

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

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Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

April 1918



AWM4-1/14/6PART1

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1st April, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 1st April, 1918.

1. The night of March 31st/1st April was quiet. During the day no operations took place in the northern half of the Army front, but on the high ground north of MOREUIL we carried out an attack to restore the situation about RIFLE WOOD (C.10 and 11). Hostile artillery activity in the northern sector was slight but there was heavy shelling in the south in consequence of our operations. Hostile field batteries were noticeably more active than those of heavy calibre.

Long range guns fired ranging rounds on LONGUEAU railway siding.

2. XIX CORPS.

At 9 a.m. the Canadian Cavalry Brigade (3rd Cav. Division) attacked the high ground north of MOREUIL, supported by elements of 20th Division. Though two hostile battalions were holding RIFLE WOOD, supported by a brigade in the immediate vicinity, the Cavalry gained their objective, the eastern edge of the wood, where they firmly established themselves.

50 prisoners and 13 machine guns were captured, and a hostile field battery firing at close range in the ravine at C.16.central was put out of action by machine gun fire.

The enemy made several attempts to recover the ground lost but was repulsed on each occasion with heavy casualties. Our casualties were from 300 to 400 and were chiefly due to machine gun fire on reaching the eastern edge of the wood.

3. THIRD ARMY.

No change was reported on the front.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

No change was reported on the front. The day was quiet.

5. AIRCRAFT.

486 hours were flown by 178 pilots. Weather was generally fine.

20 reconnaissances and 9 artillery patrols were successfully carried out. Hostile aircraft activity was normal. Many combats took place in the air, 3 of which were decisive and resulted in one E.A. being brought down and 2 E.A. being sent down out of control.

(cont'd.)

1st April, 1918.

2.

Seventy-eight 112-lb and one hundred and fifty 25-lb bombs were dropped by 101 Squadron on PROYART, BOUCHOIR, ROSIERES Station, PLESSIERS, HANGEST and ARVILLERS. No. 205 Squadron bombed ROSIERES village and aerodrome: several direct hits were obtained.

6,530 rounds were fired by machine guns into villages and on roads throughout the night.

Six photographic flights were made and 118 plates exposed.

191 machines went out on offensive patrols. Three of our machines are missing.

6. PRISONERS.

52 prisoners and 13 machine guns captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine with fresh wind, varying from W. to N.W. Good visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Reliefs.

9th Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved 61st Division in the line.

(b) Moves.

39th Division moved into the OISEMONT area by march route.

66th Division moved into the FLIXECOURT area by rail.

9. COMPOSITION OF FIFTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps H.Q.

XIX Corps: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cav.*, 8th, 14th*, 16th*, 18th, 20th, 24th*, 61st* Divs.
2 Bns.* 3rd Aust. Div.

Army Reserve: XVIII and III Corps H.Q., 30th, 36th, 39th, 50th, 66th Divs.

* Corps Reserve.

10. GENERAL.

A conference took place at Fifth Army H.Q., DURY, between General Foch and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. General Sir Henry Rawlinson was present. The agreement made on this occasion is attached as an appendix.

From the time of this conference Fifth Army reverted to the command of the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief British Armies in France.

1st April, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

7.25 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report 7 a.m. All quiet along Corps front. Our line runs I.2.a.1.8 - C.26.d.8.6 - C.20.d.7.3 - C.21.a.7.0 - C.15.c.8.0 - C.16.a.9.8 - C.10.a.2.0 - C.5.a.8.7 to Cemetery east of HANGARD.

8.15 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation report. Our line runs I.2.a.1.8 - C.26.d.8.6 - C.20.d.7.3 - C.21.a.7.0 - C.15.c.8.0 - C.16.a.9.8 - C.10.a.2.0 - C.5.a.8.7 to Cemetery east of HANGARD - U.23.d.5.0 - U.24.b.0.5 - V.13.central - V.2.c - P.28.central - BOIS DES TAILLOUX - due north to R.SOMME. Small wood in C.20 and 21 was retaken by a counter-attack by 8th Division. Quiet night on whole front.

9.30 p.m. From XIX Corps.

2nd Cavalry Division attacked wood in C.10 and 11 this morning about 9 a.m. Attack started about 500 yards from wood which was occupied by two German battalions. The wood was cleared and a line on the east edge was consolidated under heavy machine gun fire. Most of casualties occurred here. This line was shelled during the afternoon and attempts made to launch counter-attacks but they did not materialise. The wood was held by two battalions and there was at least one brigade in the vicinity. Wood reported full of enemy dead. A battery firing northwards from gully in C.16 was silenced by machine gun fire at close range. Prisoners 50 and 13 machine guns. Our casualties heavy - estimated at 300-400. Rest of front nothing to report.

9.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

1 brigade of 2nd Cavalry Division attacked and captured wood in C.10 and C.11 this morning. Wood held by two battalions of enemy. Eastern edge consolidated but heavily shelled during day. About 50 prisoners and 13 machine guns captured and wood reported full of enemy dead. Two Bosche counter-attacks stopped by our artillery. Bosche battery firing northwards from gully in C.16. silenced by machine guns at close range. Otherwise front generally quiet.

ITS FORMATION AND OPERATIONS : 26th. MARCH - 1st. APRIL, 1918.

25th. March.

At 11 p.m. on 25th. March the situation on the Fifth Army front was as follows :-

All available Divisions were holding the line ROZIERES - PROYART - River SOMME. This line was continued Northwards by Third Army.

No other troops existed in the Fifth Army, nor were any reinforcements likely to be available for at least 4 days. All Divisions in the Fifth Army had been continually in action since the commencement of the German attack on 21st. March.

The Army Commander decided that it was essential for the safety of AMIENS to occupy the line known as the AMIENS Defence Line by whatever officers and men could be got hold of from any source within the Army.

In 1916 a line to cover AMIENS had been built by the French running East of DEMUIN, through AUBERCOURT, East of MARCELCAVE, West of WARFUSEE ABANCOURT, East of HAMEL, through BOUZINCOURT, and continued North of the SOMME through SAILLY - le-SEC. This line had been well built, carefully sited and heavily wired, but unfortunately, after the German retirement in 1917, it had been filled in in many places and the wire removed. This had been done in the interests of agriculture. The state of this line between DEMUIN and the Somme was roughly as follows :-

- (a). East of DEMUIN : trenches fair, wire very poor.
- (b). AUBERCOURT to 1 mile S.W. of MARCELCAVE : trenches fair, wire very patchy.
- (c). 1 mile S.W. of MARCELCAVE to 500 yards South of the AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road : both trenches and wire non-existent.
- (d). 500 yards South of AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road to AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road : not trenches, wire fair.
- (e). AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road to BOIS D'ACEROCHE : no wire or trenches.
- (f). BOIS D'ACEROCHE to River SOMME : both wire and trenches very good.

This line was in process of being improved by a Battalion of Canadian Railway Engineers, under the orders of G.H.Q.

At 11.30 p.m., 25th. March, a conference was held at Army Headquarters, and the question of source of supply of the men to hold the line was gone into.

It was found that the following were available :-

- 4 Army Troops Companies, R.E. - 3 from the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, 1 from MOREUIL.
- 1 Tunnelling Company, R.E.)
- 1 Workshops Company, R.E.) All from the vicinity of
- 1 Electrical and Mechanical Company, R.E.) VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

A detachment from the Fifth Army Inf. School at TOUTENCOURT.
A detachment from the Fifth Army Sniping School at VADENCOURT.

A detachment from the Fifth Army Musk. School at PONT REMY.
3 Companies, each 100 strong, from the instructors and students of the III Corps School at BOVES.

A detachment from the XIX Corps School at FOUILLOY.
500 U.S. Engineers from MOREUIL.

A total of 2,200 all ranks to hold a line 8 miles long.

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The task of getting these companies and detachments to the line the next day was entrusted to Major-General GRANT, C.B., Fifth Army, assisted by one G.S. Officer and one "Q" Officer, H.Q. Fifth Army, and the Army Commander's A.D.C.

26th. March.

By 3.30 a.m., 26th. March, orders had been issued for the movements of all the above troops, and the necessary transport had been despatched to bring up those not within marching distance.

At 9.30 a.m., General GRANT met all C.O.'s of Companies or detachments at VILLERS BRETONNEUX, explained the situation to them, and allotted the troops to the line as under :-

Right Sector : DEMUIN (inclusive) - MARCELCAVE (exclusive).

Lieut.-Colonel IRWIN, D.S.O., M.C., Essex Regt.

216th. Army Troops Company, R.E.

III Corps Schools.

U.S. Engineers.

353rd. E. & M. Company.

Centre Sector : MARCELCAVE (inclusive) - BOIS D'ACEROCHE

Lieut.-Colonel O. GRAHAM, D.S.O., Rifle Bde. (excl.).

Chief Instructor Fifth Army Infantry School.

No. 4 Workshop Company, R.E.

Fifth Army Infantry School.

Fifth Army Sniping School.

253rd. Tunnelling Company, R.E.

217th. Army Troops Company, R.E.

Left Sector : BOIS D'ACEROCHE (inclusive) - River SOMME.

Lieut.-Colonel R. HORN, D.S.O., Seaforth Highlanders,

Commandant, Fifth Army Musketry School.

144th. Army Troops Company, R.E.

213th. Army Troops Company, R.E.

Fifth Army Musketry School.

XIX Corps Schools.

During the morning of 26th. March, 160 Lewis Guns had been drawn from the Army Gun Park at LONGUEAU and brought up to VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Every officer or man who knew how to fire a Lewis Gun was given one, and it was found possible to place 76 guns in the line each with 40 loaded drums. Most of these officers and men were drawn from the instructors and students at the III Corps School.

During the day of the 26th, further detachments from the Fifth Army Signal Company and the Fifth Army Field Survey Company were added to the force, and were allotted to the left and right sectors respectively.

14 Vickers Guns were provided by the Canadian Machine Gun Corps and were posted in the line as follows :-

4 at AUBERCOURT, 6 at MARCELCAVE, 4 at HAMEL.

