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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

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Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

August 1918



AWM4-1/14/10PART1

1st August, 1918.

e1

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 1st August, 1918.

1. The situation remains unchanged. Our patrols were active, but no hostile patrols were seen. Our artillery obtained three direct hits on parties of the enemy and lorries. Traffic was shelled and dispersed on the MEAULTE - ALBERT road. Vigorous counter-battery work was also carried out. North of the SOMME hostile artillery activity was normal, the chief features being light scattered shelling of the area between the ANCRE and the SOMME, and activity against trenches N.W. of MORLANCOURT and E. of BRESLE. South of the SOMME hostile artillery was active during the night and early morning, but was quiet during the day. At 4-15 a.m. a heavy barrage was put down on our front line system east and north-east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. At 4-45 a.m. fire slackened, but continued at a low rate until 5-30 a.m. H.V. guns shelled BLANGY, BONNAY and the railway S.W. of VECQUEMONT.
2. III CORPS.

A quiet day. Some hostile artillery activity between MORLANCOURT and VILLE-sur-ANCRE, MILLENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE road and on battery positions N.W. of HENENCOURT.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

At 4-15 a.m. heavy barrage ^{put} ~~laid~~ down on trenches in the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, slackening at 4-50 a.m. Scattered shelling during the day in the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and a few blue cross gas shells in area S.W. of HAMEL.
3. THIRD ARMY.

Nothing unusual to report.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet day.
5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

Our aeroplanes were more active due to better visibility. 449 hours were flown by 191 pilots. 7 reconnaissances and 12 artillery patrols were carried out: 14 zone calls were sent down, 6 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction and 731 photographs taken.

1st August, 1918.

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107 offensive patrols were out, 25 combats in the air (12 decisive) took place, 7 E.A. were destroyed and 5 E.A. were driven down out of control. None of our machines are missing. One hostile kite balloon was brought down in flames.

By night 4 112-lb and 114 25-lb bombs were dropped on CHIPILLY, MARICOURT and PROYART.

During the day 22 112-lb and 296 25-lb bombs were dropped on FROISSY dump, ROSIERES station, LA FLAQUE and various other targets. During the 24 hours 11,880 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile,

Activity increased though it is still below normal. 89 machines were seen of which 9 artillery planes, 2 reconnaissance and 14 fighting machines crossed the line. Artillery planes worked almost exclusively on the flanks of the Army while the reconnaissance machines were confined to the northern area, flying over NAOURS, TALMAS, VILLERS BOGAGE, MONTIGNY, FRESSANCOURT, BAISSEUX, CONTAY and RUBEMPRE. Four of our kite balloons were brought down in flames. It is almost certain that one of the attacking machines was hit by anti-aircraft fire and came down in flames.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine. Fair visibility.

8. RELIEFS and MOVES.

Relief of 5th Australian Division by 18th Division completed.

4th Australian Division taking over part of French line.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th**, 18th, 47th, 58th, 3rd Cav.**,
33rd American Divisions.
(ARMY RESERVE)

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th* Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps

2nd **, 3rd** Canadian Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10.

1st August, 1918.

23

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10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A., H.E.	188
" S.	87
13-pdr. R.H.A., H.E.	289
" S.	470
18-pdr. H.E.	3743
" S.	3946
" Smoke.	8
4.5" Howr. H.E.	1904
" Gas.	107
60-pdr. H.E.	1239
" S.	880
6" Howr., H.E.	4862
" Gas.	919
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	222
" S.	375
8" Howr.	1135
9.2" Howr.	858
12" Howr.	50

1st August, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

24
5-5 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

By day 2 E.A. crashed: 12 112-lb, 72 25-lb bombs on FROISSY dump: 14 25-lb bombs various targets. By night 16 112-lb and 8 25-lb bombs on SECLIN railway junction: 14 112-lb, 304 25-lb bombs on MARCOURT, ETINEHEM, CAPPY, and roads and railways.

5-40 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Situation quiet. Few gas shells near WALLABY Trench, W.19.b., and south of ANCRE. E.A. dropped bombs on MILLENCOURT about 10 p.m. and along HALLUE valley last night.

6-5 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Situation quiet. Intermittent shelling of forward areas. At 4-15 a.m. heavy barrage on front of left Bde., right Division, decreasing at 4-50 a.m. E.A. active during night on SOMME valley. Machine guns and trench mortars normal.

6-40 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Heavy barrage on front N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX 4-15 a.m., decreasing 4-50 a.m., otherwise quiet night. E.A. dropped bombs on MILLENCOURT and in HALLUE valley. 2 E.A. crashed.

5-35 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Quiet day. Scattered shelling in vicinity VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Few rounds 10.5 cm blue cross gas S.W. HAMEL. Captures nil.

5-45 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Hostile artillery more active between MORLANCOURT and VILLE. Slight shelling of battery positions north-west of HENENCOURT and intermittent shelling of MILLENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE road. Quiet on rest of front. Captures nil.

6-30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Hostile artillery more active between MORLANCOURT and VILLE. Scattered shelling of VILLERS BRETONNEUX - MILLENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE road and battery positions north-west of HENENCOURT. 6 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control.

6 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control. 10 112-lb bombs and 24 25-lb bombs on ROSIERES sidings: 35 25-lb bombs on various targets.

2nd August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 2nd August, 1918.

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1. A prisoner captured early this morning by the Army on the left stated that at 2-30 p.m. the enemy were withdrawing from the west bank of the ANCRE. Strong patrols were immediately pushed out, and found the hostile trenches evacuated. Our troops are now in possession of the enemy's original front line from the ANCRE to N.W. of ALBERT. His new line is not definitely known as yet, but is supposed to be from the ANCRE near DERNANCOURT along the high ground east of ALBERT.

Bad weather again prevented effective artillery co-operation with the R.A.F. Active harassing fire was continued on the enemy's routes of approach, centres of activity and opportunity targets.

North of the SOMME hostile artillery was fairly active during the night on our forward trenches, but quiet during the day. Some gas shelling of the forward area N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC and in the vicinity of MILLENCOURT.

South of the SOMME the area N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was heavily shelled. Other areas received light scattered shelling.

2. III CORPS.

From statements made by prisoners captured by the Army on the left and from the fact that the enemy was shelling his own front line, it was suspected that the Germans had withdrawn to the east bank of the ANCRE. Accordingly strong patrols were pushed out and the enemy trenches found deserted. The area is still being reconnoitred.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A quiet day. Light scattered shelling on the forward areas and one heavy concentration on area N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Our patrols were very active during the night, but found enemy holding his line strongly.

3. THIRD ARMY.

A successful raid east of BOUZINCOURT brought back 16 prisoners. 43 planes of the 3rd Brigade R.A.F. made a very successful raid on EPINOY aerodrome. 7 hangars were hit or burned and 16 hostile machines believed destroyed.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

Unfavourable weather after early morning

lessened

2nd August, 1918.

26 2.

lessened activity. 218 hours were flown by 128 pilots, 5 reconnaissances and 7 artillery patrols were carried out. 18 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction, 16 zone calls sent down and 340 photographs secured.

40 offensive patrols were carried out and four combats in the air took place: two of these were decisive, one E.A. being destroyed and one driven down out of control. We had no casualties.

No night flying was possible. During the day 86 25-lb bombs were dropped on WARFUSEE and various other targets. 6,755 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Activity was very slight: only 7 E.A. were seen and none crossed the line.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early. Low clouds and rain later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

1st Canadian Division arrived in the HORNOY Area.

4th Australian Division completed the taking over of new area from the French. The new southern boundary of the Army is shown on attached map.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th**, 18th, 47th, 58th, 3rd Cav.** and 33rd American Divisions.

(Army Reserve)

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th* Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd** Canadian Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A., H.E.	314
" S.	291
13-pdr. R.H.A., H.E.	279
" S.	492
18-pdr., H.E.	6285
" S.	9055
" Smoke.	56

4.5" Howr.

2nd August, 1918.

e7

3.

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE (Cont'd.).

4.5" Howr., H.E.	4306
60-pdr., H.E.	1081
" S.	861
6" Howr., H.E.	5889
" Gas.	617
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	269
" S.	174
8" Howr.	1182
9.2" Howr.	802
12" Howr.	30

2nd August, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

2-10 a.m., From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

By day 1 enemy balloon in flames. 125 25-lb bombs on various targets. By night 4 112-lb, 114 25-lb bombs on CHIPILLY, MARICOURT and PROYART.

5-45 a.m., From III Corps.

Morning report. Situation on Corps front unchanged. Hostile artillery somewhat more active than usual during night. At 10 p.m. our battery positions on right heavily shelled. Between 2-30 a.m. and 3-30 a.m. hostile artillery active against our front line in E.7 and 13 (N. of DERNANCOURT). Hostile artillery active at intervals against our front in W.21 and 26 N.W. of ALBERT. At 2-25 a.m. heavy gas shelling of support line S.W. of DERNANCOURT for 15 minutes. Slight gas shelling reported on left Division front.

6-15 a.m., From Australian Corps.

Morning report. On right division front scattered shelling during night of forward area. VILLERS BRETONNEUX area was shelled at midnight with some rounds of mustard gas. 40 rounds of minenwerfer fired on front line early this morning. On left Division front situation quiet. 20 rounds phosgene fired on P.9.d. during night.

6-55 a.m., To G.H.Q.

N. of SOMME enemy artillery more active. Heavy shelling of front line N.W. of DERNANCOURT, W. of ALBERT and battery positions in CORBIE sector. At 2-25 a.m. 15 minutes gas shelling support lines S.W. of DERNANCOURT. S. of SOMME scattered shelling forward areas. A few gas shells in VILLERS BRETONNEUX and HAMEL areas.

6 p.m., From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Light shelling W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Scattered shelling forward area right Division. Otherwise enemy artillery quiet. E.A. nil: captures nil.

5-50 p.m., From III Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet, no activity to report. Owing to reports of enemy shelling his own front line centre Division are sending out patrols in E.13 and E.14.a. 1 patrol reached E.14.a.2.6 20 yds. from enemy wire and were unmolested. Other patrols not yet reported. Captures nil.

Later, report timed 6-20 p.m. states enemy front line in E.8.c. is empty and has been reconnoitred by patrols.

6-30 p.m., To G.H.Q.

Situation quiet on whole front. Owing to enemy shelling his own front line centre Division of III Corps have sent out patrols. One patrol reached point 20 yds. from enemy wire unmolested: other patrols not yet reported. Captures nil.

Cont'd.

2nd August, 1918.

2.

29

9 p.m., From III Corps.

Centre Division report timed 8-50 p.m.
Enemy believed to have withdrawn east of the ANCRE along
whole divisional front. Patrols along whole front
obtained no touch with enemy. Have instructed Brigades
to occupy enemy system with strong patrols but not to
cross the ANCRE.

11-40 p.m., From III Corps.

Right Brigade of right Division report 10-35
p.m. Battle patrol proceeded to valley K.31, K.26.c.
this evening and encountered approximately 60 of the
enemy with 3 M.Gs. Some enemy killed. Our casualties
reported 1 officer and 7 O.R. wounded. Left Brigade
report enemy dump exploded at K.9.d.7.7 at 9 p.m.

3rd August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 3rd August, 1918. *210*

1. Patrols report that the enemy is holding the high ground N. of DERNANCOURT, along the railway to W. of MEAULTE. The bridges at DERNANCOURT and VIVIER MILL have been destroyed.
- In the ALBERT sector hostile artillery was fairly active, the shelling being well scattered over the whole area.
- Between the ANCRE and the SOMME there was considerable artillery activity against the forward areas. BRESLE Wood was intermittently shelled and a few H.V. shells were fired into BAIZIEUX and FRANVILLERS.
- South of the SOMME hostile artillery was comparatively quiet.
- Bad weather and poor visibility again prevented effective artillery co-operation with R.A.F. for counter-battery work. Direct hits were obtained on some targets of opportunity and the usual harassing fire carried out.

2. III CORPS.

During the whole 24 hours patrols have been busy in the valley of the ANCRE and east of it in the vicinity of DERNANCOURT. Enemy appears to have no troops west of the ANCRE, except some patrols in the ruins of ALBERT. Strong patrols are holding the east bank of the river, the main line being very probably along the high ground further east. In the vicinity of MORLANCOURT and [redacted] south his line appears to be held normally.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Quiet day. Light scattered shelling of forward trenches. During the night artillery active at intervals on trenches in HOURGES Area. A few blue cross gas shells in vicinity of HAMEL.

3. THIRD ARMY.

No change in situation.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

On the MONTDIDIER front French patrols have been pushed out nearly to the river AVRE from BRACHES to MONTDIDIER.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

Another day of bad flying weather. 67 hours were flown by 33 pilots, 3 reconnaissances and 12 artillery patrols were carried out in the course of which 3 zone calls were sent down.

20 offensive

3rd August, 1918.

2.

20 offensive patrols were carried out and 2 decisive combats in the air took place. 2 E.A. were destroyed. We had one machine destroyed in a flying accident.

Night flying was impossible. By day 86 25-lb bombs were dropped on various targets.

(b) Hostile.

The bulk of flying, which was very slight, was before 7-30 a.m. No long distance reconnaissances were seen.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Rain and low clouds, except very early in the morning.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

12th Division relieved the 58th Division in centre sector left Corps.

4th Canadian Division arrived in OISEMONT Area.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th*, 3rd Cav.** and
33rd American Divisions.
(Army Reserve)

IX Corps H.Q.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th* Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd** and 4th** Canadian Divs.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A., H.E.	130	4.5" Howr., Gas.	388
" S.	37	60-pdr., H.E.	693
13-pdr. R.H.A., H.E.	146	" S.	600
" S.	243	6" Howr., H.E.	2615
18-pdr., H.E.	3468	6" Mk. VII, H.E.	149
" S.	4796	" S.	310
" Smoke.	15	8" Howr.	696
4.5" Howr., H.E.	2340	9.2" Howr.	393

3rd August, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

212

12-20 a.m. From III Corps.

Following from left division. A patrol left our lines at 7 p.m. at W.21.b.6.6 and proceeded along German front line to W.21.b.3.9 thence along second line to W.15.d.8.2, thence S.E. direction to sunken road, returning to our line at W.21.b.5.8. No opposition or movement seen.

2-45 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6 a.m. report. 4 25-lb bombs.

2-55 a.m. From III Corps.

Enemy appears to have withdrawn east of River ANCRE on centre and left division fronts. All artillery fire will be directed on targets east of River ANCRE to allow patrols freedom of manoeuvre. Enemy's front system will be occupied where possible by fighting patrols who will remain in occupation. Patrols will endeavour to gain touch with enemy but will not cross the ANCRE.

5-55 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Enemy artillery active at intervals on right brigade of right division. Scattered shelling over remainder of Corps front. 70 rounds blue cross at 10 p.m. in left division area. Enemy aircraft and machine guns inactive. Very quiet night.

6 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. A quiet night. From the River ANCRE to northern Corps boundary enemy evacuated his front trench system and retired east of the ANCRE. Centre and left divisions have occupied vacant trenches with fighting patrols. Enemy new front line not yet located. Right division report that enemy has not weakened his defences on their front, enemy having been encountered in strength in K.7.d. west of MORLANCOURT, and K.36. central N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC.

6-55 a.m., To G.H.Q.

Quiet night: scattered shelling on Australian Corps front. Enemy reported to have evacuated his front line from the ANCRE to our N. boundary. III Corps centre and left divisions have occupied enemy trenches with fighting patrols. Enemy new front line not located. Hostile trenches W. of MORLANCOURT and N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC still held in strength.

12-5 p.m. From III Corps.

Divisions will establish an outpost line along the west bank of the ANCRE covering all the crossings of the river. No ground east of the ANCRE will be occupied permanently, but patrols will be pushed across it in order to locate the position of the enemy, special attention being paid to ascertain whether he has evacuated ALBERT. Such portions of the enemy's old front system will be occupied forthwith and embodied in the Corps front system as will give us the best line from the point of view of defence and observation. There will be no immediate change in the dispositions of the intermediate

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3rd August, 1918.

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westwardly defensive lines. Artillery dispositions will be modified forthwith to meet the new situation.

4 p.m. From III Corps.

Situation on III Corps front at 3-30 p.m. Right division patrols encountered enemy machine gun fire all along their front close to our front line. Apparently enemy has not yet moved on this front. Fires and two explosions reported in MORLANCOURT this morning. Centre division position south of the ANCRE unchanged. N. of the ANCRE posts established as far forward as E.15.d.1.8. Enemy is believed to have completely evacuated right bank of ANCRE but may possibly still be in DERNANCOURT. Patrols are now out clearing up the situation there. Posts established along the German support line. Right division posts in touch with centre division and in W.27.b. and d. and W.22.c. and a. Patrols have reached the ANCRE N. of ALBERT and are at present finding out whether ALBERT is clear of the enemy. Patrols have been ordered to keep touch with the enemy along the whole front: all patrols approaching ALBERT from the west have been fired at from ruins.

