

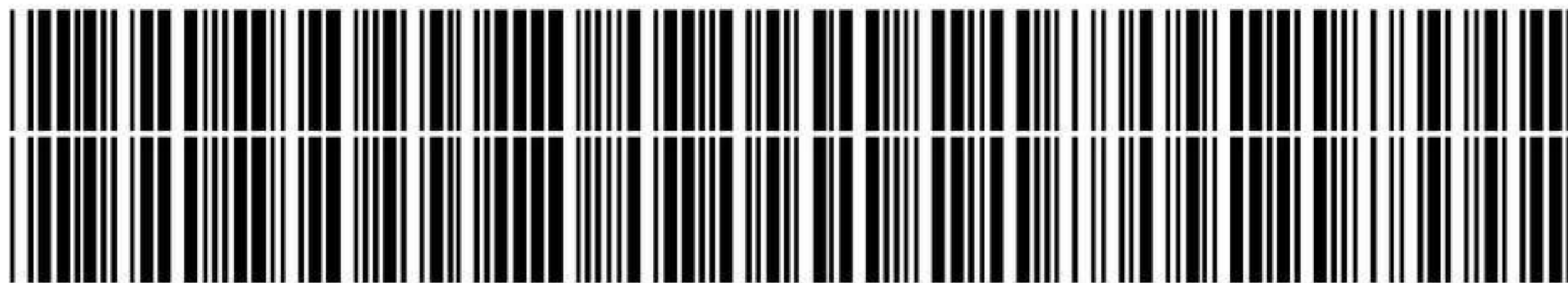
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/205/1

Title: Notebook, 1915 - 1918

Includes references to the 9th, 12th, 18th and 20th Battalions, 5th Infantry Brigade, Mont St Quentin, Beaurevoir, Bullecourt, Framerville and Gallipoli.



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Original

DIARY NO. 205.

AWM 38

30RL 606 ITEM 205 [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
ACCESS STATUS

C. E. W. BEAN.

OPEN

20 Bn Ino Lt Co.

(Capt Anthon. Ensign. McDonald)

The Co. found while Bn was
on / way up to there were still
germs in the SE end of Chry.

The ~~10~~ 10 Bde thought this was
clear but there might be germs
still there. For this reason

Bn went round by ESE a Alley.

Another reason was to get the
Bn as far as possible without
being seen — 3rd Div had
been seen heavily shelled previous
after W of Chry.

When Bn got thro in G.C
the A Coy, Wd Lt, found the
trench had been used by 1st
germs for horse standings

They had to break these
barriers down - mostly
timber & rubberoid; all
the time they were getting
heavy m.-f. fire from abt
Berlingots trench (wh was
higher (on a ridge) & from
the extreme SE end of village.
The trench was low & they
had to crawl.

~~After they got to the~~
abt 50 yds W of 1
junction of Elm alley & Lt Sonds
2, Lt Anderson Anthon
was leading pln of A Coy
wh was well ahead got a
msg. A German fired on
them - & they had to get out
of 1 2 under m.-f. fire from
1 knuckle ahead, flank the

Gun - & got 7 Germans & a
m.g. It was abt 1 p.m. in
the day. This gun was only abt
20 yds away. in 1 bend of
same trench - he had opened
a little bit short - & they got
out & behind him. He turned
it in then - ~~was~~ without about.

They got into St Pond 2
& got several Germans in a
huge dugout there. They were in
1 dugout & were taken when
it was examined -

The back of this 2 was
open to m.g. fire from 1
gun in 1 extreme end of 1
village. They trained their
m.g. on this gun & the
3rd Div came in from behind

took these farms. ^{30B} They had
passed by them thro the 3rd
Dwin outposts.

20B found it cd not go
across 1st main road
as there was a thick
nest of 8 German mps.
in the pocket betw 1st rd
& 1 railway at 12 B 3.7.
These were covering 1 Omiercourt
Bridgehead. There ~~was~~ ^{were} also
2 mps. in ~~the~~ Avion 2nd

St Elliott went up the C.T.
to Avion 2nd & bombed
these 2 mp. posts killing
8 Germans & taking several
prisoners. They then tried
to get across 1st rd at 1
pocket (thro Avion 2nd) but

Inf. fire from the pronounced
height abt 7 A.M. had
them. The C.T.s on the road were
were ^{then} all covered by separate
guns. ^{Regt 4} ^{Bn} then came up in
rear & occupied St Louis 2
& St Balmeno as Sersgt
Welch D.C.M., M.M., ~~went~~
~~forward~~ crossed rd &
went along 1 rly line.

They got 14 prisoners &
2 mg.s from 1 pocket.
They crawled in on their bellies &
threw a bomb — one ^{wait} for each
o 1 two different posts. This
cleared 1 pocket.

~~The Bn~~ ^{The Bn} then waited
till dusk. in St Louis 2.

Anthony Coy had taken 60 prisoners
At dusk D C B A
followed round in the order
of filing out of St Louis 2
onto 1 main Rd keeping
under 1 cover of high
bank beneath which
rd runs. They followed
rd to the high bank
wh crosses it (running NE)
The hill rises like a ramp
from the bank.

A Coy rushed into 1
gully made by the bank,
killing several Germans -
Lt Elliott ^{A Coy} went bombing at
Slant alley + Lt Anthony ^{A Coy}
up St Didier alley. 24
Germans ran in droves from

1 far end of alley up over
1 hill on 1 sky line. Anthon
saw Elliotts L.G. firing on
them (heard 1 noise of L.G.
& saw 1 sparks) Anthon put
his gun up & X fired.

There were lots of German k.
there. From ~~the~~ the cross trench with cuts (end of these
trenches they got
4 up & 84 prisoners.

They then passed back works
for reinf'ts & 1 remainder of
Bn came forward - B Coy
occupying Slant Alley to form
a defensive flank - the rest
taking a position ahead in
unnamed trench facing
the front, & awaited further
orders.

During 1 night the Co.

Came up & save them their
mistakes. There were only
11 off. & 246 o.s. in the
Bu - total strength & so it
was a very windy prospect.
Out of these 8 men of A Coy
had been k - 2 of C. Coy & a few
w.d. The A Coy men were
killed in Avion 4

As I after got on he barraged
them track very heavily but
just missed, over & short.

(Continued later).
at X.

[For "Robinson" on one of the
above pages read McDonald -
written in error].

X. Night of 28/29 they stayed in 1 Quarry at Cappy. (They arrived there in afternoon from Froissy area). That night ^{CO} had 3 hours sleep - men wd get more & started at 5.30 am on 1 road - going all day thro Frise to Sunker Rd S. of Feuilleres. No sleep at all the night 29/30. That day got 10 mins sleep.

* The Coy Commanders were called back to Salvoat 2 to get their orders from the CO. While waiting for them in the water they dug out the CO. fell asleep but they woke him when they arrived. From then on there was no more sleep till after 6 Bde had passed thro at Ent St Q. But for a time, when Bn was ordered to withdraw to Frise it looked as if rest were ahead. The CO. was insid to report to Bde for a confce - & as soon as he got to Frise was warned of further operations at 10.30. There was only time for a shower wash & bite & off they were again.

Night of 30/1 no sleep. Night of 31/1 had 2 hrs sleep after 6 Bde had gone thro in morning.
Night of 1/2 got 6 hrs sleep in Halle broken by gas shelling.

20 Bn. 29 Aug.

(Col. Forbes)

The men in 1 bank S. of

Some E of Boscourt were

v. heavily shelled. The fire

was no doubt directed from

Clery which was then held by

1 Germans. The orders for

King Somme on 29/30 :-

Col. Forbes moved into Salvoat 2 -

18 Bn were supposed to have

patrols working up 1 peninsula

to Omiecourt during 29/30. That

night, on their reporting the

Causeway clear, 20 Bn wd to

follow them on & attack

but St Q. * Quarrels of an hr

before zero Col. Forbes recd word

from O. to Corp that 18 Bn

had reported 1 Causeway to be

to be blown up. It was a stone
causeway - said.

