

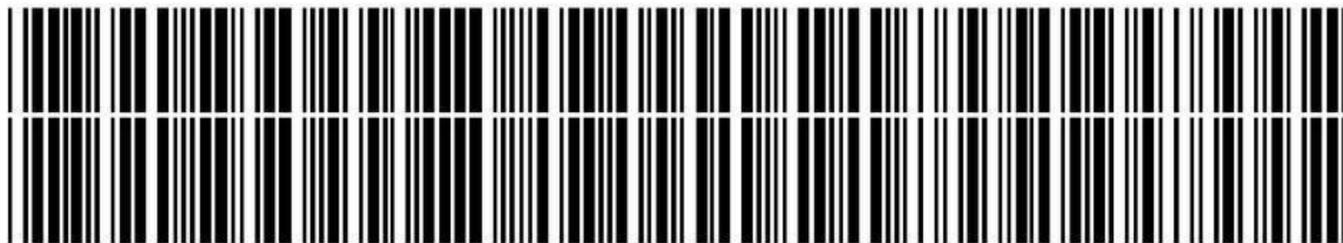
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/191/1

Title: Notebook, August 1918

Includes references to the 6th, 9th, 17th, 29th and 31st Battalions and Nos 2 and 4 Squadrons, Australian Flying Corps; also contains some shorthand notes.



AWM38-3DRL606/191/1

Original

DIARY NO 191

30RL 606 ITEM 191 [1]

AWM38

DIARIES AND NOTES OF C. E. W. BEAN
CONCERNING THE WAR OF 1914-1918

THE use of these diaries and notes is subject to conditions laid down in the terms of gift to the Australian War Memorial. But, apart from those terms, I wish the following circumstances and considerations to be brought to the notice of every reader and writer who may use them.

These writings represent only what at the moment of making them I believed to be true. The diaries were jotted down almost daily with the object of recording what was then in the writer's mind. Often he wrote them when very tired and half asleep; also, not infrequently, what he believed to be true was not so—but it does not follow that he always discovered this, or remembered to correct the mistakes when discovered. Indeed, he could not always remember that he had written them.

These records should, therefore, be used with great caution, as relating only what their author, at the time of writing, believed. Further, he cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of statements made to him by others and here recorded. But he did try to ensure such accuracy by consulting, as far as possible, those who had seen or otherwise taken part in the events. The constant falsity of second-hand evidence (on which a large proportion of war stories are founded) was impressed upon him by the second or third day of the Gallipoli campaign, notwithstanding that those who passed on such stories usually themselves believed them to be true. All second-hand evidence herein should be read with this in mind.

16 Sept., 1946.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS

C. E. W. BEAN.

OPEN

Guns.

Big gun.

3 trains

Sharp the

Signs of

Why not

25 ()

saw

Old 2

Village

Old

Person

Seen ✓ ✓ ✓

After saw

! 600

Sharp the

Why not

25 ()

saw

Old 2

Village

Old

Person

Chipilly
of 3000 guns
& tanks

at the

10 guns

17 Br Aug 18

6 Br Aug 18

31 Br Aug 18

29 Br Aug 19

29 Br Aug 19

29 Br Aug 19

29 Br Aug 19

29 Br Aug 19

① F 1 C 6.4. X Rd

② L 9 a 6.3. X Rd

③ L 11 ~~at~~ d. o. s. Rd w of Fouquier

④ . L 14 A. 6.8. X Rd^w of Fremantle
Leave ^{at} 12 noon. ride back to ②
& wait here till called for.

4	1		
2	1	9	1
1	1		
		A	
		A	

Notes from
J. Monash -
Aug 7th 1918
(transcribed on
my typewriter).

Bath & Cair
/ & Foch.

4.20 zero.

1st line Green. Cerisy
Lamotte.
Mezires.

2nd Red. Chipilly Brocourt
Sillancourt - Cavaux Esch.

3rd Blue. Mercourt Harboueres
Dotted P. Cair le Queval

This is 06

Cavalry 915

022 - 624
 is 56 x 648 - 6
 672 - 8 x 696 - 106

Chambres + 6
 Nestle. If at Peronne
 or Nestle he will have to take over
 Loups.

2 x 56 are N's
 42 are in the line in the
 last 2 days.



Car - ditons on 96 \ of
Blue line (be o.)

1st Bed is . 2+3 - Aubigny
1st (g n) is 1 c. - 1

Blue line + c Amiens he P
s b d e
2 2 7

5 6 18 2 5
4 Bas 6 7 of - - -
1 h - 2 , e a p -
eg x 9 24 9 eg 450
on w 9 lo x

≡

≡

F

20
00

17 Bn. 8 Aug. jumped off
from just 1000 yds S of Vaice wood.
Rt flank on road - to cross
it obliquely in getting to objective -
when left flank was on road
ind. E of cemetery at Lamotte.

18/20/
17/19/

19 & 20 took black line W. of
Warfasse just past Accroche
wood.

It was just getting too
foggy to be pleasant when
17 Bn got onto tapes abt
an hour before zero. German
showed no signs of life

2 zones - 6 / 20
C C 1 7 6 4 (2 1 1
S e . 4 (2 0 0
6 - - x - - -
- - - 6 - - 8 - -
- - 6 2 2 1 5
7 6 2 9 6
6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
h x

