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**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 5th  
Australian Division

April 1918



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## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 5th April 1918 to 6 a.m. 6th April 1918.

1. OF RATIONS.

On left battalion front our line was advanced and now runs from J.34.a.6.4 to J.33.central to P.2.central thence south along road in P.8.a. and c.

Machine Guns. Our M.G. were active on bridge at BOUZENCOURT.

Patrols. At 2 p.m. one of our patrols encountered German patrol of 30 strong in vicinity of BOUZENCOURT. A fight ensued resulting in 6 of the enemy being killed and 2 taken prisoner.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

Prisoner of the 2nd Bn. 93rd R.I.A. 4th Guard Division captured vicinity of BOUZENCOURT (J.23).

Prisoner of the 12th Co. 35 Fus.Regt. 228th Division captured by patrol at about P.14.c.6.4.

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Active. Enemy artillery opened a heavy fire at about 10.45 a.m. right along left brigade front which lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes. Shelling was particularly heavy on BELLET and VALRE. During the morning CORBIE was shelled, direct hits being obtained on Church. VILLERS BR. TONNEUX was subject to shelling about mid-day.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE.

The enemy barrage at 10.45 a.m. was apparently intended to cover attacks enemy began to emerge from BELLET VALRE, but on red flare being fired from wood enemy retired. At 6 a.m. large numbers of the enemy were seen in P.14. b. Our artillery opened fire with good effect and no attack materialised. Enemy snipers were active during the night.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine guns were located firing from P.14.d.4.7., P.14.d.3.4., Two guns observed firing from P.20.b.0.6. New trench observed on forward slopes of ridge P.11.central to P.17.central.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy planes were active over our front at intervals during the day.

7. MOVEMENT and ORGANISATION in and behind the ENEMY LINES.

Large numbers of enemy observed along ridge P.11.central to P.17.central.

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

Visibility fair. Ground is in a very wet condition.

*F. W. Kel*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff,

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

7/4/18.

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## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6.30 a.m. 6th April to 6.30 a.m. 7th April 1918.

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery was active on enemy centres of activity and occupied positions. M.G.'s were active on enemy communications.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Prisoners of the 2nd Coy. 207th R.I.R. and the 12th Coy. 48th I.R. 228th Division captured in P.20.a and P.19.d, sheet 62D 1/40,000. Interrogation of these prisoners forms annexe to this Summary.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Less active. Following areas were shelled during the period: P.19 and 25, HARLET and VAIRE and front and support lines along whole front.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Enemy artillery fire is chiefly directed to harassing our tracks with shrapnel and destructive shells with H.E. on front line.  
M.G.'s were active during the night. Enemy snipers were active.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. That appears to be a trench under construction observed running through P.26.b and d and P.20.b.7.6. Enemy observed working on trench in P.20.d.
6. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Much transport was seen along track from P.10.b.0.2 to P.11.c.0.3 and in HARLET. Movement observed during the day in BOIS DE VAIRE.
7. MISCELLANEOUS. 2 enemy guns observed firing 93 and 122 T.B. from P.8.c.20.55.  
Visibility fair.

*G. M. Kellett*

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



## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

REPORT on Examination of prisoners from the 2nd Coy. 207th R.I.R. and the 12th Coy. 48th I.R. 228th Division captured on the night 6th/7th April 1918.

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1. PERSONAL DETAILS. Prisoner of the 207th R.I.R. belonged to the 1913 class (born 8/7/98). Called up 15/11/16 came into the field 15/6/17. Intelligent and willing to talk. Prisoner of the 48th I.R. was of the 1917 class, and held the Iron Cross for good service on patrols before VERDUN. Intelligent but apparently desirous of concealing information.
2. HOW CAPTURED. Both prisoners were ration carriers and lost their way. The 207th man was taken by a listening post about 620 P.20.a.0.8, the man of the 48th about P.19.d.
3. ORDER OF BATTLE: from N. to S. believed to be  
 93 R.I.R. 4th Gd. Div. in BOIS de VAIRE.  
 207 R.I.R. 288th Div. in P.20.a and c.  
 48 I.R. " " in P.20.c  
 Bavarian Regt. probably, but number of Regt. unknown.  
 The 35th Fusilier Regt. was thought to be back in reserve.
4. ENEMY DEFENCES. The 207th R.I.R. was said to be holding a very narrow front of about 100 yards S.W. of BOIS de VAIRE. For both regiments the men in the front line are simply dug in, generally two together, without a proper trench. There is no wire.
5. FIELD KITCHENS. Field kitchens of the 48th I.R. were stated to come to BAYENVILLERS. Food is taken thence in containers to the front line. Carriers arrive after dark when our shelling eases down.
6. MOVEMENTS of the 207 R.I.R. The 207 R.I.R. came into line for the attack on the 4th and remained in until about 6 p.m. on the 5th. They then went back for one night to WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and came forward again early on the morning of the 6th. Reason assigned for the move was that there was not much "go" left in the regiment and as it contained many elderly men it was necessary to have a roof over their heads some times.
7. CASUALTIES. Casualties were stated to be very great. Prisoner of the 207th R.I.R. was profoundly impressed by their magnitude. The trench strength of his company was reduced to 35 or 40. The strength of the Regiment was so reduced that the sector it occupied was not more than 160 yards in length. Prisoner had heard this from the Platoon Commander. The strength of the 1st Battalion of the 35th Fusiliers had come down to 70 or 80 men. The 35th Regiment itself had lost 700 in killed and wounded. For these losses the M.G. and rifle fire of our Infantry were largely responsible. Prisoner specially mentioned that the wounds were mainly in the head and that the fire from the BOIS de VAIRE on the 4th had been especially deadly. On that date he had formed one of a party of 9 with a light M.G. Five of them were killed all with head wounds.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
 REPORT on Examination of prisoners from the 2nd  
 Coy. 207th R.I.R. and the 12th Coy. 28th I.R.  
 28th Division captured on the night 25/7/42  
 April 1942

Low flying aeroplanes were inflicting heavy losses with their M.G. fire, as well as having a very pronounced moral effect. Losses from bombs were less but the latter were a particular menace to transport.

- 7. **DRAFTS.** Expected to arrive when the Division went back into reserve.
- 8. **OTHER TROOPS SEEN.** Prisoner had seen a few men of the 6th Grenadier Regt. (10th Div.) on the 4th instant. There was also a M.G. Company of the 28th I.R. (16th Div.) attached to the 207th R.I.R.
- 9. **ENEMY INTENTIONS.** Nothing definite known, but it was not expected that there would be a further attack, for a short time at any rate. It was agreed that the offensive was to go on.
- 10. **MORALE** poor. There was no joy of victory left in the troops. Contributory causes for this state of mind were physical weariness, irregular arrival, or non-arrival of rations (this was particularly stressed), heavy losses and the conviction that the offensive had ceased to be an advance but instead had become practically stationary. An additional cause in the case of one prisoner was that he had heard from Home that leave was to be stopped for another eight weeks. Under the circumstances, neither prisoner was sorry to be captured.

*F.W. Robinson*  
 Capt for. Lieut-Colonel,  
 General Staff.  
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CASUALTIES. Casualties were stated to be very great. Prisoner of the 207th R.I.R. was profoundly impressed by their magnitude. The French strength of this company was reduced to 35 or 40. The strength of the Regiment was so reduced that the motor it supplied was not more than 100 yards in length. Prisoner had heard that from the Prisoner Commander. The strength of the 1st Battalion of the 28th Division had gone down to 70 or 80 men. The 28th Regiment itself had lost 700 in killed and wounded. For these losses the M.G. and rifle fire of our Infantry were largely responsible. Prisoner especially mentioned that the wounds were mainly in the head and that the fire from the Bois de VAIRE on the 4th had been especially deadly. It was noted that he had formed one of a party of 2 with a light M.G. five of them were killed all with head wounds.

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## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 a.m. 7th April to 6 a.m. 8th April 1918.

Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Our artillery was active during the day. Concentrated shoots were carried out on enemy known assembly points and communications.
- At 3 a.m. our line was advanced on right brigade front and now runs P.26.c.0.2 along N and S grid line to P.13.d.8.2. On left brigade front our line was advanced and now runs P.2.d.2.0, P.2.d.2.5, J.33.d.2.8, J.34.e.3.8, J.35.d.0.3. BOUZINCOURT.
- Patrols. Our patrols approached enemy post at P.8.b.3.0. which contained a number of the enemy, the post was bombed and casualties believed to have been caused.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS Nil.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Not very active during period. VILLERS BRETONNEUX, P.19, P.25 and VAIRE were intermittently shelled during the morning. Between 3.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. FOUILLEY was vigorously shelled.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. No apparent change.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. M.G.'s located at P.3.c.6.0. and P.14.d.2.1. Posts. Enemy posts reported at P.26.c.9.9, P.14.b.7.7, P.8.b.8.0, post with M.G. at P.8.d.6.1. (Patrol) Trench. New trench under construction on forward slope of hill P.21.c and P.27.a.
6. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Continual movement of small enemy parties were seen in P.16.b and P.17.a during the day also much movement was observed in HAMEL
7. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy gun flashes observed at P.24.b.6.5. 93° and 122° T.B. from P.8.a.4.4 and 100° T.B. from O.24.a.3.5. Visibility bad. Notes on German Divisions opposite Divisional front forms annexe to this Summary.

*F. Oberhelmer*  
 Lt Col

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

## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## NOTES ON GERMAN DIVISIONS OPPOSITE OUR FRONT.

## 1. PROBABLE ORDER OF BATTLE on this front from N. to S.

RIVER SOMME

5 Foot Gds.

5 ~~th~~ Grenadiers

93 R.I.R.

4th GUARD Division

In Reserve.BOIS de VAIRE

207 R.I.R. (P.20.a)

and c.)

48 I.R.

3 Bav. Ers. I.R.

228th Division

35th Fusilier Regt.

in Reserve

1st Division.

Guard Ersatz Div.

111th Division.

AMIENS-ST.QUENTIN RD.

P.25.c and d.

11 Bav. R.I.R.

14 Bav. R.I.R.

9th Bav. Reserve Div.

