

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/14/8 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

June 1918



AWM4-1/14/8PART3

21st June, 1918.

C126

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 21st June, 1918.

1. Hostile artillery was quiet during the night but showed an increased activity during the day. South of the River ANCRE, except for fairly continuous harassing fire on the HEILLY area, the enemy's artillery was very quiet. Long range guns lightly shelled the villages in the back areas, and 60 shells fell in AMIENS. In addition to the usual harassing shoots our artillery directed a heavy concentration of gas shells on the area S.E. of the BOIS de TAILLOUX.

2. III CORPS.

During the night the MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT area was shelled at intervals and between 8 a.m. and 9.10 a.m. a fairly heavy concentration was fired against MILLENCOURT.

The area N.W. of LAVIEVILLE received attention throughout the rest of the day and the BRESLE valley was harassed by 15 cm. howitzers.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The battery area South of AUBIGNY was engaged with a short concentration of blue cross gas shell. Harassing fire in the vicinity of HEILLY was fairly continuous both day and night. Hostile shelling was chiefly confined to scattered fire on the forward areas in the VILLERS BRETONNEUX sector and on battery areas generally. H.V. guns fired a few rounds in villages in the back areas. No infantry action took place.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation fairly quiet. Small raids were carried out with success against enemy trenches in the vicinity of AVELUY WOOD and BEAUMONT HAMEL.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

173 hours were flown by 126 pilots. Four successful reconnaissances were carried out, eight artillery patrols made and two zone calls sent down.

24 offensive patrols were carried out and 47 air photographs obtained.

Aircraft activity was below normal. Twenty air combats took place, one of which was decisive resulting in one E.A. being brought down. One of our machines is missing.

/ During

21st June, 1918.

C127²

During the day 277 25-lb. bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons on BOIS des TAILLES and LAMOTTE, and 3000 machine gun rounds were fired into trenches at WARFUSEE and various selected ground targets.

Eleven successful shoots with kite balloon observation were carried out.

Our aircraft were much hindered by rain and thunder.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were most inactive. A few R.E.A. were seen and engaged by A.A. guns.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds with high wind: very poor visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

37th Division transferred by rail to Third Army, remaining in G.H.Q. Reserve.

33rd American Division moved to vicinity of MOLLIENS-au-BOIS and LONG area and held in Army Reserve.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 58th Divisions, 47th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve), 3rd Cavalry Division**, 33rd American Division**, 1 Brigade 66th Division (Training Cadre).

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

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

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

XXII Corps H.Q. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

18-pdr. H.E.	5671.	6" Mk. VII.H.E.	145.
" S.	7936.	" S.	167.
4.5" How. H.E.	3720.	8" How. H.E.	482.
" Gas.	210.	" S.	223.
60-pdr. H.E.	325.	9.2" How.	275.
" S.	844.	12" How.	10.
6" How.	3788.		

11. GENERAL.

The training of the 33rd American Division will still continue. For this purpose the 198th Brigade, the 90th Brigade and Battalion Training Cadres of the 30th Division accompanied the 33rd American Division when moving to the new area.

21st June, 1918.

C 128

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 3.45 a.m. From 5th Bde. R.A.F.
235 25-lb. bombs on BOIS des TAILLES, 38 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Night bombing nil.
- 5.20 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet and unchanged on Corps front. No gas shelling reported. Captures nil.
- 6.15 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation very quiet. Some shelling of VILLE-sur-ANCRE, MARRET WOOD and area North of BUIRE and RIBEMONT and of SAILLY-le-SEC. Light shelling of battery areas of Right Division.
- 8.55 a.m. From III Corps.
Left Division report three men missing in raid night 19/20th inst., believed killed or badly wounded. Search being made.
- 6.35 a.m. To G. H. Q.
VILLE-sur-ANCRE, SAILLY-le-SEC, Areas North of BUIRE and West of BRETONNEUX lightly shelled. Otherwise hostile artillery inactive. 273 25-lb. bombs on BOIS-des-TAILLES and various targets during day. Captures nil.
- 5.45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Eight 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
- 5.35 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Quiet day. Very little enemy activity. About 25 gas shells, 77mm., nature unknown, fell in MILLENCOURT in morning. Captures nil.
- 6.10 p.m. Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX shelled with 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. HEILLY, GLISY lightly shelled at intervals. Light scattered shelling of forward areas Centre and Right Divisions. Captures nil.
- 6.45 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Quiet day. Hostile shelling quiet. Gas: 500. yellow and green cross North of SAILLY-le-SEC early morning. R.A.F. dropped eight 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Captures nil.
-

22nd June, 1918.

C129

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 22nd June, 1918.

1. During the early morning the Australian Corps carried out a small minor enterprise which was entirely successful, resulting in the capture of a few prisoners. Otherwise the situation was quiet on the Army front. In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery activity showed a further decrease. There was some little gas shelling of the MILLENCOURT area during the night. South of the ANCRE the enemy's artillery was quiet, slight gas shelling of battery areas and light scattered shelling of forward areas being the main features. Activity of H.V. guns was again below normal. 40 rounds were fired into AMIENS area. Our artillery was very active.

2. III CORPS.

No infantry operations were carried out and the situation was generally quiet. Hostile shelling for the most part was confined to intermittent fire on villages in the forward area and on battery areas in the vicinity of BRESLE. Some slight gas shelling was reported in the MILLENCOURT area during the night.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

At 3.45 p.m. a patrol from the 3rd Australian Division examined No man's land in P.26.a. One officer and one man of this party entered the enemy trenches at P.26.a.10.55, killing four Germans and wounding one.

Another successful minor operation was carried out by the same division during the night against the HANGAR in P.25.c. Ten enemy were killed and one wounded, while six unwounded prisoners were captured together with one light machine gun. The operation was supported by Lewis guns, and many of the garrison of the enemy trench who retired on the approach of our party were estimated to have been killed by Lewis gun fire.

Light scattered shelling was experienced on the VILLERS BRETONNEUX plateau, in the valley of the ANCRE and in the vicinity of battery areas. Short concentrations of yellow and blue cross gas were fired into VILLERS BRETONNEUX and on the Northern edge of the BOIS DE BLANGY during the night. Otherwise hostile artillery was inactive.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation generally quiet.

/ 5. AIRCRAFT.

22nd June, 1918.

2.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

C130

36 hours were flown by 30 pilots and one successful reconnaissance was carried out.

During three artillery patrols three zone calls were sent down and one hostile battery successfully neutralised.

The weather was most unfavourable for flying and in consequence our machines were only able to ascend for short periods.

Eight 25-lb. bombs were dropped on enemy trenches and 100 rounds of machine gun fire were directed on roads in the vicinity of ALBERT.

(b) Hostile.

There was practically no hostile flying owing to weather conditions. Only five machines were seen.

6. PRISONERS.

Six prisoners were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds and rain.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

66th Division (Training Cadre) moved to BERNAVILLE (Third Army area) but continued to supervise the training of the 33rd American Division.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 58th Divisions, 47th Division (G.H.Q. Reserve), 3rd Cavalry Division**, 33rd American Division**, 1 Bde. 66th Division (Training Cadre).

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

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

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

XXII Corps H.Q. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

** Army Reserve. * Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

18-pdr. H.E.	5571.	6" How.	3788.
" S.	7936.	6" Mk. VII.H.E.	145.
4.5" How. H.E.	3720.	" S.	167.
" Gas.	210.	8" How.	705.
60-pdr. H.E.	325.	9.2" How.	275.
" S.	844.	12" How.	10.

22nd June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

C131

- 2.50 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day eleven 25-lb. bombs.
- 5.30 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Hostile artillery slightly more active on Right Divisional front. D.12.c. & d. shelled by 77 mm. 7.45 p.m. about 30 gas shells fell in D.24.a. Hostile shelling on Left Divisional front nil.
- 6.35 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. At 3.40 p.m. yesterday patrol Right Division examined No Man's Land in P.26.a. during our artillery shoot on enemy position about the HANGAR in P.25.c. Several wounded parties were observed moving away from shelled area. Officer and one man entered enemy trench at P.26.a.10.55 and killed four Germans, wounding one. Patrol returned to our lines at 5.30 p.m. Successful minor operation carried out by Right Division during the night against the HANGAR in P.25.c. Our party approached within 15 yards of hangar and rushed it, opening fire with Lewis guns. Ten enemy killed, one wounded and six unwounded prisoners. One light machine gun captured. Remainder of garrison scattered. Our casualties one wounded. Gas projectors successfully discharged on DERNANCOURT 12.30 a.m. For remainder of night light scattered shelling forward area. Gas shelling: 100 rounds blue cross 0.29.c., 100 rounds blue cross North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, 35 rounds yellow cross 0.25.c.
- 6.45 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Situation quiet. Scattered shelling including few blue and yellow cross forward area right and centre Australian Corps. Hostile artillery active, 77 mm., vicinity AMIENS - ALBERT Road. 3.45 p.m. yesterday patrol 3rd Australian Division entered enemy post East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, killed 4 and wounded 1 of enemy and returned to our lines 5.30 p.m. 10.55 p.m. 3rd Australian Division carried out minor enterprise East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and occupied post on main road. Ten enemy killed, 5 captured: our casualties 1 wounded. Gas projected DERNANCOURT 12.30 a.m. R.A.F. report 11 bombs by day.
- 5.45 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Both divisions report hostile activity below normal. Front system at W.26.central and E.8.c. lightly shelled with 4.2s in morning. Deliberate shelling of AMIENS - ALBERT Road at D.20.b. from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. HENENCOURT and CONTAY lightly shelled. Captures nil.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Very quiet day. Scattered shelling forward area Right Division. Patrol of six O.R. Left Division encountered enemy post K.13.b.6.7 and inflicted casualties. No identification secured. Captures 1 wounded, 6 unwounded O.R., 1 machine gun.
- 6.40 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Casualties inflicted on enemy post S.W. of MORLANCOURT by one of our patrols. Light scattered shelling forward area.

22nd June, 1918.

cont'd.

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

C132
Casualties inflicted on enemy post S.W. of MORLANCOURT by one of our patrols. Light scattered shelling forward area vicinity of BRETONNEUX and West of ALBERT. Light shelling HENENCOURT, CONTAY. Captures 1 wounded, 6 unwounded O.Rs., 1 machine gun.

S E C R E T.

22nd June, 1918.

O.B./2256.

Fourth Army.

C133

The Headquarters VIII Corps will be broken up with effect from the 24th instant.

2. Arrangements are being made to absorb Staff Officers and representatives of Administrative Services and Departments and the necessary orders are being issued by G.H.Q.

3. Corps Troops units will be disposed of as follows:-

- (i) V/VIII Heavy Trench Mortar Battery will be transferred to IX Corps.
- (ii) No. 8 Cyclist Battalion will remain in Fourth Army in G.H.Q. Reserve.
- (iii) Nos. 48 and 78 (Motor) Airline Sections will remain temporarily in Fourth Army to be employed under instructions to be issued by D.Signals, G.H.Q.
- (iv) Nos. "AD" and "GG" Cable Sections will be transferred to Cavalry Corps Signals.
- (v) The Wireless Section of "H" Corps Signal Co. will be transferred to G.H.Q.
- (vi) Corps Topo. Section.)
"H" Corps Signal Co. (less Wireless)
Section).) Will be
VIII Corps Troops, M.T.Co.) broken
No. 593 Co. A.S.C. (attached) up.
Heavy Artillery).)
No. 268 Area Employment Company.)

4. The necessary detailed orders for the moves in para. 3(i), (iv) and (v) and the disposal of personnel, equipment and transport in para. 3(vi), will be issued by G.H.Q. in each case.

General Headquarters,
22nd June, 1918.

(Sd) G.P. Dawnay, M.G.,
for Lieutenant-General,
C. G. S.

Copies to:-
First Army.
Second Army.
Third Army.
Fifth Army.
Cavalry Corps.
G.O.C., L. of C. Area.

C134

FOURTH ARMY.

22nd June, 1918.

WEEKLY APPRECIATION.FOR PERIOD 15th TO 21st JUNE, 1918, (INCLUSIVE).1. OPERATIONS.

During the period under review, the enemy has attempted two raids east of SAILLY-LAURETTE and south of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX respectively. Both raiding parties consisted of about 40 - 50 men. They were repulsed before reaching our lines. As the result of one of these raids, 5 wounded Germans were left in our hands. None of our men are missing.

It is probable that, on another occasion, about 60 Germans intended to carry out a raid south of MORLANCOURT. They were, however, dispersed by fire.

During the week, our troops carried out ten raids. Seven of these were successful in obtaining identifications, ~~two~~ were repulsed, while another found the enemy's trenches unoccupied. A few hostile patrols were seen, but the enemy's inactivity with regard to patrolling is still marked. The number of prisoners captured during the week is 23 O.R.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

From the statements of prisoners captured at the latter end of last week it seemed probable that 4 out of the 6 divisions opposite the Fourth Army front expected to be relieved in the immediate future, and in one case at least it appeared that the incoming division was to carry out an attack. By the success of our raiding parties, prisoners were obtained, during the week, in all sectors except that of ALBERT, and from the identifications obtained it was established that only one divisional relief had taken place, an average division relieving a division which had suffered heavily, both in casualties and prisoners, in the MORLANCOURT sector at the hands of the Australians. The prisoners captured had no knowledge that any offensive was contemplated by the Germans against the front of the Army, neither did they confirm the statements previously made that their divisions were to be relieved. Therefore, as far as prisoners' statements are concerned, there is no reason to suppose that the enemy at present intend any operations against our front. An interesting statement was obtained by the French, from a well known aviator brought down within the French lines by the 5th Bde., R.A.F. This officer was of opinion that the Germans had only reserves sufficiently numerous for one big blow, and were undecided whether it should be launched against PARIS in the hope that the French would conclude peace if once the German guns were in range of their Capital, or against the British with the object of driving them into the sea. The general opinion entertained by the German officers was that the first alternative would be adopted.

