

AWM4

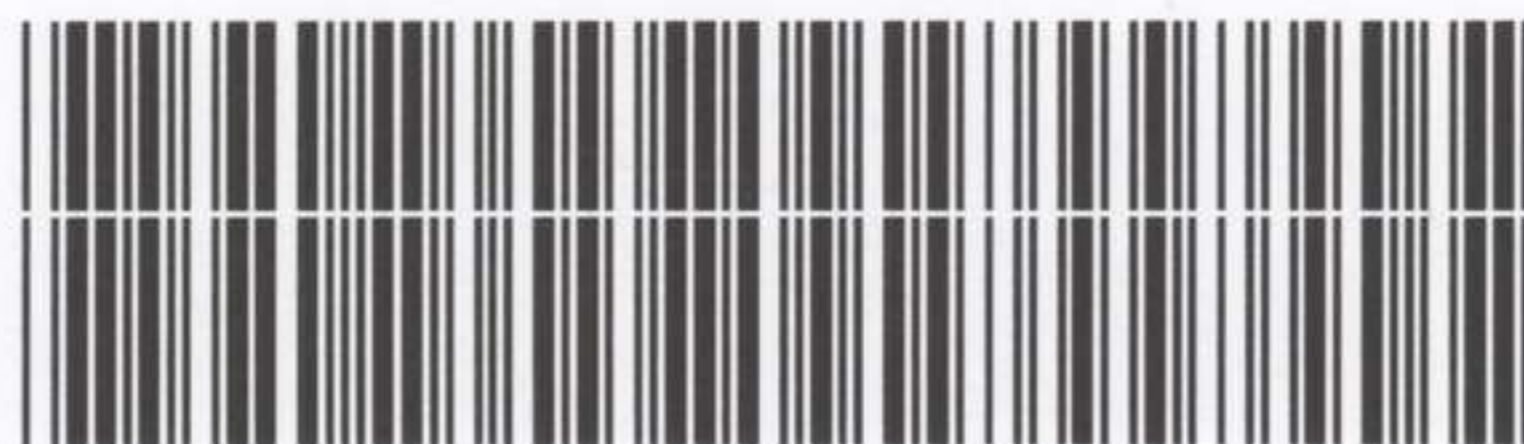
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/8/5

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Company

July 1916



AWM4-24/8/5

3rd Div
July 1916

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Vol 4

681

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Fleurbaix	1-2 nd July 1916		<p>Reference Sketch N^o 1, attached. The 9th Bn. were to raid the enemy's trenches from N. q. c. 7 1/2. 1. to N. q. d. 2 1/2. 1. (reference Trench map area L) on a front of about 150 yds. This Co. was asked to co-operate. Sketch N^o 1 shows the disposition of the guns. Two were in the front line in specially prepared positions to fire on the enemy front line on either side of the point attacked. Four guns were behind, carrying out indirect fire, at ranges varying from 2000 to 2600 yds. Since the right flank, where the enemy had a salient was expected to cause most casualties to the raiding party, it was barraged by the indirect fire of N^o 1 and 2 guns - One gun on enemy's parapet and one gun 100 yds. in rear. N^o 3 gun was to put up a barrage 300 yds. in rear of the objective and N^o 4 fired 200 yds in rear of the enemy parapet on the immediate left of the objective. 6 guns were thus employed, and the idea was that our Infantry would have a lane through which to effect their purpose. The indirect fire guns were connected by phone to the O/c Raid, and on receiving the pre-arranged code word that the raiding party had commenced to form up in No Man's Land I ordered N^o 1 and 3 guns to open up, and steadily traverse their targets. This fire covered the noise of the advance. It commenced at 0045 and continued until 0150 when our Artillery opened up. On the Artillery opening, the 4 indirect fire guns and the 2 Direct Fire guns, opened a rapid fire on their targets, which was kept up until about 1440 when the word "Satisfactory" was received. 20,000 rds were used.</p>	See Sketch N ^o 1 attached

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

Raid most successful. 24 prisoners taken and 1 U.S. Our fire reported as most effective.

