

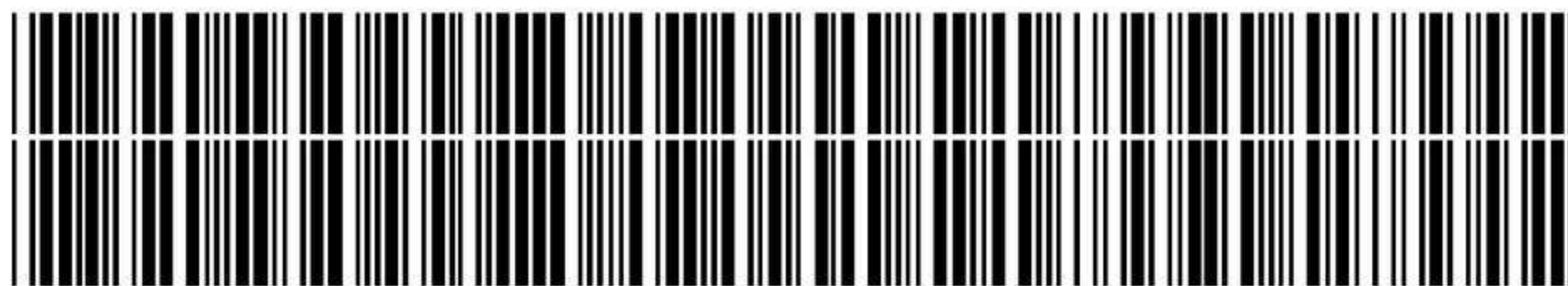
**AWM38**  
**Official History,**  
**1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,**  
**Official Historian.**

Diaries and Notebooks

**Item number:** 3DRL606/154/1

**Title:** Notebook, May 1917

Includes references to the 6th Light Trench Mortar Battery, 6th Machine-Gun Company, 21st Battalion, 3rd and 6th Infantry Brigades, Bullecourt and the Hindenburg Line.



AWM38-3DRL606/154/1

*Original*

AM38

DIARY NO. 154

30RL 606 ITEM 154 [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.

OPEN

C. E. W. BEAN.

1 HINDENBURG  
154 LINE.  
6 R LTM Bty.  
6 TMC Coy  
21st BN.

34

1 HINDENBURG  
154 LINE.  
6<sup>th</sup> LTM Bty.  
6<sup>th</sup> MG Coy  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn.

Capt. Brown - adjt of  
21st put out  
carrying ptg for  
1st Bde on way 4.

Lieut. C. V. Duncan.

21st. Horsbrough.  
Got to 2nd Objv.

L/c. Bott. on left  
flank.

Sergts Reilly & Baulch.

L/Cpl. Hogg of working  
party making  
strong points

Sergt Hunt, if not wd.  
L/cpl Oliver " " "

Pte McIntosh who  
acted as g.

Sergt. Winstanley

6 M.G. Coy. Lieut E. J. Bice.  
(saw also 4th Div).

Sergt Hitchcock - who led  
up disson g.

Pte. A. McDonald, messenger  
on 2nd objv.

34

(M.G. Coy note Plt Bone went  
forward to seriously  
wound in lung) 4

T.Ms. Lieut. J.C. Robertson.  
Got German machine to  
work.

Gray. probly on leave.

Cpl. Scholfield.

Serjt Roberts - as to  
what T.Ms did.  
(on central gun).

Plts Mitchell & O. Riley  
(on rt - blew their gun up).

---

22 Bn.

Serjt Hayes }  
" Watkins } Left.

Plt Wilton L. Sumner &  
bombing

Hughes (in position in shell  
hole covering Sunkem Rd)

23rd Bn. Lt Maddrell  
 Lt Brewster  
 in O.S. on  
 rt flank.

~~Capt. Brown. ad~~

24 Bn. T.E.  
 Capt Godfrey - Senior  
 Coy Commandr.

~~Cpt. O. Neill - an old soldier.~~  
 L/cpt. Young (with gun) an old soldier.

L/cpt. Amers - in/c Lewis gun.  
 L/c. Riley - led men  
 to 2nd objve.

23 Bn. Pte Parker -  
 in/c of L. gun  
 working in post of  
 our line at Tram.  
 Pte Hynes.

24 Bn. (Supt. Burial  
 Lang. Expert again).

207. Sergt Irving, a former  
 tailor just up for  
 Comm.  
 Cpl. W. Davidson.

34

Pte Primrose - laid tel line  
to Tram.

Serjt Whitear gun to comd. Coy.  
Cpl. Scales }  
Bombing on }  
both flanks.

L/Cpl. C. S. McLeish, h.s.  
Supporting W attack.

Serjt W. A. Elmore - O.S. 2.

Cpl. W. T. West.  
on right sector.

Cpl. Smith - Tramway,  
an old soldier.

34

TMs. May 3.

8

6 LTM Bg. Guns.

Job with J.O. 2 in  
S → 3 guns on  
left & 3 on right (1 with  
2nd wave, 2 w 5th wave)  
These alternating job to  
O.S. 2 on rt.

On left, 3 guns started  
w/ 2nd wave.

These 3 guns had to  
create blocks on 3  
Ballist. 2 U 28 A  
centrals <sup>on both</sup> U 22 C 64.  
(Prob from X road)  
Germans opened



at 10 mins before  
our barrage, right  
on the ~~two~~ Bus lying  
out & these got a  
bit mixed. Most 4.25  
& minis were from  
Bullect; light & med.

At zero 3 guns  
jumped off on left -  
things were a bit  
mixed by then, &  
as soon as our arty  
opened <sup>at zero</sup>, a very heavy  
wif. fire opened.  
(The Germans had barraged  
for all 4 previous  
mornings at 3.30).

The L.T.Ms worked

34

10

forward & on reaching  
wire found themselves  
in 150 wave wh - was then  
fairly thin - the distance  
betw the waves had gone  
by then

we got into the wire  
& thro it in places.  
(The marked M.G posit  
at 28 B.  $3\frac{1}{2}$   $9\frac{1}{2}$  was  
the posibl where the  
TMs thought they wd enter  
the wire.)

germans were  
standing up on parapets,  
sniping & shooting as  
cheerly as anything.

