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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/27 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

May 1918



AWM4-1/50/27PART3

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 12th May - to - 6 a.m. 13th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. In the morning a hostile party in P.15.c, was dispersed. In the afternoon visibility improved, and many live targets were engaged. A dug-out at P.10.c.1.0 was bombarded, and three direct hits registered. A small party of the enemy at P.15.b, was dispersed. A large body of the enemy by what appeared to be a gun emplacement in P.14.d, were engaged and casualties inflicted, stretcher cases being removed. A group of men working round dug-out at P.10.d.3.5 were dispersed. Numerous small parties moving between the BOIS de VAIRE and BOIS D'ACCROCHE were scattered. At 7 pm a large body of enemy at P.14.d.2.8 were engaged, many direct hits being observed, the infantry reporting heavy casualties inflicted. A zone call in P.11.b.6.7 was engaged at 6.47 pm. At 9.3 pm a two minute concentration was fired by all guns on P.9.b.9.4 (HAMEL). At 10.35 pm area P.15.c, enclosing occupied shell hole systems and converging tracks was swept by lines of fire moving on the centre from the four sides, whilst the Heavy Artillery bombarded the occupied system P.15.a.0.0 to P.15.c.0.5. Four minutes after this ceased (10.45 pm) all groups fired one crash on P.15.a.0.0 to P.15.c.0.5, and the Heavy Artillery one crash on P.15.b.0.0 to P.15.d.0.5. At 12.5 am a five minute concentration was fired on the valley J.36.c.6.8 to J.36.b.9.5, and the trench P.9.a.75.00 to P.9.b.00.35. At 1.55 am a two minute burst swept dug-outs and traffic route P.11.b.75.85 to P.11.b.1.0, and area P.4.c.0.0 - P.4.c.5.0. - P.4.c.80.35 - P.4.c.0.5. At 2.47 am a five minute concentration was put down on enemy works in the BOIS de VAIRE, from P.14.d.5.4. to P.14.b.80.05. At 3.16 am a rolling barrage swept forward from "S.O.S" plus 25 yards to "S.O.S" plus 525 yards. Four minutes later 3.25 am one crash was fired on "S.O.S" plus 800 yards. At 4.15 am fire was opened on possible points of assembly and tracks opposite the Divisional front. The suspected H.Q. at P.21.d.9.9 was bombarded at 11 p.m.
- H.T.M. 6" Newton Trench Mortars fired 140 rounds on various targets on the night 11th/12th.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols found NO MANS' LAND clear of enemy. M.G. fire was encountered from S.W. edge of BOIS de VAIRE and P.14.c.8.8. Left Brigade found the posts at P.3.d.2.5, P.3.d.4.5, P.3.d.5.5 unoccupied and showing no sign of recent use. Working parties were heard at P.9.b.2.9, P.4.b.5.5 and in SAILLY LAURETTE.
- (c) Machine guns. All road and tracks in vicinity of BOIS de VAIRE were searched and traversed during the night.
- (d) L.T.M. 25 rounds were fired on enemy post at P.20.a.4.7, and 15 rounds on a low flying aeroplane.
- (e) Sniping. Snipers were active on isolated movement in VAIRE WOOD and in K.25.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Hostile artillery was very quiet during the day and earlier part of the night, very active between 4 and 6 am. In the morning 6 rounds of 77 mm fell in WELCOME WOOD. In the afternoon 18 rounds of 77 mm fell in VAIRE; 30 rounds of 77mm in I.36.a; CORBIE was lightly shelled by 77 mm from FLAT IRON COUSE; the windmill in J.27.a, was registered by a 5.3 battery from the direction of WARFUSEL, and a 5.9 battery engaged the church in CORBIE at 7 p.m. Between 4 and 6 pm 100 rounds of 5.9

Appendix 2

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and 4.2 how. fell in 0.10 and 0.15. From 4 to 5.30 am I.23, I.35, I.28 and P.5 were heavily bombarded by 5.9 and 4.2 how Yellow Cross Gas and H.E. At the same time 80 rounds 4.2 and 5.9 how, Yellow Cross gas and H.E. fell in 0.10 and 0.15. Minenwerfer. Fifteen rounds fell about J.34.d.4.3. and four in J.35.c. At 1.40 pm six rounds were fired on J.30.a from K.25.a.7.9.

- 4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches in P.20.a are being deepened. Wire. New wire has been erected from K.25.a.70.85 to K.25.b.05.75. M.G's were active from P.14.b.7.1 and P.14.d.25.55. M.G which was at P.9.a.9.8 appears to have been moved back since our T.M. bombardment of night 11th/12th. A Minenwerfer was active from K.25.a.7.9. Observation post at K.31.c.65.45 was in use again. Observation post is suspected at P.10.d.3.5.
- 5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. NO MANS' LAND is still entirely clear of enemy. A heavy concentration of gas and H.E. was put down on CORBIE area during the early morning.
- 6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. There was no aerial activity till evening, when several hostile planes crossed our lines flying very high. During the early morning numbers of hostile bombing planes flew over our back areas and dropped bombs.
- 7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Track through VAIRE WOOD from P.14.b.7.2 is much used in early morning and after sunset. Men were observed entering copse at P.14.d. central at 8.50, pm. Considerable movement of wheeled traffic (including four field guns) was seen on roads in Q.25, 26, 27 from 5.10 pm on. This was engaged by our Heavy Artillery. At 8.25 pm about 100 men carrying packs moved along the road in Q.26.c towards LA MOTTE. Movement was seen at P.21.a.5.4 to P.21.a.5.6 and at P.21.d.4.7 where a H.Q. is suspected. Trains. Several trains were seen during late evening and early morning in Q.34, Q.36, R.31, R.32 and R.25.
- 8. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy searchlights were very active during the night. Some appeared to be on lorries as they changed their positions. An A.A. gun is suspected on side of road in Q.25.c. Balloons were observed from I.24.c.3.2 on T.B. of 178°, 166°, 170°, 162°, 127°, 147°.

J.E. Murray-Lent
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

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GENERAL.

The situation remains unchanged.

The capacity of the aerodromes at CHUIGNES and FOUCAUCOURT have increased, as well as ammunition dumps along the ORVALNES railway.

The organization of supply South of the SOMME is being energetically pushed forward. North of the river, however, it does not appear to be in so advanced a state. This may delay the expected offensive North of ALBERT.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 13th May - to - 6 a.m. 14th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. In the morning a party of enemy moving from the BOIS de VAIRE to the BOIS de HAMEL were engaged, and one casualty inflicted. At 10 am three men came out of a dug-out at P.16.c.2.2 laying wires, and ran back on being engaged. At 11.45 am eight men came out and were immediately engaged by gun fire, four stretcher cases being removed. Mound at P.16.c.5.5, the centre of much activity, was registered. A suspected machine gun emplacement at P.4.c.5.0 was demolished. A party of enemy at P.22.a.2.8 were dispersed. In the afternoon hostile groups at P.14.b.5.2 and P.14.c.5.9 were scattered; movement at P.15.d engaged, and a trench at P.10.b.9.9 bombarded. At 3 pm several men entered a dug-out at P.16.c.50.99 - this was engaged, and two direct hits registered. At 9.33 pm a five minute concentration was fired on HAMEL. At 11 pm counter preparation areas North of the river were swept for five minutes; whilst a concentrated bombardment was carried out on enemy works at P.20.a.8.5. At 1.33 am a box barrage was put down on the four sides of P.15.c, and the area swept in enfilade for five minutes. At 2.57 am the trench system in P.4.d, P.11.a, P.10.b, were enfiladed by a five minutes burst. At 3 am trenches in P.16.b, P.10.d, and P.10.c, were bombarded for five minutes. At 3.45 am a jumping "S.O.S" was fired from "S.O.S" plus 50 yds. to "S.O.S" plus 325 yds, lasting five minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols heard enemy movement in copse at P.14.central, P.14.c.55.70, P.14.c.9.2 and along the front of VAIRE WOOD. One patrol had two casualties from an enemy sniper about P.20.a.9.2. Left Brigade patrols located M.G's at P.9.a.9.8 and P.3.d.0.0. No patrols or working parties were heard.
- (c) M.G's. Our guns searched and traversed all roads and tracks in and around VAIRE WOOD. Harassing fire was also maintained on Road from P.20.b.3.1 to P.20.b.95.00. Ammunition expended 8,000 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M's. Fifty rounds were fired on targets in J.35.d, J.36.c and P.5.a. L.T.M'S. 130 rounds were expended in bursts of fire on quarry at P.20.b.15.30 and enemy post at P.8.d.3.8.
- (e) Sniping. At 9.45 am six groups of eight men each, advancing in K. 25.a were scattered by snipers and Lewis guns. Many casualties were inflicted. Movement in VAIRE WOOD was also fired on.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS N11.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This was more active during the day; quiet during the night on this divisional front. During the morning SAILLY-le-SEC was intermittently shelled by 4.2 and 5.9 hows; J.27.d by six rounds 77mm from CERISY; I.35.b and I.36.a by 77mm and 4.2 hows; CORBIE by 5.9 hows; road junction I.35.b.60.75 by 5.9 hows; J.31.c by 4.2 hows; 77mm battery registered on VAIRE CHURCH. In the afternoon J.27.a was shelled by a 77mm battery from MORCOURT; VAIRE by 40 rounds of 4.2 how from CERISY; BONNAY by 16 rounds 5.9 how; Cross roads O.10.d by 8 rounds 77 mm; J.19.c, was registered by a 4.2 battery, and a 5.9 battery. At 4 pm and 9.30 pm short barrages of 77's and 4.2 were placed on front line in P.8. and P.13: During the afternoon area O.17 was heavily shelled with 4.2's and 5.3's.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 14th May - to - 6 a.m. 15th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning a party of nine men in P.11.c were dispersed, casualties being inflicted. The Trench System West of FAMEL was bombarded. Small groups in P.15.c and P.22.a, were scattered, and a party at P.20.a.55.12 put to flight. Six men attempted to leave a dugout at P.15.d. 6.4, and were allowed to come out; they ran back again on being sniped and evidently remained inside during the remainder of the day. At 12.45 pm a body of twelve enemy were broken up in P.11.d. At 1 pm men were seen at an O.P. at P.15.b.7.7, direct hits being recorded, one shell bursting inside. Later in the afternoon a stretcher party removed bodies from here. A party of six was engaged in P.11.d, and small parties at P.10.d.1.8. Zone calls for P.5.d.5.3. and P.11.b.6.7 were answered. At 6 pm 100 rounds gas was fired on new work in the BOIS de VAIRE, and 100 rounds on H.Q. at P.17.b.0.0 to P.17.a.5.5. At 9 pm the BOIS de VAIRE was bombarded with gas, at 9.30 pm the BOIS de FAMEL, at 10 pm SAILLY LAURETTE, 10.30 pm the BOIS de VAIRE, and 11 pm the BOIS de HAMEL. At 10.30 pm a five minute concentration was put down on P.20.a.8.5, and on P.14.d. At 2 a.m. a two minute burst was fired on P.9.a.75.00 to P.9.b.0.8. At 2.30 am work in front of the BOIS de VAIRE and P.20.a.8.5 received a two minute concentration. At 3.40 am and at 4.15 am counter preparation targets were engaged for five minutes.
- (b) Patrols Right Brigade. Enemy patrols were seen on the ridge at P.14.d.1.7. M.G. fire was encountered from the copse at P.14.central and road at P.14.c.5.0. Left Brigade patrols saw an enemy covering party of 15 men at P.9.a.8.0. Sounds of a working party were heard in rear.
- (c) M.G.'s. 5,000 rounds were expended by our guns maintaining harassing fire on tracks and roads in and around VAIRE WOOD.
- (d) L.T.M.'s 65 rounds were fired on enemy posts at P.8.d.3.0 and P.20.a.8.5. A dump of bombs was apparently blown up in P.8.d.3.0 as a large number of detonations was heard. Loud screaming was also heard. Thirty-five rounds were fired on M.W. position at P.4.b.9.9 and enemy post at P.4.b.4.8. A number of rounds was also fired on low flying aeroplanes.
- (e) Sniping. Snipers were very active along Right Brigade front. Enemy running away from Quarry in P.20 during artillery shoot were fired on.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. ENEMY SHELLING. Has considerably increased in activity, both in day and night shooting. During the morning the Front Line System was intermittently shelled by 77mm from the direction of P.20 ; J.27.b and J.28.a, heavily by 4.2 hows; P.2.c, and P.8.a, lightly by 4.2 hows, and 0.17 heavily by 5.9 hows. During the afternoon J.27.b and J.29.a, were heavily shelled by 5.9 and 4.2 hows, including gas; road in I.35.d, swept by 4.2 shrapnel; VAUX intermittently shelled by 4.2 hows; I.29 heavily by 5.9 hows; I.35.b, by 12 rounds 8" how; CORBIE heavily by 5.9 hows; road in I.26.d by 100 rounds 4.2 how; J.19.d heavily by 4.2 and 5.9 hows; road in J.20 by 80 rounds 4.2 how; 0.10.c by 100 rounds 5.9 and 4.2 how, including some gas; 0.17.a by 30 rounds 4.2 how; 0.17.b by 160 rounds 4.2 and 5.9 how; 0.16.b and d by 100 rounds 5.9 how and

200 rounds 4.2 how, and J.13.c and J.14.c heavily by 5.9 hows. Between 12 noon and 7 pm O.19 and O.20 were heavily bombarded by 4.2 and 5.9 hows. At 8.45 pm HAMELET was lightly shelled by 5.9 how; between 1 and 3 am O.18 and O.24 by an H.V. gun; between 3.20 and 4.20 am O.18.b and O.10.d by 100 rounds H.E. and Yellow Cross 77, and 30 rounds 4.2 how Yellow Cross; from 3.20 to 5 am a heavy concentration of H.E. and gas, 4.2 and 5.9 hows, on CORBIE AND FOUILLOY. The valley in front of J.27.b was intermittently bombarded by 4.2 and 5.9 H.E. and gas throughout the night. The fact that the shelling is confined mainly to 5.9 and 4.2 hows is very noticeable.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. Observers report that the trench system from R.25.a.1.0 to K.25.a.4.9 is continuous and is protected by a heavy belt of wire. Work is being carried out in the trench about P.15.d.3.5.

Observers confirm the previous report that a tramway exists between P.14.d.5.6 and P.15.c.0.5 and a dug out in vicinity at P.15.c.15.65. The tramway is used to remove spoil from dug outs and emplacements and this is dumped on ploughed land in rear of wood. Observers report movement in trench at P.20.b.19. This trench runs about 20 yds towards VAIRE WOOD and is wired on the Western side.

M.G's. A camouflaged M.G. emplacement appears at P.14.d.3.7 and is occupied by day. There is also one at P.14.d.60.65. M.G's were active from P.14.c.6.5 and P.14.central.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. The enemy continues his night concentration of gas and H.E. on our Support Area. Artillery activity is increasing in intensity.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. During the afternoon from 1.45 pm to 3 pm Fourteen E.A. flew low over the Right Brigade front system. At 6.15 pm seven E.A. crossed our lines.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Many stretcher cases were carried out during the day in P.11. and P.17.

Much movement of men and transport was seen on the PROYART road through R.9 and R.14, and in K.33.d, Q.24.b and Q.25.

About 250 horses were seen grazing in Q.24.b and R.19.a. At 7.35 pm there was much movement of small parties with packs from MCCROCHE WOOD to VAIRE WOOD. This tends to the conviction that a relief was in progress. Many of these men wore British steel hats. At 3.45 am a party of about 50 men was dispersed by L.G. and rifle fire near South edge of VAIRE WOOD. Eleven casualties are claimed.

A considerable amount of light train movement was seen in W.3, 4, and 5. Trains were also seen in R.25 and 26.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. In P.11.d there is a line of camouflage about 15 feet high attached to trees and stretching to the ground - gun flashes have been reported from this vicinity.

An ammunition dump is suspected at approximately Q.28.c.8.8. Boxes are stacked in small heaps. Many light trains appeared to be unloading at a dump on T.B. 102° from I.35.b.89.89. At 2.15 pm a large column of black smoke rose near HARBONNIERES. Two flare dumps near gravel pit at P.21.b.30.15 were ignited by our artillery at 6.30 pm.

During the night the enemy used parachute flares which burned in the air for about five minutes.

