

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/14/11 Part 2

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

September 1918



AWM4-1/14/11PART2

14th September, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 14th September, 1918.

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1. The day was generally quiet along the whole of the Army front.  
The IX Corps established a footing on the high ground between HOLNON and MAISSEMY without opposition.  
North of the COLOGNE the enemy artillery were normally active but South of the river activity increased slightly S.W. of LE VERGUIER.  
Our artillery carried out the usual programme of harassing fire on the enemy's communications.
2. III CORPS.  
A quiet day. During the night the usual light harassing fire was directed against the forward area. VILLERS FAUCON, NURLU and SAULCOURT were intermittently shelled throughout the day.  
IX CORPS.  
Immediately North of HOLNON WOOD the 1st Division patrols succeeded in gaining a footing in the high ground West of the HOLNON - MAISSEMY Road. The remainder of the front is unchanged and very quiet. Light shelling of HOLNON and ST. QUENTIN WOODS was reported during the day.  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.  
Early yesterday evening the enemy carried out a local counter-attack under cover of a heavy barrage on our outpost line West of LE VERGUIER. In consequence of this pressure a few posts were withdrawn but the general situation was not affected.  
ROISEL, HERVILLY and surrounding areas were heavily shelled during the night, including a little gas shelling.  
H.V. guns were active, mainly on battery areas and villages in the forward area along the Corps front.
3. THIRD ARMY.  
Situation generally unchanged.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.  
Quiet day.
5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.  
488 hours were flown by 179 pilots. Four successful reconnaissances and 15 artillery patrols were carried out. 34 zone calls were sent down and two hostile

/ batteries

14th September, 1918.

2.

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batteries neutralised.

18 photographic flights were carried out and 340 plates secured.

Activity was above normal. 112 offensive patrols were carried out and three air combats took place one of which was decisive. One E.A. was destroyed.

Eight 112-lb. bombs were dropped on LE CATEAU and 53 25-lb. bombs on various targets.

Seven enemy balloons were attacked, three being shot down and one shot adrift.

(b) Hostile.

Aircraft activity was above normal and chiefly over the Southern and Central Sectors. 13 artillery and 25 F.E.A. crossed the line.

F.E.A. were very much in evidence operating on the defensive, machines working well up to the line but not crossing to any great extent.

6. PRISONERS.

Two O.R. passed through C.C.Ss.

7. WEATHER.

Fine.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 6th Division relieved the remainder of the 32nd Division in front line IX Corps front on night 13/14th September.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th\*, 18th\*, 46th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

Australian Corps.

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

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions.

\* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                   |    |       |                |    |       |
|-------------------|----|-------|----------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 302.  | 4.5" How.      | .. | 3551. |
| " S.              | .. | 150.  | 6" How. H.E.   | .. | 5313. |
| 18-pdr. H.E.      | .. | 5716. | " Gas.         | .. | 1249. |
| " S.              | .. | 6071. | 6" Mk.VII.H.E. | .. | 172.  |
| " Smoke.          | .. | 37.   | " S.           | .. | 237.  |
| 60-pdr. H.E.      | .. | 1270. | 8" How.        | .. | 630.  |
| " S.              | .. | 1320. | 9.2" How.      | .. | 90.   |

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14th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

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From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

4.20 a.m. By day 50 25-lb. bombs. No night flying.

From III Corps.

6 a.m. Situation quiet throughout night. Hostile artillery slightly active on forward areas.

6.15 p.m. Situation quiet. Hostile artillery below normal except for activity on E.23.b. & d. and E.24. Left Division report one E.A. brought down this morning, also two enemy observation balloons down in flames and one out adrift. Captures nil.

From IX Corps.

6.25 a.m. Hostile infantry still holding line on roads R.29.c.9.9, R.30.c.1.2, R.30.a.3.0. Our infantry reported advancing to trench in R.22.d., R.23.c., R.29.a. No change Southern portion of our front. Hostile artillery quiet during night.

2.40 p.m. 1st Division reports line of posts runs R.35.d.7.2 where in touch with 32nd Division thence R.35.d.5.6 - R.35.c.9.8 - R.30.c.2.4 - R.29.b.6.4 - R.29.a.8.7 - R.22.d.5.8. Touch is being established along line and when this is done patrols will be pushed forward towards R.24.e.0.0 and road running North towards MAISSEMY.

6.35 p.m. Situation unchanged. Hostile artillery less active than yesterday. Intermittent shelling of Left Sector forward area and HOLNON WOOD. Hostile movement observed at cross roads N.E. of PONTRU and at TUMULUS M.1.d. Enemy observed on ridge in S.7.d. X.12.c. and S.E. corner HOLNON WOOD. Low flying aircraft active during the forenoon. Captures nil.

From Australian Corps.

6.40 a.m. Artillery active against forward positions otherwise quiet night. Early in night enemy counter-attacked left battalion of right division sector and drove in our outposts. Line withdrawn from R.9.central and LE VERGUIER SWITCH now runs R.9.a.2.5 - R.9.a.0.0 - R.9.c.0.5 thence along wired line to R.15.central. Also withdrawn to West side of wood in R.3.central.

To G.H.Q.

6.50 a.m. Enemy attacked our outpost S.W. of LE VERGUIER and compelled us to withdraw the line slightly to West of track in R.9.c. and W. edge of wood in R.3.c. Hostile artillery active on forward areas of two Northern Corps. Otherwise quiet night.

7 p.m. Line unchanged except outpost line North HOLNON WOOD now runs R.35.c.9.8 - R.30.c.2.4 - R.29.a.8.7 - R.22.d.5.8. Hostile artillery activity below normal.

E.A. fairly active on Right and Centre Corps fronts: several flying low. 1 E.A. crashed 3 balloons down in flames. Prisoners today nil. To 13th inst. incl. 6534.

14th September, 1918.

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ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY ON FOURTH ARMY FRONT  
FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14th, 1918.

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Gas shelling has been light, less than 1,000 rounds in all having been fired, by far the greatest number of which have been blue cross shell. Only three bombardments of 100 rounds or more have taken place - all being with blue cross shell.

Casualties were comparatively light.

Casualties for week :- 10 officers.  
310 other ranks.

Deaths :- 2 other ranks.

Map and table are attached.

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ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. SEPTEMBER 14th, 1918.

| Date.<br>9 a.m. - 9 a.m. | Formation.     | Time of<br>bombardment. | No. of<br>rounds. | Nature of shell. | Map location.  |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Sept. 7/8th.             | 74th Division. | 2 p.m. to 8 a.m.        | 150               | Blue cross.      | F.25.b. L.1.a.)<br>E.29.d. K.5.b.) W. TEMPLEUX-le-GEERARD. |
| 8/9th.                   | -do-           | 11.30 pm - 1 am.        | 25                | Yellow cross.    | F.25.b. L.1.a. -do-  |
|                          | -do-           | -do-                    | 20                | Blue cross.      | E.29.d. K.5.b. -do-  |
|                          | 5th Aust. Div. | 9.45 to 11 a.m.         | 90                | -do-             | Q.16..Q.17. FLECHIN.                                       |
|                          | -do-           | 3 p.m. to 5 pm.         | 200               | -do-             | R.25. W. VERMAND.  |
| 9/10th.                  | 74th Division. | During night.           | 50                | Green cross.     | E.23.a. N. VILLERS FAUCON.                                 |
| 10/11th.                 | 32nd Division. | 6.0 p.m.                | Few.              | Blue cross.      | W.6.c. S. GOUZEAU COURT.                                   |
| 11/12th.                 | 32nd Division. | 11.15 p.m.              | 20                | Unidentified.    | Q.36.d. S.W. VERMAND.                                      |
|                          | 74th Division. | 7 to 7.30 p.m.          | 50                | Blue cross.      | - - VILLERS FAUCON.  |
|                          | -do-           | 5.30 pm. to m.n.        | 30                | Blue & green X.  | E.23. N.E. -do-  |
|                          | -do-           | 1.0 a.m.                | 25                | Yellow cross.    | E.18.c. N.E. -do-  |
|                          | -do-           | 1.0 a.m.                | 12                | Green cross.     | E.18.d. N.E. -do-  |
| 12/13th.                 | -do-           | 3.30 to 4.30 am.        | 100               | Blue cross.      | F.13. N.E. ST. EMILE.                                      |
| 13/14th.                 | -do-           | 4.0 p.m.                | 20                | -do-             | F.25.a. N.W. TEMPLEUX-le-GEERARD.                          |
|                          | -do-           | 7.45 p.m.               | 10                | -do-             | F.13.c. -do-   |
|                          | -do-           | 3.35 a.m.               | 6                 | -do-             | F.25.c. -do-   |

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ENEMY GAS SHELLING FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. 14/9/18.

1. Nature of shelling shown by respective colours.
2. Numbers indicate approximate number of rounds fired.
3. Only bombardments of over 100 rounds shown on map.

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FOURTH ARMY.

14th Sept., 1918.

WEEKLY APPRECIATION.  
FOR PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 7TH TO 13TH (INCLUSIVE)

1. OPERATIONS. -

During the period under review the enemy has continued his retirement to the HINDENBURG Line, under the pressure of our troops. A considerable advance has been made, meeting at times with strong opposition and counter attacks from the enemy's rearguards.

On the 7th September ROISEL, BERNES, CAULAINCOURT, VILLEVEQUE, TREFOON, BEAUVOIS, and HEUDECOURT were cleared of the enemy, and on the following day further progress of about 1,000 yards was effected. This latter advance was made in the face of opposition which had considerably stiffened along the entire front. The 201st Div., from the line in the ARGONNE, had been identified on the 7th inst. as a reinforcement to the HEUDECCURT sector, and a general increase in hostile artillery fire was a further indication of the enemy's wish to make a stage in his withdrawal. Touch was maintained with the enemy in the vicinity of EPEHY, on the high ground between TEMPLEUX-LE-GUERARD and JEANCOURT, east of VENDELLS, and in MARTEVILLE and VILLECHOLLES

Our further attacks on EPEHY met with strong opposition. Our troops, on penetrating into the village, found it occupied by the Alpine Corps, who by a vigorous counter-attack forced us to withdraw. Posts were, however, established south and south-west of EPEHY and PEIZIERE, and advance posts in the south-western corner of HOLNON Wood, immediately west of ATTILLY, MARTEVILLE, and VERMAND. Prisoners of the Alpine Corps stated that they had received orders to hold their line until further orders and to counter attack strongly if attacked.

On the 11th instant ATTILLY, and on the 12th HOLNON Wood, were occupied by us without opposition. Two small counter-attacks were made on the evening of the 12th near Keeper's Lodge, but were easily repulsed; during the night of the 13th/14th the enemy attacked our outposts south-west of LE VERGUIER, forcing us to withdraw slightly to the west of the track in R.9.e. and to the western edge of the Copse in R.3.e.

Although the enemy still holds the high ground south of MAISSEMY in R.29 and 30, yet our possession of the high ground in HOLNON Wood and south of JEANCOURT will weaken his hold on the LE VERGUIER line, which he is at present occupying, and will probably hasten his retirement eastwards, perhaps on to the FAYET - FRESNOY-le-PETIT - BERTHAUCOURT ridge.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES. -

During the week three further divisions have been identified on the Army Front :- the 21st, the 1st Res., and the 201st Divisions, the last named being also identified by the Army on our left. The 21st Div., already engaged once since the 8th August, was identified on the 9th inst.; it remained in line only four days, probably owing to its exhausted condition consequent on heavy losses, and was then relieved by the 1st Res. Div. This division was at

GRIVESNES/

P.T.O



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GRIVESNES in July, and is now reinforcing this Army front for the third time since August 8th; from prisoner's statement, its company strengths are very weak. The 201st Div., identified at HEUDECCURT on the 7th had been resting for a month after having been engaged on the MARNE in July.

3. RESERVES.

No new divisions in reserve have been located on the Army front, and it is not considered probable that there are any divisions resting in the area other than those already engaged in this sector. The retention in the line of a first-class fighting unit such as the Alpine Corps still is, would rather point to the lack of a division capable of being entrusted with the defence of the important high ground at EPEHY.

The 102th Div. has been disbanded, and the 102nd Div. identified in line in the St MIHIEL salient. Both these divisions were withdrawn exhausted from the SCHIE area since August 8th.

4. AIR ACTIVITY.

Except on the 7th inst., flying has been considerably hampered by bad weather conditions; consequently, activity has been generally much below normal. On the 12th inst., however, considering the adverse flying conditions, enemy aeroplanes were more than normally active, especially in the case of low-flying aeroplanes. Otherwise, few low-flying aeroplanes have been seen.

Activity has been chiefly over the northern and central sectors.

During the first three days of the week, strong patrols of F.E.A. and two-seater reconnaissance planes were in evidence, and the former were fairly aggressive.

No long distance flights were carried out during the period.

As a result of the week's fighting, 5 E.A. were destroyed in combat, one driven down out of control and one brought down by Lewis Gun fire from the ground. In addition, 4 balloons were destroyed.

Two of our planes are missing.

5. ARTILLERY.

During the period under review, hostile artillery activity has increased, more noticeably in the sector north of the COLOGNE, and gave the impression of being more organised. This was to be expected in view of the fact that the enemy has had time to take up his new positions east of the HINDENBURG Line.

Shelling from howitzers of heavier calibre and from H.V. guns was experienced, particularly in the northern sector, though most of the shelling was at long range.

On the 9th & 10th inst., however, "N.F." calls indicated field batteries still firing from positions west of the HINDENBURG Line, a very strong group being located in the vicinity of VILLERS-GUISLAIN.

Hostile fire, for the most part, has taken the form of short barrages, or concentrations, chiefly in connection with enemy local counter-attacks. Otherwise, shelling has been

of/

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of a light, scattered nature and confined to the forward areas, little shelling in the back areas having been experienced.

Little counter-battery work has, up to the present, been attempted, and the work of hostile wireless artillery planes has been negligible, possibly on account of the weather.

No large concentration of gas shelling has been experienced, though on the 8th inst. ROISEL and vicinity were shelled with Blue Cross gas during the night, and by mustard gas shell during the day.

6. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Aerodromes.

Four new forward aerodromes (in the vicinity of VILLERS-OUTREAU) have been reported, comprising 32 hangars. On the other hand two forward aerodromes (SEQUEHART and FONTAINE UTERTE) have been suddenly abandoned. A new aerodrome has appeared in the LE GATEAU area (BAZUEL).

In the ST QUENTIN sector the large bombing aerodrome of MONT d'GRIGNY has been abandoned. Old aerodromes have become active at MENNEVRET and LAMOTTE Farm, and S.E. of ST QUENTIN five new aerodromes have appeared but these serve rather the French front.

The enemy policy on our front seems to be to accommodate the bulk of his units in the area E. and S.E. of CAMBRAI, where they are centrally situated for the battle front. Photographic evidence is still incomplete but does not point to an unusual increase of the enemy's air forces, as many aerodromes are small.

(b) Railways.

Few photographs available. Some work has been done on reaccommodation and siding near ELINCOURT and at dumps at MONTIGNY and ESNES. The stations at CAUDRY, BUSIGNY and BOHAIN have been active.

(c) Bridges.

Bridges over the ST QUENTIN Canal are shown still intact.

7. ENEMY DEFENCES.

No new work or unusual activity was visible on the HINDENBURG Line by 6th Sept., or on the one photograph available since that date (11th Sept.).

Work is reported on a double line of trenches W. of CAMBRAI between RAILLENCOURT and PROVILLE.

Photographs of 13th Sept. indicate a stiffening of the enemy's resistance in the EPEHY - RONSSOY - TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD sector, some work being visible on trenches and machine gun and battery emplacements.

8. PRISONERS AND MATERIAL CAPTURED.

The number of prisoners reported captured from 6 a.m. on the 7th to 6 a.m. on the 13th (inclusive) is 259 of which 7 are officers. In addition, one heavy howitzer, 2 field guns, 62 machine guns, approximately 300 G.S. wagons and 2 light railway trains complete have been captured.

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P.F.G.

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9. GENERAL.

