

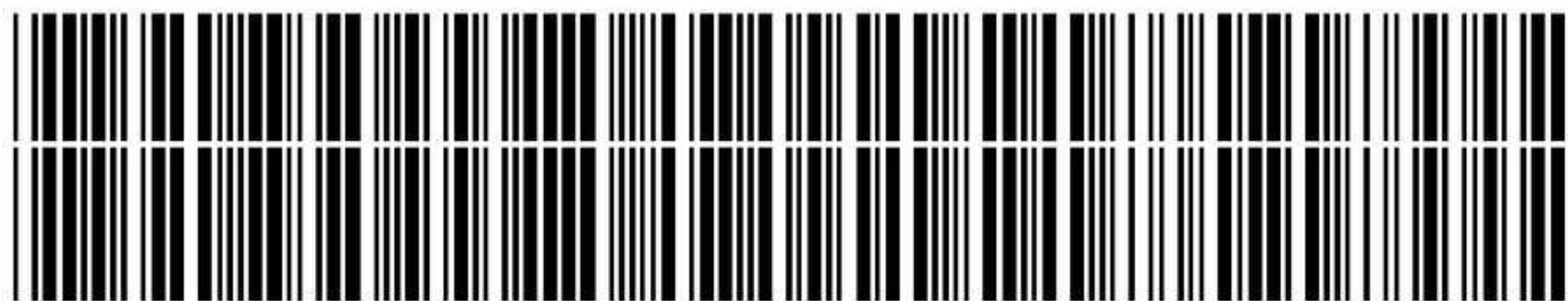
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/45/1

Title: Diary, June 1916

Includes notes on raid by 6th Battalion on 12 June 1916, zeppelins, T J Ryan's visit to the front and conversations with Lord Birdwood.



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Original

DIARY NO. 45.

AWM 38

30RL 606 ITEM 45 [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 here ~~is~~ **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.**

16 Sept., 1946. ACCESS STATUS **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ACCESS STATUS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ OPEN

1916
June 3/16.
to June 14/15

(45)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

During 1 strafing one set of communications was cut; but Col. Roberts - 400 yds back - found that he could still call up 1 Qtr Bn to 1 South of him. He arranged with them to support him in case he had to counter attack in force; & they sent up their bombers (i.e. the bombing platoon as apart from the 8 bombers whom each Coy has) for any counter attack.

1916
June 3/16.
to June 14/16

Metcalf

for 1 hr & 20 minutes - till 9.30 in fact. ~~Many of~~ The dust & smoke of bursting shells had made it difficult to see. But on either side a 1 bombarded area small numbers of men had gathered under Capt's Metcalf & Macfarlane. They sheltered ^{close} under 1 parapets on 1 edge of 1 staff. ~~The moment~~ ~~to~~ many men of course were killed & wounded & 1 shells were throwing duponts in splintered fragments into 1 air - They were reaching 400 yds back from 1 line, over 1 Condonnerie Post - wh came in for it very hotly at abt half time. These little posts of ours show up as clearly on an aeroplane map as roses on a stalk.

The enemy signalled to increase
1 ramp by means of green rockets.
These were so like our SOS
signals that our guns some of them
fell into 1 trap (if it was one) &
a message had to be sent
to them.

(before giving agent)
The scouts had by order to report to
the O.C. the moment the bombardment lifted.
They were mostly old Gallipoli hands. They
were in a dugout at Gondounerie post which was
~~shattered~~ blown in by a shell & 8 of the 10 were
killed. The other two, wounded, reported to the O.C.
the moment the bombardment eased.

[One of the ^{killed} men - Cocking - had gone out
the week before & tied a rope onto the foot of
a dead comrade who was shot right in front of
enemy's wire. He crept round a roundabout way
instead of going straight to him - & tho' 1 German
were watching, had got him away.

Macfarlane says the phosphorus
shells lay abt a light where
they hit 1 pound.

1916
June 3/16.
to June 14/15

? 9.30

Well - at 10.30 there was a
sort of pause & it was noticed
tht 1 shells were being thrown
further back; ^{Metcalfe} at
once began to get his men
out across the bombarded
area. The mist was very
thick by now - so thick,
& coming up in wrack after
wrack, tht it was thought
by Maj. Milner of C. Coy (just
& 1 north) tht 1 Germans were
throwing smoke shells. There
is some evidence tht there was
some smoking phosphorus
in 1 grass - but ~~it doesn't~~
~~seem to go as high as~~
on 1 whole I don't think there is
enough evidence to support this;
other things are apt it - Macfarlane
and 1 Colonel don't believe in

& shrapnel
began to fall
on the
flanks
(to keep
men from
getting back)
and on 1
common
trenches).

When the Germans lifted they also began to ~~drop~~ ^{keep} shrapnel on 1 parapet to right & left of 1 bombarded area, & to shell Devon Avenue on our left to prevent troops getting up. C. Coy, however, were able to keep up to 1 parapet; the shells seem to have been to 1 left of them - too far on 1 flank & - and fire was opened up from 1 parapet, & ~~from~~ by M. Gs on 1 flank, across 1 space in front of 1 bombarded area. As ~~usually~~ ^{naturally} happens, however, I fancy Milner's first preoccupation was a possible attack agst him & a great deal of firing probably went in the direction.



1916
June 3/16.
to June 14/16

it - Macfarlane was there on 1 spot in 1 thick of it. He thinks 1 signal shell was started it all was a smoke shell.

Whilst 1 shells were still flying overhead our line began to be formed across 1 gap. a machine gun was brought up on 1 right hand edge of it & began firing thro 1 gap. The line was rapidly formed.

By 10.40 the German shells ceased falling & there was almost silence. Our line advanced & there is no doubt that there were Germans in front of them. Three men speak to having seen them; & 1 sentry in 1 mouth of 1 mine ~~gutter~~ shaft was hit by a bomb thrown by hand.

As our men closed up they

Some of these craters were dug by
minen-werfer bombs - long narrow
things with a thin case. Our own
2 in bomb throwers are tremendously
powerful, throwing a 60 lb. bomb of
this shape . One of them burst
in a German trench 10th day &
threw a broken rifle barrel back ~~to~~ ^{over}
our parapet, 250 yds away. The
barrel is here at Head quarters,
bent like this → 

2
literally could not find 1 line
where our trenches had been.
They had ceased to exist. For 60
yards, or so, this place was taken
by a tumbled rubbish heap
& deep craters - so large &
one can scarcely believe it
was only a 5.9 in. shell which
made them. They were 6 to
10 feet deep & more than 4
across - in 1 soft agricultural
Earth (there was a green
wheatfield behind 1 front line
but it was not very much
ploughed up; 1 front line
was).

The line of men moved
up to 1 breach, firing; ~~the~~
~~parapet~~ the Germans kept
a m.g. on it ^{but fortunately high} & ~~our~~
& our men had to lie very
low. But they managed to
build 1 breast work up before

daylight -

In the meantime what had happened to 1 enemy. Two minutes after their bombardment started (tho' some say it seemed much longer - & possibly it was) our guns opened on 1 enemy's parapet. He probably didn't leave his trench till 10:30 -
 9.30? - then ran across close to 1 big crater & 1 road guided by six white tapes on reels. He certainly got into 1 tumbled ground to be on our trenches - probably right inside. He searched for a mine gallery intending to blow it up. But 1 mess he had made, & 1 complete coolness of our ~~measures~~ measures frustrated 1 attempt. He found men in front of him & had to get away quickly. He dropped 30 hand grenades

(w handles & a string to pull)
 in our wire - & two ^{better} boxes
 full of an explosive ~~traces~~ like
 ammonal, clearly meant
 for blowing up our mine.
 He exploded one of these
 over 1 top (as he thought)
 of our mine gallery outside
 1 trench. &

All these things he dropped
 hurriedly in his retreat. Someone
 was hit, for bloodstained bandages
 were found. We also found
 1 sledge (a long duckboard
 on sleighs) on wh he meant
 to cross our wire. A
~~knuckle duster~~ or life preserver
 was also found - ash-wood
 handle w a heavy iron top
 rather like a nut - abt
 14 in. long.

The enemy kept up a
 machine gun fire into the gap



It was all over by 9.40.

i.e. 8.10 - 9.30 bombd of
front line

9.30 - 9.40 barrage.

B + A Coy's signal depots
were each smashed by
shell fire. But 1 signaller
disconnected their instruments
before they came away,
& brought them w them.

Losses. Missing

ov. 6. (held. dead)

Killed officers - ov. 36

wounded officers 2 ov. 59.

These were given me - but they are
an understatement. 120 (45k 80w) is
more like it.

in our breastwork - sd to be 60
yards across - But fortunately
it went high & our men lying
low were able to build up the tumbled
mess into something like a parapet
before the morning. ~~Our losses~~
~~to officers don't seem to~~

The one serious part of
business was our losses. There
is not one dugout worthy of a name
along a whole length of a front
held by our corps & there is
no reason except laziness
~~st of~~ a want of enterprise or
energy of officers who have been
here before why there shd not be.
We have not one dugout that I
know of which wd stand a direct
hit from a 6in (5.9) shell, in our
whole length of line. Our line
is strongly held & these very
heavy bombardments ~~cause~~
kill & wound too many men

We have been very anxious to get a prisoner. The 6th Bn alone has about 100 men out in No mans land every night waiting for any German patrol. Some of these got right up to 1 parapet 1 other night & were bombed by 1 German, but got back.

Lt. Dobie,

Two of our Pioneers - an officer & a man - when out fixing wire, went over to 1 German trench & ~~were not heard of~~ ~~were captured~~.

The same night, ~~or next~~ a German ~~at~~ a man stumbled over our parapet. Our men

were waiting for 1 ~~German~~ ^{pioneer} officer & so they did not shoot him. The Germans put up a notice: "Your Officer & man are safe here. Have you our little red haired comrade?" We answered, "Your comrade is quite comfortable. If you want to be comfortable too, come over here & fetch him," or words to that effect. The prisoner said we had only killed or wounded about 5 men in his company in a month.

altogether. The Germans have of course thinned out their line in anticipation of our reply & probably do not suffer heavily.

~~When we got back~~
in the Toug, the cinematographer is not a strong man, & we had to carry his apparatus for him - I also helped Brooks to carry his. Brooks ~~was~~ had to be watched all the time. To prevent him getting up somewhere where he wd be sure to be killed & to prevent him from taking. He persuaded one major to get all his men lined up ^{behind} the parapet (at imminent risk of their lives if the Germans had seen them) with bayonets fixed looking as if they were going to

charge our shoulders to shoulder
 I told him afterwards that I would
 have to speak to the staff
 about the photo - it is an
 absolute fake, no one in his
 senses would ever get men
 packed behind like that.
 He said: "It's not a fake - it's
 not developed yet. It can't be
 a fake until it is developed."

Brooks got his position
 because he was a friend of
 the King & Queen - their
 private photographers. And
 this is the sort of rubbish
 the Home Foot sends us
 as its "official" photographer
 who ~~he~~ may be trusted - while
 Ross & I may not be trusted.
 I got dead sick of it
 but hung on pleasantly in
 order that they couldn't say it
 I obstructed them through

prejudice or jealousy. They
told Brooks - the war office
did - that we were asking
urgently for him. I shall
get through my 5 days w
him pleasantly if I can; but
never again.

~~When I reached home
I went into the shop but for
dinner, one of the boys
+ asked me if I had heard
news - the Queen?~~

Just before Brooks arrived
this morning, I was going
up from 1 Mess to 1 Chateau
when someone said - I
think it was de Crespigny:
"Have you heard of
naval battle. They have
sunk 18 of our ships. They
seem to have caught our
light cruisers."

When I got to 1 Chateau

Someone else told me that Evans, the ^{O.C.} signaller, had it on the wires from J.H.Q. that the German wireless had been heard a ~~week~~ couple of days ago congratulating their brave sailors - a message from Kaiser - but they had had some thing before & no one thought much of it. Now however it had arrived on our own wireless. Then they mentioned 1 names of 1 ships sunk: Queen Mary, Invincible, Indefatigable.....