The Bn did not go on  
past this point & so  
L701 got into shell holes

34 in wire & just outside.  
 One fellow started to bomb  
 Germans from there & he  
 threw (they were within  
 Mills grenade distance).  
 Germans pushed our men  
 back a little <sup>into shellholes</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>out of</sup>  
 grenade distance.

Lieut Gray then organized  
 as many of the 22 Bn  
 men as he could - 3  
 parties with L. S. in  
 each making 3 str. points  
 behind German wire  
 out of hand grenade range.

Parsons  
 One sergt. (detached from  
 Gray's party) being bombed  
 out of shellhole moved  
 with 1 man back into

shell hole where abt  
 300 rifle grenades had  
 be dumped. They stayed  
 there till they had fired  
 every rifle grenade -  
 & claim to have inflicted  
 several casualties, &  
 also did a bit of sniping.  
 Gray w his 3 parties  
 claims to have got  
 more Germans than they  
 got of his parties (abt  
 10 in each pt) - as  
 Germans were showing  
 themselves a lot.  
 They stayed till they saw  
 small ptis of 22 Bn  
 (1st 20) retiring to Sanku  
 Rd. & he thought it be

was left out on his own  
(as did everyone <sup>else</sup> there) &  
decided to go back to Rd.

He got back to Sunkin  
Rd w abt 3 trench mortar  
men + some of 22 Bn.

Sent in a runner to  
Capt Hogg at Embank.

H. ordered him to  
come back to Embank.

He got back with one  
gun complete - one of  
the other guns got blown  
out - 3rd is somewhere in  
German line - only one  
of crew got back.

The 3 guns on  
right: That with mid  
wave got into 051 at

34

14

V29 A 9 1/2 4 & came  
into action at once apt  
strong point on right  
of Bde (left of 5 Bde)  
were firm as were  
still holding with maps  
bombers & riflemen

The 2nd gun with 23 Bn  
(5th wave) on extreme  
rt of 5th wave came  
up apt the strong point  
from abt the wire  
under <sup>(i.e. at less than range)</sup> range. They  
moved back a bit &  
came into open action  
(w red cartridge <sup>no</sup> minimum  
is 280 yds). apt <sup>same</sup> strong  
pt. They only got one rd.

off 1st Jun we put  
 out of action - hit  
 on base by <sup>some</sup> fragment &  
 w/dut fire. The Cpl.  
 in C. of gun collected  
 crew (5 minus 2 lost, i.e.  
 3,) & carriers (1 left  
 only) & got 6 rds of  
 ammuni each &  
 took them forward to  
 the gun in O.F. 1 wh  
 they saw in action.

2nd Jun with 21st  
 Bns 5-11 wave went  
 forward w wave.

wave seemed to go  
 half right (not. of ahead)

& this gun entered  
O.F. 1 at 50 yds to left  
of other. They also  
engaged the same  
str. point. The str. pt  
was then blown out.

The ~~second~~ <sup>latter</sup> gun then  
moved along to left  
& covered the left flank  
— under Capt. Scholefield  
— he did this on his own  
initiative. By this  
time, after firing a few  
rds on left, both guns  
had 12 rds of ammo  
left below the two. Sgt  
Roberts organised a



34 17  
carrying pt of all  
men he had left exc.  
one on each gun to  
proceed into S.T.  
Salve amm<sup>n</sup> dropped  
by 1 carriers. They  
got 120 rounds (this  
pt was under Capt  
Scholefield agn). 3 of  
the men in this salving  
carried 12 rounds  
each - i.e. 128 lbs - (130 lbs  
with bags.) They divided  
these, 60 rds to each gun.  
That on it was placed under  
Capt Mitchell - this went  
forward into Obj. 2, & came

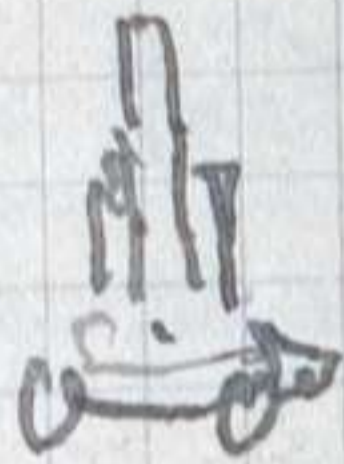
X During this time Mitchell saw a party of Germans betw. 2 pieces of SBde. bombing both ways & v. troublesome. He chanced a shot & got one right onto them. 2 got out & ran away, rest ~~die~~ were k. w. or capt'd. The observation was excellent for mortars you could see 1 country both ways - they fired at things they saw, & did not have to take risks.

34 actn at once again  
agst it in O.F. 2 where there was a lot of trouble till SBde again got up. X

Gun on left supported a bombing attack along O.F. 1 firing 40 rds. Gun on left after this went into O.F. 2 & took over Capt. Mitchell's posn. Mitchell went to left of O.F. 2 to cover our left there.

At this time a carrying pl and from Brigade to C. The ammo was divided betw the 2 guns

on small German  
bomb attacks



34

they fired intermittently  
thro' day. ~~the~~ <sup>Lieut</sup> Robertson  
of the Bty (who had been  
at Pity (looking after  
ammun supply) went to  
O/S 12 with Schotfield.  
They assembled a  
complete German  
min encraper out of  
2 in complete ones  
taking tops off buffers of  
one & putting them onto  
the other. This gives  
a 10 lb. H.E. shell with  
ready grooved bands.  
They got it complete  
& put one round in

Pioneers aimed to  
have PL 7 Bde.

34 ranged at maximum  
range. They all got under  
cover before firing it.  
The 1st rd showed to  
Everything was O.K.

- They then ranged on the  
White C. 7 in 23 D. They  
got the range properly,  
got setting of fuse  
completed, + then  
manned the mortar  
& stood by.

