

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/33 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

April 1918



AWM4-1/44/33PART3

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

S E C R E T.

Copy No.....

G.32/458.

Headquarters,
16th April, 1918.INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 11.Reserves.

1. The action of Brigade reserves is detailed in Brigade Instructions for the Defensive.

2. Divisional Reserves consist of -

2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
1 Coy., 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion.
5A, 6A and 7A Nucleus Battalions.
One Troop, 13th Light Horse.
One platoon, Corps Cyclist Battalion.
46th Bn. 12th A.I.Bde. (not at present under orders of
2nd Aust. Division).

3. The action of the Div. Reserve in the event of an enemy attack will be as follows:-

(a) 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. -

Assemble in line of posts D.8.b. - D.2.b. and report to D.H.Q.

The Bn. will be prepared to move forward for counter attack, or to occupy any portion of the defences in the forward zone on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

(b) 1 Coy., 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. -

Guns at present in position will remain where they are.

The guns held in reserve will be prepared to move forward to any portion of the forward zone on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

(c) 5A, 6A, and 7A Nucleus Bns. -

Will assemble in positions to be selected by Bn. Commanders near their present billets, and will send a mounted orderly to report to D.H.Q.

They will be prepared to move forward to occupy any portion of the second zone defences on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

NOTE. - It is not intended to use these battalions forward of the second zone (BAIZIEUX Line).

(d) The Troop Light Horse and platoon, Cyclist Bn., (less any details employed on communication duties) will be prepared to move forward to assist either flank of the division.

P.T.O.

Alan Brang
27B

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(e) 46th Bn., 12th A. I. Bde. -

This Bn. is finding nucleus garrisons for the BAIZIEUX system, and on receipt of orders from D.H.Q. will occupy company tactical positions in this system in accordance with Instructions for the Defence No. 10.

4. All working parties will be organised tactically and will be given definite instructions as to where and to whom they are to report in the event of an enemy attack.

5. Parties employed on work away from their billeting area will always move fully armed.

6. Acknowledge.

G. Miles

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	C.R.A.
2.	C.R.E.
3.	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5.	6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6.	7th Aust. Inf. Bde.
7.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8.	2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion.
9.	A.Q.
10.	5A Nucleus Battalion.
11.	6A Nucleus Battalion.
12.	7A Nucleus Battalion.
13.	46th Battalion.
14.	Troop 13th Light Horse.
15.	Platoon Corps Cyclist Bn.
16.	12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
17.	4th Aust. Division.
18.	AUST. Corps.
19.	3rd Aust. Division.
20.	38th Division.
21/22.	File.
23/25.	War Diary.

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SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS,
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF)
Copy No. 21
G.32/459.

Headquarters,
16th April, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 12.

The following instructions are issued in amplification of those in para. 8 of Instructions for the Defensive No. 4:- ^{given}

1. Although it is not intended to give up any ground it is possible that orders may be received to withdraw to the second zone (BAIZIEUX, FRANVILLERS and LA HOUSOYE) defences to conform to the movements of divisions on either flank.

2. In the event of these orders being received, definite orders will be issued from D.H.Q. Withdrawal will be carried out gradually as already laid down, each brigade covering its retirement with its own rear guard. The Troop Light Horse and Platoon Cyclists will be sent forward to assist in covering the retirement of the threatened flank.

3. Brigades in the line will be prepared to man the second zone (BAIZIEUX, FRANVILLERS and LA HOUSOYE) defences within their own Brigade sectors. Necessary plans will be prepared beforehand. These plans should not take into consideration the present nucleus garrisons of this zone, for on the completion of the move of Brigades these garrisons will be withdrawn under orders to be issued by D.H.Q.

4. The withdrawal of the Artillery will be carried out on the same principle to positions already selected in accordance with instructions issued by 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery.

5. On a withdrawal to the second zone being ordered, headquarters will be established as follows:-

- DIVISIONAL - VILLERS BOOAGE.
- Right Brigade - BEHENCOURT.
- Left Brigade - BAVELINCOURT.

6. Acknowledge.

G. H. L. L.
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

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| 5. | 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. | |
| 6. | 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. | |
| 7. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. | |
| 8. | 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion. | |
| 9. | A.Q. | |
| 10. | A.D.M.S. | |
| 11. | Troop 13th Light Horse. | |
| 12. | Platoon Corps Cyclist Bn. | |
| 13. | 46th Battalion. | 17. 38th Division. |
| 14. | 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. | 15. AUST. Corps. |
| 15. | 4th Aust. Division. | 19/20. File. |
| 16. | 3rd Aust. Division. | 21/23. War Diary. |

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not diary

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SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy No.

G.32/453.

Headquarters,
16th April, 1918.

2ND AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 1.

Para. 1. - The Northern Divisional boundary is altered to run as follows:-

"E.2.central, along grid line to D.3.central,
"due North to V.27.d.O.O., thence westward along
"the grid line between squares "V" and "D" to
"T.25.d.O.O.

Acknowledge.

C. G. Miles.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of -
Instructions for the Defensive No. 1.

MB

War diary

App 45

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.No. 104.From 6 a.m. 15th to 6 a.m. 16th April 1918.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our artillery continued harassing fire by day and night. The principal localities to receive attention were - Roads and approaches to ALBERT, DERNANCOURT and VILLE-sur-ANCRES; Roads and tracks in E.14., 20, 21, 22, 25, and 28. Bridges in E.21.c. and d., and E.22.a., were also fired on. 4.5" Hows. fired on a M.G. emplacement at E.20.c.5.9. at 2.45 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.; another M.G. emplacement at E.14.a.2.3. was engaged by 18 pdrs and 4.5" Hows. T.M. in trench running from E.14.a.19.36. to E.14.a.37.65. was registered by all batteries of Left Group. At 4.45 a.m. annihilating fire was carried out once by both Groups.

(b) Trench Mortars. Our L.T.s fired 15 rds on S.P. at E.14.a.25.45., and 3 rds into the QUARRY in E.14.c. No enemy retaliation followed.

(c) Machine Guns. Our M.G.s were active, and fired 2,000 rds on E.3.d.3.7. to E.3.d.25.30. 250 rds were fired on a party in E.19.d., and succeeded in dispersing it.

(d) Sniping. Our snipers claim 10 hits.

(e) Patrols. Our patrols report:- Enemy was observed in considerable numbers along his trench from E.14.a.25.40. to E.14.a.4.7. 1 officer and 8 c.rs. left D.30.c.9.9. at 9 p.m. returning to E.19.d.2.2. at 11.30 p.m. Patrol moved along the river bank and reconnoitred all dead ground, but no trace of occupation was found.

1 officer and 8 c.rs. crossed bridge at D.30.d.50.65., and proceeded along river bank to D.30.b.9.1., with the object of intercepting a German patrol which had been reported to use that route, but after laying here for three hours without result, they returned to our lines.

(f) Aerial Activity. Three of our 'planes were seen patrolling over No Man's Land at 8 a.m., otherwise quiet.

4 HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

was more active than during the past few days, 10.5 cm predominating. Between 4.45 p.m. and 7 p.m., 1000 rds of 15 cm, 10.5 cm and 18 pdrs fell in D.10. from the direction of DERNANCOURT. Intermittent shelling of the following areas throughout the period by 15 cm, 10.5 cm and 7.7 cm: - C.10.c., D.3.b., D.4.c., D.5.d., D.6.a and d., D.7.b., D.15.d. and the villages of LAVIEVILLE, MILLENCOURT and BRESLE and approaches thereto.

In response to our counter-battery preparation at 4.45 a.m., the enemy replied by shelling LAVIEVILLE, BRESLE, MILLENCOURT, and battery positions in the vicinity of the latter village. Roads and woods in back areas were also shelled with 15 cm and 10.5 cm in short bursts for 20 minutes. At the same time the forward areas were lightly shelled with guns of similar calibre.

A 10.5 cm fired on LAVIEVILLE from a position on a T.B. 96° from D.4.c.80.25.

A fair quantity of gas is sent over in D.17.c., D.18.c., D.23.b and the BRESLE Valley, particularly in the very early morning. It is significant that the main ALBERT-NIENS Road is only registered with shrapnel.

4.2" guns were observed firing on the following M.Bs from D.23.a.85.35. - 117. 106. 87. degrees. A 5.9" was observed firing on a M.B. of 200 degrees from same place.

P.T.O.

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5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

During the period under review the enemy artillery has been more active than hitherto, and registration is suspected; otherwise there was no perceptible change.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.

(b) Machine Guns. Generally quiet. The M.G. at E.14.a.3.6. was reported active. Suspected M.Gs are located at approx. E.8.b.4.5. and E.8.b.6.9.

(c) Patrols. An enemy patrol of about 8 men was seen working back toward his line in E.8.c. A party of about 20, apparently lost, approached our men at E.25.a.9.8. They were in full marching order. When halted by our men they fled under heavy rifle and bomb fire from our garrison. Our patrol, which was out at the time, hurried to the spot on hearing the firing, but arrived too late. A stronger fighting patrol was immediately sent out, but searched in vain. No casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

(d) Sniping. One shot only was fired from E.8.c.6.4.

(e) Defences. Movement, as if digging was in progress, was seen along forward posts from E.14.a.0.2. to E.8.c.6.2. A sheet of iron was lifted out of trench at E.14.a.3.5. Work was being done at E.8.b.0.8.

8. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Vehicular traffic was seen on ALBERT-BAPAUME Road. From 6.30 to 7.30 a.m. a good deal of enemy foot traffic (apparently fatigues) could be seen on road running through K.16.d. and K.17.c., moving in both directions, at wide intervals. At the same time about 18 motor lorries approached from direction of BRAY, each halted at Cross Roads in K.17.central, remained for two minutes, and returned along road running to ETINBHAM. From 8.15 a.m. to 9 a.m., two-horsed transport proceeded North along ALBERT-BRAY Road, and several parties of enemy in twos and threes. (moved along same route, and at 8.45 a.m. three two-horsed transport) At 3.40 p.m. five parties of 6 men appeared at K.15.b.2.8. and disappeared at K.8.d.7.3. At 8.30 a.m. two limbers and six G.S. wagons were seen moving towards MEULTE on road in E.22.a. At 9 a.m. 8 Germans were seen entering house at E.21.a.7.9. Parties of twos and threes were again seen moving between DERNANCOURT and the QUARRY in E.14.c. At 9.30 a.m. two parties of 80 men were observed digging a sap along the 45 contour in E.26.b., and were dispersed by our artillery. Dugouts are suspected in clump of trees at K.8.c.4.4. At 5 p.m. 100 Germans, and at 6.40 p.m. about 50 or 60 more, were observed on ALBERT-BECOURT Road moving towards ALBERT. Both of these parties were out of range of our guns and the information was passed on to the Heavy Artillery.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

A searchlight situated N of ALBERT swept the spur running N.E. from E.7.a. to E.2.c. at 2.45 p.m.

R. B. Wertheim Capt

for Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE FOLLOWS.

- 3 -

ANNEXE.

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FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY, DATED 14:4:18.

The arrival of 2 divisions from RUSSIA, 1 in CHAMPAGNE and the other in LORRAINE, increases the total estimated number of German Infantry Divisions on the WESTERN Front from 203 to 205.

Three fresh divisions, 2 of which are from G.H.Q. reserve, have reinforced the LYS battle front, where 25 fresh divisions have now been engaged.

Three fresh divisions from G.H.Q. reserve have reinforced the battle front south of the SOMME.

Of the 205 German Infantry Divisions in the Western Theatre, 122 have now been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality. There are 42 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle, and 22 of which are in reserve, 13 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.

FROM FOURTH ARMY SUMMARY, dated 15:4:18.

General. The situation is unchanged. From prisoners' statements it appears that the attack on the SOMME was to have been resumed on the 11th instant, but has been temporarily postponed owing to the unexpected German success in FLANDERS. It is considered that a further attempt to seize AMIENS will, however, take place. It should be noted in this respect that since 7th April, 4 fresh German divisions have relieved tired divisions between the LUCE and SAUVILLERS.

