

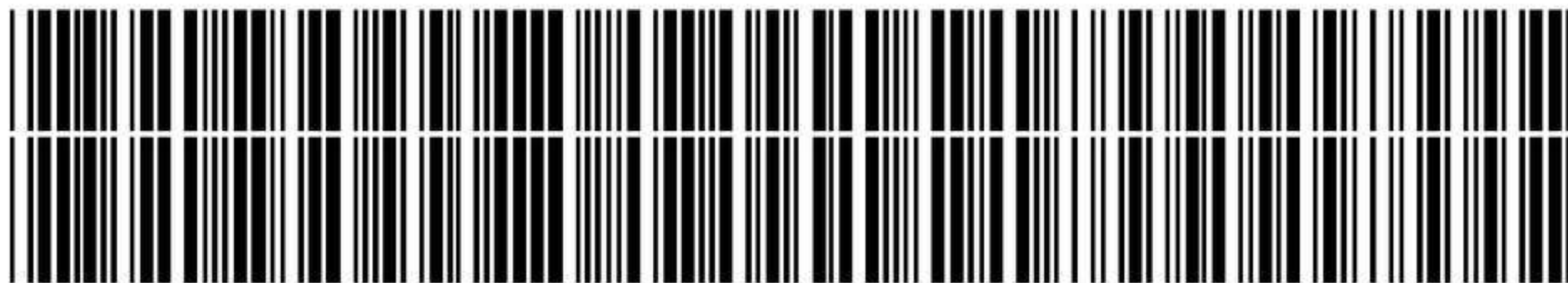
**AWM38**  
**Official History,**  
**1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,**  
**Official Historian.**

Diaries and Notebooks

**Item number:** 3DRL606/129/1

**Title:** Notebook, 1916 - 1917

Includes references to the 5th and 12th  
Battalions, Pozieres and the German retirement,  
February 1917.



AWM38-3DRL606/129/1



*Original*

DIARY NO. 129.

AWM38

3 ORL 606 ITEM 129 [1]

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

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

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

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

16 Sept., 1946.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C. E. W. BEAN.

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129



The arty put up an excellent barrage — as tho' they laid off a quadrangle in the sky.

The Germans were firing thro' it from rear or from the flank — The Germans in the transverse 24 clucked & got away —

[The pioneers went up with instructions to make a comms 24 on right thro 34a. Maj. Rafferty switched them off onto O.F. 1 to clear it (in 34a).]

The trees in the copse behind O.F. 1 were at this time standing uncut.

12 Bn. Sat Apr. Aug 19. 1916. B & C Coy  
12 Bn went in & relieved 4 Bn in transverse  
O.F. 1 in front of trumpet. left

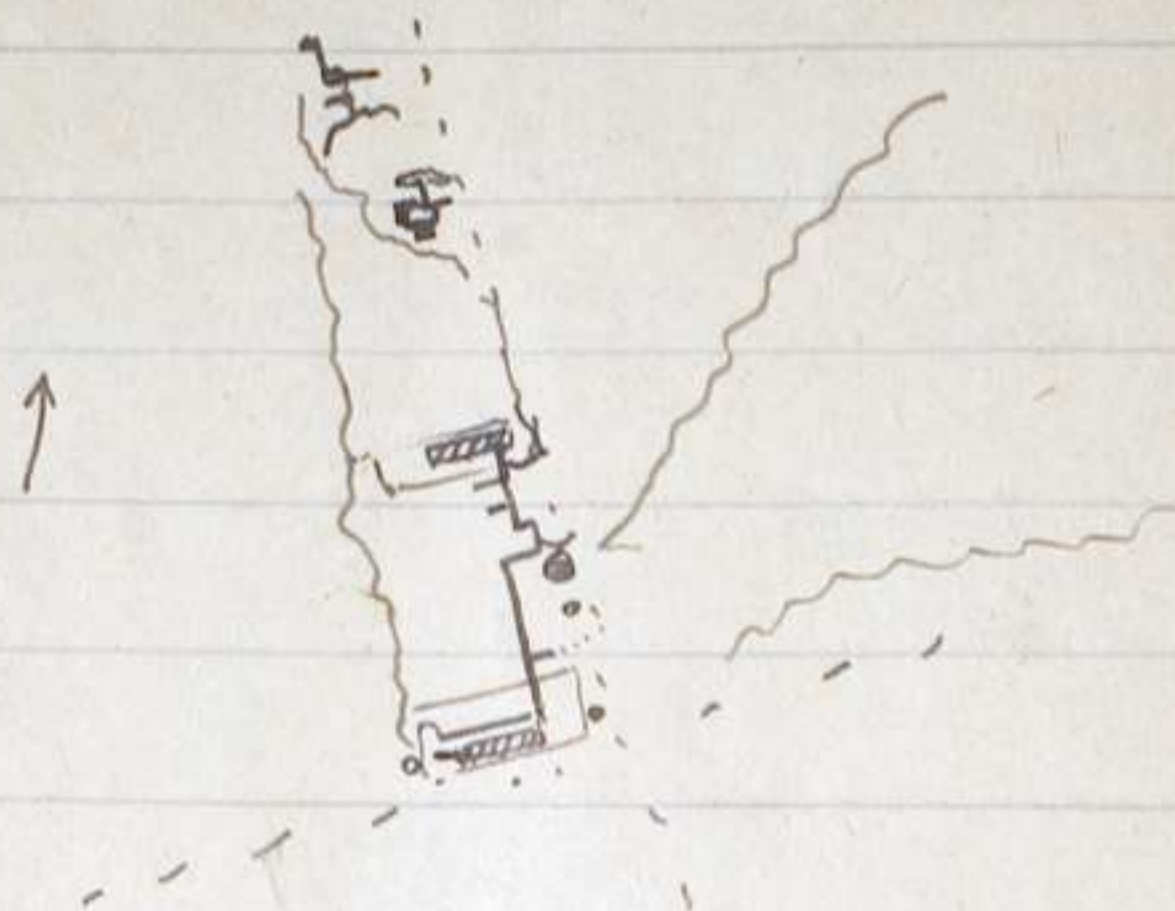


was on the trees, at <sup>abt 150 yds</sup> some way to rt. of depot, as marked.