At 5.55 am a hostile plane dropped three white flares breaking into golden rain. Flares were then fired from enemy front

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line and three minutes later enemy heavily bombarded J.18, 24 and 30.

A wireless station is suspected at P.24.b.15.95 - tripod and pole can be seen.

An A.A., M.G. was seen firing tracer bullets at our planes at P.9.b.9.5.

for *K Goodland Capt-*
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

13th May, 1918.

GAS SHELL FIRED BY 15 cm GUN.

On the 11th instant a billet in LONGEAU was struck by Yellow Cross gas shell. Fragments of the shell and parts of the fuze show that it was fired from the 1916 pattern 15 cm gun, range about 25,000 yards. It had two driving bands, false cap, and Gr.2.04 fuze. This shell is similar to those fired at RIVERY on 4th May.

The arrival of a division from the Eastern Theatre increases the estimated number of German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre to 207. Of these, 152 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 18 are of poor quality. There are 12 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 25 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

EFFECT OF ALLIED AIR RAIDS. (From the Army on our Right).

Extract from captured diary:-

" April, 21st, Sunday - Our train carried us towards AMIENS. Very early in the morning enemy aviators dropped bombs on us; we were sleeping in the carriages; the noise was terrific and the incident made a very unpleasant impression. We continued our journey and stopped at CHAULNES station. Suddenly bombs fell on the station - a number of men were wounded, several mortally. We hurriedly took cover in the cellar, like heroes. A large number of horses were killed as well. It is a good beginning".

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 15th May, '18 - to - 6 a.m. 16th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. At 10.5 and 11.15 a.m. gas bombardments of new work in front of the BOIS de VAIRE were carried out. During the second shoot about fifty of the enemy with adjusted respirators ran to a flank, and were engaged by shrapnel, casualties being observed. A working party in the valley in K.31 was scattered. In the afternoon an O.P. at P.16.c.0.5 was engaged, two direct hits being recorded. At 4 pm a dump at P.16.c.0.3 was successfully engaged. At 8.45 pm a party of 100 of the enemy with packs and rifles, moving in P.17.a, was heavily engaged. At 8.50 pm a group of 40 moving into HAMEL from the South was engaged with shrap, H.E., and gas. On neither of these occasions could results be observed. At 7.15 pm 100 rounds of gas were fired into P.11.d.85.00. An enemy party in trench at P.9.b.4.8 was bombarded. During the night five minute concentrations on the enemy's forward battery areas were fired at 9.5 pm, 10.5 pm, and 10.55 pm. At 1.15 am the trench system in P.9.a and the valley in J.36.b and c was swept by a five minute burst, which lifted to a two minute crash on enemy battery areas. At 2.15 am area P.15.d was searched for five minutes, also valley in K.31.a and b and trench in P.4.d subjected to a burst of fire. This lifted to a two minute concentration on battery areas. At 3.45 am a rolling barrage lifted forward from "S.O.S" plus 25 yards to "S.O.S" plus 625 yards in six minutes, and back from "S.O.S" plus 425 yds to "SOS" plus 25 yards in four minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols saw an enemy patrol at P.14.c.5.9 and a working party with a covering party at P.20.a.7.5. The posts at P.14.b.7.5. and P.8.d.3.7 were reconnoitred and found to be occupied. Left Brigade patrols saw enemy working on his wire at P.9.a.2.0. The enemy post at J.35.d.3.2 was engaged with rifle grenades and Lewis Gun fire.
- (c) M.G.'s. Harassing fire was maintained on all tracks and roads in the vicinity of BOIS de VAIRE. 8,000 rounds were fired.
- (d) M.T.M. 108 rounds were fired on posts and roads in J.35.d, J.36.c, P.4.b, P.5.a and c and P.8.d. L.T.M.'s fired on enemy post at P.20.b.2.2, enemy working party at P.20.a.7.5 and on low flying aeroplanes.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This has maintained its activity, and has been largely restricted to 4.2 and 5.9 Hows. Concentration shoots have been carried out on battery areas on both sides of the river. During the morning I.20 received five rounds 4.2 H.V.; I.18.c and I.19.a were lightly shelled by 4.2 H.V. A 5.9 How. battery registered on the mill in J.27.a from the direction of IA MOTTE. The Front Line System was intermittently shelled by 4.2 Hows; I.30.c and I.29.d lightly by 77mm; I.29.c lightly by 5.9 Hows; I.35.a by 77 mm; O.10 heavily by 5.9 Hows; J.27.b by 60 rounds 4.2 Hows. In the afternoon the road through I.26.b and d was lightly shelled; VAIRE and WELCOME WOOD by 4.2 Hows; I.36.c by 77mm lightly; O.17 by 230 rounds 4.2 and 5.9 How (including 4.2 gas); O.10.b, c and d by 65 rounds 5.9 How, and O.11.c by ten rounds 4.2 How. During the night O.17.c received 60 rounds 4.2 How; O.10.b and d shelled by 20 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.b by 40 rounds 77mm; I.35.b lightly by 4.2 How.

Appendix 2.

- 4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trench in P.20.b was lengthened during the night. There is a camouflaged trench at P.14.d.4.2. This trench is occupied by day. A flare post was located at P.14.d.0.6. The enemy was heard digging and wiring his positions in J.30.d and K.25.a and c during the night. He is thought to be putting sunken wire in front of his trenches in K.25.a. An A.A., M.G. post is suspected at P.18.c.7.3.
- 5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Enemy M.G.'s were more active than usual. Observers report that the enemy is working hard on his front line defences.
- 6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. There was a great deal of aerial activity, three hostile planes were crashed, one by A.A., L.G in P.20. There was much bombing by both sides during the night.
- 7. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Normal movement of men and transport was seen on roads in R.19.a., Q.24., 25., and 26. Horses were grazing in Q.29.central. There was considerable movement of horse and motor transport on the road in Q.12.a and b. during the late afternoon. Movement was also seen in P.10.b. and d. P.17., P.18., and P.30.b. Tractors were heard in SAILLY LAURETTE between 2 and 5 a.m. At 8 a.m. 16th inst., a large body of infantry and transport also tractors was observed on the GAILLY-SAILLY road. At 6.40 p.m. a large body of infantry was reported moving from CERISY to GAILLY - 3 parties - each one company strong, marching in fours. Normal train movement was seen in R.26., R.8., Q.27.
- 8. MISCELLANEOUS. At 8.30 p.m. an ammunition dump at P.22.a.50.95 was blown up. The windmill - J.27.a. - is continuously used as a post of registration for hostile batteries. Searchlights were observed during night on true bearings 146 deg., 137½ deg., 121 deg., 104 deg., 123½ deg., from I.24.d.5.0. The last named was stationary all night.

J. E. Murray
 Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 6 a.m. 16th May - to - 6 a.m. 17th May, 1918.NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.**1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery.**

During the afternoon movement at the cross roads at P.10.a.35.70 was engaged, and a party of enemy at P.10.b.3.5 scattered. A large dug-out at P.9.d.9.9 was bombarded. A hostile 77mm battery in Q.13.c was effectively engaged and silenced. A dump at the cross roads at P.24.a was blown up. At 8.40 pm a body of 100 enemy in P.17.a were heavily engaged, result unknown. At 9.15 pm a five minute concentration was fired on the trench system in P.4.d, and on new work at P.14.d.2.6. At 2.10 am the area P.16.c was searched for five minutes by all guns. At 3.5 am trench in P.9.e.0.8 to P.9.a.7.0, and quarry at K.31.c.9.3, received five minutes concentration. At 3.40 am rifle pits P.9.e.5.5 to P.9.e.8.7, and new work at J.30.d.8.0, were bombarded for five minutes. At 4.10 am points of assembly and tracks were swept for two minutes. H.T.L. 6" Newton T.M. fired 106 rounds on various targets on night 15th/16th.

(b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols saw an enemy patrol of six men near enemy lines at P.20.a.8.2. Working parties were heard at P.20.b.0.9, near Cross road at P.20.a, on right of Copse at P.14. central, at post in P.8.d.3.7.

Left brigade patrols searched NO MAN'S LAND without encountering any sign of the enemy.

(c) M.G's. Right Brigade. All roads and tracks in P.14, 15, 20 and 21, were subjected to harassing fire during the night.

Left Brigade. Our machine guns carried out harassing fire on road running from J.36.c.60.00 to K.31.c.00.60. Ammunition expended 9,500 rounds.

(d) L.T.M's. Sixty rounds were fired on enemy posts and working parties from P.20.a.5.6 to P.20.a.5.8 and on post at P.20.a.5.8. Ten rounds were fired on low flying aeroplanes.

(e) Sniping. A ration party was fired on North of VAIRE WOOD, casualties being claimed. Small parties in K.19.c were also fired on.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 4th Pursuit Flight attached to 2nd Army (Prisoner),

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This was quiet on the South of the SOMME, but maintained its activity to the North. High velocity guns are becoming more active. During the morning the Front Line System in front of VAIRE was shelled by 77mm from GAILLY; HAMELET and VAIRE by 4.2 H.V. from direction of P.17.a; J.20 and J.21 heavily by 5.9 and 8" Hows from direction of MORCOURT; WELCOME WOOD by 20 rounds 4.2 gas; valley in J.20 and J.21 by 4.2 and 5.9 H.V. guns; P.7 by 77mm batteries from P.18.d; Brickworks in I.24 by 5.9 H.V.; I.30 and I.36 by 77mm battery from direction of HAMEL; I.29.a by 4.2 Hows (registered by aeroplane) from direction of P.28.a. During the afternoon 20 rounds 77mm fell in J.19.b from direction P.11.b; J.19 was shelled by 4.2 How from direction of P.18; P.8 by 77 battery in P.11.b; J.20 and J.21 by 4.2 Hows. from CERISY; At night 0.16 intermittently shelled by 5.9 Hows; 0.17.d by 10 rounds 4.2 shrapnel; 0.13 and 0.14 by 5.9 and 8" Hows; 0.15.central and 0.20.central by 4.2 Hows and N.21. b by 5.9 H.V. gun at 9 pm.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. A new piece of trench is reported at P.14.d.45.70. New work was noticed in post at K.25.a.7.9.

4. Wire. Stakes for wire running N and S are visible on eastern side of gravel pit at P.20.a.50.15. New wire has been erected in front of post at P.14.d.3.3. The original wire running from this post to P.14.d.2.0 has been thickened and knife rests placed near road. Wire in front of post at P.14.d.45.70 has been repaired. More wire has been erected between K.31.a.4.6 and K.31.a.3.9. M.W. fired from J.36.b on J.30.e.0.5 at 6.50 am and 7.30 pm. O.P. O.P. at K.31.c.6.5. is still used by enemy.
5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet. M.G.'s were active on our approaches at dusk and dawn.
6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy planes were very active during the period, and several air fights took place. An enemy triplane was brought down in I.29 at 4.20 pm and the pilot taken prisoner. At 6 pm one of our planes came down in P.20 and the two airmen were brought in under cover of a white flag. The plane was burned. During the day 20 bombs were dropped on HAMEL.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Isolated movement was seen near trench at P.11.a.2.2, dugout at P.18.b.2.3., trench at P.15.a.3.5 and on tracks from P.22.a to P.15.c. Continuous movement was seen from 8 pm till dusk on road from P.15.c.4.3 to P.14.d.80.25. Movement was also seen round huts in Q.25.d and near railway line in R.9.b. Heavy transport (sounding like caterpillars) was heard near SAILLY LAURETTE. Normal traffic was seen on roads in Q.18, Q.12.b, Q.26, R.9, R.7, R.8 and R.2.c all day. Trains were seen in R.8.b and R.3.c.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy searchlights were seen on T.B. 123⁰ and 141⁰ from I.24.d.3.1.

Wootton Major
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

15th May, 1918.

Reports indicate the transfer of four divisions, probably withdrawn from the LYS battle front, to the front between the OISE and the Swiss frontier between the 27th April and the 10th May; one division has been withdrawn from the SOMME battle front to refit in the CHIMAY area, one division has relieved a division in line near REIMS, and a third division has relieved a division in LORRAINE. The arrival of a division from the Eastern Theatre increases the estimated number of German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre to 208. Of these, 152 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 18 are of poor quality. There are 15 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 23 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

REDUCTION OF BREAD RATION. (From G.H.Q. Summary dated 15/5/18).

From recent examinations of a large number of prisoners from various regiments, it seems certain that the German ration loaf was reduced in size during March from 1,500 grammes to 1,400 grammes, the daily bread ration of half a loaf consequently falling from 750 to 700 grammes, which appears to be the present usual ration. This is confirmed by captured company ration lists, dated March, which show the bread ration as 750/700 grammes.

Appendix 2/

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Part II (Continued).

Appendix

NEW GERMAN SHELL. (From G.H.Q. Summary dated 15/5/18).

The enemy is known to have introduced new patterns of shell for his 7.7-cm field guns and for his 10.5-cm., 15-cm. and 21-cm. howitzers. According to a captured document dated 20/3/18, the field gun shell is designated K.Gr.16 Kanonen-Granate 1916, or 1916 pattern shell.

The designations of the 10.5-cm and 15-cm howitzer shell are unknown, but the 21-cm howitzer shell is referred to in a captured Order of the Sixth German Army, dated 6/5/18 as 21-cm Gr.17 or 1917 pattern shell.

Specimens of these shells are required for examination.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 17th May - to - 6 a.m. 18th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning a large enemy working party at P.14.b.9.5 was scattered with casualties, and the trench at P.15.c.7.6 bombarded. In the afternoon a small hostile group at P.10.c was dispersed. An anti-aircraft battery came forward to P.2.c.90.05; this was engaged, one gun blown up, and the crew put to flight, two further casualties being inflicted before they got to cover. Enemy parties moving from P.10.c to P.11.b, and in P.11.c were dispersed. Trench system in P.4.d and P.10.b was bombarded by Hows, several rounds falling into the trench in P.10.b. An active T.F. at P.14.b.5.2 was silenced. At 8.45 pm a large enemy working party moving from P.22.a to P.14.d was engaged. At 10.5 pm new communication trench in the BOIS de VAIRE from P.14.d.50.92 to P.14.d.62.84 was heavily bombarded for five minutes. At 11.10 pm a six minutes concentration was fired on new work and dug outs at K.31.a.5.1; on trench P.9.b.2.9 to P.3.d.5.1, and on tracks and shell hole positions P.15.central to P.15.c.central. At 2.30 a.m a five minute concentration was fired on line of Minenwerfer pits K.25.c.00.05 to J.36.b.95.78, and on trench P.15.b.7.9. At 3 am HAMEL was heavily shelled for six minutes, and at 4.5 am a rolling barrage swept back from S.O.S. plus 525 yards to S.O.S. 25 yards in 5 minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade. A special fighting patrol - one Officer (2/Lieut NEVILLE D.C.M.) and 14 other ranks - with Lewis gun advanced towards VAIRE WOOD and rushed two enemy posts at about P.14.c.95.65. The garrisons were all accounted for, two being killed and three captured: Enemy parties advancing from the Wood were kept at bay while the patrol retired to our lines with their prisoners. No casualties were suffered. Other patrols heard voices at P.20.a.8.2 and P.8.d.3.7. About twelve men were seen in an enemy post at approx. P.9.a.65.25. A wiring party was heard at P.9.a.8.2. Left Brigade patrols were fired on by M.G's from P.4.central. Three enemy were seen in long grass in J.35.d. The enemy was very quiet in this Brigade Sector.
- (c) M.G's Right Brigade. Harassing fire was maintained on all roads and tracks in and around BOIS de VAIRE. Also on the road from P.15.c.0.4 to P.15.c.43.30. Left Brigade. Our guns fired throughout the night on the following targets :-
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Cross Roads | P.4.c.50.35 |
| Street in HAMEL | P.10.a.25.75 |
| Road Corner. | P.9.b.15.65 |
| Track (from photo) | P.9.b.02.20 |
| Trench track | P.9.c.70.80 to P.9.b.0.2 |
- Ammunition expended 18,000 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M's Twenty rounds were fired on cemetery in J.36.c and on enemy posts in J.35.d. L.T.M's. Forty rounds were fired on enemy M.G's at J.35.d.8.8 J.35.d.2.1 and J.35.d.55.20. Twenty rounds were fired on M.G's position at P.14.b.5.0 and 50 rounds on Quarry in P.20; M.G's at P.20.a.8.9, and post at P.8.d.3.7.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 12th Company 419 I.R. 77th Res. Div. (three prisoners captured in P.14.c). Examination forms annexe.

