

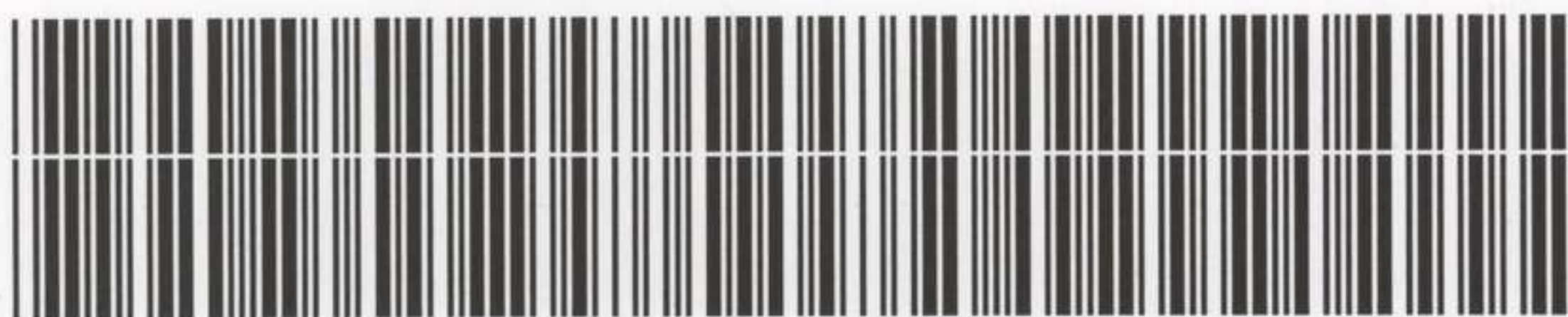
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/42/39 Part 8

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 1st
Australian Division

April 1918



AWM4-1/42/39PART8

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 1.

APPENDIX

20

To 6.a.m. 15-4-18.

OPERATIONS.

(a) One Platoon this morning counter attacked occupied house at E.6.C.5.7. killing 40 Bosch and only 10 Bosch got away. The platoon had 2 killed and three wounded in this minor operation.

(b) Artillery. Our artillery fired consistently throughout the day, and early part of the night. Direct hits were obtained on houses in E.11.B.2.D. and many casualties were inflicted on the enemy who were massing thereabouts.

18-pdrs did excellent shooting at 12 noon on to enemy forward positions. During the morning 4.5 HOWS succeeded in knocking out an enemy H.G. position in MERRIS, and silencing a T.M. at approx E.18.C.4.9.

The road from NEUF to VIEUX BERQUIN came in for heavy shelling, our heavies paying particular attention to this main vein for communication.

Good shooting was also observed on VIEUX BERQUIN Church and buildings in vicinity.

(c) Trench Mortars. Our light T.Ms expended 27 rounds on the building at E.23.D.1.2. and several direct hits were observed.

During the enemys attack on the morning of the 14th against the right battalion of our left Brigade, parties of the enemy were seen to dig in, in front of our outposts. These posts were engaged by our Stokes Mortars with the result that the enemy had to withdraw leaving many dead behind. The Stokes Mortars also greatly assisted in the initial stages of our successful raid on house at E.6.C.5.9.

(d) Machine Guns. Both Vickers and Lewis Guns were very active during the day, and undoubtedly inflicted heavy casualties in the German lines.

(e) Aerial. Our planes were constantly over enemy forward area during the day, and drew much H.G. fire on all occasions.

(f) Patrols. Protective and liaison patrols were out throughout the dark hours of evening and night, but with one exception no enemy encountered, and enemy patrol was dispersed at about W.30.D.9.7.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Operations. At 6.40.a.m. under cover of a heavy artillery barrage, the enemy made several vain attempts to advance in a succession of waves.

The main forces debouched from the Wood in F.7.C. and moved west to farms and trees in E.11.B. From there parties moved along railway line and South East towards VIEUX BERQUIN. Here they came under our H.G. and rifle fire, and were forced to take cover. Many attempts were made to advance from the MERRIS - STRAZEELE road from position previously occupied by English troops. These futile attempts all proved of a most costly nature to the enemy.

At about 1.a.m. 14th Inst an enemy party of approx. 100 approached our post in E.23.A. Our men allowed them to come within 20 yards of the post, and opened fire with Lewis Gun and rifles. The enemy hurriedly retired leaving 1 Officer and 19 Other Ranks dead and 5 machine Guns. It is probable that even more casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Enemy Defences. Minenwerfers are located at E.17.D.6.6. and E.17.D.6.8. The house at E.23.A.6.5. is strongly held by H.Gs and H.7s and causes considerable trouble to our forward posts. The church in VIEUX BERQUIN contains a number of H.Guns which dominate our positions.

Enemy has also established H.G. positions in farms in E.6.C. and E.11.B. Throughout the day and night H.Gs were active from direction of MERRIS.

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IDENTIFICATIONS. During the enemy attempted raid on night 13/14th Inst, the dead were found to have neither pay book nor identity discs on them, but papers showed them to belong to the 141 I.R. 55th Division a normal identification.

Wounded prisoners brought in during night 14/15th in vicinity of MERRIS belonged to 51st R.I.R. 12th Ros Division, and according to their statement, the other two regiments of their division viz, 23 R.I.R. and 38 R.I.R. also participated in their attack.

Enemy shelling. On our right Brigade front, enemy shelling has been irregular and scattered, whereas on our left Brigade front, he has constantly shelled our positions. The heaviest concentrations mainly consisting of 5.9s and 4.2s were directed against STRAZEELE, one portion of the village being set on fire. BORRE and PRADELLE were also engaged with 5.9s during the day.

Aerial Activity. At 5.p.m. 3 planes with our markings dropped bombs on our posts in E.5.C. causing some casualties, then they flew towards our battery positions where they dropped more bombs. Movement and Organisation in and behind Enemys lines.

The NEUF BERQUIN - VIEUX BERQUIN road has carried a considerable amount of traffic for the period under review. At 5.30.p.m. 14th Inst wholled traffic blocked up was seen from NEUF BERQUIN up the road to LA COURONNE. Artillery was informed of this.

The enemy who attacked our left Battalion position yesterday, came along the NEUF BERQUIN - VIEUX BERQUIN road and travelled along the road through E.23.B. and A. and also overland across E.23.D. and A. He suffered many casualties.

Up to the present the enemy has not taken pains to conceal movement. A mule drawing a T.M. on wheels and limbers of Ammunition was observed at about E.17.D.3.2. and engaged by M.Gs.

Miscellaneous. Enemy appears to be burning all Farms in his forward Area. An enemy battery was observed firing on STRAZEELE and PRADELLES on a T.B. of 850 from E.9.C.3.9. Approx. distance 4,000 yards.

Flares were fired a great deal during the night, the most frequent being a flare bursting into four GREENS and another into two GREENS. The latter seemed to be fired only when the locality was under our artillery fire.

Geo. J. Guesley
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1st Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No. 2.

From 6.a.m. 15-4-18 to 3.a.m. 16-4-18.

1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. In addition to the barrage put down in E.22. E.28. and E.30. during the hostile minor operation mentioned below, our artillery has been continuously active on enemy movement opposite our front. In particular the factory at E.28.A.5. reported full of men, roads and hedges in E.11.D. HERRIS and the Wood in F.7.C. were shelled with good effect. Our heavies and 18-pdrs registered on to and shelled VIEUX BERQUIN road and church.

(b) Trench Mortars. Good shooting was observed on enemy parties attempting to consolidate in positions opposite our left brigade front.

Trench Mortars also engaged buildings at E.28.D.1.2. and assisted in repelling the hostile raid.

(c) Snipers. Our snipers posted in the wood in W.30.D. and in forward posts along our whole front had an exceptionally busy day and caused a very large number of casualties on enemy.

(d) Machine Guns. Our Lewis guns did very effective work during the enemy raid.

At about 11.p.m. a Lewis Gun was pushed out in front of posts and fire was brought to bear on a large enemy working party in E.6.B. inflicting a number of casualties.

Vickers guns obtained a number of targets in E.11.D.

(f) Aerial Activity. Low mists hampered our planes. Several however flew low over enemy lines firing their H.Gs. Bombs were dropped on VIEUX BERQUIN at 2.30.p.m. causing fires. One of our planes were brought down by A.A. fire behind enemy lines at about 5.p.m.

(g) Patrols. were out continuously along our front but no enemy were encountered.

(h) A listening post in E.22.D. was engaged at 11.p.m. with rifle grenades.

2. Identifications.

One wounded prisoner of the 22nd R.I.R. of the 48th Rec. Div. was captured at 1.a.m. at E.28.C. Central.

This points to a relief of the 35th Division by the 48th.

Preliminary interrogation of prisoner is included in the Annex.

3. Enemy Activity.

(a) Attitude. Quieter but alert and consolidating.

(b) Raid. At about 12 midnight enemy reported massing in E.22.D. 18-pdr fire was brought to bear on the enemy and nothing materialised on this part of the front. At about 12.30.p.m. a heavy barrage by guns of all calibres up to 5.9s assisted by T.M's was put down on our front in E.22.C. and E.28.A. and C. At about E.28.C.5.5. our posts opened fire with L.Gs and rifles on to enemy advancing towards them and the hostile troops hurriedly retreated. As the result of this attempted raid, 1 wounded prisoner was captured and very heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy parties.

(c) Artillery. A marked decrease in hostile artillery activity was noted. Except for the bombardment prior to the operation in E.28. and for a concentration on STRAZELLE and its approaches during the afternoon shelling was light and scattered. Most of the shelling on E.28. comes from the direction of LERVILLE.

(d) Enemy Defences.

Outpost line. Enemy appears to be constructing a line of trenches generally along

(i) the right brigade front from E.28.D.5.5. to E.25.C.2.7.

(ii) the left brigade front from E.6.A.5.9. to E.6.A.8.4. to E.6.C.5.9.

(e) Machine Guns. were located in haystacks and in houses on VIEUX BERQUIN road and at E.6.D.4.9.

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(f) Trench Mortars. were observed in E.17.B., between Fm GOMBAUT and GARS BRUGGHE, from behind hedge in E.28.D. and E.29.C. and E.6.A.5.2.

(g) Movement.

At 6.50.a.m. 4 gun teams drawing either guns or limbers moved along road from NEUF BERQUIN - K.12.D. - K.12.C. to K.11.D.8.9. and from there, they all returned to NEUF BERQUIN. Movement of small parties and cyclists has since been observed at this position. An enemy O.P. is suspected at K.29.C.3.0. The wood in E.29.C. appears to be strongly held. Enemy battery is located at approx. K.11.B.8.3. Enemy movement was observed along the VIEUX BERQUIN - NEUF BERQUIN Road and in E.29.C. and D. and K.5.B. and D. On the left section front, enemy has been much more careful about his movement.

Much movement was observed throughout the day, the principle centres of activity being E.3.C. E.12.A. E.11.B. and VIEUX BERQUIN.

At 3.30.p.m. two horse drawn wagons with canvas tops were at road junction in VIEUX BERQUIN. Our M.Gs opened fire and inflicted two casualties on a party of men who attempted to unload. The remainder of the party scattered.

Throughout the day parties of two and three moved at intervals across road to VIEUX BERQUIN, one was killed by our snipers, several others were wounded.

At 2.p.m. enemy were observed driving live stock back from the farms in E.3.C.

At intervals throughout the day horsemen passed from Wood in F.7.C. to VIEUX BERQUIN. At 11.15.a.m. parties of two and three, in all about 40, moved from VIEUX BERQUIN to Wood in F.7.C.

5. Miscellaneous. At dusk a small patrol in E.25.A. found a M.G. and brought it back to our line. This was evidently left by the hostile raiding party on night 14/15th Inst.

J. H. Rogers
Colonel.

General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

ANNEXE.

1. Preliminary examination of prisoner

A wounded prisoner of 222. R.I.R., 48th Res.Div. captured at 1.50.a.m. this morning in E.28.C. (the sector formerly held by the 55th.Div.) states that they came into line two days ago in this sector. Prisoner is doubtful as to what troops they relieved. Prisoners division was to take the Forest of NIETPE but suffered heavy casualties in useless attacks on the 14th Inst. Last night a party of 5 Officers and 200 O.Rs was sent out apparently with the object of securing identifications from us. This project failed and prisoner was captured in the attempt.

The 48th.Res.Div., which was transferred from Russia to the Western front in July 1917 and which was subsequently in line by VERDUN and in ALSACE was last identified in ALSACE on the 15th Feb'y. 1918.

The prisoner captured this morning states that the moral of his regiment is poor. This is contrary to what one would have expected as this Division has not been engaged in any fighting for some considerable time.

2. Information from other sources.

(1) Since April 9th 27 fresh divisions have been identified on the LYS battle front.

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(ii) Prisoners of the 131st I.R. 42nd Division captured N.E. of
MERRIS stated that the objective of their division is
STRAZZELE.

(iii) Enemy Dispositions. From North to South opposite our
divisional front enemy dispositions are -

42nd Div.	{	17. I.R.
	{	130 I.R.
	{	151 I.R.

12th. Res. Div.	{	51 R.I.R.
	{	23. R.I.R.
	{	58. R.I.R.

48th. Res. Div.	{	221. R.I.R.)	Exact disposition of regiments not known.
	{	225. R.I.R.)	
	{	222. R.I.R.)	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 3.

From 6 a.m. 13-4-18. to 6 a.m. 17-4-18.

1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Minor Operation. A minor operation was carried out by the 4th. Battalion with the object of straightening out front line through E.3.A., W.30.D., N.25., to secure direct front line observation into HERRIS. An advance of 300 yards was carried out the line secured and consolidated. Our line which now runs from E.3.A.5.3. to N.25.C.0.0. to N.25.C.7.8. is now very close to a nest of enemy N.3a, which we are dealing with. 70 of the enemy were killed and one unwounded prisoner captured.

At 3.50 p.m. the 1st Battalion moved from PRADILLIES to Co-operate with the French in an attack on LITEREN and to maintain communication with the 4th Battalion on the right.

The Battalion with a 5 company frontage occupied a line running approx. N.25.C.7.8. - N.20.C.5.0. - N.20.A.7.4. - and one company in support at N.19.A.9.2.

(b) Artillery. Our artillery has again been very active, casualties were caused on enemy parties at FM GOMBERT, E.23.A. and on post at F.29.A.4.5. VIEUX BERQUIN road and wood in F.7.C. were subjected to continuous harassing fire.

At 5.5. p.m. the church spire at VIEUX BERQUIN fell as the result of several direct hits from our heavies.

At 5.50 p.m. one of our 18-pdrs shells exploded on dump just East of the Mill in E.23.A.

Pre-arranged counter preparation was carried out from 4.20 a.m. to 5.20 a.m.

S.O.S. barrage was put down at 7.47 p.m. on enemy massing in VERTE RUE.

(c) Patrols. Protective and liaison and fighting patrols worked continuously throughout the night.

A small patrol to search enemy dead left our line in E.23.A. at 10 p.m. Papers and Map were found and are forwarded to Corps.

2. Identification.

(i) One unwounded prisoner belonging to the 17th Alsatian Regiment of the 42nd Division was captured in E.6. Prisoner is an Alsatian about 31 years old and was captured during operation of 4th Battalion in E.6.C. on the night of 16th. 4th Westphalians are on the left and the 151st and 158th Divisions are on the right of the 42nd Division. Prisoner arrived at place of capture 3 days ago and came into front line on evening of 15th April. His Regiment is due for relief on 17th by another Division unknown to prisoner. His company has had heavy casualties estimated at 50%, present company strength being about 60. Prisoner is from the Russian front and this is his first action since leaving there.

(ii) Papers found on enemy killed in E.23.A. on night 13/14th Inst, show that the unit then in the line was the 141st I.R. 35th Division.

(a) Attitude. Enemy was rather more aggressive than previously on the left Brigade front. An increase in artillery activity was also noted on the right section of the right brigade.

(b) Artillery. Enemy artillery has been much more active than during the previous 24 hours particularly on the left brigade front and on the right of the right brigade.

Principal areas shelled were STRAZELLE. E.28.C. and N.4.A.8.C. Church steeple at GAUDESCURE was knocked down.

At 7.10 p.m. a barrage of 5.9s, 4.2s and 77s was put down in the vicinity of W.29. Central extending along the ridge to W.23. Central. W.4. Central was shelled with 77 gas shells from the direction of VIEUX BERQUIN. Most of the shelling on the right brigade front came from the direction of ESTAIRS, and LA COURONNE.

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- (c) Enemy defences. Posts have been located at E.25.C.7.C. and E.29.A.4.5. to suspected at E.25.C.8.2. and F.25.C.4.1. Movement had again been seen continuously along the VIEUX BERQUIN road and in the Wood at F.7.C. H.Gs are reported at E.12.A.75.30. and at E.11.B.8.6. and a T.M. at E.11.D.80.65. The trench running from E.6.C.5.3. to E.12.A.1.5. is manned by the enemy.
4. Information from other sources. ran
The French line on our left at 5.p.m. 17th, approx from X.25.Central to X.20.Central. to X.15.Central. to X.13.Central. N.E. through X.11.Central and thence almost due N.

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CONFIDENTIAL.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 4.

From 6.a.m. 17-4-18. to 6.a.m. 18-4-18.

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our artillery was very active throughout the day and successfully dealt with many enemy concentrations opposite our front. Counter preparation shoots were put over three times during the night. Our S.O.S. barrage was reported to be very good and well placed and at 4.30.p.m. fell directly on the enemy who was collecting in the shallow trenches opposite us.