The bridge across the Canal
where it formed 1 Chod 0 /
peninsula was only a ^{single} plank.
Acting on this information 1 troops
who were on 1 Chod waiting to
go along were withdrawn to
Salvat 2, the Canal Bank (Chod),
& the Bank in 16 A & B
within an hour ^(later) the troops were
withdrawn ^(on orders from Bde) right back to the
neighbourhood of Fise - the
Bde cancellation having
arrived in 1 meantime.

As soon as they got back
there they had breakfast & 1
men washed their feet. They had
arrived here at 8 am.
at 10.30 am. They started

again. This time they moved
via Canal Bank to Feuillere
where the 4d the river &
came up the lower main road
to Christiana 2 - thence to
bank where Col. Forbes was
already established.

At 5th Bde Col. Forbes had
orders to Clergy was clear.

At the Bank he met Gen.
McClellan of 10 Bde who had
a sort of forward HQ there.
He reported Clergy as being clear
Exc. for 2 houses in the NE
corner which a Company
had gone there to wrap up some
time before.

20 Bn was sent on a
mission to stick to 1 2
system all way round in

order to keep their movements
quiet & because C.O. was not
yet sure if Clergy was clear.

(10 Bde thought they were in
Berlin wood).

The 12th Bty, meanwhile, under
Major Sinclair did some magnificent
shooting in 7c (NW corner of
Square) observing from 20 Bu
H.Q. Sinclairs bty was attached
to 20 Bu for this operation & crossed
/ river as there & were with him
to end. Right thro they did
most magnificent shooting.

At 1.30am. Col Forbes
recd by phone the orders from
13de for 1 attack on his St Q.
He took these orders up himself
to the Bank at 7A 1.4 where
there was a bit of a hole where Maj.

Macdonald was. The Coy Comd'rs
were to be there by 1 am. &
they brought along most of their
platoon Comd'rs whom they
could get. The

The objective for 20 Bn was
from the Canal - Repaine Rd Xing
down to ~~the~~ Moineville
Alley just ~~below~~ S of the Road
Bend.

When they went off they
had nothing to guide them for
forming up. It was pitch black.
They moved ENE abt 15
Yds. when 1 Barrage
opened - & then turning round
into line onto the objective.
In the way they scooped ~~up~~
up an immense number of
Germans behind them.

Once they got onto 1 road they
say they could have gone on for
ever had they had 1 man. He
firm. was running everywhere.
But they were getting trouble
from Anvil wood or
Johannes 2 - m-f. fire.
They dug in along 1 rd, and
themselves comfortable - took
their equipment off. Everyone
was smoking cigarettes. But
a big gap existed between them
& 17 Bn on rt. As a result
of this 2 Coys of 18 Bn in support
were ~~put~~ ^{ordered} into Inoineville
Alley. Another 2 were sent
down to take up a position
in Uber Alles 2. They did
not get to either place.

3rd divn (44 Bn) was to
come up on 20 Bns left but they
did not. They were somewhere
in Majdan 2. An offr was
sent to their CO. & he sd he
wd send a Coy up. This Coy
did not come. ^{Early} Jan 1 After
the Germans found this pap &
got down from Poinsoit 2
to the Canal at the rear of
Feuillaourt. They had to
withdraw to Oder trench &
Sottlieb 2. (Bn took over 600
prisoners & 65 mps - Regt opposite
them was the ~~Pr~~ Kaiserin
Augusta Regt of guards. They
had come in the night of
30/31 Aug.)

Sept 1st. 6 Bde went thro:
~~probably 24~~ after dawn -
their zero was 6 am - too late
to do food.

Some 01 wd in Feuilleact
had to be left in depots on rd.

The Germans treated these
men well. He gave them hot
coffee etc & sd that their
Comrades wd attack again
in 1 morning & get them
back again. The 6 Bde attack
seemed to be rushed again.

The 20 Bn was withdrawn
to ^{near} Halle & Prague trench. They
stayed there till Sept 4, as
reserve to 14 Bde.

They then came back to
Frisel.

(On 1st of this attack

The troops - plus commanders - of
19 Bn never got their exact
knowledge of their objective
owing to the Coy Commanders
having to go to go for their
orders & being unable to
tell the commanders. The
Coy Commanders were mostly
hit & 19th ~~only~~ plus commanders
only knew that they had to
take Mt St Q - nothing about
the flank protection. Part of
17 Bn was having a fight in
Park Wood in 1 morning
so 17 Bn went out 1 hell
very weak.

The earliest troops of 6 Bde
would be coming round 1 Somme
bend about 6.30 am on Aug 31.

One of the finest incidents of
campaign was: a Bde of English
field arty came up into a little
triangle formed in a bend
of a stream by a steep bank
& two roads - this is a
loose. They came in there
at 9 am. Their observation
offrs went out on horses,
selected positions - & guns
were soon in action.

Major Sinclair of 12 Bty rode
his horse up to the top - said
it was too warm - Came back,
shifted his Bty into a better
position & went on firing.

His Bty came in to 7 A Central,
early in the morning.

One shell got a couple
of horses of English Bty's.

The German shelled the Omicourt
crossing v. heavily with
8 in. One batch of 20-30
German prisoners was knocked
by a shell in their midst.

At 6 am. a German
inf. was firing from abt Boule
Alley straight into 1 bank where
Hqs was. Several German
prisoners were hit by this
gun as they stood in front of
Hqs. This gun was subsequently
silenced by an Australian
forward observer off & runner
the observer off being
badly wd in process. (Hqs
was an Australian with the
17Bn - He went up & bombed
it). (Col. O'Callaghan was C.O of group
& wd know his name)

Before midday 5 waggons
loads of m.g.s and captured
material were cleared from
that bank (collected from 12
around - m.g.s. forward
could be brought in for lack
of men).

When they started they
made such a noise, & kept it
up so well, that they bluffed
German.

St Nolle was k. at the
start - on the way off at zero.

Capt Barlow A Coy was wd.
wd

Jimmy O'Keefe

Lieut Elliott wd.

20 Bn. Beaurevoir.
OCT 15th. Marched up ^{from Villers Faucon} to Villers.
C.O. had a walk up to see
the country. Abt 5.30 pm
Brig. told Co. they were to
take over from 15 Bde -
didn't say where Pompeys & Co
were. Having seen the
ground by daylight C.O.
saw the only way was by the
plank Rd. He took them
by a track to ^{strike} the plank road
near the bottom by Bellecourt.
C.O. went up to find
Elliott. Elliott said he would
have guides at his rear to go
to take the Bn in.

Front to take over was
from Mint Copse to Cemetery.

Elliott's guides met 20 Bn
but lost 1 way finally
near Nawrooy. Col. Forbes
guides (at relay stns) lost
him. Eventually he stumbled
on 1 Bn. He decided 1
best thing was to put a 60W
face on it & to advance
toward 1 flare in what he
thought was 1 direction. When
they got to G 6 D the guides
decided they knew where they
were. It was now 11.30 pm. There
were a few shels; also it was pitch dark.
(Pomperys found Hqs was at 1
other camp signal stn).
Col. then found 2 Bn Hqs wh
he was to relieve was in
the sunken Rd on G 6 B.
& 1 rd to Foley's point was
well defined. The guides

look Bn up. Col Forbes took
over from Col. Denehy & Col.
Scambou. Their line was a
bit ^{short} of the sanken Rd NE of
Jolemprie. Col. Forbes instructions
were to take over 1 road.
The 20 Bn got into 1 road
easily - any ferns etc were
here ran.

At the Cemetery there was
some trouble in getting touch with

Oct 2. 19 Bn.

