

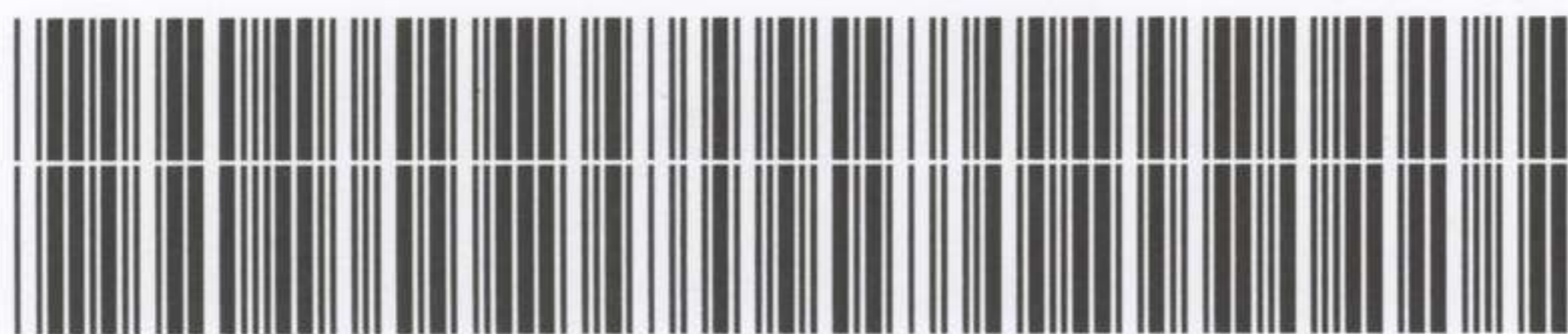
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/14/9 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 4th Army

July 1918



AWM4-1/14/9PART3

31st July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 31st July, 1918.

diary

1. Gas projectors were successfully discharged on MORLANCOURT, SAILLY LAURETTE and DERNANCOURT. Hostile artillery activity decreased on the whole front. Our artillery kept all roads radiating from ALBERT under intermittent fire during the night. Concentrations of gas shell were directed against a wide area East and S.E. of BOIS d'ACCROCHE. Long range guns fired on transport East of MAMETZ and in BECORDEL.

2. III CORPS.

The enemy shelled the AMIENS-ALBERT Road intermittently during the afternoon. 125 rounds from 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. howitzers were fired on trenches South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road at 8.20 p.m. and again at midnight.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Hostile artillery activity was confined to light scattered shelling of forward areas with the exception of heavy shelling of the ridge S.E. of HAMEL at midnight.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

A quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

The weather was unsuitable for aircraft work and activity was below normal.

93 hours were flown by 68 pilots. One reconnaissance and 9 artillery patrols were carried out. Three zone calls were sent down, 4 hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction and one successful registration carried out.

23 offensive patrols were flown but no combats took place.

During the night sixteen 112-lb. and 254 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on ETINEHEM, MARICOURT and GUILLEMONT sidings.

By day sixteen 112-lb. and 132 25-lb. bombs were dropped on BRAY and various other targets.

1,380 machine gun rounds were fired on favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Activity was exceptionally low. 35 machines were seen, of which two F.E.A. crossed the line. Thirteen protective flights were seen. No long distance reconnaissances were observed and there were no combats.

/ 6. PRISONERS.

21st July, 1918.

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6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

ditto

7. WEATHER.

Generally fine but low storm clouds and high wind hampered air reconnaissance. Visibility fair.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

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

Australian Corps.

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

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

12th, 18th Divisions.

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	18.
" S.	..	13.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	100.
" S.	..	73.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	3340.
" S.	..	5146.
" Smoke.	..	33.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	2018.
" Smoke.	..	36.
" Gas.	..	460.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	698.
" S.	..	889.
6" How. H.E.	..	4632.
" Gas.	..	416.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	209.
" S.	..	245.
8" How.	..	616.
9.2" How.	..	619.
12" How.	..	26.

21st July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- *d143*
- 3.3 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
78 25-lb. bombs, 12 112-lb. bombs. Two balloons in flames. Two E.A. crashed. By night nil.
- 5.33 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Quiet night. Few gas shells on ALBERT-MILLEN COURT Road. Fifteen 4.2 shells fell in B.17.d.
- 6.12 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Ridge S.E. of HAMEL in P.10.d. heavily shelled at midnight. Some light shelling generally of forward areas. Gas projectors fired from Left Division front as follows:- 335 between MORLANCOURT and SAILLY LAURETTE, 174 on DERNANCOURT. Situation quiet.
- 6.35 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Ridge S.E. HAMEL heavily shelled at midnight. Light scattered shelling of forward areas. 509 projectors fired on MORLANCOURT, SAILLY LAURETTE and DERNANCOURT. 12 112-lb. bombs, 78 25-lb. bombs. Two balloons in flames, two E.A. crashed.
- 5.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Quiet day. Slight shelling of valley in D.18.c. with 10.5 cm. Few H.E. on AMIENS-ALBERT Road in E.7.a. No activity reported elsewhere. Captures nil.
- 5.35 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Four 25-lb. bombs dropped.
- 6.10 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of support line on Corps front. Captures nil.
- 6.25 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Quiet day. Hostile shelling light. R.A.F. dropped four 25-lb. bombs on various targets. Captures nil.
-

22nd July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 22nd July, 1918.

d 144

1. The right battalion of the Australian Corps, in conjunction with the French battalion on their right, established a post South of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, capturing three prisoners and three machine guns.
Gas projectors were discharged during the night on MORLANCOURT and on the enemy's forward system South of the AMIENS-ALBERT Road. In addition, 642 gas bombs were fired from Stokes mortars on targets North of DERNAN-COURT.
There was a slight increase in hostile artillery activity in the ALBERT Sector. South of the ANCRE hostile artillery was quiet.
Our artillery directed concentrations of gas shell against MORLANCOURT and the area West of BOIS d'ACCROCHE. By day further shoots against bridges over the ANCRE were completed with aeroplane observation. The 12" gun fired into the villages of BRAY and CAPPY with observation from two balloons.
2. III CORPS.
A quiet day. The areas round SENLIS and the AMIENS-ALBERT Road were shelled during the afternoon. During the night there was light gas shelling of our trenches East of MILLENCOURT.
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
300 rounds of yellow cross gas were fired on the area South of HAMELET. A heavy battery N.E. of BOIS l'ABBE was rather heavily shelled, apparently with aeroplane observation. A few rounds from a long range gun fell near LA HOUSSOYE.
3. THIRD ARMY.
Situation unchanged.
4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.
Quiet day.
5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.
451 hours were flown by 184 pilots.
Eight reconnaissance and 16 artillery patrols were carried out and 14 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction. Two successful shoots were also carried out on bridges and 27 zone calls were sent down.
14 photographic flights were carried out and 460 plates exposed.
Our aeroplanes carried out 108 offensive patrols and four indecisive combats took place. One of our machines is missing.

/ During

22nd July, 1918.

d 145 2.

During the night sixteen 112-lb. and 254 25-lb. bombs were dropped on ETINEHEM, MARICOURT and GUILLEMONT sidings.

5,050 machine gun rounds were fired at lights and searchlights.

By day twenty-four 112-lb. and 243 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on BRAY and various targets. 7,350 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

Two hostile balloons were brought down in flames.

(b) Hostile.

A marked increase in activity was noticeable especially of F.E.A.

167 E.A. were seen of which three artillery aeroplanes and 22 F.E.A. crossed our lines. 60% of this activity was over the Southern sector of the front. One long distance reconnaissance was reported over DURY at 16,000 feet at 6 a.m. One of our balloons was brought down in flames.

6. PRISONERS.

Three O.R.

7. WEATHER.

Stormy with heavy clouds, clearing in the afternoon. Visibility good in the evening.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

66th Division (Cadre) moved by rail to L. of C.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	379.
" S.	..	281.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	144.
" S.	..	145.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	4343.
" S.	..	5859.
" Smoke.	..	117.
4.5" H.E.	..	2598.
" Smoke.	..	25.
" Gas.	..	1124.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	848.
" S.	..	686.

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22nd July, 1918.

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6" How.	..	4796.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	216.
" S.	..	266.
8" How.	..	567.
9.2" How.	..	563.

22nd July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *d 147*

- 5.45 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Little enemy activity except for some shelling with 150 mm. and machine gun fire on trenches in E.13.b. Gas projectors fired on bank E.8.b.4.0 and gas trench mortar bombardment of E.13.d. at midnight. Trench mortar bombardment repeated at 2 a.m.
- 6.18 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F. 44 25-lb. bombs.
By day: 16 112-lb. bombs, on BRAY, 58 25-lb. bombs various targets. By night: five 112-lb., 70 25-lb. bombs on ETINEHEM, six 112-lb., 66 25-lb. bombs on MARICOURT, 108 25-lb. bombs on GUILLEMONT sidings, five 112-lb., ten 25-lb. bombs on trains etc.
- 6.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Right battalion Right Division in conjunction with French have established a post at U.5.d.70.45. Another party bombed from V.1.a.6.1 to V.1.c.3.7 where blocks have been established. Two prisoners 148th I.R. captured. Identifications normal. Three machine guns captured. During night 350 rounds 10.5 cm., H.E. and gas fired on O.12.b. and d. P.31, O.36.b. & d. shelled at intervals. E.A. active. Bombs dropped near VILLERS BRETONNEUX: at 10.30 p.m. 20 in I.25, at 11.15 14 in P.7. At 2.30 a.m. 120 projectors discharged on K.8.c.
- 6.55 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Right battalion Australian Corps in conjunction French established post due South of BRETONNEUX. Captures two prisoners three machine guns. 120 projectors fired on MORLANCOURT. 350 10.5 cm. gas and H.E. shells fell S.E. of CORBIE. Left Corps reports little enemy activity. Gas projectors fired on bank South of AMIENS Road just S.W. of ALBERT. 16 112-lb., 44 25-lb. bombs on BRAY. 58 25-lb. bombs various targets. Five 112-lb. 70 25-lb. bombs on ETINEHEM. Six 112-lb. 66 25-lb. bombs on MARICOURT, 108 25-lb. bombs on GUILLEMONT, five 112-lb. bombs on trains. Air reports abnormal train movement in vicinity ROISEL, PERONNE and FRICOURT.
- 12.20 p.m. From III Corps.
Continuation of morning report: in successful gas discharge last night 'D' Company R.E. discharged 241 drums and No. 1 Special Company R.E. fired 642 rounds gas and 24 rounds smoke.
- 5.35 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Enemy artillery inactive. Two enemy balloons and one of ours brought down. Captures nil.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Area North of VILLE-sur-ANCRE and SAILLY-le-SEC intermittently shelled during morning. Scattered shelling of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Captures two unwounded 1 wounded prisoners, four machine guns.

