

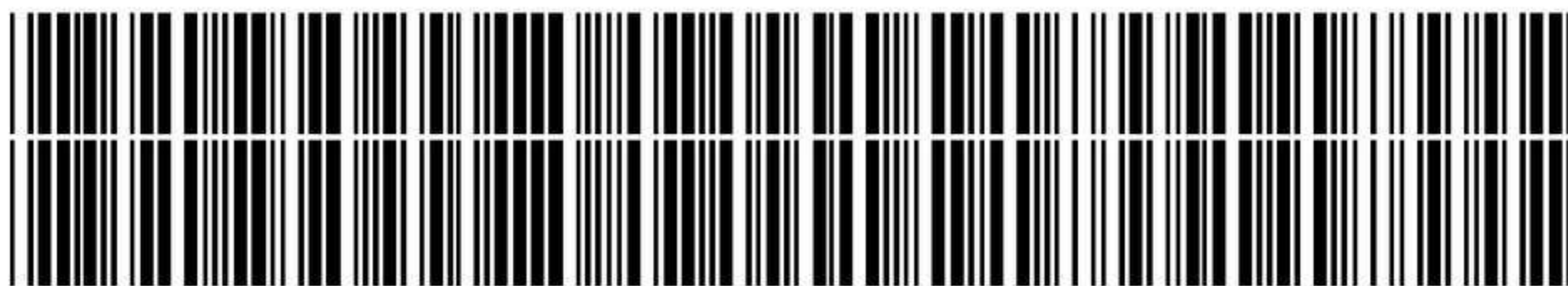
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/165/1

Title: Notebook, May - September 1917

Includes diary entries for 25-28 September 1917 and contains references to the 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions, Menin Road, Bullecourt and Polygon Wood.



AWM38-3DRL606/165/1

AWM38

Original

30RL 606

ITEM 165 [1]

DIARY NO. 165

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

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

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

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

16 Sept., 1946.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C. E. W. BEAN.

ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

REPORTERS'

¹⁶⁵
~~R 45~~

Specimen of A.G.W.
A.G.W.

Gallipoli:

Nehyan was out at Knife Edge during summer & found it was unoccupied at night. He wanted Beidwood to occupy it - also Twin 2, x But they didn't.

45

14:30

20 Sept. 8th 6 BNS.

7:25
 165
 2
 7:55
 163
 56.
 Janson.

6 Bn.
 Lt Rauert, 1/4 hrs before zero, while behind D Coy & trying to get touch with 11 Bn ^{in Name Boschen} (150 yds sep) when he saw a man strolling behind him. He called to him "are you the 11 Bn." The man didn't answer. The ~~man~~ Rauert stooped down & saw his Dolly Varden eye the sky. He ~~asked~~ ^{noticed} a scout who was with him - rag in his rifle, no bayonet, ~~over~~ on trigger. Scout went on guard & told fellow to put hands up. He went. R. went to him w revolver - He put up one hand then they growled at him. Then other hand went up. He

41
on their left front in
Polygon wood, rt of
Butte, on back slope of
hill - being taken away
by a team under v. heavy
shellfire.

Another gun on 1
Reutelschek continued to
fire point blank on 8Bn
until they got heavies
out of it.

4
One German concrete deposit seemed to have
been destroyed - 2 men were standing at it in easy
attitudes when 1 m. gunner turned his gun onto
Lieut. Erris (8Bn). He missed Erris, put his hands up,
~~and~~ Erris shot him - this happened whenever G. fought.
They were ^{very} ~~very~~ ^{brave} ~~brave~~ ^{though} ~~though~~
We know the Germans expected
an attack at 4.30 (their time &
ours are / same at / moment)

45 5
10 Bn was to line up just behind old British line in J.C. & 14a - They actually were on it, within ~~less~~ abt 50 yds of 12 Bn - tucking in tail to avoid shelling.

This shelling - short barrage - started abt 4.20 for abt 5 mins; then abt 5.20 down came a persistent & heavy barrage (for Germans) Surprisingly few men were lost. But tail coys who had met gas by Zouave wood abt 2 hrs before & some more after passing thro' Chateau wd, across rd from Hooge.

45

6

There was a lot of congestion
 on way up - one of 7 Bde
 Bns got a bit across them -
 The schedule times for crossings
 were not adhered to owing
 to start being made on spur
 of moment (orders from above)
 owing to rain. They had
 all 10 000 yds to go from
 Cafe Belge -

The Bn lay in sections
 in file on the tape & some
 coys ~~kept~~ kept this
 formation to 3rd Obje.
 The 2 assault (storm ?) coys
 had been trained by Nelegan
 on exactly same lines as
 his old Heurbairx Raid coys
 (in same farm house
 near Saille, pinched from
 56 Divn - who were very

25

good of them). The other ⁷
2 Coys were called & called
No 1 & No 2.

The shelling disorganised
Nos 1 & 2 Coys (knocking up
& carrying coys) a bit.
Cornish adjt. was sent back
to reorganise them & did
it splendidly. Nelson went
on 1 post nearly an hour
before fight.

(N thinks decision to
go on was wisest the troops
having once started)

It was prolly too dark to
see the tanks. They seemed
very noisy. There was some
inf. fire on rt - sounding
like a test. The Yorks
sounded rather noisy, revolver
shots etc - goodness knows
what started it. Coloured flames

45
were going up, but these
go up every night. 8

The slow barrage gave
these Coy^s ^{of units} who were late
a chance of reorganising
& was invaluable. It was
too late to organise by
daylight before started.

{ 28Bn was one which blocked.
Gas shells near Hooge -
over Hooge, men had
to put on helmets &
carriers to put down
bundles.)

