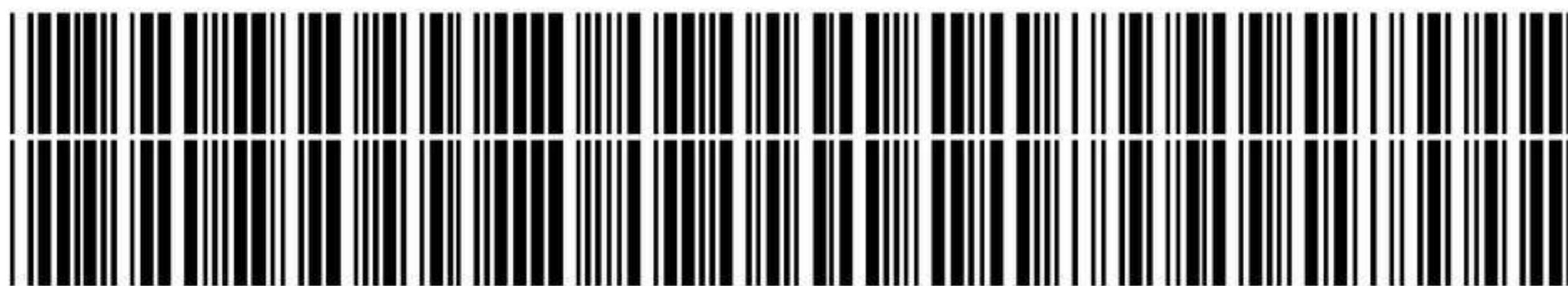


AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/194/1

Title: Notebook, August - September 1918
Includes references to 1st Machine-Gun
Company, Lihons, the 3rd Battalion and Proyart.



AWM38-3DRL606/194/1

Original

AWM38

DIARY NO. 194.

3DRL 606 ITEM 194 [1]

**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 C. E. W. BEAN.

ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

1st MG Coy
3rd Bn Aug 9-11
15- Proyant
Sept 18
do not
photostat

1st M Coy
3rd Bn Aug 9-11
15- ^{Present} Sept 18
do not
photostat

194

1st M.G. Coy.

Holding line only at Libons -
no attacks.

German was shelling the
crest + crepy wood - road -
wood on left of village.

The German planes were
bombing every night close to
the line.

German shelling was all
Sun - or 5.9.

When 4th Div came in
12th Inf. Coy + another took over.
1st Inf. Coy side slipped to Vaux.
Sur Somme - (near Aring)
were here 2 days or so +
then moved up to Proyart
for the attacks of Aug 23rd.

Aug 23.

1st Inf. Coy fired barrage
from zero hours till 6am till
7.50 am. + then went up

with the infantry. It was fine bright moonlight during 22nd. The Germans put down a barrage on S. side of Somme E of Mercourt but otherwise it was quiet on this sector & there was a quiet night.

On morning of 23rd German barrage was pretty heavy & quick in coming down. The Germans seem to have kept some of their ^{or beyond} barrages on ~~to~~ the ~~extreme~~ ^{usual} line of protective barrages for the advance. As this angle became dangerous or after 1h.40 they went up.

In the afternoon's attack the 1st Inf. Coy was really working with 3rd Bde. A section for example was

3

Covering the 10 Bn wh went
across the 9th.

B Section went forward
with the 10th.

C Section was working with
11th Bn wh (working with 9th
Bn) took Beacon Bluff.

D Section went up & took
up a position on the left
flank to protect the flank from
the W. side of the valley S.W. of
Hoising Beacon.

A Section was on SE of
Luc Wood. 10 Bn went through
by the huls E of the wood.

The Germans started running
down the road along the valley
N. wds before the 10 Bn
got to them. The Germans got
out to them here. The Germans

4

were breaking in small parties. None went up the opposite hill but some ran from the top of it towards the rear. Probably the right of our attack got into the valley first & this started them up the road. 8

B Section followed 10 Bn which got over the top of the ridge somewhere S. of Square Wood. When first they ^{& 10 Bn} got up to the ridge there were a few wisps in nearly woods - but these were soon settled. ~~There~~ During the advance here were

5

only odd shells & erratic shooting.

germans were mostly seen getting back into the gully S. of Cappy. The Germans had to leave one gun on the hill just to left of B. section.

10 Bn was out past Square Wood that day but were drawn back at dark to link up w 9th further on left.

Just after the attack 1 German tried to come in behind 1 flank of 10 Bn & they themselves were cut off & 90 capt'd by 11 men.

C section fired the morning barrage over the 1st Bde

6
from all 400 yds behind
front line. Then went back to log
H.Q.s. Abt 2pm. Moved
up through a very heavy
barrage in Luck wood (it
was very heavy there betw.
2 + 5 pm). (One man wounded).

Struck half night across the
road, & waited on the flat
just W of the Rly line for an
hour & had another man
k. by a German shell.

From there they moved
onto rly line & then N
up the valley & finally
abt 5 pm on top of the
Bluff. 3 guns were placed
there & one ^{in the} ~~across~~ valley
to W to cover left. There
were 11 Bn patrols only &

7

no one else on the flats
N of the Beacon. There were
some trenches just over the beacon.
The German kept a
troublesome barrage on
the edge of the hill.

Whether there were
infantry in 90 & by Square
Wood seems uncertain —
possibly posts.

D Section had no
direct fire. The line (9 Bn)
pushed well out during
the night & mopped up the
flats in 33. Our advance
had been entirely from the
highland. Flats were left
to be dealt with.

After 48 hrs the 1st
Inf. Coy was relieved.

B + D Sections were in the
 "Peaceful Penetration" advance
 by 4th & 2nd Bn on Sept 10th
 at ~~dawn~~ 6.30 a.m.

The guns of D went out
 to try & dig in with the
 outposts of 4th Bn on
 night of 10/11. They moved
 up abt 9 p.m. just after
 dark. From our own outposts
 a patrol was sent out. The
 Devons were on the left
 & the infantry & mps were
 to go out from the trenches
 near Hunt woods to the
 Sunken Rd thro Pa & D.

The patrol was fired on
 on the N side of the hill

in I Central. (The trenches were then old grassed & intact). It was decided to go out in mg. at 5.30am there was supposed to be a barrage but only 4 shots were fired.

They got out with the infantry to I Central on the hill just in rear of it. The Germans were holding around Templeux & on the valley sides with small m.g. posts. The men started to dig in on the rd in I Centl. & were shelled out at once. The infantry went back to the original

10
I were w Seryl Davison
Division.
Lieut Gould was in charge
but was wd night of 10th & this
left Seryl Blackmore & Davison
in charge. Lieut Cunningham
came up after that Sept 12:

11
front line with pretty heavy
losses. The Germans could be
seen ~~at~~ in ~~low~~ posts on the
Country Side & were pretty
in houses in 1 village but
could not be picked up there.
The guns got back to the
original front line between
10 p.m. & 11 p.m. The shelling
was very heavy & inf. fire
also. They had 8 gas
on getting back to 1 front line.

D Section had 4 guns in on the 10/11th.
They were on the rt of Hedecourt.
They came thru after 4 P.M. & took
up positions in old German
arty emplacements. At
11.30 am they got word to
fall back as the flanks were
in the air & there was no

Sept 11th. Ammunition w/1
 wife - no bombs. The German
 maps were pretty active -
 also arty fairly active.
 They came back to the
 original front line - one gun
 in the rd. Embankt. in 19a
 & the other in the N.E.
 corner of Hervilly wd.
 That night the gun in 1
 wood was sent up to
 D Coy 4 Bn in Hesbecourt.
 The Germans shelled Hervilly
 wood heavily & to w/g. the
 ledges around Hesbecourt.

B Section was with
 2nd Bn. out of 4th Bn.
 2 guns moved abt 10am on

11th 10th forward position
(before it started). The
bombers were sent up
a trench to bomb out a
german post which was
known to be there - covered
by the boys which fired
on any germs trying to get
away.

After taking the post at
noon they went on abt
1000 yds over the ridge
looking (on its left) into Jeancourt.
The germs could be seen evacuating
Jeancourt. They got past 11
trenches into a sunken road.
There was fighting to get to
this road. There were
a few bombing raids at
night. The 4th Div then

came up & filled 1 gap on
1 right. Lt V. C. Potter was
wd & Hqtl Piers killed. They
were hit by inf. fire after
the post was taken in going
over 1 open.

They were drawn out
the night.

Sept 18th. On night of 17 Sept
1st Inf. Coy came in (one
Section to each Bn).

A Section with 1st Bn.

A Section got into position behind
the 1st Bn. At zero hour they
advanced and behind the
Bn. Trouble ^{did not} begin ~~until~~ till
German inf. fire was met

from abt 10 a 7.3 where
 there is a hill - (chalk pit
 is on the left of it). This was
 the Hill S.W. of Harpicourt.
 The infantry worked round the
 flanks quickly & got ^{abt} 50
 prisoners out of there.

From there they went
 without further trouble to the
 first halt line. There had
 been heavy rain & fog when
 the attack started it was
 therefore very difficult to
 see. The rain was still
 coming down on the halt
 line but the fog had raised.

