

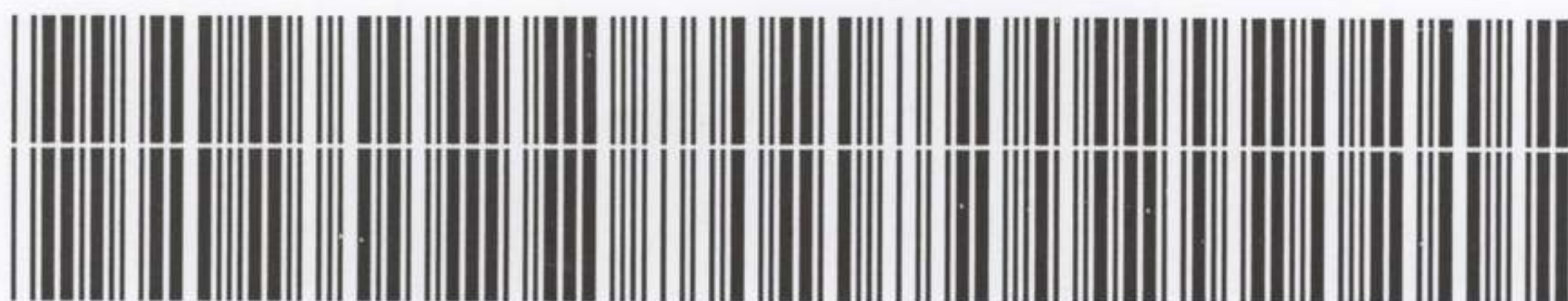
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/25/31 Part 6

Title: Headquarters, 36th Heavy Artillery
Group

August 1918



AWM4-13/25/31PART6

No. 354.

XV Corps,
30th July 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy's attitude still remains the same. He is very alert and is making very persistent use of his M.G's.

Artillery & T.M's.

Hostile activity has been continuous throughout the period and confined chiefly to forward areas and the neighbourhood of FLETRE and METEREN during the night and MERRIS, MONT DE MERRIS and STRAZEELE during the day. There was fairly heavy gas shelling in the LA MOTTE sector chiefly round SWARTENBROUCH. 15 cm. hows. paid considerable attention to the roads E. of COQ DE PAILLE. There was scattered shelling and harassing fire also in the usual areas. A 15 cm. gun fired on the church in METEREN.

T.M's. were fairly active.

Aerial.

There was only one enemy reconnaissance today flying at 2,100 feet at 4.30 p.m.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been poor and no movement was specially noticed beyond small parties in F.4.d.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Work is reported on the forward areas opposite the Loft Divisional front. A working party was seen at F.3.d.2.3 carrying timber. Work is in progress near the farm at X.31.d.6.1.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

30.7.18. 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Coys., 14.I.R., 4th Div....MERRIS..
.....Prisoners.
" 10th & 11th Boys., 140.I.R., 4th Div....MERRIS..Prisoners
" 3rd Coy., 57.R.I.R., 13th Res.Div....MERRIS.....1 prisoner

W. B. Moke

Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Two Coys. of the 10th Aust.Bn. by an enveloping movement from North and South, captured MERRIS last night. The two parties gained touch with each other East of MERRIS which was then mopped up. The enemy were taken completely by surprise and in many instances had no time to collect their arms. Zero was at 12.15 a.m. and 'Objectives gained' was reported at 12.42 a.m. At 3 a.m. counter-attacks launched in F.2.a. were beaten off and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Enemy artillery retaliation to our barrage opened at 12.20 a.m. and was very heavy. Our casualties were very light. The line of posts now runs:- F.1.b.65.05 - F.1.d.8.8 - F.1.d.55.50 - F.1.d.4.3 - F.1.d.3.1 - F.7.b.10.99 - F.7.a.60.95 - F.7.a.30.95. Total captures, including three taken by a patrol at F.2.a.35.25, amount to 3 officers 147 O.R's. unwounded and 3 officers 21 O.R's. wounded. Many M.G's. captured but not yet counted.

/ RELIEFS.

JAV

RELIEFS.

A total to the equivalent of 20 divisions have been engaged on the Corps front from 1st May to 29th July inclusive. during which period 17 inter-divisional reliefs have taken place.

Appended is a detailed list of the German divisions engaged during the period mentioned.

38th Division.
11th Reserve Division. (Twice)
12th Division. (Twice)
39th Division. (Twice)
48th Reserve Division. (Twice)
81st Reserve Division. (Twice)
79th Reserve Division.
13th Reserve Division. (Twice).
214th Reserve Division.
32nd Division.
4th Bavarian Division.
4th Division.
207th Division.
187th Division.

During the same period there have been three British divisional reliefs within the XV Corps.

XV Corps,

30/7/18.

EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS CAPTURED IN THE MERRIS AREA - 30.7.18.

IDENTIFICATIONS, & NUMBER OF PRISONERS PASSED THROUGH CORPS GAGE UP TO MIDNIGHT 30th/31st July.

4th Div.

		Officers.	O. R.
140 I.R.,	10th Coy.,	-	5
	11th Coy.,	1	52
14 I.R.,	5th Coy.,	1	24
	6th Coy.,	-	20
	7th Coy.,	-	1
	8th Coy.,	-	42
13th Res.Div.	57 R.I.R., 2nd Coy.,	-	1
		2	145

ORDER OF BATTLE.

North to South - 49 I.R., 140 I.R., 14 I.R. (4th Divn.)

RELIEFS.

4 Div. relieved 13 Res. Div. night 28th/29th July:-

49 I.R. relieved 39 R.I.R.

140 I.R. relieved 13 R.I.R.

14 I.R. relieved 57 R.I.R.

3rd Bn. 140 I.R. is to be relieved the night 1st/2nd Aug., probably by 2nd Bn. 2nd Bn. 14 I.R. is to be relieved in front line night 2nd/3rd Aug. by 3rd Bn.

Prisoner of the 57 R.I.R. states that the 98 R.I.R. (207 Divn.) were recently relieved. This is corroborated by prisoner of the 140 I.R. who states that the relief took place night 27th/28th inst. The latter prisoner also saw men of the 205 R.I.R. in SAILLY a few days ago. (From this it appears possible that the 207 Div. which was expecting relief has been relieved by the 44 Res.Div. which may have returned to its old sector South of the LAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL Railway).

DISPOSITIONS.

140 I.R.

2 Coys. in front line (10th and 11th) and 2 Coys. in close support (9th and 12th), 2nd Bn. in reserve and 1st Bn. in rest.

Each of the 2 Coys. in front line had two platoons in the outpost line each with one light machine gun and one platoon in the main line of resistance with three light machine guns.

14 I.R.

2 Coys. in the front line (7th and 8th), 1 in close support (6th) and 1 coy. in support (5th), 3rd Bn. in reserve and 1st Bn. in rest.

The 5th Coy. moved up to the support of the 7th Coy. as soon as our bombardment started.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

		Trench strength.	Ration strength.
140 I.R.,	10th Coy.	About 70	100
	11th Coy.	70	130
14 I.R.	5th Coy.	72	120
	6th Coy.	70	132
	7th Coy.	50	80
	8th Coy.	56	80

DRAFTS.

Whilst in rest companies of the 140 I.R. and 14 I.R. each appear to have received a total of 30 O.R. as drafts, from Ersatz Battalions, from the Field Recruit Depot of the 4th Div., and from the training camp at BEVERLOO. One prisoner who formed part of a draft from BEVERLOO at the beginning of June states that he was transferred from the Field Recruit Depot at VIENNA about 18th May and that when he left this Field Recruit Depot consisted of 7 Bns. each of 4 companies of an average strength of 140.

6th Coy. 14 I.R. had 20 cases of "Spanish Grippe" at the beginning of July.

LOSSES.

LOSSES.

Prisoner of the 140 I.R. states that whilst in SAILLY he heard from men of a Bavarian Military Prisoners Company, who are employed on digging graves at SAILLY CEMETERY, that there were over 3,000 Germans buried there a great number of whom belonged to the 213 R.I.R., 98 R.I.R. and 13 R.I.R. are also well represented. This same prisoner also saw companies of the 98 R.I.R. marching towards SAILLY on the 28th inst. and he states that some of them were only about 20 strong.

RECENT MOVEMENTS.

140 I.R. The whole of the 140 I.R. arrived in the area N.W. of TOURNAI about the 15th of May. The 1st Bn. was billeted at PECQ and the 2nd and 3rd Bns. at HERIENNES. They remained in this area until about the 5th July when they entrained near PECQ and detrained at HAUBOURDIN. The 3rd Bn. was billeted at EMMERIN and the 2nd and 1st Bns. in factories on the HAUTE-DEULE CANAL near SANTES. About the 23rd July the regiment marched up into the SAILLY area and remained there until the evening of the 25th when it returned to the SANTES area, marching up again to the forward area on the night 27th/28th July (when it was bivouacked in the area N.W. of SAILLY) and came into the line night 28th/29th July.

14 I.R. 14 I.R. arrived in the area N.W. of TOURNAI about the 17th May. The 1st Bn. was billeted in LANNOY (S.E. of ROUBAIX) and the 2nd and 3rd Bns. in TEMPLEUVE. The 14 I.R. remained in this area until the beginning of July when it proceeded by train to HAUBOURDIN and was billeted in the HALLENES - ENGLOS area until about the 20th July when it marched to SAILLY being billeted in this area until going into the line night 28th/29th inst.

INTENTIONS.

From prisoners statements it appears that the 4th Div. was moved up from the area S.W. of LILLE between 23th and 23rd July to the SAILLY area in order to carry out an attack (objectives unknown) on about the 26th July. Owing to the enemy believing that we were aware of his plans this operation was cancelled.

Prisoners so far examined, with one exception, are now of the opinion that no attack is to be undertaken by the 4th Div.

The exception referred to above, however, states that he was told by his Platoon Commander (an officer) on the night 29th July that the 14th and 140th I.Rs were to carry out an attack in the late evening of the 31st July, apparently with the object of relieving our pressure on MERRIS.

A prisoner of the 2nd Coy. 57 I.R. who formed part of the handing over party to the 14 I.R. states that orders had been issued to 13 Res. Div. that MERRIS was to be held at all costs even if the Division were wiped out in doing this. This prisoner believes that the 4th Div. had received a similar order. He states that about 4 am on the morning of the 30th he was given a message by the Coy. Commander of the 8th Coy. 14 I.R., whose H.Qs. were in a cellar in MERRIS, to the effect that with the exception of an enemy machine gun which was apparently rather far forward on the left flank of the 8th Coy. all was well. Prisoner was ordered to take this message to Bn. H.Qs. and on his way was captured by one of our posts E. of MERRIS.

TRAINING.

Prisoners statements as to their training whilst in rest vary considerably. On the whole, however, the training undergone by 4th Div. does not appear to have been particularly severe, and so far as can be ascertained no practice attacks with tanks or field artillery were carried out.

OPERATIONS ON THE MARNE.

Prisoners knowledge as to the present position on the MARNE is distinctly vague but they have heard rumours to the effect that all is not going well with the German offensive in this sector. The Coy. Commander of the 5th Coy. 14 I.R. was firmly convinced that the Germans still hold CHATEAU-THIERRY; another Officer, a Platoon Commander of the 11th Coy. 140 I.R. was, however, somewhat better informed and disallusioned the Commander of the 5th Coy. 14 I.R. on this point.

/ LOCAL.

3.

MORAL.

Taking into consideration the fact that the 4th Divn. has been in rest for 10 weeks, the moral of the prisoners captured (30.7.18) is remarkably low. The physique of the majority of them also leaves a lot to be desired.

JAW

XV Corps G.S. "I",
31.7.18.

No. 255.

XV Corps.
31st July 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy's attitude is unchanged. One patrol was seen at about X.21.d.5.6. which withdrew when fired on. An enemy party was met on the right of the Centre Division, one man being killed and the remaining three taken prisoner.

Artillery & T.M's.

There was considerable activity during the early part of the night, heavy bursts of H.E. and gas being put down on the MERRIS and STRAZEELE areas; bursts were also fired round METEREN and LE ROUKLOSHILLE and in the LA MOTTE Sector. Again during the day there was heavy shelling of MERRIS, STRAZEELE and METEREN with scattered fire on the BOIS D'AVAIL, SEC BOIS and PR DELLES areas. A 21 cm. how. carried out an aeroplane shoot on LA MOTTE near a siege battery. Batteries in FLETRE and near PRADILLIES also received rather severe attention. H.V. guns shelled HAZEBROUCK and the vicinity of LA KREULE.

T.M's were inactive.

Aerial.

Visibility from the air was bad during the morning improving during the afternoon. Enemy aircraft have been active today. Between 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. three high reconnaissances were made over BORRE, LYNDE, WARDREQUES and ST.OMER. Between 2.30 and 3. p.m. two high reconnaissances were made over MORBECQUE and WALLON CAPPEL. Three other reconnaissances were made between OUTTERSTEENE and VIEUX BIEQUIN during the morning. Four balloons have been seen up opposite the Corps front during the day.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been poor. Small parties were noticed in F.8.a.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

31:7:18. 98.R.I.R., 207th Div. Vicinity of HAZEBROUCK -
BAILLEUL Railway ... Prisoners.
" 213.R.I.R., 207th Div. E.23.b.15.75 (N. of RUE DU
BOIS) Prisoners.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Patrols. A patrol from the Right Division, observing some movement in the corn, pushed forward to E.23.b.15.75. where they captured a post containing a corporal and a private.

A patrol of the Right Brigade, Centre Division, observing an enemy party, manœuvred between it and the enemy's line, killed one man and captured the remaining three.

APPRECIATION.

1. Since the commencement of May prisoners have stated consistently that an attack was to take place shortly on this Army front.
2. Other sources of information confirmed the probability of these statements and the threatened portions of the front were fully prepared for eventualities.
3. The result of our preparedness compelled the enemy to abandon his intended attack about the middle of June.

/4. Towards the

APPRECIATION. (Contd.)

4. Towards the end of June preparations were commenced by the enemy on a much wider front, viz. from MERCKEM to the LYS and possibly even further South; at the same time, arrangements for a blow East and West of RHEIMS were being completed. The latter offensive was to take place first, to be followed by an attack on this Army front at an interval of about a week.

5. The attack East and West of RHEIMS having failed to draw our reserves from this area and the French counter-stroke having developed, the enemy was loth to risk a decision on this front.

6. At the present the enemy reserves opposite this front have not re-appeared in any numbers elsewhere and, though they are not likely to be committed to any offensive on a large scale until the ability of the Crown Prince to stabilize the MARNE battle is assured, we must still reckon with their presence and maintain the same vigilance and preparedness by which we were able to counter his aggressive intentions in the middle of June.

P. W. B. M. K.

Major,
General Staff.

EXTRACTS FROM CAPTURED GERMAN DOCUMENTS.

It appears probable that a Foot Artillery Battalion, possibly composed of two 15.cm. heavy field how. batteries and one 10.cm. gun battery, will be included as an integral part of every German Infantry Division.

Special precautions appear to be taken by the enemy to reduce the amount of noise made by artillery on the march. Ropes of various sorts and pads made from old curtains, carpets, etc., are suggested as good things to put round the iron tyres of the wheels. Suggestions are also put forward to stop any possible rattling on guns, limbers, etc.,

The 18th (German) Corps has issued special instructions for the guidance of reconnoitring parties. These instructions include the following points :-

Officers will wear steel helmet or private's cap, also private's greatcoat, if necessary.

Maps are to be unfolded under cover and not exposed to view.

In the forward area, two persons at the most to move about together;

Assemblages on ground overlooked by the enemy are forbidden.

Every advantage to be taken of cover where reconnoitring parties may be exposed to enemy view.

Flagrant disobeying of this order is punishable by Court Martial.

REMOVAL OF AMMUNITION TO THE REAR.

From prisoners' statements it appears probable that ammunition dumped in the forward areas is being removed to the rear. This has been reported in three separate Sectors on this Army front and in one of the Army on our right.

SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL IN THE GERMAN AIR SERVICE.

(Extract from R.A.F. Summary)

(a) The following extract from Order No. 11, of the 20th June 1918, issued by von Staabs's Corps (SOISSONS front) shews that difficulties are being experienced in the recruiting of officers for the Air Service :-

"Transfers of officers to the Air Service. The C.G.S. of the Field Army has issued the following, under date of 11th June:-

/Although the numbers

- 3 -

SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL IN THE GERMAN AIR SERVICE. (Contd)

"Although the numbers of officers applying for transfer to the Air Service increased rapidly following on my instructions of the 26th June 1917, a steady decrease of applications for transfer has lately been noticed.

"A continuous flow of officers is an imperative necessity, if the strength prescribed is to be maintained. I therefore once more draw the attention of all headquarters, units and officers to my circular of the 26th June 1917.

"P.S. - The above circular will be strictly adhered to and all applications from officers to transfer to the Air Service will be forwarded through the proper channels to the Army Command, whether recommended or adversely reported on".

(b) The following extract from Order I.a. No. 7507 op. of the 19th June, issued by the 40th Division (MARNE front), is also of interest :-

"The increasing difficulties experienced in replacing machines and in the supply of raw materials, as well as in the recruiting of flying personnel, compel us to employ our aircraft economically. In order to effect this, machines will only be sent up on tasks which are of vital importance to the battle. Strict fire discipline will be observed by the artillery when aeroplanes are carrying out shoots; it will thus be possible to avoid keeping machines in the air for any longer period than is absolutely necessary."

XV Corps "I".

31/7/18.

EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS CAPTURED 31.7.18.

Sturm Coy., 307 Div. (3 prisoners captured in the vicinity of
HAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL Railway.)

organization.

Organization. The Sturm Coy. was recruited in all three regiments of the 207 Div., each regiment providing one platoon. The company was about 80 strong and was supposed to be employed on special patrols. During the whole of this year it has done practically nothing except guards in the back areas. On the 30th inst. the company was disbanded one group being sent to each battalion in the

guards in the back areas. On the 30th inst. the company was disbanded one group being sent to each battalion in the division as reinforcements. Prisoners group had been allotted to the 2nd Bn. 98 R.I.R. which is at present in line. Prisoners are confident that no attack is contemplated in

Prisoners are confident that no attack is contemplated in their sector.

213 R.I.R., 207 Div. (2 prisoners, 4th Coy., captured in E.23.b - North of RUE DU BOIS).

ORDER OF BATTLE.

ORDER OF BATTLE.
North to South - 98 R.I.R., 313 R.I.R. and 209 R.I.R.

RELIEFS.

RELIEFS.
1st Bn. 213 R.I.R. from rest in the SAILLY - DOULIEU area
relieved the 2nd Bn. in the front line on the night 28th/29th July.
Each Bn. does 4 days in line, therefore the 1st Bn. should be re-
lieved on night 1st/2nd August; there are rumours to the effect
that the whole of the 307 Div. is to be relieved on this date, however.

DISPOSITIONS.

DISPOSITIONS.
3 companies in front line and 1 in support.

DISPOSITIONS.
3 companies in front line and 1 in support.
An N.C.O. prisoner who appears reliable states that the 4th Coy. is disposed in depth, 3 light machine gun posts being forward and the remaining 3 light machine guns of the Coy. distributed in depth in rear, communication between the 3 forward machine gun posts being maintained by occasional patrols. In its previous tour of duty in the front line the whole of the 4th Coy. with its 5 light machine guns was in the main line of resistance. Prisoner states that he believes this change of dispositions has been applied to the whole of his battalion.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

his battalion.

<u>COMPANY STRENGTH.</u>	<u>Trench strength.</u>	<u>Ration strength.</u>
4th Coy.	35 to 40.	130

INTENTIONS.

INTENTIONS.
Prisoners do not know of any attack being undertaken in their sector and one states that on the 26th inst. he saw several wagons full of ammunition proceeding from DOULIEU to SAILLY.

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM PRISONERS 14 I.R. 4th Div.
captured 30.7.13.

RECENT MOVEMENTS, 14 I.R.

RECENT MOVEMENTS, 14 I.R.
On further examination, prisoners state that when the 14 I.R. moved from the HALLENES - ENGLOS area on about the 20th July it entrained at HAUBOURDIN and detrained near ARMENTIERES thence marching to SALLY.

INTENTIONS.

A prisoner states that he talked to men of the 57 R.I.R. who told him that artillery had recently been withdrawn from their divisional sector, this prisoner himself saw ammunition being taken away from the forward area on the night of 27th July.

N.B. Certain prisoners state

forward area on the night of 27th July. that the 4 Div. was
N.B. Certain prisoners state moved up to the SAILLY area between 30th & 33rd July to carry out an
attack on about the 26th July, but in view of the fact that prisoners
recently captured have given the impression that our recent minor
operations and raids have made the enemy apprehensive as to our inten-
tions, it is not impossible that this move of the 4 Div. to the forward
area was occasioned by our minor operation on the 1st July, which
resulted in the capture of LETEREN. (XXI 6000, "I", 31.7.18).

No. 256.

XV Corps,
1st August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

Enemy attitude remains the same.

Artillery & T.M's.

Activity quietened down during the night except for harassing fire on STRAZEELE-MERRIS area. There was some gas shelling of NORD-HELF, METEREN and FLETRE. There was again scattered shelling of the forward area generally, most attention being paid to MERRIS and STRAZEELE. Short bursts were fired on LA MOTTE and VERTE RUE. The METEREN-FLETRE road was registered by 21 cm. hows. with aerial observation during the morning.

There was slight T.M. activity.

Aerial.

E.A. have been more active than usual today. High reconnaissances were made over STEENBECQUE, WALLON CAPPEL, LYNDE and WARDRECQUES area almost continuously between 8.30 a.m. and 3.0 p.m. at a height of 20,000 feet. Nine other reconnaissances at an average height of 6,000 feet were made over MERRIS - VIEUX BERQUIN area. One balloon was up opposite the Corps front. Visibility was poor in the morning, improving during the afternoon. Low flying aircraft were above normal in the forward areas.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been poor. A certain amount of movement was observed on the OUTERSTEENE ridge, at F.4.d.3.3 and in X.23.c. but observed movement was generally below normal.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

There are traces of a new trench at F.3.c.7.2. A working party was heard at about X.27.a.4.3; the nature of the work is unknown. Work (hammering of stakes) was also heard in the direction of KEW CROSS.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

1.8.18. 10th Coy, 140.I.R., 4th Div.....F.2.a.1.2(NE.of MERRIS)....
.....1 prisoner

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

At 11 p.m. the hedge from X.27.a.6.9 - X.27.a.40.75 was rushed by a party from the Left Division.

Raiding party withdraw being attacked from the flanks. No identifications were secured but several of the enemy are known to have been either killed or wounded.

PRISONERS CAPTURED BY UNITS OF XV CORPS DURING JULY 1918.

	<u>Wounded</u>		<u>Unwounded</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>	
	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
Left Division.	2	59	3	310	5	369
Centre Div.	2	69	6	445	8	514
Right Division	-	10	1	62	1	72
Total.	4	138	10	819	14	955

/ MATERIAL CAPTURED....

M.G's. 128. T.M's. 20. Field Run 1.

H. A. Hirst/Capt.
for Major,
General Staff.

EFFECT OF OUR ARTILLERY FIRE.

EFFECT OF OUR BO BING RAIDS.

(1) Prisoner stayed for one night in TOURNAI recently. He was informed that a leave train had been hit by a bomb in the station there some time previous, causing many casualties. The night prisoner was there some bombs fell behind a Wholesale Canteen Store in the town, wrecking the place to a considerable degree.

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LIGHT SIGNALS.

YELLOW = Barrage fire. RED = Destructive fire.
GREEN = Longthorn range. WHITE with 2 Pearls = Shorton range.

Every day the enemy tries to penetrate our outer defences, to gain prisoners. The greatest attentiveness must therefore be observed by day and night. He tries to locate single posts and attack them whilst bombarding the others with Rifle Grenades and T.M's. It is evidently the best to harass the enemy with Rifle Grenades and T.M's. Gas shells have not been noticed the last few days, although the last Coy. was shelled with them. The enemy tries continually to gain successes by surprise on the left flank.

DEFENCE. By diligent observation at the post and continual readiness to fire, the enemy's small attack must be repulsed. Should the line, by a stronger attack, be pushed back the outposts will fall back to support line, which must be held at all costs, and when all are clear the Signal, White & 2 pearls, will be fired. After the breaking of the enemy attack by our artillery fire an immediate counter-attack carried out with strength will usually restore our position.

~~*~*~*~*~*

1/8/18.

350

EXAMINATION OF PRISONER OF 10TH COY., 140.I.R., 4TH DIV.,
CAPTURED AT F.S.A.1.2 (N.E. OF MERRIS) MORNING 1/8/18.

ORDER OF BATTLE AND RELIEFS.

Prisoner confirms the order of battle of 4th Div. North to South as 49.I.R., 140.I.R., 14.I.R., and the fact that the 3rd Bn., 140.I.R., is to be relieved in the front line tonight (1/8.8.18).

INTENTIONS.

On the afternoon of 27th July prisoner was in SAILLY and spoke to a man of a Landsturm Bn. which is employed in that area. The latter stated that an attack was to have taken place in this sector but had been cancelled. He himself had recently been employed on unloading artillery ammunition from barges on the LYS at SAILLY. About a week ago, however, quantities of ammunition were reloaded on the barges.

GENERAL.

Prisoner states that in the 10th Coy., 140.I.R., there are two men of Danish extraction, eleven Alsations and fifteen Poles, many of whom are awaiting an opportunity to desert.

XV Corps,
1/8/18.

JWH

No. 357.

XV Corps,
2nd August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

At about 10.15 p.m. the enemy made a determined attempt to re-establish his post at X.32.c.0.7 with a party of about twenty men. They tried to rush the house several times but were unsuccessful. An enemy patrol crept towards our lines at E.39.d.8.1; they were, however, observed and were scattered by fire which was opened on them. A patrol was also observed at about K.6.a.30.95. Except for this patrol activity there has been no noticeable change in the enemy's attitude.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Activity again shewed an increase during the night chiefly harassing fire on the LA MOTTE and STRAZEELE Sectors. There was slight gas shelling on FLETRE, E. of COQ DE PAILLE and STRAZEELE, and a certain amount of attention was paid to VERTE RUE. 21 cm. hows. fired on roads N. of PHINCBOOM and S.W. of MONT DES CATS. Activity during the day was slightly less. 21 cm. hows. fired on LA MOTTE, NORD-HELF and FLETRE. Forward areas were harassed generally but more attention was paid to the BOIS D'AVAIL and NORD-HELF and the LA MOTTE and STRAZEELE areas.

There was some T.M. activity.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility has been poor. Observed movement was normal. Transport could again be distinctly heard on the road PONT RONDIN - LA COURONNE in the early morning.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A large working party was heard at about X.27.a.6.0. The hedges at X.17.a.45.35 and X.17.a.30.32 are reported heavily wired and held.

It appears that all indirect M.G. fire on the left of the Centre Division comes from the Eastern side of the METEREN BECQUE.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A dump of 15 cm. shells was found at X.26.d.8.9.

IDENTIFICATION.

2.8.18. 3rd Coy., 140.I.R., 4th Div.....X.32.a.4.2.....Prisoner.

This prisoner had wandered out of his proper sector.

Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Minor operation.

At 7 p.m., after a bombardment of H.E. and smoke, a party from the Left Division rushed the houses S.W. of GAZA CROSS ROADS at X.32.c.0.7 and X.21.d.95.60. The houses were empty and no identifications were secured. A post was established in front of the former house.

/ EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

ALLOTMENT OF HEAVY ARTILLERY TO INFANTRY REGIMENTS.

The following is an extract from an order of the Second German Army, dated 19.4.18. The firsts paragraph is evidently a quotation from a document issued by German G.H.Q. :-

" The co-operation between infantry and artillery in engaging machine gun nests must be much closer. It is, therefore, advisable that the regiments in the front line should have one or two Abteilungen of field artillery and some batteries of heavy artillery immediately under their command.

"With regard to placing whole artillery Abteilungen and some heavy batteries under the command of the infantry regiments, the Army points out that such an arrangement can only be considered in open warfare, and is dependent on the amount of artillery available. The divisional commander must at all times be able to effect a heavy concentration of fire on points at which the fighting is most severe. "

PROTECTION AGAINST AEROPLANE OBSERVATION.

The following is an extract from XIV Reserve Corps orders (BUCQUOY area) dated 12.7.18 :-

"Felling trees.

"The troops will be warned that the felling of trees and the lopping of branches is strictly forbidden in this Corps area, in order that the already inadequate protection against aeroplane observation may not be further impaired. "

XV Corps,

9.8.18/8/18.