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Near Fleurbaix	2 nd - 3 rd July 1916		<p>Reference Sketch N^o 2 attached, and Trench Area Map L. 1/10000.</p> <p>The 11th Bn. were to raid "The Tadpole" on a front of about 100 yds. This Co. had 2 guns in the front line (XI and XII) which were to bring Direct Fire to bear on enemy's parapet on either flank of the objective, and 4 guns in rear employing Indirect fire as follows: - N^o 1 gun on the large communication trench in rear of the objective; N^o 2 guns barraging 150^x in rear of right flank of objective; N^o 3 gun barraging 300^x in rear of objective and N^o 4 gun barraging 100^x in rear of left flank. All 6 guns opened with the Artillery and fired on their respective targets from 0030 to 0115 (3/4 hr). Raid accomplished its object. Our fire was reported by O/C Raid as most effective. 17500 rds were used, and guns stood the strain well, though the Vickers guns heat nearly twice as quickly as the Maxim. No casualties to this unit, although one of the front line guns had a direct hit from a 77 mm. gun on its emplacement.</p>	
Tron Bayard	3 rd July.		<p>All guns returned to Tron Bayard. During the fore noon men were allowed to rest. During the afternoon guns were cleaned, belts re-filled and gear overhauled. In the evening part of the Co. moved to Outepsteene. Remainder move tomorrow (4th) morning.</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Sailly (Am Bayard)	4/7/16		Remainder of the Coy who were on last night's Incident fire moved off for <u>Outrosteene</u> at 1300. The 9 miles was done in good time & the men lasted well. The billets are Canadian huts & on top of their cleanliness, were very satisfactory.	BW
	5/7/16		General overhaul of all gun gear. 12 guns sent to Ordnance to have Crank Handle Check lever plates restrengthened. This is apparently a weakness in the guns.	BW
	6/7/16		4 mile route march in the forenoon. Rained heavily during the afternoon.	BW
	7/7/16		Whole of the Coy (by independent sections) marched to Dis. baths where every man changed his underclothes & had a bath. Cleaning & stripping guns.	BW
	8/7/16		Sections moved out independently at 09.00 & marched to <u>Strayelle</u> returning for lunch. After lunch the Coy Cricket team played & beat the 9th Bn. "A" Coy.	BW
	9/7/16		The 1st Bge M.C.C. came along to relieve at noon & the Coy. moved out to <u>Hebe</u> (3 miles) an hour later. This billet has several fine barns for the men, & also an ideal paddock for the transport.	BW

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Flesee	10/7/16		<p>Final Training & J.D. at 18.45 the Coy moved off to <u>Godwaersvelde</u> (3½ miles) where we entrained at 21.00. Bge H.Q. constituted the remainder of the train, myself being of Train. The entraining was most satisfactory, the work being carried out quickly & smoothly. The men were not overcrowded & were consequently able to snatch a few hours sleep. At 20.40 we moved off, & at 04.40 we arrived at <u>Doullens</u> where we detrained. Soon after the Coy started for <u>Halloy</u>, passing thro. the villages of <u>Beauval</u>, <u>Bonneville</u>, & <u>Conaples</u>. I stopped for 1 hr. at the former place, where tea was made. The marching - 14 miles - was good. No stragglers.</p>	BWS
Halloy	11/7/16		<p>Orders recd. at 23.00 last night that the Coy moves out for <u>Naours</u> at 09.00. The roads were congested with traffic, the 3½ miles taking just over 90 minutes.</p>	BWS
Naours	13/4/16		<p>Bge. have not yet been able to find a place for the Coy Transport which is still standing on one of the main metalled roads. 5 mile route march & a little Tactical Handling.</p>	BWS

WAR DIARY

Army Form C.