Major-General G.G.S. CAREY, C.B., Commanding 20th.

Division arrived at VILLERS BRETONNEUX during the afternoon of the 26th to take over the force from General GRANT, and he brought with him Brigadier-General H.C. REES, D.S.O., Welsh Regt., Captain WITTS, Irish Guards and Captain BARCLAY, Rifle Bde., to assist in the Staff work.

A detachment of Signals, under Major HOWARTH, Commandant, Fifth Army Signal School, took over the communications of the force.

The transport available was 15 lorries and 20 G.S. wagons, the former under the orders of Lieut. HUMPHRIES, Canadian A.S.C., and the latter under Captain DUNNING, Fifth Army Auxiliary Horse Transport Company. The drivers were all C.III men.

Nine mounted orderlies - officers' grooms and chargers from Army Headquarters - assisted in keeping up communication between the Headquarters of the Force and the different sectors.

There were no clerks, and all office work was done by the staff themselves.

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27th March. On the morning of 27th March, the right of the Third Army withdrew to the line SAILLY-le-SEC - MERICOURT L'ABBE, and, in order to prevent the enemy crossing the SOMME at CERISY and thus outflanking the left of our line at PROYART, Lt.-Col. HORN and 400 men were ordered out from the left sector to guard the River SOMME. The troops of the U.S. Engineers were moved up from the right sector to the left sector to take the place of these 400 men. Lt.-Col. HORN was able to prevent the enemy crossing in large numbers at CERISY, but finding large numbers of them approaching him from the S.E., having probably crossed at MERICOURT-sur-SOMME, he was compelled during the evening to withdraw to his original line.

By 6 p.m. the enemy had occupied WARFUSEE, and a few were also seen opposite the left sector from this village Northwards.

During the afternoon, reinforcements of about 300 officers and men were received and sent up to the Centre Sector. These men consisted of convalescents who had been evacuated from the Rest Camp at CERISY. Also 400 officers and men of the 2nd Canadian Railway Battalion were sent up to the same sector.

28th March. As it appeared that a hostile attack might take place during the morning of the 28th, the Centre Sector was placed under the command of Brigadier-General REES, and Lt.-Col. GRAHAM was withdrawn to Headquarters.

During the morning of the 28th, the Divisions of the Fifth Army had all withdrawn West of the AMIENS Line, with the exception of the 61st Division which had been ordered to form up facing North along the Railway with their left at MARCELCAVE Station, with a view to their attacking WARFUSEE from the South.

This attack took place at 11-30 a.m., but was unsuccessful.

At about 5 p.m. a report was received that the enemy had broken through the line at MARCELCAVE. This was found to be untrue, and was due to observers reporting our men retiring in large numbers from in front of MARCELCAVE. In reality, these men were the remnants of the 61st Division retiring through our line after their unsuccessful counter-attack.

MARCELCAVE itself was lost by us during the late afternoon owing to a heavy concentration of hostile artillery, on it, but a new line was formed just West of the village, and was dug in there during the night.

A detachment from the Tank Corps, armed with 14 Lewis guns was sent up to reinforce the Centre Sector during the day.

Headquarters, CAREY'S Force moved to the Prisoners of War Cage, 1 mile West of VILLERS BRETONNEUX at about 6 p.m. Here Lt.-Col. GRAHAM, who had been relieved by General REES in the Centre Sector, was ordered to organize the collection, feeding and resting of stragglers. This was carried out with success for the next 4 days, and in all some 2,000 stragglers of all units in the Fifth Army were sent up again to the line, organized into platoons and companies, and commanded by fresh officers from the III Corps School at BOVES.

It may be mentioned here that arrangements had previously been made by Fifth Army, whereby the Commandant III Corps School collected all individual officers, N.C.Os. and men who might be trying to rejoin their units from leave or courses at Schools. This was found to be a most useful organization from which to draw officers and N.C.Os. to take command of stragglers.

28th March. As it appeared likely that a strong attack might take place on this day, and as the only troops between the AMIENS Line and AMIENS itself were all concentrating in the vicinity of GENTELLES and CACHY, 50 officers from BOVES were brought up in lorries at 7 a.m., and posted at intervals from the railway just North of BOIS L'ABBE, through the wood itself and as far as CACHY. 14 Lewis guns and 500 picks and shovels were distributed

along

along this line. These officers were ordered to stop all stragglers and set them to dig. This continued until the morning of the 1st. April, by which time 700 men had been collected and a fair amount of digging done. The men were marched to the P of W Cage every evening, fed and rested, whilst the officers returned to BOVES by lorries, and were brought up in the mornings by the same means.

During the morning of the 29th. a heavy bombardment was directed on our line North of the AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road, and two attacks were made. Small numbers of the enemy succeeded in getting through to the BOIS D'ACEROCHE, but were driven out by troops of 1st. Cavalry Division who had arrived in rear of this part of the line.

Both attacks East of HAMEL failed, and many enemy were killed on our wire.

During the evening of 29th, the enemy were seen concentrating in IGNACOURT and, in order to meet a possible attack on the right next morning, all available reserves of the Right Sector were ordered to get into position on the left bank of the River LUCE, and cover DEMUIN from the East and South.

30th. March.

On the morning of the 30th. the enemy succeeded in driving us off the left bank of the LUCE, and occupying DEMUIN. He also advanced from IGNACOURT in great strength and caused our line to withdraw from between AUBERCOURT and just S.W. of MARCELCAVE as far as the BOIS de HANGARD and the wood just East of it.

A counter-attack by the 9th. Australian Brigade from the direction of CACHY drove the enemy out again to about the line of the AUBERCOURT - MARCELCAVE Road.

During the night of 30th. the 61st. Division took over command of the line South of the AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road and the 1st. Cavalry Division the line North of the same road.

Lt. Col. GRAHAM was moved to Left Sector to take command.

31st. March.

Although the command of the line had passed out of his hands, the G.O.C. decided to remain in his present position to assist both his own troops in their administration and also the two Divisions concerned.

By the evening of 31st. all troops of CAREY'S Force South of the AMIENS - ST QUENTIN Road had been relieved by 18th. Division, to whom the command passed.

1st. April.

In order to better assist the 1st. Cavalry Division in the administration of the troops on their front, the H.Q. CAREY'S Force moved to POUILLOY in the evening of 1st. April.

2nd. April.

By the morning 2nd. April it was found that the administrative arrangements made by the Cav. Div. were to the satisfaction of Genl. CAREY, and it was decided to break up the H.Q.

The troops in this portion of the line were all eventually relieved by the night of the 4th. April.

Owing to the break up of the Fifth Army H.Q. and the scattering of the troops composing CAREY'S Force, it has not been possible to obtain an accurate return of casualties, but from enquiries made it would appear that they were not heavy. A number of men are reported missing, but it is hoped that these will be found later either in Stragglers Camps or in C.C.Ss.

An Order of Battle of CAREY'S Force is appended.

(Sd.) J. PERCY.

Major-General, G.S.

Reserve Army.
7th. April, 1918.

CAREY'S FORCE. 28

ORDER OF BATTLE.

Commander : Major-General G.G.S. CAREY, C.B., R.A., 20th. Division.
Capt. W.S.B. BOSANQUET, D.S.O., A.D.C. to Genl. Sir H. GOUGH.

Staff : Lt. Col. F.H. HARVEY, D.S.O., G.S.O.l., H.Q. Fifth Army.
Major A.C. Nicol SMITH, D.S.O., D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Fifth Army,
(from 26th - 28th. March).
Major A.D. THOMSON, D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. XVIII Corps,
(from 29th. March - 2nd. April).
Capt. M.A. Berkeley, Rifle Brigade.
Capt. F.H. WITTS, M.C., Irish Guards.

Signals : Major HOWARTH, R.E., Fifth Army Signals.
Lieut. LENTEN, Fifth Army Signals.

Transport : Capt. DUNNING, Fifth Army Auxiliary H.T. Company.
Lieut. HUMPHRIES, Canadian A.S.C.

Right Sector : Lt. Col. IRWIN, D.S.O., M.C., Essex Regt.
216th. A.T. Coy., R.E. : T/Capt. D.A. MacDOUGAL, R.E.
III Corps School. : Major H.C.R. SAUNDERS, D.S.O., E. Yorkshire Regt.
6th. U.S. Engineers. : Lt. Col. HODGES, U.S. Army.
353rd. E. & M. Coy. R.E. : T/Major B.M. OWEN, R.E.
Fifth Army Field Survey Coy. : T/Capt. E.M. BESLY, R.E.

Centre Sector : Brigadier-General H.C. REES, D.S.O.
No. 4 Workshops Coys, R.E. : T/Major G.S. WILSON, R.E.
Fifth Army Infantry School. : Lt. Col. O. GRAHAM, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade.
Fifth Army Sniping School. : Major D.K. MICHIE, D.S.O., H.L.I.
253rd. Tunnelling Coy., R.E. : T/Major CURRIE, R.E.
217th. A.T. Company, R.E. : T/Capt. C.J. BRYDEN, R.E.

Left Sector : Lt. Col. HORN, D.S.O., Seaforth Highlanders.,
relieved by Lt. Col. SWORDER, Gordon Highlanders,
relieved by Lt. Col. GRAHAM, Rifle Brigade.
144th. A.T. Company, R.E. : Capt. D.G. THOMSON, R.E., T.F.
213th. A.T. Company, R.E. : T/Capt. E.A. PENGELLY, R.E.
Fifth Army Musketry School. : Lt. Col. R. HORN, D.S.O., M.C., Seaforth
Highlanders.
XIX Corps School : Lt. Col. J.C.R. KING, East Yorks. Regt.
Fifth Army Signals : Major YULE, R.E.

2nd April, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 2nd April, 1918.