9 11 4 10
1 12

14 5 8
7 15 6

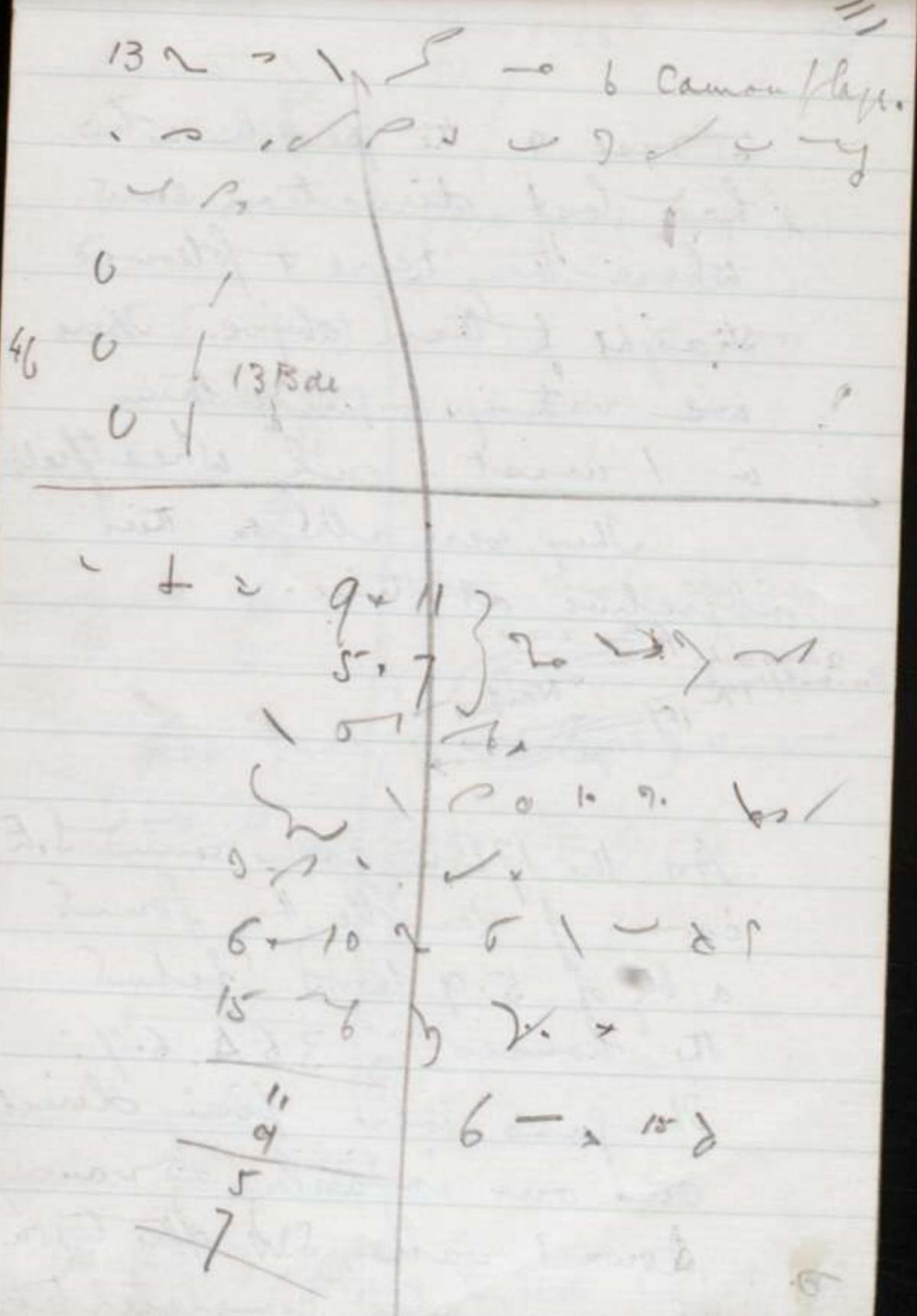
7 6 4 2 2

4
12 are at 4.30
8
15 zero 9 1 2

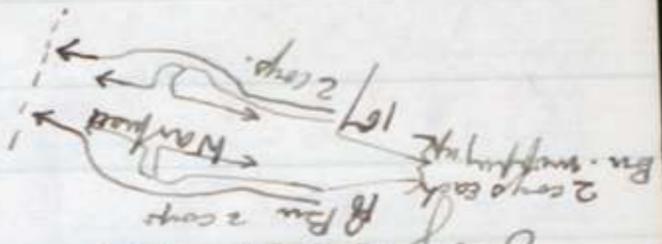
did not shell before zero.

a light German barrage
 caught the tail of the bn after
 zero - at 5 minutes after
 start. They tried to keep
 direction by compass -
 some followed tanks -
 some just followed barrage
 - the sections w'd be 60 yds
 between & quite out of view.
 Till Black line was taken
 there was a little inf. fire
 from black line wh was main
 German line of resistance.
 The smoke shell made
 this mist heavier.

At 1 hour after zero the mist began



25
 The same were completely taken
 down 1 valley SW. of the town.
 Our own infantry advancing
 The same were firing down
 the houses in 36A. 6.7.
 a lot of 5.9 tons of petrol
 corner of Kenneth King found
 At the 17th Bn came round J.F.



objective at time.
 They were all in this
 in 1 unit - only 1000 men
 was making a point from
 straight to their objective. There
 where they were followed
 had lost direction sense
 to give the people as the

1st
 reached.

Zero + 1 1/2
 N

Zero + 2 1/2

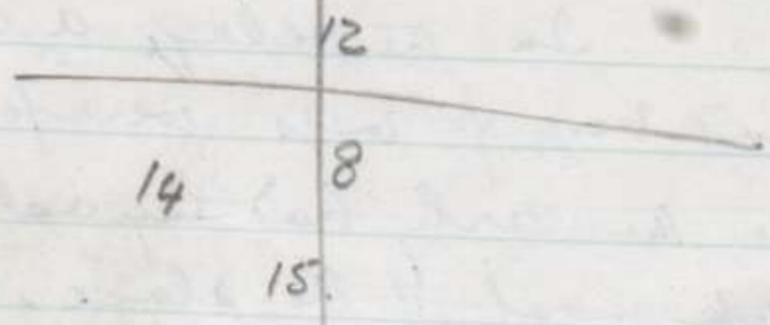
66 - 100 (- 50)
 in Warfuss Valley

1 4
 21 21
 8 8
 41 51

These move on zero

from valley Valley (- 100)

at Zero + 4 1/2
 N
 4
 1



Battle 9 green to red line is 2
 open warfare.

26

but found our people
 and fought a bit till
 up most of the place. There
 the the only had succeeded
 number of who were found
 in the valley a certain
 had gone.
 were not found - the cross
 a battery of 75. There were
 party of 18 Buss 175m caps
 the edge of water around
 the town at 300 2.8 in
 On the N. side of
 & everyone here presence
 look some cross, the country
 road kept from S. they
 coming round behind the
 by surprise by the men

111

Art:
 in line 9 w 18 7A Bdes
 all heavy art, a series
 of 9. 100 2 leaps
 valley
 intense x
 20 18 12
 4.5 Se line 200 2 ^ x
 No HA V x . 4 HA
 HA Re. V
 zone - timed.
 all Ha 10 10 Se Co
 20 2 12

The 8th Bede moved through
 the 8th Bede line. The sector
 became quiet except that
 the 8th Bede disappeared.
 has been disappeared.
 the captured & the German
 all the Germans seem to have
 nothing else seen of it -
 the Germans had cleared by them.
 went out & got their guns.
 left at 8:20 AM
 as seen as the artillery
 getting at them.
 artillery was present in
 central front. Our own
 saw a lot of 4.2 at 136
 & their objective, on night of 1st
 13th Coy. when they got
 sides.
 coming at them from all
 sides.

III

Barrage 2 3 0 1 0
 in 1st 10
 1.6.4
 3.4
 1.9
 2.1
 3.1
 4.1
 5.1
 6.1
 7.1
 8.1
 9.1
 10.1
 11.1
 12.1
 13.1
 14.1
 15.1
 16.1
 17.1
 18.1
 19.1
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 90.1
 91.1
 92.1
 93.1
 94.1
 95.1
 96.1
 97.1
 98.1
 99.1
 100.1

Tanks including one command
 by 2/50 Coy, 2nd Tank
 (sectors) 13 Coy, 2nd Tank
 Practically no arty - 3
 Skirmishers and the tanks
 preceded by a line of
 arty over - arty formation
 formation in all the line
 that formation - 1 exact
 At 1.0. line at 4.23 in
 J. B. line & arrived at
 arty formation on the
 Bar moved from B/V in
 general to the at 4.30pm
 0.4.

go forward to the X/R's
 the Bde staff, get ready
 orders, & then move Bar
 forward to jumping off line
 between X1A 01 & R31c

Tanks - 4 ✓
 12 (3 ✓) - 5 ✓ 100%
 1 ✓ - 5 ✓ star
 1 ✓ - 0 ✓
 0 u 30 - 6 -
 Tank supply
 121 x 91 - 5 ✓
 121 x 21 - 5 ✓
 29 ✓ 6 ✓ 4 ✓ 6 ✓ } 2nd
 32 ✓ 0 ✓ 1 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓ } 1st

18 Bn were on 4/17
 + 7 Bde on it (27 Bn
 joining) 19 Bn in support
 to 17:20 to 18.
 Co to 19 Bn (18 were
 already up) moved over
 flat ground N of Harbourside
 to stake 7 Bde at morning
 up too on their mt.
 They were attacked by
 a fleet of Japanese planes,
 during shooting but they
 hit no one. (see plans
 in their own reports)
 by a fleet of ours at
 dawn then off (see plan)
 They moved up at
 10:00 AM that dawn for 8 miles
 in 1 hour while the tanks

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33
out south
1913's type 1st valley

German taking his gun
his dies away! At
Canning a few months.

