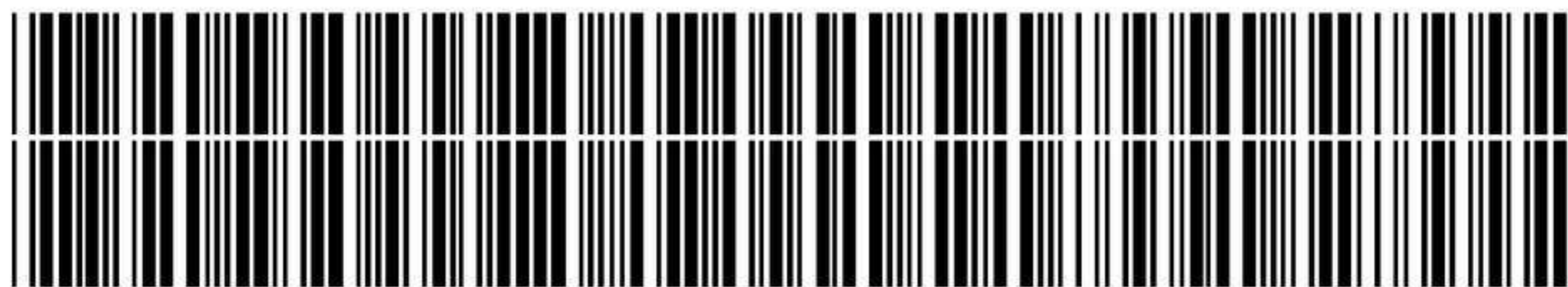


AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/167/1

Title: Notebook, September - October 1917
Includes references to the 18th, 19th and 20th
Battalions, Menin Road, Broodseinde and
Passchendaele.



AWM38-3DRL606/167/1

Original
DIARY NO. 167.

ANM 38
30RL 606 ITEM 167 [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.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS

OPLIN

19 Bn. 70 Bn
18 Bn. 167
20 Sept.
train Bely at 6.30 pm

1
 1: 77 gun
 1: T.M.
 and German wireless
 Set (loaned to Corps wireless)
 were capt by 18 Bn in this
 fight.

Hill 60
 18 Bn left Mardos after Aug 20; landed + spent night in Rest
 Gully. Marched at dusk to Aghyl Dere to Camp. At 11pm Wisdom heard
 not to be used kept the last Coy by Taylor's Hollow. At 12 news came - all
 Windsor went up + asked the CO. if he was going to start - routed him
 leading 2 Coy moved off + found themselves down on the beach. W
 The instructions given to 18 Bn before

Hill 60 on Aug 22 1915 were given
 Maj. Richardson, B-Major, NZMK Bde
 who sd: Gentlemen, you go thro' a gap in
 a hedge on the hill over there, + you will
 attack a company by a big dead tree - when
 you get to the top of hill you will find the
 4th Bde coming up on the other side. It is
 quite simple - there are 2 but only come on 2.
 He showed out the maps to each officer + off
 they went; on going thro' the hedge (too late,
 being led roughly + coming out in several
 order) they were fired on by m.s.

The next attack on 27 was to have
 on 25 but was postponed - Companies
 were on left in trench; 18 Bn on rt + behind
 parapet - Companies were given all sorts of contradictions
 when told to go over, in one part at any rate, only one old ribbon soldier
 Barnett. } N.C.O. + 2 men. When he found he was not followed he returned
 left hedge } bombed up C.T. from rt of NZ towards
 old tree where Turks c-ated down
 it - + put in barricade.

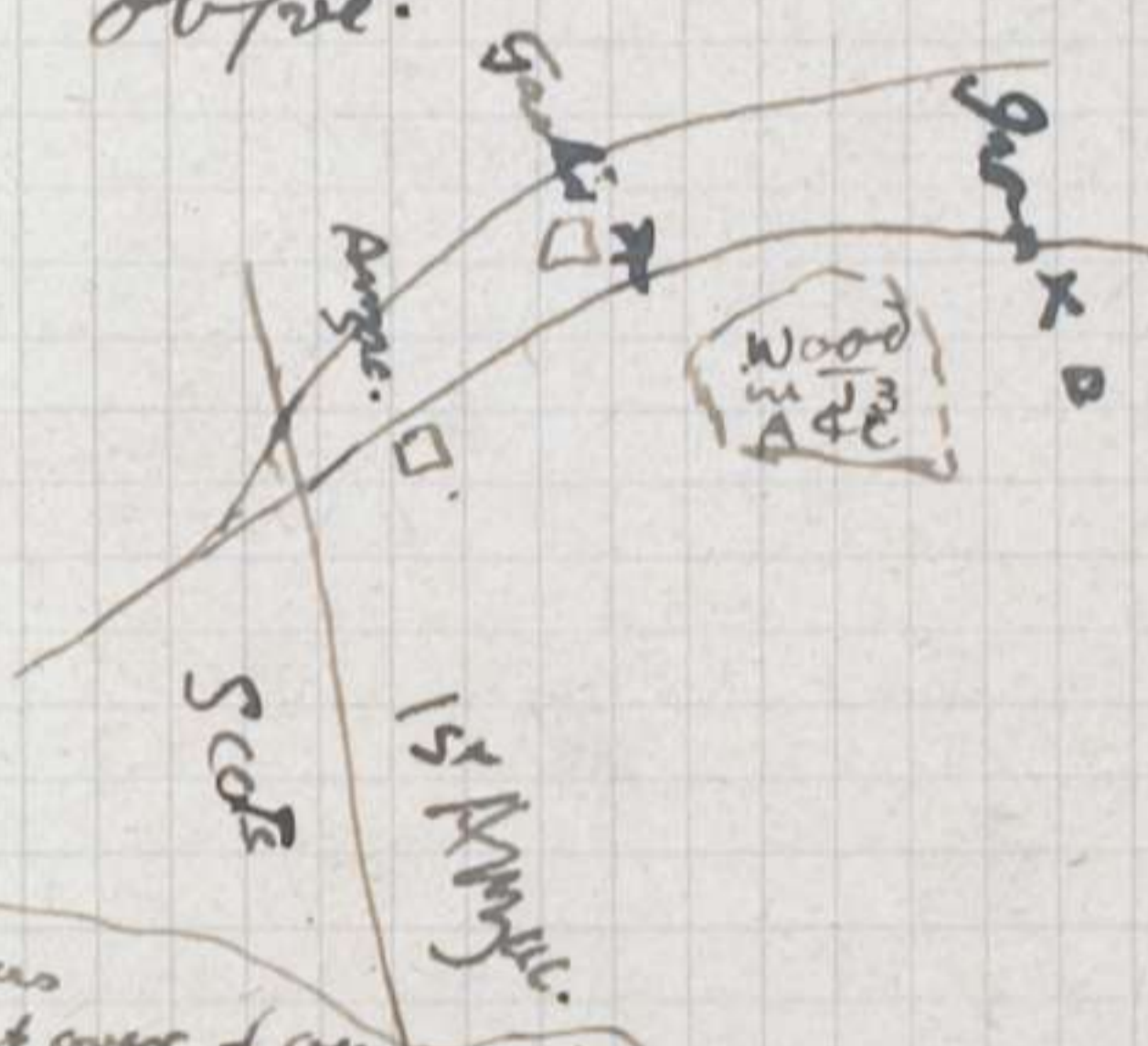
after them got covered - present
 shells were heard for down valley
 nearer + they turned up

4
 2
 19 Bn. 70 Bn
 18 Bn. 167

20 Sept.
 19/20 Sept. Left Chateau Belle at 6.30 pm.
 On shell at ^{50 yds from} 15th X Roads killed
 3 men and wd. 19 as 18 Bn was
 going in (on Cambridge Rd).

Camped in shell holes on
 Bellevue Ridge where we waited
 from till about 4.40 pm. Then moved
 to Westhoek.

18 Bn was for the second
 obje.



Victory orders
 or went over (an
 back, walked to
 1 trench + amongst 1 bullets
 gave them a tremendous
 dressing down.
 He then got in
 safely
 After the Hamnabek the real
 scrap took place at farther wh
 was beyond in 2nd obje but
 from wh the barrage lifted when

forming 1 protective line for 1
2nd Objective.

Enemy barrage came down
on us at 5.37 - 3 mins. before
the start almost on our tape.
It was very misty - it is
not thought the Germans saw
us. We suspected prisoners
information at first - but
the barrage was very weak
for this. The rear waves
HQ signaller, carrying parties
to B Coy (left Coy) were caught
& had a few casualties.

20 Bn were for Red
Line wh was just across
Hannabeek wh was so
passable - so th some did
not know they had passed
it. The wire was scarcely
noticeable.

5
11
90

(after them (and crew) - present

This gun missed by 20 Bu was firing into their rear & was noticed by Lt Duncan & rushed by him - crew was 2 serving gun, 2 sniping w rifles - they were k. Duncan lost 3 of men who were w him, k.

Just on this side of valley were 4 blockhouses - ~~or~~ rather concrete shelters for ^{old} guns crews, w no loopholes but w spaces for 1 gun in between. There were Germans w m-gs. in these.

One mif. was working from behind the 2nd blockhouse from right (J. 2 d 15.30).^x & was firing from an old broken down house across 1 Haunabeek right abt J 2 d 79 50. Appleby was shot ~~in the torso by the gun~~ in the Haunabeek by this gun. It was in charging this last to Capt Appleby, A Coy (2nd from left) was killed & also Serpts Nipperess (who crawled under 1 german wire w Serpt Alls op at Malt 2 - ~~Appleby~~ had both legs blown off a few days later at Zonnebeke Sasonet) & died next day.

