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Formation Headquarters

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Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

September 1918



AWM4-1/50/31PART2

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 0600 30th September to 0600 1st October, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. During night 29th/30/9/18 Right brigade successfully mopped up and completed capture of NAUROY. During operations on 29/9/18 patrols of right brigade with great determination pushed on and were in JONCOURT where prisoners were captured but owing to situation on left flank had to return. The left brigade attacked in a N.E. direction during the morning and made good progress in spite of strong opposition along LE CATELET NAUROY line and at 7.20 am had reached a point A.28.b.6.6. A fierce counter attack was launched against our troops by the 1st Guard Grenadier Rgt. (Kaiser Alexander) but was repulsed with loss to the enemy. The enemy also carried out frequent bombing attacks which were all repulsed. The centre bde. also advanced their line to the western outskirts of BOIS CARRARE FARM but in order to deal with the main part of the farm with H.A. our advanced posts withdrew to LA CATELET line. The attack along the CATELET NAUROY line was vigorously resisted by the enemy with M.G. and field guns over open sights. Two field guns and many M.G. were captured here. The Bn. Commander and Adjutant of the 3rd Bn. 87th IR were also captured here. The right brigade in advancing and straightening their line met with very heavy M.G. and artillery fire from trenches G.6.c and d and were subsequently held up. The centre brigade encountered strong opposition from M.G. fire when they attempted to straighten their line. Strong patrols were pushed out by bridges during the night but the enemy were found in strength and alert especially in CABARET Wood Farm and maze of trenches G.6.b and d and Sugar Factory H.7.c. Operations again commenced at 6 a.m. this morning and are going well.
- (b) Artillery.- Both yesterday and this morning at 0600 a barrage was put down in conjunction with infantry actions. Our guns have been very active engaging all movement observed and targets selected by the infantry. The following targets were heavily engaged :- A.17.d, A.17.a, G.6.a.b and d. H.7.c H.1.c, FOLEMPRISE FARM, SUGAR FACTORY G.12.d LE CATELET TRENCH in MGs in CABARET WOOD. 50 rounds fired into RUDDER COPSE. 50 rounds into sunken road A.20.a. 100 rounds into A.12.d. 50 rounds into A.22.a and c. Roads, tracks and villages were kept under continuous fire throughout the night.
- (c) Prisoners and war material. (a) Prisoners during period up to 1300 1-10-18 through Div. P.O.W. Cage 2 offr. 163 O.R. Through M.D.S. to 1800 30-9-18 12 O.R. Total 2 offr. 175 O.R. Total since operation 30-9-18 through Div. P.O.W. Cage 3 offr. 261 O.R. Many prisoners are being used on stretcher work and may have passed through other P.O.W. Cages as prisoners estimated by brigades exceeds numbers through Div. P.O.W. Cage.
- (b) Material. - Material during whole operation accounted for so far:- 13 77mm, 1 5.9, 1 4.2, Over 20 M.Gs accounted for more still to be collected. Some M.Gs were captured by our patrols who pushed into JONCOURT on 29-9-18 but had to be left when patrols withdrew.
- (d) Situation 1300. We join with div. on right at H.13.b.1.5 thence JONCOURT (incl) ESTRELS (incl) FOLEMPRISE Farm A.30.central, A.27.central, A.16.central.

APPENDIX 2

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Identifications since operation of 29-9-18. ANALYSIS of 3 Officers and 311 O.R.

161st I.R.			
1st Bn.	17		
2nd Bn.	13		
3rd Bn.	12		
28th R.I.R.			
1st Bn.	11		
2nd Bn.	4		185th Division.
3rd Bn.	15		
65th I.R.			
1st Bn.	9		
2nd Bn.	3		
3rd Bn.	14		
No Bn. (att. 65 I.R)	7		
60th I.R.			
1st Bn.	11		121st Division.
7th R.I.R.			
3rd Bn.	8		
249th R.I.R.			
2nd Bn.	1		
3rd Bn.	6		
250th R.I.R.			75th Res. Division.
1st Bn.	12		
3rd Bn.	8		
251st R.I.R.			
2nd Bn.	3		
3rd Bn.	4		
81st I.R.			
1st Bn.	14		
2nd Bn.	21		
3rd Bn.	9		
87th I.R.			
3rd Bn.	2 Offr. 18 O.R.		21st Division.
80th Fus. Regt.			
1st Bn.	2		
2nd Bn.	4		
3rd Bn.	11		
46th I.R.			
1st Bn.	1		110th Division.
2nd Bn.	4		
1st Guard Gren. Regt.			
1st Bn.	2		
3rd Bn.	3		
2nd Guard. Gren. Regt.			2nd Guard Division.
1st Bn.	3		
4th Guard Gren. Regt.			
3rd Bn.	11		

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75th Sharpshooters attached 161st Division 6

185th F.A.R.

1st Battery. 1

7th Bty. 1 off. 24 O.R.

55th F.A.R.

8th Battery. 1

1st Bn. Munich Landsturm M.G. Coy 3

Stretcher Bearer Coy attached 161 I.R. 1

M.V. Coy. 46th Rgt. 6

1st F.A.R.

2nd Battery 3

3rd " 2

5th " 1

Ammn. Column. 1342 2

75th Pioneer Bn. attached 75th Div. 1.

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY. Heavy harassing fire has been carried out on forward areas during the day mostly from left flank. Shelling of field guns appeared to be with direct observation. NAUROY and BELLICOURT were heavily shelled during period, also localities S. of BELLICOURT. Scattered shelling on back areas and roads.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Enemy has put up a very stubborn resistance to our advances and appears determined to hold his ground. Counter attacks to retake lost ground are reported but these have been properly dealt with.

5. GENERAL. During operations vigorous sniping and bombing have been carried out. 1st Guard Grenadier Regt. was resting with rest of Div. in CLARY area for 3 days. Brought up by bus and thrown in to reinforce CATELET line. Were to counter attack on morning of 30-9-18 but our attack came first. 3rd Bn. 87th I.R. H.Q. located at A.29.a.4.6. Prisoner of 2nd Guard Gren. Regt. stated his coy. was ordered to counter-attack but refused. Their officers have told them to give themselves up to the British as they would get better treatment than from the French. 1st Bn. 2nd Guard Gren. Regt. have suffered heavily during last 2 days from M.G. fire. Men are dissatisfied and state they were called back from rest because there were no other reserves (P.S.). H.Q. of 4th Gd. Gren. Rgt. and 2nd Guard Div. is in Farm H.10.b.1.8. A forward liaison centre was at H.7.b.0.9. Men captured here say their three officers ran away and left them. Moral of all prisoners is very low and they all seem discontented. Since 29th September our Corps have captured to 6 p.m. 30-9-18 50 officers 1752 O.R.

1st October, 1918

Jim. A. Chapman Capt
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 p.m. 1st September to 6 a.m. 3rd Sept., 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. The fighting which has been of a heavy nature continued during the period. The remaining strong points and M.G. nests in PERONNE and the N.E. portion of the town which was still holding out since the attack on 1/9/18 and although reinforced during the night was successfully mopped up during the morning of 2/9/18. Intense street fighting took place in portions of PERONNE. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and over 100 prisoners taken. Our infantry also established themselves in face of stubborn resistance and heavy M.G. fire on a general line SUGAR FACTORY (I.22.a) N.E. corner of BRICKWORKS (I.22.b) St. DENIS I.22.d.2.7.

Strong opposition was encountered from N.E. ramparts of PERONNE, St. DENIS wood and FLAMICOURT.

Continuation of above our line runs approximately I.22.d.5.3, I.28.b.5.9 thence S.W. along N. bank of River.

(b) Artillery. At 12 noon 2/9/18 a concentration was put down on St. DENIS wood and the village of FLAMICOURT which was then very strongly held by the enemy.

(From 6 a.m. 1-9-18 to 6 am 2-9-18) - The movement of enemy transport and troops is still very active. Our guns have been engaging these targets, with observation, all day. From 11 am to 3 pm a smoke screen was laid down from O.6.c to O.11.c to assist bridging operations. Its effectiveness was marred by weather conditions. Between 5 and 6 p.m. batteries were engaged on barrage work in support of Infantry attack. 600 rounds were expended in searching CHAIR WOOD and CARDINAL WOOD. The following targets were engaged :- M.G. positions in O.4.a, c & d, cross roads I.28.a.9.0, road I.29.b.3.1 road running N.W. I.22.d, cross roads O.6.a, road J.31.c, sunken road I.24.b, movement at I.23.b and d, I.24.a, I.28, I.36.c, J.31.a, J.19.c, I.12.d, J.19 and J.25. Harassing fire was continued throughout the night.

(c) M.G.'s. M.G. Sections have been operating in close touch with infantry battalions and engaging all targets. Many captured guns have also been mounted with good effect against the enemy.

(d) Patrols. Our patrols have been very active but everywhere found the enemy strong and alert.

Our patrols pushed out against FLAMICOURT on evening and during the night of 2nd/3rd found the village strongly held.

At 4 a.m. 3/8/18 patrols again found the enemy holding FLAMICOURT.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Total prisoners through Divisional P.O.W. Cage from 6 p.m. 1-9-18 to 7 p.m. 2-9-18, 6 officers, 140 O.Rs. Prisoners are from :-

94th I.R.)	
95th I.R.	(38th Division.
96th I.R.)	

28th E.I.R.)	
65th I.R.	(185th Division.
161st I.R.)	

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 2

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1st Guard Gen. Regt. }
 2nd " " " } 2nd Guard Division.
 4th " " " }

122nd Fusilier Regt. }
 478th I.R. } 243rd Div. (WURTT).

258th R.I.R. (Attached to 185th Div. on disbanding of
 78th Res. Div.).

3rd Guard Pioneer Coy.
 10th Bav. Pioneers (Battalion now Army troops).
 67th M.G. Sharpshooters detachment.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. During the 1st/2nd fire decreased considerably except for numerous heavy area shoots on I.9, I.15, I.20 and I.26. During night of 1st/2nd the valley of SOMME south of PERONNE was constantly shelled.

6 pm 2-9-18 enemy shelled front line very heavily for 20 minutes.

PERONNE was heavily shelled during evening of 2/9/18.

From 6 am 1-9-18 to 6 am 2-9-18 The shelling of back areas has shown a marked decrease, but 77 mm, 4.2's and 5.9's were fairly active on front line. The following areas were shelled :-

Area Shelled.	Time	Rds.	Calibre.
N.16.b.	6-8 am	45	4.5
N.17.a.	8am-2 pm	65	4.2 & 5.9
N.10 & 11.	" "		21cm & 15cm
M.29	" "		4.2
O.23, 8, & 9.	" "		77 & 5.9
Road N.14.	5.10 pm	20	4.2
PERONNE.	" "		5.9 & 4.2
O.30 & 9 N.11,17 & 6.	" "		77, 4.2,5.9.
Valley in N.16 & 11.	" "	150	Gas Shell.

4. ENEMY ACTIVITY. The enemy has been offering a stubborn resistance to our advance along the whole front. He seems determined to hold his positions on the E. side of the SOMME. He has been extremely active with his M.G.s and especially from the N.E. ramparts of PERONNE before it was cleared up. He has his M.G.s placed to cover practically all crossings. His artillery has been active on crossings and PERONNE.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY. One flight of 7 E.A. crossed our lines at 1 pm and again at 8 p.m. 1/9/18. Bombs were dropped by E.A. in our reserve and Support areas on night 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy reported to be strongly holding trenches in I.16.b.

Roads in use by enemy.- BUSSU to trench in I.17.c.5.5
 Through I.24.b and c and I.23.c to FAUBOURGE de BRETAGNE.

Enemy wire in front of our start line on 1-9-18 was found to be very strong and in excellent condition and formed a very strong obstacle.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. During period road in I.24.d was constantly used. At 12.20 pm 2-9-18 a large body of troops was seen moving about woods and along sides and over ridge in groups and extended order in I.24.d, I.30.b J.19.c, and J.25.c. One battalion was seen to move from BUSSU

into /

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into wood in I.12.d.

All this movement and other movement was kept under fire from big artillery.

At 6 p.m. 2-9-18 - Much forward movement from O.32.b towards O.29.b and DOINGT.

8. CAPTURES. - 14th A.I. Bde. reported to have captured so far -
2 77mm guns and numerous M.G. both heavy and light.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. At 9 a.m. 1-9-18 a large mine exploded in PERONNE.

An escaped prisoner of war from the 7th A.I. Battalion came into our lines at 9 p.m. on 1st Sept. He was captured on 12th August in front of LIHONS.

Captured enemy M.G. have been mounted in our front system and successfully brought into action against him.

Notes on Prisoners taken in operations of 2-9-18.-

Prisoners through P.O.W. cage from 10 pm 1st Sept. to 7 p.m. 2nd September, 1918.

Total 5 officers 129 O.R.

28th R.I.R. Signal Detach. 2 O.R.

161st I.R. 1 Coy, 1 O.R., 12th Coy, 1 O.R. Pioneer Coy, (10th Coy 28th Bn) 3 O.R.

65th I.R. 1 M.G.K. 1 Offr. 2 O.R. Btn H.Q. 1 offr. see note (A)

94th I.R. 2nd Coy, 1 O.R., 3rd Coy, 1 Offr. 1 O.R. 6th Coy 2 OR, 2 M.G.C. 1 O.R.

95th I.R. 6th Coy 1 O.R., 3 M.G.C. 6 O.R.

96th I.R. 9th Coy. 1 offr. (Coy Cmdr) 10th Coy 1 O.R.

1st Gd. Gren. Regt. 2nd Coy. 1 O.R. 5th Coy 2 O.R. 7th Coy 3 O.R.

3rd Gd. Pioneer Coy 2 O.R.

2nd Gd. Gren. Regt. 5th Coy 1 O.R.

4th Gd. Gren. Regt. 10th Coy 1 O.R. 11th Coy 1 O.R.

122nd Fus. Regt. 1st Coy, 1 O.R. 2nd Coy 4 O.R. 11th Coy 2 O.R. Sigs 4 O.R., 12th Coy 3 OR. 3 MGC 4 OR.

478th I.R. 1st Coy 1 O.R., 8th Coy 1 O.R. 9th Coy 1 O.R.

258th R.I.R. attached to 185th Div. on disbanding 78th Reg. Div.

1st Coy, 1 Off. 4 OR, 2nd Coy 22 OR, 3rd Coy 11 OR, 4th 12 OR 1st MG Co

10th Bav. Pion. Bn. now Army troops. 1 O.R. 20 OR Bn. H.Q. 1 OR

67th M.G. Sharpshooters detachment. 2nd M.G.K. 4 O.R.

NOTE (A). An officer of 65 I.R. captured (The officer here mentioned) is a captain and in command of a force which consisted of the remnants of 1 Bn 65th I.R. plus 1st M.G.K. plus 1st, 2nd, 3rd Coy 258th R.I.R. and 1st M.G.K. altogether about 200 men. Was hastily gathered together and attempted to hold the East quarter of PERONNE.

A reliable N.C.O. of 122nd Fus Regt. was recently as far back as EPEHY but saw or heard nothing of reserves anywhere. States the II Bn. of his Regt is practically wiped out while the III Bn. Commander was killed alongside him this morning. They were standing by as counter attack division a few days ago but are now reinforcing the 38th Division apparently as units of 38th Div. 243rd Div and 2nd Guard Div. are hopelessly mixed up.

Men of the 478th I.R. also mention state of chaos everywhere their losses have been extremely heavy. The 9th Coy had only 7 men left. The whole III Bn. was 34 men strong put together as a dingle company and called company HOLDER after the Lieut in Command. The II Bn. companies are still acting as independent companies but are only on average 20 men strong. The whole regt. is stated to have 190 men available for fighting.

3rd Gd. Pioneer Company is acting as Infantry with the 4th Gd. Gren. Regt.

Machine Gun companies appear to have as a rule their 12 H.M.Gs while complement appears to average 50-60 men. 67th M.G. Sharpshooter detachments (with 3 Coys on similar establishment) as Infantry M.G.

Coys. /

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Coys. was supporting the 185th Div. with the 2nd Coy about in I.29.a with 1st Coy North and 3rd Coy South.

The 258th R.I.R. is attached to 185th Div. companies averaging 25 men came into line Sept 1 about noon, men know nothing of locality or order of battle.

CORRENDUM.- 5th Aust. Div. Intelligence Summary Ig.27/2212 Operations. (a) Infantry, para. 2 for 31-8-18 read 1-9-18.

3rd September, 1918..

Jim. A. Chapman Capt.
for Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

P A R T II.
INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES (3/9/18.)

1. INFORMATION CONCERNING 8th BAV. I.R. - Strength. It is interesting to note that the 2nd, 8th and 9th Coys have been broken up, thus decreasing each battalion strength to 3 companies, and the average strength of these companies appears to be from 20 to 25 men. (P.S.)
Losses. Losses have been heavy, not only in prisoners, but also from our artillery fire. (P.S.)
Drafts. Apparently drafts have arrived for the regt. and are to join it on its conclusion of duty in the line. These drafts are waiting at ROISEL. (P.S.)
2. GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING 14th BAV. DIV. - The 14th Bav. Div was to have been relieved by the 38th Div., but owing to our attack and the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, the relief failed to take place, the 38th Div., being brought into line to reinforce the front. (P.S.)
Names.- Bde. Cdr. - JORDAN. Intentions. The division had orders to hold the position at all costs. (P.S.)
3. INFORMATION CONCERNING 28th R.I.R., 185th Div. This regt. was allotted the task of carrying out the counter-attack, which was yesterday launched against us. All 3 Bns. took part and in addition, the 161 I.R. was to attack. Our M.G. fire caused very heavy losses and the attack was unsuccessful. The Regt. had orders to gain its objective at all costs, and to endeavour to reach the SOMME. The 2nd Bn. refused to endeavour to take HALLE. (P.S.)
4. In the month of Aug. 43,418 German Prisoners, including 1283 Offrs. have been captured by British troops; 657 guns, including 150 heavy guns; over 5750 M.Gs; over 1000 T.Ms; 3 Trains, 9 locomotives; numerous complete ammunition and Engineer dumps containing many hundred thousand rounds of gun and T.M. ammunition as well as small arms ammunition and immense quantities of war material of every kind.
5. BOMBING RAIDS. - By Day. Army Squadrons dropped 339 25-lb bombs on various targets in the battle area. Troops and transport were attacked and casualties and confusion caused. Lorries were bombed and several of them destroyed.
In addition 12 112-lb and 25 25-lb bombs were dropped on ROISEL Station and EPEHY. Direct hits were observed on the village of EPEHY.
6. ENEMY DEFENCES. - The short lengths of trenches W. of VOYERRES in I.18. I.17.b,d are being connected up by a trench line as yet (29th) only faintly traced. (205.V.3010).
There is little sign of work on the old British trench systems W. of St. QUENTIN. It is reported from photographs taken by G.H.Q. Squadron that there are no new trenches or signs of work on existing trenches in the area DENAIN - CAMBRAI - St. QUENTIN.

APPENDIX 2

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 27/9/18

From 6 a.m. 3rd Sept. to 6 a.m. 4th September, 1918

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. Our infantry advanced during the night on a front of 600 yds and penetrated into the enemys territory to a depth of 800 yds. Other infantry action during the period has been confined to active patrolling and taking up of new dispositions. Our line now runs from approx I.16.d.9.2 S.W. along East of main road to about O.22.b.3.2.
- (b) Artillery. - During the day few live targets presented themselves. Concentrations were carried out on enemy strong points and M.G. positions in O.5.d.5.1 and O.12.a.5.5. Movement in O.4.b.2.1 was dispersed and GRID IRON Trench in I.35.c and a searched and swept. Throughout the night synchronised shoots, in conjunction with H.A., were maintained on FLAMICOURT. During the day 4.5" Hows engaged FLAMICOURT Station with direct observation. Observed shoots were carried out on FLAMICOURT station and several direct hits were recorded.
- (c) Patrols. - Our patrols have been active. Patrols moved along railway towards FLAMICOURT station during the day, heavy M.G. fire was encountered from the station but in spite of this posts were established along the railway line. Patrol found enemy M.G. still active on Railway Bridge O.3.d. Another patrol found the ground E. of railway in I.33.b impassable on account of swamp although they penetrated in some 300 yards. Enemy was seen by a daylight patrol at tunnel in embankment about I.28.b.5.4. Our patrol was seen and heavily engaged by many directions with M.G. fire. Hangars O.22.d.9.0 were found unoccupied. One patrol moved along bridge and approach in I.28.a but could not continue owing to intense M.G. fire.
- (d) Machine guns are working in close touch with line infantry and have engaged numerous targets with satisfactory results. Ammunition expended 10,000 rounds.
- (d) L.T.Ms. have engaged M.G. positions with good results.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Prisoners through Div. Cage for period 7 pm 2nd Sept. to 7 p.m. 3rd Sept. 1 Offr. 5 O.R.

