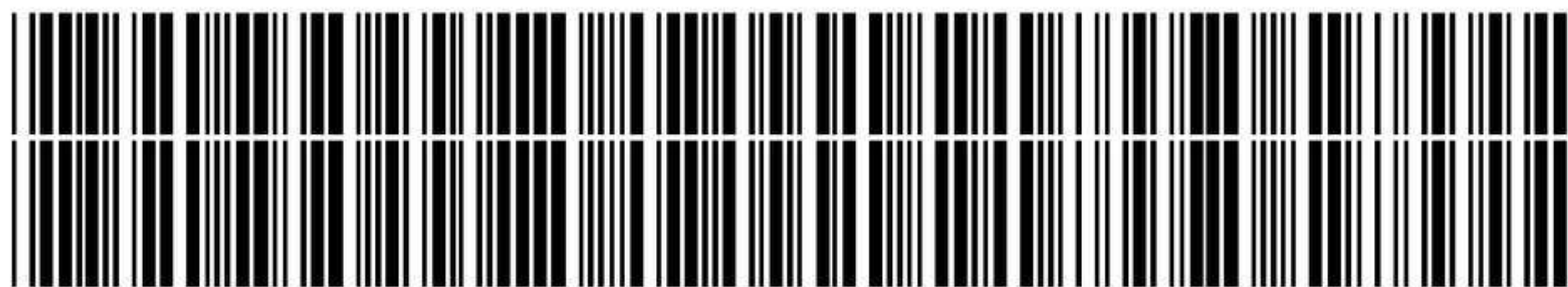


**AWM38**  
**Official History,**  
**1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,**  
**Official Historian.**

Diaries and Notebooks

**Item number:** 3DRL606/130/1

**Title:** Notebook, 1916 - 1917  
Includes references to the 18th and 19th  
Battalions and Pozieres.



AWM38-3DRL606/130/1



DIARY NO. 130

30RL 606 ITEM 130 [1]

AWM38

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 ~~ALSO~~ ~~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.

OPEN

18 Bm.  
see 16 Bm.

19 Bm.

130



10

1

18 Bm. 20  
see 18 Bm.

19 Bm.

130



~~Peace was declared  
(semicolor) Bruce  
retired to bed ...  
(full stop)~~



B. Br. Pziers

22/7/16 Marched from  
Warley to Brickfield  
[a man in morning woke  
up & sd "Fanny Durack"  
we still there!]

23. Sent carrying ptis  
to Sanson fully who  
worked to line for 36 hrs.

24/25. Bn moved by platoons  
to Sanson valley &  
bivouaced in old 1st  
German line.

25. Enjoyed carrying  
food.



On 25<sup>th</sup> C.O. + adjt went up  
 to reconnoitre + the night  
 Bn moved up + relieved  
 12 Bn. in line on E side  
 of Pozieres at 9pm. by  
 Blackwater alley.

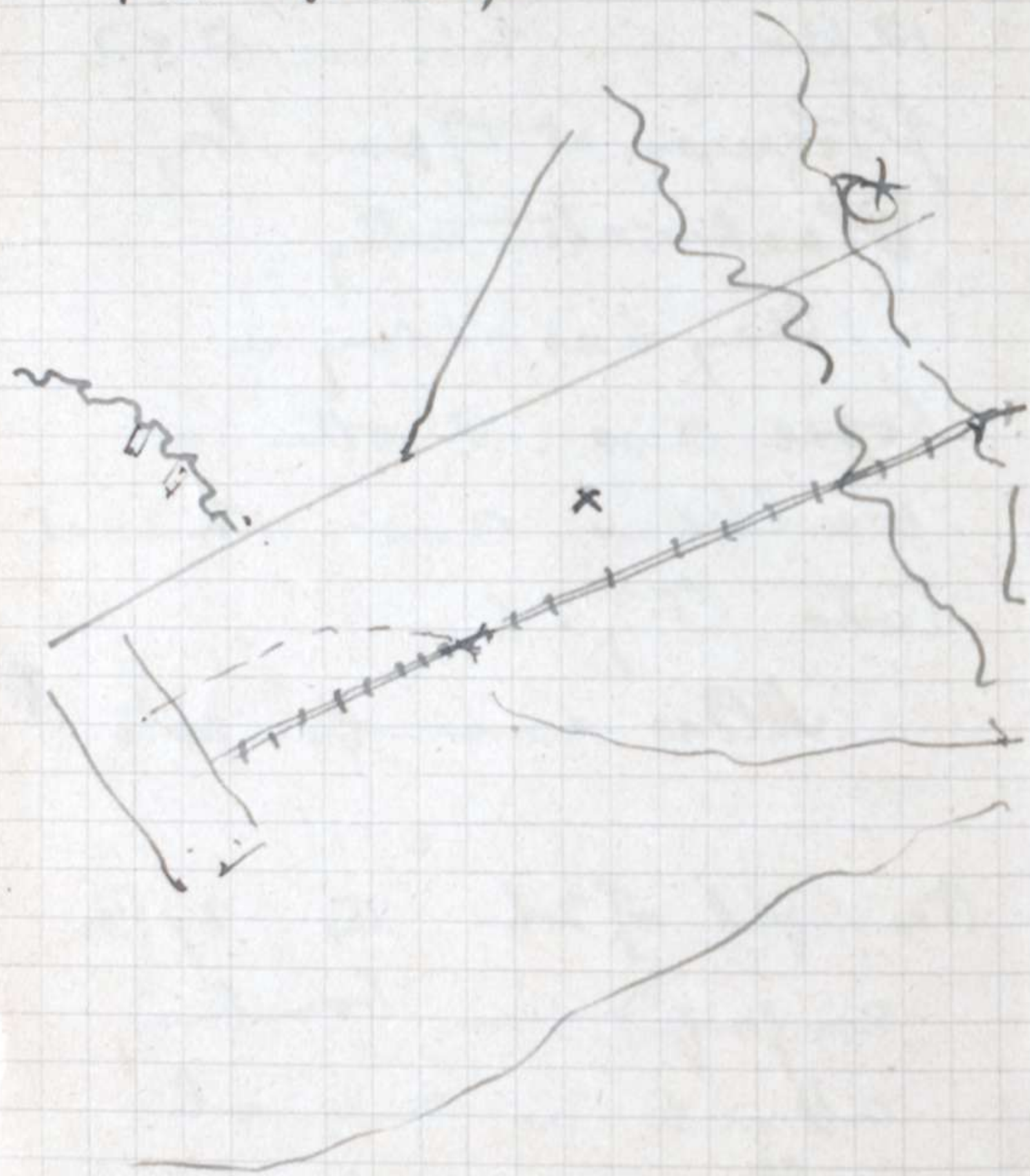
They had 1 coy in  
 Copse ave. another in  
 walkers ave wh went  
 towards O.G. 1.

Also near gun pits.

On night of 26 the 17 Bn  
 engaged in bombing  
 attack in main street  
 alley. H.Q. bombing  
 pln (off + 54 or) + one coy  
 incl. coy bombs.



\* Lt Col. Wilkins, C. Coy (in one pln)  
 got in & used the butt of his rifle on  
 Germans in this attack. The Fitz Gibbons  
 stood out in front of by throwing bombs  
 when they were advancing up Münster  
 alley. (both of 18 Bn).



10  
 & one pln<sup>x</sup> were sent up <sup>5</sup>  
 to help 17 Bn.

The offr (Lt Docker) & <sup>Curil</sup>  
 all exc. 7 of our of bombing  
 pln came back.

