

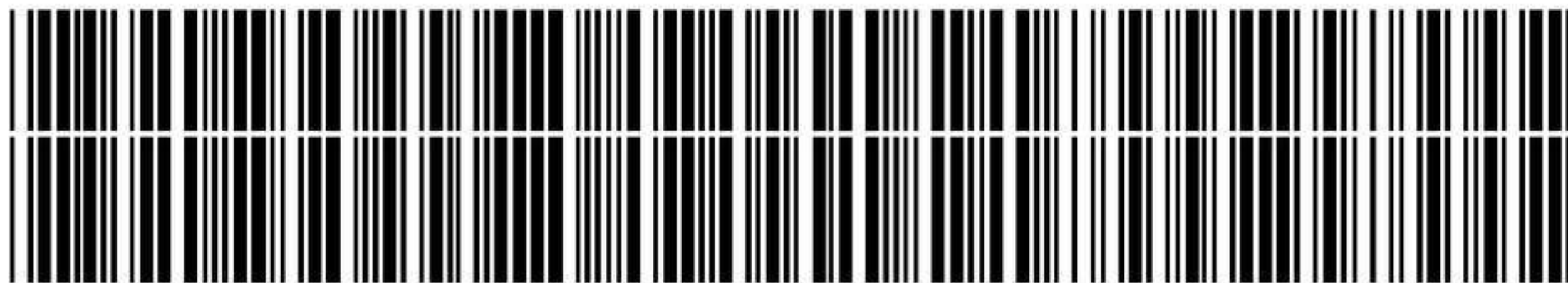
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/178/1

Title: Notebook, 1915 - 1917

Includes references to the 7th, 17th, 34th, 35th, 47th, 48th, 53rd and 55th Battalions, 14th Machine-Gun Company, Quinn's Post, Messines, Bullecourt, Polygon Wood, Menin Road and Passchendaele.



AWM38-3DRL606/178/1

Original
AWM38

DIARY NO. 178.

3DRL 606 ITEM 178 [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

OPEN

69593.47, 48 Bas 4900
178 Quinns. Polygon
as far as they go
34.35 Bas 4900. 178
CD see nothing by the noise
55 Bas 53 Bas 4900
A scout from down. was
that night. A
in barrack in front of
no wire there - only
Coddard was last time

1

14 M. 9. Coy

The last night at Quinns
was made very active w
mbs - & as our men & Goddard
out of down / empty valley the

Quinns. Lt Faragher Engineers was
working at mining at Quinns from near
1st to last - night to 1 evacuation. He
was to have blown the two deep 1300lb mines
there but Birdie forbade it.

Missines

and Sept 20.

Remember it in 1 great
Batt of Sept 20 (as at
Missines) the thing that we
we all looking for & anxious
about, was 1 German C-attack.
The system had been ^{immensely} successful
& was regarded as having the
mysterious rather awe-inspiring
force which attaches to things only
heard of - until familiarity
destroyed the illusion.

2

14 M. 9. Coy

women were sent by Goddard
in 1 Bloody Angle but they
the Ts had gone into Quinns
sent for 1 Bloody Angle Patrol
patrol went there every night
On 19/20 was on barrow in front of

Bellerards.

We had no wire there - only
the scrub. Goddard was 1 last Capt there.
On 20th came up in advance of Glencora
all thought there was no chance at all.
Wood was 8 guns & red 3 m. f. Coy.

Goddard met Mackenzie from Popes in 1 valley -
On 24 Sept remaining 8 guns of Coy
came up to a strong post in Glenc. Wd
to be in reserve for 1 attack.

On 25 Sept there was a violent bomb
all day.

On 26 Sept at 1.30 am. the 8 attacking
guns moved from their position & took
up an attacking position in 1 infantry
assembling in our front line.

During this assembly 1 German
opened very heavily at about 4 am. but
was shooting just over.

At 5.45 bomb began. The
infantry went over at once. The guns
were in 1 first wave just behind 1

Pziers:

Before going S. to Pziers the 1st Divn (or so probably all other Divns) understood th they were to be kept for a big operatn at Messines & were, I believe, asked to consider or practice or reconnoitre - anyway to take some action in view of it.

Within a few days of their receiving 1 order it was entirely altered - & they were off at short notice for 1 Somme.

4th moppers up. The guns were to stop on red line where bombt stopped 45 mins.

The remaining 4 were to go on to the Blue line. (The guns are now simply placed in shell holes & then in 1 infy position so as not to make a position obvious to aeroplanes).

There was very little trouble in either advance.

The second gun from 1 left went up the road towards 1 Cemetery & put his gun in 1 cemetery; ~~another~~ (this was later blown out); another was 100 yds further left; one was on the top of the Butte; & one 150 yds N of Butte. Later a capt's machine gun was brought into action on the Butte & manned by ^{some} other crews.

The other 4 were distributed along

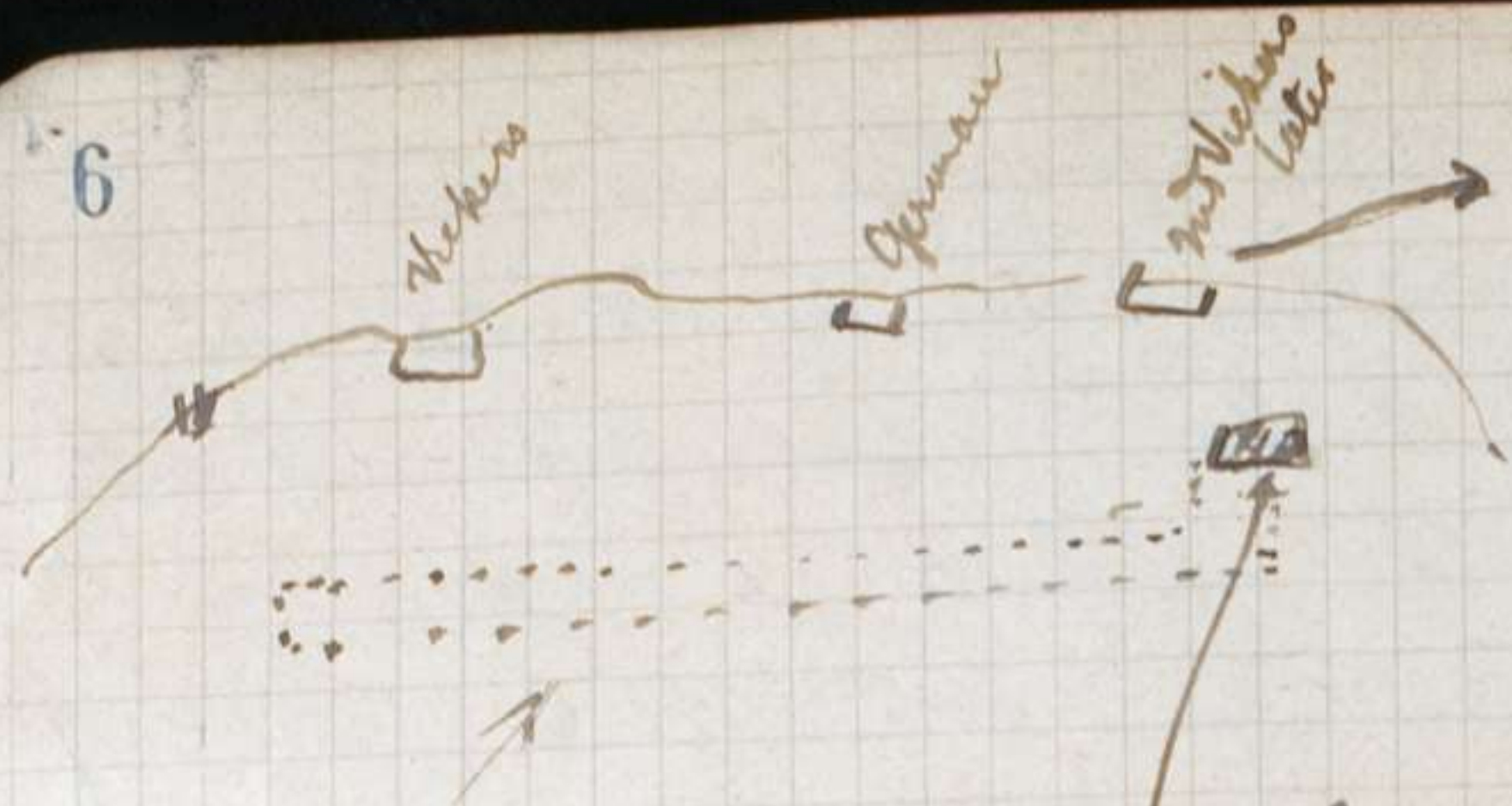
the Bde frontage - in shellholes.
 At 5 p.m. from the Butte were
 seen dense masses of Germans advancing
 from the rt front. in the flat.