1 M.G. Coy, 94th I.R.	1 Officer	
4th Coy 478th I.R.		1 O.R.
4th " 4th Gd.Gren.Rgt.		1 O.R.
67th M.G. Sharpshooters		3 O.R.
Detachment 3rd Coy.		
T O T A L...	1 Officer	5 O.R.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Enemy very active on N. edge of PERONNE and roads in the town. All calibres up to 10 inch have been reported by the infantry, there was a high percentage of Blue Cross gas. This has shown a marked decrease in activity. Scattered shelling of the following areas :-

Area Shelled.	Time.	Rds.	Calibre.
O.15	7 - 9 a.m.	30	4.2 How
O.8.a.	10.10 a.m.	5	5.9
O.16	10 - 11 a.m.	6	5.9
BARLEUX	11 - 11.30 am	20	4.2 How.
BARLEUX Fm O.9.a	12 noon		4.2 (lightly).
O.8.a.	2.30 p.m.	50	4.2
O.9.a. and b.	Afternoon.		4.2 & 77
O.1.c.	3 p.m.	15	77

PTO.

Area Shelled	-2-	Time.	Rds.	Calibre.
O.I.c		7 pm	20	77
Road N.6 & J.31		8 p.m.	60	77
Valley O.7		8.15 to 8.45 pm		5.9 & 4.2s.
O.I.a		11 p.m.		Gas.
N.17.		11.25 p.m.	20	77

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. FLAMICOURT still held by the enemy. M.Gs are located in station. M.Gs at I.28.b.4.4, O.22.d.7.4 and O.22.d.9.5. 77mm battery reported firing from road I.29.a.2.4 at 7.35 p.m. and another I.24.a.
5. AERIAL ACTIVITY. E.A. bombing planes were again active during the night on forward areas. During the day the activity of E.A. was very slight.
6. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Defensive very alert and his M.G's very active. From instances reported that occurred in recent few days fighting shows that the enemy was determined to hold PERONNE at all costs.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Movement is reported in trenches I.35., I.34.c and d, I.22.b.5.5. At 11.25 am men were seen walking in S.E. direction from P.27.b across country towards huts in P.28.c. At 4.26 pm 20 men seen travelling E. on road J.9.c and d. At 5.40 p.m. 2 parties of men (10 in each party) one in P.6.b and the other in P.6.d, men appear to be working on trenches. G.S. wagon coming W. on road J.33.a. and b disappeared at J.33.a.2.0. Majority of other movement of isolated parties tanded towards the East, very little reported westwards.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. A captured enemy ^{map} taken in PERONNE late on 2/9/18 shows enemy dispositions and H.Qrs. Extracts from map are issued with to-days Summary. H.Q. of 14th Bav. Div. J.10.b.9.2, 185th Div. BUIRE, and various other dispositions. Captured document shows that the 13th Inf. Div. on 20/8/18 was about AVESRES by CAMBRAI-le-CHATEAU. Incidents in recent fighting :-
 (a) A German officer made a statement that applications were called for amongst troops for men willing to defend PERONNE against the Australians.
 (b) A German soldier who had his leg blown off at the knee raised himself on the knee of the unwounded leg and the stump of the other and continued to fight.
 (c) After passing through the centre of the North Eastern part of PERONNE the resistance of the enemy stiffened considerably and groups of 10 and 20 BOCHE would stand and fire back at Machine Guns which were firing point blank range at them, in one instance one of our guns being as close as 20 yards to them, the enemy continuing to fire until completely wiped out,
 (d) Not only on collective occasion did he fight to the end but also in individual cases. One Hun remained in a cellar at the "On guard" position and although on his own, he fought until he received the point and was killed.

4th September, 1918.

Jim A. Chapman Capt
 for Major, G.S.
 5th Australian Division.

Part II
 INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

- 2-9-18
 1. RESERVES, (a) The 49th Res. Div. (fresh) has reinforced the line SE.

of /

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of BAPAUME.

(b) The 22nd Div. (tired), from the AISNE front, has come into line at BULLECOURT.

(c) The OISE battle front has been reinforced by the 227th and 238th Divs. fresh from reserve.

(d) The 201st Div. (fresh) has relieved a division in the ARGONNE, hence the Fourth Army Daily Situation Map must be amended accordingly.

To sum up.- No fresh Divisions were identified on the Fourth Army front yesterday. In view, however, of the number of prisoners captured by us during the last few days, the great disorganization prevailing among units, the low strength of companies and the necessity for stopping our continued advance it is considered that fresh divisions, from reserve, will be brought against us very shortly. In the meantime, tired divisions will have to be employed.

On the Western Front there are still 14 fresh divisions in reserve, of which 5 are considered to be between the Sea and the OISE.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS. - (a) An N.C.O., belonging to the 232nd Div., stated that a line of defence was being worked on running S. from NURLU, thence E. of the PERONNE road and west of GURLU Wood. He further stated that it was already wired, and that a division in reserve was in the area. The line of defence referred to is probably the old German line and is well wired.

(b) Prisoners belonging to the 185th Div. believed they were to hold the E. bank of the SOMME for some time, but that a withdrawal would take place later in the year.

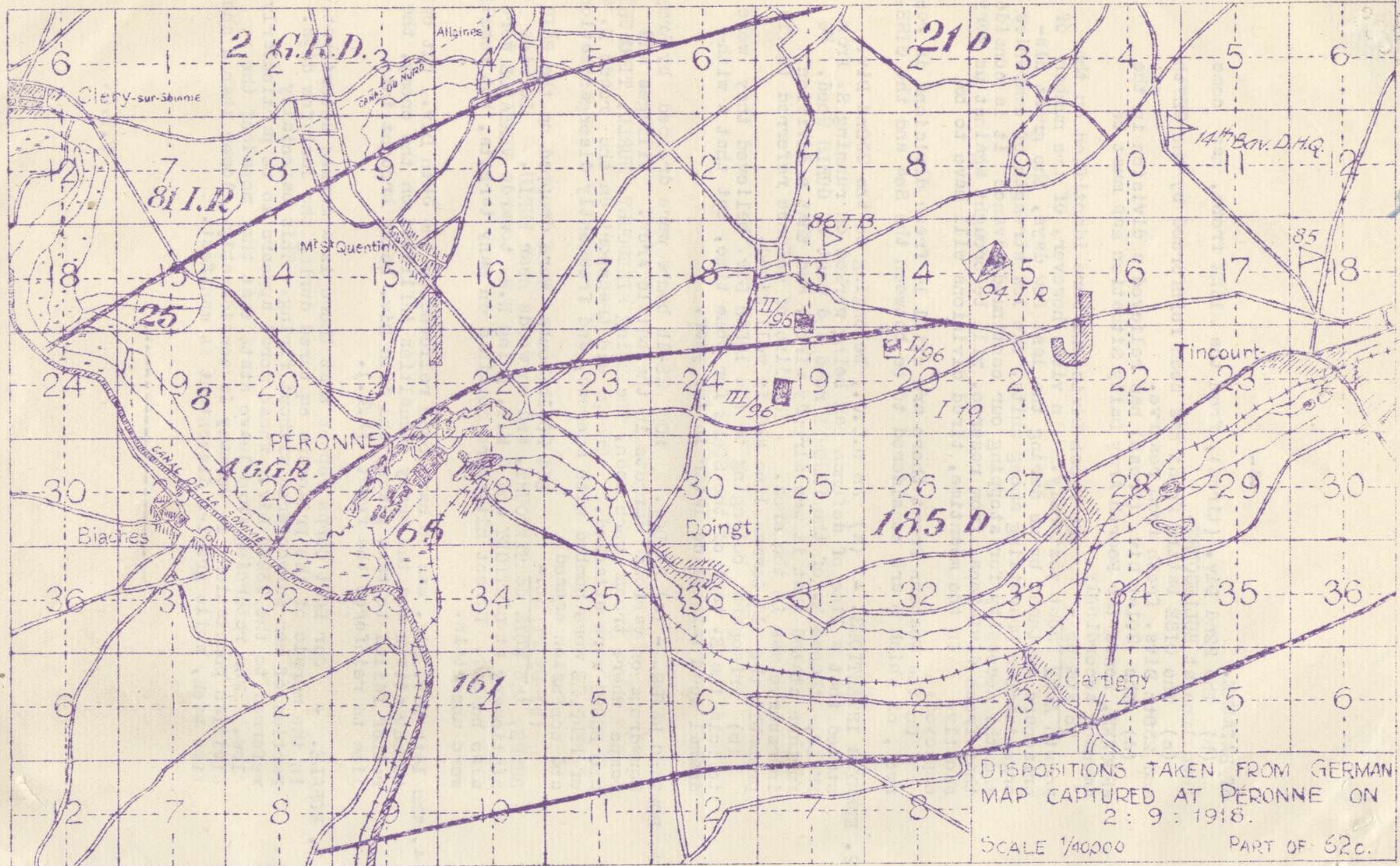
3. BOMBING RAIDS. - (a) By Day. 206 25-lb bombs were dropped by Army Squadrons on various targets in the battle area. Villages and camps where troops were seen, including AIZECOURT, NURLU, TINCOURT, and BUSSU were attacked. Troops and transport on the roads E. of PERONNE were bombed with success, and frequently disorganization and confusion caused.

(b) By Night.- 234 25-lb bombs were dropped on the BOIS de BUIPE, the BOIS de TINCOURT, and on woods near NURLU. Lorries stationary at CARTIGNY and 6 M.T. going N.W. towards VERMANDE were also bombed. Direct hits were obtained on many targets, but results were uncertain.

4. The 14th Bav. Div. was to have been relieved by the 38th Div., but owing to our attack and the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, the relief failed to take place, the 38th Div. being brought into line to reinforce the front. (P.S.).

5. MORALE. - Our Left Corps report that there is a marked deterioration in the morale of the prisoners captured during the last few days. Parties of men surrendered without firing. This especially referred to the 232nd Div. whose moral appears to be particularly low. Men returning from leave state that the morale of the civilian population in Germany is considerably lower than a short time back, while greater discontent is manifest.

P.T.O.



DISPOSITIONS TAKEN FROM GERMAN MAP CAPTURED AT PÉRONNE ON 2:9:1918.
 SCALE 1/40000 PART OF 62c.

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APPENDIX 2

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 4-9-18 to 6.a.m. 5th September, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. Our infantry by keeping close contact with the enemy have advanced their line along the whole divisional front both in an Easterly direction and S.E. direction to secure flank. FLAMICOURT has been held as a strong point by the enemy has fallen. DARMSTADT Trench has been occupied and our infantry are still pushing on in close contact with the retreating enemy. During the night also new dispositions were taken up by our Left Brigade.
- Our line ran approximately at 1 p.m I.11.central, I.6.a.0.0 W. of DOINGT, N.W. of DOINGT along MANNHEIM TRENCH and then in trenches I.23.b, I.17.d. and b.
- (b) Artillery. Our guns continue to harass the enemy's strong posts. At 12 noon a gun in action at O.22.b.central was engaged and silenced. Direct hits and casualties were observed. M.G. positions in O.4.d.4.3, O.4.d.3.6 and O.4.b.5.3 were engaged at intervals during the day. Bursts of fire were put into trenches I.54.b., I.35.a., I.28, I.29, O.10.b, O.4.d, and GRID IRON trench. A party moving in the open at I.36.c was engaged and scattered.
- (c) Patrols. Infantry patrols were in constant contact with the enemy. They found the enemy's resistance weakening so pressed him harder. M.G. fire was encountered by patrols from about I.17.d.4.1 and wood in I.18.d.
- Patrols are now ahead of our advancing infantry lines.
- (d) M.G. During the period enemy movement and hostile M.Gs were engaged. Guns conformed to the forward movement of the infantry.
- (e) L.T.M. were active on strong points and any enemy M.G. positions that could be located.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 6 O.R. captured N.E. PERONNE, 258th R.I.R. late 78th R.D. attached 185th Division.
23rd Coy. 10th Bav. Pioneer's Battalion.

ANALYSIS.

258th R.I.R. 1st Coy. 1 O.R.
23rd Coy, 10th Bav. Pioneer Bn. 5 O.R.
Analysis of 39 Officers, 44 O.Rs. who have so far passed through Divisional P.O.W. and passed to Corps P.O.W. since 6 a.m. 1/9/18 to 4 p.m. 4/9/18.

14th BAVARIAN DIVISION.

		Offr.	O.R.
4th Bav. I.R.	1st Bn.	3	40
	2nd Bn.	4	22
	3rd Bn.	1	44
	Specialist.	1	9
	Regt. Qrs.	2 1/2	4
8th Bav. Inf. Regt.	1st Bn.	1	23
	2nd Bn.	3	18
	3rd Bn.	3	17
	Specialist.	-	4
	Bn. H.Qrs.	1 @	-
Regt. H.Qrs.	2 %	-	

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 2

		-2-	Offrs.	O.R.
25th Bav. Inf. Regt.	1st Bn.		1	2
	2nd Bn.		1	3
	3rd Bn.		1	4
	Specialist.		1	3
	Bn. H.Q.		1	-
	Rgt. H.Q.		2	0
<u>185th Division.</u>				
28th R.I.R.	1st Bn.		3	12
	2nd Bn.		1	12
	3rd Bn.		1	22
	Specialist.		1	4
161st I.R.	1st Bn.		1	1
	2nd Bn.		1	1
	3rd Bn.		1	1
	Specialist.		1	3
65th I.R.	1st Bn.		5	31
	Specialist.		1	10
	Bn. H.Q.		1	1
185th Pioneer Company.				1
<u>38th DIVISION.</u>				
94th I.R.	1st Bn.		2	2
	2nd Bn.		1	3
	3rd Bn.		1	4
95th I.R.	1st Bn.		1	2
	2nd Bn.		1	1
	3rd Bn.		1	6
96th I.R.	1st Bn.		1	8
	3rd Bn.		1	1
	Specialist.		1	1
<u>232nd DIVISION.</u>				
447th I.R.	3rd Bn.		1	1
<u>2nd GUARD DIVISION.</u>				
1st Guard Gren.	1st Bn.		1	4
	2nd Bn.		1	5
2nd Guard. Gren. Rgt.	2nd Bn.		1	1
	1st Bn.		1	1
3rd Gd. Gren. Regt.	3rd Bn.		1	2
	4th Guard		1	2
3rd Gd. Pioneer Coy. attached Regt. as Infantry.				2
<u>243rd DIVISION.</u>				
122nd Fus. Regt.	1st Bn.		1	5
	3rd Bn.		1	8
	Specialist.		1	4
478th I.R.	1st Bn.		1	2
	2nd Bn.		1	2
258th R.I.R. (183th Div).	1st Bn.		1	70
	Bn. H.Qrs.		1	1
67th M.G. Sharpshooters.	2nd Coy.		1	4
	3rd Coy.		1	3
F.A.R. 185.	4th Bty.		1	1
F.A.R. 221.	6th Battery.		1	2
23rd Coy. 10th Bav. Pioneer Bn.			1	6
Total.-				6
Through 5th Aust. Div. A.D.S. and M.D.S. from 1st to noon 4th				
1 officer 43 O.Rs.				
<u>Grand Total.-</u> 40 officers, 486 O/Ranks.				
				P.T.O.

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Part II.
INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. ENEMY RUSES. - According to statements of prisoners taken by the Corps on our right, time fuze mines have been laid in certain cellars in the village of LAGNY. The charges, painted yellow, explode after an interval of 8 days. Those painted red and blue explode after more than eight days. The mines are placed in the floors of the cellars.
2. One exhausted division (243rd) reinforced the line yesterday (2-9-18). There is strong evidence that the Alpine Corps and a Bavarian Division are relieving the remnants of the 232nd Div, 2nd Guard, and 38th Div. With the arrival of these fresh troops local counter-attacks may be expected.
3. RESERVES. - (a) 243rd Div. was brought into the line yesterday for the third time since 8th August, when it was holding the ALBERT sector. It has suffered particularly heavy losses since 22nd August, and should be weak.
(b) There is little doubt that the Alpine Corps is in back areas. It is probably relieving elements of the exhausted Guard and 38th Divisions.
(c) A Bavarian Division is reported to be arriving. This is very possibly the 5th Bav. or 12th Bav. Div. The former suffered fairly heavy losses when it counter-attacked at LIHONS, but both should be fresh. It will probably relieve the 232nd Div.
(d) The 15th Res. Div. (fresh) is now in reserve. It will probably be employed against the First Army.
(e) The 1st Div. and 1st Guard Res. Div. has reinforced the front north of the ARRAS - CAMBRAI road.
(f) The 3rd Res. Div. (fresh) withdrawn from the battle South of SOISSONS at the end of July, has reinforced the line east of CHERISY.
(g) There are no indications that the 33rd Res. Div. has been disbanded.
(h) The 75th Res. Div. has reinforced the line S. of ROUY: hence it is no longer available for this front.
4. MOVEMENT. - Rail activity showed an increase yesterday, compared with the slight movement recently seen. At 6.50 a.m. there was rolling stock for 8 trains in ROISEL, and at 8.25 four trains with steam up in the station. This may be connected with the arrival of a Bavarian division reported by prisoners. A little later, between 8 and 8.10, the ST. QUENTIN - BOHAIN line was active in both directions, and six trains with steam up were seen stationary between FORESTE and SAVY.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. - Photographs of 2nd September of the HINDENBURG line between BONY and ST. QUENTIN show very few fresh tracks or signs of repair work. Careful comparison reveals practically no difference since the 29th and 16th Aug. Much of the system however remains in excellent repair.
The ST. QUENTIN Canal is empty in the neighbourhood of BELLENGLISE. Photographs of 2nd Sept. do not show any new trench system or signs of repair of old German or British trenches on the line NURLU - GURLU Wood - DRIENCOURT - TINCOURT. There is little work on trenches in the area AIZECOURT LE HAUT-BUSSU, though there is some activity on tracks between AIZECOURT and HAUT-ALLAINES and between NUREU and MOISLAINS.
6. The 1st and 3rd Bns. of the 4th Gd. Gren. Regts. have had very heavy losses, and on the 31st August the 2nd Bn. was put in to reinforce.

The /

APPENDIX

There are other totals to come in yet as prisoners taken by our infantry did not all pass through our Div. P.O.W. cage.

Adjutant. @ Bn. Commander. % Rgtl. Cmr. & Adjutant.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Enemy guns have been very quiet during the last 24 hours. The following areas were shelled :-

Area Shelled.	Time.	Rds.	Calibre.	Direction from.
N.8	10 a.m.	10	4.2	
N.18	11 a.m.	6	4.2	
N.18, 0.3.c	2 p.m.	7	4.2	
PERONNE.	3 p.m.		77	(lightly shelled)
N.14.	11 p.m.	20	77	

Time.	Target	No.	Calibre.	Direction	Remarks.
10.30am - 4.25 pm	I.19.a	24	5.9 & 4.2	TEMPLEUX	
7.40am-4 pm	I.19.b	16	do.	do.	H.E. & Gas.
3.10 a.m.	I.14.d.	50	519		Blue X Gas.
4 - 4.10 am	I.23.a.	-	5.9 & 4.2		H.E.
Midnight-6 am	I.21.c.	65	do.		H.E. & Blue
Midnight-6am	Rd.in I21c	80	do.		X Gas.
Midnight-5.15 am	I.10.c.	40	5.9 & 4.2		H.E.
2.30 a.m.	I.15.	12	4.2		H.E.
3 a.m.	I.15.	109	5.9		H.E.
3.30 - 4.45am	I.9.d.	55	8"		H.E.
5.45 am	I.9.d.	20	4.2		H.E.
5.50 a.m.	I.16.	20	4.2		

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. M.G. posts were located at I.17.d.4.1 and other places during night but these are now in the hands of our troops.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY. E.A. were seen on four occasions during the day flying high.

6. ENEMY ATTITUDE. His M.G. are very active and all our movement is constantly sniped at with M.G. fire. Probably covering his retirement with strong M.G. posts with orders to engage all movement and keep up a general harassing fire policy.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Men were seen to leave huts in P.3.d.4.3. At 2.5 p.m. 5 loaded G.S. Wagons moved towards LONGAVESNES along road in D.24.a. Dugouts suspected in road P.9.c.0.5.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Large fires burning on 75 1/2° T.B. from 0.2.a.9.0. Enemy dump in P.3.b on fire at 3 p.m. Big fire on 98° T.B. from 0.2.a.9.0 also large volumes of smoke on 81° T.B. from same place other fires are reported behind enemy lines. Prisoners taken during the period show low morale and are very tired of the war. 23rd Coy. had a draft of about 20 men recently all recruits, several belonging to 1899 class.

Jim. A. Chapman. Capt
 Major, G.S.
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIV BION.
 P.T.O.

5th September, 1918.

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The 1st Bn. appears to have had all its companies thrown together, and total battalion strength is 100.

The 2nd Bn. apparently averages about 40 per company, and as regards the 3rd Bn., the position is obscure, but the 10th Coy., is only 12 strong.