The energy which the enemy has shown to maintain his position at BEPHY, and his counter-attack in the LE VERGUIER sector, point to a desire to check our advance and to remain in his present line. At the same time, the absence of opposition to our occupation of HOLNON Wood and ATTILLY, and the re-appearance in line for the third time of a tired division, tend to indicate that this policy is temporary, merely one to gain time while arrangements to occupy the HINDENBURG Line are being completed, and one not calculated to withstand an attack in force.

Fourth Army (Intelligence),  
September 14th, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,  
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION.

|                         |   |                      |   |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| G.H.Q., I. ... ..       | 2 | G.C.C., R.A. ... ..  | 1 |
| Third Army, I.. ... ..  | 2 | D.A. & Q.I.G. ... .. | 1 |
| Corps, I. ... ..        | 2 | Inf. School. ... ..  | 1 |
| Divisions. ... ..       | 2 | S.C.S. School....    | 1 |
| 5th Bde., R.A.F. ... .. | 3 | First Army, I. ..    | 1 |
| Major CURTIN.. ... ..   | 3 | Second Army, I...    | 1 |
| A.D.C. ... ..           | 1 | Third Army, I....    | 1 |
| M.G., G.S. ... ..       | 1 | B.I.C., 2nd Wing.    | 1 |
| Operations. ... ..      | 1 | R.C.E., No. 4 ...    | 1 |

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15th September, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 15th September, 1918.

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1. As the result of a minor operation carried out by the IX Corps, the line was established along the high ground between the N.E. corner of HOLNON WOOD and MAISSEMY. The village was also captured. There was a slight increase in hostile artillery activity North of the COLOGNE. South of the river activity was more pronounced. Early in the morning 2,000 rounds of yellow and blue cross gas shells were fired against the area S.E. of ATTILLY. H.V. guns were active on roads in back areas.

2. III CORPS.

A quiet day: there was no change in the situation. The majority of hostile shelling was directed against VILLERS FAUCON and the valleys to the East of the village. Battery areas N.W. of GUYENCOURT were subjected to harassing fire and H.V. guns were active on NURLU and LIERAMONT.

IX CORPS.

The 1st Division carried out a minor operation at 5.30 a.m. with the high ground S.E. of MAISSEMY as the objective. Our artillery supported the attack with a barrage on known strong points and centres of resistance. A little resistance was offered at the Western outskirts of MAISSEMY but opposition was, for the most part, very feeble.

As the result of this operation the line now runs East of road through R.36.a. and R.30.c & a. - East of MAISSEMY. The line was also advanced slightly North of the OMIGNON towards VADENCOURT.

78 prisoners and 20 machine guns were captured.

The enemy artillery retaliation to our bombardment was fairly severe East of ST. QUENTIN WOOD, and the front line North of the OMIGNON was heavily shelled for an hour in the morning.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Situation unchanged. ROISEL and battery areas in the vicinity of HESBECOURT were heavily shelled at intervals throughout the day, and light concentrations of yellow and blue cross gas shells were fired into the valleys around ROISEL.

The usual harassing fire on forward areas took place.

3. THIRD ARMY.

No change.

/ 4. First French Army.

15th September, 1918.

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4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

No change in situation.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

408 hours were flown by 178 pilots.

Four successful reconnaissances and 18 artillery patrols and 63 zone calls sent down. During the latter two hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and eight neutralised.

Ten photographic flights were undertaken and 212 plates exposed.

Activity was very pronounced. 129 offensive patrols were carried out and eight decisive combats took place resulting in the destruction of four E.A. while four were driven down out of control. Two of our machines failed to return.

During the day 33 112-lb. and 96 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets, including ST. QUENTIN, with success. Three hostile balloons were shot down in flames.

(b) Hostile.

Activity was much above normal but slightly less than yesterday. Between 1 and 4 p.m. five R.E.A. flying at 17,000 - 19,000 feet thoroughly reconnoitred the Army Area as far back as AMIENS. During the night hostile bombing planes were active in the NURLU - MOISLAINS area.

6. PRISONERS.

102 O.R. were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine, with good visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of any importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th\*, 18th\*, 46th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Divn. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th and 32nd\* Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

/ 10. AMMUNITION

EXPENDITURE.

15th September, 1918.

3.

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10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                   |    |       |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 792.  |
| " S.              | .. | 253.  |
| 3" 20-cwt. H.E.   | .. | 230.  |
| " S.              | .. | 19.   |
| 18-pdr. H.E.      | .. | 5021. |
| " S.              | .. | 5848. |
| 4.5" How. H.E.    | .. | 2864. |
| 60-pdr. H.E.      | .. | 2022. |
| " S.              | .. | 1969. |
| 6" How. H.E.      | .. | 7372. |
| " Gas.            | .. | 764.  |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.  | .. | 172.  |
| " S.              | .. | 211.  |
| 8" How.           | .. | 1133. |
| 9.2" How.         | .. | 151.  |

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15th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

----- 792  
From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

4.20 a.m. Three balloons in flames, 1 E.A. crashed, 16 112-lb., 75 25-lb. bombs. By night nil.

From III Corps.

6.15 a.m. Situation quiet on Corps front. Slight hostile artillery activity on SPUR QUARRY (E.29).

6.17 p.m. Situation quiet except for artillery activity in SPUR QUARRY (E.29.d.) and vicinity. Few rounds shrapnel on LONGAVESNES. Captures nil.

From IX Corps.

6.40 a.m. Situation quiet on Corps front. Right Division pushing forward. Posts established X.18.a.5.6 X.18.c.2.6 X.17.d.2.2 X.23.b.4.6. Liaison post X.24.a.4.4. Left Division no change. Hostile shelling all calibres between HILL X.11.c.2.2 and X.11.a.0.5. Quarry X.15.central shelled with Blue and Yellow Cross.

11.35 a.m. As result of minor operation at 5.30 this morning our line now runs trenches East of road through R.36.a. and R.30.c. & a. to MAISSEMY. Our troops in MAISSEMY and trench immediately East of it. Some machine guns and about 25 prisoners reported captured.

3.35 p.m. 3rd Brigade 1st Division report 10.45 a.m. enemy resistance was slight. Hostile troops ran away on being attacked. New position being heavily shelled from Easterly and N.E. direction.

4.20 p.m. 3rd Brigade 1st Division report 1.50 p.m. Left Battalion reached R.16.d.1.9 and on outskirts of wood R.16.a. & b. Prisoners captured: regt. not yet known.

6.44 p.m. 1st Division report 3rd Brigade line now runs R.16.d.2.7 - R.16.a.2.3 - R.16.a.0.4 - R.15.b.5.7. Three prisoners captured in addition to those already reported. One light machine gun. Prisoners belong 46th R.I.R.

7.8 p.m. No change Right Division front since last report. Left Division line as follows:- R.36.a.8.5 North along trench system to ESSLING ALLEY R.24.c.75.25 to R.23.b.8.6 R.23.b.5.8 R.17.c.8.5 R.17.c.6.5 R.16.d.2.7 R.16.a.2.2 R.15.b.6.7. New positions left division front heavily shelled for about 1 hour at 10 a.m. Positions East ST. QUENTIN WOOD heavily shelled 10.5 a.m. 15 cm. hows. with H.E. and gas throughout day. Considerable hostile shelling of high ground in X.6.a. & b. Two hostile balloons brought down in flames North of ST. QUENTIN and one of our balloons brought down North of ATTILLY. E.A. active all day. Prisoners 78 O.R., machine guns about 20.

/ cont'd.

15th September, 1918.

Operation Messages - 2.

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Australian Corps.

6.40 a.m. Light and scattered shelling on forward lines of Right Division and heavy shelling of ROISEL by 5.9 and 8<sup>n</sup>. Otherwise quiet night.

6.30 p.m. Intermittent/scattered shelling on forward areas. Right of Right Division line advanced to R.9.b.8.0. Captures past 24 hours 22 O.R.

To G.H.Q.

6.50 a.m. Quiet night. S.E. HOLNON WOOD posts advanced slightly to line X.24.a.4.4 (joint post with French) - X.25.b.4.6 - X.17.d.2.2 - X.18.c.2.6 - X.18.a.5.6. ROISEL heavily shelled during night.

12.50 p.m. As result of minor operation early this morning 9th Corps have captured MAISSEMY and the trench system East of it and in S.1 and S.7. Line now reported to run S.7 - S.1 - East of road in R.36 and R.30 to MAISSEMY - R.17.d. Some machine guns and 70 prisoners reported captured.

7 p.m. IX Corps have maintained pressure on enemy and N.W. of HOLNON WOOD are reported on line R.36.a.8.5 - R.24.c.8.3 - R.23.b.8.6 - R.17.c.8.5 - R.16.d.2.7 - R.16.a.2.2. Australian Corps have established posts at R.9.b.8.0. Hostile artillery active on positions gained this morning S.E. of MAISSEMY also on front line East of HOLNON WOOD, forward area Australian Corps and SPUR QUARRY (E.29.d.). E.A. active on Right Corps front all day. Estimated captures today 100 O.R. and 20 machine guns. Prisoners to 14th inclusive: Army cages 126 officers, 5593 O.R. C.C.S. 23 officers, 862 O.R. Total 6604.

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16th September, 1918.

994  
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 16th September, 1918.

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1. During the day slight progress was made by the Australian Corps South of JEANCOURT and observation posts were pushed forward on the high ground S.W. of MAISSEMY.

There was a slight increase in hostile shelling North of the COLOGNE, and South of the river the enemy's artillery activity was fully maintained.

Our artillery carried out special programmes of fire in support of the Australian Corps operation and directed heavy concentrations of H.E. and shrapnel on woods, sunken roads and all places from which enemy machine gun fire was anticipated.

2. III CORPS.

Very quiet day. VILLERS FAUCON, SAULCOURT and GUYENCOURT were intermittently shelled. Our front line system was subjected to the usual harassing fire.

IX CORPS.

Advanced observation posts were established on the high ground East of HOLNON WOOD and on the Western edge of CARTENOY WOOD. No opposition was encountered.

Vigorous harassing fire was maintained against the Eastern edge of HOLNON WOOD, and battery areas West of ATTILLY were lightly shelled.

During the day occasional heavy bursts of fire were directed against the Northern outskirts of HOLNON WOOD.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The 4th Australian Division advanced the line to an average depth of 500 yards during the day and secured three prisoners. On the remainder of the front the situation remained unchanged.

The enemy's artillery paid considerable attention to ROISEL and displayed unusual activity in the vicinity of our front line. Light concentrations of blue and yellow cross gas were fired into MARQUAIS.

H.V. guns were less active and shelled BERNES - FLECHIN area at intervals.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation unaltered. The Tenth French Army attacked West of SANCY on a front of 4,000 yards and

/ penetrated

16th September, 1918.

2.■

895

penetrated to a depth of 1,000 yards, capturing 600 prisoners.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

584 hours were flown by 204 pilots and six successful reconnaissances were carried out. 20 artillery patrols were undertaken and 49 zone calls sent down.

417 plates were exposed during the day.

Our aircraft were very active and maintained 161 offensive patrols in the course of which 14 E.A. were destroyed and five E.A. driven down out of control. Three of our machines failed to return.

Two night bombing and reconnaissance raids were carried out against BUSIGNY, BONAIN and MONT BREHAIN. One 112-lb. and 244 25-lb. bombs were dropped.

By day 49 112-lb. and 244 25-lb. bombs were dropped on suitable targets including BUSIGNY and ST. QUENTIN.

(b) Hostile.

Activity was above normal. F.E.A. were more in evidence and operated offensively. Activity was chiefly restricted to the Southern Sector of the Army front.

6. PRISONERS.

Three O.R. were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No important changes occurred.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th\*, 18th\*, 46th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Divn. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th and 32nd\* Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

/ 10. AMMUNITION  
EXPENDITURE.

16th September, 1918.

3.

*fgb*

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |    |       |
|---------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E.   | .. | 1103. |
| " " S.              | .. | 474.  |
| 13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E. | .. | 72.   |
| " " S.              | .. | 100.  |
| 18-pdr. H.E.        | .. | 3744. |
| " " S.              | .. | 3850. |
| 4.5 How.            | .. | 2312. |
| 60-pdr. H.E.        | .. | 1461. |
| " " S.              | .. | 1647. |
| 6" How. H.E.        | .. | 7515. |
| " " Gas.            | .. | 753.  |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.    | .. | 189.  |
| " " S.              | .. | 240.  |
| 8" How.             | .. | 1124. |
| 9.2" How.           | .. | 275.  |
| 12" How.            | .. | 8.    |

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16th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED. 797

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From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

4.35 a.m. By day 7 E.A. crashed, 4 out of control, 3 balloons in flames, 49 112-lb. bombs, 97 25-lb. bombs. By night one 112-lb. bomb and 244 25-lb. bombs on various targets.

From III Corps.

6.20 a.m. Situation unchanged. Quiet night.

6.25 p.m. Enemy artillery active round SPUR QUARRY (E.29.d.). Slight shelling by 77 mm. and 4.2s on E.3.d. and E.4.a. Otherwise situation quiet. Right Division reports one of our aeroplanes shot down by A.A. fire at 10 a.m. fell in F.19.c.2.5. Captures nil.

From IX Corps.

6 a.m. Quiet night. Situation unchanged. Some air bursts over VRAIGNES and intermittent shelling of MAISSEMY RIDGE but generally very little shelling. Three light trench mortars captured during yesterday's operations.

6.5 p.m. Situation quiet on Corps front. Hostile artillery inactive. Observation posts established R.30.c.8.0, M.25.c.6.8, M.25.a.6.4, R.24.c.5.0, R.23.b.8.6, R.17.d.9.3, R.17.d.5.5, R.17.c.8.6 thence West of sunken road R.16.b. and R.10.c. Captures nil.

From Australian Corps.

6.55 a.m. Quiet night. Enemy artillery activity below normal.

6.58 p.m. Moderate artillery activity chiefly N.E. of ROISEL. One low flying plane over front line at 4 p.m. Trench mortars and machine guns quiet. Line now runs R.9.d.75.20 - R.9.b.8.1 - R.9.b.5.3 - R.9.b.5.6 - R.3.d.5.1 - R.3.d.4.3 - R.3.b.3.1 - R.3.b.1.7 - L.33.d.0.1 - L.33.a.8.2 - L.33.a.6.9 - L.27.c.4.8 thence as before. Total prisoners past 24 hours 2 wounded 1 unwounded 0.R.

To G.H.Q.

6.50 a.m. Quiet night. Intermittent harassing fire on MAISSEMY RUDGE but hostile artillery generally inactive. 2000 yellow cross gas shells fired on vicinity ATTILLY early morning of 15th instant.

7.30 p.m. IX Corps established posts today at R.30.c.8.0 - M.25.d.8.8 - M.25.b.8.4 - R.17.d.9.3 - R.17.d.5.5 thence West of sunken road in R.16.b. and R.10.c. Australian Corps advanced line slightly South of JEANCOURT. Line now runs P.9.d.75.20 - P.9.b.8.1 - R.9.b.5.6 - R.3.d.5.1 - R.3.b.3.1 - L.33.d.0.1 - L.27.c.4.8. Situation unchanged remainder of front. Hostile artillery active vicinity ROISEL, VILLERS FAUCON, GUYENCOURT. R.A.F. reports 7 E.A. crashed, 4 out of control on 15th inst. Estimated captures today 3 O.R. Prisoners to 15th incl. 6664.

17th September, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 17th September, 1918.

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798

1. With the exception of an operation carried out by the IX Corps in the vicinity of HOLNON village no infantry encounters took place.

North of the COLOGNE an increase in hostile artillery activity, harassing fire with gas shell and H.E. being persistent and at times heavy on forward battery positions. The valley S.W. of HEUDECOURT and the neighbourhood of VILLERS FAUCON were chiefly affected. H.V. guns fired intermittently on villages.

South of the COLOGNE hostile artillery was slightly less active, and from locations obtained it would appear that some of the enemy's guns had been moved further back.

HOLNON village and vicinity were heavily shelled as a consequence of our operations in that locality.

2. IX CORPS.

An operation was carried out in conjunction with the XXXVI French Corps on the right to improve our positions E. of HOLNON WOOD.

