

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/46/14 Part 1

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 3rd
Australian Division

December 1917



AWM4-1/46/14PART1

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. 7



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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEEN- WERCK.	1st		<p>Fine, with cold winds.</p> <p>The Army Commander made the following remarks on the report of the Raids carried out by the 10th.A.I.Bde on 30th November :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"A very well planned and exceedingly well carried out enterprise, which reflects high credit on all concerned in the 3rd Australian "Division."</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.18 shows details of Operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1</p> <p><i>AW</i></p>
	2nd		<p>Boisterous weather.</p> <p>The G.S.O.II left on a two-day visit to the CORPS School at AVELUY to arrange details of construction of the Divisional Wing buildings.</p> <p>Lieut. HERBERTSON, 1st ANZAC H.Q., arrived for 14 days attachment to the General Staff of the Division. Location List issued. (Appendix 2).</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.19 shows details of Operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.2</p> <p>Appx.1</p> <p><i>AW</i></p>
	3rd		<p>Fine, with cold wind.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.20 shows details of Operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1</p> <p><i>AW</i></p>
	4th		<p>Fine and frosty. - Visibility good.</p> <p>The G.O.C., A.I.F., attended a Ceremonial Parade of certain elements of the Division. At 3.30 p.m. the G.O.C., and A.D.C., left on 14 days' leave to ENGLAND. Brig.-General McNICOLL, D.S.O., arrived to carry out the duties of Divisional Commander.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.21 shows details of Operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1</p> <p><i>AW</i></p>
	5th		<p>Fine and frosty.</p> <p>The M.G.G.S., and B.G.G.S., visited Divisional Headquarters during the day to discuss the Army Defence Policy.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.22 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1</p> <p><i>AW</i></p>

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STEEN- WERCK.	6th		<p>Fine but frosty. Lieut.-Colonel G.H.JACKSON, p.s.c., left the Division and proceeded on one month's leave to ENGLAND. Intelligence Summary No.23 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1 <i>Atty</i></p>
	7th		<p>Dull but fine, with cold winds. The G.O.C., A.I.F., called at D.H.Q., at 11 a.m. and proceeded with the A/Divisional Commander to the 9th A.I.Bde H.Q. The Divisional Defence Scheme was issued to Units. (Appendix 3). The training policy for our tour of duty in the Support Area was issued. (Appendix 4). Intelligence Summary No.24 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1). Summary of Operations for week ending 7/12/17 attached. (Appendix 1a). Instructions were received from CORPS H.Q., to provide against the possibility of an enemy break through in the vicinity of HOUPLINES. Provision can be made in the form of a switch trench and Vickers gun barrages. The G.S.O.I will reconnoitre the ground on the 8th. December to see what can be done.</p>	<p>Appx.3 Appx.4 Appx.1 Appx.1a <i>Atty</i></p>
	8th		<p>Dull and showery. Intelligence Summary No.25 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1 <i>Atty</i></p>
	9th		<p>Cloudy and dull. The organisation of the staff for the Divisional Wing of the Corps School was issued; (Appendix 5), and recommendations for the appointment of the Instructors submitted to CORPS Headquarters. Intelligence Summary No.26 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.5 Appx.1 <i>Atty</i></p>

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STEEN- WERCK.	10th		<p>Fine day, with good observation. CORPS Order No.234 was received. (Appendix 6). Divisional Order No.67 issued. (Appendix 6a). The 9th.A.I.Bde was detailed for duty in connection with the ARMENTIERES Defences, (see Appendix 7). (See Appendix 7a.) The G.S.O.I, with the G.O.C., 11th.A.I.Bde, inspected the CORPS RESERVE LINE and arranged the Nucleus Garrison Scheme. Intelligence Summary No.27 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.6 Appx.6a Appx.7a APPX.7 Appx.1</p>
	11th		<p>Dull and very cold. Instructions for the employment of the Pioneer Battalion were issued,(see Appendix 6b). Intelligence Summary No.28 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.6b Appx.1</p>
	12th		<p>Fine day - mild. Intelligence Summary No.29 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1</p>
	13th		<p>Very foggy - mild day. The B.G.G.S., G.S.O.I, and C.R.E. 2nd. Australian Division, and the G.S.O.I and C.R.E. this Division reconnoitred the CORPS Defensive System and selected the localities to be defended. The CORPS has made itself responsible for the plans for this line. S.G/1/433 sent to CORPS. This recommendation was the outcome of a letter from CORPS H.Q. asking if we could assist HOUPLINES in the event of an attack on ARMENTIERES. Ultimately this scheme was developed as shown in Appendix 17. Intelligence Summary No.30 shows operations on our front. (Appendix 1). Working Party tables for our period in the line are attached.(Appendix 8). CORPS ORDER No.237 received. (Appendix 6c).</p>	<p>Appx.17 Appx.1 Appx.8 Appx.6c.</p>

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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEEN- WERCK	14th		<p>Dull and foggy. Working Party table for work in the Support Division Area issued. (Appendix 8a). Summary of operations for week ending 14th. December attached. (Appendix 1b). Lieut.-Colonel J.D.LAVARACK received instructions from A.I.F.,H.Q., to leave as early as possible to take up appointment of G.S.O.I, 4th Australian Division. Intelligence Summary No.31 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1). The Pioneer Battalion and the "C" and "D" Battalions of both line Brigades were relieved without incident. G.S.Circular No.65A issued. (Appendix 10). The G.S.O.II of 2nd Australian Division came to live with us during the progress of the relief.</p>	<p>Appx.8a Appx.1b Appx.1 Appx.10 <i>Q</i></p>
	15th		<p>Fine, with good visibility. Lieut.-Colonel LAVARACK left at 9.30 a.m. Major G.F.G.WIECK will temporarily perform the duties of G.S.O.I; Captain S.H.JACKSON, those of G.S.O.II and Lieut. HERBERTSON those of G.S.O.III. The relief proceeded without incident and command was handed over in the Right & Left Brigade areas at 10 p.m. and 9 p.m. respectively. The 11th.A.I.Bde was relieved by the 6th A.I.Bde by 1 p.m. A reply was received from CORPS H.Q., re our proposals for covering the approaches to HOUPLINES - with certain modifications in the M.G. Scheme - our proposals were approved. Owing to the relief we remained inactive during the 24 hours and the enemy was correspondingly quiet.</p>	<p><i>Q</i></p>
STEEN- WERCK- RAVELSBERG.	16th		<p>Gloomy, with light fall of snow about noon. Command of the PLOEGSTEERT Area passed to G.O.C., 2nd Australian Division at 10 a.m. and the Divisional Headquarters moved to RAVELSBERG. A Disposition Report is attached. (Appendix 2a).</p>	<p>Appx.2a <i>Q</i></p>

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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAVELSBERG	17th		<p>Very cold wind, following a fall of snow.</p> <p>At 11.30 a.m. the B.G.G.S., called and took the A/G.O.C. and the A/G.S.O.I, to the 38th Division H.Q. There it was explained that the 38th Divisional front was to be divided and that in about 10 days time a new Division would be available to come and take over one of the areas. Meanwhile the 3rd Australian Division was to be lent to the XV CORPS to hold the new area.</p> <p>CORPS Order No.239 received. (Appendix 11).</p> <p>3rd Australian Division Order No.68 issued. (Appendix 11a).</p> <p>CORPS Order No.240 received. (Appendix 11b).</p> <p>Owing to the dearth of suitable accommodation for Divisional Headquarters, it was arranged that we go back to STEENWERCK, and the 2nd Australian Division was to command the PLOEGSTEERT Area from RAVELSBERG. Telephone communications were to be arranged ready on 18th instant, so the shifts were arranged for the 18th. December.</p>	<p>Appx.11 Appx.11a Appx.11b</p> <p><i>Tdy</i></p>
RAVELSBERG STEENWERCK	18th		<p>Very cold and windy.</p> <p>The move to STEENWERCK was completed by noon.</p> <p>The D.M.G.O. left on 14 days' leave: his duties will be carried out by Captain TAYLOR of 11th A.M.G.Coy.</p> <p>The G.S.O.III obtained maps, etc., from the 38th Division.</p>	<p><i>By</i></p>
STEENWERCK	19th		<p>Fine, but cold.</p> <p>The A/G.S.O.I visited Headquarters of Brigades in the line.</p> <p>At 2.30 p.m. The A/Divisional Commander, A/.G.S.O.I, C.R.A. and C.R.E. attended a CORPS Conference held at RAVELSBERG. The Corps Commander outlined the policy to be adopted in view of a possible German offensive.</p> <p>The 9th.A.I.Bde and 23rd.A.M.G.Coy. completed the relief in the Left Brigade area by 10.15 p.m. The 11th. A.I.Bde moved to STEENWERCK.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander returned from leave at 11.30 p.m.</p> <p>A Warning Order was received that the 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery would relieve 5 batteries of the 38th Divisional Artillery as soon as our Infantry reliefs were complete.</p>	<p><i>By</i></p>

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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEENWERCK	20th		<p>Hard freeze, following on a fall of snow. Visibility very poor. The Divisional Commander visited the 38th Division Headquarters during the afternoon. The 9th.A.I.Bde lost two Signallers as prisoners to the enemy; they had lost their way in the fog and wandered into NO MAN'S LAND. The 11th.A.I.Bde completed the relief in the Right area by 10 p.m. Map No.1 shows the area taken over and how held. Location report attached. (Appendix 2b).</p>	<p>Map 1 Appx.2b <i>Any</i></p>
	21st		<p>Freezing hard. - visibility poor. The G.O.C. took over command of the area at 6 a.m. Instructions were received from CORPS Headquarters that our artillery would relieve the 38th Divisional Artillery in our area under arrangements between Divisions. We are to take over four 18-pdr batteries and one 4.5" How. battery, unless the thaw comes, in which case we will use our own guns. The relief will take place after the shoot on the 25th instant. CORPS Order No.243 received later. (Appendix 11c). G.S.Circular No.66A issued. (Appendix 12). Works Policy, dated 21/12/17, issued. (Appendix 13). The G.S.O.I and D.M.G.O. made a detailed inspection of the Subsidiary Line. It was found that the wire was good, and the trench, for the greater part, in good order - for 300 yards in I.4.a. and C.28.c. it was in bad order, but working parties are operating. A test manning of the ARMENTIERES Defences was held, with the results given in Appx.14. Intelligence Summary No.32 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.11c Appx.12 Appx.13 Appx.14 Appx.1 <i>Any</i></p>
	22nd		<p>Fine day, with good visibility. The C.R.A. took over command of the Artillery covering the Division at 10 a.m. Intelligence Summary No.33 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.1 <i>Any</i></p>
	23rd		<p>Fine, fair visibility. The A/G.S.O.I made a detailed inspection of the ARMENTIERES Defences; these were found to be in fair order. M.G.emplacements were, as a rule, satisfactory, but the wire and trenches were inferior. Proposals for improving these will be passed on to the 57th Division. Intelligence Summary No.34 shows details of operations. (Appx.1) The organisation of the staff of the Divisional Wing, CORPS School, is shown in Appx.15 This staff will leave for AVELUY by rail on 28th december.</p>	<p>Appx.1 Appx.15 <i>Any</i></p>

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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENWERCK	24th		<p>After a thaw, light rain fell. The Divisional Commander visited the XV CORPS Headquarters and discussed their defensive policy, which is one of quiescence, except for defensive work, which is to be pushed on vigorously. Intelligence Summary No.35 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	Appx.1
	25th		<p>Light showers fell. The G.O.C., A.I.F., and B.G.G.S. visited Divisional Headquarters during the day. The G.S.O.I of the 57th Division arrived at 11 a.m. to discuss the relief arrangements. Major-General BARRY and 2 Staff Officers of the American Army visited part of the forward area and had lunch with us. CORPS Order No.247 received. (Appendix 16). The Divisional Commander visited a number of Battalions at their Christmas Dinner. Intelligence Summary No.36 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1). Our S.G.32/207 issued (Appendix 17) to cover our Left Flank Machine Gun liaison. Our S.G.32/209 issued (Appendix 18) to cover the improvement of the approaches to ARMENTIERES from the South.</p>	Appx.16 Appx.1 Appx.17 Appx.18
	26th		<p>Heavy fall of snow. CORPS Order No.248 received. (Appendix 16a). Intelligence Summary No.37 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1). The G.O.C. A.I.F., visited portion of our forward area during the morning, and the Divisional Commander visited the remainder of the Battalions not seen on the 25th.</p>	Appx.16a Appx.1
	27th		<p>Snowing lightly. - Visibility good. The Divisional Commander and the B.G.G.S. visited the 10th and 11th.A.I.Brigades N.C.Os. Schools. The latter expressed his pleasure with what he saw. Intelligence Summary No.38 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	Appx.1

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Place	Date Dec.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28th		<p>Fine day, with good observation.</p> <p>Our Staff (less two Officers) for the Divisional Wing of the CORPS School left for AVELUY by rail, under the command of Lieut. BIDDULPH (D.B.O.) who will return when the two Officers proceed.</p> <p>General KENNEDY, Lieut.-Colonel ROSS and one A.D.C. of the American Army arrived for attachment to the Division until 2nd. January. The party inspected ARMENTIERES during the afternoon.</p> <p>CORPS agreed to give us lorries to shift some of our Battalions to the back areas on relief.</p> <p>Divisional Order No.69 issued. (Appendix 16b).</p> <p>Our G.25/609 was issued (Appendix 17) to guide Commanders in framing exercises for the men during the Winter: - the incident quoted did not occur in this Division.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.39 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Appx.16b</p> <p>Appx.1</p>
	29th		<p>Fine day - freezing hard.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander visited forward Brigades during the forenoon.</p> <p>Divisional Order No.70 issued (Appendix 16c).</p> <p>CORPS Order No.251 provided for the relief of our Artillery by the 57th Divisional Artillery, Intelligence Summary No.40 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p> <p>G.S.Circular No.67A issued. (Appendix 20).</p>	<p>Appx.16c</p> <p>Appx.1</p> <p>Appx.20.</p>
	30th		<p>Slight thaw - visibility fair.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary No.41 shows details of operations. (Appendix 1).</p> <p>The G.O.C. A.I.F., attended a Church Parade at STEINWERCK and later distributed ribbons and medals to about 200 men.</p>	<p>Appx.1</p>
	31st		<p>Dull day. Ice and snow still lying on the ground.</p> <p>The 171st Brigade arrived during the afternoon in relief of the 10th.A.I.Bde, who moved to their new locations during the forenoon. Intelligence Summary No.42 shows details of operations. Appx.1</p>	<p>Appx.1</p>

Col. W. R. ...

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Appendix /

2nd. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No. 18 from 6 a.m. 1/12/17 to 6 a.m. 2/12/1917.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS.)

1. OPERATIONS.

In anticipation of enemy relief, our artillery kept up harassing fire during the night on enemy roads and communications in and behind WARNETON. During the day, Artillery dispersed a working party at C.5.d.35.30, and made several direct hits on enemy cookhouse at C.11.d.05.80.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols in vicinity of PONT ROUGE at U.29.b.10.90 had a bombing encounter with an enemy patrol, which managed to escape before it could be cut off. Our patrol believe they inflicted casualties on the enemy, and subsequently five rifles and two caps were picked up on the scene.

(b) Left Brigade Patrols report moonlight prevented much movement. No sign of the enemy was seen. At 11 p.m. some sounds were heard as of a party moving in enemy front line in U.10.a. but this was the only sign of any enemy relief noticed by our patrols.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

The two enemy caps brought in from vicinity of PONT ROUGE after patrol encounter belonged to men of the 19th. Bav. I.R. (2th. Bav. Div.). Normal.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery was not very active during the day and during the night was normal. There was some harassing fire on the back areas, probably in retaliation for our shelling of WARNETON communications. Vicinity of DESPIERRE FARM was shelled between 11.0 p.m. and 12.35 a.m. with 7.7 cm. H.E. and Gas, and at 7.45 a.m. the intersection of SCREEN and SMYTHE AVENUES in C.9.c. was also shelled with 7.7 cm; the fire coming on each occasion from FRELINGHIEN.

Right Brigade reports enemy seem to have increased his light batteries and there has been more 7.7 cm. fire during the period than has hitherto been noticed.

In the front line system, there was intermittent bombardment of our trenches in U.22 and 23 from direction of WARNETON and DEULEMONT. There was a noticeable increase of 7.7 cm. During the day, trenches in U.11. and U.16. were bombarded from direction of WARNETON and DEULEMONT; fire mostly 15 cm. but not heavy. Some shells, which fell near ULTIMO AVENUE in U.17.a. came from direction of LES ECLUSES.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

Patrols of Left Brigade report that enemy bombed his own wire in U.18.a. about 7.30 p.m., and frequent flares were put up indicating some nervousness.

(1).

P.T.O.

2/12/1917.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DYE WORKS (C.11.e.), U.24.a.60.98, C.11.a.55.26, SPINNEY, SPINNING MILL, and U.11.d.95.40.

Patrols report that apparently only one M.G. fires from DYE WORKS, and that from centre of the building.

Minerwerfer. M.W. reported active from ERELINGHLEN, C.5.b.47.62, U.29.d.45.22 (UNKNOWN FARM), north of WARNETON TOWER, WICART FARM (heavy), and SPINNING MILL.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

An enemy aeroplane was driven off by M.G. and L.G. fire on Right Brigade front during the morning. At 3.0 p.m. a second one was driven off in the same way. It replied briskly to our fire.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

In spite of statements by prisoners yesterday that WARNETON TOWER is not occupied for observation, a man was seen to enter the TOWER at about 10.0 a.m. by climbing up a ladder leaning against it.

Two men were seen at 10.30 a.m. to enter dugout at about U.18.d.30.60. They came out again shortly after. Smoke was seen rising from ruined buildings at U.12.b.30.42; also from WICART FARM between 9.0 and 9.20 a.m.

At 9.0 a.m. a train stopped on the railway at about V.17.a.20.25. It seemed as though the line had been damaged and the train was waiting while it was being repaired.

10. SIGNALS.

After enemy patrol retreated from PONT ROUGE encounter, a GREEN light followed by a WHITE VERY light, was fired from about U.29.b.50.35.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

At 11.25 a.m. a pigeon flew from enemy lines towards the rear of lines of Right Brigade.

McCartick

Lieut.-I.C.,
for Major Colonel, G.S.

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 2/12/1917.

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF A WOUNDED PRISONER OF THE 3rd. RESERVE COY., 12th. PIONEER BATTALION, CAPTURED NEAR WARNETON IN THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 1st.

1. METHOD OF CAPTURE.

Prisoner's company was in COMINES. They were alarmed at 8.0 p.m. on November 30th, and moved up to the line at 9.0 p.m. in front of WARNETON to make good the damage to the wire, caused by our raid of some hours previously. Prisoner was wounded by a grenade, and taken prisoner by the raiding party which came over a few hours later.

2. DISPOSITIONS.

The 12th. Pioneer Bn. probably has its headquarters in RONCQ. The companies are divided between RONCQ and COMINES. Each company in turn does 6 days working on the wire of the support lines, etc., between COMINES and WARNETON (but living in COMINES), 6 days in COMINES itself on the construction of concrete dugouts and the building of bridges over the LYS, and 6 days in rest at RONCQ. The men are billeted in concrete dugouts, erected by labour battalions and pioneers, all over COMINES; there being at least 2 companies of the battalion here continuously. COMINES is apparently fairly full of troops, chiefly artillery, but some infantry. Prisoner states that the bridges, which are being continuously built over the LYS at COMINES and WARNETON, are usually shot to pieces before they are completed.

