

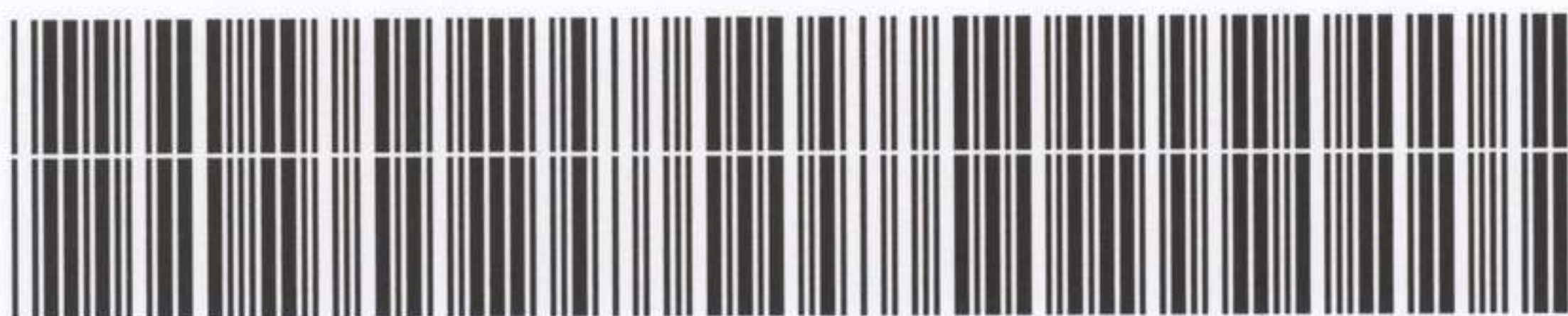
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/42/42 Part 3

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 1st  
Australian Division

July 1918



AWM4-1/42/42PART3



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

16-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 93.

From 6.a.m. 15-7-18. to 6.a.m. 16-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.1. Infantry.

a. Patrols. A patrol penetrated to within 10 yards of hostile post at X.26.A.85.07. (approx) which opened fire with a M.G. and 8 rifles. Our patrol retaliated with bombs and then withdrew safely. The enemy continued firing M.Guns and flares for some time after the episode.

Rifle pits in vicinity of X.25.D.2.0. were found to contain much material indicating a hurried withdrawal. Old enemy dugouts were located at F.1.A.58.25. and an old M.G. post and dugouts not recently occupied at F.1.B.35.90.

b. M.Guns, Stokes Mortars, were normally active.

c. Lewis Guns. At 4.p.m. an E.A. was heavily engaged. Some of the enemy evacuated their posts near the MONT DE MERRIS and were fired on.

d. Rifle Grenades. A troublesome M.G. at X.20.D.9.1. was successfully silenced by rifle grenadiers. M.Gun at F.1.C.3.7. was also silenced.

2. Artillery. During the period, our normal harassing fire was distributed over known and suspected areas of hostile activity. In addition a number of successful observed shoots were carried out by our Batteries. The 1st.F.A.Brigade engaged enemy posts, M.G. positions, and a concentration of hostile Infantry in F.1.D. and F.1.A. The personnel was dispersed and casualties were inflicted. Posts at F.7.A.10.68. and F.1.C.30.70. were fired on, the garrisons dislodged and casualties caused among them. A small Bomb dump was exploded in the latter post as the result of our fire. "Shell Storms" were put down by all Batteries of the Brigade in E.12.D., F.7.B. and F.7.C. Sections of the 2nd.F.A.Bde took up forward positions and effective fire was brought to bear on known targets and individual movement.

3. Aircraft. Our planes were very active during the morning. From 7.p.m. to 8.p.m. five of our low flying planes patrolled our forward positions.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Continues alert and nervous. Slight aggressiveness with Snipers and M.Guns opposite the right Brigade.

b. Machine Guns. Very little fire during the day, but normal indirect fire during the night.

c. Trench Mortars. Inactive.

d. Snipers. Active along the front. Particularly active at night against targets on the MONT DE MERRIS.

e. Artillery. Active during the period. A heavy area shoot was put down in the vicinity of E.11. between 9.15.p.m. and 10.p.m. and around STRAZEELE from 10.p.m. to 11.30.p.m. Harassing fire fell on MERRIS ST., E.6.Central, road and hedges in E.6.D., E.12.A., X.19., W.30., and E.6. He showed himself more alert and shelled areas where he observed movement.

f. Aircraft. E.A. over the line at 9.a.m. and at 9.p.m. at a higher altitude than usual. Our planes were again followed home by an E.A. two seater, which flew low once over our forward defences before returning.

2. Movement. Two men who appeared to be Officers left BRACKEN FM and moved to E.24.B.&.D. where they appeared to be busy inspecting trenches. At 7.30.a.m. on a T.B. of 1470 from E.6.D.98.88. 20 men moved along edge of timber 2,000 yards away. Men could be seen digging. The lateral extent of the movement was 300 yards. Other movement observed was normal in quantity, character and location.

Trains observed from W.25.A.7.5. 4.20.a.m. on 1420 grid going N.E. 5.10.a.m. on 1580 grid going S.W.



( 2 )

3. Defences. Posts, X.26.A.35.07. (approx.) - F.1.A.82.24. (suspected) Hedge X.26.A.8.4. to X.26.B.3.5. - enemy position at X.26.B.4.8. - M.G. post and dugouts at F.1.B.35.90. - house at E.12.B.8.9. are reported unoccupied. Now posts being dug at F.1.C.30.70. - F.1.C.40.60. (L.P. only) Enemy occupies line from F.1.C.62.62. to hedge at F.1.C.3.3. Rifle pits at X.23.D.2.0. showed signs of recent occupation.  
M.G.s. X.26.A.9.1. - X.20.D.9.1. - X.26.A.80.35. - X.26.B.2.5. (suspected) - F.1.C.30.35. (suspected) - F.7.A.2.7. (approx.) - F.7.A.3.7. (approx.) Work. Parapet of trench at F.1.A.32.24. showed signs of recent work for 25 yards.  
Wire. Trench concertina wire along front of trench at F.1.A.82.24. for 40 yards.
4. Miscellaneous. Red Signal lamp in use from 8.20.p.m. to 10.30.p.m. at 1250 50' grid from W.23.A.7.5. At 4.30.a.m. a parachute coming from S.E. drifted across our lines in W.30.3 and came to earth at about W.5.A.approx.

Notes on Enemy Attitude.

The attitude of the enemy Infantry remains the same, nervous and very alert. Artillery seems to have come over the nature of the enemy harassing during the last 24 hours. Besides being heavier, it appears to be directed with more discrimination. Fewer blind shots were fired and more attention was paid to movements. It is noticeable that there are several M.G. positions opposite the 1st Brigade which are unprotected by wire and with troops in front. Those positions however are invariably a fair distance from our posts, and in no case within rifle range. The work on defences which was being feverishly carried on by the 207th Div. seems to have ceased with the advent of the 15th. Res. Division. It is to be remembered that Prisoners have stated that the 207th Div. is to be withdrawn for training on about the 15th inst. A close watch should be kept for any indications of relief. The N. boundary of the 207th Division is the railway and the line of communication is roughly from the S.E.

Attention is directed to "Information from Other Sources" to the evidence of an Officer prisoner of the 31st Division. A close watch should be kept for evidences of T.M. dumps close to the line. Indications of fresh T.M.s in the front line should be closely watched for.

*Ramph* Capt  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

16-7-18.

Corps Summary. - ENEMY LOSSES.4th. Bavarian Division.

A letter written by a man of the 2nd Machine Gun Coy., 5th Bavarian R.I.R., dated 9-7-18 states :-

"Why we are going into rest you may well understand, as our division has had heavy losses."

32nd. Division.

A letter written by a man of the 2nd Machine Gun Coy., 177th. I.R., dated 23-6-18. states:-

"On the 9th April we attacked (near FLEURBAIX) and up to now we have had no rest. Our regiment has again suffered heavily, our Coy. alone losing 40 men."

ENEMY INTENTIONS. - 2nd. Army Summary.31st. Division.

An Officer prisoner of the 2nd. Coy., 11th. T.M. Bn., captured East of DICKEBUSCH on the 14th instant, states, under special examination, that his Coy. has been bringing T.M. ammunition up to the line for the last 6 days. The trench mortars are not in the line yet, but will be built in in a few days time. He expects an attack to take place on the HAZEBROUCK - YPRES front about the 18th or 20th instant. The 31st Division is to take part in this attack.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT. Corps Summary.

A Sergeant and a Corporal of the Left Brigade, Right Division left our lines and located an enemy M.G. post at approximately E.17.D.15.60. When about 50 yards distant the enemy opened fire but after a short burst ran away. The gun with ammunition box was brought back and subsequently used against the enemy.

GERMAN MATERIAL.

Samples of soap taken from German prisoners are required by G.H.Q. All soap taken off prisoners when searched should be forwarded to General Staff 1st Aust Division.

APPRECIATION. 2nd Army Summary.

It would appear that the enemy is advancing his preparations on the Northern face of the LYS Salient immediately South of the YPRES - COMINES CANAL. This is based on prisoners' statements as to an attack in the near future in the "KEMMEL SECTOR", increase of artillery, and apparently reliable information that the enemy is dumping ammunition in the forward area.

Whilst there are no indications that an attack is imminent on the Army front, the enemy appears to be in a position to launch a strong attack in the LYS Salient, and a subsidiary one North-east of YPRES. Within the salient, preparations point to the main weight of the attack being directed against the sector astride the HAZEBROUCK - ARMENTIERES railway, and against the sector immediately South of the YPRES - COMINES Canal.

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## APPENDIX

SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

17-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 94.

From 6.a.m. 16-7-18. to 6.a.m. 17-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.I. Infantry.

(a) Patrols. Several patrols had lively fights on the Left Brigade front.

1. One patrol alarmed a L.P. 25 yards in front of enemy post at F.1.B.2.3. Bombs were thrown at the patrol by the two occupants. Hostile fire from the flanks prevented our patrol advancing further, but the L.P. was bombed and one of the occupants shot.

2. A patrol reached X.25.D.9.2, where they found the enemy trying to surround them from the crops on either side. A rifle and revolver fight ensued in which the enemy suffered casualties and was dispersed. Heavy M.G. fire again caused our patrol to withdraw.

3. An attempt was made to secure identifications from post X.26.B.05.35. (previously entered by daytime). A patrol moved past the post and remained astride the track leading to it. At 10.30.p.m. having seen no signs of the enemy, the patrol decided to return and a Sgt moved ahead through the hedge. A few minutes later an enemy party of 10 moved along the track from X.26.B.05.35. They could not be distinguished and patrol leader challenged, believing it to be one of our parties. A reply was given in German so our patrol then opened on the enemy with bombs and machine fire. The enemy replied with bombs. After the first fusillade, our patrol did not fire again, as touch had been made and a fight broke out between the members of the patrol. The enemy bombed his way back to his lines. The enemy on being engaged called out "Australians". At least 4 of them were either killed or wounded. No identification was secured. Our casualties were nil. Information gained is summarized under heading "Enemy Defences".

b. Stokes Mortars. Enemy posts at X.26.B.4.6. were shelled and casualties inflicted as cries of pain were distinctly heard.

c. Lewis Guns. of the Left Brigade have made a practice of concentrating fire on active enemy Machine Guns. On almost every occasion, the enemy gun has ceased firing for the night.

d. Rifle Grenadiers were active. One of our boys wounded at E.12.C.30.00.

2. Artillery. All Brigades during the period maintained harassing fire on the enemy's forward areas. In addition, selected zones of activity were subjected to bursts of fire. C.B. work by H.A. was good, and at 7.20.p.m. a direct hit was obtained on enemy battery at F.22.A.1.D.1.

3. Aircraft. The usual activity in patrolling our own and enemy forward positions during daylight was maintained. Other activity was along normal lines.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Appears to be, if anything, more nervous than usual. No patrols were encountered, though the enemy showed more reluctance in advancing into No Man's Land, when the opportunity seemed favorable.

b. Machine Guns. Were active with indirect fire and sweeping fire on No Man's Land, though activity was limited by the aggressiveness of our Lewis Guns.

c. Trench Mortars. Slightly active on the left Brigade front. A Medium M.W. was firing at intervals on F.1.A. and E.6.B.

d. Rifle Grenades. After the skirmish at X.25.B.05.35, rifle grenadiers slowly and continuously fired grenades into hedge running from X.26.A.90.45. to X.26.B.2.3. They fell 200 yards short of our posts.

e. Snipers. Fired night and day indiscriminately through the crops.



Artillery. Was less active on our posts. E.12.A. & C. by 15 fire on targets from NORD HELF to MERRIS STRAZEELE area - F.1.C. - W.24.B.8.5. - E.6. Central - E.6.A. - R. E.6. - W.29. Paradise Inn was shelled in salvos from 8.30.p.m. to 10.p.m. with 10 cm calibre. Reserve area in W.18. and W.24. was harassed. This area is further West than his usual areas for harassing fire.

5. Aircraft. Normally active.

At 11.30.a.m. one E.A. flew over our lines towards STRAZEELE. It appeared to signal back with small smoke bombs.

At 8.15.p.m. 9.30.p.m. 3 E.A. were over our lines. One flew over FLETRE. Another did the usual evening patrol over BORRE, thence N. over W.8.D. where he turned and disappeared S.E. He returned in 15 minutes and made the same tour.

2. Movement. At 8.45.a.m. a covered automobile observed moving along road from GENET CORNER towards BISHOPS CORNER. The enemy heard cutting crops at F.1.B.1.3. At 10.30.p.m. transport again heard travelling parallel to our lines near LE WATON. The driver could be heard talking loudly to his horses. Other observed individual movement was normal. Visibility bad to fair in the afternoon.

3. Defences. Posts. X.26.C.2.3. - X.26.B.05.35. - X.26.B.6.8. to X.26.B.8.9. House on N. side of road F.1.C.1.9. to F.1.C.35.80. unoccupied. Dugouts at F.1.A.6.0. showed signs of recent occupation. A line of dugouts along hedge F.1.C.65.95. to F.1.C.63.85. recently occupied. Trench F.1.C.70.85. bears tracks made since the rain of night 15/16th. M.G. and rifle fire comes from house F.1.A.55.40. Hedges X.26.A.8.4. to X.26.B.2.5. and X.26.A.8.3. to X.26.B.15.35. unoccupied, disused positions were found along both of them. At X.26.B.06.30. a small trench shows signs of recent occupation. A position at X.26.B.7.9. shows signs of recent use. (Enemy reported firing from here later in the evening.) Hedge X.26.A.70.25. unoccupied. Stick bombs found hanging by strings on this hedge. Buildings at E.12.B.8.9. and F.7.A.1.8. unoccupied. A track leads from E.12.B.70.10. to CELERY COPSE.

Machine Guns. Posts confirmed at F.1.A.95.50. - F.1.A.92.66. Located at X.26.C.9.8. - X.26.B.6.7. - X.26.A.8.9. - X.26.B.3.4. - X.26.A.9.1. - X.26.B.2.3. - F.1.C.3.3.

Wire. Hostile party of 12 men heard apparently wiring in crop at about F.1.C.35.75. Hedge F.1.C.65.95. to F.1.C.63.85. lightly wired.

4. Miscellaneous. At 11.45.p.m. Signal lamps were in use at 1120 and 1190 up from X.27.C.00.70. approx in a S.E. direction leaving trails of sparks. Parachute flares were dropped by our Airmen over enemy's lines during the night. Four dumps blew up in enemy lines between hours of 7.20.p.m. and 11.45.p.m. Several fires were seen behind enemy lines during the night.

5. Material Captured. 1 M.G. spare parts box.

NOTES. The enemy is apparently attempting to limit our patrol activity by sweeping No Mans Land blindly with M.Gun and rifle fire. Moreover the garrison of enemy posts, having observed our patrols, have on 3 occasions recently come out into No Mans Land and attempted to capture the patrols. This attitude is altogether different from the attitude of the 4th Bav. Division.

Following is translation of German Document found in E.17.B. 16-7-18. From 5.a.m. 4-7-18 the light Signals for 8th Army are as follows:- Barrage RED. Destruction fire GREEN. Lengthen range YELLOW. Drop to main defence Barrage WHITE with STARS.

French front Situation at 6.a.m. today. GLAND N of OREZANCY. S of ST AGNAN COMBLIZY NESLE LE REPONS 2 Kilos N.W. of BOURSALT 2 Kilos E. of REUIL N.W. of NATEUIL eastern edge of POURCY.

Geo. H. P. 1  
Lieut. Colonel.  
General Staff.

1st Australian Division.

French front Situation at 6.a.m. today. GLAND N of OREZANCY. S of ST AGNAN COMBLIZY NESLE LE REPONS 2 Kilos N.W. of BOURSALT 2 Kilos E. of REUIL N.W. of NATEUIL eastern edge of POURCY.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

18-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 95.

From 6.a.m. 17-7-18 to 6.a.m. 18-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.I. Infantry.

a. Patrols. A daylight patrol visited the scene of yesterday's skirmish with the enemy at X.26.B.05.35. Papers and shoulder strap were brought in from enemy dead. The patrol sniped one of the enemy in post at X.26.C.5.4. Loud talking was heard at X.26.B.25.25. Another patrol observed 3 of the enemy digging in a Post at E.12.C.22.12. Failing in an attempt to outflank the post, the patrol then fired a rifle grenade into it, with unknown results. An attempt was made to capture enemy M.G. posts at E.12.C.25.22. and E.12.C.4.3. Both posts were found to be empty. A spare Part Box was brought back from the latter post.

b. M.Gs. T.Ms. Grenadiers. L.Gs. etc. Normal activity prevailed.

c. Snipers of left Brigade claim two hits.