-2-

3. **HOSTILE SHELLING.** This has maintained its activity during the day, quieter at night. During the morning J.19.a was shelled by 20 rounds 5.9 How; O.6.a & b by 30 rounds 77 mm; J.19.d & J.20.c by 40 rounds 5.9 and 25 rounds 4.2 How; HAMELET, VAUX and VAIRE by 77 mm and 4.2 Hows; P.13.a and c by 60 rounds 4.2 How and 20 rounds 77 mm; O.15.b by 48 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.a by five rounds 5.9 How; CORBIE by 5.9 How; O.12 and O.13 by 4.2 H.V. gun; I.28.b and I.29.c by 30 rounds 4.2 How. During both morning and afternoon 1.35 was continuously shelled by 5.9 Hows, registered on to various points by aeroplane observation. During the afternoon Front Line system in P.8.c was shelled by 10 rounds 4.2 How; I.20 and I.19 lightly by 5.9 H.V. gun; outposts in P.2 by 77 mm lightly; J.19.b heavily by 5.9 Hows; P.13.a and c lightly by 77mm battery in P.22.a; O.10.c.9.5 by 80 rounds 4.2 How; O.17 a by 100 rounds 4.2 How and 18 Pdr; During the night 40 rounds 4.2 How fell in O.11.b; 60 rounds yellow Cross gas (4.2 How) in O.15.c and O.16 at 3 am a large number of gas shells were fired on O.16, 17, 10 and 11. BLANGY TRONVILLE was bombarded by a 5.9 H.V. gun from V.18.a.
4. **ENEMY DEFENCES.** VAIRE WOOD is now greatly thinned as a result of our artillery fire. Enemy posts at P.14.d.95.10 and P.9.a.65.25 are occupied. Wire. The wire in front of post at P.8.d.3.7 consists of two belts, 5 yards apart. The outer one being French wire and fairly loose and the inner one barbed. M.G.'s were active from VAIRE WOOD, J.36.c.1.8 and P.4.central (firing on SAILLY-le-SEC). M.F. Twenty shells were fired on front line posts in P.13. Thirty rounds were fired on forward posts in J.35.c (from direction of J.36.central) and K.19.c.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** Minenwerfer were fired on Right Brigade sector after a long silence.
6. **AERIAL ACTIVITY.** Enemy planes were very active. Formations crossed our lines at 6 am, 7.10 am, 9.15 am, 10.5 am, 11 am and 8.15 pm. Bombing planes were over our rear area during the night. At 10.55 am a hostile plane was crashed by one of our machines in O.30.b. The pilot was killed.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.** Movement was seen all day on road in K.34 and on roads near MORCOURT. A large number of horses were grazing in R.30.b. A good deal of isolated movement was seen in K.25.b and between VAIRE WOOD and ACCROCHE WOOD at suspected dumps at P.21.d.9.1 and P.22.a.50.95 and at trench P.10.d.2.7.
- Trains. Many light trains were seen in the vicinity of MORCOURT. At 5.50 a broad gauge train pulled into siding to an ammunition dump at R.2.c.5.2. Fourteen trucks were left at the siding. Trains were also seen in R.26.c, R.31.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** At 11.40 am a large ammunition dump was blown up in Q.33.a. It burned till 5 pm. At 11.45 am a dump was blown behind BOIS D'ARQUAIRE. A 5.9 How. battery appeared to be firing from the wood in P.12.a.

K Goodland Capt.
for
Lieut-Colonel C
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

17th May, 1918.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

In general recent photographs show that work on the hostile defences has been comparatively slight. West of ALBERT a second line of defence is practically finished, north of the main AMIENS road and some wiring has been done here and along the front line in W.27. South of the main road there is no work as far as E.14.a. N.W. of DERNANCOURT where there are signs of a few T.M. Emplacements developing. (35 AE B 1021). There is practically no work in the MORLANCOURT sector or East of SAILLY-le-SEC. Some work is being done on improving the well-defined front trench forming a salient between HAMEL and the BOIS-de-VAIRE.

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WITHDRAWAL OF DIVISIONS FROM THE SOMME BATTLE AREA. (From G.H.Q. Summary dated 16th May, 1918).

The following divisions are reported to have been withdrawn from the SOMME battle area :-

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|--|
| (i) | 1st Guard Div. | - Arrived in the CHIMAY area about 30th April. |
| (ii) | 5th Guard Div. | - Refitting at MONTCORNET on 2nd May. |
| (iii) | 15th Div. | - Resting at BUSIGNY on 26th April. |
| (iv) | 50th Div. | - Resting in the CHARLEVILLE area on 4th May. |
| (v) | 51st Res.Div. | - Commenced detraining in the CHIMAY area on 30th April. |

The 1st Guard, 5th Guard and 50th Divisions, were in the IX Corps in the Eighteenth Army on the 21st March.

The 51st Reserve Division reinforced the Eighteenth Army before the end of March and the 15th Division reinforced the Second Army in April. All five divisions are good divisions and are likely to be used in further offensive operations.

In addition to the above, 11 divisions have been withdrawn from the battle front south of the SOMME and have been moved to quiet sectors between the OISE and the MEUSE, where they have released fresh divisions for the battle.

GENERAL

The situation remains unchanged.

From the examination of an officer pilot brought down yesterday afternoon it would appear that the offensive will not be delayed much longer. Although the front of attack has not been ascertained, yet his statements indicate that it will take place North of the SOMME. He considers that the statements recently made by prisoners as to the transfer of certain German divisions to ITALY are based on rumours being purposely spread among the troops in order to deceive the Allies.

ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION SUMMARY - 18th May, 1918.

Information concerning German Division in VAIRE WOOD Sector.

The 77th Reserve Division came into line in the VAIRE WOOD Sector on the night 16th/17th May. It relieved apparently the 108th Division or 24th Reserve Division. Beyond the fact that the 12th Company 419th I.R. is in the line nothing is known of Order of Battle or disposition.

DRAFTS. The Division has been reinforced during the past fortnight by a large draft (600 men) from the LIBAU Recruiting Depot in RUSSIA. This draft consisted mostly of 1919 class recruits, who are now in line for the first time.

LOSSES. Losses in the 12th Company during the two days in line have been very slight. The Company relieved warned them to be on their guard against gas bombardments and stated that they had lost heavily during the previous week.

RATIONS. The first night in line no rations arrived. It was supposed that our artillery fire had prevented the ration parties from coming through. On the next night the rations arrived between 11pm and 12 midnight.

ENEMY INTENTION. No information concerning enemy intention was gained.

77th Reserve Division is composed of

- 255th R.I.R.)
- 257th R.I.R.)
- 419th I.R.)

The 255th R.I.R. and 257th R.I.R. are composed of RHINLANDERS, WESTPHALIANS and ALSATIANS.

The 419th I.R. was transferred from the 92nd Division (RUSSIAN front) on 13th January.

The Division was in line at MARCELCAVE north of HANGARD in April and was relieved on 26th April. It suffered very heavy losses in this sector. One Battalion of 257th R.I.R. lost seven officers and its strength was reduced to 60.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 18th May -- to -- 6 a.m. 19th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning hostile party in P.15.b was engaged and scattered, and a hostile battery in P.22.d silenced. In the afternoon an enemy party carrying timber was engaged, casualties being inflicted. Working parties in P.15.d and P.16.c were dispersed. Between 6.30 and 9 pm roads and bridges in Q.1, Q.2, Q.3, Q.9, P.18, and Q.19 were kept under fire. At 8 pm large bodies of enemy at P.22.a.50.95 and in P.15.c were engaged. At 9 pm trench K.26.c.8.5 to K.26.c.90.55 and trench P.14.b.55.05 to P.14.b.75.04 were bombarded for two minutes. At 2 am a "Chinese" attack was fired on the BOIS de VAIRE, lasting 20 minutes, in support of attack by Left Flank Division. At 4.5 am a rolling barrage swept from S.O.S. plus 100 yards to S.O.S. plus 600 yards, and back from S.O.S. plus 400 yards to S.O.S. plus 200 yards.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols located a small unoccupied post at P.20.a.3.4 and fired rifle grenades into a sniper's post at P.20.a.7.6. The wire in front of enemy post at P.8.d.3.7 was examined. The clump of trees at approx. P.5.c.1.2 was examined and a man was seen to run from it towards HAMEL. Left Brigade patrols searched old trench and shell holes in the vicinity of J.36.a.4.5. An enemy party of eight was seen at J.36.a.7.5. Talking was heard at J.36.a.5.3, and digging at J.36.b.2.9. An enemy M.G. was located firing from P.5.a.1.2 into BOUZENCOURT and SAILLY-le-SEC.
- (c) M.G.'s. Tracks leading to VAIRE WOOD were fired on between 8 p.m. and dusk, and between 11 p.m. and 12 midnight. The following targets were also engaged with harassing fire :-
- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Cross roads | P.4.c.50.35 |
| Street HAMEL | P.10.a.25.75 |
| Road | P.9.b.15.65 |
| Track | P.9.b.0.2 to P.9.b.2.4. |
| Trench | P.9.c.70.80 to P.9.b.0.2 |
- (d) L.T.M.'s. One hundred rounds were fired on targets in P.8.d and P.20.a and 85 rounds on post at P.4.b.6.2, M.G. at P.4.central and posts along sunken road in J.36.
- (e) Sniping. Casualties are claimed in BOIS de VAIRE.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This has been considerably quieter during the period, and chiefly by field guns. During the morning J.20 and J.27 were shelled at intervals by 4.2 Hows; J.25.a by 6 rounds 77 mm; HAMELET by 77 mm and 4.2 Hows from the BOIS de VAIRE; CORBIE by 5.9 Hows lightly; O.17.a.4.3 by 15 rounds 77mm, and O.11.c by 10 rounds 5.9 How, 30 rounds 4.2 How and 50 rounds 77 mm. During the afternoon I.36.a. was lightly shelled by 77mm battery; I.34 lightly by 5.9 Hows; roads on north of river by 77mm battery; O.10.c lightly by 77 mm; O.17.a.35.20 by 15 rounds 77 mm; O.17.b by 20 rounds 77mm; I.29.a by 35 rounds 77mm; O.11.c by 20 rounds 77mm, and O.17.a by 20 rounds gas shell. The night was quiet - I.29.b and d were lightly shelled by 4.2 Hows, and I.28 by 4.2 Hows. VECQUEMONT, DAOURS and O.13 were intermittently shelled by H.V. gun.

Appendix 2

- 4. ENEMY DEFENCES. The small clump of trees at P.3.c.1.2 seems to be used as an O.P (see patrols).
Wire. The wire on the south side of the road near post at P.8.d.3.7 consists of three rows - the outer being barbed concertina, the centre plain concertina with barbed running through it and the inner row ordinary barbed.
 A new strip of wire has been erected at P.20.b.6.5.
M.G's were active from P.5.a.2.3 (approx.) and P.4.central.
M.W. fired on our front line posts from direction of J.36.c.45.60 and from cemetery in J.36.
- 5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Artillery was quieter than during the previous few days. No concentrations were put down.
- 6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Hostile formations crossed our lines at 5 a.m., 6 a.m., and 8 p.m.
- 7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Movement observed during the day was much below normal. Small parties were seen in P.15 and P.16 and P.22. The roads in K.34.d are still used during the day. At 7.45 pm a party of about 30 men was seen between dump at P.22.a.5.9 and P.15.c. b
- 8. MISCELLANEOUS. At 3.15 am an enemy dump was blown up at P.14.d.9.9.
 At 2.30 pm a battery of three or four guns was observed firing from Q.13.c.3.9.

b This is suspected to be a nightly working party supplied by front line troops.

for K Goodland Capt-
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

18/5/18.

ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

An Officer-Pilot belonging to the RICHTHOFEN Squadron, occupying an Aerodrome near PERONNE (Probably CAPPY) states his Flight leaves the SOMME area to-day (18th inst) for the MONTDIDIER area. He believes that a feint attack will take place near MONTDIDIER, possibly about 25th inst. This attack will immediately precede a big attack, which will be launched from ALBERT northwards and will be pushed in the direction of ARRAS. His Squadron expects to return to the ALBERT area as soon as the feint attack at MONTDIDIER is well launched. It is considered that this Officer is speaking the truth as far as he knows it.

For Official Use only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 19th May - to - 6 a.m. 20th May, 1918

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning visibility was bad owing to haze and no targets presented themselves. At 12 noon and again at 2 pm a concentration shoot by two Brigades was carried out in conjunction with Heavy Artillery, on hostile battery P.B.41, which was immediately silenced on each occasion. Movement in P.14.b.8.7 was dispersed; a small party of enemy in P.3.d.8.7 dispersed to cover; a body of men on road in P.15.a put to flight, and a digging party at P.15.a.9.6 dispersed with casualties. At 4 p.m. an enemy observer was noticed in a tree in P.16.b, and forced to descend and take cover. Dump at P.22.a.5.2 was bombarded. A suspected battery at P.18.b.15.85 was engaged, and men seen to run ^{back} along road in P.18.c. HAMEL was intermittently engaged. At 8.39 pm a rolling barrage swept forward from S.O.S. plus 100 yards to, S.O.S. plus 600 yards, five minutes. At 11.30 pm all roads and approaches were engaged for three minutes. At 11.45 am BOIS de VAIRE was bombarded for eight minutes, and again for five minutes at 2.37 am. At 3.55 am possible assembly points and routes were swept for five minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrol saw an enemy patrol at P.20.a.8.2 and one man at P.20.a.5.1. This patrol was fired on. A working party was heard in copse at P.14.central. Left Brigade patrols saw movement in trench at P.14.b.6.2. An attempt was made to surround the enemy post at P.4.b.4.6. The garrison of six men however retired to the main line. They were fired on but no casualties were found.
- (c) M.G.'s. Right Brigade. Our guns maintained harassing fire on all roads and tracks in the vicinity of BOIS de VAIRE. Left Brigade. Harassing fire was put down on roads and approaches to and from HAMEL. North of the SOMME our guns fired during the night on J.36.b and K.31.a. Ammunition expended 22,450 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M.'s carried out neutralising fire on enemy M.W. and on post at P.8.d.3.7. L.T.M.'s. Seventy rounds were fired on post at P.8.d.3.7, suspected movement at P.20.b.2.8 and post at P.20.a.8.5. Thirty rounds were fired on posts in K.25.a and c, and M.G. at K.25.a.3.4.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Slightly quieter, but remains active. A considerable increase in activity of H.V. guns. During the morning I.29.c was shelled by 170 rounds 5.9 How, controlled by aeroplane observation; CORBIE by 4.2 H.V. gun from Q.6.d; O.10.c by 20 rounds 18 pdr; VAIRE lightly by 4.2 Hows; O.18.b and d by 15 rounds 77 mm, and HAMELET lightly by 4.2 gun. In the afternoon a 4.2 How. battery was registered on windmill in J.27.a; J.27.b was lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows; O.16.a and b by 30 rounds 5.9 How, and 110 rounds 4.2 How and 77 mm; O.10.c by 70 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.b by 30 rounds 5.9 How; J.22 and J.23 by 400 rounds 4.2 How and H.V.; H.V. gun engaged VECQUEMONT, DACURS, BUSSY-les-DACURS, and valley in N.17 and N.23. The night was quiet - 30 rounds H.E. and gas (Yellow Cross) fell in O.18.a between

-2-

9 and 9.30 p.m. BUSSY-les-DAOURS was shelled in the morning by long range shrapnel and H.V. Shooting of long range guns was erratic.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. The enemy is working by day on his trenches in P.4.d and P.10.b.
M.G's were active from P.9.a.1.2.
A.A., M.G's were located at P.14.b.2.1 and P.9.a.7.0.
M.W. A minenwerfer was active from P.10.a.2.0.
5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. The period was quiet south of the SOMME but more active on the North.
6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. There was much hostile activity in formations crossing our lines at intervals during the day. Bombs were dropped on our forward and back areas during the night. At 10.35 a.m two E.A. were seen over P.15. They were brown in color with red markings on top and a touch of red on the tail. The cross was drawn with silver dots with the brown showing through.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Movement was observed in K.31.c, in trenches in P.4.d and at P.21.d.5.4, in P.15.c, at dump at P.22.a.5.9, near house in Q.7.c, near dump at Q.27.c.9.3 and round huts in R.8.d and between roads in K.19.d and K.26.a.
 There was a great deal of movement on the road in R.9 moving towards BRAY and PROYART.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. At 11.17 pm a dump was fired on T.B. 132° from I.30.a.5.2.