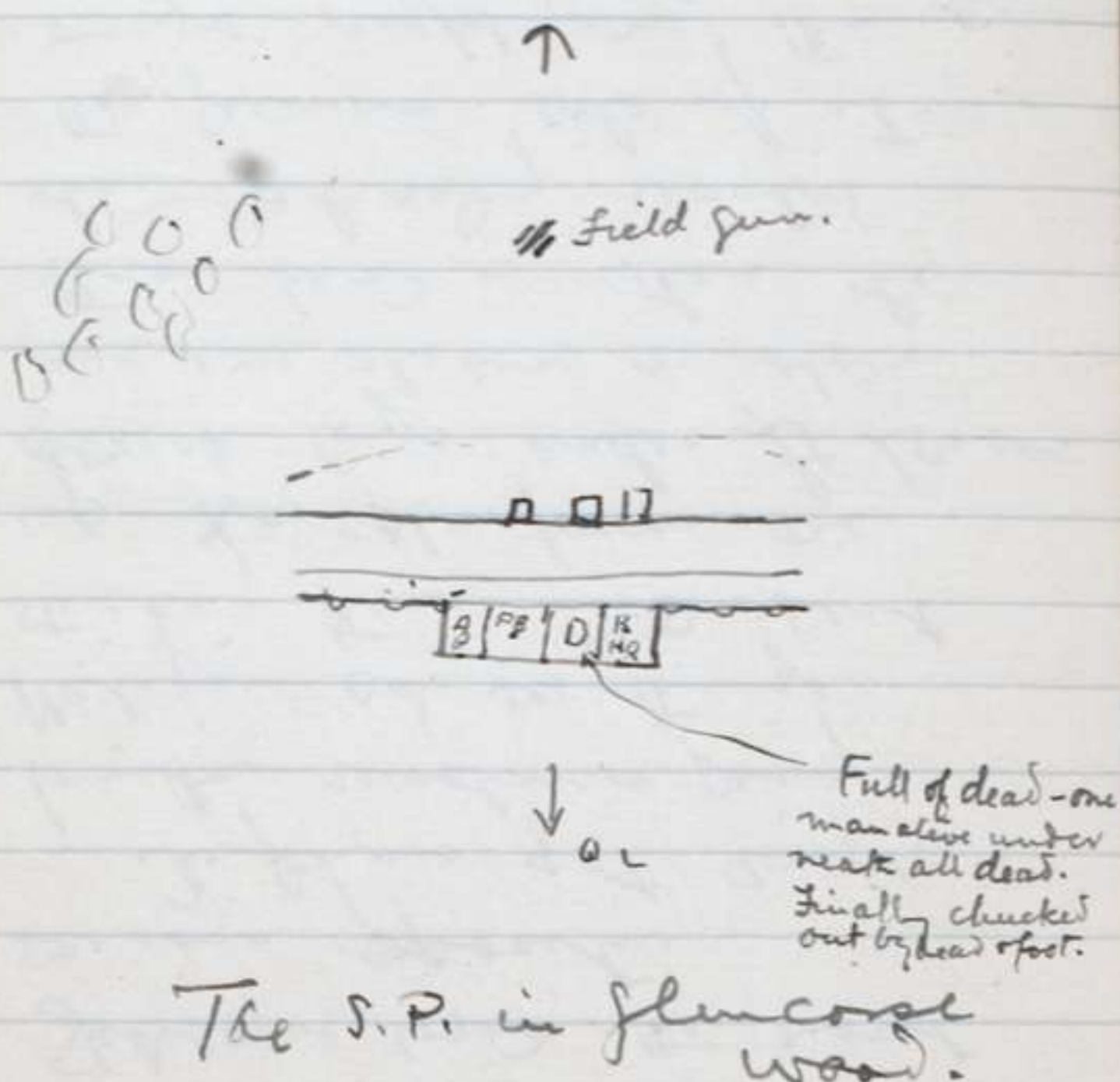
After start over blockhouse
was someone alive in it.
They only fought &
were done in - some
were used as sibs

48

(The M.O. got a ^{German} WO who fell
in some of them & they
carried well)

In Sunken Rd in
Jelkorse wood the most
serious opposition.

The Germans got muffs,
bombs, revolvers going.
Melijan cd see things
sticking there - so sent
up Xa pln from one
of rack Coys under Lt Leaver.
He was shot w revolver
thro head - when he
had already reached
the German side of it
& was right on the
emplacement when he was
k. This Pln w the 11 Bn
& perhaps bits of 12th
went made & 20 dead men



45

11

were taken from inside & 20 outside. 10 Bn

got 3 mps there. There were 3 gas or flamme weapons implements there, 50 or 60 mg. belts (two guns were lent to ~~3~~ m.g. Coy) Lt Col Lehmann of 3 m.g. Coy & most of team was K; but Lt Col who was with him carried on exactly like an off.

It took 5 or 6 mins to reduce this place & 1 man once they got to the emplacements & openings, simply filled place w bombs.

The garrison was actually coming out of the dugouts when our men were over them. The Germ. morale seemed to be v. good & their ^{safering} were v. plucky.

25

The m.f. was ^{lying} on top of the
blockhouse ^{apex} - a light gun. 12

The line had by now
gone on. Neliyan got
here after X & Y Coys & before
1 & 2 who were spacing
out getting their distance

The wave of the 12th
seemed to get too far to
left - something or other went
wrong there; it's not clear
what. They were out of
way & not in their
place.

Capt G. C. Campbell reorg. 10 Bn into
original form X, Y, Z (leaving 2 M.O.)
9th & 10th lay up ~~for~~ during
hours pause. 9th had
12th & 11th in front of
them (on left) But 10th

45

13

only had 11 Bn ahead
of them.

Nothing started between
1st & 2nd Objive. 12 Bn
cleared up all 12 mps
there later. But no fight
there. 2 old field guns
lying there.

The 1st half of 2nd Objive
was not held by anyone
so McLejan decided to hold it
w 2 Coys. They knew by the
time, & 1 barrage where they
were. They were within 40
or 50 yds of barrage (they
were taught to settle their
posits by this).

The men had sandwiches
w them. Paperboys got into
action there - sandbags w

45

14

12 papers in each bag. Some were issued at this objic & some at the third objic. 1 & 2 boys were used on 2nd objic ~~to~~ N. decided to leave them there & go on w X & Y. 1 & 2 started digging at once, & were nearly dug in when lift came. German gradually brought in his barrage - he had a fair idea how he was being - on 6 strong Pt in glencorse wood, & then in front of Red Line. The barrage became ~~to~~ many times as intense (from 1 shot per min. to 4 shots per min. on lifts - this made them obvious - men were all warned at this).