Considerable resistance was met with but at the close of the day's fighting HOLNON village was captured and our line advanced to a depth of 500 yards on a 3,000 yards front. About 17 prisoners were taken.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A quiet day.

III CORPS.

With the exception of some fairly heavy gas shelling E. of LIERAMONT during the early morning nothing unusual occurred during the period under review.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Some hostile artillery activity: no infantry action.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

An attack on BOIS DE SAVY was only partially successful, considerable machine gun fire being encountered.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

387 hours were flown by 178 pilots.

17th September, 1918.

799

2.

3 successful reconnaissances were carried out and 25 artillery patrols undertaken. During the latter 36 zone calls were sent down, 2 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction.

During ten photographic flights 198 plates were exposed.

Our aircraft were active and carried out 113 offensive patrols: 8 air combats took place, 2 of which were decisive. 1 E.A. destroyed and 1 E.A. driven down out of control. 4 of our machines failed to return.

26 25-lb bombs were dropped on ESSIGNY LE PETIT and GUISE by night and 60 25-lb bombs on various targets during the day.

14 successful artillery shoots were conducted with kite balloon observation.

(b) Hostile.

Activity above normal. 17 artillery machines and 38 F.E.A. crossed the line. F.E.A. showed an increased activity in reconnoitring forward areas.

6. PRISONERS.

Prisoners from 1st to 17th September -

|                      |            |           |             |      |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------|
| Through Army cages - | 126        | officers, | 5680        | O.R. |
| Through C.C.S.       | - 23       | "         | 883         | "    |
| Total =              | <u>149</u> | "         | <u>6563</u> | "    |
|                      | ===        |           | =====       |      |

7. WEATHER.

Fair but cloudy.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

18th Division took over portion of 58th Divl. front on night 16/17th September.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th\*, 18th, 46th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 74th Divisions.  
1 Bde. 2nd Cav. Div. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

10.

17th September, 1918.

3.

7100

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 13-pr., A.A., H.E.  | 436  |
| " " S.              | 133  |
| 13-pr. R.H.A., H.E. | 32   |
| " " S.              | 62   |
| 18-pr. H.E.         | 5540 |
| " " S.              | 9264 |
| " " Smoke.          | 98   |
| 4.5" howr., H.E.    | 3811 |
| " " Smoke.          | 107  |
| 60-pr., H.E.        | 2332 |
| " " S.              | 2543 |
| 6-in howr., H.E.    | 5628 |
| " " Gas.            | 1009 |
| 6" Mk VII, H.E.     | 197  |
| " " S.              | 178  |
| 8-in howr.          | 1245 |
| 9.2-in howr.        | 249  |
| 12-in howr.         | 30   |

17th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

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7101  
From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6.25 a.m. 10 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control. 25 112-lb bombs, 71 25-lb. bombs. By night 26 25-lb. bombs.

III Corps. 6.25 a.m. Left Division report some scattered rifle and machine gun fire and slight gas shelling of forward area. Right Division report enemy artillery active on LONGAVESNES. Few rounds gas shell into LONGAVESNES - TEMPLEUX-la-FOSSE Road. No report received from Left Brigade as lines to battalions are dis.

11.40 a.m. Left Division report enemy machine gun post located at F.1.c.8.7. Enemy seen at F.7.a.1.1. Enemy seen at F.7.a.1.1 6.30 a.m. TOTTENHAM POST occupied by enemy. Heavy hostile gas shelling probably mustard on E.9 and vicinity from 3.30 a.m. to 6 a.m. Estimated over 1000 gas shells.

5.50 p.m. Situation quiet. No activity of any kind to report. Captures 4 O.R.

From Australian Corps.

7.50 a.m. Situation quiet. Light scattered artillery fire on our forward area.

6.20 p.m. Very slight artillery activity on forward areas. Machine guns active during morning from direction of VAUDENCOURT.

From IX Corps.

7.20 a.m. Situation quiet. Hostile artillery and machine guns active on forward positions.

9.20 a.m. 6th Division report by phone 8.20 a.m. left held up by machine guns in TROUT COPSE. Our troops have been seen at M.32.c.3.8. On our right artillery report our troops East of HOLNON village.

1.10 p.m. 6th Division report 10.30 a.m. objective gained on right and in touch with French. TROUT COPSE believed captured on left and progress being made towards BADGER COPSE.

6.20 p.m. Situation Right Division much improved on right, centre uncertain, left in touch with right of Left Division. Hostile artillery active on HOLNON and ST. QUENTIN WOODS. Left Division situation quiet. E.A. active during morning. Prisoners 17 including 1 officer.

9.45 p.m. 6th Division report Left Battalion reached final objective. 6th Division line now runs East edge of HOLNON - road junction S.2.d.8.2 - road junction M.32.d.1.5 - East edge BADGER COPSE - along line of track to M.31.b.5.7 where in touch with 1st Division.

/ cont'd.



17th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 2.

*7102*

To G.H.Q.

7.10 a.m. Situation quiet. Some scattered shelling and machine gun fire on forward areas. R.A.F. report ten E.A. crashed, 6 out of control.

6.50 p.m. IX Corps report line advanced during day and now believed to run South of HOLNON village (in touch with French) - E. outskirts HOLNON village - S.2.a. - M.31.a. thence no change. Hostile artillery active on HOLNON and ST. QUENTIN WOODS. Quiet day on fronts of Australian and III Corps. Estimated prisoners today 1 officer, 20 O.R. Prisoners to 16th instant inclusive: Army cages 126 officers, 5680 O.R. C.C.S. - 23 officers, 877 O.R. Total 6706.

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18th September, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 18th September, 1918.

7103

1. In conjunction with the First French Army on the south and the Third Army on the north, the Fourth Army carried out an attack on its whole front with a view to securing a position giving good observation over the main HINDENBURG Line. The general line of the final objective, or Red Line, coincided to a considerable extent with the old British front line before the German attack on the 21st March, 1918. A line of exploitation (Blue Line) was laid down which included the outpost system of the HINDENBURG Line. There was no preliminary bombardment, reliance being placed on the effect of surprise, a powerful artillery concentration including intense counter-battery work, and the assistance of a few tanks where the resistance was expected to be most pronounced.

The attack was launched under cover of a F.A. barrage which came down at zero, i.e., 5-20 a.m.

Lifts were 100 yards at a time and at the following intervals:-

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1st lift                                | 0 plus 3 minutes.      |
| 2nd lift                                | 0 plus 5 minutes.      |
| 3rd to 11th lift, )<br>both inclusive.) | At 3 minute intervals. |
| From 12th lift, )<br>inclusive.)        | At 4 minute intervals. |

On the intermediate objective, or Green Line, there was a halt of about one hour, during which time a protective barrage was maintained.

The advance to the Red Line was carried out also under a F.A. barrage, but of less density than the first advance as the forward movement of a number of batteries was in progress by then. After a protective barrage of 15 minutes in front of the Red Line exploitation was carried out supported by artillery working under Divisional arrangements.

The following artillery in actual guns was allotted to Corps.

| CORPS. | 18-<br>pr. | 4.5"<br>howr | 60<br>pr. | 6"<br>howr | 8"<br>howr | 9.2"<br>howr | 8"<br>gun | 12"<br>howr | Total. |
|--------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| IX.    | 210        | 48           | 36        | 50         | 18         | 12           | 4         | -           | 378    |
| Aust.  | 270        | 90           | 48        | 96         | 24         | 18           | 12        | 2           | 560    |
| III.   | 270        | 90           | 36        | 94         | 30         | 16           | 12        | 2           | 550    |

The 2nd Tank Bn. was specially allotted to Fourth Army and was sub-allotted to Corps as follows:-

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| IX Corps.    | 1 Section.  |
| Aust. Corps. | 2 Sections. |
| III Corps.   | 2 Sections. |

In order to economise tanks in view of future operations, it was laid down that Corps would not employ them in front of the Green Line, with the exception that the left division of the Australian Corps was permitted to use its tanks as far as the Red Line.

The

18th September, 1918.

7104 2.

The assembly of the troops took place without incident except on the right of the 6th Division where difficulty arose through the uncertainty of the situation about HOLNON village, and the hostile reaction due to the operations of the previous day in that vicinity.

The attack was launched punctually to time and in pouring rain, and as a result of the day's fighting most satisfactory progress was made.

Resistance varied considerably. Whereas in the centre, i.e., the front of the Australian Corps, the enemy surrendered freely, on the other hand on the southern and northern fronts of the Army he fought with determination. As a consequence the IX and III Corps were unable to gain possession of all their objectives, although the progress made in each case was of extreme value. The Australian Corps established themselves in close proximity to the line of exploitation and during the night 18/19th September occupied this line on the whole of its front after heavy fighting.

It should be noted that at zero, owing to the bad atmospheric conditions practically nothing could be seen and in consequence for some time the tanks were unable to maintain <sup>direction</sup> a difficulty with which the infantry could also barely contend

## 2. IX CORPS.

The IX Corps attacked with two divisions, the 6th and 1st from right to left, each division having two brigades in line with one in reserve. As has already been stated much difficulty was experienced in the vicinity of HOLNON, the previous day's fighting having resulted in a situation which up to zero hour was never clear. Though fighting with great gallantry the 6th Division met with very severe opposition and after suffering considerable casualties were only able to advance to a depth of 2,000 yards on the majority of the front. The right of the 1st division had to conform to the 6th Division, but the left progressed well and captured BERTHAUCOURT and PONTRU, eventually joining up with the Australian Corps on the Red Line.

About 700 prisoners were captured during the day.

## AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The Australian Corps attacked with the 4th Division on the right and the 1st Division on the left, although opposition was met with at isolated points as a general rule the mere sight of the Australian troops with the accompanying tanks decided the enemy to surrender immediately and the Red Line was reached without any great difficulty. Exploitation proceeded forthwith and by dawn on the morning of the 19th the Australian Corps on practically the whole of its front had occupied the outpost line of the HINDENBURG LINE. The villages taken during the advance included LE VERGUIER, VILLERET, HARGICOURT, and the strong positions round COLOGNE, GRANDPRIEL, and ASCENSION FARMS were also captured.

The total captures for the day were 4,000 prisoners, 80 guns and a very great number of M.Gs.

The

18th September, 1918.

7105 3.

The casualties for the day did not exceed 1200. The taking of LE VERGUIER was a very skilful operation. This village was held by a strong garrison including no less than 50 machine guns. A smoke barrage put down on the outskirts obscured the view of the gunners who, failing to observe a suitable target, fired due West in the hope that they were meeting the Australians in their advance. The latter, however, having ascertained the direction of the fire, worked round the flanks and before the Germans realized the situation, had rushed the position.

### III CORPS.

The III Corps attacked with the 74th, 18th, 12th and 58th Divisions from South to North in the order named. From the start heavy fighting took place. The 74th Division progressed well although meeting, possibly, with less opposition than the other Divisions. The right maintained touch with the Australian Corps throughout, but the left was compelled to conform to the slower advance of the 18th Division. The latter, after desperate fighting, captured RONSSOY but not until the troops moving up for the capture of the further objective had become involved. In consequence, progress East of the village was affected seriously. In RONSSOY and vicinity about 1000 prisoners were captured. MAY COPSE was not captured until the early morning of the 19th September. The 12th Division were held up on the outskirts of EPEHY almost immediately and practically the whole day was devoted to its capture. To the North the 58th Division captured PEIZIERE and went forward only to find the right flank in the air owing to the situation at EPEHY. A defensive flank was formed and assistance given to the 12th Division by operating from the North. By the afternoon the village was practically cleared and the last hostile post fell eventually at 7.45 p.m. That the enemy were able to put up such a strong resistance was due to the Alpine Corps which fought with determination. The last post to fall in EPEHY originally consisted of 3 officers and 45 O.R. When it fell at 7.45 p.m. only 17 of the party were still unwounded.

### 3. THIRD ARMY.

A successful attack was carried out in co-operation with operations of the Fourth Army, GAUCHE WOOD amongst other localities and 2000 prisoners being captured.

### 4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Slight progress was made on the right of the Fourth Army, FONTAINE-les-CLERE being taken.

### 5. AIRCRAFT.

#### (a) British.

432 hours were flown by 188 pilots. Eight reconnaissance and 18 artillery patrols were carried out and 39 zone calls sent down. Two hostile batteries were

/ successfully

18th September, 1918.

7106 4.

successfully engaged for destruction and one battery neutralized.

Five photographic flights were made and 116 plates exposed.

122 offensive patrols were carried out. 18 combats took place of which 5 were decisive. One E.A. was destroyed and four E.A. were driven down out of control. Three of our machines were reported missing.

126 25-lb. bombs were dropped on MORCOURT, BOHAIN, BUSSIGNY during the night. During the day 16 40-lb. phosphorous bombs and 41 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets of opportunity in connection with our attack. 16,870 machine gun rounds were also fired at suitable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were very active. 21 artillery planes and 42 F.E.A. crossed the line. At 6.15 p.m. 16 battle flight machines and 10 F.E.A. attacked the troops with bombs and machine gun fire. Several balloons were attacked, one being destroyed.

6. PRISONERS.

|                    |     |                   |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Through Army Cages | ... | 13 offr. 514 O.R. |
| Through C.C.Ss.    | ... | 7 O.R.            |

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds and rain in early morning, clearing later but cloudy.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 12th Division went into the line on the III Corps front between the 18th and 58th Divisions.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 48th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

18th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED. 7107

From III Corps.

6.15 a.m. Quiet night. Some scattered gas shelling about GUYENCOURT and SAULCOURT otherwise little enemy activity. All divisions report assembly of troops proceeding satisfactorily.

9 a.m. Reports indicating attack proceeding satisfactorily. Right Division right brigade at QUARRY L.3.b. Right Centre Division started off all right: no news of progress. Left Centre Division report one battalion has passed railway in F.1.d. Left Division: no news of progress. Enemy shelling PEIZIERE. Some gas shelling of battery areas before zero. Enemy reply to our barrage slight. Prisoners have been taken.

9.10 a.m. 74th Division: Right Brigade 200 yards West of Green Line at 6.30 a.m. In touch with Australians. Left Brigade reported to be on first objective: reported mopping up TEMPLEUX. 50 prisoners so far taken. 18th Division: 100 prisoners reported. Right Battalion of Right Brigade moved H.Q. to RONSSOY WOOD. Wounded officer reports that RONSSOY has been captured. Battalions moving forward for Northern attack have not, it is believed, been checked. 12th Division: Right Brigade reported advancing. Left Brigade held up in EPEHY. F.O.O. reports our troops seen coming back from EPEHY. 58th Division: Report battalion H.Q. moved to railway embankment. PEIZIERE reported by walking wounded to be captured.

11.35 a.m. 58th Division hold POPLAR TRENCH X.26. PEIZIERE mopped up except for PROCTOR POST which is being dealt with. Troops of Left Division held up in EPEHY have advanced to trenches in F.2.c, F.8.a. Air report states we hold EPEHY and PEIZIERE and heavy fighting proceeding about MAY COPSE. F.O.F. reports Left Brigade 74th Division were approaching Red Line at 9.15 a.m., also seen going over ridge in F.29. Enemy barrage was on RONSSOY and valley in F.22.a. & c. Later report from F.O.O. states Right Brigade 74th Division on Red Line, Left Brigade 74th Division approaching Red Line. Fighting proceeding in RONSSOY. Report requires confirmation.

1.5 p.m. 74th Division report both brigades on Red Line. Situation on 18th Division front still obscure. Our troops reported to be in LEMPIRE AND 55th Brigade to be passing through. 12th Division are in MAY COPSE and hold from this point along RIDGE RESERVE towards MALASSISE FARM and up DEELISH AVENUE towards OLD COPSE. Enemy in these two localities being dealt with. 12th Division otherwise on Green Line and pushing round towards second objective with Left Battalion advancing along LARK SPUR. 58th Division unchanged. About 500 prisoners reported up to date.

2.25 p.m. 74th Division report that they are pushing out to Blue Line. 18th Division in touch on their right with 74th Division. 18th Division and 12th Division arranging combined attack at 3 p.m. to capture LEMPIRE, YAK and

cont'd.

18th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 2.