Targets reported by Infantry in the line were engaged with good results, enemy casualties being caused near Fmc. GOMBERT. A large body of troops moving North along road between PONT RONDIN and LA COURONNE was fired on with good effect. Enemy movement on road VERTE RUE to VIER-HOUCK and at Fmc GOMBERT was also engaged. In reply to enemy movement reported at Farm at E.5.D.30.35. our shells fell 200 yards South, range was good.

Counter preparation programmes were carried out along the Divisional front during the early morning in accordance with Corps instructions. At 10.a.m. an S.O.S. was replied to and the Divisional front barraged until 11.a.m. when the situation was reported as quiet.

Our M.T.H Batteries carried out very successful harassing and destructive shoots on to FARM BEAULIEU and houses at E.17.B.2.6. E.11.B.30.90. and E.13.A.20.60./50.70. 48 rounds were expended and numerous direct hits obtained. In addition an entrenching party at E.11.B.95.55. was dispersed at 7.45.a.m.

(b) Patrols. The usual protective and liaison patrols covered the front during the night.

(c) Machine Guns. Machine guns engaged targets throughout the day and at night maintained a policy of harassing fire on known centres of enemy movement. Enemy planes were engaged, tracer bullets being seen to hit low flying planes.

(d) T.Ms. During the period under review, our 3" Newtons fired rounds on targets with good results. Our Stokes Mortars fired rounds on buildings about E.23.D.1.2. and other targets. Good burst were observed.

(e) Snipers. The enemy, now much more careful in his movements, gives our snipers few opportunities. These opportunities however are taken full advantage of, and two men were killed.

(f) Aerial Activity. Our planes were very active and although greatly outnumbered by enemy planes, and subjected to A.A. and M.G. fire repeatedly flew low over enemy lines, using their M.Gs against hostile movement. At 2.p.m. one of our R.E.8's was driven down by enemy planes at D.18.C.5.7. Two spads are believed to have been brought down by enemy lines to the left of our sector. They were flying low and were attacked by an enemy squadron at about 2.30.p.m.

2. Identification. One wounded officer of the 25rd Regiment, 13th Div, was taken and one Aspirant Officer of 33rd Regiment, 13th Division from LAVENTIE where he was 5 days ago. The 13th Division was to have attacked yesterday, the objective being STEENVOORDE. The attack fell through owing to the activity of our artillery. 2 Prisoners 1 of 10.K. and one of 12.K. 38th R.I.R. 12th.Res.Div. were captured in E.28.C. at 5.30.a.m.

3. Enemy activity.

(a) Attitude. Enemy remains distinctly aggressive. His morale appears good and he appears determined to push on.

(b) Artillery. There was a great increase in enemy artillery activity yesterday. At 9.30.a.m. a heavy barrage was put down on the forward area and later was extended to the back area.

The intensity of the fire was extreme. STRAZELLE,

(P.T.O.)

PRADELLES and BORNE were heavily bombarded and all roads in the area were badly knocked about. Combined with this an area shoot against farms, hedges, etc., with 4.2. and 5.9s. H.V. and Shrapnel took place.

BOIS D'AVAIL, E.21.D. E.22.C. E.23.A. Grand and Petit SEC BOIS E.16, E.28.A.A.C. were shelled heavily and indiscriminately with 5.9s, 4.2s and 77s. LA MOTTE was intermittently shelled with Shrapnel and H.E. from direction of MERVILLE. Light scattered gas shelling from 8.p.m. onwards throughout the night on E.25. and D.30. from direction of MERVILLE.

(c) Operations. Under cover of bombardment at 9.30.a.m. the enemy attacked the left and centre Battalion of Left Brigade. 50 was engaged with M.G. and rifle fire and failed to reach our posts. Guns of companies on the flanks of the attack brought effective enfilade fire to bear.

(d) Enemy Defences. A M.G. has been located at E.23.D.9.5. Left section Left Bde reports enemy digging a few strong posts opposite their front and their M.Gs still remain in the houses. Right section right Bde report enemy digging in at K.5.D. Central. A 4.2. gun position was located at K.6.D.6.0. An enemy 4.2. battery was located firing on a bearing of 95 degrees magnetic from K.4.A.5.2.

A small H.V. gun fires on to E.23.C. from direction of ESTAIRES.

(e) Movement and Organisation.

Balloons were up as follows:-

8.a.m.	125 deg. Mag. from E.16.D.7.4.
11.a.m.	108 " " " " " "
12 noon.	112 " " " " " "

These balloons were well within artillery range.

(f) Arms and Equipment. Enemy is reported by infantry observers to be using our 18-pdr shells.

(g) Miscellaneous. A squadron of 8 machines flow over our forward and back areas at intervals throughout the day machine gunning our troops and positions. These machines flow at a very low altitude.

A plane similar to our R.E.8. but with shorter lower wings and bearing our markings was over E.16. from 10.a.m. to 12 noon, after which it flew into enemy territory and appeared to land undamaged about E.18.

J. H. Rogers Capt

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1st Australian Division.

ANNEXE.

At 5.30.a.m. this morning 2 prisoners, 1 of 10 K and 1 of 12 K, 38th R.I.R. 12th Res. Div were captured in E.28.C. They state that they have been left behind with baggage at ESTAIRES and that yesterday they had instructions to go to the heights and bring back horses which had been wounded. Horses could not be found and after losing direction, they wandered into our lines and were captured. Being left with baggage, they state that they know nothing of dispositions. Our artillery and aeroplanes have caused heavy casualties in ESTAIRES.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

(a) General Line. Our line runs approx from North to South as follows:- Along PILCKEN ridge to ZILLEBERG, W of WYTSCHAPPE, W of WULVERGHEM, S of DRANOUTRE, N of BAILLEUL and HITTEREN; thence

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along our own front, thence midway between MERVILLE and ST VENANT. S.E. midway between HINGES and LOCON 'E of FESTUBERT and GIVENCHY.

(b) Line North of our Divisional front.

Posts at X.20.A.8.5. B.1.5. C.12.D.2.0. D.4.5. D.9.8. X.15.A.3.1. Continuous line from X.15.A.4.5. to 15.B.9.4. to 16.B.4.7. to 10.D.8.0. to 10.B.9.5. to 11.A.4.7. to 9.C.5.6.

2. Period of Reliefs. Divisions on the battle front are apparently expected to remain in the line from 2 to 3 days, then are withdrawn to close support and come up again into the line after 3 or 5 days rest.

3. General. There are no indications of any slackening of the enemys offensive on the Southern portion of the Army front and further attacks must be expected. The general direction of pressure will be in a North and North-Westerly direction between METEREN and WYTSCHAETE.

APPENDIX

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 5.

From 6.a.m. 18-4-18. to 6.a.m. 19-4-18.

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our artillery has again been very active during the period under review, and the shooting observed to be most effective.

Direct hits were observed on Farms GOBERT, GARS BRUGHE-VERTE RUE, LE CORNET PERDU and the two parallel roads through K.5. and 11 and E.50. and K.5. Numerous enemy parties were dispersed and casualties inflicted.

At 8.p.m. a 4.5. shell dropped into a newly dug post near LE CORNET PERDU, blowing two of the occupants into the air and scattering the remainder.

Our shelling on VIEUX STROUIN and HERVILLE caused numerous fires.

(b) Trench Mortars. Stokes mortars fired 48 rounds on to MONT de HERVIS, enemy were seen to vacate the buildings during the shoot.

30 rounds of 6" Howtons were expended on enemy targets in E.23.D. Good bursts of our E.T.M.'s were observed on Farm buildings at E.23.D.1.2. on which targets 15 rounds were expended.

(c) Machine Guns. Vickers and Lewis Guns were active during the day and night. Lewis Guns availed themselves of all opportunities to fire on the enemy. Vickers guns expended some 15,000 rounds of S.A.A. on to enemy roads, approaches and concentration areas.

(d) Snipers. About 18 casualties are claimed by our snipers during the day.

(e) Patrols. Liaison and protective patrols guarded our front against surprise throughout the hours of darkness. A patrol of Left section in E.25.A. was apparently observed and fired on from E.25.A.7.7.

A reconnoitring patrol of one Officer and 2 O.Rs left at 9.p.m. at E.11.A.8.0. to investigate an enemy listening post located at E.11.A.6.0. On the approach of our patrol the occupants of the post moved out. The post was well dug in 7' by 4' with boarded bottom showing signs of recent use. Patrol returned to point of departure at 10.15.p.m.

(f) Aerial Activity. On account of unfavourable weather conditions our planes were not so active as on the previous day, but the enemy front was well patrolled, and hostile targets engaged by H.C. fire.

2. Identification. A prisoner belonging to the 5th Coy. 2nd Battalion 237 R.I.R. 81st Res. Division was captured in E.30.

3. Enemy Activity. 5rd. Battalion 141 I.R. 55th Division enemy dead in E.25.A.

(a) Artillery. Enemy artillery was much less active than during the preceding 24 hours. The forward area was spasmodically shelled with 77s 4.2s and 5.9s during the day. E.27.C. also received attention receiving about 50 5.9s at 3.45.p.m. from direction of HERVILLE. A destructive shoot took place against STRAETLE STATION.

(b) Enemy Defences. An enemy listening post was located at E.11.A.6.0. It is 7 feet by 4 feet boarded at the bottom and shows signs of recent occupation. A headquarters is suspected at E.17.D.9.0. as men have been seen to ride up on bicycles at intervals throughout the day and material was taken to it from a vehicle. Parties were seen to enter trench at E.1.C.5.5. A sniper camouflaged with bushes was seen to leave trench at E.5.D.95.45. and moved to house at E.5.D.95.20.

Enemy post was located at E.20.C.65.45. and a H.C. at E.20.D.1.1. A newly dug post was located near LE CORNET PERDU and another post was located at E.25.A.7.7. Work on posts in

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E.25.1. etc has also been reported. Work has been observed at K.5.D.2.5. and K.5.D.0.7.

(c) Aerial Activity. Enemy planes were active during the day 4 low flying machines were over X.19. at 11.a.m. and at 1.50.p.m. an E. amroplane patrolled our front area for 20 minutes at an altitude of 500 feet.

(d) Movement and Organisation. Movement of individuals and of parties of men was seen during the day at F.5.D.5.30., E.6.C.5.9., E.12.A.15.60., Wood in F.7.C., House at F.12.C.2.2. and F.12.C.5.9., Road in E.17.D. Movement during the day was considerable in Squares F.3. and E.12. Limbers could be heard on roads near VIEUX CIRQUIN. Opposite our Right Section, movement of the enemy, without rifles, has been observed.

(e) Miscellaneous. An enemy pigeon picked up at F.18.2.8.4. carrying a message in code, which decoded and translated ran "Situation unchanged along our front."

Leo P. King
14 Nov
Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 6.

From 6.a.m. 19th to 6.a.m. 20-4-18.

1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery.

Our field guns and 4.5 Hows were very active during yesterday and last night carrying out harassing fire on enemy forward areas. During the afternoon a number of casualties were caused amongst an enemy party at the farm buildings in E.4.C.

(b) Medium and Stokes Mortars engaged targets at MONT de MERRIS, E.6.C., E.11.B., and E.12.A.

(c) Snipers claim four casualties amongst enemy during yesterday.

2. Identifications. Nil.

3. Enemy activity.

(a) Artillery. was generally much quieter than usual. STRAZELLE and its approaches received most attention. At 9.45.p.m. 20 gas shells were fired into the village.

(b) Defences. A trench system is suspected at X.23.A.9.5. and posts were located at X.20.C.95.95. and X.20.C.7.5. Enemy is still working on trench system in E.6.C. A sniper was located at E.12.C.1.5.

(c) Aerial Activity. Enemy planes were much more active during the day 34 machines being observed over our lines. Enemy balloons were observed on T.Bs of 900, 1030, 1100 and 1570 from W.25.B.55.85.

(d) Movement. Movement of small parties of men was seen at intervals during the day in E.5.D., E.6.C., E.12.B., E.13.A., and between OUTTERSTINE and BLEU. A working party of about 50 men was observed at 10.30.a.m. at F.13.B.7.7.

J. H. Rogers
for Colonel.
General Staff.

1st Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. Notes on employment of Hostile Forces on the Battle Front.

(a) There is evidence that the hostile divisions on the battle front fall into two classes.

(i) The divisions maintained in line, which are periodically relieved irrespective of operations.

(ii) Special assault divisions, which pass through the divisions in line to the attack.

(b) It is probable that all fresh divisions come into the second class when they arrive on this battle front, so each section of front has continually its fresh assault troops. Their transference to the first class will depend on their casualties and state of exhaustion.

(c) This is the only explanation of the fact that although certain divisions are identified only by odd prisoners every two or three days, it is found that they have not in fact left the line. The presence of fresh divisions in the same sector does not necessarily indicate a relief, but that the new troops have passed through the old to attack.

(d) In general, it appears that the normal relieving divisions, change every 3 or 4 days.

(e) In case of the assault division succeeding, the division in line would certainly follow up the attack, and probably take over the new line, whilst the assault division immed-

(P.T.O.)

ately goes out to rest.

2. Enemy Intentions.

- (a) A prisoner of the 38th Reserve Division states that if the ordinary methods to take KEMMEL were not successful, the woods on the hill would be thoroughly bombarded with gas shell and high explosive previous to the attack. When KEMMEL had been taken the attack would be carried on further north against POPERINGHEM.
- (b) A captured operation order of the 12th Division, referring to the attack which took place on the 17th instant, shows that the objective aimed at by this division was the high ground west of the MONT DES CATS, as far as the line HUGENDOORN - BECKE. The division was to attack on a frontage of less than a mile.
- (c) A prisoner of the 38th Reserve Division states that the attack on KEMMEL will certainly be renewed.

3. General. There is no reason to suppose that the heavy losses sustained by the enemy in his attacks on April 17th against the Second Army, and on April 18th against the First Army, will cause any appreciable alteration in his plans; the offensive will continue to be pressed northwards towards the MONT DES CATS and MONT KEMMEL ridges. It is considered that attacks against STRAZELLE and MONT KEMMEL will be delivered in the immediate future.

4. Somme Front.

On the morning of the 18th, the French attacked on a front of 2½ miles between THIERES and MAILLY-RAINEVAL. East of the AVRE, they realized considerable progress. To the west of the river, they retook the greater part of Sencat Wood and reached the outskirts of CASTEL. Farther south, they reached the eastern slopes of the heights which command the AVRE. So far, over 100 prisoners and a number of machine guns have been captured.

Nothing of importance has been reported from the British front on the Somme.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.CONFIDENTIAL.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 7.

From 6.a.m. 21-4-18. to 6.a.m. 22-4-18.

1. OPERATIONS.

Our left Battalion established a new post at X.15.B.6.5. also a Lewis Gun position at X.15.B.70.65. a listening post was pushed forward to X.15.B.5.5.

Artillery. Our artillery was active throughout the day on enemy forward areas.

Direct hits were observed on several farm houses, which could not be definitely located on account of mist. As a result of our shooting fires were seen to break out in HERRIS and OUTTERSTENNE.

French Mortars. Stokes Mortars fired 66 rounds on to buildings at MONT de HERRIS and 7 rounds were fired by 6" NEWTONS on to enemy post at E.11.B.7.6.

Machine Guns. Machine guns engaged targets throughout the night, and maintained a policy of harassing fire, on known centres of activity.

Snipers. Nine hits were claimed by our snipers during the period.

Patrols. The usual liaison, and protective patrols were sent out. Fighting patrols were out throughout the night with the object of obtaining identification, but no enemy were encountered.

At X.15.C.5.0. a shoulder strap bearing number 268 was taken from a dead German. Two enemy posts were located at X.20.C.8.8. and X.26.A.0.7.

Aerial Activity. Our machines were active throughout the day, continually crossing the line into enemy territory. On all occasions they were engaged by anti-aircraft and machine gun fire.

Identifications. Papers taken from the body of a dead German found at X.25.C.9.8. show him to belong to 2nd Coy. 1st Battalion of the 158 I.R. 42 Division, and papers taken from dead at E.5.D. and E.11.C. give the following identifications 4th Coy 1 Battalion 58.R. I.R. 12th Res Division and 5 Coy 2 Battalion 51 R.I.R. 12th Res. Division, the bodies from which the latter identification were taken appeared quite fresh, they had apparently been killed within the last 24 hours.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Enemy artillery showed a slight increased activity, batteries of a light calibre paying more attention to our forward posts. STRAZELLE was again intermittently shelled all day. The remainder was mainly harassing fire on cross roads, and centres of activity.

Enemy attitude. Very alert, and shows slight increased artillery sniping and aerial activity.

Enemy Defences. Posts strongly held were located at X.20.E.8.8. and X.26.A.0.7. a post is being dug along hedge at X.20.B.2.1. New work is very conspicuous at X.15.B.0.1.

A trench Mortar was located firing from base of chimney at X.15.D.1.9. Machine guns were located at E.11.D.5.4. and X.15.B.9.0. Snipers were active at house at X.20.C.95.85. and post at X.20.C.9.7. A house situated at F.1.A.1.5. has a loophole in the side through which a sniper fired several rounds.

Aerial Activity. Enemy aircraft was much more active than usual being constantly over our lines throughout the day, low flying planes were engaged by Lewis and Machine guns. At 10.30.p.m. bombs were dropped in X.7.A.

Movement and Organisation in and behind enemy lines.

House at X.15.B.5.1. is used as an O.P. A man could be seen observing from this place and was hit by one of our snipers. House at X.15.C.75.90. appears to be a headquarters. Messengers have been seen approaching it, two of which were sniped.