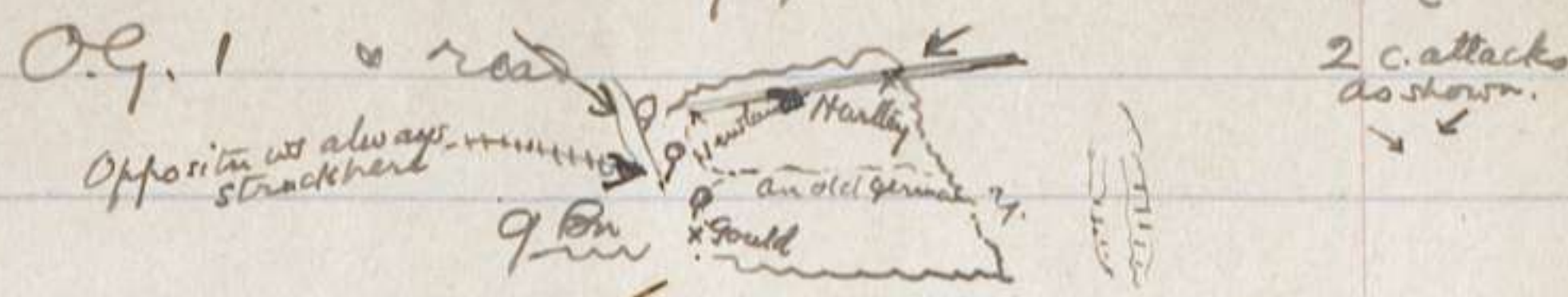
2 Coy went over at 6 p.m.

- A & D Coy. They crossed Cancell's Rd — well to left of waggons, & just rt of farm. The Germans retreated, but there was heavy rifle fire. <sup>2 Lt</sup> Newton <sup>Capt</sup> Love & Lt Harps were hit. A bomb platoon led by Capt R.H.E. Lord got into the farm up the line of trees. They got bombed ~~into one~~ <sup>into one</sup> depots along trees near 55 & got into farm. They bombed ~~the farm~~ <sup>the farm</sup> Germans twice called





— one bombing attack on rt we beaten  
back from bombing post at junction of



The 12 Bn we practically holding a rectangle  
out ahead of the line.

From 6pm until 5am. there was no  
one on rt of 12 Bn. & O.G. 1 had to  
be manned as a firing line.

After this 11 Bn came up & started  
to dig on a line to the rt of 12 Bn.

The 12 Bn had drawn to left to let 11 Bn  
in & 11 Bn did not come.

The 12 Bn starts to dig forward  
parallel to Road on left & a little E of it.

Opposite we met from under the trees  
altho' this had been cleared once. The

trench dug back from front line came

at an angle to meet this & it was wonderfully  
dug. They joined up. & avoided the strong point



or whatever it was there.

The Germans could not well locate the new line & were stilling nearer to the junction of the fork of Op. 1 in 34a.

The line taken was from Op. were on right along front of road to within 30 or 40 yds of Mouquet, & back along new Comm. 2 to point 55



\* There was no opposite unit with  
here or in Battery Copse, so far as  
I can hear.

12 Bn took over on <sup>afternoon</sup> ~~evening~~ of 25 Feb.  
A & B were <sup>put</sup> in support in Grid Support;  
~~B~~ D & C were in Wheat 2.  
9 Bn were on right & 18 Bn on left -  
there was a big gap on the left.

D Coy were on left & C on rt. Cloys  
Rt on Blue Cut & left; D Coys rt was  
on wooden tramline. 18 Bn were on  
the Bapaume Rd. Left abt the Divl boundary.  
Relieved 10 Bn by 9 p.m.

They were to go over on Monday  
morning but wire was reported in  
front of Malt 2 & it was 16.00 when  
after arty bombt. a patrol went out  
& occupied Malt to <sup>M</sup> 12 central. Any  
Germans who were in Malt cleared <sup>\*</sup> into  
the LeBarne trees & retreated on left to  
Battery Copse. Malt Cop was a very  
shallow 2 & was occupied by a weak  
platoon of C Coy.



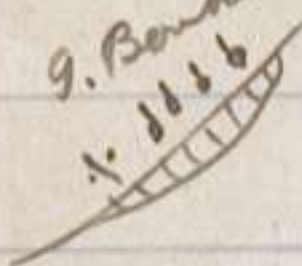
It was breaking  
day at the time  
of this show.

~~All 9 am. on Tues. Feb.~~ On night of  
Feb 26 <sup>two</sup> patrols of 12 Bn <sup>(N.C. 975 men)</sup> went out thro  
le Barque up ~~yellow~~ Blue cut -  
~~one moved across as far as yellow cut -~~  
Heres were being thrown from Lequy  
but not le Barque.

At daylight on Feb 27 they moved  
through le Barque abt 5 am. - an hour  
before daylight.

A Coy found a strong post at  
junction of Warlemcourt Rd & Misty Way.  
When A was going thro' the village from  
about 12 D 8.8 to 12 B 8.2 when  
as they were going thro' the undergrowth  
m. gr. opened. (when <sup>A Coy</sup> 12 Bn was abt at  
mound marked 12 B 8.2), a couple  
of men were hit, no one killed. They  
knew it was on the road. They were  
behind stunted willows on the road  
bank. Capt Newlands & Lt Butler were  
on right in small field surrounded by

9. Bombs  
1. 11.16





Abt 9 am this day  
 Lt. Heritapp connected up  
 with the 17 Bn in M. 12 A 9.6.  
 Not Malt 2y - but the 2y who went  
 directly to 1 Pk line. 17th had  
 a party just clearing it.

hedge. The mg. was going for abt 2  
 mins & then <sup>germans</sup> started to bomb from  
 behind hedge. There were abt 8  
 or 9 there not more than 10 to 20  
 yds from Germans. They gave a few  
 bombs back & then rushed strong  
 post. Killed 3 in post (in hollow Rd)  
 & L.M.G got 8 or 10 as they ran <sup>uphill just S. of misty way.</sup> ~~the~~ A Coy then  
 occupied. ~~The~~ Bank 2y. a hare  
 got up between the bombers as they  
 had to bombing & got away. It is  
 very doubtful if the mg. got away.  
 None of them carried a gun. Probly it was  
 thrown into a crater tho' there were  
 not many big craters abt.