In the 2nd Gd. Gren Regt., the 1st Bn. has also had its companies thrown together, and is only 80 strong. In the 2nd Bn., the 8th Coy. has been broken up and absorbed by the remaining companies. (P.S.).

The 4th Gd. Gren. Regt expects, on relief of the division, to receive 400 reinforcements. Both the 1st and 2nd Gd. Gren. Regts. are expecting drafts when the division goes into rest.

7. GERMAN MORAL. - The following is the translation of an order issued on 15-8-18 by Lieut-Gen. von PETERSDORFF, commanding the 2nd Guard Res. Div. :-

"Within 14 days, 1 N.C.O. and 10 other ranks have been missing from the Division. This is an indication that the troops are insufficiently commanded and supervised. There is all the less ground forexcuse, as the Division has had a period of 10 weeks for training and rest in good quarters, which is more than any other division at the present moment on the Western front has had.

I most definitely rely on energetic action being taken by officers of all ranks to prevent incidents of this nature, which endanger the good reputation of the Division".

8. EFFECTS OF OUR ARTILLERY BARRAGE. - Prisoners captured ^{recently} north of the SOMME all testify to the great effect of our artillery barrage. Prisoners of most regiments praise our infantry, especially for their quickness in following close up to the barrage, but the great feature has been the heaviness and accuracy of the barrage itself. Its effect has been accentuated by the fact that the enemy has often been lying either in shell-holes or in old derelict trenches, which have rarely had dugouts that could afford effective shelter.

Apart from the actual number of men killed by its fire, the artillery has also been instrumental in increasing the number of prisoners by disorganizing ration arrangements, and by making retreat at times ^{almost} impossible.

GERMAN DISCIPLINE.

9. The following tasks must be demanded from troops in support :-

"Each man per day: 1 cubic metre of excavation or $\frac{1}{2}$ metre of communication trench, or $\frac{1}{2}$ metre of fire trench, 10 metres of wire entanglement or 6 metres of hasty entanglement (including transport of material), half to two-thirds of the frame of a dugout."

10. AUTOMATIC PISTOLS. - The automatic pistol is a regular "bullet squirt" (KUGELSPRITZE) and is well adapted for hand-to-hand fighting. It must, however, be entrusted only to skilled marksmen. All officers, platoon and patrol commanders, and, for the present, 6 men per company, taken from rifle sections (not machine gun sections), will be trained in its use.

11. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE. - Ammunition expended upon all work during the past 24 hours :- 2-9-18 to 3-9-18 (3 p.m.).

9.2" How.	...	186
8" Hows.	...	200
6" Hows.	...	8032
6" Guns.	...	367
60-pdrs.	...	3639
15 cm Hows.	...	143
10.5 cm How.	...	195
Grand Total.	...	12762

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 a.m. 5th Sept., to 6 a.m. 6th September, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. Continuing there advance yesterday our infantry established themselves on a line along the main DOINGT-ATHIES road. Capturing the villages of DOINGT and BUSSL'. Severe fighting took place in DOINGT in which heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and prisoners were taken. During the night new dispositions were also taken up. The Northern Brigade coming out of its sector and moving south to go in and take up its advance guard positions in a new sector.
- (b) Artillery.- Our artillery was active all day and concentration of H.A. was put down on woods N.E. of DOINGT. Observed shoots were carried out on all targets presenting themselves.
- (c) Patrols. Patrols were active and kept touch with the enemy ahead of our advancing infantry. During the night they were pushed well out.
- (d) M.G.s. Our M.G.s have conformed to the movement of our infantry and are in close touch with them.
- (e) Engineers. Two bridges demolished by the enemy have been repaired to allow passage of Field Artillery.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Prisoners captured :-

38th Div. 19 O.R.	258th R.I.R.	8th Coy 5 O.R. I.23.
<u>5th Bav. Div.</u> - 19th Bav. I.R.	1 Coy. 6 O.R.	0.6.
	2 Coy. 3 O.R.	I.36
	4 Coy. 2 O.R.	

Total 16 O.R.
3 wounded passed on to A.D.S. Total 19 O.R.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Besides what is enumerated below, the enemy's artillery carried out harassing fire on PERONNE.

Time.	Location.	Calibre.	Description.	Approx. No. of Rds.
10.50 am	I.33.c	4.2	H.E.	9
2.50 pm	O.6.a. & c.	4.2	H.E.	Heavy 5 mins.
3.10 pm	FLAMICOURT	4.2	H.E.	20
4.25 pm	I.22.a. & b	4.2	H.E.	30
5.30 pm	BUSSU	5.9	H.E.	Heavy 20 mins.
5.55 pm	BUSSU	4.2	H.E.	Heavy 10 mins.
6.45 pm	DOINGT.	4.2	H.E.	20
6.45 pm	FLAMICOURT.	5.9	H.E.	10
7.35 pm	DOINGT	4.2	H.E.	30

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy defences reported to have now fallen to our advancing infantry.
5. AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 1 p.m. 1 E.A. attempted to cross our lines but was successfully driven off.
6. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Except in a few isolated cases the enemy's resistance to our advance was not vigorous. His M.G. still figured in his resistance.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. 11.20 am between 20 and 30 men were observed to get out of trench in P.1.a. and c and run back over ridge. At 1.40 p.m. 50 men in full marching order standing near brick wall in P.8.b.9.6.

2.50 pm between 50 and 80 men going N.E. on road in P.9.a. marching in close formation.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Large fires are still reported at various places behind the lines. (P.S.). Line held along road LE MESNIL DOINGT with 10 men per company, remainder 1st Bn. retired to road CARTIGNY where they intend to hold on to-night. 2nd Bn. reported to be south of LE MESNIL and 21st Bav. Inf. Regt. believed south of LE MESNIL and 21st Bav. Inf. Regt. believed south of them; nothing known of 3rd Bn. 7th I.R. believed to be north of 19th but statements contradictory. Outposts had orders to fall back on CATELET line after dusk tonight. Coy strength 20 to 40.M.G. Coy only have 2 to 3 H.M.G. each. Bitter against Prussians whom they blame for leaving them in the lurch and causing them heavy casualties. No drafts lately beyond 3 or 4 men for some coys. No knowledge of reserves. Expect further withdrawal.

6th September, 1918.

W. H. D. G. P. A.

Major, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

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Part II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

The noticeable increase in fires and explosions has continued all day, but all in the more forward areas. More dumps of ammunition than usual have been blown up. The areas affected are :- DOINGT - LONGAVESNES - LIERAMONT - TEMPLEUX - LA FOSSE - NURLU - BANANCOURT - ETRICOURT - YTRES - BUS - BERTINCOURT.

The above, read in conjunction with the report on road movement strongly indicates that the enemy's resistance is only likely to be of a temporary nature, and that his retreat to the HINDENBURG Line will be continued.

2. PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners passing through Corps Cages and C.C.S. since 8th August is 35,125 of which 838 are officers.

3. BILLETS AND ACTIVITY.

Escaped British prisoners report that about 28th August there were about two battalions in huts and cellars at ROISEL, which contained also many technical troops. There were mobil workshops and a bakery there and five P.O.W. Cages in or round ROISEL. Prisoners were bombed by day several times in ROISEL: on one occasion they saw a siding torn up and on another three small bombs knocked out five transport horses and seven men.

There were two cages of 700 British and French P.O.W. at MONTIGNY Farm: when prisoners escaped these were about to be evacuated to LONTIGNY (E. of ST. QUENTIN.).

4. BOMBING RAIDS.

(a) By Day. - 20 112-lb bombs were dropped on ROISEL and 112 25-lb bombs on various targets.

(b) By Night. - 1 112-lb and 204 25-lb bombs were dropped on trains and lights, and on general activity E. of a line HEUDECOURT - TEMPLEUX - ATHIES.

Results were uncertain owing to the exceptionally dark night and the ground mist.

5. PROBABLE DISBANDING OF THE 33rd RES. DIV. -

In addition to information contained in Para. 4 of G.E.C. Summary of the 1st September, there is further evidence of the disbanding of the 33rd Res. Div. According to a reliable report, men of the 67th Res. Inf. Regt. were informed early in August that the 33rd Res. Div. was to be disbanded, and the 67th Res. Inf. Regt. incorporated in the 34th Div. The 2nd Bn. was then broken up, and the men sent to the 50th Inf. Regt., 34th Div. In confirmation of this, a deserter, belonging to the 67th Res. Inf. Regt., states that while on leave he received notice to report himself on his return to the 50th Inf. Regt.

Thus, it may be fairly assured that the 364th and 67th Res. Inf. Regts. have been broken up, but, in the absence of information with regard to the third regiment, the 130th Res. Inf. Regt., the disbanding of the 33rd Res. Div. cannot yet be accepted.

6. EXTRACTS FROM A CAPTURED DIVISIONAL ORDER.

The enemy has recently frequently imitated the German offensive methods, and has launched his attacks after putting down a surprise bombardment - of short duration, but exceedingly heavy. He has thereby gained successes, and the number of prisoners he has taken has been out of proportion to the forces engaged..

The reasons are as follows :-

P.T.O.

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(a) The enemy was hardly touched by our defensive fire, as the distance between our own and the enemy's lines was usually small. Our barrage also came down behind the enemy's jumping off lines, or, in any case, the enemy was quickly able to pass through it.

(b) The infantry lacked depth, and the garrisons of the outpost zone (VORFELD), and the main line of resistance, were therefore overrun almost simultaneously. Apart from this, the front line was too strongly held. A large part of the garrison had already become casualties from the enemy's fire before the attack was launched, or else they became casualties in fighting against superior numbers during the attack itself.

Our object must therefore be :-

(a) To compel the enemy to cross a broad strip of open country in which he would have to pass through a most effective defensive fire.

(b) To sustain the fighting powers of our troops, even during the opening bombardment, by having them thinly echeloned in depth, to prevent the fighting powers of the weak advanced parties from being overcome by superior numbers, and to protect the mass of the infantry in and behind the main line of resistance from being overrun.

Both (a) and (b) can be attained by having a deep outpost zone (VORFELD), (about 500 to 1,000 m. in depth) which can be evacuated in the event of a hostile attack, and made subject to a very heavy concentration of fire from all arms.

If these tactics are employed, even a strong hostile attacking force would be essentially weakened before reaching our main line of resistance, and here they could be completely repulsed by those troops of the defence still capable of action.

7. Extracts from letters of a private dated 27, 28th August. -

"You may be thankful you are not here, you would find it strange. Here we are not advancing on PARIS any more, but retreating to BERLIN".

"The English are like mad; the dogs attack every day. We are now facing towards home."

"Every day the English attack, and every day they advance, and soon they will drive us back to where it will be very unpleasant for us. But it is not to be wondered at for they (the authorities) leave the men in till there is not one left."

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 6th September, to 6 a.m. 8th September, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. During the period the infantry in conjunction with the L.H. advanced on about 4500 yds front to an average depth of 11000 yds. The villages of HANCOURT, VRAIGNES, BERNES, FLECHIN and POEUILLY were captured during the advance. L.H. patrols have passed through SOYECOURT and patrols have entered VENDELLES. This advance commenced at 6 a.m. and at 7.50 a.m. the L.Horse patrols were reported entering SOYECOURT and the infantry digging in final objective. Opposition was encountered at BERNES and FLECHIN where the enemy's opposition to our advance stiffened and his M.G fire and artillery fire became heavier. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy at BERNES. M.G. fire was heavy from Q.12 and ridge in Q.18 and Q.25. After BERNES was taken the enemy artillery became heavy on the village. The Light Horse were out during and after the advance and did valuable work. One prisoner was taken in Q.26.b.
- (b) Patrols. Light Horse patrols operated in front of our infantry during the advance and after the objective was reached. These patrols on many occasions encountered heavy M.G. fire. Three L.H. patrols during afternoon 7th reached the general line of the railway from R.2.c to R.20.d. thence west to VERMAND. Area west of the railway was found clear of the enemy except VERMAND. Patrols were engaged with M.G. fire from E. of the railway. Left Bn. patrols entered VENDELLES and SOYECOURT during the afternoon of the 7th. Both villages were reported clear of the enemy. Cyclist patrols sent out early on the 8th report that the enemy is holding a line approx. BINECOURT VILLECHOLLES MARTEVILLE. Enemy seen were engaged and casualties inflicted.
- (c) Artillery. During the advance the artillery kept well up to their infantry. Hostile M.G. were engaged during the advance with excellent results, so preventing delay and casualties. During last stage of advance enemy M.G. and 77mm guns were very active from VENDELLES. These were engaged and a direct hit was obtained with 18-pdr on two limbers attached to 77mm guns just limbered up. H.A. engaged selected targets during the advance and kept well up with the infantry. At 11.20 a.m. Cope in R.8.c and Circular Redoubt R.7.b were engaged. During the night enemy positions were harassed well E. of main railway line.
- (d) Engineers. Bridge at FME. LAMIRE O.15.a.8.9 completed for horse transport. Road has been made passable at craters P.30.d.5.6. Bridge at O.12.c.5.9 has been repaired and made fit for M.T. Transport.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 1 O.R. 58th I.R., 119th Div. cap tured in Q.26.b. Disc on dead German (believed to have been dead 12 hours) gives 58th I.R.

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Time.	Targets.	Cal.	Rds.	Remarks.
10.10 a.m.	Q.16.d	4.2	25	H.E.
10.30 a.m.	Q.10	4.2 H.V.	30	H.E.
10.45 a.m.	Q.6, 12, 17.	4.2	40	H.E.

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Time.	Targets.	Cal.	Rds.	Remarks.
12 noon	Q.17	5.9	15	H.E.
2.15 pm	Q.8,14,16,17.	4.2	10	Shrap.
7.40 - 10.40 pm	Q.22	4.2	90	H.E.
8 - 9.10 pm	Q.16	4.2	35	"
8.30 am	Q.17	5.9	30	"
8.40 pm	Q.27	4.2	10	"
10.20 pm	Q.20	4.2	40	"
9 p.m.	Q.14.	4.2	20	"
T.M's.	N i l .			

Hostile artillery has become active during the last 24 hours. The majority of enemy guns seem to be firing at long ranges. Throughout the day, HANCOURT, VRAIGNES, BOUVINCOURT, CARTIGNY, ESTREES-en-CHAUSSEE, POEUILLY and the main road in Q.25, 26, 27, were shelled intermittently. with 77's, 4.2's and 5.9's. MORSE COPSE was lightly shelled with 77's during the night. FLECHIN was shelled with 4.2 and 77mm at 12.15 7/9/18.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. The enemy seems to be holding a line running through BINECOURT - VILLECH OLES, MARTEVILLE (patrol). Enemy appears to be holding trenches in R.17.a. VIRAID was occupied by the enemy during the 7th.
5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. The enemy's opposition stiffened up as our troops approached FLECHIN and BERNES on the 7th and is getting stronger .
6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. E.A. were very active during the 6th. They flew low over our forward areas and used their machine guns freely. At 6.30 a.m. and again at 10.30 a.m. E.A. flew within 200 feet of the ground, over our lines and were engaged with L.G. and A.A. guns. During the 7th E.A. were active all day, many planes flying very low, dropping bombs and using machine guns. At 9.30 a.m. an E.A. which was machine-gunning our troops was attacked and brought down in flames in about Q.3 by one of our planes. Enemy bombing planes were active over rear areas during the night. Two enemy O.B. were brought down by our planes on 83° and 87° T.B. from Q.9.c.2.6.
7. ENEMY MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Enemy M.G. crews seen retiring on the advance of our troops and guns being taken away from VENDELLES. This was the only movement observed during the day.
8. CAPTURES. During the advance on the 7th one L.M.G. was captured. During the operations of 1st, 3rd September around PERONNE the following captures were made.
 5 Field Guns.
 1 G.S. Wagon.
 1 Workshop Wagon.
 1 Gravel crushing machine.
 Large dumps containing considerable stores of R.E. material and several hundred tons of coal.
 Large quantities of all munitions of war including all sizes of shells. Over 90 machine guns. More of which have yet to be collected and counted.
9. MISCELLANEOUS. At 9.40 am mine blew up in MAISSIMY and at 10.35 a.m. another on T.B. 60° from Q.15.b.7.0. Crater at cross roads Q.8.c.95.70, 60 feet diameter, 20 ft. deep.

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Four craters have been blown by the enemy at the cross roads P.30.d.5.6, also a crater 30 feet diameter 16 feet deep at Q.19.d.80.75.

Crater 30 feet wide at cross roads Q.10.d.6.0.

Another crater 40 feet diameter, 18 feet deep at cross roads Q.10.b.5.9.

Large craters in road at Q.26.d.0.4 and Q.29.c.1.5. Traffic can be diverted around one at Q.26.d.0.4 but other impassable, otherwise main road good.

From where the division commenced to attack on the 8th August to its present front line 7th Sept. is approx as the crow flies 30 miles.

P.S. Three coys of 53rd I.R. were entrenched in front of FLECHIN on the 6th. They withdrew 2 kilos at 10 pm on the night 6th/7th. It is understood that a further withdrawal of 5 kilos to take place night 7th/8th. 53rd I.R. was in line at St. CHRIST on 31st August. Order of battle there was N. to S. 58th I.R. 46th E.I.R. and 46th I.R. They withdrew to FLECHIN on 5th via ATHIES ESTREES en CHAUSSEE. Losses slight though retreat appears to have been disorderly. Has no knowledge of wells or of any demolition contrivances.

Part II attached.

8th September, 1918.

Jim A. Chapman Capt.
for. Major, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. RESERVES.

(a) The 6th Cav. Div., from line in FLANDERS, has relieved elements of the 87th Div. in MANANCOURT, and has probably also relieved elements of the 232nd Div., S. of that village.

(b) The 119th Div., from close support, relieved the 38th Div. at HATTENCOURT prior to the arrival of the latter division in the MONT ST. QUENTIN area.

(c) The 5th Guard Div., fresh from reserve, has reinforced the AISNE front.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

(a) Prisoners belonging to the 6th Cav. Div., captured by the Third Army in MANANCOURT yesterday state they had received orders to retire fighting in case of a heavy attack.

(b) Prisoners captured by the Third Army state that they were going to retire immediately 20 kilometres, and that civilians were being evacuated from CAMBRAI and ST. QUENTIN.

(c) A large number of fires were reported yesterday between the present front line and the HINDENBURG Line, presumably dumps and villages still left standing.

(d) Much movement of M.T. eastwards, both towards the HINDENBURG Line and beyond it was seen.

From the above, it is clear that the enemy intends to withdraw to the HINDENBURG Line directly he is pressed.

3. PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners which passed through Corps Cages and C.C.S. of our Army since 8th August is 36,209, of which 838 are officers.

4. ENEMY REAR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) Billets and Activity.

A good deal of activity is shown at AIZECOURT-IE-BAS, BUIRE and CATELET, S.W. of CARTIGNY. The huts on the BRUSLE - BOUCLY road in J.29.d,30.a have not been removed.

(b) Hospitals.

A hospital is shown between CUVILLY and DOUILLY at D.30. No recent photograph available. Hospital sign being constructed at CARTIGNY since 19th August but this work is now possibly discontinued. Sign new since 29th Aug. at TEMPLEUX-LA-FOSSE and another E. of village at D.29.d new since 12th August. The five new marquees reported at NURLU on 16th August have been removed but two signs have been left.

(c) Railways.

Photographs show that the St.QUENTIN - ROISEL normal guage line cannot be used N. and S. of VERMAND as it is broken by two large craters in R.14.b.

A light railway new since 25th Aug. is shown on the N. side of LE MESNIL-BRUNTEL.

5. EFFECT OF BRITISH GAS OPERATIONS.

A captured divisional order of the 5th Bav. Res. Div. shows that the casualties sustained in a British gas projector attack on ABIA INZEVELLE on the 18th June, 1918, were :-

2 officers and 51 other ranks killed.

66 gas cases.

Note.- 975 projector drums were fired into ABLAINZEVELLE on the 18th June, 1918.

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6. DISBANDING OF THE 10TH LANDWEHR DIVISION.

The 10th Ldw. Div. which suffered very heavy losses in the CHATEAU-THIERRY area in July, has been disbanded. The remnants of the regiments have been drafted to other formations as follows :-

The 372nd Inf Regt.	was drafted to the	37th Div.
The 377th Inf. Regt.	" " " "	36th Div.
The 378th Inf. Regt.	" " " "	201st Div.

The disbanding of the 10th Ldw. Div. reduces the total number of German divisions on the Western front to 195th infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry divisions.

7. DISBANDING OF THE 2nd RES. INF. REGT.

Prisoners of the 34th Fus. Regt., 3rd Res. Div. state that the 2nd Res. Inf. Regt., 3rd Res. Div., has been disbanded and drafted to the other regiments of the division. It is said to have been replaced in the 3rd Res. Div. by the 2nd Gren. Regt. from the 109th Div. This statement is confirmed by a document, which shows that the 2nd Gren. Regt. is now with the 3rd Res. Div.