As they moved off the
were met as a light
journey on the V.O. line,
(only 15.4 on
side)

spectacular -
The attack was met

retreat up there -
support us at

at 1 time. The last
minute - the only signal

and attack moved off
The tanks got there at 4.30

also had tanks (marks)
Came through - (other Bns)

3 1/2 + 1 1/2
2 1/2

18. 1 6 x 169 mg
1 for CO 1 9 200 x

6 1/2 x 1 RDU (1
2 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

3 1/2 x 1 1/2 1 1/2
1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

9 x 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2
1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2
1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

///
///

10

of Danversville & the school
 NE of it. They got to
 it without a hitch tho'
 the country was unknown
 to them, & took up
 exact line keeping in
 track to 1 camp on
 the flank. No person
 showed little fight - there
 were some in trucks &
 some in rifle pits & they
 it. He clearly retained
 because I think I got
 through Danversville tho'
 all the 1st Sermons
 moving up the ridge
 1000 yds E in front of
 Hendersonville, & the

111

001 G P 1. h m 10
 20. 20. 01 06
 22 22 22 22 22
 23 23 23 23 23
 24 24 24 24 24
 25 25 25 25 25
 26 26 26 26 26
 27 27 27 27 27
 28 28 28 28 28
 29 29 29 29 29
 30 30 30 30 30

Notes on p. 2

2. 2. 2. 2. 2.
 3. 3. 3. 3. 3.
 4. 4. 4. 4. 4.
 5. 5. 5. 5. 5.
 6. 6. 6. 6. 6.
 7. 7. 7. 7. 7.
 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.
 9. 9. 9. 9. 9.
 10. 10. 10. 10. 10.

35

German for re-entraining
 from making them
 dig in. 17th Jan got
 check them because
 our own tank at stopping
 really ahead - but
 I guess were turned on
 to them. The 17 Jan got
 on its edge by 5:10 pm.
 They tried to exploit
 our gains & put pots
 in Rannicourt & keep
 I guess out of it - but
 the only ^{TR} left sides at
 on it. The Road at that
 them (parts of Capt's)
 17 pots had the
 with brown.

///

///

zero = 2.4.1 - 20
 = 6.3.1.7
 + 4.

12 - Gen Hobbs
 4 - 17
 6 - cars, over
 6 x 4 x 2
 5 - 50 caddy
 Dump
 Chequolles HQ.
 Proxart HQ.

}
 } Karlouvieres.
 } also mark 5. line

9 4 - 2 9 9
 7 9 0 0 1
 H

The 18 Br had a very
 fast time on the left -
 Lt. Maxwell was seen
 Capt Dowling being 1 only
 were also left in 1 line.
 They got to Ka Stage -
 the same tank officer,
 Craig, seeing 1 left hand
 up by out fire from
 N of road, other
 tanks (Gunner out
 only action needed
 straight over & on
 made straight for the
 chimney at the road
 corner & tore into it
 for all he was worth
 with lots of good sides

2 motor 6 12.06
 2 waggons 6 9.3
 2 2.0 2.4 2.9
 2 2.0 2.4 2.9
 1 Corbie 0.0 9.2
 1st night 6 9.3 4.15
 6 7. Corbie 1.5
 at V/B 5.0 2.9 cutting
 HQ at dawn 1.1
 5 to V/B 1.1 1.1
 6.2 6.2 6.2
 HA, 0.0 2.0 2.0
 6.2 6.2 6.2
 HA 0.0 2.0 2.0

178u Stamps from 36
 have after taking the place.
 he states all day is heavy
 ammunition dumps -
 Germerville there were
 2000000 country 150 of
 gear reference kits. all
 20 wagon loaded
 a hospital in church
 quantities of papers -
 library & furniture
 the Corps HQ is a beautiful
 stores, ammunition shops,
 medical stores, signals
 shops (many workshops)
 2000000 stores
 Skiffie.

2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

Air Service.

Each Corps has its own squadron
 contact patrol 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 These are 24 front squadrons 8 of which are
 Camel scouts These will go three to
 German aerodromes 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 night bombing squadrons
 4 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 day 4 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 counter-attack 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 rest low 2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
 squadron to prevent the anti
 20

would exactly as if nothing
 of any & the men were
 was excellent - on 1st
 The feeding all the
 by your own hands.
 in a bath fixed up
 bath in Bayonet
 of Sanitation here, &
 had 2 special days
 the Royal Air (D.O. Unit)
 17th Air Force (Australia)
 operation).
 well carried out light
 the R.A.M.C. (a
 packed & the food
 then on Aug 11. 1942

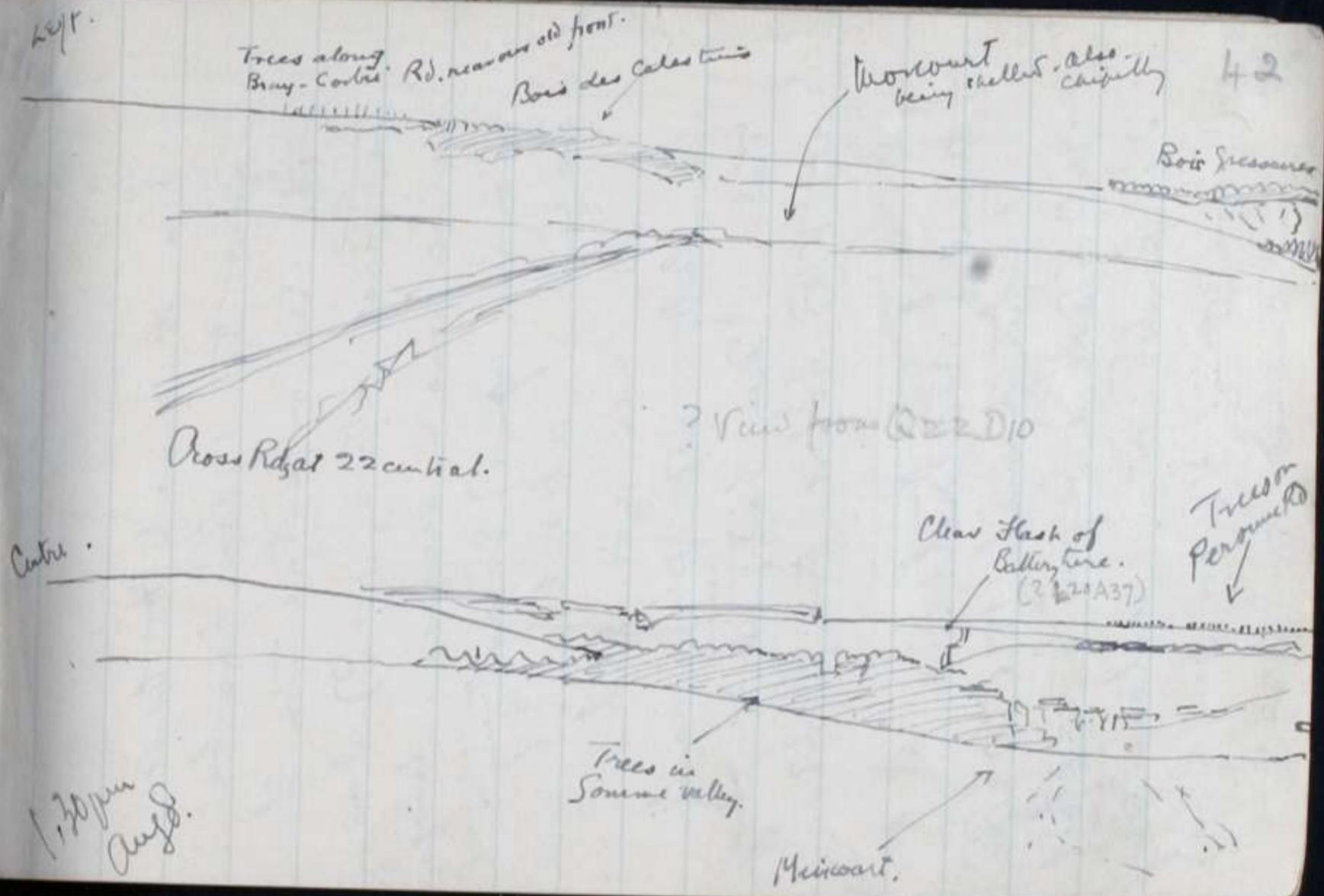
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9 9.30, 2
 9 3.20, 4.20 } Cam.
 } G.