The Vickers & the German gun on the
 Butte mowed these fellows down.
 Later the gun on / right saw them
 & simply swept them down. The
 Germans came like chaps ^{coming} from
 a football match. S O S went up
 and our arty got them. They were
 all 350 yds to 450 yds from Butte.
 That after 4 of the reserve guns
 were brought up to reinf. the defence.
 one was on the Butte, one between
 Butte & rt gun on Blue line;
 2 in front line.

Nothing more happened till
 abt dawn Sept 27th.

Abt 50 Germans were seen, apptly
 lost, making towards the rt gun in /
 front line. Two of the rt guns took

6



Small entrance -
A German sniper laid
onto this from its
flank & hit a lot of
men.

2

ch see very well opened on them -
Abt 75 per cent were casualties. The
rest scattered - (these were abt 150
yds away) The Germans seemed lost.
The Butte had a field of view of
abt 400 yds. There was no
trace of German positions on
top of Butte.

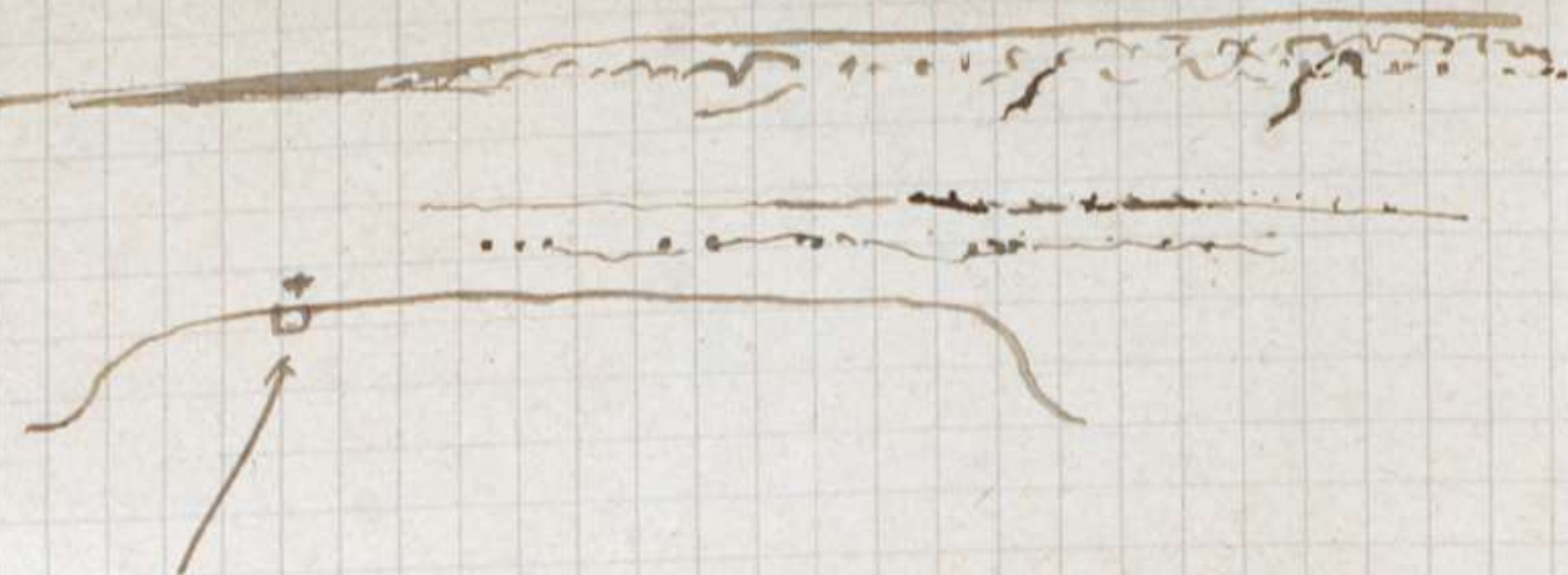
The guns were held all night
of 30/1 — by a m.g. Coy of the 7th
English Divn. (22nd m.g. Coy).

The 14th m.g. Coy had 54 casualties
mostly in ~~supp~~ positions in rear &
on carrying parties.

2/Lt Maughan was killed, in a shell
hole just behind a P/B in front line;
Capt Dick was sniped going out
to find his body, & d. of w. later.

2/Lt Hill was w. on 25 Sept before
the attack. The 14 m.g. Coy won in this
1 M.C., 2 D.C.M.s., 2 M.M.s.

Lieut Tufnell.



Serp Howell on
his gun earned a M.M.
Also Not on the gun ^{Pte} Lindeburg.

The firm. c-attack on Sept 26.

The firms were first seen appearing in the ^{low} scrub half right from the Butte abt 400 yds away. They were coming forward pretty thick along three breaks or tracks in the scrub, making appy for their front line 2y wh we abt 50 yds ahead of 2y wh we occupied. This german 2y seemed to be like the rear of a small embalement. The firms had to go abt 15 yds to get from the scrub into their 2y.

We had marked several positions & had 1 range of them. As soon as they got to the breaks in 1 scrub the gun wd open on them. A great number were knocked over. For 2 or 3 hours on end they kept trying to come up &

9a

2

10

reach their trench. They would try to get into the trench between bursts, running across the open. A fair number reached T 2. They were too disorganised to make any further attack from this 2.

An artillery observer got up there too, & he got the arty on - 6 in hows. & this disorganised them. They often broke back from 1 trench into 1 scrub - The movement ceased just before dusk.

On Sept 27~~th~~ at 3 in the afternoon the Germans attacked the Bde on 1 right - it looked like a lot of 300 to 500 men. An off of 53rd Bn put the Serp onto it at a range of 1200 yds. The attack didn't come off the night but 1 party making it seem to have been taken prisoners

7 Bn Ypres.

of the Aus Bn.
24/12/17.