B A D C



Each Coy as above.

A few Germans
near Iron X
Redoubt fired
a few shots &
ran - our L. Gs
rushing forward to
good shell holes
& chased them w
fire -

After Redline Halfway betw
Haunebeck & Iron X
Redoubt we got abt 15
prisoners out of
a Pillbox - badly
shaken.

30 men were taken from
the house across (Haunebeck.
Capt. B Lloyd Davies was
hit w shrapnel on left elbow
& side (18 pellets) just across the
Haunebeck & wd - he was
C Coy - not Coy.

The 20 Bn stopped on
its line just beyond the
Haunebeck. 18 Bn moved
on & lay up behind banag
(wh was excellent - best ever
put up) wh was 200 yds behind
Red line. Away to the right
the 7 Bde was having some
trouble from a Pillbox during
this interval, & a party
went forward to it - one
man was seen to get up on
top of the Pillbox & bayonet the
Germans on the far side of it.

* Between Iron X Redoubt
+ ~~Angas~~ Albert Redoubt

Parties were straightened out - moppers up placed in position, not necessarily ~~the~~ coys straightened out.

In the advance on the right there was no great resistance - a few shots & run away at most. On the extreme rt of 18 Bn, between 5 Bde & 7 Bde^x was a rather deep valley & for a time communication here was uncertain. Capt. ~~Stewart~~ D Coy lost all its officers, & C Coy 3 of them - Lt Sheath left in command of C sent a man across to 27 Bn but he was knocked & so was another messenger. Finally the 17 Bn & 28 Bn came along & filled this gap in -
At Angzac the ferries were

9a



4

10

just dragging their guns out as we rushed them - It was a big double decked dugout with loopholes - The Germans were just getting the guns up onto the ~~stands~~ ^{platform} at either end of the Pill box to fire from both sides. They were rushed & killed - The loopholes (some of which had been ~~destroyed~~ ^{filled up} by our shells & some by L.G. fire) were wedge shaped slots, well splayed out - & over 1 interior was written whatever sector they looked out on - "Bellward" & so on.

They were probly for observation. A ladder led from the two big lower rooms (each abt 15 by 16) to the upper room wh was an observation tower -

(Signal Offr.)

Lt Hull carries a small
Comfuto fund flag wh he placed
at some time on this dugout by
way of carrying out some half
jocular suggestion of the Co. Hull
was killed on Oct 9th. by an
incendiary shell wh hit a Pell
Box ^{outside} wh he was wounded. The
place was set on fire & 11 were
killed there.

~~After~~ Only abt 20 yds beyond
Anzac was Garter Point;
betw the two were several
broken down bldgs - only
a few loose ends of rafters
left. Garter Point was a
German Dressing Stn. It
had a Red X pennant flying
from a pole -

Garter Pt was (in the map) in
the barrage; the objective was
Anzac. To start off with they
mopped up Anzac & ~~then~~
got into position in front
of Anzac. While there men
were sniping from Garter Pt
& several Austlms were killed.
Lt Moors (an original 18 Bn
man) asked ^{Capt O. Dodwell A Coy,} if they shd
rush it - which he was told

to do, & to dig in on the far side of it as close to the green line as he could get.

They had no difficulty in doing this. Two doctors, & a no. of farm. wd were got from here — it was a very well fitted place — It

was some 0/1 supporting infy wh was firing from there.

Moore brought O'Donnell a quantity of 16 who could talk English — he sd tht 1 Regt

Command had bn anxious to get tin medals, & had asked for his Regt to be put in to repel 1 English attack.

He was most surprised tht we had white bread.

The Bn had bn told by Col. Murphy to rush into the little

Triangular overlap in
 barrage as soon as 1
 barrage started to move.
 In this way the 18 Bn was
 ready on the green line
 (17 Bn's objve) during the wait
 on the second objective. 17 Bn
 did not have to move any
 further ahead than this line where
 18 Bn were. They came up
 (by arrangement) abt 1½ hrs
~~before~~ after the halt. They wanted
 a lot of convincing that
 18th were on their line; &
 when 1 Bombt increased, the
 next attack began they wanted
 1 barrage lifted as they could
 not get ahead. Eventually they
 were convinced that this was
 their objve & came back into
 it.

At 10 a.m. there came over from the direction of Zonnebeker, past Jarter Point, a dog - a dog about size of a kelpie but brown - He was clearly ~~trotting~~ ^{making} up making for Arzac H. so O'Donnell gave orders that he should not be shot. He trotted right up to the door of the Arzac House - he clearly had been there before. (The Germans there were not surprised to see him). On his collar was a little tin tube with a message in it. The boy German ~~who~~ translated it as follows: - From the Regt. Comdr to - - - - - Retake Shellhole area; arrange

* This message has been
sent in to A.W.R.S.

arty by flare signals" *
The next night a 5.9 shell
burst by the door of Argactt.
then Bn #400 18 Bn - k. 5 men
& this day.

During the morning
of Sept 20 shortly after 1 line
we in position 1 German
cd be seen hurrying his
limbers along the road on
the next crest towards
Zonnebeke - within Vickers
Range along 1 Rd from
Molenaresthoek towards Zonnebeke.
He only got onto these.

In the after of Sept 20 the
Germ. cd be seen dribbling
his infantry down the
Zonnebeke & so round into
the Albania fully. These
were dealt w by arty - a

4
 practice barrage was coming
 on at 5.30 p.m. & this was
 due to deal w the ferms there,
 & did so.

Sept 21 Next morning parties up
 to 12 men collected & we
 under big Red X Flags.
 Our S.bs were carrying
 continuously with Red X Flag -
 were not sniped.

Att ~~5.30~~ dusk on evd of
 Sept 21 light arty was seen
 to come into action on Zounebek
 Ridge - att Molenaar'shoek
 NE of the Polygon Butte. The
 guns cd clearly be seen &
 waggons also, apparently.
 The SOS went up on the 1st
 flank fold by SOS on our

19
 left - and followed by
 heavy barrage over
 whole front. Direct hits
 were observed on the ladders
 & guns wh began to try &
 retire as soon as 1 barrage
 got onto them. The infantry
 wh had been dribbling into
 the gully (wh was dead
 ground) were presumably
 going to attack. There was
 no Army barrage this evg.

The 10 Bn was in
 touch on both flanks.

The main line was on green
 line - a continuous line, no
 wire - a little ahead (abt 20 yds)
 of farther Pt. A ^{couple of} support trenches
 for 2 plns, each, were dug
 abt on blue line.

4

Advancement of
 On after of 21st & 21st
 Bo came in to relieve,
 + there was a lot of movement.
 The former arty laid down
 a heavy bomb + Azac House
 was hit constantly by 5.9
 + a number of men were killed
 - Corners of concrete were
 chipped off but the house
 remained intact.

k

~~W~~ k. Appleby (A Coy) k where mentioned

W. W. Davies (D Coy) where mentioned.

W W. Capt Lowther D Coy - wd
 in ankle when
 on way to front
 Redoubt. He carried
 right on till in line
 - saw things right + was brought
 out - still an ay on Nov. 23.

W Capt Readford (2nd Coy) WS
 Officer w Scottish Bde

4 on left. We could get no definite information as to front line & so went forward to get it on left of Anzac & was hit there - at about 10 am.
20 Sept.

k

Lt Leslie ^{B Coy (killed)} sniped all 3 pm. He had to with B Coy - He was ordered to give Sheath a hand on it as no offrs. there - & he was sniped

k

Lt Corrigan ^{C. Coy.} was k. at Iron Cross Redoubt during consolidation. (Iron X Redoubt was a Horn strong point, a number of trenches blown ^{almost} out of recognition)

k

2/3 Fidge ^{C. Coy.} was killed during the holding of position after consolidation.

k

Lt W. Smith A Coy was killed at Sarter Point - He had got up & pulled down Red X Flag

4

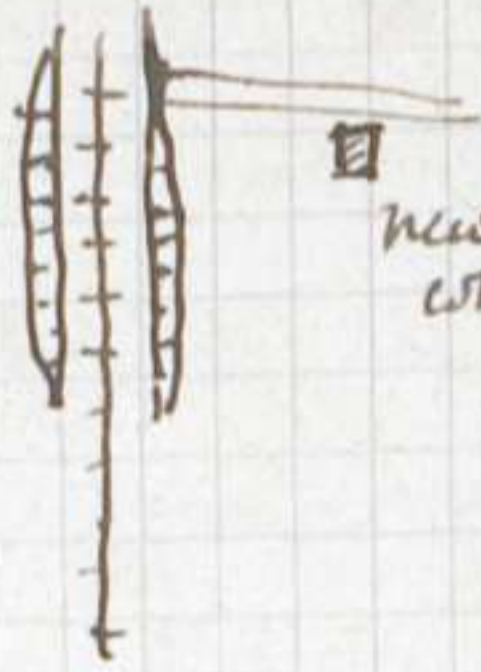
from Jartes Pt. a little later he + Seryt later + another went out w a L.G. to settle a Pill Box wh was firing at them about in 1 wire in the valley beyond. The three went out into a shell hole & got their L.G. out to 1 ferns. The ferns. surrendered & were coming out, & Smith got up on 1 edge of 1 shell hole to show them 1 way when he was shot & killed.

wd 1 Daniel ^{D Coy} was hit by shell after consolidation near Iron X Redoubt. wd

2/Lt Cleary ^{C Coy} — k. by a shell to rt of Jartes Pt abt 9 am. 20 Sept.

wd Lt Moors ^{A Coy} where went.

k



New HQ
where Hill k.