1. The night April 1st/2nd passed quietly. No change in the situation took place during the day except for a slight advance north-west of AUBERCOURT. This operation was undertaken to improve our observation over the village, and although not completely successful gained ground of considerable value. Hostile artillery activity throughout the day was subnormal, especially as regards the shelling of back areas. Field batteries were again especially in evidence, firing for the most part from MARCELCAVE, IGNAUCOURT and MEZIERES.

2. XIX CORPS.

18th Division carried out an operation at 7 p.m. The troops employed were from 53rd and 54th Inf. Bdes. and totalled about 600 all ranks. The attack was supported by artillery, but owing to the early hour selected and good visibility our troops were observed assembling by the enemy, who put down a deep and heavy barrage on a front of over 2,000 yards. The furthest point reached was a small copse about 1,000 yards North-west of AUBERCOURT, our line at the close of the day being advanced about 500 yards on a 1,000 yards front. Our casualties, about 170, were almost entirely caused by the hostile barrage.

3. THIRD ARMY.

With the exception of minor operations no activity was reported.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation unchanged. Hostile artillery very active on front line and communications.

5. AIRCRAFT.

405 hours were flown by 189 pilots.
Weather fine: overcast at times.
5 reconnaissances and 12 artillery patrols were carried out.

Hostile aircraft activity was normal. Four decisive combats took place in which 2 E.A. crashed and 2 were put down out of control. One enemy balloon was brought down in flames.

Eight 112-lb and one hundred and four 25-lb bombs were dropped during the night by No. 101 Squadron on CHAULNES and on villages showing lights. Several direct hits were obtained. Four 112-lb and ninety-eight 25-lb bombs were dropped by No. 205 Squadron on aerodromes at CAIX and ROSIERES.

2750 rounds

2nd April, 1918.

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2,750 rounds were fired by machine guns into villages and on roads.

Three photographic flights were carried out and 54 plates exposed. 171 machines went out on offensive patrols. One of our machines is missing.

6. PRISONERS.

31 were taken during the day.

7. WEATHER.

Fine and warm: wind N.W.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Reliefs.

133rd French Division relieved 8th Division and elements of 2nd Cav. Division from MOREUIL Station to S.E. corner of RIFLE WOOD. Relief was excellently carried out.

14th Division relieved 20th Division from S.E. corner of RIFLE WOOD to River LUCE.

The above were completed in the early morning.

(b) Moves.

8th Division moved from COTENCHY to CAVILLON area.

20th Division moved from GENTELLES to BRIQUE-MESNIL area.

39th Division moved from LONGUEAU to OISE-MONT area.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps H.Q.

XIX Corps: 1st, 2nd*, 3rd* Cav., 14th, 16th*, 18th 24th*, 61st* Divisions.

Army Reserve: III and XVIII Corps H.Q., 8th, 20th, 30th, 36th, 39th, 50th, 66th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

10. GENERAL.

Fifth Army H.Q. assumed the name of Fourth Army.

2nd April, 1918.

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Operation Messages Received and Issued.

8.45 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report 7 a.m. Quiet night. Relief of sector between MOREUIL station and R.LUCE by 133rd French Division and 14th Division carried out satisfactorily. Corps front line held as follows :-

14th Division from junction with French at C.16.a.0.2 to R.LUCE: 18th Division from R.LUCE to AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN road: 1st Cavalry Division from AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN road to the SOMME: the Reserve Line from B.12.a.central to AMIENS - DOMART road at U.19.a.0.0 24th Division: from U.19.a.0.0. to BOIS l'ABBE at U.1.b.0.3. 61st Division.

9 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Quiet night. Relief of 8th Division and elements of 2nd Cavalry Division from MOREUIL station to point about 1 mile south-east of THENNES completed at 4.45 a.m., when command passed to 133rd French Division. XIX Corps front is now held as follows :-

14th Division from junction with French to R.LUCE. 18th Division from R.LUCE to AMIENS - ST.QUENTIN road. 1st Cavalry Division from AMIENS - ST.QUENTIN road to SOMME. In Reserve Line 24th Division from about HALTE at THEZY to AMIENS - DOMART road. 61st Division from AMIENS - DOMART road to BOIS l'ABBE.

8.15 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Evening report. Situation unchanged. Quiet day on Army front.

10.5 p.m. From XIX Corps.

Quiet day on Corps front. Intermittent shelling on roads and back areas, mostly with field guns and field howitzers. No abnormal movement noticed. E.A. very active: many low-flying planes reported.

3rd April, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 3rd April, 1918.

1. Quiet day. No change took place in the situation. Very little hostile artillery activity and no shelling of back areas.
2. XIX CORPS.
No operations.
3. THIRD ARMY.
Quiet day.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.
Reports indicate that the enemy is establishing a trench system opposite MONTDIDIER.

The enemy attacked between MORISEL and MAILLY RAINEVAL during the night and was repulsed, except at one point 500 yards south of MORISEL cemetery.
5. AIRCRAFT.
418 hours were flown by 190 pilots.
Weather fine early, with rain later.
6 reconnaissances and 11 artillery patrols were successfully carried out, 4 zone calls being sent down.
Hostile aircraft activity normal. 10 decisive combats took place, in which 7 E.A. crashed and 3 were brought down out of control.
Eight 112-lb and one hundred and ten 25-lb bombs were dropped during the night by No. 101 Squadron: some good hits were obtained on the ROYE - AMIENS road.
191 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons. 30,000 rounds were fired at various targets.
Six photographic flights were carried out and 60 plates exposed.
165 machines went out on offensive patrols.
Three of our machines were missing.
6. PRISONERS.
3 were taken during the day.
7. WEATHER.
Dull: some showers: poor visibility.

RELIEFS AND MOVES.

3rd April, 1918.

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8. RELIEFS AND MOVES. a 13

(a) Reliefs.

14th Division relieved by 29th French Division from S.E. corner of RIFLE WOOD to HANGARD, relief being completed in the early morning. Relief was excellently carried out.

14th Division relieved 1st Cav. Division and 16th Division from VILLERS BRETONNEUX - AMIENS road to the SOMME, in the evening.

(b) Moves.

CAREY'S Force and 6th U.S. Engineers Bn. withdrawn to LONGUEAU area.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps H.Q., 2nd Cav. Division.

XIX Corps. 1st and 3rd* Cav., 14th, 16th, 18th, 24th* Divisions.

Army Reserve: III and XVIII Corps H.Q., 8th, 20th, 30th, 36th ϕ , 39th, 50th, 61st, 68th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

ϕ Leaving Army area.

10. General.

On completion of the relief of 14th Division by 29th French Division the boundary between the French and British ran in accordance with the terms of the agreement of the conference at DURY on April 1st.

3rd April, 1918.

Q14

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.55 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report. Quiet night.

7.30 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Quiet night. Relief by French completed.

6.30 p.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation unchanged. Quiet day.

7.0 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation unchanged. Quiet day.

4th April, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 4th April, 1918.

1. At 7 a.m. the enemy, after a bombardment of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, attacked heavily along the whole front, and also on the front of the First French Army. Our line was penetrated in the vicinity of the BOIS d'ACCROCHE, and in consequence the troops on the flanks were obliged to fall back. The attack south of the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - AMIENS road was repulsed, but the situation on the northern part of the Army front had its effect on the remainder of the line, which by 12 noon ran:

VAIRE - 500 yards W. of BOIS de VAIRE - 2,000 yards E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX - W. outskirts of MARCELCAVE - HANGARD.

During the afternoon a heavy attack on the 18th Division caused a slight withdrawal in the vicinity of the BOIS d'HANGARD.

The enemy attacked in dense formation and afforded excellent targets for our artillery and machine guns. The artillery, firing over the sights at close range, claim to have inflicted very heavy casualties.

The rapidity with which the enemy brought up his light machine guns was very marked, and these were responsible for the majority of our casualties.

During the day LONGUEAU and BOVES were shelled by 15 c.m. guns.

2. XIX CORPS.

The chief weight of the attack fell on the 14th Division, which had only taken over the line from the 1st Cavalry Division and 16th Division on the previous night. The enemy, by weight of numbers and assisted by the tired condition of the 14th Division, gradually pressed on into HAMEL and the BOIS de TAILLOUX, d'ACCROCHE and de VAIRE, thus exposing the flank of the 9th Australian Brigade on the south and causing it to withdraw its left to conform. A counter-attack launched by a weak battalion of the 14th Division in about P.19 failed to make any headway, but supported by 2 brigades of the 3rd Cavalry Division the line was maintained along the high ground west of the BOIS de VAIRE and HAMEL. The 3rd Dragoon Guards especially distinguished themselves by filling up a gap that had occurred between 14th Division and 9th Australian Brigade and holding their ground against repeated attacks.

The attack on the 18th Division in the morning was repulsed but their withdrawal in the afternoon exposed the right flank of the 9th Australian Brigade, causing it to be withdrawn to a point about 1,500 yards south of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. During the afternoon the G.O.C. 3rd Cavalry Division took over command of the northern sector of the front from G.O.C. 14th Division.

Elements

4th April, 1918.

2.

Elements of 14th Division withdrawn from the line were sent to occupy the GENTELLES defence line between the SOMME and the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - AMIENS road. South of this road two battalions of the 58th Division, under orders of 18th Division, and the 24th Division were already in position. 5th Australian Division had now come under the orders of XIX Corps, one brigade being in line in the Third Army area north of the SOMME and two brigades en route for Fourth Army by bus. The first named brigade was placed at disposal of 3rd Cavalry Division and its two reserve battalions crossed the river and went into the line on the left. The remainder of the brigade arrived during the night.

A brigade of the 2nd Australian Division specially despatched by VII Corps arrived in the course of the evening and was ordered to prolong the left of 14th Division in the GENTELLES line to the R. SOMME.

The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade was ordered into action at 2 p.m. with instructions to hold VILLERS BRETONNEUX at all costs. One battery suffered considerably from shell fire while passing through the village but the remainder took up their positions without incident. There is no doubt that the enemy suffered severe casualties, especially in the vicinity of HAMEL, where oblique fire from the north side of the SOMME practically annihilated his attacking infantry.

