

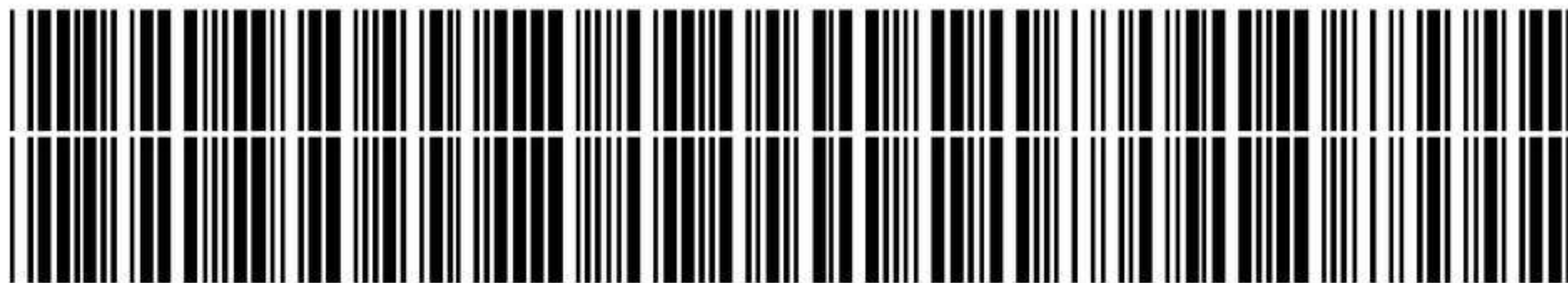
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/263/1

Title: Folder, 1916 - 1934

Covers Fleurbaix and Armentieres, 1916 and includes notes by Bean, cuttings and letters from J L Treloar to A W Bazley.



AWM38-3DRL606/263/1

No. 263
Fleurbaix, Armentieres 1916

1st SET

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.

ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

TELEPHONE Nos.
F 2597.
F 2598.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"AUSWARMUSE."

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE DIRECTOR."

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO.

"They gave their lives. For that public gift they received a praise which never ages and a tomb most glorious—not so much the tomb in which they lie, but that in which their fame survives, to be remembered for ever when occasion comes for word or deed. . . ."

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL,

POST OFFICE BOX 214 D.

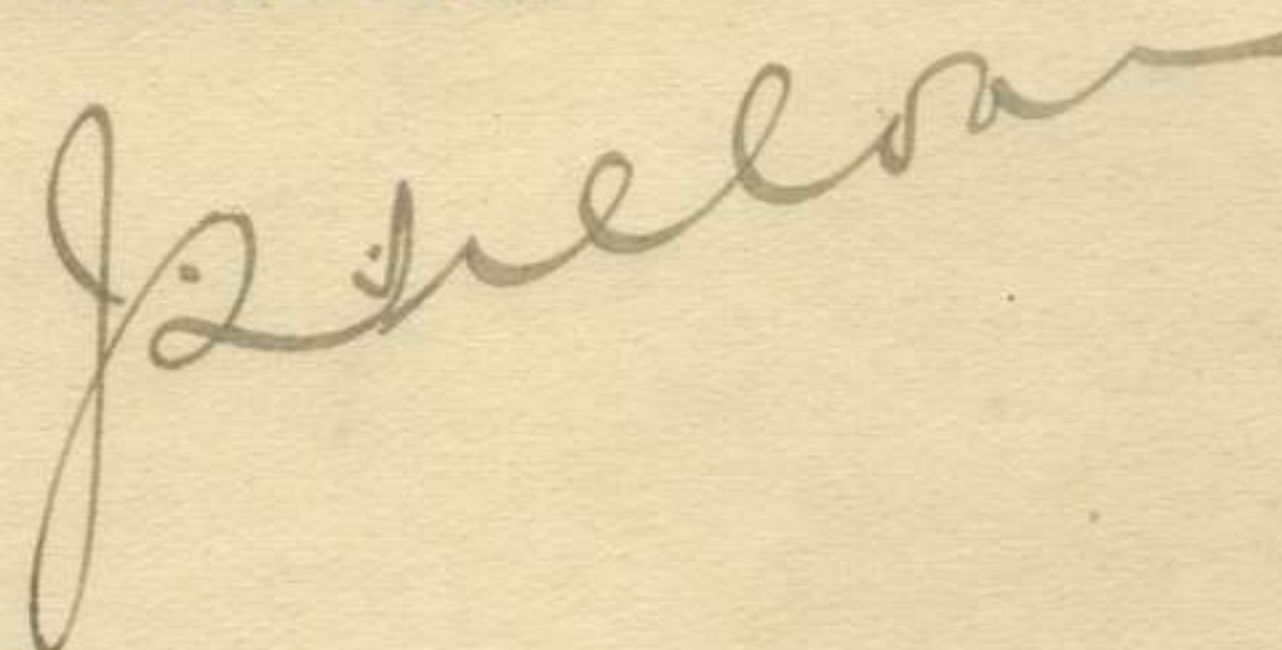
EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, MELBOURNE.

4th July, 1934.

Dear Mr. Bazley,

In continuation of my letter of the 8th June I am forwarding herewith a copy of a statement in which I have embodied the result of the enquiries we made with a view to clearing up the query relative to a statement on page 71 of Vol. III, which you handed to me when I was in Sydney at the beginning of last month. I trust the information supplied will satisfy your requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. W. Bazley,
C/- Official Historian,
Victoria Barracks,
Paddington, N.S.W.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.