To 3rd objve.

↑

9 Bn.
4 Coy.

↑

10 Bn
X + Y Coy

* These were released when 12 Bn organised a plan
S.P. on its rt.

On hearing that 12th had
not reached right position
N sent to 7 Bn for support.
2 Plus arrived*; the time
had ~~been~~ ordered of at once
but these 2 plus when they
arrived were used as a
sort of stand by as authorities
wanted plenty of troops on
3rd objve. The ground was
marshy in front of 10 Bn -
but posts went out while
protective & bar barrages

was still in front, & were
dry in by time it left.

It was from an ~~addressed~~
patrol on it that they
cd see abt 3.30 Germans
behind the Butte ~~with~~
~~off~~ their packs - & then issued
without their packs & were
seen moving to abt T10A55
where they dispersed &
became lost to view.

The patrols of storm corp
had small scraps w
German patrols.

There had be a mg.
at the S.W. end of racecourse.
Whenever it fired 300m
guns were waiting for
it & got onto it at once
& it was shut up.

2 mps. were capt'd in 2nd obj, & 1 mp
 was seized single handed by Lieut Klenner
 this was causing heavy casualties &
 momentarily held up 1 advance.

Shell fire pretty disorg'd 12 Pm.

Klenner's gun was just before
 2nd line, ^{reached} & N.C.O. & 5 men were
 taken there.

Our mps. put up (pretty
 21 mp. Coy) ~~in~~ a wonderful
 barrage, & arty also
 in hollows behind edge of
 slope. Very few shorts.
 Isolated groups were seen
 at various times - but
 no attack came. Similar
 movements were noticed & ~~smashed~~ ^{crushed} by arty
 abt 7.30 pm.

That night ^{the} Inwoods
 patrol went out, & found
 where germ. patrol was
 working thru Polygon
 wood. He went down
 at flank of race course
 & settled th the Germans
 were still in their depots
 in 1 wood - he cd hear
 their transport also moving.
 This information prevented

18a

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on a separate sheet of paper pasted onto the notebook page.]

81
R
57

45

19

the sending out of
unlimited patrols wh
wd have be caught.

Next m. g. ~~and~~ he ^{with a 7B} ~~was~~
man located a m. g. ^{two went out} ~~after a m. g.~~
~~he had spotted~~ in a
shellhole & bombed 1
gun & team & brought in
one prisoner who carried 1
gun.

The ground was heavily
shelled at intervals &
spaces.

At 7.30 pm. end night S.O.S.
went up from 2 Bde & 2 Div & later
from 3 Bde O.P. Both flanks reported
Enemy movement massing for c. att.
but 10 Bn saw no one.

The LTM off 1 & 3 of crew were ad.
But the new off sent up at assembly
post did not report during engagement
nor was gun seen.

The sending out of
unlimited packets at
and here in night.

19

Next m. g. ~~at~~ he ~~was~~ with a 78
now located a m. g. ~~in~~ (12) fire company
and after a ~~few~~ ~~minutes~~

he had spotted in a
shell hole & brought in
one team & brought in
one prisoner also carried in
from.

The ground was heavily
shelled at intervals &
spaces.

At 7.30 pm. sub night S.O.S.
breakfast for 2 Bde & 2 Div held
from 3 Bde O.P. Best thanks reports
Enemy movement morning for c. 24.
but 1st Bn saw no one.

The LTM of the 3 of crew were
But the new officer sent up at Aldershot
first this report during capture
was not seen.

10th Batt.
506

C.O. recommends Pte Reginald
~~Ray~~ Roy Inwood. During operations
19/22 Sept at Polygon Wood, Pte Inwood
displayed exceptional bravery & devotion
to duty.

During advance to 2nd objective, Inwood
moved forward through our barrage alone to a
German strong post & captured it with 9
prisoners, & killed several of enemy.

During evening he volunteered for a
special all night patrol which went out abt
600 yds in front of our line, & there by his
coolness & sound judgment obtained & sent
back very valuable information as to the
enemy movement.

In early morning of 21st Pte
Inwood located a machinegun which
was causing several casualties. He
went out alone and bombed the
gun and team, killing all but one
whom he brought in as prisoner
with the gun.

100

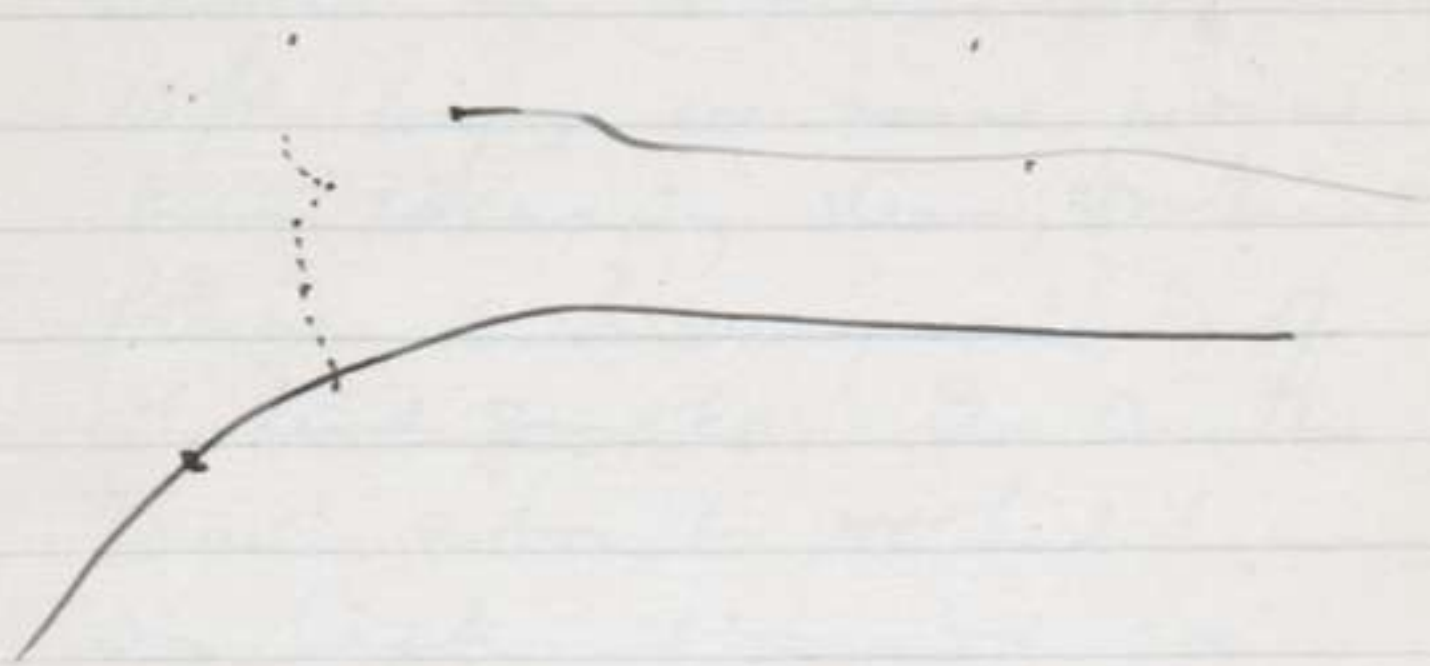
Carrying Coys - get des. by
shelling & they will fight as
units. Carrying Bn wd be
better. N. considers storm
troop system worth white. (2 Coys
in his Bn)