I could hardly believe my ears - Light Cruisers! Why! this was our battle-cruiser squadron - Defence, Black Prince also sunk; Warrior abandoned sinking... true good cruisers but not first ~~class~~ rate ships - about

the equivalent of their Blüchers
 wh we sank last year in
 North Sea. Of course they wd
 go first - it is a lesson of this
 naval war - a weak ship has
 no chance apt a ~~big~~ much
 newer ship.

Apt this we claim "one
 battle-cruiser + one battleship
 sunk + possibly one more of
 each disabled. We have lost
 12 ~~of~~ destroyers sunk + they
 a good number.

~~It isn't clear~~ up at
 H. Q. so they are inclined to be
 depressed + I must say it
 makes one very anxious.
 But until we know what German
 ships were sunk, + whether
 their Zeppelins were the cause
 of their success, one cant tell
 the real effect of the action. If
~~we~~ we really sank two new

battleships & a battle cruiser
it wd be a success for us.
It looks as if we know our
full loss anyway - & we
dont know of German. That's
a good thing.

19
Sunday
June 4th. The German losses
in ~~the~~ ^{naval fight} are said by our
communiqué to be ~~two~~
one battleship & two
battlecruisers - & possibly
a second battleship; a
third battlecruiser damaged.
The Germans think they have
sunk the Warspite & the
Marlborough, wh they haven't.
It is, of course, the talk of
the whole corps - & everyone
is anxious for more news.
The result doesnt seem
so bad. Zeppelins dont seem
to have taken of any great part

2
 (if they had proved of great use in giving Germans knowledge of our position & our tactics or in observing his gun fire for him it wd have been far more serious - for we cannot get Zeppelins now to rival them, starting at this late hour. Birdwood agreed w me 1 other day when I sd th we were all to blame for th. we none of us believed in Zeppelins before this war). and the losses seem more equal. ~~th~~ We know the extent of ours; Germans have not admitted theirs.

Took Brooks & Tony round again today - first to take pictures of a church service w padre Dexter preaching. Afterwards to 1st ^{asst.} Cas. Clearing Hospital. Padre Dexter is a man w a good way w troops.

a little stout button nosed
 rather red faced ~~old~~ sea captain.
 He used to study 1 stars
 while carrying Mahomedan
 pilgrims up 1 Persian Gulf
 or 1 Red Sea; - a trade just
 one degree better than 1 slave trade.
~~then~~ He read 1 Bishop of
 Durham's writings on astronomy
 & went to Durham University
 & later to Church - & went
 to Melbourne. He was a
 trooper in some Ceylon contingent
 in 1 Boer War & won a
 D.C.M. He practices
 buffoonery of a rather crude type,
 & stays for popularity by
 joining in every questionable
 joke - & talking something in
 the same style, if he thinks
 the company stands it. He's
 a brave man & hardy, & I
 dare say unselfish really - but

a very crude ordinary type of man really - a good regimental padre perhaps but quite unfitted for the job of Senior Chaplain. He is full of gossip & scandal - & how White is so misled in him I don't know. I daresay he wd be a good true friend to anyone in trouble ~~but~~ like many men of the world - but he is essentially a man of the world & not at all a spiritual man.

Brooks was grumbling this morning at only being allowed to take "cushy" stuff & not 1 sort of pictures the editors want. "They won't print a picture of a sentry looking over a trench" - he sb. Of course they won't so long as he supplies

them with faked charges & sham battles & makes up out of his imagination all that he thinks they want - this "Official" British photographs. I told him straight we would not have faked ^{pictures} - he objected to 1 word & there was a row. Since then I have been dragging him round much as you might lead a bad tempered bull by the nose. I don't know how long I shall be able to stand it - only two days more.

June 5th Took Brooks out again - this time to the 2nd Bde. The biograph man was too ill to come any further than La Motte - poor delicate little chap, we walked him

off his feet two days ago, ²⁴
altho' we carried all his
load for him.

Brooks we subdued
- Batter had a word w him
last night - & didn't try
to fake again today - he
sd before ^{he took} each photo: "That's
how it really wd be" - or
"There's nothing unnatural
in that, is there?" - so 1
lesson seems to have
penetrated just a little.

When we reached 1
trenches - down Watling St.,
- I cd hardly recognise
them they were so extraordinarily
improved. great sections of
front line had been thickened
& 1 old dugouts pulled down
& new ones built. There has
ba more material taken
out of the Engineers store during

1 time our men have been here (2 months), so they say, than during 1 stay of the previous two army corps. In fact no work seems to have been done here before we came for months.

June 6th Tuesday

My last day with Brooks. ~~It~~ It was raining but he & Tong turned up trees to trees, & I took them to the bomb school. We waited 1 1/2 hours in 1 farm where 1 school head quarters is before it cleared at all. Lt. Ashburner was there. It was interesting to see in 1 dark high barn there lots of men sitting sucking their pencils at 3 tables and writing just like

(on its way to Russia
on a mission)

2
26.
boys at a country school with
an N.C.O. looking over each table
like a schoolmaster. It was
an examination, I suppose.

We afterwards got some
photos of Australians in
their billets.

When we got home, at
lunch, as I was getting out of
car, Boyd, once my colleague
on the F.M. Herald, & now
a clerk here, came up to me
& told me that Birdwood had
received an open wire to say
that Lord Kitchener had been
drowned in the cruiser
"Hampshire," with "Fitz" -
I suppose Fitzgerald, his
A.D.C., - and some others. It
was from Creedy, Lord K's secretary.
Birdwood will feel this very much -
he is very attached to Lord Kitchener
& Fitzgerald must be a close friend.

But as far as I was goes I don't think it will make a slightest difference. I believe, indeed, that Birdwood thinks they were sending Lord Kitchener to Russia in order to get him out of the way. There has long been a party that wants to get him out of the office — including the "Daily Mail" crowd.

The idea that soldiers have of "Daily Mail" (as well as the "Times" of course) is exemplified by what Butler said to me the other day. There was some victory to record that day, & one would have expected to see it in a central or top page well displayed. Instead — all across the main page was some squabble of politicians about the war. "What Gen. So-and-So says about Ireland" —

or something. Butler who I fancy belongs to the same party as "Daily Mail" sd: "I can't stand this rag - look at the way it picks on some controversy because it wants to sling mud & puts it all across 1 page" - That is the Daily Mail.

June 7th Turned Brooks over to Ross today - thank goodness. You can't help liking Brooks; but why on earth do they send him on this job.

I have a pile of letters 3 inches high to work on in connection w/ Angus Book, owing to this week's work w/ Brooks. I was going to have a day on them when White said to me on the

sitting little anteroom of
 Chateau as he was going in
 to conference: "well - that
 was a very successful little
 affair last night, Bean!"

I opened my eyes: "What
 affair?"

"That little raid!"

"What ... a raid by us
 you mean?" I asked.

"Didn't you hear of it?"
 he said - "I would have told
 you if I had thought of it -
 yes, our 7th Bde raided
 their trenches & brought
 back 3 prisoners & killed
 12."

So we have been in
 German trenches at last.

The prisoners are coming
 up here for examination,
 & Butler is not going
 down there. But luckily
 we have the G.H. Q car here

—lent to us while Brook³⁰
is here; & as Ross was going
to Armentieres in it I
got him to take me.

It turns out that this
raid was to have taken place
two nights ago — on June 5.
(Herbertson has been away from the
mess for 2 days — so it is there
he has been.) The Canadians
have done their raiding in some
cases without the help of a
bombardment — simply slipping
quietly into German lines &
out again — & it was how we were
to have gone in this time. The
advantage of not having a
bombardment is that you find
the trenches exactly as they were,
& get in & out if it is well
done — without the enemy knowing
well the commanders of the
bns. of the 7th Bde were

asked to send in plans for raids - * The 28 & 26th Bns both chose 1 same point, south of 1 rly line from Armentieres where our patrols knew the German wire was bad. The 27th & 25th chose other points, but it was decided to carry out this one.

A plan of the ^{German} trenches was, as usual, dug out 8ft deep on some ground near the Blue H. Os. at Chapel Armentieres & the attack was thoroughly practised. To lead it was chosen Capt Foss of the 28th Bn, a thorough good soldier - a young chap whose people have a big farm in Western Australia. With him was Lt Phillips, a South Australian, I think - & 2/Lt. ^{R.H.} Jell - a new scout officer & two others, Capt Calles (26th Bn) &

2/Lt A. Brown. They were all
 28th Bn exc. Coless. On the
 night of the 5th they left our trenches
 at 9.30 p.m. - went out in
 double file over 1 parapet -
 5 officers & 59 men - half
 men from the 28th & half from
 the 26th (then in billets). They
 first went the scouts - Lt Gill,
 Corporal & four others - in two
 lines, 3 in each, keeping
~~very~~ low in the grass - mostly
 on hands & knees. (The
 grass is long w/ growth of
 two years & is especially thick
 just now w/ new growth.)

Then ^{at 10.15} came the assault party
 in 5 lots - one to go up 1 fire
 trench to 1 ~~left~~ ^{right} & one to block
 1 ~~left~~ ^{right} common trench (these
 to go ~~up~~ under Lt Brown); one
 to go along 1 fire trench to 1 left
~~right~~ & one to block a common

trench there (under Capt Coles).

Behind them was 1 parapet party ~~of~~ ^{to line} ~~the~~ 1 parapet & was to give 1 alarm if any of enemy were approaching from their support lines.

Last was 1 covering party under Lt Phillips who remained just outside the wire & was to protect the flanks of 1 assault & take back prisoners & close up rear when 1 party retired.

They were only to be 7 minutes in 1 enemy's trench. Then a green light was to be fired & they were to return.

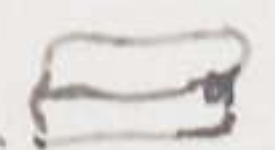
Gill & his scouts crept to 1 enemy's wire & began cutting thro' it. It was very bad just here, old, & tied down on stakes on no sort of plan. Gill lay on his back ~~his~~ ^{corp} w his head towards 1



Helmet in grey
blue cloth cover.

enemy & 1 wire across his chest; while his corporal lay almost on top of him & and pressed 1 wire down.

They worked ahead into 1 last bits of wire just outside 1 enemy's trench when ahead of him still saw - within 5 yards - the outline of a fortified listening post. It had a little parapet raised abt 3 ft from 1 ground & over it was looking a man in a spiked helmet.

The man in 1 helmet had seen something, for he called up two other men (or at any rate they appeared) and looked cautiously over 1 plates of 1 listening post on either side of 1 man in 1 helmet. They had ordinary grey button caps. 

* The trench mortars were turned on to this wire in 1 morning so as to make the cut appear to have been caused by them.

It was too late to start wire cutting at any other point as 1 dawn begins now at a little after 2 am. So 1 party sent back a message

Sill & his corporal lay quite still for 10 minutes & then crept very stealthily back, joining up 1 cut end of wire quietly as they went. About 40 yds back - near 1 wire (there were 40 yds of wire) ~~the~~ the assault party, who had been waiting in a ditch near two willows & were now creeping up, met them creeping back.

It was now 11.50.

~~A message~~ when Sill turned back & it was about 12.30 ~~when~~ they ^{reaching to} reached ~~a~~ ^{check} message reporting they reached Bde. Headquarters. Gen. Paton had then to sit down & decide on 1 spot whether to go on w/ 1 raid to night under a bombardment or to postpone it. He is very cool abt it - Herbertson, who was there, says he is very good in action -

& decided not to turn 1 gun on. As it was too late to try at any other place 1 party was withdrawn.

Orders for a bombardment ^{next night} were sent out to 1 2nd Divl. arty; the heavy guns were to put in a few shells just to show they were there. The big bombs were to break up 1 enemy's wire; a first or 1 bombardment was to be the 2nd Aust. Divn's howitzers & 18 pdrs with those of N.Z. Divn & 1st Aust Division helping on 1 flanks.