6 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Patrol reports DERNANCOURT clear of enemy and being shelled by them. Between DERNANCOURT and ALBERT ground up to ANCRE reported clear. Posts established at E.15.c.6.4, E.14.a.5.0, E.15.d.1.8, E.8.central. We hold railway cutting E.3.b. Patrols in ALBERT have not met enemy. We occupy German support trenches in W.27.c. and d., W.22.a. and B, and are in touch with Corps on left at W.16.c.0.0. Old enemy trenches in W.27.d., W.26, W.21.b. shelled by enemy. Much individual movement reported in W.24 and W.18. South of ANCRE no change. Some shelling of J.11.a., J.17.a., K.13.d. Captures nil.

6-5 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas during day. E.A. active over enemy lines, no attempt to cross ours. Captures nil.

6-55 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Australian Corps front quiet. III Corps report DERNANCOURT clear of enemy. Ground between DERNANCOURT and ALBERT clear up to the ANCRE. Post established at railway cutting on AMIENS Road just S.W. of ALBERT. Patrols trying to clear up situation in ALBERT. North of ALBERT patrols have reached ANCRE. 2 explosions and a fire in MORLANCOURT, this morning. S. of ANCRE no change. N. of river posts established in German support line. Captures nil.

9-30 p.m. From III Corps.

Centre division report about 200 blue cross and mustard gas shell 77 mm neighbourhood K.1.a.6.3 - K.7.b.2.9 - K.1.d.5.5 between 11-30 a.m. and 12-30 p.m. Patrols S. of ANCRE found no enemy in neighbourhood of E.26.a.central, but were sniped at. DERNANCOURT found unoccupied by our patrols. Officers patrol of 3/132 A.I.R. returned 5-30 p.m. report valley of ANCRE

reconnoitred

3rd August, 1918.

3.

214

reconnoitred : no enemy seen. Bridges over ANCRE blown up except one near VIVIER MILL believed intact but not yet verified owing to enemy machine gun fire. Enemy's machine guns active on high ground about E.11 - E.28 - K.3. Left division report personal reconnaissance carried out by Staff Officers along Divisional front as far east as railway. Nothing seen to indicate any enemy west of ANCRE. Patrols from right brigade now in ALBERT: no enemy seen at present.

5

215

FOURTH ARMY.

3rd August, 1918.

WEEKLY APPRECIATION.

FOR PERIOD FROM JULY 27th to AUGT. 2nd (INCLUSIVE).

1. OPERATIONS.

The week has been marked by no great activity. On the 29th, the Australians attacked and captured the enemy's two front line trenches between SAILLY-LE-SEC and MORLANCOURT, together with 4 officers and 128 Other Ranks. Three small local counter-attacks, carried out by a few companies, were made by the Germans. These, however, were easily repulsed.

No raids were carried out by either side during the week other than one by our men against a post N.7. of MORLANCOURT, as the result of which casualties were inflicted on the enemy, but no identifications were obtained.

On the 2nd inst., it was ascertained from prisoners captured by the Third Army, early in the morning, N.W. of ALBERT, that the enemy intended to blow up the dugouts in their front line trenches, and to retire east of the ANCRE at 2.30 p.m. During the afternoon, our patrols pushed forward, and, finding the German front line trenches between DERMANCOURT and the northern boundary of the Army empty, occupied them. The situation with regard to the enemy's positions has not yet been cleared up; it would appear, however, that he has evacuated the right bank of the ANCRE between DERMANCOURT and the N.E. corner of AVELUY Wood, including probably ALBERT. South of DERMANCOURT, the situation remains unchanged, and patrols found the hostile trenches occupied in strength.

During the week, the number of prisoners captured amounts to 4 officers, 134 Other Ranks. In addition, we have taken 36 machine guns and one trench mortar.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

From the examination of prisoners captured during the week, confirmation has been obtained that the intentions of the enemy opposite the Fourth Army front continue to be passive. This has been fully borne out, at any rate N. of the ANCRE, by the withdrawal of the enemy to the east bank of the river. This retirement, however, is only local, and would appear to be due to the awkward situation in which the enemy found himself in this area with the river ANCRE behind him. The difficulties of supply and the wet and marshy nature of the ground were also probably important factors in determining his retirement.

3. MORALE.

Important information as to the morale of the enemy has been obtained from the examination of prisoners during the week. There is no doubt that the morale of the Germans has been seriously lowered by the Allied victories on the MARNE. This applies not only to the rank and file, but also to officers. According to prisoners recently returned from leave, this equally applies to civilians in Germany.

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The chief factor which has brought about this state has been the ability of the French to carry out such a very successful counter-stroke after the repeated assertions by the German Higher Command that the whole of the French reserves had been used up.

The above statements have been obtained from prisoners (officers and men) belonging to the 43rd Res. and 107th Divisions, but there is probably little doubt that this sentiment is shared by the majority of the German Army and people.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

There is no change in the number of divisions in line on the front of the German Second Army, which remains at 10, seven of which are opposed to our troops, showing an increase of one since last week, accounted for by the re-adjustment of our line. The majority of these divisions are of poor quality.

5. RELIEFS.

According to prisoners' statements the 107th Div. and 43rd Res. Div., occupying respectively the MORLANCOURT and SAILLY-LE-SEC sectors, are to be relieved early in August. As far as has been ascertained, no relief has yet taken place. The weakness of the 43rd Res. Div., however, renders its relief probable. The 41st Div. (WARFUSEE sector) also expects relief, but it is doubtful whether the Germans have a sufficient number of Reserves available for the purpose just at present.

6. RESERVES.

The following are the reserves of the Second German Army as far as is known:-

14th Bav.Div.	...	relieved in CASTEL sector June 2nd
		(ELINCOURT, June 19th).
108th Division	...	relieved in WARFUSEE sector July 9th.
54th	"	" MORLANCOURT " June 20/21st.
		(PERONNE, 16th July).
243rd	"	... relieved in ALBERT sector July 6/7th
		(behind ALBERT, 23rd July).

These may be classified as follows :-

2 divs.	refitting for 1 month or over.
2 "	" " 3 weeks " "

TOTAL -	4 divisions.
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This is a decrease of one from the number reported last week, which is accounted for by the fact that the 50th Res. Div. has gone into line at BUZANCY, south of SOISSONS.

7. COMMAND.

A map found on the dead body of an officer belonging to the 43rd Res. Div. N. of SAILLY LAURETTE strongly indicates/

217

indicates that this division forms part of the XI Corps.
The distribution of divisions to Corps in the Second German Army appears therefore to be as under:-

233rd Division.)		
54th Res. Div.)	...	XIV Corps.
107th Division.)		
43rd Res. Div.)		
13th Division)	...	XI Corps.
41st Division.)		
109th Division.)		
225th Division.)		
21st Division.)	...	LI Corps.
192nd Division.)		

8. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) Aircraft. - Hostile activity has been very slight throughout the week owing to bad weather conditions and a desire on the enemy's part to economise in the comparatively small number of machines and pilots at his disposal on the Army Front by employing them only when visibility is good.

The biggest total of E.A. seen in one day was 89, on the 1st inst., but the total for the whole period is only 173.

Five long distance reconnaissances in all have been carried out:-

(a) On the 31st ult. a R.E.A. flew over PIERREGOT, RAINNEVILLE, COISY between 1 and 2 p.m. at 19,000 ft.,

(b) On the 1st inst. there were four reconnaissances in the directions of NAOURS- TALMAS -VILLERS BOGAGE - PIERREGOT; MONTIGNY - PRESSANCOURT - FRANQUEVILLERS - BAIZIEUX; NAOURS - FLESSELLES - RUBEMPRE; CONTAY - TOUTENCOURT. These were all in the morning between 9 and 10, machines flying at 15,000 to 20,000 feet.

Enemy night flying has been active; on the night of the 27th/28th ult., determined attacks were made on the billeting areas in and around MOLLIENS AU BOIS, RAINNEVILLE, ALLONVILLE, PONT NOYELLES, and CONTAY; about 100 bombs were dropped.

The fighting during the week has resulted in the destruction of 18 E.A., 9 in addition being driven down out of control. We suffered no losses in machines, but on the 1st instant four of our balloons were attacked by three aeroplanes and brought down in flames. One of these aeroplanes fell in flames as the result of A.A. fire. This aeroplane is in addition to the number quoted above.

(b) Artillery. - On the whole, hostile artillery has been a little more active than last week, the Australian attack on the 29th inst. being partly responsible for the increase. Apart from retaliatory fire, only two cases of heavy shelling have been reported, this taking place on the 1st and the 1st/2nd inst., when the vicinity east of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was subjected to a heavy barrage. On the 1st instant, also, the trenches W. and N.W. of DERNANCOURT were heavily shelled.

on the 27th/

(E)

P.T.O

L 18

On the 27th MILLENCOURT was shelled by 21 cm. and the next day the same village and the vicinity north of it was given 200 rounds of field gun fire. On the 28th the area S. of SENLIS was subjected to 200 rounds from 15-cm. hows. The reply to our barrage on the 28th ult. was feeble; 200 rounds of H.E. and gas shell were directed against the AMIENS - ALBERT road on the night of the 28th/29th ult. and during the afternoon of the 29th BOUZINCOURT and MILLENCOURT received 300 rounds of the same nature.

Counter-battery work was chiefly confined to harassing fire, H.E. and gas shell being mostly used. The areas S. of MERICOURT and N. and N.W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX were among those affected.

With regard to gas-shelling, there were two shoots, both carried out on the 31st ultimo, when 600 rounds of Blue Cross were fired against the area south-east of MERICOURT, and 300 rounds of Blue and Yellow Cross N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

Long range guns have been inactive; early in the morning of the 2nd a 21-cm. gun on the railway near WIENCOURT fired a few rounds into AMIENS.

Up to the 1st instant, the activity of artillery aeroplanes was below normal. On that date it showed a pronounced increase for that day, 9 batteries being ranged on 22 targets. The areas affected were MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT - BAISIEUX - DERNANCOURT and BOIS DE VAUX, VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE - FOUILLOY - VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

(c) Movement. -

Railways. - Bad weather conditions have greatly hindered observation.

Early in the week there was considerable activity chiefly westbound, through CHAULNES and about ROSIERES.

LA FLAQUE sidings were active in the middle of the week.

On the 2nd inst. the MONTDIDIER - ROSIERES line was reported active, the movement being chiefly northwards. Continued movement about ROSIERES points to a possible divisional relief S. of the LUCE, where two divisions opposite the French recently suffered heavily during our ally's attack between MAILLY RAINEVAL and SENECA Wood.

Roads. - On July 28th continuous movement of transport was seen about PROYART and on the road running S. to ROSIERES.

There was considerable movement of transport in the LA MOTTE - PROYART - VAUVILLERS area on the 31st. On August 1st a party about 400 strong was observed at SOYECOURT cross roads and a party of 80 was seen moving W. from ESTREES-EN-CHAUSSEE.

This movement might point to the commencement of a divisional relief, but the weather has not been sufficiently good to allow of further evidence being obtained.

9. ENEMY DEFENCES. -

There has been a notable absence of fresh digging on defensive lines, but the enemy has done a good deal of wiring in a way hitherto unusual on this front.

(E)

(a) An important belt of wire has been erected across/

P.T.O

across the ALBERT - BECORDEL road and along the trench N. of MEAULTE, and wire is visible also along the eastern bank of the ANCRE between MEAULTE and DERNANCOURT.

(b) There is still little sign of any continuous line opposite HAMEL and HAMEL Wood, but E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX an important belt of wire has appeared from P.27.d. to P.33.e.

(c) There is a strong belt of wire, not shown on the latest Trench Maps, between the DEMUIN - MOREUIL road and the BOIS de HALON in 66.E., C.12.a.c. and some work has recently been done on trenches at HANGARD Wood and E. of MORGEMONT Wood.

10. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS. -

New hospitals have been reported at PERONNE, E. of BAPAUME, and at OGNOLLES, where there are now probably four hospitals showing eight signs.

Accommodation has increased at the hospitals at FEUILLERES, CLERY, HERBECOURT, COMBLES, and N.W. of BIACHES. Hospitals have been abandoned at VRELY and LE QUESNEL.

Railways. -

Work has been slightly more conspicuous than during the previous week. New sidings have been reported south of FOUCAUCOURT, at SAILLY SAILLISEL and in I.23.e. off the DOINGT - QUINCONCE light railway. Work is proceeding S. of VERMANDO-VILLERS on an ammunition dump with four sidings. A new raccourci is visible between the PEIZIERE - MARCOING and PEIZIERE - ETRICOURT railways in 57.c., W.24.d. Activity continues on the CHUIGNES - FAY - ESTREES light railway, which is being doubled W. of FONTAINE. The light railway between MARCHELEPOT and the MISERY - ABLAINCOURT railway has been completed.

Stations and Dumps. -

There has not been any notable increase of activity. A small new ammunition dump has been reported near BRAY. A slight increase is visible at the ammunition dumps N.E. of ROSIERES and at OLLIECOURT

Aerodromes. -

The decrease recently noted has continued, especially in the forward and southern groups. The large decrease in July in the Central Group has been only slightly counter-balanced by the appearance of a new aerodrome near ENNEMAIN. The net decrease in all groups, so far as photographic evidence is available, is small, amounting to a dozen hangars.

Northern Group. - MOISLAINS increased by 5 hangars and 2 sheds since 17th July. HAPLINCOURT decreased by 2 hangars since 11th July.

Forward Group. - FOUCAUCOURT decreased by 8 hangars (only 2 hangars left). BEAUFORT completely abandoned. ERCHES decreased by 2 hangars since 1st July.

Central Group. - New aerodrome of 10 hangars between ST. CHRIST and ENNEMAIN.

Southern Group/

(E)

220

Southern Group. - ERCHEU, E., decreased by 5 hangars and DURY by 7 hangars since 18th July. ERCHEU decreased by 6 hangars since the end of June.

11. GENERAL. -

The attitude of the enemy continues to be passive. He made no appreciable effort to regain the ground lost by him between SAILLY LAURETTE and MORLANCOURT. In addition, he has retired E. of the ANCRE between DERNANCOURT and the N.E. corner of AVELUY Wood. This can only be regarded as a sign of weakness and an indication that he has abandoned all ideas of an offensive on this part of the front.

The number of divisions is the line (7) shows an increase of 1, owing to the reorganization of our troops. The number of divisions in reserve in the Second German Army shows a decrease of one since last week and is now 4 in place of 5. This decrease is accounted for by one division being transferred to the AISNE battle-front, where it has been identified in the fighting.

Air activity has been slight, owing to inclement weather conditions and bad visibility.

A large number of photographs were taken on the 1st inst. and their examination reveals another slight decrease in the accommodation of aerodromes and a slight increase in the size of hospitals. No new lines of defence have been observed, but a considerable amount of wire has been erected N. of MEAULTE, E. of the ANCRE, E. of VILLERS-BRETONEUX, and S. of DEMUIN.

With regard to other parts of the front, 72 divisions plus one cavalry division, have taken part on the SOISSONS - RHEIMS - TAHURE front. The Germans have been forced to retreat for a considerable distance and at present the Crown Prince has only four fit divisions at his disposal. During the last week it has become more and more apparent that the anticipated attack by Prince RUPPRECHT in the YPRES salient has been indefinitely postponed. At least two of his divisions have been identified during the last few days S. of SOISSONS. He has, however, about 27 divisions in reserve fit for operations, but up to the present it has not been discovered whether he means to employ them with a view to creating a diversion in some other portion of the line or for reinforcing the Crown Prince.

W. W. W.

Fourth Army (I),
August 3rd, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

(E)

		<u>DISTRIBUTION.</u>				
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3rd August 1918.

(6)

221

REPORT ON ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY ON FOURTH
ARMY FRONT FOR WEEK ENDING 3/8/18.

Gas shelling has at no time been heavy, but has been widely distributed over the whole Army front.

The Valley immediately west of VILLERS BRETONNEUX received 500 blue cross shell at 2.30 a.m. on night of July 30th/31st, and between 12.40 a.m. and 3.30 a.m. on July 29th, in connection with our operations a bombardment took place of the forward system of trenches west of MORLANCOURT to a depth of 800 yards, mainly 'H.E'. with about 300 rounds of all natures of gas shell.