26<sup>n</sup>  
 27<sup>n</sup> } Enemy's shelling  
 heavy on all this  
 area.

Evng. 27<sup>n</sup> orders were  
 recd to put out a  
 strong pt in front of  
 Tramway & toward  
 windmill SE of Rd x  
 on a bit of a rise.  
 The sector (day by B Coy)  
 was afterwards known



as Trunway 4.  
 Capt. Frank Coen was  
 k. on this. The shelling  
 was heavy from both sides.  
 Lint. Picot was k. by a shell  
 during 1 digging of this,  
 & Lints. Bolton Wood &  
 Porter wd.

These were deepened  
 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

In this digging operation  
 & reconnoitering 30 men  
 were k. & 8 wd.

Col. Murphy was hit by  
 fragment of shell reconnoitering  
 in 18 near strip, on 27  
 July.



Came out on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>.

k. or.  
60 ftrs. 86

w 16 ftrs 423 or.

m. 50 or.

Hospital, sick & block.  
1 ftr. 75 or.

On Aug 4. The 10<sup>th</sup> Bn  
recd. report of 40 or.  
at Bn H.Q. 2 shells  
fell into them, 2 k. 2 3rd.

4/5 of 1 & 2 were attacked.

The Str. Point was connected  
by a sap after it had been  
dug (in order not give  
Enemy observation). This  
was not clear of 27 Bn  
until 8.35 pm. inst. of  
7.30 pm.

All waves in position  
by 9 pm. Capt Bruce  
began to move waves  
by 2s + 3s into 10 x



10 9.18 attack.

Kirke k. at O.S. 1.

7 Bde men a good deal  
in O.S. 1  
third wave went into O.S. 2.  
Men went beyond it  
as it was obliterated.

Capt Bruce & Capt Hobbs  
were both in the windmill  
got an officers sword  
iron + etc. from the  
dump there.

Serjt Boyson with L.G.  
<sup>actually</sup> got onto enemy retreating  
retreating over the crest.

Capt Sadler & ~~Capt~~ <sup>Lieut</sup> Doyle were  
wd shortly after O.S. 2  
was reached - Lt Hobbs  
was in/c till <sup>Lieut</sup> Walklate  
and just after midnight.



Touch was obtained  
with 20 Bn on it but  
not with 27 Bn on  
left. Left flank was  
therefore refused & 2 sq  
posted. This was case  
till daylight when  
touch obtained with  
27 Bn. + digging of 2  
towards Papanum Rd  
began. This was completed  
during day.

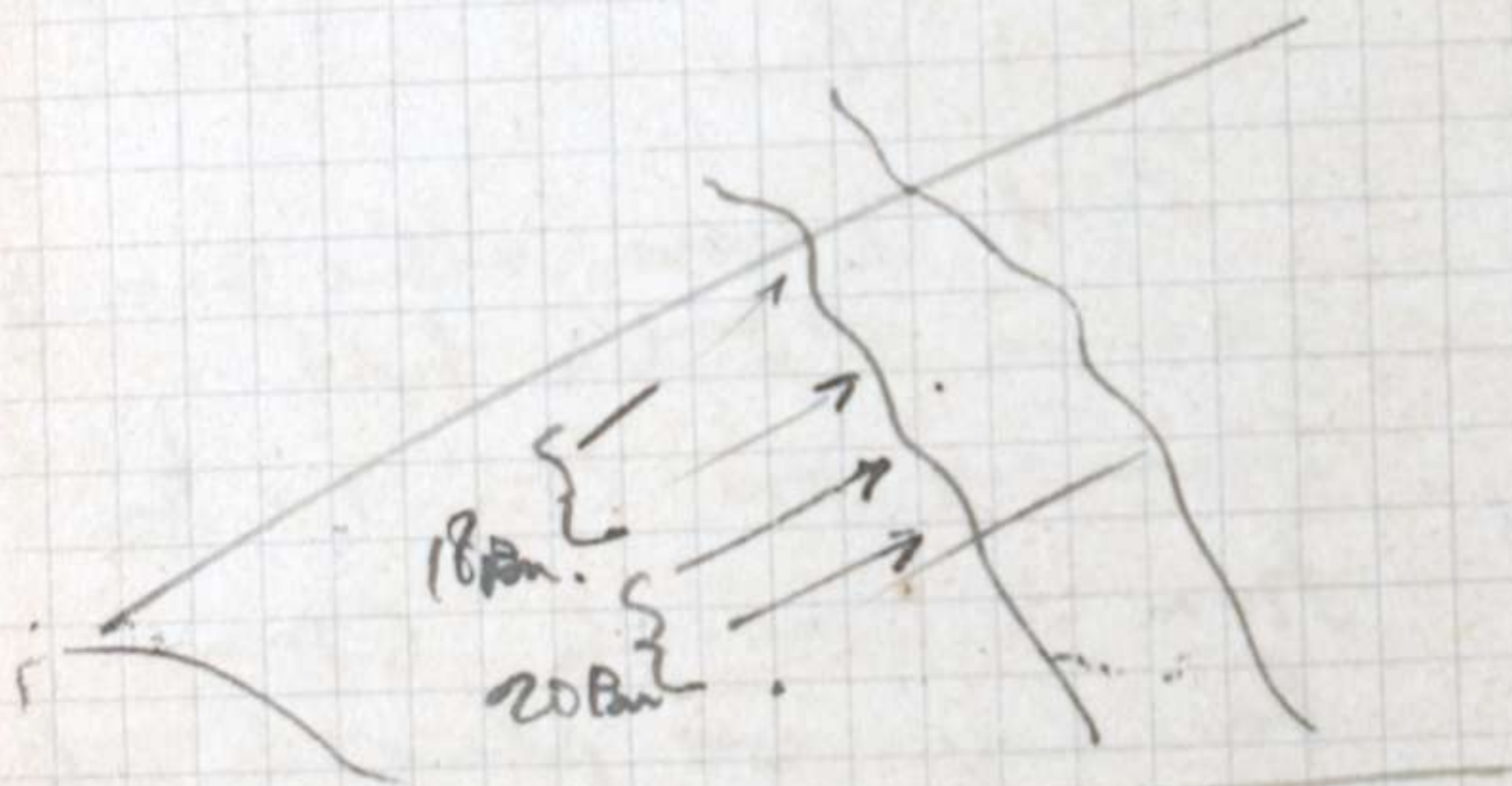
Abt 2 hours after assault  
Germans started heavy  
barrage on O.F. 1 & 2  
from 5 am. to 6 pm.  
barrage was placed all  
along our front.  
were no obstacle bay-



quite  $\frac{1}{2}$  casualties caused  
by our guns during attack  
& after in front of  
arty didn't have by 2  
marked - & Bn lost  
150 men this way.

abt 50 prisoners taken.

Objcs. O.G. 1 betw. leaning  
telegraph post & Bap. Rd.  
O.G. 2. on same post.



The windmill was not taken  
by 18 Bn but was looted by them

<sup>10</sup> 21st Aug. Savage July.

23 Aug. 4 am. moved  
into line, relieving 20 Bn.  
Digging.

6 pm. Came out on night 26/27.  
Marched back at 6 pm.  
1 am. moved back.

9 am. 27th Aug. came  
back again to back area.

There

There was a smoke  
barrage put up by Stokes  
& mortars.

Keppel was w/c. Officer of  
Bn at the time, & in bombing  
deposits is sd to have thrown a  
rum jar down when he had nothing  
else to throw.