~~34~~  
During night of  
3/4 the Bde was relieved  
but the crews of T.Ms  
stood by the German mortar

The Germans made this  
 attack just too late.  
 6th Bde had had men so  
 reduced to garrison of left  
 flank C.Ts was practically

of their own 2 TMs.  
 Early on morn. of 4th May

Germans called very  
 strongly on 3rd Bn on  
 left. They had the  
 3rd Bn beaten on left -  
 came at barricade  
 with Flammenwerfer &  
 v. strong bomb of ply.

Flammenwerfer man  
 was sniped after the first  
 squirt with it - The Germans  
 gained the 2 right up to  
 our mortar ~~to~~ a  
 little past it. Lt Col  
 Mitchell & Pte O'Riley  
 stayed behind amidst  
 dozens of stick bombs &

34 blew up the T.M.  
That left only at gun.  
The rest gun was keeping  
a continuous fire on  
Company Z in 23 D down  
wh Germans were attacking  
& mine-thrower fired  
on it also. Our  
Stokes then (after this attack  
had failed) moved to  
left & supported 3 Bu  
bomb attack. We succeeded  
in regaining lost ground.  
Another mortar was  
sent up to replace the  
blown out one. It took  
up the left position again.

34

under Mitchell.  
 The mortar on rd moved  
 back to right (Scholefield  
 was working the minnie)  
 Plenty of ammo  
 had now come from  
 rear. During day the  
 2 TMs blew out 5  
 strong pts. (these were mainly  
 in shell holes & so)  
 In evidence of firing  
 they claim to have got  
 a German Colonel, Major  
 & 7 or. with one round.  
~~we later~~ We fired the  
 round just as these  
 people put their heads  
 up & it burst among

O'R. where was gun.  
Where were strips.

20 X them - & the 3 Bn after  
found them there. In  
blowing up some of these  
strong pts legs & arms  
were seen to go up into  
air - fs. generally run  
from a Stokes bomb  
(they burst into long strips)

Darby night of 4<sup>th</sup>/5-10  
there were several  
bombing attacks onto  
wh our mortars got  
each time as they had  
well ranged. All of these  
attacks were successfully  
stopped. They always fire  
on hearing heavy bombing.



Croat

111

Roberts

111

Robertson allowed sent  
up (midday 3rd May)  
to take ch. of guns.

Scholefield & Robertson  
had had some instruction  
on use of German  
minies.

15<sup>th</sup> L.T.M. were at U28  
Central firing on Bullecourt  
all time from Rd. 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
L.T.M. were on right.

34 On day of 5<sup>th</sup> May they  
fired intermittently till  
4:30 when 1st <sup>T14 B5</sup> ~~B5~~ relieved  
them.

The guns were firing  
from the trench all the  
time. There is prac.  
no cover in road.  
The guns fired 1400 to 1500  
rds., & 150-200  
minie bullets. Wh is  
very accurate, being rifled.  
It has a time fuze like  
a 4.2 woolly bear -

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \hline 22 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 57 \\ \hline 22 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3x  
6<sup>th</sup> M.G. Co., May 2nd.

Whole 16 guns were up.  
2nd M.G. Coy was in rear.

6 were on Rly Embankt.,  
3 on Embankt & vt.  
3 " " " left.

2 in C4 a, & 2 in C4 D.  
in reserve.

Teams were in 3 half sections  
(2 guns each) under

↑                    ↑                    ↑  
Pallory          Earle                  Diamond

Earle was slightly first

34 6 90, & last to get in.

Diamond went with  
right  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 4<sup>th</sup> wave  
of 24 Bn. & reached  
objec in U 23099.  
abt where rly crosses  
sunken rd. & to left.

They were shelled in  
so just before they got  
into their proper wave -  
Barrage seemed to be  
on <sup>some</sup> waves behind 4<sup>th</sup>  
wave. They only got  
an odd shell. It seemed  
to be 4.2 <sup>H.E.</sup> bursting on  
ground. The ferns threw  
a searchlight on them

34 first from. Factory direct  
 prob. in 220.  
 Shelling ceased abt 4  
 min. before attack.

I'll crossing 1st Hindenburg  
 line all pretty st.

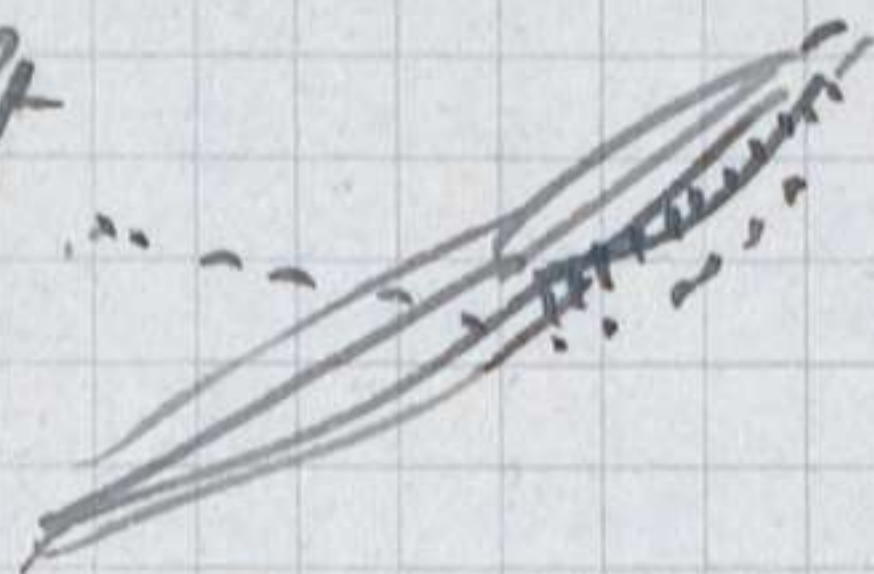
On crossing 1st line,  
 betw 2, a m. g. from  
 in front of 5 Bde caught  
 them & caused loss.  
 (1 Coyt & No 1 sapper were  
 wd in wire). Waves  
 were more or less  
 jumbled up. 2nd Hindenburg  
 line when they reached it  
 wd very knocked abt.  
 They waited in 1st 2 -  
 offrs steadying them &  
 following barrage - offrs

34 were giving them the  
Office - probably by their  
watches - the white  
signal flares were too  
difficult to tell from German  
flares.