9a

Dear Capt. Bear,

On making
enquiries I find there is a little
difference in the detail regarding
the official casualties of 4/5th Oct last.
Will you amend the following to
read: -

Banks Oct 4 Shell during consolidation
Hambrook M " Shell on tape line

" R " Shell during barrage
prior to move
to assembly position.

Leare Oct 4 M.G. during advance
to 2nd Objective

Hollyhoke Oct 4 M.G. Broodsinthe Rd.

Anderson C Oct 4 Shell during
advance but prior to
reaching 1st Objective.

Dear Oct 4 sniper, during
consolidation.

Wishing you the compliments of
the season.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely
E. H. H. H.

St. Col

reached 1 1/2
manned to
attack from
across the open.

observation of
the fort the
so - the
they often broke
into scrub -
could just before

att 3 in the
reached the 3d
others like a
men - an off of

well out it at a

rough 1200 yds. The attack didn't
come off though but 1 party making
it seem to have been taken prisoners

reached their trench. They could
then retreat to the trench between

.X: All these Germans had a shiny object on their chests (wh seemed to be armour or something like it). On 1 Southern side you cd see into the gully.

1 folly msg. The escort cd be seen taking them back after the disturbances - at first it ~~was~~ ~~how~~ looked from the Butte as if they had broken thro: X

During (whole time there were targets in pties (appth fatigue or ration pties) moving about especially on 1st flank.

The German planes were very active sniping onto our positions - also 1 sniper above mentioned. The German arty got the range of the Butte - (already gun from 1 Extreme right) the night the 14 msg. Coy was held.

Bullecourt: When 54 Bn was attacked W. Brown D.C.M. had 4 guns in the front Hindenburg line, one abt 40 yds from the right - & these guns largely saved the situation. He only had 2 guns at 1 end. He used to let 1 gun come up pretty close before shooting.

55 Bn - Polygon.

The Cemetery was not in 55 Bn sector - it was in 4 Div sector. The 8 Bde however pushed over to left - 14 Bde for the reason made left & this brought 55 Bn up ~~up~~ ^{up} to the Cemetery. The Germans has a S. P. here. The Cemetery was mostly German graves. The houses of village had been so knocked down that there was practically nothing left to show it.

[Capt. Cottrell, who was leading the attack, beforehand reconnoitred right up to Butte. He wanted to go inside & see what he found, but the two sergts with him would not let him go inside]. All 80 prisoners

There was fog
When they at last found Ba H.Q., they
had to find the R.A.P. - the R.A.P.
was some way back towards front &
they had to ring ^{up} on 1 telephone
& get the D. to go up 1 stairs of his
R.A.P. & answer their shouts.

were got out of Balte. I
needed the hr & 40 mins to get
the Bn properly organised

Somme winter

During the night when 55 Bn
was ^{relieving} Balte, one of 1 H.Q. runners
was hit by a shell on the way from
front line abt 100 yds from 1 front
line. This was Pte P. Dejohn -
(PL de Jough) his fellow runner, Cameron, had
got ahead - he heard a shell burst &
D. didn't come in. RN Campbell

He was knocked into a shellhole.
Some men pulled him out & left
him for dead. He crawled along
towards Batt.Q. & cut off his leg on 1
way (it was hanging on a thread & he
took his knife out & cut it away.)
Stretcher got him along there, finding
him and ~~seeing~~ going back to 1
line for 2 L. runners to carry
him along. After 5 hrs they got
him ^{to Batt.Q.} Inside D. sd.
Batt.Q. abt a mile behind 1st.

2

Now tell me, Doc - have I got
a chance - have I a sporting chance
It's what I want to know.

He asked for a cigarette.

He lived 5 days - & died
of gangrene -

2nd Lamerton did fine work in
attack on cemetery; also
afterwards when this was v. heavily
shelled, & men were buried etc.

53 Bn.

226/9/17

Apr 20/9/17.

In addition to diary these
facts were obtained by me at a meeting
of Officers at Mentz.

A.

The following resistance was
met in advance.

A Coy (left front) found a strong pt. on left of Butte
& m. qd. in Cemetery. The strong pt. was
abt 200 yds on left of Butte, & incl. on left
of road. There was a scattered m.g. fire beg-
inning a good deal later than fall of our barrage.
No resistance was met w. from first m.g.s.
They lay down in the bed of shell hole (an improvised one)
& put a waterproof sheet over their head.

The S.P. at 200 yds from Butte.
The Cemetery was on left of road in a
straight line w. Butte. This was the Bn's objective
- the left of obj. The men went straight at it, close
under 1 barrage. Fully 10 m.g.s. were got within
this part of the area.

↑

A. Capt Smith	D. Capt Ramsay
B. Capt Thomson	C. Capt Roberts

(badly wounded on 1st day of 28th)

led. in the attack - stayed till after consolidation

1st Feldard was in this assault on the Butte.
Sgt Allison was in 1 actual assault on Butte.

2 Lt Pettifer of A Coy was wd the foll day.
Lt Pettifer) m . 5 x
B Coy was on 1st left in rear of A.
B was 1 x A.

The first opposition to be mentioned was in an old Farm House, with an iron gate still partly standing. There were several concrete dugouts in this. Beyond this on 1st left of Butte was 1 cemetery - on 1 road which was our objective. B Coy had the Butte as part of its job.

B Coy 1 x
Four officers & abt 40 men were got out of Butte within a big dressing station at 1 back. There was a m.g. position facing them at 1 top of Butte. This was knocked out 1 day before by 1 heavies.

The Germans had mined 1 top of Butte. We got round both sides

2/4 J. G. Ridley with C Coy did
fine work on right.

2 in front. The Germans had several mgs²²
on top. We came at it from 3 directions. Before we
got into grips they retired 1 other side and
surrendered. They didn't fight at close quarters.
They had on firing from 1 top of Butte as we came up.

In one passage in 1 Butte 2 or 3
Germans fired at the sentry on top. A bomb was
thrown down 1 entrance. That was all 1 opposite there.
The others were hiding in 1 different tunnels.

There was a great switch board down there & a
lot of signalling gear. We capt. 4 mgs there.

D Coy. (right front) met a small concrete emplacement

D Coy met with abt 12 men. They didn't have time to come
out. They were k. as they came out.

D. then followed a bit of a road & came upon
some small posts & a little wooden shelter in a shell
A bomb was dropped down & 2 men came out.

Serjt J. L. Dolan made a reconnaissance
(DCOL.) in front of line looking
for German m.f. & snipers while
the barrage was stationary,
brought in Co.

2 It was a wood covered shell hole. They then followed
the road. One or 2 Germans were caught in shell holes
and another pillbox was taken.

Some of these German posts were roofed w logs
& some of these had been blown in by our shells.
Some Germans were found in certain of them.

The Adjutant was Col. Crowshaw when he was hit.
One shell knocked the adjt into a shell hole &
wounded Col. Crowshaw very severely, a
few minutes after advance started.

The Colonel was buried at Ypres. He is known
to have blown his whistle for advance of battalion.
He seems to have been found part of way back, in

a shell hole by a m.g. who was escorting prisoners 2 hrs
later. He was taken for dead & man brought in his
revolver. The Colonel however was brought in, still living, to the
Jennings Doctor. Lt Jennings was k. The m.g. before in Glencorse wood
Lt Corrie. k. night of 25/26 going
A.O. Corrie) up to the tapes - hit by a shell.