/ cont'd.

22nd July, 1918.

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6.5 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Two balloons in flames. Eight 112-lb., 48
25-lb. bombs on OMIECOURT dump, 93 25-lb. bombs various
targets.

6.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Intermittent shelling area North of VILLE-sur-
ANCRE and SAILLY-le-SEC. Scattered shelling BRETONNEUX
area. Eight 112-lb. and 141 25-lb. bombs dropped on
various targets, two hostile balloons in flames. Captures
past 24 hours three O.R. four machine guns.

23rd July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 23rd July, 1918.

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1. Last night VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the area surrounding it was subjected to a strong concentration of yellow and green cross gas shell. It is estimated that 6,000 rounds were fired. The bombardment lasted from 10.5 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. and from 11.55 p.m. to 2 a.m. During this shelling our counter-batteries carried out a programme of strong neutralizing fire, and at 10.15 p.m. and 12.10 a.m. special concentrations were directed against 18 hostile batteries suspected of activity.

The support area South of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was shelled heavily during the afternoon.

During the night sections of 6" howitzers were moved up to forward positions to carry out a bombardment of five hostile batteries near WIENCOURT with gas shell. The operation was completely successful and the sections were withdrawn before dawn.

On the rest of the front the situation has remained quiet.

2. III CORPS.

A very quiet day. Hostile artillery was inactive except for light scattered shelling in the vicinity of MILLENCOURT and HENENCOURT and near the AMIENS-ALBERT Road.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

With the exception of the heavy gas bombardment referred to above there was little activity. 200 rounds of H.E. and blue cross gas shell from 15 cm. howitzers were directed against the area East of HAMEL during the night.

3. THIRD ARMY.

The V Corps successfully advanced their line in the vicinity of HAMEL and MESNIL during the night.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

After a short artillery preparation an attack was launched at 6 a.m. on a front of 7 kilometres between MAILLY RAINEVAL and GRIVESNES. This attack, in which the 9th Tank Battalion co-operated, penetrated at some points to a depth of three kilometres, and the villages of MAILLY - RAINEVAL, SAUVILLERS and AUBILLERS, together with the BOIS des ARRACHES and BOIS de SAUVILLERS were captured. 52 officers and 1,800 O.R. were captured together with four 77 mm. guns, over 200 machine guns and 30 minenwerfer.

/ 5. AIRCRAFT.

23rd July, 1918.

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5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

diso.

218 hours were flown by 120 pilots.

Two reconnaissances and six artillery patrols were carried out; 13 zone calls were sent down and five hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction. Two photographic flights were carried out and 57 plates exposed.

68 offensive patrols were undertaken: there were no combats.

Owing to the weather night flying was impossible.

By day twelve 112-lb. and 112 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on TRONES WOOD Dump, WIENCOURT and MORCOURT.

2,300 machine gun rounds were fired on favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

No enemy aeroplanes were seen, probably on account of unfavourable weather.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Cloudy, with heavy storms. Visibility good.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American** Divisions.

Australian Corps.

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

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

** Army Reserve.

* Corps Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	509.
" " S.	..	510.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	153.
" " S.	..	154.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	4112.
" " S.	..	6071.
" " Smoke.	..	3603.

/ cont'd.

23rd July, 1918.

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10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE. (cont'd).

4.5" How. H.E.	..	2058.
" Smoke.	..	489.
" Gas.	..	718.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	771.
" S.	..	1084.
6" How. H.E.	..	7402.
" Gas.	..	1450.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	365.
" S.	..	299.
8" How.	..	1206.
9.2" How.	..	1115.
12" How.	..	65.
12" Gun.	..	20.

23rd July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *d. 152*

- 3.28 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: 12 112-lb. bombs and 36 25-lb. bombs
on TRONES, 82 25-lb. bombs various targets. By night nil.
- 5.38 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Slight enemy
trench mortar activity reported on the southernmost battalion
front. No gas shelling. Captures nil.
- 6.15 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. VILLERS BRETONNEUX and vicinity
heavily shelled with green and yellow cross gas, estimated
7,000 rounds. Strong concentration on whole surrounding
area. Whole area Right Divisions lightly shelled. Rest
of front situation quiet.
- 6.50 a.m. To G.H.Q.
BRETONNEUX and vicinity heavily shelled green and
yellow cross - estimated rounds 7,000. Slight hostile
trench mortar activity about DERNANCOURT. R.A.F. report
by day 12 112-lb., 36 25-lb. TRONES, 82 25-lb. various. No
night flying.
- 5.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Very quiet day. No activity
of any kind to report. Captures nil.
- 5.41 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Four 25-lb. bombs dropped.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light
shelling VAIRE WOOD with 77 mm. Support area South of
VILLERS BRETONNEUX heavily shelled during afternoon.
Scattered shelling forward area N.E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
Enemy artillery quiet on Left Division sector. E.A. nil.
Captures 2 O.R. wounded.
- 6.30 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Support area South of BRETONNEUX heavily shelled
during afternoon. Scattered shelling area N.E. BRETONNEUX
and VAIRE WOOD. Otherwise very quiet. Four 25-lb. bombs.
Captures 2 O.R. wounded.
-

24th July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 24th July, 1918. *disc*

1. A successful raid was carried out on the III Corps front N.W. of ALBERT at 3.45 a.m. A number of the enemy were killed by the raiders and many others caught by the barrage. Two O.R. and a machine gun were captured. The enemy's artillery was unusually quiet. The reply to our barrage in support of the raid was feeble and was directed mainly against the high ground N.E. of MILLEN-COURT. BEHENCOURT was shelled during the afternoon by a H.V. gun.

In the course of the night 23rd/24th both Field and Heavy Artillery of the Australian Corps carried out a special bombardment of a group of very active machine guns in the enemy's trench system N.E. of SAILLY LAURETTE.

2. III CORPS.

In the morning LAVIEVILLE and the areas S.E. of BRESLE and North of BUIRE were shelled with 15 cm. howitzers. The enemy also shelled our forward system South of the AMIENS-ALBERT Road.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Hostile artillery shelled TREUX and the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX at intervals during the afternoon. Our artillery, in addition to the special concentration referred to above, fired concentrations of gas shell into the area N.E. of BOIS d'ARQUAIRE and harassed the enemy's communications strongly during the night.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

No change in situation.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

The weather was unsuitable, rain and low clouds interfering with flying.

146 hours were flown by 86 pilots. Four reconnaissance and 8 artillery patrols were carried out; seven zone calls were sent down; three photographic flights secured 87 negatives.

Forty offensive patrols were undertaken and nine air combats took place, four being decisive. Two E.A. were destroyed and two driven down out of control. One of our machines is missing and one of our kite balloons was also destroyed.

During the night six 112-lb. and 159 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on MONTAUBAN, FRICOURT, GINCHY, CARNOY and trains. Four direct hits were obtained on a train going North from BRAY and two bursts on a train at

/ CARNOY.

24th July, 1918.

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CARNOY.

By day sixteen 112-lb. and 168 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on FROISSY and various targets. 1,270 machine gun rounds were fired on favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Activity still below normal. 71 enemy machines were seen of which one R.E.A. crossed the line. Most of the flying was again over the Southern Sector of the Army front. One long distance reconnaissance at 19,000 feet was carried out between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. over ALLONVILLE - RAINEVILLE - COISY.

6. PRISONERS.

Two O.R. captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine early for short period, clouding over later.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian / Divns.

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	134.
" S.	..	55.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	192.
" S.	..	554.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	8009.
" S.	..	5629.
" Smoke.	..	1195.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	4049.
" Smoke.	..	356.
" Gas.	..	682.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	613.
" S.	..	530.
6" How. H.E.	..	3314.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	136.
" S.	..	213.
8" How.	..	587.
9.2" How.	..	509.
12" How.	..	8.

24th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *d155*

- 4 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
No night flying.
- 5.50 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet on Corps front. At 3.45 a.m. we raided enemy's trenches in W.21.d. and captured a few prisoners. Details to follow. No hostile gas shelling.
- 6.4 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Light shelling North of SAILLY-le-SEC, South of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and Northern edge of BOIS l'ABBE. Otherwise enemy artillery below normal.
- 6.45 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Left Corps raided enemy trench N.W. of ALBERT and captured few prisoners. Otherwise quiet night.
- 10.27 a.m. From III Corps.
In raid this morning several enemy killed by raiders and many caught by barrage and lewis gun fire. Captures two O.R., one light machine gun. Slight barrage H.E. and some gas 15 minutes after zero fell mainly on West slope of BOUZINCOURT SPUR. Otherwise little retaliation.
- 5.35 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. AMIENS-ALBERT Road about D.16.c.2.3 shelled intermittently during morning by heavy howitzers. Trenches immediately South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road intermittently shelled. Light barrage on support line in E.7.d. 3.10 to 3.15 p.m. Situation quiet on Left Sector. Captures: Right Division 1 O.R. deserter 179th I.R., Left Division 2 O.R. 450th I.R., 1 light machine gun.
- 5.45 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Enemy artillery active on front posts and line East and S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX during afternoon. Intermittent shelling of area between VAIRE WOOD and BOIS d'ACCROCHE. E.A. inactive. Captures nil.
- 6.15 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Hostile artillery active on forward posts and line East and S.E. of BRETONNEUX this afternoon. Intermittent shelling of area West of VAIRE WOOD and South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road. Two E.A. destroyed, two down out of control. Captures three O.R., one light machine gun.
- 6 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Two E.A. destroyed, two down out of control.
-

25th July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 25th July, 1918.

dist

1. The 58th Division, III Corps, carried out a raid at 10 a.m. on the enemy trenches N.W. of DERNANCOURT, capturing 17 other ranks and 4 machine guns.

The enemy raided two posts on the front of the Australian Corps. Several casualties were inflicted on him, and two wounded prisoners were taken by us. None of our men are missing.