Bruce & Porter went across to it -  
& heard someone shouting - this was  
Keppel - who caught them up - it was  
a very hot shop.



Malt 7 x

24 Feb to 2/3/17.

---

22/3 + 23/4 Feb. a  
marked decrease of  
activity.

18 Bn was thinking  
of raiding Sird & fallwitz 7  
(along whole front).  
On night of 23/4 a  
patrol under Serjt.  
Maclaren went out  
into enemy wire. On  
earlier patrol of N.C.O  
& 3 men was nearly  
nipped on wire by a  
strong German patrol of abt



16 men who were  
 in B, to our rt  
 of Butte, intently watching  
 our Z. They did not  
 notice our small  
 pt behind them.  
 The N.C.O found a  
 small J. patrol to  
 left - turned rt, &  
 found another to right.  
 One seemed less vigilant  
 than other - The Patrol  
 worked back. It was a  
 standing order w/ 1 Bn  
 a if Germans had a  
 patrol out a fighting patrol  
 (10 Hrs. 20 or 4 L.S.) wd go  
 out at once without reference



to H.Q. This under  
 Serjt. Maclaren went out  
 at once — wandered for  
 1½ hrs & found no one,  
 no maps or T175 from  
 1st Coy — but flares further  
 back. They reported this.  
 That set Bn thinking at  
 once. Dummies were  
 exposed & drew no fire.  
 Some <sup>then</sup> Offrs walked abt  
 in places where death  
 wd be certain, & drew  
 no fire.

It was certain Germans  
 had left front line.



Night of 24/25 Feb  
 was very dark, &  
 heavy fog wh. made  
 keeping direction v.  
 difficult - it was  
 very easy to get  
 lost. A few German  
 snipers were in  
 B in shell holes -  
 very active.

By midnight CO. was  
 out at the Butte.

Our people were  
 naturally suspicious  
 of the Butte & gave it  
 generally a berth.



The party of survey  
 at first held up  
 ret of 18 Bn w/s  
~~probably~~ in the Northern  
 of two rds, Blue or yellow  
 cut, whichever is N-west.

25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

18 Bn had its  
 left flank on Bap Rd,  
 20 Bn N. of Rd. They  
 occupied L2 Barque  
 Switch, but Malt 2  
 was held them up.  
 They reached Thames  
 Dip! along edge of Bap.  
 Rd wh covered them  
 from left but not from



right. They got forward  
in 25 & 30.

Advance against wall  
by at 5 p.m. from Thames  
ditch. V. little arty  
preparation. Advance  
we held up by inf.  
rifle fire almost immediately  
after leaving Thames  
Ditch. (The Germans had  
a trench dug along an old  
dry water ditch, &  
a switch light rly running  
towards LeBarque -  
& a few trucks on it.)

2 Corps went over.  
Left (C) Coy lost 38 men out  
of 98 - any wd man who



moved us shortly  
 snipers. In trying to get  
 them in 7 out of 8 sbs  
 in one coy were hit 4 k.  
 rest wd. One German  
 was seen in ~~tree~~ near  
 Battery Copse, 1 k. by  
 L.S.

After dark a second  
 attempt was made -  
 18 Bn slipped under cover  
 of bank of Warburton  
 12 Parque Rd. & went  
 over top. It was abt  
 60 or 70 yds. Wire  
 was 1/2 way & uncut.  
 They made 3 attempts



(account of this in  
Bde. Operation Summary)

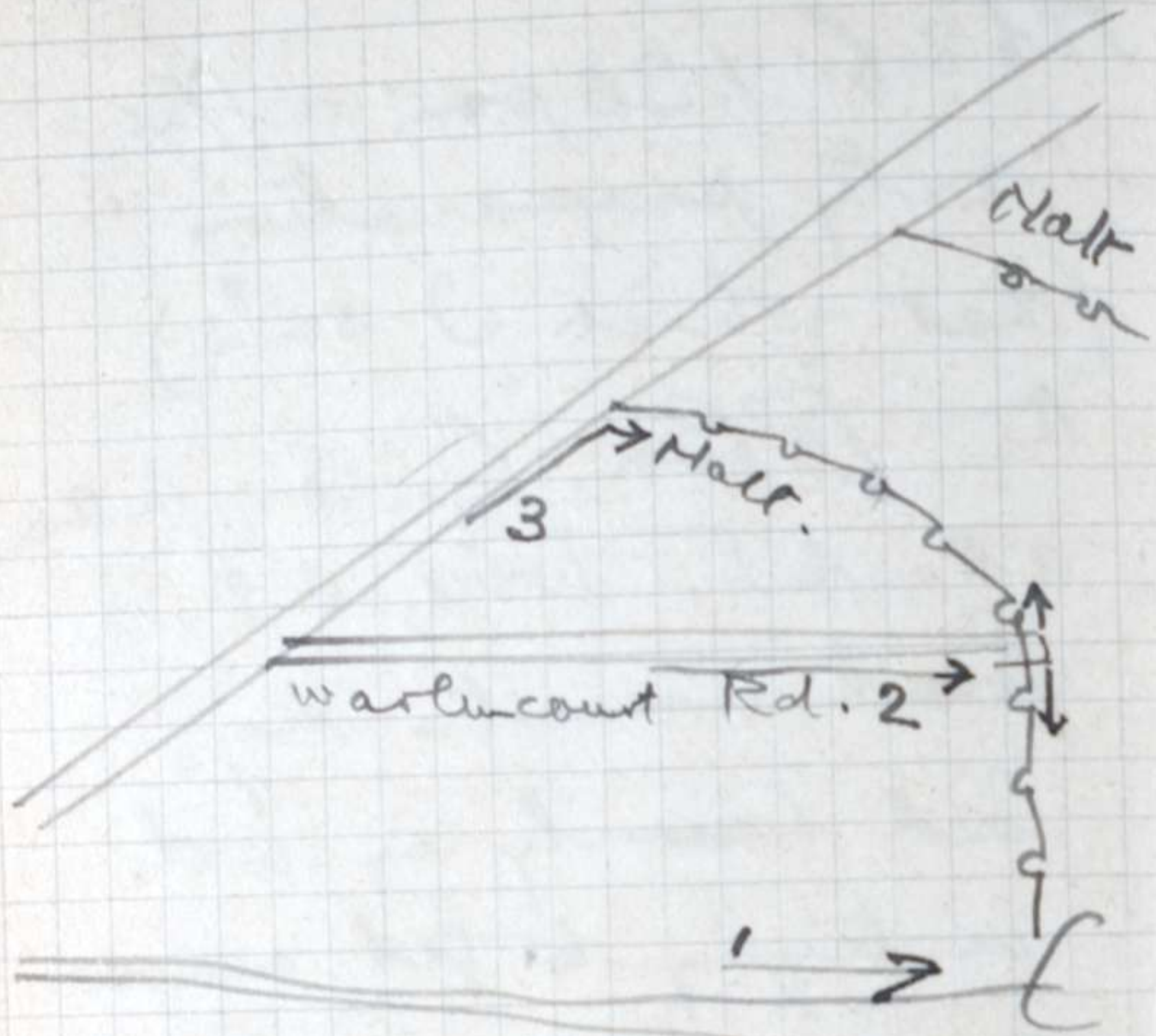
Warlincourt Rd was  
enfiladed by us  
so it was decided to  
withdraw before daylight  
Feb 26.

Stokes mortars were  
obtained & started  
at 6.40 am. from  
just N. of Bapaume Rd.  
[O.C. 18 Bn got them  
moved on 27 Feb to  
J. of Bap. Rd onto  
Warlincourt Rd.]