7108

and ZEBRA POSTS and the Red Line. Battalion of 12th Division with machine guns advancing along LARK SPUR to KILDARE LANE and post. Mopping up in EPEHY and RONSSOY still proceeding.

10.50 p.m. 74th Division hold Red Line from A.25.d.0.0 where they are in touch with Australians, to CAT POST F.16.c.0.0 connecting with 18th Division. 18th Division line runs thence F.16.d.7.7 - F.16.a.3.4 - RIDGE RESERVE - South from F.15.b.9.8 to F.15.a.4.8 - KNOLL POST - DEELISH POST where they connect with 12th Division. Result of 18th Division attack this evening East of RONSSOY not yet known. Situation at MAY COPSE obscure. 12th Division line runs along RIDGE RESERVE F.8.b. to MALASSISE BARM inclusive thence to F.2.c.central. Pocket of Germans in CHESNUT AVENUE and TETARD WOOD now being dealt with. 58th Division in FIR SUPPORT and clearing up situation in POPLAR TRENCH X.26.b. V Corps on left in sunken lane in X.20.d. and Meath Lane X.21.a.

11.50 p.m. Attack on III Corps front on a front of 4 miles today reached final objective on Right Division front penetrating to 3 miles, and first objective on remainder of front except at LEMPIRE and just East of EPEHY. Villages of TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD, RONSSOY, EPEHY and PEIZIERE captured. Very heavy fighting took place ~~last night in EPEHY mopping up continued throughout the day.~~ in villages and mopping up continued throughout the day. Last post in EPEHY reported captured at 7.35 p.m. with only 17 out of garrison of 48 unwounded. 1959 prisoners including 43 officers in Corps cages. This is exclusive of wounded. 8 77-mm. guns captured besides machine guns and trench mortars.

From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6.35 a.m. Bay day 2 E.A. crashed and one out of control over CAMBRAI. 74 25-lb. bombs various targets. By night 126 25-lb. bombs various targets.

From IX Corps.

6.35 a.m. E.A. very active on Corps forward area during night. Heavy gas shelling vicinity HOLNON WOOD and VERMAND. Left Division report attack commenced up to time Right Division no news yet.

8.30 a.m. 6th Division: no definite news Right Battalion but it is understood CHAMPAGNE TRENCH captured. Left Battalion Right Brigade reported (unconfirmed) on Green Line. Left Brigade reported on Green Line. 1st Division: no news but believed held up a bit. Remainder believed on Green Line.

9.35 a.m. Left Brigades of both divisions reported on Green Line. Right Brigades of both divisions - position doubtful.

7.45 p.m. 6th Division line believed to run S.9.a.0.0 where in touch with French - along DOUAI TRENCH East of HOLNON village thence along CHAMPAGNE TRENCH in M.33.d. & b. Eastern outskirts FRESNOY. 1st Division line believed to be M.21.c.9.3 along VILLEMAY TRENCH to M.20b.7.6 thence North to quarries in M.16.a. thence East of BERTHAUCOURT then along Red Line to M.2.central where in touch with

/ cont'd

18th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 3.

7109

Australians. 1st Division report counter-attack repulsed South of BERTHAUCOURT at 3.30 p.m. 1st Brigade now trying to capture high ground in M.18.b. 8th Division pushing forward to QUADRILATERAL in S.3.d. and S.4.a. Estimated prisoners 400 including 9 officers.

From Australian Corps.

6.40 a.m. Artillery activity slight. Hostile machine gun fire light. E.A. active bombing until midnight in forward area.

7.20 a.m. Attack launched successfully. Right Division report prisoners state attack came as a surprise. Artillery retaliation slight.

9 a.m. Brown line taken all the way along. Everything gone smoothly. Artillery moving up.

11.30 a.m. Exploiting battalions of 4th Australian Division have passed through Red Line and are going well. So far Right exploiting battalion report 200 prisoners since leaving Red Line. Total prisoners through 4th Australian Division cage 400.

11.35 a.m. Attack going well. Opposition met S.E. outskirts of LE VERGUIER. So far Right Division have passed 500 prisoners through Divisional Cage and more coming in. Left <sup>Aus.</sup> Division report over 100 prisoners.

12.40 p.m. 4th Australian Division reports infantry have captured Red Line but this not yet fully confirmed. Arrangements in hand for pushing forward patrols at once to Blue Line. Prisoners have been captured East of Red Line. Total prisoners reported by 4th Australian Division to date over 1000. 1st Australian Division reports infantry have reached Red Line on the Right Brigade and believed to have reached Red Line on Left Brigade also. Right Brigade believed to have reached Blue Line. Total prisoners in 1st Australian Division cage over 400. Contact plane reports enemy holding Blue Line strongly.

5.45 p.m. Australian Corps attacked enemy this morning on a frontage of 4 miles. Objectives allotted were captured by 10 a.m. and exploiting of success put in hand. All intervening trench systems between our positions and Hindenburg Line have been captured. On Right Division front we are within 500 yards of the advanced line of the Hindenburg system and we have occupied this advanced line on the whole of the left divisional front. The LE VERGUIER and VILLERET RIDGES have been captured together with the village of HARGICOURT. The locality of COLOGNE FARM, and the main part of the ridge running South from it which here dominates the Hindenburg Line is in our hands. Total depth of penetration over 2½ miles. Captures so far reported officers 114 including one regtl. commander and staff and two battalion commanders, other ranks 2632, guns 23.

8.30 p.m. Line now runs M.3.a.75.75 along trench to G.33.c.8.2 - along road to G.20.b.1.6 - thence G.20.a.9.6 - G.14.a.6.0 - G.8.c.5.0 - G.8.c.5.5 - along trench to

/ cont'd.



18th September, 1918.

Operation Messages - 4.

7110

G.1.d.9.0 - G.1.d.6.5 - along MINNOW TRENCH to A.25.d.2.0 where in touch with 74th Division. Prisoners through divisional cages to 6 p.m. 126 officers 2915 o.r. Guns reported captured, 7 heavy guns, about 20 field guns, 2 anti-tank guns, 2 anti-tank rifles and a very large number of machine guns.

To G.H.Q.

6.40 a.m. Heavy gas shelling vicinity HOLNON WOOD and VERMAND. Scattered gas shelling GUYENCOURT and SAULCOURT area otherwise hostile artillery activity slight. E.A. active bombing forward areas up to midnight. All Corps report assembly of troops satisfactory but no news at present as to progress of attack.

1.30 p.m. Attack launched on whole Army front at 5.20 a.m. in heavy rain which ceased by 7 a.m. Reports to 11 a.m. indicate attack progressing well. On IX Corps front right of 6th Division held up East of HOLNON village where situation not clear. Remainder of division has captured Green Line which includes FRESNOY and has advanced towards Red Line. 1st Division has captured Green Line and is also advancing on Red Line in touch with Australian Corps. Australian Corps has reached Red Line which includes villages of LE VERGUIER, VILLERET and HARGICOURT. Exploiting battalions of 4th Australian Division on right are continuing the advance. III Corps has reached Green Line all along front except at EPEHY where Alpine Corps are putting up very strong resistance. 74th Division on right have reached Red Line and are in touch with Australian Corps. 18th Division in touch with 74th Division and have taken RONSSOY. Heavy fighting in LEMPIRE and in small woods in F.9.a. & c. 12th Division now turning EPEHY from South. 58th Division have reached their final objective and took PEIZIERE. Prisoners to date exceed 2000.

8 p.m. IX Corps line runs as follows. S.E. of HOLNON S.9.a.0.0 (in touch with French) - S.3.c. & b. - M.33.b. - E. of FRESNOY-le-PETIT - M.21.c.9.3 - M.20.b.7.6 - quarries in M.15.a. (incl) - BERTHAUCOURT (incl) - M.2. central. 6th Division pushing on to S.3.d. and S.4.a. and 1st Division to capture high ground M.16.a. & c. tonight. 1st Division reports counter-attack South of BERTHAUCOURT repulsed by our artillery fire. Australian Corps reports line of Right Division within 500 yards advanced Hindenburg system and Left Division holding this line on whole divisional front. 74th Division beyond Red Line pushing on to advanced Hindenburg system. 18th and 12th Divisions organised combined attack 3.30 p.m. on posts in F.10 and Red Line on their front. No report of progress yet received. Today's attack has secured for us almost all important observation over Hindenburg system and in centre Army is now within short distance of the system itself. Opposition met has varied considerably. In certain places it was very determined: in others, Germans surrendered freely. Most prisoners state attack a surprise and they had been told to hold on at all costs.

/ cont'd.

18th September, 1918.

Operation Messages - 5.

7111  
Moral effect of tanks very great even though employed in very small numbers. In some places tanks did not have to fire as Germans surrendered as soon as they saw them. Two tanks in railway triangle North of EPEHY did good work against determined hostile pocket. 23 regiments belonging to 11 divisions so far identified on Fourth Army front during day's fighting, of which two reinforced line today. Estimated prisoners today: IX Corps 700. Australian Corps 3000 including 1 regtl. cmdr. and staff, 6 bn. cmdrs., 110 other officers, 30 guns. III Corps 1300, at least 10 guns. Total for today 5000, 40 guns, large number trench mortars and machine guns, 70 of the latter in LE VERGUIER alone. Prisoners to 17th inclusive: Army cages 126 officers, 5680 O.R. C.C.S. 23 officers, 883 O.R. Total 6612.

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19th September, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 19th September, 1918.

----- 7112

1. During the night September 18/19th the Australian Corps carried out an attack to improve their position in the Hindenburg outpost line. This operation, undertaken by the Right Division, was very successful and a considerable number of prisoners were captured.

On September 19th the IX Corps endeavoured to advance their line but encountered strong opposition and were unable to gain ground.

The III Corps attacked during the morning and after considerable fighting made an appreciable advance N.E. of the RONSSOY - EPEHY Road.

North of the COLOGNE hostile artillery activity increased during the day after a quiet night. GUYENCOURT, RONSSOY, EPEHY and SAULECOURT were shelled at intervals.

There was more hostile shelling South of the COLOGNE than usual, the areas chiefly affected being the roads radiating from LE VERGUIER and the neighbourhood of VILLERET and JEANCOURT.

2. IX CORPS.

Attempts made by 6th and 1st Divisions to improve their positions had little or no result, the enemy putting down heavy artillery and machine gun barrages.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night 18/19th September, i.e. about 11 p.m., the 4th Australian Division attacked the Hindenburg outpost line on that portion of their front where it had not been already occupied, i.e. N.W. of BELLENGLISE. On the front of the Right Brigade the trenches were found to be strongly held, but as there was heavy rain at the time the enemy were all taking cover and our troops were amongst them before they had time to offer any resistance. 460 prisoners were captured by this brigade (the 12th) whose attacking battalion, the 46th, only consisted of 120 all ranks. The 4th Brigade on the left attacked on a smaller front and were also successful in gaining their objective but sent back no prisoners. The operation was arranged at short notice, but admirable Staff work combined with the efforts of the troops, whose elan was irresistible, resulted in one of the most successful minor operations in the records of the Australian Corps. During the day of the 19th September no operations took place but the front line was shelled intermittently.

III CORPS.

The 18th, 12th and 58th Divisions attacked in the early morning and although opposed vigorously by the enemy, made some progress. At the close of the day the line was advanced to the <sup>average</sup> depth of 350 yards on a 3000 yards front, the maximum depth gained being 1000 yards in the vicinity of ST. PATRICK'S VALLEY.

/ 3. THIRD ARMY.

19th September, 1918.

2.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Nothing of importance to report. 7113

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

An attack launched on the left of the Army at 12 noon after a three hours' bombardment failed under heavy artillery and machine gun fire. South of the SOMME the French captured CASTREES and ESSIGNY Station together with a few prisoners.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

438 hours were flown by 177 pilots. Three reconnaissances and 30 artillery patrols were carried out, also 10 contact patrols. 153 zone calls were sent down and 13 hostile batteries were successfully neutralized.

Four successful photographic flights were made and 26 plates exposed.

129 offensive patrols were carried out. There were three combats one of which was decisive. One E.A. was destroyed. All our machines returned.

One 112-lb. and 156 25-lb. bombs were dropped on ESTREES - JONCOURT - LEVERGIES during the night, and 198 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets during the day. 14,975 machine gun rounds were also fired on ground targets during the day.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was normal. Ten artillery planes crossed the line.

6. PRISONERS.

|                    |     |           |           |
|--------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Through Army Cages | ... | 170 off., | 5254 O.R. |
| Through C.C.Ss.    | ... | 15 off.,  | 526 O.R.  |

7. WEATHER.

Overcast with high wind.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 46th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve) was transferred from III Corps to IX Corps.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

/ IX Corps.

19th September, 1918.

3.

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions, 46th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |     |        |
|---------------------|-----|--------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E.   | ... | 1228.  |
| " S.                | ... | 636.   |
| 13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E. | ... | 430.   |
| " S.                | ... | 431.   |
| 18-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 32825. |
| " S.                | ... | 37303. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 457.   |
| 4.5 How. H.E.       | ... | 16268. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 712.   |
| 60-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 5415.  |
| " S.                | ... | 5070.  |
| 6" H.E.             | ... | 17865. |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.    | ... | 405.   |
| " S.                | ... | 391.   |
| 8" How. H.E.        | ... | 2820.  |
| 9.2" How. H.E.      | ... | 2031.  |
| 12" How. H.E.       | ... | 99.    |

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18th September, 1918.

5.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |     |         |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E.   | ... | 1103.   |
| " " S.              | ... | 473.    |
| 13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E. | ... | 3800.   |
| " " S.              | ... | 3826.   |
| 3" 20-cwt. H.E.     | ... | 198.    |
| " " S.              | ... | 57.     |
| 18-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 113310. |
| " " S.              | ... | 137554. |
| " " Smoke.          | ... | 16949.  |
| 4.5 How. H.E.       | ... | 59154.  |
| " " Smoke.          | ... | 4175.   |
| 60-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 6657.   |
| " " S.              | ... | 6906.   |
| 6" H.E.             | ... | 32129.  |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.    | ... | 268.    |
| " " S.              | ... | 353.    |
| 8" How. H.E.        | ... | 4498.   |
| 9.2" How. H.E.      | ... | 3367.   |
| 12" How. H.E.       | ... | 83.     |

11. GENERAL.

First Echelon, A.H.Q., moved from BERTANGLES to a camp at O.19.b., sheet 62.C. (vicinity of ETERPIGNY), opening at the latter place at 8 a.m. By the 26th September the whole of the Second Echelon had also moved to the new location.

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19th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED. *7105*

From III Corps.

6.15 a.m. 74th Division hold Red Line as far North as BULL POST. Defensive flank formed along road in F.23.c. & d. with supports in WITCH TRENCH and HUSSAR ROAD in F.23.c., F.22.b.6.0, SHAMROCK TRENCH F.22.b.1.8 thence SHAMROCK TRENCH to COLLEEN POST to LEMPIRE POST F.16.a.1.4 to SUNKEN ROAD at F.16.d.0.8 thence RIDGE RESERVE South trench to QUID POST KNOLL POST DEELISH POST along PRINCE RESERVE. Elements believed to be in RIDGE RESERVE between MALASSISE FARM and DEELISH AVENUE. Situation at CHESTNUT AVENUE obscure: believed still held by enemy. 58th Division established in N. end POPLAR TRENCH X.26.a.9.9. Fairly quiet night. Enemy artillery active on Corps front.

7 p.m. Attack of 18th and 12th Divisions this morning met heavy artillery barrage and machine gun fire. Situation is not yet clear. We hold THISTLE TRENCH to F.16.b.0.4 thence RIDGE RESERVE SOUTH - ENFER WOOD - MAY COPSE. We also hold ST. PATRICK'S AVENUE as far as F.10.a.7.3 and troops have been reported as far North as BIRD TRENCH. 12th Division hold from MAY COPSE round N. end of OLD COPSE - MALASSISE FARM (inclusive) - TETARD WOOD (inclusive) 58th Division attack down POPLAR TRENCH progressed to near junction with OAK TRENCH. Attack down FIR SUPPORT reached to within 100 yards of POPLAR TRENCH. Enemy still resisting determinedly. Situation of 74th Division unchanged. Party of enemy attacked BENJAMIN POST at 1.30 p.m. and was easily driven off. Machine guns and snipers less active. No report as to captures.