G. W. ...
 Lieut-Colonel G.S.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

19th May, 1918.

- ENEMY'S INTENTIONS. (a) An officer captured West of MORLANCOURT yesterday stated that the big offensive will commence on the 21st inst. He stated further that heavy and light artillery will leave CAMBRAI on the 19th and 20th inst. to reinforce the front. His own Division is to be relieved on the 19th or 20th by a division forming part of MACKENSEN'S Army. This Army is to attack North of their divisional sector, but the new division which will relieve the 107th Division will be involved in the attack. He has no knowledge of an offensive intended South of the SOMME.
- (b) An N.C.O. belonging to the "A" bombing squadron states that a big attack will take place in a few days, but has no knowledge of the locality.
- (c) An officer pilot captured by the French states that a feint attack is shortly to be launched against the French between the OISE and RHEIMS. AMIENS, however, still remains the main objective. He believes the date of this attack will be the 20th or soon afterwards.

(NOTE:- This corroborates the statement of an officer pilot that a feint attack was shortly to be launched against the French, to be followed by a big attack against the British).

Summary. From the above statements, as well as others recently obtained, it would appear that a feint attack is about to be made against the French in several parts of the line, to be followed almost immediately afterwards, by a big attack against the British between ALBERT and ARRAS.

The date of the attack against the British would appear to be the 21st instant.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 20th May - to - 6 a.m. 21st May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

- 1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning two small parties moving into the BOIS D'ACCROCHE were dispersed, and a hostile battery at P.24.c.8.1 bombarded. During the afternoon a hostile party at P.11.c.7.5 was scattered and casualties inflicted, a group of 10 men in P.17.c dispersed, and movement in P.17.a engaged. A working party digging in P.14.b was engaged, six direct hits being registered on the work, and casualties observed. One German moving from HAMEL to the BOIS D'ARQUAIRE was sniped and killed. A suspected battery at P.16.b.4.4 was engaged. Trench at P.4.b.8.2 was bombarded and partially destroyed. At 7.5 pm movement in trench at P.14.b was engaged. At 7.15 pm a G.S. wagon moving from P.24 to P.17 was engaged - the wagon turned and retreated rapidly towards WARFUSEE, bags dropping off behind. At 9 pm a party at P.15.c.85.55 was dispersed. At 9.30 pm group bombardments were carried out on new work on the Divisional front for two minutes, and at 10.30 pm on suspected battery positions. At 11.20 pm a three minute burst was fired on approaches; this was repeated at 11.40 pm for two minutes. At 12.15 am a one minute burst was fired on P.16.central. At 1.45 am, 2 am, 2.15 am, 2.32 am, 2.25am and 3.15 am, two minute bursts were fired on the BOIS de VAIRE, and new works and suspected battery positions in the vicinity. At 3.20 am centres of activity and possible assembly points on the Divisional front were swept for five minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols found post at P.20.a.7.6 occupied. At clump of trees at P.3.c.4.0 an enemy patrol of ten men was seen. The enemy scattered and doubled back towards HAMEL on seeing our patrol. The clump of trees was examined and four short trenches were found on southern side. Left Brigade report NO MANS' LAND entirely clear of enemy.
- (c) M.G.'s Harassing fire was maintained on all roads and tracks in the vicinity of BOIS de VAIRE and village of HAMEL. Our guns also fired on targets K.25.c.01.10 and K.25.a.47.20. Ammunition expended 14,000 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M's engaged targets in J.35.d, J.36.c, P.4.c and P.5.c. L.T.M's engaged enemy posts in P.20.a. and b, K.25.c and J.30.d.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. ENEMY SHELLING. This has been slightly quieter, but remains active. H.V. guns are still active. During the morning twenty rounds H.V. shrapnel and H.E. were fired on VECQUEMONT and BUSSY-les-DAOURS; J.19.a and J.27.b were shelled by 4.2 Hows and 77 mm; the valley in J.22 and J.28 by 4.2 Hows; I.35 by H.V. gun; I.36 intermittently by thirty rounds 77 mm and 4.2 How; J.27.b by 10 rounds 4.2 How; CORBIE by 25 rounds 4.2 H.V.; P.19.a lightly by 4.2 Hows; P.13.b lightly by 4.2 Hows; I.34.a by 4.2 Hows. From 8.30 a to 4.30 Pm O.10.c and O.11.c received 300 rounds 5.9 and 4.2 How. During the afternoon I.29 was lightly shelled by 77 mm H.E. and gas; I.29.a and c by 30 rounds 4.2 How; I.30 by bursts of fire from 77 mm; I.36 intermittently by 77 mm and I.35 by H.V. gun on T.B. 77° from I.36.a.4.7. During the night two bursts of 50 rounds 4.2 and 5.9 How fell in O.17.b. Five bursts of 12 rounds each 77 mm gas and H.E. fell in I.29.b and d; 20 rounds 4.2 fell in O.17.c and d.

4. **ENEMY DEFENCES, Trenches.** Four small unoccupied trenches were found by patrol at P.3.c.6.2.
 A trench about 15 yards long has been dug from sunken road P.10.d.35.45 to P.10.d.34. A new listening post has been dug at P.4.b.3.4. Eight men were seen to leave post at J.30.d.9.9 at dawn and enter another post at K.25.c.1.9.
 Two men were seen to leave trench in P.9.a.10.20.
Wire. Wire in front of post at J.30.d.9.9 is about 5 yds deep, knee high and 100 yds in front of post.
M.G. was active from P.14.b.6.5.
M.W. at P.9.b.7.0 was engaged by artillery.
Dug-outs. The eastern edge of VAIRE WOOD from P.14.d.9.1 to P.14.d.9.5 appears to contain small dugouts, with a larger one at P.14.d.95.35.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** The period was quieter than usual, both in Artillery and M.G. fire.
6. **AERIAL ACTIVITY.** Hostile planes were over our lines between 4.30 am and 6.30 am, between 7 am and 9.30 am and 8.10 pm. Bombs were dropped on SAILLY-le-SEC and BUSSY-les-DAOURS during the night.
 At 10.30 am an enemy plane was seen to crash behind VAIRE WOOD. Our planes dropped bombs in HAMEL and VAIRE WOOD.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.** Movement was seen throughout the day near trenches in K.27.a and dug-out at K.31.c.7.5; on tracks in K.26.d, and between VAIRE and ACCROCHE WOODS.
 At 7.20 pm a small party went from wood in P.15.d to dump at P.22.a.7.6 and returned carrying boxes.
 At 6 am eight guns with six-horse teams were observed on the roads through P.29, P.23, to P.16.d. All appeared to move to P.16.d. Half-an-hour later the limbers returned alone.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** Dumps were fired in P.24.b, and on T.B. 100° and T.B. 133° from I.24.d.3.1.

for *K Goodland Capt*
 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

ENEMY INTENTIONS (4th Army Summary 20/5/18).

From the examination of the large number of officers, N.C.O's and men captured yesterday, it is apparent that little is known of the enemy's intentions. Statements were generally contradictory, but prisoners were practically unanimous in the belief that a big offensive was to take place very shortly. The date of the attack varied from almost at once to the end of the month. A considerable number of prisoners belonging to the 183rd and 107th Divisions believed that the main attack would be made astride the SOMME, but it is considered that the enemy has purposely spread this rumour among the troops.

The most reliable evidence obtained points to the main attack taking place further North, and one officer seemed fairly confident that it would be made against both sides of the VIMY RIDGE, on the 25th inst.

Rumours that MACKENSEN'S Army is in the CAMBRAI area are rife, and that this Army is to make the big attack, and will pass through the divisions now holding the line. It is also rumoured that Von MACKENSEN'S Staff is to relieve the Second Army Staff.

The usual reports are current that much Yellow gas is to be used, while it is interesting to note that a prisoner captured by the Third Army

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Appendix 2

Appendix 2

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Part II (Continued).

yesterday, E. of COLINCAMPS, states his division is to attack, and that a large amount of cavalry is to be used, thus strengthening similar statements made by Officer pilots of the Flying Corps captured by ourselves and the French.

Prisoners state that much gas shell has been brought up, and is now scattered over the country in little heaps, (this is confirmed by air photos). while a big gas shell depot has been formed in AVELUY.

To sum up, it is apparent that the big offensive will not be long delayed. Sufficient data has not yet been obtained to give the precise date, and in this respect it is considered that the statement made in yesterday's Summary that the attack would commence on the 21st inst. was probably premature. It should be noted that the Moon is full on the 25th instant. The flanks of the main attack cannot yet be given, but would appear to be between ALBERT and ARRAS, with feint attacks astride the SOMME and South of the LUCE, possibly reaching as far as REIMS.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 21st May -- to -- 6 a.m. 22nd May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning a hostile minenwerfer at P.9.b.55.00 was silenced. A series of seven concentration shoots, each of two minutes, was carried out on hostile battery positions at P.16.a.90.45 and P.16.central. During the afternoon hostile parties in P.11.central, and behind the BOIS de HAMEL were dispersed. Movement in the BOIS de VAIRE was stopped. A group of enemy on ridge in P.11 were put to flight, and a dug-out in P.16.e bombarded. Considerable enemy movement in P.17.a was heavily engaged, result unknowing to darkness. At 8 p.m. six G.S. wagons reported at P.17.central and were fired on. At 7.35 and 7.48 p.m. working parties in P.21.a and at P.14.d.5.6, were dispersed, casualties being inflicted in each case. At 9.35 p.m. a two minute burst was fired on suspected battery position at P.16.a.95.60, and approaches to HAMEL searched. At 10.30 p.m. a shell hole dump at P.9.c.65.65 to P.9.c.55.45 was bombarded by all groups for five minutes. At 11.45 p.m. shell hole dumps at P.21.a.55.70 - P.21.a.55.55, K.25.b.30.55 - K.25.b.20.35, and K.25.b.4.2 - K.25.b.4.0 were bombarded for five minutes. At 2 am shell hole dumps P.21.b.90.10 - P.21.b.90.00, and K.25.d.60.90 - K.25.d.55.85 received a three minute concentration, whilst the valley in P.9.d was swept. At 3.10 a.m. a rolling barrage came back from S.O.S. plus 500 yards to S.O.S. plus 100 yards. At 3.55 a.m. a five minute area shoot was fired on centre of activity P.15.c. M.T.M. fired 130 rounds on various targets during the night 20th/21st. Infantry report that the shooting on areas P.4.d and P.5.a.1.3 caused considerable panic among enemy and our machine guns were able to play on parties as they dispersed.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols followed the enemy wire from P.8.d.3.8 to P.14.b.6.8. The wire at P.20.a.6.7 was also examined. A working party was heard in the sunken road in P.8.d, and voices were heard behind copse at P.14.central.
- Left Brigade. A patrol reports that the enemy trenches in P.3.d and P.9.b were unoccupied and numerous gaps exist in the wire. An enemy working party was heard in enemy post at P.4.d.9.3. Old trenches in J.30.c were examined and found to be unoccupied. The enemy defences in J.30.d were reconnoitred and the wire examined. Three enemy parties each with two light M.G.'s were seen in J.30.d, and were fired on by patrols.
- M.G's (c) Right Brigade. Our guns searched and traversed roads and trench tracks leading to BOIS de VAIRE concentrating on all cross roads and road junctions. Increased rates of fire were maintained between the hours of 10 p.m. and 12 midnight, as it is believed that enemy parties are active during this period.
- Left Brigade. All approaches and tracks in the vicinity of HAMEL were again harassed during the night. North of the SOMME the following targets were engaged :-
- | | | |
|------------------------|----|---------------|
| Road from J.36.b.90.60 | to | J.36.b.70.00 |
| Road from J.36.b.99.99 | to | J.36.b.93.63. |
- Ammunition expended 16,000 rounds.
- (d) L.T.M.'s Eighty rounds were fired on enemy trench between P.8.d.3.7 and P.8.d.5.5 and posts at P.20.a.7.6, and P.20.b.0.8. Twenty-eight rounds were fired on post at J.36.a.5.3 and working party at J.36.b.1.9.

2. IDENTIFICATION.

Nil.

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3. **HOSTILE SHELLING.** This remained active North of the SOMME, and slightly increased in activity on the South. H.V. guns were again active. In the morning O.17.c was shelled by 18 rounds 4.2 How; O.16.b heavily by 5.9 Hows (over 300 rounds between 10.30 am and 12 noon); During the afternoon I.36.c was lightly shelled by 77 mm; J.19.d by 32 rounds 5.9 Hows; VAIRE lightly by 4.2 How; J.19.a by 40 rounds 5.9 How and 20 rounds H.V. I.36.d lightly by 77 mm; I.36.b intermittently by 77 mm and by 30 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.a and b by 4.2 H.V., 30 rounds gas and 20 rounds H.E.; O.10.a and b by 15 rounds 5.9 How; O.9.c. and d by 60 rounds 4.2 H.V.; Front Line System lightly by 77 mm; O.12.c and d by 24 rounds 4.2 H.V.; O.15.b and d by 60 rounds H.V. (H.E. and gas); and O.12 a and b by 50 rounds 77 mm H.E. and gas. From 6 to 7.15 pm 200 rounds Yellow Cross gas fell in O.17.a and b, O.10.a, and O.9.c and d. Sixty rounds gas alone in O.15.b and d. From 10.45 to 11 p.m 50 rounds 77 gas fell in O.12.c. During the night O.17.c and d received 10 rounds 4.2 How and O.17.c five rounds 77 mm. A new battery of 4.2 guns is reported firing on T.B. 90° from J.28.a.45.68; these appear to be well forward, and fired a few rounds on J.20 and J.21.
4. **ENEMY DEFENCES.** Trenches. Posts at P.14.d.4.0 and P.21.a.35.90 are reported occupied. New work has been done in post at P.8.d.3.7. Enemy trenches in P.3.d and P.9.b are reported unoccupied. Enemy defences at P.30.d.8.8 and P.30.b.8.0 consist of a number of posts joined by a trench. Three of these posts contained M.G's. A flare post exists 100 to 150 yds in front of posts.
- Wire. The wire in front of this line of posts consists of two rows, the first being knee high apron mixed with barbed concertina, the second row being 3' 6" apron. The first belt is about 15' wide and the second much wider.
- O.P. An O.P. was located in tree at P.20.b.85.85.
- M.G's were active from P.14.b.25.30, P.8.d.3.7, P.4.b.9.4, P.11.a.2.0 and P.8.b.7.0.
- A.A., M.G. was active from P.9.b.2.5.
- M.W. A M.W. was active against our forward posts from cemetery in J.36.c.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** Quiet.
6. **AERIAL ACTIVITY.** Hostile aircraft were very active over our forward area from 4 am to 8 am. Observers report that an enemy aeroplane was driven down in J.36.d at 5 am.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.** Movement was seen near dug-out at K.26.d.2.6 in sunken road at K.20.d.35.25, at dump at P.22.a.7.6 (8.25 pm), K.31.c.6.4 and K.31.a.8.4. After 7 p.m a great deal of traffic was seen on main PERONNE Road.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** A fire was observed in P.16.b during the morning. The factory chimney in HAMEL was destroyed by the heavy artillery. Batteries were observed firing on T.B. 150° from J.34.c.3.9 and at 9 p.m T.B. 98° and 101° from P.13.a.65.00 (distance estimated 5,500 yds). At 11.10 p.m a flash of a heavy gun was seen on T.B. 127° from I.30.a.5.2. Six rounds were fired at 4 minute intervals. A fixed searchlight appears every night on T.B. 147° from O.18.b.9.3. Balloons were seen on T.B. 102°, 108°, 122° and 128° from I.24.d.3.1. At 11 a.m a balloon was moved from T.B. 105° to T.B. 112½°.

J. Murray

Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

22nd May, 1918.

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Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

RECRUITING. (From G.H.Q. Summary dated 20th May, 1918).