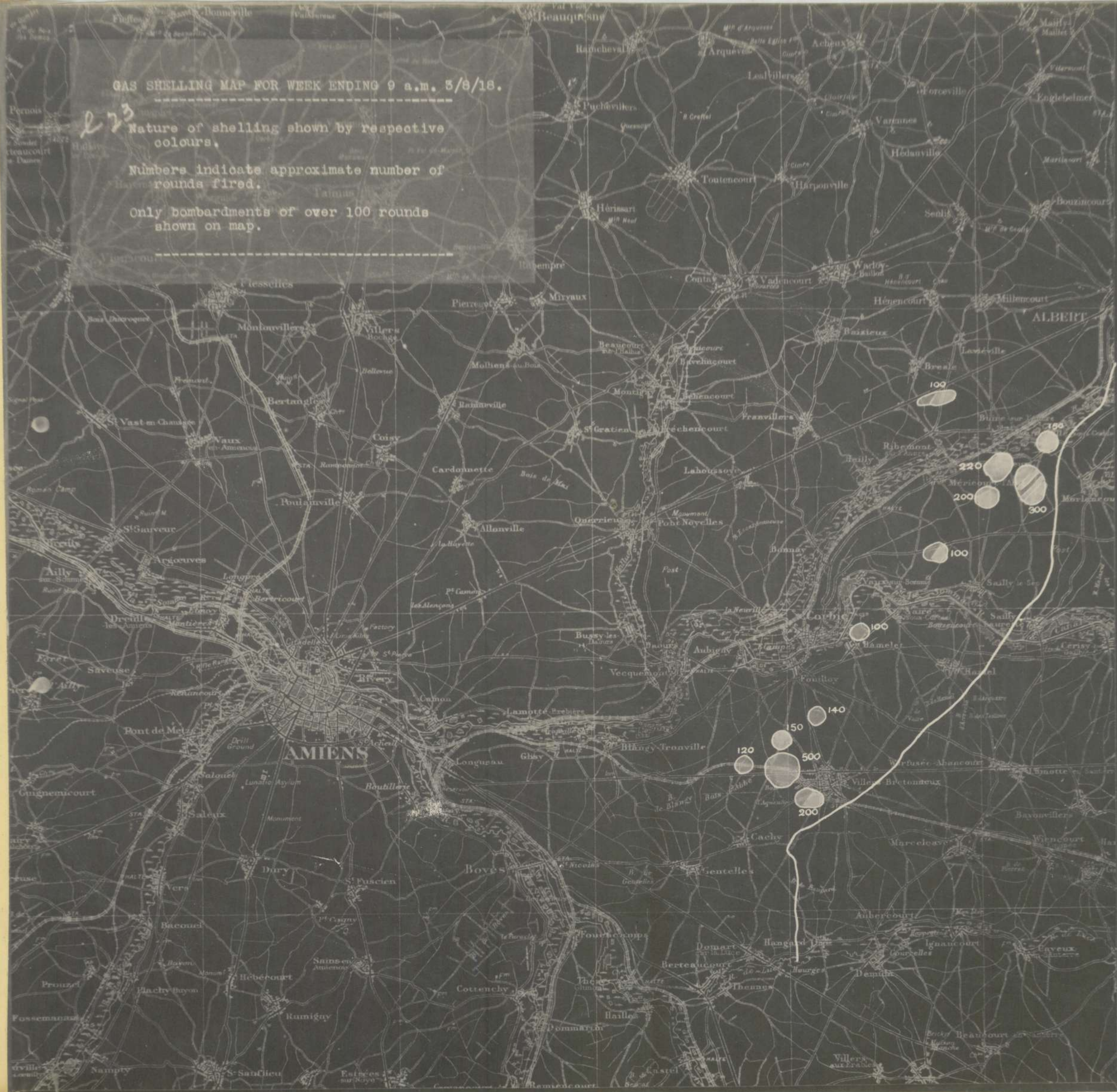
The estimated number of rounds of gas shell fired by the enemy during the week was about 4,000.

Casualties for week :-	6 Officers.
	219 Other ranks.
Deaths :-	6 Other ranks.

Map and table are attached.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. AUGUST 3rd, 1918.

Date. 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Formation.	Time of bombardment.	No. of rounds.	Nature of Shell.	Map location.
July 27/28th.	3rd Aust. Div.	7 p.m.	20.	Yellow cross.	Church, CORBIE.
July 28/29th.	47th Division.	4.45 p.m.	50.	Blue cross.	N.E. MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	10.50 p.m.	30.	-do-	-do-
	-do-	11.40 p.m.	20.	-do-	E. -do-
	-do-	12.30 a.m.	20.	-do-	N. -do-
	-do-	1.0 a.m.	30.	-do-	N.E. -do-
	-do-	11.40 p.m.	10.	-do-	N.E. -do-
	2nd Aust. Div.	-	40.	-do-	N. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	3rd Aust. Div.	9.30 p.m.	50.	-do-	S.E. BONNAY.
	-do-	10.0 p.m.	20.	Yellow cross.	-do-
	-do-	11.50 p.m.	12.	Blue cross.	E. HAMELET.
	5th Aust. Div.	12.40 - 3.30 am.	300.	Blue, green, yellow with large quantities of H.E.	Over whole of divisional front to a depth of 800 yards.
July 29/30th.	47th Division.	10.15 p.m.	80.	Blue cross.	D.10 & D.11. LAVIEVILLE.
	-do-	11.15 p.m.	50.	-do-	D.6.c. S.E. MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	10.0 p.m.	60.	-do-	D.5.a. W. -do-
	-do-	11.30 p.m.	40.	-do-	D.5.a. W. -do-
	58th Division.	9.25 - 9.40 pm.	50.	Yellow cross.	D.29 & 30. BUIRE.
	-do-	10.30 p.m.	20.	-do-	D.29. -do-
	-do-	3.0 a.m.	20.	-do-	D.29. -do-
	-do-	3.0 a.m.	50.	Yellow & blue cross.	J.3.d. N. MERICOURT.
	-do-	4.0 a.m.	30.	Yellow cross.	D.17. N.W. BUIRE.
	-do-	4.30 a.m.	100.	Yellow & blue cross.	D.21.23.22.27.28. -do-
	2nd Aust. Div.	11.45 - 12.10 am.	Bursts.	Green X with H.E.	O.34.c. E. BOIS l'ABBE.
	3rd Aust. Div.	9.30 p.m.	30.	Blue cross.	P.9.d. S.W. HAMEL.
	-do-	1.45 a.m.	100.	-do-	P.1.a. E. HAMELET.
	-do-	2.0 a.m.	20.	-do-	P.14. BOIS de VAIRE.
	5th Aust. Div.	During night.	Interim shelling.	Yellow cross.	Ravine in J.17.11 & 12.) S.E. MERICOURT.
	-do-	3.3 a.m.	100.	Yellow, blue & H.E.	J.21. N.W. SAILLY le SEC.
July 30/31st.	47th Division.	10.25 a.m.	26.	Blue cross.	D.4.a. S.E. HENENCOURT.
	58th Division.	1.20 - 3.20 am.	220.	Green cross 1 (?).	- MARETT WOOD and TREUX.
	2nd Aust. Div.	12.30 a.m.	50.	Green cross.	O.30.a. N.E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	-do-	2.0 a.m.	45.	-do-	- -do-
	-do-	2.0 a.m.	Few.	-do-	U.5.a. S. -do-
	-do-	1.55 - 2.5 a.m.	140.	Blue cross.	O.17.c. O.23.c.d. N. -do-
	-do-	-do-	120.	-do-	O.27. BOIS l'ABBE.
	5th Aust. Div.	10.25 p.m.	200.	Yellow cross.	J.11. E. MERICOURT.
	-do-	11.35-11.50 pm.	15 mins. concen'tn.	-do-	J.16 & J.17. S.E. -do-
July 31/Aug. 1.	47th Divn.	10.40 p.m.	12.	Blue cross.	V.23.a & b. N. MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	-do-	15.	-do-	W.19 & 20. N.E. -do-
	-do-	1.35 p.m.	10.	-do-	D.6.a. E. -do-
	-do-	-do-	10.	-do-	V.30.d. N.E. -do-
	58th Division.	3.45 a.m.	12.	Yellow cross.	D.29.c. S. BUIRE.
	-do-	2.20 a.m.	150.	L.T.M. phos. bombs.	E.26.c. VILLE-sur-ANCRE.
	2nd Aust. Divn.	10.5 - 10.15 pm.	25.	Green cross.	O.22. N.W. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	-do-	10.5 p.m.	20.	Blue cross.	O.23.b & d. N. -do-
	-do-	12.15 - 12.45 am.	150.	Green cross.	O.22 & O.27. N.W. -do-
	-do-	12.45 a.m.	50.	Blue cross.	O.23. N. -do-
	-do-	1.10 - 1.25 am.	90.	Green cross.	O.22 & O.27. N.W. -do-
	-do-	2.30 a.m.	500.	Blue cross.	O.28.a & b. N.W. -do-
	-do-	4.35 - 4.45 am.	Light. Barrage.	Green cross	O.22 & O.27. N.W. -do-
	-do-	-do-	-	-do-	O.36 & P.31. E. -do-
	3rd Aust. Div.	Midnight.	50.	-do-	P.9.d. S. HAMEL.
	-do-	-do-	30.	Blue cross.	O.18. W. BOIS de VAIRE.
	-do-	1.15 a.m.	20.	Yellow cross.	P.14. W. -do-
Aug. 1/2.	18th Division.	10.25 pm - 5 am.	Few.	-do-	J.12.c. E. MERICOURT.
	-do-	-do-	Few.	Green cross.	K.19.a & b. N.E. SAILLY-le-SEC.
	47th Division.	11.30 p.m.	12.	Yellow cross.	D.4.b. W. MILLENCOURT.
	58th Division.	During night.	Few.	-do-	D.29.c. S.W. BUIRE.
	2nd Aust. Div.	9.15 p.m.	60.	Blue cross.	P.26.a. & c. E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	-do-	2.35 a.m.	10.	Green cross.	O.29. N. -do-
	-do-	2.35 a.m.	40.	-do-	O.23.a. O.24. N. & N.E. -do-
	-do-	Midnight.	200.	Blue & yellow X.	O.35.c. & d. S. -do-
	3rd Aust. Div.	4.0 p.m.	14.	Blue cross.	P.14.c. W. BOIS de VAIRE.
	-do-	10.40 p.m.	20.	Green cross.	P.9.d. S. HAMEL.
	-do-	1.30 a.m.	20.	-do-	P.4.d. N.E. -do-
Aug. 2/3.	2nd Aust. Div.	8.30 p.m.	50.	-do-	O.23. & O.24.d. N. & N.E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	3rd Aust. Divn.	8.30 p.m.	70.	Blue cross.	P.15.central. B. de HAMEL.
	-do-	10.0 p.m.	20.	-do-	-do- -do-
	-do-	4.0 a.m.	30.	-do-	J.22. N.E. SAILLY-le-SEC.
	18th Division.	2.0 a.m.	Few.	Yellow cross.	J.17.a. S.E. MERICOURT.
	-do-	9.30 p.m.	30.	Blue cross.	J.12.a. -do-



4th August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 4th August, 1918.

224

1. Early this morning after a heavy bombardment the enemy raided three of our posts at HOURGES. Our casualties not yet known.

Between the ANCRE and AVELUY the enemy holds with outposts the line of the ANCRE, all the bridges but two having been blown up. We hold with our outposts the line of the railway AVELUY - DERNANCOURT. Enemy patrols still in ALBERT.

Weather again interfered with counter-battery work. Our artillery opened fire in response to enemy's fire during raid at HOURGES.

The usual harassing fire on enemy communications and centres of activity was maintained. Targets of opportunity were engaged whenever possible.

North of the SOMME hostile artillery activity was normal. At 1-30 p.m. the trench system west of DERNANCOURT was subjected to a sharp burst of fire by all calibres up to 15 cm. Usual scattered shelling in other areas.

South of the SOMME the usual activity was maintained, the only feature being the barrage at 3 a.m. in support of the enemy raid at HOURGES.

2. III CORPS.

Enemy appears to be holding the high ground east of ANCRE River with outposts along the river bank. He also has strong patrols in ALBERT. From MEAULTE southwards he is holding the line of the railway E.22.a. and c. H.27.b., a. and c. to almost K.2.central: patrol encounters took place in ALBERT. Scattered shelling of forward areas, a considerable proportion of it being on trenches evacuated by the Germans.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

At 3 a.m. the enemy put down a heavy barrage in front of HOURGES. When the barrage lifted he raided three of our posts. Our casualties are not yet known. Several dead Germans are lying in front of our posts. Some gas shelling on area S. of HAMELET and in VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Light scattered shelling on forward areas.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Quiet day. The enemy has withdrawn to E. bank of ANCRE from the BOIS D'AVELUY to ALBERT.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

The French now hold practically all of the west bank of AVRE river from E. of MAILLY-RAINCHEVAL to MONTDIDIER.

5.

4th August, 1918.

2.

5. AIRCRAFT.

225

(a) British.

341 hours were flown by 182 pilots. 4 reconnaissances and 19 artillery patrols were carried out. 12 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction, 31 zone calls sent down and 39 photographs secured.

88 offensive patrols were up and 11 combats in the air (7 decisive) took place: 4 E.A. were destroyed and 3 E.A. driven down out of control. One of our machines is missing. One hostile kite balloon was brought down in flames.

Night flying almost impossible. 28 25-lb bombs were dropped on various targets.

During the day 12 112-lb and 205 25-lb bombs were dropped on MARICOURT, MORCOURT and LA FLAQUE dump. 7,100 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Increased activity, but still below normal. 81 machines were seen of which 6 artillery and 9 F.E.A. crossed the line. The chief activity shown was in the southern sector. No reconnaissance machines were seen.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early in the day, rain later. Visibility poor owing to heavy ground mist.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

58th Division H.Q. moved to QUERRIEU Chateau two brigades moving into the same area.

No. 5 and 80 Squadrons and No. 15 Balloon Company moved into the area and are now under the orders of the 5th Brigade R.A.F.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th*, 3rd Cav.**
and 33rd American Divisions.

(Army Reserve)

IX Corps H.Q.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th* Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd**, and 4th* Cdn. Divisions.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10.

4th August, 1918.

226

3.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr., A.A., H.E.	341
" S.	117
13-pdr., R.H.A., H.E.	274
" S.	506
18-pdr., H.E.	2561
" S.	6075
" Smoke.	20
4.5" Howr., H.E.	3627
" Gas.	192
60-pdr., H.E.	407
" S.	592
6" Howr., H.E.	3010
" Gas.	400
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	256
" S.	213
8" Howr.	826
9.2" Howr.	410

4th August, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

227

12-6 a.m. From III Corps.

Report from F.O.O. states. Enemy hold railway from E.22.a.0.8 to K.2.b.2.7 very strongly with machine guns. This seems to be front line. MEAULTE held with machine guns, also road from E.16.a.9.6 to E.16.c.2.0. These fire at any movement on ridge E.14.b. and d. Situation west of MEAULTE rather obscure. Enemy does not appear to have withdrawn from line west of MORLAN-COURT where machine guns have been active at intervals during afternoon.

2-35 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

2 E.A. crashed.. 78 25-lb bombs on various targets. By night nil.

2-15 a.m. From III Corps.

Centre division reports. Patrol of Americans crossed ANCRE at DERNANCOURT and reached E.27.a.6.2 where they came under rifle and machine gun fire from high ground. Patrol reports bridges at DERNANCOURT destroyed. Ridge from E.27 to K.2 held by machine guns. Machine gun fire from E.29.a.5.3. Bridges at VIVIER MILL destroyed. Footbridge at E.21.c.5.3. River here only ditch and marsh. Road across swamp passable for transport at E.21.c.6.7.

5-40 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Nothing further to report regarding action of patrols and position of enemy. Quiet night except for some intermittent shelling of forward areas and slight gas shelling of area V.23 and 30.

6-5 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. At 3-5 a.m. enemy put down heavy barrage on front line from C.4.c.2.2 to C.4.c.9.7 for three minutes which then lifted to DOMART. Under cover of this enemy raided three posts, since re-established. Our casualties not yet known. Situation now quiet. Several dead Germans lying near posts: identification later. Some gas shelling in O.12.

6-55 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation quiet. At 3-5 a.m. enemy under cover of heavy barrage raided three posts S.E. of DOMART, since re-established. Our casualties not yet known. Several enemy dead near post. Some gas shelling S. of HAMELET, S. of SENLIS and N.E. of MILLENCOURT.

9-35 a.m. From III Corps.

In continuation of morning report. Patrol from left division met strong opposition in ALBERT and forced to withdraw. Enemy reported to be holding bridges across ANCRE.

Cont'd.

4th August, 1918.

2.

5-45 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Light scattered shelling of forward areas. 20 rounds blue cross gas north of VILLERS BRETONNEUX at 2 p.m. E.A. inactive. Captures nil.

5-45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

68 25-lb bombs on various targets. 4 E.A. crashed, 2 E.A. out of control.

6-10 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Patrols sent out between 12 noon and 3 p.m. report enemy posts at K.14.b.1.5 - K.14.b.2.0 - K.14.c.8.7. Posts fired on our patrols. North of ANCRE our outpost line runs approximately along railway embankment through E.9.central to W.27.d.7.3. - W.27.d.0.1 - W.27.b.2.0 - W.27.b.9.8 - W.28.b.2.7 along railway to W.27.c.0.0. Left division reports bridges over ANCRE north and south of ALBERT destroyed. Enemy hold river crossings in ALBERT in strength. Patrol encounters took place in town last night. Our patrols withdrew after inflicting casualties on enemy. Artillery activity: intense bursts on J.24.b. at 2 p.m. slight shelling of valley in J.28 and J.22. Intermittent shelling of trenches north and south of ANCRE. Our artillery fired on hostile infantry in E.18.a. Enemy snipers active on ANCRE south of ALBERT. Captures nil.

7-5 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Light scattered shelling of forward areas. Our outpost line from railway cutting on AMIENS Road runs approximately W. and N. outskirts to railway N. of ALBERT. Patrols report bridges over ANCRE N. and S. of ALBERT destroyed and enemy holding river crossings in ALBERT in strength. 4 E.A. crashed, 2 out of control: captures nil.

5th August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 5th August, 1918.