The withdrawal of the 2nd Gren. Regt. from the 109th Div. is an indication that this division may be broken up, and prisoners should be examined on this point.

8. OPERATIONS.

Since the operations on 22nd August, the following have been captured by the Corps :-

183 Officers.	6,149 O.R.	Un wounded.
13 " "	1,008 O.R.	Wounded
196	7,157 "	Total.

During the operations between August 8th and 21st, the following were captured :-

169 Officers.	7,805 O.R.	Unwounded.
27 " "	793 "	Wounded.
196 " "	8,598 "	Total.

Making a grand total of :-

392 Officers and 15,755 O.R.

9. EXTRACTS FROM GERMAN DOCUMENTS.

21st Inf. Div.

30th Aug. 1918

To Pioneer Bn. 21.

"Corps has ordered that the bridges which are still standing at CLERY, whatever happens, are to be completely destroyed and rendered wholly useless for traffic as soon as possible.

(Sgd) von WAHLEN.

From Pioneer Bn. 21 to 1st Coy Pioneer Bn. 21.

"It is imperative that an attempt be made to carry out the above Corps order. Perhaps it will be possible for a small patrol of 2 or 3 courageous men to cross the destroyed bridges on the

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northern arm of the SOMME and reach the bridges which are still standing and carry out the demolition with concentrated charges.

"Division offers the Iron Cross, First Class, leave and a money reward for a successful attempt.

"Men who volunteer for the task, and make a determined effort to carry out the task, will receive 14 days leave, even if they are not successful".

The result of the above order was that an Ensign commanding the 2nd Pioneer Platoon made a plucky attempt to blow up these bridges, but was not wholly successful, as he states in his report, owing to deterioration of the charges. He also states that it was "only by violence" that he could induce his men to go forward."

10. TRANSLATION OF GERMAN DOCUMENTS.

C.G.S. of the Field Army,

1a/II No. 9597

G.H.Q. 11/8/1918.

SECRET OPERATIONS.

According to a report of the officers sent by the Higher Command into the war zone of the 2nd Army, reasons for the defeat of the 2nd Army are to be put down to the following points :-

1. The fact that the troops were surprised by the massed attack of the tanks, and lost their heads when the tanks suddenly appeared behind them, having come through under the protection of natural and artificial fog.
2. The fact that no positions or obstacles of new pattern existed, either in the forward battle zone, or in the back areas, in order to make prepared resistance possible.
3. The fact that completely insufficient artillery for allotment to the resting battalion and the reserve of the higher formation was to hand for the purpose of putting up a fresh stand with artillery against the enemy and tanks that had broken through.

The following conclusions are drawn :-

1. As I at once ordered in my memorandum, Ia.9718, Secret Operations, of the 8th August, a considerable amount more must be done to obtain information regarding the enemy by the taking of prisoners, by watching the country by means of special observation posts, report centres, aerial reconnaissances, as owing to the present situation you must expect surprise attacks also on other fronts. The closest vigilance is necessary at daybreak and in the early hours of the morning, as surprise attacks usually begin at this time, and because a certain lassitude often is prevalent among the men in the morning after the strain on their nerves and endurance. The fact that the troops should be particularly watched at this time is especially obvious after the late experiences. Sufficient has been said from here with regard to organization of infantry and artillery in depth.
2. Far more must be done than has hitherto been the case in the construction of trenches and in arrangements for defence against tanks. The dislike of troops for trench digging must be combatted by all means possible. Even if it is only possible to make slow progress in arrangements for trenches and obstacles in the front portion of battle zones on a lively front where the enemy is watchful, all the same all commands must make it their aim that the infantry get underground and protect themselves with obstacles, and that gradually connecting sections, and finally lines grow out of the small positions protected from view

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of the enemy. All the same it is absolutely necessary that in the battle zones lying further back and not completely commanded by the enemy's artillery, arrangements for the defence shall proceed more quickly. With regard to this, it is especially important to secure mutually flanking strong posts for the purpose of a delaying defence. The strong posts must be put in enclosed country, marshes (?) woods, sunken roads, and arrangements made for defence against tanks. In these back lines as well inter-dependence must be aimed at (fire support, and visual communication). It must be absolutely impossible for tanks, which have broken through the front line, to penetrate without meeting any obstacles or resistance for miles along and beside the roads as far as Headquarters of the Staffs.

3. The principle that troops even if they are enveloped must if necessary for days defend their battle zone to the last cartridge and to the last man if they do not receive any further orders, appears to have been forgotten. The enemy who undertakes an enveloping movement is enveloping himself. So close up the places he has broken through. The fact that single tanks or cavalry detachments have broken through is no reason for retreat. They will be dealt with by an adroit arrangement of reserves.

4. In the tank battles a large number of troops are shattered. We must learn the following lessons :-

(a) Tanks are a certain prey to artillery of all calibres. Chief necessity: 1 Section F.A., mobile, direct ground observation.

Too early opening of fire warns the tanks.

The cavalry detachments which reconnoitre to secure the way for the infantry are to be annihilated by machine gun fire.

(b) Trench mortars.

(c) Tanks run into danger from infantry only when they are close to them, as the fire of anti-tank rifles, machine guns, concentrated charges, is attended with very uncertain success.

Infantry will give/locally in order to leave a field of fire for the rifles and trench mortars, and will take up the fight later with the hostile infantry who are often following at a great distance. Shooting at tanks with machine guns at a great distance must be forbidden.

(d) Protection against tanks to be obtained by barricades, trenches, blowing up of bridges, breaking up of roads in narrow places, arrangements for camouflages and contact mines, abatis, swamping of water-channels. Even if these are broken down, they hold the tanks up.

5. Etc. Etc., Liaison between the troops and the higher Command.

F.A.

(Sgd). LUDENDORFF.

APPENDIX 2

For Official Use Only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 a.m. 8th September, to 6 a.m. 9th September, 1918.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry.

Working in conjunction with Light Horse Patrols the infantry advanced their line 1,000 yds. to 1,500 yds on the whole Divisional Sector. The Light Horse patrols met heavy M.G. fire but the advancing infantry was able to occupy the trench positions and to dig in on the objective without serious opposition. Our line runs through R.31.a, R.25.c, R.25.a, R.19.c, R.19.a, R.13.c, R.13.a, Q.12.d, Q.12.b, Q.6.d.

(b) Patrols:-

One patrol patrolled R.13.a and c at 10.15 p.m. and returned through the GRANGE FARM, R.7.c. No enemy were seen but flares were fired from N. of wood in R.8.c and R.14.a. One patrol found the trench in R.1.c and sunken road N. of VENDELLES unoccupied at 10 p.m.

Patrols saw no sign of enemy on right of front. Light Horse patrols reached the mound at R.32.a.5.7 at 2.5 p.m. M.Gs and gun positions were noted. R.7.d.4.8 was reached at 2.30 p.m. Slight movement was observed in R.9.b and R.15.a. and b. On reaching the general line R.14 - R.20.central the patrol had to withdraw on account of heavy M.G. fire from R.22.a.central, R.16.central, wood R.21.d, R.22.c.central. Patrol was also shelled from the direction of MAISSENY.

(c) Artillery.-

Operations. Very little movement observed in enemy lines, our guns quiet. During the night, harassing fire was placed on selected points in front of S.O.S. lines.

(d) Engineers.

The following earth roads, 12 feet wide, are in good condition and will take horse transport :-

Q.24.d.3.9	to	Q.29.a.3.4
Q.24.d.3.9	to	Q.17.d.0.4
Q.24.d.3.9	to	Q.24.b.6.3
Q.24.d.3.9	to	Q.30.c.0.5
14 ft. metal road	from	Q.29.a.3.4 to Q.17.c.1.2, motor transport.
12 ft. earth road	from	Q.23.c.1.9 to Q.22.d.6.3 - horse transport.
18 ft. metal road	from	Q.30.c.0.5 to Q.35.b.5.5 - motor transport.
20ft. metal road	from	Q.29.c.8.5 to R.25.c.8.5 - motor transport.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Time.	Target.	Rds.	Calibre.	Remarks.
9.15 a.m.	Q.10	20	77	H.E.
9.45 - 11.15 am	Q.16 & 17	90	4.2 & 5.9	H.E. & Gas.
10.30 - 11 am	Q.15 & 9	50	4.2	H.E.
1 - 2.15 pm	Q.18	20	4.2	H.E.
4 - 6.30 pm	R.19 & 25	90	4.2	H.E.
10pm - 3.10 a.m.	R.25	20	4.2	H.E.
8 p.m.	Q.9. & 14	33	4.2 & 5.9	H.E.
11.35 pm-midnight.	Q.21	20	4.2	H.E.
7 am - 8.15 pm	BERNES.	35	4.2 & 5.9	H.E.
8 pm - 1.30 am	HANCOURT	26	4.2 & 5.9	H.E.
12 noon-10.15 pm	Q.5. & 6.	72	4.2 & 5.9	
1.15 - 3.5 pm	Q.8 & 9	36	4.2	
12.25pm-5.45 am	Q.23	57	4.2	From MAISSENY.
11am-4.30 am	Q.29	230	4.2	ditto.
3 p.m. - 5 pm	R.25.a & c.	200	4.2	H.E. & Gas.
Trench Mortars	- Nil.			P.T.O.

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4. DEFENCES (ENEMY).

Enemy seems to be holding a general line of outposts ROISEL - VERMAND railway.

M.G.s were active on our patrols from approx R.32.cent, R.32.d.2.3, R.26.d, R.32.b.3.3, R.22.a.central, R.16.central, R.21.d (wood) R.22.c.central.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

The enemy apparently desires to hold his present outpost line for the time being, as any movement on the forward slope is immediately engaged with M.G. and rifle fire.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy planes were inactive after 8.15 am, 8 were over the sector between 7.50 am and 8.15 am.

Bombing planes were very active during the night.

One O.B. was seen from Q.15.b.7.0 on T.E. 88° at 10 a.m.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. Beyond that seen by Light Horse patrols no movement was seen.

9th September, 1918.

Jim. A. Chapman. Capt.
for Major, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II is attached.

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Part II

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. RESERVES.

(a) No fresh divisions have been identified during the last two days on the Army front.

(b) The 6th Div. has relieved the 6th Cav. Div. in the YPRES salient. The 6th Div. is, therefore, no longer available to reinforce the Army front. It has been regarded as one of the fresh divisions available for an offensive, as it has not been identified for over a month.

(c) The 33rd Res. and 211th Divisions have been disbanded. In April, there were considered to be 242 German infantry divisions in the field: there are now considered to be 228, a reduction of 14 divisions.

Of these 228 infantry divisions, 193 are in the Western Theatre and 35 in the Eastern Theatre.

To sum up:- Until the enemy regain the HINDENBURG Line, it is not considered that any fresh divisions will be employed. It is reported by prisoners that fresh divisions are now occupying the above-named line of defence. This is quite probable. There are likely to be divisions already engaged once since 8th August.

There are now 9 fit divisions in reserve, of which 2 are considered to be between the Sea and the OISE.

2. PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners passing through Corps Cages and C.C.S. of the Army since 8th August, amounts to 36,582, of which 840 are officers.

3. BOMBING RAIDS.

(a) By Day. 46 112-lb and 448 25-lb bombs were dropped on ST. QUENTIN town station and sidings, and on other targets. Bombs were seen on the town, and direct hits observed on the railway lines.

(b) By Night. 126 25-lb bombs were dropped on various targets including VILLERS-OUTREAU, BOHAIN, LE CATELET and BELLENGLISE. Direct hits were obtained on BOHAIN and on transport at LE CATELET. A direct hit was obtained on a train stationary in VERMAND, and a fire caused.

4. USE OF DOGS ON PATROL.

The following captured order shows that the German General Staff is contemplating the employment of dogs for patrol work and ambushes :-

C.G.S. of the Field Army. G.H.Q.
 Ic. No. 92356. op. 24-7-18.

EMPLOYMENT OF DOGS FOR PATROL WORK.

Dogs have been observed in the enemy's lines, which no doubt serve to bark at our sentries, and in this way give the enemy reliable information regarding the whereabouts of our sentry posts, or as to whether the latter are occupied or not. We succeeded once in shooting a dog of this kind. No message forms or arrangements for carrying written orders were found on it.

In addition, a short time ago, French instructions for the employment of war dogs were captured. The translation of a paragraph contained therein on

"Independent /

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"Independent reconnoitring and attacking dogs" runs as follows :-

"The dogs selected are of the most vicious type. They are used on important patrols and reconnaissances and in ambush. They must always be kept on the leash up to the moment of attack. The man in charge of the dog carries a leash 15 - 20 metres long, in order to allow his dog to reconnoitre in front of the patrol. As soon as the dog reports the presence of the enemy, the man in charge allows the dog to return, and reports to his patrol leader.

"If the latter thinks it possible to lay an ambush, the man in charge of the dog unfastens the leash and holds the dog by its collar.

"When the enemy is near enough, the man in charge of the dog quietly orders his dog to "seize him" and lets him loose. The dog at once falls on to one of the hostile patrol, whom he holds up until the man in charge of the dog approaches. The latter must make use of the confusion amongst the hostile patrol made by the dog's attack, and with 3 men of his own patrol must rush forward and fetch back the dog with his prisoner."

The question of using dogs in a similar way is being considered. Experiments are being made. The results will be communicated.

(Sd.) LUDENDORFF.

5. DISBANDING OF GERMAN DIVISIONS.

Prisoners recently captured near EBOURTT ST QUENTIN state that the 48th Res. Div. is to remain in line north of the SCARPE until exhausted and is then to be disbanded. They had heard that all reserve regiments numbered over 200 were to be disbanded.

The above information requires confirmation, but it is interesting to note that of this series the 46th Res., 47th Res. and 78th Res. Divs. have already been disbanded.

6. EFFECT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

The following extract from a somewhat incoherent letter by a German soldier in a labor battalion was written on the 19th August, 1918, during the SOMME fighting, and affords excellent evidence of the effect produced by our bombing :-

"Dear Brother,

After travelling for 12 hours and wandering about for 8 days, we are now quartered near PERONNE, and I can tell you that things have gone pretty badly with us.

"The English have just taken the offensive, and no sooner had we detrained than a bomb landed on us, and we lost 14 men severely wounded and one man killed. That made us want to bolt. You can just fancy that 200 to 300 men like that attract attention, and those beggars of airmen came as low down as one storey, and we wanted to wriggle into the ground but it did not answer. You must remember that these beggars have got the same sort of engines as ours, so that we cannot distinguish them. At night, the dsame sort of thing happened, they just hung out a light. So you can just imagine that we thought the world was going under: they have unloaded at least 300 bombs on PERONNE".

7. SITUATION 7th SEPTEMBER & NIGHT 7th/8th INST.

Our advance continued. The resistance of the enemy was not very great. He opposed our advance chiefly with machine gun fire.

In the course of the day, GUYENCOURT, SAULCOURT,

VILLERS /

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VILLERS FAUCON, ST. EMILIE, ROISEL, BERNES, FLECHIN, POUILLY, COULAINCOURT, VILLEVECQUE, TREFOON and BEAUVOIS were occupied by our troops.

Contrary to expectations, a fresh division, from line in the ARGONNE, (201st) was identified at HEUDICOURT. Prisoners of this division were also captured by the Third Army near FINS. The whole division came from St. QUENTIN on the 5th inst., going into line W. of VILLERS GUISLAIN. Yesterday, one battalion of each regiment occupied positions between HEUDICOURT and GOUZEAUCOURT. Some of the prisoners stated that they had relieved a cavalry division; hence, possibly no further prisoners belonging to the 6th Cav. Div. will be captured.

Further south, identifications were normal. Prisoners belonging to two regiments of the Alpine Corps were captured at LONGAVESNES and SOREL Wood. In TINCOURT area, one regiment of the 5th Bav. Div. and one regiment of the 38th Div. were identified. In the ROISEL area, one regiment of the 185th Div., and in the BOUVINCOURT area, one regiment of the 119th Div. were also identified.

Artillery fire was generally slight; a heavy howitzer from long range intermittently shelled the area north of the COLOGNE.

Before the end of the day, HEUDECOURT was clear of the enemy, and outposts were established on the western edge of GOUZEAUCOURT Wood and at the S.E. corner of HAVRINCOURT Wood.

Last night was quiet on the Army front, no change taking place in the line. Hostile artillery was fairly active on forward areas.

8. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS. -

(a) Prisoners belonging to the Body I.R., Alpine Corps, stated that, on reaching the HINDENBURG Line they heard that they will pass through a Prussian Division which is now being brought up from the VOSGES.

(b) Prisoners of the 119th Div. had orders to retire 2 kilometres, at 10 p.m. on the night 6th/7th. They understood that a further withdrawal of 5 kilometres was to be made on the night 7th/8th inst.

(c) Prisoners of the 201st Div. stated they had received orders to hold the outpost line as long as possible, and then retire.

(d) Prisoner belonging to the 34th Foot Arty. Bn. stated that his battery was in position in the FINS Cemetery, on the 6th inst., and withdrew eastwards on the night 6th/7th inst.

(e) A Prisoner belonging to the 5th Labor Coy., captured E. of VILLERS FAUCON stated that the trenches W. of HARGICOURT (L.4.c) were strongly held by the 19th I.R., 9th Div. He also stated that much ammunition was being brought up to QUENNEMONT Farm.

To sum up:- From the above, it appears that the enemy are extremely likely to make a stand on the high ground PRIEL Farm - VILLIARET - HARGICOURT, and have brought up two fresh divisions (as far as is known) to hold it.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 9th September to 6 a.m. 10th September, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. Both flanks of our line were advanced to co-operate with units on flanks and to gain better observation.

(b) Patrols. Daylight Patrols. Cyclist and Infantry patrols were active during the morning. They reported isolated movement at R.21.centr.1, trench R.15.a, R.15.b, and R.26.c. Rifle and M.G fire were encountered from BIHECOURT, R.26.d.8.9, R.27.c.8.3 and R.33.c.7.6. Our infantry patrols during the morning tried to work around a M.G. at R.26.d.8.9 but were fired on by another M.G. from R.27.c.

Another patrol moved to the edge of the swamp in R.32.a thence along swamp to cross roads R.26.d.5.8 to R.27.c. From this point machine guns were observed firing from R.33.d.6.2, R.33.c.7.6, and R.27.d.3.1.

Crossings over the swamp are impassable except to infantry in file. The main road has a crater in R.27.c. on E. side of the swamp. These patrols claim to have killed 3 enemy.

Light Horse patrols. Reported that enemy M.G's and snipers were holding a line just E. of railway line running through R.1.b, R.2.c, R.8.d, and Wood in R.8.b. L.H. patrols were also fired on from R.32.b.3.3 by M.G's.

Patrols were also very active during the hours of darkness penetrating well E. of our outpost line. A double red flare was fired from R.19.b and heavy M.G. fire was at once opened.

At times the enemy shelled VERMAND. No enemy were seen.

(c) Artillery. Very little movement seen in enemy lines. Harassing fire on selected points continued throughout the night. Registration of "S.O.S" lines was carried out during the day. A few Huns observed and engaged in R.2. and 3.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE SHELLING. Fairly active all day, any movement seen was fired on.

Time.	Target.	Rds.	Calibre.	Remarks.
8.40 - 11 a.m.	Q.23, 24	60	4.2	H.E.
9.30 am - 12 noon	Q.29	25	4.2	"
6 am - 10 pm	Q.18	85	4.2 & 5.9	"
10.45	Q.10	10	4.2	"
7 am - 8 am	Q.12	35	5.9	"
11.15 am - noon.	Q.16, 17	25	4.2	"
1 pm - 3 am	BERNUS	60	4.2 & 5.9	"
5 - 10 pm	FIECHIN	66	4.2 & 5.9	"
5.40 pm	SOYECOURT	8	4.2	"
10 - 11 pm	AIX FARM.	25	4.2	"
1 pm - 1.20 pm	R.13, 19	140	4.2 & 5.9	"
2.10 pm	R.17	25	4.2	"
9.45 - 11 pm	R.1	70	4.2	"

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy M.G.s and snipers were holding a line just E. of railway line running through R.1.b, R.2.c, R.8.d and wood in R.8.b. (Patrol). M.G. were active on our patrols from approx R.26.d.8.9, R.27.c.8.3, R.33.c.7.6, R.33.d.6.2, R.27.d.3.1 and R.32.b.3.3.

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APPENDIX 2

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5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Apparently wishes to prevent further penetration than the railway line at present, as all movement under enemy observation is immediately engaged.
6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 7.10 am 15 E.A. were over the sector but were prevented from crossing into our area by A.A. guns and our planes.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. At 4.40 pm 3 men were seen in R.35.b apparently mending a telephone wire. 5.30 p.m. and 6.45 pm 2 men moving in trench in R.35.b.

10th September, 1918.

