

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/35 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

June 1918



AWM4-1/44/35PART2

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 143.

From 3 p.m. 2nd to 3 p.m. 3rd June, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. 18-pdrs. fired 100 rounds on a party of enemy working on dugouts in K.10.c. Movement at K.2.a.50.50. and K.9.c.10.90. was also engaged. Results of shoots uncertain. Harassing fire during the night was directed against roads, tracks and embankments, concentrated fire being put down on activity centres at 11.30 p.m. and 2.30 a.m., each shoot continuing for half an hour. Between 12.45 a.m. and 1.15 a.m. 4.5" Hows. fired a concentration of gas (BNC.) on dugouts and banks in K.3.b.central.

(b) Trench Mortars.

Left Sector: 67 rounds 6" Newtons were fired on enemy works, cross roads at E.26.c.70.10. and QUARRY at K.2.a.50.70.

Right Sector: 20 rounds silenced hostile M.W. at K.20.c.20.80. and K.8.c.20.40.

73 rounds L.T.M. were fired by the Left Bde. on the sunken road and outposts in K.2.a., house and posts in the vicinity of E.20.b.0.3., where an active M.G. was silenced. 16 rounds from a captured M.W. were fired on the sunken road in K.2.a.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.8.a.3.4., Light M.W. position, 1500 rds.; K.14.a.3.4. to K.14.a.7.6., roads and tracks, 1500 rds.; K.14.d. and c., tracks, 1,000 rds.; K.19.d.2.8., Machine Gun emplacement, 1,000 rds.; K.3.c.4.8., Branch roads, 1,000 rds.; K.2.b.58.02., branch roads, 1,000 rds.; K.8.d.7.3., cross roads, 1,000 rds.; E.21.c.2.9., cross roads, 1,000 rds.; E.20.b.85.32., cross roads, 1,000 rounds.

(d) Aircraft. Our planes were active throughout the day, bombing and photography being carried out.

(e) Patrols.

Right Bde. A patrol going out from K.19.c.2.2. was fired on by M.Gs. from K.19.c.7.7. and K.19.c.5.1. Flares were being fired from K.19.c.6.5. A second patrol found the rifle pits between K.19.c.4.2. and K.19.c.65.92. unoccupied. There is concertina wire in front of these posts with a 40 yards gap. The patrol located M.G. posts at K.19.c.5.0. and K.19.c.55.15. A third patrol reported the M.Gs. at K.19.b.0.5. and K.19.b.1.8. active. High concertina wire was seen in front of the post at K.19.b. and a belt of concertina between K.13.d.15.15. and K.13.d.15.00. A patrol located an enemy wiring party at K.13.d.3.5. Hostile covering parties kept up a continuous rifle and machine gun fire. The enemy was thought to be working on a line from K.13.d.4.4. to K.13.d.2.9. When our patrol returned Lewis Guns opened fire on the hostile party, with what result is unknown. Another enemy party was heard digging at K.8.c.1.6. This party was dispersed by our artillery.

Left Bde. Patrols were active along the Brigade front, but no contact was obtained. A patrol moved to within 50 yards of the cross roads at E.26.c.40.15., where a considerable amount of noise was heard. At 12.15 a.m. our artillery opened fire on this point, and subsequent examination by a small patrol showed that the movement had entirely ceased.

(f) Sniping. Right Brigade Snipers claim five hits.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

- Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Quiet in forward areas. A considerable amount of back area shelling by H.V. guns took place during the afternoon and night. Front line posts and forward systems received practically no attention. HEILLY, J.9., J.14., J.15., J.16., J.17., J.20., J.21., J.22. and J.28. were lightly shelled.

P.T.O.

War Diary

JMB

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet. Although extensive works are not being undertaken by the enemy in his front system, his attitude on the whole is a defensive one. An effort is apparent to strengthen his line opposite the right of our divisional sector.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Works. There is a belt of low barbed wire running from K.13.b.4.2. to K.13.d.1.2. and a belt of concertina from K.13.b.4.0. to K.13.d.6.2. Between these two belts are two posts at K.13.d.20.25. and K.13.d.40.45. This information was gained by a Sergt. who crawled through the crops in daylight. New earth works are visible at K.8.d.7.2. Posts have been located at K.7.d.6.8. and A post is visible at K.8.a.4.5. (E.26.c.55.10.)

(b) Trench Mortars. Mortars were active from K.19.b.9.2. to K.19.b.5.0., K.8.c.2.4., K.2.d.4.2., K.8.d.9.5. A position is suspected at K.14.a.central, at the foot of some trees. Medium M.Ws. are suspected to be firing from K.8.d.0.9. A L.M.W., which fired on the old G.O.S. North of VILLE-sur-ANCRE, is believed to change its position frequently.

(c) Machine Guns. Activity less than usual. Bursts were fired from K.19.c.5.0., K.19.c.55.15., K.19.c.7.7., and the QUARRY in E.14.c.

(d) Sniping. Snipers were occasionally active during the night.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. The usual movement was reported on the roads and tracks in the forward area. An engine and 4 trucks were seen moving along the line in F.26.b. Dust made by fast moving vehicles was noticed between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the road in F.29.c. Small parties in E.23., E.26. and E.28. were dispersed by our artillery. 10 men seen at K.19.a.8.1. were dispersed by Lewis Guns.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility only fair owing to ground mist.

Flares. WHITE strings of flares were fired when our 'planes crossed the enemy lines, apparently to assist searchlights in picking up our machines.

M. E. Dunning
for
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE.

SITUATION.

29th Division and 1st Australian Division carried out minor operation last night (2nd) West of VIEUX BERQUIN and West of MERRIS. Objectives gained and 193 prisoners taken.

French line on AISNE unchanged.

Prisoners and War Material captured by 2nd Aust. Division during the period 11:5:18 - 31:5:18 :- Prisoners:- 9 Officers 404 O.Rs. Material:- 43 M.Gs., 2 minenwerfer, 1 Lewis gun, 2 horses.

INFORMATION from OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 166).

THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT. 32 Divs. have now been identified, of which were fresh and 27 previously engaged on the SOMME front. No further Divs. from Prince RUPPRECHT'S Group of Armies have been engaged.

SMOKE SCREENS. The R.A.F. reported that a remarkable smoke screen coming from the direction of AVELUY drifted as far as BERTANGLES aerodrome at 9 a.m. yesterday (1st), where it covered a space of about 5,000 yards broad and 2,000 feet high. It was so thick that it delayed our flights from leaving the ground and necessitated the use of Very lights to guide home flights returning to earth. Its nature has not yet been discovered.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 194.

Copy No. 35

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

Headquarters.

4th June, 1918.

1. The 5th A.I. Bde. will be relieved in the Right Brigade Sub-sector of the Divisional front on the night 5/6th June as follows :-
The 6th A.I. Bde. will take over temporarily that portion of the front between the present inter-brigade boundary and K.13.b.2.8.
The 7th A.I. Bde. will take over the remainder of the Right Brigade Subsector.
2. On completion of relief the inter-brigade boundary will be temporarily altered to run from K.13.b.2.8. to J.12.central, thence West along old boundary.
3. Details of reliefs will be arranged direct between Brigade Commanders concerned.
4. Command will pass on completion of relief which will be notified by wire to D.H.Q.
5. Reliefs of Field Coys. and M.G. Coys. will be arranged by the C.R.E. and Machine Gun Battalion Commander respectively.
6. On being relieved the 5th A.I. Bde. will take over the duties and dispositions (including working parties) of the Reserve Brigade.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE on attached slip, Inf. Bdes. by wire.

G. H. Miles

Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

Issued at 6 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.

To.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| 1. | G.O.C. | 21. | Camp Comdt. |
| 2. | "G". | 22. | Aust. Corps. |
| 3. | "A.Q." | 23. | Aust. Corps. R.A. |
| 4. | C.R.A. | 24. | Aust. Corps. H.A. |
| 5. | C.R.E. | 25. | 47th Division. |
| 6. | 2nd A. Div. Sig. Coy. | 26. | 3rd Aust. Div. |
| 7. | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. | 27. | 4th do |
| 8. | 6th do | 28. | 5th do |
| 9. | 7th do | 29. | 3rd Squadron. A.F.C. |
| 10. | 2nd A. Pioneer Bn. | 30. | 2nd Tank Bn. |
| 11. | 2nd A.M.G. Bn. | 31. | Troop. 13th A.L.H. |
| 12. | 2nd A. Div. Train. | 32. | Platoon. Corps Cyclist Bn. |
| 13. | A.D.M.S. | 33/34. | File. |
| 14. | A.P.M. | 35/37. | War Diary. |
| 15. | S.S.O., 2nd A. Div. | 38/40. | Spere. |
| 16. | 2nd Aust. M.T. Coy. | | |
| 17. | D.A.D.V.S. | | |
| 18. | D.A.D.O.S. | | |
| 19. | D.E.O. | | |
| 20. | D.G.O. | | |

22B

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

From 3 p.m. 3rd to 3 p.m., 4th June, 1918.

No. 144.

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

4. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Vigorous harassing fire was again continued. Special concentrations on selected targets were put down from 11 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., and from 2.15 a.m. to 2.45 a.m. Between 6.50 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. movement at K.10.d.60.00. was sniped by 18-pdrs., 50 rounds being expended. Slight movement in K.15.b. and 19.d. was also engaged. At 1.30 a.m. one 18-pdr. and one 4.5" How. battery of Left Group co-operated with infantry in a minor enterprise, the objective being to capture a working party. The party was dispersed but no prisoners were taken.

(b) Trench Mortars. The following targets were engaged by 6" Newton Mortars:- Right Sector. 3 p.m., 10 rds. K.20.a.2.7., S.P.; 4 p.m., 8 rds., K.19.b.5.6., M.G.; 6 p.m., 5 rds., K.20.c.2.6., M.W.; 6.30 p.m., 10 rds., K.19.b.52.62., enemy works; 6.45 p.m., 10 rds., K.19.b.61.65., enemy works; 10.30 p.m., 40 rds., K.19.b.71.75., K.19.b.90.30., K.19.b.70.92., enemy works.

Left Sector. 10 rds. were expended on each of the following points:- K.2.c.2.7., E.26.c.9.0., K.2.c.2.6., K.2.c.1.9. A working party heard at K.2.c.2.7. was engaged - noise of party working then ceased.

60 rounds 3" Stokes were fired on K.2.a. and b. (Sunken road) and E.20.c. (posts). 10 rounds were fired from the captured L.M.W. on the road in K.2.a. and b.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.3.c.4.8., Branch roads, 1,000 rounds; K.2.b.58.02., Branch roads, 1,000 rds.; K.8.d.7.3., cross roads, 1,000 rds.; E.20.b.85.32., cross roads, 1,000 rds.; E.21.c.20.90, cross roads, 1,000 rds.

200 rounds were fired at enemy aircraft during the day.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the day.

(e) Patrols. The front was actively patrolled throughout the period. Location of posts are shown under "Enemy Defences." A patrol discovered that our trench mortars had torn the enemy wire and blown the trench in at K.19.b.5.7. Talking was heard at K.19.b.6.4. Contact was obtained by the Left Bde., where a patrol encountered at least six of the enemy at approx E.26.a.05.20., who opened fire with rifles and revolvers and then withdrew. The marshy ground rendered pursuit impossible, as water over 4 feet deep was encountered. The enemy were reported working on the road in E.26.d.

(f) Sniping. Our snipers were active. Three hits were claimed.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Slightly more active on the Right sector but quiet on the Left. BUIRE, TREUX and VILLE-sur-ANCRE were lightly shelled. A battery is reported active at K.3.d. A few rounds of gas (unidentified) fell in J.22.b. and J.23.d. J.10., J.11., J.16., J.21., J.22., J.23., J.28, and J.29. were also lightly shelled.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.

P.T.O.

War Diary 2013

- 2 -

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Works. A flare post is reported at approx. K.7.d.5.9. The wire in front of the trenches at K.8.c.1.4. appears to have been moved slightly, and there is now a large gap in front of the post.

(b) Trench Mortars. A M.M.W. is reported at K.8.d.0.8. M.M.Ws. were also active from K.8.c.90.50. and K.19.b.5.0.

(c) Machine Guns. The M.G. at E.26.c.35.90. was active. Bursts came from K.19.c.55.45., K.19.c.55.15., K.19.c.7.7., K.19.b.2.5., K.19.b.1.8. and K.19.b.5.7.

(d) Flares. YELLOW, RED and GREEN flares were fired, but no action followed.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Activity was moderate. At 6 p.m. an E.A. with a RED body and BLUE tail flew over the Left sector. At 9 p.m. an E.A. dropped three RED flares over the enemy lines. No action followed. GOLDEN showers were also dropped E. of MARETT WOOD. Two unsuccessful attempts were made to attack our balloons.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. The usual individual movement took place in the forward area. About 50 limbers and waggons and small parties of Infantry were seen on the road in F.29.c. Strong working parties were seen during the night on the ridge running North from K.8.c.20.45.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Visibility fair. The enemy was seen camouflaging at E.26.c. 8.7. Our Artillery fired on this spot.

J. H. M. Coale Capt
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

CORRIGENDA.

In "ANNEXE" to 2nd Aust. Div. Intelligence Summary No. 143 - Captures - for 43 M.G's., read "44."

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 167).

GERMAN TANK TACTICS. From the preliminary reports from the British troops engaged on the AISNE battle front, it appears that the enemy employed German tanks similar to the tank captured at VILLERS - BRETONNEUX. The tactics adopted were, however, somewhat different, as the tanks were employed with the front waves instead of following the Infantry into action. The morning of the 27th May was misty, and the tanks appeared close to our front line, either immediately preceding or among the leading Infantry wave. The only evidence received as yet shows that tanks were used near la VILLE-AUX-BOIS and in the valley of the MIETTE.

ENEMY DEFENCES. ANCRE Bridges. Air photographs of 2nd June show two new traffic routes across the ANCRE between ALBERT and DERNANCOURT. There are two new bridges (across two branches of the stream) in E.10.c. with a track leading from the ALBERT - MEAULTE Road, and continuing across the marsh (Air photos. 35.AE.B.1218, 1219). This route is probably to replace the route in E.16.a. which has become unusable owing to our harassing fire. In addition the VIVIER Mill bridge and road N.W. of MEAULTE have been repaired (Air. photos. 35.AE.B.1218, 1221). There is also a new bridge between MEAULTE and DERNANCOURT in E.22.a. with a track from MEAULTE Road (Air photos. 35.AE.B.1210, 1211).

This work is probably connected with the enemy's recent difficulties in supplying his front line W. of the river.

Page 3. follows.

63
APPENDIX 10 66

63

- 3 -

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (Continued).

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

108th Division.

97th I.R. - U.5.b., S. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - 2/3 June. Prisnr.
265th R.I.R. J.30.b. M. of SAILLY-LAURETTE. - 2/3 June. Prisnr.

All three regiments of this division have now been identified since they relieved the Jaeger Division in the WARFUSEE Sector.

It appears that the 2nd Bn. of the 265th R.I.R. was brought up from South of the SOMME to relieve the 1st Bn. of the 107th R.I.R. (24th Res. Div.), which had suffered very heavily. This relief took place on the night 1/2nd June. The remaining two battalions of the 265th R.I.R. are in their normal sector east of VILLERS - BRETONNEUX.

SITUATION.

AISNE Battle Front. French report Heavy hostile attacks between MARNE and OISE Rivers repulsed yesterday. Line now runs FAVEROLLES (French) - N.W. LONGPONT - E. DOMMIERS - Ridge E. of PERNANT - LEPORT - AUTRECHES.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.I/888.

Headquarters,
4th June, 1918.

Aust. Corps.

RE PROPOSED ATTACK EAST OF RIGHT BRIGADE FRONT.

1. It is proposed that the 7th A.I.Bde. attack and capture the enemy's trench system and consolidate on the following objective :-

High ground from road junction at K.25.c.00.50 - thence north-easterly on eastern side of road and through K.19.d.30.00 - K.19.b.80.40 - cross roads at K.13.d.70.20 to the angle of our present front line trench at K.13.b.20.75; a front of approximately 3,000 yards.

2. The objects are :-

- (i) To deny observation over the ground to the west.
- (ii) To obtain better observation over the ground to the south-east and east.
- (iii) To kill and capture enemy troops and obtain identifications.

3. The troops available for the task are as follows :-

7th A.I.Bde. (one battalion in reserve).
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
3 Machine-gun companies.
7th Field Coy, A.E.
6 Bdes. Field Artillery.
Heavy Artillery of the Sector.

In addition a battalion of the Reserve Brigade will be held in readiness to take the place of 7th A.I.Bde. reserve battalion if the latter is used.

4. The configuration of the ground gives the enemy an excellent field of fire for machine guns from the position it is intended to capture, and it is reasonable to assume, therefore, that he holds his line strongly with machine guns, and possibly relatively weak with infantry. The Field Artillery barrage needs to be arranged accordingly.

5. It is intended that concurrently with this operation an artillery barrage should be put down on the front of the Left Brigade under cover of which one or more enemy posts may be raided and identifications secured. It is also desired that the Divisions on right and left might be asked to co-operate by putting down a barrage on part of their respective fronts, thus assisting to confuse the enemy as to the actual point of attack and possibly giving us valuable information as to location and density of his S.O.S. barrage.

To ensure this end it will be necessary for the two Field Artillery Brigades normally covering the Left Brigade front to remain so disposed, thus reducing the Divisional resources in Field Artillery to four Brigades for the actual attack.

It is considered desirable in order to reduce our casualties from machine gun fire to a minimum that three extra Field Artillery Brigades should be allotted to the Division for the operation, thus providing in all seven Brigades to cover the actual attack, totalling 126 18-pdr. guns for barrage purposes. This works out to approximately

Ward
28B

5.(ctd.)

25 yards per gun.

The G.O.C.R.A. has been interviewed concerning the extra Brigades required.

6. It is proposed to use three battalions for the assault (advancing in two waves), the fourth battalion being in support. This will give roughly one man to two yards of front, - a little thin perhaps, but with good artillery, trench mortar and machine gun co-operation, and taking all the factors into consideration, it should suffice.

7. The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will dig C.T's. up to new line immediately the objective is taken.

8. It is intended that attack shall take place as soon as possible after dusk.

This will ensure ample time for the new line to be consolidated before dawn.

Charles Brentnall

Major-General.
Commanding Second Australian Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. No 145.

From 3 p.m. 4th to 3 p.m. 5th June 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Throughout the day parties of the enemy in E.28.a and c., and K.8.d. and K.10.c., were dispersed. 4.5" Hovs. and 18 pdrs. engaged an enemy O.P. at E.27.c.9.5. Concentrations on activity areas were put down between 11.30 p.m. and midnight, and from 1.45 a.m. to 2.15. a.m. Roads, embankments, dugouts and trenches were harassed throughout the night. At 3 a.m. in response to an S.O.S. rocket batteries opened on S.O.S. lines. Before the S.O.S. period had been completed, information was received that the barrage was not required on the Left Bde. front, and the Left Group ceased fire. The Right Group continued to fire and answered a further S.O.S. rocket at 3.20 a.m. Fire on S.O.S. lines ceased at 3.35 a.m.

(b) Trench Mortars. 75 rounds 6" Newton T.M. were fired on the Left sector, the following targets being engaged:- Working parties in bank at K.2.c.60.45 and at E.26.c.50.15; Quarry at E.26.c.90.00 and Cross Roads at E.26.c.70.15.; M.V. positions at K.2.a.20.30. K.2.a.20.70., and K.2.a.25.50.; A working party which is heard nightly at K.2.a.75.75. and E.2.a.80.50. was also fired on. On the Right Sector 33 rounds were expended on the following targets :- M.V. at K.20.c.20.60. and K.8.c.2.4., and at 3 a.m. 15 rounds on S.O.S. lines.

216 rounds were fired by Right Sector L.T.Ms during the enemy raid. Left Sector L.T.Ms fired 97 rounds: 77 rounds on M.G. positions at E.20.a.15.10. and E.20.c.45.50., and 20 rounds on Sunken Road at K.2.a & c. 20 rounds were fired from the captured M.V. into the road in K.2.a & c.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period :- K.14.a.central. M.V. position, 1500 rds.; K.8.c.20.45. M.G. position and enemy activity area, 1500 rds.; K.19.d.2.8. M.G. emplacement, 1000 rds.; K.19.d. roads and tracks, 1500 rds.; E.21.c.25.90. roads, 1000 rds.; E.20.d.40.40. roads, 1000 rds.; E.20.b.35.45. roads, 1000 rds.; K.3.c.4.8. branch roads, 1000 rds.; K.2.b.58.02. branch roads, 1000 rds.; K.8.d.7.3. Cross Roads, 1000 rds.