Next after an officer was coming
back from the line beyond
Jolemprie to help his batman
~~for~~ in order to go to a school,
when a low flying fernan plane
came over & after trying to
smashie gun him dropped
a bomb at him. He took cover

from the map behind a telegraph
post, keeping an eye on 1 plane.
He saw 1 bomb leave 1
plane - judged where it wd
drop, & ran 1 other way.
The bomb dropped within 10 yds
of telegraph post behind
wh he had bn sheltering.
This was Lt Burdus, D.S.O. (at
Haugard wood) -

All this time we landed
over to 7 Bde for Beurevoir
attack. 20 Bn was withdrawn
into 1 Sunk in Rd in B25-D
S of Folemprise Fm. In addition
to odd rations, while
waiting for 1 start, they had
hot stew wh was taken on
packhorses right to them (by
Lt Mac Gill, asst. transport off).

19 were for Beurevoir Line.
20 were to mop up
Lanotte In & take Beurevoir
Bde on left.

19 Bn for some reason
- unknown to ~~the~~ 20 Bn
Afrs. failed on 1st obj -
20 Bn took the Beurevoir
line & went on to the
outskirts of Beurevoir.
They cd see no troops whatever
on 1st - it is all open
& lots of ferns - Lt Cameron,
Senior off present, walked
into 1 line of Canal. He
sent back to Col Forbes giving
an outline of situation &
asking for instructions. The
Bde on left, he sd, had
got on very well; meanwhile

on information from 19 Bn, Col. Forbes had instructed him not to go beyond line of canal & this order crossed Camerons message. Col. Forbes ~~sent~~ informed Bde of this order. Bde ordered to 19 Bn shd link up thro Lavotte Farm & hold line of Canal.

Once again 1 Arty was splendid. Sinclairs Bty was there ^(w 20 Bn) the English 150 K Army Bde did some splendid shoots throughout 1 morning on ledges, sunken rds, banks etc.

The whole brigade was put on in the area above the mill (w of it) In the 1st rush 20 Bn passed this mill

— this shoot we to get a
gun wh we firing from
there. Six guns from another
Mobile Australian Bty
reported, & they did an
excellent shoot on ~~the~~ a certain
ledge. The Heavies were
up & anxious to do
anything.

The 20 Bn had its gas helmets
on in 1 sunken Rd S. of Folemprie
Jum for 2 hrs. The gas was heavy
to night.

Shortly after the start
Col. Forbes, getting ^{definitely detailed} no ^{information}
from 19 Bn sent his I.O., Lt
Brattie up on a byke to
ride up as far as he cd
go & get it.

On clearing 1 village

Beattie found himself fired
on from the trenches in front
of him & saw flames - there.
He tumbled off his bike
into a shell hole by
roadside. He sent back
his runner w very clear
information & then later
came back himself saying
th the flames could be seen thick
in 1 white house & 1
trenches in front.

He sd that there were 2
tanks up there at the time
knocked out - (these would
be the Mark V tanks).

2/7 Bde tanks were
sent down eventually.

That after the 6th Bde
went through. As they came

up. This arrangement was so hurried that Forbes had to grab the Bu Commanders as they passed & get them to speak to Gen. Martin on / telephone.

It wd be abt 9 am. When the barrage was finally put on White Cottage.

The Whippets went through before the cottage was taken. When news came that the Bu was left up by / Cottage ~~was~~ Col Forbes recommended that a message shd be sent to 7 Whippets at once to stop them if possible, but this was not done.

X Met St Q. (continued)

During 1 night Anthon on orders from McDonald sent patrols out in front. One Sgt got a German coming down to 1 river with ~~2~~ 22 tin duxies for water

Colnt find 3rd Div on left. Parties of 3rd Div wh had been passed in Elen Alley 1 day before had sd th they were supports & th 1 front line was in Boulemps 2 - but it was found later th Germans were in Boulemps 2.

C.G. came up & estab'd HQs at the junction of Slant alley & the gully - in Maj. McD's advd. HQs in a big dugout.

The Coy commanders met him there -

The C.O. gave verbal orders for 1
attack & 1 Obje.

The Obje ran from the X rd
in 1 middle of Feuillescourt to
the bend of the main rd (S.)
They realised that they wd have to
fight to get to ~~any~~ ^{the} J.O. position
& decided that it wd be a
fight all 1 way. There were
German in 1 trenches just
S. The 17 Bn were given 1 job
of clearing this right flank.
They went along 1 road past
20 Bn. sentry (who was there
to warn action when they passed) at
corner of Y & rd.

The Bn was then waiting for 1
barrage (wh was to be area shoots.)
As soon as 1 barrage came down
they started. Major McDonald took
left & ~~Sent~~ sent Anthon the rd. Capt.

Barlow (who was with the day) was
in/c of right.

The Coy was divided in two
in the $\frac{1}{2}$ hr before 1 barrage.
They ~~did~~ gave the men a nip
of rum in this half hour - The
men had no breakfast - 1
dry rations came up during 1
night (by McFell.) Lieut Elliott
took his pln (A Coy was 2 plus
at this time) & followed Slat
Alley & 1 trench leading
out of it, bombing all
way, until he struck 1 canal.
Lieut Anthon took 1 other pln
& went onto 1 road. He went
down 1 road towards Frickles
wood & assisted Elliott in
bombing a m.g. post in Nich
2. (He had troubled them all
night - they were going to get

22a

X: The Germans were thick throughout these trenches, but the noise of attack seemed to stagger them & the majority threw down their arms & ran for our lines.

him during the night but let him stop till morning. ^{7th}

The Germans in these trenches were so much surprised at they did not fight. This raised spirits of parties present. Capt Barlow & Hqrs section (all parties were in file) went on along road. Another went over from Nick trench over Maros line. As he crossed this line Lieut Elliott & his pln came into the long C.T. across Maros line. He waited there till Capt Barlow extended 1 Coy rest of 1 Coy & they advanced in extended order. to their right somewhere N. of Brasso line. Elliott joined with his pln extended as they passed him.

& they made in line
towards the rd o 1 ^{208m} objective. The
moant guided them. It was
a clear morning - & as soon as
they got to 1 top o 1 ridge on
wh they had been all night - it wd
be seen outlined a pt 1 sky. It
was a clear morning - no moon -
cloudy. As they were advancing
the dawn broke behind the mt &
it was a great guide all way -
it was their salvation in making this
movement. The Colonel had given
them this idea, as the T.O.F.

posite was so impossible to get to.
The splitting up of A Coy ^{decided on by Barlow & Antimo 24/11/44} was because
they knew the pocket just SE of them
contained several German mps. &
it wd be fatal to come at them
over 1 top - & 1 best way wd be

to work round them & get them
from 1 back. This nest was known
owing to it having fired all night -
& our patrols led to it & given
~~the~~ idea as to 1 location of 1 m.g.
That plan worked. The noise wh
1 men kicked up - (they had been
told to make as much noise as
possible to give 1 ferms 1 idea th
there were many more men
there than there really were -
it is an old plan as 20 Bn.)
Authors plan consisted of 14 men
at this time; (8 lost day before)
Elliott 22
Capt Barlow. 15

The plan had been adopted
knowing th 1 other Coy wd
come thro on 1 left.

As they advanced, the day
was breaking well. They got abt
500 yds, looked round, & cd
see 19 Bn coming up on their
right from 1 river. (Had seen 17 Bn
as ^{20 Bn} they passed down 1 rd,
going in to mop up a pocket
of Germans behind them).

This plan had shut in
most of 1 Germans behind
the ~~big~~ 20 Bn. ~~In fact~~
As the day broke the
Germans cd be seen running
up 1 hill from 1 trenches
~~around~~ of the Gottlieb system.
You cd see Germans on the
right + left of 1 mound but
not on 1 hill itself. Presently
the ~~whole~~ Germans seemed to be

remaining from the whole country
on the bus front & flanks. They
wd get up & clear 500 yds
away. The Bn had expected fighting
here & this was a most welcome
surprise - the ease of this stage
of fight.

They continued to advance to
Oder 2, - an old German 2.
~~at~~ Germans were being picked
up all way in pockets who
had run ~~to~~ until they could run
any more - too out of breath &
frighted to speak. The Bn sat on
the edge of Solthieb trench - not
in it - until the barrage lifted
from 1 objective. The men all took
out their cigarette cases & lit their
cigarettes. The advance so far had

been at the half double - the
men trying to get at 1 German,
& taking occasional pot-shots. Two or
three times where a number of
Germans broke together the hi-jens
were put on them for a burst.