7.45 p.m. 18th Division now hold the whole of DOSE TRENCH also trench running from ST. PATRICKS'S AVENUE towards YAK POST but not YAK POST itself. 12th Division now hold from F.9.b.8.4 - N. corner of OLD COPSE - F.2.d.8.6. Now ascertained from statements of prisoners that 121st Division were brought up in busses yesterday, deployed at BONY and counter-attacked about 6 p.m. with objective old enemy front line. Attack was repulsed by simultaneous attack of 55th Brigade 18th Division and by our artillery and machine gun fire. Difficulties of 18th Division advance and pressure of large numbers of enemy about 'X' 'Y' and 'Z' Copses thus explained.

From IX Corps.

7 a.m. Head of Left Battalion Left Division believed in Sunken Road in M.3.b. but not clear whether in touch with brigade on left. Hostile shelling of forward areas between 5 and 8 p.m. No heavy shelling reported. No change reported on Right Division front.

1 p.m. 1st Division reports 11 a.m. as result of operation North of OMIGNON 12 midnight 2nd Infantry Brigade hold FOURMI TRENCH West of ST. HELENE and sunken road North of ST. HELENE between that place and ENTREPOT TRENCH. Flank in touch with Australians. Thence defensive flank

/ thrown

19th September, 1918.

Operation Messages - 2.

thrown back towards Eastern end of BERTHAUCOURT where we hold BEUX and LE DUC TRENCHES. 9 a.m. 1st Bde. were attacking North of ESSLING ALLEY, objective SAMSON AND CHEVILLARD TRENCHES in M.16.a. & c. No report yet received as to progress South of ESSLING ALLEY. We hold BILLEMAY TRENCH in M.21.a. right flank being refused to neighbourhood of CARTENOY WOODS in touch with 6th Division.

2.55 p.m. 6th Division report attack this morning again met with very strong opposition. Right Brigade unable to get beyond DOUAI TRENCH held up by wire and cross M.G. fire. Left Brigade also unable to advance. In places troops withdrawn to allow barrage to be put down were unable to leave assembly position. On right we occupy line of road S.7.d.65.30 - S.2.c.8.8 with patrols in HOLNON. Exact position of flank in DOUAI TRENCH uncertain. Line follows DOUAI TRENCH as far as AMERICAN ALLEY. Situation in CHAMPAGNE TRENCH not clear. We probably hold part of it. We hold line on spur in M.27.c. & a. but not FRESNOY. Not at present in touch with division on left. Enemy in FRESNOY TRENCH. Movement by day impossible owing to shelling and cross machine gun fire.

6.25 p.m. 6th Division report line as follows in touch with French at S.7.d.8.3 posts at S.8.c.8.9, S.8.d.1.9, two companies in area S.3.c.2.2, post at S.2.c.4.0, one company from S.3.b.5.0 to S.3.b.9.6. CHAMPAGNE TRENCH held by two companies, section machine guns M.27.b.9.2. Posts established West edge of FRESNOY. Believed in touch with 1st Division. 1st Division no change. 1st Brigade attack North of ESSLING ALLEY unsuccessful. Hostile movement at 2.10 p.m. about M.18.central dispersed by artillery fire. Hostile machine guns active at M.15.b., M.9.d., M.21.a. & b. Trenches East of FRESNOY heavily manned by enemy machine guns. Estimated prisoners 4 O.R.

From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6.45 a.m. One E.A. crashed, 4 out of control. 309 25-lb. bombs. By night: one 112-lb., 156 25-lb. bombs on various targets.

From Australian Corps.

7 a.m. At 11 p.m. last night 4th Australian Division attacked outpost line of Hindenburg Line on the whole of their sector. Stiff fighting took place at points and particularly near G.27.central but whole of objective was gained and 13 officers 329 O.R. and several machine guns were taken. Our line now runs M.3.a.7.7 - G.33.d.6.6 - along Blue Line through G.27.central to G.20.b.80.65 thence as before. Patrols are working down FOURMI TRENCH. Total prisoners captured yesterday by 4th Australian Divn. 80 officers, 2018 other ranks. Left Division report scattered shelling of VILLERET and forward areas by 4.2s and 77s.

6.40 p.m. Enemy artillery active on forward areas during the day. Considerable hostile movement vicinity BELLICOURT and NAUROY. Enemy machine guns active against all forward movement. Enemy aircraft active in small formations. Total prisoners unwounded through Corps cage to 6 p.m. 142 officers, 3615 O.R. Through Field Ambulance 4 officers 320 O.R.

/ cont'd.



19th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 3.

To G.H.Q.

7.35 a.m. On IX Corps front 1st Division reported to have advanced its left to road in M.3.b. Otherwise no change. On Australian Corps front 4th Australian Division attacked the Hindenburg outpost line on whole divisional front at 11 p.m. and after heavy fighting in places whole objective was gained together with 13 officers 329 O.R. and some machine guns. Approximate line on Australian Corps front runs M.3.a.7.7 - G.33.d.6.6 - G.27.central - G.21.c.5.0 - G.20.b.3.7 - G.20.a.9.6 - G.14.central - G.8.c.central - G.1.d.9.0 - A.25.d.2.0. On III Corps front considerable opposition has been met and heavy fighting on the whole front time. Hostile counter-attack on 12th Division front captured MALASSISE FARM (F.8). III Corps line reported to run A.25.d.2.0 - F.30.c.8.8 - F.29.b.8.5 - F.23.d.9.9 - F.22.b.3.0 - F.6.d.0.8 thence along trenches North of LEMPIRE in F.15 & 16 to F.14.b.9.6 - F.1.b.9.3. Situation from here to Army boundary obscure but 58th Division are established in trench at X.26.a.9.9. Enemy believed in trench in X.26.a. & c. Hostile artillery active on forward areas IX and Australian Corps and VILLERET.

6.10 p.m. Further and more detailed reports are now to hand concerning yesterday's operations. 6th Division on right of IX Corps was heavily shelled with gas and other natures during assembly and throughout attack was under very heavy fire from artillery and machine guns. Notwithstanding this the troops pushed on and maintained their gains. 1st Division likewise met with heavy resistance on the right but the left in touch with Australians pushed on to the outposts of the Hindenburg Line. PONTRU and BERTHAUCOURT were captured. 4th and 1st Australian Divns. attacking side by side once more proved the moral and physical domination of the Australian over the German. In many cases the mere sight of the Australians with the accompanying tanks was sufficient to cause the surrender of many of the enemy without any resistance being offered. In other cases where fighting ensued it was invariably to the advantage of the Australians. The Australian Corps captured its most distant objectives, that is the advanced Hindenburg Line along almost the whole of the Australian Corps front, also the villages of LE VERGUIER, VILLERET, HARGICOURT and the strong positions around COLOGNE FARM, GRANDRIEL FARM and ASCENSION FARM. 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade alone captured 800 prisoners. Australian Corps captures for the 18th are estimated at 4000 prisoners, 40 guns and an immense quantity of machine guns. Total casualties do not exceed 1200. 74th, 18th, 12th and 58th Divisions of III Corps fought with great gallantry and captured the strongly fortified villages of TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD, BASSE BOULOGNE and RONSSOY, EPEHY and PEIZIERES respectively in all of which heavy fighting took place. The German Alpine Corps resisted with great determination but was outfought by the English. A post of this Corps on the outskirts of EPEHY consisting of 3 officers and 45 O.R. fought on until 7.45 p.m. in the evening by which hour only 17 survivors remained unwounded. The advance of the III Corps was very materially assisted in the North by the 21st Divn. of

/ V Corps

19th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 4.

7115

V Corps. III Corps during 18th captured 2300 prisoners and 10 guns. Total prisoners for the 4th Army on 18th and 19th estimated at 8000.

7.45 p.m. IX Corps line now runs as follows. S.7.d.8.3 (in touch with French) - posts at S.8.c.8.9 and S.8.d.1.9. -- thence S.3.c. and b. - M.33.b. - M.27.d. - West edge FRESNOY - E. of BERTHAUCOURT - ST. HELENE - thence as before. Attacks of 6th and 1st Divisions this morning met very strong opposition and were unable to make progress. Australian Corps report hostile artillery and machine guns active. Considerable hostile movement seen near BELLICOURT and NAUROY. III Corps: no change on front 74th Division. At 11 a.m. 18th and 12th Divisions attacked to gain posts in F.10 and trench system in M.4, 3 & 2. Attack met heavy artillery barrage and machine gun fire and situation not clear but we hold LEMPIRE, ENFER WOOD - F.9.b.8.4 - OLD COPSE - MALASSISE FARM and TETARD WOOD. Estimated prisoners taken 18th and 19th inst. 8000. Prisoners through Army cages to 18th inclusive 139 officers, 6194 O.R., through C.C.S. 23 officers 890 O.R. Total 7246.

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20th September, 1918.

7109

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 20th September, 1918.

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1. There were only minor infantry encounters on the front of the IX Corps. HOLNON village, however, was cleared of the enemy. On the Australian Corps front no infantry action occurred with the exception of a small enterprise East of the Hindenburg outpost line. An operation by the III Corps resulted in a slight advance. LEMPIRE and MALASSISE FARM were captured. North of the COLOGNE enemy artillery activity showed a slight increase but elsewhere on the Army front the day passed fairly quietly.

2. IX CORPS.

Shortly after daylight a bombing attack by the enemy West of PONTRU caused a slight withdrawal of our outposts. A counter-attack subsequently restored the situation. Parties of the enemy in the village of HOLNON were ejected.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A minor operation which met with little opposition resulted in our establishing a line of posts immediately East of the Hindenburg outpost line on the front of the Right Brigade, Right Division.

III CORPS.

An operation was carried out at 11 a.m. by the 18th and 12th Divisions without encountering much opposition. An advance of some importance was effected. LEMPIRE village, MALASSISE FARM and X, Y and Z Copses were captured together with three prisoners.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A minor advance South of the SOMME was effected.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

434 hours were flown by 182 pilots. Six reconnaissances and 20 artillery patrols were carried out. 121 zone calls were sent down and 8 hostile batteries were successfully neutralized.

Ten photographic flights were undertaken and 245 plates exposed.

/ 125 offensive

20th September, 1918.

2.

125 offensive patrols were carried out. 20 combats took place 11 of which were decisive. Nine E.A. were destroyed and two E.A. sent down out of control. Four of our machines failed to return.

128 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets during the day, and seven 112-lb. bombs were dropped on ST. QUENTIN siding and 12 112-lb. bombs on VILLERS OUTREAU during the day.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was much above normal chiefly after 4 p.m. 14 artillery machines and 58 F.E.A. crossed the line. During the night a hostile bombing plane was brought down in flames by Lewis gun fire from the ground near JEANCOURT.

6. PRISONERS.

Through Army Cages ... 6 off., 219 O.R.  
Through C.C.Ss. ... 9 off., 169 O.R.

7. WEATHER.

Variable. Occasional showers with bright intervals.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

There were no moves of importance.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions, 46th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

Australian Corps.

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

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                  |        |                 |        |
|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 13-pdr. AA. HE.  | 1604.  | 60-pdr. HE.     | 3870.  |
| " S.             | 919.   | " S.            | 4667.  |
| 13-pdr. RHA. HE. | 742.   | 6" H.E.         | 16864. |
| " S.             | 600.   | " Gas.          | 459.   |
| 18-pdr. H.E.     | 30183. | 6" Mk. VII. HE. | 260.   |
| " S.             | 39720. | " S.            | 233.   |
| " Smoke.         | 144.   | 8" How. HE.     | 2385.  |
| 4.5 How. HE.     | 16352. | 9.2" How. HE.   | 1623.  |
| " Smoke.         | 793.   | 12" How. HE.    | 73.    |

20th September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

7121

From Australian Corps.

6.30 a.m. Right Brigade Right Division advanced their outpost line slightly during night. Six prisoners taken. Scattered shelling forward and support areas. Otherwise situation quiet.

6.58 p.m. Very quiet day on Right Division front. Light scattered shelling on the forward areas. Left Division front - hostile artillery active on squares G.8, G.13, G.14, L.4, L.5, L.10, L.11 mostly 4.2s and 5.9s. Trench mortars active on G.7.b. Considerable transport and foot traffic on roads and tracks in vicinity of BELLICOURT and NAUROY. Prisoners through Corps cage since 6 p.m. 19th inst. 31 O.R. Total since 18th, 147 officers 3985 O.R. Guns as far as reported captured one 9.2, eight 8", seven 5.9, ten 4.2, 47 77s, three anti-tank guns, total 76.

8.30 p.m. Daylight patrol 1st Australian Division captured 5 prisoners in G.14.

From IX Corps.

6.34 a.m. Situation unchanged except on right where HOLNON clear of enemy. Artillery and machine gun fire much reduced.

6.35 p.m. Shortly after daylight enemy attempted to bomb down GALLICHET ALLEY (M.9.c) from LE DUC TRENCH. Our outposts temporarily driven in. Situation restored by counter-attack. Line Left Division runs in touch with 6th Division about M.20.d.8.0 - M.21.a.2.2 along VILLEMAY TRENCH to junction with ESSLING ALLEY thence ESSLING ALLEY to M.21.a.25.85 - M.16.c.3.3 - M.15.a.4.0 - M.15.a.6.5 - M.15.a.4.8 - M.9.c.7.6 - M.9.c.2.8 - M.9.a.1.2 - M.3.c.9.1 - M.3.central and in touch with 4th Australian Division at M.3.b.0.7. Situation on Right Division front unchanged. Some shelling at N.E. end of ST. QUENTIN WOOD. Captures 1 prisoner, 2 heavy trench mortars, 2 light trench mortars and one 77 mm.

From III Corps.

6.25 a.m. Situation quiet. Slight shelling of PEIZIERE otherwise there is little hostile shelling. We now hold ROOM and OCKENDEN TRENCHES, ZEBRA POST, YAK POST and LEMPIRE POST and the whole of LEMPIRE village. Touch is established throughout. No change in the line South of this. No gas shelling reported

6.35 p.m. Situation unchanged. Enemy active in forward area. Observers report 3.55 p.m. continuous movement on TARGELLE ROAD and COX'S BANK X.17.d. and X.23.a. Light transport and troops in small bodies going East. HORSE POST F.3.d.8.7 held by enemy with 4 machine guns

/ and

20th September, 1918.

Operation messages - 2.

and about 30 men. MULE and BIRD TRENCHES to BRAETON POST held by enemy. Three prisoners Jaeger Regt. captured.

From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

7.15 a.m. One E.A. crashed, eight 112-lb. and 75 25-lb. bombs dropped. Night flying nil.

To G.H.Q.

7.10 a.m. IX Corps report HOLNON clear of enemy. Australian Corps advanced line slightly on right flank North of ST. HELENE taking 6 prisoners. No change in line III Corps South of LEMPIRE thence we hold whole of LEMPIRE - LEMPIRE POST (F.10.d.) - YAK POST - ZEBRA POST (F.10.b) - OCKENDEN and ROOM TRENCH (F.3.b. & a) with touch established throughout - then as previously reported. Scattered shelling by enemy of forward areas on whole front.

7.45 p.m. IX Corps reports shortly after daylight enemy attacked our outposts in M.9.c. which were temporarily driven in. Situation restored by counter-attack. Right Division front unchanged. Left Division line runs M.20.d.8.0 - M.21.a.2.2 - M.21.a.2.3 - M.15.c.3.3 - M.15.a.4.8 - M.9.c.7.6 - M.9.c.2.8 - M.9.a.1.2 - M.3.c.9.1 - K.3.central - M.3.b.0.7 where in touch with Australian Corps. Australian Corps reports line unchanged hostile artillery active HARGICOURT, VILLERET and vicinity. III Corps reports line unchanged. Estimated prisoners today 35 O.R. Prisoners to 19th inst. inclusive: Army cages 309 officers, 11448 O.R. Through C.C.S. 38 officers, 1416 O.R. Total 13211.

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24

FOURTH ARMY.

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F123

Summary of Casualties reported  
between 6 p.m. Friday 13th Sep-  
tember and 6 p.m. Friday 20th  
September, 1918.