2 B Coy.

The heaviest barrage met
us to meet with on the
morn of Sept 25 when 53rd
Bn was lying in support
in Glencorse wood - This barrage
started at 5.15 am. & was heavy
for abt 2 hrs. B Coy
lost ^{over} 50. k & wd in this.

B Coy's decorations

Thomson
Capt Sherrin
Wid during
advance

Lt Geldard

Serjt Allison

Lt Col Plum

} during

this bomb were in the thick
of it digging men out - all
SBs of this Coy - 8 Barrels,
4 reserve & 2 stretchers
were blown to bits.

The Sgt May of D was Kasper
CSgt Honey

This remained active for
abt 1 hr after the advance
in a swamp S. of Bulter.
He went out to get touch
w/ 1 Bde on right - He was
going out to inform the 29 Bn
as it was in their sector.

Some of 29 Bn finally
got this msg. it was in a
P/B. at front in 29 Bn sector.

Ptes Mara (since died on next tour) Hockley, Rowley
also did fine work as s/bos. Warboys, Rodwell &
Spratt also - a v. long carriage the continual banging.

Pte Small A Coy DCM for
S.B. work both in supports
& at the Bulter.

Sgt May Brewer A Coy
lost his life trying to get a msg
that had been missed in the
first advance - He was always
1st in any P/B & around
front line. x

Sgt Ralph M.M. was on
left flank & in several of
heavy bombs after 1
attack refused to leave 1
flank till ordered to come in.

Capt. Hubbard S/B I Coy
did splendid work bandaging
up men & Estab a dressing

str on his own initiative in
one of P/Bs there.

Serjt Denholm of C Coy.
rushed a strong pt missed
by D Coy on its flank &
advance just inside
race course. This was missed
by 1st wave & was rushed
by D & I men. At 5 men
were in it. I shot 3 & bayoneted
2.

Mule Transport was brought right
up to the Butte on 1st night
under Lt Sherwood. These mules
reached the Butte. No mules at all were lost.
Cpt. McCallum (M.M.) went down
to guide the mules ^{during day} up. They reached
Stanc. wd where the rations had to be dumped
the heavy ^{shell} fire. McC. was back & was collected
ration 11 p.m. & made 3 journeys.

Sandy was a son of
the paint merchant in Sydney.

Sandy landed on
Peninsula but was wounded
in 1 foot & was discharged.
He rejoined, got into
A.F.C. as a ground officer;
He had learnt to fly when
in England & was
got leave to fly again.

It was Sgt Hughes
first trip over line.
Sandy, when he passed
Jones after 1 flight, was
flying North.

Sandy's last
flight, was
the shoot had just started.

Sandy had fired 70 rds. & the observers
170. Both guns were
loaded. There was a drum with very few
shots fired on the line. They were 16 bullet holes in machine
finger relaxed. They were 16 bullet holes in machine
but nothing was damaged by 1 flight.
The same lot of EAs came out next day
& had a scrap with
another Aust. alian
pilot. They withdrew.

69 Sqn. A.F.C. Observing for
1st Anzac.

Lieut. James Lionel Sandy
observer Sgt H F Hughes, aerial gunner, were
up on an artillery observation on 17th Dec. 1917.
17/12/17

when they were attacked by 6 enemy planes.

(latest models D5A scouts - thought to belong to
the 29th Pursuit Flight. The fight was at 2.55 pm.

Sandy was observing a shoot for one of Corps heavies.
HE went four times towards Germ. line & each time 1 gun fired
- each time the wireless below recd. "G" (fire). At 2.52

At 2.52 they got his last note on 1 wireless. The ground observer says that he
cd have got away but he went for them; & 1 major of the Anti
aircraft group says it is 1 stoniest fight he has seen on this front.

One E.A. dived at him & observer got 1 machine
right thro 1 petrol tank. The bullet emptied
1 petrol tank & grazed 1 German pilot's thigh.
He landed in our 21st Bn lines near Ploesikeert. His
machine was absolutely intact. He put his hands
up at once, & pointed to his wound energetically.

X near St Pol

Meanwhile Lieut E J Jones & K.C.
 observer saw Sandy in difficulties &
 Hodgson came to his assistance in another RE8. Between two
 of them they beat the EA off & the Germans.
 returned to their own lines. Jones flew round
 Sandy to see what machine he had been helping.
 He got his number on tail - A3816. Sandy's
 machine was then flying apparently all right under
 perfect control - except at Jones thought it appeared
 a trifle lost. He didn't seem too sure of his direction.
 J. returned to the aerodrome for more ammunition.
 When he went back on to the life S was
 not to be found. The first word we got of S's
 whereabouts was from No 12 Stationary Hospital.
 They reported that pilot & observer had both been
 found dead in a field 5 miles N. of St Pol. Said
 his observer had both been found killed.
 The observer was shot thro the left

2 lung & i bullet had come right out of
back. It was an armour piercing bullet & had passed
thro his chest & entered base of Sandy's skull. S.
must have been killed instantly. The machine had crashed

but Sandy was still strapped in front seat & observer had
never tried to shift the joy stick so as to fly the machine.

The wind was NE. The machine probly flew round
in big left hand circles - if she had flown
straight she wd have finished up in the sea. As
she gradually closed down she wd glide steeper.
There was a mark on ground showing where she hit
first, bounced 60 yds, & then hit 1 tip of wing &
swung round. Neither observer nor pilot sustained
any further injuries in the crash.

11.2 - The machine had 2
hrs petrol & probly flew
for 2 hrs

"The A.A. officer looking from below actually
reported that 'The other machine resumed
duty' (i.e. Sandy's machine).

32a

REPORT OF O.C. 2nd SOUTHERN A.A. GROUP.

At 2.55 p.m. 17.12.17, six enemy fighters came over our lines in the vicinity of ARMENTIERES and attacked an RE8 which was on duty near there. Although hardly pressed by the E.A., the RE8 would not give up but put up a hard fight against his six opponents. Finally one of the Hun machines was seen to be hit and to come down in the direction of FRELINGHEIN. Two other RE8's came up and * joined in the combat and the E.A. withdrew. One RE8 was seen to proceed homewards and the other two continued duty".

Certified true copy.

David Blake

Lieut H. N. Wrigley on another
Austrian RE 8 flew up but he
says he was too late
to be of any use.

2 lung & i bulled had come re
back. It was an armour piercing bullet
thru his chest & entered base of Sandy
must have been killed instantly. The machine
but Sandy was still strapped in front seat & i
never tried to shift the joy stick so as to fly
The wind was NE. The machine probably
in big left hand circles - if she had
straight she would have finished up in the
she gradually closed down she would glide
There was a mark on ground showing where
first, bounced 60 yds, & then hit 1 tip of
down round. Neither observer nor pilot
any further injuries in the crash
The machine
112 - has petrol & prob
for 2 hrs
The A.A. officer looking from below ac-
reported that "The other machine re-
duty" (i.e. Sandy's machine).

2 Dec 17/1917. The German machine had
a Mercedes 160 HP Engine. She was 34
Albatros D 5 A. No D/5390.
Propellor No 16969. ^{flamined} by Saruda.
She was sent to St Omer. & had been
asked for on behalf of the
Australian War Museum.