A local attack north-east of DERNANCOURT will possibly be made by the enemy between the 17th and 20th of the month, with a view to improving their positions in that locality.

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War Diary

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 105.

From 6 a.m. 16th to 6 a.m. 17th April, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

- (a) Artillery. All observed movement of troops and transport within range of our guns was engaged with satisfactory results. Harassing fire on all centres of activity and roads was carried out vigorously. At midnight a T.M. at E.14.a.20.45. was dealt with. At 3.35 p.m. as a result of our bombardment on the church in ALBERT, the statue of the Virgin fell. The ALBERT - BECOURT road was continuously fired on, direct hits being observed on wheeled traffic.
- (b) Trench Mortars. Our L.T.Ms. fired 20 rds. on QUARRY in D.14.c. and 5 rds. on the M.G. position at E.14.a.3.6.
- (c) Machine Guns. Our M.Gs. fired 4,000 rds. on targets in E.3.c.1.5. to E.3.central, and on E.3.d.
- (d) Patrols. Patrols reconnoitred our front throughout the night. No signs of the enemy were seen.
- (e) Snipers. Claim 7 hits.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. There was a noticeable increase in the amount of 15 cm. shelling. Guns and Hows. of this calibre shelled E.19., D.9., D.24., V.20., MILLENCOURT and HENENCOURT during the day and night. Between 1.15 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. LAVIEVILLE was shelled by 10.5 cm. from the direction of MEAULTE. Between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. D.23.d. and D.29.b. received 40 rds. from 7.7 cm. firing from the direction of MORLANCOURT. From 9 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., 48 rds. fell in D.15.d. and D.16.c. from the same direction.

His reply to our barrage of 8.50 p.m. was fairly heavy in the valley North of EUIRE and along the ALBERT road, causing about 20 casualties to the relief then in progress. To our barrage of 2.50 a.m., his reply was feeble.

Smoke shells were fired on D.11.d., presumably for ranging purposes. A battery was seen in action at approx. E.11.b.2.4.

4.2" guns were observed on the following M.Bs. from D.23.a.83.53:- 87 and 117, also 95 degrees T.B.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

- (a) Trench Mortars. A mortar fired on our right bde. sector from D.14.a.20.45.
- (b) Machine Guns. In reply to our artillery bombardment, intense fire was brought to bear on our forward areas. Otherwise quiet.
- (c) Defences. New work was located at approx. E.8.b.8.0. and E.8.b.35.50. The enemy is wiring from front of post E.19.d.8.9. to the railway line.

8. MOVEMENT. Considerable movement of transport on roads in E.24.a. and E.23.a., proceeding from and to MEAULTE.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. At 4.20 p.m. a large fire was started in MEAULTE by H.A. At 4.45 p.m. a flash lamp was observed from V.30.b.50.75. on a grid bearing of 680.

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R. W. H. G. C. W.
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Spare

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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SECRET.

Copy No.....

G.32/464.

Headquarters,
18th April, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 13.

Counter Preparation.

1. A scheme for counter-preparation for both heavy and field artillery has been drawn up and will be put into operation on orders from Corps Headquarters when information indicates attack is imminent, or whenever the situation makes such action desirable.

2. The object of counter-preparation is to break up the enemy's threatened attack before it has time to materialise, and this is best effected by searching all likely assembly places and bringing the maximum amount of fire on to areas over which he has to move. Firing on S.O.S. lines would not have the desired effect, but immediately the enemy is seen to leave his trenches all guns will, if on counter-preparation, come back on to their S.O.S. lines.

3. The principles on which counter-preparation is based are therefore -

- (a) The delivery of a maximum of harassing fire and of counter battery action at one stage.
- (b) At another stage a concentration of annihilating fire against all probable places of assembly and areas over which enemy movement must take place prior to an attack.

4. (a) Counter-battery Action.

It may be anticipated that the infantry attack will be preceded by a heavy bombardment. This will be met by vigorous counter-battery action, gas constituting, as far as possible, the main means of neutralising the enemy artillery activity.

(b) Harassing fire.

This fire will not be evenly distributed along the front but concentrated for effect where most required. Certain areas have been selected for harassing fire where it is expected that the best effect will be obtained. These will be changed from time to time as considered necessary.

(Note. - The areas at present dealt with by Field Artillery are given in "Counter Preparation Order No. 1" issued by 4th Aust. Divisional Artillery on 10:4:18).

(c) Annihilating Fire.

The front has been divided into certain lanes in order to facilitate the production of the heaviest possible fire on any front at short notice. Annihilating fire will take the form of a creeping barrage over any or all of these lanes at the rate of 100 yards in 2 minutes. The operation will be repeated as often as may seem necessary, the Field Artillery taking from the S.O.S. line to 600 yards eastwards, the Heavy Artillery a 500 yard belt beyond the Field Artillery Eastern line, thus covering a belt 1,000 to 1,100 yards in depth with a creeping barrage.

P.T.O.

appendix 47.

- 2 -

5. Orders for counter-preparation will take the following form:-

"C.P. Scheme Phase 1a" will mean a maximum of counter-battery fire.

"C.P. Scheme Phase 1b" will mean a maximum of harassing fire.

"C.P. Scheme Phase 2" will mean a maximum of annihilating fire.

6. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Copy No. To.

1. C.R.A.
2. C.R.E.
3. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5. 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6. 7th Aust. Inf. Bde.
7. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8. 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion.
9. A.Q.
10. Troop, 13th A. Light Horse.
11. Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn.
12. 46th Battalion.
13. 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
14. 4th Aust. Division.
15. 3rd Aust. Division.
16. 38th Division.
17. AUST. Corps.
- 18/19. File.
- 20/22. War Diary.

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

Copy No.

G.32/469.

Headquarters,
18th April, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 14.

1. The attached map has been prepared from photographic and other sources to explain the organisation of the defences in the second zone and front line of the third zone.
2. In the second zone continuous blue lines show trenches constructed up to 14:4:18. Dotted blue lines show approximate positions of projected trenches and those under construction.
3. In the front line of the third zone completed trenches are shown in blue, projected in green.
4. The following will be the system, provisionally, for indicating sectors and posts:-
 - (a) Sectors will be given a locality name.
 - (b) Posts within each sector will be numbered from right to left.

Names of sectors are shown on map.
5. Sectors will be allotted to Brigades under orders to be issued separately.
6. Machine Gun positions of primary importance within the divisional area have been selected and are being prepared (with dug-out accommodation) at the following locations:-

C.17.c.3.3., C.11.d.1.1., C.15.d.2.5., C.15.c.4.9.,
C.15.a.1.7., C.2.d.9.1.
7. Dug-outs with from 5 to 18 feet of cover exist in the FAIZIEUX system at points enumerated in appendix attached.
The majority of these are suitable only for employment of Lewis Gun positions owing to their restricted field of fire.
These dug-outs are being reconnoitred and further details will be furnished later.
8. Further information re these defences will be furnished as it becomes available.

NOTE. - The Southern Div. boundary as shown on attached map is as it will be after readjustment on 21st instant.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

DISTRIBUTION.

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|-----|----|--------------------------|
| | 1. | 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| | 2. | 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| | 3. | 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. |
| | 4. | Major DEVONSHIRE, D.S.O. |
| "*" | 5. | C.R.A. |
| "*" | 6. | C.R.E. |
| "*" | 7. | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| "*" | 8. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. |
| "*" | 9. | A.Q. |

G. H. Miles
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

10/11. File.
12/14. War Diary.

"*" Map to follow.

appendix. 4/8.

APPENDIX.

To accompany "INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 14.

D.19.b.2.0.,	D.19.b.3.1.,	D.19.b.6.2.,	D.19.b.8.3.,	D.20.a.2.4.,
D.20.a.4.8.,	D.14.c.3.4.,	D.14.c.0.9.,	D.13.b.8.7.,	D. 7.d.9.1.,
D. 7.d.8.5.,	D.7.b.5.1.,	D. 7.b.0.6.,	D. 7.a.6.6.,	C. 6.d.9.0.,
D. 1,c.1.8.,	C. 6.d.6.7.,	C. 6.d.1.9.,	C. 6.a.4.1.,	C. 6.a.3.5.,
C. 6.a.1.9.,	U.29.d.5.5.			

Appendix. 4/8.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
18th April, 1918.

ADDENDUM TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 8.

Tanks.

1. After para. 5 add the following:-

6. The co-operation between tanks and infantry will be arranged between the Infantry Commander on the spot and the Officer-in-charge of the tanks.

Attention is drawn to paragraph I (6) of S.S.204
"Infantry and Tank Co-operation and Training."

2. Paragraphs 6 and 7 to be renumbered 7 and 8 respectively.
3. Acknowledge.

C. G. Miles

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of Instructions for the Defensive No. 8.

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SECRET.

Copy No.

G.32/457.

Appendix 49.

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War Diary

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

Locations of Units as at 6 a.m. 20th April, 1918.

G.118.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.81).

5th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	-	D.7.d.4.7.		
Right Group Arty. H.Q.	-	D.7.d.4.7.	QUERRIEU - PONT NOYELLE AREA.	
5th Aust. I. Bde. Group	-			
21st Battalion.	-	D.12.b.8.7.		LINE Right.
22nd do.	-	D.10.b.2.2.	XAVIEVILLE.	Support.
23rd do.	-	V.29.o.	MILLENCOURT.	Reserve.
24th do.	-	D.12.b.5.0.		LINE Left.
25th do.	-	D.21.o.9.3.		Support.
26th do.	-	D.13.d.1.0.	FM. St. LAURENT.	Reserve.
27th do.	-	D.24.a.1.7.		LINE Right.
28th do.	-	D.24.a.1.8.		LINE Left.
7 5th Field Coy. A.E.	-	T.4.d.8.0.		
5th Aust. Field Amb.	-	FRANVILLERS.	School House.	A.D.S.
6th Aust. Field Amb.	-	BEAUCOURT.	Maire.	M.D.S.

2nd Aust D.H.Q.
18/4/18.

208

J. J. Hall
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Appendix 50.

War
Diary

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 106.

From 6 a.m. 17th to 6 a.m. 18th April, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Harassing fire was directed against roads, tracks and bridges in the vicinity of DERNANCOURT and VILLE SUR ANCRE, also against enemy forward system and posts in E.14.a. Registration of 18 pdrs was carried out on the in E.27.c., and 4.5 Hows. fired on the church at E.21.a.1.0. Movement at BELLEVUE FARM (E.5.c) and VIVIER MILL (E.16.a.) was effectively engaged. (level crossing)

(b) Trench Mortars. 60 rds were expended on the QUARRY at E.14.c. 2.7., and a M.G. at E.14.a.3.6.

(c) Machine Guns. Fired on enemy tracks and centres of activity.

(d) Patrols. Were active along our entire front, and reported that the enemy was quiet. An enemy post which challenged our men with the word "Halt" was located at E.8.c.55.70. It is estimated that the consists of 10 men, and a M.G.

(e) Sniping. Our snipers claim 7 hits.

(f) Aerial Activity. At 5.30 p.m. two bombs were dropped on QUARRY in E.14.c.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

A further increase in activity is noticeable. LAVIEVILLE and vicinity received most attention, approx. 800 rds of mixed calibre being fired into this locality during the period. The majority of the fire came from the direction of MORLANCOURT. Batteries in the MEAULTE area were also active. At 3.55 p.m. 10 rds 10.5 cm gas fell in D.10.c. Between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. a 15 cm battery fired 300 rds in D.23.a. At midday D.22 square was lightly fired on by 7.7 cm and 10.5 cm. V.28.b. and V.29.a., and the villages of HENECOURT and MILLENCOURT received intermittent bursts from 7.7 cm, 10.5 cm and 15 cm. At 8.30 p.m. a 5 minute sneezing gas bombardment was directed on LAVIEVILLE. The use of 15 cm was more apparent, especially in the vicinity of PIONEER TRENCH. The vicinity of Cross Roads at D.21.a. 6.6., and the main road at D.17.a. are consistently shelled.