2. 4th Guards Division has been in line since 3rd April. It suffered loss in taking HAMEL. It was also in the original attack E. of HESEBECOURT (N.W. of ST.QUENTIN) on the 21st March. On that occasion it had slight losses. Last year the 4th Guards sustained very heavy losses at LENS and YPRES. They were then out of the line for a long time and were well rested. Their tradition as Guards is of course good and in all they may be rated as a first class fighting unit, well up to strength.
3. 228th Division came into line on the 30th March relieving the 1st Division just N. of the SOMME. Since identified S. of the BOIS de VAIRE (N.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX). Two regiments have had fairly heavy losses, especially the 35th Fusiliers at HAMEL (4th April) also the 207th R.I.R. on the 5th April had fair casualties. A fair division, not yet very heavily engaged, in line for 8 days, probably close on strength, morale middling.
4. 9th Bavarian Reserve Division. This division was in line at BELLICOURT before the battle on March/21st and was withdrawn from line on that date. It came back into line on the 3rd April. It had fairly heavy losses on the 3rd and 4th from machine guns and artillery but ought to be fairly up to strength. Last year it had some amount of scuffling near LAON, YPRES and CAMBRAI and is classed as a 3rd class division. It has not yet been heavily engaged in the battle.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 8th April to 6 a.m. 9th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Counter preparation was fired from 5 a.m. to 10.57 a.m. Hostile M.G.'s were engaged and bursts of fire put down on woods approaches, and possible points of enemy concentration. Our line was advanced on left sector during the night and now runs J.34.d.5.7, J.34.d.2.4, P.3.central, P.2.d.8.8, P.8.b.8.6, P.8.c.4.C, P.13.b.7.C, P.13.d.8.0.

Patrols. Our patrols were active during the night, no enemy patrols were seen or heard.

IDENTIFICATIONS. Prisoner of the 12th Coy. 3rd Grenadier Regt. 1st Division captured in BOUZENCOURT J.34.d on the afternoon of the 8/4/18. Prisoner wandered forward from reserve position, his regiment was not in line.

Prisoner of the 8th Coy. 207th R.I.R. 228th Division captured in P.20.c at 5 am on the 9th instant. (Normal). Examination of these prisoners forms annexe to this Summary.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Enemy artillery showed usual activity throughout the period. VAIRE and HAMELET were shelled at intervals during the day with 5.9s and 77 mms. Front and support lines were shelled at intervals. At 5.15 a.m. a heavy bombardment consisting of H.E. and gas was directed against front and support line on right sector, shells of all calibres were used. This bombardment was repeated between 5.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m.

ENEMY ATTITUDE. With the exception of artillery shoots mentioned under para. 3 enemy was quiet.

ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy appears to be digging a trench line 100 yards in rear of SOUTH end of BOIS de VAIRE, running towards BOIS de HAMEL. New trench under construction observed running from P.4.c.8.8. to P.4.a.6.5.



6. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Considerable movement of motor transport, G.S. wagons and horsemen observed moving from WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT along main ST.QUENTIN-AMIENS Road.

7. MISCELLANEOUS. Topography. Small copse shown at P.S.b.9.3. sheet 62D does not exist.

Visibility bad.

Ground still wet, especially on fallow ground.

Owing to heavy fog one of our ration parties on right sector consisting of 1 L/Cpl and 4 other ranks got beyond our front line, before they had gone far an enemy post of 4 men was met. Our party immediately bombed the post killing 3 and wounding one of the enemy, they then returned safely to our lines.

*L. M. Kel* Capt

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

~~ANNEX 20 6th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 9/4/19~~

Examination of severely wounded prisoner of  
12th Company 3rd Grenadier Regt, 1st Division,  
captured near BOUZENCOURT 62D J.34.d. 8/4/18.

1. HOW CAPTURED. Prisoner was sent back by his Lieutenant from the reserve position to the orderly room with several messages (also captured). He wandered forward however through HAMEL towards BOUZENCOURT where he was shot at by our posts and severely wounded.
2. PERSONAL DETAILS. Prisoner was a Rhinelander born 23/6/39. He had served previously in RUSSIA and had been evacuated to KONIGSBERG sick. Thence he came straight into the field 4 days ago with a draft of 300 men for the 3rd Grenadiers. Unfortunately in addition to being ignorant of local conditions prisoner was too weak to talk much.
3. MOVEMENT OF THE 1st DIV. The captured papers indicate that the 3rd Grenadiers were relieved in line on the evening of the 6th April and are now in reserve. The latter point was confirmed by the prisoner who stated also that the whole division was out of line.
4. LOCATIONS. According to a letter captured, the 12th Coy. had two platoons in a quarry and one in a factory. The Company Commander was in a cellar opposite to the factory. The location is possibly on the edge of the village LA MOTTE ENSAUVERNE, and the remaining troops of the reserve division may be in the valley from CERISY to LA MOTTE (Q.8, Q.13, P.24, P.30). This location, though fairly far forward agrees with the vague indications given by the prisoner, besides explaining his extraordinary aberrations from a reserve position right into our lines. It also fits in with the shelling the regiment receives.
5. EFFECT OF OUR ARTILLERY. Prisoner was emphatic as to our persistent artillery fire. The letter above referred to written by the officer reads: "The night of the relief was rotten, as also the days we have spent here. To-day (8th April) a thing came and

sat down in front of my cellar! nothing happened however except that various things hung out to dry were blown to bits." Another letter mentions 7 German dead found near the Calvary at HAMEL (probably P.10.e.0.7).

5. DRAFTS. The 3rd Grenadiers had a draft of 300 men a few days ago. According to prisoner they had no training in the field Recruit Depot.

7. MISCELLANEOUS. HAMEL is said to be unoccupied owing to our shelling. Prisoner had seen no troops at all while coming forward. Commander of the 12th Coy. 3rd Grenadiers is Lieut. W. LETTAU; of the 1st Platoon. Sgt-Major CHRISTININSKI, 2nd Platoon Sgt. SCHIEFFER. Sgt-Major FEDERAU was in the Battalion orderly room.

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Nb

ANNEXE to 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 9/4/18.

Examination of prisoner of 8th Company 207th R.I.R. captured 3 a.m. 9/4/18 in P.20.c.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS. Prisoner was of 1917 class; called up March 1916, came into the field July 1916. Intelligent and reliable. Captured while trying to find his company after being on outpost duty.

2. ORDER OF BATTLE N. to S.  
35th Fusilier Regt. )  
207th R.I.R. ) 228th Division.  
48th I.R. )

It was stated that the 35th Fusilier Regt. had gone out of line in order to be reinforced after heavy losses on the 4th April. It was however now back again on the right flank.

3. REGIMENTAL DISPOSITIONS. The 2nd Battalion is forward, with all four companies in line, from N. to S. 5,6,7,8. The 3rd Battalion is in support in LA MOTTE and the 1st in rest, probably in MORGOURT.

4. RELIEFS. The battalion cycle of relief is a two-day one, each battalion remains in line two days, then goes back in rest or support. The platoons are relieved every night and go back to LA MOTTE  
Time of battalion relief: Night 8th/9th April about 9 p.m., next relief due on the night 10th/11th.  
Route: Apparently along roads in Q.22, Q.27 to the main road leading west in Q.27.c. Thence (certain) along the main road to LA MOTTE and into line along road in P.28, 21, and 20

5. DIVISIONAL RELIEF. The 228th Division had come from Army reserve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and the 207th R.I.R. had relieved the 5th Foot Guards (4th Guards Div.) on that date. The 228th Division expects relief daily.

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6. COMPANY STRENGTH. of 8th Company 70 - 80 men (trench).

7. L.M.G's and M.W's. There are 6 L.M.G's per company. One is held in reserve, the rest are forward. There are no M.W's in line, but they are brought up whenever there is an attack impending.

8. RATIONS. Each man carries 4 days rations - one whole loaf, 2 iron rations, one bag Zwieback.

9. CIVILIANS. In the rest village (MORCOURT) there is still an old Frenchman.

10. ENEMY INTENTIONS.

- (a) LOCAL. Prisoners company was warned that there would be a H.E. and gas bombardment on our lines at 4.30 a.m. this morning but that no infantry attack would follow. Enemy opposite us is now making trenches and building railways as a necessary preliminary to further attack in this sector.
- (b) GENERAL. It was thought that the main offensive will be resumed N. and S. of the ground which has been captured by the enemy. The idea would be to reduce the salient which has been caused by the advance.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 10th April to 6 a.m. 11th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. During the morning ZERO lines were checked and registrations made. At 4 p.m. enemy transport on road in F.16 central was engaged with good effect, two direct hits being observed. Hostile active battery at P.16.b.3.2. was engaged and silenced.

At night a concentration bombardment of all guns was fired on the BOIS DE VAIRE, 4.5" Hows and heavy artillery using gas. At irregular intervals between 2.15 and 5.17 a.m. bursts of fire swept possible enemy positions of assembly and routes in vicinity.

Patrols

Patrol pushed out towards enemy position at P.26.a.8.6., when within bombing range the party threw bombs into the trench. A white flare was immediately fired and enemy M.G. opened fire from rear of trench; Our patrol returned safely to our lines.

Liaison patrols were maintained throughout the night. No enemy patrols were seen.

Patrol entered HAMEL P.9.b.2.8., enemy heard in village. Flares fired from about P.9.b.5.5.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Enemy artillery was active during the 24 hours. Chief areas shelled were as follows: VILLERS BRETONNEUX 0.30.c, front line system in P.19, P.14. VAIRE and HAMELET were shelled at intervals with salvos of 4.2" and 77 mm's.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Very quiet with the exception of artillery activity.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Digging observed at P.26.c.8.4. Several men seen working on trenches in P.16.b. 77 mm battery observed firing from vicinity P.23.a. Enemy occupy post at P.9.b.5.9. (patrol)

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy planes were active during the day. Bombs were dropped in BONNAY.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Movement observed at HAMEL, P.26.c.8.4, P.26.a.8.0.

MISCELLANEOUS. Smoke observed in HAMEL during the day.

Visibility poor.

Ground drying well.

Notes on hostile organization opposite Corps front and enemy divisions engaged on battle front forms annexe to this Summary.

*K.A. Goddard Capt*

*for* Lieut-Colonel, G.S.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 11/4/18.

1. NOTES ON HOSTILE ORGANIZATION OPPOSITE CORPS FRONT.

From prisoners statements it would appear that very little consolidation has been done or is contemplated, and that no wire has been put up. Except in one case, (i.e. the trench from HAMEL to the BOIS de VAIRE) the front system seems to be confined to short portions of trench. The continuous line which is shown running from P. 4.b. to P. 28.d. is an old British line and has wire on the Eastern side. No records are at present available to show the exact siting of this trench.

