result of a hostile counter attack in the afternoon.

9-10th.

The 9th. and 10th. of October were occupied in the consolidation of LE SANS and in preparations for a new attack on the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT, and the trenches to the South-East of it.

On the night of the 8th/9th. the 15th. Division relieved the 23rd. Division in the left sector of the Corps front and on the following night the 9th. Division relieved the 47th. on the right.

11th.

At 5.15 p.m. on the 11th. a Chinese attack was made on the front of both Divisions. Careful observation was made of the places where the enemy placed his barrage and how soon it came on, and the result of these observations were communicated to the Divisions for their guidance in making the attack on the following day.

12th.

At 2.5 p.m. the 9th. Division attacked the SNAG TRENCH as a first objective, and the WARLENCOURT Line from the Eastern Corps boundary up to and including the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT as a second....



a second objective. The 26th. Brigade attacked on the right and the 1st. South African Brigade on the left. The 15th. Divisions had orders to bring forward their right so as to conform with the advance of the 9th. Division.

On the left of the 15th. Division smoke was discharged and the Quadrilateral formed by the junction of BELOW and GALLWITZ Trenches was bombarded with Stokes Mortars as a diversion from the real attack.

The attack was unsuccessful as directly the first waves advanced they came under very heavy machine gun fire from the front and from both flanks; considerable casualties were suffered. On the right, however, the survivors got into shell holes about 60 to 100 yards in front of the original line which were subsequently connected with a trench and joined up with the trench in rear by communication trenches. The attack of the XV Corps failed which increased the difficulty of the task of the 26th. Brigade. The South African Brigade established a post in the German communication trench at M.17.c.4.4

The 13th. was devoted to consolidating positions and improving communications.

The infantry of the 23rd. Division left the Corps on October 12th.

The infantry of the 47th. Division left the Corps on the 13th. of October.

The following figures regarding the causes of wounds during September have been compiled by the D.D.M.S. of the III Corps :-

Rifle and Machine Gun fire : 1,956 = 15 per cent of total.  
of which 217 were severe and 1739 were slight.

SHELL FIRE : 10,554 = 81 per cent of total.  
of which 4068 were severe and 6486 were slight.

Bombs and Rifle Grenades : 443 = 3 per cent of total.  
Of which 111 were severe and 332 were slight.



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The weather has been very fine during last week except on the 8th. when there was heavy rain.

OCTOBER 14th. to 20th.  
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14-15th.  
16-17th.

There was no important operations on the 14th. 15th. 16th. and 17th. The enemy was inactive and both Divisions were able to make good progress in improving their positions and communication trenches and in pushing forward posts in advance of the front line.

18th.

At 3.40 a.m. on the 18th. an intense bombardment was opened on the enemy's front trenches and on the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT. One minute after the bombardment started the 9th. Division attacked the SNAG TRENCH: the 26th. Brigade attacking on the right and the 1st. South African Brigade on the left. At the same time smoke and lachrymatory bombs were discharged by No. 4 Special Co. R.E., from the front of the 15th. Division. Two tanks were placed at the disposal of the Corps for this operation but were not used on account of the attack being made before daylight, which made it impossible to get them into position unobserved.

The attack of the 26th. Brigade was successful but the left of the South African attack failed. The SNAG trench was captured up to a point 150 yards East of the junction with the TAIL. A counter attack on the extreme right at 2.30 p.m. gave the enemy a footing in the trench in the neighbourhood of the Sunken Road for a short time but a vigorous attack by the troops on the spot cleared the trench again. The attack of the 30th. Division on the immediate right of the III Corps failed.

19th.

At dawn on the 19th. a strong hostile bombing attack assisted.....



assisted by Flammenwerfer down the TAIL and along the SNAG trench Eastwards drove the 1st. South African Brigade out of the portion of the latter trench held by them; The Black Watch retained possession of their part of the trench. Bomb fighting went on in the trench all day and conflicting reports were received as to the position of the South African Brigade, but on the following morning the 9th.