The following localities were shelled on T.E.s as shown, taken from D.25.a.80.25. : - D.17.d. by 4.2 - 90°; D.29.d. by 5.9. - 90°; D.18.d. by 4.2. - 70°; D.17.a. by 5.9. - 135°; D.12.d. by 4.2. shrap. - 45°; D.23.d. by 4.2. - 90°; D.23.c. by 4.2. - 100°; D.24.b. by 4.2 - 90°.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Machine Guns. There are M.Gs at E.14.c.0.8. and E.14.a.4.8.

(b) Defences. Small parties were seen in K.3.a., evidently at work constructing trenches. There is a dump at E.15.c.5.1.

8. MOVEMENT.

At 9 a.m. several motor lorries were observed on road K.16.c. to K.17.central. Movement was noticed during the morning along roads in vicinity of BECORDEL-BECOURT. Road in E.15.d., from DERNANCOURT to , is used a good deal by transport and troops. Continuous movement seen at approx. E.15.central and E.15.c.9.8.

MEAULTE

P.T.O.

2213

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-2-

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

A fire was caused in DEMIANCOURT which lasted for 15 mins. Our wiring party found two German maps at approx. E.14.a.1.8.

Flares. Were more frequent after 10 p.m. A flare post was located at E.14.a.35.90. Rifle grenades were fired on this post and flares ceased.

R. C. Wethering Capt

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

From 4th Army Summary dated 17/4/18.

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

A deserter of the 208th Div. who surrendered near BOUZINCOURT, N.W. of ALBERT, on 16th April, states that it is common knowledge that an attack will take place shortly, but he cannot say where. Divisions in line will be relieved before the attack.

An N.C.O. captured yesterday near HEDUTERNE, under special examination states that preparations are being made on the front of his Division identical to those made prior to the attack of March 21st. Ammunition is being brought forward and dumped close to the front line every night. He states an attack is imminent.

GENERAL.

The situation remains unchanged. It seems probable that a big offensive is imminent south of ARRAS. The extent of the front to be attacked is not known, but may reach as far south as ALBERT. At the same time, attacks will probably be delivered simultaneously south of the SOMME, with the immediate object of capturing the high ground near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and west of MOREUIL.

From G.H.Q. Summary dated 16th April.

One fresh division, from ALSACE, has reinforced the LYS battle front, where 27 fresh divisions have now been engaged.

A total of 98 divisions have now been engaged on the SOMME battle front.

One division, withdrawn from the SOMME battle front, has released a division holding the line in CHAMPAGNE.

Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 125 have now been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality. There are 41 fresh divisions in the line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle, and 21 which are in reserve, 11 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.

=====

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app 52 107



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 176.

Headquarters,
18th April, 1918.

Ref Maps, Sheets
57D and 62D, 1/40,000.

1. The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will move from 3rd Corps to 2nd Aust. Div. Area on the 19th and 20th inst. in accordance with attached table.

2. On arriving in 2nd Aust. Div. Area the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. will return to the command of the G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div., and will be held in Divisional Reserve.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

AG Williams
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Issued at 7 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. To.

1. G.O.C.
2. "G"
3. "A.Q."
4. C.R.A.
5. C.R.E.
6. 2nd A. Div. Sig. Coy.
7. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
8. 6th do
9. 7th do
10. 2nd A.M.G. Battalion.
11. 2nd A. Pioneer Bn.
12. 2nd A. Div. Train.
13. 2nd A.M.T. Coy.
14. S.S.O.
15. A.D.M.S.
16. D.A.D.V.S.
17. D.A.D.O.S.
18. A.P.M.
19. D.E.O.
20. D.G.O.
21. Aust Corps.
22. 58th Div.
23. 3rd Aust. Div.
24. 4th do
25. 38th (Welsh) Div.
26. 12th A.I. Bde.
27. 46th A.I. Battalion.
- 28/29. File.
- 30/32. War Diary.
- 33/35. Spare.

P.T.O.

22/18

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M A R C H T A B L E

to accompany 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 176.

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Remark
April 19th.	"A" Bn. 5th A.I.Bde. 5th A.I.Bde. (less "A" Bn.). 5th A.M.G. Coy. 7th Field Coy. A.E. 7th Field Amb. 15th Co. A.A.S.C.	3rd Corps Area. 3rd Corps Area. " " " "	MONTIGNY. (QUERRIEU - (PONT NOYELLES. " " " "	
April 20th.	"A" Bn. 5th A.I.Bde. h.Q., 5th A.I.Bde. & 5th A.L.T.M.Bty.. "B" Battalion. "C" Battalion. "D" Battalion. 5th Aust. M. G. Coy. 7th Field Coy. A.E. 7th Field Amb. 15th Coy., A.A.S.C.	MONTIGNY. QUERRIEU - PONT NOYELLES. " " " " " " "	BAIZIEUX. BEHENCOURT. BAIZIEUX. LAVELINCOURT. MONTIGNY. BEHENCOURT. BEHENCOURT. VADENCOURT. BEAUCOURT.	Relieves 46th I which moves to R. HALLUE Area.

War Diary

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 177

Copy No. 29

Ref. Map - Sheet 62D. - 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
19th April, 1918.

1. The 18th Battalion, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde., will relieve the 46th Battalion, 12th Aust. Inf. Bde., in BAIZIEUX and the BAIZIEUX system of defences on the 20th instant, relief to be complete by 3pm.
2. On completion of relief the duties of the 46th Battalion as laid down in "Instructions for the Defensive No. 10" will be taken over by the 18th Battalion.
3. Details of relief will be arranged between the Battalion Commanders concerned and completion will be notified by wire to D.H.Q.
4. On being relieved the 46th Battalion will move to camp in R. HALLUE area under orders of 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5. Acknowledge.

issued at 4.30 p.m.

W. G. Miles
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	G.O.C.
2.	"G."
3.	"A.Q."
4.	C.R.A.
5.	C.R.E.
6.	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
7.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
8.	6th do.
9.	7th do.
10.	18th Battalion.
11.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
12.	2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
13.	2nd Aust. Div. Train.
14.	S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div.
15.	A.D.M.S.
16.	D.A.D.V.S.
17.	D.A.D.O.S.
18.	A.P.M.
19.	D.B.O.
20.	D.G.O.
21.	46th Battalion.
22.	12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
23.	4th Aust. Div.
24.	3rd Aust. Div.
25.	38th Division.
26.	AUST. Corps.
27/28.	File.
29/31.	War Diary.
32/35.	Spare.

2813

War Diary

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SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 178.

Copy No. 31

Ref. Map - Sheet 62D. - 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
19th April, 1918.

1. The boundary between the 3rd and 2nd Australian Divisions will be adjusted to run from E.19.central westward along the grid line to join the old boundary at D.19.a.5.0.
2. To effect this the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. will take over from the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. that portion of the front between the old boundary and E.19.central, on the night 22nd/23rd April.
3. Details of the relief will be arranged direct between the Brigadiers concerned.
4. Completion of relief will be notified by wire to this office.
5. On completion of relief the G.O.C., 3rd Aust. Division, will take over command of that portion of the front between the old boundary and E.19.central.
6. Acknowledge.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	G.O.C.
2.	"G."
3.	"A.Q."
4.	C.R.A.
5.	C.R.E.
6.	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
7.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
8.	6th do.
9.	7th do.
10.	2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
11.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
12.	2nd Aust. Div. Train.
13.	2nd Aust. M. T. Coy.
14.	S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div.
15.	A.D.M.S.
16.	D.A.D.V.S.
17.	D.A.D.O.S.
18.	A.P.M.
19.	D.B.O.
20.	D.G.O.
21.	AUST. Corps.
22.	3rd Aust. Division.
23.	4th Aust. Division.
24.	5th Aust. Division.
25.	38th Division.
26.	3rd Squad., A.F.C.
27.	AUST. Corps R.A.
28.	AUST. Corps H.A.
29/30.	File.
31/33.	War Diary.
34/36.	Spare.

22/12

War Diary

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 107.

From 6 a.m. 18th to 6 a.m. 19th April, 1918.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. The usual harassing fire was maintained throughout the period. 550 rds. were expended on roads in and around DERNANCOURT and MEAULTE. 4.5" Hows. fired on bridges and approaches thereto in E.20.d. and E.21.c. Between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. dug-outs and trenches along the railway embankment from DERNANCOURT to E.3.d. and dug-outs in the cutting in E.3.b. were vigorously engaged. BELLEVUE FARM and VIVIER MILL and the enemy forward system in E.14.c. were also subjected to harassing fire. At 3 a.m. a hostile battery at E.15.d.87.05. was fired on by 4.5" Hows.

(b) Trench Mortars. Fired 30 rds. on QUARRY in E.14.c.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Sniping. Two hits claimed.

(e) Patrols. Movement is reported at approx. E.2.d.5.4. where a L.P. is suspected. An endeavour was made to surround an active M.G. post at E.13.d.2.2., but owing to the high visibility all efforts proved in vain.

(f) Aerial activity. Normal.

2. IDENTIFICATION. 247 R.I.R. (4 N.C.O. prisoners).3. ORDER OF BATTLE. North to South - 248 R.I.R., 246 R.I.R., 247 R.I.R.4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. As compared with the previous 24 hours, there is a marked decrease. Light area shoots on D.23. and D.10. are reported, the former by a 10.5 cm. battery firing on a grid bearing of 90° from D.24.b.00.63., and the latter by a 7.7 cm. battery. LAVIEVILLE and MILLENCOURT were subjected to intermittent fire. PIONEER TRENCH and our outpost line were lightly shelled. Other areas which received attention were:- D.26., D.15., and E.13.a.

At 10.30 p.m., and again at midnight the cross roads in E.7.c. were shelled by a 10.5 cm. also 7.7 cm. At noon the front line of our Right Bde., and vicinity, was shelled with 4.2's which appeared to have a delayed action. Our supports in D.17., D.18. and D.23., and the ALBERT road in D.17. received occasional bursts of 4.2. and 5.9. The shooting was more accurate, possibly because our new wire is visible.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Machine Guns. Rather active on our Left Bde. forward areas especially on our wire from E.8.central and church in DERNANCOURT. A M.G. was located on a T.B. 92° from E.13.b.8.7. at about 450 yards. During the night a few bursts were fired from E.13.d.central, QUARRY E.14.c., and E.13.d.2.2. An A.A. M.G. was seen firing from behind house at E.20.b.0.3.

(b) New Work. New earth observed, probably trenches in J.12.a. and K.7.a.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 7.20 p.m. 5 'planes patrolled over our lines for 20 minutes at medium altitude.8. MOVEMENT. Nothing of unusual significance.

P.T.O.

22B

appendix. 55.

- 2 -

10. MISCELLANEOUS.
Flares. Normal.

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

A N N E X E .

Information obtained from a Sergt/Major, 2 Corporals and a L/Cpl captured about E.19. central at 4 a.m. 19-4-18.

IDENTIFICATION. All 4 prisoners belong to the 9th Company. 247th R.I.R. 54th RES. DIV.

METHOD OF CAPTURE. Prisoners stated that they were sent forward to reconnoitre their front posts in E.19.b., and wandered into our lines.

ORDER OF BATTLE. N. to S. 243 R.I.R. 246 R.I.R. 247 R.I.R.

DISPOSITIONS. 1st Bn in front line. 3rd Bn in support at approx. E.27. c.6.5. 2nd Bn in reserve at MAMETZ.

ENEMY INTENTIONS. Nothing is known of any immediate intention to attack in this sector.

<u>NAMES OF COMMANDERS.</u>	Division.	Lieut-General VON WENTSCHER.
	Brigade,	Colonel. ZELLER.
	Regiment,	Major. MUECKE.
	9th Coy.	Lieut. GLUCK.

RELIEFS. Nothing is known of any intended relief in the near future.

SIGNALS. Flares at present used denote - YELLOW, annihilating fire; GREEN, barrage fire.