The men welcomed 1 red at Ober
2.

At this time 2 or 3 mps. opened
from the mount itself - but
shooting high - the bullets whizzing
overhead.

10 mins after getting there
(they ^{had} never expected to catch 1 barrage)
the barrage lifted. They walked
on to 1 Obje. The road there
was abt 30 feet high - it turned
out a first rate ranging mark.

The men started at once to make
a sort of shell on top of 1 bank.

so as to shoot over 1 rd. They
sent four patrols ^{Sergt Simpson & 2 med} ~~to~~ went up
into 1 Northern part of Gut St Q
village & brought back 14 ferns.
The 17 Bn went there then. The
patrol on 1 mount met no
opposite & was not fired at -
& they did see 1 german running
down the slopes on 1 far side.

A complete german AMC
depot was found in a tunnel
under 1 rd - no other depots.

The first report of contact
with 17 Bn came from Lt Small
of 17 Bn. A sergt & a runner
who had been sent up by
Major McDonald found this
party ^(off road) at abt the 3rd tree
S. of the bend - Small sd Lt

He was in touch w 17 Bn,
& they were in touch w
19 Bn. Later he was k. by
a T.M. on 1 road w 2/13 Richardson.
Later Anthon went up 1 road
under 1 bank & had a talk
with Croft who was then on
the E side of 1 rd abt 200
yds from where Small was
lying killed. Croft at that time did
not know exactly where 17 was
but thought they were in
the top of Agram alley (not Elsa
24.) He had sent out a patrol
to see.

BY a stage before this
parties of 17 Bn had been seen
working thro ^{beyond} 1 village from
1 main wood across 1 open to
a little wood beyond. They cd

be seen going over 1 open between
1 two. Later they came back.

D Coy supported A - abt
Boyd's behind & had joined in
abt 1 Canal. ~~See~~ Noble was
k. at 1 bank of Canal
sniped thro 1 head. ~~The~~ ^{The right} were
not fired on at all from in rear.
Capt Broadbent was i/c of D Coy.
He got separated w abt 20 men
& got mixed up w a shell &
reached Sabø 2 on 1 st.

The left under Maj. McDonald
got up 1 top of 1 hill into 1 2
just W. of 7 central. A good many
Germans were met there. Mps.
held the Coy up. Small patrols
of N.C.Os, 2 men had to be sent
forward to deal w them. Each
had a L.G. The L.G.s went
forward as well as they cd

Engaged 1 m.f. Then 1 other
2 worked round close end to
throw a bomb. As soon as they
got near end to throw a bomb
the Germans without fight - The
party got to know this. ~~They~~

The party pushed on out of
there & found it was getting
trouble from 2 m.f.s. Somewhere
abt Nick 2 on 1 at. Seryt
Host & 4 men were sent
over there. They came back w
12 prisoners & 2 m.f.s. In or abt
Morava 2 we found a big
depot w some Germans above
it in 1 2. Seryt Horton & Maj.
McD. came on it - All 1 bombs
were finished - Seryt Horton fired
a rifle shot down 1 depot & 1

Germs' came out. The chief
man in bad English sd he was
in charge of a Bde + he demanded
fair treatment - (the men were
roasting him). He demanded an
Officer to escort him - he was given
a private.

The front was getting so big
& thin - no one could be seen
on the left (tho' at this time they
thought 3rd Div were attacking
with them) Lt. Maj. McD. sent up
B Coy, who were 50 yds behind
C to reinforce C Coy.

At this time the left was abt
in 1 old German front system in
7 B - ^{wh was badly knocked abt by our shelling -} a barrage of
ours was down around
Berlin wood & thro' 1D,
& this was driving 1 German

lowards the left of 120 Bn. The
it was by not getting away from
them. So Maj. McD (500 Lt
Guard to take/c of the
front wave, B.C. while
McD. remained behind with
a Sersgt., batman & 2 runners.
They gathered up the Bde Command
with 150 men & 4 officers. By 1
time they were lined up in
fours, 3 or 4 slightly wounded men
came back who took them
down to Bn Hqs. A good
many of 1 German took
a risk & got away (to our barrage
to NE.

McD & his party then went on.
The Germans had a trench on 1
top of 1 high canal bank at
abt 8c 5.7. These Germans put

up a good m.g. fight. As soon
as our line (Br C) got close
to them they gave up, but
the men were not taking prisoners
in a close fight like this.
Abt 40 ferns were dead here &
4 mgs. They were probly transport
for they had different kit - or
artillery men.

On crossing 1 Canal there
they joined 1 other Coy & went
thro 1 village. Nothing of village
was standing - it was all weeds
& scraggy trees.

Then when the left Coy
to its objic Mc D. sent a post
out into 1 village to command
the cross road N of Fenillecourt.
When they got there they saw two

77 guns in 3B wh were firing
point blank at them. They got
1 Lewis gun onto them & made
them shift - range was too long
to do any damage but they
cleared on 1 road up 1 valley.

In 1 after they came back
just out of sight ~~into~~ round
1 bend of 1 valley to 1 left &
caused great trouble later.

After getting on 1 objic &
settling down they watched a
barrage of ours creeping up to 1
Bapaume Rd - this wd be abt
10 mins after 1 objic was gained
(it was gained right on time). The
infantry of 3rd Div appeared behind
this barrage on 1 top of 1 hill
but stopped there in the system in
I 1. They came no further than

That - they did not work further
than to in 1 trenches - the
20 Bn had understood the night
before to they were coming
up on 1 Bapaume Rd.

The 20 Bn dug in on 1 top
of 1 road bank. They had sent
back a disposition report of 1
Bn front & to the C.O. they had
held on provided 1 flank were
protected.

Later on the 3rd Divn.
Sent up a plan of 3rd Divn
came up but did not arrive
till hours afterwards. They had got lost
& it was then night & 6 Bde were there then.
Later the 2 guns which had
been shifted got in to place again
& their shooting became very
accurate - the gun was a 4.2,
H.E., bursting on the edge of 1 road

(the wedge)

a & causing many casualties.

Up / valley there were a number of old brick pits ~~at~~ ~~ferrous~~ ~~ores~~ ~~locks~~ in / Canal.

The Germans worked down / Canal into these & then across from there into / valley in small parties. At / same time they worked down on / left flank & it was found that there was a gap betw 20 Bn & 17. Up to then Small's message had made them think that / line was continuous.

Lieut Anton abt 1 p.m. came down to report that Germans were firing on them from their right - partly from Int St Q which looked down on them - & partly from just S.W of road (possibly betw road and ELSA 2).
[abt 9 am. 2 Coy 18 Bn had been asked for ^(by Capt. Forbes) sent up to fill in / gap

wh the Co. had been informed existed
between 20 & 17.

These troops of 18 Bn got to
Gottlieb 2 & later when 20
Bn came back they found them
there & this made further retreating
unnecessary. [Capt Keppel 18 Bn was
there.]

The position was such that
Maj. McDonald ordered a
withdrawal to Gottlieb trench
(ODER trench was just a recently
battered line & could be occupied).
They went by small parties thro 1
village. There were ferms in
1 village & some of 1 parties had
to fight to get back. The party wh
was out by 1 road on 1 left could
not be communicated w. in
time. They kept dark, seeing
what had happened & came back

When 6 Bde went thro on Sept 1.
a pt of 3 wdmn who had to be
left in the AMC depout in 1
road bank were well looked after
by 1 German - one taken prisoner
& 1 other 2 left and retained by us.
They gave our men coffee - &
bandaged them, gave one man
splints; & told them that our people
wd be there again next morning
& then left them.

A few men were hit by mg.
men getting back to Fottlieb.

A report was sent back to
C.O. that only 50 men were left,
& giving dispositions. He sent up
all the runners & Bu H.O. staff
under Lt Bain, Lewis & H.O.
They had collected a lot of maps.
& Sgt Clarke (L. S. serjeant)

Bn H.Q. instructed 1 man there
& there how to fire them. They
had at least a dozen German
misp. & every post now
had a m.f. & any amt of amm.