The 9th Australian Brigade report that at about 6.30 p.m. a man dressed as a British officer came to the lines of the 36th Bn. near U.6.d.9.7 and ordered the men to retire, which they refused to do. The individual was wearing an officer's tunic and a private's cap with the "Queen's" badge and the name "G.E.Martin" written inside. He carried a pack containing fancy work which aroused suspicion. He failed to give satisfactory answers to questions, nor could he produce papers. He likewise failed to explain his conduct and presence. He was shot.

3. THIRD ARMY.

No operations took place.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

The attack on the French resulted in their loss of the high ground north of MOREUIL and also brought the enemy within 2,000 yards of the AMIENS - PARIS railway.

5. AIRCRAFT.

107 hours were flown by 165 pilots.
Weather overcast with considerable rain.
3 artillery patrols were carried out.
Hostile aircraft activity was below normal. 4
decisive combats took place in which 2 E.A. were brought
down and 1 E.A. crashed out of control.

109 twenty-five bombs were dropped by Corps
Squadrons.

13990 rounds were fired by machine guns on

various

4th April, 1918.

3.

217
various targets.

59 machines were sent out on offensive patrols.
One of our machines is missing.

6. PRISONERS.

1 prisoner was taken during the day.

7. WEATHER.

Except for a period of two hours between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, rain fell practically continuously.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Reliefs.

One Brigade 5th Australian Division and 3rd Cav. Division relieved 14th Division in the northern sector.

(b) Moves.

5th Australian Divisional Artillery arrived at BONNAY and LA HOUSOYE.

One Brigade 2nd Australian Division arrived at VECQUEMONT by bus.

50th Division left Fourth Army for First Army by train.

16th Division moved by train from SALEUX to HALLEN-COURT West Area.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st and 2nd Cavalry Divisions.

XIX Corps: 3rd Cav.*, 14th, 16th*, 18th, 24th*Divs.

Army Reserve: III and XVIII Corps H.Q., 8th, 20th
30th ϕ , 39th, 50th ϕ , 61st, 66th Divs.

* Corps Reserve.

ϕ Leaving Army Area.

4th April, 1918.

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Operation Messages Received and Issued.

1.5 a.m. From XIX Corps.

8th Divisional Artillery report German prisoner states enemy intend to attack 5 a.m. 4th. Location of attack uncertain, probably south of DEMUIN. Gas bombardment of area south of MARCELCAVE ordered between 3 a.m. and 4.30 a.m.

6.15 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report. No change reported to the line held by this Corps. 14th Division relieved 1st Cavalry Division and 16th Division during night in sector north of the main AMIENS road. Night passed quietly over Corps front. 8th Divisional Artillery and 55th Inf. Bde. both report statement of German prisoners to the effect of enemy attack at 5 a.m. this morning against our front but actual place not clear. 3 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. our artillery shelled area S. of DEMUIN with gas. Situation at 5.45 a.m.- hostile artillery fire reported to be heavier: artillery positions of 16th and 18th Divisional Artilleries being shelled: no infantry action yet reported.

6.40 a.m. From XIX Corps.

18th Division wire begins: Prisoner of STURM Battalion taken opposite MARCELCAVE this morning states enemy will attack this morning, time not stated. Further examination being made.

7.30 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Morning report. Situation unchanged. Quiet night. 14th Division relieved 1st Cavalry and 16th Divisions in the sector N. of AMIENS - VERMAND road. Hostile artillery fire reported heavy on artillery positions at 5.45 a.m. No infantry action yet reported.

8.5 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation at 8 a.m. Heavy enemy fire along whole Corps front and Corps on southern flank. Right division report telephone communication forward cut. Wireless message from left brigade, right division, reports heavy machine gun fire in that neighbourhood.

10.10 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Enemy have penetrated our line between WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and BOIS D'ACCROCHE. A fresh line is being established on line of road running north and south in P.27 and 21. A counter-attack is being organised by 14th Division. A Cavalry Brigade is in readiness to north and west of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

10.33 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Enemy attacked this morning. Enemy have penetrated our line between WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and BOIS D'ACCROCHE. A fresh line is being established on line of road running north and south in P.27 and P.21.

Counter-

4th April, 1918. (cont'd.)

A19

Counter-attack is being organised by 14th Division. A Cavalry Brigade is in readiness to north and west of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

11.5 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Prisoner 7th Guards I.R. captured early this morning near MARCELCAVE states offensive to be continued today along entire Western Front. Objective this sector is AMIENS.

11.35 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Our line runs V.13.central - V.7.central - V.1.b - P.26.central - east edge of BOIS DE VAIRE - east edge of HAMEL - R.SOMME. Result of 14th Division counter-attack not yet known.

12.45 p.m. From XIX Corps.

The enemy attacked this morning about 7 a.m. between HAMEL and MARCELCAVE. Enemy took front line trench on 14th Division front between BOIS DES TAILLOUX and VILLERS BRETONNEUX - LAMOTTE road where our troops fell back to support line from E. edge of BOIS DE VAIRE to about P.26.c.7.3. On rest of front attacked enemy was caught with machine gun, rifle and barrage fire and attack repulsed. Troops, however, on flanks of front pushed back have had to conform, so that approximate line runs as reported in wire timed 11.35 a.m. counter-attack taking place from direction BOIS DE VAIRE towards P.21.d.

12.55 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Enemy attacked about 7 a.m. between HAMEL and MARCELCAVE. First reports states enemy penetrated our line in P.22 and 28 on 14th Division front, occupying our front line trench. Our troops fell back to line E. edge of HAMEL - E. edge of BOIS DE VAIRE - P.26.c.7.3. Aust. battalion south of AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN road was attacked also. They repulsed attack but had to fall back to conform and are now on line P.26.c.7.3 - V.1.d.2.2. Left Brigade, 18th Division, repulsed attack but left company had also to conform with Australian Battalion and is now believed to be on line V.1.d.2.2. - V.13.central. Counter-attack by the brigade of 14th Division in direction of P.21.d. from neighbourhood of BOIS DE VAIRE was to be made at 10.45 a.m. Result not yet known. French also were attacked between 6.30 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. south-west of DEMUIN, but attack repulsed. Later report from XIX Corps states our line runs V.13.central - V.7.central - V.1b - P.26.central - East edge BOIS DE VAIRE - East edge of HAMEL - R.SOMME.

1.50 p.m. From XIX Corps.

Report from 14th Division timed 11.55 a.m. as follows. Enemy reported to be on ridge P.10.d. We have posts on the VAIRE - HAMEL road to about P.3.c.central. BOIS DE VAIRE evacuated and our troops hold ridge to the west through P.14.a. and thence to S.W. towards Q.24.central and in touch with cavalry on the right. Counter-attack on P.22.c and P.28.a held up about P.20.a. Enemy reported

in

4th April, 1918. (Continued.)

A20

in strength about P.20.central and on eastern side of BOIS DE HAMEL. Ends.

7.5 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Evening situation report. Enemy attacked this morning on whole Army front as previously reported. Attack repulsed on 18th Division front. On 14th Division front enemy occupied our front line. Counter-attack by brigade of 14th Division held up about P.20.a. Our line believed now to run as follows from south to north :-

As previously reported to P.13.central, thence
P.7.central - P.1.d. - P.32.c.0.0 - P.32.a.0.0. -
P.25.central - P.19.central - P.13.d. - P.7.d. -
P.2.central - R.SOMME.

7.25 p.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report 7 p.m. Latest reports show our line as follows. 3rd Cavalry Division from VAIRE SOUS CORBIE along road to P.8.a.7.9 - P.8.central - P.8.d.0.0 - P.14.a.2.0 - P.13.d.2.0 - P.19.d.7.0 - houses in P.25.c. Australian Battalion from houses in P.25.c. to V.2.c.0.0. 18th Division from V.2.c.0.0 - V.8.a.0.0 - V.13.central - V.19.a.7.4 - V.30.a.0.7 - V.30.a.0.0 - junction with French.

A21

6

(Annexe to Fourth Army Summary of the 6th April, 1918.)

NOTE ON THE ENEMY'S DISPOSITIONS AND TACTICAL METHODS
DURING RECENT OPERATIONS.

1. DISPOSITIONS DURING ADVANCE.

(a) Divisional formation.

Divisions were echeloned in Groups of 2 or 3 and advanced "leap-frogging". This accounts for the confusion in formations and even units, which has been reported throughout the attack.

(b) Regimental formation.

(i) Initial formation - 1st and 2nd battalions in the front line trench, 3rd battalion in the support trench.

(ii) All the battalions of the regiment advanced simultaneously in order to cross the barrage zone as quickly as possible.

(iii) As soon as the barrage zone was crossed the battalions distributed themselves in depth, the 3rd battalion increasing its distance and remaining in reserve.

(iv) The Regimental Commander remained with the reserve battalion and had an artillery liaison officer with him.

(c) Battalion formation when advancing.

Two companies in front line, two companies in support.

(d) Company formation when advancing.

By platoons, two in front line and one in support.

2. TACTICS.

(a) As soon as the zone of organised defence was passed, the enemy massed his troops, and strong local attacks were delivered in succession against various portions of our line with a view to bringing about local withdrawals. If these attacks were successful, infantry was then put forward into the gaps so created to threaten the flanks of those portions of our line which still held, against which further attacks were then delivered.

(b) On those portions of the battle front where the enemy has been held, all attempts at manoeuvre appears

to

to have been abandoned and the enemy has relied on shock tactics, launching violent attacks with solid columns.

(c) In open country light machine guns went forward almost in line with the enemy's forward line of rifle-men; then came small columns of infantry following closely the conformation of the ground.

The light machine guns were fired constantly and even on the move; in fact, the intensive employment of these weapons has been one of the most definite characteristics of the enemy's tactical methods. Heavy machine guns followed with the supports.

(d) Bombing specialists were not employed nor rifle grenades.