229

1. Two posts were established by the Left Corps, one East of DERNANCOURT and the other South of ALBERT. An American patrol attempted to raid enemy post N.W. of MORLANCOURT but found the garrison very alert and no identifications were secured.

Our artillery carried out the usual programme of harassing fire on enemy communications and centres of activity.

The enemy's artillery and trench mortars were active on our trenches West and South of MORLANCOURT. Intermittent shelling of the outskirts of HAMEL and persistent shelling of the area East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX were reported.

2. III CORPS.

An American patrol attempted to raid enemy post N.W. of MORLANCOURT but the enemy were found to be very alert, and heavy machine gun fire caused the patrol to retire. Patrols also found that enemy trenches South of DERNANCOURT and posts East of the ANCRE bridgeheads were strongly held.

Two advanced posts were established, one East of DERNANCOURT and one South of ALBERT.

There was heavy hostile shelling of trenches West and S.W. of MORLANCOURT.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The situation was quiet. There was slight shelling of forward areas near BOIS de VAIRE and West of HANGARD WOOD, and the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was lightly shelled with gas during the night and persistently shelled with H.E. during the afternoon.

There was also some intermittent shelling of the outskirts of HAMEL.

At 3.45 a.m. several small fires, thought to be cordite burning, were seen in MARCELCAVE.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

French patrols have been active clearing up the situation. The French now hold line of the AVRE River and are pushing footbridges across in the vicinity of BRACHES.

4. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

Rain and low clouds again interfered with effective co-operation with the artillery.

215 hours were flown by 164 pilots. Nine reconnaissances and 13 artillery patrols were carried out. Six zone calls were sent down

5th August, 1918.

230².

72 photographs were secured.
30 offensive patrols were up but only one indecisive combat took place in the air.
Night flying was impossible.
During the day 89 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various targets.
3,350 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was very slight. Only four E.A. were seen, none crossing the line. All these were in the Southern Sector.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Rain and low clouds.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

~~2nd Canadian Division took over the sector formerly held by the 4th Australian Division.~~
58th Division took over the part of the front immediately North of the SOMME River, ON NIGHT 6/7th AUGUST.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, and 33rd American* Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd** and 4th** Canadian Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th† Australian Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Army Reserve.

† CORPS RESERVE.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	240.
" S.	..	109.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	147.
" S.	..	339.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	1923.
" S.	..	5712.
" Smoke.	..	55.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	1898.
" Gas.	..	417.
" Smoke.	..	11.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	516.
-:- S.	..	749.
6" How.	..	4100.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	146.
" S.	..	122.
8" How.	..	563.
9.2" How.	..	305.

5th August, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

2.32 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6 a.m. report. By day: 1 balloon in flames, 12 112-lb. and 82 25-lb. bombs on LA FLAQUE dump, 26 25-lb. bombs various targets. By night: nil.

6 a.m. From III Corps.

Right Division: enemy artillery less active on right brigade front than usual but more active on left brigade front. In touch with enemy along usual line of posts. Centre Division: situation quiet. Trench E.26.d.4.8 to E.26.b.2.0 strongly held by enemy. Advanced post established by us at E.21.central. Left Division: patrols located strong enemy posts East of ANCRE bridges on right/brigade front. Night post established by us at E.4.a.2.2. No gas shelling reported on Corps front.

6.45 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Situation quiet. Slight shelling of forward areas near BOIS de VAIRE and West of HANGARD WOOD. Slight gas shelling around VILLERS BRETONNEUX and 12 rounds in CORBIE at 4 a.m. Several small fires resembling cordite burning seen in MARCELCAVE 3.45 a.m.

7 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Quiet night. Hostile artillery activity slight.

12.25 p.m. From III Corps.

American patrol attempted to raid German post at K.2.c.0.7 at 11 p.m. last night. Enemy found holding trench K.2.c.1.6 to K.2.c.05.80 in strength and very alert. Patrol compelled to withdraw by machine gun fire.

5.50 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Intermittent shelling of outskirts of HAMEL. Area East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX persistently shelled during afternoon. E.A. inactive. Captures nil.

6.15 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

Four 25-lb. bombs.

6.22 p.m. From Canadian Corps:

Situation very quiet. Wind S.W. Captures nil.

6.28 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. During morning K.13.b. & d., K.14.a & c. shelled intermittently, mostly with 10.5 cm. Heavy trench mortar fired on K.14.a. & c. Between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. some shelling of trenches West of MORLANCOURT. Few yellow cross shells on K.1.central and K.7.a. Some shelling of W.21.a. Snipers active South of ALBERT. Much movement in and out of trenches in K.14.d. Captures nil.

6.40 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation quiet. Persistent shelling on Australian Corps front East of BRETONNEUX. Considerable movement in trenches South of MORLANCOURT. Captures nil.

6th August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 6th August, 1918.

232

1. At 4.30 a.m. the enemy attacked and captured our front line trenches astride the BRAY-CORBIE Road on a frontage of approximately 4,000 yards, penetrating approximately 800 yards. It is estimated that the enemy used about three battalions in this attack. We captured a few prisoners in local counter-attacks.

In connection with this attack, the hostile artillery put down a very heavy barrage on the MORLANCOURT Sector, extending as far westwards as HEILLY, both H.E. and gas being used. North of the ANCRE LAVIEVILLE and BRESLE and battery areas between the SOMME and ANCRE were heavily shelled with H.E. and gas. Between the SOMME and VILLERS BRETONNEUX hostile artillery was very active during the night and early morning. Remainder of the day was fairly quiet.

From VILLERS BRETONNEUX Southwards hostile artillery was quiet.

At 4.40 a.m. in response to call from the infantry all calibres opened upon S.O.S. lines in the MORLANCOURT Sector. In addition, the usual programme of harassing fire was carried out. Weather conditions prevented effective co-operation with the R.A.F.

2. III CORPS.

At 4.30 a.m. this morning three battalions of the enemy, under cover of a heavy barrage, attacked our lines on a front of about 4,000 yards between MORLANCOURT and SAILLY LAURETTE. Our line is now reported to run as follows :- From original line at K.7.d.10.80 - K.7.d.0.8 - K.7.d.0.5 - K.7.c.6.4 - along BURKE LINE to K.19.a.6.6 - K.19.c.6.2 - K.19.d.2.0 - along CUMMINS TRENCH to K.25.c.2.7 - K.25.c.2.0 - thence to original front line. (See attached map).

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Heavy gas shelling of area West of VAIRE WOOD from 4.45 a.m. to 5.55 a.m. It is estimated that 1,500 yellow cross and phosgene gas shells were fired. Light shelling of ridge east of HAMEL during the afternoon.

CANADIAN CORPS.

Situation quiet. Slight hostile shelling of GENTELLES WOOD this morning and of CACHY during the afternoon.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Nothing unusual to report. Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

French have reached the river THREE DOMS between FRAMICOURT and the BOIS DU BUTOR and pushed out small posts in the TRANCHEE DES CHIENS.

6th August, 1918.

2.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

The weather was again unfavourable. 192 hours were flown by 148 pilots. 16 reconnaissances and 8 artillery patrols were carried out. Two hostile batteries were successfully neutralised. 15 zone calls were sent down and 14 photographs were secured.

Ten offensive patrols were up but only one indecisive combat in the air took place.

Weather again prevented night flying.

By day 60 25-lb. bombs were dropped on MORCOURT and MERICOURT. 1,900 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Activity was still below normal. 36 E.A. were seen of which one artillery and one F.E.A. crossed the line. Activity was chiefly in the central and southern sectors.

6. PRISONERS.

13 O.R., one of whom since died.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early, rain and low clouds later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

1st and 2nd Cavalry Divisions arrived in the Fourth Army area.

1st Australian Division arrived in Fourth Army area.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry** and 33rd American* Divisions.

Australian Corps.

1st*, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th† Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd**, 4th** Canadian Divisions.

Cavalry Corps.

1st** and 2nd** Cavalry Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

* Army Reserve.

† CORPS RESERVE.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	...	7.
" S.	...	5.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	...	146.
"	...	338.

/ cont'd.

6th August, 1918.

3.

234

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE. (cont'd).

18-pdr. H.E.	...	2110.
" S.	...	7080.
" Smoke.	...	31.
4.5" How. H.E.	...	2755.
" Gas.	...	312.
" Smoke.	...	18.
60-pdr. H.E.	...	338.
" S.	...	359.
" Gas.	...	57.
6" How. H.E.	...	3351.
" Gas.	...	437.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	...	157.
" S.	...	108.
8" How.	...	676.
9.2 How.	...	343.

6th August, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- e 35
- 2.44 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: nil. By night: nil.
- 6.8 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. At 4.25 a.m. and 4.45 a.m. our artillery replied to S.O.S. but no infantry action was reported and our firing ceased. There has been scattered shelling of forward areas during the night, particularly just South of MORLANCOURT. About 150 shells of heavy calibre at HEILLY. No gas shelling reported.
- 6.5 am. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Enemy shelling with gas shell P.14.a. West of VAIRE WOOD commenced at 4.25 a.m. and was still shelling 4.40 rate of 30 rounds per minute.
- 6.30 a.m. From Canadian Corps.
Situation quiet. One prisoner (wounded) captured, stated to belong to 373 I.R. (normal).
- 6.37 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Situation quiet. Scattered shelling of forward areas of Northern Corps. 150 shells heavy calibre on HEILLY. Continuous gas shelling since 4 a.m. of West of BOIS de VAIRE with yellow and blue cross.
- 7.39 a.m. From III Corps.
In continuation of morning report. Enemy raided our trenches astride CORBIE - BRAY Road this morning. Details not yet known.
- 10.40 a.m. From Aust. Corps.
Further to morning report. Gas shelling ceased 5.55 a.m. Estimated 1,500 rounds yellow cross and phosgene.
- 2.15 p.m. From III Corps.
Following received from Right Division timed 12.45 p.m. Attack this morning began before relief of front line complete. Main attack delivered from MORLANCOURT in S.W. direction crossing BRAY - CORBIE Road. Outpost line South of BRAY - CORBIE Road taken. Old British front line reported intact on 174th Brigade front. Minor attack from direction of MALARD WOOD repulsed by Lewis gun fire. Nine prisoners taken by 8th Battalion, 174th Brigade.
- 2.35 p.m. From III Corps.
Following received from Centre Division timed 1.30 p.m. Line reported to run at 11.30 am. from approximately K.25.central - K.25.b.2.8 - CRUMP LANE - CUNNAM VILLA SUPPORT - CLEARY ST. - CUP ST. - to its junction with BURKE TRENCH. We hold half CAMDEN ST. and are bombing along it towards BURKE ST. Enemy holding out junction CULGOA and CLONCURRY TRENCHES where he is being attacked by us from junction COOMA and BURKE and from K.7.d.0.4. South of K.25.central and North of K.7.d.0.4 line intact. Enemy reported at 12.30 p.m. to be digging new trench from K.19.c.9.1 to K.19.d.5.6. Our artillery are engaging this target.

/ cont'd.

6th August, 1918.

e36 cont'd.

6 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Light shelling of ridge East of HAMEL. Captures 1 O.R.

6.20 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Situation quiet. Slight hostile shelling of CACHY this p.m. and of GENTELLES WOOD this a.m.

6.35 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Line now runs:- original line to K.25.c.2.0 - K.25.c.2.7 - CUMMINS TRENCH K.19.d.2.0 - along CRUMP LANE to K.19.c.6.2 - K.19.a.6.6 - K.13.c.7.6 - along BURKE LINE to K.7.c.5.4 - K.7.d.0.5 - K.7.d.0.8 thence to original line. North of ANCRE situation quiet except for 100 gas shells on D.21 and some gas shelling of DARWIN COPSE (D.17.c) between 4.30 and 6 a.m. Captures 11 O.R., 1 since died.

7.25 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Enemy attacked our line S.W. of MORLANCOURT about 4.20 a.m. between K.25.c.0.0 and K.7.d.9.9. Our front line now runs approximately - original line line at K.25.c.2.4 - K.25.a.9.6 - K.19.c.5.0 - K.13.c.7.0 - K.7.c.5.4 - original line at K.7.d.9.9. No details as regards our casualties yet received. 100 gas shells North of RIBEMONT. 4 a.m. S.E. of BOAANAY 800 green cross and 500 on VAUX-sur-SOMME, 4.15 a.m. S.W. of BUIRE 700 green cross. 4.35 a.m. West of BRETONNEUX 700 blue and yellow cross. 4.30 - 6 a.m. 1,250 green and 250 yellow cross West of BOIS de VAIRE. Captures 13 O.R.

10.15 p.m. From III Corps.

Continuation evening report. 58th Division confirm report that attack by two battalions this morning on 8th London Regt. driven off with heavy casualties to enemy from rifle and Lewis gun fire and the bayonet.

7th August, 1918.

238

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 7th August, 1918.

1. At 4.40 a.m. the III Corps attacked astride the BRAY - CORBIE Road. All objectives were gained and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. An Australian patrol moved out to mop up a post near ACCROCHE WOOD. They found it unoccupied but met a hostile patrol of about 35 which they attacked and inflicted casualties. No identification was secured. The enemy attempted to raid one of our posts S.W. of HAMEL but was repulsed with rifle and machine gun fire.

At 10.43 a.m. and in the afternoon the enemy counter-attacked but was repulsed except just astride the BRAY - CORBIE Road where he gained a footing in some of our trenches.

In connection with the attack and counter-attacks heavy hostile shelling was concentrated on the area of attack and the areas in rear. There was also scattered shelling of areas near VILLERS BRETONNEUX, CACHY and GENTELLES WOOD.

Our artillery put down a heavy barrage in connection with III Corps attack and also in response to S.O.S. call from the infantry in the two counter-attacks. The usual programme of harassing fire on enemy communications and centres of activity was carried out.

2. III CORPS.

At 4.40 a.m. we attacked ^{a part of} the trenches captured by the enemy the night before. All objectives were gained and heavy casualties believed to have been inflicted. At 10.43 a.m. and again in the afternoon the enemy counter-attacked but was driven off all along the line except just at the BRAY - CORBIE Road where he gained a footing in some of the advanced trenches. We captured 12 - 20 prisoners. Our line runs from K.7.d.0.4 - CLONCOURRY TRENCH - CUMMINS TRENCH to point just North of trench junction K.25.b.7.8.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A patrol went out to mop up a post West of ACCROCHE WOOD but it was found unoccupied. An enemy patrol of 35 men was met and attacked. No identification was secured but casualties were inflicted. The enemy attempted a raid S.W. of HAMEL but was repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire. Scattered shelling of VILLERS BRETONNEUX during the morning. Minenwerfers were active on front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

CANADIAN CORPS.

Quiet day. Hostile artillery quite active on CACHY, GENTELLES WOOD and trenches West of HANGARD WOOD.

4. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

7th August, 1918.

2.

239

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Patrol encounters at various points but nothing important to report.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

365 hours were flown by 240 pilots.

16 reconnaissances and 25 artillery patrols were carried out. 19 zone calls were sent down, one hostile battery successfully engaged for destruction, and 204 photographs secured.

69 offensive patrols were up and 18 combats took place. 6 of these were decisive and 3 E.A. were destroyed and 3 driven down out of control. One of our machines is missing.

By night 238 25-lb. and five 112-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets.

During the day 79 25-lb. bombs were dropped on BRAY and various targets.

9,555 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Activity still below normal.

26 E.A. were seen of which one artillery, three R.E.A. and three F.E.A. crossed the line. The artillery machines operated mostly in the central and southern sectors. The reconnaissances were made over FRANVILLERS, BERTANGLES, VIGNACOURT, PICQUIGNY and VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

6. PRISONERS.

About 20 prisoners captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine - thick ground mist in early part of day.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions moved into the line, relieving the brigades of 4th Australian Division still in the line.

32nd Division was transferred to the Fourth Army, from Second Army.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th and 33rd American Divisions.

Australian Corps.

1st*, 2nd, 3rd, 4th* and 5th* Australian Divns.

Canadian Corps.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th* Canadian Divisions, 32nd** Division.

Cavalry Corps.

1st**, 2nd**, 3rd** Cavalry Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

/ cont'd.

7th August, 1918.

3.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.
* Corps Reserve.

240

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	80.
" S.	..	37.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	143.
" S.	..	304.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	2655.
" S.	..	8399.
" Smoke.	..	35.
4.5 How. H.E.	..	2767.
" Gas.	..	309.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	520.
" S.	..	702.
6" How. H.E.	..	3132.
" Gas.	..	96.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	239.
" S.	..	216.
8" How.	..	872.
9.2" How.	..	412.

7th August, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

12.15 a.m. From III Corps.

Following from 18th Division. 54th Brigade reports at 8 p.m. line runs as follows:- K.25.b.0.1 - K.25.b.05.95 - CRUMP LANE - COMAMULLA SUPPORT - BURKE LINE - original line at K.7.d.0.4.

5.45 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Situation on Corps front to 4.30 a.m. quiet. Hostile artillery intermittently active during night. Our artillery very active with harassing fire. No gas shelling reported. Enemy aircraft bombed our forward area and along AMIENS - ALBERT Road 11 - 12 p.m.