At 100 yds in front  
of O.F. the Vickers gun  
stopped in shell hole where  
they could enfilade the  
deep rd from the Star  
abt at 230. 5.4. They  
had 2 guns there & cd  
see figs of men in  
Funken Road - they  
turned to be anti infantry  
(guns were ready to fire  
if necessary). At same  
time a man in an

34 overcoat, (found a  
German offr.) appeared on  
top of ridge on left  
abt 400-500 yds  
away -) waving his  
arms & seeming to give  
signal to advance. He  
was sniped before gun  
could be got onto him.  
One of the m. runners  
was sniped thro neck  
there. It was just  
getting daylight - &  
they moved forward.  
Lieut. Desmond gave  
the word to move. The  
infantry were up to the

34 hedge, from the Star, &  
then across rd to  
left



The guns moved up to  
2 shell holes <sup>just</sup> in front  
of hedge, & Desmond  
went up on left towards  
2nd Road to reconnoitre  
& then down to right &  
so back. The guns  
then moved back,  
across rd, up behind  
hedge, & thence into  
road from the Star.  
There was m. f. fire  
& sniping all this time

3d chiefly from Reencourt,  
but one gun from abt  
23 B 5-4.

The Road had a  
bank on one side only  
(NE side) abt 18 inches  
high - The tramway  
seemed to be blown all  
to pieces, only timber  
lying abt marked it.  
The 2 guns were placed  
on rd, 1st one where  
bank began, in a bit  
of a hole dug ~~for~~  
(the infy had dug it for  
cover). The left gun  
on bank was almost  
at once blown out by



34

in g. from Rencourt  
 way - & so at gun  
 we brought up to  
 take its position wh  
 we better. The infy  
 had dug little rifle  
 pits & you had to  
 dig from one to the other.

The infantry were  
 in this same road,  
 left & right, w 1 ~~front~~  
 gun. No infantry were  
 in front - only an odd  
 one or two got over!  
 top but they were killed  
 as soon as they  
 moved - it was bright  
 daylight.

40

34 The Germans could be seen  
going down the trench in  
23 B & D carrying bombs  
for C. attack, & also  
entering two or three  
big white dugout mounds  
at about 23 B 4.5 or 6.

The Germans threw  
bombs from the C.T.  
Halfheartedly our  
men put a sandbag  
barricade somewhere  
about 23 D 82.  
The cry went along for  
sandbags. ☹

The position then was  
they were just hanging  
on in rd from 23A 3½2  
to the Star.

24 The h. gunners were  
 sniping at everything  
 they cd see - The Germans  
 appeared mostly over  
 the crest N of Riencourt.  
 When Vickers gun got onto  
 them they scattered &  
 seemed to get into the  
 trench thro 17c + 23B  
 behind 1 barbed wire.

About <sup>8.30 -</sup> 9 am heavy  
 shells started to fall -  
 the Germans had 5 aeroplanes  
 over <sup>just</sup> a before their men  
 got into 1 road. The  
 shelling continued all 1  
 time - they got some  
 right into the road.

34 These leaves were  
the chief cause of casualties.  
Abr 10 am. our own  
shells began to fall.  
Word was sent back  
on the phone but the  
fire was not raised.  
It was then thought that  
these must have been  
shells from Queant  
directly but they  
recognized some of  
our own 18 lbs cases.

~~A little after 11 am.~~  
Lieut Draymond had  
been killed betw. 9 or 10  
am. He had been down  
to talking B Capt.

30x Maxfield, & had  
walked back & was  
k. by a shell, standing  
beside the gun - it  
was one of our own  
shells & landed  
right in 1 trench  
beside him.

~~The~~ Cpl. O'Forman of  
Vickers guns was k.  
down with Capt Maxfield  
by a German H.E. shell  
with instantaneous fuse.  
Maxfield was killed by  
this also.

Only one man  
remained with the gun  
beside the Supt. This  
man aft 10 mins later  
was ktd by Supt G

to cover retirement of  
remainder.

Every off & every NCO  
are by this time apparently  
knocked out, & a  
Pte of D Coy <sup>24<sup>th</sup> Bn</sup> seemed to  
be in charge.

24 & 23  
Pns were there.

3 X help a wd man away  
- he helped two. The  
two wd men were K.  
& the other got in.

At 10 mins later Seryt  
McDonald's gun was hit  
by a piece of H.E. & he  
started to bring it back  
behind the hedge. As he  
reached the foot of hedge  
2 r.f. bullets were put thro  
the gun. Seryt. McD.  
went into a shell hole,  
took lock out of gun,  
left gun & brought lock  
& spare parts back.

The infantry had decided  
to retire in twos & threes.  
We had small bombs

all but one of rt ply of  
carriers (8 men) got to forward point -  
where they rejoined their unit -  
(24 Bn).

of <sup>officer</sup> 2 mc. o. & 10 men with the  
2 guns in rt ply. the casualties  
were all Exc. one ~~Serpt.~~ Serpt. Mcd.  
one runner, (Ey) - Daffy (who  
took off 2 wdmen - & one other.  
One of these also was lost but  
turned up in Centre with gun  
team & carried on there.

3<sup>x</sup> parties in shellholes  
up the 29 Road, where  
they were protected from  
m.g. fire from right Exc. in  
saps. The infy intended  
to work back this way.  
M.D got across to the  
road & then down <sup>under</sup> the  
embankt. & got back  
at abt noon.

The central team  
(Earl) went with 2nd  
wave of 24 Bn (left half Coy).  
Earl was wd just before  
entry by Serpt Hitchcock  
carried on - & after bomb  
fighting by the team - set to

34 objve. They got in at <sup>49</sup>  
listening sap in 29A2.6.  
They <sup>had</sup> waited for first wire  
success signals at abt  
3.6 in wire. The m.g. at.  
23 c  $\frac{1}{2}$  o cd probly see  
them by flares - ~~was~~  
firing abt time. Another  
gun in Reincoort was  
also sweeping the wire.  
They waited for signal  
flares till daylight -  
Germans were still sending  
flares so our white flare  
repeated every 10 secs.  
was not obvious - German  
flares could be told by angle.  
At daylight as didn't know



34 if 24 was taken they went  
up the <sup>listening sap</sup> ~~common~~ 24 towards  
front line.