GENERAL. One of the prisoners, Cpl PAPPELAU by name, who is a war volunteer (Kriegsfreiwilliger) and has seen service since Oct. 1914, and been through the battles of YPRES, SOMME, PASCHENDASLE, etc, expressed the following views: - He had come to the conclusion that the English were very brave fighters, but that their lower ranks, such as Platoon Commanders, Section Commanders, lacked scientific knowledge of warfare. He stated that time and again they failed to follow up any advantages they might have gained, and went on to say that to him our men appeared to be a courageous rabble rather than an organised fighting unit. He had personally attended a Storm Detachment School in Germany, and whilst there the following points were laid stress on.

In open warfare the Gruppe (1 N.C.O and 2 men) constitutes the smallest unit. The Gruppe Commander must be versed in the handling of his Gruppe, and must be prepared to control any little operation which can be coped with by his command. He must insist on the carrying out of his orders as long as retention of his command is possible. He must keep touch with his Platoon Commander. He must control the use of weapons, and is responsible for the ammunition supply. During the attack he should make every possible use of the lie of the land, and work towards the enemy by a series of uniformly carried out rushes and when necessary make his men crawl from cover to cover. He must keep in touch with the Gruppe on either flank, and should gain possession of advantageous points in order to cover his neighbour's advance. In the face of the heaviest fire it is his duty to see that his men reach the enemy position simultaneously, and once there hold on no matter what is happening on either flank. He must hold out to the last man, for this decides the ultimate possession of the position.

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GENERAL (Contd).

He must always keep his men well under control, and for any action which requires only one man to carry out, must unhesitatingly detail his best soldier. He should be careful to give all possible support by his fire, and not to hinder any advance on his flanks by careless fire control. He is absolutely responsible for direction. Lastly, the initial success of large operations depends on the higher command, but the eventual victory largely rests with the Gruppe Commander, for, after a considerable advance, the higher formation is invariably lost touch with.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

FROM FOURTH ARMY SUMMARY DATED 18:4:18.

GENERAL,

The situation remains unchanged. Further information has been received indicating an attack on VILLERS - BRETONNEUX. This village is to be bombarded with gas and not to be entered by the enemy's infantry when they advance.

Fairly fresh divisions have replaced tired divisions in ALBERT and DERNANCOURT, hence the Germans have strengthened their forces opposite the left flank of the Fourth Army.

Appendix 55

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App 56.

HEADQUARTERS, 114
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
GENERAL STAFF.
Copy No. 23
G.32/458.

SECRET

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
19th April, 1918.

1ST AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 11.

1. Para. 2. -

For "1 Coy., 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn."
Read "2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. (less 2 Coys.)"

Delete "46th Bn., 12th A. I. Bde. (not at present under orders
of 2nd Aust. Div.)."

and substitute "5th Aust. Inf. Bde."

2. Para. 3.(b).

Cancel and substitute -

"2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. (less 2 Coys.)."

"The Guns at present emplaced as nucleus garrisons in
"the LAVIEVILLE, BRESLE and BAIZIEUX defences will remain
"in their present positions.

"The remainder of the Companies will be prepared to
"either -

(i) Move forward to any portion of the forward zone
to support the counter-attack troops, or

(ii) occupy positions in the second zone defences.

"The C.O., M.G. Bn., will, in co-operation with the
"G.O.C., Reserve Brigade, prepare plans for the M.G.
"defence of the second zone."

Para. 3.(e). Cancel and substitute -

"5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

"One battalion will be detailed to provide nucleus gar-
"risons for the BAIZIEUX system of defence in accordance
"with 'Instructions for the Defensive No. 10.' It will
"be prepared to occupy the selected company tactical pos-
"itions in this system on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

"One battalion will be located near BAIZIEUX and will
"be prepared to move forward at one hour's notice to
"counter-attack.

"The remainder of the brigade will be prepared to move-
"at one hour's notice and will be employed either -

"(i) to counter-attack, or

"(ii) to man the FRANVILLERS and LA HOUSSEY systems
"of the second zone defences simultaneously in depth, one
"battalion on the right and one battalion on the left, div-
"iding line between battalions grid line running East and
"West between Squares C.11. and C.17.

"Necessary reconnaissances will be carried out immed-
"iately."

3. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

G. H. Hales
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

All recipients of "Instructions for the Defensive No. 11."

W. D. H. *22/18*

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War Diary

App 57

Ref Maps
Sheets
62D & 57D

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.
G.161.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 21st April 1918.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	BEAUCOURT-Sur-l'Hallue.	Chateau.	B.12.a.4.c.
<u>2nd Aust. Div. Arty. H.Q.</u>	do	do	do	do
4th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	-	D.7.a.9.5.	} Right Group. (H.Q. D.7.d.4.7)	
5th do	-	D.7.d.4.7.		
65th Army Bde R.M.A.	-	L.12.c.30.85. BEAUCOURT.		
10th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	-	V.27.b.5.1. HENENCOURT.	} Left Group. (H.Q. V.27.b.5.1)	
11th do	-	D.3.b.7.7.		
3rd Army Bde. A.F.A.	-	U.30.b.7.4. WARLOY.		
2nd Aust. D.A.C., H.Q.	-	LEHENCOURT.	Superimposed Group. (at 9am)	
4th do	-	C.7.a.8.6. AGNICOURT.		
D.T.M.O. 2nd Aust. Div.	-	LEHENCOURT.	Chateau.	
D.T.M.O. 4th do	-	B.12.c.5.8. BEAUCOURT.		
		BEHENCOURT.		
<u>5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	-	Chateau.	Reserve Lde.	
17th Battalion.	-	C.5.central.	BAIZIEUX.	
18th do	-	BAIZIEUX.	L'Ecole.	
19th do	-	MONTIGNY.		
20th do	-	FAVELINCOURT.		
5th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	BEHENCOURT.		
5A Nucleus Bn.	-	B.7.b.9.6.	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.	
Transport Lines.	-	B.18.d.	BEHENCOURT.	
<u>6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	-	HENENCOURT.	Chateau.	LINE Left Sector.
21st Battalion.	-	D.12.b.8.7.	-	LINE Right.
22nd do	-	D.10.b.2.2.	LAVIEVILLE.	Support.
23rd do	-	V.29.c.	MILLENCOURT.	Reserve.
24th do	-	D.12.b.5.0.	-	LINE Left.
6th A.M.G. Coy.	-	D.12.b.6.8.	LAVIEVILLE.	LINE.
6th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	V.28.c.8.2.	-	LINE.
6A Nucleus Bn.	-	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.		
Transport Lines.	-	B.18.a.	MONTIGNY.	
<u>7th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	-	D.7.b.1.2.	-	LINE Right Sector.
25th Battalion.	-	D.21.c.9.3.	-	Support.
26th do	-	D.13.d.1.0.	FM St LAURENT.	Reserve.
27th do	-	D.24.a.1.7.	-	LINE Right.
28th do	-	D.24.a.1.8.	-	LINE Left.
7th A.M.G. Coy.	-	D.17.c.5.3.	-	LINE.
7th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	D.8.a.6.6.	-	LINE.
7A Nucleus Bn.	-	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.		
Transport Lines	-	C.7.a.	FAVELINCOURT.	
<u>2nd Aust. M.G. Battalion.</u>	-	C.12.a.8.5.	BAIZIEUX.	
22nd A.M.G. Coy.	-	C.6.b.6.3.	(Rear B.12.c.2.9)	
5th do	-	FAVELINCOURT.		
<u>O.R.E.</u>	-	BEAUCOURT.	Chateau.	B.12.a.4.c.
5th Field Coy. A.E.	-	C.12.b.8.7.		
6th do	-	C.6.a.1.4.		
7th do	-	BEHENCOURT.		
2nd A. Pioneer Bn.	-	V.25.central.		
<u>A.D.M.S.</u>	-	BEAUCOURT.	Chateau.	B.12.a.4.c.
5th A. Field Amblice.	-	FRANVILLERS.	School House.	A.D.S.
6th do	-	BEAUCOURT.	Maire,	M.D.S.
7th do	-	VADERCOURT.		
<u>Div Train. H.Q.</u>	-	BEAUCOURT.	B.12.a.6.0.	
15th Coy. A.A.S.C.	-	BEAUCOURT.		
16th do	-	BEAUCOURT.	B.12.a.8.5.	
17th do	-	FAVELINCOURT.	C.7.d.6.6.	
20th do	-	BEHENCOURT.	C.19.a.central.	

P.T.O.

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Divisional Troops.

Pay master.	}	BEAUCOURT.	
D.A.D.V.S.			
D.G.O.			
D.M.O.			
A.P.M.			
Mob.Vet.Section.			
No.3 Sanitary Sec.	}	BEAUCOURT.	
Div.Bomb Officer.			
Div.Salvage Coy.			
D.A.D.O.S.			
No.2.Aust.M.T.Coy.	-	CONTAY.	U.27.central.
Div.Reinf't.Camp.	-	C.19.a.8.3.	BEHENCOURT.
	-	{BEAUCOURT.	Advanced Dump.
	-	{VILLERS-BOGAGE.	Rear Dump.
	-	St OVEN.	(LENS Sheet. E.6.)
	-	BERTEAUCOURT.	les-Dames. (LENS Sheet. E.6.)

Attached Troops.

Aust.Corps Cyclist Bn.	BEAUCOURT.	1 Platoon.
Aust.Corps Mtd Troops.	BEAUCOURT.	1 Troop 13th A.L.H.

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
20th April.1918.

[Signature]
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.

Changes in above locations to be notified to D.H.Q. at once.

For Official Use Only.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No. 108.

From 6 a.m. 19th to 6 a.m. 20th April 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Our artillery was active. Roads, tracks, bridges, and centres of activity were again subjected to harassing fire by our 18 pdrs and 4.5" Hows. Some gas shell was used. At 9.20 a.m. a hostile battery at E.15.d.87.00. was engaged, but result was not apparent. F.L. system about E.14.c.3.6., was dealt with.

(b) Trench Mortars. Distributed 70 rds. among E.8.c., E.14.a., E.14.b.4.9., and E.14.c.2.7.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Snipers. Claim one hit.

(e) Patrols. One of our patrols located an enemy post at approx. E.8.c.4.4. The post had an approx. front of 25 yards. The enemy were alert, and a M.G. fired frequently from the post. Another patrol observed digging in progress at E.8.a.80.15. Voices were heard at E.8.d.20.30., and at Cross Roads in E.13.d.

13- (f) Aerial Activity. A few planes patrolled over enemy lines during the day. A hostile A.A. gun fires from MEAULTE.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

No very heavy shelling is reported, attention being chiefly confined to intermittent harassing fire. BRESLE, LAVIEVILLE, HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT were shelled by 10.5 and 7.7 cm at intervals throughout the day. Some phosgene gas shells (10.5) were noticed in the latter village. At intervals, roads and tracks were subjected to short bursts of fire. The ALBERT-MILLENCOURT Road, ground in front of our posts in D.12.a. & b., E.7.b., and vicinity of Cross Roads in E.7.c., were shelled by 10.5. and 7.7 cm, mostly from the direction of BECORDEL. The following areas also received attention.: - The BUIRE - LAVIEVILLE Rd, D.23.b., D.18.c., D.17.d., D.16.b & d, D.17.a. The front line in E.13.b & c was shelled by 4.2. How. from direction of BRAY-sur-SOMME. A few 4.2. gas shells were fired during the night in D.16.b. and D.17.a. 7.0.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Nil.

(b) Machine Guns. Active from E.7.d.3.5. and E.14.a.5.0.

(c) Snipers. Snipers posts were located at D.13.d.20.20. and E.8.c.5.0.

(d) Defences. Enemy is building up the low parts of his parapet on which our snipers fire.