In response to S.O.S. signal, our guns in Right Bde. Sector opened fire on S.O.S. lines. This fire continued until the situation became quiet. Three M.Gs in the front line fired at close range on the enemy raiding party.

250 rounds were fired at enemy aircraft during the period.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the day.

(e) Infantry. A Coy. of our Right Bde. successfully repulsed an enemy raid on our trenches in K.13.a. early this morning.

(f) Patrols. The front was actively patrolled. Patrols were fired on by M.Gs from K.7d.6.9. and K.2.a.0.2. where the enemy was busy digging and wiring. Standing posts report movement at E.19.d.7.8. Enemy parties were at work from dusk until return of patrols, wiring and digging along his front line from K.13.d.1.4. to K.13.d.2.9. Information gained as to works is given under "Defences".

(g) Snipers. 4 hits are claimed on the Right Sector, and 4 on the Left.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. I. II and III Battalions of 27th R.I.R., 54th Div. (Prisoners captured 5th June.)

P.T.O.

War Diary

JMB

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Normal until 2.40 am, when an intense bombardment was opened on our front line in the Right Bde. sector, and Right Coy. of the Left Bde. After 10 minutes this lifted to Support lines. HEILLY, Cross Roads in J.12.a, to Gully in J.5.d., the edge of MARETT WOOD and the MERICOURT-BONNAY Road as far as the Cross Roads in J.13.b. were also shelled, some gas being used. Shelling became normal at 3.45 a.m.

During the afternoon and evening, the enemy shelled scattered areas with light calibre guns. Between 6.15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Time H.E. at regular intervals of 5 minutes burst high over J.3.a. At 1.35 a.m., 12 rounds 7.7 cm gas shell (unidentified) fell near road junction in J.3.a. At 8.45 p.m. 4 rounds Yellow Cross gas shell were fired on D.23.a., and at 10.25 p.m. 20 rounds gas shell (unidentified) on same area. From 2.55 a.m. to 3.10 a.m. gas shell also fell in D.27.d.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Quiet on the 4th inst. At 2.40 a.m. 5th inst., under cover of an intense bombardment on our front line, which lifted to supports after 10/15 minutes, an enemy force estimated at 5 officers and 280 other ranks, with 12 Light M.Gs, attempted to raid our front and support lines in K.13.a. With the exception of a few of the enemy who penetrated to our support line and were subsequently killed, the attempt was completely unsuccessful. None of our men are missing; our casualties were light.

Prisoners number 8 unwounded and 13 wounded, of whom 2 have since died. 3 M.Gs are in our hands. The number of enemy dead is estimated at 60.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Guns. A 77 mm gun has been located at K.7.b.9.9. in the enemy outpost line, apparently an Anti-Tank Gun which was not able to be withdrawn during our operations of the 19th May. This gun can be distinctly seen from K.7.d.0.8. The artillery has been notified.

(b) Posts. Enemy posts have been observed at K.7.d.9.5. and K.7.d.9.7., there being a continuous wired trench here. The enemy was seen observing from this point during the afternoon of 4th inst. A L.P. has been located at E.26.c.2.5.

(c) Wire. A belt of concertina wire approx. 15 yards wide at K.13.d.02.30. running about 50 yards towards the road. At K.19.b.2.9. enemy wire has been torn by artillery fire. North of this point there is no wire for about 40 yards. Between K.19.a.8.5. and K.19.a.90.60. enemy wire is thin. South of the latter point is a gap of 50 yards. A belt of concertina wire runs the whole length of the front opposite the Right Coy. of the Division, about 250 yds. from our line. Behind this wire are listening posts; digging parties have also been heard.

(d) Trench Mortars. Trench Mortars were largely used in the bombardment for the enemy raid. Some of these apparently had not registered, and caused casualties amongst the enemy (P.S.)

Medium M.Ws were located at K.8.d.0.9. and K.8.b.1.2. A Light M.W. was active at K.19.d.50.95.

(e) Machine Guns. After midnight M.Gs were active at K.19.b.5.7. K.19.b.1.8., K.19.c.55.45., K.19.c.55.15., K.19.c.7.7.

(f) Flares. At 3.45 a.m., after a red cluster, followed by a single red had been fired, the enemy barrage ceased.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

A red 'plane, with vertical black and white stripes, flew over our lines at 5 p.m. At 10.30 p.m. 4 'planes dropped 10 bombs in J.22.d. A hostile propaganda balloon fell in the vicinity of D.29. at 10 a.m.

63

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Movement was observed in K.15.b. at 2.15 p.m. on 4th June. The artillery opened fire, with what result is not known. Slight movement was observed at K.4.b.9.3., and on the line at K.4.a.2.0. Traffic was observed on the roads in F.29.c. and F.19.c. 5 men were seen to leave a suspected dugout in K.5.b.7.1. An engine drawing approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile of trucks loaded with something of a khaki colour came down the line in F.28.a. Smoke was seen from engines in F.26., F.27., F.24.b. (twice), L.3.b. Dust from traffic was noticed at 2.15 p.m. on 5th instant on the road in F.29.c. Continuous movement was observed on the roads to MORLANCOURT in K.9.d. and c. at 3.40 p.m. on the 5th instant. The Artillery was notified. A small WHITE flag was observed during the afternoon of the 5th at K.8.a.2.8.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility, good at short ranges.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE. 54th Div. N. to S. 84th I.R., 27th R.I.R., 90th R.I.R. (Prisoner's statement).

Dispositions. One prisoner of the I Bn. stated that all 3 Bns. of the 27th R.I.R. were in line. From statements of prisoners of III Bn., however, it appears that this unit was in reserve in TAILLEE WOOD, and besides furnishing a quota for the raiding party, moved forward two Coys. in support, to remain until the raid was over. The I and II Bns. apparently had two Coys. in line and two in support. The raiding party consisted of approx. 24 apparently picked men from every Coy. in the Regt. The general opinion was that there were 12 to 15 L.M.Gs. with the raiding party. (P.S.).

Method of attack. The raiding party was to enter our lines to a depth of several hundred yards, and obtain identifications. A flanking party was detailed to turn the left flank of the posts attacked. (Doc)

This party apparently did not carry out this task. A wave lying close to our line in the crops in order to surprise our men when the fire lifted suffered considerable casualties from its own barrage.

Enemy intentions. Prisoners' opinions varied, but the majority questioned agreed that an offensive attitude would be maintained on the SOMME front to prevent us from moving our reserves to the AISNE. A minority appeared to believe that a large number of the SOMME reserves would move to the AISNE, and that the raid was intended to ascertain our strength on this front before moving any divisions. The first statement appears the more probable, but both are unconfirmed. A well educated and intelligent Corporal stated that he was certain that an offensive would eventually take place on this front. A large number of the prisoners stated that general disappointment was felt at the offensive on the AISNE front, as a break through had not been effected, and the casualties were reported to be appalling.

Reliefs. A relief is expected to-night, some stating that it is to be an inter-battalion relief, others that it is a divisional relief. The movement reported this afternoon in the neighbourhood of MORLANCOURT would appear to confirm this. The 54th Div. has been in line since the 21st May. (P.S. and Doc)

Units seen. The 444th I.R. was reported in rear of BRAY, and it is rumoured that the Div. (231st) to which this Regt. belongs was to relieve the 54th Div. (P.S.). As this Div. was last reported on the MARNE, the statement is to be received with caution.

Coy. Strengths. Throughout the 27th R.I.R. appear to average 2 Officers and 100 O.R.

Tanks. British tanks are reported to be in TAILLEE WOOD. Regimental H.Q. and the Reserve Bn. of the centre Regt. of the Div. are also reported here.

M. S. Hemmings
Lieut-Colonel,
for General Staff,
Second Australian Division.
P.T.O.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 168).THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT.

Between SOISSONS and CHATEAU THIEPRY, the fighting continued without any important modifications in the line. The enemy made slight progress in the Eastern outskirts of VILLERS-COTTERETS forest.

Forty-one divisions, of which 9 were fresh, and 32 were previously engaged on the SOMME front, have been identified. One fresh division from Prince RUPPRECHT'S Group of Armies (making 2 in all), has now been identified on the battle front.

ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE TACTICS.

A prisoner states that, on the 30th May, the 77th Pursuit Flight received orders to detail as many machines as possible to escort a Rumpler two-seater on a strategical reconnaissance north of the SOMME, and 20-km. behind the lines; 7 machines were told off. The orders in question mentioned that this reconnaissance was extremely important, and that the co-operation of scouts was required, in view of the fact that single machines had found it exceedingly difficult to penetrate the British line patrols.

GERMAN ARTILLERY METHODS.

South of MONTDIDIER, the enemy appears to have adopted on several occasions new methods of registration and subsequent fire for effect.

(a) If registration is by high air bursts, the previous method of firing 10 or 12 rounds at short and regular intervals on the line of the target (above and slightly short of it) has been replaced by $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 hour's fire, comprising high and low air-bursts and bursts on graze. During this series, 12 to 15 high air-bursts occur at regular intervals; these constitute the real registration. A second and similar series is often fired to avert suspicion.

Usually an hour or two elapses before the enemy passes to fire for effect. This consists of either:-

- (i) Two shoots, each of about 200 rounds, with several hours' interval between them, or
- (ii) Four or five concentrations of about 15 minutes' duration, at intervals of 45 to 75 mins. each of 60 to 100 rounds.

(b) If aerial registration is employed, fire for effect rarely follows close upon registration. The usual interval is one hour. Fire for effect is then carried out by one of the two methods stated above. In exceptional cases, it is controlled by aeroplane.

EFFECT OF BRITISH GAS OPERATIONS.

(a) A prisoner of the 29th Res. Inf. Regt. (16th Res. Div.), captured on 25th May near SERRE, had the following entry in his diary:-

"12th March, 1918: 400 gas casualties in our Regt. Masks worn for over 2 hrs. English barrage accompanied by gas mines.

This probably refers to our projector attack south of MOEUVRES on the 12th March. The prisoner states that the majority of cases occurred in the 1st Bn., that none of the gas cases had re-appeared by 25th May, and that the strength of most of the Coys. in 1st Bn. was reduced to 30 men. The prisoner further states that they had had a considerable number of casualties from the effects of their YELLOW Cross gas blowing back over their lines. Most of these were eye cases.

(b) A prisoner of the 87th Res. Inf. Regt. (21st Res. Div.) states that, in the CAMBRAI sector about the middle of March, 1918, his Regt. suffered 300⁹⁴⁸ casualties, including a percentage of dead, and that only one man had returned from hospital.

These casualties were probably caused by our projector attacks south of MOEUVRES on the 12th and 17th March.

63

- 5 -

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (Continued).General.

The situation is unchanged. The enemy have apparently received orders to raid our lines, as after a very inactive period they have attempted to carry out two raids during the last five days. They apparently wish to create the impression of activity and to ascertain from prisoners whether reinforcements from this front have been sent Southwards. It is probable that raiding activities will continue.

=====

be - Total prisoners captured by 1st Aust. Division now reported to

5 Officers. - 253 Other Ranks.

APPENDIX.

/ 2.

73

Ref. Map

62D.

1/40,000.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 6th June 1918.

<u>DIVISIONAL.H.Q.</u>	-	St GRATIEN.	Chateau.	B.27.central.
<u>2nd Aust.Div.Art.H.Q.</u>	-	St GRATIEN.	Maire.	
6th Army Bde.A.F.A.	-	J.1.c.80.65.	}	Left Group.
4th A.F.A.Bde.	-	D.13.d.55.75.		
3rd Army Bde.A.F.A.	-	J.1.a.3.9.	}	Right Group.
96th Army Bde.R.F.A.	-	J.1.c.5.1.		
5th A.F.A.Bde.	-	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.5.4.	HEILLY.	
<u>5th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q.</u>	-	FRECHENCOURT.	Chateau.	<u>Support Bde.</u>
17th Battalion.	-	C.29.d.3.7.		
18th do	-	I.10.c.8.8.		
19th do	-	I.4.a.4.2.		
20th do	-	J.13.c.4.9.		
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	C.26.d.3.6.		
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 Chat.)
6A.Nucleus Bn.	-	BERTEAUCOURT-les-Dames.	(LENS Sheet B.6.)	
Transport Lines.	-	C.22.c.		
<u>7th Aust.Inf.Bde.H.Q.</u>	-	J.1.c.30.15.	HEILLY.	<u>Line Right Sector.</u>
25th Battalion.	-	J.16.b.6.9.		Support.
26th do	-	J.21.c.4.5.		Reserve.
27th do	-	J.22.d.2.4.		Line Right.
28th do	-	J.17.b.3.3.		Line Left.
7th A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	J.22.d.00.55.		Line.
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.27.a.3.2.	Reserve.	} Rear of 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.d.9.7.		
6th do	-	J.7.b.2.6.	-	Transport Lines.C.28.d.9.6.
7th do	-	I.5.a.2.2.		
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.	-	A.D.S.
7th do	-	G.30.a.6.1.	Ft CAMON.D.C.S.	
C.C.S.	-	VIGNACOURT.		
No.1 Aust.Sanitary Sec.	-	St GRATIEN.	B.27.c.4.8.	

P.T.O.

War Diary

203

-2-

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.	
<u>Divisional Troops.</u>			
Paymaster.	-	St GRATIEN.	
D.A.D.V.S.	-	do	
A.P.M.	-	do	
D.Gas Officer.	-	do	Chateau.
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-Mais.
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.	
<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.	-	PODLAINVILLE.	

J. L. M. Lae
Capt
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
5th June 1918.

TO BE DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF A LATER ISSUE.

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

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

Copy No.

G.32/661.

Headquarters,
5th June, 1918.INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 32.

1. Instrns. for the Def. No. 26 and Amends. thereto are cancelled.
The personnel of the 2nd Aust. Tunnelling Coy. and of "C" Coy., 6th Regt., U.S. Engineers, at present guarding the bridges and road mines set out in Tables "A" and "B" attached hereto, will be relieved by the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion under the orders of the C.R.E.
The relief will be completed by 4 p.m., 5th June, at which hour responsibility for actual demolition will pass to the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
2. Attached Tables "A" and "B" show places at which preparations have been made for demolition of roads and bridges in the divisional area, also the units responsible for actual demolition and for orders for demolition.
These tables will be substituted for Appendices IV (a) and (b) of "C" Division Defence Scheme.
3. Certain bridges (marked 'T' in Table "B") will carry tanks. The tanks, which will normally be amongst the last to cross these bridges, have orders to cover, firstly from the Eastern bank, and then from the Western bank, both the actual process of the demolition of the bridges and the withdrawal of the bridge-head defending troops.
Orders have been issued for a Tank Officer to be posted at each bridge-head to control the withdrawal of tanks and advise demolition parties.
4. In all cases units in charge of demolitions will be given definite written instructions as to their duties.
5. Officers in charge of bridge demolition parties will get into touch with Infantry Brigades and arrange that officers commanding rear guards will inform bridge-head parties when the rear guards are clear of bridges.
6. The G.R.A. will inform the C.R.E. of the number of guns ^{it is proposed} to bring over each bridge, advising him from time to time of any change in numbers owing to a re-distribution of Artillery. Artillery Officers will be made responsible for informing bridge guards when their guns are being withdrawn.
7. Brigadiers of the Right and Left Brigades are responsible for issuing the actual instructions for ^{the} carrying out of the demolitions in their brigade sectors to the officers of units in charge of demolitions in accordance with Tables "A" and "B," at the same time advising D.H.Q. of the issue of such instructions.
8. Units in charge of demolitions will carry out the actual demolition when orders are received from the brigade responsible.
Failing receipt of definite information or orders, and on the close approach of the enemy, officers and N.C.O's. in charge of demolitions will give the orders for actual demolition at their own discretion.
9. Necessary amendments in accordance with above instructions will be made to "C" Division, Defence Scheme.
10. Acknowledge.

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

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 Aust. Inf. Bde.
6. 7th Aust. Inf. Bde.
7. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
8. 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
9. A.Q.
10. A.D.M.S.
11. Aust. Corps.
12. 47th Division.
13. 3rd Aust. Div.
14. 4th Aust. Div.
15. 5th Aust. Div.
16. 3rd Cavalry Div.
17. 5th Bde. Tank Corps.
18. 2nd Tank Bn.
19. 3rd Squad., A.F.C.
20. Aust. Corps H.A.
- 21/22. File.
- 23/25. War Diary.
- 26/30. Spare.

1. In all cases units in charge of demolition will be given details written instructions as to their duties.

2. Officers in charge of bridge demolition parties will get into touch with Infantry Brigades and arrange that officers commanding rear guards will inform bridge-head parties when the rear guards are clear of bridges.

3. The G.R.A. will inform the G.R.E. of the number of guns to bring over each bridge, advising him from time to time of any change in numbers owing to a re-distribution of Artillery. Artillery Officers will be made responsible for informing bridge guards when their guns are being withdrawn.

4. Brigadiers of the Right and Left Brigades are responsible for issuing the actual instructions for carrying out of the demolition in their brigade sectors to the officers of units in charge of demolition in accordance with Tables "A" and "B" at the same time advising D.R.G. of the issue of such instructions.

5. Units in charge of demolition will carry out the actual demolition when orders are received from the brigade responsible. Following receipt of definite information on orders, and on the close approach of the enemy, officers and N.C.O.s in charge of demolition will give the orders for actual demolition at their own discretion.

6. Necessary amendments in accordance with above instructions will be made to "C" Division, Defence Scheme.

for Acknowledgment.

TABLE "A" - ROAD CRATERS.

Serial No.	Location.	R e s p o n s i b i l i t y f o r	
		Actual Demolition.	Orders for Demolition.
L.	I. 2.d.7.3.	2nd A. Pioneer En.	Right Brigade.
M.	I. 3.c.5.0.	do.	do.
N.	O.28.d.9.0.	do.	Left Brigade.
O.	C.29.a.7.9.	do.	do.
P.	C.29.d.7.8.	do.	do.
C.	H. 6.a.7.4.	Reserve Division.	Reserve Division.
D.	H.12.c.5.2.	do.	do.
E.	H.18.c.3.3.	do.	do.
XH.	I. 7.b.6.5.	do.	do.

63

TABLE "B." (Continued).

Location.	Name.	Description.	To Carry.	Responsibility for	
				Actual. Demolition.	Orders for Demolition.
BONNAY GROUP.					
I.23.c.	BONNAY 3, 4, 5 & 6.	Track over river (new). 4 small timber bridges and track.	F.A.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	Right Bde.
I.23.d.6.6.	BONNAY 7.	Road over railway (existing) brick and masonry arch.	T.	do.	do.
I.23.b.6.4.	BONNAY 8.	Road over river (existing) reinforced concrete bridge 4 girders 12" x 12".	T.	do.	do.
I.23.b.3.7.	BONNAY 9.	Road over stream (existing) 2 small masonry arches with central pier 15' roadway.	T.	do.	do.
I.18.c.	BONNAY 10,11, 12, 13 & 14.	Track over river (new) 5 small timber bridges and track.	F.A.	do.	do.
QUERRIEU GROUP.					
H.23.b.2.2.	QUERRIEU 1.)	Track over stream 30' span with centre trestles and two small bridges.	F.A.	Reserve Division.	
H.23.b.1.2.	" 2.)				
H.23.a.8.2.	" 3.)				
H.17.d.0.6.	QUERRIEU 4.	Track over river. 8' span brick work in bad condition.	F.A.	do.	
H.17.b.0.1.	QUERRIEU 5.	Road over river 21' span Masonry arch bridge.	T.	do.	
H.17.b.3.7.	" 6.	Road over river. 21' 6" span heavy bridge.	T.	do.	
H.17.b.5.9.	" 7.	Road over river. 21' 6" span heavy bridge.	T.	do.	
H.11.b.7.2.	" 9.	Track over river. Small timber bridge rebuilt.	F.A.	do.	
H. 5.d.8.4.	" 10.	Track over river. 50' span by 8'6" wide, with centre trestle.	F.A.	do.	
H.23.a.7.0.	" 11.	Track over river 30' span with centre trestle.	F.A.	do.	
H.11.b.5.0.	" 12.	Track over river.	F.A.	do.	
H.23.a.8.2.	" 13.	Querrieu avoiding road S.	X.T.	do.	
FRECHENCOURT GROUP.					
B.30.a.0.2.	FRECHENCOURT 1.	Track over river. Timber Bge. with centre trestle.	F.A.	do.	
B.30.a.8.7.	" 2.	Road over river brick arch 9' span.	X.T.	do.	
B.30.a.9.7.	" 3.	Small girder bridge.	X.T.	do.	
B.24.c.5.9.	FRECHENCOURT 4, 5 and 6.	Track over river 30' span with centre trestle 2 small bridges.	F.A.	do.	