3. COMPANY STRENGTH AND CASUALTIES.

The company strength is about 64 men, excluding those away on leave or on command. The company had had very few casualties up till last night. They had lost 2 men on the march up owing to the explosion of one of our aeroplane bombs one day. COMINES is stated to be a dangerous place and our shelling causes a regular flow of casualties there.

4. RATIONS.

The rations are fairly good. The field kitchens come up to COMINES from RONCQ every evening at varying times.

5. PERSONAL DETAILS.

Prisoner belongs to the 1917 class, and was called up for service on 24th April, 1916. He was employed in Switzerland as a waiter.

6. INTENTIONS.

Prisoner knows nothing of a withdrawal or an attack on this front. No attack by the English is anticipated.

7. WATER IN COMINES.

There are numerous pumps in the town, but no ^{good} water, and all drinking water has to be boiled.

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

The field tramway with a petrol engine is used as far as COMINES, men on leave proceeding by it. The traffic is confined to the night time, but trains occasionally run by day. The broad gauge railway is never used.

(Corps Intelligence).

APPENDIX

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 2/12/1917.

AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- 69.B. 27.) BAS WARNETON and BLANCHE FARM area.
- 35.)
- 38.)
- 32. (S.E.WARNETON). Tracks across bridge at U.18.b.00.55.
- 28. (N.E.WARNETON). Note tracks from COMINES ROAD across country to FARM strong point U.6.d.2.2; also to hedge corner (where many tracks converge) U.12.b.60.98. Tracks across fields between WARNETON and BAS WARNETON much used.
- 34.) (WAUSTINE FARM and SPINNING MILL). Tracks across
- 36.) country to SPINNING MILL from S.E. Large dugout at
- 37.) WAUSTINE FARM very plain.
- 30.) Battery position or much used dugouts on north side of
- 31.) BRICKFIELD U.30.c.5.7. Signal line through C.6.central
- 33.) very plain. Traffic evidently goes up QUESNOY ROAD as far as U.30.c.2.7, where also tramway terminus and probably dump. Double row of wire visible in front of CESSPOOL TRENCH (U.30.c, C.6.a.).
- Enemy uses bridge at U.30.a.8.9. and walks under bank of river on our side towards PONT ROUGE bridge. Track S. from U.24.d.central to dugouts U.30.b.32.65. Bridges at U.30.b.20.45 and b.22.30. much used. Dugout at U.30.a.70.46.
- WICART FARM post much damaged. Dugouts South of it at U.24.a.58.40, 24.a.56.33, and 24.a.60.25 along trench.
- 39. Vicinity of TWIN FARMS (C.12.a). Tracks up to farm at C.6.c.25.50.

3rd. December, 1917.CONFIDENTIAL.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No.19 from 6 a.m. 2/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 3/12/'17.1. OPERATIONS.

Our artillery directed harassing fire on enemy routes and approaches throughout the night. During the day, heavy M.W. at C.11.c.60.50 was shelled on several occasions.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols reconnoitred MOAT FARM in U.23.d. No sign of the enemy was found in PONT ROUGE, but a strong enemy post was located on the south side of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE at about U.29.b.60.25.

(b) Left Brigade Patrols reconnoitred large dugout previously reported, which is at U.17.b.99.17. It has been much knocked about, and there is a large opening on the side towards the river. From this, a good view can be obtained north and south along the steep bank shown on map of the 15 and 20 contours on left bank of the LYS. Other dugouts exist on this bank, many of them smashed. Two close by were examined; they had elephant iron roofs and entrances were large and directly open to the enemy's lines.

NO MAN'S LAND in places is firm and good going. Dead ground about U.11.d.80.13 is in a very boggy and bad state.

Patrols maintained touch with Brigade on left flank.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery was exceptionally quiet over the whole front. There was intermittent M.W. fire on the front line, and some shelling of back areas; specially in locality of GUNNER'S FARM and AMEN CORNER (C.4.central). All the enemy shelling reported by Right Battalion came from direction of FRELINGHIEN. Batteries, which fired on front line in U.29.a., were in the direction of BRICKFIELD south of the DEULE in D.8. (7.7 cm). 15 cm batteries in this region also shelled vicinity of LA BASSE VILLE. PROUSE POINT was shelled between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. from direction of DEULEMONT. Enemy M.W. were active against our front line in U.11.b. between midnight and 6.0 a.m.; specially the M.W. at U.12.a.15.62.

The increase in 7.7. cm fire was again noticeable.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from BREWERY (C.17.a), DYE WORKS (C.11.c), DOLLS' HOUSE (U.24.c), U.30.b.09.46, SPINNEY (U.18.a) and SPINNING MILL.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from C.11.c.55.55, U.12.a.05.62, and SPINNING MILL.

New Work. At 1.30 p.m. two men were seen near a new trench at C.5.c.80.40. Patrols reported enemy wiring party could be heard

(1).

P.T.O.

(2).

3/12/1917.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES. (Continued).

at 10.0 p.m., apparently wiring new trench at U.11.b.75.40.
New earth was observed at U.12.c.50.80.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Two enemy aeroplanes, which were over our lines between 6.30 and 7.30 a.m., were driven off by anti-aircraft and M.G. fire. Enemy machines dropped some bombs on back areas during the night.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Suspected cookhouse at C.11.a.95.25 was again emitting smoke at 10.5 a.m.

A well beaten track is visible from C.5.d.35.30 running east to C.5.d.95.36.

At 1.40 p.m., four men were seen at C.11.b.40.50 with equipment and rifles.

Movement was observed at various times during the day among the ruins in WARNETON about U.12.c.80.30.

Men carrying duckboards towards the trenches passed this point, (U.12.c.80.80) and entered communication trenches at U.12.c.72.15.

At 8.0 a.m., a man left WARNETON TOWER, and went into the Ruined houses close by.

Patrols reported enemy heard hammering in trench at U.18.c.60.50 at 7.30 p.m.

A wiring party of ten men were seen at about U.18.a.35.50. They were dispersed by Lewis gun fire.

At about 8.0 p.m., two men left the trench at U.18.a.20.50, and walked towards a lone tree at the south end of the SPINNEY. Shortly afterwards, two men left this spot, and went back to the trench. This was apparently relief of a listening post.

A large amount of rubble has been heaped on to the top of building which forms the northern part of DURIEZ FARM. (C.5.b.)

At 11.15 a.m., a large cloud of smoke was observed rising from BAS WARNETON.

10. SIGNALS.

Signalling was again observed in direction of WAUSTINE FARM between 2.0 and 3.0 a.m.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

Photographs show two large dugouts at U.30.b.40.70, which have been suspected as gun pits. Observers reported yesterday flashes of two guns were distinctly seen at this point. Gun flashes were also reported from just north of CEYLON FARM (C.6.c.90.10).

M. L. L. L.

Lieutenant. I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel. G.S.

122
A.H.
4th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.20 from 6 a.m. 3/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 4/12/'17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

Our artillery fired on enemy works in SPINNEY, WARNETON, WINDMILL (U.18.a.20.80), and M.W. at C.11.b.20.35 and C.11.c. 55.55.

During the night, harassing fire was directed on enemy roads and communications.

M. G. fired 4,000 rounds harassing fire on enemy Cross Roads and traffic routes.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols lay up at U.29.b.25.70, and reconnoitred MOAT FARM, but found no sign of the enemy.

(b). Left Brigade Patrols lay up at U.17.b.85.75, but heard no sign of the enemy.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery activity was normal during the period, except for continuous harassing fire of Right Brigade trenches in C.4 and U.28. during the afternoon.

An enemy aeroplane patrolled NO MAN'S LAND at about 4.30 p.m. during the company reliefs, and thereafter the locality was shelled with 10.5 and 7.7 cm from direction of ST. BARBE and DEULE BRICKFIELDS in D.8. until about 7.0 p.m.

The bearing along the track of a blind shell, which was dug up, gave the line of the 10.5 cm battery at D.1.d.10.90.

Front line on the Left Brigade front was bombarded intermittently during the day; especially between 12.0 noon and 4.0 p.m. by batteries in direction of COMINES and LA TACHE (V.26.).

The chief features of enemy shelling of rear areas was a bombardment as usual of MOTOR CAR CORNER vicinity at 11.30 a.m., and DESPIERRE FARM at 12.0 Noon by 10.5 and 7.7 cm respectively from direction of FRELINGHIEN. Vicinity of U.13.b. was bombarded between 7.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m. from direction of COMINES, and a 21 cm battery in the same direction shelled U.8.a. and c. during the morning. ADVANCED ESTAMINET was under desultory bombardment during the night by 10.5 and 15 cm batteries.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DEULEMONT, SPINNEY, and U.11.d.95.30.

Minerwerfer. M.W. reported active from C.11.c.60.50, C.11.b. 20.35.(two), WARNETON, and SPINNING MILL.

New Work. New earth is visible at C.12.c.60.65 and a working party of 20 men was seen at this point.

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APPENDIX.

(2).

4/12/1917.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aircraft crossed our lines on several occasions particularly during the afternoon, when, either with some foreknowledge or by lucky accident, it witnessed company reliefs, and directed harassing enemy fire on communication trenches.

Left Brigade reports that an enemy aeroplane flying low at 2.45 p.m. fired a GOLDEN RAIN rocket, which appeared to bring artillery and M.W. fire on our front and support lines.

Twelve explosions were heard in DEULMONT about 12.15 p.m. apparently bombs dropped by our aeroplanes.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Much movement continues to be observed in vicinity of CERTIFIED TRENCH (C.5.d.). Enemy is apparently working a lot here, and movement was seen about ruins by the roadside at C.11.b.40.95. Six men were seen also about the new M.W. position reported at C.11.b.20.35. It is considered likely (in view of the hammering of iron at night) that the enemy may be putting up new concrete works in this area.

Patrols report wheeled traffic heard on Road about Junction at U.30.b.40.65 between 3.30 and 4.0 a.m.

Smoke was again visible at C.11.a.95.20.

At 9.45 a.m., three men were seen to enter dugout at V.25.d. 90.65. Aeroplane photographs show a large dugout at this place.

A light train was seen on railway at D.1.c.60.30 at 2.30 p.m.

A fair amount of movement was seen during the morning along roads in V.13.b. On one occasion, at 10.30 a.m., 20 men with full packs were seen on the road by the LYS in this vicinity moving east. They disappeared on the track at V.13.b.72.95.

At 10.20 a.m. 18 men with full packs moving north along CHEMIN DU TEMPLE ROAD disappeared into trench at V.13.b.32.95.

At 8.0 a.m., a man entered WARMETON TOWER from South side, and five minutes later another man came out of the TOWER at the same place, probably observers relieving.

At 9.30 a.m., a man was seen to enter dugout at V.19.a.50.85. This dugout is near junction of signal cables.

During the morning, six men were seen to leave PILL BOX at U.12.c.20.10.

Men have been seen at both dawn and dusk running to and from SPINNEY, and enemy's front line in U.18.a.

Artillery dispersed a working party at U.18.c.50.60. at 10.30 a.m.

F. M. Stack

Lieutenant. I.C.

For Lieut.-Colonel. G.S.

122

5th. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.21 from 6 a.m. 4/12/17 to 6 a.m. 5/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

PART I

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery engaged a hostile 15 cm. battery at V.20.d.55.32; also M.W. positions at DYE WORKS and DEULEMONT. Harassing fire was directed on roads in rear of FRELINGHIEN and south of DEULEMONT.

M.G. fired indirectly on routes and approaches behind enemy front line.

Patrols. (a) Right Brigade Patrols examined river bank from U.29.b.92.46 to U.30.a.25.52, and report no track along this side of the river (as is apparently shown by photograph); nor does the ground appear to have been used lately. The same patrol reports that URAL HOUSE at U.30.a.20.10 was occupied by the enemy. Another patrol examined MOAT FARM at U.23.d. and report working parties heard near DEULEMONT. Another patrol examined bridge south-east of WHITE FARM at C.5.a.35.40. It was found the tram lines there were disconnected, and had fallen into the river, and supporting piles are broken. An Officer attempted to cross on the floating debris, but it was too loose. There was no sign of an enemy post near the bridge.

Another patrol examined approach road in C.10.b. in search of a suitable O.P. & finally settled in a dugout at C.10.b.85.45. This dugout has a door and a window facing FRELINGHIEN, and a window facing north. The patrol remained on observation in this place all day and made several interesting discoveries as regards enemy movement. (See below).

(b) Left Patrols located several enemy night working parties along the front. From their observations, enemy appears to be doing a lot of repairing in his trenches.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery engaged several localities in back areas where he appears to suspect battery positions. During the night intermittent shelling of vicinity of the DOUVE in U.1 and U.7, and between 8 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. roads near Advanced Estaminet were shelled by 15 cm. from direction of ST. MARGUERITE. Enemy's activity was directed chiefly on front line trenches on both Brigade fronts. Vicinity of AMEN CORNER, LONG AVENUE, UNA TRENCH, and KIWI STREET were subjected to a desultory bombardment between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. from direction of PERENCHIES and DEULEMONT. It is estimated that 1200 shells fell in these localities during the interval. DESPIERRE FARM was lightly shelled during the evening from direction of FRELINGHIEN. Front and support lines of Left Brigade front were lightly shelled during the morning from direction of COMINES and BAS WARNETON. During the afternoon, the vicinity of LA BASSE VILLE was bombarded from direction of LA TACHE (V.26) and DEULE BRICKFIELD (D.8.a.).

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5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

Enemy threw bombs into his wire in vicinity of U.11.d.82.62 at 8.30 p.m.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DURIEUX FARM, U.11.d.85.35, U.11.d.95.30, and SPINNEY. A M.G. not yet located enfilades NICHOLSON AVENUE, near DESPIERRE FARM.

Minerwerfer. M.W. reported active from C.11.b.25.30, U.30.a.40.30, U.29.b.96.10, DEULEMONT, C.11.c.55.55, WICART FARM, SPINNING MILL, and U.12.c.75.32.

New Work. More rubble has been thrown on the top of DURIEUX FARM, and part of the building on the left is missing.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Three times during the afternoon at 1.40 p.m. 3 p.m. and 3.40 p.m. an enemy aeroplane flew low over our front line but was driven off by M.G. fire.

Between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. eight observation balloons were up behind enemy lines.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 2 p.m. a train was observed halted on COMINES Railway near ST MARGUERITE. At 2.10 p.m. it moved on towards COMINES. Patrols reported working parties during the night at U.11.d.90.60 (iron bars being used), U.11.b.80.22 (dispersed by L.G. fire), U.12.c.40.12 (dispersed by Artillery), SPINNING MILL and WICART FARM (dispersed by L.G. fire). A working party was heard probably repairing and wiring in trench between U.18.a.15.87 and U.18.a.28.52. Work was also heard going on in LAUNDRY.

Patrols reported that at about midnight, transport was heard in WARNETON which sounded like caterpillar tractor. Transport was also heard near WAUSTINE FARM, and a light motor was heard in FRELINGHIEN together with the dumping of what sounded like iron rails.

The relief of observers was again witnessed at WARNETON TOWER at 7 a.m. At 10.5 a.m. 2 men were seen to leave the TOWER and move towards ruins at U.12.c.77.45. Movement was noticed about these ruins several times during the day.

Smoke was seen rising from BRIN CHATEAU FARM (V.19.b.) at 2.30 p.m.

A man was seen near pillbox U.12.c.22.10 at 2.15 p.m.

Light trains were seen on railway running through V.14 near ST. BARBE at 3 p.m.

A 15 cm. gun at about D.7.b.55.95 was observed firing during the afternoon. Two guns were seen firing from position behind TWIN FARM in C.12.a. (observed from SURREY FARM), and at 1 p.m. a 7.7 cm. gun was in action about D.8.a.80.10.

At 9.30 a.m. two men were seen at C.5.d.35.30 from which point there is a track leading to SOAK HOUSE.

Several railway trucks are visible at U.30.o.70.25 and men were also observed at this point.

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5/12/1917.

Two snipers were seen to enter the building at C.11.a.52.15. at 8.30 a.m., and were sniping all day.

Dense yellow smoke issued from house at C.11.a.60.30 between 11.15 and 11.30 a.m.

Between SOAP HOUSE and C.11.a.60.43, six barrels can be seen in pairs on the right bank of the river. These are probably used for a pontoon bridge.

The building at C.11.b.10.60 is apparently used as an O.P.

10. SIGNALS.

At 4.15 p.m. two RED rockets were fired on Right Brigade front; immediately afterwards four enemy balloons descended.

At 3.50 p.m. a pigeon rose from URAL HOUSE (U.30.a.) and flew northwards.

At 1.45 p.m. two smoke bombs dropped by an enemy aeroplane over our lines were the signal for the opening of M.W. fire on our front line in U.17.b.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

A searchlight at WAUSTINE FARM was playing on our lines during the early evening.

F. M. Cuttack

Lieut.-I.C.,
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

PART II.

5/11/1917.

A prisoner of 102nd. I.R. captured by Division on our left 3/12/17 spoke freely on odd subjects, and had been much impressed even by the little he had seen of conditions among us since capture that morning. He and his comrades for instance were still fondly hoping for an end of the war before Christmas, but prisoner had given up that hope while coming down from the front. Questioned as to the reason why, he stated that they were told by their superiors that arrangements on our side were wretched and bad, and the German could easily break through at any time. Instead of this, he found everything was strong and businesslike.

He expressed his faith in the submarine, and that it would really bring ENGLAND to her knees at last, but at the sight and thought of the ham, white bread and sweet biscuits he had received on the way down, he sadly gave up that hope also. His surprise at these unheard of luxuries was obvious.

Prisoner regretted that he had not torn up his papers before capture. They were frequently warned against carrying papers into the front line.

IRON CROSS. This was held by prisoner, but he could not tell why it was given to him, except that he must have been "next on the list". A man who had been in the field for any length of time, he said, had to be very bad indeed to escape getting some sort of decoration. (He had served since February, 1915).

COCKADES. Prisoner did not want to lose the cockades from his cap, as that would imply that he was a second-class soldier. Cockades were frequently taken off as a punishment for minor offences.

ENEMY RUSE FOR SURPRISE ATTACK. A prisoner recently captured on the French Front, states that, during a surprise attack recently carried out by the 1st Guard Divn. without any artillery preparation, the artillery of the neighbouring sector carried out a bombardment, and the infantry in that sector exposed dummies in their trenches in order to give the impression that the surprise attack was to be carried out in their sector.

ASSAULT TROOPS TRAINING. Two prisoners of 25th STURMABTEILUNG (117th Inf. Regt.) captured E. of PASSCHENDAELE on 2nd / 3rd. December, 1917, state :-

The prisoners had been completing their course of instruction (commenced in July) at ZILVERBERG under the direction of the O.C., 25th. Sturmabteilung (Lt. von der BENSE).

This course of instruction comprised :-

- (1) Light Machine Gun.
- (2) Bayonet Fighting (cursory).
- (3) Granatwerfer.
- (4) Flag and Lamp Signalling.
- (5). Bombing.
- (6) Observation, Keeping touch, reconnaissance ("Spahtrupp")

One prisoner said that the Granatwerfer was not a favourite weapon, being uncertain in aim and dangerous by reason of premature bursts.

Composition of STURMABTEILUNG.

	1 Lt.)
	3 2/Lts.)
	8 N.C.O.'s.)
(approx)	50 men.)
	3 Light Machine Guns))

The Abteilung is organized in 3 Zugs.

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 5/12/1917.

AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

69. B. 47. (U.12.a.) - Location of M.G. and M.W. reported S.W. of ^{road} about 12.a.4.2. not distinguishable. A work of some size at 12.a.45.26.

48. (WHITE FARM Bridges and DURIEZ FARM Vicinity).

49. Of the two bridges reported east of WHITE FARM, southern one is a mass of masonry or other debris; northern one is non-existent or may be a movable pontoon bridge - - - see two small pontoon-like objects on enemy side of river and perhaps one on ours. Dugouts at C.5.a.09.20, C.5.b.30.40, DURIEZ FARM (N. end), LAUNDRY (2 at N. E. corner).

Track along hedge at C.5.c.6.9.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like 'Dugouts', 'LAUNDRY', and 'hedge' are visible.]

[Faint table or list structure, mostly illegible.]

PWP
6th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No. 22 from 6 a.m. 5/12/17 to 6 a.m. 6/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery directed harassing fire on enemy's traffic routes and communications, especially in the vicinity of FRE-LINGHIEN and DEULMONT and M.W. positions near DEULMONT and at C.11.c.85.95. PONT ROUGE Bridge was registered.

M.G. fired on enemy traffic routes in C.11.b. C.5.d. C.6.c. U.30.c. and WARNETON.

Patrols. (a) Right Brigade patrols located an enemy post of 7 men at C.5.a.42.62 between 4.40 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. LAUNDRY was absolutely quiet. River bank on our side from C.5.c.50.60 to WHITE FARM is fairly firm and grassy. Left bank of LYS east of PONT ROUGE was again examined as far as U.30.a.40.55. A few footprints were visible but no track. It is practically certain that enemy does not come this way from DEULMONT Bridge.

(b). Left Brigade patrols report that pillbox at U.11.b.30.45 is wired up and there are no recent tracks leading to it. NO MAN'S LAND in this vicinity is in a very bad state.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery was fairly active against our back areas in what he supposes to be our battery positions. Between 7 and 10 a.m. vicinity SEAFORTH FARM and Le ROSSIGNOL was shelled by 10.5 cm. batteries from direction of COMINES. GUNNER'S FARM was under intermittent shelling during the afternoon from direction of PERENCHIES.

In the front system the enemy artillery on Left Brigade front was very quiet all day. There was a little light shelling from direction of COMINES and ST. BARBE on our posts and trenches in U.17. On Right Brigade front there was some fairly heavy shelling at U.29.c. during the afternoon from the direction of FRE-LINGHIEN (10.5 cm.). Our front line in U.23.c. was heavily bombarded between 7.20 and 7.40 pm by 7.7, 10.5 and 15 cm. batteries, firing from direction of La TACHE and Le CRAMPON in V.26 and 27. This firing coincided with bombardment of front of Division on our right.

NO MAN'S LAND near PONT ROUGE was shelled during the night by light and medium M.W. enemy appears to be aware of our active patrolling in this locality.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DEULMONT, PONT ROUGE Bridge, C.11.a.62.15, U.18.a.20.85, U.11.d.98.30 and SPINNEY.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from about URAL HOUSE (U.29.b), U.18.a.10.60 (SPINNEY), U.12.c.40.10, U.18.b.02.10, U.12.c.74.32, and SPINNING MILL.

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6/12/1917.

A heavy M.W. was firing from an unlocated position somewhere in front of DURIEZ FARM. An aeroplane photograph taken on 5/12/17 shows what may be a M.W. post at C.5.d.0196.

Work. Trenches in U.29.d. and U.30.a. are being repaired.

Enemy was heard working in building immediately S.E. of PONT ROUGE Bridge during morning; and a working party of 10 was seen at 9.15 a.m. in trench at C.11.b.18.80.

Enemy was heard hammering iron at DURIEZ FARM. Working parties were heard in UNCUT TRENCH (U.18.c.55.25).

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

At 9.a.m. a hostile aeroplane was driven down out of control by one of our machines and fell in O.36.b.

At 12.15 p.m. enemy 'plane flew over our line and at 1.30 p.m. 5 more. An enemy machine was over U.15 at 2.45 p.m.

Between 3 and 4 p.m. a number of small spherical balloons drifted over our lines and dropped copies of the "Journal des Ardennes" and other enemy propaganda.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Patrols report traffic heard on DEULBOMONT-FRELINGHIEN Road (6 p.m.), in FRELINGHIEN (7 p.m.) and WARNETON (10.20 to 11 p.m.).

At 12.35 p.m. smoke was seen coming from ruins at C.11.d. 20.60.

At 1.40 p.m. trench train was seen to turn corner at D.9.a.12.20.

Six men ran from building at C.5.b.35.30 at 10.25 a.m. and disappeared behind the ruins. From 7 to 8.30 a.m. a small ray of light was observed from the top gap of WARNETON TOWER and moved from right to left; looked like the glass of an observer.

Snipers fired at 4 men seen moving near the GASOMETER (U.12.b). At 8.22 p.m. party disappeared.

Three men were seen observing over parapet in U.12.b.07.10.

At 2.5 p.m. a huge volume of white smoke arose from near WARNETON TOWER; it appeared to be a fire in small dump at U.12.c.50.38.

10. SIGNALS.

Heavy enemy Artillery fire on front of Division on our right broke out at 7.30 p.m. on the firing of 2 GREEN and two RED lights.

It was again noticed that two enemy balloons descended shortly after the firing of two RED lights from the enemy lines.

J. C. Cutler

Lieutenant I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 6/12/1917

AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS

- 69.B. 74)
75) C.4,10. (Our own lines).
- 68) Dugouts at C.5.d.39.09 and d.41.21 (not just west
69) of those two points as previously located).
71). Dugouts also at -
 C.5.d.51.35 C.6.c.15.13
 64.54 18.20
 79.58 C.11.d.80.90.
and between C.11.d.60.50 and 52.38 (behind houses
in FRELINGHIEU).
Suspected M.W. (2) at C.5.d.72.72. Two M.W. re-
ported (5/12/17) at C.11.b.22.35 not distinguish-
able, but there may be a position at C.11.b.08.18.
The M.W. position at LAUNDRY appears to be at N.W.
corner of ruins, but not clear.
M.W. reported at SCREENED FARM (C.5.b) is hard to
place - may be at northern end inside Farm ruins.
M.W. at C.5.d.01.96 (?).
Note trench behind road and among ruins, between
C.11.a.9.0 and C.11.b.20.35 (not marked on map).
Also tramway running into DURIEZ FARM from S.E;
it crosses road and trench at C.5.d.88.57.
- 63) Important traffic junctions at FARM du GRAND VER-
64) QUIN (D.7.c). Tramway runs up road from here to
65) TWIN FARMS (C.12.a) and stops just W. of Farms.
72) TWIN FARMS probably a dump - many tracks into it.
There are probably two gun-pits N. of CEYLON FARM
at C.6.c.90.26 and C.6.c.90.13, and position is
wired around.
Chimney or tall reinforced building (notice shadow)
at C.12.b.7.7, to which cable runs from N.E.
Dugouts at C.12.c.62.76
 64.39
 C.18.b.30.86
 C.6.d.35.16 (alongside road),
and important dugout at C.6.d.56.61, probably a
H.Q. - see cables running into it.
- 67) (Vicinity of DEULE BRICKFIELDS).
70) Battery positions N. & S. of road at DEULE BRICK-
73) FIELDS - about D.1.d.9.1 and D.7.b.7.5.
76) Dugouts at D.1.d.70.68
 D.8.c.36.08
- 90 (N. of DOUVE).
Dugouts at U.12.a.78.86.
 82.75.

The wire in front of enemy trenches shows up very
well against frosty ground on all these photographs.

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PWP
7th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Intelligence Summary No.23 from 6 a.m. 6/12/17 to 6 a.m.7/12/17

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery registered PONT ROUGE BRIDGE with balloon observation; also dispersed enemy working parties at C.11.b. 45.85 and in CERTIFIED TRENCH (C.12.a). 80 rounds were fired against two M.W. at C.11.c.60.80 and C.11.a.80.10. 51 rounds were fired on barricade across road at U.29.b.85.00 which was found to be a strong structure. During this shoot, 1 round was observed to fall on an active M.W. in URAL HOUSE and immediately silenced it.

Our Artillery directed harassing fire intermittently during day and night on enemy tracks and communications.

M.Gs. fired 12,500 rounds on CELIA AVENUE and enemy roads and tramways in C.5.d. C.6.a. and c. U.30.c. V.25.c. and near SPINNING MILL and in WARNETON.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols reconnoitred vicinity PONT ROUGE BRIDGE observing effect of artillery fire. They report some of the rounds dropped short but others effectively silenced enemy guns.

Another patrol reported a square concrete structure at southern end of SOAP HOUSE inside a broken wall. It has an opening looking west 1 ft by 2½ ft, and an opening looking south about 2½ ft square.

Eight barrels were noticed on the enemy side of the river bank near here - 2 fixed together with a frame of planks around them.

Another patrol went out to cross the river and intercept Bosche patrol at C.5.a.40.55 noticed on previous evening. Enemy patrol, however, did not appear and our patrol did not cross the river.

(b). Left Brigade patrols examined our wire, which has been considerably damaged in one or two places by enemy trench mortar fire.

Small working parties were heard constantly in enemy trenches at U.11.b. and d.

A dead enemy body was found in our wire and apparently had been dead for months. Patrols were unable to get at it and are trying again tonight.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery was fairly quiet. Suspected battery positions in U.8.d. and C.7.d. were heavily shelled from direction of ST. BARBE and south of COMINES. Latter hostile battery was engaged by heavy artillery between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. 100 rounds 10.5 and 15 cm. from direction of FRELINGHIEN fell in LE BIZET, otherwise shelling was scattered and light.

In front line system there was light and intermittent shelling on Right Brigade front from direction of Le GRAMPON and FRELINGHIEN, and on Left Brigade front from direction of BAS WARNETON and north-east of WARNETON.

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7/12/1917.

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5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

Enemy bombed his own wire opposite Left Battalion at 1.45 a.m.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DURIEZ FARM, U.11.d.35.33, U.11.d.98.32, SPINNEY and SPINNING MILL.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from FRELINGHIEN (heavy), URAL HOUSE (U.29.b), C.5.d.35.50, C.5.d.00.05, U.11.b.62.40, U.12.a.38.30, WICART FARM and SPINNING MILL.

Work. Enemy was heard working in trenches in U.29.d. and U.30.a. (S.E. of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE), U.11.d. & b. and U.18.a.10.90.

At DURIEZ FARM more brickwork on left has been removed and placed on top of supposed dugout.

At C.11.b.25.75 there are 3 new posts sticking up about 3 ft high.

New earth visible at C.11.b.20.80.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

During the morning two enemy aeroplanes flew over Left Brigade front at a low altitude and were driven off by A.A. and M.G. fire.

At 3.15 p.m. a hostile machine was over our battery positions.

Three enemy balloons were up during the day.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 9.15 a.m. a working party of about 10 men was seen at C.11.d.28.80 pulling at a rope attached to something heavy. Three hours later a similar party was seen in the same place carrying planks.

Two men were shovelling at 9.15 a.m. at C.5.d.35.30.

Flashes of guns were observed by Right Brigade observers in direction of DEULE BRICKFIELDS (D.8.a.) and Le CRAMPON (V.27.a); this was during the shelling of MOTOR CAR CORNER at 2.35 p.m. and our front line trenches at 9 and 11 a.m.

The house at C.11.b.20.55 appears to have a concrete dugout at the southern end. This place has already been noted as an enemy O.P.

Movement was again observed around WARNETON TOWER several times during the day.

At 10 a.m. the flash of a gun was seen among trees on roadway south-east of MAIRE de WARNETON SUD (V.30.a).

F. M. Custack

Lieutenant, I.C.
for Lieut. Colonel, G.S.

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War Diary

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APPENDIX.

PWP.
8th. December. 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.24 from 6 a.m. 7/12/17 to 6 a.m.8/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

PART I

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery directed harassing fire against enemy traffic routes and communications during both day and night. M.W. positions were bombarded at U.30.a.20.10, C.11.c.75.90 (two direct hits and an explosion - casualties were afterwards seen being removed), and in WARNETON.

At 5.30 p.m. a bombardment was opened on enemy works south-east of PONT ROUGE BRIDGE under close observation of patrol stationed near CUSTOM HOUSE. The shooting was reported excellent and considerable damage done to enemy works. Under cover of this bombardment, patrol examined PONT ROUGE BRIDGE (for report see below).

36 rounds were fired at house C.11.b.20.58 which has been reported as an O.P. Several direct hits were obtained.

An A.A. battery located by flash at D.1.c.2.4 was shelled by hows. and heavy artillery were also informed of this target.

Machine Guns. M.Gs. fired 6000 rounds from right Brigade front on CEMETERY DRIVE, SCREENED FARM (C.5.b) and tramway in U.30.c.

On Left Brigade front 4500 rounds were fired on roads and tramways in U.12.b. and c. and V.13.a.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols worked over NO MAN'S LAND about PONT ROUGE actively throughout the night. At 5.30 p.m. a small patrol was stationed near CUSTOM HOUSE to observe our artillery fire on works on the opposite side of the river, and under cover of the bombardment to examine PONT ROUGE BRIDGE. Patrol did this without opposition and reported the BRIDGE much damaged; about 10 to 12 ft has been destroyed for about two-thirds of the way over, the longer portion being on our side. The gap would be passable with the aid of a plank or portable bridge. There was no evidence of much walking on our side of the BRIDGE.

Patrol reported ground between PONT ROUGE and PAPER HOUSE along the river very boggy and difficult to travel over.

No enemy patrols were seen during the night.

(b). Left Brigade patrols reported that a VERY light seemed to fall among an enemy patrol at U.11.d.85.70. The patrol immediately scattered and crawled back into their own lines.

Covering parties were provided for wiring parties in front of Posts U.11.3 and U.11.C.

During the night the ruins at U.11.b.88.52 were kept under observation. No sign was seen of enemy near the place.

Dugouts in the embankment in NO MAN'S LAND at U.11.d. were examined; they were reported fallen in and no sign of recent occupation.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N 1 1.

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4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery was very quiet during the period: the absence of 15 cm. fire was most noticeable. There was slight shelling of two battery positions, otherwise very little fire on back areas. GUNNER'S FARM vicinity was lightly shelled at 8.15 and 9.15 p.m.

In the front line system there was light shelling of PLANTATION FARM (U.29.c) during the morning from direction of CEYLON FARM (C.6.c), and between 6.30 and 9.0 a.m. a series of rapid bursts of 10 cm. fire from direction of PERENCHIES on our trenches in U.28 and C.4. Left Brigade front and support lines and C.Ts. in U.11.a. and b. were fairly heavily shelled from direction of COMINES and ST. MARGUERITE during morning, mostly 10.50

There was some light shelling of DOUVE WALK and VANCOUVER tram line from direction of COMINES.

M.W. fire from WARNETON was considerably less active.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from C.5.b.15.15 (previous reported location C.5.b.15.10), SOAP HOUSE, DURIEZ FARM, C.11.a.60.30 (this may be the gun at C.11.a.80.20 - see PART II), C.17.a.20.70, SPINNING MILL, U.18.a.20.87, U.11.d.86.33 and SPINNEY.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from C.11.c.55.55, SOAP HOUSE (light), C.11.a.85.10 (light) and WARNETON.

Work. Sounds of pumping and other work was heard going on in LAUNDRY during night.

Work was being done during the night in enemy front - trenches in U.11.a.

Searchlights. A searchlight was in action at DEULEMONT, one near DURIEZ FARM; and one behind WAUSTINE FARM.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aeroplanes flew at intervals over NO MAN'S LAND during shelling of PLANTATION FARM
At 3.15 pm Hostile machine fired several bursts on our front line.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Patrols reported transport was heard on CEMETERY DRIVE track (C.12). This was followed by noise of handling of iron and then by returning transport.

Much talking was heard during the evening near the M.W. which had been active in DYE WORKS (C.11.c).

Considerable enemy movement was reported during the day in neighbourhood of C.11.b. especially in the little copse just south of CERTIFIED TRENCH.

The building at C.11.b.40.90 is occupied. Twice during the day enemy were seen entering it.

A party of the enemy was observed carrying something, apparently ammunition, at 8.30 a.m. near the light railway at U.30.c.05.80.

There was considerable movement around GASOMETER in U.12.b. during the day.

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8/12/1917.

At 12.30 p.m. two men were observed to run out of the old ruins at U.12.o.95.55; our Artillery was firing on these ruins at the time.

10. SIGNALS.

Patrols saw two large YELLOW lights fired from about C.17.a.50.50 and immediately afterwards an M.G. fired from position at C.17.a.20.70.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

Right Brigade Observers report enemy counter-battery fire seems to be coming from DEULE BRICKFIELDS Area (D.8.a); also that a 7.7 cm. gun was active at 1.45 p.m. in the same locality.

M. Luttsack

Lieutenant.I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel,G.S.

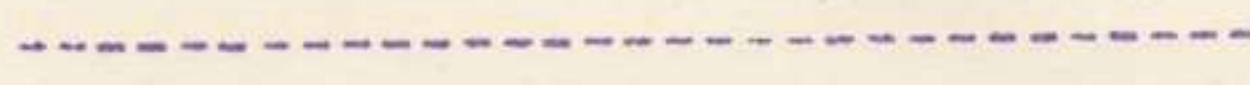
PART II. (P.T.O.)

PART II.

8/12/1917

GERMAN M.G. EMPLOYMENT.

An N.C.O. of 1st M.G. Coy, 29 I.R. (16 Div.), captured recently in FLANDERS, states that his Coy. did not employ overhead barrage fire. He knew of only one case in which overhead fire had been employed, viz., at WARHETON. There it was not a success, as the Infantry complained that the guns had fired short. He did not know of any case where M.G. barrage fire had been used, and he had never seen any M.G. barrage maps. He did not know the reason for this.



RECENT AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS OF C.5, C.11 AND OBSERVERS' NOTES.

Trenches. - The trenches in U.29.d. running in a N.E. direction are in fair condition being slightly damaged near the road at U.29.b.8.1. The trenches in C.5.b. and the front line trenches in C.5.d. are in excellent condition, the communication trenches leading to road being slightly damaged. The small trench at C.5.d.40.25 is being extended in an easterly direction. A short trench commences at the southern margin of the wood C.5.c.8.1. and runs to C.11.a.8.7.

The front line trenches at C.11.a.8.1. are in a damaged condition but are now being repaired. The communication trenches to forward positions at C.11.c.5.7. are badly damaged. The trenches in C.11.b. and d. are in good condition. The path to forward positions along southern margin of wood shows up very clearly.

Wire. - Wire commences at C.11.a.8.4. and extends to C.11.b.1.9. and is evidently in good condition. The trenches in C.5.b. are well wired, and the wire is apparently undamaged. The trench from the southern margin of wood C.5.c.8.1. to C.11.a.8.7. appears to be lightly wired, the wire extending to C.11.a.7.6.

Machine Gun Emplacements. - There are M.G. positions at C.11.a.6.4 (House on ruin), C.11.a.8.2. and C.5.d.4.5.

(Corps Int. Sum. Annexe, 7/12/17).

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PWP.
9th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.25 from 6 a.m.8/12/17 to 6 a.m.9/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery fired on M.W. positions at U.12.a.38.29, U.12.d. 20.53, 57.60, U.12.c.79.30, 40.12 and 75.34 and WICART FARM. During both day and night harassing fire was directed on enemy roads and communications.