Enemy artillery was generally quiet except in connection with these raids.

During the night special harassing fire was directed by our artillery against the areas East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and East of ALBERT where enemy reliefs were expected.

2. III CORPS.

The 8th London Regt., 58th Division, carried out the raid N.W. of DERNANCOURT referred to above. The raid was supported by an artillery barrage and by a smoke screen. Considerable opposition was met with on the right, many Germans being killed. 17 prisoners and 4 machine guns were captured.

At first the enemy's reply to our barrage was feeble; later, however, hostile artillery fire became rather heavy, chiefly from 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. howitzers.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The enemy raided and occupied a post South of VILLERS BRETONNEUX held by the 2nd Australian Division. An immediate counter-attack recaptured the post. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and one wounded prisoner was captured.

The enemy also attempted to raid one of our posts on the North bank of the SOMME. He was repulsed, leaving one wounded prisoner in our hands and three dead. None of our men are missing as a result of either raid.

Rather heavy shelling of our trench system preceded these raids, but otherwise hostile artillery was quiet.

A H.V. gun fired a few rounds into LA HOUSOYE.

3. THIRD ARMY.

The New Zealand Division advanced their line slightly during the night N.W. of PUISIEUX-au-MONT, capturing a few prisoners.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet day.

/ 5. AIRCRAFT.

25th July, 1918.

2.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

d157

Bad weather again interfered with flying. 338 hours were flown by 168 pilots. Two reconnaissances and 19 artillery patrols were carried out; 21 zone calls were sent down, 6 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction and two shoots carried out on active trench mortars.

Four flights secured 102 photographs.

96 offensive patrols were up during the day. Seven combats took place, two being decisive. Two E.A. were driven down out of control. One enemy balloon was brought down in flames and one forced to descend. One of our machines crashed on our side of the line.

By night 72 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on ROISEL, MARICOURT and COMBLES.

By day sixteen 112-lb. and 181 25-lb. bombs were dropped on ROSIERES and various other targets. 2,850 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Enemy aeroplane activity was again below normal. 66 E.A. were seen, of which 5 artillery and 5 F.E.A. crossed our lines. Activity was evenly distributed over the whole area.

6. WEATHER.

Fine early with fair visibility. Cloudy later with rain at intervals.

7. PRISONERS.

20 prisoners were captured.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	152.
" S.	..	82.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	381.
" S.	..	631.

/ cont'd.

25th July, 1918.

3.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE (cont'd).

disc

18-pdr. H.E.	..	5185.
" S.	..	9418.
" Smoke.	..	983.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	2865.
" Smoke.	..	35.
" Gas.	..	1739.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	661.
" S.	..	834.
6" How. H.E.	..	6256.
" Gas.	..	307.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	222.
" S.	..	379.
8" How.	..	1453.
9.2" How.	..	601.

25th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *d159*

- 4.22 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: 2 E.A. out of control, 16 112-lb., 36 25-lb. bombs on FROISSY, 98 25-lb. bombs on various targets. By night: six 112-lb., 159 25-lb. bombs on MONTAUBAN, FRICOURT, GINCHY, CARNOY and trains.
- 5.45 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation unchanged. Right Division reports intermittent enemy shelling (H.E. and gas) on D.12.a. and D.11.b. East of LAVIEVILLE. 40 gas shells (nature unknown) reported D.12.b. between 1.15 a.m. and 2.30 a.m.
- 6.29 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. At 8 p.m. under cover of artillery barrage enemy raided and occupied our post in U.5.d. An immediate counter attack by our troops resulted in the recapture of the post. Several casualties inflicted on the enemy. One wounded prisoner captured. None of our men missing. At 2.30 a.m. under cover of barrage enemy also raided our post in P.5.b. North of the SOMME and was repulsed leaving behind one wounded prisoner and three dead. None of our men are missing. Patrols of the Left Division brought in one prisoner during the night. 176 projectors successfully discharged on E.20.central.
- 6.30 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Intermittent shelling of high ground East of LAVIEVILLE. At 8 p.m. under cover of artillery barrage enemy raided and occupied one of our posts South of BRETON-NEUX. Our immediate counter-attack recaptured post with loss to the enemy. One prisoner taken. None of our men missing. At 2.30 a.m. enemy also raided post immediately North of SOMME and was repulsed. One wounded and three dead left in our lines. None of our men missing. 176 projectors successfully discharged West of DERNANCOURT.
- 1.55 p.m. From III Corps.
In raid by Right Division this morning 8th Battn. captured 20 prisoners 248th R.I.R. and 4 machine guns. Casualties left and centre companies light. Right company had heavy fighting in QUARRY E.14.c. Casualties unknown.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Hostile artillery quiet during day: only light scattered shelling reported. Captures 3 wounded O.Rs. (2 since died), 1 Lewis gun.
- 6 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Enemy artillery active on our trenches South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road and on area D.12.b. during morning. Shelling round SENLIS MILL at intervals. Otherwise situation quiet since raid this morning. Four E.A. flew very low over D.22 & 23 at 12 noon. Captures 17 O.R., 4 machine guns.

/ cont'd.

25th July, 1918.

cont'd.

d160

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

Enemy artillery active on trenches South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road, area South of MILLENCOURT and vicinity of SENLIS MILL. At 10 a.m. three companies of Right Division, Left Corps, successfully raided enemy lines N.W. of DERNANCOURT and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. 17 prisoners and 4 machine guns taken. Captures for last 24 hours 20 O.R., 4 machine guns and 1 Lewis gun.

26th July, 1918.

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 26th July, 1918.

1. Hostile artillery was below normal. About 100 rounds of gas shell (mainly yellow cross) were directed against our forward system astride the ALBERT-AMIENS Road and also on the neighbourhood of VILLE-sur-ANCRE and TREUX.

At 2 a.m. gas was successfully discharged from projectors on to the Western outskirts of ALBERT, and from mortars against the enemy trench system N.W. of ALBERT. Our artillery carried out a special programme in connection with this discharge.

2. III CORPS.

Hostile artillery activity was confined to scattered shelling of forward areas. During the night 100 rounds from 10.5 cm. H.V. gun were fired in the vicinity of BRESLE.

Our artillery shelled traffic on the ALBERT - BECORDEL Road, and 6" guns maintained intermittent fire on the road between FRICOURT and MONTAUBAN.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

During the night the area S.W. of HAMELET was heavily shelled. The enemy's communications were strongly harassed during the night, and concentrations of gas shell were fired into the vicinity of MARCEECAVE Station and other centres of activity.

3. THIRD ARMY.

The enemy attacked the New Zealand Division yesterday evening but was driven off with loss, leaving 30 prisoners and one machine gun in our hands.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

The situation remains quiet. Positions on the West bank of the River AVRE near CASTEL and North of MORISEL were improved during the night.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

In spite of bad flying weather 277 hours were flown by 146 pilots. Four reconnaissances and 15 artillery patrols were carried out. 19 zone calls were sent down, 8 hostile batteries were successfully engaged for destruction, and 170 photographs were secured.

73 offensive patrols were up. Two air combats took place, one of which was decisive, one E.A. being

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26th July, 1918.

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forced to land on our side of the line. One hostile kite balloon was shot down in flames.

The weather prevented any night flying.

During the day sixteen 112-lb. and 194 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on ROSIERES dump, CERISY, CHIPILLY and various other targets. 5,550 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Enemy aeroplane activity was again below normal. 65 planes were seen, of which one artillery plane crossed the line. No long distance flights were carried out.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

7. WEATHER.

Cloudy, with frequent heavy showers.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

IX Corps, (G.H.Q. Reserve).

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	89.
" S.	..	63.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	185.
" S.	..	314.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	8276.
" S.	..	10374.
" Smoke.	..	2694.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	3619.
" Smoke.	..	1624.
" Gas.	..	1408.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	1192.
" S.	..	839.
6" How. H.E.	..	5815.
" Gas.	..	821.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	114.
" S.	..	162.
8" How.	..	1300.
9.2" How.	..	867.
12" How.	..	42.

26th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. ^{dib3}

- 5.35 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: 1 balloon in flames, 16 112-lb., 40 25-lb. bombs on ROSIERES (many direct hits), 141 25-lb. bombs various targets. By night: 72 25-lb. bombs on ROISEL, MARICOURT and COMBLES.
- 5.40 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Some gas shelling reported as follows:- total of about 100 shells at intervals on area D.12, D.18, E.13.a, of which 40 reported as yellow cross. At 2 a.m. gas was successfully discharged from projectors on targets in E.3.b. and W.27.d. and from mortars on targets in W.21.d, W.22.a. & c, W.15.d. Artillery and machine guns co-operated. No enemy retaliation.
- 5.47 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Quiet night except for heavy shelling of O.12.b. from 10 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. and some light scattered shelling of forward areas of the Right Division.
- 6.25 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Quiet night except for heavy shelling South of HAMELET and slight shelling forward areas South of SOMME. 100 gas shells (40 yellow cross) astride AMIENS-ALBERT Road. At 2 a.m. gas successfully discharged from projectors on Western outskirts ALBERT and from mortars N.W. ALBERT. Artillery and machine guns co-operated. No retaliation. 1 hostile balloon brought down in flames yesterday.
- 5.40 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
One E.A. forced to land in our lines. One balloon in flames. 40 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
- 5.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Trenches South of AMIENS-ALBERT Road lightly shelled with 4.2 H.E. between 11 a.m. and 1 a.m. Valley South of MILLENCOURT shelled at 10 a.m. and between 2.30 and 3.30 p.m. Slight shelling of AMIENS-ALBERT Road at 2.30 p.m.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Area South of VILLE-sur-ANCRE, South of TREUX lightly shelled this morning. Intermittent shelling vicinity HAMEL. Enemy artillery active on VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Minenwerfer active on front line South-west MORLANCOURT. At 10 a.m. 196 projectors fired into valley South of MORLANCOURT. Captures nil.
- 6.50 p.m. To G.H.Q.
III Corps report intermittent shelling of ALBERT-AMIENS Road. Australian Corps report slight hostile artillery activity neighbourhood BRETONNEUX. 196 projectors fired into valley South of MORLANCOURT at 10 a.m. One E.A. forced to land in our lines. One balloon in flames. Captures nil.
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32

d164

FOURTH ARMY

FORTNIGHTLY ARTILLERY REPORT

3 p.m. 15th. to 3 p.m. 26th. JULY, 1918.

