

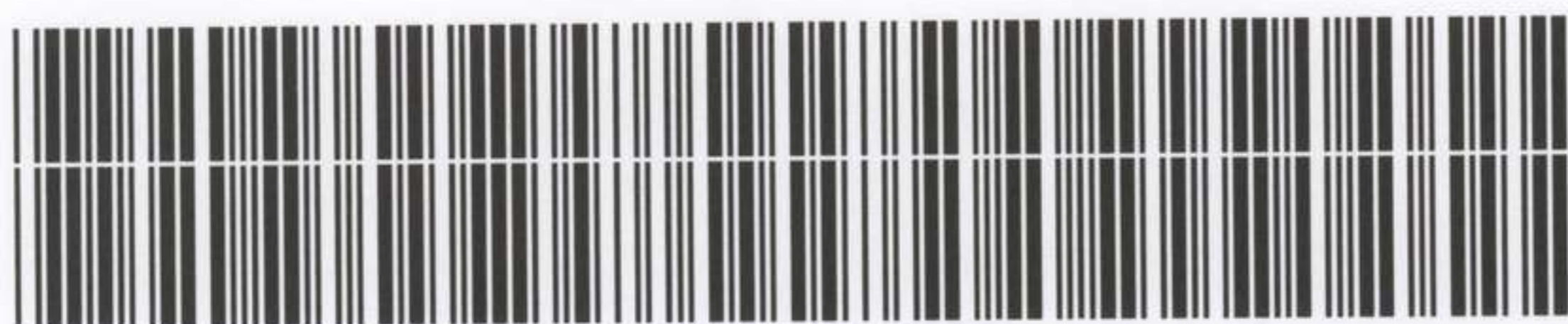
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/33 Part 4

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

April 1918



AWM4-1/44/33PART4

63

War Diary

App 69 144

HEADQUARTERS,
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
(GENERAL STAFF.)

SECRET.

Copy No.....

G.32/493.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
24th April, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 16.

Consequent on the extension of the divisional front Northward, the undermentioned "Instructions for the Defensive" are cancelled from 6 a.m., 25th April, 1918:-

- No. 1 and Amendments.
- Paras. 1, 2 and 3 of Instructions No. 4.
- No. 10.
- No. 11 and Amendment.

and the following substituted:-

A. ORGANISATION OF DIV. SECTOR.

1. The attached map* shows the divisional and inter-brigade boundaries of the Left Divisional Sector, Australian Corps Front, and the works of defence at present existing within this sector.
2. The divisional sector is divided into three main zones of defence:-
 - (a) The forward zone comprising all works back to, but ^{ex-}cluding, the BAIZIEUX system.
 - (b) The second zone comprising the BAIZIEUX, FRANVILLERS and LA HOUSOYE systems.
 - (c) The third zone, River HALLUE.
3. The forward zone is divided into three main systems:-
 - (a) Forward system, coloured RED.
 - (b) LAVIEVILLE - MILLENCOURT system, coloured BLUE.
 - (c) BRESLE - HENENCOURT system, coloured GREEN.

In each system there are various trenches, strong points and switch lines.

4. Details of the second and third zones are given in "Instructions for the Defensive Nos. 6 and 14." Further information re the extension of these zones Northward will be forwarded as received.

B. DISPOSITION OF TROOPS.

5. Infantry. The Divisional Sector is divided into three Brigade Sub-sectors each held by one Infantry Brigade.

In each Brigade Sub-sector the troops are disposed as follows:-

"A" and "B" Bns. in the line; at least one Company in each En. to be held ready for immediate counter-attack.

"C" Bn. in Brigade Reserve; four platoons finding a nucleus garrison for the LAVIEVILLE - MILLENCOURT system, remainder of battalion held ready for immediate counter-attack.

"D" Bn. in Divisional Reserve in and behind the BRESLE - HENENCOURT system; two platoons finding a nucleus garrison for this system, the remainder of the battalion ready for a deliberate counter-attack on orders from D.H.Q.

P.T.O.

* Map to follow.

6. Machine Guns. Machine guns will be disposed in accordance with the principles laid down in G. S. Circular No. 57 dated 20th April, 1918.

7. Artillery. The Field Artillery covering the Divisional front consists of four F.A. Brigades divided into three groups. -

The Right Group covering Right Inf. Bde. consists of six 18-pdr. and two 4.5" How. Batteries.

The Centre Group covering the Centre Inf. Brigade consists of three 18-pdr. and one 4.5" How. Batteries.

The Left Group covering the Left Inf. Brigade consists of three 18-pdr. and one 4.5" How. batteries.

In addition to the above, there is one superimposed and one mobile brigade.

8. Engineers and Pioneers. One Field Company Engineers is allotted to each brigade for work in the brigade sub-sector.

The Pioneers will be employed under the orders of the C.R.E.

9. Mounted Troops. One Troop, 13th A.L.H. Regt. and one platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn. are allotted to the division for the duties of -

- (a) Patrol and reconnaissance, including flank protection.
- (b) Maintenance of communications.

C. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

10. The main principle to be borne in mind is that we must maintain our hold on all our positions.

Should the enemy succeed in effecting a lodgment in any portion of our front line, an immediate counter-attack will be undertaken by battalion or brigade reserves with the object of driving him out. Plans for such counter-attacks will be thought out beforehand and made known to all reserves.

Should the immediate counter-attacks fail to eject the enemy, a deliberate counter-attack with artillery preparation will be carried out under orders from D.H.Q.

D. ACTION OF DIVISIONAL RESERVES.

11. "D" Battalions, 5th, 6th and 7th Aust. Inf. Brigades, will be prepared to reinforce or to counter attack in any part of the forward divisional area. Necessary reconnaissances will be carried out forthwith.

12. The Troop, 13th A.L.H., and Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn. (less any details employed on communication duties) will be prepared to move forward to assist either flank of the division.

13. 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 occupy any systems of the second zone defences, 7A. Bn. in Right Bde. Sub-sector, 6A. in centre and 5A. in Left.

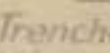
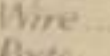
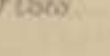
14. The role of the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will be notified later.

15. Acknowledge.

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

T.T.O.

53

REFERENCE
 Trenches 
 Wire 
 Posts 



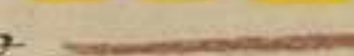
"C" DIVISIONAL SECTOR.

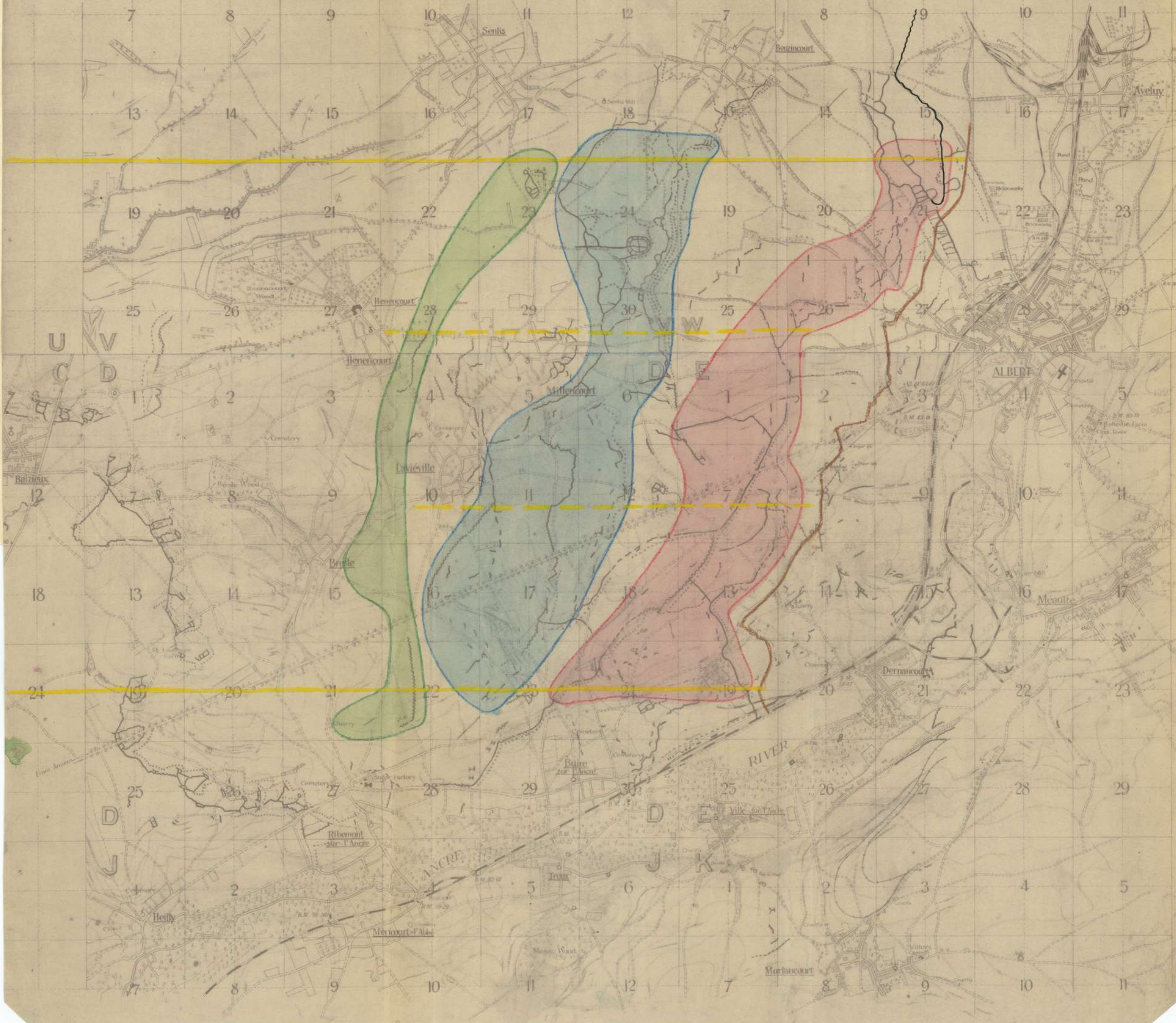
Scale 1/20000, Date 24th Apr. 1918.

SECRET 5.32.

146

Copy No 15

Divisional Boundaries 
Brigade Boundaries 
Approx. German front Line 



69

- 3 -

appendix. 69..

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. A. G. Bn. ✓
9.	A.Q.
10.	A.D.M.S.
11.	5A. Nucleus Bn.
12.	6A. Nucleus Bn.
13.	7A. Nucleus Bn.
14.	Troop, 13th A.L.H. Regt.
15.	Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn.
16.	AUST. Corps. ✓
17.	38th Division. ✓
18.	3rd Aust. Division. ✓
19.	4th Aust. Division. ✓
20.	3rd bde. Tank Corps. ✓
21/22.	File. ✓
23/25.	War Diary. ✓
26/30.	Spare.

63

War diary

App 70 148

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 113.

From 6 a.m. 24th to 6 a.m. 25th April 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Quiet during the day. During the night, and between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., enemy communications and centres of activity were again subjected to harassing fire. Dumps in E.22.a. were also fired on.

(b) Trench Mortars. 15 rds were fired on S.P. at E.8.c.8.0. 40 rds were fired into QUARRY in E.14.c., posts from E.13.b.95.10. to E.13.d.60.70., and road E.13.b.95.10. to QUARRY.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Patrols. Our patrols report an enemy post at E.8.b.0.5.

(e) Snipers. Claim 8 hits including an enemy sniper who was killed at E.19.b.7.6.