There were Germans  
still holding a couple of  
bags to left of sap at  
this time, throwing bombs.  
It took at  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour to get them  
out - the infantry ~~were~~  
Some of 22, some of 24  
Lifeguards, bombers etc.  
were pushing them back  
here. There did not  
seem to be an off there -  
possibly there was.

When the sap was clear  
Sergeant Hitchcock took his  
pty up a <sup>common</sup> trench abt 200 yds from

24 rd & then to left to  
~~near~~ abt 100 yds  
 short of where it crosses  
 the road on left.

They mounted 2 guns  
 there -

The Infy at the  
 time had not got  
 the road & had not  
 got the C. T. wh joins  
 the 2nd trench at 1 road.  
 They were still bombing  
 the Is. back there.

The guns waited there  
 abt an hour till Germans  
 were cleared past the  
 C. T. at the Rd junction.

3d Guns had snipers  
on left firing up this  
road.

The guns were then  
taken across road  
& setup in 1st & 2nd  
bays of 2y across the  
road - a L. gunner  
watching the snipers down  
1 road.

The targets for these  
guns were all up in the  
Hendecourt Ridge -  
parties coming across square  
16 from the NE.

They did not see the  
road thro 22 B+C nor  
the road thro our 2nd Obj

34 but had a fine view  
otherwise from the factory  
round to Rivercourt.

They saw no movement  
in the factory.

They stopped all the  
day, were not c. att'd.  
& were held. by Bice,  
at 2.30 am. on May 4.

By the guns were  
withdrawn to alt 22D  
9½ 2 x 23C. 2½ 3.

The Left Section was under  
Palling - teams of NCO & 4  
men per gun - with 4th  
wave of 22nd Bn with

34 O.G. 2 in U 22D 6.30 hrs  
 objive. He got as far  
 as wire in U 28B 77  
 where he was mortally wd.  
 Pulling died abt noon.  
 1 man was k, + 4 wd,  
 + rest wtd drawn to  
 rly at night.

The German barrage  
 caught them badly (the  
 practice barrage) - the  
 info there never succeeded;  
 the Germans from abt 22c.  
 9.3 or 4. ~~but~~ had superiority  
 of fire all day. We could  
 find them at all & could  
 get heads up.

34 As m.g.s of left sector  
were lying down with  
27th last wave (already  
there in position) the German  
barrage came down.

It seemed all to be  
just in front of the  
Sunken Road. It was  
impossible to say how  
far it was causing casualties.  
Line of runners moved back  
into Sunken Rd for a  
few mins, then moved  
out again when our  
barrage started.

The German Bombt killed,  
ours started; ~~they started~~  
for first 100 yds or so  
could hear anything but  
roar of our guns. a little

3) Later they ~~begin to hear~~  
had a stop. Then went  
on again & stopped  
waiting for front line to be  
reported clear. During  
second stop the S. m. g.  
cd be heard very clearly  
half left betw. Riecht's  
Bullect. It was daylight  
when they moved from  
the second stop. The  
infy had all gone. Palling  
we waiting on the  
Signal - 4 white's.

When within abt 70  
yds of the wire one  
man a bit ahead was  
k in the wire; 3 men  
& ops were w d.

34 They stopped in 1 shell  
hole on bridge - on 1  
edge of ridge. They  
cd see the top of tank  
70 or 80 yds away.  
in 1 were on 1 left 5  
one in 1 gully on rt  
abt 150 yds away.

The 4 wd were in  
a shell hole bound up  
by sergt. 7 4 of ply were  
missing - All were k or  
hit within abt 5 mins.  
Two attempts were made  
to get Mr Palling in, 1st man  
was wd., sergt got him in.

They were there till  
abt 11.30 p.m. when last  
two left. German was active  
till abt 9 p.m.



34

One feature of fight was  
 way in wh men came out  
 w heavy wounds, walking  
 themselves unless absolutely  
 mangled. One man w a  
 bit of shell in his lung  
 reached 1<sup>st</sup> re-embankt  
 from 1 wire before he faints.  
 Another w 3 or 4 bits of metal  
 in him walked out & complained  
 th he felt very mean to come out  
 & leave others behind.  
 One Corp. with a lump in  
 his knee <sup>(-a piece of metal in his knee-)</sup> carried a man  
 out & w badly wd at  
 the Dressing Sta

34  
 22 Bn.

In after of May 3 we  
 holding C.T. 22 D 9.5 to 9.0  
 as defensive flank. They  
 had on in morning as far  
 as C.T. 60-63 in Dg 2.

Garton who was on  
 left flank w compass reached  
 point just E of this in first  
 attack. He was getting bombed  
 from the road ~~corner~~ & trench  
 junction on arrival at <sup>Zero + 33</sup>  
 Stokes mortar was firing across <sup>to</sup> left.  
 Miller (also on left)  
 was close to him there.

This was the 22 Bn's left  
 flank.

34

at 3 am. when Ziehris  
 & Capt Brown (adlt 21 Bu)  
 were putting out markers  
 there was mine over  
 Barrage on turn from  
 half right (? Senken Rd) &  
 1/2 mi. from Bullecourt. They  
 probly saw something.

The German barrage was  
 on 2 Bu waves. 21 Bu waves  
 were astride Rd in 28 D.  
 The Bu formed up where  
 cutting is marked but no  
 cutting work mentioned  
 exists. The H.Q. was an  
 miserable little hole built  
 w salvaged timber by  
 Jones the night of 1/2, 1110 x 5

60

34

D  
 A B 5  
 — — 6  
 — — 7 } waves.  
 C 8

21 Bn. Objective.

1st Phase - 27 27 trenches  
 through 17 D + 23 B.

