

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/22 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

May 1917



AWM4-1/44/22PART2

To be destroyed on receipt of a
later issue.

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Appx. XVII.

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.413.

Location of units as at 8 a.m. 9th May 1917.

Div Headquarters. - The MONUMENT. H.15.c.4.3.
Advanced.D.H.Q. - VAULX. - C.26.d.3.6.

Right Brigade Sector.

175th Inf Bde. H.Q. - C.29.a.4.2 (attached from 58th Div)
Front line. - D.20.a.5.8. D.13.central. - D.12. central. -
C.6.c.5.3.
2/9th London Regt.H.Q. C.24.d.9.5. Line Right.
2/10th -do- C.23.b.5.8. Line Left.
2/11th -do- I.4.b.9.9. Support Right.
2/12th -do- E.30.a.7.1. Support Left.

Centre Brigade Sector.

14th Aust Inf Bde.H.Q. C.10.c.9.1. (Attached from 5th Aus Div)
Front line. - C.6.c.5.3. - U.28.b.8.9. - U.23.c.8.0.
55th Bn. H.Q. C.5.d.8.5. Line right
53rd Bn. " C.5.d.5.6. Line left
54th Bn. " C.16.a.4.8. Support
56th Bn. " Reserve.
8th A.I.G.Coy Attached.

Left Brigade Sector.

2nd Aust Inf Bde.H.Q. C.5.a.1.3. (Attached from 1st Aus Div)
Front line. - U.23.c.8.0. - U.22.d.3.3. - U.28.a.8.8.
8th Bn H.Q. U.23.c.55.15. Line Right.
5th Bn " U.29.a.3.7. Line Left.
6th Bn " C.5.a.2.3. Support.
7th Bn " C.9.d.8.4 Reserve.
22nd A.I.G.Coy Attached.

Support.

1st Aust Inf Bde H.Q. C.9.d.9.3.
4th Bn. NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.

MORCHIES - VAULX Line.

1st and 3rd Bns. and 2nd Bn.

BEUGNY - YTRES Line.

57th and 58th Bns.
15th Aust Inf Bde H.Q. H.18.a.9.9. (Attached from 5th Aus Div)

Reserve.

59th and 60th Bns. H.10.c and d.

5th Aust Inf Bde. CRUCIFIX CAMP.

6th Aust Inf Bde. LE SARRS CAMP (moving to MARCETZ)

7th Aust Inf Bde. Camps in H.10.

3rd Aust Inf Bde. H.Q. 10th and 12th Bns. H.20.a
9th and 11th Bns.)
I.G.Coy & T.I.Bty) BAPAUME.

ARTILLERY.

C.R.A. Advanced H.Q. C.26.d.3.6.
"Q" Group H.Q. I.1.d.7.7. (4th, 5th & 12th AFA Bdes)
"P" -do- C.14.b.1.7. (10th and 11th do)
"H" -do- C.22.d.3.7. (1st and 2nd do)
"R" -do- I.4.a.3.9. (14th do)

(over)

War Diary

ENGINEERS.

C. R. E.	Advanced H.Q.	C.26.d.3.6.
5th A. Field Coy.	I.2.c.4.3.	
6th -do-	I.1.c.0.7.	
7th -do-	H.12.a.5.6.	
2nd A. Pioneer Bn.	H.6.a.4.5.	

A.A.M.C.

A.D.M.S.	The MONUMENT.	H.15.c.4.3.
5th A. Field Ambice.	I.1.c.5.5	Main Dressing Stn (Walking)
6th -do-	I.1.c.3.3.	-do- (Stretcher)
7th -do-	I.1.c.6.6.	Advanced Dressing Stn.

MOUNTED TROOPS. (Attached)

"C" Sqn. 13th A.L.H. FAVREUIL
 1st Anzac Cyclist Bn - $\frac{1}{2}$ Coy. FAVREUIL.

Div Train H.Q.	H.21.c.	
D.A.D.C. S.	H.16.d.7.5.	
Mobile Vet Section	H.21.a.3.8.	
Field Cashier.	BAPAUME.	H.26.d.3.0
Div Gas Officer	dp	do
A.D.V.S.	do	do
Div Bomb Officer.	B.30.d.3.5.	

AW Bridges,

Lieut Colonel.
 General Staff.
 2nd Aust Div.

S E C R E T .

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.438.

Location of Units at 8 a.m. 10-5-17.

The following changes have taken place since last report.

Left Brigade Sector.

15th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.	C.5.a.1.3. (Attached from 5th Aus Div)
57th Bn. H.Q.	U.23.c.55.15. Line Right.
58th Bn "	U.29.a.8.7 Line Left.
59th " "	C.5.a.2.3. Support.
60th Bn "	C.9.d.8.4. Reserve.

Support.

MORCHIES - VAULX Line.	29th and 32nd Bns.
BEUGNY - YTRES Line.	30th and 31st Bns.
8th Aust Inf Bde H.Q.	H.13.a.9.9. (Attached from 5th Aus Div)
1st Aust Inf Bde.	N.24.b.1.4. (rejoins 1st Aus Div)
2nd -do-	BIEFVILLERS Area. { -do-
3rd -do-	BAPAUME. } -do-
5th Aust Inf Bde.	CRUCIFIX CAMP.
6th -do-	MALETZ CAMP.
7th -do-	SHELTER WOOD CAMP.
22nd A.K.G. Coy.	Camp H.11.c.

ENGINEERS.

5th Aust Field Coy.	BOTTOM WOOD Camp.
6th -do-	MALETZ WOOD Camp.
7th -do-	-do-
2nd Aust Pioneer Bn.	GORDON Camp.

A.A.M.C.

5th Aust Field Amblee.	FRICOURT FARM Camp.
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LOUNTED TROOPS.

"C" Squadron 13th A.L.H.	} Moving to rejoin their units.
½ Coy 1st Anzac Cyclist Bn	

Otherwise no change.

Challis
for Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
2nd Aust Div.

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REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE HINDENBURG
LINE BY THE 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, BETWEEN
THE 3RD and 10TH MAY, 1917.

I. INTRODUCTORY.

1. The 2nd Australian Division went into the line and took over from the 4th Australian Division on the 14th April, prepared to carry out the attack on the HINDENBURG line at an early date.

2. As the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. had carried out the attack on LAGNICOURT the previous time the Division was in the line, the 5th & 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. were detailed for the operations against the HINDENBURG line. On taking over from the 4th Aust. Div., these two brigades were put straight into the line.

3. Owing to the operation being postponed, it was decided to relieve these brigades by the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde., so as to enable them to be rested before the attack, and also to enable them to practise the attack behind the lines. This relief was carried out on the night 19th/20th April.

4. Between this time and the date they returned to the line the 5th & 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. were able to practise on ground marked out to reproduce the trenches, etc., to be attacked.

This was done by each brigade separately in daylight, and was twice carried out by both brigades together in the dark (at 4 a.m.)

Various instructions for the operation and the attack order had been issued, so that all units knew their role. During the practices certain matters came to light which required consideration and involved the issue of further orders, so a revised attack order was issued on the 1st May.

5. On the 25th April the Division took over an extra portion of the line on the right from the 1st Aust. Div. and the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. was placed under the command of the G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div. This brigade, besides holding the new bit of front, took over from the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. that portion of the line between the original right divisional boundary and the railway at C.6.c.5.3. The position then was that the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. held that portion of the divisional front opposite the point of attack, with the 62nd Division on their left, while the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. held the remainder of the divisional front on the right.

6. On the 30th April information was received that the operations would take place on the morning of the 3rd May; so on the night 30th April/1st May the 5th and 6th A.I. Bdes. were put into the line in relief of the 7th, - the 5th on the right and the 6th on the left.

7. The general scheme for the operation was that the 2nd Aust. Div. would attack the HINDENBURG line from U.30.a.4.4 on the right to U.28.a.8.8 on the left, and push on and capture RIENCOURT, while the 62nd Div. on our left was to attack BULLECOURT and the HINDENBURG line as far West as U.20.a.9.6, and push on and capture HENDECOURT.

8. For the 2nd Aust. Div. the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. was detailed to attack the HINDENBURG line between U.30.a.4.4 and the road (inclusive) in U.29.a. and to capture RIENCOURT: the 6th A.I. Bde. was to attack the HINDENBURG line between the road (exclusive) in U.29.a. and U.28.a.8.8, and to push on and make a junction between the 5th A.I. Bde. at RIENCOURT and the 62nd Div. at HENDECOURT, while the 7th A.I. Bde. made

14 a junction by means of posts between the 5th A.I.Bde. in the HINDENBURG line and the 2nd A.I.Bde. at the railway.

9. Zero hour was 3.45 a.m., 3rd May 1917 and at that hour troops were disposed as follows : -

5th A.I.Bde. (Right Attacking Bde.)

On forming-up line 500 yards from zero barrage line; 19th Bn. on right, 17th Bn. on left in front; 20th & 18th Bns. on right and left respectively in rear; each Bn. in four waves.

6th A.I.Bde. (Left Attacking Bde.)

On forming-up line 500 yards from zero barrage line; 24th Bn. on right, 22nd Bn. on left in front; 23rd and 21st Bns. on right and left respectively in rear; each Bn. in four waves.

7th A.I.Bde. in close support.

27th Bn. holding railway line on right and posts already constructed in U.30.c.

26th Bn. holding railway line on left.

25th Bn. in area C.4.a. & c.

28th Bn. in MOREUIL-LONGATTE road.

2nd A.I.Bde. (attached from 1st Aust. Div.) holding right sector of the Divisional front.

7th & 6th Bns. in the line on right and left respectively.

5th & 8th Bns. in support.

1st A.I.Bde. (attached from 1st Aust. Div.) Divisional Reserve.

3rd & 4th Bns. in MORCHIES-VAULX line.

1st & 2nd Bns. in BEUGNY-YTRES line.

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II. OPERATIONS MAY 3RD TO 10TH, 1917.

At 3.45 a.m. on May 3rd 1917, the artillery barrage commenced according to programme and the infantry moved forward for the attack. The enemy put down a light barrage at 3.50 a.m., mainly about the line of the railway; by 4 a.m. he had a heavy barrage mainly between the road U.28.d. - C.5.a. & b. and the railway. As the infantry had started well on time and all waves had been well closed up, this barrage only affected the rear waves and very few casualties resulted.

The 6th A.I.Bde. experienced no difficulty with the wire and they captured their portion of the HINDENBURG front line (O.G.1) by 4.10 a.m., and of the HINDENBURG support line (O.G.2) by 4.26 a.m., except a small portion on the left of either line where the left of the 22nd Bn. had come under heavy machine gun and Minenwerfer fire from the East side of BULLECOURT. The 24th Bn. continued their advance and captured their portion of the 2nd Objective at 5.34 a.m.

The 5th Bde. had experienced very heavy machine gun fire while getting through the wire and had suffered heavy casualties specially amongst the officers and n.c.os. The result was that their attack was slightly disorganised and although the signal for the capture of O.G.1 was sent up at 4.1 a.m. and of O.G.2 at 4.27 a.m., it would appear from information received afterwards that only the left portion of this objective was actually occupied. The attack was pushed on to the 2nd Objective and apparently the left portion of this was captured as the success signal was seen and the 6th Bde. reported that their right was in touch with the left of the 5th Bde. in this objective, but no further confirmation could be obtained as none of the 5th Bde. who reached this Objective returned.

Owing to casualties amongst officers there were a large number of stragglers from the 5th Bde. collecting about the railway. At 5.10 a.m. Lt.Col. MURPHY 18th Bn. collected 150 of these and led them forward. At 5.30 a.m. a company of the 26th Bn. was sent forward to collect the remainder and assist in the attack on O.G.1 and O.G.2. Fierce fighting ensued and at 9.30 a.m. the 5th A.I.Bde. had only small portions of O.G.1 & O.G.2 East of the road in U.29.a., and a defensive flank was formed facing East along this road. The 28th Bn. was placed at the disposal of the G.O.C., 5th A.I.Bde. to carry out an attack eastwards along these trenches as far as the communication trench in U.30.a. The battalions of the 5th A.I.Bde. were ordered to reorganise to support this attack.

Meanwhile, on the protective barrage for the second Objective lifting, parties of the 6th A.I.Bde. moved forward to their 3rd Objective, but, as apparently no progress had been made on our left, and the 5th A.I.Bde. were too disorganised to attack RIENCOURT, a further advance was considered undesirable, and at 7 a.m. orders were received from ANZAC to stand on the 2nd Objective. Orders were sent to the parties of the 6th A.I. Bde. who had moved forward, to return to the 2nd Objective; on information being received at 7.40 a.m. from both brigades that they had no one in front of the 2nd Objective the artillery brought their barrage back to the BLUE line; i.e. protective barrage for 2nd Objective.

The situation on our left was serious. Though no definite information could be received, it appeared that the 185th Bde. (62nd Div.) had not succeeded in capturing BULLECOURT. The 25th Bn. was ordered to assist in its capture by

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attacking from the South-East but their first two platoons were wiped out by machine gun fire and it was found impossible to attack from this direction. The 6th Bde. were endeavouring to assist by bombing down O.G.1 and O.G.2 but very strong resistance was being met.

The 2nd objective was being very heavily shelled and finally the troops holding it were recalled into O.G.2 about noon and the artillery barrage was then brought back to form a protective barrage beyond O.G.2.

At about this time a counter-attack by approximately two companies from the direction of RIENCOURT was beaten off by rifle and machine gun fire. At 12.45 p.m. a further counter-attack from the direction of QUEANT was broken up by fire from Lewis guns and rifles directed from the sunken road in U.29.a. & c.

At 1 p.m. the situation was that the 5th Bde. were holding the sunken road through U.29.a. & c. facing East while the 6th Bde. were holding O.G.1 and O.G.2 from this road as far West as U.22.d.5.0 and U.22.d.5.3 respectively.

At 1.15 p.m. the 28th Bn. commenced their bombing attack East along O.G.1 and O.G.2 and by 3.45 p.m. were up to U.29.b.9.6 in O.G.1 and U.29.b.7.9 in O.G.2. About 4.15 p.m. the enemy counter-attacked and drove the 28th Bn. back within 50 yards of road in U.29.a. A start was made to reorganise a counter-attack but before this was complete the enemy put down a heavy barrage and made a strong counter-attack. This was driven off with severe losses to the enemy. As the troops engaged throughout the day were exhausted and disorganised owing to heavy casualties amongst officers and n.c.os., it was decided to put in fresh battalions to re-capture O.G.1 and O.G.2, so the 2nd and 4th Bns. were sent up and relieved the troops holding the road in U.29.a. during the night. The 28th Bn. re-joined the 7th Bde.

At 9.15 p.m. the enemy put a heavy barrage down on our front and attacked along the railway from the direction of BULLECOURT but this attack was driven off.

During the night the 1st and 3rd Bns. relieved the battalions of the 6th Bde. in O.G.1 and O.G.2 and the latter retired to the railway and replaced the 25th Bn. which re-joined the 7th Bde.

There had been continuous heavy fighting on the left in O.G.1 and O.G.2 and at 10 p.m. the left of the 6th Bde. in these trenches was on the grid line between U.28 and U.29.

At 10.30 p.m. the 7th Div., who had taken over the BULLECOURT front from the 62nd, made an attack on BULLECOURT and, though partially successful at first, they were bombed out again and organised another attack for 3.45 a.m. The G.O.C., 6th A.I.Bde. was ordered to assist in this by bombing along O.G.1 and O.G.2. (with 1st Bde. units).

The 7th Div. in their attack at 3.45 a.m., May 4th 1917, gained the South-Eastern edge of BULLECOURT but did not gain touch with us.

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The 1st and 3rd Bns. bombed down O.G.1 and O.G.2 during the morning and by midday had established strong posts at U.22.d.5.0 and U.22.d.5.3.

At 2.50 p.m. the 2nd Bn., supported by the 4th Bn., commenced the attack along O.G.1 and O.G.2 eastwards from the road in U.29.a. and cleared and consolidated these trenches as far as U.29.b.8.6 and U.29.b.8.9. A strong defensive flank was formed from these points to the railway in C.6.c. and this situation remained unchanged up to the time of handing over to the 5th Aust. Div. on the 10th instant.

The position on the left was not quite so secure. During the night 4th/5th May the enemy made two strong counter-attacks and the 3rd Bn. in O.G.2 were forced back to U.22.d.9.4. The situation here remained unchanged until the morning of the 7th inst. when a bombing attack was carried out with a view to joining up with the 7th Div. who were attacking through BULLE-COURT. This was successful and the 9th Bn., which was attacking in O.G.1, gained touch with the GORDONS at U.28.a. 8.8 at 5.15 a.m., while the 2nd Bn. in O.G.2 cleared and consolidated this trench as far as U.22.d.3.3. This flank was made secure and the situation here remained unchanged up to the time of handing over to the 5th Aust. Division on the 10th May.

All ranks of the 2nd and 1st Australian Divisions, during their occupation of the HINDENBURG line, were continuously engaged with the enemy under heavy shellfire or in close combat and they held on to their positions with their usual tenacity and determination.

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III. - GENERAL.Artillery.