Research No. 72 (Second Series).

For whom made Official Historian.

Subject Verification of statement on page 71 of Vol. III of Official History relative to the first unit of the A.I.F. to reach France.

A.W.M. File No. Date 7th June, 1934.

AUTHORITY—

On the 2nd June Mr. Bazley asked me if I would investigate the query referred to in the attached note by Dr. Bean. It refers to a statement which appears on page 71 of Vol. III of the Official History and reads :—

"On the afternoon of March 19th (1916) the first transport, carrying Brig.-General Paton, the Headquarters of the 7th Brigade, and the 25th Battalion, moved in past the Ile d'If to the crowded harbour of Marseilles."

From Dr. Bean's notes it would appear that this statement has been challenged and that it has been contended that advance parties of the 5th Brigade in the "Ascania" arrived in France before the 25th Battalion.

From the I Anzac G. S. War Diary it has been practicable to obtain a list of the transports used for moving the 2nd Division to France and the units allotted to each. The dates of departure from Alexandria and of arrival at Marseilles have been obtained from the unit war diaries except in the case of the "Knight of Garter" (carrying the larger part of 4th A.F.A. Brigade) and the "Ingoma" (carrying 2 officers and 200 other ranks of the 19th Battalion). It has, however, been found possible to obtain the dates for the former from a card index in the possession of Mr. Withers, while the dates for the latter have been obtained from correspondence in the possession of the Base Records Office. From these sources it appears that the movement was effected as follows :—

x
The information has been confirmed by an officer who was in the "Knight of Garter"

Transport Left Alexandria Arrived Marseilles

Minneapolis	15/3/16	19/3/16
Knight of Garter	14/3/16	20/3/16
Northland	15/3/16	21/3/16
Themistocles	16/3/16	21/3/16
Arcadian	17/3/16	23/3/16
Crispan	17/3/16	23/3/16
Eboe	17/3/16	23/3/16
Haverford	17/3/16	23/3/16
Minnewaska	20/3/16	24/3/16
Ascania	19/3/16	25/3/16
Ingoma	18/3/16	25/3/16
Llandovery Castle	20/3/16	25/3/16
City of Edinburgh	20/3/16	25/3/16
Lake Michigan	20/3/16	26/3/16
Magdalena	20/3/16	26/3/16
Oriana	No record	Not before 26/3/16
Caledonian	21/3/16	28/3/16

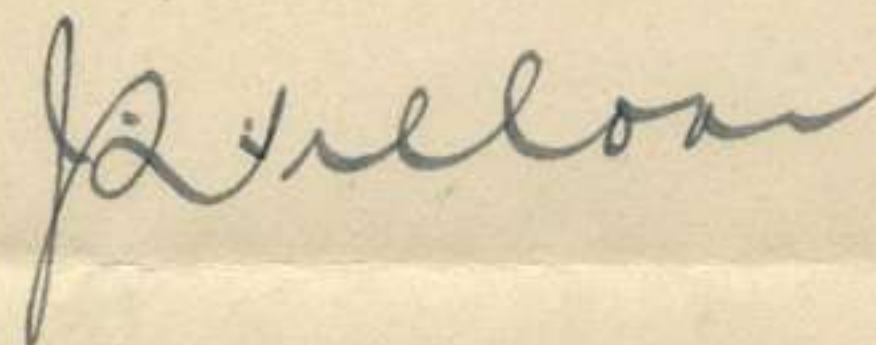
AUTHORITY—

There has not been time to make further enquiries regarding the "Oriana", but as it is clear that this will not affect the present enquiry, the absence of further information is unimportant.

It will be apparent from the above table that the "Minneapolis" was the first transport to reach Marseilles. This vessel had on board 7th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, 25th Battalion, detachments of 1 officer and 25 other ranks from each of the 26th, 27th, and 28th Battalions, 8 officers and 471 other ranks of the 4th A.F.A. Brigade, 6 officers and 225 other ranks of the 7th Field Company, and 9 officers and 202 other ranks of the 7th Field Ambulance. From the 25th Battalion war diary it appears that the transport reached Marseilles at 2.30 p.m. on the 19th March, that the troops remained on board overnight, and disembarked at 1.30 p.m. on the 20th, "the first battalion to arrive in France" as the diarist proudly records.

Insofar as the troops on the "Ascania" might be regarded as rivals for the honour, it will be noted that this vessel did not reach Marseilles until the 25th March. It had on board 19 officers and 775 other ranks of the 18th Battalion, and 23 officers and 695 other ranks of the 19th Battalion.

In the 5th Infantry Brigade diary it was noted, however, that "the advance party which left Egypt on 13/3/16 arrived at Marseilles at 3 p.m. on 19/3/16. Captain (R. E.) Hale (5th Brigade Headquarters) left at once for 5th Brigade area. Captain (H. M.) Beirs and Lieut. (R. V.) Spier (of the 17th Battalion) and Lieut. (J.) Lane (of the 18th Battalion) remained in Marseilles for purposes of disembarking and entraining 2nd Division troops." It would appear that these officers probably travelled in the "Minneapolis", the date 13/3/16 probably being the date on which they left Brigade Headquarters on their way to embark at Alexandria. Apparently they were permitted to disembark immediately the transport arrived, whereas the units were kept on board overnight. It would appear from Dr. Bean's notes on the query, however, that he would not regard the movement of an advance party as being of sufficient importance to amend the statement which is the subject of this enquiry.