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Two Officers were seen to enter building at F.15.B.15.70. at 11.20 a.m. Movement of individuals was noticed in VIEW BIRQUIN during the afternoon.

Miscellaneous. When enemy shells fell short in his lines in vicinity of X.15. Central, green flares (single) were fired, and firing immediately ceased.

Geo. H. Price M.C.
Lt. Colonel.

General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 8.

From 6.a.m. 21-4-18. to 6.a.m. 22-4-18.

A. OPERATIONS.

Infantry. Nil.

Artillery. Counter preparation was carried out during evening and early morning, at the request of one of our Brigades activity at E.6.C.5.2. was included in above.

During the day harassing fire was carried out on enemy roads and communications. A number of rounds expended in registration.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Hostile Activity.

(a) Enemy infantry appear to be working hard on his forward defences, otherwise his attitude remains one of alertness.

(b) Artillery. 4.15.p.m. to 6.30.p.m. W.15.D.5.3. shelled with 5.9s salvoes of 5, and several gas shell during night. 20 rounds of 10.5 cm on W.2.D. at 12 noon. 2.p.m. 12 rounds 10.5. cm on W.2.D. The chief feature of hostile activity was a constant area shoot on W.19, and W.20. 150 rounds of various calibres being directed on this area.

1. Trench System.

(a) Nil reported.

(b) Our roads and Cross Roads in back areas intermittently shelled.

(c) Nil Observed.

2. Counter Battery Work.

(a) 123 Battery position at W.15.D.5.3. shelled with 5.9. salvoes, from 4.15.p.m. to 6.30.p.m.

(b) Nil reported.

(c) Nil reported.

3. Concentrations.

(a) On W.19, W.20, W.15, and W.14, as above.

4. Gas Shelling.

Gas shell (phosgene) during night on W.15.D.5.3. 11.p.m. 12 rounds 77 gas on W.8.A.8.5. 9.30.p.m. and 4.50.a.m. gas shells fell in vicinity of STRAZELLE.

5. (a) W.2.D. shelled with 10.5 cm at 2.p.m. 12 rounds NIEPPE WOOD with 4.2. cm at 4.5.p.m. 100 rounds.

(b) 1 E.A. over D.17, and 18. 4.E.As over VIEUX BERQUIN CHURCH.

6. Nil.

C. TRENCH MORTARS.

Light minenwerfer fire on left coy Right Battalion of Left Brigade during the afternoon. Trench Mortar was located at X.15.C.85.25. our 16-pdrs were informed and on the first shoot 2 men were soon to leave this position.

D. AERIAL. Enemy machines flew over our forward and rear areas continually throughout the day, on several occasions they fired on H.Q. positions and any small movement, they also dropped light bombs, but no damage was caused.

II. WORKING PARTIES. Enemy working party seen at X.15.B.1.3. and at X.15.A.7.3. during the night.

III. MOVEMENT.

(a) Movement was seen at X.15.A.4.1. and X.15.A.5.0. Three men were seen standing in posts at X.17.A.50.85. A party of the enemy were seen at midnight at X.15.B.2.3. Constant movement of individual men was seen throughout the day at LUNDE and LABIS farms, both these farms are suspected headquarters.

(b) At 5.40.p.m. a vehicle was seen on road in X.15.C. At 8.30 p.m. horse ambulance observed at cross roads at X.17.C.7.2.

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- (c) Nil reported.
 (d) No additional ones reported.

IV. DEFENCES. Two new posts have been located at X.20.B.2.1. and X.20.B.30.25. enemy has also a succession of posts from X.15.C.65.55. to X.15.D.1.0.
 An occupied trench is visible at E.18.D.8.5. and at about F.13.B.7.7. Snipers were active from building F.1.A.1.7.

V. MISCELLANEOUS. A 77 m.m. battery was observed firing on a T.B. of 1530 from X.19.A.2.5.
 At 4.50.p.m. fires observed burning in METTEREN. At 5.p.m. dense cloud of black smoke was observed 150 degrees Grid bearing from R.31.C.7.2. At 6.50.p.m. fire in OOUTERSTEEDE burning till 8.50.p.m. fire started by our artillery S of BAILLEUL burnt till 6.50.a.m. 7.5.p.m. gun flashes observed at Grid bearing 100 degrees from R.31.C.7.2. Enemy observation balloons were observed at the following grid bearings from R.31.C.7.2. 120 degrees, 150 deg., 163 deg., 157 deg., 158 deg., 158 deg., 152 deg.,
 Enemy O.P. suspected in house at X.15.B.50.15. Enemy H.Q.s suspected at X.15.C.75.80.

VI. IDENTIFICATIONS. One Officer, and a corporal were taken prisoners this morning, both were badly wounded. Identification 1st, and 2nd Machine Gun Companies, 2nd Battalion, 63. I.R. 12th Division captured at X.25.D.1.9.

Prisoners were out reconnoitring for H.Q. positions, when they came under the fire of our Lewis Guns.

Prisoner stated that defensive positions were being established with all haste, and he was not of the opinion that an immediate attack was contemplated by their troops.

Both prisoners were too seriously wounded for serious or lengthy interrogation.

Eric F. G. Stead
21/10/18
 Colonel.
 General Staff.
 1st Australian Division.

CONFIDENTIAL.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 9.

From 6.30 a.m. 22-4-18. to 6.30 a.m. 23-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Commencing at 1 a.m. our two line battalions carried out minor operations, in the course of which we captured 1 Officer and 18 other ranks and 4 machine guns.

Prisoners belong to.

237th I.I.R.

238th I.I.R.

24th I.R.

11 other ranks.

5 " "

1 Officer and 15 other ranks.

Our line now runs;-

X.20.A.95.00. - X.20.B.5.1. - X.20.B.30.25. - X.20.B.95.00. -
 X.15.C.3.1. - X.15.C.1.3. - X.15.C.7. - X.15.C.25.25. - X.15.A.3.3.
 X.15.A.3.5. - X.15.A.3.6. - X.15.A.3.6. - X.15.B.50.55. - X.15.B.5.3.
 X.15.B.80.25. - X.15.A.0.4. - X.15.A.3.4. - X.15.A.4.3. - X.15.B.00.25.-
 X.15.B.7.5. - X.15.B.3.4. - X.17.A.7.7. - X.11.C.3.3. - X.11.C.5.2.

The Left Battalion established their line without opposition. All the prisoners were captured on the right in front.

2. Artillery. Counter preparation was carried out in accordance with instructions. Loads and approaches to INTAKE and DEERIS were subjected to intermittent fire throughout the day.

Working parties in E.24.B. and E.18.C. were engaged.

Farm buildings in E.12.B. and E.11.B. were destroyed.

An H.P. call in E.1.B.4.2. was answered at 4.30 p.m.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.

(a) Infantry. Enemy is doing practically no patrolling. No snipes considerably during the night.

(b) Artillery and Trench Mortars. In general hostile shelling was of a harassing nature, scattered over the area roads and village and hedges, being particularly shelled.

1. Trench System. Areas E.30.B.3.1. X.25.A. MOORE HILL, MOON HILL, X.1., X.2., X.10.C. and E.24 were intermittently shelled.

2. Counter Battery Work. Positions in E.27.A. and E.2.C. were shelled with 4.2s and 7.7s at 2 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Post in W.15.D. were shelled with 5.9 Hows at the rate of 3 rounds per minute from 5.30 p.m. to 6.10 p.m.

3. Concentrations. ST. LE was shelled constantly throughout the day. A very heavy concentration of shells of all calibres being carried out between 5. and 7 p.m.

4. Gas Shelling. Nil.

5. Shelling of C.Ps. O.P. at E.23.B.1.2. had a direct hit by 4.2. at 6.30 p.m.

6. Back Area Shoots. Between 4 p.m. and 12 midnight ST SILVERBURN CAPPOL was intermittently shelled with H.E. and Shrapnel with a 4.2 gun.

(c) Trench Mortars. 50 rounds were fired on the railway at E.4.C.

(d) Aerial. Hostile aircraft were again active. Strong dawn reconnaissances were carried out on the left brigade front. At 9. and 10 a.m. and at 3 p.m. low flying planes patrolled the whole of our front, firing 4.2s on our troops in front line. A few light bombs (pineapple and egg) were also dropped but caused no damage. At 10 a.m. an enemy plane was brought down by our H.E. fire landing in X.50.1. The pilot was wounded and the plane only slightly damaged. Balloons were observed at true bearings of 1500, 1440, 1450, and 1550 from X.20.A.2.3.

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II. Movement. Less movement was observed than usual. Troops were observed in E.24.B. and E.13.A. continuously during the day. Movement also observed at X.25.B.2.4. and X.25.C.8.3. and in the houses in X.26.B. and on road in X.27.D. Parties at X.23.A.7.7. and at X.15.D.2.9. were dispersed by rifle and Lewis Gun fire.

III. Defences. Approximate line of enemy posts opposite our right brigade runs. E.3.Central. E.3.B.5.5. E.1.1.7.2. At night M.Gs are pushed forward slightly in advance of this line.

Snipers were located in houses at E.1.1.10.45. and E.1.1.50.45.

IV. Miscellaneous. The following true bearings were taken on to active hostile batteries:-

10.45.a.m. 5.9 How at 1400 from E.28.L.1.2.

10.40.a.m. 5.9 How 1200 from " " "

7.p.m. 4.9. and 77 1500 from E.28.B.8.9.

27 battery quite close to our line was observed on a T.B. of 1350 from X.12.A.5.5.

At 5.50.p.m. 4.9. in action at approx. L.2.0.0.0. and at 4.50 p.m. 2 77s in action behind hedge in E.25.C.

4.9. and 77c observed also at 150, 135, 140, 151 and 1280 T.B. from E.28.B.8.8.

V. Identifications.

Officer.	O.Rs	Coy.	Battalion	Regiment.	Division.
1	15	12	3rd	94.I.R.	56th.
	11	8	2nd	267th.R.I.R.	81st.Reser
	3	12	3rd.	269.R.I.R.	81st.Reser
	2	5	2nd.	25.I.R.	12th.

Order of Battle. from H to S.

92.I.R. 25.I.R. 94.I.R. 267.R.I.R. 269.R.I.R. 25 .I.R.
83.I.R.

Short Resume of preliminary Interrogation.

According to the Officer's statements which were substantiated by those of a number of the other prisoners; they had strict order to consolidate and build strong defensive positions, and no attack on their part was contemplated in the near future.

The divisions identified, all admit having had serious casualties during the last 10 days, and that none of the divisions at present opposite our sector were in a fit condition to participate in any hostile offensive movement.

On the night of the 17th Inst. when the 32.I.R. and 35.I 12th Division attacked, they had very heavy losses, and two battalions from the 25.I.R. were rushed up to their assistance on account of same.

The moral of all prisoners appeared to be very shattered, and the fighting qualities of the troops opposite our divisional sector has greatly deteriorated.

See Annexo.

Addendum. At 3.25.p.m. our 6" Hows engaged an enemy battery observed active in E.20.B. After 3 rounds enemy battery ceased fire.

[Signature]

Colonel,
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

Information from other sources.

(i) A British division advanced its line N of HILTON and took 68 prisoners yesterday.

(ii) A small operation has been carried out by Naval forces against OSTEND.

(iii) The fact is disclosed in an Admiralty statement that although the German Navy rarely venture their vessels beyond the protective limits of their waters. British submarines have successfully attacked 40 of their warships.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.ANNEXE to INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 9.

Short history of the Divisions identified by
1st Aust Division this morning 23rd April 1918.

38th. DIVISION. Identified by prisoners of the 94 Inf. Regt.

The three regiments of the Division are
94th Inf. Regt. 95th. Inf. Regt. 96th. Inf. Regt.

In March of last year the division took part in the retreat and finally held the BOUR SIES - HERMIES Sector.

Relieved in this sector, the division saw fighting at BULLECOURT and during May was heavily engaged in the ROEUX area.

Withdrawn on 31st May, the 38th Division was transferred to FLANDERS and spent two months in reserve. On 28th July the division relieved the 17th Division East of YPRES and suffered very severe losses on July 31st being withdrawn the next day from the battle.

The Division then went for a lengthy rest in the ANTWERP Area. On 2nd Sept the division was identified on the ARNAS front. In December the division was holding the WEST ROOSE BEKE Sector. Extracts from the Diary of a Vizofeldwebel belonging to the 95 I.R. taken whilst in the sectors throws further light on the Moral of the troops.

" In the cemetery, which is eight weeks old, there are already 818 graves, as the result of four days of battle. Almost half of them are due to the fighting on Dec. 2nd and 3rd. What it must have cost us? Some dead lie unburied since November. In our Sector I saw more dead Germans than English. "

Later in February this year they were again identified in the YPRES Sector, and the division took part in the ARMENTIERS offensive during the last few weeks.

81st. RESERVE DIVISION. Identified by prisoners taken, belonging to the 267 R.I.R. and 269 R.I.R.

The 3 Regiments of this Division are -

207 R.I.R. 268. R.I.R. 269. R.I.R.

This division left Russia on the 20th December 1917, and the following route was taken; - PIESK - BREST LITVSK - WARCHAU - POSEN - BERLIN - MAGDEBURG - FRANKFURT - SAARBRUCKEN - ELVINGEN - (EAD de LEREMONT?) - CAMBRAI - TOURNAI - LILLE. Detained and marched into rest billets. Billeted at TUMESNELLE (S.E. of LILLE) the 1st En went to PETIT RONCHIE. The journey from Russia took 10 days. Div remained in the LILLE area training for six weeks. The Div went into line in the FROMELLES area at the beginning of Feb. The route taken to the line was RONCHIE - PAGES - SANTE - WAVRIN (resting one night here) FOURNES - HERLIES - AUBERS.

A Prussian Division recruited in East Prussia and Pomorania. Came into line in the NEUVE CHAPPELLE Sector towards end of Jan'y 1918. Frequent desertions occurred and moral appeared very low. Were relieved two days before the attack for which they were in support behind the 35th Division. Only came into the fighting line S. of METEREN about 12-4-18, probably relieving the 10th Mts. Div., and was engaged in the attacks in the METEREN area on the 13th.

Identified by documents S. of Metoren on 12-4-18 and by prisoners in same area on 13-4-18.

The moral in general of this division is distinctly poor there being a large percentage of Poles amongst them. Deserters should be frequently expected.

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(2)

12th. DIVISION. Identified by prisoner taken belonging to the 25. I.R.

The 12th Division is a Prussian formation recruited in SILESIA and consists of the 25rd, 62nd and 63rd Infantry Regiments. After being engaged in Flanders in August 1917 the 12th Division was transferred to the Italian Front where the Division did very well, the 63 I.R. being especially complimented and given the title of the Emperor Karl of Austria who was appointed Colonel in Chief of the Regiment.

The Division returned to France in January 1918 and went into line in Alsace for a short period, afterwards undergoing training for the March offensive in which it took part from 23rd/24th March to about 31st March in the neighbourhood of the ARRAS-CAMBRAI Road. The Division was engaged in severe fighting here and suffered very heavy losses. (The 62.I.R. is known to have lost 800 men and a prisoner states that the 25 I.R. lost 60 Officers).

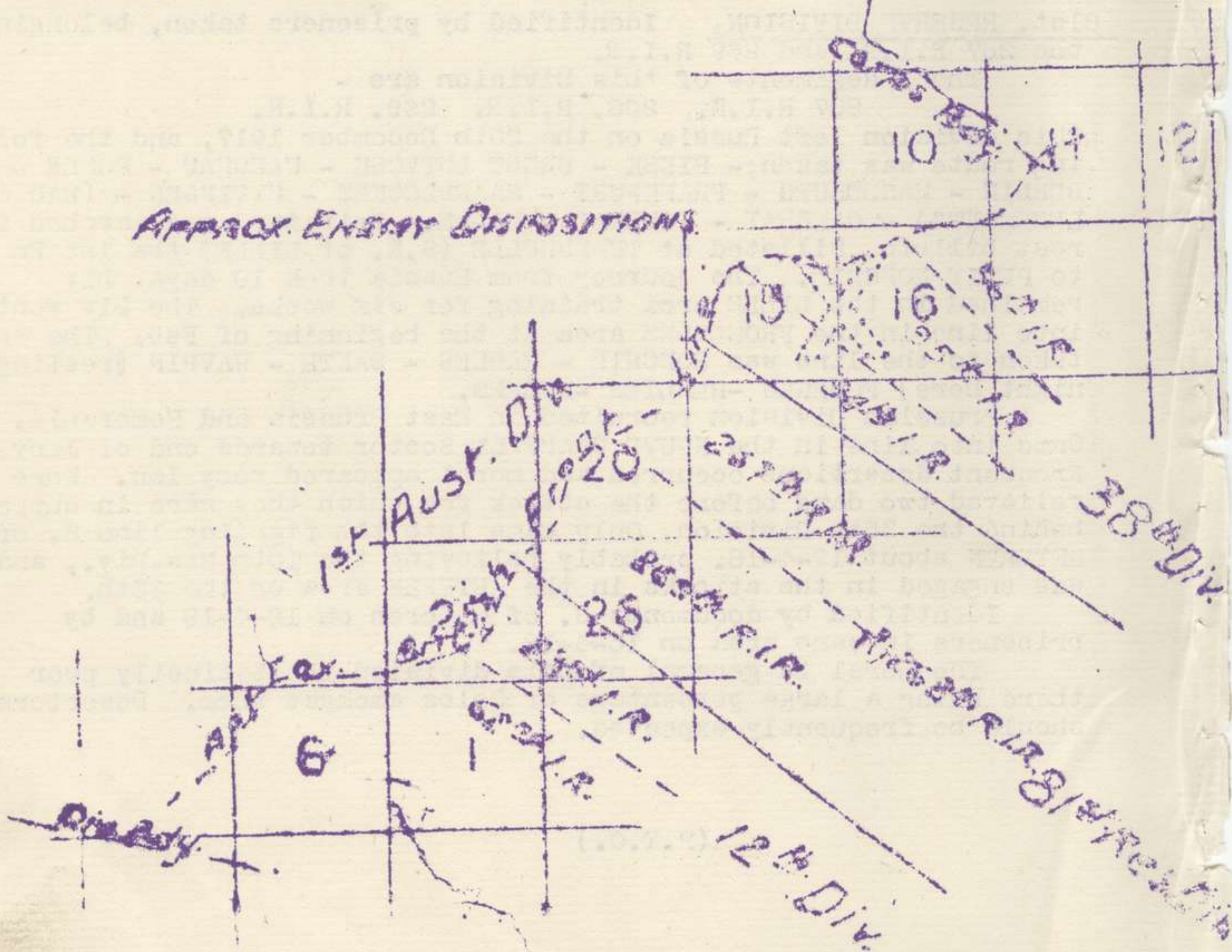
The 12th Division arrived in the FLEMMING area about the 15th and came into line for the attack on the morning of the 17th. The losses in the attack included the Regimental Commander of the 25.I.R. wounded.