Oct 9th

9 Oct.

k. Capt Wood ^{was going across to} ^{arrange w Taylor abt} ^{taking Dairy Wood when k. by shrapnel.}
 2/lt Hill - wd while sending visual. He went forward aft 10am from Zonnebeker Sta where Bu HQ was to estab. a new HQ near old front line. He was outside 1 Pelton sending a

k. by shell fire / digging slit was Dash Xing.

wd: Lt Hill M.C. - on Zonnebeker moors (ad R) on reverse slope of hill moving up to support

Lt Henderson (wit. offr detached on Bde) kept an OP all day on Broodseinde

Lt Potts (6th Oct 08) while holding line Ridge -

Lt Parry - abt time of Raid hit by a shell.

Lt Satchell - some one put up SOS on rd abt 10 Oct. & P. was hit in retaliation wh bn was moving.

Lt Satchell - wd night of Raid. He was out in a post on Broodseinde Moorsleede Rd. They were digging & hit a german bomb. He put a shovel into it & smothered it & was hit by a fragment.

4 wd: Lt Parfitt ^{2/lt C. D Coy.} hit after consolidated severely -

Lt Sheat ^{C Coy} who took command of whole right wd in the arm but remained on duty.

offr	k	w
	6	7
or.	47	219
		(some d/w.)

Casualties Oct. 9th:

mess offr ^{at Lucas Lamp when sniped in neck. They got him into a shell hole & dressed him outside dugout when incendiary shell set fire to (camouflage) woodwork}
 Offrs k
 - by shell, badley 3
 or 15 & 8 d/w.
 Lt Irwin, Int. Offr. 18 Bn pulled Lt Doig (17 Bn) wd out of dugout & had his clothes scorched including so. 11 were k-there incl. Pioneer Sgt Fountain (coolat man ever seen under shell)

On Oct 9 the 18 Bn (wd was taken into Reserve after the Raid) was sent up to support 7, support 7 & then when 20 & 17 attacked wd to

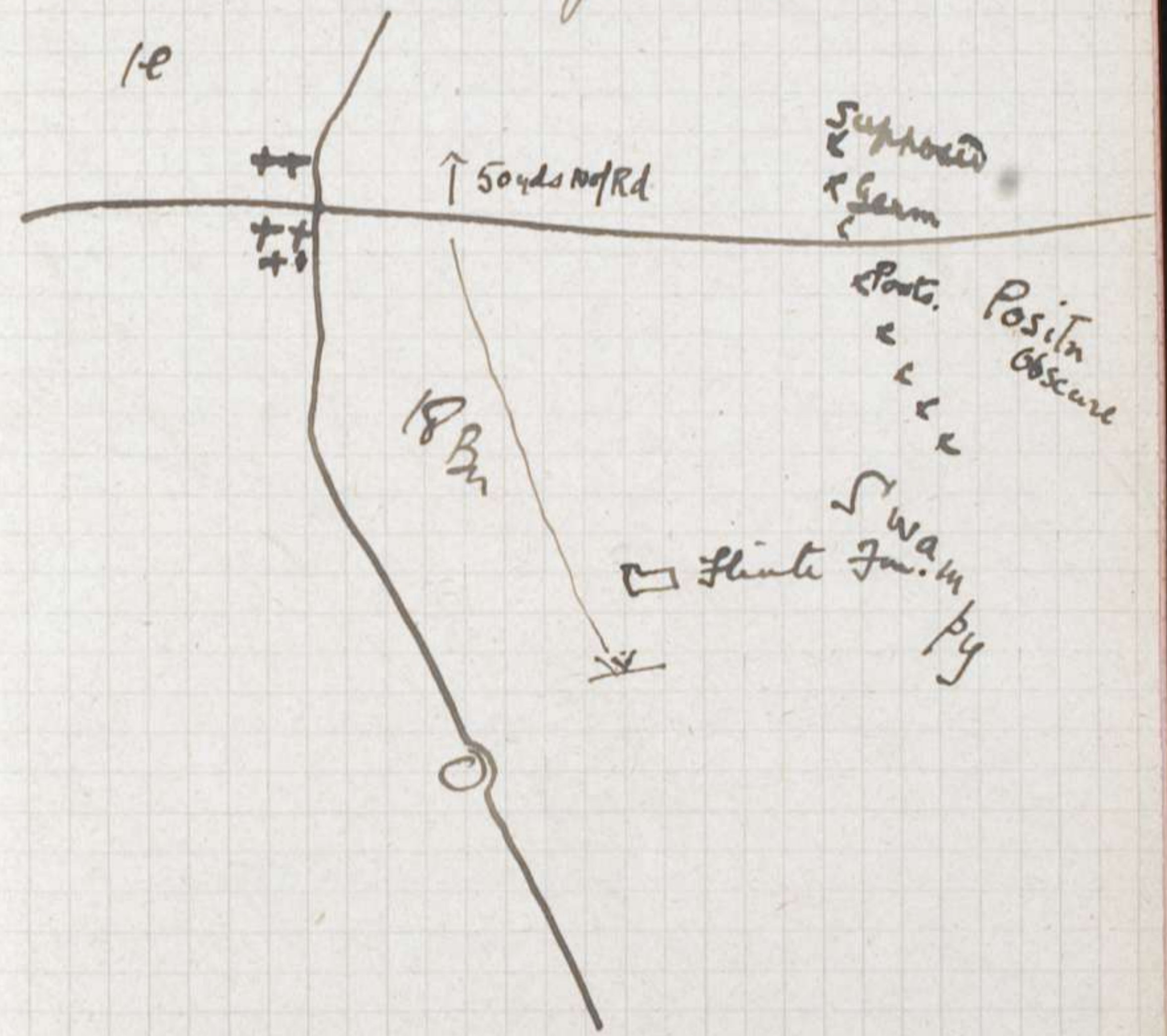
4
 move on + Garrison
 front line. When, however,
 the attack was held up at
 Dairy Wood, 18 Bn was
 ordered in, + it was in
 going across to Taylor that
 Woodland was killed.

19 Bn which was to
 have been in Reserve was
 also moved up - + ~~too~~ it
 was with Taylor of this Bn at
 Woodland was arranging.
 During the advance the 18 Bn
 got onto Taylor's left flank
 + finally ended up towards
 Rhine House. Taylor was the
 man who did 1 work
 here.

On 7 Oct 18 Bn had made
 the Raid.

4

18 Bn. ~~came out~~ went in on night
 of Nov 2/3 & relieved
 25 Bn. in the old position
 on Broad Seaside Ridge
 + old 11 Bn position.



18 Bn Patrols used to go - (1) down
 to near Rd to Table wood (2)

(2) Out thro China wood &
Down to Anvil wood.

The position was obscure but
was supposed to be as on
the map (above.)

The only ^{sign of} Germans seen were:

On 2nd night - a wire was met
stretched from corner of Table
wood to China wood - purpose
uncertain. Lt Clayton put
his men in shell holes, cut
this wire, put his feet against
it & gave a leave. Two flares
went up, bomb went off &
a w.g. fired a few bursts

This was on night of 3/4/5

On night of 4/5 they saw
Bofermans moving from Anvil
wood across back over the
Ridge. At this time the front
line was fairly continuous exc. in
the Gully N of Flint Iron where it

* They got into
shellholes & waited

29
was very wet. The line was
duckboarded.

In the gully E of Hinte Farm
in a small patch there were
100 dead ferns. Probly a Coy was
waiting here of Oct 4 in
close support. When our
shells got them. They were
within abt 25 yds square in
a small fld of ground.

In 24 D central was
a german aeroplane w a
pilot sitting in it quite dead.

The patrol wh went
along road, on night of
Nov 2/3 went out & within
abt 100 yds of Table wood
saw a man walking
tods them. * As he was coming
past the W. end of Table wood
some bombs were thrown

4

at him.

Our men rushed at him, shouting Hands up in German. The man dropped & shouted to them. They found he was a 12 Bn man who had been out on a patrol and had met 1 German & he hit the 1st 1 lung. He lay out all day & was coming in. He thought our men were 1 German.

Sunday

On night of 4/5 Nov. a patrol was to go out & get hold of a German. They went out & met a 12 Bn patrol who had come back in a SW direction thro Table Wood. The two leaders had a yarn. They decided to go back & have a look at a post

24

which was reported on the Anzac
 Corps Situation map as a
 suspected German post was suspected
 w.g. in front of it at DZIC 1-7.
 When they got close to it they
 found ~~it~~ 1 German was there.
 2/Lt Walls made a rush for 1
 German w/ Sgt Toogood & got
 a bomb wound in 1 leg.
 Toogood & 1 rest of patrol
 got in — k. 4 Germans in
 the Sandbagged Shell hole (w/
 piles of Stick Bombs) & then
 bayoneted a man who wd
 not come. Had a row w/ 1
 12 Bn as to who shd bring
 1 prisoner in, & brought in
 a tall German, ^{slightly} w/ thro' 1 leg —
 The 18 Bn brought him in — he was
 much row. He was not boted.

