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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

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Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

June 1918



AWM4-1/14/8PART2

11th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 11th June, 1918. (67)

1. A most successful operation was carried out by the Australian Corps in the vicinity of MORLANCOURT on the night June 10/11th. The line was advanced on a front of about 3500 yards and to a depth of 750 yards. All objectives were gained and the total captures amounted to 6 officers, 325 O.R., 21 machine guns and 1 minenwerfer. According to prisoners' statements the enemy's casualties were heavy.

At the same time a successful raid was carried out against enemy positions South of VILLE and 6 prisoners and 2 machine guns were captured and 30 of the enemy believed killed.

Hostile artillery in the ALBERT Sector was inactive during the period under review. The only heavy shelling reported was on the front system South of the ALBERT-AMIENS Road for a short period during the morning.

South of the ANCRE the chief activity was in connection with our operations S.W. of MORLANCOURT, the rest of the front being fairly quiet.

The reply to our barrage was very light and widely scattered. Hostile fire was heavier between 10.38 p.m. and 11.16 p.m., but subsequently, during the night, only consisted of heavy bursts of fire at intervals in the area of operations. By day the newly won ground was fairly heavily shelled.

H.V. gun activity was below normal on back areas, although 175 rounds fell in AMIENS.

Our artillery, in addition to the programme carried out in connection with the operations by the Australian Corps, was very active. Amongst other targets a balloon bed South of MAMETZ was engaged by 6" guns, the balloon being obliged to descend.

2. III CORPS.

Enemy's artillery inactive. Our artillery co-operated in operations by the Australian Corps.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

On the night June 10/11th the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade carried out an attack S.W. of MORLANCOURT with the object of improving the position of the line in that vicinity.

The attack had as an objective the hostile front and support lines of posts between J.30.d.2.3. and K.13.b.2.7. The frontage of the operation was 3,500 yards and varied from a depth of 250 yards to 750 yards.

In order that ample time should be available for consolidation during the hours of darkness, it was decided to attack as soon as possible after dusk. Any movement to assembly positions by day was impossible owing to enemy observation, and the attacking troops were therefore established in their positions the previous night.

/ This

11th June, 1918.

2.

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This necessitated their remaining in the front line for practically 24 hours and running the risk of suffering heavy casualties through hostile counter-preparation. Strict orders were issued regarding concealment and although no hostile action developed, it was subsequently ascertained from prisoners that some movement was observed by the enemy and an attack by us anticipated on the morning of June 11th. In consequence the assault on the enemy on the evening of June 10th took the enemy by surprise.

The attack was carried out by the 27th, 25th and 28th Battalions in the order named from right to left. Each Battalion attacked with three Companies in the front line with one Company in support, the last named providing carriers. In addition, five platoons of the 26th Battalion provided a nucleus garrison for our old front line and carrying parties for trench mortars. The Pioneer Battalion was held in readiness to move forward after the assault, for work on communication trenches.

An artillery barrage was provided by seven Brigades of Field Artillery, the frontage per gun being 24 yards. The Corps H.A. fired on Counter-battery tasks and selected targets, and, in addition, at zero to zero plus 1 minute, eight 6" Stokes mortars carried out a hurricane bombardment on the enemy's wire, and eight 3" Stokes mortars on the enemy's posts between our front line and the barrage line. 56 machine guns fired on barrage lines and on selected targets.

At zero hour, 9.45 p.m., our troops left their trenches and by 10 p.m. had secured all objectives. On the right, considerable opposition was encountered from machine guns, and hand-to-hand fighting took place. To a lesser degree this was also the case with the centre of attack, but on the left the enemy offered a poor resistance and surrendered freely. The enemy's artillery fire, being thin and scattered, provided no serious obstacle to our consolidation which, under the personal supervision of the three Commanding Officers, was satisfactorily completed by daylight.

Communication was rapidly established, and in one case a company of the 28th Battalion had a telephone line established to Battalion Headquarters 12 minutes after reaching its objective. Hot coffee and rum was served out to the troops at 12 midnight.

Two feeble attempts to counter-attack were carried out by the enemy. One, consisting of two companies each of 100, was caught by our artillery fire on the outskirts of MORLANCOURT and failed to develop. The other, opposite the centre of our line, was dispersed by rifle machine gun and Lewis gun fire. Two attempts by the enemy to bomb up communication trenches joining our new front line to the enemy's system were easily repulsed by the 28th Battalion.

The total number of prisoners taken as a result of the day's operations amounted to 6 officers and 325 O.R., and in addition 34 machine guns and 6 minenwerfers were captured.

It is estimated that 200 of the enemy were killed, the majority of these being on the front of the 27th Battalion. Our casualties totalled 20 officers and 325 O.R., 5 officers and 33 O.R. being killed outright.*

/ At zero

* A map is attached illustrating the operation.

11th June, 1918.

3.

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At zero hour in conjunction with the major operation the 22nd Battalion of the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade raided the enemy's line East of TREUX. Six prisoners and 2 machine guns were taken, and 30 of the enemy killed. The Germans were taken by surprise and were not wearing their equipment.

A raid undertaken at 11 p.m. in the vicinity of DERNANCOURT found the enemy alert and returned to our lines without securing identifications.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet except for a heavy barrage on our trenches East of MARTINSART from 3.15 p.m. to 3.45 p.m. and considerable activity on the area North of MOYENVILLE.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

Twelve successful reconnaissances were made. Eight artillery flights were carried out during which 3 hostile batteries were neutralised. 60 offensive patrols were carried out. Eleven photographic plates were exposed.

Owing to the inclement weather our aircraft were not very active. Eight air combats took place, 3 of which were decisive, resulting in 1 E.A. brought down and 2 E.A. brought down out of control.

During 22 night flights 308 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on SUZANNE, ETINEHEM, CATEAU WOOD and CEYLON WOOD.

Twenty-nine 25-lb. bombs were dropped during the day on suitable ground targets; 4,350 machine gun rounds were fired at villages and on roads.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was much below normal. Twelve F.E.A. and 3 R.E.A. were seen but only 1 R.E.A. crossed the line.

No hostile aircraft were reported during the night.

6. PRISONERS.

Six officers and 331 O.R. passed through Corps cages.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds, clearing after midday.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

11th June, 1918.

4.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

070

No important reliefs or moves took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry
Division (Army Reserve).

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

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30 and 66th Div-
isions (Training Cadres).

XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions,
12th Division (administered by Third
/ Army).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 43 |
| " S. | .. | 17 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 7868 |
| " S. | .. | 12753 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 4933 |
| " Gas. | .. | 1022 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 1628 |
| " S. | .. | 1675 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 5392 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 285 |
| " S. | .. | 240 |
| 8" How. | .. | 810 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 767 |
| 12" How. | .. | 57 |

11th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 071
- 2.36 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Night observations nil. Bad visibility.
- 5.15 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation unchanged. Gas shelling nil. III Corps artillery co-operated last night in Australian Corps minor operations.
- 5.40 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron, R.A.F.
Reconnaissance carried out tonight between hours of 10.20 p.m. and 1.55 a.m. of the following roads:- ALBERT-BAPAUME, BAPAUME-PERONNE, POZIERES-LE SARS, POZIERES-COURCELETTE, GONTALMAISON-LONGUEVAL, MAMETZ-MONTAUBAN, FRICOURT-MARICOURT, FRICOURT-BRAY, MEAULTE-BRAY, MORLANCOURT-BRAY. Observed no movement except on BRAY-MEAULTE Road where some transport was seen going towards BRAY, approximately 6 vehicles. Michelin flares were used.
- 5.40 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 a.m. report:- One E.A. in flames. Bombs by night - 10 112-lb., 10 25-lb. on CAMBRAI, 10 112-lb. 32 25-lb. on MARICOURT, 4 112-lb., 8 25-lb. on CARNOY, 70 25-lb. CATEAU WOOD, 84 25-lb. ETINEHEM, 56 25-lb. CEYLON WOOD, 98 25-lb. SUZANNE.
- 6.45 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. At 9.45 p.m. last night we attacked between SAILLY LAURETTE and MORLANCOURT on a front of about 3,500 yards and penetrated to a depth of 750 yards gaining all objectives. Captures so far reported 2 officers, 231 O.R., 21 machine guns, 1 minenwerfer. According to prisoners' statements enemy casualties were very heavy. Our line now runs as follows:- Original line at J.30.c.1.1., continuous trench from K.25.c.0.5. to K.25.b.00.55 to K.19.d.22.16 then line of posts from K.19.b.8.0 to K.13.d.8.0. thence continuous trench to K.13.b.45.00 to K.13.b.20.72. At the same time a successful raid was carried out against enemy position at K.1.d.9.2. Six prisoners and 2 machine guns captured and 30 of the enemy killed. Our troops suffered no casualties in this enterprise. On the remainder of the front situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas and a little gas reported on Right Division front. Enemy retaliation to our artillery during the attack was not heavy, mainly on back areas.
- 6.45 a.m. To G. H. Q.
In minor operation last night between SAILLY LAURETTE and MORLANCOURT we advanced our line 750 yards and captured 2 officers, 231 O.R. prisoners, 21 machine guns, 1 trench mortar. Line now runs J.30.d.2.2. - K.25.c.0.5. - K.25.b.00.55. - K.19.d.22.16 - K.19.b.8.0. - K.13d.8.0. - K.13.b.45.00 - K.13.b.20.72. We raided enemy trenches East of TREUX and captured 6 O.R. prisoners, 2 machine guns; 30 enemy killed. Situation now quiet. Light shelling BRETON-NEUX with gas. 359 25-lb., 24 112-lb. bombs on CAMBRAI and various targets. One E.A. in flames.

11th June, 1918.

cont'd.

8 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Contact patrol report: Our line runs
J.36.b.2.2. - J.36.b.4.3. - J.36.b.55.50 - J.36.b.8.8. -
K.25.c.30.25 - K.25.c.5.6. - K.25.c.7.9. - K.25.a.9.3. -
K.25.b.4.8. - K.19.d.5.4. - K.19.d.6.9. - K.19.b.7.5. -
K.19.b.7.8. - K.13.b.4.1. - K.13.b.4.4.- No signs of
counter-attack.

5.15 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Enemy
artillery inactive. No gas shelling. Captures nil.

5.55 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. Light
shelling forward areas Right Division, also on VAIRE and
FOUILLOY and area N.W. SAILLY-LE-SEC. Hostile artillery
also active on forward area Left Division. E.A. active:
three bombs dropped on VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Captures last
24 hours, 3 officers, 248 O.R. unwounded, 2 officers 45
O.R. wounded; material, 22 machine guns, 1 minenwerfer.

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

6 p.m. report. One E.A. crashed, 2 driven down
out of control.

6.25 p.m. To G. H. Q.

Hostile artillery active between River ANCRE and
SOMME. Slight shelling forward area South of SOMME. 250
green cross shell N.E. TREUX 1.45 to 3 a.m. One E.A.
crashed, two down out of control. Captures last 24 hours
3 officers, 248 O.R. unwounded, 2 officers 45 O.R. wounded;
material: 22 machine guns, 1 M.W.

Map illustrating
operation carried
out by Australian
Corps on night
10/11th June 1918.



12th June, 1918.

074
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 12th June, 1918.

1. Hostile shelling was below normal. A few rounds from a H.V. gun fell in the vicinity of PONT NOYELLES. There was a decrease in the shelling of AMIENS, only about 110 rounds falling in the City.

2. III CORPS.

With the exception of heavy shelling by 77 mms. of our front line West of DERNANCOURT in the early morning, the day passed quietly.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night our old front line between MORLANCOURT and the SOMME was subjected to short concentrations of fire by field guns. The BOIS de l'ABBE received a few rounds of phosgene shell and BUSSY was shelled intermittently with yellow cross shell from a H.V. gun.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A quiet day: nothing to report.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

650 hours were flown by 280 pilots and 8 successful reconnaissances were made. Nine artillery patrols were carried out and 31 zone calls sent down. Eight hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and 3 successful destructive shoots were carried out on bridges.

109 offensive patrols and 12 photographic flights were made. During the latter 423 plates were exposed.

Our aircraft were fairly active: 18 air combats took place, 4 of which were decisive, 4 E.A. being brought down out of control.

During 13 night flights 196 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on SUZANNE, ETINEHEM and CEYLON WOOD.

By day 446 twenty-five lb. and forty-four 112-lb. bombs were dropped on the BOIS-de-TAILLES, wood near MARICOURT and CHAULNES Station. 12,300 rounds were fired from machine guns into trenches and villages.

