

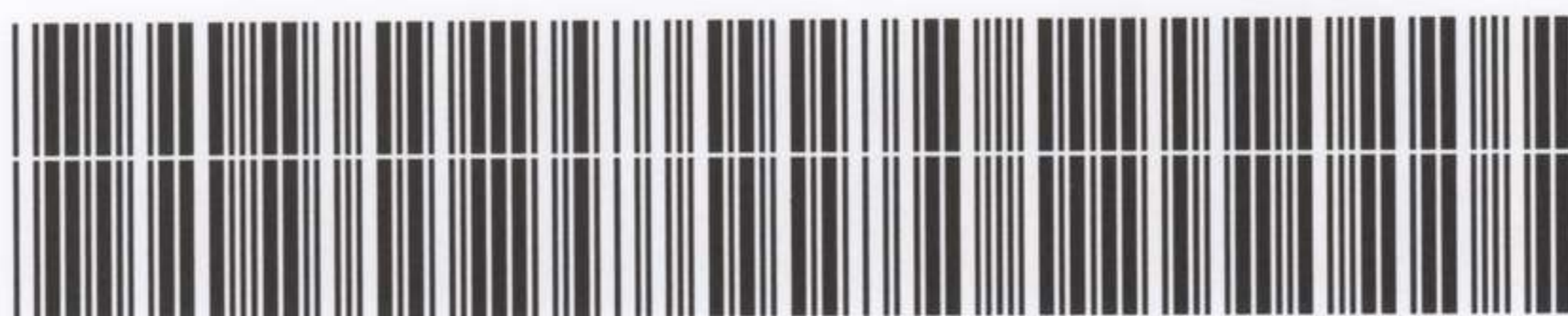
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/34 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

May 1918



AWM4-1/44/34PART3



SECRET

Copy No.....

G.32/624.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters.
22nd May 1918.2nd AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No 26.

1. As "C" Coy. 6th Regt. U.S. Engineers has relieved 172nd Tunnelling Coy. R.E., the former unit will be substituted for the latter throughout Instructions for the Defensive No 26, 1st Amendment to Instructions for Defensive No 26, and Demolition Tables issued therewith.
2. Owing to re-adjustment of inter-Brigade boundary in "C" Divisional Sector, the issue of orders for the demolition of the bridges of the HEILLY Group will now be the responsibility of the Right Bde. Table "E" will be amended accordingly.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE on attached slip.

A. B. D. Major Lieut Colonel.
1st General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION. as for Instructions for the Defensive No. 26.
Less. 238th Tunnelling Coy. Plus. {"C" Coy. 6th Regt.
U.S. Engineers.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 3 p.m. 22nd to 3 p.m. 23rd May, 1918.

No. 132.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Movement in enemy forward area was effectively dealt with by 18 pdrs. and 4.5" Hows. During the night, and particularly from 11 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., and 12.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m., vigorous harassing fire was maintained on enemy roads, tracks and dugouts, and battery areas in K.15.c., and K.21.a.

(b) Trench Mortars. 6" Newtons fired 10 rds. on K.8.b.25.45. At 2.30 a.m. Stokes mortars fired 60 rds. on M.G. position and strong point at K.13.b.3.1., and from K.13.b.3.0. to 0.3. Good bursts were observed and enemy sniping was quietened.

(c) Machine Guns. During the night fire was brought to bear on the following targets at irregular intervals: - K.8.c.0.5. to K.14.c.0.5., tracks - 1500 rds.; K.8.a.2.7. Converging point, 1500 rds.; K.19.d.0.4. to K.25.d.0.6., Tracks, 1500 rds.

(d) Aircraft. Active throughout the day.

(e) Patrols. Right Bde. The front was actively patrolled. No contact was obtained.

Left Bde. An active M.G. post at E.26.a.1.4. was effectively bombed and silenced by an officer's patrol.

A second patrol of 1 off. and 5 o.rs., on approaching an enemy post at E.20.c.40.45., was fired on by an enemy sentry, who was immediately shot by the officer. A lively encounter ensued between the garrison and the patrol, without definite result.

A third patrol located a suspected M.G. post at K.2.c.2.4. Flares were sent up from K.2.c.2.9., and the Cross Roads at E.26.c.5.1.

(f) Sniping. Active during the day. 4 hits were claimed by the Left Bn. No 36 grenades were used with effect against the enemy advanced posts.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 2nd M.G.K., 184th I.R. (One slightly wounded prisoner from VILLE-sur-ANCRE.) This identification dates from the 19th inst., as the prisoner had been in hiding behind our line since then.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

A marked increase has been shown. During the afternoon 15 cm fired approx. 100 rds. into the Valley in J.15.b., and a few scattered rounds in RIBEMONT, J.8., and J.1.b. At 10.10 p.m. a 10.5 cm battery harassed J.12.c., and at 10.30 p.m. MARETT WOOD was lightly shelled with Phosgene. Between 12.30 a.m. and 4.30 a.m. a continuous area shoot was fired on the ANCRE Valley - J.3.d., J.4.c., RIBEMONT, J.7., J.8., J.9.b., and J.10.a., receiving attention. Between 1000 and 1500 rounds 21 cm, 15 cm, 10.5 cm, and 7.7 cm, including a very large proportion of Blue, Green, and Yellow Cross Gas, were fired. At times this shooting became very intense. Two small fires were caused in MERICOURT during the morning. EUIRE, RIBEMONT and MERICOURT received further shelling this morning with gas.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Increased artillery activity, particularly in gas shelling.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Work. A new trench has been dug across the road at K.9.b.20.65.
 (b) Machine Guns. Quiet, owing to the alertness of our Lewis gunners. M.G. activity was reported at K.2.c.2.4. and E.26.c.2.9.
 (c) Trench Mortars. A few "pineapples" were fired into K.1.a & c.
 (d) Sniping. Inactive.
 (e) Flares. Normal. Single REDS resulted in range being lengthened.

P.T.O.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Two low flying machines penetrated our lines during the afternoon of the 22nd, but were soon driven back by our A.A. fire. Four bombs were dropped on VILLE-sur-ANCRE, and four on trenches in D.29.a. Bombs were also dropped on MERICOURT. During the night QUERRIEU also received attention. At 8 a.m. ten planes flew along our lines, coming from the direction of ALBERT. They were turned back by our A.A.fire. HEILLY and vicinity were bombed during the night.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Several small parties were seen moving about the trenches in K.15.d., entering them at K.15.d.4.2. An O.P. is suspected here. A party of 10 men were seen working amongst the trees at K.14.central. Movement was noticed at K.21.b.50.95.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Visibility. Fair to Good.

General. It is of importance at this stage to note the sudden increase of gas shelling which is reported today along the ANCRE Valley, also the types of gas shell used.

H. S. Dennis

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE (Information from Other Sources) follows.

-3-

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 132.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S.No. 155)ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

North of the ANCRE the activity of the enemy's artillery was rather above normal. Early yesterday morning a small concentration of gas shell was fired into BUIRE, MILLENCOURT and LAVIEVILLE were intermittently engaged throughout the period under report, and batteries in the vicinity of these villages were included in area shoots. Two cases of deliberate counter-battery work were reported. Scattered shelling increased, and what was apparently registration was observed west and south-west of ALBERT. Sound rangers report a few new locations in this sector, mostly from single guns; some of these locations fall further forward than usual.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

A division from the LYS front has come into line south of the SCARPE. This is the first division, withdrawn from the LYS battle front, which has been transferred to the SOMME front.

A division, which was already considered to have arrived in the Western Theatre from RUMANIA, has been located near ANTWERP.

Of the 208 German Infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 152 have been engaged since the 21st March, and 18 are of poor quality.

There are 14 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 24 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

SIGNAL (NACHRICHTEN) Coy., 184th I.R., (183rd Div.). (P.S.)

The Signal Coy. is divided into 4 platoons, one for each battalion in the regiment, and one for Regtl. H.Q.

The Regimental Signal Platoon is the smallest, about 18 strong. Each Battalion has a Platoon 37 strong, composed as follows:-

			Total.
2 Telephone Detachments.	-	4 men each	8
3 Repair detachments.	-	3 or 4 men each-	say 11
(for laying and repairing wires).			
2 Light. (BLINKER). Sig. Dets.		1 N.C.O. and	
		6 men each	14
1 Messenger Dog Det.	-	1 each	2
Orderlies.	-	-	2
			<u>37</u>

In addition to the above there is a carrier-pigeon detachment, concerning which prisoner is unable to give details, as they remain in rear. The whole Regimental Signal Coy. is commanded by a Lieutenant.

Lieut. SCHROTH commands the 184th Nachrichten Coy.

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APPENDIX. 60



App 60

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 24th May 1918. G.36.

The following further changes are notified to the last report. (G.3)

- 22nd Battalion. - C.29.b.2.2.
- 23rd do - J.13.c.4.9.
- 24th do - I.10.c.8.8.
- 27th Battalion. - D.29.b.2.3. Line Left.
- 5th A.M.G.Coy. - D.28.b.7.3. Support.
- 22nd A.M.G.Coy. - J.10.c.8.3. Line Right.
- 6th Field Coy.A.E. - O.23.c.8.2.

W. G. Allen
 Lieut Colonel.
 General Staff.
 Second Australian Division.

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
 23rd May 1918.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No. 133.

From 3 p.m. 23rd to 3 p.m. 24th May. 1918.

NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out intermittently throughout the night on roads and tracks, embankments and battery areas, special attention being paid to enemy ammunition dumps. Between 5.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. movement which was reported in K.9.b. & d., was engaged by 18 pdrs. of both Groups. At 1.15 a.m. and again at 1.29 a.m. 132 rds. gas were fired on MORLANCOURT. At 4 p.m. a suspected O.P. at K.2.d.80.50, was fired on by 4.5" Hows. Calibrations were checked.

(b) Trench Mortars. 10 rds. (6") were fired on enemy M.G. position at K.8.c.23.43.

(c) Machine Guns. Harassing fire was maintained on enemy's front posts in K.2.b., during the night on the left sector, 800 rds. being expended. On the Right, fire was brought to bear at irregular intervals on K.8.c.05. to K.14.a.0.5. - 1500 rds.; K.8.e.2.7., track crossing, - 1500 rds.; K.19.d.0.4. to K.25.d.0.6. - 1500 rds.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the period, much patrolling and bombing being done.

(e) Patrols. The front was actively patrolled throughout the period. A patrol going out through K.10.c.2.2., reported two enemy posts at about K.19.c.5.2. unoccupied. Between these posts and the enemy front line was a system of barbed concertina wire strongly picketed.

A patrol going out from K.1.b.75.80, moved S.E. for about 200 yds. when it was fired on by a M.G. from K.2.c.2.9, where a post is reported strongly held. On its way back this patrol was fired on from K.2.c.2.4. by a M.G. and rifles. A patrol going out from E.19.d.8.0. did not establish contact. A third patrol going out from E.25.d.8.0. at 10.45. p.m. moved northwards across the swamp. Finding no trace of the enemy it returned and a standing patrol was established at E.26.c.25.40. Two Germans who, from the subsequent statements of one of them, had been sent out to establish a listening post, were seen digging just in front of this point. When our patrol appeared one of the enemy ran away, and was seen to drop when fired on; the other surrendered. The German outpost line is reported as lying along the road running N and S through E.26.c.35.50.

(f) Sniping. Our snipers were active. The Right Bde. claims 6 hits, and the Left Bde. one.

(g) Rifle Grenades. A M.G. post at about K.19.c.95.40. was fired on with 4 No 36 rifle grenades, and silenced.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 7th Coy. 2nd En. 84th I.R. 54th Div. (From prisoner captured as stated above - Patrols, 2nd last line)

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE AND DISPOSITIONS.

The 84th I.R. relieved the 184th I.R. which lost heavily during our operations on the 19th inst, on the night 22/23rd May. It is not established whether this Div. has 3 Regts. in line and has relieved the greater portion, if not all of the 107th Div., or whether only 1 Regt. is in line, as was the case with the 183rd Div.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

P.F.O.

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4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Shows a marked decrease. At 7 p.m. on 27th inst. 100 rds. 15 cm were fired on D.21.c. At 4 p.m. 40 rds. 10.5 cm fell in J.5.d. From 3.30 to 4 p.m. 50 rds. 15 cm fell in J.21.c, J.22., J.23., and J.24. also received slight attention. Gas shelling is reported as follows - 50 rds. Yellow Cross/10.5 cm in D.30.central. 40 rds Yellow Cross and L. chrymatory (10.5 and 7.7 cm) in D.28.d.

5. ENEMY ARTILLERY.

A marked decrease in activity, artillery, machine gun and trench mortar, has been shown during the past 24 hours. Enemy intentions. The prisoner captured today had no further knowledge of the enemy's intentions, other than the general rumours prevailing amongst the German rank and file that an offensive may begin at any moment.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

- (a) Works. With the exception of the activity mentioned by patrols there is nothing to report.
- (b) Machine Guns. Showed decreased activity. Short bursts were fired along our parapets. One of our parties was fired on from approx. E.20.c.3.7. Shots are reported at E.26.c.4.5., and E.26.a.4.7. Other positions are suspected at K.2.b.9.9., K.2.a.8.4., E.26.c.8.1. and E.20.a.9.4.
- (c) Trench Mortars. Hostile T.M.s were inactive.
- (d) Flares. An unusual number of GOLDEN clusters were fired during the night without any action ensuing. Two orange spray flares fired over the road in J.23.d. and road in J.18.d. The second flare was followed by 2 rounds shrapnel.