Jim G. Chapman Capt.
Major, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Part II.
INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. Extract from Order of the 122nd Fusilier Regt. 243rd Div. 30-8-18.
Telephone Message to 243rd Division :-
The army directs as follows :- "In order to make the fighting against tanks more effective the following is ordered :-
"In the forward battle zone anti-tank groups under specially energetic leaders are to be formed. These will consist of anti-tank guns, machine guns, anti-tank rifles, and M.W. The various weapons of these groups need not be close together, but they must be able to render mutual support within their group, except in case of anti-tank rifles, which must be in groups of 4 to 6. Groups are to be distributed in depth in the battle zone. The first duty of the field artillery is to keep off the enemy's tanks. To this all other duties give way.
2. RESERVES.
The 30th Div. in reserve east of LAON has been resting for a month, and is considered fit for offensive operations. There are now 13 fit divisions in Reserve, of which 5 are between the Sea and the OISE.
3. FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS.
Very large explosions were reported at MAISSEMY and in S.20 (BOIS de SAVY).
4. 1920 CLASS.
A prisoner of the 15th Res. Div., captured on the 6th September, states that recruits of the 1920 Class are now in the field recruit depot of the 15th Res. Div.
It is reported that a draft of artilleryman, which arrived at CINEY, in BELGIUM, on the 17th August, was mostly composed of 1920 Class recruits. It is also reported that recruits of the 1920 Class were undergoing training in the BEVERLOO training camp on the 19th August.
These are the first indications of the 1920 Class being drafted to the field; further confirmation is required.
5. GERMAN RATIONS IN THE FIELD.
The following is the translation of a secret order, dated 14-8-18, issued by General OTTO von BELOW, commanding the Seventeenth German Army :-
"Numerous complaints have again been made as to the food being too meagre and badly prepared.

"In /

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In drawing attention to the order of 10-6-18, IVa, No. 25458/2678, I again especially direct the Kitchen Committees to take the greatest care in the management of kitchens.

"Commanders of companies, etc., must continually supervise the management of kitchens and satisfy themselves personally as to the quality of the food. In the same way, commanders of battalions, etc., must devote their particular attention to the management of the kitchens of the troops under their command. With regard to the Kitchen Inspection Committees to be formed for divisions, etc c.f. General Intendant's order of 5-9-17, IIIa/No. 2886/7-17.

"The difficult position at home is sufficiently well known. It is absolutely necessary to manage with the food supplies at our disposal. That is possible to produce good and adequate meals from these is proved by the fact that, frequently, some units of divisions complain of the food whilst others of the same division praise it.

"Not only the preparation but, particularly, the distribution of the food must also be supervised. Every man must receive the quantity due to him without reduction. In this connection, attention is directed to the prohibition of special cooking for N.C.O's. Complaints of men are to be looked into immediately, and justifiable grievances are to be remedied.

"I am confident that the observance of the regulations issued and the careful supervision of the management of kitchens by those in authority will be successful in silencing these numerous complaints. Dissatisfaction with food always has an effect on the moral of troops, and they must, especially in a war of position, be kept in good spirits by all possible means".

6. The following extracts are taken from more detailed instructions, added, to Order of the Second German Army, by the LIV Corps, dated 5-8-18 :-

"1. The battery positions must be entirely surrounded by wire entanglements, however simple. Exits must be capable of being blocked immediately, by means of knife rests or cylinders of wire prepared for that purpose. The machine guns of the battery should be able to cover the ground in front of the wire on the enemy's side with enfilade fire.

"2. The importance of close defence must be brought home to all the men. Simple tactical problems should be set, carried out and thoroughly discussed. For this purpose, infantry and machine gun officers should be called on for advice. The lessons learnt should be communicated to all batteries.

"Machine guns are only of value to the artillery when they can be manned by the gunners by the gunners themselves, and when they are sited on correct principles. The gunners must be trained and exercised in the use of machine guns. The machine guns must be kept ready for action, and not stowed away in some dugout, or, as is sometimes the case, in an unserviceable condition. There is a plentiful supply of machine guns in reserve to replace unserviceable weapons."

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APPENDIX 2

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

No.1

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. SITUATION 9th SEPTEMBER and NIGHT 9th/10th INST.

Our line was advanced N.E. and S.E. of HESBECOURT, but otherwise there was no material change in the situation.

During the morning, a counter-attack was made by the enemy S.W. of EPEHY which forced our troops to relinquish a few trenches they held in that area. It is not known what troops carried out this counter-attack, but it is considered that they belonged to the Alpine Corps.

The only prisoner captured was a man belonging to the 80th Fus. Regt. (21st Div.). This is the second occasion on which the 21st Div. has been employed since the 8th of August. It is apparently relieving the 5th Bav. Div. in the JEANCOURT sector. The 80th Fus. Regt. is very weak as one battalion has been disbanded, and the regiment now consists of only the II and III Bns. Prisoners stated that, as far as he knew, the Germans had no intention of carrying out a counter-attack in his sector, but that he had seen preparations for further withdrawal.

Immediately beyond our northern flank, the Third Army took prisoners belonging to the 201st, 6th Cav. Divs. and the Alpine Corps. Prisoners from all these units have been captured by this Army within the last few days.

During the night, posts were pushed ^{out} along the road running S.W. of RONSSOY.

At 5.15 am this morning, attacks were renewed by our Left Corps. No information as to progress made has yet been received.

2. RESERVES.

The Army front has been reinforced by a tired division (21st Div) from reserve, and increased resistance is anticipated in the vicinity of LE VERGUIER.

There are still considered to be 13 divisions in reserve, fit for operations, of which 5 are between the Sea and the OISE.

3. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

(a) A prisoner belonging to the newly arrived 21st Div. stated that no orders had been issued for any counter-attacks to be carried out by the enemy in the JEANCOURT area, but that, on the contrary, he had seen preparations for a further retirement.

(b) The French have captured a document showing that the Headquarters of the 26th Res. and 3rd (active) Corps are in ST. QUENTIN. Neither of these Corps Staffs are, as far as is known, commanding the divisions now covering the German retreat. It is a further indication that the defence of the HINDENBURG Line has been entrusted to fresh Corps and Divisions, and through which the present divisions engaged will pass.

(c) Prisoners belonging to the 6th Cav. Div. captured by the Third Army, state there will be a gradual retirement to the HINDENBURG Line, from position to position.

4. MORALE.

A study of the prisoners taken belonging to the 2nd Gd. Div. which was withdrawn from the line on this Army front on the 2nd Sept., shows that the morale of the division is noticeably bad. The first prisoners captured seemed war-weary and glad to be out of it, but do not call for special comment. They belonged chiefly to Regt. FRANZ. Later, however, after one or two days of severe fighting, prisoners belonging to Regts. ALEXANDER and AUGUSTA not only exhibited every sign of pleasure at being taken prisoner, but /

APPENDIX

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but actually urged our men to go on attacking, and to capture as many Germans as possible so that the war might quickly end. Each fresh batch of prisoners brought into the Cage was greeted with open delight at our success.

It must be pointed out that the large drafts received have not been of good quality, and that the Guards are physically of poor material. The 1st Res. Ers. Regt. and the 259th I.R. which furnished two of the largest drafts to the division, do not come from first-class divisions. In fact, it would seem that the Germans are breaking up their poorer divisions first, and this must have a bad effect on divisions in which such regiments are incorporated.

5. USE OF LIGHT MINENWERFER IN RAIDS.

The following extract is from a captured order of the Sixth German Army, dated 19-8-18 :-

"In a raid on the front of another Army, the British used light trench mortars on flat trajectory carriages with great skill, and, unfortunately, with good results. These were moved from place to place to sweep trenches and to engage the defenders of the outpost zone (machine gun nests), who were distributed in depth.

"The enemy thus employed them as we do in an attack in the open warfare plans of a break-through battle.

"The Army recommends a similar use of light Minenwerfer in our own raids".

6. GERMAN RAILWAY MINES.

On the 8th instant, on the B.G. railway, some of the enemy charges for blowing up the railways were found. These charges are buried two feet under the centre of the track and consist of 10 boxes of perdite, with a detonator and a short length of fuse up to ground surface.

On the surface end of fuse there is a friction igniter, the loop of which has a small loop of string tied to it, and it is fired by pulling the string. The fuse takes 40 seconds to burn. The string is very harmless and might be picked up by any of the infantry on the track, so they should all be warned against touching them. The explosion makes a crater like the crater of an 8" shell and destroys the road bed and blows the rails and sleepers clear of the railway track.

11th September, 1918.

Jim A. Chapman. Capt.
Major, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET

No.2

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. SITUATION SEPTEMBER 10th & NIGHT 10th/11th INST. Our attacks against EPEHY yesterday morning were unsuccessful. Our troops entered the village, but found it strongly occupied by the Alpine Corps, who fought well and forced us to abandon it by counter-attacks. Posts, however, are established immediately south and south-west of EPEHY and PEIZIERE.
- On the southern portion of the Army front good progress was made, in face of little opposition.
- Advanced posts were firmly established in the S.W. corner of HOLNON Wood, immediately W. of ATTILLY, MARTEVILLE, and VERMAND. Little hostile fire was experienced in this portion of the front.
- During the day identifications were normal.
- In the fighting near EPEHY about 70 prisoners belonging to our battalions of the Alpine Corps were captured, while further south one regiment of the 5th Bav. Div., two belonging to the 79th Res. Div. and one belonging to the 25th Res. Div. were identified south-east of HESBECOURT, West of ATTILLY and south-west of HOLNON Wood respectively.
2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS. (a) Prisoners belonging to the 25th Res. Div captured yesterday near ATTILLY state they had been sent forward to blow up an old British ammunition dump east of ATTILLY in X.10.b and to also blow a crater in X.10.d. They further stated they had already blown in the dugouts along the railway running through HOLNON Wood.
- (b) Prisoners belonging to the 79th Res. Div. captured west of ATTILLY stated that a telephonist who was occupying a small shelter in HOLNON WOOD had been ordered to return to St.QUENTIN, which was to be held during the winter. He further stated that only rearguards were in front of us. Their orders were to resist light attacks and retire before strong attacks. Heavy M.G.s were scattered about HOLNON Wood.
- (c) Prisoners belonging to the Alpine Corps, captured yesterday, are all agreed that EPEHY is to be held pending the completion of arrangements for organizing the HINDENBURG Line, together with an outpost line to the west of it. With this end in view, work has been carried out for the improvement of the defences of EPEHY, including the construction of machine gun emplacements.
- (d) The First French Army has captured a document dated 27th August, which shows that the IX Corps (18th German Army) has moved from SANCOURT to ROYALES (W. of GUISE).
- (NOTE: Prior to the 21st March a German Corps H.Q. was always billeted in the GUISE area.)
- (e) Prisoners captured by the Army on our left near METZ-en-COUTURE, state that their present main line of resistance is in Q.29 and 35 central (W. of GOUZEBAUCOURT) and that should our troops capture this line, counter-attacks are to be delivered to regain it.
- They further state that there are rumours that they will withdraw to the HINDENBURG Line either the night 10th/11th or 11th/12th inst.
- NOTE. The line of resistance above mentioned is a continuation of the line running through EPEHY. The fighting at EPEHY yesterday shows that the garrison of that village had received the same orders in case of attack as had been issued to the prisoners captured by the Army on our left.
3. DISBANDING OF THE 32nd RES. INF. REGT. According to prisoners' statements, the 32nd Res. Inf. Regt., 113th Div. was disbanded early in August, elements being drafted to the 103rd Div. It was replaced by the 27th Inf Regt. which passed intact from the disbanded 211th Div. to the 113th Div.
- The disbanding of the 32nd Res. Inf. Regt. increases the number of infantry battalions disbanded since March, 1918 to 105.

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No.3

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

2. SITUATION 11th SEPTEMBER and NIGHT 11th/12th INST.

On the northern Corps front, no infantry action was undertaken either by our troops or those of the Germans. The shelling was lighter than the previous day, but continued fairly heavy. In the JEANCOURT area, the enemy strength was tested by patrols. Men of the 5th Bav. Div., who hold this part of the line, were at first inclined to put their hands up and surrender; but seeing our forces were weak they changed their minds and drove our patrols off. 22 prisoners, however, belonging to 3 different battalions of two different regiments were captured. Artillery fire was also considerable in this area, and was heavy prior to the German counter-attack.

Further south, our southern Corps occupied ATTILLY without opposition, and also made progress in the S.W. corner of HOLNON Wood. Posts were also pushed forward into VERMAND and S.E. of it.

A prisoner of the 25th Res. Division (normal) was captured in the southern position of HOLNON WOOD.

During the night, our southern Corps gained ground E. of ATTILLY, and now hold the entire western outskirts of HOLNON Wood, including the outlying wood in E.34.c., joining up with the original line south of VERMAND. Only slight opposition was encountered.

S.E. of VENDELLES, 7 prisoners belonging to the 119th Div. were captured (normal).

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

(a) Prisoners belonging to the 5th Bav. Div., captured in the JEANCOURT area, stated that the Bn. in support was holding the old German outpost line to the HINDENBURG Line, and that the Bn. in reserve was still farther in rear.

(Note.- Probably in the HINDENBURG Line. The division is, therefore, distributed in depth).

A withdrawal to the latter line was expected.

(b) A prisoner belonging to the 79th Res. Div., captured on the 11th inst., near ATTILLY, stated his Bn. was in line on a 1,200 yards front, that there was a considerable amount of artillery in the St. QUENTIN Line, and that they expected British attacks to continue.

He stated that St. QUENTIN was to be defended.

(c) A captured document, dated 3rd Sept., shows that the route for the retreat of the 121st Div (withdrawn from the VOYENNES sector 2nd Sept.), was via GERMAINE, ETRAILLERS, HOLNON, FAYET to OMISSY. The division appears to be billeted in the latter area, which is in the HINDENBURG system.

(d) The prisoners belonging to the Alpine Corps captured during the attack on EPEHY, on the 10th inst., state orders had been issued to hold the village at all costs.

All prisoners agreed that an outpost line was to be held west of the HINDENBURG Line. Some were of opinion that the present line of resistance, running through EPEHY, was to form the outpost line, but the majority thought the HARGICOURT line would form the outpost line. There was no suggestion of a withdrawal beyond the HINDENBURG Line.

To sum up:- It is still considered that our advance is being opposed by rearguards, and that the enemy intend ultimately to fall back on the HINDENBURG line as their main line of resistance, and the former outpost line, 2,000 yards west of it, as their advanced line.

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APPENDIX 2

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3 MORALE.

The morale and discipline of the 46th I.R., 119th Div., now in line for the second time since the 8th August, have reached a very low standard. The 3rd Bn. of the 46th I.R., when retiring from the direction of FRANSART early in August, became absolutely disorganised, and, having lost heavily in officers, the majority of the battalion fled to HESIE which they looted.

Prisoners captured belonging to this regiment said they did not care who won the war as long as it ended soon. They agreed that the Army was beginning to lose its discipline; the N.C.O's, who were being promoted were too much in sympathy with the men to have much authority, and the officers themselves were young, untrained and no longer respected as in the past. The drafts which were coming to the regiment were not keen on fighting; twelve men deserted from a recent draft, and on being arrested were brought to the regiment under military escort.

The 46th I.R. were known as the "Lions of CAMBRAI"; they were told by their officers that they would meet with little resistance from the British soldiers in this sector.

4. GERMAN WIRELESS PRESS.

It is interesting to note that yesterday's German Official Wireless reported that in their counter-attack near GOUZEAUCOURT and EPEHY, 3,000 prisoners remained in their hands. A maximum estimate of our losses in prisoners in this action is 300. This exaggeration on the part of the enemy, whose figures have in the past been fairly accurate, shows the great need which is felt by the German command of some encouraging news with which to sustain the morale of the German public.

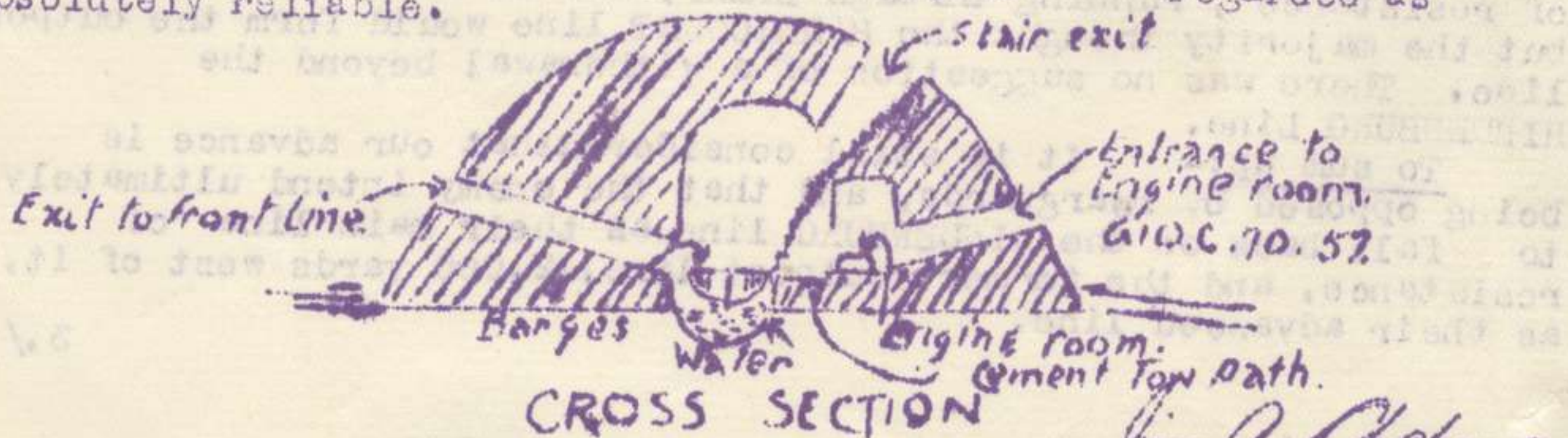
5. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BELLICOURT TUNNEL, GIVEN BY A PRISONER OF A STARKSTROM ABT., CAPTURED ON 5th/6th FEB. 1918.

The prisoner, with his section, went to BELLICOURT about the beginning of April, 1917, where they received orders to establish their quarters in the tunnel and instal electric light there.

The engine rooms (two in number) of the Kommando were cut into the eastern side of the tunnel and had a separate entrance at G.10.c.70.57 (see sketch). There were numerous exits to this tunnel. The towing path had been widened until the barges just fitted between the path and the opposite wall. 24 barges were moored end to end in the BELLICOURT - RIQUEVAL section of the tunnel. These were used as living quarters by the troops, and by the Starkstrom personnel, but several had sunk and prisoner stated that at the time he was taken few troops occupied the tunnel. He thought that it was to be used only for a reserve position in the event of an attack being expected when it was desirable to have troops close up to the line.

A short distance to the north of the engine room a steep stairway led from the top and outside of the tunnel to the interior. There were two other dugouts, one on each side of the entrance to the engine rooms; the northern one was the headquarters of a K.T.K, the other an ordinary dugout, generally stored with hand-grenades.

The statements of this prisoner may be regarded as absolutely reliable.



CROSS SECTION

13th September, 1918.

Jim. A. Chapman Capt.
for Major, G.S.
5th Australian Division

No. 4

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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1. RESERVES. (a) The 6th Div. is now considered to be fit, and has been transferred to rest in the THOUROUT area.

(b) The Jaeger Div., from reserve, reinforced the line yesterday near GOUZEAUCOURT.

(c) The 109th Div., which lost very heavily in the fighting on 8th August, has been disbanded.

This reduced the number of divisions on the Western front to 192 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry divisions, and raises the total number of infantry battalions disbanded since the beginning of 1918 to 108.

(d) From prisoners' statements, it is possible that the 9th Division (fresh) is in the St. QUENTIN area.

2. ENEMY DEFENCES. From observation and patrol reports the most forward line of posts appears to be about sunken road L.1.b.7.0 - along the wire from F.25.d through TEA POST to F.20.a. - trenches in F.15.b. - western outskirts of EPEHY and PEIZIERE.

Prisoners of 58th I.R., 119th Div., state that another battalion is occupying and working on the HINDENBURG Line while their battalion is withdrawing to it. The regiment is in the VEDELLES sector.

3. DISBANDING OF THE 109th DIVISION. Prisoners of the 113th Div., captured on the 11th Sept., in the HAVRINCOURT area, state that they formerly belonged to the 26th Res. Inf. Regt. (109th Div.). They state that the 26th Res. Inf. Regt. was recently disbanded and drafted to the 36th Fus. and 66th Inf. Regts. of the 113th Div.

A report from another source shows that elements of the 26th Res. Inf. Regt. were also drafted to the 27th Inf. Regt. (113th Div.). The 26th Res. Inf. Regt. can, therefore, be considered to have been broken up and drafted to the 3 regts., of the 113th Division.

The 2nd Gren. Regt. passed intact from the 109th Div., to the 3rd Res. Div.

No information has been received as yet regarding the disbanding of the 376th Inf. Regt., the third regt. of the 109th Div., but it is probable that this regiment has also been broken up.