/ (b)

12th June, 1918.

C75

(b) Hostile.

Enemy aircraft were not very active. Ten R.E.A. and 7 F.E.A. crossed the lines and were engaged by our A.A. fire. No hostile aircraft activity was reported during the night.

6. PRISONERS.

No prisoners were captured during the period under review.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds, clearing later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of any importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).
Aust. Corps: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th* Australian Divns.
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions, 12th Division (administered by Third Army).
* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 37 |
| " S. | .. | 9 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 6701 |
| " S. | .. | 8721 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 2944 |
| " Gas. | .. | 1818 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 877 |
| " S. | .. | 922 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 2839 |
| " Gas. | .. | 442 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 245 |
| " S. | .. | 60 |
| 8" How. | .. | 381 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 492 |

12th June, 1918.

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Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 2.3 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Nil observation: bad visibility.
- 2.52 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Reconnaissance carried out tonight between the hours of 10.15 p.m. and 12 a.m. of the following roads ALBERT-BAPAUME, BAPAUME-PERONNE, POZIERES-LE SARS, POZIERES-COURCELETTE, CONTALMAISON-LONGUEVAL, MAMETZ-MONTAUBAN, FRICOURT-MARICOURT, FRICOURT-BRAY, MEAULTE-BRAY, MORLANCOURT-BRAY. Observed movement on BRAY-FRICOURT, ETINEHEM-FRICOURT, BRAY-ALBERT Roads all going North; two vehicles on each road. Michelen flares were dropped. Mist prevented further reconnaissance.
- 5 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 a.m. report. 102 25-lb. bombs on BOIS de TAILLES, 137 25-lb. bombs on wood K.28.b. 83 25-lb. bombs on various targets, 22 112-lb. bombs on CHAULNES. Bombs dropped by night - 70 25-lb. bombs on ETINEHEM, 70 25-lb. bombs on SUZANNE, 56 25-lb. bombs on CEYLON WOOD.
- 5.30 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Gas shelling nil. Captures nil.
- 6.10 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling forward area. 20 rounds green cross gas West of VILLE-sur-ANCRE.
- 6.25 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling forward area Australian Corps and 20 rounds green cross VILLE during night. R.A.F. report - by day 322 25-lb. bombs various targets and 22 112-lb. CHAULNES; by night - 70 25-lb. ETINEHEM, 70 25-lb. SUZANNE, 56 25-lb. CEYLON WOOD.
- 5.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Hostile aircraft and artillery inactive. Captures nil.
- 6.10 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Hostile artillery active Right Brigade Sector during morning. E.A. active over Right and Left Divisions apparently registering. Artillery on Left Division front active. 77 mm. battery located in scrub in K.26.c. and K.31.a. and c. Few H.V. shells into BUSSY. Prisoners last 24 hours 2 O.R. unwounded, 1 O.R. wounded.
- 6.45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 p.m. report. Three E.A. out of control. 22 112-lb. bombs on CHAULNES, 132 25-lb. bombs on various targets.

cont'd.

12th June, 1918.

cont'd.

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

Hostile artillery active North of MORLANCOURT.
Few H.V. shells on BUSSY. Prisoners captured during
operation night 10/11th now total 4 officers 264 O.R.
unwounded, 2 officers 61 O.R. wounded. Prisoners last
24 hours 2 O.R. unwounded, 1 O.R. wounded. Three E.A.
out of control. 132 25-lb. bombs on various targets,
22 112-lb. bombs on CHAULNES by R.A.F.

SECRET

18

12th June, 1918.

Third Army.
Fourth Army.

C78

O.A. 213.

1. Instructions have been issued by General Foch for the development of strongly organised lines of defence safeguarding the junction between the French and British Armies about AMIENS.

The general line of the defences which will be developed and the division of responsibility for their construction is set out below. A map showing these Defences is attached.

General Line of Defences to be developed.

- (i) AUTHIE - LOUVENCOURT - LEALVILLERS - HARPONVILLE - LA HOUSOYE - DAOURS - BLANGY TRONVILLE - BOVES.

These defences will be developed by the Third and Fourth Armies, within their areas, and in close cooperation as to the junction between Armies about VADENCOURT.

- (ii) The above line will be continued by the First French Army in co-operation with the Fourth Army, from the present southern boundary of the Fourth Army at the southern corner of the small wood 2,000 yards north-east of ST. NICOLAS (T 4 a, Sht. 62 D) and will follow the general line - ST. NICOLAS - BOVES Wood - ORESMAUX - where it will join the French DURY - THIEUX line.

The DURY - THIEUX line will be strongly organised by the French.

- (iii) Owing to the proximity of the defences east of AMIENS to the present front line, a strong line will also be developed passing west of AMIENS along the general line - AUTHIE - BEAUQUESNE - POULAINVILLE - MONTIERES - SAVEUSE - FERRIERES.

The arrangements which are being made for the development of this line are contained in O.A. 193/2 of 26th May, 1918, and O.A. 193/1 of 9th June, 1918.

- (iv) A switch will be constructed by the French to connect the FERRIERES - SAVEUSE - POULAINVILLE line with the French DURY - THIEUX line.

This switch will probably join the FERRIERES - SAVEUSE - POULAINVILLE line about Q. 17 central, Sheet 62 E, running thence north of SALEUX and DURY to the DURY - THIEUX line between ST. FUSCIEN and PETIT CAGNY.

Further instructions will be issued as to the arrangements which will be made by Fourth Army with the French formation responsible for the construction of this switch.

C79

2. Third and Fourth Armies will please forward to G.H.Q. their proposals for the further development of their defences along the lines mentioned in para. 1(i).

3. The completion of the SEUX - FERRIERES line as far north as FERRIERES will be undertaken by the French.

Fourth Army will be informed as to the arrangements which will be made for the relief of their responsibility for the construction of this portion of the line.

Meanwhile the Fourth Army will forward to G.H.Q. a statement as to the present state of the defences to be handed over to the French, together with such projects for their further development as may have been prepared.

G.H.Q.,
12th June, 1918.

(Sd) J.H. Davidson, M.G.,
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

13th June, 1918.

080

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 13th June, 1918.

1. A minor operation was carried out West of ALBERT during the night without any identification being obtained. In the ALBERT Sector the enemy's artillery remained much below normal, activity being confined to scattered area shooting. On the remainder of the front a further decrease in hostile artillery activity was reported particularly South of the SOMME. H.V. guns shelled CONTAY, BUSSY, LA HOUSSOYE, NOYELLES and VECQUEMONT. AMIENS received about 160 shells during the 24 hours. Our artillery was active.

2. III CORPS.

A raiding party entered the enemy's line in the vicinity of the quarry West of ALBERT but found it unoccupied. During the night desultory fire was directed against road junctions in BOUZINCOURT, HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT. Our front line opposite DERNANCOURT was lightly shelled with 15 cm. hows. followed by a short burst of 77 mm. gas shell an hour later. Otherwise the situation was quiet.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

By night there was light shelling of CORBIE, the crossings in the ANCRE Valley, VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the vicinity of the BOIS DE BLANGY. During the day there was some shelling of forward areas between the SOMME and the ANCRE, and a few rounds of yellow cross were reported South of MERICOURT.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

447 hours were flown by 203 pilots.

13 successful reconnaissances were carried out and 12 artillery patrols made. During the latter 6 hostile batteries were successfully neutralised, 20 zone calls sent down and 2 successful destructive shoots on bridges were carried out.

147 offensive patrols were made and 51 photographic plates exposed.

Our aircraft were only fairly active. Seven air combats took place, one of which was decisive result-

/ ing

13th June, 1918.

C81

ing in 1 E.A. being brought down.

During the night ten 25-lb. bombs were dropped in BAPAUME and COMBLES; 111 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various targets during the day. 8,000 machine gun rounds were fired on various targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were very inactive. A few R.E.A. were observed operating over enemy forward areas and two F.E.A. ventured over our lines. No night flights were reported.

6. PRISONERS.

8 O.R. passed through Corps cages and C.C.Ss.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early. Visibility poor, clouding over later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No important reliefs or moves took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).
Aust. Corps: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th* Australian Divns.
XIX Corps: (under orders G.H.Q.) - 30th and 66th Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions, 12th Division (administered by Third Army).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 242 |
| " " S. | .. | 144 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 7104 |
| " " S. | .. | 11850 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 5057 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 180 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 1313 |
| " " S. | .. | 1029 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 6301 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 70 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 254 |
| " " S. | .. | 175 |
| 8" How. | .. | 828 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 774 |
| 12" How. | .. | 30 |

13th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 4 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Night observations. Four trains in CAMBRAI Station at 11.30 p.m. CAMBRAI and BUSIGNY Station well lighted. Rolling stock in FRESNOY station midnight. Four or five vehicles moving from LEMPIRE to ROISEL at 12.20 a.m. One fast moving car going from BOHAIN to PREMONT. No other movement observed between 11 p.m. and 1.20 a.m. in area CAMBRAI - LE CATEAU - ST. QUENTIN - PERONNE. Visibility poor.
- 4.21 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Special long reconnaissances carried out tonight at low altitudes between the hours of 10.15 p.m. and 1.30 a.m., and 1.45 and 2.40 a.m. of the following roads :- BAPAUME, ALBERT, COMBLES, LONGUVAL, CONTALMAISON, LA BOISELLE, PERONNE, CLERY, MAUREPAS, MONTAUBAN, BECOURT, ALBERT, CLERY, MARICOURT, FRICOURT, MEAULTE, SUZANNE, BRAY, CORBIE, BAPAUME, PERONNE, CAPPY, BRAY, BRIE, LA MOTTE, VILLERS BRETONNEUX, WESLE, CHAULNES, HARBONNIERES, LA MOTTE, ROYE, AMIENS. Observed no movement on roads. One train observed leaving BRAY 12 o'clock. Michelin flares were used.
- 4.43 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 a.m. report. One E.A. out of control. 63 25-lb. bombs on various targets. By night bombs dropped - five 25-lb. on BAPAUME, five 25-lb. on COMBLES.
- 5.15 a.m. From III Corps.
Situation unchanged. We raided trench in W.27.c. and found it unoccupied. 30 gas shells fired on AMIENS--ALBERT Road at 11.15 p.m.
- 5.57 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. A few gas shells North of SAILLY-le-SEC and light shelling near VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Otherwise very quiet. Gas successfully projected into DERNANCOURT.
- 6 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Some light hostile shelling BRETONNEUX area. Few gas shells South of SAILLY-le-SEC. Gas successfully projected into DERNANCOURT. Enemy's trenches raided West of ALBERT but found unoccupied. One E.A. out of control. 63 25-lb. bombs various targets by day. By night - five 25-lb. bombs on BAPAUME, five 25-lb. bombs COMBLES.
- 5.20 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation unchanged. A few H.V. shells fired into CONTAY during morning, otherwise hostile artillery inactive. No gas shelling. Captures nil.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Hostile artillery quiet except for gas shelling of vicinity of MARRET WOOD with 10.5 cm. blue cross. Slight aerial activity. Captures nil.

(cont'd.

13th June, 1918.

cont'd.

6.20 p.m.

To G. H. Q.

C93

Situation quiet. Some gas shells, blue cross,
South of TREUX. Few H.V. shells CONTAY during morning.
46 25-lb. bombs on various targets. One hostile balloon
destroyed. Captures nil.

084

Fourth Army.

A.A.11.

The attached comparative statement of the number of bombs dropped by our own and enemy aeroplanes during May, 1918, is forwarded for information.

The number of bombs dropped in the British Zone is based on reports received from Armies and L. of C.

G.H.Q.,
13/6/18.

(Sd) C. Evans, B.G.G.S. (A.A.)
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF BOMBS DROPPED BY OUR OWN AND ENEMY AEROPLANES DURING MAY, 1918.

| Number of Bombs dropped by our Squadrons situated in | | Number of Bombs dropped by enemy aeroplanes in | |
|--|--------|--|--------|
| Area | Number | Area | Number |
| First Army | 4,983 | First Army | 532 |
| Second Army | 5,538 | Second Army | 455 |
| Third Army | 6,845 | Third Army | 221 |
| Fourth Army | 12,328 | Fourth Army | 269 |
| G.H.Q. Bde. | 6,965 | L. of C. Area | 2,099 |
| Dunkirk Area | 1,493 | | |
| TOTALS. British | 38,152 | German | 3,576 |

14th June, 1918.