Feb 26. 1.30 p.m. after  
 "arty preparation"  
 (that which I saw)  
 the T.Bn. C. Coy in 2 waves  
 attacked. Wire was  
 found uncut. They  
 lost heavily in wd.  
 in trying to get across  
 250 - 300 yds, (in two  
 + 38) to get into position  
 100 yds from Malt 2.  
 Attack postponed.  
 Subsequent attack at  
 3.40 if wire cut, was  
 the one I saw.





10 It was postponed.

That night ~~at~~

3 ptees were sent to bomb into

Malt 2 p.

Party got in first  
 (No 2 Lt Hickey - working to left.  
 + Irving to rt - got in on Warlencourt Rd.  
 met Davies (1st Pz on rt of rd.)

Support

) Battery Copse.

German were still in Le Bourne.

The rt of Malt was held, while Hickey went up Malt 2 p to left. He was hit by a stick bomb (4 standing together, only Irving left) abt 90 yds up. Germans

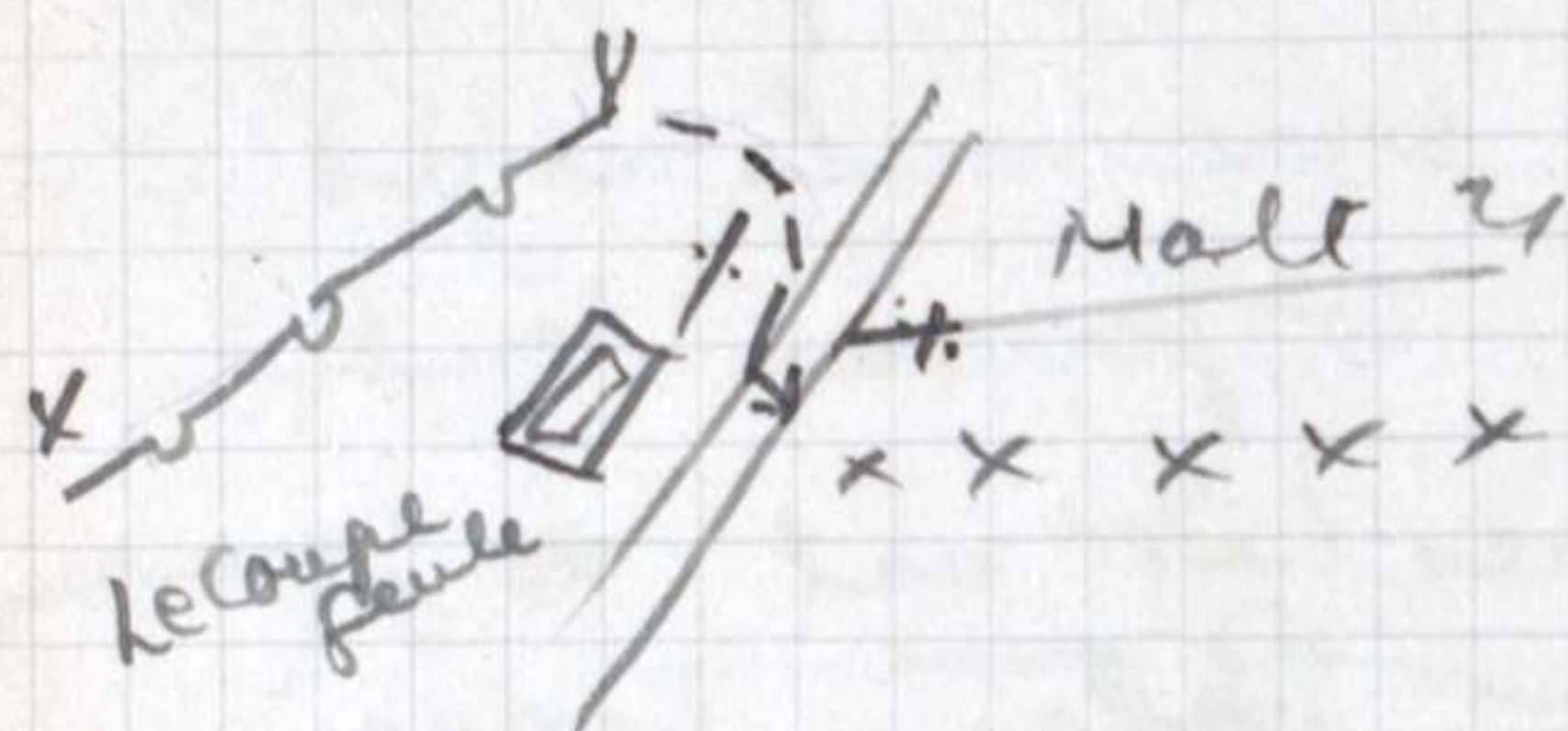


had a block there.  
They made several  
bombing attacks  
up to stop but  
were outwitted  
w German bombs.

Davies had met a German  
near Battery Copse -  
they ran into village.

Irving thought it might  
be Hills ptly bombing  
down (No 3). He stood  
up & shouted "Steady on  
Jack!" But he knew  
Hills lot had no helmets  
There was a man  
facing him waist high  
w a helmet, some





way back. <sup>man</sup> He fired  
 a revolver & missed  
 him. Irving also missed  
 & got of 20 3 words as  
 1 Hun ran along low  
 parts of 21.

Hills pt (3) got  
 along ditch on S side  
 of Bap. Rd under  
 wire. There was a  
 m.f. on both sides  
 of rd.

Trench XY 20 ft deep  
 malt 21 wire.

30 ferns came out  
 as marked 1, 2, 3



10 bombed. We had to retire  
Cpl. Nipperess & Pte  
Allsopp on L.G. All  
Allsopp's crew were  
shot beside him, &  
he was wd in 1 eye.  
He held on, put a  
co. out of action  
& 1 pty was withdrawn  
under Allsopp's fire.  
Nipperess went back  
under. I wire & brought  
3 wd men back under  
wire along ditch,  
& then 2 dead men  
whom he put under  
the bank, so to serve