Thus, a regiment having left the 109th Div. intact and another having been disbanded, this division can be considered as broken up. This reduces the total number of German divisions in the Western theatre to 192 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry divisions, and raises the total number of infantry battalions disbanded since the beginning of 1918 to 108.

4. GERMAN REPORT ON BRITISH BATTERY POSITIONS. - The following is an extract from a report, dated 10-6-18 made by the 214th Artillery Command (214th Div) on the British artillery positions in front of the SIEGFRIED Line on the front of the Second German Army. It shows the success obtained by some of our methods of constructing battery positions :-

"Construction of the enemy's battery positions.-

"Almost without exception, there were no dug-outs for personnel at the battery positions. These dug-outs were frequently sited to the rear and to the flanks at distances up to 300 yards from the battery position, in banks or trenches. In isolated cases, the dugouts were arranged at right angles to the battery. Consequently, though the positions showed

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APPENDIX 2

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clearly on air photographs, they were not considered to be battery positions, owing to their being at right angles to the front.

"Some batteries stood out in the open, sometimes even without any cover whatever, either natural or artificial. These guns were painted in variegated colors. They were invisible on air photographs. The enemy took particular care to suit his battery positions to the ground and the natural surroundings in which they were placed. The battery positions and living accommodation, which were constructed as inconspicuously as possible, were covered with the usual English means of obtaining cover from view (hemp net with colored rags attached to it), which made them extremely invisible from the air. In order to avoid unnecessary tracks, the positions were usually built contiguous to roads and tracks already in use. Ways of approach for vehicles and even footpaths were wired in, so as to avoid any broadening of the tracks that would show clearly on air photographs."

Jim A. Chapman Capt.
for Major, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

14th September, 1918.

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APPENDIX

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

No. 5

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INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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1. PRISONERS.- During the period 2 officers, 87 O.R. have passed through the Corps. Cage unwounded (listed below) and 4 O.R. through Field Ambulances wounded .-

119th Division.		Offrs.	O.R.
58th I.R.	2nd Bn.		39
48th I.R.	2nd Bn.	2	46
1st Reserve Division.			
59th R.I.R.	1st Bn.		2
Total		2	87

2. SITUATION 13th SEPTEMBER & NIGHT 13th/14th INST. - Very quiet ^{day} along the entire line. North of the COLOGNE the situation is unchanged. Between the COLOGNE and the OMIGNON an advance was made south west of LE VERQUIER, 2 offrs. and 96 O.R. being captured. Two small counter-attacks were attempted, but repulsed.

South of the OMIGNON ground was gained between BIHESCOURT and the Keeper's Lodge at the northern corner of HOLNON Wood. The enemy was in close touch with our troops between MAISSEMY and HOLNON Village.

On the evening of the 12th two small counter-attacks were made by the enemy near Keeper's Lodge, but were easily repulsed.

In the fighting S.W. of LE VERQUIER two regiments of the 119th Div. were identified (normal) and one regiment of the 1st Res. Div. This latter division is apparently relieving the 21st Div. in the JEANCOURT sector. It is the third time since the 9th of August that this division has reinforced the line, and from the preliminary examination of prisoners it appears that the strength of companies is weak. It is not considered probable that this division will be in a fit state to offer serious resistance to a determined attack.

3. RESERVES.- The enemy still appears to be using up his exhausted divisions, and to be saving such divisions as are fresh for as long as possible.

4. INTENTIONS OF THE ENEMY.- Prisoners belonging to the 119th Div., captured yesterday, state that it is generally rumoured that the HINDENBURG Line will be ready by the 20th inst.

5. ENEMY ACTIVITY. - Movement. Observation from the air was again difficult owing to weather conditions. Between the rainstorms the visibility at times improved. The only activity of importance seen was considerable movement, judged to be chiefly that of troops, westwards along the roads from JONCOURT to LE VERQUIER. This movement, observed at dusk, and continued until 7.5 pm, was clearly that of the 1st Res. Div. relieving the 21st Division.

6. The following are the movements of the 1st Res. Div. since 8th August. The division was in close reserve on the French front, having been withdrawn from line E. of GRIVESNES on 4th Aug., after suffering heavy losses in the fighting at GRIVESNES Park. On the 9th it reinforced the front near PLESSEY and PLESNOY, but was withdrawn on the 11th, owing to heavy casualties. It came into line a second time on the 19th/20th Aug. at BEUVRAIGNES, and remained in line till 3rd Sept. The 1st Bn., 59th R.I.R. has only three companies. The 3rd Coy's strength is about 60 O.R.

7. COMPOSITION OF ALPINE CORPS.- The 204th Mountain M.G. Abteilung belongs to the Body I.R.

There/

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There is also a Mountain Artillery Bt. 2. (Prisoner seems sure of the latter, but does not know whether they form part of a regt., which is split up). The Bt. 2 is the only one with the Corps. They know nothing of the 203rd P.A. Bt., but agree the 204th P.A. Bt.

The morale of the Alpine Corps is excellent, and the physique good, all picked men, except some of the drafts from SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

Jim. A. Chapman Capt.
Major, C.M.
5th Australian Division.

15th September, 1918.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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SITUATION 14th SEPTEMBER & NIGHT 14th/15th INST.

The day was generally quiet along the Army front. Our line was advanced north of ST. QUENTIN Wood, and a footing was established on the high ground in R.29 between the wood and the village of MAISSEMY. South-east of HOLNON Wood posts were slightly advanced.

Hostile shelling showed an increase on the front of our centre and Southern Corps. On the Northern Corps front shelling was normal. ROISEL was heavily shelled during the night.

There were no new identifications on the Army Front.

2. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

A captured order of the 14th Res. Corps, whose Southern boundary is roughly HAVRINCOURT Wood, dated the 5th Sept., directs that not a single foot more of ground must be given up, and appeals to all ranks to maintain their positions.

3. FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS.

Yesterday evening between 5.15 and 6.10 explosions were seen at PONTRUET, LE VERGUIER, and at L.27.d.central (N.E. of JEANCOURT), where also a fire was reported. At 6.25 p.m. an explosion and fire was again reported in L.27.

3. 1ST BOMBING FLIGHT.

1st Bombing Squadron. The prisoner of this squadron states they are attached to the 18th Army. The machine was a twin-engine FRIEDRICHSHAFFEN and carried 1,000 kilos in bombs of 50 and 20 Kilos, and was destined for ALBERT. Other flights of the same squadron were destined for CHAULNES and ROYE.

Prisoner's aerodrome is stated to have been attacked twice on one night about four nights ago, and is to be moved further back within the next four or five days.

4. EXTRACT FROM ARMY ORDER, 2nd ARMY, dated 25-8-18.

It is absolutely incomprehensible that inconceivable rumours have been spread about behind the front during the last few days by people who have lost their nerves. People with anxious temperaments saw everywhere squadrons of tanks, masses of cavalry, thick lines of enemy infantry. It is in fact high time that our old battle-experienced soldiers spoke seriously to these cowards and weaklings and told them of the deeds that are done in the front line. Tanks are no bogey for the front line troops who have the artillery close behind them. For instance, a squadron Serjeant Major with his gun shot four tanks out; a battery shot 14 out; and a single division in one day, 40. In another place, a clever Corporal climbed on to a tank and did in the crew with revolver shots, firing through the sight aperture. A Lance Corporal was successful in putting a tank out of action with a hand-grenade.

The English Cavalry, which has been put in many times, has been shot together and reduced to a minimum by our infantry and artillery. Our riflemen and machine gunners never had better targets.

With regard to the enemy's infantry, stress must again be laid on the fact that in most cases they have only received drafts of

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18 year old men. Therefore, there are no reasons for any panic. On the contrary, the troops in the front line never considered themselves victors in the way they have at present.

This Army Order is to be read to all units.

(Sgd) von der MARWITZ.
Cavalry General and Adj. General.

5. EXTRACT FROM ORDER OF THE 2nd GUARD DIVISION 27-8-18. -

Leaders are to use every opportunity for the delivery of controlled rifle fire. Control is to be kept by Regiment and Battalion Commanders. I particularly call to mind, in this respect, the special necessity in defensive warfare of having reliable N.C.O's behind the front. It must be made absolutely clear to the men at every opportunity that their good rifle keeps the enemy from their necks, and the attacking enemy must be shot down.

6. EXTRACT FROM ORDER OF THE 2nd GUARD DIVISION, 27-8-18.

The 2nd Army will retire with a view to economy of its forces to a rear and more favorable position. The retirement will be made in one movement during the night of 27th/28th August. Code word for this move "TAUWETTE".

7. GERMAN MAN-POWER. -

Signal Units. - (a) A deserter, formerly belonging to the 513th Telephone Detachment, was sent, with about 25 other men of this detachment, to METZ, about the middle of MAY. Here they were joined by similar elements from other telephone detachments. On the 20th June, about 200 of these men were sent from METZ to BEVERLOO for infantry training.

(b) According to the statement of another deserter, about 25 men from the 24th Telephone Detachment (including the deserter himself) were drafted to BEVERLOO for infantry training at the end of May.

(c) A prisoner of the 27th Bav. Inf. Regt. (12th Bav. Div). captured on the 8th Sept., was training at BEVERLOO until the 9th August, 1918. He had previously served for two years with a telephone detachment, but being classed K.V. (kriegsverwendungsfähig - fit for active service) he was combed out for the infantry. He states that, whilst he was at BEVERLOO, there were about 70,000 men in training there. All these men had been combed out of auxiliary services.

L. of C. UNITS. - During the second week in August, a general inspection of the men employed in the L. of C. area of the Fourth German Army took place, and about 15,000 to 20,000 men are reported to have been passed fit for service.

National Auxiliary Service. - (a) A captured letter, written from BERLIN on the 7th August, states that the youths of the 1921 Class must report for duty with the National Auxiliary Service.

(b) On the 17th August, 1918, several thousands of German women were reported to have arrived in GHENT during the preceding week, and a total of about 15,000 women were expected shortly to replace men employed in the L. of C. area of the Fourth German Army.

16 th September, 1918.

Jim A. Chapman Capt.
Major, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. GERMAN LOSSES IN PRISONERS.-- The following list shows the number of prisoners (wounded and unwounded) captured by the Army since the 8th August, belonging to Divisions now in line or who are still considered to be in reserve opposite this front.

The Divisions marked @ have been engaged by the 3rd Army, and those marked % have been engaged by the French Army.

Prisoners captured by these armies are included in the total hereunder :-

Division.	Off.	O.R.	Division.	Off.	O.R.
% Alpine Corps.	4	125	% 1st Res. Div.	3	486
2nd Guard Div.	26	1423	5th Bav. Div.	2	250
@ 6th Bav. Div.	1	167	6th Cav. Div.	-	131
@ 13th Div.	46	3367	@ 14th Res Div.	26	1285
14th Bav. Div.	98	2846	21st Div.	45	1497
@ 25th Div.	25	855	% 25th Res. Div.	2	120
@ 26th Res. Div.	4	155	27th Div.	45	1374
% 38th Div.	10	244	41st Div.	47	2518
43rd Res. Div.	11	1006	54th Res. Div.	22	1052
% 75th Res. Div.	7	680	% 79th Res. Div.	10	519
% 82nd Res. Div.	4	346	83rd Div.	2	282
87th Div.	15	953	107th Div.	68	1609
108th Div.	39	2386	109th Div.	25	1520
@ 117th Div.	48	2891	119th Div.	11	1012
% 121 Div.	18	773	192nd Div.	25	1123
135th Div.	25	747	% 204th Div.	10	339
% 221st Div.	23	302	@ 225th Div.	66	3527
232nd Div.	63	1459	@ 233rd Div.	34	1388
243rd Div.	8	462	Odd Units.	2	1117
T O T A L S			920 Officers, 42,875 O/ranks.		

2. Following from Army timed 11.50 p.m. 16th aaa begins aaa French attack this morning N. of AISNE advanced line to depth of 1,000 yds on front of 4,000 yds E. of SAICY and 600 prisoners captured aaa Americans report captures in St. MIHIEL operations of over 200 guns, 220 trench mortars, 250 M.Gs 2 Rolling Wrenches, 1 delousing machine 2 cinema outfits, quantities of light Rly material rolling stock, trucks and dynamos and large quantities of ammunition aaa ends.

3. Reliable prisoner states road from M.21.b.0.1 mined aaa This confirmed by photograph which shows traffic has been kept off this stretch of road aaa Several gaps made in belt of wire running south-east from M.21.c.45.95 also mined aaa Prisoner thinks mining general in area aaa Gaps in wire and roads off which traffic has obviously been diverted should be avoided.

4.(a) The following (para. c) is a translation of a German document regarding British gas projector surprise bombardment carried out on the night of the 23rd/24th day shortly after midnight, on enemy positions west of MERVIS.

(b) This operation was carried out by the 1st Aust. Division. 1,178 drums were fired. On the night in question, the wind was blowing in a westerly direction at the rate of 7 miles per hour.

(c) /

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(c) Seventeenth Army H.Q.
Ia/Ib/Stoges No. 4290 op.

Army H.Q.
13-6-18

The following report issued by the Army regarding a British gas projector surprise bombardment is circulated for information.

On the night of the 23rd/24th May, shortly after midnight, the British carried out a heavy surprise bombardment with H.E. ammunition (shells and bombs) on the positions occupied by the 12th Inf. Div. west of MERRIS. At the same time, a projector attack was made with phosgene drums. The area bombarded included the positions of three regiments on a front of 1,500 metres and a depth of 400 metres. The target is thickly scattered with exploded drums, as many as 900 being counted afterwards.

The enemy carried out here for the first time a variation of his earlier tactics, as he did not carry out separate H.E. and gas bombardments, following one another in rapid succession, but projected gas drums during the H.E. bombardment.

The recognition of the nature of the bombardment was made extraordinarily difficult for the troops. The garrison was taking cover and only a few of them noticed the bright flash of the projector discharge, while the report of the exploding drums was lost in the noise of the bursting shell and H.E. bombs. For the same reasons, the noise of the drums in the air remained unnoticed.

Even though the British have so often violated the technical laws of gas warfare as regards wind conditions on other occasions, it is still surprising that they should have carried out a gas projector attack on the night in question. There was a very steady south-west wind, with a speed of 13 miles per hour or more, blowing towards the British line.

The gas cloud was certainly very dense immediately after the attack. It was well on the target, as a large part of the trenches received direct hits. However, the cloud was rapidly dispersed by the high wind.

LOSSES. 11 men killed (certainly on account of the gas attack).
121 men gassed (including 2 officers).

In addition, 16 men died afterwards during treatment.

- Reasons for the losses.- (i) The men who died succumbed to the effect of direct hits; most of them were also hit by splinters.
- (ii) The new kind of tactics employed by the enemy in firing gas drums at the same time as H.E. projectiles.
- (iii) The impossibility of recognising the projector discharge owing to the noise and the flashes from the H.E. fire.
- (iv) The unlikelihood of an enemy attack in such a strong wind blowing towards the enemy.
- (v) The number of gas drums fired, with a weight of about 13 tons of gas.

To the credit of the troops, it must be emphasized that their good gas discipline and their skill in the use of their masks under adverse conditions enabled them to avoid even greater losses.

Conclusions. The attack itself teaches that the best surprise effect is likely to be obtained against troops who think themselves safe on account of weather conditions being apparently unfavorable for the use of gas. Therefore, in carrying out gas operations, too much emphasis must not be laid on the safety of our troops, provided that timely warning is given in the sectors likely to be affected by the gas that is blown back. Finally, this new method of employment shows the importance of varying the tactical use of gas projectors in order to confuse the enemy.

17th September, 1918.

Jim A. Chapman Capt.
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

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No. 8

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. Moral in the division is very poor at present, although formerly the 119th Div. was a "shock division". The story had freely circulated in the division that English airmen had dropped leaflets a few days ago saying that if the German Army Command did not soon relieve the 119th Division the English would. The general remark was - "That might easily happen".
2. GERMAN SUMMER TIME.- German summer time, which commenced at 2 a.m. on the 15th April, ceased at 3 a.m. on the 16th September. Consequently Franco-British time will now be the same as German time until Franco-British summer time ceases, when German time will again be one hour in advance of Franco-British time.
3. RESERVES. - Prisoners state that they saw men of the 30th Div. in CAMBRAI on 6th Sept. This division is one of the five fit for operations between the sea and the OISE. No other change in the order of battle is reported.
4. ENEMY DEFENCES. - Further photographs of 15th Sept. show more additions to the HINDENBURG system. Shallow new trenches have been dug east of the canal south of HONNECOURT from S.18.b.9.2 to S.14.c.2.4 and north of VENDHUILLE from S.20.a.3.2, following the bend of the Canal to S. 26.a.7.8.
A new C.T. has been begun west of LE CATELET running from A.4.b.1.2 to A.4.a.4.1 and another shallow trench runs along the LE CATELET - BELLICOURT road from A.11.c.1.8 to A.17.a.0.2. A new trench is also shown near RIQUEVAL from G.16.b.8.2 to G.16.b.3.5 and west of the Canal from the bank to G.16.a.5.5.
The Canal is nearly dry from OSSUS at S.19.d. to S.27.c, south-east of VENDHUILLE.
North-east of EPEHY a short new trench has been dug in X.27.c.d. and there is much activity at the sunken road in X.26.a.c.
There are active battery positions behind LEMPIRE in F.16.d., F.17.a.c. and east of RONSSOY at F.22.d., F.23.central. Between RONSSOY and TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD there is a line of forward posts in F.26.a. and work is visible on trench in F.27.a.
South-east of LE VERQUIER a length of new C T. is shown in R.5.a.
5. THE CANAL - The St.QUENTIN Canal is practically empty between the north end of the tunnel near LE CATELET and the Lock in S.13.d., south of HONNECOURT and also between the locks in HONNECOURT.
6. PRISONERS. - The number of prisoners of the Army which passed through Corps Cages and C.C.S. is 37,058 of which 849 are officers.
7. DISBANDING OF GERMAN FORMATIONS. -
(a) Disbanding of the 235th Div.
According to a captured letter and prisoners' statements, the 235th Div. was disbanded on the 11th August. It was drafted to other formations as follows :-
454th Inf. Regt. was drafted to the 10th Div.
455th Inf. Regt. was drafted to the 9th and possibly 10th Res. Divs.
456th Inf. Regt. was drafted to a Landwehr Division.
This reduces the total number of German divisions on the Western front to 191 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry divisions.

(b) /

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(b) Reduction in the strength of Assault Battalions. -

The 1st, 4th and 18th Assault Bns. have been reduced to the status of Assault companies and must, temporarily, cease to be considered as assault battalions. This, together with the disbanding of the 235th Div. mentioned above, raised the total number of infantry battalions disbanded since the beginning of 1918 to 120.

8. CONTROL OF SIGNAL TRAFFIC. - The following is an extract from an order issued by the II Bav. Corps on the 7th May, 1918, in connection with the control of signal traffic:-

"The use of names (in clear) enables the enemy to obtain information regarding reliefs and the arrival of additional troops. We ourselves have been able by this means to obtain the first indication of the enemy's reliefs".

9. Contact plane gives line at 10.20 a.m. . Trench system running through L-5.b. and d, E. of VILLEMET, L.18.a and c, L.24.a and c, L.30 a. and c, G.31.b.0.5, G.31.d.2.8, G.21.d.4.3, G.32.c.1.1, M.2.a.3.8, M.2.a.7.1, M.7.b.7.8.

Jim A. Chapman, Capt.
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

18th September, 1918.

Murphy

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No. 9

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. NOTES ON THE EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS CAPTURED TO-DAY.

The attack apparently was a surprise. In many cases a local attack or raid had been expected yesterday or the day before, but was not expected to-day.

Normal dispositions were, 1 battalion in the front line (old British main line), with one company in the outpost line; 1 battalion in support and 1 battalion in reserve.

Intentions - Advanced posts were to beat off raids or small attacks and were to fall back on old British main line in case of a heavy attack. This was to be held at all costs. Troops in support kept equipment on day and night in readiness to counter-attack. No intention to fall back on the HINDENBURG line seems apparent.

2. ANALYSIS OF PRISONERS - 64 Officers, 1988 O/ranks.

	Offr.	O/ranks.
<u>1st Res. Division.</u>		
59th R.I.R.	14	497
1st R.I.R.	18	412
3rd R.I.R.	5	250
<u>5th Bav. Division.</u>		
7th Bav. I.R.	-	36
21st Bav. I.R.	1	33
19th Bav. I.R.	-	20
<u>119th Division.</u>		
46th I.R.	16	391
58th I.R.	1	172
46th R.I.R.	-	1
<u>38th Division.</u>		
95th I.R.	1	24
96th I.R.	-	3
94th I.R.	-	4
Specialist and other units.	8	145

3. RESERVES.

(a) The 2nd Guard Div., withdrawn from the fighting near MT. ST. QUENTIN on the 2nd inst., has reinforced the line in the RONSSOY area.