(a) Machine Guns. Many are reported in the BOIS de HANGARD, BOIS de VAIRE, BOIS de HAMEL, BOIS d'ACROCHE, and the woods in P. 3.c and d. In addition two are reported at P. 3.c and P. 8.d. But it seems certain that the enemy is very strong in Machine guns all along.

(b) Billets. The following places have been reported as in use for billet purposes: WIENCOURT, BA YONVILLERS, LA MOTTE (1 Bn) and MORGOURT (1 Bn.). It is most probable that a great proportion of the reserves are in the open in valleys and woods.

(c) Field Kitchens. HARBONNIERES, BAYONVILLERS, MARCELCAVE, MORGOURT.

(d) Headquarters. No actual positions of Headquarters have been located. The house at P. 30.c. 2.3. in LA MOTTE was supposed to have been one, but to have moved back. It may still be a telephone exchange or Coy. Headquarters. A Headquarters was also reported in the valley N.E. of HANGARD but the exact location could not be found.

(e) Assembly areas. The following appear likely places:-  
Valleys U. 23, U. 24, U. 18, and Wood U. 18.b. (North of HANGARD).  
Valley V. 19.b. and d. (N. of AUBERCOURT).  
Valley P. 17. and BOIS d'ACROCHE, d'ACQUA-IRE and DES TAILLOUX.  
Valley from LA MOTTE running N.E. to CERISY.

(f) Miscellaneous. A search light was reported working in BOIS de HANGARD about U. 17.a. 9.1.

Although no new identifications have been obtained, and the troops at present holding the line are tired, vigorous counter-attacks must be expected from troops in rear in the event of our attacks; in the same way if the Germans attack, it may be with fresh troops advancing through tired ones in front.

2. NOTES ON GERMAN DIVISIONS ENGAGED ON BATTLE FRONT ON OUR LEFT.

27th Division. In the line at AVELUY. Once one of the best German Divisions, but its quality has naturally gone off. In the present battle it was engaged N.E. of FINS on 22.3.18. After a short rest it came into line near AVELUY on 4.4.18, and is now moderately fresh.

3rd Naval Division. W. ALBERT. Has always proved itself a good fighting formation. In this battle was engaged at MARICOURT Wood and MONTAUBAN, March 25th/26th. After three days rest re-appeared on 29.3.18. West of ALBERT. Should be getting rather tired now.

5th Reserve Division. In reserve E. of ALBERT. An average Division, composed of West Prussian and Posen troops. Engaged March 23rd-27th SOREL-LE-GRAND, BERNAFAY WOOD - MARICOURT - ALBERT. Re-appeared 5.4.18, and should be moderately fresh.

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War Diary

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 11th April -to- 6 a.m. 12th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. Registrations were continued during the morning. Hostile working parties at P.10.c.5.2. and in P.11.a and d were engaged and dispersed. Between 12.15 and 5.10 a.m. concentration bursts were fired on probable enemy points of assembly and routes.  
Patrols. Talking was heard in vicinity of P.20.b. Liaison patrols were maintained. No enemy patrols were seen. Enemy were heard driving in stakes about P.9. central
2. IDENTIFICATIONS. 11th Company 1st Grenadier Regiment. Disc found on body recently dead German in P.8.b.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Was active throughout the period under review. Following areas were shelled. VAIRE intermittently with 4.2" Hows. Cross roads P.13.c.8.7, VILLERS BRETONNEUX, J.27.c.9.9, HAMLET. Front and support areas in P.3.d and b, CORBIE, Cross roads at O.30.d.9.3, building in P.25.e and scattered shelling in O.30 and P.35.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Enemy artillery maintained usual activity. Snipers were active during the period. M.G's. were active on front areas during the night.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy occupied post on the outskirts of HAMEL during the night also trench at P.14.b.6.2 during the day. New work observed in P.26.b. and d.  
M.G. reported firing from P.20.a.8.7, P.14.b.6.2.  
Minerwerfers. 1 L.M. and 2 granatenwerfers were active on our front line firing from BOIS DE VAIRE.
6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. E.A. were active over forward and back areas during the day. Bombs were dropped in O.22.b (battery areas) and back areas.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. During the day considerable movement was observed at P.15.central. Headquarters is suspected., also movement at P.10.c.5.1, P.26.b. and d.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy balloons were up at 110°, 146°, 150°, 157°, T.B. from I.24.d.4.1.  
Visibility good.

*K.A. Goodland Capt*  
for Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



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APPENDIX 25

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 12th April to 6 a.m. 13th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. Registrations were continued. During the morning an enemy party near trenches in P.10.d was engaged and dispersed. A party of five men moving towards HAMEL was engaged casualties inflicted; two men were later carried away on stretchers. A party of six men laying wire in front of wood in P.5.c were dispersed. During the afternoon 15 men walking from HAMEL to ridge in P.10.d. were engaged and dispersed. A large party of enemy in P.16.a. was dispersed. At 7.15 p.m. a party of 100 men in P.14.b. was heavily engaged; a large number of bursts being observed in their midst. S.O.S. lines were checked during the night and concentrations were fired as follows:
  - 2 a.m. two minutes concentrations on FLAT IRON COPSE P.5.c and d.
  - 2.35 a.m. two minutes concentrations on HAMEL.
  - 3 a.m. Concentrations of all guns and howitzers, including Heavy Artillery on BOIS DE VAIRE. East portion of the wood was subjected to a gas concentration at the same time.
  - 3.17 and 4.45 a.m. concentrations were fired on possible points of assembly and roads.
 At 11 p.m. a nest of M.G's at P.16.a.9.0. was engaged. At 10.50 p.m. much talking and movement was heard in HAMEL and was engaged. M.G's. 7,000 rounds were expended in searching and traversing BOISE DE VAIRE and vicinity of cross roads at P.14.b.85.25. L.T.M's fired 30 rounds on active enemy M.G. at approximately P.8.d.7.0. and silenced it. Patrols. Our patrols were active during the night and report following:- Wheeled transport heard in HAMEL and vicinity P.20.b.8.7. Much noise and men shouting heard in HAMEL also noise was heard coming from BOIS DE VAIRE. Wiring party was heard in P.20.c.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Severely wounded prisoner of the 2nd Coy. 48th I.R. 228th Division captured approximately P.20.a.0.8 sheet 62D 1/40,000 at 5 a.m. Examination of prisoner forms annexe to this Summary.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Enemy artillery showed usual activity. Chief areas shelled as follows:- VAIRE by 77 mm, 4.2" and 5.9" Hows., CORBIE, BONNAY, AUBIGNY and DAOURS by 4.2" H.V. and 5.9" guns, Wood in J.27.b, 0.16.a and b, VILLERS BRETONNEUX, HAMELET. During the night enemy shelled 0.12.a, P.18 lightly with gas. 0.21, 22, 23, 0.10 and 0.17 were also shelled with gas (intermittently).
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet. At one hour before dawn 2 of the enemy approached our post in vicinity of P.20.a.0.8. The garrison called on them to halt, this they refused to do and were fired on, one being killed and the other wounded and taken prisoner. M.G's. Enemy M.G's were active on our front line system and tracks during the night.

Enemy snipers were less active than previous 24 hours.

Minenwerfers. At 8.10 p.m.<sup>20</sup>/Granatenwerfers fell in P.13.b.

During our Artillery shoot at 1 p.m. several of the enemy were seen to leave their outpost positions in P.26 and retreat to the rear.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. A.A. M.G's reported firing from P.4.d.5.9. and P.4.d.1.3. New camouflage seen at P.14.d.8.4. Sounds of digging were heard in front of HAMEL (patrol).

6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. E.A. very active over front and rear areas during the period. Bombs were dropped in J.26.b, O.17.c.3.3 and I.22.d. One E.A. brought down by our airmen and crashed in vicinity of DAOURS. Observer died, pilot was badly wounded, they belonged to 232 Flight (PRUSSIAN) and their aerodrome is in FRAMERVILLE, having arrived there from near CAMBRAI two weeks ago. Enemy observation balloon was brought down in flames by our airmen in direction of MARCELCAVE. Enemy balloon up at 150°, 156°, 113°, 160°, 170° and 173° T.B. from I.24.d.4.1.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Movement observed showed a marked increase to previous 24 hours, following are chief centres: Quarry at P.16.b.5.4, wheeled and motor transport on main AMIENS-PERONNE Road from R.26 to Q.25, wheeled transport on road in Q.20 and Q.19 (CERISY-BAYONVILLERS) Road, (CERISY-WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT) Road. Enemy trenches at P.22.a.35.85 are the centre of much movement. Considerable isolated cross country movement was seen in P.11, 12, 17, 18, 23 and 24.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. on our planes crossing enemy lines numerous chain flares (white) were sent up by the enemy. During the morning large fires lasting 5 and 2 hours respectively broke out in MARCELCAVE and HARBONNIERES. There appears to be an enemy aeroplane dropping ground in Q.15.

Visibility good.

Aerial annexe accompanies this Summary.

(Sgd) K.A. GOODLAND Capt.  
for Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 13/4/1918.

Report on examination of severely wounded prisoner of 2nd Company, 48th I.R., 228th Division captured about 62D P.20.a.0.8 about 5 a.m. 13/4/1918.

1. HOW CAPTURED. Prisoner and one other left the front line about 3 a.m. in order to go back to the field kitchens and fetch up hot coffee. They lost their way and wandered north out of their sector on to one of our posts. One was killed, the prisoner was severely wounded and captured.
  2. ORDER OF BATTLE from N. to S.  
207 R.I.R.  
48 I.R.  
Bavarians (probably).  
The whereabouts of the 35th Fusiliers was not known. Though prisoner was captured in P.20.a., it is most likely the the 48th I.R. sector is still in P.26.a and c.
  3. DISPOSITIONS. The 1st Battalion of the 48th I.R. has all four companies in line. The 2nd Battalion is in reserve about 500 yards behind the front. The 3rd Battalion is in rest in the open, but its whereabouts is not known.
  4. BATTALION RELIEFS. The 1st Battalion came into line on the evening of the 11th instant. Prisoner thought it would remain three or four days forward, or may be longer.
  5. DIVISIONAL RELIEFS. Prisoner stated that the 228th Division came into line on the 28th March relieving the 1st Division.
  6. ENEMY DEFENCES. The line still consists of rifle pits and there is no wire.
  7. COMPANY STRENGTH. About 50 (trench).
  8. CASUALTIES. Stated to be severe, and mainly from M.G. fire. Prisoner was too weak to go into details. They had also suffered from bombing some time ago, both while in trenches and on the march.
  9. FIELD KITCHENS. These are at LA MOTTE and come up every night twice to within 1000 yards of the front line. Times of arrival probably 10-11 p.m. and 3-4 a.m. Ration carriers therefore probably meet the kitchens about the cross roads in P.27.d, or in P.21.d, according to the road used. Prisoner could not settle this point.
  10. ENEMY INTENTIONS. Prisoner did not expect at all that the Germans were intending to attack here at present, He knew nothing of enemy intentions in general.
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Notes on Aeroplane photographs taken on 12th April 1918.