3. DISTRIBUTION/

P.T.O

C135

3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES:

The number of enemy divisions opposite the Army front remains at 6.

4. RELIEFS.

One divisional relief has taken place on our front, the 233rd Div. having relieved the 54th Div. in the MORLANCOURT sector. On our immediate left flank the 3rd Naval Div. has apparently relieved the 24th Div. in the AVELUY sector, thus coming into the line for the fourth time since March 21st.

From identifications obtained, no change in the order of battle has taken place in the DERNANCOURT, SAILLY-LE-SEC, HAMMEL, VAIRE Wood, WARFUSEE and LARCELOUVE sectors. From prisoners' statements, it is possible that the 265th R.I.R. has left the 108th Div. This, however, requires confirmation.

5. RESERVES.

The reserves of the German Second Army, (AVELUY - MAILLY RAINEVAL), may be at present classified as follows :-

- 1 fresh division which is a Landwehr Div.
- 4 divisions resting for one month, and over.
- 4 divisions resting for 14 days, and over.
- 1 division resting for under 14 days.

Total = 10

This is a decrease of one from the number reported in last week's Summary, and is accounted for as follows :-

- The guard Ers. Div. .. left for MONS area.
- 107th Div. left for VALENCIENNES area.
- 18th Div. left for TOURNAI area.
- 195th Div. arrived in CAMBRAI area.
- 233rd Div. arrived in line from G.H.Q. reserve.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) Aircraft.

During the first two days of the week hostile activity was slight, the proportion of reconnaissance machines to fighting machines remaining high. From the 17th inst. onwards, however, activity considerably increased, and many more fighting machines were seen. On several days large formations were encountered, and it was noticed that the enemy's attitude in the air had become more aggressive. This points to the fact that enemy fighting machines, which had been lately working on the MONTDIDIER - NOYON front have returned to their normal area. The chief centre of activity was between the ANCRE and the LUCE.

The enemy carried out few long-distance reconnaissances, five in all being recorded. These were over AMIENS (2),

BERTANGLES/

C136

BERTANGLES, VILLERS BOGAGE and LONGPRE LES CORPS SAINTS.
Hostile bombing activity was slight, a few bombs being dropped at GLISY, LIERCOURT and near BONNAY.
Our own bombing squadrons have been active, and in all over 30 tons of bombs were dropped on various targets in rear of the enemy's lines.

(b) Artillery.

There has been no abnormal activity. During the first part of the week the ALBERT sector was very quiet, the southern sector being rather more active; the enemy's fire then became more pronounced in the northern sector, while in the southern it died down.

There were some fairly heavy bursts of shelling during the period. On the 15th/16th inst., a heavy concentration was fired into the area between FOUILLOY and the AMIENS - VILLERS-BRETONNEUX road, while the front line east of the latter village was shelled heavily. Barrages were put down on two occasions on our front line near HAMEL.

MILLENCOURT, LA VIEVILLE and HENENCOURT were all subjected to heavy concentrations, also the area on either side of the ALBERT - AMIENS road and that between SENLIS and BOUZINCOURT.

TREUX received three heavy bursts of fire on the 18th/19th inst. There was an increase of counter-battery work on the 16th/17th inst., but since the latter date it has died down.

Gas shell has been used more freely than last week; SAILLY-LE-SEC, the right bank of the SOMME east of VAUX, VILLE-sur-ANCRE, the trenches south-west of ALBERT and the battery areas north-west of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and south of MERICOURT, all received concentrations composed, for the most part of Yellow Cross shell.

Long range guns were active on the 17th inst., but otherwise quiet. AMIENS still continues to be shelled, the number of rounds averaging about 150 per diem.

(c) Movement.

(i) Normal Gauge Railways.

During the week railway activity has shown a considerable increase, especially in the neighbourhood of LE PLATEAU, and on the HAM - NESLE - CHAULNES - WIENCOURT line, where on four days out of the seven abnormal movement has been observed. From the nature of the traffic it appears probable that the enemy is circulating some of his trains from the CHAULNES line via BRAY and LE PLATEAU and thence north to ROOQUIGNY and vice versa. Definite confirmation is still required of the suggested conversion of the ROSIERES - PROYART metre gauge into a normal gauge line by the addition of a third rail, but the amount of traffic daily reported between ROSIERES and BRAY adds much weight to this supposition.

(ii) Metre Gauge.

Unusual activity was observed on the ROSIERES - HANGEST - MONTDIDIER line on the 20th inst. The

GUILLEMONT/

P.T.O

GUILLEMONT - FRICOURT line has been fairly active on most days.

(iii) Roads.

On the whole, road movement has been rather below normal.

Conclusions.

The railway movement at LE PLATEAU was probably connected with the relief of the 54th Div. The cause of the movement at ROSIERES has not yet been ascertained.

7. ENEMY DEFENCES.

The rate of work on defences has slightly increased, and has been distributed as under :-

(a) Between AVSLUY and ALBERT, comparatively little work has been done.

(b) N.W. and W. of ALBERT some wiring has been reported, trenches have been improved and work is visible on dugout construction.

(c) Between ALBERT and DERNANCOURT the front line has been little improved but the support line has been elaborated and provided with more dugouts. Prisoners report dugouts here and in the railway cutting N. of DERNANCOURT. Work on dugouts has also been carried out N. of MEAULTE. A trench has been dug right across MEAULTE, to join up the communication trenches running N. and S. of the village.

The enemy is still suffering much inconvenience from our shelling of the ANCRE crossings.

(d) Short trenches have been dug E. of VILLE and W. of MORLANCOURT. The enemy is making efforts to form a new front system S.W. and S. of MORLANCOURT, working most actively astride the BRAY - CORBIE road. N. of SAILLY-LAURETTE there are several series of short disconnected trenches.

(e) S. of the SOMME the most conspicuous work is the completion of the communication trench 4,000 yards long from the front line at HAMEL Wood to near the CERISY - LAMOTTE Valley. Work on dugouts and T.M. emplacements has been pushed forward especially in P.25.d. and at VAIRE Wood. Short new trenches have been dug at the W. end of HAMEL.

8. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Aerodromes.

A slight continuation of the increase east of the SOMME and a slight decrease in the HAM - NESLE area are reported. The redistribution of aerodromes now appears to be completed.

(b) Dumps.

The enemy's activity is maintained south of the SOMME. New light railway construction has been reported at ROSIERES

and/

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and HATTENCOURT. North of the SOMME new activity is noticeable N.E. of GINCHY and N. of SAILLY SAILLISEL. A slight increase of material is also visible at PERONNE and in the MARICOURT area.

(c) Railways.

The new railway running south-west from MISERY sidings has been continued a little further into ABLAINCOURT village.

(d) Hospitals.

Six new hospitals are reported, three of which are north of the SOMME.

(e) Billets.

North of the SOMME activity has been particularly noticeable west of ETINGHEM and at MONTAUBAN; south of the SOMME the area south of MORCOURT is much used by troops. There is great activity among the old British hutments and camps in the COLOGNE and OMIGNON valleys.

9. ANALYSIS OF CLASSES OF 326 GERMAN PRISONERS CAPTURED BY THE FOURTH ARMY SINCE 1-6-19.

<u>Classes.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>
*1920	2	.61
1919	68	20.86
1918	41	12.57
1917	25	7.67
1916	46	14.11
1915	18	5.52
1914	14	4.29
1913	16	4.91
1912	15	4.60
Reservists 1907/1911	33	10.12
Ersatz Reserve.	5	1.54
Landwehr 1st Bav. 1902/06.	23	7.06
" 2nd Bav. 1896/01.	20	6.14
	<u>326</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

* One prisoner was a volunteer, and the other combed out for striking at KIEL.

The majority of prisoners (205) belonged to the 54th Div., but 7 other divisions and one field artillery regt. are also represented in the above statistics.

It will be seen that by far the largest number of prisoners captured belong to the 1919 Class.

10. GENERAL.

The enemy's attitude still continues to be defensive. He has not attempted to regain the ground lost by him either at VILLE, or west of MORLANCOURT.

The order of battle shows only one change, namely the relief of a division which suffered heavy casualties in the

Australian/

P.T.D

C139

Australian attack on the 10th/11th inst. The relieving division is of average quality, and not one which would be likely to be selected to take part in an offensive.

Prisoners are ignorant of any offensive intended against the Fourth Army by the enemy, and it is considered that, until fresh divisions are transferred to this front, no attack will be attempted.

An interesting feature with regard to air activity is the increase in the number of fighting machines. This took place shortly after the MONTDIDIER - NOYON attack came to an end. It is probable that machines from this front which were diverted southwards during operations have now returned to their usual area, and points to the cessation of operations, anyhow for the present, in the direction of COMPIEGNE.

The redistribution of hostile aerodromes still continues, and it is noticeable that the number and accommodation of aerodromes in the area east of the SOMME has increased at the expense of aerodromes in the area NESLE - ROYE - HAR. This change requires careful watching as it indicates that the enemy's interest is shifting from the NOYON - MONTDIDIER front to the MOREUIL - ALBERT front. The increase of hospitals north and south of the SOMME helps to strengthen this supposition.

The increase of dumps, new railway construction, etc. in back areas have followed their normal course, and no indications can be obtained from them.

To sum up, it is not considered that the enemy intend any offensive operations, at present, opposite the Army front, but it is possible that the interest of the enemy may be shifting from the MONTDIDIER - NOYON front to that of AMIENS.

V. Moran

Fourth Army (I),
June 22nd, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
for Major-General,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION.

G.H.Q., I.	2.
Third Army, I.. ...	2.
Corps, I.	3.
Divisions (incl. Amer.)	2.
5th Bde., R.A.F. ...	3.
Capt. RENONDEAU. ...	3.
A.D.C.	1.
M.G., 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.

C140

WIRELESS ACTIVITY.

(TO ACCOMPANY WEEKLY APPRECIATION FOR PERIOD 15-21ST JUNE, 1918)

(NOT TO BE REPRODUCED).

FIELD STATIONS. -

The attitude of German Field Stations opposite this front has undergone no appreciable change, the inactivity being still extremely marked. Nevertheless, towards the latter part of the period under review a slight revival of activity was noticeable, particularly in the ALBERT area

AEROPLANES. -

Hostile artillery aeroplanes were slightly busier, despite unfavourable visibility conditions. The enemy continues to pay most attention to the area south of the SOMME, where there was a tendency for flights to converge from N. and S. on the HANGARD WOOD sector. Minor concentrations were also noticed between BOUZINCOURT and BUIRE.

V. Vian

Fourth Army (Intelligence),
June 22nd, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION :-

G.H.Q.I	2	M.G., G.S. ...	1.
Third Army, I ...	2	Operations ...	1.
Corps, I... ..	3	G.O.C., R.A. ...	1.
Capt. RENONDEAU..	3		
A.D.G.	1		

(E)

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22nd June, 1918.

C141

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY ON FOURTH ARMY FRONT
FOR WEEK ENDING 22nd JUNE, 1918.

During the week under review hostile gas shelling has been very light.

Several small concentrations of Yellow Cross were directed against the area between the SOMME and the ANCRE, but none of these call for special comment.

BUSSY received 70 rounds Yellow Cross from 15 cm long range gun. No military casualties were caused. One civilian was killed by a shell fragment.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. JUNE 22nd, 1918.

Date. 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Formation.	Time of Bombardment.	No. of Rounds.	Nature of shell.	Map location.
June 15/16th.	18th Division.	11.0 p.m.	15	Green cross.	D.6.c. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	3.45 a.m.	Few.	-do-	D.5.d. -do-
June 16/17th.	3rd Aust. Divn.	9 p.m. - 12 m.n.	250	Green & blue cross.	O.20.26.27. N. of BOIS 1'ABBE.
	18th Division.	1 - 2 am.	Barrage	H.E. & green cross.	W.21. N.W. of ALBERT.
	4th Division	9.45 p.m.	30	Yellow cross.	J.27.d. W. of SAILLY-le-SEC.
	-do-	11.0 p.m.	20	-do-	J.27.d. -do-
	5th Aust. Divn.	-	100	(Yellow & green	J.12. S. of TREUX.
	-do-	-	23	(cross with H.E.	J.22. N.W. of SAILLY-le-SEC.
June 17/18th.	47th Division.	11.45 pm-12.30 am	80	Blue cross.	E.7.c. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	3.55 a.m.	12	Green cross.	D.5.d. -do-
	3rd Aust. Divn.	9.0 p.m.	Light	Blue cross.	O.26.27. N. of BOIS 1'ABBE.
	4th Aust. Divn.	10.30 a.m.	12	Yellow cross.	O.10.b. FOUILLOY.
	-do-	-	70	-do-	- BUSSY.
	5th Aust. Divn.	-	50	-do-	J.21. N.W. of SAILLY-le-SEC.
	-do-	-	20	-do-	J.23.d. N.E. -do-
	-do-	-	30	-do-	J.19. N.W. -do-
	-do-	-	16	-do-	J.24.b. N.E. -do-
	-do-	-	20	-do-	J.22.b. N.W. -do-
June 18/19th.	47th Division.	1 - 3 a.m.	50	Blue cross.	D.12.d. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
	3rd Aust. Divn.	3.5 a.m.	4	-do-	N.28.a. S.E. of BLANGY TRONVILLE.
	-do-	4.30 a.m.	30	Green cross.	N.30.d. N. of BLANGY WOOD.
	4th Aust. Divn.	4.15 a.m.	6	Yellow cross.	- BUSSY.
	5th Aust. Divn.	3 - 5 p.m.	250	-do-	J.9.b. S. of MERICOURT.
	-do-	3.15 a.m.	250	-do-	J.16.a. -do-
	-do-	-do-	6	-do-	J.21. -do-
	-do-	-do-	14	-do-	J.14. -do-
June 19/20th.	18th Division.	During night.	50	Green & Blue cross.	D.6.b. E. of MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	10.15 p.m.	100	Blue cross.	D.9.a. N. of BRESLE.
	58th Division.	8.30 - 10.30 am.	Few.	Green cross.	D.10.b. LAVIEVILLE.
	-do-	2.0 a.m.	15	Blue cross.	D.12.d. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
					E.7.b.