In the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Sector, hostile artillery has lately assumed a more aggressive attitude; the remainder of the front has been comparatively quiet throughout the whole period.

NORTH OF THE SOMME.

During the early part of the fortnight, enemy artillery was active against the forward area West of ALBERT; hostile fire was mainly of a strong harassing nature, but widely spread and fairly persistent. Latterly artillery fire declined, and very little shelling of importance has taken place.

The reply to our raid on the night of the 23rd/24th. was very light and scattered. Shelling during our daylight raid on the 25th. was at first extremely light, but became fairly heavy later on in the morning.

The enemy is still persistent in his shelling of the forward area West of DERNANCOURT and astride the ALBERT-AMIENS Road. The villages of LAVIEVILLE, HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT have received the usual desultory fire daily, but there has been a decrease in the shelling of the BRESLE-RIBEMONT Valley and of the area N.W. of ALBERT. Cases of gas shelling have been rare despite weather conditions eminently suitable. No heavy concentrations of gas shell were fired. The area East of MILLENCOURT received a light concentration of gas shell mixed with H.E. Very little deliberate counter-battery work was attempted; occasionally, battery positions were subjected to harassing fire, and were included in light area shoots.

Long Range Guns were fairly quiet; with the exception of a few rounds fired into the vicinity of FRECHENCOURT and ALLONVILLE, no shelling of the back areas further West than the line BAIZIEUX-FRANVILLERS-LA HOUSOYE was reported.

BETWEEN THE ANCRE & THE SOMME.

There was nothing worthy of note in the activity of the enemy's artillery in this part of the line. Shelling of the highest part of the Ridge declined considerably, and the enemy confined his attention chiefly to the areas West of SAILLY-Laurette, East of VILLE-sur-Ancre, and to the battery areas near MERICOURT and VAUX. Here again, hostile fire was mainly in the form of strong harassing fire, and light area shoots. A few gas shell fell near TREUX on the night of the 22nd/23rd.

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SOUTH OF THE SOMME.

In this Sector, hostile artillery has been fairly active throughout the whole period. Considerable attention has been paid to the ground won during our recent operations, and to our new battery positions to the North and West of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The enemy's barrage during our minor operation on the night of the 17th/18th. came down promptly, but was not heavy; ever since this date, however, shelling of the trenches South and East of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX has been persistent and occasionally heavy. HAMEL, the BOIS DE VAIRE and the whole area between VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and the SOMME were subjected to harassing fire by day and night, but very little heavy shelling was experienced. On the night of the 24th/25th. the preparatory bombardment in support of the enemy's unsuccessful raids South of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and South-east of SAILLY LE SEC was fairly heavy.

There was a marked increase in gas shelling. On the night of the 18th/17th. heavy concentrations of gas shell, mainly Yellow X, were directed against the area North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and against the front line system on the South-eastern outskirts of the above village. At the same time there was some shelling of batteries in the vicinity of the MAISON DU BOIS L'ABBE with a mixture of Blue and Yellow X. On the night of the 22nd/23rd. there was a second heavy bombardment of the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX area. The Northern and Southern outskirts and the low lying ground West and South-west of the village were subjected to a heavy concentration of not less than 6,000 rounds, of which the majority were Yellow X. In addition to the above bombardments, gas shell have been used frequently in light concentrations on several points in this sector.

Long Range Guns have been inactive. There was no shelling of ~~POINTS~~ nor of villages further West than DACOURS.

There was nothing abnormal in the amount of registration carried out. Cases of air burst ranging were noticed almost daily, but the areas registered were widely separated, and there were no indications of anything more than normal registration. Very little destructive counter-battery work was attempted. Here, as on the remainder of the front, counter-battery work has taken the form of harassing or neutralising fire and occasional light area shoots. Our new field battery positions between VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and CORBIE were harassed frequently during the latter part of the period.

CALIBRES.

There was no outstanding feature in the employment of the various calibres of guns and hows: The majority of the enemy's shelling has been carried out by field guns and by 10.5 and 15 cm. Howitzers. A few cases of shelling by 21 cm. Hows: have been reported in the usual areas. Shelling by Long Range Guns on Railway Mountings has declined greatly. The CHEIGNOILES Gun has been silent, and the gun which fires from various points on the line between HARBONNIERES and WIENCOURT has only been active on one or two occasions.

d. 166

STRENGTH & DISPOSITION.

Weather conditions have again interfered with the work of locating hostile batteries. A fair number of locations have been made, and full advantage was taken of opportunities of photographing the counter-battery areas. Weather conditions have hampered the work of fixing definitely the batteries, which were compelled to move back by our recent operations South of the SOMME, and the situation in this area is not yet quite clear. The number of new positions is balanced approximately by the number of positions no longer considered occupied, and from the following estimate it will be seen that the number of guns on the Army front remains about the same as on July 15th. The average amount of activity, and the decrease in the number of guns since the beginning of the month indicate that in all probability the strength of the enemy's artillery has been reduced.

ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF GUNS.

	Field		Heavy		Doubtful	
	26th.	15th.	26th.	15th.	26th.	15th.
(A) North of the S O M M E .	204	204	90	103	11	11
(B) Between the SOMME and the AMIENS-NESLE Railway.	130	130	68	54	3	-
T O T A L S	334	334	158	157	14	11
	Field	Heavy		Doubtful	Total	
(A)	No change	Decrease 13		No change	Decrease 13	
(B)	No change	Increase 12		Increase 3	Increase 15	
	Total Increase					2.

GRAND TOTAL ON THE ARMY FRONT.

Last Fortnight 502
 This Fortnight 504
 Total Increase 2
 =====

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

32A

FOURTH ARMY.

27th July, 1918.

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WEEKLY APPRECIATION.

FOR PERIOD JULY 20th to 26th, 1918 (INCLUSIVE).

1. OPERATIONS.

During the week, posts have been established by us S.E. and E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and raids have been successfully carried out N.W. and S.W. of ALBERT and near SAILLY-LAURETTE. The most successful of these was carried out by the III Corps, the raiding party succeeding in capturing over 40 prisoners. An unlucky shell, however, killed a large number of these in 'NO MAN'S LAND', 17 only returning to our lines. Our patrols have also been successful in securing prisoners on several occasions.

The attitude of the enemy has been generally passive. On the 24th inst., he succeeded in recapturing one of our new posts S. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, but was immediately ejected from it. He also unsuccessfully attempted to raid one of our posts immediately N. of the SOMME. A few hostile patrols have been encountered between the SOMME and N.W. of DERNA-COURT, one of which attempted to cut off one of our patrols.

The number of prisoners captured during the week is 27 O.R.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

None of the prisoners captured have any knowledge of an offensive intended by the Germans against the Fourth Army. Prisoners captured in the ALBERT and WARFUSEE sectors had heard that further attacks of the British might be expected. It seems, however, that this only refers to the continuance of local operations such as have been carried out during the last month by our troops. The Third Army have received statements to the same effect from prisoners captured by them in the HEBUTERNE and BOISLEUX sectors. In this part of the front, however, British attacks are apparently anticipated in some strength and a reserve battalion was moved up to PUISIEUX on the night 24th/25th inst. as a precautionary measure.

3. DISTRIBUTION AND QUALITY OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

The number of divisions (6) in line opposite the Fourth Army front remains unchanged.

The divisions are all of poor quality, and have received no intensive training while at rest.

4. RELIEFS.

No divisional reliefs have taken place during the week. Confirmation of the relief, in the ALBERT sector, of the 243rd Div. by the 233rd Div. (considered probable in

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last week's Summary) has been obtained. The relief commenced on the night of the 6th/7th July and extended over a period of from 6 to 10 days.

Prisoners belonging to the 41st Div. have heard that their division is shortly to be relieved. This is unlikely, as it has only been in the line 19 days. Its moral appears to be poor.

5. RESERVES.

The following are the reserves of the Second German Army :-

- 14th Bav. Div. .. Relieved in CASTEL sector June 2nd.
(Located at ELINCOURT June 19th).
- 108th Div. .. Relieved in WARFUSEE sector June 9th.
- 54th Div. .. " " MORLANCOURT " June 20/21st.
- 50th Res. Div. .. " " DERNANCOURT " June 27/28th
(CAMBRAI area July 2nd).
- 243rd Div. .. Relieved in ALBERT sector July 6/7th.

They may be classified as follows :-

- 3 divisions refitting for one month or over.
- 1 division " " 3 weeks.
- 1 " " " 2 "

This is a decrease of 2 from the number of divisions reported last week, and is accounted for as follows :-

- 24th Res. Div. left 2nd Army area and has since reinforced the front S.W. of FERRE-en-TARDEMOIS (S. SOISSONS).
- 77th Res. Div. left 2nd Army area and has gone into line in the WOEVRE.

Neither of these movements was unexpected, as a captured letter showed that the 24th Res. Div. was undergoing intensive training in the CAMBRAI area, and expected to take part in an offensive in July, while from prisoners' statements it appeared that the 77th Res. Div., on relief, expected to leave the 2nd Army for some other part of the front.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

(a) Aircraft.

Stormy weather and poor flying conditions generally have not been conducive to aeroplane activity during the period.

As a consequence, except on July 22nd, when 167 aeroplanes were seen, activity has been below normal.

Several protective flights were seen on the 21st, and fairly large formations were active on the 22nd July.

The central and southern sectors of the Army front have been the most active ones, due, no doubt, to our aggressive attitude in this part of the line. A greater tendency to cross the line was noticed on July 20th. This does not appear to have been connected with any intended operation or relief.

On the 22nd July, there was a noticeable increase in the number of F.E.A., 60 per cent of the activity being over the southern sector. No serious attempts have been made to

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prevent our machines from carrying out reconnaissances.

Three long-distance reconnaissances were carried out by the enemy - the first on the 20th over VILLERS BOGAGE, the second over DURY on the 22nd, and the third over ALLONVILLE - RAINEVILLE - COISY on the 24th.

As a result of the week's fighting four enemy planes were destroyed, four were driven down out of control, and one was forced to land just outside our lines. Two of our planes are reported missing.

Seven enemy balloons were destroyed, and one broke loose. One of ours was brought down in flames.

(b) Artillery. -

Enemy artillery has shown a continued tendency to remain quiet.

No heavy barrages or concentrations have been put down, and in the majority of cases the enemy's reply to our barrages in support of our raids was weak and localised in the area affected by the operation.