ENEMY ACTIVITY (Contd.)

Aerial.

During the early morning five reconnaissances were made at an average height of 2,000 feet between BAILLEUL and OUTERSTEENE. Two enemy scouts patrolled between ERQUINGHEM and SAILLY. Nine balloons were up opposite the Corps front. Visibility was good in the early morning, becoming very poor later.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EXAMINATION OF PRISONER OF 3RD COY., 140.I.R., 4TH DIV.,
CAPTURED AT X.32.a.4.2 (S. OF METEREN) 2.8.18.

METHOD OF CAPTURE.

Prisoner came forward with a party which carried up rations to the front line Bn. from the field kitchens. After the rations had been handed over to a Coy. of the Bn. in the line prisoner fell out and, when he was ready to go back to the rear, found that the rest of the ration carrying party had gone. He started back alone but lost his way and wandered into one of our posts well to the right of his own Regt. sector.

DISPOSITIONS.

The 2nd Bn. 140.I.R. is in line (this confirms the inter-battalion relief of the 140.I.R. on night 1st/2nd August, when the 3rd Bn. was due to be relieved in the front line by 2nd Bn). The 1st Bn., which came up from rest in SAILLY area on night 1/2nd August, is in support, the 3rd Coy. being near the HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL railway, probably in F.S.d.

COY. STRENGTH.

The trench strength of 3rd Coy. is about 100.

DRAFTS.

Whilst in rest in Belgium, the 3rd Coy. received 70 to 80 men in drafts as it had suffered heavy casualties in the MERVILLE Sector from which it came out about 34 O.R.'s. strong. These drafts contained a high percentage of Alsations.

CASUALTIES.

As soon as the 3rd Coy. arrived in the support position (about 11.30 p.m. 1.8.18) the 3rd platoon (26 to 30 men) was detailed to carry up rations for the 2nd Bn. to the 5th Coy. On their way to the field kitchen, which was a short distance in rear of the support position, the platoon had 4 men killed and 7 wounded from our artillery fire. These casualties were made good by men from the 2nd platoon.

When going into the line about five days ago (28th/29th July) the 5th Coy., which was moving up by platoons, suffered very heavy casualties and arrived in the line only about 30 strong. To avoid this fate the 3rd Coy. moved up two men at a time, a distance of about 10 yards being maintained between each two men.

INTENTIONS.

Prisoner states that his division is only to hold the line in this sector. On the afternoon of the 31st July prisoner saw two batteries of heavy artillery near SAILLY moving back from the front. He states that somebody in his Coy. spoke to the gunners, who had '286' on their shoulder straps, and was told by them that they were being transferred from this sector.

Last night (1st/2nd Aug.) prisoner himself saw several wagons being loaded up with what was apparently heavy ammunition, just S. of the HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL railway.

PERSONAL.

Prisoner is not willing to talk and the reliability of his statements can only be considered as fair.

XV Corps,
2/8/18.

[Handwritten signature]

No. 258.

XV Corps.
3rd August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

There is no change in the enemy's attitude. He still persists in evacuating his front posts if he notices any possible chance of their being raided.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

There was again rather increased activity during the early part of the night affecting more especially the areas BOIS D'AVAL, SWARTENBROUCK, PETIT SEC BOIS, MONT DE MERRIS, BORRE, PRADELLES and STRAZEELE. There was also some shelling of the FLETRE Sector. The day has been comparatively quiet except for harassing fire on LA MOTTE, BOIS D'AVAL, PRADELLES and around STRAZEELE. H.V. guns shelled MORBECQUE and ST.SYLVESTRE CAPPEL.

There was slight T.M. activity.

Aerial.

Visibility from the air has been fair. E.A. have not been active. Between dawn and 7.20 a.m. three reconnaissances were made between OUTERSTEENE and NEUF BERQUIN. Four E.A. were seen patrolling SAILLY area. At 4.10 p.m. a reconnaissance was made between NEUF BERQUIN and MERVILLE. Two high reconnaissances were seen at 6.10 p.m. over EBBLINGHEM flying W. Four balloons were seen up opposite the Corps front.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has averaged very fair. Observed troop and transport movement has been normal but train movement has been slightly above normal, the following trains being observed :-

ARMENTIERES - ESTAIRES line.	6 going E.	4 going W.
ARMENTIERES - WAVRIN line.	3 going S.E.	1 going N.W.
ARMENTIERES - PERENCHIES line.	3 going S.E.	

ENEMY DEFENCES.Working Parties.

Working parties were observed at E.17.b.2.9. (carrying timber); F.19.c.4.9.; BRACKEN FARM; and X.17.a.2.3. - X.17.c.0.9.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

3:8:18. 187.I.R., 187th Div. ... K.6.a.55.95. ... Prisoners.

" 23.I.R., 12th Div. ... X.22.d. ... Men killed.

P. W. M. L.
Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

A patrol from the Right Division rushed an enemy post at K.6.a.55.95. where they captured 2 prisoners. Posts were rushed on other parts of this front but in each case the garrison had evacuated previously.

One officer and two O.R.'s. of the Left Division rushed enemy dugouts in X.22.d. Six of the enemy were killed and one wounded.

/DISCIPLINE IN GERMAN ARMY.

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DISCIPLINE IN THE GERMAN ARMY. (From G.H.Q. Summary)

Mention has already been made, in Second Army Summaries of the 4th, 8th and 23rd July, of the want of discipline prevailing in the Eighteenth, Second and Seventh German Armies.

The following order of the Sixth German Army, dated 8/5/18, is a proof of the deterioration of discipline in that Army :-

"The slow but steady deterioration of discipline is undoubtedly due to the long duration of the war. This lack of discipline shows itself primarily in the large number of sentences passed, in which the courts-martial too often shew signs of a misplaced clemency, and, subsequently, more plainly in the unsoldierly bearing adopted by the men towards their superiors. Non-commissioned officers maintain the correct attitude, but, amongst the great majority of men, it appears that saluting or other marks of respect (coming to attention) shewn to officers whom they meet on foot or in cars are no longer strictly carried out. Even officers appear to forget that it is their duty to return salutes.

"These breaches of discipline are undoubtedly largely due to the fact that superior officers pass by rapidly in cars, as well as to the indifference of officers who shirk the trouble of punishing breaches of discipline.

"If officers will do their duty in this respect, the change will soon be felt. Subordinate officers will drill their men when behind the front in paying these marks of respect, the execution of which leaves much to be desired.

"Men must drop the habit, borrowed from the French, of keeping their hands in their pockets.

"Officers and men must be instructed as to the flags carried by staff cars.

"The appearance of the men will be smartened up as soon as they are relieved.

"Instruction and drill will commence immediately.

"I shall hold all officers responsible for this, and, particularly, the commanders of independent units."

(Sd) von QUAUST,
General of Infantry,
Commanding the Sixth Army".

XV Corps "I".

3/8/18.

35 616
[Handwritten signature]

No. 259.

XV Corps,
4th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy still remains very much on the alert though there is little activity in NO MAN'S LAND. One patrol was seen at X.26.d.80.50.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Rather persistent activity was noticed during the night on the Eastern edge of the BOIS D'AVAIL, VERTE RUE, STRAZEELE Station and MONT DE MERRIS. There was also spasmodic shelling of the forward areas generally and some gas shelling on the neighbourhood of COURTE CROIX. A 15 cm. gun fired at intervals on ST.SYLVESTRE CAPPEL. There was a noticeable reduction in activity during the day, scattered shelling occurring over the forward areas, being slightly heavier on SEC BOIS and STRAZEELE. A house S. of FLETRE was persistently shelled during the morning by 15 or 21 cm. how. There was some shelling of COQ DE PAILLE, and NOOTE BOOM was harassed by a 10 cm. gun.

There was slight T.M. activity on the Left Divisional front; otherwise quiet.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. During the early morning three reconnaissances were made between STEENWERCK and MERVILLE and eleven scouts patrolled between BAILLEUL and ESTAIRES. A reconnaissance was made at 5 a.m. towards STEENBECQUE at 7,000 feet. At 1.30 p.m. two E.A. patrolled NEUF BERQUIN and ESTAIRES. Six balloons were up opposite the Corps front this morning. Visibility from the air has been poor.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been fair. Movement generally has been normal though a fair number of small parties were seen in F.4.c. and X.29.c.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A working party was seen at X.22.c.55.70. A belt of wire crosses the railway at X.22.c.85.40, and a large screen has been erected along the road at F.4.d.35.60; this appears to screen a good deal of movement.

[Handwritten signature]
Major,
General Staff.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.ENEMY INTENTIONS.8th Division.

A prisoner of the 153rd I.R., captured S.W. of VOORMEZEELE on the 2nd inst., states, under special examination, that an attack was intended in this sector, but was put off owing to the failure at RHEIMS.

187th Division.

A prisoner of the 187.I.R., captured E. of BOIS D'AVAIL on the night of 2nd/3rd inst., states, under special examination, that an attack was intended for the 25th July, but believes that the offensive has now been postponed.

HEADQUARTERS.

Captured map gives the Headquarters of the 12th Div. at GRIS POT, Sheet 36 - H.24.a. (N. of BOIS GRENIER).

No. 260.

XV Corps,
5th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

At 11 a.m. the enemy rushed one of our posts at X.27.c.0.7; an immediate counter-attack re-established the situation. An enemy patrol was encountered at K.6.a.3.7 and was dispersed.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

BOIS D'AVAIL, PETIT SEC BOIS, batteries near PRADELLES, STRAZEELE and COQ DE PAILLE were intermittently harassed during the night and bursts of gas were fired on the FLETRE area. The CAESTRE - ROUGE CROIX road was harassed by 10 cm. guns. 15 cm. guns shelled MORBECQUE and GRAND HASARD. Activity during the day was normal. Light harassing fire occurred on LA MOTTE, NORD-HELPE, FLETRE and METEREN. More than usual activity was shown by batteries S. of BAILLEUL (A.A. Group).

There was slight T.M. activity on the right of the Right Divisional front; otherwise nil.

Aerial.

There has been no hostile flying today. Two balloons were visible before 6 a.m.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground was bad after 7.30 a.m. Observed movement was normal. Activity is still noticeable on the track in F.4.d. and small parties were seen on the road in X.29.b. and also at X.30.a.70.55 and X.27.a.6.2.

Trains. Train movement observed was normal. The following trains were seen :-

ARMENTIERES-ESTAIRES line.	5 going W.	4 going E.
ARMENTIERES-LILLE line.	3 " W.	3 " E.
ARMENTIERES-PERENCHIES line.	2 " S.E.	

ENEMY DEFENCES.

New trench elements are visible at X.38.c.35.70. Digging appeared to be in progress at X.26.d.20.25.

ERNA soncapt.
for Major,
General Staff.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EFFECT OF OUR BOMBING RAIDS.

Extract from German letter, written by a man of the 153.I.R., 8th Div., captured S.W. of VOORMEZEELE on 2nd inst.

" TOURNAI, 30/6/18. One's life here is no longer safe. There are air raids every night, which have caused many casualties among the soldiers. We spend at least 1½ to 2 hours each night in the cellar, and it is just the same in the day time. It's really time the whole show was over for one is not safe anywhere, neither in the front line nor in the rear. "

DECREASE OF ESTABLISHMENT AND RIFLE STRENGTH OF GERMAN INFANTRY BATTALIONS.

In January 1918 the German War Ministry laid down the strength at which a German infantry battalion in the field was to be maintained as 980 other ranks (850 for the 4 infantry companies and 130 for the machine gun company).

/ A captured document

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- 2 -

A captured document shows that, presumably owing to the difficulty in replacing the heavy casualties sustained in the German attacks since the 21st March, this establishment has been reduced, with effect from the 1st July 1918, to 880 other ranks (750 for the four companies and 130 for the machine gun company), i.e. a decrease of 100 other ranks per battalion.

The same document states that the rifle strength (Gefechtsstarko) is still arrived at by subtracting from the total strength permanently employed men (regimental headquarters, bandsmen, first line transport and train), men temporarily employed outside the battalion and absences (including sick).

Men at battalion headquarters, the battalion signalling section, light Minenwerfer detachments and light machine gun groups are included in the rifle strength.

Since the number of employed men has not decreased, the reduction in the total establishment has therefore brought about a corresponding reduction in the rifle strength.

LATER.IDENTIFICATION.

5.8.18. 213.R.I.R., 207th Div....Near ANKLE FARM....5 prisoners

XV Corps,

5/8/18.

No. 261.

XV Corps.
6th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

An enemy patrol approached a post in K.6.c. and, owing to the darkness, got as far as the wire before being noticed. They were scattered, however, by rifle fire. Another patrol was encountered at about F.1.d.90.90. which, after throwing a bomb, threw down its arms and fled.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

There was the usual harassing fire during the night on SEC BOIS, STRAZELLE, PRADELLES, FLETRE and METEREN and forward communications. There was some shelling in V.30.c. & d. by 15 cm. hows. and 10 cm. guns, which latter also fired on roads near PAPOTE and into the BOIS D'AVAIL. During the day, there was some scattered fire on forward areas. The roads near PRE-A-VIN and FLETRE - METEREN were shelled with 15 cm. hows. An H.V. gun fired on HONDEGHEM during the afternoon.

There was slight T.M. activity.

Aerial.

Enemy aircraft have not been active today. Two reconnaissances were made this morning between NEUF BERQUIN and MERRIS, and one over MERVILLE.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been fair to good. Movement was slightly above normal on the road and light railway in L.8.d. in both directions, and on tracks in F.17.c. chiefly S.E. Otherwise movement was normal.

Trains. Movement, as observed, was normal. The following trains were seen :-

ARMENTIERES - ESTAIRES line.	3 going E.	1 going W.
ARMENTIERES - PERENCHIES line.	2 going E.	

and one train from BAC ST. MAUR to LAVENTIE.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A party of about 30 appeared to be wiring in L.5.d., and a working party of about 40 was seen in A.24.d. but the nature of the work could not be determined.

ERNESON Capt

for
Major,
General Staff.OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Patrols. One officer and two O.R.'s. of the Right Division rushed an enemy post at E.17.d.25.76., capturing a Sergeant and 4. O.R.'s. and a light M.G. Later, another patrol brought back a heavy M.G. from E.17.d.10.80.

The Centre Division established a post at E.12.c.8.2. and gained touch with the enemy at E.18.a.7.9.

XV Corps "I".

6/8/18.

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EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS OF 5TH COY., 213.R.I.R.,
CAPTURED AT E.17.d.24.76 ON AFTERNOON 5.8.18.

RELIEFS.

The 1st Bn., 213.R.I.R., relieved the 3rd Bn. in front line on night 4th/5th inst.

The 207th Division expects to be relieved shortly, probably between the 7th and 9th inst.

DISPOSITIONS.

The 1st Bn. has three Coys. in front line (N. to S. 1st, 2nd, 4th) with the 3rd Coy. in support in E.18.c. The 3rd Bn. is in reserve in shell holes in L.3 and F.27 and the 2nd Bn. in rest in farms and huts near SAILLY.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The 2nd Coy. came into line between 25 and 30 strong with four light M.G.'s. The ration strength of the 2nd Coy. is about 180 O.R.'s., 28 of whom are at present on leave.

LOSSES.

When in line early in July, the 2nd Bn. suffered heavy losses and was reduced to the equivalent of two Coys. The 2nd Bn. should have come into the front line on the night 4th/5th inst. but, owing to it being so weak, it remained out at rest, its place being taken by the 1st Bn.

INTENTIONS.

Two of the prisoners had recently returned from leave and on their way back spent a night in LILLE where, according to them, there was no unusual number of troops.

None of the prisoners have seen or heard anything which would lead them to believe that an offensive is impending on this front.

OTHER UNITS.

One prisoner states that he saw infantrymen with '216' on their shoulder straps (possibly 216.R.I.R., 46th Res.Div.) in LILLE on the 3rd inst. and also foot artillerymen with '44' on their shoulder straps. A few men of the 75.F.A.R. and pioneers with '14' on their shoulder straps are billeted in houses in SAILLY.

XV Corps,

6/8/18.

[Handwritten signature]

[Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page, including phrases like "The 2nd Bn. was relieved by the 1st Bn. on the night of the 4th/5th inst." and "The 2nd Bn. was reduced to the equivalent of two Coys."]

XV Corps

6/8/18.

[Handwritten note: 36/18/18]

No. 363.

XV Corps,
7th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy showed very little activity. A few patrols were out opposite the Centre Division but they did not approach our posts. Enemy M.G.'s. in the neighbourhood of BELLE CROIX FARM were reported specially active.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

During the evening a 31 cm. how. fired on the area S.E. of FLETRE and 15 cm. H.V. guns fired on HONDEGHEM and HAZEBROUCK. The night was on the whole quiet, fire being scattered over forward areas generally. LA MOTTE, SEC BOIS, STRAZEELE, PRADELLES, FLETRE, METEREN and the COQ DE PAILLE area were all harassed at intervals. Little activity occurred during the day. Light harassing fire by field artillery was directed on BOIS D'AVAIL, SWARTENBROUCH, STRAZEELE, METEREN, N. of PHINCBOOM and also on COQ DE PAILLE. 10 cm. guns fired on KLITE HIL and STRAZEELE.

Enemy T.M.'s. fired on the area E. of METEREN (X.16.a. and d.). They were also active at dawn on the neighbourhood of LE WATON. Slight activity was also shewn on the right flank of the Right Divisional front.

Aerial.

Low clouds and ground mist prevented any war flying today. Visibility was very bad. No balloons were reported opposite the Corps front with the exception of one in the SAILLY area during the early morning.

MOVEMENT.

Movement of small parties in full marching order, probably amounting to 200 in all, was observed on the track between F.4.c.3.4 and F.4.b.5.2 between 8.25 p.m. and 8.50 p.m. (6th). This movement in conjunction with other movement seen on this track and other tracks in the neighbourhood, appears to indicate a local relief.

(7th). Visibility from the ground has been fair. No abnormal movement was observed.

Trains. Train movement observed was normal. Between 4.45 a.m. and 6.0 a.m. four trains proceeding S.W. and three proceeding N.E. were seen on the ARMENTIERES-ESTAIRES line. At 4.30 a.m. three trains were stationary with steam up in ARMENTIERES and at 5.5 a.m. one train was stationary with steam up in BAC ST. MAUR.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Sounds of an enemy wiring party were heard from a post in X.16.d. A second wiring party was heard in X.27.c.

The Centre Division report most of the vacated hostile posts examined up to the present have been wired with a single row of concertina wire immediately in front.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

7.8.18. 1st Bn., 213.R.I.R., 207th Div.....E.18.a.& c.....

.....14 prisoners.

" 1st Bn., 170.I.R., 52nd Div.....E.30.a. & E.24.c.(S.of VIEUX BERQUIN).....17 prisoners.

" 2nd Bn., 187.I.R., 187th Div....E.30.a.(S. of VIEUX BERQUIN).....2 prisoners.

E.R.N. as a/cpt.
for Major
General Staff.

No. 363.

XV Corps,
8th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

A party of the enemy between 30 and 40 strong approached our posts in E.13.b. and c. under cover of mist at 5.30 a.m. (7th). They were dispersed, however, by a bomb from one of the posts.

The enemy is very alert on the Left Divisional front and his M.G.'s. were very active especially during the foggy part of the early morning. His attitude at present remains unchanged.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Activity by night was normal. 15 cm. and 10.5 cm. hows. persistently harassed batteries and billets N. of GRAND SEC BOIS and N.E. of LE ROUKLOSHILLE. Forward areas, especially communications in the FLETRE sector received a certain amount of H.E. and gas. 15 cm. guns fired on BOIS D'AVAIL and a heavy how. or gun fired on the MORBECQUE-HAZEBROUCK road. There was no reply to our fire supporting patrols in the early morning. 10.5 cm. and 15 cm. hows. shelled the area PRE A VIN fairly heavily during the day and harassing fire was directed on LA MOTTE, BOIS D'AVAIL, SEC BOIS, STRAZEELE, FLETRE and METEREN. MONT DE MERRIS and COQ DE PAILLE were shelled by 15 cm. guns. T.M.'s. fired a few rounds.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. One reconnaissance was made at 6.30 a.m. in the MERVILLE area. Nine scouts were seen at 5.30 p.m. patrolling ESTAIRES to BAILLEUL. One balloon was seen up at 5.30 a.m. Visibility from the air has been bad.

MOVEMENT.

Movement was normal. A certain amount of movement was seen in F.3.c. and F.4.b. and c. Visibility has been fair.

Trains. Train movement observed was below normal.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Wiro was located at X.16.d.5.3 and from X.21.d.60.55 to X.21.d.0.3.

IDENTIFICATION.

8.8.18. 11th Coy., 111.I.R., 52nd Div....E.18.a.6.0 (N.E. of VIEUX BERQUIN).....Man killed.

This confirms relief of 213.R.I.R. (307th Div) by 111.I.R. (52nd Div). It is probable that 98.R.I.R. (307th Div) was also relieved last night by 169.I.R. (52nd Div).

E. R. Mason Capt.

for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Right Division.

(Night 6th/7th). At 12 midnight 600 gas bombs were successfully projected on BRACKEN FARM, KEW CROSS, and enemy posts at E.30.c.4.4, E.30.a.8.5, K.6.a.9.9 and K.6.b.25.55. Our artillery co-operated.

(7th). A daylight patrol of one officer and three O.R.'s. of the Left Brigade rushed an enemy post at E.18.a.4.0 where they captured five prisoners and one M.G. The Officer and one O.R. carried on the reconnaissance and encountered another post at E.18.a.4.5. They rushed it and captured four O.R.'s. and one M.G. Later the same officer and two O.R.'s. on another reconnaissance rushed a post at about E.17.b.9.5 where they captured five more prisoners and another M.G. / Six patrols.

- 2 -

Right Division (contd)

(7th). Six patrols, each consisting of one officer and five O.R's., from the Centre Brigade reconnoitred the Brigade front and brought back five prisoners and one M.G. captured at E.24.c.3.3. An independent patrol from the same Brigade encountered a post at E.24.c.1.8 which they bombed and rushed killing eleven of the enemy and taking one prisoner. (7th). Owing to a report received, a patrol left our lines on the Right Brigade front with the intention of establishing a post in the enclosure in E.30.a. On arrival there they observed a party of the enemy in the hedge. Four O.R's. started to work round the flank of the enemy who observed the forward party and signed to them to surrender. Shortly afterwards they were themselves called upon to surrender by the two parties, one on the flank and one in front, which they promptly did and fourteen unwounded prisoners and a light M.G. were brought back to our lines. The Left Bn. established posts last night as follows :- E.29.d.92.49, E.29.d.81.83, E.29.b.67.30 and E.29.b.58.62.

LATER.

(8th) This afternoon a patrol of the Centre Division succeeded in capturing 13 prisoners and 1 M.G. in F.7.a.

IDENTIFICATION.

8.8.18. 14.I.R., 4th Div.....F.7.a. (S. of MERRIS)...Prisoners (Normal)

XV Corps,

8/8/18.

MOVEMENT. Movement was normal. A certain amount of movement was seen in F.3.a. and F.6.b. and c. Visibility has been fair. Train movement observed was below normal.

IDENTIFICATION. This confirms report of 11.I.R. (2nd Div) by 11.I.R. (2nd Div). It is probable that 11.I.R. (2nd Div) was also relieved last night by 11.I.R. (2nd Div).

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT. (Night 31/7/18). At 11 midnight 600 gas bombs were successfully projected on BRACKEN PARR, NEW GROSS, and enemy posts at E.30.c.4.4, E.30.a.8.5, X.6.c.2.9 and X.6.b.35.35. Our artillery co-operated. (7th). A daylight patrol of one officer and three O.R's. of the Left Brigade rushed an enemy post at E.18.a.4.0 where they captured five prisoners and one M.G. The Officer and one O.R. continued on the reconnaissance and encountered another post at E.18.a.4.0. They rushed it and captured four O.R's. and one M.G. Later the same officer and two O.R's. on another reconnaissance rushed a post at about E.17.b.8.5 where they captured five more prisoners and another M.G. Six patrols.

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Examination of prisoners of 1st and 2nd Coys., 213.R.I.R.,
207th Div., captured in E.18.a.& c. (N. of VIEUX BERQUIN). 7.8.18

RELIEFS.

The 1st Bn. relieved 3rd Bn. in front line on night 5/6th inst.

DISPOSITIONS.

Three Coys. forward (N. to S. 1st, 2nd, 3rd) and one in close support (4th).

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The 1st Coy. has a trench strength of 30-40, and the 2nd Coy. a trench strength of 60 O.R's. and a ration strength of 160 O.R's.

INTENTIONS.

Prisoners had heard nothing regarding an enemy withdrawal in this sector.

Examination of prisoners of 2nd Coy., 170.I.R., 52nd Div.,
captured in E.30.a.& c. and E.24.c. (S. of VIEUX BERQUIN) 7.8.18

RELIEFS.

The 1st Bn., 170.I.R., relieved a Bn. of 209.R.I.R. (207th Div.) in front line on night 6th/7th inst. 1st Bn. is to be relieved in front line by another Bn. of 170.I.R. in four days time (i.e. night 10th/11th inst.)

DISPOSITIONS.

1st Bn. has two Coys. in the front line and two in close support.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The 2nd Coy. has a trench strength of about 100 O.R's. and five light M.G's. and a ration strength of 160.

LOSSES.

Whilst in support positions East of the METEREN BECQUE on the 6th inst., the 2nd Coy. had one man killed and eight wounded by our artillery fire.

RECENT MOVEMENTS OF 1ST BN., 170.I.R.

The 1st Bn., 170.I.R., was relieved in the front line near SALLAUMINES (S. of LENS) on 26th/27th July by the 3rd Bn., 170.I.R. On relief the 1st Bn. marched through BILLY-MONTIGNY and HENIN-LIETARD to NOYELLES-GODAULT where it remained until the evening of the 31st July when it proceeded by road to COURCELLES. On the afternoon of the 4th inst. the Bn. left COURCELLES and marched to EVIN where it entrained about 6 p.m. detraining at SAILLY at 11 p.m. on the same day. It then marched to FLEURBAIX where it stayed until about 9.30 p.m. on the 5th when it marched through SAILLY to support positions East of the METEREN BECQUE in the sector of the 209.R.I.R.

INTENTIONS.

Most of the prisoners stated that their instructions were simply to hold their present line. One or two had heard rumours of a withdrawal but could give no definite information. Several prisoners corroborated the fact that the enemy intended to carry out an attack in this sector towards the end of July but state that this has now been abandoned owing to the failure of the German attack in CHAMPAGNE.

/ OTHER UNITS.

OTHER UNOTS.

Artillerymen with "14" on their shoulder straps were seen in the ESTAIRES area on the 6th inst.

Several prisoners state that on the 4th Aug. they saw the "Vorkommando" of the 208.R.I.R. in COURCELLES and say that it was supposed that the 208.R.I.R. was to relieve the 170.I.R. S. of LENS. * 44th Res.Div.

GAS.

Prisoners state that our gas which was projected at midnight 6th/7th inst. caused them to wear their gas masks continuously for four hours.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One prisoner was told by some artillerymen that there was a 21 cm. how. in this sector which changed its position frequently.

Examination of two prisoners of 5th Coy., 187.I.R. 187.Div., captured in E.30.a. (S. of VIEUX BERQUIN) 7.8.18.

ORDER OF BATTLE. North to South.

187.I.R.)
188.I.R.) 187th Div.
189.I.R.)

RELIEFS.

The 2nd Bn. relieved 3rd Bn. in front line on night 6th/7th inst., 5th Coy. relieving 13th Coy. The 2nd Bn. is to remain in line four days and should therefore be relieved on night 10th/11th inst.

DISPOSITIONS.

Three Coys. forward West of the PLATE BECQUE and one in support East of the PLATE BECQUE.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The 5th Coy. has a trench strength of 50 O.R's. and a ration strength of 120.

INTENTIONS.

Nothing known.

XV Corps,

8/8/18.

Wt

Wt

No. 264.

XV Corps.
9th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy is alert by night but discipline appears to relax during the day, and it seems that posts go to sleep without leaving anyone on sentry duty.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Trenches in the LA MOTTE Sector and in front of NORD HELF were fairly heavily shelled, and METELEN and FLETRE areas were also shelled. A 24 cm. H.V. gun fired intermittently on AU SOUVERAIN.

Light scattered fire developed on SEC BOIS, PRADELLES and FLETRE areas during the day, and batteries in the PRADELLES - STRAZEELE area were harassed. The roads in the vicinity of the COQ DE PAILLE were fired on by a 15 cm. how.