Machine Guns. M.Gs. fired 9500 rounds on enemy tracks and tramways during the night.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols reported 2 men were seen at C.10.d.73.51. They disappeared immediately and our patrol could find no trace of them. A good trench runs along hedge east from No.9 Post (C.4.d). Ground is very marshy in this vicinity. Patrols reconnoitred PONT ROUGE and reported no sign of enemy.
(b). Left Brigade Patrols reported number of VERY lights were fired from behind old ruins at U.17.b.90.52. This place was reported empty on the previous night. Further investigation is being made.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy shelling slightly increased especially on Left Brigade front and was particularly directed on our trenches in U.11 and U.17; consisted of all calibres up to 15 cm. Fire came from direction of COMINES and ST.MARGUERITE and was heaviest between about 1.0 and 3.0 p.m.

During the night duckboard track in U.8.d and areas of U.8.b. and c. were shelled with 10.5 and 15 cm. from an easterly direction between 10.0 and 10.45 p.m.

The Infantry report that not much damage was done during the enemy bombardment on the front line system and that a large percentage of 15 cm. shells were blind. The shelling extended over practically the whole front between CROIX FARM and SUGAR REFINERY.

Between 10.15 a.m. and 12 noon SUNKEN FARM in U.11.c. was heavily bombarded with 15 cm. from direction of ST.MARGUERITE.

On the Right Brigade front not much shelling was recorded. There was some firing in the early morning on vicinity of AMEN CORNER by 10.5 cm. from direction of PERENCHIES. Between 5.0 and 11.0 a.m. there was desultory shooting on U.29.a. and U.23.c. by 4.2's from direction of Le GRAMPON (V.27).

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

The enemy has been devoting especial attention during the last two or three days to our front line between the DOUVE and SUGAR REFINERY. On 6th and 7th Dec. he appeared to be cutting wire in front of our Posts in U.11.d. and U.17.b. with M.W.fire. During the early afternoon of 8th.Dec. there was a heavy concentration of fire from at least two directions. (See above). Our Observers were not able to distinguish any definite barrage, but it is quite possible the enemy is meditating a raid on this area.

(1)

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9/12/1917.

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6. ENEMY DEFENCE.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from DYE WORKS (C.11.c) C.5.a.87.12 (possibly should be 90.18, where there is a dugout), SPINNEY and U.12.c.05.10.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from U.29.d.50.22 (new), DURIEZ FARM, WICART FARM, SPINNING MILL and WARNETON.

The emplacement at U.29.d.50.22, reported on 8/12/17 by ground observers as a M.G. emplacement, is declared, on further observation, to be a M.W. emplacement. The location is from cross-bearings while gun was firing.

Searchlights. Reported active between 7.30 and 8.0 p.m. near URAL HOUSE (U.29.b). Artillery reported the same searchlight 119 deg. T.B. from U.13.b.20.15 at 7.30 p.m.

Work. Noises of hammering were heard throughout the night at DURIEZ FARM.

Wiring party was working opposite WHITE FARM about 6 p.m. Handling of bricks was heard behind DYE WORKS at 8.0 p.m. New earth is visible from C.5.b.42.63 to C.5.b.50.79 and at U.11.d.90.98.

Party heard using iron rails about U.11.c.90.60 from 8.0 till 11.30 p.m. Rails were being unloaded about U.12.a.6.2. at 7.30 p.m.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Only one enemy aeroplane crossed our lines and that was on the left at 12.50 p.m. It was driven back by A.A. fire.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Patrols reported light transport heard coming into FRELINGHIEN from direction of DEULEMONT at 6.15 p.m. A light engine came into FRELINGHIEN at 7.30 p.m. and left 8.30 p.m.

Transport was heard in direction of WARNETON at 3.0 a.m.

At 8.35 a.m. 7 men walked from the ruins at C.11.a.90.10.

At 1.30 p.m. a trench train was seen drawing trucks at D.8.a.10.35 in DEULE BRICKFIELDS. This is a light railway which feeds a battery.

Infantry Observers report that our Artillery obtained 5 direct hits on old building at U.12.d.26.87. This building had apparently a concrete dugout inside it. Five men were seen to leave during the shelling and run towards GASOMETER. Men were again seen leaving the same building at 3.30 p.m.

Concrete dugout was exposed by our Artillery fire at U.12.b.00.30. A man left this dugout shortly afterwards.

Flashes of a 7.7 cm. battery were observed at about C.18.a.80.50.

10. SIGNALS.

At about 7.0 p.m. 2 YELLOW lights were fired from FRELINGHIEN and immediately afterwards M.G. fire opened from DYE WORKS. The same signal has been observed previously.

During the day an enemy machine flying over the left front appeared to be signalling to enemy battery in action with shots from its machine gun.

F. L. Stack
Lieut. I. C.
for Lieut.-Colonel, G. S.

PWP.

Appendix to 3rd.Aust.Div.Intelligence Summary of 9/12/1917.

AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.(Taken 8/12/17)

(These notes should be recorded on Target Maps by those to whom they have been issued).

69.B. 100 (DEULEMONT).

Great number of tracks in the village in U.24.c. and d. - evidently much work going on here at night. M.G.dugout previously placed at 24.c.70.25 is located at 77.30.

M.W.previously placed 24.c.69.19 should be at 75.23. New work (apparently dugouts) at 24.d.10.80. Trench runs south from here through DEULEMONT ruins & across road at about 24.d.05.10.

101 (Enemy lines in U.12.c. and 18.a.).

Dugout at SPINNING MILL (western corner) very plain. M.W. at 18.b.10.02 and not 00.10 (as located by patrols), and two at 18.c.69.77.

105 (PONT ROUGE).

Enemy side of bridge much damaged. Possible M.W. at U.29.b.80.15.

106 (V.26,27).

Trench S. of VENANT Fm (D.3.a) continued further east.

107 (V.15,21).

Farm (TURNBERRY HOUSE) at V.21.a.central is important position and many tracks lead into it - also cables. No sign on this photograph or on 42.B.2105 of thick belts of wire shown on map.

109 (V.25).

New trenches V.25.b. S.E. of VACILLATING TRENCH each side of La TACHE Road. Curious duplication of trenches in two places. Wire continued in front of VACILLATING TRENCH, along hedge N.W. of and parallel with road through V.25. central. The two dugouts on this road (previously noticed) at V.25.b.45,63 and 55.76 may be gun-pits. They are apparently not yet finished.

APPENDIX

PWP.
10th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No. 26 from 6 a.m. 9/12/17 to 6 a.m. 10/12/17.(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery shelled enemy front line system at DEULEMONT between 6 and 7 a.m. All known M.W. positions were engaged by 4.5 Hows. and Hows. and 18-pdrs also bombarded M.W. positions in FRELINGHIEN. Two o.k.'s were observed on M.W. at C.11.a.85.10 and a large explosion was caused in C.5.d. At intervals during day and night harassing fire was directed on enemy traffic routes and communications.

Machine Guns. M.Gs. fired during the night on enemy tramways, tracks and trench works in C.11.d. C.5.d. C.6.c. SCREENED FARM, U.30.c. U.18 and U.12.d.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols examined inlet from the River at C.10.d.75.42. This region is now flooded well beyond the actual swamp indicated on the map and track leading from here to the River seemed also to be submerged. Considerable amount of M.G. fire was reported from NO MAN'S LAND about PONT ROUGE.

Patrols report heavy continuous enemy working by night. (See below).

(b). Left Brigade Patrols reported enemy listening post at U.11.d.82.56 from which several VERY lights were fired. Enemy trenches in front of WARNETON are evidently strongly manned at night; much repair work on trenches and talking heard.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery was not very active on back areas. MOTOR CAR CORNER was shelled at 11.45 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Fire was moderate on right front and what there was came from directions of La TACHE (V.26.central), DEULE BRICKFIELDS (D.8.a) and FRELINGHIEN, and on the left some 10.5 cm. from direction of ST. BARBE.

On Left Brigade front Support Lines in U.11.a. and c. were heavily shelled between 1.0 and 3.30 p.m. with 10.5 and 15 cm. and Gas shell from direction of COMINES and ST MARGUERITE.

DOUVE WALK was shelled during the same period and again lightly about midnight.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

The enemy is working hard in his front line between DEULEMONT and FRELINGHIEN. Patrols hear the work both night and early morning. The sounds heard are driving of iron and wood, unloading of iron (from transport), loading bricks (in FRELINGHIEN) and shovelling as of mixing cement.

It seems clear that concrete pillboxes or dugouts are being erected along the front West of the LYS as far as the DEULE junction; and from the amount of work and transport heard, it may be reasonably deduced that the enemy is on this work all night and rests from it by day. Artillery fire by day will therefore probably be directed on to empty trenches, except for M.W.crows; but by night enemy trenches here should be very busy.

(1)

P.T.O.,

10/12/17.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.Gs. reported active from DYE WORKS, DURIEZ FARM, C.5.c.70.20, C.17.a.20.74, C.11.c.40.08 (new), U.29.d.70.30 (new), U.24.c.77.30, C.5.b.19.02, C.5.a.90.20, SPINNING MILL, SPINNEY, U.11.d.98.32 and U.11.d.85.33.

Patrols near PONT ROUGE reported that the M.G. fire from U.29.d.70.30 was worked in conjunction with searchlight at URAL HOUSE and that this M.G. was silent after light had disappeared.

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from U.29.d.55.22, C.11.c.80.60, U.24.c.77.22, U.30.a.40.30 (light), C.11.a.85.10, U.12.c.75.32 (light), U.12.c.39.10, and the positions (unobserved) in WARNETON and WICART FARM.

Searchlights. About 8.30 p.m. a searchlight was reported near URAL HOUSE. About midnight it was again reported as moving in U.30.a. b. and c. - probably on light railway.

Work. Sounds were heard of iron being dumped behind DYE WORKS between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m.

Iron peg-driving was heard near SOAP HOUSE (C.5.c) at about 8.30 p.m. and one party was heard talking.

Chopping of wood and driving of stakes was heard before dawn N. of DURIEZ FARM. A tree was felled here at 5.30 p.m.

A working party heard near URAL HOUSE (U.29.b) driving wooden pegs and handling iron was dispersed by our artillery fire at 6.15 p.m. A party of 20 men was seen at this work at about 6.30 a.m.

Enemy was wiring at C.5.b.10.20 (in front of DURIEZ FARM) at about 5.30 a.m.

Sounds of shovelling, like mixing cement for concrete, was heard between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. at about end of track, C.5.a.90.20.

Enemy working parties were heard at U.11.d.98.80 & U.11.b.78.18 at 11.0 p.m.; and behind SPINNEY at 4.0 a.m.

Water was being pumped from enemy parapet constantly during the day at U.11.d.92.70. There is a green screen behind this position at U.12.c.00.70.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Patrols report transport heard on CEMETERY Road and in FRELINGHIEN at 6.0 p.m. Horse and motor transport was heard in U.24.d. during the early morning. Transport was heard on pavé road about BAS WARNETON; it was continuous from 2.30 to 5 a.m.

A train was heard coming into WARNETON about 1.0 p.m.

At 9.0 a.m. smoke was seen rising from C.11.c.85.95. This is in vicinity of reported M.W. position.

At 8.30 a.m. 2 men walked from C.11.b.00.31 to C.11.b.30.95.

10. SIGNALS. A light was seen flashing in DEULEMONT Church between 6.0 and 7.0 p.m.11. MISCELLANEOUS.

At 2.20 p.m. a blood-red ball of fire rose about 20 ft. from DURIEZ FARM. It was reported to be about 2 ft in diameter. No apparent cause or result.

For Contact

Lieutenant.I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

PWP.
11th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.27 from 6 a.m. 10/12/17 to 6 a.m. 11/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS.)

PART I.

1. OPERATIONS.

During the day our Artillery dispersed enemy working party at C.12.d.05.60. M.W. positions were shelled between WARNETON and DYE WORKS in FRELINGHIEN and an explosion was observed at the latter place. URAL HOUSE in U.29.b. was also bombarded.

During both day and night harassing fire was directed on enemy traffic routes and communications. Special attention was devoted during the night to interfering with enemy transport on roads in rear of WARNETON and FRELINGHIEN, and also to interruption of his work along the right bank of the LYS between PONT ROUGE and FRELINGHIEN. This night firing was reported by Infantry patrols to have been effective.

Machine Guns. M.G. fired on enemy communications and tracks intermittently during the night.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols report ground from C.10.b. 30.20 eastward to road running to BRIDGE HOUSE as difficult to traverse. The road is in good condition. There is a breastwork and a wide ditch on the northern side and a duckboard track on the south side. The road is covered by M.G. fire from BRIDGE HOUSE? DYE WORKS and ARCHES.

Patrols report enemy working parties were not so active immediately south of PONT ROUGE but were heard intermittently during the night north of FRELINGHIEN.

(b). Left Brigade patrols report there is a mound dugout and pumping plant situated about U.18.a.10.35. The dugout and plant have been badly damaged by shell fire. There is a 1000-gal. tank about 10 yds from mound and a lot of timber, galv. iron and pipes are lying near the dugout.

Enemy work heard going on in trenches in front of WARNETON was interfered with by our Artillery fire, but a lot of transport was heard between WARNETON and DEULIMONT throughout the night. (see below).

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery activity was normal, but showed considerable increase on that of two previous days. Between 7.0 a.m. and 5.0 p.m. about 1000 rounds of 15 cm.H.E. from direction of FRELINGHIEN was directed on the vicinity of a battery position in C.2.central. Registration was carried out in the morning by aeroplane observation. Le BIZET was intermittently shelled during the morning with 15 cm. from direction of FRELINGHIEN. Area between GREY FARM & SEAFORTH was shelled between 12.45 p.m. and 1.0 p.m., 2.15 to 3.15 p.m., 8.0 to 8.30 p.m. and 11.0 to 11.45 p.m. Shelling was mostly 10.5 cm. from direction of ST. BARBE and was not heavy.

In the front line system there was a heavy bombardment by 10.5 cm. and M.W. using much Gas shell between 8.0 and 8.30 p.m. on CARTERS TRENCH in C.10.d. and LONG AVENUE behind it. (See below). This bombardment was apparently in the form of a light barrage.

(1)

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There was the usual desultory light shelling during the day of trenches in U.29 from direction of La TACHE (V.26) and DEULE BRICKFIELDS (D.8.a). The same batteries bombarded this vicinity and UNA AVENUE between 11.30 p.m. and 12 midnight and 2.15 and 2.45 a.m. with 7.7 and 10.5 cm.H.E. & Gas from direction of ST. BARBE and La TACHE. An enemy wireless message was intercepted giving warning of this bombardment which was communicated to the front line.

On Left Brigade front there was the usual desultory bombardment of trenches in U.11 and U.17 from direction of COMINES and ST.MARGUERITE assisted by M.W.fire from WARNETON.

From 11.30 to 11.45 p.m. the same area was heavily shelled with 15 cm. from direction of COMINES.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

Between 8.0 and 8.30 p.m. enemy directed on our trenches in C.10.a. and C.10.central a concentrated bombardment by medium and light M.W. from The VATS (C.17.a), DYE WORKS, BRIDGE HOUSE and LAUNDRY. Most of the rounds gave off gas irritating to the eyes. On the Right Coy. front the M.W.fire was described as a barrage of Gas shells between Post at C.10.d.20.75 and HOREKAU AVENUE (C.10.d.15.30). Simultaneously the enemy placed a light barrage of 10.5 H.E. on KIWI STREET, fired from direction of DEULE BRICKFIELDS (D.8.a).

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G.reported active from BREWERY (C.17.a), BRIDGE HOUSE (C.11.c), U.29.b.67.22, C.11.c.40.10, LAUNDRY, DURIEZ FARM, U.12.a.95.37 (fired on our aeroplanes), U.11.d.98.31 and SPINNING MILL.

Minenwerfer. M.W.reported active from U.24.c.79.23, U.29.d.85.90 (pineapples-new), C.5.b.50.35 (light-H.M.W.previously reported from here), C.17.a.31.78, C.11.c.55.55 and 60.80, wood in rear of LAUNDRY, WICART FARM, SPINNING MILL, U.12.d.20.50.

Searchlight. Reported again at URAL HOUSE (U.29.b).

Work. Loading of bricks and metal was heard in FRELINGHIEN between 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. also light trench railway. Transport could be heard approaching the village between 6.30 and 7.15 p.m.; it was heard again at 5.30 a.m.

Work heard at DURIEZ FARM ceased on our artillery opening, but was heard again just before dawn and the party stacked shovels about 6.30 a.m. Handling of iron was heard in LAUNDRY during evening. Trucks were heard moving on light railway which runs into DURIEZ FARM. UNCURL

Wiring party heard in TRENCH (U.29.d) during the night was dispersed by artillery fire. Wiring was also heard near BREWERY at 8.0 p.m, but stopped just before M.W.fire began at 8 pm

Enemy was heard working in his front line at U.11.d.83.40 at 11.0 p.m. and talking was again heard at 4.0 a.m. Our artillery fired on this spot at intervals.

There is a newly made slit in cement wall at C.11.b.20.58. Both a M.G. and an O.P. have been reported here.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

At 2.45 p.m. 5 GOTHA machines flow over back areas and dropped bombs. Several men and horses were wounded.

At 10.30 a.m. an enemy aeroplane attempted unsuccessfully to shoot down one of our observation balloons near KEMMEL HILL.

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8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Transport. Patrols report transport heard behind WARNETON between 6.0 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., 10.20 p.m., 11.10 p.m. to 12 midnight, and 12 midnight to 2.30 a.m. This transport was continuous and appeared to work from rear of WARNETON towards WARNETON and DEULEMONT.

Train was heard coming into WARNETON from direction of COMINES about 6.30 p.m. and left again half an hour later.

Transport was heard on road in U.24.d. between 4.30 p.m. and 9.0 p.m.

Other movement. A train was seen during the morning at D.1.c.30.38 travelling towards BRICKFIELDS. Another train was seen at C.12.b.30.30.

Ten men were seen to leave building at U.30.b.00.90. Noise of handling metal was heard here before they left.

At 1.40 p.m. 30 men were seen walking on track between C.12.a.05.60 and C.11.b.20.55. M.G. and artillery fired on and scattered them. An hour later small parties of 3 and 4 were seen moving away from ~~building~~ beside the track and M.G. again engaged them.

Flashes of 8 10.5 cm. hows. were seen during the day about FERME du GRAND VERQUIN and the flash of a 15 cm. how. at about D.7.c.50.10.

Smoke was seen rising from ruin at U.12.d.95.64.

Movement was seen during the morning around GASOMETER (U.12.b)

10. SIGNALS.

Enemy was signalling with a heliograph at 2.0 p.m. from old buildings at U.12.a.98.23 (north of GASOMETER).

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

During the firing of some gas shells on WARNETON at night, enemy Strombos Horns were heard, also loud clashing of shell cases.

At 12.30 a.m. 2 PINK lights were fired by enemy from about U.11.d.98.93. Shortly afterwards gas shells landed in vicinity of our front line in U.11.d.

F. M. Curran
Lieutenant.I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel,G.S.

PART II.

11/12/1917.

GERMAN MACHINE GUN ESTABLISHMENTS.

There are two types of machine guns :-

(a) Heavy ('08 pattern), corresponding to our Vickers' gun.

(b) Light ('08/'15 pattern), corresponding to our Lewis gun.

Other types of light machine gun or automatic rifle, e.g. Bergmann, Madson, and Parabellum, appear to have been discarded.

The normal establishment is now :-

Light Machine Guns:- 2-3 per Infantry Coy.

(72-108 per Division)

Heavy Machine Guns : 8-12 per Bn. Machine Gun Coy.

(72-108 per Division).