Bank 2y was a shallow  
 bad 2y with no dugouts. The  
 Germans were not using Bank 2y but  
 the edge of the Bank of the road.

A. Coy with scraps of others





went occupied up Bank 2 to Red Cut. The posts were well organized by abt 7 am. The heavies were a bit uncertain & shells fell in some cases 200 to 300 yds behind our men.

There was a L.M.G. & infantry post in M.B.D (abt.) 7.4.

At same time as the advance was being made on Bank 2 C.V.D Coys were on right clearing other part of village. (Gould.)

At 5 p.m. the 17 Bn informed 12 Bn that they were putting a post at junction of Rly & misty way. A patrol was going out to get touch when the Coys were relieved by 4 Bn (E.O.S of Feb. 27). During relief the Germans shelled Bank 2 with 4.2 H.E. universal.

Germans shelled LeBarque during



Sat.

R9

14

the morning incl. some heavy shells.  
It looked as if Germans had  
blown up the cellars & duputs. There  
was a crater in village just south  
of cutting of Red cut - wh had  
be blown up some small time as there  
had been fast traffic round it.

C. Coy D Coy were on right.  
They went up Blue cut at same time  
as left (A & B). There was no doubt.

Towards end of Le Barque ditch  
we getting light they found a m.g.  
ahead. It opened up the road as  
C. Coy was coming up. You could make  
your way thro the houses. The  
m.g. was in a house on W. of road.  
None was hit - the gun was high & the  
party on road got into houses. It was  
abt 150 yds away - you could see the  
flash (they must have seen party)



The road was very much broken up  
- trees across it. They tried to outflank  
the gun & bombers. One German was killed  
- the Germans cleared out - running down  
the track (Blue Cut) & got gun away  
to fire was opened on them. Some way  
back for wd as they went.

This 1st gun was at N. 7 A 1/2. 2 - an  
old Bn H. Qrs. Held up only abt 2 mins.

The advance went on & a  
min. we next fired at them thro the  
trees from abt. N 7 a. 5.5. & also from  
the crater across Red Cut at entrance  
of ligny. The right gun hit a couple of  
men but most of fire was high. The  
line was still extended (whole advance  
this way). They cleared back to the  
houses to E of road abt N 7 A 3.8  
- both guns - fired from here as troops  
advanced but cleared before they were



R9

Lt Joubert F. Z.  
 W. with C  
 Coy. Lt Hart\*

Allen with  
 with D

reached. The advance was in  
 extended order going steadily ahead -  
 Germans cleared when we were

abt 150 yds away. They were  
 too bustled - throughout the show he

we firing too high - probly by excitement.

In Leipzig <sup>our men</sup> they were sniped &  
 began clearing houses - cellars etc  
 with bayonets & bombs. In the

whole operation abt 40 Germans  
 were probly ahead - 5 or 6 were  
 afterwards lying in Leipzig. They had  
 be killed by bomb & snipers.

After clearing village (abt 1/4 hr)  
 (he cd be seen running up grass  
 slope at back of Red Cut - m.g.)

we placed on slope of Red Cut &  
 got some Germans. Finally dug  
 in from Red Cut to Quarry Cut, <sup>Chalk</sup> at

H. Q. at Quarry deep. Line was properly



organised by between 6.30 & 7 am.  
 They had started to dig & put into shell holes  
 & thrown up a bit of earth - There were  
 few shell holes, & a few rocks sticking  
 out of green -

Germans retired across open  
 to Trap 2 & trenches at N1A 7.6.  
 & along Bapaine Rd. They did not  
 sniped during day (m.p. fire) from  
 Thilloy. We had 6 casualties,  
 3 from our <sup>(24. (W))</sup> own arty & 3 from Germans.  
 (looked like 4.5 how H.K.)

At 7 am. a patrol was sent up  
 Chalk cut to near N1 central to try  
 & get touch with Germans. They were  
 fired on from Trap 2.

Day was quiet & the consolidation  
 was completed of a continuous trench  
 (Exc. on extreme rt)

Capt. Webber was hit in R58.9.



R9

visiting A Coy.

Newland was hit in rushing the strong point on Misty Way.

~~11 Bn~~ D Coy went thro' Le Barque on rt of C Coy. met a mob. in ligny firing thro wood from houses  $\swarrow$  abt from N 7 A 6.7. Lt Bensley was hit in ~~exp~~ arm w a piece of bomb from German some where near O.P. marked at 7A 9.4.

11 Bn ang. came up with 12 Bn, ~~part in Red cut; & <sup>part of</sup> the~~ 11 Bn was used for mopping up cellars in Ligny. The 11 Bn out worked thro ligny at Dominie after C Coy was in position.

Abt dusk 12 Bn estab. posts abt N 1 C. 8.6. N 1 D central & on Red cut at N 1 C. 2.6  $\frac{1}{2}$ . were relieve by 4 Bn abt 8 p.m.