A balloon near MORBECQUE was fired at by a 24 cm. gun. There was some gas shelling on VERTE RUE.

T.M.'s were active on the Left Divisional front.

Aerial.

Enemy aircraft have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made between MERVILLE and OUTERSTEENE between 6. and 7.30 a.m. At 2.30 p.m. a reconnaissance was made between MERRIS and VIEUX BERQUIN at 4,000 feet. Six balloons were seen up opposite the Corps front.

MOVEMENT.

Movement generally has been normal except on the road in L.S.a. and the light railway in L.S.d. moving N.E. Movement was also noticed in the vicinity of ROOSTER, BRACKEN and BELLE CROIX Farms. Visibility has been fair.

Trains. Train movement has been normal. The following trains were seen :-

ARMENTIERES - ESTAIRES line.	4 going E.	2 going W.
ARMENTIERES - PERENCHIES line.	2 going E.	

ENEMY DEFENCES.

New work was observed between F.3.a.4.6. and X.27.c.60.25. A new trench has been dug at X.21.d.80.35. Wire was found in the ditches along the hedge from X.27.c.3.7. to X.27.c.4.9.

IDENTIFICATION.

8/9:8:18. 14.I.R., 4th Div. ... S.of MERRIS ... Prisoners.

E. R. Nason, Capt.
for Major
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

A daylight patrol from the Centre Division, while reconnoitring a house at F.8.a.0.4., discovered an enemy post which was rushed, two prisoners being captured. The patrol then searched the ground in F.7.b. with the result that four more posts, including a M.G. post, were discovered and rushed, resulting in all in 13 prisoners and a light M.G. being captured.

A further patrol in the same locality met an enemy party of four - one was killed, two taken prisoner and one escaped.

Posts were established by the Right Division at K.11b.8.7., K.12.a.0.8., K.6.c.4.1., K.6.c.5.3., E.29.d.9.4., E.29.d.8.8., E.29.b.7.2., E.29.b.6.6., E.17.c.9.6., E.17.b.9.0., E.17.b.9.3. & E.12.c.4.1.

/EXTRACT FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EXTRACT FROM ARMY SUMMARY.AMIENS front.

Yesterday's attack on the British front from VILLE-sur-ANCRE to HOURGES on the AMIENS - ROYE road (12 miles) found 8 divisions in line, of which two were in process of relief, prisoners being taken from all regiments in each division.

Identifications were normal, except where the reliefs in progress were caught, where both incoming and outgoing divisions lost prisoners from each of their regiments.

On the front of the French attack, HOURGES to North of HARGICOURT (9 miles) three normal divisions were identified.

SITUATION REPORT from G.H.Q. timed 4.40 p.m.

The Allied attack was renewed this morning. The French are reported to have taken PIERREPONT and Wood to the North, also HANGEST and ARVILLERS. We are reported to have taken BEAUFORT and to be fighting on general line FOLIES - ROSIERES - RAINECOURT. The number of prisoners in the Fourth Army Cages and C.O.S.'s at 8 a.m. was 300 officers and 13,000 O.R.'s. 200 guns, including a 9.2 inch railway gun with three trucks of ammunition, have been captured. One complete railway train captured, also trench mortars and M.G.'s in large numbers and quantities of stores and material. The French report 3,450 prisoners.

A report received from the Italian front states that the 7th and 48th Divisions have carried out eight simultaneous raids on the ASIAGO front capturing upwards of 315 prisoners, some T.M.'s and M.G.'s and five pack mules.

XV Corps "I".

9/8/18.

ENEMY DEFENCES.
New work was observed between F.3.4.4.8. and X.27.0.20.25. A new trench has been dug at X.21.0.20.25. Wire was found in the ditch along the hedge from X.27.0.2.7. to X.27.0.4.9.

IDENTIFICATION.
14.1.18. 4th Div. ... 8.0.18. 4th Div. ... Prisoners.

General Staff,
Major

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.
A daylight patrol from the Centre Division, while reconnoitering a house at F.8.4.0.4., discovered an enemy post which was manned, two prisoners being captured. The patrol then searched the ground in F.7.6. with the result that four more posts, including a B.C. post, were discovered and manned, resulting in all in all 22 prisoners and a light M.G. being captured. A daylight patrol in the same locality met an enemy party of four, who were killed, two taken prisoner and one escaped. Posts were occupied by the Right Division at K.12.0.8.7., K.12.0.8.4.1., K.8.0.8.3., E.29.0.8.4., E.29.0.8.8., E.29.0.8.8., E.17.0.8.8., E.17.0.8.0., E.17.0.8.4.

EXTRACT FROM ARMY SUMMARY

XV Corps.

9.8.18.

Examination of prisoners of 11th Coy., 14.I.R., 4th Div.,
captured in F.7.b. (S. of MERRIS) afternoon 8.8.18.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

North to South. 62.I.R. 12th Div.
49.I.R.)
140.I.R.) 4th Div.
14.I.R.)

RELIEFS. 3rd Bn., 14.I.R., from reserve relieved 2nd Bn. in front line on night 4/5th inst. 3rd Bn. should be relieved in front line by 1st Bn. on night 10/11th inst.

METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE. The 3rd Bn. in line with two Coys. in front line (N. to S. 11th, 9th) and two Coys. in support (10th and 12th), 2nd Bn. in reserve near DOULIEU and 1st Bn. in rest.

COY. STRENGTH. The 11th Coy. has a trench strength of about 40 O.R.'s. plus 20 O.R.'s. as ration carriers with 3 light M.G.'s. 3 of which were in the outpost line. The ration strength is 90 O.R.

LOSSES. One prisoner, who formerly belonged to the 98.R.I.R., visited the transport lines of this regiment near SAILLY a few days ago and was told by a Sergt. Major of the 3rd Bn. that the 12th Coy. came out of the line after its first tour of duty at the beginning of July with only 1 N.C.O. and 7 O.R.'s.

REST BILLETS. Rest billets of the 14.I.R. are in FLEURBAIX.

HEADQUARTERS. 4th Divisional Headquarters LOOS.

MORAL. An intelligent prisoner states that the 11th Coy., which is the best Coy. in the Bn., is of fair moral and says that this is due to its having an exceptionally good Coy. Commander.

INTENTIONS. Instructions were issued by the Coy. Commander to the effect that in the event of our attacking a withdrawal was to be effected to the main line of resistance which was to be held.

Practically all the prisoners confirm the fact that an attack was to have been carried out about 24th July and that the 4th Div. was to have taken part in it. The most intelligent prisoner says that this attack was cancelled as it was evident that we were aware that it was to take place. This same prisoner spoke to men of the 53.F.A.R. at the end of July who told him that as soon as the offensive was cancelled guns and ammunition were withdrawn. About a week after this withdrawal the enemy became nervous as to our intentions and in consequence the heavy artillery in this sector was to a certain extent reinforced.

None of the prisoners had heard anything regarding a withdrawal in their sector. One, however, said that the enemy's present position was becoming more and more difficult and that in his personal opinion a withdrawal will take place. As evidence of this opinion he says that when the 4th Div. was in line in the MERVILLE sector at the end of April and beginning of May strict instructions were issued forbidding the men to dig up potatoes, pick beans or cut the crops in that area except in the fire zone. This order has now apparently been rescinded as since about 25th July men have been allowed to utilise the crops as far back as FLEURBAIX at least and oats have been used for feeding horses. Prisoner says that if the enemy intended to hold their present line this would not have been allowed owing to scarcity of foodstuffs in Germany.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GERMANY. One prisoner, who returned from leave on 19th July, stayed near MINDEN, WESTPHALIA, and says that the food conditions in the country districts are still tolerable but that in big manufacturing towns such as DORTMUND the situation is acute. People living in such towns travel from 100-150 kilometres for potatoes and butter for which they pay the most unheard of prices; butter costing anything from 30-40 marks (1 mark = 1 shilling) a kilo.

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No. 265.

XV Corps,
10th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

A hostile patrol encountered at E.18.b.7.3 was dispersed by bombs.

The enemy's attitude has undergone no change.

Artillery & T.M's.

During the night light harassing fire was directed on forward communications and the areas VERTE RUE, LE ROUKLOSHILLE and N. of METEREN were lightly harassed. Roads in the vicinity of LE ROUKLOSHILLE were intermittently shelled by 81 cm. hows. The LA MOTTE, STRAZEELE and FLETRE Sectors and PRADELLES were lightly harassed by field artillery during the day. H.V. guns fired on HAZEBROUCK and FLETRE. Balloons near LA BREARDE and HAZEBROUCK were also engaged by 15 cm. guns.

T.M's. shelled GARS BRUGGHE, CORNET PERDU and METEREN but were not noticeably active.

Aerial.

Enemy fighting patrols have been active today between NEUF BERQUIN and VIEUX BERQUIN. Five reconnaissances were made between BAILLEUL and MERVILLE. Six enemy balloons were up during the day; one was destroyed at 10.25 a.m. by two of our scouts.

MOVEMENT.

Train and troop movement has been below normal. Parties amounting to about 50 in all were seen at F.11.c.4.8. Movement has also been rather noticeable in L.2.a. and b.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Considerable new work is visible between F.3.c.4.7 and X.27.a.60.25. Trenches are also visible at X.21.d.37.38, X.21.d.80.35 and X.22.c.25.15.

[Signature]
for
Major,
General Staff.

UNOFFICIAL SITUATION REPORT from G.H.Q. timed 3.30 p.m.

" Line runs LIHONS - E. of CHILLY - Western outskirts of FRANSART - PRESNOY-LES-ROYE - W. of GOYENCOURT. The French hold VILLERS-LES-ROYE. Air reports that enemy retiring in disorder through ROYE and roads South and South-east of ROYE packed with transport etc. "

XV Corps,

10/8/18.

[Signature]

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ENEMY INTENTIONS

No. 266. XV Corps,
11th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy is very much on the alert using his M.G.'s. during the night and sniping during the day; otherwise his attitude is unchanged.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

FLETRE and the area N. of METEREN were lightly gassed during the night and there was some harassing fire on the usual areas including COURTE CROIX. The areas N. of CLEBERT Wood, N.E. of AU PROMENADE and FLETRE were intermittently shelled by 10 cm. guns. Neutralizations were attempted, the guns employed including occasionally H.V. guns. Forward areas were harassed during the day and SWARTENBROUCH was intermittently shelled by a 21 cm. how. 15 cm. H.V. guns fired on MORBECQUE, TIR ANGLAIS and BECKE.

T.M.'s. were slightly active.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. Two reconnaissances were made this morning at 16,000 foot over LA MOTTE, HAZEBROUCK and SEC BOIS. Another reconnaissance was made at 1.30 p.m. between CAUDESCURE and OUTERSTEENE. At 5.35 p.m. a high reconnaissance at 17,000 foot was carried out over STAPLE, RENESCURE and STEENBECQUE.

MOVEMENT.

(10th) Visibility from the ground was good. Movement was generally below normal. A little movement was seen on a track leading to the road in F.11.c. and on tracks at L.3.a.4.3, F.25.b.8.8 and leading to BRACKEN FARM.

(11th). Visibility from the ground was poor. Observed movement was normal.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Wire has been erected in front of the post at X.22.d.5.7 and East of the road from GAZA CROSS ROADS to X.27.b.8.9.

ERN a. S. a. c. apt.
Major,
General Staff.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

Reserves.

79th Res.Div. from LILLE area has reinforced the battle front East of ROUVROY.

There are 22 divisions in reserve on the Western front, available for immediate operations, of which 15 are in Prince RUPPRECHT's Group of Armies.

The SOMME Battle.

The British battle front, which on August 8th engaged 8 enemy divisions, has since been reinforced by 7 divisions, four of which are fresh from reserve; a total of 15 divisions.

The French battle front, which on August 10th was extended as far as CHEVIN COURT on the MATZ, has now engaged 14 divisions, of which 3 are fresh divisions from reserve.

Thus, so far, 29 divisions have been engaged on the whole front of attack.

/ ENEMY INTENTIONS.

7/11

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

A wounded prisoner of the 4th Division, captured on the 9th inst., states a withdrawal will shortly take place.

The new line will run through DOULIEU, which is approximately the line of the METEREN BECQUE.

CAPTURED ORDERS.

The following order, issued by LUDENDORFF, shows the stress laid by the German Higher Command on the necessity for economizing men, owing to the present situation as regards manpower in Germany :-

C.G.S. of the Field Army, G.H.Q.,
Ia/II No.8950, Secret op. 25.6.18.

It is essential that all commanders, of whatever rank, and all troops should be imbued with the idea that the war cannot be won by stubborn defence, but only by a further succession of vigorous attacks. These attacks, however, cannot lead to victory, unless we adhere to and improve on the methods of warfare adopted in the recent offensives.

In every case where the well-tried principles of the "Manual of Infantry Training in War" (Part II), and the appropriate additions made to them by the Higher Command as a result of actual experience, were properly applied, success was gained at small cost. For example, the 11th Division, in the course of the attack South-west of NOYON from the 9th June onwards, succeeded, in very difficult hilly and wooded country, strongly entangled with wire, in breaking down the enemy's resistance, and fought there with good results for many days. It suffered, however, very small casualties, considering the violent nature of the fighting, because the new principles of warfare were properly applied by leaders of all grades.

Not only the probability of gaining other successes by these methods, but also the situation as regards reinforcements, compels us to perfect them still further.

It is absolutely essential that we should avoid our old fault of attacking in too dense formations, and reduce our casualties by every possible means.

This necessity holds ^{equally} good for defensive fronts, even for those which, sooner or later, may become offensive fronts again. Divisions in line must do their utmost to reduce their casualties to an absolute minimum, by distribution in depth and the creation of an extended outpost zone.

In spite of all instructions, too much attention is still paid to the possession of ground, to holding or retaking portions of trench, villages, parts of woods, etc., and to fighting for points whose only value is "prestige" (Prestigepunkte).

Now more than ever, divisions in line in hostile attacks, both large and small, must if possible make use of the elastic defence (literally, elastic avoidance), even on the so-called unhealthy fronts. This procedure has proved its value repeatedly in the Group of Armies of Duke ALBRECHT of WURTEMBERG.

Owing to our reduced strength in the line, it will frequently be impossible to make the front line a continuous line of trenches, but it will always be found possible to create centres of resistance, concealed as far as possible from observation. "No Man's Land" must be secured by mobile patrols, in order to render enemy enterprises difficult in it.

Should the enemy gain a footing in our lines, commanders of all ranks must carefully consider whether a counter-attack is really necessary.

/ Very often

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Very often troops are, in the end, quite happy without the possession of a particular piece of ground or trench, to recapture which a commander, without due consideration, thought he must risk a large number of lives.

It is therefore essential for the future conduct of the war to maintain everywhere our fighting strength and the spirit of the offensive. These two elements only will ensure our eventual success.

(sgd) LUDENDORFF.

GERMAN AIR POLICY.

An order of the 183.I.R., 192nd Div. (then in line near MOREUIL), is of interest as shewing the passive attitude the enemy has been forced to take up on certain parts of the front: a translation of this order is given below :-

183rd Infantry Regt.

Regtl.H.Q., 7th June 1918.

REGIMENTAL ORDER.

"All regiments have repeatedly complained that low-flying enemy aeroplanes are not interfered with by our fighter machines. In reply to these complaints, the Group points out that its resources in aircraft are so low, and those available are so busily engaged on reconnaissance work, that they cannot also be expected to engage enemy machines carrying out low reconnaissance work over our lines.

"The infantry must arrange for its own defence against enemy aircraft to a greater extent than heretofore.

"The Brigade has decided that, in future, complaints from units which have been harassed by low-flying machines will not be forwarded.

"I wish to draw the attention of all concerned to these instructions, and to ask the commander of the front line troops and the commander of the supports to determine immediately what machine guns they consider especially suited for anti-aircraft defence, particularly near the H.Q. of the O.C. front line troops and in the area under the O.C. supports.

"Reports will be forwarded to the Regiment by the morning of the 11th June."

SITUATION REPORT from G.H.Q. timed 2.50 p.m. 11/8/18.

No change is reported on the British front. The French renewed their attack this morning at 4.30 a.m. The line is reported to be approximately as follows :- ANTOVAL - SAMSON - MAREUIL - LA BERLIERE - Hill 83 - LE PLESSIER (all inclusive to the French): thence to the Western outskirts of TILLOLOY - POPINCOURT - DANCOURT and ARMANCOURT : thence no change.

LATER.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Lewis gun posts have been established at ALERT CROSSING, F.7.c.45.8C F.7.c.45.50 and F.7.c.45.35. Lewis guns are now being pushed to S.E. corner of CELERY COPSE. Patrols are being pushed out to line of SIX TRUCKS (F.7.c. & F.13.a.).

XV Corps,

11/8/18.

7/11/18

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R E P O R T
ON EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS OF THE 14 I.R. 4th
DIVISION CAPTURED IN F.7.b.

HOW CAPTURED.

Prisoners were in five shell holes. The M.G. and crew consisting of 5 men were in the centre, the other holes containing two men each. The men had come to the conclusion that as they could not see over the growing crops they could not do better than all go to sleep and were consequently captured without any casualties to ourselves or to them.

It is their opinion that the majority of posts act in the same manner.

METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

The men belong to the 3rd Battalion. Two companies of the Battalion are in the front line the remaining two being in support about 6/800 yards in rear. Of the two companies in the front line roughly about one third are in the outpost line.

The Co. sector is about 300 yards.

There is no wire in front of their posts nor, as far as they know, in front of their main outpost line. They had received orders to work on defences but owing to our artillery fire had decided that it was impossible. There were light M.Gs. to the right and left of the posts raided both about 40 to 50 yards away, the one on the right (West) being somewhat further back in the enemy lines.

No patrolling is done by them but the Companies in support are occasionally instructed to do patrols.

The heavy M.Gs. are partly between the support and front line Cos. about 500 yards in rear.

ENEMY INTENTIONS AND MORALE.

Prisoners have heard no talk of withdrawal on this front nor of any attack. They are of the opinion that the Division is simply in to hold the line.

They know very little about the French offensive on the SOISSONS front and had been told that the withdrawal was voluntary on their part and had been carried out without loss.

The type of the majority of the men was good and their morale was also good. Their ages ranged mostly between 20 and 26.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The fighting strength of the 11th Co. is about 60 of which nearly 20 were detailed as ration carriers.

ENEMY TACTICS.

Their orders were in case of small patrols to beat them off but to retire before larger bodies on to their main line.

B.

gwh

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APPENDIX

33 634

No. 207.

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DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

18th August 1918.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

Sniping activity still continues but the enemy's attitude otherwise is unchanged.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

There was little activity during the night, forward areas being slightly harassed. A H.V. gun fired a few rounds near ECKE, and hedge rows S. of METEREN were shelled by 15 cm.hows. MONT D' MERRIS, STRAZEELE, METEREN and MONT DES CATS were spasmodically shelled during the day.

T.M.'s fired a few rounds but were generally quiet.

Aerial.

Enemy aircraft have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made in the early morning between OUTERSTEENE and MERVILLE and one high reconnaissance at 16,000 feet over MERVILLE and ST.FLORIS.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground on the whole has been poor. About 50 men were seen moving in L.2.a.& b., but observed movement has been normal.

ENEMY DEFENCES.Wire.

Wire was found in X.26.d. and there is a strong belt from X.21.d.80.38 to X.21.d.45.22.

Dumps.

Dumps of T.M. ammunition were found at E.30.a.1.3. and behind a barn at E.30.a.15.35.; estimated number of shells about 500.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

12;8:18. 170.I.R., 52nd Div. E.23.b. ... Prisoners.
11 & 12;8:18. 169.I.R., 52nd Div.... F.7.c. & E.18....Prisoners.

E.R.Na son Capt.

Major,
General Staff.OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

(11th) Patrols from the Centre Division having reported the ground as far as ALERT CROSSING and CELERY COPSE to be unoccupied, it was decided to occupy CELERY COPSE and S. of LYNDE FARM. The E. edge of the Copse was occupied in the afternoon without opposition, but patrols met opposition about F.13.a.05.90. Stokes mortars bombarded this trench which was eventually rushed at 7 p.m., two prisoners being captured. In clearing up the situation in the vicinity of LYNDE FARM a total of 6 prisoners and 2 M.G.'s were captured. The Right Brigade established a line as follows :- E.18.b.9.8. - along the E. edge of CELERY COPSE and ALERT CROSSING, the line being continued through F.7.a. to F.7.b.05.90.

The Left Brigade of the Right Division carried out a successful operation and established a line as follows :- E.18.b.95.80. - E.18.b.65.40. - E.18.d.00.95. - E.18.c.00.90. - E.17.d.60.90. - E.17.d.05.40. Opposition was met with in E.18.a.& b. and E.18.central, but, after engaging the enemy with Lewis guns and rifle fire the positions were rushed and 1 officer and 22 O.R.'s. were captured.

/(12th)

JMH

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT. (Contd)

(12th) The Right Division are consolidating the line
E.18.b.7.6. - E.18.central - E.18.c.1.1. - E.23.b.8.9. -
E.23.a.9.5. Patrols are operating in front of this line.
Total captures up to date :-

Centre Division ... 12. O.R's. 2.M.G's.
Right Division. ... 1 Offr. 29.O.R's. 5.M.G's.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.Reserves.

There are 27 divisions in reserve on the Western front available for immediate operations, of which 14 are in Prince Rupprecht's Group of Armies.

SOMME Battle.

On the whole front of attack 31 German Divisions have now been engaged - 16 by the British. So far 8 fresh divisions from reserve have reinforced the front.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN GERMANY. (From G.H.Q. Summary).

The following is an extract from an order of the Eighteenth German Army, dated 20/6/18 :-

"The Higher Command again draws attention to the difficulties of Germany's economic situation and the necessity of the army assisting in affording all possible relief.

"Experience shows that the army is inclined to be wasteful. The war, and especially offensive warfare, has made the troops incapable of properly appreciating the importance of a rational system of economy. Officers often neglect to superintend, and to make a judicious division of available supplies. Today, more than ever, strict economy is the duty of everyone.

"Everybody must keep in mind the seriousness of the situation at home in appreciating what should be his proper and sufficient rations. No one denies that these are monotonous and lacking in variety. It is for units themselves to remedy this. All commanders must energetically resist unjustifiable demands. Our duty bids us be moderate. Rations and forage will only be demanded in accordance with the limits prescribed; not a scrap must be consumed in excess of that allowed according to ration strength. The farther one is from the enemy, the more it is one's duty, and the easier it is, to practice economy. Units must learn anew to organize their own supply, to exploit the occupied territory by their own means, and thereby to relieve the home land and save supplies being brought from Germany.

"Everyone must know the regulations governing supply. Anyone who continually demands "more" or "better"; any commander who yields in the smallest degree to such demands has not yet grasped our economic situation. The intelligence of the soldier must be roused by the words and by the example of his leaders to understand that restrictions and self-denial are necessary to bring the war to a victorious end and to realize a German peace.

"Now, and during the coming weeks, the crops on the territories occupied and conquered by us must be harvested. Vast stretches of land, huge fields under good cultivation, promise us a rich harvest. But extreme measures must be taken. The opinion so frequently expressed, for instance, 'that it is not worth while' to harvest fallow land, discloses an absolute want of appreciation of the situation. By proper organization, the shortage of labour and of means of transport can be overcome. By proper subdivision of men detailed for harvesting instruction will not be interfered with. This must be borne in mind, as far as the technical situation permits, in allotting billeting areas.

/"Every available

350

- 3 -

"Every available man must be used without reserve. For example, in the higher staffs, servants, orderlies, etc., will be used to form special working parties.

"At the present moment it is necessary, above all, to set to work with all possible energy on the hay crop; suitable measures must be taken to shelter, guard and apportion it properly. Steps must be taken to examine the condition of the large number of captured agricultural machines, to classify them, to prepare them for use and to indent as soon as possible for any more that may be required. Vast preparations will be made for the coming harvests.

(Sgd) von HUTIER."

SITUATION REPORT from G.H.Q. 3 p.m.

A hostile counter-attack made yesterday evening on the Left Division of the Canadian Corps was repulsed. The Australian Corps straightened the line on the South bank of the SOMME and captured over 200 prisoners. The line runs approximately RAINECOURT (inclusive) - PROYART (exclusive) to R.7.central - R.1.b.9.0. - L.14.central - E.28.c.8.8. - E.22.a.2.2. Otherwise there is no change. The French have captured LES LOGES (S. of ROYE) and have made progress on the high ground E. of MAREUIL. They have crossed the OISE in the neighbourhood of VERRUE FARM (W. of BAILLY).

XV Corps "I".

12/8/18.

YMA

Examination of prisoners of 1st & 2nd Coys., 169.I.R. 52nd Div., captured in F.7.c. & E.18(N.E. of VIEUX BERQUIN) 11/12.8.18

ORDER OF BATTLE.

North to South - 169.I.R., 111.I.R., 170.I.R., 52nd Division.

RELIEFS.

7/8.8.18. 1st Bn., 169.I.R., was relieved S. of LENS near MERICOURT by 98.R.I.R., 207th Div.

10/11.8.18. 1st Bn., 169.I.R., relieved 3rd Bn. in front line S. of HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL railway. Bns. do four days in line; 1st Bn. should therefore be relieved on night 14/15th inst., probably by 3rd Bn.

DISPOSITIONS. The 169.I.R. had two Coys. forward (N. to S. 1st, 2nd) and two in support (3rd, 4th), the latter two Coys. being situated about F.7.d.

DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY. Divnl. boundary between 52nd Div. and 4th Div. is the HAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL railway.

REST BILLETS. Rest billets of 169.I.R. are in SAILLY village.

COY. STRENGTH. 1st Coy. has a trench strength of about 40 O.R's. and a ration strength of 82 O.R's. The strength of 2nd Coy. is:-
(From captured document)

2 officers
12 N.C.O's.
78 O.Rs.
4 stretcher bearers.

Trench strength 96
85 employed men
11 on leave
6 sick

Total strength 198

LOSSES. General. A reliable prisoner states that there are now 4,600 German graves in SAILLY churchyard (this amplifies the statements of prisoner of 14.I.R., 4th Div., captured in MERRIS on 30.7.18 who stated that at the end of July there were over 3,000 Germans buried in this cemetery).

98.R.I.R. A prisoner of 1st Coy., 169.I.R., states that the Coy. of 98.R.I.R. which relieved his Coy. in line S. of LENS on 7/8.8.18 was only 28 strong. He spoke to some of those men who told him that they suffered casualties when they were last relieved in line S. of HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL railway and also in coming up to relieve the 169.I.R. Prisoner himself saw 7 dead of the 98.R.I.R. in ROUVROY.

INTENTIONS. All prisoners are positive that no enemy attack is now intended in this sector and state that they saw practically no troops in the back areas. Several of them have heard vague rumours of a withdrawal to a line 3 kilometres in rear.

An officer prisoner states he cannot understand why the Germans do not withdraw a short distance and straighten out their line as in his opinion it is impossible to put up a good defence in their present position which owing to its irregularity offers good opportunities for "minor outflanking movements" resulting in the capture of prisoners and ground. (He remarked that from what he had heard and from his own personal experience we apparently made good use of these opportunities). He also says that if a withdrawal is not undertaken, conditions in winter would be impossible as owing to the nature of the country the sick rate would/sure to be very high.
be

MORAL. The moral of the prisoners captured varies considerably. The moral of those who have been with the Regt. some time is good / but that

MORAL (contd).

but that of those who have only been with the Regt. a short time is bad. On the whole the moral of the 169.I.R. appears to be fair.

The officers states that the moral of the 52nd Div. has deteriorated considerably since the Division took part in the AISNE Battle at the end of May and beginning of June, chiefly owing to the poor quality of the drafts received to replace casualties sustained in that Battle. He says that these drafts are young and badly trained and are unable to stand artillery fire. On the whole this officer has a poor opinion of his Coy. (the 2nd).

LIGHT SIGNALS.

The light signals in force this morning (12th) were:-

Yellow Barrage.
Red Destructive fire.

(On the approach of our patrols, artillery fire was asked for by means of light signals but without result).

XV Corps,

12/8/18.

General. A reliable prisoner states that there are now 2,500 German graves in SALLY CHURCHYARD (this amplifies the statements of prisoner of 16.I.R., 4th Div., captured in MERIS on 30.7.18 who stated that at the end of July there were over 2,000 Germans buried in this cemetery).
A prisoner of 1st Coy., 169.I.R., states that the Coy. of 169.I.R. which relieved his Coy. in line 8. of LENS on 7.8.18 was only 25 strong. He spoke to some of those men who told him that they suffered casualties when they were last relieved in line 8. of HAZEBROUCK-BAILLUL railway and also in coming up to relieve the 169.I.R. Prisoner himself saw 7 dead of the 169.I.R. in ROUVROY.