Slow barrow splendid
Camouflage ^{shd be} necessary
for new s.p.

Shell struck actually
in mouth of dressing str &
k. many of wd. But
Maj. Appleyard RMO
went on work the stakem
& constantly went out
to dress wds under v.
heavy shellfire.

Bullecourt

9 Bn May 7



The flammen werfer attack
apt 9 Bn came in abt 15
In (dotted line) west part
of am ind. c-attack made
apt 9 Bn bombing ply in OQ1
from direction of OQ2 - after our
party had made head down

O.G. 1 towards Gordon's -
 pushing Germans in front
 of them. These Germans were
 backing in front of G.P.M.
 The c. attack w/ Flammeurs.
 was made before 1 minute
 as expected, & the Flammeurs
 started - a flame abt
 10ft long, a noise worse
 than escaping steam, brilliant
 flame & heavy cloud of
 whitish smoke. An another
 threw about & hit him
 on back & made a
 terrible mess of him -
 There were 3 flammeurs in
 this attack - 2 were capt.

It was his to decide
 N: to obtain the connection
 w/ O.G. 2 & fire superiorly
 across the outward corner
 towards the road junction - Vickers

45

2 S. Ms He was in there.

23

9 Bn. Polygon.

Lost Capt. Carroll wd. 3 times
had to start at ^{5 pm} lay in a shellhole
_{in Chateau Wood.}
a bit till after our barrage started
then tried to get up & was hit
again in Chateau Wood. He
went back & then turned again &
started - was hit 3rd time, in arm.
Reached dressing station at 4 pm
on Menin Rd.

Capt McNaught was hit in
head in Chateau Wood.

45

24

They thought there might be a fracture & what let him return.

Lieut Scougall (commanding "C" "Knightley's Coy") k. near J. O. 4 x

Maj. Dougall - not seen since

After 5 in Chateau wood. When barrage came down betw 4 & 5. 9 Bn got this all in coming up.

B Coy (commanding) had not come thro it when barrage started

9 Bn was on left of 10 Bn next to 28 Bn.

28 Bn were at this time lying behind Westhoek Ridge but flanks were not touching 9th who were in touch w 25 Bn at start.

45

25

12th were ahead of 9th.
 The shelling at the start caused
 pushing to get ahead of barrage
 and whole Bde was in mess
 going from I.O. to 1st Objv.

In some places men went
 up over their knees in getting
 over black crater rims in Noame
 Bosschen swamp. They lay
 up at 100 yds in rear.

See - Narrative of Opn.

Only 6 offrs ^{out of 16 - mostly v. junior.} were left in
 front line not counting H.Q.
 mostly hit before start.

Lt. Meyers A Coy. did especially
 well at forming up place & in
 final objv. The Colonel who
 watched the advance from

45

Glencove Wood & says to it
we just lines of men going
forward & no check at all.

The 9 Bn took up a little
of 28 Bn's ground & built
a str. pt just N of the road.
[This was later blown out by
the German shelling when
23 Bn had it]

A very large map had been
painted on calico & set up
in ^{farmhouse} yard at Osterstein, &
all men saw it.

26

58 Bn. 25th Sept.

5.15 Germ Barrage.

We were to have an Army
barrage at 6.30 followed by Corps
trial at 7.30.

German got 508 at
5.15 & the two trial barrages
as well.

(The 57 Bn walked into
a barrage, lost 3 Coy Commanders)

Before this barrage a
shell came into the windows
of 58 Bn Aid Post (Elliott 56
~~not to~~ Bn was in 1 same
post but another room).

[On Boyle's right 8 of
RWF & an off were k.
in one shell hole]

45

28

5.15 Germ. barrage intensified.

6.15 it seemed to slacken.

6.30 our arty appeared to open up.

5.20 SOS went up from front line.

5.30 SOS from HQs & another at 5.36. The three coloured light is a wonderful improv - not the wet brown paper. Some rockets fired by a post light. These are a canister fired from rifle by blank charge. Day SOS from mortar w red flare + red smoke.

6.20 Two runners from front line reported to Mx sent up SOS foll. by A Coy (SDBM) SOS. The rt (A Coy. 2 plus 220 yds) was on rd on rt of Polygon Wood - our exclusive boundary.

We were on our boundary
the Lt & tanks. were on
blue line slightly in rear.
3 times the Coy offr went
over I warned &
implored them to join
up in night.

As they didn't charge
de Frise we put across
front line.

Next news from col 2nd
man who sd farms,
were in front line &
close to our rt flank.
2nd Lt. Gs remained in
front line (& were probably
taken prisoner) He sd
our 2 T M pie was great.