Owing to the heavy losses recently suffered the 12th Division probably contains a large percentage of young, raw troops, while it appears from prisoner's statements that the remainder have not yet recovered from the effects of the fighting in March. The moral of the Division is, therefore not high. This is confirmed by the statement of the Officer prisoner that he was unable to get his men forward for the attack on the 17th instant.

Further confirmation of the enormous casualties inflicted on the 62 I.R. and 63 I.R. during the early hours of the 17th Inst, came to light.

The 62 I.R. and 63.I.R. lost so heavily that 2 Battalions of the 25. I.R. were unexpectedly rushed up to assist, and attempt to fill the gaps of the two abovenamed regiments.

APPROX. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.



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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 10.

From 6.a.m. 23-4-18. to 6.a.m. 24-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry.

The second phase of the attack on METEREN was commenced at 12 midnight. At 2.35.a.m. the Right Battalion reported having gained their objective.

The Left Battalion moved forward but were opposed strongly from the farm house at X.13.D.7.9. which was strongly manned and contained many H.Gs.

The party detailed for mopping up the village met with exceptionally strong opposition at the point at which they were to enter the town. After heavy fighting in which they reached the outskirts of the town, they were forced to retire. Fighting was continued until daylight rendered further fighting impossible. Our line is now established as follows:-

X.20.D.0.8. - X.21.A.0.4. - X.21.A.6.9. - X.15.C.6.5. - X.15.C.4.8. - X.15.A.55.40. - X.15.A.85.55. - X.15.B.0.6. - X.15.B.55.50. - X.15.A.0.4. - X.16.C.8.9. - X.16.D.0.9. - X.17.A.0.4. - X.17.A.3.8. - X.17.A.50.95.

Our Lewis Guns dispersed a party of the enemy at X.26.A. inflicting casualties and from a forward position fired intermittently on the post at X.20.C.8.8.

2. Artillery and Trench Mortars.

Counter preparation was carried out in accordance with instructions.

The following places were subjected to searching and sweeping fire. Roads and houses in F.2.A. F.1.A.2.B. E.12.B. E.7.A. E.5.D. E.6.C. X.26.A. and the Eastern approaches to METEREN and HERRIS.

A very successful shoot with Thermit shell resulted in the burning of farms at E.6.C.3.4. and E.6.C.3.7.

Hostile batteries at E.18.C.3.7. and F.4. were effectively dealt with.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

(a) Infantry. Enemy is busy consolidating positions he now holds and does not appear in any way to be aggressive on our front (Right Brigade).

Left Brigade Report. Throughout the period the enemy has shown a very aggressive attitude and repeated attempts were made during the day to recapture right battalion posts N of the main FLETEREN road by attempting to crawl along ditches on North side of road, all of which were repulsed. At 9.p.m. 2 attempts were also made to push back our forward posts of right Coy right Battalion. The enemy attacked in two waves, Bombers first and riflemen second, but on each occasion he was dispersed by our rifle and Lewis gun fire before reaching our positions.

(b) Artillery.

(1) Trench System. The whole of the front line of the right brigade was shelled by guns of all calibres at 7.p.m.

Shelling of posts and roads in the forward system of the left brigade has greatly increased. Posts in X.15. received particular attention. Position in X.5. X.10. X.9.A.2.D. X.15.B.2.D. were also shelled as were also E.29.C. E.2. E.5. E.15. and E.20. and the cross roads at X.15.B.3.0.

(11) Counter Battery Work. Nil reported.

(222) Concentrations. Short bursts of 77s and 4.2s were directed on to billets at X.15.Central and X.8.C.2.D.

(IV.) Gas Shelling. Nil.

(V) Back area Shoots. Cross roads at P.30.A.1.3. were intermittently shelled by a 4.2. gun.

(c) Trench Mortars. Also showed increased activity and shelled our posts in X.15.A.2.D. X.16.A. X.10.C.3.D. Positions were suspected at X.15.D.1.8. and at X.26.A.2.8.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 11.

From 8.a.m. 24-4-18. to 8.a.m. 25-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

Infantry. During the night, nucleus posts were dug at E.3.A.6. and E.3.A.82.70. Operations were hampered by the light and enemy Machine guns were very active. On the morning of the 24th Inst, one of our patrols saw a hostile party of 7. Three of the enemy were shot by our patrol. On investigation last night, the bodies had been taken away but an enemy rifle was brought in.

Our Snipers have been active, 12 hits being claimed by the left section, and good opportunities taken advantage of by the Right section on targets along the railway and at E.5.D.7.4.

Liaison patrols maintained lateral communication throughout the night.

Line now runs approx as follows;- X.20.B.0.3. - X.21.A.0.4. - X.21.A.0.9. - X.15.C.0.3. - X.15.C.4.8. - X.15.A.0.4. X.15.A.8.5. - X.15.B.0.0. - X.15.B.5.5. - X.13.A.0.4. - X.13.C.8.9. - X.17.D.0.9. - X.17.A.0.4. - X.17.A.3.8. - X.17.A.5.9.

The Divisional front was actively patrolled throughout the night, but owing to the brightness of the moon, patrols were unable to penetrate to any great depth.

Artillery. During the 24 hours under review our Artillery was active, firing against enemy forward defences. METEREN was heavily shelled. Between 6. and 7.30.p.m. three fires were started by incendiary shells in METEREN; those burned all night. At 3.p.m. medium trench mortars fired 22 rounds on to house at X.21.A.5.9. Several direct hits were obtained and later six stretcher cases were taken away by the enemy under cover of red cross flag.

Enemy front system and houses in E.12.A. were actively engaged by our 18-pdrs. Whilst MERRIS was shelled by our heavies.

Trench Mortars. Our L.T.Mc fired on to working parties at E.3.A.6.1., E.3.A.7.4., E.3.C.3.0. and on enemy posts at E.3.C.4.5. and E.3.C.5.2.

Working parties were dispersed and good bursts were observed on the posts.

Our 6" Newtons engaged houses at E.11.B.7.6. E.12.A.2.6. and E.3.D.5.5.

Outpost at E.11.B.7.4. and known enemy rendezvous at E.6.C.6. was engaged, but owing to fog, results could not be observed.

A light trench mortar fired on M.Gun position at X.21.A.5.05. and at 3.30.a.m. on to house at X.15.D.7.9. and on to cross roads at X.15.D.8.7.

Machine Guns. Our guns were active playing on enemy tracks and known occupied positions.

Aircraft. Our planes were active throughout the period under review and at night bombs could be heard dropping in the enemy's lines.

Gas. At 10.p.m. 180 gas projectors were fired on to MERRIS.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1 Hostile Activity.

Infantry. Considerable movement opposite the left section. of Left seems to indicate that a relief took place during the night. Consolidation is in progress opposite the left side front, and the reports that the enemy took full advantage of yesterday's fog to continue the work.

Enemy snipers are very watchful but otherwise no signs of aggression are shown.

Hostile working parties at F.1.A.2.8. were engaged by bombs and rifle grenades.

Artillery. Noticeable quiet during the morning but during the evening and night some barrages were placed across our front. At 9.15.p.m. a barrage lasting 45 minutes of all calibres was placed along the whole of the right brigade front and support system. Shelling came from the direction of OUTERSTEENE and MERRIS.

At 2.50.a.m. another barrage was placed across the right Bde front and Support systems, this also lasted about one hour. A few gas shells were included.

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During the first barrage, support Coy left section, report that several shrapnel shells were observed to burst within a few feet of the ground and that two shells appeared to have thrown separate explosions after striking the ground in X.15.A.1.1. No sounds could be heard these shells passing through the air.

(a) Counter Battery Work. From 2. to 2.30.p.m. a concentrated shoot by 10. and 15. on. How was put down on R.31.C. from 2.30. to 4.30.p.m. 10 cm gun fired on R.31.A. from 8. to 8.40.p.m. R.31.A. was again shelled with 15 cm H.E. 2.30.p.m. Counter battery fire on Q.24.D. 20 rounds 4.2. H.E. direction HODGKINACKER 2.35.p.m. Counter Battery on Q.30. 15 rounds 5.9. H.E. 8.p.m. Heavy counter Battery fire shrapnel 4.2. and 5.9. H.E. on our batteries. in Q.30. Q.33. R.20. R.25. and R.26.

(b) Concentration. Light concentration shoots were carried on various farm houses and cross roads in our area, no serious damage being done.

(c) Gas Shelling. From 2.30.a.m. to 4.30.a.m. FLETRE and vicinity received gas concentration chiefly mustard gas. Throughout the night gas shells were thrown at random over the whole of our sector.

(d) Back Area. ST SYLVESTRE was intermittently shelled by a 13.cm gun during afternoon and evening.

2. Defences. The following areas were shelled by light and medium trench mortars during the period; - X.10.C. 120 rounds, X.15.A.2.B. 33 rounds. 1 enemy trench mortar shelling X.10.C. was located at

X.15.B.5.1.

5. Aircraft. His aerial activity was much less than on previous two or three days, only 3 machines were reported over our sector. At 1.30.a.m. several bombs were dropped on FLETRE. At 2.a.m. bombs were dropped in E.4.B.

4. Movement. Enemy party observed wiring in X.26.B. was dispersed by Lewis and rifle fire.

5. Defences. Enemy posts and machine guns were located as follows;

M.Gun at X.15.D.3.9; Post from X.15.A.5.1. to X.15.C.5.9. Sniper at N.15.B.7.2. M.Guns at X.15.B.3.1. and X.15.D.5.9. and X.15.C.75.90.

House at X.15.C.75.90. is occupied. The enemy is occupying hedge from X.15.C.9.2. to X.15.C.6.9. also from X.15.A.45.00. to X.15.B.50.15. to X.15.B.5.1. An enemy post is located between houses at X.15.A.4.1. and X.15.C.40.95.

Machine guns at E.6.A.8.3. post at X.26.A.55.40. X.26.A.8.4. X.26.D.9.6. and E.6.A.9.3. Trench Mortar in house at E.12.A.15.10. Enemy wiring at E.3.C.10.65. Working party at X.20.C.7.5. was dispersed by our fire. That appeared to be a communication trench was worked on at E.3.C.9.9. This party was dispersed by 18-pdrs and rifle fire. At 10.55.a.m. gun flashes were observed 1580 grid from E.3.05.70. Shells fell in STRAZELLE and approximately distance 5000 yards. Snipers in house at E.5.D.75.45.

A working party was observed at X.15.C.3.2. (dispersed by L.G.fire)

3. Identification. At about 11.30.p.m. a badly wounded prisoner was taken at X.20.C.8.5. prisoner belonged to 10 Coy 3rd Battalion 269 R.I.R. 81st Reserve Division and was carrying English 1" Very Cartridge. As the prisoner was unconscious interrogation was impossible.

Documents were taken from a dead German found at X.15.B.6.2. He belonged to 1st M.Gun Coy 1st Battalion 96th I.R. He did not appear to have been dead more than 48 hours.

[Handwritten signature]

Colonel.
General Staff.

1st Australian Division.

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APPENDIX 20

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. NO. 12.

3.2.a.m. 25-4-18. to 5.a.m. 26-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

a. Infantry. At 9.30.p.m. we successfully discharged projectors into INTERREN.

Patrols were out along the divisional front throughout the night. No enemy were encountered, but a number of enemy parties were observed digging posts and useful information was obtained re the positions of these posts, and of enemy ... etc. One of our patrols dispersed with rifle grenades a small party of enemy at X.11.A.2.1.

At 11.30.p.m. Lewis guns opened from different positions in our line on to the baths at X.20.C.8.8. Mills and Phosphorous bombs were also thrown. A fire was started causing enemy to scatter. Many casualties were then inflicted by Lewis Guns. An enemy ... at X.15.B.7.5. was silenced by rifle grenade fire.

b. Snipers. Twenty seven casualties are claimed by snipers.

c. Artillery. Counter preparation and harassing programmes were carried out. Roads and tracks and a centre of activity in F.1.A.3.D. were particularly dealt with. Good shooting was observed on houses at E.11.B.7.2., E.2.C.5.7., X.15.D.2.8. and X.15.D.3.9.

d. (Trench Mortars. Medium T.M.s fired on to factory at X.15.D.1. and on houses at E.12.A.5.3. Stokes guns were continuously active engaging the Chateau at X.15.C.75.80. and posts in E.3.A. and E.3.C.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

I. Activity.

a. Infantry. Enemy is very alert, and is busy consolidating on the whole of our front.

b. Artillery. Hostile artillery has been less active than usual. Harassing shoots were carried out by day on our support positions around INTERREN, and on the Cross Roads in X.1.A.

Registration shoots took place on positions in X.15.B., on our posts in X.17.A. and on a T.M. positions in X.10.A.A.C.

Concentrations were put down on a Coy H.Q. in X.3.A., on billets in X.3.A.A.B. in X.15., and on both sides of the road between PRADALLE and STRAZELLE. STRAZELLE Station and FLETRE were intermittently shelled.

c. Trench Mortars. 3.T.M. Bombs fell in X.15.C., and 50 rounds in X.15.A. and 12 rounds in X.10.C.

d. Aerial. Enemy planes were intermittently active. Two flew low over our flight section firing machine guns.

Enemy planes with the new ring markings have been observed.

Balloons were up on 490 and 1890 true from E.5.A.9.5.

II. Movement.

Movement during the night appeared to indicate an enemy relief opposite our extreme left.

Movement was seen at X.3.A.A.3.4. X.25.C.9.C. and X.25.D.9.7. and in the work shops at X.15.D.

Isolated parties entered houses at E.3.A.8.C. and E.3.C.5.3. At 2.a.m. when a fire was observed in the direction of OUTTERSTERN movement showed up and our Lewis guns inflicted casualties.

III. Defences. The following positions were located:-

On the right brigade front.

Opposite the Right Bn, the enemy appears to be holding a line of posts from X.21.A.1.1. to X.21.A.20.35. to X.15.C.35.10. thence along hedge X.15.C.9.2. to X.15.C.7.3. Machine guns were reported at points along this line, but could not be definitely located as they appeared to be continually changing their positions. Enemy is occupying house at X.15.A.00.35. Enemy posts have been located at X.15.A.5.4. X.15.A.5.2. X.15.A.4.1. (1 H.Gun and house occupied), X.15.C.5.3., X.15.C.7.9. (1 H.Gun) X.15.D.1.9. X.15.D.3.9. (1 H.Gun) X.15.B.5.2. (1 H.Gun) X.15.B.5.2. X.15.B.3.4. H.Gun at

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X.15.B.8.5.

Hedge at X.15.B.8.4. to X.15.A.3.5. appears to be heavily wired. It is evident that Chateau at X.15.C.7.8. contains a large number of M.Guns. Hedge from X.15.C.7.8. to X.15.C.9.2. is strongly entrenched and wired, and strongly held with M.Guns. M.Guns were also located in long barn at X.15.D.78.92. Other M.Guns have been located at buildings at X.15.D.1.8. X.15.C.9.9. and in three trees from X.15.B.3.1. to X.15.B.6.5.

On the left brigade front.

Machine guns located at X.29.C.8.6. and F.1.A.3.C. and suspected at X.20.D.1.2. Posts located at E.3.B.63.55., E.3.B.7.4. F.1.C.0.9. X.27.C.3.1. E.C.A.6.1., E.6.A.7.4., E.6.C.3.6. E.C.C.4.5. E.3.C.5.4. E.3.C.4.7. E.3.A.4.2. and E.3.A.5.0. Work has been carried on from E.18.B.1.2. to E.18.D.1.2. E.3.D.15.60. E.3.C.5.7. and in X.20.A. and C.

IV. Miscellaneous. One red flare appears to be the enemy's signal for lengthen range. A flash of 21 cm. How. was observed at Grad bearing of 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from R.31.C.7.2. firing on MONT NOIR between 6 and 8 p.m.

From enemy M.G. Post at F.1.A.3.6. a periscope has been used to observe with. A 77 battery fired from about F.15.A.1.6. and shells fell short in enemy lines. 2 Flares were sent up, both of which worked. House at F.1.C.3.9. was set on fire by our heavies.