Inpt as showing German
appreciate of our
intentions & position on
this part of front.

When he got onto the
duckboards he became
very nervous - saying artillery,
artillery! (~~as~~ he wd walk
anywhere but there) & also
he was supremely satisfied when
they gave ^{him} ~~to~~ an old P.H.

Gas helmet. On being questioned
he sd it had been seen our party & the
~~fact~~ his ~~own~~ NCO had ordered them to fire
when our men sd (or they thought they sd)
"Kamerad". Our men denied this when
questioned. The man belonged to
the 11 Divn. This Divn had
been tangled up in Passchendaele
& had been brought down to
what was thought likely to be
a quiet sector - wh^{ch} showed
1 German appreciation.

The prisoner sd the
German post had consisted
of 8 men (2 must have escaped)

& that they were 1500 yds ahead
 of their main line. That a
 patrol of one N.C.O & 20 men
 came out every night round
 1 outposts.

(Towards daylight the
 patrol of 30 ^{ferms} was seen, & when
 1 post was visited again by
 us the dead ferms had been
 removed).

The prisoners sd the ferms
 had intended to raid under
 gas shell.
 one of our posts which had
 been troubling ^{them} us? This raid
 however did not come off - for
 3 nights the ferms had put a box barrage
 around a gun of ours N of E in Broods Eind.

The next night a patrol
 saw a man come from 1 left or
 another on 1 right of road
 & meet on 1 rd, & apptly
 speak to someone in shell holes.

4

movement was seen in
 shell holes there - heads were
 thought to be seen - & so 1
 patrol came to conclusion
 that it was being waited for -
 & went no further -

This same night another
 patrol went past Anvil
 wood right up the further slope
 up onto road S. from
 De Mispelaere Cabt.
 onto dry ground & saw
 no ferns. So the German
 apply to night concentrates
 on lying out for our people
 on the Mooslede Rd.

The men call this
 patrolling "watch collecting" -
 "Going out to get some watches
 tonight. Jack?" etc. Every
 German has a watch, & by
 now easily half the men in the house.

X

One man had 17 watches -
another 13.

[On only one occasion
has Col. Murphy known
a German use a dagger -
in the raid on June 26 at
Bois Grenier a German offr
was seen sitting on one of
our men ^{Fink} who was wd,
& stabbing him in the back
w a revolver - The offr
was seen by Capt Bruce, &
put up his hands - Bruce
k. him w a knobkerry.
Our wd man Fink is now p of w in Germany.
The men have seen no
other cases.]

29 But HQ
Q 34 13 40 20

D-115
E1 42 C

One of this party carrying them
 in ^{40 Bn} struggled in & told the staff where
 they were - the boy began to cry when
 he saw Connolly getting his tin hat
 & going out (he was a fine youngster,
 MM or DCM.)

4
10th Bde H Co on

night of 12/14 Oct were in
 Livi Cott's when the German
 shelling on this position was
 very heavy. The place was
 v. small & barely splinter proof.
 At 1.30 am. the Bde Staff
 went out, Connolly (B.M.)
 Lambell (Asst Bde major)
 Gale (Int. Offr) & Tuckett (Bde
 Signal offr), each with his
 batman to bring in 3
 wd men who had got to
 a certain place & 1 ptie
 carrying them were either
 wd or exhausted. This
 left the Bdeir alone & his
 telephone. They got the men
 & brought them into the H Co -
 clearing away the sand bag
 parapet wh had been put up

on 1 side facing 1 enemy, opp.
 the door, & brought the men
 in. While they were carrying
 them a shell wd. fall -
 who came in & was doctor'd
 by 1 Bdie - & a couple of
 Extra men went out to finish
 1 carrying.

When they got in Tuckett
 sd he wd go out & get some
 Cocoa ^{& milk} for them from ^{the signal} a depot
 abt 150 yds away. ^(where they woodhopped him) Ten
 mins. later he had not returned
 The Bdie knew he wd be as
 quick as possible so he rang
 up ^{the} signals. The reply was that
 he was not there. They at once
 set out to look. After mins
 later a signaler put his head
 in 1 door of Bde HQ. "I'm
 afraid we have had news
 for you, Sir "head" - we

4 Tuckett - "

40

They had found seen,
quite close to H.Q. depot,
an electric torch burning.
~~It~~ It was in a shell hole. By
it was lying Tuckett, smashed
up. He was brought into
Ypres & buried (next morning)
Tuckett's son (in the Bde H.Q.
Sig section,) his brother (Capt
in Divl Sig. Coy) the Bde's &
Gen Monash were at
funeral. Tuckett was a
West Australian, a post
& telegraph man.

It took 2 hours to bring
these wd men 500 yards.
They were mud from head to foot.

In Hamburg Redoubt
after it was taken there were
numbers of German wounded.
We could not get rid of our

X

own wd, let alone the German
^{owing to mud.}
ones. Amongst them was a
German youngster of 18 or 19,
withering in pain, & calling out all
the time water, water!

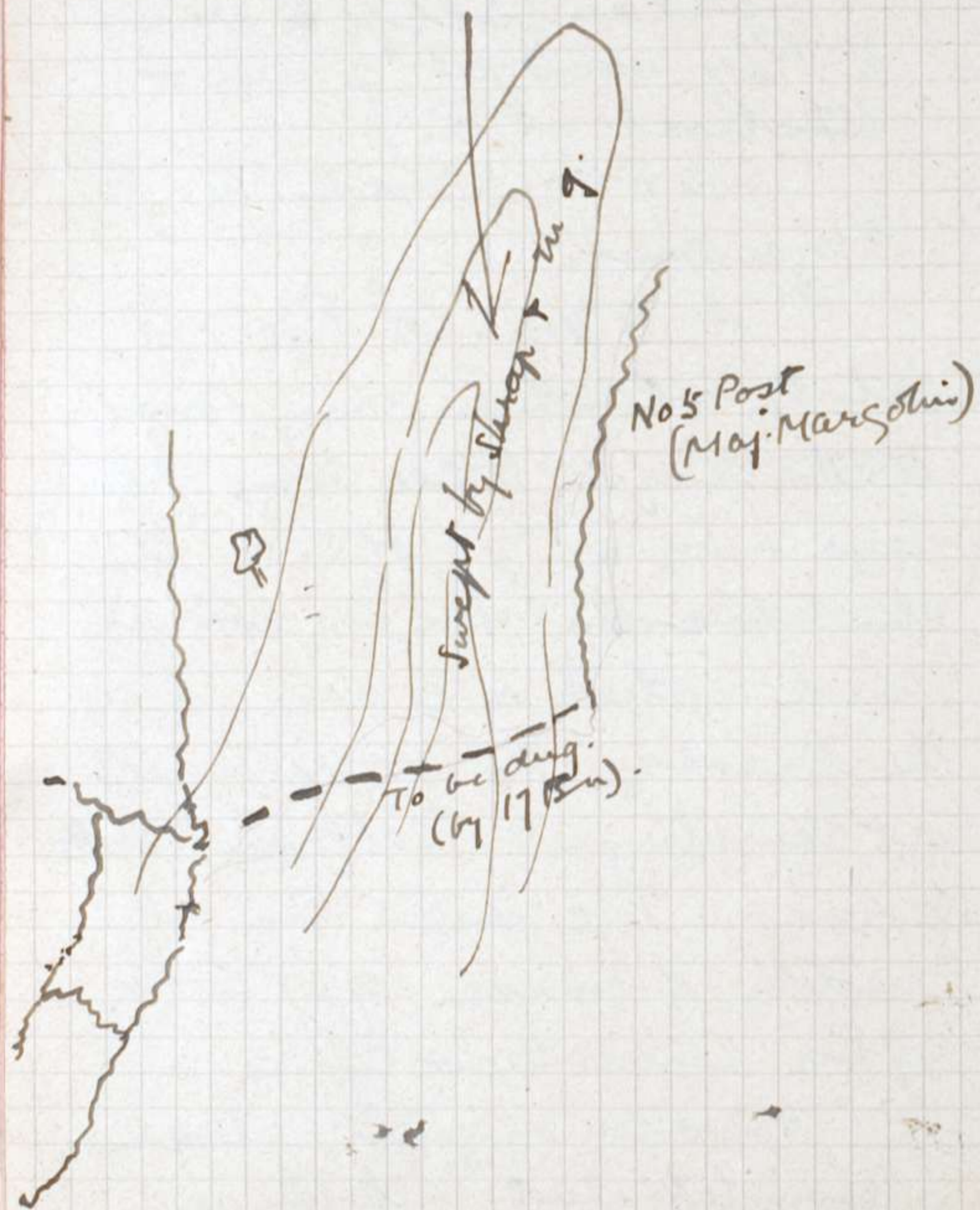
19 Bn.

At 2 am. 4 Oct moved from
Chateau Belle to line -
to Ply wood at 4 am &
Whitlock at 8.

at 10.30 am. to
Amzac spur.

At 5 pm. Col. Pye was
fatally wd when going forward
towards Amzac & see some of the
Corp - by a 77 H.E. on the
duckboards. He was carried
back & died at 6 pm. in
the dressing sta & was buried
at cemetery at Belgian Battery
corner. Pye joined Bn in
middle of March 1917 from
17 Bn - where he was 2nd in c.