2nd Phase Trench behind  
 Handcart Rincet Rd.

3rd Phase - Chateau to  
 contour 85.

1st wave to 1st Phase.

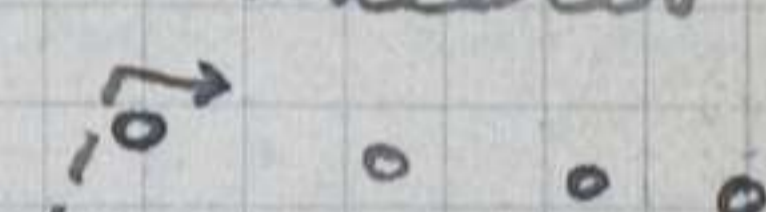
2 + 3 to 2nd Phase

4 <sup>under Jones</sup> to final objective - (Hills)

Bde to supply 22 Posts  
 around Handcart  
 Chateau (No 18 Post).

~~Heavy~~ Barrage of <sup>4.2s</sup> ~~traw~~  
 & minenwerfers caused  
 waves to close up &  
 heavy.

While markers were  
 being put out & diving moving  
 up of waves onto markers  
 there was heavy w.g. fire  
 from Bullecourt.

The 22 Bn filed up  
 on left & ~~turned~~ wheeled  
 onto markers   
 They caught this w.g. fire  
 more heavily.

The 22 Bn were ahead of  
 21 Bn on starting.

They were not heard but  
 were apparently seen - when

3<sup>d</sup> m.g. fire started. Officers  
 & be told in light of flares  
 showing their revolvers.

They must have had  
 casualties there.

The Germans seemed to  
 have ~~no~~ <sup>artillery</sup> on their own  
 wire bec. most of our  
 officer casualties occurred  
 there. Jones reports th  
 1 German registered on  
 their wire w only night  
 before (for several morning  
 - 4 morning running etc.  
 morning before we went  
 over - they put down the  
 practice Barrage).

[This only accounts  
for abt 200 - 300 of Bn.]

There were probly a  
big proportion in shellholes  
in wire on left getting  
out of way of  
Bulldozer mg. fire.  
Not one of 21 Bn's best  
fights but it was  
on a most difficult  
flank.]

34 The waves probly got to  
their right but the left  
guides for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> waves  
got to their right spots.

(Garton & Miller, working  
by compass.)

Under Lieut Hunt  
(who shot a Jap Major in O.S. 2)  
& Capt. Bland the waves  
were reorganised under  
the barrage ~~in front of~~  
~~of~~ in O.S. 2 & went  
over. They went from  
there in 2 waves - Only  
4 offrs were left by  
them - Jennings (attended to  
at 2nd objective) Hunt (att. wd  
twice) Bland (survivor)  
Duncan (survivor). Hunt

<sup>34</sup> seems to have got away first as his wave —

Wh is sd by some in it to have Ga entered 21 Bn wave — He got to the 2nd obje on road. This wave is sd to have started 150 strong.

Bland & Duncan's wave was 60 strong (& were all 21 Bn). They reached within 150 to 200 yds of 2nd obje. They got into touch w Capt Maxfield 21 Bn. They sent him a message & got a message back. They started off in accord



34 his message to prolong  
Maxfield's line along road  
to left. The 60 soldiers  
faded to ~~about~~ 25 within a  
few yds of starting <sup>by cross fire</sup> from  
C.T. in 23 B + from  
near chapel in 23 D.

This stopped them - there  
were 9 in a shell hole with  
Duncan.

Hunt had been hit with  
a bomb in rd arm &  
bullet in left - the bomb  
in fight at X rd in 22 B  
75. Hunt must have  
lost a lot of men getting  
across. Tennyson was  
going along the rd from rd

34

to left towards Hunt -  
 sniped thro head gain  
 along asking 1 man how  
 they were.

Hunt sent a message  
 to say he was in 2nd  
 Objive & was sending a  
 "rough wave" over to  
 1st Phase of 21 Bn Objive -  
 Nothing more has been heard  
 of them. He was going after  
 them but didn't amount.

Of Hunt's party there are  
 very few survivors. There  
 are men who were  
 with Jennings.

The men on it of

Hunt is at Cambridge  
at 1st Eastern Genl.  
& also Hardevick -  
leader of 5<sup>th</sup> wave -  
ward 13.

34 Sunken Rd with 24 Bn  
were hunted out of it  
by barrage of our own  
guns - wh began at  
10 am. (?)

Blands party & a few  
stragglers from Hunt's ply  
job in down rd under  
bank - & spent day  
fighting on left in Op. 2.  
There were abt 80 then  
under 2 offrs. (Bland &  
Duncan). The left  
was then at 23 C  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 4.  
We did not hold the rd.  
Sgt Maj. Horsburgh was  
in charge there - He  
did excellent work there.

34

The Germans c. att'd w  
bombs but never got  
across the rd. (Horsb.  
had been out in front on 2nd  
Objec. & started work in d.f.  
& afterwards). There seem to  
have been 5 distinct bomb  
attacks on left during day  
but this block held.

The C.T. from there S. was  
held by 3 posts with 2 Gs.

21 Bn was relieved  
during night by 3 Bn. The  
barrage was very heavy.  
My work was down 1 rd;  
yesterday 21 Bn numbered  
130-170 were about.

71

Hardwick Sartou Seidel  
RW Whitehead

Bland Foster Sullivan Russell

Hunt Williams Barton Duncan  
~~2/11 Whitehead~~

Jones Miller Jenning  
2/11 RW Whitehead

32

C. de G.  
Capt Jones 154 hit in wire.

1st Hardwick M.C. hit when started <sup>in arm</sup>  
went on hit again in wire.

Capt Russell A was hit in wire.

DCM  
1st Miller was hit betw O.F. 1 & 2

1st Sullivan was hit in the wire.

1st Whitehead <sup>W.M.</sup> wd - where not known  
2/11 RW Whitehead was k. ~~where not~~  
~~known~~ in part of O.F. 2.