TABLE "B."

BRIDGES PREPARED OR TO BE PREPARED FOR DEMOLITION.

The following conventional terms have been used:- T = Tanks; XT = All traffic except Tanks.
F.A. = Field Artillery; I.F. = Infantry in file.

Location.	Name.	Description.	To Carry.	Responsibility for	
				Actual Demolition.	Orders for Demolition.
<u>TREUX GROUP.</u>					
J.5.b.5.9.	TREUX 2.	Road over river (existing) Masonry arch bridge 15" ring, 15' span.	-	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.	Left Brigade.
D.29.d.5.0.	TREUX 3.	Road over stream (existing) 6 "I" beams 9" x 4".	-	do.	do.
<u>MERICOURT GROUP.</u>					
J.4.b.9.3.	MERICOURT 1.	Railway over river (existing).	-	do.	do.
J.4.c.7.9.	" 2.	Road over river (existing) steel girder bridge 18' span by 18 feet wide.	T.	do.	do.
J.4.a.4.2.	" 3.	Road over stream (existing) brick arch bridge 8' span, 20' wide arch ring 12".	T.	do.	do.
J.3.c.9.7.	" 4.	Road over river (existing) brick arch 20' span by 18' wide, 22" ring.	T.	do.	do.
<u>HEILLY GROUP.</u>					
J.2.c.5.1.	HEILLY 1.	Track over river (new) 2 small trestle bridges and track connecting MERICOURT and HEILLY.	F.A.	do.	Right Bde.
J.7.b.3.5.	" 2.	Road over river (existing) Masonry arch 8' span by 18' wide.	T.	do.	do.
J.7.b.2.7.	" 3.	Road over river (existing) 8' span steel and concrete 20' wide.	T.	do.	do.
J.7.central.	" 4.	Track over river (new) 2 small timber bridges and track.	F.A.	do.	do.

P. T. O.

REPORT ON ATTEMPTED ENEMY RAID ON 4TH/5TH JUNE, 1918.

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

1. DISPOSITIONS.

The dispositions of the 19th Battalion prior to the attack were -

2 Coys. in the line -

"D" Coy. - K.13.c.8.5. - K.13.b.2.7.

"A" Coy. - K.13.b.3.8. - K. 7.d.15.80.

1 Coy. -

"B" Coy. - in Support - K.13.a.5.5. - K.7.c.5.5.

1 Coy. - In Reserve.

"A" Coy., which bore the brunt of enemy attack, had 4 posts at K.13.b.3.8., K.7.d.2.0., K.7.d.05.40., K.7.d.1.8.

2. WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The weather was fine, night dark, with North wind blowing.

3. INFANTRY ACTION.

At 2.45 a.m. on the morning of the 5th instant, enemy opened up a heavy barrage fire on our front and support lines. Shelling consisted of 5.9's., 4.2's., 77's., and T.M's. - Gas, Phosphorous and H.E. mixed.

Attached sketch "B" shewing distribution of enemy fire. This barrage continued with great intensity until about 3 a.m., when it lifted to support area. Simultaneously the enemy, about 280 strong, attacked front line of the Left Coy. from K.13.b.25.80. to K.7.d.05.70., and entered our front line trench.

The enemy attacked in two parties, and points of entry were effected in our line at K.13.b.20.90., and between K.7.d.05.70. and K.7.d.00.50. The Southern party consisted of about 80, of which only 50 reached the trench. These were at once driven out by a bombing party organised by the Officer-in-charge of the immediate Right Post. About 20 of the enemy were killed by bombs and rifle fire, and 4 prisoners and 2 M.G.'s. were captured by this party, the remainder of the enemy being forced to retire.

The second party, about 100 strong, on reaching our wire, became disorganised. A large number succeeded in getting through between our Left and Left Centre Posts, and made towards our support in a half-left direction. This action of the enemy was met with an attack by a party of 1 Officer and 15 O.R's. from the Left Centre Post, who formed a defensive flank and enfiladed the enemy with Lewis gun, rifle and bombs during his advance. At the same time a frontal attack by 1 Officer and 12 O.R's. was launched from the Support line. Both this party and the flanking party rushed the enemy at the same moment, and drove him back over our front line, inflicting heavy casualties, and capturing some prisoners and one M.G. These parties then proceeded to mop up the front line and deal with retreating enemy in No-man's-land.

War Diary
MB

By this time 2 platoons from the Left Support Coy. had moved up and occupied the close support line in K.7.c.

The leading troops on Left of enemy attack suffered a number of casualties from their own artillery short shooting and were considerably disorganised.

Attached Map "A", copy of map taken from captured N.C.O. shews direction and limits of enemy raid.

4. OUR ARTILLERY.

In response to the S.O.S. Signal, our artillery put down a barrage along battalion front. The barrage at first was heavier on the Right sector, but was soon uniform throughout. This would be accounted for by the fact that S.O.S. was first sent up from the Right. The barrage undoubtedly inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy when he was endeavouring to return to his own lines.

5. TRENCH MORTARS.

The phosphorous shells fired by the enemy on the Left of the battalion sector caused a smoke cloud which prevented the 6" NEWTON Mortars from observing the S.O.S. signal, and accordingly they were slow to open fire. Only 14 rounds were fired, this being towards the end of the operation. One 3" Stokes Mortar was put out of action by an enemy shell, the other only fired 12 rounds.

6. ENEMY ARTILLERY.

It was noticeable that the enemy during his barrage fire placed gas on the Right of the sector attacked and smoke on the Left - the direction of the wind being approximately direct North.

7. OUR CASUALTIES.

4 killed and 14 wounded (including 1 Officer killed and 1 Officer wounded).

8. ENEMY CASUALTIES.

At least 80 to 90 casualties were inflicted on the enemy between our wire and support line. During the morning enemy was observed dealing with wounded cases in K.15. and K.16., carrying stretchers along road. Bandaging was also being carried out in this vicinity, lasting practically the whole morning.

9. PRISONERS AND TROPHIES.

7 unwounded and 13 wounded prisoners were captured.
2 enemy machine guns were captured.

Enemy carried petrol tins containing explosives with fuse. Bombs containing liquid gas were also carried. Specimen of the latter has been sent to D.H.Q.

10. Two points of tactical importance were brought out during the enemy raid:-

(a) The great value and importance of having the continuous trench line. The enemy did not know the location of our posts and was unable to destroy them by artillery fire. This is also demonstrated by the slight casualties inflicted by enemy shell fire.

(b) The necessity for maintaining positions when a break through occurs and reinforcing or attacking from flanks.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

G.146.

From 3 p.m. 5th to 3 p.m., 6th June, 1918.NOTE. - Not to be taken into the front line trenches.1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Enemy roads, tracks, communications and centres of activity were kept under harassing fire during the day and night. Special concentrations were put down from 11.15 p.m. to 11.45 p.m., and from 2.15 a.m. to 2.45 a.m. At 4.15 p.m., 30 rounds were fired on movement at K.9.b.7.0., result was unobserved. At 4.30 p.m., suspected machine gun at K.2.b.40.65., and dug-out at E.28.8.3.1., received 36 rounds. At 3.30 a.m., movement in K.9.d. and K.10.c. was dispersed by fire from 18-pdrs.

(b) Trench Mortars.

Right Sector. 11.45 p.m., 10 rounds were fired on M.W. at K.20.c.2.8.

Left Sector. 3 a.m., 25 rounds were fired on tracks in K.7. and 7.7 cm. gun emplacement at K.7.b.90.90. 5 rounds on K.2.a.15.30. and 10 on machine gun position at E.26.a.45.55.

L.T.M's. fired 55 rounds, and 50 rounds were fired from captured M.W. on posts in K.2.a. and c.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.19.d., Track areas, 1,500 rds.; K.8.c.90.50., Medium T.M. position, 1,500 rds.; K.14.c.50. to K.20.b.30.85., Roads, Cross Roads and Tracks, 1,500 rds.; E.21.a.85.90., Cross Roads, 1,000 rds.; E.21.d.central, Tracks, 1,500 rds.; E.26.c.7.1., Tracks, 1,000 rds.; K.3.b.3.0., Tracks, 1,500 rds.; E.27.c., Railway Track, 1,000 rds.; E.21.c.25.90., Railway track, 1,000.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active reconnoitring and bombing.

(e) Infantry. At 1 a.m. a hostile patrol of about 20 approached our post at K.19.a.8.7., into which six egg bombs were thrown. Lewis gun and rifle fire immediately opened, forcing the enemy to withdraw, leaving a dead Corporal near the post.

(f) Patrols. Protective and liaison patrols were established. Patrols report enemy working at K.7.d.7.5. and K.7.d.9.5., E.25.b.9.0. and K.1.b.85.50. A fighting patrol encountered three enemy posts in the vicinity of E.26.a.1.6., who fired on them. Our patrol bombed the post, and it is believed that casualties were caused, though no identifications were secured.

(g) Sniping. Left sector snipers fired 17 shots and claim 5 hits.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 90th R.I.R., 54th Div. (N.C.O. killed on night June 5th/6th).

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Quiet. There was light scattered shelling of the forward area. 8 rounds gas (unidentified) fell in J.19.b.8.4. During the night 6 incendiary shells burst over RIBEMONT. H.V. guns were inactive.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. On the whole, quiet; with the exception of the patrol activity mentioned under "Operations". Artillery fire was below normal.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Posts. An O.P. is suspected at E.27.c.8.2.

(b) Trench Mortars. Quiet. At 10.50 p.m., 10 M.M.W. bombs were fired on K.15.c. from K.8.d.0.8.

(c) Machine Guns. Quiet. An M.G. was located at K.7.b.9.9. (Patrol).

P.T.O.

War Diary

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Active. Bombs were dropped during the night.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION.

Only slight individual movement was noticed during the period in K.8.a., K.10.a., K.3.a. and K.4.a. These targets were engaged by artillery, with what result is unknown. At 5.5 p.m. two men appeared to be mending a telephone wire in K.9.c.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility good.

Flares. In the centre of the sector WHITE flares were more frequent than usual. No action followed the fire of two GREEN flares at 12.15 p.m.

M. E. Denington
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 153).

ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. (27th R.I.R.). The M.G. Coy. has two guns in the line every night, the rest being in the sunken road (K.8.c.). During the day they rest in collars in MORLANCOURT. A.A. work is no longer permitted, owing to the waste of ammunition.

The resting battalion is in the wood in K.12.d. and K.18.b. near two old British tanks (much movement is visible on the last photos. in this wood). (P.S.).

ENEMY ARTILLERY. A 10.cm. H.V. gun battery is stationed in the wood in K.18.b. beside some old English huts. (P.S.).

HEADQUARTERS. (27th R.I.R.). Front Line Bn. H.Q. is apparently now at K.2.d.00.05. Regtl. Command Post, is a shallow dug-out just north of the Pioneer Dump at K.18.d.8.2.

BILLETS. (27th R.I.R.). Four mined dug-outs are being constructed in the sunken road in K.8.c. and d. They are 5 or 6 steps in depth and are visible on A.P.A.3.AEA.434. A detachment of the 107th Pioneer Bn., which is billeted in collars at MORLANCOURT, is constructing these, and works during the daytime.

STRENGTH AND CASUALTIES. (I/27th R.I.R.). The Coy. strengths average about 80. While in the ROSIERES Sector the Coys. suffered from 60 to 90 casualties, but they have since been replenished by drafts of 1919 Class. Between April 4th and 20th the Div. seems to have suffered severely in the ROSIERES Sector from bombing. In this sector personnel of the resting T.M. detachment were wounded and killed by bombs in the wood in K.12. and 18 about 12 days ago. Casualties have also been sustained in the front line from bombs. Stretcher cases and medical personnel have also been killed on the BRAY road en route for the dressing station on the W. outskirts of BRAY. On the way up to the line 12 days ago the 12 Coy. lost 28 men E. of BRAY from a direct hit. Since coming into this alleged "quiet" sector, the division has lost 400 men. (P.S.).

ROUTES. Reliefs proceed from the wood in K.12.d. W. over the open country in small parties crossing the road in K.10.c. and skirting the S. edge of MORLANCOURT. Rations are brought up about 10pm. from Horse lines, where the field kitchens are stationed in a ravine (K.20.b. and d.) just S. of BRAY. The kitchens themselves do not come up, the food being cooked in MORLANCOURT in cellars. The ration cart is met at about K.10.central by one group from the front line Coys. and one from the support Coys. The roads are used by light ammunition columns, the chief activity being between 9 and 10pm. (P.S.).

AISNE - MARNE SITUATION.

Hostile artillery activity at STLAURENT, BLANGY, VERMELLES and LOCRE sector. On MARNE - OISE front, enemy attacked FRENCH positions this morning about CORCY and East of CAISNES. Attacks repulsed except for slight progress North of CORCY, where counter-attack in progress.

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS OF 2ND AUST. DIVISION during MAY, 1918.

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

about

At the beginning of May the Division was holding a front from E.19.central (1,500 yards West of BERNANCOURT) to W.15.d.3.0. (N.W. of ALBERT) - a distance of about 6,000 yards in a direct line. The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde., 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. and 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. were all in the line in that order from North to South, each Brigade holding the front line with 2 battalions. D.H.Q. was situated at BEAUCOURT Chateau.

During nights of 30th April/1st May and 1st/2nd May, Brigades were relieved by 55th Inf. Bde. and 47th Division, and command of sector passed to G.O.C., 47th Division, at 10 a.m. on 2nd May. 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery remained in line under control of 47th Division.

On relief the Division passed into Corps Reserve, with Brigade Groups disposed as follows:-

5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group - MONTIGNY Area.
6th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group - QUERRIEU Area.
7th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group - CAMON - RIVERY Area.

D.H.Q. was established at the Chateau, BERTANGLES.

On 2nd May, 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. and 5th Aust. Field Coy., were placed at disposal of 47th Division.

On 5th May, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group, less 18th Battalion, and 5th Aust. Field Coy. moved to ALLONVILLE - GARDONNETTE Area, and at 4 p.m., D.H.Q. moved from BERTANGLES to ALLONVILLE.

On 6th May, 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy. rejoined 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion at QUERRIEU, and 18th Battalion and 5th Aust. Field Coy. rejoined 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group.

Resting, bathing and a certain amount of training was conducted during this period, and as much musketry as possible on 30 yards ranges carried out. All Officers and Brigade Staffs reconnoitred the areas which they might be called on to operate over as Reserve Division of the Corps.

On night 6th/7th May, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery was withdrawn from line and passed into G.H.Q. Reserve, being situated in HALLUE Valley with D.A.H.Q. at QUERRIEU Chateau.

The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. on night 9th/10th May, and 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. the 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. on night 10th/11th May, in line between the Rivers SOMME and ANCRE, command of "C" Divisional Sector, Australian Corps, passing to G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Division, at 10 a.m. on 11th May.

D.H.Q. was established at the Chateau, ST. GRATIEN.

The front taken over extended from E.19.c.0.0. on the Right (2,000 yards North of SAILLY LAURETTE) to E.19.b.5.0. on the Left - a distance of 5,500 yards as the crow flies. On the Right, it comprised the high ridge between the two rivers along the crest of which runs the CORBIE - BRAY Road. The line then ran East of MARETT WOOD and crossed the low timbered valley of

War Diary

the ANCRE between TREUX and VILLE-sur-ANCRE, extending on the Left, East of the old British C.G.S., to the higher ground of the ridge North-east of BUIRE.

On the Right Brigade front, the ground had only been freshly won from the enemy by the previous Division, and, consequently, was unorganised. All energy was devoted to connecting up the outpost line by a continuous trench. Wiring and the construction of a Support line and communications were also pushed on with. As stated above, the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. held the Right Sub-sector, and the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. the Left Sub-sector, both Brigade H.Q. being at HEILLY. The 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. was in Reserve with one battalion on the Northern slope of the ridge between the rivers, and three battalions in the trench systems about LA HOUSSEYE. Each line Brigade had two battalions in the front line, one in Support and one in Reserve.

On 12th May, C.R.A., 2nd Aust. Division, assumed command of the Artillery in the Divisional Sector, and on 14th May, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery moved into line. The Artillery covering the front consisted of six F.A. Brigades. Each Brigade Sub-sector was covered by one group of two F.A. Brigades - one F.A. Brigade was superimposed over whole front and one F.A. Brigade was held in Mobile Reserve.

The enemy attitude had generally been unaggressive, with the exception of an effort to obtain a local tactical advantage on the morning of the 14th May, which was completely unsuccessful, and yielded us 52 prisoners and one machine gun. A report on this enterprise was forwarded to Aust. Corps under cover of this office G.2/9 of the 15th May, 1918.

On the morning of the 18th May, the 18th Battalion carried out an audacious daylight raid on an enemy post in K.7.c., capturing one Aspirant Officer, 22 Other Ranks and one machine gun. A report on this enterprise was forwarded to Aust. Corps under cover of this office G.3/182 of 19th May, 1918.

On the 19th May, 5th and 6th Aust. Inf. Brigades carried out an operation, which resulted in the advance of the Northern portion of our line and the capture of the village of VILLE-sur-ANCRE, together with 9 Officers, 323 Other Ranks, 42 machine guns, one Lewis gun and two M.W's. A report on the operation was forwarded to Aust. Corps under cover of this office G.3/188 of the 1st June, 1918.

By the above operations and active patrolling, constant touch was maintained with the enemy. On several occasions severe gas shell bombardments were put down on BUIRE, MERICOURT, RIBEMONT, the ANCRE Valley, MANETT WOOD and vicinity. Hostile bombing of back areas has been a nightly proceeding while the moon was bright.

On the night 20th/21st May, 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. in Left Brigade Sub-sector.

During the month of May the Division captured the following prisoners and war material:-

9 Officers.	44 Machine Guns.	2 Horses.	1 E.A.
2 Aspirant Off.	1 Lewis Gun.		
402 Other Ranks.	2 M.W.		

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.O.O. on the right to E.19.b.S.O. 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) MARRETT 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 ROUSSEY plateau, dropping down on the West into the HALLUE valley. On it stand several woods of quite considerable size. From the ANCRE valley at BRILLY 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 MARRETT 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.

MARRETT 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 BONNAY, a bridge-head line had been constructed across high ground in front of the brickworks South of the ANCRE.

DEFENSIVE WORKS POLICY AND CONSTRUCTION.

The first and most important task was the connecting up of the posts of the outpost line and the wiring of this line, and all 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, 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, HARETT 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.	1 M.G.	1st, 2nd, 4th Cos. 31 I.R., 18 Div.	5th A.I.Bde.
	3 O.R's.	-	6th Coy. 114 I.R. 199 Div.	
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.

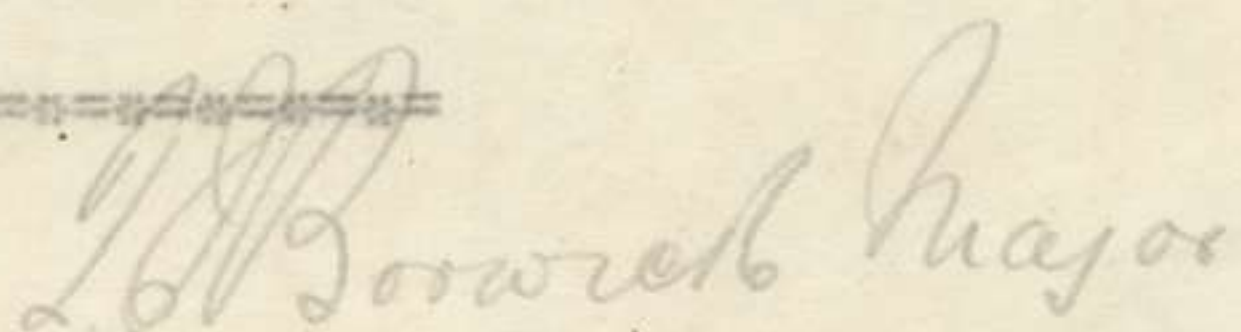
- 4 -

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.	42 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.	-	8th 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 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.



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

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.185.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 7th June 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report. (G.173.)

25th Battalion. - J.16.b.6.9. Line Centre.

7th A.M.G. Coy. - J.10.c.8.3. Line Right.

22nd do - D.27.a.3.5. Support.

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
6:6:18.

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

Ward

APPENDIX.

19.91

App. 20

SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.194.

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 8th June 1918.

The following further changes are notified to the last report. (G.173.)