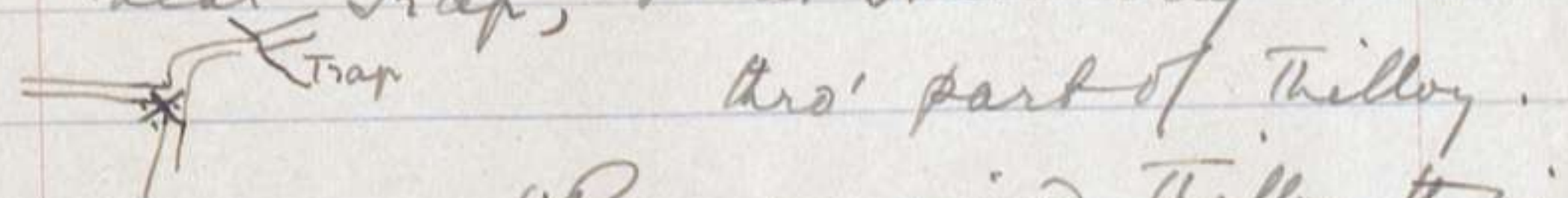
R9

(Capt Houghton & Lt Allen were also there, Allen in/c. of rt flank, & Capt Houghton to centre to take charge of line at abt 9 am. Feb. 27).

The work up malt 27 on Feb. 26. was from left of Blue Cut.

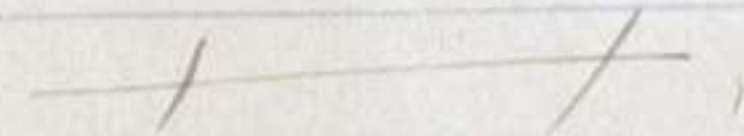
Abt 9 am. 12 Bn. (D Coy) linked up with part of 5 Bn on right.

The evg. of Feb. 27 Capt Houghton of 12 Bn went out to Trap 27 road junctn\* near Trap, & Lt Hawtley went



thro' part of Thilloy.

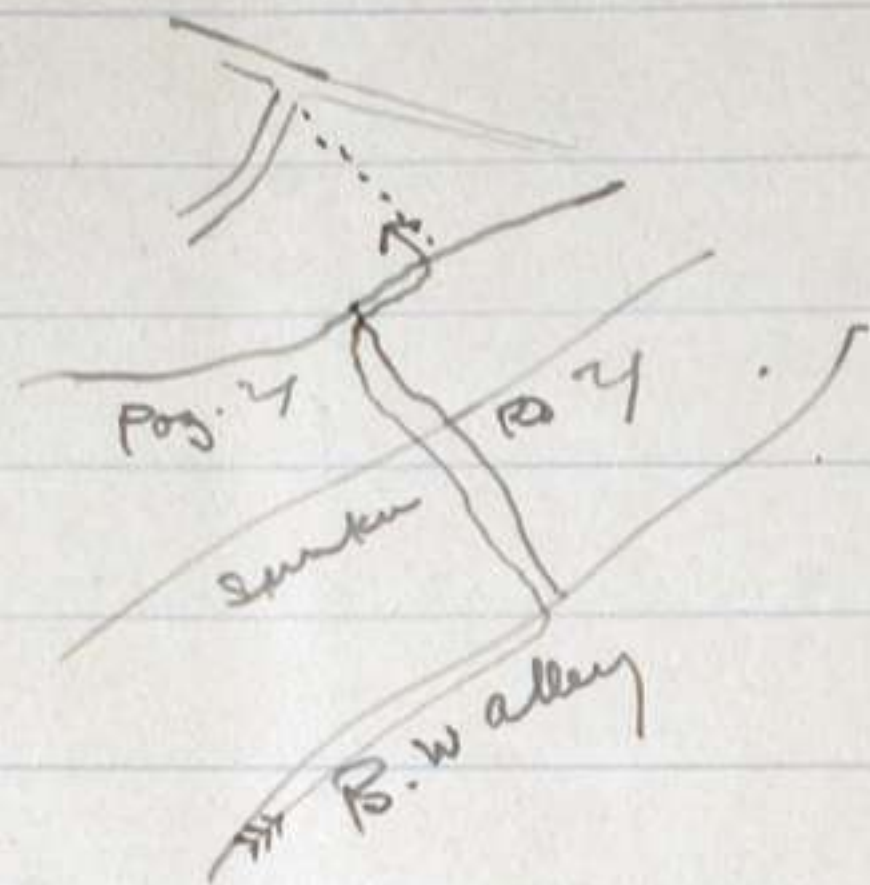
11 Bn occupied Thilloy to night.



You can see Warburton 27 from near Trap but not till 27.







## 5 Bn Pozieres.

5 Bn. Night of 24/25 July. were in B field just E.S. of Bailiff wood <sup>all 23rd.</sup> moved up. at 6 am. <sup>to Dig. at B.W. position.</sup>  
 Left Bailiff wood 8 pm 24/25. up thro' B. Watch alley by night, slight barrage. Went across Walker's 7. as marked opposite.

Tape had been laid out by Lt. H.A.M. Gray, ind. after dark this night.

Started 8 pm. due to begin firing out at 11 pm. started up to time as far as known. But there were delays somewhere up head of column. Last Coy. (C Coy) got into position at 1.56 am.

Bombt was due at 1.58. There was a very shattered bit of ground ahead & the 8 lines were not exactly formed.

At 1.45 enemy probly spotted reflection from mess tins carried on laversacks & opened sniping & m.g. fire.