(f) Aerial Activity. Below normal.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Was very active until 11 a.m., when it slackened. The chief areas to receive attention were roads in D.5., D.11., V.22. and V.28., which were intermittently shelled during the day, also villages of MILLENCOURT, HENENCOURT and LAVIEVILLE, the latter in particular. Approx. 3,000 rds of 15 cm and 10.5 cm mixed H.E. and gas (Phosgene and Blue Cross) fell in D.9., D.10., D.15. and D.16. Battalion H.Q. in D.12.b., and D.3.b.7.7. received some of these shells. From 9 am to 2 p.m. a slow barrage of 10.5. and 7.7. cm was placed on ALBERT - AMIENS Road between D.16. and D.17., and E.7. Persistent fire was directed on E.12.b., and E.7.b. and c. A battery of Hows was firing on a T.E. of 115°- 119° from E.2.c.05.10. 7.7 cms were firing on T.Es of 127°- 130° from E.2.c.05.10. It has been noticed that the enemy guns sound close up behind his line and our outpost garrison consider that his artillery is being pushed forward although they cannot locate them. The C.C.S. was shelled with 5.9 H.E. between 3 and 4 p.m., and later the ALBERT Road in D.16. and D.17. with 4.2s. It was noticeable that each burst of fire contained a small proportion of gas, but no great quantity was used.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet. *****

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

- (a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.
- (b) Machine Guns. Rather active at intervals during the night.
- (c) Sniping. More active than usual firing across our left En Sector from E.6.b.3.3. and .8.a.99.50. A sniper was located at E.14.a.4.2.

8. MOVEMENT. Some movement on road from E.6.c.25.00. to E.11.d.8.5., was observed, and also in trench at E.20.a.0.1., where there appears to be a dugout.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Heavy smoke cloud was observed at W.22.d.

R. B. Wertheim Capt
for Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

P.T.O.

270

appendix 70

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

A division, recently arrived from RUSSIA, has come into line near MERCKM.

A division, from ALSACE, has reinforced the LYS battle front, and a total of 130 German Infantry divisions have now been engaged since the 21st March.

The number of fresh German divisions in reserve is estimated at 17, of which 12 are probably opposite the British front.

Enemy's Intentions.

The attack launched on the morning of April 24th had been postponed twice for 24 hours each time. The attack was expected to be on a three divisional front and would be preceded by a heavy gas bombardment. Batteries were brought up to the wood in U.18.b. during the last few days. The artillery preparation was to last 4 hours, from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. - German time.

A practice attack was carried out on VILLERS-CARBONNEL four days ago and had as its object the capture of the village. The dispositions of the regiment were as follows:-

2 Bns. each in 1st wave ... 2 Coys.
two waves (2nd wave) ... 2 Coys.
One battalion in reserve.
The divisional sector for the attack was to extend for 2,000 yards through V.12.a. and ca. V.18.a.
The final objective of the 77th Res. Div. is a line 300 yards west of CAOHY.

Ammunition in prepared shell holes.
The enemy appears to be using prepared shell-holes for the storage of ammunition on the Army Front, of much the same type as he used before the offensive of March 21st. These shell-holes have appeared north and south of the SOMME, notably in the valley between LAMOTTE and CBRISY, and north of MALARD Wood.

French mortar.
Machine guns.
Sniping.
Sector from E.3.3.3. and E.3.3.3.
E.14.4.2.

MOVEMENT. Some movement on road from E.3.3.3. to E.11.4.8. was observed, and also in trench at E.3.3.3.1., where there appears to be a dugout.

Heavy smoke cloud was observed at W.22.8.

Handwritten signature

Second Australian Division
General Staff
Lieut Colonel

app 71
Copy to 20

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS,
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
(GENERAL STAFF.)
G.32/493.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
25th April, 1918.

Consequent on the postponement of the extension of the Divisional boundary, "Instructions for the Defensive No. 16" will not come into operation until further notice.

Acknowledge.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 16."

Adrian

Appendix 11

War Diary

app 72151
HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)
S E C R E T.
Copy No. 7

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 180.

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

Headquarters,
26th April, 1918.

1. The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will take over from the 18th Battalion the duties of nucleus battalion of the BAIZIEUX system from 8 a.m., 27th April, 1918.
2. No nucleus garrisons will be kept in this system, but the battalion will be prepared to occupy the selected company tactical positions on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.
3. Acknowledge.

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

Issued at 8 p.m.

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. Pioneer Bn.
11.	2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
12.	AUST. Corps.
13.	3rd Aust. Div.
14.	38th Division.
15/16.	File.
17/19.	War Diary.
20/24.	Spare.

22B

Opp 74

Ref Maps.
Sheets
62D & 57D.

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.281.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 27th April 1918.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	- B.12.a.4.6.	BEAUCOURT-Sur-l'Hallue. Chateau
<u>2nd Aust. Div. Arty. H.Q.</u>	B.12.a.4.6.	do do
4th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	D.7.a.9.5.	- Right Group. (H.Q. D.7.d.1.7)
5th do	D.7.d.4.7.	
10th do	V.27.b.5.1.	
282nd (Army) Bde. R.F.A.	V.15.a.6.3.	Centre Group.
11th A.F.A. Bde. H.Q.	D.3.b.7.7.	Left Group.
48th (Army) Bde. R.F.A.	U.21.d	Superimposed Group.
<u>2nd Aust. D.A.C., H.Q.</u>	BEHENCOURT.	Mobile Reserve Bde. Chateau.
4th do	C.7.a.8.8.	AGNICOURT.
D.T.M.O. 2nd Aust. Div.	BEHENCOURT.	Chateau.
D.T.M.O. 4th do	- B.12.c.5.8.	BEAUCOURT.
<u>5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	- V.20.d.2.2.	LINE. Left Sector.
17th Battalion.	- V.23.b.1.3.	Support. Bde. Reserve.
18th do	- C.6.c.2.2.	(Moving during morning)
19th do	- W.20.c.4.4.	LINE Right. (to Div. Res.)
20th do	- W.20.c.4.8.	LINE Left.
22nd A.M.G. Coy.	-	(To be notified later)
5th A.L.T.M. Bty.	- V.21.c.7.4.	LINE.
Transport Lines.	- WARLOY.	
5A. Nucleus Bn.	- B.7.b.9.6.	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.
<u>6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	- HEHENCOURT.	Chateau. LINE Centre Sector.
21st Battalion.	- D.12.b.5.1.	LINE Right.
22nd do	- D.10.b.3.3.	Bde. Reserve.
23rd do	- V.30.d.2.9.	LINE Left.
24th do	- V.29.d.0.2.	Div. Reserve.
6th A.M.G. Coy.	- D.10.b.4.2.	LINE.
6th A.L.T.M. Bty.	- V.28.c.9.3.	LINE.
Transport Lines	- B.19.a.	MONTIGNY.
6A. Nucleus Bn.	-	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.
<u>7th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>	- D.7.b.1.2.	LINE Right Sector.
25th Battalion.	- D.24.a.1.7.	LINE Left.
26th do	- D.24.a.1.7.	LINE Right.
27th do	- D.21.c.9.3.	Bde. Reserve.
28th do	- D.13.d.1.0.	Div. Reserve.
7th A.M.G. Coy.	- D.17.c.5.3.	LINE.
7th A.L.T.M. Bty.	- D.7.d.9.2.	LINE.
Transport Lines	- C.7.a.	FAVELINCOURT.
7A. Nucleus Bn.	-	MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS.
<u>2nd Aust. M.G. Battalion.</u>	C.12.a.8.5.	BAIZIEUX.
5th A.M.G. Coy.	-	(To be notified later)
M.G. Nucleus Personnel.	FAVELINCOURT.	
<u>C.R.E.</u>	-	-
5th Field Coy. A.E.	- B.12.a.4.6.	BEAUCOURT. Chateau.
6th do	- C.5.c.8.8.	
7th do	- C.6.a.1.4.	
2nd A. Pioneer Bn.	- V.20.d.5.5.	
	- V.25.cent.	
<u>A.D.S.</u>	-	-
5th A. Field Ambulance.	- B.12.a.4.6.	BEAUCOURT. Chateau.
6th do	- FRANVILLERS.	School House. A.D.S.
7th do	- BEAUCOURT.	Maire. - H.D.S.
	- (VALENCOURT.	H.Q.
	(WARLOY. -	A.D.S.

War Diary.

28B

P.T.O.

appendix 74

-2-

<u>Div. Train. H.Q.</u>		B. 12. a. 6. 0.	BEAUCOURT.
15th Coy. A.A.S.O.	-	B. 12. c. 8. 8.	do
16th do	-	B. 12. a. 8. 3.	do
17th do	-	C. 7. d. 6. 6.	BAVELINCOURT.
20th do	-	C. 19. a. cent.	BEHENCOURT.

Divisional Troops.

Paymaster.	}		
D.A.D.V.S.			
D. Gas Officer.			
D. Musketry Offr.		-	BEAUCOURT.
A.P.M.			
Mob. Vet. Sec.	}		
No. 3 San'ty Sec.			
D. Bomb Officer.	---	U. 27. cent.	CONTAY.
D. Salvage Coy.	-	C. 19. a. 8. 3.	BEHENCOURT.
D.A.D.O.S.	-	{	BEAUCOURT. Advanced Dump.
		{	VILLERS-BOCAGE. Rear Dump.
No. 2 Aust. M.T. Coy.		St OUBIN.	(LENS Sheet B. 6.)
Div. Reinft. Camp.	-	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames	(LENS Sheet B. 6.)

Attached Troops.

Aust. Corps Cyclist Bn.	BEAUCOURT.	1 Platoon.
13th A.L.H. Regt.	- BEAUCOURT.	1 Troop.

P.O.W. Cages.

Div Cage.	-	C. 6. b. 2. 2.	BAIZIEUX.
Corps Cage.	-	B. 18. b.	MONTIGNY.

2nd Aust. D.H.Q.
26th April 1918.

J. L. M. Callaghan
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.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

War Diary

HEADQUARTERS
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
(GENERAL STAFF)
Copy No. 753
SECRET.
G.32/493

Headquarters,
26th April, 1918.

In continuation this office G.32/493, dated 25th April, 1918.

1.- "Instructions for the Defensive No.16" will come into operation at 6 a.m. 27th April, 1918.

2.- On completion of the relief ordered in 2nd Aust. Div., Order No.179 "D" En. of each Ede. will be disposed as follows:-

- RIGHT EDE. - Vicinity St.LAWRENCE FARM.
- CENTRE " - Between MILLENCOURT and HEMENCOURT.
- LEFT " - V.21.

The provision of Nucleus Garrisons by these battalions for the BRASLE - HEMENCOURT system will be carried out in accordance with instructions to be issued later.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

G. Williams

Lieut. Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION:

Issued to all recipients of -
"Instructions for the Defensive No.16".

Appendix 75

154

33

War Diary

App 76 155

SECRET

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 181.

Copy No. *26*.....

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

Headquarters,
27th April, 1918.

1. (a) The 55th Infantry Brigade Group (less 7th Queens), 18th Division, is moving from III Corps Area to the MONTIGNY Area, arriving 28th instant.

(b) The 7th Queens will arrive in the MONTIGNY Area on the 29th instant, when it will rejoin the 55th Infantry Brigade Group.

2. On arriving in the MONTIGNY Area, the 55th Infantry Brigade Group will come under the orders of the G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Div., and will be attached to the Division.

3. It will be disposed as follows:-

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Brigade Headquarters. | - | EBART FARM. |
| 1 Bn. (7th Buffs). | - | (BEHENCOURT - 28th instant.
C.5.central - 29th instant.) |
| 1 Bn. (8th S. Surrey R.) | - | BAVELINCOURT. |
| 1 Bn. (7th Queens) | - | BEHENCOURT. |
| L.T.M. Bty. | - | BAVELINCOURT. |
| Field Coy. | - | BEHENCOURT. |
| Field Ambulance. | - | BEHENCOURT. |
| Coy. Div. Train. | - | BEAUCOURT. |

4. Completion of move will be reported by wire to D.H.Q.

5. The 55th Infantry Brigade will be held in divisional reserve. One battalion (7th Buffs) will move to Camp at C.5.central on the 29th instant, and will take over from the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. the duties of Nucleus Garrison for the BAIZIEUX system; move to be complete by 6 p.m.