(e) The enemy's trench mortars have accompanied the infantry closely in order to support them should the advance show signs of being definitely held, and to reinforce machine guns in the defence of certain localities.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

Communication was by runner as far back as the headquarters of the Regimental Commander. Thence by telephone or despatch rider.

5th April, 1918.

Arzt

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 5th April, 1918.

1. At 11 a.m. the enemy strongly attacked our northern sector but was completely repulsed by our artillery and machine gun fire. A slight withdrawal of our line in the vicinity of the BOIS de HANGARD was adjusted later in the day.

Hostile artillery fire was below normal.

2. XIX CORPS.

At 3 a.m. 9th Australian Brigade carried out a counter-attack to regain the trench south of the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - AMIENS road that they had been obliged to evacuate the previous day. This was completely successful. 50 of the enemy were killed and 13 prisoners captured.

The attack on the northern sector at 11 a.m. afforded an excellent target for a machine gun which 15th Australian Infantry Brigade had established in the vicinity of BOUZENCOURT. 200 dead Germans were afterwards counted in the vicinity; and it is stated that, of four German officers who appeared afterwards to reconnoitre, three were killed.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Heavy fighting in AVELUY WOOD, where our line was not re-established.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A counter-attack made by the French in the early morning succeeded in recapturing the BOIS l'ARRIERE COUR. Otherwise the night was quiet.

Another counter-attack made on a front of 8 kilometres gained 1,200 metres in the vicinity of ROUVREL.

Hostile artillery active on back areas.

5. AIRCRAFT.

115 hours were flown by 77 pilots.

Weather bad: low clouds and rain.

1 reconnaissance and 2 artillery patrols were carried out.

Hostile aircraft activity below normal. 5 E.A. crashed.

158 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped on

various

5th April, 1918.

2.

various targets.

5,650 rounds were fired from machine guns by Corps Squadrons and 5,520 rounds were fired by Army Squadrons. 61 machines were sent out on offensive patrols.

6. PRISONERS.

1 officer and 18 O.R. were taken during the day.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

A.A. (S)	59
" (H.E.)	163
13-pdr. (S)	1553
" (H.E.)	747
3" 20-cwt. (S)	16
" (H.E.)	57
18-pdr. (S)	16313
" (H.E.)	9079
4.5" How. (H.E.)	6863
" (Gas)	350
60-pdr. (S)	879
" (H.E.)	924
6" How. (H.E.)	1989
6" Mk.VII (S)	20
" (H.E.)	66
8" How. (H.E.)	385
9.2" How. (H.E.)	69

8. WEATHER.

Dull with occasional showers.

9. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Reliefs.

III Corps relieved XIX Corps at 9 p.m.
5th Aust. Div. relieved 3rd Cav. Div. in the northern sector.
5th Brigade, 2nd Aust. Div., relieved 18th Division in the southern sector.

(b) Moves.

5th Aust. Div. H.Q. arrived at BLANGY TRONVILLE.
2 Brigades 5th Aust. Div. arrived in Fourth Army Area.
66th Division (less artillery) moved by road from the LONG area to the BUIGNY area.
Fourth Army H.Q. closed at DURY at 5 p.m. and opened at FLIXECOURT at the same hour.

10. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st and 2nd Cav. Divs.
XIX Corps: 3rd Cav., 14th*, 18th, 24th*, 1 Bde.* 2nd Aust., 2 Bdes. 3rd Aust., 2 Bdes. 5th Aust. Divisions.
Army Reserve: III ϕ and XVIII Corps H.Q., 8th, 16th, 20th, 39th, 61st, 66th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

ϕ Relieving XIX Corps H.Q. at 8 p.m.

5th April, 1918.

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Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.30 a.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation unchanged since last report. On southern sector of Corps our line runs as follows: Cottages P.25.c. - V.1.central - U.12.a.central - U.11.a.0.0. along road to U.17.c.2.5 - U.23.a.4.6 - U.23.central - U.29.b.0.8 - U.29.b.9.8.- French hold HANGARD.

6.55 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation unchanged since last report. Our line now believed as follows: From HANGARD exclusive (held by French) - U.29.b.9.8 - U.29.b.0.8 - U.23.central - U.23.a.4.6 - U.17.c.2.5 - along road to U.11.a.0.0 - U.12.a.5.5 - V.1.central - cottages P.25.c - P.19.d.7.0 - P.13.d.2.0 - P.14.a.2.0 - P.8.d.0.0 - P.8.central - P.8.a.7.9 - along road to VAIRE SOUS CORBIE.

6.15 p.m. From XIX Corps.

Situation report. Strong enemy attack developed along whole front of left sector 11 a.m. Attack was stopped dead by artillery and machine gun fire. Situation on this front now normal. Enemy also attacked south of BOIS HANGARD and drove our line back to just west of road in U.22.d where attack was stopped. No other change in the line reported. Fighting still continues in neighbourhood of HANGARD village, which it is thought French still hold.

7.20 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Strong enemy attack developed on front of left sector of Army front at 11 a.m. Attack stopped dead by our artillery and machine gun fire. Situation now normal. Enemy also attacked south of BOIS HANGARD and drove our line back just west of road in U.22.d where attack was stopped. No other change in our line reported. Fighting still continues in neighbourhood of HANGARD which it is thought French still hold.

8.10 p.m. From III Corps.

Right Division reports 7 p.m.- Line on right U.28.b.4.2 - joins French U.22.b.2.9 - U.16.d.2.0. Rest of line intact. French report they hold HANGARD.



6th April, 1918.

A29

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 6th April, 1918.

1. Quiet night. Nothing unusual occurred during the day. A certain amount of movement was noticed in the enemy's lines but no attacks took place.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX was heavily shelled during the day.
2. III CORPS.

Nothing to report.
3. THIRD ARMY.

Positions in AVELUY WOOD completely re-established by 1st and 2nd Bns. R.M.L.I. (63rd Division), 100 prisoners and several machine guns being captured.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Hostile artillery active. An attack during the night between MESNIL ST. GEORGES and LE MONCHEL was repulsed.
5. AIRCRAFT.

170 hours were flown by 112 pilots.
Weather fine with ground mist: visibility improved later in the day.
2 reconnaissances and 3 artillery patrols were carried out, one zone call being sent down.
Hostile aerial activity was about normal. 22 combats took place in which 2 E.A. crashed and 1 was driven down out of control.
140 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped by Army and Corps Squadrons. 2,050 rounds were fired at various targets by Corps Squadrons and 13,550 were fired by Army Squadrons.
5 photographic flights were made and 44 plates were exposed.
77 machines went out on offensive patrols. Two of our machines are missing.
6. PRISONERS. Nil.
7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

6th April, 1918.

2.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

A29

A.A. (S)	163
" (H.E.)	1659
13-pdr. (S)	219
" (H.E.)	725
3" 20-cwt. (S)	13
" (H.E.)	8
18-pdr. (S)	14416
" (H.E.)	12960
4.5" How. (H.E.)	7226
" (Gas)	336
60-pdr. (S)	1179
" (H.E.)	2984
6" How. (H.E.)	5101
" (Gas)	200
6" Mk.VII (S)	568
" (H.E.)	415
8" How. (H.E.)	190
9.2" How. (H.E.)	82

8. WEATHER.

Dull: rain at night.

9. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Reliefs.

5th Australian Division relieved 14th Division in northern sector of GENTELLES Reserve Line.

(b) Moves.

24th Division (less artillery) moved by train from the SALEUX area to the ST. VALERY area.

14th Division moved to ST. FUSCIEN.

10. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cav. Divisions.

III Corps: 14th*, 18th*, part of 58th*, 1 Bde. 2nd Aust., 1 Bde. 3rd Aust., 5th Aust. Divs.

Army Reserve: XVIII Corps: 20th, 61st Divs.
XIX Corps: 8th, 16th, 24th, 39th, 66th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

6th April, 1918.

030
Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.58 a.m. From III Corps.

Situation. Enemy reported advancing in waves in P.14 about 5.30 a.m. Otherwise quiet on Corps front. Counter-attack by Right Division late yesterday afternoon succeeded in restoring line to former position U.29.a.9.8 to U.17.c.3.5. Relief of 14th and 3rd Cavalry Divisions in left sector and 18th Division in right sector complete.

7.10 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Enemy advancing in waves in P.14 about 5.30 a.m. No further details yet known. Otherwise quiet on Army front. Counter-attack by Right Division late yesterday afternoon succeeded in restoring line to former position U.28.a.9.8 to U.17.c.3.5. Relief of 14th and 3rd Cavalry Divisions in left sector and 18th Division, right sector, complete.

10.20 a.m. From III Corps.

5th Aust. Bde. report 9.45 a.m. situation quiet. Enemy planes patrolling our lines flying very low.

5.30 p.m. Message dropped from Aeroplane.

German artillery very active between HAMEL and MARCELCAVE and from wood in U.18.b. No advance being made at present but barrage very heavy along line P.25 - O.36 - U.5 - U.10. German troops continually advancing in small parties (i.e. platoons) along WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and VILLERS BRETONNEUX road. Three German observation balloons up between CERISY and BAYONVILLERS. German aerial activity not great.

6.10 p.m. Message dropped from Aeroplane.

Enemy seen in trenches in V.1.c and d., V.2.c and d., V.7, V.8, V.3.b and c, P.33.b and d, P.26.b and d, P.27.a and c, P.20.d, P.14.b, P.9.a, P.33.d and J.34.c. No troops seen in HAMELET. Our men in trenches in O.12.a, O.18, P.19, P.25, P.31 and U.6.a and b. Enemy holding very strong positions in disconnected pieces of trench in P.26.b and d, and P.27.a and c, and equally strong positions in V.7 and 8. These trenches very full of troops.

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

Evening report. Situation unchanged. Enemy concentrations have been reported by R.A.F. during the day. These have been dealt with by machine guns from the air and our artillery. No infantry action reported. Captures 1 O.R.