The minimum figure is probably normal for divisions in quiet sectors of the front, the maximum being reached in active sectors.

The average number per division is, therefore :-

90 light machine guns: 90 heavy machine guns: Total = 180

At present (Dec. 1917) there are also about 90 independent "machine gun marksman detachments," (each of 3 companies) which are G.H.Q. troops, and are allotted as required to particular sectors of the front. These companies are similar in establishment to the battalion machine gun companies; -

The total number of machine guns in the German Army may, therefore, be calculated as follows :-

240 x 90	=	21,600	light machine guns with companies.
240 x 90	=	21,600	heavy machine guns with battalions.
270 x 10	=	2,700	heavy machine guns in marksmen dets.
115 x 10	=	1,150	heavy m.g's. in mountain & cavalry units.

47,050 machine guns of both types.

GERMAN TANKS.

According to an Alsatian deserter, a man in his Company who came from the firm of Henschell & Co., at CASSEL, stated that an order had been given for 300 tanks about April last. A certain number had now been completed. They are said to be armed with four machine guns and 2 light guns each: two different patterns are believed to exist.

PWP.
12th. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No. 28 from 6 a.m. 11/12/17 to 6 a.m. 12/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

I. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery engaged known M.W. positions in WARNETON and FRELINGHIEN. A small explosion was caused in the position at C.11.b.25.30. 12 rounds of 4.5 How. were fired on moving train at C.12.b.50.10.

Our Artillery directed harassing fire during day and night on enemy routes and communications.

Machine Guns. M.Gs. fired on enemy routes and communications during the night.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols report the River LYS is rising.

There is a line of barbed wire parallel to BRIDGE Road running out of FRELINGHIEN on our side of the LYS. The wire is about 5 yds. from the road on the north side. Duckboards have been placed across bridge opposite WHITE FARM, which is now in a condition to cross. Patrol discovered this just before sunrise and there was no time to complete investigation.

(b). Left Brigade patrols report there is an old well situated on the river bank at U.18.a.05.20. The well is about 5 ft. in diameter and water level is about 4 ft. from the top. It is cased inside with bricks. Three metal tubes, one of which contains wire, were overhanging the well.

NO MAN'S LAND at U.11.d.60.18 is in a very bad state. There is a large pool of water about 3 ft. deep in one place.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N 1 1.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING

Enemy artillery was quiet throughout the period, especially on back areas. Duckboards in U.14.d. and U.15.c. were lightly shelled from direction of DEULLEMONT at 2.30 p.m., and during the night road in U.14.a. and c. was shelled lightly from direction of COMINES. (φ. but continuously with 15 cm.)

On front line system trenches in U.23.a. were bombarded from 1.15 p.m. onwards with about 200 rounds of 10.5 cm. - direction unobserved.

Trenches in U.29.c. and U.23.c. were lightly shelled during the day and from 9.0 to 10.0 p.m. from direction of DEULLEMONT with 10.5 cm.

There was a moderate amount of M.W. fire on Left Brigade front from WARNETON.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns and Minenwerfer. M.G. and M.W. were reported from usual known positions. There was a marked decrease in M.G. on Right Brigade front.

A M.G. was reported firing from U.11.b.80.18.

A M.W. (heavy) was firing during the night from old building at U.18.c.70.60.

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Work. Work still continues in FRELINGHIEN, DURIEZ FARM and SCREENED FARM. Transport and trucks were also heard in rear of these places and DEUEMONT.

Movement of rails and sheet iron could be heard in the ARCHES (C.11.a).

A small working party was heard at U.29.d.85.90 between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m.

Wiring party was heard at U.18.a.95.15 at 1.30 a.m.

Much talking and shouting was heard in enemy lines opposite Left Brigade during the night.

Heavy transport was again heard behind WARNETON at several times during the night.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

An enemy aeroplane flew over our front line on the Left front at 10.30 p.m.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Transport. Patrols report transport heard in rear of WARNETON at intervals all night, behind SCREENED FARM (about 6.0 p.m.), FRELINGHIEN (5.0 to 6.0 p.m), and behind DURIEZ AND SCREENED FARMS (between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m.).

Patrol which heard traffic behind DURIEZ FARM reported that our artillery fire was on the road at the time but too far north to do any harm to that transport.

Other Movement. Smoke was seen rising from rear of DURIEZ FARM about 2.15 p.m.

During the morning the enemy was seen observing from a large hole in the centre of WARNETON TOWER and a telescope glass moving from right to left could be plainly seen. At 2.30 a.m. 2 men left the ruins at the foot of the TOWER and moved to ruins nearby.

At 3.0 p.m. a man, apparently an officer, carrying a walking stick, and a man with a full pack on, were seen to leave trench at U.12.c.50.95 and walk along track towards GASOMETER, but our artillery fire turned them back into the trench.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

At 8.30 p.m. on the opening of one of our bursts of fire, an enemy searchlight swept along the whole front line trenches on a T.B. 119°. from U.13.b.20.15. A searchlight was also observed from the same place T.B.68½°.

F. J. L. T. A. C.

Lieutenant.I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.,

122
A.H.
13th. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No. 29 from 6 a.m. 12/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 13/12/'17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

Our artillery fired on known M.W. and M.G. positions in WARNETON, DEULEMONT and FRELINGHIEN. Some rounds of Gas shell were fired into buildings in LES ECIUSES. At intervals during day and night, - especially during the night, - heavy harassing fire was directed on enemy routes and communications behind WARNETON, PONT ROUGE and FRELINGHIEN areas.

Machine Guns. M.G. directed harassing fire on roads behind SOAP HOUSE and URAL HOUSE, and dispersed a party of 3 during the day at C.11.b.20.35.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols made a useful report on WHITE FARM bridges (C.5.a) as follows :-

"The bridge at C.5.a.35.56 was found to be more knocked about than was thought from the report of one of the patrols of the previous morning. About 15 ft. of duckboard lies on our bank of the River, but it was too dark to see what was on the opposite bank. It would require a good deal of repairing to get across comfortably. The duckboard track leading to the bridge from WHITE FARM shows no sign of recent use. The bridge at C.5.a.30.40 has also a good duckboard track leading to it from WHITE FARM, but shows no signs of recent use. It has three rows of ordinary light railway rails on piles with a decking of boards about 8 ft. wide, and could be repaired without very much trouble by placing boards across the spans which have been knocked down. There is a lot of drift wood against the southern side of it, consisting chiefly of small timbers interspersed with a few logs." (This is what shows up on photographs like a mass of masonry).

(b). Left Brigade patrols report much talking heard in enemy lines, and heavy traffic behind the lines in WARNETON (see below). VERY lights were frequently fired from enemy posts at U.11.d.85.33 and U.11.b.80.40.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Except for heavy bombardment of Left Brigade front opposite WARNETON during the evening (see below), hostile artillery fire during the period was lighter than usual, especially on Right Bde front. There was light shelling of trenches in U.23 from direction of ST. BARBE and FRELINGHIEN, assisted by light M.W. shells (some of them Gas) from DEULEMONT and URAL HOUSE. The M.W. at DEULEMONT were fired in salvos of three. Batteries in direction of DEULE BRICK-FIELDS (D.8.a) and LA TACHE (V.26) were moderately active.

On Left Bde front shelling was confined almost entirely to the heavy shooting at night.

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5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE.

Enemy again heavily shelled Left Bde front in U.11 and U.17.b during the early part of the night. Between 7.0 and 8.0 p.m., there was a destructive shoot on trenches in U.11 - about 600 rounds 7.7, 10.5 and 15 cm. from COMINES direction; simultaneously desultory shelling of trenches in N. of LA BASSE VILLE (U.17.b); which continued till 12.30 a.m., with Gas and 10.5 cm.H.E. from direction of COMINES and LA TACHE (V.26). The Gas was reported as both lachrymatory and lethal, and affected eyes and throat.

This artillery bombardment was supported by slow M.W. fire from SPINNING MILL (heavy), SPINNEY (pineapples), WARNETON (medium and pineapples), and U.18.e.70.60 (heavy).

No sign of the enemy infantry was seen after or during this shelling, which may have been by way of retaliation for our artillery fire on WARNETON.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns & Minenwerfer. M.G. and M.W. were active from known positions along the front. Heavy M.W. was again reported firing from old building at U.18.e.70.60.

Searchlight. One was reported at URAL HOUSE (U.29.b).

Work. Enemy was heard working during the night on right of LYS at LAUNDRY, DURIEZ FARM, SOAP HOUSE, and UNKNOWN FARM. This work was specially active between midnight and dawn.

Light trench railway was heard near SCREENED FARM and the dumping of shovels at that place about 5.0 a.m.

Traffic on road behind FRELINGHIEN was scattered by our artillery at about 8.0 p.m.

Light engine was heard at 5.30 p.m. blowing off steam about C.11.a.96.20.

Heavy traffic was heard all night behind WARNETON, moving to and from direction of BAS WARNETON and COMINES. There was much noise of light trains, wheeled transport and motor lorries.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Shortly after 2.0 p.m., a small squadron of GOTHAS flew over our lines. Some bombs were dropped. One GOTHA was brought down in flames by three of our Scouts, and fell near the LYS at about C.11.a.56.42. There was an explosion after it hit the ground.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES

At 1.40 p.m. two men were working on suspected M.W. emplacement at U.12.a.00.30.

During the morning 6 men left dugout behind GASOMETER (U.12.b) and moved down the track across the railway towards WARNETON.

10. SIGNALS

Two YELLOW lights fired from the ARCHES (C.11.a) was the signal for M.G. fire from the same place.

Right Bde reports enemy is apparently using a signal of two RED lights as a call for counter-battery work.

At 7.40 p.m. 12 RED lights were fired from about U.11.b.80.40. Five minutes later enemy artillery opened on our front and support lines in U.11.b. and d.

13/12/1917.

Opposite the Left Centre Battalion at 7.0 p.m. on opening of our artillery fire, enemy fired GOLDEN RAIN rockets, which was the signal for enemy artillery fire on front and support lines in U.17.a. and b. This signal was repeated back from behind (perhaps Coy. Headquarters), and was answered still further back by a similar rocket (perhaps Battalion Headquarters). The fire which followed the RED lights on the Left was heavier than that which followed the GOLDEN RAIN lights, from which it may be deduced that RED lights are the signal for annihilating fire, and GOLDEN RAIN for retaliatory fire.

Malutack

Lieutenant, I.C.
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

122
A.H.
14th. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.30 from 6 a.m. 13/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 14/12/'17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery fired 157 rounds Gas on WAUSTINE FARM and neighbouring billets (V.13). LAUNDRY, SOAP HOUSE, and M.W. positions in WARNETON and FRELLINGHAM were engaged with H.B.; the M.W. at C.5.d.34.50 was hit, and did not fire again. Seven effective hits were also observed on M.W. at DURIEZ FARM. Artillery fire on M.W. near WARNETON TOWER at midnight and 2.10 a.m. appeared to be accurate and effective. At intervals during the night, over 1500 rounds were fired in harassing enemy tracks and communications.

Machine Guns. M.G. directed harassing fire on enemy tracks and communications.

Patrols. (a) Right Brigade Patrols report an enemy post at C.11.a. 60.50. Rifle shots came from this point. The inlet from the River in C.10.d. was again examined. There is a track 10 ft. wide on the N. side much overgrown with grass. Enemy movement opposite right centre battalion was less than usual.

(b) Left Brigade Patrols reported several signs of nervousness on the part of the enemy garrison (see below). Much transport was again heard behind WARNETON.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N 1 1.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery fire throughout the period was extremely light. There was some rather heavy shelling of DOUVE WALK between 8.0 and 9.0 p.m. with 10.5 and 15 cm. fire from direction of COMINES. At 10.0 p.m. enemy also retaliated with heavy burst of fire on SUNKEN FARM and U.16.b. with 10.5 and 15 cm. from direction of COMINES AND La TACHE. Otherwise, enemy fire was light and scattered, and came chiefly from M.W., and this was apparently by way of being retaliatory fire for our artillery bombardments.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE

Between 4.0 and 4.15 p.m., the enemy put down a light barrage on UMFIRE DRIVE SOUTH (U.23.c), and between KIVI STREET and UNA SUPPORT. The fire was 10.5 cm. from direction of DEULE BRICKFIELDS (D.8a). Probably retaliation for our artillery fire on LYS defences.

At 8.30 p.m. and at midnight enemy bombed his own wire at U.11.d. 91.65. This, taken with his heavy M.G. fire on left front, indicated some nervousness in his garrison. VERY lights also unusually numerous on this front.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns and Minenwerfer. M.G. and M.W. were active during the night from known positions along the front. Light M.W. at WICART FARM and DEUERMONT were chiefly active on Right Brigade front, especially during the afternoon.

(1)

P.T.O.

14/12/1917.

WICART FARM M.W. and pineapples fired intermittently on Left Brigade front all night. Enemy M.G. fire was noticeably heavier than usual between the DOUVE and the LYS, also from SPINNING MILL. Two M.W. appeared to fire from U.18.c.70.60 - a light and a heavy.

Searchlights. One was reported in action from DURIEZ FARM.

Work. Working parties were heard in DURIEZ FARM, LAUNDRY, and DYE WORKS during the night. Galv. iron was being unloaded from trucks behind SCREENED FARM, and the trucks went off towards FRELINGHIEN between 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. Heavy transport was heard at same period coming from direction of DEUEMONT. Light transport coming into FRELINGHIEN about 5.0 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. seemed to stop at about C.11.d.central.

Wiring party was heard at work between C.11.a.58.13 and C.11.c.58.86 at 7.30 p.m. It stopped on our artillery opening fire.

Enemy was heard working at U.11.b.78.10 at 9.0 p.m.

Transport was heard on roads behind WARNETON at intervals till midnight. Trains were heard in the distance behind WARNETON about 11.30 p.m., 12.0 midnight, and 2.30 a.m.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Enemy Observer was located at C.11.b.13.66 (confirmed).
Visibility was very poor all day.

F. C. C. C.

Lieutenant, I.C.

for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

A.H.
15th. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.31 from 6 a.m. 14/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 15/12/'17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

PART I.

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery bombarded M.W. and M.G. positions in WARNETON, FRELINGHIEN, and DEULEMONT during the day, and got several direct hits; especially on DOLL'S HOUSE. Strong points in DEULEMONT at U.24.c.76.52, CO.80, and 72.92 were also bombarded with good effect. 46 rounds 4.5" Hows. were fired on bridges at U.12.d.15.92 and U.12.c.79.80. Throughout the period, - and particularly during the night, - intermittent harassing fire was directed on enemy tracks and communications behind FRELINGHIEN, PONT ROUGE, DEULEMONT, SPINNING MILL and WARNETON. About 122 rounds of Gas shell were fired on dugouts and M.G. emplacements on the WARNETON embankment and near ROOSTER .. CABT.

Machine Guns. M.G. directed harassing fire intermittently throughout the night on enemy tracks and communications.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols report finding a large concrete dugout in the ruins of PLANTATION FARM (U.29.c). Previously this dugout had remained hidden by a large amount of debris falling over it from bombardments. The dugout is quite dry and in excellent condition. The entrance was blocked up with earth. - Another patrol reached the river bank at U.30.a.10.40, but could not get to the water's edge owing to swampy ground. The patrol was able to see by the light from VERY lights what appeared to be a track on the other side of the river running towards DEULEMONT. - Another patrol found a large shellhole full of water at U.29.b.60.60. There was a track leading to it from PONT ROUGE BRIDGE, and presumably it was formerly used as an enemy listening post. - Ground about C.11.a.30.30 is very swampy and in places impassable. Some pieces dropped from the enemy aeroplane, which came down in flames, two days ago, were found on our side of the river in C.11.c. Patrol was unable to approach FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE owing to heavy M.G. fire. Snipers at the ARCHES were again active.

(b). Left Brigade patrols report enemy very quiet except for artillery fire, and firing a large number of VERY lights.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery was fairly quiet during the day but livened up considerably at night, doubtless in response to our night shelling of his roads. On Right Bde front, our trenches in U.23 were intermittently shelled between 5.0 p.m. and midnight with salvoes of 10.5 cm. from direction of ST. BARBE (V.27). On Left Bde front, a heavy barrage was put down about 7.0 p.m. near the DOUVE (see below) Enemy fire was fairly quiet on this front during the day. WARNETON track was registered from direction of both COMINES and ST. BARBE. Between 3.15 and 6.15 p.m. the vicinity of U.7.d. and U.8. were fairly heavily shelled with 10.5 and 15 cm. from direction of ST. BARBE and COMINES. There was a short interval during which a barrage was put down on the front line trenches S. of the DOUVE, and then from 7.45 p.m. onwards there was intermittent fire from the same directions on both DOUVE and WARNETON tracks. Fire died

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15/12/1917.

down about midnight. It was not heavy but persistent.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Enemy garrison again bombed his own wire at 1.0 a.m. opposite Left Centre Battalion and fired a large number of VERY lights.

At 6.40 p.m. enemy put down a heavy barrage on front of Bde on our left. This spread very soon in response to GOLDEN RAIN rockets on to front of our Left Battalion, and lasted till about 7.0 p.m. (Direction of fire COMINES and ST. BARBE; 7.7, 10.5 and 15 cm.).

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. were active, especially from FRELINGHIEN, on Right Bde front, also from DURIEZ FARM and SOAP HOUSE. The FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE was found by patrols to be well covered by M.G. fire. M.G. less active on Left Bde front.

Minenwerfer. M.W. were active, especially from WICART FARM, URAL HOUSE, and DURIEZ FARM. Desultory M.W. fire on Left Bde front during the night from WARMETON (medium), SPINNING MILL, and WICART FARM (pineapples).

Searchlights. One was again active at DURIEZ FARM between 10.0 and 11.0 p.m.

Werk. Artillery dispersed working parties during the day at C.5.d.27.77 and C.5.b.53.87, and scattered a party of 6 at C.11.b.85.60.

Transport was heard entering FRELINGHIEN from DEULEMONT about 5.0 p.m. and from 7.30 to 8.0 p.m. A party was heard working about 200 yds S. of FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE about 6.0 p.m. At 10.0 p.m. a train heavily laden was heard behind WARMETON.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

During the morning, an enemy party was seen dumping ammunition at a spot about 100 yds S. of DURIEZ FARM. Another party was carrying it to the FARM. 18-pdrs opened fire on the place and some of the enemy took shelter behind a brick wall which was almost immediately smashed by several direct hits. No further movement was observed here during the day.

At 9.15 a.m. 4 men appeared to be running out a telephone wire at V.19.a.60.50. Movement could not be followed for long owing to bad visibility.

At 8.30 a.m. and again at 2.0 p.m. a small party of three or four men were working at U.11.d.93.70.

At 2.45 p.m. 8 men were seen in C.T. about the same place. (U.11.d.93.70).

Smoke of a train was seen in direction of ST.MARGUERITE at 12.50 p.m. moving north-west. At 1.20 p.m. train was seen moving south at the same place, and one in direction of QUESNOY was moving east.

At 10.40 p.m. a big fire broke out in enemy lines in direction of PERENCHIES.

P.T.O.

New organisation of forward system.

The enemy's new method of holding the line with six companies forward and six companies in support (the regiment of three battalions thus being divided into two fighting groups instead of three), which was recently noticed in the WYTSCHAETE Group, appears to have been adopted by the YPRES Group also (next north). Prisoners of 11th. Reserve Division give these dispositions, and a prisoner of the 2nd. Guard Division indicates much the same thing in his regiment (77th R.I.R.)

Movement of Troops from Russia to the West.