6. The role of the Brigade is laid down in "Instructions for the Defensive No. 17."

7. Acknowledge.

Agulles

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

Issued at 8 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 Aust. Div. Sig. Coy. | |
| 7. | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. | |
| 8. | 6th do. | 18. D.B.O. |
| 9. | 7th do. | 19. D.G.O. |
| 10. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. | 20. 55th Inf. Bde. |
| 11. | 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. | 21. 18th Division. |
| 12. | 2nd Aust. Div. Train. | 22. AUST. Corps. |
| 13. | S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div. | 23. 3rd Aust. Div. |
| 14. | A.D.M.S. | 24. 38th Division. |
| 15. | A.P.M. | 25. 3rd Squad., A.F.C. |
| 16. | D.A.D.O.S. | — 26/28. War Diary. |
| 17. | D.A.D.V.S. | 29/30. File. |
| | | 31/35. Spare. |

22B

War Diary

App. 77 156

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 8 a.m. 26th to 6 a.m. 27th April, 1918.

No. 115.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Enemy roads, tracks, "tender spots," etc. were subjected to bursts of fire by all Groups in their respective areas. Suspected H.Q. at E.15.d.75.50. and tracks in E.18.c. received attention from our 4.5" Hows. During the night roads running East from ALBERT were frequently shelled by our 18-pdr. batteries with shrapnel.

(b) Trench Mortars. Quiet.

(c) Machine Guns. 2,000 rounds were expended on E.14.b.8.7. and E.3.d.2.3.

(d) Patrols. Our patrols were active, but on the Left nothing of the enemy was seen. At 1.30 a.m. 1 Officer and 3 men proceeded out from E.8.a.4.1., and worked along bank to approx. E.8.a.9.4. Whilst listening at this point a hostile party of 12 Germans was seen coming towards our line from the gully. At about 20 yards range our patrol opened fire with bombs, revolvers and rifles, scattering the enemy. Several were heard to cry out as though hit. Having expended all bombs and ammunition our patrol withdrew to our line. We suffered no casualties.

(e) Aerial activity. Very few 'planes were seen as weather conditions were unfavourable.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Below normal. At 8.15 p.m. W.20.c. was shelled by 77 mm. battery from S.E. of ALBERT. V.18.a. shelled by same battery at 4.30 a.m. 4.2 and 5.9 shells were fired at infrequent intervals during the night, and shelling was scattered over the whole front. Harassing fire was directed on D.6.d. and D.12.a. and b. At midday vicinity of NINE ELMS was shelled with 5.9's. 9.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. all tracks leading back from the forward area were shelled consistently, particularly in the valley north of BUIRE. It appeared that the enemy suspected a relief, judging by the area shelled. Very little gas was used. At about 12.45 p.m. 150 rounds 10.5 cm. fell in D.18.

d. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

e. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Machine Guns. A M.G. fired intermittently from approx. W.27. central. Intermittent bursts were fired during the night, mostly from E.14.a. Positions in sunken road in E.13.b. and d., from which machine guns have been active in the past, have been silent since the night before last, and it is thought they were blown out by our artillery and trench mortars.

(b) Sniping. Rather active. A position at E.14.a.4.2. was shelled by our 18-pdrs. at 8 a.m. and again at 8 p.m.

f. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Nil.

g. MOVEMENT. A working party at new sap E.19.b.5.5. was dispersed by our Lewis guns. Two men digging at E.14.c.1.8. were fired on by our Snipers. Movement was seen at QUARRY E.14.c. and in trench E.13.d.9.4. Slight movement was noticed at E.19.d.

R. B. Wertheim Capt

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

P.T.O.

27B

appendix 77

- 2 -

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Two fresh divisions have been identified to-day on the LYS Battle front Of the 206 German divisions in the Western Theatre, 135 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality.

There are 17 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 37 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

TANKS.

It has been ascertained that the following regiments were each assisted by 3 tanks:-

419th Regt. (77th Reserve Division).
 All 3 Regts. (4th Guard Division).
 207th Regt. (228th Division).
 Total 15.

Other regiments may have received a similar allotment. The role of the tanks was to deal with strong points of resistance.

NOTE. - A Vizefeldwebel belonging to the 4th Guard Division, when specially examined on 22nd instant, stated that 15 tanks were to be employed. This number coincides with the total given above, but may be only a coincidence.

RESERVES.

9th BAV. RES. DIVISION.

A document of April 25th indicates the presence of elements of this division in the LAMOTTE Area on that day. This division was only relieved on April 22nd after a long tour in line and was much exhausted. Sooner than employ a good division, the enemy may, however, have moved it up in case our counter attack should progress further.

19th DIVISION.

A document of April 26th mentions the 91st I.R. as being in the WIENCOURT Area. This division may have been brought back to reinforce one of the exhausted divisions in line. It was relieved on April 21st-22nd after two tours in line.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

(a) The order of battle from N. to S. on the front of attack appears to have been as follows on April 25th:-

	{ 182 Fusl. Regt.	
243 Division.	{ 478 I.R.	
	{ 479 I.R.	
sector from BOIS de VAIRE to cross roads at P.25.b.		
	{ 48 I.R.	
228 Division.	{ 207 R.I.R.	
	{ 35 Fusl. Regt.	
Southern boundary railway at O.36.d.		
4 Gd. Divn.	{ 93 R.I.R.	5 Guard Grens. withdrawn
	{ 5 Foot Gds.	exhausted.
Southern boundary at U.11.a.3.8.		
	{ 419 R.I.R.	
77 Res. Divn.	{ 332 I.R.	
	{ 257 R.I.R.	
Southern boundary is in Southern part of BOIS de HANGARD.		

appendix 77

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (Continued).

(b) A signaller of the 48 I.R., 228 Division, states that he gathered from telephone conversations that his division formed the right flank of a larger attack carried out by the XI and XIV Corps to the south of his sector.

It is possible that the divisions in line and reserve between the SOMME and the LUCE are under the command of these two Corps Staffs. The XIV Corps under von GONTARD commanded the BUSIGNY group at the time of the commencement of the German offensive. The XI Corps was formerly in the German Fifth Army.

LOSSES.

(a) A prisoner of the 5th Foot Guards, 4th Guard Division, states that his regiment relieved the 5th Guard Grenadiers who had to be withdrawn as they had suffered 60% losses.

(b) No other instances of the losses of particular units have been reported so far, but it is evident that all four German divisions engaged suffered very heavily. The 48 I.R., 228th Division lost 3 Officers and 26 other ranks in unwounded prisoners alone.

AMMUNITION TRAIN BLOWN UP.

A Guard Officer under special examination stated that as the result of a bomb on WIENCOURT station an ammunition train was blown up. This carried a large number of shells for 36 cm. Austrian guns, with the result that these guns could only play a minor part in the bombardment owing to shortage of ammunition.

GENERAL.

VILLERS-BRETONNEUX has been cleared of the enemy. No strong counter attacks by the Germans have so far been carried out in order to regain the village. No movement of large bodies of troops denoting the arrival of fresh divisions was observed from the air, but observation was very difficult. It is considered that attacks to recapture VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and CAOHY will be made, as this is apparently a step towards a bigger offensive with AMIENS for its objective. These attacks may not take place for a few days, but this is given with reserve on account of the extremely bad visibility from the air.

Wiring party 150 - 200 strong was observed by patrol to be wiring from W.27.a.80.70. - W.27.c.40.90. Artillery and Lewis Gun fire was directed on them.

ENEMY WORK AND DEFENCES.

Digging is going on around W.15.d.99.90. (There are small trenches on both sides of sunken road), also around W.21.b.75.30. (photo 15LB 151 shows several new organised shell holes around W.21.b.85.55.).

Suspected Trench Mortar in Brickworks. (W.22.a.30.40.). Machine guns suspected at W.15.d.20.95., W.22.a.30.40., W.9.d.60.90., Post at W.21.c.89.70. Wiring party suspected at W.27.a.50.60.

War Diary

App. 78
HEADQUARTERS,
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)
Copy No.
G.32/518.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
27th April, 1918.

AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 16.

Consequent on the 55th Inf. Bde. having been attached to the Division and placed in Divisional Reserve, the following amendments are made to "Section D. Instructions for the Defensive No. 16." :-

1. Para. 13. - 5A., 6A. and 7A. Nucleus Battalions will not be employed as divisional reserve but will be kept as a nucleus; para. 13 is, therefore, cancelled.
2. Para. 14. - The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will assemble in the vicinity of their present camp, and will be prepared to move forward to reinforce the forward area, or to counter attack on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

Acknowledge.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

To all recipients of
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 16," plus 55th Inf. Bde.

28B

Appendix 78

33
War Diary

App 79 160

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
27th April, 1918.

HEADQUARTERS,
AND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
GENERAL STAFF
Stt
Copy No.
G.32/515.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 17.

1. The 55th Infantry Brigade is attached to the Division and will be held in Divisional Reserve.

2. Its role will be as follows:-

(a) - One Battalion, located at G.5.central, will be prepared to man the BAIZIEUX system of defences as follows on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.:-

- 1 Company - Posts in D.19.b. - D.13.d. (including post at D.20.central).
- 1 Company - Posts in D.7.a. - D.1.c.
- 1 Company - Posts in C.6. - U.30.d.
- 1 Company - Posts in V.25.

A nucleus garrison of one platoon will be kept in each Company sector; these platoons will carry out any work in their company sectors that is necessary to make them defensible.

(b) - On receipt of orders from D.H.Q., the remainder of the Brigade will move to assembly area, C.3.d. - C.10.a., just East of the CONTAY - FRANVILLERS Road, and will be prepared to man any portion of the second zone defences, or to reinforce the forward area.

3. 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.	A.D.M.S.
11.	5A. Nucleus Bn.
12.	6A. Nucleus Bn.
13.	7A. Nucleus Bn.
14.	O.C., Troop, 13th A.L.H. Regt.
15.	O.C., Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn.
16.	55th Inf. Bde.
17.	18th Division.
18.	AUST. Corps.
19.	38th Division.
20.	3rd Aust. Div.
21.	3rd Bde. Tank Corps.
22/23.	File.
24/26.	War Diary.
27/30.	Spare.

MB

App 80 161
HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
(GENERAL STAFF)

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.13/339.

Headquarters,
27th April, 1918.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMO. No.55,
dated 9th April, 1918.

SUBJECT, = "Defence against Gas".

1. Consequent upon the alteration of boundaries of Australian Corps, para. 2 of General Staff Circular Memo. No.55 is cancelled, and the following substituted therefore:-

"The Western boundaries of the gas zones of the present corps area will be as follows:-

ALERT ZONE:-

SENLIS - V.22. central - VADENCOURT - D.3.b.3.0 -
BRESLE - HEILLY - LA NEUVILLE - AUBIGNY - ~~DONNAY~~ -
O.14 central - O.19.b.8.0 - railway at O.25.c.7.4 -
T.6 central.

READY ZONE:-

VADENCOURT WOOD - C.3. central - BAIZIEUX -
FRA VILLERS - LA HOUSOYE - BUSSY - GLISY -
T. 2 central.

PRECAUTIONARY ZONE:-

RMBEMPRE ♦ thence to PIERREGOT - RAINNEVILLE -
AMIENS ROAD - AMIENS inclusive.

2. Divisional Gas Officer will arrange for any necessary alterations of existing notice boards, and the provision of any new ones that may be required.

L. Bouché Major
for Lieut. Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION:

To all recipients of G.S. Circular Memo.No.55.

W. Dray

23B

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy No.....

Warning Order.

G.3/1/799.

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

Headquarters,
28th April, 1918.

1. The Division (less Artillery) will be relieved by the 47th Division (less Artillery) between the 30th April and 2nd May.

2. The following are the probable details of reliefs and moves:-

3. The 6th and 7th Aust. Inf. Bdes. will be relieved on the night April 30th/1st May, and the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the night 1st/2nd May.

4. On completion of relief the Division will be in Corps support and will be concentrated as follows:-

- 7th A.I.Bde. Group. - BOUTILLERIE Area (M.33).
- 6th A.I.Bde. Group. - CAMON - RIVERY Area (M.16 - M.1).
- 5th A.I.Bde. Group. - QUERRIEU Area.

5. Moves will be carried out as follows:-

7th A.I.Bde. Group.

