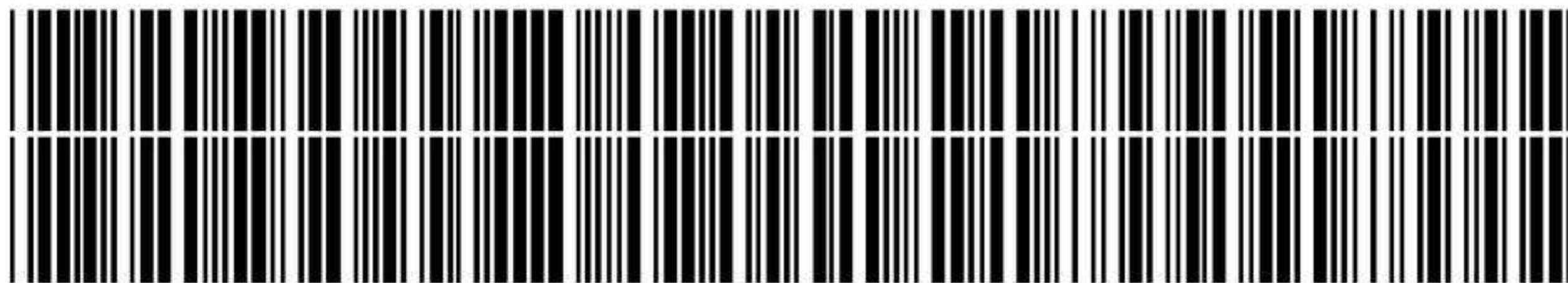


AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/125/1

Title: Notebook, July - November 1916
Includes references to the 1st Battalion,
Pozières, and Fritz's Folly.



AWM38-3DRL606/125/1

Original.

DIARY NO 125.

3 DRL 606 ITEM 125 [1]

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

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

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

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

16 Sept., 1946.

C. E. W. BEAN.

The engineers followed up astonishingly quickly & were digging SW. pt at F ~~5~~ almost as soon as attack was made, & Pioneers were on finishing saps L B + Z B. 3 Bn were doing mopping up. German Co were coming in in small batches for 2 days afterwards.

On Sunday the Germans left the line practically alone & Sund/Mond. night.

3rd Bn dug 2 dotted line trenches nearer Road - constantly working towards right where 3rd Bde was also working rightwards. On Monday shelling began - ~~By 9.30~~ At 8 am. Germans started to shell & kept it up so hotly that finally 3 Bn had to go out in front of road. This shelling caught left of 1st Bn (in green 2) first. Afterwards right of it. The Coy in green red 2 were withdrawn but had to be sent

R51

5-

up again at once as soon as
 3 Bn went forward. 3 m.g. teams
 were left in green-red Y. The 3 Bn took
 over the orchard & deep Y ^(at 8 hours, as shown on map) from there
 towards T trench & 1st Bn continued this work
 to hedge joining on with 11 Bn there. These
 forward trenches were little shelled when Y
 further back were heavily dealt with - you
 ch look back & see Germans pounding them.
 There the 2nd Div. relieved the 10th Bn, who
 went right back to Hallow.

D Coy went in abt 180 strong & came out
 abt 50 strong (128 casualties, Blackmore k.
 Connell wd). Lindeman & 2 officers were k right
 back. Capt Mackenzie & another in A. K,
~~2~~ 1 k 1 w in D, (9 k. & abt 8 w in Bn - 17
 all told). Capt Mackenzie was k. ^{Capt} McVein wd
 going over by bullets - all others shell.

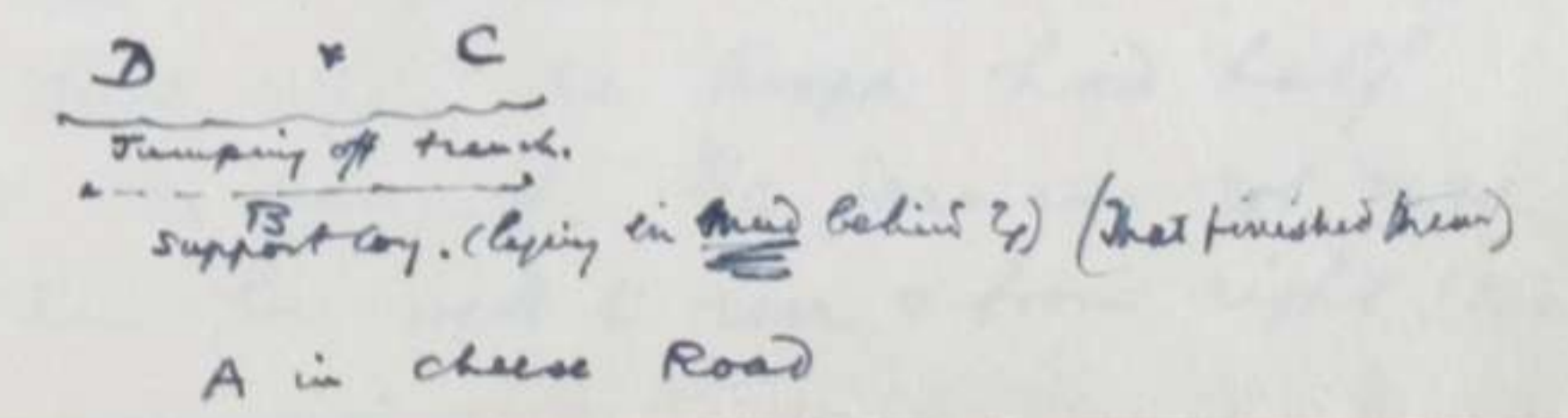
The fire during attack was & was fire from
 far right. Clearly from O.S. lines.