There was trouble met
 with from the top of Colonne
 Ridge as the attack went
 on up the gully thro 12 A.

16

This m.p. fire was pretty heavy,
coming from all directions.
They were fairly well up w/
barrage. This slowed up the
attack a bit. There were no
targets for m.p.s. The guns
finished up in position at the
head of Buckshot Ravine
looking down into Bellicourt.
They were in Old English
trenches here - further to
the left the Germans called
but not apt the Australians.

From our extreme left
guns the Germans could be
seen in the afternoon abt
5.30 or 6 p.m. It was too
far for effective shooting w/
amount of ammunition which
they had. They fired off one box

17

of ammunition & warned
the British on their left
who cd not see them from
their position.

After dark abt 8
or 9 p.m. they had to come
back. The Germans had
come up along a ridge
near Queunemont Farm
which cd be seen very
well from our position.
The Tommies were then
holding the front British line
in 28 A & B. The German
got behind them & they retired
into the ~~Rifle Pit~~^{1st} trench
behind the road (Sunken) two
~~30 A & B~~. 29 B + D

The two guns of C section
were brought back at dark

at the request of
Lt Clifton 3 Bn to fire
down this Rd running
towards Ronsoy from
abt 5 B. G. G. The Germans
leaked into Rifle Pit trench.

C Section was kept
there till night of 21st Sept.
On the 21st Sept. the
Tommys went forward again
(13rd Bn) over the hill
past Malakoff Wood.

The guns fired a barrage for
them from a rear position.

On pair of
The crews were then relieved
for a sleep. 4

During the day abt noon
they heard the word all
up on top. The Tommys
were all coming back - there

19
were a few shells but
not many. ~~The~~ ~~B~~

C Section got out & began
to get good targets amongst
the Germans coming down
the road from Bony at the
top of the valley. The Germans
came right back to Rifle
trench. They were back
in no time. The Tommies
were very scattered & didn't
make much of a fight there.
The Germans got in behind them
as before.

C Section ^{on 18th} had followed with
2nd Bn (its original section).

They met no opposition till
E of Harcourt. About
600 yds S. W of Malakoff Farm,

20

after 1 barrage lifted, the
German m.p. in the 2nd
on both sides of hill made
a big fight. The German guns
were all here (also on
both sides of the road thro
1 valley). None of these guns
got away. But 1 German
m. gun fought till we had
lost 1 barrage. ~~Our~~ Our
people kept stalking the ^{m.} guns
& got them one by one.
No bombing here. German
field guns didnt fire direct -
their crews were mostly
captured. The country was
very open & our attack
without protection.

B Section was w/ ~~B~~

2nd Bn on Sept 18th.

B Section was with Bn held up for a few minutes by Inf. on the ridge E of Harp Court. When this was cleared out they went straight on right of Harp Court & got some shooting away on the left onto Germans retiring along 1st line. They moved up to night to the 1st Bn. to hold Cologne Ridge.

The Germans shelled this pretty heavily. On the 19th 1 gun was attached on British on 1st & 2 of 1 guns fired covering our own flank. The guns with the 1st Bn never had to come back from the

22

position they reached on the day of 21st.

A Section was in the attack on Sept 21. From the top of Buckshot Valley they moved on w 1 rifle & filled a gap between the 1st Bn on left & 6 Bn on right. The strength was weak & the German inf. & arty fire was heavy. They started from Minnow trench thro wood into trench junction ind. SE of wood, facing down Buckshot ravine. 6 Bn post was further back. 1st Bn was held by 8th Bn th night & as another Section covered same ground as ~~the~~ A Section

these were withdrawn.
That was when they came
out of line.

6 Bn post nearest
on rt flank was probly
at 2 C. O. 4 (62 C. S. E)

D Section was with
4th Bn on Sept 18th.

They went over with
the 1st line Coy of 4th Bn.
& owing to darkness &
smoke barrage put down
by arty they got hopelessly
mixed up before reaching
Templeux. They got too
far to left.

On passing Templeux
they lost the info & found
no one in front of them. They

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hit a wif post SE of
the village & put it out
of action. Some of 1 rifleman
fired a few shots into the
trench where 1 ferns
were - & made them
keep low - one fernman
was killed at least - ~~1 took~~
advancing took the 7 others
prisoners. They then
went on to 1 rd line
where there was a
general forming up -
as the light was better -
The attack pushed up
into the Quarries from
there, Nwds. There were
many ferns there & a good

25

deal of m.g. fire. There
was a system of 2
behind & in front of the
Spaniards. In the Quarries
we were in 1 English
section - they moved
further left than.

There was no
opposite in Harjiet
village. The Infy P.m. guns
started to entrench on
~~the~~ the blue line.

One gun was on 1 extreme
left in touch w 1 Tommies.
Our own 18 pds were
shooting out our 1st
Obje, shrapnel.

The D section did not

move on again till
 dusk 4th Evg. Then they
 moved on & attached
 themselves to 3 Bn.

2 guns took up position
 in Minnow 2y + 2 in
 Square L/B near Enfilade
 trench.

That night on the English
 it flank the Germans came
 out & took away a battery
 of guns. It was not
 where our wire. To reach
 it. They were in Noman's
 just in front of English
 N of Malakof Wood.

~~The night~~

The 2 guns which went forward
 were called back on night 19/20.

into a commanding position in Sagar trench to give support in depth.

Night of 20/21 they went up, 2 guns into Minnow trench, 2 into Cocoa trench. The 2 guns in Minnow trench went over with 3rd Bn at 6.30 on Sept 21st.

There was no opposition on the way over. The German barrage fell on Noumansland here, but on Minnow 2 further S. There was one man hit in 1 bay going over by a shell. Later - abt 10 am. a shell landed on 1 edge of 1 post which had been dug - blew out 1 tripod, & wd. 2 men. Shortly

after, owing to the people on
1 left (British - Buffs)
falling back, our flank was
exposed & we had to fall
back also under very
heavy rif. fire. They had
gone out abt 600 yds to
the N side of Buckshot Ravine
& had to fall back to
Minnow trench & took up
again a defensive position.

That night they were
reld & came back to
Herby.

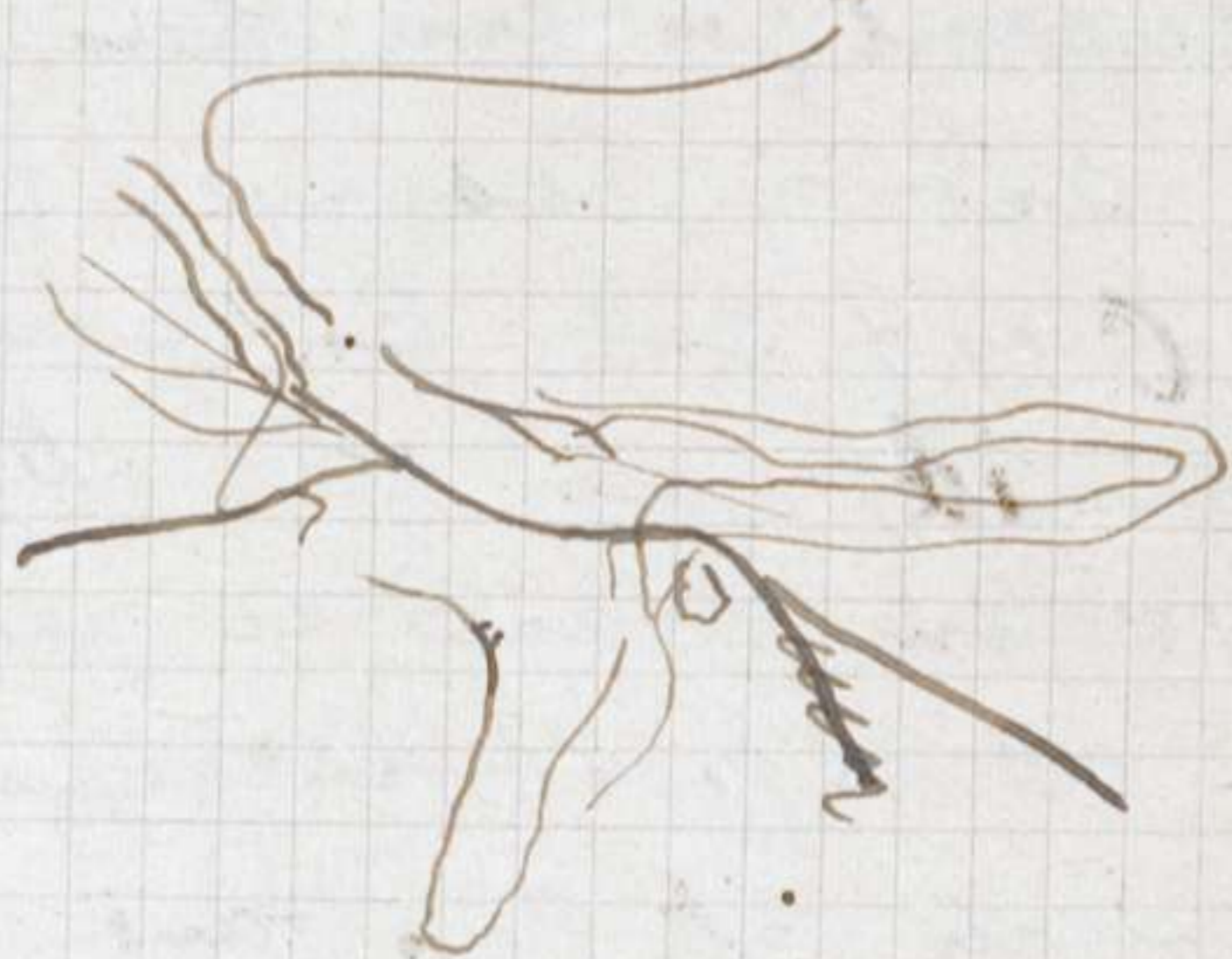
3rd Bn.