0142

/ cont'd.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. JUNE 22nd, 1918 (cont'd).

Date. 9 am. - 9 am.	Formation.	Time of bombardment.	No. of rounds.	Nature of shell.	Map location.
June 19/20th.	58th Division.	2 am. - 4 am.	40	Blue cross.	D.18.d. N. of BUIRE.
	-do-	3.45 a.m.	12	-do-	E.7.b. & d. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	4.30 a.m.	20	-do-	D.12.d. S.E. of MILLENCOURT.
	2nd Aust. Divn.	7 am. - 11.45 am.	100	H.E. & yellow cross.	J.9.b. S. of MERICOURT.
	-do-	9.15 pm. - 12 mn.	80	-do-	J.1 & HEILLY. N. of HEILLY.
	-do-	3.40 am.	10	Yellow cross.	- HEILLY.
	3rd Aust. Divn.	10.45 p.m.	10	Green cross.	O.26.a. N. of BOIS l'ABBE.
	-do-	-do-	Light	-do-	O.32.d. U.2.b.) BOIS l'ABBE. U.3.a.)
	-do-	10.30 p.m.	30	Blue cross.	O.19. & O.20. N. of BOIS l'ABBE.
	5th Aust. Divn.	11 p.m.	100	Green & yellow.	J.17.b. N. of SAILLY-le-SEC.
-do-	2.30 p.m.	200	-do-	J.8. & J.13. S. of HEILLY.	
-do-	10.0 p.m.	300	-do-	(Support line Left Brigade Sector).	
June 20th/21st.	18th Division.	12 mn. - 2 a.m.	12	Green cross.	V.23.d. N. of MILLENCOURT.
	3rd Aust. Divn.	9.15 a.m.	10	?	O.29.c. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	5th Aust. Divn.	3 - 4 p.m.	300	(Gas & H.E. yellow and green.	(J.16. J.17. & N. of SAILLY-le-SEC. J.18.)
June 21st/22nd.	18th Division.	1 p.m.	3	Green cross.	N.29.b. S.E. of BLANGY TRONVILLE
	-do-	2 p.m.	12	Green & blue cross.	D.6.a. E. of MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	Morning.	25	?	- MILLENCOURT.
	58th Division.	3 - 3.45 a.m.	50	Yellow cross.	D.18.b. & D.24.a. N. of BUIRE.
	-do-	5.45 p.m.	5	Green cross.	D.7.d. N.W. of BRESLE.
	3rd Aust. Divn.	-	35	Yellow cross 1.	O.25.c. & N.30.d. N. of BOIS l'ABBE.
	-do-	-	100	Blue cross.	O.29.c. VILLERS BRETONNEUX..
	4th Aust. Divn.	8.15 p.m.	60	-do-	O.23.b. N. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX

Casualties for week :- 2 officers.
99 other ranks.
Deaths :- N I L.

C143

C144 GAS SHELLING FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. 22/6/18.

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



23rd June, 1918.

C145

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 23rd June, 1918.

1. During the night two successful raids were carried out by the Australian Corps against enemy trenches in the vicinity of MORLANCOURT. A few prisoners were captured and many of the enemy killed. Gas projectors were discharged on targets N.W. of DERNANCOURT. Hostile artillery activity in the ALBERT Sector remained fairly quiet. South of the ANCRE, apart from activity occasioned by our raids, the enemy's artillery was quiet. Slight harassing fire was reported during the day on forward areas South of the SOMME and in the vicinity of batteries. H.V. guns were not very active. About 30 rounds were fired into the AMIENS area, chiefly in the vicinity of LONGUEAU. Our artillery was normally active and in addition to the shelling occasioned by our infantry operations heavy concentrations were directed against HAMEL, MARCELCAVE Station and the BOIS de VAIRE.

2. III CORPS.

394 gas projectors were discharged into the QUARRY in W.27.b and 250 projectors on targets in E.14. The day was exceptionally quiet, the enemy's artillery being only slightly active. During the night forward communications were shelled at intervals. MILLENCOURT and LAVIEVILLE were also lightly shelled. BRESLE Valley/area received considerable attention.

battery
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A successful raid was carried out by the 5th Australian Division North-west of MORLANCOURT where eight prisoners and one machine gun were captured. The raiding party consisted of 30 officers and men supported by Lewis guns. The only casualty sustained by us was one O.R. wounded.

Another party from the same division raided the enemy trenches S.W. of MORLANCOURT but met with considerable opposition. They succeeded, however, in killing 12 of the enemy and in capturing one.

Apart from the activity occasioned by our raids the enemy's artillery was quiet. Light shelling was experienced on communications between the ANCRE and the SOMME and on villages in the SOMME Valley. The reply to our fire in support of the raids on the MILLENCOURT Sector was fairly light. A barrage was put down on the front line S.W. of MORLANCOURT and short concentration by 10.5 cm. howitzers was fired into the valley North of SAILLY LAURETTE. Long range guns lightly shelled villages in the SOMME and HALLUE Valleys.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Considerable hostile shelling of the forward areas was reported. A minor operation supported by tanks was carried out against enemy trenches East of BUCQUOY. The

/ infantry

23rd June, 1918.

C146 2.

infantry were held up by hostile machine gun fire but the tanks succeeded in penetrating the enemy's defences and causing many casualties.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Very quiet day. Situation unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

126 hours were flown by 86 pilots. Seven reconnaissance and 8 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 5 zone calls were sent down and 1 hostile battery successfully engaged for destruction.

24 offensive patrols were made. Owing to the inclement weather our aircraft activity was very slight. Six indecisive combats in the air took place.

During 11 night flights 174 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on LE PLATEAU Station, valley South of VAUX WOOD and on MONTAUBAN.

During the day 32 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on suitable ground targets.

3,950 machine gun rounds were fired at searchlights and into the villages of WARFUSEE and WIENCOURT and into trenches North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

(b) Hostile.

There was practically no flying owing to weather conditions. Only five enemy machines were seen during the day.

6. PRISONERS.

Nine O.R. passed through Corps cages during the day.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early, with high wind, clouding over later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

8th and 21st Divisions transferred to XIX Corps and moved to RUE and GAMACHES areas.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th Divn, 47th Divn. (G.H.Q. Reserve),
58th Divn, 3rd Cavalry Divn.**, 33rd Amer-
ican Divn.**, 1 Bde. 66th Divn. (Training
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th & 5th Aust. Divns. /Cadre).
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 8th, 21st, 30th Div-
isions (being reconstituted).
VIII Corps H.Q.
XXII Corps H.Q. (G.H.Q. Res.). ** Army Reserve.
* Corps Reserve.

/cont'd.

23rd June, 1918.

3.

C147

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	...	290.
" S.	...	138.
18-pdr. H.E.	...	7570.
" S.	...	11561.
4.5" How. H.E.	...	4202.
" Gas.	...	60.
60-pdr. H.E.	...	551.
" S.	...	830.
6" How.	...	4998.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	...	203.
" S.	...	174.
8" How.	...	814.
9.2" How.	...	420.
12" How.	...	4.

23rd June, 1918.

C148

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- 4.40 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Eight 25-lb. bombs dropped. Night bombing:
52 25-lb. on LE PLATEAU Station, 84 25-lb. valley South
of VAUX, 38 25-lb. on MONTAUBAN.
- 4.35 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Reconnaissances carried out tonight between
the hours of 12.20 a.m. and 3.15 a.m. of the usual roads.
Observed transport on ALBERT - BRAY Road going North,
train going West from CARNOY, train going North BRAY -
FRICOURT, train going West MONTAUBAN, train going West
CLERY: otherwise no abnormal movement seen. Visibility
was excellent.
- 5.43 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation unchanged. Some
shelling of Right Brigade Sector and V.29.d. 394 gas
projectors discharged into QUARRY in W.27.b., Railway
W.28.a. & b. also 250 on to targets in E.14.
- From Australian Corps.
6.30 a.m. Morning report. Situation quiet. Light
shelling of BUIRE and VILLE-sur-ANCRE. 40 rounds blue
cross gas on Southern outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX
11 to 11.30 p.m. Successful raid N.W. of MORLANCOURT;
8 prisoners and 1 machine gun captured. Second raid
S.W. of MORLANCOURT met strong opposition: 12 enemy killed,
one captured.
- 6.25 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Some shelling MILLENCOURT, BUIRE and VILLE-sur-
ANCRE. Successful raid N.W. MORLANCOURT: 8 prisoners and
1 machine gun captured. Second raid S.W. MORLANCOURT met
strong opposition: 12 enemy killed, 1 prisoner captured.
394 gas projectors discharged into QUARRY W.27.b. (West of
ALBERT), also on railway W.20.a. & b. 250 projectors on
targets N.W. of DERNANCOURT. Eight 25-lb. bombs dropped.
Night bombing: 52 25-lb. on PLATEAU STATION, 84 25-lb. South
of VAUX, 38 25-lb. MONTAUBAN.
- 5.30 p.m. From III Corps.
An exceptionally quiet day on Corps front. With
the exception of some shelling of HALLUE Valley between
BAVELINCOURT and MONTIGNY hostile artillery activity has been
negligable. Captures nil.
- 5.40 p.m. From 5th Bde. R.A.F.
24 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
- 6.2 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Light scattered shelling on
back area Right Division. VILLE-sur-ANCRE shelled at noon.
20 yellow cross on J.17.a. at 4 p.m. E.A. inactive. Pris-
oners 10 O.R. (one since died), Left Division, last 24 hours.
Material captured one machine gun. Situation quiet.

/ cont'd.

23rd June, 1918.

cont'd.

C149

8.25 p.m. To G. H. Q.

Quiet day on Army front. Slight shelling of
HALIÈRE Valley South of BAVELINCOURT. 40 rounds blue cross
on VILLERS BRETONNEUX last night, 20 yellow cross South
of MERICOURT 4 p.m. R.A.F. report 24 25-lb. bombs
dropped. Captures 10 O.R. (one since died), one machine
gun.

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23rd June, 1918.

C 150

REPORT ON MINOR OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY THE
59th BATTALION A.I.F. at 12-15 a.m.,
23rd JUNE, 1918.

The prisoners captured totalled eight men of the 4th Company, 52nd R.I.R., 107th Division. Identification reached Battalion Headquarters five minutes after zero and Brigade Headquarters 11 minutes after zero. This was immediately passed to Divisional Headquarters. The 52nd R.I.R. has only been in the line several days. One light machine gun in perfect order was also captured.

Our party suffered no casualties during the actual raid; one man was slightly wounded when the party was returning to Battalion Headquarters.

The artillery carried out their tasks perfectly and efficiently and men of the raiding party describe the barrage as perfect. They were able to get within 40 yards of it and thus take the enemy completely by surprise when they sprung into the trench. That this was accomplished is confirmed by prisoners' statements.

Machine guns and neutralizing fire were effective with the result that no trouble was experienced by the raiders from enemy machine gun or minenwerfer fire.

The light trench mortar bombardment was very effective; the battery fired 580 rounds during the operation, at least 400 of which were fired with the old issue green cartridges. These ensured a more rapid rate of fire and accuracy and the work of the light trench mortar battery assisted in no small way the success of the operation.

The raiding party claim to have definitely killed six of the enemy but there can be no doubt that considerably more were victims to our artillery and trench mortar fire. On the approach of the raiders some of the garrison fled to the flanks where they came under the box barrage and trench mortars and undoubtedly became casualties.

All ranks of the raiding party were equipped with body armour and they are satisfied that all details of their equipment for the operation were as complete as they could be made.

In conjunction with this operation forty gas bombs were fired from projectors into DERNANCOURT.

24th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 24th June, 1918. *C151*

1. In the ALBERT Sector enemy's artillery was quiet. South of the ANCRE hostile activity remained below normal. Light harassing fire was reported on the ANCRE Valley between MERICOURT and VILLE, and on the battery areas of AUBIGNY and LA NEUVILLE. Our support trenches S.W. of MORLANCOURT were heavily shelled. There was a further decrease in the activity of H.V. guns. Only a few rounds were fired into AMIENS. Our artillery was very active and in addition to firing on areas of enemy activity, a certain amount of heavy artillery was concentrated on trains, motor transport and tanks in the back areas.
2. III CORPS.