Med. had sent to Gillholme
back along Gottlieb 2 to see
if there were any troops on
rt. He sd to Capt Keppel 18 Bz
had a Coy there. This fixed
it. Two posts were put on
left flank right down on
N. bank of 1 canal (8 or 9 ft
deep there); they were looking
NNW up a valley & had a
fine field of fire. This made
1 position secure. No troops
cd be seen on 1 left.

The German never came
out of 1 village - he occupied
1 village & 1 road.

The 20 Bn was in position by
4.30 pm. After dark - it was
very dark, 6 Bde came up
& occupied 1 trench as there;
& the 20 was able to send back
men to Bn H.Q. to get rations
- Lot russoles & tea.

Lt Noble was k. on 1 bank of
canal sniped
as they were advancing.

Lt Webb was wd just after C. Coy got
well started.

Lt Richardson was wd by the 4.2. gun
abt 1/2 hr after Bn reached
objec when 1 gun had changed
its position.

Capt Barlow was wd by m.f. while
they were retreating thro 1 village.
He thought he wd be captured
So he buried his revolver &
buried his papers.

Pte Williams stayed by him
& helped him back thro 1
German & under their fire.

Lt Elliott was wd by a small piece

of shell as we were withdrawing.
Two S.O.S. signals were put up before Bn withdrew but there was no reply. The Arnold went back, after 1 withdrawal, with a verbal message to the G.O. to artillery we wanted. They put a protective barrage round when they found what position was.

The next day Sept 1. 20 Bn went to Halle - & were heavily shelled there.

Shortly before Mac D came to German Bde H.Q. they saw a Coy of 19 Bn following in extended order over 1 same ground as 1 left of 20 Bn. Maj. Mac D. saw their officer Lt Fleming & put him on his right track. Lt Anthon also met Lt Hayes at Jottlieb 2 while the 20 Bn was waiting for its barrage to lift - & told him what his obvie was - on

The Official War Historian of the Commonwealth Government (Dr. C. E. W. Bean), after his study of the collection of private war records preserved in the Australian War Memorial Library, wrote:—

"The private diaries in this collection furnish some of its most valuable historical records, but, like all private memoirs which were not compiled with any historical purpose, they should not be regarded as first-hand evidence except where it is certain that they are so. The diarist is almost always sincere in his desire to record accurately, but he is subject to no obligation or inducement to indicate whether he is recording his own observations or incidents told him by friends or heard at third or fourth hand at the mess-table. Thus, in some of the diaries in this collection, scenes described with vivid detail, and without any warning that they are told at second or third hand, have been found to be completely inaccurate in important details. A certain number also have been written up or revised long after the events, though doubtless usually from notes made at the time. In most cases the student must rely on his experience and on internal evidence to guide him in judging what is and what is not likely to be historically accurate."

the right. They did not seem certain
of their objective - thought it was 400
yds to right of the S.O.

From Lt Anthon
of Cameron.

Blarevois. 20 Bn.

Took over a line from 15 Bde
in road and past Jolempoise
farm; the same night added line
to 1 next rd from Mint Copse
to Cemetery. The German shelled
Jolempoise & Mint Copse very
heavily with H.E. & gas. No scrap
is getting to 1 success rd.

Patrols were sent to Torrens
Canal 1 first night & found
no water in it; & another

patrol to Pail Copse. This
patrol saw a fern. Patrol out
getting ^{back} into 1 Beaurevoir line,
out didn't engage it.

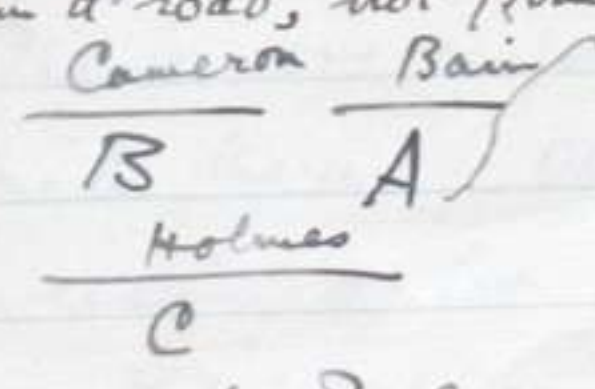
At abt dusk of Oct 2 Coy Commanders
had to report to Bu HQ for
general instructions for 1 attack
to take place at dawn Oct 3.
The 25 Bu reld B & C Coys
from Folemprie ~~by~~ Rd to
Muit Copse abt 9pm.

The Coys were to withdraw
to the ^{diagonal} ~~sunken~~ Rd between
Folemprie M & Estress for
hot food, ammo & bombs. But
as 1 ferns were shelling
the area from 4.30pm till 5am
we gas very heavily (w mustard
gas & tear gas) it was found
advisable to keep B & C Coys ^{or}

in the original sunken Rd.
 They were fed there abt 3.30 -
 hot stew & tea.

A Coy wh was in the diagonal
 Rd had to sit in its
 gas helmets a good pt of
 time.

At 5.30 am. they were
 in position from the corner of
 Jolemprie Rd. to the outskirts
 of Estrees just past 1 cemetery.
 They jumped off from the road, not from a front of it.



Bn was down to 3 Coy on acct of
 proposal to absorb 19 Bn (wh
 had been postponed 1 day before).
 A Coy had to open out
 quickly to their right.

They got off all right. 25 Bu
was on left.

It was hard to keep
direct. Barrage good - gates
for an unregistered barrage.
A few m.p.s. were met in
pot holes short of the Beauveron
line (~~there~~ had been missed by 19).
In 1 deep ^{curved} Sunkin Rd via 26A & B
the ferms had a lot of men
& m.g.s. 19 & 20 had closed
up. There was a good bit of
opposition there. The ferms
were using a lot of the big
Mauser pistols with a drum
containing 35 rounds - fired
in single shots but as good as
a rifle. These ferms were in
niches on top of bank.

Fire was kept on these by h.q.s
& the boys got on on 1 flank
of them. They had to wait
on 1 wire wh was very thick.
While waiting there they saw
a tank coming down from
Jolemprie Inn. There was a
mine on ~~here~~ 1 other side of 1
wire giving a lot of trouble.
Cpl (now Seryt DCM & Bar) Frost
worked his way along across
1 wire, ~~with~~ shot the two
men of 1 crew & capt'd 1 gun.

The tank (Mionney)
came across 1 wire & made
a track wh enabled 1 infantry
to get across. When they got
across they found fire coming
across into their backs from

Mionney at Calais
Blown up.



1 direction of White Farm (the
White Cottage & House). Through
the wire there was a lot
of fighting. The men manning
guns were German Engineers
& they fought well.

At this time the Bo
was swerving a little left.
The valkeys had a lot of
gas in them & direction
was hard to keep. 25 Bo
worked left, & the
Lt Elington was there on left
of Cameron's Coy - also 1 whole
Coy. The Beaurevoir where
the 20th crossed it was dug -
but we held in small portable
posts (much as where we saw it)

* Here at abt 14A P.3 they
 struck two 4.2 guns. The
 crews were not firing 1 gun
 now but were standing behind
 1 gun standing firing w rifles.
 Lt Bain & Lt Cameron got two from
 m/guns working (heavies wh had
 been found in a bit of a
 shallow drain trench near
 there) & knocked 1 crew. These
 were lying outside 1 trench - one
 had no stand & 1 other had a
 rough wooden mounting -
 They rested 1 unmounted gun on 1 grass
 but it wdnt work bec. o/ ejector being
 on 1 ground - However when 1 ejector cleared
 the trench she went. <sup>Every man is sup'd to
 know how to work
 a gun w/</sup>

The 20 Bn got on 1 left of <sup>The Bn
 carries
 2
 of them</sup> Kukurri valley. You cd not
 get up 1 valley on acct. of
 the terrific m.g. fire from
 Beaurevoir Mill & also
 from 2 anti tank guns
 just behind 1 mill. Going
 up the ridge thro 14B & D[#]
 they found th they were being
 fired on from Lamotte Inn.
 This naturally forced Cameron
 & Elkington further over still.
 the Coy w Cameron was being
 a great many men here.

