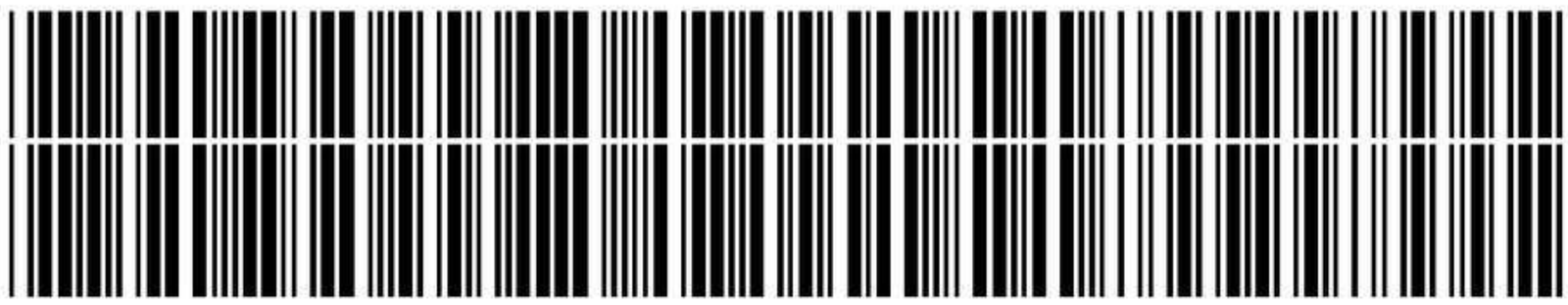
AWM38

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

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/88/1

Title: Diary, September 1917
Includes references to the 43rd and 44th Battalions, 7th Battery, 11th Field Company, Messines, Rockcliffe, Ypres and Gallipoli.



AWM38-3DRL606/88/1

Original

DIARY NO. 88

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.

C. E. W. BEAN.

88

Books
153
33

B.,M.& S., Ltd., London.—
(40,000 bks.—5/16)

Army Book 153.

FIELD MESSAGE BOOK

(For the use of Dismounted Regimental Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.)

This Book is ruled in ¼ inch squares.

The waterproof cover issued for the purpose of protecting this book may be obtained on application. It should be made to outlast as many refills as possible. Special envelopes for despatching messages, Army Form C. 398, may also be obtained.

Extracts from F. S. Regs., Part I. affecting preparation of Messages.

1. Messages intended for the headquarters of units and formations will be addressed by the title of the unit or formation in an abbreviated form, *e.g.*, First Army, First Div., Seventh Inf. Bde., Second F.A. Bde. The abbreviation H.Q. will only be used in addressing general headquarters. The title of the unit will be followed, if necessary, by the place to which the message is to be sent.

Abbreviations will only be used when there can be no doubt as to their meaning. The sender is responsible that any abbreviations he may use are such as will be understood.

2. After the address the number of the sender's message will be given, followed by the day of the month.

If the message is in reply to, or has reference to, a message from the addressee, the number of that message will then be quoted. The text of the message will come next. The message will end with the abbreviated title of the sender's unit or appointment, as in para. 1 above, followed by the place and time of despatch.

3. When the sender desires to inform different addressees that the message has been circulated, he will add this information at the end of the text of the message, thus :—

> "addressed First Gordons, repeated Fourth Inf. Bde., Second F.A. Bde."

When information has been sent to another unit, the message will contain, at the end of the text—"(unit) informed."

4. When the message is complete it will be signed in the right-hand bottom corner, the rank of the sender, his appointment and the force he is with being stated. If the message is despatched by signal this signature is not transmitted, but is the authority for despatch.

5. If a signal message is to be delivered to more than one addressee, it facilitates despatch if separate copies for each addressee are handed in to the signal office.

6. The following general rules should also be observed—

(*a*) Messages must be as concise as possible, consistent with clearness, and precise as regards time and place. Anything of an indefinite or conditional nature such as "dawn," "dusk," "if possible," "may," is to be avoided. The language should be simple and the handwriting easily legible.

(*b*) The hour of 12 will be followed by "noon" or "midnight" written in words. A night will be described thus: "night 29/30 Sept." or "night 30 Sept./1 Oct."

(*c*) The use of Roman numerals in signal messages is forbidden. Important numbers should be written in words. In messages which are to be signalled the letters AAA should be used for a full stop.

(*d*) Names of places and persons will be written in block capitals, *e.g.*, LONDON and must be spelt exactly as given on the map in use. Care is necessary to prevent misunderstanding resulting from the existence of two or more places of the same name.

(*e*) If the map is referred to, the one used must be specified unless this is already provided for in standing orders. The position of places will be denoted either by the points of the compass, *e.g.*, "wood, 600 yds. S.E. of TETSWORTH," or by compass bearings, *e.g.*, "hill 1,500 yds. true bearing 272° from CHOBHAM, C.H.," or by description, *e.g.*, "cross roads ½ mile S.W. of second E in HASELEY," the letter indicated being underlined. A road is best indicated by naming a sufficient number of places on it to prevent the possibility of mistake.

(*f*) Positions are to be described from right to left looking in the direction of the enemy. The terms "right" or "left" are used in describing river banks, it being assumed that the writer is looking down stream. With this exception ambiguous terms such as "before," "behind," "front," etc., must not be used. If the term "Right" (or "Left") is applied to our own forces in retirement it is always to be understood that it refers to the original "Right" (or "Left") flank when facing the enemy.

(*g*) When bearings are given they will always be true bearings, and this should be stated.

(*h*) In naming units from which a portion is excluded, the unit will be named and the words "less....." added.

(*i*) If the report or message refers to troops reaching a place at a certain time, it is assumed that the head of the main body is meant, unless otherwise stated.

(*j*) A copy of messages sent will be kept by the sender, the copy and original being endorsed with the method and hour of issue, *e.g.*, "Pte. X. to Bde. Maj. Fourth Inf. Bde. at 8 p.m." "Flag signal to First Gordons at 9 a.m."

Cannan is a Queenslander, originally w 15th Bn

1

Maj: Donaldson, of 11 Fd Coy, an Eng in one of big Broken Hill mines is spoken of as a magnificent cool, able man — extraord. courageous. Brig. Gen Cannan tells a when he was walking ashin an 8 in shell fell near; Cadet D: D'you think we'd better go on? D'sd. Oh I think we might as well - minute later a shell fell exactly where they had bn

11 Fd Coy

St Andrews Drive

Slits were made in ~~Steenwat~~ — were seen by Germs & v. heavily shelled during days before battle by Germ. guns in exact enfilade. Maj. O'Donnell was v. anxious for the Bn wh wd have to live in these slits (43 Bn during KZ night Z day etc.) The Germ. had bn using 4.2 & 5.9 but he must have had to move these guns; for from then onwards he shelled it from S flank & shells went short or over - fortunately

D37

Murray K. June 6. Buried in Mesnil. 2

Shell came into camp in morning & K 4 wounded. Camp was not far from ~~off~~ in Pont de Nieppe. Germans had put in 1 or 2 shells before they cd get the men out. This morng. before they cd get the men out he started properly & K 4 & wd 4.

11 Field Coy. Mesnieres.

Had the preparation of front for Mesnieres objve - dumps to be placed, assembly trs dug, breastworks prepared - work for arty etc.

After Bombt they stood by in Romarin in Reserve for 48 hrs & then rejd. 10 Fd Coy in Plugstwood.

9th & 10th Fd Coys had to look after approaches for their Bdes during preliminary bombt.

The C. Ts were widened by 9 & 10 by cutting out iron A frames

The assembly trs behind our lines were daily shelled by the Germs; tho the NZ assembly trs started our fire trs & strong points between Grey Dm &

out in S in front of Wulverghem were not. The cutting thro of trenches Ploegsteert Rd for assembly by by 10 Fld Coy 2 nights before stunt made a devil of a noise but Jerm. did not shell.

On June 9th 11 Fld Coy reld 10 Fld Coy in Bunhill Row, nr Ploegsteert & worked on C.T. North of Schitzel & round S of Bethlehem — also on Black Line by inter wh this C.T. was to run. The C.T. after became Pine Avenue & the last boggy bit was never finished. Men were sinking wells etc.

Came out with Divn on 11/12 reld by 4 Bde.

Abt 13th came back & started on fire by & strong points between Grey Dm & S

D37

Potteries. N.Z. Div was in & 9 10 & 11 Dis Corps were all working on this defensive line. The Germans were shelling Grey Ds & Potteries & Rd past Tilleul — but always missed Black Line.

During this time the 11th Corps mules came up Douve River daily by day to Grey Ds w materials — 2 mules at a time (from aero' observation — possibly mules to the sea) ; an interesting example of what can be done to save men.

NZ got forwd by shelled Ds at this time

Later the 11th Bde came in for 18 days — the 4th Corps had 2 days rest. The 11 Bde came in to hold front & support lines from Douve to Blaauwpoortbeek.

The map in this area was very faulty in not showing trees

on Huns walk, Sephenie Barn, + W of Steignast Jn.
The last mistake resulted in British Jd Coy, from wh 11 F.C. took over, digging its support 2 well W of St. Farm instead of E. of it - by refce to trees shown on map.