At 4 p.m. gun flashes were observed at a true bearing of 1320 T.B. from E.29.B.36.85.

V. Identifications. An Officer and 1 man of the 7th Coy, 2nd Bn, 62nd. I.R. 12th Division were captured this morning. Method of capture and preliminary interrogation is given in the Annex.

John J. G. G.
Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

Information required.

I. Enemy posts in E.5.D.

Information from other sources. A report from the SOMME states that prior to the offensive there, the enemy again used prepared shell holes for the storage of ammunition.

ANNEXE.

Identification. Two prisoners, 1 Officer and 1 O.R. taken this morning in X.20.C. belong to the 7th Coy 2nd Battalion, 62.I.R. 12th. Division.

Method of Capture. The Officer along with two other ranks came up to reconnoitre the front at present held by the 269.I.R. 81st. Res. Div. According to prisoners statement the 62.I.R. who have not been in the line since they attacked on the 17th, expect to come in tonight and the above party were to act as guides.

They walked through their lines without knowing, until they reached a farm, where the Officer told his two orderlies to wait his return. The Officer failing to return after about 20 minutes, one orderly moved out from behind the wall, and saw immediately in front of him, one of our posts, fire was opened by the garrison, prisoner walked in, whilst his compatriot bolted towards his own lines.

The Officer walked Northward until he encountered one of our posts when he surrendered. In the yard at the farm was two pigs which Officer had promised them they should take back with them on his return. Movement of the 62.I.R. On the 17th, the 62.I.R. after being heavily engaged, were withdrawn immediately to the farm houses round about DOULLEVU, where they have been since. They should relieve tonight a regiment of the 81st. Res. Division, probably the 269.I.R.

Prisoners are confident that a purely defensive policy is in vogue throughout their division.

Intentions.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 13.

From 5.a.m. 26-4-18. to 5.a.m. 27-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

a. At 12.30.a.m. we successfully discharged projectors into GERBODON FARM.

Our patrols were active patrolling the divisional front. The summary of their reports gives us the following information.

On our right Brigade front. No enemy patrols were actually encountered, but parties were seen working on post at E.6.C.4-7. and wire has been erected in front of post at E.6.C.3-9.

Movement was made difficult owing to the bright night. On our left Brigade front. Enemy reported quiet and M.G. activity less than previous night. Wiring of his front line posts is in progress.

At several points opposite our front enemy working parties could be heard wiring and digging. At times our patrols were engaged by M.G. fire, but this was less than usual.

A little individual movement was observed in WETEREN.

No Lens Land is in good condition, but does not afford much cover.

b. Snipers. 7 hits are claimed by our right brigade snipers, our left brigade firing whenever opportunity occurred.

c. Artillery. Our artillery was active during the period under review, enemy front line, tracks, and rear areas were subjected to bursts of harassing fire from our 18-pdrs.

MERRIS, OUTERSTEENE, WETEREN and Chateau at X.15.C.7.8. received particular attention from our heavies, good shooting being observed on the latter target.

d. Trench Mortars. About 200 rounds were fired from our Stokes Mortars on to known enemy targets, and centres of activity, with; in some cases excellent effect.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Enemy is apparently very busy, consolidating and wiring his front post system.

b. Artillery. Enemy's artillery was considerably less active than during the previous 24 hours.

The chief characteristic of his days shooting, was the harassing fire on the support system of our right Brigade, a destructive shelling of STRAZELLE Railway Station, and light harassing fire on the forward area of our Left Brigade.

c. (Trench Mortars. Less active than usual. On one occasion they replied to the fire of one of our light T.Ms.

d. Aerial. Enemy aeroplanes still maintain an active policy, and were often to be observed flying low over our lines, sometimes firing M.G. into our posts. One plane frequently flew over STRAZELLE Station.

II. Movement. 1 man walked from house at X.26.D.15.65. to Earth works at X.26.D.1.7. and from there to another house at X.26.D.5.3. At 2.30.a.m. 20 of the enemy were seen at F.2.A.3.2. standing in front of a fire. Individual movement at E.6.A.3.2. Movement was again seen at the Baths about X.20.C.8.8. House at X.15.B.85.15. is occupied.

III. Defences. The following locations are known to be occupied by the enemy, or being worked upon, with view to forming strong defensive positions.

Work has been carried on at X.25.B.8.2. and also on enemy posts previously reported. Light wire has been erected at E.C.C. 5.9. Trench system is reported at about E.18.D.7.4. and about E.18.D.8.1. Movement could be seen here. Post was located at X.26.D.2.5., X.25.D. Central., X.26.D.1.7. and a trench runs from E.6.A.6.2. through E.6.B.3.7. Enemy T.M. fired from E.12.A.15.60. Sniper was seen in shell hole at X.26.C.40.95.

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Enemy is working hard along the hedge from X.15.C.7.8. to X.15.C.9.2. and it is now well wired. New work was located at X.15.B.8.2., X.15.B.3.1., X.16.B.90.55. and X.15.B.7.0. also trench from X.15.D.4.2. to X.21.E.2.8.

IV. Miscellaneous. Whilst our artillery were firing on road and railway from E.11.B.6.6. to E.12.A.3.5. explosions occurred and clouds of smoke were visible. At 9.15.p.m. double red flares were sent up; they were repeated laterally and in relays to the rear; no apparent action followed. An 18-pdr, dud fired by the enemy was found by the Right section.

Gun flashes observed as follows:-

8.45.p.m.	128	dog	grid	from	E.5.A.9.3.
9.30.p.m.	118	"	"	"	"
9.45.p.m.	108	"	"	"	"
10.45.p.m.	133	"	"	"	"
11.35.p.m.	98	"	"	"	"
12.25.a.m.	153	"	"	"	"

At 2.20.p.m. dense cloud of smoke rising from vicinity of OUTERSTREET. At 2.30.p.m. flash of H.V. gun observed at Grid bearing of 148 degrees from R.31.C.7.2. Gun flashes were also observed at a Grid bearing of 148 degrees from R.31.C.7.2.

V. Identifications.

One wounded prisoner, who subsequently died, belonging to 12 Company 218 R.I.R., 81st Res Division was captured at X.20.C.8.8. about 2.20.a.m. this morning.

Geo. H. Priestley

H. J. J.

Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

Our line to the North at midday 27-4-18 ran approx as follows:-

Sh. 38. 1. 40.000.

3.3.Central. 5.5.D.7.5; 7.3.D.0.0; 9.3.D.0.9; 10.3.D.5.0;
1.7.D.5.0; 10.Central; 11.A.0.5; H.33.C.7.4; I.51.D.0.0;
I.22.D.4.5; 10.D.4.3; 5.A.0.0; 6.13.B.8.0.

Very heavy casualties were caused to the enemy who attacked in a formation yesterday at VOORNEZEELE and at RINGWOOD. African troops were responsible for repulsing this attack.

CONFIDENTIAL.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 14.

From 3.a.m. 27th to 3.a.m. 28-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Patrols kept in touch with the enemy on our front during the night. (Patrol Map forwarded to Corps). No enemy patrols were encountered. Hostile working parties were observed at X.15.A.1.2., X.25.D. Central, and in E.3.

Snipers. Claim 14 hits. At least two of the enemy were killed as bodies were visible until removed under cover of Red Cross flag.

2. Artillery. All roads, tracks, houses, railways and hedges reported occupied were subjected to harassing fire.

A house occupied by snipers at E.11.B.3.9. was demolished.

4.5 Hows obtained direct hits on the Chateau at X.15.C.7.8.

Entrenched hedge here was also shelled causing the garrison to take cover in a hedge in rear whence they were again dispersed. HETTEREN and WETEREN were shelled by our heavies.

3. Trench Mortars. Stokes Mortars of left Brigade fired over 700 rounds during the night in three organised shoots, the following targets being selected.

Houses on FLETRE-WETEREN road between X.15.C.3.9. and X.15.D.2.8. Trench Systems from X.20.D.3.2. to house at X.20.D.40.75. from X.13.C.1.0. to X.11.A.5.0., and from X.13.B.5.2. to X.17.A.0.5.

Cross roads at X.17.A.5.0. house at X.13.D.7.3. and on suspected I.G. post in WETEREN.

Stokes Mortars of right Brigade fired on road through X.25.C. and F.1.A. and on active I.G. positions.

Medium T.M.s carried out successful shoots on posts in X.15.B.3.D. 4 of enemy were dislodged from I.G. post at E.6.A.7.0. and two of them sniped as they ran away.

Hostile parties were also dislodged from the margold-verzol hce at E.6.A.3.2.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.

(a) Infantry. Enemy is still alert and continues the work of consolidation. A noticeable decrease in the amount of work is reported since the suspected relief North of the HETTEREN - BAILLEUL road

(b) Artillery. Normal activity of hostile artillery is reported. Concentrations were carried out on STRAZELLE, and on the area F.11. and F.17.A.2.5. Between 5.45.p.m. and 6.30.p.m. a destructive barrage of 77s and 4.2s was put down in X.10.B.0.0. In addition, the following locations received particular attention;- X.14. X.10.A.2.B. FLETRE, F.15.B. and 13.A. F.10. F.9. and E.2.

Fires were caused by incendiary shells in the houses at F.08.B.7.5. and F.08.B.5.5. A fire started in FLETRE at 9.p.m. continued burning throughout the night.

(c) Aerial. No activity during the day. At 5.p.m. 5 bombs were dropped near STRAZELLE Stn. During the evening hostile planes machine gunned our forward posts of the left brigade.

II. Movement. At 4.p.m. 10 men approached house at E.6.C.0.5. by means of depression in the ground; a little later a T.M. fired from this direction. 5 men carrying sacks left E.11.D.5.4. and went to E.12.C.2.2. Movement has been observed around posts in E.6.C. At 10.30.p.m. 4 men entered post at X.20.C.3.5. 2 men who appeared to be mending signal wires moved from F.2.D.5.9. to F.3.C.2.5. Individual movement was observed during the day on a track running F.V. to S.E. across fields in X.22.D.

III. Enemy Defences.

Right Brigade report;- Posts located as follows;- X.20.D.2.9., X.20.C.3.5. T.M.s located as follows, E.6.C.0.5., E.6.C.5.7. (reported destroyed by premature) I.G.s located at E.6.A.7.0. (reported put out of action) Batteries reported firing from between house at F.2.C.9.0. and house at F.3.A.7.0.

(P.T.O.)

(2)

Loft Brigade report;- A working party was located at X.15.B.4.2. and was dispersed by M.Gun fire. Enemy posts were located by patrols at X.15.B.4.2., X.15.B.3.1., X.15.C.95.95, X.15.A.8.0. and X.15.C.95.70.

IV. Miscellaneous.

Arms and Equipment. A large number of enemy 77 shells are reported as being defective.

Flares. Double red flares are being used by enemy on our left brigade front, and single red ones on our right brigade, apparently as his lengthen-range signal.

On hostile shells dropping well on to our posts in X.20.C. groups of white flares were sent up by the enemy.

Gun Flashes.

5.p.m. 1320 true from X.19.A.4.8.

4.45.p.m. 1020 true from W.23.A.8.5. (battery in X.28.)

5.30.p.m. 1450 true from E.5.A.9.6. (distant about 2,000 yards)

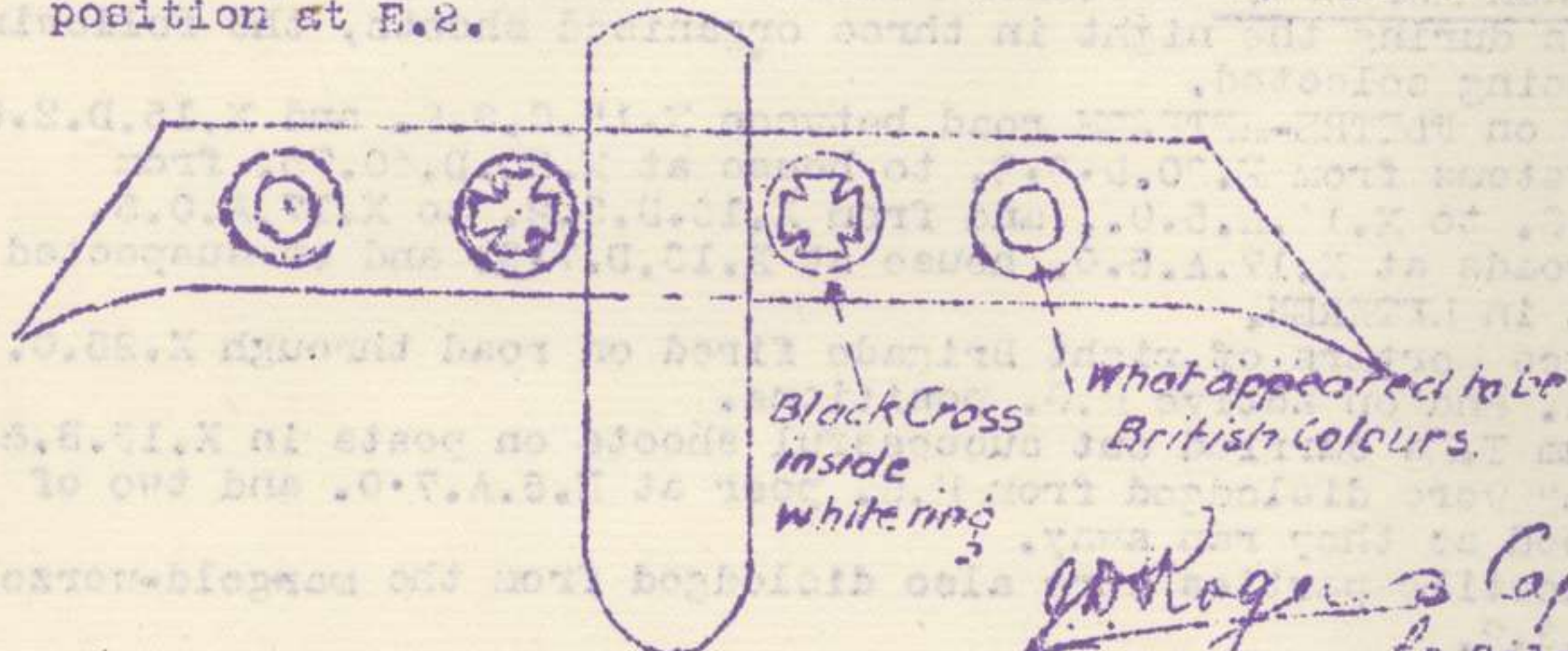
4.a.m. 1400 true from W.30.D.5.1. (distant about 2500 yards)

2.55.p.m. 1480 35' from R.31.C.7.2.

2.55.p.m. 1480 15' from R.31.C.7.2.

Hostile aircraft markings.

At 7.30.p.m. a hostile plane marked as shown, flew over battery position at E.2.



J. H. Rogers Capt
Colonel.
General Staff.

1st. Australian Division.

Note. A map scale 1. 50,000 taken from enemy dead near METEFEN by the 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bde on the 25th Inst, shows what were apparently the objectives, of the 58th Division in a recent attack. The direction of the attack is North Westerly towards GODEWAERSVELDE. The first objective appears to be the line -

LA BESACE Fm. (27.X.9.A.) - SCHAEKKEN (27.R.35.A.)

2nd. Objective. - E. of LE COQ DE PAILLE (27.R.31.B.) - S. of BERTHEM (27.R.29.C.) 3rd. Objective; - LOFT DES CATS - S.W. of BOESCHEPE (27.R.15.A.).

It will be seen that the Divnl front of attack was to be about 5km. 2 regiments (95th and 96th I.R.) appeared to be in line, 81st Reserve Division on the left and 11th Reserve Division apparently in close support to 36th Division.

Information from other sources.

Of the 206 German infantry divisions now on the Western front, 137 have been engaged since 21st March and 19 are of poor quality. There are 14 fresh Divisions in reserve and 56 fresh divisions in the line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

Tanks. The following is reported regarding the enemys tank attack in the recent fighting at (VILLERS BRETONNEUX) on the SOMME front.

- (i) The tanks were heavy slow moving German tanks. They have a top turret, and are armed with three light guns (said to be 2 pounders) as well as M.Gs.
- (ii) German tanks knocked out 2 female British tanks.
- (iii) British male tanks knocked out 1 German tank and dispersed 3 others.
- (iv) British "whippet" tanks attacked 3 massed enemy battalions. The casualties inflicted are variously estimated from 400 to 1000. The "whippets" returned dripping with blood.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 15.

From 6.a.m. 28-4-18. to 6.a.m. 29-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Liaison patrols maintained lateral communications between flanking units throughout the night.

No encounters took place, and patrols report enemy very quiet.

2. Artillery. Throughout the day and night, our batteries actively engaged enemy forward positions, roads, tracks and centres of activity.

In view of a suspected relief opposite our left Brigade sector, a special harassing shoot took place against roads, and tracks between 11.p.m. and 1.a.m. and from 4.15.a.m. to 4.30.a.m. and from 4.40.a.m. to 4.55.a.m. a counter preparation shoot was carried out.

3. Trench Mortars. Heavy, Medium and Light trench mortars expended a number of rounds on registration, and destructive shoots on known hostile targets.

4. Snipers. 7 hits are claimed by our snipers during the period.

B. HOSTILE ACTIVITY.

a. Infantry. Enemy is very cautious and alert, but not at all aggressive. He appears to send out no patrols, and very little movement is now seen opposite our divisional sector. Consolidation of front line posts appears to be their present policy.

b. Artillery. Hostile artillery at intervals displayed intense activity, particularly on the front line system of 2nd Zone running through W.26. and W.20.