1. The artillery co-operation throughout these operations was excellent. A liaison officer was attached to each infantry brigade. The response to calls was prompt and accurate. Protective barrages were put down rapidly where asked for, and massings of enemy troops were so effectually dealt with that many attempted counter-attacks were dispersed before they had time to develop.

Engineers & Pioneers.

2. The Engineers and Pioneers were employed on communication and support trenches and on making strong points. Their work was efficiently carried out under very trying circumstances as they were constantly under shellfire and machine gun and rifle fire. Two companies 1st Aust. Pioneer Bn. were attached for work on communication trenches for portion of this time. Attached map shows the trenches and strong points constructed.

Previous to the operations no communication trenches could be dug forward without revealing our intentions to the enemy. A communication trench, however, was completed running N.W. from NOREUIL which appeared to be taken by the enemy for defensive work. On the night of the attack this trench was completed as far as the railway - a distance of over 1000 yards. During the daylight on the 3rd May it was continued up the hollow road in U.29.c. and a. as far as the HINDENBURG trenches. Some days before the attack, some easily removeable wire entanglements were placed in front of our advanced line, with the object of inducing the enemy to believe that we were acting purely on the defensive. It was removed before the attack.

A.A.M.C.

3. The A.A.M.C. carried out their duties in their usual thorough manner. Casualties were evacuated as rapidly as possible and the work at the dressing stations was excellent. Again the stretcher bearers earned high praise for the unflinching manner in which they worked through heavy shellfire and while being constantly sniped.

Communications.

4. Before the operations cable was buried between the 5th Bde.H.Q. in NOREUIL and the 6th Bde.H.Q. in the railway; this joined up to the buried system between Advanced D.H.Q. at VAULX and the Bde.H.Q. in NOREUIL. During the operations this route was damaged three times by shellfire, but all lines were not broken at once and, by using spares, communication was kept up continuously.

Ground lines were run forward from the railway to the front line but it was impossible to maintain these as they were being continually cut by shellfire.

Power buzzers and amplifiers were used and proved very satisfactory. These and runners were the only means of communication possible between the front line and the railway.

Prisoners of war.

5. The number of prisoners of war captured was 4 officers and 113 other ranks (including 2 officers and 66 o.r. wounded).

Trophies.

6. Four machine guns, three flame projectors and two Minenwerfer were captured, besides quantities of S.A.A. and bombs.

Casualties. 7. The following were the casualties sustained : -

2nd Aust. Div. -

	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Killed	32	314	346
Wounded	119	2380	2499
Missing	12	1079	1091
Total	163	3773	3936

Attached Formations -

Killed	21	233	254
Wounded	63	1310	1373
Missing	1	86	87
Total	85	1629	1714

Total 2nd Aust. Div. and	}	248	5402	5650
attached formations				

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1 V NOTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATIONS.

1. The advantage of deliberate preparation and of rehearsals was demonstrated. The attack was practised on ground marked out to reproduce the trenches, etc. to be attacked. In each practice matters came to light which required consideration. Eventually each body of troops taking part in the attack knew its role, which trench it had to capture, which communication trench to bomb along, where to make a block, etc.

2. Zero hour was fixed at 3.45 a.m. so that no aimed fire could be directed against the attacking troops during their first advance, and to enable the capture of the first objective to be carried out in darkness. This proved to be sound.

3. On the jumping-off line and during the advance to the 1st objective, waves were kept closed up and thus practically escaped the enemy's initial barrage fire, most of which was behind them.

4. Bombing enterprises:

(a) Generally it was shown that our troops require more training in bombing, specially in attacks on a large scale where trench clearing parties have to be relieved constantly. No party should be expected to carry out more than one attack of 100 yards length of trench, and should be at once relieved by parties in rear passing through them. The parties relieved must immediately consolidate their gains. It is very essential that, as the attack progresses, all points gained should be consolidated at once. Consolidation should not be deferred until the objective is reached.

(b) The enemy appears to be better trained in bombing than we are.

(c) The enemy can throw stick bombs further than we can throw the No. 5 Mills.

(d) Rifle grenades are very valuable as by their use the enemy can be kept beyond hand bombing range, but there must be an ample supply of them. - Twice as many as of No. 5 Mills.

(e) Bombing attacks can be greatly assisted by artillery co-operation, specially in daylight, and when the artillery have had time to register. The artillery barrages the trenches to be attacked and gradually lifts as the bombing attack progresses. This worked very satisfactorily. Each section of guns lifted from 40 yards length of trench every minute: this was found to be rather too quick.

(f) Medium and Stokes mortars should co-operate both in offensive and defensive trench fighting and machine guns be freely used to keep the enemy's heads down in the trench and to engage hostile machine guns.

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(g) There must be an ample supply of bombs and rifle grenades and it is always necessary to have a reserve in hand to meet a counter-attack. Great care must be taken to examine the ammunition before it is sent forward, so as to ensure that all bombs are detonated and that the blank rounds for firing the rifle grenades are in the box. It is recommended that all bombs should be fitted to take the rod and that one "cup attachment" for firing the No.5 Mills as a rifle grenade be issued with each box of bombs.

(h) Carrying parties must be well organised and should be under the control of the unit carrying out the attack.

(i) More training is required in the use of German bombs. It would often be possible to use a German bomb dump to good advantage if every man had a working knowledge of the enemy bombs.

5. Owing to the nature of fighting, viz: bombing attacks from flanks, large stores of bombs, rifle grenades and Stokes bombs had constantly to be sent forward. To reduce man carrying, pack horses and limbers should be used wherever possible. Dumps should be dug into banks where possible.

6. The value of defended localities and of machine guns was exemplified. The resistance of BULLECOURT was the main factor which prevented the advance against the 3rd objective. The German machine guns were very well placed for the defence of their line and caused a great majority of our casualties at the commencement.

7. The German method of wiring generally at an angle to the front, and with extra thick patches, attained, to a considerable extent during the first attack on the right, what would appear to be its object, viz: to disorganise the line and cause crowding and loss of direction, and consequent casualties from well-placed machine guns.

8. There was not enough use made of the ground for assembly of supports and reserves. The prevailing ideas did not appear to extend beyond the existing trenches and sunken roads and embankments. There were many folds in the ground where assembly trenches could have been dug after the attack was made, to accommodate supports and reserves quite out of enemy observation, except from the air, and camouflage would have given some protection from the latter.

9. For several days there was only one communication trench. This was not enough and many lives were lost through so much traffic being confined to the one trench, which was being continually shelled. More than one communication trench is necessary the instant operations become stationary. At least one extra Pioneer Battalion could have been employed solely on this task.

10. Maintenance parties, say 20 per 1000 yards, should be used every night to deepen, widen, and clean up communication trenches, which are constantly being smashed in during the day.

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11. The value of training men as guides as soon as a unit takes over a position in the line was proved, many casualties being avoided by the excellent guiding of parties through enemy barrages.

12. The value of divisional and brigade observation posts was most marked. Much valuable information was received from these observers, not only about events on our own front, but also about the position of the troops of the division on our left.

13. The value of line formation with big extensions was demonstrated on the morning of the 6th May. Three companies moved over 2500 yards in line formation. Extensions were from 5 to 10 yards: distances were about 100 yards between lines. Although the enemy barrage was very severe, only four casualties were sustained by the whole three companies. No difficulty was experienced in controlling the men in this formation.

14. The necessity to train both officers and n.c.os. in accurate map-reading was shown.

15. The value of marching on compass bearings at night was demonstrated.

16. The advantage of leaving details out of the line was shown in the case of one battalion which was very much broken up and scattered. The remnants went out of the line at 9 a.m. and at 6 p.m. the same day the battalion commander reported that he had reorganised with the details and some reinforcements that had arrived and was ready to bring into the line 14 officers and 500 men.

17. Steel helmets should be covered. When wet they glisten and can easily be seen when flares go up. It is considered that this is the cause of much shelling during reliefs.

18. The power buzzer and amplifier were found to be invaluable for keeping communication with the actual ^{front} line.

19. Although a countersign had been arranged for the purpose of recognising the British troops towards whom we were bombing, it was found impossible to hear the human voice owing to the din of bombing and machine guns.

W. Smith
Major-General,
Commanding 2nd Aust. Div.

ARTILLERY LESSONS LEARNT IN THE RECENT FIGHTING.

1. Alteration of Rolling Barrages during attack.

It was found that, in case of portion of the attack being held up, the practice of having pre-arranged protective barrages lines set out and well registered prior to the operation, proved to be an excellent one. The alteration of a rolling barrage once it is set in operation is apt to be confusing unless there is some definite set line on to which the guns can jump at once in case of necessity.

Delay may occur, however, in conveying the necessary orders to batteries, should communications break down. In the case which occurred, viz; when the artillery came back on to the "RED BARRAGE" line, there was no delay, as the communications stood. In any case the possibility of delay is lessened by having batteries interconnected; thus giving additional channels of communication, should the main line to Group or Brigade Headquarters break down. In this particular attack, the hostile artillery fire did not endanger the rear communications to batteries during the actual attack, their whole attention being paid to the front area.

2. "S.O.S." Signals.

During the numerous counter-attacks which followed our capture of the HINDENBURG LINE, the necessity for some distinctive light signal for use as "S.O.S." was particularly noticeable. Both our red and green "S.O.S." lights appeared to be also used as artillery signals by the enemy, and consequently several false alarms were caused by what ultimately proved to be the enemy's signals. The consequent waste of ammunition and damage to morale might be obviated by the provision of a distinctive light signal.

3. Power Buzzer.

Valuable information was communicated by means of the power buzzer, when all other means of communication had failed. The fact that all ordinary messages must be in code necessitates the maintenance of experienced F.O.Os. who are qualified when sending messages in this way, to convey in a brief form all essential details. In several instances, a F.O.O. in passing information, omitted to state the most important points, and considerable time was lost in again referring the subject to the F.O.O.

4. Use of Artillery in close support of Bombing attacks.

On three occasions it was found that artillery could be of great assistance in bombing attacks along a trench. On a pre-arranged plan which can be put in operation at short notice, an artillery barrage was placed on the trench to be attacked, lifting in stages clear of the trench as the infantry bombed along it. The barrage prevented the enemy's use of rifles and machine gun fire over the heads of their bombers.

5. Liaison with flank Divisional Artilleries.

The necessity for close liaison with the artillery on the flanks of the division was noticeable, particularly in cases where touch was not obtained between the two divisions.

6. Establishment of ammunition at the Guns.

In this operation it was found unnecessary to keep a large amount of ammunition at the guns. As long as a sufficient reserve was maintained in the dumps, the supply could be replenished in ample time, thus doing away with the necessity of building up large stocks at the guns, and thereby risking a considerable amount being destroyed by enemy counter-battery fire during the few days immediately preceding the attack. In cases, however, where the enemy's artillery

is so strong that there might be a surplus available to deal with our batteries, it might be necessary to arrange so that the attack could be commenced with a large establishment at the guns.

7. Positions of O.Ps.

Observation was rendered difficult and almost impossible during the actual attack, owing to the thick dust and smoke caused by the enemy's and our own artillery fire. O.Ps. should therefore be situated as far forward as possible, provided a good field of view can be obtained, though not to be so far advanced as to come into the line of the hostile rear barrage.

8. Registration of several datum points.

Owing to the possibility of batteries having to fire on portions of the front with large switches from their normal zones, it is essential that good registrations be previously obtained by all batteries on datum points at least 30 degrees on either side of their zero lines.

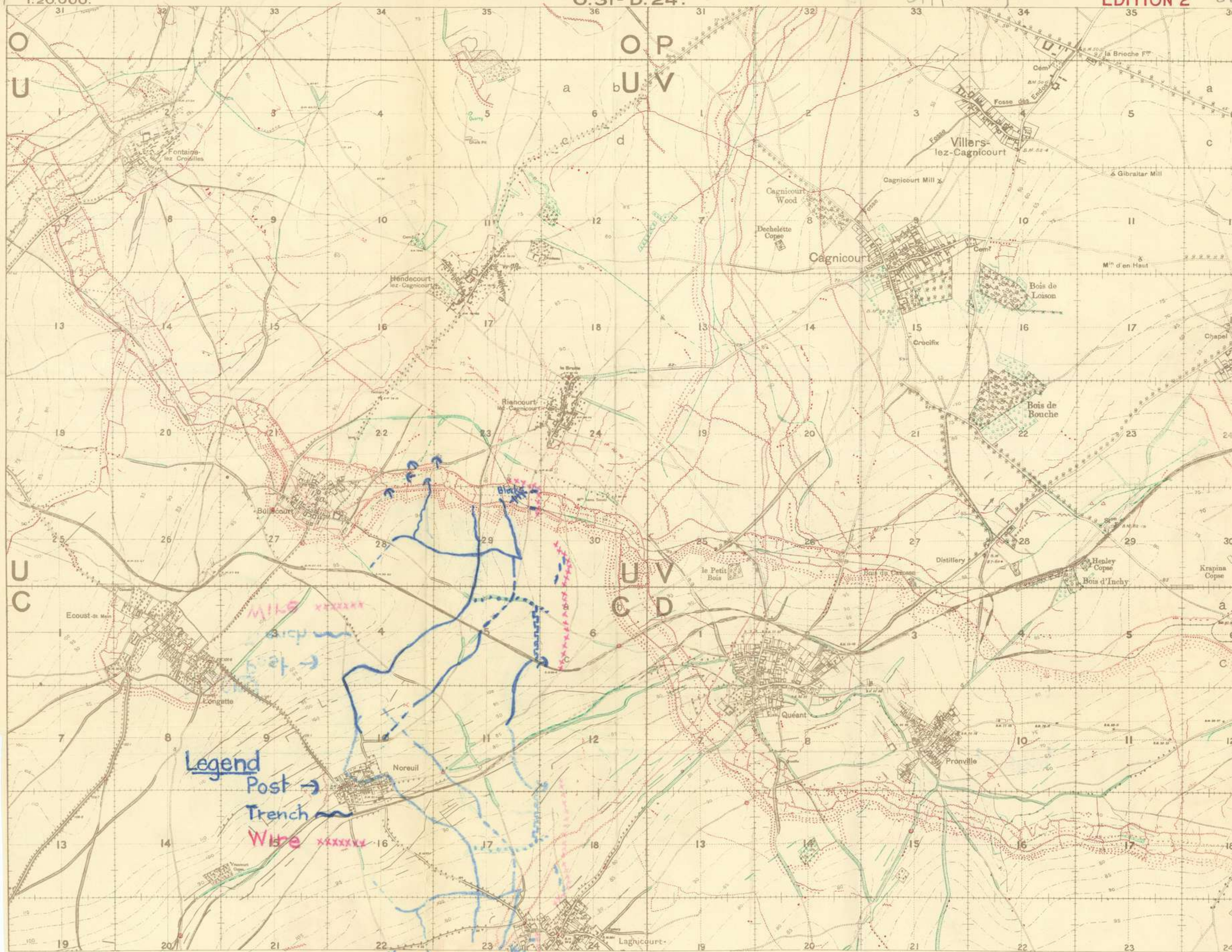
9. Enfilade rolling barrages.

On three occasions enfilading rolling barrages were provided by the artillery of this sector for the 7th Divisional attacks on BULLECOURT. They proved to be very effective, and of course necessitated the employment of considerably less guns than would have had to be used in a frontal barrage. In the case of an attack on a strong trench system however, a standing barrage would also appear to be necessary on the support line, owing to the lateral effect of an 18-pounder T.S. burst being only 20 - 25 yards. The only difficulty encountered was that of maintaining the rate of fire when the extent of the barrage necessitated moving the trail. This is obviated however by having good trail beds or by the battery arranging so that its guns move their trails at different times.

10. Searching fire during protective barrages.

The practice laid down of emptying searching fire during the protective stage of the barrage, so as to cope with machine guns and infantry beyond the line of the barrage, proved to be a good one. Instead of the 300 yards laid down however, it was found better to search back for distances up to 800 yards. Enough guns must be left to form a standing barrage sufficiently strong to prevent the enemy working through.

On several occasions 50% of guns were left sweeping our S.O.S. lines, while the balance searched 800 yards back. Statements by prisoners lead us to believe that excellent results were obtained.



TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 19-4-17.

SCALE 1:20,000.

SECRET.

4454

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Location of Units at 8 a.m. 11th May, 1917.

