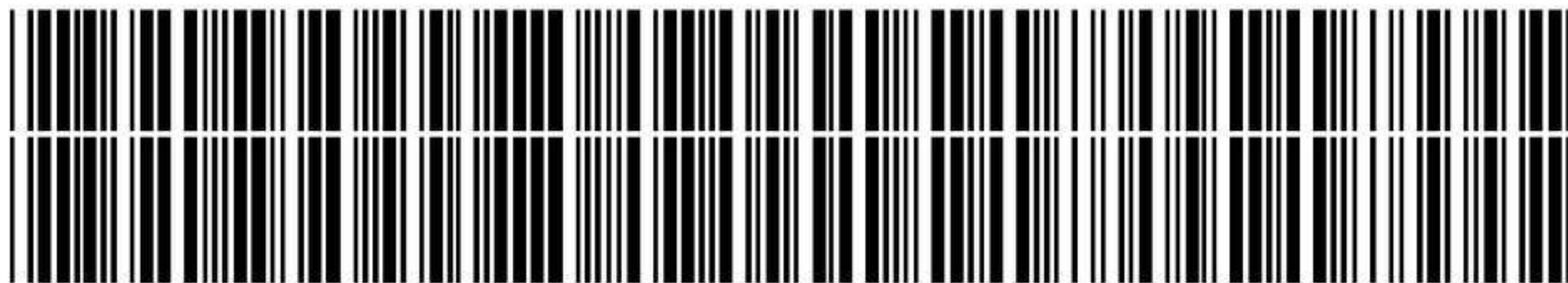


AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/206/1

Title: Notebook, August - October 1918
Includes references to the 27th Battalion, 2nd
Pioneer Battalion and Montbrehain.



AWM38-3DRL606/206/1

L.
27 Bn. 206
Aug & Oct 1918
2 Aus. Pioneer.
Mountbatten.

Types 5-15
199-208

Original

DIARY NO. 206.

AWM38

30RL 606 ITEM 206 [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

27 Bu Aug 8.

Came up Pineapple Switch to
Albert^{CT.} They got there just before
1 barrage wh we were on 1 rt r
over.

After zero Before Bu had gone 300 yds
they were lost - at 8 am. ^{They had a guide} ~~without~~ guide
when 1 sign began to get thro'. The sound of
barrage was 1 only guide. They got to
obvise on time. ~~The fog just came~~
~~right~~ A few posts had to be
dealt w - isolated posts (one
near 4 trees abt 33 central).
There was a S.P. in the German
main line in 33 A - wh a tank
dealt with (fairly good 2/3).
As the advance got on they
found it so difficult to know
where they were. One party took

out its maps & struck towards Warbusce - knowing they had strike it - ~~got down~~ ^{found} a valley, went down it NE into a back of Warbusce. The Germans were still holding Warbusce so they rounded them up - the tanks were just coming into town as this was done.

The S.P. at 34 B 7.15.74 was still holding out when the 5th Div came thro, having been missed in a fog. It gave us firing 3 maps. from there as the prisoners came back along a main rd. When 5th Div came along they gave in.

They halted on a objective - In the valley they took 90 77 guns which had been firing & were hot when they got there. A lot of prisoners were taken in this valley.

As they got down the fully a number
of Germans in 1 dugouts near 1 batteries
put up a red X flag & surrendered. They
were in an advanced dressing stu. This
looked like an arty group centre.

The trenches were very well
camouflaged - with netting & grass
& 1 guns were well camouflaged -

1 Bennett was lightly wd &
hung on.

50 casualties or. One Coy had
only one casualty going across. Chance
shells were largely responsible. The
German barnes at 1 start accounted
for some. No tanks were w them, each
flying 1 Pm colours. One tank lost its
direct at once, turning ~~steer~~ at rt.
angles to 1 right.

At 3 p.m. 1 day they had a
lot stew & some o (offro had steak & w
mushrooms (beally pattered) for dinner

5th Div. went thro at time.
Aug 9th at 11 am. Bn moved S of
Bayonvillers to 1 ~~Objet~~ rly -
& rested on 1 rly. C.O. who had
been to Bde came back there
& explained to all officers what was
to be done.

They got into 1 field behind
1 Crucifix & had lunch. He shows
us to be at 4.30 pm.

The tanks came on past & at
4 pm. the Bn moved behind
them and got into the old
Amiens line. At the moment
a number of German planes
came over very low - 5 or 6 in
one bunch. ^(there were as many more above.) 25 Bn was on 1
rd in 1 rd thro 12 a at this
time.

At 4.30 27 Bn moved &

out as front line, with 25 on
rt & 17 Bn on left.