085

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 14th June, 1918.

1. A patrol enterprise by the Australian Corps in the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX failed to secure identification. In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery still remained very quiet. South of the ANCRE a slight increase was reported, mainly in the form of harassing fire on our forward and battery areas during the night. H.V. guns shelled CONTAY, FRANVILLERS, WARLOY, QUERRIEU and DACOURS. AMIENS received 110 rounds, chiefly shrapnel.

2. III CORPS.

Situation quiet. The area between MILLENCOURT and LAVIEVILLE was shelled with 77 mm. during the morning; otherwise no activity of importance was reported.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night a patrol consisting of one officer and 14 O.R. with a Lewis gun attempted to rush a hostile post East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. After heavy fighting in which casualties were inflicted on the enemy, the patrol returned. One of our men was missing.

Between 3 and 4 a.m. the front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was heavily shelled. On both sides of the SOMME there was shelling of roads and tracks during the night.

By day shelling was scattered and fell for the most part North of the SOMME and in the vicinity of BUIRE.

Short concentrations of yellow and blue cross were fired during the night on SAILLY-le-SEC and South of FOUILLOY.

3. THIRD ARMY.

A quiet night. Some activity of hostile artillery in the vicinity of AVELUY WOOD and considerable movement seen opposite GOMMECOURT and in the vicinity of WANCOURT during the morning.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Two successful raids were carried out, resulting in normal identifications being secured. SENECAT WOOD and ROUVREL were fairly heavily shelled during the night. By day there was intermittent shelling of CACHY, GENTELLES and HANGARD WOOD.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

197 hours were flown by 126 pilots. 13 successful reconnaissances were made; 14 artillery patrols were

/ carried

14th June, 1918.

C86 2.

carried out and 16 zone calls sent down. Four hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and 3 hostile batteries neutralised.

45 offensive patrols were carried out.

Our aircraft were not very active: only one indecisive combat took place.

During the day 57 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were very inactive. One R.E.A. came over our lines at a high altitude but, on being engaged by our anti-aircraft fire, retired to the German lines.

No night bombing was reported.

6. PRISONERS.

Three O.R. passed through C.C.Ss.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds: poor visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No important reliefs or moves took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

Aust. Corps: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th* Australian Divns.

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th Divisions (Training Cadres).

XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions, 12th Division (administered by Third Army).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 138 |
| " S. | .. | 51 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 8601 |
| " S. | .. | 14792 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 5367 |
| " Gas. | .. | 2025 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 2070 |
| " S. | .. | 1298 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 7067 |
| " Gas. | .. | 252 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 171 |
| " S. | .. | 186 |
| 8" How. | .. | 1402 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 666 |
| 12" How. | .. | 24 |

14th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. C87

- 3.10 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 a.m. report. 49 25-lb. bombs on various targets. One two-seater E.A. crashed.
- 5.10 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Slight gas shelling forward area on North of Corps front.
- 6.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Light hostile shelling over forward area of Right and Left Divisions. Centre Division quiet. 50 rounds yellow cross fell in E.25.b. during night. Front line due East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX heavily shelled between 3 and 4 a.m. Situation quiet.
- 6.50 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Situation generally quiet. Front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX heavily shelled between 3 and 4 a.m. R.A.F. dropped 49 25-lb. bombs on various targets. One E.A. crashed.
- 9.45 a.m. From Australian Corps.
In continuation of morning report. Patrol consisting of 1 officer, 14 O.R. and Lewis gun rushed enemy post at P.25.c.9.3. Heavy fighting took place: many casualties inflicted on enemy. One of our men is missing.
- 5.30 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation - no change. Gas shelling nil. 20 L.H.V. shells fell on new support line E.13.a. about noon.
- 6.3 P.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light shelling of villages in forward area. Hostile artillery otherwise quiet. Increased enemy movement noted vicinity MARCELCAVE. Total material captured result operation 10/11th inst. - 34 machine guns, 6 trench mortars.
- 6.40 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Quiet day. Hostile artillery activity slight. Australian patrol 1 officer 14 O.R. and Lewis gun rushed enemy post East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX this morning. Heavy fighting took place: many casualties inflicted on enemy. One of our men missing. Gas 24 hours ending 9 a.m. - 2,000 blue and green East of TREUX and 100 North of SAILLY-le-SEC; slight on other areas. Captures nil.
-

FOURTH ARMY.

14th June, 1918.WEEKLY APPRECIATION.

C88

FOR PERIOD 8TH TO 14TH JUNE, 1918, (INCLUSIVE).1. OPERATIONS. -

The enemy has carried out no raids during the period under review, and he still continues to show very slight activity with regard to patrolling his front. On the evening of the 10th the Australians carried out a most successful attack south-west of BORLANCOURT, capturing and holding two lines of trenches and securing 6 officers and 325 O.R. According to prisoners, the Germans attempted to launch a counter-attack from the direction of SAILLY-LAURETTE - strength 1 battalion and elements of another battalion. This counter-attack was, however, broken up by machine-gun fire before reaching our lines. Successful raids were also carried out by our troops east of TREUX and west of ALBERT. In the latter case, the hostile garrison evacuated their front line, thus preventing identifications from being obtained. The number of prisoners captured during the week is 5 officers and 339 O.R.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS. -

The large majority of prisoners captured during the week are ignorant of any intended offensive to be made by the enemy opposite the Front of the Army. During the last few days, however, it would appear that 3, if not 4, divisions expect relief on the 13th/14th or 14th/15th instant. A prisoner captured in the DERFANCOURT sector stated he had been told by a Vicefeldwebel when going into the line that he was to keep himself fit as the division was going to make an attack. As this was one of the divisions that expected to be relieved it would appear that the attack in which it was to be employed would be made on some other part of the front. Two prisoners captured in the VAIRE Wood sector on the 10th instant stated that their officers told them that the division would be relieved on the night 13th/14th and the incoming division would make an attack on the 15th instant. They had also heard that an attack was to be made in the neighbourhood of ARRAS. An aviator captured on the 10th stated that he believed a big offensive was shortly to take place in the neighbourhood of ARRAS; while an N.C.O. belonging to the 76th Field Artillery Regiment stated that the whole front would very shortly 'liven up,' but that ARRAS was where the main attack would be made. From other sources information has been obtained pointing to an attack on the front AMIENS - ALBERT, and that a possible attempt might be made to blow up one of the main railway bridges west of AMIENS on the 15th instant. It is interesting to note, however, that a British N.C.O. who escaped from FINS on the 10th instant saw no signs of any concentration of troops and very little artillery on his way across country to our lines north of ALBERT.

From the above, therefore, it would seem that the majority of men believe that an offensive is about to commence/

P.T.O

089

- 2 -

commence in the vicinity of ARRAS. This may be accompanied by offensive action on the Fourth Army Front.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

As far as is known at present, no changes have taken place on the Army Front in the number of divisions opposed to us. The number still remains at 6. No change has occurred on our immediate flanks.

4. RELIEFS.

It has not been definitely established that any reliefs have taken place during the past week, but from prisoner's statement it was expected that 3, if not 4, of the 6 divisions opposite us would be relieved about the 14th or 15th June.

5. RESERVES: -

The divisions in reserve in the Second German Army (AVELUY to MOREUIL) may be at present classed as follows:-

- 1 fresh Division, which is a Landwehr Division.
- 2 Divisions resting for 1 month and over.
- 5 Divisions resting for 14 days and over.
- 3 Divisions resting under 14 days.

TOTAL =11, of which 5 are considered fit to attack.
===

This shows a difference of 6 divisions since last week's Summary, accounted for as under :-

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 4th Guard Div.) | |
| 19th Division.) | Come to MOETDIDIER - NOYON |
| Jager Division.) | Battle Front. |
| 199th Division | ...VALENCIENNES area. |
| 27th Division. | ...LILLE area. |
| 208th Division | ...WOEVRE. (In line). |

A table showing reserves and reliefs during the past fortnight is attached.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) Aircraft.

Activity during the whole period has been below normal; a slight increase occurring on the 13th inst., noticeably over the SOMME Valley.

The weather throughout the period has, on the whole, been unfavourable for aircraft.

Only two long distance reconnaissance flights were carried out, one over FLESSELLES and VILLERS BOGAGE, and one over AMIENS.

A greater proportion of R.E.A. to F.E.A. has been seen, and it has been noticeable that no attempt was made to prevent our machines crossing the line. During the last few days, hostile 2-seaters, flying at about 5,000 feet, were apparently carrying out reconnaissances east of the line.

(b) Artillery/

C90

Artillery aeroplane machines have been very silent, only twice being even fairly active; the greatest number of ranging flights reported is 11, this occurring on the 13th.

About 67 combats took place; 8 machines were driven down out of control; 6 crashed, and one machine was driven down intact.

(b) Artillery.

The enemy's artillery has been very quiet. In the sectors undisturbed by our operations, no heavy shelling has taken place except for heavy bursts of fire, on the 13th, on our forward positions N.W. of ALBERT, and the front line W. of DERNANCOURT. The enemy activity has been confined to short bursts of fire, and light scattered shelling of forward areas.

In the sector of our minor operation south of the SOMME, the enemy's reply to our barrage was weak and scattered, and his counter-battery work feeble.

There has been only one concentration of gas shelling in the HENENCOURT - LA VIEVILLE - BRESLE area, and long range guns have been quiet throughout the period.

It has been noticed that the enemy's counter-battery work has, during the last few days, become almost negligible.

(c) Movement.

Little road movement has been observed up to the 13th inst. on the Army front, though it must be noted that the weather has not favoured observation. On the morning of the 14th inst., troops amounting to two battalions were seen in full marching order moving from BAYONVILLERS to the Wood in Q.19.a. At the same time, abnormal movement of M.T. and H.T. was observed in both directions between FRICOURT and BECORDEL.

Railway movement was slightly above normal on the CHAULNES - ROYE, CHAULNES - NESLE lines on the 9th, and on the 10th movement sufficient to indicate a possible divisional relief was seen by ground observers on the LE PLATEAU and FRICOURT lines.

Up to the present, with the exception of the two battalions mentioned above, no signs of any enemy concentrations of troops in the area have been observed.

7. ENEMY DEFENCES.

The amount of work done by the enemy from May 7th to May 14th has been comparatively slight.

(1) North of the ANCRE.

(a) The front trench has been linked up and improved S.W. of AVELUY and some work done on dug-outs in banks but no communication trenches have been dug.

(b) Some work has been done on front trenches N.W. of ALBERT. S.W. of the town, the front line is not yet continuous but the close support line is well dug (as reported in last Weekly Appreciation).

(c) Patrols/

P.T.O

091

(c) Patrols have reported wiring both North and South of the ALBERT - ALIENS road and W. of ALBERT. Little wire is visible on photographs. Escaped British prisoners describe the front trenches near ALBERT as being 3 feet wide and 5 feet deep with inadequate belts of concertina wire.

(d) A reserve Battalion is reported N. of MEAULTE, to which the communication trench (now completed) leads from the ALBERT - BECORDEL road.

(ii) Between the ANORE and the SOMME.

Increased activity is visible in the TAILLES Wood and MALIARD Wood valleys where there are batteries and troops, and in the valley along the North bank of the SOMME especially S. of GRESSAIRE Wood. This is much used for troops in reserve.

There is increased work at the old trenches N.W. of TAILLES Wood, from which a new communication trench has been traced to N. of MORLANCOURT.

Since our attack working parties have been reported S. of MORLANCOURT.

(iii) South of the SOMME.

Photograph of 13th inst. shows the front line improved and work in dug-outs between HAMEL and VAIRE Wood and N.E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Working parties have been frequently reported on the front, especially digging and wiring at the western edge of VAIRE Wood and digging on the ridge east of HAMEL.

8. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS. -

(a) Aerodromes. -

There has been a remarkable increase of aerodrome accommodation in the area east of the SOMME and south of the COLOGNE river. The existing aerodromes in this area have been enlarged. The total number of hangars in this area has increased by approximately 90 hangars since May 25th.

In addition to the above increase the aerodrome at BEQUINCOURT has been enlarged and a new aerodrome is reported at ASSEVILLERS.

The decrease of accommodation in the HAM - NESLE area continues.

(b) Dumps. -

South of the SOMME the enemy has maintained his activity generally, and has increased the ammunition dump at VAUVILLERS. New work is also reported at certain points on the main line between ROISEL and ROYE.