21st Battalion.	-	J.9.b.80.15.	Support Right.
22nd do	-	J.11.a.5.9.	Line Right.
5th Field Coy.A.E.	-	I.5.a.2.2.	- Transport Lines.O.27.b.cent.
6th do	-	J.7.b.2.6.	- do I.5.d.9.7.
7th do	-	I.5.d.9.7.	- do O.28.d.8.3.

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

2nd Aust.D.H.Q.
7th June 1918.

War Diary

MB

APPENDIX. 2092

Ref. Map - Sheet 82D. N.E. - 1/20,000.

Headquarters,
7th June, 1918.

1. INTENTION.

On a date and at an hour to be notified, an attack will be carried out by the 7th Aust. Inf. Brigade with the object of improving our position between SAILLY - LAURETTE and MORLANCOURT.

2. OBJECTIVE.

The objective will be the approximate line:-

Road junction K.25.c.0.5. (inclusive) -
K.19.d.4.6. - K.13.d.65.20. - K.13.b.2.8.

3. FLANK CO-OPERATION.

(a) In conjunction with this operation, the 4th Aust. Division is pushing forward its Left flank to join up with the Right of our new front.

(b) The 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade will carry out two raids:-

(i) Enemy's post at K.1.d.9.2. This will be supported by the Left Group Artillery.

(ii) Enemy's trench at E.19.b.7.1. This will be supported by the Right Group Artillery of the 47th Div. under arrangements to be made direct by the G.O.C., 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

(c) The 47th Division on our Left is carrying out a minor enterprise.

(d) The 3rd Australian Division is arranging a diversion at zero hour, which will include a creeping barrage against a selected portion of the enemy's position opposite their front.

4. FIELD ARTILLERY.

The attack of the 7th Aust. Inf. Brigade will be supported by a creeping barrage from seven F.A. Brigades.
Barrage map will follow.

5. HEAVY ARTILLERY.

Counter battery work from zero onwards.
Bombardment of selected targets.

6. MEDIUM TRENCH MORTARS.

Eight Mortars will co-operate by firing on enemy's wire and selected targets.

7. MACHINE GUNS.

Six machine guns of the 7th Coy. will go forward with the attack.

The remaining available guns of all four companies will provide barrages as arranged by the Machine Gun Battalion Commander.

P.T.O.

8. RESERVES.

The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. will place one battalion at the disposal of the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. This battalion will be moved into a position of reserve to be selected by the G.O.C., 7th Aust. Inf. Bde., under arrangements to be made between the Brigadiers concerned.

The battalion in J.13. will be held ready to move at 15 minutes notice after zero hour.

9. COMMUNICATION TRENCHES.

The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion will supply necessary parties required by the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. for digging communication trenches back to our original front line immediately the objective is taken.

10. CONTACT PATROL.

A contact patrol will be over the line at 4.15 a.m. following zero hour.

Flares will be lighted and rifles laid out on the trench when called for by Klaxon horn.

11. PRISONERS OF WAR.

The Divisional Intelligence Officer will be at 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. Advanced Headquarters, J.22.d.2.4., where he will carry out a preliminary examination of prisoners.

The O.C., Troop, 13th A.L.H., will place up to 12 mounted men at the disposal of the A.P.M. for escort duties.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

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

Issued at 8 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. to.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | G.O.C. | |
| 2. | "G." | |
| 3. | "A.Q." | |
| 4. | C.R.A. | |
| 5. | C.R.E. | |
| 6. | 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy. | |
| 7. | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. | |
| 8. | 8th do. | |
| 9. | 7th do. | |
| 10. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. | |
| 11. | 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. | |
| 12. | A.D.M.S. | |
| 13. | 2nd Aust. Div. Train. | |
| 14. | A.P.M. | |
| 15. | D.A.D.O.S. | |
| 16. | D.B.O. | |
| 17. | D.G.O. | |
| 18. | Aust. Corps. | |
| 19. | Aust. Corps R.A. | 25. 3rd Squad., A.F.C. |
| 20. | Aust. Corps H.A. | 26. 2nd Tank Bn. |
| 21. | 47th Division. | 27. Troop, 13th A.L.H. |
| 22. | 3rd Aust. Division. | 28. Platoon, Corps Cyclist Bn. |
| 23. | 4th do. | 29/30. File. |
| 24. | 5th do. | 31/33. War Diary. |
| | | 34/38. Spare. |

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 147.

From 3 p.m. 6th to 3 p.m., 7th June, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Throughout the day enemy movement at K.10.c.00.60. K.10.c.50.60. and E.22.c. was dispersed by fire from 18-pdrs. At 7 p.m. an occupied hut at E.22.c.50.00. was bombarded by 4.5" Hows. At 4.50 p.m. dugouts in course of construction in sunken road K.8.d. were shelled by 18-pdrs. and between 9.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. 4.5" Hows. expended 50 rounds on K.10.c., where camp cookers have been reported to meet ration parties. At request of Infantry, suspected M.G. at K.3.a.30.15. was subjected to 40 rounds 18-pdr. In addition to the nightly harassing of roads, occupied embankments and cuttings, trenches and bridges over the ANCRE, our Batteries, between 11 p.m. and 11.50 p.m. and from 2.15 a.m. to 2.45. a.m., concentrated fire on areas of enemy activity.

(b) Trench Mortars. At 2.45 a.m., 25 rounds 6" Newton T.M. were fired on movement heard in cutting at K.2.a.45.20., and on other movement at K.2.a.25.25. and K.2.c.15.75.

Left Sector L.T.Ms. fired 62 rds. Stokes into posts at K.7.d. 85.70., E.20.c.35.80., E.26.d.3.7., and 60 rds. from captured M.W. on to K.8.a.9.9., K.1.b.8.5. and K.2.a.0.7. Shooting appeared accurate and the Infantry co-operated with vigorous sniping.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.8.c.90.70. to K.8.c.20.50., road, 1,500 rds.; K.13.a., Road Junction, 1,000 rds.; K.14.a., Track, 1,000 rds.; K.2.a.9.0., to K.2.a.9.4., Road Junction, 1,000 rds.; E.26.d.18.65. to E.26.d. 60.70., Cross Roads, 1,000 rds.; E.20.b.35.45. to E.20.b.80.80. Cross Roads, 1,000 rounds.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active throughout the period. A.A. was not as intense as usual. An enemy balloon was brought down in flames in the direction of BRAY.

(e) Patrols. For routes, see attached patrol maps. (to Corps only). Patrols report as follows:-

Right Sector.

(i) Enemy listening post at K.13.d.1.5. and digging all along the enemy's line in K.13.central.

(ii) 6 Germans were seen in the trench which runs from K.13.b. 15.00. to K.13.b.20.40. Trench was wide and in good condition.

(iii) A L.P. showing recent signs of occupation at J.3.d.8.9. and digging in trench in rear. A M.G. fired from K.25.a.20.25.

Left Sector.

(iv) Enemy covering party in vicinity of K.1.d.8.4. behind which a working party was heard.

(v) Enemy working in vicinity of K.7.d.9.8.

(vi) Enemy working on posts in K.2.a. Our M.Gs. and T.Ms. were brought to bear on this area. Enemy party heard at approx. E.26.c. 50.15.

(vii) Enemy posts fired on the patrol from the vicinity of the road junction E.26.c.35.90. Sounds of talking at approx. E.26.c.3.3. The ground is marshy and difficult.

(f) Sniping. Left Brigade snipers claim 7 hits out of 29 rounds fired.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. - Normal. Short bursts of harassing fire were employed. HEILLY, MERICOURT, TREUX and VILLE-sur-ANCRE, J.16., J.17., J.22. and J.23 were lightly shelled. Eight gas shells (unidentified) fell on D.18.c. and two on MERICOURT, 12 lachrymators and YELLOW CROSS fell in J.12.c.

P.T.O.

War Diary. 22B

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Quiet.
The enemy appears to be exerting himself to improve his defences.
6. ENEMY DEFENCES.
(a) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were active from E.14.c. and K.13.b. 15.20., the latter being engaged with rifle grenades and silenced. No-man's-land was swept by M.Gs. fired from well behind the enemy's front line.
(b) M.W's. Active at intervals. Positions are reported at K.8.central, K.8.c.4.5. in rear of the trees, K.20.b.5.9. and K.14.d.2.6.
(c) Patrols. At 10.30 p.m. two enemy patrols bombed each other North of the ANCRE, near E.26.a.3.6., where one patrol encounter took place on the night 5th/6th. Two enemy M.Gs. opened fire, and the enemy could be heard distinctly shouting.
7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.
Was comparatively inactive, and little forward area bombing was done.
8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION. Six long trains were reported during the afternoon of the 6th instant, moving S.W. in R.31. and X.1. Otherwise only ordinary individual movement was observed, mainly in E.27.c., K.3.b., K.3.a., Road in K.15.b. to MORLANCOURT and K.2.b.2.5.
10. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility, good.
An enemy propaganda balloon fell in J.9.b.
A dump of what were probably charges was seen to be on fire at a T.B. of 189° from J.26.d.05.60.

M. E. Dunning
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

SITUATION WIRES.

Our line was advanced slightly last night (5th) in STRAZEELE Sector. Enemy attacked the French during the early part of the night in LOCRE Sector, but was ejected by counter-attack, except at LOCRE HOSPICE, which the enemy still holds. Hostile artillery activity was above normal on 6th Corps front and at BLANGY and BAILLEUL (South of LENS). Comparatively quiet day on French front.

Party of 46th Division raided enemy post North-east of LOISNE last night, killing all garrison and capturing a M.G. without loss to themselves. Hostile Artillery active about FAMPOUX and ST. LAURENT, BLANGY. Salmon coloured air bursts observed last night near LA BASSEE Canal. Ninth Corps reports enemy attacked early yesterday morning from North of RHEIMS to CHAMPLAT after heavy gas shelling of back areas.

Attack on 19th Divisional front completely repulsed. Attack renewed at 11 a.m. and enemy gained footing on MONTAGNE de BLIGNY (South of BLIGNY). Situation completely restored by immediate counter-attack and 19th Division line intact. 19th Division took 28 prisoners from two German Divisions.

Page 3. follows.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 170). =====

THE AISNE BATTLE FRONT. On the MARNE - OISE front the enemy attacked the French positions yesterday morning in the neighbourhood of COURCY and E. of CAISNES. The attacks were repulsed, except N. of COURCY, where slight progress was made. One fresh Div. was identified, making a total of 42 Divs. engaged, of which 10 were fresh, and 32 were previously engaged on the SOMME battle front.

ENEMY DEFENCES. In the MORLANCOURT Sector the rate of work has somewhat increased. The enemy is linking up old rifle-pits and digging lengths of trench to form a new front line between VILLE and MORLANCOURT, with odd lengths of communication trench near the old railway lines N. of MORLANCOURT (Air Photos. A.3.A.E., A.585, 591). Some work has also been done W. and S.W. of the village. (Air Photos. AE AE A 588, 546).

A short deep belt of wire is reported S. of MORLANCOURT in K.13.d., just North of the BRAY - CORBIE Road.

According to prisoners mined dugouts are being made at S.W. exit of MORLANCOURT in the sunken road (K.8.c.) where are the support Coys. of a Bn. in line. The supports of the other Bn. in line are probably in the valley S. of this (in K.8.d., K.14.b.). These statements are confirmed by air photographs (A3 AE A 434, 49 V 347, 82 AE A 932). The machine gun Coy. has two guns in the line at night and the rest in the sunken road. During the day they rest in cellars at MORLANCOURT.

The resting Bn. is in TAILLEE WOOD (K.12.d., K.18.b.). Prisoners mention also heavy batteries and shell dumps, a pioneer dump and a Regimental Command post near this. Considerable activity is shown in this area by air photos. (A3 AE A 575, 205 V 551, 599).

SPOTTED TYPHUS IN GERMAN DIVS. Information from prisoners from the 109th Div.

Prisoners from 109th Div., which has come from RUMANIA, declare that cases of spotted typhus are frequent among the German troops stationed in RUMANIA.

The 109th Div., which detrained about 10th April in the region of GUISE, was stopped W. of ST. QUENTIN on its way to the front by cases of spotted typhus (about 50) which broke out in the 3rd Bn., 26 Res. Regt. The Div. went back to the rear as a result of this epidemic and was billeted in the region of HAUTEVILLE for about 12 days before being definitely engaged.

It will be recalled that the 76th Res. Div., which also came from RUMANIA and which held the GRIVESNES sector, had to relieve one of its units, the 276th T. M. Coy., prematurely, on account of the same kind of epidemic. These reports are confirmed by documents. Thus, a man from the 26th Res. Regt. writes:-

"On April 9th we had to continue our march towards the front. But in the morning news came that the Div. could not advance further on account of the disease which was raging in some of the regiments."

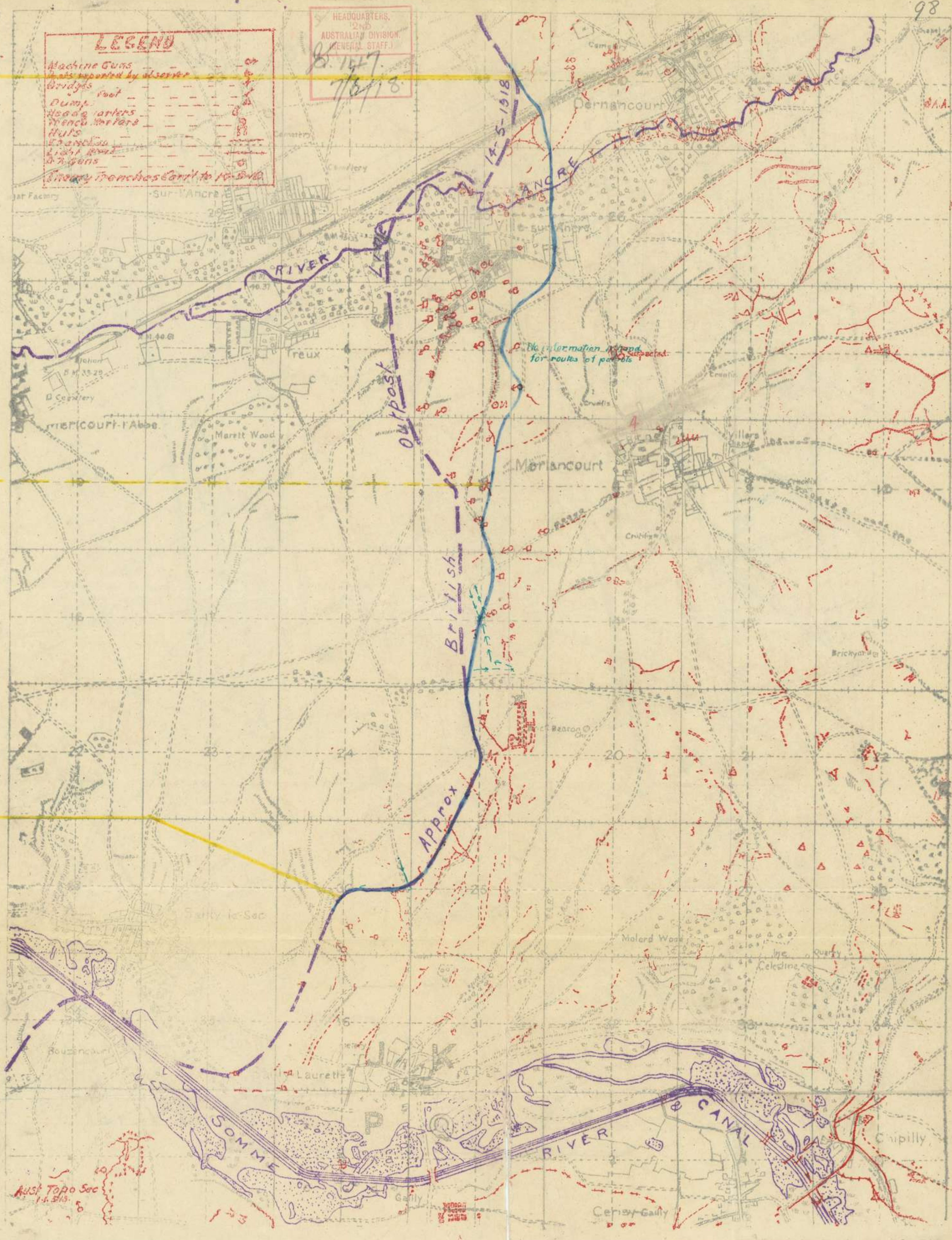
GERMAN TANKS NEAR RHEIMS. The enemy made use of Tanks on two occasions during his recent attacks against the French near RHEIMS. On the 31st May, three tanks accompanied the attack on TINQUEUX; one was put out of action, and the other two withdrew in flames.

On the 1st June three tanks came out of the BOIS en V. to take part in the attack on Fort de la POMPELLE; they were destroyed or put out of action by the French artillery.

GENERAL.

Situation unchanged. Germans attempted to raid our trenches last night, this being the fourth raid during the last six days. Further raids must be anticipated.

No further Divs. from Prince RUPPRECHT's Group of Armies have been identified on the AISNE Front.



63
APPENDIX

99
G37/588.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy No.....

S E C R E T.

Headquarters,
7th June, 1918.

GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 58.

S.O.S. Signals.

1. Beginning at 12 noon on the 15th June the "S.O.S." Signal on the Fourth Army front will be a rifle grenade signal bursting into 3 red lights, one over another.
2. "Q" of the Division will arrange to issue to C.R.A. 30, and to each the 6th and 7th A.I.Bdes. 75 of the above signals.
3. All "S.O.S." Signals now in use will be collected for return after 15th June under arrangements to be made by "Q" of Division.
4. Acknowledge.

A. D. Borwick Major
for Lieut. Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division .

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1/6	C.R.A.
7	5th A.I.Bde. (for information).
8	6th -do-
9	7th -do-
10	2nd A.M.G.Bn.
11	2nd A.Pioneer Bn.
12	D.B.O.
13.	"Q".
14	47th Div.
15/16	File.
17/19	War Diary.

MB

63

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
7th June, 1918.

SECRET.

Copy No.

G.1/885.

1. Reference 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 191.

Zero hour will be 1 a.m. on night 7th/8th June.

2. Acknowledge by wire.

*J. B. Bowdler Major*Lieut-Colonel,
for General Staff,
Second Australian Division.DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	C.R.A.
2.	C.R.E.
3.	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
4.	6th do.
5.	7th do.
6.	2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
7.	2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.
8.	Aust. Corps.
9.	47th Division.
10.	4th Aust. Division.
11.	Z Special Coy. R.E.
12/13.	Filo.
14/16.	War Diary.

MB

APPENDIX. 24.

100

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 3 p.m. 7th to 3 p.m., 8th June, 1918.

No. 148.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. From 12.58 a.m. to 1.5 a.m., both Groups provided covering fire by 18-pdrs. for gas projector discharge. 4.5" Hows. at the same time bombarded dug-outs with delay fuzes. At 3.30 a.m. two How. Batteries expended 1,650 rounds gas shell on line P.11.d.1.3. - P.11.d.4.7. in co-operation with "A" and "B" Div. Artillery. Isolated movement at K.3.d. was engaged and dispersed. Usual nightly harassing fire was carried out in addition to the foregoing special operations.

(b) Trench Mortars. Left Sector L.T.Ms. fired 27 rounds on E.20.c.4.5. and E.20.c.35.80. 45 rounds from L.M.W. were fired on K.7.b.7.9 and K.1.b.8.5.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.19.d., roads and tracks, 1,500 rds.; E.20.d.40.40., road, 1,000 rds.; E.21.c.80.80., tracks, 1,000 rds.; K.3.c.4.8., tracks, 1,000 rds.; K.2.b.5.0., tracks, 1,000 rds.; K.8.d.7.3., tracks, 1,000 rds. During gas operation our guns fired 11,700 rounds on normal S.O.S.

(d) Aircraft. Activity normal.

(e) Gas. Gas was successfully discharged on targets in the MORLANCOURT Area at 1 a.m.

(f) Patrols.

Right Sector. The front was patrolled as shown per attached map (Corps and War Diary only). Patrols report as follows:-

(i) An M.G. was observed in action at J.30.d.7.7. Digging and talking was heard in the enemy front line. Stokes Mortars silenced this. A belt of concertina wire runs from J.30.d.7.7. to J.30.b.95.20.

(ii) A single belt of plain concertina wire, apparently newly erected, runs from K.13.d.05.70. to K.13.d.1.3. A belt of wire also runs from K.13.b.05.30. to K.13.b.10.50.

(iii) A M.G. was active at K.13.b.4.7., from which place flares were also fired.

Left Sector.

(iv) Two small parties were heard in front of the post at E.26.c.2.9.