As soon as they started
1 German began to shell from
Lihons way. He cd see 1 troops
advancing & they cd see 1 guns
on 1 heights firing. There was
no infantry opposite.

Bn got too far to 1 right
& going past Champagne alley
found 1 Germans - prac. a Bn
of them - going back w packs
ahead of them. Bn skirted the N.
side of village & took a ^{4.2 low} ~~7~~
there; 8 Framerville was to be
Bn left flank - Vanvillers its
rt flank. The rt Coy worked to
left w 25 Bn. The left Coy & a half
swung left & past the 5 Bde
objective right out ^{where} ~~both~~ lanes
Coy of 18 Bn was. The 3 tanks of the

17 Bn were making th way - towards
1 main road. As 1 tanks got
close to the road an Anti-tank
gun (or 2 or 3) possibly at 28 D 3.3.
suddenly blazed out at them
& hit all 3. The crews got out
& tried to mount their Hotchkiss
Guns, but 1 German were creeping
up behind 1 main road & were
right on top of them & they had
to give themselves up - They
were practically in 1 trench
attacking it when they were hit.
One man black w' oil & soot
made a bolt & did get back.

It was terribly hot there -
Lt Horwood was there, Lt Harris (wd ^{being} there),
Lt Newman (wd there) & Devonshire,
Lt Millis, Lt Ferguson. They
dug in as best they id & hung on
till dark - then withdrew to the

road - reorganised - & came back
thru Framerville to 1 Bn. (They had
thought th Raincourt was Framerville).

The left of Bns objective was
taken by Col. Chalmers & Hqs.

who were left in 1 sep & went to
abt 10 A.M. (Hqs was in 3
sections - & came on in file).

The German arty as soon as it
saw 1 tanks switched onto them
wh cleared his battery to some
extent from where Hqs advanced).

As none of Bn was seen, Lt.

Chalmers went on past objic. into
the top of the long gully. There
was a steep bank opposite.

The Co. went straight into a dugout
wh was there & lopped in & out
came 3 Germans.

Capt Bice -
St Hughes & party was at 25.

As the 25 Bn came up Champagne
Alley it took a small no. of prisoners
here. When the party w Hughes

got to 15 B 9.5. droves of
Germans were going over 1 hill
ahead - w packs up.

When the line reached 1 hill
N. of 16 Central they'd see
these Germans clearing out
(w others from 1 trenches ahead)
in 1 direction of 1 high ground
E.S.E. But when 1 attack stopped
they began to come back in
open order & got into 1 of pretty
in 17 A+C

Here was an aeroplane down
over 1 ~~post~~⁴ where Bice's party reached
& 1 German started to shell it at
once & set 1 plane on fire.
This party dug in abt 16 B 2.4 - ~~2.8~~ 0.8

Lt Reid's pl^y got to an orchard
S.E. of Framerville - then got a
direction from a tank. (They'd see
a pl^y dipping in in front of orchard
in Framerville)
& being fired on by a TM from ^{N. of}
just S. of Ramecourt). When
tank ~~discovered~~ ^{lots} them of position
it they went up to a cutting
abt. 40.4.4 commanding 1
valley - where they'd see 1
German for a mile N.E. in 1
valley & were sniping them.
(My too w. H. G. were ahead of
their objective).

In 1 Coy. 2/Lt Degenhardt
was going out in front reconnoitering at
night. The C.O. was out there w
him, & advised him to crawl back.
D. came back walking straight up,
& was sniped.

Lt Horrocks was k. w. B. Coy when

The German barrage switched onto
them near Vauvillers. The d. of W.
Lt. McCann was wd in the post beside
the 25th.

27 Bn Bn adjusted its front.
Batt^o went to the sunken V Road
behind 1 front in 9 B. The orchard
beside it ^{1st} plastered v. heavily by our own leaves
on Aug 10 (The German Red +
flag on Framerville tower was a
mark for miles around).

26 & 28 Bns moved ~~to~~ on night of
Aug 11. Very foggy 4 m.

That night 11/12 27 Bn moved
back to 1 hospital. They were
bombed to night (when 6 Bde ~~taking~~
look over); ~~or later~~ every night
this used to happen. Two men
were wd to night - the planes
did not drop flares.

Strength then 16 off to 250 or.

* On the rd there was opposite to
B Coy - Capt Bice was rushing a mig.
& got within 10 yds when he was
shot ~~through~~ⁱⁿ the eye & nose by this mig.
He lost 1 eye in hospital.

Lt Rollins took over the Coy
& pushed posts onto 1 Canal bank.
Bice was hit near Blaches down
1 slope.

Capt Willshire ^{M.C.} was k. near
Canal wood by the explosion
of a shell.