D. H. Q.	The DINGLE	X.27.b.3.8.
D. A. H. Q.	VAULX (attached 5th A. Div.)	C.26.d.3.6.
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.	CRUCIFIX CAMP.	
6th -do-	MAMETZ CAMP.	
7th -do-	SHELTER WOOD CAMP.	
22nd Aust. M.G. Coy.	CRUCIFIX CAMP.	
<u>Engineers</u>		
C. R. E.	The DINGLE	X.27.b.3.8.
5th Field Coy.	BOTTOM WOOD CAMP.	
6th -do-	MAMETZ WOOD CAMP.	
7th -do-	MAMETZ WOOD CAMP.	
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	GORDON CAMP.	
2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.	The DINGLE.	X.27.b.3.8.
2nd Aust. Div. Train.		
Headquarters	BEAVER CAMP.	
20th Comapny	BAPAUME.	
15th -do-	CRUCIFIX CAMP.	
16th -do-	BEAVER CAMP.	
17th -do-	SHELTER WOOD CAMP.	
<u>A& A. M. C.</u>		
A. D. M. S.	The DINGLE.	X.27.b.3.8.
5th Field Amb.	FRICOURT FARM CAMP.	
6th -do-	BECOURT CHATEAU.	
7th -do-	BEAVER CAMP.	
D.A.D.O.S.	ALBERT.	
Mobile Vet. Section.	BELLE VUE FARM.	
Field Cashier.	The DINGLE.	
Div. Gas Officer.	SHELTER WOOD CAMP.	
A. D. V. S.	The DINGLE.	
Div. Bomb Officer	The Dingle.	

N. Wellington Capt.
 Lieut.-Colonel,
 for General Staff,
 Second Australian Division.

(to be destroyed on receipt of a later issue.)

90

Афѣх. XXI

14

- Y. I. A. N. V.
C. S. O. H.
I. H. I.

.vc0 h1e1t en0

.vc0 h1e1t en0

For INFORMATION.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 1 | C.R.E. | 17 | 1st ANZAC "G" |
| 2 | 5th A.I. Bde. | 18 | 1st ANZAC "Q" <u>YCO Bde</u> |
| 3 | 6th -do- | 19 | 1st Aust. Div. |
| 4 | 7th -do- | 20 | 5th Aust. Div. |
| 5 | 22nd M.G. Coy. | 21 | 56th Div. Supply Column |
| 6 | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. | 22 | Area Commandant SENLIS |
| 7 | 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy. | 23 | Town Major WARBOY |
| 8 | 2nd Aust. Div. Train. | 24 | Area Commandant "J" Area. |
| 10 | A. D. M. S. | 25 | Town Major FUCHEVILLERS |
| 10 | A. P. M. | 26 | TOWN MAJOR BOUZINCOURT |
| 11 | A. D. V. S. | 27 | Town Major ALBERT |
| 12 | D. A. D. O. S. | 28 | G. O. C. |
| 13 | D. B. O. | 29 | War Diary |
| 14 | D. G. O. | 30 | Mob. Vet. Section. |
| 15 | Camp Commandant. | 31 | C.R.A. |
| 16 | "A.Q." | 32 | File. |
| | | 33 | File. |
| | | 34-8 | Spare. |

M A R C H

T A B L E.

14

(To accompany 2nd Aust.Div. Order No. 129.)

Date.	U n i t.	F r o m.	T o.
May. 16th	5th A.I.Bde. H.Q. & 2 Bns. 2 Bns. & M.G. Coy. D.H.Q.	CRUCIFIX Camp, " " THE DINGLE.	WARLOY. (a) SENLIS. " RUBEMPRE.
17th	5th A.I.Bde. H.Q. & 2 Bns. 2 Bns. & M.G. Coy. 6th A.I.Bde. H.Q. & 2 Bns. 1 Bn. & M.G.Coy. 1 Bn. 7th A.I.Bde. H.Q. & 3 Bns. & M.G.Coy. } 1 Bn. 22nd Aust. M.G.Coy. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. One Field Coy. One Field Coy. One Field Coy.	WARLOY SENLIS MAMETZ Camp " " " " SHELTER WOOD Camp MAMETZ Z. GORDON Camp. BOTTOMWOOD MAMETZ WOOD MAMETZ WOOD	RUBEMPRE. CONTAY. WARLOY (b) MILLENCOURT (c) BOUZINCOURT. SENLIS (d) NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE (BOUZINCOURT) BOUZINCOURT (e) BOUZINCOURT (e) MILLENCOURT (f) SENLIS (g) BOUZINCOURT (g)

NOTE.

- (a) via BECOURT - ALBERT - MILLENCOURT.
 (b) via ALBERT - MILLENCOURT. } To pass LINK Road
 (c) via ALBERT. } at 7.30 a.m.
 (d) via BECOURT - ALBERT - BOUZINCOURT. To pass
 Becourt 9.30 a.m.
 (e) via LA BOISSELLE - ALBERT.
 (f) via ALBERT. To follow 6th A.I.Bde.
 (g) via LA BOISSELLE - ALBERT - BOUZINCOURT.

Appx. XXII

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 29.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 130.Divisional Headquarters,
15th May, 1917.

Second Australian Divisional Order No. 129 is cancelled and the following substituted : -

1. The 2nd Australian Division (less Artillery) will move to the SENLIS Area on the 17th and 18th May, in accordance with attached March Table.
2. The following intervals will be maintained on the road -
 200 yards between battalions;
 200 yards between transport of units and other troops;
 100 yards between companies.
3. Brigades will arrange to have all routes reconnoitred on the 16th instant.
4. Field Ambulances will move under the orders of the A.D.M.S.
5. Administrative arrangements re supplies and quartering will be issued by "Q" of Division.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 10 p.m.

G. G. G. G.
 for Lieut.-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 2nd Aust. Div.

DISTRIBUTION as per 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 129. (Copies 1 to 33)
 No. 34 (Copy to 11th Division)
 " 35-38 (Spares)

(b)

(c)

(b)

(e)

(f)

(a)

(h)

(i)

M A R C H T A B L E.

(To accompany 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 130.)

Date.	U n i t.	F r o m.	T o.
May. 17th.	<u>5th A.I.Bde.</u>	CRUCIFIX Camp.	SENLIS (a)
	<u>6th A.I.Bde.</u>		
	H.Q. & 2 Bns.	MAMETZ Camp	WARLOY (b)
	1 Bn. & M.G.Coy.	" "	MILLENCOURT (b)
	1 Bn.	" "	BOUZINCOURT (c)
	<u>2nd A.Pioneer Bn.</u>	GORDON Camp	BOUZINCOURT (d)
	<u>22nd Aust.M.G.Co.</u>	MAMETZ Z.	" (e)
	<u>7th Field Co.</u>	MAMETZ WOOD	" (f)
	<u>5th Field Co.</u>	BOTTOM WOOD	MILLENCOURT (g)
	<u>D. H. Q.</u>	The DINGLE	RUBEMPRE
May. 18th	<u>5th A.I.Bde.</u>		
	H.Q. & 2 Bns.	SENLIS	RUBEMPRE
	2 Bns. & M.G.Coy.	"	CONTAY
	<u>7th A.I.Bde.</u>		
	H.Q., 3 Bns. & M.G.Coy.	SHELTER WOOD Camp	SENLIS (h)
	1 Bn.	"	NORTHUMBERLAND AVE- NUE, (BOUZINCOURT.)
	<u>6th Field Co.</u>	MAMETZ WOOD	SENLIS (i) (h)

- NOTE: -
- (a) Via LA BOISSELLE - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT
To Cross River ANCRE at 10 a.m.
 - (b) Via MEAULTE - VILLE - BUIRE - LAVIEVILLE
To pass ALBERT-AMIENS Road at 12 noon.
 - (c) Via LA BOISSELLE - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT.
To Cross River ANCRE at 11.30 a.m.
 - (d) Via LA BOISSELLE - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT.
To Cross River ANCRE at 12 noon.
 - (e) Via LA BOISSELLE - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT.
To Cross River ANCRE at 12.30 p.m.
 - (f) Via LA BOISSELLE - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT.
To Cross River ANCRE at 1 p.m.
 - (g) To follow 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - (h) Via BECOURT - ALBERT - AVELUY - BOUZINCOURT.
To pass Cross roads at AVELUY at 12 noon.
 - (i) To follow 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. and to be clear of
Cross roads at AVELUY by 1.30 p.m.

14

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.
G. 18.

Location of Units at 8 a.m. 19th May, 1917.

D. H. Q.	RUBEMPRE
D. A. H. Q.	VAULX (attached 5th Aust. Division)
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
Headquarters	RUBEMPRE
17th Battalion	RUBEMPRE
18th -do-	CONTAY
19th -do-	CONTAY
20th -do-	RUBEMPRE
5th Aust. M. G. Coy.	CONTAY
5th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	CONTAY
6th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
Headquarters	WARLOY
21st Battalion	MILLENCOURT
22nd -do-	BOUZINCOURT
23rd -do-	WARLOY
24th -do-	WARLOY
6th Aust. M. G. Coy.	MILLENCOURT
6th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	MILLENCOURT.
7th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
Headquarters	SENLIS
25th Battalion	SENLIS
26th -do-	BOUZINCOURT
27th -do-	SENLIS
28th -do-	SENLIS
7th Aust. M. G. Coy.	SENLIS
7th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	SENLIS
22nd Aust. M. G. Coy.	BOUZINCOURT
<u>ENGINEERS</u>	
C. R. E.	RUBEMPRE
5th Field Coy.	MILLENCOURT
6th -do-	SENLIS
7th -do-	BOUZINCOURT
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	BOUZINCOURT
2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.	RUBEMPRE
2nd Aust. Div. Train.	
Headquarters	RUBEMPRE
20th Company	BAPAUME
15th -do-	CONTAY
16th -do-	MILLENCOURT
17th -do-	SENLIS
A. A. M. C.	
A. D. M. S.	RUBEMPRE
5th Field Ambulance	SENLIS
6th -do-	BECOURT and AVELUY CHATEAUX
7th -do-	BECORDEL
D. A. D. O. S.	ALBERT
Mobile Vet. Section	BELLEVUE FARM
Field Cashier	RUBEMPRE
Div. Gas Officer	MILLENCOURT
A. D. V. S.	RUBEMPRE
Div. Bomb Officer	RUBEMPRE

Chilites major.

for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Appx. XXV
SECRET

Copy No... 25

14

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 131.Divisional Headquarters,
25th May, 1917.

1. The 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery will be relieved in the left sector of the Corps front by the 20th Divisional Artillery on the nights 27th/28th and 28th/29th May, 1917, in accordance with 1st Anzac Corps Order No. 148.

2. (i) On being relieved the 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery will move to the SENLIS artillery area for rest and training, in accordance with the attached march table.

(ii) Headquarters will be established at MARTINSART Chateau.

(iii) Intervals of at least 500 yards between brigades and 200 yards between batteries and sections of divisional ammunition column will be maintained throughout the march.

3. The personnel of the 2nd Australian Divisional Signal Coy. with the 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery will remain attached to the 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery pending further orders.

4. Acknowledge.

G. H. L. L. L.
Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

Issued at 12 noon.

DISTRIBUTION -

Copy No.

1 C.R.A.

For information:-

- 2 C.R.E.
- 3 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 4 6th -do-
- 5 7th -do-
- 6 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Co.
- 7 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 8 22nd Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 9 2nd Aust. Div. Train
- 10 2nd Aust. Mob. Vet. Sec.
- 11 G.O.C.
- 12 A.D.M.S.
- 13 A.D.V.S.
- 14 D.A.D.O.S.
- 15 A.P.M.
- 16 D.G.O.
- 17 A.Q.
- 18 1st Anzac G.
- 19 1st Anzac Q.
- 20 1st Aust. Div.
- 21 5th Aust. Div.

- 22 Town Major, BOUZINCOURT
- 23 Area Comdt., SENLIS
- 24 Town Major, OVILLERS.
- 25 War Diary
- 26)
- 27) File
- 28)
- 29) Spare
- 30)

P. T. O.

MARCH TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 2ND AUST. DIV. ORDER NO. 131.

DATE	UNIT	FROM	TO	ROUTE	REMARKS
May 29	"A" Aust. F.A. Bde.	Wagon lines	CROMWELL) WOLSELEY) Huts WALLACE) W.18.a & b.	Main ALBERT Road Cross roads at X.9.central	To be clear of BAPAUME by 9 a.m.
	"B" Aust. F.A. Bde.	Wagon lines	SPRING GARDENS Camp (X.10.cent)	Main ALBERT Road	Not to enter BAPAUME before 9.15 a.m.
May 30	2nd Aust. D.A.C.	Wagon lines	SPRING GARDENS Camp	Main ALBERT Road	
	"A" Aust. F.A. Bde.	CROMWELL Huts) &c.)	TALAVERA) VICTORIA) Camps SALAMANCA) in TOULOUSE) W.10 GABSTAND) TUNNEL)		
	"B" Aust. F.A. Bde.	SPRING GARD-) ENS Camp)			
May 31	2nd Aust. D.A.C.	SPRING GARD- ENS Camp	DOGSLEG Camp W.9.d		

Appendix No 25

Appx. XXVI

14

G.73.
SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Location of Units at 8 a.m. 31st May, 1917.

D. H. Q.	RUBEMPRE	
5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	RUBEMPRE	
17th Bn.	RUBEMPRE	
18th "	CONTAY	
19th "	CONTAY	
20th "	RUBEMPRE	
5th Aust. L. G. Coy.	CONTAY	
5th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	CONTAY	
6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	WARLOY	
21st Bn.	MILLENCOURT	
22nd "	BOUZINCOURT	
23rd "	WARLOY	
24th "	WARLOY	
6th Aust. M. G. Coy.	WARLOY	
6th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	WARLOY	
7th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	SENLIS	
25th Bn.	SENLIS	
26th "	BOUZINCOURT	
27th "	SENLIS	
28th "	SENLIS	
7th Aust. M. G. Coy.	SENLIS	
7th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.	SENLIS	
22nd Aust. M. G. Coy.	BOUZINCOURT	
<u>ARTILLERY.</u>		
C. R. A.	MARTINDART CHATEAU	
4th A. F. A. Bde. }	SENLIS ARTY. AREA.	W.10.
5th -do-	" " "	W.9.
2nd Aust. D. A. C.		
<u>ENGINEERS.</u>		
C. R. E.	RUBEMPRE	
5th Field Coy.	MILLENCOURT	
6th -do-	SENLIS	
7th -do-	BOUZINCOURT	
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	BOUZINCOURT	
2nd Aust. Div. Train H.Q.	RUBEMPRE	
<u>A. A. L. C.</u>		
A. D. M. S.	RUBEMPRE	
5th Field Ambulance	SENLIS	
6th -do-	BECOURT & AVELUY CHATEAUX	
7th -do-	BECORDEL	
D. A. D. O. S.	ALBERT	
A. D. V. S.	RUBEMPRE	
Mobile Vet. Section	BELLEVUL FARM	
Field Cashier	RUBEMPRE	
Div. Gas Officer	MILLENCOURT	
Div. Bomb. Officer	RUBEMPRE	
Div. Bomb. School	RUBEMPRE	CARROW'S FARM.

TO BE DESTROYED ON
RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

War Diary

No 104.

1-5-17.

For Official Use Only.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 6 a.m. 30th April - to - 6 a.m. 1st May 1917.

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Our artillery was active by day and by night. At 8 p.m. our guns replied to a call for retaliation from the Right Bn, firing on Strong Posts in D.14.c., and also silencing some batteries in the vicinity of PRONVILLE. The Heavy batteries shelled BULLECOURT, HENDECOURT and RIENCOURT intermittently throughout the day and night. During the day enemy wire in U.28.b and c., U.28.a and b., and the communication trench in U.23.d., were shelled, and the Strong Points in U.17.a., c., and d., U.23.b and d were shelled with 6" Hows.

Machine Guns. Machine gun fire was brought to bear on the gaps in enemy wire in D.7.central from 4 a.m. to 5.15.a.m., some 500 rds being expended.

Patrols. Communication with units on the flanks was maintained, and protective patrols worked the whole front until dawn. A party working on the enemy wire at approx U.30.a.1.4. was dispersed by our artillery and M.G. fire. Gas shells hampered the movement of patrols. At 1.5.a.m. an officer's patrol proceeding from D.13.d. 5.5. moved along the track skirting the enemy Strong Post in D.14.c. and reached D.14.c.4.8. approx: To the right of this track there is a bank ditched and fire stepped, varying in depth to 12 ft. A few stick bombs were found in the vicinity. Whilst at D.14.c.4.8. voices were heard. Patrol reports that the wire from D.14.c.4.8. to D.14.a.2.5. is continuous and varies in width from 4 ft to 6 ft. Two shell holes were found in front of the wire roughly converted into machine gun posts and unprotected by any wire.

Aircraft. Our planes were active throughout the day and night, several of them flying very low over the enemy lines.

Reliefs. The 19th and 20th Bns relieved the right support Bn of the 7th A.I.Bde; relief was completed by 4.15.a.m. The 19th Bn became forward support and the 20th Bn rear support.

The 6th A.I.Bde took over the left sector of the Divisional front. The 21st and 23rd Bns, each with 2 Coys in the line and 2 Coys in support, relieved the 26th Bn; relief was completed by 4.45a

Wire Cutting. 7 Bangalore Torpedoes were placed on enemy wire in Left Bn sector of Right Bde, immediately to the left of LAGNICOURT QUEANT Road in D.7.d. Torpedoes were fired at 2.15.a.m. It was observed that a German post was preventing the Right Bn of Right Bde from carrying out their operation. Damage as ascertained by a patrol was ascertained to be as follows: 4 gaps of 6 to 10 yards each blown in wire. 3 Torpedoes failed to explode.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. The flash of a heavy was observed on a mag. bearing of 310 from C.10.a.8.2.; its shells fell in the NOIRAIL. At 11 a.m. C.9.b. was shelled with 5.9"H.E. At 4 a.m. an enemy barrage was opened on No Man's Land on the left of our sector, mostly 5.9" being used. The barrage was not heavy, and ceased at 4.10 a.m. Enemy "Heavies" shelled the back areas heavily.