North of the SOMME nothing new has been reported.

(c) Railways. -

The western limit of the new railway from MISERY sidings has been located at ABLAINCOURT village.

Work on light railways is also reported at CAIX and in the POZIERES area.

(d) Hospitals/

C92

(d) Hospitals. -

Three new hospitals are reported.

9. GENERAL. -

Throughout the week hostile activity has been generally slight along the whole Army Front, both with regard to air activity, artillery activity (including gas-shelling) and movement by road and rail.

Reconnaissance machines have shown a distinct increase as compared with fighting machines, but few attempts have been made to cross our lines. Aerodromes have decreased west but considerably increased east of the SOMME.

The number of divisions opposite the Army Front has shown no change, but it seems probable that possibly three out of the six divisions now in the line may have already been, or will shortly be, relieved by fresh divisions.

The number of German divisions in reserve available to carry out an attack on the Western Front still remains about 30, the large majority of which belong to the Group of Armies of Prince RUPPRECHT. Hence an attack on a considerable scale can be carried out at any time, as the enemy's rear organizations are sufficiently advanced to admit of this. From prisoners it would appear that an attack in the vicinity of ARRAS is about to be made in the near future. This may be accompanied by an attack, probably with a limited objective, against the front of the Fourth Army. Except for prisoners' statements, however, there is no indication of any sort that an offensive is intended opposite this Front.

Vivian

Fourth Army (I),
June 14th, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION :-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| G.H.Q.I. | 2. |
| Third Army, I | 2. |
| Corps, I | 3. |
| Divisions (incl: Amor:) ... | 2. |
| 5th Sde., R.A.F. | 3. |
| Capt. BERONDEAU | 3. |
| A.D.C. | 1. |
| Lt. Col., G.S. | 1. |
| Operations | 1. |
| G.O.C., R.A. | 1. |
| D.A. & Q.M.G. | 1. |
| Inf. School | 1. |
| S.O.S. School | 1. |

Movements of Divisions from 30th May to 14th June

Authuille to Sauvillers Front.

| Sectors. | In Line, 30th May. | In Line, 14th June. | Reserves, 30th May. | Reserves, 14th June | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aveluy ... | 3rd Naval Div. | 24 Div. ← | | | From rest in BAPAUME Area. |
| Albert ... | 243 Div. | 243 Div. | 27 Div. | | LILLE Area. |
| Dernancourt ... | 54 R. Div. | 50 R. Div. ← | 79 R. Div. | 8 Naval Div. | BAILLEUL Area. |
| Morlancourt ... | 54 Div. | 54 R. Div. | 50 R. Div. | 22 Res. Div. ← | From FLANDERS to MONTAUBAN Area. |
| Sailly-le-sec ... | | | 199 Div. | 54 Res. Div. | CONDÉ-SUR-ESCAUT (VALENCIENNES Area). |
| RIVER SOMME ... | 24 R. Div. | 24 R. Div. | 18 Div. | 18 Div. | |
| Hamel ... | | | | | |
| Vaire Wood ... | 77 R. Div | 77 R. Div. | 1 Div. | 1 Div. | |
| Yillers Bretonneux | 108 Div. | 108 Div. | 183 Div. | 183 Div. | |
| Marcelcave ... | 109 Div. | 109 Div. | 4 Gd. Div. | 283 Div. 2 ← | From LA FÈRE Area. |
| Hangard ... | | | 107 Div. | 12 Ldw. Div. | MONTDIDIER-NOYON Battle front. |
| RIVER LUCE ... | 225 Div. | 225 Div. | 19 Div. | 107 Div. | Resting in BRAY sector. |
| Thennes ... | 21 Div. | 21 Div. | Jaeger Div. | | |
| Castel ... | 14 Bav. Div. | 2 Bav. Div. ← | Gd. Ersatz Div. | Gd. Ersatz Div. | |
| Moreuil ... | 192 Div. | 192 Div. | 14 Div. | | |
| Mailly ... | 6 R. Div. | 6 R. Div. | 2 Bav. Div. | 200 Div. | Resting in LEQUESNOY Area. |
| Sauvillers ... | 1 R. Div. | 1 R. Div. | 18 Div. | 14 Bav. Div. | AISNE Battle front. |
| | | | 200 Div. | | |
| | | | 76 R. Div. | 15 Div. | HIRSON Area. |
| | | | 15 Div. | | |

693

15th June, 1918.

C94

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 15th June, 1918.

1. A successful raid by the Australian Corps resulted in the capture of 6 prisoners and 2 machine guns. In the ALBERT Sector the enemy's artillery displayed little activity. On the remainder of the front there was a slight increase in hostile shelling, including a proportion of gas. A H.V. gun was active on HEILLY. About 190 rounds were fired into AMIENS.

2. III CORPS.

Gas was successfully projected into the enemy's lines S.W. of ALBERT during the night.

Early in the night there was slight gas shelling North of BUIRE. Our forward system N.W. of ALBERT received bursts of fire from 77 mm. and 10.5 cm. howitzers during the morning. Communications were lightly shelled in the HENENCOURT - MILLENCOURT area and along the ALBERT-AMIENS Road.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A successful raid was carried out by the 5th Australian Division East of VILLE-sur-ANCRE. Six prisoners and 2 machine guns were captured.

During the night villages in the ANCRE and SOMME Valleys were freely shelled and on two occasions a barrage was put down in front of our line in the neighbourhood of HAMEL.

Gas concentrations were fired into battery areas N.W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and South of MERICOURT. In the latter case the shelling, which included yellow cross and lachrymatory gas, lasted for two hours and was heavy.

By day there was scattered shelling of the front system and villages and communications in rear. In the afternoon the right bank of the SOMME East of VAUX was heavily gassed for an hour.

A 10.5 cm. H.V. gun fired about 100 rounds on HEILLY with aerial observation. An intercepted wireless message from the enemy observer claimed an O.K. on traffic.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

The vicinity of GUYANCOURT was heavily shelled: situation otherwise quiet.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

277 hours were flown by 163 pilots and 12 successful reconnaissances carried out. 15 artillery patrols were

/ carried

15th June, 1918.

C95 2.

carried out, 13 zone calls were sent down, 5 hostile batteries engaged for destruction and 4 hostile batteries neutralised.

75 offensive patrols were made and 54 photographs secured.

Our aircraft were only slightly active. Five air combats took place and one E.A. was brought down out of control.

Three night reconnaissances were carried out during the night 14/15th and some train and road movement reported.

During the day 93 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various ground targets and 2,050 machine gun rounds fired into villages.

A successful registration on a hostile railway gun with kite balloon observation caused the gun to be withdrawn 5,000 yards.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was below normal. F.E.A. were more in evidence than R.E.A. One long-distance R.E.A. machine penetrated as far as VECQUEMONT but was forced to retire by our scouts.

No hostile bombing was reported.

6. PRISONERS.

Six O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds with occasional bright intervals. Visibility fair.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

82nd American Division moved to French zone by rail.

8th Division arrived from French zone and temporarily administered by XIX Corps.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

Aust. Corps: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divns.

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th Divisions (Training Cadres), 8th Division.

XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions, 12th Division (administered by Third Army).

* Corps Reserve.

/ cont'd.

15th June, 1918.

3.

C96

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 283 |
| " S. | .. | 192 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 8295 |
| " S. | .. | 13238 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 4584 |
| " Gas. | .. | 1053 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 895 |
| " S. | .. | 1062 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 5606 |
| " Gas. | .. | 680 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 226 |
| " S. | .. | 344 |
| 8" How. | .. | 1728 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 930 |
| 12" How. | .. | 74 |

15th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

C97

8.38 a.m. From No. 85 Squadron R.A.F.

Night observations: considerable stationary transport on edges of woods at MANANCOURT, TEMPLEUX and DRIENCOURT. Column of troops about 400 yards long stationary just South of NURLU on CAMBRAI-PERONNE Road. Column of transport about 150 yards long moving S.W. at FONTAINE on CAMBRAI-BAPAUME Road. Stationary train at VERMAND 6 miles West of ST. QUENTIN. Many lights in CAMBRAI and woods South of MORCOURT 9 miles South of ALBERT. Ten flares dropped. Nothing to be seen without flares. No movement observed on roads CAMBRAI - LE CATEAU, ST. QUENTIN - PERONNE and BRIE - AMIENS.

5.40 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron, R.A.F.

Special low reconnaissances were carried out by three machines between the hours of 10.20 p.m. and 3.5 a.m. Roads and railways were reconnoitred from between 800 to 2000 feet, no movement being observed on Northern roads or railways, or at river crossings. Observations on Southern roads and railways:- ROSIERES - 1 train, 2 lights; CHAULNES - 1 train going East, 2 stationary; PERONNE - 5 lights in town, 10 lights stationary on main road to VILLERS CARBONNEL. Activity very slight over lines. 30 parachute flares were dropped.

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

60 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Night bombing - eight 25 lb. on BAPAUME.

5.25 a.m. From III Corps.

Situation unchanged on Corps front. Gas successfully projected into enemy lines about E.8.b. (S.W. of ALBERT). Our lines in W.25.a. (N.E. of MILLENCOURT) gas shelled slightly.

6.7 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas; otherwise hostile artillery quiet. As result of raids we captured 6 prisoners and 3 machine guns. Identifications normal.

6.25 a.m. To G. H. Q.

Situation quiet. Slight gas shelling N.E. of MILLENCOURT. As result of 3 raids Right Corps took 6 prisoners, 3 machine guns. Gas successfully projected S.W. of ALBERT. R.A.F. report 60 25-lb. bombs dropped yesterday on various targets.

5.38 p.m. From III Corps.

Evening report. Both Divisions report slight gas shelling of E.7.d. and W.21.c.3.1. Nature of gas yellow cross. Otherwise quiet day. Captures nil.

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

Bombs - 42 25-lb. on various targets.

/ cont'd.

15th June, 1918.

cont'd.

6.1 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Situation quiet. VAIRE, VAUX and area North of RIBEMONT intermittently shelled with H.E. and shrapnel. Between 12.45 p.m. and 1.15 p.m. about fifty 15 cm. and 21 cm. shells fell in the vicinity of battery positions West of HEILLY. Few yellow cross gas shells in J.14.b. at 10.30 am. and few blue cross West of VAIRE at 1.30 p.m. Captures 7 O.R. (1 since died) and 2 machine guns.

6.35 p.m. To G. H. Q.

Situation quiet. VAIRE-sous-CORBIE, VAUX, area North of RIBEMONT and battery positions West of HEILLY shelled during day. Considerable gas shelling (blue and green cross) North of BOIS l'ABBE last night, also 400 yellow cross West of VILLE-sur-ANCRE and 100 blue cross South of TREUX. R.A.F. report 42 25-lb. bombs dropped on various targets. Captures 7 O.R. (1 since died) and 2 machine guns.

C99

FOURTH ARMY

FORTNIGHTLY ARTILLERY REPORT

JUNE 1st. to 15th., 1918.

The attitude of hostile artillery remained unchanged. Cases of heavy shelling were rare and hostile fire was for the most part confined to harassing fire on our communications, occasional area shoots in the neighbourhood of battery positions, and bursts of fire on villages in the forward areas and on our trench systems.

In the ALBERT Sector considerable attention was paid to our front line system during the first week, but, latterly, enemy artillery was less aggressive in this respect, and over the whole sector hostile fire was below normal. Shelling was only heavy on the 1st. during operations North-west of AVELUY, and again on the 9th. simultaneously with the commencement of the attack between NOYON and MONTDIDIER. On the latter occasion there was a general bombardment of the forward areas with gas shell and H.E.

During the first few days Gas Shell of all kinds were used freely, but with no great intensity; latterly, cases of gas shelling have been few.

There was a slight increase in counter battery work between the 1st. and the 5th., during which period 6 deliberate counter battery shoots were carried out, since that date only 2 cases of destructive shooting on our battery positions were reported.