They went back to near 1
Crucifix.

On 9 Aug. Casualties were
100 - incl. 6 officers.

Bn was between ~~between~~ & ~~Camp~~

near Hoissy Dump - On Aug 28
moved abt 4 pm ^{to this position} & ~~look over~~
^{had been} ~~position~~ vacated by 5 Bde. They
remained in readiness to move
at $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs notice; Left L34B 67
at 5 am. & passed thro 6 Bde
at 7.30. abt Herbecourt
(27 central?) Germans were
shelling & a bit of mig. fire but
all 1 ~~oppos~~ arty was E of 1
Somme. One prisoner was taken.*

Bn pushed thro to Blaches
& got posts onto 1 Canal bank
As they came up a train pulled
out of Peronne. $\frac{1}{2}$ hr later 1 engine
came back & pulled out another.

Durg. 1 night the footbridge
to Radeponde was blown up -
& 1 other ^{duckboard} bridge across 1
canal further N. They were
blown up in 1 marshes.

~~All~~ From after onwards
& all next day Beaches was heavily
strafed.

A patrol was sent to have
a look at 1 Canal du Nord
wh. was supposed to be dry.
As 1 patrol went along and got
couple of farms ~~was reported~~
~~to be~~ laying a mine ~~but~~ 1 Canal
but could not get as far as 1
bridge at 1 other end.

On 1 night the patrol found
a farmer on one of 1 footbridges.
He pulled 1 plug of 1 mine
as they came up. The Sgt Lewis
then went onto him ~~but~~ ^{and} he went
up to his mine. W

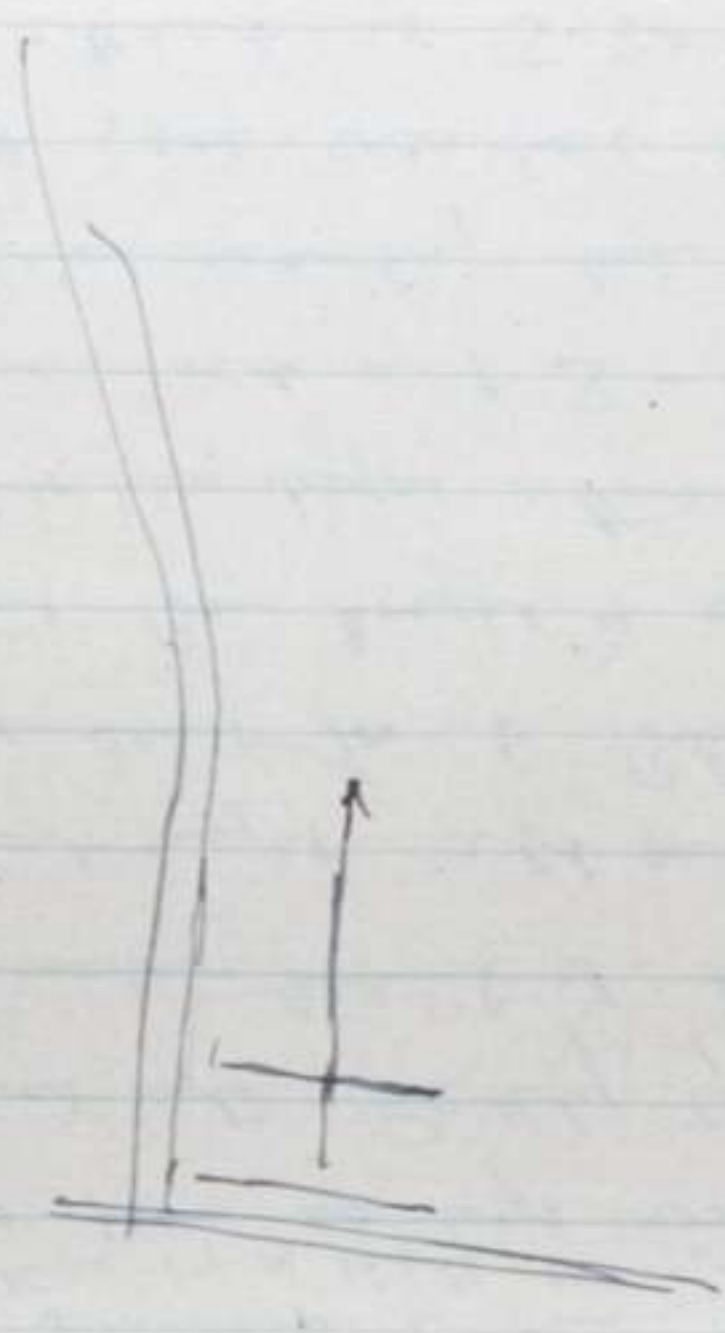
No other reports had to be made
to cross. Lt Church was wd on Aug 29.
by msg.