47 Bn. Oct. 12. 1917

↑
A C D
B

In arly formation w
scouts in front.

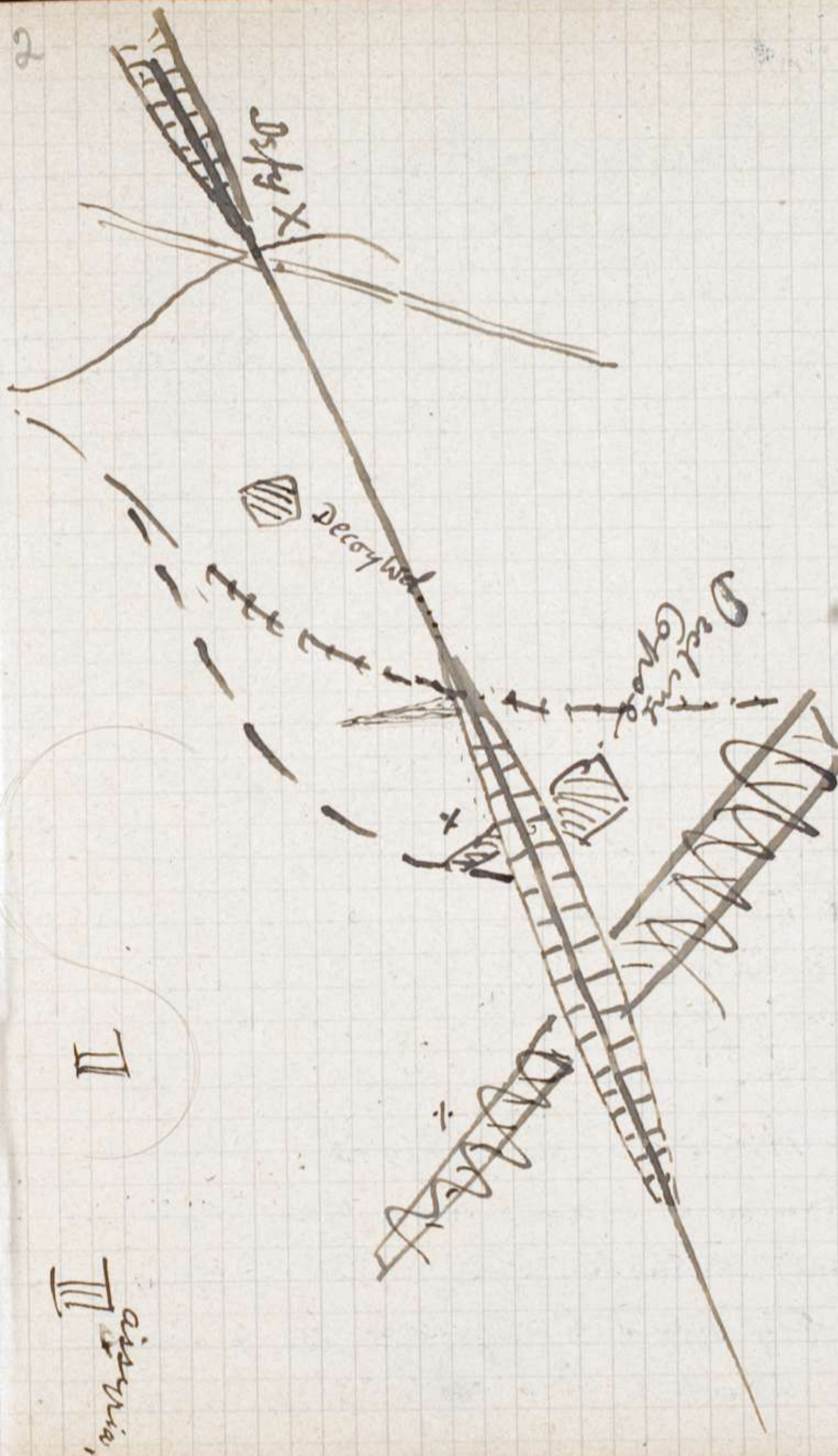
48 Bn ↑ (for 2nd Objec).

45 Bn in line.

46 Bn Bde Reserve.

Early in morn rain started - 47 Bn
was then on assembly position. There
was a tape laid by Bde & Bn I.Os
during the morning before attack before
dawn.

As soon as the Bn started
1 German ran from their line of
posts in shellholes. There was no
fighting up to Decoy wood for C Coy; A
Coy struck a few isolated groups.



2

The left was on 1 rly - It was not in touch w/ 3rd Divn wh ^{further} was behind 1 barage at Zero. On the 1st Objive the 3rd Divn cd be seen 300 to 400 yds to left rear, but they say they cd not move on acct of their left (NZ) being held up at Bellevue. Venina Cottage w numbers of m.p.s also got them, & many of 47Bn casualties came from there.

They went through Decoy Wood, & Co B Coy HQs were put in the wooden (overground) structure there (made of thick logs). The wood was very boggy. 40 prisoners including 2 officers were taken there - very little fight was put up. An NCO - member of 47Bn went ahead to this place & put some bombs into it & it surrendered at once.

Brit. aeroplane brought down Vienna
 during day by m.g. fire from pilot & observer
 gun & 35 came & took away the pilot & observer
 Vienna Cott.

All the time 1 line was under m.g. fire from Assyria & Vienna.

When they reached their line beyond ~~the~~ Drury wood they were under a m.g. fire from Assyria. It ~~had~~ ^{was} outside the 47 Bn objective but Lieut^{SE} Smith & Sergt (now Lt) Carter decided to go ^{by themselves} & try to reduce this fire. They got up on to the top of hill but Assyria was right away in 1 air owing to the left not being up.

When the barrage moved on the 48th could move on account of the 9th Bde not being up on 1 left - Some of 48 Bn were left on 1 rly line to form a defensive flank. They were badly enfiladed here.

It is not known if anyone

reached Assyria but
some were not far from it.

By the sky line were a
few groups - the 47 Bn
rushed these & Sgt Ryan
bayoneted some of these w
Sgt Major Cobbett. Ryan
w^{as} w^{as} ^{early} in 1 after well forward
by the cutting & lost consciousness.
He came to himself after dark
& found Germans around him.
He got back by himself - (he
had been reported killed).

Bn H.Q.s. just S. of the cutting
on 1 top in a little dugout pillbox
w^{as} ~~hit~~ nearly hit by 3 shells -
just before the hop off while 1
barrage w^{as} on. 27 men were
k there & 12 w^{as} - many of
them the best & oldest hands (at least
for 8 M.M.s).

47 Bn dug in on its exact
objec with 48 Bn.

A Coy on left found Germans coming
along 1 rly line just after midday.
~~These~~ These were beaten off by
rifle fire. (The breech covers were
specially fastened on by two
studs to the rifle itself & this
made a huge difference. Rifles
were cleaned and they arrived
at objec. They had been trained
on rapid fire at Doulien for
a month).

On arriving at objec it was
hard to get runners to 1
barrage. But Parsons got
a pigeon back ^{abt. 9 am.} saying that he had
taken abt 90 prisoners & all
was going well.