11 Bde found line of posts with marked recentrant opposite Steignast, line passing v. little E of it. Ho' Jn de la Croix was ta in mean time.
The Coy had 4 ptns digging Jeffs
4 Survey ptns (keeping daily records)
many ptns of 2 + 3
fixing up Bn tt as
Sappers working after carry parties of Engrs etc
Brigade itself did wonderfully Entrenching — "very good up sample bays + Bde in tt way". Engrs found marked out their sks

D37 Nowhere — more than 3/4 6
Sappers working together —
~~[illegible]~~ working on splinter
proof shelters & digging of
dugouts
[Pioneer Bn made the big ground
map — Engrs made smallwooden
relief maps].
During this time 11 Bde
straightened off the reentrant,
fighting small posts all way.
The Windmill, wh was high, then
became prominent — it was
shelled, & shelled by us & gas
damaged. Most of casualties
were from shelling — fair amt
of sniping. The German was
shelling line in front of Jn de la
Croix — 41 Bn during this time
had shell in its H.Q. the dug of dugout wh
wd Col. Board[x], Maj. Kinnish (4S),
Capt. Chomleigh, adjt, asst. adjt, & K. the arty
liaison offr. & W. the Signal offr & gave
Two days earlier ~~[illegible]~~ Lt Offr shell shock
Maj. Lott 43 (W) ~~[illegible]~~ Capt Cope 43, Capt.
Moyes of 42 Bn

Whizbang Shell Near stunt post Fm. W. of it.

x Heron, then Coy Commdr in 42 Bn who won DSO at Messines (young Queensländer) was then made CO. on splendid results in battalion

D37 The German line was very well covered w trees yours was very bare —

The 11th Coy had light casualties here during these 18 days. The line after this was continuous, tho in one portion not very deep. Pine ave, Cross ave, Adelaide ave, Wellington ave & 2 others were dug to 1 front line. It is v. diff. to ~~get over~~ drainage difficulty here. In July when they were in Wattack / Windmill they had a v. bad time w/ weather — they ~~will~~ had not been revetted tho ~~some~~ most had to duckboards. It is doubtful if enough material will be available to revet these yet —

Pont de Nieppe ? looks as if it were stone arch. Dug preparatn for Messines Germs put a hole thro it & it looked as if it were Good bye Bridge. He never shelled it again. But 11 Fl Coy which had to detach a

D37 section to repair it found 8
it in the apparent arch was
what looked like a steel girder;
the girder on closer inspection
proved to be cast iron — so
would not be safe for 6 in gun
— much less a tank. 11 F.C.
put in steel girders in this
arch but other half remains
cast iron.

Before July 31 we managed to
persuade Germans there was
a concentration there — He
smashed up 1 rly bridge in
spite of our putting sham broken
girders & bank there to look
like shellhole (British Rly Corps RE)
& night after night Ammunition
was burning.

D37

Aug. 5. Leaves Zy x 9

Rockliffe was in Zy when bombt starts abt 6 till 7pm. It was hottest he had seen on a small piece of Zy; from Olive Grove & Gun Ridge – from Gun Ridge it was too flat to hurt; Olive Grove was dangerous spot. It did no damage. There were 90 odd reinfts in line at this time recd 2 days before. R went along line & put reinft – old man – reinft – old man, all along line.

2 men were wd – it was mostly HE from gun & sth knocked down sandbags but it is all no shooting or stay.

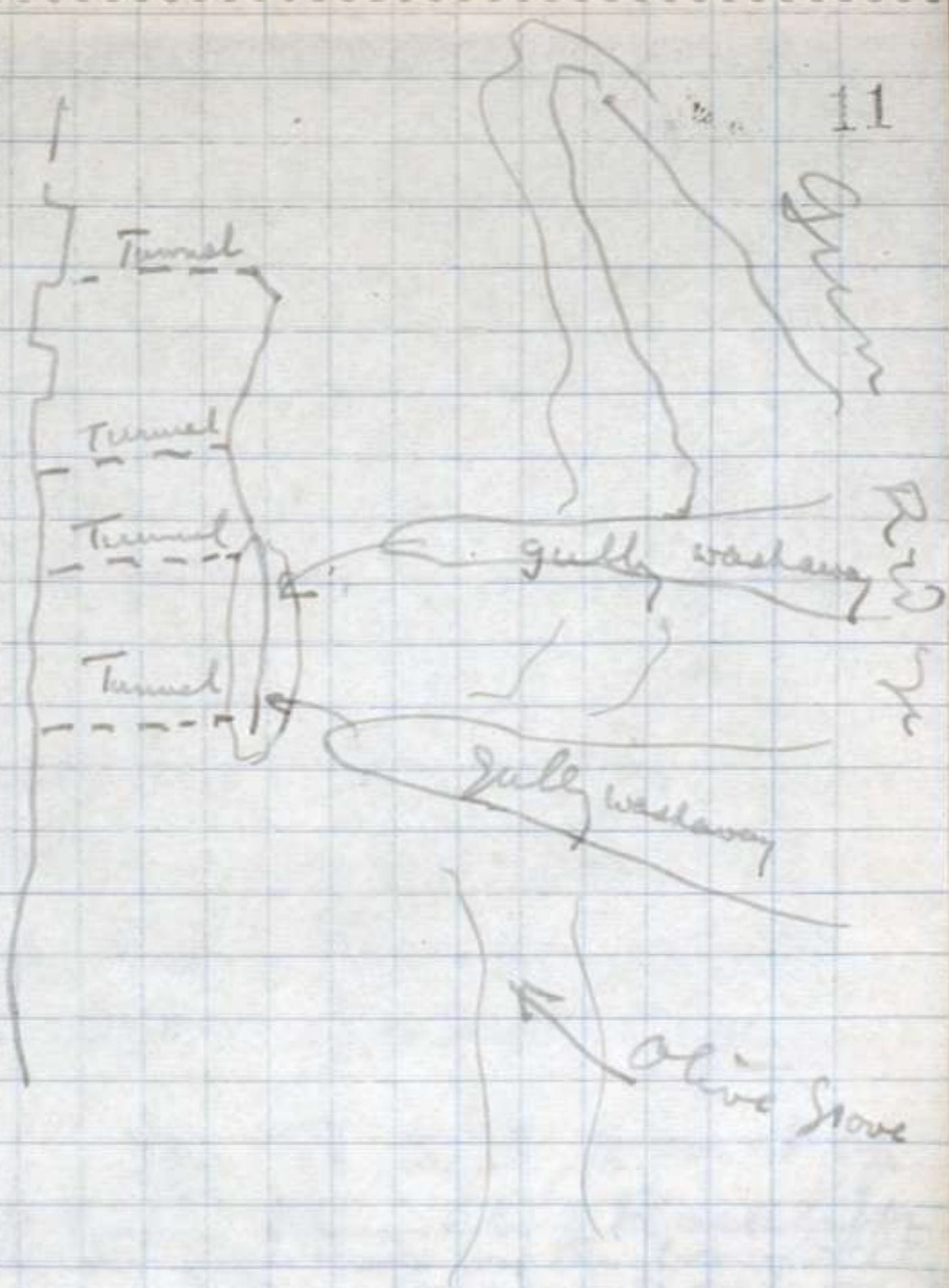
Nothing happened until after. We had orders to fire disconnected next day & make loopholes, & complete Zy x R didn't want noise; the c. dont see 10 yds so hard to

listen - R went to Colonel to get picking stopped. Cos tols orders had to go on. He sd All right — went back, & ~~dif~~ allowed no picking - (Field of fire wd 10 yds - the direct drop).

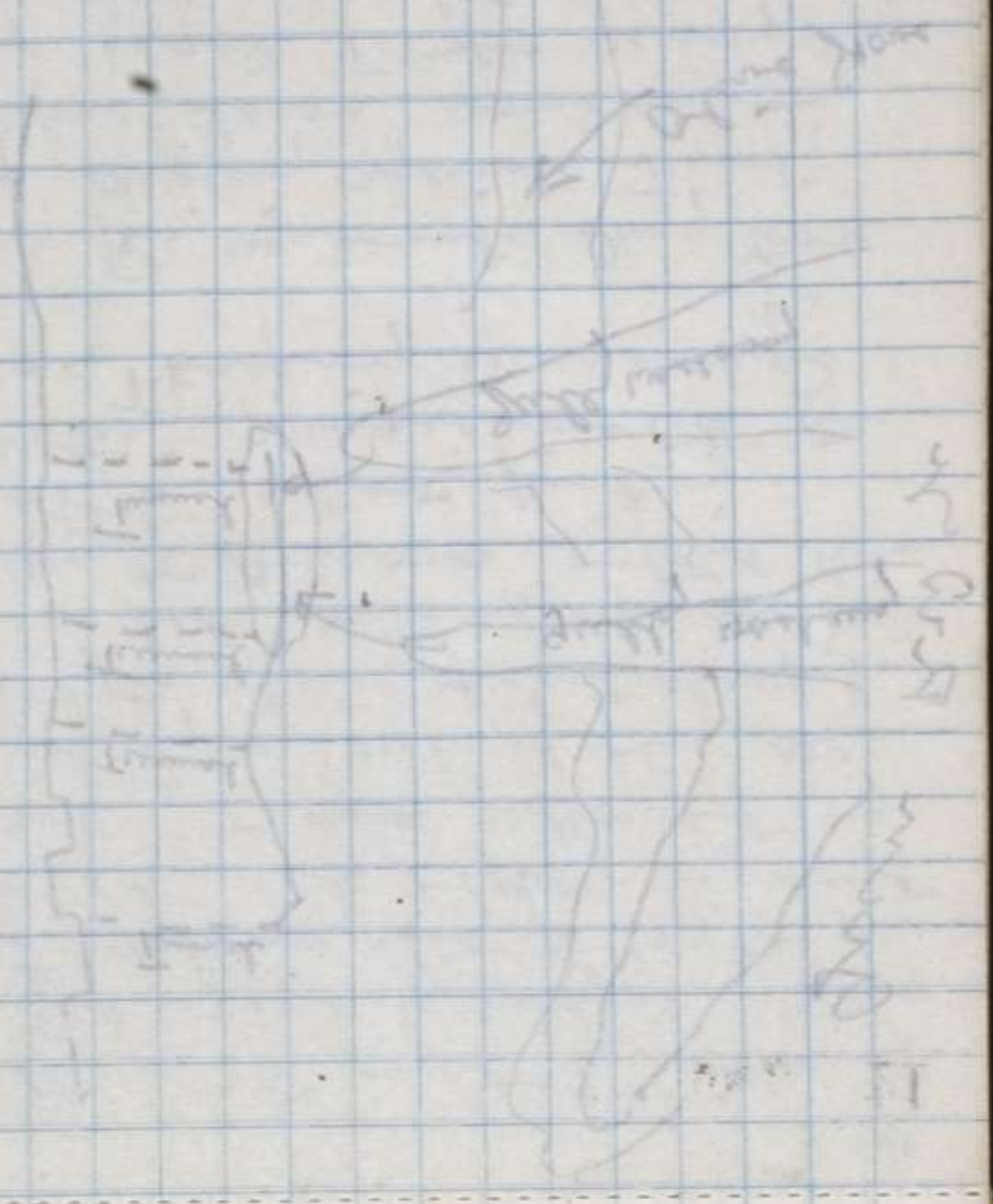
At midnight handed over to Aarons & told him not to allow picking. Nothing suspicious till the Exc. T-tripping increased.