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Naours	14/7/16		bompany paid ^{paid} . Rained most of the day	
"	15/7/16		Route march & Overhead Fire. Marching improving daily.	B/D
Rubempre	16/7/16		Moved out at 11.00, following Bde H.Q. Passed through TALMAS and arrived at RUBEMPRE at 14.15. Billets are good. I ordered a muster parade at 16.00 & spoke to the Coy for a few minutes.	B/D
"	17/7/16		Route March (5 miles), Visual Training & J.D.	
Hedauville	18/7/16	0950	Moved to Hedauville, passing starting point at 0950. Bde H.Q. at Forceville. Route Herrisart - Toutencourt - Harponville - Varennes to Hedauville = 12 miles. No straggler. Billets poor.	
Albert	19/7/16		Reported for orders at Bde. at 0630, and then proceeded to Albert for further orders. Thence in car to Becourt wood, from there on foot up Sausage Valley to Bde H.Q. (proposed) and on through Baillif Wood to Contalmaison. Got in touch with O/C 2 nd (?) Bde (Imperial) M.G.Co. and received some valuable information. Had a look round trenches and then returned to Albert. Shelling was pretty brisk. My Co. marched in about 2000 and bivouacked 1000yds E of Albert. At 2300 I guided N=2 section to Contalmaison from whence they went on and relieved a section of the 2 nd M.G.Co. in Black Watch Alley. Relief completed by 0200 on 20th July. I got back to remainder of Co. at 0500, 20 th inst.	N

4449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000. 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Albert	20/7/16	1400	Nos 1, 3 and 4 sections moved to Chapes Spur in Sausage Valley where they bivouacked for the night. Officers and N.C.O's were sent up to front line to reconnoitre.	W.
Sausage Valley	21/7/16	0900	Reconnoitring parties were sent up to front line. No 2 Section in Black Watch Alley report heavy shelling. At 1600 I received orders to place a section in position to support the 9th Bu's attack on the enemy strong posts S.E. of Pozieres. By 2000 No 2 Section were in position on high ground near Bailliff Wood. where guns were laid by direct laying before dark. Guns commenced firing with the Artillery at 0230 21/7/16 and continued to search and traverse steadily on their allotted ground in front of attack for one hour, using 4000 rds. 4 guns in Black Watch Alley fired 1750 rds on the Windmill area about the same time. Report attached.	W.
		1900		
Bailliff Wood	22/7/16	0230		
Front Line	22/7/16	to 29/7/16	Orders were received to attack Pozieres on night of 22 nd - 23 rd July. Report Attached is an Operation report covering the period 19 th - 25 th July.	W.
		inclusive		

Attached Capt
of 3rd A. W.S. Co.

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			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Albert	26/7/16	1100	By 1100 all sections had arrived at Co. Bivouac 1000 E. of Albert and after a good meal snatched a few hours sleep. A muster parade showed the casualties to be 4 Officers wounded, 26 O.R. wounded 6 O.R. killed and 2 missing, a total of 38 all ranks.	Map Lens N ^o 11
Warloy	"	1400	Co. moved off and joined Bde near the Bouzicourt road 1500 yds N.W. of Albert. At 1830 the Co. moved off and marched to Warloy via Millencourt and Henencourt. Billeted at Warloy. Everyone very tired. Some had only 8 hours sleep in 6 nights. distance to Warloy = 7 miles.	as.
Warloy	27/7/16	1330	Co. moved off via Vadencourt, Toutencourt, Herrisart, Le Val de Maison Farm au Rosel to La Vicogne where we billeted. 14 miles march; no stragglers, but men just about done up.	so.
La Vicogne	28/7/16	1200	Co. moved off via Naours, Wagnies, Havernas, Halloy to Bertheaucourt.	as.
La Vicogne			10 O.R. had to ride on motor transport through various causes. Some had been slightly gassed, others had sore feet, others were exhausted.	
Bertheaucourt			8 miles march. Went into good billets.	
Bertheaucourt	29/7/16		Checked and cleaned guns and equipment. One gun had been completely destroyed by shell. Many belt boxes had been destroyed or buried. Nearly all spare parts were in good order. commenced listing deficiencies.	as.