45

30

D Coy was at once
(lying in Bn reserve
300 yds behind front
line) was placed in
defensive flank on
rt flank.

Germs. m. ps. from rt
were troublesome.

The German ran Sbs up
into a pillbox - afterwards
they opened w. m. ps. from
there.

Germs. attd w full
packs on.

The road was a bad diversion
because a strong attack
came up it. The country
wind in front of our rt is
boggy. On left of 58 Bn / post
was the worst swamp. The

45

it as if anything helps.
 The fern. came in behind
 his barrage & got to within
 15 yds of our line.
 Hintoff says th a sergt.
 Colcough rushed over &
 bayoneted one man there.

During today fern.
 occupied the two pillbox
 Coy H.Q.s. & seemed to
 try to get up from there
 from shellhole to shellhole.
 A Stokes gun, & the art
 were brought to bear every
 time. He massed at
 Cameron House also -

abt midday a
 Coy of 60 Bn was asked
 for. abt 2.30 3 Coy of
 A.S.H. passed ^{H.Q.} going up

Capt Boyd's Coy was attached to 58 Bn.
 He was reinforced by Coy 60
 Bn att 2.

45

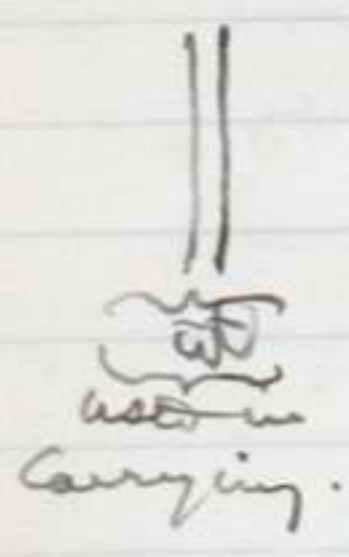
to retake the position.
 They were pretty well up
 by 5 pm.

Our L.G.s were heavily
 strafed in front. ~~time~~

Boyd had orders that as
 soon as Scotties were seen
 attacking he was to
 move across & link up
 with them. abt 5 pm.
 the Scotties were seen well
 up Boyd moved some
 men over to join them.

The 58. was ret'd abt 10 pm
 Exc. C. Coy wh was used as
 a covering screen in front
 of firing line to enable
 attacking Bns to get up
 on their tapes. They stayed till 5 pm
 when the attack started.

45 in order not to allow ³⁴ enemy to come anywhere near the forming up position Boyd was on 1 night & did splendid work. He was in the Fromelles fight & had been away since at training Bn. Capt. Gilechrist (left) was also from training Bn.



| C
| A

The Bn came back to Reserve position 600-700 yds behind 1 line, & to do carrying from Glencorse. Some

few were up in 1 front line with SQ, a few straggling.

The shelling was the heaviest the SB Bn had ever been in.

The Bde was simply working in parties under orders -

45 - the Bns were entirely mixed
& working in mixed parties.
The old green line was
Black Watch Corner -

35
The Div on our rt.
did not start when 5 Div
started: There was no
opposite & we took
much country ahead wh
we simply had to leave.
Cameron H was well in
English Territory.

24 hrs after the start
when the PW 7 were in
their line the shelling
started again & PW 7 retired.

25th. After getting ^{by} walking ^{by} & lorry
rides to Steenwoorde & back
at Selnow, I heard, after
dinner, that there had been
terribly hard fighting thro'
the day on our right. At
dawn this morning the left
of 33rd Div (on our right)
was attacked & bent back
& finally lost a post N. of
Wenian Rd. We had our
first hint of later trouble from
the photographers whom we
met at 7 pm. grey with
dust in their Ford car
returning. They said it had
been an awful day, barbed
wire & behind glucose wood -
all work on roads given up,
dumps blowing up - far the
heaviest day. On coming

45 up to the Operations Room
we heard that at 37
8.10 the 5th Div. reported its
ret Bde ~~98th Bde~~ on its
flank was being v. heavily
attacked. 98th Bde had been
driven back 800 yds &
that the O.C. of Coy had
been going to withdraw
& had been ordered to hold.
Col Marshall had been put
in command locally & the
60th Bde was to reinforce.

Birdwood spoke to Hobbs
at 8.10 & told him that a
big attack must be carried
out. Forming up would be
hard, but the two bns on the
ret flank were to be echeloned
back.

Fresh troops must be
used for the Blue Line (2nd objective).

45

Gen. Hobbs sd it be quite 38
 agreed but had spoken with
 Elliott who sd it wd ^{be} impossible
 to form up.

Hobbs let tld Elliott that
 job must be done.

Gen. Birdwood confirmed this,
 that job must be carried
 out. Two Bns of 8th Bde
 were to be sent up for the
 2nd Objive, a 5th Bn used for
 the 1st Objive only. Any gap
 wh remained 1 next day
 after 1 attack had gone thro,
 must be dealt with by
 an attack by reserves
 from the flank.

A most intensely
 anxious moment.
 I had heard it was the 4th
 Divn. The parties of the
 days fighting are as follow:

45 at 2.10pm. today the R.F.C. 39
reports the losses were
moving very brisk along
rd betw Gheluvelt & Drenin
down to Kruisrik & America.

From 10 Corps
Morning: Some shelling front line 10
Corps during night.
5.40. SOS on Anzac front.
Mist & shelling delaying
relief of 23 Div by 30 Div.

9.55. 1st R.W. Sweeney reports enemy taken
front line.
later (Pigeon - 7.30). R.W. Sweeney
Front line Coy wiped out.
Enemy holding front line.
We still hold suppt.