Feb 27

10 ~~do not get identification~~ <sup>28</sup>

2 more attempts  
were made this way,

unsuccessful. Then  
at daylight on Feb. 27  
Stokes nos. were

brought + put behind  
Warlunet. Rd S. of

Bap. rd. There  
were rifle grenades

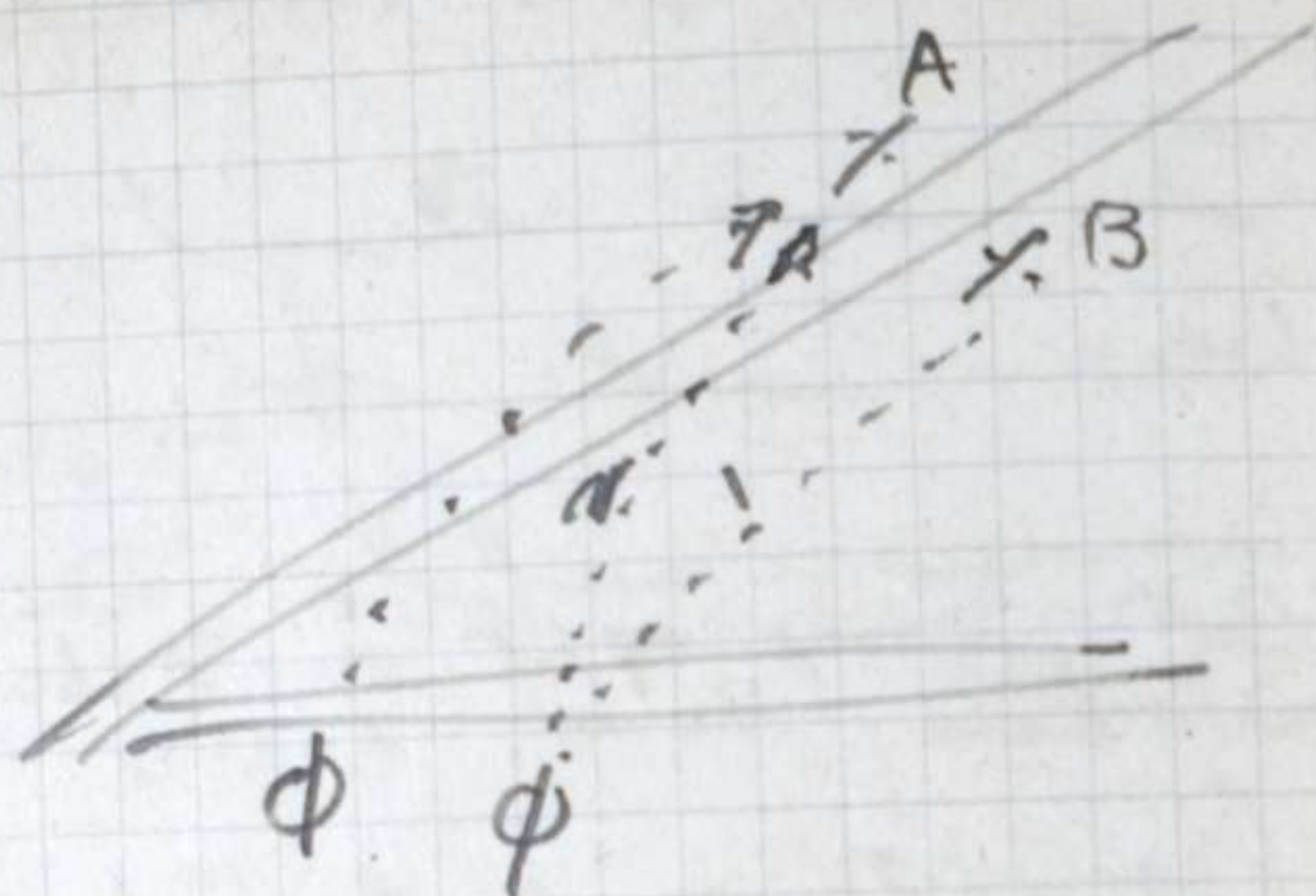
along wire to rt &  
at block, & L-S.

along Bap. Rd.

Both Stokes at daylight  
fired at mps. on  
either side of rd.

Left Stokes gun w/ S  
switched off onto the





10 Northern w.f. (as  
 marked (2)) while  
 infantry rushed at m.g.  
 B. ~~A party was~~  
~~L.G. g.~~ The front ply  
 failed at wire near  
 B. Party on rt got over  
 block in 2y. Germans  
 ran to left rear.  
 L.G. got up Bap. Rd  
 on N side & opened on  
 Germans as they ran  
 towards Loupart Wood.  
 A small ply reconstrued  
 Malt Support & found  
 it unoccupied.  
 18 Bu was held by 17 Bu



in Daylight.

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10 Bn.

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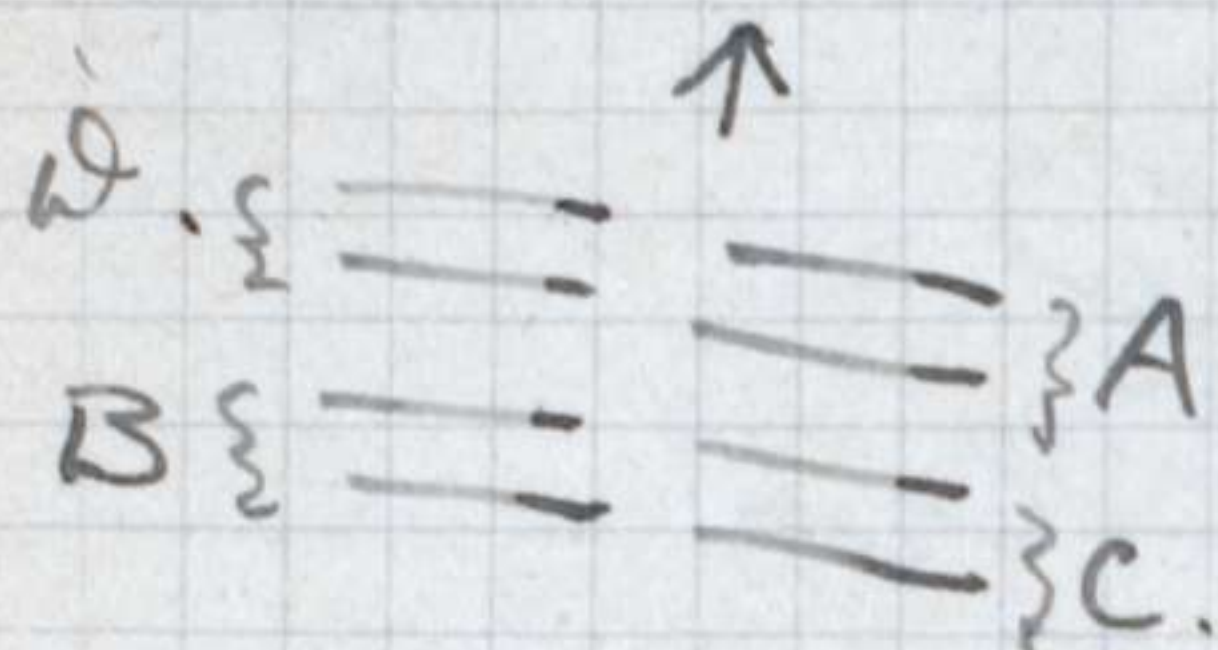
2/3 May.

H Qrs in small dugout  
in Sunken Rd at C5B1.7

18 Bn w/ 5, 6, 7, 8 waves  
on left. Work began at  
Reinct. to mop up  
left side of Reinct.

20 Bn were to do  
right of Reinct & form





3 offrs in each line  
1 offr. per line kept  
back at H.Q.

flank to right. 18 Bn  
had nothing to do  
with O.S. 1 or 2.