35. A.E. B.822 Enemy posts can be seen in P.26 and 27, confirming AERODROME E. of recent reports of work in this area. These consist VILLERS- mainly of irregular lines of holes mostly unconnected BRETONNEUX by any trench though some attempt had been made to link them up in a few places. Connections appear to be kept up between the posts by frequent patrolling judging from the distinct tracks which join up the eastern edges of each post. This is particulaurly noticeable in the more Westerly ones.
- The WARFUSEE-VILLERS BRETONNEUX Road is used as far as P.26.d.70.25 whence tracks lead off to posts on the road from approximately P.26.c.3.9 to P.32.b.40.98. There is a good deal of activity visible in the enemy area here.
35. A.E. B.829 There is very considerable traffic from the fields into WARFUSEE) a wooded patch at about P.30.c. This may be used ABANCOURT for a battery, though no actual gun positions can be seen. IAMOTTE en A rough line of small holes has been dug parallel and East SANTERRE of the Road, from approximately P.30.c.2.7 to P.30.a.6.7. The Quarry and Factory at the Eastern outskirts of IAMOTTE are probably those referred to in para. 4 of ANNEXE to 5th Aust.Div. Summary dated 9/4/1918 and which were billets for three platoons.
- 35 A.E. B.824 Enemy positions are visible W of HAMEL in P.9.a and HAMEL again just N. of the most Northerly road in P.9.b. A screen or barricade has been placed across the road at P.3.d.6.6. and two possible camouflaged gun positions at the cross roads P.4.c.4.4. A strong track leads alongside the road and round the barricade; the road itself being apparently not in use.
- 35 A.E. B.832 Our posts show up on the Western edge of the photograph CROSS ROADS which makes a good mosaic with No.824. A short line of P.3.c.2.7. posts runs across the road from about P.3.c.4.3. to P.9.a.3.7.
35. A.E. B.833 Our old line immediately east of HAMEL shows distinct HAMEL signs of having been further worked on and deepened by the enemy. In addition lines of posts have been dug about 400 yards further East. The large number of tracks into our old line is probably caused by working parties.

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## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 13th April to 6 a.m. 14th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. PERATIONS Artillery. During the day S.O.S. lines were readjusted. At 9 p.m. a concentration was fixed on cross roads and rifle pits at P.1.e.2.2. A burst of fire was put down on HAMEL at 3.15 p.m. and on BOIS de VAIRE at 2.37 a.m. including heavy artillery. At irregular intervals between 4.15 and 6.15 a.m. bursts of fire were fired on probable assembly positions. At 5.5 a.m. large body of enemy at P.14.d.3.4. were successfully engaged. M.G's. 4,900 rounds were expended in searching edge of BOIS de VAIRE wood running parallel across P.20.b and road from P.20.b.50.20 to P.21.c.30.95. Patrols report the following:- Owing to the darkness of the night patrolling was difficult. Sounds of voices were heard and lights seen in BOIS de VAIRE. Post at P.8.d.35.45 was found to be unoccupied. Houses in BOUSENCOURT were thoroughly searched and patrols pushed out in front, no enemy were seen. Fighting patrol left our lines at P.26.a.0.5 and proceeded east about 250 yards when voices were heard in a northerly direction. Patrol then moved north and before going far one of the enemy was met and immediately captured.
2. COMMUNICATIONS. Corporal of the 3rd Coy. 478th I.R. 243rd Division captured by patrol at P.26.c.5.8 and wounded prisoner of the 1st Coy. 48 I.R. 228th Division captured as a result of attempted enemy raid on our post in P.19.d.9.7.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY showed a decrease. VILLERS BRETONNEUX was intermittently shelled with 4.2 and 5.9's. VAIRE and HAMEL were shelled at intervals.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. At 10.30 p.m. a party of the enemy attempted to raid our post in P.19.d.9.7. Listening post gave warning and opened fire with L.G's resulting in 5 of the enemy being killed one wounded and taken prisoner. M.G's Machine guns fired occasional bursts on our front line during the night.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Trench at P.8.d.35.45 found to be unoccupied. (patrol O.P. located at P.8.d.6.1.
6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Inactive.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Isolated movement observed during afternoon in P.16.a. Owing to bad visibility little movement observed.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. Visibility poor owing to mist. At 8 p.m. a fire was observed in HAMEL and burned for half an hour. Ground very muddy. Aerial annex accompanies this Summary.

K.A. Goodland  
 Ltut-Colonel, G.  
 for 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 14/4/1918.

Notes on further photographs taken on 12th April 1918.

- +35 AE. B. 851. This is a good photograph of the Aerodrome East of VILLERS BRATONNEX and buildings in P.25.e. showing damage done by hostile artillery.
- 35 AE. B. 856 Shows the enemy line of posts West of HAMEL and also North of the Western edge of the village. There is no particular feature about the village itself.
- 35 AE B. 857 The enemy posts are very clear West of the BOIS DE VAIRE and a short but continuous line of trench with traverses has been built in P.14.b. Three emplacements - probably for M.G's. - have been built in P.14.d. just West of the road.
- 35 AE B. 858 A short trench is visible on the Southern edge of the wood, and considerable tracks show up inside the wood. There is a rough line of enemy posts parallel with and East of the Road in P.21.a and another one south of the main road in P.20.b.
- 35 AE B. 863 Hangars and camp in our lines at O.30. and P.25.
- 35 AE B. 887 This is a poor photograph of the enemy area in P.20, 21, 26, 27. Several irregular lines of enemy posts can be seen in these squares, but the photograph is indistinct.

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## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 14/4/1918

REPORT on examination of Corporal of 3rd Coy. 478th I.R., 243rd Division captured about P.26.e at midnight and a private of 1st Coy. 48th I.R. 228th Division captured near post P.19.d.9.7. at 10.30 p.m. on the night 13th/14th April 1918.

1. HOW CAPTURED. Both prisoners had lost their way during the relief of the 228th Division by the 243rd Division. The corporal acting as orderly N.C.O. had inspected all the posts in the regimental sector when taken over. He then fell in with one of our patrols and was captured. The private of the outgoing battalion lost his way and with 4 other strays came on our wire about post P.19.d.9.7. Fire was opened and he was wounded and captured. He was one of the party which was engaged by the same post.
2. PERSONAL DETAILS. The N.C.O. was a War Volunteer, a Wurtemberger, born 17.7.99 and had come into the field August 1917. He was very unwilling to talk on military matters and showed a fine soldierly spirit. He had only been corporal for three days and aspired to be an officer. The private was born 12.7.88, a man of medium intelligence and willing to talk, but was affected by his wound.
3. DIVISIONAL RELIEF. The 48th I.R. and according to the private the remaining two regiments of the 228th Division were relieved in line about 10 p.m. on the night 13th/14th April by the 243rd Division. The 478th I.R. of the latter Division relieved the 48th I.R.
4. ORDER OF BATTLE and DISPOSITIONS. Little could be ascertained. The 1st Battalion of the 478th I.R. is in line. The regimental sector lies in P.20.c.26. a and c, but does not extend as far south as the VILLERS BRETONNEUX main road in P.26. c and d. The Bavarians (9th Bavarian Res.Div.?) are probably still in line on the southern flank.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. There is no wire in front of the line of holes. The number of men in each hole varies from one or more. I.M.G's There are five on the 1st Company front of the 48th I.R. M.W's None thought to be in the positions.
6. ENEMY LOCATIONS
  - (a) The factory in LAMOTTE at P.30.c.7.5. seems on all prisoners evidence to be much in use (See Air photo 35 A.E. B.829, 12.4.18) It has already been reported as a billet for troops. The Corporal lay in a cellar there all day on the 12th instant. A reserve Company Commander has his Headquarters in a cellar opposite (See Summary 2.4.18). One prisoner located an advanced dressing station in the factory.
  - (b) The rest Battalion of the 48th I.R. was located in huts in an old ammunition dump, described as being near a railway and on the southern side of the main AMIENS-ST.QUENTIN Road.
7. COMPANY STRENGTH. Trench strength of 3/478th I.R. 120 to 150 (probably an overestimate), of 1/48th I.R. 70.

-2-

8. CASUALTIES of 48th I.R. stated to be many, chiefly from M.G. fire. The Corporal of the 478th I.R. had been himself wounded slightly, and 4 other men severely by aeroplane M.G. fire on the 27th March. His diary makes constant reference to the bomb dropping and M.G. fire of our British aeroplanes on troops in camp or on the march.
9. DRAFTS. The 478th I.R. had received drafts while in rest. The draft to the 3rd Company was stated by the Corporal to be about 20, but this is no doubt an underestimate.
10. ENEMY INTENTIONS. Nothing ascertained.
11. MORALE. The private confirms the impression already given by many prisoners that the 220th Division are thoroughly fed up and depressed after their fortnights tour of duty in the line. The Corporal of the 243rd Division on the other hand showed personally/very high standard of confidence. He claimed also that the men were willing, obedient and in good spirits as a result of German successes and expect an early end to the war.
12. GENERAL. Extracts from the N.C.C.'s letters:  
 (a) dated 10.4.18. "We can be proud indeed of what we have accomplished in these ten days (1st to 10th April). Unfortunately we have also suffered pretty heavily, though the cases are mainly slightly wounded. The last time forward the Company was in MOREUIL, as you have probably read in the papers already."  
 (b) dated 13.4.18. "Yesterday I left CAPPY near BRAY with the advanced party of our Battalion, and came up the same evening to our new position. To-day I slept nearly the whole day in a cellar in LAMOTTE."