1920 Class.

(a) VII Corps District. - According to a report from a reliable source, the 1920 Class is to be called up as follows in the area of DUISBURG :-

Boys born between the 1st January, 1900, and 1st July, 1900.-
During May, 1918.

Boys born between the 1st July, 1900, and 31st December, 1900.-
During September, 1918.

The VII Corps District was, one of the first districts in which the 1920 Class was mustered, the mustering taking place at the end of February.

(b) VIII Corps District. - A deserter from the Ersatz Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., at DUREN, states that on the 11th May the recruit company of this battalion contained only men of the 1919 class, but that recruits of the 1920 Class were expected at the end of May.

MINENWERFER. (4th Army Intelligence Summary 21/5/18.).

The 199th M.W. Coy had either 4 or 2 of the normal pattern medium M.W. Two of these were to have been taken over by 107th M.W. Coy with the dump of bombs in VILLE-sur-ANGRE. The latter company had 4 "I.K.O." Minenwerfer, a new type which has a range of 2,300 metres. This is distinct from the new flat trajectory light minenwerfer which can be used as a gun. (Prisoners' statements).

DRAFTS AND CLASSES. (From Fourth Army Intelligence Summary 21/5/18.).
Translation from a letter written to a private of the 184th I.R. 6th Coy. born 1899 from BARLEBEN in the Province of SAXONY :-

" Again many men from BARLEBEN have lost their lives. The men born in 1900 have already received orders, here as well as in HENDAL. Have just heard that the men fit for garrison duty of the 1920 Class are to leave BARLEBEN on the 11th inst., but the men fit for general service have not received any orders."
(dated 7/5/18).

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 22nd May - to - 6 a.m. 23rd May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. In the morning an N.F. call for a battery at P.17.a.85.50 was answered. In the afternoon hostile parties in P.5.c, P.16.c, P.10.d and at P.5.c.5.0 were dispersed. At 7 p.m. the enemy were observed emplacing a Minenwerfer in the post at P.10.d.6.2 - the target was engaged, and a number of rounds observed to fall in the pit with the mortar personnel. A concentration was fired on this post at 9 p.m. An active T.M. at P.9.b.7.2 was silenced. At 8.40 pm G.S. Wagons in P.15.c and P.16.c were turned and put to flight. At 3.30 pm a battery at P.20.b.80.95 was engaged - The infantry observed two casualties. Bursts of fire were put on P.14.d.95.25 and casualties inflicted. Enemy parties in P.22.a and P.17.a were also engaged and scattered. At 9.30 pm tracks in K.19.d were swept for five minutes, and dug outs from P.14.d.9.1 to P.14.d.9.5, and at P.14.d.95.35. bombarded. At 11.15 pm tracks and roads on the Divisional front were searched for three minutes. At 12 midnight a two minute concentration was fired on Minenwerfer positions at K.26.c.9.0, and on new trench P.10.d.35.45 to P.10.d.3.4. At 2.5 am trench system in P.10.b, trench system in P.9.a. and camouflaged work at P.20.b.15.85 were bombarded for five minutes. At 3.15 am a three minute burst was fired on new work in front of BOIS de VAIRE, and on dug-outs by ridge at P.32.b.30.85. At 4.5 am a barrage swept in from S.O.S. plus 700 yards to S.O.S. plus 300 yards, and out from S.O.S. plus 150 yards to S.O.S. plus 350 yards.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade. A flare thrower was located at P.20.a.65.95. A working party was heard behind copse at P.14.central. M.G. fire was encountered from the copse.
- Left Brigade. Patrol passed through a gap in enemy wire at P.5.a.2.4 but no sign of enemy was seen. A small hostile party was seen at K.19.c.4.1. They disappeared in post/
- (c) M.G.'s. Right Brigade. Our guns searched the following roads:- From P.20.b.30.10 to P.21.c.3.9 and from P.14.b.8.2 to P.15.a.30.30. concentrating on all cross roads in vicinity. Harassing fire was also maintained on area in vicinity of fork roads at P.15.a.7.5 concentrating on converging tracks at P.8.d.7.1 and apparent H.Q. at P.15.c.8.5.
- Left Brigade. Tracks in the vicinity of HAMEL were again subjected to harassing fire during the night.

Ammunition expended 13,000 rounds.

- (d) L.T.M.'s. Fifty rounds were fired on trenches at P.20.a.7.6 and P.20.a.9.8.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This increased in activity on the South of the River, and in night firing. During the morning I.29.c was shelled by 5.9 Hows, registered by plane; VAUX lightly by a 5.9 gun; P.13.a by 50 rounds 5.9 How; HAMELET by 20 rounds 4.2 How; VAIRE lightly by 4.2 Hows; O.16.a heavily by 400 rounds 5.9 How; I.24.d, J.19.c and d lightly by 4.2 H.V. on T.B. 89° from I.30.a.8.6. During the afternoon J.21.b and d was shelled by 50 rounds 4.2 and 5.9 How; I.24.b by 20 rounds/How; I.24.d by 30 rounds 4.2 How from P.22.b; VAIRE lightly by 4.2 Hows; O.10.c by 180 rounds 5.9 How;

P.13.a by 150 rounds 4.2 How, and I.29.d lightly by 4.2 How. From 6 to 11 p.m. O.16.b was intermittently shelled by 77 mm, and throughout the night occasional bursts of six rounds of 4.2 How fell in O.17.b. J.28.a was fairly heavily shelled with gas and H.E. 4.2 and 5.9 Hows throughout the night. Gas used was chiefly Blue Cross, with some Yellow Cross. O.7 and O.13 were intermittently shelled by 4.2 and 5.9 Hows. H.E.

4. **ENEMY DEFENCES.** Trenches. Two lines of trench were observed from P.20.b.98.60 to P.20.b.98.75 and from P.21.a.4.8 to P.21.a.4.6. New work was seen at P.21.a.45.60 at foot of three prominent tall trees. It appears to be raised green camouflage covering pits.
- Wire. New wire is reported in front of P.14.c.7.8. M.G.'s were active from P.14.d.0.8, P.14.b.1.2, P.14.b.6.1, P.14.c.8.7 and P.3.d.75.50. O.P. at P.20.d.85.85 was blown out by artillery and two men killed.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** The enemy is working by night on his defences in rear of copse at P.14.central. This must be camouflaged by day as nothing can be seen by observers.
6. **AERIAL ACTIVITY.** Hostile aircraft were active crossing our lines at intervals during the morning. An enemy plane was brought down near SAILLY LAURETTE. Bombs were dropped on Forward and Back Areas during the night.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.** Movement was seen continuously at dug outs on side of road at K.31.a.8.4 and at K.26.d.2.6. A signal test station is suspected at the latter place. Movement was also seen on tracks in K.26.a and b, on rear trenches at P.22.a.35.85, P.16.b.5.8, P.10.d and P.11.a. Between 8 pm and 8.30 pm several small parties were engaged by artillery in VAIRE WOOD and fifteen casualties inflicted. At 5.20 am about 40 men left road in P.17.a and moved towards large mound at P.16.a.15.20. From movement observed a Headquarters is suspected at P.15.a.2.6 and a dump or Headquarters at P.17.b.0.2.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** The enemy appears to be stripping the huts in Q.8. At 12.30 pm a dump was blown up in the south end of VAIRE WOOD. An enemy searchlight was visible all night on T.B. 122° from I.30.a.5.2 and T.E. 108° from P.13.a.65.00.

23rd May, 1918.

for *K Goodland Capt.*
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6 a.m. 23rd May - to - 6 a.m. 24th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. In the morning a small working party at the cross roads in Q.7.b was engaged, and took refuge behind the bank. During the afternoon parties in P.16.a, P.16.u, P.11.d, P.11.a, P.10.d, and P.17.b, were engaged and dispersed - average size of party was six men. Three linesmen working at P.16.a.9.4 were engaged and one casualty inflicted. At 2 pm a large enemy working party working to the West of the BOIS de V. IRE was heavily engaged - ten stretcher cases were afterwards removed from there. An O.P. at P.15.d.7.7 was bombarded, two direct hits being registered. N.F. calls for P.5.c.2.2 and P.11.b.51.62 were answered. Between 7.45 and 9.15 pm the traffic on the main WARFUSEL-ABANCOURT road was engaged, with the result that one G.S. Wagon and two limbers were knocked out two limbers bolted across country, and casualties on personnel were inflicted. A three minute concentration was fired on the work in front of the BOIS de V. IRE, a two minute concentration on the BOIS de HABEL; a rolling barrage searched from S.O.S. plus 375 yards back to S.O.S. plus 75 yards, and from S.O.S. plus 525 yards to S.O.S. plus 325 yards. Hostile T.M.'s silenced on several occasions.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols found the front extremely quiet. Left Brigade patrols entered enemy wire at P.5.a.2.4 and found the trench unoccupied. An old post in J.36.a.6.5 was examined and found to contain stick bombs and a British Officer's trench coat. L.G. wire was encountered from J.36.c.2.7. The post at J.35.d.3.2 was found to be occupied. Another post exists about 100 yds to the right with liaison patrols working between. An enemy patrol was seen in K.25.a and a working party was heard about K.25.a.2.5.
- (c) L.G.'s. Right Company. The following targets were subjected to harassing fire during the night :-
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| From P.20.b.6.5 | to P.20.b.9.5 |
| From P.14.d.7.4 | to P.14.d.8.1 |
| From P.14.b.7.1 | to P.15.a.3.4 |
| From P.15.c.2.8 | to P.15.c.3.5 |
| From P.15.a.6.5 | to P.15.a.8.7 |
- Centre Company. The guns of the centre company searched and traversed all roads and tracks in the area between HABEL and BOIS de V. IRE. From 9.30 p.m. guns of this company fired 2,500 rounds on road and vicinity in P.10.d. North of the SOMME the following targets were engaged with harassing fire at intervals during the night :-
- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| P.5.c.2.2 | J.36.d.1.4 | J.36.b.8.4 |
|-----------|------------|------------|
- Ammunition expended 18,500 rounds.
- (d) L.T.M.'S. Ninety rounds were fired on posts at P.20.a.3.5, P.20.a.7.6, P.20.a.8.7, P.20.d.2.7, J.36.a.5.3, J.36.b.10.45, J.36.b.1.9.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Considerable decrease in activity both during the day and night - no concentrations are reported, and no deliberate shoots. Very slight gas shelling. In the morning a 5.9 How and a 77 mm gun registered on the mill in J.27.a; 0.12.c was lightly shelled by 4.2 Hows and 77 mm; 0.17.b and d by 20 rounds 4.2 How; 0.11.c and 0.11.a by 12 rounds 4.2 gas.

Appendix 2.

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During the afternoon J.27.b was shelled by 50 rounds 5.9 How; J.26.c and d by 20 rounds 77mm; O.17.b lightly by 77mm; O.11.c lightly by 5.9 Hows; J.27.b by 5.9 and 3" Hows. During the night O.16.b was lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows; O.10.b by 4 rounds gas; O.11.a by 12 rounds gas.

4. **ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches.** A new trench about 30 yds long was observed at P.14.d.9.2. Now chalk can be seen at P.14.d.80.55 and P.14.d.60.35. Posts at J.35.d.3.2 and J.35.d.1.2 are occupied. The chalk pit at F.20.a.4.5 was occupied by the enemy last night; a party was observed entering it at 9.15 pm. Trench at P.5.a.2.4 was unoccupied. O.P. O.P. at F.20.d.85.85 was again manned until blown out by artillery. L.P. There is a L.P. at J.36.c.4.9.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** Quiet but alert at night.
6. **AIR ACTIVITY.** Hostile aerial activity was normal. At 10.45 pm eight small bombs were dropped on forward posts east of SAILLY-le-SEC.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.** A considerable amount of movement was seen during the period. Unusual movement was seen in K.25.b and road in K.26. From 12.30 pm till dusk considerable traffic in men and transport was seen in R.8 and R.9, P.17.b and d, P.18, K.28.c, K.34.a, Q.4.d, Q.5.b and Q.26.c. At 6 p.m. a large party was seen carrying from the railway in K.2.c and stacking in R.8.a.5.8. One hundred men with packs were seen in Q.20. At 7.45 pm a large party went across country in open order in Q.19.b. At 8.15 p.m. two large Hows were drawn by ten horses each from valley Q.19.b.2.5 to Q.20. At 8.45 p.m. a large party with packs was scattered by artillery on road P.10.d. At 5.20 a.m. transport in P.23.a, P.30.a and b and P.24.c & d were shelled and much confusion caused. At 6.5 am two field guns drawn by four horses each came out of the valley Q.13.d.0.3 and disappeared in Q.20.c. Train movement. There was a great deal of train movement mostly with trucks in R.3.b, R.31 and R.25.d. During the day 12 light and heavy trains with trucks arrived in siding in R.26. Light trains were carrying troops travelling North.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** At 8.35 a.m. one of our aeroplanes crashed in vicinity of ACCROCHE WOOD. At 9.45 p.m. a dump was blown up by artillery fire in P.11.b. At 12 midnight a large dump was exploded at T.9. 171° from I.24.d.3.1. About 250 yards of camouflage has been erected on west side of main BRAY-FROYART road near cross roads in R.9.c.

24th May, 1918

K Goodland Capt
 707 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

For Official Use Only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 24th May -to- 6 a.m. 25th May 1918.

Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. **OPERATIONS. Artillery** Targets were limited by poor visibility. In the morning enemy parties at P.10.a.8.3 and in P.17.a were dispersed, and trench in P.10.b where movement was observed, was bombarded. In the afternoon a small group at P.16.b.6.4 was engaged. At 9.50 p.m. a concentration was fired on new work to the West of the BOIS de VAIRE; at 11.30 p.m., 11.40 p.m. and 2.10 a.m. two minute bursts were fired on approaches on the divisional front. At 3.55 a.m. a rolling barrage swept in from S.O.S. plus 600 yards to S.O.S. plus 200 yards. At 3.25 a.m. possible points of assembly were swept for five minutes. Between 2.15 to 2.30 a.m. fire was put down in support of a minor operation by the Infantry. A hostile T.M. in Cemetery in J.36.c. was silenced. 6" Newton T.M's fired 60 rounds on various targets in J.36.c, P.4.b and P.5.a.

Patrols. Right Brigade. Patrol saw enemy movement at Copse P.14.central. Two unoccupied positions were examined at P.14.a.8.1. Patrols report M.G. fire very active across NO MAN'S LAND.

Left Brigade: An attempt to raid the enemy trench from P.4.b.90.25 to P.5.a.3.3 had to be abandoned as the party was observed in the moonlight whilst cutting the wire of which there were four belts. An enemy listening post containing 3 men and protected by wire was seen at J.36.a.3.1. A post at J.35.d.3.2 was rushed and the sole occupant was wounded and captured. A patrol in K.25.a, wounded and captured a German at K.25.a.3.6. The enemy wire at J.30.d.9.9 was entered and several listening posts containing bombs were seen. An enemy party of 30 was seen some distance back.

Machine Guns. Right Brigade: In conjunction with gas projector operation our guns fired on the following targets during the night:-
 P.20.b.6.5 to P.20.b.9.5.
 P.14.d.7.4 to P.14.d.8.1.
 P.14.b.7.1 to P.15.a.3.4.
 P.15.c.2.8 to P.15.c.3.5.
 P.15.a.6.5 to P.15.a.8.7.

Centre Company: The following targets were engaged during the night: Roads and tracks leading to the village of HAMEL and trenches and tracks North of BOIS de VAIRE.

Left Company: Harassing fire was maintained on targets as under: Road at K.31.a.5.0, Road at J.36.d.1.4 and also on road at J.36.b.99.90

Ammunition expended 22250 rounds.
 L.T.M's. 55 rounds were fired on P.20.a.8.5, P.20.a.9.9 and P.20.b.1.8.

Sniping. 4 casualties were inflicted on enemy in VAIRE WOOD. 246 gas projectors were fired into VAIRE WOOD at midnight

2. **IDENTIFICATIONS.** 10th Coy., 90 R.I.R., 54 DIV. (wounded prisoner captured in K.25.a.).
 4th Coy., 107 R.I.R., 24 Res. DIV. (Wounded prisoner captured in J.35.d.). Examination forms Annexe.