7. HOSTILE AIRBORNE ACTIVITY.

Also showed decreased activity, mainly no doubt owing to the weather. During the night bombs were dropped on RIBEMONT and ERESLE. Hostile machines attempting to patrol our lines were driven back by our A.A.fire.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

The movement reported during the past 24 hours suggests that the relief by the 54th Div. was still in progress yesterday and last night. Confirmation is required. There was continuous movement in twos and threes from MORLANCOURT to the rear from 5 p.m. till dusk. This was engaged by our artillery. From 3 p.m. to 3 p.m. 17 limbers and 3 G.S. wagons moved in a northerly direction along the MARICOURT-BRAY Road (E.29.c.). 42 limbers, 2 cars and lorry were also seen moving in the opposite direction along the same road. A Headquarters is suspected at K.9.b.3.7. Trains were seen at F.27.d. and F.26.b. 50 horses were seen grazing at L.4.b.9.6. Two stretcher cases were taken from MORLANCOURT to GRESSAIRE WOOD. About 1200 men, in Coy 56 limbers, 9 G.S. wagons, 1 motor car, and 8 mounted men, moved South towards BRAY by road in F.29.c. from 6.7 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. A column of horse transport a 1/2 mile long moved towards BRAY by the road in F.29.c. at 7.50 p.m. From 7.55 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. a continuous stream of men, in column of route, and horse transport, passed a fixed point in F.29.c., going towards BRAY. Movement was observed throughout the day at K.15.d.3.5.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

German Commanders. The present Divisional Commander of 54th Div. is stated to be Von KASISCH.; the 108th Inf. Bde Commander Colonel WECK. Company strength of 7th Coy, II Bn. 84th I.R. 3 officers. 115/120 other ranks, and 5 or 6 L.V. Gs. General. The 54th Div. has been in rest near CAMBRAI for some time. According to prisoner's statement it took no active part in the offensive of March/April.

M. P. Dennis for Lt. Col. 2nd Arty. Div.

ANNEXE 611

ANNEXE TO SECOND INST. DIV. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 133.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 156).

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

The activity of enemy aircraft was normal along the whole front. Early yesterday morning high-flying R.E.A. were reported over ST. SAUVEUR, COMPAY, BEAUCOURT and FRANVILLERS. The activity of enemy artillery aeroplanes was very marked; 16 ranging flights and 11 observed shoots of over 1 hour's duration were reported. There were 15 combats in the air. Five enemy machines were shot down out of control, three of which were destroyed. We had no casualties.

ORDER OF BATTLE OF GERMAN CORPS NORTH OF THE SOMME.

A number of captured maps, collected from the battle-field of VILLE-sur-ANCRE on the 19th instant establish the Order of Battle in so far as it affects the German Corps North of the SOMME. The Order of Battle from North to South was as under on April 13th and 14th, and there is no reason to suppose that any subsequent changes have been made.

- North of
BLAUMONT HAMEL. - XIV Res. Corps.
- BLAUMONT HAMEL -
MARTINSART. - XXXIX Res. Corps, with appar-
ently 2 Divs. in line and
1 in reserve.
- MARTINSART - half-way
through ALBERT - XIII Corps, with apparently
2 Divs. in line.
- Half-way through
ALBERT - SOMME. - XXIII Res. Corps, with 2 Divs,
and 1 Regt. of a third Div.
in the line.

From a study of these maps, it seems extremely probable that the Southern boundary of the 17th German Army coincides with the Southern boundary of the XXXIX Res. Corps.

With regard to the above order of battle, it was not previously known that the XIII Corps was commanding a section of the line between the XXXIX Res. Corps and the XXIII Res. Corps.

The paragraph in yesterday's summary dealing with this subject must be amended with regard to those points where it differs from the above.

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APPENDIX 171
SECRET.
G.32/627.
Copy No. 22

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
24th May, 1918.

2ND AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 23.

Tanks.

1. Para. 2 of 1st Amendment -

Sub-para. (a) (1) should read -

"Move forward and support the infantry in case of attack,
"or, if hostile tanks appear, they will attack them immediate-
"ly."

2. Add new para. 7.

"The 17th Armoured Car Bn. (Tank Corps) has arrived in
"the Army area and is held in Army Reserve. It is located
"as follows:-

Bn. H.Q. and one Coy. at H.19.d.
One Coy. on PONT NOYELLES - LA HOUSOYE Road.

"Each Coy. consists of 8 armoured cars. Each car carries
"3 Hotchkiss guns of which 2 are ready for immediate action,
"one being held in reserve."

"The Company at H.19.d. will be prepared to operate in
"any direction North of the SOMME in the Army area.

"The Company near LA HOUSOYE will be prepared to operate -

- (a) Towards ALBERT.
- (b) Towards CORBIE - BRAY.
- (c) Towards WARLOY and HENENCOURT."

3. Acknowledge.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

To all recipients of -

"Instructions for the Defensive No. 23."

War Diary.

DISPOSITION of INFANTRY (By Companies.)

app 63

"C" DIVISION - 24-5-18

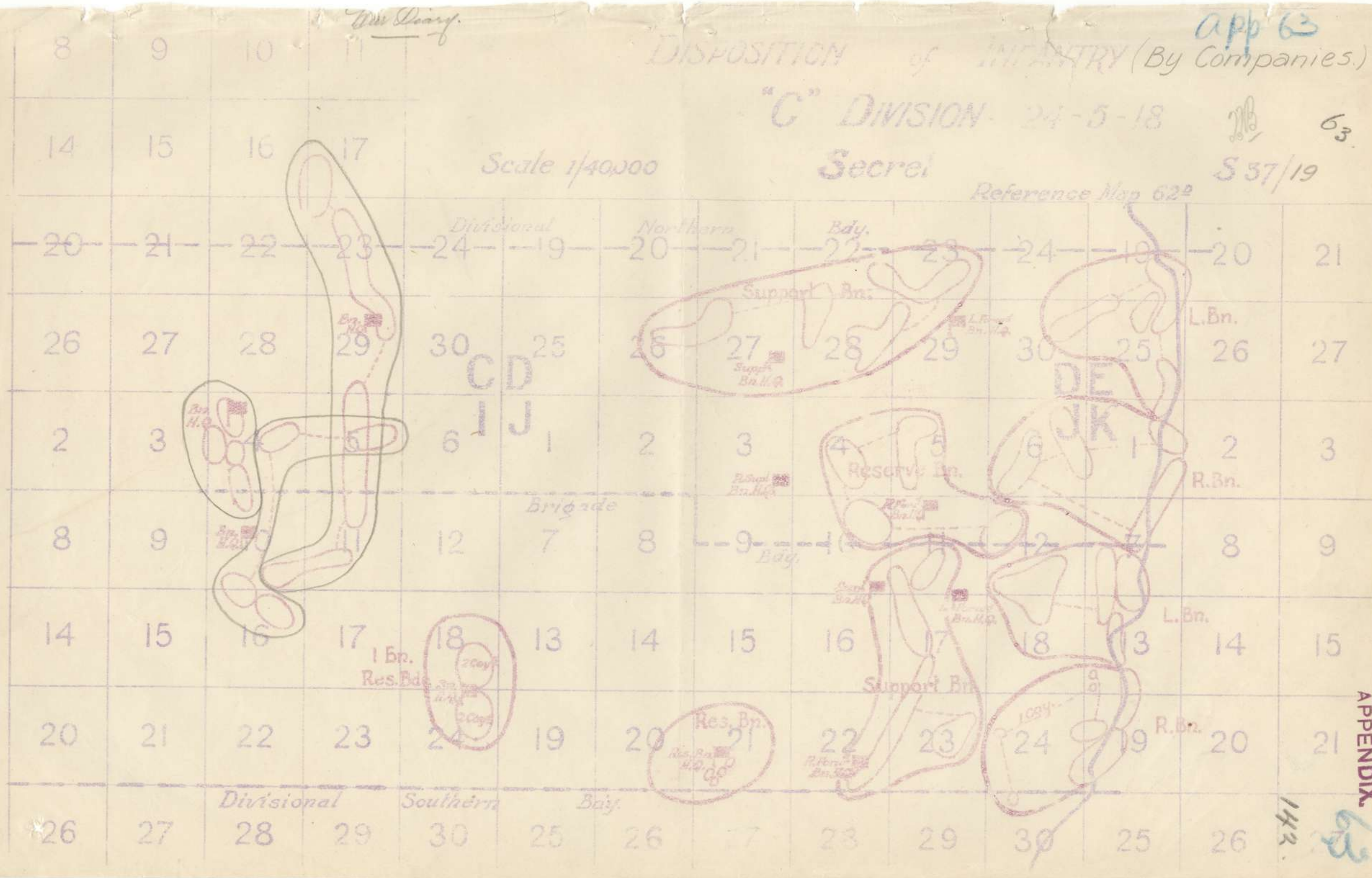
63

Scale 1/40000

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Reference Map 62^d

S 37/19



APPENDIX

142

63

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 134.

From 3 p.m. 24th to 3 p.m. 25th May, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out intermittently throughout the night on roads and tracks, suspected ammunition dumps, battery areas, and centres of activity, with special concentrations from 10.45 p.m. to 11.15 p.m., and 2.15 a.m. to 3.15 a.m. At 7 p.m. a Trench mortar at K.2.d.4.3. was engaged and silenced. A hostile wiring party was engaged by our 18-pdrs. during the afternoon.

(b) Trench Mortars. 15 rounds from L.T.M. were fired on E.19.b.7.2. with good effect.

(c) Machine Guns. Fire was directed on the following targets during the night:- K.19.d., road, 1500 rounds; K.14.c.1.1. to K.20.a.7.9., road, 1500 rounds; K.8.a.2.5., converging point of tracks, 2,000 rounds; K.2.d.0.3., Crucifix at MORLANCOURT, 500 rounds.

(d) Aircraft. Activity was slight owing to weather conditions.

(e) Patrols.

Right Brigade. A patrol moved along the enemy wire running in front of a post which goes North from K.19.c.5.2. to K.19.c.6.5. An enemy listening post was located very near the wire on the enemy side.

Concertina and barbed wire appeared to be intact along the whole line of posts, but the high crops hampered investigation.

A second patrol located an enemy party of about 30 wiring at about 100 yds east of K.13.a.50.15. Artillery and L.G. fire were brought to bear on the enemy with good results.

A third patrol was fired on by a sniper at approx. K.7.d.8.4.

Left Brigade. A patrol of one M.G.O. and 9 men left K.1.d.7.3. in order to mop up an enemy post at K.2.c.0.0. After making a detour to approach the post from the rear, it was found to be empty, though it showed signs of recent occupation. On the way back the patrol was fired on by M.Gs. from MORLANCOURT and K.2.c.2.4.

A second patrol left E.25.d.8.0. and discovered an enemy listening post of two men at E.26.c.1.3., both of whom ran away when approached. One was killed by our fire, the other escaped. The dead body furnished no identifications.

A third patrol covered the ground thoroughly between the railway and river. Except for the post at E.26.a.2.8., no other enemy defences were located.

(f) Sniping. Right Brigade Snipers claim 4 hits. The Left Brigade accounted for two of the enemy at the cross roads in E.26.c.50.10.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Below normal. MARETT WOOD, J.17.a., c., and d., HULLY, J.21., J.22. and J.23., E.25.d. and BUIRE were lightly shelled during the period. Thirty 10.5 cm. YELLOW Cross gas shells were fired on D.30.a. during the night.

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

(a) Machine Guns. Activity below normal. Bursts were fired from posts at E.20.a.4.0., E.26.a.35.60. and K.2.c.2.4.

(b) Trench Mortars. An emplacement is suspected at K.2.d.35.12. A L.T.M. fired from K.2.d.4.3.

(c) Defences. The bank in K.14.b.1.8. is reported to contain dugouts

(d) Flares. Below normal.

(e) Batteries. A captured German map shows hostile batteries:-
 (i) From K.11.d.85.40. to K.11.d.90.70. (ii) From K.11.a.73.40. to K.11.a.70.70. (iii) From K.11.a.60.90. to K.5.c.50.30.
 (iv) From K.5.d.90.51. to K.5.d.92.82.

P.T.O.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Activity was slight owing to the weather.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION BEHIND ENEMY LINES. A party of 8 were seen digging at K.15.d.5.4. Another party came to this point from K.9.c. 8.7. later and also began digging. Artillery fire was brought to bear on the parties. A party of 10 men carrying something were seen proceeding from K.25.a. along a track to K.19.central.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

An enemy signal lamp showing a GREEN light was seen on a T.B. of 260 from D.23.c.3.8.

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

Visibility - poor.

M. S. Deming
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 157.)

ENEMY ACTIVITY. - Roads.

The ALBERT-DAPAULE Road was in constant use. Between 6.30 and 8 p.m. 50 M.P. in groups of 4 or 5, were seen going West along the BRAY-CORBIE Road; these halted near DOLS-de-TAILLES and then returned to BRAY. This movement was probably in connection with the relief of the 183rd Division by the newly arrived 54th Division.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES. - 54th Division.

84th I.R. ... near VILLE-sur-ANGRE... May 24th... (P)

The 54th Div. has been twice engaged and was last in line in the THIERES sector where it was relieved on the 21st April. According to prisoner's statements the 84 I.R. relieved the 184 I.R. (183 Division) on the night 22/23rd May. He believed, but was not certain, that the whole of the 54th Div. was in line. It seems probable that the 54th Div. has relieved the elements of the 183rd Div. that were in line, and that this latter Div. has gone to rest. The sector between VILLE-sur-ANGRE and the SOLLE appears now held by parts of both 54th and 107th Divisions. The 54th Div. had been resting in the CAMERAI area.

A Division, withdrawn from the LYS battle front, has been transferred to the WOEVERS and relieved a fresh division in line.

There are now 15 fresh divisions in reserve, and, in addition, there are 23 fresh divisions in line which have not yet been drawn into the battle.