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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 14th April to 6 a.m. 15th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. At 4 p.m. a party of the enemy at P.4.a.8.6 were engaged successfully. Concentrations were fired at 9.30 p.m. 11.30 p.m. 5.10 a.m. and 6.15 a.m. including battery areas at P.16.a.2.0 and P.16.d.6.5. and probable enemy points of assembly. M.G's. 7,000 rounds were expended in harassing enemy tracks and communications.

Patrols. Our patrols were active during the night and report the following: Sounds of a large wiring party were heard below road on N.W. side of BOIS de VAIRE (P.14). Enemy post at approximately P.23.c.6.8 is unoccupied, a trip wire was found in front of post. Enemy working party estimated 20 were observed at P.25.a.8.3. Patrol opened fire with L.G. on the party and casualties are believed to have been inflicted. 2 of the enemy were seen in vicinity of P.4.b.4.8, patrol endeavoured to cut them off but were unsuccessful, enemy were fired on but got away.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Wounded prisoner of 1st Coy. 48 I.R. 228th Division who had been lying in NO-MAN'S LAND all day having been wounded the previous night in front of post P.19.d.9.8, also 3 prisoners of 1st M.G. Coy. 478 I.R. 243rd Division captured in P.20.e and one prisoner of the 1st Coy. 478th I.R. 243rd Division captured in P.26.a. Interrogation of these prisoners forms annexe to this Summary.

3. ORDER OF BATTLE opposite our front according to latest identifications.

N. of SOMME	18th DIVISION.
R. SOMME	
1st Gren.R.)	1st DIV. (probably in line since 6/4/18, Order of regiments unknown. Last identification (not conclusive) on 11.4.18)
3rd Gren.R.)	
43rd I.R.)	
P.14.e.0.0.	
479th I.R.)	243rd DIV. (relieved 228 DIV. on night 13th/14th 4/18. Latest identifications of 478 I.R. and 122 Fus. 15/4/18.
478th I.R.)	
P.26.a.0.0.	
122 Fus.Reg.)	

14th Bav.R.I.R.)	3th Bav. Res. DIV. (14th Bav.R.I.R. identified 15/4/18 relieved the 11th Bav.R.I.R. 14/15th-4-18. 11th Bav.R. now in reserve.
3rd Bav.Ers.I.R.)	

Order of battle (partial issue only) needs amendment accordingly. Identifications of the 1st Division are urgently required.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Showed slight increase to previous 24 hours. Following areas were shelled: P.2.c and d, P.8.a.80.42 P.25.c, P.30.c, CORBIE, HAMELET. At 11.15 p.m. P.2.e was shelled lightly with gas.

5. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Very quiet during the day. During the night much enemy movement, and a number of working parties were heard.

M.G's. Our front line posts were subjected to M.G. fire at intervals during the night.

Minenwerfers. At 1.30 a.m. 12 M.M.W's fell on front line posts in P.14 coming from the direction of BOIS de VAIRE.

Flares more flares were used by the enemy opposite left sector, than previous nights.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES. Posts in P.9.a. are occupied. New work observed on trench at P.4.b.7.7. O.P. suspected at P.20.d.6.2.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Nil.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Much movement observed on road running South from HAMMEL. Four times during the afternoon a stretcher was seen being carried by four men from P.8.d.6.1 to BOIS de VAIRE.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. Gun flashes were seen on a T.B. 133° from 1.30.a.6.2. Lamp signalling observed at Q.28.d. Visibility. Bad owing to mist. Night very dark with strong wind. Notes of 243rd German Division opposite right sector accompanies this Summary.

*Ernest Lee*  
*Esper*

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

ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 15/4/1918.

REPORT on examination of prisoner of 1st Coy.  
478th I.R., 243rd Division captured about  
62D P.26.a. early morning 15/4/1918.

1. HOW CAPTURED. Prisoner was not right forward, but in the close support line. The ration carriers called for a guide so he went out to meet them, took the wrong direction in the darkness and came to our post. In answer to the summons in German "HÄNDE HOCH!" he surrendered at once.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS and personal details. Prisoner was a Wurtemberger born 1892, has been in the field since 1915. Already promised the Iron Cross for long service of the 1st Coy. 478th I.R. 243rd Division.
3. ORDER OF BATTLE. The 479th I.R. is north of the 478th I.R. Nothing known at all of other regiments except that some "Guards" were supposed to be near (probably the GUARD ERSATZ DIVISION).
4. DISPOSITIONS and DEFENCES. The 1st Battalion is forward, all four Coys are in line (the 1st Coy. being on the North flank) and they also hold the support line, probably with one platoon each. Both lines consist merely of holes, with a man in each. The Company Commander is in one such, with his orderly. Nothing known of the location of the L.M.G.'s. There were no minenwerfers in line.
5. COMPANY STRENGTH. 100 men is the trench strength of the 1st Coy. after receiving drafts.
6. 1919 CLASS. The Company received a draft of at least 15 men while out of line. They were (all?) of the 1919 class. Prisoner was certain of this, as he had spoken to the newcomers in the hope of finding acquaintances among them and asked them their ages. He remarked that they were a sturdy lot, in contrast to drafts (of older classification) received before.
7. CASUALTIES. Stated to have been not exceptional. The usual references were made to losses through our aeroplane M.G. fire and bombs.
8. ENEMY INTENTIONS. In this sector quiescent. Prisoner stated that the Company Commander had told them that for the present the war was stationary and that all they would do would be to hold the line and be ready in case we attacked them.
9. COMMANDERS NAMES. C.C. 1st Coy. Lieut. HAG. No other officers in the Coy., but only "Officers' representatives" and N.C.O.'s.

ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 15/4/1918.

NOTES on the 243rd Division (opposite our Right Brigade front.

243rd Division. (Recruiting Area: WURTEMBERG).

Composition. -122nd Fusilier Regt.  
478th Inf. Regt.  
479th Inf. Regt. 238th Field Art. Regt.

Movements. The Division was in reserve in the ARLON area. Went into line on the 28/3/18. 30/3/18, South of MOREUIL. It then moved up to South of DEMUIN.

On the 4th April it was stated to have been relieved by the 54th Division. It relieved the 238th Division on the night 13th/14th-4-18 at 10 p.m. between the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX-VILLERS CARBONNEL main road and BOIS de VAIRE.

Losses. 8/122 Coy. strength was 20 on 5/4/18, present strength 80. (P.S. 15.4.18.)  
9th Coy. 122nd Fus. Regt. only 30 strong on 30.3.18. Heavy losses between 26th and 30th, amounting to 50% in fighting at VILLERS CARBONNEL, ESTREES, GUILLAUCOURT, IGNAUCOURT, VILLERS aux ERABLES and in the attack on MOREUIL.

Drafts. 1/478 15 men of 1919 class (P.S. 15.4.18.)  
122 Fus. 500, largely of 1919 class received 9.4.18 (P.S. 15.4.18)

Character As a Wurtemberg regiment it ought to be good. At present the Division is still tired, the time out of the line being spent mainly in moving about. Prisoners expect a quiet time in this part of the line.

## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 15/4/1918.

Examination of 3 prisoners 1st M.G.Coy., 478th I.R.  
243rd Division captured about P.20.0 night 14th/15th  
April 1918.

1. METHOD CAPTURE. Prisoners were sent to the field kitchens to bring up hot coffee- did not know the country- and wandered into one of our posts.
2. RELIEFS. The 478th I.R. relieved the 48th I.R. of the 228th Division on the night 13th/14th April. This confirms prisoners statement of the 478th I.R. published on the 14th April. Prisoners know nothing of the reliefs of the other two regiments of the Division, but take it for granted that the whole of the 243rd Division relieved the 228th Division on the 13th/14th April.
3. MOVEMENTS OF 243rd DIVISION. The 243rd Division was relieved by an unknown Division in the VERDUN sector about the end of January 1918 and went into rest until <sup>the</sup> last week in March. During their rest they were trained hard, principally for open warfare. They came into line, after the commencement of the present offensive, further south than their present sector but prisoners are unable to pin point any locality. They remained in line for 12 days after which they were relieved and marched East in order to go into rest billets. These orders however were cancelled and they were marched back again through PERONNE to take over their present sector. With the exception of one day they have had no rest since the commencement of their first tour in line in this neighbourhood.
4. ROUTES TO TRENCHES. Uncertain, but they appear to have used the main ST. QUENTIN-AMIENS Road as far as WARFUSEE ABANCOURT, thence branching off in a North-Westerly direction across country to their position.
5. FIELD KITCHENS. Come to WARFUSEE ABANCOURT, whence the food is carried by ration carriers furnished by the Companies in line.
6. COMPOSITION OF 1st M.G. COY. and DISPOSITIONS. The Company originally contained twelve heavy Machine Guns, three of which were taken away about 3 months ago. Of the nine remaining guns, six are in position at distances varying from 20 to 60 yards from the front line, and three are in reserve with some of the Company. The guns in line are in Machine Gun nests with a crew of 6 men per gun including one leader. Total strength in line is about 50 and two officers.
7. INTENTIONS. Prisoners have no knowledge of future intentions or objectives. They state their orders were to remain quiet in the line and do no shooting unless we attacked. They were quite certain their Division was not going to attack and state the men are all tired and incapable of doing much, and do not consider the offensive can be carried on much longer.
9. LOSSES. Have been fairly heavy during the offensive. The 1st M.G. Coy. lost 40 men out of 130 during their previous tour in line, chiefly from rifle and M.G. fire.
10. MORALE. Although of fair physique prisoners morale was poor and they said they were fed up with the whole war. Two of the prisoners were fairly intelligent but obviously knew little, having been less than 24 hours in line.
11. SUMMER TIME. Is expected to come into force about the middle of 5. April but no definite date could be given.