~~3. ENEMY SHELLING.~~ Inactive except for one shoot of 200 rounds 4.2 How. on J.27.b. The night scattered shelling that took place appeared to be limited to a few batteries only. In the morning O.12, O.17.a & b, and O.18 were lightly shelled by a 4.2" How. on T.B. 110° from O.17.b.18.40; P.13.a. lightly by 4.2" Hows., P.13.a., P.7.c and O.10.d by 100 rounds 4.2" H.V.; and J.27.b by 200 rounds 4.2" How. The afternoon was quiet, no shoot of over ten rounds being reported. During the night I.24.d. was lightly shelled by 77 mm; O.11.a by 16 rounds 4.2" gas; CORBIE by 20 rounds 5.9" How; O.17.b, O.11.c and O.12 lightly by 4.2" Hows; AUBIGNY by 5 rounds 5.9" How. and DAOURS by a few rounds H.V. calibre unknown.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. There are two recently dug pits 12 ft. by 8 ft. by 8 ft. at P.14.a.8.1. L.P's were located at J.36.a.3.1, and J.35.d.3.2. Wire. Enemy wire at post J.35.d.3.2. consists of weak barbed concertina and a double barbed trip wire. Wire in front of trench P.4.b. 20.25 to P.5.a.3.3 consists of 4 separate belts. M.G's were located at P.5.b.3.9 and trench at P.5.a.2.3.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Artillery was quiet except for one concentration on right reserve area. There was no retaliation to our gas shoot.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Except in the early morning there was no hostile aerial activity.

7. MOVEMENT. In the early morning of 24th much movement was seen on the PROYART Road in R.9 and on the roads in Q.7, Q.8, Q.9 and Q.15. Movement was also seen in trench in P.10.d., in P.10.e and P.16.a, in trench at P.14.d.9.2, at post at K.25.b.6.2 and on tracks in K.20.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Nil.

*R. Goodland Capt-
for Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.*

ANNEX.

Information concerning German Divisions opposite the Divisional front.

1. RELIEFS. The 90 R.I.R. 34 Div. relieved some Regiment unknown in K.25 on the night 22nd/23rd May.

DISPOSITIONS. The 10th Coy. is in line- other dispositions are unknown. 2 men of the 10th Coy. were in a post some 50 yards in front of a trench occupied by others of the same Company. There is no wire in front of this post.

DRAFTS. A new draft reached the Regiment on 28th April. A great number of these were 1919 class men.

LOSSES. Losses in the Company since coming into line have been very light.

2. The 24th Reserve Division is still in line at J.35.

RELIEFS. The 1st Battalion 107 R.I.R. relieved 3rd Battalion in this area on night 20th/21st May.

DISPOSITIONS. 1st Battalion in line, 2nd Battalion in support, 3rd Battalion in reserve at ETINEHEM.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 25th May, 1918 - to - 6 a.m. 26th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. **OPERATIONS.** (a) **Artillery.** During the morning a hostile party at P.14.b was dispersed with casualties. During the afternoon movement in P.15.d, P.16.c, P.10.b, P.11.d and P.16.c was engaged at different times, and dispersed. At 8.15 pm N.F. call E.11.b.5.6 answered; this battery was then given a gas concentration. At 9.45 pm an area shoot was carried out on P.10.d lasting 4 minutes. At 10.30 pm HAMEL and approaches were subjected to a five minute concentration. At 2.10 am P.16.b was swept for four minutes. At 2.40 am and 3.10 am special targets were searched for five minutes, and at 3.50 am a rolling barrage crept in from S.O.S. plus 500 yards to S.O.S. plus 100 yards, and out from S.O.S. plus 50 yards to S.O.S. plus 250 yards, in seven minutes.
 - (b) **Patrols.** Right Brigade patrols examined chalk pit in P.20.a and found it to be unoccupied. The copse at P.14.central and trench at P.14.d.1.7 were occupied by the enemy. A post at P.14.c.9.6 appeared to contain 12 or 15 men and appears to be connected with the copse at P.14.central by a shallow communication trench. M.G. fire was encountered from direction of P.9.b.8.5.
 - Left Brigade.** Patrols examined all old trenches in J.36.a and found them unoccupied. An enemy runner was captured at P.4.c.5.3 Rifle fire (12 rifles) was encountered from enemy post at K.25.a.00.35.
 - (c) **M.G.'s.** The guns of the Right M.G. Company fired during the night on the following targets :-

Road from P.20.b.3.1	to	P.20.b.9.0
Road from P.14.d.8.1	to	P.20.b.9.5
Road from P.14.b.75.15	to	P.15.a.30.35
Road from P.15.a.6.5	to	P.15.a.8.7

 Suspected Headquarters at P.15.c.8.5 ↓ trench
 Centre Company. Harassing fire was maintained on all roads and tracks in the vicinity of HAMEL.
 Left Company. The following targets were subjected to indirect fire at odd intervals during the night :-
 J.36.b.8.4 - K.31.a.40.05 - J.36.b.99.90 - J.36.d.1.4
 Ammunition expended 14,000 rounds.
 - (d) **L.T.M.'s.** Eighty rounds were fired on targets in P.20.a and 220 rounds on posts in J.36.a.3.1, K.25.a.4.4 and trench at P.5.a.20.35. The enemy retaliated on the last shoot with artillery fire.
2. **IDENTIFICATIONS.** 2nd M.G.Co. 133rd R.I.R. 24th Res.Div.(Prisoner).
3. **HOSTILE SHELLING.** This was very quiet on our front during the night and quiet during the day. There is a marked increase in the activity of 77 mm guns; Howitzers were inactive. During the morning eighteen rounds 77 mm shrapnel burst on the wood in J.33.b; J.20.a and b were shelled by 50 rounds 77 mm; P.13.b and d by 100 rounds 77 mm; P.19.d lightly by 77 mm; J.27 by 14 rounds 77 mm, and bursts of 4.2 H.V; O.10.d by 42 How, lightly; O.24.b and d by 40 rounds 77 mm and eight rounds 4.2 How; O.23.a and c by 20 rounds 77 mm; O.10.d and O.16.b by 30 rounds 5.9 How. A 4.2 How. battery registered on the windmill in J.27.a.

P.T.O

Appendix 2

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During the afternoon BOUZENCOURT was lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows and 77 mm; J.24.a by 20 rounds 77 mm; wood in J.33.c by 77 mm battery; O.16.b by 16 rounds 4.8 How, and O.10, O.16, O.17 by 77 mm, scattered. During the night no shoot of over 10 rounds was reported; heavy gas bombardment reported on the right flank.

4. **ENEMY TRENCHES.** Enemy posts were occupied at P.14.c.9.6 and P.14. DEFENCES central. A post about 7 ft. deep was seen at P.14.c.8.8. This was unoccupied. A M.G. post of six men is at P.4.c.00.45. An earth work is under construction at P.10.c.9.8. Wire. The wire has been extended S.W. towards road at P.14.d.3.2. Wire in front of enemy system in K.25.a is continuous. O.P. An O.P. is suspected at P.14.b.4.3. H.Q. 2nd En. M.G.Coy, H.Q. is in dugout in trench at P.10.b.95.20.

5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** Attempted raid. At 2.5 am about 20 of the enemy advanced to the wire of one of our posts in J.35.d and commenced throwing bombs. The enemy were driven off by Lewis Gun fire but no casualties were found. Artillery searched the area from which gas projectors were fired directed by E.A.
6. **AERIAL ACTIVITY.** Enemy planes crossed our lines at 10 am, 11.45 am, 2.15 pm and 5.28 pm. Bombing planes crossed our lines at night. Ten bombs were dropped in SAILLY-le-SEC at 11.50 pm.
7. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.** At 8.30 p.m a ration party of ten was seen near trench at P.15.a.2.6; one casualty was inflicted by L.G. fire. Continued movement was seen at dugout in K.31.o.7.4, between trenches K.27.a.4.7 and K.20.d.4.4, near dump at P.22.a.7.6 (afternoon). Movement was seen in the evening in P.14.d, P.15.a, P.18.a, and Q.23.a. Four trains were seen in R.9 and R.25.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS.** An enemy dump was exploded at 8.45 pm in ACCROCHE WOOD. At 3.30 am flames were seen in the vicinity of WAFUSEE. Gun flashes were observed from I.30.a.75.55 on T.B. 132°, 142° and 145° and from P.19.a.4.4 on T.B. 98°, 103°, 109° (each a six-gun battery), and from I.30.a.5.2 on T.B. 130°, 131° and 132°.

26th May, 1918.

K Goodland Capt.
for
Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ANNEXE - 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Information concerning enemy disposition on Divisional Front.

The 2nd M.G. Company (2nd Bn) 133rd R.I.R. 24th Reserve Division is holding posts along the Regimental front.

RELIEFS. The 2nd Bn. relieved the 1st Bn. on or about the 16th May and expects to be relieved by the 3rd Bn on 30th May. After that the Division expects to be relieved.

DISPOSITIONS. The 133rd R.I.R. is holding the line from the SOMME to HAMEL - 104th R.I.R. is on the Left and 107th R.I.R. across the SOMME on the Right. 1st Bn. 133rd R.I.R. is in line, 3rd Battalion in support and 2nd Battalion in rest at MARICOURT. The 2nd M.G.Co. has eight guns forward distributed along the front and four back in support.

DEFENCES ETC. There is a M.G. post of six men in a trench at P.4.c. 00.45 (see also photo A3 A E A 327). There is no M.G. post at cross roads P.4.c.5.3. M.G. H.Qrs. is in dugouts in the trench at P.10.d.95.20 (see also photo 48 V 4525). The runners live in the trench in P.4.d in ordinary trench shelters.

LOSSES. Losses in the line, have been very slight.

GAS. Some gas was noticed in P.4.d on night 23rd/24th but not enough to cause inconvenience.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 26th May - to - 6 a.m. 27th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning a concentration bombardment was carried out against the Minenwerfers at J.36.d. 00.45, successful shooting being reported. A hostile party working on the trench in P.11.c were dispersed. During the afternoon enemy parties at P.8.d.7.1, P.4.c.4.4, P.15.d, P.14.d. 9.3, P.17.d, P.23 and Q.27.a, were scattered. A number of men filling sand bags at P.14.b.60.35 were put to flight. At dusk enemy parties entering HAMEL along the road in P.10.d were engaged on several occasions, many casualties being observed. At 9 p.m four limbers observed entering valley in P.17.central were engaged by 4.5 Hows and 6" Hows, the latter knocking out two limbers. At 10.2 p.m possible points of assembly received a two minute concentration. At 11.33 p.m HAMEL was bombarded by all guns for three minutes. At 1.1 a.m. area P.16.d.7.8 to P.17.c.05.95 was swept for five minutes. At 2.33 a.m a five minute concentration swept the BOIS de VAIRE. From 3.15 to 3.30 a.m. intense searching fire was employed.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols examined old trenches near P.20.c.5.8 and found them unoccupied. Copse at P.14.central and post at P.14.c.9.6 were held by the enemy. M.G. and rifle fire was encountered from the vicinity of cross roads in P.20.a. M.G. and rifle fire was also encountered from P.9.a.1.2. Left Brigade patrols found trench at P.5.a.1.4 occupied and work in progress. Enemy wire at J.36.a.8.6 was examined.
- (c) M.G.'s. Right Company. Our guns searched and traversed all roads and tracks in the vicinity of BOIS de VAIRE. Centre Company. Harassing fire was maintained on tracks West of HAMEL. Special harassing shoots were also carried out against SNIPERS POST at P.9.a.1.2 during the night. Left Company. Fire was brought to bear during the night on the following targets :-
K.31.a.40.05 - J.36.b.8.4 - J.36.b.99.90
Ammunition expended 13,000 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M.'s fired on enemy posts at P.8.d.5.5, P.9.a.1.2, M.W. at P.9.b.1.6 and P.14.d.35.90, J.36.c.9.5 and trench system in P.4.b. L.T.M.'s One hundred and twenty rounds were fired on targets in P.20.b and P.8.d. Seventy-five incendiary shells were fired on trenches at P.5.a.20.35 and P.4.b. 9. 1
- (e) Sniping. Five casualties are claimed at P.20.a.8.7.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This shows an increase in activity during the day, and a considerable increase during the night. The flats to the South of the river were fairly heavily gassed between 3 and 4 a.m. During the morning VAIRE was intermittently engaged by 4.2 Hows and 77 mm; Road in J.31.a. and b shelled by 77 mm; 0.16. b lightly by 4.2 Hows; 0.17.b by 150 rounds 77 mm; 0.3 by 22 rounds 4.2 How; I.30 by 20 rounds 4.2 How; 0.16.b by 5.9 and 4.2 Hows; Front Line System by 4.2 Hows, lightly; and J.29.b and d intermittently by 5.9 Hows. During the afternoon J.19 lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows and 77 mm; I.30.a by 20 rounds 77 mm, gas and H.E; I.29.b by 77mm; J.20 by 40 rounds gas; I.24.c lightly by

P.T.O.

-2-

gas, and 0.15.a by 5.9 Hows. During the night 0.16.a was shelled by 30 rounds gas and H.E; CORBIE by six rounds 4.2 How. Between 3.15 and 4 a.m CORBIE, 0.11.a, and b, 0.16.a, 0.16.b, received 400 rounds gas, 70 rounds 5.9 How, H.E. and 250 rounds 77 mm H.E. The first gas to arrive was phosgene, which was followed by mustard. Proportion unknown.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trench Post at P.20.a.9.9 shows new work. Digging and working with sheet iron was heard in copse at P.14.central. Wire. Wire in front of post at P.14.c.9.6 has been strengthened. At post J.36.a.8.6 the wire consists of a straight strong belt of barbed with screw pickets. M.G.'s were active from P.20.a.8.7, in house at P.9.b.2.7, P.9.a.1.5, K.31.a.40.75 and K.25.a.3.9. M.W were located at P.9.a.1.5 and P.3.d.5.6. Thirty rounds were fired on J.29.d from the direction of SAILLY LAURETTE.
5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. A gas concentration was put down on CORBIE and FOUILLOY during the early morning.
6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Inactive during the day. Bombs were dropped on our Forward and back areas during the night.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. From 12.30 pm till dark continuous movement was seen between VAIRE WOOD and ACCROCHE WOOD. At 5.25 pm a gun drawn by eight horses and followed by limbers was seen travelling N.W. on road in Q.19.d. At 7 pm considerable movement of transport was seen on main road in Q.25 and continued through P.28.a. and b. At 8.35 pm a great deal of infantry movement was seen on roads in P.17.d, P.10.d going towards HAEL. Trains. Five trains were seen in R.25.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. Dumps were exploded at 10.45 pm, 11.37 pm and 12.15 am on T.B's 115 $\frac{1}{2}$ °, 110° and 140° respectively from I.24.d.3.1.

27th May, 1918.

for *K. Goodland Capt*
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

GERMAN CORPS AND ARMY BOUNDARIES. (Army Summary 26/5/18).

A map found in VILLE-sur-ANCRE yesterday of a later date than those previously captured, shows that the 17th German Army side-slipped southwards between the 15th April and the 15th May. The exact date is not known, but is probably May 4, on which date, according to a document, the 3rd Naval Division was transferred from the 2nd Army to the 17th Army.

The southern boundary of the 17th Army now runs from a point north-east of BOUZINCOURT, in W.8.a. to 7.15.a, thence east, including AVELUY Village. It cuts the BAPAUME-ALBERT road in X.14.a., and thence runs parallel to, and north of, the LA BOISELLE-CONTALMAISON road.

The same map shows that, between April 15 and May 15, a re-organization of the Order of battle between the Army boundary mentioned above, and the SOMME, took place. The XXIII Reserve Corps,

which, according to German maps dated the 14th April, was holding the front from half way through ALBERT to the SOMME, has been withdrawn, and replaced by the extension southwards of the XIII Corps (2nd Army), which now holds from the southern boundary of the 17th German Army, to a line drawn east and west through SAILLY-le-SEC. South of this line, the front is held by one regiment of the 24th Res. Div., which is astride the SOMME, and, presumably, belongs to the XIV Corps.

The Germans, therefore, have weakened their front by the withdrawal of a Corps Staff north of the SOMME since, probably, 4th May.

The withdrawal took place early this month. This indicates a defensive policy, on the part of the enemy, in this sector.