On the 20th a fairly heavy barrage was put down on our trenches east of HAMEL.

During the remainder of the period there has been fairly heavy shelling on various localities, those receiving most attention being: SENLIS, north-east of HENENCOURT, north-west of MILLENCOURT, LAVIEVILLE, south-east of BRESLE, MARETT Wood, forward trenches south of the AMIENS - ALBERT road, south and east of MERICOURT, RIBEMONT, south-east of SAILLY-LE-SEC, north of VAUX, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and north-west of BOIS L'ABBE.

With regard to gas shelling, on the 23rd inst. VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the area north-east of the village were heavily bombarded with yellow-cross. During the rest of the period light gas shelling with blue, green and yellow cross has been put down on various localities. The areas most affected included SENLIS trenches, east of MILLENCOURT, forward trenches south of the AMIENS - ALBERT road, south of HAMELET, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and south-east of FOUILLOY.

Counter-battery work took the form of light harassing fire and light gas-shelling of battery areas. Long range guns have been slightly active against BEHENCOURT, and LA HOUSOYE.

AMIENS has not been shelled for some time.

(c) Movement. -

Railways. - Observation of lines opposite the Army front has not been continuous for any lengthy period. No train movement of importance has been recorded during the week. A fair amount of normal activity on the main lines running through CHAULNES was reported. Light railways in the area north of the SOMME (BRAY - FRICOURT - CARNOY - GUILLEMONT) have been active, but not abnormally so. LA FLAQUE dump was noticeably busy during the early portion of the week.

Roads. - Troop movement connected with a regimental relief (since confirmed) was seen at dusk on the 23rd N.E. of ALBERT. In the evening of the 26th, a Battalion of infantry, probably going into line, was seen marching from

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MAMETZ to FRICOURT. In the evening of the 24th, several bodies of men, each 50 - 80 strong, seen marching west between DOMPIERRE and CHUIGNOLLES at considerable intervals, pointed to a local relief south of the SOMME.

7. COMMAND. -

The XIII Corps Staff formerly commanding the sector from ALBERT to the SOMME, has been transferred to the AISNE battle front. Further, a map captured east of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX shows that a redistribution of divisions has taken place in that sector. It is therefore considered extremely probable that the Second German Army, which formerly consisted of four Corps, is now composed of three, namely the XIV, XI, and LI.

There is also considerable doubt whether the XIV Corps Staff has not also been transferred to the battle front, as General von GONTARD, who until recently commanded it, is commanding a Corps south-west of RHEIMS - his own or another. If his own, then a new Corps Staff, possibly a tired one, must have replaced the XIV Corps.

8. ENEMY DEFENCES. -

In the ALBERT sector little work has been done by the enemy to improve his trench system: work has been confined to joining up two communication trenches in the AVELUY sector and in E.S.b. and to digging a short length of new trench in W.15.d. (north-west of ALBERT) Prisoners taken in this sector state that work on dugouts is being carried out.

North-west of ALBERT the front trenches were reported by a raiding-party to be shallow and little used.

The wire in the ALBERT sector may generally be considered to be in a poor condition.

Opposite the Southern Corps the enemy has been reported busy improving and wiring his forward defences, but the new work done consists chiefly of digging in the out-post lines.

9. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS. -

(a) Aerodromes. -

The decrease in aerodrome accommodation which was so marked during the last period has continued, though not on such a large scale. Four aerodromes and the southern portion of a fifth are shown to be abandoned. Of these, three are in the Southern Group, and one in the Northern. There has been a decrease in hangars in 5 aerodromes, but in each case the change is merely of one or two hangars. Two aerodromes show a very slight increase in accommodation. No new aerodromes have been discovered.

Northern Group. -

Decrease. - NURLU abandoned.

Forward Group. -

Decrease of one hangar.

Central Group. -

No change.

(1)

Southern/

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Southern Group. -
Decrease. - CREMERY, BERSAUCOURT, COLLEZY, and southern portion of VILLESSELVE abandoned.

(b) Hospitals. -

Three hospitals, new since the beginning of June, have been discovered, namely at GRUNY, north of BIACHES, and south of TRONES Wood sidings. There is also a hospital south-west of GR.VILLERS which may be new. No previous photograph exists. On the other hand three hospitals have been abandoned :- ROSIERES, DESTREMONT Farm, and north of LE TRANSLOY.

The hospital reported by ground observers at MONTAUBAN has been confirmed by prisoners, and is a C.G.S. It is situated between LALETZ and MONTAUBAN.

(c) Railways. -

Little work has been done on railway construction during the past week. The only new line reported is the loop in course of construction at the FONCHETTE sidings and new work on the light railways running east from CAPPY. The line just south of ECLUSIER QUARRY is double.

The light railway from MONAGU along the road towards FEUILLERES is now shown to turn west from this road and to run along the northern bank of the canal.

(d) Stations and Dumps. -

The enemy has been gradually adding to the amount of his ammunition and supplies, but the activity has been much less marked than it was during the first half of June.

Only one new dump has been reported - 9 ammunition magazines at the sidings in BERNAFAY Wood.

GINCHY sidings & ROISEL show an increase in the number of their magazines, while work is going on at the extreme south of ammunition dumps at HATTENCOURT and at ORIECOURT. North of the South Dump of BRAY preparations for about 17 magazines are being made. There has been a slight increase in material at FREMICOURT, north of the road. LE BUCQUIERE Station and Dump has been reported very active.

Prisoners state that a considerable amount of ammunition has been dumped along both sides of the ALBERT - BAPAUME road between LE BARQUE and LE SARS. Though photographs bear this out but slightly, this locality should be carefully watched.

(e) Roads and Bridges. -

From prisoners' statements it seems clear that the main LALETZ - FREMICOURT road is in good condition, and roads as far back as FREMICOURT and MONTAUBAN are well drained and maintained. In the advanced areas roads are repaired after shell-fire, but it is not thought that they are fit for heavy traffic, and it is believed that H.T. rather than M.T. are used on these forward communications.

(f) Billets and Activity. -

The information that two Battalions rest at MONTAUBAN and its vicinity has been again confirmed. According to prisoners' /

(-)

P.T.O

dmz

prisoners' statements there is a battalion also in the railway cutting in W.22.d., W.28.b. and another in the valley in M.22.o. and X.26.b. These statements are confirmed by photographs, which show activity at these places.

Photographs show limbers and G.S. waggons parked in the valley north-west of MONTAUBAN. The camp north of BRAY is shown to be very active.

10. GENERAL. -

The attitude of the enemy has remained generally passive. His raids were easily driven off, and a post captured by him was speedily recaptured.

The number of divisions in the line shows no change. The number of divisions in reserve has, as anticipated in last week's Summary, again been reduced, one division being identified on the AISNE battle front while another has relieved a fresh division in the WOEUVRE. The total number of divisions in reserve in the Second German Army is, as far as known, 5, in place of 7. From information obtained it is extremely probable that the number of Corps in the Second German Army has been reduced from 4 to 3, as the XIII Corps Staff has been identified in the AISNE battle.

Work in back areas calls for no comment, beyond the fact that the decrease in aerodrome accommodation has continued, but not to so great an extent as during last week. The enemy, with regard to the air service, is undoubtedly strengthening the SOISSONS - RHEIMS front at the expense of this front.

Work on hostile trenches continues apace.

With regard to the enemy's intentions, prisoners know of no German offensive contemplated on this front.

From the foregoing it is considered that no aggressive attitude on the part of the enemy need be anticipated at present.

With regard to other parts of the line, 67 German divisions have now been absorbed in the SOISSONS - RHEIMS - TAHURE front. At present the Crown Prince has only 5 fit divisions at his disposal, and divisions in quiet parts of the line in his own Group of Armies as well as that of von GALLWITZ have been milked to provide these.

Prince RUPPRECHT has also, during the last week, been called upon to furnish two divisions. It is apparent, however, that every endeavour is being made to leave Prince Rupprecht's Group of Armies intact. The anticipated attack in the YPRES salient has nevertheless not yet taken place, and has probably been postponed on account of the Allied successes further south.

V. Vivian

Fourth Army, I.
July 27th, 1918.

General Staff, Fourth Army.
Lieut.-Colonel,

(E)

		<u>DISTRIBUTION:-</u>			
G.H.Q.I. ...	2.	A.D.C. ...	1	S.O.S. School ...	1
Third Army, I...	2	M.C., G.S..	1	First Army, I ...	1
Corps, I ...	3	Operations.	1	Second Army, I...	1
Dive. (incl. Amer)	2	G.O.C., R.A.	1	Fifth Army, I...	1
5th Bde., R.A.F.	3	D.A. & Q.M.G.	1	B.I.O., 22nd Wing	1
Capt. RENONDEAU	3	Inf. School	1	R.C.E., No.4	1

27th July, 1918.

d173

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 27th July, 1918.

1. During the night the Australian Corps raided the cemetery and a post West of SAILLY LAURETTE. The cemetery was found unoccupied and the garrison of the post fled. No identification was obtained. One prisoner was captured West of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT.
 In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery was slightly above normal. In the ANCRE Valley artillery was active during the night.
 Our artillery counter-battery work was hindered by poor visibility. The usual harassing fire was carried out during the night and targets of opportunity were engaged during the day. We successfully projected gas into DERNANCOURT.

2. III CORPS.

 The situation was quiet. A few gas shells were fired on the area S.E. of SENLIS in the early morning, and our trenches South of the AMIENS-ALBERT Road were persistently shelled during the afternoon mostly by trench mortars.

 AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

 The 3rd Australian Division raided the cemetery in J.36.c. but found it unoccupied. A post at J.36.c. 96.38 was then rushed but the garrison fled. No identification was secured. 200 gas cylinders were successfully projected into enemy defences at E.20.central.
 Enemy artillery was normal. BUIRE, CORBIE, AUBIGNY, VILLERS BRETONNEUX and vicinity were lightly shelled.

3. THIRD ARMY.

 Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

 The enemy lines East of CANTIGNY were raided and 12 prisoners captured.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

 Low clouds and rain made aerial work almost impossible. 70 hours were flown by 60 pilots. One reconnaissance and 8 artillery patrols were carried out. Four zone calls were sent down and two hostile batteries successfully engaged for destruction.
 23 offensive patrols were up but no enemy aircraft were seen.
 The weather precluded night bombing. By day 88 25-lb. bombs were dropped on ALBERT, MORLANCOURT and various other targets.