(v) Enemy short shelling has apparently forced him to evacuate his posts near E.26.a.3.6. It is believed that enemy posts continue to approx. E.26.a.34.70. and are covered by M.Gs. South of the river. Trip wires were found running East from our wire. The enemy threw bombs at our patrol, but they fell short.

(vi) Two enemy moved back along the road in E.20.c. with what appeared to be either a stretcher or a heavy M.G.

(vii) An enemy party of 16 men were seen to enter the trench in E.19.b.87.10. at 11.15 p.m. No working parties were seen. The enemy threw four bombs in reply to two thrown by our patrol.

(g) Snipers. Right Bde. snipers caused nine casualties, including one officer. Left Bde. snipers claim 6 hits.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Normal. A light barrage was placed on our line between E.25.b.8.6. and E.19.d.80.75., and our posts south of river as far as E.25.b.7.0. Otherwise only scattered shelling of the forward area. Twelve 10.5 cm. di-phosgene shells fell in J.21.d. during the night. There was no retaliation to our gas shelling or gas discharge.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Very quiet. No retaliation whatsoever was forthcoming after our gas discharge and bombardment.

P.T.O.

War Diary

1. ENEMY DEFENCES.

- (a) Posts. O.Ps. are suspected at E.23.c.4.8. and E.28.central.
(b) Machine Guns. Quiet. Indirect fire on J.6.d.2.7. during the night.
(c) Trench Mortars. Quiet. A M.W. is reported at K.7.b.1.1. and K.2.a.1.1.
(d) Flares. GREEN flares were fired during our gas discharge, but no action followed.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Inactive. A few high flying R.E.A. crossed our lines during the morning.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION. Parties of men about a platoon in strength were apparently drilling with M.Gs. in a field near the house at Q.29.b.7.6. Parties of about 50 carried material from this house to the edge of the wood in Q.23.b. A train of about 50 well laden trucks moved South in X.31.a. and c. A small party of men and horses in Q.21.a.6.8. was fired on by our Artillery. Otherwise only very slight movement in the forward area was observed. At 2.30 p.m. five stretcher cases were removed from K.14.a.5.5. As this was one of the targets against which our gas was directed last night, it is probable that they were gas casualties.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility, good.

M.E. Denington
for
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. 171).

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. The activity of enemy aircraft was slight East of the line except in the ROYE - MONTDIDIER Sector. At 12.30 p.m., 3 formations of triplanes, PFALZ scouts and two-seaters, (24 in all), were engaged by us in the area ROYE - MONTDIDIER - MOREUIL. At 7.30 p.m., 40 enemy scouts were patrolling the line between MOREUIL and MONTDIDIER.

Along the line, the enemy's activity was below normal. Of the enemy machines observed, a large proportion were two-seaters. At 7.20 p.m., a high-flying R.E.A. was reported over FLESSELLES and BERTANGLES.

The activity of the enemy's artillery aeroplanes declined. Eight ranging flights were carried out, as against 11 on the preceding day; the majority of these were between ALBERT and HAMEL.

There were 18 combats in the air; one enemy machine crashed, three were driven down out of control. In addition, two enemy balloons were brought down in flames. We had no casualties.

At 8.45 a.m. this morning, two high-flying hostile machines penetrated to within a short distance of ABBEVILLE.

ENEMY DEFENCES. Some work on front trenches is visible S.W. of MORLAN-COURT. The mined dug-outs in the sunken road (K.8.c.) are confirmed.

EXTRACT FROM FRENCH ARMY SUMMARY, 4:6:18. A map found on a Staff Officer of the 12th Bav. Div. is entitled NOYON - RHEIMS, and is bounded on the North by a line through CRECY-sur-SERRE, on the S. by a line through DORMANS, on the E. by RHEIMS and on the W. by CREPY-en-VALOIS. This seems to show that the front of the projected attack was NOYON to RHEIMS, and the southern limit the MARNE.

ESCAPED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR. On night 5th/6th inst. one British prisoner of War escaped from PERONNE and two from MARCHELEPOT. From their statements it would not appear that there are many German troops in the neighbourhood of the above-mentioned places. Our incessant bombing is considerably harassing the enemy, and causing material damage.

SITUATION WIRES. French retook LOCRE HOSPICE early this morning (7th) with 2 prisoners. 9 prisoners and M.G. taken during morning in raid by party of 3 men of 1st Aust. Div. in STRAZEELE Sector. ON AISNE front French have retaken LEPORT Village with 38 prisoners.

S E C R E T.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

G.1/885.

Headquarters,
8th June, 1918.

ADDENDUM TO SECOND AUST. DIV. ORDER No.191.

In continuation of 2nd Aust. Div. Order No.191.

1. The 200 projectors installed at K.1.c.2.4., which were not fired last night, will be discharged tonight, 8th/9th June, weather conditions being favorable.

2. ZERO hour will be 10.30 p.m.

3. No postponement of operation will be made. If weather conditions are unfavorable the operation will be cancelled.

4. The following code will be used :-

"BISCUITS" - will mean - "operation cancelled".

"CAKES" - " - "operation completed".

6th A.I.Bde. will notify this office by wire, using above code, on completion of operation.

5. A short artillery bombardment of above target will commence at ZERO minus two minutes and continue to ZERO plus five minutes to cover discharge and destroy enemy gas proof dugouts.

6. G.O.C. 6th A.I.Bde. will arrange direct with O.C. "Z" Special Coy., R.E., the necessary precautions to be taken.

7. Acknowledge by wire.

L. B. Bowick Major
Liout. Colonel.
for General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Issued to all recipients of
2nd Aust. Div, Order No. 191.

War Diary 22B

63

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
8th June, 1918.

3RD AMENDMENT TO "O" DIVISION DEFENCE SCHEME.

SECTION "O." - Tanks.

Owing to the 17th Armoured Car Bn., Tank Corps, having left the Corps Area, paras. 5, 6 and 7 of Section "O" will be cancelled.

Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to all recipients of
"O" Division Defence Scheme.

78B

63
SECRET

Copy No.....

G.32/655.

APPENDIX

27.104

NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD
OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS.

AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)

G.24/1/352.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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

Headquarters,
8th June, 1918.

APPRECIATION OF THE ENEMY DEFENCES IN THE SECTOR BETWEEN A LINE DRAWN EAST THROUGH K.7.CENTRAL AND K.8.CENTRAL, AND K.30.c.o.o., K.25.c.o.o., and K.26.c.o.o., to 8:6:18.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

The front opposite the divisional sector is held by the 54th Div. (last identified on the 6th instant).

The order of battle from North to South of this Division is:-

84 I.R.
27 R.I.R.
90 R.I.R.

The Northern boundary probably running 200 yards South of E.26.central, and the Southern boundary through K.25.central. South of this is one Bn. of the 265 R.I.R. (108th Div.) and again South the 133 R.I.R. of the 24th Res. Div. The Bn. of the 265 R.I.R. probably holds the sector from J.30.central down to the SOMME.

It is probable that the 54th Div. will be relieved very shortly, if the relief has not already taken place. Under normal conditions in this sector, it is improbable that any other than a tired division will take its place, though the strength of the relieving division may possibly be greater. From the present Order of Battle on the Corps front, it appears that the enemy is holding the whole sector with divisions of comparatively poor quality.

METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

The line is apparently held with two battalions in line and one in reserve. Each Bn. has two Coys. in the front line and two in support. Company fighting strengths appear to average 2 or 3 Officers, 100 O.Rs. and 3 or 4 light machine guns.

The Reserve Bn. of the centre Regt. is in TAILLES WOOD, in K.12.d. and K.18.b.

MACHINE GUNS.

Apart from the light machine guns above-mentioned, the heavy machine gun Coys. have also a certain number of guns forward. This number is not known.

The attached appendix shows the location of M.Gs. as reported by patrols and observations since 21st May. In several cases, where two machine guns are reported in close proximity to one another, it is probable that they are the same light M.G., which being very mobile, is fired from alternative positions every night. At the same time the appendix furnishes a guide to the position of M.Gs. in the sector.

TRENCH MORTARS.

The attached appendix also shows the locations as reported of trench mortars.

TRENCHES.

Aeroplane photographs, patrols and observations show that the enemy has been working more vigorously on his defences during the last few days. The attached map shows trenches and wire, the former being plotted from the latest available air photographs, and the latter from observations and patrol reports. It will be noted that the line from the cross roads in K.13.b. down to K.25.c. shows a considerable amount of strengthening and improvement.

P.T.O.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS.

Documents captured during the recent operations at VILLE-sur-ANCRE show that no counter attack was ordered until daylight. It was apparently due to our fire that it did not eventuate at all. In this case the enemy defence scheme was very elaborate, but when our attack took place, did not appear to have been adhered to at all. This was probably due to the fact that such orders, according to prisoners' statements, are not issued or explained to the men, with the result that when the time comes for action, they are not clear as to their duties.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

No. Copies. To.

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 10. | C.R.A. |
| 4. | C.R.E. |
| 5. | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| 10. | 6th do. |
| 24. | 7th do. |
| 5. | 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. |
| 5. | 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. |
| 5. | 4th Aust. Div. |
| 1. | Aust. Corps. "I." |
| 3. | War Diary. |
| 2. | File. |
| 5. | Spare. |

METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

The line is apparently held with two battalions in line and one in reserve. Each Bn. has two Coy. in the front line and two in support. Company fighting strength appears to average 2 or 3 Officers, 100 O.Rs. and 3 or 4 light machine guns. The Reserve Bn. of the centre Regt. is in TAILLET WOOD, in K.I.S.d. and K.I.S.b.

MACHINE GUNS.

Apart from the light machine guns above-mentioned, the heavy machine gun Coy. have also a certain number of guns forward. This number is not known. The attached appendix shows the location of M.G.s as reported by patrols and observations since 21st May. In several cases, where two machine guns are reported in close proximity to one another, it is probable that they are the same light M.G., which being very mobile, is fired from alternative positions every night. At the same time the appendix furnishes a guide to the position of M.G.s in the sector.

TRUNK MORTARS.

The attached appendix also shows the locations as reported of French mortars.

TRUCKS.

Aeroplanes, photographs, patrols and observations show that the enemy has been working more vigorously on his defences during the last few days. The attached map shows trenches and wire, the former being plotted from the latest available air photographs, and the latter from observations and patrol reports. It will be noted that the line from the cross roads in K.I.S.d. down to K.I.S.c. shows a considerable amount of strengthening and improvement.

A P P E N D I X.

Machine guns reported from 21:5:18 in enemy sector from a line through K.7.central and K.8.central, South to K.30.c.0.0., K.25.c.0.0., and K.26.c.0.0.

<u>Location.</u>	<u>When Reported.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>When reported.</u>
K. 7.d. 6. 9.	... 4-6-18.	K.19.b.30.31.	... 1-6-18.
K. 8.c. 2. 5.	... 1-6-18.	K.19.b.2. 0.	... 29/30/31-5-18.
K. 8.c.23.48.	... 23-5-18.	K.19.b.5. 0.	... 1-6-18.
K.13.a. 8. 2.	... 27-5-18.	K.19.c.80.95.	... 20-5-18.
K.13.b.25.52.	...	K.19.c.85.95.	... 21-5-18.
(2 M.G's.).	... 28-5-18.	K.19.c.93.81.	... 30-5-18.
K.13.b. 8. 7.	... 21 & 30-5-18.	K.19.c. 7. 7.	... 2/3/4-6-18.
K.13.b.50.35.	... 29-5-18.	K.19.c.53.47.	... 3/4-6-18.
K.13.b.40.31.	... 30-5-18.	K.19.c.95.33.	... 23-5-18.
K.13.b. 3. 1.	... 22-5-18.		
K.13.b.15.05.	... 28-5-18.	K.19.c.15.55.	... 2/3/4-6-18.
K.14.a. 3. 5.	... 26-5-18.	K.19.c. 5. 0.	... 2-6-18.
K.13.d.10.62.	...	K.19.d.20.82.	... 1-6-18.
(2 M.G's.).	... 28-5-18.	K.19.d.40.66.	...
K.13.d.30.51.	... 1-6-18.	(Tree).	... 30-5-18.
K.13.d.51.51.	... 21-5-18.	K.19.d.35.61.	... 30/31-5-18.
K.13.d.30.12.	... 21-5-18.	K.19.d.30.52.	... 30-5-18.
K.13.d. 5. 0.	... 26 & 28-5-18.	K.19.d.66.54.	... 1-6-18.
K.13.d. 6. 0.	... 27-5-18.	K.19.d. 5. 0.	... 1-6-18.
K.19.b. 1. 8.	... 1/3/4-6-18.	K.25.a.30.92.	... 27-5-18.
K.19.b.20.82.	... 26-5-18.	K.25.a.58.79.	... 1-6-18.
K.19.b. 4. 8.	... 31-5-18.	K.25.a. 3. 4.	... 21-5-18.
K.19.b. 5. 7.	... 3/4-6-18.	K.30.d.90.41.	... 30-5-18.
K.19.b.60.72.	... 29 & 30-5-18.	K.25.c.70.25.	... Anti-Aircraft.
K.19.b.20.61.	... 27-5-18.	K.25.c.75.31.	...
K.19.b.38.58.	... 30-5-18.	K.25.c.80.35.	...
K.19.b. 2. 5.	... 1 & 3-6-18.	K.25.c.85.40.)	...

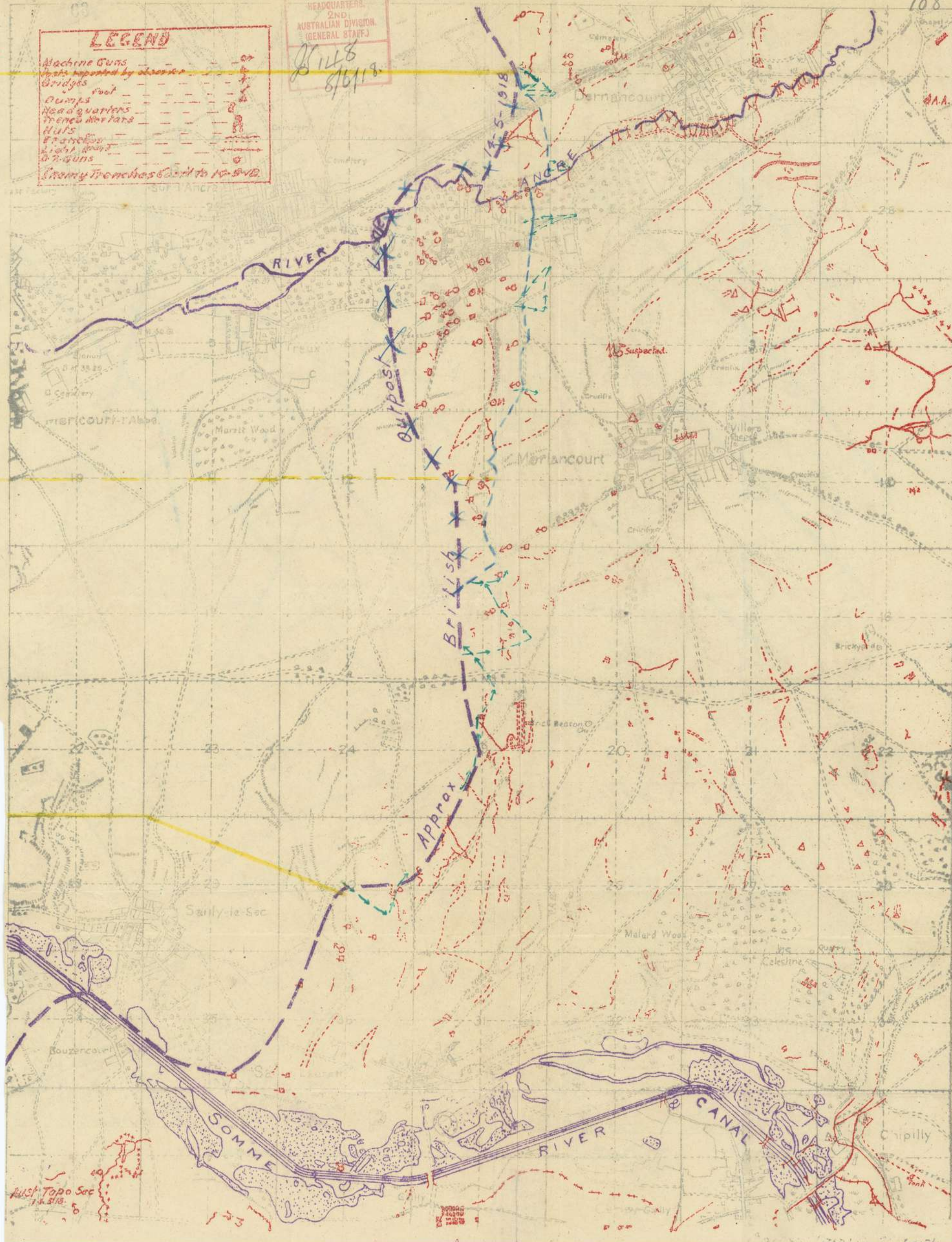
TRENCH MORTARS.

K. 8.c.30.82.	... 28-5-18.	K.14.a.51.51.	... 2-6-18.
K. 8.c.23.40.	... 27-5-18.	K.19.b.90.22.	... 2-6-18.
K. 8.c.80.51.	... 27-5-18.	K.19.c.80.31.	... Undated.
K.8.c. 90.52.	... 1-6-18.	K.19.d.50.96.	... 1-6-18.
K. 8.c.96.52.	... 31-5-18.	K.20.a.40.42.	... 21-5-18.
K. 8.d. 0. 8.	... 1-6-18.	K.20.central.	... 1-6-18.
K. 8.d. 0. 9.	... 2-6-18.	K.20.b. 4. 0.	... 30-5-18.
K. 8.d.90.52.	... 2-6-18.	K.20.c.20.80.	... 4-6-18.
K. 8.d. 5. 0.	... 1-6-18.	K.26.c. 9. 0.	... 23-5-18.
K.13.d.99.83.	... 1-6-18.		

==*==*==*==*==*==*

148
8/6/18.

Machine Guns	on
posts reported by observer	1
Bridges	1
foot	1
Pumps	1
Headquarters	1
Trench Mortars	1
Huts	1
Barbed Wire	1
Light Tanks	1
Anti-Aircraft	1
Army Trenches	1
Army Trenches	1



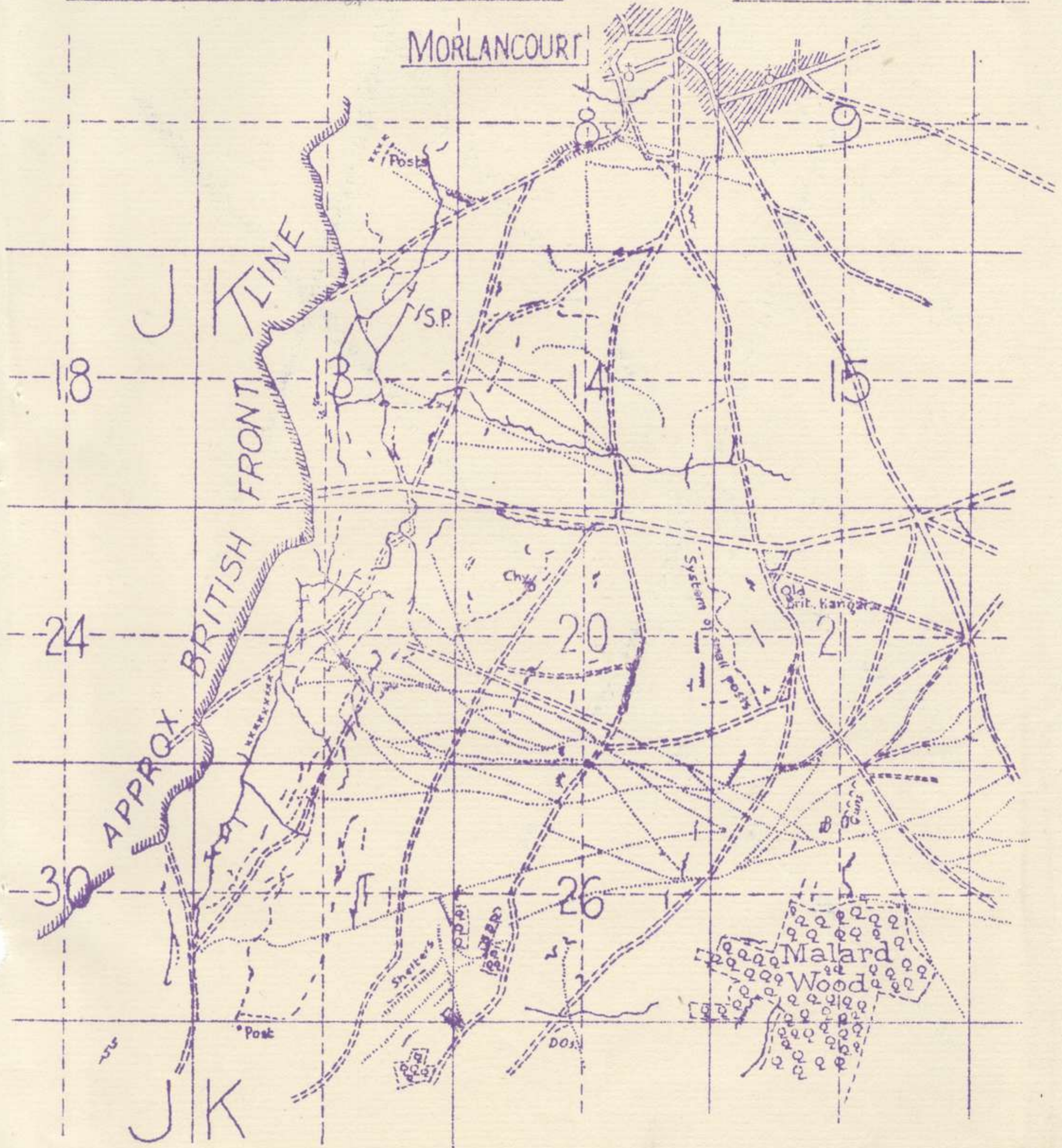
REFERENCE :-

Trenches shown thus.....
 Trenches under construction
 or lines of rifle-pits.....
 Tracks.....