Original attack of Aug 23 was to have been made by 1st Bn, 8th in support (in case they held up) 2nd in Reserve,

Coy of 3rd Bn (under McDermid) was to be attached to 1st Bn & used as reserve Coy. as the front increased so much with this fan-shaped attack.

There was to be an objective & then an exploitation objective.

This was altered on ^{abt 5.30 pm} 22nd. The line of the protective barrage G was practically ~~later~~ laid down (under this alteration) as a 2nd objective; ~~it 3rd~~



B 1st + 4th were to go straight through to this further line; Arty battery was to go on & halt for 15 mins on a protective line in front of this final objve (which was across the valley on the rt - in front of the Small Copse in the fork of the Y overlooking Chuegues ^{R.} (I.D. 6.2)) but not across the valley further left.

C Coy 3rd Bn, attached to 1st Bn, was, under his alteration, to capture right of 1st Bn final objve. When 3rd Bn moved

31

thru to the exploitation
objec this Coy was to
come under 3rd Bn again,
(staying where they were).

The attack against
Greenne wood & the steep slope
there, known to the men as
Gibraltar, was looked on
by the Coys as a very formidable
job. But Al Moore considered
that if everything went as
planned it would not be so
hard as it looked.

Then arose trouble thro'
the barrier of our own arty
remaining on the ~~foot~~ hills
in the fork of the Y when
~~the~~ C. Coy of 3rd Bn was
supposed to go on to it
(under the altered plan). The



C.O. of C Coy (^{capt.} Wedderburn ³²)
when he took his men across
the gully, past the big gun &
onto the further slope, found
our barrage bursting against
the slope & behind him
(just abt where the original
protective barrage was to
have been). He decided
to bring the Coy back to
the Copse by the big gun. The
barrage did not ~~prevent~~ ^{prevent} the
4th Bn on rt nor 1st Bn
on left & so seems to
have been a local mistake
of one battery or one brigade.
Anyway it prevented
C Coy from getting to the position
from which 3rd Bn was to
go thro & take Chassignes

& the hill (Gibraltar) N of
'it.

At 7 am. When the barrage lifted
D Coy & B Coy moved there
& C Coy & got onto C Coy's
objive on the fork of the Y
E of the wood. But they
~~They~~ The Coy Commanders
had had a confce with
the ~~2 tank~~ commanders of the
2 tanks acting with 3rd Bn.
C. Coy went straight on
to its objive with the
tanks. They met with
a lot of mfg. fire during
this advance from the
side N of Chuznes -
they did capture prisoners
in Darcy wood & on the
objive but the trouble was

not from these. At or
abt 7.10 am. C Coy was on
this obje. Tanks then went
back - they were not to go further than this
D & B Coys came up ^{to this}

& passed thro C. Coy
to gain the exploitation
objies.

Capt. Cormack (of B Coy) was
leading ~~part of~~ his platoons round
the flat by the rly to the
hospital. He was
k. by a mine. ~~The~~
time D Coy attacked
thro C Coy down the hill
(further side of the fork) in
the direction of Chuzines
itself. Lieut Jackson in
command of D Coy after
a number of casualties

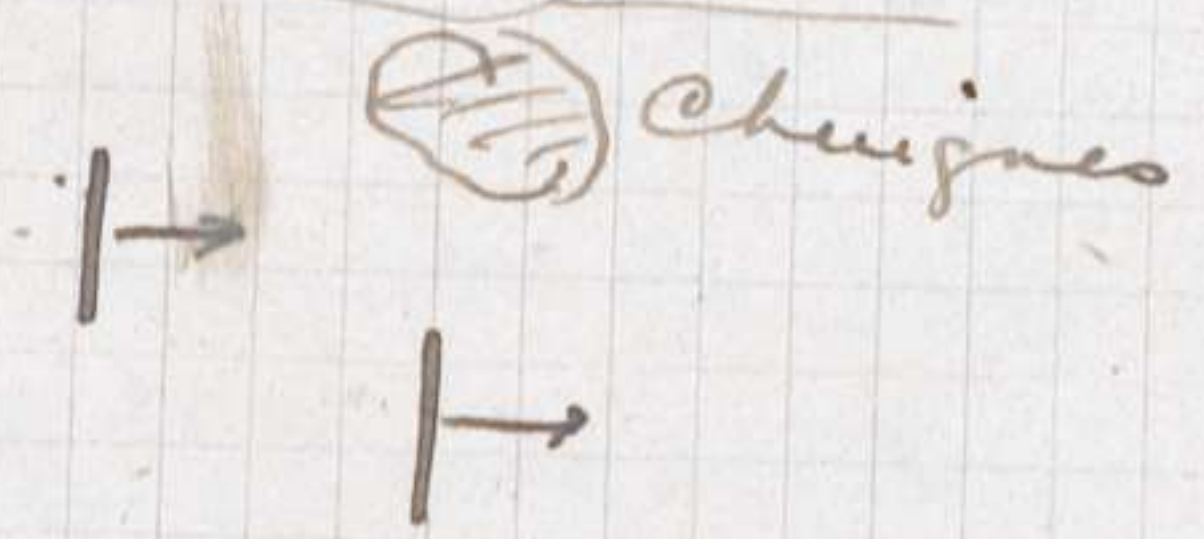
35
+ being wd himself, decided
that exploitation could not be
carried further without
severe losses & withdrew
his own & later B Coy
to the green line (final
objive for C. Coy). There was
heavy enemy η & m.f.
fire. The gun could be seen -
the fire being direct; the
m.f. fire came mostly from
the Ridge E of Chuzines & running
N to the hospital in R 11 A.

abt 7.15 the T.O. who
was moving up to look for a
new Hqrs. heard of what
had been the result. He could see
the guns firing - very accurate
& getting onto any good visible
target - they were in R 5 A or B

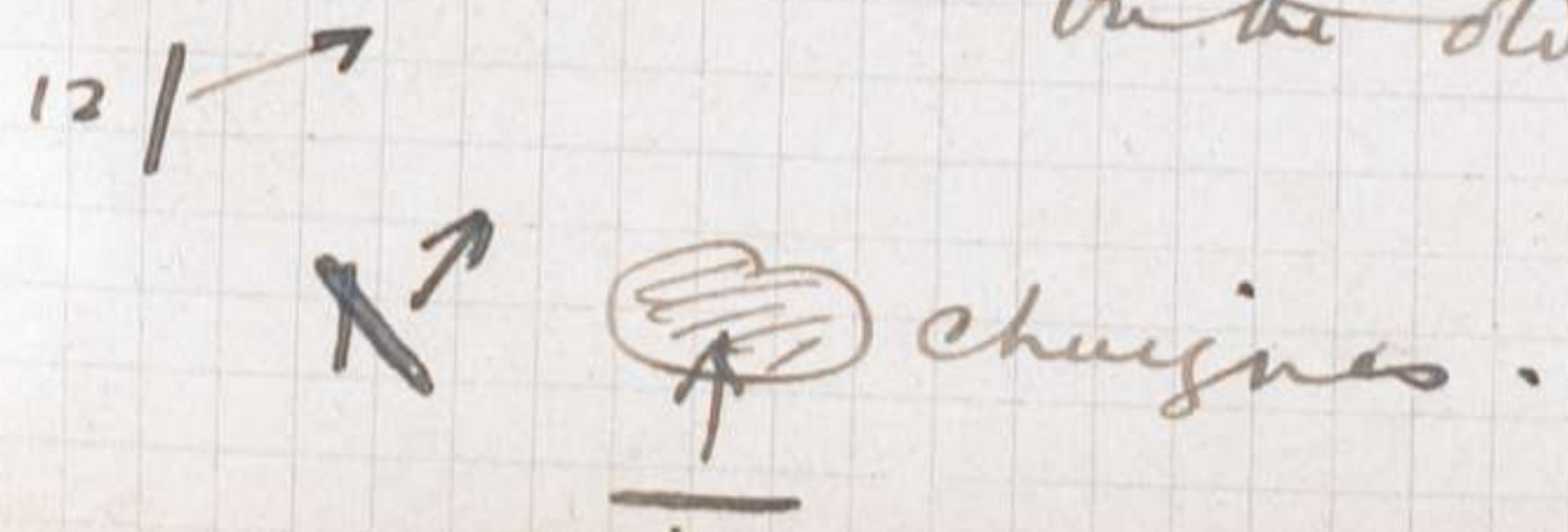
36 3
to the NW of the the wood. There
may have been one gun, or two.
They fired on the tanks moving
back + on parties going up -
shooting S. or SSW down the
valley.