WAR DIARY

- or -

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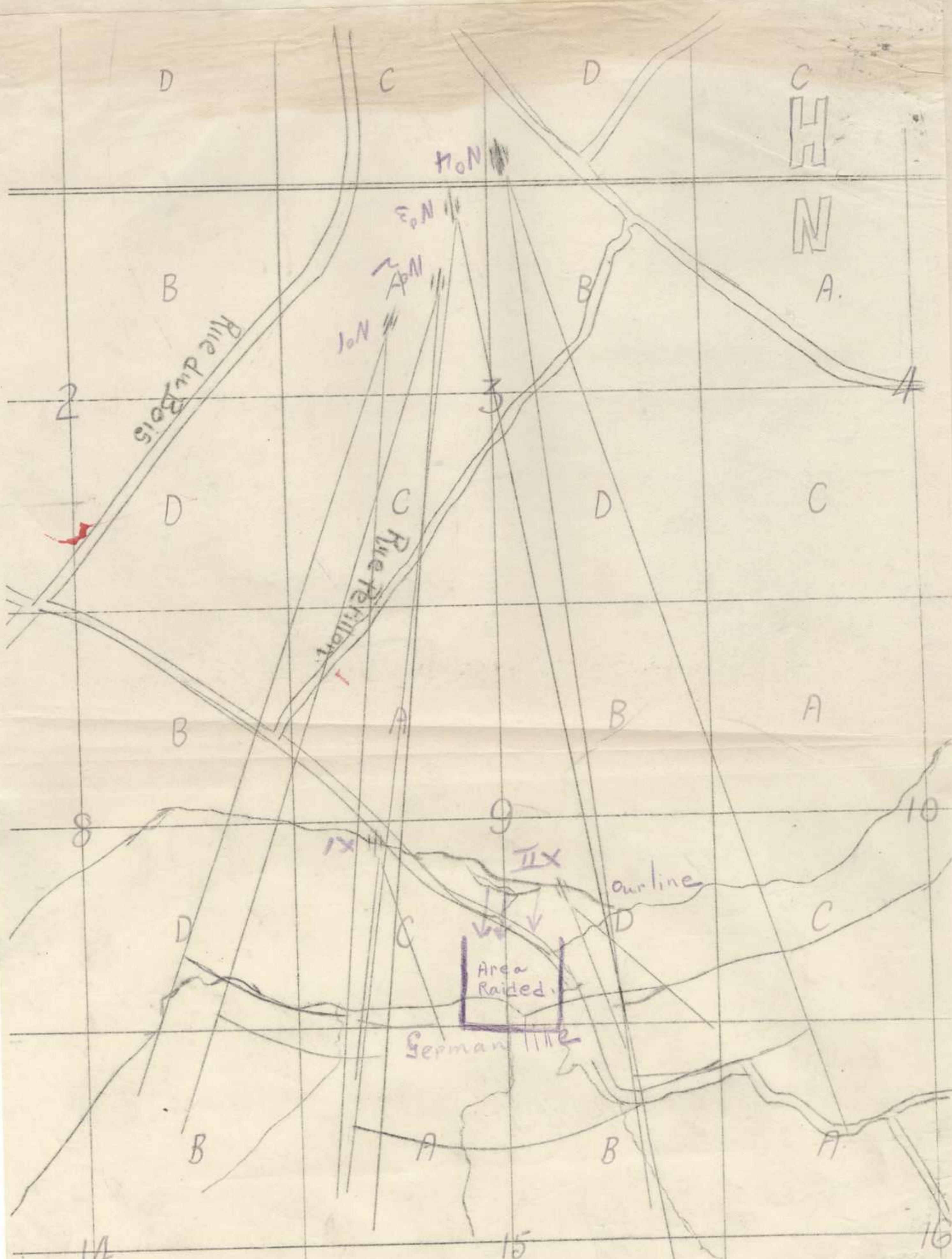
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Bertheaucourt	30/7/16 Sunday		Checking gear; Brigadiers parade at 1030. Inspection of Gas helmets at 1130 - most of them were condemned. Rest in afternoon	ad.
Bertheaucourt	31/7/16		Route march, 5 miles; Gun drill; refilling belts. total 5 hours.	ad.

Attab Capt
07/03 - 2nd Ass. U.S. Co.