Time.	No of Rds.	Kind	Locality.
1300-1400	100	H.E.	C.23.a and b
1500	30	H.E.	I.4.d.
1900- 2030	86	H.E.	I.4.

During the day 145 shells fell into LAGNICOURT. From 3.40 a.m. to 4.15.a.m. the enemy shelled our front line with 77 mm and 10.5.cm. No damage resulted. The shelling appeared to be in response to red flares fired opposite our sector.

P. T. O.

ENEMY ACTIVITY (Contd)

Aircraft. Enemy planes were active throughout the day but flew very high.

The following magnetic bearings were taken on enemy balloons from C.29.a.5.1. - 500. .54°

Movement. Considerable movement was seen round QUEANT during the day. Men were seen carrying timber into Chalk Trench, 650 mag bearing from C.17.d.7.4. At 11.40 a.m. enemy transport was seen going North from QUEANT at D.2.b.5.1. At 9.45 a.m. an enemy party of 5 was seen moving in Trench in U.24.c.; a machine gun is suspected here. At 4.45 p.m. an enemy working party of about 10 was seen in vicinity of U.18.d., and appeared to be making dugouts. At 6.20 p.m. a party of 6 was seen working in U.6.c. At 6.35 p.m. enemy parties were seen continually moving along the road in U.6.a. and d. At 2.20 p.m. an enemy party was observed working on a series of new trenches in the vicinity of V.7.a. and V.13.b., fresh earth being apparently being connected up here. Towards dawn hammering was heard from the direction of PRONVILLE. Throughout the night talking was heard from the strong post in D.14.c.

Miscellaneous. About 3 a.m. enemy sent over gas shells in the vicinity of our front line. The gas was heavy for about half an hour. At 8.30 p.m. an enemy flashlamp was again active.

An enemy searchlight was used from the direction of RIENCOURT.

R. C. Wethering Capt.

for
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
2nd AUST DIV.

No: 105.

2-5-17.

For Official Use Only.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

From 6 a.m. 1st May - to - 6 a.m. 2nd May, 1917.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Our artillery shelled RIENCOURT, BULLECOURT and HENDECOURT at intermittent intervals throughout the day. Shooting appeared to be effective. Several direct hits were obtained on enemy trenches in U.23.b. At 1440, 1450, and 1500 an exceedingly large column of smoke ascended from the centre of RIENCOURT, probably as a result of the bombardment by our heavies. At 2330 144 ammonal bombs were thrown into enemy wire between U.29.a.3.6, U.29.a.5.6. The wire was completely demolished between these co-ordinates.

Reliefs. Right support battalion of the right brigade changed over with the right line battalion, relief being successfully completed by 0030.

Machine Guns. All gaps in enemy wire were kept under fire by our M.G.'s. throughout the night.

Patrols. Two patrols were sent out from our left brigade and wire between U.29.a.8.5 to U.29.a.5.6 and from U.29.a.3.6 to U.29.a.0.8 was found to be damaged. Right brigade sent out an officers patrol which proceeded along the creek in gully opposite their left battalion sector for 150 yards, thence across to D.12.central. Enemy transport was heard in QUEANT and several explosions were seen at 0400 some distance behind QUEANT.

Patrol from centre *Brigade* encountered and bombed an enemy patrol moving along road running through U.29.a. at a point about 150 yards from enemy wire. Two of the enemy were seen to fall.

Moving along wire to the east patrol encountered another enemy patrol about 30 strong moving along road in U.29.b. When within 120 yards range our party opened rapid fire and enemy hurriedly retired.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery was less active during the period on the forward area, but shelled battery areas in NOREUIL Valley persistently during the afternoon with 5.9 H.E. salvoes from the direction of CAGNICOURT. Ridge between NOREUIL and LONGATTE was swept occasionally throughout the afternoon with 77mm shrapnel. Between 2240 and 2400 enemy fired 40 rounds gas shell into BAGNICOURT and later the vicinity of C.12.a.7.5 was similarly shelled. Our dummy assembly trenches in D.19 also received attention from hostile artillery.

Enemy Movement. Very little enemy movement was noticed during the day. A large enemy party moving in U.25.d.9.6 was dispersed by our field guns. At 1825 a large enemy party was seen moving towards trenches in U.6.b. Our artillery was directed on to this target.

Aircraft. Hostile aircraft were active over the forward system and Corps Main line, but owing to their great height no aerial combats were seen. In every case our A.A. guns succeeded in driving them back to their own lines.

General. After the explosion of ammonal bombs in enemy wire at U.29.a, no retaliation was made by hostile artillery.

H. Wellington Capt
for Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
Second Australian Division.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 2nd May - to - 6 a.m. 3rd May, 1917.
 ----- :: -----

NOTE. - Not to be taken into front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery: Our artillery were very active shelling enemy wire and villages of RIENCOURT, HENNECOURT and BULLECOURT. During the early portion of the night gaps in enemy wire were fired on to prevent repairs being effected.

Machine Guns: Vickers Machine Guns were active on cross roads, communication trenches and approaches to HINDENBURG LINE, direct and indirect fire being maintained. Gaps in enemy wire were also swept.

Patrols: Protective patrols were active along the Divisional front. No hostile patrols were encountered.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery: Hostile artillery activity was below normal during the day. LAGNICOURT was shelled, also NOREUIL valley and ridge between NOREUIL and LONGATTE.

Trench Mortars: Enemy mortars were active opposite our Right Brigade sector. No damage is reported.

Aircraft: Enemy aircraft were active over our lines at intervals during the day. Twentyfour planes in all crossed our lines, at a high altitude, but were all driven back by our A.A. fire, excepting one which was brought down by machine gun fire in C.5.b.4.4. Pilot and observer were taken prisoner. Observer fatally wounded. They belonged to 26th FELD FLIEGER ABTEILUNG located at EMERCHICOURT, 8½ miles S.E. of DOUAI. Machine flown was a "D.F.W.".

Enemy Movement: Very little enemy movement was observed during the day. Horse and motor transport were heard in QUEANT at 5 p.m. Movement seen in D.7.b.8.2 and D.7.d.5.7. was dispersed by our artillery.

P.T.O

SUPPLEMENTARY.

At 3.45 a.m. we attacked the HINDENBURG LINE in conjunction with the 62nd Division on our left. Our frontage was from U.30 a.1.6. to U.22.d.5.0. with 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the Right and 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left.

Right Brigade captured portion of 1st and 2nd objectives but position on the right flank is still obscure. At 10.45 a.m. they had been driven as far West as road in U.29.e. where they are facing East.

Left Brigade captured both 1st and 2nd objectives and believed to be still holding them. They had got further forward but were ordered back to 2nd objective.

Division on our left were unable to hold BULLECOURT and are reorganising for fresh attack.

It is estimated that 40 prisoners have been taken (including wounded). Identifications were normal.

Enemy retaliation was light until 3.58 a.m. when heavy barrage was placed on our old front line and maintained there. Fighting continues.

10.30 a.m.

R. J. Wellington Capt

Lieut Colonel.

for General Staff.

2nd AUST DIV.

Very little enemy movement was observed during the day. Heavy transport were heard in GURANT at 8 p.m. Movement seen in U.29.e. and U.29.f. was dispersed by our line.

Some taken from line on right flank as

don 4-5-19 are -

No 107.

4-5-17.

For Official Use Only.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 3rd May - to - 5 p.m. 4th May 1917.
-----o00o-----

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Attack on HINDENBURG LINE. (In continuation of Supplementary Intelligence to 10.30.a.m. issued Summary No 106 dated 3-5-17)

After effecting a lodgment in O.G.1 and O.G.2, bombing parties worked down both flanks. They met with very stubborn resistance, particularly on the right where the fight fluctuated all day. Enemy strongly counter-attacked at the following hours - 8.55.a.m., 12.5.p.m., 12.55.p.m., and 6.30.p.m., but was repulsed with heavy loss. At 5.45.a.m. (4-5-17) we held the following line: -

O.G.1 - from road at U.29.a.9.7. to U.22.d.9.0. O.G.2 - from U.23.d.3.0. to U.22.d.9.4. 7th A.I.Bde - line of posts in U.30.c., C.5.b., C.6.a. and c. 2 Bns 5th A.I.Bde and 4th Bn - Sunken Road U.29.a. and c, and C.5.a.; also Railway C.5.a. 6th A.I.Bde and 1st Bn - in Railway U.28.c., C.4.b. and C.5.a.

Bombing was continued during this morning, and aerial observers report that at 10.15.a.m. our men had reached crossroads in O.G.2. at U.22.d.0.3., where they appeared to be constructing a strong post. In O.G.1 they had reached trench junction U.28.a.8.8.

Party of ten men were seen working up this trench from south at U.28.a.5.3. This portion of observer's report not confirmed and is doubtful. On the right and left flanks bombing operations in O.G.1 and O.G.2 are in progress. On the right at 4.45 p.m. we had gained 500 yards in both O.G.1 and 2 up to U.29.b.8.6. and U.29.b.8.9. and on left flank as far as U.22.d.5.0. and U.22.d.5.3.

Artillery. Our artillery co-operation has been very good during the period. Very effective barrages have been put down, and enemy counter-attacks successfully dispersed.

Patrols. Protective patrols were active along the Divisional front during the night. Opposite our right Bde hostile patrols were encountered and 1 enemy killed. No identification marks were found on him.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery was active at periods throughout the day and night, barrages being placed on our old front line; also C.3.a. and U.27.c and d.

Prisoners. 20 additional prisoners have been taken since 10.15.a.m. 3-5-17. Many enemy have been killed on right flank as the result of our bombing operations,

Total prisoners to 12 noon 4-5-17 are -

Unwounded.	43
Wounded.	14.
	<u>57</u>

Fighting continues.

N. Wellington Capt
Lieut Colonel.
for General Staff.
2nd Aust Div.

No. 108.

5-5-17.

APPENDIX

For Official Use Only.

SUMMARY
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 5 p.m. 4th May - to - 5 pm. 5th May 1917.

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OUR OPERATIONS.

Reliefs. The following reliefs were successfully carried out on night 4th/5th instant. 2 Bns (1st and 3rd) of 1st A.I. Bde relieved 6th A.I. Bde in the line - left. 2 Bns 3rd A.I. Bde (11th and 12th) relieved 2nd and 4th Bns of 1st A.I. Bde (2nd and 4th Bns then rejoined their Bde).

The Line is now held as follows (From Right to Left.)

2nd A.I. Bde.	-	From Right Div boundary to C.6.c.5.3.
7th	-do-	C.6.c.5.3. to U.30.c.5.5.
3rd	-do-	U.30.c.5.5. to HINDENBURG LINE (O.G.1 and O.G.2) Road U.29.a. and c (inclusive)
1st	-do-	Road U.29.a and c (HINDENBURG LINE) to U.22.d.5.0. and U.22.d.5.3.

Artillery. Our artillery has been very active during the period. All reported enemy movement was shelled promptly. QUEANT and RIENCOURT were shelled during the day whenever signs of enemy activity were observed. At 12.45.a.m. in reply to enemy counter-attack on U.22.d. our artillery fired on their S.O.S. lines until 1.45.a.m., when the situation had quietened down.

Reports of enemy massing in U.24.d. and RIENCOURT were received at 7.35.p.m. and 9.26.p.m. In each case our guns searched these areas very thoroughly and nothing further eventuated there.

Patrols. The usual protective patrols were active along the Divisional front during the night. Special patrols from right Bde found one dead German with 91 R.I.R. on shoulder strap. Sounds of transport, hammering, and movement of iron, were heard in QUEANT. Strong smell of gas was apparent in Gully through C.16. and D.7.

Machine Guns. Our M.Gs were active with direct and indirect fire on and around QUEANT. The guns of our Left Bde dealt very effectively with enemy counter-attack on U.22.d. at 12.45.a.m. This was afterwards confirmed by a prisoner's statement.

Material. In addition to 2 minenwerfer and 3 M.Gs already reported, one M.G. was taken by the 3rd A.I. Bde.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery was very active at intervals. The QUEANT Group enfilades Railway Cutting C.5.d. and Sunken Road C.5.a and b. Heavy fire from 15 cm, 10 c.m. and 77 m.m. guns comes from this quarter. RIENCOURT Group was particularly prominent during the period. Both Groups put down short heavy barrages at the following hours, in addition to the usual shelling.

4.45.a.m. - U.29.a. and b. 11.40 a.m. - U.29.sq
8.30.a.m. - U.30.a and b 10.25.p.m. - U.22d.5.4.

Signals. Observers report that hostile artillery responded quickly to yellow cluster rockets.

Enemy also used two searchlights from direction of RIENCOURT.

GENERAL. In Annex to today's Summary a description of HINDENBURG LINE, together with a resumé of prisoners' statements, is published for information.

N. Wellington-Smith
Lieut Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd AUST DIV.

Annexe to
2nd Australian Division Intelligence Summary No 108.
dated 5th May 1917.

HINDENBURG LINE.

The trenches of the HINDENBURG Line in the captured portion are 12 ft wide at the top, and 6 ft deep; not duckboarded. They have been badly damaged by our shell fire. They are wider than 12 ft in places.

MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENTS.

There are no concrete M.G. emplacements. A set of steps cut in the parapet lead to a small "cut" directly forward. The latter is of just sufficient height to allow the gun when mounted to clear the parapet.

TRENCH MORTAR EMPLACEMENTS.

These were of the ordinary type, namely, a short sap running off from the trench and leading into a small square place

WIRE.

The wire was found to be blown to pieces.

WORKS CONSTRUCTED DURING ATTACK.

The following works have been constructed during the attack.

<u>Strong Points.</u>	U.22.d.60.15.	U.23.c.05.45.	U.22.d.9.2.
<u>Posts (Wired in)</u>	U.30.c.25.00.	U.30.c.2.2.	U.30.c.2.5.
	C.5.d.9.6.	C.5.b.9.5.	

Wire has been erected from U.30.c.3.6. to C.6.c.1.4.. Type double apron - length 1400 yards.

Communication Trench. From C.10.c.3.9. to C.4.a.3.1., thence to U.29.a.9;7. Total length 3,000 yards. Average depth 7 ft. Width at top 3'6", at bottom 1'6".

Trench. From U.28.d.3.8. to U.29.c.3.9. From U.29.c.5.6. to U.29.d.1.9. Total 850 yards. Averages 5 ft deep by 2'6" at top - 1'6" at bottom.

Assembly Trench. From C.3.d.60.45. to C.3.d.95.30. Length 200 yards. Averages 7 ft deep by 3 ft at top and 2 ft at bottom.

DUGOUTS.

No concrete dugouts were seen. All dugouts were of ordinary wooden type - 30 steps in each of the 2 entrances. Entrances were situated at either end of the traverses.

BOMBING METHODS.

It was found of great advantage to combine our bombing attacks with artillery fire. Batteries after careful registration placed a barrage on trench to be captured, and section by section fire was lifted to enable the bombers to advance. Lifts were at the rate of 40 yards in two minutes. This method proved very satisfactory and O.G.1 and O.G.2 were gained from road in U.29.a. to U.30.a.1.6 and U.30.a.29.

ENEMY BOMBING METHODS.

During bombing operations in vicinity of U.22.d.5.0 enemy mounted a machine gun behind his bombers which dealt exclusively with our 'carriers'. This gun swept the trenches in rear of our bombing party and was the main factor in delaying our progress. Until it was silenced we had to give ground. By this method enemy retook a portion of trench in 10 minutes which we afterwards regained in 30 minutes, bombing under usual methods.

P.T.O.

Annexe to Int Sum'y No 108 (Contd)PRISONERS' STATEMENTS.

Three battalions took part in the attack on our left during the night, one Bn 96th Regt, 2nd Bn Lehr Regt, one Bn 23rd Regt. They reached the hollow road in C.22.d. Our M.G. fire held them up. They were not very pleased with their officers, and apparently there was no heart in the attack.

Routes. The 2nd Bn Lehr Regt was in Reserve at BARALLE. They were suddenly called up to reinforce the 124th Regt and the whole of the Bn went into the line on the right of 124th Regt, thus shortening the sector held by the 124th Regt. They were in position in the line at 7.30.p.m. Right flank rests 300 yards East of BULLECOURT. Frontage unknown.

1st Bn 15 R.I.R. got into the line at 1 p.m. 4-5-17. They were resting in HAYNECOURT and were brought up to reinforce 123rd Regt. They were put in with the remains of 123rd Regt, and unlike the Lehr Regt, did not take over a portion of the line.

Other Troops. One Bn 15th Regt in RIENCOURT. 1 Bn 77th Regt in and around RIENCOURT. - (Road in U.17.d. - Trenches U.23.b. - 'Catacombs' South side of RIENCOURT - Trenches East of RIENCOURT.)