INTENTIONS. All prisoners are positive that no enemy attack is now intended in this sector and state that they saw practically no troops in the back areas. Several of them have heard vague rumours of a withdrawal to a line 3 kilometres in rear. An officer prisoner states he cannot understand why the Germans do not withdraw a short distance and strengthen out their line as in his opinion it is impossible to put up a good defence in their present position which owing to its irregularity offers good opportunities for "minor outflanking movements" resulting in the capture of prisoners and ground. (He remarked that from what he had heard and from his own personal experience we apparently made good use of these opportunities). He also says that if a withdrawal is not undertaken, conditions in winter would be impossible as owing to the nature of the country the sick rate would be very high.

MORAL. The moral of the prisoners captured varies considerably. The moral of those who have been with the Regt. some time is good but that

No. 268.

XV Corps,
13th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

At 9.30 p.m. (13th) after a heavy artillery bombardment, the enemy attacked our new line E. of CELERY COPSE and is now in possession of his original line in this area. The enemy's attitude is generally very alert and sniping is a noticeable feature.

Artillery & T.M's.

The ground gained by us yesterday was heavily shelled but except for this and a heavy barrage in support of the hostile counter-attack there was only light shelling on the LA MOTTE and FLETRE Sectors. The day was quiet and there was only light harassing fire on forward areas and posts in the LA MOTTE Sector. MONT DES CATS was intermittently shelled.

T.M's. were especially active on the Right Divisional front but otherwise quiet.

Aerial.

Between dawn and 10.30 a.m. enemy reconnaissance machines were very active between OUTERSTEENE and MERVILLE at an average height of 3,000 feet. Three high reconnaissances were made between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. over CAESTRE, STRAZEELE, SEC BOIS, MORBECQUE and HAVERSKERQUE at 17,000 feet.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground was poor yesterday and today. (13th) Movement was noticed round LABIS FARM. About 30 men were observed in a trench at F.13.c.2.7; a direct hit was obtained on this party. (13th) No movement reported.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

13.8.18. 169.I.R., 53rd Div....F.7.a. (S. of MERRIS): Prisoner

ERNASON, Capt.

for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

(13th) Posts were established on the left of the Centre Divisional front as follows:- X.26.d.50.75, X.26.d.35.45, X.26.d.20.35, X.26.d.18.30 and X.26.c.80.26. Very little opposition was encountered. At 3.30 p.m. an enemy post at F.7.c.9.8 was rushed and six prisoners captured.

(13th). At 10 a.m. the Left Brigade of the Right Division moved forward towards the CIRCLE house which they are believed to have occupied. This has not yet been confirmed but patrols are known to have gained a footing in VIEUX BERQUIN.

At 5 a.m. the Centre Brigade of the Right Division moved forward to establish a line E.23.d.4.3 - E.24.c.4.9. The right took up a line E.23.d.3.4 - E.23.d.8.7 and to assist the left platoon then moved forward so as to outflank any hostile M.G's. Patrols have now reached the line E.24.a.5.0 - E.24.a.3.5 - E.18.c.4.0. 18 O.R's. and 8 M.G's. have been captured.

EXTRACTS FROM PRISONERS' STATEMENTS.

(a) It appears from prisoners' statements that our Heavy Artillery and Field Artillery have an uncanny way of finding them out. This is not only causing many casualties, but is also having a great moral effect. When they came into this line they were told they would be free from our artillery fire in the forward posts, but this did not prove to be the case.

(2) Two British officers

(b) Two British officers taken prisoner recently said (so prisoners taken in the last few days operations state) that the patrol activity on our front was a new kind of sport, every Coy. vying with each other in the capture of prisoners. The Germans feel that this is not taking war seriously, and, in consequence, it has caused much indignation among them.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

Reserves.

131st Division from ROUBAIX area, and 38th Division from LILLE have reinforced the battle South of the SOMME.

Air reconnaissances indicate that further divisions are moving Southwards from FLANDERS and the LILLE area to the battle front.

There are 26 divisions in reserve on the Western front, available for immediate operations, of which 12 are in Prince RUPPRECHT's Group of Armies.

Enemy Intentions.

A wounded prisoner of 52nd Division, captured on the 11th inst., states Labour Bns. are now preparing a line 3 to 4 kilometres East of the present line.

While in SAILLY last week a withdrawal was freely spoken of, but prisoner does not know when this will take place.

SITUATION REPORT G.H.Q. timed 9.10 a.m. :-

"Canadian Corps have further improved line North of ROYE Road which runs approximately R.4.c.3.5 - L.34.d.2.4 - L.38.c.1.5 - L.17.c.5.2 - L.18.a.9.9. Hostile attack near FOUQUESCOURT repulsed. Australian Corps captured enemy defences in L.32 and L.26 N. of the SOMME. Posts were established by us in K.34.a. (N. of BEAUMONT HAMEL). French captured L'ECUVILLON (S. of LASSIGNY) but lost LES LOGES to counter-attack."

Prisoners taken by Fourth Army since morning of the 8th exceed 20,000 and guns over 400 making total captures by Allies on SOMME front since 8th inst. over 33,000 prisoners and 600 guns.

XV Corps,

13/8/18.

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EXAMINATION of prisoners of 11th Coy., 170.I.R., captured in E.23.L. (W. of VIEUX BERQUIN) on 12/8/18.

RELIEFS.

6:8:18. The 3rd Bn. 170.I.R. was relieved in reserve position near AVION (S. of LENS) by a battalion of the 209.R.I.R., 207th Divn.

11/12:8:18. The 3rd Bn. from reserve relieved the 1st Bn. in the front line in the VIEUX BERQUIN Sector.

15/16:8:18. Each Battalion does 4 days in the front line. The 3rd Bn. will, therefore, be relieved on the night 15/16th by the 2nd Bn.

DISPOSITIONS.

The 170.I.R. has two Companies forward (11th & 9th) and two in close support (10th & 12th).

COMPANY STRENGTH.

11th Company.	Trench Strength	about 70.
	Ration Strength.	100.

LOSSES.

On the night 11/12th one of the posts of the 11th Coy. had 2 men killed and several wounded by our artillery fire. A heavy M.G. near the VIEUX BERQUIN road also received a direct hit, one man being killed and 4 wounded.

A few days ago one of our aeroplanes dropped a bomb on a Company going into the line and caused heavy casualties.

REST BILLETS.

The rest billets of the 170.I.R. are near SAILLY.

INTENTIONS.

Prisoners have no knowledge of any withdrawal in their sector.

GENERAL.

Our patrolling has been very effective and has made the enemy nervous as to our intentions. The 3rd Bn. 170.I.R. heard from the 1st Bn. that we were never quiet and that the corn was alive with our patrols day and night. Whilst in line the 207th Divn. did no work and, therefore, there is very little wire to keep off our patrols.

EXAMINATION of prisoner of 9th Coy., 169.I.R. captured in W.7.a. (S. of MERRIS) on 13/8/18.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

The 14.I.R. (4th Divn.) is on the right of the 169.I.R.

DISPOSITIONS.

At 4.30 p.m. on the 12th the 9th Coy., which together with other Coys. of the 3rd Bn. was in reserve to the 1st Bn., advanced by sections coming into line between the 1st & 2nd Coys. in order to reinforce them for the counter-attack to regain the ground lost by them earlier in the afternoon.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

9th Company.	Fighting Strength	about 70, including 20 ration carriers.
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XV Corps "I".
13/8/18.

[Handwritten signature]

33-642
XV Corps,
14th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

At 4.30 a.m. and 5 a.m. the front line in E.18 was heavily shelled and shortly after 5 a.m. about 60 of the enemy attacked a post S.E. of E.18.central. They penetrated between two posts forcing them to retire. They were, however, immediately counter-attacked by a platoon brought up by the O.C. Outpost Coy. and were driven back through our protective barrage. It is believed heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The enemy three times unsuccessfully attacked the post recently established by us at X.21.d.7.6.

Artillery.

There was increased harassing fire against the forward systems in the LA MOTTE and STRAZEELE sectors. Roads in the vicinities of batteries in the PRADELLES - STRAZEELE area and, to a less degree, roads S.E. of COQ DE PAILLE were gas shelled. Short concentrations were fired on TIR ANGLAIS, SEC BOIS, BORRE, FLETRE and LA MOTTE. There was less activity during the day. Shelling was confined to trenches near VERTE RUE, VIEUX BERQUIN, STRAZEELE and METEREN. A burst of H.E. and gas was fired round LES 4 FILS AYMONT.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made between OUTERSTEEDE and VIEUX BERQUIN during the morning. At 11.30 a.m. a high reconnaissance was made at 18,000 feet over CASSEL, RENESCURE, WARDRECQUES and BLARINGHEM. Another high reconnaissance was carried out at noon over SEC BOIS and HAZEBROUCK.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground was poor. Movement was rather above normal in F.3, 4 and 10 (13th) but otherwise no abnormal movement has been reported.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

The enemy appears to be holding the line of trucks on the railway East of CELERY COPSE with two light M.G. posts about 60-70 yards in front. He also was seen erecting wire around the trucks.

IDENTIFICATION.

14.8.18. 169.I.R., 52nd Div.....S. of MERRIS.....2 prisoners.

E.R. Watson Capt.
Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.Right Division.

The Left Brigade continuing their patrol operations advanced their line as follows :- E.18.b.35.70 - E.18.central - E.18.c.80.70 - E.24.a.95.80 - E.24.a.95.70 - E.24.a.80.50 - E.24.a.6.0. The above line was established at 11 a.m. on the fourth attempt. Considerable opposition was encountered and heavy M.G. and rifle fire was experienced. Posts are now reported to have been established at E.24.b.0.7 - E.24.a.9.9 - E.18.c.7.0. A peaceful patrol sent out to protect the main party encountered an enemy post at E.18.d.central which they rushed bayoneting the garrison of 8. The patrol then observed a party of the enemy trying to work round their flank. This party was engaged with Lewis gun and rifle fire and compelled to retire through our protective barrage. / Centre Division

- 2 -

Centre Division.

The line of the Right Brigade now runs as follows:-
Left combined post F.7.a.2.4 - E.12.d.85.90 - E.12.d.7.3 -
E.18.b.4.8 - Right combined post E.18.b.2.5. A post was also
established at X.26.c.93.32.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.ENEMY INTENTIONS.

A captured secret document of the 26th Infantry Brigade, 13th Division, dated 8.7.18, states that preparations for attacks were being made along nearly the whole of the Western front at that date, and that the Brigade had been ordered to make preparations for a limited attack in the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX sector, to be ready with two weeks. The necessity for secrecy and the concealment of all work which could be seen from the air is emphasized.

EFFECT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

The following extract from an order dated 31.7.18 and signed by General KUHNE, Commanding the XI German Army Corps (in line astride the SOMME), mentions the heavy losses caused to enemy troops by our bombing, and adds instructions as to the avoidance of casualties :-

"The bloody losses recently caused by enemy air raids on billets and camps within the Corps area show that the system of air raid alarms is not well organized, and that the protection available against bombs is inadequate. It is nearly always possible to give warning of the approach of enemy machines long before the actual attack takes place, and troops have sufficient time to shelter in the cellars and dug-outs specially set apart to protect them against air raids. A sufficiently large number of shelters to take all the troops in the village or the camp should be arranged for, and should be clearly marked. All commanders will strictly enforce orders and ensure that these air raid shelters are occupied by officers and men as soon as the alarm is given, and that everybody remains in them until they hear the 'All Clear'.

CAPTURED ORDER.

The following order issued by LUDENDORFF emphasizes the importance attached by the enemy to strict signal discipline:-
C.G.S. of the Field Army.
Ia/Ic Nr.5798 op.

G.H.Q.,
19.12.17.

From a map issued by the British Intelligence Service, captured at CAMBRAI, it appears that the enemy was completely informed regarding the distribution of our forces in the line and the divisions which had been withdrawn. On the other hand, he was almost completely in the dark regarding the divisions now brought into back areas of the Army.

Judging by the military situation at that time, it is to be supposed that the enemy obtained part of his information from prisoners' statements. The larger part, however, he undoubtedly obtained from his Intercepting Service.

The opinion has been repeatedly expressed by the troops that the enemy, during major operations, would not be able to make use of his Intercepting Service.

This opinion must be vigorously combated.

The enemy, and particularly the British, installs his mobile intercepting stations even under the most difficult conditions.

The fact that our signal discipline frequently is completely wanting, particularly on battle fronts, plays directly into the hands of the enemy's Intelligence. The fighting troops must understand the necessity for this discipline, otherwise there is grave danger that the enemy will prematurely learn our intentions which are calculated on surprise, and will be able to take counter-measures accordingly.

XV Corps.
14/8/18.

(sgd) LUDENDORFF.

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INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

From Army Summary.Reserves.

There are 22 Divisions in reserve on the Western Front, available for immediate operations, of which 15 are in Prince RUPPRECHT'S Group of Armies.

The SOMME Battle.

The British Battle Front, which on August 8th engaged 8 enemy divisions, has since been reinforced by 7 divisions, four of which are fresh from reserve; a total of 15 divisions.

The French battle front, which on August 10th was extended as far as CHEVINCOURT on the MATZ, has now engaged 14 divisions, of which 2 are fresh divisions from reserve.

Thus, so far, 29 divisions have been engaged on the whole front of attack.

Captured Orders. (From G.H.Q. Summary).

The following order, issued by LUDENDORFF, shews the stress laid by the German Higher Command on the necessity for economizing men, owing to the present situation as regards man-power in Germany:-

"C.G.S. of the Field Army.
Ia/II No.8950, Secret op.

G.H.Q.
25.8.18.

It is essential that all commanders, of whatever rank, and all troops should be imbued with the idea that the war cannot be won by stubborn defence, but only by a further succession of vigorous attacks. These attacks, however, cannot lead to victory, unless we adhere to and improve on the methods of warfare adopted in the recent offensives.

In every case where the well tried principles of the "Manual of Infantry Training in War" (Part II), and the appropriate additions made to them by the Higher Command as a result of actual experience, were properly applied, success was gained at small cost. For example, the 11th Division, in the course of the attack South-west of NOYON from the 9th June onwards, succeeded, in very difficult hilly and wooded country, strongly entangled with wire, in breaking down the enemy's resistance, and fought there with good results for many days. It suffered, however, very small casualties, considering the violent nature of the fighting, because the new principles of warfare were properly applied by leaders of all grades.

Not only the probability of obtaining other successes by these methods, but also the situation as regards reinforcements, compels us to perfect them still further.

It is absolutely essential that we should avoid our old fault of attacking in too dense formations, and reduce our casualties by every possible means.

This necessity holds equally good for defensive fronts, even for those which, sooner or later, may become offensive fronts again. Divisions in line must do their utmost to reduce their casualties to an absolute minimum, by distribution in depth and the creation of an extended outpost zone.

In spite of all instructions, too much attention is still paid to the possession of ground, to holding or retaking portions of trench, villages, parts of woods, etc, and to fighting for points whose only value is "prestige" (Prestigepunkte).

Now more than ever, divisions in line in hostile attacks, both large and small, must if possible make use of the elastic defence (literally, elastic avoidance), even on the so-called unhealthy fronts. This procedure has proved its value repeatedly in the Group of Armies of Duke ALBRECHT of WURTEMBERG.

Owing to our reduced strength in the line, it will frequently be impossible to make the front line a continuous line of trenches, but it will almost always be found possible to create centres of resistance,

/concealed as far

WMA

(2)

concealed as far as possible from observation. "No Man's Land" must be secured by mobile patrols, in order to render enemy enterprises difficult in it.

Should the enemy gain a footing in our lines, commanders of all ranks must carefully consider whether a counter-attack is really necessary.

Very often troops are, in the end, quite happy without the possession of a particular piece of ground or trench, to recapture which a commander, without due consideration, thought he must risk a large number of lives.

It is therefore essential for the future conduct of the war to maintain everywhere our fighting strength and the spirit of the offensive. These two elements only will ensure our eventual success.

(sd) LUDENDORFF.

GERMAN AIR POLICY.

An order of the 183rd Inf. Regt., 192nd Div. (then in line near MOREUIL), is of interest as showing the passive attitude the enemy has been forced to take up on certain parts of the front; a translation of this order is given below:-

"183rd Infantry Regt.

Regtl. H.Q., 7th June 1918.

REGIMENTAL ORDER.

"All regiments have repeatedly complained that low-flying enemy aeroplanes are not interfered with by our fighter machines. In reply to these complaints, the Group points out that its resources in aircraft are so low, and those available are so busily engaged on reconnaissance work, that they cannot also be expected to engage machines carrying out low reconnaissance over our lines.

"The infantry must arrange for its own defence against enemy aircraft to a greater extent than heretofore.

"The Brigade has decided that, in future, complaints from units which have been harassed by low-flying machines will not be forwarded.

"I wish to draw the attention of all concerned to these instructions, and to ask the commander of the front line troops and the commander of the supports to determine immediately what machine guns they consider especially suited for anti-aircraft defence, particularly near the H.Q. of the O.C. front line troops and in the area under the O.C. supports.

"Reports will be forwarded to the Regiment by the morning of the 11th June."

XV Corps.
15th August 1918.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

A small party of the enemy advanced against one of our posts at X.21.d.70.65. but withdrew when fired on. A strong enemy patrol was seen moving from S. to N. in front of our posts on the left of the Right Division; it reached one of our listening posts and the sentry, attacking the patrol single handed, bayonetted the leader, an officer. The sentry was, unfortunately, killed by the patrol who then returned to their own lines. At 3.30 a.m., much movement being heard in front of our lines, artillery protective fire was called down; no enemy, however, were seen. Sniping and M.G.activity still continue.

There was considerable activity on forward systems and communications in the LA MOTTE and STRAZEELE Sectors in the evening and at 5.30 p.m. a heavy bombardment of H.E. and gas was fired on the road between VIEUX BERQUIN and the railway N. of it. VIEUX BERQUIN was also lightly gas shelled throughout the night. There was the usual harassing fire on forward areas. F.V. guns fired on LA MOTTE, HAZEBROUCK and LE ROUKLOSHILLE. There was less activity during the day. 21 cm.hows. intermittently shelled the vicinity of ROUGE CROIX and 10.5 cm.hows. registered VIEUX BERQUIN Church. Otherwise SEC BOIS, STRAZEELE, PHINCBOOM and the FLETRE - METEREN road were spasmodically harassed.

Aerial,

Enemy aircraft have not been active today. Three reconnaissances were made between BAILLEUL and VIEUX BERQUIN at 3,000 feet. Five scouts patrolled the same area at 1 p.m. Seven balloons have been up opposite the Corps front; of these, one was brought down in flames at 7.30 a.m.

Visibility from the ground generally has been poor and little movement was reported. Observed train movement showed one train going W. on the ARMENTIERES - LILLE line and one stationary with steam up in ARMENTIERES Station.

The enemy is reported to be occupying LYNDE FARM and, at night, to have 4 M.G. posts about 100 yards inside CELERY COPSE.

14:8:18.	111.I.R., 52nd Divn.	...	E.18.c.	...	Prisoner.
15:8:18.	169.I.R., 52nd Divn.	...	E.18.c.	...	Offr.killed
"	"	...	E.24.c.	...	wounded prisoner.

76V Major,
General Staff.

Patrols from the Centre Brigade, Right Division, moved forward at 4.30 a.m. this morning meeting with a certain amount of resistance. The line now held is approximately E.29.b.85.70. - E.30.a.2.4. - E.30.a.0.8. - E.24.c.2.2. - E.24.c.5.5. - E.24.c.7.6. - E.24.b.0.6.

ANU

GERMAN MATERIAL.

Reference XV Corps Intelligence Summary of 15/7/18.
A sufficient quantity of German soap has now been received.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EFFECTS OF OUR ARTILLERY FIRE.

A prisoner of the 52nd Division, captured near VIEUX BERQUIN, on the 11/12th inst., states men of the 207th Division, while handing over to the 52nd Division on the 7/8th inst., stated that our artillery had been very effective in blowing up large quantities of ammunition stacked in the forward areas. (OUTTERSTEENE - VIEUX BERQUIN areas).

EFFECT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

(Extract from diary of a man of 169.I.R., 52nd Divn.)
March 24th, 1918.

"After a long journey, arrived in LONGUYON, where the Railway station and almost the whole of the town had been badly demolished eight days previously. There is not a house with a roof on it - terrible devastation. Three bombs were dropped on an ammunition train which was in the station and which was loaded with 15,000 shells.

A train transporting aeroplanes (Flieger-Fahrt-Zug) was blown up, and railway trucks were found 400 metres away from the railway station".

(NOTE:- Our Sound Ranging Sections near ST.QUENTIN reported exceptionally heavy explosions far behind the enemy's lines about the date mentioned; no explanation has hitherto been forthcoming.

It is possible that the above incident may account for the explosions heard; LONGUYON is about 100 miles East of ST.QUENTIN.)

PIGEON LOFTS.

A prisoner of the 52nd Division, states that a mobile pigeon loft is situated immediately West of SAILLY. This loft is one of five which he believes are under the orders of the Corps. The birds are never kept in the front line longer than 48 hours and he states they are rarely used.

G.H.Q. SITUATION REPORT 10 a.m., 15/8/18.

The enemy holds PARVILLERS strongly. Our line has been slightly advanced between RAINECOURT and HERLEVILLE. The prisoners captured by the Fourth Army since 8th inst. are reported as 482 Officers, and 21,362 O.Rs. In the SERRE Salient our line runs East of SERRE and South of PUISEUX but the situation is not clear. North of ABLAINZEVILLE our patrols have advanced about 1,500 yards, capturing 44 prisoners and 3 M.Gs.

XV Corps "I".

15/8/18.

350
 Examination of wounded prisoner of 8th Coy., 169.I.R., 52nd Div.
 Captured in E.24.c.9.9 night 14th/15th Aug. 1918

RELIEFS.

On night 14/15th inst. the 2nd Bn., 169.I.R., came up from reserve and relieved part of a Bn. of 111.I.R.

DISPOSITIONS.

Two Coys. are forward and two in support.

MORAL.

Good. From prisoner it would appear that 169.I.R. is the best of the three Regts. in the 52nd Div.

OTHER UNITS.

Prisoner of 1st Coy., 169.I.R., who lost his way and wandered into our lines S. of MERRIS on the 14th inst. states that he saw men with 171 on their shoulder straps in SAILLY on the 10th inst.

Examination of prisoner of 5th Coy, 111.I.R, 52nd Div.,
 captured at E.18.d.0.8 night 14th/15th Aug. 1918.

DISPOSITIONS & RELIEFS.

The 2nd Bn., 111.I.R., came up into line on the night 13/14th inst., the 6th and 7th Coys. going straight into the front line and the 5th and 8th Coys. remaining in support about 300-400 metres behind the front line. The 2nd Bn., 111.I.R., apparently relieved a Bn. of the 170.I.R. as prisoner was positive that his Coy. relieved the 5th Coy., 170.I.R., in the support position. On the night 14th/15th inst. one platoon from the 5th Coy. moved up to the front line on the right of 7th Coy. to establish touch between the latter Coy. and the 169.I.R. on the right.

REST BILLETS.

The rest billets of the 111.I.R. are in SAILLY (apparently in houses along the road in G.16.d. and G.17.c.)

COMPANY STRENGTH.

The 5th Coy. has a trench strength of about 100.

LOSSES.

Prisoner was in a post with an N.C.O. and three men including himself. Just before dawn this morning (15th) the German artillery fired short and obtained a direct hit on the post killing two of the garrison.

INTENTIONS.

No knowledge of any impending attack or withdrawal.

XV Corps,

15/8/18.

YAN

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM PHOTOS OF

7,8,18. to 14,8,18.

No. 8.

DEFENCES.

Considerable work on enemy defences has appeared on photos taken during above period, though in many cases no photos had been taken since 31st July and 1st August. Work has however been also continued during the past week.

- (a) POSTS. A little work chiefly in METEREN-MERRIS Sector.
 - (b) TRENCHES. A new trench about 2500 yards long, presumably enemy main line of resistance, has been dug in METEREN-MERRIS Sector, E. of METEREN BECQUE between F.3.a. and F.8.c.
 - (c) WIRE. Large quantities of wire have been put up along the whole Corps Sector and with that already located can be divided as follows:-
 - (I). Main line from LYS in L.31.b. through L.19.central, K.18.b., L.8.a., along W. bank of LAUDICK BROOK to F.19.d. and from F.13.a., F.8.c. F.8.b., to F.5.a. - North of this the line appears to run in front of enemy present front posts in X.21.d., X.22., X.17., to N. of BAILLEUL in S.13.
 - (II). In front of line of slits from DERMOT HOUSE (F.4.c.) through F.4., F.5a, K.29.d., X.30.a., X.24. to W. edge of BAILLEUL in S.13.b. - This line is mostly old and is not yet complete though work has been continued during the period under review.
 - (III). Probably a 'switch' line S. of BAILLEUL from A.2.a. through S.26., S.21., to S.22.a.
 - (IV). What may be the commencement of the defences of STEENWERCK has been commenced in A.10.b. and d.
- Most of above wire is of the usual type, although that W. of the LAUDICK BROOK and in K.18. and L.13. appears to consist of two, three, or more strands of thin concertina wire or simply wire fences.

REAR ORGANISATIONS. Very little change.

- (a) BRIDGES. 5 traffic bridges have been removed or destroyed from the METEREN BECQUE in F.8., F.14., and F.20.
- (b) SCREENS. Old British dump in A.12. (STEENWERCK Station) has been thickly screened from the N.
- (c) DUMPS. A new supply dump has been located at LAVENTIE, and a little increase noticeable at that at BAC ST MAUR.
- (d) UNLOADING POINTS. have been seen active in L.33., G.18., and G.25.
- (e) ROAD has been repaired in F.11., and two new roads completed near ESTAIRES and LAVENTIE (the latter since 1.7.18 - no photo received during intervening period.)

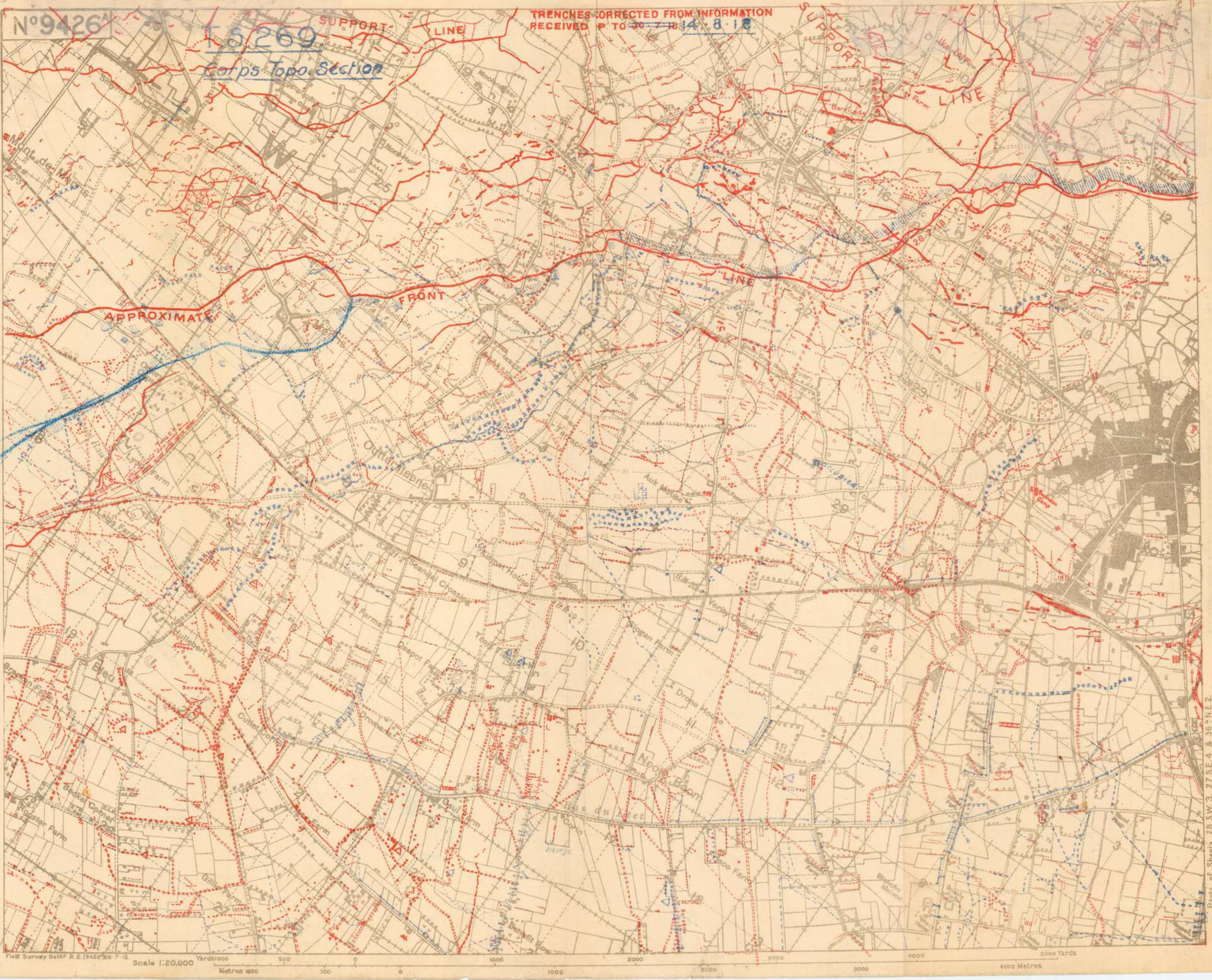
D. Hunter Lt.