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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL,

POST OFFICE BOX 214 D,

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, MELBOURNE.

8th June, 1934.

Dear Mr. Bazley,

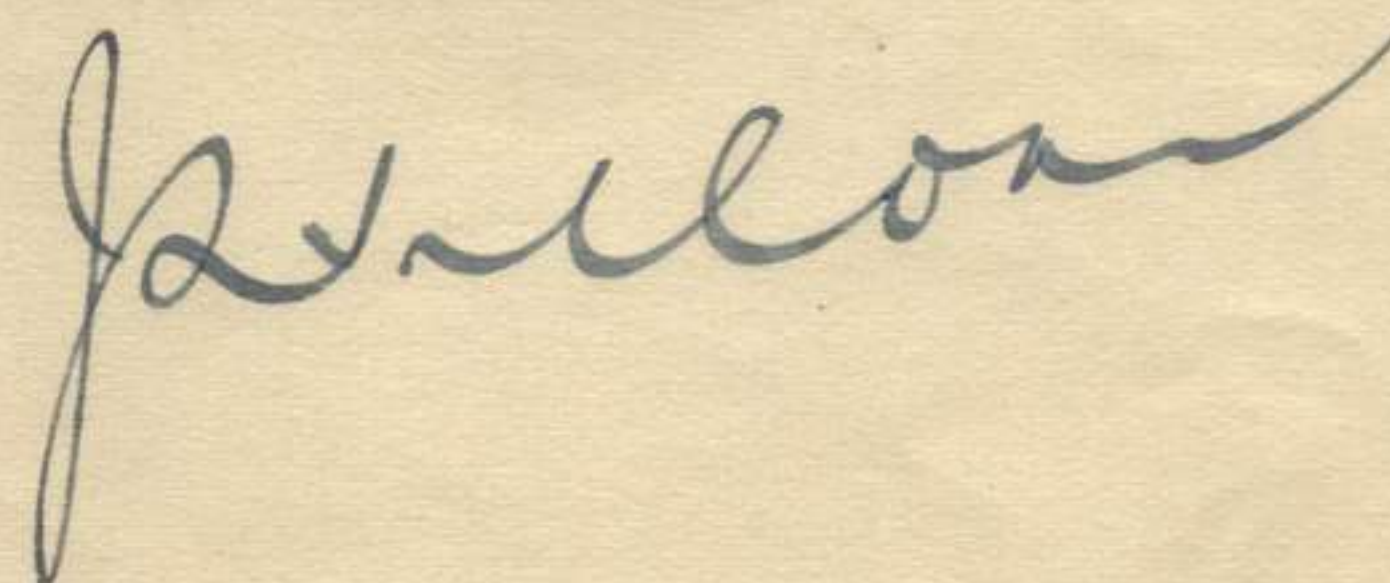
Since I returned to Melbourne I have been making enquiries with a view to answering the query you left with me relative to the statement on page 71 of Vol. III relative to the first troops to reach France.

The indications are that the statement in the Official History will be confirmed. We have been able to ascertain from the Corps G. S. diary the names of the transports used to move the 2nd Australian Division and the allotment of troops thereto. From the war diaries we have been able to ascertain the dates on which the transports left Alexandria and arrived at Marseilles except in the case of one transport which carried personnel of one unit only and this, unfortunately, a unit which failed to keep a war diary. As it is clear that it was one of the first, if not the first, to leave Alexandria I am anxious to obtain some information regarding it before replying to the query.

The line of enquiry we are following is to obtain the names of a few officers who sailed in this transport. As the unit was distributed between two vessels, and as the records available do not indicate on what basis the personnel was divided between the two, we cannot immediately pick up officers on the vessel whose dates of departure and arrival we have to ascertain. We should get the information without difficulty but it will take a few days to complete the enquiry.

Fortunately the matter is not urgent as the printing of the second edition of Vol. III cannot be commenced for at least two months as we will have to await the arrival of supplies of paper from England.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. W. Bazley,
C/- Official Historian,
Victoria Barracks,
Paddington, N.S.W.

Vol III Corrections

P. 71.

First Lt to reach France.

? Adjutant parties of 5 Bde
19 Bn in Ascania

Sighted Marseille on 25 Mar.
+ docked at 5.30 pm.

Disembarked on 26th.

Left Alex 4.30.1915.

The 25 Bn was in
~~They were in as soon as the~~

The same Lt I think.

If so, No need to correct this.

South-West Heroes



SERGT. PHIL PAUL, 11th Battalion.
Killed in Action, ~~August 1st~~ 1916.

POZIERES.

July 23, 1916

X An Account of Trench Life.

May 25, 1916.