R. went out. They took up digging again. Just before dawn someone in Ty heard T offr giving an order. The Ts had worked up the two gullies during night —

See over



Rifles were fired at sound of bombs thrown. Next thing was a volley of bombs into right



of Y K. or wounding our bombers & most of old hands there. The garrison of this end was mostly wd, & 4 or 5 K. Jerks got in over top — & abt 30 Ts were in Y where marked. (The Ts cd throw their bombs from beyond Sally's edge).

The Ts tried to work up at hand tunnel. Rockliffe who was walked by the bombs came into Casm. post — there were few men in Post — He heard bomb bomb bomb up the tunnel.

D37 Placed a couple of snipers at 1 end (it was just daylight) The end of the tunnel was pretty straight. No Ts. came further as they heard our men firing down. 8 Ts were capt afterwds in this tunnel (w bombs on them).

Second Tunnel from rt was alright — our wd were coming down it. R went along left of Leaves & found it was alright also. So trouble had bn located & checked. We were holding from open

DBY traverses in Leaves & bombing back at Ts.
The Ts' stopped their art after abt 20 mins – it was heavy & concentrated & they had men lined up opposite whole length of Q just in dead ground & rush rest of Q at first opportunity. The Q Bn reported from trenches at head of gully on left to the cd see these men (whom R already suspected).

R at mouth of 3rd Tunnel from right head (during latter part of

D37

fighting pick pick pick
underneath this part of
y. (It was found later
that Turks had had
sniping posses under
cliff there. They were
picking away
at this to put
in a charge
<.... & blow up!
Y. R. knew
the Clogstoun
was about & sent for him.
C. said he cdn't see w a
periscope, & put his head
over the top & was shot
instantly through the neck
& wind pipe — v. seriously.

207 This charge was actually blown abt 1½ hrs after fight starts. (Bombs rolled down hill & dont get the workers)

On infn. from 9th bombs were thrown over at the waiting Turks parallel to ½. These gave up the attempt & retired into gully & our mgs & snipers got them. One of our men sniping thro a loophole cd see part of the Northern T. wash away where bank was broken. He fired about 1 T coming along this & he has a good shot & firing most coolly & had a pile of T's there dead before he finished.

In the meantime two

D37

steps were taken.

(1) To enfilade Is from left a party of 25 under Lieut Hall was sent over across the wheatfield to an old Turk Commn Tr running N from end of trenches Tr.

They were caught in wheatfield by T snipers & shrapnel & m.gs. & 3 wd men alone got back.

[The T. m.gs were firing v. heavily at this time — possible part to force on their own men]

(2) Lts Franklin & Proctor & abt 30 men were sent

D37

over top from Tasmania
post on right to charge
into part of Y held by
Turks. They got in with
hardly any casualties,
bayonetted Ts. The 8 Ts
in the tunnel surrendered
& then finished 1 action.
Franklin & Proctor were
standing talking of charge
when a shell came into
1 Y from Olive Grove &
wd both. ~~They died together~~
in the Bn dist post.
Franklin died on the ship.
R. had gone to report on
the end of things it allows
going well, & was going
back to Y when he was

Lit bn attk & last bomb thrown when nearing end of tunnel.

The T.s kept on their arty during day.

At 4.30 p.m. the day the Lone Pine attack started; & the Lone Pine attack was partly considering helped.

D37

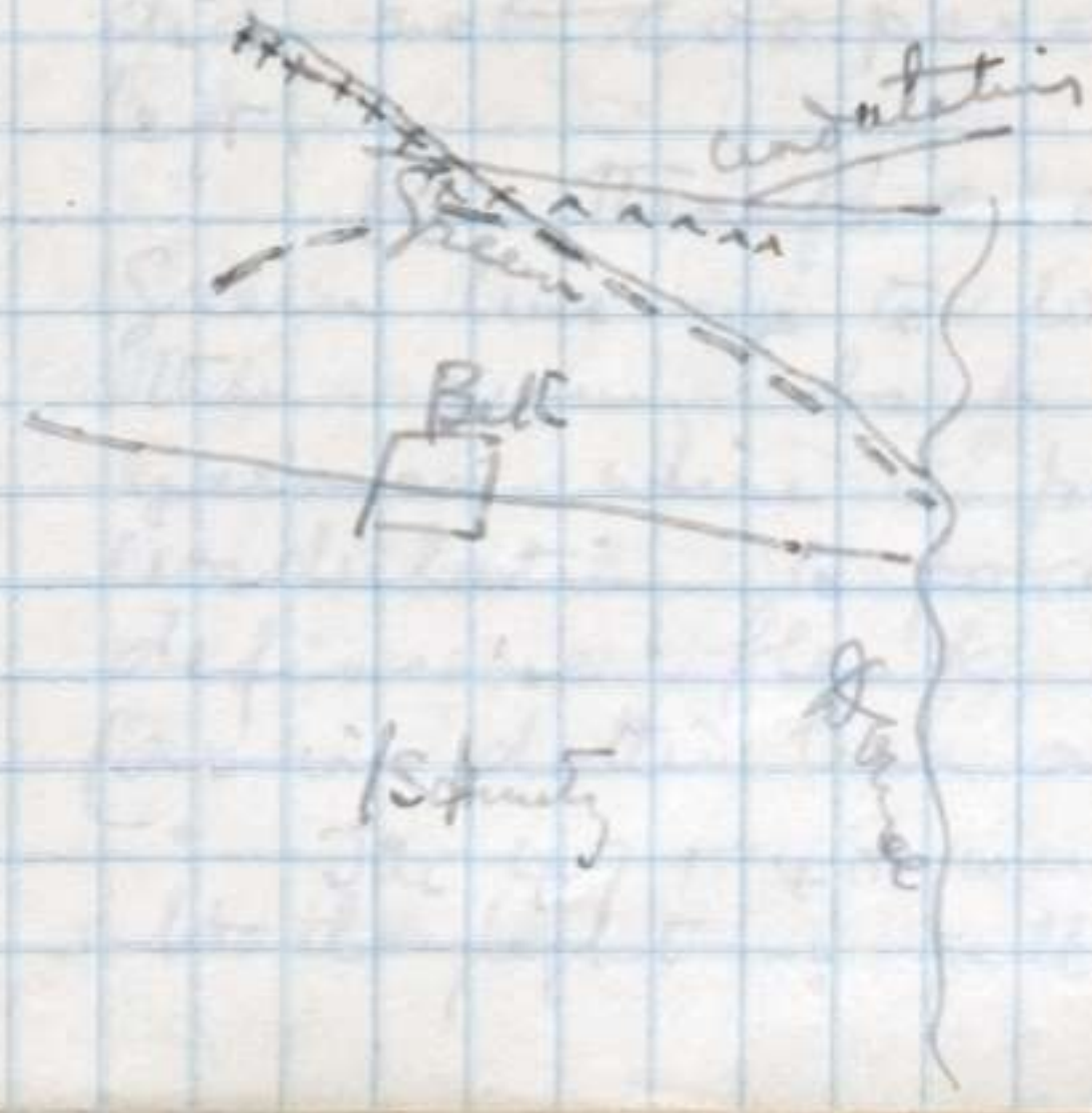
20

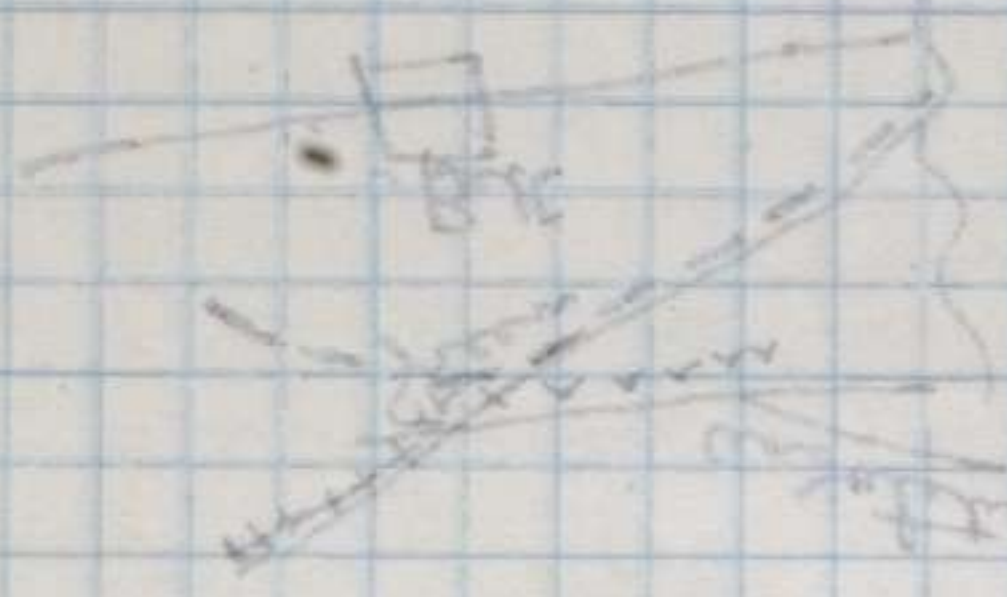
44 Bn Messines.