Chipilly
 Butler St
 1 sqm
 1 sqm

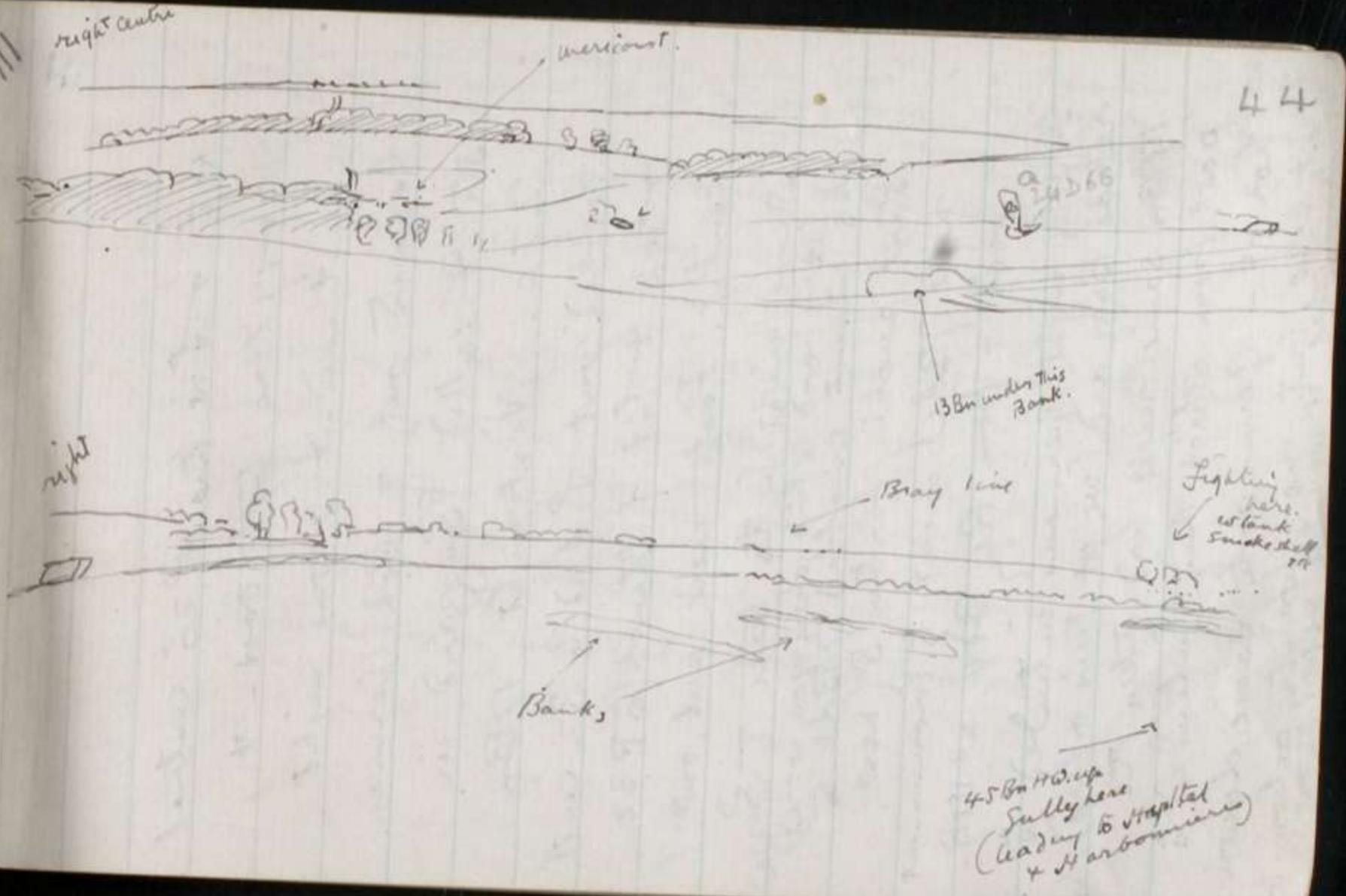
The stick at Francillon (? 8th Sep) had part of many of their papers and 1 train with 1st captured. Others were sent back by Br - & have me still many there. They were in the Chateau & in houses used as offices. He found a couple of tunnels in 1 orchard probably in case of emergency.

While holding on 3rd day lost
 Lt. Warner } both cool in
 1 Miller } heavy shelling.



This is much the best
 shows the 17 Bn location
 in. The organization of
 the first attack (any 8) was
 have hours - scenery, dumps,
 moving up every thing
 behind attack.
 The men are stale,
 men both not physically
 tired. They last 40 days
 at V/B before this fight.

At 11:00 PM
 after 18:20 Bn
 red 5 Bn & began to exploit.
 They pushed out a certain way
 (Brown 1st in VC for part of this)
 They pushed out to a line



12.30 p.m. Saw men get into Bray Centre line. 1.15 Tommies going 46
shortly after we saw about 23 ^{for N of Malard Wood} running away on Chipilly spur.
2.10 18 Pz now in Morcourt Tommies having come up.

(abt 11.30 the left advanced battery came under v.
heavy shellfire from Chipilly

* There was a fight here. Men signalled a tank
was smoke but tank was stuck.

German machine were brought up
2.45. Chipilly being shelled heavily all time - going up in dust.
Smoke barrage on hill E of it + protective canopy.

NE of W LCo P 25 central.

19 Pz 17 Bns took over - +
contained it + one night

kept out + took German

St P called (Bugard) in

27c. Next night 19 Bn

worked out S. of rd to 32 cent.

+ took it fit of trench (to P 32
cent.). Posts were put out 1

Some night bet us then + Bugard
(very hard to find where you were)