Col. Moore agreed with the
O.C. who had withdrawn his
men + decided to stay there
+ report to Bde. The Bde sd
they wd arrange another company
- + the order ~~for~~ that an attack
wd be made arrived abt
12.15. C.O. ~~an~~ order was issued
for the attack + all arrangements
were made - + the boys were
told to follow 1 artillery company
when it started - time unknown.
They simply had to look out for
it + follow it. They were told

37
that they were to attack
in conjunction with 3 Bde on
left. New boundaries were
allotted for 1 attack wh was
to be due E. The 3rd &
12th Bns started in this
retation to one another
12 | →



As a matter of fact the
12 Bn was out of sight at
its starting point & the attack
took this direction practically
on the old lines!



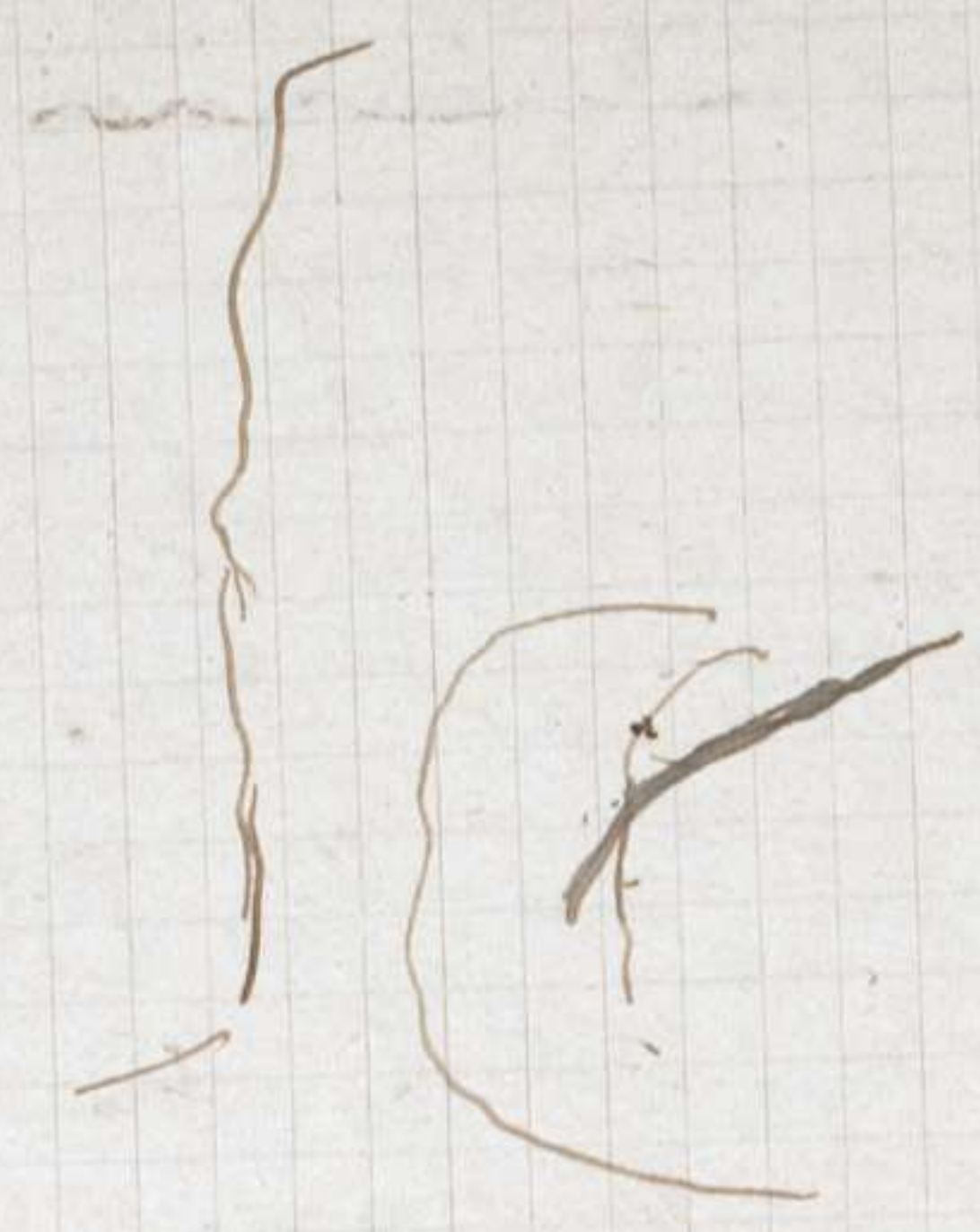
38

2 arty liaison offrs
 went over with the line
 at ~~7 am~~ on Aug 23 & got
 into the little wood in
 the fork of the Y & were
 chased out of it w their
 telephones by germ. mps.

39

The Germans ^{on the cliff top} ~~in Cheques~~
 fired at them as they
 deployed across the flat
 with mps. & they came
 under 77 fire as well.
 But as soon as they got
 in under the cliff the
 Germans from the top ran
 & when our men reached
 the top the Germans were
 running & were some hundreds
 of yards away.

The Germans in Cheques
 village did not fight. On the cliff
 the Germans ran so fast -
 they could not catch him.
 As they got onto their objective
 they met 12 Bn & B Coy
 dug in alongside 12 Bn.



The right post of 12 Bn ⁴⁰
~~This was~~ was R 6 D 5.6.
(S.E. of Sarenne wood).

The German did not c. attack
tho' on the left some of the
German posts were very
close.

No one knew of the existence
of the big gun before the attack.

~~The 4th Bn~~ C. Coy starting
out was following a Coy of 1st
Bn. Thinking that it was necessary
to keep closer to 1 Bn
McDermid went thro' them
before the arty halt line was
reached. He had no check
till he reached the gun.

1st Bn claim that
when the halt line was reached
they noticed a gap between
McDermid & the 4th Bn.
They sent a pl. to fill this

gap & they claim that this
 plu got the gun & 100 prisoners.
 The Officers of T. Coy all say
 that they passed the gun &
 had a look at it & took some
 prisoners from there. They
 were on the first halt line
 & Scouts were out ahead;
 as soon as the battery moved
 a plu ^{3rd Bn} followed it & came on
 the gun & went from the gun
 to Arcey wood (a small copse
 on the opposite hillside where
 there was a 77 gun). When
 they came back, they came
 back to the top of the W slope
 of the valley just W of the gun,
 & were still in front of any
 of 1st Bn there.

During rest of 23 Aug.

42

nothing happened except
reorgⁿ & consolidation &
protective patrolling. One German
post on left was within 100
yds of our line in old French
trenches. ~~On~~ that they were
further back in Canard wood
No 1.

On Aug 24 was quiet.

On night 24/5 12 Bn
relieved B (left) Coy & C Coy
3rd Bn relieved left part of
D Coy. D Coy extended right
to take up their correct
position. At 9 am. 25 the
Bn was N/S on its proper
obvie & boundaries.

S Bdy: E & W line thro' S. edge of square ^M 7.8.9.
on grid.

N. Bdy E & W line thro' M 7. B. O. 6.

43

The front was prac. No S.
two M7 central.

On 25/15 Aug. information was
recd of Germans retiring - front
only lightly held. Patrols
ordered to exploit.

Patrol on rt moved thro
Canard wood, & coming out at
E at midday was heavily
fired on from Z at M8D38.
The trench was across valley
& commanded valley up
wh they were moving (wood
is across ^{most of} valley).

On left Germans were only
200 yds away, (N of wood,
on edge of plateau) & patrols
cd not make progress.

All patrols drew very
heavy fire - T.M.s. m.g.s.,
arty - for an hour - a very

44

heavy barrage - the heaviest
that was laid down in
this sector. (Probably they thought
we were going to attack).

We put our arly onto that
trench across the valley & their
shooting was v. good - right
onto it.

At 10 p.m. same day A &
D Coys moved forward & established
a line E of Canada wood about
at this 2nd line, which Germans
had abandoned in meantime
- anyway they didn't wait
for a patrol. From there further
patrols struck heavy rif.
fire thro 1 night 25/26.

At 10 a.m. on 26^{Aug.} Sept.
patrol went forward supported
by platoons which sent them
& pushed forward line to

M 9 C 6.3 - 5 M 9 B S. 8.
 Touch was gained with 11 Bn
 on left at M 9 B S. 8. 4th Bn
 was still some distance in rear.
 This meant an advance
 in 24 hrs of 1800 yds.
 Patrols at once pushed
 thro Fontaine to M 9 D. 3.6
 & found Germans holding ridge
 E of village in some strength.
 The 3rd Bn was ordered to
 consolidate / line it had
 reached. Supporting Coys
 moved up. Line handed
 over to 24 Bn at midnight
 26/27.