(By the late Sergeant Paul).
The real thing at last! Am writing this in my dug-out in the firing line, with the enemy trenches about two hundred yards away. Now and again a shell whizzes away overhead or a sniper from one side or the other has a potshot, otherwise it is pretty quiet. We came in last night—it is at night time that most of the work is done; then one has to keep alert. We take our turns at observing; you are staring away into the dark, see the flash of a rifle and have a pot at it, the only result being a waste of ammunition. Fritz has a bad habit of starting to send over shells at dinner time, its most annoying and inconsiderate of him; they make the devil's own noise; of course our guns retaliate and from what I can see we have the advantage in artillery. You just ought to see me, I haven't had a shave for ten days, a dirty old uniform all mud and grease, and for headgear a steel helmet like an inverted washbowl. We do look cuts, it isn't that I couldn't afford the time to shave, but after having to let it grow for three days I thought I'd see how a beard would suit me. I've come to the conclusion that it doesn't. Our tin hats are most recherche (is that the correct word?) and the trimming, apart from its festive aspect, has the merit of being unspoilable by the weather; did I mention it was a bit of a sand-bag? Broken sleep is one of the drawbacks here, but I'm getting now that I can sleep anywhere, at any time, clothes, boots and equipment all on. Talk about contrasts. In the early morning, just before dawn, we all stand to, rifles loaded, bayonets fixed, all ready for any bloody business

(that never comes). Then the faint grey light begins to filter through everything, a few birds begin to twitter, and the lark is heard winging upward, singing as he goes, later still the light slowly strengthening, and the sun's rays steal up through the mist. In the evening it is the same. We've had some decent sunsets lately, and the twilight lasts until about half-past nine (there's only about four hours of real darkness). As it gets slowly darker the sweet twittering of the birds going to roost, the cuckoo tunes up, out comes the evening star, the light fades from gold to rose and then to pink and purple; then the rifles speak, flash answers flash and the whip-like cracks go rolling away into echoes; again a vicious rattle of machine-gun fire breaks out, a rocketing bullet goes whining up overhead, then it bursts. All night through we cheerfully and eagerly do our best to put sufficient well-aimed lead into Fritz's parapet to induce him to stay, well, where he is! They send up flare-lights between the two lines, and then the fire bursts out. In the day time we observe through periscopes which is quite a safe game. Lowe is in the next dug-out, he has been lucky and received two parcels of cakes, etc., so we've had a bit of a feast. He has a friend in the postal corp, who re-addresses his parcels, etc., so they come through safely. One of them contained a Jew's harp, and I've tried to play it but without success; in fact, Lowe persuaded me to desist, fearing an attack from the enemy for retaliation. We had an issue to-day of matches and tobacco; everyone was just about out of matches, and after getting his issue I heard one wag say: "Thank God for another match, anyway," as if that were his only trouble!

June 2.

Still in the trenches, and I'm still feeling very fit and wearing well. The minor discomforts of sleeping in your clothes, unfrequent washes, and broken sleep affect me not at all. In fact, I'm still getting fatter. We were observing with a periscope yesterday and a sniper had a shot at it but missed, so I waved him the miss signal, and he sent three or four more shots at it. Everybody takes things very cheerfully. We got rather a hot pasting a few nights ago from some big guns. We came off alright; one of the other companies suffered. The heads sent along word commending the W.A. boys for their steadiness. Whilst I was at the Rest Camp, General Birdwood came along and spoke to every man on the place. He and I disagreed as to France being a fine country. He said it was, and I said it wasn't in winter weather. He leaves you with the impression that you are all personal friends of his. Well, to work again, and should I go under you will have the satisfaction of knowing that I did my duty and was unafraid.

1317.

13 August 1926.

A. Urie, Esq.,
"Braeside",
Knockenkeley,
Whiting Bay,
Arran, Scotland.

Dear Mr. Urie,

Your son, Archibald, who was with the 4th Australian Division near Fleurbaix in July 1916, is mentioned in the chapter of the Australian Official History which deals with a raid by the Germans on the Australian trenches on July 3. He appears to have been caught in the debris of the defences, and the Germans who raided the trench found him helpless, but were unable to detach him. According to one account, they then threw bombs at him or placed them beside him with the intention of killing him, but the bombs did not explode. On the other hand, these bombs may have been dropped by the enemy in their haste, without the firing string having been pulled.

As the incident is mentioned, I am writing to discover whether you had any letter from your son about that time throwing light upon the incident, or whether, if he afterwards saw you on leave, he mentioned the matter?

The matter is not of great importance, but it is desirable to know the exact truth and we do not wish to blame the Germans unless they were actually guilty of this barabarity.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. W. BEAN

Official Historian.

BRAESIDE,
KNOCKENKELLY,
WHITING BAY,
ARRAN. 22-9-26

Dear Sir

In answer to yours of 13th August
last regarding the death of my son Archibald,
I must have destroyed his letters, but
speaking from memory, I think it
will be about 10 years since I heard
from him. Hoping this will
answer your purpose

Yours faithfully
Arch^d Wrie.

'PHONE
CENTRAL 5832.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

10th July

1926.

Dear Beau.

There sh^d. be some record of
the 1916 plan for an attack on Messines
although the matter had not reached a
very definite stage at the time we left
for the Somme. Plumer & Harington
discussed it with us several times
& we were instructed to submit
our views. These we sent in, in
writing, after many inspections

The ground. I always felt that what
we sent in was not a very mature
effort. We were not at the time really
experienced in such matters & I felt
that the task was somewhat
academic & that we were not really
doing it. Munro commented upon
our scheme, quite kindly; as far
as I remember his most serious
comment being ^{upon} the number &
portage of the hints
As far as my recollection

Serves me the job has a two (2)
Corps one (we to be on the right) we did
not however have conferences on the subject with any other Corps.
The objective was the capture of the
ridge. I am not quite familiar
with the details of the 1917 objective
but am inclined to think that
it was somewhat more extensive
than the 1916 Contemplation.