The situation was very quiet. During the night short concentrations were fired in the vicinity of MILLENCOURT and along portions of the AMIENS - ALBERT Road. Slight blue cross gas shelling occurred in the HENENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE area. This took the form of intermittent shelling with H.E. and blue cross during the day. The enemy's infantry were abnormally quiet.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The enemy's artillery fire during the night was confined to light shelling of the SOMME Valley West of CORBIE and on the battery areas North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. A few rounds of green cross shell fell on battery areas North of the BOIS de BLANGY.

During the day light harassing fire was directed on the ANCRE Valley in the vicinity of VILLE and MERICOURT. Our support trenches S.W. of MORLANCOURT received heavy bursts of fire. About 550 4.2s. were reported to have fallen in this area.
3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation unchanged.
5. AIRCRAFT.

357 hours were flown by 197 pilots and six successful reconnaissances were carried out. During the day 14 artillery patrols were made and 21 zone calls sent down. Ten hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and three hostile batteries neutralised.

24th June, 1918.

C152².

Two destructive shoots on bridges took place and a considerable amount of damage was done.

49 offensive patrols were carried out. Our aircraft were not very active. Only three indecisive combats took place.

During night flying Corps machines carried out a special reconnaissance of roads and railways in the enemy back areas opposite the Fourth Army front. Twelve machines dropped 238 twenty-five lb. bombs on LE PLATEAU, VAUX WOOD and ALLAINES.

Day bombing was very slight. 404 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on MERICOURT and the wood East of MERICOURT.

7850 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Enemy aircraft activity was normal. 101 planes were seen, the greater proportion of which were F.E.A.. The majority of the E.A. seen were operating in rear of their own lines. One long distance high flying R.E.A. penetrated as far as AMIENS but was eventually forced to retire by our A.A. fire.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early, clouding later, with little rain.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No important reliefs or moves took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF HEADQUARTERS.

III Corps: 18th Divn., 47th Divn. (G.H.Q. Reserve),
58th Divn., 3rd Cavalry Divn.**, 53rd Amer-
ican Divn.**, 1 Bde. 66 Divn. (Training
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th & 5th Aust. Divns. /Cadre).
XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 8th, 21st, 30th Div-
isions (being reconstituted).
XXII Corps H.Q. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	999
" S.	..	823
18-pdr. H.E.	..	6734
" S.	..	7298
4.5" How. H.E.	..	2278
" Gas.	..	934
60-pdr. H.E.	..	736
" S.	..	1123
6" How. H.E.	..	3617
" Gas.	..	280
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	253

/cont'd.

24th June, 1918.

C153 3.

6" Mk. VII. S.	..	152
8" How.	..	991
9.2" How.	..	380
12" How.	..	89

11. GENERAL.

Under instructions from G.H.Q. the VIII Corps Headquarters were broken up as from 24th June.

24th June, 1918.

C154

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

-
- 4.47 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
293 25-lb. bombs on BECOURT WOOD, 102 25-lb. bombs various targets by day. Bt night - 238 25-lb. bombs on LE PLATEAU Station and other targets.
- 4.15 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron, R.A.F.
Reconnaissances carried out tonight between the hours of 11.10 p.m. and 3 a.m. of the usual roads. Observed 11.50 p.m. train leaving BAPAUME going N.W., 12.40 a.m. train entering CARNOY from N.E., two hits obtained; 12.55 a.m. train going North of BRAY - FRICOURT, 1.10 a.m. train going West from GINCHY, 1.20 a.m. train going North BRAY - FRICOURT. Little transport seen on AMIENS - ROYE - CLERY - MARICOURT Roads. No abnormal movement seen.
- 5.40 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Both Divisions report a quiet night: no shelling.
- 6.5 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Light scattered shelling of forward area Left Division and Left Brigade of Centre Division during night. E.A. dropped bombs in vicinity SAILLY-le-SEC 11 p.m. Situation quiet.
- 6.30 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Quiet night. R.A.F. dropped 238 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Support line in K.19 heavily shelled during afternoon. Light shelling BUIRE. Very quiet day on Centre and Right Divisions. Captures nil.
- 6.11 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation unchanged. One tractor, one large and one small tank at E.11.d.75.20 engaged by our artillery. Slight hostile shelling as under :- LAVIEVILLE with blue cross from 12.30 p.m. to 12.50 p.m., batteries at D.9.b.2.8 from 12.20 to 1 p.m., E.7.a.b. & c. with 30 gas shells from 12.30 p.m. to 1 p.m. fired from E.10.d.8.4 - silenced at 1 p.m. by one of our batteries. Slight intermittent shelling of HENENCOURT. Captures nil.
- 6.35 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Some hostile shelling LAVIEVILLE and S.E. of MILLENCOURT. Intermittent shelling of HENENCOURT and BUIRE. Our artillery engaged targets South of ALBERT. 38 25-lb. bombs on various targets by R.A.F. Captures nil.
- 9.40 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Heavy shelling support line reported: 550
4.2s.
-

S E C R E T.

24th June, 1918.

First Army.
Second Army.
Third Army.
Fourth Army.
Fifth Army.

O.A. 215.

C155

1. Orders have been received from the Commander-in-Chief allied Forces for the relief of the undermentioned French units and formations of the D.A.N:-

H.Q., D.A.N.
H.Q., XIV French Corps.
27th French Division.
46th French Division.

together with a proportion of the French Heavy Artillery.

2. The XIV French Corps H.Q. will be relieved by the British VII Corps H.Q.

In order to enable the relief of the 27th and 46th French Divisions to be carried out, the 41st (British) Division is released from G.H.Q. Reserve and the 34th (British) Division, which will be reconstituted in the Second Army Area by the 29th instant, is placed at the disposal of Second Army.

The 30th (British) Division also is being reconstituted in the Second Army Area, and the 21st Division is moving to the Second Army Area on the 28th instant. Both these two latter Divisions will be held in G.H.Q. Reserve in the Second Army Area.

The reliefs will be carried out under the orders of G.O.C. Second Army, and will be complete on the dates named below:-

27th French Division by 26th June.
46th French Division by morning June 29th.
14th French Corps H.Q. by morning, 28th June.
The D.A.N., H.Q. should close on 28th June.

3. The additional Artillery required for the relief will be found as under:-

From Third Army - 31st Divl. Artillery and
1 Brigade R.G.A.

From Fourth Army - 2 Army Brigades R.F.A. and
2 Brigades R.G.A.

Orders for the movement of these units are being issued separately.

4. The necessary movements consequent on the relief are tabulated in the attached appendix. Entraining stations for the relieved French troops will be notified separately.

G.H.Q.,
24th June, 1918.

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

PROGRAMME OF MOVEMENTS.

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Method.	Remarks.
June 25th.	2 Army Brigades R.F.A. 2 Brigades R.G.A.	Fourth Army.	Second Army.	Rail.	
" 26th	27th French Division.	Second Army.	French Zone.	Rail.	After relief on the 26th.
" 27th	31st Divisional Arty. 1 Brigade R.G.A.	Third Army.	Second Army.	Rail.	
" 27th	30th British Division.	Commences to form in Second Army Area in G.H.Q. Reserve.			
" 29th	34th British Division.	Forms in Second Army Area in Reserve.			
" 28th	21st Division.	Fourth Army.	Second Army.	Rail.	
" 29th	46th French Division.) XIV French Corps H.Q.) D.A.N., H.Q.)	Second Army.	French Zone.	Rail.	After relief on the 26th/27th, 27/28th, 28/29th.
July 3rd	Part of French H.A.	Second Army.	French Zone.	Rail.	After relief by British Heavy Arty.

C. 186

25th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 25th June, 1918. C 157

1. No infantry operations took place.
In the ALBERT Sector activity was below normal. South of the ANCRE hostile artillery activity was slightly greater than during the preceding few days. Shelling was mainly confined to the forward and battery areas South of SOMME and our trench system N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC. Concentrations of blue and green cross shell mixed with H.E. were directed against the VILLERS BRETONNEUX area. H.V. gun activity was again very slight. GLISY and AUBIGNY were lightly shelled.
Gas projectors were successfully discharged North and South of MORLANCOURT and N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

2. III CORPS.

The situation was very quiet. During the afternoon about 120 rounds of 10.5 cm., including a few blue cross shell, fell into the area West of VAUX.

At 9.55 p.m. last night our trench system West of ALBERT was subjected to short intense bursts of fire from field guns. The MILLENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE - HENENCOURT triangle was shelled intermittently during the night.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Our patrols were active especially in the vicinity of VILLE-sur-ANCRE and HAMEL Sector. Hostile artillery activity was slightly abnormal. N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC our trenches were fairly heavily shelled in retaliation for gas projectors fired into the vicinity of MORLANCOURT during the night.

Concentrations of blue and green cross shell mixed with H.E. were directed against the Northern portion of BOIS l'ABBE and VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

During the afternoon heavy concentrations of 5.9s and 4.2s were directed against the Southern portion of VILLE-sur-ANCRE. Very little damage was done.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation generally quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

291 hours were flown by 183 pilots.

Three successful reconnaissances were carried out, eight artillery patrols made and nine zone calls sent down.

Three hostile batteries were successfully neutralised and two destructive shoots were carried out on bridges.

Aircraft activity was normal. During the day we

/ carried

25th June, 1918.

2.

carried out 165 offensive patrols.

Eight decisive combats in the air took place resulting in three E.A. being destroyed and five being brought down out of control. One of our machines failed to return.

207 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on WIENCOURT, LAMOTTE and various targets.

6,180 machine gun rounds were fired into enemy trenches and villages.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was normal. 180 enemy machines were seen, 66 of which were engaged by our A.A. guns. A large proportion of these machines were fighters. It has been noticed that the proportion of fighters to reconnaissance machines has been steadily increasing on this Army front.

6. PRISONERS.

One O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine: slight ground haze. Visibility fair.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of any importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, 33rd American** Divisions, 1 Bde. 66th Division (Training Cadre).
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divns.

XIX Corps (under orders G.H.Q.): 8th, 21st, 30th Divisions (being reconstituted).

XXII Corps H.Q. (G.H.Q. Reserve).

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	20.		
" S.	16.	6" How. H.E.	3612.
18-pdr. H.E.	5547.	" Gas.	110.
" S.	8249.	6" Mk. VII.H.E.	124.
4.5" How. H.E.	2750.	" S.	136.
" Gas.	1448.	8" How.	616.
60-pdr. H.E.	395.	9.2" How.	275.
" S.	535.		

25th June, 1918.

C159

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

-
- 3.30 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
22 25-lb. bombs various targets by day. By night - nil.
- 5.30 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation unchanged and quiet except for light enemy barrage at 9.45 p.m. on W.26.a. & c. (West of ALBERT).
- 6.15 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Gas projectors successfully discharged North and South of MORLANCOURT and North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Hostile artillery active on Northern outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and vicinity of AUBIGNY system just North of BOIS l'ABBE. Fairly heavy gas shelling with blue and green cross mixed with mustard and phosgene along Northern edge of BOIS l'ABBE. Fairly heavy shelling of forward area between the SOMME and MORLANCOURT. Situation now quiet.
- 6.30 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery active between SOMME and MORLANCOURT and near BRETONNEUX. Considerable gas shelling (blue, green, yellow cross) Northern edge of BOIS l'ABBE. Gas projectors successfully discharged North and South of MORLANCOURT and North of BRETONNEUX. Situation now quiet. R.A.F. report 22 25-lb. bombs dropped by day.
- 6.10 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Enemy artillery inactive. Some shelling of W.25.a. at 1 p.m. Our artillery fired on area W.21.b. and W.22.a. North of ALBERT. Left Division report one E.A. forced to land N.E. of MILLENCOURT. 10.45 a.m. British aeroplane fell in flames near BOUZINCOURT. Captures nil.
- 6.20 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
171 25-lb. bombs dropped. Three E.A. crashed, six E.A. out of control.
- 6.45 p.m. From Fourth Army to G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery active on support line South of CORBIE - BRAY Road. Some shelling of high ground N.E. of MILLENCOURT, also VILLE-sur-ANCRE: otherwise quiet day. Gas: 400 blue and green, and 70 yellow cross on BOIS l'ABBE last night. Other areas slight. R.A.F. dropped 171 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Three E.A. crashed, six out of control. Captures one O.R.
- 11.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Left Division reports British aeroplane brought down North of MILLENCOURT is Sopwith biplane. 8 bullets through planes, 2 through petrol tank. No other apparent damage.
-

26th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 26th June, 1918. C160

1. In an operation against enemy trenches North-east of SAILLY-le-SEC the Australian Corps secured three prisoners and one machine gun and killed many of the enemy.

Artillery in the ALBERT Sector was again very quiet, but South of the ANCRE there was a slight increase in the enemy's artillery fire. VILLE-sur-ANCRE was subjected to fairly heavy shelling during the night, and the valley North of SAILLY-le-SEC was enfiladed by light field guns firing from the South.

Hostile artillery retaliation to the raid in the vicinity of SAILLY-le-SEC was very light and scattered.

H.V. guns fired a few rounds into QUERRIEU, FRECHENCOURT and LONGUEAU.

Our artillery maintained their usual harassing fire on enemy communications and in addition placed a heavy barrage on the enemy's trenches in K.19.d. in support of the raid made by the Australian Corps.

2. III CORPS.

Situation fairly quiet. In addition to the usual activity displayed against BRESLE, LAVIEVILLE, HENENCOURT and MORLANCOURT, a fairly heavy concentration of enemy artillery and trench mortar fire was directed against our front line system in W.21 during the afternoon.