1st Foster k. before they got to  
wire (first man into  
Spillers line)

1st Barton  
1st Williams } wd early  
1st Seidel }

1st Jennings k in 2 obje.

1st Hunt wd twice O.F. 2 & 2 obje

Bland Sartou Duncan got  
back.

34  
 Col Forbes took up 60 ft.  
 during afternoon.

2/Lt Atkinson was k. by shell  
 on way out.

2/Lt Hauser k. in carrying  
 ply on way S.

2/Lt Bennie wd. on night  
 4/5 dipping. Strong Post  
 forward of op. 2. Capt  
 Brown took up 40 ft. &  
 120 men to do this.

These first made a block  
 1 ply of 40 made a block  
 on S. side of Sunkun Rd  
 abt 2205. & to help  
 keep what they 1st Bde  
 had on during day.  
 (They got involved in  
 bomb fight)

34

Avro party 40 under  
Bennie made a strong  
post on N side of the  
Sunken Rd near where  
I first crossed it.  
(Bennie wd)

3rd pty cutout sap &  
thead all boys  
East of this I crossing  
to cover Sunken Rd  
from there w bombs.  
(prac. on bank of  
Sunken Rd). all this  
w under a heavy  
sniping & many flares.

12 Bn have had 76 casualties  
in Officers.

So far casualties seem to have  
been: 750 men & 35 Officers.  
(since May 1).

9.	1.	70
10.	7.	150
11.	8.	276
12.	15.	300.

Inf Coy	4.	21
---------	----	----

Totally	1	7
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36	824
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Thigh. Heurley (12 Bn) 81  
 who got a pardon from  
 the King after deserting  
 from the Aust. Navy,  
 when they were told to  
 they were to be kept  
 for home defence.

put up a splendid  
 bomb fight on night 5  
 was wounded -  
 Lt. Col. ~~St. J. Rafferty~~ has been  
 Tostevin K.

The balance of 12 Bn  
 has been organised as a  
 company under its  
 Lt. Col. ~~St. J. Rafferty~~ James - is  
 going into 7 tonight  
 (May 7).

34

12 Ws withdrawn.

80

10 Bn took night.

11 Bn left (on 29 Road).

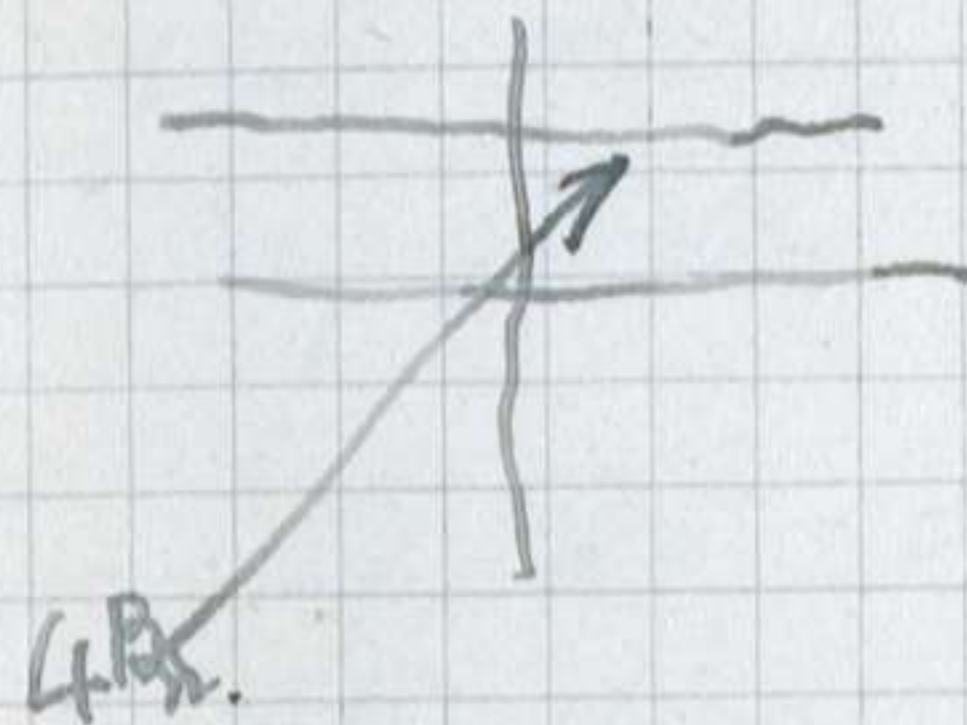
1st Bde are on the left -  
place being taken to night  
by 1 Bde.

9 Bn carried out  
attack in O.F. 1 last  
night - 3 coys in O.F.  
1 Coy was with the 2nd Bn  
in O.F. 2 & they got  
their objectives in  
each case.

Donald Medley, 12 Bn, who  
came back 1 other day  
after being an arm in  
Lone Pine - & was hit in