SECRET
 S. 39 Copy No.

REFERENCE MAP 62° N.E.

SCALE 1-20000



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 3 p.m. 8th to 3 p.m., 9th June, 1918.

No. 149.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Throughout the night harassing fire was carried out on tracks and centres of activity opposite the Divisional front. 638 rounds Gas Shell were fired on dug-outs and centres of activity in E.26.d. and K.3.d. At 6 p.m. a working party was fired on at K.2.c.10.84. At 1.25 a.m., 50 rounds were fired on bank in J.2.c. at the request of the Infantry. Registrations were carried out during the day.

(b) Trench Mortars. Our Mortars fired at 3 p.m., 57 rounds on enemy trenches and Machine Gun positions in K.13.b. and d. On inspection the M.G. positions were reported blown in and the trenches damaged and wire cut. At 10.28 p.m., 28 rounds were fired in K.2.c. At 11.30 p.m., 14 rounds were fired on enemy front line system in K.19.a. 28 rds on K.25.a.

As a result of the fire on K.13.b.2.7., six of the enemy were forced to evacuate the post. L.T.Ms. fired 30 rounds on suspected M.G. position in E.20.c.3.8. The captured minenwerfer also fired 20 rounds on the same target.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.8.c.central., roads and tracks, 2,000 rds.; K.8.d.80.30., road junction, 1,500 rds.; K.14.b., tracks, 1,500 rds.; K.8.d.60.30., cross roads, 1,500 rds.; E.21.c.25.90., cross roads and tracks, 1000 rds.; E.20.b.85.32. to E.21.a.35.65., cross roads and tracks, 1,500 rounds, K.13.a., cross roads, 1,000 rds.; K.14.a., track, 1,000 rds.; K.2.a.9.0. to K.2.a.9.4., cross road, 1,000 rounds.

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

(e) Patrols. The front was actively patrolled. Patrols included a very successful daylight reconnaissance by 1 Officer and 1 O.R., who entered the trench in K.13.b.2.7., under cover of our trench mortars. This post was again entered at 2.30 a.m., when a prisoner was secured. Patrols report as follows:-

Right Sector.

(i) The enemy wire from K.19.c.5.2. to K.19.a.8.4. (French and barbed concertina) is broken and has frequent gaps. An active M.G. is reported at K.19.b.5.8.

(ii) A party was seen working on a belt of wire 150 yards East of K.13.c.8.3. An active machine gun was located at K.13.d.1.7., from which post flares were also fired. Continuous wire running North and South was seen in front of this post.

Left Sector.

(iii) The daylight patrol mentioned above entered enemy trench at K.13.b.2.7. A C.T., 30 yards long with wire in the bottom, was encountered, then 35 yards of trench approx. 2' 6" deep with pits dug off at the side about every 8 yards. These pits were also filled with wire. The portion of trench the enemy had been seen to evacuate was then entered; it was about 3' 6" deep, and bombs, S.A.A. and packs were found here. At the trench junction at K.13.b.2.7. two Germans were seen, who were immediately joined by 5 or 6 others. Bombs were thrown and a M.G. from K.8.c. opened fire. Our party then withdrew.

The enemy main line, which is wired, appears to be in the vicinity of K.13.d.2.9.

(iv) Lewis Gun fire was brought to bear on an enemy working party at K.1.d.85.30. Voices were heard at K.7.d.85.30.

(v) Fire was opened at close range by eight of the enemy in E.26.c. It was vigorously replied to by our patrol, which then withdrew.

(f) Sniping. Two hits are claimed.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 10th Coy., 90th R.I.R. (Prisoner, morning 9th June).

P.T.O.

War Diary. 78B

- 2 -

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Very active during the night. At 12.15 a.m., a heavy bombardment of our battery area commenced and lasted until 1.30 a.m. The shelling contained a good percentage of di-phosgene. The villages of MERICOURT and RIBEMONT were subjected to a similar bombardment with the percentage of gas somewhat greater. The SOMME Valley and gullies in J.21. and J.22. were equally heavily shelled with a large percentage of gas. No abnormal shelling occurred in the vicinity of our front line trenches.

The gully in J.11.c. was shelled with BLUE and GREEN cross (200 rounds). Approx. 2,000 rounds fell in the vicinity of MARETT WOOD and the ANCRE. North of the river E.19.c. and d., D.24.c. and d., D.21.c. and d. and BUIRE were also shelled with 10.5 cm. H.E. and sneezing gas. These areas were again lightly shelled from 3.30 a.m. to 4.5 a.m.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

On the whole quiet, except for gas shelling. It appears to be a practice to shell the sector heavily with gas every few days, remaining comparatively quiet during the intervals. The prisoner captured this morning stated that there were no signs of an immediate attack on this front.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

M.Ws fired from the vicinity of K.13.b.7.9. and K.2.b.1.1. in retaliation for our mortar activity.

For other Defences see patrol reports.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Slight. Three low flying E.A. were forced to turn by our A.A. fire.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION.

Individual movement was observed at E.27.d.7.1., K.3.b.5.3., K.3.b.7.5., K.3.c.6.5., K.2.c.0.3., K.9.c., and K.15.b., and was engaged by artillery and snipers. From 5 a.m. to 6.25 a.m. considerable movement of the enemy was noticed at K.3.b.5.4.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Visibility. Fair.

Enemy Order of Battle. The order of battle mentioned in "Appreciation of the Enemy Defences" was confirmed by the prisoner captured this morning.

Distribution of the Enemy Forces. The 90th R.I.R. has two Battalions in line and one in Reserve. The line Bns. are stated to have 3 coys. in line and one in support, about 15 minutes walk from the front line. (prisoner could indicate where). The Reserve Bn. is in valley immediately in front of BRAY. (P.S.)

Coys. of the III Bn. run from N. to S. - 12th Coy. 10th Coy. 9th Coy., with 11th Coy. in support. (P.S.)

The 90th R.I.R. is stated to extend as far North as K.7.d.central. Strengths. Coy. strengths throughout this Regt. are stated to be only 2 or 3 officers and 50 to 60 other ranks, with 4 or 5 L.M.Gs. (P.S.)

Reliefs. An inter-battalion relief is expected on the night 10/11th. The III Bn. will probably be relieved by the I Bn. which is also weak. (P.S.)

A Divisional relief is not expected just at present.

Headquarters. Coy. Commanders are stated to be with the Support Coy. i.e., quite out of touch with their coys. in the line.

Regimental H.Q. is stated to be in a valley in front of BRAY.

M. J. Dring
Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division.

Information from Other Sources (page 3) follows.

- 3 -
INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 172).

2nd Aust. Div. I.S. No. 149.

ENEMY DEFENCES. Photographs of 7th June show that the enemy continues to work on linking up a front line between VILLE and MORLANCOURT (air photographs A3 AE A 625, 626, 631).

There has been a notable increase in the rate of work N.E. of MORLANCOURT. A long communication trench runs from K.5.c. through the old trenches in K.5.a. through K.4.a. and b. to K.3.b. This is intended to afford a covered approach from TAILLES WOOD towards the front line near MORLANCOURT (air photos. 82 AE A 1190, 1191, 1197). Work is also being done in connecting and improving the old trenches in E.29.c., N.W. of TAILLES WOOD (air photo. 82 AE A 1190). There is increased activity in the area N. and N.W. of TAILLES WOOD.

BADGE FOR ASSAULT DETACHMENTS.

A captured document, dated the 26th February, 1918, shows that men belonging to the assault detachment of the 24th Div. were authorized to wear a badge in the shape of a letter "S" on their sleeve, as a reward for their services with this detachment.

NOTE. - A previous report shows that the above detachment was broken up before the March offensive.

GERMAN GAS MASK.

The enemy has not yet equipped his troops with a new type of gas mask, but, since the middle of March this year, an extension has been added to it.

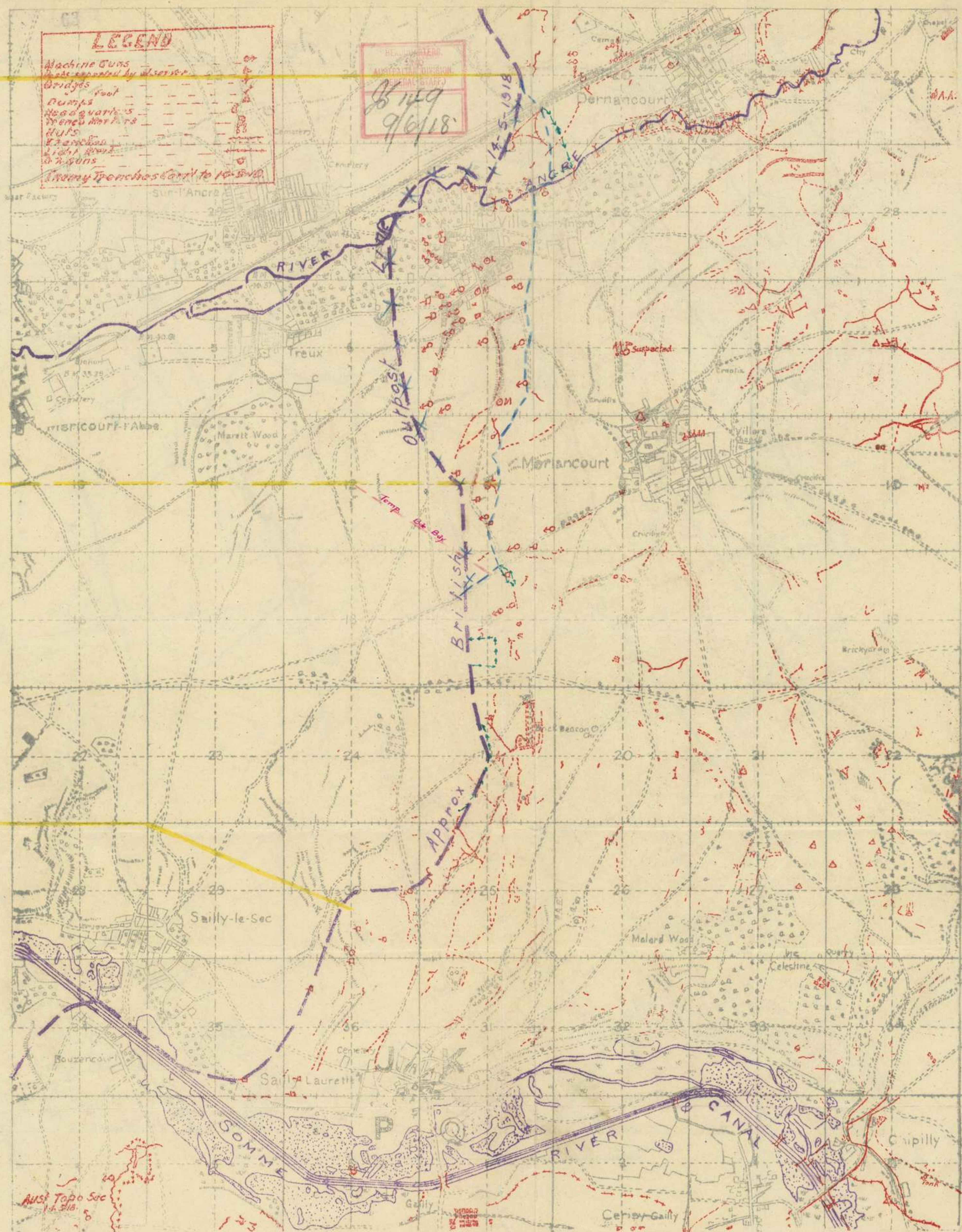
Single specimens of a new mouth plate attachment and a new mask box have also been captured. These may be an experimental issue.

The following are the latest developments in connection with the German Gas Mask:-

- (a) - The extension is the most important modification. It consists of a perforated metal cover, which fits over the bottom of the drum and is held in place by three spring clips. It contains a disc of porous paper, which serves as a filter for fine particles. Tests show that, while the extension more than doubles the resistance to breathing, the protection obtained is not nearly so good as that afforded by the British box respirator. Prisoners state that the extension is intended for use against BLUE CROSS shell. It is carried loose in the mask box and is fixed to the drum whenever troops are in the vicinity of areas which are being bombarded with BLUE CROSS shell.
- (b) - The mouth plate attachment consists of a saddle-shaped plate with a central hole, which is attached by a short cylindrical portion to a metal sleeve. This sleeve fits over the portion of the plate of the mask into which the drum screws. It may be intended to enable a man to breathe directly through the drum by pressing the plate against the mouth.
- (c) - The new mask box differs from the previous pattern in that the bottom and cylindrical portion are made of 3-ply wood instead of iron, resulting in a reduction of weight of 5 ozs. It does not appear to be very serviceable.

SITUATION. (Report timed 9 a.m.)

Enemy attacked at 4 a.m. this morning (9th) after heavy bombardment and extended from approx. MONTDIDIER as far East as the OISE, but no further. A report had just come in that it has now extended westwards to the Right Division of First French Army West of MONTDIDIER. Reports stated that at no point has enemy penetrated line of resistance, which runs approx. THIESCOURT - LA BERLIERE - MORTEMER - COURCELLES. First French Army "I" think that the attack is probably about 9 Divisions in line with 9 or 10 Divisions in Reserve.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

App 30
HEADQUARTERS
SECRET
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
(GENERAL STAFF.)
G. 1/893.
Copy No. 21..

Headquarters,
9th June, 1918.

Reference 2nd Aust. Div. Order No. 195.

ZERO hour will be 9.45 p.m. 10th June 1918.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(sep) C.G.W. MILES.

Issued at 3 p.m.
To all recipients
O.C. 195.

Lieut. Colonel.
General Staff.
Second Australian Division

W. Drury & Jones. 280

APPENDIX.

30
114

63

Report on daylight reconnaissance of enemy front line trench in K.13.b. by Lieut. LENNON and Sergt. TYLER, R.J., 88th Battalion, on afternoon of 8:8:18, and subsequent raid on enemy post at K.15.b.27.49. on Morning 9:8:18.

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

At 5 p.m., 8:8:18, 3" NEWTON Mortars registered on enemy C.T. and post at approx. K.13.b.27.49. During the shelling, six of the enemy were seen to evacuate the post and move along the C.T. towards the rear.

Under cover of the Mortar fire, Lieut. LENNON, and Sergt. TYLER entered the enemy trench at K.13.b.2.7. and worked South. At the trench junction - K.13.b.27.49. - two Germans, who were immediately joined by five or six others, were encountered. Bombs were thrown and a M.G. opened fire from somewhere in K.8.c.

Lieut. LENNON and Sergt. TYLER then withdrew to our lines, having obtained some very useful information regarding the condition of the enemy trenches and the strength in which they were held.

With a view to profiting by the information obtained from the above reconnaissance, it was decided to carry out a silent raid on enemy post at K.15.b.27.49. with a party consisting of the above-mentioned Officer and N.C.O., and 14 other ranks.

The raiding party left our lines at 2 a.m., 9th instant, and had succeeded in getting within 30 yards of the enemy post, which was protected by a belt of low wire in bad repair, when their position was disclosed by an enemy flare.

The post was rushed in the face of heavy rifle fire and the whole of the enemy garrison, with the exception of two who were taken prisoner, were either bayoneted or bombed. In this encounter Lieut. LENNON was severely wounded.

While making the return trip to our lines, the raiding party came under heavy M. G. fire, with the result that six men were wounded. In the subsequent temporary confusion one prisoner managed to escape.

On reaching our lines it was found that two of the party were missing. It is definitely known that these men were not left behind in the enemy trench, and it is thought that they must be lying out in front of our line in some high crops. An attempt will be made under cover of darkness to recover them.

As a result of wounds received, Lieut. LENNON died shortly after reaching the R.A.P.

Wanbury *28B*

63

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

G.397.

63

Location of Units at 6 a.m. 10th May 1918.

The following changes are notified to the last report (G.383 and G.390.)

5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	-	FRECHENCOURT.	Div. Res to 3rd Aust. Div.
17th Battalion.	-	Trench System E. of LA HOUSOYE.	
18th do	-	Villa Trench. E of FRANVILLERS.	
19th do	-	BOIS. MADAME. LA HOUSOYE.	
20th do	-	do do	
5th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	Villa Trench. E of FRNAVILLERS.	
6th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	-	HEILLY.	Line Left Sector. Under 3rd A. Div,
21st Battalion.	-	RIBEMONT.	Reserve,
22nd do	-	J.11.a.5.9.	Line Right.
23rd do	-	MERICOURT.	Support. 2 Coys E S of River.
			2 " N " "
24th do	-	J.5.a.2.9.	Line Left.
6th A.L.T.M. Bty.	-	J.5.a.2.9.	Line.

2nd Aust. D.H.Q.
9th May 1918.

War Diary
28B

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

APPENDIX. 32.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 150.

From 3 p.m. 9th to 3 p.m. 10th June, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. At 10.30 p.m., one Brigade Left Group provided covering fire by 18-pdrs. and 4.5" Hows. for Projector attack. The vicinity of K.4.a.80.00. was bombarded with 145 rounds BNC at 1.30 a.m., and K.10.c.00.30. also received 145 rounds BNC at 2.30 a.m. All observed movement within range of Field guns was engaged. In addition to the special bombardments mentioned above, all known activity centres, routes of approach and likely places of assembly were harassed throughout the night. Between 4 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., 100 rounds 18-pdr. were fired on active battery in K.27.c., and from 9 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., 50 rounds 18-pdr. were also expended on the same target, which was again active. On each occasion this battery was silenced. At 2 a.m. an active T.M. at K.19.d.1.3. was engaged and silenced. Some registration rounds were fired.

(b) Trench Mortars.

Right Sector. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., 52 rounds were fired on enemy's front line systems as follows:- 22 rds. from K.19.c.75.90. to K.19.c.7.7.; 21 rds. from K.19.c.6.2. to K.25.a.50.95.; 9 rds. from K.25.a.3.6. to K.25.a.15.45.

Left Sector. At 3 p.m., 20 rds. were fired on E.26.d.20.50. 45 rounds on enemy front line systems in K.13.b. and K.13.d.

A stretcher case was taken from K.13.b. and d. after these shoots. L.T.Ms. fired 50 rds. on K.1.d.80.25., and 56 rds. from the captured M.W. on M.G. positions at K.2.a.2.5. and K.8.d.0.9., and from K.2.c.55.55. to K.2.a.45.55.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.2.b.5.0., cross road, 1,500 rds.; K.8.d.7.3., cross road, 1,500 rds.; E.20.b.35.45. to E.20.b.80.80., roads, 1,000 rds.; E.26.d.20.60. to E.26.d.60.65., road, 1,000 rds.; K.14.a.central, roads and tracks, 1,500 rounds. 750 rounds were fired at enemy aircraft during the day.

(d) Aircraft. Our 'planes were active.

(e) Gas. 195 drums gas were successfully discharged from projectors at 10.30 p.m., on targets in the neighbourhood of MORLAN-COURT. There was no retaliation.

(f) Patrols.

Right Sector. The front was continuously patrolled, and some wire cut. No enemy movement was encountered.

Left Sector.

(i) A Right Battalion patrol captured a L.M.G. in a shell hole position in K.7.d.

(ii) A sniper was located at approx. K.1.d.8.1.