PRADILLIS was intermittently subjected to heavy shelling with 15 cm How from the direction of BLEUL. Two of our batteries were shelled during the afternoon, several casualties being incurred to personnel.

c. Trench Mortars. Enemy mortars were not very active during the period. Granatwerfer was observed firing from approx X.16.C.3.7.

d. Aerial. Enemy planes displayed great activity during the day, and were constantly over our area. Between 4.50. and 6.p.m. planes flew low over the sector of our Right Brigade, they were engaged by our A.A. and M.Gs, small bombs were dropped about 5.p.m. in E.4.B. and D.

II. Movement. At 4.40.p.m. 4 men ran from hedge at X.20.C.3.3. They were fired at by snipers but results could not be observed. Movement was seen in trench about E.6.B.05.45. Movement could be seen at intervals during the day in E.13.E. and LALIS and LINDIE Farms are centres of great activity. A party of 5 men were dispersed by Lewis Gun fire at X.16.C.3.8. at 1.50.a.m. and with the exception of slight movement in X.15.A. and C. of small parties during the night, no further movement was observed.

III. Defences. Trench Mortar E.6.C.0.5. Posts - The work reported at E.3.C.5.7. has been apparently completed and a post is now located at E.3.C.50.75. A post located in trench at E.3.B.05.45. Work - Digging observed at F.2.B.4.4.

IV. Miscellaneous. At 3.20.a.m. when our artillery was shelling enemy positions, a number of single Red flares were fired from front line posts. The immediate shelling of our back areas resulted. Gun flashes as follows:-

4.30.a.m.	1	flash	140	deg	grid	from	E.5.A.9.3.
5.30.a.m.	1	"	143	"	"	"	"
9.30.p.m.	2	"	135	"	"	"	"
9.55.p.m.	1	"	138	"	"	"	"

Either double or single Red flares appear to be enemy's signal to artillery to lengthen range whilst a single green seems to stop his artillery. Two parties were observed at intervals leaving trench in E.3.A. and B; and excessive number of white flares were sent up at 1.30.a.m. This appears to indicate a relief opposite the Right section.

General News. After inflicting sanguinary losses upon the enemy, elements of French divisions withdrew from their forward positions, leaving our line at midday on the 29th Inst approximately as follows:- From S to N. (Shoeb 23.1)

S.9.A. Central to just east of KOUDEKOT thence just east of LOCRE M.23.D.2.2. M.17.C. Central. to M.17.B.6.5. M.17.B.9.7. to M.18.A.5.8. to N.7.D.1.6. to N.8.C.9.1. to N.16.C. Central.

Geo. H. Price

Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

4.50 p.m.

Later information shows our line in SCHERPENBERG Area to be unaltered; Our line runs as previously reported in Intelligence Summary No. 13. We have also repulsed 3 very heavy attacks on the RIDGEWOOD Area inflicting severe casualties on the enemy.

CONFIDENTIAL.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 15.

From 6.a.m. 29-4-18. to 30-4-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

a. Artillery. During the early morning counter preparation was carried out in accordance with Corps Instructions.

Harassing fire was intermittently put down along the Divisional front, especially on to the recently reported centres of activity.

A considerable amount of counter battery work was accomplished the following hostile positions being subjected to intermittent bursts of fire; - X.28.D.20.20., X.28.D.60.20., F.3.B.60.20., F.2.D.17.63. /28, 28/45.45 and 41.18.

A number of rounds were expended in registration and checking of S.O.S. lines.

b. Gas. Gas projectors were fired at 1.30.a.m. against enemy positions in W.27.A. and B. and MERRIS. Enemy sent up double and single red flares, but no action was taken by him.

Between 11.14.a.m. and 11.30.a.m. our heavies shelled Farms in X.27.B., one being set on fire.

c. Patrols. In addition to the usual liaison patrols between Battalions and flanking units, special patrols reconnoitred No Mans Land, but in no case was the enemy encountered. Patrols report enemy very alert and opened M.G. fire on slightest sound or movement. A reconnoitring patrol of one Officer, 3 O.Rs. observed movement in buildings at X.15.B.9.3. but encountered no enemy.

Fighting patrol of two parties of one Officer and 10. O.Rs each left our line at X.15.A.9.5. at 2.30.a.m. with the object of obtaining identification and to fire houses at X.15.B.9.3. Buildings were fired, no enemy opposition being encountered until on the return journey when the patrol came under heavy M.G. fire from approx. X.16.A.2.4.

A patrol of one Officer and 4.O.Rs left our line at X.16.A.8.4. to reconnoitre enemy position in front of sector.

Patrol located enemy posts from X.16.D.2.9. to X.16.C.8.8. to X.16.A.35.10. to X.16.A.35.21. These posts appeared to be unoccupied.

The following information was gained by Right Brigade (Left Section). Rifle fire directed on to a patrol from X.20.C.9.4. Sounds could be heard from post at X.20.D.2.9. Sniper fired from about X.20.D.0.8. No Mans Land was found in good condition.

d. Snipers. Few opportunities occurred for sniping but 2 hits are claimed by snipers of the left brigade.

e. M.Guns. Lewis Guns were very active along the whole front. Enemy parties were dispersed at X.15.B.3.3. and in X.15.C. An enemy M.G. was silenced at X.15.C.8.8. Enemy planes were engaged at every opportunity.

f. Trench Mortars. Our left group of M.T.s fired 80 rounds on houses in N. edge of METEREN with very good results, 2 houses being knocked down. On the Right Sector 58 rounds were expended on effective shoots as follows; - 10 rounds on M.G. position at X.20.C.30.43., 6 rounds sweeping from E.11.B.Cent. to E.3.C.Cent. 10 rounds on houses at X.28.B.3.5., direct hits being obtained and all good bombs detonated well., and 12 rounds on E.C.C.0.3.

Positions at X.16.D.70.95. X.15.B.75.10. X.21.A.2.4. X.20.D.3.2. X.20.D.4.6. and enemy posts in E.C.A.2.C. were engaged by Light trench mortars.

g. Rifle Bombing. Throughout the night enemy forward positions and M.G. positions were subjected to harassing fire from the Rifle Grenadiers of Left Brigade. In many cases men moved forward in order to get into range of enemy centres of activity and good results were obtained.

h. Aerial Activity. Our planes were active throughout the day constantly patrolling enemy forward and rear areas. Numerous indecisive engagements took place with enemy machines. At 4.20.p.m. a flight of 10 of our planes drew intense A.A. and M.G. fire but without apparent effect.

One E.A. is reported as driven down by our planes well in rear of his lines at 5.30.p.m.

B. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

a. Artillery. Not quite so active as during last few days, and the absence of heavy shells was noticeable in the forward area. Increased activity of 77s is reported.

In retaliation to our morning counter preparation a light barrage was put down on our Support Systems

Area shoots were carried out on to W.28., E.4., W.16.C.&D., and W.2.D. An intermittent trench mortar bombardment of X.25.C. and D. was fairly heavy from 5.20.p.m. to 7.p.m.

The 123rd and 124th Battery positions in W.15.D. and E.3.B. were shelled during the day.

Between 4.20.a.m. and 2.p.m. 300 4.2" shells were placed into square W.6.B. X.16.A.&B. shelled intermittently during the afternoon with 4.2" H.E. from S.E. direction.

b. Infantry Activity. No aggressive action is reported. The enemy is apparently very alert, but is devoting considerable time to consolidating his position. M.G.s were busy placing indirect fire on roads and tracks in rear of our front line.

c. Enemy Defences.
Posts.- X.25.D.1.2. X.25.D.4.2. X.25.D.2.5. X.25.D.80.25. X.25.D. D.90.55. X.25.D.55.75. X.20.D.2.9.

Snipers. X.20.D.0.3. X.20.C.9.7. and X.20.D.1.1.
Work. E.12.C.7.7. Wiring. X.20.C.9.7. Trenches. A trench is reported at E.12.C.8.7. and is occupied by day. A trench has been located at X.27.B.65.10.

In addition posts were located as follows;- X.16.D.2.9. to X.16.C.8.8. and X.16.A.35.15. to X.16.A.35.20. and are believed unoccupied. A listening post was located at X.17.A.50.75. and enemy M.G. positions at X.15.C.6.9. and X.15.B.25.95. Enemy appears to have withdrawn from the front of hedge in X.15.C. and constructed new posts in the rear which are being wired. The hedge has been thinned considerably. A house at X.15.C.9.2. seems particularly well fortified.

Light T.M. suspected at X.16.C.10.65. Posts have been located at X.15.B.3.5. (with M.G.) X.16.A.5.2. and X.16.C.10.65. Post suspected at X.17.A.50.75. House at X.16.A.40.00. is occupied. 8 men seen there at 8.p.m. BELLE CROIX FARM was set on fire during the evening and burnt for four hours.

d. Aerial. Enemy planes were very active throughout the day, often flying at low altitudes. At 3.15.a.m. 8 machines over our forward area were engaged by our A.A. guns and M.G.s, one being forced to land in vicinity of OUTERSTRENE. At 12.30.p.m. an aeroplane with our markings flying at about 2,000 feet fired a burst of H.G. fire into our posts at X.15.B.4.6. At 2.45.a.m. a dark object like an airship flew over enemy lines in a S.W. direction. One plane brought down well behind enemy lines at 5.30.p.m. 6.a.m. 4 enemy balloons were up extending 8 degrees on a bearing of 120 degrees true from W.9.D.1.2.

e. Movement. LABIS and LYNDE Farms were again reported as centres of considerable movement. At 3.40.p.m. 7 men walked along track in a Westerly direction and entered house at X.25.A.2.8. One man emerged from trench at X.27.B.65.10. and crossed fields to road at F.3.A.8.8. Movement was observed during the day at hedges and buildings in X.15.C.&D. and at post in X.15.B.3.3. Wiring parties in X.15.B.&C. were dispersed by Lewis Gun fire. A number of men were seen to enter house at X.22.C.35.50. during the day.

f. Miscellaneous. At 2.a.m. enemy field guns were firing on their own positions in X.15.C. Flares bursting into 2 REDS were immediately sent up from house at X.15.C.75.80. and repeated in rear of METEREN. Next time the guns fired the shells well in rear of our forward positions.

Two mines were successfully blown at Road Junction at X.9.C.8.6. and X.10.C.4.5.

(3)

Gun flashes as follows;-

8.40.a.m. and 5.25.p.m. 3 flashes at 2 minute intervals 121 deg. grid from W.23.A.8.5. fired from about F.10.D. on to Left sub-sector and appeared heavy calibre.

5.30.p.m. 4 flashes 122 deg. grid from W.23.A.8.5. fired on to Left Sub-sector.

3.40.p.m. 1 flash 107 deg. grid from W.23.A.8.5.

At 3.55.a.m. opposite Right section a succession of White flares were sent up from the front line and repeated back towards

MERRIS. Road from X.19.C.2.8. through W.24.A.2.B. was subjected to bursts of indirect H.G. fire and tracer bullets were used at intervals.

10.45.a.m. to 10.50.a.m. small smoke screen was sent up from about X.20.Central, extending towards OUTERSTONE.

[Signature]
Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

SECRET

Copy NO.....

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 75.

Headquarters,
April 14th 1918.

1. The following troops are being withdrawn from the line -
4th Guards Brigade.
29th Division.
51st Division.
On completion of relief, the area from road junction Sq. K.4.c.2.5. to road junction Sq. X.19.c.2.9. will be held by 1st Australian Division.
2. INFANTRY. The 2nd A.I. Brigade will hold the right subsector and the 1st A.I. Brigade the left subsector.
The boundary between brigades will be the line E.17.a.9.3. - E.9.central - D.6. central. The southern divisional boundary will be the line K.4.c.2.5. - La MOTTE inclusive - MORBECQUE inclusive.
The 3rd A.I. Brigade and 1st Pioneer Bn. will be in division -al reserve - H.Q. 3rd A.I. Brigade is established at Sq. D.3.d.0.3.
3. ARTILLERY. The artillery covering the divisional front will be distributed in two groups as follows -
Right group - covering the frontage of the right brigade.
Br-Genl. WALPHOW, C.R.A. 34th Div. commanding.
54th Divl. Artillery (2 R.F.A. Bdes.)
119th Brigade R.F.A.

Left Group - covering the frontage of the left brigade.
Br-Genl. J.C. TRAY C.R.A. 57th Div. commanding
28th (Army) Bde. R.F.A.
34th " " "
205th Bde. R.F.A.
206th " " "
Command of the 119th Bde R.F.A. will pass to C.R.A. 34th Division at 9.a.m. 14th instant.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Philippe L. L.
Colonel. G.S.
1st Australian Division.

Distribution.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - 3 D.H.Q. | |
| 4 - 3 War Diary | |
| 7 1st A.I. Bde. | |
| 8 2nd do. | 20 5th Imperial Div. |
| 9 3rd do. | 21 29th Division. |
| 10 C.R.A. 1st Aus. Div. | 22 51st " |
| 11 C.R.A. 1st do. | 23 C.R.A. 57th Div. |
| 12 Div. Sig. Cor. | 24 C.R.A. 34th Div. |
| 13 Div. Train. | 25- 26 IV Corps. |
| 14 1st Pioneer Bn. | 27 Aust. Corps. |
| 15 A.D.M.S. | 28 File. |
| 16 A.P.M. | |
| 17 1st A.G. Bn. | |
| 18 D.A.D.O.S. | |
| 19 3rd Div. | |

Issued at 3.15 p.m.

DISPOSITIONS - 98 BDE & FRENCH

6 a.m. 19-4-18

Grid North
Magnetic

141

XX

Bicyclistes avec
deux Mitrailleses

2 Coys on a 2 Section
Front disposed in
depth.

On squared maps all bearings should be given with reference to the vertical grid lines, which are parallel to the East and West edges of the sheet. Bearings should always be reckoned clockwise from 0° to 360°

Grid bearings are less than compass bearings, the difference being called the deviation of the compass. To find out what this deviation is, take a compass bearing to a distant point, and measure on the map the grid bearing to that point. The difference between the two bearings is the deviation of that compass from Grid North. To obtain the grid bearing of any point this deviation must be subtracted from the compass bearing (adding 360° to the latter if necessary).

On this sheet the mean deviation of a normal compass is 12° 13' ; but to obtain accurate results the exact deviation of each compass should be tested as described above, and this test should be repeated in each locality.

2 Coys on a 2
Section Front
disposed in depth

To Armentières

To Armentières

Becque de la
Planche

Ent 600 319-4-18

Handwritten red ink mark, possibly a signature or initials, located in the lower-left quadrant of the document.

Sgt Adeney

78

APPENDIX

SECRETFIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
April 15th 1918.DEFENCE ORGANISATION, SERIES "B", No.2.

1. The defences of the divisional sector will be organised in two Zones.
- (i) The Forward Zone.
 - (ii) The Second Zone.

2. The Forward Zone will be organised in three systems -

- (i) The Forward System.
- (ii) The Support System.
- (iii) The Reserve System.

The main lines of each system are shown approximately on the attached map.

Work in the Forward Zone will be carried out under orders of Infantry Brigade Commanders in the line assisted by field companies placed at their disposal.

- (i) The Forward System comprises the present front line posts and its close supports, it is shown in blue on the attached map. This will be regarded as the main line of resistance and will be preserved intact.

- (ii) The Support System is the forward line shown in red on the attached map.

The point of junction with the 5th Division will be at Sq. K.2.d.6.6.

Where the line passes through the wood the undergrowth should be cleared for at least 100 yards in front.

Rides through the wood make good lines.

Woods should be well wired.

STRAZELE will be organised as a defensive locality.

- (iii) The Reserve System is in process of construction. It is the second line shown in red on the attached map.

Defended localities will be constructed at La MOTTE, PETIT SEC BOIS and PRADELLES. The right flank will be joined up with the left flank of the 5th Imperial Division at La MOTTE School. Further instructions will be issued with reference to the continuation of the left flank beyond PRADELLES.

One M.G. Coy. has been disposed under the orders of 1st Aust. M.G. Battalion to form a basis for the defence of this system.

- (iv) The Right Brigade has the 17th Northumberland Fusilier Pioneer Railway Battalion at its disposal for work; the Left Brigade has No.5. Composite Battalion. No.5. Composite Battalion has been detailed under Army authority particularly for the construction of defences to cover BORRE and the railway workshops about one mile north of BORRE.

3. The Second Zone is in process of preparation. For the present it will consist of two systems -

- (i) Firing Line System Second Zone
- (ii) Support System Second Zone.

- (i) The Firing line system is shown in green on the attached map. North of Sq. D.12.central, there is a second line running west of BORRE.

- 2 -

- (ii) The Support system is shown in brown on the attached map.
- (iii) Work on the Second Zone will be carried on under the supervision of the C.R.E. who will be responsible for the co-ordination of the whole of the work of this zone. The lines north of Sq. D.12 are being constructed by the Reserve Brigade. The following are being employed on this zone under the direction of the C.R.E. - 1st Aust. Pioneer Bn., No.2. Composite Bn. of 15th Corps reinforcements, R.E. Squadron of 2nd Cavalry Division, 33rd Labour Group and 78th Chinese Labour Company.

4. Work has been done so far as follows -

(i) Forward Zone.

- (a) In the Forward System a series of posts, which form the present front defensive line, have been constructed.
- (b) In the Support System a number of posts have been prepared on the line through the BOIS d' AVAL and between this and STRAZEELE.
- (c) The Reserve System south of the GRAND SEC BOIS is well under way.