The tanks w wh Bn
 worked on 23rd were first it
 had ever worked with.
 Tank Commandr was ...

46

Or. K.	Wd.	M.
33	178	1
do/w. 6	3 R.A.D.	
<hr/> 39.	181	1

Wd.

Lt O.P. Kellner Support Coy - wd by shell on 23rd.

Lt E. Hawkshaw ^{Aug 23 in 2 pm attack on top of crest} was Jackson, ~~and Darlow~~ were wd at same time as Cormack

Lt A.D. Arnold - on the flat before 2 pm attack - screwed ankle & wanted to go on.

Lt W. L. Lamrock Hit just after start Aug 23.

Lt A.J.S. Croll on way over on Aug 23.

Lt E.H. Jackson D.L.M. Same time as Cormack.

2/Lt C.L. Wain - right MM Aug 23 in 2 pm attack.

2/Lt G. P. Darlow. Same time as Cormack

Wd. (R.A.D) Lt F. J. Jarvis. wd in after attack (rejoined from Dueson Stn)

47

anxious to do what he could - getting out of tank, producing his map. The tanks drew a lot of fire on themselves & may have helped infy in the way.

Casualties Officers

K.

Lt M. McK. Keshan (Injitor instructor of Sydney)

K. at zero on 23rd. Bombs found W. of Progart & started at zero. Just then 2 shells got the whole of Keshan's platoon - exc. 2 men.

Capt. Cormack K.

Wd. see opposite.

German casualties.

abt 52 K.

Capt. 4 offrs 155 or ..

June: 5 — 77³

1 15 wick.

15 wip.

6 min-enw.

		offrs	or
Strength	2800:	24.	527
	24.	24.	518
(shows losses of 23 aug):	25.	17	392.
	26.	18.	365
	27.	16.	322

The main casualties were from 7 am. when they reached the final objective, to 3 pm. up to then the chief casualties had been in the place laid out by a shell.

The Big gun.

As C. Coy of 3rd Bn got over the slope towards the big gun & its wood (wh we on rt flank) Germans could be seen running out of wood. The Coy passed the wood on its right, going into the valley. M.G.s had been firing from trenches on Pozant side of wood & they were abandoned by Germans. The wood was giving no opposition when C. Coy passed it. Cpl. Doughty went thro the wood as they were advancing. He had 3 or 4 men with him. They captured a German offr, a bn. commandr, who fired one shot at him

50
w a revolver & then threw
1 revolver away. Doughty
got him & 2 other officers.
You could see 1 ferret running
away trying to climb 1
opp. side of the valley &
a lot of them were shot
up there trying to get up
it.

The Coy followed thro
the valley - but our shells
were falling short in the
valley & the foley slope.
McDermid withdrew his
men a little (abt 100 yds or
less) & lay up for 20 mins.
just to the left of the wood w/
wood on their right. They
went on again & the tanks
had some difficulty in getting

up the other side of the hill -
One tank had its travellers
broken just coming back.

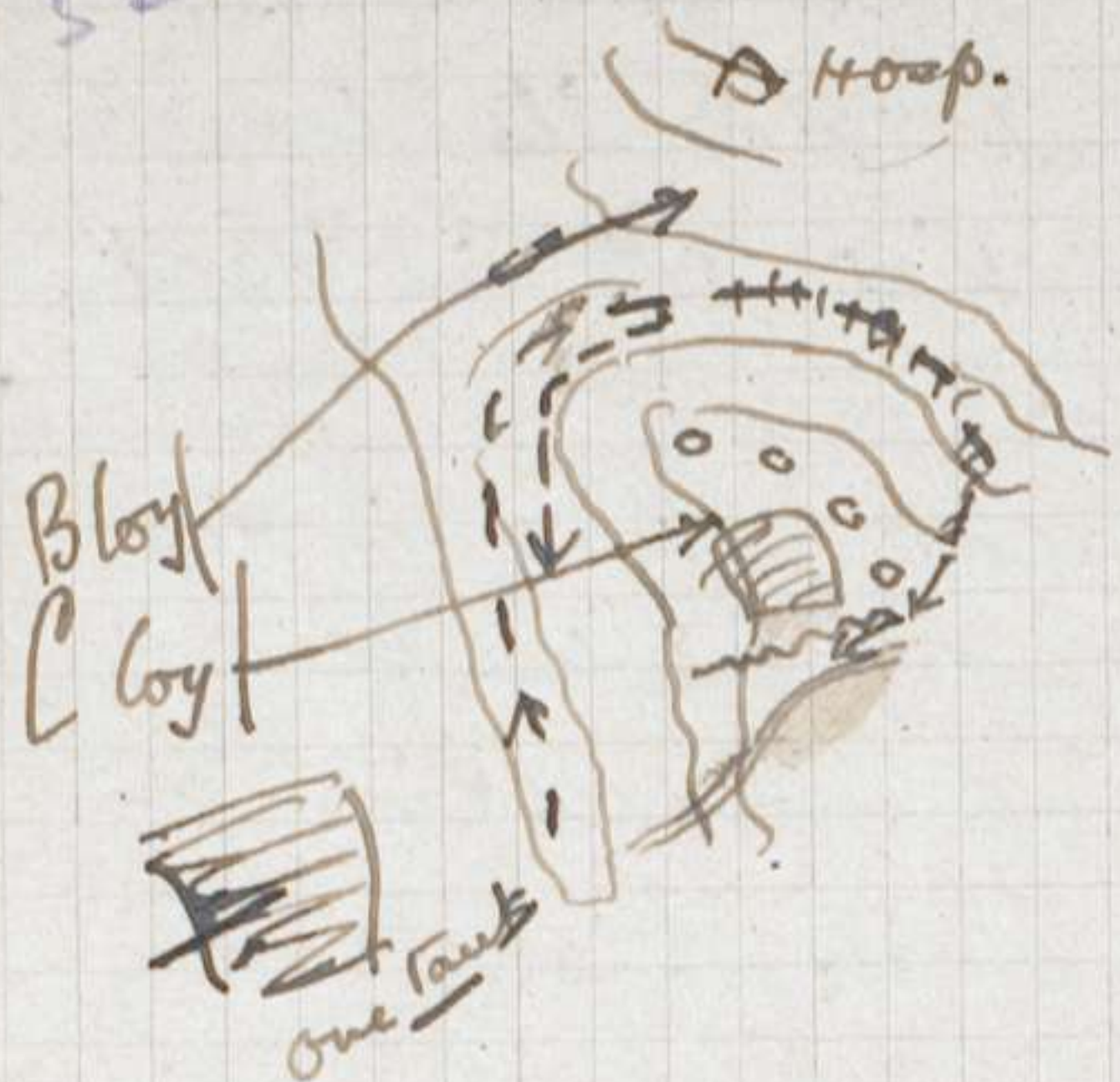
There was a confce. with
the tank commanders in the
valley - the tanks being
drawn up broadside on
with a view of sheltering
the ^{infy} officers, arty observing
offrs & tank offrs looking
at their maps behind
them (from a fire
coming from Sarenne wood).

L.C.O. Clark (Bn I.O) saw Lt Doughty
in the wood & saw 1 gun &
brought word to the others of 1
gun. Sergt ^{Connell} ~~Cromelly~~ was there
in wood during the halt
& others & saw 1 gun then.

Crossing the valley
they came under fire from

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes on the left page]

52



53

Sareenne wood & the tanks
 (some of which had to climb up by
 the road as the hill was
 too steep) were fired on
 by an anti tank gun
 near Sareenne wood. This
 gun drove back one tank
 from the corner near where
 the blown up trucks were.
 Of the tanks which went up
 the hill one went into
 the wood on the edge of the
 fork of the Y where the
 Germans were resisting.
 Another circled around
 the wood firing the tank
 gun into the wood, which was
 dense & where the inf.
 fire could not be located.

54

Serjt Conmee got
 a M.M. for this fighting. He
 went round the wood on the extreme right
 & got round into the wood from there.

55

They got into the wood
 & 1 German got out at
 the further side of it &
~~got~~ ran either to the
 ridge on the far side or
 into Chaignes. This
 the m.g. fire in the wood
 was pretty heavy & men
 had to sneak in gradually
 as best they could. The
 tank firing into the wood
 caused 1 German to clear.
 They got into shell holes &
 an old 2 & waited there
 for the afters attack.

Outposts were put in
 shell holes on the further side
 of the wood - the rest of the
 men were in a trench
 which ran down the hill S of

56
the wood.

At Start was in/c. of
B after Cormacks death in
the morning. Cormack was
k. near the trucks. Start
was trying to get L. Gs. onto
the mps. which were firing
from near Pareine wood.
The barrage had jumped
from the trucks (where the
halt was) to well up on
the hill crest behind the
mgunners. There had been
old camps on that corner of the
hill, with ledges levelled to
hold horse standing up & so
on (probly for the hospital)
& the German gunners were
in certain square excavations
They had to get into these
square pot holes because the

57
old trench. Y system there
was further back & sited
for a field of fire in 1
other direction; to get 1
field the German guns
had to come into these
old uncovered dugouts.