Ref. Map
sheet 82D.
1/40,000.

SECRET.

G.49.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 26th May 1918.

<u>DIVISIONAL H.Q.</u>	-	St GRATIEN.	Chateau.	B.27, central.
<u>2nd Aust. Div. Arty. H.Q.</u>		St GRATIEN.	Maire.	
5th A.F.A. Ede. H.Q.		J.1.c.80.65.	}	Left Group.
4th do	-	D.13.d.55.75.		
3rd Army Bde. A.F.A.		J.1.a.3.9.	}	Right Group.
189th Army Bde. RFA.		J.1.c.5.1.		
5th Ede. R.H.A.	-	H.17.d.	PONT NOYELLS.	Mobile Res. Bde.
6th Army Ede. A.F.A.		J.1.a.1.8.	-	Superimposed Group.
2nd Aust. D.A.C.		H.6.b.7.6.		
2nd Aust. D.T.M.O.		J.1.c.7.5.	-	HEILLY.
<u>5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>		J.1.c.80.15.	HEILLY.	<u>Line Right Sector.</u>
17th Battalion.		J.22.d.2.4.		Line Right.
18th do	-	J.17.b.3.8.		Line Left.
19th do	-	J.16.b.6.9.		Support.
20th do	-	J.21.c.4.5.		Reserve.
5th A.L.P.M. Bty.	-	J.22.d.00.55.		Lines
5A. Nucleus Bn.	-	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.8.)		
Transport Lines	-	C.25.c., and I.4.a. (in Wood)		
<u>6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>		FRECHENCOURT.	Chateau.	<u>Support Bde.</u>
21st Battalion.	-	I.4.a.4.2.		
22nd do	-	C.29.b.2.2.		
23rd do	-	J.13.c.4.9.		
24th do	-	I.10.c.8.8.		
6th A.L.P.M. Bty.	-	C.26.d.3.6.		
6A Nucleus Bn.	-	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.8.)		
Transport Lines.	-	C.22.c.		
<u>7th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.</u>		HEILLY.	Chateau.	<u>Line Left Sector.</u>
25th Battalion.	-	J.11.a.5.9.		Line Right.
26th do	-	D.27.d.5.5.		Support Left.
27th do	-	D.29.b.2.3.		Line Left.
28th do	-	J.9.b.80.15.		Support Right.
7th A.L.P.M. Bty.	-	TREUX (Adv) Line. (Rear - HEILLY Chateau.)		
7A. Nucleus Bn.	-	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.8.)		
Transport Lines.	-	I.5.c.5.5., and I.9.central.		
<u>2nd Aust. A.S. Battalion.</u>		D.27.a.2.4.		
5th A.S.G. Coy.	-	D.28.b.7.3.	Support.	} Rear H.Q. and Transport Lines
6th A.S.G. Coy.	-	C.29.d.9.0.	Reserve.	
7th do	-	J.5.b.3.4.	Line Left.	} C.27.a.3.2.
8th do	-	J.10.c.8.3.	Line Right.	
<u>G.R.S.</u>		St GRATIEN.		(Transport Lines.)
5th Field Coy. A.S.		I.5.a.2.2.		(I.5.a.2.2.)
6th do		I.5.d.9.7.		(C.28.b.9.3.)
7th do		J.7.b.2.6.		(C.28.d.9.6.)
2nd A. Pioneer Bn.		I.7.a.	(2 Coys HEILLY, 1 Coy. RIEDMONT)	
<u>A.D.S.</u>		St GRATIEN.	Chateau.	(Transport Lines.)
5th Aust. Field. Amb.		H.10.a.9.4.	Chateau. A.D.S.	(H.10.a.9.4.)
6th do		I.4.b.8.0.	- A.D.S.	(J.4.b.8.0.)
7th do		G.30.a.6.1.	Pt CAYON. D.O.S.	(G.30.c.5.8.)
O.C.S.		VIGNACOURT.		

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 65

<u>2nd Aust. Div. Train H.Q.</u>	B.27.a.1.8.	St GRATIEN.
15th Coy. A.A.S.C.	H.15.b.5.3.	
16th do	H.14.a.5.9.	
17th do	H.7.a.5.2.	
20th do	H.15.a.central.	
<u>Divisional Troops.</u>		
Paymaster.	-	St GRATIEN.
D.A.D.V.S.	-	do
A.P.M.	-	do
D. Gas Officer.	-	do
D. Bomb Officer.	-	I.7.central.
Mob. Vet. Section.	-	H.18.c.1.9.
Div. Salvage Coy.	-	H.13.a.9.1.
D.A.D.O.S.	-	H.1.a.1.3.
No. 2 Aust. M.T. Coy.		Bois de Mai.
Div. Reinf't. Camp.		BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.6.)
Div. Staging Camp.		H.7.d.2.4.
Div. Canteen.		QUERRIEU.
<u>Attached Troops.</u>		
Troop. 13th A.L.H.	-	I.15.b.4.7.
Platoon. Cyclist Bn.	-	I.15.b.4.7.
<u>P.O.W. Cages.</u>		
Div. Cage.	-	C.29.c.0.0. FRANVILLERS.
Corps Cage.	-	POULAINVILLE.

Chubb

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

2nd Aust. D.H.Q.
25th May. 1918.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.

Corrections to be notified to D.H.Q. at once.

2nd Aust. D.H.Q.	Support	H.7.d.2.4.	do
15th Coy. A.A.S.C.	Reserve	H.15.b.5.3.	do
16th do	Line Left	H.14.a.5.9.	do
17th do	Line Right	H.7.a.5.2.	do
20th do	Line Left	H.15.a.central.	do
Paymaster	Support	St GRATIEN.	do
D.A.D.V.S.	Reserve	do	do
A.P.M.	Line Left	do	do
D. Gas Officer	Line Right	do	do
D. Bomb Officer	Support	I.7.central.	do
Mob. Vet. Section	Reserve	H.18.c.1.9.	do
Div. Salvage Coy.	Line Left	H.13.a.9.1.	do
D.A.D.O.S.	Line Right	H.1.a.1.3.	do
No. 2 Aust. M.T. Coy.	Support	Bois de Mai.	do
Div. Reinf't. Camp.	Reserve	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.6.)	do
Div. Staging Camp.	Line Left	H.7.d.2.4.	do
Div. Canteen.	Line Right	QUERRIEU.	do

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 3 p.m. 25th to 3 p.m. 26th May, 1918.No. 135.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. During the afternoon 18-pdrs. dispersed small parties of Germans in K.8. and E.27.d. and movement in the vicinity of the road and banks at K.10.c.00.70., and trench at E.28.c.40.80. was engaged. 50 rounds 18-pdr. were expended on a suspected emplacement at K.2.c.70.50., several direct hits being obtained. At the request of the infantry 4.5" Hows. carried out a shoot on the trench at E.27.c.10.70. This was reported as effective. What appears to be new work at K.3.a.70.60. was engaged by 18-pdrs. An active M.W. at E.26.c.70.10. was silenced by 4.5" Hows. The nightly harassing fire was continued, special shoots being put down from 10.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m., and between 3.30 a.m. and 4 a.m. a concentration was fired in the vicinity of DERNANCOURT from the railway to the River ANCRE. 220 rounds gas were fired at intervals during the night on the trench in K.14.d. and K.20.b.80.70. to K.21.c.3.5.

(b) Trench Mortars. 6" Newtons obtained direct hits on a trench at K.19.c.80.95., a number of the enemy being seen to run from this post. 55 rounds Stokes were fired into the house and trench at E.20.a.95.30., and 50 rounds into enemy posts at E.20.a.1.4. The shoot was reported accurate.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the night:- K.19.d.48. to K.25.a.8.5., road, 1,500 rounds; K.14.a., tracks, 750 rounds; K.8.c., trench, 500 rounds; K.14.a.10.90, post, 500 rounds; K.8.a.20.20, track, 1,500 rounds; K.2.d.70.30, exit from MORLANCOURT, 1,500 rounds.

(d) Patrols.

Right Ede. The front was actively patrolled. A patrol which went out from K.13.d.0.4. at 10.30 p.m. failed to establish contact with the enemy. A second patrol moving out from K.19.a.50.25. found the enemy post at K.19.a.65.30. unoccupied, with the exception of two decomposed German bodies. Another post 60 yards to the south of this was also found to be unoccupied, but that at K.19.a.70.05. was seen to be held.

Another patrol going out from K.7.d.05.80. saw flares being fired from near the trees at K.8.c.1.4. No trace of the enemy was found, though several dead were seen lying about.

Left Ede. A patrol going out from E.25.d.65.80. found an unoccupied enemy post at E.26.c.2.5. with 8 or 9 packs in it. These were searched and the documents brought back showing that the post had been held by the 184 I.R. The patrol then proceeded to the spot where one of the enemy was shot on the night 24th/25th instant and obtained his shoulder straps, which gave the identification of the 84 I.R. Standing patrols were also out during the night.

(e) Aircraft. Our aircraft was active in spite of the weather. Several reconnaissances were carried out. Bombs were dropped on MORLANCOURT.

(f) Sniping. The Right Brigade claim two hits. A sniper of the Left Ede. shot one of the enemy at K.2.c.3.4.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 84 I.R. (Shoulder straps of German killed on night 24th/25th instant).P.T.O.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Very quiet during the day, but more active during the night, though not above normal. About 50 rounds Gas (unidentified) fell in D.30. central, A. 10.30 p.m. 100 rounds H.E. and gas fell on J.23. J.17., J.18., J.21., J.27., J.28., D.22., D.20. and D.23. were also lightly shelled by 10.5 and 15 cm. Some of the gas with which the right Bde. of the Div. on our left had been shelled drifted over our area. At 3.40 p.m. 26th instant, a 21 cm. How. shelled HEILLY - direction T.B.94⁰ from J.27.b.5.8.

ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) **Works.** Trenches: Overhead cover has been put up at K.15.
d.2.4.

(b) **Trench Mortars.** An unlocated L.M.W. fired 20 rounds on the Right Battalion of the Right Brigade.

(c) **Machine Guns.** Except for short bursts during the night there was no marked activity.

(d) **Sniping.** A Sniper at E.25.c.2.4. is being engaged.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

5 planes attempted to cross our lines on two occasions between 6 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. but were driven away by our fighting machines. At 5 a.m. an enemy plane patrolled our lines dropping flares. No enemy action resulted.

9. **MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.** Very little movement was observed owing to the poor visibility. A small party was seen digging at K.15.d.

10. **MISCELLANEOUS.** During the afternoon of the 25th instant 2 horses marked 54 cantered down the road from MORLANCOURT to VILLE-sur-ANCRE into our lines. They were fired on by the enemy but were taken unhurt and led to the rear. The 54 probably denotes the 54th Division which is holding this sector.

H. S. Dunnington
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE attached.

ANNEXE TO SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 135.

=====

The following messages are of interest as having been written by the II Battalion, 184 I.R. during our operations of 19:5:18:-

TRANSLATION.

To "Regtl. H.Q."

"At 3 a.m. (German time) sharp, very heavy English
"Artillery fire on our front system."

To "Regtl. H.Q."

"The enemy has forced an entry on the 7th Coy. front
"(Cemetery). The first Coy. has been detailed for counterattack.
"According to a message from the 5th Coy. the enemy fruitlessly
"attacked the N.C.O's. post 3 times. Further information will
"be sent when the situation has been cleared up."

To "3rd Coy."

"The enemy has forced an entry in the front line in the 7th
"Coy. Sector. The Company is to hold its position under all
"circumstances, and at daybreak will regain the old line."

The following translation of a document is interesting as showing the keen observation maintained on our lines by the enemy.

TRANSLATION.

To "Battalion H.Q."

"Between 5.30 and 5.45 p.m. (German time) the enemy relieved
"on the sector opposite the 6th Coy. About 40 or 50 men came
"in sections of 2 or 3 over the horizon, walking upright and
"without haste to the trench (Map Reference). They were wearing
"packs, and in about every fourth section a man carried a machine
"gun on his shoulder (there were 6 to 8 M.G's. in all). When
"each section had been in the trench a few minutes another section
"came out of it and went to the rear. Our artillery did not
"open on these men and the range was too great for our T.Ms. or
"M.Gs. to open fire.

(Signed) HOPPMANN, Lt. and Co. Cndr.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Situation. East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, our line was advanced, during the night, by a series of posts pushed out, to O.36.b.5.2. - P.31.a.6.8. - P.25.c.7.0. Gas was projected into BOIS-de-VAIRE at midnight.

Hostile shelling was considerable throughout the night, on VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the BOIS d'AQUENNE.

Distribution of the Enemy's Forces. The following identifications have been established:-

- 54th Division. 10th Coy., 90th R.I.R. - E. of SAILLY-LE-SEC. -
May 24th/25th. - Prisoner. - (K.25.a.)

This is the second regt. belonging to the division which has been identified by contact. The whole Div. appears to be in line.

It now appears probable that the 24th Res. Div., together with the 54th Div., has relieved the 107th Div. and 183rd Div. between the ANCRE and the SOMME. It was, however, identified by document yesterday, in HAMEL; hence, either this identification was false, in which case the 77th Res. Div. must still be considered to be holding the HAMEL sector, or, the 24th Res. Div. is astride the SOMME. The former alternative is considered the more probable. The order of battle, however, requires clearing up.

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APPENDIX 67



App. 67

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS.
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
Copy No. 22
G.32/834.

Headquarters,
26th May, 1918.

3RD AMENDMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 23.

Para. 2. - The three sections of "C" Company, 2nd Tank Battalion,
are now in the GANTRY in J.13.b.

Acknowledge.