R5/1

2nd time 1st Bn did not have an ⁶
attack - patrolling towards Courcelles &
digging out saps.

The next attack by 1 Bn was on Hill -
- Bayonet 2 on night of Nov. 5/6 abt midnight.
- 12.30 zero time.

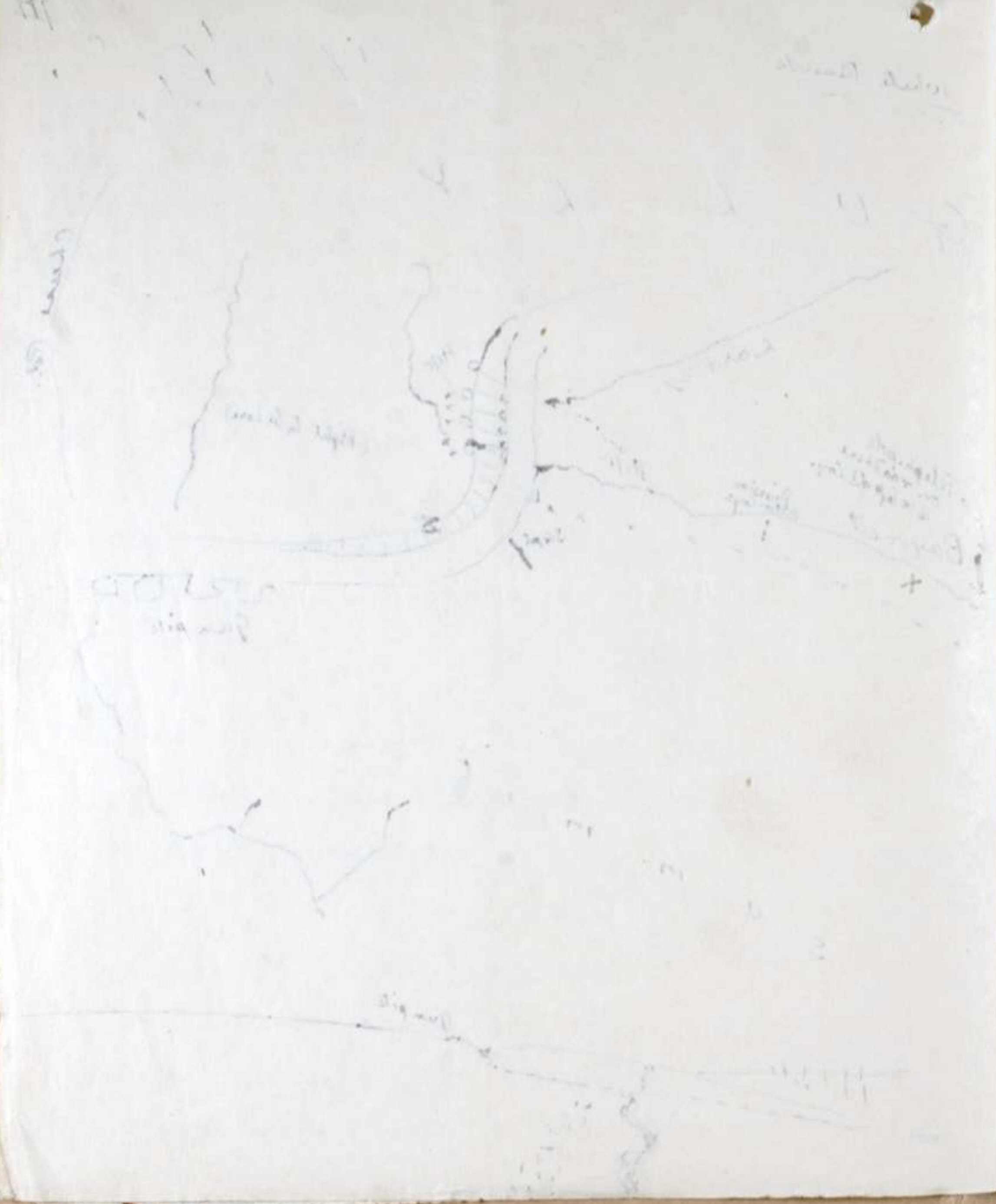
The idea was to get out before zero
time ^{out in front of} jumping off 2, joining 2
sapheads about 200 yds from German line.
Our boss zero time was 12.30. Front line
had to be occupied from abt 7 pm onwards.
It was impossible to relieve 3 Bn there
except by going overland owing to state
of 2 & 2 Coys had to go over in this
way. They were certainly seen by Germans
moving places.



27B

A1

Small sketch



R.51

9

x bombs from Bayonet 21. Some of the men undoubtedly got in on left about at X.

Lt. Steele & Lt. MacIntyre were both killed in this. Then all came back & found B Coy in T.O. trench - ~~Co.~~ not leaving supports out in front where attack wavered. The line was reorganised & another attempt made without arty. It failed (at abt 1.30). From then it was a case of getting in wd. Casualties were abt 150 - 9 offro? (7 k.) Most of casualties shells & mgs.

~~+~~ A

5

1st Bn
Pogues
ste

R5A.