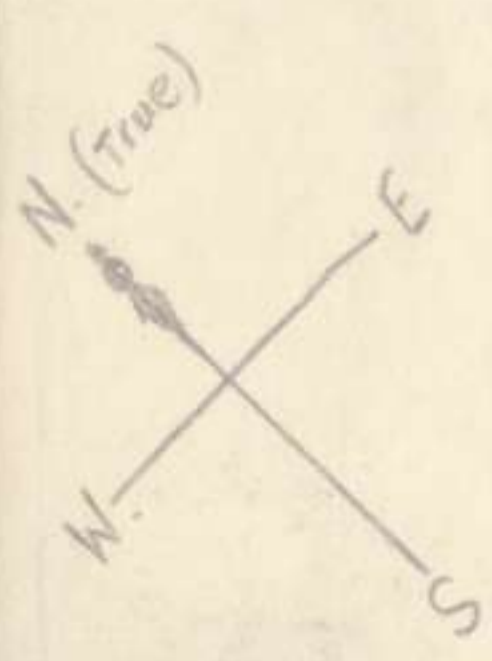
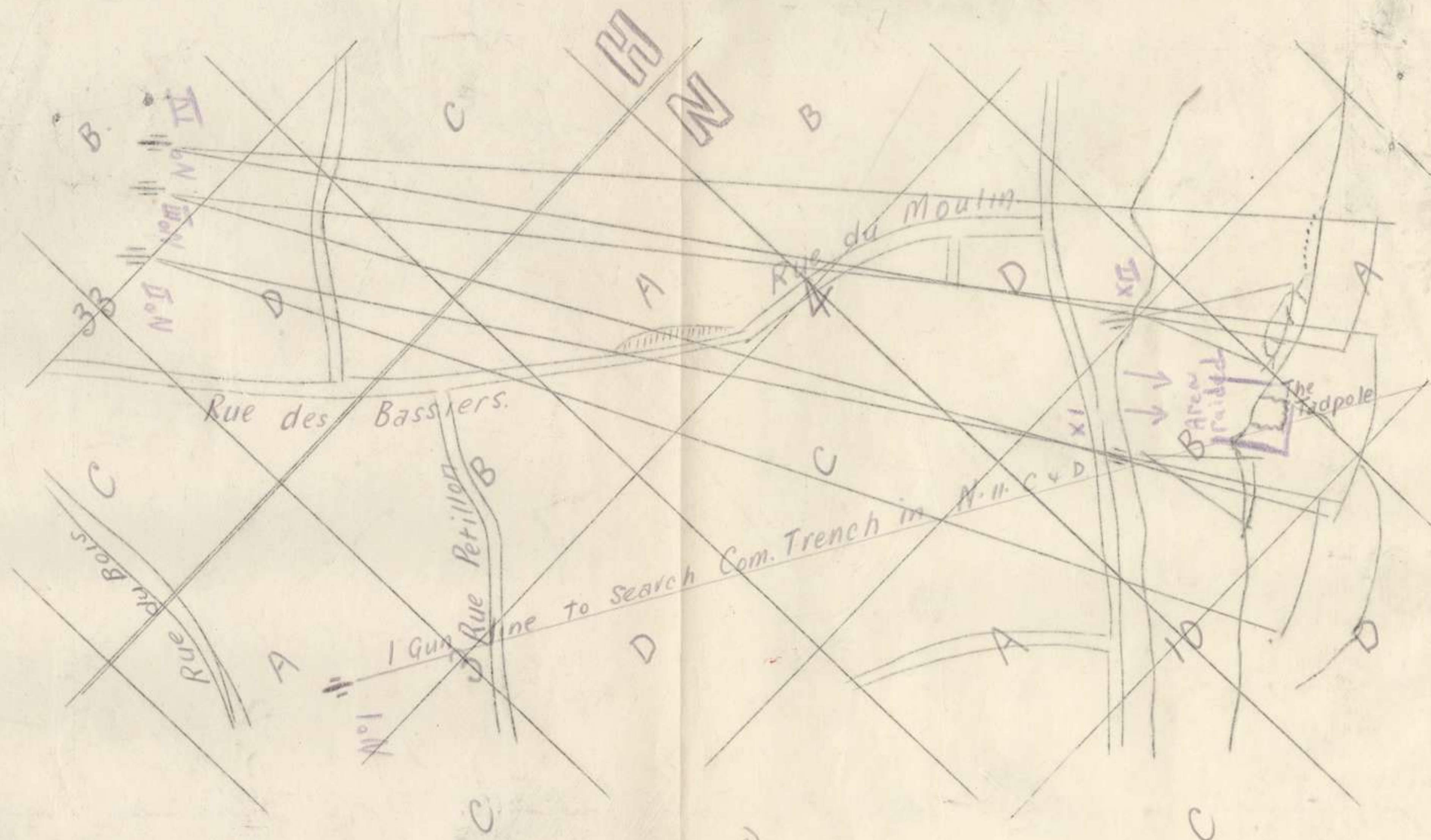
Near Fleurbaix.