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| Killed. |      | Wounded. |      | Missing. |      |
|---------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| O.      | O.R. | O.       | O.R. | O.       | O.R. |
| 37      | 390  | 171      | 2428 | 15       | 422  |

Total casualties :-

223 officers.  
3240 other ranks.

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21st September, 1918.

7124

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 21st September, 1918.

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1. The III and Australian Corps carried out an operation East of HARGICOURT and LEMPIRE with the Hindenburg outpost line as objective. All divisions of III Corps and the left division of the Australian Corps were engaged. Enemy resistance throughout was very determined and his counter attacks were launched under cover of heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Although the III Corps did not gain their objective, considerable progress was made and a good deal of useful ground gained. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Our artillery supported the attack with barrage fire and bombardment of hostile battery areas and communications. During the night the III Corps carried out a special programme of harassing fire and gas concentration.

North of the COLOGNE the enemy's artillery activity increased considerably, but South of the river fire was generally less than during the preceding 24 hours except for a considerable amount of shelling in the vicinity of MARICOURT. Further South hostile artillery activity was normal.

Hostile shelling was fairly light up to the commencement of operations but rapidly increased in volume especially in the LEMPIRE Sector. H.V. guns were active on both forward and battery areas and continually harassed our roads and communications.

2. III CORPS.

The III Corps attacked at 5.40 a.m. with four divisions, the 74th and 58th Divisions on a two-brigade front, and the 12th and 18th Divisions on a one-brigade front.

The attack proceeded well for some distance but hostile resistance increased and counter-attacks developed causing our troops to give up some of the ground gained. The 74th Division captured QUENNEMONT FARM but were unable to hold it. In the same way the 18th Division captured TOMBOIS FARM but were forced to withdraw by a heavy counter-attack.

The 12th Division again attacked at 1.30 p.m. with the intention of gaining the LITTLE PRIEL FARM SPUR but were unable to make any progress on account of heavy enemy machine gun fire from CATELET COPSE.

As the result of the day's operations the line was finally established A.25.d.0.0 - BELLICOURT Road - F.29.b.7.4 - BENJAMIN POST - BULL POST (both inclusive) - East of ZEBRA POST - F.4.d.0.7 - F.4.a.7.6 - thence along MULE TRENCH to X.27.central.

IX CORPS.

No infantry operations were undertaken. Hostile artillery shelled MAISSEMY and areas to the East of the

/ village



21st September, 1918.

7125 2.

village with Blue Cross gas shells during the afternoon, otherwise the day was fairly quiet.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night strong reconnoitring detachments established posts on a general line G.27.b. - G.21.d.

At 5.40 a.m. the 1st Australian Division in conjunction with the III Corps attacked the spur in G.2 (East of HARGICOURT). In spite of considerable opposition the line was advanced to a depth of 1000 yards. The line was held and consolidated G.2.c.0.4 - G.2.a.8.0 - G.2.a.9.9 - A.26.c.2.4 - A.25.d.8.4. 49 prisoners were captured.

Except for the usual hostile harassing fire the remainder of the Corps front was fairly quiet.

3. THIRD ARMY.

The Right Division of the V Corps attacked at 5.40 a.m. in conjunction with the III Corps and made some progress in X.21.b. & d. and X.15.b. & d. but strong enemy counter-attacks prevented further progress.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

During the night a strong enemy counter-attack on CASTRES was repulsed. The French occupied BENAY and the farm to the East of the village in H.21.a.2.7.

Patrols were very active during the day in the vicinity of HINACOURT and gained a little ground in vicinity of HILL 100 in K.33.b.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

391 hours were flown by 170 pilots. Nine reconnaissances and 16 artillery patrols were carried out. 121 zone calls were sent down. Four hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and eight neutralized.

86 offensive patrols were made. Nine combats took place, one being decisive. One E.A. was destroyed. All our machines returned.

One 112-lb. and 124 25-lb. bombs were dropped on GOUY and BEAUREVOIR during the night, and 145 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets during the day. During our operations on the III Corps front three anti-tank guns were silenced by bombs and machine gun fire.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity showed a slight decrease but was still above normal. Six artillery machines and 18 F.E.A. crossed the line. Strong patrols were again in evidence mostly over the enemy's lines.

/ 6. PRISONERS.

21st September, 1918.

3.

6. PRISONERS.

Through Army Cages ... 122 O.R.  
Through C.C.Ss. ... 16 O.R.

7. WEATHER.

Fine with some clouds and high wind.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 1st Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division was transferred from G.H.Q. Reserve to Army Reserve.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\* Divisions, 46th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve).

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |     |        |
|---------------------|-----|--------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E.   | ... | 1469.  |
| " S.                | ... | 660.   |
| 13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E. | ... | 71.    |
| " S.                | ... | 363.   |
| 3" 20-cwt. H.E.     | ... | 75.    |
| " S.                | ... | 18.    |
| 18-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 29566. |
| " S.                | ... | 37426. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 2151.  |
| 4.5" How. H.E.      | ... | 15421. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 1039.  |
| " Gas.              | ... | 356.   |
| 60-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 4882.  |
| " S.                | ... | 5104.  |
| 6" H.E.             | ... | 16767. |
| 6" Gas.             | ... | 1518.  |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.    | ... | 447.   |
| " S.                | ... | 406.   |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 31.    |
| 8" How. H.E.        | ... | 2975.  |
| 9.2" How. H.E.      | ... | 2076.  |
| 12" How. H.E.       | ... | 92.    |

## OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

21/9/18.

From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6.30 a.m. Nine E.A. crashed, two out of control. 38 112-lb. bombs, 128 25-lb. bombs. By night 124 25-lb. bombs one 112-lb. bomb on various targets.

From III Corps.

6.30 a.m. As result of small operation yesterday we now hold No. 12 COPSE in F.3.b. Quiet night. 18th Division report enemy artillery quiet till 11 p.m. and then commenced harassing fire including slight gas shelling. At 5 a.m. enemy commenced shelling area F.23 East of RONSSOY. E.A. bombed TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD. Forming up of troops reported to have proceeded satisfactorily and our barrage opened at 5.40 a.m.

10.15 a.m. Early reports indicate attack going well. Tanks moved forward satisfactorily except one broken down. Hostile artillery fire reported at first fairly heavy but later severe. 7.40 a.m. 74th Division reported Left Bde. to have captured CAT POST. 18th Division at 6.45 a.m. report DOLEFUL POST captured and to have reached sunken road 200 yards East of DOLEFUL POST. Air reports 7.10 a.m. our men seen at FLEECEALL POST but not on KNOLL. ~~Much A.A. machine gun fire from GILLEMONT FARM. 12th Divn.~~ Much A.A. machine gun fire from GILLEMONT FARM. 12th Divn. report 8 a.m. two success signals seen in direction of BRAETON POST and troops in sunken road F.5.c. and along wire to F.5.d.O.O. 18th Division report 8.50 a.m. wounded trench mortar officer states DUNCAN POST F.17.d. which at first gave trouble is now in our hands with 50 prisoners. 8.50 a.m. 74th Division report troops in QUENNEMONT FARM, and have passed QUENNET COPSE. Success signal seen from Right Brigade. Right Battalion Left Brigade nearing second objective at 8.5 a.m. Prisoners coming in; estimated 100 to 200.

2.40 p.m. Our troops reported in GILLEMONT FARM. Enemy still in CAT POST F.24.a. and being dealt with. Air report states GILLEMONT FARM being shelled by enemy and GILLEMONT PIT TRENCH South of farm empty. Four officers 94 O.R. of 121st Division captured by 74th Division in A.20.a. Two tanks reported broken down F.24.c. and two knocked out near BULL POST. 18th Division heavily counter-attacked and no longer hold FLEECEALL POST. 12th Division Left Brigade held up about F.4.a.7.7 by machine gun fire from HEYTHORPE POST. Division attacked at 1 p.m. to gain LITTLE PRIEL FARM SPUR. 58th Division reported to have gained West end of KILDARE LANE and road South of KILDARE POST but unable to progress owing to heavy machine gun fire from LIMERICK POST, LITTLE PRIEL FARM and BIRDCAGE. Later report states 74th Division no longer hold QUENNEMONT FARM but occupy trench West of it.

7.35 p.m. 58th Division report enemy artillery and machine gun fire quieter. 12th Division attack at 1.20 p.m. unable to progress owing to heavy machine gun fire from GATELET COPSE, HEYTHORP POST. 18th Division no important change.

/ cont'd.

21st September, 1918.

Operation Messages - 2.

7128  
Effort being made to establish Red Line on division front. 74th Division no change. Enemy resistance has been strong throughout the day with heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Prisoners 150. Line runs A.25.d.0.0 - BELLICOURT Road to F.29.b.7.4 - BENJAMIN POST - BULL POST (both inclusive) - A.24.d.0.5 - West of DUNCAN POST - DOLEFUL POST inclusive - 500 yards East of ZEBRA POST - F.4.d.0.7 - F.4.a.7.6 - N.W. along MULE TRENCH - A.27.cent - North to Corps boundary. Enemy holds junction of MULE TRENCH and PATRICK AVENUE.

From IX Corps.

6.30 a.m. Hostile artillery less active. Some shelling of battery areas and spasmodic bursts East of ST. QUENTIN WOOD. Machine guns quieter.

6.15 p.m. Situation unchanged on Corps front. Hostile artillery fairly active. Motor transport movement on road U.21.a. East of ST. QUENTIN. Some gas shelling, blue cross, MAISSEMY, M.19, M.20. Captures nil.

From Australian Corps.

6.55 a.m. Strong fighting patrols of Right Division reconnoitred the ground forward of our front line and located the enemy in trench system in G.34, G.28 and G.21. Posts were established by Left Brigade on general line G.27.b.65.35 - G.27.b.3.8 - G.21.d.0.4 - G.21.d.2.0 - G.21.a.8.7. Patrols report enemy alert and hostile machine guns very active especially from G.34 and G.28.a. Enemy artillery fairly active. E.A. night bombing machines very active on forward area. Right Division reports enemy large bombing machine shot down in flames at 10 p.m. by Lewis gun fire from the ground in L.32.c. Occupants burned.

6.50 p.m. Right Division: scattered enemy shelling of forward area. Enemy snipers busy. Few enemy planes over our line. On Left Division front enemy artillery active. Abnormal enemy movement in squares G.4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12 successfully engaged by our artillery and casualties inflicted. Enemy blowing up railways in G.5.c. and D.1. Captures past 24 hours 49 O.R.

To G.H.Q.

6.50 a.m. IX Corps reports hostile artillery and machine guns less active. Australian Corps reports posts established on line G.27.b.6.3 - G.27.b.3.8 - G.21.d.0.4 - G.21.d.2.0 - G.21.a.8.7. Hostile artillery fairly active and enemy bombing machines very active on forward area. One large enemy bombing machine brought down in flames by Lewis gun fire from the ground in L.32.c. Occupants burnt. III Corps report as result of small operation yesterday we now hold No. 12 COPSE in F.3.b. Fairly quiet night. Forming up of our troops for attack reported satisfactory and barrage opened at 5.40 a.m. No details yet. R.A.F. reports 9 E.A. crashed and two out of control.

3.15 p.m. Australian Corps reports Left Division advanced line about 500 yards in G.14 but no details received. 50 prisoners estimated so far. III Corps reports attack proceeded well for some distance but hostile resistance

/ increased

21st September, 1918.

Operation messages - 3.

7129  
increased and counter-attacks developed in face of which some of the ground gained could not be maintained. 74th Division believed to have captured QUENNEMONT FARM but unable to maintain possession. Heavy counter-attack caused 18th Division to withdraw from TOMBOIS FARM. 12th Division reported to have attacked again at 1 p.m. in Easterly direction to gain LITTLE PRIEL FARM SPUR but no details to hand. 58th Division believed to have posts in sunken road running North and South through X.28.cent. Corps front believed to run A.26.c - A.25.b.5.0 - A.24.a & c. - F.17.d. & b. - F.11.c. - F.11.a. - F.4.d. & a - X.27.d. & b. - X.21.d.0.0. Estimated prisoners 200.

8.0 p.m. IX Corps nothing to report. Left Division Australian Corps in conjunction with III Corps attacked spur in G.2.a. Line gained and held runs G.2.c.4.0 - G.2.a.8.0 - G.2.a.9.9 - A.26.c.2.4 - A.25.d.8.7. III Corps report as result of today's attack line runs A.25.d.0.0 - BELLICOURT ROAD - F.29.b.7.4 - BENJAMIN POST - BULL POST (both inclusive) - A.24.c.0.5 - West of DUNCAN POST - DOLEFUL POST (inclusive) - East of ZEBRA POST - F.4.d.0.7 - F.4.a.7.6 - thence N.W. along MULE TRENCH to X.27.central. Attack by 12th Division at 1.30 p.m. was unable to make progress owing to heavy machine gun fire from CATELET COPSE and HEYTHORP POST. Enemy resistance throughout day has been very determined and his counter-attacks launched under heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Estimated prisoners today 200. Prisoners to 20th inclusive:- Army cages 315 officers, 11667 O.R. Through C.C.S. 47 officers, 1585 O.T. Total 13614.

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21st September, 1918.

7130

26

Enemy Gas Shell Activity on Fourth Army Front  
for week ending September 21st, 1918.

Gas shelling has been heavy especially on the fronts of the III and IX Corps.

Fifteen bombardments of 100 rounds or over have been reported, six of these being of 100 or more rounds.

The Gas used has been mainly Yellow Cross.

The areas mostly affected were GUYENCOURT, SAULCOURT and VILLERS FAUCON on III Corps front and VERMAND, MARTEVILLE and HOLNON WOOD on IX Corps front.

Casualties in III Corps were heavy on the nights 16/17th and 17/18th and in IX Corps on the night 17/18th.

The total number of gas shell fired is estimated at approximately 17,500. Casualties work out at about one to every 12 shell.

Casualties for week:-

1361 (Officers.  
(Other Ranks.

Deaths:- Nil.