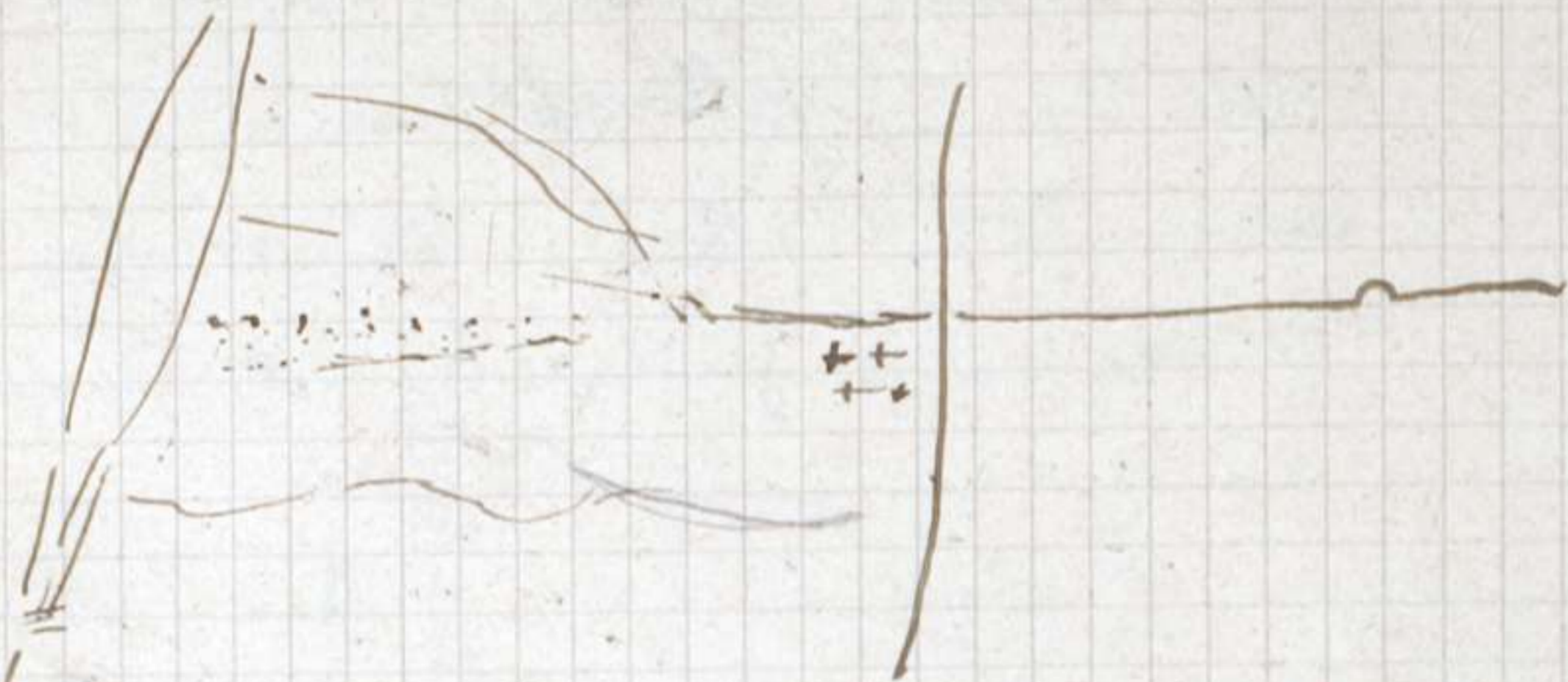
He was an original 17 Bn man,
having left Aust. with Bn on
May 12, 1915. He was Coy Command



44
 He was a medical graduate of Sydney & a member of University scouts - (Byers his old 2in C. followed him in command of 19 Bn). He was for 7 weeks in Gallipoli at Quinn's as acting 2in C.

Beiers [Byers in/c of A Coy was in the Kaiajik Dere attack on Aug. 27 - Pye then being 2in/c.]

Pye left Gallipoli at beginning of October with dysentery & heart trouble. Eventually he was sent back to Australia. He reported back in France on Dec. 11. 1916. He got his DSO at Malt Trench for organising & carrying out C-attacks up the trench towards 7 Bde. ^{He was transferred to 19 Bn in March} He was at Bullcourt & came w/ Bn to Ypres.



On night of Oct 6, 19 Bn dug a post in Daisy Wood
 on left edge of wood - by daylight
 it was seen a German had a shellhole
 emplacement abt 50 yds away
 in 1 wood. A machine barrage opened
 at mg - & 1 post was withdrawn. The mg
 opened & got the L/C in c. of L-9. The German
 then retired bec. the men going back to fetch spare part bag were
 On Oct 7 at daylight 20 Germ. planes came over - none of ours - probly to spot front
 line & remained 3 or 4 hours.

Left edge of

Daisy wood was opposite ~~to~~ D Coy. Germans
 had been shelling gently all day; 1/2 hr before dusk they
 came down on our front line at very long range
 on our front line with 4.2, 5.9, whizzbang (a few) & h.v.
 4.2 - Germans had a whizzbang battery (with only first
 at night) on foreslope behind a little dip behind
 Assyria. The first shot fell right into the trench - the
 5.9 hows were behind the Morslede Ridge - only glare
 of shot could be seen. At this time Germans were holding
 posts at far edge of Daisy Wood along trench line - They

Col. Byers took over (having
 just got back from C.O.'s school
 Aldershot) on Oct 5 at noon.

19 Bn relieved at night 25, 26, &
 27 Bns after dusk. The 3 Bns up
 there were all mixed up
 after 1 fight. They had an
 old German 2y for front
 line, converted, pract.
 continuous & a fairly
 continuous suppt line -

known as Desmond 2y in
 D 22c. close behind Moalin
 not fired at. The front line was abt.
 150 yds ahead of the Road
 well down the slope with
 Daisy wood ahead of it.

On Oct 7. abt 5.20 pm.
 bodies of Germans were
 seen moving forward from

used to push us out into Daisy Wood at night - when (of far end up) he had us on Skyline & ed snipe -

The Germans had 2 or 3 Pillboxes on the tramline or thereabouts & ed be seen nipping occasionally from one to the other - at least 4 were sniped. There was a lot of activity under 1 Red X Flag on Oct 6 & it looked as if Germans had carried out a relief under it. ^{men} were standing to &

During 1 bombt ^{men} it, we clear he was going to attack - Just as German bombt finished one of our men drew Capt Taylors attention to right, off C-Coy - in the Hedge S. of Daisy Wood - where abt 50 men were spread out along the Pillboxes. They were standing up.

Taylor went back to left - S.O.S. went up on rt, then ind. on left, then on whole front from rt flank to left flank - at least 4 S.O.S. The left was hidden from observation by the dip of the hill into 1 valley. This was abt 5.30pm (we were the stand-to hour for us.) Within 2 minutes the SOS was down. Nothing more was seen of Germans.

[The German used to work an orange flare splitting into 2; according as he fired it rt & left the arty wd shoot rt & left.]

(of 900.) At this time there was not in evidence the m.g. post just N of Daisy Wood - the G. mgs. were (1) in wood (2) in Pillboxes in Hedge S of wood.

Daisy & Daisy Wood - S.O.S. was sent up - Barrage came down & nothing more was seen of it.

The German had shelled heavily for 1/2 hr before this - he shelled his own cemetery at the X Roads especially heavily. There were 150 men in 19 Bus front line but only 2 were k & Dwd.

The phones were all cut - but presently news began to come in to M. Qrs of Bn, in a Pill Box in D 22 D 3-4 across Rd from the gasometer. to say the German was bombarding them. Finally one from Taylor.

"we are being systematically blown out of our trenches. It is ^{perfectly} clear that the Hun will attack in a few minutes"

Col Byers was called out of his dugout at this time by someone saying that our men were coming back. He went out - & there, sure enough, on top of hill were abt 100 men coming towards him. It seemed like a disaster. Suddenly he heard a high voice: "Come on you buffers - where the hell are you getting to - - -!"

It was Col. Ralston. The 20 Bn had to side step & 1 hour for it was 1/2 middle of this barrage - most trying. Ralston pulled them together & got them through.

* 3 mins later up went the S.O.S. & was answered quickly.

On night of 7/8 Oct. The 23 Bn held the two Support Coys in Diamond Trench. The 23 Bn was too weak to take front line also; so the 2 front line Coys ^{of 19 Bn} stayed there & Butt. Co. & support Coys moved back to Anzac.

Instead of the 100 men from Caestre, 23 Bn only got 40. The 23 Bn was terribly done & Col. Byers wd not hand over front line to them without authy of Bde, wh also agreed to 19 staying.

Result was the arrangement for 19 Bn to ~~take~~ make front wave of attack of Oct 9 cd not be carried out. The 18 Bn was to have made 2nd wave for this attack, but after the tour in

x the trenches + Raid they 51
were changed to Support Bn.
● 17 + 20 were to go over
in that order - 18 in Support -
19 in Reserve.

9 Oct. At 3 am. 2 Coy + Bull B.
moved up again to Broodseind
Ridge on left of old position in
Desmond gathering in the 2 Coy wh had
been left up there. They packed
in abt 4 am & left of
Desmond 2. During day,
23 Bn had dribbled their men
up into front line; 19 had
dribbled their back. (The C.T.
was a little to N of the (invisible)
Moulin Farm - running across
to road - then over rd into 2 on
far side. It was a goodish C.T.)