(iii) Movement was heard in the vicinity of E.26.c.3.9., and a few flares were fired from approx. E.26.c.4.5.

(iv) A M.G. was located at the Southern end of the enemy trench at E.19.b.85.10. A M.G. fired from approx. E.20.b.50.97. Movement was heard in the crops North of this.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Quiet. Light and scattered shelling on forward areas, mainly in vicinity of MARETT WOOD. There was practically no shelling North of the ANCRE during the night.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Posts. Suspected O.P. at K.7.d.9.4.

(b) M.W.s. At 4.30 p.m., L.M.W. at K.14.a.5.5. fired a few rounds on K.7.d.2.6. A few M.W. were fired in retaliation to our Projector attack at 10.30 p.m.

(c) Machine Guns. M.Gs. were inactive. Guns were located at K.13.d.1.7., cross roads E.26.c.5.1. and E.26.c.3.4.

P.T.O.

War Diary 200

APPENDIX 33.

- 2 -

8. MOVEMENT. Individual movement was observed at K.2.d.7.4., K.3.c.4.7., K.3.d.3.5., K.3.b.3.3. to K.3.c.4.9., and gully in K.8.c. During the day a few men with packs were observed moving in and around MORLANCOURT.

During the morning, train movement was observed in the vicinity of 62D. - Q.28 and 29. This was reported to the Heavies.

FLARES. Very few flares were sent up during the night on the Div. front. At 11 p.m. 3 enemy shells fell in his lines opposite our right brigade, and immediately red flares were sent up.

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

SITUATION WIRES.

Line on NOYON - MONTDIDIER front as follows:-

PASSEL - VILLE - ORVAL (all French) - Farm N.E. of MAREUIL (German) - ELINCOURT (French) - RESSONS (German) - thence as previously reported.

Enemy casualties yesterday believed heavy.

French took 150 prisoners yesterday in local operation East of HAUTE BRAVE.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (I.S. No. 173) attached.

2nd Aust. Div. I.S. No. 150.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 173)TANKS.

A British prisoner of war who escaped back to our lines on the 6th instant saw 10 tanks of German pattern in HAPPY VALLEY at about L.2.b.9.9. They were standing in a straight line close under the escarpment on North-western side of the valley. (Recent photographs show tank tracks only, but the tanks may be concealed by the shadow of the bluff).

EMPLOYMENT OF GERMAN TANKS ON THE AISNE.

The following information, regarding the employment of tanks by the Germans in the AISNE Battle, has been obtained from the British troops engaged:-

- (a). Types of Tanks. There is no doubt that more than one type of tank was used in the attack on the 27th May, and it seems certain that the enemy employed captured British tanks and tanks of the "ELFRIEDE" type (described in S.S. 74, issued with G.H.Q. Summary of 5th June); possibly captured French tanks were also used.
- (b). Number employed. This can only be roughly estimated, but it seems probable that about 20 Tanks were employed against the front held by 2 British divisions.
- (c). Tactics. The enemy appears to have used his tanks as a support to the Infantry, i.e., to engage points of resistance encountered by it. On the front of one division, the tanks advanced in front of the infantry and are reported to have penetrated as far as the battle zone, but no further. The tanks (captured British Tanks) preceded the infantry by a few yards and travelled slowly, making free use of their machine guns. They did not manoeuvre at all successfully, and had to stop to swing. On the front of the other division, the attack was first attempted with the tanks in rear of the infantry and failed. The enemy's infantry then waited for the tanks, which advanced with intervals of about 200 yards between tanks and completed the destruction of the wire and of those machine guns which were still in action. As the attack progressed, the infantry fought level with the tanks and eventually outran them.
- (d). Capabilities of German Tank employed. No tanks succeeded in crossing DARDANELLES trench, which was a very broad maze of trenches, the front trench being 10 ft. wide at the top.
- (e). Anti-Tank Guns. Owing to the mist, our anti-tank guns were powerless until the tanks were within 70 or 80 yards of them, and were then quickly put out of action by machine gun fire.

THE ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

An Alsatian deserter of the 23rd Res. Div., who surrendered on the 8th June at WILLERVAL, states that there are rumours of an impending attack to outflank the VIMY RIDGE. All hospitals in DOUAI were cleared during the first week in June, and his battalion carried out intensive assault training from the 31st May to the 5th June. He expects his division to be relieved shortly and put into the attack.

Scale 1:20,000
Yards 1000 500 0

VILLE-SUR-ANCRE

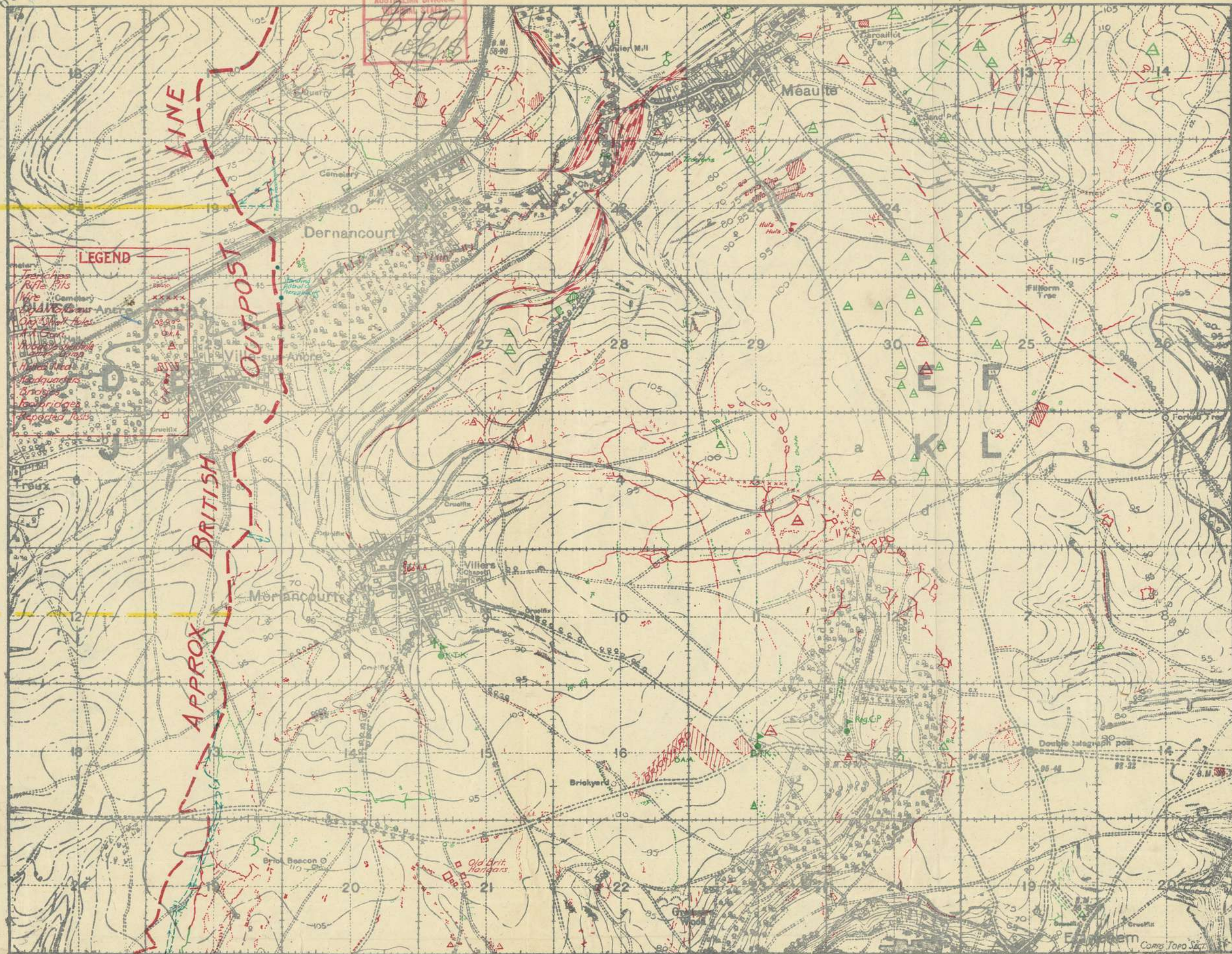
ENEMY WORK FROM 3.5.18 TO 19.5.18, SHEWN IN GREEN.

120

HEADQUARTERS
2000
AUSTRIAN DIVISION
18.5.18

LEGEND

Tranches	xxxxx
Rifle Pits	xxx
Wire	—
Barbed Wire	—
Gas Shelters	—
Artillery	—
Machine Gun	—
Headquarters	—
Brigades	—
Forward Posts	—



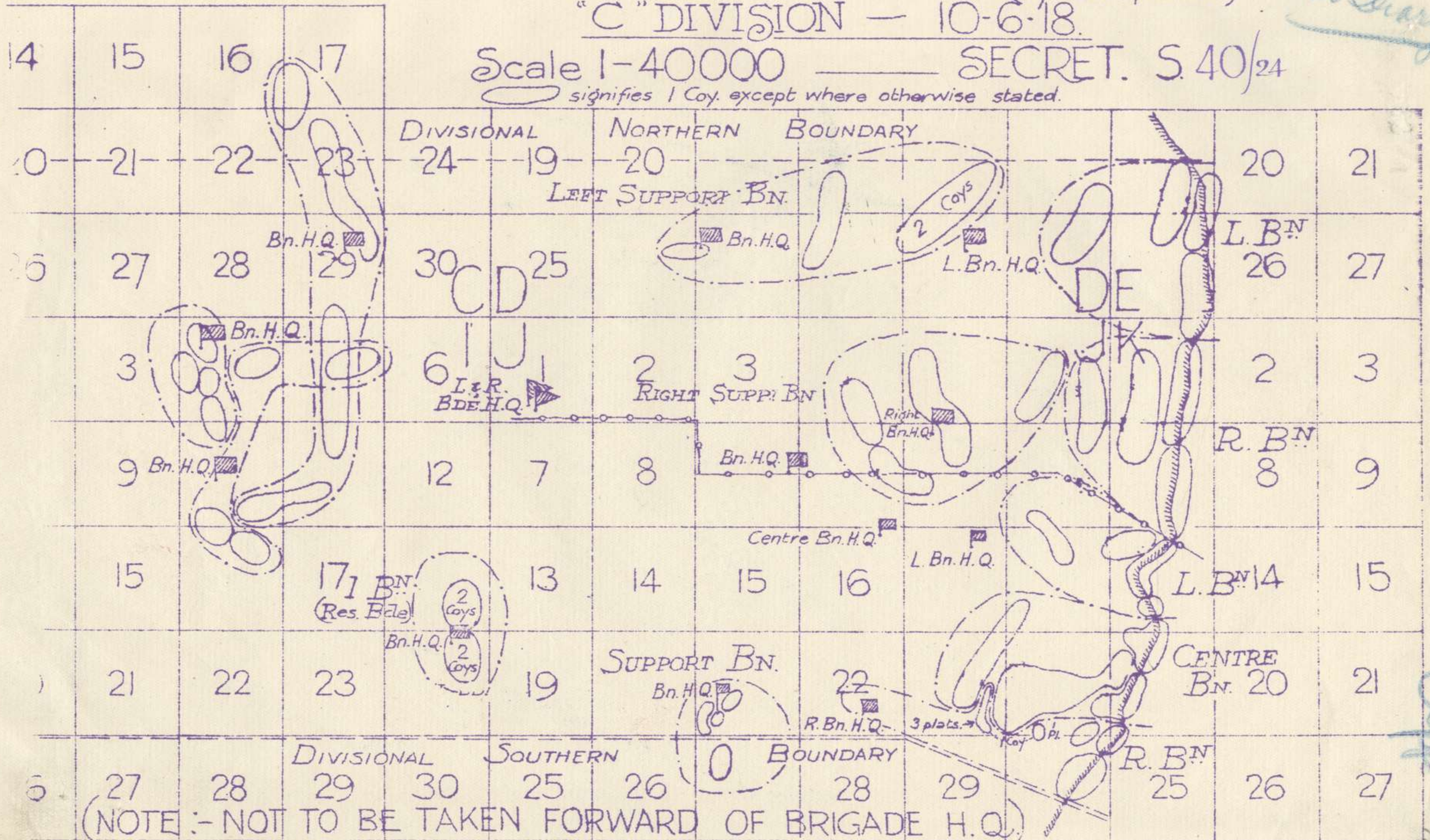
DISPOSITION OF INFANTRY (by Companies)

"C" DIVISION — 10-6-18.

War Diary 63

Scale 1-40000 — SECRET. S. 40/24

signifies 1 Coy. except where otherwise stated.



APPENDIX

34

REPORTS ON RAIDS CARRIED OUT BY 6TH AUST. INF. BDE. ON NIGHT 10/11:6:18."A" BATTALION RAID.

This was carried out by Lieut. W. HARRICKS and 33 Other Ranks of 22nd Bn. against enemy post at K.L.d.9.2. and for a distance of 50 yards to the Right and Left of same. It was done in conjunction with the attack by the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. on our Right, the Zero time being the same. The barrage opened right on time, and was admirable. A few rounds of smoke were fired while the Artillery was on the enemy trench to cover the approach of the raiders. At Zero plus 5 minutes the barrage lifted and formed a box, and at the same time the raiders rushed the trench, taking the enemy completely by surprise. He offered very little resistance, and was caught before he could man his post, and was wearing no equipment.

The raiders worked to the Right and Left from the point of entry, using nut crackers and the bayonet with excellent effect. At the same time the parapet parties advanced along the top of the trench using hosing fire from the Lewis Gun.

At Zero plus 10, the raiders withdrew, after killing at least 30 of the enemy, bringing back six prisoners and two Light Machine Guns. One of the prisoners was a camouflaged sniper.

All the raiders returned with no casualties whatever.

The prisoners were all of the 84th I.R. They had held an Inter-company relief last night, and were not expecting any attack from us. They knew Australians were opposite them, but thought we were 3rd Division, and had no knowledge of any offensive action on their part in this area.

All telephone wires were cut from about Zero plus 15, forward of Battalion H.Q., and in consequence some delay was caused in getting early reports.

The C.O., Raid, reports that the wire, which was poor, was well cut by our Artillery and Trench Mortar fire. It consisted of barbed wire and concertina. The post was in a trench which terminated in a dead end at about K.7.b.90.90. It was about 3'6" deep with a 1' parapet camouflaged with crop. It contained bivouacs similar to our own. The strength of the garrison was about 40.

Green flares fired by the enemy brought no immediate Artillery action, and no M.G. fire was encountered.

The complete success of the operation may be put down to:-

- (a) Very careful preparation.
- (b) Careful registration by the Artillery and Light T.M's. in conjunction with the C.O. Bn. and the C.O., Raid.
- (c) Barrage, which was perfect, and the accurate shooting of the Light Trench Mortars, thus enabling our men to get very close up to the enemy trench.
- (d) Effective use of the Infantry weapons, L.G., Bayonet and Nut Cracker.
- (e) The dash, determination and fine spirit displayed by all ranks engaged.

The C.O., 22nd Bn., reports that the body of Sgt. TYLER, who was reported missing in the raid in the same area on the morning of 9th instant, was brought back. It was the nearer of the two missing men to the enemy trench and had not been disturbed by the enemy. It is hoped to recover the body of the other missing man to-night.

22B

- 2 -

"B" BATTALION RAID.

This was planned to be carried out by Lieut. LOWE, two other Officers and 60 Other Ranks of the 23rd Battalion, against the enemy trench E.19.b.7.1., and for a distance of 50 yards North and South of same. 11 p.m. was chosen as Zero time, and the barrage, which was provided by the Right group of the 47th Div., on our Left, came down right on time, and was very good.

At Zero plus 3, the barrage lifted from a line 50 yards West of the enemy trench on to objective, and remained there for 5 minutes. The raiders rushed forward as it lifted again, but met strong opposition from the trench, and were unable to enter. The estimated strength of the garrison was between 50 and 60, which seems to indicate that the enemy had thickened his line deliberately, as active patrolling previously had established the normal strength at between 20 and 30.

Heavy Machine Gun and Minenwerfer fire was encountered from the high ground and QUARRY to the North and M.G. fire from the mound in front of the CEMETERY in E.20.a.

The raiders engaged the enemy in a vigorous bombing duel, and after suffering 18 casualties, including one Officer, were forced to withdraw without having made an entry.

Three casualties had previously been incurred on the way up to the front line.

All casualties were brought back to our own line.

All ranks report that considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy in the bomb fight.

Enemy retaliation was considerable, and came down promptly on our barrage opening. A considerable amount of Minenwerfer fire was directed on to No-man's-land.

Enemy's prompt action was no doubt due to the alarm caused by the operations further South earlier in the evening.

=====

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 151.

From 3 p.m. 10th to 3 p.m. 11th June, 1918.

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

1. OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. At 9.45 p.m., in support of the Right Infantry Brigade attack on enemy trenches, our Field Guns opened on a barrage which, in 21 minutes, crept to the Protective line, where it remained until fire ceased at zero plus 90 minutes. Heavy Artillery co-operated.

At the same hour, the Left Group Artillery supported a raid on enemy post at K.1.d.9.2., which was carried out by the Left Infantry Brigade.

On receipt of prisoners' statement that enemy support Battalion was assembling in valley in K.20.b. and d., and K.21., preparatory to a counter-attack, Artillery fire was directed on the locality.

In addition to the foregoing operations, possible assembly areas opposite the Right Sector were kept under fire between 2.30 a.m. and 3.30 a.m., and enemy activity areas, embankments and bridges over the ANCRE were intermittently harassed throughout the night.

At 6.30 p.m., a M.W. at K.17.a.70.45. was silenced.

(b) Trench Mortars.

In conjunction with the Right Infantry Brigade operation, the 6" NEWTON T.M.'s. bombarded the enemy front line wire for 3 minutes after zero, and thereafter till plus 30 minutes, engaged selected points in the enemy defences.

Supporting the raid on the enemy's post at K.1.d.9.2., bombardments of the enemy defences were carried out during the day. In all, 329 rounds were fired.

(c) Machine Guns.

Right Group of 20 guns fired 127,000 rounds, and Left Group 68,500 rounds on selected targets along the Div. front in connection with the Infantry operations.

(d) Infantry.

(a) At 9.45 p.m., Right Bde. advanced their line an average of 600 yards on a frontage of 3,000 yards. All objectives were gained on time. On the Right of the attack, hostile opposition was severe, on the Left very slight. Up to date the captures amount to:-

2 Officers.	229 O.R's.	unwounded.	20 M.Guns.
2 Officers.	41 O.B's.	wounded.	1 M.W.

Our casualties were light.

(b) At 9.45 p.m., Left Bde. raided enemy post, and trench on either side, at K.1.d.9.2. The enemy were apparently taken by surprise, and about 30 were killed.

Captures - 6 O.R's. 2 Light M.G's.

Our casualties Nil.

(c) At 11 p.m. an attempt to raid hostile post at E.19.b.7.1. met with strong opposition from the enemy, who were apparently well on the alert. A vigorous bombing encounter ensued and eventually our party returned to our lines, bringing in their casualties.

P.T.O.

War Diary 188

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Coys., 90th R.I.R.,
54th Division.
8th Coy., 84th I.R., 54th Division.
2nd M.G. Coy. and 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Coy. 265 R.I.R., 108th Div.
2nd Coy., 107th R.I.R., 24th Res. Div.
1st Coy., 12th Pioneer Bn.
5th Battery, 76th Field Artillery Regt.

Total captures since 9.45 p.m., 10th instant, to 3 p.m., 11th instant -

Through P.O.W. Cage	-	2	Officers.	235	O.R's.	{	22 M.Gs.
Through Field Amb.	-	2	Officers.	41	O.R's.		1 M.W.
Total.	-	4	Officers.	276	O.R's.		

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Hostile Artillery was quiet during the day. Retaliation to our barrage did not commence till 9.50 p.m., and fell on front line and supports, but very soon shifted on to back areas. At 6.45 a.m. very heavy 21 cm. and 15 cm. fire was opened on our new front line and on trenches in J.18.c. and d. Between 1.45 a.m. and 3 a.m., about 200 gas shell (GREEN Cross I) fell in J.6.b. and K.1.d.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trench Mortars. T.Ms. were slightly active on our Left Bde. front during the period. L.M.W. fell in K.7.d. at 5 p.m. At 5.30 p.m., pineapple bombs were fired on trenches in K.7.c. with shrapnel effect from K.8.c.1.3. At 10.30 p.m. a few M.M.W. fell in E.25.a.70.95. M.W. were also used by the enemy at 11 p.m. against our raiding party in E.19.