I will look forward to the coming
5 chapters.

Yours Sincerely

C.B. White

Pte R.C. Murray, 1st Bn,
who enlisted while his father
was on active service with the 17th Bn,
& died of wounds on 4/10/16 at the age of 16½

Lloya George Cl.
Catter
R.P.W.

13/5/22

I am enclosing ^{copies of} references of my
son's (R.C. Murray) also letters
received from the front after his
death, as they may be of interest
to the historian. I may add, that
he had any actual nursing in the
Army in France, his father is an
original Anzac, an Uncle killed
at Lone Pine, another Uncle was
Capt. W. M. E. Carter in the Imperial
Army, there were no eligibles left
in our family

Florence A. Murray
(Mother)

Copy of letter received from the front.
From Lieut B & Lee of my son's Co & Battalion

Copy

Pte R.C. J Murray.
Died of wounds
4/10/16
at the age of 16½

On Active Service
13 Oct 1916

I regret to inform you that
544 Pte R Murray was wounded on the
3rd Oct. last & died while en route to
Hospital. He was one of the bravest boys
I have ever seen. He was hit by fragments
of a high exploding shell & very severely
wounded in both legs. But in spite of this
he never murmured, altho the pain
must have been excruciating. He was
conscious the whole time until the end
& died with a smile on his face, an example
to all of what a British Soldier should be.
The Surgeon who attended him said
he was unique in his fortitude. We
in the 1st Battalion will ever in recalling
past events, speak of him as having been
all that a Soldier could be & more.

Yours very truly

B & Lee
Lieut. A Co
1st Bat. A.I.F.

H/N.

Silent
1 Bn Raid at Ypres, 6th Oct. 1916

On Oct 6. 1916, about 2 hours after the 2nd Bn raid on that night, 10 men of the 1st Bn made a silent raid upon the German trenches at the Bluff. At this point the Germans were believed to be mining — & the men composing the raiding party believed that their raid had as its object the clearing up of this matter. The T.M.s (6th) had blown up the German wire some hours before. The 10 men crept out — amongst the volunteers was Pte P. O'Brien, who was a ~~newly~~ ^{new} to the arrived reinforcements who had volunteered — being keen on fight. O'Brien went first through the ^{own} German wire — A loose ~~end~~ ^{end} caught him & he thought the Germans must have heard the noise. However nothing happened. The second man came up with him — & fearing discovery, as soon as they were together they decided to jump into the German trench. They did so, & began throwing their bombs — O'Brien into the trench & the other man into the German trench — They got into an empty bay but the Germans instantly came at them. They did see none, but a bomb exploded at once on the ground lighting up the basket work walls of the trench. A second bomb — a stick bomb — almost immediately exploded close to them, wounding both. O.B. was knocked down, stunned;

Coming to, & seeing the figure of his mate going
back over the parapet, his mind received
the vague idea that he too ought to climb
over the breastwork behind him. He did
so, but having ~~lost his~~, being barely conscious,
~~missed the~~ did not make for any opening
in the wire & got caught in it. As
he fell into it a third bomb exploded by
him & ^{this also} ~~again~~ hit him.

Some of the party carried him
back badly shattered - as was also
his mate. ^{information} Nothing ~~of importance~~ was
~~discovered~~ ^{brought back} except that the trench entered
was a dilapidated one.

Hughes: H.N.?

RAID ON CHICKEN RUN BY 8TH BDE, FRANKS' FORCE.
8th
8th Bde Raid on 12/13 October 1916.

Map Houplines Sheet 36 N.W.2 1/10,000.

34th Div and 5th Aust. Div. to carry out raids at the same time. (At this time the 8th ^{Aust. Inf.} Bde was attached to Franks' Force).

Zero Hour - 7.30 pm. Bombt tp begin at zero. Raid to enter enemys trenches at 7.45. and stay there not longer than one hour.

Raid made by 5 officers and 100 o.r. of the 31st Bn. The two battalions in the line to thin out for 1½ hrs after zero. H.Qrs of 31 Bn - Cambridge House. An elaborate T.M., M.G., and Artillery programme mostly in C.17 a. One m.g. specially to prevent the enemy bringing out their m.gs onto their wire. 11 m.gs at work in all. A list of code words: for example Tommydogg meant All left our front line. Mary - "All in enemys trenches". Sidney "All back except"

Party was from "A" Coy 31 Bn. Each man to have only a cardboard identity ticket with a raiding number on it. Faces blackened. Parties to be in positn ½ hour before zero.

Right Party 2 Offrs	Rt covering Pty.	Left Party 2 Offrs	Left coy
42 p.r.	1 NCO 7 o.r.	42 o.r	pty 1 nco
4 bombing teams	(6 o.r each & 1	(same as	7 or
M.G. 2 men	offr. for each 2)	right	
s.bs 2 "		party).	
sigs 2 "			
intel. 2 "			
dugout party	4 men		
escort for pris.	2 men		
parapet party	4 men		

Two parties to move out on either side of road. Flanks to be moved forward so as to be parallel to trench.

Signal of final lifting of barrage - white flare to be fired low towards enemys parapet from our trench.