Trench Area L.

Scale $\frac{1}{10000}$

Sketch N^o1 night of 1/2nd July '16.

True



Trench Map Area L
 Scale 10,000

Near Fleury-d'aux.

Sketch No 2
 Night of 2nd/3rd July '16.

No 3 Section

~~NO 1~~

Daily Morning Operation Report

Ref No. 54 DSE. 4 2000.
Gun Positions Along trench from
X156.85.05 to X16.00.25.00

Targets windmill (R35C.90.30) to
X 56.00.30

Ranges Min 2500
Max 2900

Angles of Elevation Min 7° 24'
Max 11° 15'

Aiming Marks windmill
(412° mag from Centre of
Gun Positions)

Fire Diagonal Traversing, covering
9th Br.

Time of Firing 02.30 to 03.30

~~fired 4000 rds~~

55/7/16

B. Swallow Capt

of 105

over



05

Heavy bombardment immediately
in front of Right Gun Positions
between 22.30 & ~~23.00~~ 23.00
Some of the shells which came
over about 01.00 had no
explosion but ~~they~~ a peculiar
smell was noticeable so I
ordered Gas Helmets to be worn
until smell disappeared

BW

138.000
Received 4.000
142.000
Expenses 5750
<hr/>
136.250

2/2
1426

Report on Operations connected with capturing
Poziers

Reference - Trench Map.
Orvillers, N^o 4
 $\frac{1}{10000}$

Berteau court.
28th July 1916.

Sir,

With reference to above, I beg to report briefly as follows: -

On night of 19th-20th inst. No. 2 Section (4 guns) took up position in Black Watch Alley and dug in.

On 20th inst remainder of Co. moved to Sausage Valley.

On night of 21st-22nd inst. No. 3 Section (4 guns) took up position in high ground in Bailliff Wood and from 0230 to 0330 fired a total of 4000 rds. on area R. 35.c. 9.3

to X. 5. b. 0. 3. Same night, No. 2 Sec. in Black Watch Alley fired 1750 rds. on roads and trenches in area Sq. 34. C and d. This fire was applied to cover the attack of 9th Bn. on Strong Posts in O. G. I and II.

On night of 22nd-23rd inst. N^o 1 Section moved into position to support the attack on O. G. I and II.

N^{os} 3 and 4 Sections moved into Black Watch Alley to support the main attack. While moving into position N^{os} 3 and 4 Sections came under heavy shellfire, and

Sgt. McLeod and 3 O.R. of N^o 4 Section were hit.

Considerable confusion resulted as, during the shelling, the "carriers" attached had become separated from No. 4 Section. Soon after, Capt. Walker of N^o 3 Section, and

2/Lt. Lt. Phee of No. 4 Section were badly hit. Despite this the Co. Sgt. Major took charge of No. 3 Section, and as ordered, took it over the parapet with the second wave of the attack and took up a position in the first.

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objective, arriving there at about 0120, 23rd inst. It was here, that a German M.G. was captured, partly through the work of N^o 3. Section, and was immediately taken over by us, turned round, and fired for a minute or so at the retreating enemy. The further advance of the Infantry precluded further fire.