H.V. guns were fairly active, firing on areas in the vicinity of CONTAY, MONTIGNY and MOLLIENS-su-BOIS.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

5th Australian Division raided the enemy's trenches in K.19.d. early this morning and succeeded in capturing 3 Germans and 1 machine gun. It is estimated that 30 of the enemy were killed. Considerable damage was done to the trenches. The operation was carried out by 2 officers and 50 other ranks support by our artillery who placed a box barrage around the trenches raided. Many enemy seen running away were caught in the barrage and killed. The enemy's artillery retaliation to this raid was light and scattered in the forward areas and was directed chiefly against our forward battery positions.

VILLE-sur-ANCRE was shelled fairly heavily during the night, and a light concentration of blue cross gas shell was fired into RIBEMONT area.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

During the afternoon the enemy's trenches North of GRIVESNES PARK were raided and two prisoners captured. Three Bosches were also killed. Otherwise situation quiet.

5. AIRCRAFT.

26th June, 1918.

2.

C161

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

427 hours were flown by 187 pilots.

During the day 17 artillery patrols were carried out and 17 zone calls sent down. Six hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and three neutralised.

Our aircraft were not very active. 130 offensive patrols were made, and during one decisive combat one E.A. was brought down. One of our machines failed to return.

During the night 130 25-lb. bombs and twelve 112-lb. bombs were dropped on MERICOURT, SUZANNE and BRAY with good results.

108 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped during the day on various ground targets.

1,950 machine gun rounds were fired.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were not very active. A few enemy machines were seen North of the SOMME but did not penetrate our lines.

6. PRISONERS.

Three O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine: low clouds with fair visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

8th, 21st and 30th Divisions were transferred to XXII Corps as from 10 a.m. 26th.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, 33rd American** Divisions, 1 Bde. 66th Divn. (Training Cadre).

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

XXII Corps: 8th, 21st and 30th Divisions (being reconstituted).

XIX Corps.

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

/ 10. AMMUNITION
EXPENDITURE.

26th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- C163
- 5.10 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day 103 25 bombs. By night 12 112-lb.,
130 25-lb. bombs on MARICOURT, SUZANNE and BRAY.
- 5.30 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Five special reconnaissances carried out
tonight of the usual roads, railways and river crossings
between the hours of 12.45 a.m. and 3 a.m. Observed
1.40 - 1.45 a.m. two trains arriving in ROYE from North
and South; 1.44 = train moving from CLERY S.E; 1.55 -
train leaving CHAULNES going West; 1.57 - stationary
train N.E. of GUILLAUMONT; 2.10 a.m. - train proceeding
South from PROYART; 2.20 - train leaving CARNOY from N.E.
No abnormal movement seen.
- 5.19 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation fairly quiet.
Hostile shelling active on AMIENS - ALBERT Road (D.12)
and much machine gun fire along this road. Slight gas
shelling combined with above.
- 6.7 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Light
scattered shelling over forward area of Right Division.
Enemy artillery very active East of CORBIE. Machine guns
active on Centre Division front. Area South of VILLE-
sur-ANCRE shelled during early part of night with 500
4.2s and 5.9s. Successful raid carried out by Left
Division in K.19.d. Three prisoners and one machine gun
captured.
- 6.15 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Scattered shelling forward area South of
SOMME and some shelling with H.E. and gas on AMIENS -
ALBERT Road during night. VILLE-sur-ANCRE heavily shelled
early last night. Three prisoners, one machine gun
captured in successful raid N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC last
night. By day 103 25-lb. bombs dropped; by night 12
112-lb., 130 25-lb. bombs on MARICOURT, BRAY and SUZANNE.
- 1.31 p.m. From Australian Corps.
In continuation of morning report. The raid on
enemy trenches in K.19.d. was carried out by 2 officers and
50 O.R. Three prisoners and one machine gun captured; 30
enemy killed. Enemy trenches searched and rations etc.
brought back to our lines. Our casualties three slightly
wounded.
- 5.50 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation quiet except for scattered shelling.
AMIENS - ALBERT Road E.7 shelled with 5.9s and 4.2s 8.30
to 10 a.m. D.21.b. shelled at 11 a.m. with 150 5.9 and 4.2.
50 rounds gas shell, nature unknown, fired on BRESLE Valley.
Few rounds 5.9 and 4.2 on W.19.d. W.20.c. and near HENEN-
COURT. Enemy trench mortars caused casualties in HAIRPIN
about 12.30 p.m. and fired on TORRENS TRENCH W.21.a. Our
artillery active opposite HAIRPIN and on tracks and bridges.
Captures nil.

/ cont'd.

26th June, 1918.

cont'd.

C164

6.35 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
52 25-lb. bombs dropped.

6.45 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Evening report. As result of raid on enemy
trenches N.E. SAILLY-le-SEC carried out this morning by
5th Australian Division about 30 enemy were killed, 3
taken prisoner and one machine gun captured. Our casual-
ties slight. Hostile artillery active on BUIRE, N.W.
SAILLY-le-SEC, S. of BRESLE and HENENCOURT. Hostile trench
mortars active on HAIRPIN N.W. of ALBERT. 52 25-lb. bombs on
various targets.

28th June, 1918.

3.

C162

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	575
" S.	..	200
18-pdr. H.E.	..	5516
" S.	..	9626
4.5" How. H.E.	..	3227
" Gas.	..	732
60-pdr. H.E.	..	652
" S.	..	719
6" How. H.E.	..	112
" S.	..	206
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	112
" S.	..	206
8" How.	..	596
12" How.	..	9

27th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 27th June, 1918. C165

1. The enemy's artillery was again fairly quiet in the ALBERT Sector. The usual desultory fire was directed against trench systems and villages. South of the ANCRE hostile artillery was generally less active. There was no shelling of any importance. H.V. guns were less active and were directed chiefly against villages in the SOMME and HALLUE Valleys. Our artillery carried out the usual harassing fire on the enemy's communications and centres of activity.
2. III CORPS.

Our patrols were fairly active during the night but no encounters with the enemy took place. During the early morning the BRESLE Valley was shelled intermittently for 2½ hours. MILLENCOURT received a few rounds of gas shell during the night and a light concentration of blue cross was directed against the area about E.7.c. during the day. A few H.V. shells fell in villages in the HALLUE Valley during the morning.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Three British prisoners of war escaped to our lines last night between the SOMME and ANCRE. During the night AUBIGNY, VILLERS BRETONNEUX and CORBIE were shelled intermittently, and the usual light shelling of our communications and battery areas was reported. Battery areas near FOUILLOY were subjected to light gas shelling during the day.
3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Fairly quiet. During a bombardment of the enemy's trenches near SENECAAT WOOD three Germans came over to our trenches.
5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

411 hours were flown by 186 pilots. Five successful reconnaissances and 17 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 14 zone calls were sent down and four hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction. During 13 photographic flights 364 plates were exposed.

/ Our

27th June, 1918.

Cibb 2.

Our aircraft were very active. 114 offensive patrols were carried out and 79 air combats ensued. Five combats were decisive resulting in two E.A. being brought down and three E.A. forced down out of control. Two of our machines failed to return.

Our night bombing squadrons were fairly active. Fifteen 112-lb. and 210 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped with good effect on CARNOY STATION, MONTAUBAN and POZIERES.

3,460 machine gun rounds were fired at troops etc.

During the day 106 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various targets and 13,550 machine gun rounds fired at suitable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was normal. There was no unusual proportion of F.E.A. over R.E.A. Activity was chiefly confined to the Northern Sector of the Army front. No hostile bombing activity was reported.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine. Visibility poor but improved later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

XIX Corps H.Q. transferred by rail to Second Army.

30th Division moved by rail to Second Army.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, 33rd American** Divisions, 1 Bde. 66th Divn. (Training Cadre).

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

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

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	443.		
" S.	204.		
18-pdr. H.E.	5919.	6" How. H.E.	4100.
" S.	7749.	" Gas.	618.
4.5" How. H.E.	3837.	6" Mk. VII. H.E.	158.
" Gas.	1473.	" S.	215.
60-pdr. H.E.	425.	8" How.	625.
" S.	635.	9.2" How.	344.

27th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- C167
- 12.15 a.m. From III Corps.
In continuation of evening report of 26th:
Left Division report front line at HAIRPIN heavily bom-
barded 2.30 to 3 p.m. by light and medium minenwerfers.
- 5.25 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Six special reconnaissances were carried out
between the hours of 10.30 p.m. and 3.5 a.m. of the usual
roads, railways and bridges. Observed no abnormal
activity. 11.15, CHAULNES, train stationary facing N.E.;
11.17, COMBLES, train going S.W.; TINCOURT - 1 train
going towards ROISEL; 2.14 - train going to TINCOURT from
ROISEL; 1.45 - HAM - NESLE - train moving in direction
of NESLE.
- 5.55 a.m. From No. 83 Squadron R.A.F.
Reconnaissance CAMBRAI - LE CATEAU - ST. QUENTIN
- PERONNE - between 11.30 p.m. and 2 a.m. Very consid-
erable movement going West on CAMBRAI - ARRAS Road covering
most of the distance between points 2 miles East of MARQUION
to 3 miles East of this place: thought to be large lorries:
time 12.45 to 1 a.m. Other movement observed:- 10 lorries
moving South from COMBLES at 11.40 p.m., 2 trains at EPEHY
at 12.20 a.m., 2 trains BOHAIN 11.15 a.m. LILLE, TOURNAI,
ST. ARMAND, VALENCIENNES - movement normal. One train at
CARVIN 11.45 p.m., one train ORCHIES 11.55, two trains
TOURNAI 12.10. Observation difficult, ground mist.
- 5.58 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
36 25-lb. bombs dropped. Two E.A. out of control.
Bombs dropped by night: 70 25-lb. bombs on CARNOY, 84 25-lb.
on camp at BRAY, 15 112-lb., 14 25-lb. on MONTAUBAN, 28 25-lb.
various targets.
- 5.20 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Hostile artillery fairly active
on Right Divisional front from 8.15 to 9 p.m. Very inactive
on Left Divisional front. No gas shelling.
- 6.5 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Nothing to
report. Three escaped British prisoners entered Left Divn.
line during night.
- 6.50 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Situation quiet. Hostile artillery fairly active
front Right Division III Corps 8.15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Three
escaped British prisoners reached lines of Left Division
Australian Corps during night. R.A.F. report: by day 36
25-lb. bombs various targets, two E.A. out of control; by
night - 70 25-lb. CARNOY, 84 25-lb. camp at BRAY, 15 112-lb.
14 25-lb. MONTAUBAN, 28 25-lb. various.

/ cont'd.

27th June, 1918.

cont'd.

C168

- 9.15 a.m. From III Corps.
E.A. dropped about 15 bombs West of VILLERS
BOCAGE at 11.15 p.m. yesterday. No damage except to
wires and no casualties reported.
- 5.30 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Hostile artillery very
quiet. E.A. active over our lines 11 a.m. engaged by
A.A. Lewis guns. Captures nil.
- 5.50 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Enemy
shelled area N.W. SAILLY-le-SEC during morning. Light
shelling forward area Centre Division. Hostile artillery
inactive Right Division. E.A. active over forward area.
Captures nil.
- 8.25 p.m. To G. H. Q.
Hostile artillery active on area N.W. SAILLY-le-
SEC. During morning light shelling forward area from
BRETONNEUX to SOMME. 57 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
One E.A. crashed. Captures nil.
- 11.5 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Enemy plane brought down in flames P.21.d. at
6.10 p.m.
-

28th June, 1918.

C169

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 28th June, 1918.

1. During the night our patrols were very active and in one case entered the enemy's trenches but found them unoccupied.
- In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery activity was fairly quiet but slightly greater than that of the last few days.
- South of the ANCRE the enemy's artillery was less active. During the night light harassing fire was directed against the forward and battery areas and a few blue cross gas shells were fired into the vicinity of VAIRE and VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
- H.V. guns fired a few rounds into the vicinity of BUSSY. There was again no shelling of AMIENS.
- 197 gas projectors were successfully discharged South of DERNANCOURT.
- During the night our artillery, in addition to the usual programme of harassing fire, directed concentrations of gas shells against the area between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT and against the low ground N.E. of MORLANCOURT. Enemy transport on the ALBERT - BAPAUME - BRAY Roads was engaged by our long range guns and several direct hits on lorries were obtained.

2. III CORPS.

No infantry action took place. During the night the road between BRESLE and BAIZIEUX was heavily shelled and in the morning there was some shelling of the front line West and N.W. of DERNANCOURT. The valley South of BRESLE received considerable attention during the afternoon. A few rounds of H.V. fell into CONTAY and WARLOY during the morning.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Our patrols were very active and on one occasion entered the enemy trenches N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX but found them unoccupied.

During the night light harassing fire was directed against battery areas between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and FOUILLOY, and our trenches East and N.E. of CACHY received short intense bursts of fire from field guns and howitzers. Scattered shelling of the forward areas, particularly along the high ground North and N.W. of SAILLY-le-SEC was reported during the day.

Our artillery was very active and during the day inflicted casualties on an enemy working party in the vicinity of HAMEL.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Situation fairly quiet. In a raid on the enemy's trenches in the vicinity of SENECAAT WOOD the French secured 32 prisoners and slightly advanced their line.

5. AIRCRAFT.

28th June, 1918.

2.

C170

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

662 hours were flown by 242 pilots.

Six reconnaissances and 15 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 18 zone calls were sent down, 17 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction and 9 successfully neutralised.

During 6 photographic flights 188 plates were exposed.