C. M. Phillips

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of -
"Instructions for the Defensive No. 23."

SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
(GENERAL STAFF)
Copy No. 9
G.32/635.

Headquarters,
26th May, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 31.Action in the event of a withdrawal to the Second Zone being ordered.

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 Defences (see "Instructions for the Defensive No. 29") 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.

The Reserve Brigade and Pioneer Battalion will be ordered to occupy the front system of the Second Zone with the nucleus garrisons which have been told off in accordance with "Instructions for the Defensive No. 27." These nucleus garrisons will be withdrawn on orders from D.H.Q. when the Brigades in the line have completed their withdrawal to the Second Zone.

3. Brigades in the line will be prepared to man the Second Zone Defences within their own Brigade Sectors. Withdrawals will be carried out by stages, the general principle being that troops on the threatened flank will be the first to move, each Brigade will cover its retirement with its own rear guard. All withdrawals will be covered by Artillery and Machine Gun fire. The withdrawals of Machine Gun Companies will be carried out under the orders of the Brigades in whose sectors they are situated.

4. The Troop, Light Horse, and Platoon, Cyclist Battalion, will be sent forward to assist in covering the retirement of the threatened flank.

5. The withdrawal of the Artillery will be carried out on the same principle to positions selected in accordance with Instructions issued by Div. Artillery H.Q.

6. The Reserve Brigade will be withdrawn to the areas QUERRIEU (2 Bns.) and FRECHENCOURT (2 Bns.) and will be prepared to find nucleus garrisons for the bridgehead defences of PONT NOYELLES and FRECHENCOURT, on receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

7. On a withdrawal to the Second Zone being ordered, Headquarters will be established as follows:-

Divisional	- BERTANGLES.
Right Brigade	- I.1.d.5.2. (dugout under construction).
Left Brigade	- C.21.c.4.1. (dugout under construction).
Reserve Bde.	- ST. GRATIEN.

8. Necessary plans for this withdrawal will be prepared by the C.R.A. and Brigade Commanders, but no written orders or instructions will be issued to lower formations until receipt of orders from D.H.Q.

9. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1.	C.R.A.
2.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
3.	6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
4.	7th Aust. Inf. Bde.
5/6.	File.
7/9.	War Diary.
10/12.	Spare.

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

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APPENDIX

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C O P Y.

Intelligence,
I.G.68. FOURTH ARMY,

Intelligence,
AUSTRALIAN Corps.

The Army Commander desires me to send his congratulations to the 2nd Australian Division on the good work carried out by them in the collection, and rapid transmission to Headquarters, of documents and maps obtained from the battlefield on the 19th instant.

These documents have been of great value in ascertaining the Order of Battle of the German Higher Command, from the front extending from North of BEAUMONT HAMEL to the SOMME, thus clearing up several points which have been in doubt for a considerable time.

A map has also been secured which shows the line of a possible attack from BEAUMONT HAMEL towards COLINCAMPS, MAILLY-MAILLET, ENGLEBELMER and BOUZINCOURT. Numerous other documents of value have also been secured.

The Army Commander thinks that the troops may like to know that their good work is recognised.

The maps in question will, as far as possible, be returned when they are no longer required by G.H.Q.

Fourth Army (Intelligence),
23rd May, 1918.

(Signed) V. VIVIAN, Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

- 2 -

2nd Aust. Division.

126/71.

The attached I.G.68 of 23rd instant from Fourth Army is forwarded for your information.

The Corps Commander fully realises the importance and value of the work carried out in the collection of these documents.

(Signed) S. A. HUNN, Major,
for Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
Australian Corps.

Australian Corps H.Q.,
25th May, 1918.

- 3 -

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

HEADQUARTERS,
2ND
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)
G.24/1/336.

Forwarded for your information.

The Divisional Commander desires to add his congratulations to those of the Army and Corps Commanders.

Sufficient copies are enclosed for distribution down to Bns.

2nd Aust. Div. H.Q.,
26th May, 1918.

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

War Diary 2213.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 3 p.m. 26th to 3 p.m. 27th May, 1918.

No. 136.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Enemy working parties at E.28.c.0.8., K.3.b.4.8. and E.27.c. were, during the afternoon, engaged with good results. At intervals during the day, other movement in E.28.c. was fired on by 18-pdrs. and 4.5" Hows., and men were seen to run for cover in a trench at E.28.c.7.6. The hostile machine gun in the sunken road at K.2.c.2.4. was engaged. Throughout the night, and particularly between 10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m., and 2 a.m. to 3 a.m., harassing fire was carried out on areas opposite the Divisional front.

(b) Trench Mortars. At midday (26th) 6" Newtons fired 12 rounds on the bank at E.26.b.4.1. and the sunken road at K.2.central. At 4.30 p.m. 7 rounds were fired on a machine gun at K.19.b.2.8., and at 10 p.m. 10 additional rounds on the same target, silencing the gun.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged:-
Road: K.8.c.8.7. to K.8.c.3.5.: 1,500 rounds.
Road: K.8.d.4.6. to K.25.h.9.9.: 1,500 rounds.
K.8.e.2.7. - - - - - 1,500 rounds.
Tracks: K.2.a. - - - - - 2,250 rounds.

Lewis guns were active in dispersing enemy working parties during the night.

(d) Aircraft. Our planes were active during the evening. Heavy A.A. fire was encountered.

(e) Patrols.

Right Brigade. A patrol going out from K.7.d.05.80. at 10.30 p.m. located an enemy wiring party at about K.8.c.5.5.

A second patrol went out at 1 a.m. from K.13.c.8.5. They were fired on by a machine gun from about K.13.d.0.5. On proceeding to the line of enemy posts running approx. from K.13.d.1.6. to K.13.b.2.6. an enemy patrol of 4 men was observed moving from post to post. A well-beaten track runs from the post at K.13.b.2.6. through the crop to the edge of our wire at K.13.b.0.6. Enemy listening posts appear to have made use of this. The patrol was fired on from approx. K.13.b.2.6.

Left Brigade. A patrol saw machine guns firing from K.2.c.25.35. Another patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men left E.19.d.9.6., and moved South to approx. 150 yards from our front line. Owing to the height of the crops, the patrol came unexpectedly across an enemy post at approx. E.26.a.2.8., and was heavily fired on with rifles and hand grenades. The patrol replied vigorously with bombs, but owing to the proximity of other enemy posts, they did not attempt to press forward. The post is stated to have contained about 8 men. Two other patrols also went out from this Brigade, but did not establish contact.

(f) Sniping. Right Brigade Snipers claim six certain hits.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 9th Coy., 84 I.R. (prisoner) normal.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. It appears that both the II and III Battalions of the 84 I.R. are in the line, as a man from the 7th Coy. was captured a few days ago, and the prisoner from the 9th Coy. states that his battalion has been in five days.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Slightly below normal. J.9.a. and b. and J.10.a. and b. were the most heavily shelled areas during the period. At 10.30 p.m., D.30.central was shelled with about 30 YELLOW CROSS shells. J.16., J.21., J.22., J.27. and J.28. also received slight attention.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 70

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No. 155

From 3 p.m. 26th to 3 p.m. 27th May, 1918.

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

- 2 -

OPERATIONS

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE AND INTENTIONS.

General attitude quiet. The prisoner captured this morning, who was of low mentality, knew nothing of an offensive except for the rumours mentioned by previous prisoners who have been captured, namely, that an offensive would take place somewhere shortly.

Coy. Strengths. Throughout the Battalion appear to average 3 Officers, 100 - 120 other ranks, and 3 or 4 light M.Gs.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES. No other works than those mentioned above have been reported.

(a) Trench Mortars. A L.M.W. fired at intervals throughout the period from approx. K.2.d.4.2. in reply to our sniping activity. Artillery fire was brought to bear on this T.M. position.

(b) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were active firing from K.14.a.3.5., K.13.d.0.5., K.13.b.2.6., K.2.a.1.4., K.2.c.1.8., K.2.c.90.65., K.2.c.9.5., K.2.c.25.35. Hostile M.Gs. were very active on A.A. work.

(c) Snipers. Were inactive.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Fairly active during the evening of the 26th and afternoon of the 27th instant. An enemy machine crashed in flames in J.4.a.central at about noon on the 27th. One of the occupants was burnt out of all recognition or identification, the other jumped from the machine when several hundred feet from the ground. No trace has as yet been found of him. Bombs were dropped on HEILLY, FRECHENCOURT, FRANVILLERS, and on D.21, D.22. and D.24.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Men were seen observing from K.19.d.2.9., K.19.d.3.6., K.19.c.9.1. and K.2.d.4.2. during the day. Men, who appeared to be wearing white bands on their caps, were seen in a trench in K.19.c. At 5.15 p.m. smoke from a train was seen on the line in F.26.d. At 1.5 p.m. a double engined train was also seen on this line.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

At 12.10 a.m. and 1.10 a.m. what appeared to be ammunition dumps were blown up on a grid bearing of 120° and 193° from J.23.d.3.3. Visibility. Poor during the early afternoon; good in the evening; poor again on the morning of the 27th, improving during the day.

M. S. Denington
Lieut Colonel.
for General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE attached.

27-5-18.

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. I.S. No. 136.
-----INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (I.S. No. 159).SITUATION. - Army Front.

Yesterday, hostile shelling increased against VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and the vicinity. From 7 to 11 p.m., and intermittently since 3 a.m., the BOIS d'AQUENNE and the outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX were heavily shelled with mustard gas. Our front system of trenches between BERNANCOURT and the AMIENS - ALBERT road was also heavily shelled during the night.

The enemy attempted a raid south-east of SAILLY-le-Sec. The attempt failed, and none of our men are missing. A German Bn. runner was cleverly waylaid and captured by an Australian patrol, thereby securing a valuable identification.

The situation astride the SOMME has now been cleared up. A poor division is holding both the SAILLY-le-SEC and HAMEL sectors.

Normal identifications were secured in the ALBERT and MARCEL-CAVE sectors.

An albatross scout has been brought down near SENLIS, and the pilot has been captured by the Corps on our left.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

A captured map, dated 10:5:18, gives the Order of Battle between ALBERT and the SOMME, from North to South, as follows:-

54th Res. Div.

357th I.R.

237th R.I.R.

(199th Div.).

31st I.R.

114th I.R.

(18th Div.).

(199th Div.).

24th Res. Div.

The sector held by the 199th Div. and elements of the 18th Div. is now held by the 54th Div.

STRENGTH, DRAFTS AND LOSSES.

(a) 84th I.R. (54th Div.). According to prisoners' statements:-

Fighting strength, 7th Coy., is - 115 - 120.

On leaving MOREUIL sector, it was only 20 strong: very shortly after, 20 sick returned to the Coy. On returning into line at MOREUIL, the Coy. was 120 strong. This increase was due to 3 drafts, each of about 25 - 30 men, which the Coy. received whilst resting at WALINCOURT. A third of these drafts was composed of 1919 Class: the remainder returned wounded, etc.

(b) 184th I.R. (183rd Div.).

Fighting strength 1st Coy. - 120. Losses up to 18th May - about 30 men

Fighting strength 6th Coy. - 110. Losses up to 18th May - about 30.

This Coy. suffered extremely heavy casualties in killed and prisoners, on the 19th instant, and must now be very weak indeed.

The 1st Coy. received only one draft of 12 men about the middle of April.

The 6th Coy. received two drafts, each about 15 strong about the same date as the 1st Coy. Half of these were 1919 Class. P.T.O

The 5th Coy. received two drafts about April 10th, making a total of 25 men, one at ALBERT and one at FRICOURT. One of these drafts came from the Recruit Depot of the 183rd Div., the other direct from Ersatz Bn., 184th I.R., at BLANKENBURG. Of these two drafts, 10 were 1919 Class, and the remainder returned wounded.

GENERAL.

Shelling considerably increased, both north and south of the SOMME, during the night, but no infantry action followed.

From captured maps in VILLE-sur-ANCRE, it is now definitely established that the Germans have withdrawn one Corps Staff between ALBERT and the SOMME. The withdrawal took place early this month. This indicates a defensive policy, on the part of the enemy, in this sector.

FOLLOWING FROM FOURTH ARMY, TIMED 3pm. 27:5:18.

Following from G.H.Q. timed 10.40 a.m.:-- About 3.30 a.m. today enemy attacked on wide front between RHEIMS and SOISSONS after an intense bombardment of French and British positions. He is reported to have penetrated our forward positions on the 9th Corps front and on front of French formations on either flank. Heavy fighting taking place. Enemy attacked with tanks. Enemy also attacked French early this morning on LOORE VOOR MEZEELE front and is reported to have made small progress in places. Considerable hostile artillery and T.M. activity on greater part of British front, gas shelling being used freely. Hostile raids repulsed opposite BEAUMONT HAMEL and ABLAINZEVILLE where we captured 2 prisoners. We captured 3 prisoners in LAMOTTE sector and one in FLETRE sector.

FROM AUST. CORPS, TIMED 2.50 p.m., 27:5:18.

Following from G.H.Q. noon begins:- French South of CHEMIN DES DAMES. British on line JUMIGNY - PONTAVERT - GERNICOURT.

2nd Aust. Div., H.Q.,
27th May, 1918.

(D) 184th I.R. (183rd Div.)

Fighting strength 1st Coy. - 120. Losses up to 18th May - about 20 men.
Fighting strength 2nd Coy. - 110. Losses up to 18th May - about 20.
This Coy. suffered extremely heavy casualties in killed and prisoners, on the 18th instant, and must now be very weak indeed.
The 1st Coy. received only one draft of 12 men about the middle of April.
The 2nd Coy. received two drafts, each about 12 strong about the same date as the 1st Coy. Half of these were 1919 Class.

970

App 71

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.S E C R E T .