The m.p.s. in Sarenne
wd cd also enfilade
the whole top of the ridge.
The taking of the corner of
attacked by 3 Bn (at "Sibretan")
depended on the clearing
of Sarenne wood.

In the morning the
attack cd only get to 1
trucks & had to wait there
lying very low for 2 hrs.
Abt 2 hrs later a chance
barrage ^{came down on} the part occupied

by the runners, upset
them, & gave B Coy a
chance of getting back.

They reorganised ~~behind~~
in 1 valley ^{before} Arcy wood for 1 after
attack (behind the ridge on which Coy
were).

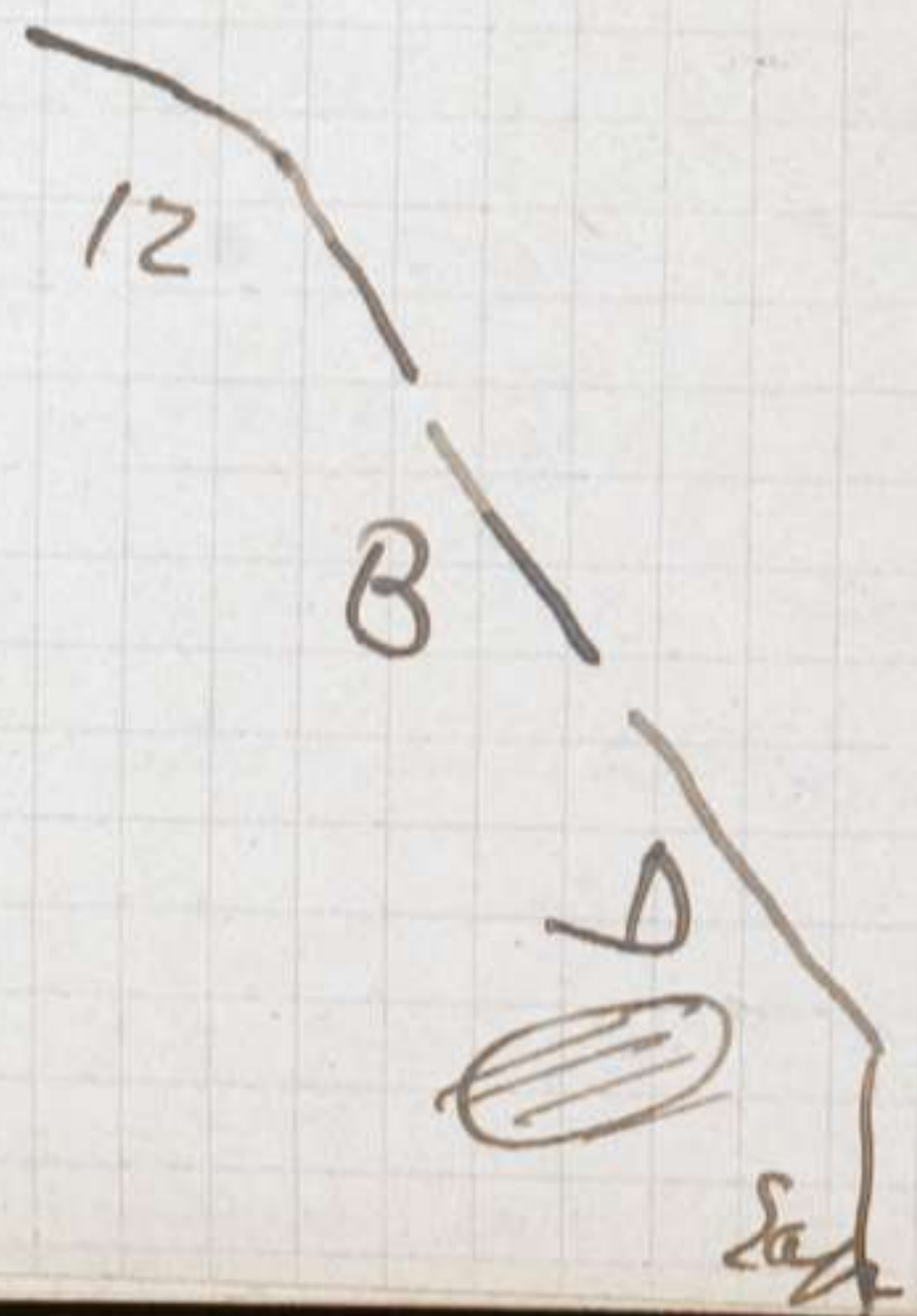
~~Just~~ Between 11 & 12,
while the coys were waiting, a
German barrage & some
inf. fire caused 1st Bn
on the fore slope near
Chaignolle wood to be
with draw a bit. Sturt
sent over some men to get
touch & they cd not. He
then sent an offr & some
men & they cd see the
12th Bn advancing abt
Marly woods. Sturt had
two ^{high posts} ~~men~~ to wave to him if
they saw troops advancing.

They waved from near
 Cheungolles wood - &
 he ~~hopped~~ hopped off. Hawkshaw
 took his pln thro the
 hospital & there found one
 sniper who was judged to
 be the man who shot
 Cormack (as Cormack was
 coming across to start
 in 1 mg, near 1 trucks.
 Sersgt Gordon had been shot
 and after by 1 same man
 in going to pick up Cormack)
 Hawkshaw's pln worked
 left of the Quarry ^{(wh was} E of Hospital)
 as it was too steep to go
 straight up; & then
 turned left aft Sarenne wood
 In Sarenne wood he met 1 Pte
 who had by the time already

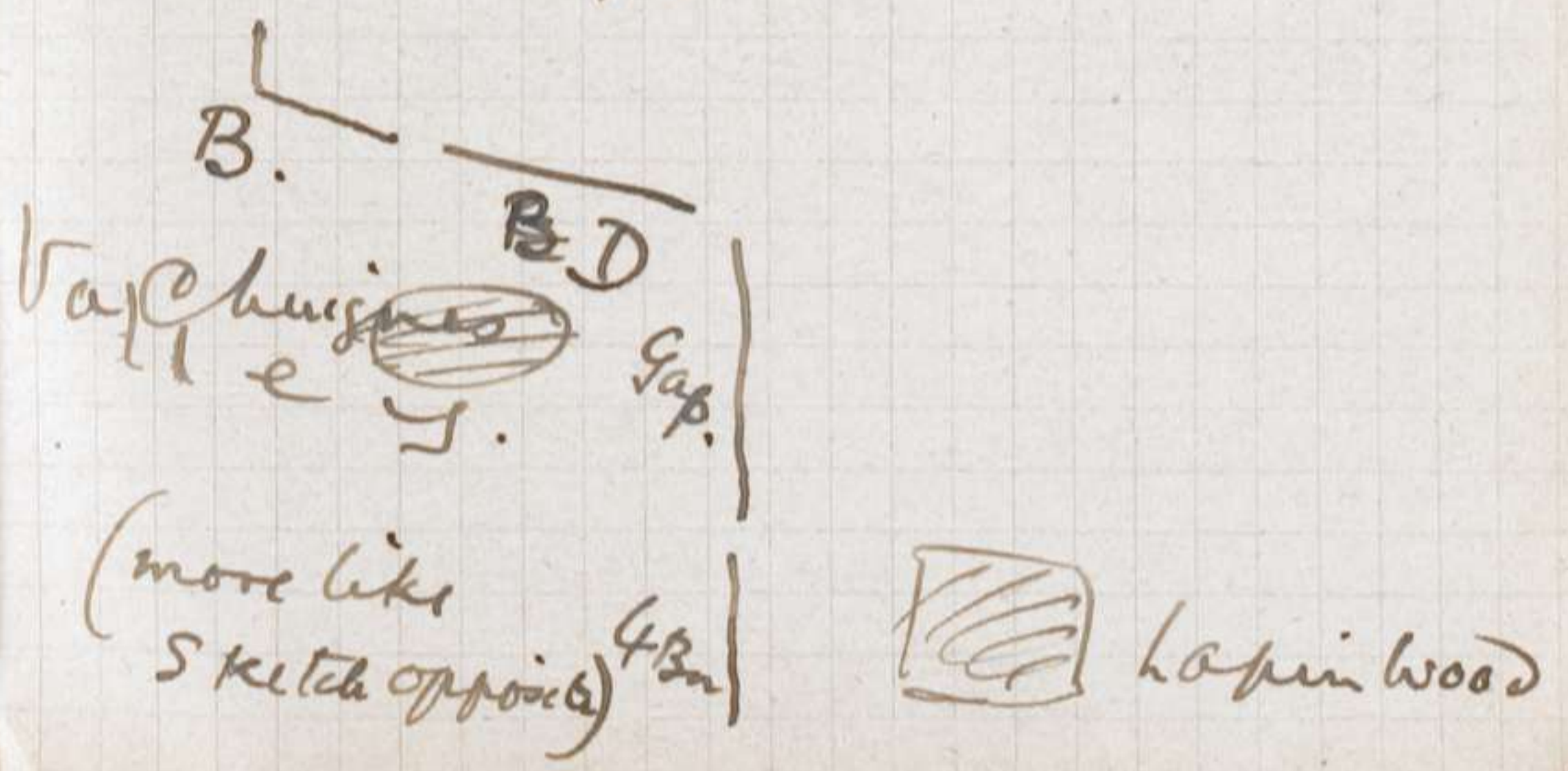
60

got into Jaremas wood & settled
the anti tank gun. Hawkshaw
was wd there. He & Stuart got
the W.C. for this fight.