XV Corps Branch Intelligence.

14.8.18.

36 Aug

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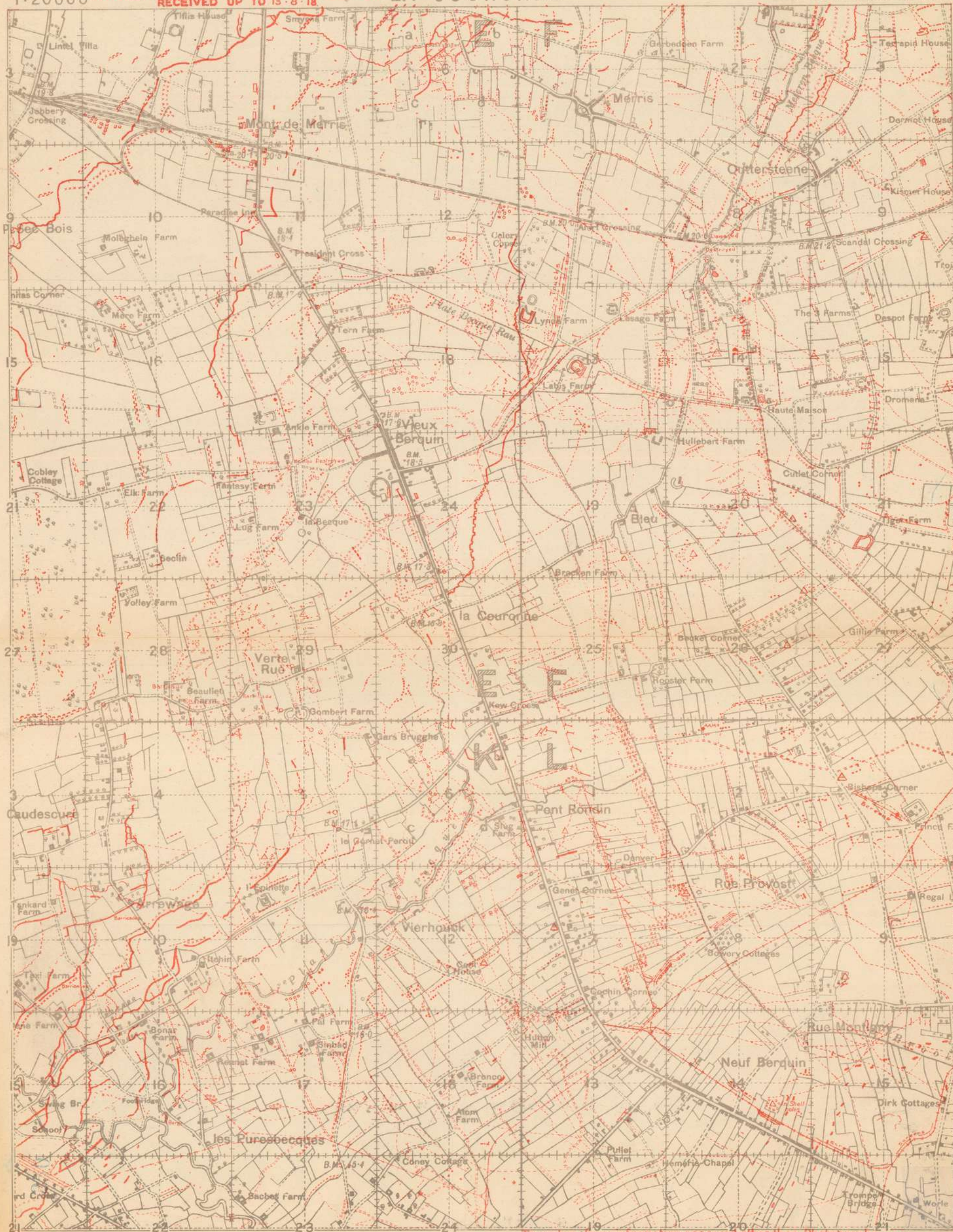
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APR

1:20000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION
RECEIVED UP TO 13.8.18

LA COURONNE

Part of Sheet 36^A N.E.

Field Survey Coy R.E. (6928) 14.8.18 (9513) 14.8.18

Trenches from information received other than Photographs

APPENDIX

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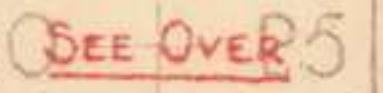
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36 Bae
W

- Reference -

<u>Existing work : Red.</u>	<u>New work: Purple.</u>
Railways +--+--+	Trench lengths ~~~~~
Areas of activity [Hatched Box]	Wire * * * * *
	Dumps. Δ

XV CORPS BRANCH INTELLIGENCE.
CORPS TOPO. SECTION. #3-8-18



SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM PHOTOS OF

22.8.18 to 27.8.18.

No.10.

DEFENCES.

The enemy has again made considerable progress with his defence systems. During the period under review he appears however to have concentrated his efforts mostly on a forward defence line, and this more especially in the OUTRISTELLE - MERVILLE Sector. The most important work can be grouped as under:-

1. Since our last summary the heavily wired line L.25., L.15., W. of LAUDICK BROOK - BLEU has been passed in many places by our advance and appears to have been replaced by a new line from the LYS in L.27., through L.21., L.15., L.9., L.3., F.27., F.21., F.22 to F.15. This has not yet been located continuously, probably on account of the poor photos obtained of certain areas. This line appears to be held with prepared shell holes and short trench lengths.

2. The S. of BAILLEUL - DOULIEU line has been strengthened and completed, and it would seem probable that this line (traced as far as DOULIEU) will eventually join up with above line in L.21. (traced from here N.E. as far as L.19.) or with new belt of wire commenced W. of ESTAIRES in L.29. This line has been considerably worked on and many short trench lengths dug. In places those have been joined to form a continuous trench.

3. The G.4. - LA GRECHE line of wire has been completely traced between above points, and also further N. as far as S.30. This wire is however considerably thinner than the two preceding, and no earth-works are visible as yet behind it. Indications would point to the two first lines being constructed for immediate defence and already in use, whereas the third more in the nature of an emergency line.

REAR ORGANISATIONS.

(a) RAILWAYS. A new short branch from the MERVILLE-LA GRECHE line in F.30.a. to LE VERRIER in A.25.b.

(b) DUMPS. Slight increase at pioneer dump in A.22.b. (STEENWERCK) and at unloading point in G.18.a. (BAC ST MAUR), the latter having the appearance of cement or sand.

(c) HOSPITALS. New signs have appeared on huts of previously located unit in A.24.d., whereas that in G.27.d. appears to be no longer in use as such.

(d) BALLOONS. Two new balloons have been located on ground in G.5.b. and G.28.b.

(e) LANDING GROUND (now) has been located in A.12.d. and 18.b.

28.8.18.

D. Hunter

Lt.

XV Corps Branch Intelligence.

COMMUNICATED
12/21/18
8-8-18
8-8-18

654

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320

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No. 284.

XV Corps.

29th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

No enemy patrols were met. The enemy's attitude remains unchanged.

Artillery.

Hostile artillery has been generally quiet. The area E. of METIEREN was shelled, chiefly with gas, during the night, and MONT DE TERRIS and VERTIN RUE were harassed. A 10 cm. gun fired incendiary shell on E.27.c. at 10.50 p.m. A 10 minutes concentration of gas was fired on the PORT RONDIN area at 5.10 am. but, otherwise, hostile shelling has been very slight. There was light shelling of FONTAINEHOUCK and some harassing fire on VIEUX BERQUIN and E. of STRAZEELE during the day. The reply to our barrage in connexion with the operations on the Right Divisional front was feeble and scattered.

Aerial.

During the morning four reconnaissances were made between DOULIEU and NEUF BERQUIN at 3,000 feet. A high reconnaissance was made at 9.20 a.m. over STEENVOORDE, ARQUES and HAZEBROUCK at 19,000 feet. Three balloons were seen up opposite the Corps front.

MOVEMENT.

Individual movement has been normal. Movement was observed in F.16.a. & b., F.9.b. and X.29.a.

Train movement during the day was as follows :-

ARMENTIERES - ESTAIRES line.	5 going E.	4 going W.
ARMENTIERES - PERENCHIES line.	1 going N.W.	
ARMENTIERES - WAVRIN line.	3 going S.E.	1 going N.W.
ARMENTIERES - WARINETON line.	1 going N.	

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A belt of wire running N.E. and S.W. through F.4.central is reported by a patrol, and it appears that the enemy is holding a first line of resistance through F.4.central - F.4.b.9.5.

A number of fires are reported in "L" squares, "G" squares, ESTAIRES, FLEURBAIX, LA GORGUE, LAVENTIE - BAC ST. MAUR, SAILLY - ARMENTIERES, E. of ESTAIRES, VIELLE CHAPELLE - BAC ST. MAUR, CHAPELLE DUVELLE - RUE DE LA LYA - DOULIEU, NIEPPE, STEENWERCK, BAILLEUL Station (large explosions). There were large explosions also at S.20.c.4.2. and G.25.d.8.9.

Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

As the result of a minor operation the Right Division advanced their line to L.8.c.4.3. - BOWERY COTTAGES inclusive (L.8.central) - RUE PROVOST road inclusive to BISHOP'S CORNER (L.3.a.5.0.). Number of prisoners not yet known.

Two more prisoners, wounded in yesterday's operation, have been brought in by the Right Division.

/EXTRACT FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY.

EXTRACT FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY.REDUCTION IN STRENGTH OF BATTALIONS.

Prisoners of the 2nd Guard Grenadier Regiment (2nd Guard Division), 121.R.I.R. (26th Reserve Division), and of the 11th Bavarian Division, recently captured, state that in their regiments a company in each battalion has been broken up.

This procedure has now been reported in the case of eight different divisions within a short period.

BATTLE FRONT SITUATION REPORT.

GREENLAND HILL (N. of the SCARPE) has been retaken by us. We have occupied BAPAUME and our troops are reported to be advancing through THILLOY and LIGNY THILLOY. We hold GUILLEMONT and GINCHY and the high ground to the N. of the latter, and we are reported to be E. of GUEEEECOURT. Further, S. we hold BARLEUX and VILLERS-CARBONNEL. The Third French Army has taken QUESNOY WOOD, E. of BEAULIEU and made progress in the Southern suburbs of NOYON. The Tenth French Army attacked at 7.25 a.m. and met strong resistance. Progress has been made on extreme left between NOYON and MORLINCOURT. The AILETTE has been crossed in places and Americans have made some progress in the centre of the attack.

XV Corps "I".

29/8/18.

A P P R E C I A T I O N .

The fires and explosions which have been in evidence opposite the right of the Corps front during the last three days have now spread Northwards. This evening many fires are reported in the NIEPPE area and scattered fires between this and STEENWERCK.

There are still a few forward field guns in the Eastern portions of the "F" and "L" squares; only nine other locations have been obtained West of STEENWERCK. Flashes of guns have been observed this evening as far back as ARMENTIERES.

Numerous churches and chimneys have been destroyed in the LYS Valley, including ERQUINGHEM Church which fell this afternoon. STEENWERCK Church is still standing.

The Corps on our right are advancing on ESTAIRES.

CONCLUSIONS. There are strong indications that the enemy is about to retire his line along the whole of this Corps front to a considerable depth. Demolitions in back areas reported this afternoon suggest a retirement to East of a general line NIEPPE - ERQUINGHEM - FLEURBAIX.

No. 285.

XV Corps,
30th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy has commenced his withdrawal opposite the Corps front and so far practically no opposition has been met with by our advancing patrols.

Artillery.

Night. Hostile artillery was unusually quiet during the night. Between 8.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. the areas F.10.d. and E.30.c. were shelled.

Day. Since the early morning activity has practically ceased except for a few rounds on OUTERSTEENE.

Aerial.

E.A. has not been active today. During the morning two reconnaissances were made between BAILLEUL and STEENWERCK, one at 15,000 feet and the other at 3,000 feet. Two strong fighting patrols also patrolled this area. One balloon was seen up opposite the Corps front.

MOVEMENT.

Practically no movement was reported other than that probably connected with the withdrawal.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A number of fires are still appearing opposite the Corps front; in the area STEENWERCK - NIJPE - ARMENTIERES-FLEURBAIX they are more pronounced today than mentioned yesterday and indicate a withdrawal to some depth by the enemy.

IDENTIFICATION.

30.8.18. 140.I.R., 4th Div.....DESPOT FARM (F.15.b.)...Dead man
(probably 24/48 hours old)

30.8.18. 1st Bn, 63.I.R., 12th Div....S. of BAILLEUL....Man killed.

W. J. Brooke
Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

As a consequence of the enemy's withdrawal a general line of patrols runs as follows:- Right Div. - ACTON CROSS - F.23.c.4.2 - in touch with Centre Div. about GORIN (F.17.c.). Centre Div. - NOOTE BOOM - F.12.c.1.9 - A.7.b.2.8 - BAILLEUL STATION with patrols pushing out across Railway towards MONT DE LILLE. Right Div. on line of Railway in S.21.a. and c. Enemy shelling Cemetery in F.12.a. and any movement round GAUL FARM (F.16.c.). Enemy snipers reported in PONT WELEAU.

SITUATION REPORTS - OTHER FRONTS.

First Army situation at 8 a.m. Our attack S. of CAMBRAI road believed to be progressing favourably. Our line was advanced about 1,500 yards on whole front between the SCARPE and SENSÉE.

Third Army situation at 11 a.m. Enemy still hold MORVAL and BEAULENCOURT. BANCOURT and PREMICOURT captured by us and our troops still fighting in RIENCOURT. VAULX VRAUCOURT captured by us with 250 prisoners but enemy still hold sugar factory N.W. of latter. LONGATTEE and ECOUST captured by us this morning with over 130 prisoners but heavy counter-attack drove us out again. Our line was driven back to E. outskirts of BULLECOURT but we still hold RIENCOURT and line runs through centre of HENDECOURT.

/ LATER.

LATER.

Reports indicate that we now hold the MONT DE LILLE. The line of the Corps on our left now runs:- LOCRE HOF FARM - S. of DRAMOUTRE - S.16.c.

A prisoner of the 56th Division, captured by the Corps on our left, states, under special examination, that the enemy's withdrawal commenced on the night of the 28/29th inst., to a line just West of ARMENTIERES. Parties of 'stoss-truppen' were left to cover the withdrawal with orders to make a display of strength. They were liberally provided with S.A.A., bombs and Very lights. The withdrawal from KEMMEL has also taken place, only covering troops remaining in position.

XV Corps "I".

30/8/18.

T.S. N° 280.

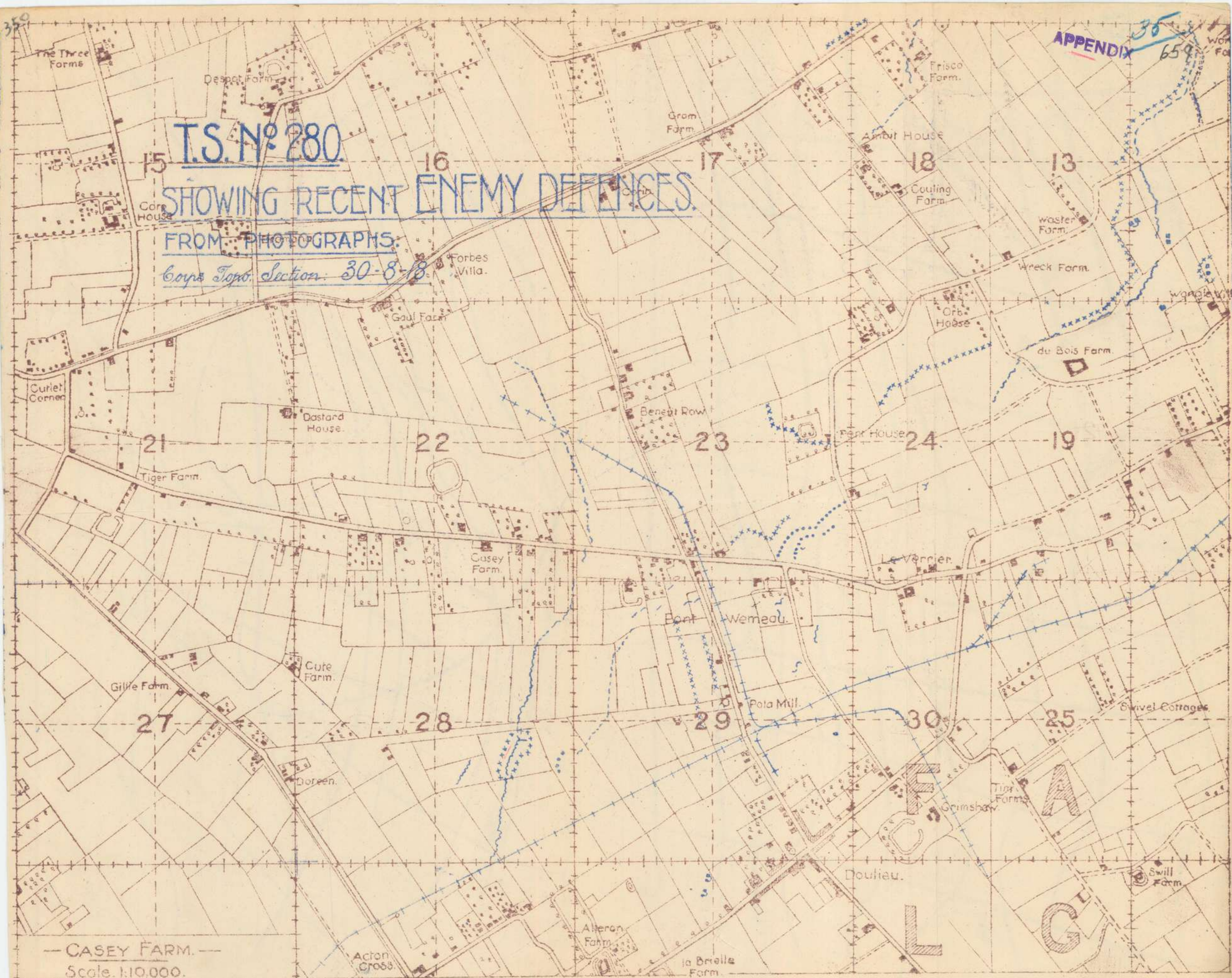
SHOWING RECENT ENEMY DEFENCES.

FROM PHOTOGRAPHS.

Coys Topo. Section: 30-8-18.

APPENDIX

659



CASEY FARM.

Scale: 1:10,000.

350

APPENDIX

36

660

SECRET.

36TH
(AUSTRALIAN) BDE
R.G.A.

29th Division No. C.G.S. 51/107.

XV Corps Heavy Artillery.

I 312.

all

Will you please accept my sincere thanks for your co-operation and very effective support during the minor operations of the 19th and 20th instant.

The work of the counter batteries on the evening of the 19th was very effective, the enemy shelling of OUTERSTEINE and the ridge being practically stopped one hour after calling on you for assistance.

(sd) H. KNOX.
Brigadier-General,
Commanding 29th Division

20th August, 1918.

- 2 -

XV Corps H.A. No. GM/2/101
21/8/18.

1st Brigade, RGA.
33rd Brigade, RGA.
36th Brigade, RGA.
45th Brigade, RGA.
64th Brigade, RGA.
"X" Brigade, RGA.

For your information.



H.Q.H.A., XV Corps.
21st August, 1918.

Major.
Brigade Major Heavy Artillery XV Corps.



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APPENDIX

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661

36TH (AUSTRALIAN) BDE., R.G.A.
No. <u>I 310</u>
Date.....

~~XXXXVI~~

all

XV Corps H.A.

XV Corps H.A: No. GM/2/101.
9th. Div. No. G.S.20/94.

I wish to thank you for the valuable support which you gave us in the capture of HOEGENACKER RIDGE on the 18th instant. German Artillery Officers who were captured expressed great admiration for the accuracy of the British Artillery fire on the 18th.

22/8/18.

(SD). H.H.TUDOR. Major-General,
Commanding 9th (Scottish) Division.

- 2 -

- 1st. Brigade, RGA.
 - 33rd. Brigade, RGA.
 - 36th. Brigade, RGA.
 - 45th. Brigade, RGA.
 - 64th. Brigade, RGA.
 - "X" Brigade, RGA.
-

For your information.

H.H. Tudor

YAK

H.Q. H.A. XV Corps.
22nd. August, 1918.

Major,
Brigade Major, Heavy Artillery, XV Corps.

Copies to battalions & divisions

350

350

C. M. G.

APPENDIX

~~XXXVII~~ ³²

662

36TH (AUSTRALIAN) BRIGADE R.G.A.

The health of the troops in general has been very good, discipline and morale of the very highest.

The equipment and clothing of the troops during the month under review has been well and liberally supplied.

An outstanding feature is the amount and quality of food supplied to the troops in the line. In view of the shortage of food for the civilian population, and the great number of American troops arriving, the quality and quantity of the food is indeed surprising, and plainly shows that every effort is being exerted to keep the belts of the troops tight without the usual tightening up of one hole.

Canteen have had great difficulty in obtaining supplies, and although a new form of registration has been made, at the present time stores are difficult and almost impossible to obtain. This ofcourse makes the supply of Regimental comforts more eagerly looked for.

31/8/18.

350
350
XV Corps H.A.

I.263/3.

Forwarding result of Air Burst Ranging series carried out by 155 Siege Battery RGA. in conjunction with No. 6 Observation Section on 3rd and 4/8/18.

The results show that Method 'A' gave the better results, the M.P.I. of ranging series being - 11^x - and when brought to the floor using 106 percussion Fuzes an M.P.I. of - 40 at 7,000^x. 106 Fuze ranges 36^x short compared with 101 which is similar in shape to 83/44.

With Method 'B' the ranging series gave an M.P.I. of plus 83. When brought to the ground with Percussion fuzes the M.P.I. was - 98^x using old pattern driving band, and - 170^x when using new driving band.

The gun used in the latter test had fired 3679 E. full charges with a loss of M.V. of 50 f.s. The new band gave a loss of M.V. of 12 f.s. as compared to old band.

6/8/18.

J.H. HURST,
SD. Lieut-Colonel R.A.A.
Commanding 36th (Aust) Brigade R.G.A.

No. 271.

APPENDIX 33
XV Corps.
16th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

An enemy patrol of 5 men approached our lines at E.18.a.8.1. but were dispersed by our Lewis gun fire. The enemy also made an attempt to re-occupy his post at E.30.a.1.5. but was again repulsed.

A heavy barrage was put down about 250 yards in front of our line W. of GAZA cross roads at 4.45 a.m., but no infantry action followed; possibly because part of his barrage fell on his own front line.

Snipers were active from houses on the VIEUX BERQUIN - KEW CROSS road.

Artillery & T.M's.

Increased activity was noticeable during the night, being largely gas shelling, partly by T.M's, on the areas round VIEUX BERQUIN and STRAZEELE. PRADELLES, MOOLENACKER and the area E. of NYANZA cross roads also received some gas. VIEUX BERQUIN, RUE DU BOIS, ANKLE FARM and the areas COURTE CROIX and METEREN were also at times heavily shelled. A heavy bombardment was opened on the front line in the STRAZEELE Sector at 5. a.m., gas being included. Activity during the day was more than usual. Two possible destructive shoots were attempted on siege batteries near SEC BOIS and LE ROUKLOSHILLE by 21 cm. Hows. Siege and field batteries in the BOIS D'AVAIL and S. of MONT DES CATS received frequent bursts. MERRIS was intermittently harassed during the day and posts in the vicinity of MERRIS and VIEUX BERQUIN received two short heavy concentrations. 15 cm. H.V. guns fired on BORRE and PRADELLES.

Aerial.

During the morning enemy reconnaissance machines were fairly active. Several reconnaissances were made over MERRIS, STRAZEELE and between VIEUX BERQUIN and MERVILLE. One machine fell over the VIEUX BERQUIN area at 900 feet. Three high reconnaissances at 17,000 feet were made over STEENBECQUE, HAZEBROUCK, STRAZEELE and CAESTRE. Three balloons were seen up opposite the Corps front.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been fair. No unusual movement was reported except that during the night (15th) in forward areas on the Left Divisional front. A 'GF' call was sent on 4 M.T. at F.29.d.25.85 and answered at 6.38 a.m.; two of the M.T. were hit causing an explosion and the other two were possibly damaged.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A document taken from the wounded prisoners gives exact front line dispositions of the 8th Coy., which are as follows :-

Coy.H.Q. F.2.c.85.80. and 1 platoon in trench.
Vide { 1 platoon along hedge from F.2.c.60.65. to F.2.c.98.70.
" { 1 " in trench from F.2.a.83.30. to F.2.b.1.9.
Photo { 2 Anti-tank guns on either side of road at F.2.c.92.85.
4.B.2673 { Small posts are at following places:- F.2.c.62.58. -
F.2.c.61.63. - F.2.c.70.96. - F.2.a.70.05.
(M.G's are located at F.2.c.72.60., F.2.c.50.65., F.2.a.70.15.,
F.2.a.81.31., F.2.a.86.65 & 2 in cottage at F.2.c.90.98.
Working parties were reported in X.16.d., X.21.c., X.22.c.
and X.27.d. A wiring party was reported in the sector K.6.a. -
K.6.c., where the wire is an almost continuous belt of concertina.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

16:8:18. 49.I.R., 4th Div. ... X.26.d. ... Deserters.
" " " " ... X.27.a. ... Prisoners.
" 111.I.R., 52nd Div.... E.24.c. ... Wounded prisoner.

H. Howler
for Major, Capt
General Staff.

J.H.A.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

A fighting patrol from the Right Division during the day captured one officer and one O.R. and one M.G., and the line now runs as follows :- E.24.a.98.58 - E.24.a.94.03 - E.24.a.70.00 - E.24.c.35.46 - E.24.d.98.35 across BECQUE at E.29.b.95.95. - E.30.a.10.65. - E.30.a.05.25.

The Centro Division captured 12 O.R.'s during a daylight patrol.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

RESERVES.

The Alpine Corps from reserve in LILLE area has come into line South of the SOMME.

There are 24 divisions in reserve on the Western front, available for immediate operations, of which 11 are between the sea and the OISE River.

ENEMY'S PRINCIPAL LOSSES IN PRISONERS IN SOMME BATTLE - 1st List.

Divisions losing about 800 prisoners and more :-

13th Division	....	2,763.
41st Division	....	2,488.
108th Division	....	2,203.
117th Division	....	1,858.
225th Division	....	1,732.
109th Division	....	894.
119th Division	....	828.
27th Division	....	787.

In addition, 9 other divisions lost prisoners varying from about 150 to 550 per division.

EFFECTS OF OUR ARTILLERY FIRE AND BOMBING.

(a) Deserters of the 11th Reserve Division who came over to our lines N. of BAILLEUL on the 12th inst., state on the 28th July a direct hit was obtained on a cellar in ARMENTIERES, killing 18 men and wounding many others; on the same day 5 men were killed in another house.

On another occasion a direct hit was obtained on a stable at PONT de NIEPPE killing 5 men, some horses and destroying a wagon.

(b) A captured order of the 108th Division (SOMME area) of the 9th May contains reference to casualties and damage caused by our bombing: the following is a translation of an extract :-

"3. At midday on the 9th May, two mail wagons were almost totally destroyed by a fire caused by enemy airmen at PERONNE Station. Apart from 54 bags of letters with money and 11 bags with valuables for the field post offices which collect mails at PERONNE, they contained all the Home and Army mails due on the 9th. It has not yet been ascertained how much has been salvaged."