G.71.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 28th May 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report. (G.49.)

189th Army Bde.R.F.A.	-	Delete.	
96th do	-	J.1.c.5.1.	Right Group.(part of)
26th Battalion.	-	D.29.b.2.3.	Line Left.
27th do	-	D.27.d.5.5.	Support Left.
2nd Aust.A.G.Battalion.	-	J.1.d.0.2.	HEILLY.
5th A.M.G.Coy.	-	D.27.a.2.4.	Support.
6th Aust.Field Amb.	-	I.4.b.8.0.	{Transport Lines. I.4.b.8.0.

A.D.S.

J. J. L. Collier Capt
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 5 p.m. 27th to 3 p.m. 28th May, 1918.

No. 137.

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

OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Movement in E.28.a. was fired on with good effect by 4.5" Hows. At 5.30 p.m. an active Hostile M.W. in the bank at K.2.a.7.7. was engaged. Activity centres, embankments and roads were subjected to vigorous harassing fire during the night, concentrations being put down on selected areas between 10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m., and from 12.15 a.m. to 1.15 a.m. a Machine gun at K.2.c.20.40. was harassed with 70 rounds 18-pdr. and 30 rounds 4.5" How. at 11.15 p.m.

(b) Trench Mortars. 71 rounds 6" were expended on the following targets:- Machine gun at K.19.b.20.60., L.M.W. at K.8.c.25.40. (the latter has not been active since), road and embankment in E.26.b. and d., and the quarry at K.2.a.85.70., where casualties are known to have been inflicted.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged:-
K.2.d.4.2. T.M. emplacement. 1,500 rounds.
K.20.a.95.90. to K.20.a.50.95. Road, 1,500 rounds.
K.19.b.1.3. }
K.19.b.1.8. } Road, 1,500 rounds.
K.2.d. Track area 500 rounds.

1,000 rounds were also used on A.A. fire.

(d) Aircraft. Our aircraft were active throughout the period

(e) Patrols.

Right Brigade. A patrol of 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks, on going out from K.19.c.2.2. at 10 p.m., saw a party of the enemy about 80 strong at about K.19.c.4.2. This party disappeared behind a crop. A second patrol located an enemy post at K.13.d.00.60. It is about 50 yards long and appears to be strongly held. Another post was located at about K.13.a.8.2. M.G's. were active at both posts. A working party was dispersed by the L.G. of this patrol. A third patrol reported movement in the trench at K.8.c.25.40. and the existence of a post at K.8.c.00.40.

Left Brigade. A patrol of 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks located an enemy working party digging at approx. K.2.a.4.2. A second patrol, going out from K.1.d.7.4., saw movement in the enemy post at K.2.c.2.4., and a sniper was active at K.2.c.3.5. A third patrol, proceeding to E.26.c.1.7., was fired upon from a post at E.26.c.2.7., in which three men were seen, while a fourth was seen to go to another post on the flank. Owing to the swampy nature of the ground, this post was not mopped up, and the patrol proceeded along the river.

2 N.C.O's. and 8 men left E.19.d.70. at 11 p.m. to locate enemy posts in E.20.c. They were fired on from enemy post at E.26.a.2.8. to which they replied with bombs, silencing the fire. On moving to a flank, our men heard rifle fire and bombs near our wire in rear of them; it therefore returned to our lines to obtain the assistance of an officer, and moved out again from E.19.d.7.0. Making a flanking movement with the object of surrounding the enemy party, our men were heavily fired on from E.26.a.7.8. where there appeared to be about 20 men, with rifles and bombs. Three men being wounded, returned to our lines; the enemy on seeing this jumped from the post and attacked the remainder of our patrol, who retaliated with such effect that the enemy dispersed, several of them being wounded. On its way back, the patrol was fired on from approx. E.26.a.3.3.

(f) Sniping. Left Brigade Snipers claim two certain hits at K.2.a.2.8. and K.2.c.1.9.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

P.T.O.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Normal, except for gas shelling. About 500 gas shells - BLUE, YELLOW and GREEN Cross - fell in MARETT WOOD, TREUX and MERICOURT. 40 gas shells also fell in D.29.c. J.21.a. received 12 rounds gas. J.17. and J.21.a. also received some gas. Other shelling was slighter, places lightly shelled including HEILLY, J.11., J.16.d., J.17., J.22. and J.28. LA HOUSOYE and FRANVILLERS were shelled by an H.V. gun from the direction of HAMEL.
5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Very quiet.
6. ENEMY DEFENCES.
- (a) Works. See patrol reports.
 - (b) Trench mortars. Our positions in D.19.c. received a few L.M.W. shells. The battery was not located. L.M.Ws at K.8.c.8.5. and K.2.d.4.2. were active.
 - (c) Machine Guns. Showed very much less activity than during the previous 24 hours.
 - (d) Snipers. Were also inactive.
 - (e) Flares. White flares were below normal. A succession of double and single reds during the night brought no action. At 9.40 p.m. a rocket which burst into two REDS was fired from the front system, followed by another rocket further East bursting into one RED, whereupon a six How. 10.5 cm battery opened fire on our front.
7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.
- Showed increased activity throughout the period. An enemy 'plane crashed in flames in J.4.a., both occupants being killed. Another was seen to be driven down behind the German lines at 6 p.m. E.A. were over our lines throughout the day, being energetically engaged by our A.A. fire. Eight small bombs were dropped in HEILLY. Back areas were also bombed.
8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.
- Two men, in full marching order, were seen in K.10.d.8.3. 30 men were seen to move singly into MORLANCOURT from the S.E. from 7.30 p.m. until dark. Six men, in full marching order, were seen moving to the rear from K.15.a.3.5. Five men, in full marching order, were seen leaving road in K.15.a.9.4., and walking back to MORLANCOURT at 7.50 p.m. At 8 p.m. 2 men, also in full marching order, went back to MORLANCOURT from road in K.15.a. Two other small parties, similarly equipped, were also seen moving back to MORLANCOURT from K.15.b.7.6. From these movements, and from the fact that the prisoner of the 9th Coy. 84 I.R. stated that his Battalion had been 5 days in line, it appears probable that a relief took place in this sector on the night 27/28th. The artillery was notified accordingly.
10. MISCELLANEOUS.
- At 1 a.m. phosphorous bombs were dropped on our front line in E.19.d.
- Visibility. Fair to Good.

M. S. Davies Lt.
for
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 3 p.m. 28th to 3 p.m. 29th May, 1918.No. 138.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out on centres of activity, Dumps, sunken roads and tracks, etc., throughout the night with special concentrations of fire on selected points between 10.30 p.m. and 11 p.m., and 12.45 a.m. to 1.45 a.m.

At 3.10 p.m. an "N.F. Call" was answered with fire on E.20.b.80.20. 3.45 p.m. 30 rounds were fired on suspected T.M. at E.20.b.80.20.

At 4.5 p.m. a machine gun at K.2.c.90.60. was silenced, direct hits being obtained on the emplacement. Calibrations were checked by Batteries during the day. At 7.30 p.m. 10 rounds were fired on suspected O.P. at E.27.c.80.30.

(b) Trench Mortars. At 7 p.m. 10 rounds were fired on K.19.c.80.95. and 5 rounds on enemy wiring party at K.8.c. At 3.15 a.m. 10 rounds were fired on post at K.13.b.80.60.

Right Brigade Trench Mortars were active. 30 rounds were fired on M.G. at K.2.c.1.7. by Left Brigade, direct hits being registered.

(c) Machine Guns. Fire was brought to bear on the following targets during the night:-

K.2.d.4.2.	T. M. emplacement.	1500 rounds.
K.20.a.95.90. to K.20.a.50.95.	Road.	1500 rounds.
K.19.b.1.3. to K.19.b.1.8.	Road.	1500 rounds.
K.2.d.	Track areas.	500 rounds.

1,000 rounds were used on A.A. fire against low flying E.A.

(d) Patrols.Right Brigade.

A patrol of 1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. with L.G. reconnoitred 5 posts running from K.19.c.5.2. to K.19.c.5.4. A number of rifles, flares, helmets, Lewis gun panniers and a periscope were found. Some of the posts showed signs of recent occupation. Some concertina wire was seen at approx. K.19.c.5.3. No contact was established. A second patrol found a line of rifle pits running parallel to our line at K.7.d.7.4. They showed no signs of recent occupation. A third patrol located posts at K.13.d.1.6. (2 active M.Gs.), K.13.b.15.05. (1 M.G.) and at K.13.b.25.50. (2 M.Gs.). A post at K.13.b.40.65. was found to be unoccupied.

Left Brigade. A patrol of 1 Officer and 15 O.Rs. with a Lewis gun, left E.26.c.0.7. at 10 p.m. to attack the enemy post at E.26.c.1.7. When within 20 yards, a salvo of bombs was thrown, and after a burst had been fired from the Lewis gun, the post was rushed, but was found to be unoccupied. There were signs of recent occupation, and it is suspected that this post is used as an alternative one to others in close proximity. After replenishing the supply of bombs the patrol moved out to investigate the post at E.26.c.4.5. and got within 20 yards when the enemy opened fire with rifles, bombs and M. G. Owing to the brightness of the night, the patrol did not attempt to rush the post.

(e) Sniping. An enemy sniper was shot at approx. K.2.a.4.9. Two other Germans were shot at K.2.a.2.8. and K.2.c.0.0.

(f) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the period. A number of photographs were taken.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Normal. About 200 rounds 77 mm. YELLOW Cross gas fell on J.12.c., J.18.a., J.11.c. and d., J.17.b. and d., and 100 rounds on the same area from 3 a.m. to 4.45 a.m. From 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. 150 rounds di-phosgene and lachrymator fell in D.30.b. At 5.15 a.m. HEILLY was shelled with 10.5 cm. J.10., J.11., J.16., J.22.d., J.23., D.30.b. and J.6.c. were also lightly shelled during the period apart from gas shelling above-mentioned.

P.T.O.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.
6. ENEMY DEFENCES.
 (a) Works. A post is suspected at K.2.a.4.9.
 (b) Machine Guns. Active at K.13.d.50.05, and from unlocated positions on T.Bs of 71 and 114 from J.23.d.35.20.
 (c) Trench Mortars. L.M.Ws at K.8.a.3.4., K.2.d.4.2. and K.8.c.1.4. were active throughout the period. Mortars were active at K.8.c.3.8. and K.8.a.9.8. They were silenced by our artillery.
 (d) Flares. Large flares, which burst into a golden fan, are used by the enemy to illuminate No Man's Land. They are very effective.
7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.
 Fairly active. Bombs were dropped on HEILLY during the night. Enemy machines attempting to cross our lines were driven back by our A.A. fire.
8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.
 Movement of individuals was seen on the high ground E of MORLAN-COURT. Men with packs were seen moving along the DERNANCOURT/MEAULTE Road. Officers and men have been noticed moving to and from K.4.b.30.75 where a Headquarters is suspected. A considerable amount of movement was noticed at K.16.d.2.5. and K.16.c.80.35. At 4.10 pm two stationary trains were seen on the line in F.22.d. and F.26.b. At 4.30 p.m. a train with 6 covered wagons moved East along the line in F.26.b. Considerable movement was noticed in K.15.c and d.
10. MISCELLANEOUS.
 A searchlight was observed on a T.E. of 132° from J.23.d.35.20.

M. I. Dunnington
 for
 Lieut-Colonel.
 General Staff.
 Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE attached.

A patrol of 1 Officer and 15 G.I.s with a Lewis gun late 8.28.05. at 10 p.m. to attack the enemy post at K.28.0.1.7. When within 80 yards, a salvo of bombs was thrown, and after a burst had been fired from the Lewis gun, the post was rushed, but was found to be unoccupied. There were signs of recent occupation and it is suspected that this post is used as an alternative one to others in close proximity. After replenishing the supply of bombs the patrol moved out to investigate the post at K.28.0.4.8. and got within 80 yards when the enemy opened fire with rifles, bombs and M.G. Owing to the brightness of the night, the patrol did not attempt to rush the post.

(a) Patrol. An enemy sniper was shot at approx. K.2.4.8. Two other Germans were shot at K.2.4.8. and K.2.0.0. Our planes were active throughout the period.

(7) Artillery. Our planes were active throughout the period. A number of photographs were taken.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Normal. About 800 rounds 77 mm. ERFLON were fired on J.18.0., J.18.a., J.11.c., and d. J.14.b. and d. and 100 rounds on the same area from 3 a.m. to 4.45 a.m. From 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. 100 rounds of-phosphorus and lacrymator fell in D.20.0. At 5.15 a.m. HEILLY was shelled with 10.8 cm. J.10., J.11., J.12., J.22.1., J.23.1., D.20.0. and J.9.0. were also heavily shelled during the period apart from the shelling above-mentioned.

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APPENDIX. 73
162.

ANNEXE TO 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 138.

=====

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (I.S.161).

Situation.

Up to the present 13 Divisions have been identified on the Southern battle front, but it seems probable that at least 20 divisions attacked in the front line, including both divisions of the 3rd BRANDENBURG Corps and a Guard division.

NOTES ON AIR PHOTOGRAPHS.

A new series of photos taken on the 28th instant are now available. A number of these show our front systems clearly, and will enable maps to be checked accordingly.

A3AEA.474 (62.D., J.24.d. and K.19, 25, 26.a). A large amount of enemy activity is clearly shown in K.19.b. and d., including improvement of the O.T., the running out of a sap from the front line, and great activity to and from a large number of what are in many cases apparently artificial shell hole positions in rear of the front line. There are a number of clearly defined and frequently used trenches.

A3AEA.471 also shows a large amount of activity, with a number of well used tracks.