6 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Scattered shelling on Right Division forward area. We discharged 240 gas projectors on enemy positions at P.17.a.3.2 during night. Enemy aircraft fairly active during night, bombing. Situation quiet.

6 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Situation quiet. Captures nil. Wind S.W.

6.30 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

By day: 56-25 = 1b. bombs By night: five 112-lb. and 238 25-lb. bombs on various targets.

6.30 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation quiet on whole front. 240 projectors successfully discharged S.E. of HAMEL. E.A. bombed forward area and along AMIENS - ALBERT Road.

7 a.m. From III Corps.

At 4.40 a.m. today we attacked and expelled the enemy from most of the trenches astride the BRAY - CORBIE Road which he entered yesterday. All the objectives of our attack were attained and a number of prisoners taken. Our new line runs K.7.d.0.4 - CLONCURRY TRENCH - CUMMINS TRENCH to point just North of trench junction at K.25.b.7.8.

8 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Continuation morning report. At 4.30 a.m. we attacked and expelled enemy from most of trenches astride BRAY - CORBIE Road which he entered yesterday. All objectives of attack gained and number of prisoners taken. Our new line runs K.25.b.7.8 - K.13.d.8.0 - K.13.b.1.9 - K.7.d.0.4.

11.35 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following morning situation report delayed on account of line being down. Enemy artillery activity above normal on CACHY GENTELLES Roads in rear also on U.15.a. and C.21.a. & c. 5.9 and 77 mm. on GENTELLES WOOD. Road in T.7.c. shelled with 4.2 between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. last night.

/ cont'd.

7th August, 1918.

cont'd.

042

11.45 a.m. From III Corps.

Continuation morning report. Right Centre Division report 175 projectors discharged on S. MORLANCOURT 3.45 a.m. from vicinity HAY STREET.

12.20 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Further to morning report. Patrol of Left Division moved out to mop up post P.16.d.10.90 and found post unoccupied. Enemy patrol estimated 35 strong met on road P.16.d.20.90. Encounter took place; casualties inflicted on enemy; our losses slight. At 3.45 a.m. under cover of artillery, enemy attempted to raid our trench in P.16.b.0.4. Raid repulsed by Lewis gun and rifle fire.

5.50 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Scattered shelling North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX during the morning. Minenwerfers active on front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Captures nil.

6 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Situation quiet. Hostile artillery normal. Slight shelling 5.9s T.11.d. and T.17.b. Low flying E.A. nil. Captures nil.

6.25 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

Three E.A. crashed. Three out of control. 40 25-lb. bombs.

6.50 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Enemy attacked our lines S.W. of MORLANCOURT at 10.43 a.m. and again this afternoon, and gained footing in CLONCURRY and CUMMINS TRENCHES (K.13.d., K.19.b). No details yet known. Considerable shelling of front line North of SAILLY LAURETTE and of valley in J.30, also of forward area S.W. of MORLANCOURT. All quiet on rest of front. Captures between 12 and 20 O.R.

7.10 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Australian patrol attacked post near ACCROCHE WOOD and found unoccupied. Met hostile party of 35 same place and inflicted casualties. Attempted enemy raid East VAIRE WOOD beaten off. Scattered shelling of BRETONNEUX and GENTELLES WOOD. 18th Division report enemy attacked at 10.43 and in afternoon and gained footing in trenches astride BRAY - CORBIE Road. Estimated 20 prisoners.

8th August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 8th August, 1918.

243

1. In conjunction with the First French Army operating South of the AMIENS - ROYE Road, the Fourth Army carried out an attack against the enemy's defences East of AMIENS on a front of about 18,000 yards, the main objective for the day being the general line LE QUESNEL - CAIX - HARBONNIERES - MERICOURT - BOIS de TAILLES, or the old AMIENS outer defence Line.

It was originally intended to consolidate and hold this as the final objective, but instructions were received on the 5th August that, in case the first day's operations were successful, the advance must be exploited in the direction of the line CHAULNES - ROYE with a view to thrusting the enemy back on HAM, and assisting possible operations by the French on the NOYON - MONTDIDIER front.

The preliminary arrangements and instructions for the operations are attached as an appendix to which is added a table showing the composition and dates of arrival in the Fourth Army area of the troops employed, additional to those available on the spot.

The force engaged in the attack on the 8th August comprised -

- (a) Cavalry Corps. 1st, *2nd and 3rd Cav. Divisions.

III Corps. 18th and 58th Divisions.

Canadian Corps. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and *4th Divisions, with an Independent Force, consisting of 2 Cdn. M.M.G. Bdes. and Cdn. Cyclist Bn.

Australian Corps. *1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions.

* Corps reserve.

(b)	R.F.A.	III Corps	Cdn. Corps	Aust.	Total.
	<u>Bdes.</u>	17	17	18	52
	<u>R.G.A.</u>				
	<u>Bdes.</u>	8	9	9	26
	<u>Ungrouped</u>				
	<u>batteries</u>	4	4	5	13
	<u>of long</u>	btys.	btys.	btys.	btys.
	<u>range guns.</u>				

- (c) 3rd Bde. Tank Corps,
of 2 bns. Whippets allotted to Cav. Corps.

4th Bde. Tank Corps,
of 3 bns. Mark V
1 bn. Mark V* , , , Cdn. Corps.

5th Bde. Tank Corps,
of 3 bns. Mark V
1 bn. Mark V*
17th Armoured Car Bn. , , Aust. Corps
....10th Bn.

8th August, 1918.

2.

10th BN. Tank Corps,
Mark V

244
allotted to III Corps.

- (a) 5th Bde. R.A.F.
9th Bde. R.A.F.

The inactivity of the enemy's artillery in the early hours of the morning confirmed the opinion that the enemy would be taken completely by surprise, and a heavy ground mist assisted our troops considerably in the initial stages of the attack.

Zero hour was 4.20 a.m., at which hour the artillery opened simultaneously, and the infantry, supported by tanks, advanced to the assault under cover of a field artillery barrage which commenced to lift at zero + 3 minutes at a rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes until zero + 27 minutes, after which the lift occurred every 4 minutes.

The advance under cover of the barrage continued as far as the first objective, i.e., the line C.17 central - DEMUIN - MARCELCAVE - LAMOTTE-en-SANTERRE - CERISY - S. of MORLANCOURT - or GREEN LINE.

On this line there was a halt of two hours, during which period a protective barrage was maintained.

Forward of this the advance, carried out by the cavalry and infantry in co-operation, was supported by mobile R.F.A. Brigades under the command of C.R.As. of Divisions, the heavy artillery moving up to new positions during the day.

The advance to the 2nd objective, the general line MEZIERES - IGNAUCOURT - GUILLAUCOURT - MORCOURT, or RED LINE, was continued with as much success as the initial advance, the cavalry and infantry co-operating admirably.

At the close of the day's operations the Aust. and Canadian Corps had reached their objectives with the exception of LE QUESNEL, but the III Corps, as the result of enemy pressure and owing to the fact that the village of CHIPILLY could not be cleared of the enemy, failed to establish its hold on the CHIPILLY spur, and finally was forced back to the line West of CHIPILLY - K.27.d.8.0 - West of MORLANCOURT.

As a result of the day's fighting 13,000 prisoners and between 300 and 400 guns, including one 9.2" railway gun with three trucks of ammunition, were captured. Large quantities of war material also fell into our hands.

South of the River SOMME the enemy was taken completely by surprise and, except for some opposition offered by isolated machine gun nests, surrendered freely and in large numbers without any serious fighting. Chiefly for this reason, no doubt, hostile artillery retaliation was very light and scattered, and eventually resolved itself into light shelling of the main roads

.... with

8th August, 1918. 3.

245

with long range guns, but at the same time our counter-battery arrangements were most effective, as was proved afterwards by the devastation found in many of the enemy's gun positions.

North of the river SOMME, hostile artillery retaliation was more pronounced and showed a marked increase towards the evening. The enemy's infantry also offered considerable resistance, and, ~~later in the day~~, as has already been stated, succeeded in retaining the CHIPILLY Spur.

2. CAVALRY CORPS.

The Cavalry Corps, comprising the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Cavalry Divisions, was employed in the attack. The 3rd Cavalry Division and 1st Cavalry Division (less one brigade) operated with the Canadian Corps, and one brigade 1st Cavalry Division with the Australian Corps. The 2nd Cavalry Division was held in reserve.

The 3rd Tank Bde. (Whippets) was placed at the disposal of the Cavalry Corps Commander for the operation.

On the night 7/8th August, the Cavalry Corps was concentrated in the vicinity of LONGUEAU, and at Zero commenced to move forward. One squadron of 3rd Cavalry Division furnished liaison patrols with the advancing infantry, moving forward with them at zero.

The 3rd Cavalry Division, and one brigade 1st Cavalry Division, attached to the Australian Corps, moved through the infantry on the GREEN LINE, at about 8.0 a.m. At 2.20 p.m. the 1st Cavalry Division had reached the BLUE LINE and was pushing forward in the direction of FRAMERVILLE. The 3rd Cavalry Division was held up by machine gun fire from the woods East of BEAUCOURT. The whippet tanks eventually cleared the woods of the enemy and the advance was continued. Owing to the enemy's resistance at BEAUCOURT the 2nd Cavalry Division was pushed forward to assist the left of the 3rd Cavalry Division near CAIX, but meanwhile the latter had overcome the enemy's resistance and at 3.0 p.m. had reached the BLUE LINE except to the S.E. of LE QUESNEL, where the enemy seriously disputed our advance.

The 2nd Cavalry Division endeavoured to push forward further East, but was unable to do so, as the line BEAUCOURT - WARVILLERS - VRELY was found to be strongly held.

About 2,500 prisoners and some heavy guns were captured by the cavalry during the day. Their own casualties were fairly light.

III Corps.

The III Corps attacked on a front of two divisions extending from the SOMME to the West of MORLANCOURT, with the 58th Division (less one brigade in Corps reserve) on the right, and the 18th Division on the left. The objective for the day was the SOMME, East of CHIPILLY - GRESSAIRE WOOD - thence a line

.... running

8th August, 1918.

246 4.

running N.W. 1,500 yards south of MORLANCOURT.

One company Mark V tanks was allotted to the 58th Division and two companies to the 18th Division.

At zero the 58th and 18th Divisions advanced each with one Brigade attacking followed by one Brigade detailed for the capture of the final objective, which in the case of the III Corps was that portion of the RED Line north of the SOMME.

The GREEN Line was captured in good time and leapfrogging brigades continued the advance to the RED Line.

The 58th Division reached the latter, with the exception of CHIPILLY spur, at 7 a.m. after fairly severe fighting. The 18th Division also gained the final objective later in the morning, but for some hours the situation immediately south of MORLANCOURT remained obscure.

During the evening the enemy counter-attacked from the direction of ETINEHEM. As the result of this pressure the 58th Division was eventually forced back to the line west of CHIPILLY - K.27.b. & d. - S.W. of MORLANCOURT. Towards evening hostile artillery fire increased considerably, and further efforts of our troops to advance were unsuccessful.

During the day the III Corps captured numerous prisoners and many guns. The casualties were not excessive.

CANADIAN CORPS.

The Canadian Corps, comprising the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions, operated between the AMIENS - ROYE road and the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - CHAULNES railway. The 1st and 2nd Divisions attacked on a one-brigade front, with one brigade in support and one in reserve, whereas the 3rd Division had two brigades in front line and one in support. The support and reserve brigades of the 1st and 2nd Divisions and the support brigade of the 3rd Division were detailed, in conjunction with the Cavalry, for the capture of the RED and BLUE Lines, the latter being the outer AMIENS defences east of LE QUESNEL and CAIX. The 3rd, 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions were disposed for the attack on the right, centre, and left respectively, with the 4th Canadian Division in reserve. Each of the attacking divisions was allotted one battalion of Mark V tanks.

The first objective was reached with comparatively little difficulty, thanks in no small degree to the fact that a proportion of the tanks were able to cross the LUCE before zero, and also to the inactivity of hostile artillery. DEMUIN was captured by 6-10 a.m.

After a halt of two hours on the GREEN Line the protective barrage ceased and the 3rd Cavalry Division, supported by one company of whippet tanks, pushed forward to the RED and BLUE Lines closely followed by the infantry. The former was gained by the 3rd and 2nd Canadian Divisions who commenced consolidation. Enemy machine gun nests in the woods in V.23 and V.24 held up the advance on the left for a short time, but eventually the 1st Canadian Division also reached the RED Line and the cavalry pressed forward towards the old AMIENS defences.

After

8th August, 1918.

5.

247

After overcoming strong opposition east of BEAUCOURT the BLUE Line, with the exception of LE QUESNEL, was captured by the cavalry, this line being shortly afterwards consolidated by the 4th Canadian Division which had passed through the troops holding the RED Line. Touch was maintained with the French on the AMIENS - ROYE road east of FRESNOY, and some machine guns of the Independant Force were brought up to ensure the safety of the exposed flank S.W. of LE QUESNEL.

It should be noted that throughout the day the Independant Force maintained touch between the Canadian and XXXI French Corps.

During the afternoon the enemy lightly shelled the AMIENS - ROYE road with heavy guns and occasionally shelled the area east of GUILLAUCOURT.

Prisoners captured numbered several thousands, our casualties being light.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The Australian Corps, comprising the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, attacked on a front of two divisions extending from the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - ROSIERES railway to the SOMME.

The attack on the GREEN Line was carried out by the 2nd and 3rd Australian Divisions each on a two-brigade front with one brigade in support. The 5th and 4th Australian Divisions continued the advance to the RED and BLUE Lines, the former operating in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Brigade. The 1st Australian Division was held in reserve.

Each attacking division was supported by one battalion of Mark V tanks.

The GREEN Line was reached in good time, although considerable opposition was offered by hostile machine guns west of WARFUSSEE.

At zero plus 4 hours the 5th and 4th Australian Divisions continued the advance to the RED and BLUE Lines. The former reached the BLUE Line at 11 a.m., encountering only slight opposition from isolated parties of the enemy. The 4th Australian Division, however, suffered a slight check from enemy machine guns on the outskirts of CERISY. Owing to the fact that the III Corps failed to capture the CHIPILLY spur, the left flank of the 4th Australian Division was held up west and south-west of MORCOURT, but in spite of this the village was finally captured and 100 prisoners secured. At this phase of the operation the tanks suffered very heavily from direct enemy artillery fire from the direction of the ETINHEM spur.

During the afternoon the 17th Armoured Car Bn. in conjunction with the cavalry patrolled the main roads east of the final objective and exploited the villages of FRAMERVILLE and PROYART, killing many of the enemy, including several staff officers who were lunching in the former village.

The total captures for the Australian Corps for the day were 149 officers and 6,410 O.R., over 200 guns of varying calibres and a complete battalion transport, which included 60 horses and two complete cooks.

Our casualties for the day were very light.

8th August, 1918.

6.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

At 6-5 a.m. the XXXI French Corps attacked between the River AVRE and the AMIENS - ROYE road with the outer AMIENS defences as the final objective for the day.

Heavy fighting took place in the vicinity of MOREUIL, and at the conclusion of operations for the day the line was established east of FRESNOY - east of PLESSIER - east of HAMEL - east of PIERREPONT - BOUILLANCOURT.

150 officers, 3,200 O.R. and numerous guns were captured.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

723 hours were flown by 308 pilots.

During the day 11 successful reconnaissances and 35 contact patrols were carried out.

22 artillery flights were undertaken with considerable success and 5 line patrols maintained.

During 5 photographic flights 177 photographs were secured.

Our aircraft were very active and co-operated with the infantry and tanks and generally contributed in no small degree to the success of the operation. 261 offensive patrols were carried out and 39 air combats took place, 9 of which were decisive: 4 E.A. were destroyed, 3 E.A. driven down out of control and 2 E.A. driven down on our side of the line.

During the night 6 machines dropped 132 112-lb bombs on enemy roads and villages to an average distance of 3 miles in rear of the line.

By day, 46 112-lb, 83 40-lb and 967 25-lb bombs were dropped on BOUVINCOURT aerodrome, CHAULNES, FOUCAUCOURT and ESTREES and various ground targets.

6,000 machine gun rounds were fired at enemy's troops and transport on roads.

(b) Hostile aircraft activity was normal. Fighting planes were more in evidence operating in large flights over the battle zone.

6. PRISONERS.

281 officers, 12,134 O.R. passed through Corps cages.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds with heavy ground mist early in the day.

8.

8th August, 1918.

7.

249

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

32nd Division moved from CAVILLON area to LONGUEAU area by road and was placed under the Canadian Corps.

17th Division transferred from Third Army to Australian Corps by road.

63rd Division transferred from Third Army to III Corps by road.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps.

1st, 2nd*, 3rd Cavalry Divisions.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 47th, 58th Divisions.

63rd Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

1 Bde. 33rd American Division.

Australian Corps.

1st*, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Australian Divisions.

17th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

1 Bde. 33rd* American Division.

Canadian Corps.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th* Canadian Divisions.

32nd Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps H.Q.