25/5/1918

Documents found in VILLE-sur-ANCRE on the night 24th/25th instant include a patrol report written during the early morning of the 19th by an officer or N.C.O., who was evidently sent forward shortly after our attack commenced in order to clear up the situation forward. This he does not appear to have been able to do, and reports that on reaching the German second line he found it empty, nor was the M.G. on the Right Flank manned. The document is evidence of the confusion which was caused by our barrage and attack, and also of the fact that no information seems to have reached the rear from the German front line after our attack commenced.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 27th May - to - 6 a.m. 28th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning an enemy party in P.15.d.85.95 was dispersed. In the afternoon a working party in P.11.d was scattered, a suspected H.Q. at P.10.b.95.20 and a M.G. at P.4.c.00.45 bombarded. A working party at P.14.d.2.9 was dispersed, and movement at P.15.c.6.8 stopped. At 10.30 pm a five minute concentration was fired on new work to the West of the BOIS de VAIRE, and the BOIS de VAIRE actively searched. At 1.35 am a four minute area shoot was put down on P.21.a and P.20.b, and the road in P.15.a and c swept. At 2.10 am a two minute burst was fired on HAMEL, and at 3.5 am a four minute burst swept the BOIS de HAMEL. At 3.40 am a rolling barrage came back from S.O.S. plus 600 yards to S.O.S. plus 200 yards, and out from S.O.S. plus 100 yards to S.O.S. plus 300 yards.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols heard digging at cross roads P.20.a.6.5. Enemy patrol of three seen at P.20.a.6.1 but moved back to their own lines. No movement heard in copse P.14. central at 2.30 am. Sounds of digging heard here about 1 am. A patrol moved close to enemy post at P.3.c.5.0 but encountered heavy M.G. fire from P.9.b.2.7 and P.4.c.0.1 and rifle fire from post. Left Brigade patrols on BOUZENCOURT-HAMEL road saw enemy working on trench at P.5.a.1.5 at 10.30 p.m. and did not finish till 2.30 am. Small enemy posts in front of enemy wire J.36.a.4.2 were found unoccupied. Three men seen to get up from ground at J.36.a.3.3 and move back. About 50 of enemy seen moving to the rear in single file apparently having been relieved about 11.30 pm. Movement as if covering party was being withdrawn was seen at same time and engaged but did not reply.
- (c) M.G.'s. Right Company. Harassing fire was maintained throughout the night on all roads and tracks leading to VAIRE WOOD. Two guns co-operated with the T.M.'s in a minor operation against the enemy in Copse at P.14.central at 2 a.m. Centre Company. Our guns during the night swept with fire roads and trench tracks in the vicinity of HAMEL. 2600 rounds were expended in co-operation with T.M.'s on Copse in P.14.central. Left Company. The following targets were engaged with indirect harassing fire at intervals throughout the night :-
- | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--------------|
| Road to SAILLY LAURETTE | at | J.36.b.6.0 |
| " " " " " " | " | J.36.b.8.4 |
| " from " " " " | " | J.56.d.1.4 |
| Direct fire on E.M. Gun. | | K.31.a.10.98 |
- Ammunition expended 20,350 rounds (includes above).
- (d) L.T.M.'s fired 84 rounds on targets in trench P.8.d.7.1 to P.8.d.4.5 and M.G. position at K.25.a.2.3. M.T.M.'s fires 115 rounds on targets P.8.d.4770, new work in P.9.b and a, selected targets in J.35.c and d, P.5.a.1.3 and J.36.c.9.6

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This showed a considerable increase in activity on the South of the river, but remained unchanged on the North. During the morning HAMELET was shelled by 26 rounds 4.2 How from P.11.d, and by 40 rounds 77 mm from behind HAMEL; J.27.a by 10 rounds 4.2 H.V; J.27.b by 77 mm from the direction of SAILLY LAURETTE: I.35 and I.36.c lightly by 77mm; I.36.a. by 6 rounds 4.2 H.V; 0.15 and 0.16. by 20 rounds 4.2 How and 20 rounds 77 mm; 0.18.c by 6 rounds 4.2 H.V; 0.17.a by 50 rounds 5.9 How. During the afternoon I.24 and I.30 were lightly shelled by 4.2 Hows;

I.36.a by 20 rounds 5.9 How; chalk pits I.30.c, I.36.a by 25 rounds 4.2 How; CORBIE by 4.2 Hows; O.17.a by 360 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.c by 20 rounds 4.2 How gas (Yellow Cross); O.16.b and O.15.a by scattered 4.2 How and 77mm; O.10.a by 240 rounds How; O.10.b and d by 130 rounds 4.2 H.V., and 77 mm; O.17.b by 20 rounds 4.2 How; O.16.d by 10 rounds 4.2 Shrapnel; LA NEUVILLE 5.9 Hows. During the night I.24.b was lightly shelled by 77 mm; O.10.b and d by 20 rounds 5.9 How; O.17.a by 20 rounds gas; O.10.c by 100 rounds 4.2 How; O.15 and O.16 by 80 rounds 4.2 gas, A H.V. gun registered on the windmill in J.27.a, from T.B. 168° from J.27.a.7.0.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. Dug out suspected at P.10.d.05.95 white earth thrown up on side of road. Enemy working on trenches P.5.a.1.5 (patrol).
Wire. A belt extends from N. end of trench in P.14.b to P.8.d.5.2 with gaps at P.8.d.4.1 and P.14.b.5.2. Wire around positions at P.14.b.3.3 and P.14.b.4.8.
O.P. A loophole exists in terrace at P.14.a.95.10 with an entrance at the top.
M.G. Active on VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE from direction of road in P.8.d.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet in forward area but artillery active on back areas and around CORBIE. One enemy patrol of three seen.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. (a) Our planes were active during the day. (b) E.A. were active during the day and crossed our lines frequently. One low E.A. over CORBIE at 12.45 pm. Enemy Observation Balloons were up at 140° T.B. and 118° T.B. from J.30.c.16.66 and J.29.d.9.7 respectively; another was on ground at Q.23, a T.B. 129° from J.29.d.8.7. and Others reported at 136½°, 116°, 151½°, 117°, 161½° / 108° T.B. from I.24.d.3.2. One seen on ground in Q.24.a.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. 15 men seen near isolated house Q.23.d appeared to be working. At 4.40/two limbers and 30 men seen on road Q.24.b going towards FROYART.
 A fair amount of individual movement around HAMEL in the early morning and cross roads P.25.b.95.50 and road in P.10.d is constantly used.
 At 7.45 am 6 men carrying something heavy left dump at P.22.a.7.6 and went to trench at P.15.d.25.40.
 At 2.30 pm 24 men were seen apparently training. They were seen to leave trench in K.34.a in two waves of 12 and to take their objectives in short rushes, assuming the prone position after each rush. Men seen cutting crop in Q.26 all day.
 At 11.20 a.m. and 12.5 p.m. two parties of 60 and 40 moved out on to road in K.26.a from trenches.
Trains. One in R.31 at 6.30 p.m.
 One in Q.8 at 7.45 pm and 2.35 pm (Light).
 One in W.16.b at 5.10 a.m.
 One in R.26 at 1.50 p.m.
 One in R.25 at 2.20 p.m. (Normal gauge).

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Suspected dug out at P.14.d.9.8 (tracks and movement). Railway siding R.2.c (12 trucks seen here). New work observed in trench P.14.b.5.0 and at P.14.b.7.0. Heavy How firing to S.W. of CORBIE reported to be at P.22.b.8.9 Fire burning for 15 minutes 145° T.B. from I.24.d.3.1 (3.53 pm) Stationary searchlight at 122½° T.B. from I.24.d.3.1 all night.

for K Goodland Capt
 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

28th May, 1918

appendix No 2
~~Appendix 2~~

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Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

I. Artillery allotted to a Division.

A German document found in GRIVESNES and dated the 9th May, gave the following allotment of artillery to the 76th Reserve Division :-
The total number of batteries was 28, divided into 7 groups (abteilurge) of three batteries each; 21 of these were field gun batteries and 7 heavy batteries. Taking into account that the Division was holding a front of 3,500 m. this allotment is below normal as far as the heavy artillery is concerned; the normal density of artillery laid down for a defensive sector is 11 batteries per 1,000 m. (6 field gun batteries and 5 heavy batteries).

II. According to a German official report the military administration in Rumania is to be dissolved; the remaining official posts have been put under the command of MACKENSEN.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 28th May - to - 6 a.m. 29th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning hostile parties in P.15.b were dispersed, and a party of 15 men moving from the BOIS de VAIRE to the BOIS D'ACCROCHE was engaged and casualties inflicted. During the afternoon working parties in P.16.c were twice put to flight, a M.G. at P.4.c.00.45 was silenced, and a working party at P.17.b.4.7 dispersed. Movement in P.11.c.63.47 was stopped, a hostile working party at P.14.b.4.2 scattered with casualties, and a hostile battery at P.11.c.63.47 silenced. At 9.55 p.m roads and tracks on the Divisional front were searched for three minutes; at 10.30 p.m. an area drive into P.15.c was fired, ending in a concentration on that area by all guns. At 1.55 a.m. a four minute concentration was put down on the BOIS de VAIRE. At 2.25 a.m. a counter battery shoot was fired on forward battery positions. At 2.40 a.m. the trench systems in P.4.b and d, and P.10.b and d, were bombarded for four minutes and at 3.10 a.m. possible points of assembly were swept for five minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols examined enemy wire in P.20. a and c. A flare post was found unoccupied at P.20.a. 6.2. This post contained 2 rifles, some grenades and a steel helmet. Posts at P.14.d.2.5 and P.14.c.9.6 were occupied by the enemy. Left Brigade patrols saw enemy working parties in trench at P.5.a.1.5 and at J.36.b.9.9. An old trench at J.36.a.3.3 was found to be unoccupied. Enemy wire at J.30.d.8.6. An enemy wiring party was seen at J.25.a.4.3.
- (c) M.G's. Right Company. Harassing fire was brought to bear during the night on roads and tracks in vicinity of VAIRE WOOD. Centre Company. Our guns fired on selected targets (trenches and tracks) near HAMEL. Left Company. Targets were engaged during the night as follows:-
- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Road near | SAILLY LAURETTE CEMETERY. |
| Road at | J.36.b.99.90 |
| Road at | J.36.b.80.40 |
| Road at | K.31.a.40.05 |
- Ammunition expended 14,600 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M's fired on M.G. and T.M. positions in J.35 and J.36. L.T.M'S. 250 rounds were fired on targets in P.20.a, P.14, P.8.d and P.5.a.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This remained active through the period. Maximum of fire continues to be on the South side of the river. During the morning VAUX was lightly shelled by 77mm; 0.10.c and d by 200 rounds 4.2 How; 0.16.b and 0.17.a by 150 rounds 4.2 How and 100 rounds 5.9 How; I.35 intermittently by 77 mm; P.19.a by 6 rounds 4.2 How; J.19.d heavily bombarded by 4.2 and 5.9 Hows; cemetery in I.33.b by 77mm with instantaneous fuze; forward posts received a few scattered 4.2 Hows. In the afternoon I.36 was shelled by 30 rounds 77 mm; I.24 by 20 rounds 77mm and 30 rounds 4.2 How; VAIRE lightly by 77mm and 4.2 Hows; 0.17.a by 150 rounds 5.9 How and 20 rounds 77 mm; FOUILLOY by 22 rounds 4.2 How; 0.10.c and d by 160 rounds 77mm

P.T.O.

and 20 rounds 4.2 How; O.18.b by 6 rounds 4.2 How and O.16.b by 30 rounds 4.2 How and 20 rounds 77 mm. During the night FOUILLOY received 50 rounds 77mm gas (Yellow Cross); O.12.a and b were shelled by 30 rounds 4.2 How; O.17.b by 20 rounds 77mm; O.16.b by 200 rounds gas (Yellow Cross) also 100 rounds 77mm H.E. and 30 rounds 4.2 How H.E; O.10.c, O.7.b, O.13.a and c were engaged by a 4.2 H.V. gun, and DAOURS was lightly shelled, including slight amount of Yellow Cross.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. Work is being carried on in defences to rear and right of Quarry, P.20.a, and in trench P.14.d.4.8 to P.14.b.8.4. A quantity of timber has been carried into this trench. New parapet work has been done in posts at P.14.d.3.3 and P.14.d.4.7. Further observation confirms existence of dug-out at P.14.d.9.9.

Wire. Wire in front of trench along road in P.8.d has been strengthened. About a dozen knife rests have been placed near road at P.14.d.3.2. Enemy wire from P.20.a.6.4 to P.20.c.5.8 is continuous, and is in good condition but low. (Patrol) Wire at J.30.d.8.6 was found to be partly concertina and partly 2 strand barbed about 3 ft. high with a second belt about 20 ft. in rear. (Patrol). M.G's were active from P.4.b.4.3, J.35.d.3.2, J.35.d.3.0 and P.4.c.00.45. Two A.A. M.G's fired from Central Copse (P.14.central) during the day. M.W. fired on J.30.c from K.25.a.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. The enemy appears to be using long range indirect M.G. fire on our trench systems and tracks during the night.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Hostile aircraft were active and aggressive. Between 7 p.m and 9 p.m. 7 E.A. fired their M.G's on our forward posts. Bombs were dropped during the day in J.33.d and P.20.a. Our planes dropped bombs on HAMEL and enemy trenches and roads at different times during the day.

7. MOVEMENT. Between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. there was abnormal movement of men in small parties coming from ACQUAIRE WOOD to HAMEL WOOD. Later on in the morning movement of men with packs was seen going from HAMEL WOOD to the rear. Movement was seen during the day along the following track :- Suspected H.Q. at P.16.b.0.7, post at P.15.d.central, HAMEL WOOD at P.15.d.0.7, P.15.d.3.9, dugout at P.14.d.9.9 to trench in P.14.b and d. Movement was also seen - trench at K.31.a.5.3 and at P.14.d.9.9 (suspected dump). At 7.10 p.m. about 100 men in pairs were seen marching across Q.12.c towards CERISY. At 7.25 p.m. 20 transport wagons left siding in Q.26 going S.W. Trains. 4 trains were seen in R.8. and R.25.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. At 5.30 p.m. a dump was blown up in wood in Q.35. At 6.40 p.m. a large dump was blown up N.E. of WARFUSEE. Batteries were observed firing from S. side of main road in Q.26.c and from P.16.d.00.15 to P.22.a.8.2. At 9 a.m. enemy balloons were seen from I.24.d.3.1 at T.B. 109°, 117½°, 138°, 152½°. The balloon at 117½° descended at 116° T.B. in valley in Q.24.a.

K Goodland Capt-
 for Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

PART II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

GENERAL. On the Fourth Army front the situation remains unchanged.

A hostile attack on a 50 kilometre front between LEUILLY and the BOIS de BRIMONT developed yesterday morning and made considerable progress. The strength of the attack is not definitely known but it is considered at least 20 divisions attacked in front line. The enemy made a strong attack in the YFRES salient and a small attack in the MONTDIDIER area.