Our aircraft were very active, operating well over the enemy's lines. 155 offensive patrols were carried out and 50 combats in the air took place, 16 of which were decisive. Nine E.A. were destroyed and 7 E.A. driven down out of control. Four of our machines failed to return.

Eight night bombing machines dropped 200 twenty-five lb. and two 112-lb. bombs on FOUCAUCOURT, ROSIERES and various other targets. During bombing raids on the BOIS de TAILLOUX and CHIPILLY Valley 531 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped from a height of 5,000 feet.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was above normal. 262 machines were seen of which 89 were F.E.A. Enemy aircraft operated chiefly over the SOMME Valley and three long distance reconnaissance planes penetrated as far as CANAPLES and QUERRIEU.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Fine, with slight haze. Poor visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No important reliefs or moves took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps: 18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, 33rd American** Divisions, 1 Bde. 66th Divn. (Training Cadre).
Aust. Corps: 2nd*, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Divns.
XXII Corps: 8th, 21st Divisions (being reconstituted).

** Army Reserve.
* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	1382.	6" How. H.E.	4634.
" " S.	634.	" " S.K.	75.
18-pdr. H.E.	5219.	" " Gas.	505.
" " S.	8320.	6" Mk. VII. H.E.	201.
4.5" How. H.E.	3173.	" " S.	286.
" " Gas.	1721.	8" How.	1297.
60-pdr. H.E.	522.	9.2" How.	536.
" " S.	597.	12" How.	68.

28th June, 1918.

C171

Operaticn Messages Received and Issued.

- 5.30 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation normal. Quiet night. Enemy gas shelling nil.
- 5.35 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet on the whole Corps front. Patrol of Right Division entered enemy line P.20.c.50.48 but found it unoccupied. At 2 a.m. four enemy aeroplanes dropped ^{bombs} on J.22.c. Artillery fairly active on forward areas of Left Division.
- 6 a.m. From No. 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Six special reconnaissances carried out between the hours of 10.25 p.m. and 3.20 a.m. of the usual roads, railways and bridges. Observed no abnormal activity. 11.58 p.m. one train on CLERY - COMBLES line going North. 1.15 a.m. two trains going N.E. from ROISEL. 1.20 a.m. one train going S.W. from GOUZAUCOURT. Approximately 500 infantry on BRAY - MORLANCOURT Road going West.
- 6.4 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
665 25-lb. bombs dropped. Five E.A. crashed, 9 E.A. out of control. Night bombing: 182 25-lb. on FOUCAUCOURT aerodrome, 2 112-lb., 18 25-lb. on various targets.
- 6.20 a.m. To G. H. Q.
Quiet night. Patrol entered enemy trenches N.E. of BRETONNEUX but found them unoccupied. Four E.A. dropped bombs N.W. SAILLY-le-SEC. R.A.F. dropped 665 25-lb. ^{bombs} By night - 182 25-lb. FOUCAUCOURT aerodrome, 2 112-lb., 18 25-lb. various targets. Five E.A. crashed, 9 out of control
- 11.40 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Continuation morning report: 197 projectors successfully discharged South of DERNANCOURT.
- 6.12 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation very quiet. V.20.central and V.16.c. shelled with 10.5 and 77 mm. Hostile trench mortars active on SHELL HOLE TRENCH W.15.c. 11 to 11.30 a.m. CONTAY shelled at intervals with small H.V. gun. British observation balloon near WARLOY brought down in flames by two E.A. Both observers escaped. Gas shelling nil. Captures nil.
- 6.32 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Light scattered shelling on all forward area. J.17, J.22, J.28.a. fairly heavily shelled during day. Blue cross gas shells in J.22 and J.28. Centre Division report our artillery inflicted casualties on enemy working party. One E.A. down near BUSSY. E.A. fairly active. Situation quiet.
- 6.20 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Four E.A. crashed. Two out on control. 55 25-lb. bombs on various targets. 20 112-lb. on LE PLATEAU.

/ cont'd.

28th June, 1918.

cont'd.

C112

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

Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling forward areas Right Corps, fairly heavy North of SAILLY-le-SEC. H.V. guns shelled CONTAY, intermittently. E.A. fairly active. British observation ^{balloon} brought down WARLOY. Both observers safe. Four E.A. crashed, two out of control. 20 112-lb. bombs on LE PLATEAU, 53 25-lb. various targets.

29th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 29th June, 1918. C173

1. In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery activity was much below normal. South of the ANCRE hostile shelling was again very quiet. A few blue cross shells fell in the vicinity of the SOMME valley and on the BRETONNEUX Plateau. There was no long-range gun activity. Gas projectors were discharged against the valley north-east of SAILLY LAURETTE during the night. Our artillery maintained the usual activity against the enemy's communications and trench systems. Concentrations of gas shells were fired into MORLANCOURT and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT.

2. III CORPS.

During the night road junction north of BRESLE and vicinity of MILLENCOURT were shelled with 10-5 cm howrs. During the morning and afternoon intermittent fire was directed against the main ALBERT - AMIENS Road. CONTAY was shelled with H.V. guns early in the morning. No infantry action took place.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night HEILLY and MERICOURT received considerable attention, and MERICOURT was again shelled in the afternoon. The front line and battery areas north of the BRAY - CORBIE Road were subjected to light and scattered shelling during the day. A few blue cross gas shells fell to the south of CORBIE, and the area north of BOIS L'ABBE was lightly shelled with green cross during the morning.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

With the exception of two minor raids in the vicinity of BOIS SENECA in which a few prisoners were captured, the situation was very quiet.

5. AIRCRAFT.

(a) British.

406 hours were flown by 217 pilots. 2 successful reconnaissances and 8 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 13 zone calls were sent down. 12 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and 3 hostile batteries neutralized. 95 offensive patrols were carried out and 109 photographs secured. Our aircraft were only slightly active: 21 air combats took place, 5 of which were decisive: 2 E.A. were destroyed and 3 E.A. brought down out of control.

C174

29th June, 1918.

2 112-lb and 102 25-lb bombs were dropped during the night on ESTREE Aerodrome, POZIERES, and BRAY. During the day 361 25-lb and 22 112-lb bombs were dropped in vicinity of BOIS DE CELESTINES, ALBERT, LE PLATEAU dump, and various targets.

4,915 machine gun rounds were also fired on suitable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was normal. 297 E.A. were seen, 128 of which crossed our lines and were engaged by A.A. fire. One high-flying enemy aeroplane succeeded in penetrating as far as FRANVILLERS. During the night E.A. were fairly active, but did not succeed in penetrating the lighted area.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Cloudy with poor visibility.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

Reliefs.

2nd Australian Division relieved the 3rd Australian Division in the right divisional sector, Australian Corps, on the nights 27/28th and 28/29th June.

19. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cavalry**, 33rd American** Divisions, 1 Bde. 66th Division (Training Cadre).

Australian Corps.

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

XXII Corps.

8th, 21st Divisions (being reconstituted).

** Army Reserve.
* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EX.

29th June, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

C176

- 3-22 a.m. From 101 Squadron R.A.F.
Three machines attempted the usual reconnaissance between the hours of 10-30 p.m. and 1-10 a.m. No movement could be observed owing to bad visibility. A few lights in villages were observed.
- 3-45 a.m. From 5th Bde. R.A.F.
6 a.m. summary. By day 3 E.A. crashed, 5 out of control. 281 25-lb bombs on BOIS DE CELESTINES, 70 25-lb bombs on various targets, 22 112-lb bombs on LE PLATEAU Dump. By night 2 112-lb 116 25-lb bombs dropped on following targets: ROISEL - CLERY - BELLOY - MARICOURT - ESTREE Aerodrome - POZIERES - BRAY - HARBONNIERES.
- 5-15 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet on the Corps front. Gas shelling nil. Captures nil.
- 6-10 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Few blue cross gas shells J.21 and J.22 and in O.12 and P.13. 20 green cross gas shells in O.21.c. Enemy artillery active on right brigade front, centre division. Projectors successfully discharged in K.25.d.
- 6-53 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Hostile artillery active on front W. of BOIS DE VAIRE, otherwise quiet night. Gas successfully projected into valley N.E. of SAILLY LAURETTE. R.A.F. dropped 351 25-lb and 22 112-lb bombs by day and 116 25-lb and 2 112-lb bombs by night on various targets. 3 E.A. crashed, 5 out of control.
- 5-45 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation quiet. D.4, D.5, and V.28.a. and d. shelled with 8" during morning. T.M. activity during morning against left brigade, right division. E.A. inactive, gas shelling nil, captures nil.
- 6 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
6 p.m. summary. 3 E.A. out of control. 12 25-lb bombs dropped.
- 6-5 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Forward area, centre division, lightly shelled during morning. Area N of RIBEMONT and area N of VILLERS BRETONNEUX intermittently shelled. Gas shelling nil. E.A. active forenoon. Captures nil.
- 6-45 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Quiet day. Hostile shelling light on forward area E. of CORBIE during morning. Intermittent on areas N. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and N. of RIBEMONT. MILLENCOURT area shelled and T.M. activity S.W. of ALBERT during morning. Gas: 250 blue and green cross N. of BOIS L'ABBE last night. E.A. active forenoon over right Corps. R.A.F. dropped 12 25-lb bombs on various targets. 3 E.A. out of control. Captures nil.

29th June, 1918.

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10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13 pdr. A.A., H.E.	487
" " S.	267
18 pdr., H.E.	5944
" " S.	7986
" " Smoke.	177
4.5" Howr., H.E.	2240
" " Gas.	1175
60 pdr., H.E.	650
" " S.	906
6" Howr., H.E.	4715
" " Gas.	662
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	133
" " S.	218
8" Howr.	954
9.2" Howr.	579
12" Howr.	12

cm

FOURTH ARMY.

29th June, 1918.

WEEKLY APPRECIATION.FOR PERIOD 22nd TO 28th JUNE, 1918, (INCLUSIVE).1. OPERATIONS

During the week, no raids were undertaken by the enemy. He has acted entirely on the defensive, and the few hostile patrols encountered avoided combat. Five raids were carried out by our troops during the week, four of which resulted in the capture of prisoners and the slaughter of a considerable number of Germans. One raid carried out north-east of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX entered the German lines, but found the trenches empty.

The number of prisoners captured during the week is 10 C.R.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

Prisoners captured during the week, for the most part, believed that the enemy did not intend to undertake any offensive against the front of the Fourth Army. Two N.C.O.'s. captured respectively in the MORLANCOURT and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX sectors, had, however, heard rumours that an attack might be made between the SOMME and the LOUE towards the end of June. One of these N.C.O.'s. based his statement on the fact that he had seen notice boards in his sector for guiding the artillery into their positions. This is the second time that prisoners have stated that notice boards have been recently erected in the WARFUSEE sector, as a prisoner captured on the 10th inst. reported their existence, but understood that they were to serve as the boundary of attacking regiments. Some interesting information was obtained from prisoners by the French, pointing to a concentration of divisions and artillery in FLANDERS, and in the DOUAI - CAMBRAI area, a big attack being expected to take place about July 15th, both in FLANDERS and also on the ALBERT - ARRAS front. 3 British and 2 French prisoners of war escaped to our lines from the PERONNE Cage during the week. They report that there are very few troops both in PERONNE and west of it. A number of troops passed through the town, in both directions, about a week ago, which can be accounted for by the reliefs of the 24th Res. and 107th Divisions.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

There is no change in the number of enemy divisions (6) opposite the Army front. They can all be classed as 'second rate' from a fighting point of view.

4. RELIEFS.

Two divisional reliefs have taken place on our front. In the MORLANCOURT sector, the 107th Div. has relieved the 54th Div. and elements of the 233rd Div. which, as reported in the Weekly Appreciation for period from 15th to 22nd inst.

had/

PTD

had partly relieved the 54th Div. The 233rd Div. appears to have sent a regiment, the 449th I.R., temporarily to strengthen the sector of the 54th Div., and to have withdrawn this regiment when the 107th Div. relieved the 54th Div. This is similar to the action taken by the 22nd Res. Div., which reinforced the 243rd Div. (ALBERT sector) with one regiment and was then withdrawn to be put into line in another sector. In the SAILLY-LE-SEC and HAMEL sectors, the 43rd Res. Div. relieved the 24th Res. Div.

The 107th Div. is in line for the fourth time, and the 43rd Res. Div. for the second time since March 21st. The latter division is new to this part of the front, being last engaged in the fighting north of the LA BASSEE Canal.

5. RESERVES.

The reserves of the Second German Army, (AVELUY - MAILLY - RAINEVAL) may be at present classified as follows :-

6 divisions refitting for one month, or over.
1 division refitting for two weeks, or over.
2 tired divisions.

Total. 9

This is a decrease of one from the number reported in last week's summary, and is accounted for as follows :-

183rd Div., left to go into line in the WOEVRE.
13th Div., left for neighbourhood of ROYE.
195th Div., This division should not be counted as a reserve of the Second German Army.
107th Div., came from CAMBRAI area to relieve 54th Div.
12th Ldw. Div., no longer employed as a constituted division.
43rd Res. Div., came from LILLE area to relieve 24th Res. Div.
Gd. Ers. Div., May still be counted as a Second Army reserve.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) Aircraft.

At the beginning of the period under review, the weather conditions were adverse to flying. With an improvement in weather, came an increase of activity which, with slight fluctuations, has remained high during the latter part of the week. On the 23rd inst., the proportion of F.E.A. over R.E.A. was noticeable, and has remained so ever since. On the 27th and 28th inst., the activity of F.E.A.'s., R.E.A.'s. and artillery planes was most marked, especially on the 27th inst., when our reconnaissances were considerably interfered with and much fighting took place. No tactical reason can be assigned to this increase in activity, as hostile movement in back areas, both by road and rail, appeared to be rather below normal. It can only be accounted for by improved weather conditions after several poor days and combined with a westerly wind.