Division reported that the left of the South African Brigade was still 150 yards East of the junction of TAIL and SNAG trenches. On the afternoon of the following day a determined attack by the South African Brigade was made down the trench. The exact situation had now been made clear - which had not been the case previously - and the artillery was able to lend assistance by putting a barrage on the TAIL trench, thereby preventing the enemy from reinforcing his men in SNAG trench or replenishing the supply of bombs. By about 6 p.m. the junction of the two trenches had been gained and during the night the rest of the SNAG trench had been captured and a block established a considerable distance up the TAIL.

20th.

21st.

The 15th. Division, holding the left of the Corps front, had continued to improve their positions with a view to the attack on the GALLWITZ TRENCH. A line of posts was established about 200 yards North of the CHALK Trench, these posts being gradually joined up into a continuous line and connected with CHALK trench by several communication trenches. This policy of pushing forward siege parallels has been adopted throughout the battle by the Corps when time has admitted of it, and has been found to be very valuable. It reduces the distance to be covered in the attack: it provides an additional assembly trench and makes it possible to have the "jumping off" trench parallel to the enemy position. When  
the last.....



the last condition can be secured the task of keeping direction and of following close behind the barrage is greatly simplified.

There was rain on the 14th. and heavy rain on the 19th. The weather has turned much colder, with sharp frost on the nights of the 19th. and 20th.

OCTOBER 21st. to 31st.  
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The weather has been bad during the period under review. Two nights of frost on the 21st. and 22nd. have been followed by misty weather and a succession of wet days till the 31st. which was fine.

Since the capture of the remainder of the SHAG Trench and the TAIL on the night of the 20/21st. October, no attack has been made by the Corps.

The enemy have maintained the usual artillery activity but have only made one half hearted attempt to deliver an infantry attack. This was on the afternoon of the 22nd. when they left their trenches on the front of the 9th. Division but were quickly driven back by our artillery which opened fire promptly on S.O.S. lines on the Signal being given. The enemy seemed to be very nervous on this and the following day and repeatedly called for barrage.

A general attack by the Fourth and Reserve Armies was ordered for the 23rd. in which the III Corps was to attack the WARLENCOURT Line and the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT. Owing to bad weather this attack has been postponed and is now fixed to take place on the 3rd. November.

This delay.....