* Corps-Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13 pdr. A.A., H.E.	211.
" " S.	94.
18 pdr. H.E.	113764.
" " S.	155356.
" Smoke.	12577.
4.5" Howr., H.E.	54953.
" " Smoke.	5259.
" " Gas.	288.
60-pdr., H.E.	15010.
" " S.	12617.
6" Howr., H.E.	54926.
" " S.K.	2403.
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	2269.
" " S.	1367.
" " A.P.	300.
8" Howr.	10576.
9.2" Howr.	6553.
12" Howr.	369.
12" Gun.	26.

8th August, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

250

4.23 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

Off! Very few enemy flares and no enemy shelling.

4.40 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

A little enemy high shrapnel. Some of our guns have started to move forward already. Everything seems very satisfactory.

5.33 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Reports received from both divisions that attack started to time: all going well. For first half hour practically no retaliation. Left Division has received reports that troops have entered ACCROCHE WOOD. Enemy's wire no obstacle.

5.40 a.m. From Australian Corps (by telephone).

Everything splendid. 55th I.R. prisoners taken North end of ACCROCHE WOOD knew nothing of attack. Practically no retaliation: only odd shelling. III Corps going well. Tanks up well: only one went wrong.

5.43 a.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

Started all right and up to time. German retaliation slight. Opposition also slight. Among prisoners captured some belong to 117th Division which came into line last night. All prisoners state attack was a complete surprise.

6.38 a.m. From First French Army.

XXXI French Corps report at a.m. attack started well: resistance slight. Prisoners state surprise complete. 42nd Division have prisoners of 4th and 8th Bavarians, confirming order of battle. Tanks crossed LUCE satisfactorily.

7 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Following received from 3rd Australian Division: returning wounded report that GAILLY has been captured. Artillery detail for second phase moving forward to positions East of HAMEL.

7.5 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Reports to date indicate that attack is proceeding smoothly. Tanks all over LUCE River on Right Division front. DODO WOOD and HANGARD captured. 117th Divn. identified opposite Left Division.

7.5 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Morning report. Generally quiet night until zero 4.20 a.m. We attacked from Southern boundary to MORLANCOURT in conjunction with French on right.

/ Attack

8th August, 1918.

251 cont'd.

Attack apparently complete surprise and is progressing satisfactorily.

7.30 a.m. From III Corps.

Situation report. Considerable intermittent shelling during the night, with some gas shelling of battery positions. Assembly reported to have taken place without interruption, and so far 2 officers and 16 O.R. prisoners reported by Right Division. No observation possible owing to mist.

7.40 a.m. From Col. Karlake.

5.40 a.m. motor ambulance and horse transport on main ST. QUENTIN Road in P.25 moving East. Head of cavalry column 5.55 a.m. in U.1. Impossible to see leading troops owing to mist, but Reserve Brigades moving forward whole time. Hostile artillery on line HANGARD - HAMEL very slight. Two batches prisoners, about 80 each, moving West in V.1 about 6 a.m.

7.45 a.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

2nd Canadian Division in outskirts of MARCELCAVE (no time given). Artillery report that one brigade 2nd Canadian Division has reached objective on right and taken many prisoners. Left is not yet clear of MARCELCAVE but is working through. Artillery report that DEMUIN has been taken.

7.45 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

3rd Canadian Division seen at DOMART, also Staff Officer of 9th Canadian Brigade. 58th Battalion took DEMUIN at 6.10 a.m. Situation at C.5.central not clear, but tanks going up at 8 a.m. to clear it up. Wood in C.10 entered. French report copse in C.17.c. captured. 400 prisoners seen near DOMART. All said attack was a complete surprise.

8.10 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

Cavalry Corps observation post reports 8.10 a.m. position as follows. 9th Cavalry Brigade (1st Cavalry Division) has reached V.1.c.5.5., 3rd Cavalry Division V.7.central. Very little enemy shelling. Infantry transport seen V.2.c.1.1.

8.10 a.m. From First French Army (by telephone).

French report timed 7 a.m. states they hold CECILE RAVINE, also N.W. corner of BOIS de MOREUIL. 37th French Division are in RAVIN de WILHEM (C.26.b. and C.20.d). Heavy artillery fire on MORISEL at commencement of attack. No news of 66th Division.

9.15 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

2nd Australian Division - all green line. More prisoners than they can deal with. Despatch rider reports VILLERS BRETONNEUX - WARFUSEE Road congested with prisoners. 5th Australian Division passed Green Line and in

/ touch

8th August, 1918.

252 cont'd.

touch on both flanks. They have already captured two 77 mm. guns, and 230 prisoners East of Green Line. WARFUSEE in our hands. 17th Armoured Car Battalion passed through WARFUSEE in good order. 5th Australian Division report casualties very slight. 8th Brigade only 10 casualties up to 8.30 a.m. Canadians report heavy tanks East of MARCELCAVE and Cavalry going through MARCELCAVE (time not given).

8.50 a.m. From III Corps.

Walking wounded 18th Division report Green Line captured. Prisoners captured by 58th Division and interrogated by artillery say they were captured in MALARD WOOD. 58th Division report capture of SAILLY LAURETTE. Leap-frogging (53rd) Brigade of 18th Division reported to have passed through leading troops. At 7.5 a.m. 7 officers and 116 O.R. reported captured.

8.15 a.m. From G.O.C. Australian Corps (by telephone).

Left Division reported on Green Line. Right Battalion, Left Division, also say they are in touch with Left Battalion of Right Division on Green Line.

8.30 a.m. From Cavalry Corps (by telephone).

Aeroplane report between 6 and 6.30 a.m. Motor transport seen moving East about MARCELCAVE. Parties of enemy seen retiring S.E. in same area. Cavalry Corps are moving up 2nd Cavalry Division to just West of CACHY, and Corps H.Q. moving forward to CACHY from LONGUEAU.

9.3 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Right Brigade, Right Division, on Green Line. Left Brigade, Right Division, reports right battalion has captured WARFUSEE and a large number of prisoners have been taken. Left battalion well up. Both believed to be on Green Line. Left Division reports Right Brigade on Green Line and in touch with brigades on right and left flanks there. Although not completely confirmed, believed Green Line captured throughout. Right Division reports prisoners counted to date 300.

9.20 a.m. From Cavalry Corps (by telephone).

Aeroplane message dropped at Cavalry Corps H.Q. by cavalry contact machine:- 1st Cavalry Division massing at V.12.a. 1,500 yards East of MARCELCAVE at 8.40 a.m. 3rd Cavalry Division massing V.13.a.0.9 2,000 yards S.W. of MARCELCAVE at 8.40 a.m. Objectives taken from V.12.central 500 yards West of WIENCOURT at 8.30 a.m. Green line seems to be taken South of VILLERS BRETONNEUX - LAMOTTE Road.

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8th August, 1918.

cont'd.

9.20 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Six armoured cars have got through WARFUSEE.

9.20 a.m. From III Corps.

Right Brigade report they have reached final objective and are consolidating in K.29.a & c. Elements of Centre Division reported in final objective but situation obscure on left flank. Left Division have reached their objective at K.2.ventral.

9.34 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Situation at 8.30 a.m. WARFUSEE and MARCELCAVE captured and reports indicate Green Line captured on whole of Australian Corps and Canadian Corps fronts. Considerable number of prisoners and some guns taken. Our artillery and tanks moving forward in P.22 and P.28. Enemy retreating rapidly on Left Division front. Our casualties appear light.

9.40 a.m. From Australian Division.

2nd Australian Division report everything O.K. on Green Line. 5th Australian Division are going strong on Green Line, also tanks and cavalry. Canadian Corps captured two batteries of field guns and one battery of heavy in MARCELCAVE including personnel.

10 a.m. From H.Q. Tanks (by telephone).

Message dropped by Intelligence Officer 8th Squadron R.A.F. timed 8.50 a.m. begins: men seen in large numbers on Western outskirts of MOREUIL WOOD 7.45 a.m. French barrage on line C.17.c. - C.23.a and c. - C.29.a. - C.28.a. at 7.45 a.m. Motor transport, probably armoured cars, seen on road in U.26 near DOMART at 7.45 a.m. German balloon observed up at CAIX 8 a.m. 1200 feet. Bombs dropped in W.22.d. S. of HARBONNIERES; target - guns. Cavalry and tanks in large numbers proceeding East South of BOIS d'AQUENNE at 8 a.m.

10.12 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Attack appears to progress favourable. Green Line captured on whole front and believed final objective on III Corps front. Advance now proceeding to Red Line. Armoured cars have gone forward on ST. QUENTIN Road. Australian Corps report some guns and prisoners already captured East of Green Line. Leading Brigades of 1st and 3rd Cavalry Divisions have crossed the Green Line. Total captures reported large. Our casualties slight.

10.45 a.m. From III Corps.

Situation as reported 10 a.m. Right Division has gained final objective. Centre Division has Green Line and has moved forward from it. Five platoons have reached final objective. Line believed to run approximately K.29.central - cross roads K.21.b. Situation of flank brigade in

/ K.14.cent.

8th August, 1918.

cont'd. *e54*

K.14.central uncertain. Steps being taken to establish line in K.21.b. and to push forward towards K.23.central. Left Division has gained all objectives and is preparing to push forward to high ground in K.2.b. Estimated prisoners 7 officers, 350 to 400 O.R.

10.45 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

At 8.30 a.m. our infantry generally reached Green Line. Parties of our men seen standing all along it. On All roads within 1000 yards S.E. of Green Line enemy stragglers seen in twos and threes. 100 enemy infantry retreating in disorder up road North bank River LUCE. No hostile infantry seen West of WIENCOURT - CAYEUX Road. IGNAUCOURT clear. Canadian and 7th Cavalry Brigades pushing across river.

10.45 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

Contact patrol reports 9.55 a.m. five troops at D.15.central S.E. of DEMUIN. One tank advancing on BEAUCOURT at D.16.c.0.0. 10 a.m. four tanks advancing on CAPVERMONT at V.29.c. 10 a.m. large bodies cavalry V.11.d.5.5

10.55 a.m. From Australian Corps (by telephone).

CERISY captured and 300 prisoners taken in it. No further news from other parts of the front.

11.35 a.m. From First French Army (by telephone).

French were reported in MAISON BLANCHE 1,000 yards East of MOREUIL, also 1,500 yards East of NEUVILLE SIRE BERNARD. 300 prisoners taken in MORISEL.

11.40 a.m. From 22nd Wing, (by telephone).

9.50 a.m. our tanks and cavalry entering GUILLAUCOURT. AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road congested with transport near FOUCAUCOURT going East. 10.5 a.m., Tanks approaching HARBONNIERES. 10.15 a.m., one train entering BRAY from South. BRAY Station clear. 20 M.T. and H.T. between FOUCAUCOURT and ESTREES going East. Road generally very congested. 10 a.m. Enemy retreating from 62.D/Q.18. 24 & 30. 10.15 a.m. Cavalry fighting on N.E. outskirts of HARBONNIERES. H.T. and M.T. leaving HARBONNIERES going East. Our cavalry seen advancing North of WARFUSEE. 10.10 a.m. Enemy infantry in trenches between MALARD and CELESTINE WOODS. 10.30 a.m. German infantry behind wood in K.18.b. and K.24. in trenches. Our troops in K.16 and K.22.

11.45 a.m. From Adv. Report Centre.

Aeroplane messages dropped:- At 11.15 a.m. Flares called 10.50 a.m., flares obtained on line U.23.d.8.8 and Q.30.c.7.4 from positions where our troops are digging in. 11 a.m. Tanks advancing in Q.17.c. & d., and Q.23.c. followed by our troops. Many of our troops seen on road U.17.c.4.0 & Q.23.d.9.4.

/ cont'd.

8th August, 1918.

255 cont'd.

10.50 a.m. Tanks advancing rapidly from Q.30.d.0.0. Panel put out at Q.28.a.8.7. At Q.24.c.2.0 enemy side of line very quiet. Light shelling about Q.23.a. Message received from ground at W.15.b.2.0 (where many cavalry standing about), Q.35.b.4.5 and W.15.c.8.9. Message from Tank Brigade 11 a.m. states: whippets in W.1 & 2 with infantry just behind. Enemy in W.3 & 9 in open order, retiring. Whippets on edge of HARBONNIERES with a few of our field guns and men. Whippets in W.1 & 2 appear to be going slowly - met with slight resistance. Four whippets on Western outskirts GUILLAUCOURT.

11.55 a.m. From Australian Corps.

CERISY village captured by 15th Australian Bn. Report unconfirmed 300 prisoners taken in village. 4th Australian Division also report MORCOURT village captured, and contact aeroplane reports infantry on Red Line in this vicinity, and tanks and infantry pushing on to Blue Line. BAYONVILLERS also captured by 57th Australian Battalion. Prisoners taken and two 5.9 howitzers. 15th Australian Brigade reports 1st Cavalry Brigade have passed through them. Ground observers about P.35 report our troops can be seen moving in W.9.c. 15th Brigade also report Mark V (star) tanks pushing through.

12.15 p.m. From Australian Corps.

5th Australian Division report all their armoured cars have passed through LA FLAQUE a mile East of Blue Line at 9.30 a.m. 4th Australian Division report, timed 9.30 a.m., states CERISY taken. One field gun and 300 prisoners taken in CERISY and our casualties slight. 4th Australian Division report, timed 10.45 a.m., states MORCOURT taken. 100 prisoners reported taken in MORCOURT to date. Contact patrol reports 5th Australian Division on Red Line throughout, and troops and tanks moving on to Blue Line. III Corps report their line running through MALARD WOOD at 9.45 a.m. French reported having taken VILLERS-aux-ERABLES and had reached MEZIERES at 8.40 a.m.

12.40 p.m. From Australian Corps.

5th Australian Division report 11.53 a.m. everything O.K. and are on the Blue Line. HARBONNIERES and BAYONVILLERS have been mopped up. Cavalry are now operating in front of Blue Line.

12.45 p.m. From Adv. Tanks (by telephone).

Message from 5th Tank Brigade report centre timed 12.12 p.m. states Mk. V* on Blue Line on Australian Corps front. Shelling nil at present.

1.27 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Right Division on Red Line on right centre and left Centre Division on Red Line in D.5.a., then line appears to run V.23.c. - V.24.a. Troops of Left Division in GUILLAUCOURT. Enemy pocket V.24.d. - V.30.b. - V.19. central. Dispositions Canadian Corps Independent

/ Force

8th August, 1918.

cont'd. *esb*

Force squares 22 cross roads C.11.d.central. One battery approaching Green Line. Armoured cars vicinity of Red Line

1.30 p.m. Pigeon Message.

Timed 11.5 a.m. to 3rd Bde. Tank Corps begins: Am on HARBONNIERES - CAIX Road W.23.a. with infantry. Have patrolled forward. Enemy about two companies strong coming over ridge W.14.

2.7 p.m. Pigeon Message.

From 'B' Co. timed 12.15 p.m. to 3rd Light Tanks begins: Attack apparently held up at D.24. This tank is at D.28.c. on road. Several crews retired exhausted - gas and fumes. Am trying to push forward for more information. My petrol tank pierced.

2.15 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Following pigeon message from armoured cars timed FRAMERVILLE 11.5 a.m. begins: Our infantry going strong and in places are past HARBONNIERES. Our artillery nil here. Enemy infantry nil here except few snipers in houses. Enemy artillery none at all here. The roads are very full of transport. Dozens of horses. Road is blocked at Southern side. Everything going excellently.

2.20 p.m. From 22nd Wing (by telephone).

12 noon 4 whippets in action W.17.a.5.5 and 5 whippets W.17.c. German infantry in old trench X.13.d., X.19.b. & d. and appear to be reinforcing themselves. Here British field guns in action W.10.d and W.16.a. Germans digging in slightly North of ROSIERES and HARBONNIERES Road in F.1. 12.15 p.m. Germans retiring rapidly - M.T., H.T. and groups of infantry along CAIX - ROSIERES Road followed by our Cavalry. 50 H.T. retreating South and 50 H.T. retreating S.E. from ROSIERES at 12.30 p.m. 12.30 pm. One train on fire at ROSIERES Station. German infantry digging in at HERLEVILLE. 12.40 p.m. Two trains going East and one stationary by CHAULNES. Large fire East of HARBONNIERES by VAUVILLERS dump.

2.55 p.m. From General Monash, G.O.C. Australian Corps.

Inform Army Commander that Australian flag was hoisted over HARBONNIERES at midday today, and I should be glad if the Chief could have this cabled to our Governor-General on behalf of myself and this Corps.

2.55 p.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

2nd Canadian Division on ^{Red &} Blue Lines at 1 p.m. Cavalry passed through at 1.15 p.m. 1st Canadian Division have advanced to Blue Dotted Line. 6th Bde. of 2nd Canadian Division now moving to occupy Blue Dotted Line.

3.15 p.m. From III Corps.

Situation report. No further information on Right Division front. Line thence runs approximately

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8th August, 1918.

cont'd.

257

along West edge GRESSAIRE WOOD to about K.23.c.9.2 thence to brickyard in K.16.c. thence straight line to K.14.c.6.4 thence N. to K.14.a.5.7 where touch established with Left Division thence to K.14.a.5.7 - K.8.c.9.0 - crucifix in K.2.c. thence along road N. with two platoons digging in from E.26.d.9.0 to K.2.b. between two railways. As a result of operations carried out by 35th Brigade this afternoon 30 officers and 260 O.R. were captured, the operation being a complete success.