When attack started at 5.20
19 was in Desmond (to left) 18 in Desmond

next to them - packed up close -
17 Bn in front line; 20 Bn close
behind them. As soon as these
assaulting Bns went over,
18 Bn had to move up to
occupy ^{old} front line of 17; 19
to old position of 20 Bn. To
be there 1 1/2 hrs after zero.

At 9.30 am. A Coy were
told to take position from D 18 A 7.7.
to D 18 A 20.95. This was
more on the left of the rly than
on the right.

At 10 am. word was recd
that all 10 of A Coy had become
casualties. They had got together
to have a word, when a shell
got them all.

? JB Forster Lt. Foster, A Coy. O.C.
1 arm broken -
2/15 HEBSmith killed (his brother
also was killed later)
2/15 Hayes, wd & shell shocked.

FORM.

No.

o:—Either give Map Reference or
mark your position by a 'X' on the
map on back.

Objective.

.....and is consolidating.

.....and has consolidated.

.....(Place where you are).

.....on Right
Left. at.....

.....on Right.
Left.

No 15

MESSAGE MAP.

Scale 1:10,000

See My Diary For 19 Bn Oct. 9th

Yards 500 400 300 200 100 0 500 1000 Yards



DUGOUTS & STRUCTURES } verified by Air Photographs = C
 Supposed to be Concrete }
 Do Do Not }
 Dugouts not Concrete }
 Machine Guns }
 Headquarters.

Printed by No 2 Advanced Section, A.P. & S.S.
 Old Gun Positions }
 Trenches in good repair }
 Do damaged or apparently not used }

Trenches Corrected to 4-10-17.

No 15

MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

(Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.

- 1. I am at.....
- 2. I have reached limits of my Objective.
- 3. My Platoon is at..... and is consolidating.
Company
- 4. My Platoon is at..... and has consolidated.
Company
- 5. Am held up by (a) M.G. at..... (Place where you are).
(b) Wire
- 6. Enemy holding strong point
- 7. I am in touch with..... on Right at.....
Left.
- 8. I am not in touch with..... on Right.
Left.
- 9. Am shelled from.
- 10. Am in need of—

- 11. Counter Attack forming at
- 12. Hostile (a) Battery
(b) Machine Gun } active at
(c) Trench Mortar
- 13. Reinforcements wanted at
- 14. I estimate my present strength at rifles.
- 15. Add any other useful information here:—

Name.....

Platoon.....

Company.....

Battalion.....

Time m.

Date 1917.

(A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.

(B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—

Name and Rank.

(C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

* A Coy cd not reach position they were sent to but got within abt 200-250 yds of it & hung on there.

X at 10.10 am. 2/11 Bignell, B Coy was told to take charge of A Coy & carry out instructions issued. Coy moved at 10.45 am. moved along rly in file. X

10 am. C & D Coys were inst'd to reinf. right flank of 17 Bn. which had not reached objective on Blue line. They moved at 10.55 - sections in file along the Rly, Capt Taylor in C.

11.50. B Coy was placed under orders of 5 F. Coy to dig C.T. This absorbed whole Bn.

12.20 pm. C & D Coys (Taylor) got in touch with 17 Bn & party under Capt Taylor began to clear Daisy wood. 1 mis. was capt'd & wood cleared.

Party was reinf'd & moved on thro Daisy, advance being covered by excellent rifle & L.G. fire from rest of C & D. Daisy wd

X

was cleared, 15 prisoners taken -
 abt 10 German ^{were} ~~was~~ + rest put
 to flight.

A series of posts as then
 put out on far side of wood r.
 posn consolidated. Touch was
 maintained with ~~the~~ flank
 troops.

9/10

During night A + D Coy
 were reld in posts estab.
 that day - A Coy by 45 Bn
 D Coy by 49 Bn.

C Coy were not reld th
 night.

C Coy posts which were
 well out were not reld th
 night + had to get food as
 they cd from farms etc.

A + D on being reld moved
 back to ^{old} support line - B Coy
 wh had been digging was there.

x 10/11. A B & D held by 46 Bn.
 C held by 49 Bn & moved
 back independently to infantry
 barracks Ypres.

at dusk Lt Blake went in personally
 & reported to ~~posts~~ C.O.

of 49 Bn that his posts were
 out in front of 49 Bn posts
 & had not been relieved.

C.O. ind. relieved them.

A B & D Coys at 9.30 p.m.
 moved back to Westhoek Ridge
 reorganised & went with Bn H.A.
 thro dark wet slippery night,
 very slow, to Infy Barracks
 at Ypres, reaching there at
 2.30 am. 11 October.

The barrage behind
 Broodseinde Ridge ^{at Zonnebeke} was heavier
 than Mouquet Farm during

this time. Bde H.Q. had to
put on their gas helmets for
1/2 hr. After 19 Bn H.Q. left

~~At Argas Spur~~
the pillbox near gasometer
a shell landed in doorway
& ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~was~~ ^{was} some sigs. & batmen
who were in it & blew out one
of partitions in pillbox.

Offrs. k. Lt Smith (as mentioned)
Lt Bennett, k. by shellfire.

Lt R A Smith, wd in back by
rifle shot with Taylor - & died for.

2/15 Bartle, hit by shell fragment
in back.

Died at Rouen.

wd. Lt Forster O.C. A Coy.

Lt Ad. Lillie up with D Coy.

Lt ~~Ross~~ ^{Storky} wd going up from Bn

H.Q. to find out position.

Lt Macdonald, doing a separate job w/ Engrs - wd.

Lt Hayes - shellshock & bruise (as mentioned - x Temply blinded).

Casualties for day abt 100 or.

After this on 12 Oct Bn moved to Steenwoorde.

During tour from Nov 5 to 7 when Bde was in right of X Roads at Broodseinde, 19 Bn undertook heavy patrolling. A big patrol [offr, 20 or.. w/ L.G. used to go out as much as 800 yds, right thro China wood & across 1 valley -

In the ~~front~~ support line on top of plateau they were very heavily shelled - could be seen from Paschendaele,

* Visible from Paschendaele Mounds - which could see troops moving. Here Lt Bennett was k. by shell sitting beside Taylor ^{D Coy} & Hillie wd by same shell sitting other side ^{D Coy}. Taylor was only off of D Coy left. C. Coy had Lt Blake & Lt Hunter & Lt R. Smith.

but never met anything.

Oct 9. abt 11 am. C & D Coys moved in file from B (on map) across the open into trench C-D wh was fairly full of dead & wd Germans. The men here sd they were in front line, but this didnt seem likely. The Coys occupied whole of trench from C to D. Here they were heavily shelled ~~all things being on top edge of plateau~~

Taylor sent out an NCO (Scout) Cpl. Lynch & 2 men - told them to go into Dairy wood & then to Rhine where 17 Bn ought to be & report back position. Lynch went out as directed; they watched him go thro wood, & reach Rhine.

Capt Taylor, seeing that our people must be there, took out one pln of C Coy & went in

X Here Lynch came back & told
T. where the front line was.

X
file down road, behind hedge
& then obliquely (half right) to
Dairy wood. ~~They~~ They were
sniped at as went behind
hedge, & men were sent
over by 3s at a good interval.
One L-Sunner was hit - This
fire came from Dairy wood,
m.g. & single shots. In Dairy
wood ^(abt G) was a fern. m.g. in a
wooden log hut, w empty
cases round it.

From here Taylor sent back
messengers for rest of C & part
of D Coy. The Coy was lined
on N edge of Dairy wood,
& then moved thro wood &
searched it - no germs.
found in wood itself. They
occupied a heap of stones - remains
of a House, - at A. Some
firing was coming from ahead &

X it went easy to place until
a line of german hats was seen
well down the hill at S - beautifully
enfiladed - one hat obscuring
1 other, & flying abt at Nieuwenden.

A L.G. we got onto them from

A & under cover of this a
party of 10 men ~~under Taylor~~

Taylor, Roy Smith & 8 men
moved out in extended
line & went straight for them.

They fired a few shots & then got out
of sight. Three or four began to run
I rest seem to have got into their
dugouts. There were 15 live
germs found there in a well
dug trench with several shelters
& 4 or 5 who had been shot as
they came up - a couple more
were shot as they ran.

A couple of shots were put
into these shelters & then a

X
 white flag appeared with a stick on either end of it - our ply was not 10 yds away in 1 trench - (our ply had one man hit coming up). They were capt'd.

The prisoners did not want to leave - they explained by signs th their mates in 1 pill boxes further down wd shoot them as soon as they started. Smith was arguing w them trying to get them on their way when he was sniped from those P/Bs S. of Daisy wood. They were got away at last, carrying 2 of their own wd, & Smith; ~~but~~ and 1 ferms shot at them all 1 way over & got one ferman thro 1 leg.

X On dusk of 9th 1 ferns were seen - 3 lines of them moving down the far side of rd & at rt angles to it. It was very dark & 1000 yds away. T. doesn't know what became of them - they were opp. 66 Div. 505 went up on left but not from our sector.

X Taylor then got abt 6 men who came up & sent Sgt O'Hara with 16 or 20 men out into Daisy wood & Estab 3 posts (marked X). T. Came back to Daisy wood. He cd see 1 post in front round to Rhine (marked X). He then started to put out posts round to rt flank of 17 Bn.

The ferns were shooting after this from l right; but all movement seen was on the left in front of Tommies where they were occasionally walking abt near Vienna way.