- 30th April/1st May. - To QUERRIEU Area.
- May 2nd. - To CAMON - RIVERY Area.
- May 3rd. - To BOUTILLERIE Area.

6th A.I.Bde. Group.

- 30th April/1st May. - To MONTIGNY Area.
- May 2nd. - To QUERRIEU Area.
- May 3rd. - To CAMON - RIVERY Area.

5th A.I.Bde. Group.

- 1st/2nd May. - To MONTIGNY Area.
- 3rd May. - To QUERRIEU Area.

6. Brigade Groups will be composed of -

- Infantry Brigade.
- M. G. Coy.
- Field Coy.
- Field Ambulance.
- Coy. Div. Train.
- 1/3rd. S.A.A. Sec., D.A.C.

The 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. will move with the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group.

7. D.H.Q. will move to BERTANGLES on 2nd May.

8. Acknowledge.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

Over leaf.

War Diary 203

Appendix 81

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.B.O.
- 20. D.G.O.
- 21. AUST. Corps.
- 22. 38th Division.
- 23. 47th Division.
- 24. 3rd Aust. Div.
- 25. 3rd Squad., A.F.C.
- 26. 3rd Bde. Tank Corps.
- 27. Troop, 13th A.L.H. Regt.
- 28. Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn.
- 29. 55th Inf. Bde.
- 30/31. File.
- 32/34. War Diary.
- 35/40. Spare.

General Staff
Second Australian Division

DISTRIBUTION

Over leaf.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 116.

From 6 a.m. 27th to 6 a.m. 28th April, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS:

(a) Artillery. Harnessing fire on centres of activity was maintained throughout the period. Machine gun at E.21.a.15.85 was engaged by 4.5" Hows. with good effect. The following points were also fired on by our 18-pdrs and 4.5" Hows. - Trench and movement at E.20.b.15.60; suspected H.Q. at E.15.d.75.50; bridge at E.10.c.75.60; Quarry in E.14.c., a working party at E.15.d.13, and suspected batteries at E.5.c.5.5 and E.6.d.5.8. 150 rounds BNC were fired on enemy roads and on the Northern outskirts of Albert.

(b) Trench Mortars: Quiet.

(c) Machine Guns: Quiet.

(d) Sniping: A sniper was shot at E.19.b.4.8 while in the act of firing at one of our men.

(d) Patrols: At E.2.c.9.3., at 10.20. p.m., a prisoner was captured. Parties of the enemy who moved S.W. were seen leaving a post at W.27a.8.4. then crossing the road, and later returning to their post. Another post was located at W.27.a.6.5. A party of 8 Germans was seen working in E.13.d.

(e) Aerial Activity: Small numbers of our machines were continuously active along our front, firing with their machine guns on ground targets around DERNANCOURT. They were invariably fired on by A.A. machine guns from the eastern edge of this village.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS:

1 prisoner of the 248 R.I.R., 54th Res. Div.

3. ORDER OF BATTLE:

Unknown to prisoner, but probably from north to south as follows:-
248 R.I.R., 246 R.I.R., 247 R.I.R.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY:

At 7.10 a.m. and at 7.45 p.m., 10 and 25 rounds Mustard Gas respectively fell in D.6.c. From 3 to 5.15 p.m. the enemy shelled our trenches in E.7 with 10.5 and 7.7 cm. Between 8 and 11 p.m. a 10.5 C.M. battery fired 200 rounds into LAVIEVILLE, and from 9.45 p.m. to 11.52 p.m. about 500 rounds fell in V.22.b. and d., V.23.c., V.28.b., V.29.a. & c., These shells made much the same sound as that of a bullet, only more intense, and there was practically no explosion. It is reported that these were gas shells, although no smell was discernable. Direction of fire was on a T.S. of 73° from D.5.b.45.82. Between 2 and 2.45 a.m. a further 120 rounds were fired on the same area. At 9.45 p.m. gas shells fell in V.16., V.22.a. & b., and at 11 p.m. in MILLENCOURT. Between 2.10 and 2.40 a.m. 100 rounds gas shell and 10.5 cm. H.E. fell in V.15.a. & c. and V.14.b. & d. W.21.a. & b. were lightly shelled throughout the period with 4.2 and 5.9 H.E. During the afternoon BOUZINCOURT and W.14.b.0.0. were shelled by 5.9 and 4.2. H.E. Our right Bde. report ^{that} more activity than usual was displayed on our forward area E.7.c. & being consistently shelled during the afternoon. Between 3 and 5 p.m. a 4.2 How. was active from the direction of ALBERT enfilading our front line in E.13.b, and apparently registering. The C.C.S. and valley in D.18. were also lightly shelled.

The following areas also received attention:-

9 p.m. to 12.15 a.m., V.17 & V.18 by 4.2 & 7.7 c.m. Gas, 8 per minute; 10.30 to 11.30 p.m., BOUZINCOURT Gas, Mustard and Chlorine; 10 to 11.30 p.m., V.17.d. Gas, Mustard and Chlorine; 2 to 2.30 a.m., V.18. & V.17. 4.2 & 7.7 c.m. Gas, 15 per minute; 2. to 2.30 a.m. V.17.d. Gas and shrapnel, 300 Mustard and Chlorine.

P.T.O.

War Diary 28

appendix 82

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY (Contd).

The following T.Bs of gun flashes were taken from V.13.a.55.30.-108°, 101°, and 83°. A gun flash was observed on a Grid bearing of 89° from E.2.c.0.0.

In our Centre Bde. area the following localities received most attention, D.6.d., E.1.c., V.30.cent., D.6.cent., E.7.b., and D.12.b.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.

(b) Machine Guns. M.Gs were reported active at - QUARRY 7.27. c.2.8., ORCHARD W.27.a.7.3., E.13.d.2.4., and W.16.d.6.3.

(c) Defences. Enemy appears to have made very little progress with his sap at E.19.d.8.8. New earth and two new foot bridges are visible at E.22.a.3.5.

8. MOVEMENT.

Horse transport was repeatedly seen going along road in W.24.d. towards ALBERT. At 8 a.m. 12 wagons loaded with hay were seen moving along road from DERNANCOURT to MEAULTE. From 7 to 10 a.m. enemy in small numbers were observed working at approx E.15.c.6.8. and E.15.c.9.1., unloading G.S.wagons and carrying timber. At 3.15. p.m. a party of 30 left DERNANCOURT and proceeded to and from E.15. c.9.8. Our artillery dealt successfully with each of the above cases.

R.B. Wertheim Capt.

for

Lieut Colonel. General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE follows.

- 3 -

appendix 82.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.PRISONERS CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH.

The number of prisoners captured by our troops at VILLERS BRETONNEUX since the 24th instant now amounts to 19 Officers and 801 Other Ranks. This includes the majority of those wounded, as well as a few killed by artillery fire on route to the cage.

SITUATION.

Yesterday morning (26th) we launched an attack to regain our original front line. This attack was at first almost entirely successful, but was subsequently met by strong German counter-attacks in the neighbourhood of HANGARD WOOD and to the North, which drove back our line between HANGARD WOOD and the MONUMENT. A second attack was made by us during the morning which, although advancing our line slightly, did not succeed in regaining our original front line.

As a result of the day's fighting, the gap which existed in our line east of VILLERS - BRETONNEUX is joined up, and our line from south of HANGARD WOOD to the MONUMENT has been advanced from 500 to 1,000 yards.

A division from RUMANIA has been identified in reserve south of LILLE. This is considered to be one of the unidentified divisions which had already been counted in the Western Theatre.

Three fresh divisions, from VERDUN, WOEVRE, and ALSACE, respectively, have been engaged on the LYS battle front.

A fresh division, from CHAMPAGNE, has come into line on the SOMME battle front, where 101 divisions have now been engaged.

It is noticeable that divisions drawn from the VERDUN - ALSACE front are being used to reinforce the LYS battle front, while those drawn from the OISE - ARGONNE front are being used to reinforce the SOMME battle front.

Owing to the withdrawal of a division from the line in LORRAINE, there is a nett reduction of 3 in the number of fresh divisions in reserve.

Of the 206 German divisions in the Western Theatre, 137 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality.

There are 14 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 36 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

GERMAN MARCH BATTALIONS.

A man, writing on the 11th April, from BOUCHAIN, gave his address as follows:- "Muskotier, 3. Kompagnie, I Marsch-Bataillon, 17. Inf. Div."

According to a prisoner recently captured, the 183rd Div. received a draft of about 400 men in a Marsch - Bataillon formed at DARMSTADT at the beginning of April.

Further confirmation regarding the organisation of drafts from Germany into "March Battalions" is required.

EMPLOYMENT OF TANKS BY THE ENEMY.

The Germans appear to have used both captured British tanks and a new tank of their own in the attack on the 24th instant. Their employment of our tanks is established by the fact that tank No. 2606, "A" Coy., 1st Bn., 3rd Bde. Tanks was put out of action by a shell which has been identified as one of our own six-pounders fired by an enemy tank.

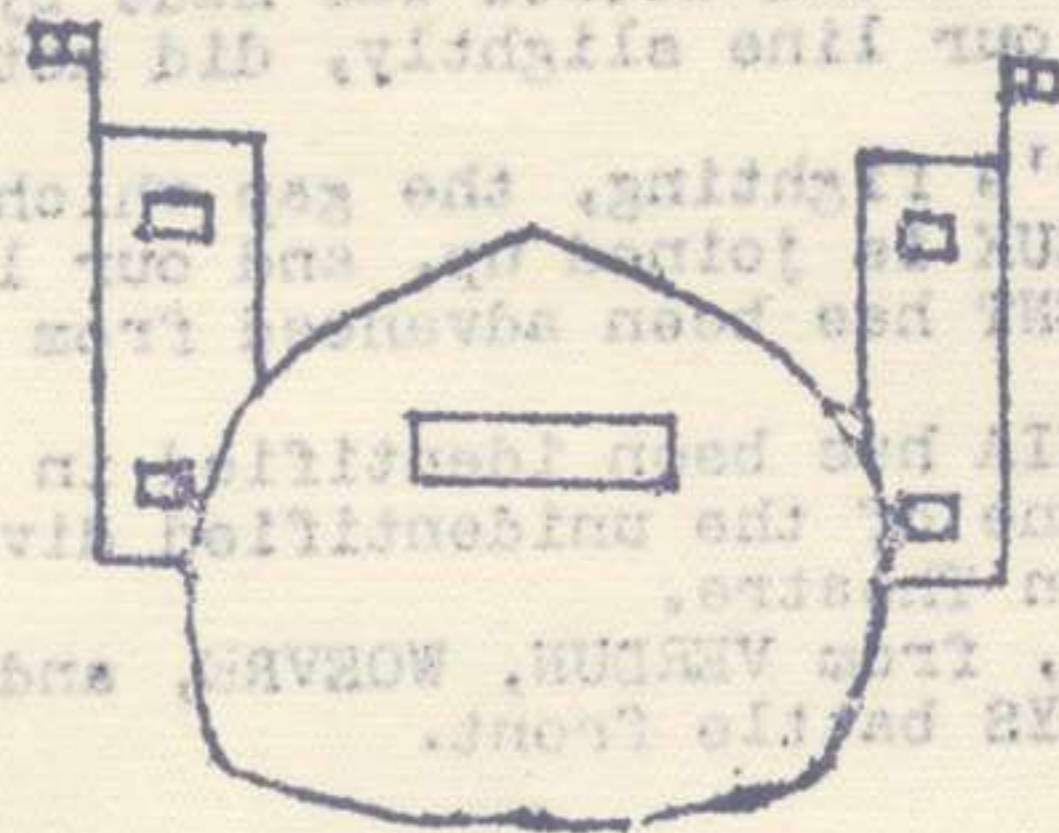
The following ...

P.T.O.

appendix 82

The following description of a German tank is furnished by a Corpl. of the 23rd Infantry Brigade observers and confirmed by one of the observers. These men were at a road fork in O.35.c. and observed the tank manouevring in U.5.b. They were about 400 yards away from it. The tank is not the same shape as our tanks; it moves at about 8 to 9 miles an hour. It is over 10 feet in height and 9 to 10 feet wide. They say it "looked enormous." It was painted bright grey, had two turrets, and was flying a red and white flag from each turret. Each turret had two loopholes and there was a large loophole in the body. It was firing machine guns and one of them believes small shells as well. The guns were not visible; no wheels or caterpillars can be seen, but both men say it reminded them of a tortoise.