(ii) In the Second Zone

- (a) There is a good line of posts from Sq. D.28. north through E.7.a. W.20. and north of BORRE; other posts have been dug behind this from about D.12.central to V.24.b.2.9.
- (b) A trench has been dug in D.23.c. O.5. to D.21.a.2.1.

5. Up to the present, owing to tactical necessity, effort has been concentrated on digging trenches and very little wire has been put out. Arrangements will now be put in hand for organising definite wiring parties on each line and these, as far as tactical conditions permit, should be permanent parties. Efforts are being made to obtain full supplies of wire. Work will be carried out as far as possible by piece work and not by daily tasks.

6. A daily works report will be rendered by Engineer Field Company Commanders and C.O. 1st Pioneer Bn. to C.R.E. showing work done each day. While the situation is as at present, the first requirement is to prepare positions which give definite lines of resistance and works must be put in hand in the order of their priority from this point of view and in accordance with the policy laid down above.

Distribution

XV Corps
C.E. XV Corps
1st Aust. Inf. Bde.

2nd do
3rd do.

C.R.A. 1st Aus. Div.

C.R.E. do.

1st Pioneer Bn.

5th Division

33rd Division.

2nd Cavalry Div.

133rd French Div.

Aust. Corps.

Colonel.

General Staff.

1st Australian Division.

Tablancey



SECRET.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

COPY NO.....

Headquarters.
16th. April. 1918.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER, NO. 74.

1. (a) IX Corps is to be relieved tonight on the front X.25.A.3.S. to road running north and south through X.17.A. and C. by the 1st Aust Division and 135rd French Division.
(b) The 135rd French Division is taking over the front eastwards from a point 200 yards west of METEREN BECQUE. 133rd French Division Headquarters are at TERDEGHEM and the Infantry Headquarters at Sq. Q.32. near CAESTRE.
 2. 1st.Aust.Inf.Bde will relieve the 19th Inf.Bde, 35rd Division from the present junction of the two brigades to a point 200 yards west of METEREN BECQUE.
 3. Details of the relief will be arranged direct between G.Os.C. 1st.Aust.Inf.Bde and 19th.Inf.Bde.
 4. C.R.A. 1st.Aust.Div. will be prepared to cover the new portion of the front by artillery fire from 9.p.m. tonight.
 5. Command will pass on completion of relief which will be notified by 1st.Bde by priority wire.
 6. One battalion 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde will move to the vicinity of PRADELLES tonight under arrangements to be made direct between G.Os.C. 1st and 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bdos. The battalion will remain under the orders of G.O.C. 3rd. Brigade but G.O.C. 1st.Brigrade will have direct call upon it in case of emergency. Any order issued to the battalion by G.O.C. 1st.Brigrade will be repeated to 1st.Aust.Division and 3rd.Aust.Brigrade by priority message.
 7. On completion of relief the Divisional boundary will be as follows from a point in the front line 200 yards west of METEREN BECQUE to FLETTE exclusive to CAESTRE exclusive.
- . ACKNOWLEDGE.

T. Blamey
Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

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25	29th.Division.
26	31st.Division.
27 - 28	XV Corps.
29	135rd French Div.
30	19th.Inf.Brigrade.
31	File.
32 - 34	Spares.

Issued at 12.50.p.m.

SECRET

Copy No.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 75.
-----Headquarters,
April 13th 1918.

1. The French Corps is to attack probably at about 6 p.m. to-day in the direction of KELLER - WULVERGHEM on the left with the 28th French Division and in the direction of FLETRE - METTEREN with the 153rd French Division.
2. This attack will be supported on its southern flank by one battalion of the 1st Aust. Brigade on the line STRAZELLE - Sq. W.17. central. The general direction of this battalion will be towards MOOLENACKER. Its function will be to prevent any gap occurring between the right of the French and the present left of the 1st Aust. Division. Its Battalion Headquarters will be established in the first place in the vicinity of the brickworks Sq. W.27.d.8.8. The battalion should be prepared to advance at 6 p.m. and will move in conformity with the advance of the French.
The battalion of the 1st Aust. Brigade will ensure that its right flank remains in touch with the present left of the 1st Aust. Brigade.
3. Should the French attain success and continue the advance, the battalion of the 1st Aust. Brigade will fill up any gap that may occur on the left of the 1st Aust. Division. But in case of failure or a heavy German counterattack driving in the French right, the battalion will assure the left of the 1st Aust. Division.
4. The 29th Division is to move up two Battalions and a Machine Gun Company to a position of readiness about Sqs. W.8. and W.14. to be ready to move on ROUGE GROIX. The two Battalions of the 29th Division will act in conjunction with the battalion on the left of the 1st Aust. Division and is to arrange liaison with H.Q. 1st Aust. Brigade.
5. A Brigade of the 31st Division is to be ready to move at an hour's notice to exploit any success or to strengthen the defences of the left flank of the Corps.

ACKNOWLEDG.

T. Blamey

Colonel. G.S.

1st Australian Division.

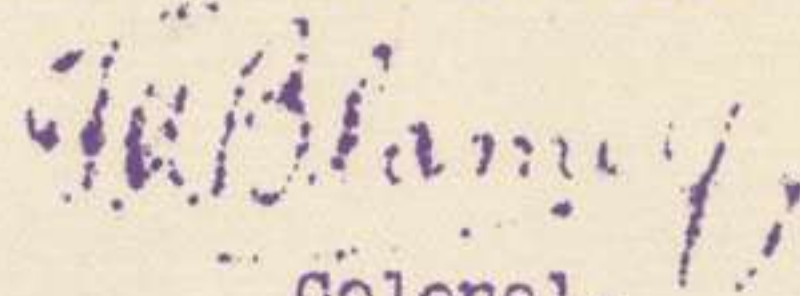
Distribution.

1 - 5	D.H.Q.	16	53rd Division.
4 - 6	War Diary.	17	133rd French Div.
7	1st A.I. Bde.	18	1st Aust. Div. Sigs.
8	2nd do.	19	A.P.H.
9	3rd do.	20	A.D.M.S.
10	C.R.M. 1st Aust. Div.	21	1st M.G. Battalion.
11	C.R.M. do.	22	1st Pioneer Bn.
12	29th Div.	23	File.
13	31st Div.	24	to
14	XV Corps.	25	Spares.
15	5th (Imp) Division.		

Issued at 2.p.m.

SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters.
16th. April. 1918.DEFENCE ORGANISATION. SERIES. "D". No. 3.

1. Consequent on the extension of the Divisional Front the following additional works will be put in hand.
 - (i) Under the direction of the G.O.C. 1st Brigade the support system, Forward Zone will be continued around STRAZELLE to join up with the existing army line at W.30.a.3.4. approximately. The eastward continuation of this line will become the support line within the limits of the Divisional Sector.
1st Brigade will forward a brief report and an approximate traverse of the army line which is reported to run from the point of junction W.30.a.3.4. approx - X.13.b.3.1. approx.
 - (ii) The Reserve Line, Forward Zone will be continued north to FLETRE. 1st Pioneer Bn. will take over this work from 1st Inf. Brigade on 17th inst., within 1st Brigade sub-sector. The battalion of 3rd Brigade moving to the vicinity of PRADELLES will be available for the work under the technical supervision of G.O. 1st Pioneer Bttn, but should not be employed at a distance from its quarters. Arrangements will be put in hand for its rapid assembly and movement.
 - (iii) A switch line approximately from STRAZELLE to ROUGE CROIX covering the left flank of the division. G.R.E. will issue instructions for the necessary reconnaissance and work.
2. Work on the Second Zone north of the railway running through Sqs.V.29, V.30, E.1 and E.2, is being taken over by 29th and 31st Divisions on 17th inst. The 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. and 1st Pioneer Bn. will not be required to work on this portion of 2nd Zone from to-day.
3. An approximate traverse of the support and Reserve Systems Forward Zone will be made in each brigade sub-sector as rapidly as possible and the necessary corrections to the general line published in Defence Organisation Series "D" No. 2. will be forwarded by G.R.E.


Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.Distribution.

XV Corps.
G.E. XV Corps.
1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
2nd do.
3rd do.
G.R.A. 1st Aust. Div.

G.R.E. 1st Aust. Div.
1st Pioneer Bn.
5th Division.
33rd Division.
2nd Cavalry Division.
135rd French Division.
Aust. Corps.
29th Division.
31st Division.

SECRET.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

APPENDIX

25
449

Headquarters,
18th April, 1918.

DEFENCE ORGANIZATION, SERIES "B", No. 4.

1. The following instructions for the maintenance of Liaison throughout the Division will be put in hand without delay.

Each Battalion in the Line will detail one Officer whose duty it will be to maintain Liaison with the Battalions of whatever formation on both flanks. Where necessary two Officers may be detailed, one for the Unit on each flank.

Each Battalion in rear will be responsible for the maintenance of Liaison with the Unit in front, that is - Support Battalions with the Line Battalions and Reserve Battalions with the Support Battalions, and an Officer will be definitely detailed to carry out this duty in each case.

In addition the Support Battalion of the Line Brigade will maintain Liaison with Support Battalions of Flank Brigades.

Extra Officers from the nucleus which is left out of the fight may be detailed for the duty of Liaison.

2. Brigade Headquarters in the Line will maintain Liaison with Brigade Headquarters next to them by means of Officers definitely detailed for the duty

Reserve Brigade will be responsible for the maintenance of Liaison with Line Brigades.

The names of Officers detailed to neighbouring formations by Brigades and the formations to which they are allotted will be notified to Divisional Headquarters from time to time. These names will be registered and checked by the Officer attached to the General Staff of the Division.

While the Division is operating adjacent to French Troops Major E.F. HARRISON, R.A.G.A. will be chief Liaison Officer, French Divisional Headquarters.

Lieut. A.E. MINING, 10th Battalion, will assist Major HARRISON direct between the Brigade next French in the Line and the French Infantry Headquarters.

(He will also maintain Liaison)

Ed. Kearney
Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.R.E., 1st Aust. Div.
1st Pioneer Battalion.

1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.
C.R.A., 1st Aust. Div.
Australian Corps.

SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

COPY NO.....

Headquarters.
19th. April. 1918.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER. No. 73.

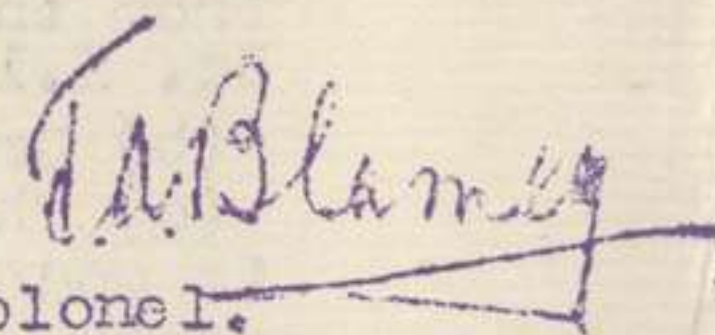
1. 1st.Aust.Division will take over the front now held by 53rd Division and will be relieved in the right sub-sector Sq.K.4.C.2.2. to the present inter-brigade boundary at E.11.C.5.0. by 51st Division, on the 19th and the night 19/20th April.
2. (a) 3rd.Aust.Inf.Brigade will relieve elements of 53rd British Division and the 153rd French Division in the line from the left of 1st.Aust.Inf.Brigade at Sq. K.20.C.8.8. to Sq. X.11.A.70.05. approximately.
(b) Brigade Headquarters will be established at Sq. K.1.A.0.0.
(c) The whole of the line to be relieved by 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde. is under the command of G.O.C. 153rd. French Division. Details of the relief will be arranged between 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde. and 153rd.French Division (Forward Headquarters at K.1.A.0.0.) and 98th.Inf.Brigade (Headquarters at R.23.D.8.8.)
3. (a) 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde. will be relieved in the right sub-sector by 51st Division. Details of the relief will be arranged direct between 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde and 51st Division.
(b) On relief 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde will move into Divisional Reserve in the area approximately BORRE - PRADELLE - THIEUSHOUE LE PEUPLIER. The strength of the brigade should be located towards the north of this area as far as accommodation will allow. Headquarters will be established at LE PEUPLIER.
4. (a) 1st.Aust.M.G.Battalion will relieve the machine guns of 153rd.French Division and 53rd Division in the area being taken over by 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde and will be relieved by machine guns of 51st Division in the present right sub-sector of the Division.
(b) G.O. 1st.Aust.M.G.Bn will make arrangements for relief with 51st Division in the one case, and with the 153rd French Division and G.O. 53rd.Battalion M.G.Corps in the other, and will issue instructions direct.
(c) He will arrange that the guns available will be so disposed as to cover the whole sector to the best advantage.
5. Reserve Infantry units and machine guns will be relieved by day where circumstances permit.
6. (a) C.R.E. will arrange for the relief of the engineers and Pioneers.
(b) The 17th Northumberland Fusilier Railway Pioneer Battalion and 53rd Labour Group will remain at the disposal of C.R.E. 1st.Aust.Div. for work on the defences. The former will be transferred from its present work on 20th Inst.
(c) Other attached engineer details and labour units working on 2nd Zone defences in the present right brigade sector will be handed over to C.R.E. 29th Div.
7. A.D.M.S. will arrange details of relief and redistribution of Medical units.
8. Aust
5th Division Details Coy will be transferred from 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde to 2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde and will remain in occupation of their present quarters.

(P.F.O.)

(2)

9. Originals of Company Commanders sketches showing dispositions will be forwarded to Divisional Headquarters as soon as possible after the relief.
10. (a) Command will pass on completion of the Infantry relief in each brigade sub-sector. Completion of relief will be reported by Priority wire to Divisional Headquarters.
(b) G.O.C. 1st.Aust.Div. will take over command from G.O.C. 135rd.French Division on completion of the infantry relief.
11. Divisional Headquarters will close at WALLON CAPPEL and reopen at ST SYLVESIRE CAPPEL at 12.Noon on 19th Inst.
12. Orders for the Artillery will be issued later.

ACKNOWLEDGE,



Colonel.
General Staff.
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Issued to.</u>
1 - 4	D.H.Q.
5 - 7	War Diary.
8	1st.Aust.Inf.Bde.
9	2nd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
10	3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde.
11	C.R.A.1st.Aust.Div.
12	C.R.E.1st.Aust.Div.
13	Div.Sig.Coy.
14	1st.Aust.Pioneer Bn.
15	1st.Aust.M.G.Bn.
16	S.S.O.1st.Aust.Div.
17	1st.Aust.Div.Train.
18	A.D.M.S.
19	D.A.D.V.S.
20	Mob.Vet.Section.
21	1st.Div.Salv.Coy.
22	A.P.M.
23	D.A.D.O.S.
24)	
25)	XV Corps.
26	5th.Division. (Imp)
27	29th.Division.
28	31st.Division.
29	33rd.Division.
30	2nd.Cavalry.Div.
31	Aust.Corps.
32	135rd.French Div.
33	File.
34 - 56	Spares.

Issued at 1.30.a.m.

JFG

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S/8095

SECRET.

Divisional Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.

.....

Divisional Boundaries will run as follows :-

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY, FRONT LINE at Square E.11.c.2.0. along the Waterway to Square E.11.c.0.8. thence to its junction with the Railway at E.3.d.0.7. thence along the Railway line to where it crosses the BORREBECQUE in Square V.30.c.8.3., thence via the BORREBECQUE to where this crosses the HAZEBROUCK-ST. SYLVESTER CAPPEL Main Road.

WESTERN BOUNDARY - HAZEBROUCK and ST. SYLVESTER CAPPEL Main Road BORRE.

NORTHERN BOUNDARY - CROSS ROADS Square X.11.c.5.9. inclusive, thence along the road to FONTAINE-HOUCK inclusive, thence to Square R.31.a.3.0. thence to THIEUSHOUK inclusive, thence to the main CASSEL - CAESTRE Road, Square Q.31.b.9.C., thence along main CASSEL Road to its junction with the HAZEBROUCK-ST. SYLVESTER CAPPEL Road.

The Inter-Brigade Boundary of Front Line Brigades will be -

Square X.20.c.8.8. (METELEN BECQUE to the Left Brigade) W.13, central, South of COURTE CROIX, which is inclusive, to Left Brigade W.16. central - CROSS ROADS at W.14.a.4.5.

It is anticipated that the portion of the Sector South of the HAZEBROUCK - ARMENTIERS Railway will be transferred to 31st Divisional Area at an early date.

T. A. Blaney

Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.SECRET.Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 77.

1. A Gas Projector Operation against the enemy positions in the vicinity of MERRIS will be carried out on the night 20/21st April, if weather conditions are favorable.
2. Two hundred (200) Projectors will be placed in position at approximately Square W.30.d.7.8.
3. All troops located in Squares E.6, W.30 and X.25 and F.1, will wear Box Respirators from Zero minus five (5) minutes until Zero plus fifteen (15) minutes.
4. The Projectors will only be discharged if the wind is blowing from a direction from N.N.W. through West to West by South.
5. The Officer in charge of the operation will report to 1st Brigade Headquarters, Square W.25.a.4.8. at 8 p.m.
6. G.O.C., 1st Brigade, may decide at any time that the operation shall not take place. The Officer of the Special Brigade, R.E., detailed for discharging Projectors will stop the operation on his own initiative if at the time arranged for discharge the wind is unfavorable.
7. Zero Hour will be communicated by code wire "Opening at Zero Hour".
8. Arrangements for transport of Projectors will be made direct between O.C., No. 2 Company, Special Brigade, R.E., and A.A. & Q.M.G.
9. Should unfavorable weather conditions develop before 4 p.m. the Projectors will not be emplaced, and the instructions contained herein will hold good for the day on which it is decided the operation shall take place.