In the relief at midnight of 9/10 the rest were relieved; but the 3 posts of C Coy on SW

X edge of Daisy wood were not. The 49 Bn sd they had relieved all the posts round to the right - but when the Coy got back Blake was not there.

The post dug on night of Oct 6 was at X O on map - by a remains of a house. It is possible Lt Jermis got into this later & that this was 1 post wh held up the 24 Bn. The Pell Box S. of Daisy wood was the one at Z.

? L.H. Bignell

L Bingle took B A Coy up the cutting - wh was full of wd Tommyes not being looked after by anyone. It was being v. heavily shelled by howitzers (whose shells were falling right into the cutting). B. took his men up the cutting - there were bursts of inf. fire coming straight

down it in bursts - proly from
 just N of Decline Copce. B. lost
 no men coming thro the cutting.
 At 1 end of cutting he left 1
 men in ~~shells~~ shelters scraped
 in the banks of cutting & went
 on with one Serp to reconnoitre.
 He saw the British post at Pabb
 20 yds N of rly. He spoke to
 Tommy offr who sd this was
 as far as they had got. He knew
 nothing at all abt 1 ground
 forwd. The germs cd be
 seen on the Hill NE. The



Tommies
 seemed to
 occupy 1
 ridge to the
 extreme left.

There was no one on the rly
 at all, ahead; Tommies
 were very strongly entrenched
 w. m.g.s. on left & ~~on~~ hill -
 (L-P)

B. sent the sept back to the Coy
 to send them up in little
 groups of 6 - deciding to go E
 along 1 Embankt. He waited
 abt 10 mins. No men came.
 B went back to see what was
 the matter. Sept sd that a party
 of 17 Bn was on rt of rly & 1
 offr told him that they were the
 front post & that it was impossible
 to go further forward. B. went & saw
 1 offr who sd he had remnants
 of 1 17 Bn & as far as he knew
 no one was in front. He was v.
 weak, so B. decided to relief
 him on 1 right of rly.

B. put his men onto this line at
 M—N. There was a broken down
 Jerun. 2 there wh they occupied.

Later out on right front, Rhine
 way, they saw men walking in

* 2s + 3s - who later turned out to
 be Capt Taylor's posts or
 those of Bde. wh were mixed
 w them.

At 6pm. a heavy
 barrage was put over in rear
 of the posts M - N. Some of
 men reported to Jensen. had
 come over on left. B. didn't
 notice this but saw 1 Tommies
 on left of rly retreating into
 1 cutting - & he threw out a
 listening post on left of rly -
 as it obscured 1 of few there.
 He went back to Rly to see if
 he could get any stragglers
 but none were there & well
 over 100 Tommies must have
 retreated there - We were never
 in touch w 1 Tommies after this.

B. was held at 3 am by
 45 Bn. The bombt went over
 B's men - what seems to have set

P. 70a



71

X

The Tommies off us 1 line
of ferns coming over hill.

Blake when he went over
from Dairy wood to take charge
of the posts S. of Dairy wood
met Capt Smyth on N. edge of
Daisy wood. Smyth sd he
was going to put some posts on
B's left as well. B went in
& found the 3 posts on the
W side of Crumway. S. may
have had a post on left of
B. Blake but probly not
bec. 24 Bn was held that
night & B's three posts were
not. 24 Bn had some posts
to ret.

The ferns. were seen
moving about to Pillbox Z
during day, & sniping out

our 3 posts. ~~from~~

During night of 9/10
~~Blakes~~ 19 Bn was to be held -
 6 Bde on rt were held &
 also 19 in Dairy wood.

As far as B knew there
 were no posts betw his
 left near tram & Dairy -
 this was covered by L-Gs.
 The nearest 6 Bde post was
 40 yds away & the relief
 was not seen by B's party.
 They had to wait without
 rations. They used German
 rations out of the trench
 NE of Dairy wood wh was
 full of ferns dead. They
 got water bottles of wounded men
 equipment also -

G. Aeroplanes were over
 low on Oct 10 but could not

X

see 1 posts, nor our own planes. They were on edge of wood ^{shell hole posts} well camouflaged w dead branches. German shells often fell short near them so they dug into side of shell holes.

All the night Germans had on putting up flares from same pillbox — v. jumpy. They kept up intermittent rifle fire at random.

At Dawn. B sent 2 men out for rations. They went up the old fern. Y N of Daisy wood, & found some of 45 Bn lying in shell holes on a line just W. of Daisy wood.

B: at once sent a man back w a note addressed to any off. of 45 Bn stating that he had no rations or water,

4
 & 1 no. of men (abt 25 w him)
 with 2 L.G.S.
 & asking cd he be relieved.

They sent a verbal message
 saying tt they knew nothing
 abt him & cdnt relieve him.

B. then sent 2 men to Dairy
 Wood at great risk to a
 similar message, & got a
 similar reply from the 45 Bn
 there, saying tt they had rel.
 19 Bn, knew nothing abt him
 & cdnt relieve him.

B. thought it over. The
 men brought back news tt 1
 45 Bn men sd they were going
 to do a stunt next mg. So
 he decided to withdraw. Abt
 2 p.m. he withdrew. They were
 heavily sniped from 1 same
 positn but came out without
 casualties. B. found a Coy HQ
 at 1 entrance of the C.T.

x

The officer referred him to Ben H.Q.
B reported to Ben H.Q. to the
Colonel (Col. Herring). He sent out
at once for the Coy Commanders to come
to his H.Q.s. B explained /
Exact position & H. told him
he need not wait.

He then withdrew, setting all
his men out without casualties.

Day - 2nd army c
Wisques.

Treacher - Dec. 1 or 2.

X just across the more or less
unshelled green belt in
front of Westhoek.

20 Bn.

Came up from Ramparts on
Sept. 19th at 4 pm - went up
in Sections of Queen w NCO in
each to Westhoek, rear slope. waited
there in shellholes till 9 pm. Rain
began abt 7 & lasted till midnight.
Bn went up to firing line abt
150 yds over ridge. From there taken
at ^{10^{pm} to 12^{pm}} (midnight) by guides & shown the
tapes. The engs had put out 1
tapes. These were easily found,
it was cold, drizzly, & wet in 1
shellholes. It was abt 500 yds to
Germans on our rt, & abt 350 on
left. (J2 c 6.69 in what had been a
camouflaged shell hole - a listening
or night m.g. post - shown on aeroplane
maps). J 8 A 2 & wd be nearest
post on rt.

3 mins exactly before we started
(Germans put over a barrage - this

4
had to be put down for several days at same time. The line moved - Capt Barlow & all C.Os blew whistles at once & line moved forward towards point 150 yds out where it wd pick up our barrage, & just reached our barrage exactly as it fell. There was a more or less green ^{belt} ~~gap~~ of 200 yds wide; it wd getting pretty well daylight.

The barrage came down just in front of the Nounne Bossichen Frezenberg Road, just in front of wh was 1 German post on 1 left above mentioned. All 1 men in the post had to be killed or wounded or put out of action.

On the left the next opposite was a line of 12 pillboxes - 11 artillery emplacements between them - just on the S.W. side of

X Haunebeck wood - J2c 88.
 The barrage held us up at this pt for 3 or 4 mins the heavies pounding them. The line was within 50 yds of barrage - v. close to it; the line was on top of these pill boxes, over & round & into them, 1 mounted 1 barrage lifted. They had 1 gun mounted & 4 preparing to mount. The mounted gun was preparing to fire apt 1 shot on 1 right - but the crew was killed around it by 1 barrage. It was behind 1 left hand pillbox. On the rt a German came out w his hands up when our men sang out to them. A German behind fired between his legs & wounded a Sargt. A Lewis gunner, sd set out of way Sargt - I'll see to the "s" & fired thru or four bursts of his m.g. into 1 place, k. or

Serjt Poole was first at this place
w 1/2 doz men; ~~rest of pln~~

Poole & Cpl. Wilson rushed either
the above gun or one in 1 wood
from either side. The gun hit Wilson
& Poole got the gun. Poole got a bar
to his D.C.M.

X
w. most inside. There were
abt 40 ferns in these pillboxes,
many dead & wd. [They had
started to come out when our
men got there & some shooting
followed].

~~On the~~ Capt. Barlow here detailed the
wd Serjt & 3 wd men to collect
1 prisoners & take them to rear;
also to collect ^{our} wd & m. ps. The
German prisoners carried 1
m. ps. There were many Red X
germans there in (same place).

Time chut be wasted there.
Evatt M.C. (abt 1914)
Lt ~~Edwards~~ had been killed
crossing the road - hit by bullet
thro 1 head. Barlow collected
the first waves & started to go
thro 1 wood. The start of
wood (as they knew before from
the excellent aeroplane photos)
was full of waterfilled shellholes,

X Barlow won.
MC in this fight

83
+ they knew th they wd have
to work round each side
of it. This had be arranged
beforehand.

This was done. Barlow's
party going round right met
a w.g. + four men who
were firing over towards
right. They were behind a couple
of big fallen trees - 3 down in
1 shell hole + one firing,
one of the stand-mounted guns.
The party shot them from flank,
k 3 w 1.

On the left the party got
round, + met the 2d ply as
arranged in front of
wood, where they were to
dig in. ~~This~~ At this time
Barlow heard 2 mps still firing
in 1 wood where 1 left ply had
be. They could see these. He
sent Lt Cameron + a party to
(MC in this fight)

and so; of ...