(b) Prisoners of the 271st R.I.R., 82nd Res. Div., state that they have seen men of the 28th I.R., 16th Div., in ST.QUENTIN.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES.-

HINDENBURG LINE. - Photographs of the 16th show no development of the new trenches reported on 15th in the VENDHUILLE - BELLENGLISE area. Those north of VENDHUILLE are still a mere trace. There is, however, increased activity along the Tunnel, and some work on old trenches near BONY. This activity is partly connected with an increase of batteries in the BELLICOURT area, in CLAYMORE Valley and in VAUBAN valley, A.16.d, 10.d., South west of LE CATELET. There is also increased battery activity in the OSSUS Wood and Catelet Valley area X.30.a.c., X.29.b.d., X.28.c. west of VENDHUILLE. West of BONY trenches are being repaired North of QUENREMONT Farm, A.8.c.20.0.

There is markedly less activity at the HINDENBURG Line in the LE TRONQUOY sector. Very little work is visible on the old German front system round and north-west of ST.QUENTIN, but there are increasing tracks westwards along TURKS Valley, etc.

No work /

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No work is visible on the NAUROY - LE CATELET Line north of GOUY, or on the HINDENBURG line from VENDHUILLE to LA TERRIERE, but the wire is in excellent condition.

Prisoners all agreed that much work by support and reserve battalions was in progress about VILLERAY trench and at FRESNOY defences on trenches, wire and emplacements. Regimental Battle Headquarters was in CORNOUILLERS Wood.

5. ENEMY MINING. -

A prisoner who was working on the mining of the HAM - ST. QUENTIN railway between the 5th and 9th Sept., states that ETREILLERS Station is mined, and will blow up when an attempt is made to use the line.

6. REPORT ON A GERMAN AMMUNITION DUMP AT BRAY, PREPARED FOR DEMOLITION.

The dump consists of a number of small sheds nearly all filled with trench munitions.

In almost all of these were powerful demolition charges. The charges in many cases were not fitted up with fuze and detonators.

Some of these charges were packed in their original wooden packing cases and were easily visible. In other cases trench mortar bombs had been removed from their boxes and the demolition charge inserted.

Near one of these a small friction fuze igniter was found. This is fired by means of pulling a wire loop. It is thought that the intention was to fix the fuze igniter with instantaneous fuze into the box in such a manner that the wire would be pulled to fire it by the opening of the lid.

All boxes, therefore, which showed any signs of having been previously opened should be handled with care, the lid being raised gently to make certain there is no resistance, and a piece of wire passed round ^{under} the lid to make sure that no igniter is attached.

A number of stacks of explosive - Perdit or Donarit - had been prepared with detonators, instantaneous fuze, and brass igniters; the latter has a firing pin with a loop at the end which on being pulled out fires the fuze.

These assembled charges were wedged here and there among the ammunition, and should be examined carefully to make sure the loop of the firing pin is not tied to anything so that it will be pulled out when the charge is removed.

None of those found, however, were actually tied in this manner, but undoubtedly that was the intention, seeing that instantaneous fuze was used.

In one case some six slabs of explosives were tied together, and a box of Trench Mortar bombs stacked on the top. It was found that into the bottom slabs was fixed a detonator which supported the whole weight of both slabs and the box of T.M. bombs. This detonator had been cut short and its edges turned over so as to be nearly touching the fulminate filling. If any more weight was put on the box above the result might have been to fire the detonator. This is a somewhat clumsy method, and dangerous to set up.

One mine was found under a box of ammunition resembling a Flach Mine.

The igniter is fixed down by a clip, and the loop of the igniter firing pin is pointing upwards. This would be tied to the box above and on its removal the pin would be withdrawn and the charge fired.

The mine /

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The mine in question was placed under a box of ammunition, but the igniter had not been fixed to it.

It is advisable to look under any box before removing it.

Several others of these mines were found in a shed prepared and stored ready for use.

One tin case filled with Picric Powder was found. This was rimed out at each end to take a detonator, but no detonator had been fitted.

On the whole it would seem that the dump was evacuated before arrangements could be completed, because although preparations had been made the charges were not properly fitted up.

The general means of ignition seems to be a friction igniter and it is necessary therefore to examine carefully all boxes before lifting or moving, or before opening in order to see that nothing is attached.

19th September, 1918.

John A. Chapman, Capt.
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

No. 10

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. Between the 3th August and 22nd August, 1918: 209 officers and 8,843 O.R. were captured; between 23rd August and 17th September, 185 officers and 7,105 O.R. were captured; since 18th September 147 officers and 3,952 O.R. have been captured; making a grand total for our Corps of 541 officers and 19,900 O.R.

2. SITUATION 18th SEPTEMBER and NIGHT 18th/19th INST.

The attack of the Fourth Army, which commenced at 5.20 am yesterday, was entirely successful. The attack was launched on a frontage of 20,000 yards, and penetrated to an average depth of 3,000 yards and a maximum depth of 6,000 yards. The villages of PEIZIERE, EPEHY, LEMPIRE, BASSE BOULOGNE, RONSSOY, TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD, HARGICOURT, VILLERET, LE VERGUIER, PONTRU, and FRESNOY-le-PETIT were captured, as well as well-known localities such as COLOGNE Farm, ASCENSION Farm, GRAND PRIEL Farm, etc. Besides a big advance being effected, ground was gained which gives our Army most valuable observation over the HINDENBURG Line. The line of defences which was overcome was formidable, and opposite our Centre Corps includes the outpost line of the HINDENBURG Line, stretching from BELLICOURT to BELLENGLISE. The resistance offered by the enemy to our advance varied in different localities. In EPEHY, as anticipated, the Alpine Corps fought particularly well, and it was not until the evening that the village was 'mopped up'. North of the village, in the railway triangle, two tanks played an important part and forced a considerable number of Germans to surrender. Opposite our Central Corps the enemy surrendered freely, due very largely to the fear inspired by previous contact with their opponents.

South of the OMIGNON, the enemy's resistance was greater than anticipated.

Prisoners captured already number well over 5,000. In addition, 35 guns were captured including 2 21-cm and 5 15-cm Hows., the remainder being field guns.

Identifications during the early part of the day were normal. One tired division (185th) which had been resting a fortnight, reinforced the line in the VILLERET area. By a pigeon message captured, the 107th Div. (tired), from reserve, appears to have reinforced the front N.W. of ST. QUENTIN. As no prisoners of this division were captured during the day's fighting, this requires confirmation. A large number of battalions were identified. Prisoners belonging to 54 different battalions of 25 different regiments, belonging to 10 different divisions, were captured. This does not include the 107th Div. This constitutes a record for the Fourth Army.

There is little doubt that the moral effect of the tanks played a great part in the success of the day. Opposite the Centre Corps, a few tanks, closely followed by the Australians, never found a target until they arrived at COLOGNE Farm, as the enemy surrendered on their approach. It is interesting to note that one tank was mined west of HARGICOURT, as was also one supply tank. From reports received, anti-tank guns played no part in the fighting. This is of distinct interest owing to the stress laid by the Germans (vide numerous captured German documents) on the employment of these weapons. A certain number of anti-tank rifles were used.

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With regard to the morale of the enemy, it is considered that the AUSTRIAN Peace proposals may considerably affect it for the worse, as it appears quite possible that the German troops anticipate that the Austrians intend to make peace as soon as possible, thereby furnishing them with an excuse for surrendering freely. This, however, is given with all reserve, but prisoners will be further examined on this point.

German artillery fire was generally slight during the morning, but increased during the afternoon. The majority of the guns appeared to be east of the HINDENBURG Line. A certain number, however, were west of it, probably more than was anticipated.

During the night, the enemy counter-attacked our Northern Corps and re-captured MALASSISE Farm. Heavy fighting took place throughout the night. Our line includes LEMPIRE, but excludes the above-mentioned Farm.

At 11 p.m. the Australians attacked the HINDENBURG outpost line, and, after heavy fighting in places, the whole objective was gained, together with 38 officers and 329 O.R. In addition, some machine guns were taken.

The left of the Southern Corps conformed to this attack, and also gained ground. From ST. HELENE (S.W. of BELLENGLISE) to the BELLICOURT - HARGICOURT road, our line now runs parallel to the ST. QUENTIN Canal, and approximately 1,500 yards from it.

The situation opposite the southern flank of the Army remains unchanged.

No heavy shelling has been reported.

3. RESERVES

(a) The 6th Div., from reserve in FLANDERS, has reinforced the front near TRESCAULT. This is a fresh division.

(b) The 30th Div. is again reported by prisoners to be in the CAMBRAI area. Its arrival on the battlefield may be expected to-day.

(c) The 185th Div., after resting for about a fortnight, reinforced the line in the VILLERET area yesterday. This is a tired division. It was last engaged in the fighting near PERONNE, losing 772 prisoners. It is now engaged for the second time.

(d) The 121st Div., (tired) after resting for a little over a fortnight reinforced the front S.W. of ST. QUENTIN yesterday. It is now engaged for the second time. 793 prisoners belonging to this division were captured when the division was last in line.

4. ENEMY'S INTENTIONS.

(a) The large majority of the prisoners agreed that they received orders to hold their ground at all costs. Their main line of resistance was apparently the HARGICOURT - LEVERGUIER line. This is in agreement with a captured German order dated the 6th inst. issued by the XIV Res. Corps (S.W. of CAMBRAI), calling on the troops to stand their ground and not surrender one inch of it.

(b) The size of our attack came as a surprise to the enemy. They only anticipated a continuation of more or less local operations.

Conclusions. - In view of the importance to the Germans of the outpost line to the HINDENBURG Line, counter-attacks must be contemplated. It will be difficult to attack this line frontally, and the enemy will probably endeavour to turn it by attacks against our northern flank from the direction of BONY and GILLEMONT Farm. They, however, appear to have few troops

At /

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at their disposal to counter-attack with, and it is doubtful whether an attack by more than one division need be anticipated at present.

5. PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners for the Army which passed through Corps Cages and C.C.S. since 8th August is 41,730 of which 977 are officers.

A good number of prisoners still remain to be counted. This is the greatest number of prisoners captured by one Army up to date as the result of operations. The second largest number of prisoners, that captured by the Fourth and Fifth Armies combined during the first battle of the SOMME, resulted in the capture of 38,000 prisoners, but whereas this latter number covered a period of 4 months' fighting, the number recently captured by the Fourth Army has been obtained in a space of 42 days.

6. HEADQUARTERS.

Before our attack there were Divisional H.Q. at NAUROY and PREMONT. (P.S.)

7. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) Trenches.— Photographs of 17th and 18th show no additions to the new trenches reported on the 15th east of the Canal. The trench along the IA CATELET - BELLICOURT road remains merely traced. The trench N. of BELLICOURT in G.4.d, A.28.c. has not been continued, but it has been deepened. There is much activity at the HINDENBURG Support Line W. of BELLICOURT G.3.c.9.b. near BONY and at BELLENGLISE.

8. DISBANDING OF 43rd RES. DIVISION.

Prisoners of the 2nd Guard Gren. Regt., (2nd Guard Div.) state they have received drafts from 202nd I.R. (43rd Res. Div.) which was disbanded about 4th September.

20th September, 1918.

James A. Chapman Capt.
 Lt. Col. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, G.S.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.
-----oOo-----1. SITUATION 19th SEPTEMBER & NIGHT 19th/20th INST. -

On the evening of the 18th/19th, the 121st Div., who had been alarmed in MARETZ early in the morning, were bussed up to the front, deployed at BONY, and attacked our troops during the evening, forcing them to give ground at LEMPIRE and MALASSISE Farm. Our troops renewed their attacks this morning and after heavy fighting recaptured the above named farm and probably also LEMPIRE.

The situation on the Central Corps Front remained unchanged, and no counter-attacks were carried out by the enemy. Artillery fire in this area was markedly slight.

South of the OMIGNON ground was gained in the BERTHAUCOURT area, but it is probable that neither PONTRUET nor FRESNOY-LE-PETIT are in our hands. This front has been reinforced by two divisions on the evening of the 18th. viz., the 185th and the 197th, identified on morning of 19th. Both these divisions were engaged during the fighting last month.

Considering the serious defeat suffered by the enemy and the large number of prisoners captured it is considered that he will be obliged to relieve at least three divisions in the immediate future.

During the night it was ascertained that we hold the whole of LEMPIRE, LEMPIRE Post, YAK POST, ZEBRA POST, as well as OCKENDEN and ROOM TRENCH (P.3.b. and a.). Our Central Corps slightly advanced their line north of St. HELENE, taking six prisoners.

The situation on the Southern flank remained unchanged.

The 107th Div., reported to be in the vicinity by pigeon message, has now been definitely identified by the capture of a prisoner near ASCENSION Farm.

Since the morning of the 18th, four divisions, all of which have been previously engaged, either against the French or ourselves since the 8th August, have reinforced the line.

2. RESERVES. -

(a) The 197th Div., reinforced the line south of the OMIGNON, This division took part in the offensive in the AISNE Battle, and also in the retreat on the 16th of August in the RIBECOURT sector. It was relieved on the 11th Sept. It was regarded as one of the German counter-attack divisions.

(b) The 25th Div., reported to be holding the trenches near VENDHUILLE has not yet been identified.

(c) The 107th Div. has been identified by prisoner captured near ASCENSION Farm. It was relieved near FOUCAUCOURT on the 28th of August after suffering heavy losses, 1,677 prisoners being captured. This is the second occasion that this div., has been engaged since 8th August.

(d) The 44th Res. and 14th Res. Divs., have left the British Front and are now in the METZ and ALSACE areas respectively.

Of the 191 divisions in the Western Theatre 79 are in reserve. There are now 15 divisions fit for offensive operations, of which five are between the Sea and the OISE.

3. ENEMY DEFENCES. -

Photographs of 19th Sept., show much work in progress on enemy front trenches from QUENNEMORT Farm to South of MALAKOFF Wood, A.20.c, to A.26.d. There is considerable activity at the HINDENBURG Line behind this from A.27.c. to BONY. The wire is in excellent condition.

Low photographs show the large amount of wire previously reported between FRESNOY and FAYET. There is wire on the west side of CHEVILLARD trench north-west of GRICOURT, and activity at this trench in M.22.a.b.

Prisoners of 119th Div., has been working on the trenches at BELINGLISE.

Prisoners /

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Prisoners of the 20th Foot Art. Regt. said they had three batteries west of the Canal, one at GRICOURT, M.22.d., Three batteries of the 27th Foot Art. Regt., were west and north of BELLENGLISE at G.33.d., 34.d, and 35.a.

4. CAPTURED ORDER REGARDING RAIDS. -

The following translation of a German Army order shows that the enemy realizes the superiority of our troops in "NO MAN'S LAND" :-
Seventeenth Army,
Ia/e. No.5956 op. Secret. 2-8-18.

"During July, the Army lost 233 men missing and captured only 47 prisoners. This shows that the British have at the present time a fighting superiority over our troops in "NO MAN'S LAND". Such superiority can only result in the fighting spirit of our infantry being impaired. It is also of the highest importance that the Higher Command should be kept constantly informed as to the enemy's dispositions and intentions. This is best done by means of patrol enterprises. If these are carefully planned and well carried through, good results are accomplished and casualties are light.

"It is my impression that the infantry is in need of more practical training in this form of fighting, and I request Corps and divisional Commanders to devote particular attention to this.

(Sgd) v BELOW.

5. GERMAN INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS.-

The following account of an interrogation is given by two British prisoners who escaped to our lines on the 13th Sept. :-

One of these men was captured at ACHEVILLE on the 24th August, while on a daylight patrol. He was not interrogated by the enemy until arrival at the Interrogation Centre about half way between LILLE and DOUAI, where he was thoroughly cross-questioned during a period of three days.

The second man was captured near MERRIS on the 13th August while on patrol. He was examined at what was apparently Brigade H.Q. and was examined during a period of several days.

The men were asked their number, regiment and division, names of officers, strength of units, drafts, organization of infantry, artillery, engineers, etc. Each man's history during the war was thoroughly gone into : also conditions in France and at home. They were shown dumps, tank parks, etc., on aeroplane photographs, and were asked what they knew of them. One man, a seaman, was shown photographs of DOVER Harbor and asked questions concerning the defences. Photographs of LONDON and large munition works were shown them. To these questions the prisoners replied that they did not know, whereupon the Interrogation Officer turned to other subjects. The prisoners were not threatened or ill-treated if they refused to answer a question. They are of opinion that dummy prisoners were not put in with them, nor was listening apparatus put into the room where they were confined together.

The prisoners were then taken to LILLE barracks which is used as P.O.W. receiving station. While here, they were again frequently questioned during a stay of two weeks.

21st September, 1918.

Edward Thompson
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. RESERVES. - To sum up.

Five divisions, including the 75th Res. Div. and 232nd Div., after resting for a period varying from a week to a fortnight, have reinforced the line since 18 th Sept. They have all been previously engaged in the SOMME battle. The 75th Res. Div., and 232nd Div., losing in prisoners during previous fighting 687 and 1522 respectively. There are now 16 divisions in reserve fit for offensive operations, of which 4 are between the sea and the OISE.

2. GERMAN MAIN LINE OF RESISTANCE. - From prisoner's statements the German main line of resistance running from QUENNEMONT Farm - F.17.d - F.11.d. - TOMBOISE Farm. Counter-attacks to recapture this line if taken by us are likely to continue.3. ENEMY DEFENCES. - Prisoners of the 121st Div., state that their line was withdrawn on night 20th/21st to trenches in A.19 near QUENNEMONT Farm, which position was to be held. No wiring or mining of dugouts had been done by pioneers, and little work on trenches. Photographs, however, show a fair amount of work on the repair of trenches and on machine gun posts.4. MINING IN GERMAN BACK AREAS. - Information has been received from the French of the enemy's mining work at the following places :-

LE. CATELET. - Mines have been placed in houses and "La Route Nationale" is mined 1 Km. south of CATELET Church.

CAMBRAI. - All the bridges and cross roads.

ST. QUENTIN. - Barracks of the 87th I.R., La Gare du Nord. The Isle bridge. VEHU bridge. Level crossing at ROCOURT station. Cross roads of the Rues de la Fere and de Cronstadt, and the Chemin de Neuville St. AMAND. The Canal bridge.

All the wells in the neighbouring localities.

The quarters between the Barracks, Capy Farm, and the CAMBRAI and FAYET roads.

Work on mines has been carried out 250 m. E. of station.

The Palais de Justice, the Hotel de Ville, and the neighbouring buildings.

The Station, the bridge of the Rue de la Gare, Le Lycée, St. MARTIN and the old Palais de Justice.

Other work on mines of importance has been carried out.

(1) At the fork of the Routes Nationale de GUISE and de la FERRE.

(2) In the vegetable gardens of the SCHMIDT Factory, GAUCHY road.

(3) 30 mine pits under the level crossing of the ESSIGNY-le-GRAND road, situated 1,500 m. North-east of the MOULIN TOUR-VENT. (2 km. south of ST. QUENTIN.

VILLERS OUTREAU. - Cross roads in the village.

5. EXPLOSION OF A GERMAN POWDER FACTORY. (Extract from captured German letter).

Our Sunday excursion to PLAUEN whence I wrote you a postcard was a complete success. We visited there the scene of the catastrophe where 3 weeks ago an explosion took place in a powder factory. (6,800 women were employed). Nearly all the workers have become victims of the war, only 12 women are said to have escaped unhurt. The truth of course one can never get at; nevertheless from the few survivors one can hear about the fate of their comrades. Just imagine, out of 6,800 only 12 "men" left. Is it not frightful? The spectacle was something terrible. Like burning torched, they roamed round the building, as all doors and windows were shut as is usual in factories.