At about 0130 two guns of No 4 Section advanced as previously ordered with the 6th wave into the 1st Objective in support of the 11th Bn. Here they were left by Sgt. Prior (he having taken over when 2/Lt. McPhee was hit) who went forward alone to the 2nd objective to reconnoitre. On his return he ordered the guns forward into left portion of 2nd Objective, where they dug in.

Further right the 9th Bns were hung up and the two guns of N^o A Section, which should have accompanied the 6th wave in that area, were ordered by the C.O. 9th Bn. to remain at his H.Q. pending developments. Great difficulty was experienced with the "Carriers" who, in practically every case became separated from the sections.

N^o 1 Section reported to 9th Bn. H.Q. prior to the advance, and one gun under Lieut Harrington advanced up O.G. I and one gun under 2/Lieut Cavanaugh advanced up O.G. II, while two guns were kept temporarily in reserve. Both the guns which advanced in this area were dug in, but as our Infantry were forced back by heavy bombing, these guns also had to fall back. Owing to the hand to hand nature of the fighting and their nearness to our troops these two guns dared not open fire. When the Infantry went forward again the two guns in question again advanced, but again had to fall back through being left "in the air". They were then dug in (about 0300) at about X.5.0.5.5. where they hung on. At about this period Lieut Harrington assisted the Infantry, by re-organising several small parties and leading them forward. He set an

Excellent example.

6 Owing to the difficulty of recognising what points our Infantry had arrived at, and to the ~~light~~ darkness our Machine Guns were unable to open fire at this stage.

Sunday 23rd inst was fairly quiet in the front line.

N^o 3. Section did some effective shooting at small bodies of the enemy retreating in Sq. 35 at about 1500. Capt. Jostwin took two guns forward to X.5.C.9.8 where they were dug in. Other guns remained as they were. 1250 rds. were fired during the evening of the 23rd on enemy positions in X.5. b. with good results. Heavy shelling, but few casualties to gunners.

Monday, 24th inst.

At dawn the guns in the 2nd objective opened a severe fire on enemy reinforcements on the right flank & completely stopped them. The personnel of the guns in this line (excepting Nos 1 and 2) gave assistance during this day, and on the morning of the 25th inst. in carrying up bombs, water and ammunition to the Infantry, as well as carrying up their own rations.

During the night a continuous steady fire was applied from Black Watch Alley to the Area Sq. 35+36 C. and D. in the hopes of catching reinforcements!

Tuesday 25th inst

During the Counter attack in the morning, between about 0730 and 1000, seven guns in the 2nd objective, brought both Direct and Indirect fire to bear on Sq. 35 36 and X.5.3 and fired 14000 rds. of which the German gun fired about 2000 rds. On the right, two guns at about X.5.d. 5.3 fired 71900 rds. mostly Direct observed fire at ranges as close as 500 yds and inflicted many visible casualties. In Black Watch Alley 4 guns fired Overhead fire at ranges up to 2200 yds. on Area X.5.d., X.6.17. and to 35. and 36. A total of 31,900 rds. was fired in about two hours.

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Tuesday 25th inst.

Before, and after, the Counter attack, the 1st and 2nd Objective were subjected to a most severe shelling. Three guns were buried, and one gun and tripod blown to pieces. Another tripod was wrecked, many boxes of belts and spare parts blown up, or buried. One gunner was buried three times, but was got out on each occasion. One officer received severe shell shock, and another was seriously wounded in two places. Four men were killed and 16 wounded during the morning.

As only one man was left on the captured gun, the Sgt Major took out the lock and feed blocks, and blew it up with a bomb.

At this stage there were few Infantry in the forward line and our guns practically held the position.

During the afternoon another severe shelling was experienced. By this time, the three buried guns had been dug up.

In the early evening of the 25th 4 guns in Black Watch Alley fired steadily along the Albert-Bapaume Road, and along the tramway to the N.E. and fired 5,000 rds. making a total of 36,900 rds. for the day.

During the night of 25th - 26th my Co. was relieved and by 1030 on the 26th all guns had been got out. Total casualties, Officers - 4; O.P. 34.

Attila Capt
O/C 3rd Aus. M.G. Co.