Was in Catacombs in Reserve to 10 Bde.

37 Bn came out of firing line.

44 Bn was ordered to advance under a new barrage at 3 a.m.





44 went up at 3 am from Black Line at 3 am under Barrage & occupied Green Line from Dowel to undulating.

B. It wd just a line on map — no sign of digging.

The 4th Div orders had arrived too late & they did not cooperate on left.

R therefore occupied Green line up to wire & then swung back over German wire in front of undulating to form a defensive flank on left. (as in dotted line on sketch).

The 47 & 48 went on abt daylight — getting touch

D37

with 44 Bn. & 44 Bn took up positn along whole of green line keeping touch w 47 & 48.

Not long after an SOS went up from our right at the Douve River. Down came our Barrage along line marked ++++++. Returning his line back not so far as before & Sorrin touch with 47 Bn.

The Artillery were bad; barrage was lengthened on 9th green line as infantry was occupied [the 3rd (Army) Corps. B de of artillery was one wh we fired onto this.]

On the morning of 8th

D37

when 44 first went over they found in shell holes abt green line a number of men of 37th & Germans, wd in shellholes, who had apparently largely been hit by our barrage put down the evg before (bec. this was exactly where barrage fell later on 44. The 44th cos quickly pulled out w a couple wd. All day the S.bs. of 37th 38th & 44th were working out on this green line getting in these wd - being snipes & shells. Several were hit by snipers but still they carried on.

44 bs in there all 8, 9, & 10 & came out at midnight on 10th. The barrage wh began abt 12 midday on 9th

& came to its climax betw. 8 & 9 - was the heaviest.

At 7 pm it began to creep forward - & passed over the line abt 8 pm & stopped just in front of Black Line - the Russian anxiety was to see if any inf came after it, but none did because I don't know. The Black Line was a better place in this.

× The German planes had not done their work too well, & I don't thk. v. heavy was not too well directed.

The line was at no time ever in danger - its only trouble had been a barrage on a green line, & in its own position outside our own barrage it was all the time

D37

perfectly sound. The messages rumours we got back were unfounded & it is not clearly known where they came from.

Capt Kenehan, the M.O. of 4th Bn did fine work in this. He estab. an aid post in a shell hole near Schitzel & was kept busy the whole 72 hours. Bn H.Q. was removed back from shellhole to shellhole till it reached the Ruins Estaminet in our own lines.

When the left was bent back in 1 original attack whole position was reported fully to Bn H.Q. near Schitzel by Capt Longmore who was wnd after [redacted] wd in leg by a bullet & offrs K.

Capt Bryant A Coy (Shell)
Lt Walsh (Sniper)
Lt Hocking (Sniper)
Lt Hughes (K. by shell)

walk just when got into posn.
often 3 or 9 PM during heavy shelling.

The next time we the 18 day stunt out near Sapaard — straightening recentrant in front of windmill. (abt 50 casualties in digging line to German front abt 50 yds away in one place). Capt. Peat (mg. in old 11th) was killed — snipes — at this time Lt Gray wounded (sniper).

Next time was after windmill was taken, when we had to hold it thro' the night. It was later handed over to 16th Bn who are said to have lost some of it later.

D31

27

43 Bn.

At Messines 43 Bn came up to Green Line at night (10 p.m.) on night of 9/10 June when Potteries was attacked by units S. of Douve.

This night at same hour (11. p.m.) 43 attacking Undulating Trench. There was opposition only at one point – they rushed by there & bayonetted the Boche; took 2 prisoners & m.g.

D (Lieut Daley (MC for this)) & B under Lt Wald (also MC for this) attacked – It was Wald's coy on rt wh rushed the str. pt. This was in Undulating Trench just

above the Douve.

That night the men consolidate the new position & dug C.T. back to Green Line. They got right under the surface — 5 or 6 ft & had 1 place fire bayonet etc. They lost abt 50 men; no offrs.

This attack was made under barrage. The Germ. was firing at them before they reached it.

The 4th Div. had zero hour at 10 p.m. & the 3rd Div. got the retaliation for this during their approach march.

[Why didn't Corps pre-arrange this?]

The Retaliation used to go north for Black Line.

The next time 43 Bn went in was on 30 June for "The 18 Days"

They went in in Sept. just S. of Messines Ridge. They were there for 5 days (working ~~this~~ in front & support line) & then went into front line. 43 Bn front line already advanced 500 yds; they advanced it in the centre up Steignast Avenue another 500 yds. This consisted chiefly of pushing out posts at night; digging in small post; & then linking up.

This was necessary in order to get drainage & to get out of enemy observation of our ground. We were originally on a Fore slope, & we wanted to get onto a Reverse slope. We got slightly up the Reverse slope & it was this slope we won on morning of 31 July.

In these 18 days 43Bn had over 300 casualties. These were about half from M. gs and snipers, because there were no C. Ts. Batmen getting up offrs luggage were hit.

They dug Adelaide avenue - Pine ave &

157

Cross Ave. were there before they got there. Pine Ave was practically straight & completely enfiladed. Men simply didn't use it.

By July 31 Cross Ave from Pettit Dowve Fm to Support Line (wh was the new line wh 11 Bde dug - as one of forward lines in the 1000yd move) was duckboarded & drained — & this drainage kept it fairly dry.

The approach trench

D31

on night of 30/31 July
was bro this 2/.

For this attack see
the Bn Memo. (very full).

The windmill is not
in existence & wd not at
this time have bn
recognised as a windmill.
During the prelim
bombt it was knocked down.
At time of 18 days the
whole of the ~~circular~~
mill & wheel were visible.

Anzac 2nd night.
Hughes 7th Bty on the
Peninsula —
was dug in by men
of 3 Field Coy A.E. on
night they got 1 guns up,
by 1 men lying under
1 guns as they were
firing & scratching away
with their entrenching
tools.

Book 88.

L. Angel, Grant St, Victor
)37 2nd Bde Signallers. 35
/ Sermons

Sept. 3. Monday. Met on if
Fred Leist + Power, + ~~stopped~~ got out recovery
at Folkestone when we heard one is
/ crossing had been stopped – some
sd mines had been sown in / Channel.
Stayed at the Pier Hotel –
Leist is a man of / world
– Power a very shy gentle
chap, intensely nervous
mainly, I think, because of
his deafness, a lovable man.
Leist's chief attraction, to me, is
his anxiety that Power should be
chaperoned + well looked after, not
left too soon to himself amongst
strange scenes + people.

Sept 4. This morning before
we sailed came news that /
Russians had deserted their

over + our searchlights caught

D37 line before Riga & the Germans have got the city.

It is a problem to know if there is a possibility of recovery in the Russians yet? Everyone is talking of it. There is a good deal of comment to the effect that the Russian temperament has shown a wonderful ~~cap~~ capability of recovering; but the Russia will never be good for another offensive. "We ~~sho~~ might have had achieved finishing it this year if the Russians had not let us in", is a comment I have heard from many Australians.

At the same time – ~~one~~ it is all good to have Russia solidly on the side of democracy; for her democracy may fight for us more effectively in Germany than even her armies wd have done. Brought Brest & Powers to Hagebrouck – The germans had ~~Despite the Bombs~~ a plane over & our searchlights caught

D37 it for a time in their beam - 36
We ~~was~~ were at the D. A. G.s at 1
time + all retired to 1 cellar.
The old owner of house was there -
next him his old wife with her
long strong ~~of~~ white face + blue
almost unseeing ~~long~~ eyes,
+ the family fox terrier curled
up on her lap. ~~to~~ The
girl - the servant - a plucky
little round faced beggar that on ~~pres~~ tomb
occasions had refused to come
down stairs until everyone else
was down there - sat next;
+ by their side + opposite
sat a dozen jolly Australian
clerks in khaki on benches
+ barrels round 1 wall.
The solitary candle threw a
bold bright light on the old
peoples faces, + the glinting black
bottle ends ~~behind them, or~~
~~the whitewashed~~ under the low
arched recesses behind them,

& the whitewashed cellar
D37 walls — all in brilliant
light & shade like a picture
by Rembrandt &.

We had today the
telegrams which have been
disclosed ~~between~~ by the
Russians in the New York
Herald (Paris edition) in which
the Czar & the Kaiser ~~they~~ were trying in 1904
arrange a treaty with one
another against Great Britain
behind the back of France. It
rather alters my personal
conception of the Kaiser, tho' the
way in wh he offers the Czar reams
of detailed advice as to how to manage his
own affairs, is exactly characteristic.

Wed. Sept 5 - Took Lieut & Power
to the 5th & 1st Divns & then moved
up to Hoograf to new Corps HQs. The
2nd Corps, wh. has handed over
to us, was bombed there last
night & lost one of their officers

D37 Who was asleep 30 yds away had his eye blacked, as he lay in bed, by a shrapnel pellet wh drove thro' from below thro' his mattress & pillow, — so low is the spread of the pellets in this new German bomb.

Sept 6th Thursday. Went down to all the Divns except 4th — 1st at Vieux Berquin, 2nd at Rimascourt (where the German suddenly shelled them the other day — put 15 big shells into a field pretty ~~by~~ mistaking them on some spy's report for) advanced G.H.Q., 5th at Blaringhem, 3rd at Fauquembergues; we thought 4th were at Caistre but found they had gone down to Bomy, near 3rd Divn. Got to them all a while about the Xmas Book wh White wants me to get out.

D37 Sept 7th. Murdoch is persuaded that the best form of liaison is that of an offr, similar to Dodds, at the High Commrs. office; not a man like Buckley, but a man who can stand up to the War Office.

Gallett, after Murdoch had gone, got on to me about the history of the war; he said the beginning of this hist. ought not to be put off too long. And secondly that altho' I was not indispensable as war Correspt, I was indispensable as historian.