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## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 15th April to 6 a.m. 16th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. **OPERATIONS. Artillery.** Working parties were engaged and dispersed at 8.30 a.m. in P.16.b and at 10 a.m. in P.10.d. A body of 20 men moving in P.11.d.05.00 at 9.30 a.m. was scattered.
- At 4 p.m. small parties wandering in P.10.c were dispersed. At 6.50 p.m. an enemy party approximately 100 strong in P.20.b were dispersed.
- In the afternoon a hostile battery firing from P.16.d.8.4 was engaged and silenced. Hostile H.G. emplacement at P.14.b.3.9 was bombarded, and hostile T.M. battery at approximately P.14.d.5.3 silenced.
- During the night sweeping fire was employed back from S.O.S. lines at irregular periods and commencing from different lines, and Howitzer batteries engaged centres of activity and concealed ground.
- M.G's. 7,000 rounds were expended in traversing and searching areas behind BOIS de VAIRE, P.21.a.20.60 to P.15.c.25.80.
- Patrols report following:- Enemy patrol about 15 in number seen in vicinity of P.14.b.8.9. Large enemy working party was heard at P.13.b.8.5. Dugouts in chalk pit at P.14.c.8.6 found unoccupied. Much noise was heard during the night in BOIS de VAIRE. Liaison patrols were maintained.
- Snipers (See MISCELLANEOUS).
2. **IDENTIFICATIONS.** One of the enemy wandered into our post at P.25.b.95.25 was challenged and on trying to escape was shot. He belonged to 9th Coy. 478 I.R. 243rd Division.
3. **HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.** showed increase to previous period. Following areas were shelled: VAIRE and BOUZENCOURT with 4.2, P.7.a P.25.a and c; 9.20 to 11.30 a.m. (heavy), VILLERS BRETONNEUX, 0.28.central, HAMELET, VAUX and CORBIE. Between 10 and 10.40 p.m. 28 4.2" gas shells fell in P.2.c.
5. **ENEMY ATTITUDE.** Quiet, especially during the night, otherwise no change.
- Minerwerfers.** A few rounds on P.8.c coming from direction of P.14.b.9.2. Several Granatenwerfers fell on front post in P.13 and 14.
- M.G's fired on our forward posts and tracks at intervals during the night.
- Snipers.** Enemy snipers were active from West edge of BOIS de VAIRE
- Large numbers of flares were fired by the enemy opposite Right Sector during the night.
6. **ENEMY DEFENCES.** **Wire.** New enemy wire exists from P.4.d.1.2 to P.10.d.5.3 also from P.14.d.05.50 to P.14.d.5.5.
- 2 M.G's located at P.20.b.5.6 and one at P.8.b.4.0.
- Strong points** located P.14.c.95.20 (strongly wired) and two at P.21.a.2.9. Two posts that appear to be wireless observed at P.10.d.7.8.

7. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Nil.

8. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Movement observed as follows:- Small parties of two and three were seen throughout the day behind HAMEL particularly at P.10.d.7.8. At 7 p.m. party of 150 of the enemy moved from BOIS d'ACCROCHE to BOIS de VAIRE in P.20.b., our artillery were informed and party were successfully engaged. Road running through P.14.a and c was the centre of much movement also AMIENS-PERONNE Road from Q.25 to R.26 consisting of M T and horse transport.

Train Movement 2.45 p.m. train moving S.E. in W.15.a.  
 2.55 p.m. train stationary in W.12.b.  
 5.30 p.m. train observed travelling in S.E. direction in W.8.d.  
 6.45 p.m. train moving N.W. in W.15.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. Gun flashes observed at 123° T.B. from P.13.d.3.4. Red lamp flashing in BOIS de VAIRE. Lamp signalling observed at Q.27.b.2.2. Light observed at 114° T.B. from I.24.d.5.1. Visibility fair.

Snipers. Our snipers were active during the day and claim to have inflicted many casualties. (No.1 OPERATIONS). Part 2 of this Summary (Information from other sources) is attached.

*K.A. Goodland Capt.*  
 for Lieut-Colonel,  
 General Staff,  
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 16/4/1918.

NOTES on 1st DIVISION probably opposite our Left Brigade front.  
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1st Division- Recruiting area- KONIGSBERG.

Composition- 1st Gren. Regt. 16th Field Arty. Regt.  
3rd Gren. Regt. 52nd Field Arty. Regt.  
45rd Inf. Regt.

Movements- In November 1917 the Division came from RUSSIA to the Western front. From the middle of January till March it was in line at VERDUN. From there it went to rest in ALSACE, where it remained till 15th March, when it proceeded via BERTRY to a position in rear of the front, arriving on 20/3/18. They came into line on 23/3/18. On the 26/3/18 the objective of the Division was MORLANCOURT. On the 28/3/18 the Division reached SAILLY-LAURETTE.

It was last identified in line at LA MCTTE on 28th/29th/3/18. It was relieved by 228th Division and went to rest. It was identified in reserve on the 8/4/18., close behind the 4th Guard and 228th Divisions, but since then it probably has relieved the 4th Guard Division in line though the documentary evidence on the point is not conclusive.

Losses- The 3rd Grenadier Regt. appears to have had considerable losses in the advance. On the 28/3/18 its average Company strength was stated to be 40. Since then our Artillery have caused them further heavy losses. (P.S.)

Drafts- A draft of 300 men straight from the depot arrived at the beginning of April. They were not put through any training at a field recruit depot.

General- The Division was always considered a good division. Part of its losses have been made good by drafts. It is not considered that the last prisoner's account of bad morale is altogether correct, as he was a convalescent sent straight out from a convalescent depot to the line. It should be classed a good fighting Division.

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PART II 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 16/4/1918.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.  
(From Summaries of our Corps or flank Corps)

GERMAN SUMMER TIME. A wave shows that the enemy adopted Summer time at 2 a.m. on the 15th instant. German time will therefore be now one hour IN ADVANCE OF English time.

GERMAN DIVISIONS on WESTERN FRONT. (to date 13/4/18).  
The arrival of two divisions from RUSSIA one in CHAMPAGNE and the other in LORRAINE increases the total estimated number of German Infantry Divisions on the Western front from 203 to 205.  
Three fresh divisions from G.H.Q. reserve have reinforced the battle front South of the SOMME.  
Three fresh divisions, two of which are from G.H.Q. reserve, have reinforced the LYS battle front, where 25 fresh divisions have now been engaged. (Concluding paragraph see below)

GERMAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. Two Australians captured on the 5th instant near DERNANCOURT managed to escape back to our lines on the 13th. Their report included the following details:  
Prisoners were examined in PERONNE in a grey building in the main street. No questions on military matters were asked, only their name, number and unit. They were, however, asked why they had volunteered to come and fight for England. Official post-cards, on which it was stated that they were prisoners in the hands of the Germans, were given to them for sending home to their people. The interrogator could not speak good English.  
Food. Breakfast consisted of coffee which looked more like coloured water, at 6 a.m., and about 4 ounces of black bread, the latter being the day's rations. For dinner at 12 O'clock there was a thick soup and at 6 p.m. coffee.  
A German Intelligence N.C.O. who spoke to the prisoners stated that the Germans were held up on this front, and that the slaughter of the Germans by our fire was terrible. Both men are of the opinion that our shell fire is by far more deadly than that of the Boche, owing to the splintering effect of the shells.

GERMAN DIVISIONS on WESTERN FRONT (Continued). Of the 205 German Infantry Divs. in the Western theatre 122 have now been engaged since 21st March and 19 are of poor quality. There are 42 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into battle, and 22 which are in reserve, 13 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.

## PART II.

## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Deserter of 208th Division surrendered S.E. of BOUZENCOURT on April 16th 1918 states:-

His Division is in reserve at FERONNE and 228th Division is in same neighbourhood. Austrian mortars East of ALBERT, these are moving South. Bridges at FERONNE rebuilt for all traffic. Normal gauge line runs to MARICOURT where stores are transferred to narrow gauge. Common knowledge attack to take place shortly but does not know where. Divisions in line to be relieved before attack.

GERMAN DIVISIONS ON WESTERN FRONT (from Army Summary 15/4/18.

The arrival of a divisional staff from MACEDONIA increases the total estimated number of German infantry divisions on the Western front from 205 to 206. (Units of this division were engaged on the 21st March).

One fresh division, from G.H.Q. reserve, has reinforced the LYS battle front, where 26 fresh divisions have now been engaged.

One fresh division, from FLANDERS and G.H.Q. reserve, has reinforced the battle front south of the SOMME, and a total of 98 divisions have now been engaged on the SOMME battle front.

Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western theatre, 124 have now been engaged since the 21st March and 19 are of poor quality. There are 42 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle, and 21 which are in reserve, 11 of the latter being probably ~~in~~, opposite the British front.

Owing to the formation of the new 303rd Division in RUMANIA, there are now a total of 242 German infantry divisions in the field.

The estimated number of German infantry divisions in the Eastern theatre is 35. If it is assumed that the 7 unidentified divisions which are known to have arrived in the Western theatre are good divisions, there are 30 poor and only 5 good divisions which can still be transferred to the Western front.

The Germans maintained a force of 2 divisions on the BALKAN front throughout 1917. The 10th Jager Regt. was engaged at LA FERRE on the 21st March 1918. The 9th Jager Regt. was identified by contact in the VOSGES on the 8th April. Reports have also been received of the transfer of the 11th Gren Regt. and of the artillery of the 302nd Div. The German force in MACEDONIA is now at most one division, and the staff of the 302nd Div. has probably been transferred to the Western front.

Deducting the 35 divisions in the Eastern theatre, and the 1 division in MACEDONIA, there remain 206 German infantry divisions which are all in the Western theatre.

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For Official Use Only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 16th April to 6 a.m. 17th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. At 9.15 a.m. the enemy were reported massing in the Southern edge of the BOIS de VAIRE, and bursts were fired on that area. A hostile battery in P.16.d. was silenced. In the afternoon movement in BOIS de VAIRE and BOIS de HAMEL was engaged, and an enemy party moving in HAMEL engaged and silenced. A M.G. firing from P.11.a.2.0 was silenced. Movement at P.4.c.4.4. was engaged. At 3 p.m. a large body of enemy apparently carrying timber behind the BOIS de VAIRE were dispersed and a further burst put on them after they scattered. The M.G. positions at P.14.d.80.25 and P.14.b.9.2 were registered. At 6.40 p.m. a number of the enemy in P.14.b were put to flight. During the night bursts of fire swept probable points of assembly at irregular intervals, and sweeping fire searched back from varying distances behind S.O.S. lines. M.G's. 6,000 rounds were fired on enemy tracks and routes. Patrols report the following:- Enemy working parties were heard about P.14.b.9.2 and North edge of BOIS de VAIRE. Enemy listening post at P.9.a.50.95 was found unoccupied. Liaison patrols between posts and flank units were maintained during the night.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS Nil.