Long distance reconnaissance flights were carried out on the 23rd and 27th inst. - 3 on the latter date - when hostile

machines/

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machines penetrated as far as CANAPLES and AMIENS.

(b) Artillery.

Hostile artillery activity throughout the week has been quiet. No really heavy bombardments have been carried out, and long range guns have been very inactive.

The enemy shelling has been confined, apart from the usual scattered harassing fire, to short bursts of fire on selected areas. On the 21st inst., MILLENCOURT received a fairly heavy concentration from 15 cm. hows. On the 25th, the area west of LAVIEVILLE received 120 rounds from 10.5 cm. hows., and the trenches west of ALBERT were subjected to short intense bursts from 7.7 cm. guns. VILLE-sur-ANCRE was fairly heavily shelled by 10.5 and 15 cm. on the 26th inst.

The amount of gas shell used has been very slight. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and the northern outskirts of BLANGY Wood, the HENENCOURT - LAVIEVILLE area, the northern outskirts of BOIS L'ABBE, and the battery positions round RIBEMONT and FOUILLOY have all received short concentrations of gas shell, mostly Yellow and Blue Cross.

Counter-battery work continues to be slight.

Artillery fire directed against AMIENS has considerably decreased, no shells falling in the town during the last few days.

(c) Movement.

On six out of the seven days of last week the weather was unfavourable for observation, but from reports received, no abnormal movement by road or rail was reported, and towards the end of the week the movement seemed below normal.

(i) Normal gauge.- The usual activity was noticed at the PLATEAU, but the increased activity reported between the 19th and 22nd inst., at that station, has since died down. This was to be expected, as it was thought to be connected with the reliefs of the 54th and 24th Res. Divisions. A certain amount of movement has been observed at CHAULNES and OMIECOURT. Bad visibility made it difficult to estimate movement on other lines, but there is no reason to suspect unusual activity.

(ii) Metre gauge.- No unusual movement reported.

(iii) Roads.- As far as could be seen, road movement was slight during the week, a certain amount of activity in the MORLANCOURT sector being accounted for by a divisional relief.

7. ENEMY DEFENCES.

The rate of work on defences remains comparatively slow. Few conspicuous new trenches have been dug but work continues on improving existing trenches and making shelters and dugouts.

(a) Some work on dugouts is visible S.W. of AVELUY and S.W. of ALBERT. Trenches W. of ALBERT are being improved and a good deal of wiring is reported. A thin belt of wire is visible on photographs along front line S.W. of AVELUY.

(b) Considerable work has been done S.W. of DERNANCOURT. The support trench has been continued across the railway to the

ANCRE/

P.T.O

ANCRE with a communication trench in E.20.e.d.

(c) Work has been done on dugouts N. of MEAULTE and on sections of the old SOMME trenches S. of BECORDEL and near LA BOISELLE.

(d) The enemy's traffic difficulties on the ANCRE continue. The VIVIER Mill bridge is badly damaged and the traffic bridge in E.10, between ALBERT and MEAULTE has now been wrecked by shelling.

The SOMME bridge in K.31.d. has been completed and provides a new transport route across the marshes between SAILLY-LAURETTE and GERISY.

(e) Little work has been done in the MORLANCOURT sector except astride the BRAY - CORBIE road, where short trenches and lines of rifle pits have been dug. Some wiring is reported, and the enemy is alert and nervous in this sector.

(f) Few new trenches have been dug south of the SOMME, but trenches have been improved and show signs of being strongly occupied especially astride the main road W. of WARFUSEE, and astride the railway N.W. of MARCELCAVE. A strong belt of wire is reported at the salient S.W. of HAMEL. The long communication trench E. of HAMEL Wood has been effectively shelled.

8. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Aerodromes.

Little change has taken place in the northern and forward groups, but there has been a big increase in the central groups. The aerodrome of 34 hangars at FALVY reported from a photograph of 9th June is now shown to have 47 hangars, and there is also a new group of 5 hangars W. of ENNEMAIN. In the southern group FRENICHES has increased by 8 hangars, and there have been slight increases at CARREPUITS and ROUVREL.

(b) Hospitals.

New hospitals are reported S. of the SOMME at CREMERY, RAINECOURT and GOYENCOURT, and the hospital N. of LIHONS has been doubled.

(c) Dumps.

Activity has been maintained. North of the SOMME a new forward dump of 20 magazines has appeared S. of FRICOURT, and increases are visible at the ammunition dumps N.E. of GINCHY and N. of SAILLY-SAILLISEL. South of the SOMME there have been slight increases, especially at MERICOURT, FROISSY and FRESNOY-les-ROYE, and slight increases at OMIECOURT, ROSIERES and MARCHELEPOT.

(d) Railways.

Work on railway construction has been very marked. A railway has been built since 17th June from HATTENCOURT station to FONCHETTE, forming a switch between the CHAULNES - ROYE

and/

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and CHAULNES - NESLE main lines. A raccordement has also been begun between the CHAULNES - NESLE and CHAULNES - PERONNE main lines, S.E. of CHAULNES station. New sidings have been made at FRESNOY-les-ROYE and work on sidings has continued E. of ROSIERES, at MISERY, and N.E. and S.E. of GINCHY. Loops have also been made on the MISERY - ABLAINCOURT line and N. of BRIE. Escaped prisoners of war report work on railway bridges S. of PERONNE.

9. GENERAL.

The enemy's attitude continues to remain defensive. He has attempted no raids during the week. The order of battle shows that a division not previously engaged on this front, is now in the line north of the SOMME. This division arrived from RUSSIA in March, was engaged in the fighting north of LA BASSEE Canal in April, since when it has been at rest. It can only be classed as a second-class division.

The increase of hostile aeroplanes opposite this front during the last two days is very marked. Both Fokkers and Halberstadts have been seen, and it certainly appears that those flights which were sent south to take part in the MONTDIDIER - NOYON offensive, have now all returned to this front. No reason can be assigned to the increased activity beyond improved weather conditions.

Work on the enemy's defences calls for no comment. It continues to be slow. Work on rear organizations is normal, except railway construction which is very marked in CHAULNES area, and will shortly enable the Germans to run trains from ROYE to PERONNE without going through CHAULNES station. With regard to aerodromes, increased accommodation in the central group (east of the SOMME) possibly accounts for the increased number of machines seen during the last few days.

With regard to the enemy's intentions, no reliable information has been received from prisoners, and it appears unlikely that any offensive against the front of the Fourth Army will be undertaken, for the present. It seems probable, however, that a big attack may be launched, about the middle of the month, in FLANDERS and on the ALBERT - ARRAS front, in which case it is extremely probable that it will be accompanied by attacks on the MOREUIL - VILLERS-BRETONNEUX front.

V. Wian

Fourth Army (I),
June 29th, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

DISTRIBUTION.

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First Army, I. ..	1.		

L.

Movements of Divisions From 14th June to 29th June.

Sectors.	In Line, 14th June.	In Line, 29th June.	Reserves, 14th June.	Reserves, 29th June.	
Aveluy	<u>24 Div.</u>	<u>3rd Naval Div.</u>	<u>3 Naval Div.</u>		
Albert	248 Div.	248 Div.	22 R. Div.	24 Div.	→ VERDUN Front.
Dernancourt ..	50 R. Div.	50 R. Div.	54 R. Div.	54 R. Div.	
Morlancourt ..	<u>54 Div.</u>	<u>107 Div.</u>	18 Div.	54 Div.	→ BELGIUM.
Sailly-le-Sec ..					
RIVER SOMME ..	<u>21 R. Div.</u>	<u>48 R. Div.</u>	1 Div.	1 Div.	
Hamel			183 Div.	24 R. Div.	→ CHAMPAGNE Front.
Yaire Wood ..	77 R. Div.	77 R. Div.	233 Div.	233 Div.	LILLE Area.
Villers-Bretonneux	108 Div.	108 Div.	12 Ldw. Div.		→ No longer used as a constituted Division.
Marcelcave ..	109 Div.	109 Div.	<u>107 Div.</u>		
Hangard					
RIVER LUCE ...	225 Div.	225 Div.			
Thennes	21 Div.	21 Div.?	Gd. Ersatz Div.	Gd. Ersatz Div.	
Castel	<u>14 Bav. Div.</u>		200 Div.	200 Div.	
Moreuil	192 Div.	192 Div.		14 Bav. Div.?	
Mailly	6 R. Div.	6 R. Div.	2 Bav. Div.	2 Bav. Div.	
Sauvillers ,..	1 R. Div.	1 R. Div.	15 Div.	15 Div.	

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SECRET.

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WIRELESS ACTIVITY.

(TO ACCOMPANY WEEKLY APPRECIATION FOR PERIOD 22nd-28th JUNE, 1918).

(NOT TO BE REPRODUCED).

FIELD STATIONS.

There has been a slight increase in the activity of German Field Stations opposite this front, but the message traffic is still very low and in marked contrast with the number of Stations heard.

The reappearance in the SOMME Valley, on the 21st and 22nd inst., of Stations which had not been heard for some weeks, may have been connected with the divisional relief in that sector.

AEROPLANES.

Hostile registration was attended with less success, owing to poor visibility conditions. The sector between the ANCRE and the SOMME came in for less attention than other parts of the front. Several flights crossed our line in the area of VILLERS-BRETONEUX.

There was a slight increase in the number of aeroplanes using wireless reception; these worked exclusively in the sector south of the SOMME.

V. J. W. A.

Fourth Army, I.,
June 29th, 1918.

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

<u>DISTRIBUTION.</u>			
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Capt. RENONDEAU.	3.	G.O.C., R.A..	1.

L.

29th June, 1918.

C 184

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY ON FOURTH ARMY FRONT
FOR WEEK ENDING 29th JUNE, 1918.

During the past week hostile gas shelling has been very light. A number of small shoots with blue cross have been spread all over the front.

400 rounds of blue and green cross were fired into the low wooded ground west of VILLERS BRETONNEUX on the evening of 24th June, otherwise there is nothing to call for special remark.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. 29th JUNE, 1918.

Date. 9 a.m.-9 a.m.	Formation.	Time of Bombardment.	No. of Rounds.	Nature of Shell.	Map Location.	
June 22/23rd.	3rd Aust. Div.	11-15 p.m.	40	Blue Cross.	O.36.a.	VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	5th Aust. Div.	4 p.m.	20	Yellow Cross.	J.17.a.	S.E. MERICOURT.
23/24th.	18th Division.	9 a.m., 1-30 p.m.) 5-15 p.m.)	Few	Blue Cross.	-	HENENCOURT WOOD.
	58th Division.	6 p.m.	Few	Blue Cross.	E.1.d.	S.E. MILLENCOURT.
	3rd Aust. Div.	10-30 p.m.	10	Yellow Cross.	O.25.c, N.30.d.	N. BOIS L'ABBE.
	5th Aust. Div.	6-20 p.m.	20	Yellow Cross.	J.16.	N. SAILLY LE SEC.
24/25th.	18th Division.	9-30 - 10 a.m.	Barrage	Green & Blue.	W.26.a & c.	W. ALBERT.
	"	12-15 a.m.	25	Yellow cross.	V.30.d.	E. MILLENCOURT.
	58th Division.	11-15 a.m.	30	?	V.29.d.	MILLENCOURT.
	"	12-30 p.m.	Few	Blue Cross.	D.12.a.	E. LAVIEVILLE.
	"	12-20 - 1 p.m.	45	Blue Cross.	D.9.b.	W. LAVIEVILLE.
	"	12-30 - 12-50 p.m.	30	Blue Cross.	D.10.b.	LAVIEVILLE.
	"	3-45 p.m.	12	Blue Cross.	D.18.d.	N. BUIRE.
	3rd Aust. Div.	9 - 10-30 p.m.	400	Blue & Green.	O.28, 27, 33 & 34.	BOIS L'ABBE.
	"	-do-	70	Yellow Cross.	-do-	-do-
	4th Aust. Div.	9-5 a.m.	20	Blue Cross.	J.23.c. & 29.a.	N. SAILLY LE SEC.
	"	11-15 a.m.	20	Blue Cross.	J.35.a.	S. SAILLY LE SEC.
	5th Aust. Div.	8 p.m.	20	Yellow Cross.	J.17.a.	S.E. MERICOURT.
	"	11 p.m.	60	Yellow Cross.	J.24.	N.E. SAILLY LE SEC.
	"	3 a.m.	38	Yellow Cross.	J.29.	SAILLY LE SEC.
25/26th.	58th Division.	1-10 a.m.	Few	?	D.15.b.	BRESLE.
	"	8-30 a.m.	Few	Blue Cross.	D.21.b.	S. BRESLE.
	3rd Aust. Div.	11-15 p.m.	50	Blue Cross.	O.36.a.	VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	5th Aust. Div.	6-30 p.m.	Few	Yellow Cross.	J.6.a. & c.	TREUX.
	"	2-15 a.m.	12	Yellow Cross.	J.5.c.	TREUX.
	"	9 a.m.	50	Blue Cross.	O.21.b. & d.	N.W. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

Continued.