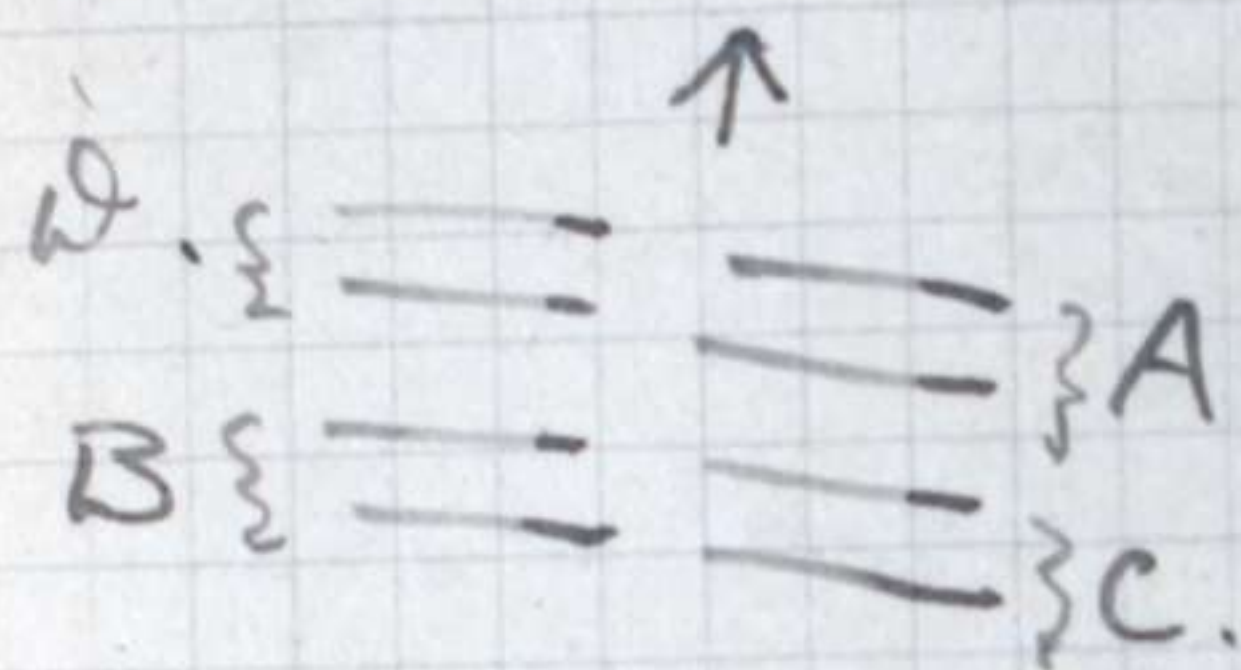
17 & 19 Bns had to  
do O.S. 1 & 2., Sunken  
Rd & 2 y ind. in  
front of Rein court.

The waves were in  
B in front of sunken  
Rd. They were all  
in place & reported in  
place by 3.32.

At 3.42 German opened  
on Rd, Rly Embankt &  
Cross Rd near tank

Our barrage at 3.45.  
The Germans had put down





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1 offr. per line kept  
back at H.Q.

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on Rd, Rly Embankt &  
cross Rd near tank

Our barrage at 3.45.  
The Germans had put down



10

a similar barrage <sup>from 34</sup> several  
 day before. The Germans  
 blew up one of our  
 dumps several days  
 before - in B3de area  
 behind the Rly Embankment.  
 He ~~probably~~ <sup>almost certainly</sup> expected an  
 attack abt this hour one day.

At 3.47 the message  
 came down that 1 waves  
 were all off in good order.

At 3.48 German barrage  
 came down on Sunken  
 Rd where HQs were  
 just behind our men -  
 w. few casualties.

At 3.51 Red flares <sup>(German)</sup> were  
 seen - ~~probly~~ in O.G. 2.



At 4.20 an officer - Capt. Parsons <sup>with his men</sup> came back at sd that an ofr had given order to retire. He is now under arrest.

He was ordered to go up again at once - but was to return

At 3.53 the first wd man came in - w. bullet in leg - All waves, as sd, were moving on.

At 4.8. Red & white flares in pairs were seen near junction of O.G. 1 & Road in 29A.

At 4.17 another wd man came in from near wire & sd enemy's fire was v. heavy.

A m.g. near Sans Souci was causing trouble as 1 wave reached wire - & there was probably a tendency for the rest to keep away from it.



x

This began betw. 4:30 am &  
5 am.

Both right & left speak  
or 1 other crowding in.

The shape of the wire  
probly caused 1 man  
to lose direction. Possibly



The cause /  
was the  
shape of  
wire at  
held up

centre a little while

Each flank tended to  
go into it at right angles.

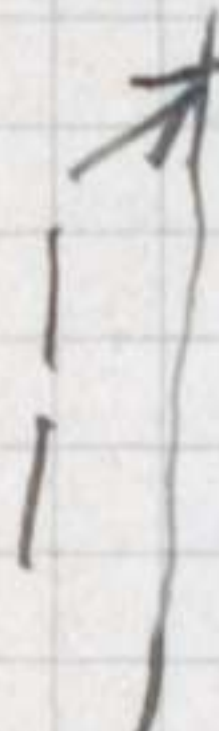
Most or 1 man of all  
units came back<sup>x</sup> into  
the Sunken Rd in 5ar B.  
6<sup>th</sup> Bde had taken.



10

39

Two offrs of 18 Bn were sent with parties to work up behind the rd in 29 A + C & then cut across to rt front. They met a plty of 7th Bde, & went w them, & some got in near O.S. 1. The rest lined the Rd in 29A + C. under inf. fire. The rest worked back from rt to the Rd & up Rd into O.S. 1. Gritten (Liaison offr. of 5th Bde. with 6 Bde). with Rentoul came into





Sunken Rd w party  
of men - They started  
an advance from Sunken  
Rd on rt of 29A+C Rd.  
abt 10 men followed each.  
Irving joined them.

Gitten (<sup>20 Bn</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>arty</sup> ~~arty~~ <sup>Offr.</sup> - Stokes  
Mortar man) was on top  
of bank with a bayonet  
only in his hand shouting  
"I'm going to take O.S. 1 & O.S. 2!"

Noone knew him or got up to follow him  
He knew nothing of Infy work.

Geldchrist was seen later  
by Irving - in O.S. 1 for abt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, leading bombing, &  
jumping upon parapet in  
m.g. fire - he had a grey  
jersey & a rifle & bayonet -  
He was calling to men in



18 Bn lost 64 out of  
88 NCOs in this fight  
+ 12 ofrs (out of 22 incl.  
doctor + everyone).

Shell holes outside to come <sup>42</sup>  
in & make a frontal  
attack while others bombed.

Col. Murphy got up  
& sd to men "Come on  
men." Betw 200 & 300 men  
followed. R flank kept  
closing in. There was only  
arty fire (except for  
3 or 4 snipers) till waves  
reached the wire. Then  
the w. fs opened. They  
cd be seen, as wave  
approached, kicking up  
two patches of dust

Wt gradually moved in  
until they met. They



10  
 seemed to be ranging by  
 observation. The advance  
 was just one stroll - a  
 walk at trail over rifle  
 slung - not a rush in 1  
 man. Rt flank (on  
 rd thro C. 5 B 6 O. 9. 1)  
 began to give. Col Murphy  
 moved but to steady  
 them. Offrs & NCOs  
 seemed to be picked  
 out by snipers.

Men came on again  
 with Col. Murphy. Left  
 began to go.

The cause of trouble on  
 left seemed to be guns  
 on Bullecourt Heights.



18 Bn Inf. Offr.  
 Lt Drummond crawled up at  
 abt 8 a.m. It was decided  
 to rush O.S. 1 at once.  
 But enemy was waiting.  
 Before 2 yds Drummond,  
 (in Drummond's case)  
 at least 7 2 men were k.  
 beside the Colonel, 2 men  
 were falling fast. Col.  
 called out to men to  
 dig in & hang on & they  
 dug in on edge of wire.

Rd. [This would be abt 5.15.]<sup>45</sup>  
 Seeing difficulty so great, Col.  
 Murphy decided to hang on  
 near wire. X

The left got in. Irving  
 saw Gilchrist abt 10 mins  
 after he got in - when he  
 came over the parapet.  
 Irving was abt 50 yds  
 up ~~the~~ ~~bank~~ O.S. 1 from  
 the Lunken Rd at 1 time.

A party got in abt 100  
 yds further on rt.

Irving with abt 4 men  
 got in abt 50 yds E of  
 Lunken Rd; to E of this

was a communication  
 East of this again was this



party of the 18th Bn.