8.40 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Right Division reports hostile shelling on their front has died down. Movement was observed on the roads opposite their sector and the artillery fired for 15 minutes on barrage lines. Left Division report some hostile shelling of outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX by heavy guns. Day otherwise quiet. Air reports considerable movement of enemy in area C.16, 17, 22 and 23, C.12 and 18, U.12 and 18, between MARCELCAVE and BOIS DE VAIRE. Transport and guns reported in valleys LAMOTTE to CERISY. Enemy plane fell in flames in U.11 at 4 p.m.

7th April, 1918.

a31

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 7th April, 1918.

1. An operation was carried out in order to re-establish our line on the eastern edge of BOIS de HANGARD. This was successful in the first instance but owing to heavy flanking machine gun fire the line was subsequently withdrawn to a position about 200 yards in advance of the jumping-off line.

The rest of the day passed quietly.
2. III CORPS.
An operation in the vicinity of the BOIS de HANGARD was carried out by 2 companies of the 8th Aust. Inf. Bde., which was holding the line under orders of 18th Division. The objective, eastern edge of BOIS de HANGARD, was reached with little difficulty, but subsequently, as heavy hostile machine gun fire was opened on the position and a hostile counter-attack was launched, it was considered advisable to withdraw about 250 yards to avoid unnecessary casualties. 3 officers and 60 prisoners were captured. The casualties incurred amounted to 140.

5th Australian Division occupied BOUZENCOURT without opposition.
3. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.
No change in the situation except for minor operations in the PARC de GRIVESNES, which was entirely cleared of the enemy with the assistance of tanks.
4. THIRD ARMY.
No change in the situation.
5. AIRCRAFT.
430 hours were flown by 221 pilots.
Weather fine in morning, showery later.
8 reconnaissances and 25 artillery patrols were successfully carried out. 16 zone calls were sent down and 8 hostile batteries successfully neutralised.
Hostile aircraft activity was above normal.
31 combats in the air took place in which 3 E.A. crashed and 3 were brought down out of control.
211 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons and 161 twenty pound bombs by Army Squadrons. 43,905 rounds were fired by Corps Squadrons and 28,390 rounds by Army Squadrons at favourable targets.
Three bombing raids were carried out by No. 205 Squadron on LAMOTTE aerodrome, eight 112-lb and 200 twenty-five pound bombs being dropped with good results. Several direct hits were obtained.
139 machines went out on offensive patrols. One of our machines is missing, and one was driven down in

combat

7th April, 1918.

2.

combat, the pilot being killed.

6. PRISONERS.

4 officers and 72 O.R.

7. CASUALTIES.

Estimated since 21st March :-

2,471 Officers; 65,636 Other Ranks.

8. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

A.A. (S)	206
" (H.E.)	981
13-pdr. (S)	438
" (H.E.)	344
3" 20-cwt. (S)	32
" (H.E.)	37
18-pdr. (S)	6803
" (H.E.)	5864
4.5" How. (H.E.)	2504
" (Gas)	148
60-pdr. (S)	1531
" (H.E.)	1803
" (Gas)	118
6" How. (H.E.)	6708
" (Gas)	366
6" Mk. VII (S)	232
" (H.E.)	662
8" How. (H.E.)	219
9.2" How. (H.E.)	83

9. WEATHER.

Dull.

10. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 58th Division completed detraining on arrival from the French area and came under the orders of III Corps.

11. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cav. Divisions.
III Corps: 14th*, 18th*, 58th*, 1 brigade 2nd Aust.,
1 brigade* 3rd Aust., 5th Aust. Divisions.

Army Reserve: XVIII Corps: 20th, 61st Divs.
XIX Corps: 8th, 16th, 24th, 39th,
66th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

12. GENERAL.

The Fourth Army took over the Australian Corps and that portion of the front from the R.SOMME to south

of

7th April, 1918.

A.33

3.

of BOUZINCOURT from the Third Army at 10 a.m.

7th April, 1918.

Q34

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.30 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Enemy opened barrage on right of left sector at 8.15 p.m. We replied and situation became quiet 8.35 p.m. Night quiet on whole Corps front. Two prisoners of 14th R.I.R., 9th Bav. R., captured in P.31., east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, know nothing of further attack.

7.25 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Morning report. Enemy put down barrage immediately east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX at 8.15 p.m. We replied and situation became quiet 8.35 p.m. No infantry action reported. Quiet night on whole Army front. Unconfirmed report states that small attack in neighbourhood of BOIS DE HANGARD was carried out this morning by 5th Australian Brigade. Our troops are now on the eastern edge of the wood as intended. 3 officers, 39 O.R. captured.

7.0 a.m. From III Corps.

According to verbal message received it appears that our small attack in neighbourhood of BOIS DE HANGARD has been successful. Our troops have taken this wood and are on the east of it as arranged. 3 officers and 39 O.R. captured.

11.30 a.m. From III Corps.

Right Division reports as follows: Attack this morning successfully reached its objective but troops were too weak to withstand heavy counter-attack launched immediately. Counter-attack was made round both flanks of wood in U.18 and from U.24.central. Prisoners about 2 officers, 140 O.R., and several machine guns. Heavy casualties inflicted besides. Our casualties about 140.

5.0 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Australian Corps report that their attack this morning successfully reached objectives but was driven back by a heavy counter-attack launched immediately. Counter-attack was made round both flanks of wood in U.18 and from U.24.central. Prisoners about 2 officers, 140 O.R. Several machine guns captured and heavy loss inflicted on enemy. Our line south of SOMME now runs J.33.b.2.5 - J.32.c.8.3 - P.2.central - P.8.central - P.8.d.0.0 - P.13.d.0.0 - P.19.central - P.25.d.9.2 - P.32.a.0.0 - P.31.d.0.0 - U.6.central - U.11.central - U.17.b.3.0 - U.23.a.5.0 - thence S.E. to Cemetery east of HANGARD, where we join with the French.

6.10 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward area left division. Prisoners last 24 hours 2.

(continued)

7th April, 1918.
(continued).

235

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

Evening report. Situation unchanged. Quiet day on Army front.

8th April, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

5.51 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report - quiet night, nothing to report.

6.10 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Our artillery active during the night. Enemy artillery active at 10 p.m. and 11.15 p.m., area shelled 0.23.a., 0.23.d., 0.18.c. At 4.50 a.m. area immediately S.W. of BOIS DE HANGARD. BOUZENCOURT successfully occupied. 5th Australian Division line now runs P.2.d.2.5 - P.2.b.65.00 - P.3.a.00.45 - J.33.c.5.0 - J.33.d.2.8 - J.30.c.1.9 - J.34.d.2.5 - BOUZENCOURT. At 5.45 a.m. 18th Division reported artillery active on French front but no S.O.S. or attack.

7.10 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Morning report. Our artillery active during night. Hostile artillery active from 10 to 11.15 p.m. on area 0.18.c., 0.23.a and b., also 4.50 a.m. on area immediately S.W. of BOIS DE HANGARD. BOUZENCOURT successfully occupied by us. 5th Australian Division line now runs P.2.d.2.5 - P.2.b.65.00 - P.3.a.00.45 - J.33.c.5.0 - J.33.d.2.8 - J.34.c.1.9 - J.34.d.2.5 - BOUZENCOURT. At 5.45 a.m. right division reported hostile artillery active on French front. Australian Corps reports quiet night.

5.50 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Hostile artillery quiet. Some slight shelling in P.1.b. and P.13.a.

6.13 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. BUIRE lightly shelled. MILLENCOURT and vicinity shelled with 10.5 c.m. Visibility poor. Prisoners last 24 hours 1 O.R.

6.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

Evening report - quiet day on Army front. Slight shelling of BUIRE, MILLENCOURT and E. and S.E. of HAMELET. Visibility poor. Estimated prisoners last 24 hours 1 O.R.

COPY.

A36

SECRET.

13

General Sir H.S.Rawlinson, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
Commanding Fourth Army.

O.A.D. 807.

The attached copy of Directive by General Foch
is forwarded for your information.

The Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief considers
that you should be prepared to act in conjunction with
the French First Army. The Field-Marshal is, however,
meeting General Foch this afternoon to discuss the general
policy as regards intervention and action of the French in
future operations, and a further communication will then be
made to you on the subject.

(Sd.) H.A.LAURENCE,

G.H.Q.
7th April 1918.

Lieut.-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

S E C R E T.

Général FOCH

Etat-Major

Q.G., le 6 Avril 1918.

DIRECTIVES CONCERNANT LA JONCTION
des ARMEES FRANCO - BRITANNIQUES
(4^o Armée Anglaise - 1^o Armée Française).

But à viser dans les premières actions combinées entre
les 1^o Armée Française et 4^o Armée Britannique :

- Rétablir la ligne sur le front MOREUIL - DEMUIN -
AUBERCOURT - WARFUSEE.

1^o - Operations preliminaires à réaliser le plus tôt
possible :

a) 1^o Armée Française - atteindre l'AVRE de HAILLES à
MOREUIL, par une forte attaque en direction de ROUVREL -
MORISEL (le 8).

b) 4^o Armée Britannique - nettoyer les bois et ravins
au Nord et au Nord-Est d'HANGARD.

2^o - Actions d'ensemble :

c) pour la 1^o Armée française, visant le front DEMUIN -
MOREUIL;

d) pour la 4^o Armée Britannique, visant le front
AUBERCOURT - MARCELCAVE - WARFUSEE.

Les opérations "c" et "d" sont à effectuer la
même jour, à une date aussi rapprochée que possible et à
des heures fixées par entente entre les Commandants d'Armée.

(Sd). FOCH.

P.O. Le Chef E.M.

(Sd). WEYGAND.

8th April, 1918.

a38

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 8th April, 1918.

1. A slight gain of ground in the vicinity of BOUZINCOURT was the only change in the situation.

2. III CORPS.

5th Australian Division, without fighting, pushed out a new line joining BOUZINCOURT to our existing line about 1,000 yards west of HAMEL.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

No change in the situation.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged. Hostile artillery above normal along the whole front during the night.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

No change. Artillery activity on both sides.