2. Artillery. Harassing fire during the day and night was considerably increased. A concentration was put down by all batteries of the 1st.F.A.Bde in F.1.C. Destructive shoots were indulged in on profitable targets. At 10.30.a.m. D/64 Battery engaged movement in F.13.C. apparently a party engaged in repairing the tramway. The personnel was scattered and some were observed to be in need of assistance in order to make their escape.

At 2.30.p.m. D/64 Battery engaged a hostile Battery at F.19.B.20.15. Ammunition ignited, and the personnel, who attempted to extinguish the outbreak, were driven off by our fire.

3. Aircraft. Normal. M.G. fire against our planes seemed to be less than usual.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Maintains a nervous and alert attitude. It appears probable that an inter-company or inter-Battalion relief took place on the night 16th/17th inst.

b. M.Guns. Very active on roads and tracks in rear and on No Mans Land at night, most of the fire appearing to be blind and indiscriminate.

c. T.Mortars. No T.M. activity is reported.

d. Artillery. On the left Brigade front shelling was distinctly below normal, while normal on the Right Brigade. A light Barrage was placed on front line system at about 10.p.m. Squares X.25.A. - W.30. - W.23.A. - X.19.A. and X.13.C. - E.12.B. were harassed. MERRIS St and vicinity of E.6.Central were treated to shell storms. W.29. and the Strazoclo area, which have been heavily shelled recently, were untouched during the period. Likewise X.19. was only lightly shelled. About 20 rounds 10 cm gas shells fell in E.6.B. and D. at 10.p.m.

e. Aircraft. Between 9.30. and 11.a.m. two E.A. flew over enemy country but did not cross the lines. At 9.45.p.m. an E.A. flew low over the Outpost system but was driven off. 4.50.a.m. one E.1. over forward area. An enemy propaganda balloon flew over our left Battalion lines and was brought down by rifle fire.

2. Movement. It is noticeable that several individual men and small parties in the forward area were without equipment. Other movement observed was normal.

3. Defences. Posts. X.26.C.5.4. - E.12.C.22.12. - The following locations were unoccupied - M.G. posts F.1.C.40.75. - F.1.C.65.90. - E.12.C.25.22. - E.12.C.4.3. - Buildings F.1.C.5.8. - Line of dugouts in hedge F.1.C.6.8. to F.1.C.51.95. - Old trench F.1.A.7.1. to F.1.A.68.25. M.G.Posts. Located at X.26.B.25.25. - X.26.A.9.1. - X.26.D.2.9.

4. Miscellaneous. Several fires and explosions were observed to occur behind enemy lines during the night. Several of the explosions were obviously dumps. From W.29.B.6.4. enemy was observed at 1070 grid to be Morse Signalling with White, red and green lights.



5. Identifications. Documents identity disc from dead at X.26.B.  
0.3. - 11th. K. 39. R.I.R. 13th. Res. Division.

NOTES.

A statement of the evidence from which an inter-company or Battalion relief in X.26. was induced is interesting:-

- (1) The man killed at X.26.B.05.35. on the night 16/17th was unarmed and appeared to be a guide.
- (2) The party arrived at the post later than usual.
- (3) During the day 17th inst, men were seen to approach an old French plane which has been lying in the crop at X.26.D.45.55. for some time. The conclusion drawn is that they were new to the area.
- (4) A Battalion relief on the night 16/17th would mean an inter-battalion relief every 7 days, which is reasonable to suppose is the case.

The number of fires and small explosions in the enemys lines during the period is abnormal. In MERRIS alone after an 18 Pdr concentration shoot at 5 a.m. explosions of small bomb and S.A.A. dumps continued for about 2 hours. Six definite explosions at other spots as of dumps going up, are recorded and several cases of a series of small explosions occurring are reported.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

19-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 98.

From 6.a.m. 18-7-18 to 6.a.m. 19-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.I. Infantry.

a. Patrols. Two daylight reconnaissances were made by 9th Battalion. One patrol proceeded to unoccupied enemy posts at X.26.B.05.35. where food cigarettes and cigars were found. Patrol then moved along hedge to about X.26.B.3.2. At this place it was discovered that the patrol was being observed by 3 of the enemy from post at X.26.B.05.10. These observers showed no hostility and seemed to regard the patrol with curiosity rather than any other emotion. Our patrol did not fire as it did not wish to reveal its presence to other posts possibly more hostile. At X.26.B.1.5. a damaged M.W. with periscopic sight was found and brought in. An old M.G. post at X.26.B.15.40. was examined and papers collected. In returning from about X.26.B.10.25. the patrol had no need to conceal itself as it was not fired upon. Road and hedges in X.26.B. were reconnoitred without the enemy being encountered. During the night patrols were active. An enemy party of 12 men without equipment were observed moving from direction of GERBEDOEN FM in E. direction through H.35.0. A daylight patrols of the Border Regt left our lines at 2.30 p.m. from E.11.D.5.3. to reach enemy post at about E.12.C.2. About the same time the 94th Brigade on the right moved forward. The patrol from the Border Regiment observed the 94th Brigade party come in contact with the enemy, who fired a yellow cluster followed by one red light, whereupon Hostile M.Guns opened fire from following points. E.12.C.4.3. - two or three guns from E.18.A.2.5. E.17.B.8.8. and 2 or 3 guns from E.12.D. The enemy was seen to suffer casualties when Lewis Guns of the patrol of the 94th Brigade opened fire. Enemy line runs roughly from E.12.C.4.5. - E.18.A.2.5. - E.18.B.8.7. Patrol of Border Regt was forced to return by M.G. fire at about 3.30 p.m.

b. M.Guns. T.Ms. Lewis Guns. Snipers. Rifle Grenadiers. Lewis Guns and Snipers engaged with unknown results. Hostile seen in crop at F.1.B.3.3. and in X.26.D.9.0. Post at F.1.99.50. was harassed by Rifle Grenadiers. Other activity was normal.

2. Artillery. In addition to the maintenance of harassing fire from normal positions. Several Batteries were moved to forward positions, and effective observed shoots carried on to recently located Posts, M.G. Positions and other strong points. All Batteries within range participated in the Corps Artillery concentration on the area confined by the points F.14.D.30.20. - F.20.A.60.80. - F.20.D.10.70. and F.20.D.50.90. putting down two minutes gun fire. The 101st Battery engaged F.8.D.30.00. to F.14.B.30.75. in consequence of reports from Infantry that enemy had been seen stacking material at this location. As a result of this shoot two enemy dumps of ammunition were destroyed, and minor explosions were observed intermittently for over an hour afterwards.

3. Aircraft. Normal activity prevailed.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Remain alert. He continues to use wild and erratic M.G. and rifle fire during the night. One of our daylight patrols though seen by the enemy was unmolested. Two enemy Coy runners with the morning report containing important local information were captured by the 119th Brigade.



( 2 )

- b. Machine Guns were again active on approaches to the left Brigade and on No Mans Land throughout the night.
- c. T.Mortars. No fire is reported.
- d. Artillery. Slight activity displayed during the day increasing during the night on the MONT DE MERRIS. Harassing fire seemed to be the rule. PRADELLES was intermittently shelled. An apparent area shoot took place on W.28. E.3. and W.27. at 12 Noon.
- e. Aircraft. One E.A. dropped 6 small bombs in vicinity of railway at W.7.B. At 2.20.p.m. low flying E.A. flew over forward areas.
2. Movement. 4.30.a.m. (18th inst) 20 men working in trench at F.14.C.30.75. - ten of those walked down road to HAUTE MAISON and at 6.30.a.m. 10 men left the same trench by the same route. Parties of the enemy observed moving about in F.14.B. at 6.15.a.m. They mustered and marched towards DROMANA FM in F.15.D. Five men from OUTERSTEENE stopped and disappeared at what appeared to be a dugout at F.3.C.55.05. At 10.30.a.m. three men working at F.3.C.6.5. appeared to be digging and hammering on trees. At 7.45.p.m. 2 men seen at what is apparently a dump at F.3.C.60.40. They disappeared between hedge at F.3.C.70.20. Much movement was observed ~~xxxxxx~~ between those points between 9. and 9.50.p.m. Other individual movement observed was slightly above normal especially in rear areas under observation from the ground.
3. Defences. Posts. X.26.B.05.10. - Unoccupied post at X.26.B.20.25. Area enclosed by following locations in unoccupied by day - X.26.A.85.30. - X.26.B.15.35. - X.26.B.2.2. - X.26.B.70.35. - X.26.B.6.7. - X.26.B.30.55.
- Trench. A new trench has been dug during night 17/18th inst from F.8.B.8.9. at road to F.5.C.2.2.
4. Miscellaneous. At intervals between 10.p.m. and 4.25.a.m. a Signal lamp was in use at 1200 grid from W.25.A.7.5. From 2 to 2.15.p.m. a helio or lamp was observed from W.29.B.6.4. signalling in ARMENTIERES.
5. Identifications. 2 prisoners taken by 119th Brigade in E.12.D. belong to 4th.K. 1st.Bn. 98th.I.R. 207th.Division. About 70 prisoners taken this morning by our 3rd.Aust.Inf.Bde. belong to 39th. 15th. and 57th. R.I.Regiments of 13th.R. Division.

## NOTES.

The enemy infantry attitude remains much the same. However the attitude of enemy posts on the extreme left towards our day-light patrols yesterday is interesting and seems to be very similar to the attitude of the 207th Div on the 11th inst. The information in the morning report captured this morning by the 119th Brigade is verified by Photograph 4.B.2230. The artillery are already dealing with these profitable targets. The artillery Corps H.A. weekly summary agrees in many particulars with the observations of infantry observers as to the changes in enemy artillery shooting.

*Langhin Capt*  
 Lieut-Colonel.  
 General Staff.  
 1st Australian Division.

## Later.

Under cover of the attack launched by the 9th Division this morning, patrols of our left Brigade pushed out and succeeded in capturing by 1.p.m. today a total of 81 unwounded prisoners (including 1 Officer) and at least 10 wounded. 10.M.Gs. 1 M.W. It is believed that this is not the complete total.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

20-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY, NO. 97.

From 6.a.m. 19-7-18. to 6.a.m. 20-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.I. Infantry.a. Minor Enterprise.

At 9.a.m. the 9th Battalion in conjunction with the Division on the left advanced their line. One Company moved in fighting patrol formation and captured the ground as far as X.26.D.45.90. - X.26.D.0.5. and X.26.C.4.0. whilst two other Companies supported this with flanking fire by Lewis Gunners and Rifle Grenadiers. The operation was carried out without any support from Artillery or Trench Mortars. Our new outpost line on the left now runs - X.25.D.85.05. - X.26.C.1.1. - X.26.C.35.10. - X.26.C.56.40. - X.26.D.0.8. - X.26.D.3.9. - X.26.B.55.30. - X.26.B.75.70. - F.1.B.3.9.

One unwounded Officer and 31 other ranks and 15 wounded other ranks were captured in the attack. 6 Machine Guns, two heavy T.M.s and a great quantity of M.G. ammunition were captured. The ammunition is being used with captured guns.

b. Patrols. Patrols were active on the battle front during the night and occasionally encountered enemy M.G. fire.

A patrol of the right Brigade moved in a southerly direction to examine suspected enemy position at E.12.C.6.3. The patrol moved to within 40 yards of the spot and confirmed much of the information given in yesterday's summary.

c. M.Guns. L.T.Mortars. Lewis Guns etc. Stokes Mortars assisted in the attack by the Division on the left. Lewis Gunners had many duels with enemy M.Guns. Casualties were inflicted on fleeing parties of the enemy. Fighting patrols with Lewis Guns fired from the hip and obtained excellent results.

Rifle Grenadiers materially assisted in dealing with hostile M.Gs  
2. Artillery. Following the operations on our left field batteries and heavies have been very active in harassing fire and counter-battery work over enemys rear areas. Throughout the night this continued and was above normal. On several occasions X.22.C.&.D. - X.21.D. F.3.A.&.C. where movement had been reported were shelled during evening and night. Direct hits were obtained on Cross Roads and Houses in X.22.C.

3. Aircraft. At 5.41.p.m. one of our planes successfully attacked K.B. and brought it down. An E.A. was also driven down at the same time.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Enemy infantry were not keen to fight during the minor operation, except when supported by M.Guns. After the operation, the enemy remained alert. The slightest movement towards the front line was shelled and any movement in the front posts was attacked by M.G. fire.

b. Artillery. A considerable increase especially on the left Brigade front is recorded. The enemy opened his barrage at 8.7.a.m. mainly directed on to the FLETRE - METERN Road - W.24. - X.19.D. - X.20. and X.26. At 8.15.a.m. heavy fire was developed on E.6. and X.25., the bulk of the fire coming from 1200 and 1350 grid from W.23.A.7.5. - Calibre 7.7.cm and 10.cm. The targets which received the most attention were X.14. - X.19.B.&.D. X.25.B.C.&.D. - W.50.D. E.6.B.&.D. Light barrages were placed at intervals during the period on posts, headquarters of companies and lines of communication. In addition Harassing fire fell on X.25. E.6.A. - E.2. - E.3. - E.5. - F.1.A. - W.30.D. and X.25.C. - mostly H.E. and gas shells being used.

2. Movement. Between 12.30.p.m. and 3.p.m. parties of men were observed moving up through F.3.A. 5.5.p.m. a working party of 10 men were



( 2 )

seen at F.3.A.4.9. to F.3.A.6.9. (approx) At 9.10.p.m. small parties of men in twos and threes walked along track F.3.C.7.8. to F.3.A.0.3. disappearing among trees and crops near METEREN BECQUE. Movement was still in progress when night fell. At 9.20.p.m. approx 2 companies of men with equipment were seen at F.3.O.5.5. They appeared to be making towards bridge F.2.B.9.2. At 9.40.a.m. 30 men were seen in copse at F.3.A.8.7. Individual movement observed was above normal, but appears to be entirely due to the attack of the division on the left.

3. Defences. Snipers post located at F.1.B.7.8.

M.12.C.55.25. Ruins E.12.D.35.85. - E.12.B.33.0.5.0. - E.12.B.4.1. were unoccupied during the night.

-4. Miscellaneous. White Signal Lamp observed at 1200 grid from W.23.A.7.5. Several explosions behind enemy lines were observed during the evening. Four green flares fired from front line and repeated back brought down shelling on our front line.

5. Identifications. 39th.R.I.R. } 13th.R.Div.  
13th.R.I.R. }

19th.M.G.Section.

268th.R.I.R. 81st.Res.Div.

Prisoners taken in vicinity of METEREN BECQUE.

NOTES. A study of the individual movement observed opposite the left Brigade during daylight yesterday, would seem to place the enemy main line of resistance opposite the left Brigade, a few hundred yards E. of the METEREN BECQUE approximately along the road running N. and S. through F.3. and X.27. This requires to be verified by photographs and prisoners statements. The trend of the enemy movement from 12 midday onwards pointed to the manning of this supposed line by the Support Battalions of the 39th and 13th R.I.Rs. The time taken to man these defences and the absence of counter-attack suggests that these supporting Battalions were located further to the rear than was previously suspected.

*Laughlin* Capt  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.

#### INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

##### LIAISON BETWEEN THE INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY. (Army Summary.)

(a) A prisoner of the 267th.R.I.R., 81st.Res.Div., captured near METEREN on 12th inst., states there is much bad feeling on the part of the infantry towards the German Artillery. The men complain that the British Artillery shoots all day and night, the Germans in comparison firing very little. Cases of firing short are often occurring. On one occasion 4 or 5 men were killed in prisoners Coy. by their own artillery firing short. More casualties have been suffered since the resumption of stationary warfare than was experienced during the advance in April.

(b) A captured pigeon message, dated the 14th inst., apparently referring to our operation in the VOORMEZELLE Sector, states that German artillery was firing short, killing 1 man and wounding 2. On sending up the Yellow Signal (lengthen range) the German Artillery took no action.



## WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 2.

To 6.a.m. 21-7-18.

21-7-18.