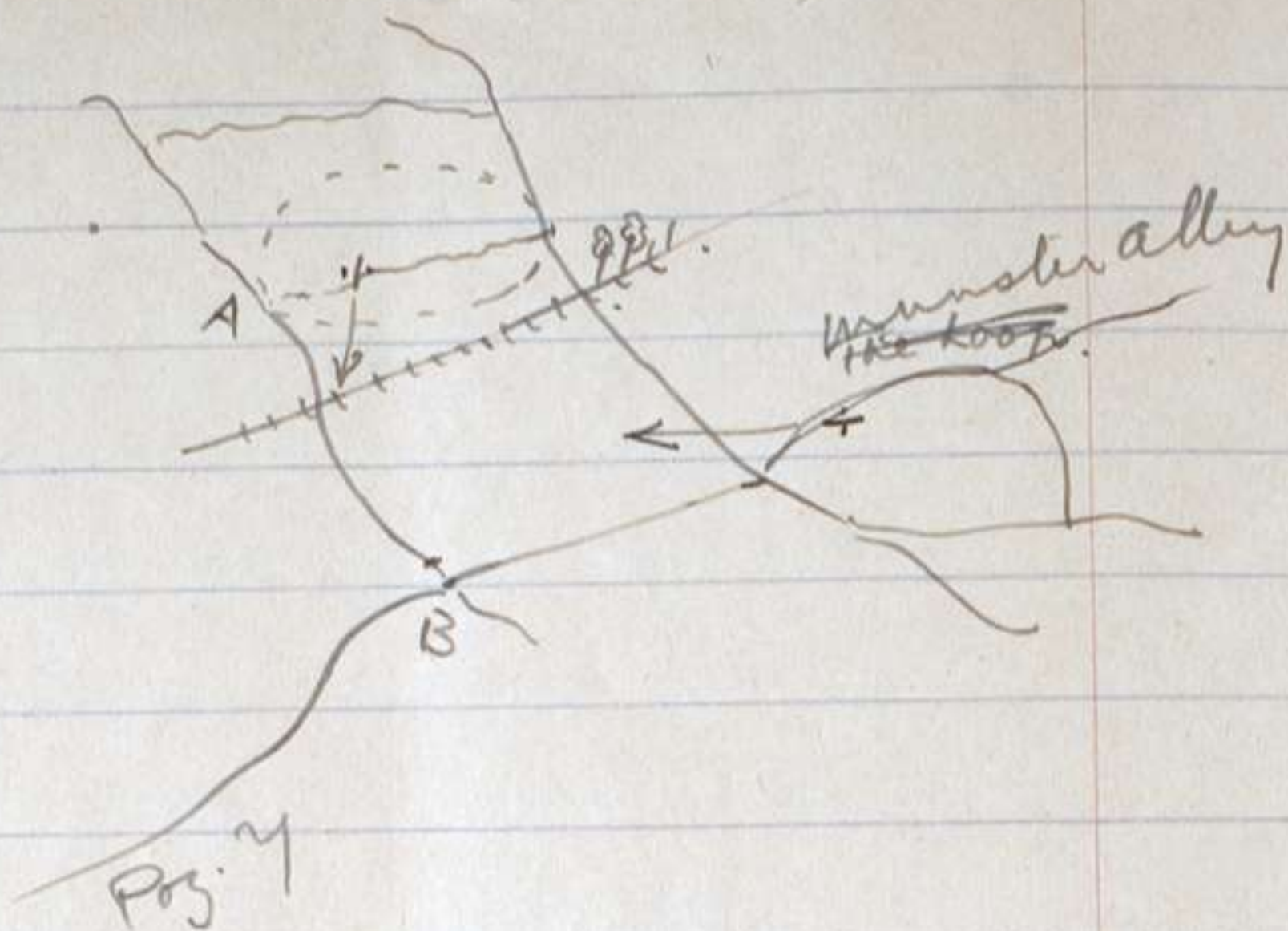
C. Coy we lined out in time.

1.58 - 2 Barrage on O.S. 1.

2 - 2.20 on O.S. 2

2.20 to lift at O.S. 2





At 2 am. the waves moved. The men lost direction owing to want of reconnaissance, bunched a bit, & ran round no man's land looking for the enemy.

At abt 2.5 they found first obje.  
- no Germans in this. M.F. fire from str. pt to N of railway - & from somewhere near Munster alley.

Tramline to Pos. 2 & M. alley was boundary.

Order was given to consolidate O.F. 1 preparatory to going on to O.F. 2.

~~2.20~~ Orders were that if it looked very risky to go on to O.F. 2 they were to be content with O.F. 1. Lilly on right flank gave order to stop in O.F. 1. Lead batt on left ordered advance to O.F. 2.

At abt 2.25 after barrage had lifted from O.F. 2 the left flank moved. Right saw them go - & it was necessary for right to move forward also.



Fire was coming from strong point. There was the same confusion between O.J. 1 & O.J. 2 as before & the men & officers didn't know whether they were in their right or not.

O.J. 1 & O.J. 2 were little more than a shallow pit at this time. There was equipment there but Germans had gone. There were no dugouts in O.J. 1 where 5 Bn got in nor in this bit of O.J. 2 — but there were more to the N.

Abt. 2.40 am. they found ~~for~~ definitely ascertained that they were in their objective, & reported to C.O. There was nobody in on right or left.

There was only the mopping up party in O.J. 1 (abt 40 men) & bombs were heard behind left in O.J. 1. Squad Fitzgerald was sent there by Capt Lillie



to O.S. 1 on left & bombs & sand bags were sent back to him from O.S. 1.

The Battalion bombers were at the junction of O.S. 2 & Munster Alley.

Lieut Fitzgerald took good bombers from O.S. 2 w him. ~~He~~ Lillie

sent back a message to C.O., asking him to reinforce O.S. 1. (Bn H.Q. was

in a depot near junction of O.S. 1

& Poz. 2 (abt 5 mins by runner).

German Barrage as well in rear.