/ (a) Hostile.

27th July, 1918.

2.

(b) Hostile.

No enemy planes were seen.

d 174

6. PRISONERS.

One O.R. was captured.

7. WEATHER.

Low clouds and rain.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	2.
" S.	..	2.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	213.
" S.	..	286.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	4210.
" S.	..	4609.
" Smoke.	..	54.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	2187.
" Smoke.	..	15.
" Gas.	..	1089.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	594.
" S.	..	719.
6" How.	..	4055.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	154.
" S.	..	179.
8" How.	..	819.
9.2" How.	..	308.

27th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

dir 5

-
- 1.18 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
48 25-lb. bombs. By night nil.
- 5.40 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Gas shelling nil. Captures nil.
- 6.18 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Party of our men raided cemetery J.36.c.9.5, found it unoccupied so rushed post at J.36.c.96.38. 30 of the enemy fled and casualties believed inflicted but no identification secured. Our casualties one man slightly wounded. Hostile artillery active during night on Left Divisional front but now quiet. 200 gas cylinders successfully projected into enemy's defences E.20.central. One prisoner 152nd I.R., 41st Division, captured in P.27.central.
- 6.57 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Hostile artillery active during night on forward area between ANCRE and SOMME. Australians raided cemetery West of SAILLY LAURETTE, found it unoccupied so rushed another post. Enemy fled. No identification secured. 200 gas cylinders projected into DERNANCOURT. One prisoner 152nd I.R. captured West of WARFUSEE. Few gas shells North of MILLENCOURT.
- 5.25 p.m. From III Corps.
Situation very quiet. Nothing to report. Captures and gas nil.
- 5.42 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas. Captures two O.Rs. one machine gun. E.A. inactive.
- 6.17 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Quiet day. Scattered shelling of forward area of Right Corps. Captures 2 O.R. and 1 machine gun.
-

27th July, 1918.

d176

34

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY ON FOURTH ARMY FRONT
FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27th, 1918.

During the past week there have only been two instances of enemy gas shelling which call for special attention - one of some 10,000^{rounds} of yellow cross on VILLERS BRETONNEUX on night of 22nd/23rd and another of only about 100 rounds of the same type on SQUARE TRENCH on the AMIENS - ALBERT Road about 1½ miles S.W. of ALBERT on night 24/25th.

The former resulted in 600 casualties, the latter in over 100 casualties.

A marked feature of the bombardment of VILLERS BRETONNEUX was the blistering of men who did not otherwise suffer to any ~~great~~ extent from the effects of the gas. Several men died from this without their lungs being affected in the slightest degree.

Casualties for week :- 26 officers.
787 other ranks.
Deaths :- 10 other ranks.

Table and map are attached.

ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 9 a.m. JULY 27th, 1918.

Date. 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Formation.	Time of bombardment.	No. of rounds.	Nature of shell.	Map location.
July 20th/21st.	2nd Aust. Div.	4.30 a.m.	80	Yellow cross.	O.24.a. N. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
July 21st/22nd.	-do-	12.5 a.m.	20	Green cross & H.E.	J.11. E. MERICOURT.
	3rd Aust. Div.	12.0 m.n.	20	Blue cross.	O.17. N. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	-do-	10.30 p.m.	20	Blue & green cross.	O.12.b. S.E. HAMELET.
	-do-	3.30 a.m.	20	-do-	O.12.b. -do-
	5th Aust. Div.	3.5 a.m.	10	Green cross.	E.19.c. W. DERNANCOURT.
	-do-	3.10 a.m.	7	-do-	K.7.c. S.W. MORLANCOURT.
July 22nd/23rd.	2nd Aust. Div.	11.15 p.m.	15	Blue cross.	J.32. VAIRE.
	-do-	10 pm. - 3 am.	6/10000	Yellow cross.	O.23,24,28,29,30,34,35. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	3rd Aust. Div.	3.0 a.m.	40	-do-	O.5. CORBIE.
	-do-	12 m.n. - 2 a.m.	Light	-do-	O.23,28,34. N. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	-do-	12 m.n. - 4 a.m.	90	-do-	O.24.a. -do-
	-do-	-do-	Cloud	-do-	Over Rt. Bde. area from direction of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	5th Aust. Div.	9.45 p.m.	16	Blue & yellow cross.	J.5.b. E. TREUX.
	-do-	10.20 p.m.	15	-do-	J.5 & J.11. -do-
	-do-	4.30 a.m.	12	Yellow cross.	K.2.a. N.E. MORLANCOURT.
July 23rd/24th.	2nd Aust. Div.	3.15 a.m.	Few	Green cross & H.E.	P.20.d. S. BOIS de VAIRE.
	-do-	3.50 a.m.	3	?	O.29.d. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
July 24/25th.	58th Division.	8.30 - 10 p.m.	100	Yellow cross.	SHRINE, DEMON, SQUARE TRENCHES, S.W. of ALBERT.
	2nd Aust. Div.	11.10 - 11.25 p.m.	50	Unidentified.	O.34, 35. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	5th Aust. Div.	2.5 a.m.	7	Blue cross & H.E.	E.26.c. S. VILLE.
	-do-	2.30 a.m.	15	-do-	K.2.a. N.W. MORLANCOURT.
July 25/26th.	47th Division.	2.10 a.m.	30	Blue cross.	D.12.d. S.E. MILLENCOURT.
	-do-	2.12 a.m.	10	Yellow cross.	D.5.d. -do-
	58th Division.	-	40	Yellow & blue cross.	D.24.b. N.E. BUIRE.
	-do-	-	20	-do-	D.24.a. -do-
	-do-	-	40	-do-	D.23.b. -do-
	-do-	-	50	-do-	D.13.b. -do-
July 26/27th.	5th Aust. Div.	2.0 - 3.30 am.	Few	Blue cross.	- TREUX & VILLE-sur-ANGRE.
	2nd Aust. Div.	10.30 - 10.45 pm.	30	Unidentified.	P.31.a. E. VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
	3rd Aust. Div.	10.25 p.m.	25	Green cross.	J.19.c. S.W. MERICOURT.

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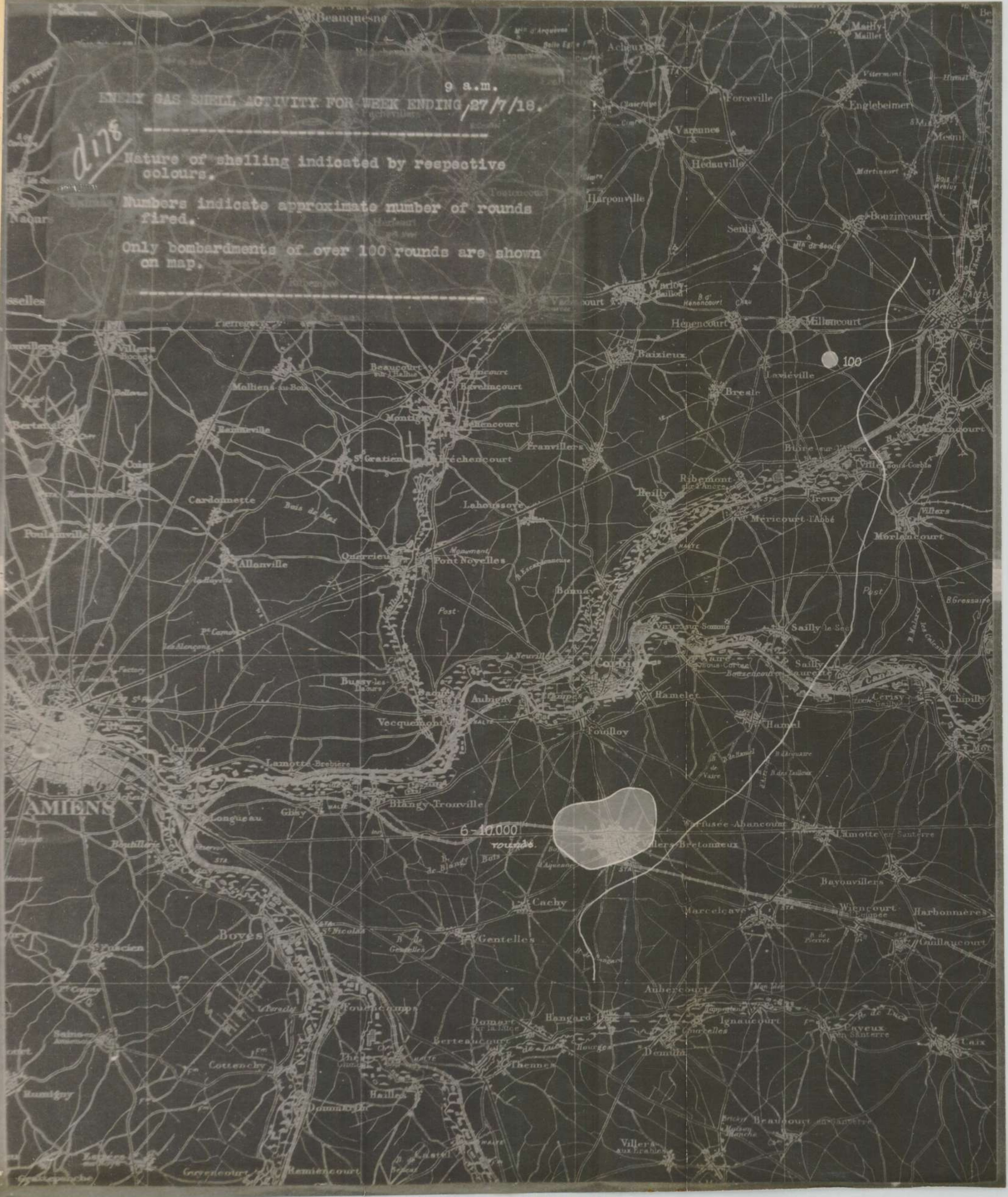
9 a.m.
ENEMY GAS SHELL ACTIVITY FOR WEEK ENDING 27/7/18.

d.178

Nature of shelling indicated by respective colours.

Numbers indicate approximate number of rounds fired.

Only bombardments of over 100 rounds are shown on map.