3d

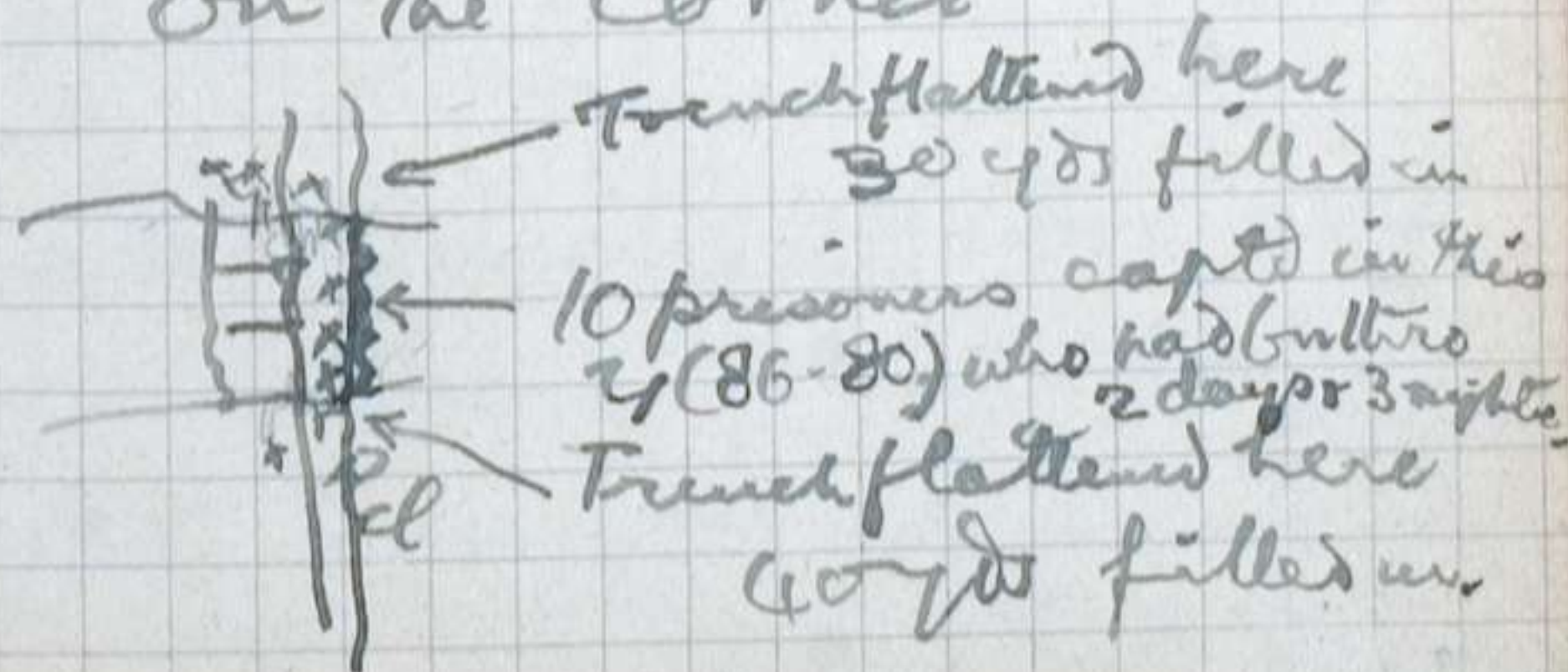
we reestablished our line  
The 4 Bn came across  
over the top & extended  
their line across the road.  
in 29.



we have  
now  
consolidated  
on the ~~front~~

Company in 29B  
& have pushed saps  
forward to the rd &  
Estab. strongpoints

on the corner



Trench flattened here  
30 yds filled in

10 prisoners capt'd in this  
2 (86-80) who had been thro  
2 days or 3 nights.

Trench flattened here  
40 yds filled in

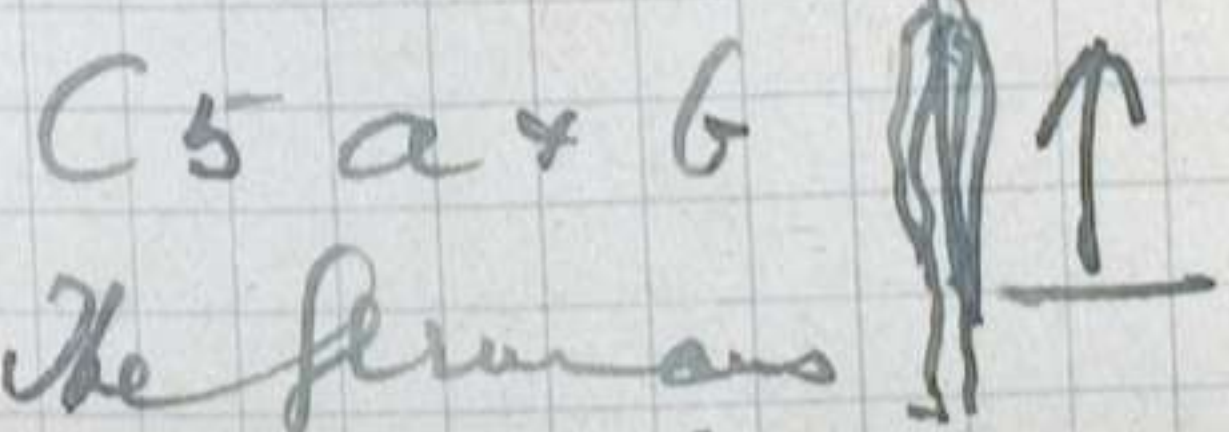
34

with a Flamme werfer -  
Party of Stoss truppe,  
Flamme werfer behind  
them & inf. behind them.

They gained a footing in  
O.S. 1, & in O.S. 2  
near the 29 Road.  
(coming down Rd & then  
to right) L → O.S. 2.

← O.S. 1

The 10 Bn reinforced  
over the top from  
the Tanken Rd in




The flamans  
were driven out

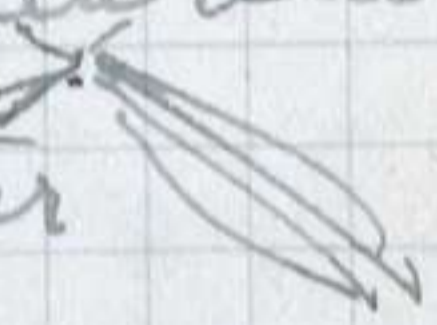
at c. attack.

During early part of  
night German got men  
in Sanken rd in 23 D

~~down~~ down corner 2x 

At 5 am. (after bombing  
has gone on all night)

he c. attacked with  
a Coy in Sanken Rd  
to left of Star 

& a Coy from Sanken  
Rd on right of star 

The Germans attack  
w a bn, 3 Coys in  
attack & 1 in Reserve in  
Reinforcement — & up trench

3 Bde

Took over from 2 & 4 Pns  
(attached to 5 Bde).

right of line. after 2 & 4  
had carried out bombing  
stunt. 3rd Bde took

over & 11 & 12 went  
into line, 11 on left, 12

over right in O.G. 1 & 2.

They were bombing all night  
across & back across Dunker

Rd 29 B 8.5. & capt'd

a German W.S. killing

some German. There

were definite bomb

attacks - & some attempts