According to reports and letters from GERMANY at the end of November, men who were then on leave from the front were being given 10 days' extension on account of an intense railway movement which was about to take place from RUSSIA to the Western Front.

German Field Wireless Stations.

The following extracts have been taken from a set of "Instructions for Command Posts equipped with Wireless", issued by the 18th Division on the 14th. July, 1917 :-

(a) The wireless stations of a Division are expected to maintain communication between Brigades and Regiments, between Regiments and Battalions, and between Battalions and important observation posts or company command posts. They also serve to ask for barrage fire, and they should, if possible, be utilized for artillery purposes (i.e., transmission of Observation Officers' reports), reports being forwarded through the artillery liaison Officer.

(b) The station at Brigade Headquarters is to listen in continuously during quiet times; other stations are only manned for the first 10 minutes after each hour.

During active operations, however, and not later than the receipt of the order "increased readiness for action", all stations must remain in constant readiness without waiting further instructions.

(c) As a general rule, wireless stations should only transmit tactical messages, and these only when other means of communication fail, or their use appears inadvisable. It is essential, however, that the operators should have practice and that Headquarters should familiarize themselves with this means of communication. A certain number of messages must, therefore, be sent by wireless, even when other means of communication are available. The most suitable messages for this purpose are the morning and evening reports, provided they are not too long.

(d) A wireless station requires a well-built, roomy dugout, in close proximity to the command post to which the station is attached. Commanders need not fear the betrayal of the exact position of their command posts to the enemy, by the presence of a wireless station, as the means of locating such stations as far too inaccurate.

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15/12/1917.

10. SIGNALS.

The enemy barrage on Left Battalion front (see above) opened on fire of GOLDEN RAIN rockets and ceased on the same signal.

Fuller

Lieutenant, I.C.,
for Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.,

General Field Wireless Stations.

The following extracts have been taken from a set of instructions for Command Posts equipped with Wireless, issued by the 18th Division on the 14th July, 1917.

(a) The wireless stations of a Division are expected to maintain communication between Brigades and Regiments, between Battalions and Regiments, and between Battalions and Regiments observation posts or company command posts. They also serve as a means of communication between the Division and the Army, and they should, if possible, be utilized for artillery purposes (i.e., transmission of observation Officers' reports), reports being forwarded through the artillery liaison Officer.

(b) The wireless stations of a Division are only manned for the first half hour after each hour.

During active operations, however, and not later than the receipt of the order "Increased readiness for action," all stations must remain in constant readiness without further instructions.

(c) In a general rule, wireless stations should only transmit tactical messages, and these only when other means of communication fail or their use appears inadvisable. It is essential, however, that operators should have practice and that headquarters should familiarize themselves with this means of communication. A certain number of messages must, therefore, be sent by wireless, even when other means of communication are available. The most reliable messages for this purpose are the morning and evening reports, provided that are not too long.

(d) A wireless station requires a well-lit, roomy log hut in close proximity to the command post to which the station is attached. Commanders need not fear the presence of wireless stations as the means of locating such stations are too imperfect.

122
A.H.
22nd. December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.32 from 6 a.m. 21/12/17 to 6 a.m. 22/12/17
(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

(PART NO. 1).

1. OPERATIONS.

Our artillery carried out effective counter-battery work on known howitzer emplacements at D.26.c.30.00 and D.26.c.50.00, and at 7.15 p.m. carried out counter-preparation firing on known M.W. and M.G. emplacements in C.17.a. and c. Enemy's fire, which at this time had been

heavy on C.16.d. ceased almost immediately. (See para. 4). At 12 M.N. 57 rounds 18-pdrs. were fired on BROKEN TRENCH at I.16.central (See Patrols).

Machine Guns. Our Machine Guns directed harassing fire on enemy tracks and communications mainly in the Area South of the Railway in I.11.d. and C.29.b. and d.

Snipers. 4 of the enemy seen moving from their parapet to a shell hole at I.11.c.20.30 were fired on by our Snipers - 2 hits are claimed.

Trench Mortars. At 6.35 p.m. our 3" Stokes Mortars fired 85 rounds on enemy M.Gs. at I.11.a.40.10, C.17.c.83.60, enemy trenches at I.5.d.20.05, C.29.a.45.03 and suspected M.W. emplacement at C.17.d.00.70. The enemy replied heavily with M.W., and 7.7 cm. from direction of FRELINGHIEN, firing on IRISH AVENUE at C.16.d. This fire ceased immediately on our Artillery opening fire.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols report movement at night in the enemy front line trenches at I.21.c.70.30, I.21.c.80.50, and I.21.c.30.00. Hammering of picks and movement along duckboards was heard at these points.

At 6.40 p.m. the enemy was discovered to have occupied broken trenches at CHARD'S FARM from I.16.b.20.20 to I.16.central with a party of about 30 and a machine gun. Our patrols sent out were met by rifle and M.G. fire. At 12 midnight 18-pdrs. fired 57 rounds on the position - a patrol sent out immediately found that the enemy had been forced to withdraw.

At 12.30 a.m. an Officers' patrol encountered two strong enemy patrols about I.16.d.25.90. On sighting our patrol the enemy patrols withdrew.

(b). Left Brigade patrols report having heard trollies and the movement of iron rails at about I.5.b.60.50. A patrol at I.5.c.75.60 saw three of the enemy 100 yards from them. The enemy immediately disappeared.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery and M.W. were very quiet during the day but more active at night in reply to our T.M. fire. At 6.40 p.m. there was brisk fire from 7.7 cm. from direction of FRELINGHIEN and M.W. opened fire from emplacements in the Area (C.17.a and c. This fire ceased at 7.15 p.m.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Enemy Snipers have been active along the whole front. His patrol activity has also been above normal.

P. T. O.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy M.Gs. swept our parapet along the whole front at intervals during the hours of darkness. They were particularly active for an hour at daylight.

Work. At 11.15 a.m. an enemy working party at C.17.c.90.30 was fired on and scattered.

8. MOVEMENT IN & BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Visibility throughout the day was poor.

Trench train was heard at 10.0 a.m. at about

I.21.a.40.60.

At 8 p.m. a listening post observed a party of 12 of the enemy leave their trench about C.29.a.70.50 and re-enter soon after. At 7.30 a.m. 3 of the enemy were seen in NO MAN'S LAND (about I.17.a.05.90). They disappeared immediately and nothing further was seen of them.

At 6.30 a.m. noise of the driving in of Posts was heard about I.11.c.50.50.

At 4.15 a.m. an enemy patrol of about 9 men was seen at I.5.c.75.50. They were fired on (rifle fire) and disappeared. Movement was seen near dugout at I.5.b.30.50.

About noon a light train was heard at I.11.c.55.20.

S.A. Jackson
Captain.-G.S.

PART II.ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The Diagram attached to the Summary illustrates the chain of Command under the 6-Company system in the 153rd I.R. which occupies the HOUTHEM Area.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A recent prisoner confirms the death of the Command of the 72nd I.R. previously reported. He was a Lieut-Colonel and was hit by a Sniper about 14 days ago. For the interest of the Snipers concerned this event must have occurred somewhere between O.24.central and O.30.d.(MESSINES Area).

NOTES OF AIR PHOTOS TAKEN ON 19TH DECEMBER.

4 A 449. Ten strong points at D.25.a.50.25; 30.40, are joined by a path and show signs of occupation.

4 A 441. The two dugouts at D.19.a.80.70; 80.60, are evidently of some importance from the movement shown around them and the presence of a buried wire running into them.

4 A 451. From tracks apparent the dugouts at C.12.c.55.77; 80.55; 60.35, are very much used.

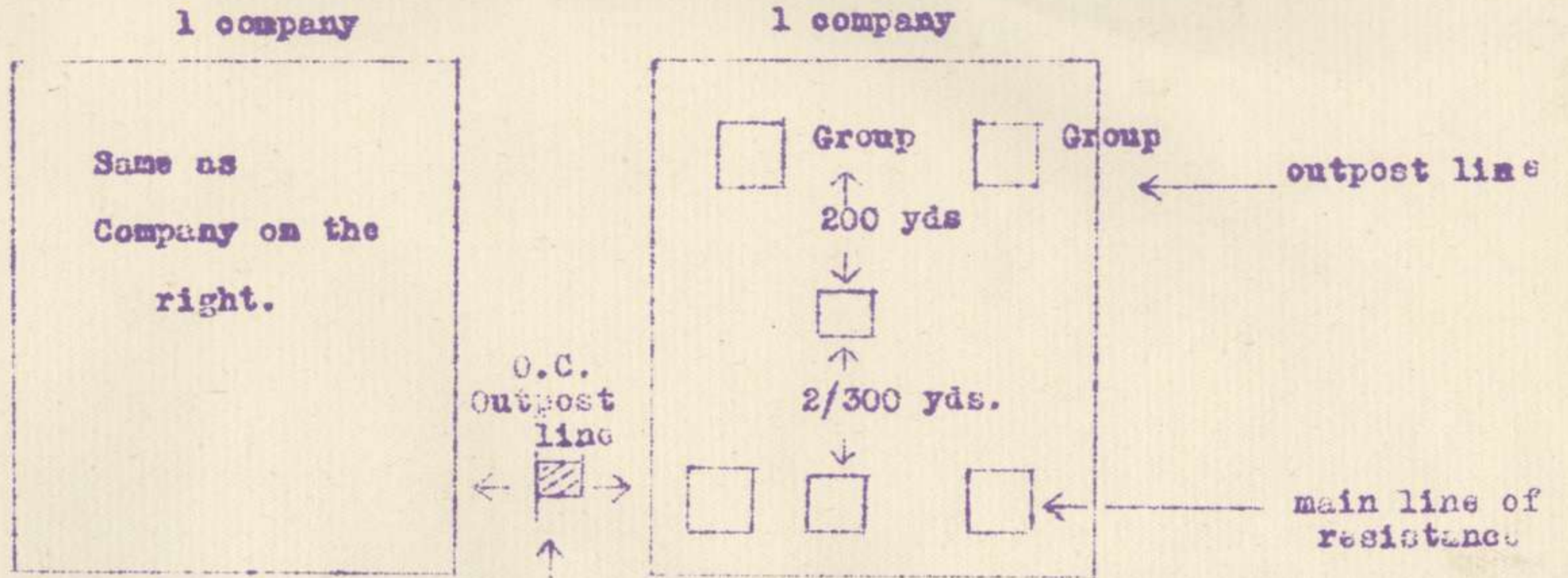
4 A 443. The strong point at D.19.c.20.45 is being improved and occupied. The dugout at C.24.b.85.05 is also occupied.

4 A 447. The locality round C.18.c.30.70 is strong is strongly wired, a telephone wire leads into it, and it is evidently of some importance.

Diagram illustrating the probable chain of command under the six Company systems in 153 I.R.

APPENDIX /

(1) under K.T.K. (battn. staff commanding fighting troop) 2 companies.



(2) under I.T.K. (battn. staff commanding supporting troops) 4 companies.



about 1500 yds

about 10,000 yards.

(3) under H.T.K. (battn. staff commanding reserve troops) 6 companies.



21/12/1917.

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APPENDIX /

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

APPENDIX

Intelligence Summary No.33 from 6 a.m. 22/12/17 to 6 a.m. 23/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery fired on known M.W. positions and on an A.A. M.G. crew at C.23.d.95.95.

Trench Mortars. (a). Our 6" T.M. fired the enemy front line and wire in I.5.c. and d. A sniper's post with two steel loop-holes was destroyed.

(b). Our 3" Stokes Mortars fired on enemy front line at I.17.a. 20.35 and I.11.a.40.10, & Suspected M.G. emplacement at C.29.a. 45.00 and M.W. at C.23.d.00.65. On the last two targets several direct hits were reported.

Machine Guns. During the day our M.G. engaged enemy aeroplanes. At night the enemy's wire and parapet were swept at intervals, and in addition 9000 rounds were fired on roads, tracks, trenches and tram line in I.11.c., I.11.b., I.12.a., C.17.a., C.23.b., C.29.d., and b., and C.30.a.

Snipers. One hit was claimed. The enemy is evidently being very much more careful to avoid presenting a target.

Patrols. (a). Right Brig de patrol located small wiring party at I.21.b.1.3. Party withdrew before artillery fire could be brought to bear. The railway at I.21.c.5.9 is much torn by shell fire.

(b). A patrol from the Left Brigade was sent out from post at I.11.c.10.53 at 4.50 p.m. to search the ground where patrol encounter took place on 21st Dec., but found only enemy gas respirator and identity disc. This latter confirms normal identification (14 I.R.) previously reported. When patrol was assembled 10" before going out, 3 of the enemy were seen about 100 yds from our wire going towards their own trenches. They were fired on but no result was observed by the patrol. As the patrol was leaving the post several rounds of heavy M.W. and a number of Granatanwerfer were fired on the post. No casualties were sustained by us.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

Confirmation of identification of 21st Dec., (14 I.R.).

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery showed increased activity. Throughout the day ARMENTIERES was shelled by 4.2 and 5.9 from the direction of PERENCHIES. During the afternoon 200 rounds of 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. fell in La CHAPELLE d' ARMENTIERES (I.8.a) from the direction of ~~PERENCHIES~~ SPINNING MILL, PERENCHIES.

at 8.30 p.m. and at intervals later, the area about SQUARE FARM (I.3.d) was shelled with 4.2 H.E. from PERENCHIES Area.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Minenwerfer. Enemy M.W. fired on our post at I.11.c.10.53 and on our line at C.22.d. and CHARDS FARM (I.16.central).

Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. fired throughout the night on our support line and C.Ts., also paying attention at intervals to our wire and parapet. CHARDS FARM was subjected to heavy fire several times during the night. M.G. were located firing from I.22.a. 52.72 and I.21.b.45.25.

P.T.O.

23/12/1917.

Aircraft. During the morning enemy aeroplanes were active over our front. At 1.55 p.m. 12 enemy aeroplanes passed over our line - four of them were driven back by our A.A.&M.G. fire.

Work. At 9.0 a.m. a working party of 25 men was seen at I.28.b.10.30. A working party was also heard at I.11.c.60.40.

7. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Between 9.0 and 10.30 a.m. movement of iron rails was heard near I.5.d.15.30.

Work was heard at 9.0 p.m. behind enemy lines in C.29.c., suggestive of timber being unloaded from trollies.

Light columns of smoke, not sufficient to form a screen, were seen ascending from I.18.a.80.95., I.18.c.40.70., I.17.b.90.50., I.17.b.63.40., I.23.b.05.15., and I.30.c.30.83.

Small parties of men were seen moving at various places along the front throughout the whole of the morning, in rear of enemy's lines.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

Visibility was good throughout the greater part of the day, but few targets presented themselves about the enemy front line trenches.

At 2.30 p.m. an enemy aeroplane was seen to crash in I.31.d; the aeroplane was observed to be on fire.

S. M. Jackson
Captain.
General Staff.

122
PWP.
24/12/1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.34 from 6 a.m.23/12/17 to 6 a.m. 24/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

PART I.

1. OPERATIONS.

Poor visibility prevented our artillery from doing much shooting.

In addition to firing on working parties and silencing light M.W. C.24.c.05.10. and I.5.d.65.84, registration was carried out on light railway at I.32.b.20.05.

Trench Mortars. Our 3" Stokes Mortars fired 100 rounds on M.G. emplacement in the crater at I.11.c.30.30 (8 c.k's obtained), enemy front line and dugout at I.11.a.42.30, M.W. at C.29.a.83.35 and C.23.d.00.65.

Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged throughout the day: - La HONGRI FARM at I.11.d.92.02, I.12.a.26.69, Farm at I.17.b.31.52, railway and track at I.11.b.09.11 to I.12.c.35.78, crossroads at I.22.b.98.76, road at I.5.b.70.85 to I.6.a.30.35, CENSUS DRIVE TRENCH at C.17.a.40.80.

During the hours of darkness, enemy wire and parapet at points where movement had been previously observed were swept at intervals.

Snipers. One hit is claimed at I.21.b.15.10, at which point a M.G. had been located.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols did not come in contact with any of the enemy, but report considerable work and movement at various points along his front line.

(b). Left Brigade Patrols. At 3.20 this morning a hostile patrol of 1 N.C.O and 5 men was surprised by a post of the left brigade in I.5.d. The enemy patrol was apparently unaware of the position of the post. It was allowed to approach ~~wik~~ to within 70 yds. when L.G. opened fire on it. A patrol which was sent out at once brought in a wounded N.C.O. and two dead Germans; remainder of the hostile patrol are believed to be casualties. On our patrol approaching, the N.C.O. called out "AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA". All three of the enemy wore Iron Cross ribbons. We suffered no casualties.

No further patrols were encountered, but a good deal of work seems to be going on in the enemy lines.

Aircraft. At 3.0 p.m. one of our aeroplanes flew very low and fired on the enemy trenches in I.21.a. and I.21.d.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Normal. - 14th I.R. - N.C.O. prisoner - report on examination attached (PART II).

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

Normal. North to South, 49th, 14th, 140th I.R.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy shelling throughout the whole day was very light. A few rounds of 4.2 fell in C.28. CHAPELLE d' ARMENTIERES was subjected to fire by 15 cm. from direction of PERENCHIES for a short period at 7.15 p.m.

P.T.O.

24/12/1917.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

A great deal of work is being carried out along the whole of the enemy front line trenches. His patrolling activity during the period is below normal.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. are showing increased activity at night on our support line and C.Ts. A M.G. emplacement was located at I.16.d.40.60. This gun swept our parapet from I.16.a.20.00 to I.16.a.73.31. EILEEN POST at I.16.a.78.02 was engaged by a M.G. firing from I.22.a.30.60. Another gun was located at I.5.d.09.43.

Minerwerfer. M.W. were normally active along the whole front. There is a suspected M.W. position at C.17.d.00.70.

Work. New work was noticed at I.22.b.65.35, where new duckboards were seen lying on top of the trench.

A wiring party was heard at I.21.b.25.40.

Our artillery dispersed enemy working parties at I.5.b.20.80, I.11.c.50.40, I.5.d. and I.17.a.

Trench from I.21.d.00.70 to I.21.b.13.02 is garrisoned day & night.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Throughout the day visibility was poor. Enemy trenches from about I.21.c.40.02 to I.21.c.50.15, where sounds of work was heard during the previous night, were kept under careful observation throughout the day, but no sign of occupation was observed.

At 3.0 p.m. a man with a rifle slung was observed at I.21.b.60.25. apparently patrolling trench.

Working party of 5 or 6 men was observed at I.22.c.70.18.

At 6.10 a.m. 5 of the enemy were seen to enter a trench at I.11.c.40.40.

Tram was again heard at I.11.c.60.30.

Working parties were heard about C.23.d. on which area our T.M. were shooting yesterday.

S.H. Jackson

Captain.
General Staff.

PART IIReport of examination of a wounded Unteroffizier of the 7th Coy. 14th I.R.

Order of Battle. Normal. North to South, 49th, 14th, 140th I.R.

Dispositions. The forward area is held by two Battalions, each having 2 Coys in the front line and 2 Coys in support. The support Coys disposed in depth in concrete dugouts. The remaining Battalion is in rest in the vicinity of LAMBERSART. The 7th Coy is on the right flank; the 5th Coy on its left. Prisoner does not know if it be the 1st or 3rd Battalion which occupies the rest of the Regimental front.

Area. The 7th Coy is astride the road running through I.5.d., most of the Coy being on the southern side. The area is about 200 metres long. In this area are 8 double sentry posts and 2 light M.G.