For Official Use Only.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 5 p.m. 5th May - to - 5 p.m. 6th May 1917.

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Narrative. At 10.7 p.m. enemy placed a barrage in front of HINDENBURG LINE between the Railway and O.G.1, and attacked O.G.2 in U.23.d., but was driven off. Enemy attempted to dig in on SUNKEN ROAD at U 23.c. and a, but was prevented by our artillery fire. Two wounded prisoners were taken.

At 3.55 a.m. S.O.S. went up from 3rd A.I. Bde front and barrage was put down on S.O.S. lines. Reported enemy attack did not develop, and at 3.57 a.m. normal conditions were resumed.

At 5 a.m. the 3rd A.I. Bde commenced a bombing attack eastwards down O.G.1 and O.G.2, but at 6.30 a.m. after heavy preliminary shelling in U.29.a. and b, enemy attacked at U.22.d.7.4, and shortly afterwards a spirited bombing attack commenced in vicinity of SUNKEN ROAD U.29.a. at about U.23.d.1.0. At U.22.d.7.4. enemy was driven off, but penetrated O.G.2 east of the road at U.23 d.1.0 in sector held by 3rd A.I. Bde. A prompt counter-attack with the bayonet by 11th Bn, 3rd A.I. Bde, assisted by 1st Bn, succeeded in driving the enemy out and re-establishing the line in the old position. At 7.20 a.m. normal conditions were resumed. One prisoner (Corporal) of 1st Bn LEHR Regt was taken and summary of his examination is shown in annexe. One battalion took part in the attack against the 3rd A.I. Bde, and flammenwerfer was used.

Reliefs. The 175th Bde relieved the 2nd A.I. Bde in the right sector of Divisional front, relief being completed by 2.25 am

Artillery. Our artillery has been very active during the above operations, co-operating successfully with effective barrage and searching fire. During the attacks all enemy exits from RIENCOURT were thoroughly swept, and in response to our S.O.S. signals, barrages were put down at 10.7 a.m., 3.55 a.m., and 6.30 a.m.

Machine Guns. Our Vickers and Lewis guns dealt very effectively with all enemy attacks.

Works. Maps shewing works completed since offensive operations began is forwarded under separate cover.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery has been very active throughout the period. Shelling has been confined to front line system, and principally directed against our support line in railway cutting C.5.a. and C.4.b.

Aircraft. At 10 a.m. a hostile plane flew over our position in O.G.1 and O.G.2 and dropped WHITE lights which broke into clusters. No apparent action followed.

N. Wellington Capt
Lieut Colonel.
for General Staff.
2nd Aust Div.

Annexe to
Second Australian Division Intelligence Summary No 109 dated 6-5-17

EXAMINATION OF PRISONER OF 1st BN, LEHR REGT, TAKEN IN O.G.2
at U.23.d.1.0. 7 a.m. 6-5-17.

UNIT.

Prisoner is a corporal of 1st Bn LEHR Regt, 20 years of age, and a Kriegsspeiwilige.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

West to East. 9th Guard Grenadier Regt - Lehr Regt - G arde Fusilier Regt.

MOVEMENTS.

Before coming into the line at RIENCOURT the 1st Bn had been in the front line at PRONVILLE 10 days.

At 4 a.m. 5-5-17 the 1st Bn of the Lehr Regt was relieved in the PRONVILLE line by its 3rd Bn, and after relief marched to CAGNICOURT, reaching there at 7 a.m. The whole day was spent at CAGNICOURT, and at midnight 5/6th inst

the 1st Bn relieved a battalion of 120th I.R. in front of RIENCOURT

ATTACK.

At 6 a.m. the attack was launched by 4 Coys of the 3rd Guards Div on our newly gained positions in front of RIENCOURT. Plan of attack was as follows: - 1 Coy was to attack our right flank resting at U.23.d.7.0., the 2nd Coy at U.23.c.3.3., and the 3rd Coy from U.23.d.7.0 to U.23.c.3.3. approximately. 4th Coy was in reserve. Each Coy was headed by a GRUPPE (1 N.C.O. 8 men) to act as a STOSSTRUPP, and was followed by 6 pioneers carrying two flammenwerfer (DOPPEL - APPARAT). Owing to shortage of fuel, the flammenwerfer only came into action for a short period. Enemy succeeded in penetrating our line east of Sunken Road U.29.a., but were afterwards driven out.

RELIEFS.

Prisoner states the LEHR Regt will be in for 5 days. Relief will probably take place on the 10th.

GENERAL.

Description of Flammenwerfer. The portable flammenwerfer known as a DOPPEL - APPARAT comprises 2 steel bottles joined by a steel tube. One bottle contains a type of oil, the other one acid. These fluids on mixing create chemical action, and throw a jet of flame which is effective for a distance of about 30 yards by 5 yards, directly to the front. A rubber tube with a stop cock leads from the larger bottle where the creation of gas takes place, and joins a brass funnel piece which contains a pilot light. On opening the stop cock the gas rushes up and is set alight by the pilot. (See rough sketch)

TANKS.

The tanks are to be allowed to approach within 800 yards; fire will then be concentrated on them. Each GRUPPEN Commander, usually an Untereffizier, has been issued with 300 rounds of K (armour piercing) ammunition for use against tanks.

LIGHT MACHINE GUNS - NEW PATTERN.

In the 3rd Guards Div each Machine Gun Coy has been issued with EIGHT new pattern Light Machine Guns. Each Coy now has 8 heavy machine guns and 8 light machine guns. Each of the light machine guns require a crew of 4 men to man it. The required personnel has been drawn from the infantry. The new guns can fire at the rate of 500 rounds per minute. They weigh about 40 lbs, are air cooled, and pivoted, so as to fire in any direction

LAGNICOURT ATTACK.

Speaking of the attack made on LAGNICOURT on the 15th ult, prisoner stated that 3 Divisions took part, 2 battalions of each Regt being used, except in the case of 9th Garde Grenadier Regt, which did not participate. The Divisions concerned were - 4th Ersatz Div, 2nd Gard Reserve Div, and 3rd Guard Div.

The object of the attack was to hold DEMICOURT, LAGNICOURT, BOURSIES and HERMIES for 24 hours, and thus compel troops being sent from ARRAS, to relieve the pressure there.

APPENDIX

-2-

MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Civilians are being evacuated from MARQUION owing to village being shelled by our guns.

(b) The Enemy forces on WESTERN front are now divided in into 5 Groups. RIENCOURT Sector is a portion of the 3rd Group.

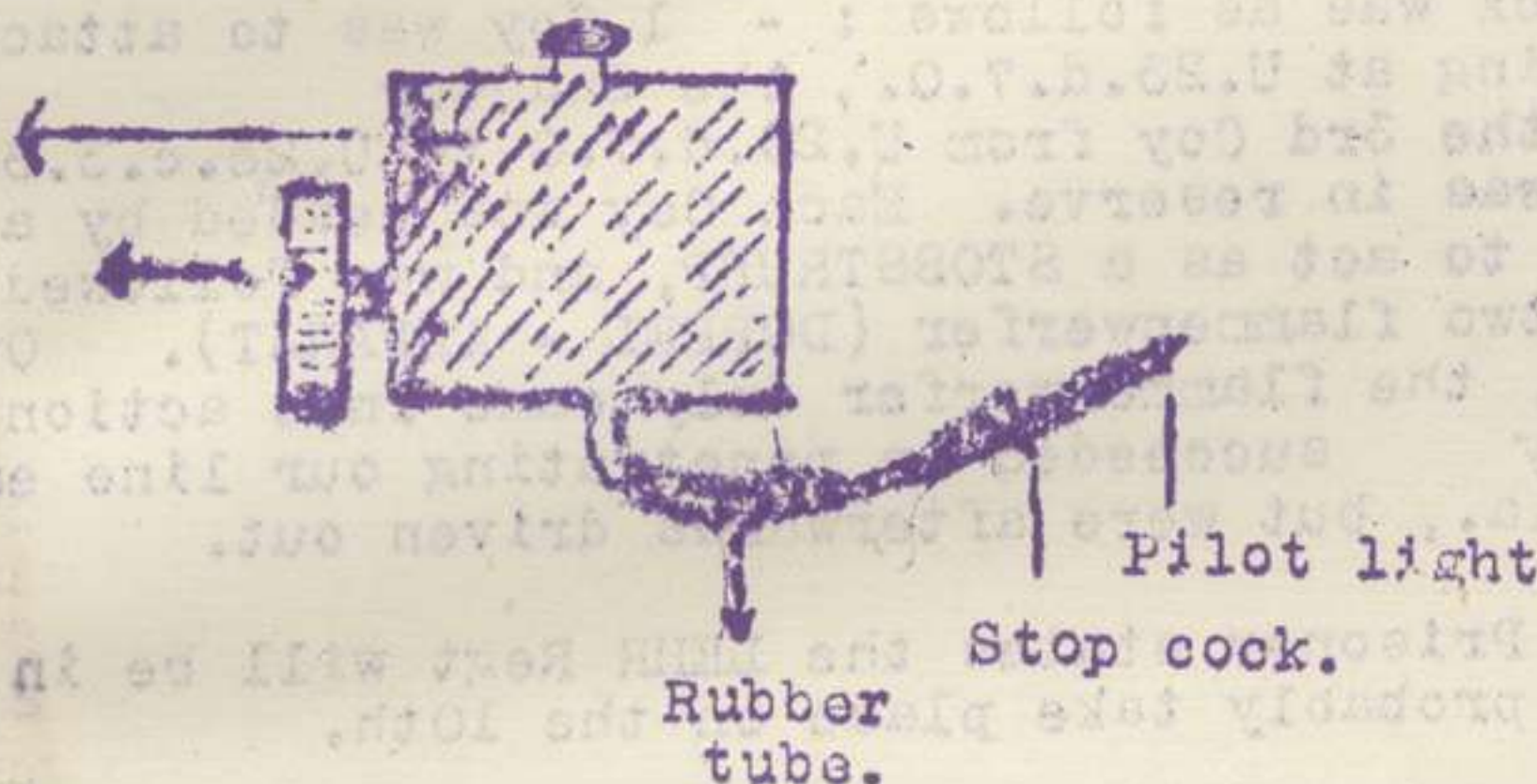
(c) Majority of gas shells are painted blue. Most frequent calibres used are 4.5"cm 10.5.cm and 12.5 cm.

(d) A few of the 1919 class have been called up, but are not yet in the field.

(e) CAGNICOURT is full of batteries from 77 mm to 21 cm calibre.

PORTABLE FLAMMENWERFER
(DOPPEL - APPARAT)

Not to scale.



The flammenwerfer known as a DOPPEL - APPARAT consists of two steel bottles joined by a steel tube. One bottle contains a type of oil, the other one acid. These liquids on mixing create chemical action, and throw a jet of flame which is effective for a distance of about 30 yards by 5 yards, directly to the front. A rubber tube with a stop cock leads from the larger bottle where the creation of gas takes place, and joins a brass funnel piece which contains a pilot light. On operating the stop cock the gas rushes up and is set alight by the pilot. (See rough sketch)

The tanks are to be allowed to approach within 500 yards; fire will then be concentrated on them. Each GRENADIER COMPANY, usually an Unteroffizier, has been issued with 500 rounds of 81mm mortar (artillery) ammunition for use against tanks.

In the 3rd Guards Div each Machine Gun Coy has been issued with 100 new pattern light machine guns. Each Coy now has 8 heavy machine guns and 8 light machine guns. Each of the light machine guns requires a crew of 4 men to man it. The new guns required personnel has been drawn from the Infantry. They weigh about 40 lbs, are air cooled, and pivoted, so as to fire in any direction.

Speaking of the attack made on LAGNICOURT on the 15th ult, prisoner stated that 3 Divisions took part, 2 battalions of each. Next being asked, except in the case of 3rd Guards Grenadier Regt, which did not participate. The Divisions concerned were - 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

APPENDIX

From 5 p.m. 6th May - to - 5 p.m. 7th May 1917.

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Narrative. At 5.40 p.m. 10th Bn made a small local attack on enemy in O.G.1 at U.29.b.8.6. 10 prisoners were captured in a dugout; one belonged to Lehr Regt, one to 123rd Regt, and remainder to 120th Regt.

During the night enemy was very 'jumpy' and put down a number of small barrages in various parts of the front system.

At 3.45 a.m. the 7th Division on our left made an attack on BULLECOURT. We co-operated by bombing down O.G.1 from our left flank and effected a junction with them in O.G.1 at U.23.a.8.8. They gained their objective and took 60 prisoners and 3 M.Gs. Since this operation enemy has been heavily shelling the captured portions persistently.

At 2 p.m. the 7th Division attacked another minor objective immediately S.W. of the village, and took a further batch of 30 prisoners.

Artillery. Our artillery were very active throughout the period. Co-operation was given to the 20th Bde during the operation against S.E. portion of BULLECOURT. In addition valuable assistance was rendered to the 1st A.I. Bde in the successful bombing operation down O.G.1.

Patrols. An officers patrol from 3rd A.M.G. Coy left C.12.a.3.7. at 10 p.m. and worked along steep bank running from C.12.b.9.2 to C.12.b.4.4. This bank continues as far as C.12.b.9.8. (though not shown on map) Two trenches on top of bank, and shelters in bank about C.12.b.7.7. When patrol reached C.12.b.9.8. they were challenged by the Bosche, who immediately started to bomb them. Patrol then withdrew out of bombing range, and went up the bank to attack the enemy from above. The party was then met by M.G. fire and sniping from below. On withdrawing out of range it was found that 3 men were slightly wounded and 2 missing. Search was made for missing, but without success. Further search is being made tonight. Patrol returned at 11 p.m.

Protective patrols were also active along the Divisional front.

Machine Guns. Indirect fire by M.Gs of 3rd A.I. Bde was brought to bear on three targets between 11.30 p.m. and 2 a.m. Enemy retaliated by shelling railway embankment in C.5.a.

Lewis guns engaged and dispersed small parties of enemy in vicinity of U.24.c.0.7., causing casualties. At 9.10 a.m. Lewis guns dispersed one Coy of enemy moving across the open from RIENCOURT to BULLECOURT in vicinity of trench in U.23.b.7.4.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery activity was confined principally to the front line system, and at 9.50 a.m., 10.10 a.m., and 11.40 a.m. was heaviest in the vicinity of U.23.c., U.27.d., and U.29.c and d. The railway embankment in C.5.a also received a good deal of attention. With aeroplane assistance enemy battery ranged on forked road EAST of VAULX at 3.15 p.m., and in addition shelled parties of our men walking on VAULX-MORCHIES road.

Aircraft. Three hostile aircraft flew over our lines at 2.30 p.m. and hovered over VAULX for at least 30 minutes before being finally driven off by our A.A. guns.

General. Sundry information obtained from prisoners is published in an annexe to the summary.

LINE.

The line of the 2nd Aust Div now runs as follows, from right to left. - D.14.d.5.0. to C.6.c.4.4. (175th Bde) C.6.c.4.4. to HINDENBURG LINE at U.29.b.65.60. (7th A.I. Bde) H.L. U.29.b.65.60 to road U.29.a. (3rd A.I. Bde) H.L. Road U.29.a. to U.28.a.8.8. O.G.1 U.22.d.5.3.0. G.2. (1st A.I. Bde) Touch is maintained with 7th Div at U.28.a.3.8.

W. Wellington
Lieut Colonel
General Staff
2nd Aust Div

Annexe to
Second Australian Division Intelligence Summary No 110 (7-5-17)

EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS.

1. Prisoner of 11th Coy 120th Regt captured last night, states he saw men of 49 F.A.R. and 13th Pioneers in SAUCHY CAUCHY on May the 2nd. 391st Regt and Garde Fusilier Regt at SAUDEMONT, also 226th Regt on April 29th. 35th Labour Bn SAUCHY CAUCHY May 2nd. 15th R.I.R. was relieving reduced elements of 120th Regt 3/4th May, and a battalion of 77th R.I.R. was also in line stiffening 124th Regt. 4 Coys 1st Bn Lehr Regt attacked yesterday 3rd and 4th on our right, and 1st and 2nd on our left. He thinks the 1st Bn may now have relieved the 2nd Bn. Machine Gun Coys of 98th Regt have 8 new light M.Gs.

2. The 10 prisoners of 27th Div (1-Lehr Regt, 1-123rd Regt, and 8-120th Regt) taken by 10th Bn at U.29.b.8.6. yesterday afternoon, stated they had been hiding in a dugout since the night 4/5th inst. One Bn of Lehr Regt was brought from SAUCHY CAUCHY to VILLERS on 3rd, and on the night 3/4th two companies reinforced 124th Regt. One Coy of 1st Bn 120th Regt had 60 killed by our gas projectors in BULLECOURT.

3. Prisoners captured by 7th Div this morning belong to 1st Bn 98th R.I.R., 207th Div. They were captured in U.28.a. They relieved 123rd Regt on night 5/6th. 4 Coys are in front line, and one in support. One Bn is at VILLERS. They think they are only temporarily in this sector as remainder of the Division is in another part of the line.

Order of Battle from West to East is -

Garde Fusilier Regt.