His ~~main~~ ^{main} trench was P 32 to

start pushing further S (next

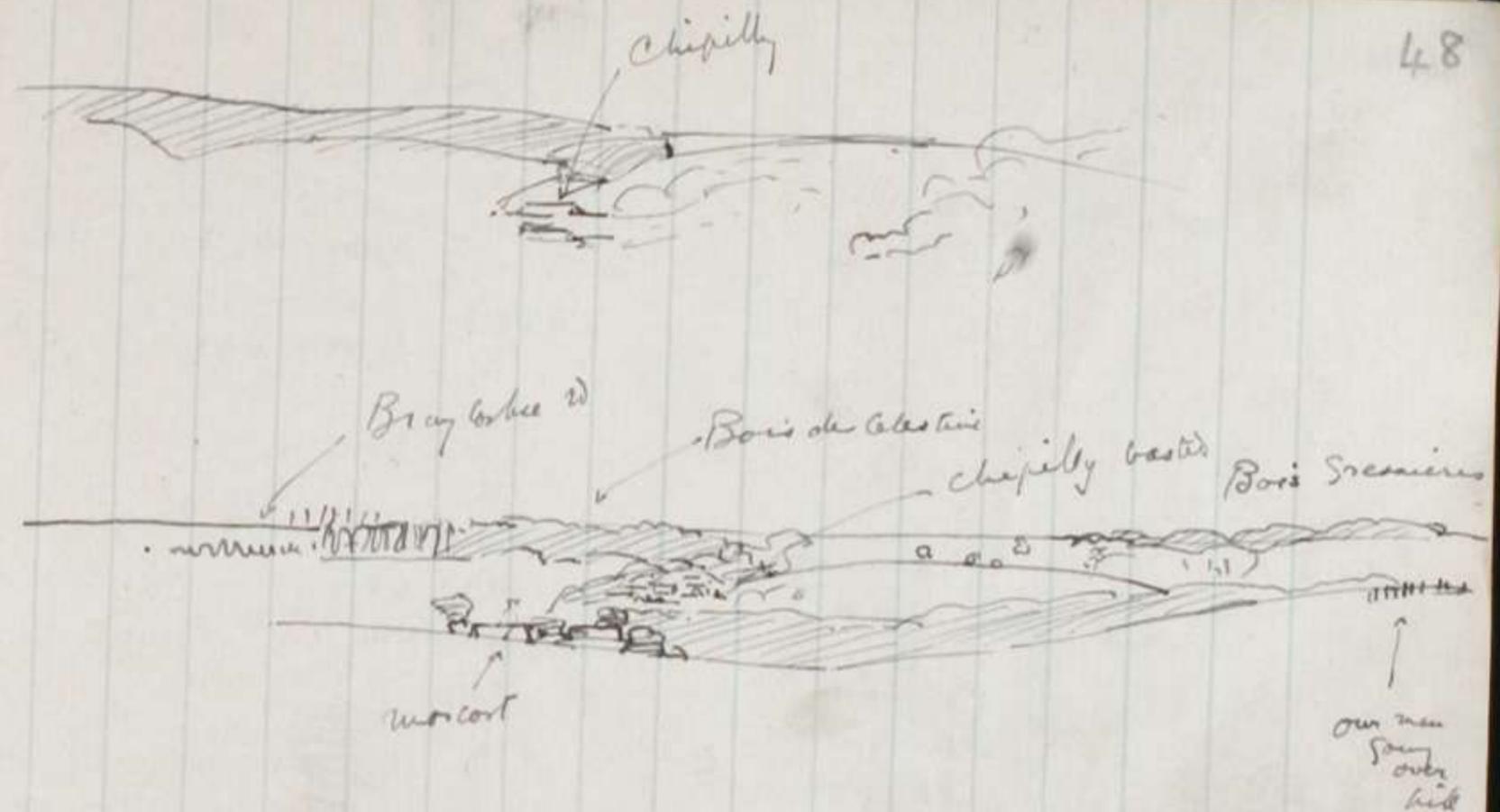
night) Bde went to monument

wood + from R. Bde at V.B.

The following night Germans continued to
relate Bug and (we got their orders) but

19 Bn same night had taken the
part from which they intended to

45
top off - Germ. arty came down
at 4.20 but no infantry activity. We
were alerted what was till we got the order



View at
 2pm Aug 8th
 from S.W. of
 valley leading to
 Marbommie
 (near Xth)
 Q22D (5th?)

Each little peak brought down
 a German barrel & sent
 on 1 line they was left.
 Also it turned up the wigo.
 The German used to have his
 wif. firing over 1 crops
 (the crops interfere w 1 bullets).

The German then later just
 out a very strong line of
 posts across 32 B + 33 A
 & wired them in (no posts
 in front) - & from them to 1
 time or 1 attack he was
 very nervous.

no more posts were taken.
 Just told to our people that they
 were only spanning for a few
 weeks line - almost a continuous
 trench by 1 time they left.

Prisoners 6-10 am 9.

1st	5700	5824	} 6375
2nd	500	521	

Yest 20 abt 5000

2nd Div :
 29 guns
 23 TMs
 150 M guns

Before 12.
nearly 4000

guns 67
 TMs 150
 TM 23.

2: 8in.
 7: 5.9.
 Rly Gun 11.in

Armed cars & engine.
 air craft bombed it

///
 Carlin and cars.

was used (pot this) Put 2 Co at Franerville
 (Harbonniers)
 [Another took Marcelcave]

Trees across Rd. got up to front line at Red line.

Harbonniers Valley many Germans. Then } ^{some} to Franerville
 all germ. weapons ready to ~~be~~ move. ⁱⁿ.
 all k. left there also 4 junior S.O.s.

Shot some sham weapons at Vanvillers.

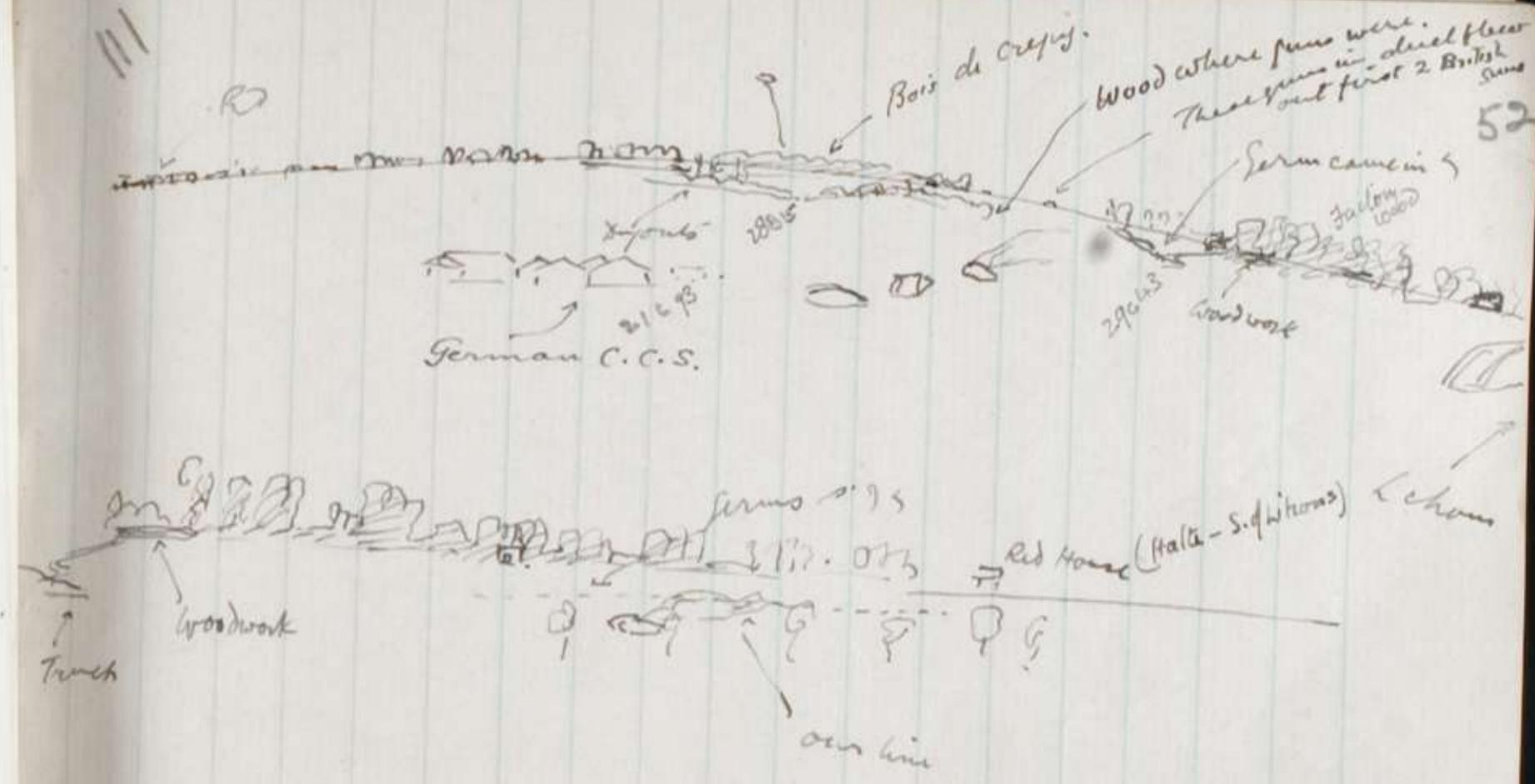
At Foucaucourt 20 → 6 of prod met w.

Blow wheels off one car hit 3 J.

at Proyard found 20 having lunch. Shot into houses
 k. abt.

Another sect. went to Chagnolle - full of Germans.

Shot at them. At La Flaque a big dump. No wiring
old overgrown by but no system. Saw many of going
away but no formed troops. We
Our line abt 1000 yds E of blue line.



(Drawing of Hill W of Libons, made by me during the battle - Aug 9, 1918.)