Between BUIRE and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX the volume of enemy artillery fire was less than during the preceding fortnight. Here again the majority of hostile shelling was in the form of short concentrations on our trench systems, and scattered fire over areas further from the line. The enemy still maintained intermittent fire along the high ground between the ANCRE and the SOMME, probably with the idea of hindering the excellent observation of his country which is obtainable from the ridge. The bombardments which preceded the enemy's unsuccessful raids in the vicinity of the MONUMENT on the 3rd., and S.W. of MORLANCOURT on the 5th. were carried out by Field Guns and Hows., and were fairly heavy. During the fortnight heavy shelling of only 3 other localities was reported, namely the low ground West of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and the areas North of SAILLY-LE-SEC and East of BUIRE. On the morning of the 9th., during the preliminary bombardment prior to the attack on the French further South, there was a general demonstration along the whole front; heavy concentrations of fire were directed against our trenches, while our communications were harassed by H.V. guns; gas shell of all kinds were used freely mixed with H.E. The reply to our barrage fire in support of the attack S.W. of MORLANCOURT on the 10th. and during raids was feeble, due no doubt to the successful neutralising of a large number of batteries considered likely to become active. Since the attack, our new trenches in this locality have been strongly harassed with bursts of fire from field guns.

Recently there has been a marked decrease in gas shelling. On the night of the 31st/1st. the triangle formed by the villages of RIBEMONT, MERICOURT and HEILLY was heavily shelled with Yellow and Blue X mixed with H.E.; on the same night and the night following, concentrations of gas shell were directed against CORBIE, the area South of FOUILLOY, and along the SOMME Valley to VAUX and VAIRE. On the night 1st/2nd. the trenches S.E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX were bombarded for 45 minutes with Yellow X and on the following night minor concentrations were fired against several other localities chiefly South of the SOMME.

P.T.O

C150

Since the 5th., apart from the sudden burst of activity on the morning of the 9th., very little gas shelling has been reported.

There were very few cases of deliberate shoots on our battery positions; more attention was paid to battery areas near LA NEUVILLE, BUIRE and RIBEMONT than elsewhere. Gas shells were used against our battery positions South of MERICOURT prior to the hostile raid on the 5th.

There was nothing abnormal in the amount of registration carried out, but a noticeable feature has been the increase in air-burst ranging. A few cases of this kind of ranging occurred daily, and, frequently, a harassing shoot by H.V. guns on the back areas was preceded by a few rounds of very high air bursts. This increase in the use of air-burst ranging would seem to balance a corresponding decrease in registration carried out by artillery aeroplanes.

The activity of Long Range Guns, noticeable towards the end of last month, was maintained throughout the first part of the period. Rounds were fired into the neighbourhood of villages in the HALLUE and SOMME valleys, and as far back as POULAINVILLE, ALLONVILLE and MOLLIEUX-ap-Bois. Latterly, shelling declined. 15 cm. guns fired gas shells into PONT NOYELLES and BUSSY. AMIENS was shelled regularly; the areas chiefly affected were the two stations, the eastern approaches to the town, the boulevards, and the suburbs LONGEAU, CAMON, RIVERY and MONTIERES. The average number of rounds fired into the city per day was about 150.

CALIBRES.

In the ALBERT Sector few cases of shelling by the heavier calibres of hows: were reported. The majority of hostile fire was carried out by field guns and hows: and only one instance of shelling by 8" hows: was noticed. Latterly, there was a decrease in H.V. gun fire in this sector.

Further South there was nothing unusual in the employment of the various calibres of guns and hows:

There are no indications of any reinforcement of the front by 15 cm. or 21 cm. Howitzers. At present there appear to be 3 batteries of the latter calibre in the Army counter battery area, and probably one firing from the French area on to our front. There is evidence that at least 3 hostile batteries are using 60 pdr: guns. The guns shelling AMIENS are of 28, 24, 21 and 15 cm. calibre. It was definitely established that the heavy gun firing from ARCY WOOD West of CHUIGNOLLES is a 38.5 cm. Naval Gun.

STRENGTH & DISPOSITION.

During the first week of the month plenty of information regarding the disposition of hostile artillery was forthcoming. Latterly, however, conditions for the locating of hostile batteries were not so good, but it is noticeable that a large number of the locations fall on established battery positions, the history of which is known. Occasional isolated locations still point to the existence of silent batteries, and there is evidence in the same way that guns are moved about to carry out night-firing, gas shelling, etc. Making a liberal allowance for suspicious areas containing good locations not yet definitely established as batteries, the number of guns opposite the Army front remains about the same.

C101

ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF GUNS.

| | Field | | Heavy | | Doubtful Calibre | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 15th. | 31st. | 15th. | 31st. | 15th. | 31st. | |
| A. NORTH OF THE SOMME | 190 | 174 | 97 | 99 | 6 | 18 | |
| B. BETWEEN THE SOMME & THE AMIENS-NESLE RAILWAY. | 160 | 158 | 62 | 71 | - | - | |
| TOTALS | 350 | 332 | 159 | 170 | 6 | 18 | |
| | Field | | Heavies | | Doubtful Calibre | | TOTAL |
| A. | 16 Increase | | 2 Decrease | | 12 Decrease | | 2 Inc: |
| B. | 2 Increase | | 9 Decrease | | - | | 7 Dec: |
| | <u>TOTAL DECREASE</u> | | | | | | <u>5</u> |

GRAND TOTAL ON ARMY FRONT LAST WEEK 520
 " " " " " THIS WEEK 515
TOTAL DECREASE 5

The following are the most active groups opposite the Army front :- the LA BOISSELLE, BECORDEL VALLEY, TAILLES WOOD, MALARD WOOD, HAZEL WOOD and WARFUSEE-ABANGCOURT Groups. There was a noticeable falling off in the activity of the ACCROCHE WOOD Group, probably due to our counter-battery work. Latterly a few locations have fallen in the area South of ETINEHEM; owing to the advance of our line S.W. of MORLANGCOURT a decrease in the activity of the MALARD WOOD and BRICKYARD Groups is expected.

H. H. H. H.
 Captain R.A.,
 G.O.C., R.A., Fourth Army.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 A.M. 15th JUNE, 1918.

| Date. 9 a.m.-9 a.m. | Formation. | Time of Bombardment. | No. of Rounds. | Nature of Shell. | Map Location. | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| June 8/9th. | 18th Division. | 3 - 6 a.m. | 120 | Yellow Cross. | W.19 .b, W.20 .c. & d., 21.c. | S. of BOUZINCOURT. | |
| | " | 3 p.m. | 50 | " | D.4.a., D.3.b. | S. of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | " | 3 p.m. | 20 | Green Cross. | W.20 .c. | SE of BOUZINCOURT. | |
| | " | 11-30 p.m. | Few | " | W.25 .a. V.24 .d. | E. of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | " | 4 a.m. | 20 | Yellow Cross. | W.26 .b. | E. of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | " | 5-30 a.m. | Few | Green and H.E. | W.25 .a. | E. of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | " | 4 - 6 a.m. | Few | Green Cross. | V.24 .a. | NE of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | 47th Division. | 12-20 - 1-40 a.m. | 100 | Green and Blue. | D.18 .b.c.d., D.24 .a. | N. of BUIRE. | |
| | " | 12-45 - 4-30 a.m. | 60 | Blue Cross. | D. 12 .a. | SE of MILLENCOURT. | |
| | 2nd Aust. Divn. | 12 - 2-30 a.m. | 6000 | Blue and Green. | J.10,11,16,17,18,21.) J.22,23,15 .a. | (Between MERICOURT (AND SAILLY-le-SEC. BUIRE & vicinity, MARRETT WOOD & N. S. of BRESLE. RIBEMONT. BRESLE. QUERRIEU. | |
| | " | " | 300 | Blue and Green. | " " | " | |
| | " | " | 12 a.m - 3 a.m. | 2000 | " " | " | |
| | " | " | 12-10 a.m. | 50 | Blue Cross. | D.21 .b. | " |
| | " | " | - | 50 | ? | D.27 .b. | " |
| | " | " | - | 50 | Green Cross. | " | " |
| | " | " | 12 a.m. - 1 a.m. | 20 | ? | " | " |
| | 3rd Aust. Divn. | 12 a.m. - 3-30 a.m. | Heavy shelling | Green and Blue. | O.28,29,30,33,34,35. | (VILLERS BRETONNEUX (and BOIS L'ABBE. SW of BOIS l'ABBE. S. of FOUILLOY. | |
| | " | 12 a.m. - 3-30 a.m. | 350 | Green and Blue. | T.6 .b. | " | |
| | " | - | Heavy shelling | Green Cross. | O.21 .c, 23 .d., 24 .c,) 23.28.) | " | |
| | 4th Aust. Divn. | 12 a.m. - 2-30 a.m. | 4000 | Green and Blue. | J.28,29,34 .b.35 .a. | SAILLY-SEC & n'hood | |
| " | 1 a.m. | 12 | Green Cross. | P.2 .b. | S. of VAIRE. | | |
| " | 12 a.m. | 10 | " | O.10. | FOUILLOY. | | |
| " | 2 a.m. | 150 | " | O.12. | S. of HAMELET. | | |
| " | 12 a.m. | 300 | Blue and Green. | O.10 and 11. | FOUILLOY. | | |
| June 9/10th | 18th Division. | 2 a.m. | 25 | Green and H.E. | W.21 .a. | Trench W. of ALBERT | |
| | " | 4-30 a.m. | 20 | Blue and Green. | W.25 .a. | " | |
| | " | 6 a.m. - 6-30 a.m. | Barrage | Shrapnel, Blue. | W.30 .b. | " | |
| | " | 7 a.m. - 7-30 a.m. | " | Green and H.E. | W.30 .b. | " | |
| | " | 10-55 - 11-5 p.m. | " | " " | W.25 .d. | " | |
| | 47th Division. | 3-30 a.m. | 25 | Green Cross. | D.24 .a. | N. of BUIRE. | |
| | 3rd Aust. Divn. | 1-30 - 2-30 a.m. | 100 | Yellow Cross. | U.5 .a. & c. O.35 .c.&d. | S. of V. BRETONNEUX. | |
| " | 2 a.m. | light | Blue Cross. | U.5 .a. | " | | |

| Date. 9 a.m.-9 a.m. | Formation. | Time of Bombardment. | No. of Rounds. | Nature of Shell. | Map Location. | |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 10/11th | 2nd Aust. Div. | 1-45 - 3 a.m. | 250 | Green Cross. | J.6.b. and K.1. | N.E. of TREUX. |
| | 3rd Aust. Div. | During night. | Light. | Green and Blue. | | Front and Support Lines. |
| | 4th Aust. Div. | 7 a.m. | 25 | Blue Cross. | O.10.c.d. | S.E. of FOUILLOY. |
| | " " | 6-45 a.m. | 19 | " | D.10.c.d. | S.E. of LAVIEVILLE. |
| June 11/12th | 47th Division. | 5-55 - 7-25 p.m. | 40 | Green Cross. | E.13.a. & c. | N.E. of BUIRE. |
| | 4th Aust. Div. | 9-30 a.m. | 70 | Blue Cross. | (O.10.c & d, O.16.a, O.17.c. | S. of FOUILLOY. |
| June 12/13th | 18th Division. | 11 - 11-30 p.m. | 25 | Blue Cross. | - - | MILLENCOURT. |
| | 47th Division. | 11 p.m. | 25 | Blue and Green. | E.7.a. | S.E. of MILLENCOURT. |
| | 2nd Aust. Div. | 11-30 p.m. | 30 | Yellow Cross. | E.25.a. | E. of BUIRE. |
| | " " | 4-15 p.m. | 50 | " | E.25.a. | " " |
| June 13/14th | 18th Division. | 11-30 p.m. | 40 | Blue Cross. | W.25.a. & b. | E. of MILLENCOURT. |
| | 2nd Aust. Div. | - | 40 | Yellow Cross. | E.25.b. | W. of VILLE. |
| | " " | 9-45 p.m. - 3-45 a.m. | 2000 | Blue and Green. | K.1 & 7, J.6 & 12. | E. of TREUX. |
| | " " | 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. | 50 | Blue Cross. | J.11.b & d. | S. of TREUX. |
| | " " | 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. | 100 | Yellow Cross. | J.17. | N. of SAILLY-le-SEC. |
| June 14/15th | 18th Division. | 5-30 p.m. | 12 | Green Cross. | W.25.c. | E. of MILLENCOURT. |
| | " " | 6-30 p.m. | 12 | Green and H.E. | W.25.a. | " " |
| | 2nd Aust. Div. | 11-30 p.m. - 3 a.m. | 100 | Green and Blue. | J.5.6.9.10.11.12. | S.E. of TREUX. |
| | " " | -do- | 400 | Yellow Cross. | E.25.a. D.30.a.b. | W. of VILLE. |
| | 3rd Aust. Div. | 8-30 - 8-35 p.m. | Heavy shelling | Blue Cross. | O.29. | VILLERS BRETONNEUX. |
| | " " | 11 p.m. | 10 | Yellow Cross. | O.26.d. | N. of BOIS L'ABBE. |
| | " " | 10-30 - 10-50 p.m. | 250 | Green and Blue. | O.23.c. | N. of BOIS L'ABBE. |
| 4th Aust. Div. | 2-45 a.m. | 50 | Blue and Yellow. | O.16a & b. | S. of FOUILLOY. | |