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ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9.0 a.m. SEPTEMBER 21st, 1918.

| Date<br>9a.m. - 9a.m. | Formation.     | Time of<br>Bombardment. | No. of<br>Rounds | Nature of Shell.                      | Map Location.                              | Map Location.     |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Sept. 14/15th         | 6th Division.  | -                       | 2,000            | Yellow Cross.                         | X.10.d.                                    | HOLNON WOOD.      |
|                       | 1st Aust. Div. | 10 pm to 2 am           | 109              | Yellow & Blue Cross.                  | L.20.c.K.36.a.L.7.d.                       | N. JEANCOURT.     |
|                       | "              | 12-30 am.               | 20               | Minenwerfer Shell.                    | L.26.d.                                    | JEANCOURT.        |
|                       | "              | 9-30 pm - 4 am          | 200              | Blue & Yellow Cross.                  | K.28.b.K.17 )<br>K.22 & K.23 )             | S.E. ROISEL.      |
|                       | "              | -do-                    | 100              | Yellow & Blue Cross.                  | K.9.a. & c.K.15.a & c )<br>and MARQUAIX. ) | N.W. ROISEL.      |
| Sept. 15/16th         | 4th Aust. Div. | 12-0 pm                 | 50               | Blue Cross.                           | R.2.R.3.c.L.32.c.                          | S. JEANCOURT.     |
|                       | "              | 11-0 pm                 | 30               | " "                                   | Q.17.d.Q.18.c.Q.23.b.                      | W. SOYECOURT.     |
|                       | 1st Division.  | 2-30 pm                 | 100              | Yellow Cross.                         | R.7.c.                                     | S. VENDELLES.     |
|                       | "              | 10-0 am                 | 70               | Blue Cross.                           | R.34.b.                                    | E. VERMAND.       |
|                       | 6th Division.  | -                       | Slight           | " "                                   | X.10.d.                                    | HOLNON WOOD       |
| Sept. 16/17th         | 74th Division. | 6-0 to 7-0 pm           | 10               | Green Cross                           | E.19.c.                                    | N. LONGAVESNES    |
|                       | 1st Aust. Div. | 9-0 pm                  | 100              | " "                                   | K.29.b.                                    | S. HERVILLY       |
|                       | "              | 9-30 pm                 | 50               | " "                                   | K.23.c.K.29.a.                             | W. -do-           |
|                       | 4th Aust. Div. | 11-0 pm                 | 20               | Blue Cross.                           | R.14.b.                                    | S.E. VENDELLES    |
|                       | "              | Midnight                | 50               | " "                                   | L.32.b.c. & d.                             | S. JEANCOURT      |
| Sept. 17/18th         | 1st Division   | 12-0 pm                 | 50               | Blue Cross                            | X.4.d.                                     | N.W. HOLNON WOOD  |
|                       | 18th Division  | 2-30 - 5-30 am          | 1,500            | Yellow Cross                          | E.9.10.E.15.a & b.                         | S. SAULCOURT      |
|                       | 74th Division  | 12-30 - 5-0 am          | 4,000            | Yellow with few<br>Green & Blue X.    | E.23.d. E.29. )<br>E.30.A & c. K.5. )      | E.VILLERS FAUCON. |
|                       | 1st Aust. Div. | 9-0 - 10 pm.            | 20               | Blue Cross.                           | K.16.a. & b.                               | ROISEL.           |
|                       | "              | 3-30 - 5-30 am          | 100              | Yellow Cross.                         | K.16. & K.17.                              | ROISEL.           |
| Sept. 17/18th         | "              | During night.           | 100              | Blue Cross.                           | K.11.c. & d.                               | N.E. ROISEL       |
|                       | 1st Division.  | 6-0 - 9-0 am            | 1,500            | Yellow & Blue Cross.                  | X.2.a. & b.                                | MARTEVILLE.       |
|                       | "              | Mid. - 2.0 am           | 5,000            | " " "                                 | R.25.d. R.26.c.                            | W. VERMAND.       |
|                       | "              | 9-0 - 12 Midn.          | 30               | Blue Cross.                           | W.12.b. X.2.a.                             | VILLEVEQUE.       |
|                       | 12th Division. | 2-0 - 5-30 am           | 1,000            | Yellow Cross.                         | E.3.                                       | N. GUYENCOURT.    |
| Sept. 17/18th         | 18th Division. | Mid. - 4-30 am          | 500              | Yellow, with few<br>Green & Blue X. ) | E.15                                       | S.W. SAULCOURT.   |
|                       | "              | -do-                    | 500              | -do-                                  | D.12                                       | LIERAMONT.        |

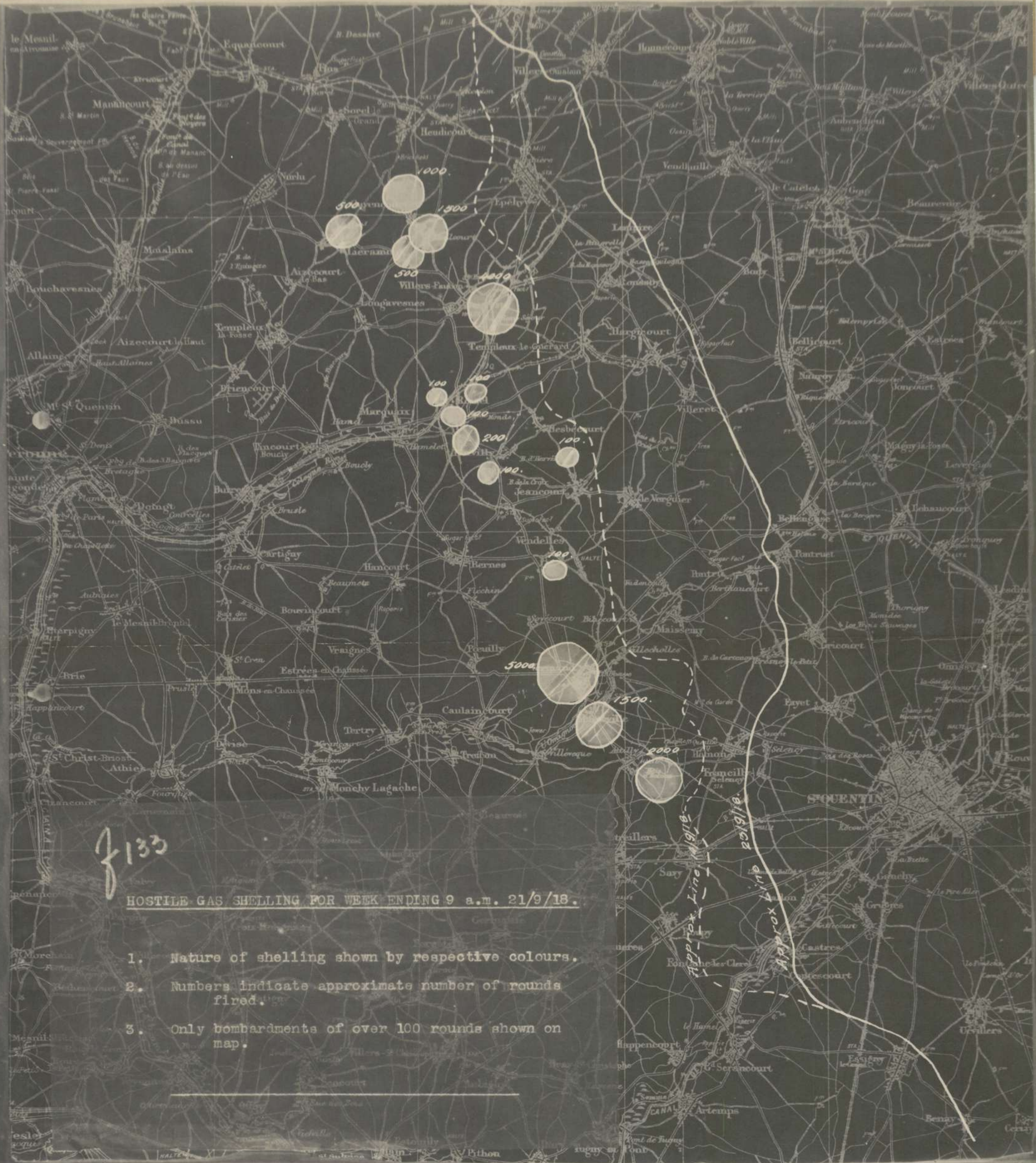
1131

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9-0 a.m. SEPTEMBER 21st, 1918.

| Date<br>9 a.m.- 9 a.m. | Formation.                            | Time of<br>Bombardment.     | No. of<br>Rounds.               | Nature of Shell.                    | Map Location.                         | Map Location.          |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sept. 18/19th.         | 18th Division.<br>1st Aust. Div.<br>" | During night.<br>" "<br>" " | Slight<br>shelling.<br>90<br>40 | Yellow Cross.<br>" "<br>Blue Cross. | Over Divisional Area.<br>L.4.<br>L.4. | N. HARGICOURT.<br>-do- |
| Sept. 19/20th          | 18th Division.                        | 6 to 7 p.m.                 | Few                             | Green Cross.                        | E.24.                                 | ST. EMILE.             |
| Sept. 20/21st          | 6th Division.                         | 7-0 p.m.                    | Slight<br>shelling              | ?                                   | X.12.c.                               | E. HOLNON WOOD.        |
|                        | 74th Division.                        | 1 to 2 a.m.                 | 20                              | Blue Cross                          | F.30.a.                               | N.E. HARGICOURT.       |
|                        | " "                                   | " "                         | 12                              | " "                                 | L.4.b.                                | N. -do-                |
|                        | 1st Aust. Div.                        | -                           | 20                              | Green Cross                         | L.6.                                  | E. -do-                |
|                        | " "                                   | -                           | 20                              | Yellow Cross                        | L.5.                                  | -do-                   |
|                        | " "                                   | -                           | 30                              | Blue Cross                          | L.5.                                  | -do-                   |

*11/22*





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HOSTILE GAS SHELLING FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. 21/9/18.

1. Nature of shelling shown by respective colours.
2. Numbers indicate approximate number of rounds fired.
3. Only bombardments of over 100 rounds shown on map.

Approx. Line 20/9/18.

Approx. Line 20/9/18.

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FOURTH ARMY.  
21st Sept., 1918.

WEEKLY APPRECIATION.  
FOR PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 14TH TO 20TH (INCLUSIVE).

1. OPERATIONS. -

Towards the end of last week the enemy's resistance considerably increased, and up to the 18th instant little progress was made on the Northern portion of the Front. We gained, however, considerable ground north and south-east of HOLNON Wood, obtaining possession of the ridge south of MAISSEMY. In the JEANCOURT area ground was also gained.

During this period no counter-attacks were made by the enemy.

On the 18th instant an attack was carried out along the whole front of the Fourth Army at 5.20 a.m., and was highly successful. On the Northern flank, as was anticipated, the Alpine Corps resisted stoutly in EPEHY and vicinity, and it was not until the evening that the village was finally "mopped up." On the BELLICOURT - BELLENGLISE front the greatest success was obtained, the Australian Corps capturing the outpost line to the HINDENBURG Line along practically its entire length. Good progress was also made immediately south of the OMIGNON, but on the extreme right flank the enemy resisted stoutly. HOLNON and FRENOY-LE-PETIT were captured, but the last-named village was only held for a short time. The total front of the attack was 20,000 yards, and the average depth of our advance was over 4,000 yards. The Centre Corps, however, reached a maximum depth of 6,000 yards on a 5,000 yards front. Thirteen villages were captured during the day's operations, and comprised:-

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| EPEHY.               | HARGICOURT.   |
| PEIZIERE.            | VILLERET.     |
| LEMPIRE.             | LE VERGUIER.  |
| RONSSOY              | MAISSEMY.     |
| BASSE BOULOGNE.      | HOLNON.       |
| TEMPLEUX-LE-GUERARD. | PONTRU        |
|                      | BERTHAUCOURT, |

as well as many well-known localities, such as

- L'ASCENSION.
- GRAND PRIEL FME.
- MALAKOFF FME.
- MALASSISE FME.
- COLOGNE FME.
- VAUCELLETTE FME.

The number of prisoners was well over 7,000. Over 90 guns were also captured.

The opposition offered by the Germans varied considerably. As was stated above, the Alpine Corps fought stoutly in EPEHY, while the 38th Div. in the LEMPIRE area also fought well. The moral of the 2nd Guard, 5th Bav., 1st Res. and 119th Divs. was exceptionally bad, and men surrendered freely to the combined attacks of the Australians and Tanks. The 79th Res. and 25th Res. Divs. south of the OMIGNON resisted more strongly than was anticipated. There is little doubt that the moral effect of the tanks is as great as ever, and they largely/

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contributed to the success of the day.

On the 19th instant the enemy reinforced the front near LEMPIRE by the 121st Division. Counter-attacks were carried out during the evening, and forced our troops to give ground. The Northern end of LEMPIRE Village was captured by the enemy.

On the 20th instant a considerable amount of the ground gained by the enemy was recaptured by local operations.

Further south the Germans reinforced their front near the OMIGNON by the 185th Division. Small attempts at counter-attacks in this area were crushed, while in the GRICOURT area the 197th Division reinforced the front, but did not attempt to carry out any serious operation to regain ground.

## 2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

During the week, the enemy reinforced his line by five divisions (121st, 2nd Gd., 185th, 197th and 75th, etc.). All these divisions have been engaged, either by the French or ourselves, since August 8th.

Of the above, all except the 2nd Gd. Div. arrived on the battlefield since our attack on the 18th inst. In addition, the 25th Division is believed to be in close support in the VENDHUILLE area.

The number of divisions withdrawn has not been ascertained, but it is probable that only elements of the Alpine Corps, the 2nd Gd., 38th, 5th Bav., 1st Res., 110th and 79th Res. Divisions are still in the line. It is extremely probable that they will be entirely relieved in the next few days.

With regard to the divisions in back areas, little information has been obtained. It is possible that the 108th, 204th and 43rd Res. Divisions, all of which were engaged in the fighting on the 8th of August, have been disbanded.

From the statements of prisoners recently captured, few reserves appear to be in back areas, and it would appear that the enemy will continue to rely on tired divisions to carry out reliefs. Although prisoners believe the HINDENBURG Line is strongly held, yet they would appear to have no foundation for their statements, and it does not seem probable at present as the number of divisions from reserve is not yet sufficient to replace those exhausted in the line.

## 3. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

From the opposition met with on various parts of the front during the week, it would appear that the enemy does not yet intend to retire, of his own free will, to the HINDENBURG Line. This is borne out by prisoners, all of whom have stated that the ground was to be held at all costs, and is corroborated by a German order to this effect captured by the Third Army.

Although the enemy have made no attempt to re-capture the outpost lines to the HINDENBURG Line between BELLENGLISE and BELLICOURT, yet he has, by counter-attacks, endeavoured to regain the ground lost on the EPEHY - LEMPIRE front. This can be accounted for by the fact that, with the high ground E. of the ST QUENTIN Canal from BELLENGLISE to BELLICOURT in our possession, the enemy find it difficult to

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-7-

counter-attack, whereas against our northern flank, he has more room in which to manoeuvre.

It is anticipated that counter-attacks in this area are likely to continue until we can gain the high ground from GILLEMONT Farm to LARK Spur.

#### 4. AIR ACTIVITY.

Enemy aeroplane activity during the period has been generally above normal. On the 18th, however, activity was less than might have been expected in view of our operations. Unfavourable weather may have accounted for this. The greater portion of the activity was displayed over the northern and southern areas.

The activity of artillery two-seaters and F.E.A. has varied considerably. At times, particularly on the 14th, they showed little inclination to cross the line, although they worked well up to it.

On other occasions, noticeably on the 17th inst., F.E.A. and A.E.A. thoroughly reconnoitred our forward areas, possibly in anticipation of an attack.

On the 15th, 16th and 17th, the enemy displayed signs of nervousness, and R.E.A. were unusually active over our back areas, no doubt endeavouring to find out our intentions.

F.E.A. were aggressive at times, noticeably on the 18th and 20th, when large patrols were in evidence. On the former day, low-flying planes attacked our troops with bombs and machine guns, and several attacks were made on our balloons.

During the period, 31 E.A. have been destroyed.

in combat and 16 driven down out of control.

In addition, a bombing plane was destroyed by L.G. fire from the ground, and another was badly damaged by A.A. fire. Eight enemy balloons were destroyed.

Sixteen of our planes are missing and 2 of our balloons were destroyed.

#### 5. ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery activity during the period has shown an increase.

More batteries than anticipated were still firing from the western side of the Canal. This accounts for the large number of guns captured during our operations on the 18th inst.

These operations doubtless forced the remaining batteries to withdraw to the eastern side of the Canal, a fact which is verified by the increased number of 'N.F.' calls locating batteries east of the Canal since the 18th.

Enemy replies to our barrages have, on the whole, not been exceptionally heavy, and the majority of the shelling has been at long range.

No large concentrations of gas shelling have been reported, though light concentrations have been frequent.

Little heavy counter-battery work has been experienced, though a noticeable increase was observed on the 16th.

Shelling has, for the most part, taken the form of short concentrations, heavy bursts and harassing fire of a scattered nature, particularly in the forward areas.

Activity of H.V. guns has gradually increased.

#### 6. MOVEMENT.

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6. MOVEMENT.

The relief of the 21st Div. by the 1st Res. Div. S. of LE VERGUIER was indicated by considerable movement towards the line on roads in the JONCOURT area on the evening of the 13th inst.

Weather conditions on the 14th were unfavourable to observation. On the 15th, there was an unusual amount of road movement opposite the Army area, and rolling stock in stations was considerable; traffic showed an easterly trend.

The arrival in line of the 121st Div., which was bussed from MARETZ to the BONY area at the commencement of our attack on the 18th, and of the 185th Div., which moved into the HINDENBURG Line from the MONTBREHAIN area, took place in rainy weather, and was not observed. The arrival of the 197th Div. into the GRICOURT area later in the day accounts for much of the traffic seen behind the BELLENGLISE front, and reinforcements were seen moving up into the same area the same evening.

The chief feature of the last two days (18th/20th) has been abnormal road activity E. of the VENDHUILLE - BELLENGLISE front, including a great deal of westward transport traffic, probably denoting the arrival of reinforcements.

7. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Aerodromes.

Three new aerodromes are reported (FRESNOY-le-GRAND, BRONX Farm and CATILLON) but these are very small amounting only to a dozen hangars.

On the other hand there has been a marked decrease in forward aerodromes between CA BRAI and BEAUREVOIR. Five have been abandoned, and one (WALINCOURT) much reduced. (Total decrease about 40 hangars). These losses are probably balanced by increases at aerodromes farther back.

Minor changes in the aerodromes of the GUISE area represent a net increase of about 20 hangars.

There has been an increase at the bombing aerodromes of BAZUEL and TUPIGNY.

(b) Dumps.

The comparative inactivity of the dumps known before March is still noticeable. There are fairly large material dumps at FRESNOY-le-GRAND, ESSIGNY-le-PETIT, MONT d'ORIGNY (with much barge traffic), WASSIGNY and VAUX ANDIGNY. Little activity is yet visible at BRANCOURT, LE CATEAU, etc. and several other previous dumps like PREMONT and PONCHAUX seem disused. Railway activity is visible at WASSIGNY, BOHAIN, GUISE, MENNEVRET, ESSIGNY-le-PETIT and FRESNOY.

There is a large ammunition dump in BOIS d'ETAVES. (Escaped prisoner).

(c) Railways.

Little new railway work is visible. Some work is proceeding on the LESDAIN - CAUDRY light line and on a line S.W. from VAUX--ANDIGNY station.

(d) Hospitals.

About 10 new hospitals have been ascertained mostly in the area/

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area between the HINDENBURG Line and BOHAIN.

(e) HEADQUARTERS.

Prisoners taken in our attack have mentioned Divl. H.Q. before that date at NAUROY and PREMONT, and after it at AISONVILLE, BRANCOURT and near BUSIGNY.

8. ENEMY DEFENCES.

In the early part of the week considerable work was reported on the defences of the FRESNOY-FAYET ridge, where several new trenches and a large amount of wire were added to the old British system.

In the forward area there was also considerable activity at outpost trenches and posts in the EPEHY - RONSSOY and LE VERQUIER sectors, indicating that a stiff resistance would be made.

Photographs of 15th Sept. also revealed various new trenches at the HINDENBURG Line, chiefly between it and the LE CATELST - NAUROY line, e.g., E. of BELLENGLISE and from the RIQUEVAL Tunnel to NAUROY. These trenches have not since been developed, but activity has much increased, in the HINDENBURG Line especially, at trenches and batteries in the BONY area, at BELLICOURT and BELLENGLISE. There is still comparatively slight activity and no new work in the southern area from LE HAUCOURT past the LE TRONQUOY tunnel to OMISSY.

Since our attack on 18th work has been done on outpost lines from OSSUS Wood across the KNOLL to QUENNEMONT Farm.

9. PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners which passed through Corps Cages and C.O.S. during the week is 7,381 of which 227 are officers.

The guns captured number 92 but this number may be increased.

10. GENERAL.

There is little doubt that the enemy expected our attack on the 18th inst., but they did not anticipate that it would be on a large scale. The enemy undoubtedly had no intention of abandoning the ground held by him, hence our attack was carried out, not against a rearguard, but against an organised defensive line. The capture of the HINDENBURG Outpost Line from BELLICOURT to BELLENGLISE is an undoubted blow to the Germans. It gives our troops an extensive view over the ST JUBERTIN Canal, and, from captured documents, the importance of this outpost line is fully realised by him. He would undoubtedly like to re-capture it, but as all the bridges across the Canal are commanded from this Outpost line, the enemy would find the greatest difficulty in deploying west of the Canal prior to a counter-attack. Further north, however, the ground is more favourable to him as he has more room to manoeuvre, and his best chance of regaining the HINDENBURG Outpost Line would appear to be by an attack launched south-westwards from the line BONY - VENDHUILLE. Owing to the success of our attack on the 18th inst., the enemy has suffered heavy losses and his organization has once more been thrown into confusion. This is borne out by prisoners' statements, by the fact that Pioneer Coys. are fighting as infantry, and by the capture of prisoners belonging to the same division in widely separated areas.

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Counter-attacks have, however, been made on several occasions throughout the week. These have been carried out chiefly by resting battalions of regiments in the line, and not by a force as large as a division.

The morale of the infantry has varied considerably, but it may be said that, with the exception of two or three divisions, it is still very low. The moral effect of tanks continues to be great.

To sum up:- Provided the enemy is given breathing space, he will do his utmost, by counter-attack against our northern flank, to keep our troops beyond attacking distance of the HINDENBURG Line, and, if possible, regain the HINDENBURG Out-post line. He is not in a position, for the moment, to organize sufficiently to carry out a counter-attack of any size.

South of the OMIGNON, it seems probable that he will remain on the defensive, but should our troops gain the THORIGNI ridge, counter-attacks must be expected.

It seems probable that, in view of the stubborn resistance offered by the enemy on both flanks of the Army, the HINDENBURG Line is not yet ready for occupation.

*V. Vivian*

Fourth Army (Intelligence),  
21st September, 1919.

Lieut.-Colonel,  
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION.

|                         |   |                        |   |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| G.H.Q., I. ... ..       | 2 | G.O.C., R.A. ... ..    | 1 |
| Third Army, I. ... ..   | 2 | D.A. & Q.M.G. ... ..   | 1 |
| Corps, I. ... ..        | 2 | Inf. School. ... ..    | 1 |
| Divisions. ... ..       | 2 | S.O.S. School. ....    | 1 |
| 5th Lde., R.A.F. ... .. | 3 | First Army, I. ....    | 1 |
| Major COURTIN. ... ..   | 2 | Second Army, I. ....   | 1 |
| A.L.C. ... ..           | 1 | Third Army, I. ... ..  | 1 |
| A.G., G.S. ... ..       | 1 | B.I.O., 22nd Wing. ... | 1 |
| Operations. ... ..      | 1 | R.C.E. No. 4. ... ..   | 1 |

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(L)

22nd September, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 22nd September, 1918.

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1. During the night 21/22nd September several minor operations were carried out along the whole front of the III Corps with varying success. Operations were continued throughout the day and valuable progress was made in spite of heavy enemy resistance. As the result of these operations 300 prisoners were secured and the enemy's front line captured in many places.

This morning fairly heavy concentrations, of which a large proportion were gas shell, were directed against the high ground between MALAKOFF and LE SART FARMS. During the afternoon the III Corps front was heavily bombarded for several hours. Further South the area East of ATTILLY was heavily shelled for short periods intermittently throughout the day culminating in an intense bombardment between 3.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Considerable quantities of blue and yellow cross gas shell were employed.

Special bombardments were carried out by our artillery in support of infantry operations, and strong harassing fire was maintained on the enemy's communications and all likely localities of assembly. Traffic on the BELLENGLISE - LEVERGIES and BELLICOURT - NAUROY Roads was dealt with by heavy artillery and many casualties were inflicted.

2. III CORPS.

During the night the 74th Division attacked and captured POT TRENCH, CAT POST and QUADRILATERAL with 50 prisoners and several machine guns. At the same time the 18th Division captured DUNCAN POST and TOMBOIS FARM with 50 prisoners but were unable to maintain the ground won on account of the enemy's counter-attacks. HAYTHORP POST, LITTLE PRIEL FARM and CRUCIFORM POST were captured by the 12th Division after hard fighting in which a few prisoners were secured. The fighting continued throughout the day and eventually DUNCAN and BRAETON POSTS were captured and held although the enemy endeavoured to recapture them by violent counter-attacks supported by heavy artillery and trench mortar fire.

Following on a heavy bombardment of the front line system of the 18th Division the enemy attacked at 4 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. between DOLEFUL and DUNCAN POSTS but were repulsed leaving 21 prisoners in our hands. In each case the attack was made with one battalion, of which very few returned to their trenches on account of our heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Not content with repulsing the attack, troops of the 18th Division rushed and captured DUNCAN AVENUE which had been the scene of many indecisive and bloody combats during the day. Over 100 prisoners were captured in this fighting and the whole of DUNCAN AVENUE was firmly established.

IX CORPS.

No infantry operations were undertaken during the day and with the exception of the heavy hostile shelling

/ of areas



22nd September, 1918.

2.

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of areas East of ATTILLY the day passed fairly quietly.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The situation remained unchanged. Forward areas were subjected to the usual harassing fire which was more in evidence in the vicinity of HARGICOURT. H.V. guns were active West of HESBECOURT and ROISEL.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Enemy attacks South of VILLERS GUISLAIN and MOEUVRES were repulsed and 150 prisoners captured.

As the result of a minor operation immediately North of MOEUVRES the line was advanced slightly and a few prisoners secured.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

493 hours were flown by 208 pilots. Nine reconnaissance and 19 artillery patrols were carried out and 76 zone calls sent down. One hostile battery was successfully engaged for destruction and four were neutralized.

133 offensive patrols were undertaken. Ten combats in the air took place, two of which were decisive. Two E.A. were destroyed. One of our machines failed to return.

Fourteen photographic flights were carried out during which 149 plates were exposed.

One 112-lb. and 134 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets during the night.

During the day 28 112-lb. bombs were dropped on ESSIGNY, ROUVROY, VILLERS OUTREAU and BUSSIGNY, and 95 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity showed a further decrease but was still above normal considering the weather. Three F.E.A., four artillery and five R.E.A. crossed the line.

6. PRISONERS.

|                    |     |         |          |
|--------------------|-----|---------|----------|
| Through Army cages | ... | 5 off., | 174 O.R. |
| Through C.C.Ss.    | ... |         | 46 O.R.  |

7. WEATHER.

Fine early, rain later.

/ 8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

22nd September, 1918.

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8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 46th Division (from G.H.Q. Reserve), IX Corps, relieved the 4th Australian Division in the line on the night 21st/22nd, the IX Corps thus extending its boundary Northwards one divisional frontage.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

12th, 18th, 58th, 74th Divisions, 1 Bde. 2nd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

IX Corps.

1st, 6th, 32nd\*, 46th Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

\* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

|                     |     |        |
|---------------------|-----|--------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E.   | ... | 1386.  |
| " S.                | ... | 600.   |
| 13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E. | ... | 71.    |
| " S.                | ... | 724.   |
| 18-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 22603. |
| " S.                | ... | 24805. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 191.   |
| 4.5" How. H.E.      | ... | 10301. |
| " Smoke.            | ... | 52.    |
| 60-pdr. H.E.        | ... | 3699.  |
| " S.                | ... | 3071.  |
| 6" H.E.             | ... | 10300. |
| 6" Gas.             | ... | 395.   |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E.    | ... | 249.   |
| " S.                | ... | 359.   |
| 8" How. H.E.        | ... | 2678.  |
| 9.2" How. H.E.      | ... | 1353.  |
| 12" How. H.E.       | ... | 37.    |

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22nd September, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

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From Australian Corps.

7.25 a.m. Enemy artillery harassed roads in L.12.b. & c., L.11.a., G.13.c. and G.7.d. Otherwise only scattered fire over forward areas. Seven bombs dropped on L.3 at 12.40 a.m.

6.45 p.m. Light scattered shelling of forward areas, VILLERET, G.13, 14 & 20 by 15 cm. Air activity less than yesterday. Some movement in vicinity BELLICOURT.

From IX Corps.

6.50 a.m. Enemy artillery active on MAISSEMY at intervals during night. Very heavy shelling on Right Brigade battery areas of Right Division at 3 a.m. Reported dying down about 5 a.m. Slight gas shelling near VERMAND. Heavy harassing fire in vicinity of ATTILLY this morning.

6.30 p.m. Situation unchanged. Hostile artillery active on forward areas. E.A. active during the morning. Heavy bombardment of area East of ATTILLY between 3.30 and 6.30 a.m. about 2000 rounds. Reopened again at 4.10 p.m. and ceased about 4.40 p.m. Prisoners nil.

From III Corps.

7.25 a.m. The attack at 12.15 a.m. was successful. 74th Division captured POT TRENCH - CAT POST - QUADRILATERAL taking 50 prisoners, and several machine guns. Many enemy dead reported. 18th Division captured DUNCAN POST on the right and gained TOMBOIS FARM on the left but were heavily counter-attacked at once and were driven out of the latter. 50 prisoners taken. 12th Division captured HEYTHORPE POST - LITTLE PRIEL FARM - CRUCIFORM POST - COTTESMORE TRENCH after heavy resistance taking 1 officer and 18 O.R. prisoners. 58th Division patrols found trenches round KILDARE POST held strongly by enemy. Line now runs A.25.c.0.0 - BENJAMIN POST - CAT POST - portion DUNCAN AVENUE - DOLEFUL POST - F.11.a.3.3 - F.5.c.0.0 - HEYTHORPE POST + LITTLE PRIEL FARM - COTTESMORE TRENCH thence defensive flank to join 58th Division in KILDARE AVENUE.

8.5 p.m. Right Brigade Right Division report 4 p.m. heavy enemy barrage on front line. Our artillery replied at once and no infantry attack developed. 18th Division report at 3.30 a.m. enemy movement in vicinity TOMBOIS FARM and Very lights noticed and dealt with by our artillery as result of which enemy seen running away from farm. Patrols being pushed up in a N.E. direction to the farm. Later report states DOLEFUL and DUNCAN POSTS definitely captured. Some 80 prisoners taken there. Three p.m. enemy barrage on back areas apparently jumping from ridge to ridge. 12th Division captured whole of BREATON POST and hold from Southern portion of post to F.11.a.9.5 where block is made. Patrols being pushed out to TOMBOIS FARM. Considerable shelling during the

/ day

22nd September, 1918.

Operation messages - 2.

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day of forward and back areas especially on EPEHY - RONSSOY Road. Prisoners during last 24 hours estimated over 200. Great number of enemy dead counted. No gas shelling reported.

From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6.50 a.m. One E.A. crashed, one out of control. Ten 112-lb. bombs, 113 25-lb. bombs. By night one ton 15 cwt. of bombs dropped on various targets including 90 25-lb. on GOUY.

To G.H.Q.

7.15 a.m. Attack by III Corps at 12.15 a.m. successful. 74th Division captured POT TRENCH - CAT POST (F.24) and QUADRILATERAL with about 50 prisoners and several machine guns and killing many enemy. 18th Division captured DUNCAN POST (F.17.d) and TOMBOIS FARM (F.11.b.) with about 50 prisoners but were driven out by an immediate counter-attack. 12th Division after heavy fighting captured HEYTHORP POST (F.4.b) LITTLE PRIEL FARM (A.28.d.) and CRUCIFORM POST (X.28) with one officer 18 O.R. prisoners. Approximate line of III Corps front runs A.25.d.0.0 - F.23.d.9.2 - F.24.a.3.8 - F.17.a.7.3 - F.17.d.5.3 - F.17.b.6.7 - F.5.c.0.5 - X.29.c.1.1 - X.28.d.2.3 - X.28.central - X.27.b.0.5. Trenches vicinity KILDARE POST (X.28) reported strongly held by enemy. Enemy artillery active on Right Division front IX Corps and on MAISSEMY, ATTILLY and vicinity VILLERET. Some gas shelling about WERMAND. One E.A. crashed, one out of control.

7.35 p.m. IX Corps no change. Heavy bombardment of area East of ATTILLY early this morning and again from 4.10 p.m. to 4.40 p.m. Australian Corps report situation unchanged. III Corps report capture of DUNCAN POST and BRAETON POST including trench as far South as F.11.a.9.5. Patrols are exploiting towards TOMBOIS FARM. Considerable shelling of forward and back areas. At 3 p.m. back areas were bombarded heavily followed by a heavy barrage on front line at 4 p.m. No infantry attack developed. Estimated prisoners 200. Prisoners to 21st inclusive: Army cages 315 officers 11789 O.R. Through C.C.S. 47 officers, 1601 O.R. Total 13752.

10.30 p.m. III Corps report enemy strong point was captured near DUNCAN POST after holding out stubbornly all day. 80 prisoners secured. Enemy attacked between 3.45 and 4.30 p.m. from the direction of GUILLEMONT FARM but were repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire and retired through our artillery barrage which inflicted many casualties. Many dead could be seen and two prisoners were captured.

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