Lieut. A. V. Carter was sent back to Bn H.Q. as no reply recd. to report

on positn. There were no reinforcements

to hand or to be had. Lieut Carter

came back abt daylight with orders

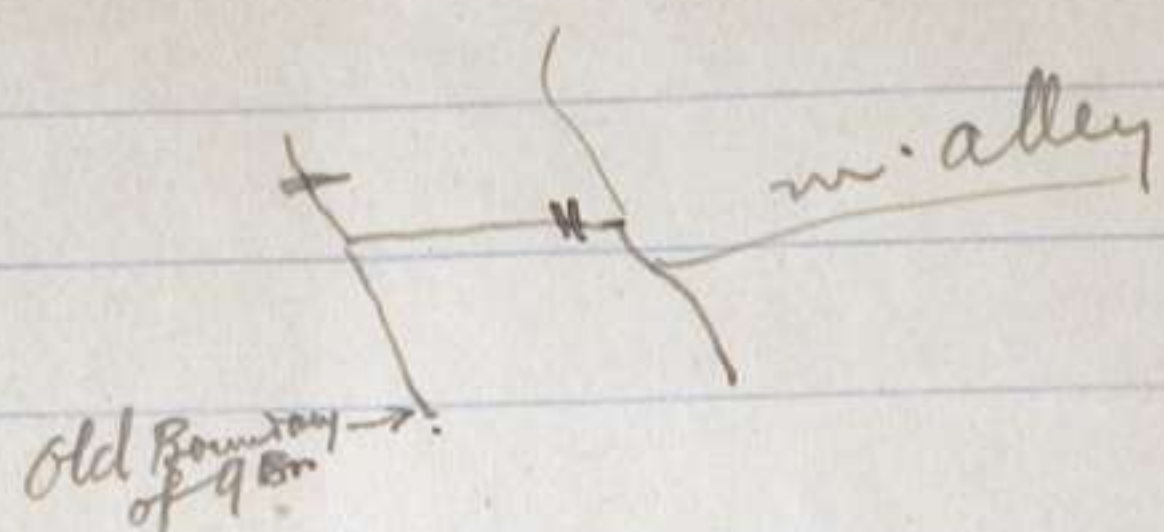
tht if O.S. 1 was not clear they were to

evacuate O.S. 2 & retake O.S. 1. It was

on the way back to H.Q. Lieut Carter

found the Commnry continuing





of m. alley into O.S. 1. The troops in O.S. 2 were right turned. The Germans cd be seen in m. alley at this time by a flare thrown up - dozens of helmets visible. The men were led back thro' the Comm 2 & a block was placed near O.S. 2 in the Comm 2. It was abt a 4th 2. They started bombing back up O.S. 1 until they were getting near 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cd see 2 trees by O.S. 1 abt level. This was abt 3.30 & daylight. Germans then began bombing back w/ idea of cutting us off in the Comm 2. 2 Platoons of 1st Pioneer Bn under Lieut Titford were digging with S-Bn in O.S. 1. When the Germans were bombing in O.S. 1 Pioneers gave a hand building barricades - both offns wd early & a Corp took charge.



There was a bomb fight from 3.30 to 4am in O.S. 1 — it went backward & forward for 100 yds. The bombs of 3rd Bde & the 2 bombs per man were used in an hour. 2 Coy of 7th Bn were <sup>then</sup> sent to Gordon Dump & all sorts of units were getting.

Skilbeck, Plt. of L. W. Co., was ordered to fire from command Y between O.S. 1 & 2 to keep past our bombers onto German bombers who used to look over before throwing bombs. He was not satisfied with this position. He got up O.S. 1 into shell hole onto right flank of bombing pt. When bombs did not hold them up, he wd run across to side of Y & fire down it. Our bombing was done from the top at sides of Y.

Skilbeck had fired down the



X ← This barricade  
 we lost & won  
 several times.  
 ← This barricade  
 held us high  
 we never taken  
 by Germans.

X The arty ~~was~~ <sup>had</sup> called on  
 to fire on the str. pt but cd  
 not well get it

Comm 2 across the tramline  
 earlier in the fight, from O.S. 2.  
 The bombers were in the open, being  
 sniped at from strong point, in order  
 to get a better range. Our snipers  
 from the lower Comm 2 cd fire  
 past the bombers at Germans  
 bringing up bombs. The best work of  
 the day was done by this bomb team.  
 Fitzgerald was k. & every man in  
 his 33 bombing team was k. or wd.  
 This practically saved the retreat from  
 O.S. 2. Fitz's was k. a little after  
 daylight.

At 9 a.m. a Stokes mortar  
 came into action & fired at  
 where Tramway crossed O.S. 1. It  
 had a fair amm<sup>n</sup> supply & there  
 were now plenty of bombs. Once the  
 Stokes M<sup>x</sup> got the range it hit the

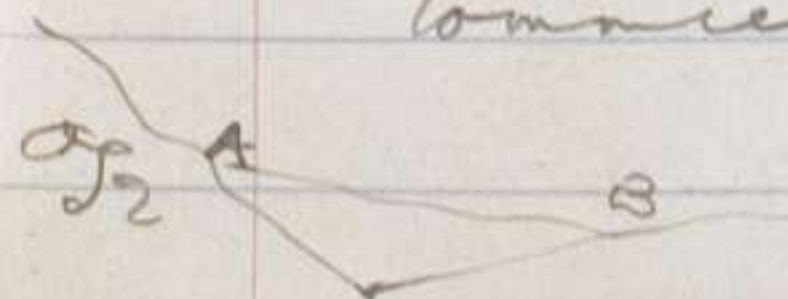


germans have it as hard as it  
 cd be fired. For 24 hrs the germans  
 never knew another bomb.

At 6am 600-700 germans made a feeble c-attack  
 or movement of remnants & came running  
 over skyline near Bp. Rd in open  
 order. They were beaten w LGs &  
 snipers.

At 9-10 germans began to shell  
 more heavily. At 10 am. waves  
 of enemy were seen coming over  
 from abt Bap. Rd to Munster alley -  
 you cd see them dropping into shell holes  
 & another wave after them.

They were also seen from 10 Pm  
 digging from O.F. 2 back towards  
 Tommies (A-B).



There may have been 2  
 Coy - or more or less



Arty got onto them & broke them up  
at once, both heavies & 157 pdrs.  
(Our <sup>own</sup> right was to some extent sheltered  
by this). ~~The only~~

abt 3 am. from O.S. 2 a man in  
an overcoat & a man without an overcoat  
were seen coming in from E of O.S. 2.  
The man in the overcoat sd he was an  
Australian, one of Capt Leadbeater's men -  
They covered him w rifles: He sd "It's  
all right, I got a bastard here, & he's  
an officer too." This offr cd talk French.  
The man had chased him out &  
caught him. The Corpl was abt 5 ft tall  
& German offr.