27 Bn. stayed where it
was. ~~H Oswald work. on night of Aug 30~~
by shell.

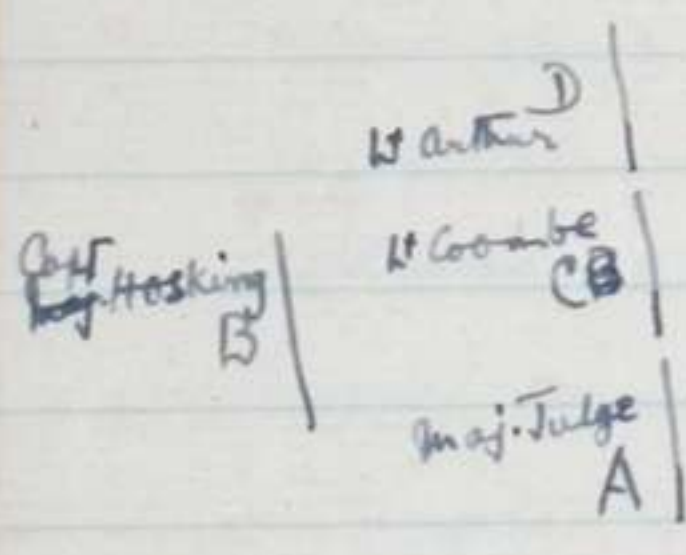
[On Aug 31 when 5 Bde attacked
they cd see 1 ferns getting out of
2 near Paque & Horina &
running back to wds Anvil wood -
along road -
cd see our men.]

On Sept. 1. Bn moved to
left around to the Omnicourt
Bridge. The ferns had seen 1
engineers building 1 bridge &
were shelling it - 1 shells
splashing in 1 water & sending
up spray.

Along 1 bank on 1 other
side were ~~hundreds~~ hundreds of
Australians - ^{part of} the 14 Bde had crossed
just after 1 same after - it was afternoon -



The objve was out along the
 Azeecourt Rd. (St Denis' extreme
 rt for side). 27 Bn had to attack w
 its front parallel to 1st rd & at rt angles
 to 1 Canal as far as Haut
 Allaines - & then on clearing
 E side of it turn due E
 towards objve - to make a flank
 for 74 Divn. The arrangements



were very hurried
 owing to 1 attack
 being unexpectedly
 soon. There
 was no reconnaissance

The first opposition came from Tortille
 2 (the river was a trickle). That
 was easily crossed. In Allaines
 the opposition was heavier. The troops
 got ahead of barbed wire as was expected.
 Bruner trench brought a very very
 heavy enfilade fire to bear on

The troops getting two Allaines.
(It was a smashed up village of
old some days). Capt Hooking
formed in 1 Sunken Rd S. of the
village facing Brum 2 w
Bloy + some details; they tackled
Brum 2x they got an officer,
60 prisoners + a number of maps.
(They got to 1 road ^{the farm. (TR)} + formed them up
+ marched them back to our line.)
Going across 1 open E of Hunt
Allaines the other boys had very
heavy casualties largely from
a couple of batteries one near
azucourt + one E of Square 30.
Capt Hooking had 28 men when
he got to 5 central + ~~capt~~
Lt Rollins. From there they
went on + had to pull up at
att I 6 B 9.7 under mg. fire ³

* direct whizzbang fire. There was an
old camouflaged post there.

At this time ~~the 74 Div~~
~~was retreating~~ the Germans
could be seen retreating in front of
76 Div (who did not get forward
of Scutari 2). They were
retreating in an orderly way, &
when they got up to the Batteries
at 30 central they reformed &
took up prepared positions.
They had also cleared up the valley
from Allaines in 1 direction of
Moislains. There was a ^{small} barrage
on the ~~W~~ slope of the valley ahead
of British.

His left flank left flank open
for 2000 yds.

Batt. Q. coming along
to 1 km Rd N of 11 Central ¹⁸
found a number of our men

in it but did not get touch
w Capt Hoskings or any of
the boys. a patrol was sent
out but all 1 Ops or 1 Coy,
except 2, had to know.

(Pyke a runner came back from this
patrol a ^{captured} byke).

Eventually a man was seen
coming across from the point
into Brown 2; this turned out
to be Lt Rollins.