The sketch shown below is a copy of one made by the observer:-



A fresh division, from CHAMPAGNE, has come into line on the SOMME battle front, where 101 divisions have now been engaged. It is noticeable that divisions drawn from the VERDUN - ALBERT front are being used to reinforce the 128 battle front, while those drawn from the 128 - ARGONNE front are being used to reinforce the SOMME battle front.

Owing to the withdrawal of a division from the line in LORRAINE, there is a net reduction of 5 in the number of fresh divisions in reserve. Of the 308 German divisions in the Western Theatre, 137 have been engaged since the 8th March, and 19 are of poor quality. There are 14 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 38 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

GERMAN MARCH BATTALIONS

A man, writing on the 15th April, from BOUGHAIN, gave his address as follows: "Buckler, 3, Kompanie, I Marsch-Battalion, IV. Inf. Div." According to a prisoner recently captured, the 133rd Div. received a draft of about 400 men in a Marsch - Battalion formed at DARMSTADT at the beginning of April.

Further confirmation regarding the organization of drafts from Germany into "March Battalions" is required.

EMPLOYMENT OF TANKS BY THE GERMAN

The Germans appear to have used both captured British tanks and a new tank of their own in the attack on the 24th instant. Their employment of our tanks is established by the fact that tank No. 2808, "A Coy., 1st Bn., 3rd Div. Tank" was put out of action by a shell which has been identified as one of our own six-pounders fired by an enemy tank.

The following ...

970

War Diary

app 83

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
29th April, 1918.

SECRET.
HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF)
Copy No.
G.32/524.

2ND AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 16.

Reference this office G.32/516, dated 27th April, "Amendment to Instructions for the Defensive No. 16."

1. Delete Para. 2.

2. The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will continue to carry out the duties of nucleus battalion for the BAIZIEUX system as detailed in 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 180.

Acknowledge.

[Signature]

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of -
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 16."

27B

Appendix 83

168

Appendix 84

War Diary

app 84

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS,
~~SECRET.~~
 AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
 (GENERAL STAFF.)

Copy No.

G.32/523.

Headquarters,
29th April, 1918.

AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 17.

Delete para. 2 and substitute -

"2. On receipt of orders from D.H.Q., the battalion
 "at C.5.central will assemble in the vicinity of its camp,
 "the remainder of the brigade will move to assembly area,
 "C.3.d. - C.10.a., just east of the CONTAY - FRANVILLERS
 "Road; the brigade will be prepared to man any portion
 "of the second zone defences, or to reinforce the forward
 "area."

Acknowledge.

W. H. Miles

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of -
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 17."

272

War Diary

app 85

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
(GENERAL STAFF.)

~~AMENDMENT TO SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 181.~~

Copy No. 26

Headquarters,
29th April, 1918.

Para. 5. - Lines 3 and 4. -

Delete "and will take over from the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. the duties of nucleus garrison for the BAIZIEUX system."

Acknowledge.

C. H. Ellis

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of -
"2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 181."

28B

Appendix 85

170

Warriginy

App 86 171

SECRET

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 182

Copy No.....

Headquarters,
29th April, 1919.

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

1. The 55th Infantry Brigade will relieve the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less "D" Battalion) in Right Sector of "C" Divisional area on the night 30th April/1st May, relief to be complete by 4 a.m.
2. Details of relief will be arranged direct between Brigade Commanders concerned.
3. Command of the Right Brigade sector will pass to G.O.C., 55th Inf. Bde. on completion of relief.
4. On relief the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less "D" Battalion) will move to MONTIGNY area.
5. The 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will be concentrated in the CANON - RIVERY area. Orders for the move thereto will be issued later.
6. The 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. will relieve the 7th Aust. M. G. Coy. on the night 30th April/1st May, and on completion of relief will be allotted to the tactical control of the G.O.C., 55th Inf. Bde.
7. On relief the 7th Aust. M. G. Coy. will move to MONTIGNY area.
8. The 5th Field Coy., A.E., will be relieved by the 92nd Field Coy. R.E. on the night 30th April/1st May under orders to be issued by the C.R.E., and on relief will move to MONTIGNY area.
9. Completion of reliefs will be reported by wire to D.H.Q.
10. Acknowledge.

G. H. Allen
 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.S.
19.	D.F.O.
20.	D.G.O.
21.	Camp Commandant.
22.	55th Inf. Bde.
23.	Aust. Corps.
24.	3rd Aust. Div.
25.	38th Division.
26.	47th Division.
27.	3rd Squad., A.F.C.
28.	Aust. Corps R.A.
29.	Aust. Corps H.A.
30/31.	File.
32/33.	War Store.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No 117.

From 6 a.m. 28th to 6 a.m. 29th April 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. M.Gs and emplacements at E.20.a.3.6., E.21.a.22-03, E.20.b.9.3., and in DERNANCOURT were dealt with. An active battery at E.5.c.50.05 was engaged by 4.5 Hows of Centre Group. The Right Group engaged battery position at E.10.d.2.7. - result unknown. 50 rounds gas shell were fired on approaches to ALBERT. Transport at E.15.d., was successfully dealt with, 2 direct hits being obtained. Working party at E.15.c.6.8. was dispersed at 8.30.a.m.

(b) Trench Mortars. At 3 p.m. 19 rounds 6" Newton were fired on dugouts at E.19.d.4.3., road from E.13.d.2.2. to 4.1., and M.G. at E.19.b.60.95., which had been troubling our infantry. No retaliatory fire resulted.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Sniping. Our snipers claim 15 hits, including 2 of a party of 4 officers moving at V.15.b.9.1.

(e) Patrols. A patrol went out at 12.30.a.m. and moved to W.27.c.0.8. and located a line of trench running N and S through the QUARRY in W.27.c. - the length of trench is not known. No wire was seen, but sounds of stakes being driven could be heard to the north.

A patrol of 1 officer and 10 O.R. went out from W.27.a.4.6. at 10.30.p.m., and moved along ^{road} in W.27.a., with the object of mopping up a suspected listening post at W.27.a.5.6. The ground was thoroughly searched, but no trace of the enemy found. Patrol returned at 1.10.am through W.27.a.4.6.

A patrol approached enemy listening post at W.21.b.40.35. Twenty stick bombs were found 20 yards from the post, 2 of which were thrown into the post, upon which enemy opened with bombs and M.G.fire. Rifle Grenades were fired on the post, but no results were observed.

A patrol went out at 11.40.p.m. and located a post at W.27.c.90.35. A party of 50 were observed digging at about W.27.a.4.3.

A patrol left our line at E.13.central at 11 p.m. and moved for 180 yards towards enemy line, when they were fired on, and a bomb was thrown from a post on the Sunken Road at E.13.d.5.6, from which flares were also immediately sent up. Patrol leader states that a train could be heard moving in rear of DERNANCOURT.

(f) Aerial Activity. Below normal.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

During the day hostile artillery was quiet, but was more active from dusk to midnight. Roads, tracks, and villages of LAVIEVILLE, HENENCOURT, MILLENCOURT, SENLIS, were subjected to intermittent bursts of fire from 15, 10.5, and 7.7.cm. The chief areas to receive attention in addition to the above villages were: - V.16., 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30., D.4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 24. 10 rounds (phosgene) gas shell (10.5 cm) fell at a slow rate in D.6.a.and b. Between 7 and 7.30.p.m 60 rds of 5.9. H.E. fell in the vicinity of V.20. Between 11.30.p.m and 1 am 100 rds of 4.2 H.E.and gas fell in V.21.d. Between 11 am and 12 noon about 20 shells fell in LAVIEVILLE (10.5.cm) The road junction in D.6.a. was shelled by 10.5.cm at intervals during the day. Between 9 and 10 p.m. enemy placed a 4.2 H.E.barrage, with about 30% of gas, on strip of country D.16.a.c.& d., D.17.c.& d., D.22.a.& b., D.23.a.& b., the intensity of which seemed to increase in the vicinity of RIBEMONT. About 100 7.7.gas shells were fired into E.13.c.and E.19.a. Our wires to forward battalions were cut for a short period as a result of this shelling, which was considered to be in retaliation to the activity on our Right Divisional front.

Gun flashes were observed on a T.B. of 101° from V.18.a.55.30., and on T.Bs of 76°, 73°, 60°, 93°, 120° and 89° from W.20.c.6.8.

P.T.O.

War Diary

28/4

appendix 87

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. At 10.30 p.m. 60 pineapple bombs fell between E.13.a.9.1. and front line at E.13.b.1.7. No damage.

(b) Machine Guns. Occasional bursts were fired during the night from : - QUARRY in W.27.c., "W.21.b.35.30., W.21.d.8.9., W.21.b.85.45., and W.21.b.85.55. Tracer bullets were used by the M.G. located in E.14.a. M.G.s were active against our aircraft from E.2.d.9.8. and E.8.b.2.2. Another was active from approx. E.3.a.5.7. A light M.G. was located 50/100 yards in rear of post at W.21.b.5.3.

(c) Defences. A L.P. manned by 3 men has been located at W.21.b.40.35. A M.G. emplacement is located at W.27.c.8.8., and either an O.P. or a M.G. emplacement is at D.27.c.9.9. New earth can be seen at W.27.c.9.8. and 9.9. A C.T. appears to run from W.27.d.5.9 to W.27.c.9.9. New work (camouflaged) can be seen in E.20.a.3.6. New work is also in progress on trench at E.20.a.3.1.

(d) Sniping. A sniper was located at E.8.a.9.6. Two men, apparently snipers, were observed at E.13.d.4.4.

8. MOVEMENT.

Considerable movement was observed at E.9.c.2.6. Limbers were seen on road at W.30.c.30.05. At 8 a.m., 8 wagons, loaded with hay, were seen moving towards MEAULTE from DERNANCOURT, and 4 others moving towards ALBERT. They were shelled by our artillery and dispersed at a gallop. Considerable movement, going towards ALBERT, was seen along road in W.24.d., also towards LA BOISSELLE along road in W.24.c.

R. C. Wertheim Capt

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE follows.

During the day hostile artillery was quiet, but was more active from dusk to midnight. Roads, tracks, and villages of DAVIENVILLE, DERNANCOURT, MEAULTE, and SEMELLES were subjected to intermittent bursts of the 100 lb. and 150 lb. shells. The chief areas to receive attention in addition to the above villages were : - V.16., V.17., V.18., V.19., V.20., V.21., V.22., V.23., V.24., V.25., V.26., V.27., V.28., V.29., V.30., V.31., V.32., V.33., V.34., V.35., V.36., V.37., V.38., V.39., V.40., V.41., V.42., V.43., V.44., V.45., V.46., V.47., V.48., V.49., V.50., V.51., V.52., V.53., V.54., V.55., V.56., V.57., V.58., V.59., V.60., V.61., V.62., V.63., V.64., V.65., V.66., V.67., V.68., V.69., V.70., V.71., V.72., V.73., V.74., V.75., V.76., V.77., V.78., V.79., V.80., V.81., V.82., V.83., V.84., V.85., V.86., V.87., V.88., V.89., V.90., V.91., V.92., V.93., V.94., V.95., V.96., V.97., V.98., V.99., V.100.

App. 87

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. I.S. No. 117.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

SITUATION.

On two occasions yesterday the enemy were observed in considerable numbers opposite our line N.E. and E of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. In one case they were apparently trying to connect up a line of shell holes which happened to coincide with our S.O.S. lines. Our artillery opened fire, and caused a large number of casualties to the enemy. On the other occasion they were caught by our artillery fire while massing, and many casualties inflicted.

North of the SOMME, hostile patrols were active S.W. of ALBERT, near VILLE-sur-ANGRE, and in the vicinity of the CORBIE-BRAY Rd.