NOTE:- PERONNE Station was bombed on the date mentioned.

G.H.Q. SITUATION REPORT 2.30 p.m., 16/8/18.

A heavy hostile counter-attack on DAMERY yesterday evening was repulsed. Enemy losses were heavy and 250 prisoners were taken by us. N. of HAMEL our line runs from the railway 500 yds. S.E. of BEAUCOURT - Wn. edge of PUISIEUX - FORK WOOD (1500 yds. N. of PUISIEUX) - Wn. edge of BOIS DE LOGEAST.

XV Corps "I".
16/8/18.

No. 272.

XV Corps.
17th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

Early on the morning of the 18th enemy M.G.'s. were brought to the Western edge of the enclosure in E.30.a. and a small post re-established in one of his trenches. At 6 a.m. one of our posts in X.36.d. was attacked by a party of about twelve of the enemy who were repulsed, at least one being killed. Our post at E.30.a.2.4 was attacked at 11.50 p.m. and dislodged but the position is now regained.

His general attitude is very alert and his snipers are noticeably active.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Activity during the night was quiet than usual. BOIS D'AVAIL, VIEUX BERQUIN, STRAZEELE, FLETRE and METEREN were lightly shelled during the early part of the night and light gas shelling occurred in the vicinity of SWARTENBROUCH. The day was also quieter. A field battery near PETITE MARQUETTE was subjected to a destructive shot by a 21 cm. how. and ROUGE CROIX, METEREN and LES 4 PILS AYMOR were shelled by 15 cm. hows. There were intermittent bursts of fire on VIEUX BERQUIN, STRAZEELE station, MERRIS and MOOLENACKER.

There was a certain amount of T.M. activity, more especially on the Left Divisional front.

Aerial.

E.A. were very active in the early morning. Thirteen reconnaissances in all were made between BAILLEUL and MERVILLE. Sixteen enemy scouts patrolled between STEENWERCK and VIEUX BERQUIN. One enemy two-seater was forced to land near MERVILLE by four Allied scouts.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been poor to fair. Very little movement is reported except for rather abnormal movement opposite the Left Divisional front on the morning of the 17th.

Air observers reported abnormal movement, nature unknown, on roads PONT DE NIEPPE - ESTAIRES moving S.W., and LOHME, ARMENTIERES, HERLIES, AUBERS, and RADINGHEM - BOIS GRENIER all moving N.W; also M.T., quantity unknown, in B.26, 27 and 28 (Sheet 36) moving N.E. and A.18 and B.13 (Sheet 36) moving F.E.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A continuation of work is noticeable opposite most of the Corps front but nothing especial has been reported during the last 24 hours.

IDENTIFICATION.

17.8.18. 7th Coy., 111.I.R., 53rd Div....E.24.c.....Man killed.

ERNAISON Capt
Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

An officer and one O.R. of the Centre Division rushed an enemy post at F.2.b.2.9 killing one of the enemy and capturing seven. The same officer and 6 O.R. went out again to try and capture another post in the vicinity of the first post attacked. They succeeded in securing three more prisoners but unfortunately the officer was severely wounded in the fighting.

/ Patrols from the Right Division

- 2 -

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT (contd.)

Patrols from the Right Division started out at 8.30 a.m. generally meeting with heavy opposition which considerably impeded the advancing of our line. After patrol fighting throughout the day, the line was advanced to posts as follows:- E.24.c.43.65, E.24.c.33.55, E.24.c.30.45 - E.24.c.25.15. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy and two prisoners were captured.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.GERMAN TANK DETACHMENTS.

The following information is given in War Ministry order No.994/18. Secret.A.7 V., dated 7th July 1918:-

Organisation.

The 1st-3rd Tank Detachments (Sturm-Panzerkraftwagen-Abteilungen), each consist of 5 German tanks (Geschutz-Panzerkraftwagen (A 7 V-Wagen)). Other detachments, numbered from 11 upwards, each consist of 5 captured tanks (Boutotanks), 2 male (Geschutz-) and 3 female tanks (M.G.-Panzerkraftwagen).

The strength of the German tank detachments in the field appears to be as follows:-

1st-3rd Detachments	...	...	15 German tanks.
11th-15th Detachments	...	...	25 captured tanks.

Also, as further captured tanks become available:-

16th-22nd Detachments	35 captured tanks.
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A total of 40 tanks, which it is proposed to increase to 75 tanks.

Establishment of a tank detachment.

The detachment commander (a captain) and 4 lieutenants, each command one tank. In addition, each odd-numbered detachment has a machine gun officer and each even numbered detachment has a field artillery officer, making in either case, a total of 6 officers in the detachment.

The remaining personnel for a tank detachment is :-

German tank = 170 O.R. Captured tank = 134 O.R.
Crew of a German (A 7 V) tank.

Crew of a German (A 7 V) tank is 1 officer and 15 other ranks.

2. GAS MASKS FOR GERMAN MESSENGER DOGS.

According to a captured document, the German messenger dog's attendant carries a box containing a gas mask for his dog, either slung over his shoulder or hooked on to his belt.

The mask consists of a pointed nose-bag, which is secured over the dog's head by a broad fur-lined collar band, in which there are holes for the dog's ears. This collar fastens on the dog's neck with a hook and eye, and under his throat with a strap and buckle tapes. The eye-pieces are similar to those of the men's masks and are either of glass or mica. The mask can be put on over the dog's collar, should there be no time to remove the latter.

It is stated that the material (not leather) of which this mask is made is impregnated with a particular solution and when dry should be moistened with water.

NOTE. - German gas masks and anti-gas equipment for dogs, pigeons and horses are required for examination.

EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS OF the 2nd and 5th Company, 49 I.R.,
Captured F.2.b, 16.8.18.

RELIEFS.

1st Bn. from reserve at LE VERRIER, F.24.c, relieved the 2nd Bn. in front line on night 15th/16th instant.

It is rumoured that the whole of the 4th Divn. is to be relieved on about the 21st instant.

DISPOSITIONS.

1st Bn. had 3 companies West of the METEREN BECQUE and 1 in close support in the Main Line of Resistance just East of the BECQUE.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

2nd Coy. Trench strength 48 O.R. plus 15 rations carriers and 8 signallers - a total of 71.

5th Coy. Trench strength 45 O.R.

REST BILLETTS.

Rest billets, 49 I.R., are in BAC ST. MAUR.

HEADQUARTERS.

4th Divisional Headquarters - FLEURBAIX.

INTENTIONS.

Several of the prisoners ^{have} heard rumours of a withdrawal to a line which is being prepared by pioneers in rear of their present positions.

1 prisoner who was in BAC ST. MAUR on the 5th inst. states that the large ammunition dump ^{there} was entirely cleared by that date, trains having been loaded up with the ammunition practically every night since the last week in July.

It was expected that we should attack on about the 13th inst. and on account of this the 1st Bn. was brought up from reserve at LE VERRIER and put into close support, in the Main Line of Resistance East of the METEREN BECQUE, to the 2nd Bn. which was holding the line, and the 3rd Bn. was moved up from BAC ST. MAUR to the reserve position at LE VERRIER vacated by the 1st Bn. On the night 14th/15th inst. the 1st and 3rd Bns. were brought back to the normal reserve and rest positions respectively.

OTHER UNITS.

A prisoner of the 5th Coy. states that he saw men of the 5th LANDWEHER F.A.R. whilst in reserve about 10 days ago.

MORAL.

The moral of the 49th I.R. is not good.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prisoner belonging to 5th Coy. was captured by the Russians in Jan. 1915 and remained in their hands until the 18th March, 1918, when he arrived at WARSAW where he stayed until the 13th April then going on leave until the 7th June on which date he was posted to the 1st Ersatz Bn. of the 49th I.R.

XV Corps G.S. "I",

17.8.18.

No. 273.

XV Corps.
18th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

Enemy resistance to our patrol activity has greatly stiffened on the Right Divisional front, but in the main his attitude has undergone little change. One patrol was met during the night opposite the Left Divisional front.

Artillery.

The night was quieter. BOIS D'AVAIL, BORRE, PRADELLES, VIEUX BERQUIN, LE ROUKLOSHILLE and the METEREN area were lightly harassed. The ROUGE CROIX - STRAZEELE road was lightly gas shelled. Retaliation to our barrage this morning was ragged and chiefly confined to the trenches S. of METEREN and to MOOLENACKER. New posts and the MONT DE MERRIS area received fairly heavy bursts, but infantry action in the afternoon received little support. Roads and battery areas round BOIS D'AVAIL, ROUGE CROIX and FLETRE were spasmodically harassed. A heavy concentration was put down this afternoon on the line TERRAPIN HOUSE - OUTERSTEENE; no infantry action followed.

Aerial.

Enemy aircraft have not been active today. Several reconnaissance machines and scouts were seen in the BAILLEUL - OUTERSTEENE area. One E.A. was brought down in flames at 5.36 p.m.

MOVEMENT.

(17th) Movement of small parties in marching order was seen in X.29.b. and F.6.a. going towards the line; slight individual movement was also seen on track F.13.c. and F.25.a. & b. Otherwise movement, except that previously reported, was normal.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

18:8:B .	23.I.R.	} 12th Divn.	} N. of	} Prisoners.
	62.I.R.			
	45.Ldw.Foot.Arty.Bn.			
	68.Foot Arty.Bn.			
	128.Funkor Abteilung. *	} 4th Div.	} S. of	} Prisoners.
	49.I.R.			
	140.I.R.			
	53.Field Arty.Regd.)			
	48.Foot Arty.Bn.			

* Trench Wireless Det.

Ernst as on Capt.
for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

At 11 a.m. this morning an attack was launched on the front of the Left and Centre Divisions of the Corps. The attack progressed well and the Left Division were reported to have captured HOEGENACKER MILL by 11.20 a.m. The Centre Division, passing through their first objective, seized OUTERSTEENE and the Sn. end of the spur down to the BAILLEUL railway. All objectives were gained on the front of attack.

Our barrage was opened at the same time as the launching of the attack and appears to have been extremely good and very effective. The line, as far as determined, runs as follows :- X.22.a.6.3. - X.22.c.75.50. - X.28.b.1.8. - X.28.cent.-100 yds. N. of road running N.E. through N.28.c. to TERRAPIN HOUSE - thence to F.3.b.3.1. - F.3.d.0.0. - F.9.a.7.8. - F.9.a.5.5. - F.9.a.0.2. - F.8.d.80.65. - along BAILLEUL Rly. to ALERT CROSSING - F.7.c.50.78. - F.7.c.38.45. - E.12.d.65.20. - E.18.b.4.6.

/The Centre Divn.

J.H.H.

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SHORTAGE OF HORSES IN THE GERMAN ARMY

"We must take care of our horses as they cannot be replaced.

(b) The drastic measures now being adopted to obtain remounts in the German Army are illustrated by the statement of a prisoner of the 214th Division to the effect that, a fortnight ago, 900 remounts had been received by the Division which were nearly all riding horses taken from officers.

[illegible]

XV Corps "I".

18/8/18.

Prisoners. { H. of
METHUEN
DECOUR.

8. of
MAY 1950
BUREAU

45. Foot Arty. Bn.
 55. Field Arty. Bn.
 140. I. R.
 40. I. R.
 188. Cavalry Bn.
 88. Foot Arty. Bn.
 45. Field Arty. Bn.
 60. I. R.
 57. I. R.

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At the Centre Div.

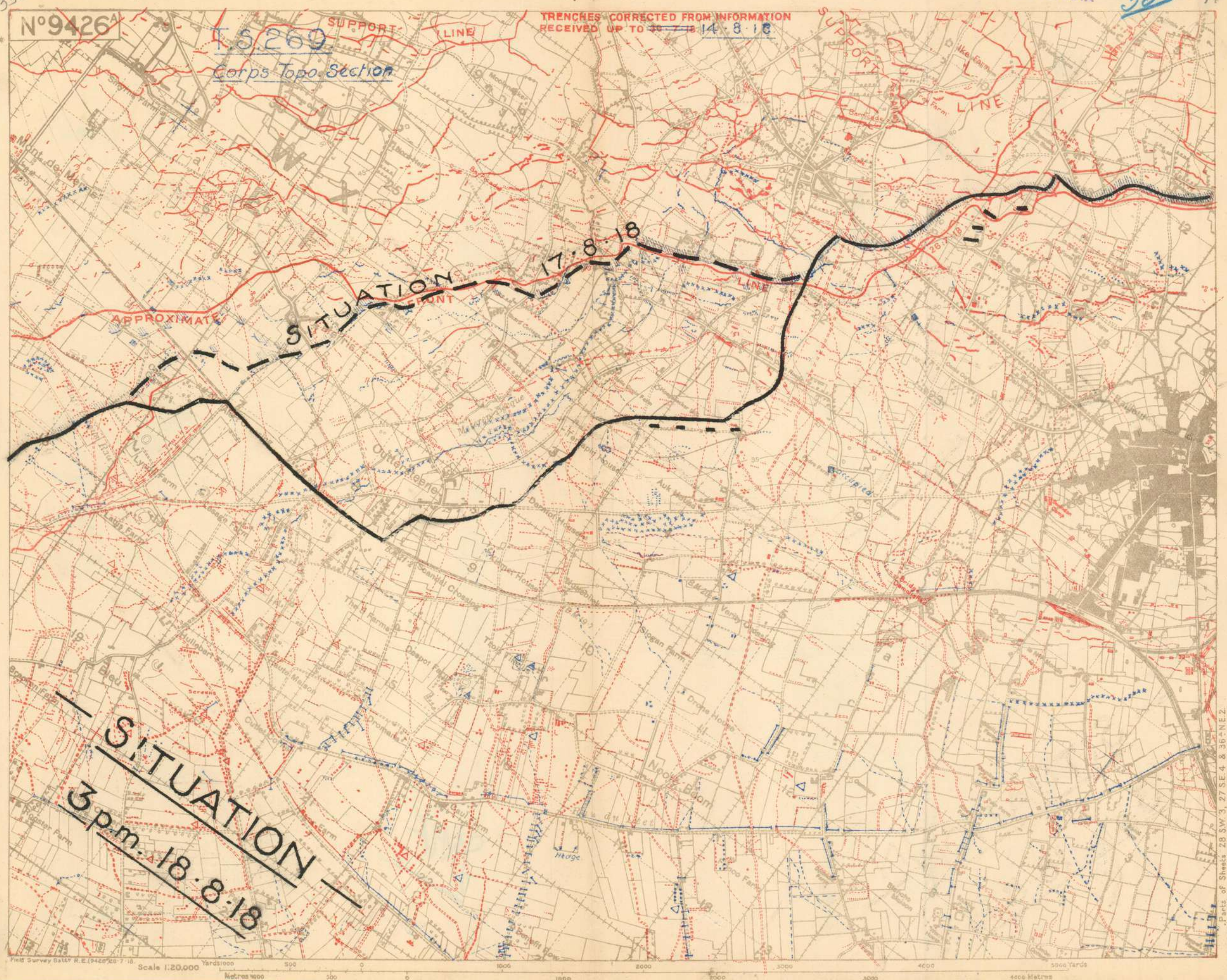
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T. 5/269

Corps Topo Section

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 14.8.18



Scale 1:20,000

Parts of Sheets 28 SW 3, 27 SE 4 & 36 NE 2

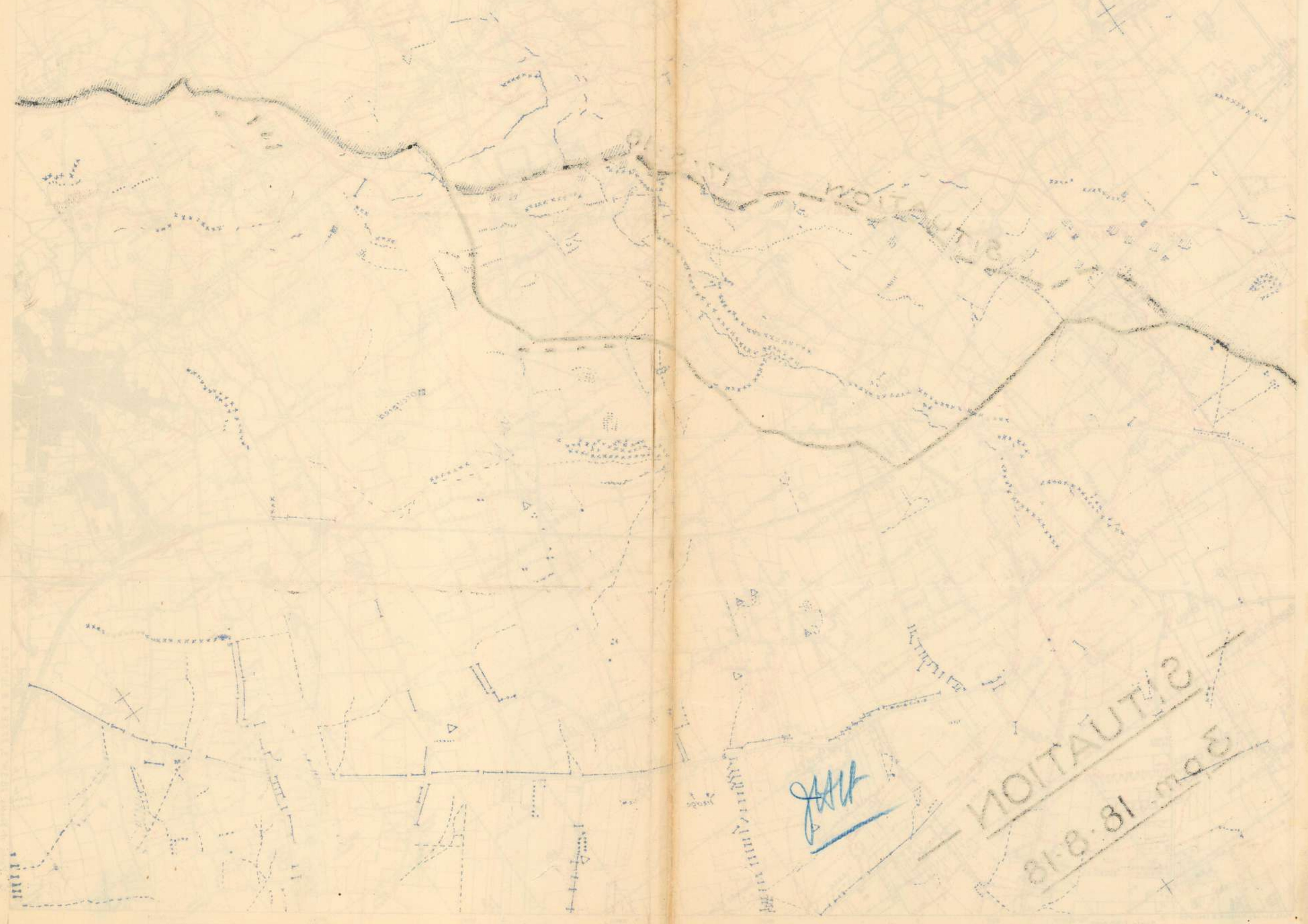
APPENDIX

14-8-81

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T.S. 269
Corps Topo Section

No 9450



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SITUATION
30m 18-8-81

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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS OF 23.I.R. & 62.I.R.,
12TH DIVISION AND 49.I.R., 4TH DIVISION CAPTURED N. & S.
OF THE METELEN BECQUE - AUGUST 18TH 1918.

OUR ATTACK.

Prisoners are unanimous in stating that our attack was a complete surprise today. It appears that an attack was expected in the near future but that no-one expected it would take place in daylight.

A fairly reliable N.C.O. of the 23.I.R. states that about 4 days ago reports were received from airmen that the English had a large number of troops opposite them.

A Sorgt. of the 62.I.R. further states that yesterday evening he received orders that in case of a hostile attack he should withdraw with his light M.G. to the ridge.

OUR BARRAGE.

According to prisoners' statements our barrage was excellent and gave the troops in the front line no possible chance of escape. Our smoke barrage also appears to have been very effective as prisoners complain that they were unaware of the presence of our troops until the latter were right on top of them.

COMPANY STRENGTHS.

Coy.	Regt.	Ration strength.	Trench strength.
9th	62.I.R.	-	62 and 5 light M.G's.
10th	"	180-200	60 " 5 " "
12th	"	-	45-50 " 5 " "
3rd M.G.	23.I.R.	98	36, i.e. 9 guns in line each with crew of 3 men and 1 N.C.O.
1st	49.I.R.	-	80.

LOSSES.

The 9th Coy., 62.I.R., according to a very reliable prisoner, had the Coy. Commander, one of the Platoon Commanders and about 25 O.R's. killed by our barrage today. According to him, the Coy. now no longer exists.

The 1st Coy., 49.I.R., whilst in support, had two killed, one wounded and two gassed. In today's operation, the Coy. Commander with one or two men alone offered any resistance and all three were killed; the rest of the Coy. appear to have been taken prisoners.

Previous to our attack today, none of the regts. to which prisoners belong appear to have suffered heavy losses.

INTENTIONS.

From prisoners' statements, there would appear to be very little indication of the enemy's intention to withdraw from this front.

A few days ago the General commanding the 12th Division (Lieut.-Gen. LEQUIS) addressed the troops and after referring to the excellent record of the 12th Division in the past, exhorted them to stand fast and not yield ground to the enemy.

RELIEFS.

The 3rd Bn., 62.I.R., relieved the 2nd Bn. about three days ago. The 1st Bn. is to relieve the 3rd Bn. on the night 20/21st inst. but this relief will probably be accelerated by our attack today.

/ TRANSFER OF CAVALRYMEN TO THE INFANTRY.

JH

- 2 -

TRANSFER OF CAVALRYMEN TO THE INFANTRY.

One prisoner, a Pole, was transferred on the 1st August 1918 to the 9th Coy., 63.I.R., from the 9th Ulanen Regt., 6th Cav.Div. He states that from each Squadron of all three Regts. of the 6th Cav.Div. two or three N.C.O's. and one Lieut. were taken and transferred to the infantry; they were replaced by a similar number of officers and N.C.O's. from the infantry. Prisoner can give no reason why this was done. He was the only one to come to the 63.I.R. and was still wearing his cavalry uniform when captured. He states that the moral of the Ulanen Regts. is excellent and evinces great contempt for the men of his present Coy. amongst whom are a number of Poles whose moral appears to be very bad. This prisoner states that the horses were taken from the 6th Cav.Div. in October 1917 and the whole Division trained as infantry.

HEADQUARTERS.

12th Divisional Headquarters ... GRIS POT (H.24, Sheet 36)

REST BILLETTS.

3rd M.G.Coy, 23.I.R. ... L'HALLOBEAU (Sheet 36.B.25)

EFFECT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

One prisoner was in COURTRAI on the afternoon of 1st Aug. and states that bombs dropped on the railway station wounded ten soldiers.

A reliable prisoner states that on bombing nights troops are sometimes withdrawn from the villages and sleep in the open some distance away.

OTHER UNITS SEEN.

Prisoners examined up to the present all state that they have not seen any other troops behind the front with the exception of those belonging to their respective divisions.

XV Corps,

18/8/18.

350
No. 274.

APPENDIX

35 674
XV Corps,
19th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy counter-attacked our new line in X.27.d. about 9 p.m. (18th) but the attack was broken up by artillery and M.G. fire, and up to the present he has taken no steps to regain the lost ground. A fighting patrol on the night 17th/18th advanced at the charge against a post at E.24.a.85.45 but was driven off. Another patrol tried to rush the same post later on but was also driven off. At 1.45 p.m. (18th) the post at E.24.b.05.74 was attacked by an enemy patrol which was driven off.

Artillery.

There was considerable activity during the evening on our new posts in front of HOEGENACKER and OUTERSTEENE, especially on the latter. The front line near CORNET PERDU, the BOIS D'AVAIL and VIEUX BERQUIN were subjected to heavy bursts. There was gas shelling on the COURTE CROIX area, and ROUGE CROIX was spasmodically shelled by 31 cm. hows. HOEGENACKER ridge and OUTERSTEENE were heavily shelled during the morning but otherwise the day was quiet. 21 cm. hows. harassed roads N. of METEREN, and CAESTRE was registered by 15 cm. H.V. guns. The forward areas and tranchos were harassed and heavy bursts were directed on the OUTERSTEENE ridge and the area N. of METEREN.

Aerial.

E.A. have been active today. Nine reconnaissances were made at 3,000 feet between BAILLEUL and OUTERSTEENE. Sixteen enemy scouts patrolled from DOULIEU to ESTAIRES. Balloons were seen up opposite the Corps front in eight different positions; two of these were brought down in flames by our scouts.

MOVEMENT.

No abnormal movement other than that connected with the operations on the 18th and 19th is reported.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

18.8.18. 72nd Trench Wireless Det.....N. of METEREN BECQUE...

.....Prisoners.
19.8.18. 140.I.R., 4th Div...S. of HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL railway...

.....Prisoners.
CORRECTION. Ref. Corps Summary No. 273 - IDENTIFICATIONS.
For "128. Funker Abteilung" read "182. Funker Abteilung".

ERNA SON Capt
for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

(18th) There is nothing to add to yesterday's report on the operations. The total number of prisoners is as now reported:-
9th Div. 8 Offs. 239 O.Rs. unwounded 35 O.Rs. wounded.
29th Div. 10 " 346 " " 38 " "

(19th) An attack was launched by the Centre and Right Divisions during the afternoon. All objectives, which included the VIEUX BERQUIN - OUTERSTEENE road and LABIS FARM inclusive, have been gained. The Right Division estimate number of prisoners captured at 40 and the Centre Division at 50. Further details are as yet not to hand.

JAW

36



Scale 1:50,000
Sheet 5125 and
5126

No. 275.

XV Corps,
20th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

A strong enemy patrol of about 50 was dispersed by rifle and M.G. fire in F.14.b. It appears that the enemy is holding his line very thinly at the moment, one Coy. covering in many cases a two-Coy. sector. No effort has been made to regain the lost ground.

Artillery & T.M.'s.

Very little retaliation was offered to the barrages supporting our operations. There was harassing fire in short bursts on STRAZEELE Station, MONT DE MERRIS, OUTERSTEENE ridge and METEREN. There was normal activity during the day, chiefly on the area between HOEGENACKER and VIEUX BERQUIN. An area shoot lasting three-quarters of an hour was carried out on the reverse slope of the OUTERSTEENE ridge during the morning and it is reported that KISMET HOUSE, BLEU and HULLEBERT FARM were shelled during the afternoon. Batteries located during the last 24 hours have been very far back on a rough line STEENWERCK - PETIT MORTIER - ESTAIRES.

There was some T.M. activity.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made between STRAZEELE, DOULIEU and ESTAIRES during the morning at an average height of 1500 feet. Three balloons were up opposite the Corps front during the day.

MOVEMENT.

Slight movement was seen round ROOSTER FARM and BLEU (19th); also N.E. of STEENTJE and in F.11.a.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

19.8.18. 60th Disciplinary Coy.....METEREN area.....Prisoner.
19.8.18. 169.I.R., 52nd Div...S.of HAZEBROUCK-BAILLEUL rly....
...Prisoners
20.8.18. 140.I.R., 4th Div....OUTTERSTEENE area.....Prisoner.
" 14.I.R., 4th Div....OUTTERSTEENE area.....Prisoners

CRW Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

An attack was launched at 5 p.m. (19th), with an artillery barrage, to occupy the line E.34.a.9.5, along the VIEUX BERQUIN - OUTERSTEENE road up to and including LABIS FARM, thence through F.13.b. and F.8.c. A slight check was received at LABIS FARM itself where the enemy put up a stiff fight but eventually all objectives were gained and the following captures made:-

	Offs.	O.Rs.	M.Gs.
Centre Division ...	1	111	8
Right Division ...	-	50	

XV Corps,

20/8/18.

gna

FURTHER INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PRISONERS OF THE 4TH AND
12TH DIVISIONS. & 187TH DIVISION.

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

An 'Offizier Stellvertreter' of the 49.I.R., who appears reliable, states that the 53rd Field Arty. Regt., was withdrawn on the 16th inst., and that a general withdrawal was contemplated to a line running through LE VERRIER.

Another prisoner of the 12th Coy. 62.I.R., who was the Company Commander's orderly, states that on the evening of the 17th inst. a Brigade Order arrived stating that a very strong attack was expected on the early morning of the 18th inst. and that the line must be held at all costs.