1. ENEMY OPERATIONS. The only operation against our line was a small attack directed against our outposts X.2 S.C.3.1. on the evening of the 20th inst. The first attempt was beaten back by rifle grenades and Lewis Gun fire and the second attempt by Artillery fire.
2. RELIEFS AND ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE. Relief of 2nd Battalion 39th R.I.R. by 3rd Battalion on night 15/16th. The 3rd Battalion was to be relieved by 1st Battalion on night 19/20th. No confirmation of this relief has been received, but it most probably took place on that night. - Relief of 3rd. Battalion 98th R.I.R. by 1st. Battalion 18/19th inst.  
Order of Battle from North to South; -  
268th R.I.R. (81st R. Div.) - 39th R.I.R. with 1st Bn in line.  
13th R.I.R. with 3rd Battalion in line.  
57th R.I.R. with 1st Battalion in line. (all 13th R. Division.  
98th R.I.R. with 1st Battalion in line. (207th Division.)
3. ENEMY MACHINE GUNS. Consequent upon the operations of the 11th inst. M.G. fire on the right Brigade was considerable for the first 3 days of the week, after which it became normal. Activity consisted of indirect fire on approaches and sweeping fire against our posts. M.G. activity against the left Brigade has been sustained throughout the week, indirect fire on approaches and sweeping fire in No Mans Land being particularly noticeable. Most of the fire on the Left Brigade is characterized as blind and unsystematic. New positions located are few. Most of the guns reported as confirmed in Weekly Summary No. 1. remained active throughout the week. Some guns suspected are now confirmed. -  
(a) New M.Gun positions located: - E.12.C.55.25. (confirmed by captured sketch) E.12.C.40.30. - E.12.C.40.30. - E.12.D.35.35. - E.12.D.40.70. F.1.C.30.70. - F.7.A.15.70. - F.1.B.30.33. - F.1.B.68.62. - F.2.A.15.25. - X.26.C.80.35.  
(b) Positions previously suspected now confirmed: - X.26.D.65.65. - F.1.C.30.30. - F.1.C.40.30.  
(c) Positions active last week now reported unoccupied. F.1.C.20.20. - F.1.C.40.75. - F.1.C.41.82. - F.1.C.65.92. - F.1.B.35.78.  
These locations are normal considering that our line has advanced both N.&S. immediately prior to and during the week. It is interesting to compare the No of M.Guns captured by the Left Battalion with the number of guns previously located in the captured area by ground observers. - Located 14 guns. Captured 16 guns.
4. ENEMY TRENCH MORTARS. Were mainly inactive. Our front posts in E.12. X.25. and F.1. received slight attention during the week. As a consequence no new locations are reported and it appears certain that only two or three mortars out of the 11 mortars previously located have been active during the week. Two mortars were captured at F.2.A.10.80. (approx) on the 19th inst. (10 yards apart). Ground Observers had previously located 30 yards from this spot a nest of 3 T. mortars. It is difficult to verify T.M. positions by aerial photographs. A study however of the positions located during the previous week and the two positions at F.2.A.10.80. (approx) shows the following appearance as common to many aerial photographs of enemy T.M. positions. The emplacement seems to form sides of a square. A small traversed sap joins in a diagonal direction one of the open corners of the square, as illustrated here.  
Enemy T.M. position.

OF

(ENLARGED)



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5. AIRCRAFT. E.A. have not paid attention to any particular portion of our defences. E.A. observed have generally appeared in the morning at about 9 a.m. or in the evening from 8 p.m. onwards. The two sector E.A. continues to follow our planes home in the evening and then flies fairly low over our defensive system until darkness falls.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS. Relief of 1st Bn 39th R.I.R. by 2nd Bn. night 22/23rd. - Relief of 1st Bn. 98th R.I.R. by 2nd Bn. night 22/23rd. Inter-Battalion reliefs are apparently completed by 12 midnight. Relief of 207th Div. on the 26/27th. Relief of 13th R.Div. shortly.

The above predictions are formulated from prisoners statements and the apparent normal Battalion tour in the line. Predictions are merely probable.

Prisoners and Material Captured.

By 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Officers. Other Ranks. Machine Guns. Trench Mortars.

1. 701 98

18

2

By 119th Inf. Bde.

7. GENERAL. The enemy during the past week has evacuated many of his former forward positions. His outpost line now seems to run roughly as follows:-

E.12.C.15.28. - E.12.C.28.50. - E.12.D.60.80. - E.12.D.80.80. -

E.12.E.50.50. - E.12.E.90.40. - F.7.A.15.50. - F.7.A.30.60. -

F.1.C.40.50. - F.1.C.45.62. - F.1.B.00.50. - F.1.B.25.65. - F.1.B.70.73. - X.26.E.00.10. - X.26.D.06.28. - X.26.B.70.50.

The outpost line is held very thinly and consists of shell holes. Series of posts are not in all cases mutually supporting, as our patrols in several cases have penetrated between posts without arousing the enemy. This is especially so on the right and that it is so to a degree at least on the left is proved by the success of the patrols of the 9th Battalion, who worked along between enemy posts and when behind mopped them up.

Light Machine Guns and E. Posts are possibly in isolated instances in front of the outpost line defined above. The evidence seems to justify the belief that HERRIS is protected on the W. and N.W. by a very thin screen of outposts.

His main line of resistance would seem to be just E. of the METTEFEE BECQUE and opposite this Divisional front seems to run roughly along the road BELLE CROIX PL X.27. - TERRAPIN HO - to F.2.D.9.1. - F.8.B.2.3.

Defences along this line have been increased and improved during the past 4 or 5 days. Movement observed after our attack on the 19th shows a distinct tendency to man defences along this line. There is undoubtedly a picquet line at an intermediate position between this line and the outpost line.

The thickening up of the enemy outpost line opposite the right Bde noticed at the beginning of the week, has now ceased, and now the enemy outpost line seems to be normally held here. In this area he has also resumed normal conditions and no longer "stands to" day and night.

Work and defences has been slight and is mostly on rear defences.

13th Res. Division immediately it came into the line gave evidence of its freshness by several attempts to capture our patrols, all of which were frustrated. Our patrols were also undoubtedly



SECRET.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

21-7-18.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 98.

From 6.a.m. 20-7-18. to 6.a.m. 21-7-18.

## A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Post at X.26.C.55.50. has been advanced to X.26.C.7.3. A M.G. post has been established at F.1.A.3.6. At midnight gas projectors were fired in vicinity of LE WATON.

a. Patrols. A reconnaissance was made in the evening of ground East of troops in LE WATON and N. of SCARPE COTTAGE. An enemy patrol encountered at X.26.D.80.85. was dispersed by rifle fire and bombs. Wiring parties were heard at work opposite front of this Battalion.

b. M.Guns. T.Ms etc. Hostile M.Gun at F.1.C.6.6. was silenced and other M.Gs engaged with good effect by our Lewis Gunners. Enemy movement caused through his Artillery shooting one of his posts was engaged by L.Guns. Lewis Gunners and Rifle Grenadiers actively participated in defence of our positions during enemy attack in the evening.

2. Artillery. Harassing fire during the night was increased. Enemy's front line posts and MERRIS were intermittently shelled during the 24 hours. Between 4.p.m. and 5.p.m. enemy's positions opposite the left Brigade were heavily shelled and at 6.15 p.m. barrage fire was directed on to F.1.B. During the attack by the Division on the left, one Brigade of the Divisional Artillery supplied barrage fire, which was stated to have been effective.

3. Aircraft. Very active in spite of adverse weather conditions. At 8.29 a.m. one of our machines set fire to an enemy K. Balloon.

## B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. At 4.45 p.m. enemy Infantry attempted an attack on our posts at X.26.C.10.10. and X.26.C.35.10. under the protection of a fairly heavy barrage. The attack developed from the direction of GERBEDOEN FM. The enemy was held up by Lewis Gun and when within range by our rifle grenades. However he persisted and attempted by several different routes to approach our posts under cover of the hedges running X.26.C.35.00. to F.2.A.35.15. and X.26.C.2.0. to F.1.B.80.45. Our artillery got on to GERBEDOEN FM at 5.40 p.m. (the delay was due to the cutting by shell fire of telephone wires. The Company Commander of the S.O.S. Signal) When our fire came down on GERBEDOEN FM, the enemy left this area but at 6 p.m. advanced again on to post at X.26.C.35.10. He was forced owing to L.G. fire to advance from shell hole to shell hole, and our artillery at this moment having developed Barrage fire, the attack was completely broken up, and he withdrew at 7.15 p.m. having failed to reach any of our posts. No identification was obtained, but it is believed that he suffered a considerable number of casualties. The attack lacked dash, and the men seemed to be afraid and yet it was persistently pushed for 2½ hours. Apart from the attack, he displayed during the period, his usual nervous and alert attitude.

b. M.Guns. Fire was slightly above normal on the Left Brigade, but M.Guns opposite the right Brigade were only slightly active.

c. T.Mortars. Inactive.

d. Artillery. Active but fire was generally of a harassing nature. An increase in activity was noticed during the night on the right Brigade. STRAZELLE STN was shelled intermittently. MOLEGHEIN FM, E.11.A. were harassed during the day. A barrage which lasted from 4.40 p.m. to 6 p.m. was placed on X.25.B.&D. and X.26.C. Between 11.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. heavy harassing fire was placed on X.19. - X.25.B. and X.26.A. Between 12 midnight and 1.30 a.m. X.25.C.&D. was treated to considerable gas shelling. From 2 a.m. to 3.15 a.m. Squares X.26.A.&C. and X.20.C. were also treated to gas.



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c. Aircraft. More active than usual. Between 5.a.m. and 6.a.m. several E.A. were over the lines. At 10.a.m. one flew in direction of BORRE. Between 12 midday and dusk several E.A. crossed our lines. E.A. were also observed flying over the enemy outpost lines. 8 Balloons were observed at daybreak increasing to 11 at 9.30.a.m. What is believed to be E.A. fell between NEUF BERQUIN and VIEUX BERQUIN. On reaching the ground it burst into flames.

2. Movement. 15 men carrying white planks were seen at 5.30.a.m. at X.EV.B.05.25. They disappeared at X.27.A.05.70.

Men were seen working in trench at F.3.A.5.5. At 9.10.p.m.

120 men were seen carrying something heavy in F.20.B. They walked N.W. and dumped load at F.20.B.5.5. (approx) and then proceeded S. and disappeared at F.20.D.7.7. They wore great coats but no equipment.

6 men were seen at 9.a.m. working in F.13.C. and F.19.B. At 4.45.p.m. 2 men seen working at approx. L.2.A.3.1. under a small willow tree.

From 8.50.p.m. to 9.30.p.m. parties of men from 2 to 20 seen moving W. on Tracks L.3.A. L.2.A.&B. L.1.A. to road F.25.C.&D. They wore packs and equipment. 150 men had passed when darkness fell.

At 8.a.m. 3 men were seen working on trench W. of BRACKEN FM. At 5.40.a.m. 2 horse drawn transport wagon were seen in L.3.

A. moving W. They returned at 5.50.a.m. followed by 10 men.

Movement other than the above, was normal in quantity, character and location.

Trains. 8.47.p.m. one train going N.E. at 1180 grid from W.23.A.7.5. At 9.10.p.m. one train going E. near BAILLEUL.

3. Defences. Posts. F.1.B.55.80. - F.1.B.3.5. - F.1.B.8.6.

4. Miscellaneous. At 2.30.p.m. an explosion took place at approx. X.30.B.00. At 2.45.p.m. another explosion at same location. Two green flares seen to lengthen enemys artillery shooting.

Red Signal lamps at 1100 30' and 1190 10' from W.23.A.7.5. (grid) At 12.30.p.m. large dump exploded in L.8.or.C. large columns of thick black smoke ascending. From 10.30.a.m. to 1.p.m. columns of dust seen rising from roads between LA GORGUE and ESTAIRES. Morse lamp observed in X.26.D. signalling, in direction of LE WATON.

5. Material Captured. Machine Guns captured stated as 6 in yosterdays Summary of the day.

NOTES. The character of the movement in vicinity of L.2. early last night suggests an attempt to move in that sector.

The amount and nature of movement in L.3. suggests a headquarters or a rendezvous point in that locality.

A close watch should be kept in that locality. evidences of inter-Battalion relief in the 28th A.I.B. and 33rd and in the 39th R.I.R.

23/24th. The 39th Div. is expected to be relieved on about the 26/27th and the 15th R.I.R. shortly.

*Laughlin*  
Lieut.-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.

but fire was generally of a harassing nature. was noticed during the night on the right. was shelled intensively. MORTAR FIRE. during the day. A barrage which lasted from 18.30.a.m. to 19.30.a.m. heavy harassing fire was placed on. Between 18 midnight and 1.30.a.m. to considerable gas shelling. From 2.a.m. to 3.a.m. X.26.C. and X.26.D. were also treated to gas.



( 5 )

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.NOTES ON ENEMY BRIDGES.

There is evidence that the persistent destruction of the main bridges over the METEREN BECQUE and the BECQUE DE LA PLANCHE (W. of BAILLEUL) is causing the enemy some inconvenience. The bridge at HAUTE MAISON, which was completely destroyed some days ago, has now been entirely renovated and about five extra bridges fit for wheel traffic have been thrown over the BECQUE in this area. The bridge over the BECQUE at F.S.D. Central which together with the railway at this point was completely destroyed by 12" Hows., has not been repaired but further North the bridge on the OUTTERSTERN-MERRIS road and also the one at F.S.D.4.1. have been reconstructed and a second bridge erected in each case about 100 yards away. As yet the enemy has done nothing with regard to the bridge over the PLACHNE BECQUE on the BAILLEUL-METEREN road which was destroyed yesterday but some action will be dictated by our future policy on the remaining bridges over this stream.

The haste which the enemy has recently displayed to repair and multiply his bridges may be taken as a sign of impending events; on the other hand the situation of the front line troops with a 16' brook behind them and all the bridges destroyed would not be an enviable one especially in view of the fact that the destruction of these bridges may very well have been interpreted by the enemy as foreshadowing an effort on our part to establish ourselves on the line of this stream, with a fair chance of catching the defenders deprived of their means of escape.

The necessity for wide bridges is not, however, so easily explained seeing that so far as we are aware the enemy has no guns in front of this line. The system of supply to the forward troops would certainly demand some wheel traffic bridges and the number might be accounted for as being a method to avoid our harassing fire but this fact taken in conjunction with the obvious haste with which the bridges are repaired is difficult to reconcile with a purely passive policy.

To sum up, therefore, the enemys policy with regard to his bridges is in conformity with that of his dumps, roads and railways, namely to maintain them in a state of complete readiness for the offensive when he is in a position to launch when he considers the circumstances to be in his favour.

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SECRET

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

22-7-18.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 99.

From 6.a.m. 21-7-18 to 6.a.m. 22-7-18.

## A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. A fighting patrol left our lines from E.12.A. 7.1. at 12 midnight to reconnoitre CMLERY CORSE. The ruins at E.12.B.25.85. and 12.B.4.0. were found prepared for M.G. and rifle defence. A thin belt of hedge was found on WESTERN side of hedge E.12.D.52.82. - 12.B.35.15. From there to copse there is no obstacle and no wire was found along edge of copse. No enemy were encountered and a line was established from E.12.B.15.85. E.12.B.45.85. - 12.B.2.0. E.12.C.0.2. All posts are at E.12.D.35.85. - 12.D.45.95. No Casualties. At 7.p.m. supported by artillery, the 11th Coy. of the 11th Battalion advanced and captured a FARM FM and cross roads F.1.A.85.25. Three of the enemy were captured at F.2.A.8.4. after a short bomb fight and 4 captured. Hostile shelling and heavy M.G. fire was encountered during the operation. Outpost line now runs F.2.A.20.83.85. - F.2.B.30.33. - F.1.A.9.2. - F.1.A.70.25. - F.1.A.35.05. - F.1.A.18.0. The 9th Battalion moved out during the night and dug in on a line - X.26.B.9.6. - X.26.B.8.4. - X.26.D.80.85. - X.26.D.50.56. - X.26.D.1.4. - X.26.C.7.3. - X.26.C.35.10. - F.2.A.3.6.

a. Patrols. A patrol advanced to near E.12.C.7.2. but were forced to withdraw by M.G. fire.

b. Vickers Guns etc. Harassing fire on targets opposite the right Brigade was maintained, but activity on the left was limited by the activity of our patrols. Other Arms were normally active.

2. Artillery. During the period our normal harassing fire was distributed over known and suspected areas of hostile activity, special attention being paid to bridges over the MEUSEN BROUQUE. A number of rounds were fired with good effect in support of the Infantry and observed shoots on working parties, M.G. positions etc. were carried out. At 8.30.a.m. the 3rd Battery fired 70 rounds into a working party in F.20.A.4.0.90. with good effect. At 9.45.a.m. all Batteries of the 64th. (A) Bde concentrated on a working party in F.13.A. the party took cover in hedges close by and was eventually dispersed with casualties by D & A/64 Batteries later A/64 Battery disturbed 5 men in post by FARM LABIS, they ran to FARM LESAGE where fire was again opened and casualties inflicted. From 10.30 to 12-15. D/64 Battery fired 105 rounds on FARM LABIS and BRACKEN FARM obtaining many direct hits, after which much movement was seen and taken on by 18-pdrs. During the night C.B. fire was asked for by Left Battalion and this was successful in diminishing enemy shelling.

3. Aircraft. Activity increased towards the evening when the wind dropped.

## B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. The enemy remains alert and nervous. Aggressiveness against our 9th Battalions posts at GERBEDOEN FM was shown. No patrols were encountered.

b. Machine Guns. Normally active, except on the right where M.Guns were reported to be quieter than usual. Support line in E.4. received harassing fire from the S.E.

c. T.Mobars. Nil.

d. Artillery. An increase in activity is recorded. During the afternoon a steady fire was maintained along the whole of the left Battalion front, chiefly directed against LE WATON. and NORD HELF. Squares X.25. 26. 19. W.29. - F.1.A. E.6.D. E.11. E.12.B. STRAZELLE STN - W.27.A. E.2.A. E.10.B. - E.16.A. W.28.A. and W.29.D. were treated to consistent harassing and destructive fire.



A barrage of mixed calibres shells was placed down behind our posts in E.11.A.&D. lasting about half an hour. C.B. and destructive work between 6.30. and 7.30.p.m. and at 11.30.p.m. is reported from W.27.B. and W.28.A.&B. Aircraft. Showed very little activity. At 1.a.m. a large E.A. flew over reserve area and dropped 3 yellow lights. Artillery action followed. 10 minutes later. At 4.10.a.m. 4.E.A. flew over E.12.B. at a very high altitude. Several other E.A. patrols attempted to cross our lines during the day but were driven off by A.A. fire.