6 PM

Starts from

F4A 1.7 to X28 L 3.8

53

at 7.45 w barrage (to last 15 mins.) to Red line
(29 A ~~B~~ & F5 A ~~B~~)

They began to get casualties at once.
All m.g. very heavy from across rly & Bois de
Creyg. & ^{wood in} G A & C. Bn went forward splendidly.
opened out ~~9~~ into sections. Then
tried rushes. Then 1 - 2 out into
lines of skirmishers. In F5 D 8.2-8.8
they got it heavily & had to get down.

54

9 ✓ being OK
 7 Bn struck it v. heavily
 then 2 Div not being
 up at start to 11 am.
 1st Div had to come
 from V/B + didn't
 start till 1.50 5 Divn def.

6. pm. AID 22 at rd a
 post is holding, 6 Bn +
 Canadians up.

55
 cover their own advance w fire. This lasted
 till 10.45. Then tank came up voluntarily & began
 to fire at 6c. 7.4. Shortly after the Canadians started
 at 10.50 am w their tanks. They advanced
 behind their tanks on their side of rd. This
 eased pressure on 6 Bn. [5 was held up on left
 by Lehou's village defences - at FGA 3.8.56
 F6C 3.8 -] 6 got fwd aft 300 yds with left
 flung back to 5 Bn. I also eased thro
 Can. & got right to FGA 6.2. Shelling
 quietened & at 1 pm, our arty pulled

S. 459 attack
on/over wood.

to east of ...

1st & 2 Bles

in front of H.O. (at F4 A.2.5.) Since then ⁵⁴
progress only two local fighting (supports 8 Bn mile
behind) Line now F6C 4.0 (6pm) to F6C
7.6. to F6C 8.6. F6C 7.4. F6A 7.1.

trying to reach Mechanics Court - Liboux Rd.

Canadians continue ~~at~~ along
rly. (Cans is to the right out of our sight)

2pm all was quiet till our arty started

Then Germ. aeroplanes came over heavily.
abt 18. They had a good time. Queries were
raised as to 1 line - it was fixed by

Serms are attacking in 20 & 26. |||

||| a reconnaissance. (Serms are still in wood -)
14 str lot today. 2yety. supporting 8 Bu.

2. 68 Aug 9 } went in abt 600.
14. 150 at least wd. }
(2.12)

Diaries: 1. Propaganda.
2. Advice: Inspection.
channel etc.

Museums: 1. Propaganda.
2. Advice as to ^{1. What is wanted} Channel ^{model etc}
3. Forms of claim
etc.

3. Reception of whatever
ordnance material
is sent in that is claimable
in p. mines, cannon.

4. Reception of everything
that is not properly
suitable ordnance material

5. Recording & issuing
personal receipts
for 3 & 4.

6. Despatching ^{above} trophies
thru ordnance & I.G.
war trophies.

7. Collection of particular
trophies needed by AWRM.

P. Keeping in touch with channel
by which material is
returned to us.

Administration of

1. No 2 (P.E.F.) Subsection
A.W.R.S.
2. No 3 Photographic
(Personel Rationing
Promotions returns)

3. Administration of
the artists (A.I.F.)
including control of them
& disposal of their
works. Supply of artists
materials - a considerable
job.

Personnel. 2 ofrs. (1 genly in London)
2 Coptls.

4 men
1 Boxcar + driver. 1 motor cycle.

31 Bn Aug 9.

62

Started from Albany Line at 5.20 am
gradually obliquely across road. (Halted on W of Warpuce for (hr) & sawing
Each side of Warpuce. 2 boys went
shells were still on far side of Warpuce.
One German bty was firing from about a mile
beyond the town - & Bn afterwards caught
them. They had scouts up the trees on
road watching near the Bayonvillers
Road for tanks above the smoke).

63

German planes came over while
our men were on the green line flying
low & machine gunning - mostly very
large planes with split tail - & followed
advance.

64
2 Coy were in firing line, 1
in support, 1 in reserve (a little
deeper than Polygon Wood -)
moved ~~two~~ at 8.20 with 6 tanks.
~~E of Lam~~ The tanks were 200-300
yds ahead. As soon as 1 tank
appeared over 1 crest beyond Lamotte,
5 of 6 tanks were hit direct by
the German bty wh we firing just N
of Bayonvillers near where the dumps
are by roadside. There is a big

65

The battery at Q32 A 1.1. continued firing
 til infy were all 300 yds away w H.E.
 Then infy got li's out them & crews
 lay down in grass & surrendered when the
 infy came up to them. abt 8 guns were found
 in 20 & 30 here. (5 guns had been in action)
 Other Germans came out from round the quarry.

66

Chalk quarry there where 1 gun
 crews were afterwards taken.

The infy passed thro the tanks,
 only 1 tank being left to patrol the
 area. It did very good work. The
 mist had gone at 7 am.

From edge of B/V came some infy.
 fire. Here 15 Bde seemed to be
 held up & one 31 Coy (on rd)
 held back keeping in touch w

15 Bde. 31 Bn went ~~thru~~ thro N ridge
of B/V & were fired on from the rt
& from the main rd thro 3 central.

Past B/V field guns opened up
from near the Harbounieres Rd. They
had horses concealed among trees
on road. They wd lumber up &
retire 1000 yds & open up again.
The 4 runners of A Coy (with us 15 Bde)
knocked out 1 horse

of one gun at alt 1000 yds & it was ⁶⁸
abandoned on the road.

Here was only intermittent
firing from rifles in main S.A. Rd
- Grenades could be seen going back in
4's & 5's. Also batteries in 1 distance
could be seen limbering up - especially
from rt front, & clearing out.
a motor could also be seen working
along 1 rd S. of Harbournières

dragging its balloon stick in,⁶⁹
air.

The advance was a good stiff walking
pace the whole way. Men were not
allowed to stand at depots or pick
up things - they had to go on. (Dist.
Commander sd to 31 Bn was 1st on
Blue Line).

Next resistance came when they
reached the rly junction at W & Central.

///

This is slightly broken ground - (where⁷⁰
we found 29 Bn same night). When
they reached this they got fire from the
bush on edge of the Inoicourt - Harbour
valley & from the high ground on / far side
where there were tents & huts.
The fire was heavy & / his was
held for a time. The tank worked
about the bushes from the right &

Sections with L.Gs were sent ahead to clear / wooded sides of valley. The 30 Bn were held up by / same gully at Ashwell wood. The 3/5th went ahead & got Buchanan wood. The 3/5th took the S. Edge of this gully - there were lots of Germans further N - running around like rabbits. A L.G. was firing on the Bn from the main Rd near the hospital.

72
Here we met much resistance in this part -
odd 2s & 3s along the ^{E.W.} rd thro' W 6 A.
The Co. called a temporary halt on the
main road in W 6 A & C. & sent
forward patrols towards Blue line to see
if it was held. Having little
resistance he informed 30 Bn Major
that he was going to take Blue line
without waiting for Blue tanks.

/// (The men were already in these tanks - ⁷³
V guns, (guns & teams) but these
tanks had not appeared yet as
31 Bn was ahead of time.

Looking back from high ground near
Buchanan Wood C.B. could see
Cavalry coming along the Bayonvillers
Harb. road — & the armoured
cars racing at a great rate along

74
the main St Quentin Rd
59 Bn had not yet appeared thro
Harbonnieres - & A Coy of 31 who had
then moved ahead of 15 Bde rejoined
31 Bn & extended line into 15 Bde sector
as far as Harb. Station. It was abt
~~10.30~~ or 11 when they got to 1 Sta.
The 31 Bn was in the Blue line trenches by
11 am.

From abt Red Line 3 or 4 armoured
cars were seen going along road to S-O

or some probly abt 10. am.

The cavalry went thro A Coy ~~abt~~ shortly
after 3/Bn was in Blue line tho a
few scouts were thro before.

At 10.30 just as 3d was passing
Red line an aeroplane knocked out
the train carrying 12 in gun wh had bn
firing till then at X 1.D4.7.

The first th we seen of train was th it
was steaming up & down this bit of line.