~~At 5 am.~~
At 5 am. German. but down heavy
barage on whole front rd div
of 5th Corps (N of us). All quiet
by 6.45 am

45
Common cut us left Div of 5 Corps
(59 Div)
Later: all quiet there. 40

5 Aust Div. Heavy shelling 9-10 pm
last night many gas shells in
no man's land. Germ. arty
active genly.

4 Div. Quiet. some shelly Amzac Ridge.
4.30 am. Barrage on rear
+ suppt line.
at 2 am. Pk of 3 germs
wandered in at JBASS (49 RIR)

2 Army. Germ. arty active at
Hollebeke also.

2 Army 1 pm.
at 6 am. Germs attacked beks.
Tower Hamlets & Polygon
wood; penetrated front +
suppt. N of Menin Rd. But
C-attack by Queens + HLI
retook support line. Front
line for 500 yds S of Polygon
wood occupied by germs.
C-attacks been organised at
both places

J5

41

12.55 P.M.

Our ammunition ^{situation} is that we have 40% of requirements of H.A. in transit. Enemy shelling bad & uncertain it can get thro'. Messes to explain to Army Command.

1.56 P.M. 5th Aust Div will attack at 2 P.M. in acc. w arrangements made w Corps in morning.

Evng Rept. 5 Corps. Normal.

2.15 P.M. Two Repts from 15 Bde Turo. 5 Div.

(1) O.C. 58 Bn reports his line still intact at 12 noon. Casualties 1/2 Bn, probly more. No touch on rt flank. Along Rd forming rt boundary absolute nest of traps in depth partially infiltrating front line. Enemy connecting pillboxes 400 yds in front of rt Coy by trench. Attack on our front repulsed w

45

heavy casualties to enemy. 42

2 Coy 60 Bn already rep'd
to 58 Bn.

- (2) Enemy have gained possession
of 98 Bde front line who are
holding line approximately
J. 15 C 9.8 - J 15 A. 9.8.

98 Bde are reestab. original
front line from J 15 D 4.8 to
J 9. D 4.0. by c. attack by
1st Middlesex to take place at
2 pm. Art barrage 150 yds
in front of present position lifting
100 yds at zero + 3, 100 yds in 6
min. till 200 yds beyond objective.

60 Bn to c. attack in conjunction
? Elliott told to take charge
till Marshall reports. 2
Takes guns to be sent.

(Part of this is from 5 Div)

2.45. pm. 33 Div. reports
 left Bde seen approaching
 old original front line
 betw. Rentelbeek & Pol. Wood.

Rt Bde. 33 Divn report one Bn
 N of main Rd pushed back
 100 yds on 300 yds front.
 Remainder believed to be
 in original position but

Situation obscure.
 3.20. 58 Bn reports "98 Bde making good progress.
 am endeavouring to link up."

5. 8. 5 Div
 Liaison off w 33 Div. reports:
 33 Div unit on original front line.
 14 Bde reports Position ret
 of 15 Bde reestablished.

15 Bde casualties:
 58 Bn more than 1/2
 60 Bn pretty heavy.
 (2 corp 60 Bn carrying had
 a bad time. 60 Bn pretty
 want help for big attack.)

45

44

5.40 P.m. 15 Bde report enemy
massing in large numbers
near Cameron H. Artillery Barrage
needed at once along 15 Bde
front & left of 98 Bde front.
Artillery informed.

~~7 p.m. for Helder reports~~

6.38 p.m. 15 Bde forwards report
from 98 Bde (6.15 pm) as follows:-
situation on our front obscure.
Our troops are holding N & S
lines through 3rd E in Verbeek
Farm & no further East.

At 5 p.m. 33rd Div reports:

98th Bde reports & 2nd A.P.S.
Helders & 1st Mx Regt were back
on our original front line at 3.10 pm
as result of c. attack in conjunction
with 15 Aus Inf Bde.

S. of Reutelbeek our
original front line is held etc.

45

for 200 yds in N. of Menin Rd
where we hold line at 70
yds behind original front line.

45

[2nd Army says in evs. One c. attack
at 6 am. 2nd heavy c. attack
12 noon on same front.

Queens, HLI, Worcs., King Mx,
ATSH., & another took part.]

7pm. Gen Hobbs reports ^{on telephone} Situation
Serious. 58 & 60 Bns
both severely punished. One
 Coy 57th put in. Col Stewart
going up w all troops available
in Bde. 98th Bde has not
reestablished itself but is on
line thro 3rd E in Verbeek Fm.
15 Bde is outflanked & in
it difficult. Barrage in
Glencorse wood so hot Col

45 Marshal doubts possibility⁴⁶
to get men thro. Gen Hobbs
Expects to have to refuse
at flank. Gen Elliott thinks
tomorrow mfs attack out of
quest unless 8 Bde can be
put in.

7.40. P.m. Phone message from
Gen Hobbs. "33 Div now
confirm our opinion as
follo: 98 Bde has right
in original front line, left
back to Verbeek Trn w
a few men in front.
33rd Div are now sending
up 2 Bns to reestab.
line + get touch w ret
of 15 A Bde.

The Whites talk with Hobbs.

45

8.44 pm.

47

15 Bde repts: Enemy heavily attacking our rt flank. O.C. Coy states he is withdrawing. C.O. 60 Bn has ordered him to hold on + is reinforcing. Am sending 57 Bn to support 60 Bn. (15 Aust Div)

9.35. Conversation Osborne w 10 Corps. (from 33 Div 8.30.)

98 Bde repts that only rt of his line is in original position on green line. Hence his line pushes back to Verbeek close in part of which he has some posts.

All efforts will be made to restore situation + assist another by filling gaps in the line

26 Sept After writing out
2 cables came up with
Jullett to Lille late in new
car. and at 10:30 AM
at 2. Slept in a chair.
at abt 3.45 there seemed to
be a practice barrage. at
5.45 the bomb broke out.
Reports from liaison Effr.

6 Jan. Up to present no
retaliation on our sector.

6.40 pm. Prisoners coming in 6.35
am

7 Jan. Strong point V 3 B 33
captured. 2 mps, number
prisoners - Everything O.K.

45

49

7.10 am. Prisoners still
arriving.

7.40. Bde on our right in
red line are in touch
on their rt flank but
not with us.

We hear the Butte has
been taken.

7.50 Red Line now in our hands.
Tokio in our hands. also
Ridge O 28A. Casualties high

45

50

9.25 am. men can be seen
moving all beyond the
Butte (5 Dist sector)
Touch v. good on left.