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 29th May - to - 6 a.m. 30th May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning hostile parties moving in P.11.a and P.14.d were dispersed, a working party between P.14.d.2.8 and P.14.d.6.6 scattered, and a small party attempting to leave/dug-out at P.10.d.6.4 driven back. During the afternoon a small party in P.17.a was scattered, a M.G. at P.4.c.00.45 bombarded, three small parties in P.16.c dispersed, and a group of eight of the enemy in P.17.a.9.6 put to flight. A party of 12 of the enemy at P.14.b.5.1 was engaged, and 4 casualties inflicted. A suspected M.G., H.Q. at P.10.d.95.20 was engaged, and a number of direct hits recorded. Movement in trench at P.11.b.7.6 was engaged; party on the road in P.10.d scattered; and a line of 10 men running down the road in P.10.d for HAMEL were sniped. At 9.20 p.m. between two and three hundred of the enemy in parties of twelve entered the valley in P.17.central. One party of 15 moved off in the direction of BOIS D'ARQUAIRE, and was engaged by 4.5 Hows, many casualties being claimed. The whole valley and approaches were then heavily engaged. Heavy artillery co-operating. At 10.55 pm a concentration shoot was put down on SAILLY LAURETTE and HAMEL for three minutes. At 1.40 a.m. three minute bombardments were fired on the work to the West of the BOIS de VAIRE, the valley in P.9.c, and the quarry in K.31.c. At 2.10 am sweeping fire was employed for five minutes on tracks and approaches on the Divisional front. At 2.40 am the BOIS D'ACCROCHE and the BOIS de HAMEL were searched for five minutes. At 3.10 am a five minute shoot was performed on areas P.9.d, P.15.b and d, P.21.b; at 3.50 am a five minute area shoot on P.9.c, P.15.a and c, and P.21.a.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols found post at P.20.a.6.6 occupied. One of the enemy was wounded here but could not be captured on account of the wire and the enemy fire. A patrol of 20 was encountered at P.14.c.9.8 and one enemy was wounded. A patrol observed the artillery shoot on VAIRE WOOD defences at 1.40 am and report seeing the enemy scattering. Sounds of enemy working in central copse (P.14.central) were heard. Left Brigade patrols examined **their front thoroughly but NO MAN'S LAND** was found to be clear of enemy.
- (c) M.G.'s. Harassing fire was applied to roads and trenches in the vicinity of HAMEL, and indirect fire was carried out at intervals during the night on tracks and roads leading to SAILLY LAURETTE. Ammunition expended 6,250 rounds.
- (d) M.T.M.'s fired 125 rounds on targets in P.8.d, P.9.a and b, P.14.d, P.4.b, P.5.c and J.36.c. L.T.M.'s fired 100 rounds on targets in P.20. a and b, P.14.c and J.30.d.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. ENEMY SHELLING. Consisted entirely of scattered shelling during the morning; was slightly more active during the afternoon, but still scattered, with the exception of one shoot of 250 rounds on O.16.b and d, and O.10.c. During the night active South of the River. During the morning CORBIE was lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows; J.27.a lightly by 4.2 Hows; VAIRE lightly by 4.2 Hows; Centre Front Line System intermittently by 4.2 Hows; I.24 and

P.T.O.

J.27.b lightly by 77 mm; WELCOME WOOD (J.27.b) lightly by 5.9 Hows; O.9.b by 10 rounds 4.2 Hows; trenches in O.24.b and d intermittently by 77 mm; and cross roads at O.18.b.3.0 occasionally by a 5.9 How. During the afternoon J.27. was lightly shelled by 77 mm; J.26.b by 14 rounds 77 mm; P.19.d by 16 rounds 4.2 H.V; VALRE by 4.2 H.V; time H.E. on O.10.a. 9.2 from 5.9 How, and several universal over O.16.b followed by 200 rounds 5.9 How and 50 rounds 4.2 How in O.16.b, O.16.a and O.10.c; I.29.d by 20 rounds 77mm. During the night I.25.c and CORBIE received 20 rounds gas, and about 200 rounds H.E; O.11.c was shelled by 15 rounds 4.2 H.V; O.17.a by 30 rounds 5.9 How; O.18.c lightly by 5.9 Hows; O.16.b by 70 rounds Yellow Cross; O.9.d and O.10.c by 20 rounds 4.2 How; O.18.a by 15 rounds 5.9 How; O.16.a and b by 300 rounds Yellow Cross; I.28.b by 77 mm, lightly, in four bursts of two rounds per minute eight minutes duration, and J.27.b lightly by an H.V. gun - believed to be a 60 pdr.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. Observers report that a C.T. is being dug between P.14.d.6.5 and P.14.d.8.8. A dug out is suspected in trench at P.14.d.4.3. There is much movement round P.10.a.8.0.

5.01. M.G's. A M.G. emplacement is suspected at P.3.d.1.0. It was occupied at 5.10 am and 9.10 pm. M.G. was also active at J.50.d.9.4. An A.A., M.G. was active from K.31.a.7.5 (Patrol).

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Increased enemy movement was noticed during the day and hostile aircraft have also been aggressive over our lines, especially at dawn and dusk.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Hostile planes were active all day. Bombs were dropped on the forward areas.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Between 7 am and 7.30 am about 50 men were seen moving along track between P.15.central and P.22.a. During the day movement was seen about dugout at K.31.a.7.4 round suspected H.Crs at K.25.d.8.2, round house about Q.23.d.3.6, in wood in Q.23.b and at dump in R.26. Between 8.30 pm and 9 p.m about 200 men were seen to emerge from trees and enter trenches around P.15.c.5.0. In addition there was a constant stream of men in twos and threes over tracks in rear of enemy lines.

Trains, were seen at the following hours :-
 8.15 a.m travelling East in R.25
 11.45 am stopped in R.25.d from BRAY.
 12.20 p.m eight trucks travelling West in R.26
 2.15 p.m R.26
 3 p.m. Shunting - R.25 and R.26.
 3.45 p.m Travelling S.W. from R.25.d
 4.45 p.m Train with 6 trucks in siding in R.25.
 5.15 p.m. Train with 24 trucks in siding in R.25.
 Between 7 p.m and 8 p.m 4 trains totalling 100 trucks in R.25 and R.26.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Small dumps/ were set on fire at 11.25 pm on T.B. 133° and 150°, and at 2.15 am a T.B. 124° from I.24.d.3.1. An ammunition dump burnt during the afternoon on T.B. 126°, 30' from J.27.b.8.6. Camouflage has been erected along North side of main road in Q.27.c and Q.28.c. At 3.45 pm a large calibre gun was seen firing from railway in R.25.d.2.3. A 4.2 battery was active in P.29.c on T.B.110° from P.19e8.6. Headquarters are suspected in dugouts on ridge in P.18.a and at K.25.d.8.2.

K Goodland Capt Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
 for 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

30th May, 1918.

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Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

ATTACK ON THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT. (Army Summary 29/5/18).

The artillery preparation for the attack on the AISNE, on the morning of the 27th, consisted of an intense bombardment of three hours' duration along the whole front between VAUXAILLON and BRIMONT. The bombardment followed a period of marked calm. The forward system, battery positions and rear areas up to a depth of 12 Km. were all engaged. Gas shells were largely used, particularly against valleys, roads and communication trenches. Tanks are reported to have been used at CRAONNE and VILLE-aux-BOIS on the front held by the British troops.

On this battle front, 21 divisions, of which 3 were fresh and 18 were withdrawn from the SOMME front, have been identified.

SHORTAGE OF HORSES. (From G.H.Q. Summary).

A prisoner of the 21st F.A. Regt., states that, in his regiment, the gun teams consist of only 4 horses and wagon teams of 2. From an examination of a large number of prisoners, it appears that the Germans are finding considerable difficulty in obtaining light draught horses. On the other hand, they have a fairly large number of Belgian horses for their heavy artillery; Russian horses are used for the transport of infantry companies, and to draw machine gun vehicles.

The horses are, as a rule, in poor condition and underfed.

AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY. (From G.H.Q. Summary).

Reports have been received that shrapnel fired at our aircraft were observed to burst with a pinkish color.

A pink burst is typical of AUSTRIAN anti-aircraft and field gun shrapnel. This fact may assist in the detection and identification of AUSTRIAN artillery units, and should be brought to the notice of all observers.

Specimens are required of the enemy's anti-aircraft H.E. shell and shrapnel, particularly from areas where pink bursts have been observed.

GERMAN AMMUNITION TANKS. (From G.H.Q. Summary).

Prisoners captured by the French state having seen, towards the end of April, 3 "caterpillars", known as TANKAUTOS, which are used for the transport of heavy artillery ammunition across broken country. According to the prisoners' description, their dimensions are :- Length, 23-26' ; Height, 10' ; width, 8'.

This tank is driven by "caterpillars", stated to be completely covered in. As in the German fighting tank, the engine is placed in the centre, the Officer and the 2 drivers sitting above it. From the driver's seat, a good, all round view is said to be obtained.

In front of, and behind the engine are the ammunition compartments. No armament is carried, nor is the tank protected by armor. The body is of wood.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 30th May - to - 6 a.m. 31st May, 1918.

NOTE: NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Artillery. During the morning working parties in P.16.c were repeatedly dispersed, a large working party at P.16.b.24.60 scattered, and movement at P.14.d.8.8 engaged. During the afternoon small enemy parties at the cross roads in P.4.d were engaged on two occasions, and casualties inflicted each time. New work in P.16.b was bombarded and four direct hits obtained, and a hostile Minenwerfer at P.5.d.8.2 engaged. A trench mortar at J.36.d.00.45 was also successfully engaged. At 10.30 p.m. a two minute concentration was fired on tracks in P.15.a and c, and P.21.b, also on SAILLY LAURETTE and approaches, followed immediately by a five minute bombardment of trenches in P.21.a,b,d and in P.9 and P.15. At 12.7 am the track from P.11.b.85.85 along and North of the terrace in P.5.d to P.5.c. 2.8 to P.5.c.00.95 received a two minute burst, followed by a five minute pause and further two minute burst; this was repeated at 1.30 am. At 1.40 am the trench in P.4.b and d, and P.10.b was bombarded for three minutes. At 2.30 am the BOIS de VAIRE and the BOIS de HAMEL were searched for four minutes, and approaches North of the River swept. At 3.55 am a rolling barrage came in from S.O.S. plus 600 yards to S.O.S. plus 200 yards, and out from S.O.S. plus 100 yards to S.O.S. plus 300 yards in six minutes.
- (b) Patrols. Right Brigade patrols found the road at P.20.a.5.6 blocked by wire. A listening post was seen in enemy wire at P.14.d.2.5. An enemy patrol which attempted to outflank the party was driven off. Enemy working parties were heard in Central Copse (P.14.central). Left Brigade Patrols observed a working party in the trench at P.5.a.1.5. The British plane which crashed in P.4.b on 10th instant was brought into BOUZENCOURT and placed under cover. An enemy wiring party was heard at J.30.c.8.2.
- (c) M.G's. Right Company. Harassing fire was carried out during the night on the following targets:-
- | | | | |
|------|--------------|----|--------------|
| From | P.20.b.30.00 | to | P.20.b.90.00 |
| " | P.21.a.10.00 | to | P.21.c.70.90 |
| " | P.15.b.00.00 | to | P.15.b.30.10 |
- Centre Company. Tracks and trenches near HAMEL were again harassed at intervals during the night.
- Left Company. A section of our guns fired on alternate S.O.S.
- (d) M.T.M's carried out harassing fire on enemy works in J.36.c and d and P.5.
- L.T.M's fired 200 rounds on enemy posts in P.20.a, P.14.c, P.8.d, J.36.b, and J.30.d.
- (e) Sniping. Several parties in VAIRE WOOD were scattered. 3 casualties are claimed in P.5.a.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. This has shown an increase in activity, but has been well scattered. During the morning J.21 was shelled by 50 rounds 4.2 How; J.27.b by 120 rounds 77 mm; VAIRE by 15 rounds 4.2 How and 5 rounds 4.2 H.V.; J.20.d by 4 rounds heavy How; O.13.b by 15 rounds 5.9 How; I.24 and I.30 by 4.2 Hows and 77 mm; O.17.c by 5 rounds 5.9 How; O.11.c by 6 rounds 4.2 H.V.; O.17.b by 20 rounds 77 mm; O.9.d by 30 rounds

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5.9 How; and I.26.c and d by 20 rounds 5.9 How. During the afternoon I.30.d and I.36.c were lightly shelled by 5.9 Hows; J.27.c by 40 rounds 4.2 H.V; P.2 heavily by 4.2 Hows; Front line at J.33.d lightly by shrapnel; J.27.a heavily by 77 mm and 4.2 Hows; FOUILLOY by 62 rounds 77 mm and 20 rounds 4.2 H.V; O.16.a by 15 rounds 5.9 How; O.16 and O.18 by 30 rounds 5.9 How, and O.10.b by 40 rounds 4.2 How. During the night O.4.d was shelled by 28 rounds 5.9 How; O.16.b by six rounds time H.E; O.10.c and d by 50 rounds 4.2 How; O.17.b by 20 rounds 4.2 How; FOUILLOY by 50 rounds gas; I.15.c by 10 rounds 77 mm; I.29 by 20 rounds 4.2 How and 30 rounds 77 mm and I.22.d by 30 rounds 4.2 How.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trenches. Observers report that enemy/working are on position at P.14.d.60.35. This is well camouflaged with grass and bushes. C.T. mentioned in yesterday's report should read P.14.d.5.7 to P.15.c.0.6. All shell holes in front of wire at P.14.d.2.5 have been filled in (Patrol). Wire. Concertina wire has been placed across the road at P.20.a.5.6 (Patrol). Wire at P.14.d.2.5 is heavy concertina (Patrol). M.G's were active from P.20.a.6.7, P.20.a.8.6, J.36.c.4.5, and J.36.d.3.2. (Patrols). An A.A., M.G. was active from P.15.a.2.3. M.W. were active from P.5.d.8.2, J.36.d.00.45 and K.25.a. A Headquarters or O.P. is suspected at P.16.c.5.2.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Patrols report that enemy is very alert behind his wire.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy planes were very active and crossed our lines at 8.30 am, 10.45am, 2 p.m and 6.45 pm. During the evening several E.A. fired M.G's into our Forward Posts. A hostile machine was driven down in flames in rear of ACCROCHE WOOD at 5.30 p.m. One of ours was driven down in I.29.d. The triplane which drove this plane down is reported to have the tail painted with our colors but with the black cross on the wings.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Much movement of working parties was seen in the evening at sap in P.16.c, P.15.b, and to and fro from VAIRE WOOD. Continual movement of small parties was seen between sunken road at P.10.central to P.10.d.8.8. Parties of 100 and 400 were seen training in Q.22 and 23 respectively. The latter were scattered by our planes. The roads in Q.18, Q.24, and R.19 were much used during the day.

<u>Trains.</u>	10.30 am	Heavy train moving South in R.26.d.
	12.30 pm	Train - 8 trucks - moving N in R.25.
	4.15 pm	Train - 28 trucks - moving S in R.26.
	4.20 pm	Heavy train shunting in R.26.d.
	5.5 pm	Heavy train moving N in R.26.
	5.50 pm	Heavy train moving S in R.26.
	6.20 pm	Heavy train moving N in R.25.d & 2 trains
	7.5 pm	Heavy train moving S in R.26.d. (moving SW in R.25.d.)

8. MISCELLANEOUS. A plane was seen to land at 4 canvas hangars T.B. 81° from P.8.a.15.35. Two red flares were visible here between 9 pm and 10 pm and white flares were fired at intervals and replied to by planes. One man was seen to descend from balloon in a parachute on T.B. 108° from I.24.d.3.1.

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A dump was blown up in SAILLY LAURETTE at 6 p.m. Reflections of fires were seen at 10 p.m and 12.10 am on T.B. $142\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $137\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ respectively from I.24.d.3.1.
Searchlights were seen from I.24.d.3.1 on T.B. 131° , 117° , 104° , $119\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, 146° , 122° , 156° and 123° (stationary).
Balloons were seen from I.24.d.3.1 on T.B.'s $117\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, 110° , 157° , 164° , 116° and 108° .

Issued 31st May, 1918.

for K. Goodland Capt-
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

BOMBING RAIDS. (Army Summary 30/5/18).

On night 29/30th the following bombs were dropped by our aeroplanes:-

BOIS-de-TAILLES.	...	...	250	25-lb.
BRAY - MORIANGOURT	...	...	{ 42	112-lb.
			{ 110	25-lb.
BUSIGNY.	...	...	{ 17	112-lb.
			{ 64	25-lb.
CAMBRAI	...	...	{ 1	112-lb.
			{ 8	29-lb.
BAPAUME & PERONNE Rd...	...	...	8	25-lb.
PERONNE	...	...	{ 15	112-lb.
			{ 110	25-lb.
BECORDEL Valley.	...	...	{ 20	40-lb. (phosphorous).
			{ 102	25-lb.
SUZANNE.	...	...	12	25-lb.

In all over 11 tons were dropped.

NEW GERMAN TANK. (From G.H.Q. Summary dated 29/5/18).

Large consignments of tanks of a new type are reported to have been sent to the Western front.

The chief feature of this type would appear to be that the light gun, and possibly the machine guns also, is mounted on the top of the tank. Thus, there is less danger of the tank being put out of action when coming over the brow of a hill, before its gun can open fire.

The following details are given:-

Dimensions - Length, 30' - 33'; height, 10'; width, 10'.

Armament - One 5.7 cm. (6-pdr) G.F. gun and 4 machine guns. Two flame projectors, with a range of 65 yards, are also stated to be carried.