76
w a great mass of yellow smoke
enveloping 1 train firing 1 gun. There
was a tremendous crash of smoke &
! shell was overhead before it could be heard.
The Plane was a Camel (probly). It
dropped 5 bombs from alt 100 ft on or
alt 1 engine; the train shifted alt
20 yds & then stopped - 1 engine
giving out a lot of steam. The
driver & his assistants had been

77
badly burned - one man had all his
clothes burned off - they were v. badly
burned & were later carried in by our
men & some of cavalry.

These bombs blew up the rear
truck of train & it caught fire -
there were few men on this train beside
crew. I

C.O. put 2 boys in front line -
A boy side slipped Nuds on being set by

part of 5-9 Bn. B Coy was on left of
them - C Coy in support - D Coy in
reserve.

A Sqr of the 5th Dragoon Sds
wh had gone thro towards Vauvillers
was badly cut up by m.p. fire from
1 village. They sd th practically all their
offrs were knocked - they went out
on their horses in sqn. formation

79
at a jag trot - & thus was too
thick for the work. They got abt 800
or 1000 yds past the Blue line to NW
of Vanvillers & were scattered when
Inf. fire got them. They brought in
47 prisoners. (abt 11.30)

The rest of cavalry went South of
Harbournieres & later came back from
direction of Framerville with several batches

of prisoners - att 500 in all, who
were handed to Lt. Freeman &
marched back in fours. R.A.P./31 Bn
lost numbers of 5-D Gs & wounded
Germans.

all day from 1 direction of Hamvillers
& Vanvillers there was sniping. And a
gun from the woods behind Hamerville
(att 1. pm was time when cavalry returned
from there). Odd parties of Germans were

found abt 1 Blue line all day long. 81
Only odd parties were in the Blue line
when we reached it.

Nothing doing th night. The men
were very footsore - & thirsty. A
large supply of extra water was
got up. At abt 3 p.m. the engine
got ~~to~~ a driver onto the train, pushed
it back 5 wds - then uncoupled the
damaged part of train & steamed

82
the engine, abt 4 trucks, & the gun
to a point abt 1000 yds behind 1
blue line where 1 rail was broken.

The Enps & 39 Bn repaired the
line next day & took 1 train back.
The German cd see working parties from
Framerville & ws shelling them
~~rest~~ on Aug 9. The prisoners from
1 train who had run towards

83
/// Vanvillers were mostly brought in
by 1 Cavalry.

Next day Aug 9. 31 Bn was
ordered to help 29 Bn advance line
at 500 yds - objve Vanvillers. The
order arrived to go to Bde at 10 am.
Col. Freeman got back abt 10.45 - 10.50
with above order. Zero 11 am.

The 31 Br C. Coy - started at 11.15 am.
 They had only to go a little past the rly
 line. But as there was fire from
 the copse along rd in X1A + D the
 Coy went for trees + took 2 mps
 + all 20 prisoners + Estab. line
 along the road as far as ~~10 1/2~~
 SA 1.8. The tanks arrived at 11 am

85

Arty came down at 11 am. But
as time was too short for info, attack
did not get off to time. ~~C. Coy lost~~
There were 6 tanks for 29 Bn & 31
Bn & they were all knocked out
by direct fire from an Anti Tank gun
in a shed on the NE end of
Wauwillers. This gun afterwards

86
inflicted heavy casualties on
29 Bn when it attacked Tanville
but was knocked out by Stokes mortars
sent for to support attack of
Ct. Freeman.

The tanks must go straight to
their job - it is no good keeping them
knocking about. Many of tank
men were wd - no tank came back.

2nd day.

Quigg - acting as liaison off to 30 Bn was badly w'd by a shell.
on 2nd day.

There advance ended for moment.
At 4.30 p.m. 2nd Div came thro
& attacked Fromerville & attack
ended. (The 2nd Div had Mark 5 star tanks).

1st day. Lt Shaw. Hit by a shell advancing onto starting pt.

Lt Strachan. Shell in leg - on tape line.

Lt Nelson. Shell - on tape line

Lt Larnach ^(COY) on Blue was hit by shell 1st day in neck. He carried on. In advance
2nd day he was hit by bullet thro kidneys while consolidating. Died.

Lt Miller - ~~Shot~~ Bullet w'd on Blue line - He went out to rescue a
man who had been sniped & was hit in stomach. Not serious.

89
29th Bon. Spent night of 8/9 to NW of Carbonnières

at 7.40 C.O. got word to go to a conference at
Bde HQ.

at 9.50 Adjf recd a message from
Colonel to Bn was to be ready to move
at once & men to have a ^{hot} meal right
away. Adjf at once collected all Coy Commandrs
& had them waiting for C.O.

at 10.0 C.O. returned from Bde HQ
& told Coy Commandrs verbally of attack. Objective
was a line W of Vauvillers, but if possible they

111
were to exploit success & push out posts
E of it. Zero hour was 11 a.m. & by then they
had to be on Blue line abt 3500 yds ahead.
Tanks were to cooperate & advance at
11 a.m. By time Coy commanders got to Coy &
got them under way it was 10.40 a.m.

90
They moved along in artillery formation
N of Harboumieres. Germans saw them
at 11 a.m. & they came under heavy mg
& rifle fire from Vauvillers & around it.
The tanks were knocked out almost and

/// after leaving the Blue line - abt 400 to 600 yds out - 3 of them were out there useless hit by direct gunfire from sunken roads at Vauvellers. The attack was actually launched at 11.40 am. from Blue line.

↑	↑	↑
_____	_____	_____
B	C	A Coy.
Lt S.W. Coleman	Capt C.A.M. Derham	Lt C.E. Davis
K. This day	M.C. (hit first day slightly)	

D & E Thomas		
in Blue line (where they		
remained, exc. one plnt)		

As soon as operations began it was reported 92
to Adv by Coy Command of rd Coy that there were no
troops moving on the right, where 15 Bde
were supposed to be attacking at same time.
Instructions were sent to Coy Command to take
steps to protect his rd flank himself. Davis
threw back his flank. Halfway between Blue
line & objective Bn was halted for a while owing
to heavy casualties caused by m.p.s., 77s.,
& snipers. The 77s could be seen firing over their
sights from Vauvillers but m.p.s could not be located -
they were firing from bushes on roads

(From Starbournieres they extended. From ⁹³
the halt onwards advance was made by
rushes & crawling thro' long grass. The
hops were engaged one by one by h.p. &
rifle fire when they'd locate them -
& one by one were knocked out. They
were all boozys from V.V. when they began
to deal w these. Most of casualties
were caused by German fire from
rt flank. Owing to difficulty of

111
getting runners thro' 1 wire. Barrage 5
of being what was doing, Col. MacArthur
shifted his Hqs from the road in X12 A to
a position in Blue line at X7 A 0.2.
From this position the whole attack
was under direct observation.

At 12.30 am. Col. MacArthur was
wounded by a bullet in 1 neck while
looking over 1 top to see 1 position of
Coys - heavy inf. fire was sweeping

over these trenches. MacArthur we sent 95
back & Command of Bn passed to Derham,
who was as C. Coy. Command of C. Coy was
passed to Lt Stanton. C. Coy ~~to Bns~~ were in
the Blue line. At 2.15 pm. The 3
coys were on their objve — 15 Bde had
not yet started. Left Coy were in
touch to 31 Bn on left. R flank still in
the air. At this time all 1 Ofcs of
A & C Coy were casualties & a lot
many N.C.Os. Lt Davis, A Coy, the

shot thro' neck w a m.p. bullet, ⁹⁶
and unconscious for a while, after
regaining consciousness took charge of
A & C Coys. Im'd. after taking the objve
the 1st Coy exploited success & moved
around flank of Vanvillers - 1
German who had not been known having
retired into 1 village. A ~~C~~ Coy
established posts on far side of
Vanvillers & E Davis w a small

97
party of men began to mop up 1
village. One Coy + 138 o.s. were sent
back as prisoners. The village ~~was~~
~~the~~ contained many fine depots in
the Lankem road & was HQs of the 51st (?)
Corps. Many documents were capt'd
in 1 depots & bldgs.