3.25 p.m. From Australian Corps.

All brigades now reported established on the Blue Line.

3.35 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Right Division reports infantry on both brigades established on Blue Line. Left Division reports infantry established on Blue Line. More complete confirmation required as regards Left Division.

3.40 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Following from 17th Armoured Car Battalion timed 10.30 a.m. Enemy infantry retiring through FRAMERVILLE in disorder. No enemy artillery seen. Entered FRAMERVILLE but ran into artillery limbers which blocked road.

3.40 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Following from 4th Australian Division timed 12.50 p.m. 12th Brigade observers at Q.26.b.9.8 report enemy blowing up dumps which appear to be along 4th and 5th Australian Divisional fronts. Dumps being destroyed in all directions.

3.52 p.m. From Cavalry Corps.

The 1st Cavalry Division has penetrated beyond Blue Line in direction of FRAMERVILLE. 3rd Cavalry Division is held up East of BEAUCOURT. 2nd Cavalry Division less 1 Bde. in Corps Reserve will move in the direction of CAIX and make good the high ground in E.10, 16, 22. 3rd Cavalry Division will conform and join up with 2nd Cavalry Division.

4.5 p.m. Pigeon Message.

From D.4.central IGNAUCOURT, timed 11.40 a.m., to 3rd Light Tank Battalion: Tank B31 broken down at D.4.central. Left track off switches and guide rails. Hope to get into action this afternoon.

4.50 p.m. From 22nd Wing (by telephone).

No. 5 Squadron contact patrol report 4 p.m. We are on final objective on CHAULNES - WIENCOURT railway with cavalry ahead and our guns just behind infantry. 4.5 p.m. our tanks advancing S.E. through E.16. Three groups of 50 men each and 20 mounted men entering CHUIGNOLLES from West. Enemy digging in just West of FRAMERVILLE North to main ST. QUENTIN Road. Enemy

/ digging

8th August, 1918.

cont'd.

256

digging in one mile East of LA FLAQUE dump. Four tanks advancing N.E. in R.7.

5.25 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Contact patrol report received 4.20 p.m. Considerable fast traffic rushing up to front up roads, through ROUVROY, VRELY and ROSIERES. Enemy has infantry defence in front of ROSIERES and LE QUESNEL. Heavy artillery ordered to bombard ROUVROY, VRELY and ROSIERES.

5.20 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation report 4.30 p.m. Latest reports show that Canadian Corps have captured BEAUCOURT, CAIX and AMIENS outer defences East of CAIX. 4th Canadian Division is advancing East of BEAUCOURT on LE QUESNEL, co-operating with Cavalry who are South and East of CAIX. We are in touch with French on right about MAISON BLANCHE. Australian Corps has reached final objective all along front which runs HARBONNIERES inclusive - R.13.central - along outer AMIENS defences to SOMME at Q.11.d. Line in front of III Corps runs West bank of SOMME in Q.5.central - K.29.a & c. - West edge GRESSAIRE WOOD - brickyard K.16.c. - K.14.c.6.4 - K.14.a.5.7 - K.8.c.9.0 - crucifix K.2.c. Armoured cars reported to have reached FRAMERVILLE and FOUCAUCOURT. 1st Cavalry Division is operating in front of Australian Corps and has reached FRAMERVILLE. Cavalry still advancing supported by whippets. Enemy blowing up dumps in all directions, and their transport and limbers are streaming Eastwards to SOMME, affording excellent targets for our airmen who are making full use of their opportunities. Prisoners up to 3 p.m. 7,000 in cages and over 100 guns. Many prisoners still coming in.

6.5 p.m. From Australian Corps (by telephone).

Armoured cars FRAMERVILLE 1.10 p.m. Our infantry are on Blue Line and if they wished, could go further. All is clear. Our artillery nil; enemy artillery nil. Enemy infantry surrendering freely. Have sent scores back and killed scores. Have turned round FRAMERVILLE and upset all their transport etc. Australian flag hoisted 11.15 a.m. German Corps H.Q. FRAMERVILLE.

6.20 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Armoured cars have had very successful day. Penetrated deeply into enemy's lines and upset back organisations considerably. At FRAMERVILLE column of transport was met. First wagon turned and endeavoured to bolt with result that whole column was thrown into confusion and was raked up and down by machine gun fire. Four mounted officers galloped up to see what was the matter and all shot on the road. A flying officer was met in his car and he and the car were brought back by the armoured car battalion commander. Further reconnaissance proceeding.

/cont'd.

8th August, 1918.

cont'd.

259

6.30 p.m. From 49th Squadron.

3.15 p.m. column of 400 Cavalry thought to be British galloping hard East OMIECOURT - PETAIN ROAD. British contact patrol seen in line roughly LIHONS - MEHARICOURT. 3.20 p.m. S.E. of LICOURT one balloon shot at and hauled down by enemy. In ROUVROY - BEAUFORT area 4 two-seaters on the ground and our troops around. Large fires at MORCHAIN and POTTE.

6.32 p.m. Pigeon Message.

Timed, to 3rd Light Tank Battalion. Infantry at this point are approximately at E.9.central to D.30.central. BEAUCOURT absolutely clear. Infantry advanced from outskirts of village at 3 p.m. Tank crews here badly knocked - tired and exhausted.

6.45 p.m. From Cavalry Corps.

Situation 5.30 p.m. Cavalry have reached their first objective on the whole line with the exception of a portion in K.9.a. to K.8.d. S.E. of LE QUESNEL. 2nd Cavalry Division has been ordered to push forward in direction of ROYE, and 1st Cavalry Division to push forward one brigade, which has not been engaged up to the present, in the direction of CHAULNES. Cavalry have captured during the day about 1,000 prisoners who have been handed over to infantry, and some heavy guns.

7.25 p.m. From Cavalry Corps, (by telephone).

Large number of motor busses entering ROSIERES with reinforcements. Ask Canadian Corps if they will shell all exits from the village.

7.25 p.m. From Adv. Tank H.Q. (by telephone).

8th Squadron R.A.F. report 2.55 p.m. about 10 Mk. V tanks seen at Western outskirts of LE QUESNEL. No movement seen there. Many troops moving forward in this sector between Red and Blue Lines.

7.55 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Further to armoured car reports. 12.15 p.m. engaged moving train. Fired at engine and stopped train which is now burning. All sections report stragglers returning and no bodies of formed troops seen. 1.30 p.m. patrolled PROYART - BRAY Roads as far as the road junction R.4.a., also road through CHUIGNOLLES village. Enemy have numerous machine gun posts in old trenches North of this village.

8.45 p.m. Pigeon Message.

From D.9.c.6.5, timed 7.5 p.m. CAYEUX WOOD taken by whippets at 4 p.m.

8.45 p.m. From General Monash, G.O.C. Australian Corps.

Troops are advancing along WARFUSEE Road towards Red Line. Prisoners and guns already reported taken. Six armoured cars have already passed Green Line.

/ cont'd.

8th August, 1918.

cont'd.

160

8.55 p.m. From III Corps.

Right Division report timed 8.27 p.m. - patrol Northumberland Hussars has reconnoitred the outskirts of CHIPILLY and found no enemy. 4th Bn. report wood K.33.b, 34.a. clear of enemy and three 4.2 guns captured there with much ammunition. They are pushing on to Red Line.

9.10 pm. From Cavalry Corps.

Observation officer reports that at 7 p.m. he observed a force of enemy estimated at one division marching from WARVILLERS on BEAUFORT.

11.55 pm. From Adv. H.Q. Tanks.

Wire received from No. 8 Squadron begins: machine landed 4 p.m. reports 3 p.m. 4 tanks moving East in D.12.d. 12 whippets and 10 tanks in D.18.c. on road and quarry stationary. Cavalry going into action in D.12.b. & d. 3.10 p.m. three tanks in action in D.18.d. followed by infantry. 3.20 p.m. Huns putting up running fight in E.20 but retreating. 3.15 p.m. whippets advancing in E.9 South of CAIX followed by cavalry at 3.17 p.m. 3.30 p.m. Huns in full retreat at E.20. 4.10 p.m. 5 tanks burning about E.18 and E.20. Six whippets returning towards BEAUCOURT from E.25.

9th August, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 9th August, 1918.

e61

1. In the morning the attack was continued, with the line ROYE - CHAULNES - BRAY-sur-SOMME - DERNANCOURT as the objective. The Australian Corps refused their left by pivoting on the SOMME and formed a defensive flank to the advance of the Canadian Corps South of the AMIENS - NESLE Railway. The First French Army continued to advance in the direction of ROYE.

The advance of the Canadian and Australian Corps South of the SOMME commenced at about noon, and at the conclusion of the day's operations the general line was established BOUCHOIR - WARVILLERS - ROSIERES - FRAMERVILLE - MERICOURT (exclusive).

North of the River SOMME the III Corps attacked in the afternoon with the object of securing the CHIPILLY spur and by nightfall had gained the line West of ETINEHEM - East edge of GRESSAIRE Wood - East of MORLANCOURT - DERNANCOURT.

North of the SOMME the enemy's artillery was not very active. South of the SOMME the MORCOURT - CERISY area received considerable attention, and H.V. guns intermittently shelled MARCELCAVE and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT.

Our heavy batteries bombarded the CHIPILLY SPUR and GRESSAIRE Wood in the morning prior to the III Corps operations.

2. CAVALRY CORPS.

Early in the afternoon the 2nd Cavalry Division on the right, and 1st Cav. Division on the left, supported by whippet tanks, continued to push forward in the direction of ROYE and CHAULNES forming a screen to the advance of the Canadian Corps.

FOLIES was captured without difficulty but enemy machine gun nests in BEAUFORT offered strong resistance. The village was captured at 3.30 p.m. and the cavalry, encircling WARVILLERS and VRELY, pushed on towards MEHARICOURT, which was taken at the gallop.

At nightfall the 2nd Cavalry Division had penetrated beyond MEHARICOURT and reached the western outskirts of MAUCOURT. One brigade of 1st Cavalry Division entered ROSIERES after considerable opposition, but was held up along the MEHARICOURT - LIHONS road by heavy artillery and m.g. fire from the direction of the latter village.

The Canadian Corps eventually established the line BOUCHOIR - ROUVROY - MAUCOURT and the cavalry were withdrawn to the rear.

III CORPS.

At 5.30 p.m. the III Corps, comprising the

.... 12th

9th August, 1918.

e62

12th, 18th and 58th Divisions, continued the attack from the SOMME to the ANCRE, the objective being the line East of the CHIPILLY Spur - East of MORLANCOURT - DERNANCOURT. The 58th Division was reinforced with one regiment of the 53rd American Infantry Division.

At zero the artillery of the III Corps put down a barrage in support of the attack. 44 hostile batteries were kept under fire while 6" guns and 60-pdrs. engaged selected targets in the enemy's support and reserve areas.

The advance progressed without encountering any serious opposition, and by 6.10 p.m. the CHIPILLY SPUR and MORLANCOURT had been cleared of the enemy.

Early in the evening the line was finally established from the SOMME at K.24.a. - East of GRESSAIRE WOOD - K.10 central - E.28 central - E. of DERNANCOURT.

Numerous prisoners and several guns were captured during the operation. Our casualties were light.

North of the ANCRE patrols of the 47th Division were very active in the vicinity of ALBERT.

CANADIAN CORPS.

During the night 8/9th August the 4th Cdn. Div. continued the operations against LE QUESNEL and by 6.0 a.m. on the morning of the 9th the town was in their possession.

Arrangements had been made for the advance to be continued at 10 a.m. by the 3rd, 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions operating from right to left in rear of the 2nd and 1st Cavalry Divisions, with ROYE and CHAULNES as the objective. The advance, however, did not commence until about 12 noon when the infantry, supported by tanks (Mk.V) moved forward. There was heavy fighting on the line FOLIES - BEAUFORT - VRELY - ROSIERES, but at about 3 p.m. in the afternoon the enemy's resistance suddenly weakened and the advance progressed without interruption to the line BOUCHOIR - MEHARICOURT (excl.) - ROSIERES (excl.) which was made good by nightfall. During the attack the enemy's artillery shelled ROSIERES and our infantry with field guns firing from the direction of LIHONS. Otherwise hostile artillery was inactive.

It is estimated that during the fighting on August 8th and 9th 6,000 prisoners and 22 guns were captured.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

It was originally intended that the 1st Aust. Div. should move through the 5th Aust. Div., who were holding the line and renew the advance towards LIHONS at 11.0 a.m. but they did not actually move through the 5th Aust. Div. until 1 p.m. Meanwhile, the latter, in order to conform to the advance of the Canadian Corps on the right, pushed forward and enveloped VAUVILLERS, which was cleared of the enemy, by the time the attacking troops arrived.

There was heavy fighting N.E. of ROSIERES and

.... again

9th August, 1918.

263

again in the vicinity of CREPEY WOOD, N.W. of LIHONS, machine guns firing from the latter place causing several casualties.

The Tank Bn. operating with the 1st Aust. Div. suffered heavily from light field guns firing from south-western outskirts of LIHONS over the heads of the advancing infantry.

At 4.30 p.m. the 2nd Aust. Div. moved through the 5th Aust. Div. immediately south of the AMIENS - FOUCAUCOURT Road and attacked FRAMERVILLE on a two brigade front. Enemy machine gun nests on the outskirts of the village contested the advance, but were eventually overcome. A defensive flank was formed along the AMIENS - FOUCAUCOURT Road to the original line.

The Tank Bn. employed in the operation did exceedingly well but nearly all the tanks were disabled by hostile artillery fire.

The 4th Australian Division advanced their line during the day North of the AMIENS - FOUCAUCOURT Road to within 200 yards of PROYART.

The Australian Corps finally established the line LIHONS (exclusive) - FRAMERVILLE - PROYART (exclusive) - MERICOURT (exclusive). 500 prisoners were captured as the result of the day's fighting. Our casualties, with the exception of the 1st Aust. Division, were very light, those of the latter being fairly heavy but not excessive.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

The XXXI French Corps continued the advance South of the AMIENS - ROYE Road and captured HANGEST and ARVILLERS. On completion of the day's operations the French held the line MONTDIDIER (exclusive) - DAVENSCOURT - ARVILLERS.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

891 hours were flown by 303 pilots.

During the day 23 successful reconnaissances and 63 contact patrols were carried out.

36 artillery flights were made in which 68 zone calls were sent down and 8 hostile batteries successfully neutralised.

43 photographs were secured.

Our aircraft were very active and carried out 238 offensive patrols. 45 air combats took place, of which 14 were decisive. 9 E.A. were destroyed, 3 E.A. driven down out of control and 2 E.A. forced to land in our lines. Two of our machines failed to return.

.... Night

9th August, 1918.

e64

Night flying squadrons dropped 19 - 112 lbs and 46 - 25 lbs bombs on various targets, and in addition carried out a reconnaissance of enemy roads and railways opposite the Fourth Army front. 76 - 112 lb and 1257 25 lbs bombs were dropped by day on BRIE, ST. CHRIST and other targets.

(b) Hostile.

Enemy aircraft activity was above normal. 263 planes were seen, F.E.A. being considerably in the majority.

6. PRISONERS.

Total captures since the commencement of operations on 8th August number 387 officers and 15,516 o.rs. and over 200 guns.

7. WEATHER.

Fine with low clouds.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Moves. 32nd Division placed at the disposal of Canadian Corps.

(b) Reliefs. 5th Aust. Div. reverted to Aust. Corps reserve in place of the 1st Aust. Div. to front line.

4th Cdn. Div. reverted to Canadian Corps reserve in place of 3rd Canadian Div. to front line.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

<u>Cavalry Corps.</u>	1st, 2nd*, 3rd Cav. Divs.
<u>III Corps.</u>	12th, 18th, 47th, 58th, 63rd (G.H.Q. reserve) Divs.
	33rd American Div. (less 1 bde.)
<u>Canadian Corps.</u>	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th* Cdn. 32nd* Divs.
<u>Australian Corps.</u>	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th* Aust. 17th Div. (G.H.Q. reserve). 1 Bde. 33rd American Div.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13 pdr. A.A. H.E.	278	6" How. H.E.	17946
" " S.	126	" " Gas	665
13 pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	6100	6" Mk. VII H.E.	903
" " S.	3000	" " S.	686
18 pdr. H.E.	40913	" " A.P.	40
" " S.	59433	8" How.	4315
" " Smoke	2563	9.2" How.	3218
4.5" How. H.E.	15063	12" How.	132
" " Smoke	5612	12" Gun	54
60 pdr H.E.	4009		
" " S.	5569		

9th August, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *e65*

3.5 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from 2nd Canadian Division: Situation 7 p.m. we are holding all the Blue Dotted Line on our front and are in touch with 1st Canadian Divn. on our right. On our left we are not in touch with 5th Australian Division on the Blue Dotted Line but are in touch with them on the Blue Line about W.23.b.0.4. The enemy is close on our left flank but we are not in touch with the enemy on our right flank. The Cavalry report that they are unable to get into ROSIERES. From present indications advance tomorrow should be made with tanks. Enemy has been shelling 6th Brigade H.Q. in W.22.b. with 4.2s and 5.9s. Casualties not heavy: estimate not yet available. 6th Brigade up to present no casualties. All troops in good condition.