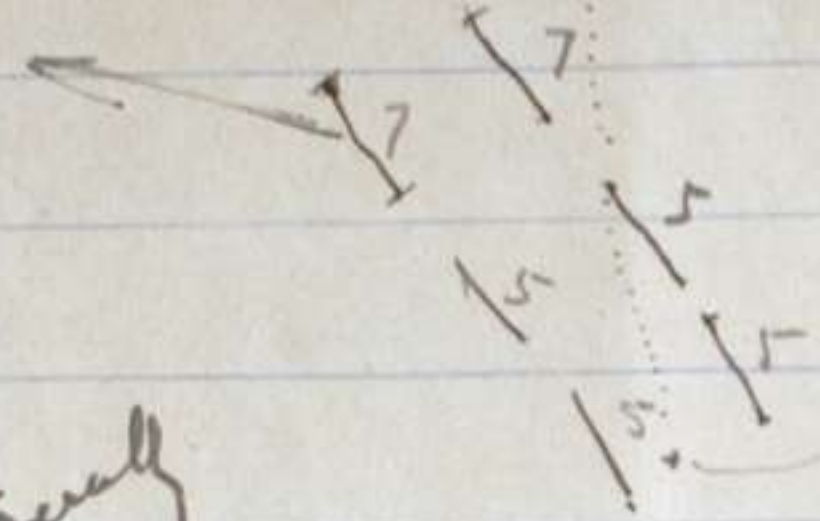
Capt Leadbeater was in the wire  
by the 2 trees - blowing his whistle in front  
of strong point north of tramway & Lieut McMillen  
was killed there too (L. Gun Officer).

The 5 Bn used up all its bombers,



The officers at very head of 5 Bn say they never saw the 7 Bn. at all. But some of head of 5 Bn were killed.

Jess' account of this wants considerably modifying.



grey peeped tape at this end - it was found there later. But the man at other end was wd & went back - so headbeater did find tape & waiter.

man at this end of tape was killed wd & tape not found. This caused headbeater to delay head of 5 Bn. Finally they moved out & charged the tape. Gray was k. in the morning he evidently stayed in as he did not come back. This was k. in bomb fight later.

There was clearly some muddle at the head of 7 Bn with 5 Bn but it is almost impossible to say what. Capt Leadbeater was at head of 5 Bn.

2nd Coy of 7 Bn was directed by 11 out on wrong side of 2, & got out towards the Copse. They charged over & found themselves charging a strong post of the 11 Bn. They 7 Bn was acting under the 5 Bn C.O. The reconnaissance was mistakable - 1 off per Coy, 30 for as I know, had to be sent up.

9 Bn sent up ~~the~~ bombers & 10 Bn, & at 7 am. the left flank was taken over by Capt Oates & Coy 7 Bn. The 67 bombers of 5 Bn were all used up. 14,000 bombs were used up there the morning. Cf. 1 long way behind from our bomb stop was a mass of wd & dead.

Wires had gone & pigeons were used. Lamp could be seen thro' smoke.

The contact plane just after 4 daylight came down low & saw our men waving - went on over Germans v. low & was hit & came down behind their lines (not a head long fall).

The casualties were abt 60pc. per bn. as it went in. (abt 450).



Let Retirement

5 Bn. Feb 24

Left 2nd Bde Boundary from Bite 2  
to E end of Ligny Thilloy.

Right. Through N 20 central + N 9 central.

5 Bn boundary from left to: ~~same~~ line  
from Sunkin Rd. at <sup>Bde Boundary.</sup> N 19. B. 5. 8 to  
N.S.C. 1/4. 1/4.

5 Bn was in Flers line when Germans  
retired + 7 Bn in line. Abt 8pm. Feb 24  
7 Bn made a move towards Bayonet 2  
after reconnaissance. A Coy 5 Bn was

sent up to old front line at 3am Feb 25

7 Bn took Bayonet 2, Juice Alley,  
line 2 + (w 8 Bn) Luesenhop + finished  
by taking Rye 2 from N 7 D 4. 4 to 8 C. 3-3.

By 2am on 26. 5 Bn. A Coy took  
over this line from 7 Bn.

Before dawn a small patrol <sup>NCO 504 pm</sup> was  
sent up to corner of Sunkin Rd leading into  
Ligny Thilloy, N 7 D 9. 9. It was not fired  
at + reached point.

Feb 25.

25/26

(X How can this be explained?)

At 2am on  
Feb 26

Patrol was sent along find  
Rye Trench + did not reach  
3rd Bde until they reached Malt 2.  
It was sent along 2ce w orders  
to meet 3rd Bde + found them  
to <sup>2nd line</sup> in Malt Trench.



Feb 26.

289.

Then a strong pt under an of. r 15 men was ordered to be estab. here. This was sent at 10.15 am under Lt Stock.

He was told to go Bde was going to try & put a str. pt at X roads at N 7 B 22. He had to try & get into touch w them.

but went further to Buchanans X  
He occupied str. ong. pt. There was a mine crater at X roads. (~~Boston~~)  
(This mine crater will definitely settle the point - it was Buchanans X)

Stock ~~Strong~~ found an old m.g. emplacement at Back. X & found an of. of 12 Bn (Lt Allen) abt 150 yds to left up in main st of King Thiloy (White St.) The 12 Bn. ~~then withdrew~~. Our guns started to shell from 11 to 1 am & post had to retire to X road further S. The guns put 2 shells into crater from wh they had retired - they came back 3 times during




Feb. 27

Night of 27/28.

shelling. 12 Bn post had returned from Ligny Thilloy - Allen left a message written to say he was going back to reform for taking Thilloy. (His coyl. was left in the village - possibly as a post).