8. MOVEMENT.

A train was observed on a grid bearing of 127° from E.13.c.8.1., and at 2 p.m. another train was observed on ridge on T.B. 1000 from E.13.b.20.15. At dusk enemy transport moved along roads in K.3.a. & b., proceeding in the direction of MORLANCOURT. At 6.45 p.m. a long train was observed 12° left of ALBERT Church at about 10,000 yards from D.5.b.45.82. Horses and vehicles were unloaded. Such movement also observed in a camp 14° left of ALBERT Church - 11,000 yards from above location. Trains were also noticed entering FRICOURT during the afternoon. Wheeled traffic was observed on road in W.27.c.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. A searchlight was observed on a T.B. 1520 P.T.O. from E.7.d.7.5., also smoke from trains on T.Bs 90° 58° 95° from same place.

R.E. Westheim Capt.

Lieut Colonel.

General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

P.T.O.

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A N N E X E

To 2nd Aust. Div. Intelligence Summary No. 108.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Intentions of the Enemy. From the examination (special and ordinary) of numerous Officers, N.C.Os. and men, captured during the period under review, it appears certain that a further offensive is contemplated, with the object of capturing AMIENS and thus severing the principal line of communication between the Allied Armies.

An attack with this purpose in view was apparently planned for the 11th instant, but was postponed for reasons unknown to prisoners.

The reason appeared to be the great difficulties experienced by the enemy in bringing forward adequate supplies of ammunition and heavy guns, the badness of the weather about this date, and the exhaustion of the troops in the line.

It will be remembered also that on the 9th instant the second phase of the big German offensive opened with an attack on the ARMENTIERES - LA BASSEE front. This attack met probably with greater success than the Germans anticipated, with the result that attacks planned by the enemy in the ARRAS and AMIENS areas were probably postponed until this success was exploited and our reserves further depleted.

How far the enemy will pursue his successes in FLANDERS, or to what extent he will deplete his own reserves for this purpose it is impossible to say at present.

The fact, however, must not be lost sight of that the avowed object of the Germans, as shown in captured documents, is to separate the French and British Armies. The capture of AMIENS would undoubtedly constitute a considerable advance in regard to the attainment of this object. It is difficult to believe that the enemy has been led away by his success in the North to abandon this plan, and there is no evidence to show that such is his intention.

During the last few days deserters and prisoners captured by the Third Army state that preparations are being made on their front identical to those made prior to the attack on March 21st, and that ammunition is now being dumped well forward along the front. The extent of the contemplated attack is not known, but would appear to be mounted on the front MOISLEUX to BEAUMONT HAMEL.

Should the Germans intend to continue their efforts to separate the Allied Armies, this attack, after gaining the high ground on the line ADINFER - MONCHY-AU-BOIS - COLINGAMPS, may swing southwards, as the open nature of the ground renders an attack on AMIENS easier from this direction than from the South, where an advance across the AVRE and NOYE would be a difficult and costly enterprise and would require larger and fresher forces than the Germans at present appear to possess in this neighbourhood. The attitude of the enemy South of the SOMME, however, indicates offensive action, and it is considered that an attack on AMIENS on the front VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - SAUVILLERS will be undertaken in conjunction with an attack from the North.

Without this northern attack the Germans would appear to stand a poor chance at attaining their object.

P.T.O.

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Probable Lines of Attack on the Fourth Army Front.

North of the ANCRE. - North of the ANCRE, it is not considered that a big attack along the ALBERT - AMIENS road is likely to be made. It is true that this is the shortest and best route to AMIENS, but the valley of the HALLUE stream running through QUERRIEU provides a naturally strong line of defence. The head of this valley is situated at CONTAY. A German advance with its left on AUCHONVILLERS - ACHEUX - TOUTENCOURT would turn this line, and force our troops to evacuate the country east of it.

Small attacks, immediately N.W. of DERNANCOURT are probable, as the high ground BOUZINCOURT - HENENCOURT - BUIRE would give the enemy more elbow-room with regard to LABERT, which at the moment can be of little use to him, as it is commanded from our trenches.

Between the ANCRE and the SOMME. - Between the SOMME and the ANCRE a small attack may possibly be made, with a view to denying to our troops the splendid observation they possess over the area occupied by the Germans South of the SOMME. Except with this end in view, no offensive would be likely to take place, as our position from SAILLY-le-SEC to TREUX is a strong one and we should be forced to evacuate it should German attacks succeed North of the ANCRE.

Between the SOMME and the LUCE. - An attack against VILLERS - BRETONNEUX - CACHY - GENTELLES is probable. It is not likely to be undertaken except in co-operation with an attack against the high ground on which ROUVREL is situated, as artillery fire from this ridge would take this attack in flank. The Germans, however, are in a favourable position to support an attack against the right of the Fourth Army, as the high ground North of MOREUIL looks into the back of our positions, and furthermore looks right along the valley towards BOVES, near which runs the main AMIENS - PARIS railway line.

South of LUCE. - An attack against the French is extremely probable; the possession of the high ground West of MOREUIL would definitely cut the main AMIENS - PARIS line, would greatly facilitate an attack against our right at GENTELLES and CACHY, and would seriously threaten our communications with the French along the PARIS - BRETEUIL - AMIENS road.

The Germans have recently strengthened their front on this neighbourhood by the relief of tired divisions by four fresh divisions.

FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY DATED 18th APRIL, 1918.

In the attack to-day North of the LA BASSEE Canal, regiments of 5 different divisions were engaged. A total of 29 fresh divisions and 2 divisions withdrawn from the SOMME front have now been engaged on the LYS battle front, where a fresh division has been transferred from the WOEVRE to close reserve.

A total of 98 divisions have now been engaged on the SOMME battle front. Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 128 have now been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality. There are 39 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle, and 20 which are in reserve, at least 13 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.

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FROM FOURTH ARMY SUMMARY, DATED 19th APRIL, 1918.

Order of Battle.

The following points are at present obscure in the order of Battle between ALBERT and the SOMME:--

(a) Whether the 50th Res. Div. was relieved by another division in the DERNANCOURT sector on April 9th, or was withdrawn from line.

(b) Whether the 18th Div. is now going into rest on relief by the 50th Res. Div. or is taking over a sector astride the SOMME.

Possibly the prisoners of the 54th Res. Div. taken during the night may be able to throw some light on the situation, but further identification are urgently required, as if this portion of the front is now held by 5 divisions, two of which are fresh, an attack must be considered imminent, while if the divisions in line have been reduced to three, active operations would seem improbable.

Enemy Intentions.

(a) One of the prisoners of the 229th R.I.R., 50th Res. Div., taken South-west of MORLANCOURT on April 18th, states that an attack is expected South of his sector on April 21st.

This possibly refers to an attack south of the SOMME.

(b) The pilot of a German aeroplane captured by the Army on our left on April 16th states that AMIENS is the enemy's chief objective. He states, further, that there was a large concentration of infantry and artillery, which had recently come from the Eastern front, in the area HAM, NESLE, ROYE, NOYON, and that these forces were to be used for an offensive in the direction of AMIENS as soon as the weather became suitable.

General.

The situation is generally unchanged. The successful attack carried out yesterday by the Army on our right succeeded in capturing the high ground west of CASTEL, and has deprived the enemy of observation to the North and west, except in the neighbourhood of ANCHIN FARM. He will probably endeavour to recapture the ground lost yesterday, before undertaking any operations of an extended character against AMIENS from the South. The rapidity and strength of the enemy's counter-attacks will be an indication as to his intentions with regard to a big offensive in this direction.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
(GENERAL STAFF)

Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.

Copy No.....

640/125.

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GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 57.

Machine Gun Battalion.

The following are the principles governing the employment of the machine gun battalion:-

1. Mobile Warfare.

Such units (Companies, half Companies, etc.) as are considered necessary will be placed under the command of Infantry Brigadiers who will be entirely responsible for their tactical employment. The Brigadier may allot sections or half sections to battalions if he considers it desirable.

The remaining units of the M. G. Battalion will be kept in the hands of the divisional commander for special tasks.

2. Trench Warfare.

(a) In attack.

Certain units may be allotted to brigades as mobile guns to take part in or follow up the attack.

The remainder will be under the command of the C.O., M.G. Battalion, who will employ them in accordance with orders received from the divisional commander.

(b) In Defence.

The M.G. Bn. Commander will discuss with the G.O's.C., Brigades in the line, their requirements for machine gun defence and will submit proposals to the Divisional Commander as regards the number of guns required in each brigade sector. The necessary units will be allotted to each brigade and the Brigade Commanders will be responsible for their tactical employment except that changes in dispositions will be discussed with the M.G. Bn. Commander and referred to the Divisional Commander for approval before being carried out. The M.G. Bn. Commander will supervise the work of his companies and will act as adviser to the Brigade Commanders as well as to the Divisional Commander on their tactical employment.

Such units as are not allotted to brigade sectors will be kept under the command of the C.O., M.G. Bn., who will dispose them in accordance with the orders of the Divisional Commander.

The M.G. Bn. Commander will be responsible for the relief of all machine gun units.

3. - Should at any time an infantry brigade be detached from the division, one machine gun company may be placed under the command of the Infantry Brigadier, who will then be responsible for its administration and training, as well as for its tactical employment.

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4. - The main principle to be observed in the employment of machine guns is the development of direct fire from as many guns as possible during the decisive phase of the battle which is, generally speaking, soon after the infantry attack begins to develop. It is therefore essential that in the attack as many guns as possible should be pushed forward to positions from which they can bring direct fire to bear on the enemy, and that they should be rushed from one position to another as the situation develops.

In the defence the first object is to prevent the enemy reaching our front line; the majority of guns should therefore be employed in or close to our front line in positions from which they can bring direct fire to bear on all ground over which the enemy has to advance.

5. - The C.O., M.G. Bn., is at all times responsible for the administration and training of the units of his command except as stated in para. 3 above.

6. - Acknowledge.

W. Miles

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	C.R.A.
2.	C.R.E.
3.	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5.	6th do.
6.	7th do.
7.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8.	2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
9.	A.Q.
10.	AUST. Corps. }
11.	3rd Aust. Div. }
12.	4th Aust. Div. }
13.	5th Aust. Div. }
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16/18.	War Diary.
19/25.	Spare.

For information.

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SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

App 69123
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
(GENERAL STAFF) 14
Copy No.....

G.32/479.

Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 15.

Anti-aircraft Defence.

1. GENERAL.

Instructions for firing at aircraft from the ground at night and standing orders for control of small arms fire against enemy aircraft have already been issued to all concerned.

The general disposition of A.A. Machine and Lewis Guns in the present divisional area will follow the lines laid down by the division during the past winter.

2. DEFENCE OF ZONES AND BACK AREAS.

A. Defence of forward and second zones.

Since protection against low flying aeroplanes cannot be afforded by A.A. guns only, or by our own squadrons acting offensively, provision will be made for the defence of the forward and second zones on the following lines:-

(i) 1st Echelon.

(a) - Lewis guns placed 200 - 500 yards behind the front system according to the ground and areas which it is found that the enemy shells.

Single guns not more than 800 yards apart; guns in groups of two or more not more than 1,500.

(b) - Stokes Mortars whenever the situation admits.

(ii) 2nd Echelon.

(a) - Vickers and Lewis Guns. When Vickers guns are employed they must also be in such positions as will enable them to play their part in the general scheme of defence.

(b) - Guns to be placed 1,500 - 2,000 yards behind the first system of the forward zone.

Single guns not more than 800 yards apart.
Guns in groups of two or more, not more than 1,500 yards apart.

(iii) 3rd Echelon.

(Artillery protection, both Field and Heavy).

(a) - Lewis Guns - artillery allotment.

(b) - Gun teams will consist of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men per gun.

(c) - Guns will be in groups of 2 or more and not more than 1,500 yards apart.

(d) - Guns should not be placed further than 200 - 300 yards from the battery position itself.

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The role of such defences will be to engage all low flying aeroplanes in the forward area.

Lewis and Machine Gun fire is useless against aeroplanes flying higher than 3,000 feet.

(iv) - Working parties in the forward area will be specially provided with anti-aircraft defence if the arrangements under sub-paragraphs (i) to (iii) do not sufficiently protect them.