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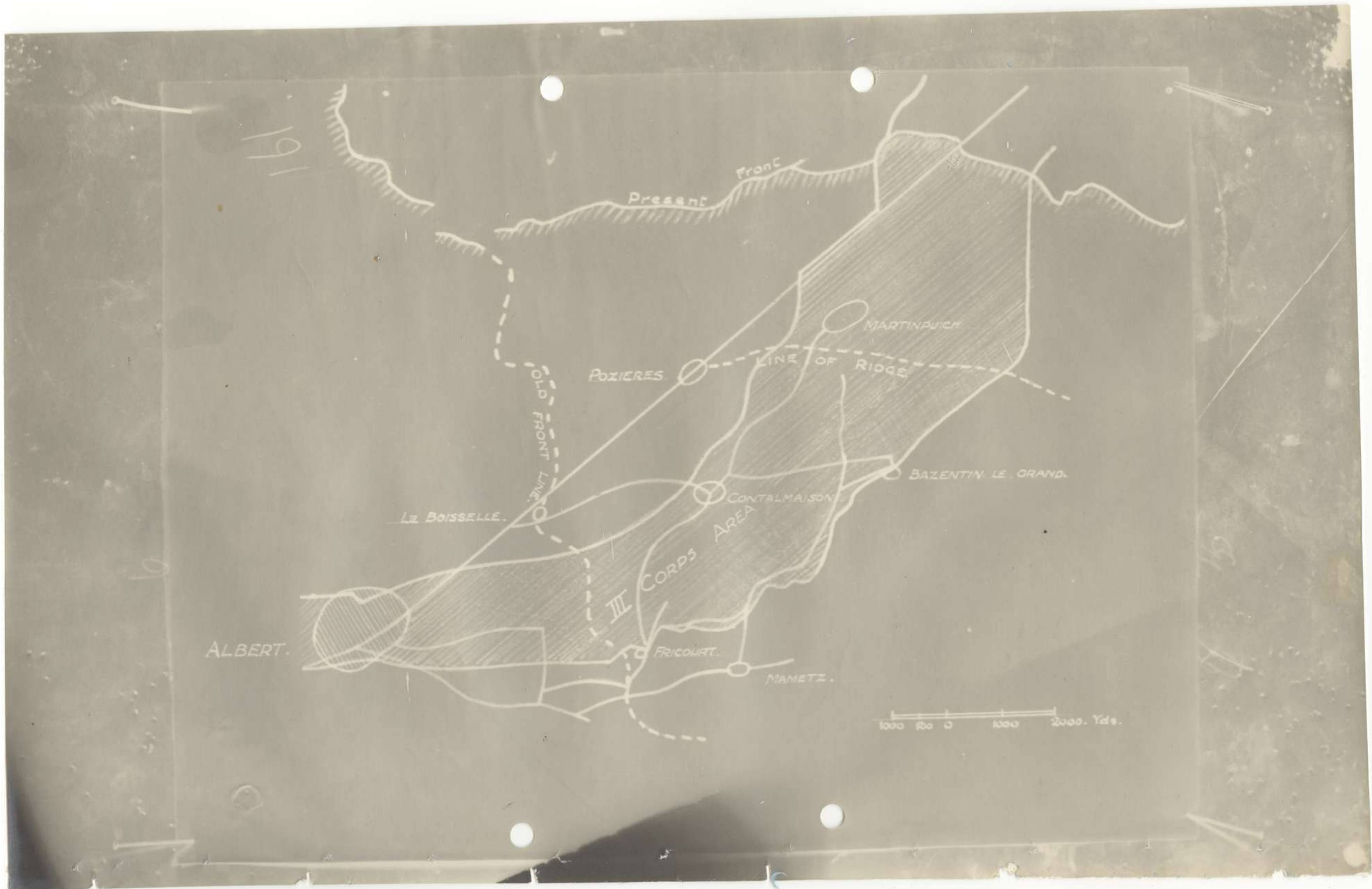
This delay, though very trying to the troops, has had the advantage of enabling the right Division to establish a trench line 250 yards in front of the SWAG Trench between the TAIL and the APPENDIX, thus materially shortening the distance to be covered when the attack on the BUTTE and on the WARLENCOURT Line is delivered.

The wet weather during the closing period of the month has shewn the difficulties which have to be overcome in carrying on an offensive during the winter.

The physical difficulty of moving overground ploughed up and disintegrated by shell fire is necessarily great at any time and is seriously increased when ground in that state is sodden with rain. This difficulty is chronic in the matter of the carriage of supplies and ammunition to the troops holding the front trenches and becomes acute when an attack takes place.

The great concentration of troops necessitates very deep and narrow Corps areas. The area of III Corps measures 20 miles from the front near the BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT to St. GRATIEN. It varies in width from 7,500 yards in rear to 2,600 yards at the front, but narrows down to 900 yards in ALBERT. There are no houses standing nearer the front line than ALBERT - a distance of 14,500 yards. In order to maintain the pressure on the enemy and to be able to take advantage of any spells of fine weather which may occur, two or three Divisions have to be kept in the forward area, which is devoid of houses. There are a certain number of cellars and dug outs which are used, and hutting is being pushed on as rapidly as material becomes available. In any case it will be impossible to put up any huts on the forward slope of the HIGH WOOD Ridge, unless a considerable further advance is made and we occupy the high ground in the







neighbourhood of LOUPART WOOD.