The party went out in exactly 1 same form as on 1 night before - it had to be a trying wait for 1 man - at 9.40 pm. They crept out to the twin willows, where there was a ditch to shelter in, & later into some old rifle

The 60 lb trench mortars
opened onto 1 German
were at 1 point
where it had been
cut 1 night before.

pits dug by us at some early
stage of war & long forgotten -
they don't show in an aeroplane
photo they are so overgrown,
but Joss had come across them in
his wanderings in No man's land.
At 11.15 our artillery came in
with a crash. First 1 it started
away on 1 right agst Cape
Blanco in 1 enemy's line; then
it opened up to 1 North agst
~~Cape~~ Weg Macquart, & the
Rue de Bois salient. Then at
11.25 it all turned onto 1
little point of 1 line to be attacked,
just south of the rly. All our
infantry was delighted w these
fireworks! They only stayed on
the trench for 10 minutes (till
11.35) & then suddenly lifted &
formed a barrage - Joss told
me th afterwards from 1 enemy's

The limits of advance were to
be: I 21 c $5\frac{1}{2}$ $2\frac{1}{4}$, $6.1\frac{1}{2}$,
7.2., $8\frac{3}{4}$. $3\frac{1}{4}$, $8.4x$

42
trenches he looked out across
the hinterland at the barrage &
it was quite complete. No one
could have come through it.
When 1 gun lifted 1 party in no
mans land at once went forward.
The scouts were there to cut 1
wire, but it needed no cutting.
The trench mortars had made a
clean sweep of it & there were
only two or three strands wh
might possibly have tripped
men. It took abt 2 minutes
to reach 1 enemy's parapet -
just 10 yards south of the railway -
going in 1 same order as 1
night before. Then Foss got up
onto the parapet & lay there.
The left & right assault parties
crept up & as each man
reached 1 ~~place~~ ^{parapet} he lay down
to left or right of Foss along
1 parapet. The moment they
were there they all jumped on
Foss's signal, into 1 trench.



44

It was a surprise that they found no parados. The ~~back~~ ~~at trunk~~ parapet was 16ft thick on top & about 9 feet deep - & below it were the duckboards exactly the same as ours; but you could see away from the back of it right across the line to the north -

Where Foss jumped down he found himself looking into a ~~wooden~~ ^{framed} ~~the~~ ~~entrance~~ ~~to~~ the open doors of a low dugout under the parapet. There was no light inside - it was jet black - but Foss flashed his torch & saw a heap of blankets in one corner at which he fired. There was nothing in them. Then he flashed his torch round - & there in the other corner was a boy with his

Their faces had all previously
 been blacked with burnt
 chalk & soot (as is custom)
 & they must have looked a
 terrifying crew.

hands above his head -
 in 1 corner o 1 dugout. Jones
 took him by the scruff o 1
 neck - the chap didnt seem to
 know what to do but was
 rather abject - & flung him
 bodily over 1 parapet towards
 1 scouts who were waiting there
 for prisoners. The chap fell in 1
 German wire & was torn a bit
 abt 1 trousers, but I believe
 is one o 1 prisoners.

The parties went along 1
 trenches exactly as arranged.
 The communication trench parties
 found one ~~the~~ trench a mere
 shallow cut abt 2 ft deep
 w brushwood hurdles to
 screen from observation;
 the other had a solid 6 foot
 parapet but ~~not~~ on one
 side but was open on 1 other
 just as some of our ~~Common~~
 trenches are where only one

side needs protecting from ⁴⁷ enemy. The parties went along from dugout to dugout - finding 3 or 4 like the first, ~~at 8ft~~ and generally rolled a bomb inside & killed the men there in this way. The dugouts were ~~8ft by 8ft~~ mostly in the parapet, at the foot of it - the framework projecting just a little into the trench. They were 5ft high & abt 8ft long & went in 8ft, & had two bunks, one above the other. The 4 feet of solid sand bag above them wd stand 1 field gun shell & perhaps the 4.5 howitzer, but not a 6 in shell. We had only fired 20 big shells altogether & 1 trench was absolutely undamaged except for a breach made about 60 yds S. of the rly by a trench mortar.

The trench near 1 rly had no bays; ~~but further~~ ^{it} just a winding ramp. But further along it had bays; & where the bays were were little bits of parados each containing a dugout for one man.

[The prisoners say the rest of their trench all has parados except this little bit - & 1 photograph make this seem probable].

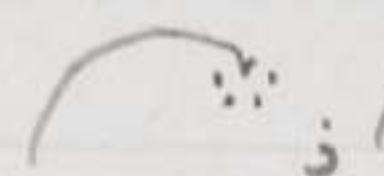

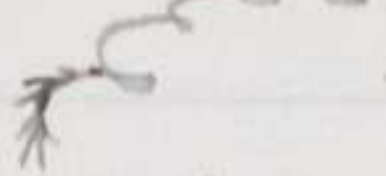
There was no sign of m.g. fire or any sort of movement or rifle fire from 1 support line where our shells were playing like ^{brilliant} summer lightning.

probably. ~~the~~ Candles were ⁴⁹ burning in some of 1 dugouts, & in one an electric bulb was glowing & was broken by a corporal. ~~There were~~

None of 1 Germans made any attempt to resist. ~~By~~ Only one reached for his rifle & he was shot at once. Two men came running up 1 trench in 1 dark & were bayoneted - they were not known at 1 moment to be unarmed but they carried none; probably messengers. The right party went along over 1 broken parapet to 1 other side of it but found nothing there & so returned - ~~from~~ It was 6 minutes after 1 entry. I was ~~waited~~ waited one minute for the left party & then put up his green flare. They all converged

+ went silently over 1 parapet
 + back into No man's land
 taking either 4 or 6 prisoners.
 About 6 Germans had been killed in
 1 trench. Three men had gone
 along and found 1 listening
 post which Gill had struck
 on 1 previous night. It had
 two layers of steel plate
 round it, painted green; &
 in it were 1 remains of
 a man who had been blown
 to pieces by one of our
 bombs. There were possibly
 3 men in the post - wh
 od make 9 killed. &

The German artillery
 had opened up on our
 trenches 8 minutes after we
 opened on theirs. ^{Their fire was dispersed} ~~of course~~
^{possibly because} ~~was~~ About 3 or 4 minutes
 after our guns started, when the
 Enemy's infantry sent up flares for

his artillery to help him, we sent him up too, from various parts of line - & he was possibly deceived. He kept however a curly snakey rocket (first white ; then green ; then snakey yellow  - I think it was 1 order) wh we had not got, & so I doubt if he was much deceived really. But what did deceive him were our "diversions" on other parts of line. He first opened up on 1 South; then on 1 North; afterwards generally, but rather wildly - not the sharp, straight, well registered fire wh we have generally had from him.

We had thinned out our line; & yet 1 bombardment did us a good deal of harm.

Lt. Murdoch - the bombing officer
of the 28th was killed by a shell
wh went through ^{1 covered} our parapet.

2 For example,
we had only five sentries
in one salient - under an
officer. When 1 German were
bombarding (so 1 officer told
me,) he cd see 1 man
there - the five heads, by 1
light of German shells,
along 1 parapet, all steadily
sticking to their job. The rest of
our men were in 1 support
line or in 1 Bois frontier
line.

Yet so miserable is our
protection that ^{between} ~~about~~ 20 and
30 men were hit even
in spite of 1 precautions
& 1 enemies inaccurate
fire. ~~It~~

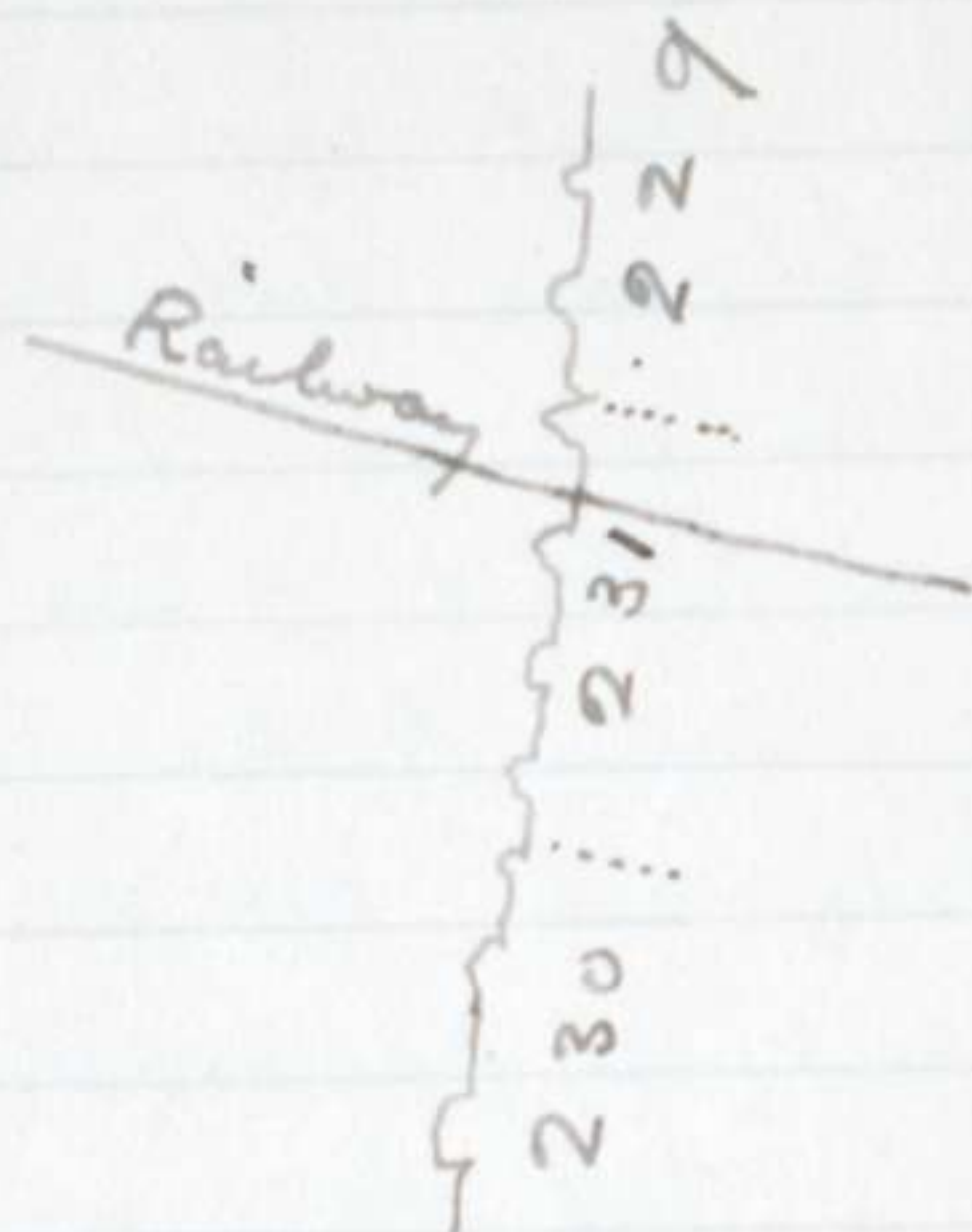
The raiding party was in
1 meantime waiting out
in No mans land for the
enemies fire to cease on
our parapet. It was left to

2 Joss to decide whether he was
 going them straight back or wait
 until the enemy's fire eased, &
 he chose the latter. After ~~at~~
~~an hour~~ they lay out near
 the twin willows in a ditch -
 a good many ~~big~~ shells falling
 near them; & it was here
 that our only men were hit.
 One ^{shell} was hit thro' ~~the~~ One
 shell did 1 damage - killed
 one man, hit another thro'
 1 chest below 1 shoulder so
 he died as he was being
 carried in; & wounded four
 others. One of prisoners,
 when 1 ~~scout~~ ^{scout} wanted him
 to move, would not face the German
 sharpshooter. He lay down &
 squealed & struggled - so,
 as they had no ~~the~~ means of
 keeping him quiet, & did not
 want to shoot, they cut his

throat. Two ^{more} of the 6 men who were originally taken prisoners did not seem to understand what we required of them - at any rate they didn't do ~~it~~ instantly what we required of them - ~~so~~ were shot on the spot. (I think this was in / trench before our men left it - two other prisoners I fancy were taken in their place. The men were told to bring back 3 if possible. One little fellow they took because, as they said, "He was too young to kill.")