Post was then estab. definitely at Buchanan's Post.

Next thing Carter <sup>(Alloy)</sup> was ordered to find out Tick & the how. pits. They found it was clear (on same day by daylight).  
 An <sup>15</sup> ~~off~~ <sup>platoon</sup> ~~men~~ were sent out & got there under br. g. fire from Till - one man slightly w. At night another 15 men were 'sent out to him.

They remained there all 4 days & night of 27/28. Night of 27/8 two posts were sent up, one to X roads White St. & Catapult Rd (10ft 32mm <sup>Lieut. Fiss.</sup> ~~gun~~) & one at <sup>(Lt. Maloney & 32)</sup> Fork Rds near scrub and. S. of Thilloy  ~~for~~ They had to dig



a str. pt. 3rd Bde were thro Thelloy at night.

It was abt 11pm 27/28 that the post below Thelloy was estab. Stock then was withdrawn. They dug a strong pt on E of sunken rd (not in str 2). Patrols connected up with Right Post of 1st Bde.

Feb. 28. Quiet there. Abt 8.30 on 28/1 this post was held by Maunsell, & Lt. Rigg (further S.) by Lt Hay. ~~Night of 28~~ (Maunsell & Hay)

Night of 28/1  
1/2 The two posts in Catapult Rd were held by a Coy. & D Coy. took over posts of 3Bn round Thelloy to Knotty Point. It was a quiet night till abt dawn (when night work had been covered up & some night posts withdrawn) German put down a barrage. which fell behind Catapult Rd but got D Coy on their left. All comms were cut. Abt 6.30 an enemy patrol of abt 20 were seen coming from Tick 2. They were at once fired at. A 6Bn man who was a prisoner ran out with his hands up & stopped firing. They scattered - some to rear, some to front. Lt Hay foll'd up those to S.E with a small patrol Capt (wd) 3 & 2 disappeared. The people who got behind came down White St. & then Noods behind Catapult Rd position. A Patrol went down White St. under Lt Sampson - the Germans made north, which brought them onto higher ground. There were fired on 5 k. & 5 wd. 3 prisoners. This accounted for the lot. The fog was very deep. (No casualties in this show.)

Capt Moore - Lt Pearce.  
D Coy was from little Copse (n.s. there) at Knotty Pt. in succession of 4 posts upto & incl. ~~Sunken Rd~~ <sup>Tongue trench</sup> Rd (due E) Hence continuous by round the wood to B Coy at this point. Coy H.Q. in a dug out amongst trees. Barrage started abt 6.15 heavily for 1/2 hr. abt 6.30 reports from rd & left that Germans had advanced under the barrage. Then word that Lt Smith had been wd. in No 3 post from left (not incl. n.s. post). Abt 7pm. Sentries on top reported 3 Germans in front of dugout within loading distance. Gun & No 1 post were (unknown to others) Capt. Moore came out (sentries yelled They're Here) the men from dugout cleared & fired on these 3 Germans who went back thro' wood & occupied (as we found out afterwards No 1 post from wd they'd snipe the wood or anyone going to line. Moore came to centre of line & found Lt Walters with everything quiet. M. sent him to left & M went to rd. where there was still firing. where Lt Pearce was firing at Germans in front of them. P. had Capt. abt 5 & k. 3 by pushing out a forward post (Cpl. Winklett & 3 men sent out who rounded Germans up). Moore gave instrs for prisoners to be sent back. & went to H.Q. No report from left so abtly everything O.K. At 10.45 Lt Walters sent in to say that No 1 post had been wiped out. He was fired on from there. It was impossible to get to No 1 Post till night. at night dusk Pearce & 6 men were sent out to take No 1 post. Found 3 Germans who surrendered. at the No 1 post he found the Cpl. dead & gun & rest of post missing. He removed n.s. position to No 1 post & made n.s. position an infantry post. The position of the n.s. was handed over by 3rd Bn as a good one. Post was probably taken from behind.



The lot with came apt Pearce looked abt 30 strong - coming in open. They were seen abt 40 yds away - slope was steep at abt 60 yds + enemy was under cover there. ~~They~~ (warning abt rain had not reached this post.) No 2 + No 3 posts - No 3. killed abt 10 Germans. Asst Coy at least 2 parties came out.

One German <sup>was</sup> came up to within 20 yds of No 3 post with a bomb in his hand + sd. "Surrender". He was shot + some others also.

One of the 3 Germans in the post when Pearce came upon them after getting to the m.s. post at Knolly Pt. (passing No 1 post in observing it) + came upon the 3 Germans in No 1 post. One of these chaps - a man over 6ft., a capt., said: "I am your very great friend -" Present he sd: "My father was resident in Australia 8 years". Then pointing to the body of one of men in No 1 post who had been k. He sd. "I am no criminal."

One wd German (of the <sup>5</sup> Gren.) was lying outside No 2 post wd. ~~back~~ abt 3 yds away, beckoning his mates to come on + he himself was trying to bomb the post. He was <sup>then</sup> shot from No 3 post. He was crawling up to the post trying to bomb them. Orders had been given not to shoot him till he started to move.

I lost one man k by bomb, 2 by shell, + 5 by sniping thro' head - + 2 wd thro' head! W Smith.

Nos 1 + 2 Posts showed the lack of spirited N.C.O.s (now more apparent) on whom Victorians always lean more heavily than most, I think. The capt. w/ 1 m.s. (1 ~~platoon~~ + 4 <sup>5</sup> men) was a brave man + was killed.

No 2 post was quite covered by the Garrys + wd not defend itself properly - kept low in the hole it was defending instead of standing up + firing as Walters <sup>shouted to</sup> urged it to do. They did not attract the mens attention from his post.



R.9  
12 Bn. Mouquet 9 Feb 24  
July 19 1916. 1917  
5 Bn. Pozieres (O.G.) 8 Feb  
1917.  
NANCY & FRÈRES  
e des Soe... ALEXANDRIE ( Egypte )