(v) - Units in rest billets, camps and horse lines in areas in rear of the forward zone will provide for their own defence under the orders of the Brigade or Unit Commanders.

Guns so mounted for defence will be provided with definite orders.

They will only engage low flying enemy aircraft by day or night when such aircraft clearly disclose their hostile identity. They are not to co-operate in general actions against enemy aircraft.

(vi) - In a moving operation, the whole zone in which troops operate is a forward zone for A.A. defence. Every Unit Commander therefore must make provision for protection.

The organisation of the 2nd and 3rd Echelons of A.A. defence will conform to the action in front and aim at consistent and methodical protection.

(vii) - There should, within machine gun and Lewis gun organisations, be definite provision and allocation of trained personnel for A.A. duty.

The provision will be made by selecting specially trained personnel solely for A.A. duty and using them to form the nucleus and building on this nucleus to meet varying requirements.

B. DEFENCE OF 2ND ZONE AND BACK AREAS.

(i) - The A.A. Gun Defence of Corps Area is carried out by "F" and "Q" A.A. Batteries, each consisting of 4 sections armed with 13 pdr. 9 cwt. guns.

(ii) - All the A.A. Searchlights in the Corps area are engaged in the Defence of AMIENS, which is a special A.A. defence area.

(iii) - The general principle of the A.A. Gun Defence is to form a forward and back barrage of A.A. Artillery; the forward to prevent hostile air-craft crossing our line at normal altitudes and the back so placed that any such aircraft, which succeeds in penetrating the forward barrage, will come under the fire of the back barrage at the same time as it gets out of range of the forward.

3. - Units will forthwith submit to this office their anti-aircraft defensive arrangements.

4. - Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. C.R.A.
2. C.R.E.
3. 5th A. I. Bde.
4. 6th A. I. Bde.
5. 7th A.I. Bde.
6. 2nd A. Pioneer Bn.
7. 2nd A. M. G. Bn.
8. 2nd A. Div. Train.

9. AUST. Corps.
10. 38th Division.
11. 3rd Aust. Division.
- 12/15. File.
- 14/16. War Diary.
- 17/20. Spare.

J. B. Bowick Major Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

War Diary

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

109.

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

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Throughout the period harassing fire was maintained on enemy's forward system in E.14.c., E.20. and centres of activity. A sniping gun was active on movement along the ALBERT-BECOURT Road and on working party at E.4.a.1.9. Movement at K.2.a.8.8. was also effectively engaged. At 8 p.m. a concentrated shoot was fired on Counter Preparation zones and at 3 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. annihilating fire was carried out on Counter Preparation Lanes of fire - each shoot covering a period of half an hour. In all 11,933 rounds 18-pdr. and 2920 rds. 4.5" How. were fired. Between 9.30 p.m. and midnight, 300 rds. BNC were fired into buildings and low ground in vicinity of DERNANCOURT.

(b) Trench Mortars. 20 rds. were fired into a snipers post at E.8.c.5.0., and 48 rds. on enemy post E.14.c. central, and 30 rds. on QUARRY E.14.c. during the night. (contd on page 2).

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet. Our L.Gs. fired on working party in E.8.b.

(d) Patrols. A patrol reports that enemy was working on his posts at E.8.c.5.7. Enemy was alert and fired on patrol from approx. E.8.c.55.10.

(e) Sniping. Our snipers claim two hits.

(f) Aerial activity. Very active throughout period. Bombs were dropped on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE at 9 p.m.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Light shelling only is reported in the forenoon. The main areas to receive attention were:- D.12.b. 250 rds. 10.5 cm. on G.B. 143° from E.7.d.7.6.; D.5.b. and d., D.12.d. 100 rds. 15 cm.; D.10., D.23., D.16. and D.22. In addition, bursts of a few rounds harassing fire were scattered on roads and fields and bursts of a few rounds were fired into and around MILLENCOURT. In the bursts on roads and fields a fair percentage of 18-pdr. shell was apparently used. Retaliation to our bombardments was directed mainly on our front line system, MILLENCOURT and the ALBERT - ALLENS Road.

A battery which shelled E.8.c.0.5. is located at approx. E.16.a.7.7. His reply to our shoot was considered fairly heavy. The areas shelled were D.18.a., D.12.b. and forward posts. In reply to our shelling at 8 p.m. a barrage was put down on a line E.7.c., D.18.b., D.12.b. and d., also a fairly thick barrage was in each case placed on the valley and vicinity running north of and including BUIRE. About 30% was gas. At 3 a.m. and at 5.30 a.m. similar retaliation occurred.

At 2.15 a.m. 10 shells of small calibre were fired on road in E.2.c.8.0. They did not appear to be Gas, H.E., or Shrap. On impact a nose cap appeared to fly in the air emitting a string of sparks. At 2.10 p.m. a 10.5 cm. fired on a T.B. 143° from E.7.d.7.6. Our artillery was notified and shelling ceased at 3.50 p.m.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.

(b) Machine Guns. Active during our counter preparation E.15.c.6.6.

(c) Defences. The enemy continues to dig and throw out earth along his line. A hostile wiring party E.8.b. was caught in our barrage at 3 a.m. New work in E.2.d.2.4.

A new trench extends from E.13.d.7.4. to 7.7. A wire entanglement has been placed on bank at E.13.d.35.50.

P.T.O.

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7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy aircraft showed increased activity. These crossed our lines at 6.4 a.m., 10 a.m., 12.45 p.m. and 6.5 p.m., but were in each instance turned back by our A.A. and M.G. fire. Between 5.15 a.m. and 5.35 a.m., three E.A. were over the Left Group Sector. These were left unmolested. On one of the 'planes it was noticed that the circle had been lightly painted over and the German Cross superimposed. Six enemy balloons were in evidence. Our 'planes were active over the period.

8. MOVEMENT. There appears to be a trench at K.15.b.4.8. as movement is seen here. At 2.40 p.m. a large body of troops (approx. a Battalion) was observed at F.25.b.7.7. led by an officer on horseback. Our H.A. were notified, but troops moved away over ridge in an easterly direction, before fire could be brought to bear. The QUARRY at K.2.a.75.75. appears to be occupied.

Flares. During our artillery activity, DOUBLE RED and DOUBLE GREEN flares were freely used. GOLDEN clusters sent up later appeared to signal "all clear" as his retaliation subsided almost immediately.

K.E. Wertheim bapt
for
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

General.

The 18th Division appears to be still in the line immediately North of the SOMME, but on a narrower front. This may indicate that the Germans have thickened their troops between DERNANCOURT and the SOMME. This is not yet confirmed but, if true, indicates offensive action in this sector.

Identifications are urgently required between ALBERT and the SOMME to clear up a very unsatisfactory situation.

1. OPERATIONS.

(b) Trench Mortars (Continued).

At 3 p.m., two 6" NEWTON Mortars opened fire on QUARRY E.14.c.3.7. M.G. position at E.14.a.25.45. and enemy front line from E.13.d.80.84. to E.13.b.95.05. were also registered. 30 rds. in all were fired - both instantaneous and delay fuzes being used. All rounds burst well.

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App 62127

HEADQUARTERS
2ND
SECRET
(GENERAL STAFF)

G.3/1/769.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

C.R.A.
C.R.E.
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6th do.
7th do.
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
A.Q.
A.D.M.S.

Headquarters,
22nd April, 1918.

Warning Order.

1. The Division will extend its front to W.15.d.O.O. on a date to be notified, probably on the night 24th/25th April.

2. On taking over this extra portion of the front, the division will be disposed with three brigades in the line, 7th on the right, 6th in the centre and 5th on the left. Each brigade will have two battalions in the line and one in support. The fourth battalion of each brigade will be held in divisional reserve and will be disposed as follows:-

Right Bn. (7th A.I.Bde.) in the vicinity of ST. LAWRENCE FARM.
Centre Bn. (6th A.I.Bde.) between HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT.
Left Bn. (5th A.I.Bde.) between HENENCOURT and SENLIS.

3. Boundaries will be as follows:-

Southern Div. Boundary - East and West line through E.19.central.	
Between 7th & 6th A.I.Bdes. - " " " "	E.7.d.8.0.8
Between 6th & 5th A.I.Bdes. - " " " "	W.26.d.6.0.6
Northern Div. Boundary - " " " "	W.15.d.O.O.

4. Brigade Headquarters of Right and Centre Brigades will remain as at present. Headquarters of Left Brigade will be established at the present Headquarters of 115th Inf. Bde. - V.15.a.5.O.

5. Necessary reconnaissances will be carried out forthwith.

6. The O.C., 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn., will consult with Brigadiers and forward to D.H.Q. his recommendations as regards the number of Vickers guns required in each brigade sector.

7. The Field Artillery covering the front will consist of five F.A. Brigades, one superimposed brigade and one mobile brigade, and will be divided into three groups, the right consisting of two brigades and the centre and left, one and a half each.

8. It is hoped that WARLOY will be available for two battalions on the 23rd instant, in which case the battalions of the 5th A.I.Bde. at present at MONTIGNY and BAVELINCOURT will be moved there on that date.

9. Acknowledge.

Copy to -

AUST. Corps.
38th Division.
3rd Aust. Division.
4th Aust. Division.

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

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

No. 110.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Road junctions and approaches in and around MORLANCOURT and VILLE-SUR-ANCRE were kept under harassing fire. E.14.c. and d., E.15.a. and b., E.16., E.9., E.3., E.10.a. and c. were also harassed. New work was observed at E.14.a.7.3. This was engaged and the working party dispersed. Another working party was effectively fired on at E.14.c.central. 4.5" Hows. fired 100 rounds on Dug-outs and tracks in vicinity of QUARRY (E.14.c.).

(b) Trench Mortars. In all, 114 rounds were expended on enemy posts and M.G. positions as follows:- Trenches from E.13.d.7.4. to E.13.d.7.7., E.13.d.7.8. to E.13.d.95.95., E.19.b.central to E.19.d.central. M.G. post at E.20.a.9.4. and along railway and huts in E.20.c.

(c) Machine Guns. M.Gs. dispersed a working party at E.20.c., and were very active on A.A. work.

(d) Our snipers claim 3 hits.

(e) Patrols. Enemy were seen in the vicinity of post at E.8.c.55.05. also near E.8.c.8.0. A M.G. opened up from this position and flares were fired. Another M.G. opened up from approx. E.8.c.8.8. Enemy were heard working at E.3.c.1.3. A recently occupied L.P. was found at E.3.c.2.8. and various other empty L.P's. were located in the vicinity of E.2.d.

(f) Aerial activity. Very active. About 40 incendiary and H.E. bombs were dropped on MORLANCOURT and VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. Six of our 'planes engaged a hostile machine, driving it to earth in the vicinity of CORBIE.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Between 4.25 p.m. and 8.50 p.m., 350 rds. 10.5 and 15 cm. fell in the vicinity of LAVIEVILLE. This 15 cm. battery was observed on M.B. 950 from D.16.b.3.4. At 6 p.m. a 15 cm. battery, from the direction of MORLANCOURT, fired 200 rounds into D.12.b. LAVIEVILLE and the area in D.10. were shelled almost continuously between midday and midnight. 200 rds. 18-pdr. are reported to have fallen in V.29.c. and d. and 150 rds. 10.5 and 15 cm. in V.29.c. Other areas to receive attention were D.4.a., D.8.c., D.11.d. and D.9.b.

(Contd on page 2)

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench mortars. L.M.W. fired from East of E.8.central on to E.7.b.7.2.

(b) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(c) Gas. Sneezing gas was sent over at 10.50 p.m., but the effects were not felt until midnight when masks had to be worn for 30 minutes.

(d) Defences. Considerable movement and work near road junction in A.3.b. Earth work and working party observed at K.3.a.8.5. Parapet of enemy post can be seen at E.8.c.8.0.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Normal.

8. MOVEMENT. A headquarters is suspected at K.3.b.6.6.

R. F. Northcote Capt.
for Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

War
Diary

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4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. (continued).