The German then settled
down in 1st trench system
just beyond between Jaremas
wood & Canard wood. They
held us up there as our
barage was well ahead &
had died out. The 12th Bn
did some bombing stunts in
these trenches with 3rd Bn
cooperating. we drove ferns
out but bombs ran out
& we had to get back behind
the blocks we had by then
bn established — this would be
for a distance of abt 300
yds S. Our blocks were in
the old CTs up wh we had



bombed - 12 Bn was a little
 in front of Gavanne wood -
 200 Bn in ^{three or four} C.T. S. of the wood
 (betw. SE corner of wood &
 isolated tree). 1 1/2 Plus
 were here. The 2 1/2 plus on
 the rt were held up by a
 trench running due S & had
 to dig in. Hawkshaw was
 wd in the wood as 1 bombing
 started. And Jarvis was
 wd getting touch w D Coy
 on 1 right.



62

D Coy settled down in 1
old 4 septum E of Chaignes
& there capt'd an old Nissan
hut with ~~a~~ a German
m.f. depot where salvaged
British m.f. & S.A.C. had
be collected - or probly a
repair shop - 28,000 rounds.
This was taken by D Coy.

On the ridge by Savenne wood
5 m.p. & 22 Prisoners were
taken by B. Coy.

During the patrolling during
after day of 25th Aug. one
patrol unit is Sgt. Turvey
on the rt of B Coy, by the road
from Chaignes twds Cappy,
met German m.f. fire & had

a man wd within 100 yds of leaving. They were tied to the ground behind tufts of grass. Lt Cpl Matthews saw from 1 trench the plight this patrol was in & hopped out on his own initiative with some ^{rifle} grenades. As he was leaving 1 trench another man saw what he was doing & followed w some more grenades.

Matthews went 50 yds out into 1 open - a ^{second} mfg. was turned onto him. He fired off 1 grenades as fast as he cd. & shut 1 mfgs up & 1 patrol was able to get back. As soon as he stopped firing 1 grenades

64

I turned to come back
both he + I man w him
(Rockrig) were w/d Matthews
tho I chest. M. got the
DCM + Rockrig the
M.M. The supporting coys
on the rd took on the ~~advance~~
patrolling further. I were
able to get ahead (as above).

There was probably a
battery of guns alongside the
Garden wall at Cherries
- they were sd to be seen
there + 1 emplacement
were found but by then 1
guns had gone so possibly
party got them.

Officers were shot off into
this fight at a moment's
notice - Skirt came in from

London leave & we sent
straight up on 1st after of the
2nd Aug. in his London
clothes. Clarke the I.C.
we sent up on 25th to take
a Coy for the exploitation;
Lt G.H.
& Burnett who was on his
way to the Flying Corps & came
up w/ rations to see how
they were we promptly
sent off to 1 front on 1st
after of 23rd Aug.

66

Zero 5.20

18th Sept.

Coys. (reorg. into 3 Coys)

X /

Z /



Y /

3rd Bn:

67

Report. P2. after first line
 add. This post^{of 35 men & 50 germs} was
 rushed by Sgt Macmillan
 W/Cpl Bradford & Pte O'Donnell.
 They kept close up to 1 barrage.
 They could see one gun firing
 on 3rd Bn moving up on
 their left. They made a detour
 to their right & went as fast
 as they could to 1 trench. When
 they got there they got a terrible
 shock finding it full of germs.
 They put a bot's face on it
 & threw a few bombs in &
 1 whole trench surrendered.
 This gun was holding our left
 up - & these three men were
 alone in the next pln to
 Lt Baird's - who was on the
 right of the Bn. Lt Lord
 Command that Platoon & Lord
 & MacM. Each took half a pln.

↑

Baird Lord Leggett
"Y" Coy
Each Coy Consisted
of 3 plus.

69

Baird & Lord had kept
their plus together going
up thro 1 fog & went too
far ~~right~~ ^{right} - first they got
into Templeux (where 4 Bn
was fighting); then cut off to
right from there & struck the
right of Hargreave instead
of the ~~main~~ ^{central cross} Street. They
cut up from there N.W.
Crossed the main road
thro 1 broken backyard
& met Clark the I.O. there
& Lt. R. D. Leggett (the 3rd
Pln Comdr of Y Coy).
Clark did not know of
any other troops of 3rd Bn
there - various men of X & Z
were in 1 village not
knowing where they were -

70

+ joined Y. Clark told
Baird (as Clark thought
there was no other troops of
3rd Bn there) to go to the
ret of Coy with his Plⁱⁿ &
link with 1st Bn.

Lord & Leggett found
X & Z Coys in front of
village - they had some thro
w 1 4th Bn. Also Lt ^{E.R.} Shelley
M.C. with Coy ~~troops~~. He
was wd abt 1/2 hr after
the barrage lifted at 8.30
am.

Y Coy eventually went on

Leggett Lord Baird

Lord, to make all 1 pace

he cd, divided his command
& giving Seryt Macmillan
the rt half pln took 1 left
half himself - & it ws
how MacM. came on this
post.

Looking back from the
position where Baird was
they cd see the barrage
on the left wh had a
backward curve in
it & the troops behind it
on 1 other side of valley
waiting for it to lift.

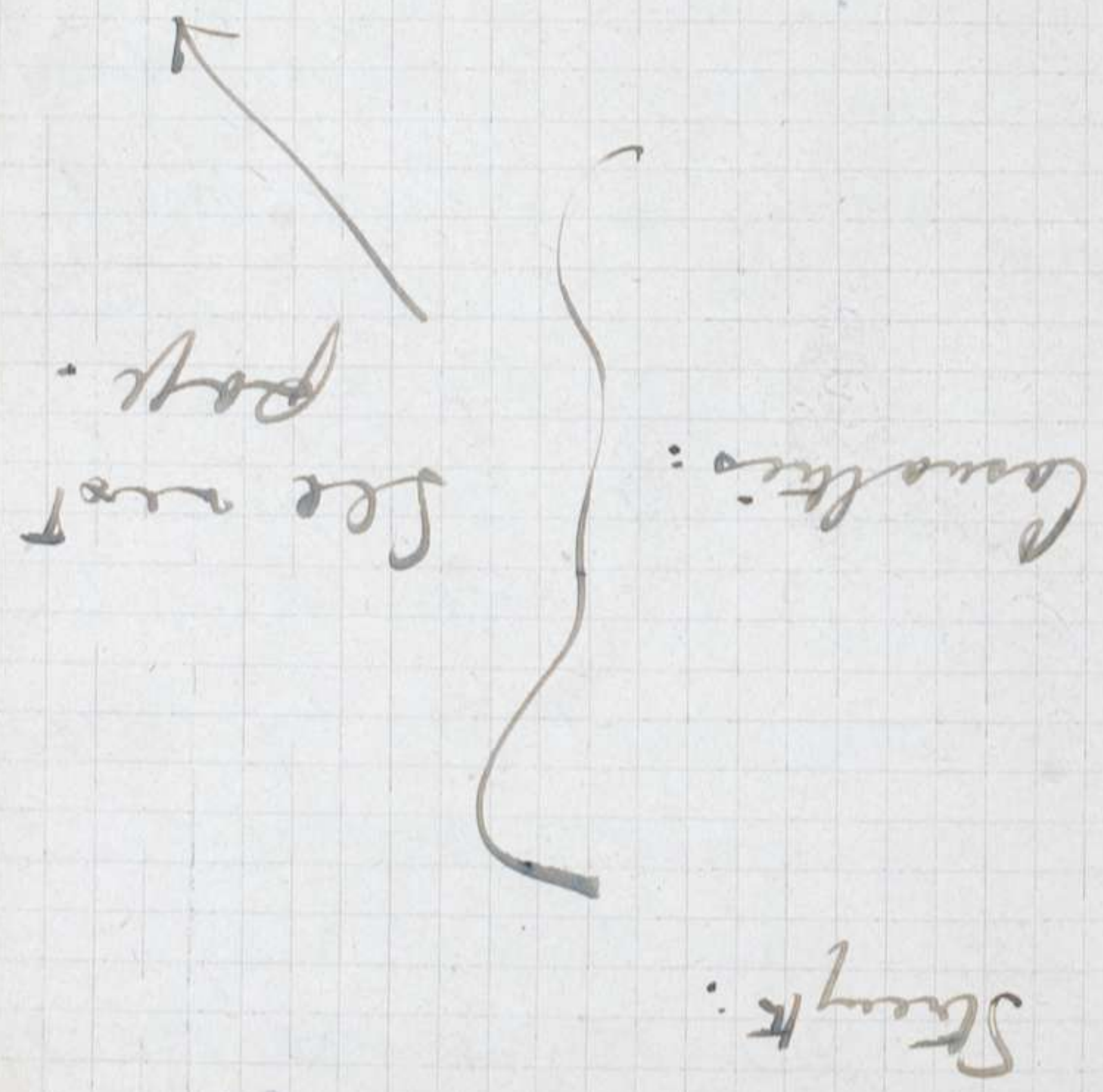
Baird & Lord divided
at the fork Roads
E of the valley, Lord
taking the left. This ws
where they waited for the