Teams to form stops left and right and work in certain directions up and down trenches and connect. When nearing points where ~~xxx~~ likely to meet one another they were to flash violet torches constantly.

Dugout parties to put Stokes bombs down dugouts. Also P.bombs.

Machine gunners to deal with enemy m.gs (armed with revolvers)

Covering parties to protect flanks.

Stay not longer than one hour. N.C.O. to blow French Horn at end of hour unless both O.Cs decide to withdraw earlier.

To lie in No Mansland till shelling abates.

(2)

The raid was carried out on Chicken run

Entered at C 17 a 20 35 and 35 20.

Wire had been well cut in both places during the afternoon by our 18 pdrs and T.Ms.

The prelim. Bombt (13 minutes) had done much damage to enemy front line wh. was almost obliterated in places.

Barrage excellent. Party approached quite close to it with confidence

Retaliation - a few .77 and many minenwerfer, doing some damage to ~~our~~ our trenches. No attempt to barrage Nomansland to prevent return of raiding party.

Little opposition was made to entry. Parties proceeded along arranged routes. Bombt had caused many casualties. German dugouts were large, made of concrete, not much below surface of ground, fitted with iron doors, and all occupied.

One dugout had at least 20 of enemy in it. In these dugouts a "P" bomb was first dropped; then a Stokes with time fuse. All dugouts were entered after this had been done. Estimated between 40 and 50 Germans k. this way.

Others were k. by bomb and bayonet. Estimates of officers all agree that abt 100 Germans were ~~xxxx~~ killed.

We were in trenches 40 minutes. "Out" signal given on French horn. This was heard by all, and easily carried out.

Torches. Carbon paper was pasted on inside of torches.

13 prisoners taken. Ten attempted to escape crossing Nomansland and were k. M.G. brought in with two belts of amm. Bombs. Box of flares, 2 rifles, etc.

Casualties 3 men k.; 1 offr and 7 o.r. wd. No missing.

(This is a condensed paraphrase of report, not literal copy of it).

H.N. — Oct 1917

Tumbarumba
7-12-27

Dear Charlie,

Referring to yours of 21st. Ultimo.
It is such a long time back that my memory may not be too clear on details but I will do my best and you will be able to check it up with official records thereby enabling you to use some of the detail for what it is worth. I belonged to C Coy 1st. Batn. ~~We~~ were in the salient near Ypress in October 1916. The second was on our ~~right~~ left, between 9pm and 10 pm. 2nd. Bat. raided about 60 strong, we could hear the machine guns, bombs Etc. Word came along the line to us that the raid was very successful and that they had no casualties and they had taken some prisoners (I forget the number) and secured considerable information regarding condition, formation Etc. of that section of the Hun trenches. This information I heard whilst waiting for our time to raid which was 11pm. I can remember us complaining about the 2nd. stirring him up for us. That is as much as I can tell regarding the raid of the 2nd. I will give you what detail I can remember of our raid and it may be useful to you in a general way. On the afternoon of 6th. Oct. ~~xxx~~ nine others and myself volunteered for a raid on section of trench directly in front of us- The object of so small a raid I am unable to state I heard several suggestions at the time and afterwards, but never heard anything definite from anyone in authority. Our instructions were to be as quiet as possible, do our best to get a prisoners or anything in the way of equipment Etc. To take particular notice of the formation and condition of the trench, to see whether they were keeping it in good repair. I considered that the object of the raid was to see by the condition of his trench whether he was contemplating evacuation. The two front lines at this point was very close together and supposed to be heavily mined by both sides. Signs of neglect to trenches would indicate evacuation prior to setting off mines.

The guns put a few shells into his wire before dark to make a opening for us. We were blackened, armed with bombs, nulla nulla, baynet and some of us had service revolvers but no rifles.

Our formation was. Two bombers to go some distance along the trench to left of break in the wiring. Ditto on the right.

*Added
by
H.N.*

(2)

22

The other six were to crawl through wire, first man through to wait a few seconds and see if others were coming along O K then drop a bomb into the trench wait for it to explode then jump in and every man for himself. The explosion of the bomb being signal for bombers on right and left to throw bombs into the trench at short intervals thus putting a slight barage on that section of the trench. I being familiar with the locality through being out on patrol a few nights previous ~~xxx~~ was in the lead and on reaching the wire crawled through making a slight noise, next man doing likewise. Both of us glanced back and seeing the others coming up to the wire we dropped a bomb, ~~xxx~~ waited for the explosion and jumped in -

A small bomb exploded near us, I got a piece in the chest. We went down the trench a few yards and bombed a bay, but could see no one. A few feet further we came to the junction of the front line and the communication trench. Bombs began to fall close to us we bombed the communication trench and those outside were keeping a bomb barage on the front trench. This went on for a short time when a bomb burst close to us wounding my mate in arm and stomach and me in the face and throat, knocking me down and partially stunning me. I soon regained sufficient sense to know where I was. I saw a man going over the parapet this gave me a hazy idea that I should do the same, I stumbled out of the trench and into the wires. Could hear the Fritzs' coming along his duck boards - Fear gave me enough strength to tear myself out of wire and roll into a shell hole at about the same time as one of his bombs. This wounded me in the leg and hip. I was brought in later and attended to by a Doctor. While he was dressing me I was closely questioned by two or three officers. They wanted the smallest details concerning what I had seen and and particularly so about the formation and condition of the trench. I did not see any others of party in trench, believe that they did not get in but was too busy with my own affairs to be certain. Cannot supply any names with any certainty. -

D Coy. of 1st. Bat. Raided shortly after us but was unsuccessful, several being wounded before they got to the wire.