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Enemy artillery was active throughout the 24 hours along the whole front VAIRE, HAMELET, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, P.19.a and b, P.14.a, b, and d, support line right sector, O.30.d. central were shelled at intervals. On Right sector by day front posts were harassed, and by night scattered shooting was distributed over the whole of the reserve area. At dawn a concentrated gas bombardment was put down on VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. At 5.10 a.m. to 5.45 a.m. enemy put down barrage on our front and support lines, left sector, with 77mm's, 4.2's and 5.9" H.E. mixed with gas. There was a considerable amount of (SNEEZING) gas used in this bombardment.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Enemy artillery showed much activity throughout the period under review. Scattered shelling was distributed over whole area. Minenwerfers. At 9.30 p.m. 6 M.M.W's fell in P.13.d from BOIS de VAIRE. M.G's. showed usual activity during the night. Enemy snipers were active from P.20.a between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. New wire has been erected at P.10.a thence N.E. over ridge also a belt running from P.16.b to P.11.d.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 4.30 p.m. 3 E.A. flew over our lines in J.33. 2 enemy planes crossed our lines at 1.25 p.m. and were driven off by A.A. fire. Enemy balloons up at 173°, 154°, 160° T.B. from I.24.d.4.1.

7. ~~MOVEMENT~~ AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Small parties of enemy were seen at P.27.c.7.8. At 7.45 p.m. a large enemy carrying party entered BOIS de VAIRE carrying what appeared to be knife rests. At 3 p.m. much movement seen in Q.14.a and near copse in Q.14.b, consisting of wagons men in large numbers and mounted troops. Train movement, 5.25 p.m. train observed moving from MARCELCAVE to WIENCOURT.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. Smoke was seen issuing from house in BOIS de VAIRE during the day, Gun flashes observed 108°, 133° T.B. from P.19.a.4.1. Battery firing from 162° 3" T.B. from I.24.d.4.1. Signalling observed from South corner of wood in P.12.a frequently during the day. Visibility fair. Part 2 of this Summary (Information from other sources) is attached.

*K.A. Goodland*  
for Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 17th April to 6 a.m. 18th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. In the morning small enemy parties in P.8.a, P.14.a and P.11.a were dispersed. Registrations were checked. In the afternoon hostile A.A. M.Guns at P.4.b.1.6 were successfully engaged. Small bodies of enemy moving in P.14.b.7.7 and P.20.b.1.5 were scattered. During the night concentrations were fired on BOIS de VAIRE and FLAT IRON CORSE (I.5.c and d) and bursts of fire swept points of activity or possible assembly at irregular periods. M.G's. were active on enemy track routes, and front trench systems during the night. patrols report the following:- Enemy working parties were heard in western edge of BOIS de VAIRE. Enemy listening post located at approximately P20.c.5.2. No enemy patrols were seen. Liaison patrols were maintained throughout the night.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.
3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Very active on right sector particularly with gas. From 4.45 a.m. to 10 a.m. VILLERS BRETONNEUX was heavily shelled with H.E. mixed with gas. BLUE, YELLOW, and GREEN CROSS gas was identified. Enemy artillery was active on reserve line during early morning, other areas shelled were P.19.a and d and P.24 a and b. On left sector areas shelled were: Forward posts in P.3.a and P.2.d, VAIRE, BOUZENCOURT. At 11.10 p.m. 5 4.2" Gas shell fell in HAMELET.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet except for increased artillery activity. Minenwerfers. A H.M. was active on front line firing from P.14.b.2.6. M.G's quiet with the exception of occasional bursts of fire on our front system.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. M.G's located firing from P.14.d.25.50, P.14.b.8.4, P.14.d.8.2, P.14.d.35.60 and P.14.d.45.95, P.20.b.10.90 and house in BOIS de VAIRE P.14.d.5.5.
6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Between 2 and 2.30 p.m. 2 E.A. crossed our line, but returned on the approach of our planes.

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## 7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Small groups of men were observed in P.27.e.6.4, also four men carrying man on stretcher from P.17.c to P.23.e. Transport observed on road in P.30.d moving towards LA MOTTE ~~en~~ S. ANTERRE. Isolated movement was seen in P.17.d, P.15.e, P.21.d and in front of BOIS D'ARQUAIRE. All enemy movement ceased at 7.30 p.m. when our artillery shoot commenced.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS. Lamp signalling observed in P.12.c.

Visibility poor.

Part II of this Summary (Information from other sources is appended).

*K. C. Woodland Capt-*  
for Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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PART II.

(From Corps and Army Summaries)

1. ENEMY INTENTIONS. A prisoner of the 9th Bav. R. Div. states that the regimental gas officer gave lectures a few days ago stating that VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was to be taken soon. It was to be well gassed first and troops were not to enter it. Prisoner believed their division was to take part but was not certain. On the front south of ARRAS (southern limit of attack not known) with AMIENS as its objective. One prisoner stated Prussian divisions were massed for this attack in NOYON-HAM area: another that preparations for this attack were practically complete on the HEBUTERNE front. In this regard another prisoner stated that an offensive must take place, with AMIENS as its objective, in a few days. AMIENS is absolutely necessary to the Germans, as it forms such an important centre.

-3-

It seems probable that a big offensive is imminent south of ARRAS. The extent of the front to be attacked is not known, but may reach as far south as ALBERT. At the same time attacks will probably be delivered simultaneously south of the SOMME, with the immediate object of capturing the high ground near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and west of MOREUIL.

2. OPINION IN GERMANY. The universal opinion in Germany is that this offensive will succeed. Attacks will be made all along the British front, and the time will come when one of these attacks will end in a decisive victory. A sudden collapse on the part of the British is expected. Questioned as to the effect on Germany of a failure to win a decisive victory during the coming months, prisoner stated that he himself felt certain of victory, but that undoubtedly failure would cause a revolution and the downfall of Germany. Moreover, in view of the coming War Loan, it would be necessary to do something striking very shortly (e.g. the capture of AMIENS) in order to induce the German people to subscribe.

3. MORALE. From the examination of prisoners recently it seems that the morale of officers and senior N.C.O.'s is undoubtedly good. They are tired of the war, but are confident of the success of the offensive and trust the ability and leadership of their higher commands. The morale of the men, on the other hand, notably of the Saxons (24th Res. Div.), but also of the other Divisions engaged on this front, is poor, and little enthusiasm is manifested for battle. The prime cause of this is war fatigue, which has been further accentuated by recent hardships; most of the men would prefer to go home than to win the most brilliant victories. The men see no end to the war and are asking themselves what ideas can be worthy of such prolonged fighting and sacrifice.

#### 4. GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS.

(a) 1919 class. Prisoners state that the Field Recruit Depots in RUSSIA, which contained a large number of men of the 1919 class, were transferred to the Western front on the conclusion of peace with RUSSIA. From information from other sources, it appears that the 1919 class will now be regularly included in drafts to make good the losses incurred in the present offensive.



-4-

Morale of 1919 Class. On the whole a certain amount of enthusiasm exists amongst men of this class in the Field Recruit Depots and their bearing in battle is perhaps better than might have been expected. The majority have had 9 months training, though some (e.g. of the 19th Div.) have had less than 7. They are undoubtedly a source of weakness to their divisions and in the opinion of older soldiers will not stand a severe strain. Quite a number of these recruits are not yet 19 years of age.

Practically the whole of these drafts received by divisions opposite this front since the beginning of April have belonged to this class, the depots having already been depleted of fit older men and convalescent wounded. It is to be noted that they are distributed as evenly as possible amongst the companies in order to ensure an adequate stiffening of older men. CAMBRAI has so far been the detraining centre for drafts arriving in this area, and from there they march to their unit.

"Combing out" in Germany. According to a prisoner (aged 23) who was himself combed out a large comb out occurred in Saxony on January 5th, the following days. LEIPZIG produced 3,000 men and the whole of Saxony 10,000. The comb out was principally in munition factories or other essential industries (e.g. prisoner was making equipment in his father's establishment) and the men were replaced by men over military age or otherwise unfit for further military service, by withdrawing men from less essential industries and by girls.

5. GERMAN DIVISIONS ON THE WESTERN FRONT. One fresh division from ALSACE has reinforced the LYS battle front, where 27 fresh divisions have now been engaged, a total of 98 divisions have now been engaged on the SOMME battle front. One division, withdrawn from the SOMME battle front, has released a division holding the line in CHAMPAGNE. Of the 206 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 125 have not been engaged since the 21st March and 19 are of poor quality. There are 41 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into the battle, and 21 which are in reserve, 11 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.





For Official Use Only.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 18th April to 6 a.m. 19th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

1. OPERATIONS. Artillery. During the morning parties in P.14.central, P.11.a and P.16.d were dispersed. A hostile battery in P.11.d was silenced. Throughout the afternoon parties of enemy were continually engaged, casualties being observed to be inflicted: At 3.45 p.m. on a party in P.10.d. At 4.15 p.m. the hostile battery in P.11.d was again silenced and a M.G. in P.14.b bombarded. At night an aeroplane call/was for P.5.d.8 answered. Concentrations were fired throughout the night on HAMEL, BOIS de VAIRE (including 200 rounds gas on Eastern edge), and P.10.c.2.2 and possible assembly points. M.G's. 8,000 rounds were expended and following targets engaged; P.15.c and P.21.a, and road in P.20.b and P.21.a. Patrols report the following:- Four of the enemy were seen at P.14.b.0.4, they were fired on and disappeared. Post at P.3.c.5.6 is unoccupied. Large enemy working parties heard digging in vicinity of West edge of BOIS de VAIRE. One of our patrols was challenged by enemy patrol at P.20.c.2.3, patrol immediately opened fire, 3 of the enemy were seen to fall. A search for identification was made afterwards but was unsuccessful. A dead German was found in shell hole at P.20.a.2.3. There was no identification on the body.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.

3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Enemy artillery was less active than previous 24 hours. Following areas were shelled:- 0.30.b and c, P.25.b and d, VAIRE, BOUZENCOURT, P.13, P.7.c and d and HAMELET. VILLERS BRETONNEUX was shelled intermittently during the morning with H.E and gas. The gas bombardment on the 18th lasted till 12 noon. 3000 shells estimated to have fallen in the area.



ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet but on the alert.

Minenwerfers. At 5.30 p.m. 5 M.M.W. and 18 Granatenwerfers fell in vicinity of P.8.c.0.0.

M.G's. Occasional bursts of fire were directed against our forward posts during the night.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy post with 2 M.G. positions located at P.8.d.7.7 (patrol). At P.20.c.2.5 a chain of newly dug posts extending over 100 yards was seen by patrol. Each post would accommodate about 3 men. M.G. position located at P.9.c.00.20.

6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. Between 6.45 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. 3 flights of 3, 5 and 4 E.A. attempted to cross our lines but were driven off by A.A. fire. E.E. were active over our lines during the night. Several bombs were dropped on DAOURS.