So ended the first raid.

The prisoners belonged to the 501st Reserve Divn. (Russian) & came to this front a little before we did. They are of the 231st Reserve Infantry Regiment. The 231st is across the sky, the 229th to its North & the 230th to



South of it. They were fighting before in Champagne, & before it in Russia.

Freiherr von der Soltz commands the Divn; Graf von Moltke (whoever it may be) the brigade (wh we dont quite understand, bec a "regt." is practically a brigade) &

Col. August Fritsch the battalion. They have abt 6 m. gs per company (4 comp of 250 in ^{each} bay, divided into 3 Züge (platoons of abt 64 or 70) divided each into 8 gruppe). Half of each group is on guard at a time at night - abt one sentry to each bay of trench. ~~They~~

They have 2 or 3 listening posts out in front of each company in ^{each of} which are kept

2

3 men - one on guard -
 one connecting file to
 carry messages to the
 3rd who is at the end of
 the sap leading to the post.
 The ~~troops~~ ^{men} in post are armed
 w/ rifles. Patrols go out
 as well but not on
 stated ~~regular~~ ^{regular} nights.

As soon as a bombard-
 -ment begins a hand bell is
 rung & the men go straight
 to their "Trommelfeuerposten"
 or (bombardment dugouts) -
 These have steel bars over
 head, $\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, with
 steel plates on top of
 that & sandbags & earth
 over that up to level of
 parapet. They are ~~about~~ ^{over}
 6ft long & 3ft deep & their
 floor level is the same as the
 trench. They each hold 4 men,

& there are eno' of them
 for all men except 1
 sentries (who I suppose
 have to stand ^{to their} ~~job~~ & get
 killed). These are quite ^{separate} ~~apart~~
 affairs from 1 dugouts where 1 man
 who are not on guard
 sleep at night. [The entrance
 is not 1 whole width of the
~~dugout~~ bombardment pogy,
 apparently; & they cannot
 tuck their feet in, all of them
 - with comfort. Still the thing
 will keep out a 5.9 shell,
 clearly].

The prisoners sd to their
 company had only lost 4 or
 5 men in a month - &
 this clearly is reason of it -
 their protection is so good. The
 only reason why we
 have not as good is sheer
 want of backbone on part of

The 50th arty Regt is w
the 50th Div.

The 4th (Posen) m. g. detachment
is also w the 231st Regt.

British soldiers & Officers who
have been in this line before.

Each battalion does
18 days in 1 ~~fighting~~ trench,
Each Coy being 6 days in 1
support line & 12 in 1 front
line -

[Our ^{the} ~~un~~ noticed that part of line into
wh our men got had bn
made very solidly to begin
with, & no work had bn
done on it for a long time.]

This raid was made after
an artillery bombt. with
light guns -

The Germans made theirs w
heavy guns.

It lasted only 10 mins at
point attacked. The Germans
bombed us for 1hr & 20 mins.

It had no effect at all on

their trenches - theirs practically destroyed our trenches.

Our men were all exceedingly pleased w. 1 fire of our guns & trench mortars - wh is a good thing. But these 3 in. 10 pounders & 4.5 in howitzers are pop guns to the enemy's 5.9 (60 pounders). If we had dugouts like he, his ammunition might be wasted; at present its spite of all our sniping it is we who lose 1 man & not he.

~~One of our~~

Our guns fired abt 10000 rounds in this bombardment - about 5000 on the actual point of attack & 5000 on 1 flank & rear. There were 34 ^{of the 2nd Div.} guns shooting at the point attacked - all field guns & ^{4.5 in} howitzers; & some

o 1 N. 3. v 1st Div guns
 on 1 flank. They ^{2nd Div} fired for
 abt 40 minutes, abt 200
 rounds each battery.
 An hour after it had finished
 when they expected 1 German
 were out looking at things,
 Every gun opened all at
 once for one minute -
 at about 1.30 am.

June 8th. Gen Russell asked me
 to lunch today.

The Germans opposite
 his men are Saxons & have
 always been friendly. ~~When the~~
 They put up a notice about
 Lord Kitchener two days ago -
 so Russell says. But I think
 it must have be yesterday. They
 wd hardly know before
 British public. They also
 put up a notice abt the

another notice at same place was
"Shoot High - peace will be declared
on June 16th".

Ross tells me that
* There is a strict order from G.H.Q.
against men putting their heads over
parapet & fraternising w/ enemy.
When their message went up one of our
people, reading it, realised that he
had his head & shoulders over parapet
& Saxons were not shooting at him.
When our message went up
first one of our heads there appeared on
appeared - then one of theirs -
then about six of each - they waved
their hands to each other. Then an
officer came along & asked 1 man what
they were doing. When they told him
he sd "I don't think you'd better do
that, had you?" He told them that they had
better fire on 1 German - over their
heads to warn them. So they did
& 1 German disappeared & we
took in our notice. After which the two
messages mentioned opposite were
~~to be~~ put out by 1 Saxon. (we
shall probably put ours up again)

This is all of a piece with the
deliberate policy of the British army
authorities to encourage anger in
the troops because they think the

British fleet:

English defeat at sea.

Seven Cruisers sunk

One Damaged

Eleven other crafts sunk

Hip Hip Hurray.

This was reported; & our intelligence
(Butler is a spot) apt all orders from G.H.Q., next
day sent down very wisely a message giving the
actual losses as we take them to be. This message
was put over 1 trench & shortly withdrawn. Soon after
Saxon parapet: "Once more wd you let us see
the message."

We still put up no message
- as it was thought to be apt orders - & there
appeared:
"We beg of you to show again
the table of the fleet"

British Soldier woud fight well
enough without it. When first we
came here they sent down a lot of
stuff abt German atrocities (wh may
or may not have been exaggerated)
and asked that lectures shd be
prepared from it to be given to
troops. Butler, good chap, asked

~~Amber~~

The N.T. trenches up in the
Epinele Sabien are awful -
worse than anything I have seen.
Half the time you are looking
over the top of them at German
trenches. (Our scheme is being
carried out all thro' them.
It is only abt 10 days old.)

I can't make out
how it is we weren't
shot at more - possibly
troops opposite being Saxons
accounts for it. The New Zealand
in 1 line were quite new &
had scarcely a periscope
between them.

back: what moral he was expected
to draw from in 1 lectures? Was
it that our troops shd do likewise?
and the stuff was thrown into the
waste paper basket.

Ross has been allowed to send
a cable w a vague account of
this to 1 British papers. It will
show that 1 German mistrust
their own ~~paper~~ official account.
Some people are attacking Balfour
for having given out our whole
losses before he knew 1 whole
loss of enemy & so making people
think it was a naval disaster
- when 1 fleet came home, rather
proud of itself, it was somewhat
hurt. All my feeling is: Thank
Godness he did take us into his
confidence & let us know 1
full loss at once. When 1 German
find out that their foot has
been deceiving them it will not.

be such a merry day for them.

Besides - the fight was a pretty even one. If we drove Germans back to port as they will this was 1 main thing; but in actual fight I fancy losses were somewhat against us.

Ryan, the Premier of Queensland, visited our lines today - not 1 front line but 1 troops in reserve. Birdwood says he is one of the stupidest men he ever met, with the least general knowledge. He didn't seem to know that an aeroplane drops bombs. He seemed to be relieved when he heard they were not necessarily going into the front trenches.

But he had his own experience for after a Stokes gun had been fired in practice & only 7 out

of 8 bombs had gone off & they had strolled over to look at ~~the~~ ^{the} craters someone - when Birdwoods foot was abt 18 inches from 1 unexploded bomb shouted "look out, Sir; its going to go off now!"

"we ~~got~~ ~~to~~ all jumped into a trench (a practice trench wh we were)", sd Birdwood, "I got Mr Ryan in somehow - he's very fat & I don't know how it was done - & then sure enough the thing did go off..."

Birdwood has had lots of squeaks like this. The day Haples was here I saw Birdie hit on 1 hand w a tiny fragment of sham bomb - enough to bleed. The first day he went into 1 trench here he was hit by a sprag of bomb,

2

70
 Fortunately spent; early at
 Anzac before we hit our head as
 a bullet bits of which were got
 out of scalp, suppurating,
 after 1 evacuation; &
 in quinn's one day a
 man told him that our
 own bombs never went
 off. "Surely!" said Birdwood.
 "No they don't, sir," he said
 lighting one & putting it
 down - "See here!"

"Isn't it dangerous -
 would the thing explode?"
 said Birdie & turned
 his back quickly - & 1
 next second it did
 explode - by a miracle
 Birdwood & I man were
 not injured (our bombs were
 not Mills in those days).

"The man wasn't a
 bit flurried" - Birdie says.

2

71

"He was the coolest hand I ever met. He simply said: 'Well now, it's the first time I've ever known it do that!'"

Birdwood told me that himself.

I saw a beautiful strafing on the "Station House" (a low roofed bldg near a Distillery on the Rue de Bois) yesterday. The ~~gun~~ aeroplane had put some old grime-wads guns onto a target of ~~their~~ its own (they sometimes do this if guns have no special target). Capt. Walker was observing from the aeroplane & he put the guns on to this place where they say there are some stores. From an upper window of the 4th Bde 7th A.

H.Q.s we could see the firing. The guns were howitzers the 104th Bty of 4.5's. They are supposed to get off one round a minute but there were nearly 90 fired in no time by only one section (2 guns). We saw bits of roof & building & shreds & tatters of stuff go up into the air over the brick dust clouds - & lurid flashes thro' it & a mist rolling away across country. The Germans started strafing 1 aeroplane w/ ugly black shrapnel & grimwade & I went down to finish our morning tea. Before we had finished it there was a ring at the telephone & there was Capt. Waller ringing up from 10 miles away at 1

aerodrome to Comptroler
Col Grimdeath (as they call
him) on 1 way 1 guns had
be firing. "What were they?"
he asked. He cd hardly
believe they were howitzers
as they fired so ~~well~~ fast.

Grimwade tells me that
they get lots of help from
1 aeroplanes but practically
none at all from 1 capturing
kite balloons. They never hear
about 1 balloons have
observed. I'm sure there's
something wrong w these
balloons - Probably 1 link
between them & 1 guns is
fault. They say themselves
~~they cant help 1 guns~~
that they cant spot enemy's
guns, & so on; but 1
germans dont have 9 of
them along 1 horizon for

nothing. Ours are under
our "Survey section" - &
I expect that is what is wrong.

One of our aeroplanes
- the very latest of 125 H.P.,
a battle-plane wh was to
bring down 1 German - has
arrived over here; but the
air people tell Butler
(when he rang up to say th
our people reported a
monster going over at
night) th it is in 1 German
hands. It came out
& ~~on its~~ arrived behind
1 German lines at Lille
instead of on our aviation
grounds - th is all.

One is inclined to
think it must have been
spy work! If it is literally
true.

The troops - especially!

rather new N.Z. troops
 are simply full of spy
 stories - Jimwade told
 us th two women yesty went
 up to one of his batteries.
 Today a sentry told one
 of his men th they had be
 arrested & found to have all
 our battery positios marked
 on drawings. I shd have
 believed this before I was.
 As it is I have not least
 doubt it is a wild yarn.
 Last night Herbasts out & I
 walked with Williams, the
 A.P.M. for 1st Anzac Corps,
 down a road ~~at~~
 toward Neaf Berquin
 to see a cottage window
 from wh signalling was sd
 to be going on. Williams
 had seen a light coming
 & going there himself; &

he hurried up & got the
 master of signals, a British
 N.C.A. who went back w
 him & watched 1 window
 make 1 word "Tonight" -
 so he says. The signal
 master told me it was
 undoubtedly morse. There
 are an old man, & old woman
 in 1 house, & one daughter.
 I don't think it likely 1
 daughter was signalling
 to a ~~man~~ ^{lover} - there is no
 reason to go to such a
 length where a word spoken
 wd do; & they are not
 educated enough. It is
 a very foolish method for
 a spy - so what is one
 to think :- that the master of
 signals was imaginative?
 That is what I really suspect.