2. Movement. Several men seen in F.20.B. wearing equipment. 30 men observed digging trench F.7.B. at 7.15.a.m. at the same time much movement was observed about hedges at F.3.C.9.9. 12 and 10 minutes later 4 men who appeared to be carrying a M.G. disappeared at this place. At 8.45.a.m. 4 men left ruined house at F.14.A.80.25. and went towards Outtorsteono. About 12.5.p.m. a party moving in single file at intervals of 20 yards were observed to enter LYNDE Farm at F.13.A.1.7. and left again at 12.25.p.m. A hole or gap in Western side of FM. was opened and shut. Probably this building is used as an O.P. Train. One train at 1140 30 mins from W.23.A.7.5. going N.E. at 5.45.a.m.

3. Defences. Post at E.12.C.7.2. still remains occupied. Enemy observed digging trench at F.7.B.

4. Miscellaneous. A Flag Signal working from house at L.8.B.15.50. Enemy used a good many coloured flares during the night but no resultant action was observed, except in the case of a double red flare at 1.a.m. when STRAZELLE Siding was shelled. 3 small White (probably propaganda) balloons seen drifting in a S.E. direction at 6.p.m. Enemy dump was exploded at 7.30.a.m. at 1320 grid from X.19.D.9.9.

5. Identifications. 3 O.Rs belonging to 13th.R.I.R. 15th.Res.Div. taken in F.2.A. (Normal.)

Material Captured. 2 Mineworkers and 1 L.M.G.

NOTES. Indications point to a minor operation being carried out by the enemy at an early date S.E. of MEYEREN probably with the intention of securing identifications from the left Brigade. This indication is brought about chiefly by the fact that he has already secured identification of the Right Brigade and that he will naturally make an attempt to ascertain if the left Brigade front is still held by Australians.

Lt-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

22-7-18.

Preliminary Interrogation of Prisoners  
taken last night in F.2.A.2.4.

Identification. Prisoners belong to 8th Company 2nd Battalion. 13th. R.I.R. 13. Res. Division. (Normal)

Order of Battle. North to South. 39. R.I.R. 13th. R.I.R. 57th. R.I.R. Reliefs. The 2nd. Battalion 13th. R.I.R. were brought up, and

took over the sector, from all that remained after our minor enterprise of the line battalion of the 39. R.I.R.

The 3 Company front of the 39. R.I.R. was held by the 2nd. Battalion 13. R.I.R. for 24 hours, when two companies of the rest Battalion 39. R.I.R. took over a two company sector.

Owing to our success on the 19th inst, the enemy relief table has been somewhat amended. The second Battalion were told

they would have to remain in line 6 days, and would be relieved on the night 25/26th inst.

Dispositions. The 2nd. Battalion 13. R.I.R. have all 4 companies in line, while the battalion of the 39. R.I.R. have only two in line. Company Trench Strength. 30 to 35.

Headquarters. Company Headquarters are in the Cellar of house F.1.C.8.6. Battalion Headquarters in the vicinity of DESPOT FARM F.15.B.8.6. Regimental Headquarters in CROIX de BAC.

Intentions. Prisoners were all confident that no attack in the near future was contemplated as far as they were concerned.

The following reasons were given for their confidence.

1. The low strength of the Battalions.
2. The absence of any preparation.
3. The few troops seen in rear areas and the small amount of artillery covering this sector.

The Sergeant thought however that the reason the 39. R.I.R. had only a 2 company front, was to allow one of the support companies to participate in a small enterprise, the main object of which was to secure identifications.

Training. Training in the rest area was of a purely elementary infantry nature, and with the exception of 7 from prisoners company who had attended a 2 days Sturm Course, or demonstration, some period ago, and who had rejoined their companies, prisoners know of no raiding party being trained.

Reinforcements. During the last few days prisoners company had received several returned wounded as reinforcements.

Name of Commander. Coy. Pfeffer. (Lt.)  
Batt. Capt. Heinroiche.  
Regt. Lt-Colonel. Krova.

Rest Billets and disposition of Battalions. The disposition of Battalions was uniform throughout the 13th. Res. Division. viz;- 1 Battalion in line, 1 in Support, and 1 in rest.

The rest battalion is around CROIX DE BAC.

The position of the Support Battalion varies according to the tactical situation. They are generally round about the S.E. of OUTTERSTEENE but if anything unusual arises, they move forward and take up a position on the eastern side of the METEREN BECQUE.

Gas. Prisoners had noticed our gas being fired on the night of the 20th inst, but it was on their right, and did not necessitate the putting on of their masks. They had been warned prior to entering the line, that they were to be aware of a new gas, but that their gas mask was ample protection.

Moral. The moral of the prisoners, and according to their statements, of the whole of the 13th. R.I.R. is low. Their interest in the War decreases daily.

General. Prisoners were fairly well informed as to the German gains and captures in the CHAMPAGNE offensive, but knew nothing of the French counter-stroke.

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INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.Army Summary.

22-7-18.

81st Reserve Division.13th Reserve Division.

(a) Special examination of prisoners of the 81st Reserve Division and 13th Reserve Division, captured on the METEREN - MERRIS front on the 19th instant, reveals the following points:-

(i) Prisoners agree that an attack was intended for the 18th inst, but has been postponed and will take place shortly.

(ii) Both the 13th Reserve Division and 81st Reserve Division expect relief and the incoming divisions are to carry out the attack.

(iii) The Divisional Trench Mortar Coys. of the 13th Reserve Division and 81st Reserve Division to remain in line for the preliminary bombardment.

(iv) Each H.T.M. is to fire 40 rounds and each M.T.M. 60 rounds during the preliminary bombardment.

(v) Much trench mortar ammunition has been dumped just East of MERRIS on the BAILLEUL - METEREN road.

(b) Prisoners of the 81st Reserve Division, during ordinary examination states:-

(i) Artillery reinforcements have arrived and for this purpose new emplacements have been constructed.

(ii) Large quantities of artillery and trench mortar ammunition have been dumped in the forward area.

(iii) About 50 Trench Mortars were being placed in positions in the METEREN area.

19th M.G. Detachment, attd. 13th Reserve Division.

A prisoner of the 19th Machine Gun Detachment, captured on the 19th instant in the MERRIS sector, states, under special examination, that his unit came up to the line about the 12th instant to take part in an attack which should have taken place on the 18th instant.

N.B. The great haste which the enemy has shown opposite our Southern Corps, both in the repair of bridges consequent on our destructive shooting, and the multiplication of new bridges, is particularly noticeable. It would appear to be part of his general policy in the maintenance of his organisations in a state of complete readiness for offensive operations.

APPRECIATION. - There is evidence that the enemy intended to launch an offensive on the Army front last week. Although there are many indications that he is ready to attack between NIEPPE Forest and the YPRES - COMINES Canal, and that the postponement is only temporary the effect of the German defeat on the MARNE and of the result of the operations now in progress in that region, still remains an unknown factor.

From Aust. Corps Summary. - TRANSLATION of a captured order, apparently by a battalion of the 152nd I.R., 41st Divn. in connection with our Infantry action east of VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX.

Battalion Orders

14-7-18.

1. In an attack on the outpost line of the 152nd I.R. (12th Coy.) the British again made use of the tactics of engaging the outpost by a frontal demonstration and took them in the rear meanwhile. Owing to the alertness of the outpost and the skilful action of its leader, Lieut. Bartels, who contrived to fire his guns alternately to the front and to the rear, the enemy only took possession of a portion of our line and that with great losses. He came under the fire of our machine guns posted in rear.

This exemplary conduct will be rewarded specially by the Brigade.

2. Barrage and destructive fire signals; Barrage fire - red, destructive fire - green; shorten range in front of main line of resistance - white with stars.



22-7-18

( 2 )

Aust. Corps. Summary. (continued)

Barrage called for by light signals will fall in front of the outpost line. Any post may call for a fresh barrage. Destructive fire called for by light signals will fall on the front line of the enemy's system. It can only be called for afresh by the leader of an outpost, platoon, company etc. This will only be done when an unusually strong enemy trench garrison is observed, and thus a hostile counter-attack may be nipped in the bud. It must be made clear to the troops that it is not always a good principle to call for destructive fire, for the fire may fall close to or farther from our front line according to the extent of No Mans Land.

If the posts or the outpost line is forced by a strong enemy attack to retire on to the main line, barrage fire in front of the main line will be called for by white lights with stars. This can only be called for by the Company Commander of the Company actually engaged or by the Bn. H.Q. as they can only judge whether the outpost has retired or is in process of retiring.

Duration of Barrage and Destructive Fire. - Each wave of barrage and destructive fire lasts five minutes at highest firing speed, and decreases thereafter. If continuation fire is required it must be called for by repeated sending up of light signals.

3. A peculiar case makes the following note necessary. The enemy must under no circumstances be allowed to bury his dead or recover his wounded in front of our line, not even under the red cross flag. If the enemy should attempt this again, a warning shot is to be fired for him to desist. If this has no effect the enemy must be thoroughly engaged at once. We require the enemy dead and wounded, not only for identification purposes but by retention of his wounded to keep his fighting strength down.

There is no objection to the enemy's recovering his wounded in his own lines or immediately in front of them, where there is no question of our having to recover them.

4. The enemy on one occasion on this front used gas T.M. bombs. Attention is again called to gas discipline and kindred orders.

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TRANSLATION OF A CAPTURED ORDER, APPARENTLY BY A MEMBER OF THE 15th DIV. IN CONNECTION WITH OUR INFANTRY ACTION EAST OF VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.  
14-7-18.  
In an attack on the outpost line of the 15th Div. (15th Coy.) the British again made use of the tactic of engaging the outpost by a frontal demonstration and took them in the rear. The leader of the outpost and the skilful nature of its defence, who contrived to fire his guns almost to the front and to the rear, the enemy only took possession of a portion of our line and that with great losses. He came under fire of our machine guns posted in rear. This exemplary conduct will be rewarded specially by the Brigade. Barrage and destructive fire signals: Barrage fire - red, destructive fire - green; shorter range in front of main line of resistance - white with stars.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

23-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. NO. 100.

From 6.a.m. 22-7-18 to 6.a.m. 23-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.I. Infantry.

a. Patrols. During the afternoon the left Coy of the 10th Battalion captured 8 men and one Machine Gun. Our recent operations had left posts on both sides of these men, who when they received no support surrendered. A daylight patrol reported that there appeared to be no enemy within 400 or 500 yards of them. Accordingly posts were established at F.7.A.1.8. and E.12.B.8.8. From these positions touch was obtained with the enemy who became active with M.Guns and Snipers. During the night a very active patrol policy for the purpose of locating enemy posts, inflicting casualties and obtaining identification was carried out. Our Patrols at one time completely enveloped MERRIS. At this time enemy artillery fire was extremely heavy on our front line positions. The garrisons of the posts were pushed forward into No Mans Land, with the result that the enemy barrages caused no casualties. The enemy by this time had become restless, and launched counter-attacks against our patrols of the left Company, who fought rear guard action back to their posts, where the enemy was finally driven off. Owing to the resistance of the enemy prisoners taken in this fighting did not exceed 4 other ranks. It is estimated that between 60 and 70 of the enemy were killed. To conform with the left Brigade the 119th Brigade established posts at E.12.B.55.50. - E.12.B.70.25. - E.12.D. 50.85. Other information gained is Summarized under headings "Enemy Defences"

b. Infantry Arms. Indirect fire of Vickers Guns during the night was limited by one patrol activity. Stokes Mortars co-operated with our patrols during the night. M.G. at F.1.C.55.60. was engaged. Lewis Gunners and Rifle Grenadiers were busy during the night.

2. Artillery. Our usual policy of harassing fire was carried out on roads, tracks and centres of activity. Recently located M.G. positions were fired on with good effect and several counter battery shoots carried out. During the afternoon the 64th (A) Bdo and two Batteries of the 2nd.F.A.Bdo answered an "X" Call. Between 5.30.a.m. and 8.25.a.m. the 112th Bty carried out an aeroplane shoot on F.8.D.92.37. after firing 170 rounds the plane sent "C.I.Clouds". During the morning 112th. Bty fired 100 rounds on MERRIS CHURCH and 100 rounds counter at 5.27.p.m. 45th.Bty. at 5.23.p.m. fired 120 rounds counter on F.7.B. At 4.15.p.m. 3rd. Battery fired 4 rounds on M.G. in F.7.B.15.85. obtaining 4 direct hits and effectively silencing M.G.

The shelling of MERRIS by 6" guns whilst our patrols were moving on the flanks deceived the enemy as to our intentions. C.B. fire proved effective in neutralising shelling of the forward Zone during the night.

3. Aerial. Active.B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Very alert and nervous during the day, and at night particularly so. Infantry arms of all descriptions were very active throughout the night in F.1. and 2 and the enemy seemed to be restless. Flares of all descriptions were freely used. He counter-attacked our patrols on the left, who completed their pre-arranged movement unharmed according to plans.

b. M.Guns. Normally active opposite right Brigade, but were more active than usual in F.1.B. and F.2.A. Sweeping No Mans Land with fire.



( 2 )

c. T.Mortars. A few bombs fell in E.1.A. during the night.

d. Snipers. Were active against our patrols.

e. Artillery. Quiet during the day. At 5.p.m. he put down a light Barrage on the forward areas in F.1. and X.25. and E.12. during the night fire became more intense, heavy bursts of fire being directed against our forward positions and support lines and tracks in X.19. - X.20. 25. 26.

At 11.10.p.m. barrages were put down on our forward positions and as far back as W.23. 24. 29. all calibres up to 21 cm being used. It was heavier on the left Brigade than on the right. This shoot ceased at 11.45.p.m. During the rest of the night light barrages were dropped at intervals.

At 1.10. enemy heavily barraged support lines mostly on the right of the Brigade Sector. Gas was freely mixed with H.E. shelling seemed to come from direction of OUTERSTEENE. DOULIEU and NOOTE BOOM.

f. Aircraft. Several times E.A. attempted to cross our lines without success.

2. Movement. Men seen digging at F.13.C.20.55. Work seen in vicinity of LYNDE FM. Individual movement observed was normal.

Visibility Fair.

3. Defences. Posts. Large post extending from approx X.26.D.85.65. to F.2.B.6.8. M.G. X.27.D.2.7. Screens observed along road in F.16.C. Snipers. E.12.D.6.8. - E.12.D.5.1.

4. Miscellaneous. Red Cross flag seen in F.12.B. - Smoke could be seen rising from small trench at X.27.B.7.3. At 8.45.p.m. a signal lamp could be seen in action at approx FRISCO FM.

5. Identification. 8 unwounded other ranks - 5th Coy. 13th.R.I.R. taken in F.1.B. Two unwounded and 2 wounded other ranks of 9th Coy. 57th.R.I.R. taken in F.1.C.

Material Captured. 2 heavy M.Guns 4 light M.Guns. and one T.M.

Our outpost line now runs E.12.B.70.83. - F.7.A.05.85. - F.1.C.10.15. - F.1.C.20.47. (new posts only mentioned)

*James H. Cape*  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

23-7-18

Preliminary Interrogation of Prisoners taken  
by 1st. Aust. Division on the 23-7-18.

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Identification. Prisoners taken in F.I.B. belong to 5th Coy. 2nd  
Battalion 13.R.I.R. 13th. Res. Division.

Method of Capture. Prisoners were in a detached post about 60 yards  
in front of our position. Our position was known to the  
garrison of the hostile post and they also know that the  
strength of our garrison outnumbered theirs.  
They made attempts to get in touch with other posts of their Coy,  
but without success. Lastly, seeing they were in a precarious  
position, and being sniped at by our rifle grenadiers, they  
decided prior to evacuating the post to fire off all the coloured  
flares, with the hopes of attracting the attention of their  
artillery. The artillery failing to take any notice of their  
distress signal, the garrison willingly surrendered.

Company Strength. 30 to 35.

Reliefs. The 2nd Battalion should be relieved on the night 25/26th.

T.M. Positions. Prisoners were under the impression that the inactivity  
of their trench mortars was due to the majority of them being  
withdrawn to the eastern side of METEREN BECQUE, this would place  
almost all targets out of range.

Lines of resistance. Summarising the conversation with prisoners, it  
would appear that 2 lines of resistance are being worked upon -  
(1) about 100 yards east of METEREN BECQUE  
(2) along the reverse side of OUTERSTRENE SPUR

Moral. The moral of the 13.R.I.R. is distinctly low.

General. Prisoners on the whole were a poor insignificant lot, and their  
knowledge of a tactical value was negligible.

Casualties. On the evening of the 21st inst, 2 Officers were wounded  
in prisoners post. The Company Commander being shot through the  
leg by a M.G. and the other Officer a platoon commander receiving  
head wounds from shrapnel.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

24-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 101.

From 6.a.m. 23-7-18 to 6.a.m. 24-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Posts of right Battalion, left Brigade have been re-adjusted to obtain full use of the ground. Posts now runs as follows; - E.12.B.65.72. - E.12.B.95.90. - F.1.C.05.22. - F.1.C.17.50. - F.1.C.33.80. - F.1.A.55.00. - F.1.A.7.2. - F.1.B.30.25. - F.2.A.17.34.

a. Patrols. Movement of men with packs soon just S. of MERRIS. A working party was observed digging a post at approx. E.12.D.3.3. Other information under "Defences".

b. Infantry Arms. Movement in X.27.B.&C. fired on by Lewis Guns. Movement to and from enemy posts opposite right Company of left Brigade was engaged by rifle grenadiers. Other fire was on profitable targets and was normal.