~~A~~ A message was recd
in 1 morning to say 1 German

2
42
were arriving by motor
train etc at a couple of
places in front -

at abt 4:10 The Germans
appeared on l left - on l
right there appeared to be
a demonstration, a number
of men being seen by Capt
Anderson D Coy - He went
down to his Coy & stayed
there on l right flank.

The Germans began to get on
seriously up by Vienna Colts.
& the left flank of 47 Bn
was threatened to envelopment.
owing to the people on left
falling back -

at 5:15 it was reported the
troops were falling back on
rly line on both sides -
1st 3rd Div on N; 4th Div on S.

Col. Imlay & Col. Leane
 were out in front of HQs.
 where they were able
 personally to direct operations -
 Imlay sent out ^{HQ} Smith to
 take 1 man back to 1 original
 tape line. They went up to
 1 hopping off line & dug in in
 shellholes. There were a
 big proportion of 47 Bn still
 in front - 1st Coy being ~~sent~~
 on W. side & 1 bog & well
 protected. A little later a
 shell pitched less than 10
 yds ahead of 1 two Colonels
 & wd both. Col. Imlay had
 13 separate wounds. Col. Leane
 was hit ~~in~~ in forehead, right hand,
 & leg. The shelling was very heavy
 - this was their barrage line.
 This HQs was a death trap in full

2 k.

Q 4~~th~~ wd.

2 missing

views of Germans, but was /
only one wh cd be obtained
far eno forward & large enough.
Vierina Cotts. cd see this place.

2
Lt W.H. Buncombe ^{A Coy.} was k. by a shell
just after 1 attack moved off.

Lt F.E. Collins ^{D Coy} was thrown into air
by a big shell, when in an outpost
in a shell hole in front of D Coy;
he had not a scratch on him
but was k. by concussion.

Col. Imray. (Capt Brack then took charge).
Capt Eather O.C. A Coy was wd while
reconnoitering before 1 attack,
sniped 1 day before.

Capt Gibson O.C. B Coy was badly
by shell when B was digging in.

Capt Collins O.C. C Coy was wd by
sniper during 1 passage thro
Decoy wood.

Lt Storey A.

2
Lt Parsons A. wd ~~at~~ afterwards in 1 original line -

Lt Ben Taylor B Coy. wd in after out in front.

Lt C.A. B. Kenyon C Coy - wd in 1 advance - early.

Lt Jackson (D.)
Lt Maclean, sniped reconnoitering in Decoy wood after line

we thro' it.
Lt Heard B. Coy wd behind Decoy wd during advance.
Lts Collier & Gibbs were captured by Germans - both were wd & did not come back. There was a message recd from them before 1 retirement saying that they were in Decoy wood & all was well - Then 1 German came & presumably cut them off.

There was no liaison on 1 left - all that was seen was 1 left coming back & 1 German coming past on N of line.

The Germans put very heavy shell fire & m.g. fire on us only during retirement & after. The men got from shell hole to shell hole but many were wd there.

Remnants of A B & C Coy were in/c of ~~the~~ ^{Serpt} until ^{heading} arrangements were made to send an Otr from 2d Coy.

Lt J E Smith then went over.

Folly night D Coy brought their left flank back to conform to ^{general} ~~original~~ line. Till then no communication had been had with them at all. All their runners had been hit.

When 1 Barrage was put down at 4.10 it was on line protecting 1 final objective, & most of Germans were on this

2
side of it. Couriers were
bad & information was
not getting through. Parsons
message was 1 only pigeon
message we got this!

48
2 S/B, Falconer & MacIntosh
were out S/bing and got tired.
They went to sleep in a shell hole
& went to sleep. When they woke
up ^{in daylight} they heard someone (who
saw them & their stretchers)
shout "Come on come over here!"
They went over & found
an Officer w a revolver & 12
germs w rifles pointing at
them. They were taken to &
questioned by men who spoke
perfect English. They didn't
ask much as they had their

before. They had to carry a
 man of 48 Bn back & were
 placed in an old factory
 just behind 1 sector. That
 night they escaped thru 1
 skylight. They travelled &
 struck a Belgian farmer who
 gave them food but would
 let them stay. They got into
 some reeds in 1 rain -
 stayed there day & night &
 went on next day. At
 last they reached 1 frontier
 & struck a friendly farmer.
 They went up by night to 1
 barbed wire frontier fence &
 on approaching it Falconer
 was knocked back 10 or 20
 yds - it was electrified.

They cd see 1 sentry at
100 yds apart. They
went back to 1 farmhouse
& lived for 7 days on
beetroot & potatoes. They
found a shovel - in 3
hrs or 1 night they dug
beneath 1 wire ~~to~~
watching 1 sentry & digging
when he was away.

They got thro' to Holland
- Rotterdam & were given a suit
of civilian clothes, well treated,
(~~&~~ very narrowly expected) by
1 British Consul, & were
sent to England w
1st class ticket.

(This from their written
report in A.W.R.S.).

The supplies in 1 attack
were perfectly arranged in
C7 Bn - Lot Cocoa & stew
in 1 ~~clips~~ Red line abt 8 am.
These came up morning & night
& two men got MMs for this
work. There was not a
casualty in these carrying
plies. Most of 1 Co
taken by A Coy went back
thru 3rd Divn. 47 were estimated
to take abt 150. Many went
back gladly without escort.

Relief by 14 Bn on night
of Oct 14th. Completed by 7.30
without casualty. All wd have
been brought in before relief.
The German cd be seen walking
abt on 1 Paschendaele &
assymia Ridge.

2
47 Bn. in this fight lost over
400 men. all ofrs exc. 5

(3rd Coy, Capt Brack, 5th Smith)
became casualties. Brack
& Smith carried on the command of
Bn.

47 Bn is now getting recruits
only from Q. less than 100
Tasmanians now left.

48 Bn Oct 12.

In the Battalion account (with diary)
Dead line Copse shd be Decline
Cope.

The 7 Bde on left did not
leave their support 2 1/2 in time
to reach J.O. 2 1/2 by zero. They
were nearly 2 hours late at
the J.O. line (of 48 Bn) - & abt
level with Red line 3 hrs late.

The 48 Bn itself was very nearly
late - it was to have started at
12 (midnight) but was held up
by a message from Bde saying
it was not to start until a
runner reached it bringing a
message from Bde. The runner
lost himself & / message when
at last recd. turned out to be
something abt a smoke vanage.
The 48 Bn was on J.O. 2 1/2 8 mins
before zero.

Evidence from Lt Fritchard:

54

2

At Fritchard we were D Coy.

They saw their first Germans along the wooded bank just at the beginning of the cutting. He & Lieut Murray were taking 47 Bn as well as 48 Bn along at this part. 47 Bn had to send a mopping up platoon 1 only but it was not there — probably 47 was more to the right.

Lieut. Murray was hit at 60 yds before 1 bank, blown up by a shell. (When he was being carried back by 4 Germans all were k. by a shell).

Just before they reached the bank 1 German there came in a hand up before they were rooted out. A m.g. in front of Decline Copse now got onto them, but this soon cleared out.

2 They ~~stay~~ ^{stopped} on the Red Line
 wh we on the top of a rise
 well overlooked by Vienna
 Colts in front of 3rd Div on
 main ridge, & by Assyria
~~by~~ on a big ridge beyond
 a slight depression on right.
 The Germans, at this period
 were seen coming out from
 some dumps in ^{Declive} ~~Gully~~ ^{top}
 straight ahead & abt 60
 of them were lined up in
 2 ranks - A L.G. was turned
 out to these ^{many shot} & they scattered
 & some were afterwards captd.
 There were little shelters in /
 side of cutting & these were
 searched but no opposition
 was met - Germans had pretty
 fled.