5. AIRCRAFT.

Weather was bad, with rain most of the day and low clouds. 165 hours were flown by 118 pilots.

Eight reconnaissances were carried out and 14 artillery patrols, 11 zone calls being sent down. One hostile battery was successfully neutralized.

Two photographic flights were made, 36 plates being exposed.

50 machines went out on offensive patrols. Several combats took place, 3 of which were decisive and as a result of which 2 E.A. crashed.

32 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons and 18 twenty-pound bombs by Army Squadrons during the day on suitable targets. 3,890 rounds were fired by Corps Squadrons and 2100 rounds by Army Squadrons at ground targets. 400 rounds were fired at enemy kite balloons but without success.

6. PRISONERS.

3 O.R. were taken during the day.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

18-pdr. (H.E.) ..	8249	6" How. (H.E.) ..	5902
" (S) ..	9444	" (Gas) ..	343
4.5" How. (H.E.) ..	3928	6" Mk.VII (H.E.) ..	768
60-pdr. (H.E.) ..	1938	" (S) ..	423
" (S) ..	511	8" How. ..	120
" (Gas) ..	105	9.2" How. ..	20

8. WEATHER.

8th April, 1918.

2.

8. WEATHER.

A39
Dull, with occasional showers.

9. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 39th Division (less Artillery and two field companies) commenced entraining for Second Army at 8 p.m.
The 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery arrived from Second Army.

10. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cav. Divisions.
III Corps: 14th*, 18th*, 58th*, 1 brigade 2nd Aust., 1 brigade 3rd Aust., 5th Aust. (1 Bde. in line, 2 in reserve) Divs.
Aust. Corps: 2 brigades 2nd Aust., 2 brigades 3rd Aust., 2 brigades 4th Aust.*, 1 brigade 35th Divisions.

Army Reserve: XVIII and XIX Corps H.Q., 8th, 16th, 20th, 24th, 39th, 61st, 66th, 1st Aust. Divisions.

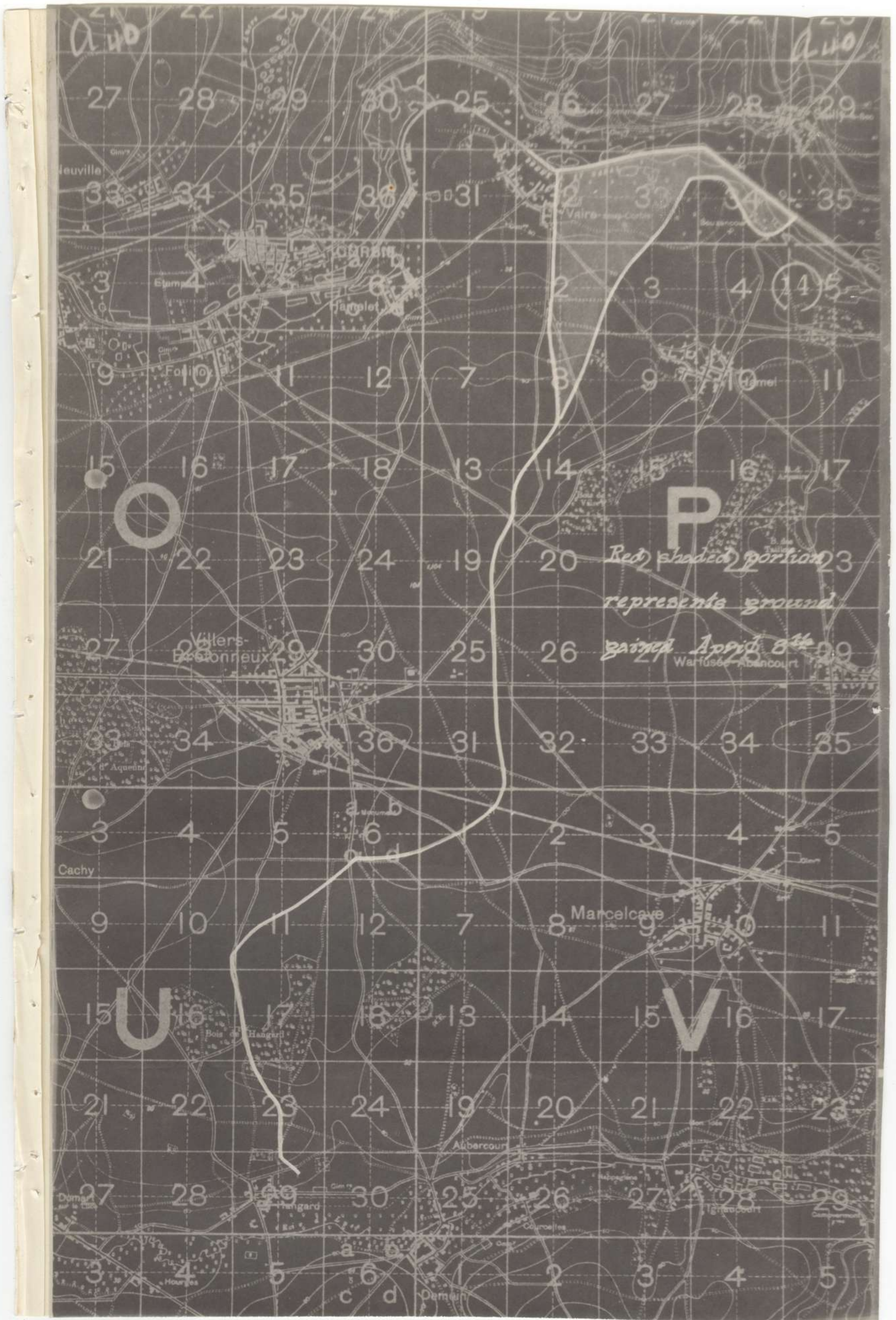
* Corps Reserve. ϕ Leaving for Second Army.

11. GENERAL.

(a) A conference between Generals Fayolles, Debeney, and Sir Henry Rawlinson was held at BRETEUIL with reference to joint operations.

(b) The ration strength of the Fourth Army was as follows:-

189,684 White personnel.
263 Indian personnel.
73,539 horses.



9th April, 1918.

A41

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 9th April, 1918.

1. No change in the situation. There was considerable shelling of forward areas during the day, but with the exception of minor operations attempted by the enemy on the extreme right of the Army at BOUZINCOURT and in the vicinity of TREUX no infantry action occurred.

2. III CORPS.

Left division forward area heavily bombarded from 4.20 a.m. to 6 a.m. The following areas were also heavily shelled during the day :- VAIRE, BOIS de GENTELLES, E. end of BOIS de BLANGY.

At 4.30 p.m. about 30 of the enemy pushed into the E. end of BOUZINCOURT, occupying a farm. They were promptly ejected by 15th Australian Inf. Bde. At 7.45 p.m. the enemy attempted to work round the right brigade but were easily beaten off. right flank of the

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. VAUX, RIBEMONT and TREUX were gas-shelled. MARETT WOOD, TREUX and gun positions near HEILLY were also bombarded with gas during the afternoon. In addition, somewhat wild and scattered shelling was reported throughout the Corps front during the morning, this apparently being intended for counter-preparation.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

At about 7.30 p.m. the enemy attacked HANGARD and occupied the cemetery and E. end of village. A counter-attack ejected them almost immediately from the village, but it was only at 3.30 a.m. the following morning that the cemetery was recaptured.

5. AIRCRAFT.

60 hours were flown by 81 pilots. 7 artillery patrols were carried out. Hostile aircraft activity was normal but there were no combats in the air.

4 machines were sent out on offensive patrols.

16 twenty-five pound bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons and 70 twenty pound bombs by Army Squadrons. 1,900 rounds were fired at ground targets by Corps Squadrons and 250 rounds by Army Squadrons.

6. PRIISONERS.

9th April, 1918.

2.

6. PRISONERS.

2 O.R. were taken during the day.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

A.A. 13-pdr. (H.E.)	..	461
" " (S)	..	34
13-pdr. (S)	..	3489
18-pdr. (H.E.)	..	6370
" " (S)	..	10048
4.5" How. (H.E.)	..	3319
" " (Gas)	..	656
60-pdr. (H.E.)	..	2082
" " (S)	..	1098
" " (Gas)	..	42
6" How. (H.E.)	..	6378
" " (Gas)	..	201
6" Mk. VII (H.E.)	..	395
" " (S)	..	258
8" How. (H.E.)	..	391
9.2" How. (H.E.)	..	187

8. WEATHER.

Dull, misty, with occasional showers.

9. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

16th Divisional Artillery left by road for First Army.

1st Australian Divisional Artillery arrived by rail from Second Army.

3rd and 6th Australian A.F.A.Bdes. rejoined the Australian Corps.

10. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cavalry Divisions.

III Corps: 14th*, 18th*, 58th, 1 Bde. 2nd Aust.,
1 Bde. 3rd Australian Divisions.

Australian Corps: 2 Bdes. 2nd Aust., 2 Bdes. 3rd Aust.,
2 Bdes. 4th Aust.*, 1 Bde.* 35th Divisions.

Army Reserve: XVIII Corps: 20th, 61st Divisions.

XIX Corps: 8th, 16th, 24th, 66th, 1st Aust. Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

11. GENERAL.

(a) Under orders of III Corps, one Bn. of infantry, one Tunnelling Co. R.E. and a proportion of machine guns were detailed as a permanent garrison for VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

A Commandant with an acting staff officer to assist him were also appointed.

(b) AMIENS was shelled throughout the day, fire being mainly directed against the two railway stations and western approaches of the town.

9th April, 1918.

A43

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.20 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Enemy shelling RIBEMONT and MERICOURT heavily with gas this morning. Otherwise situation quiet.

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

Morning report. Situation unchanged. Heavy shelling of road junction P.25.c.0.3 from 9 p.m. to midnight. RIBEMONT and MERICOURT heavily shelled with gas this morning. Otherwise a quiet night.