98th R.I.R.

Lehr Regt.

It is believed the 98th R.I.R. will shortly be relieved by 9th Grenadiers, 3rd Guard Div.

All prisoners state there is much confusion in the line and in rear, and many counter orders have been issued.

4. Machine Guns are mounted in pairs at U.17.a.3.3. and U.17 a.6.2.

(Each has 2 platoons
in front line)

No. 111. 8 - 5 - 17. For official use only.
 SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
 From 5 p.m. 7th May - to - 5 p.m. 8th May 1917.

NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Reliefs. The 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved the 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde. in the left sector of the Divisional front ; relief being successfully completed at 4.5 a.m.

Narrative. At 11 a.m. we co-operated with the 7th. Div. in their attack on the "RED PATCH" (Enemy trenches between Road U.27.b.65.20 and Road U.27.b.00.60.) by bombing down O.G.1. to U.22.d.3.3. where a strong post is now being constructed.

The night passed off quietly, and the work of consolidation went on steadily. Listening posts have been established at U.23.d.4.3. and U.23.d.65.10. They are used at night only and saps have been partly dug to both of these posts. A strong post is being constructed at U.23.d.3.0.

Artillery. At 6 p.m. our artillery heavily bombarded O.G.1 and 2 principally between U.30.a.9.6. and U.30.a.35.90. The shooting was accurate. SANS SOUCI MILL was shelled at 7.55 p.m. Enemy parties in U.18.a. - U.23.b.2.1. and on WESTERN edge of BULLECOURT were dispersed by our artillery - the shooting being very effective.

Machine Guns. Vickers Guns of 3rd. Brigade inflicted casualties on enemy troops in U.22.b. and U.23.d. at 6.30 a.m. Between 7.45 a.m. and 9 a.m. enemy parties in U.23.d.75.35 were fired on, and casualties are claimed. At 7 a.m. Lewis gunners fired on enemy troops in U.23.b.7.4. moving in direction of BULLECOURT, and successfully dispersed them : Casualties are estimated at 30 to 40.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery has been active throughout the period. Railway cutting in C.5.a. and 4.b. was heavily shelled. CAGNICOURT and PRONVILLE groups were particularly active. NOREUIL VALLEY was heavily shelled between 5.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Captured enemy map shows that the greater number of our batteries in the Valley have been accurately located.

Aerial Activity. Three hostile balloons were up at intervals during the day on magnetic bearings of 70° 77° and 95° from C.10.a.5.6.

GENERAL. Information from two prisoners who passed through our hands but were taken by the 7th. Division this morning, is published in the Annexe to the Summary.

N. Wellington Capt
 Lieut-Colonel,
 for General Staff.
 2nd. Aust. Div.

Annexe to

Second Australian Division Intelligence Summary No.111 (8/5/17).

Statement of two prisoners taken by 7th. Division at 11.45 a.m.
8 - 5 - 1917 in BULLECOURT;

- (a) Prisoners belong to 4 Coy. 1st. Bn. 98th. R.I.R.
They confirm the statements of other prisoners re the issue of light machine guns to the Machine Gun Companies of their Regt. Yesterday their Company had heavy losses from our shell fire, 10 men being killed in prisoners platoon.

They had heard nothing of any contemplated attacks on our new positions. They know nothing of the results of our Gas projectors in QUEANT.

The details previously published in the annexed Summary on 6-5-17 regarding the new (light) pattern machine gun were also confirmed. The "K" ammunition (anti-tank) can be used with this new gun.

- (b) A fragment of notepaper taken off a dead German (identification unknown) shows that in the dead man's platoon 5 others had been killed and 7 wounded by our shell fire.

- (c) Appended is a translation of an article which appeared in the COLOGNE VOLKSZEITUNG Wednesday May 2nd. 1917. The paper was found on a dead German.

The aviator mentioned flies a very fast single seater Albatross with the nacelle painted a deep crimson color. On the 29th April at 2.45 p.m. an enemy machine with crimson nacelle brought down 3 of our planes who were on patrol duty E. of LAGNICOURT, in quick succession.

On the 2nd. May we brought down an enemy plane by machine gun fire in C.5.b.4.4. belonging to 26 FELD FLIEGER ABTEILUNG located at EMERCHICOURT. The pilot stated the "red-checker" machine was flown by Capt. RICHTOFEN, the subject of this article.

"Cavalry Capt. FREIHERR VON RICHTOFEN who brought down his 50th. aeroplane has now crossed this mark and for the 52nd. time has been the victor in an air battle. He is a most successful flier, and a magnificent example to all his comrades, and other ranks of the Army. Up to the present Capt. RICHTOFEN has been unequalled. MANFRED VON RICHTOFEN is today not yet 25 years of age. He belongs to the military UHLANS. He has a career behind him which for rapidity has seldom had an equal in the German Army. In November 1912 he was made a subaltern, and on 22nd. March 1917, a full Lieutenant. On the 8th. April, on the occasion of bringing down his 38th. and 39th enemy plane, he was made a Captain of Cavalry, a rank which in peace time a capable and well learned officer can only gain after 13 years service. One of his younger brothers is also a flier, and has just lately brought down his tenth enemy plane.

No 112.

9-5-17.

For Official Use Only.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 5 p.m. 8th May - to - 5 p.m. 9th May 1917.NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OUR OPERATIONS.

Reliefs. The 14th A.I.Bde relieved the 7th A.I.Bde and 3rd A.I.Bde, relief being successfully completed at 4.30 a.m. The line from right to left is now held as follows -

175th Inf Brigade.
14th Aust Inf Brigade.
2nd " " "

Narrative. At the conclusion of our bombing operations in O.G.1, our left flank was reported to be at U.22.d.3.3. A further report now states that a block was made at U.22.d.15.25, and a new post established at U.23.c.05.40. This post is manned with a Lewis gun and bombing team, and commands the road running through U.23.c, N.E. to RILLCOURT.

At 9.15.p.m. a strong enemy party approached our new post on left flank, and at the same time the enemy barrage which had been placed on BULLECOURT was extended Eastward along our front. The enemy then attacked the left flank, but was repulsed. Enemy then reformed and launched a second attack at the same objective, which was also repulsed after severe bomb fighting. Our artillery then opened up and placed a strong barrage in front of our line. The enemy suffered heavy casualties, and 7 prisoners of the 9th Grenadier Regt (including one wounded) were taken.

At 11.25.p.m., and 2.10.a.m., enemy was reported to be passing in U.22.c. and d, but a strong artillery barrage effectively checked this, as no further attacks developed.

The new section of trench taken from U.22.d.6.4. to U.22.d.15.25. runs along the NORTH side of the road to the cross roads in U.22.c., and not along the SOUTH side as shown on the map.

Artillery. During the last 24 hours communication trenches in U.23.b and d., U.24.c., support trench U.30.a., and road from U.23.d.1.8 to U.23.d.central have been kept under continuous fire. In addition very effective barrages were put down at 9.15.p.m., when enemy attacked, and at 11.25.p.m., and at 2.10.a.m., when enemy were reported to be passing.

Machine Guns. Our machine guns were active during the period. At 11 a.m. they supported our bombing attack down O.G.1, and during the enemy counter-attack at 9.15.p.m. their fire was very effective.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. Hostile artillery activity was below normal until 9.15 p.m. when a barrage was placed along our front line. This slackened at 9.45.p.m., and from that hour until dawn salvoes were fired into our front line system at intermittent periods.

Movement. At 1 a.m. a strong enemy patrol was seen opposite our left flank in O.G.1. This was dispersed by rifle fire.

GENERAL.

Summary of information gained from prisoners taken by 2nd Aust Inf Bde is published in the annexe.

N. Wellington
Lieut Colonel.
for General Staff.
2nd Aust Div.

9-5-17.

Annexe to
Second Australian Division Intelligence Summary No 112

Prisoner of the 11th company 9th GRENADIERS states. - 9th GRENADIERS left the front line in LORRAINE on March 30th, and proceeded to METZ, remaining there to 12th April on which date the Regt entrained and on the following day detrained in the neighbourhood of CAMBRAI. The 3rd Bn entered the front line on the 15th in order to reinforce the garrison, the 15th R.I.R. slipping to the West; order of battle being 15th R.I.R., 9th GRENADIERS., LEHR Regt, and GARDE FUSILIER Regt. (reading West to East). On the 16th, the 15th R.I.R. again side slipped to the East, the normal holding of the line being resumed and thus enabling the 9th GRENADIERS to go back to HAYNECOURT the same day. In the latter village two days were spent and then the 3rd Bn proceeded to HALEL where they remained four days. On the 23rd April they went into the line near LONCHY, apparently to reinforce the line. 36 hours were spent here when the normal holding of the line was again revealed, whereon the 9th GRENADIERS withdrew to HALEL. The 3rd Bn moved Eastwards after having remained in HALEL two days, and spent a further four days resting. On the night of May 1st it relieved the LEHR Regt near PRONVILLE, but was itself relieved on the following day by the 98th I.R. Another four days were spent in rest and then another battalion of the 98th was relieved near BULLECOURT. Two days later - on the night of the 8/9th - prisoner was captured.

Prisoner of the 5th Coy 9th GRENADIERS, confirms report of previous prisoner, the only alterations being as follows. - On the 15th April, the 2nd Bn was in support to the 77th I.R. in rear of INCHY, whence, after one day (i.e. on the 16th) it proceeded to OISY, and after spending two days there moved to HALEL where another two days were spent. From there it entered the front line at LONCHY (23rd April) but was withdrawn on the night of 24/25th and proceeded to CAMBRAI by easy stages, eventually returning to the line at BULLECOURT on May 6th.

Miscellaneous.

The following Regiments were seen from May 2nd to May 5th.

41st I.R. 18th I.R. 98th I.R.

at CAMBRAI 77th I.R. 23rd I.R. 75th I.R.

Prisoner of 11th Coy 9th GRENADIERS states. - Company entered line 120 strong, and within two days had 40 casualties, necessitating its relief on the night 8/9th by the 12th Coy. He states most of the '99 (i.e. 17 year old) class are mustered. The 11th Coy had 3 I.Cs in its Company Sector and trench mortars were to be placed a small distance in rear.

for
General Staff
Lieut Colonel
1st Australian Division

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.463

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES RECEIVED.

(1) 1st ANZAC Evening Report - 10-5-17.

Right Div. reports hostile artillery active during day, shelling areas J.4.a. and c. & d., 26.c. and batteries near VELU and BEAUMETZ with 4.2". A few winged bombs fired into post at K.14.c.1.2 early this morning. Hostile aircraft active over forward area during day. Left Div. reports enemy snipers active on their left brigade front. Hostile artillery shelling mainly confined to front line and railway embankment in C.4. and C.5. Between 5 and 6 p.m. some of our battery positions in NOREUIL VALLEY shelled. At 6.25 p.m. large explosion observed in southern edge RIENCOURT.

(2) 5th Army Evening Report - 10-5-17.

At 12.15 p.m. under cover of artillery and trench mortar bombardment, enemy attacked our block in the HINDENBURG line at U.22.d.3.3. Attack was repulsed and situation now quiet. S.E. corner of BULLECOURT and railway S. of BULLECOURT have been shelled with heavy bursts of enemy fire during the day. Quiet on rest of army front. Prisoners through corps cages last 24 hrs. 7 O.R. unwounded, 6 O.R. wounded. 4th Army & 3rd Army report situation unchanged. French report between May 5th & 7th 25 German aeroplanes were destroyed and 51 others compelled to fall.

(3) 1st ANZAC Morning Report - 11-5-17.

Situation quiet.

(4) 5th Army Morning Report - 11-5-17.

1st Anzac reports Situation Quiet and unchanged. V Corps reports situation unchanged but heavy hostile shelling throughout night. 4th Army front - Situation unchanged: quiet night. 3rd Army front - Heavy hostile barrage between MONCHY & the SCARPE at 8.10 p.m. silenced by our counter-battery work. French report both artilleries active and weak futile enemy counterattacks on the CHERMIN DES DAMES. Stronger counterattack against recently won French positions region of CHEVREUX broken. Salonika front - French communique reports British troops attacked and captured Bulgarian position near KRASTALE on front 3 kilos. Admiralty announce that yesterday 4 a.m. British scouting force consisting light cruisers and destroyers sighted and attempted close with 11 German destroyers which retired under dense smoke screen, engaged by our long range fire. 4 British destroyers chased them to within range ZEEBRUGGE batteries.

N. Wellington
for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.476
12-5-17.SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES RECEIVED.

(1)

5th Division Evening report - 11-5-17 : -

Enemy artillery fairly active on our front system, otherwise quiet. At 2.45 p.m. a hostile observation balloon descended in P.26.d and is believed to have been destroyed by our heavy artillery.

(2)

1st ANZAC Evening report - 11-5-17 : -

Right Div. reports enemy artillery more active. Heavy batteries near VELU & BEAUMETZ shelled by enemy this morning. During afternoon DOIGNIES-DEMICOURT Road heavily shelled and sunken road in J.11.a. shelled for two hours with 5.9". Left Div. reports at 6.20 p.m. enemy placed intense barrage with shell all sides on Div. front line in U.28 and U.29 and continued until 6.25 p.m. and then slackened off slightly until 6.35 p.m., when it again became intense for five minutes. Our field guns responded and searched enemy tracks and approaches. The heavies and counter-batteries effectively neutralised. At 6.45 p.m. situation quiet.

(3)

5th Army Evening Report - 11-5-17 : -

Situation on Army front unchanged and quiet, except for hostile shelling all day on left of Anzac Corps. Prisoners through corps cages 4 O.R's. 4th Army front - Situation unchanged. Five hostile aeroplanes brought down. Remainder of British Front - Last night we repulsed attacks, one with Flammenwerfer E. of ARLEUX and S. of the SOUCHES River. We also carried out a successful raid E. of YPRES.

(4)

5th Aust. Div. report - 12.30 a.m. 11-5-17 : -

At 9 p.m. the enemy placed a very heavy barrage on our front line in O.G.1 and O.G.2 and about two to four Bns. were seen to be massing in U.22.a, b. & d. Later the barrage was brought back as far as the rly. embankment. Our field guns effectively opened on their S.O.S. lines and the heavies neutralised and no attack materialised. At 10.30 p.m. situation reported quiet.

(5)

1st ANZAC Corps Morning report - 12-5-17 : -

Right Div. reports quiet night, nothing to report. Left Div. reports at 9 pm. enemy placed very heavy barrage on front line in O.G.1 and O.G.2 & about two to four Bns. were seen to be massing in U.22.a, b & d. Later the barrage was brought back in lifts as far as the rly. embankment. Our field guns effectively opened on their S.O.S. lines and the heavies neutralised and no attack materialised. At 10.30 pm. situation quiet. Remainder of night quiet except for arty. activity on centre & left Bde. sectors of this Div. No news of attack owing to wires being out.

(6)

Message from 2nd Aust. Div. to Bdes. 10.45 a.m. - 12-5-17 : -

Early this morning 5th Aust.Div. and 7th Div. attacked BULLECOURT and captured it. 5th Aust.Div. took 170 prisoners, 4 M.Gs. and some Minenwerfer. Line now runs O.G.2. N. of BULLECOURT.

(7)

5th Army Morning Report - 12-5-17 : -

V Army front; enemy massed 9 pm. strength 2-4 Bns. to attack our position in HINDENBURG SUPPORT line and opened heavy arty.fire. Our arty. prevented any inf. attack from materialising. Our attack this morning successful. 7th Div. is consolidating line of road running E. & W. of Northern edge BULLECOURT. 1st Anzac has advanced W. down HINDENBURG SUPPORT line and is in touch with 7th Div. at Crossroads U.22.d.O.3 and has passed back about 160 prisoners. 62nd Div. is established at U.21.d.2.1 and is in touch with 7th Div.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.483
13-5-17.SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES RECEIVED.

(1) 1st Anzac Evening report, 12-5-17 : -

Hostile arty. rather more active than usual on right div. front system during day and aeroplanes active also. At 7.15 pm. O.G.1 & O.G.2 in left div. sector fairly heavily shelled. Observation balloons and planes secured direction and heavies are dealing with it. Between 6 & 7 pm. back area of same div. received a little attention.

(2) 5th Army Evening report, 12-5-17 : -

V Army Front - We hold N. & W. outskirts of BULLECOURT village and main road running E. & W. through village. - Enemy still holding out in S. outskirts of village U.27.b.4.4 to U.27.b.6.2. Heavily shelling vicinity CRUCIFIX (U.27.b.1.9) which is held by 62nd Div. at 3.30 pm. Enemy advancing from HENDECOURT were scattered by our arty. fire. Total prisoners 2 officers, 183 O.Rs. Over 100 enemy killed by 1st Anzac infantry. One enemy aeroplane destroyed in the air and one driven down. IV Army front unchanged. One enemy aeroplane crashed and one driven down. III Army front - XVII Corps captured enemy trench system on depth of 800 yds. width of 2000 yds. line runs from I.19.c.2.3 - E. of Cemetery - I.14.a.2.4 - I.8.c.0.0 - I.7.d.2.6. Aeroplanes cooperated behind our barrage and fired on enemy from height of 100 ft. Three enemy machines crashed and 8 driven down. Total prisoners since yesterday inclusive 1 Bn. commander, 8 other officers, 510 O.R's.