T. Blamey
Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - 4 | D.H.Q., | 15. | 1st Aust. M.G. Battn., |
| 5 - 7 | War Diary, | 16. | A.D.M.S., |
| 8 | 1st Aust. Inf. Bde., | 17. | A.P.M., |
| 9 | 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde., | 18-19 | XVth Corps, |
| 10 | 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde., | 20 | 34th Division, |
| 11 | C.R.A., | 21 | 5th Division (Imperial), |
| 12 | C.R.E., | 22 | No. 2 Coy., Special Brigade R |
| 13 | 1st Aust. Div. Sig. Coy., | 23 | Major HARRISON, |
| 14 | 1st Aust. Pioneer Battn., | 24 | Lieut. MINING. |

SECRET.

APPENDIX

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,
21st April, 1918.

ADDENDUM TO 1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 77.

1. In addition to the Gas Projector operation against MERRIS Gas Projectors will be emplaced in the vicinity of X.14.d.3.7. to X.14.d.2.5. - fire on . METEREN.
2. It is proposed to fire 200 drums on METEREN at the same time that the operation against MERRIS is carried out.
3. Projectors will only be discharged if the wind is blowing in a direction from N.N.W. to West.
4. G.O.C., 3rd Brigade, may decide at any time that the Projectors shall not be fired at METEREN.
5. Other arrangements will remain as laid down in Divisional Order No. 77.

JOHN LELAND.

W. B. May
Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

Issued at 10.15 p.m. to all recipients of above order.

SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.DEFENCE ORGANIZATION, SERIES "B", No. 5.PREPARATION TO DEAL WITH ENEMY ATTACK.

1. ENEMY INTENTION. Information indicates that the enemy intends to attack along the front MERVILLE-BAILLEUL at a very early date.
2. METHOD OF HOSTILE ATTACK. The enemy's method of attack during recent operations shows a tendency to avoid attacking in strength on localities which he may expect to find strongly defended and to penetrate through points usually more lightly held. If this method is followed it may be anticipated the strength of his attack as regards this Divisional Front will be on the extreme right of the sector about GRAND SEC BOIS and in the centre about METELEN BECQUE and up the valley, or on the extreme left of the Divisional Sector. There has been a considerable increase in the hostile Artillery on this front. A preliminary bombardment may be expected, it will probably be comparatively short and very intense.
3. HOSTILE PREPARATIONS. It may be anticipated that all areas where Troops are likely to be accommodated will be shelled, and Gas Shells must be expected in considerable quantities.
4. ACTION OF LINE BRIGADES. Each Brigade in the Line will prepare definite plans for Counter Attacking with its Reserve Troops. For this purpose the nucleus personnel left out of the Line will be considered as Reserves and must be held available for action if necessary. They will be warned to stand by in convenient assembly positions and formations in the event of any unusual bombardment, or on receipt of orders from Brigade Headquarters. The method in which they are to be employed should be considered, the necessary reconnaissances made and communications arranged.
The Special Battalion of 5th Divisional Reinforcements (Headquarters, W.13.c.8.8.) now under the command of G.O.C., 2nd Infantry Brigade, will be transferred forthwith to the command of the G.O.C., 1st Infantry Brigade.
5. RESERVE BRIGADE. Attached is a tracing showing the distribution of the Infantry Units. The allotment of Reserve Brigades Unit locations has been designed to give flexibility and to permit of action in any direction. It will be seen that the Battalion near THIEUSHOUK is well placed for action on the Left Brigade Front, and the Battalion in the vicinity of BORRE is well placed for action on the Right Brigade Front. In the event of immediate necessity one or other of these battalions may be required to restore the situation on the front of the left and right Brigades respectively.
Should the enemy succeed in making a considerable penetration on the front of the Division the Reserve Brigade will be prepared to carry out a deliberate Counter Attack as soon as possible. For this purpose should the deliberate Counter Attack be required on the left flank the G.O.C., Reserve Brigade, will be prepared to attack with the Battalions at THIEUSHOUK (5th) and ROUGE CROIX (6th) in the Front Line, and the battalion at LE PEUPLIER (7th) in the Second Line. If the Battalion at BORRE (8th) has not previously been drawn in, this Battalion will also be available for the Counter Attack.

In the event of it being necessary to carry out a deliberate Counter Attack in the direction of STRAZELLE or to the Right Flank the Battalion at ROUGE CROIX (8th) and the Battalion at BORRE (8th) will be prepared to carry out the attack in Front Line with the Battalion at LE PEUPLIER (7th) in the Second Line, and probably the Battalion at THIEUSHOUK (5th) supporting the attack.

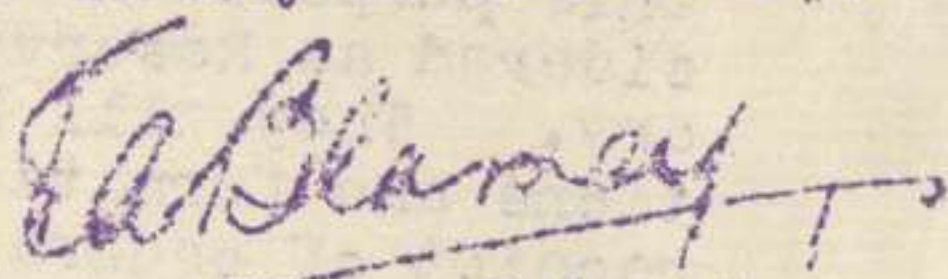
The above must only be considered as probabilities but plans for carrying out counter attacks on these lines must be considered and details arranged as far as possible. These details will include reconnaissances in the direction the attack may be expected to take, selection of assembly positions and consideration of formations to be adopted.

6. ARTILLERY. The C.R.A. will take into consideration the probability of attack on either flank on the lines indicated above and will be prepared to cover any such attack with Artillery fire.

7. COMMUNICATIONS. In order to ensure that rapid action is taken arrangements will be made for direct communication between 8th Battalion in the vicinity of BORRE and Headquarters of 1st Brigade, and between 5th Battalion in the vicinity of THIEUSHOUK and Headquarters of 3rd Brigade.

O.C. Signal Company will consider the question of improving communications between D.H.Q. and LE PEUPLIER and between D.H.Q. and Left Brigade Headquarters. Brigade Signal Sections will be prepared to act in accordance with the probabilities discussed above.

H.Q. of the Reserve Bde. may require to operate from LE PEUPLIER or Left Bde.HQ. It is impossible to forecast with any degree of certainty where the main enemy action will develop and the direction in which counter attacks may require to be made. This renders it necessary that careful consideration should be given to all possibilities and that any plans which are made should allow of sufficient elasticity in order to meet the enemy at any point where it may be necessary.


Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

@ XVth Corps.
@ 1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
@ 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
@ 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.
@ C.R.A. 1st Aust. Div.
@ C.R.E., 1st Aust. Div.

@ 1st Aust. Pioneer Battn.
2nd Cavalry Division.
133rd French Division.
Australian Corps.
29th Division.
31st Division.

NOTE:- Tracing referred to in Para. 5 only forwarded to those marked @.

— DETAILED LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS —

133rd ^{with} FRENCH DIVISION

APPENDIX

30
454

1st AUS. DIV.

133rd FRENCH DIV.

D.H.Q.

D.H.Q.

M. ORANGE
(FRENCH MISSION)

Capt. M^cCRACKEN
British Mission

LT BARDET

M. BONNASSIEUX

LEFT BDE. H.Q.

FRENCH RIGHT BDE. H.Q.

INT. LE GOURD

LT. MINING 10th BN
Off. Int. FRENCH MISSION

LEFT BN H.Q.

FRENCH BN H.Q.

INT. GAUTHIER

Off. Int. FRENCH MISSION

LEFT COY. H.Q.

FRENCH COY. H.Q.

INT. GAILLARD

Off. Int. French Mission

International posts consisting of 1 Off. 1 Platoon & L.G.
(AUSTRALⁿ) & an equal force from the French
Division are established at the junction of
front, support & reserve lines.

LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS

458

30

1ST AUS. DIV.

with

LEFT

133rd French Division

Capt. M^cCracken
British Mission

Right

29th Division

Capt. Laughlin

LEFT BRIGADE

RIGHT FRENCH BDE

LT Mining 10th Bn

RESERVE BRIGADE

Major H.G. Vernon 2nd Bn

RIGHT BRIGADE

Major E.A. Lloyd
4th Bn

RIGHT BRIGADE

WITH LEFT BRIGADE

Capt. Lillie 5th Bn

RESERVE BRIGADE

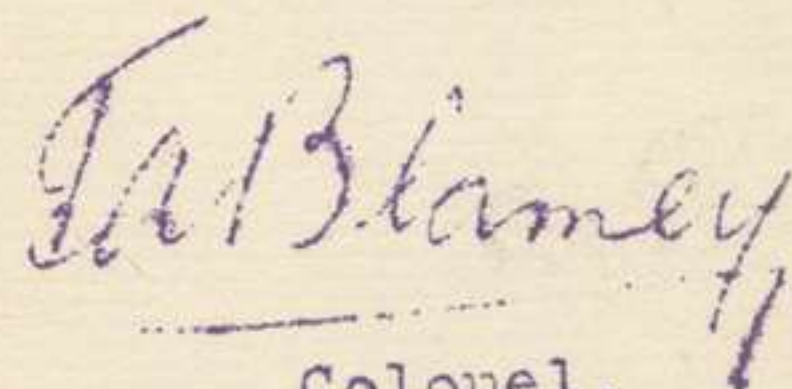
Capt Johnson 8th Bn

WITH LEFT BDE 29th DIV.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.SECRET.Headquarters,
21st April, 1918.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 78

1. The 1st Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved in the Line from its present right to the HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL Railway on the night 21/22nd April by the 92nd Brigade, 31st Division. The Railway will remain inclusive to the 1st Australian Brigade.
2. On the completion of the relief the Southern Divisional Boundary will run from the point where the Front Line crosses the HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL Railway Westward along the Railway (inclusive to the 1st Australian Division) to V.30.c.9.3., and then as at present.
3. The defence of the PETIT SEC BOIS Locality will be handed over to the 92nd Brigade, 31st Division, and the Reserve Battalion, 1st Brigade, will be moved into the Divisional Area. It will be so disposed as to be available for action on the Southern Flank of the Division.
4. Details of the Relief will be arranged between Brigades concerned.
5. Completion of relief will be reported to Divisional Headquarters by priority wire.
6. A sketch showing alteration in the details of dispositions of 1st Australian Brigade will be forwarded on the 22nd instant.

ACKNO LEDGE.


Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.DISTRIBUTION.

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1 - 4 | D.H.Q. | 23 - 24 | XVth Corps. |
| 5 - 7 | War Diary. | 25 | 31st Division. |
| 8 | 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. | 26 | 133rd French Divn. |
| 9 | 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. | 27 | Aust. Corps. |
| 10 | 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. | 28 | File |
| 11 | C.R.A., 1st Aust. Div. | 29 - 31 | Spares. |
| 12 | C.R.E., 1st Aust. Div. | | |
| 13 | 1st Aust. Pioneer Battn. | | |
| 14 | 1st Aust. M.G. Battn., | | |
| 15 | S.S.O., 1st Aust. Div. | | |
| 16 | 1st Aust. Div. Train. | | |
| 17 | A.D.M.S. | | |
| 18 | D.A.D.V.S. | | |
| 19 | Mob. Vet. Section. | | |
| 20 | 1st Aust. Div. Salvage Coy. | | |
| 21 | A.P.M. | | |
| 22 | D.A.D.O.S. | | |

TIME ISSUED 11 a.m.

TFG

SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Headquarters,
21st April, 1918.DEFENCE ORGANIZATION, SERIES "B", No. 6.DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS.

1. The defences of the Divisional Sector will be organized in two zones as described in Defence Organization, Series "B", No. 2, of 15th April. The Lines of Defence as laid down therein will be continued into the new portion of the Divisional Sector in accordance with the attached map.
2. RESPONSIBILITY OF PREPARATION. Brigades in Line will be responsible for the organization and preparation of the Front and Support Systems of the Forward Zone. The 1st Pioneer Battalion under the direction of the C.R.E. will be responsible for the preparation of the Reserve System of the Second Zone.
 - (i) The C.R.E. will also arrange for the preparation of the following switches :-
 - (a) STRAZEELE, COURTE CROIX FLEURE.
 - (b) STRAZEELE, ROUGE CROIX, CAESTRE.
 - (ii) The U.R.E. will be responsible for the preparation of both the Firing Line System and the Support Line System of the Second Zone.
The following troops are detailed for work under the C.R.E. in the Second Zone Defences -
 - (a) 17th Northumberland Fusilier Railway Pioneer Battn.
 - (b) 68th Labor Company.
3. DEFENDED LOCALITIES. The preparation of defended localities shown on the attached map will be carried out as follows :-

<u>Right Brigade.</u>	STRAZEELE. This is the most important locality in the whole of the Divisional Sector.
<u>Left Brigade.</u>	COURTE CROIX, PELINGCOOM, LA BASSE, FONTAINE HOUK and les 4 FILS AYMEN.

Plans will be drawn up for the preparation of each locality. Work should not be delayed until such time as complete detailed plans can be prepared. As soon as the general plan for each locality is decided, work should be put in hand and detailed plans prepared as soon as convenient. It is necessary that the general plan should be decided upon before any work is put in hand.

In addition to the preparation of these localities Brigade Commanders will so arrange the distribution of their Commands as to provide for permanent garrisons for each of these localities. General Officers Commanding Line Brigades will submit their proposals as to garrisons and plans of the preparation of these localities for the consideration of the Divisional Commander.
4. ADJOINING SYSTEMS. The dotted lines shown on the attached map are the responsibility of other authorities -
 - (a) Those forward of THIEUSHOUK of the 135rd French Divn.
 - (b) Those in rear of this point of the Army or G.H.Q.

The Division is responsible only for the lines shown in colours and for the defended localities bordering upon them.

5. WORKS REPORT. A daily works report will be rendered by Engineer Company Commanders and C.O. 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion to C.R.E. showing work done each day.
6. GENERAL. While the situation is as at present the first requirement is to prepare for positions which give definite lines of resistance and works must be put in hand in order of their priority and in accordance with policy laid down above. The provision of protection by screens of wire is of first importance. Each line of wire must be carefully laid out and arranged that gaps which will permit of Counter Attack are left. Where gaps occur arrangements must be made for closing them immediately, and the material, in the event of necessity, must be placed at hand for this.

All Lines, Localities and Switches will be labelled distinctly by means of notice boards.

Tabam

Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

XVth Corps.
1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.
C.R.A., 1st Aust. Div.
C.R.E., 1st Aust. Div.

1st Aust. Pioneer Battn.
2nd Cavalry Division.
133rd French Division.
Australian Corps.
29th Division.
31st Division.

SECRET.

APPENDIX 33 462

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
22nd April, 1918.

DEFENCE ORGANIZATION, SERIES "B", No. 7.

1. It is important that definite garrisons or nucleus garrisons should be told off to occupy each system of the defences in order to deal with a general attack by the enemy.
2. The principle to be followed should be that the personnel employed in the construction and work on the various systems should be responsible for manning them.
3. In accordance with this principle the 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion is detailed as the garrison for the Reserve System in the Forward Zone, and the 17th Northumberland Fusilier Railway Pioneer Battalion is detailed as garrison to the Second Zone.
4. Reconnaissances will be made as soon as possible and mutual supporting posts will be selected in each system.
The garrison of each of these selected posts will be one platoon. The platoon detailed to each post should be from the Company which is responsible for the preparation of the defences in that portion of the defensive system.
5. Platoon Commanders, as soon as their posts are allotted, will make the necessary reconnaissances. Practice skeleton manning will be carried out in which all Officers and N.C.O's. in their turn will take part.
6. On a general attack being made by the enemy platoons will move at once to the posts to which they are allotted. Each man before moving will be provided with a total of 220 rounds S.A.A. Arrangements will be made for the rapid issue of this ammunition.
7. Communications will be perfected in order to allow the posts to be manned rapidly.
8. The 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion, which is employed in the Reserve System of the Forward Zone, is unable to work by day. The hours of work for this unit will be so arranged that they are not withdrawn until after the morning "Stand To". They will then be withdrawn in small parties.
9. As each post in the Reserve System of the Forward Zone and the Second Zone is completed, receptacles will be prepared to store an extra 100 rounds S.A.A. per man additional to the 220 rounds per man carried forward. This ammunition will be placed in the posts under the responsibility of the Officer Commanding the Unit. The C.O. of the Unit concerned will keep a detailed statement of the amount of stored ammunition and the locations. On relief from the preparation of the defences he will hand over this statement and obtain a receipt for the ammunition.
10. As soon as Commanding Officers' reconnaissances are completed and platoons detailed, a sketch will be submitted to Divisional Headquarters showing the detail of distribution for the garrison.
11. Action will be taken without delay to carry out these instructions.

John A. Smith
Colonel,
General Staff,
1st Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

XVth Corps.
1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.
O.R.A., 1st Aust. Div.
O.R.E., 1st Aust. Div.
1st Aust. M.G. Bttn.

1st Aust. Pioneer Bttn.
2nd Cavalry Division.
133rd French Division.
Australian Corps.
29th Division.
31st Division.