A3AEA.470 shows positions astride of the BRAY - CORBIE road. Development of shell hole positions are again noticeable here behind the enemy lines.

A3AEA.458 shows enemy positions north of the river ANCRE to the railway.

A3AEA.467 shows the cross roads at E.26.c.75.10. from where M.G. and T.M. activity have been reported. A shell hole line is also shown to the east of these cross roads.

A3AEA. shows considerable movement across country from E.28.d. to the rifle pits, behind the railway in E.27.c., also at E.27.c.52.45.

A3AEA.468 shows activity and a large amount of work *just* south of the cross roads at K.8.d.75.30.

A3AEA.469 shows a great deal of work on a new communication trench.

Close observation of these points should produce good results, ARMY REPORTS. and possibly favourable targets,

French Morning report: 1st American Division attacked village of CANTIGNY, 5000 metres N.W. of MONTDIDIER. Assisted by French tanks, they captured the village. 142 prisoners taken to date.

APPROX. LINE "RHEIMS - SOISSONS" BATTLE FRONT.

BRIMONT, LOIVRE, VILLERS - FRANQUEUX, ROUILLON, CHENAY - MUIZON, COURCELLES - SAPICOURT, SAVIGNY-sur-ARDRE, ARCIS, DRAVEGNY, MAREUIL-en-DOLE, LOUPEIGNE, BRANGES, MAAST-ET-VIOLAINE, NAMPTEUIL-sous-MURET, CHAERISE-AMBRIEF, BILLY-sur-AISNE, VILLENEUVE - ST.GERMAIN, GROUY, BAAYE, VUILLERY, TERNY-SORNY, LEUILLY.

The enemy claims to have captured 15,000 prisoners.

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APPENDIX
Opp 74

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 191.

Copy No. 2000

Headquarters,
30th May, 1918.

1. - On a date and at a zero hour to be notified later "Z" Special Company R.E. will carry out an operation with gas projectors.
2. - The operation will only take place provided the wind is between S.S.W. and N. by W. inclusive, with a velocity not exceeding 10 miles per hour.
3. - Projectors have been emplaced with object of gassing enemy targets as follows:-
 - (a) 200 projectors in vicinity of K.1.c.2.4. to fire on cross roads at K.8.b.2.9. and area within radius of 200 yards of this point.
 - (b) 150 projectors in vicinity of J.12.d.9.6. to fire on to road junction at K.8.c.6.6., and 200 yards along roads from that point in each direction.
 - (c) 50 projectors in same position as in (b) to fire on vicinity of K.14.a.6.6.
4. - The three above discharges will take place simultaneously. A short Artillery bombardment of above targets will commence at zero minus 2 minutes and continue to zero plus 5 minutes to cover projector discharge and destroy enemy gas-proof dug-outs.
5. - The following Officers of "Z" Special Coy. R.E. will be in charge of operations in Brigade sectors:-

Right Brigade Sector - Lt. H. G. L. STRANGE, M.C.
Left Brigade Sector - Lt. E. G. KING, M.C.
6. - Brigadiers will arrange direct with O.C., "Z" Special Coy. R.E. for the necessary areas to be cleared of troops during the operation and also the areas in which S.B.R's. are to be worn. A special "Gas Alert" will be maintained in the vicinity of projector emplacements from the time projectors are loaded until they are discharged.
7. - No postponement of operation will be made. If conditions are unfavourable, the operation will be definitely cancelled for that night.
8. - The following code will be used:-

"BUCKET" will mean "Operation will take place to-night."
"SOAP" will mean "Operation WILL NOT take place to-night."
"WATER" will mean "Operation completed."

Brigades will notify this office by wire, using above code, on completion of operation.

9. - Acknowledge.

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

Issued at 9 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION. - Over leaf.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. To.

- 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. M. G. Bn.
- 8. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
- 9. A.D.M.S.
- 10. D.G.O.

For information.

- 11. AUST. Corps.
- 12. 47th Division.
- 13. 5th Aust. Division.
- 14. "Z" Special Coy. R.E.
- 15. "D" Special Coy. R.E.
- 16/17. File.
- 18/20. War Diary.
- 21/24. Spare.

(a) 300 projectors in vicinity of ...
 (b) 100 projectors in vicinity of ...
 (c) 50 projectors in same position as in (b) to five on
 vicinity of ...

The three above discharges will take place simultaneously.
 A short artillery bombardment of above targets will commence at
 zero minus 2 minutes and continue to zero plus 2 minutes to cover
 projector discharges and destroy enemy gas-proof dug-outs.

The following officers of "Z" Special Coy. R.E. will be in
 charge of operations in Brigade sector:-

Right Brigade Sector - Lt. E. J. ...
 Left Brigade Sector - Lt. E. J. ...

Brigade will arrange direct with G.O. "Z" Special Coy. R.E.
 for the necessary areas to be cleared of troops during the operation
 and also the areas in which G.O. R.E. are to be worn. A special
 "no fire" will be maintained in the vicinity of projector emplace-
 ments from the time projectors are loaded until they are discharged.

No postponement of operation will be made. If conditions are
 unfavourable, the operation will be definitely cancelled for that
 night.

The following code will be used:-

"START" will mean "Operation will take place to-night."
 "STOP" will mean "Operation will NOT take place to-night."
 "WAR" will mean "Operation completed."

Indicator will notify this office by wire, using above code, on
 completion of operation.

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No.192.

Copy No. 27

Ref. Map Sheet 62D.N.E.1/20,000

Headquarters.
31st May 1918.

1. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the Left Bde. Subsector of the Divisional front on the night 31st May/1st June.
2. Details will be arranged direct between the Brigade Commanders concerned.
3. Command will pass on completion of relief, which will be notified by wire to D.H.Q.
4. Relief of Field Coys., and Machine Gun Coys., will be arranged by the C.R.E. and Machine Gun Battalion Commander respectively.
5. On being relieved the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde will take over the duties and dispositions of the Reserve Bde.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE on attached slip. (6th and 7th A.I. Bdes. by wire.)

G. G. Williams

Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Issued at 6 a.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 A. Div. Sig. Coy.
7.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
8.	6th do
9.	7th do
10.	2nd A. Pioneer Bn.
11.	2nd A.M.G. Bn.
12.	A.D.M.S.
13.	2nd A. Div. Train.
14.	A.P.M.
15.	S.S.O. 2nd Aust. Div.
16.	2nd Aust. M.T. Coy.
17.	D.A.D.V.S.
18.	D.A.D.O.S.
19.	D.B.O.
20.	D.G.O.
21.	Camp Commandant.
22.	Aust. Corps.
23.	Aust. Corps. R.A.
24.	Aust. Corps. H.A.
25.	47th Division.
26.	3rd Aust. Div.
27.	4th do
28.	5th do
29.	3rd Squadron. A.F.C.
30.	2nd Tank Bn.
31.	Troop. 13th A.L.H.
32.	Platoon. Aust. Corps Cyclist Bn.
33/34.	File.
35/37.	War Diary.
38/40.	Spare.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 3 p.m. 29th to 3 p.m. 30th May, 1918.

No. 139.

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

(a) Artillery. During the afternoon a working party at E.27.d. 95.75., and movement at K.10.c.00.60., K.10.b. and K.2.b. were effectively dealt with by 4.5" Hows. and 18-pdrs. Trenches in E.28.c., and suspected H.Q. at E.26.c.70.15. were bombarded. At 10.15 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. our Field guns concentrated fire on selected targets, shooting in each instance continuing for one hour. Direct hits are reported on M.W. at J.8.c.10.40. and E.28.b.70.70. and the crew of a M.W. at K.3.c.80.80. was dispersed.

(b) Trench Mortars. At 3 a.m. 6" Newton T.Ms. carried out a minor operation, 96 rounds being expended on the following points:- K.2.c.25.40., K.2.c.10.60., K.2.c.90.50., K.2.c.90.85., K.2.a.80.40., K.2.a.75.75., E.26.d.25.75., E.26.d.10.60. There was no retaliation to this shoot.

The Right Brigade fired 50 rounds 3" Stokes on enemy posts at K.13.b.4.6. and K.13.b.4.7. Good bursts were observed on the targets. The Left Brigade fired 155 rounds on enemy front posts and M.G. positions at intervals during the night.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the night:- K.14.a.1.9. to K.8.c.1., enemy trenches, 1500 rounds; K.2.d.4.2., trench mortars, 1500 rounds; K.19.d.0.0. to K.19.d.1.2., road, 1500 rounds; K.2.c. and d., tracks, 2,500 rounds.

750 rounds were expended on A.A. fire.

(d) Aircraft. Our planes were very active, crossing our lines in large formations during the day and night. Patrolling was also carried out under heavy A.A. fire. 3 indecisive combats took place during the evening. On the morning of the 30th a Sopwith plane forced a German PFALZ DIII to land in I.5.c.

(e) Patrols.

Right Brigade. At 10.30 p.m. a patrol occupied the line of rifle pits from K.19.c.5.2. to K.19.c.5.4. No contact was established. The patrol returned at 3 a.m.

A patrol of 2 O.Rs. found 8 low trip wires at K.19.c.8.8. An enemy working party was seen moving about at K.19.c.85.80. A M.G. was seen firing from approx. K.19.central.

A patrol going out from K.13.c.80.35. moved 150 yards east then 500 yards north. No contact was obtained.

A third patrol observed an enemy working party at K.8.c.3.8., which was dispersed by our artillery.

Left Brigade. A patrol located two active M.G. posts at K.2.c.1.8. and K.2.a.1.5. 1 Officer and 9 O.Rs. left K.7.b.1.2. and proceeded along the valley to K.7.a., where the enemy was seen digging at approx. K.8.a.7.9. The patrol then became aware that another party of the enemy was moving in their rear. This party was attacked with rifle and rifle grenade fire. Our patrol then withdrew. It is not known whether casualties were caused.

1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. with a L.G. established themselves at E.26.c.1.7. in order to attack any enemy patrols. Nothing was seen of the enemy, and the patrol withdrew after waiting 1½ hours.

Other parties patrolled the front but did not establish contact.

(f) Sniping. Right Brigade Snipers claim 4 hits. 3 of the enemy were accounted for at K.2.a.2.9. and K.2.a.1.5. At the latter post 2 rifles and a M.G. were observed on the parapet. These were fired on by our snipers, who smashed one of the rifles and hit the M.G. several times.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 77th Pursuit Flight (prisoner captured 30:5:18).

P.T.O.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Below normal, with a marked decrease in gas shelling. Battery areas in J.15. and J.16.a. were lightly shelled. About 20 rds. 10.5 cm fell on our front posts. There was light shelling of the ANCRE Valley, including HEILLY and MERICOURT, and J.15. 16. 17. 22 and 24. During the afternoon of the 30 inst. FRECHENCOURT was shelled with 3 rds. from a 15 cm H.V.gun.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.

Enemy Intentions. An Aspirant Officer of the 77th Pursuit Squadron, captured this morning, stated that he thought a number of the best Divisions in reserve on this front had gone down to the CHAMPAGNE, and that there would be no activity on the SOMME front. These statements are without confirmation.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Works. About 50 yds. of newly dug trench has been observed at K.2.b.4.0. This is partially camouflaged. A new post is suspected at E.14.d.5.1.

(b) Machine Guns. Guns were active at K.19.c.9.2., K.19.b.2.0., K.19.b.6.7., K.19.central., and K.13.b.50.35.

(c) Trench Mortars. - Inactive.

(d) Snipers. - Inactive.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Hostile aircraft was active, though there was a decrease in bombing activity. A PFALZ DIII, single seater, of the 77th Pursuit Flight was forced to land. The pilot - an Aspirant Officer - was captured uninjured.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Fairly continuous movement was observed at K.15.d.3.4. Smoke from engines was observed on two occasions on the line in F.26. About 100 horses were seen grazing in F.29., and L.5.a. Two engines drawing trucks were also seen going Eastwards in F.26. Continuous movement of transports was observed along the road in F.29.c. Most of the traffic was going south.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

The Left Bn. of our Right Bde. succeeded in intercepting a code message which was flashed from the rear of MORLANCOURT.

11. TYPES OF 'PLANES. The 77th Pursuit Flight appears to have the following types of 'planes. :- PFALZ DIII. FOKKER. DV.
ALBATROS DIII. ALBATROS DV.

12. AERODROMES. There is a flying school at VALENCIENNES. (doc).
An Aerodrome is mentioned at NEUVILLE. (doc).

13. FLIGHTS. The RICHTHOFEN Circus is stated to be on the CHAMPAGNE front. The 77th Pursuit Flight has been in the 2nd German Army area for some time. (P.S.) Prisoner was very anxious to assure his captors that he was a Bavarian, and not a Prussian, and on being questioned as to the moral of certain troops, replied that it was poor, but that was because they were Prussians. This was the second flight undertaken by the prisoner, who was escorting a photographic machine in company with other 'planes from his Flight. On being attacked by Sopwiths, the photographic machine flew back and the prisoner became separated from his Flight. He stated that a bullet from one of our 'planes must have pierced his tank, as his petrol supply gave out. He lost his sense of direction while trying to avoid our 'planes and landed behind our lines under heavy A.A.fire.

Prisoner stated that a brother of V.RICHTOFEN was seriously injured in a collision a short time ago.

ANNEXE attached.

M. S. Denning
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. I.S. No. 139.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 132.)ATTACK ON THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT.

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

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

SHORTAGE OF HORSES.

A prisoner of the 241st F.A. Regt., states that, in his Regt., the gun teams consist of only 4 horses and wagon teams of 2. From an examination of a large number of prisoners, it appears that the Germans are finding considerable difficulty in obtaining light draught horses. On the other hand, they have a fairly large number of Belgian horses for their heavy artillery: Russian horses are used for the transport of infantry companies, and to draw machine gun vehicles.