A prisoner of the 2nd Bn., 188.I.R., 187th Div., captured this evening (20th) in K.6.b. (S. of LA COURONNE) states that two Companies of his Battalion are on the Eastern side of the PLATE BECQUE acting as a screen to the main body of the 188.I.R. which has withdrawn to a line about 1 kilometre East of the VIEUX BERQUIN - NEUF BERQUIN road. Orders have been issued to these two Companies to the effect that they are to hold on until pushed by our patrols when they are to retire to the main body which is, apparently, holding the line of the LAUDICK (F.25., L.1.)

ORDER OF BATTLE.

The Order of Battle opposite the Corps front from N. to S. appears to be

12th Division.	
49th I.R.	} 4th Divn.
140th I.R.	
14th I.R.	
188th I.R., 187th Divn.	

RELIEFS.

The 52nd Divn. appears to have been relieved S. of the HAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL railway by the extension inwards of the 4th and 187th Divns.

This relief was apparently carried out as follows :-
The 49th I.R. side slipped as far as the HAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL railway taking over the sector of the 140.I.R., which, in its turn, came into line S. of the railway relieving the 169.I.R., 52nd Divn., and probably also the 111.I.R., 52nd Divn.

The 170.I.R., 52nd Divn. was relieved by the extension Northwards of the 188.I.R. on night 19/20th inst.

SIGNAL DETACHMENT. 140.I.R.

Prisoners were captured belonging to the Light Signal Detachment of the 140.I.R. It appears that they arrived in the front line on the evening of the 18/19th inst. and had orders to establish communication between the front line and Battalion H.Q. in case of a further attack by us. This proved impossible owing to the lie of the ground and to the distance. Prisoners state that a Signal Detachment (Nachrichtenzug) consists of light signallers and telephonists. There were three Light Signal 'Trupps', each consisting of 4 men, attached to the 1st Bn. of the 140.I.R.

XV Corps "I".
20/8/18.

No. 376.

XV Corps,
21st August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

On the Left and Centre Divisional fronts the enemy's attitude is unchanged as yet but on the right his line appears to be in process of withdrawal. Snipers and M.G.'s. are still active.

Artillery.

There was light gas shelling of STRAZEELE during the night. The front trench systems in the VIEUX BERQUIN - METELEN area, especially CELERY COPSE and OUTTERSTEENE, were harassed by night and OUTTERSTEENE and TERRAPIN HOUSE by day. Very few 77 mm. guns and 10.5 cm. hows. are reported active; a few 15 cm. hows. were active but most of the shelling was by 10 cm. guns.

Aerial.

E.A. were active early in the day. Seven reconnaissances at an average height of 2,000 feet were made between ESTAIRES, LA GOURONNE and DOULIEU. Three high reconnaissances at 19,000 feet were made over ST. SYLVESTRE CAPPEL, CASSEL, FLETRE, STRAZEELE, HAZEBROUCK and SEC BOIS. Three balloons were up opposite the Corps front during the day.

MOVEMENT.

(30th) Visibility from the ground was good. Opposite the Left Divisional front movement was rather above normal, small parties being seen in F.10.d., F.11.c., F.17.c. and L.5.b. and d. (21st) Visibility was fair. No abnormal individual movement was reported.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Working parties were seen at about F.5.a.6.8 and X.17.a.35.10. New work was observed about X.22.b.95.25 and wire in good condition between X.22.b.9.9 and X.22.b.85.30.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

21.8.18. 188.I.R., 187th Div.....F.25.c. & K.6.b....Prisoners.

E. R. Mason Capt.

for Major,
General Staff.OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Patrols from the Centre Division established a line F.8.c.5.4 - F.14.c.5.4 which will be consolidated later. One patrol reached to within 100 yards of HAUTE MAISON but our own and hostile artillery fire prevented further progression.

The Right Division sent out patrols who have reached a general line F.21.a.central - F.23.central - KEW CROSS - PONT RONDIN - GENT HOUSE where they are now in touch with the Division on the right. Four unwounded and two wounded prisoners were taken.

LATER.

Patrols of Right Brigade, Centre Division, are at SANDAL CROSSING (F.9.c.) - LES 3 FERMES (F.15.a.) - HAUTE MAISON (F.14.d.). 1 field gun captured at F.14.a.7.1.

/ EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

- 2 -

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.EFFECTS OF OUR ARTILLERY FIRE.

The following information has been obtained from prisoners of the 23.I.R., 32.I.R. (12th Div.), 49.I.R. and 140.I.R. (4th Div.), captured on the 18th inst. in the HAZEBROUCK sector :-

(a) One prisoner states having seen a considerable amount of wreckage and dead horses lying at the sides of the roads and tracks between the BAILLEUL railway and STEENWERCK. This, he states, was caused by our artillery fire on ammunition columns which were endeavouring to take ammunition stacked in the forward areas back to the rear. He states that it is common knowledge that of late ammunition columns have suffered more casualties than the infantry.

(b) A direct hit was obtained on an observation balloon recently which was just about to ascend in the neighbourhood of CROIX DU BAC. The balloon burst into flames and 17 of the personnel are stated to have lost their lives. This is confirmed by prisoners of other regiments.

(c) The burials in the cemetery at SAILLY are said to average 60 a day. Large numbers of men, however, are buried in the vicinity of the front line.

(d) On about 2nd August, one of our heavy guns, which prisoner stated was firing from the direction of YPRES, obtained a direct hit on a cellar under a house behind the brewery at OUTERSTEENE; 34 men belonging to the 6th Coy., 140.I.R., who were sheltering there, were all killed.

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

Extracts from a captured German order of the 4th Division, dated 12/8/18 :-

"Divisional Order for the construction of concrete command posts and machine gun emplacements behind the artillery protective line in the Divisional Sector".

X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X

(The order states that concrete dugouts are either under construction or are to be constructed in the near future, for command posts for Brigade, Regimental, Artillery, and Machine Gun Detachments).

X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X . . . X

(3) Further concrete work may be constructed, behind the line, Western edge of DOULIEU - Western edge of LE VERRIER, by units who have the necessary labour available.

EXTRACTS FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY.1. GERMAN DISCIPLINE.

A secret order of the 18th May, 1918, signed von TSCHISCHWITZ, Chief of Staff, Second German Army, runs as follows :-

"It has recently become known that, on the 24th March, our troops shot down one of our own contact patrol machines at CLERY and secretly buried the dead occupants.

"An official inquiry has been arranged.

"Should one of our airmen by an unfortunate mistake attack our own troops, the troops in question should make known their identity by sending up a white signal rocket and report the matter as soon as possible.

"Such a procedure as that described above is unworthy of the German Army.

"The episode....

"The episode must be used as an object for instruction, and it should at the same time be explained that contact patrols in the attack have to open fire upon the enemy's lines while they are still over their own troops. This may produce a mistaken idea among the troops that they are themselves being fired upon."

3. SHORTAGE OF ARTILLERY HORSES.

The following is the translation of a captured German document:-

Crown Prince RUPPRECHT'S Group
of Armies. Art. No. 48403.

Army H.Q.
18/4/18.

To 4th, 6th, 17th and 2nd Armies.

According to a communication received from G.H.Q., whole regiments or independent ABTEILUNGEN of divisional or Army field artillery are said to have had their horses taken away from them in order to replace casualties, without the matter being referred to higher authority.

This procedure is forbidden and is equivalent to breaking up the unit concerned. See also Army Group Order Iaf.No.6413, secret, dated 25/3/18. G.H.Q. is not in a position to bring these regiments and ABTEILUNGEN up to strength again in horses.

Should the Quartermaster General, in conformity with G.H.Q. Ic.No.85041 op. of 15/4/18 (Army Group Order No. 48150 of 16/4/18) be unable fully to comply with the demands for horses submitted, a re-adjustment must be carried out within the field artillery regiment, a part being made mobile at the expense of the rest, which must lose its horses and be left behind; for instance, batteries will have only 3 or even 2 guns and 4 wagons.

A return will be rendered stating whether, and, if so, in which field artillery regiments or independent ABTEILUNGEN, the procedure mentioned at the outset has been ordered.

(Sd.) von KUHL.

NOTE:-

The Second Army rendered a nil return to the above; the returns of other Armies are not shown.

G.H.Q. SITUATION REPORTS.

Latest reports indicate all objectives taken on 3rd Army front AAA
Line runs as follows MOYENVILLE - COURCELLES - GOMIECOURT - ACHIET-
LE-GRAND - BIHUCOURT - IRLES - BEAUCOURT AAA Heavy fighting is
reported at THIEPVAL AAA ends.

G.H.Q. situation report timed 1.35 p.m. AAA French 10th Army is
continuing its advance and is reported to have retaken CUTS and
gained whole of PLATEAU N.E. of AUDIGNICOURT AAA CARLEPONT wood
believed clear of the enemy AAA ends.

YHWA

INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A DESERTER OF THE 60TH PUNISHMENT
COMPANY ('GEFANGENEN KOMPANIE').

This man belonged to the 5th Guard Minenwerfer Company, 1st Guard Reserve Division, and had been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for refusing to go to the front.

He states that the 60th Punishment Company belonged to the Sixth German Army and consisted of about 600 men in a camp near SAILLY which was under the charge of an officer and an 'offizier stellvertreter'. The Company was composed, for the most part, of deserters condemned to various periods of imprisonment and, also, of soldiers who had committed crimes in Germany.

It is customary after prisoners have been three months with the Company to ask them if they are prepared to go and fight, and if they wish to do so their sentence is annulled for the time being. Should they be guilty of any crime, however small, at the front they are returned to the Company. The deserter

states that many men offer to go to the front simply to get a few days freedom and then get sent back for some crime or other.

Most of the Company are engaged on repairing and making roads. Discipline is very severe and food bad. Prisoners are not allowed to smoke in camp and are only allowed to write home twice a month.

Prisoner was sent to the Company on the 1st August after a Court Martial composed of 3 Captains and 5 Lieutenants. He states that men who have been to the front, and are being tried, are able to procure a 'Prisoner's Friend', but he had to defend himself as he had not previously been to the front and, in addition to that, was a Pole, and, therefore, could get nobody to defend him.

Prisoner states that there are an increasing number of deserters and says that in the Sixth German Army alone there are over 60 Punishment Camps, but this statement seems very doubtful.

Bavarian Punishment Camps are reputed to be more strict than others but the food better.

INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PRISONERS OF THE 5TH COMPANY, 188.I.R..

RELIEFS.

The 5th Coy. 188.I.R. came into line on the night 19/20th inst., and relieved one Coy. of the 170.I.R. and one Coy. of the 111.I.R..

DISPOSITIONS.

The 5th Company was in line along the E. bank of the PLATE BECQUE and the remaining Companies of the 2nd Bn. were echeloned in depth.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

5th Coy.)	188.I.R.
10th Coy.)	189.I.R.
	187.I.R.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

5th Coy.	Ration strength	...	100/110.
	Trench strength	...	38.

/COMMANDERS' NAMES.

COMMANDERS' NAMES.

188.I.R. ... Major von STORCH. (The late
Regimental, Major LENIG, was killed on
the 28th March near GAVRELLE)
5th Coy. ... Lieut. GENZ.

INTENTIONS.

It is generally rumoured in the Regiment, and a reliable prisoner states that the rumour emanated from the Company Commander, that the line is to be withdrawn eventually about 3 kilometres to a line along the OUTTER-STEENE - ESTAIRES road, just W. of DOULIEU. He could not state when the withdrawal was likely to take place but the present line was to be held on to as long as possible.

OTHER UNITS.

A prisoner of the 5th Coy. states that he has a brother in the 385.Ldw.I.R. which is, at present, in ESTLAND (Russia).

EFFECT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

Another prisoner of the 188.I.R. states that he was in DOUAI on Wednesday and Thursday of Whit week and heard that on the afternoon of Whit Tuesday a bomb from one of our aeroplanes fell on a bandstand during a performance. About 15 soldiers were killed and a number wounded.

XV Corps "I".

21/8/18.

No. 277.

XV Corps.
22nd August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy's attitude remains unchanged but sniping is a marked feature.

Artillery.

There was activity above normal during the night, harassing forward areas and posts. The area VERTE RUE - LA COURONNE and batteries near COURTE CROIX received considerable gas shelling. It was quieter during the day. Batteries W. of CAUDESCURE were harassed by 15 cm. hows. and those N.E. of STRAZEELE and S. of FLETRE by 21. cm. hows. KEW CROSS, VIERHOUC, PRE-a-VIN and the area between OUTERSTEEDE and N. of METEREN were spasmodically shelled. Most locations were from guns behind the line STEENWERCK - ESTAIRES. H.V. guns shelled a balloon near BORRE and the roads at LE ROUKLOSHILLE.

Aerial.

Enemy aircraft have been active today. Eight reconnaissances were made between BAILLEUL and ESTAIRES and four over the area STRAZEELE - LA MOTTE - HAZEBROUCK. Six balloons were up opposite the Corps front in the early morning: one of these was brought down at 6.40 a.m. by an Allied scout.

MOVEMENT.

(21st) Visibility from the ground was fair. Very little movement was seen.

(22nd) Visibility from the ground has been bad. No abnormal individual movement was reported.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

22:8:18. 188.I.R., 187th Div. ... F.19.c. ... Prisoners.

ER. Mason Capt
for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

Posts were established at X.17.a.45.30., X.17.a.32.30. and in house at X.17.a.2.2.

An enemy post at FOUR TREES (X.28.c.2.4.) was dislodged and the post taken over by us.

Handwritten signature

No. 278.

XV Corps,
23rd August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

No enemy were encountered during the advancing of our line on the right. Enemy M.G.'s. and snipers still remain very active.

Artillery.

There was considerable activity during the night particularly on the part of 10 cm. guns shelling CAUDESCURE. There was some gas shelling on BOIS D'AVAIL and heavy bursts of H.E. were fired on the areas PONT RONDIN, OUTERSTEENE and HOEGENACKER. Otherwise there was light harassing fire on the forward areas generally. H.V. guns fired on CAESTRE. Activity was maintained during the day, the BLEU-VIEUX BERQUIN and METEREN areas being shelled by 10.5 cm. hows. FLETRE was shelled by 15 cm. hows. and 21 cm. hows. fired on roads W. of FONTAINE HOUCK. The areas PONT RONDIN, VIEUX BERQUIN, BLEU, OUTERSTEENE and METEREN received short concentrations during the afternoon. 15 cm. hows. shelled FLETRE, CAESTRE and the STRAZEELE-PRADELLES road.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made in the early morning between NOOTE BOOM, BLEU and ESTAIRES at 2,000 feet. One balloon was up opposite the Corps front in the early morning.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility has been poor. Very little movement has been reported.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Patrol reports suggest that the enemy is holding a temporary line through DESPOT FARM, DROMANA and GAUL FARM. Wire is reported at X.23.a.05.40, X.23.b.9.4 and X.23.b.8.7.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Three field guns were found by a patrol of the Centre Div. on the N. side of the road in F.9.c., the breech blocks of which have been removed. A dump of gas shells left by the enemy at F.8.a.4.3 was exploded last night by hostile fire, the wind carrying the gas towards the enemy's own lines.

E. R. Nason, Capt.

for Major,
General Staff.OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

The Left Division at 4 p.m. on the 23rd inst. rushed an enemy post at X.28.c.30.45, the enemy retiring hastily. A second party rushed an enemy post W. of COOTE CORNER at about X.23.a.15.40 killing the garrison. While attempting to secure identifications, an enemy party about 20 strong under an officer attempted to rush our party. The enemy officer was shot and our party withdrew to the road where another enemy officer was shot. A post was established at X.28.c.30.45.

The Centre Division advanced their line which now runs as follows:- F.3.b.60.25 - F.4.a.00.15 - F.4.c.15.70 - F.3.d.7.4 - F.3.d.65.25 - F.9.b.45.90 - F.9.b.35.85 - F.9.b.2.8 - SCANDAL CROSSING - THREE FARMS - F.15.a.7.2 - F.15.c.6.8 - F.15.c.3.3 - F.15.c.1.1, with small sentry groups at F.15.c.85.45, F.21.a.5.9 and liaison post with Right Division at F.20.b.8.6.

The Right Division during the night advanced their line as follows:- CUTLET CORNER - F.21.c.5.9 - F.21.c.1.4 - F.27.a.1.7 - BECKET CORNER - ROOSTER FARM - KEW CROSS - PONT RONDIN - COCHIN CORNER, patrols from the Right Brigade being out in advance of it.

/ EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.MORAL.

The moral of the German troops in Flanders has been considerably lowered since the middle of July, their faith in the Higher Command has been much shaken, and they are very loathe to see the Allied troops regain a great portion of the ground captured by them during their offensives this year.

Experienced N.C.Os. attribute their recent defeats to the inefficiency of the German Air Service, but more especially to the large proportion of young recruits who have not been sufficiently trained and have not the necessary stamina for defensive warfare; the presence of these youths produces a demoralising effect on the rest of the Company.

The following are recent instances of low moral :-

- (i) A prisoner was serving for a time with the Ersatz Bn., of the 2nd Grenadier Regiment in STETTIN. One day at the beginning of May, 200 men from this Depot were alarmed and proceeded to the Goods Station, which they surrounded with fixed bayonets and 5 rounds in the magazine. They were placed here on guard, owing to N.C.Os. and men in a troop train from KONIGSBERG having revolted en route. The Major in command is stated to have been struck, and many men deserted the train at various places. The reason for this outbreak was that the men had come from Russia, and were being sent direct from the Depots to the Western front, without leave. Many of the men took the opportunity of deserting whenever they passed the nearest station to where their home was situated.
- (ii) A prisoner who left STETTIN on 22.5.18 with a troop train comprising 500 men from the Ersatz Bn. of Fus.Reg.34 and Gren. Reg.2, destined for the 4th Division, states that over 40 men from this train deserted en route. Whilst halted for a meal at LIEGE, one of the Lance-Corporals of this draft struck a Landsturm sentry on the head with a rifle, as he was not allowed to leave the station. The sentry subsequently died.
- (iii) Whilst resting in the GHENT area in June, the Regimental Commander of the 23.I.R., 13th Div., addressed the men and said that he was not satisfied with the present state of his Division, and feared they would be unable to uphold the former high standard of the 13th Division.
- (iv) An officer states that it is exceedingly difficult to get men to work. It is only by telling them that the English are expected to attack that they show any energy at all in working.

GERMAN PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE SECRECY.

The following is the translation of a secret order, issued by LUDENDORFF on 29.4.18 :-

"Several cases have occurred in which secret official publications have been lost owing to the fact that they were despatched in locked despatch-boxes on railway journeys. I draw attention to the fact that every officer is responsible for the papers entrusted to him, and that the conveyance of secret documents in boxes handed over to the railway for despatch does not offer sufficient security; officers should carry such documents about with them on their person.

"Further, it is frequently reported that unauthorised communications, regarding events which take place in the theatre of operations, are made over the telephone. Especially in private telephone conversations, it is frequently apparent that the duty of observing reticence towards everybody, even towards one's nearest relatives, is not sufficiently realised. The same applies to communication by letter.

"I request that orders may be issued that the regulations prohibiting the communication of unofficial statements to unauthorised persons are to be brought to the notice of every member of the Army at regular intervals. As regards officers, their sense of duty should render any infringement of this order impossible."

No. 279.

XV Corps,
24th August 1918.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Infantry.

The enemy launched a small counter-attack against the line held by the Right Division between ROOSTER FARM and L.1.b.7.3 which was driven off by rifle and M.G. fire. Opposite the Centre Division the enemy appears to be holding various farm buildings, with M.Gs. spaced in between and is very much on the alert.

Artillery.

There was considerable activity during the night. From 4.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. a barrage of all natures was put down on the lines BLEU - ROOSTER FARM and COCHIN CORNER - KEW CROSS. H.V. guns shelled the vicinity of MORBECQUE during the night. The areas VIEUX BERQUIN, BLEU and OUTERSTEENE received heavy bursts of fire. At 12.30 a.m. a heavy concentration was fired on the trenches on the OUTERSTEENE ridge, and VERTE RUE and UXE FARM received some gas shelling. The day was quiet. The old front line near BOIS D'AVAIL, SWARTENBROUCH, PETIT SEC BOIS and VIEUX BERQUIN received heavy concentrations. There was also some shelling of BLEU, CELERY COPSE, OUTERSTEENE, METEREN and the HAUTE PORTE ridge.

Hostile T.Ms. were inactive.

Aerial.

E.A. have not been active today. Four reconnaissances were made between BAILLEUL and STEENWERCK this morning. Two out of five balloons, which were up opposite the Corps front, were brought down in flames by Allied scouts and a third in the LAVENTIE area.

MOVEMENT.

Visibility from the ground has been fair. Normal movement is reported.

Trains. Train movement has been normal; the following trains were reported:-

ARMENTIERES-ESTAIRES line.	3 going S.W.	3 going N.E.
ARMENTIERES-PERENCHIES line.	2 "	S.E.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Opposite the Right Division patrols report that the enemy is holding the line F.26.d.8.3 - F.27.a.9.1 - F.27.b.1.5 - F.21.d.2.6 behind which digging was heard. TIGER FARM is held by M.Gs. The enemy is also apparently occupying GAUL FARM and DROMANA. Some new work is reported in F.10.d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A large enemy S.A.A. dump at approx. F.10.a.7.3 was set on fire.

E.R. Nasou Capt
for Major,
General Staff.

OPERATIONS - CORPS FRONT.

At 4 p.m. (23rd) the Right Div., in conjunction with operations on their right flank, carried out a minor operation meeting with a fair amount of opposition from the direction of houses in L.2.b.&d. and BOWERY COTTAGES. The extreme Right Coy. managed to work forward to the line of the LAUDICK which was found to be fairly strongly wired on the W. bank with strong M.G. posts on the E. side. As this Coy. was out of touch on their right, they eventually swung back to COCHIN CORNER. The left was strongly opposed as first but eventually managed to push forward and the line now runs as follows:- COCHIN CORNER - L.1.d.7.0 - L.1.b.7.3 - ROOSTER FARM - F.26.d.2.7 - F.26.central - F.27.a.2.7 - F.21.c.3.1 - F.21.c.50.45 - F.21.c.5.9 - OUTLET CORNER (F.21.a.central).

/ EXTRACTS FROM G.H.Q. AND ARMY SUMMARIES.

EXTRACTS FROM G. H. Q. SUMMARY.

GERMAN ARTILLERY TACTICS.

The following is the translation of a captured order issued by the Crown Prince Rupprecht's Group of Armies on 24/5/18:-

"The occasional very heavy losses of artillery material through enemy counter-battery fire point to the advantages of the system adopted during the Flanders battle to minimise such losses.

"Alternative positions are chosen for all such batteries as are under enemy observation or are particularly exposed to counter-battery fire. These alternative positions are so utilised that

one active gun is always left in the position newly vacated, whilst the remaining guns take up the new position and open fire therefrom. These alternative positions are occupied in turn

as hostile counter-battery fire dictates. This procedure has deceived the enemy as to our artillery strength and distribution, has compelled him to disperse his fire, and as a consequence has minimised our losses.

"The dummy positions provided with blank cartridges and dummy puffs have not succeeded in deceiving the enemy's efficient service of observation. The deception of the enemy by the use of smoke rings maintains its former importance as long as it is used in strict conjunction with the battery actually firing."

(Sgd) von KUHL."

GERMAN INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SECRECY.

(a) The following is the translation of an extract from an order issued by the Second German Army on 16/4/18 :-

"Attention is again called to Army Order Ia d. No.427, dated 17th April, 1918, para. 1, whereby troops are frequently to be instructed not to take with them into the front line, especially at the commencement of operations, documents and maps which can afford information of any kind whatsoever to the enemy as to our positions, distribution, strength, intentions, etc. Troops are to be especially instructed that they are forbidden to take private letters into the front line. Strict attention must be paid to the observance of this order."

(b) The following is the translation of an order issued by the 21st Infantry Division on 23/5/18 :-

"It is not impossible that the sudden shelling of the battalion rest camps is to be attributed to the fact that the men recently captured by the French made incautious statements at their examination, and thereby betrayed the position of the Camps to the enemy.

It should be brought to the men's notice how severely our own troops have to suffer owing to such statements. Neither promises of better treatment nor threats should induce a man who has been taken prisoner to make statements of any importance".

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

ENGAGEMENTS OF GERMAN DIVISIONS.

Since August 8th, the 37 divisions originally in line on the battle fronts between the SCARPE and the AISNE have been reinforced by 20 fresh and 10 tired divisions from reserve; a total of 67 divisions which have been engaged.

/ENEMY INTENTIONS.

No. 280.

XV Corps,
25th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

No patrols were met during the night. The enemy appears to be still very alert.

Artillery.

There was normal activity during the night, forward systems being intermittently harassed. VIEUX BERQUIN, CELERY COPSE and R.33.b. were gas shelled. VIEUX BERQUIN, LESAGE FARM, HULLEBERT FARM, OUTERSTEENE, MONT DE MERRIS and METEREN were shelled at intervals. H.V. guns fired on HAZEBROUCK, CAESTRE,

FONTAINE HOUCK and roads N. of METEREN. There was a decrease from previous activity during the day. HULLEBERT FARM, OUTERSTEENE and N. of METEREN were shelled, METEREN also being shelled by 21 cm. hows. MERVILLE, HAZEBROUCK and FLETRE were fired on by H.V. guns. There was the usual harassing fire, more especially on STRAZEELE Station, MONT DE MERRIS and the BOIS D'AVAIL.

Aerial.

Hostile aerial activity has been confined chiefly to high reconnaissances. Nine of these in all were made, practically the whole of the Corps area being observed. Two balloons were up opposite the Corps front.

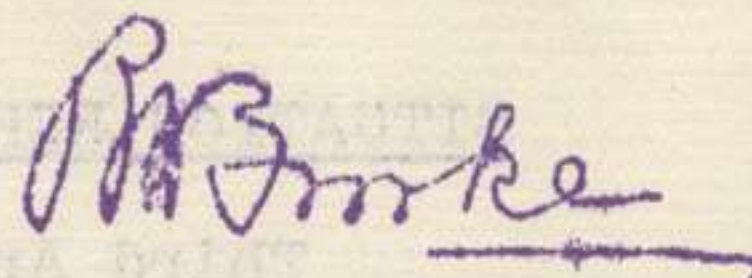
MOVEMENT.

Very little movement was reported. Some was observed in the vicinity of BLANCHE MAISON and transport was distinctly heard in the vicinity of NOOTE BOOM during the night.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Patrols report a working party near GAUL FARM. An enemy strong point was located at F.31.c.7.6.

Large fires were reported at ESTAIRES Church and probably ESTAIRES Town Hall.



Major,
General Staff.

EXTRACTS FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY.EFFECT OF CO-OPERATION OF AIR FORCES IN THE ATTACK.

The following is an extract from a captured Divisional Order of the 54th (Wurttemberg) Reserve Division, issued on 4.8.18:-

"The necessity for a mobile outpost line is insisted on."

The order continues:

"This showed itself particularly necessary on the occasion of the English attack on 25th July, when our outposts, on attempting to leave their trenches, were hampered by the machine-gun fire of enemy aircraft and so captured."

NOTE. A British raid, with R.A.F. co-operation, was carried out North-west of DERNANCOURT on the 25th July.

/ GERMAN CENSORSHIP AND SECRECY.

- 2 -

GERMAN CENSORSHIP AND SECRECY.

The following is the translation of a secret order issued by LUDENDORFF on 20.7.18 :-

"The results of the censorship carried out by the military control-stations of the First Army have shown that L. of C. troops and troops which belong to a division now, as a rule, maintain good discipline in their correspondence. On the other hand, the field and foot artillery and trench mortar units, both when moving and when stationed in the L. of C. zone, are found to transgress against the necessary enforcement of secrecy, by giving indications of a pending offensive. The locality and date of commencement of the attack have frequently been mentioned in letters.

"The danger of this practice, accompanied as it must be by a corresponding carelessness in conversation, is obvious. This danger is particularly grave in the case of trench mortar units since these troops, from the opening of the period of preparation for the attack, come in contact with the troops of the division in line, and because their arrival on a particular front is beginning to be generally regarded as an indication of an impending offensive. This applies equally to Army artillery formations, M.T. columns, etc.

"The danger involved in communications giving such details must be impressed upon all ranks of all formations, as well as the necessity for the exercise of the utmost care in correspondence and conversation. The conviction amongst these troops that new offensives are pending wherever they are located is too widespread to be checked by calling attention to counter-measures, etc. The only counter-measures possible are detailed explanations, warnings and severe punishments."

(sgd) LUDENDORFF.

SITUATION REPORTS.