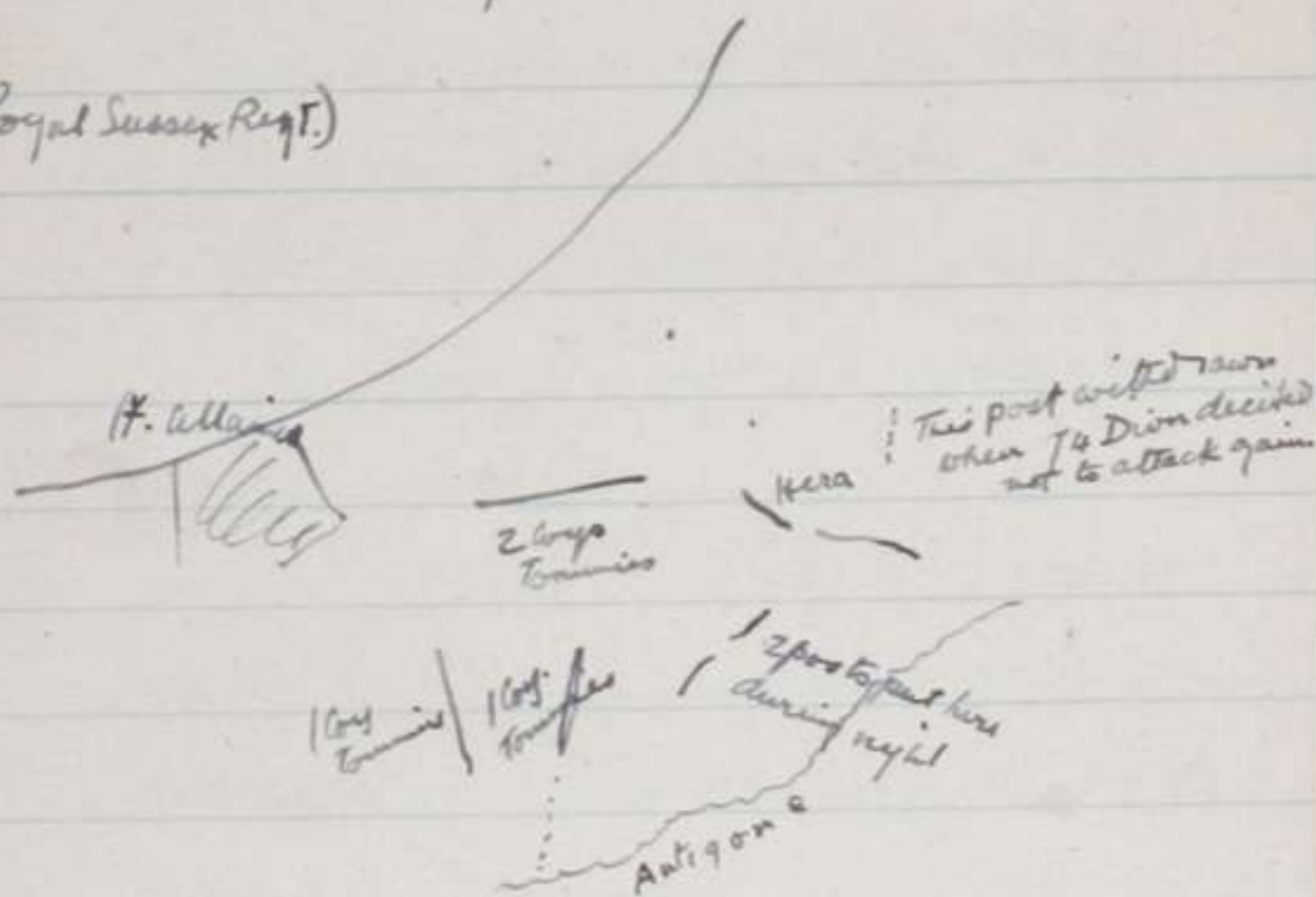
4 Coys of a Bn of Royal Sussex
wh were to leave some N of
Haut Allaines got over S. of it
Maj. Baper had his HQs in
Brown 2 then. ^{One of the Coys of them was sent to}

in 1 Sankin Rd N of Central; One
was kept in Brown 2.
A few details ^{of the Bn} were also in Here
& A Here 2; ^{2 Coys of the} Tommies were
sent to prolong 1 line from 5

Towards Evening Sept 2. 2 German officers
 & an N.C.O. were seen coming up from
 Ayecourt with a White Flag. They
 came due N. of Capt Hosking's post
 & he wanted ~~some~~³ germ. prisoners who
 were w him to call out to them
 to come in. These Germans were so scared
 but H. himself called out to them.
 They ducked towards cover - one of
 them was shot by Hosking's at once -
 & the other two got away.

Hera Alley to Canal

(Royal Sussex Regt.)



The following day 4 posts were established
 along Antigone alley by one Coy
 of 28 Bn.