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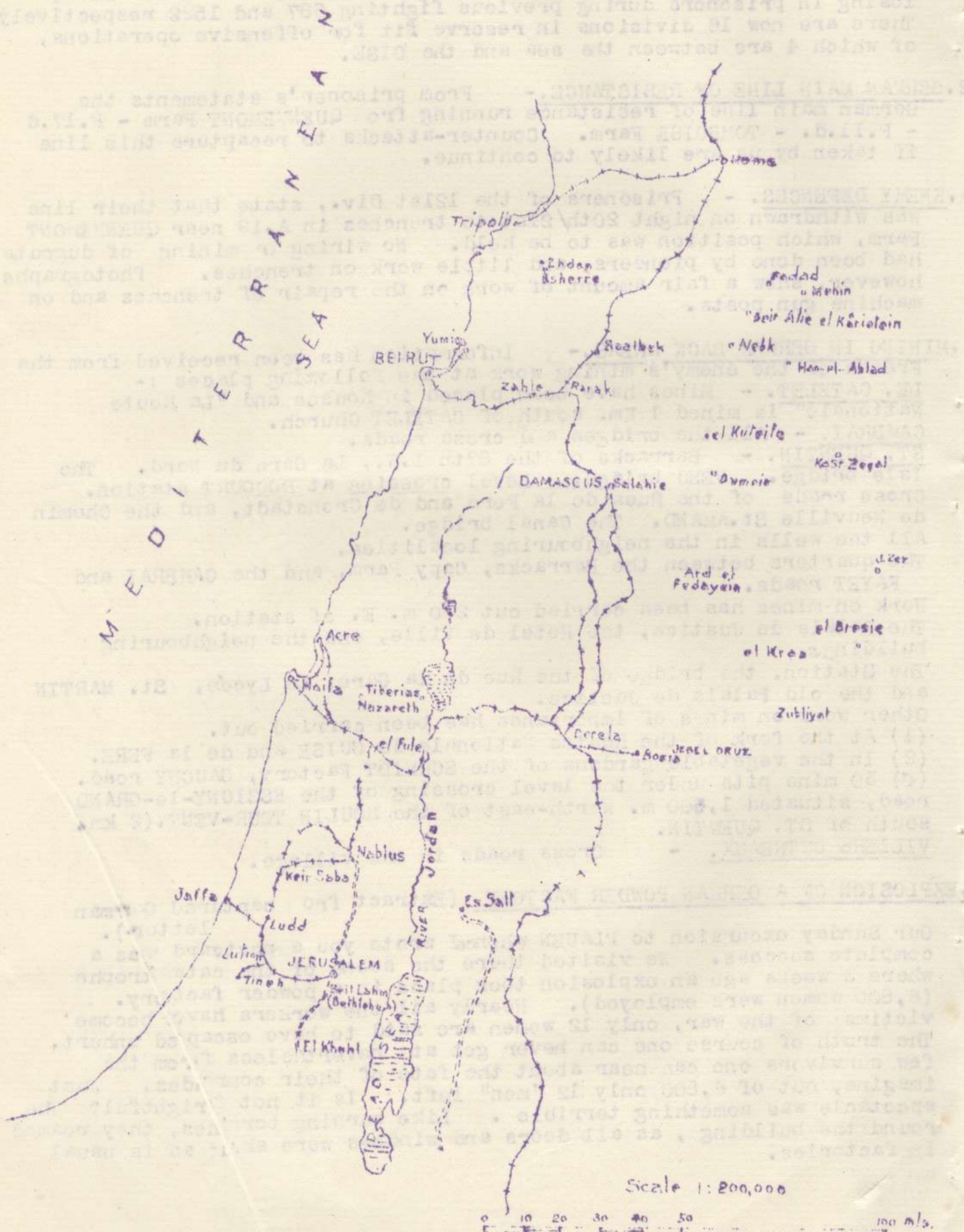
Only one side entrance was open, and the few who found their way out presented a gruesome spectacle. The whole night through 60 vehicles carried the unfortunates away from the scene of the disaster. On the Sunday we also visited the massed grave in the Eastern Cemetery in PLAUEN. Notwithstanding the sorry spectacle our trip went off very merrily; of course we feel sorry for the unfortunate people, but there, one cannot always be mourning. Therefore let us look towards the Sun. The living have their rights.

J. McCall

Lieut-Colonel, G.S.

23rd September, 1918.

5th Australian Division.



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No. 14

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.
-----1. SITUATION 22nd SEPTEMBER and NIGHT 22nd/23rd INST.

After heavy fighting all day, our Left Corps succeeded in capturing important posts and trenches W. of GILLEMONT Farm. In one of these (DUNCAN'S Post), 80 prisoners were secured after the enemy had held out stubbornly all day. Between 3.45 and 4.30 pm the enemy counter-attacked in the direction of GILLEMONT Farm, but was repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire. They retired through our artillery barrage, losing many casualties. As a result of this counter-attack, 21 prisoners were left in our hands, and many dead on the ground.

At 7 p.m. last night, after a heavy barrage on BERTHAUCOURT, the enemy attacked along the main road and rushed the sunken road W. of PONTRUET. Immediate counter-attacks restored the situation. At 10 pm last night, our Left Corps again attacked and captured all the objectives on LARKSPUR.

In these operations, identifications were normal, and included 2 regiments of the 2nd Gd. Div., 2 regiments of the 232nd Div., a regiment of the Alpine Corps and a regiment of the 197th Division. Artillery fire showed a distinct increase. HARGICOURT, VILLERET and the area S. of VILLERET were heavily shelled during the night. Yesterday afternoon, back areas were heavily bombarded, especially E. of ATTILLY. Heavy barrages were also placed on our front line. Except, however, for the attacks at BERTHAUCOURT and GILLEMONT Farm, no infantry action followed.

2. MORALE.

The Left Corps report that in the actual fighting of the last few days there has been, according to prisoners' statements, little resistance in the outpost line and in the main line of resistance; men say that they have been surprised. In this connection, it is significant that although orders have been to 'stand to' during the hours of dawn, most men were captured either half asleep or down in dugouts. With both N.C.O's and men, our artillery barrage is quite sufficient excuse for not manning rifles or machine guns; our infantry, following quickly on the barrage, have done the rest.

It is at the second line that the Officers have had time to rouse the defence or organise the counter-attack. As the men express it, the Officers' word "MUST" is still the driving force.

3. DISBANDING OF THE 376th INF. REGT.

Prisoners of the 1st Div., captured recently by the French south of the AILETTE, state that the 376th Inf. Regt., left the 109th Div., for the CHARLEVILLE area, where it was disbanded and drafted to the 1st Div.

This raises the number of infantry battalions disbanded since the beginning of 1918 to 126.

24th September, 1918.

Jimmy A. Chapman Capt.
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

No. 15

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. RESERVES.-

(a) The 8th Div., from line in the YPRES salient, has reinforced the front near IARK SPUR (X.28). Only advanced parties have arrived in the line. The division will probably relieve the Alpine Corps. It should be fresh as it has not taken part in any big engagement since KEMMEL.

(b) The 21st Res. Div., reinforced the line in the VILLERS GUISLAIN area yesterday, opposite the Third Army. It took part in the fighting in the BOYELLES area and has been resting since 1st September.

(c) From reliable information, it appears that the 21st Div., is resting in the LE VERGIERS area. It was relieved on 13th September, and will probably be identified to-day or to-morrow by our Southern Corps. It has been twice engaged, and 880 prisoners were captured belonging to it.

(d) The 79th Res. Div., contrary to expectation, is still holding the line, and holds the front in the OMIGNON Valley between the 75th Res. and 197th Divisions.

(e) The 5th Bav. Res. Div., from ALSACE, is resting in the DOUAI area. It is one of the fresh divisions. It will probably be employed against the First or Third Armies.

(f) The 45th Res. Div., (fresh) has been transferred to ALSACE, hence at present is not available to reinforce this front.

(g) The Guard Ersatz Div. has left ALSACE for an unknown destination.

(h) The 43rd Res. Div., has been disbanded, hence there are now 190 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, as well as 4 dismounted cavalry and 4 Austrian.

To sum up. - The German front at the junction of the Third and Fourth Armies has been strengthened by the arrival of two fairly fresh divisions. A tired division is in immediate reserve E. of WELLENGLISE, while a tired division, in the same area is still in line.

The Fourth Army would appear to be, at present, opposed by 9 divisions and elements of a tenth, while two or three more divisions are probably in close support.

2. CIVILIANS. -

There are still French civilians in WALINCOURT, MARETZ and BUSIGNY. There are a few left in VILLERS OUTREUX and AUBENCHEUL. No civilians are left in LE CATELET or GOUY.

On 16th September, the next village west of MARETZ (probably SERAIN) was evacuated. The population and a minimum of luggage were transported in lorries through MARETZ.

3. MINING.-

British prisoners who escaped from FRESNOY-le-GRAND on the 15th Sept., state that the railway bridge on the FRESNOY-BOHAIN road is prepared for mining.

4./

4. GENERAL. -

Our attacks between HOLNON and the OMIGNON have been successful. In FRESNOY village over 400 prisoners were cut off and surrendered to our troops.

Prisoners belonging to five different divisions have been captured.

The identifications are normal, except that the 2nd Div., recently relieved south-west of ST. QUENTIN has reinforced the front astride the OMIGNON. On the Northern flank of the Army two fairly fresh divisions were identified yesterday. Troops still continue to believe that fresh divisions are in reserve, but it is not considered that there can be more than are urgently required to relieve tired divisions in the front line.

5. MORAL OF PRISONERS CAPTURED ON THE 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1918. -

Prisoners captured on the 18th Sept., confirm the impression that the German rank and file regard the war as lost to Germany. This does not apply to the Alpine Corps, whose moral has been consistently high, but here also a distinct falling off is noticeable.

The men are much readier to give information than they were in the earlier stages of the retreat. An intelligent N.C.O., in discussing the situation, said: "In March of this year those of us who thought about such things, hoped that if everything came off according to plan ('alles genau Klappte') we might possibly win. We realised the stupendous task before us, and economic power of Great Britain, but we trusted HINDENBURG and LUDENDORFF. You checked us outside of AMIENS. It was not published as a check in the German papers, but any intelligent thinker realised then that an out-and-out victory was a thing of the past. The next best thing we could hope for by furious fighting was a compromise. The MARNE defeat robbed us of that hope, and now this last blow has opened the eyes of the commonest soldier to the break up of the German military supremacy.

"We are defeated - we know it - but I doubt whether the Germans on the other side (i.e. not in captivity) realise even now how crushing that defeat will be.

"passing back under escort I saw things that I could scarcely believe - such transport, such horses, such men, and those masses of artillery. I compare them with our wretched iron-wheeled transport skidding all over the place and blocking the roads in wet weather, our scanty and badly fed horses, and these boys pretending to be Guards. (He himself came from the 2nd Guard Div.).

"We still have a certain amount of artillery, but you must have five guns to our one, and we are not well off for shells, whilst you seem to have an endless supply.

No! Germany is defeated, and the sooner we recognize it the better, but you will admit we have put up a good fight. No nation could have done more.

25th September, 1918.

Jim. A. Chapman Capt
for/ Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff,
5th Australian Division.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. SITUATION 24th SEPTEMBER & NIGHT 24th/25th INST.-

The enemy attacked the ground we gained yesterday (23rd inst.) at LARK SPUR. They succeeded in gaining a footing in DADOS Loop and DADOS lane. Immediate counter-attacks partly restored the situation, but, by the evening, we had not quite regained the whole of the ground lost. It is probable that this attack was carried out by the newly arrived 8th Div. No identifications, however, have so far been reported.

East of LE VERGUIER, the officer commanding the 1st Bn., 249th RIR (79th Res.Div.), his Adjutant, Artillery Liaison officer and a runner walked into one of our posts, by mistake, during the morning. From the ORIGNON to the ST. QUENTIN-HOLNON road, our southern Corps, attacked on a front of 8,000 yards and gained a considerable amount of ground including the villages of FRESNOY-le-PETIT & GRICOURT, as well as the high ground in M.16 and M.28 and 34. By a successful enveloping movement, FRESNOY-le-PETIT was surrounded and the garrison, consisting of about 400 men, were forced to surrender. The larger portion of PORTRUET is also in our hands. A pocket still holds out in the S.W. corner of the village.

Two strong counter attacks were carried out at 11 am and 1 pm with the object of recapturing the high ground in M.16. These counter-attacks were made by the 11th Div., which was alarmed at 2 am in its billets, three hours before zero. Both counter-attacks failed. The first, crushed by artillery barrage and machine gun and rifle fire. No prisoners were left in our hands. The second one succeeded in penetrating our barrage, but the SUSSEX Regt., by a brilliant charge, drove back the enemy, who consisted of elements of two regiments, at the point of the bayonet, and captured 50 prisoners. About 1.30 pm troops were seen massing near GRICOURT, but the attack failed to materialise.

During the course of the day's fighting, 25 bns. of 15 regiments belonging to 8 divs. were identified, and the number of prisoners secured was well over 1,000. There is no question that the attack was expected, as was that of the 18th inst. It appears that information regarding the former was obtained by hostile listening sets.

The success obtained by the southern Corps on the 23rd inst. is all the greater considering that the enemy were aware of the intention to attack, and made full preparations in anticipation. During the night, efforts to re-take the trenches lost near LARK SPUR were not successful.

The enemy are reported to have carried out a raid this morning near BUISSON GUILLAIN (G.14). No details have yet been received. Opposite our Right Corps front, DOW.I Trench in the SELENCY area was captured, and patrols sent forward into the village. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and some prisoners were taken. Yesterday evening, the enemy carried out a third counter-attack. This was directed against the trenches we captured E. of GRICOURT. The counter-attack made some progress, but the situation was immediately restored by a British attack which left 40 prisoners in our hands. They belonged to two battalions of the 10th Grenadiers, of the newly arrived 11th Div. On our extreme southern flank, 3 officers and 104 O.R. voluntarily surrendered to our troops during the night. They came from the direction of FAYET, and belonged to the 273rd and Jaegar Regts of the 197th Div. They stated that they were "fed up".

2. RESERVES.- To sum up.-

The BELEENGLISE - GRICOURT front has been reinforced by two (tired) divisions. The Germans have now strengthened their front opposite

APPENDIX

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the Fourth Army, since 18th Sept., by 8 divisions, from reserve, viz., the 8th, 232nd, 121st, 185th, 75th Res., 2nd, 197th and 11th. The following have been relieved :- 38th, 5th Div., 119th, 1st Res. and 25th Res., while the Alpine Corps, 2nd Guard and 232nd are about to be relieved.

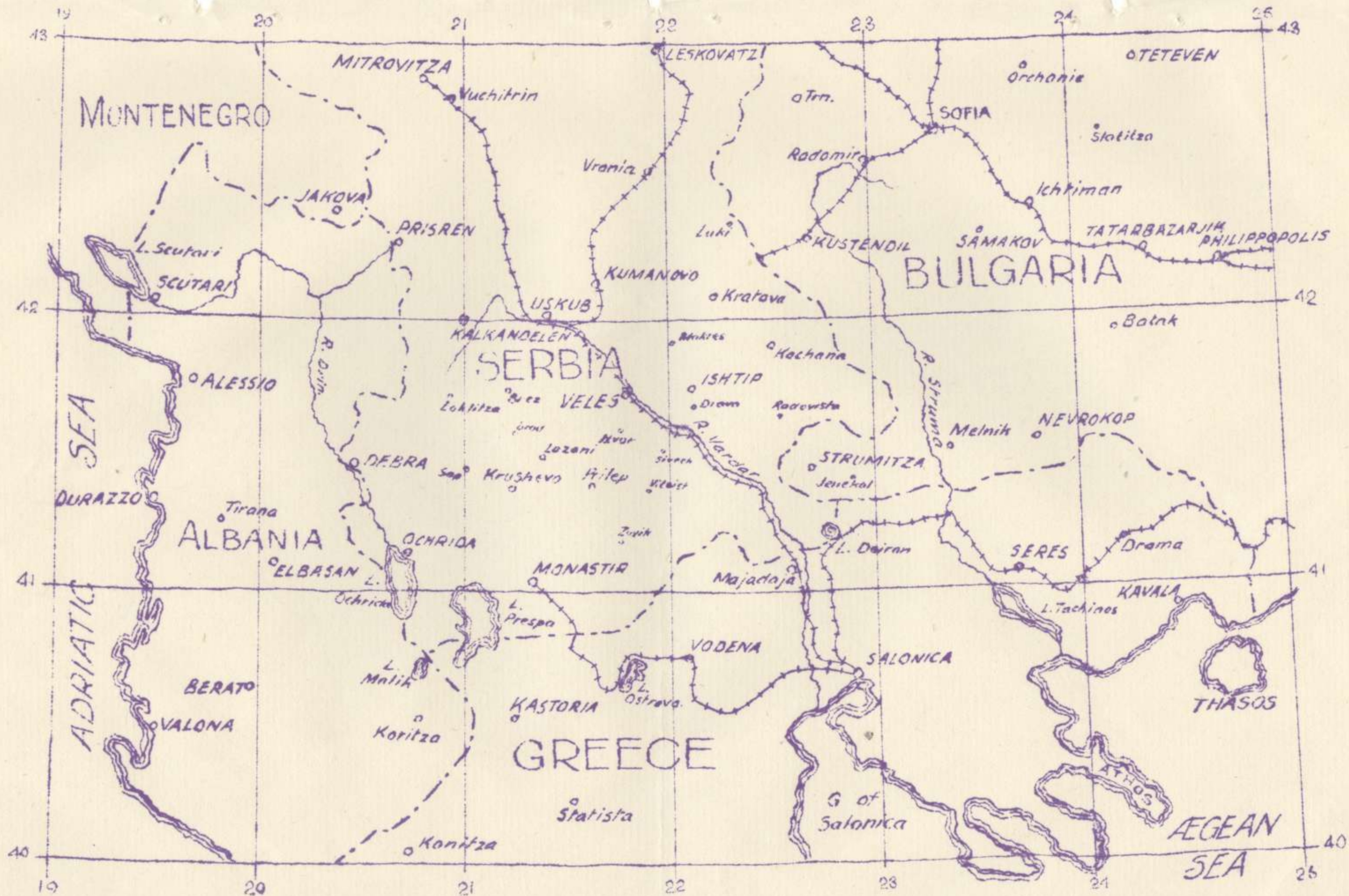
3. PRISONERS. -

The number of prisoners for our Army which passed Corps Cages and C.C.S. since 8th August has now reached the grand total of 45,658, of which 1,103 are officers. During the fighting yesterday, 20 officers and 1,053 O.R. were captured by our Right Corps.

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

26th September, 1918.

Map of BALKANS attached.



BALKAN STATES

Principal Railways ———+———
 Boundaries - - - - -

SCALE.
 0 30 60 Miles.

E.A.V. Topog. Section.

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APPENDIX

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Bent

For Official Use Only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 22-9-18 to 6 a.m. 30th September, 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Infantry. At 5.50 a.m. 29/9/18 American battalions attacked on the Divisional front. The division moved forward according to plan and subsequently passed through the American division. A large number of the enemy which were apparently not mopped up in the Canal tunnel and dug-out systems of the HINDENBURG line and in the vicinity of BONY held up the supporting troops with the help of enemy reinforcements. Fierce fighting took place along the whole of the battle line. Line at 7 a.m. 30-9-18.

H.20.c.5.3, H.19.b.6.0, H.13.c.6.0, G.18.d.5.6, G.18.d.3.4, G.18.d.3.3, G.12.central, G.12.a.0.8, G.5.d.8.0, LE CATELET NAUROY line to A.29.c.2.4 tunnel at A.28.c.4.3. During attack morning 30/9/18 one battalion has reached point A.28.b.6.6

(b) Artillery. - Strong harassing fire was put down on routes and approaches, battery areas and all centres of activity. A barrage was put down in support of operations carried out morning of 29-9-18.

(c) Prisoners & war material during period. - 1 officer 186 O.R. have passed through Div. P.O.W. Cage. Many other prisoners were used on stretcher work and it is not known what cage they have passed through. Prisoners claimed by Infantry brigades total for the period 350 all ranks. Material reported for period. - 8 field guns. Over 20 Machine Guns.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 161st R.I.R., 28th R.I.R., 65th I.R. - 185th Div. (all battalions); 7th R.I.R., 3 Bn. - 121st Div.; 249th R.I.R. (2nd & 3rd Bns.), 250th R.I.R. (1st and 3rd Bns), 251st R.I.R. (2nd & 3rd Bns.) - 75th R.D. 8th Battery - 55th F.A.R.; 1st Battery - 185th F.A.R.; 1st Bn. MUNICH Landsturm Regt.

3. ENEMY ARTILLERY. At the commencement of the operations the enemy's reply to our barrage was weak and broken, but later the enemy seemed to recover and put down heavy harassing fire, which places/received a good deal of attention were G.10.e and d. G.11.a. and c. and G.17. A large percentage of gas was used in this locality. The HINDENBURG Trench system W. of BELLICOURT, TEMPLEUX, HARGICOURT and BELLICOURT itself were also subjected to heavy harassing fire throughout the whole period.

4. GENERAL. It is considered from a few P.S. that the BELLICOURT tunnel is not mined although 1 platoon of engineers was billeted there. The 1st Bn. MUNICH Landsturm Rgt. had 1 MG Co. in NAUROY and 1 in WIANCOURT. These companies have only 5 MGs each on account of heavy losses in guns. The 56 RIR of 21 Div. was in reserve. The coy strengths were generally very low ranging from 10 to 40 men. Moral very low on account of long time in line. Attack was a complete surprise.

APPENDIX

2

The 1st and 2nd Coys. of 75 Sharpshooters MG detachment are attached to 161 IR. Each Co. has 12 MGs.
 Flanks. Line of div. on right at 12.30 am H.33.a.5.9,
 H.27.c.2.9 H.27.b.9.9 H.21.b.5.5 H.21.b.7.6 H.15.d.5.7 H.15.c.66
 H.20.a.5.8. Div. on left advancing steadily.
 The following places were captured during operations --
 BELLICOURT MAUROY MAGNY-LA-FOSSE.

30th September, 1918.

[Signature]
 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
 5th Australian Division.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like 'GENERAL', 'ARTILLERY', and 'DIVISION' are partially visible.]