Elkington got near 1 top of
 the 135 ridge & saw 6 ~~holes~~
 small holes covered by WP
 sheets. He kicked 1 top of one
 & 4 Huns jumped out of it -
 he then went to 1 others; they

got 4 germs out of each.

At 1 bottom was a little trench dugout - only 4 ft deep.



This was a curious arrangement - possibly to escape observation & get up after we had passed w their m.gun. (one was w them in holes).

By then they had lost touch on rt & left. ^{The whole 3 boys were mixed up (they were.)} Coming up towards Bellevue from they got to 1 sunken Rd across valley. While Cameron was there Elkington came down this same rd from 1 left & joined.

They turned their m.g. onto the Beauvois Mill m.g. 67

& shot them up by sniping.
The Rd was 6 ft deep. They
could keep Bellevue from
quiet, nor 1 Anti tank
guns. You could get your
head above 1 rd.

A tank there came
round down 1 slope from 1
NW of ~~Bellevue Farm~~ ^{Beauregard}.
he started to belt into Bellevue
from but he could stop 1 guns
there, probly they were on 1
roof. He was wandering
there all 1 while under
very heavy fire from the
Anti tank gun wh by some
miracle did not hit him.
Cameron signalled to him by
raising a tin hat on a rifle, &

He came down to road
& stopped on edge of bank.
The off in/c of tank "Mudhook"
2/5 Martin, 13th Tank Bn,
got out of tank & brought his
map down to find out
his location.

Cameron asked him to
go up again & try to blow out
1 gun. He went up firing
his 6 pdt but the thing jammed
& 1 Hotchkiss jammed also.
He went back over back
of hill under fire from these
guns most of way & down
into mushroom quarry -
the info cdnt get at 1 gun
to help
Some there in a small party wanted to go
out like Beaugrenois.
Cameron thought there

63a

C Coy 19 Bn got lost & reached line near 25 Bn by Hornisselt. (They had no officers & were under an officer of 25 Bn)

Rest of 19 Bn was held E of Estrées.

20 Bn reported 1 day before that Germans could be seen coming down w full packs - evidently a relief by new division.

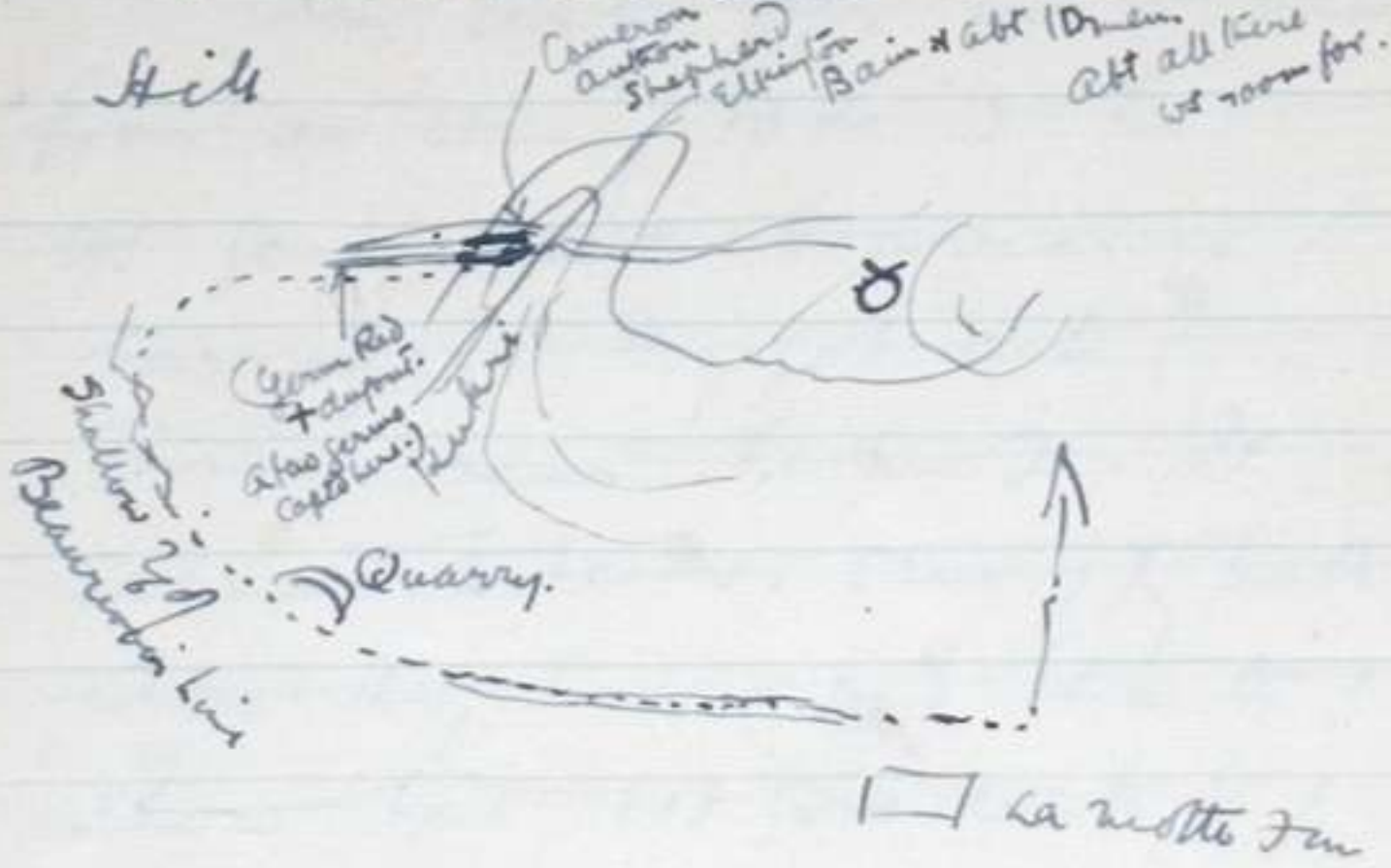
At 6 P.M. night before 1 attack the officers knew that a report had been read that Germans were massing for an attack on 1 British on 1st.

The White House was 1 kernel of day.

There were only B men there. The flanks were both in 1 air. They were being fired on from all round. They decided

to withdraw under cover of

Hill



As shown across the hill to 1 left, then down the old 18 in trenches of Beaurevoir line, to 1 Quarry - up the Torrens gully - mop up La Motte Farm, & then attack

at 6.24 AM

up over 1. hill to take Beaurevoir.
(w some TMs the fm cd have
bu shifted but nothing cd be
done as it was.)

An arty offr ws w them
from an army Bde & he
ws going back to arrange 1
barrage. They got into 1
Torrens near Lamotte. It
seemed to be v. strongly held.
Also they had a good idea th 1
show had not gone well to 1
right rear. There were Germans
in 1 hedge at 22A 77 & lots
coming down 1 Roman Rd.

When these last were seen
it look certain th 1 show at
Estrees had failed. So Cameron
decided th they wd settle where

they were. They occupied Torres
from abt 20 B 9. 5 to 15 C.

P.O They were facing both
ways from 1 Torres.

They knew there were men
in Lormisset having seen
25 Bn there - So 1 unit
front was to towards 1 Roman
Rd.

As they sat there they saw
Mudhook coming from Bushbrown
Quarry & asked where he was
going. He sd he was going
to have a shot at Lamotte
Im. a 7 Bde sp had pointed
it out to him from 1 Quarry
wh was getting fire from it.
His guns jammed & his crew
half faint w gas. He sd

He wd have another 10 if he
cd get some volunteers -
he had 1 driver & himself
but wanted 2 men to work
1 gun. 2 of 7th Bde volunteered
to work 1 gun (wh he had
repaired) The first time he
had attacked Cameron -
He got nearly as far as firing
all 1 time when 1 Anti tank
gun hit him in 1 traveller,
set 1 tank on fire & killed
1 driver. He got & 2 Australians
got out - I were for a
drink by 20.30 & then went
off.