The Tommies on 1 left were in posts
 at 29c 1.3 & 29c 7.3 by midday
 (This was a sort of continuation of
 Hera Alley.)

At nightfall when 74 Div came up
 we were drawn into Hosking's post at 6A 9.8
 we were drawn into Hera Alley & the

28 Bn had a Coy in the continuation of Hera Alley between Hoskins left & the Royal Sussex Bn post at 29c.8.3. The line now formed a pencil point.

Hoskins had a couple of M.Gs. w him. 2 were in the Banken Rd covering 1 side of hill & 1 whole front NE. 4 were mounted (in pairs) in Brunner 2 covering the front & flanks.

One section of L.T.Ms in Brunner 2. R.A.P. was established in a fern. dugout in I 11. A 00.30. The entrance to this station was frequently plastered w inf. bullets during 1 night, but no one was injured. Most of prisoners to day were taken in Brunner 2 (abt 60) and a good many in Haut-Allaines.

Capt (r. May.) Tulge w.

Lt Lampard killed

Lt Mitchell w.

k

Lt. Woodwards w.

D Lt Arthur w.
Lt Leake d. of w.

C. Lt Pannell w.

Lt Willis w.

Lt Coombe. w.

These were mostly
hit by enfilade
fire from Brunne
trinch.

Bn was held on night of 5/6 by
British troops. The line had then been
extended in a N direction 1000'
C 30 killed the British on 1 left having
wood up.

27 Bn. Oct 3.

27 Bn jumped off from a
NNW & SSE line practically thro
24 Central - a little E of it.
They had to pivot on their left.
Objective ^{extreme} from S. of Mt St Martin
to rd WSW of Loomisett.
(The N end of the objective was extended
at last minute to the RTO
& junction WNW of Loomisett.)

Just as they were getting into
position Fritz dropped a barrage of
5.9 & 4.2. They got into position w
few casualties.

On 1 left A few men led to advance N.W.
to cover the left pivot. They were
held up by inf. fire from 1
village. The officer in charge Lt Medean
called on a tank to blow them
out. The tank went between them

but didn't fire - didn't see them -
& 1 gun started again. They
continued firing till our men
on/rt were well across 1 gully & swinging
round - the Tommies had started
them - & 12 Hummers cleared.
When Bn started it was not known
to 1 Tommie were attacking.

Left of 27 Bn was held (after going
abt 400 yds) by 1 barrow for the
Tommies. When the barrow lifted
the left went on & dug in on 1 bank
without opposition - The Tommies
had advanced so B Coy (Capt Beddow)
dug in on 1 road bank ~~at~~ E of
1 Canal abt 13 A 4-3-6 without
opposition - facing NE. They
remained here till they were ordered
to move to Mushroom P. in
after to support 26 Bn who were

expecting a fallback. They dug
in in 1 Beaurevoir line N of the
Quarry (where there was a good
supply of firm rations). They
were held by a Bn of Manchester
at 10 p.m. & returned to camp
they had come from in G 11 D
near Nauray.

Lt Maclean was hit by
a rifle bullet in 1 week from
the rif. in St Martin - & also
by a shell. The actual ^{front line} trenches
on 1 left never knew our troops
were attacking - these didn't
any way.

The Right Coy pushed off from
the team line a bit
ahead of T.O.T.
& met no opposition
till met the Copse
in 13C where our

B
Capt. Beddome
C
Capt. Peltus
D
in suppl.

arty was firing short & there were
a few stray bursts of mfg.

After passing the copse
(no one in it) they were again held
up by our arty; they found some
germs running NE up the rd
towards Lormisseltt. They

cleared out these germs ^{who fired}
some shots & cleared again.

At the road corner at 13 Central
they saw a number of Germans
lining 1 Sunken Rd to Gouy
& firing mfg. towards the British
advance - abt 100 germs.

They put a Lmg. on the road
corner (together w 25 Bn) &
numbers abt 30 germs were
found there later wd.

Just after this they saw 1 ^{hill}
Tommy moving up / ^{road} towards this
road - ~~they~~ 27th at once went down

1 road & took 1 German just as 1
Tommy got over into 1 road.

A German inf. had
been firing from the ^{Beauvois} line N.W. of
Lormissett. As the 27 & 25
got back to 1 Beauvois line
& attacked up it, these Germans
cleared out up the line (with
better dug on 1 hill above than
lower down). They 27 Bn put
a post on 1 next rd at 1335.8
(this obj) & one further down
1 hill.

A pln had been left at
130 Central. Later, when 1
fight came on going on ahead
Pellon tried to get them dug
into 1 Sunkin Rd from 13
Central to 1000; but the
German at once shelled this rd

in enfilade from N.W. & this
post had to be dug in again
N of the Copse in 13C where
they cd use their guns if neccy.