84 settled
X settle them & they found 1 first, 1st
1 crew, & took it; the second we found
Cameron doing good work.
to be up a tree - one man
by himself. He was shot -
These had all been firing to their
right & had held 1 scots up.

Barlow sent a couple of
Sections down to 1 left to
clean up anything that 1 Scot's
might have missed. These found
~~a couple of~~ several Pill Boxes, one
by 1 battery position, & some
implacements for arty. They
cd be seen collecting prisoners
there.

They then started to dig in
beyond the wood & got some
cover. The Germans then shortened
their barrage. The C.O. & Barlow
had thought this probable & decided
to move forward if it happened.

21 Sept.

Early this morn the Germ. planes were very active, flying low. They found our position - dropped flares - & arty got onto our line.

At 11 am, on the Zonnebeker Valley N of ^{our} our arty opened up very heavily w every ^{sort of shell;} ~~thing~~; later they switched off onto Zonnebeker St Josephs & the S Side of rly.

At 6 pm. German opened up v. heavily on Angzac Ridge. SOS went up from right in front of Polygon, but arty seemed heaviest along 2 Div. frontage. Our Stokes opened, whole line stood to, but nothing happened.

X They moved forward up to the crest of ridge abt in 1st line of wire W. of Angzac - not very good position.

The valley behind turned out to be continually shelled.

That evng, expecting an attack from the SE (in the Polygon Battle direction) the flank was swung to face this - but nothing happened.

At 2 pm on Sept 21 our arty was heard on the left by 1 rly; looking over the way the Germans were seen coming along our side of 1 rly in file, running forward; & on 1 far side of 1 rly opened out in lines -

Our arty got onto them w H.E. Shrapnel, gas - & the attack withered - nothing could be seen of it.

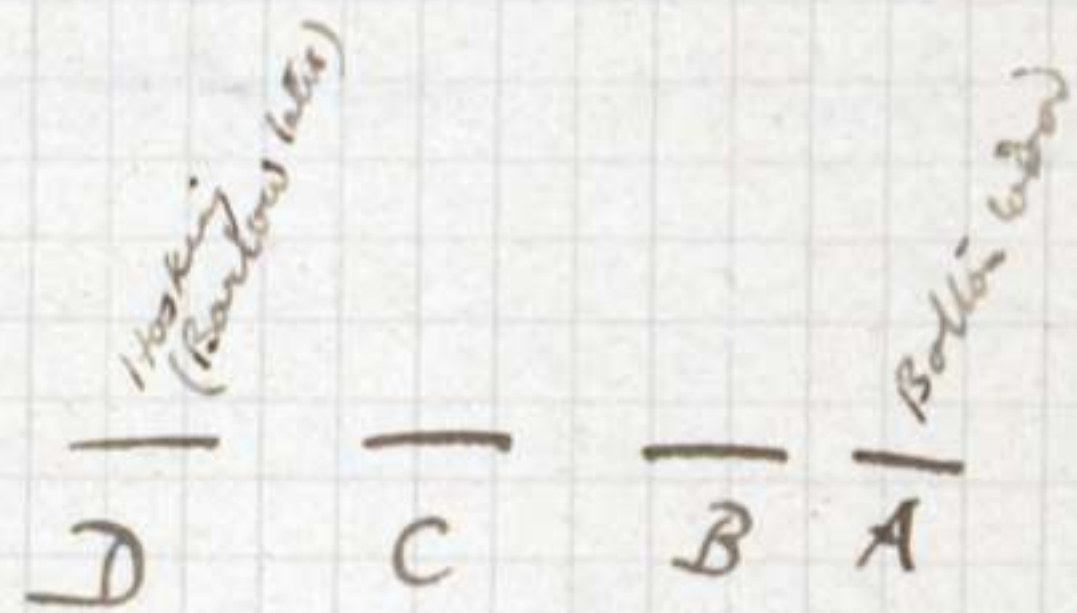
X
 20 Bn was relieved betw 9-10pm
 by 19 Bn. & came right out.

On it when first opposite was met
 abt 50 ferns. were seen jumping
 out of shellholes. They had bayonets
 fixed but were too surprised to
 use them. The line settled them,
 not one was left. (They were
 along a hedge - behind it).
 Lt Anton thinks it this was a
 party wh was to have raided us
 & wh was taken by surprise.
 One of our men had a regular
 thrust & parry fight w a German
 in this position, for abt 3 mins
 Our man got him.

Going on in / creek, where it
 was pretty muddy, the men went
 through it straight, up to waist
 in places, not dodging shellholes.

X There were a couple of strongly⁸⁸
built up positions N of the
road just this side of creek
wh held 1 line for abt 10 mins.
2 mgs - were there, one playing rt,
1 other left. The line hopped up
till quite close, opened w
Mills bombs. ~~One of these~~ settled
for us Dix or right ferms rushed
out of the forward m.g. post &
were shot down as they came;
a mills bomb got the other crew.

The ply crossed the Ck.
- a succession of holes - & met
no more opposite till they got
to objct when the 2 pillboxes
at J 2 D 7.5 were firing in
our barray. They were wopholed.
A ~~up~~^{on} & 4 men went up thro
our barray & put them out of
action. There were 40 ferms in this
place. The sun was firing thro a loophole



X

at our position.

Capt Bolton ^{M.C.} Wood, O.C.

of A Coy was wd by shrapnel thro back of head & neck. Wood died of wounds. Bolton took over. The line here was on our side of these Pill/Bs on a hill slope.

When a barrage lifted off these P/Bs the 20 Bu here went on to a better position higher up a hill. Bolton was wd. When bending wood up, & some time later left a line at midday. Lt Hough then took over.

Off to k. Maj. Hosking M.C. (M.C. chiefly for work as 2nd C. after LeSars). O.C. C Coy. D Coys at boundary was the rest of Hannebeck wood, & Hosking was k. a little rest of wood, just before reaching it. He was k by a shell.

2x Capt. B. Wood d. of wds (as above).
O.C. A Coy.

Lt Ewatt M.C. (D Coy) as above.

Lt Edgington (C. Coy) k. by shell concussion,
died at dressing station -
k during advance.

Offis wd: Lt McColl was hit by shrap. at
very start. (C Coy)

Lt C. Cameron (not G. Cameron M.C.)
(B Coy) wd by shell ~~just~~ before 1 objve
He was leading 1st wave. ~~led by~~

Lt Browning ^{C Coy} (M.C. - he saved bar
for this fight) - Hit by m.g.
bullet ~~in the~~ above knee
abt reaching Hannabeek wood,
but carried on till consolidation
complete -

Lt Lowth ^{B Coy} . 2 m.g. bullets in
ribs after going abt 5 mins -
one entered at wrist & tore up 1
arm. This was before Hannabeek.

Lt Wilkins - hit by many m.g. bullets,
losing his arm - shortly after jumping off,
in charge of carrying rty of A Coy.

The eventual line was over the first crest of the Angac finger, well in view of 17 Bn & of Zoumebeke Church - 400 yds ahead of first red line.

All officers of C Coy were wd ark.

D Coy. Capt Barlow took ch. of line after reaching Objive.

Lt Gard }
Lt Hall } Came up next mg.

B Coy Lt Marlin (a Duntroun boy, ment'd in despatches) came thro'.

A Coy Lt Bancroft }
A Coy Lt Hough } came thro'.

[Bancroft was sent to (at end of fight).]

The barrage was as near perfect as possible - easy to follow. The smoke at stop was easy to pick. One 18 pdr & one 4.5 how dropped 100 yds short & they learnt to give them a clear berth.

(Pozieres bombing attack Maudgley)
Capt Broadbent M.C. O.C. B Coy.

was hit at the 1st Objive, & held on after they moved up until 5 pm.

Lt Anthon (as above).

Lt G. Cameron M.C. who worked

this Haunebeck on left. He was hit abt 3 pm on Sept 21 by a shell wh k. two sergts - he lost an eye. Camerous

R rd/w. W
Opp: H 8
then: 80 170

eyes put out by a piece of shell wh went thro his helmet & thro his head - he did not know it, & walked out himself.

Oct 4. Moved from Esplanade Saps (W. Ramparts) to Windy Green (SE of Ramparts) in early mg.

5.30 pm - to Rly blood.

Oct 5. Reld 21 Bn by 8.50 am.

20 Bn went in not expecting to
 attack & took in junior officers - to give them
 Expec. without heavy responsibility of action.

Lt Lumb went
 on w 17 Bn.

C & A Coy astride the
 line went forward to
 help 17 Bn & practically
 ceased to exist.

attached

Capt. Hall Mc. wd.

Lt Marlan "

" M'Gill "

" Lumb in. Last seen pract^y surrounded
 and putting up a big fight.

" Edwards in. Someone saw a bomb
 burst under Edwards

" Dease wd.

(all wd forward)

went on with 17th Bn. The posts
 ahead were too weak to hold, but
 a line was occupied E of ^{WOOD.} Deoy ~~topos.~~

The Bn was relieved by 45 Bn at
 9.35 pm. & withdrawn to support
 lines. These were badly collapsed
 thro rain & shells.

Oct 10. Germans shelled support lines -
 further casualties. Relieved by
 46 Bn by 10.15 pm.

For Oct 9 see Bn Summary
 & notes.

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Ayers was wd on 12 Oct
& is now in Wandsworth.