The cook at our mess has a great contempt for local wood cutters. He himself spent his time in Australia between cooking for shearers & chopping trees. He has a great disgust at "way a wood in a yard has to be cut." Seems to me as if "it had to be struck by lightning," he says.

June 9th (Friday)

First day for a week at my diary. & got it finished up to date.

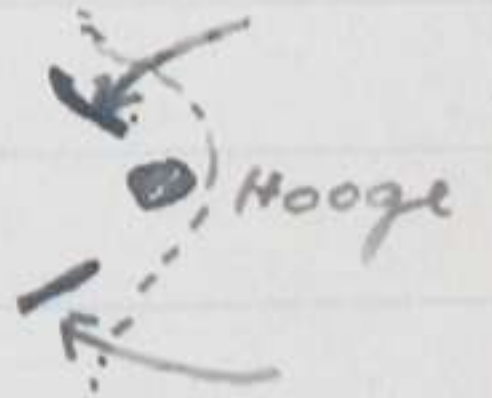
~~Birdie~~ But I shan't have much time I expect.

Birdie tells me he is congratulating the 26th & 28th Bns in an order he told the Divisions to what he hoped to see us two similar

raids every week - so it
we shd never give the
Boches any rest!

Herbertson says the
Army will soon put a stop
to this on acct of the expenditure
of ammunition.

The guns are flashing
about Ypres tonight - as they
have been for 1 last week.
The Canadians were attacked
some days ago - & a couple of
generals who were in their
trenches, & also a ^{wounded} couple
Colonel, were captured & 1
line forced back some distance.
Another attack on the other side
of Hooze also succeeded - &
this left the ~~force~~ line at Hooze
hanging almost in / air
with the Germans on
either flank. Two
days ago, I believe, Hooze was



lost. The salient there costs us an extremely large number of men. I have no doubt the right thing to do, if war is going to be a long one, is to make a perfect line well behind Ypres - on good ground if possible, & well built under fairly peaceable conditions - & then fall back on it & let Germans have Ypres. By hanging on to Ypres we are losing men daily in much larger numbers than they.

The French have also lost the Fort of Vaux, S.E. of Verdun.

Brooks, who is always ready to blab about all he sees, says he thinks he sees signs of a move in the constant pushing up of units nearer to front. Certainly you do see troops passing up to Inerville & Estaires - they seem

to vanish when they get there --
 But I take these to be ordinary
 reliefs of divisions. I cannot
~~say~~ There are nurses in
 1 Casualty clearing stations -
 as Brooks pointed out. But I
 cannot say that I have noticed
 one single thing which in any way
 hinted that a big offensive is
 at hand. Many things are a bit off.

For instance out 4th &
 5th Divs are arriving (the
 4th reaches Marseille today)
 & will be arriving for a
 month or more. The 3rd Div.
 which is to form in England will
 I suppose be slower still.
 Monash has been recommended
 for its command - Jackson
 chief of staff; Guy Wyllie G.S.O.
 2. At Bridges is to go to the 2nd
 Aust. Div. & Col. Blaney
 as G.S.O. 1

to the 1st Aust Div as GSO 1.
 Well Monash + Jackson
 ought to be a thoroughly good
 combination. They will train
 in England at Salisbury Plain.
 The N.3. Divn will go with the 4th
 & 5th to Gen. Godley (in fact they
 are in a part of line wh will
 be his even now); & the 3rd
 will come to us.

Then we shall see
 whether the War Office will
 allow us to become an army.

If it wastes these
 Australian troops on a minor
 offensive - it will be.... well,
 when the time comes one would
 try & find the proper term.

June 10th (Saty) went over to
 a crowded concert at Baillell
 given by Tree the singer, Jackson
 the comedian, & others, in the

big Y. M. C. A. tent. They have given 4 concerts today. As the little pianist sd in saying good bye: "We are too old to serve our country by fighting for her; but we are only too glad to feel that we are trying to do our bit - little tho' it is."

Saw on the roads the first signs of our 4th Divn - some of the 13th near Oudekerke, & some of the 14th in Baillencourt. I hear Gen. Cox has arrived.

June 11th. Drove to Baillencourt & La Creeche with Padre Dexter. Roads simply full of the new Australians - the old 4th Bde & its "Pop" (the 12th). The same old breezy lot - not so smart but - possibly - even harder. They are all easily told by the way they played

Cairo & worked it with all his might. ⁸³
 He was exceedingly keen on his job - & keenly
 naturally involved keeping some of the best
 men at the base camp to run it instead of
 sending them to the Divs. White warned him
 about this, I believe - & it was not to be
 permitted. Any way, he has been superseded
 by Col. Abbott; & after a fortnight's transition
 work he has had a real breakdown.

It's all very well - but they sent up
 1200 men from Cairo - the Sweepings - under
 2 Lieutenants w/ orders for 1 Lieut. and 1 Lt.
 on to London. Evans kept the Lieut. at the Base
 - he sd it was not reasonable to throw on him
 1200 men without Officers, especially men
 of that sort; & there's a lot in what he says.
 Later, I hear Evans wrote long letters to
 Birdwood & Hughes "as a private citizen".

I went with Padre Dexter to
 Aesdin (to see the Graves Commissioners)
 Etaples, Boulogne & St Omer. At
 Etaples are the Ashchian base camps - abt
 4000 reinforcements of 1st Div & as many of 2nd
 (men returned from hospital) drilling in all
 weathers, sometimes under British M.C.O.S.

In hospital there was Maj. Evans,
 - poor old Evans of the A.I.F. Base,
 who created Sellheim's system for him in

with the children - The kids
 made straight for them
 even in Barchin where there
 are hundreds of English
 soldiers.

They were full of admiration
 for the country. "Two hundred
 miles of garden" one of
 them sd of first 200 miles
 out of Marseilles.

"My word - it's a
 country worth fighting for," is
 the thing they all of them say
 - their first impression of
 France.

He did the best he could for months. I gain
 gradually been doing so for months. I gain
 he did the best he could quite a long time in my judgment of him. Any
 going out - Told his staff to work by ally with Abbott.

June 12th I hear from Smart that
 Sellheim has dispensed with his
 services. It makes one very angry
 to think of the ineffective irresolute
 man turning out the man of 5 times his
 capacity & 20 times his energy.

On getting back from staples found that
 too late to go down. Following particulars
 type with form as Capit. Moncur. } Supports.
 Butler wanted a copy - to which refer. Lt. Rodgers }
 Lt. Laughlin 2/4 3 bayonet men
 Lt. Hyde 2/4 2 bombers
 50 men.

4 matmen. 14ft x 4ft. strong J.C. canvas.

Bennett command in Bde temporarily during absence of Forsythe.

Each 1 mat.

2 2/4 1.5 ft. A.C.

4 1/2 V supports w Telephone wire.

Buy 18 2/4 6 Proj. Daley w h.

2 Telephones w 2 stopped 1/2 w

2 went across.

" 220 yds. Tape.

Supporting V, 1/2, 6 V bombers.

Noon parade of 6 scouts after 2/4 V sound for trophies. Others w 1/2 w

The replica 1/2 h.c. 22 correct. Went into hand training.

2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2

6th Bn had making a raid. It was obtained next day - have written them up in trench 2/1 of. V 12.30.

Crawled out into open.

Arty is at 10 to 1. Division in 2nd divn + 1st Bde. Fire on Bredeana Fort ^{5th Point} Lozenge, angle

Case pass too Typewriter of interleaved

Corner Fort.

1st Bn on right opened w m.g. + when enemy put up flares they leaved over bags.

German 1 Heavy + 2 batteries of 77 in reply - very poor. 1 o.c. betw angle + Lozenge fire raised abt 100 yds.

Then party dashed w. entered 2/4. They told 1/2 1/2. In trench 5. 6 minutes. First thing back prisoned, 1 behind each along tape, thro opening, w'd come up out of dark. " 2/4 " - 2

c. 6 1/2 down coming ✓
 → , Hurrah - whole
 ✓ → at 1.13 - 5) 0.9
 . 2. 5. 8 } w 1.20.

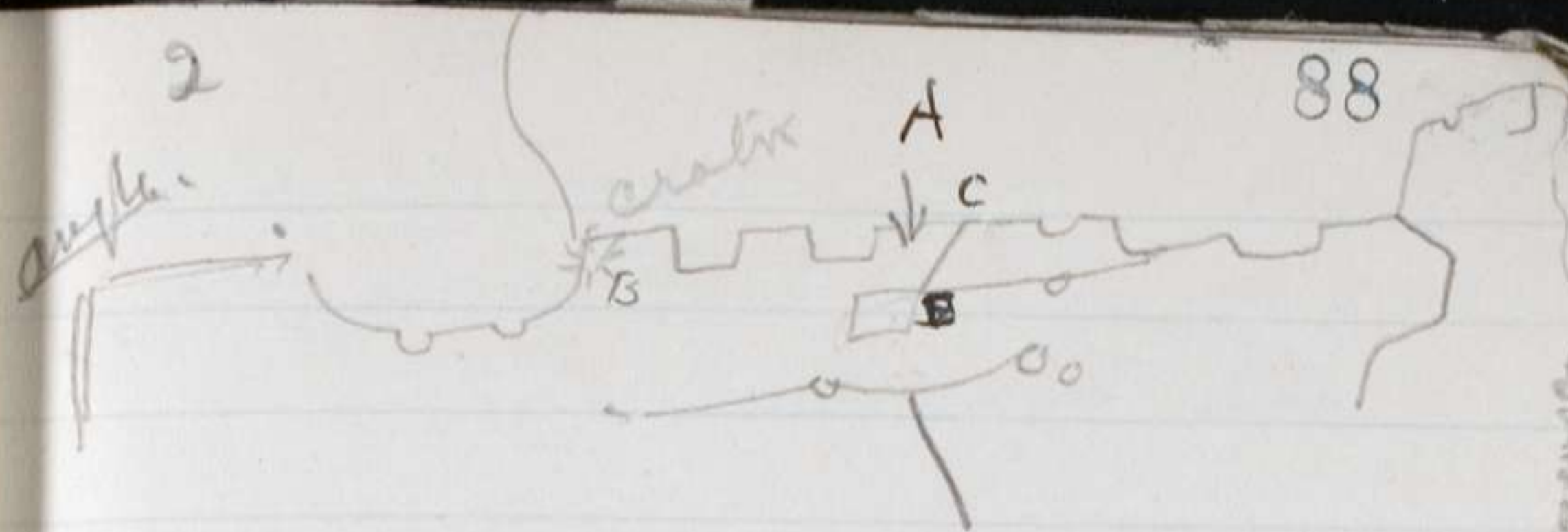
Little retaliation. Little
 from support 26. They had
 1/2 of flares - 1/2 6 - 1 ✓
 1 ✓ 2 - 1 ✓, for ✓
 Artillery was not quick; 7000
 2 ✓ 1 ✓ - 1 ✓

9. 2. 1 ✓. 2. 1 ✓
 got it ✓ 1 ✓ - 1 ✓ saw 2
 2 ✓ 1 ✓ 1 ✓ ()
 1 2 ✓ 1 ✓ 1 ✓ (x)

1st man, sentry,
 fired at Longlin - d. 6. 1 ✓ -
 hit him in leg.