Lt Guthrie was wd & missing
 (some saw him coming down on

^

D B A.

C

The Red line ran from in front of Decline Copse. across the ridge to Assyria (i.e. across the saddle of the ridge - the final contours are forward of Assyria to ESE.

Venus Cottages were broken down buildings - and in Assyria 1 ferns cd be seen running abt & manning 1 windows.

The ferns. P. first met were in Decline Copse. When P. was hit they were 60 to 80 yds ahead of this, waiting for 2nd phase.

When the barrage moved on, the right Coy & part of right of centre Coy moved on, gradually settling on a line facing abt NNE reaching from

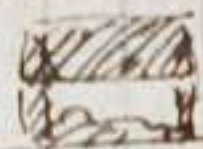
2

ely line on left, in front of 60
Decline Copse, to the top of
the ridge beyond Assyria.
There was a weak connection
with 47 Bn out right, &
much interference w sniping
from there. The left was
particularly exposed to Vienna
Colts - & for 400 yds behind.
The 3rd Div started on left 1 hr
& 20 mins late & advanced
covered by Lgs of 4 Div. to
a pt. abt 300 yds from
J. Off. trench.

There was fighting at Decline
Cope & Assyria. The Germans
ran from Assyria but seem
to have taken shelter further
back & came out later & were
firing during the retirement.
Assyria was a broken down
house, very strongly reinforced



Bank of road
just on near
Side of Copse.



Assyria was a big house, much
knocked abt but with a roof a
good deal knocked abt.

The shellholes into which they
got were at once consolidated.
All the fire came from Vienna
Cotte, Assyria, & Rly Embankt.
A m.g. was also during morning
brought into action on 1 rly
& was blown out by a L. Gun.
The line was there from 8 to abt
4 p.m.

The rly line was used by
runners ^{in rear of} Decline
Cope; but forward of that
it was swept w m-fs., the
Summit being there.

A party went across the N of
rly as liaison with Saddison.

The firm. made 2
separate c. attacks on Lt Carter
(B. Corps) front. The first was

2
 at 3 pm. in splendid well
 ordered waves issuing over
 the rise from what seemed
 to be a line of 2, along
 our whole front. The attack
 made a good target in arty
 formation for an extended
 order attack. This was broken
 up.

2nd attack was stronger
 but less orderly - It came
 out on 1 same frontage
 abt 1 hr later. After abt
 1/2 hrs fighting they forced their
 way round behind our
 foremost posts in front
 of Assyria. (A Coy -
 Capt Menzies had been badly
 wd). ~~Capt~~ Later these posts
 were withdrawn under

Their section leaders abt 100 yds & fight continued.

The attack was strongly reinforced - working from shell holes - you could see 1 re-enforce coming in bunches. Germans lost very heavily.

The S.O.S. was sent up but not answered by artillery tho' contact had been made with our own planes at 8.20 & position was known at J.H.Q.

Inf. barrage didn't answer either - the explanation was that they didn't know where the posts were - didn't believe they were there they were as 3rd Div. reported themselves on Blue line.

Not long before 5 reinforcements began. They got back abt

Evidently from Capt. Anderson -

Some of our men were placed along /
rly to face this fire.

2

5.20 to J. O. Y working almost
entirely along / rly. The
9 Bde at the time was right back.
The attack was from ^{off} Assyria
to Rly in first instance -
(x N. of rly as well, enveloping, in
2nd instance).

Capt Anderson was to D Coy
on rly. ~~ferms~~ were struck

The ferms were first met firing from
the left of a bigish mullock heap. N of rly near
Defy Xing, where the high ground slopes up. They
had m.p. there. There was no opposition
from the front right thro to 1 red line.
When they came up to Cutting it was lined
- just within 1 red line by deposits in which there were

2

Germano - One pty saw some
 trouble - firing from rifles from a dugout
 on / North side of / Rly. They had a
 on .g. wh they did not use.

It was found where they were - by men on /
 top of Southern Bank. The pty there threw bombs
 at them wh kept them in their dugouts
 while anor. party worked up / rly
 & cutting (wh was very deep there).

30 or 40 prisoners were obtained from
 / cutting. They bombed / dugouts in
 / cutting as they went along.

Part of 12 my Coy
 came up & occupied
 some of the dugouts (one
 was full of wine & spirits)

At one time abt a Coy of 3rd Divn
 1st Lt. " 3rd
 was seen along 1 top of Paschend. Ridge
 in Column of Route. They were not
 suffering at all - some thought they must be
 Germans - They abt 1000 yds. They
 were having no diffy there. This was
 during 1 morning.

a m.f. was mounted
 on 1st S. side of cutting.
 The German kept at least 150
 yds away from 1 North
 side of rly owing to our fire.
 All this time there was no support on our
 left. When 48 Bn was on 1 Red Line
 The 3rd Divn came up and
 reached about 1 line of 4th Divn.

The defensive flank
 wh had bn left was withdrawn as 3rd
 Divn came up & 1 front line was reinforced
 by Anderson w 1 men thus obtained.
 As soon as we got to 1 Red Line
 (over looking 1 top) - a remarkable incident occurred.
 The Germans had incorporated (behind Vienna or Tiber) abt
 Vienna Corpse 2nd 1st

a coy. These were
 rushed up to the line.
 They lined it in abt 12 &
 started to fire their rifles in a
 southerly direction at our men.

Part of our barrage caught
 these men & our mps wh were pretty
 fresh at a time - & they absolutely withered
 away. It was an embankment & they were easily
 swept. The German was later seen
 massing - but it was not this wh forced us to
 retire. He seemed to be massing in the SE front
 early afternoon, wandering up all roads & lanes
 from all directions. A very heavy m.g.
 fire came down - they wd fire at one man
 moving. After the m.g. fire



During 1 retirement some
men of 4th Divn were sent N. of rly. to
cover 1 flank as there seemed to
be no one of 3rd Divn there.

2 Came the German wave. His arty 2
was heavy but was thrown deep. The German
didn't follow it as we do. It was rather destructive
fire. The 3rd Divn was now seen retiring along the
sky line. This was at the time when 1
German came out. We had to withdraw &
as 1 only path was along 1 embankl.
practically 1 whole sector retired along
it. This was not shelled very heavily.
Our men formed on 1 jumping off line
& were reasonably comfortable - the Germans
didn't attempt to leave Assyria Ridge.
For the rest of 48 hrs our 1st German were
digging in on Assyria but there was no
there was no fire to speak of on us, only
artillery fire from that time on.

W. Col Leane, as in 47 Bn afc
K. Murray, as above.

Lt Frinlington d of w. afterwards.
(hit / day before they came out, Oct 13
13 Oct.)

he had also a friend who
at Pozieres & had just returned.

Lt McDowell was hit by
same shell burst.

Lt Pritchard
was as above.

6 or 7 other offrs were wd.

Capt Carter was in c of main part of
front line N of Assyria.