Hostile artillery was not above normal though certain areas were continually harassed by 77 mm. and 10.5 cm. mostly from the direction of MEAULTE, BELLEVUE FARM and DERNANCOURT. Areas shelled were E.7., Cross Roads in D.7.c. It was reported that enemy were ranging on our new C.T. from the direction of MEAULTE. Sound bearings of 100° and 183° true from E.8.c.0.6. Our front line in E.13.b. was registered with 4.2's., also the new C.T. running from NINE ELMS to front line.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

A division from CHAMPAGNE has come into line north of the River OISE, and a total of 99 divisions have now been engaged on the SOMME battle front.

As the withdrawal of a division from the VERDUN front is reported the engagement of another division on the SOMME battle front makes no change in the number of fresh divisions in reserve.

Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 129 have now been engaged since the 21st March and 19 are of poor quality. There are 39 fresh divisions in line which have not been drawn into the battle, and 19 which are in reserve; at least 12 of the latter are probably opposite the British front. In addition, there are 25 divisions which have been refitting for 10 days or over, and are considered to be available for immediate operations.

General.

Little movement was observed yesterday behind the German lines. The order of battle between ALBERT and the SOMME has now been cleared up. The Germans have strengthened their line by one division, thus enabling regiments which formerly held the front with two battalions in line to be organised in greater depth. There is no reason to regard this as indicating an offensive.

Prisoners captured in the SAILLY LE SEC and HAMEL sectors formed part of large drafts (400 to 500 each) which arrived direct from Germany, thus showing that the recruit depots of their divisions are exhausted. A considerable percentage of the 1917 Class were included in these drafts. The Division holding the HAMEL sector is extremely weak, having suffered very heavy losses.

No offensive action is considered probable in this sector.

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SECRET.

G.187.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 23rd April 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.181.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 65th Army Bde.R.F.A. | - | B.12.c.30.85. | BEAUCOURT. Mobile Res.Bde. |
| 3rd Army Bde.A.F.A. | - | D.14.a.1.1. | |
| 5th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q. | - | B.24.b.5.9. | BEHENCOURT.Chateau. Reserve Bde. |
| 18th Battalion. | - | C.6.c.2.2. | BAIZIEUX. L'Ecole. |
| 19th do. | - | B.18.a.1.2. | MONTIGNY. |
| 20th do | - | C.7.a.05.05. | BAVELINCOURT. |
| 5th A.L.T.M.Bty. | - | B.18.c.6.8. | MONTIGNY. |
| 5th Field Coy.A.E. | - | C.5.c.8.8. | |
| 7th do | - | B.18.d.6.3. | BEHENCOURT. |
| 15th Coy.A.A.S.C. | - | B.12.c.8.8. | BEAUCOURT. |
| ADD. | | | |
| P.O.W. Div.Cage. | - | C.6.b.2.2. | BAIZIEUX. |
| P.O.W. Corps Cage. | - | B.18.b. | MONTIGNY. |
| 4th A.L.T.M.Bty | - | D.7.d.9.2. | |

2nd Aust D.H.Q.
22/4/18.

22B

[Signature]
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Appendix

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
23rd April, 1918.

1ST AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 8.

Para. 2. -

Opposite "C" and "D" Sections -

For "Wood at B.6.central"
read "Wood at C.10.b."

Acknowledge.

A. B. Bowrick Major
-for

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 8."

Diary



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S E C R E T.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 179.

Copy No. 56

Headquarters,
23rd April, 1918.

Ref. Maps - Sheets 57D and 62D - 1/40,000.

1. The northern boundary of the Division will be adjusted to run from W.15.c.8.0. due East and West along the grid line between Squares W.14. and W.20 to T.14.d.0.0.

The Western boundary of the Division will run from A.24. central to T.14.d.O.O. (PIERREGOT exclusive).

2. The Division will accordingly take over from the 38th Division that portion of the front between our present Northern boundary and W.15.c.6.O. on the night 24th/25th April.

3. To effect this the following reliefs will be carried out on the night 24th/25th April, reliefs in all cases to be complete by 5 a.m. 25th April. -

- (a) - 7th A.I.Bde. will take over from 6th A.I.Bde. that portion of the front from the present inter-brigade boundary to E.8.c.0.8.
- (b) - 6th A.I.Bde. will take over from 114th Inf. Bde., 38th Division, that portion of the front from the present Divisional boundary to W.26.c.3.6.
- (c) - 5th A.I.Bde. (less "D" Bn.) will take over from the 114th and 113th Inf. Bdes., 38th Division, that portion of the front from W.26.c.3.6. to W.15.c.6.0.

4. "D" Battalion, 5th A.I.Bde., will move to camp about V.22.a. - V.16.c. and relieve a battalion of the 115th Inf. Bde., 38th Division, in reserve on the 24th April, relief to be complete by 12 noon.

5. Headquarters of 6th and 7th A.I.Bdes. will remain as at present. Headquarters of 5th A.I.Bde. will be established at V.20.d.2.2., present headquarters of 114th Inf. Bde.

8. On completion of relief each Brigade will be disposed with two battalions in the line and one in brigade reserve. The fourth battalion will be held in divisional reserve.

Inter-brigade boundaries will be -

Between 7th & 6th A.I.Bdes. - East & West line through E.8.c.0.8.
Between 6th & 5th A.I.Bdes. - " " " " " W.26.c.3.6.

7. Subject to the terms of this order, the details of above reliefs will be arranged direct between the Brigade Commanders concerned, and command will pass on completion of reliefs which will be reported by wire to D.H.Q.

8. Reliefs of machine gun units will be carried out on the night 25th/26th April, and will be arranged direct between the M. G. Bn. Commanders.

P.T.O.

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9. The 282nd and 48th Army Brigades, R.F.A., are being placed under the orders of the G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div.

10. Reliefs of Engineer and Medical Units will be arranged by the C.R.E., and A.D.M.S. respectively.

11. Administrative instructions will be issued by "Q".

12. CONTAY and VADENCOURT are allotted to V Corps for administrative purposes.

13. The G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div., will take over from the G.O.C., 38th Division, command of that portion of the front from the present divisional boundary to W.15.c.6.O. at 6 a.m., 25th April.

14. Acknowledge.

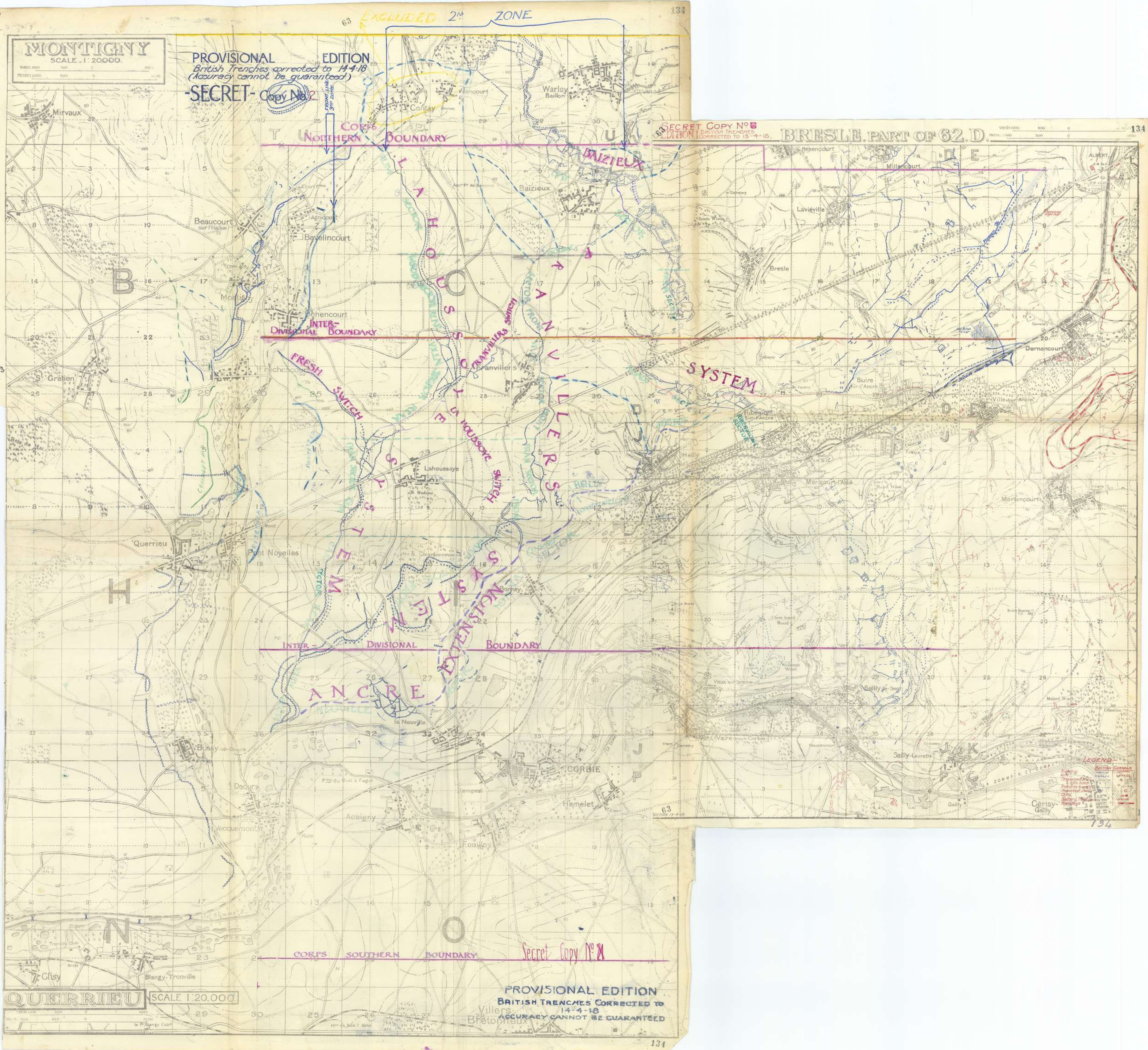
Lt. Col. Bowick

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. To.

1. G.O.C.
2. "G."
3. "A.Q."
4. C.R.A.
5. C.R.E.
6. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
7. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
8. 6th do.
9. 7th do.
10. 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
11. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
12. 2nd Aust. Div. Train.
13. 2nd Aust. M. T. Coy.
14. S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div.
15. A.D.M.S.
16. D.A.D.V.S.
17. D.A.D.O.S.
18. A.P.M.
19. D.E.O.
20. D.G.O.
21. AUST. Corps.
22. AUST. Corps R.A.
23. AUST. Corps H.A.
24. 38th Division.
25. 3rd Aust. Division.
26. 4th Aust. Division.
27. 5th Aust. Division.
28. 3rd Squad., A.F.C.
29. Troop, 13th A.L.H.
30. Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn.
31. 3rd Bde. Tank Corps.
- 32/33. File.
- 34/36. War Diary.
- 37/40. Spare.



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.No. 111.From 6 a.m. 22nd to 6 a.m. 23rd April, 1918.NOTE. Not to be taken into the front line trenches.OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Between 7.30 p.m. and 9 p.m., four 18-pdr. Batteries and two 4.5" How. Batteries of Left Group assisted in the operation of the Northern Corps on our Left by putting down a creeping barrage in W.27.a. and b. and W.21.d.

Subsequently until 11.30 p.m. bursts of fire were directed on the Protective Barrage Line and at 1.20 a.m. enfilade fire on the line W.27.central - W.22.central, the enemy having been reported massing there.

The vigorous harassing policy was maintained on all enemy communication systems. Movement on ALBERT - BAPAUME Road was successfully engaged.

Hostile batteries at E.15.o.5.5. and E.15.d.82.60. were silenced by 4.5" Hows. at 10 and 10.15 a.m. respectively.

(b) Trench Mortars. 20 rds. 3" Stokes were fired during the night on trench E.13.d.7.4. to E.13.d.7.7. and E.13.d.70.80. to E.13.d.95.95. 20 rds. L.T.M. were fired on E.8.o.5.0.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Sniping. 3 hits claimed.