No word had come from
Hqs. So after fixing things
Cameron decided to go back

as a runner himself & report
to C.O. & what to do.

Nearly at Hqs he met a
runner w a message telling
him to withdraw to Torres
Canal, ~~and~~ saying what
had happened. Cameron saw
the C.O. & returned.

In 1 meantime ^{to} Burdus
D80 was sent up to find out
where they were. He found
the Bu in 1 Canal. And then
a party went over under
Burdus & Aulton & had
a look at Land the Jm. Most of
1 ferms had cleared. A few fought
but they set 1 Jm & 2 jms
in 1 back of 1 Jm amongst 1
trees. Cameron found the 1 my
fire was heavier than ever from

X. At this time Cameron reported
 that he saw over 100 Germans coming
 into Beurevoix & others in
 hollow 501 Cemetery.

He asked for an organized
 shoot on the anti-tank gun & on
 Beurevoix. The anti-tank gun
 was shot up first by 4th batteries
 who made a brigade shoot of it;
 Beurevoix was shot up at ~~the~~
 about 3.30 pm.

L. Elliott passed R.O.D

L. Hainey, who is by in morning in
 Beurevoix line.

L. Toopod hit in arm in Beurevoix line.

Bn marched out to Herovilly (40
 strong all included).

Cameron's Coy went in 470 came out 23.

the hedges in 22 A 77. They
 now had 1 canal absolutely
 infiltrated. X.

3 posts were pushed out,
 one under Lt. Clarke M.C.

— one near 1 Farm, one N of
 Tarrens another NW of 1 Farm —
 about 3 men & a L.F. in each.

They stayed till about 3 pm

When things were quiet — White
 House had now fallen — about 11 am.

Bn was in 1 Canal all
 1 after. The Germans held 1 hedge
 till after dark.

In 1 canal they got a
 message to say 6 Bde would go
 thro. Outposts had to be put out
 before dark; & these were withdrawn
 as soon as a sentry specially
 placed reported to 6 Bde were
 coming — so that 6 Bde would take them

for Germans.

6 Bde got a lot of prisoners from 1 ledge. 6 Bde occupied 1 line of heights thro 15-8 22
Central

At 2 am Cameron got a message to withdraw Bn & come back to H 17 B - Sunken Rds. They stayed there day & night of Oct 4.

Oct 5. Next morn at 10 am they were told to be ready to move by 10:30^{am}. They came past S of Joracourt & took up a position on 1 top of hill 15-8 supporting 2nd Pioneer Bn. They were shelled by whizzbangs. ^{20 Bn} They were ~~of~~ strong & had no losses there. Abt 9 pm. Cameron recd a message to take

over 1 Bn as he was going to
1 Americans, & take 20 Bn
back to 1 original position
wh it had left in H 17 B.
They stayed there the night &
next night came back to
Hervilly ~~the~~ (Oct 6).

The Tanks McInerney was blown
out. Mudhook & McInerney
were 2 of 20 Bn tanks.

8 Aug 18 Bn (Lane)
18 Bn. Started behind 20 Bn.

When I show started everyone
got mixed - compasses & /
sound of guns. gave I directed,
Some ferns were met in short
Elements of trenches - there
wasnt much fire - I ferns were
simply waiting rather helpless.

The main trench was on
1st Obj. There were a lot of
ferns in this. They fought in
places. Lane poked his rifle down
into one dugout & a man poked
his rifle up & fired ambobly at him.
The fighting was mainly - someone
telling anyone he met that there
were some ferns down in some
corner he had past or where he
had seen them. Collecting a few
men - going round & stabbing

Kens - generally from rear.
It took a little while to get these
trenches cleared - there were
a good many bits of G. T. &
soon in which there were Germans.
Occasionally bombs had to be
used.

It was beginning to get light
here - so they kept these
groups going & found many
Germans in 1 village. There
was a dressing station there in
depots to a lot of Germans in
it. There was not much German
artillery fire.

In the sleep fully NE
of Warfsee there were a fair
number of guns. Very few
Germans from there forward
probably got away at all.

There were horses in this gully
& in one case they were harnessed
in. There were artillery limbers
- 1 gun was mostly whizzbangs.
They did not fight.

The ~~A~~ Bns had now gone
two the main infantry line
& 1 first line of guns. It was
light by 1 time they were in this
valley. The junction of the
valley & the Rd by a small
copse fixed the right of 1
Bns objective & made it easy
to settle. They dug in on
the line, & 5th Div moved too.
They had not been there anytime
when 5th Div Art came through
& went forward.

All the tanks ^{wh} were with the
18 Bn got up. They were very

useful in some cases but
it was so smoky that morning
that it was difficult to say
~~what~~ ^{which} tanks were theirs &
what they were doing.

While ~~after~~ ^{while} digging in B Coy
got a few casualties from Hellfire.
The guns in Warfuss valley
did not seem to be firing when
B Bn got close to them.

The Germans were clearly
surprised - they expected no big
attack.

St Sheath B Coy was wd. He was
when I was 1st 1 rear &
was dressing a 20 Bn man in a
trench when a ~~20 Bn~~ German
is thought to have come out of a dugout
& shot him thro 1 back & 1 head. He
was hit abt 1 first objic or betw
there & 1 second objic.

In Capt Lane's Coy only 2 men
were wd to morning. The
casualties were very slight.

Aug 9. After staying a day in
these trenches 18 Bn recd
instructions next morning to
march up to ^{take Hart in} the further
advance.

Bn went straight up /
rd to / Moscourt fully
& then opened into arty
formation. The German was
dropping big stuff into /
sully & Lt Jones was hit.
Bn went up independantly.
abt the E side of this sully
Maj Robertson came up on
a horse. He told O.C.s. Coy
what was objct & where the J.O.

Front of 18 Bn came from Y shaped tree
to the X Tds at R 31 B 20.40
(2nd Coy) & left Coy from there to 1
rd. They knew they were
to attack w tanks, & the 1
Objective was the Rd from the
Haque S. wds. There was a ~~rough~~
idea to Sid down w attacking
on 1 left. The ~~front~~ Bn on
reaching the T. O position w
fired on by mips. & rifles
from ^{pot holes} all along 1 front - T
So lay down ~~in~~ ~~arty~~ ~~formation~~
under what cover there was.
abt 4.23 the zero hour w
gn - at 4.30. The tanks were
^{before this seen}
just ~~coming up~~ 1 road - 1 main
road.
There was no barrage.

18 Bn was just starting to
line out - standing up -
when 1 tanks arrived & 1
German started to bolt from 1
pot hole system ahead.

18 Bn fired on them w L. Guns
& rifles & pushed on when 1
tanks came.

For a good while there was
no trouble. The troops remarked
at it was some battle. The left
was a bit in rear. 17 Bn
was on 1 it & came on w 1
tanks. It was flat grassy country.
Germans were seen in a few
potholes - one tank put a 6pdr
shot into a pothole from abt 10 yds.
(The little shell wd explode & wd
be dangerous) &

These Germans were ~~over~~.
There were Germans along / rly.
They didn't fight there. From
there on / m.f. fire began
to grow. This was mostly from
Framerville. The Germans at
the La Flaque corner got out &
ran back along / road.

The 18 Bn rt Coy came up
to the potholes just NW of
Raine court - from there their
line went back towards
~~Framerville~~ La Flaque corner.

On / rt it was in potholes back
towards Framerville.

The tanks were knocked out on
/ left point - 2 were burning
in the N half of 33 B ^{Sd} or 27D.

No tanks seemed to be surviving
them. Straight ahead was a

bit of a shanty on 1 rd
wh Capt. Lane took for part
of Framerville, never having
seen 1 place. The ferns were
very thick in this & if there
had been a tank they wd have
routed them out. (Lane must have kept
going wonderfully in this attack).