The horses are, as a rule, in poor condition and underfed. Further information with regard to the shortage of draught horses is required and prisoners, particularly artillery prisoners, should be examined on this point.

AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY.

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

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

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

GERMAN AMMUNITION TANKS.

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

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

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

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No.140.

From 3 p.m. 30th to 3 p.m. 31st May 1918.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. During the day isolated movement in E.27.b. and K.3.b., K.4. and K.10. was effectively sniped by 18 pdrs. Suspected O.P. at E.27.d.40.90. was fired on, and trench at E.26.c.30.70. was registered. 4.5" Hows. caused an explosion in E.28.d. Between 10.45 p.m. and midnight enemy dugouts at E.26.b.75.10. and K.3.d. 20.65. were bombarded. Roads tracks and activity areas were subjected to harassing fire throughout the night, concentrations being put down on selected targets between 10.15 p.m. and 11.45 p.m., and from 2.15 am to 3.15.a.m. At 2.20 a.m. 18 pdrs dispersed an enemy wiring party at K.2.c.40.00. During the period M.Ws at the following locations were engaged - K.2.a.60.40., K.8.c.50.50., K.2.d.60.40.

(b) Trench Mortars. On the Left Sector, 10 rds. 6" Newton T.Ms were fired on hostile post at E.26.a.35.55., 5 rds. on road junction at E.26.c.70.15., and 5 rds. on M.G. position at K.2.a.70.70.

On the Right Sector 100 rds. in all were expended, fire being distributed over the following targets - Machine guns at K.8.c.24.40. K.13.b.80.70., K.19.d.40.65., K.19.c.95.80., K.19.central., K.19.d. 30.50., Movement at K.19.a.98.15., strong point at K.19.a.95.08., and road from K.19.central to K.19.d.40.60.

The Right Bde. L.T.Ms fired 40 rds. in response to enemy mortar activity. Left Bde L.T.Ms also fired 40 rds. on K.2.a.1.4.

A captured M.W. was emplaced and 49 rds. were fired on the Railway line at K.2.b.3.6., and the Gully at K.2.b.1.0.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period : - K.8.a.3.4, M.W. position, 1500 rds.; K.20.a.1.1. to K.20.a.8.0., roads and tracks, 1500 rds.; K.20.c.0.6., enemy works, 1500 rds.; K.2.a & d. tracks, 3000 rds.; K.2.a.8.4. road 1000 rds.; E.26.c.9.4. road, 1000 rds.; E.26.a.65.20. road, 1000 rds. Our forward guns fired 160 rds. at enemy wiring and working parties with good effect.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the period, a considerable amount of reconnaissance, bombing, and photography being carried out.

(e) Patrols. Right Bde. A patrol going out from K.13.c.80.50. was fired on by M.G. and rifle grenades from approx. K.13.b.4.5. Enemy wire in K.13.b. and d is very thin and badly broken. A second patrol located a small enemy party at approx. K.8.c.1.6., which was dispersed by our artillery.

Left Bde. A protective patrol dispersed an enemy carrying party at E.26.c.7.1., with L.G. fire, causing several casualties. An N.C.O. and 9 men went out at 9.30 p.m. to prevent the enemy from occupying a night post about 120 yds. in front of our line. Five of the enemy who approached were fired on with good effect. Bombs were thrown at a post some 50 yds. to the north of this point. A patrol observed a hostile working party at approx. K.2.c.4.0.; artillery fire brought good results.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Normal. About 20 Yellow Cross and 20 Green and Blue Cross shells fell in D.28.b. BUIRE, RIBEMONT, MERICOURT, HEILLY and FRANVILLERS were lightly shelled. Beyond scattered light shelling of the forward areas. there is nothing to report.

P.T.O.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Works. New earth works have been observed at K.3.a.40.15. New earth has also been reported by aeroplanes on the bank from K.7.b.8.6. to K.8.a.2.9. Ground observers report a continuous belt of concertina and barbed wire opposite the Left En. of our Right Bde. It has not, however, been found a serious obstacle.

(b) Machine Guns. Short bursts were fired from K.19.b.4.6., K.19.d.35.60., K.19.b.2.0., K.19.b.6.7., K.19.central, and K.13.b.40.3. A M.G. has been located at E.19.d.80.95.

(c) Trench Mortars. A L.M.W. was active during the afternoon of the 30th at approx. K.20.b.0.4.

(d) Snipers. Were inactive.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Great activity was shown throughout the period

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Trains were seen on the line in F.26.b. Movement was noticed at K.15.b.9.4., and K.15.b.1.9. Working parties in K.19.b and c. were engaged and dispersed by Lewis guns. A considerable amount of traffic was noticed on the road in F.29.c. Slight movement was observed in the trenches in K.4.b. At 2 a.m. abnormal movement was reported opposite our front; heavy harassing fire was therefore employed.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

A German message dog, with carrier and message, was found on the QUERRIEU - St GRATIEN Road at 6 p.m.

A red flare, bursting into two reds, caused cessation of fire on the C.C.S. at BUIRE.

M. S. Dwyer
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE attached.

-3-

ANNEXE to 2nd AUST. DIV. I.S. No. 140.

31-5-18.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Following from G.H.Q. 10.40.p.m. 29th. Local attack on French front North of KEMMEL and hostile raid North of BEAUMONT HAMEL both repulsed. Hostile artillery activity today N.W. ALBERT and in SOUCHEZ RIVER - LOOS Sector. In raid last night at NEUVILLE VITASSE our troops penetrated to depth of 600 yards and inflicted casualties estimated at 200. No further reports from AISNE front.

Following from G.H.Q. 11.40.am.(30th) Following from G.H.Q. Allied line on AISNE front reported to be at 9 p.m. (29th) as follows VESLE River W of RHEIMS - ROSNAY - COULONGES - GRAMAILLE - CHACRISE - BERZYLESEC - W of SOISSONS - JUVIGNY.

SITUATION.

The French Army on our right reports that the American sector near CANTIGNY was heavily shelled during the morning. This shelling was followed by a counter-attack in which tanks participated. The counter-attack failed. Prisoners captured by the Americans now number 230. (I.S.163)

AISNE BATTLE FRONT.

The fighting in the AISNE Sector continued yesterday and the front of the attack increased. 23 divisions, of which 4 are fresh and 19 were withdrawn from the SOMME front, have so far been identified. There is no evidence as yet of the engagement of divisions from Prince RUPPRECHT'S Group of Armies.

The line yesterday (29th) evening ran as follows :-
CRECY-au-MONT - TROU-des-LOUPS - Western outskirts SOISSONS - CHACRISE - DRAVEGNY - LAGERY - SABIGNY-sur-ARDRES - THILLOIS - LA NEUVILLETTE - BETHENY. (I.S.163).

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

A prisoner captured near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX yesterday (29th) stated that the officers had told the men that they would be in rest by June 1st. He has heard no talk of any intended attack by the Germans in this sector. In view of the fact that the prisoner's division is about to be relieved this seems extremely probable. The prisoner's evidence is reliable. (I.S.163.)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

54th Reserve Division. - 107th Division.
There are indications that the 107th Division has relieved the 54th Reserve Division in the DERNANCOURT sector. This is quite possible since the 54th Reserve Division has been in the line since April 12th (I.S.163.)

GERMAN COMMAND ON THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT.

From today's German official Communiqué, the German Corps attacking on the AISNE front are grouped as follows, from West to East :-

Seventh German Army (v.Boehn) :-

?	?	v.Larisch.
Crepy Group	VIII Res. Corps	Wichura.
Vailly Group	LIV Corps	v.Winckler.
Liesse Group	IV Res.	v.Conta.
Sissonne Group	LXV	v.Schmettow

First German Army (Fritz v.Below) :-
Brimont Group XV

Ilse.

P.T.O

APPENDIX.

For the attack on the 21st March, the 18th German Army had 19 divisions grouped under 4 corps staffs and 4 divisions in Army reserve, i.e. about five divisions in each corps and 1 division per corps in Army reserve. Assuming that the force attacking on the Aisne front is similarly organized the strength of this front may be estimated at 30 divisions allotted to 6 corps staffs and 6 divisions in Army reserve; up to date 23 divisions have been identified. (I.S. 163).

NEW GERMAN TANK.

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

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

The following details are given:-

- Dimensions - Length 30', - 33'; height 10'; width 10'.
- Armament - One 5.7cm (6-pdr.) Q.F. gun and 4 machine guns. Two flame projectors, with a range of 65 yards, are also stated to be carried.

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[Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page, including fragments of reports and lists.]

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Ref. Map 62D.
1/40,000

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

G.112.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 1st June 1918.

<u>DIVISIONAL.H.Q.</u>	St GRATIEN.	Chateau.	B.27.central.
<u>2nd Aust.Div.Arty.H.Q.</u>	St GRATIEN.	Maire.	
5th.A.F.A.Bde.H.Q.	- J.1.c.80.65.)	
4th do	- D.13.d.55.75.)	Left Group.
3rd Army Bde.A.F.A.	- J.1.a.3.9.)	
96th Army Bde.R.F.A.	- J.1c.5.1.)	Right Group.
6th Army Bde.A.F.A.	- J.1.a.1.8.	-	Superimposed Group
5th Bde.R.H.A.	- H.23.b.5.9.	-	Mobile Reserve Bde.
2nd Aust.D.A.C.	- H.6.b.7.6.		
2nd Aust.D.T.M.O.	- J.1.c.6.3.	HEILLY.	
<u>5th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q.</u>	- J.1.c.80.15.	HEILLY.	<u>Line Right Sector.</u>
17th Battalion.	- J.21.c.4.5.	Reserve.	
18th do	- J.16.b.6.9.	Support.	
19th do	- J.17.b.3.8.	Line Left.	
20th do	- J.22.d.2.4.	Line Right.	
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	- J.22.d.00.55.	Line.	
5A Nucleus Bn.	- BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames.	(LENS Sheet B.6.)	
Transport Lines.	- C.25.c. and	I.1.a. (In Wood)	
<u>6th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q.</u>	- HEILLY.	Chateau.	<u>Line Left Sector.</u>
21st Battalion.	- J.11.a.5.9.	Line Right.	
22nd do	- J.9.b.80.15.	Support Right.	
23rd do	- D.29.b.2.3.	Line Left.	
24th do	- D.27.d.5.5.	Support Left.	
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	- TREUX.(Adv)	Line (Rear - HEILLY Chateau.)	
6A Nucleus Bn.	- BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames.	(LENS Sheet B.6.)	
Transport Lines.	- C.22.c.		
<u>7th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q.</u>	- FRECHENCOURT.	Chateau.	<u>Support Bde.</u>
25th Battalion.	- J.13.c.4.9.		
26th do	- C.29.b.3.1.		
27th do	- I.10.c.8.8.		
28th do	- I.4.a.4.2.		
7th A.L.T.M.Bty.	- C.26.d.3.6.		
7A Nucleus Bn.	- BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames.	(LENS Sheet. B.6.)	
Transport Lines.	- I.5.c.5.5. and I.9.central.		
<u>2nd Aust.M.G.Battalion.</u>	- J.1.d.0.2.	HEILLY.	
5th A.M.G.Coy.	- C.29.d.9.0.	Reserve.	} Rear H.Q. and Transport Lines C.27.a.3.2.
6th do	- J.5.b.3.4.	Line Left.	
7th do	- D.27.a.2.4.	Support.	
22nd do	- J.10.c.8.3.	Line Right.	
<u>C.R.E.</u>	- St GRATIEN.		
5th Field Coy.A.E.	- I.5.a.2.2.		
6th do	- J.7.b.2.6.		
7th do	- I.5.d.9.7.		
2nd A.Pioneer Bn.	- I.7.a.	(2 Coys.HEILLY, 1 Coy RIBEMONT.)	
<u>A.D.M.S.</u>	- St GRATIEN.	Chateau.	
5th Aust.Field Amb.	-H.10.a.9.4.	Chateau.	M.D.S.
6th do	- I.4.b.8.0.	Pt CAMON.	D.C.S.
7th do	- G.30.a.6.1.	A.D.S.	
C.C.S.	- VIGNACOURT.		

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 78

2nd Aust.Div.Train.H.Q. - B.27.a.1.8. St GRATIEN.
 15th Coy.A.A.S.C. - H.15.b.5.3.
 16th do - H.14.a.5.9.
 17th do - H.7.a.5.2.
 20th do - H.15.a.central.

Divisional Troops.
 Paymaster. - St. GRATIEN.
 D.A.D.V.S. - do
 A.P.M. - do
 D.Gas Officer. - do
 D.Bomb Officer. - I.7.central.
 Mob.Vet.Section. - H.11.b.5.4.
 Div.Salvage Coy. - H.16.a.9.1.
 D.A.D.O.S. - H.1.a.1.3. Bois-de-Mai.
 No 2.Aust.M.T.Coy. - COISY.
 Div.Reinft.Camp. - BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames. (LENS Sheet B.6.)
 Div.Staging Camp. - H.7.d.2.4.
 Div.Canteen. - QUERRIEU.

Attached Troops.
 Troop.13th A.L.H. - I.15.b.4.7.
 Platoon.Cyclist Bn. - I.15.b.4.7.

P.O.W.Cages.
 Div.Cage. - C.29.c.0.0. FRANVILLERS.
 Corps Cage. - POULAINVILLE.

J. H. Law
 Capt
 Lieut Colonel.
 General Staff.
 Second Australian Division.

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
 31st May 1918.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.

Corrections to be notified to D.H.Q. at once.

APPRECIATION OF SITUATION ON FRONT OF "C" DIVISIONAL SECTOR,
AUST. CORPS, DURING MAY, 1918.