Third Army report 11.30 a.m. 38th Division E. of CONTALMAISON - N. of MAMETZ - just W. and N. of BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT. 17th Division in HIGH WOOD at 8.45 a.m. and 1,500 yards W. of FLERS - 1,000 yards E. of BEAUCOURT ABBAYE. Our troops, presumably 31st Division, advancing on line BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT - LE BARQUE. Pocket of enemy and M.Gs. in WARLENCOURT. 63rd Division on line N. of LE BARQUE. New Zealand and 37th Divisions on line AVESNES - N.E. to FAVREUIL and our troops reported in FAVREUIL. Enemy movement very large on all roads opposite the front. BAPAUME-CAMBRAI road full of traffic.

Fourth Army attack N. of SOMME reported successful. Our troops believed to hold crest E. of BRAY - BRONFAY WOOD and probably MAMETZ.

XV Corps,

25/8/18.

No. 281.

XV Corps.
26th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy appears to be resorting to his original plan of alternative M.G. posts, as it has not been established that any emplacements are permanently occupied and no posts are in use on two consecutive nights. He still remains alert but is inactive aggressively.

Artillery.

There has been less artillery activity than previously. ARREWAGE, RUE DU BOIS and S. of METEREN were spasmodically gas shelled during the night. There was some shelling also of VIFUX BERQUIN, STRAZEELE Station and LE WATON, with short concentrations on LA COURONNE, BECKET & CUTLET CORNERS, MONT DE MERRIS and UXE FARM. A battery on the Eastern edge of the BOIS D'AVAIL was heavily shelled by 15 cm. hows. during the day, and there was some gas shelling in the METEREN area. Concentrations were fired on CAUDESCURE, VOLLEY FARM, VIEUX BERQUIN, METEREN area and the FLETRE - METEREN road.

Aerial.

Hostile aircraft have been inactive during the day. One reconnaissance was made over DOULIEU at 6 a.m.

MOVEMENT.

Slight individual movement was reported and three trains in either direction were reported on the ARMENTIERES - ESTAIRES line.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

It seems probable that the enemy is utilising the line in F.4.b. & F.5.a. with posts round AUK HOUSE; approximately, this line was used previously by his support troops.

A post was reported at F.9.d.7.5., from which point the line appears to run Southwards in the direction of GAUL FARM.

IDENTIFICATION.

26:8:18. 9th Coy., 140.I.R., 4th Div. ... S. of HAZEBROUCK - BAILLEUL rly. ... Wnd. prisoner.

Major,
General Staff.

SITUATION REPORTS.

First Army report 2.20 p.m. Our troops are E. of MONCHY and are moving towards the BOIS DUSART. 51st Division have advanced their line E. of FAMPOUX. We now hold the line - Western outskirts of ROEUX - E. of ROUEX Station - Western outskirts of GAVRELLE.

Fourth Army report 2.30 p.m. 1st Aust. Division has captured CAPPY and 3rd Aust. Division has captured SUZANNE. Line now runs 2,000 yards E. of CHUIGNES - E. of CAPPY - E. of SUZANNE. Patrols are pushing on from this line. 18th Divn. has captured MONTAUBAN.

The French report capture of FRESNOY LE ROYE.

/EXTRACTS FROM G.H.Q. SUMMARY.

EXTRACTS FROM G. H.Q. SUMMARY.

REDUCTION IN THE STRENGTH OF BATTALIONS.

According to the statements of prisoners of the 13.R.I.R. (13th Reserve Div.), captured near MPEKEM on the 19th August, each of the three battalions of that regiment has been reduced to three companies, the fourth company in each case having been dissolved. The battalions of the 3rd Jager Regiment (200th Division) are said to have been reduced in a similar manner.

Further, a prisoner of the 13 I.R. (13th Div.), captured on the 24th March South-east of ALBERT, states that the same procedure has been adopted in his regiment, the 4th, 8th and 12th Companies having been broken up and distributed each among the other Companies of its battalion.

There is no further evidence that this practice has become general, and it is possible that the above are isolated instances, rendered necessary by the heavy losses suffered by these three divisions. It is probable, however, that all divisions which have been heavily engaged may have to resort to similar measures, since it is known that, in the majority of cases, the company strengths of divisions in the Western Theatre are much below establishment.

GERMAN ARTILLERY TACTICS.

The following is an extract from an order issued by the 13th Artillery Command, 13th Division, dated 8/7/18 :-

"We must endeavour gradually to secure a period of quiet between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., so that it may be possible to carry out reliefs and bring ammunition, stores, rations, etc., right up to the front line. Full advantage must, however, be taken of these morning hours as being the best time for us to observe; it is only during these hours that aeroplanes, balloons and observation groups can get good observation over back areas.

"Consequently, during this period, the engagement of forward targets, ranging, the testing of barrage and destructive fire, and concentrations must be eliminated as far as possible; on the other hand, it is the obvious and only time for the shelling of back areas, registration or checking registration on batteries, harassing fire, etc."

EXTRACT FROM ARMY SUMMARY.

EXTRACT FROM A CAPTURED DOCUMENT.

A document dated 16/8/18, probably emanating from a battalion of the 4th or 12th Division, states :-

"Prisoners are required. Ambush patrols in the strength of about 8 men and 1 light machine gun will push out beyond the outpost line and take cover in shell holes. On the approach of a hostile patrol, let the enemy come through and then attack from the rear and flank and take prisoners.

The usual report :- 'Hostile patrol repulsed by machine gun fire and bombs' is not sufficient. We must capture prisoners."

XV Corps "I".
26/8/18.

350

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS captured near BISHOP'S
CORNER (L.3.a.) on the morning of 27/8/18.

7th Coy., 14.I.R., 4th Divn. (7 prisoners).

ORDER OF BATTLE.

N. to S. 14.I.R., 4th Division.
188.I.R., 187th Division.

DISPOSITIONS.

The 14.I.R. had one Bn. in front line, one in support and one in rest. The 2nd Bn. is at present in the front line with all four Coys. forward (N. to S. 6th, 8th, 5th, 7th).

RELIEFS.

The 2nd Bn., 14.I.R. from rest relieved 1st Bn. in front line on the night of 26/27th inst., the 7th Coy. relieving the 4th Coy.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

7th Coy. Trench strength ... about 50.

INTENTIONS.

Several prisoners have heard rumours of a withdrawal but could give no definite information on this point.

=====

3rd Coy., 188.I.R., 187th Divn. (3 prisoners)

DISPOSITIONS.

The 1st Bn., 188.I.R. has three Coys. in line and one in close support.

RELIEFS.

The 1st Bn. from rest relieved the 2nd Bn. in the front line on the night 24/25th inst.

It is expected that the 187th Divn. will be relieved very shortly, and one prisoner heard from ration carriers on the evening of the 26th that the taking-over party of the relieving Divn. had already arrived in this area. (Identification of relieving Divn. unknown.).

COMPANY STRENGTH.

3rd Coy. Trench strength about 40.

LOSSES.

The 3rd Coy. suffered 11 casualties from our artillery fire during the inter-battalion relief on the night 24/25th inst. One prisoner also states that the first night the Coy. was in line their own artillery fired short causing 3 or 4 casualties.

INTER-DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY.

The inter-divisional boundary between the 4th & 187th Divns. is apparently on the RUE PROVOST - JAGTON CROSS road.

INTENTIONS.

Prisoners had no knowledge of any further withdrawal in their sector.

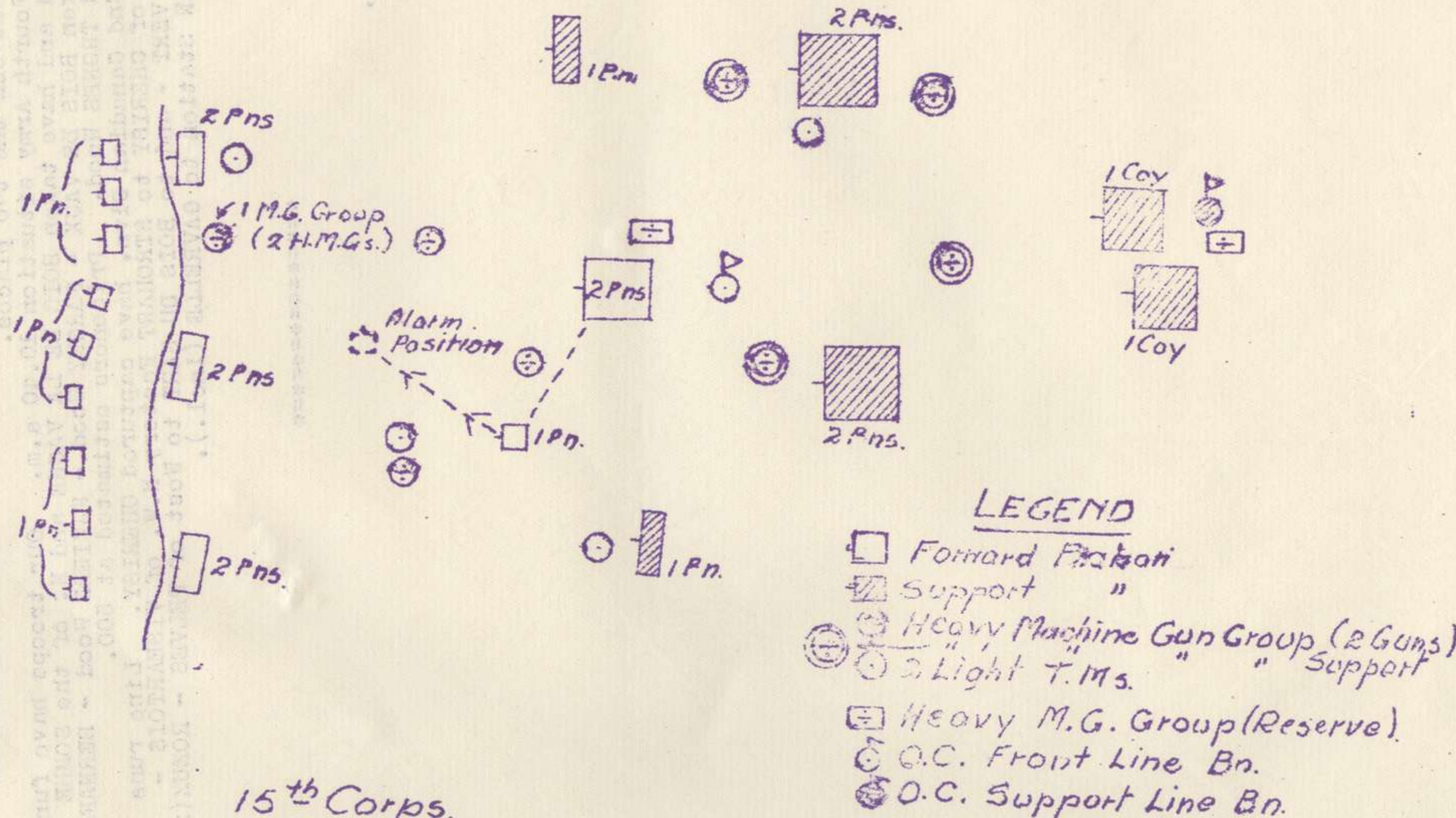
GENERAL.

All prisoners state that our attack this morning was not expected and that our barrage was very effective. One prisoner of the 3rd Coy., 188.I.R. states that his Coy. was practically wiped out during the attack.

XV Corps "I".
27/8/18.

GERMAN DISPOSITIONS *Merris Sector* From Captured Map

all



15th Corps.
27/8/18

SITUATION REPORTS.

Third Army situation 11.30 a.m. V Corps have recaptured LONGUEVAL and DELVILLE WOOD and have taken FLERS. Further North 62nd Division have captured SUGAR FACTORY N.W. of VRAUCOURT and Guards have reached ECOUST - CROISSILLES road midway between the two places.

Fourth Army situation 10.40 a.m. Our troops have further advanced and have taken BOIS DE LA VACHE and N. of the SOMME have taken BOIS DE VAUX - FARGNY Wood - FAVIERE Wood - BERNAFAY Wood and TRONES Wood. Prisoners estimated at 500.

2nd Canadian Divn. have captured CHERISY. Line runs from N. of CHERISY to STROHART Factory N.W. of VISEARTOIS - BOIS DU VERT - and to BOIS DU SART to West of PELVES - ROEUX (incl) - PLOUVIN Station to GAVRELLE (incl.).

XV Corps,
27/8/18.

GERMAN Dispositions Western Sector

From captured Map

5/8/18
12th Corps

LEGEND

O.C. Subsector line 20
O.C. front line 20
O.C. W.C. Group (German)
O.C. T.M.
O.C. Machine Gun Group (German)
O.C. Subsector line 20
O.C. front line 20
O.C. W.C. Group (German)
O.C. T.M.
O.C. Machine Gun Group (German)

No. 283.

XV Corps,
28th August 1918.DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.ENEMY ACTIVITY.Infantry.

The enemy put up a stiff resistance to the attack by the Right Division yesterday especially along the BISHOPS CORNER - DENVER road. His attitude otherwise remains unchanged.

Artillery & T.M's.

Activity was rather above normal during the evening on the Left Divisional front including 21 cm. and a considerable proportion of gas. A 15 minutes concentration was put down at 6 p.m. on the OUTERSTEENE ridge. The night was generally quiet apart from some shelling of METEREN and harassing fire on the VIEUX BERQUIN - STRAZEELE STATION road. The day has been quiet; some harassing fire on the S.E. corner of the BOIS D'AVAIL, BLEU, OUTERSTEENE and METEREN. A destructive shoot was carried out on a field battery in E.22 and 15 cm. hows. fired a few rounds again on the VIEUX BERQUIN - STRAZEELE road.

Two T.M's. fired from the vicinity of TIGER FARM.

Aerial.

No hostile flying today.

MOVEMENT.

Continual movement was reported on the road in F.30.c. and also some movement at F.10.c.5.6, F.11.d.5.5 and round STEENWERCK Station.

Trains. The following trains were reported during the day :-

ARMENTIERES-ESTAIRES line.	4	going S.W.	3	going N.E.
ARMENTIERES-STEENWERCK line.	2	"	S.E.	
ARMENTIERES PERENCHIES line.	1	"	S.E.	1 " N.W.
ARMENTIERES-WAVRIN line.	2	"	S.E.	

In addition, three trains stationary were reported in ARMENTIERES Station and also BAC ST. MAUR Station.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

The enemy holds the following points strongly with M.G's :- BOWERY COTTAGES, RUE PROVOST and L.8.a.1.3, and also holds the line of shell-holes running from F.22.a.3.9 - F.22.a.4.5 - F.22.a.3.3 - F.22.c.2.8. There appears also to be a line between F.21.d.3.8 and F.21.d.1.1 which has wire in front in places.

MISCELLANEOUS. prevalence of

The fires reported in yesterday's Summary still continue and in some cases appear to have been caused by the enemy himself. Tall chimneys, church towers etc. appear also to have been destroyed in ESTAIRES, LA GORGUE and LESTREM. A fire and explosion took place at CROIX DU BAC and also in squares G.4., 6 and 12, A.15, 22 and 30, and L.9, 15, 17 and 22.

IDENTIFICATION.

Reference XV Corps Summary No. 282 of 27.8.18 - IDENTIFICATIONS
DELETE "187.I.R."

For Capt

Major,
General Staff.

/ TRANSLATION OF CAPTURED BATTALION ORDER

TRANSLATION OF CAPTURED BATTALION ORDER.

(Extract from Summary of Corps on our left)

"In the daily report will be stated whether unusual sounds are heard during the night in the enemy's lines which might be described as the sound of approaching tanks; also whether the enemy attempts to disguise sounds by his artillery or M.G. fire. NIL reports will be rendered."

MORAL. (Extract from Army Summary).

A prisoner of the 10.R.I.R., 11th Res.Div., captured South of LOCRE on the 21st inst., states :-

"On the 28.7.18, the 5th Coy. of the 22.R.I.R. refused to go forward and relieve the 4th Coy. who had suffered heavy losses, as they had only four days previously themselves come out of the front line. The men refused for two hours during which time the Battalion Commander threatened to send them forward under escort. In the end they were talked over after a heated argument about their duty to the Fatherland to which some of the men openly retorted "To hell with the Vaterland"!!

SITUATION REPORTS.

Line reported as follows N. of CURLU - E. of HARDECOURT - through TRONES WOOD and LONGUEVAL - edge of DELVILLE WOOD - W. of FLERS - W. of LUISANHOFF FARM (S. of LIGNY THILLOY). No change to BEAUGNATRE thence E. of BEAUGNATRE to SUGAR FACTORY N.W. of VRAUCOURT (incl) along spur between ST. LEGER and ECOUST to the CROISILLES - ECOUST road. 17th Corps hold a line about 1,500 yards N.W. of BULLECOURT and HARDECOURT AAA CROISILLES believed to be cleared up but not yet confirmed. Canadians have captured PELVES and hold German trenches E. of it. Unconfirmed reports show our patrols N.W. of MARCHELPOIT E. of ABLAINCOURT - just W. of DENIECOURT - E. of FAY - E. of DOMPIERRE - E. of FRISE - E. of CURLU.

French troops are in touch with the enemy rearguards and hold the general line BOIS DE CRAPEAUMESNIL - VERPILLIERES - ROIGLISE - BALATRE - NESLE - MESNIL - LE PETIT POTTE - LICOURT.

XV Corps,

28/8/18.

FURTHER INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PRISONERS captured in minor operation on the morning of the 28th August 1918.

188.I.R.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

N. to S. 188.I.R. }
189.I.R. } 187th Division.
187.I.R. }

DISPOSITIONS.

The 1st Bn. had three Coys. in line (from N. to S. 3rd, 2nd, 1st) with the 4th Coy. in support about 600 metres in rear.

The 2nd Coy. Sector was held as follows :-

An outpost line about 150 metres in front of the main line held by 2 light M.G. posts, each consisting of 1.N.C.O. & 5 O.Rs., 100 metres apart, with an infantry post of 1.N.C.O. and 4 O.Rs. 100 metres half-left from the left M.G. post.

The main line was held with two heavy M.G. posts (5 O.Rs. each) 50 metres apart on the right, with a light M.G. post (1.N.C.O. & 5 O.Rs.) 70 metres on the left of the left heavy M.G. post, and an infantry group (1.N.C.O. & 8 O.Rs.) which manned a double post 80 metres on the left of the light M.G. post.

COMPANY STRENGTH.

<u>2nd Company.</u>	<u>Offrs.</u>	<u>N.C.Os.</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>	
	1			2/Lt., Coy. Commander.
		2		Sergeant Majors.
		3	15	Light machine gunners.
			10	Heavy " "
		2	12	Infantrymen.
			7	Ration carriers.
			2	Orderlies.
Total	1	7	46	

1st Company.

Trench strength ... about 75.

1st M.G. Company.

130 O.Rs. and 12 heavy M.Gs.

DRAFTS.

The 1st Company received a draft of 15 from the Field Recruit Depot of the Division on about the 24th inst. These consisted of recruits of the 1919 class and returned wounded.

INTENTIONS.

A reliable prisoner of the 2nd Coy. states that on the 22nd inst., he was told by a cyclist orderly from the Coy. Orderly Room at HAUBOURDIN that the Germans intended to retire to their original line (prior to the attack of 9th April) for the winter; this orderly also stated that on his way from HAUBOURDIN he had seen men of a labour battalion repairing this old line and also working on a line in advance of this.

The same prisoner states that it is common talk in his Coy. that a withdrawal to a line near SAILLY is to take place shortly and that before the winter a further withdrawal to the original line will take place.

A few days ago the first line transport of the 188.I.R. and labour troops which were in SAILLY were moved back, as were also the Regtl.H.Q. and rest billets of the 188.I.R.

OFFICERS NAMES.

187th Divn.	Lieut. General SUNKEL.
188.I.R.	Major von STORCH (at present on leave).

/HEADQUARTERS.

ARTERS.
The 187th Divn.H.Q. are at HAUBOURDIN.

14.I.R.

PIONEER COMPANY.

PIONEER COMPANY.
The Pioneer Coy. of the 14.I.R., 4th Divn. (87.0.Rs. strong), formed in 1916, was disbanded on the 32nd inst., the men being sent back to their original Companies.

XV Corps "I".

28/8/18.

37699
702

APPENDIX

Experimental shoot to determine relation
between New (Economy) and Old (Hump) Driving Bands
Howitzer No 2510 (Squir. Full Ch Rds. 4,400 rds)

No's 9 and 32 Balloons were used and
it was hoped to get a two line observation
on 15 rds of each type of band fired alternately
5 at a time

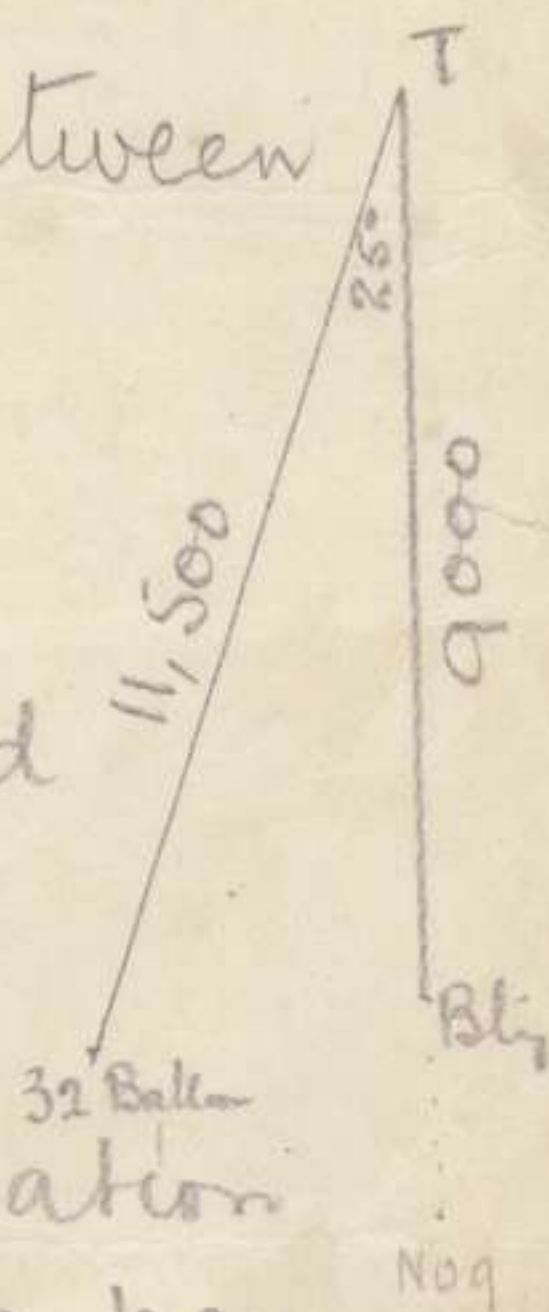
No 9 balloon was in the line Battery
Target. It only gave 6 Observations (see
attached ranging sheet) but these were
sufficient to establish the line and to
prove that it remained correct

The relation was therefore found between
E and O for No 32 Balloon, and its
observations reduced to true plus
and minus. This balloon observed
for 18 rounds of which 14 were
useful for ~~calcu~~ purposes of calculation

A M.P.I. of -110 was given by the new
band Loss $15\frac{1}{2}$

A M.P.I. of +107 was given by the old
band Gain $15\frac{1}{2}$ s.

The number of rds (especially of the Economy type
band) observed were too small. If the known loss
of MV of this gun with Economy band (i.e. $5\frac{1}{2}$ s Loss)
is substituted, the CHAPPERTON DOWN figures are
approximated



How. No. 25.10. Relation between Hump & Economy
band

XXXIX

Target. DRONE HOUSE. J. 11 a.

Charge full 106 fuse

Range 9000

Loss MV.

5 1/3 + 35

Error of Day -185

8890

First Elev. 31° 10

Rd	Def.	Elev.	No 9 Line Balloon	No 32 Range Balloon	32's obs Correction line	Value in yds. E = 4000	Order
1	Nd	31° 10	N.O	20R			
2	ECONOMY	31° 10	30R	40R			20 M.L. 31° 10
3	20L	31° 10	15R	30R	15R	-60	
4	ECONOMY	31° 10	15R	45R	30R	-120	10. M.L
5	30L	31° 10	N.O	N.O			
6		31° 10	N.O	20L	20L	+80	
7	7a	31° 10	N.O	30L	30L	+120	
8	HUMP	31° 10	Line	20L	20L	+80	
9	HUMP	31° 10	N.O	15L	15L	+60	
10		31° 10	5L	45L	40L	+160	
11	ECONOMY	31° 10	Line	N.O			
12		31° 10	5R	10R	10R	-220	
13	ECONOMY	31° 10	N.O	10' R	10' R	-40	
14		31° 10	N.O	15R	15' R	-60	
15		31° 10	N.O	45R	45' R	-180	
16		31° 10	N.O	30L	+30L	+120	
17	HUMP	31° 10	N.O	30L	+30L	+120	
18	HUMP	31° 10	N.O	30L	+30L	+120	

350

N.T. (N^o) 101 No 16880

How. No 2510

APPENDIX

39 71

4547

700

Comparison of Inze 106 and Inze 101

Target F 21 6 92: 15 Range 8700 following wind

40/8

Range 8710

los M V + 34

Σ of Day - 344

36TH
(AUSTRALIAN) EDT.,
R.C.A.I 305
Date.....

8400 - 27°36' 20MR pr wind (Range 5' = 134d)

Rd	Def ⁿ	Elev.	Observed	Remarks
1	20MR	27°40.	5R -200	5ML } 106
2	20MR	27°40	7R -200	
3	15 R	27°40	Lme -70	
4	15 R	27°40	8R -120	
5	15 R	29°	8L +170	
6	15 R	29°	N. 0	} 101
7	15 R	29°	11L +240	
8	15 R	29°	N. 0	
9	15 R	29°	9L +70.	
10	15 R	29°	N. 0	
11	15 R	29°	11L +60	5MR } 106
12	20 R	29°	22L +10	
13	20 R	29°	20L +210	
14	20 R	29°	4L +180	
15	20 R	29°	3R -50	
16	20 R	29°	Lme -50	} 101
17	20 R	29°	5L +180	
18	20 R	29°	2L +80	
19	20 R	29°	OK OK	
20	20 R	29°	15L +300	
21	20 R	29°	10L +270	} 106
22	20 R	29°	12L +190	
23	20 R	29°	8R +20	
24	20 R	29°	OK OK	
25	20 R	29°	3R +110	
26	20 R	29°	N. 0	} 101
27	20 R	29°	3L +170	
28	20 R	29°	N. 0	
29	20 R	29°	N. 0	
30	20 R	29°	N. 0	

P 70

102 29° Line + 80 } 101
 350 29° 3L + 170
 29° N. 0
 4 29° 6L + 190
 5 29° 5L + 200

106 June

+170
 +60
 +10
 210
 180
 270
 190
 20
 OK
 110

1220
 -50

1170
 +106 yds

101 June

+240
 +70
 +180
 +80
 +300
 +170
 +80
 +170
 +190
 +200
 OK

1680
 +153 yds
 106

MP1 + 47 of 106

Contrary to expectation, in spite of a following wind the Range table difference was maintained. On the other hand the wind was so gusty that little chance can be placed on the figures. The target was chosen with a view to helping the Aeroplane shoot on P.D.S. by a preliminary registration on a point near by

PJA Montague Map

36TH (AUSTRALIAN) BRIGADE RGA.G E N E R A L.

During the month Batteries of this Brigade sent a number of Officers and N.C.O's. to the different courses detailed below.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Artillery Refresher at TILQUES	2	7
Signal Instructors' Course SELLES	4	4
Lewis Gun QUESQUES	2	10
Lewis Gun LUMBRES	3	10
Gas Course SELLES	4	22
C.W. Wireless COLEMBERT		4
Spark Wireless, 4th Squadron RAF.		4
Company Cooks' Course LUMBRES		2.

In addition to the above 3 Officers and 30 Other Ranks were sent to Second Army Rest Camp, AUDRESSELLES, for 10 days rest, also 4 Officers for 7 days rest to XV Corps Officers Rest Hostel, HARDELOT PLAGE/ BOULOGNE.

The reports received from the Chief Instructor's of the different courses of instruction were indeed very gratifying, and Battery Commanders should be highly complimented on their selection of candidates.

An examination of the ground vacated by the enemy proves conclusively the accuracy of the fire of the Heavy Artillery. The roads, bridges have been totally destroyed, hedge rows blown right out of the ground, Battery positions, pits are destroyed and ammunition widely scattered, and in many cases set alight.

The effectiveness of short concentrations on hostile Battery positions was clearly demonstrated.

31/8/18.