At 3 p.m. the line ran X125.9
X8 B 6.4 X14 B 5.7. No troops moved

98
on 1st flank till after Vanvillers had been captured. 2nd Divn was to come thro 8th Bde. They came thro abt 4 p.m. *

Casualties were very heavy especially amongst Offrs & U.C.O.s.

	Offrs	U.C.O.s.
K.	3	17
W.	9	67

Two of the Offrs were sniped (to Chung & Braden Lt Coleman was k. by shell fire. (He had reported this Whizzbang).)

99
The Germans bolted thro' village. Ben captured
9 m.p. Telephones, wireless, motor car w wheel
smashed by a shell, medical stores, electric
light outfit, papers of great importance, harness
bicycles, Senior ofrs sword & helmet.
He was probly wd in beginning to lead his troops
around to village - the blow in neck knocked
him unconscious. Gen anazot away w 1 field
guns.

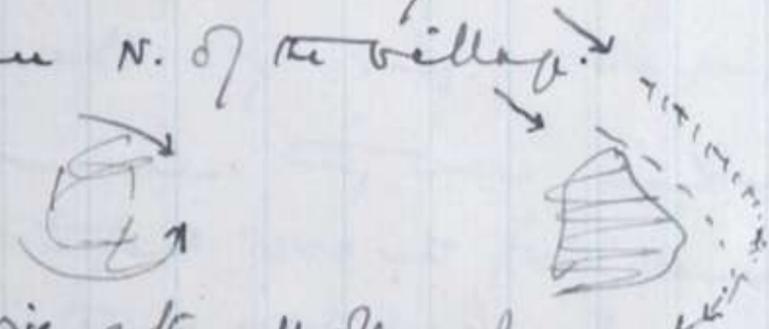
Artillery fire was got onto both roads where
m.p.s were & this did some good.

Lt Bolitko - adjt made a personal reconnaissance
some time after C.O.s knocked when they were out of touch

(Davis is a Melb. solicitor.)

|| Lt A.I. Farmer when Davis was knocked took Coy
on 200 yds this side of village. He was badly wounded.
(prob. since died).

Serjt ^{W.L.} Sinclair on left managed to get his pln
round on flank of 2 mgs. wh were
holding 1 advance, & capt'd crews under
heavy mg. fire & open ground. He managed
to ~~adv~~ inform LTM Bly wh silenced the
Antitank gun N. of the village.



Serjt W Mackenzie after all ofrs of centre Coy were
gone & Coy disorganised took command & led Coy to
objive. He rushed a mg.

101
Seryt and Pitt - when pln was out of touch
found touch with ~~the~~ flank units by
recommoiting himself.

Runners managed to get thro' r back.

Pte P. T. Feehan.

Wd. a runner kept on as gun r got onto G. flank on left
flank.

The Ofcs were mostly wd early in fight
& practically all by inf. & sniping fire.

From ^{heavy} Harbourniers they were under fire -
bullets began to fall 2000 yds from Vauvillers.
It was most intense abt 1000 yds from Vauvillers
where they were enfiladed. all sorts of H are

102
/// details volunteered for S/Bs when they heard
of casualties (pioneers etc) & some were
k. trying to get out of grass. S/Bs
were sniped - Germans were then used
as S/Bs.

Aug 8. notes at time.

3.40. Fovs. of a German c. 2.
started w one heavy shell.
Jas - 2 m.

V. misty 9.19 - 9.30
Can hear ~ r - 9.30
Plane up on left.

10.4x

4 am - Plane - Sound like
Lorino unloading of shell even
in this gully.

Just getting light dawn.

4.5 Another plane. 2 - 15 / 1/2

4.7. Light enough to see along 1/2

4.9. Plane low down sound.

4.8. Scattered G. Skelling on rt front.
Light dawn.

5 mins to 5.0

2 mins to 5.0 uneasy barney
ahead + on left
Ade.

103

Left starts 1 min early.

1.25 / German shell back.

Heavy guns in valley gun 4
ahead of us.

- 245 1"

17 23. 2 (23) 6 2 5

A thundering good start.
Mist still v. thick - too thick
to see.

German map found w
Austln divs marked
as under.

18
5. x ———→
3x
4 2 y

x attacking storm }

Page 37 (same)

Lo. You have in front of you Austln divs.

The Austlns are always attacking & have a habit
of capturing outposts & killing 1 garrison. They also
frequently push ahead, estab. posts forward.

18 July 136 in Rail Capt^{counted} Corporal got msg.

On 16 July 3-5 Aust Divs were identified in 1 line
by Power Bagges.

On 18/18 203 RIR got prisoners who assert they belong to

18 implied Div 8th Northants This Div killed 5 Aust
Divs after attack 6 5 Aust

fact that the I.T. U.S. have not heard/call of 29/30. This is confirmed by 1
5 Aust Div wireless heard only 5 Aust Div except one. 1
Dismantling

[Faint, illegible handwriting on the left page of the notebook.]

111

131

107

1. P b. y c of g | z) y e e d)
h o / z ' o b c u k u 7 d .
/ v > e e - . l . L b i r
s e y > z o - b d d g h g . x
- e g b p p f y e e e e
> e b d .
- h . b > ✓ . e y > e d .
r k > z .
c y c s s g g) u e e e .
i > f -) e (e ✓ h 1 e e y f .

[Faint, illegible handwriting on the left page of the notebook.]

111

~~Handwritten notes on the right page, including a large diagonal strike-through line.~~

108

117

1-45

///

Burnt 3 Nansas

Hit 3. Otto mess & burnt 5

8 20 - > 50 . 6 . 207

Ypk

10 ~

117

29

3801



Lomme

10 ~ 6.

Moss c 69 a we

L x 44 1006

Stranbound in

Lomme next day

Jones had a L we L

-L - a.

1. Lomme Cole with

14 2 x 44 25-60 2000

2 egg 6 6

109

4 egg (19/11) 10 9.1 > 2
 7' > 2 2 h 9 50 - 100 u.
 u e . n u d s u h e e e
 W 9 x . s e d u i d
 ((2) (- 7 7 . 7 . 5)
 9 . v 4 s e e u - e s s
 (2 . 4) 9 . 5 n . s e i d
 e j . n -) . 5 v . x 6 h 0
 s e e x 6 s u p . 1 9
 . 6 x 4 6 e 2 6 0
 ? 1 h . e .
 . 5 1 . (2) . 2
 ' s . n 5 0 - 2 . 2 / 2
 - u 9 7 . . 2 u 8 x
 e ' (1 x
 2 3 7 4 . 0 0 2 8 .
 s) 7 . 0 x 1 / 4 / 6 h x 1 / 4 . 2 0 2 6 .
 6 / - u > h - 6 0 . u s
 Mc Cleary) 2 - 1 1 . m . p . 2 7 .

Cobby was 30 or 31. ///

Capt McClaughry	10	2	12	4	2	12	4	2	12
^{E.S.} Cobby		4		2					
Mello's elephant		162		3		12			
		<hr/>							
		302		7		12			

318 machines 2 7 tons box
2 cases, (one box)

4 days in 2 7 + 40 12
13, 14, + 15. Both Squares

High 1.000. 2 5
17000 2 1 9 2 1.

Cobbie 28. 80 2 6.

4 Camels	Total	147.
2 SESS.	Lost	25
3 RE8.	? 76.	8
10 Bristol		



No. 3.

Beni Spas...
7.13.15
Left 8.

Set in...
11.11.15
5.15
10.1
11.1

Gullett
9 Rue Leon,
Corbie
Caurexes

Attach...
6:30
10 pm
12/17

For...
12/17

(371m.) Wt. 2205—SK550. 100 m. 12/17.

Gullett: covering notes for
de...
12/17