The Germans have withdrawn the 228th Div. from the WARFUSEE Sector, and replaced it by the 9th BAV. RES. DIV., which has now returned to the line for the second time. It is a poor Division, and not likely to be employed in offensive action.

The 228th Div. suffered heavy losses in the recent attack against VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

A division, withdrawn from the SOMME front, has been put into line near LOCON. A total of 36 fresh divisions, and 5 withdrawn from the SOMME front, have now been engaged N of the LA BASSEE CANAL.

No fresh divisions have been identified on the SOMME battle front, where 101 divisions have now been engaged.

Of the 206 German divisions in the Western Theatre, 137 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 19 are of poor quality.

There are 14 fresh divisions in reserve, and in addition, there are 36 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

App 88175

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 183.

Copy No. 15

Headquarters,
30th April, 1918.

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

1. The Division (less Artillery) will be relieved in "C" Divisional area and sector by the 47th Division (less Artillery) between the 30th April and 2nd May.

2. (a) The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less "D" Bn) in the Centre Brigade sector will be relieved by the 140th Inf. Bde. on the night 1st/2nd May.

(b) The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. (less "D" Bn.) in the Left Brigade sector will be relieved by the 142nd Inf. Bde. on the night 1st/2nd May.

Reliefs in both cases to be complete by 4 a.m.
Completion will be reported by wire to D.H.Q.

3. On completion of reliefs the command of the Centre and Left Brigade sectors will pass to the G.O.'s.C. 140th and 142nd Inf. Bdes. respectively.

4. Details of reliefs will be arranged between the Brigade Commanders concerned.

5. On relief the 5th and 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. will move to WARLOY and will be held in Divisional Reserve until relieved by the 141st Inf. Bde.

6. "D" Battalions of 5th and 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes. are not being relieved but will concentrate with their Brigades in WARLOY on the night 1st/2nd May.

7. Reliefs of machine gun units will be arranged direct between machine gun battalion commanders concerned. The 22nd Aust. M.G. Coy. is not being relieved but will remain in the Right Bde. sector and will come under the orders of the G.O.C. 47th Division at 10 a.m. 2nd May.

8. The Field Companies and Pioneer Battalion will be relieved under arrangements to be made by the C.R.E. with the C.R.E. 47th Div. On relief the 47th Div. Pioneer Bn. will take over from the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. the duties of nucleus garrison battalion for the BAIZIEUX system of defences.

9. On relief the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will move to MONTIGNY Area.

10. Relief of Medical Units will be carried out under orders of the A.D.M.S.

11. The following artillery will, on completion of relief, pass under the orders of the G.O.C., 47th Div. : -

- 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery.
- 5th Brigade R.H.A.
- 282nd, 98th and 169th Army Brigades R.F.A.

The C.R.A. 2nd Aust. Div. will remain in command of this artillery.

12. The 55th Infantry Brigade Group will pass under the orders of the G.O.C. 47th Division at 10 a.m. 2nd May.

13. The 141st Infantry Brigade will be moved into Divisional Reserve on 2nd May under orders to be issued separately.

P.T.O.

W. Dean

appendix 88.

-2-

14. On being relieved the 2nd Aust. Div. will form the Corps Reserve, and will be disposed as follows : -

D.H.Q.	-	-	BERTANGLES.
5th A.I. Bde. Group.	-	-	MONTIGNY Area.
6th A.I. Bde Group.)			
Pioneer Bn.	}		
Troop 13th A.L.H.			URRIEU-MAOURG Area.
Platoon. Corps Cyclist Bn.			
7th A.I. Bde. Group.	-	-	CANON-RIVERY Area.

Orders for the moves to these area will be issued separately.

15. The G.O.C., 47th Div. will take over command of "C" Divisional Sector from the G.O.C., 2nd Aust Div at 10.a.m. 2nd May, at which hour D.H.Q. will close at BEAUCOURT and open at BERTANGLES.

16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. G. Miles

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff:

Second Australian Division.

Issued at. 6 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. G.O.C.	31. A.D.M.S., 47th Div.
2. "G".	32. 38th Division.
3. "A.C".	33. 3rd Aust. Div.
4. C.R.A.	34. 4th Aust. Div.
5. C.R.E.	35. 5th Aust. Div.
6. 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.	36. 3rd Squadron. A.F.C.
7. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.	37. 35th Squadron. R.A.F.
8. 6th do	38. Aust. Corps R.A.
9. 7th do	39. Aust Corps. H.A.
10. 2nd Aust. M.G. Bn.	40. 3rd Bde. Tank Corps.
11. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	41. Troop. 13th A.L.H. Regt.
12. 2nd Aust. Div. Train.	42. Platoon. Corps Cyclist Bn.
13. 2nd Aust. M.T. Coy.	43/44. File.
14. S.S.C. 2nd Aust. Div.	45/47. War Diary.
15. A.D.M.S.	48/50. Spare.
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. C. Comdt.	
22. 55th Inf. Bde.	
23. Aust Corps.	
24. 47th Division.	
25. 140th Inf. Bde.	
26. 141st Inf. Bde.	
27. 142nd Inf. Bde.	
28. 47th Div. Pioneer Bn.	
29. No. 47 Bn. M.G. Corps.	
30. C.R.E., 47th Div.	

App 89 177

28B

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 184.

Copy No. 42

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

Headquarters,
30th April, 1918.

1. The Division (less Artillery) on relief from the line will replace the 8th Division (less Artillery) in Corps reserve and will be disposed as follows:-

- D.H.Q. - - BERTANGLES.
- 7th A.I.Bde. Group. - CAMON - RIVERY Area.
- 6th A.I.Bde. Group. - QUERRIEU - DAOURS Area.
- 5th A.I.Bde. Group. - MONTIGNY - FRECHENCOURT Area.

2. Units will move by march route to the above areas in accordance with attached table.

3. The following minimum distances will be observed on the march:-

Between Battalions	- - - - -	500 yards.
Between Companies	- - - - -	100 "
Between Unit and its transport	- - - - -	100 "
Between Transport of units when brigaded	- - - - -	100 "
Between each section of 6 vehicles	- - - - -	25 "

4. Brigade Groups will be composed as follows:-

<u>5th A.I.Bde. Group.</u>	<u>6th A.I.Bde. Group.</u>	<u>7th A.I.Bde. Group.</u>
5th A.I.Bde.	6th A.I.Bde.	7th A.I.Bde.
5th Aust. M.G. Coy.	6th Aust. M. G. Coy.	7th Aust. M.G. Coy.
5th Field Co. A.E.	6th Field Coy. A.E.	7th Field Coy. A.E.
5th Field Amb.	6th Field Ambulance.	7th Field Ambulance.
15th Co. A.A.S.C.	16th Coy. A.A.S.C.	17th Coy., A.A.S.C.
1/3rd S.A.A.,	2nd A.Pioneer Bn.	1/3rd S.A.A. Sec.D.A.C.
Sec. D.A.C.	Troop, 13th A.L.H.	
	Platoon, Corps	
	Cyclist Bn.	
	Mobile Vet. Sect.	
	1/3rd S.A.A. Sec.DAC.	

5. Completion of moves of Brigade Groups and locations of units will be reported by wire to D.H.Q.

6. Administrative instructions are being issued by "Q."

7. Acknowledge.

Issued at 12 noon.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. To.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. G.O.C. | 15. A.D.M.S. | 29. 141st Inf. Ede. |
| 2. "G." | 16. D.A.D.V.S. | Area Comdt. - |
| 3. "A.Q." | 17. D.A.D.O.S. | 30. BEHENCOURT. |
| 4. C.R.A. | 18. A.P.M. | 31. QUERRIEU. |
| 5. C.R.E. | 19. D.B.O. | 32. CAMON |
| 6. 2nd A.D.Sig.Coy. | 20. D.G.O. | 33. PONT NOYELLES. |
| 7. 5th A.I.Bde. | 21. Camp Comdt. | 34. DAOURS. |
| 8. 6th A.I.Bde. | 22. Aust. Corps. | 35. RIVERY. |
| 9. 7th A.I.Bde. | 23. 47th Div. | 36. FRECHENCOURT. |
| 10. 2nd A.M.G.Bn. | 24. 38th Div. | 37. BEAUCOURT. |
| 11. 2nd A.Pioneer Bn. | 25. 3rd Aust.Div. | 38. BAVELINCOURT. |
| 12. 2nd A.Div.Train. | 26. 4th Aust.Div. | 39. WARLOY. |
| 13. 2nd A.M.T.Coy. | 27. 5th Aust.Div. | 40/41. File. |
| 14. S.S.C., 2nd A.Div. | 28. 8th Division. | 42/44. War Diary. |
| | | 45/50. Spare. |

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

War Diary

MARCH TABLE.

to accompany 2nd Australian Division Order No. 184.

Serial No.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Route.	Remarks.
1.	1918. May 1st.	7th A.I.Bde.Group.	MONTIGNY Area & ST.LAWRENCE FARM.	QUERRIEU Area.	BEHENCOURT - PONT NOYELLES. ("D" Bn. via FRANVILLERS).	Not to enter QUERRIEU before 12 noon.
2.	May 2nd.	7th A.I.Bde.Group.	QUERRIEU Area.	CAMON - RIVERY Area.	Via Pt. CAMON (G.30.a.).	Not to enter CAMON and RIVERY before 12 noon.
3.	May 2nd.	6th A.I.Bde.Group.	WARLOY and MONTIGNY Area.	QUERRIEU - DAOURS Area.	CONTAY - BEAUCOURT - MONTIGNY - BEHENCOURT - PONT NOYELLES.	To clear WARLOY by 11 a.m. and not to enter MONTIGNY before 12 noon.
4.	May 2nd.	5th A.I.Bde.Group.	WARLOY.	MONTIGNY - FRECHENCOURT Area.	Via CONTAY.	Not to leave WARLOY before 12 noon.

Appendix 9

App 90

22B

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 185.

Copy No. *28*.....

Headquarters, 30th April, 1918.
30th April, 1918.

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

1. The 141st Infantry Brigade Group will move to "C" Divisional area by march route on 2nd May, move to be complete by 12 noon.

2. Route MONTIGNY - BEHENCOURT - BAIZIEUX.

(NOTE. - Battalion for St. LAWRENCE FARM will move from BEHENCOURT via FRANVILLERS).

3. The following minimum distances will be maintained on the march:-

Between Battalions.	-	-	-	-	500 yards.
Between Companies.	-	-	-	-	100 "
Between Unit and its transport.	-	-	-	-	100 "
Between Transport of units when brigaded.	-	-	-	-	100 "
Between each section of 6 vehicles.	-	-	-	-	25 "

4. On arrival in "C" Divisional area, the 141st Infantry Brigade will be in Divisional Reserve, and will be disposed as follows:-

Bde. H.Q. and T.M. Battery.	-	-	-	WARLOY.
"A" Battalion.	-	-	-	Shelters at St. LAWRENCE FARM.
"B" Battalion.	-	-	-	Shelters at C.5. central.
"C" Battalion.	-	-	-	Warloy.
M. G. Coy.	-	-	-	WARLOY.
Field Company.	-	-	-	WARLOY.
Field Ambulance.	-	-	-	BEAUCOURT.

5. Acknowledge.

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

Issued at 4.30 p.m.

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.	17.	141st Inf. Bde.
7.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.	18.	142nd Inf. Bde.
8.	6th do.	19.	140th Inf. Bde.
9.	7th do.	20.	C.R.E., 47th Division.
10.	2nd Aust. Pioneer En.	21.	A.D.M.S., 47th Division.
11.	2nd Aust. M. G. En.	22.	47th En., M.G. Corps.
12.	A.D.M.S.	23.	Aust. Corps.
13.	2nd Aust. Div. Train.	24.	38th Division.
14.	A.P.M.	25.	3rd Aust. Div.
15.	S.S.O., 2nd Aust. Div.	26/27.	Filo.
16.	47th Division.	28/30.	War Diary.
		31/35.	Spare.

W.D. Gray

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 118.