7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.

Movement observed as follows:- Single men moving along sunken road in P.10.d. Large parties of infantry and transport between BAYONVILLERS and WARFUSEE. During afternoon much movement of transport moving S in Q.15.a. also on road in Q.27 and Q.20. Two Field guns drawn by two horses travelling N.W. on road in P.17.d. Ten G.S. wagons moving from CERISY through Q.20 and 26. Train Movement 3.30 p.m. train shunting in X.1.d. 4.35 pm. train moving N.E. in X.7.a. 5.15 p.m. train moving North in X.7.a. 6.15 p.m. train moving North in X.1.d.

8. MISCELLANEOUS. 8.30 p.m. lamp signalling seen in direction of N end of the BOIS de VAIRE. Enemy battery observed from P.30.a.5.5. Flashes observed at P.11.b.1.7.

Visibility. poor during morning. Fair in afternoon.

Ground. Boggy.

Part II of this summary (information from other sources) is attached.

K. A. Goodland Capt.  
for  
Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

## PAGE 22.

(Information from other sources)

## 1. GERMAN DIVISIONS ON WESTERN FRONT. (17th April 1918)

The arrival is reported of two divisions in ALSACE-LORRAINE from RUSSIA; as the move into Belgium from Germany of two divisions, which now appear to have come from ALSACE, has already been counted, there is no increase in the estimated number of German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre.

One fresh division, from line in ALSACE, has reinforced the LYS battle front, where 28 fresh divisions have now been engaged. A total of 98 divisions have now been engaged on the SOME battle front.

Two divisions north of the SOME have been relieved by divisions which have been refitting for over 3 weeks, and one division withdrawn after suffering heavy losses has come into line in the VILY sector.

Of the 208 German infantry divisions in the Western Theatre, 126 have now been engaged since the 21st March, and 20 are of poor quality. There are 40 fresh divisions in line, which have not yet been drawn into battle, and 20 which are in reserve, at least 12 of the latter being probably opposite the British front.

## 2. GENERAL.

The situation remains unchanged. Further information has been received indicating an attack on VILLEERS-BRETTONNEUX. This village is to be bombarded with gas and not to be entered by the enemy's infantry when they advance. Fairly fresh divisions have replaced tired divisions in ALBERT and LERMANCOURT, hence the Germans have strengthened their forces opposite the left flank of the Fourth Army.



5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. **APPENDIX** 25

From 6 a.m. 19th April to 6 a.m. 20th April 1918.

NOTE: Not to be taken into front line trenches.

**OPERATIONS. Artillery.** In the morning hostile working parties in P.4.c., P.11.a., and South of the BOIS de VAIRE were dispersed. In the afternoon a M.G. firing from P.15.b was successfully engaged, and a hostile battery in P.16.b silenced. At 11.35 p.m. a concentration gas shoot on the Western edge of the BOIS de VAIRE was carried out, and at 3.27 a.m. a concentration gas shoot was fired on HAMEL.

Concentrations, including Heavy Artillery, were fired as follows:

11.35 p.m.	BOIS de VAIRE	- 5 minutes
1.43 a.m.	BOIS D'ACCROCHE	- 2 minutes
3.27 a.m.	HAMEL	- 2 minutes

At 9.45 p.m. bursts of fire searched centres of activity or assembly, and sweeping fire was employed at 4.35 a.m.

**M.G.'s.** 10,500 rounds were expended and following targets engaged:-  
Cross roads at P.14.b.90.25, Fork roads P.15.b.05.95, road P.15.b.05.95 to P.15.c.3.5, enemy front line posts.

**Patrols.** Liaison patrols between posts and units were maintained, in addition patrols report the following: Six of the enemy were seen in vicinity P.8.d.7.7, patrol opened fire on them and they dispersed. An enemy patrol of 1 officer and 20 other ranks was encountered at P.20.a.8.8, a fight ensued resulting in six of the enemy being killed, one wounded and taken prisoner. A party of the enemy estimated ten strong were seen at about P.3.d.3.1.

**2. IDENTIFICATIONS.** Wounded prisoner of the 3rd Coy. 43rd I.R. 1st Division captured in patrol encounter in P.20.a. Interrogation of prisoner forms annexe to this Summary.

**3. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.** Showed usual activity. Reserve line in O.24.b and O.24.a was shelled with 4.2" from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Gas shells fell during the night on P.19.d. Other areas shelled were VAIRE, CORBIE, HAMELET. Cross roads in P.13. Back areas shelled with 5.9" gun were O.27.a and c and N.21.c. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was shelled all the afternoon.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Enemy patrols more active than usual otherwise no change.  
M.G.'s were active  
Minerwerfers 20 M.M.'s fell in P.14.a during the night. At 2.45 a.m. 4 M.M.'s fell in P.8.a.3.5 coming from T.B. 110° from P.8.a.35.40.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy post at P.8.d.7.7 appears to be held in strength. New post located at P.4.b.4.4. New trenches located at P.24.d.2.5, P.14.b.9.5, P.20.c.5.8.  
Wire. More wire and stakes have been erected near enemy posts in P.16.b, P.11.b, P.10.b and d.
6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 5.30 p.m. 7 E.A. crossed our lines. E.A. was active bombing back areas during the night. Several bombs were dropped on L'OURS. Balloon up at 118° T.B. from I.24.d.4.1.
7. MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND AROUND ENEMY LINES. Increased movement observed in vicinity of BERICOURT also following movement observed during the day. At 5.30 a.m. M.T. and waggons on MARCELCAVE-SARFUSEE Road, MORCOURT-CERISY Road much horse transport. A park of vehicles and horse lines observed in wood P.30.a and c. Ammunition limbers and guns on road in Q.25, 26 travelling East. 8 G.S. waggons travelling towards CERISY on road in Q.26 and much movement of infantry during the day on roads P.16.c.QO.to, P.21.d.7.5, P.21.a.5.0 to P.22.c.4.0.  
Train movement. Engine stationary at T.7.c.5.7.  
8 a.m. train moving south through X.19.  
8.50 a.m. motor engine and light train stationary in P.21.d.  
3.20 p.m. train moving North through R. 31.  
7 p.m. train shunting in FRAILERVILLE.
8. MISCELLANEOUS. Lamp signalling observed in Q.27. Enemy searchlight active at 122° T.B. from I.24.d.4.1.  
Visibility fair.

*W. Mac Coyne*

Lieut-Colonel, G.S.  
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



## ANNEXE TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 20/4/1918.

Report on examination of wounded prisoner of 3rd Coy. 43 I.R., 1st Division, captured in 62D P.20.a about 1 a.m. 20/4/1918.

1. IDENTIFICATION. 2nd Platoon, 3rd Coy. 43rd I.R. 1st Division. Prisoner belongs to the 1919 class, born January 1899. He was a munition worker in SPANDAU, and had been exempted from calling up until December 1917. He only joined the regiment on the 4th instant. Prisoner was willing to talk but his statements need confirmation.
2. HOW CAPTURED. Prisoner was one of a party of 20 men under a sergeant who were to capture one of our posts in P.13.d. last night. They came from a reserve platoon of the 3rd Coy. When they reached the terrace in P.14.c in front of the BOIS de VAIRE they were seen by the covering party of one of our fatigues. Fire was opened and prisoner was wounded and captured. The papers of one of the dead were also secured.
3. ORDER OF BATTLE N. to S.  
1st Grenadier regt.  
43rd I.R.  
3rd Grenadiers are in reserve, having been relieved in line, according to the prisoner, on 8/4/18. Prisoner had seen some of the 207 R.I.R. on the South flank on that night, that is to say in the sector now occupied by the 479th I.R.
4. REGIMENTAL DISPOSITIONS. The 1st Battalion of the 43rd I.R. has all four coys. in line in the order from N. to S. 4,2,3,1. Each company has one platoon forward and two in close support. The forward platoon of the 3rd Coy. is in the "wood position" apparently along the road in P.14.d on the W. edge of the BOIS de VAIRE. The reserve platoons are not in the wood but south of it. Compare air photos 35 A.E. B.857-858.  
The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were stated to be both in reserve in the BOIS d'ACCROCHE.
5. LOCATIONS. (a). The 3rd Coy. Commander is in the BOIS d'ACCROCHE.  
(b) The 3rd Grenadiers were billeted in CERISY. when prisoner joined up.  
(c) Field kitchens. These come up evening and early morning into HAMEL and pull up behind the CHURCH where they are met by the ration carriers.  
See Air photo 35 A.E. B.824. The times of arrival vary according to our artillery fire.

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6. L.M.G's. There are six in the 3rd Company.
7. MINEN BREER. Prisoner stated that there were three light minenwerfer in regular emplacements (eingebaut) in his sector. He could give no definite locations.
8. COMPANY STRENGTH of 3rd Coy. 100, of the 8th Coy. only 10.
9. CASUALTIES. Very severe since the beginning of the offensive. This is especially the case in the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, which according to prisoner are so weak that they have been kept in reserve ever since the regiment came into line. The 8th Coy. for instance is stated to be only 10 strong. Our artillery and M.G fire takes constant toll in casualties. No numbers could be given. Our gas bombardments on the BOIS de VAIRE recently were very effective. Prisoner knew only of non-fatal cases on the 10th instant, but on the night 17th/18th there were 13 dead in the 1st platoon of the 3rd Coy. alone.
10. DRAFTS. Prisoner was one of a draft of 400 who joined the 1st Division on the 4th instant. Of these, 200 went to the 43rd I.R. The draft consisted largely of returned wounded, but about 100 were of the 1919 class. They came straight from Germany into the field.
11. ENEMY INTENTIONS. Attack at present in this part of the line was considered impossible, at least so far as prisoners division was concerned. Nothing was known of general intentions. (It should be noted that the presence of weak divisions in line is not a decisive index to enemy intentions, seeing that he might attack with entirely fresh divisions passing through those in line.)
12. MORALE. Prisoner was very young. He obviously had little staying power, and looked at things very much from the personal point of view. Questioned as to the offensive for instance he stated that if it were to succeed divisions must not be kept so long in line as theirs and the men must get more to eat. (For a large proportion of the 1919 class this is probably true.)
13. MISCELLANEOUS. He had been told by officers that the English kill their prisoners. He half expected this fate to be his. He had thought that the French were on the front opposed to them. Australians he thought were blackfellows and was astonished to meet some white ones.