He talks to me for a long time; & I agree, not altogether for his reasons, but because it is obvious the record work makes it impossible to do the correspt work properly, & they both suffer. There are battalions I have not visited since Bullecourt, & Messines;

D37 & I have only ~~written on~~ ~~Australian~~ written a couple of articles in the last month. The Australian papers will be crying out for their own correspondents & this competition is exactly what the system of the official concept was intended to avoid.

I spoke to White. He sd he had hoped to I would be able to see it thro', but he agreed to the change was advisable — I war might last another two years. I'm to go to London & come over whenever there is anything on. I have to suggest to Australia to appoint a successor.

Sept 8. Sat.

Went with Jallett to 3rd Div. to stay there visiting the 2nd, 4th & 3rd Divns.

B7 Sept 9. Sun. To 26th Bn. & got
Malt 4, Lagnicourt, &
Pozieres.

Sept 10. Mon. To Moislaincourt with
Morley to see Holland abt Photos.
To Montreuil to look thro'
& get our back photos released.

Sept 11. Tues. To 22 & 23 Bns –
Broke steering gear of car getting back & camp.
The news has arrived that Kornilov
is marching on Petrograd &
Kerensky has declared him
an enemy. God knows
what this means.

Sept 12. Wed. Spent whole day
clearing off letters at Hodgsof
while car was being repaired.
It was a hot day but followed
by first clear autumn
night.

Sept 13. Thurs. Back to 3rd Div

D37 again; saw 45th Bn. on way.

Sept 14th Friday. To 44th & 43rd Bns & 11th Field Coy where I saw the very fine officer, Maj. Donaldson – who insisted on all credit for all the Coy had done was really due to the Brigade. So is the happiest Bde in the force. Butler of 43rd Bn told me to Heron – the youngster from 42 Bn who succeeded Board as C.O. of 41st Bn – had made his Bn the finest in the Bde. Met ~~the~~ Rockliff of the old 11th, now 44th, who after being at the Landing, storming of Jaba Tepe, Attack on Leane's 4, & C-attack on Leanes 4, was wd 4, on rejoining in Australia, was posted to 44th & really

D37

Commanded 1 firing line in Messines when his ~~[illegible]~~ colonel broke down.

Sept 15: Sat. Met Gullett, Wilkins & Blanchard ~~with~~ ~~who~~ who came down w/ 1 D.A.G's lorry & Gullett & my batman & 2 two lorry drivers as working party to go to Pozières & get what relics we cd still find there for the Australian Museums. ~~Gullett~~ ~~& I went on for~~ ~~I met them at St Pol &~~ Gullett Wilkins & I went on to Amiens & my car & then to Pozières. Wilkins got some pictures.

Sept 16 Sund. Spent 1 day at Pozières; half filled the lorry with rifles w/ fixed bayonets found in O.G. 1 &

D37 in K trench. The graves 44
Registration Union has done its
work magnificently well, &
rows of little white graves
marked all these trenches.
Bernafay Rd where the 7th & 6th
Bdes reached it, also, was
~~marked~~ filled with a straggling
line of small white crosses.
We marked our relics, as
we got them, with the place
where they were found.
Slept this night & last at the
officers club, Albert.

Sept. 17 Monday — sent
~~[illegible]~~ off the lorry &
went with Wilkins & Gallett to
[for record photos] Vaulx and Norenil — & then
over to Lagnicourt. Norenil
valley is still shelled ~~[illegible]~~ very heavily
at times — ~~we could see~~
the flat of it was ploughed up
like a great cultivation paddock,

D37 ~~The shaped~~. Onto which, lengths of light tramlines had been ploughed like stubble. Lagnicourt village, on the other hand, was as dead as the grave. Our old gun positions were deserted, & the only battery we cd find had bn half blown out & wd just being dug in — two of its guns — about half a mile back.

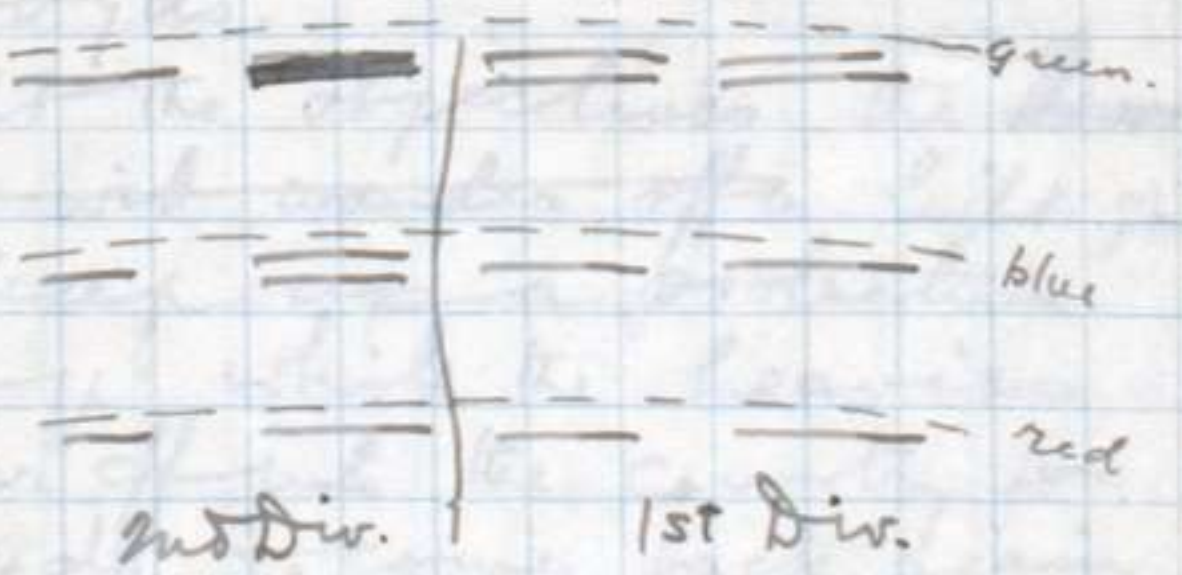
Wilkins took a number of photos.

~~That night~~ we left Vaulx — where we had tea at the YMCA — at 4.30; we took the road thro Arras, & thence thro Bethune — & coming down the N.W. slope of Vimy Ridge, & past Souchez, we suddenly found ourselves looking out over a most glorious wide view — ~~expanse of plain~~ Lévin & Lens with the shells bursting in the former, & the Tortue Bridge of Loos, & Grenay & the

whole battlefield where 1 British as nearly as ever broke thro in the middle of 2008.

As we came from Steenwerck we ~~found~~ saw ahead of us again & again the rosy flare as of a burning dump, spreading momentarily over the whole horizon & lighting the low clouds.

Saw White & he told me the plan of our attack on the 20th:



There is to be a barrage 1000 yds yds thick — 5 lines of it:

D37

~~This will advance~~ There is an interval between each of these ~~sec~~ of 200 yds exc. the 60 pdrs ~~the~~ ~~have~~ 8.2 & 9.2 - wch have 100 yds - i.e. 900 yds; & as the 60 pdrs throw forward their shrapnel this means a thickness of 1000 yds.

At the objectives the ~~heavy barrage will wander off~~ light guns will keep up a protective barrage while the heavies wander off into the country for 1000 yds & come back again; after the final ~~barrage~~ objective it will wander off into 1 counting several times & come back agn

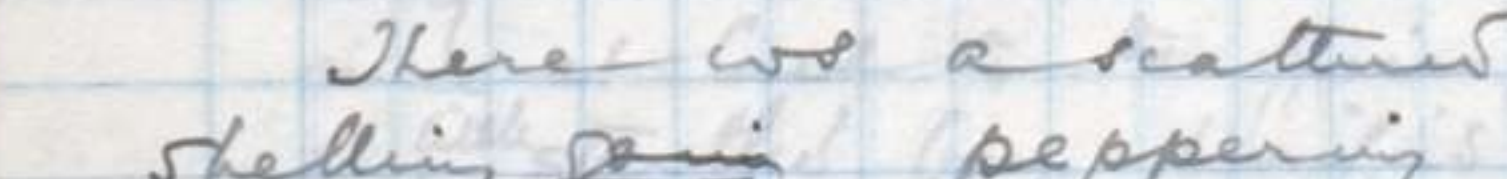
D37 in order to catch any possible
C-attack. They ~~Battalions~~ attack
~~across~~ on the final objive is
made w. 2 Bns for 1 same
reason. The left has not
so difficult a job & will
go for it w fewer battalions.

Sept 18. Went up the line
today with Gallett &
Wilkins. It was dark &
inclined to rain — very
threatening. We started up thro'
Zillebeke & ran into some
British Infantry ~~at~~ where 1 duckboards ran thro
wood. The Sanctuary
Germans were
shelling pretty heavily up
behind 1 chest at Stirling
Castle. On a sudden 5 yellow
flares went up, one after 1
other as fast as they cd
be thrown. Within a few
minutes, down came a
German barrage, tremendously

heavy onto the rear slope of the hill – crash crash crash crash – all colours of bursts flecked with white smoke & black – The relief disappeared into shell holes.

We pressed on towds Clapham Junction but just as we crested 1 slope a couple of shrapnel burst straight ahead of us up 1 avenue up wh we were walking, & then a bigger shell swished in low straight over our heads & plunged into a neighbouring shellhole & burst on the side of route as we dived into a trench on the other. They started their barrage here too – so we moved back & made round over 1 crater at Hooge,

where the tunnellers are making the headquarters for the 2nd & 3rd Bdes. We cut past Bellevarde Lake & Bellevarde on the crest of which there is a little nest of trenches occupied by us. From there we followed a half dug trench across a ~~soup plate~~ red cratered soup-plate of a plain to the ridge on wh we cd see the remains of Westhoek village.