2. Artillery. Our usual harassing fire was carried out with an increase of 100% after dark, directed mainly against roads tracks, bridges and points of assembly. Otherwise very little shooting was done, owing to the bad visibility. At 8.a.m. the 2nd Battery engaged and dispersed a working party in F.14.A.20.45. At 5.45.p.m. 47th Battery fired 30 rounds with observation on Battery in F.27.C.5.7. (C.B. Map. F.C.55) with good results. At 4.55.p.m. 64th.(A) Bde put down a 10 minutes concentration on F.19., From midnight to 2.a.m. C.B. fire was given to counteract hostile shelling of the Left Battalion forward area.

3. Aircraft. Adverse weather conditions hampered our aircraft activity.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Remains nervous. The slightest movement in our lines brings a call for artillery support. A bombing encounter took place near our left post which resulted in the enemy being driven off. A stick bomb was thrown by one of the enemy into our post at E.12.C.5.7.

b. Machine Guns. Were more active than usual between 12 midnight and 12.45.a.m. on the right Brigade front. Increased activity is reported along the whole front.

c. T.Mortars. The left post received about 50 granatoworfer bombs and several M.W. bombs fell in X.26.C.

d. Artillery. Was quiet during the day, but at night time activity was increased considerably, front posts and supports being barraged at intervals. Between 10.45.p.m. and midnight and again between 3 and 4.a.m. several barrage shoots occurred on the left Brigade area. Harassing fire was placed on E.9.D. - E.11.C.&. and E.12.C. In reply to our concentration shoot near BRACKEN FM at 4.55.p.m. heavy 7.7.cm fire was placed around STRAZEELE STN. Most of the shelling was of 7.7.cm and 10.cm. calibre though a few 21 cm and 15cm shells fell in the neighbourhood of METEREN and W.22.C. 50 gas shells fell in W.9.D. between midnight and 3.a.m. Front posts report that a new type of light artillery is being used against them. The shell has an increased velocity and a very flat trajectory. The shells seem to pass a few yards over the posts and yet burst about 400 yards behind. It is possibly a 7.7.cm gun firing at night time from a position close to the front line.

e. Aircraft. Inactive. At 4.a.m. a low flying E.A. patrolled over W.23. 29. and 30.

2. Movement. Individual movement was distinctly above normal opposite the division on the right, the nature of the movement suggesting a relief of elements of the 207th.Division.

There were slight indications by movement that an inter-Battalion relief of the 57th.R.I.R. took place last night. The following movement in addition is interesting - At 7.a.m. parties of men ranging from 2 to 20 were seen moving in F.14.C.



( 2 )

Movement (continued)

At 8.55.p.m. movement in F.3.C.5.4. a party of 11 men wearing equipment ran towards OUTERSTEENE. At 7.45.p.m. 6 double limbers each drawn by 4 horses were seen moving in a W. direction on road F.25.C. halting near F.26.C.2.8. 9.2. Hows successfully engaged the movement. Four teams and limber galloped to BECKETS CR and 2 pairs of horses, the other two transport and 4 horses were hit.

From 8.45.p.m. movement towards the line opposite the right Div was continuous through L.3.A. and L.2.A.&B. F.25.D. F.19. and F.26. At 8.40.p.m. more vehicles were seen going to and from in L.3.A. E. of BISHOPS CR. At 5.30.a.m. men were seen working on Trench system from F.19.D.8.2. to F.19.D.9.3.

3. Defences. Posts. X.27.A.3.7. - X.27.B.6.1. - X.27.B.1.2. and one along road X.27.D.1.0. to X.27.B.3.1. Hedge occupied F.7.A.2.7. to F.7.A.30.98. M.Gun. E.12.C.8.2. Sniper. in tree at E.18.A. 25.65. T.Mortars. F.3.A.45.80. (M.W. approx) - X.27.B.9.1. and X.21.D.6.1. (suspected granatwerfer position)

4. Miscellaneous. Double red flares fired in rapid succession brought no artillery response. Golden clusters brought down destructive fire. Double green flares caused enemy artillery to lengthen range.

NOTES.

The persistent barraging during the night of our front and support lines N. and W. of MERRIS seems to be entirely due to the enemys nervousness. It is difficult to ascribe any other reason for his action. The barrages are almost wholly composed of 7.7. and 10.cm shells and most of the shelling comes from the direction of BLEU. Further particulars of the flat trajectory H.V. 7.7.cm shell, worrying front posts and if possible a dud specimen, would be valuable. The bombing encounter in which our left Post participated is possibly an attempt to obtain identification, an attempt which will probably be repeated in the near future. The enemy during the last few days has shown more infantry enterprise than usual.

*Langley Capt*

Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



SECRET.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

25-7-18.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.102.

From 6.a.m. 24-7-18 to 6.a.m. 25-7-18.

## A. OUR OPERATIONS.

## 1. Infantry.

a. Patrols. Enemy patrol was seen returning to their own lines at E.12.C.8.3. They were fired on and took cover. All our patrols were subjected to enemy M.G. fire.

b. Infantry Arms. Rifle grenadiers made full use of opportunities afforded by enemy attempt to approach post of left Battalion. A working party was dispersed at X.26.D.6.3. Other fire was along normal line.

2. Artillery. Our usual programme of harassing fire carried out on roads, tracks and known centres of activity, with an increase of 50% after dark. Several Batteries checked registrations and some good counter Battery shoots were carried out. At 9.30.a.m. 112th Battery fired 31 rounds on Battery in F.21.A.8.3. obtaining two direct hits and silencing battery.

3. Aircraft. Increased activity by our planes was observed during daylight. At night our bombing planes were heard passing over our positions in large numbers and crossing to enemy territory.

## B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

## 1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Two attempts were made during the night to obtain identification on our left Brigade front. At 3.a.m. he attacked the right post of the Brigade on our left in X.27.A. This post was withdrawn and the enemy entered an empty post, but was prevented from leaving on account of M.G. and rifle grenade fire from the left post of our left Battalion. A patrol was sent out by the left Coy of the left Battalion (12th Bn). It moved down the BECQUE and captured the enemy M.G. and killed all the crew including the Sergeant. The Company of the Brigade on the left afterwards re-occupied the post.

At 11.p.m. about 30 of the enemy crawled through crops and by way of hedges towards the left post of right Coy of our right Battalion (10th Bn) in F.1.C. M.G. rifle & grenade fire was directed on to them and they retired without coming to grips with our men. C.S.M. DWYER and 1 other rank went out and secured a machine gun and several rifles, but could not find any enemy dead. a further search will be made today.

b. Machine Guns. Were very active during the enemys infantry activity on the left. On the right M.G. activity was slight.

c. T.Mortars. Left Brigade received several bombs.

d. Artillery. Was less active than during previous period. Activity livened up during the night on the left Brigade. Our two left posts were fired on continually with 15 and 10 cm. NORD HELLF - X.25.A.6.4. - X Roads at X.19.C.2.9. - EWE FM. X.20.D.0.1. received much attention. Squares W.25. 29. and 30 and E.5.A. were harassed. Gas shells fell in X.26.A. and E.5.A.

e. Aircraft. An increase in activity is recorded.

2. Movement. Individual movement was slightly above normal as regards quantity, but normal in character and location.

3. Defences. Posts F.2.B.2.7. (strongly held) X.27.A.4.7. - X.27.A.7.3. to X.27.A.7.1. - E.12.B.90.48. (L.P.) - E.12.C.20.25. (ruins) No posts found on W. side of BECQUE in X.27.A.

M.Guns. E.17.B.7.6. (approx) - X.26.D.20.05. - X.26.D.8.5. - X.27.C.

1.6. Sniper. in ruins E.12.C.2.2. He was hit by our L.G. fire and soon to fall from his position. T.Mortars. X.27.B.9.1. (approx)

4. Miscellaneous. Two red cross flags flying from ERQUINGHEM Church Tower.



( 2 )

5. Identifications. Enemy Sgt. killed in X.27.A. W. of BECQUE  
 7th.Coy. 62nd.I.R. Two prisoners taken by 119th Brigade  
 in E.12.D. belong to 98th.R.I.R.  
Material Captured. 2 L.M.Guns and several rifles.

NOTES.

The enemy justified the indications given by him during the last two days by attempting to obtain identification from the left Brigade. As this attempt failed, it is likely that more thorough attempts will be made in the near future.

Enemy T.Mortars for the few days previous to the last 3 days were silent. A prisoner accounted for this by saying that all T.Ms were in process of being removed to the Eastern side of the METEREN BECQUE. T.M. activity during the last 3 days seem to justify this statement. Fire has increased

but has the appearance of registration fire, and moreover all locations of T.Ms in action are E. of the METEREN BECQUE.

A low flying E.A. has developed the habit of patrolling our lines each morning at 4.a.m. for an hour.

Except for his patrol activity on both flanks of the Divisional front and his evident anxiety to obtain identification of the troops in the vicinity of the METEREN BECQUE, the attitude of the enemy is perfectly normal.



Lieut-Colonel.  
 General Staff.  
 1st Australian Division.



25-7-18.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS  
TAKEN NIGHT 24th INST. in. E.12.B.

=====

Identification. Prisoners belong to 10th Coy, 3rd Battalion, 98. R.I.R. 207th. Division.

Method of Capture. Prisoners were just returning to their gruppe, having taken a wounded man to the dressing station. Losing their direction, they wandered aimlessly about until challenged by one of our posts. On the command of "Halt", the German word being very similar, prisoners thought they were being challenged by one of their own posts. They gave the counter sign, "HAMBURG" to which reply a threat of "HANDS UP" was given. "Hande auf" being likewise very similar to "Hands up" prisoners were still confident they were conversing with a German garrison, and not until a man from the East Lancos went out and brought them in, did they realize their good luck.

Company Strength. 50 to 55.

Reliefs. During the night 22/23rd, the 3rd Battalion, relieved the 2nd. The 2nd Battalion are to be relieved during the dark hours of the evening 26/27th. The relieving unit unknown. The last prisoners taken from the 98th R.I.R. on the 19-7-18 stated that the whole division was to be relieved on same date 26/27th.

Intentions. Prisoners were confident they contemplated no attack against us on this front. -

Their strength was too low and the total lack of preparation, made it almost impossible.

On the contrary they were rather inclined to be nervous, expecting further onslaughts from us.

Dispositions. 1 Battalion in line 1 in support and 1 in rest. The companies of the Support Battalion were used as Counter attack, companies, and were located about 400 to 500 yards in rear of their front posts. The rest Battalion was in the DOULIEU - SAILLY AREA.

Training. Whilst in the rest area, battalions carried out purely elementary infantry training.

Order of Battle. 57. R.I.R. 98. R.I.R. 213. R.I.R.

Losses. Casualties had been inflicted by our artillery, especially during their relief 22/23rd, but casualties generally speaking were very light.

Classes and training of Prisoners. Prisoners both belonged to the 1919 class. They were called up at the beginning of March 1918. Trained for a month in garrison duties, and a month in a Recruit depot, then were sent direct as reinforcements to the 98. R.I.R. a draft of about 500 of them arriving at the regiment in May.

Gas. Prisoners had seen on 24th inst our gas bombardment on CELERY COPSE which was just on their right. The wind blowing slightly North they were not worried by the gas, and did not know what casualties has been inflicted upon the garrison of the COPSE.

Names of Commanders. Coy Commander. Lieut. RADDER.  
Bn. Commander. Capt. WEINBERG.

Prisoner did not know the name of the successor to Lieut-Colonel BAUER (the late Regt Commander) who so ignominiously lost his command whilst supporting the supplication of his troops.

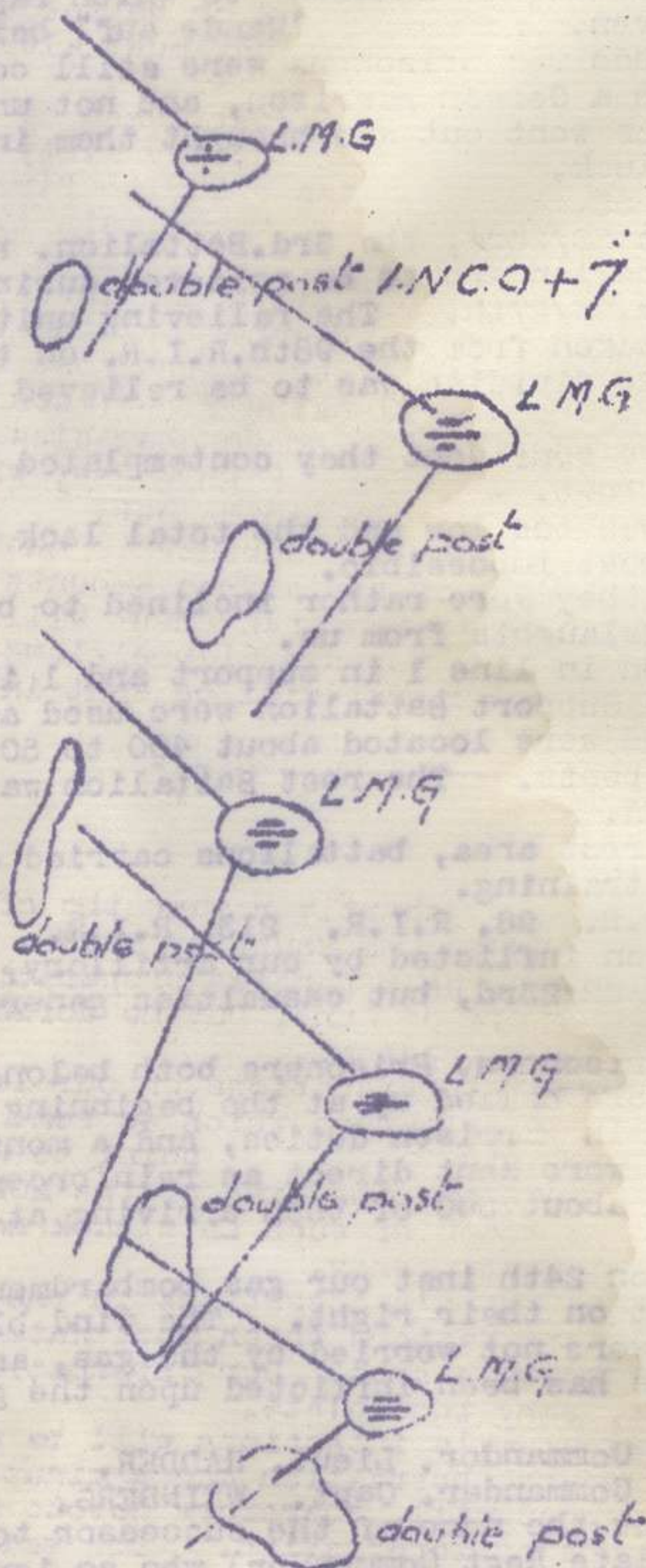
Rations. Food was plentiful, the hot food containers coming up every other day to road at about L.5.A. Central. They should be there on the evening of the 26th, so that troops coming out of the line into support will have a good hot meal.



Water. They were forbidden to drink local water, but had two water bottles filled with coffee which were replenished every 2 days.

Detailed Disposition. The detailed disposition of prisoners company was as follows. -

Owing to the low strength of the Company, there was nobody but the Coy Commander, 2 or 3 N.C.Os, 2 runners and a batman in the "fighting line" the whole of the company was pushed forward into light M.G. posts. 1 light M.G. in an isolated post covering a gruppe 1 N.C.O and 7 men ( the 8th looking after the M.G.) the infantry gruppe in all cases was pushed out in front of the light M.Gs and were responsible for warning the M.G. of any movement or approach of the enemy. The 5 light M.Guns were supposed to be so sited, to allow mutual support.



Company  
Commander  
2 or 3 N.C.Os  
2 Runners  
and 1 batman

\*  
5 light M.G. and  
infantry posts  
9 men - 45  
Company Commander  
2 or 3 N.C.Os  
2 Runners and  
1 batman. 6 - 7

51 or 52.



INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.Army Summary.

Extracts from Sub-Sector Order. 25-6-18.  
1. Bn. 9th Bavarian I.R.

Whilst making a tour of the line this morning I came across complete sections fast asleep, in spite of it being dawn and misty. These sections had removed their equipment and had not the faintest idea of the country, dispositions, their orders, or troops on their flanks. Only yesterday I requested that all men should be instructed on these points and their particular duty explained to them. This is all the more important as only a few days ago 3 men and a light machine gun were captured by a hostile reconnoitring patrol.

This state of affairs must not continue, I request that the necessary steps be taken. I therefore order the following:-

- (1) Each post must consist of at least 2 or better still, 3 men.
- (2) All ranks of the front line battalions must always wear their equipment.
- (3) By day and by good visibility at least 1 man of each section must keep a look out, by night and during misty weather all men must be awake and their rifles ready to fire.
- (4) All posts in the outpost line and in the main line of resistance must be wired in. (Plenty of material on the roads in MERRIS). The wire must be well sited and invisible to the enemy, and to keep the attacking enemy outside bombing distance. Wiring of hedges and rows of trees is the most effective. Arrangements to be made for flanking fire (machine gun and rifle) to be brought to bear on these obstacles. Gaps for patrols, to be left in the wire. High grass, which facilitates the approach of hostile patrols, to be cut.
- (5) The garrison of the outpost line amounts to one third, the garrison of the main line of resistance amounts to two thirds of the Coy. strength. This re-arrangement will be carried out tonight. A sketch showing the new dispositions, location of machine guns, Coy Headquarters, will be sent in on the morning of the 26th.

Army Summary. - APPRECIATION.