(3) 1st Anzac Morning report, 13-5-17 : -

Right Div. quiet night - Left Div. enemy arty. very active against left and centre Bde. sectors. Reliefs hindered accordingly and not completed. At 3.50 am. enemy barrage heavy. S.O.S. received from left Bde. at 4.42. Our guns opened. Later message reports situation now quiet

(4) 1st Anzac Morning report (Continuation) 13-5-17 : -

Details of German attack this morning. German heavy barrage 3.50 am. About 100 Germans attacked. Attack dispersed by arty. and M.G. fire. One party of 12 which came close were accounted for 9 killed by Lewis gun fire, 3 wounded and captured.

(5) 5th Army Morning report, 13-5-17 : -

1st Anzac right Div. quiet night. Left and centre Bde. sectors heavily shelled during night. Enemy strength about 100 attacked under heavy barrage 3.50 am. Attack dispersed by our arty. & M.G. fire. 3 wounded prisoners taken. 7th Div. reports portions we hold in BULLECOURT also ECOUST and Rly. Line, heavily shelled. The line reached in yesterday's attack has been consolidated. Minor operation to clear enemy from pocket S. of BULLECOURT started this morning but no details yet received. 4th Army reports two new posts established, otherwise no change. III Army reports about 50 prisoners taken last night near eastern end of cemetery I.19.b.

(6) Congratulatory - 12-5-17 -

Army H.Q. wires the following received from Commander-in-Chief begins - I congratulate all your troops on the complete success of the various attacks made yesterday and this morning. These successes are very satisfactory, not only in themselves, but as showing that the enemy is beginning to weaken under the repeated heavy blows inflicted on him during all the hard fighting of the past five weeks. Ends.

R. Wellington Capt
for Lieut. Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

13-5-17.

File

14
File
 SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.494.
 14-5-17.

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES RECEIVED.

(1) 1st Anzac Evening report, 13-5-17 :-

Right Division reports hostile artillery shelled BEAUMETZ this morning and again very heavily this afternoon with 5.9 H.E. and Shrapnel. LOUVERVAL D.20.c. and J.2.b. also shelled intermittently during day. Hostile aircraft active and 12 machines over our lines at noon and 5.30 p.m. Left Division reports at 8 p.m. heavy barrage on HINDENBURG LINE on our left and on railway embankment on our front. On our own front line situation quiet. "S.O.S." signal went up from front of Brigade on our left and their artillery has opened on "S.O.S." lines. Our artillery doing vigorous counter-battery work. During the afternoon some enemy shelling of our battery positions.

(2) 5th Army Evening report, 13-5-17. :-

Enemy made two attacks on our positions on HINDENBURG SUPPORT LINE U.22.d. between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. under artillery barrage. Both attacks repulsed and enemy left about thirty dead immediately in front of our trenches. Situation in BULLECOURT unchanged. The enemy still occupies post at U.27.b.4.4. and strong point at U.27.b.6.2. Fighting continues. Our batteries west of ECOUST heavily shelled this afternoon otherwise generally quiet on Army front. One enemy aeroplane was destroyed today. Prisoners through Corps Cages last 24 hours 3 other ranks unwounded, 76 wounded. 4th Army reports situation unchanged. 3rd Army reports slight advance made one mile north of ROEUX and 6 prisoners taken. The enemy lost in all yesterday seven aeroplanes and five others were driven down out of control.

(3) 1st Anzac Morning report, 14-5-17 :-

Right Division reports situation quiet. Left Division reports between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. enemy H.V. gun firing from V.12. shelled our gun positions and vicinity of VAULX. Hostile artillery less active along our front line trenches during night. Intermittent shelling of NOREUIL and NOREUIL VALLEY.

(4) 5th Army morning report, 14-5-17.

Situation quiet on 1st Anzac front. 5th Corps reports attacks by 7th Div in BULLECOURT during yesterday and last night made little progress. Enemy counter-attacked supported by heavy barrage and after severe fighting against superior numbers our men forced back. Situation unchanged and fighting still continues. 5th Brigade R.F.C. destroyed 3 hostile aeroplanes yesterday. 4th Army report situation unchanged. Enemy raid on XV Corps front repulsed and 2 wounded prisoners taken. 3rd Army report some progress by XVII Corps in ROEUX during night. Hostile artillery fairly active. French report violent German attacks on CRAONNE Plateau and in region MAISONS DE CHAMPAGNE broken with heavy loss. Artillery active on whole SALONIKA front. Violent BULGARIAN counter attacks on positions captured by SERBS repulsed.

N. Wellington Capt.
 Lieut Colonel.
for General Staff.
 2nd Aust Div.

G.1
15-5-17.

114
File

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES RECEIVED.

(1) 1st Anzac Evening Report 14-5-17 : -

Hostile arty. less active than yesterday on right div. sector but some shelling of J.19.b. this morning and considerable aerial activity during day. Intermittent shelling of left div. front line NOREULL and VALLEY since last report.

(2) 5th Army Evening Report 14-5-17 : -

Anzac Situation unchanged. V Corps reports situation in BULLECOURT still unchanged. Position of posts in front of Sunken Road about U.27.a.6.9 still obscure. Enemy arty. active throughout day along front line. Prisoners through corps cages 1 O.R. 4th Army situation unchanged. Some shelling of back areas by hostile long range gun. 2nd Army completed capture of ROEUX. Hostile arty. active. Hostile raid repulsed last night N. of YPRES. We secured a few prisoners.

(3) 1st Anzac Morning Report 15-5-17 : -

Right div. reports quiet night. Right and Res. Inf. Bdes. of 11th Div. relieved by Inf. Bdes. of 48th Div. Left Div. reports in return for gas shelling on NOREUIL we fired gas shells into REINCOURT at N.25. at 10.15 pm. Enemy gas shelling of arty. in NOREUIL VALLEY continued during night. At 3 am. enemy arty. commenced shelling NOREUIL VALLEY & BULLECOURT sector. At 4 am. enemy barrage placed on our left hde. front in HINDENBURG Line. Our arty. opened on S.O.S. lines on left sector in response to red flares. At 4.15 am. enemy arty. slackened. Our arty. dropped to slow rate. Searching valley in U.30.d. No attack made by enemy. Quiet night in right bde. front.

(4) 5th Army Morning Report, 15-5-17 : -

Between 3 am and 4 am our battery positions were shelled with gas shells also barrage fire on front and support line system. Enemy attack developed on BULLECOURT from N.E. & S.W. S.W. attack held up at our strong point at U.27.b.8.2. Attack from N.E. also unsuccessful. One hostile aeroplane destroyed yesterday. 4th Army's front - Enemy aggressive near GILLEMONT Farm and drove in a post. British counterattack reestablished post. III Army reports quiet night. Admiralty report Naval forces destroyed Zeppelin L.22 in North Sea yesterday. Naval forces also carried out very heavy bombardment of important area at ZEEBRUGGE in cooperation with Naval air service. 9 enemy aeroplanes destroyed. One British machine missing and one in HOLLAND.

for *H. Wellington Capt.*
Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.5.
16-5-17.SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES.

(1) Afternoon Report 5th Aust. Div., 15-5-17:

Hostile arty. very quiet. Very little shelling during afternoon on our front. Left Bde. now state that 250 enemy accounted for killed in attack this morning.

(2) 1st Anzac Evening Report, 15-5-17 : -

Situation quiet on corps front. LOUVERVAL shelled lightly during afternoon with 10.5 cm and 7.7 cm. Left div. report light intermittent shelling of their front line and railway embankment: hostile arty. otherwise quiet.

(3) 5th Army Evening Report, 15-5-17 : -

Enemy attacked HINDENBURG support line at U.13.d. on Anzac front at 4 a.m. this morning under cover of heavy trench mortar fire. Enemy occupied trenches but was completely ejected by counter-attack, leaving about 250 killed and wounded in trenches. Simultaneously with this attack enemy massed in U.22.b. but was dispersed by arty. and M.G. fire. Later a second attack was made on N.E. corner of BULLECOURT. This was dispersed by arty., rifle and M.G. fire. As result of attack from S.W. & W. of BULLECOURT our posts driven back about 100 yards and line now runs along road in U.22.b. to strong point at U.27.b.8.9, thence S. to crossroads U.27.b.7.5 thence to strong point U.27.b.8.2. Situation at 2.15 p.m. quiet except for desultory gas shelling by enemy. Rest of army front quiet all day. Prisoners through Corps cages last 24 hours - 3 O.R. unwounded. 4th Army situation unchanged. 3rd Army front - MONCHY FAMPOUX & ROUEX heavily shelled today.

(4) 5th Army Morning Report, 16-5-17 : -

Anzac Reports situation quiet. A small bombing fight in U.23 d. resulted in the capture of 1 German officer and 3 O.R. During yesterday 5th Corps regained most of the ground lost in BULLECOURT. Last night new posts were established W. of village at U.27.a.8.4 and 7.6. Enemy snipers were active during night but arty. quieter. 4th Army reports situation unchanged. 3rd Army reports no change but enemy put down a heavy barrage near ROUEX early this morning. 1st Army discharged a large quantity of gas yesterday against HULLUCK & BOIS HUGO.

N. Wellington Capt.

for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

At 11.30 a.m. the 5th Aust. Div. reported verbally that the enemy had commenced his evacuation of the HINDENBURG LINE north and west of BULLECOURT, and patrols of the 173rd Brigade had reached the line of the Sugar Factory in U.22.a.9.9. The 5th Aust. Div. is still in touch with the enemy in U.30.c. and b but report that enemy machine gun fire is now only coming from RIENCOURT which confirms the statement published in Anzac Corps Summary No 289 which intimated that RIENCOURT during the withdrawal would be held with machine guns only.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES.

(1) 1st Anzac Evening report 16-5-17 : -

Right Div. reports LOUVERVAL lightly shelled with 4.2 during afternoon. Left Div. reports at 6.15 p.m. enemy movement reported about Factory at U.22.b.1.8 and sunken road in U.23.d. Soon ter enemy shelled O.G.2 and rly. embankment. Our arty. put some 4.5's into the sunken road in U.23.d. and searched valleys either side of RIENCOURT and the heavies neutralised hostile batteries. At 6.40 pm. a lot of rifle and M.G. fire heard from U.22.c. & d. At 6.48 S.O.S. signal seen to go up near BULLECOURT. 7.45 p.m. situation quiet on div. front, but shelling heard in direction of BULLECOURT.

(2) 5th Army Evening Report 16-5-17 : -

Situation unchanged. Area between ECOUST and BULLECOURT shelled by long range guns, otherwise shelling below normal. Prisoners last 24 hours 2 O.R. 4th Army front - Quiet and unchanged. 3rd Army front - Enemy attacked N. of ROEUX and occupied Cemetery and Chemical Works. British counter-attack re-occupied lost trenches. 50 prisoners captured and enemy losses in killed reported very heavy.

(3) 5th Army Morning Report, 17-5-17 : -

Anzac situation unchanged. 5th Corps reports they are now established on road in BULLECOURT from U.27.b.7.6 to 2.8 and on site of Crucifix. Several prisoners taken. Enemy in some strength reported still holding BOVIS TRENCH N. of BULLECOURT from U.22.c.8.3 westwards. 4th Army front quiet and unchanged. 3rd Army situation unchanged. French report enemy yesterday morning launched powerful but ineffectual attack on 4 kilometre front region of MOULIN DE LAFFAUX. Heavy fighting has developed on Italian front from TOLMINO to the sea. Italians have captured several villages and important positions. So far 3375 prisoners counted, also mountain battery and much war material taken.

A. J. Hatton - Capt.
for. Lieut.-Colonel,
General, Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

File

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.21
19-5-17.SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES.

(1) 1st Anzac Corps Evening Report 18-5-17 : -

Hostile arty. slightly more active than usual on right div. front. BOURSIES, DOIGNIES and road at J.9.d.9.6 shelled at intervals. Intermittent shelling of left div. front system and back area during day. A few gas shells fired into NOREUIL Valley during afternoon. Hostile planes active over forward areas during day.

(2) 5th Army Evening Report 18-5-17 : -

5th Army front situation quiet and unchanged. Hostile arty. below normal. 4th Army front - situation unchanged. 3rd Army front - situation unchanged. One enemy plane brought down within our lines by Lewis gun fire.

(3) 5th Army Morning Report 19-5-17 : -

Situation quiet on Army front. Hostile shelling very slight during night. 4th Army situation unchanged. Strong patrol raided German lines S. of LA VACQUERIE bringing back some prisoners and a machine gun. 3rd Army situation unchanged and quiet. French official reports confirm appreciable French advance East of CRAONNE and German activity region of CHEMIN DES DAMES. Prisoners captured offensive-6 by Italians so far as result recent offensive - 6432. All new British positions BALKAN front now consolidated. 96 Bulgarians captured in futile counter-attacks.

A. J. Hutton Capt.
for. Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

File

file

G.24.
20-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES 19/20th MAY, 1917.

(1) 5th Army Evening Report 19-5-17 : -

Situation quiet. Unchanged on army front. Prisoners through Corps cages 2 O.R. 4th Army situation unchanged, Considerable shelling of VILLERS GUISLAIN. 3rd Army situation unchanged. Hostile aeroplane brought down. Hostile raids last night near LOOS, ARMEN-TIERES & YPRES were repulsed. Hostile artillery active on 3rd Army front.

(2) 5th Army Morning Report 20-5-17 : -

Situation quiet and unchanged. 4th Army front: After an intense hostile bombardment the enemy attempted to attack GILLEMONT farm but attack was broken by our arty. fire. Otherwise all quiet. 3rd Army front - No report from 7th Corps yet. 3rd Bde. R.F.C. accounted for 6 hostile machines yesterday.

(3) Message from Anzac Recd. 11 a.m. 20-5-17 : -

Message from 5 Corps begins - 33rd Div., 7th Corps at 7.30 a.m. reported right brigade no news. Centre brigade HINDENBURG FRONT and SUPPORT LINES captured between CROISSILLES - HENDECOURT Road and CROISSILLES - FONTAINE Road. Left Bde. HINDENBURG FRONT line captured and in touch with centre Bde.

(4) Message from Anzac Recd. 11.35 a.m. 20-5-17 : -

Report from 7 Corps timed 9.15 a.m. begins - From recent reports situation appears as follows: left Bde. hold HINDENBURG front line and are in touch with centre Bde. in it. Held up in support line. Centre Bde. not in support line but have posts pushed out towards it. Report about right Bde. still unconfirmed.

(5) Message from Anzac Recd. 12.40 p.m. 20-5-17 : -

4th Corps wire begins - Liaison officer with 186th Bde. reports - 10th Bde. officially reported on their objective: i.e. general line U.14.c.0.5 to U.14.c.2.2. Enemy trench completely destroyed. Not much trouble. Big dump blown up at HENDECOURT blazing furiously. Explosion heard in neighbourhood of FONTAINE. German prisoners report whole of second line is mined.

A. G. Hutton Capt.
for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G. 28.
21-5-17.SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 20th/21st MAY, 1917.

- (1) Message recd. from Anzac dated 20-5-17 : -
5th Corps wire begins :- Folllg. from 186th Bde. timed 11.8 am -
Liaison officer with 19th Inf. Bde. reports as follows - Total prisoners
20 up to 9.30 am. Now reported 100th Bde. have not reached the support
line. Prisoners report that support line can be mined from 7 miles back
Situation at present obscure. First message ends. Second message
begins - 7th Corps reports noon - We now appear to hold whole of front
HINDENBURG line. Hindenburg support line south of a point 50 yds. W.
of RIVER ROADS is held by enemy.
- (2) Message recd. from Anzac 8.30 pm. 20-5-17 : -
5th Corps wires - Following pigeon message timed 3.30 pm. received
from 5 Corps observation officer - Situation as far as can be observed
is as follows - British troops hold front HINDENBURG LINE from U.7.d.2.0
to U.14.c.4.8. Enemy can be seen moving about from U.7.d.6.8 to S.E.
North of river we have made small advance and hold support line to
point about 50 yds. from junction of YORK TRENCH. We have also advanced
a short distance down front line in U.7.a. to about U.7.a.7.5. Rein-
forcements can still be seen moving up valley at point about U.10.d.
central. Enemy machine guns evidently command U.13 still.
- (3) 5th Army evening report 20-5-17 : -
Situation unchanged. Enemy shelled railway embankment U.27.c. &
d. heavily early this morning. Large party of enemy in U.6.b.
dispersed by our heavies this afternoon. IV Army front - Situation
unchanged. Three hostile aircraft accounted for. III Army front. -
7th Corps attacked HINDENBURG line at 5.15 am today and now holds
HINDENBURG front line as far south as U.14.c.0.3 and support line as
far south as U.1.c.7.4 (50 yds. N. of River Road) Operations still
proceeding. Enemy suffered heavy casualties from our arty. while ad-
vancing across the open. 200 enemy dead counted in captured trenches.
65 prisoners taken. No change on rest of front. 3 hostile aircraft
destroyed. Mr. Borden, the Canadian Premier has introduced a bill for
the immediate adoption of conscription in CANADA. The republic of
NICARAGUA has broken off diplomatic relations with GERMANY.
- (4) Message recd. from Anzac 11 p.m. 20-5-17 -
7th Corps report - as result of attack this morning we now
hold HINDENBURG front line as far south as U.14.c.0.3 and also support
line as far as U.1.c.7.4. Enemy was found in considerable strength.
Operations still in progress. 65 prisoners have passed through corps
cages. On left and centre sectors of corps front situation remains un-
changed. 200 enemy dead counted in captured positions. All arty. of
corps report enemy reinforcing over the open afforded good targets
throughout day.
- (5) 5th Army Morning Report 21-5-17 : -
5th Army front unchanged; 4th Army front unchanged and quiet.
3rd Army continued operation against HINDENBURG support line last night.
Attack was simultaneous with enemy counter-attack. 7th Corps is
believed to have reached S. to U.7.d.8.0. Some enemy still holding out
N. of SENSEE RIVER. About 200 prisoners reported captured.