28th July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 28th July, 1918.

d179

1. Unfavourable weather prevented much co-operation between the Artillery and R.A.F. During the day concentrations were carried out on buildings in ALBERT and on mechanical transport East of AVELUY. By night gas concentrations were directed on various targets opposite the Southern Corps front, and the usual harassing fire was carried out on enemy communications and centres of movement. In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery was active on forward areas astride the AMIENS-ALBERT Road and on the areas near MILLENCOURT, SENLIS and BOUZINCOURT. South of the SOMME hostile artillery was moderately active on the trench system West of MORLANCOURT. Battery areas West of HEILLY, N.W. of BOIS l'ABBE and North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX were harassed.

2. III CORPS.

Quiet day. Hostile artillery active in the morning on SENLIS area, and during the early part of the evening a few gas shells fell in forward areas.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A quiet day. Hostile artillery shelled forward areas intermittently throughout the day. Hostile aircraft dropped a few bombs in the vicinity of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, BOIS l'ABBE and HAMEL.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

Weather was again unfavourable. 232 hours were flown by 144 pilots. Four reconnaissances and nine artillery patrols were carried out. Two zone calls were sent down, and six photographic flights secured 82 plates.

80 offensive patrols were up. Eight air combats took place, two of which were decisive, two E.A. being destroyed. None of our machines are missing.

By day twelve 112-lb. and 164 25-lb. bombs were dropped on various targets including LAMOTTE and OMIECOURT dump.

Night flying was impossible.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was below normal. 46 E.A. were seen of which two artillery and 10 F.E.A. crossed the line. 75% of the activity was before 8 a.m. and was evenly distributed along the Army front.

/ 6. PRISONERS.

28th July, 1918.

2.

6. PRISONERS.

Nil.

d180

7. WEATHER.

Clouds and rain with some fine intervals.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd
American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian
Divisions.

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	287.
" S.	..	140.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	200.
" S.	..	299.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	3262.
" S.	..	4976.
" Smoke.	..	42.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	1789.
" Gas.	..	926.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	883.
" S.	..	1048.
6" How. H.E.	..	5207.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	114.
" S.	..	240.
8" How.	..	728.
9.2" How.	..	336.
12" How.	..	5.

28th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- dit*
- 3.14 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Eight 25-lb. bombs dropped. No night flying.
- 5.30 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet on all Corps front. Few gas shells about W.19.c. & d. E.A. dropped four bombs near DAILY MAIL WOOD between 12.55 a.m. and 1 a.m.
- 6.5 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. 190 gas projectors successfully discharged on enemy positions East of BOIS d'ACCROCHE, and 186 projectors just North of MORLANCOURT. Enemy aircraft active between 1 and 3 a.m. Bombs dropped in vicinity VILLERS BRETONNEUX, BOIS l'ABBE and HAMEL. Intermittent shelling of Right Division front.
- 6.45 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Situation quiet on Army front. 190 projectors discharged on enemy positions East of BOIS d'ACCROCHE and 186 on MORLANCOURT.
- 5.50 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Hostile artillery was active this morning about V.16. Otherwise artillery and aerial activity below normal. Captures nil.
- 6 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas. Captures nil.
- 6.20 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Quiet. Hostile artillery active in morning South of SENLIS. Light scattered shelling forward areas South of ANCRE. Captures nil.

28th July, 1918.

37

Fourth Army.

O.A. 122.

dis

The Field-Marshal, Commanding-in-Chief has pleasure in forwarding to you, for the information of the units concerned, the attached copy of a letter received by him from General Debeney, Commanding the First French Army. The Commander-in-Chief desires at the same time to express his personal appreciation of the gallant services referred to therein.

(sd) H.A. LAURENCE,
Lieut.-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

G. H. Q.
28th July, 1918.

1re Armée

Etat-Major.

3^o Bureau.

No. 2740/3.

d 183

Le Général de Division Debenev
Commandant la 1re Armée

à M. le Maréchal Sir D. Haig, G.D.B., G.C.V.O.,
K.C.I.E., etc.
Commandant en Chef l'Armée Britannique.

Monsieur le Maréchal,

Il m'est particulièrement agréable, en vous remerciant d'avoir bien voulu mettre à ma disposition pour l'opération de SAUVILLERS - MAILLY l'artillerie de la 12^o D.I.W. et un bataillon de chars, de vous faire part de l'aide puissante que ces belle unités ont apportée aux troupes de la 1ère Armée.

Les chars, précédant l'infanterie française, lui ont ouvert la voie dans un terrain parsemé de mitrailleuses. Malgré les canons allemands tirant sur eux à vue directe et de très près ils ont rempli leur mission jusqu'au bout.

Je suis heureux de joindre mon témoignage d'admiration à celui des officiers et des soldats de la 3^o Division et vous demande de vouloir bien agréer l'assurance de mon respectueux dévouement.

S.C. No. 9276.

(sgd) Debenev.

29th July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 29th July, 1918.

d184

1. During the night the Australian Corps carried out a minor operation between MORLANCOURT and SAILLY LAURETTE on a frontage of 4,000 yards, and advanced their line to an average depth of 500 yards. Our Field Artillery and trench mortars supported the operation with a very successful creeping barrage. Our Heavy Artillery bombarded selected targets in the rear and neutralized the hostile batteries.

In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery was more active than usual. The triangle, MILLENCOURT - BOUZINCOURT - SENLIS, was persistently shelled, and the ALBERT-AMIENS Road in the forward area received the usual attention.

South of the SOMME the enemy retaliation to the operation of the Australian Corps was very weak. During the morning the new line was fairly heavily shelled, otherwise hostile artillery was normal.

2. III CORPS.

A quiet day. There was some scattered shelling in the vicinity of MARETT WOOD and astride the AMIENS-ALBERT Road.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

The 5th Australian Division carried out a very successful ^{minor} operation South of MORLANCOURT early in the morning on a frontage of 4,000 yards and advanced their line approximately 500 yards. As a result of the operation 3 officers, 135 O.Rs., 36 machine guns and 2 minenwerfers were captured.

At 12.30 a.m. the barrage opened on the Northern Sector and three minutes later two battalions of the 8th Brigade advanced. Very little opposition was encountered except astride the BRAY-CORBIE Road. At 1.25 a.m. the barrage opened on the right and one battalion of the 14th Brigade went over. All objectives were gained very quickly. It is estimated that at least 250 of the enemy were killed during the operation. Our casualties were light.

The line was consolidated as follows :- K.7.d.10.90 99.05; K.14.a.20.45, 49.10; K.14.c.50.30; K.20.a.78.78, 80.63, 78.32; K.20.c.70.80; 15.00; K.26.a.00.60; K.25.b.88.00; K.25.d.45.00.

The enemy made a few local attempts to regain the trenches captured but in no case were they successful.

Hostile retaliation was very light.

On the remainder of the front hostile shelling was light and scattered.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Nothing unusual to report.

/ 5. AIRCRAFT.

29th July, 1918.

2.

d185

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

Thick ground haze made aircraft work difficult, especially with artillery.

161 hours were flown by 135 pilots. Two reconnaissances and 17 artillery patrols were carried out. Two zone calls were sent down and two photographic flights secured 18 plates.

44 offensive patrols were up and four combats in the air took place, three of which were decisive, three E.A. being destroyed. None of our machines is missing.

By night three 112-lb. and 85 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on BRAY and hostile batteries East of MORLANCOURT.

By day 155 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on various targets and 3,510 machine gun rounds were fired on favourable ground targets.

(b) Hostile.

Hostile aircraft activity was below normal.

6. PRISONERS.

Three officers and 135 O.Rs. were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine with thick ground haze.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

No reliefs or moves of importance took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

47th, 58th, 3rd Cavalry (G.H.Q. Reserve), 33rd American (Army Reserve) Divisions.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

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

12th and 18th Divisions.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. AA. HE.	13.	60-pdr. HE.	2468.
13-pdr. RHA. HE.	202.	" S.	1977.
" S.	286.	" Gas.	220.
18-pdr. H.E.	12745.	6" How. H.E.	5188.
" S.	20725.	" Gas.	4908.
" Smoke.	32.	6" Mk.VII. HE.	429.
4.5" How. HE.	6590.	" S.	403.
" Smoke.	51.	8" How.	1762.
" Gas.	266.	9.2" How.	988.

29th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

- Dist*
- 1 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Success signal reported on the left of 9th Brigade attack at 12.50 a.m.
- 3.20 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Two E.A. crashed. 46 25-lb. bombs on LAMOTTE, 12 112-lb. and 54 25-lb. bombs on OMIECOURT dump, 64 25-lb. bombs on various targets. By night: 1 112-lb., 60 25-lb. bombs dropped S.E. of MORLANCOURT.
- 3.25 a.m. From Australian Corps.
5th Australian Division report all objectives taken. Normal identifications.
- 5.26 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet and unchanged on all Corps front. Few gas shells fell in W.21.a. (S.E. BOUZINCOURT) at 9 p.m. and in W.20 at 12 m.n.
- 6.12 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. At 12.30 a.m. our Left Division attacked and captured enemy's two front lines between MORLANCOURT and SAILLY LAURETTE on a frontage of 4000 yards. Our line now advanced an average depth of 500 yards. Captures to 4 a.m. 2 officers, 90 O.R., 5 machine guns. Prisoners and machine guns still coming in. Many enemy killed by infantry and artillery fire. Enemy retaliation feeble. Enemy state attack absolute surprise. Consolidation proceeding rapidly. Our casualties very slight. Light scattered shelling on forward area rest of front with light barrage on left of Centre Division during operations. Identifications normal.
- 6.50 a.m. To G.H.Q.
12.30 a.m. Left Division, Australian Corps, attacked and captured two lines enemy trench astride BRAY-CORBIE Road between MORLANCOURT and SAILLY LAURETTE: frontage 4000x depth 500x AAA Captures to 4 a.m. 2 officers, 90 O.R., 5 machine guns. Many casualties inflicted on enemy. Hostile retaliation feeble, our casualties light. Identifications normal. Light scattered shelling rest Australian Corps front during night. North of ANCRE quiet night. Few gas shell S.E. BOUZINCOURT.
- 12.20 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Enemy made three small counter-attacks against left battalion, left brigade shortly after dawn this morning. Easily repulsed and very few of enemy escaped. Estimate of enemy dead in this/sector 200.
brigade
- 5.30 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Some light intermittent shelling about J.6.c. and J.12.a. Otherwise situation quiet, and aerial activity normal. E.A. fell about V.18. about 4.45 a.m.
central

/ cont'd.