From 3 a.m. 29th to 6 a.m. 30th April 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Areas allotted to Groups for harassing fire were fired on. At 8.45 a.m., in response to an NF call, fire was directed on to an active hostile battery at E.22.a.5.7., silencing it. Machine guns at E.21.a.7.2., and 22.93 were fired on; direct hits were obtained on the former. At 12.30 p.m. parties of enemy in K.1.b, K.2.c. were dispersed. At 4.30 p.m. an enemy post in E.19.d., near Railway line, was fired upon, and a party of about 40 enemy ran for cover towards VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. Two of the enemy were shot by our Right post garrison. (system)

(b) Trench Mortars. At 8 a.m. 30 rounds 6" Newton T.M. were fired on enemy front at E.8.b.5.5. Damage was done to the trench and a S.A.A. or bomb dump destroyed. At 2 a.m. a minor operation in conjunction with Stokes Mortars, and covered by fire from 18 pdrs. and 4.5 Hows. of Right Group which fired on roads in E.14.c and d, and E.20. a & b., was carried out. 73 rounds 6" Newton T.M. were fired on enemy trench at E.13.d.5.2. and E.19.b. .95., and machine gun position at E.19.b.50.95. 60.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet.

(d) Patrols. Our patrols report.- A working party at E.13.d. central was dispersed by Lewis Gun fire. Sounds of digging were heard in the ORCHARD in W.27.a. A small reconnoitring party approached an enemy post at W.21.d.50.35, and had one man wounded by a stick bomb.

(e) Sniping. Six casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

From April 8th to April 30th our snipers claim to have caused the enemy 127 casualties, including 3 officers.

In every instance before the claim was allowed the casualty claimed had to be witnessed by two others besides the sniper to whose account the hit was credited.

The following points are of interest, and tend to further verify the above claims :-

(i). Whereas, on our entry to this sector, the enemy's snipers proved very troublesome, now, on the whole of our front, the danger of being sniped has been reduced to a negligible minimum.

(ii) On the 13th inst. our battalions reported that all movement in the enemy forward areas which were under observation, was being done either "at the crawl, or at the steady double".

(iii) Prisoner captured on the 15th inst. (without being questioned on the subject) paid a tribute to our snipers, and stated that their fire was very accurate, and that many casualties had been caused thereby. On the 14th inst. his Platoon Commander had been seriously wounded, and, in consequence, instructions had now been issued to "lie low" during daylight.

The above information re the accuracy of our marksmanship was confirmed by prisoners captured at a later date.

(iv) During the first 11 days in line, casualties inflicted on the enemy averaged 7.073 per day, and during the next fortnight approx. 2.7; this excludes the results obtained by our Left Bde. owing to its position in line on this particular part of the front, can not be included in the calculation of averages. (which, being)

The falling off in numbers during the latter period is entirely due to the increased lack of targets, and not to the relaxed vigilance on the part of our snipers.

In conclusion, it may be said, that the zeal and marksmanship of our snipers, have succeeded, not only in hampering the enemy in the construction of all his forward defences, but have also saved us casualties by rendering immune from enemy snipers those parts of our front hitherto at their mercy.

P.T.O.

War Diary

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

From 11.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 350 rounds 10.5 cm and some 18 pdr. were fired on V.30; this fire was probably drawn by movement around our defences in this area. V.29.c., and D.5.a., were subjected to 350 rds. 10.5 cm and 15 cm (gas) from 9.50 p.m. to 11 p.m. Between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. aeroplane registration was carried out on battery position at D.5.a.33.87. This position was subjected to 10 min. bursts of fire with 10 min. intervals from dusk to midnight by 15 cm and 10.5 cm. The valley V.16.c. V.15.d. and V.21.a. was shelled with approx. 60 rds. 7.7 cm mustard gas shell for 10 mins. During the night a few gas shells (lachrymatory and phosgene) fell in V.17. and V.18. W.19.a.b.c & d were fired on during the night by 4.2 batteries, firing on T.Bs of 94°, 83°, 84° from W.19.d.6.1. At 11.50 a.m. 15 rds. 7.7 cm and gas fell in V.18.d. from T.B. 101° from V.18.a.55.30. Between 5 p.m. and 5.20 p.m. 260 rds. 4.2 H.E. fell on the ALBERT Rd in W.13.b on same bearing. From 12.30 a.m. to 2.30 a.m. 4.2., 7.7 cm and gas shells fell on V.18.a.80., W.13., and back areas at about 3 rds. per min., also from the same bearing. At 12.30 p.m. a 10.5 cm on a T.B. of 85° from V.29.d.35.15., was active. Shrapnel was placed on D.5.a. & d between 6 and 7 p.m. At 8.25 p.m. a few salvos of 10.5 cm fell along the HENENCOURT-MILLENCOURT Road. At 7.30 p.m. area shooting in the vicinity of V.30. At 12.50 a.m. the vicinity of D.5.a. and V.29.c. were fairly heavily shelled by 15 cm, apparently searching for batteries. No set plan was followed in enemy shooting and mostly 10.5 cm were used, with occasional 7.7. and 15 cm. The following T.Bs were taken from E.7.a.9.5. - 78° (7.7 cm); 95° (10.5); 128° (10.5); 140° (15 cm). Retaliation to our T.M. fire was rather feeble.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.6. ENEMY DEFENCES.(a) Trench Mortars. Quiet.

(b) Machine Guns. Occasional bursts were fired on our 'planes during the day from the vicinity of DERNANCOURT, W.27.c.3.8. and Sunken Road at E.3.b.3.2. During the night M.Gs were active from the following positions - W.27.c.2.2. W.27.c.7.3. M.Gs are also suspected at approx. E.21.a.2.8. E.21.a.1.9. E.21.a.05.75.

(c) Defences. New work is visible at W.21.d.50.95. No wire is visible in front of enemy posts opposite our Left Bde. sector.

(d) Aerial Activity. E.A. were fairly active. Five 'planes operated for a short period over our forward area, and one over our rear positions, but were forced to keep at a considerable height by our A.A. fire.

8. MOVEMENT.

Between 6 a.m. and 12 noon continuous movement of men, transport, lorries, ammunition limbers, Red Cross cars, and pack horses was observed on main road in X.9.b & c. Also loaded limbers were observed on the ALBERT-BAPAUME Road, proceeding to ALBERT and returning empty. During the morning much movement of men and vehicles was observed on the ALBERT-LA BOISSELLE Road in W.24.d. Movement in rear of enemy lines was much more considerable than on previous day, and appeared as if a relief was in progress. Considerable movement seen on Road in W.30.c. At 8.30 a.m. party of 20 carrying timber at E.21.central were seen, and again at 9 a.m. An orderly on a bicycle was seen at approx. E.15.c.6.1; this is suspected of being a H.Q. as others on bicycles were soon here during the day. Odd wagons loaded with hay were constantly seen leaving DERNANCOURT and proceeding to MEAULTE. and ALBERT.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Signals. The following was soon flashing from direction of BELLEVUE FARM at 7.30 p.m. "UDA craso UDA VTE VHT UEA RBA VEL 4TE VAU U - A"

Flares were used freely, but about 30% were noticed to be 'duds'

2/11/18 Heim - Rep

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. I.S. No. 118.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

af
appendix 91.

ENEMY DEFENCES:

Photographs taken recently show that the enemy has worked on his forward defences in the neighbourhood of DERNANCOURT and between DERNANCOURT and ALBERT. But though the enemy positions have been improved, it does not appear that as yet any permanent lines of defence are being constructed. Wire has not yet been erected to any great extent, and the trenches, though continuous in places, are not of the carefully dug type which appeared when the enemy settled down after the attack south of CAMBRAI in November last.

ENEMY REAR ORGANISATIONS:

Dumps: Prisoners state that 21-cm guns were soon some way behind LA MOTTE. Ammunition is brought up by rail and stored in small piles about 1 metre in height all over the countryside, and not in holes. A large quantity of ammunition is stored between the trees all along the AMIENS road. This confirms a statement made in the Fourth Army Summary of the 2nd instant. (Air photograph ~~43~~ V 2913).

There are a great number of damaged guns on the North and South of the AMIENS road. The enemy may possibly be using the former ammunition salvago dump South of MORGOURT (Q.33) or the former R.E. salvago dump North of FOUCAUCOURT for this purpose.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY'S FORCES:

77th Reserve Division. The 77th Reserve Cyclist Coy consisted of 3 Officers, 75 other ranks and 15 men who formed the detachments of three heavy M.Gs. The Coy had been dismounted and was now used as infantry.

LOSSES:

4th Guard Division. A prisoner of the 93rd R.I.R. states that his regiment has suffered very heavily. When marching towards the front on April 21st along the AMIENS road bombs were dropped on them by our airman. Two mounted Officers and three Sergt. Majors were killed in addition to casualties among the men. The 4th Coy is only 32 men strong, exclusive of the detachment of 4 light M.Gs., but including a draft of 30 received at the end of March. This Division was very severely handled by us at BROODSEINDE on the 4/5th November, 1917.

DRAFTS and CLASSES:

From G.H.Q. Summary 28th April, 1918. A fresh Division from CHAMPAGNE has come into line on the SOMME battle front, where 102 Divisions have now been engaged.

Two divisions withdrawn from the LYS front have been put into line in the LENS sector, and another withdrawn from the SOMME battle front has been put into line in CHAMPAGNE.

Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western theatre, 138 have been engaged since the 21st March and 19 are of poor quality.

There are 15 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 34 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

GENERAL:

A prisoner captured West of MORLANCOURT states that he recently saw 20 new German tanks in the valley near the above mentioned village. If this statement is correct an attack between the ANCRE and the SOMME must be expected. Prisoners are urgently required in the MORLANCOURT sector in order to obtain confirmation of this.

South of the SOMME a fresh division from G.H.Q. Reserve has replaced an exhausted division East of VILLERS Bretonnoux. The enemy has therefore not reduced the number of divisions in the line between the SOMME and LOUE as was anticipated. In view of this fresh division East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, it will be important to obtain prisoners at frequent intervals South of the SOMME in order to ascertain when the Germans intend to renew their attacks.

app 92

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.336.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 30th April, 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.281):-

Delete 48th (Army) Bde. R.F.A., and substitute -
 "5th (Army) Bde. R.H.A. - U.21.d.6.3. VADENCOURT. Mobile Res. Bde."
 D.T.M.O., 4th Aust. Div. - WARLOY. Billet. 17 Rue de la Mare FRANCIERE
 E.
 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. - V.20.d.2.2. LINE Left Sector.
 17th Battalion. - V.24.d.15.05. Bde. Reserve.
 18th do. - U.24.d.6.4. Div. Reserve. WARLOY.
 19th do. - V.24.d.7.8. LINE Right.
 20th do. - W.20.a.1.7. LINE Left.
 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. - V.21.c.1.6. LINE.
 5th A.L.T.M. Bty. - V.20.b.4.5. LINE.
 5th Aust. M. G. Coy. - V.27.b.5.4. Reserve.
 27th Battalion. - D.21.b.70.15.

ADD. -

55th Inf. Bde. H.Q. - C.1.c.2.3. EBART FM. Reserve Bde.
 7th Buffs. - C.5.central. BAIZIEUX.
 8th E. Surrey Regt. - BAVELINCOURT.
 7th Queen's - BEHENCOURT.
 L.T.M. Bty. - BAVELINCOURT.
 Field Coy. - BEHENCOURT.
 Field Ambulance. - BEHENCOURT.
 Coy. Div. Train. - BEAUCOURT.

(Signed). J. J. L. Mc.COLL, Capt.,
 for Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 Second Australian Division.

APRIL 1918.
-----REFERENCE MAPS - SHEETS 62D, N.E., and 57D, N.E. 1/20,000.FRONT:

The front taken over by 2nd Aust. Div. from 4th Aust. Div. on 8th April extended from the AMIENS - ALBERT railway line (D.30 central) to a point about 500 yards North of the AMIENS - ALBERT road (E.2 central). On 4th April the 4th Aust. Div. had been holding the line of the railway embankment from just East of BUIRE to E.3 central, but in the heavy fighting of the 4th and 5th April had been forced to yield ground and fall back to the line indicated above.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GROUND:

1. Forward Zone: The main topographical features in the forward area are two spurs:-

- (a) One running east from LAVIEVILLE for about 2,500 yards, when it turns S.E. towards DERNANCOURT.
- (b) One running south from LAVIEVILLE towards RIBEMONT.