Beyond ALBERT there is one good road (The ALBERT - BAPAUME Road) which runs directly towards the Corps front, but which is shared with the Corps on our left. Owing to the curved shape of the Corps area this road leaves our area 1,000 yards beyond ALBERT and does not touch it again until 1,000 yards beyond POZIERES, which is too near the enemy lines for it to be of much use. There are three other secondary roads by which the forward area may be reached. One runs West to East from LA BOISSELLE to CONTALMAISON and BAZENTIN : One runs from FRICOURT through CONTALMAISON towards MARTINPUICH but is practically unmetalled beyond the top of the ridge : and one runs from MAMETZ to BAZENTIN. None of these roads have proper bottoming and in addition they were seriously damaged by the bombardment. Great quantities of road metal have been put on them but in spite of this they are giving way rapidly. The Eastern half of the CONTALMAISON - BAZENTIN road is being laid with railway sleepers. It seems fairly certain however that these roads will never carry lorries in the winter and that the only efficient way of supplying troops and guns is by rail and tramway. Pack horses have been used for this purpose to a considerable extent but cannot bring up ammunition in large quantities and then only for the smaller guns. The broad gauge railway has been pushed forward from the main line near VIVIER MILL by BECORDEL and

FRICOURT .....



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FRICOURT to BAZENTIN LE GRAND. A station is being constructed at the latter point. There is also a spur running Northwards to BECOURT. The line has necessarily been much occupied by construction trains, but has been in operation for the supply of ammunition from BECOURT and WILLOW AVENUE (close to FRICOURT) for some time and will soon be in full working order. Light tramways are being laid from the various stations to the gun positions, and right up to the front. A very large amount of rails are required for these tramways; the supply is at present very inadequate.

Small petrol tractors are promised, but none have yet been supplied to the Corps. Some motive power of this kind is essential if the full carrying capacity of the tramways is to be developed and the labour at present imposed on the troops reduced to a minimum. As long as the trolleys are drawn by horses or pushed by men the permanent way will continue to be destroyed, necessitating constant repair. Also, besides the men employed on pushing the trolleys, a large part of the supplies and ammunition will continue to be carried on men's backs owing to the limitations imposed on the carrying capacity of the tramways when mechanical traction is not used. One of the Brigadiers stated recently that for every man in his Brigade holding the line four were employed in carrying up rations, ammunition and stores. This means that the men of the Battalions in Reserve have their energies used up in this way before they get into the front line, and that necessary work in communication trenches and defences has to be neglected.

The Infantry of the 48th. Division joined the Corps at 12 midnight on 24/25th. Headquarters were established at BAIZIEUX, with Brigades at FRANVILLERS, BRESLE and BEHENCOURT. On the following day the Brigades moved forward to BECOURT,

ALBERT.....



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ALBERT and BEHENCOURT.

On the 25th. October the 50th. Division relieved the 9th. Division in the line. The 9th. Division was withdrawn to the back area and left the Corps at 12 Midnight on 29/30th. October.

The dispositions of the troops of the Corps are now as follows :-

The 50th. DIVISION is holding the right Sector of the Corps front with Headquarters at FRICOURT FARM. The two Brigades in the line have their Headquarters at BAZENTIN LE GRAND. The Reserve Brigade has its Headquarters in MAMETZ WOOD.

The 15th. DIVISION is holding the left Sector with Headquarters at LOZENGE WOOD. The Brigades in the line have their Headquarters in MARTINPUICH and the Reserve Brigade at VILLA WOOD.

The 48th. DIVISION is in Reserve and is disposed as stated above.

The Artillery defending the Corps front is disposed as under :-

Left Group.

3 Brigades - 15th. Divisional Artillery.  
2 -do- 50th. -do-  
2 -do- 23rd. -do-  
27th. Heavy Artillery Group.

Right Group.

2½ Brigades - 1st. Divisional Artillery.  
3 -do- 9th. -do-  
30th. Heavy Artillery Group.

Counter-battery work is undertaken by the 34th. and 44th. Heavy Artillery Groups. The remaining two groups of Heavy Artillery - the 27th. and 66th. - being used for general bombardment.



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III CORPS.  
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SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES  
DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1916.  
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Officers

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing.</u>		
161	297	28	=	480

Other Ranks.

2038	7654	1535	=	11227
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				11707
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