(3)

Owing to being very busy at the office I could not get time to get my mind to this, have made several attempts to complete it but have managed it at last-

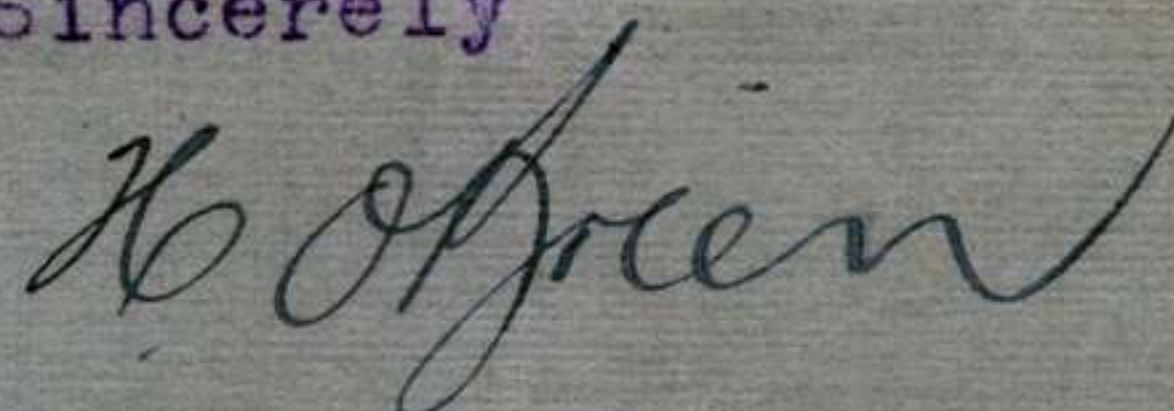
It is rather long winded and clumsy, but having nothing very definite to state it is rather difficult to set it out properly. So I am telling you the whole yarn, not for a moment thinking that my own personal experience has any bearing on the matter but hoping that some of the detail may be of use to you.-

Will be only too pleased to give you a ring next time that I am in Town. Last time we were down Ada tried to ring Effie but was unsuccessful, I was in hospital and everything was generally upset, otherwise we would have seen you both.

If at any time either or both of you are considering a little quiet life there is always plenty of room here and we would be delighted to have you.

Kindest regards to you both also the Seasons Greetings from us both

Yours Sincerely



P.S

Started this about three weeks ago

OB
19/12/27



Telephone : CITY 9941.



HISTORICAL SECTION (MILITARY BRANCH),
COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE,
AUDIT HOUSE,
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT,
E.C.4.

23rd July 1929.

Dear Bean,

Turning over "Die Schlachten und Gefechte des Grossen Krieges 1914-1918," the German battle nomenclature and honours book published by the German General Staff (whilst it still existed) in 1919, I found on p. 196:-

1916
24.6. - 7.7.

Erkundigungs und Demonstrations gefechte der 6. Armee (im Zusammenhange mit der Schlacht an der Somme).

Then follows a list of units engaged.

It is clear from Crown Prince Rupprecht's diary that the Supreme Command expected the attack to fall on the Sixth Army, not on the Second as it did; but I had no idea that the Germans specially fought to find out and were still deceived.

So the raids of the Australians were not in vain.

Yours sincerely
J.E. Edmunds.

Vol III
Corrections

But the words "Erkundigungs und Demonstrations gefechte" however seem to me clearly to refer to our reconnaissance & demonstrations; & Rupprecht's diary makes it quite evident that the attack was expected on the Somme. I think really Gen. Edmunds is a criticism attempting to answer in Liddell's of Haig's criticism of Vol III in which appears a letter. The London Esq. of his.

The day was wet. I wrote history.

TELEPHONE Nos.
F 2597.
F 2598.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"AUSWARMUSE."

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE DIRECTOR."

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
12/3/49
NO.

"They gave their lives. For that public gift they received a praise which never ages and a tomb most glorious—not so much the tomb in which they lie, but that in which their fame survives, to be remembered for ever when occasion comes for word or deed. . . ."

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL,

POST OFFICE BOX 214 D.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, MELBOURNE.

15th June, 1934.

Dear Mr. Bazley,

I have gone into the query which Mr. Wanliss has raised in regard to the figures given in Vol. III of the casualties suffered by the 14th Battalion in the German counter-raid of 3/4 July, 1916, and it certainly appears that he is right in his statement that the casualties exceeded the number given in the history. Although all the records we have consulted make it clear that the casualties were in the region of between 30 and 40 it is difficult to make them agree on a definite figure. I am however furnishing the figures obtained from the various sources and you will doubtless be in a position to decide which to accept.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other ranks</u>
Killed	-	6
Missing	-	4
Wounded	2 (Capt. C.R.M. Cox) (Lieut. J. Mackay)	31

The form in which this information is recorded in the diary is as follows :-

Wounded
Capt. C.R.M. Cox
Lieut. J. Mackay.
31 other ranks
Killed 6 " "
Missing 4 " "

I have supplied this because in view of the casualties given in the Brigade Major's report referred to below it is possible that the 14th Battalion diarist intended his figures for the other ranks to be read as a total of 31 casualties of which 6 were killed and 4 were missing. However the former figures showing a total of 43 casualties are to some extent confirmed by comparing the strength of the battalion after the 14th Battalion raid and before the German counter-raid which is given in the diary as 23 officers and 847 others with the strength after

Mr. A. W. Bazley,
C/- Official Historian,
Victoria Barracks,
Paddington, N.S.W.

the counter-raid which is recorded as 21 officers and 806 other ranks. No reference is made in the diary to any sick having been evacuated during this period and it would appear that the difference of 2 officers, 41 other ranks is accounted for by the casualties suffered in the German counter-raid.