Reliefs, - take place every 7 days; the prisoner's Coy. (posts. expecting relief on the morning of the 26th. Dec., There was some talk of a Divisional relief 8 days ago, but nothing came of it. Prisoner know nothing of any division in reserve; in rest billets he had seen only men of his own regiment.

Rest Billets. The 14th I.R. go to rest in the vicinity of LAMBERSART. The 140th I.R. are in LOMME

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24/12/1917. APPENDIX. /

General. The object of the prisoner's patrol was to discover how our line was held.

The prisoner knew of no impending enemy offensive in this area. He stated on the contrary that every precaution was being taken to meet a possible offensive on our part; the enemy activity in patrolling is due to a desire to discover any preparations which might indicate a coming attack and, if possible, to get identifications.

122
A.H.
25th. December, 1917.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.35 from 6 a.m. 24/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 25/12/'17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Visibility throughout the day was very bad. No organized shooting was carried out. 18-pdrs. fired 10 rounds on CENSOR FARM at C.24.c. for the purpose of registration.

Trench Mortars. 3" Stokes Mortars fired 30 rounds on enemy trenches at I.17.a.35.10. and I.11.a.40.10.

Machine Guns. 6,500 rounds were fired on trenches, farms and communications in I.17.b., I.12.a. and c., I.11.b. and d., C.17.a., and C.29.b. and d.

Snipers. Snipers in salient about I.21.a.80.80. report three hits; two fired at men standing breast high over parapet at I.21.b.30.00 at range of 200 yards, and the other at a man in trench at I.21.c.99.70. Another sniper firing from U.11.c.10.52. claims a hit.

Patrols. Patrols sent out at various points along the front report no signs of the enemy in NO MAN'S LAND. The enemy swept NO MAN'S LAND with M.G. fire at intervals throughout the night.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

H 1 1.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery has been very quiet throughout the period. At about 9.30 p.m., a few rounds slow fire 10.5 cm were directed on CHAPELLE d'ARMENTIERES at I.8. from the direction of PERENCHES. Some 7.7 cm fell in C.22.a. and b. and C.26.d. from direction of J.1.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Very few sounds of activity were heard in the enemy front lines. His patrol activity, which has been marked up to about two days ago, has now died down, and he has apparently resorted to sweeping NO MAN'S LAND with M.G. fire instead of patrolling. This, considered in the light of statement made by prisoner captured on the 23rd instant, seems to indicate that the enemy has ceased to be anxious about any offensive action on our part in this area.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. were located at approximately I.16.d. 30.80 sweeping our parapet at I.16.c.05.51 and at I.21.d.00.60 firing in direction of I.15.d.40.10. M.G. were very active sweeping NO MAN'S LAND during the night.

Minenwerfer. Granatenwerfer was located firing from I.27.central.

(1).

P.T.O.

(2).

25/12/1917.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES (Contd).

Work. Hammering of stakes was heard at I.21.b.90.20. A working party was reported on the top of concrete O.P. at C.17.b.15.20.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

A Carrying party was seen at 10.0 a.m. near I.5.d.20.35.
At 7.0 a.m. a large working party was heard at I.11.a.70.40.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

Shouts of "COO-EE" were heard from the enemy trenches between 8.0 and 10.0 p.m.

S.A. Jackson

Captain.
General Staff.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.CONFIDENTIAL.Intelligence Summary No.36 from 6 a.m. 25/12/17 to 6 a.m.26/12/17(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Effective shooting was carried out on CENSOR FARM in C.24.c. where movement was observed. At 12 noon, 90 rounds were fired on an active M.W. at C.29.d.60.70. The M.W. was completely silenced; though the position was carefully observed throughout the remainder of the day it was not seen to fire again.

Trench Mortars. 65 rounds were fired by our 3" Stokes Mortars on the enemy trenches at I.17.a.20.35, I.17.a.35.10 and I.5.d.20.05.

Machine Guns. 6000 rounds were expended on crossroads and light railways in I.22.b, I.17.b, I.11.b, I.12.a, I.5.b. and I.6.a.

Patrols. Owing to the extreme brightness of the night, ground patrols were unable to go out into NO MAN'S LAND. A few standing patrols were put out by the Left Brigade and on the remainder of the front arrangements were made for special observation from our front line and posts. One of the standing patrols reports that a party of 6 of the enemy left the enemy front line at C.29.a.50.30 at 9.0 p.m. Our patrol waited for them, but they only moved out beyond their own wire and returned to their trenches at 10.0 p.m.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.4. HOSTILE SHELLING

Enemy artillery and M.W. activity was again below normal. During the morning, about 40 rounds 10.5 cm. from direction of PERENCHIES and PREMESQUE fell about LEITH WALK and LILLE POST in I.15.b. and I.16.a. At about 5.0 p.m. a few gas shells fell near SQUARE FARM, fired from PERENCHIES Area; this spot being again lightly shelled with gas shells from direction of FRELINGHIEN. A few 10.5 cm. fell in locality of CHARDS FARM at I.16.a. 90.20 from direction of PERENCHIES

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Throughout the day it was noticed that the enemy trenches were very quiet; apparently very little work is being done. During the hours of darkness enemy swept NO MAN'S LAND and our trenches along the Left Brigade front with bursts of machine gun fire. The Right Brigade reports no enemy machine gun fire on its front during the night.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported at I. 22.b.2080 and C.18.b.10.26.

Minenwerfer & Granatenwerfer. At noon 10 rounds light M.W. and 9"pineapples" from C.29.a. fell in C.28.b. in our front line; these were silenced by our artillery fire.

Work. A working party was heard at I.21.b. Another observed in the vicinity of C.23.a.15.96 was dispersed by our rifle and L.G. fire.

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Intelligence Summary from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. 26/12/1917

26/12/1917.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Below normal.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

During the hours of daylight, movement of individuals was noticed at various points in rear of the enemy trenches.

Many small columns of smoke are reported along the whole front ascending from points between the support line and the rear of enemy's main trench system.

At 3.0 p.m., two of the enemy were seen in front line trench at I.11.a.70.70, wearing caps with black peaks with light bands and brass badge in front.

10. SIGNALS

At night, lamp signalling from locality of LARGES FARM at I.22.c.60.90 towards our trenches was observed from MILLEN POST at I.16.a.78.02.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

A dugout with Red Cross sign was located at C.30.c.95.95 and a large box in the fork of a tree (probably O.P.) at D.19.b.60.45.

Right Brigade observers located an enemy O.P. in a tree at I.36.c.36.15. This consisted of a platform built up 30 feet from the ground. There are no signs of its being in use at present, but the place is being kept under close observation.

Visibility throughout the day was variable, but generally low.

S. H. Jackson.

Captain.
General Staff.

Throughout the day it was noticed that the enemy trenches were very quiet, apparently very little work is being done. During the hours of darkness enemy snipers were seen in our trenches along the left brigade front with bursts of machine gun fire. The right brigade reports no enemy machine gun fire on its front during the night.

Machine guns. M.G. reported at I.22.b.80.80 and C.18.d.10.22.

Flarework & gas. At noon 10 rounds light M.W. and 3 "phosphor" from C.29.a.10.10 in our front line. These were alarmed by our artillery fire.

Work. A working party was sent at I.21.b. Another observed.

In the vicinity of C.29.a.10.10 was dispersed by our rifle and D.G.

CONFIDENTIAL.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No.37 from 6 a.m. 26/12/17 to 6 a.m. 27/12/17.NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)I. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Between 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. our artillery carried out 5 minute concentrations on the following targets:- Road from C.17.a.35.23 to C.17.a.34.31; M.G. at C.29.c.82.88 and C.29.a.80.20, and M.W. at C.17.a.35.23, C.17.a.63.20, C.17.c.85.80, C.23.c.98.65 and C.23.c.91.23. Later in the day, M.W. at C.17.b.15.15, C.17.c.58.93 and C.30.a.45.22 were fired on. Shooting throughout was effective; one shell bursting near heavy M.W. emplacement at C.30.a.45.22 sent pieces of machine gun belts flying into the air. - These were probably from M.G. emplacement previously located near that spot. At 10 a.m. 18-pdrs carried out shoot in conjunction with L.T.M. on I.22.a.97.36 and I.21.b.65.00.

Trench Mortars. 6" Newton T.M. fired 40 rounds on I.5.b.53.50 and I.5.d.66.92. The effect was good; wood and sandbags being thrown into the air.

At 10 a.m. 3" Stokes Mortars of both Brigades carried out a shoot in conjunction with artillery. Direct hits were obtained on several targets.

Machine Guns. During the period our M.G. fired on enemy communications, tramways, buildings, M.W. and M.G. emplacements; 12000 rounds being expended. The main targets were :- PARADISE ROAD from I.22.d.10.65 to I.22.b.90.80; heavy M.W. emplacements at C.29.b.9090, C.30.a.42.22 and C.23.d.25.65.

At midnight an enemy party of 12 men in C.17.c. was dispersed by our M.G. fire.

Patrols. Owing to extreme brightness of the moon, movement of patrols was limited to the formation of observation and listening posts a short distance from front of our line.

A gap was observed in the enemy's wire at I.31.d.15.15, and his wire is also damaged at I.31.e.95.15.

IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.

HOSTILE SHELLING.

The enemy has apparently been registering his guns on the area I.4.b. and I.5.a. immediately in rear of our front line about L' EPINETTE FARM, S.P.Y., JAPAN AVENUE. He used 4.2 H.E. and 7.7 H.E. from LE MESNIL Area, 5.9 H.E. from QUESNOY Area and 4.2 H.E. from PERENCHIES. Between 10.15 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. 20 rounds of 7.7 cm and 10.5 cm from direction of WEZ MACQUART fell about COWGATE AVENUE and LEITH WALK in I.15.b. and I.16.a. Again in the afternoon a few shells were fired on this locality from the same direction. Between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. 15 rounds of 15 cm from the direction of PERENCHIES fell about the road junction at H.18.d. About 1.30 p.m. 30 rounds of 5.9 from the direction of PERENCHIES fell about CANAL BRIDGE at C.21.c. No damage to the bridge has been reported.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Generally quiet. Artillery fire throughout the day was well distributed, and it appeared that ^{enemy} took advantage of good visibility to carry out registration. The only case of destructive shooting reported was that on CANAL BRIDGE at C.21.c.

P.T.O.

27/12/1917.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. activity was below normal. M.G. were located firing from I.11.a.55.10, I.11.c.50.00 and I.11.c.60.50.

Work. Working parties were heard at I.5.c.80.15, C.29.d.00.29, I.11.c.45.06. New earth is visible at C.29.c.93.35.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aeroplanes were active during the afternoon. At 3 p.m. an enemy aeroplane flying low over our front line at I.16.b. circled round LEITH WALK Area; our M.G. fired on it without success.

Between 3 and 4 p.m. a red plane flew over our trenches.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

A special O.P. Post at C.29.a.10.30 reports that the enemy comes into the open from his trench at C.29.a.48.30, and moves along for about 20 yards before re-entering.

A party of 12 men were seen moving about at I.36.d.10.10.

At 2 p.m. 2 men were observed moving along holding dummy figures over the parapet at I.22.a.35.58.

10 men were seen at D.16.a.40.45.

Numerous small columns of smoke rising from points in the enemy lines were again reported.

A Red Cross wagon was seen moving north-west along road in D.19.a.

S. H. Jackson.

Captain.
General Staff.

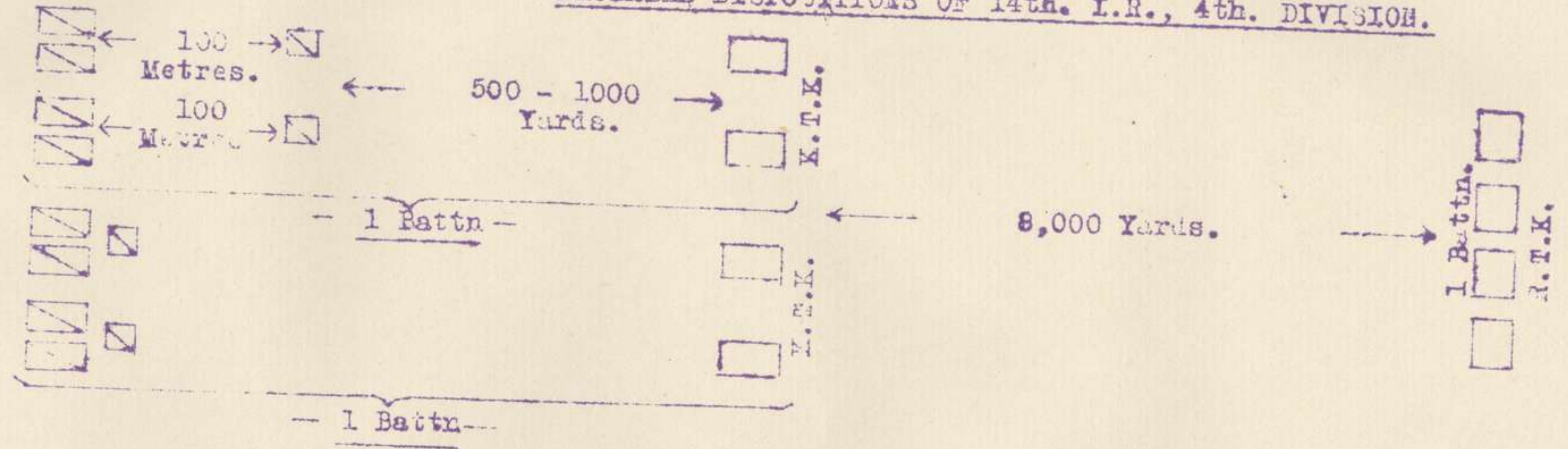
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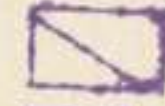

Annex to Third Austln. Divsnl. Intelligence Summary dated 27/12/1917.

- 1b -

No. 115.

PROBABLE DISPOSITIONS OF 14th. I.R., 4th. DIVISION.



PLATOONS. 
 COYS. 

- 2b -

No. 115.

PROBABLE RELIEF TABLE FOR 14th. I.R., 4th. DIVISION.

	December.		January.		
BF.	24.	31.	7.	14.	
I.	F.L.	Rest.	F.L.	I.C.R.	
II.	Rest.	F.L.	F.L. (I.C.R.)	Rest.	
III.	F.L.	{F.L.} (I.C.R.)	Rest.	F.L.	

N.B. - These dates are purely tentative, as the period in the line is not always constant.

APPENDIX

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.38 from 6 a.m.27/12/17 to 6 a.m.28/12/17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)

PART I .

1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. 30 rounds were fired on an active M.W. at C.23.d. 20.70. Observers reported shooting to be satisfactory. M.W. at C.30.a.45.22 was also fired on - no immediate result observed. At 3 p.m. our 4.5 Hows. fired on active 77 mm.guns at C.18.a.1.0; an explosion followed and the enemy ceased firing almost immediately. At 9 p.m. working party at I.21.b.30.40 was fired on and dispersed.

Trench Mortars. Our heavy T.Ms. fired on M.W. positions and selected points in the enemy line. 3" Stokes carried out a shoot on enemy M.G. positions and on enemy front line from I.21.c.90.62 to I.21.b.12.02. This piece of trench is garrisoned by day and night. (See Summary No.34).

Machine Guns. Our M.G. carried out an organised shoot on selected targets, the more important of which were PARADISE ROAD from I.26.b.72.92 to I.28.b.85.45, road junction at I.22.35.03, crossroads and tram junction at I.17.b.28.10 and railway and track from I.11.b.20.09 to I.12.c.53.78.

Lewis Guns. Our L.G. fired on enemy working party, at 5.50 am, in I.5.d., inflicting casualties.

At 8.30 p.m. a working party at I.5.b.30.20 was dispersed by L.G.fire.

Patrols. Brightness of the moon again restricted active patrol work. At 9 p.m. patrol reported wiring party at I.21.b.30.40; this was dispersed by artillery fire.

5 of the men were seen about 50 yards in front of their line at I.5.b.10.55. They did not move out any further but withdrew at the end of a very short period.

A snipers position was discovered at I.5.c.75.75. Clips of empty cartridge cases, recently used, and 3 bags of bombs were found here. This position enfilades one of our advanced posts.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING

Between 1.0 and 2.0 p.m. 30 rounds of 77 mm. fired from direction of LA HOUSOIE, in retaliation for our T.M.shoots, fell in I.21.a. and c. No damage is reported.

During the morning and up to 3.0 p.m. 77 mm. guns fired about 200 rounds on C.16.d. and C.17.c. from direction of LA VACHERIE F.RM in C.18.a.

Between 1.30 and 2.45 p.m. about 80 rounds of 10.5 cm. from direction of CROIX AU BOIS fell in C.22.c. and C.22.d.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

There has been no change in the enemy's attitude.

His artillery fire, which is not heavy, has been well distributed over our forward area. His M.G. throughout the day have been quiet and at night hav. fired short bursts across NO MAN'S LAND not long our p r pat.

The enemy does not appear to be patrolling NO MAN'S LAND.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Gun. Enemy A.C. at GERMAIN HOUSE (I.21.b) and at I.22.a.88.60. were active.

Flashes for 8 Gr. mortarwerfer. From 11.45 a.m. to 2.0 p.m. enemy H.V. and G.W. were active in reply to our T.H. shoots. Throughout the remainder of the period they showed very little activity.

Flashes noticed from H.W. at C.24.c.60.20.

Work. Revoluted wall with two loopholes was observed at I.22.a.20.10.

At midnight patrol reports talking and hammering in the enemy front line in I.21.b.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY

Between 8 and 9 a.m. two enemy aeroplanes flew very low over our front and support lines. They were fired on by our A.C. without success.

At 10.30 p.m. an aeroplane again flew over our line, and was seen signalling with a light when over LOUVEZ HOUPLINES. At this time a white light, bursting into a string of four or five lights, was put up in the enemy's line.

At 1.30 a.m. an enemy aeroplane again flew low along our front line.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Much train movement was heard from the direction of LILLE early in the morning and also in the evening, but was quiet during the middle of the day.

Observers further report that much noise of rail traffic was heard south-east of BLANC COULON (I.35.b.80.10). This is probably on trench tramway in I.36.

At 5.30 p.m. a train was heard leaving PERENCHIES.

At 7.10 p.m. movement was heard on trench tramway in I.11.a.

At 8.30 a.m. 5 men in greatcoats were noticed walking along a track at I.11.d.60.90.

Small parties of the enemy were also seen in the following localities: - I.22.a.50.80, I.22.b.80.60 and I.35.b.18.90.

L. Jackson Captain.
General Staff.

A.H.

PART II.

Annexe to Third Austln. Divsnl. Intelligence Summary No.38 of 28/12/'17.

TIMES OF SUNRISE & SUNSET AND MOONRISE & MOONSET.

JANUARY 1918.