The plan wh had bn in /
Lankem Rd since grabbing the
Germans there we brought
into the Beaurevoir line W of
Lormissett.

Abt 11 pm they were ret'd
by a ^{Coyote} Manchester Bn. & came
back to the L & Callet Nursery
line. 27 Bn went in 210 strong bayonets
& lost 70. B Coy lost 50 per cent.

Oct 5

When 6 Bde attacked Montrehain
27 Bn was moved up into
support S. of the Roman Rd
abt 28 C 8.4.

In the morning abt 10 am. 29
D Coy was sent off to the X roads

at H 6 A central. ^(to help 24 Bn) Lt Reed
went round to the W of Bellage
where a line was being formed
& found it there were suff.
troops there. So D Coy came down
to 1 Lunken Rd in H 5 A & B.
Later they returned.

B Coy was sent at 11 am
to same place - Capt Beddome
found it they were not needed
& so put them in 1 rly cutting
in H 5 B 9. 6. They stopped there
till Reed came back to say
that 1. troops were not needed
when they went (both Coys) back
to 1 Quarry.

The work wh Lt Reed did
there was exceptional. The line
was not known. He went out
w Lt Clough 24 Bn, & helped to

fix 1 line W of village.

At 10 pm they were
reld by Americans of 30
Dion who had left everything behind
at Nauroy.

27 Bn marched back to betw.
Templeux Guerard &
(Hargicourt arriving 2.30 am -

a long march. (look up distance of this).

There a big german gun ~~got~~ killed
one man of 27 th day - the last
casualty Bn suffered.

One man was ~~old~~ ^{on Oct 5th.}
by a bullet from an aeroplane -
1 only casualty.

2 Pioneer Bn. Montbreham.

Had had 2 Coy in the 29 Sept fight.
+ follow days. They were near Bellcourt;
& 2 near Templeux had been standing by.

On Oct 3 the whole Bn got into
tranches S. of Navroy, becoming div
Reserve.

On morning of Oct 4 C.O. met
Gen. Rosenthal who said he thought he
would have had to use them to day - He
was glad he hadn't had to as they
were technical troops & it was
bit of a waste. However on eve
of Oct 4 they were ordered into
1 line to take over from 38th British
Bde, relieving 2 Bns. C.O. went
up to reconnoitre. They relieved
on night of 4/5 in the front line
around 1 front of Ramicourt.
Their patrols to night took one
prisoner.

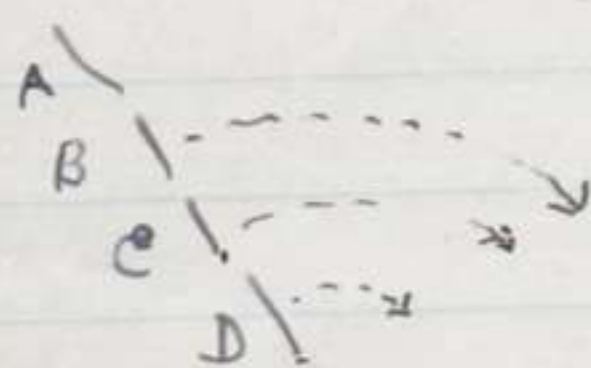
C.O got Coy commanders together
 • at Nauray just before 1 reconnaissance,
 & gave them verbal notes,
 confirmed later. They were ~~not~~
 bombed on way up - but no one was
 hit - (1 same 1 night they went
 up to Nauray).

Relief was complete before
 midnight & all coys patrolled.

J.V. Tape was laid on a straight
 line NW + SE from 12 central
 to 5 B.O. 7. 21 on Pt + 24

on left formed behind this; Pioneers
 fell back behind it 15 mins before

Zero. The orders were to pivot



on D. 3 coys
 to swing so
 as to establish
 their left on /
 rt of 21st Bn

at I. 2 D.O. (N.W. of Doon Mill).

A Coy to mop up X rds & breaches
in H 6 A & B. & send small
pties thro / streets. Finally
to take position at Quarries
near rd ^{with rans} NE thro H 12 B.
(i.e. to support rt. This Coy
was eventually used on left as
that was the danger point later.)

D Coy had some casualties
thro shelling. They swung out
in front (SE) of the line & got
hold of ~~some~~ 5 German mps. who
they got working. The Germans made
one definite attack agst them in /
mg. but didn't make any
head way (this was from S.E over
high ground, about 11 am. They
tried to advance in skirmishing
order w a smoke barrage but
Vickers & Ligo drove them back. W
E

One Patrol later ~~came~~ went out
200 - 300 yds & found no
German but it was decided to
keep line obtained as fire
of fire was good & right had not
advanced. D by was under way King.