(f) Patrols. The L.P. at E.3.o.2.8. was not occupied. An enemy rifle was found in L.P. at E.3.o.1.9. It was reported by patrol that much movement was seen in vicinity of E.8.o.5.0.

(g) Aerial activity. Our 'planes were active during the day and constantly fired M.G.'s. into enemy lines. Hostile M.G. and A.A. fire was poor.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

A division, which was recently reported to have arrived in LORRAINE from GALICIA, is now in the area North-east of YPRES. While every division which could be spared from the front between the sea and YPRES was transferred to the LIS sector for the attack on the 9th April, three new divisions appear to have been since transferred to this front.

A dismounted cavalry division, formerly in line on the RIGA front, has come into line in the VOGES. There are now three dismounted cavalry divisions in line in ALSACE - LORRAINE.

There is no change in the number of German Infantry Divisions in line and in reserve in the Western Theatre.

General. No further indications of an offensive opposite this front have been obtained.

Prisoners captured during the last few days by the Third and Fourth Armies know of no intention to attack. Identifications of hostile divisions have been normal and tired divisions in the line have been replaced by divisions recently relieved on this front.

A certain amount of trench construction and wiring is reported, but except between the SOMME and the VILLERS - BRETTONNEUX Road work on defensive systems cannot be said to indicate that the enemy have definitely assumed a defensive policy.

6. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. A 10.5 cm. was firing from a position on a T.B. from E.8.c.2.8., and for the first time our outpost line was shelled around E.7.d.9.4. and E.8.c.1.6. LAVIEVILLE was shelled by 10.5 cm. on a T.B. of from D.12.d.8.0. MILLENCOURT was also shelled persistently during the afternoon and evening. A flash bearing of 110° True from E.1.d.9.3. was taken. A Battery was located in Wood at approx. W.28.b. on a T.B. 75° from D.6.d.9.3.

Between 8 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. about 500 5.9 H.E's. were dropped into D.17.a., b. and c., without doing any damage. At 9.15 a.m. while lightly shelling D.30.a. with 4.2's. he dropped a number into NO MAN'S LAND and behind his lines. Between 8.35 p.m. and 9 p.m. gas shells (nature unknown) were scattered over D.17., D.23., D.24. and BUIRE.

7. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

8. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.
(b) Machine Guns. - Quiet.
(c) Defences. New work was observed along enemy parapet in E.8.c. and E.14.a.

9. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Hostile aircraft (was very active, but) was kept well away from our lines by our planes & A.A. fire. One plane was driven down by our machine S. of MORLANCOURT at 8.30am. Two balloons were in evidence.

10. MOVEMENT. Movement was very continuous on the back areas especially in K.1.b. and K.2.a. and on ALBERT - BECOURT Road, where limbers, men on bicycles, lorries, etc. are frequently seen during the day.

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

appx. 67

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.24/1/318.

Headquarters,
23rd April, 1918.

In future all copies of the Div. Daily Intelligence Summary must be destroyed by recipients within 24 hours of receipt, any information of value concerning enemy defences being previously marked on situation maps.

This action is necessary in view of the fact that very often the Divisional Summary contains extracts from summaries issued by Higher Formations, which extracts if they fell into enemy hands might prove of inestimable value to him.

Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

L. B. Bonwick Major

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

Issued to all recipients of 2nd Aust. Div. Intelligence
Summary No. 111 dated 23:4:18.

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54th Reserve Division.

The 54th Res. Div., which was formed of the same material and at the same time as the 50th Res. Div., consists of the 107 Res. Inf. Bde., which is, in turn, composed of the 246, 247 and 248 Res. Inf. Regts.

The Division is WURTEMBERGIAN in origin, and all its units are recruited there. Its battle honors are as follows:-

1st YPRES, 1914; 2nd YPRES, 1915; SOMME, 1916; AISNE, 1917;
SOMME, 1918.

183rd Division.

The 183rd Division is composed of 184 Inf. Regt., 418th Inf. Regt. and the 440th Res. Inf. Regt. In the order abovenamed they are recruited from the following localities:-

PRUSSIAN SAXONY.
SAXONY.
BAVARIA.

Battle honors:-

CHAMPAGNE, 1915; SOMME, 1916, (2); AISNE, 1917;
3rd YPRES, 1917; CAMBRAI, 1917; SOMME, 1918.

The 183rd Division was originally formed in June, 1915, by the creation of new Inf. Regts. and was then known as Brigade No. 183, as at that period only 3 Field Batteries were available.

In June, 1916, 6 additional batteries were added to the Brigade, which thence on was termed 183rd Division.

A SHORT HISTORY OF GERMAN DIVISIONS AT PRESENT ON THIS FRONT.50th Res. Div.

The 50th Res. Div. consists of the 99th Res. Inf. Bde. which, in turn, is composed of the 229, 230 and 231 Res. Inf. Regts. The 229 and 230 Inf. Regts. are recruited in SILESIA, the former from BRISLAU, and the latter from BRIG; 231 from ALLENBURG in Prussian Saxony.

The Division has taken part in the following battles:-

RUSSIA and GALICIA 1915; SOMME, 1916, (2); ARRAS, 1917; 3rd YPRES, 1917, (2); SOMME, 1918.

The 50th Res. Div. was formed in October, 1914, and was made up of "*" ERSATZ RESERVISTEN and volunteers from classes which have not yet been called up; like all other reserve Divs. it was equipped with 9 batteries instead of 12, as is the case with active divisions.

"*" The Ersatz Reserve is made up of -

- (a) Men fit for active service, but excused for family reasons, and
- (b) Men with minor physical defects.

These men remained in the Ersatz Reserve for 12 years, during which time they were liable to be called up for 3 annual trainings. Only a small proportion of the Ersatz Reserve underwent training. On mobilisation the Ersatz Res. amounted to a total of about 900,000 men, aged between 22 and 32.

18th Division.

The 18th Division consists of the 31st Inf. Regt., 85th Inf. Regt. and 86th Fusilier Regt., which in the order abovenamed are recruited from -

ALTONA.

KENDSEURG and LUBECK.

FLENSEBURG and APENRADE.

The 18th Division is a Prussian Division, and is totally recruited from SCHLESWIG - HOLSTEIN and MECKLENBURG.

The following are the battle honors:-

MARNE, 1914; CHALPAGNE, 1915; SOMME, 1916, (2);
ARRAS, 1917; 3rd YPRES, 1917; SOMME, 1918.

27th Division.

The 27th Division consists of the 53rd Inf. Brigade, which is, in turn, composed of the 120th Inf. Regt., 123rd Grenadier Regt. and 124th Inf. Regt.

The Division is a WURTEMBERGIAN one, and the abovenamed Regts. are recruited from ULM and WEINGARTEN.

War Diary 20B

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 23rd to 6 a.m. 24th April, 1918.

No. 112.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Enemy roads, tracks, dug-outs and dumps opposite the Divisional front were kept under harassing fire. Several small parties along ALBERT - BECORDEL Road were effectively engaged. Direct hits by 4.5" Hows. on the QUARRY (E.14.c.3.7) are reported. Forward communication having failed, and in response to the enemy's bombardment, the Right Group, between 4.30 a.m. and 5.45 a.m. opened at a slow rate on S.O.S. Lines, although no signal was observed.

(b) Trench Mortars. 20 rds. 3" Stokes were fired into QUARRY (E.14.c.) and M.G. position at E.13.d.55.60. 30 rds. were fired on enemy posts at E.8.c.5.0. and E.14.a.25.45.

(c) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were normally active throughout the period.

(d) Sniping. 12 shots were fired at fleeting targets and 4 hits claimed.

(e) Patrols. Enemy working parties were observed at E.3.a.25.45., W.27.o.1.2. and E.8.d.3.8. On return of patrols to our lines, Artillery were notified, and fire was opened on these parties. Hostile M.Guns were located at E.14.a.35.15. and E.8.c.75.10.

Enemy transport could be heard moving on roads in and around DERNANCOURT and MEAULTE.

As a result of a patrol encounter at about E.8.c.3.6. with a small enemy party, armed with automatic revolvers, we lost one Officer killed.

(f) Aerial Activity. Our 'planes were active reconnoitring, bombing and machine gunning enemy trenches and posts.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Was rather more active than usual during the day on back areas and left Bde. front. Between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. approx. 250 rds. 15 cm. were fired into and around LAVIEVILLE. This battery appeared to be firing from GIBRALTAR (F.26.d.) MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT Road, were shelled during the morning with 7.7 cm. (and MILLENCOURT)

and 10.5 cm. Grid. Bearings taken to these batteries from D.5.b.45.82. were respectively 70° and 85°. Intermittent shelling on the following areas is reported:- V.28., V.29., D.11. and D.16. At 1.30 p.m. over 100 rds. 10.5 cm. H.E. and sneezing gas was fired into MILLENCOURT. Between 3.45 a.m. and 6 a.m., enemy's 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. batteries, firing H.E. and mixed gas, carried out a heavy bombardment of V.27. and our battery areas in D.9., D.10., D.15. and D.16. From 3.45 a.m. to 5 a.m. fire on the Right Group was maintained at the approx. rate of 25 rds. per minute.

The following batteries were located:- E.5.c.9.6., E.5.b.4.5., F.1.b.8.5.

From E.1.d.9.3. a T.B. of 106° was obtained on an active 77 mm. battery, and a T.B. of 79° on an active 15 cm. battery.

The following sound bearings were obtained from D.5.b.45.82:- 15 cm. - Grid S.B. 115°; 15 cm. - Grid S.B. 120°; 12 guns in line - Grid S.B. 89°. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Gas. From 3.45 a.m. to 6 a.m. H.E. and sneezing gas was scattered over Left Bde. sector, especially in D.6.c. and d., D.12.a. and b. Gas helmets were worn for 30 minutes.

(b) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were quiet throughout the period.

(c) Trench Mortars. 8 L.T.M. shells fell at E.7.b.9.2., and 12 in E.8.a. Position of mortar could not be ascertained.

(d) Sniping. 5 shots were fired on Left Bde. front, 2 from E.14.a.2.4. and 3 from E.8.c.9.8.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Generally quiet and defensive.

P.T.O.

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7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aircraft were fairly active all day patrolling our forward areas. One E.A. was driven down and crashed in flames in W.27.a. about 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. a 'plane with British markings flying fairly low opened M.G. fire on our trenches in D.12.b. One of the bullets was obtained. It is copper coated and apparently of German manufacture (Bullet forwarded Aust. Corps 'I' with this summary).

One E.A. observed had a circle painted round the IRON CROSS on the lower planes.

8. MOVEMENT.

Great activity on the BRAY - ALBERT Road. Numbers of motor-lorries and wagons as well as Infantry with full packs were observed. Movement was frequently noticed on the ALBERT - BECORDEL Road.

A Headquarters is suspected at E.23.d.5.6. Men on bicycles were seen to enter and leave this house at odd times throughout the day.

Six Germans were seen constructing a bridge over creek at E.20.d.8.5., which on completion was destroyed by our 18-pdrs. and the Germans dispersed. Dug-outs are suspected at E.22.central. Two trains were seen in E.9. moving towards POZIERES.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

A fire was observed in rear of POZIERES ridge on T.B. 649 from E.2.o.2.5. A propaganda balloon fell in E.1.d., but no papers were attached.

J. J. Callaghan Capt
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Enemy defences. Photographs taken recently show that the enemy has been working on his defensive positions in the forward zone. Several lengths of trench have been dug, and rifle-pits have been linked up, notably west of ALBERT, in the neighbourhood of the QUARRY in E.14., (North of DERNANCOURT) North of SAILLY LAURETTE, and West of the BOIS de VAIRE.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

13th Division. 13th I.R. identified near CASTEL, 22nd/23rd April; prisoner.

This indicates the relief of the 15th Div. by the 13th Div. The latter was relieved in the DERNANCOURT sector on April 10th/11th; it is now coming into line for the third time during the battle.