(b) Machine Guns. M.Gs. showed a slight increase in activity along the Div. front. Active M.Gs. were located at E.20.a.3.3. and E.14.c.3.7.

(c) Defences. Wire in front of enemy post K.1.d.9.4. is of concertina type, and very weak. Trench here is about 3'6" deep, 3' wide, 1' parapet camouflaged with growing crop. At about K.2.c.4.0., a C.T. runs West to the road.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 8 p.m., an E.A. dropped 10 small bombs in D.21. Between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., E.A. were active patrolling our Right Bde. front and dropping flares.

8. MOVEMENT. Enemy movement was detected near clump of trees E.26.c.3.9. At 1.40 a.m., an enemy patrol of 6 was seen moving along what appeared to be a line of posts at approx. E.26.a.0.9. This party was dispersed by rifle fire and bombs. At 7.30 p.m. about 50 enemy walked along road in K.3.a., finally disappearing in gully K.3.d.

FLARES. The opening of our barrage was followed by GREEN flares, after which twin REDS and GOLDEN CLUSTERS were sent up.

M. S. Dring Lt. Colonel,
for General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

ANNEXE follows.

page 3.

ANNEXE.

Report on Examination of Prisoners captured during operations
10/11th June 1918.

Enemy Order of Battle.

From North to South.

84.I.R. - 27 R.I.R. - 90 R.I.R. - 265 R.I.R. - 107 R.I.R.
All these units were identified except the 27 R.I.R., the position
of which has been determined by prisoners' statements.

Dispositions.

Each Battalion seems to have had 2 Coys. in line and 2 Coys.
in support. Reserve Bn of the 90 R.I.R. and 107 R.I.R. were in
the valley in K.21., and in TAILLES WOOD. First line transport
is in the trees, probably in K.24.d., near ETINEHEM. The second
line transport of the 90 R.I.R. is at SUZANNE. The 5th Batt.
76th F.A.R. is stated to be in K.22.c.

Reliefs.

A relief took place in the 84 I.R. on the night 9/10th.
A relief of the 90 R.I.R. was expected tonight (11/12th).
A Bn. of the 107th R.I.R. was to relieve the single Bn. of
the 265 R.I.R. in the line tonight (11/12th).
A Divisional relief is expected in a few days.

Losses.

All prisoners agree that the losses from our barrage, and
also from the bombs of our infantry, were very severe.

Strengths.

Strengths varied in the different Coys. of the various Regts.
Prisoners of the 107 R.I.R. stated their Coys. were only 50/
60 strong. Other Coys. in the 265 R.I.R. and 90 R.I.R. are stated
to be 100/120 strong, with 2 offs. and 2 or 3 L.M.Gs.

Moral.

The type of men in the 54th Div. appeared to be somewhat
better than in other Divs. which have held this sector during the
past few weeks. At the same time, nearly all the prisoners were
frankly glad to be captured.

Units Seen.

A fairly reliable L.Cpl. of the 265 R.I.R., who had been
attending a Machine Gun and Section Commander's course in the
CHUIGNIES-CHUIGNOLLES area, remembered seeing units bearing the
numbers 85, 332, and 450, whether active or reserve regiments he
did not know.

Miscellaneous.

No news had been told the men about the MONTDIDIER offensive.
Our attack was expected owing to the numbers of our men seen
standing in the trenches and looking over the parapet, also the
unusual amount of movement, and the fact that the wire had been cut.
At the same time it was not expected in the evening.

Reserves are living in the gullies in L.20.b. and d.

Later.

A document mentions the 54th Minenwerfer Coy. (June 7th).

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

P.T.O.

- 4 -

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S. No. 174).

THE MONTDIDIER - OISE BATTLE FRONT.

The enemy attacked at 4 a.m. yesterday on a 22 mile front, approx. from NOYON to MONTDIDIER.

Eleven divisions are believed to have been in line in the attack, and four others are reported in close reserve.

Of the above, 2 or perhaps 3 belong to the Group of Armies of Prince RUPPRECHT.

The attack generally failed to gain much ground, and, according to prisoners' statements, German losses were heavy. Counter-attacks by the French at COURCELLES and VILLE resulted in the capture of 500 prisoners.

At 7 p.m. last night, the line ran as follows:-

"200 metres North of DUMMELIEU - ROYAUCOURT road to
"Hill 90 - West of Hill 96 - West of Hill 98 - LE FRETOY -
"Hill 96 - COURCELLES - LA TAULE - BOIS de la TAULE -
"Northern edge of BOIS de RESSONS - BAYENCOURT Farm -
"Northern edge of MARNY and LE PLESSIER - BELLINGLISE -
"St. CLAUDE Farm - LA RUE des BOUCAUDES - Southern edge of
"ORVAL - VILLE and PASSEL.

SITUATION WIRES. (Timed 10.25 a.m., 11:6:18).

French retook MERY by counter-attack 10 p.m. last night. At 3 a.m. enemy made strong attack on plateau between COMPIEGNE and ESTREES St. DENYS Roads, but an immediate counter-attack drove him back. French hold MAREST-sur-MATZ - CHEVINCOURT - STAMAND - MACHEMONT. Enemy has captured BETHANCOURT and CAMBRONNE. Counter-attacks are in progress. East of OISE line has been withdrawn to conform and now runs BAILLY - TRACY - LE MONT - MOULIN-sous-TOUVENT.

S E C R E T.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 196.

Copy No.

Headquarters,
11th June, 1918.

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

1. Two hundred gas projectors have been emplaced at E.19.d.9. by "Z" Special Coy. R.E. for firing on DERNANCOURT.
2. ZERO hour will be 1 a.m. on night 11th/12th June if weather conditions are favorable.
3. No postponement of the operation will be made. If conditions are unfavorable the operation will be definitely cancelled for the night.
4. G.O.C. 6th A.I.Bde. will arrange direct with O.C. "Z" Special Coy. R.E. the necessary precautions to be taken.
5. Lt. AUSTIN, "Z" Special Coy. R.E. will be in charge of the operation.
6. The following code will be used :-
 "BLINDS" will mean - "Operation will not take place tonight"
 "SHUTTERS" " " - "Operation completed".
7. Acknowledge by wire.

J. H. M. Fair
 Lieut. Colonel.
 General Staff.

Second Australian Division.

Issued at 5 p.m.DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	To.
1	C.R.A.
2	C.R.E.
3	2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
4	5th A.I.Bde.
5	6th -do-
6	7th -do-
7	2nd A.M.G. Bn.
8	2nd A. Pioneer Bn.
9	A.D.M.S.
10	D.G.O.

For Information.

11	Aust. Corps.
12	47th Div.
13	4th Aust. Div.
14	"Z" Spec. Coy. R.E.
15	"D" -do-
16/17	File.
18/20	War Diary.
21/24	Spare.

286

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATION SOUTH WEST OF MORLANCOURT
 CARRIED OUT BY SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ON THE NIGHT
 10th/11th JUNE, 1918.

1. The main attack was delivered by the 7th A.I.Bde. at 9.45 p.m. with three battalions in line, 27th on the right, 25th in the centre and 28th on the left, one battalion, 26th, in immediate support, and the 18th Bn, 5th A.I.Bde., in reserve.
2. The artillery and machine gun barrages opened at Zero and were very good.
3. All objectives were gained. Opposition was slight on left, more severe on centre and right. Consolidation going on well; platoon posts and C.T. on right battalion, platoon posts and strong point on centre battalion, old German second line on left battalion front is good and being consolidated as well as a strong point and C.T. All units in touch with units on their flanks.
4. Enemy barrage did not start until about 10 minutes after Zero and was not heavy. It was first directed onto forward area and then on back areas. The whole front was quiet by 12.30 a.m.
5. Prisoners so far counted (4 a.m.) 1 officer and 147 o.r. Other captures include 20 machine guns and 1 minenwerfer. Our casualties mainly from machine gun fire estimated at 200.
6. Concurrently with this operation a party from the 22nd Bn. 6th A.I.Bde., consisting of 1 officer and 29 other ranks raided the enemy's trench at K.l.d.9.2. The enemy were taken by surprise and had their equipment off. The whole garrison was accounted for, 30 of the enemy being killed and 6 captured, also 2 machine guns. We suffered no casualties. This raid was supported by the Left Group Artillery which placed a box barrage round the point of entry: this barrage was reported as being very good.
7. At 11 p.m. a party from the 23rd Bn. 6th A.I.Bde. consisting of 3 officers and 60 other ranks attempted to raid the enemy trench at E.l9.b.7.1. being supported by an excellent barrage from the 47th Div. Artillery. Heavy machine gun fire from North and East prevented our men entering the trench which was strongly held. The enemy was engaged in a vigorous bombing fight and after suffering 18 casualties our men were forced to withdraw. All casualties were brought back to our lines. Considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy.
8. Net result of the night's work :-

Our line advanced an average of 600 yards on a frontage of 3,000 yards.
 Prisoners captured - 154 including 1 officer.
 Material captured - 22 machine guns and 1 minenwerfer.
 Prisoners report casualties very heavy.
9. Further report will follow later.

11-6-18.

Sgt C.R. Rosenthal
 Major-General.

Commanding Second Australian Division.

W. J. D. D. D.
W. J. D. D. D.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
11th June, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE No. 33.

1. The Left Brigade will arrange that one of the posts occupied by the nucleus garrison provided by "D" Battalion for the TASMANIAN line will be established at D.22.a.6.O. to be a liaison post with the Division on the Left.
2. The Pioneer Battalion will arrange that one of the posts occupied by the nucleus garrison of the BAIZIEUX system will be established at D.19.a.8.O. to be a liaison post with the Division on the Left.
3. The necessary changes in dispositions will be made forthwith.
4. Addendums necessitated by the above will be made to Section "C" of "C" Division Defence Scheme.
5. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

To all recipients of -

"C" Division Defence Scheme.



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

Diary *MB*

APPENDIX. 39. 130

63

App 40
SECRET.

Copy No. 2

G.32/676.

Headquarters,
11th June, 1918.

4TH AMENDMENT TO "C" DIVISION DEFENCE SCHEME.

Section "0" - Tanks.

"A" Company, 13th Tank Battalion, is relieving "C" Company, 2nd Tank Battalion, on the 14th June.

The following amendments will therefore be made:-

For - "'C' Company, 2nd Tank Battalion," wherever it occurs
read - "'A' Company, 13th Tank Battalion."

For "H.Q., 2nd Tank Battalion - QUERRIEU WOOD - H.20.central,"
read "H.Q., 13th Tank Battalion - B.28.central."

Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

To all recipients of -

"C" Division Defence Scheme.

Diary to BB

Copyright © 2004 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Glebulis.

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

APPENDIX

40

63
APPENDIX

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
11th June, 1918.

132.
S E C R E T.

(GENERAL STAFF.)

Copy No.

G.3/1/888.

Warning Order.

1. It is expected that the Division will be relieved by the 5th Aust. Div. between the 14th and 16th June, 1918.

2. On being relieved Brigade Groups will be concentrated as follows:-

5th A.I.Bde. Group. - CAMON - RIVERY area with one Bn. in vicinity of GLISY.

6th A.I.Bde. Group. - QUERRIEU area with one Bn. in vicinity of LA HOUSOYE.

7th A.I.Bde. Group. - ALLONVILLE area with one Bn. in vicinity of FRECHENCOURT.

3. Probable moves will be -

June 13th. (If busses are not available) or June 14th (if busses are available).

8th A.I.Bde. from CAMON - RIVERY area to Reserve Brigade area.

5th A.I.Bde. from Reserve Brigade area to CAMON - RIVERY area.

One Bn., 15th A.I.Bde. to vicinity FRANVILLERS.

Night, June 14th/15th.

8th A.I.Bde. relieves 7th A.I.Bde. in Right Bde. sub-sector, 7th A.I.Bde. moving to Reserve Bde. area (one Bn. direct to FRECHENCOURT).

Machine guns in Left Bde. sub-sector relieved.

June 15th.

15th A.I.Bde. (less one Bn.) to Reserve Bde. area in morning.

7th A.I.Bde. (less one Bn. at FRECHENCOURT) to ALLONVILLE area in afternoon.

Night, June 15th/16th.

15th A.I.Bde. relieves 6th A.I.Bde. in Left Bde. sub-sector, 6th A.I.Bde. moving to reserve brigade area. Machine guns in Right Bde. sub-sector relieved.

June 16th.

14th A.I.Bde. from QUERRIEU area to Reserve Bde. area. 6th A.I.Bde. from Reserve Bde. area to QUERRIEU Area.

4. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. G.O.C. | 15. S.S.O. | |
| 2. "G." | 16. 2nd A.M.T.Coy. | |
| 3. "A.Q." | 17. D.A.D.V.S. | |
| 4. C.R.A. | 18. D.A.D.O.S. | |
| 5. C.R.E. | 19. D.B.O. | |
| 6. 2nd A.D.Sig.Coy. | 20. D.G.O. | |
| 7. 5th A.I.Bde. | 21. Camp Comdt. | |
| 8. 6th A.I.Bde. | 22. Aust. Corps. | 27/28. File. |
| 9. 7th A.I.Bde. | 23. 47th Division. | 29/31. War Diary. |
| 10. 2nd A.Pioneer Bn. | 24. 3rd Aust. Div. | 32/35. Spare. |
| 11. 2nd A.M.G. Bn. | 25. 4th do. | |
| 12. 2nd A.Div.Train. | 26. 5th do. | |
| 13. A.D.M.S. | | |
| 14. A.P.M. | | |

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

88

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

No. 152.

From 3 p.m. 11th to 3 p.m. 12th June, 1918.

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

I OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery. Harassing fire was carried out throughout the night on tracks and areas opposite the Divisional Sector with a special concentration between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Sunken road in E.27. was bombarded with gas. Enemy movement in K.9.a. and b. and K.14.b. and d. was engaged. A Minenwerfer at K.8.c.8.8. and a hostile battery in K.3.c. were engaged.

(b) Trench Mortars. Our Trench Mortars were active firing on small bodies of infantry and suspected M.G. positions. 35 rounds were fired from the captured M.W. on K.2.a.20.45.

(c) Machine Guns. The following targets were engaged during the period:- K.2.b.5.0., roads, 1,500 rds.; K.8.d.17.30., tracks, 1,500 rds.; E.20.b.35.45. to E.20.b.80.80., road, 2,000 rounds; E.26.d.20.60. to E.26.d.60.65., road, 2,000 rounds. (5 strong)

(d) Infantry. At 12.30 a.m. a hostile party, which appears to have been a detached portion of a counter attacking battalion, was seen moving close to our post at K.25.a.7.4. A party of our men from this post immediately engaged them with L.G. and bombs, killing four and capturing the fifth. One of the enemy, who had lost his way, was also captured near our post at K.25.c.3.8.

(e) Patrols.

Right Sector. The Right Bn. and Centre Bn. established covering and standing patrols, but no movement was noted.

The Left Bn. sent out a patrol from K.13.b.4.2. at 11 p.m., to reconnoitre enemy C.T. running through K.13.b. Our men proceeded along this for approx. 250 yards, when they were held up by sniping and M.G. fire. A post containing a M.G. and two snipers was located at approx. K.13.b.8.2. A wiring party was seen 400 yards East of our line at K.14.a.2.0. This party was engaged by our M.G. fire.

Left Sector. Patrols were sent out and report as follows:-

1. An enemy working party was heard at approx. K.2.c.2.5.

2. A scout crawled through the crop in daylight at 6.30 p.m. from E.25.b.9.7. about 150 yards. An enemy post at approx. E.26.a.10.75. was encountered, where two enemy, who were asleep, were bombed. Several others then appeared and our scout was wounded with bombs, but managed to regain our lines in spite of heavy M.G. fire.

3. Sounds of digging and coughing were heard in direction of E.26.c.2.4.

(f) Snipers. Many targets presented themselves, and our Right Bde. Snipers claim 45 killed.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

107

8th Coy., R.I.R. (Prisoner, night 11th/12th June).

2nd M.G.K., R.I.R. (Prisoner, night 11th/12th June).

265

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

There was fairly lively activity on the Divisional front, particular attention being paid to the Right Bde. sector. The area containing our old front, support and reserve lines was subjected to fire by 77 mm., 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. throughout the period, dropping back on to the enemy's old front line at night. There was little gas shelling - a few lachrymators fell in J.6.a. and b., and K.1.e. Twenty 10.5 cm. GREEN Cross shells fell in D.30. J.6.a., J.11.a.5.9., K.7., D.28.a. and d., D.29.a. and b., D.23.c. and d., D.22.c. and d., E.19.central, and E.25.a., also received attention. What appeared to be a registration shoot was carried out on our front line in K.1.d. by 77 mm. guns.

in K.7.a. and b., 150 rds. BLUE and GREEN Cross fell

P.T.O.

War Diary 22B

- 2 -

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Increased activity in infantry, artillery and aircraft is noticeable, particularly opposite our Right Bde. This is probably due to our operations of the 9th/10th instant. The enemy does not appear to be clear as to the situation of his troops forward, and appears to be nervous as to our intentions.

Counter-attack. The whole of the 2nd Bn., 107th R.I.R., apparently moved up to counter-attack from L.19.b. and d. last night, and it was a small party of this Bn. which had become detached, which was attacked by our post at K.25.a.7.4. The remainder of the Bn. was dispersed by our M.G. and Artillery fire before their counter-attack had time to develop properly.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES. Reserves are in the gully North of ETINEHEM in L.19.b. and d. (P.S.).

(a) Trench Mortars. Locations are reported at K.31.a.5.7., K.8.c.95.50., K.8.a.90.50., K.14.a.50.50., E.26.c.4.1. and approx. E.20.a.4.1.

77 mm. guns were firing from the copse in K.26.c., and trees along the road K.31.a. and c.

(b) Machine Guns. No new locations are reported.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. At intervals until dark on the 11th inst. two enemy planes flew up and down our lines at a low altitude, though under heavy M.G. fire. At 10 a.m. on the 12th low flying E.A. patrolled our lines dropping RED and WHITE flares.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION. There was less movement than usual on the Left Sector. On the Right, however, many targets presented themselves, which were engaged. From prisoners' statements, it appears that the units which have come up to counter-attack have only a vague idea as to the position of their own line, and a large amount of the movement is probably due to an endeavour on the part of small bodies of men to find their proper positions. An abnormal amount of movement was reported opposite the Right Bn. front at 10 a.m. this morning. Harassing fire was accordingly put down on assembly areas by Artillery and M.Gs. A plane which flew over to examine this area reported that the movement had ceased.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility, fair.

Reliefs. The 2nd Bn., 107 R.I.R., was to have relieved the 2nd Bn., 265 R.I.R. after the counter-attack last night. It is stated, however, that this did not take place, so that there are probably elements of both units in the line.

Confirmation is required of the existence of the 233rd Div. in the back areas of this sector.

Strengths. The 2nd M.G.K. prior to our attack had a strength of 4 Off. (all 2nd Lieuts., one of whom was Active, the remainder Reserve 158 O.R. and 16-17 heavy M.Gs. Two were stated to have been captured, and one or two destroyed; four guns therefore moved up shortly after our attack to take their place. Prisoner was carrying food to his team when he lost his way and was captured.

Location. The heavy M.Gs. are in position about 50 metres behind the front line. Apparently only 4 are pushed forward, the remainder are distributed in depth to the rear, and a number are held in reserve.

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

2nd Aust. Div. I.S.152.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (I.S.No.175).

THE MONTDIDIER - OISE BATTLE FRONT.

The enemy continued his attacks yesterday, but only made small progress. Up to yesterday evening the French held the Western edge of MERY and the hills North of NEUFVY and GOURNAY. PORTE Farm and FERME-des-LOGES were captured by the Germans but recaptured by the French. The enemy also made some progress near ATTICHE Farm.

15 divisions have now been identified of which 3 belong to Prince Rupprecht's Group of Armies. The front of the attack (22 miles) was originally held by 8 divisions in line. The line has therefore been reinforced by 7 divisions.

PARACHUTE FLARES.

The French report that parachute flares (Leuchtbombe mit Fallschirm) have been dropped from enemy aircraft in connection with night bombing operations. These flares are cylindrical in shape and are 10 cm. in diameter; they are made in two sizes, one 60 cm. and the other 90 cm. long. They contain a magnesium compound which ignites at a height of from 1,000 - 1,300 feet above the ground. The smaller type burns for about two minutes. Fuzes are time and percussion and are marked Dopp.Z.08. (Doppel-Zunder 1908). The casing is of aluminium. The time ring is set at the figure corresponding to the height from which the bomb is to be dropped.

The larger size flare has been found on Gothas; this type is estimated to burn for at least 5 or 6 minutes.