1. Indications that the enemy may shortly resume the offensive are reported in the areas both North and South of YPRES.
2. Opposite the front of this Corps offensive preparations have been complete since about the middle of June, but no definite indications of an immediate offensive are apparent.
3. The completion of the enemy's preparations on our left, coupled with the consistent statements of prisoners which to some extent are confirmed by captured documents, point to a further attempt by the enemy to capture YPRES and the line of the MONTIS in the near future. That the southern flank of such an attack may extend to this Corps front is a probable contingency.
4. The true magnitude of the enemy's operations in the REIMS Sector and the extent of his defeat are factors which must materially modify his original intentions in this area. Our information, however on these points is, as yet, very incomplete.
5. Further evidence of the enemy's intentions will be most profitably obtained from ground and air observation and a minute study of air photographs. All concerned will, therefore devote particular attention to these sources of information. The value of a continuous flow of prisoners and documents cannot be overestimated.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

25-7-18.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.Army Summary.

A prisoner of the 268th.R.I.R., 81st.Reserve Division, captured near METEREN on the 19th instant, states that only cold rations are now issued whilst the battalions are in line. One of the reasons for this is the fact that whilst in line in the METEREN BECQUE sector about the end of May, two Field Kitchens were destroyed, eight horses killed, and three men wounded on one night by our artillery fire.

13th.Reserve Division. Army Summary.

A prisoner of the 13th.R.I.R. captured North of MERRIS on the 22nd instant, states, under special examination, that the attack which should have taken place on the 18th has been postponed. The prisoner had seen a considerable quantity of ammunition dumps in fields and under cover of hedges.

Another prisoner of the same regiment states he has also seen much ammunition dumped along roads and fields in the sector of the 13th.Reserve Division, in addition he saw several batteries moving forward on the night of the 13/14th instant.

The 13th.Reserve Division expects relief before the attack takes place.

C.G.S.of the Field Army.

Ia/Ic,II.No.89724.op.

Army Summary.

Ammunition Supply.

" It has been reported to me that, during recent fighting, divisions and artillery units have arrived on the battlefield without sufficient ammunition. One division, which was withdrawn from a quiet front to be employed in the battle, was ordered by superior authority to leave its ammunition behind in the old position and marched off with empty limbers and ammunition wagons. In explanation, orders were quoted which had previously been issued by G.H.Q. for trench warfare pure and simple.

These orders, in which considerable latitude was left to Armies, should have been adapted to the changed conditions.

" It is one of the most important tasks of the Higher Command to issue clear orders for the supply of ammunition and to regulate the distribution of the ammunition columns with foresight. Commanders and troops must go into the battle absolutely certain that the ammunition supply will not break down. If there is any doubt on this point, it is the duty of the divisional commander to insist on the Higher Command meeting his requirements. To order an attack without sufficient ammunition is a serious breach of duty for which there can be no possible excuse. "

. . . . .



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

26-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.103.

FROM 6.a.m. 25-7-18. to 6.a.m. 26-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

I. Infantry. Two parties each of 1 Officer and 12 other ranks left our lines at E.12.C.5.7. and E.12.D.5.5. respectively at 11.30.p.m. The intention of the above parties was to raid enemy post at E.12.C.25.20. and secure identification.

Post was found strongly garrisoned and raiding parties had to return without gaining objectives.

A Lewis Gun post has been pushed forward, and established at F.1.B.7.5.

a. Patrols. At 5.a.m. (25th inst) one Officer and 5 men left F.1.C.2.9. and located two hostile machine guns at F.1.C.55.70. These were rushed and crew of one gun killed and gun captured, whilst crew of the other gun cleared out, the second gun could not be brought in owing to it being fixed to the ground with hoop-iron and our patrol, being under hot fire from rifles and machine gun could not release it. Whilst returning the Officer was accidentally wounded through belt of M.G. becoming entangled in barb wire, causing the gun to fire two or three rounds which hit him in the groin.

Patrols reconnoitred hedges at F.1.C.2.7. to F.1.C.3.3. Voices were heard in F.7.A. Another patrol of 1 Sgt and 5 men moved out and encountered an enemy post at F.7.A.12.85. A sharp fight ensued and although every endeavour was made to bring in prisoners, they had to be disposed of because of their obstinacy and the approach of enemy reinforcements. Three enemy were killed and two wounded, but time did not permit of an identification being secured. The machine gun was brought to our lines.

A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men proceeded about 50 yards in advance of their post at Cross Road F.1.A.9.2. An enemy post was located containing three men; this was bombed and occupants killed and 1 machine gun brought into our lines.

Information from other patrols under "Defences."

b. Infantry Arms. Our Stokes Mortars successfully engaged enemy positions at F.1.C.3.5. F.1.C.45.68. E.12.C.25.20. - E.12.C.60.20. - E.12.C.90.20. and M.G. positions F.1.C.45.70. and F.1.C.80.95. Machine Guns during the night brought the usual harassing fire to bear on known enemy targets.

Casualties were inflicted by our Lewis Guns on a hostile party at F.1.C.5.5. and at least 8 to 10 men were seen to fall. Good results were obtained on left Battalion front of left Brigade by engaging active hostile M.Guns.

Snipers were active whenever favourable targets presented themselves.

2. Artillery. In addition to carrying out their usual harassing fire on to recently reported centres of activity, the following special shoots were put down; Working party in trench at F.14.D.40.90. 77mm Battery at F.9.D.83.61. trench from X.27.B.50.10. to F.3.B.12.78. house at F.1.D.25.55. and bridge at F.3.D.90.15. A concentration shoot on F.9.A.83.00. was put down by all Batteries within range at 5.10.p.m. in accordance with recent intelligence. At 5.45.p.m. the 112th Battery expended 84 rounds on F.3.B.60.50. many direct hits being obtained and timber seen to fly into the air.

3. Aircraft. Our planes maintained their increased activity during daylight, on occasions flying low over enemys positions, and at all times they drew more A.A. fire from the enemy than is usually the case.



(2)

**B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.**

**1. Hostile Activity.**

a. Infantry. The general attitude of the infantry is one of exceptional alertness, and the least movement in No Mans Land draws his M.G. fire.

b. Machine Guns. During the night very active in No Mans Land, and he subjected roads and approaches to intermittent bursts of fire.

c. Trench Mortars. M.W. activity was marked during heavy barrage at 1.45.a.m. to 2.10.a.m. otherwise inactive for the period.

d. Artillery. With the exception of a heavy barrage placed along the front of our left Brigade at 11.57.p.m. easing off at 12.10.a.m. and another at 1.45.a.m. on our left Battalion front which became normal at about 2.10.a.m. the hostile artillery displayed a very passive attitude throughout the period.

e. Aircraft. Enemy aircraft showed increased activity. At 6.30. to 9.30.a.m. 3.E.A. observed opposite our left Brigade Sector. On five other occasions hostile plane were flying low over our area. At 4.a.m. E.A. flew low over sector as far back as W.8. returning to his lines at 4.45.a.m. At 5.a.m. 3 E.A. over our lines came back to W.8. and were driven off by Lewis Gun fire. This appears regularly over our lines between 9 and 10.p.m. and 4. and 5.a.m.

2. Movement. Individual movement was again above normal. Every advantage being taken by the individuals, to move from one location to another behind hedges. Every available target presented to our artillery was taken advantage of.

3. Defences. Enemy posts located and raided by patrols, the garrison being killed and guns captured F.1.C.55.70. (approx) M.G. posts at F.7.A.12.85. F.1.C.45.20. and F.1.C.20.95.

4. Miscellaneous. Searchlight observed from X.19.D.9.9. at 139-142-145 deg. grid. Flares. A number of double greens in F.1. & 2. brought down barrage at midnight - double red sent up after fire had opened - 15 cm. shells on W.23.C. and W.29.B. followed. Double greens put up from farm at X.27.D.1.7. brought on machine gun fire. 9.20.p.m. red signal lamp at 107 deg 30 mins from W.23.A.7.5. Screen erected along Road at E.17.B.9.6. 6.10.p.m. Fire broke out at 580 50' G.B. in VIEUX BERQUIN.

5. Identifications. Shoulder strap and documents from dead Sgt. killed 24th.25th. at X.27.A. - 7th Coy. 62.I.R. Also papers found on enemy dead in rear of our posts. Wounded Officer reports having seen enemy dead at M.G. post captured in F.1.C. wearing shoulder straps marked "19" in white brade on field grey strap. The examination of papers picked up this morning in F.1.C.55.70. indicate the presence of 57th.R.I.R. in the line. The 98.R.I.R. of the 207th.Division should be relieved tonight. Prisoners have stated that the whole division was to be relieved tonight.

Material Captured. 1 Heavy M.Gun - 2 Light M.Guns. 2 grenade cups and grenades.

*Geo. H. Presley*  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Station.  
1st Australian Division.



FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

26-7-18.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.Army Summary.ENEMY INTENTIONS. - (From prisoners captured on CHAMPAGNE front)

- (a) A. N.C.O. of the 18th Foot Artillery Battalion, captured on the 18th July, West of SOULAIN states his unit came into line on the 16th July to replace heavy trench mortars withdrawn from the CHAMPAGNE front and sent to KIMMEL area.
- (b) An amateur Officer states everything is ready in FLANDERS for an offensive from ARRAS to North-West of LILLE.  
This was postponed owing to the large number of Allied Reserves which the Germans hoped would be attracted to the CHAMPAGNE.

XV Corps. H.A. Summary.

Reappearance of normal heavy artillery activity after a period of abnormal silence; apparent increase of field gun activity, probably inflated.

Policy appears to be entirely defensive; reasons for thinking this are -

- (a) Tendency to withdraw positions still further back.
- (b) Abnormal amount of roving guns.
- (c) Splitting up of sections and spacing out pits as widely as possible.

Increased activity appears to be due solely to our advances. General line of positions now being taken up is roughly 5000 yards from the HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL Railway between BAILLEUL and OUTTER-STEENE.

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SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

27-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. NO. 104.

From 6.a.m. 26-7-18. to 6.a.m. 27-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.1. Infantry. Our operations were confined to active patrolling.

a. Patrols. A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men left at midnight for purpose of securing identification, they located an enemy post at F.2.A.85.75. which they succeeded in crawling to the rear of; our M.G. then opened fire and bombs were thrown into post which was then rushed. Ten casualties were inflicted on the enemy, six being killed outright and two wounded, and an attempt to bring in remaining two being met with resistance, they were also killed. The noise drew heavy fire from a hostile Machine gun further in rear but fairly close and our patrol was bombed from a flanking post with intention of cutting them off; another fight followed in which more casualties were inflicted on the enemy and our patrol eventually reached our lines with identification in the way of three shoulder straps. Patrol leader and three other ranks were wounded. The post comprised one of a series linked together, the garrison of the whole comprising about 40 men.

Another patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 5 men left F.1.C.2.5. and moved in direction of enemy post at F.1.C.22.28. with intention of seizing L.P. They found the enemy standing to and post strongly manned.

Patrol then moved to F.1.C.22.20. and from there an enemy fighting patrol of 25 men was observed. This patrol was moving towards hedge in front of our post at F.1.C.22.23. and after allowing same to pass, our party returned to their line without seeing any further signs of the enemy.

Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 1 man left post F.1.A.8.2. and moved South and across road where a trench was entered with intention of locating enemy post believed to be between starting point and our post at F.1.A.5.0. They met opposition and a bomb fight ensued, in which they became separated. The man returned to our lines safely but the N.C.O. is missing. A thorough search of the ground was immediately made by two parties who were out for nearly two hours, but no trace could be found of the missing Corporal.

Information from other patrols under "Defences."

b. Infantry Arms. Enemy post at F.1.C.3.3. F.1.C.45.68. F.1.C.80.95. F.1.C.45.65. E.12.A.7.2. E.12.C.8.2. and E.12.C.2.2. were all engaged with effect by our Stokes Mortars. Active hostile M.Gs were engaged during the night, and on several occasions silenced by our Lewis Gunners, hedges and suspected occupied positions were also fired on. M.Gs In accordance with information received continuous harassing fire was directed on to bridges over the METELEN BECQUE at F.2.D.40.10. F.3.B.00.40., and F.3.C.50.45., during the hours of darkness, 12,000 rounds being expended. 13,000 rounds were also expended on to road running E. & W. in X.27.B. as requested during a minor operation by the Brigade on our left.

Enemy post at X.27.A.6.6. which was observed to be in occupation by the enemy during the day was subjected to a bombing by our rifle grenadiers.

2. Artillery. Our usual harassing fire was carried out throughout the period, with an increase of 100% after dark. During the day special attention was paid to the following locations and movement in F.9.B.2.9. F.9.B.1.4. F.3.D. and X.27.D.

At 2.15.p.m. 3rd.Battery at request of Infantry engaged a house in F.1.C.38.30. six direct hits were observed and the house badly damaged. A concentration shoot was put down on F.3.D.10.65. by all Batteries within range at 2.15.p.m. in accordance with recent intelligence. A heavy burst of fire was put down on OUTERSTEEDE area by the 64th (A) Bde at 1.45.p.m. and repeated again at 2.15.p.m. The same Brigade fired a heavy barrage on OUTERSTEEDE -BLEU



Road at 6.45.p.m. The 112th. Battery fired 250 rounds with aeroplane observation on trench X.27.D.35.51. to X.27.D.17.52. with good results.

3. Aircraft. A decrease in our aerial activity was undoubtedly due to the adverse weather conditions.

#### B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

##### I. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Hostile Infantry still maintains an attitude of alertness, and showed signs of increased aggressiveness. An enemy patrol of 25 was observed in F.1.C. which is the first encountered on this front for some considerable period. Whenever he observed movement he opened fire vigorously with his M.Gs. During patrol encounter in F.2.A. he made an attempt to cut off the patrol but was unsuccessful.

b. Machine Guns. Hostile M.Guns still maintain their activity against our approaches, and the constant sweeping of No Mans Land by night continues.

c. Trench Mortars. With the exception of a few bombs which fell on our extreme left, Trench Mortars were inactive along the whole Divisional front.

d. Artillery. Enemy artillery activity normal with light harassing fire on roads and approaches throughout the night. Centres receiving particular attention include the following. STRAZELLE RAILWAY STATION road at PARADISE INN. Between 9.p.m. and 11.40.p.m. special attention was paid to W.30. in which 10 and 15.cm. H.E. mixed with gas were used. A registration shoot by 10.cm. gun was carried out on our positions in X.25.D. commencing at 10.5. a.m. and at rate of 1 shell at 1 minute intervals until 10.55.a.m. from rear of OUTERSTRENE.

e. Aircraft. Only six hostile planes were observed during early morning, being inactive for remainder of period; after having crossed our lines they were driven off by A.A. and M.G. fire.

2. Movement. There is still a lot of individual movement being observed opposite the Divisional front. The following are a few examples of movement observed.

6.10.a.m. 25 men at F.25.A.5.5. 6.45.a.m. considerable movement at F.19.A.4.8. 7.a.m. 8 men again seen at F.25.A.5.5. 8.20.p.m. 8 men walking along hedge at F.8.B.5.2. 9.15.a.m. 6 men walking along METELEN BECQUE carrying sticks at F.8.B.1.6. appeared to be pointing out objects to the party. 5.35.a.m. party of 7 men working near road at F.3.C.9.1. to F.3.D.2.2. appeared to be digging a trench. 8.3.a.m. 10 men moving about at F.3.D.9.1. to F.3.D.7.1. afterwards disappearing over ridge; they wore no equipment.

3. Defences. M.Gs. located at X.26.D.1.3. - Posts located at X.27.A.5.0\* (strongly held) and F.2.A.35.75. (one of a series of posts and strongly held) Posts are suspected at F.7.A.07.52. - F.7.A.19.82. - F.1.C.75.40. and F.1.C.22.28.

4. Identifications. Shoulder straps and documents removed from enemy dead, killed in patrol encounter in F.2.A. show killed to have belonged to 4 Company 15.R.I.R. Paybook and shoulder strap removed from killed in F.1. on night 25th inst, show him as having belonged to 57th.R.I.R.

5. Miscellaneous. 9.30.p.m. on our Guns open ing Barrage fire on Right Divl front enemy sent up flares, Double Reds, Yellows, Greens, also Single Reds and Greens in quick succession the flares were sent up from the right of VIEUX BERQUIN extending to F.13. Enemy placed light Barrage of 7.7.cm and 4.2. on Front Line and Supports and vicinity of STRAZELLE Station. 7.p.m. smoke seen rising from BRIELLE FME. (L.5.A.) Smoke from Chimney stack at 118deg grid from W.29.B.70.45. also Red cross flag flying at 116 deg from same O.P. At 10.15. a.m. engine whistling was heard behind enemy lines at S.B. of 139 deg from X.19.D.9.9. Left Brigade report bugle blown from approx X.27.D.1.7. at 6.a.m. and was followed by a group of men coming from trenches in vicinity with dixies and ran to ruins close by.

Geo: A Price Major  
Lieut. Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

28-7-18.

WEEKLY SUMMARY. NO. 3.To 6.a.m. 28-7-18.1. Enemy Operations.

Enemy Infantry has been more aggressive than usual. Strong Parties of the enemy attacked our patrols near MERRIS on the night 22/23rd and our posts at E.12.C.5.7. on the night 23/24th. This aggressiveness culminated on the night 24/25th in raids on our posts in F.1.C. and the right post of the left Division. Everything suggests that these raids were made for the sole purpose of obtaining identifications. They were unsuccessful.

2. Reliefs and Enemy Order of Battle;- As predicted in last weeks Intelligence Summary the following reliefs took place;-

The relief of the 1st Battalion 39R.I.R. by the 2nd Battalion 39. R.I.R.