C Coy (under Capt Ahlston)
met 1 German on 1 sunken X Rd
& Quarries & 1 pl running to Nevill's
Cross. They advanced in
skirmishing order w one pl in
support. This Coy got beyond
1 final objct - & 1 German
came at them from both flanks.

This was early in 1 fight. Lt
Murrell seeing this brought
his pl down from the right of
B Coy & covered 1 withdrawal
of 1 left of C Coy. but the pl
Commander Lt Peacock, had his
right wounded & was captured. Murrell
found a party of British cyclists at this time &

450
Not them to dig in on his line. They
During C. Coy's ^{had got lost} advance Lt
P.S. Robinson had his platoon
hung up near 1 rly. He moved
to 1 flank w Pte Ollis. R. with
his revolver & Ollis w bombs
blew 1 head off 1 German off
w/c & the whole post,
40 Germans w 5 mps put up
their hands. (Att 7 A 5.2, on
the rly ~~strip~~).

B Coy (Capt. Dimant)
moved by a rd in line passing
gradually rear of 21 Bn.

Soon after passing the Rd before
1 rly they got heavy m.g. fire
from the rly near Neville's Cross,
& from the copse near the Quarries.
A tank was diverted by ~~the~~ an
off of 21st Bn. At this point T w
w/ assistance of 2 Pioneers fire

They silenced these guns.

B Coy continued to advance crossing the Rd S. of Montbrechain Rly dump, & in getting over / top of hill came under very heavy inf. fire from Doon Mill ~~area~~ & whizzbangs. A m.g. got them also from the left behind their flank. They got inf fire from both flanks & had to dig in behind / crest, retiring a little way. They cd see / German gunners working their field guns. The shells burst on / crest in front & / crest behind going over their heads harmlessly.

As C Coy was hid from them by a rise they put 2 h. sp between to cover / gap. B Coy dug in abt from 8 A central to 2 C central.

The Germans ~~some~~ began to dig in abt 1.40 p.m. in the gully at I 8 C. 1 D. to I 8. A. 00. a line of posts very close together. (These were ultimately shelled at Col Amund's request).

Later the 18 Bn (50 men) were obtained to reinforce the left flank of Pioneers. They were under Lt Bryden. They went up in 1 afternoon & had no casualties.

2 Vickers guns took up position dominating 1 valley in I 7 C. 1 D. They were under Lt Wilkinson & had some splendid shooting.

A Coy (under Capt Roth, M.C.) killed next day at 1 rear by a shell) during 1 early p.m. attack ²⁰ came under heavy inf. fire from

a post on 1 left (near 1
cemetery probly). They tried to
rush 1 post & Lt Edwards was badly wd.
The plin sergt ^{Howell} took charge. By
making a diversion they capt'd
1 post & got 8 m.p. & one 4.2 how.
w/ 1 crew.

They then followed plin of
enemy on 1 left & mopped up
two 1 villages. As they got to the
E end of 1 village & were turning
back after mopping up 1 germ.
put down a heavy barrage on 1
village & they lost a number of
men. When Capt Roke was collecting
them to take up position in
Support he noticed at 21 & 24
were being driven back on 1 left
& the 1 village. So he shifted ^{to}
across & took up a position from

146 B 3.5 to B. 30 c 9.3

Col. Amund later ordered him
to extend his flank & ^{(up with} join 23rd -
& sent up another Vickers gun
wh did excellent work there.

They were then connected
up on 1 left with 23 Bn.
They did good work in reporting
concentrations of Germans in
the sunken rds & valleys N. of 1
village, & the arty were put
out there.

Casualties:

1 off wdr capt 5.
20 or. k
2 desps.
6 offrs 81 or. wd

Capt 8 offrs & 327 or. of Germans.

Bn sent in probly abt 450 rifles.

A Lt. ^{Russ} Edwards } severely wd. Rich in village.
Lt H Rich }
Lt J. Ride hit in face (in village)
B Lt ^{AE} Robertson on 1 objic - by my fire from
Door

C. Lt Traves, while inspecting posts after

Bn dug in was hit by shell.

Lt S. J. MacCullagh, captain

Bn was relieved by 1 American -

Not a shot was fired after 8 p.m.

The relief was a good one -

2 Pioneer Bn was first in 1

line in France, & owing to a

delay in this relief the 2nd

American Coy getting lost was

partly lost out.

21 MMs.

1 Bar to M.M.

2 DCMs

2 M.Cs

Bar F. D.S.O. mention in Corps orders.

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No. 3.

(17735) Wt. 2205—SK550. 100000. 1/18. Sir J. C. & S.