Casualties for week:-

2 Officers.
149 Other Ranks.

Deaths:-

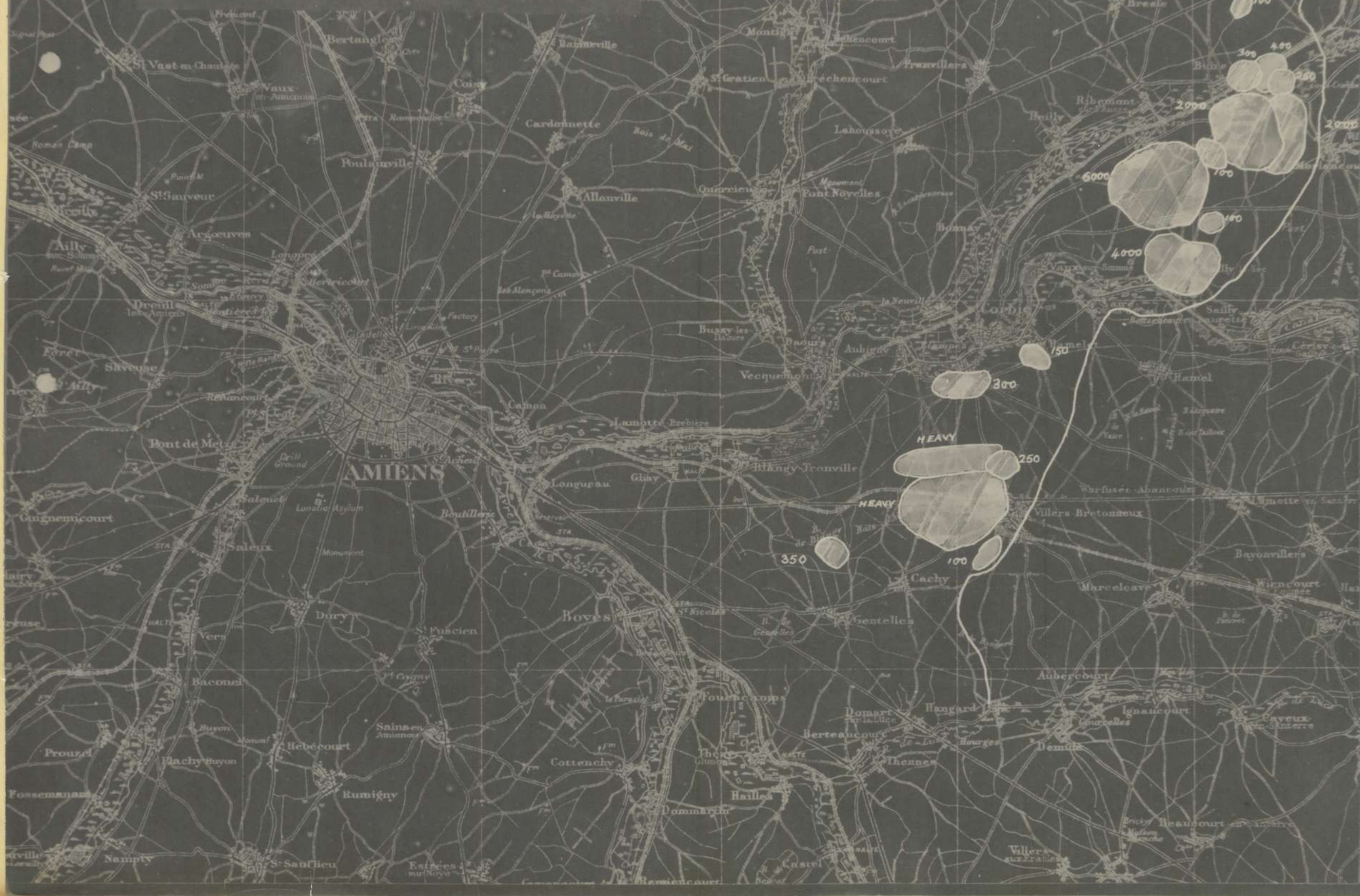
4 Other Ranks.

C105

C104

GAS SHELLING FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. 15/6/18.

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.



16th June, 1918.

2.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

C106

571 hours were flown by 220 pilots.

12 successful reconnaissances and 16 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 50 zone calls were sent down, 12 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction and 5 hostile batteries neutralised.

132 offensive patrols were made and 240 photographs secured.

Our aircraft were fairly active. 13 air combats took place resulting in one E.A. being brought down in flames.

During night bombing raids against CARNOT, BRAY and CURLU 292 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped.

Twenty 112-lb. and 486 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on BOIS DES TAILLES, ROSIERES and LONELY COPSE.

15,500 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable targets on the ground.

A hostile railway gun was located near WIENCOURT and was compelled to move out of range of our gun. The shoot was conducted with kite balloon observation.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were fairly active, chiefly F.E.A., operating over VILLERS BRETONNEUX plateau. R.E.A. were also fairly active flying over their own forward areas. One high-flying long-distance/machine reconnaissance penetrated as far as AMIENS.

No night bombing was reported.

6. PRISONERS.

22 prisoners captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early, clouding later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

(a) Moves.

63rd Division transferred from Third Army to XXII Corps in G.H.Q. Reserve in relief of 12th Division.

21st Division arrived by rail from French zone and moved to MARTAINNEVILLE area.

(b) Reliefs.

5th Australian Division relieved 4th Australian Division in Left Divisional Sector, Australian Corps, on nights 14/15th and 15/16th June.

/ cont'd.

16th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 16th June, 1918. C105

1. Two successful raids carried out by the Australian Corps resulted in the capture of prisoners and machine guns. In the ALBERT Sector the enemy's artillery remained fairly quiet. South of the SOMME an increase in activity was reported. H.V. guns up to 24 cm. calibre shelled WARLOY and LA HOUSOYE, and a few rounds also fell in AUBIGNY and PONT NOYELLES. About 160 rounds were fired into AMIENS.

2. III CORPS.

Our front line in the BOUZINCOURT Sector was shelled lightly at intervals during the morning and a heavy concentration of all calibres up to 15 cm. howitzers was put down astride the AMIENS - ALBERT Railway between 7.40 a.m. and 8.10 a.m. The areas in the vicinity of WARLOY, HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT were lightly shelled by 10.5 cm. howitzers.

Australian Corps.

At 11.30 p.m. on the night June 15/16th two successful raids were carried out by the 4th Australian Division. One was immediately West of HAMEL; the other on the outskirts of the BOIS DE VAIRE. As a result of both operations 16 O.R. and 4 machine guns were brought back to our lines and it is estimated that 70 of the enemy were killed and many others wounded.

On the same night on the front of the 5th Australian Division, as a result of a successful patrol encounter, 6 Germans were captured and 2 killed.

During the night heavy H.E. concentrations from field guns and 15 cm. howitzers were fired into the area between FOUILLOY and the AMIENS - VILLERS BRETONNEUX Road. Battery areas South of BRESLE were shelled by field guns, and 21 cm. howitzers fired about 70 rounds into the area North of GENTELLES. Shelling with phosgene gas was reported South of AUBIGNY. By day the front line South-west of MORLANCOURT and North-east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was shelled at intervals and villages in the ANCRE Valley were subjected to harassing fire.

3. THIRD ARMY.

With the exception of some shelling on the right of the Right Corps, the day passed quietly.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT.

16th June, 1918.

3.

C107

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry
Division (Army Reserve).
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian
Divisions.
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th
Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions,
63rd Division (administered by
Third Army).
VIII Corps (arriving): 8th, 21st Divisions (being
reconstituted).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 792 |
| " " S | .. | 322 |
| 18-Odr. H.E. | .. | 5038 |
| " " S | .. | 6549 |
| 4.5" Hows. H.E. | .. | 2376 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 1328 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 780 |
| " " S | .. | 769 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 4723 |
| " " S.K. | .. | 44 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 362 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 239 |
| " " S | .. | 415 |
| 8" How. | .. | 1054 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 678 |
| 12" How. | .. | 70 |

16th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- C108
- 3.5 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Night observations: 500 yards of transport crossing ARRAS - CAMBRAI Road moving S.E. at 11.40 p.m. near MARQUION. Half a mile of transport at 12.5 a.m. at BETHENCOURT crossing CAMBRAI - LE CATEAU Road towards CANDRY. At 12.30 a.m. at MASNIERES five dark masses about 200 yards square on East and West side of road South of village bombed and dispersed. At VIS at 12.55 a.m. six miles S.W. of ARRAS on CAMBRAI Road one mile of troops moving towards ST. LEGER. Transport at TEMPLEUX 5 miles N.E. of PERONNE at 11.25 p.m. moving North. Transport moving South from BAPAUME to PERONNE at 12.35 a.m. (5 vehicles).
- 5.36 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron, R.A.F.
Four special reconnaissances carried out between the hours of 10.15 p.m. and 3.10 a.m. on roads, railways and river crossings. Observations: 4 lorries going West on SUZANNE - BRAY Road, 5 lorries going North on PROYART - BRAY Road, 1 lorry going East on ETINEHEM - BRAY Road, 4 lorries going West from CLERY, 2 trains in PERONNE facing West 11.55 p.m. Approximately 100 men marching along DOMART - ROYE Road about MEZIERES going S.E. PERONNE - 1 train with about 14 trucks going West; MEZIERES - 2 lights in village; HATTENCOURT - train going North 1.35 a.m.; MISERY - 2 lights in village; LE MESNIL - train going North 1.5 a.m. No abnormal movement seen. 45 flares were dropped.
- 5.43 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
176 25-lb. bombs on wood in 62.D. K.12 & 18; 86 25-lb. bombs on various targets; 20 112-lb. bombs on ROSIERES. One E.A. in flames, two out of control. Night bombing - 112 25-lb. bombs on CARNOY Station, 84 25-lb. bombs on BRAY, 96 25-lb. bombs on other targets.
- 5.15 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Nothing to report.
- 6.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Right Brigade Centre Division carried out two minor enterprises resulting in the capture of 16 prisoners and 3 machine guns and in heavy losses being inflicted on enemy. Our casualties slight. Retaliation to our barrage light and scattered. VILLERS BRETONNEUX and battery areas Right Division lightly shelled. Road in O.28.c. heavily shelled between 11.15 p.m. and 11.25 p.m. 40 rounds green cross fell on railway North of BOIS l'ABBE. Some gas and H.E. also N.W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Hostile artillery active throughout night on Left Division Sector.
- 6.20 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Several raids against enemy trenches from BOIS de VAIRE to HAMEL successful. 16 prisoners and 3 machine guns captured. Many enemy killed. Our casualties slight. 40 rounds green cross on railway North of BOIS l'ABBE. Some gas & H.E. N.W. BRETONNEUX. Road W. of BRETONNEUX heavily shelled / for 15 minutes.

16th June, 1918.

cont'd.

C109

for 15 minutes. Hostile artillery active West of MORLANCOURT. By day 20 112-lb., 262 25-lb. bombs on various targets. By night 292 25-lb. bombs on CARNOY and various targets. One E.A. crashed; two E.A. out of control.

5.40 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation unchanged. Gas shelling nil.
Captures nil.

6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Situation quiet. Hostile artillery active South of TREUX. At noon vicinity of HEILLY shelled with 5.9s. During afternoon 150 rounds H.E. mixed with gas (not identified) North of CORBIE. Captures 20 O.R., 3 machine guns.

6.15 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Some hostile shelling North of CORBIE, HEILLY and TREUX. 233 bombs on various targets by R.A.F. Captures last 24 hours 20 O.R., 3 machine guns.

11.10 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Right Division reports enemy plane brought down by our planes near MONUMENT WOOD (enemy territory)
7.30 p.m.

17th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 17th June, 1918. C110

1. A hostile raiding party attempted to approach our lines in the vicinity of SAILLY-le-SEC. The party was repulsed by our fire. Successful gas projections were carried out in the vicinity of MORLANCOURT and N.E. of SAILLY LAURETTE. In the ALBERT Sector there was little shelling. South of the ANCRE there was an increase in hostile counter-battery work and long range gun activity. FRANVILLERS, CONTAY, BUSSY and villages in the SOMME and HALLUE valleys were shelled by H.V. guns. 146 rounds fell in AMIENS. Our artillery was very active.