There was a scattered shelling ~~going~~ peppering of plain, & a couple of men every now & then running across it, we found the trenches on the summit — with a whizzbang shell ~~every~~ continually

D37

picking the top of it. In the trenches were the 22nd Bn, holding 1 whole front of the 2nd Div. We pushed along the battered trench until we found an officer. The men were in the little undercut poggies in 1 front side of trench — we passed two, in neighbouring poggies with a bloodsplashed waterproof sheet covering the entrance, & the flies buzzing round the bloodstained legs & puttees wh protruded — otherwise we shd not have known the men were not alive. We came at last to the officer, a poor little startled boy, horrified by the sights & the shelling — they had been bursting in 1 parados & ~~blowing the men~~ killing the men with the back blast. Col. Willshire ~~[illegible]~~ whose H.Q. was in

D37 one of very prominent "Pill-Boxes" on the Skyline, said they had lost 70 men in their 48 hours holding on line. They had been continually visited by 1 men who were to relieve them, & the German had probably noticed this continual movement, & shelled them all day long. Every prominent want or projection on the Skyline we ~~on ambulance~~ a H.Qrs or a dressing station. They were being relieved at once by the 7th & 5th Bdes; they were then to be Reserve Bde; & either to go in & take the objective of the other Bdes failed; or—if they succeeded—to go in & relieve them & hold the line. They were not relishing the prospect — rather "hop over" any day, they said.

On the way back we found

D37 a heavy German barrage on
/ slopes North West of Bellewarde Lake
just beside the new road wh
Gen. Birdwood had cut for
Security. I dont know if it
wd / road they were shooting
at — we saw a shell burst
within a yard or two of a
~~[illegible]~~ mule team, & from them
on all the teams wh passed
came down at a gallop. There
were two horses & a man
lying dead on the menin
Road at Bir Cross; &
a splash of a shell had got
23 men out of 27 at the
~~ambulance~~ Dressing Station at
Half Way House — the School — where
we met Boddy & / Car.
Wilkins got a number of photos
but I am afraid it wd be too dark
looked in at Bennetts on / way home & got leave to spend longer on
night at his H.Qrs
We drove Wilkins home to Sleenvoorde
& had a pleasant midnight
Supper with ~~[illegible]~~ Hurley
& their old Pte Martin — the "man abt

the House."

Sept 19. Finished off a job of work in 1 morning — posted the last drawing to Smart for the Xmas Book — except Powells — The ~~came up~~ ~~to~~ car we sent off with Gullett & Amieus to fetch Gilmour — the Australasian Press Assocn man, ~~when~~ — I got leave from Charteris, the other day, for him to come to this H.Qrs for a short time as I promised Townend in London. Murdoch also has wired from London ~~tt~~ he is coming over, but Sent. White says ~~tt~~ he must stay at G.H.Q. ~~Murdoch~~ Birdwood has ~~refused~~ asked Murdoch to arrange with the Aust. Press Assocn when he makes further visits, but Murdoch has refused. He

D37 says th it is his enterprise wh has obtained him! right to make these visits, & he cannot share th right w any man — no journalist could well be asked to do so. He rather crabbed the Aust. Press Assocn, I thought, & tried to set Birdwood against them if they made any request for equal rights w him.

Gallell thinks th / best plan is for them each to be permanently here, & for / official concept really to go out of business. I think this is entirely wrong — the private interests o / papers ~~& interests of country are not in / least~~ are something wh often cut right across / interests o / country — scoops, competition, magnification & exaggeration are out of all harmony w what is left for / country.

D37

I came with Hurley & Wilkins up the Poperinghe Rd after leaving a preliminary cable w Butler. I walked out the Menin Rd to Hooge — they were pounding 1 side of it but not 1 road itself.

Genl Bennett & Heane were up at their H. Qrs — wh were a little wet but splendidly roomy.

I had a cold, so in order to keep in 1 open as much as possible I went up to 1 fore slope of hill 60 here & 1 summit where the 2nd Bde (wh has held 1st Bde line) were camped in reserve. Some of M2na Sergt who recognised me gave me tea — but just as we finished, down came a heavy German barrage — abt 3 batteries of S. G concentrated on the Hooge hill 60.

D37 It was very hot indeed — but I saw no man hit, & myself got back thro' the Y & then running across, open.

Since then I have had dinner w Bennett & been talking with him, & Lt Stephenson of the 3rd (army) a. f. a. Bde, & Col. MacCartney of 3rd Div'l art & Hutchins & others.

The day has been a beautiful one — clear & windy — good beyond all hopes. They cd not lay out the pegs last night as hoped because the Germans had a barrage down, but Capt Rogers, the Bde Intgce Offr, has gone up to lay them out tonight.

The German's have been expecting this attack, so Kennedy, the Heavy Arty Reconnaissance Offr tells me, & our airmen

have reported concentrations of their camps well beyond our gun range for some days. Today the airmen saw their infantry moving up. Some think this is for a relief but Bennett thinks it is quite as likely to be for their C-attack, & the suspect show is to come off very soon.

5.30 pm. Our bombt seems to be quickening up.

The tunnellers are continually pumping water out of this dugout & during shelling they were out in crater pumping, only men still there.

The signallers & others have moved off with their pigeons & wire rolls. There is also to be

937 a tank with a wireless installation going up forward to a central position. Big guns will also go up tomorrow on tanks.

11 p.m. A report in that Cape Tino has been laid.

Skies raining. This is an anxiety, also, the valley thro wh all the 8th Bde has to pass is simply a marsh of huge waterfilled shellholes in wh men have to walk very carefully round the rims in order not to fall in. However the hop over is at 5.40 (when it will be almost light) & the barrage only goes, first 25 yds, then 16-17 yds, then 12½ yds a minute. There are German m.g. emplacements — one or two of them in cement blockhouses — in this marsh.

D37 The 11th Bn is in 1 line & goes out first; the 12th Bn goes next & has instructions to take the 11 Bn objective if 11 Bn fails; the 9 & 10 Bns come last in platoons in file. The 12 Bn shd be passing here at 1.30; 10 Bn at 2.30; 9 Bn at 3.30 am. Nelligan is going to have 1 morning paper taken round in sacks & distributed to his men when they are in 1 shell holes during their long 2 hrs wait before 1 last objective.

11.45 Rogers reports the 1 tape is completed (air) exc for 50 yds at the left of 11th Bn.

Sept 20. Thurs.

12.10 am. The rain has stopped, but it is very muddy.

Oct 7 2.10 am The 12th Bn is passing now — ~~very~~ rather late.

2.30 all going right. Lying Cornish comes in to say the 10th Bn is passing. The 28th Bn caused ½ an hours delay, they say, by using the track clearly marked off for the 3rd Bde — it is a curious thing the 7th Bde did exactly the same at Pozieres. One cannot help thinking that the General Staff of the 2nd Divn, notoriously bad, is responsible for this. Surely it should have been marked as the 3rd Bde track was.

4.30 all 9 Bn has passed. Bennett & Hutchins asleep in bunks beside me.

D37 5.15 am. The light is breaking red in the East. A very few white flares going – little shelling back here. ~~The S.~~

The Germans have been shelling the front line – but as the flares are white I do not think they have seen us but they probably think it a good thing to shell 1 front line at this time – it is an obvious thing to do – They have been firing gas shell & H.E. onto the front & our Counter batteries were turned on 20 mins ago to neutralise them.

The firing is not bad outside.

5.20. The 2nd Bde have reported that their men are in position.

The Germans are shelling Clapham Junction.

Counterbatteries still on.

D37

The Germans have been improving greatly lately, one of the roads not much used by them up to present. Our heavy artillery has been ordered to leave this religiously alone as their attacking troops will be brought up along it in motor busses. Yesty we turned some guns onto it. Immediately (German wireless sent up a demand for "annihilation fire on the English".

5.37 I went up stairs & a red flare went up at this

D37 The next instant a shell burst in the crater 7 yards away. As I reached the dugout entrance my eyes & nose were smarting. The men on 1st stairs were sneezing. I realised it was a gas shell.

Just then out broke our barrage.

6.3 The Min shd be in 1st Objs. They will not leave it till 7.8

6.45:—
From Cable head from 1st Div. Tanks going well on the right
30 prisoners coming in
Bavarian Reserve Regiment.
15 Bav. R I R 4 Bav ~~Res Div~~ R I R

From 1st Divn: 2nd Divn Brigades have both captured ~~their~~ their objectives.
50 prisoners coming in on left & more on the right.

6.59. The 11th Bn has the first objective. Casualties slight. Forming

7.37 up for 2nd objective. 10th Bn going strong.

7.7. am 2nd Bde have got their red line.

Foster: Liaison officer with 5th Bn (2nd Bde) reports casualties rather heavy especially when moving into the forming up position.

Henwood (10th Bn) reports that the 1st objective was taken on whole line front & men already formed up for 2nd Objive. The Big strong post in Northern part of Glencorse wood was taken w ease.

7.40 Nelson speaking on the 'phone, reports that the 10th is in 8D waiting.

7.55. ~~[illegible]~~ 11 Bde state they have mopped up all 40 prisoners were consolidated (Stray point at J14B28) (in N edge of Glencorse wood)

8 a.m. Owing to heavy casualties no material has reached front line. Can material be pushed up, please.

8.2 2nd Bde sent in urgent message to say only fair shot causing casualties at Fitzclarence Farm.

8.7 2nd Div left 5th Bde capt Blue Line.

8.10. 3rd Bde has got 2nd Objive.

D37

Germ. shelling was on our own line in Glenc. wood!

& is now on the S/P in Glenc. wood from ab

we got abt 40 also dugouts round abt there

Our offrs were hit from Henwood got in

& took charge of 10th line — everyone he cd find.

The carryg party was badly knocked abt

got blown up 6 times in 1 enemy barrage in wh they got mixed up

The Coys were before they got into position

on 1st objve they got their men well forward Darnell &

Henwood were looking out when Henwood was hit by a bit of our own shell wh flew back

Henwd got organisatn again before they were all started

10, 11 & 9 were got right up close to the ....