In a report undated covering this action which, although our copy is not signed, was either prepared by or for the signature of the Brigade Major, 4th A.I. Brigade, records the casualties as being :-

Killed	10 other ranks
Wounded	2 officers (C.R.M. Cox) (Lieut. J. Mackay) 21 other ranks.

We can offer no comment on these figures.

With a view to making a further check on the casualties obtained from the two sources mentioned above the A.F.'s B. 213 for the 14th Battalion were consulted with the following result :-

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other ranks</u>
Killed	-	10
P.O.W.	-	1
Died of wounds	-	4
Wounded	2	18

Apparently the four other ranks were recorded by the battalion as wounded but subsequently died of their wounds on reaching the Field Ambulance. If it would be of any assistance the names of those included in the figures obtained from the A.F.'s B.213 could be furnished.

If there is any way in which we can pursue this enquiry further I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. Lyles

Corrections Vol III

Mr Sansless

writing on 5/6/29

"You will pardon me for pointing out two mistakes (certainly not serious ones) which I noticed immediately as I know the 14th Battalion story by heart. I am writing from memory as my chapter 19 (for both mistakes occur in the same narrative) is in the printer's hands.

p304
In the German counter-raid on the 14th on 3rd July the 14th casualties are set out as eleven. I think eleven was the number of the killed. The casualties (speaking again from memory) were just about forty. If you look up the 14th Battalion diary I think you will find my statement confirmed.

p303 ✓
The other is that the Boyes who distinguished himself there was not Frank (F.H. Boyes), but his brother Bill (W.H. Boyes). Frank Boyes was an original 14th man and finally got a commission. Bill Boyes won two decorations in eleven days * (M.M. on 8/8/18 and D.C.M. on 19.8.18 - the latter a very fine piece of work at which he was badly wounded, and for which there was some talk of recommending him for the V.C.

8692.

5 June 1934.

Dear Major Treloar,

The figures given by us in Volume III (p. 304) as to the casualties suffered by the 14th Battalion in the German counter-raid of 3/4 July 1916 have been questioned. We say there were "eleven killed, wounded, or captured", whereas Mr. Wanliss thinks that the 11 represents the number of the killed only, the total casualties being about 40.

Would you be so good as to look up the 14th Battalion war diary and let me have a note as to the figures given therein. We do not of course want them to be mixed with the 14th's casualties in their raid on the Germans the previous night.

It is just possible that through a typographical error, we left out the numbers of the wounded and prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

Major J.L. Treloar, O.B.E.,
Australian War Memorial,
Box 214D, G.P.O.,
Melbourne.

MEDICAL HISTORY. CHAP. VII. SEVEN

Bridges agreed that, as General Officer Commanding, A.I.F., he might be held to have a general responsibility outside his divisional command, and, with his A.D.M.S., he interviewed the corps commander, who, though also disclaiming responsibility, recognised the seriousness of the matter. ~~Instructed to~~ make suggestions for the medical arrangements of the corps ~~the A.D.M.S.~~ while following in general the scheme laid down (including provision for only one transport for lightly wounded), strongly criticised the breaking up of field ambulances to supply personnel and the depleting of the clearing station to provide equipment for the lines of communication, since no advanced dépôt of medical stores was available for replenishment. Pointing out that No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital was available in Egypt, he urged that for the lines of communication the proper units, namely the stationary hospitals, should be employed. He suggested also that, since the 1st Australian Division was to land first, it might be desirable that the clearing station should be under him. This was approved by corps and accepted by General Headquarters. He recommended, moreover, that in view of the impossibility of duly preparing for seriously wounded those transports which carried horses, the troopship *Osmanieh* (a ship of 4,041 tons which had been already partly equipped) should be properly fitted up as an additional hospital ship. This also the General Staff agreed to endeavour to do. On the 16th the Base Commandant, Alexandria, was instructed by cable to send up No. 2 Australian and No. 16 British Stationary Hospitals and No. 5 Advanced Dépôt of Medical Stores.

Meanwhile, on April 15th Colonel Manders, the A.D.M.S., N.Z. & A. Division, arrived and was given a copy of Colonel Keble's instructions to the 29th Division. A special order was now issued to the A. & N.Z. Army Corps which opened another stage in the medical arrangements. To supplement the ~~H.S.~~ hospital ship *Gascon* (allotted to the corps), which would accommodate "probably 300 serious cases," there were to be selected "two or more" transports to be used for both seriously and slightly wounded, and for these three officers and twenty other ranks were to be detailed by each A.D.M.S.,

This officer, /

*and, through the
D.O. & Q.M.G., asked
that Colonel Howse
should*

delete /