2. III CORPS.

On the evening of June 16th 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. howitzers fired a fairly sharp concentration into MILLEN-COURT. During the night our front line N.W. of ALBERT received a short concentration from trench mortars, field guns and 15 cm. howitzers which included some gas shelling. Occasional bursts of fire were directed on to the vicinity of SENLIS. A battery in the BRESLE valley was twice neutralised without damage to guns, and an empty position North of HENENCOURT was shelled by 10.5 cm. howitzers.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

At 3.30 a.m. a hostile force of about 50 men attempted to raid our line East of SAILLY-le-SEC. The enemy were dispersed by our rifle and Lewis gun fire, leaving several dead on the ground.

During the night, villages in the ANCRE Valley, DACOURS and VILLERS BRETONNEUX were shelled intermittently.

About 30 rounds of yellow cross were fired into our front line near VILLE-sur-ANCRE..

Communications were lightly shelled during the day, especially the approaches to SAILLY-le-SEC.

Batteries North of GENTELLES were shelled by 15 cm. and 21 cm. howitzers, as also were others in the vicinity of HEILLY, CORBIE and VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and South of the AUBIGNY - VECQUEMONT Road.

3. THIRD ARMY.

The enemy carried out a raid East of ROSSIGNOL WOOD and took two of our men prisoners. Situation quiet on the Army front.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Hostile artillery active in the vicinity of THENNES. Some gas shelling near BOIS d'AQUENNE and BOIS l'ABBE. A raid attempted by the Americans failed. Hostile aircraft very active.

5. AIRCRAFT.

17th June, 1918.

CIII

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

658 hours were flown by 224 pilots and 16 successful reconnaissances were carried out.

15 artillery patrols were carried out and 24 zone calls sent down; 18 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and one hostile battery neutralised.

During 14 photographic flights 500 plates were exposed; 146 offensive patrols were also made.

Our aircraft were active. 41 air combats took place, 7 of which were decisive, resulting in 6 E.A. being brought down and one shot down out of control. Four of our machines failed to return.

During night flying 344 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on CARNOY, FRICOURT, BRAY and MAMETZ.

562 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on SHELTER WOOD, wood N.E. of MERICOURT, and CHAULNES.

50 successful shoots were carried out with kite balloon observation.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were much more active than usual.

44 R.E.A. and 117 F.E.A. were reported as operating over the forward areas. Of these, 44 were engaged by our anti-aircraft batteries.

During the last few days there has been a notable increase in the number of F.E.As. operating on the Army front.

Three long-distance reconnaissance machines penetrated to the rear of the forward Corps areas but were eventually turned back by our A.A. fire.

Hostile night bombing was fairly active. Several E.A. succeeded in penetrating the lighted area and a few bombs were dropped on DOULLENS and ABBEVILLE.

6. PRISONERS.

14 other ranks captured.

7. WEATHER.

Cloudy, with poor visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

VIII Corps H.Q. arrived from French area and located at LONG.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

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

VIII Corps: 8th, 21st Divisions (being reconstituted).

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th

/ Divisions

17th June, 1918.

3.

C112
Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Div-
isions, 63rd Division (administered by
Third Army).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 762 |
| " S. | .. | 467 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 6519 |
| " S. | .. | 6718 |
| " Smoke. | .. | 157 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 3528 |
| " Gas. | .. | 811 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 769 |
| " S. | .. | 803 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 3589 |
| " Gas. | .. | 16 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 165 |
| " S. | .. | 227 |
| 8" How. | .. | 845 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 694 |
| 12" How. | .. | 43 |

17th June, 1918.

0113

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 3.50 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Night observations: Five lorries moving North at MORVAL 11 p.m., train moving N.E. at FOUSOMME, train moving from PERONNE to ROISEL 11.35 p.m., 500 yards horse transport moving N.W. at HAM 11.45 p.m., train stationary at EPEHY Station 12.35 a.m., two stationary trains at BERTRY 11.45 p.m., train going South from MARCOING 12.5 a.m., train moving East near SOMAIN 11.35 p.m., two trains moving North from ANZAIN 11.45 p.m., stationary train at FLERS 11.30 p.m., three stationary trains at TOURNAI 11.55 p.m., two trains moving South from TOURNAI 11.50 p.m. Visibility good.
- 5.40 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation unchanged. Company area about W.21. central heavily shelled by T.M., 77 mm. and 5.9 from 12.45 to 1.20 a.m. Some gas shelling, nature unknown, included in this shoot. Identifications nil.
- 5.52 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Light scattered shelling VILLERS BRETONNEUX and vicinity. Light gas shelling on forward areas between ANCRE and SOMME, otherwise situation quiet.
- 6.50 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Four special long reconnaissances carried out between 10.15 p.m. and 3.10 a.m. of roads, railways and river crossings. Observations: two stationary lorries BRAY - SUZANNE Road; few lights in woods in area; two trains in PERONNE facing East 11.40 p.m.; AMIENS - ROYE Road, approximately 200 infantry going S.E.; GAPPY - 8 stationary lorries 1 mile S., 1 motor vehicle travelling S.E.; ROSIERES - train entering from East 2.15 a.m.; HAM - ROYE, 5 motor vehicles going S.W.; HAM - 4 lorries stationary $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on HAM - NESLE Road; BRIE - train going South 1.30 a.m.; RANCOURT - three lorries going West; BRAY - four H.T. going South; BARLEUX - 2 lorries going South; CHAULNES - two trains in station facing South; NESLE - one train going West; ROYE - four M.T. going South. No abnormal movement seen. Sixty flares used. One machine failed to return.
- 7.6 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Five E.A. crashed. 26 112-lb. and 68 25-lb. bombs on FOUCAUCOURT aerodrome, 27 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Night bombing: CARNOY Station - 72 25-lb.; FRICOURT - 100 25-lb; South and East of FRICOURT - 82 25-lb; BRAY - 76 25-lb; MAMETZ - 14 25-lb.
- 7 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Situation quiet. BRETONNEUX and vicinity lightly shelled during night and some light gas shelling forward areas between ANCRE and SOMME. Company area forward system N.W. ALBERT heavily bombarded 12.45 to 1.20 a.m. T.M., 77 mm and 15 cm. R.A.F. report 5 E.A. crashed, 26 112-lb., 68 25-lb. on FOUCAUCOURT aerodrome, 27 25-lb. on various targets by day; 344 25-lb. various targets by night including CARNOY, FRICOURT and BRAY.

cont'd.

17th June, 1918.

cont'd.

- C114
- 10.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Enemy party 50 strong attempted to raid our post in K.25.c. at 3.30 a.m. Enemy entirely repulsed.
- 11.3 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Continuation morning report: 3.30 a.m. enemy party 50 strong attempted raid our trenches East of SAILLY-le-SEC. Enemy entirely repulsed.
- 5.35 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation unchanged. Enemy artillery inactive. Gas shelling nil. Captures nil.
- 5.45 p.m. From R.A.F. (5th Brigade).
192 25-lb. bombs on various targets, 18 112-lb. bombs on CHAULNES, two on FOUCAUCOURT; 1 E.A. driven down on our side of lines, 1 in flames, 1 broke up in air, 3 others crashed, 2 balloons forced down and observed smoking on ground.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Enemy artillery fairly active during day on Left Division sector. VILLE-sur-ANCRE intermittently shelled during morning. Vicinity BUSSY shelled 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with H.V., 5.9³⁰⁰ using H.E. and yellow cross gas. Enemy aircraft above normal. Captures nil. Enemy lightly shelled FRANVILLERS during morning.
- 6.50 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery fairly active North of SOMME to North of ANCRE; intermittent on VILLE-sur-ANCRE during morning. Vicinity BUSSY shelled by H.V. with H.E. and yellow cross, otherwise quiet day. R.A.F. dropped 192 25-lb. and 20 112-lb. bombs on various targets. One E.A. driven down in our lines, 5 crashed, 2 balloons forced down and observed smoking on ground. Captures 2 o.r.
-

18th June, 1918.

C115

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 18th June, 1918.

1. An operation carried out S.W. of ALBERT by III Corps resulted in the capture of prisoners. A raid attempted by the enemy in the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX failed under our fire. Hostile artillery fire was slightly more pronounced in the ALBERT Sector, but there was a decrease on the remainder of the Army front. H.V. guns were active on MONTIGNY, BEHENCOURT, HENENCOURT, GLISY, DAOURS, LAMOTTE, FRECHENCOURT and FRANVILLERS. HEILLY and MERICOURT were heavily shelled by 15 cm. howitzers and H.V. guns between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. AMIENS received 118 shells. Our artillery, in addition to the usual activity, directed a gas shell concentration against a wide area West of WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT.

2. III CORPS.

The 47th Division carried out a small raid in the vicinity of the AMIENS - ALBERT Road. Two prisoners were captured.

On the evening of June 17th LAVIEVILLE, HENENCOURT CHATEAU and our forward system on the spur N.W. of DERNANCOURT were engaged by 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. howitzers.

Short concentrations of gas were fired into the trenches S.W. of ALBERT and the vicinity of MILLENCOURT.

By day MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT area and portions of the front line between ALBERT and DERNANCOURT were shelled intermittently.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night an enemy party consisting of 2 officers and 40 O.R. attempted to raid one of our posts S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. The raiders were repulsed by our fire and left 5 wounded prisoners in our hands.

Villages and roads in the ANCRE Valley received the usual harassing fire during the night.

The front line South of VILLE-sur-ANCRE was heavily shelled between 11.30 p.m. and 2 a.m.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the front line system to the South were fairly heavily shelled during the early morning.

By day there was scattered shelling between the SOMME and the main AMIENS Road.

About 50 rounds of green cross shell fell near the main road on the Western outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH
ARMY.

18th June, 1918.

2.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Increased hostile artillery activity and considerable activity of hostile aircraft in the Southern Sector.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

399 hours were flown by 182 pilots.

Twelve successful reconnaissances and 13 artillery patrols were made. During the latter 8 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction, 7 zone calls sent down and 2 destructive shoots on bridges carried out.

89 offensive patrols were carried out and 178 photographic plates exposed.

Our aircraft were only fairly active. During the day 32 air combats took place, 13 of which were decisive, resulting in 8 E.A. being brought down and 5 E.A. out of control. Two of our machines failed to return.

Four night bombing machines dropped 266 25-lb. bombs on CARNOY, TRONES WOOD, BERNAFAY Camp, MONTAUBAN and various railway sidings.

Forty-eight 112-lb. and 189 twenty-five bombs were dropped during the day in MERICOURT, ROSIERES, BRAY and MORCOURT.

8,450 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

45 successful shoots were carried out with kite balloon observation.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were only fairly active, operating chiefly with fighting machines in the forward areas. 32 R.E.A. and 101 F.E.A. were reported.

One high-flying long-distance reconnaissance machine penetrated as far as LONGPRE-les-CORPS-SAINTS but was eventually driven off with A.A. fire.

Owing to inclement weather hostile aircraft were not operating during the night.

6. PRISONERS.

Seven O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early with heavy ground mist, clouding over later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of any importance occurred.

9. COMPOSITION OF
FOURTH ARMY.

18th June, 1918.