Ref. Maps: Sheets 62D. N.W. and
62D. N.E. - 1/20,000.

FRONT.

The front taken over by 2nd Aust. Div. from 3rd Aust. Div. on 11th May extended from K.19.c.0.0. on the right to E.19.b.5.0. on the Left - a distance of about 5,500 yards as the crow flies. Just prior to taking over the sector, the 3rd Aust. Div. had pushed forward the line on the Right and Centre by a series of minor operations. The newly won ground had not been thoroughly consolidated and was lacking in efficient communications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GROUND.

(a) Forward Zone.

The main topographical features in the forward area are:-

- (i) On the South, the high ridge between the SOMME and the ANCRE running East and West.
- (ii) MARETT WOOD which stands on the Northern slopes of this ridge.
- (iii) The valley of the ANCRE consisting of low marshy river flats fairly thickly wooded.
- (iv) The ridge North-west of BUIRE, which overlooks the ANCRE valley.

(b) Second or Corps Zone.

Behind the forward zone lies the high ground of the FRANVILLERS - LA HOUSOYE plateau, dropping down on the West into the HALLUE valley. On it stand several woods of quite considerable size. From the ANCRE valley at HEILLY runs another sharp valley N.W. to the main ALBERT - AMIENS Road. This important traffic communication crosses the HALLUE River between PONT NOYELLES and QUERRIEU. At FRECHENCOURT another series of crossings exist.

EXISTING DEFENCES ON TAKING OVER SECTOR.

The forward portion on the Right of the sector had only just been won from the enemy and consequently was unorganized - the front line consisting of a series of posts. In the centre from the BRAY - CORBIE road to a line through Southern edge of MARETT WOOD, there was a continuous front line trench which was extended on to the river between the villages of TREUX and VILLE-sur-ANCRE by a line of posts. North of the river a continuous trench ran astride the railway line, East of the old British C.C.S. to the Divisional Northern boundary.

MARETT WOOD, on account of its liability to heavy gas shelling, contained no defences apart from belts of wire along the edge and in the wood.

The old AMIENS defence line runs down the Eastern face of the slope towards RIBEMONT. South of the ANCRE it continues in a series of works, containing some deep dug-outs, to high ground N.E. of SAILLY-le-SEC. These posts had been connected by trenches by our predecessors. South of the ANCRE the wire in front of this line was poor.

In order ...

In order to cover the crossings at HEILLY and BONN head line had been constructed across high ground in brickworks South of the ANCRE.

DEFENSIVE WORKS POLICY AND CONSTRUCTION.

The first and most important task was the connection of posts of the outpost line and the wiring of this line, and as much possible labour was put on to this work. On 19th May the operations in connection with capture of VILLE-sur-ANCRE resulted in the advance of our line over two-thirds of the Divisional front. The new line was a great improvement over the old, and all speed was made to link it up, with the result that by the end of May the whole front, with the exception of the marshy ground on the banks of the ANCRE, was covered by a continuous trench. Concurrently with this work a support line was also constructed.

Communications were steadily worked on and C.T's. now give a covered means of approach to the front line wherever the ground is under enemy observation. These C.T's. have been fire-stepped and wired wherever their situation permits of their use as a switch line for defence.

North of the AMIENS - ALBERT railway a switch line for defence against a break-through the front on our Left was constructed on the high ground North of BUIRE, any existing works being included in the line where feasible.

Three out of four line battalions are now accommodated in good tunnelled H.Q., and work on Inf. Bde. H.Q. dug-outs and Artillery Group dug-outs in HEILLY is now proceeding. A certain number of deep M.G. dug-outs have been or are in course of construction in forward area.

DISPOSITION OF TROOPS.

The Divisional front was divided into two Brigade sub-sectors - the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. moved into Right and 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. into Left sub-sector, with 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. in reserve. Brigades held the line with 2 battalions in line, one in support and one in reserve. After the operations at VILLE-sur-ANCRE on 19th May (the appreciation of which has already been issued separately) the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. was relieved by 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. in Left sub-sector on night 20th/21st May. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. again relieved 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. in Left sub-sector on night 31st May/1st June.

In accordance with S.S.135, Nucleus personnel was withdrawn from battalions and brigaded at the Corps Reinforcement Camp at BERTEAU-COURT.

Artillery supporting Divisional front consisted of six F.A. Bdes. Each Inf. Bde. sub-sector was covered by group of two F.A. Brigades - one F.A. Bde. was superimposed over Divisional front and one F.A. Bde. held in Mobile Div. Reserve.

One M.G. Coy. was allotted to each Brigade in the line, or one Company emplaced in support positions, and one company held in Div. reserve. Reliefs were arranged by O.C., M.G. Bn.

Pioneer Bn. had one company detailed for duty as nucleus garrison to old AMIENS Defence line between RIBEMONT and D.19. central.

One Troop of 13th A.L.H. Regt. and one Platoon of Corps Cyclist Bn. are attached to Div. for communication duties.

BURIED CABLE.

BURIED CABLE.

Under plans drawn up by Corps Signals a system of buried cable is being put in. D.H.Q. is now connected to H.Q. of Artillery Groups and Inf. Brigades in the line, and the system is now being extended to connect up battalions in the line. The labour has been provided for the greater part from Divisional resources.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Touch with the enemy has been constantly maintained by our patrols during the period under review. The enemy's attitude has been distinctly unaggressive with the exception of an effort to obtain a local tactical advantage on the morning of the 14th May. On that occasion he temporarily penetrated our lines in K.13.a., but a highly successful counter-attack, organized by 17th Battalion, which was holding the sector, completely restored the situation, and yielded 52 prisoners and 1 M.G.

Again, on morning of 18th May an audacious daylight raid by 18th Battalion at 10.30 a.m. succeeded in rushing an enemy post in K.7.c., the party of 1 Officer and 18 O.R's. returning with 23 prisoners and 1 M.G.

The operations at VILLE-sur-ANCRE are the subject of a separate appreciation.

Enemy Artillery activity has been spasmodic. Harassing fire has been maintained throughout the period, but apart from retaliation on 19th May, no heavy area or counter-battery shoots have occurred. Gas shelling on the other hand has been severe on several occasions. BUIRE, MERICOURT, RIBEMONT, the ANCRE Valley, MARETT WOOD and vicinity have all been the object of deliberate concentrations which have caused us casualties. The fine nights have given opportunities for hostile bombing raids on our rear defences and horse lines, which the enemy has fully seized. With two exceptions, little damage has resulted.

PRISONERS AND WAR MATERIAL CAPTURED.

The following table shows number and identification of prisoners and war material captured by this division in period under review:-

Date.	No. Prisoners.	Material.	Identification.	Captured by.
May, 11.	1 O.R.	-	4th Coy. 357 I.R. 199th Div.	6th A.I.Bde.
14.	1 O.R.	-	5th Co. 237 R.I.R. 199th Div.	6th A.I.Bde.
14.	48 O.R's. 3 O.R's.	1 M.G. -	1st, 2nd, 4th Cos. 31 I.R., 18 Div. 6th Coy. 114 I.R. 199 Div.	5th A.I.Bde.
18.	1 Aspirant Officer. 22 O.R's.	1 M.G.	11th Coy., 52 R.I.R., 107 Div.	5th A.I.Bde.

P.T.O.

Date.	No. Prisoners.	Material.	Identification.	Captured by.
May, 19.	2 Officers. 137 O. R's. 6 Officers. 183 O. R's. 1 Officer. 1 O. R. 1 O. R. 1 O. R.	4 1 M.Guns. 1 Lewis Gun. 2 M.W.	184 I.R., 183rd Div. 52nd R.I.R., 107th Div. 213th F. Arty. Regt. 199th Medium M.W. Coy. 107 do.	5th and 6th Aust. Inf. Bdes.
22.	1 O.R.	-	7th Coy. 184 I.R. 183rd Div.	7th A.I.Bde.
23.	1 O.R.	-	2nd M.G. Coy. 184 I.R., 183rd Div.	7th A.I.Bde.
24.	1 O.R.	-	7th Coy. 84 I.R., 54th Div.	7th A.I.Bde.
27.	1 O.R.	-	9th Coy. 84 I.R., 54th Div.	7th A.I.Bde.
29.	-	2 Horses.	54th Division.	7th A.I.Bde.
30.	1 Aspirant Officer.	Machine intact.	77th Pursuit Flight.	Brought down by A.A. fire.
<u>TOTAL.</u>	-	9 Officers. 2 Aspirant Offrs. 402 O.R's.	⁴⁴ 45 M.G's. 2 Horses. 1 L.G. 2 M.W.	1 E.A.

MAPS.

Following maps are attached:-

1. Map showing defences of sector as taken over on 11th May, 1918.
2. Map showing defences of sector as ~~taken over~~ on 31st May, 1918.

H. B. Bowyer Major

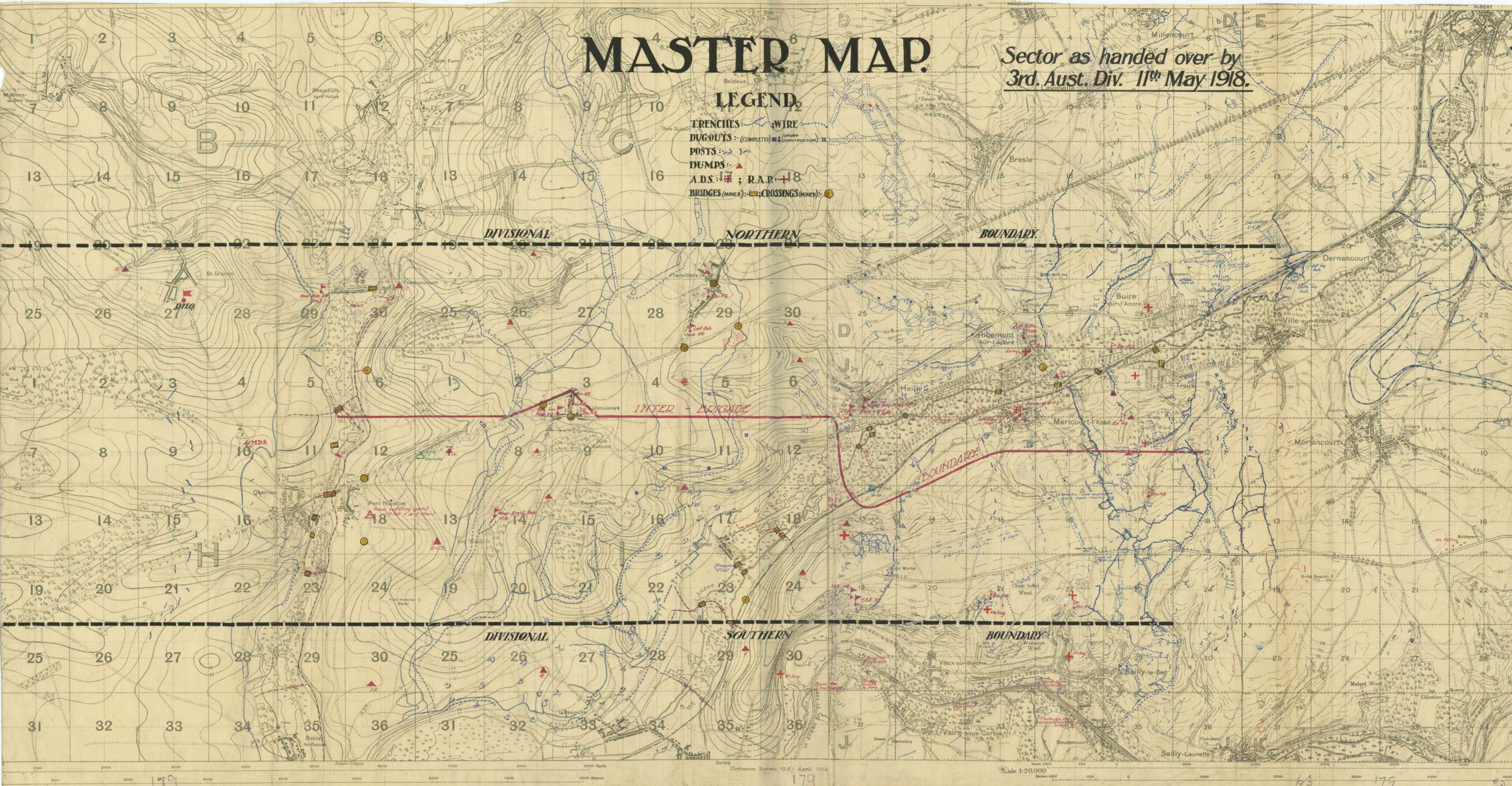
for
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

MASTER MAP

Sector as handed over by
3rd. Aust. Div. 11th May 1918.

LEGEND

- TRENCHES:  WIRE: 
- DUG-OUTS: (COMPLETED)  (CONSTRUCTION) 
- POSTS: 
- DUMPS: 
- A.D.S.: ; R.A.P.: 
- BRIDGES (MINED): ; CROSSINGS (MINED): 



179

179

63

179

63

3rd Aust Div 17th May 1918
Sector as handed over by

MAP

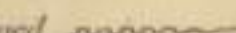
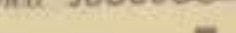
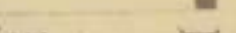

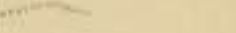
MAP

2nd
Lt
G. J.
May 1918

63

281

REFERENCE

Trenches in use or maintained 
 Dugouts, deep (lined) 
 Wire  Bridges 
 Tracks used by enemy 

"C" DIVISIONAL SECTOR,

AUSTRALIAN CORPS FRONT

Scale 1/20000. Date:- 2-6-18

SECRET
 S.38^B COPY NO.
 21