The southern flank of the area lies in the valley of the ANCRE, from which two valleys run in a northerly direction, one between the spurs above mentioned, and the other from RIBEMONT to BRESLE. On the northern flank of the division is the long open valley running due east from MILLENCOURT towards ALBERT.

2. Second or Corps Zone: West of the forward zone lies a fairly level plateau on which the villages of BAIZIEUX, FRANVILLERS and LA HOUSOYE stand, and which has been organised into a strong defensive system. This plateau drops away on the west into the valley of the River HALLUE, on which stand a series of villages, where bridges cross the river. The line of this river forms the first defensive system of the Third or Army zone.

EXISTING DEFENCES ON TAKING OVER SECTOR:

The defensive system on taking over was naturally of a very skeleton nature. There was a line of posts extending the full length of the divisional front running along the railway embankment from BUIRE to the old British C.C.S.. WHERE IT TURNED North for about 1,500 yards, and then generally ran in a N.E. direction to E.8 central, and running north again to E.2 central. The line was continued in same general northerly direction on our left. Behind this line of posts were some trench systems more or less isolated, with some scattered posts flanking the ANCRE valley on the high ground north of BUIRE and RIBEMONT. A series of posts had also been dug east of LAVIEVILLE, consisting merely of short trench lengths. On the high ground from BAIZIEUX to RIBEMONT was the old AMIENS defence line, planned and dug by the French in 1915. The trenches contain a certain number of deep dug-outs, but generally speaking were in poor repair; the wire, however, was thick and in good condition.

DEFENSIVE WORKS POLICY AND CONSTRUCTION:

The first task to which the Division set itself was the wiring of the outpost line, the linking up as far as possible of the outpost system, and the construction of a continuous support trench behind this outpost system.

It was considered that the right or southern flank was ^{the} weaker part of our defence, as it was unlikely that the enemy would attempt a frontal attack a second time on our naturally strong position. More probably he would come against the left of the Division on our right, force the crossing of the ANCRE river at BUIRE and RIBEMONT, and attempt to take our position by pushing northwards up the BUIRE and RIBEMONT valleys. Accordingly, a line was dug from about D.28 central, running generally in a N.E. direction, and connecting up with the support line in D.18.d., and at the same time a special belt of wire was put across the BUIRE valley between the quarry and cemetery in D.23.d.

The open valley East of MILLENCOURT was also a good approach for an attack on our northern flank. To meet this possibility a switchline was constructed from just N.E. of LAVIEVILLE, passing about 300 yards S.W. of MILLENCOURT and joining up defences of Division on our left in V.20.C.

As the above work was gradually completed, the LAVIEVILLE system was elaborated and converted into the second system of the front zone. This was effected by the construction of a series of posts from about D.6.c. central, through D.12 central, across the AMIENS - ALBERT road to D.17.d. Behind this line a continuous support trench was dug and wired from D.5.d., through D.11.b. and d., D.17.b. and d. to D.17.c.80. The old post line in front of LAVIEVILLE now forms the third line of this second system.

Attention was next given to the construction of some communication trenches. On the left flank a trench was pushed through in one night by the Pioneer Battalion from E.1.c.0.4. to E.1.d.92 in the support trench; a trench length of about 1,300 yards. Seeing that this was dug in hard chalky ground, it was a decidedly good performance. This trench was also capable of affording a good fire position for the defence of the MILLENCOURT - ALBERT Valley on the south. The approaches on the right being more in dead ground, a short length of trench was made from E.7.c.03 to the support line, and later a C.T. from support line was pushed through to the connected outpost line in E.13.c.

The above generally represents the position on the 23rd April.

DISPOSITION OF TROOPS:

Only two Inf. Bde. groups were available for the defence of the Sector, the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. being detached to the III Corps, together with 7th Field Ambulance and 7th Field Coy. and did not return to the division till the 20th April. The 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. held the right brigade sector and the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. the left. Brigades held the line with two battalions in line, one in support and one in reserve.

In accordance with S.S.135, nucleus personnel was withdrawn from battalions. The personnel of each brigade being formed into a battalion. These battalions, together with Pioneer Bn. formed the divisional reserve.

A battalion of 12th Aust. Inf. Bde., 4th Aust. Division, was attached to the division for defence of the front line of BAIZIEUX system, and the provision of nucleus garrisons for same. On the 21st April this battalion was withdrawn and replaced by a battalion of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

The artillery supporting the front has been changing constantly, but has averaged 6 brigades, formed into two groups of two brigades each, covering frontages corresponding to Inf. Brigades sectors, one brigade superimposed over divisional front, and one brigade as a Mobile Reserve. Two companies of M.G. Bn.

were disposed in the line, one attached to each brigade. One company was in reserve and supplied a certain number of guns for second system of forward zone and BAIZIEUX line, the remaining company was with 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. The Pioneer Bn. was bivouaced in V.25.c., where it was suitably placed either for working purposes or tactical use.

A troop of 13th A.L.H. and a platoon of Cyclist battalion was attached to Division for communication duties.

READJUSTMENT OF DIVISIONAL FRONT:

On the night of 22nd/23rd April, the southern portion of the right brigade front was handed over to the 3rd Aust. Div., the southern divisional boundary becoming an east and west line through D.19. central.

On the night of 26/27th April the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. took over a front from W.26.c.4.4. to W.15.d.3.0., east and west lines through these points forming the brigade boundaries.

The inter-brigade boundary between 6th and 7th Aust. Inf. Bdes. was at the same time readjusted to an east and west line through G.7.c.18. Each brigade held their sector with two battalions in line and one in support. The fourth battalion of brigades was held in divisional reserve.

The artillery covering division front was reorganised into three groups, covering frontages corresponding to those of infantry brigades. Right Group consisted of six 18 pdr. and two 4.5 How. batteries; center and left groups each of three 18 pdr. and one 4.5 How. Battery. One brigade was superimposed over divisional front and one brigade was held as a mobile reserve.

On 28th April the 55th Inf. Bde., 18th Division, moved into Divisional Reserve in MONTIGNY area, one battalion of brigade taking over garrison duty of BAIZIEUX line from 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion, who had previously assumed that responsibility from the Battalion of 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

ENGINEERING MATERIAL:

On taking over sector there was a great dearth of all material. The wire in the old P.O.W. Cage at BAIZIEUX was accordingly salvaged and converted into concertinas on the spot by the Salvage and Field Coys. The supply of wire has since improved. Shelters have now been placed in front line for Coy. H.Q. The accommodation for Battalion Headquarters is bad, but tunnelled dugouts are now in course of construction for all four battalions in front line.

ENEMY ATTITUDE:

With two exceptions the enemy has been passive opposite the front. Shortly after coming into the line a series of heavy area shoots was put down by the enemy. A certain amount of gas has been used by the enemy throughout the period, but only one big concentration was employed on any one area, namely, on morning of 24th April, the shooting being directed mainly against villages and batteries.

On morning of 24th April a heavy bombardment of Gas and H.E. mentioned above, took place on the batteries in the BRESLE valley, apparently as a demonstration in conjunction with the operations further south.

Our patrols have only encountered the enemy on a few occasions, a few prisoners being the result.

HEALTH OF TROOPS:

The health of the troops has been excellent, despite the fact that the weather has been broken and a good deal of rain has fallen, and that the men are living in trenches and shelters.

M A P S: The following Maps are attached - (One copy only):-

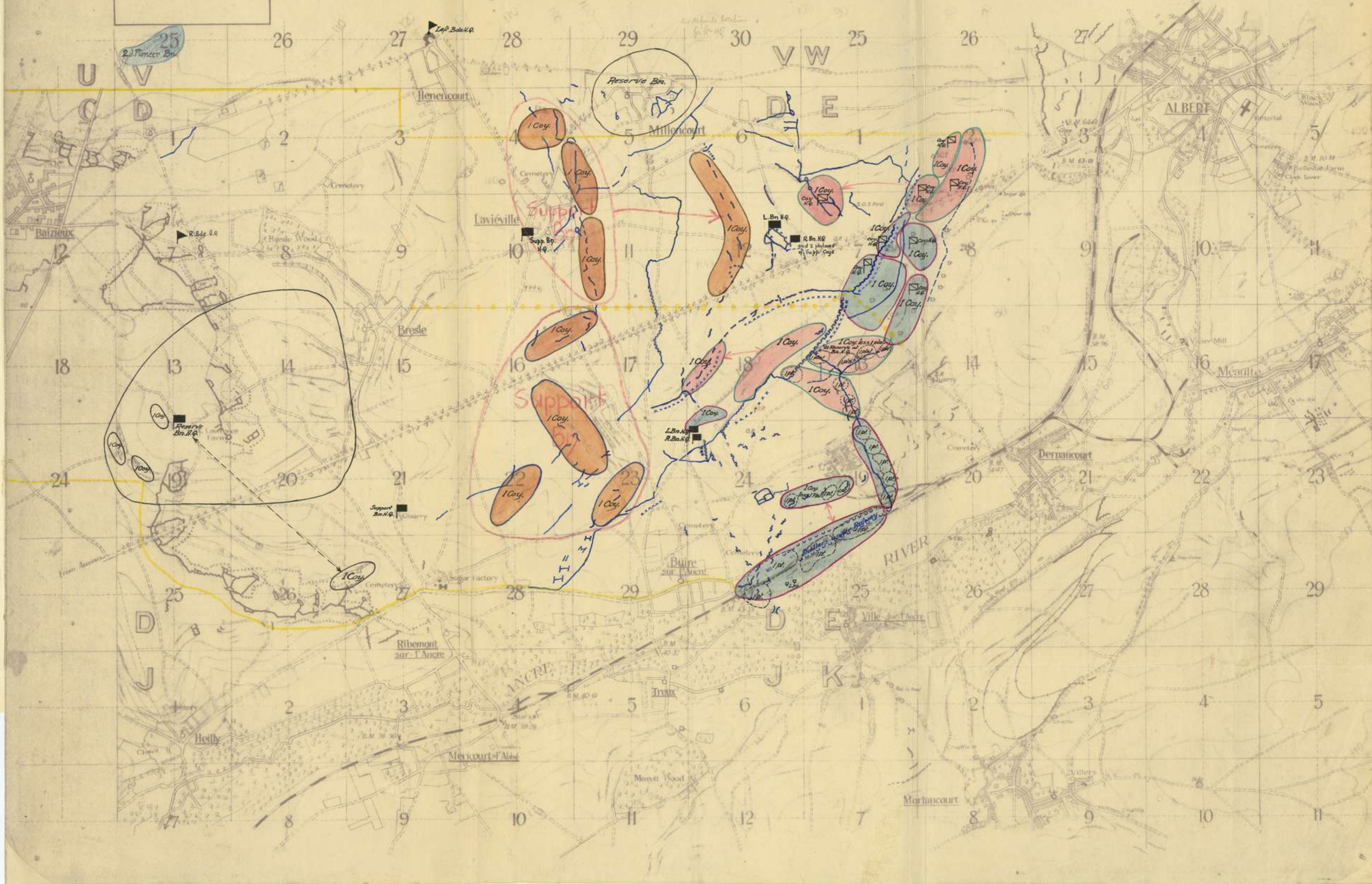
- (1) Defensive Works on 7th April.
- (2) " " and dispositions on 21st April.
- (3) " " " " " "

A. B. Dowrick Major 30th April
Gen Staff - 2nd Aust Div

Disposition of Left + Right Infy. Bdes.
"C" DIVISIONAL SECTOR.
 Scale 1/20000, Date 21 Apr. 1918.

SECRET S.31 Map No 2
 Copy No 6

REFERENCE
 Trenches
 Wire
 Posts



Defensive Works on 7th April 1918

SECRET MAP COPY 1

FRANCE.

Map No 1

1
20,000

V

27

28

42750 m. S.