L's 1 ✓ → 5 2 6 6 8
 → m.g. & saw 2 2 ✓ 6.
 L's was left 2 ✓ 1 ✓

Truck Hows had knocked
 2 ✓ 1 ✓ & Hydes party found
 2 ✓ 1 ✓ c 5 ✓ No bombs nor
 → 2 1 (x)

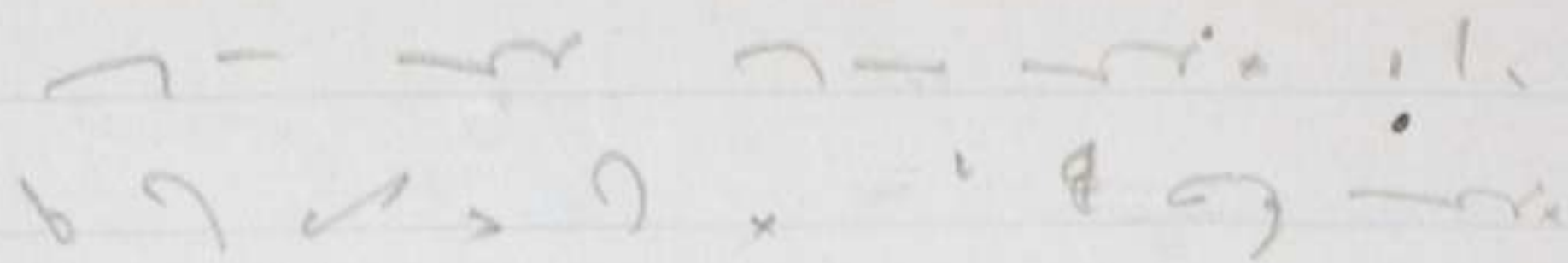


9 ft. for 2. 2 5 6 6 ✓
 No loopholes + 6. 10 feet on top


At 1 ✓ w ✓ 1 ✓ x Empty by in
 & traverse. 2 6 bottom 2 ✓
 4 men. No bunks wood etc. No doors
 Bigger inside 6 ✓ x 2 ✓
 Blankets, Helmet, Respirator,
 They had ✓ Torches on rifles.
 2nd Bay - saw feet 1 ✓

Opening 4 ✓ 1 ✓ door
 w letter H. iron door w 3 ft
 up. Chat open. (in next 2 ✓)
 wooden door w stick grenades
 ranged. 0 ✓ 1 ✓

Dugout in 2nd 1 ✓ in 1 ✓
 Boarded floor 1 ✓ Bay like
 new bays w wire netting. Parapet
 do 1 ✓ 1st Bayonet → 1 ✓



 only dugout same size.



 wire in borrow pit.
 wire & pinned in wire.
 40 yds on either side. Red flames from.

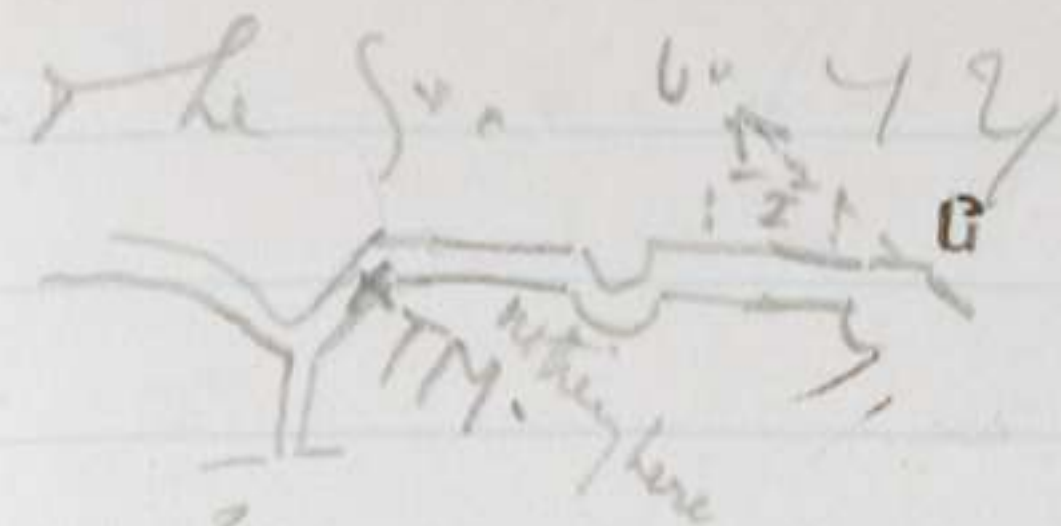
Wet & Big moon & J. S.
 Bombed 3rd dugout. Dead man by crater.

working in the angle
 went in a borrow pit. Horn
 went in a borrow pit.

One of our guns was
 burst in ground to right of V.
 10 yds away. Flayed onto
 ground.

Laughlin's V.

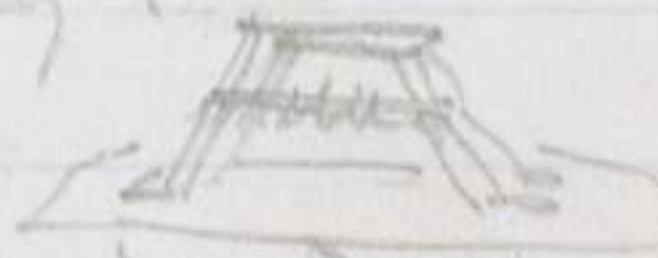
2 parties in file.
 Bayonet men stuck in wire
 so Laughlin. Flash & S.

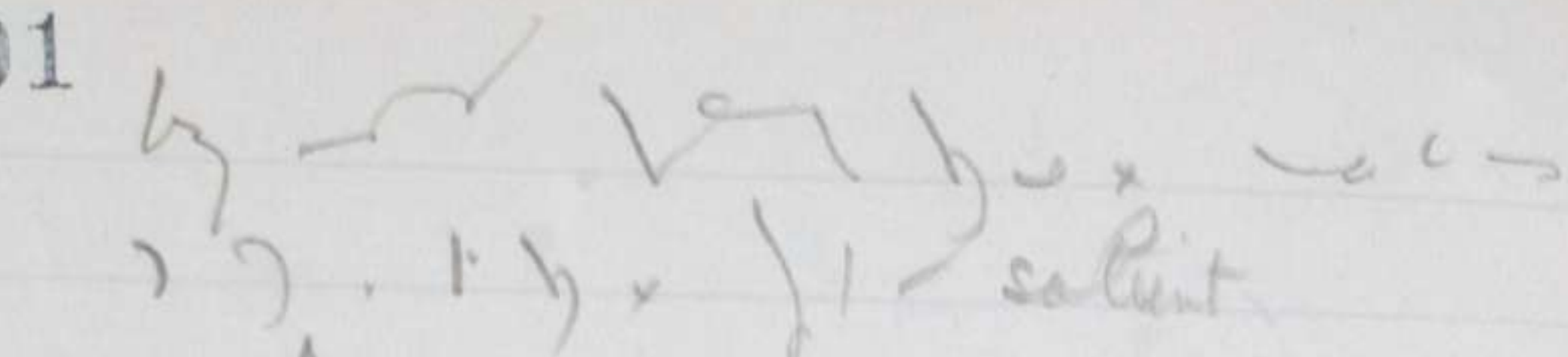


no parapets
 seemed 1/2 the size of
 slush there.

Face in I. Sept 2. fired 10 G.
 Draped him out. He shot
 & shot him & 4 at a knobbery.
 30 - 16 L. (is V, scouts
 & thro breach & 4
 4th man 1' cape & 2 trucks
 Mackenzie S-b was shot just
 as prisoners were being removed.
 3 pr. 1 k in I.

Flat long mountain & gun
 bolts out it. Something
 gun clamped w
 & bolts & no traversing
 Set into parapet. no
 alt 5 feet up & 4 ft deep
 room for 2 men. Hessian
 bow string. This had been seen





No one near gun.



X Built up dugout near hear. 7 ft.

2nd bomb 1 light 1) r. → lit →

3rd bomb thrown, or more - 40 ft.

Y coming L) L covered w iron plate wh cd slide up & down. # was in ones not other Oldy man out w beard. No more in.

Messenger sent along. Floors of dugouts level w floor - one w 4 men w lower alt 4 ft w water in bottom & tin 5' /

sitting (wooden standards w sandbag). alt 2ft from ground.

Dugout next it was same style -

These 2 were bath dugouts.

No C's → etc.

Trench behind had bn knocked abt by shells - some w 5 ft.

D at D bomb struck iron - something cd 4 men on wire. were getting peppered for 1/2 hr & had to be dropped 5 or 6 yds this side of their wire. There was a belt in. Bullets on 1 1/2 4 were carrying it.

Parados w 1 foot breast
tan V x

T.M. we fired on corner

Matmen had fixed wood "Bunk" from parapet - 5 7 1. "Hooray" from 1/2 way 5 → ↓ do no more sniping. Signaller went to V (Barker). Signaller 1/2 ch) lit on. Sniping ceased before got back. No mps. cd see sniping bullets flicking dust spray.

taken off one place + put on another

Mines L
sign of the hand

L L L L L

June 13th. 2

The Germans were mining under our trenches at the

William Mitchell

was. He asked me also to tell White the whole of facts abt his letter, as he gathered

Location of one place that is mentioned
 Munn L L 18 11

2/6/16

The United Cattle Service (Australasia)

SYDNEY
 MELBOURNE
 BRISBANE
 ADELAIDE
 NEW ZEALAND

CABLE ADDRESS:
 "JAGANATHA." LONDON.

TELEPHONE: 6600 HOLBORN.

LONDON OFFICE,

162 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET.

June 9th, 1916

My dear Bean,

Today I typed out the letter to Haig and Hughes has signed it and sent it off. I wish Whyte would come across. We are all wondering what is best to be done about the London representation. What we are convinced of is that Sellheim is not the man to battle for us here. Tell Whyte - but don't tell others - that Hughes has cabled to Pearce urging that Moore should get the English command, and Sellheim be returned to Australia for a badly needed spell, for the purpose of advising the Government, and later on returning to France to act in the same capacity as he acted in Egypt. Tell Ross his boy is earning golden opinions here. A fine lad. His immediate superiors are very pleased. Kindest regards from

Keith A. Murdoch

It rather hurt in France to find that W. - and I presume Birdwood - had an idea that I had done the wrong thing in connection with my letter to the British Cabinet on the Dardanelles. At any rate it is fair to me that they should know the story aright. I wish you would tell W.. Lloyd-George and Bonar Law have both told Hughes that Hamilton's recall & the evacuation resulted from my letter.