The 3rd Battalion 98.R.I.R. relieved the 2nd Battalion 98.R.I.R. on date expected. According to prisoners of the 98.R.I.R. casualties were inflicted by our Artillery and M.Guns whilst relief was taking place.

The 2nd Battalion 98.R.I.R. were to be relieved on night 26/27th the relieving unit was unknown. According to prisoners, the 207 Division was to be relieved night 26/27th inst. This however requires confirmation. Much movement on the front of the 13 Res Division, led one almost to suspect a regimental or Divisional relief during the days, 23rd 24th, and 25th. During our Minor Enterprise on the 26th, however: although no definite identification was obtained, papers picked up indicated the presence of 57 R.I.R. in the line, also the 19. M.G. Marksman Detachment who were attached to the 13.Res.Division. Identifications are needed along the whole front, to again definitely establish the Enemy Order of Battle. The following is the believed Order of Battle.

From N. to S. 62. I.R. (12 Division) 39.R.I.R. 13. R.I.R.  
57. R.I.R. (13.Res.Division) 98.R.I.R. (207.Div)

Other Fronts. Extract from letter taken from dead German near MERRIS on the 26-7-18, letter dated 23-7-18, " 222 Division are in the line between MONTDIER and NOYON, and during the last few days have had a very bad time".

3. Enemy Machine Guns. The enemys fire policy has not changed during the week, from that in vogue during the preceding week. Indirect fire on approaches and sweeping fire on No Mans Land has been the common policy. Locations obtained are few in number owing to the fluctuations of our line. Many guns previously located are reported active. In addition the following positions have been located and confirmed.

(a) New Machine Gun Positions located and confirmed.

X.26.D.23.13. - X.26.D.30.50. - X.27.C.10.50. - BELLE CROIX FM.  
X.27.D.20.70. - F.1.C.80.90. - F.2.A.75.60. - E.12.C.80.20. -  
E.17.B.70.60. -

(b) Positions suspected. F.1.C.70.60.

4. Enemy Trench Mortars. It has been interesting to study the Trench Mortar tactics of the enemy. Three weeks ago about 40 M.W. positions were reported by Infantry to be active all on the left Brigade front. By a process of elimination, observation and confirmation by Aerial photographs the following conclusions were arrived at;-



( 2 )

1. Many of the positions reported by Infantry were due to unavoidable inaccuracy.
  2. The enemy had only the normal Divisional M.W. establishment in line.
  3. These M.W. were grouped opposite the left Brigade for two reasons (a) The better opportunities for concealment (b) The enemys apprehension regarding our intentions on the left.
- That might be called the first phase. The second phase begins with a slackening off of M.W. fire on the left Brigade front with no corresponding increase elsewhere. At the same time our left was gradually swinging forward and we were capturing several M.Ws. Prisoners captured volunteered the information that M.Ws were being transported to the E. side of the METEREN BECQUE. The third phase began this week with the confirmation by ground observation and aerial photography of this information. No T.Ms opposite the left Brigade have been active from W. of the BECQUE. On the other hand 3 positions have been definitely located on the E. side. Fire is gradually increasing, and up till now fire during the day has had the appearance of registration fire. It is probable that more positions will become active during the following few days and that these positions will be East of the METEREN BECQUE. Owing to the long range M.Ws will be able to engage only our forward positions.

(a) Positions located and confirmed. X.27.B.98.05. - X.27.D.66.22. F.3.A.40.54.

5. Aircraft. There is nothing to indicate any appreciable change in the attitude of the German Aerial tactics opposite our Divisional Sector. Upon bright clear days the normal number of hostile planes attempt to cross our lines. Their hours of activity appear to be between 4. and 5.a.m. and 9. and 10.p.m. On several occasions planes were over between these hours and remained inactive for the rest of the day.

6. Bridges. The enemy has quickly repaired all bridges over the METEREN BECQUE smashed by our Artillery fire. He has also thrown additional bridges across the Becque. Many of these have not yet been used. It is possible that some are camouflaged bridges erected to disperse our fire. On the other hand they may be alternative routes, the need for using them having not yet arisen. They are as follows:-

\*F.3.A.20.86 (narrow) \*F.3.A.10.53. (narrow) \*F.2.B.90.20. (partially destroyed) \*F.2.D.57.55. (narrow) F.2.D.44.26. (medium) \*F.2.D.38.13. (wide) F.8.B.20.76. (narrow) \*F.8.A.90.10. (medium) \*F.8.C.83.96. (very narrow) \*F.8.C.74.83. (very narrow) \*F.8.C.58.62. (wide) \*F.8.C.50.47. (narrow) \*F.8.C.52.26. (very narrow) F.14.A.57.92. (narrow) \*F.14.A.86.76. (narrow) \*F.14.B.06.60. (V.narrow) \*F.14.B.07.55. (medium) \*F.14.B.10.53. (V.Narrow) F.14.B.13.43. (medium) F.14.B.14.34. (narrow) F.14.B.12.28. (medium) \*F.14.B.12.13. (medium) F.14.D.12.87. (medium) F.14.D.13.67. (medium) \*F.14.D.26.32. (medium) \*F.14.D.34.05. (medium) X.26.C.30.14. (very narrow) Those marked \* are in use at present. Some of the bridges in use are within range of our Vickers Machine Guns. Bridges mostly used - F.2.D.38.15. F.8.A.90.10. F.14.D.34.05.

7. Forthcoming Events. The relief of the 207th Division is expected daily, likewise that of the 13.Res.Division. Both Divisions have been in the line for some considerable period, and have on several occasions been promised a rest.



( 3 )

General.

The only indication we have at present within the Divisional area of responsibility that an attack by the enemy on a large scale is imminent, is the increasing aggressiveness of enemy infantry. On the other hand this probably indicates his apprehension regarding our intentions.

The fact that the enemy M.W. have been transported from the W. side of the METEREN BECQUE to the E. side, is not necessarily an indication that the enemy does not intend to attack, but considering that information with the following points,

- 1 The enemys uncertain situation on the Champagne front.
- 2 His rapid building of definite defensive trench systems.
- 3 Captured Orders, the translation of which has been confirmed by prisoners statements as regards; The wiring of all posts and defences.
- 4 No reconnoitring parties have been seen by prisoners.
- 5 Excluding the identification of the 19M.G. Marksman Detachment attached to the 13th Res. Division, only normal identifications have been;-

(a) Seen by prisoners in the rear area.

(b) Obtained by ourselves.

One scarcely anticipates an attack on this front in the immediate future. A careful watch must be kept however, for other indications, such as dumping of ammunition in forward areas the appearance of reconnaissance parties etc. Indications might appear days before an attack.

Prisoners and Material captured during the week ending 28-7-18.

	O. Rs.	M. Gs.	M. W.
By 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bdo.	15	6	2
By 119th. Inf. Bdo.	2	-	-



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 105.

28-7-18.

From 6.a.m. 27-7-18 to 6.a.m. 28-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Liaison and protective patrols operated along our front throughout the dark hours of evening and night. Reconnaissance patrols were out, but with exception of hostile M.G. fire, no encounters with the enemy took place. Other information summarised from patrols reports will be found under "Defences".

a. Infantry Arms. 140 rounds of Stokes Mortar ammunition were expended on the following targets. Enemy positions at F.1.C.3.3. - F.1.A.45.68. - F.1.C.45.70. F.1.C.80.95. 18 rounds were fired into E.12.C.7.2. and 32 rounds on target at E.12.C.8.3. Direct hits were observed on the two latter targets. Rifle Grenadiers fired on known enemy posts and hedges suspected of be in occupation by the enemy. Lewis Guns continued their policy of searching hedges, and engaging active hostile M.Guns.

B. Artillery and Trench Mortars. In addition to the usual harassing fire, several registrations were carried out and working parties engaged but activity on the whole was below normal. A sharp shell storm was put down by Batteries of the 1st.F.A. Brigade at 8.45.p.m. On F.8.B. a centre of much activity; this shoot was observed to be effective.

3. Aircraft. During the spells of fine weather our planes displayed their usual activity especially between 4.a.m. and 6.a.m. (28th inst)

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.

a. Infantry. Alertness and the constant sweeping of No Mans Land by M.Gun fire, leads one to believe that the alertness displayed recently by the enemy is due to nervousness. The particularly aggressive attitude of the enemy opposite our left Battalion, may indicate a relief having taken place.

b. M.Guns. Enemy M.Guns displayed a very active programme, particularly opposite our left Battalion, hostile M.G. fire being kept up on all approaches throughout the night. It appears almost as if the number of M.Guns opposite this sector had been increased.

c. Trench Mortars. Nil.

d. Artillery. Hostile Artillery was less active than usual, throughout the period under review. His shelling was of a light and scattered nature over the usual areas. W.30.D. - X.25. - X.26. - X.19. E.6. and W.29. receiving attention. E.5.B.7.4. (Right Battalion H.Qrs of Left Brigade) was subjected to a 20 minutes bombardment commencing at 10.20.p.m. with 7.7.cm. H.E. and gas.

e. Aerial. Enemy aeroplanes displayed normal activity. 2 crossed our lines at about 4.30.a.m. and at 6.25.a.m. another attempted to cross but was driven back. At 7.30.a.m. a low flying contact plane flew along our front, and again at 4.30.p.m. a scout plane. All these were engaged and driven off by M.G. fire.

2. Movement. A slight decrease in the individual movement was observed during the period. The main centres of movement were F.3.C. - X.27.C. F.3.C.9.1. to F.3.D.2.2. L.10.C. Between 8.30. and 9.30.p.m. in L.3.A. twelve two horsed vehicles and six parties of men. 8. 10. 24. 18. 9. and 10 respectively passed PRINCES FARM.

A good deal of individual movement along road at PRINCES FARM (This may be a headquarters, movement being seen regularly here)

3. Defences. An enemy post was located at X.27.A.6.2. H.G. posts located at F.2.A.25.03. - X.27.C.4.5. - X.27.C.8.2. - F.2.A.5.2. (2 M.Gs) - X.27.D.1.7. - X.26.D.1.7. Newly constructed wire (barb) entanglements can be seen running roughly parallel to road (F.3.C.2.A. and X.27.C.) from hedge at X.27.C.7.3. (approx) Loose barb wire can also be seen along Southern side close into hedge in X.27.C.85.10. to F.3.A.8.7. approx. - this does not appear to be staked.



( 2 )

4. Miscellaneous. 2.20.a.m. a large fire seen in the direction of ESTAIRES. Double red flares were put up at intervals during last night, no apparent action following. 8/55/10.55.p.m. flash lamp seen at 120 deg grid from W.23.A.7.5. During the night enemy used a flare resembling Cathrine Wheel which ended in 2 red or pink lights. Range of guns was thorough on lengthened. At 5.50.a.m. hostile balloon was brought down in flames by our planes. 2.5.p.m. White flare sent up from vicinity of Building at L.2.D.10.80. 4.50.p.m. Large fire caused by our Artillery G.B.1440 54' on LA GORGUE - ESTAIRES Road.

*Geo. F. Pines Hey*

Lieut. Col. Liout-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
1st Australian Division.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

26-7-18.

Translation of a German document captured near METEREN (81.R.D.) was occupying the METEREN Sector up to 19th July 1918, inclusive)

81. Reserve Division.  
Section Ia No. 2253.

D.H.Q. 11th. July. 1918.DIVISIONAL ORDER.

According to the statements of prisoners in addition to the general attitude of the enemy (strong enemy patrols and considerable activity at night) it must be considered that the enemy are preparing to make an attack. It is, therefore, necessary for us to take energetic measures for the defence.

We must include in defensive measures the hastening of trench building in the first line which at present is very backward in the Divisional Sector.

Secondly, continuous wire must be erected in front of the outpost line and the main line of resistance. In order to prevent large hostile patrols penetrating into our forward area it is necessary to create a deep zone by means of elements of trench built checkerwise and by strong points and also to ensure mutual protection as well as facilitating the proper care of each Company, Platoon or Section Sector. The main line of resistance will be built as a continuous line of trench. Every endeavour must be made in order to provide in the forward area the necessary materials for the building of the position. The Field Coy at the disposal of the Division will be detailed to assist the Infantry in the work of building the position."

Army Summary. - Reserves.

There are 34 fit division in reserve on the Western front, of which 26 are in Prince Rupprecht's Group of Armies.

SOISSONS - CHAMPAGNE Battle. A total of 66 German Divisions, of which 44 were from reserve, have now been engaged in this battle since 13th July.

ENEMY LOSSES. A document, apparently referring to the enemy's operation in the MERRIS area on the night 25th/26th instant, shows that one company which took part in the attack had to be withdrawn from the line early this morning, owing to losses and another Coy moved up into its place.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

29-7-18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 108.

From 6.a.m. 28-7-18 to 6.a.m. 29-7-18.

A. OUR OPERATIONS.1. Infantry.

a. Patrols. Patrols were active along our front during the 24 hours under review. Two special patrols operated on Left Battalion front. After enemy post at X.28.D.95.70. had been bombed by rifle grenades patrol of 1 N.C.O and 10 men moved to rear of post via Northern side; post was entered but evidently had been vacated during the bombing straffe, no identification was secured. No. 2 patrol reconnoitred the Southern portion of X.28.C. No enemy were met. Search was unsuccessfully made for body of man missing from patrol of 26/27th inst. Heavy machine gun fire was encountered during tour of this patrol.

b. Infantry Arms. Known enemy posts in F.1.C. and at E.12.C.55.20. were subjected to bursts from our Stokes Mortars. A small enemy dump of S.A.A. was fired as a result, explosions continuing throughout the night. Enemy positions at F.1.B.65.20. F.1.D.25.95. were also engaged. Machine Guns fired their harassing programme during the night and in addition were very active against enemy aeroplanes which crossed our lines during the evening.

Lewis Guns and Snipers. Known tracks and approaches, hedges suspected in occupation, enemy posts and active hostile machine guns were engaged opposite the Divisional front throughout the night. Two hits are claimed in F.1.C.

2. Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out as usual with an increase of 50% after dark directed mainly against roads, tracks, bridges and centres of activity. Several Batteries carried out registration and checked parallelism. During the afternoon shell storms were put down by the 1st. Bde with good results on the following centres of activity; - F.8.D.25.30. to 30.50. F.14.B.30. 80. to F.8.D.25.00. F.14.B.35.90. to F.8.D.50.20. and F.8.C.

3. Aircraft. Our planes were very active during the day, and several encounters with enemy planes were observed.

B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Infantry. Enemy infantry remains alert and nervous. His M.Gun fire being very easily drawn. Enemy Snipers were also active.

b. Trench Mortars. Nil.

c. M.Guns. His machine gun activity has not decreased. Our forward positions, approaches, and back areas were continually swept by M.G. fire throughout the night; positions on the OUTER-STERNE Ridge and in the vicinity of BELLE CROIX FME. appear to have been increased.

2. Artillery. Hostile artillery was quiet during the morning, but increased activity during the afternoon and evening when several Area, and Counter-Battery shoots were carried out.

3. Aerial. Enemy planes were active during the day and several E.A. crossed our lines and carried out reconnaissance despite the A.A. fire. The E.A. which pays a nightly visit to the back areas as far as W.8. came over again last night at 9.p.m. and was driven off by A.A. fire. Balloons. Four ascended in the early morning at the following grid bearings from X.19.D.9.9. - Between 5.30. and 6.30.a.m. 162 - 153 - 152 155 deg. All descended at 9.10.a.m. At 5.35.a.m. (28th inst) enemy balloon was brought down in flames just in rear of OUTERSTERNE.

3. Defences. Patrol was fired on from E.12.C.7.3. Wire exists between E.12.C.60.25. and E.12.D.2.5. E.G. located at E.12.C.5.3. Wire with wooden stakes has been erected along road running North and South through F.3.A.&.C.



( 2 )

Machine Gun positions located at X.26.D.8.7. - X.26.C.85.25. - X.26.C.7.0. - F.2.A.65.65. - F.2.A.5.5. - F.7.A.3.6. - in the vicinity of X.27. Central. Wire with wooden stakes has been erected along road running North and South through F.3.A.&.C.

4. Movement. Normal individual movement was observed throughout the day. The following being examples of the movement observed.

Train seen at 117 deg from W.23.A.7.5. on ARMENTIERES- BAC-ST - MAUR LINE going south at 10.5.a.m.

6 enemy working on trench near road from F.3.C.9.2. to F.3.D.2.3. at 7.30.a.m. Stretcher bearers at work at X.27.A.6.7.

Working party of about 30 men observed at approx L.2.C.05.00.

5. Miscellaneous. 8.25.p.m. a dump blew up in enemy lines behind OUTTERSTEENE. Several small explosions seen in rear of enemy lines between 12.45.p.m. and 2.a.m. Fires observed during the night at 135 deg and 89 deg 30 mins from W.23.A.7.5. Usual flares, double reds, greens and golden clusters were sent up at intervals, no results observed.

6. Identifications. Prisoner taken belonging to 7th Coy 2nd. Battalion 209 R.I.R. 207th. Division was in his wrong sector owing to having lost his way.

*Geo. F. P. H. H. H. H.*

*Lieut. Col.*

Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.

1st Australian Division.

#### Army Summary. - Reserves.

The number of fit divisions in Reserve in Prince RUPPRECHTS Group of Armies remains at 29. On the whole Western Front there are 39 fit Divisions in reserve.