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Date.	Formation.	Time of Bombardment.	No. of Rounds.	Nature of Shell.	Map Location.
9 a.m - 9 a.m.					
June 26/27 th.	58th Division.	8-45 a.m.	12	Blue Cross.	E.7.a. S.W. MILLENCOURT.
	"	9-30 p.m.	20	"	D.7.b. S.E. BAIZIEUX.
	"	9-50 p.m.	12	Yellow Cross.	D.24.a. N. BUIRE.
	"	10-45 p.m.	25	Blue Cross.	E.7.c. E. LAVIEVILLE.
	"	11-15 p.m.	10	"	D.12.d. do.
	"	midnight.	20	"	D.17.a. & c. E. BRESLE.
	"	3 a.m.	24	"	D.7. E. BAIZIEUX.
	"	3-30 a.m.	40	"	D.12.c.d. E. LAVIEVILLE.
	4th Aust. Div.	2 p.m.	50	"	O.10.b. FOUILLOY.
	5th Aust. Div.	4-45 a.m.	10.	"	D.21.b. S. BRESLE.
	"	3 a.m.	Slight	Blue and Yellow.	D.29.b. BUIRE.
27/28 th.	2nd Aust. Div.	9-30 - 10 p.m.	90	Green Cross.	O.20.c. and d. N. BOIS L'ABBE.
	"	do.	8	Yellow Cross.	do. do.
	"	10 p.m.	10	"	N.26.c. S. GLISY.
	5th Aust. Div.	6-30 p.m.	11	"	D.29.b. BUIRE.
	"	6-30 p.m.	100	Blue Cross.	D.21.a. & b. S. BRESLE.
28/29 th.	58th Division.	1-15 a.m.	20	Blue Cross.	D.12. & E.7. SE. MILLENCOURT.
	"	1-35 p.m.	12	"	J.3.d. MERICOURT.
	2nd Aust. Div.	10 - 11-20 p.m.	250	Blue and Green.	O.27.b. N. BOIS L'ABBE.
	"	12-5 - 12-40 a.m.)		Yellow Cross.	O.35, O.34. SW. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	"	During night.	-	"	N.30.a. N. BOIS DE BLANGY.
	"	9-30 p.m.	40	Blue and Green.	O.28. W. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	"	10-30 p.m.	12	Blue Cross.	J.28.a. W. SAILLY LE SEC.
	4th Aust. Div.	3-15 p.m.	7		

Casualties for week:- 1 officer.
57 other ranks.
Deaths:- 6 other ranks.

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C187

GAS SHELLING FOR WEEK ENDING 9 A.M. 29.6.18.

100

250

400

AMIENS

6

AMIENS

1

2

3

30th June, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 30th June, 1918. *C188*

1. The enemy's artillery activity in the ALBERT sector was below normal during the night, but increased slightly in the day.
South of the ANCRE there was no marked increase of hostile artillery activity. With the exception of short heavy concentrations directed against the front line between VILLE-sur-ANCRE and the BRAY - CORBIE Road, and the first named village, hostile shelling was light and scattered.
H.V. guns lightly shelled NOYELLES, FRANVILLERS, DAOURS.
In addition to the usual harassing fire against the enemy's communications, our artillery directed heavy concentrations of gas shells against the valleys east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and in the BOIS DE VAIRE.
2. III CORPS.
In the morning our front line on both sides of the ALBERT - AMIENS Road was intermittently shelled, and light shelling occurred in the vicinity of MILLENCOURT and HENENCOURT.
The valley S.E. of BRESLE received considerable attention.
Forward areas S.E. of BOUZINCOURT were lightly shelled with H.E. and gas.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
At 9-30 p.m. last night the front line between VILLE-sur-ANCRE and the BRAY - CORBIE Road was subjected to an intense bombardment for three minutes. At the same time a heavy concentration was directed against VILLE-sur-ANCRE.
During the night VILLERS BRETONNEUX and villages in the SOMME and ANCRE valleys were shelled. In the afternoon hostile shelling was chiefly confined to the forward area in the vicinity of MERICOURT. There was also a little shelling with blue cross gas of the same area during the night.
66 gas projectors were discharged against enemy works north of SAILLY LAURETTE.
3. THIRD ARMY.
Situation quiet and unchanged.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.
Situation unchanged.
5. AIRCRAFT.
 - (a) British.
656 hours were flown by 235 pilots.

7 successful

30th June, 1918.

C189

7 successful reconnaissances and 13 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 33 zone calls were sent down and 7 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction and 4 neutralized.

During the day 423 plates were exposed and 154 offensive patrols carried out.

Our aircraft were very active. 70 air combats took place, 29 of which were decisive. 16 E.A. were destroyed and 14 brought down out of control. No. 41 Squadron alone were responsible for crashing 10 E.A. and bringing down 8 E.A. out of control.

One of our machines is missing.

8 special night reconnaissances were carried out over enemy roads, railways, and river crossings.

During the night 7 112-lb and 218 25-lb bombs were dropped on MONTAUBAN, BRAY and MARICOURT. 376 25-lb bombs were dropped by Corps Squadrons on LE PLATEAU, CHIPILLY, and various targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft were fairly active. 117 machines were seen, 64 of which crossed over the line and were engaged by our A.A. guns.

During the night bombing machines were very active operating over the Third Army Area. 10 bombs were dropped near BLANGY TRONVILLE.

6. WEATHER.

Fine, but misty. Visibility improved later.

7. PRISONERS.

2 O.R. captured.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of any importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

18th, 47th (G.H.Q. Reserve), 58th, 3rd Cav.**
33rd American**, 1 Bde. 66th (Training Cadre)
Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

XXII Corps.

8th, 21st (being reconstituted) Divisions.

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

30th June, 1918.

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10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13 pdr. A.A., H.E.	434
" " S.	386
18 pdr. H.E.	6061
" " S.	7939
" Smoke.	148
4.5" Howr., H.E.	2804
" " Gas.	617
60 pdr., H.E.	657
" " S.	924
6" Howr., H.E.	3768
" " Gas.	600
6" Mk. VII, H.E.	269
" " S.	324
8" Howr.	782
9.2" Howr.	258.

Admiral

H.Q., Fourth Army,
10th July, 1918.

Major-General,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

30th June, 1918.

OPERATION MESSAGES RECEIVED AND ISSUED.

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

6 a.m. report. 7 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control. 281 25-lb bombs on CHIPILLY Valley and various targets. 20 112-lb bombs on LE PLATEAU dump. By night 2 112-lb, 60 25-lb bombs on MARICOURT; 98 25-lb on BRAY; 5 112-lb, 60 25-lb bombs on MONTAUBAN.

5-45 a.m. From III Corps.

Situation unchanged. V.12.c. north of divisional boundary heavily shelled with blue cross at 11 p.m. 10 blue cross shells on E.7.a.3.1. E.A. active up to midnight bombing forward and back areas.

6-7 a.m. From Australian Corps.

Morning report. Situation quiet. At 9-25 p.m. 3 minutes' heavy barrage, light calibre, rear of front line of VILLE-sur-ANCRE. Barrage opened after succession of double green flares. At same time heavy concentration on VILLE-sur-ANCRE. Forward areas, centre division, lightly shelled during night. Few gas shells near BOUZINCOURT. M.Gs. and T.Ms. more active than usual. 6 Bombs dropped on HEILLY at 1-30 a.m. HEILLY shelled with 4.2" during night. Captures nil.

6-35 a.m. To G.H.Q.

Situation unchanged. Area west of BOUZINCOURT heavily shelled with blue cross at 11 p.m. Some scattered shelling of forward area of right corps. At 9-30 p.m. heavy barrage put down on VILLE-sur-ANCRE and front line south of it. 20 112-lb bombs on LE PLATEAU dump, 60 25-lb on MARICOURT, 98 25-lb on BRAY, 5 112-lb and 60 25-lb on MONTAUBAN, 281 25-lb on various targets. 7 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control.

5-30 p.m. From III Corps.

Situation remains quiet. Our front line across ALBERT - AMIENS road shelled intermittently during morning. HENENCOURT shelled with 150 mm during morning. Gas nil. Captures nil.

6 p.m. From Australian Corps.

Evening report. Quiet day. Slight shelling of Area north of SAILLY LE SEC, also north of BUIRE. 66 projectors discharged on K.25.d. last night. Captures 1 O.R. E.A. inactive.

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

Situation unchanged. Scattered shelling of front line astride ALBERT - AMIENS road, HENENCOURT, north of BUIRE and SAILLY LE SEC. 8-45 p.m. to 3 a.m. 170 blue cross south-east of FOUILLOY. 10 p.m. to 11-30 p.m. 130 blue cross north of BOIS L'ABBE. Captures 1 O.R. 66 projectors fired north-east SAILLY LAURETTE last night. 9 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control. 56 25-lb bombs on various targets.

6-45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.

6 p.m. summary. 9 E.A. crashed, 6 out of control. 54 25-lb bombs on various targets.

C192

FOURTH ARMY

FORTNIGHTLY ARTILLERY REPORT

JUNE 16th. to 30th, 1918.

There was but little change in the attitude of hostile artillery throughout the period. Cases of heavy shelling were rare, and again, as during the preceding fortnight, hostile fire was for the most part confined to harassing fire on our communications and battery areas, and short sharp concentrations on our front line system. The reply to our barrage fire in support of raids was light. Shortly after the raids N.W. & S.W. of MORLANCOURT on the night of the 22nd/23rd, a barrage was placed on our support lines astride the BRAY-CORBIE Road; this area was kept under strong harassing fire for the next 48 hours.

The only areas to receive any heavy shelling were RIBEMONT, HEILLY, VILLE-sur-Ancre, the areas South of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and North of BUIRE, and the front line system West of MORLANCOURT. Steady harassing fire was maintained against several other localities, namely the front system and battery areas between the ANCRE and the SOMME, the front system West of DERNANCOURT, the main ALBERT-AMIENS Road, the BRESLE Valley, the area between FOUILLOY and the BOIS L'ABBE, and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Villages in the forward areas were all shelled intermittently.

Latterly, the volume of fire decreased considerably, and the front for the last few days of the month was comparatively quiet.

Gas Shell were used freely, but generally in very small quantities; the gas employed was usually Blue and Green X; very few cases of shelling with Yellow X were reported. The areas chiefly affected were the area N.W. and West of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, the low ground and battery area S. and S.W. of MERICOURT, and the valley running from RIBEMONT to HENENCOURT.

Recently, long range gun fire declined considerably. Hostile fire against AMIENS slackened off about the 19th., and there has been no shelling of the city since the 25th. Villages in the HALLUE Valley and the vicinity of GLISY and LAMOTTE received a few rounds in the early mornings.

There was no increase in Counter Battery work. Few deliberate destructive shoots were carried out, and hostile fire was mainly in the form of strong harassing fire on battery areas. Destructive Shoots were carried out against battery positions near BRESLE and HENENCOURT, and South of the BOIS DE BLANGY; in two cases 21 cm. Hows: were used. Prior to the 20th., batteries near HEILLY were subjected to very strong harassing fire daily; later, however, shelling of this area declined. Harassing fire against battery positions near AUBIGNY, LA NEUVILLE, S.W. of MERICOURT and in the BRESLE Valley was fairly general throughout the period. There was nothing abnormal in the amount of registration carried out.

P.T.O

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CALIBRES.

There was no outstanding feature in the use of the various calibres of guns and hows:, and there is no evidence of any reinforcement of the enemy's artillery by the heavier types of howitzers.

EXTRACT FROM " There are some interesting facts to hand about the AUST: CORPS 38 cm. gun which fires from ARCY WOOD in R 17 a. C.B. REPORT.

This gun was persistently active until midday 8-8-18. The FRENCH CORPS, in whose area the shells fell, reported that from pieces of driving band picked up, the lands of the gun appeared to be very much worn. Nothing was heard of the gun from 8-8-18 to the morning of 16-8-18 when it again became active. The markings of pieces of driving band picked up since that date shew that the rifling was unworn. This suggests that during its silent period, a new piece was mounted."

STRENGTH & DISPOSITION.

Weather conditions have not favoured the work of locating hostile batteries. Owing to a strong west wind, Sound Ranging locations were scarce, and until the 25th. low clouds and rain prevented photography. On that date, a number of photographs of the counter-battery area were taken; these however did not disclose anything abnormal. From such evidence as has been available, it is not considered that any noteworthy reinforcement of the artillery in this sector has taken place. There are indications that the enemy is, in several cases, moving his batteries a short distance from their original positions to avoid our shelling, and from locations received, there is no doubt that a few H.V. guns in the BROUDEL Valley frequently change position. The number of guns opposite the Army front remains about the same as on June 15th. The total of 533 guns supports evidence from other sources, to the effect that this part of the front, which is held by 8 German Divisions is a "normal active sector"; the usual allotment of guns to a sector held in this strength being between 500 and 550.

ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF GUNS.

G. (A)	FIELD		HEAVY		DOUBTFUL	
	30th.	15th.	30th.	15th.	30th.	15th.
NORTH OF THE SOMME.	188	190	111	97	14	6
(B) BETWEEN THE SOMME & THE AMIENS-NESLE RAILWAY.	150	160	70	62	-	-
Totals	338	350	181	159	14	6
(A)	Decrease 2	Increase 14	Increase 6	Increase 20		
(B)	Decrease 10	Increase 8	-	Decrease 2.		
TOTAL INCREASE						18

GRAND TOTAL ON ARMY FRONT
 Last Week 515
 This Week 533
 Increase 18

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-3-

There has been no change in the grouping of hostile batteries. The WARFUSEE, HAZEL WOOD and BECORDEL VALLEY Groups have been the most active.

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