Date	S U N.		M O O N.		Phase,
	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets.	
	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	
1.	7.54	3.56	8.41	9.36	Last Quarter.
2.	7.54	3.57	9.46	9.52	
3.	7.54	3.58	10.53	10.8	
4.	7.53	3.59	11.58	10.24	
5.	7.53	4.0	-	10.41	
6.	7.52	4.2	A.M.	11.1	
7.	7.52	4.4	1.5	11.25	
8.	7.51	4.5	2.14	11.56	
9.	7.51	4.7	3.23	P.M.	New Moon.
10.	7.50	4.8	4.33	12.35	
11.	7.49	4.9	5.38	1.26	
12.	7.49	4.11	6.44	2.31	
13.	7.48	4.12	7.20	3.47	
14.	7.48	4.13	7.56	5.9	
15.	7.47	4.14	8.24	6.35	
16.	7.47	4.16	8.49	7.59	
17.	7.46	4.17	9.10	9.23	
18.	7.44	4.19	9.31	10.45	
19.	7.43	4.21	9.52	-	First Quarter.
20.	7.42	4.22	A.M.	0.5	
21.	7.41	4.24	10.16	1.24	
22.	7.40	4.25	10.44	2.41	
23.	7.39	4.27	11.19	3.51	Full Moon.
24.	7.38	4.28	F.M.	4.53	
25.	7.37	4.30	12.1	5.43	
26.	7.36	4.32	12.52	6.24	
27.	7.34	4.34	1.54	6.55	
28.	7.33	4.36	3.1	7.21	
29.	7.32	4.37	4.10	7.41	
30.	7.31	4.39	5.18	7.59	
31.	7.29	4.41	6.26	8.15	
			7.33	8.31	
			8.39		
			9.45		

A.H.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No.39 from 6 a.m. 28/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 29/12/'17.(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)PART I1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. During the period our artillery fired on SNIPERS HOUSE at I.22.a.76.55 (several direct hits obtained), and concrete building at C.23.d.70.15. Although several direct hits were obtained on this latter target, not much impression seemed to be made.

At 10.45 a.m. working parties on the road from C.24.a.70.25 to C.24.d.60.95 reported by infantry, were scattered. Working parties were also dispersed at C.30.a.45.22 and in C.23.d.

Trench Mortars. Our heavy T.M. fired on M.W. positions at I.11.c.65.45 and I.11.c.92.45; also on enemy tramways at I.22.b.65.35, and from I.22.a.23.17 to I.21.d.80.95. The enemy made no reply to these shoots.

Our 3" Stokes mortars fired on enemy trench from I.21.b.12.02 to I.21.d.00.65, (part of this trench was also fired on during the previous period), and on M.W. emplacements at I.11.d.30.10 and I.11.b.07.92. 20 rounds were also fired on the snipers post located by our patrol at I.5.d.20.55.

Machine Guns. Our machine gunners fired during the night on enemy trenches in C.29.a. and c. and in the vicinity of Battalion H.Q. in C.11.d.40.45. Enemy tracks, roads and tramline at various points were also fired on. During the morning, enemy aircraft were engaged on several occasions.

Snipers. Snipers lying up just in front of our line in C.29.a. and c. fired on three of the enemy who crossed their parapet about C.29.a.40.16. One of the enemy was hit.

Patrols. Our patrol activity was again restricted by bright moonlight. Special listening posts report NO MAN'S LAND quiet throughout the night.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. H 1 1.4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

At 10.30 a.m., 300 rounds 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. fell in I.8.a. and b. from direction of PREMESQUES. No damage was done.

At 2 p.m. a 10.5 cm. battery from the direction of ESCOBECQUES fired with aeroplane observation on our O.P. at I.14.b.48.15, obtaining several hits. The O.P. was wrecked, but no casualties were sustained.

During the afternoon, the enemy distributed his fire over the whole of our forward system. This fire was mainly from 77 mm. from direction of BRICKFIELDS and PERENCHIES; 4.2 from direction of QUESNOY and 10.5 cm. from WEE MACQUART. Slight damage was caused to our trenches in various places.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

There was no change in the enemy's attitude, except that his aeroplanes were more active and his artillery fire somewhat heavier.

P.T.O.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy M.G. were very active against our aircraft throughout the day, and at night fired as usual on our parapet at various points along the whole front.

Minenwerfer. Enemy M.W. activity was below normal. Light M.W. fired 10 rounds on our support line and vicinity in I.10.d. from a position in I.17.a.

Work. Enemy working parties were heard at several points in his front line. Working parties in the vicinity of the road from C.24.a. 70.25 to C.24.d.60.95 were dispersed by our artillery fire.

Patrols. L.G. fire was opened on an enemy patrol of 5 men at I.5.a.80.40. The party quickly withdrew.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

During the morning, enemy aeroplanes were particularly active above our front. One aeroplane, as reported above, appeared to be observing during the shoot on our O.P. at I.14.b.48.15.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

About 30 men were observed filling sandbags in a trench in the vicinity of C.24.c.50.95. The party disappeared before our artillery fire was brought to bear on them.

A party of 10 men at I.11.a.50.10 was dispersed by L.G. fire.

6 men working near I.5.c.80.80 were fired on by L.G. The party withdrew, carrying back with them one of their number who had been hit.

Other small parties were seen at various points in the enemy lines.

10. SIGNALS.

White VERY Lights were used very frequently between 4.30 p.m. and 8.0 p.m. in the enemy lines opposite I.5.c.

S. H. Jackson Captain.
General Staff.

PART IINOTES ON RECENT AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- 4.A.462. The main avenues of approach in this area appear to be INCLINE AVENUE and INCLUDE AVENUE. The C.T. at I.21.d. 20.85 appears also to be used, and the section of INCLINE SUPPORT between it and INCLINE AVENUE is very probably garrisoned. The T.M. emplacement at I.27.a.50.70 shows up clearly, and wire has been put out in front of it.
- 4.A.463. PETIT MARAIS (I.27.b) is very strongly wired. The trench junction of INCOMPLETE DRIVE at I.33.b.40.80 has been similarly strengthened.
- 4.A.465. Work is evidently going on at the strong point in the vicinity of I.28.c.70.70. The locality is strongly wired, and the paths leading to it are being used. The localities at I.28.c.70.70; at I.28.b.80.50; at I.33.b.40.80, and at I.33.d.05.50 form a chain of well protected posts, joined by an unbroken line of wire. On the whole, the enemy has been fairly busy with the erection of wire in his battle zone. This activity would appear to denote his intention to remain on the defensive in this area.

A.H.

CONFIDENTIAL.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No.40 from 6 a.m. 29/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 30/12/'17.(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. During the day, 18-pdrs. fired 20 rounds on road at C.18.d.50.50., where enemy movement was observed, and 17 rounds incendiary shell on dugout at C.24.a.80.25 where active M.W. had been reported by the Infantry. Several direct hits are reported on this latter position. At 6.30 p.m. Coy., H.Q. at I.5.d.50.70 was bombarded by 18-pdrs and 4.5" Hows - the result could not be observed. At 8 p.m. and again at 9.30 p.m. traffic route at D.13.a.50.08 was fired on, and at 11.25 p.m. 20 rounds were directed against a Machine Gun at I.21.b.40.02.

Trench Mortars. At 6.30 p.m. 6" Newton T.Ms. in co-operation with Artillery fired on Company H.Q. at I.5.d.50.70.

Our 3" Stokes Mortars fired 20 rounds on M.W. position at I.11.b.15.85, and 200 rounds on the enemy front line from I.21.c.74.30 to I.21.c.50.11. Good shooting is reported in both cases.

Again a few rounds were fired on SNIPERS POST at I.5.b.20.25.

Machine Guns. Our Machine Gunners carried out an organised shoot on enemy roads and tramways where sounds of traffic had previously been reported and on points in the enemy trenches reported by Patrols as positions where enemy was carrying out repair work.

Amongst targets engaged were:- Enemy trench from C.29.c.95.95 to C.30.d.95.05; Road, tramway and building at I.12.a.26.69 and tramway track from I.5.d.22.20 to I.11.b.32.95.

Snipers. A few targets presented themselves and the Snipers of the Left Brigade report one hit.

Aircraft. At 11 a.m., one of our aeroplanes, and at 2.15 p.m. two others flying low, fired bursts of machine gun fire on the enemy trenches opposite the Left Brigade front.

Patrols. Again our patrol activity was limited on account of bright moonlight.

The Right Brigade sent out patrols, one of which was fired on by an enemy M.G. at I.21.b.70.40.

The Left Brigade sent out standing patrols and established special listening posts. An enemy wiring party located at I.5.b.15.55 was dispersed by our Lewis Gun fire. Uries were heard and work ceased shortly after our fire opened.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N i l.4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Hostile fire throughout the day was below normal. At 8.30 a.m. the road South of the CEMETERY at C.28.a was shelled by 10.5 cm. from QUESNOY. At 11.20 a.m. 70 rounds of 77 mm. from direction LA HOULETTE fell in C.21.a. Between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. 200 rounds of 10.5 cm. from direction of RUELLE DE LA NOIX fell in the vicinity of FME. DU BIEZ at I.15.b. During the night the enemy directed harassing

P. T. O.

-2-

fire against CHAPELLE D'ARMENTIERES in I.8. and I.9 with 10.5 cm. from direction of QUESNOY.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

There ^{has been} no change in the enemy's attitude during the period.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. On the Right Brigade Front an enemy M.G. fired on one of our Patrols at I.21.b.70.40. This was his only departure from his policy of sweeping our parapets and the area back to our Support Line during the hours of darkness.

Minenwerfer & Granatenwerfer. At 3.45 p.m. light M.W. fired on the Front and Support lines of the Right Brigade in reply to our L.T.M.Shoot.

From 7 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. about 35 "pineapples" fell close to the Support Line in I.10.d. and I.10.b and about the same number in I.11.c. (The Mushroom).

Very little damage reported from any of above shooting.

Work. At 10.30 a.m. an enemy working party ^{was} observed in a trench at I.21.b.50.20.

At 1.40 p.m. sounds of hammering of iron and sawing were heard at I.11.a.35.25. L.G. fire was turned on this spot and the sounds ceased.

A working party of 18 of the enemy seen in their wire at I.5.b.15.55 was dispersed by our L.G. fire (see Patrols).

Sounds of work were heard in the enemy's front line trench at various points along the whole front.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

At 8.30 a.m. a low flying enemy aeroplane crossed over our lines on the Right Brigade front; otherwise hostile 'planes showed very little activity.

8. MOVEMENT IN & BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At intervals during the day, trains were heard moving in the direction of LILLE.

S.H. Jackson Captain.
General Staff.

PWP.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Intelligence Summary No.41 from 6 a.m.30/12/17 to 6 a.m.31/12/1917.(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS)PART I.1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. At 10.25 a.m. our artillery fired on hostile batteries in C.24.a. reported active by the Infantry, causing an explosion and silencing the enemy guns. At 2.15 p.m. 50 rounds were fired against the same target, again silencing the enemy fire. Active M.W. at LES 4 HALLOTS FARM in C.23.d. and C.29.b.90.90 were engaged at 12.15 p.m. by 18-pdrs. and silenced. At 12.40 p.m. M.W. at C.29.d.50.02, C.23.d.30.28, C.11.b.60.95, and C.11.b.80.80 were engaged by 18-pdrs. Active M.W. at I.11.a.75.20 was silenced by 4.5" Hows.

Trench Mortars. 6" Newton Trench Mortars fired 20 rounds on enemy trench system between C.23.d.11.52 and C.23.d.10.10. The enemy reply to this shoot was slight.

Our 3" Stokes Mortars fired on selected targets; the chief ones being :- M.G. positions at I.22.a.28.55, I.11.d.15.35, and dugout at I.21.b.90.17. Several direct hits were obtained in this latter shoot. An enemy working party in C.23.d.10.50 was fired on and dispersed.

Machine Guns. Our M.G. fired on enemy roads, trenches, tracks, and tramways, paying special attention to trenches from C.29.c.95.95 to C.30.d.85.05, and tramway between I.17.b.60.37 and I.17.b.22.08 and from I.11.b.20.90 to I.12.a.10.85.

Lewis Guns. Our L.G. were very active during the night, firing on enemy trenches where sounds of working could be heard, and on wiring and working parties. At 3.30 a.m. a wiring party about I.21.central was dispersed by L.G. fire. An enemy patrol of 6 men about the same spot, - probably a covering party to wirers, - was also fired on. L.G. also fired on a strong party of wirers and a covering party at C.29.c.83.25.

Patrols. Taking advantage of the darkness of the early part of the night, our patrols made a thorough reconnaissance of NO MAN'S LAND along the whole front.

(a). Right Brigade patrols report ground at I.21.a.80.80 affords good cover for an advanced L.G. post, or an assembly point if required. Fresh enemy tracks in NO MAN'S LAND, apparently of 2 men, were seen leading towards our trenches, but turned back at PROMINENT TREE at I.21.b.70.90.

(b). A patrol sent out by the Left Brigade from I.5.a.40.95 reports M.G. at C.29.c.58.73, firing in short bursts with about 15 minutes interval traversing NO MAN'S LAND. An enemy working party, judged to be about 30 strong, with a covering party of 15, was located at C.29.c.83.25. Our patrol approached to within a few yards of the enemy and were challenged, but got away without casualties. (These parties were dispersed by our L.G. fire). This patrol also reports work being carried out in the enemy's front line between C.29.d.10.15 and I.5.b.15.55.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N 1 1.4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery activity during the period was again below normal; no heavy shelling being reported. Throughout the day enemy fire was

(1)

well distributed over our forward area. CAMBRIDGE AVENUE and EDMEDS AVENUE in C.22.b. were shelled at intervals after 12.0 p.m. with 77 mm. from the direction of PERENCHIES.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

There has been no change in the enemy's attitude as far as artillery, machine guns and patrolling are concerned. He apparently took advantage of the darkness of the night to put out wiring parties. During the period, he also seemed to be doing a greater amount of work than usual in his front line trenches, and a large number of enemy VERY lights were reported along his whole front.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine guns. Active enemy M.G. were located by patrols firing from I.11.c.40.20 (confirmed), I.11.c.40.40, I.17.a.35.85, I.11.a.62.56, I.11.a.64.48 (these two latter guns were shown up by enemy VERY lights fired immediately underneath the parapet near them), and C.29.c.58.73.

Minerwerfer & Granatenwerfer. Activity below normal. During the morning and up to 3.0 p.m. M.W. in C.29.c. and d. and I.5.d. fired occasionally on our support line in I.5.a. and c. but caused no material damage. About 20 L.M.W. shells fell along EDMEDS AVENUE in C.22.b. probably in reply to our H.T.M. shoot.

Work. Enemy working parties were more than usually active during the night in his front line trenches and on his wire. A screen has been erected in the enemy front line along the North end of INCOME TRENCH in I.27.a.

8. MOVEMENT IN & BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 7.30 a.m. several of the enemy, wearing steel helmets, were seen at I.21.d.50.80. ^{was}

Whistling of trains from ENGLOS FORTS heard at intervals throughout the night.

Sounds as of a caterpillar tractor, or roller, were heard at I.6.d. at 7.30 p.m.

S. H. Jackson Captain.
General Staff.

PART II.

NOTES ON RECENT AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- 69.B. 274. The dugouts in the strongpoints at C.18.c.20.70 are very evident.
- 69.B. 267. There is a small well built strongpoint at C.18.b. 20.80 which contains dugouts.
- 69.B. 234. The enemy front line as held is clearly shown. The main avenue of approach appears to be CENSUS DRIVE through C.29.b.00.50; 00.70; to the front line at C.29.a.80.90.
- 4.A. 531. The front and support lines both seem to be well used. The main approach to the front system is INCIDENT ALLEY, and further south the C.T. through I.22.a. 35.45 is of importance.
- 4.A. 536. The buildings at D.27.a.50.90, - probably a dump, - will repay shelling. Sidings run into them, one line going through one of the sheds.
- 4.A. 537. LA CROIX au BOIS has suffered from good shooting, but should be watched for any sign of activity in its vicinity.

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A.H.

APPENDIX
CONFIDENTIAL.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Intelligence Summary No.42 from 6 a.m. 31/12/'17 to 6 a.m. 1/1/'18.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

Artillery. During the day, our artillery engaged enemy batteries, roads, hutments, etc., In addition, the following targets were fired on: - Enemy O.P. at C.23.b.49.26; Bn.H.Q. at J.8.d.90.60 (several direct hits obtained and building badly damaged); support trenches in C.23.d., C.24.a., and D.13.a., where movement was observed; also on road at C.24.e. and C.18.d. where enemy parties were observed; on parties - one seen running towards house at I.17.b.35.20 and another at I.22.b.52.20; and trench from LES 4 HALLOTS FARM to C.23.d.83.22. - Casualties were inflicted on enemy observed moving along this latter trench.

At 8.30 a.m. a party of about 30 and at 8.45 a.m. a party of 10 of the enemy, near CENTURY TRENCH, in C.24.e. were dispersed by our artillery fire.

During the night, 25 rounds were directed against traffic route at C.18.a.70.60 and enemy working party at I.11.a.60.30 was dispersed.

Trench Mortars. Our heavy T.M. fired with good effect on enemy M.W. position at I.11.c.95.05, and our M.T.M. directed 30 rounds against WEZ MACQUART. The enemy made no reply to these shoots.

3" Stokes mortars fired on enemy front line from I.21.c.74.26 to I.21.d.00.70, and on M.W. position at I.5.c.75.00.

Machine Guns. Our M.G. again carried out an organised shoot on enemy trenches and roads and junction of tramlines. Targets receiving special attention being, - junction of tramline and INCIDENT ALLEY (I.22.b.65.30), PARADISE ROAD from I.22.d.36.42 to I.28.b.70.96, and later, from I.28.b.70.96 to I.28.b.85.45, tramline in vicinity of buildings in I.29.a., and crossroads at I.22.b.65.15.

Lewis Guns. Our L.G. fired on strong enemy patrol seen moving towards our line at about C.29.e.75.15. An enemy working party near INCLUDE TRENCH in I.21.c. was dispersed by L.G. fire at about 6 p.m. Gries were heard but no definite result was observed.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade patrols report no indication of enemy patrolling. Enemy heavily bombed his own wire for 20 minutes opposite CHARDS FARM (I.16.central).

(b). One patrol, sent out by the Left Brigade, reports that craters in front of MUSHROOM at I.11.c.30.35 are nearly full of water and show no signs of having been used by the enemy.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. N 1 1.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy artillery activity during the period was again below normal. With the exception of 100 rounds of 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. falling in I.15.d. from the direction of PERENCHIES, no heavy shelling was reported.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

The enemy's attitude has been generally quiet. The enemy exhibited some signs of nervousness between 4.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. by using a large number of VERY lights along his whole front, and by intermittent bombing of his own wire.

P. T.O.

6.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Enemy Machine Guns were very quiet during the day, but at night constantly swept NO MAN'S LAND interfering with our patrolling on the Left Brigade Front.

Between 10.50 and 11.15 p.m. hostile M.Gs. fired heavy bursts of M.G. fire into our back area. This fire was particularly heavy on the Left Brigade Front.

Minenwerfer. Enemy M.W. throughout the period were very quiet.

Work. Enemy appears to attach much importance to the work which he is carrying on around CENTURY Trench and near CENSOR FARM in C.24.c. Although his parties were scattered on two occasions by our Artillery fire, another was observed at the same spot at work again later in the day. He is still reported as working continuously throughout the night in his front line trench.

New earth noticed on parapet at I.22.a.95.95.

8.

MOVEMENT IN & BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Between 5.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. heavy vehicular traffic was heard near WIZ MACQUART.

At 11 a.m. two parties of 4 men each wearing soft caps and carrying full packs were seen to enter trench at I.22.c.82.15.

11.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Left Brigade reports that at 10.50 p.m. the enemy apparently to celebrate the New Year commenced firing heavy bursts of M.G. fire. The firing on the right seemed high, but on the left C.Ts. were sprinkled with bullets. At the same time numbers of "Pineapples" and Stick Hand Grenades were thrown into our wire, enemy wire, and even behind his own front line. VERY lights of various colours were also fired. When the firing had died down a voice called out three times from the enemy front line "HAPPY NEW YEAR AUSTRALIA".

S. H. Jackson.
Captain.
General Staff.