A. J. Hatton Capt.
for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

File

G. 56
22-5-17.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
-----SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES 21/22 MAY, 1917.Anzac Morning Report 21-5-17:
Situation quiet.Anzac Evening Report 21-5-17:

Hostile shelling reported of J.4.c., J.3.b., J.6.a. and c. and of MORCHIES between 5 & 6 p.m. Between 5 & 7.5 p.m. enemy salvoes of 3 every 2 minutes fired at our 60-pdr. battery position on VALLE - MORCHIES road. Otherwise situation quiet.

5th Army Evening Report 21-5-17:

5th Army front quiet and unchanged. Ten 9.2 shells fell in BAPAUME today: no casualties. Two enemy aeroplanes brought down out of control yesterday evening. 4th Army front unchanged. 3rd Army reports we hold HINDENBURG support line south of SENSEE from U.7.d.8.1 for 700 yds. northwards also 800 yds. from U.1.c.8.2. to old line. Enemy are astride SENSEE. ROEUX & CHEMICAL WORKS heavily shelled.

5th Army Morning Report 22-5-17:

Situation unchanged on army front. Last night enemy placed heavy barrage on portion HINDENBURG line held by us but no attack materialised. Hostile bombing party driven off in early morning at U.29.b. 60.95. 4th Army front - Situation normal. 15 Corps made successful raid S. of HONNECOURT WOOD. 3rd Army front - Situation unchanged. Our arty. exploded a large enemy ammunition dump near DOUAI yesterday afternoon. On Sunday French successfully effected important operation in CHAMPAGNE East of RHEIMS by capturing several lines, including all important observation posts on northern slopes MOUNT CORNILLET. About 800 prisoners taken. Italians have captured another important point in JULIAN ALPS together with some hundreds prisoners and war material abandoned in caverns.

*M. J. Hatton Capt.**for* Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.*File*

G.35.
23-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES. 22/23rd MAY 1917.

Anzac Morning Report. 22-5-17

Situation quiet on right Div front during night. Left Div reports at 9.20.p.m.. enemy opened bombardment on our portion of HINDENBURG LINE. At 9.35.p.m. S.O.S. signal sent up from left Bde front of this Div. Artillery replied on S.O.S. lines of left Bde and also searched back to RIENCOURT. Heavies neutralised. At 9.50.p.m. enemy fire slackened off and at 10 p.m. situation was normal. For remainder of night enemy artillery fire occasionally active on railway embankment in C.5.a. At 3.20.a.m. bombing party successfully driven off at U.29.B.60.95.

Anzac Evening Report. 22-5-17.

Quiet day. Slight enemy artillery activity on right sector. Aerial activity practically nil.

5th Army Evening Report. 22-5-17.

5th Army front quiet. and unchanged. 4th Army front quiet and unchanged. 3rd Army front quiet. 7th Corps holds all HINDENBURG front line and also support line as far as 100 yards south of SENSÉE River thence in front of HINDENBURG support line to U.7.d.6.0. U.7.d.6.5. held by enemy. French report 3 p.m., enemy attacked at 3 places in CHAMPAGNE - all attacks repulsed with heavy loss to enemy.

5th Army Morning Report. 23-5-17

5th Army front. Right Corps quiet night. Left Corps reports enemy put down heavy barrage on our front and support lines about BULLECOURT from 8.15. to 9.30.p.m. and from 3 to 3.30.a.m., but no infantry attack materialised. 4th Army front, situation quiet, raid by left Corps in BOIS DE HOLNON about X.5.d.8.3. found enemy line unoccupied. 3rd Army front, no change. Intermittent enemy shelling on right and centre Corps fronts. French report fierce artillery battle continuing in CHAMPAGNE.

W. H. H. H. H.

for Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
2nd Aust Div.

File

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G.38
24-5-17.

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 23/24th MAY, 1917.

Anzac Morning Report 23-5-17: -

Situation quiet during night. At midnight left div. carried out Stokes mortar shoot covered by arty. against enemy T.M. in D.13.b. and M.G. in D.7.b. At 4.55 enemy planes flying over D.26 were met with heavy fire from our A.A. guns.

Anzac Evening report 23-5-17: -

Quiet day. Right division reports considerable aerial activity: several hostile machines crossed and patrolled our lines. This evening two hostile shells fell near EVESNES-BAPAUME. No damage.

5th Army Evening Report 23-5-17: -

Situation unchanged. Some enemy shelling of LAGNICOURT and front of left div. 5th R.F.C. destroyed two enemy machines today and brought down two out of control. 4th Army and 3rd Army fronts - No change. The French made successful attacks at 3 points yesterday evening in CHAMPAGNE gaining important ground on the CALIFORNIE and VAUCLERE ridges and taking 3 lines of trenches east of CHEVREUSE with total of 350 prisoners, including 11 officers.

5th Army Morning Report 24-5-17: -

Gas projectors were successfully discharged against QUEANT at 2 a.m. this morning. BOVIS TRENCH appears to be held in considerable strength by enemy. Arty. activity normal. 4th Army and 3rd Army front - Situation unchanged. Italian official reports heavy fighting as result of Austrian attacks in eastern TRENTINO. Italian positions lost in first onslaught subsequently regained and heavy reverse inflicted on enemy. German casualties in official German list published to end of April, but excluding naval and colonial casualties, total 4,243,804, of which 1,042,029 are dead.

Er. Rupp
for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Division

Ga my.
Gb. 144

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

8.48
25-5-17.

SUMMARY OF DAILY SITUATION WIRES.
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Anzac Evening Report 24-5-17:-

Right division - no shelling reported on our line of posts. MORCHIES has been shelled at intervals throughout the day. Much aerial activity on both sides. Enemy AA guns very active. Visibility has been good. Left div. reports situation quiet.

5th Army Evening Report 24-5-17:-

Situation quiet and unchanged. 4th Army front - situation unchanged. 2 hostile aircraft destroyed. 3rd Army front - situation unchanged. One hostile aeroplane brought down in flames near BIACHES. French front - After a violent bombardment the enemy attacked French positions on the PLATEAU DE VAUCLERC about 8.50 p.m. yesterday evening. The attack was completely repulsed with serious losses to the enemy. Since the 1st May 8600 prisoners have been taken by the French between SOISSONS and AUBERIVE.

File

A. C. Wertheim Capt.

for

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

G.46
26-5-17.SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
-----SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 25th/26th MAY, 1917.

Anzac Evening Report 25-5-17 : -

Hostile arty. active and aerial activity less than usual on right divisional front. CHAFOURS COPSE heavily shelled with 5.9 and 4.2: some 300 rounds in all fired. Left. div. front quiet.

5th Army Evening Report 25-5-17 : -

5th Army situation unchanged. Enemy shelled neighbourhood BAPAUME also N.W. ECOUST. 4th Army front unchanged. NURLU shelled this morning. Two enemy aeroplanes crashed. 3rd Army front unchanged. Gas successfully projected into CHERISY and BOIS DU VERT.

Anzac Morning Report 26-5-17 : -

Situation quiet.

5th Army Morning Report 26-5-17 : -

1st Anzac reports situation quiet. V. Corps reports enemy persistently shelled vicinity CROISILLES last night and hostile aircraft dropped 6 bombs between GOMIECOURT & BIHUCOURT. Our arty. bombarded enemy back area heavily. IV Army front - At 1.15 a.m. enemy put down heavy barrage on XV Corps front and then attacked but failed to reach our trenches. III Army front - New post established in I.25.d. Increase in hostile arty. fire. Hostile aircraft bombed areas round ARRAS and ORINCHON valley last night. N. of LENS our troops gained some ground yesterday but were forced back to original line. Gas drums successfully discharged yesterday against CHERISY, CITE, ST. LAURENT and CITE ST. EDOUARD. Italian front - Battle still raging. Prisoners taken by Italians now 10,248.

G. H. Williams
Lieut. Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

G. H. Williams

D. I. O.

G.56.
27-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 26/27th MAY, 1917.
-----:-----

5th Army Evening Report 26-5-17 : 9

Situation quiet and unchanged on army front.
4th Army situation unchanged. Hostile aeroplane driven down.
III Army front - VII Corps has advanced posts to line U.1.a.
1.0 - U.1.b.35.50 - O.31.b.3.9 without opposition. Hostile arty.
active on VI Corps and XVII Corps. One hostile aeroplane brought
down.

The French have improved their positions in CHAMPAGNE and
taken 120 prisoners. Great arty. activity on CHEMIN DES DAMES .

5th Army Morning Report 27-5-17 : -

Situation quiet and unchanged.
IV Army front - Situation unchanged. Right corps carried
out successful raid capturing 18 Germans and killing 11. Our
casualties 2 wounded.
III Army front - Situation unchanged. Enemy arty. very
active on left of VII Corps and right of VI Corps. Bombs were
dropped on ARRAS and town was also shelled.
Italian front - Fierce fight continues on the CARSO resulting
in capture of 3500 more prisoners and great quantity of war mater-
ial by the Italians. Ground has also been gained at several
points. Total prisoners captured on JULIAN ALPS front since
14th May 22,419, including 487 officers.

N.Y. Hutton *Sept*
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

*Apprs
File*

G. 57.
28-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 27/28th MAY, 1917.

5th Army Evening Report 27-5-17.

Situation unchanged. Enemy artillery rather more active than usual. Prisoners nil.

5th Brigade R.F.C. today crashed two enemy planes and brought a third down out of control.

4th Army front situation quiet and unchanged. Prisoners
last 24 hours, 17 other ranks.

3rd Army front. Early this morning enemy patrol penetrated our lines near OOJEUIL RIVER but was caught by our fire and 12 accounted for. This afternoon HINDENBURG support line captured South of SENSEE RIVER from U.7.b.4.2. Northwards. Attack South of this failed owing to enemy rifle and M.G. fire. 5 enemy planes crashed and one driven down out of control during day.

French front no change. Nearly 3 tons of explosives were dropped last night by French airmen behind the German lines causing fires in enemy works.

5th Army Morning Report 28-5-17.

5th Corps reports considerable shelling of advanced posts during night otherwise all quiet.

4th Army front situation quiet and unchanged.

3rd Army front. Attempted raid by the enemy Northwest of CHERISY was driven off by rifle and Lewis Gun fire before reaching our trenches. Total number hostile aircraft accounted for yesterday was 10.

ITALIAN front. Battle of the CARSO still raging.

Italians have taken 1250 more prisoners and a field battery of 10 guns.

R. C. Wertheim Capt.
for. Lieut - Colonel

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Lill

14

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

G. 64
29-5-17.

5th Army Evening Report 28-5-17.

Situation unchanged. Prisoners last 24 hours 3 O.R.

IV Army front - XV Corps reports heavy shelling between EVILLERS PLOUCH and GONNELIEU; otherwise quiet.

III Army front quiet except for hostile shelling between MONCHY BEPREUX and river SCARPE.

5th Army Morning Report 29-5-17.

Situation unchanged on 5th, 4th & 3rd Army Fronts. Quiet night except for heavy hostile shelling W. BULLECOURT and E. MONCHY between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. last night. Gas successfully projected from East of HERMIES.

2nd Army captured 1 officer, 23 O.R's. unwounded, besides some wounded, in raid in front of WYTSCHALTE night 27th/28th.

Italy reports further successes on CARSO E. & S.E. of JAMIANO. TIMAVO River crossed and 9 guns captured.

Austrian attack near GORIZIA defeated.

A. J. Watton Capt
for. Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

File

G.72.
30-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 29/30th MAY, 1917.

5th Army Evening Report 29-5-17.

5th Army front unchanged. Movements of enemy troops S.W. of HENDECOURT this afternoon offered good targets for our artillery. 3rd and 4th Army fronts situation unchanged.

5th Army Morning Report 30-5-17.

Right Corps discharged gas successfully against QUEANT this morning and followed it by short bombardment. Since discharge of gas yesterday in HAVRINCOURT sector numerous enemy red cross parties have been seen working.

4th Army front no change.

3rd Army reports attempt to raid one of our posts N.W. of FONTAINE LEZ CROISSILLES driven off leaving wounded prisoner in our hands. Enemy barraged right of left Corps heavily for 30 minutes last night.

ITALIAN front. AUSTRIAN storming parties massed for assault against HILL 126 S. of GRAZIGNA many times dispersed by our artillery fire. We have made progress on HILL 52 in VODICE area in spite of stubborn resistance and also E. of GLOBNA. Guns captured now 36 thirteen of them heavy.

R. C. Wertheim Capt.
for. Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

File

G.75.
31-5-17.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

SUMMARY OF SITUATION WIRES 30th/31st MAY, 1917.

5th Army Evening Report 30-5-17:-

Situation unchanged and quiet. Enemy arty. less active on left of Army front. 4th Army front unchanged. Two enemy planes brought down. 3rd Army front unchanged and quiet.

5th Army Morning Report 31-5-17.

Situation unchanged. V Corps reports shelling between 10 pm. and 11 pm. and 3.40 am in reply to our bombardment.
4th Army front - Local attack S. of R. SCARPE unsuccessful. 3 prisoners taken. 3rd Army front - Quiet and unchanged.
French front - Violent artillery duels and patrol encounters S. of ST. QUENTIN. Defeat of GERMAN attacks in CHAMPAGNE with capture of prisoners, a machine gun and flamethrower.
Italian front - 3 successive hostile attacks repulsed.

H.B. Wertheim Capt
for Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
2nd Aust. Div.

File

3 messages , 4 May 1917

From AWM 3 DRL 2657
and file 419/30/6.

BULLE COURT

(5396) Wt.W 2186/509 7/16 100,000 Pads. D.D.&L. E 111


"B" Form.

Army Form C 2122.
(In pads of 150).

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

122

Prefix <u>517</u> Code <u>HA</u> m.	Received	Sent	Office Stamp.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.	At <u>8:10</u> m.	At	
<u>EX</u> <u>29</u>	From <u>129</u>	To	
	By <u>CAF</u>	By	

TO

Liaison Officer 11.

Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
* <u>W 10</u>	<u>4</u>		

Continuous stream of
enemy seen coming
down U 24 C appear
to be going into sunken
road at 024 C 80

From	Time
<u>117W</u>	<u>8:14 pm</u>
Place	
<u>Liaison, Lack</u>	

* This line should be erased if not required.

BULLOCKT

(5396) Wt.W 2186/509 7/16 100,000 Pads. D.D.&L. E 111

"B" Form.

Army Form C 2122.
(In pads of 150).

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message 97

Prefix <i>SB</i>	Code <i>DK</i>	m.	Received	Sent
Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.			At <i>5.45</i>	At
<i>Priority</i>			From	To
<i>NO</i>			By	By



TO *Right Bde.*

Sender's Number <i>506</i>	Day of Month <i>4</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
----------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	-----

Line held as follows
OG2 - U23D20 to U23C03 1/2
OG1 - U29A85 to U22D9 1/2 0
and. CT connecting both
trenches on the left and
Bombing operations are in
progress in both trenches
our troops bombing west
in both trenches and also
bombing East from right
flank progress of bombing
attack not yet so hard as
MGS active infiltrating our
trenches from U23D2505 U29878
From U29B6065 and no hostile activity
Place from immediate front and
Time Hostile shelling slight
on front trenches normal
on back and no night 4.50

This line should be erased if not required.

BULLEDOUR

"A" Form.

Army Form C. 2121.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

110

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of	Recd. at	m.
XM	GP		50				
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date	4. 4. 17
			At		Service.		
			To				
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		



TO

M.S.

Sender's Number.

Day of Month

In reply to Number.

AAA

*

O.G. 2.	ours	to	30. a. 2. 9. aaa
O. G. 1.	ours	to	30. a. 1. 6. gaa.
Bombing	fight	in	trenches leading
to	Ritencourt.	aaa.	posts being
placed	forward	O. G. 2.	aaa. Report
not	confirmed	1st	Battalion Bombed
500	4th	left	22. d. 0. 3. aag
11th	and	12th	Battalions relieving
2nd	and	4th	Battalions 2000.
aaa.			

Murdoch.

From		
Place		
Time		

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.