As I advance on 1 left
came up to 1 factory a
tank came ~~across~~^{up} & belted into
it.

In 1 objct there were potholes
in places - at other places
they had to dig in. The inf.
fire was heavy. They were
consolidating this line when
they were withdrawn after
dark behind the road in
rear (to La Haque). Their position

we past 1 objiv - very
Exposed to Raincoart; r
1 left we Exposed. 18Bn
dig in along the new line
wh we 1 objiv.

~~Lt Dunlop, B Coy~~

Pretty well all 1 offro were hit
his day, 13 or 14.

AB | D
B | e →

Capt Graham | | ^{Capt} Howarth

Lt Deanean | | ^{Capt} Lane

In 1 later half o 1 attack inf.
fire was coming from 1 road in 27D
& direction of Proyart & straight ahead.
The tanks were hit by fms firing direct
from 27C 1.3 or nearby. The advance was one

continuous advance under my
 fire ~~very~~ thick in spots. The
 time occupied was 1 time of it took
 to walk there, less each time as
 we occupied in clearing out
 pot-holes.

The anti-tank guns were firing
 direct & after 1 tank was knocked
 out they turned their attention to 1
 infantry. The German barrage
 was mostly 4.2 at long range onto
 the Blue line.

The left flank was 2000 yds
 in 1 air. So Maj Robertson borrowed
 a Coy of 20 Bn & put it in along
 1 Rd. Capt Fortman commanded
 this Coy. They were N. of the rd.
 The left was to have moved at 1 same time.
 But it was uncertain. This action was

C. Capt Lane - ^(D.S.O. for this)
 got to Obje - hit 2cc - once in leg
 while showing a 17 Bn 6-Gunner a
 German mg. shaft ahead.
 Kauldsworth
 Harrison (M.C. for this)
 Jones (in Adwell valley).
 M.C.

Those underlined were wd on Aug 8.

A. Capt Graham M.C. Owens (left)
 Lt Wilkins walls (left)
 Lt Duncan (d of wounds)

B. Lt Sheath M.C. killed Aug 8. (as above)
 Lt Redgrave wd. on Aug 8
 Lt Sanson. wd. on Aug 8. ~~left~~ Maxwell

C. Lt Eldridge D.C.M.
 Lt Murray (M.C. for this). Capt Howther (left)
 Lt Satchell (D Coy) on Aug 8 R. D.S.O. M.C.
 Lt Johnson (transport of fr.)

The casualties were heavy.
 There was no artillery & 1 tank was hit.
 The left (D Coy) had all officers etc.
 Capt Howther hit. They dealt with 1 big
 Dump - took an officer & 20 prisoners

3 saps. out of this Dump.
The Dump was valued at 5,000,000
marks by our saps.
Sergeant Luck from Woolloomooloo
went in as a detached party
of abt 6 to 1 Dump. They saw
a German post consisting of one
offr, Supt major & 2 odd ox.
There were using 3 saps & an anti tank
T.M. They worked in behind them
& put in a few bombs. They assembled
1 German & at this stage 1 German
offr, who spoke English, called
our Supt to attention & told him to
salute him - wh he did under 1 chin.
He hit him under 1 chin, stood him
to attention & marched him off.
It cleaned out 1 whole 1 dump.

The left Coy had to deal with
a German tank wh was not in 1

factory but N of the road as
the X rds. The line was drawn
short of factory in anticipation
of its being shelled - which
it was.

Lt Maxwell & Beaurevoir.

On 8th Aug. } (from Maj. Robertson)
9th Aug. } Maxwell was /
31 Aug. } Mc. Gen DCM.
3 Oct } only officer who
was left in his
Coy -

In 3 Oct fight his Coy finished
up with 25 men. He took it
in again on Oct 5th. He has never
been wd. & has missed only
one Operate (Bullecourt) & was
killed 60. He was taken prisoner
in the Toncourt Operate & escaped
again. There he capt'd some prisoners
& amongst them a Serjt Major
who spoke English. This Serjt Maj.
told him there was another post

ready to give ^{itself} up, but afraid to
come in by themselves - who
wanted someone to come & get
them. Maxwell & 2 men went
over to them & a ply of abt 30
w an ofr closed round them
& desarmed them.

Maxwell always carried an
automatic in his box respirator,
wh they missed. Some of our shells
dropped in amongst them. Taking
advantage of this he shot a couple
offermans & made good his escape
w his man, only losing (seat of)
his trousers on 1 barbed wire.

This was in 1 cleaning up
of 1 Beurevoir line E of
Estrees while they were working
down 1 line.

5th Bde - Bullecourt (from Maj.
McDonald 20 Bn). McDonald
says that what broke the 5 Bde
at Bullecourt was 1 shellfire
before 1 attack. The Germans
put down a heavy barrage
before their lines & 19 Bn
ran into it. 20 Bn didn't
know much about ^{the start of} it. But
what they saw was 19 Bn
from ahead of them come running
back. And when troops ahead
come running back then you it
is hard to stop men joining
them. The shell fire had broken
up 1 formation completely before
they got to 1 German wire.
^{McDonald}
Other officers tried to reorganise
a line in front of German

wise but it was of little use.

The German aviator who was brought down wd 1 day before by our troops was immediately surrounded by a crowd of our infantry. The first question the less wounded aviator asked was: "What time is zero?"

McD. was in the crowd. "There's no zero," he sd - "we are not thinking of attacking!"

"Oh, we know you are," sd 1 German - "What time do you start?"

McD. heard this himself.
Landing.

Maj. Campbell Robertson of Bu landed near Old ^{est.} Butler. The boats were towed along by the Queen at first. Then the Queen slowly towed her

two lines of boats in on either
beam - going quietly thro' water.
It was very dark.

At last an officer on
Queen sd through a ~~the~~ megaphone
- "Cast off - go in & land!" or
words to that effect.

They started off. The
2nd ~~two~~ tow in wh Robertson
was was 1 right hand tow in
1 fleet. As it went in the
naval man in/c of it seemed
to wish to make sure of the
positn of other boats. It
cut in ^(with tow) across their front, & then
came back to 1 right again -
you cdnt see 1 tow next you
at this time.

Presently they cd see 1 land.

Everything was going very well.
It was very dark - but there
was a land up above them.
They all knew - I offered - that
Gaba Tepc ought to be just
back on their right - but there
was no land there. They had
studied the place on a ^{small} model
on 1 Queen - At that moment
they all realised that something
must be wrong - all 1 offered
(so R. thinks).

At 80 yds out
a shot was suddenly fired at
them. Then 2 or 3 more. Then
the hillside began to
show spasmodic rifle flashes.
A flare appeared - R. thinks
it was on 1 hill, high up. ∞ ∞

The steam boat cast them off
& began firing her m.g. The men
thought this was a Turkish m.g.
— most of them were sitting huddled
— w/ bullets whistling. The
men got 1 oars out at abt 20
yds from 1 beach & pulled in.

As they landed there
was a high bank in front of
them. It was clearly just 1
place. It was as high as a
room & something was clearly
wrong — everything seemed
wrong. They tried to scramble
up this cliff but they ^{only} slipped
back. Then they found a
bit of a track up it &
went on up 1 hillside near
where 1 first Turk 2 was
(? Ariburna). It was very steep

but they dragged themselves
up. As they went the
men behind some of them
(apt orders) began to fire
their rifles at 1 man going up
1 hill - some men also fired
from 1 boat.

On top they extended
to rush 1 Turk off the top
- & did kill a certain number -
& were Robertson was hit.

Old Butler was at work on 1
hillside. R. told him he was
wanted on 1 beach. B ran
down there, but presently
he was up again, his forehead
steaming w perspiration,
but wonderfully active!

+ +

205 ✓

Q

~~Typed~~

20 Bu
Hottel.

178-198

20 Bu Beauregard

20 Bu

18 Bu Aug 8

20 Bu

18 Bu Aug 9
(Famierville)

60 Bu

Landing.
5 Bde Bellecourt

Flaque L

20 Bu

205