10, 11 – 9

6 Bn got 160

Clapham Jn is

D37 8.30. The mgs are in position on 1st objive & were preparing to go forwd to 2nd objive.

W. saw but a few dead Germans. The Germs. didn't fight at all – they came out with their hands up.

9 to Bn reports th everything is alright except for fairly heavy casualties.

W. says our barrage was tremendous. The German barrage was never able to stop our troops tho on 1 two ridge it was heavy.

The beauty of the slow barrage was th it was possible to go ~~[illegible]~~ picking way through the bad ~~[illegible]~~ marshy country. W. never saw a man bogged. The 10th were broken up by barrage going into positn. This barrage dropped at abt 5.20 so they probably were putting down only a practice barrage. The

D37 barrage was right on the taped track knocked it out & where had
This barrage was on the track up to Bellevarde Ridge:
The 10 Bn had a good
many –

Splendid!
a a Message from Rogers.

I have just returned from a tour round 1 whole of our Country & everything is absolutely tres bon. Unfortunately tanks on I left warned the Bosche who sent up his S.O.S. while we were on our hopping off trench his barrage causing some casualties. After that everything went off splendidly. Quite a lot of enemy (about 50) were killed in SUNKEN ROAD running E & W through centre of GLEN CORSE WOOD & he attempted to oppose us a while from ~~abo~~ S.P. at about J 14 B 88 but he was soon driven out bombed etc.

D37 * now 9th & 10th H.Q.
are established in this post. This
is also my Brigade OP now.

11th Bn went right through &
I found them digging in. They
were not sure of their position
~~This is also my Brigade O.P. now.~~

~~11th Battn went right through~~
but I located a post being dug
~~dug~~ by Major —? of 11th at about
J9c1.5. i.e. about 75 yds ahead
of their 1st Objective. Other posts
were being dug by NCO's parties
just in rear of this so I sent him
forward to dig in on the above
line.

Am not sure where H.Q.
of 11th is. Did not see them forward.

300 wd
Bde
sent
7 & 14
9

9th 10th 12th at first
advanced just a bit too quickly
for the barrage but later slowed
down & are now all massed

D37 in front of our barrage organising again.

9th just a bit disorganised but I collected a number of parties forward – they are all right now, quite cheerful & having no casualties up right in front except 1 one of our 18 pdrs has consistently fired short in 1 direction o 1 NE Corner of Glencorse Wood. They are now getting no M G fire from enemy on the very front line & will quite easily take 1 two final objectives & then will have enough men there to hold all 1 German Divisions on 1 whole front.

From 12 Bde 9/12 12 Bde 12 12 7.45 Have 7.45 gained touch on left. Pigeon. D

POLYGON WOOD cannot be recognised as such.

NONNE BOSSCHEN was certainly boggy but not impassable.

72

D37 Both brigades on our flanks are progressing well & are in touch.

Every reason now to have all confidence & everybody cheerful.

Boshe puts only an occasional shell onto the captured country. Still has his barrage just in our old front line & in rear.

Consider we captured abt 200 in the environs of Glencorse Wood.

Am enclosing reports from 10th & 9th Bns. J.D. Rogers Capt.
0745/ 20/9/15.

Reports: Abt 10 fully as recd from 12 Bn:
From 12 Bn - 12 Bn objective.
7.45, have gained touch on left.
(a pigeon message).

2 Bde.
The 6th Bn & 5th say the casualties
D37 so far 800 or.
are light. The wounded men
of the 7th say that after 1st Blue line they
met a number of Germans ~~etc~~ &
that some of 7th Bn were
going forward & some were
coming back. Similar statement
from wounded men of 8th Bn. The
arty fired on to our own men
at Fitzclarence Fm & the
F.O.O. with the 8th Bn had to
tell the arty that if 1st Barrage
were not lifted 500 yds the
bn wd have to drop back. A
big proportion of wounded were
hit w our own shells. It is
a question whether the barrage
did not advance perh. too
slowly for our ~~[illegible]~~ Australian
troops.

At present moment
- 11.5 - the German barrage is

74

D37 heavy on our ~~blue~~ line is
getting heavy on our back
areas also.

A German prisoner, an
officer, has told us the enemy
will "fight like a devil on a green
line" & will counterattack
from Molenhoek and Suidhoek.

The sappers are ~~at~~ digging
& putting out wire.

The British are sd
by their observers

J9134.5

11 Bde

Offr

12 what out in a beautiful line.

c When he left

Enemy were retiring on a green line & coming in

fairly freely.

The rear up was difficult a bit & they got us on that

tape

Enemy were then shelling behind.

wood & our line

6 2 Glenc.

Fatigue pty was held up for a while & were not
D37 getting steadily forward.
They were taking up wire & the
11 Bn were
consolidating & digging in well
wire was just cleared & I saw it go forward.
There were a good many
Fritz wd coming in
They got on bus for nearly ½ an hour
They drove us off the tape line forward
They got forwd. They shelled us for nearly ½
an hour. The moment I barrage came
down, on they went splendidly. Has it checked(?) T
offs gave back thro to tip & they all got up & followed it
This offr was killed.
6(w) M 2Lt. Keighley was collecting prisoners.
Mathews, Dale - wd
They blew up 10a!
11 Bn charging.
Darnell sp 6 were hit when this offr left
9 o 6
sdrs have been hit.
Clarke P 9
Dis came O-K - their barrage lifted with ours.
2nd O-K

Are libera.
couple in the head. They blow him up once & a
sniper got him once. got on road (over)

D37 Liaison to reports th 10 Bn were held up on rt; they asked for help from rt; rt extended across & they joined up w them.

11.30
Message from Division
counterat Divns on march from Moorslede
Moorslede
Expect to reach Pol wd in 3 hrs time.

Counterattack divisions are on the march from Moorslede. Expect to reach Polygon wood in 3 hour time

J9B 8080
J10C 0043

Rt Coy of 7th in Position.
Left in touch w 10th
Arty F.O.O. reports objve gained.
Divn has ordered arty to lift a

D37 good distance bec. some of men are well out in front.

9 B 4.9.
4.4.
3.3.

J 3 D 4.3
1.7.
3 Cent.
3 B 1.2.

J 9 B 4.6.
B 4.4
B 2.3
B 1.1
D 1.7
D 1.5
D 2.4
D 2.3
D 4.1.
D 6.0

16 A 5.05
04
02
01

16 C 56
54

I.E. at most we are 50 or 60 yards behind our barrage at the most.

This means a bend in front of the Polygon race course just

D37 opposite the Polygon Racecourse where there are 4 gun emplacements.

The 10th reports at 10.15 urgently asking L.G. discs, & bombs. The two Bns had suffered pretty severely & so Nelligan & Mullins agreed to stay where they were for 1 moment & get support if possible from flanks.

At 10.30 he reported that the Bns were pushing forward.

At 11 p.m. he reported th the 3rd objive had bn gained.

The 7th Bn has reported being in touch w him

[This is a remarkably excellent

D37 bit of work. 79

10th Bns have 2 plns of 7th Bn; 9th Bn cooperating.

Please give (mounted at (far end of (wood some attention please. Much observation is done from there & it doesn't seem to be getting any attention. (12 Bn) This is already being shaped by heavies.

8 Bn state tt they are into the 3rd objve on (right & are getting hundreds of prisoners.

J16A02 & J16A four flares day trench. J9D60, 41, 32, 24, 10.55, 1.6, B 11, 44, 46, 7 flares. map mutilated.

D37

J10 C cont

J16 at 5·6 for c/attack

Probably reports from fuellers & Nelson (see below)

10th

in touch w 28 on left

Air reports confirm 3rd objective.

Air

too crowded! to danger of losses.

D37 81

From Nelson:

Everything now OK. 3rd above capted. Throughout the engagement considerable numbers of prisoners have been captured and far more killed. After all we did not use the additional platoons from 7th Bn. They were not in time & are not really as far up as we are. The 2nd Div is slightly ahead on a little bit of high ground. Part of my immed rear front is very unsafe. Casualties are very hard to estimate but I think abt 30% apart from normal battle strays etc. At present we are certainly being rather badly straffed. Col Mullen & I are consolidating in cooperation. I am confident we can hold what we have if wire & bombs SAA etc are

D37 82

sent up. Col Mullen is of the same opinion. He is sending back to say we do not at present require anything but carrying parties. We are holding a part of the 12th line also.

W Wilder Mulligan Lt Col.

Sent 11.20.

Mullins 11.25. Situation has clear up & everything is going well now. We have reorganised & have had abt 150 casualties but our opposing have had a good many officer casualties. All four Coy Commdrs are casualties. We are in touch with 10th on right & 28th on left.

12th Bn few casualties.

Sent
O.9.25

D37

33

From Nelligan:

Battalion at Eve John 00 -
X got badly knocked abt at jumping off by . Several Officers including Campbell. Y has touch with rt Bn not yet with my X
Every Bn very mixed up.
We are now reorganising. Men very cheerful. Carrying pty much knocked about. Result shovels and wire with new carrying party will be urgently needed
Artillery objive. Up to date we have captured two Germans.
The area was strongly held & they are now mopping dead Brits X & Y now in touch. Tanks caused premature enemy barrage
0.9.25 Fwilder Nelligan.

(on back) Daily Summary X
Daily Orders are being issued
p.m.

337 Jarmans told Rogers they had lost v. few casualties last few days, lying low in pillboxes.

A great anxiety was the hour of start. Our people & Birdwood all wanted it earlier. The British (? 5th Army) wanted it later. I believe Birdwood had it advanced by 10 minutes. If it had been later the result wd have been disastrous in view of the tanks –

As it was, it is true a tank ran over 30 of our m.g. filling boxes in the dark.

The signal tank had a direct hit – 3 mnk. 2 wd & one ~~also~~ shaken –

Wilkins bought this tank in / old Armentieres & a good place to photograph from. A shell burst under it & he did not quite know what happened →

D37 but his ground glass focusing screen wos broken & a slide with two fine plates ruined. Hurley wos in I think of it too, all day.