7.50 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Continuation of morning report. About 5.30 a.m. enemy artillery opened heavily with gas on batteries in left division sector, also slightly in right division sector. Our heavies immediately carried out neutralising fire; also shelled known assembly points. No infantry action followed. Situation now quiet.

10.10 a.m. From III Corps.

15th Australian Brigade line now runs P.13.b.7.0 - P.8.c.4.0 - P.8.b.8.6 - P.2.d.8.8 - P.3.central - J.34.d.5.4.

1.19 p.m. From Australian Corps.

About 9 this morning enemy 30 strong attacked a post of right division in J.24.b and was driven off with loss. Our casualties nil.

3.50 p.m. From III Corps.

A prisoner taken by the French east of HANGARD today stated that HANGARD would be heavily attacked after violent bombardment. A heavy bombardment of HANGARD started at 12.30 p.m. today and shelling is still in progress there.

5.50 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening situation - no change in dispositions. Heavy bombardment of forward area of left division from 4.20 a.m. to 5.35 a.m. to 6 a.m. No infantry action followed. No shelling of forward area left division since 6 a.m. The following areas were heavily shelled during the day: VAIRE, BOIS DE GENTELLES, E. end of BOIS DE BLANGY. Intermittent shelling on U.16., U.20., U.21., U.22., P.2.b., P.8.b. Prisoners last 24 hours 1 O.R.

6.15 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. From 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. hostile artillery fired 500 gas shells in vicinity N. of VAUX-sur-SOMME (J.20., J.21). RIBEMONT and valley N.E. to TREUX shelled with 77 mm. gas from early morning till 7.30 a.m. Area N. of SAILLY-le-SEC (J.23) shelled with gas 1.25 p.m. Further gas shelling 3 p.m. in vicinity MARETT WOOD, TREUX and railway line from direction MORLANCOURT. Battery positions vicinity of HEILLY also shelled. At 2.30 p.m. about 300 enemy observed in SUNKEN ROAD K.18.d., engaged and dispersed by heavy artillery. Infantry observers

report

9th April, 1918.
(continued).

A44

report shooting excellent. Hostile artillery more active left division front. LAVIEVILLE, MILLENCOURT and BRESLE shelled. Prisoners nil.

7.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

No infantry action. Enemy artillery active particularly on VAIRE, BOIS de GENTELLES and E. end of BOIS de BLANGY. Australian Corps reports gas shelling vicinity of VAUX-sur-SOMME, RIBECOURT and valley N.E. of TREUX early today. Area N. of SAILLY-le-SEC and vicinity of MARETT WOOD, TREUX and railway line was shelled with gas during afternoon. 12.30 p.m. 300 enemy observed in SUNKEN ROAD, K.18.a., engaged and dispersed by heavy artillery. Shooting reported excellent. Estimated prisoners 1 O.R.

8.15 p.m. From III Corps.

In continuation of evening report. Right Bn. 5th Australian Brigade reports at 7 p.m. intense bombardment of their front and HANGARD. At 7.5 p.m. S.O.S. reported from right company front.

10.30 p.m. From III Corps.

Situation 10.30 p.m. as follows. No infantry action on our front. Enemy attempted to work round our right flank but was held up. XXXI French Corps report that attack very local. Enemy penetrated outpost line and reached cemetery and E. edge HANGARD. Attack did not reach as far south as copse in U.29.d. Only 1 battalion and 1 company engaged. French have launched one battalion in counter-attack. Artillery and rifle fire on our front had died down at 9.30 p.m.

11.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.

III Corps reports enemy at 7 p.m. attacked French at HANGARD. Attack only local. French outpost line penetrated on E. edge of HANGARD. No attack S. of river. Enemy also tried to work round flank of 5th Aust. Bde. but held up. Rifle and machine gun fire ceased on III Corps front at 9.30 p.m.

10th April, 1918.

A45

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 10th April, 1918.

1. Quiet night. Situation unchanged. No operations took place.

2. (a) III CORPS.

Hostile artillery active in the vicinity of VAIRE between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Situation otherwise generally quiet.

(b) AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

SAILLY LE SEC and vicinity of BONNAY shelled: otherwise quiet.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet on whole Army front.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

No change in the situation.

5. AIRCRAFT.

The weather was fine with fair visibility but low clouds later in the day.

339 hours were flown by 183 pilots. Two reconnaissances were carried out, and 9 contact patrols. There were 20 artillery patrols and one hostile battery was successfully neutralised.

95 machines went out on offensive patrols. 15 combats in the air took place. 1 E.A. crashed and 1 E.A. was brought down out of control. One of our machines is missing and one crashed.

Eighty 25-lb bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons and thirty-six 20-lb bombs by Army Squadrons during the day on various targets. 6,220 rounds were fired by Corps Squadrons and 2,105 by Army Squadrons at ground targets from below 1,000 feet.

Seventy-two 25-lb bombs were dropped on LAMOTTE aerodrome during the morning. Several direct hits were obtained. One machine crashed and one hangar was blown up.

6. PRISONERS.

1 O.R. was taken.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

10th April, 1918.

2.

7. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

Sub

13-pdr. A.A. (H.E.)	..	715
" (S)	..	207
3" 20-cwt. (H.E.)	..	8
" (S)	..	2
18-pdr. (H.E.)	..	5019
" (S)	..	8320
4.5" How. (H.E.)	..	2057
" (Gas)	..	553
60-pdr. (H.E.)	..	1055
" (S)	..	662
6" How. (H.E.)	..	6688
" (Gas)	..	351
6" Mk. VII (H.E.)	..	193
" (S)	..	298
8" How.	..	218
9.2" How.	..	44

8. WEATHER.

Dull and misty.

9. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

The 14th Division, on ceasing to be in III Corps Reserve, were withdrawn to XVIII Corps area.

The 61st Division (less artillery) moved by rail to Second Army, and the 16th Division (less artillery, M.G.Bn., and 2 Field Cos. R.E.) moved to First Army.

The Cavalry Corps (less 3rd Cavalry Division) left by road for Third Army.

The 50th Divisional Artillery left by rail for Third Army.

The 1st and 7th M.M.Gun Batteries left by road for Second Army.

The Canadian M.M.Gun Brigade left by road for First Army.

10. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

Cavalry Corps: 1st~~∅~~, 2nd~~∅~~ and 3rd Cav. Divisions.
 III Corps: 14th~~∅~~, 18th*, 58th, 1 Bde.* 2nd Aust.,
 1 Bde. 3rd Aust. Divisions, 5th Aust. Div.
 Australian Corps: 1st Aust.*, 2 Bdes. of each of
 2nd, 3rd, 4th* Aust. Divisions.
 Army Reserve: XVIII Corps: 20th, 61st Divisions.
 XIX Corps: 8th, 16th~~∅~~, 20th, 24th,
 61st~~∅~~, 66th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve. ~~∅~~ Moving to XVIII Corps.
~~∅~~ Moving to Third Army. ~~∅~~ Moving to other Armies.

11. GENERAL.

Examination of prisoners elicits the information that the enemy intends to reach AMIENS in two or three days from April 9th.

AMIENS was again shelled, but not so heavily as on the previous day.

10th April, 1918.

A47

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

6.18 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Enemy shelled western end of BUIRE between 7.30 and 8 p.m. last night with 4.2" how. MARETT WOOD also shelled intermittently during night. Movement in vicinity of BRAY - CORBIE road on our front suggesting relief during night. Situation quiet.

6.20 a.m. From III Corps.

Morning report. Our line unchanged and runs J.34.d.5.7 - P.3.central - P.2.d.8.3 - P.8.b.8.6 - P.8.c.5.0 - P.13.b.7.0 - P.20.a.0.9 - P.26.c.2.0 - P.31.b.3.0 - P.31.d.7.0 - V.1.b.7.6 - V.1.c.8.9 - V.6.d.4.4 - U.11.b.3.0 - U.11.d.0.7 - U.17.a.5.0 - U.17.c.5.0 - U.23.a.9.0 - U.23.d.8.2 - to junction with French in copse U.29.a. Yesterday 4.30 p.m. party of about 30 enemy pushed into East end BOUZENCOURT, occupying a farm. After a short fight 5th Australian Division drove back enemy. No identification secured. Enemy in his attack on French Corps last night reported to have occupied cemetery and eastern outskirts HANGARD, but French counter-attack has since driven him out of HANGARD. 8th Australian Bde. relieved 15th Australian Bde. in Australian sector. where night was quiet except for intermittent shelling.

7.10 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Morning report. Situation unchanged. At 4.30 p.m. yesterday party of about 30 enemy pushed into E. end of BOUZENCOURT and occupied a farm. After a short fight they were driven out by 5th Australian Div. In attack on French front enemy reported to have captured CEMETERY on E. outskirts of HANGARD. French counter-attack has driven him out.

11.45 p.m. From III Corps.

Right Division reports between 9.30 and 10.30 a.m. two of our aeroplanes shot into our trenches between V.1.b.8.6 and P.31.d.8.8.

5.55 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet on right division front. E.A. active about noon. Left division reports enemy artillery active between 9 a.m. and 12 noon shelling VAIRE, P.2.a and b and P.19.d with 77 mm. Low flying planes active 2 p.m. Situation generally quiet.

6.5 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Intermittent shelling forward areas right brigade of right division, also vicinity S.W. BONNAY. Light shelling BUIRE. 8 E.A. over TREUX between 8.30 and 8.45 a.m. Prisoners nil.

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

Evening report. Situation quiet on Army front. Some shelling of VAIRE and neighbourhood during day. Also of BUIRE and S.W. of BONNAY. E.A. rather active on III Corps front. Prisoners reported nil.

(continued)

10th April, 1918.
(continued).

A 48

7.18 p.m. From III Corps.

5th Australian Division reports plane with our markings dropped one bomb approximately P.25.a.1.4. Fired machine gun at target unknown and was observed to fly towards enemy lines.

8.35 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Enemy shelling SAILLY-le-SEC and vicinity

7.5 p.m. British plane brought down west of MORCOURT (Q.14). Transport both ways LAMOTTE - CERISY road.