Irving (left) Pty was bombed  
 at once back to Lunken Rd.  
 As they were bombing Gilchrist  
 got in. He was driven back  
 to Lunken Rd with them; Irving,  
 Gilchrist, Davies of 18 Bn.  
 (without his hat)  
 (who came over with the  
 left pty with 7th Bde) organised  
 several bombing attacks  
 up the trench. They  
 bombed 1 German up  
 past the Comm 2 &  
 Irving thinks that they joined  
 up with the pty to the E of the  
 Comm 2. Lt Porter was  
 K. somewhere up there,  
 probably in the 1st assault.



IRVINE  
 17

big mail

They wd get up 150 yds  
 & be bombed back again -  
 Got into O.F. 1, 3 times  
 Each time driven out. There  
 was no bombing in O.F. 2  
 at this time. 28 Bn  
 was bombing there in 1  
 afternoon.

Irving reached a  
 German m.f. & turned it on  
 Rieint, but Germans  
 re took it & removed it  
 before we reached the  
 point again. 14 prisoners  
 were sent back from  
 O.F. 1. Sometime in 1  
 afternoon, after 28 Bn  
 were in there, Irving went  
 in there & threw. They got



Casualties in operation  
Summary are correct  
Exc. That 8 ofrs were wd;

4 k. (12)

NCOs (correct).

O.R. ~~at~~ only 54 now  
unaccounted for - rest  
(320) wd. or k. (2  
turned up).

10 beyond the Common sap - 50  
[Difficulty was to keep Rifle grenades  
up to them -].

H.Q.s Relieved by 10 Bn. at  
4:20 am May 4. in Pley.

2nd Bn took over in line  
& took H.Q.s in Franken Rd.

Last time Irvine saw  
Jillchrist was at 9 am.  
in O.S. 1. He was up on  
1 parapet ~~a foot~~  
several times & his  
main idea seemed to  
be to get men from  
shell holes on it to  
make a frontal attack.  
But he was not known  
to 1 men -



10 The <sup>O.S. 1</sup> trench to the E of the 51  
Sunken Road was at this time  
a trench in good order,  
& with fairly clear cut  
banks.

---

There were abt 50 to 60  
men in the area in front  
of O.S. 1. Wd men began to  
move back & were  
sniped & shelled by 1 enemy  
who used his rifle  
whenever the slightest  
movement showed.

Abt 5 L.G.s were here -  
2 of these were in one position  
of the men there the whole of one  
crew & 3 of 4 of other crew were  
k by shell fire.



A plane came over during morning, very low, within 200 feet, at time when Germans were shooting at our men. He waved at our men. Then he dived 5 times at Germans, ~~they~~ ~~open~~ firing at them with mgs. The men used to get up in these intervals & try & settle the mgs. wh were firing at the carriers in the bomb attacks. Germans dropped to his & after a while instead of turning all his mgs onto



53

Some of 26 Bn were  
in the attacks this m. 9.

10

the plane he used to  
keep ~~some~~ <sup>one</sup> for the  
men in shell holes.

The plane was trying  
to help the bomb attack.

---

54



Gen Smith tells me there is  
 a universal story of an  
 officer in a sam brown belt  
 gave 1 order to retire (~~at~~  
 most of bus have this story).  
 Many of men didn't know  
 why they shd come back —  
 and asked what had happened.

3.42.

Gen Barrage was  
 behind them.

They got to wire without  
 much opposition — then  
 heavy m.g. apply. Seem  
 to have swerved to left.  
 Most officers k. or w. then.  
 It

19 Bn.

German had a  
 searchlight playing from  
 Hendecourt direction in  
 light of wh they probly  
 saw ~~to~~ <sup>Dirn.</sup> forming —  
 light was sweeping at 3 am  
 when they were coming up.  
 They came out in single  
 file & wheeled —

Col. left them there at 3.35.  
 There were a few who came  
 back in next 2 hrs — but  
 early. From then till 11 p.m.  
 he heard absolutely nothing  
 exc. from stragglers.

He tried to get runners  
 forward. Officers tried to



U29B 8.6.

The 19B does not really know yet (May 28<sup>th</sup>) what happened. The men seem to have been upset by something; they turned or got into shell holes. The best offrs or NCOs were at once hit trying to get them on.

58  
get runners back, but they were shot as soon as they tried to go.

Capt. Taylor & Lieut. McMeekin got into wire & got into sap in ~~30~~ 300-325. Wh they thought was the front line. They stayed there all day - bombing. A few tried to get back & tried to get runners back but they were ind. shot. They saw our people bombing from left. They could not take a very active part in 1 show (abt 30-40 men who only had bombs they carried w them). ~~They~~ The bombing in 2 never came near 2nd for them to take part. It reached within abt 200 yds of



Lt Fitz Gerald was  
taken prisoner.

w.d.

Townson,

Forster,

McMeekin -

Blumer - (running up  
signals)

there.

Some did get into  
O.F. 1 a little to left of this  
apparently & are now  
prisoners. At abt 1 or 2 am.  
Taylor & McMeekin came  
back. A few odd details  
were in the fighting more  
to 1 left.

14. offrs went in.

6 were k.

1 missing.

5 wd.

& 2 got out unhurt.

Most of M.C.O.s. were hit.  
As far as is known  
most of 1 offrs and NCOs  
were hit in the first  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  hr after reaching the  
wire or near it. There  
seem to have been few



casualties until then.  
 Probbly the Juns were in  
 O.G. 2 & caught them as  
 they folover the crest. The  
 Juns in the mill & thereabouts  
 were certainly very  
 active -

The 7th Bde posts  
 on the right near the  
 German line were shot  
 out very early the morning  
 & came in.

later the Bde helped  
 in forming the rt flank  
 along the bank of the  
 Sunken Rd.

It was not till almost  
 at 1 wire to the rt flank  
 of 5 Bde came properly  
 over the right hand crest.



10 The morale of 19 Pm was at its best after the Noireuil show - But the shooting of officers & NCOs on the wire must have caused a wavering.

Men who came back sd they cd see men of 4<sup>th</sup> Div in wire.

The waves were out at 3.15 am. lying down in position all ready to move. Col. R. Pyle saw them there himself 2-3 mins after zero hour heavy inf. fire cd be heard. It wd take 11 mins to reach wire - they wd then be working thro wire. This early inf. fire probly. did little harm.

The Sap 1 man got into us that in U 29 B 8.6.