23 Sept. 14 232
 18th Sept. 17 301
 105
 Nuclear
 55

6
 13
 76
 K.
 15.
 D.T.
 Counter
 exactly where wanted.
 (a good example)
 and it came down
 87

lift. The inf. post into
 wh McMillan ran was
 at L 6. A 1.4. at the junction
 of Laf & Enfilade trenches.
 Baird had gone over
 Cologne I'm without meeting
 a firm. but cd see the
 firms running away down
 1 valley on 1 left front.
 Only abt 3 shots were fired
 at Baird's lot before
 reaching their objv.
 Clark had told them to
 go very fast as by keeping
 to 1 barrage they wd
 help the left.
 The objv ws Ferret

RA
 An arty liaison officer Lt McCoig
 went over with Baird from
 Hantscourt & stayed till 4.30
 PM making sure where they
 were & making out barrages
 laid. He asked where they
 were & (barrages). When he
 got back he put down 1 barrage



86

trench. Baird reached this
 as 1 barrage ^{they stayed there w 1 barrage.} "As soon as
 1 barrage lifted Baird
 went on himself towards
 Minnow Tr. & seeing 1
 series going for all they
 were worth up the valley
 he took his pln over
 to Minnow Tr. Vloys
 left Hank w Ruby Lane
 & Rt Hank w R.d. running
 E & W down to Buckshot
 Ravine. In Minnow trench
 they were looking into the
 valley towards Queennemont
 Jan wh they cd see on 1
 top of valley; the crest
 w just ahead; on 1 rd
 on 1st it wd be possible

of the 7th one was on 6th Oct only
 side covering the front & R. B. D. A. A.

Estimated Bank. 60
 Capt. 200
 (Receipts held for 100)
 Same capt: 4
 5.95
 4.2
 1
 73
 77

at 21st Sept. 1917. Capt
 K. C. J. Clayton and 19 Sept. 1917. 200
 21st Patrick King's Dragoon Coy.
 21st St. John's. 18 Sept. 1917.
 21st St. John's. 18 Sept. 1917.
 21st St. John's. 18 Sept. 1917.
 21st St. John's. 18 Sept. 1917.
 21st St. John's. 18 Sept. 1917.

1st Bn were across the rd
 up to Malakoff wood.
 They sd they followed 1 German
 Bty Command there pretty
 drunk when they got him.
 Their breakfast.
 1st Bn were across the rd
 up to Malakoff wood.
 They sd they followed 1 German
 Bty Command there pretty
 drunk when they got him.
 Their breakfast.

to look down into Bellicet.
 There was a battery of guns
 abt 300 yds to Bairds left
 just in front of Unionow
 Trench. German gun from
 there when I obje was reached.
 The barrage still bent back to
 I left & McMillan Bradford
 & O'Donnell - they came
 over the fat to I left of I
 Sugar Factory to the tongue on
 wh Sugar & Cocoa trench are. They
 must have followed on down
 Enfilade Trench to Unionow
 trench & they caught a German
 Bty Command there pretty
 drunk when they got him.
 They sd they followed 1 German
 up to Malakoff wood.
 1st Bn were across the rd

across the Rd into the
 Triangle trench. M.C. Coy
 Lt. J. McDonald, was shot
 two the way on the road
 then by a rif. which
 was playing down the road -
 they don't get at them.
 for some time. He dies
 later at the C.S. from wounds
 received at the trench. (M.C. Coy
 in an attack on a German trench
 when they were killed
 5/2/41)

75

(wh was the German Corduroy
 Rd) from Baird.
 In 1 after 1 German
 threw mines over towards
 Ferret Tr. - over numerous
 trench & towards 1st Bn.
 In the after Baird went
 to Sugar trench (the
 Factory) & found McWilliam
 there & Coy HQ & some
 men & other plus.
 No one in Sugar Tr. at
 day where X Coy was. Baird
 brought the men from Sugar
 trench & numerous Tr.
 Just before dark a runner
 arrived to say that X Coy
 was also in numerous Tr
 & Triangle Trench (where they
 had got to from Hagar
 Post) & Baird found to
 Z Coy had also got there.

Seemed in (while walking)
 seemed to go for their
 line - (I think seemed
 to give way (there 3
 is that men, cd the sun
 going up above clouds
 there (same time).
 The vegetation was
 very & kept the plow
 as fast as it cd. They were
 on the "Buffs" ground.
 They finished on 1 Oct
 & 1 road. When they got
 almost to bridge tr. in
 Buffs seemed to come over
 1 mile from the NW. Right
 cd see the end of his ground
 He had a talk as a forming
 after I took his men

Z Coy was practically on the
 tongue going into the valley.
 The trenches were had but
 badly knocked out by our
 artillery. (This later became
 1 German barrage line, wh
 accounts for the battered
 state in wh they were on
 Sept 29). Baird found
 1 rest of Coy there &
 came back to Minnow
 trench w 1 rest of Y Coy.
 The 3 plus were then fixed
 in Minnow trench - reorganised.
 The Germans shelled the
 trench next morning for
 an hour at dawn & it looked
 as if he were going to attack.
 In the first 2 minutes 7
 men were hit in the trench.

Keggitt met Lord & Baird in
 Stratford - a blank.
 Keggitt lay up on left of
 Rd just to N. of road &
 Baird.
 Keggitt the west force
 under 1 company, having to
 wait for it at times, both
 Valley Post - in the trench
 Rd leading up leading trench
 Carbine trench; came out
 of the trench Rd & came
 under my fire from a
 m.g. in the Copse & a
 few scattered shots later
 to of Sept 21: 9 users
 sniping at the same with
 Australian machine guns
 / walking. As soon as there
 some search fire the

77
 There were from 2 whizzbang
 shells wh hit the parados
 & blew back.

No falling back occurred
 S of the Rd - where our flank
 was; but the British
 N of the Rd fell back towards
 dusk on the eve of Sept 18.
 The British fell back to
 Rifle trench wh is just
 W of the Trench Rd to Ronsoy.
 Every hour a patrol was
 sent across to the Tommies
 during 1 night & a Vickers
 gun of 1st Inf. Coy was put
 there to cover the gap (under
 an off - I think Lt. Heane)
 The line was as fixed on
 3rd Bu sector on morning
 of 21 Sept when the minor
 operation took place.
 1st Bu ret'd 4 Coy. 4 Coy

Tommyes]
 3rd 2]
 1st]
 2 Bde. |

men were necessarily
 pleased by seeing the hills
 South of us coming down
 over the ridge between our
 men & enemy. They expected
 to see in the fall up the slope
 of the line remaining
 in Rifle Co. 3rd Bn
 as well as night by a
 Bn of 2nd Bde.

went to Sugar Post (by 3 entrance
 dugout). Also X Coy to Sugar
 Post. Z Coy did the attack
 on morn of Sept 21 for 3rd
 Bn. one Bn of 2nd Bde
 relieved 1st Bn & they also
 went forward.

Z Coy went forward &
 estab'd 2 posts as outposts
 & a support post abt 600
 yds ahead in the flat
 in the valley on the rt of
 the Rd in 25 B & D. They
 remained there 9 am. McDonald
 was in charge of them. He phoned
 to say the Tommyes were
 falling back on 1 left.
 Baird sent his to Bn. Baird
 came up to the top of the dugout
 in Sugar Post & 2 Tommyes
 came down 1 2 x They sd
 they were going back as
 they were attacking.

Trench & a Victoria Pan
went over there. This left
things as they were in
Aug.

Baird left Bn in position
& left 1/4 in line in 18 hrs
put down a good barrage.
The Tommies had made good
in 200 Yards & Top trench.
The Germans changed their
overcoat with packs &
Tommies after seen around
evening. Some Tommies were
left out in shell holes &
had a hot time under our
barrage. The Germans were
moving down at 1 night
had a good deal. After
2 hrs later (11 pm.) the

As soon as this happened Baird
made the Coy stand to. Our
posts then came in. It looked
as tho the Germans must have
attacked on 1 left. Leggett
took his pln up to Minnow
trench with two L.Gs. The Germans
were sweeping 1 place w
m.g.s. The pln got across
without casualties. Baird
went over to look at 1
situation & found th the 3
post of 3 Bn had come back
to Minnow trench - The trench
was littered w rifles, amm
etc L.Gs - & abt 30 Tommies.
The Tommies had fallen back
to Rifle Trench. This left our
left post flank 1000 yds
in the air. The Coy took up its
original position in triangle