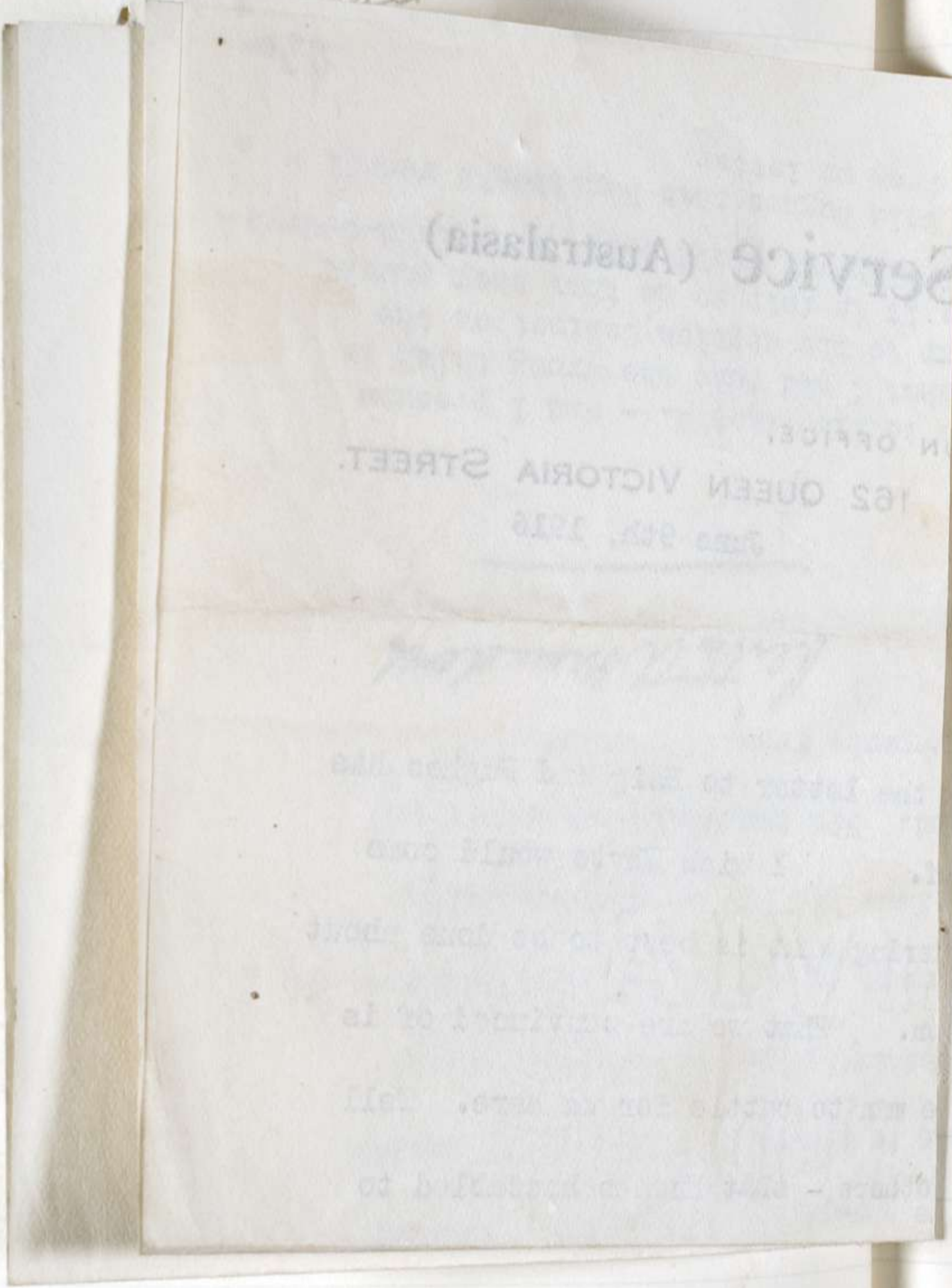
June 13/16

The Germans were mining under our trenches at the

93a

taken off one place & put on another

Miners



June 13th 2

The Germans were mining under our trenches at the line held by the 6th Bn. They were right under one Company H.Q.s. Our miners could hear them.

At this time, however, our miners were taken off the point to do more important work elsewhere. They were ordered to flood their galleries & leave them which they did. Nice for the 6th Bn being over a known mine.

Heard from Murdoch that Stuppes has asked Pearson to give Sellheim a holiday as he doesn't think him capable of "battling" w/ the War Office. Moore wd take his place. Mr. asked me to tell White this. He asked me also to tell White the whole of facts abt his letter, as he gathered

that White & B. disapproved
of it. I told them in Inverkeithing
Murdoch sd to Bonar Law
& Lloyd George each told Hughes
th it was Murdoch's letter
wh resulted in 1 evacuation
& 1 supersession of Hamilton.

This all cuts me off
from trying to do what I
could to help Smart. There
has been a good deal of
political wire-pulling all
this force of late. For example,
Some chap ^{in the Corps} wrote to Hughes
to say th he was a loyal ^{constituent} ~~supporter~~
of Hughes in Sydney, & he was
unfit & wanted to go to
Australia. Could he have been
~~his~~ medically examined - he
had been unable to get medical
permission before. Hughes
wrote to Birdwood - wh he ought
scarcely to have done; & B.

let it go through — wh was
distinctly weak.

Again Reynolds of the
A.S.C. ^{— an old press colleague} ~~after having~~ ^{of mine}
and not a good man —
after having, as I hear, been
warned by ~~St.~~ White, by
Marsh his C.O. + others as
worthless + lazy, was
turned ~~down~~ ^{out} the other day.
He went to Fisher in
London, + Fisher asked if
some job might be found in the
force for him — + this went thro, altho
when he left here his appeal
was deliberately turned
down. This is a case in
wh I ~~know~~ ^{am quite sure} that the previous
decision was right. Reynolds
was never any good on / press.
I am not going to be
involved in these ~~unpleasant~~ ^{unpleasant}
at any cost — + So I shall

not say any more abt. Smart but will leave it to my history to ~~say~~ ^{say} what ~~the~~ I think ought to be said in that case. Smart wd be with Moore; he wd be Moore's brains, as a matter of fact. Smart ~~is~~ got himself disliked by our staff from Egypt by proposing that filing & registering work of London office could be done by girls as well or better than by men, & that some of hulking big fellows on the indoor staff there might be released for service at front — a change from a comfortable billet to an uncomfortable one. They stick very close together — not unnaturally — & so when Collins wrote to ask if Smart's services were needed

97a

leave cut down to 30 for the force per day.
A - J . 30 2 5 1 8)
Each division + what does this mean?
6 x 5 6 6 →

2

98

Sellheim replied politely that they weren't.

I can see that Hughes & especially Murdoch, don't think that Sellheim is capable of holding Anzac's in up a pt 1 war office -- too complaisant. So he is -- over-soft. But Moore also has his failings -- I would being probably that he is a politician, which is of course damnable. White & Birdwood would rather love Sellheim than Moore because they don't want absolute separation from the War Office. Murdoch & Hughes -- Murdoch at any rate -- do.

Both Buller & Robertson tell me that they see signs of a jamboree but I fear we shan't be in it. Robertson said I don't think they want to put the Australians up again like they did in Gallipoli -- Gallip.

2 They dont want to give the Germans the chance of saying that
they get the Australians to fight their battles for them

June 14th

Hughes (Murdock says)
has written to Haig about
my photography etc. I
wonder if I can be set to
be pulling political strings
like all the rest. I dont
think so - if Australia
wants the photos she
has to ask for them; &
G. H. Q. in replying abt
the motor cars suggested
tht the only way if we wanted
a light car was to apply
to the Australian Govt.

I'm no ball good for war.
When I read a ~~private~~ ^{captured} letter
- from ^(a German) his wife - telling him how
she has been sending him letters -
& asks - not to worry about her - &

2/92

Appendix to Diary.

100a

NOTES ON RAID MADE BY 6TH BN. A.I.F. ON NIGHT OF MONDAY
JUNE 18TH 1918.

[Prisoners say that a despatch was smashed & 5 men killed by one of our trench mortar bombs during the afternoon. A working party from the next company was sent to repair the trench & it was these who were some of the unarmoured prisoners.]

The raid had been practised for some time on trenches ~~xxxxxxx~~ built near one of the bombing schools. These were planned from aeroplane photos. The practice trenches were ~~xxx~~ afterwards about 8 ft. deep. (The men found that every turn in the real German trench was familiar to them. This was not the case in the raid made by the 26th and 28th Bns- which found the trench which they raided to be barely recognisable, chiefly owing to absence of parados).

The raiding party had gone into training as if for sports. It ~~xxxxxxx~~ consisted of two trench parties (right and left - each 3 bayonet men, 2 bombers, 2 carriers, one sergeant) under Lieut. Hyde (right) and Lieut. Loughain (left). In case uncut wire was met with 4 mats (two layers of canvas 14ft x 4ft, with battens) were carried. of the supporting parties (Capt. Moncar and Lt. Rodgers) one was to remain about halfway across Nomans land with one telephone; another was to ~~xxxxx~~ go to the enemys parapet (with a second telephone). Major Daly (temporarily commanding 6th Bn.) had his battle headquarters at the parapet by the sally port, and was on the telephone all the time.

Six parapet bombers were to go along the parapet as the raiders went along the trench and to cover them with bombs as they advanced, thrown towards the enemys support trenches, and thrown behind them as they retired.

It was a very wet night - with half moon. The raid was timed for moon set, when it was very dark.

The point between the Lozenge and the Angle where ~~xx~~ the raid was to be made was about 220 yards from our trenches. The ground rose slightly to the centre, so that the party was partly covered to about half way. It started at 12.30 and had just reached ~~xx~~ its waiting position half way across when our guns opened. One gun on the ~~xxxx~~ was throwing short - its shells exploded about 10 yds to the right of the party and ~~xxx~~ threw earth over them. Diversions had been carried out by artillery; and ~~xxx~~ wire had been cut in front of German trench by ~~xx~~ our mortars ~~xxx~~ at 5 that afternoon. A German working party could be heard hammering in the dark near the Angle, but the sound ceased when our bombardment began. This began at 10 to 1. At 1 the bombardment was lifted onto enemys support trenches and party went forward in double file.

* On all neighbouring strong points in enemys front line.



All the wire previously reconnoitred had been well cut by mortars. But it was ~~French parties~~ found that in the "borrow pit" in front of the trench there was wire on knife rests and also some pegged down, which had not

been cut by bombardment, it had not been seen in reconnaissance.

The three bayonet men of the left trench party all were caught in this. Their officer, Lieut. Loughlin, reached the parapet first.

(The wire was 3 ft high & a serious obstacle. By the time they returned it had been cut & mats laid down).

As Lieut. Loughlin reached the parapet a German fired at him over it, hitting him through the thigh. Loughlin fired back with his revolver. The man was not noticed dead but was not seen again.

The trench parties (right and left) lined up to right and left of Loughlin and Lieut. Hyde on the parapet and all jumped into the trench together.

The parapet was about 10 feet across the top at this place. The trench was 9 feet deep. There was a fire step, and the top of the parapet was levelled off ~~for~~ to permit of firing over the top of it. No loopholes were noticed.

There was a parados. The parados was not so high as the parapet, possibly 2 feet lower. It was not continuous, but seemed to be built up much as we build it with gaps at intervals leading to the open country behind. There were ^X no dugouts in the parados although one dugout discovered by the left ~~party~~ party appears to have been a specially constructed chamber on the rear side of the trench where the parados would be. The ~~party~~ men who saw it however distinguish between this ^{construction} and the simple "Parados", and probably mean that where the parados formed the back wall there were no dugouts dug into it.

The trench was floored like a house. There were no duckboards. The fire trench was exceedingly clean and dry.

THE RIGHT PARTY. The parties ^(led only by prismatic compass) struck the trench at exactly the point ^(A) where they had always entered it ^{replica} in practice. This was a long bay. There was no one in this bay. The right party

filed down it to the right.

In the ^{first} traverse was a dugout. It was ~~xxxxxx~~ built into the traverse at a higher level than the floor of the trench. There was no door, but the entrance was only about three feet wide. The chamber was much wider than the entrance. It was low. There were no bunks, but blankets recently left, a German helmet and a respirator. The sides were sandbags supported by a wooden frame.

In the traverse - apparently in the side of it - about 3 feet above the floor of the trench was a metal door. It was large enough for the door of a dugout. It could not be opened. The letter H was painted on it.

In the second bay ~~fast~~ were seen sticking out from the bottom of the parapet. A man was pulled out very much frightened. He was passed from man to man rather roughly imploring "On mercy kamerad" "Me come Kamerad".... ~~xxx~~ Lieut. Hyde received ~~xx~~ him rather more gently and passed him over the parapet to the men waiting there for prisoners. He was put in charge of a man who frogmarched him at a run straight back along the tape ~~xxx~~ across No-man's-land. Those waiting at the sally port suddenly saw two men bundling up out of the darkness a few yards away. A frightened much bespattered German was suddenly thrust in amongst them with the words "Here's a Bastard" and his guard disappeared again over No-man's-land.)

The dug out from which he was pulled was exactly like ~~it~~ that in the last bay.

In the next bay was a third dugout. This was bombed. The trench ~~xxxx~~ had been destroyed at the end of this bay by a large crater. A man was lying dead beside the crater. Time was up and the right party returned.