9.30. 5th Corps report they
have Jounabeke Church,
windmill Hill, and
Jounabeke Str bldgs -

11. am. Saw Genl Elliott at Hoop
who sd to the 59 Bn & 30 & 29 Bns
had gone forward to Red line but
30^x & 29 had stayed there w
59 & refused flank. He wanted
30 & 29 to get ahead but they
had replied only that there was
no one on their right at
all. The British were then

Bdes

4 th Aust Div	13	
	4	
5 th Aust Div	14	
	15	
33 Div	98	
	100	

x⁵
abt 400 yds ahead of Verbeek
Farm, behind 1st old front line.

abt. 2 pm. Butler told me the
SOS had gone up from the
BUTTE. (This c-attack easily
repulsed by 14 Bde at 1.14 pm)

3 pm.
A prisoner told 100 Inf Bde to
4th Inf Div wd c-attack
this afternoon from SE. Their
Signal to be slackening of
barrage followed by increased
intensity.

3.30 pm. Plane reports British
getting ahead on both sides
of Renteleek in J 15 B + D
but isolated pieces of enemy
still in E of these squares.

x5

3.10 pm. [3985 10 Coys tells
White to 33rd Div now
holds red line w troops in
hand & will probly get
blue line.

2 Coys of Arg. & S.
Highlanders had been found in
original post line (our
barrage had gone over them
again) much exhausted,
being well drawn]

2060
57807.
100 wd.

Tot 2m F Cameron
House held by 33 Div.

Sit: 9815de

{ Cam. H. | 3/6 Scottish Rifles
498 Bde
{ Tot 2m | 1/4 Suffolk.

Remnants of
1st Mx at
Alpha Jn.
A & SH being
collected

4 Lewis poles / 100 Bde to find if they are up)

25

54

At Noon 2/RWF with Austlrs
attack from S end of Polygon wood.

4.30pm. 5 Corps Prisoners - 300
to moment.

4.30

3 Div. report they dont hold
Crest of Hill 40. Hold
Blue Line from rt to near
Stn. Where a gap. Enemy
hold Stn. Line thence along
road towards Kansas Cross
to att. D 21 Centl. Where
flank thrown back as
touch not gained w Levi
Cottages. Orders to
all troops to get in touch
& arrange in progress to
get Stn & Hill 40

45

55

4 p.m. - 10 Corps Order. 33rd
 Divn having capt'd 1st
 objct will use every
 effort to capture final objct.
 & arrange co-opⁿ w
 5 Aust Div.

5 p.m. from X Corps. Rtr Bde.
 39 Div. 4.20: J26 B8.2
 J27 A 05 J27 A 35
 J27 A 35 75, gap 100
 yds - L.G. at J27. A 78.
 Left Bde thence Red Line w
 advd posts ^{in dugouts} abt J21 D 15.
 Left Bn. Just west of triangular
 copse J21 D 2.6 - J21 D 08.
 G O C 118 Bde intends
 to capture rest of objct during
 day.

x5

6.10pm

5 Aust Divt My offr reports
2 enemy planes shot down
by my fire in our lines.

4.5pm 2 Army.

100 Bde holds green
line Veldhoek 2, thence
thro N end Gledholt wood.
Austlns report large nos
of German dead & 480 Ge.
X Corps 200 Ge.

3.30am 2 Army.

4 Aust all objcs gained
5 Aust also as far S
on blue line as J10D 2 S-
whence back to Red line
N of Cameron H.

Left Bde 33 Divn in Red
line & moving thro Polygon to
set Blue line to Australians

45

57

who will take Toist In.
(98 Bde found 2 Cops A & S H).

6.30. 4 Div. Enemy aeroplane
flying v. low, one shot down.
Blue line consolidated with
posts in front.

) 700 hrs. 180 on 20.

Hostile ^{map taken} c-attack broke down under our
barrage at 3.30

Forecast - probly ^{somewhat} drizzly

9 Corps abt 4.30 pm saw much
German movement in
J 26 D 8.5, J 27 C. men
in fighting order from SE.
They were fired on with
arty & mg.

45

7.40

58

4 Div. Rt Bde
still being shelled. Left
all quiet. No anxiety
yet.

8 pm. X Corps arty report
C-attack driven off
by arty fire.

8 pm. from 2 army. Heavy
attack launched agst
59 + 33 Divs S of
Polyon wd. to Tower Hamlets.
Repulsed S of Menin Rd.
N of Menin Rd. Int Fm T
Cameron House believed
taken. 5 Aust Div
now attacking Cameron
House. Attacks on 1st Army
Corps front repulsed

25

59

5 Aust Div.

7.3 pm.

59 Bn ('B' Bn) well dug in
in 2 lines, one NE ^{to}
J. 10. c + one along Red line.

29 Bn ('D' Bn) in Blue line
in depth.

31 Bn ('C' Bn) + RWF
slightly intermingled but
joining 98 Bde 150 yds
E of Red line in Southern
Corps Boundary. Engaged
in attack on Cameron H.

15 Bde employing 12 German
Capt'd mgs in defence of
their area.

9.15. Fighting on 5 Corps front has been heavy.

Obscure - Biggs inclined to think Centre driven back, but Rt fast.

Supports being sent to assist Centre.

(? was this at 3.30 when an 4th Div. was attacked).

9.15 J401 5 Div: after visiting units: all full of confidence.

L.C. doing good shooting from Top of Butte.

Glencorse track heavily shelled.

45

61

12 Bn

Came up thru Chateau
 wood - not a shell there.
 Rain had stopped & they
 started at 1am from Halfway
 House. They had to cross
 Menin Rd at Hooge at
 1.30 but were blocked by
 27 Bn crossing their path.

Gen Plumer had ordered that
 everyone shd have a four
 hours spell before going
 in.

H.Q. got 5 J.G.C. 1.5 in two
 pill box dugouts.
 It was in Allen (Western Aust.
 - there are 13 W.A., 30 Tas. 5
~~S~~ Q. - 3 S.A., 3 Vic, 2 N.S.W.)

45

24 ^{of us} were taken in.

But we ~~are~~ right under
~~the~~ enemy barrage.