#### DANGEROUS TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS.

A Document issued on 10/3/18 by the Fifth German Army, emphasizes the necessity for greater care being taken in the use of the telephone. An example is cited, in which information was given to the French, through the indiscreet use of the telephone, of an operation to be carried out by the 56th Division on the 6th March. The French barrage opened at the very moment the attacking troops left their trenches, and the German losses were 5 Officers and 72 other ranks killed and wounded.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

29-7-18.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF PRISONER  
CAPTURED THIS MORNING IN E.12.CENTRAL.

Identification. Prisoner belonged to 7th Company 2nd.Battalion.  
209.R.I.R. 207th. Division.

Method of Capture. Prisoner a Corporal, had permission to visit VIEUX BERQUIN, with the intention of collecting a bag he had left there whilst being relieved. Seeing a wagon going in his direction, he boarded it, but found when it arrived at its destination, that he was well out of his way, being quite close to the railway. Having to wake the inmates of numerous dugouts to enquire the way, and the following reply "Follow the railway" being obtained from them with difficulty, prisoner decided to do as he was told, with the result that the next query, Wo bin ich? (Where am I) was settled by a Sergt of our right Brigade, who went out and conducted the prisoner into our post.

This accounts for prisoner being so far out of his normal sector.

Intentions. Prisoner is confident no attack is contemplated by them against us in the near future.

Reliefs. The 209th.R.I.R. hold a sector the boundaries of which are roughly E.17.C. Central to E.23.C. Central.

The 1st.Battalion relieved the 2nd.Battalion on the night 26/27th inst in the front line, the 2nd Battalion moving into rest area, with the 3rd Battalion in support. The 1st.Battalion should be relieved by the 3rd Battalion during the night 30/31st.

Rest Areas. Two companies (including prisoners,) of the rest battalion, are billeted around LABRIELLE L.5.A.

Company Strength. Strength of prisoners company is about 50.

Losses. The Losses in prisoners company were very light. During the 4 days in line, they only suffered one slightly wounded.

Food. Food is plentiful and good whilst in the forward areas, but when out at rest there is a depreciable difference.

General. Prisoners knowledge of a tactical value to this sector was very limited.



SECRET.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

30-7-18.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. NO.107.

From 6.a.m. 29-7-18 to 6.a.m. 30-7-18.

## A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. The Right Battalion Left Brigade (10th Bn) captured MERRIS during the night and established posts East of the Village. Our line of posts now runs; - F.1.B.65.05. - F.1.D.6.8. - F.1.D.55.50. - F.1.D.4.3. - F.1.D.3.1. - F.7.B.10.99. - F.7.A.60.95. - F.7.A.50.95. The attack was made by 2 Companies of 10th Battalion in the form of an enveloping movement from North and South of the Village. The two parties ~~then~~ gained touch with each other and parties then mopped up MERRIS. Artillery and M.Gs supplied a protective barrage. The barrage commenced at Zero (12.15.a.m.) and "Objective gained" Signal was reported by 3rd.Bde.O.P. at 12.42.a.m. Prisoners statements show that the enemy was surprised and had little time to collect his arms. At about 5.a.m. counter-attacks launched against our posts in F.3.A. were beaten off and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Enemy artillery retaliation barrage commenced at 12.20.a.m. and was heavy during the operation. Prisoners captured total 2 Officers 144 O.Rs unwounded. 2 Offs. 21. Other Ranks wounded. Many M.Gs were captured but have not yet been counted. Our casualties were very light.

a. Patrols. A patrol from Left Battalion of 1 Sgt. and 2 men reconnoitred the ground 200 yards in advance of posts X.26.B.8.3. and X.26.B.7.0; no enemy were encountered and a new M.C. position was located. A patrol from the same Battalion of 1 Officer and 3 O.Rs left F.2.A.1.4. and moved to hedge F.2.A.35.25. where 3 prisoners were captured hiding in the hedge.

A patrol of 1 Off. and 2 O.Rs of Right Battalion moved along railway line to F.7.A.1.1. and encountered no enemy. M.G was firing from approx. F.7.A.20.15.

A patrol of 1 Off. 2 O.Rs of Right Bn left E.12.C.45.75. to ascertain if enemy pushed out posts in front of his post at E.12.C.6.2. No post was located.

b. Infantry Arms. Heavy M.G. fire was carried out during the minor infantry operation by all Vickers Guns. Harassing fire was carried out during the remainder of the night. 10 Guns co-operated in the protective barrage.

Stokes Mortars co-operated in the Infantry operation of the Centre Bn. Targets at E.12.C.7.2. and E.12.C.8.3. were also successfully engaged.

Lewis Guns and Snipers. On Left Battalion front, active hostile M.G. were engaged and occupied hedges etc. searched since dawn 30th inst Centre Bn have taken advantage of many excellent targets. Many casualties have been inflicted on enemy from the new line of posts.

2. Artillery. At 12.15.a.m. all batteries put down a barrage in conjunction with infantry attack on MERRIS. Excellent Signal communication was maintained throughout the operation with F.O.O attached to the attacking troops.

3. Aircraft. Our planes were very active during the day constantly patrolling our own and enemy front lines.

## B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Infantry. (a) The aggressiveness of the enemy opposite the left Bn has not decreased; he still remains alert and nervous. The enemy seemed slightly demoralised by our barrage but fought well in face of it. Prisoners taken in MERRIS were surprised and puzzled at the situation in which they found themselves when captured, namely being taken in the rear.



( 2 )

b. Trench Mortars. Quiet.

c. Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs were very active especially when our barrage commenced. Little damage however was done. MOLEGHEIN FM was fired on from the direction of E.17.C. Since the attack enemy M.G have been active.

d. Artillery. Hostile artillery was normal for the period prior to our operations. The reply to our barrage was heavy and confined mostly to our forward system. Shelling was heavier on Squares W.30. and X.25. Retaliation lasted from 12.20.a.m. to 12.45.a.m. and was repeated again from 4.20.a.m. to 4.30.a.m.

e. Aerial. An enemy aeroplane crossed our lines several times between 8.30.p.m. and 9.15.p.m. and opened M.G. fire from about 500 feet.

2. Movement. Normal. Individual movement was observed in F.3.A.8.2.D. A man was seen digging at E.12.D.9.4. A Working Party of 15 was observed at F.3.D.2.3. carrying timber.

3. Defences. M.Gs located at F.7.A.20.15. X.27.A.5.2. X.27.C.15.80. X.27.O.7.8. The last three may be alternative positions as guns previously located nearby were inactive.

4. Identifications. Prisoners captured belonged to 4th Division. Material Captured. M.Gs etc have been captured but have not been counted.

5. Miscellaneous. Gun Flash from 10.cm gun at 132 deg firing on RCDG CROIX observed from W.29.E.30.85. Gun flash from H.V. Gun at 138 deg firing on rear areas observed from X.19.D.9.9. As a result of our barrage enemy fired single Reds with tails, double Reds and Double Greens and later double Yellows.

*W. J. Butler*  
 Licut-Colonel.  
 General Staff.  
 1st Australian Division.



SECRET.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

30-7-18.

INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS TAKEN THIS  
MORNING IN AND AROUND METZ 30-7-18.

Identification. 10th and 11th Coys 3rd Battalion 140.I.R. 4th. Div.  
8. 7. and 8th Coys. 2nd Battalion. 14.I.R. 4th.Div. and one  
prisoner belonging to the 57.I.R. 13th.Res.Div.

Order of Battle. N to S, 49th.I.R. 140.I.R. 14.I.R.

Dispositions. The 3 Regiments have one battalion in line one in  
support and 1 in rest. Battalion have 3 companies in line and  
one in support.

Company Strength. The Companies of the 2nd Battalion 14.I.R. had an  
average strength of about 70. The 11th Coy. 140.I.R. was about  
80.

Reliefs. The 4th Division relieved the 13th Res. Division during the  
night 28/29th. Battalion reliefs should take place during the  
night 2/3rd, prisoners having been told they would be in the line  
for 5 days. Support for 5 days then on to rest for 5 days.

Training. During the 10 weeks that the Division were out of the line,  
they underwent strenuous training, and on several occasions carried  
out Regimental manoeuvres.

Information. Prisoners having only just come into the sector their  
information of a tactical value was vague.

Intentions. Prisoners were confident no attack was contemplated against  
us.

The following were the reasons of their confidence.

1. They had been given definite orders not to trouble about retaking small outposts.
2. They were told they were coming into a sector where the enemy had a decided offensive spirit, and all they had to do was to put up a stout fight, and retire to main line of resistance if outnumbered by the enemy.
3. Prisoners who had been talking to artillery men had been told that some considerable time ago, there was a great quantity of gas shell, but recently it had all been sent to some other front.
4. No other troops, with the exception of the Regiments of the Division were to be seen in the rear areas.
5. The dispositions of the enemy were on the defensive policy 1 battalion in line, 1 in support, and 1 in rest some distance in rear.

General. As anticipated, the 13th.Res.Division have been relieved.

The 13th.Res.Division who have so consistently lost considerable numbers at the expense of our "Minor Enterprises" and their moral being very low, have been relieved by a division, considered by the Germans to be an excellent fighting division "The 4th Division" According to prisoners this morning the Division have been out strenuously training for 10 weeks, and were supposed to be in an excellent condition.

They had heard over and over again that their division, was not to be put in the line to hold a sector, they were considered far too good for that, and were to be reserved for the next big offensive.

Owing to the weak condition of the 13th.Res. Div. and the difficulty to maintain discipline amongst the troops, the moment arrived when they had to be relieved, and the 4th Division were put in their sector, with the hope of holding the ground with ease, and putting an end to our "minor enterprises".

Considering the 4th Division had only just come into the line after a 10 weeks rest, one would have expected to find some "moral" amongst the men, but the sample of over 150 taken this morning proved a very pessimistic lot of men, thoroughly "fed up" with the war. They were overcome by the dash and initiative of our troops in this morning's attack, and the majority of them were very glad to be taken prisoners. The news of the French counter-attack in the Champagne front, is just beginning to reach the troops, and has apparently had a demoralizing effect throughout the German Army.



SECRET.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

31-7-18.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 108.

From 6.a.m. 30-7-18 to 6.a.m. 31-7-18.

## A. OUR OPERATIONS.

1. Infantry. Communication was maintained with flanking Units by means of liaison patrols operating throughout the hours of darkness. A patrol of 1 Officer and 9 O.P.s left our lines at E.12.B.4.3. at 10.15.p.m. and proceeded along Railway line to E.12.B.9.2. Here they established an advance post in accordance with orders. At 1.p.m. an enemy party was observed by one of the patrols of our right Brigade, the patrols carefully managed to get in between the hostile party and his own lines. One of the enemy party was killed and the remaining 3 taken prisoners. On our left Brigade; Enemy observing the slightest movement opened up with M.G. fire. Other information from patrols will be found under the heading "Defences".

a. Infantry Arms. At 1.a.m. about 200 rounds were fired from our Stokes Mortars into CHERIE COPSE. Machine Guns. 52,000 rounds of S.A.A. were expended in indirect fire. The targets were bridges over the METEREN BEQUE in F.2.D. and F.8.B. & C. Squares F.7.D. and F.240. were also thoroughly searched. Anti-Aircraft Guns. 200 rounds were fired at one E.A. between 7 and 8.p.m. Snipers of our Left Brigade were active during the day.

2. Artillery. Our Batteries were active all day in reply to enemy shelling on our new posts in front of MERRIS. From 3.30.a.m. until 9.a.m. all Brigades put down 3 minute barrages every twenty minutes in front of our new line around MERRIS. At 4.45.p.m. 1st. A.F.A.Bde put down a 3 minutes "shell storm" at 3 rds.p.m. on F.8.D., a centre of great activity. Our How. Batteries fired 300 rounds of gas on centres of activity, and along the METEREN BEQUE. at 5.p.m. From 6.15.p.m. 7.46.p.m. 112th Battery fired 190 rounds on road F.2.D.0.1. to F.2.D.40.95. All Batteries of the 12th.(A) Bde replied to NF" Call on F.B.8.2. and 8.35.p.m. At 9.30.p.m. all 18-pdr Batteries fired protective barrage in front of MERRIS for 10 minutes searching and sweeping to a depth of 200 yards; 4.5.How.Batteries gassed centres of activity. In addition our usual harassing fire was carried out throughout the period with an increase of 100% after dark, directed mainly against approaches, bridges and positions of assembly.

3. Aerial. Our planes were active during the day, and were constantly subjected to A.A. Gun fire.

## B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Infantry. With the exception of hostile party of four met by our right Brigade 3 of whom were taken prisoners and one killed, no encounters with the enemy took place. His general attitude remains nervous. M.G. and rifle fire being drawn upon the least movement, or noise, he continues to sweep No Man's Land and harass our approaches with M.G. fire by night.

b. Trench Mortars. A sharp bombardment with light M.W. bombs was opened on our extreme left at 5.45.p.m. This bombing lasted 5 minutes. Right Battalion, left Brigade report that L.MWs were fired in salvos on rare occasions.

c. Artillery. Enemy artillery very active all day. From 6.a.m. onwards throughout the day barrages of 5.9. 4.2. 77s. H.E. and Gas of all calibres were put down at short intervals on new front posts, and supports around MERRIS area. thousands of rounds being expended. Intermittent shelling of STRAZERLE. MONT DE MERRIS. W.30.A.&C. Railway in E.5.C.&D. also took place during the day.

d. Aerial. Enemy planes were very quiet. At 12.5.p.m. one E.A. flew between MERRIS and METEREN and about an hour later it again flew over the same sector. Another low flying hostile plane crossed our lines at 5.30.p.m. and 7.p.m. flying about 2,000 feet. It was driven off by our A.A. and M.G. fire.



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2. Movement. Owing to bad visibility very little movement was observed during the day. Small parties moved in the early morning in F.8.A. and along railway.
3. Defences. Throughout the past 24 hours no new enemy positions have been located.
4. Identifications. 3 prisoners belonging to 98.R.I.R. 207th. Division (normal) 2 prisoners belonging to 2nd Bn. 14. I.R. 4th. Division. (normal.)
5. Miscellaneous. On enemy shells falling short, double red flares were fired and shelling ceased. Gun flashes were observed as follows from F.1.A.9.2.- 113 deg. grid (15 cm), 113 deg grid (10.cm.)

*Geo. H. Pines May 11*  
 Lieut. Colonel.  
 General Staff.  
 1st Australian Division.

#### INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

##### Army Summary.

##### Reserves.

There are 31 infantry divisions and 1 dismounted cavalry division fit for fighting in reserve on the Western Front, of which 25 infantry divisions and 1 dismounted cavalry division are in Prince RUPPRECHTS Group of Armies.

##### Engagement of divisions.

As a result of the fighting since July 15th on the SOISSONS - CHAMPAGNE front, 71 German infantry divisions have been engaged, of which 48 were from reserve.

In addition 3 divisions engaged in the original German attack, have been re-engaged in other sectors of the battle.

##### REMOVAL OF AMMUNITION TO THE REAR.

Prisoners captured recently on this Army front, and by the Army on our right, have stated that artillery and trench mortar ammunition, which had been dumped in the forward area, is now being removed and sent to the rear. Up to the present it has been reported in the following sectors:-

(i) Ammunition being withdrawn from WERVICQ and HOUTHEM dumps and sent towards COURTELAI on light railway.

(ii) Trench Mortar ammunition being carried towards the rear opposite the SCHERPENBERG Sector.

(iii) Artillery limbers removing ammunition from forward area to the rear opposite LA MOTTE Sector.

(iv) In addition, a prisoner captured by the Army on our right also states that ammunition which had been dumped in the forward area near CALONNE is now being taken back nightly by motor transport.



SECRET.FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

31-7-18.

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS  
TAKEN THIS MORNING BY 1ST.AUST.DIVISION.

Identification. Three prisoners belonged to the Sturm Company of the 207th Division. The prisoners had been drawn from the 98th R.I.R. each regiment of the division supplying 1 Platoon of the Sturm Company.

Intentions. According to prisoners the Sturm Company had been disbanded and the individuals sent to their respective units, it was whilst these were looking for their unit, whom they were in the line, that they got lost and getting on to the railway line, they wandered on into No Mans Land, and were from there, conducted to our lines by a patrol of our Right Brigade. Prisoners were certain as far as they were concerned, that there had been absolutely no preparation made for an attack along their front. Everything behind their lines led them to believe that they were on a purely defensive policy.

Strength of Sturm Company. The Coy recently had been about 80 strong, many being away ill and some wounded.

Training. They had done no training whatsoever for some considerable time, their only duty being on guard over their own little camp just N.W. of SAILLY.

Moral. The moral of prisoners, who were single strong young men, (single men generally being picked for the Sturm Company) was very low. They stated that the conditions in their present front line was absolutely terrible, being cramped up the whole day in little shell hole craters. That the news from the South was very disheartening, though their knowledge of the situation was only that the Germans had been held up.

That the Sturm Company should be split up, and sent into the line as reinforcements to the Infantry, had caused great dissatisfaction.

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TWO PRISONERS TAKEN FROM MERRIS  
THIS MORNING.

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Identification. 8th.Coy. 14.I.R. 4th. Division.

Method of Capture. The groupe to which prisoners belonged, was in a cellar of a house located at approximately F.1.C.5.7. During the whole of our operations, they had remained in the Cellar, and were all under the impression that everything was normal "up above"; as prisoner expressed it, Eating, Sleeping and Smoking were the only pastimes practiced by the "interned party" until rations becoming horribly short and having no visitors, which at first was regarded with pleasure, but later in conjunction with the food famine, regarded as strange, they decided that somebody must go for rations, and two were detailed. After going through MERRIS some distance they were met by a party of our men, who brought them back to our lines, the remainder of the Gruppe are still to be surprised.

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