THE LEFT PARTY. The left party turned to left along trench. The long bay seemed to end not in a regular traverse but in an angle jutting somewhat to the right. ^{On the map} A communication trench ran off here, (C). This was the only point mentioned to me ~~xxxx~~ where the map based on aeroplane photos was ~~xxxxxx~~ misleading. The communication trench or gap ran out in a few paces into ~~xx~~

the open, and the sergeant who went down it found himself in slush. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The ground rose slightly behind this gap and the support trench on the map was not visible, being ~~XXXX~~ behind the rise.

The fire trench at this point made a Y with the communication alley. In the right branch of the Y on the floor of the trench was a trench mortar. It was placed pointing up the trench towards out trenches so as just to clear the parapet. It was heavy and apparently fixed. (A bomb was exploded down the barrel and another - Mills - beneath it).

There was nothing in the next bay.

In the third bay, was a dug out ^(X). A face was seen in it. A shot was fired at the man and he was dragged out. He was a big man and resisted. He was shot several times and finished, as he was still alive, with a knobkerry. Three more men were taken from this dugout. They came easily, and were handed to the scouts, who passed them through a breach in the trench near the trench mortar. The fourth man had a cape with two tucks in it. It was just as these men were being passed through the parapet that a stretcherbearer named Mackenzie who was at the gap on the outside of the trench was shot through the ~~XXXX~~ throat, probably by a chance shot from elsewhere, although some say they saw a flash at close range.

The chamber in which these men were was under the parapet but was not a dugout for living in. The floor of it was about 4 inches below the level of the floor of the trench, and was covered with water. The men had been sitting inside on a plate of tin or iron to raise themselves above the water. The entrance was very low and there were perhaps 7 feet of sandbag protection from its roof up to the ^{top} level of the parapet. The ~~XX~~ place did not seem to be concreted but built with wooden ~~XXXX~~ uprights and sandbags (although this is not very definite). Its roof was 2 ft. from trench floor. There was no equipment, etc. in it.

Just beyond this at G, where a communication trench ~~XXX~~ came in at the end of the 2nd bay was a machine gun emplacement

There was some quite unnecessary boasting about the knocking of this poor chap on the head. It is not a great feat to hit a wounded man & cover the skull. He was sitting up crying. I saw one man - The English-born guy was a talkative but some of the others seemed quite to approve of his brag.

line the

(4)

It was known that this m.g. would be found there. It had been seen during night bombardments; and the day before the raid it had been pointed out through an artillery observation periscope to Lieut. Rodgers. The front~~xx~~ of the emplacement was covered by sacks working on strings and these could be seen through the periscope.

The emplacement was built into the parapet about 4ft or 5ft up. It was large enough to hold the gun and two men. The gun was pointed ~~xxxxxxx~~ in direction of our salient. ~~xxxxxxx~~ across to the left enfilading Nomansland. It was on a heavy fourlegged metal mounting - shaped like a table with the legs spread like those of a vaulting horse. The legs were fixed onto ~~xx~~ a long flat metal plate. The gun was clamped with four bolts to the top of the mounting and could not be dismounted. The gun as fixed could not be traversed at all, and there seemed to be no arrangement for traversing. No concrete nor steel ~~xx~~ plates were noticed in the emplacement.

The gun was taken away mounting, bedplate and all. It took 4 men to carry it, and was abandoned in Nomansland about 40 yards on our side of the enemys wire. (The grass was long) ^{and} it could not be seen next day.) There was a belt in it which could not be got out and dragged. The bullets did not seem to be pointed, but like our Mark 6 bullet.

At the rear of the next angle along the fire trench, (position not very clear) bright light was seen coming from a dugout. A bomb was thrown in. The light disappeared but was relit. Some thought it was a bright lamp - others electric ~~light~~ light. A number more bombs were thrown in - possibly six or seven. *[No rifles or rifle equipment of any sort was found in the trench & all the Germans captured were unarmed].*

At this time a messenger arrived recalling the party. ^{one of our} A bomb was thrown from the parapet, by 4 bombers there, further up the trench. It struck against something metallic in the floor of the trench at D, and an object was seen pointing up in the air. It was taken to be another trench mortar.

As the retreating party neared the angle before the m.g. emplacement they noticed under the parapet a metal plate. It ran in a slot on one side but was out of its slot the other

92

100 f

(5) side. It was wrenched away and a man, older than the others, with a beard was taken out. He was by himself. This was the same sort of "funkhole" ⁽²⁾ as that from which the three prisoners were taken. He was made prisoner.

The party were recalled by messenger, not by whistle. A whistle had been arranged, but if it was used it was not heard. From the telephone on the parapet the word "Bunk" was sent back - warning to the guns to get ready to lower onto the front parapet again. Flares were up and the party think they were certainly seen going back. Shots began to be fired at them from the Angle and could be seen flicking the rain ~~fire~~ from the wet grass close to the retiring party. It seems to have been then that the machine gun, which hampered them, was abandoned. No machine gun fire was noticed.

When they reached half way the word "Hooray" was sent, as a signal to the guns to lower onto the enemys front parapet. ~~Before~~ the party reached our trench the guns had ~~xxx~~ altered and the sniping at once ceased. *Party was in by 1.13. A message to the guns was sent & they had ceased fire by 1.20.* The German trenches had been damaged by our bombs

~~xxx~~ Shells had also in some cases penetrated parts of the parapet. Such damage as was visible from shellfire was mostly ~~xxx~~ rather in rear of parapet.

The man were very proud of their prisoners, and when they returned the difficulty was ~~not~~ to get the prisoners guarded but to detach each captor from "my prisoner".

The 1st Divisional artillery fired about 2000 rounds 18 pdr and 4.5 hows. No heavy guns were used. The German reply was not very quick. Half a dozen red rockets were sent up by the Germans after our artillery opened, each of which burst into two red stars. The reply took about 7 or 8 minutes in coming. It came from not more than two field batteries and one of 5.9s.

Our party was guided back by German tapes ~~xxxxxxx~~ used in previous German raid, ~~which~~ These were laid parallel to telephone line at a little distance, were easily visible, and prevented tripping over telephone. They were brought back as were telephones.

One man was shot at running away & some others are sd to have been killed. Total is sd to be 6 prisoners, 12 killed. I did not hear of more than 3 known to have be killed.

wondering why she hasn't heard from him for two days, I always hope to goodness that the man we captured alive; & was not - That poor fighting fellow, for example, the other day whom the talkative English-Australian finished off with a knobkerry. He was a big man - they said - & fought - (He seems to have been only one who did fight). They fired first at his face - then dragged him out - & as he resisted Serjt - quite rightly shot him twice - probably thro' the head. They left him there in a trench & went on. But when they came back he was still there sitting up, crying - So the talkative English-Australian hit him several times on the

2
 head with a ratchet wheel on
 the end of a short baton -
 It may really have been an act
 of kindness - but why did
 the swine boast about it?

Somebody mentioned
 at dinner tonight that the
 clock is to go on one hour
 at 10 o'clock & that we shall
 be getting up at 6 tomorrow
 under the impression it is 7.
 Daylight saving - I hadn't
 heard that it was contemplated
 here. It ~~is~~ will be curious having it light
 until after 10 o'clock at night.

Here is a typical aeroplane report
 (about beginning of June I copied it):

" Lt. Buck, Pilot
 " Capt. W.H. Waller observer.
 " Artillery observation
 105th Howitzer Battery 5th Bde 2nd Angaco

16 B 193

2

102

" 10.40 a.m. to 12.5 p.m.

Small flash seen at I.33. A 8.6.

Sent down NF. 51K shot was

O.K. gave Battery fire M.O.K.

Men were seen running on

to the road ^{to the left,} more men were

seen running into what looked

like a drain or old ~~cut~~ trench

to the left. Sent down to

change to shrapnel. By observer

Lt. Shepherd Pilot

Capt. Waller W.H. Observer

artillery observation, 2nd

Divn Artillery, 5th Bde.

2.55 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

NF. 07 d. 7.9. not registered

as battery wd not correct

according to code. Changed

to O.15 C. 69. After waiting

35 minutes battery fired. No

shots observed with H.E.,

Changed to Shrapnel. Got OK.

Flash seen at 015 C. 5. 9.
 which may have been the
 guns firing at H 22 & 16.
 4 squares behind hedge at
 H. 16. ~~6~~ 4. 4. Two middle
 squares red, outside
 squares white. Very noticeable
 at all heights. (by observer).

Took Russell the war
 correspondent down to see his
 son in 9th Bn today. Perry
 Robinson of the Times &
 Ross came with us. We
 saw the boy - very young,
 a nice little chap, 2 years
 out from England & farming
 at his work. Russell tipped
 him like a father visiting a
 boy at school.

Afterwards went to tea at
 9th Bn Messrs. The mess
 here - like most of our

2

the Anzac doings — as if I ever did — but I know what they mean:

I have just been up to the Chateau. Birdwood was having Goble (just arrived) to dinner there. When he came into the ante-room after dinner Birdwood said: "Have you seen the papers, ^{abt the Anzacs,} Bean?" I sd "yes - Sir - I see their making a great deal of fuss over that little raid (the first). They have printed a message from me mixed up with a lot of other stuff..."

"Very annoying, is it?" he sd. I agreed

"There's that photo, too, of the men who engaged in the raid. Most annoying. It says at bottom that 1 man has all been given special leave. They'll be writing down here & wanting to know if it's

2 a fact that I gave them leave".

There was 1 photo of Angus party at Horseferry Rd cheering (camera - in Brooks best style tho' I don't suppose he took it. The Commonwealth Office must have arranged for this.

Birdie turned over 1 page & there was my short little 1/4 column telegram. He read it thro.

"Did all this go thro' the censor, Beau?" he asked.

I didn't know what he meant. I showed him 1 part I had written & told him that all went thro' censor.

"Do you mean to say all this..." he asked & read it again.

"Well, if he passed it I suppose it's all right," he said in a tone of voice which showed that he meant it was all wrong.

I was a bit hurt because the telegram was a modest strictly accurate account of our first raid. I had cut every possible dash out of it. I had not mentioned 1 size 0 party. I had not said that they waited in Nomansland. I had not said that they stayed there before coming back. I had rather implied 1 opposite.

"I see they think we were at Ypres," he said.

"Yes, I don't mind that," he said, "in fact I'm rather glad of it..."

Which was absurd - because if our own official communique says we are at Bois Grenier and 1 Germans know we are here the only people who are misled by saying we are at Ypres are the Australian people. Mine was a modest straight acct. with not a word of brag in it.

What was dangerous was the

1 man in London ^{blabbed} out to some newspaper, fact that they waited in No man's land, that they had coins from 1 prisoner (oh, even if they bought them, was an unwise thing to say); The London photo gave ^{away} the numbers of the party, & someone in London said that they had been given special leave. As the British Govt have not strength to put a censor out press there, all these things which I refrained from mentioning were given away by 1 man themselves in London. If the enemy shells No man's land next time we have a raid -- he will have had the tip from the ~~reading~~ London press.

As Ross said -- some of little Birdwood's own letters, which we could show him in the N.Z. Press, contained far more dangerous matter (abt the

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reorganisation of our force
in Egypt etc.) than anything
in my very hardless little
tobacco. Butler & Herbertson



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Vol. 1 pages 27 6 33
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~~Vol 2. pages 69-78-79-80
and 82. missing~~

Vol. 4 page 55
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~~Vol. 5
pages 1 13-14 -15 and 17
missing~~ ✓

~~Vol 6
pages 33 5 77
missing~~ ✓

~~Vol 7. pages 50-51-52-53
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~~Vol 8. pages 20 6 61
missing~~ ✓

~~Vol 9 pages 1-2-85-86-99-100
101-103-119-126 212 missing~~

~~Vol 10 pages 5-10-16-17-19 missing~~

~~Vol 11 pages 7-14 17 to 62 missing~~

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reorganisation of our force
 in Egypt etc.) than anything
 in my very hasty little
 telegram. Butler & Herbertson
 who read the telegram said they'd
 see nothing whatever that
 could be harmful in it. Gladie
 read my notes on the last
 raid yesterday - my private notes
 wh. of course are quite different
 from anything I should think
 of publishing - and I think
 he was rather afraid that I
 might publish them.