May ^{was} Johnston, AAME
 was working in the open
 right under the barrage. He
 had a little ^{air} post in Tarpon
 2, but ~~was~~ it got full & he
 worked in the open.

Barrage 4.30 to 5.15.

Stopped 3 mins & recom-
 menced not nearly as intense
 & then continued. Quickened
 again after our barrage [The
 expected us at 4.30]

The Nounne Boschen
 marsh had been moistened
 again by 1 rain & was
 very heavy.

The M.G. barrage made
 more noise than even the 10 pdr
 & ^{must have} had a very demoralising effect.

45

63

Diary: 8th Corps. 6.35 pm.
27th 300 Germans still in Hill 40
& shells in shell holes at str.

Apr. 2 army: 100 Bde
state to 98 Bde is in Turt Fern

3.20 pm. At 12.5 pm.
60 Bn on line J16a 9.6 -
J16a 6.8. Intend to
link with 30 Bn at J10 d 10
31 Bn holding line J10 d 16
- J10 d 14 & linked
up with 29 Bn at J10 d 07.
Blue line thus ours.

at 12.10 pm enemy were
observed dribbling over
ridge into position.

S Dis to date 20 offrs
488 men. 19 imp.

45

64

10 Corps

Air observers reports

8-45 — 9-35 am at 900 ft.

Our Infy at J 26 B 85.65 —

J 21 C. 60.40 — J 21 B 25.00

in the Redcock 2, J 15 D 60.70

(large party) J. 15 B 35.00.

Small parties of enemy in shell
holes at J C. 58.20 & in

Toist Trench. Enemy engine
at J. 10 C 25.05.

5th Corps says 2nd Down will
complete capture of Blue
line at an early date &
5th Down will cooperate from
direction of Dochy Fm.
18 Corps & 1st Army Corps to be
asked to cooperate

45

12-4-1918. Enemy dribbling
up in batches of 8 to 10
to a pt of concentration
at J. 11 a.

[Infantry says morning Rep. 27/9/17
There were 3 heavy attacks yest
between 4 & 7 between S. end
of Tower Hamlets Spur & N of
Polygon wood. Line substantially
unaltered - still in Red line
S of Cameron H. but S of
Cam. House gap to Red line at
Reutebeck.

60 and 100 & RWF preparing
to close this gap.]

. 1st Aust Div - RWF - 5th Hottel

S. Rifle - Hants - Sussex - Ash - Camb. - Bl. Watch

45

66

At abt 6pm on 26/9/17
 3 Div attacked Hill 40 &
 Zoumeke Str. to complete
 Blue line, & at same moment
 enemy heavily counter-attacked

Q am on 27th Elliot reports to
 be himself reconnoitered front
 line - we hold Cameron H.
 (Capt few prisoners there)
 & posts in Cameron Covert.
 31 Bn reorganizing in
 Polypou wd orders to
 proceed to obj. wh cd not
 do before as 98 Bde
 made no progress. ~~They~~
 98 Bde has new job on
 wh help of 60 Bn & his 2 Coy
 Echeloned in Pill Boxes to
 stream (R.W.F.) Not known if these
 in touch w Bde.

[1. 5] am 27th 98 Bde reports Quiet. Parties
 of 4/Suffolk, 2 RWF believe be in Red line

45

67

27th 6.15 pm. 10 Corps: 98th Bde
 in touch w 15th Aust
 Bde near Jerk House. 98th Bde also
 in House N of 3rd E in
 Reulebeck - took 12 E.

26th. At 7pm enemy
 vigorously att'd 14th
 Bde but we beaten back
 w heavy musketry &
 mgs & failed to reach
 line.

27/28 Quiet night.
 During night the 98th
 Germ RIR? was held by 75th
 Rest of 19th Res. Divn. The
 4th Coy was led forward by

45

68

2 guides incl. an offr. who brought them thro the other coys in 3 or 4 positions in shell holes, wandered at & at last placed them down in shell holes too.

At dawn they found themselves staring into our mens eyes - almost amongst them. They tried to run back but came under my fire. Our Dof went up & down behind them crashed our arty. As one NCO sd - we cd fight if we had anything parts to do - but under these circumstances we thought it useless - 5
60 came in at once.

This was reported by us as a raid.

45

Role 229 Rest 50 R Div. sd to
 2 Regts of Prussians had refused
to go forward. The Russian front
 was easy compared to this one.

2nd Anzac appear to have
 gone in today ^{relieving 5th Corps} we passed
 the 3rd ^(11 Bde) down on the road just
 this side of Steenwoorde ^{great} &
 I must say they looked
 magnificent. ^{ill gear} They knew they
 were passing thro' the 1st
 Div - & their sleeves were
 rolled up & men looked as
 good as any I have ever
 seen.

We are to have NZ, 3rd, 2nd, 1st
 Australian Divs in line in
 the next show - they must
 have altered their plans since
 the first show went so well

45

70

4 w such slight losses. The 3rd beside the 2nd & 1st will make a magnificent combination - all keen to win, to keep their reputations & their place in the force. It will bring the 2nd Divn home amongst its fellows at one step. Steensdoorde was crowded with 1st & 3rd Divn yesterday - streets simply moving w them; the old colours of the 5th on the 39th & 7th on the 39th - but they kept to themselves very much; little groups a bit shy of one another, I thought.

Before the fight on the 20th Gen. Birdwood was rung up to find his opinion on a suggestion of 5th Army to

ys

71

The fight shd be put off owing to rain. He absolutely refused - & in it he showed leadership. He knew his men, & I believe they had already started. A false start wd have bn 1 worst thing in 1 world.

A quiet day today - I have been seeing 15-16 Bde. Two days ago had a long argument with Hurley who wants to be allowed to make "Composite" pictures for his exhibition - i.e. to put in shell bursts made by trench mortars at St Pol. I can see his point, he has bn nearly killed a dozen times & has failed to get the real picture he wants -

45

72

but we will not have it at
any price. The Canadians to
some extent faked their big battle pictures
by printing shellbursts on
other photos — but we don't
want to rival them in this.