29th July, 1918.

cont'd.

5.45 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F. d.187
Three E.A. crashed. 38 25-lb. bombs on
various targets.

6.20 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Progress made with consoli-
dation of new ground won last night. Enemy made three
small counter-attacks against our new position shortly
after dawn this morning but these were easily repulsed.
Officer prisoner states fighting was very severe and
Germans had great number of casualties. Light shelling
of Left Division sector during day but enemy artillery
generally inactive. Total captures: 4 officers, 139
O.R., 36 machine guns, several minenwerfer.

6.45 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Situation quiet on III Corps front. Australian
Corps report progress made with consolidation of ground
won last night. Three small enemy counter-attacks easily
repulsed at dawn. Total captures 4 officers, 139 O.R.,
36 machine guns, several minenwerfers. Officer prisoner
states enemy suffered heavy casualties. Three E.A.
crashed.

30th July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 30th July, 1918. *disc*

1. Early in the morning one of our patrols attacked a hostile post N.W. of MORLANCOURT, inflicting casualties on the garrison. In the evening two prisoners were captured South of SAILLY LAURETTE.

In the ALBERT Sector hostile artillery was again more than usually active. Forward areas West of ALBERT were fairly heavily shelled with H.E. and gas in the early morning. During the day LAVIEVILLE, BRESLE and vicinity of AMIENS-ALBERT Road South of BRESLE were shelled.

South of the SOMME a considerable number of gas shells were fired in the vicinity of BUIRE and S.W. of HAMEL.

2. III CORPS.

The situation was generally quiet. Hostile artillery was more active than usual in forward areas. There was some gas shelling in the vicinity of HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Two prisoners of the 202nd R.L.B. 43rd Reserve Division, were captured in a patrol encounter South of SAILLY LAURETTE. CORBIE was shelled with 100 rounds of blue cross gas shell and the area N.E. of VAUX received a mixture of H.E. and yellow cross gas.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Six prisoners were captured in a successful raid by the 2nd Division at AYETTE.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Quiet day.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

The weather was again unfavourable for artillery co-operation.

302 hours were flown by 169 pilots. Three reconnaissances and 16 artillery patrols were carried out.

13 photographic flights secured 143 plates.

66 offensive patrols were up. Ten air combats took place of which six were decisive. Three E.A. were destroyed and three were driven down out of control. None of our machines is missing.

Ground fog rendered night flying very difficult. In spite of this, however, three 112-lb. and 66 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on BRAY and various targets.

By day fourteen 112-lb. and 256 twenty-five lb. bombs were dropped on FROISSY and LA FLAQUE dumps and other targets. 2,520 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

/(b)

30th July, 1918.

2.

(b) Hostile.

disg

Hostile aerial activity was again below normal. Nine E.A. were seen, of which three F.E.A. crossed the line.

6. PRISONERS.

Two prisoners were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine, with clouds and heavy mist.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

IX Corps H.Q. moved from MOLLIENS VIDAME to HUPPY.

Canadian Corps H.Q. moved to MOLLIENS VIDAME and came under Fourth Army.

2nd Canadian Division arrived in CAVILLON area with H.Q. at FOURDRINOY.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

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

Canadian Corps.

2nd Canadian Division.

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	10.
" " S.	..	18.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	224.
" " S.	..	239.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	5388.
" " S.	..	7369.
" " Smoke.	..	35.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	1078.
" " Gas.	..	7638.
60-pdr. H.E.	..	1379.
" " S.	..	2571.
6" How. H.E.	..	4474.
" " Gas.	..	4257.
6" Mk. VII. H.E.	..	155.
" " S.	..	243.
8" How.	..	723.
9.2" How.	..	617.
12" How.	..	32.

30th July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued. *diag*

- 1.29 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: 30 25-lb. bombs on K.33.a. & c, 86
25-lb. bombs various targets. By night: four 25-lb.
and two 112-lb. bombs on BRAY.
- 5.51 a.m. From III Corps.
Hostile artillery more active than usual in
forward areas. Occasional gas shells fired at D.23,
D.23.c., D.4.c. and D.5.d.
- 6.5 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Situation quiet. Enemy
artillery shelled P.1.a. with 100 rounds blue cross gas
and vicinity J.21.central with H.E. and yellow cross.
Prisoners captured in P.12.a., identification 202nd R.I.R.
- 5.30 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Hostile artillery slightly
more active on left sector but situation generally quiet.
Some gas shells fell in LAVIEVILLE during morning and few
H.E. in vicinity of MILLENCOURT. Captures nil.
- 6.1 p.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light
shelling of forward areas. Light gas shelling South of
MARETT WOOD. E.A. inactive. Prisoners two O.R.
- 6.30 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Evening report. Three E.A. crashed, two out of
control. 14 112-lb. on FROISSY dump, 38 25-lb. on
various targets.
- 6.35 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Situation generally quiet. Some hostile
artillery activity on Left Corps forward areas.
- 6.45 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Hostile artillery slight on Right Corps forward
areas and active West of ALBERT. Otherwise quiet day.
Three E.A. crashed; two out of control. Captures two
O.R.
-

31st July, 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, 31st July, 1918.

d191

1. The situation remains unchanged. Ground haze prevented effective co-operation with the R.A.F. Harassing fire was carried out on enemy routes of approach and centres of activity. Some targets of opportunity were observed and engaged.

North of the SOMME hostile artillery was less active than on the previous day. Scattered fire was directed against the forward areas between the ANCRE and the SOMME. Harassing fire on forward areas during the night was slightly more noticeable. The area S.E. of MERICOURT received 300 rounds of blue cross gas.

South of the SOMME activity was normal. About 300 blue and yellow cross gas shells were fired into the area North of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Scattered shelling of front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and HAMEL took place during the morning. Long range guns fired on LA NEUVILLE and DAOURS.

2. III CORPS.

Quiet day. Trenches N.W. of DERNANCOURT and forward area astride AMIENS-ALBERT Road heavily shelled in the morning. Enemy trench mortars active on trenches West of ALBERT.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Situation quiet. Some gas shelling of area between HAMEL and BOIS de VAIRE, and some scattered shelling of forward areas.

3. THIRD ARMY.

Situation quiet and unchanged.

4. FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

Enemy raid North of MONTDIDIER repulsed, otherwise nothing to report.

5. AIRCRAFT. (a) British.

The heavy mist again interfered with successful flying.

Three reconnaissances and 15 artillery patrols were carried out. During the latter 7 zone calls were sent down. Eight photographic flights secured 156 plates.

51 offensive patrols were up and three combats in the air (two decisive) took place. Two E.A. were destroyed.

During the night three 112-lb. and 66 25-lb. bombs were dropped on LA BOISELLE, FROISSY, BRAY and other targets.

By day 352 25-lb. bombs were dropped BOIS de TAILLES, hutments at LAMOTTE and South of MERICOURT, RAINECOURT and other targets.

cont'd.

31st July, 1918.

2.

5,200 machine gun rounds were fired at favourable ground targets.

(b) Enemy.

Hostile aircraft activity was again slight. 22 aeroplanes were seen, of which one artillery and three F.E.A. crossed the line.

One long distance reconnaissance flight at a height of 19,000 feet was carried out over PIERREGOT - RAINEVILLE - COISY at 1.17 p.m.

6. PRISONERS.

Two O.R. were captured.

7. WEATHER.

Fine but very misty.

8. RELIEFS AND MOVES.

3rd Canadian Division arrived in Fourth Army area and were billeted in HORNOY area.

The relief of 5th Australian Division by 18th Division, and the extension of the Australian Corps boundary to the South, took place.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOURTH ARMY.

III Corps.

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

Australian Corps.

2nd, 3rd, 4th (Corps Reserve) and 5th Australian Divisions.

Canadian Corps.

2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions**.

IX Corps H.Q.

** G.H.Q. Reserve.

10. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE.

13-pdr. A.A. H.E.	..	23.	60-pdr. H.E.	..	1580.
" S.	..	7.	" S.	..	697.
13-pdr. R.H.A. H.E.	..	215.	6" How. H.E.	..	4414.
" S.	..	262.	" Gas.	..	284.
18-pdr. H.E.	..	4138.	6" Mk. VII H.E.	..	142.
" S.	..	5901.	" S.	..	175.
" Smoke.	..	5.	8" How.	..	1063.
4.5" How. H.E.	..	1782.	9.2" How.	..	570.
" Gas.	..	689.			

H.Q., Fourth Army,
August, 1918.

Almont
Major-General,
General Staff, Fourth Army.

31st July, 1918.

Operation Messages Received and Issued.

d193

- 2.38 a.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
By day: one E.A. out of control. 12 25-lb. bombs on FROISSY dump, 57 25-lb. bombs on dump Q.19, 58 25-lb. bombs on various targets. By night: three 112-lb. bombs and 66 25-lb. bombs on various targets.
- 5.35 a.m. From III Corps.
Morning report. Enemy trench mortars reported slightly more active against our lines in W.26 and W.21.c. Otherwise quiet night. Little activity of any kind.
- 6.10 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Morning report. Enemy artillery more active than usual during night. Good deal of gas shelling on reserve area of Left Division and valley in P.9. and 14.
- 6.40 a.m. To G.H.Q.
Enemy artillery more active than usual during night on Right Corps front. Considerable gas shelling of vicinity of BUIRE and S.W. of HAMEL. Enemy trench mortars active on lines West of ALBERT. One E.A. crashed.
- 5.50 a.m. From Australian Corps.
Evening report. Situation quiet. Light scattered shelling of forward areas. E.A. inactive. Captures two O.R.
- 5.40 p.m. From III Corps.
Evening report. Trenches in D.18.d. and E.13.c. heavily shelled between 9 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. with 5.9 and 4.2. Artillery also active on trenches South of AMIENS - ALBERT Road between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Left Sector quiet except for few shells in V.24.d. and W.25.c. and few trench mortar bombs in W.26. Captures nil.
- 6.7 p.m. From 5th Brigade R.A.F.
Two E.A. crashed. 102 25-lb. bombs various targets.
- 6.20 p.m. To G.H.Q.
Trenches N.W. DERNANCOURT heavily shelled with 5.9 and 4.2 during morning. Light shelling N.E. MILLENCOURT otherwise quiet. Captures two O.R.