3.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

C117

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 3rd Cavalry
Division (Army Reserve).
Aust. Corps: 2nd*; 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian
Divisions.
VIII Corps: 8th, 21st Divisions (being recon-
stituted).
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 86th
Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th, 58th Divisions,
63rd Division (administered by
Third Army).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 349 |
| " " S. | .. | 347 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 5349 |
| " " S. | .. | 7030 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 2632 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 588 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 775 |
| " " S. | .. | 910 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 4305 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 314 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 144 |
| " " S. | .. | 252 |
| 8" How. | .. | 1117 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 555 |
| 12" How. | .. | 52 |

18th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. C118

- 4.40 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
One E.A. out of control. Night bombing: 276 25-lb. bombs dropped on various targets which included CARNOY, TRONES, BERNAFAY CAMP, MONTAUBAN and sidings in 57.C. T.8.b.
- 4.20 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron, R.A.F.
Four special reconnaissances carried out tonight between the hours of 10.20 p.m. and 2.40 a.m. of the Northern and Southern roads, railways, river crossings. Observed no abnormal movement. Back areas very quiet. Three M.T. at CLERY going West 12.10., train leaving CHAULNES going S.E. 1 a.m., another stationary in station. 60 flares used.
- 4.30 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron, R.A.F.
Night observations: CAMBRAI - ST. QUENTIN - PERONNE area - half mile of transport leaving CAMBRAI going towards BAPAUME at 12.15 a.m. No other movement between 11.40 p.m. and 2.15 a.m. Poor visibility. ST. AMAND - ORCHIES - CARVIN area - no railway movement between 11.45 p.m. and 1.10 a.m. Slight transport movement on roads - below normal. Fair visibility. CARVIN - LILLE - DOUAI area - indistinct movement half mile long on road North of SECLIN moving towards SECLIN at 12.40 a.m. No other rail or road movement between 12.15 and 1.50 a.m. Visibility fair. LILLE well lighted up. ROISEL and CAMBRAI well lighted.
- 5.45 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. About 100 gas shells fell in valley at E.7.c. At 11 p.m. two prisoners captured by a small raid in E.8.c. Both 229th R.I.R. (normal).
- 6.30 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Heavy barrage put down North of RIBEMONT 11 p.m. to 11.40 p.m., also area South of VILLE-sur-ANCRE consistently shelled 11.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Light shelling VILLERS BRETONNEUX and area North of latter place. Enemy party, 2 officers 40 O.R., attempted to raid our post S.E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX: repulsed, leaving 5 wounded prisoners in our hands. Gas successfully projected into MORLANCOURT.
- 6.25 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Heavy shelling North of RIBEMONT 11.30 p.m. Area South of VILLE-sur-ANCRE consistently shelled 11.30 to 2 a.m. 2 officers 40 O.R. attempted to raid one of our posts S.E. of BRETONNEUX. Raid repulsed leaving 5 wounded prisoners in our hands. Left Corps captured 2 prisoners in small raid S.W. ALBERT. Gas successfully projected into MORLANCOURT. One E.A. out of control. By night 276 25-lb. bombs various targets including CARNOY, TRONES, BERNAFAY CAMP and MONTAUBAN

cont'd.

18th June, 1918.

cont'd.

C 119

- 5.36 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
28 112-lb. bombs on MERICOURT-sur-SOMME,
20 112-lb. bombs on ROSIERES, 139 25-lb. bombs on
various targets. One E.A. crashed, one shot to
pieces in air, four driven down out of control.
- 5.33 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. HENENCOURT CHATEAU shelled
by H.V. gun this morning, otherwise situation quiet.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Hostile
artillery inactive. Light shelling of LA HOUSOYE
and HEILLY during morning. Captures 1 unwounded, 5
wounded O.R., three since died.
- 6.30 p.m. To G. H. Q. & HEILLY
During morning LA HOUSOYE/lightly shelled.
HENENCOURT shelled with H.V., otherwise quiet. 46 112-lb.
bombs dropped on ROSIERES, 139 25-lb. bombs on various
targets. Two E.A. destroyed, 4 E.A. brought down out of
control. Captures 6 O.R., three since died.
- 11.5 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Left Division report 350 shells 5.9 how., 4.2
how. fell in HEILLY between 6 and 7 p.m. tonight.
-

19th June, 1918.

C120
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 19th June, 1918.

1. In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery was rather more active, as was also the case between the ANCRE and the SOMME. Further South hostile shelling declined. CONTAY, BEHENCOURT and FRANVILLERS were shelled by H.V. guns but the activity of these was less noticeable than usual. AMIENS received only 67 rounds during the 24 hours.

2. III CORPS.

During the night field guns directed harassing fire against the SENLIS - MILLENCOURT area and the slopes on either side of the BRESLE Valley.

Light concentrations of gas shell were fired into HENENCOURT WOOD, LAVIEVILLE and BRESLE. During the morning BRESLE and HENENCOURT were shelled fairly heavily by 10.5 cm. howitzers. Villages in the forward area and the front line North of the ANCRE were lightly shelled by all calibres up to 15 cm. howitzers.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the evening of June 18th there were heavy concentrations by field guns and howitzers into the HEILLY and MERICOURT areas. In the morning the same areas were shelled with a mixture of H.E. and yellow cross gas. The usual scattered shelling of the ANCRE Valley, communications and battery areas took place throughout the night and day.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet. day. Some shelling of CACHY, GENTELLES and BOIS DE BLANGY.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

179 hours were flown by 110 pilots.

Four successful reconnaissances were carried out.

During 8 artillery patrols 20 zone calls were sent down, 14 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and 3 hostile batteries neutralised.

Owing to the bad flying weather our machines were not active. 46 offensive patrols were carried out but no decisive combats ensued.

Nine successful shoots were carried out with balloon observation against hostile batteries and a railway gun.

73 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various ground targets and 1930 machine gun rounds were fired.

(b)

19th June, 1918.

2.

(b) Hostile.

C121

During the day no hostile aircraft were seen, but at 7 p.m. a few F.E.A. were reported. These were engaged by A.A. guns and at dusk retired. No night bombing was reported.

6. PRISONERS.

Three O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds and rain.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

58th Division moved by bus on 18th and 19th June to vicinity of MOLLIENS-au-BOIS: administered by III Corps.

63rd Division reverted to Third Army, still remaining in G.H.Q. reserve.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th Divisions, 58th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve), 3rd Cavalry Divn. (Army Reserve)
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divisions.
VIII Corps: 8th, 21st Divisions (being reconstituted).
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th and 66th Divisions (Training Cadres).
XXII Corps (G.H.Q. Reserve): 37th Division.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 107 |
| " S. | .. | 101 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 4941 |
| " S. | .. | 7436 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 2326 |
| " Gas. | .. | 1106 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 340 |
| " S. | .. | 1035 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 2725 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 182 |
| " S. | .. | 197 |
| 8" How. | .. | 308 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 313 |
| 12" How. | .. | 32 |

19th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- C122
- 5.27 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Few gas shells in valley E.7.c. Captures nil.
- 6.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. HEILLY and MERICOURT heavily shelled between 6 and 7 p.m. MERICOURT shelled with gas at 3 a.m. Otherwise situation quiet on Corps front. Light scattered shelling over forward areas.
- 6.37 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
47 25-lb. bombs various targets; 3 E.A. crashed, 1 out of control. Two machines missing. Night bombing nil.
- 6.50 a.m. To G. H. Q.
HEILLY and MERICOURT heavily shelled between 6 and 7 p.m. MERICOURT shelled with gas 3 a.m. Otherwise quiet night. R.A.F. dropped 47 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Three E.A. crashed, one out of control.
- 5.45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
5.45 p.m. report nil.
- 5.45 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Hostile artillery slightly more active. 60 rounds gas shell fell in LAVIEVILLE at 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 am. also 4 gas shells at V.24.a.5.3. MILLENCOURT and HENENCOURT shelled by 10.5 and 15 cm. respectively this morning. BEHENCOURT shelled by H.V. gun from 12 noon to 3 p.m.
- 6 p.m.. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Left Division reports 800 yellow cross gas shells South of MERICOURT and light shelling forward area. Hostile artillery and planes inactive on Centre and Right Division fronts. Captures nil.
- 6.30 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Light shelling forward area Right Corps. 800 yellow cross gas shells South of MERICOURT, 60 gas shells LAVIEVILLE. BEHENCOURT shelled with H.V. from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Captures nil.

20th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 20th June, 1918.

C123

1. A hostile raiding party South of MORLANCOURT was dispersed by artillery and trench mortar fire before it could approach our line. Raids carried out by the III Corps in the vicinity of ALBERT and by the Australian Corps West of DERNANCOURT failed to obtain identifications. In the ALBERT Sector the enemy's artillery was only moderately active, while South of the ANCRE the situation generally was quiet. There was a further decrease in shelling by long range guns. 87 shells fell in AMIENS and a few rounds in FRANVILLERS, FRECHENCOURT and the vicinity of QUERRIEU.

2. III CORPS.

Two silent raids carried out by the 18th Division N.W. of ALBERT failed to obtain prisoners. Three of our men are missing.

On the evening of the 19th HENENCOURT, MILLENCOURT and LAVIEVILLE were lightly shelled by all calibres up to 15 cm. howitzers. The front line between ALBERT and DERNANCOURT was lightly shelled with 77 mm. at the same time.

Intermittent shelling of BUIRE and the high ground to the N.E. occurred during the morning.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night a hostile party about 60 strong was observed forming up South of MORLANCOURT. It was dispersed by artillery and trench mortar fire.

5th Australian Division carried out an operation on an enemy post West of DERNANCOURT. Heavy fighting took place and casualties were inflicted on the enemy, but no identifications were obtained.

Moderately heavy shelling was reported South of BUIRE during the night, and TREUX was engaged by 15 cm. howitzers.

Fairly heavy concentrations of yellow and blue cross gas shell were fired into the ANCRE Valley between HEILLY and VILLE.

There was the usual scattered shelling of the forward area.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

87 hours were flown by 97 pilots. Two successful reconnaissances and 7 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter, 7 zone calls were sent down and one hostile

/ battery...

20th June, 1918.

C 124

battery successfully neutralised.

24 offensive patrols were carried out. Our aircraft were only slightly active. One indecisive combat took place.

During the day twenty-five 25-lb. bombs were dropped and 1250 machine gun rounds were fired at various selected ground targets.

Nine successful shoots were carried out with kite balloon observation.

(b) Hostile.

No hostile aircraft activity.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds and rain.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

58th Division relieved 47th Division in Right Divisional Sector, III Corps, on nights 18/19th and 19/20th June.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th Divns,
3rd Cavalry Division (Army Reserve).

Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divns.

VIII Corps: 8th, 21st Divisions (being reconstituted).

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 30th Division (being reconstituted), 66th Divn. (training)

XXII Corps H.Q. : 37th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve)/cadre).

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| 13-pdr. A.A. H.E. | .. | 32 |
| " " S. | .. | 17 |
| 18-pdr. H.E. | .. | 4233 |
| " " S. | .. | 6411 |
| 4.5" How. H.E. | .. | 2917 |
| " " Gas. | .. | 128 |
| 60-pdr. H.E. | .. | 289 |
| " " S. | .. | 818 |
| 6" How. H.E. | .. | 2862 |
| " " S.K. | .. | 114 |
| 6" Mk. VII. H.E. | .. | 72 |
| " " S. | .. | 126 |
| 8" How. | .. | 220 |
| 9.2" How. | .. | 180 |
| 12" How. | .. | 25 |

20th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- C125
-
- 2.52 a.m. From 5th Bde. R.A.F.
22 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Night flying abandoned.
- 5.33 a.m. From III Corps.
Situation quiet. No hostile gas shelling or prisoners.
- 6.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Enemy artillery active on Left Division Sector, shelling front, support and reserve line with lachrymatory and mustard gas. From 9.30 p.m. till 11.30 p.m. South of BUIRE heavily shelled with 77a 4.2s and yellow cross gas. HEILLY shelled heavily at half hour intervals during night by 5.9 guns and howitzers. VILLERS BRETONNEUX shelled with 77 mm., 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. during night. Machine gun and trench mortar fire fairly active on Corps front during night. At 10.55 a party of about 60 Bosche forming up at K.20.c.5.9. dispersed by artillery, light trench mortar, Lewis gun and rifle fire. We raided enemy trench in E.19.d., met with opposition, inflicted casualties, no identifications.
- 6.20 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery active between SOMME and ANCRE shelling front and support lines with lachrymatory and yellow cross. HEILLY heavily shelled with 15 cm. guns and howitzers. Area South of BUIRE shelled with H.E. and yellow cross. Party 60 enemy forming up South of MORLANCOURT repulsed by artillery, trench mortar, Lewis gun and rifle fire. R.A.F. report 22 25-lb. bombs various targets. Night flying abandoned.
- 5.20 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet and unchanged. Right Division report 40 blue cross shells on D.18.d. Casualties nil.
- 6.5 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Hostile artillery fairly active throughout day N.W. of BOIS l'ABBE. Slight increase enemy artillery East of HAMELET. VILLE-sur-ANCRE and area South of TREUX occasionally shelled with 4.2. E.A. inactive. Captures nil.
- 6.35 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery active during day N.W. of BOIS l'ABBE. Slight shelling VILLE-sur-ANCRE and East of HAMELET. 100 yellow cross gas shells South of MERICOURT, 40 blue cross North of BUIRE. Captures nil.
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