6.38 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Quiet night. WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT and Right Brigade area, Right Division, intermittently shelled with H.V. gun. Otherwise little enemy activity.

7 a.m. From Fourth Army "I".

48th Squadron report 5.35 a.m. 25 to 35 parties of about 30 men approaching BOUCHOIR from S.E. along ROYE Road. 80th Squadron report at 6 a.m. German counter-attack in progress North of MORLANCOURT. Enemy seen to have occupied our front line in E.27. Our troops falling back towards our original front line. No shelling. German attack appears to be weak as no troops seen in support.

7.5 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. As result of enemy pressure we could not maintain footing on CHIPILLY SPUR and now hold line running approximately K.33.central - K.27.d.8.0 - K.21.d.7.0 - K.21.central - K.15.c.2.4 - K.14.c.5.6 - thence as already reported. Quiet night. No enemy activity to report. North of ANCRE some intermittent shelling of our lines and some gas shelling. We bombarded ALBERT and caused fire.

8 a.m. To G.H.Q.

III Corps could not maintain footing on CHIPILLY SPUR. Line runs K.33.central - K.27.d.8.0 - K.21.d.7.0 - K.15.c.2.4. Quiet night. Australian Corps quiet night except for intermittent shelling of WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and right brigade area. 2nd Canadian Division report all quiet; holding final objective and in touch with flank divisions. No report yet received from remainder Canadian Divisions.

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9th August, 1918.

Operation messages - 2.

266

8.10 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Centre Division report quiet night. No news from flank divisions. Right Division line at dark yesterday D.29.d.0.1 - D.30.a.5.0 - E.19.c.4.0 - E.26.a.7.4 - E.21.c.7.9 - E.22.a.5.0 - thence North along Blue Dotted Line in touch with Centre Division. Right in touch with Independent Force and with French A.R.A. Latter were not then in FRESNOY. Right Division were preparing to capture remainder of Blue Dotted Line last night. Prisoners through Corps cages to 6 p.m. last night 4,145 including 74 officers. No estimate of guns yet, but one mixed brigade of 14 pieces, calibre 15 cm. and upwards, were in action shortly after midday firing in easterly direction.

8.20 a.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

Contact patrol 6 to 7 this morning reports our men in Blue Dotted Line trenches West of light railway and East of LE QUESNEL. Enemy shelling all roads into LE QUESNEL and gas shelling LE QUESNEL itself.

8.45 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Following received from Canadian Corps: Right Division line at dark last night D.29.d.0.1 - D.30.a.5.0 - E.19.c.4.0 - E.26.a.7.4 - E.21.c.7.9 - E.22.a.5.9 thence North along dotted blue line and are in touch with Centre Division and Independent Motor M.G. Force on right.

10 a.m. From Third Army (by telephone).

Balloons of Third Army report that there have been over 45 explosions in ALBERT since 4 p.m. yesterday.

10 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from 2nd Canadian Division: sniping and machine gun fire very active against our left flank which is in touch with Australians at about W.23.a.5.7. MARCELCAVE shelled with H.V. gun. Some shelling of forward area with field howitzers. Situation on right and centre of 2nd Canadian Division unchanged.

10.3 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from 4th Canadian Division: Line runs from D.29.d.0.1 through the copse D.30.a.5.0 to southern edge of wood E.25.a.40.95 thence road crossing E.26.a.7.4 thence to about E.21.c.9.7 to E.22.a.7.0 thence along the AMIENS defence line. 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade are not in touch with the French and the French are not in FRESNOY-en-CHAUSSEE, but they are in touch with Brutinel's Independent Force, the bulk of which is in D.28.b. & d. 11th and 12th Canadian Infantry Brigades are in touch and 12th Canadian Infantry Bde. is in touch with 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade on the left. 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade have two Bns.

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9th August, 1918.

Operation Messages - 3.

267

in the line, 54th Inf. Bn. in support to 75th Inf. Bn. on the right, 87th Inf. Bn. fresh in reserve, two companies on the line at D.23.b. and two companies D.22.a. 12th Canadian Inf. Bde. have three battalions in line and one in reserve in the woods D.12.b. & d. 10th Inf. Bde. in divisional reserve, H.Q. D.9.c.1.1, 44th Bn. in the vicinity of D.18.a. & c, 46th Bn. D.12.c., 47th Bn. D.15.d., 50th Bn. D.10.b. and D.11.a. Casualties 11th Canadian Inf. Bde. about 500 in three battalions; 12th Canadian Inf. Bde. light; 11th Canadian Inf. Bde will push their line forward to make good the Blue Dotted Line, during the night.

10.25 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from 2nd Canadian Division timed 3.50 a.m. begins: situation on right and centre unchanged. On left 5th Australian Division line reported from W.23.a.5.7 through 17.d. Enemy sniping and machine gun fire very active against our left flank which is in touch with Australians at about W.23.a.5.7. Two sections placed North of railway had to be withdrawn. Patrols have taken prisoners of following units:- 4 men of 376th Regt. on left flank and one of 36th Regt. on right flank. Enemy has been shelling MARCELOAVE with H.V. guns. Some shelling of forward area with field howitzers.

10.34 a.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from 4th Canadian Division: 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade captured LE QUESNEL and Blue Dotted Line this morning. Troops of 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade in BEAUFORT. Junction of 11th and 12th Canadian Infantry Brigades not certain. Troops of 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade at E.17.c.5.8.

12.5 p.m. From Col. Lister (by telephone).

French have taken the whole of BOIS ST. HUBERT and are moving on CONTOIRE. PIERREPONT and HANGEST also taken. French consider enemy resistance slackening. Batteries in valley South of HANGEST seen limbering up and moving East. Considerable traffic in S.E. direction from DAVENESCOURT. Prisoners counted 3,700.

12.20 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Canadian Corps report LE QUESNEL captured and AMIENS outer defences East of it occupied. Our troops also in BEAUFORT.

12.55 p.m. From III Corps.

Following phone message received from 47th Division: Left Brigade sent patrol between 9.40 p.m. and 12.5 a.m. last night to reconnoitre W.28.c.9.5. Route taken as follows: W.27.b.1.6 - W.28.c.9.4. - W.28.d.3.7. No trace of enemy near cathedral. The leader of the patrol and sergeant went on and were fired on by machine gun from house at W.28.d.7.8. Owing to our own shelling, patrol was unable to proceed further. Centre Brigade did not send patrol on account of our

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9th August, 1918.

Operation Messages - 4.

e 68

own shelling. Later: at 9.40 a.m. this morning Centre Brigade saw enemy movement in ALBERT and in consequence are not sending out patrol.

12.55 pm. To G.H.Q.

Prisoners taken by Fourth Army and now in cages and C.C.S. up to 8 a.m. 9th approximately 300 officers 13,000 O.R., more probably to come. Guns 200, including 9.2 railway gun complete with three trucks of ammunition. One complete railway train. Trench mortars and machine guns in large numbers, also immense quantity of stores and material of all descriptions.

1 p.m. From III Corps.

Following from 37th Infantry Brigade: 6th East Kents ejected enemy from SUNKEN ROAD K.14.d.3.8 to K.14.b.4.8 and have posts at K.14.b.4.0., in quarry K.14.b.5.4 and at K.14.b.4.8.

1 p.m. From French Liaison Officer.

First French Army line runs: ARVILLERS Station - HANGEST inclusive - HANGEST CONTOIRE Road - CONTOIRE inclusive - CONTOIRE MILL - PIERREPONT inclusive. Unofficial:- Our attack is progressing from the road CONTOIRE - HANGEST towards DAVENESCOURT PARK. We debouch from PIERREPONT Eastwards, though with some difficulty. In the South the attack seems to be progressing favourably. We hold RUBESCOURT, LE FRETOY, LE TRONQUOY and are now beyond the valley from RUBESCOURT to VAUX.

1.23 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Total prisoners captured by Australian Corps to date: unwounded, 154 officers, 5,700 O.R. Wounded, 21 officers, 500 O.R. Total: 175 officers, 6,200 O.R.

2.55 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Following from Canadian Independent Force: following messages received, timed 10.30 a.m., from advanced troops armoured cars detachment. Armoured cars engaged machine gun post in K.8.c. and reached cross roads K.14.b. at 10.30 a.m. No. 2 Group following close behind it. "A" Battery taking up position against FOLIES. "B" Battery at K.8.c.5.0. This battery will follow advance on ARVILLERS. 3rd Canadian Division informed.

3.40 pm. From III Corps.

12th Division report patrol had fight with enemy at K.2.b.5.0. Enemy post here strongly held. 9th Essex are attacking it with Stokes mortars and grenades. We have posts at K.2.d.5.5, K.2.d.2.6 to 2.9, K.2.b.3.9 strongly held by platoon each. MORLANCOURT not clear of enemy. Enemy machine guns active in village. Enemy apparently holding line of posts K.14.b.2.5 - K.8.d.7.7.

/ cont'd.

269

4 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F. (by telephone).

Everything going well. The Hun has been affording good targets East of HANGEST and LE QUESNEL, and we have sent a lot of machines out which are doing very well. Arrangements made to co-operate with III Corps attack at 5.30 p.m. Casualties up to the present light.

4.15 p.m. From Australian Corps.

First objective 1st Australian Division has been captured. VAUVILLERS reported captured by 8th Brigade but this not yet confirmed.

5.5 p.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

Line North to South runs ROSIERES (inclusive) - VRELY (exclusive) to E.28.c.8.0 thence line of railway to K.14.b.7.0. Troops have been reported East of this line but only by aeroplane observers.

5.15 p.m. From Cavalry Corps.

Situation at 4.15 p.m. believed to be as follows: FOLIES and BEAUFORT offering strong resistance. The former taken by Canadians and large numbers of enemy seen retiring in direction WARVILLERS engaged by R.H.A. Patrols of 2nd Cavalry Division reported at wood between WARVILLERS and VRELY. Enemy reported counter-attacking N.W. from VRELY. ROSIERES previously reported captured now only partly occupied by our infantry. 1st Cavalry Division tried to push on between VRELY and ROSIERES but held up N.W. of VRELY and now attempting to advance South of VRELY.

5.15 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Situation as far as known: Two armoured cars K.22.central 12.20 p.m. Pocket of Germans K.8.central 11.45 a.m. Left Brigade, Left Division, going through ROSIERES 1.15 p.m. Right Brigade, Left Division, going towards VRELY. Centre Division were to start at 1 p.m. Leading brigade Right Division should have reached LE QUESNEL 11 a.m. Our guns in action at E.5.d.8.7, E.14.b.8.2, E.14.d.8.6. One battery at each location.

5.55 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Line Canadian Corps runs approximately ROYE Road K.14.b.central thence along railway to E.28.c.9.0 thence E.22.b.5.4 to Western outskirts VRELY to ROSIERES inclusive. Considerable hostile Easterly movement along roads leading West to East to line MEHARICOURT - ROUVROY - BOUCHOIR. Unconfirmed report states British tanks seen Western outskirts ROUVROY.

6.30 p.m. From General Webber, Canadian Corps (by telephone).

In touch with Australians at F.4.central. Report from air: Left Division ROSIERES and VRELY. Tanks seen at F.15 and F.21 just West of MEHARICOURT

/ advancing

9th August, 1918.

Operation Messages - 6.

270

advancing and enemy retiring. Centre Division reports WARVILLERS taken and advancing on ROUVROY. Air report subsequently states cavalry and tanks in F.27.b. Air report: mass of cavalry F.25.a. & c; further South 3rd Canadian Division reported into FOLIES but not certain if they are entirely through the village, being held up at K.22.central (beetroot factory). French report conflicting: not certain what their situation is as regards ARVILLERS.

7 p.m. From Fourth Army "I".

Air report timed 6.30 p.m. - enemy plane dropped following message "Enemy have jumped trenches of 120th Regt". 120th Regt. hold K.9 and K.15.

7.5 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Situation as follows: 3.25 p.m. infantry reached outskirts of WARVILLERS and MAMETE FARM; 3.30 p.m. MAMETE FARM captured; 3.35 p.m. WARVILLERS captured; 3.30 p.m. BEAUFORT captured. 3rd Cavalry Brigade pushing forward between WARVILLERS and VRELY. 10 hostile aeroplanes over E.16.a.1.8 at 3.40 p.m.

7.25 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

2nd Cavalry Division report 5.30 p.m. WARVILLERS in our hands: Canadians to S.E. of village. 3rd Cavalry Brigade at present unable to get round or drive enemy out of position N.W. of ROUVROY. 5th Cavalry Brigade about BEAUFORT. FOLIES reported unoccupied. 1st Cavalry Division report 4.30 p.m. infantry through WARVILLERS: support battalion has reached town: casualties heavy: many prisoners coming in. Our artillery moving towards the town

7.30 p.m. From III Corps.

From reports received up to present attack going well. Enemy reported retiring in K.5-11-17 and E.27.d. E.28.a. Our troops reported in K.29.a & c. and all round MORLANCOURT. Success signal from CHIPILLY SPUR at 6.10 p.m.

7.45 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Situation 7.15 p.m. We occupy FRAMERVILLE. Line now runs from CHAULNES railway F.3.b.0.5 - X.27.central - X.21.central - X.15.central - thence East side FRAMERVILLE then Red Line to junction with line of yesterday at R.9.c. Infantry resistance appears to be stiffening. Numerous casualties to tanks.

8 p.m. From Canadian Corps (by telephone).

Evening report. We hold BOUCHOIR, FOLIES, WARVILLERS, VRELY, ROSIERES. Cavalry have passed between BOUCHOIR and WARVILLERS. We have infantry in Western outskirts of ROUVRY and cavalry are in N.E. outskirts. Tanks are reported in Western outskirts. MEHARICOURT and cavalry between them and the infantry on the East of VRELY. Very hard fighting all day but at about 4 p.m. progress became easier.

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9th August, 1918.

Operation messages - 7.

8.5 p.m. From Canadian Corps. e71

Reports received to 6.30 p.m. indicate front line roughly as follows: BOUCHOIR doubtful - FOLIES inclusive - WARVILLER inclusive - VRELY inclusive - ROSIERES inclusive. Troops believed to be entering ROUVROY. Tanks and cavalry seen just West of MEHARICOURT advancing at 4.45. Air patrol reports enemy seen retiring on CHILLY. Situation of French about ARVILLERS uncertain.

8.30 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Following from 4th Australian Division timed 6.45 p.m. Observers of 12th A.I. Brigade report British troops seen moving down slopes K.34 & 35. Tanks also seen in this locality (message timed 6.35 p.m.). 4th A.I. Brigade report party of 100 enemy moving East in Q.11 & 12 and 10 tanks also seen, (message timed 6.45 p.m.).

8.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation report. Canadians have captured BOUCHOIR - FOLIES - BEAUFORT - WARVILLERS - VRELY and ROSIERES. Australians have captured VAUVILLERS and FRAMERVILLE. Our line now reported to run East of BOUCHOIR - K.12.central - E. of WARVILLERS - VRELY - ROSIERES thence to F.3.b.0.5 - X.27.central - X.21.central - X.15.central - E. of FRAMERVILLE to R.7.c. III Corps attack North of the SOMME reported going well. Our troops reported in K.29.a. & c. and all round MORLANCOURT. Success signal from CHIPILLY SPUR at 6.10 p.m. Number of prisoners captured today not yet known.

8.35 p.m. From Cavalry Corps.

2nd Cavalry Division report 6.55 p.m. that owing to successful French operations on our right 20th Hussars have been able to push forward to squares L.13, 14 and 20. Greys are pressing forward to BOUCHOIR and LE QUESNOY. Situation not clear between WARVILLERS and ROUVROY. 7 p.m., ground observers report our infantry 1,000 yards East of MEHARICOURT.

9.15 p.m. From Canadian Corps.

Line now appears to run BOUCHOIR inclusive - ROUVROY with infantry in Western outskirts, cavalry N.E. outskirts - VRELY inclusive with two tanks Western outskirts MEHARICOURT, cavalry East of VRELY - ROSIERES inclusive. Prisoners not yet reported; believed amount to some hundreds.

9.20 p.m. From G.H.Q. (by telephone).

News received from First French Army that large bodies of the enemy were reported to be moving West along ROYE - AMIENS Road.

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9th August, 1918.

Operation messages - 8.

9.35 p.m. From III Corps. e72

Whole of objectives reached by 8.50 p.m. except on extreme right flank where point of junction on SOMME is not definitely established. Line being consolidated. Patrols being pushed forward to ascertain if defences on eastern edge of wood in K.12 & K.18 are being evacuated; if so, attempt will be made to occupy this line as an outpost line tonight.

9.50 p.m. From G.O.C. Australian Corps (by telephone).

Australian Corps on Red Line, i.e. 2,000 yards West of LIHONS on the railway and from there to FRAMERVILLE which has been captured. Line runs between FRAMERVILLE and RAINECOURT to R.32. central thence back to Blue Line. 500 prisoners, everything going well and in touch with Canadian left flank.

11 p.m. From French Liaison Officer (by telephone).

French hold ARVILLERS - in front of LE PARC de DAVENESCOURT and occupy BOIS RAOUL, LEMAIRE and BOIS LAVOIE.