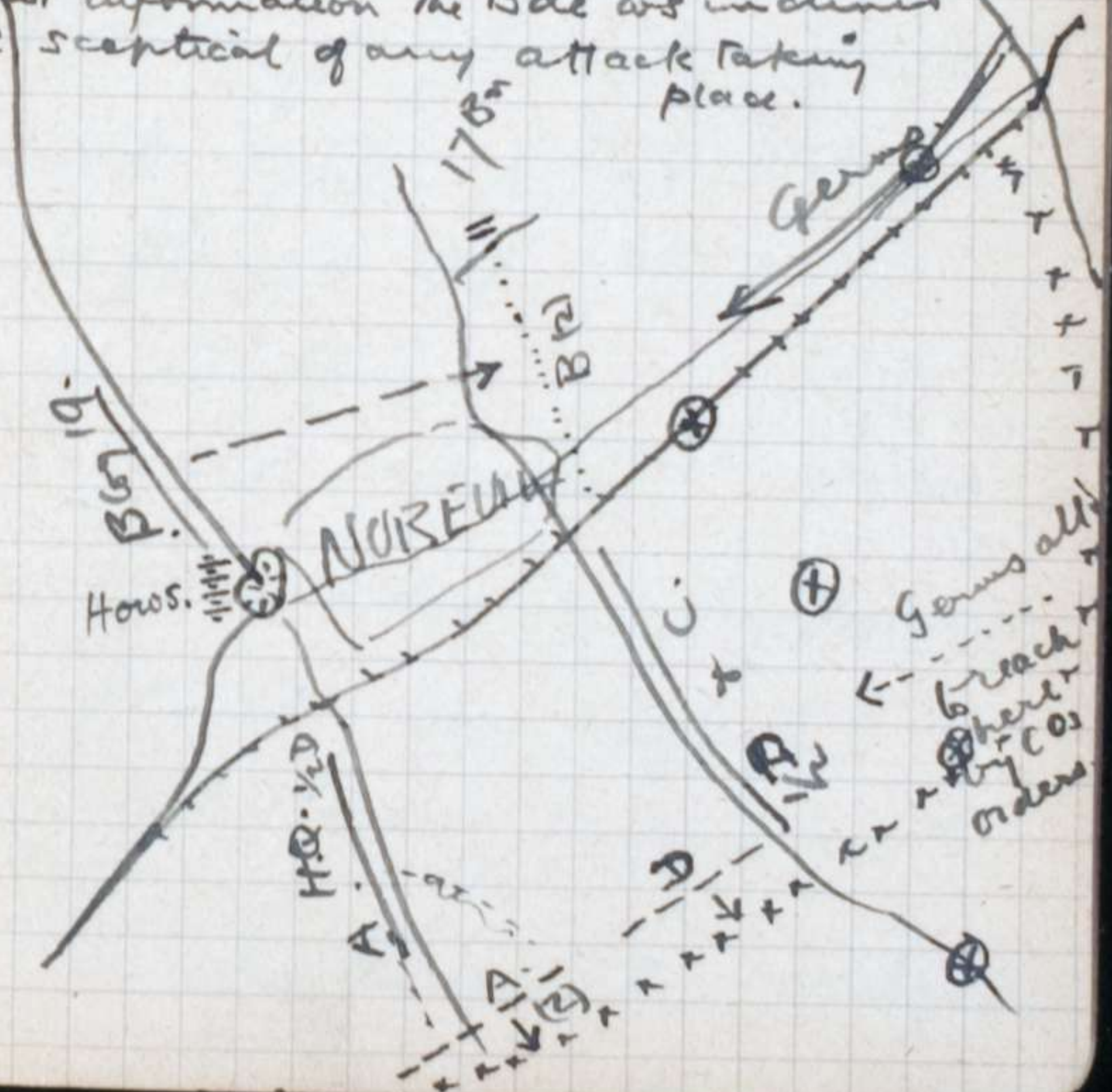
At 8.50 pm. Lt Hayton Smith  
 was sent with 3 offrs + 58 or.  
 to help 28 Bn in their  
 bombing attack. They had  
 gone a short way when an  
 SOS signal was sent up &  
 they were halted & formed  
 by Col. Murphy along  
 Semken Rd in 29 + 10 Co.  
 They dug in along this rd  
 on rt of 6th Bde &  
 remained there till relieved  
 by 2 Bn in the morning.  
 at 4.10 am. HQ was relieved  
 by 4th Bn.

	offrs.	or.
Casualties: K	6.	16.
W	5.	216
M	1.	115.
Went in at 550 effective.	12.	347

15<sup>th</sup> April.

4.55 - 9 men of 12 Bn  
 came in to C Coy HQ

4 groups put out by 19 Bn in  
 expectation of some such attack  
 (100' in support) as front so weakly held.  
 On first information the Bde was inclined  
 to be sceptical of any attack taking  
 place.





& Sd Lt their picket had  
 been surrounded & post gone.

10 mins later 2 men of  
 17 Bn came in & sd Lt  
 No 2 sentry group of RCT  
 Picket had gone -

Col Fry got into touch  
 with 17 Bn & heard to their  
 left was O.K. but it  
 uncertain.

Col. ~~made~~ <sup>ordered</sup> D Coy  
 to make a defensive  
 flank on right to  
 rt facing Lagrangeourt.

The Despositus ordered



uncertain in light  
if ours or Germans.

by Belle were not in time  
to be carried out when  
Germans were seen coming  
down Hirondelle Valley  
at 6 am. (probably scouts)  
towards Novent, T

towards C Coy where marked  
Co ordered movements as <sup>on Map</sup> marked  
There seemed to be <sup>on sketch</sup> only

abt a dozen, so

~~the~~ <sup>1/2 D</sup> ~~Coys~~ C Coy was ordered  
to hold fire till they  
were 150 yds away.

Then every L. S. r  
rifle was opened at 6.30

Germans turned out to  
be far more numerous  
- probably abt 500 - in  
waves.



10

68

Germs went back by

2s & 3s.

at 6.40 Col. Pyle asked for  
barrage alt 200 yds  
further back, & 5 mins

later another 200  
yds — so as to get it  
in rear of Germans.

✓ then them in.

7 patrols were sent  
out & many germs  
captured — 2 men  
capt'd 70 in one bunch.

The enemy approached  
at this time to within  
200 yds of A Coy on  
ridge to right (coming



men standing up to shoot.

10 from Haguenourt direction.  
At 7.30 one pl of  
A Coy was sent forward  
to chase enemy  
who were retreating.

The 20 Bn. was coming  
along from Vaux at  
this time & 19 Bn A Coy  
was in touch with them  
at 7.45 am.

Our Casualties

13 or. k } w.s. & x  
56 or. w. } sniping.

Enemy lost abt 100 in front  
of Noreuil Haguenourt Rd  
from AA fire. & another 100  
further forward from arty



10

S.A.A. fire.

We took 4 officers & abt  
200 men; 2 w.p., 2  
converted Lewis guns, &  
many rifles.

"A" Coy 17 Bn was put  
on ridge between A & D Coy  
at first but withdrawn  
as soon as A Coy  
got out in order that  
they might be available  
if wanted by 17 Bn.

During the fight one  
Bty of 18 Pdrs (? 13<sup>th</sup>)  
was firing direct from  
left of Noseuil. They



10

72

were at one time, a  
bit low & getting into  
Sunken Rd.

Capt Taylor, 19Bn,  
got up & lifted them  
by signs w his hands,  
wh they saw. The  
guns lifted a bit.



R12 / 34

6

# THE TRIUMPH OF ITALY.

## GERMAN MOVES IN THE BALTIC.

### GILLEMONT FARM FIGHT.

### MORE HEADWAY IN EAST AFRICA.

The War : 4th Year : 29th Day.

Our Home Correspondent, who is at the Italian

*Handwritten:*  
R12 / 34  
2nd of book



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## Through German Eyes.

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### "CENTRAL AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

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#### REVISED WAR AIMS.

The telegraphed reports of Herr von Kühlmann's speech in the Reichstag Committee on August 22 prove to have been too flattering. A fuller report, subsequently circulated to the German Press, makes it quite plain that the new Foreign Secretary's pronouncement about the necessity of combining right with might was not a statement of general doctrine, but a prescription for the treatment of such Powers as remain neutral. Herr von Kühlmann dealt first with Germany's allies, and last with Germany's enemies, and in the middle he put the passage about neutrals. In it he said:—

The prevention of any further crumbling away of important neutrals is a very grave task. We can perform it successiully only on the principle that "in policy speaks might, but in policy speaks also right." Only if we base our policy upon these two pillars of might and right shall we achieve lasting results.