I got back to Cassell (leaving him at Steenwoorde) & delivered my stuff at 4.30 p.m. ~~went to bed~~ White gave me a whisky & I went to bed very tired at about 10.

Sept 21. All day writing etc. No news of c. attack tho' some sort of bombt tonight. ~~The~~ a German messenger dog wos capt yest ordering someone to "Recapture the shell craters lost".

Wired to Australia (Sulletts suggestn whenwe were at Pozieres, I think it wos) that Australia shd buy Pozieres field.

D37 Addison says 1 German Capt. on offr 2 days ago w all 1 plans ~~maps on him~~ None of ours is reported missing.

?Sept
Aug 22. (Sat). C. attacks as follows.

Agst. 10th Corps at Kde left Divn, & whole front Centre Divn at 8.10 p.m. ~~Aug~~ Sept 21. Posts pushed back from green line but retook it almost at once.

Sept 5th Corps. ? reports adv. previously under white flag — Agst 165, 166 Bdes. agst Hill 37. in dense waves folld by columns in fours met by m.gs. succeeded in penetrating line for abt 300 yds but driven back by immd local c-attack (Some time sup. of 2/5th).

Butler ringing up 2nd Army Intelligence
(Col. Mitchell):
457 Regt to 3 Bde 457 came from Cherring
I came to Beyllem. They were there 8 days,
on my 9.30 20 after it got light they moved up I got
to Monsleir. Thence to Waterdaunk.
from there to Cpa over the Keiberg. All 3 Bde
Cpa. together I 1st in reserve
They move up from the Keiberg by plan in file
going over the K first came under serious arty fire.
They came into Cpa. Off went for to rescue
a. didn't come back again so the Sergt and led them
on himself. all 3 bde took part. They were
to hold a certain sector of Hindenburg Stellung
& attack together. He left them on
road from the Jt. Stg. They started at different times
from there having suffered from arty. This man went back to rescue
having lost his company
They were to have att in 3 waves & all
3 regts were to have the pt. The 236 div is there all
3 bde. 236 606

D37 accounted for. They got up to the H. St. at about midday. They opened at different times.

Butler has got a German code.

Other papers were coming on a runner who was blown up.

35 Sergt Maj. was in 4 Qds Divn.

He is a st. lt. treat of Austs. He knows they also the Bavarian Sixth.

He had a v. high opinion of Aust. infantry.

He sd still he didn't think we would be able to compete w their heavy guns.

The Aust. wn. Exp. on the 18th. They had been told the Austs were training for it. The barrage upset them. Each infantryman protective wear. Came down they sprang to, & this had amongst them. He expressed great admiration for TMs, & advised them not to wear their masks.

He picked up a dud 18pr after he had passed our lines, put it carefully on one side, & sd "They're valuable – they're valuable." He has a 1st class iron X.

Autos?

The sectors in / H.S.S wh they had come to C/a

D37 figure were points to guide them + not for them to occupy + C/a from the intention being if they did not stop in the H.S.S Stalling.

They adopted / wave formation after they got over / Keeberg.

Kyber They left waterdam back abt midday

They went over the Keiberg later. The S.M. + a Coy officer stayed behind to

The other 2 went on ahead for the C/a wh was to have taken place at 5 or 6 pm (Sept 20) The Coy offr seeing no signals went forward. He did not return

S.M. went forwd + found a few straggler abt 30 (50 –) + led them on

back to the H.S.S wh had been given him as a point of direction!

He left them there + then went on.

D37 As they came over I Kaiberg they came under
Gas-shell fire. Spio capped them . . . . . .
& affected their morale.
morale.

Capt. J 3d D.4.

1st Bde. (Charleroi Regiment)
Tomorrow Dickebusch
Steenvoorde tomorrow night 23rd.

2 Bde. Bellebeke Ruin
Dickebusch
Oudezeele 23/

1 Bde Hoogle.

5

7 Reinforcements 23.

2 Div H.Q. Hrs D.5.2

left at St Hubertushoek

D37

The German Sergt Major who told above story was captured yesterday (21st) by Seymour of the 2nd M.T.M.B.Ty who had to cut wire tomorrow in front of Julien & decided to pick a shellhole in which to observe from. He got 1 infantry to cover him, & was crawling out from shellhole to shellhole covered by infy & followed by his men when he saw German move in neighbouring crater. He seized bayonet & rifle from man behind as quickest thing to do, & saw one German hand go up. He nearly jabbed him, thinking he was feeling for his revolver, when another man rolled over & hand went up. It was this same Sergt Major.

Wertheimer interrupted him & got some funny things out

D37 of him.

Burke the arty offr (? Hoy) to Bde) was in shelter in front of infty when infty went past & had to explain from interior who he was — & listen to a very audible discussion outside as to whether it was good enough to give him a bout.

The observers went as 1 3rd wave, & some of them got tel-lines right out!

The 10th Bn saw an officer killed in Glencorse wood, & simply went mad & killed most of 1 Germans they found there.

1st & 2nd Divns are tomorrow being rel'd by 5th, & later by 4th.

1st & 6th Bdes now in.

D37 The Boches have many of them gone up on tanks.

The S.M. said that a British Offr had been capd who had told them all plans for the offensive.

Sunr 23 Sept. German put a barage on our front line this mg. along Polygon Rd at daylight, where our divs. met & killed about a dozen men there.

We went up & found the part of trench abandoned for 50 yds left of rd. Then fixd our posts in craters in trench abt 150 yds fwd rear, in "wood" wh was just a few lines of small

D37 scrub. Leist, Sullett &
Silvester came to me. I
haven't time to describe
(see pp. 95-100) (day × Germans were shelling their
own line. another fine day.

Sept 24 The Germans at 5.15
placed a barrage on our 5th
Div front. Probably they will
do this every morning for
safety. A wireless we heard
last night from rear: "Do you
think I English will attack?" The
answer was "No". (may have
been a ruse)

Another fine hot day. I
went up to tell Wilkins what
photos to get: and found he had
~~got them~~ on the second day – the
man ~~with~~ with him was hit on
finger by a sniper.

937

I have so much to do in the way of administration — arranging for records & photos & the Xmas Book & fifty other things, that I have scarcely any time to get the history of this battle; add to it that my car is laid up (on the opinion of Farnthorpe that shd get another in substitution) & that another has not come — & I am at my wits ends how to cope with this work.

3 Dec 1931 —

It is a long time since that trip on (with Sullett, Weir, & Gilmour) Sept 23 but I remember this much:

After leaving our car — probably just beyond the Main Gate, we walked up through the 2nd Div's sector, across Bellewaarde ridge & Westhock. Here we got little fire but a 5.9 shell was bursting at intervals on one of our lines. I think it was our reserve trench but it may have been on Bellewaarde ridge. Anyway it was on one of the lines that ran along a depression in country which reminded me of the Libyan Desert.

It was dry & dusty & the shell plumped down & crashed when we were quite close to us & hurried us along.

We reached the front line left, I think, by the 6th Bde, & worked along it to the right onto the Polygon wood plateau. Our troops were holding a continuous trench. No sign of the enemy in front although we heard that they had been seen there. Our movement could have been seen by 1 enemy & it struck me that we must be endangering our chaps in 1 front line by showing ourselves there. However they were very kind & didn't show any annoyance. As we neared the Polygon wood we came on a length of trench which was occupied only by the dead. It had been ~~shelled~~ lashed with shell that morning, & the remnant of the garrison had been withdrawn out of it along trench & not sent back. The

officer in charge ~~[illegible]~~ to the trench ended here, but we would find the continuation of the front line about 120x in rear.

Gullett & I got out of the trench (which ended near the road through Pol. Wd to Flencourt wood) & struck across in the direction indicated to us. Polygon wood, through which we were passing, was merely a stubble of thin sapling-stumps projecting between shell-holes. The dusty track was visible running through it. ~~[illegible]~~ Leist & Gilmore followed us at about 50 yards interval. There was no sign of a soul either in front or behind us. ~~[illegible]~~ At 120 yards we came on a line held I think by the 58th Bn — among

it was 5th Div infantry. It 98
seemed to me that here especially
we were endangering the lives
of these men — both in the trench
we left & the trench we came
to — by showing the Enemy where
they were, & that something
was going on. (I think I met here
Lieut Hintoff, 58 Bn.)

We then made our way
back along the northern edge
of the ridge. Over the track
to Glencorse wood an ugly
grey 4.2" "universal" shell
was bursting every few
minutes, so I took Fullett
along a line a little north of it, where
there was a low bank
running parallel with
our path. When we were
near the spot where the
shell burst & I heard it coming

we crouched down — the 99
bank sheltering us & the
fragments flew harmlessly
overhead. But I had forgotten
that Leist & Gilmour
would not be up to his
dodge. They were following
us at about 100 yards, &
when we passed this point
we looked back & saw him
in obvious anxiety how to
get along. I signed to him
to come along, but it
was pretty rough on them.

However they got through
& the thing that pleased me was
that Leist had now been round
this battlefield within a day or
two of the actual attack which

he might have to paint. He had seen a ~~[illegible]~~ more active ~~[illegible]~~ battlefield than any of our artists except Will Dyson, & the knowledge he gained would be very valuable to him & to the Australian records.

It was afterwards arranged that one of the pictures he was commissioned to paint should be that of an incident on this plateau in this battle (death of Lt Tarnour, 58 Bn)

Col. Heron 41 Bn.
Col. Wilcock 42
Col. Butler 43
Col. Clarke 44. Bde c. 40 Bn.

White: Howse.
Law: Brisenden.

11 Fld Coy
4 4 Bn
4 3. Bn
} Messines Ridge July 31

11 Brigade Aug 5

Anzac Ap 26 Hughes Bl

88

11 Fl

44 Bn
43. Bn

Messrs
Ridout
July 31

11 Bn Lyttleton Aug 5

Angac AP26 Hughes Bly