One incident worth mentioning: When they got
back, Anderson (who was in c on left) saw some of
our men wander up / rly towards / enemy. They were
seen to be met by Germans - w unknown result.
A little later down / rly came a man in Australian
clothes helping a German who was wd towards us.
They were both blown up by a shell.
They were probly ignorant of retirement
or else had gone back to fetch a mate.

Lt Ridley was k. just before J. B. Y.

Anderson saw ~~him~~ ^{right up front} ~~in many~~ ^{prob k.}

Lt Whittington was seen wd. up in front. He was later
reported a

15 officers hit & abt 35 of or.

All a Coy offrs.

C Coy only Hilary left.

B. Coy Leane & Carter left

D Coy only Capt Anderson left.

34 Bn. 4 pres Oct 12.

See Narrative.

The operation order had been drawn up on 1 idea that the 66 Divn had reached its objective - the news arrived at 5.20 p.m. on night of 11th Oct that 66 Divn line was wrong & alterations would have to be made. Bn had to leave at 6 p.m. for assembly, & this resulted in no operation order being possible.

The Bn was led along 1 rly (first on one side of it, now on top, now on other side). There was shelling from 1 time it passed the Blockhouse onwards. The assembly position was near 1 cemetery.

DEJING Copee, in narrative is Decline Copee.

Delve Xing (probably = Delly Xing)

Ofrs.

Hq. Co. Maj. Leroy Fry

Adj. Lt. A. Gibson Farleigh.

R.M.O. Maj. G.H.C. Clark k. while attending
wd at RAP found of Seine w/ Corp & others
blown out by one shell.A Coy. Lt C.O. Edwards (O.C.) wd while in command
during attackLt. Monfries J. Shell shock - led pln.
during attack, knocked out by
shell (12/10/17)Lt T.C. Pittaway. wd going up to
Assembly (M.C. - missing)
he laid the tape here at Ypres.2/Lt E.C. Edwards wd at assembly line
before Zero by m.g.

B Coy. Capt Jeffries (O.C.) k. (see narrative - V.C.)

Lt H.W. Lillja wd by same shell as
Pittaway on way up to
assembly.2/Lt O.P. Davidson. wd by m.g. fire during
advance.? 2/Lt Kerlake (acting L.G. Officer)
(Evacuated Sick.)C Coy. (O.T.) Capt Gilder T.C. (wd. 1st blown up
then wd a 2nd time - he was practically
senseless - got M.C.)Lt J.S. Bradbury. Came up after
all ofrs had been wd. Evacuated w/2/Lt A.E. Watson d.f.w. - leading in
advance 12/10/17

2/Lt W.G. Purvis. wd. 12/10/17

D Coy. Capt J.W. Richardson k. on second obje.
12/10/17Lt J.L. Burgess. k going forward to 2nd
obje.Lt B.G. McKenzie k. organising
on 1st obje.Lt J.A. Longworth k. while helping
to reorganise at 1st obje.

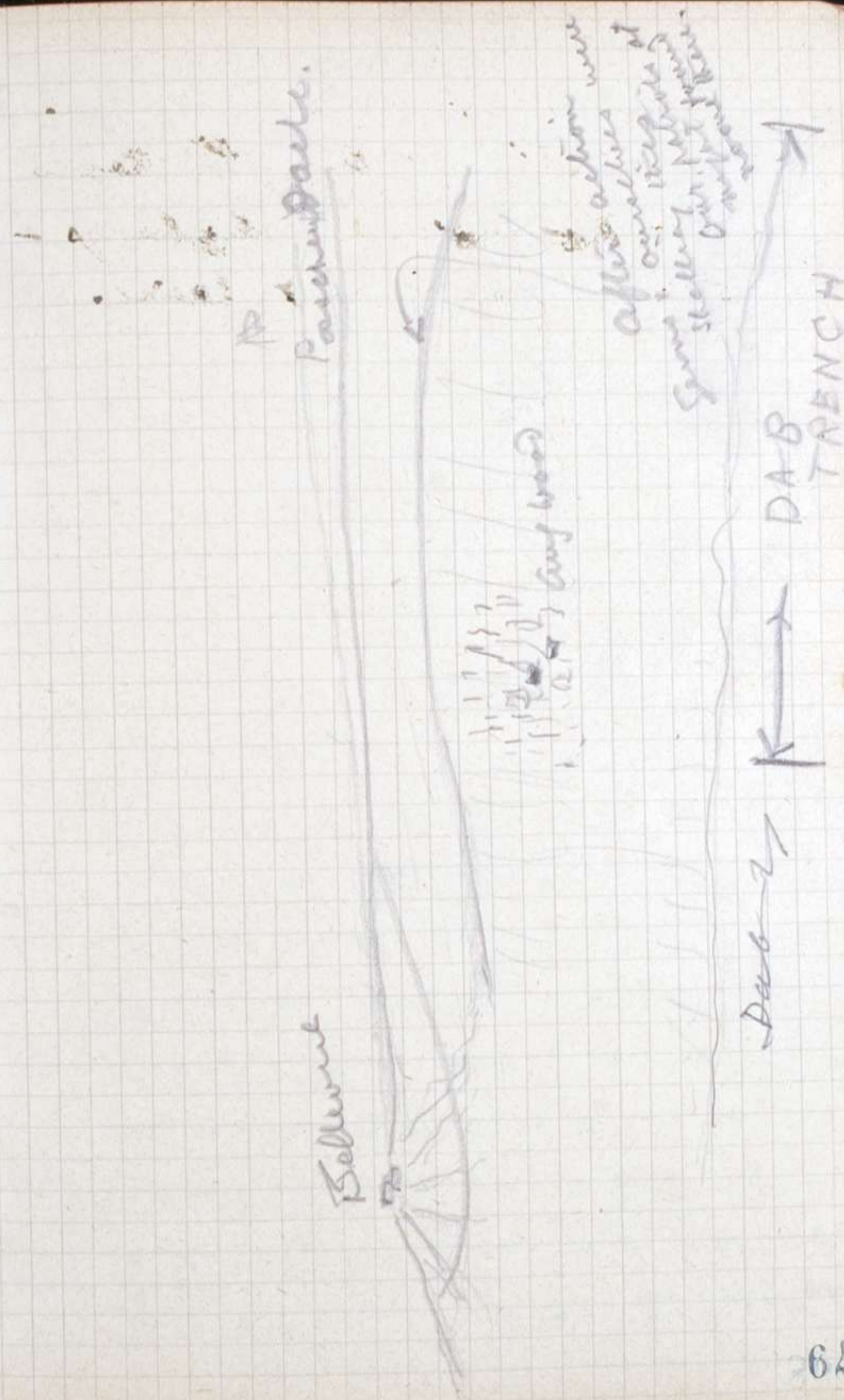
Add to Hq. d. g. s.

Sig. Off Lt. A.L. Watson. wd. after establishing
in forward command post - a splendid brave
officer (he & all staff were wd.).2 Pillboxes E of Augustus Road &
NE of Heine House held the advance
up - it sank into shellholes in
centre. Capt Jeffries organised a
bombing party & rushed & capt'd the
blockhouses [4 m.g.s. & 35 lbs there]

shell shock.

When Red Line was reached the line was under fire of more m.g. abt 200 yds N. of Embankt. Jeffries again organised 2 NCOs & 10 men to capture this post. He was killed in taking it but his NCOs carried on & took 2 guns & 40 lbs. Capt Richardson reorganised Bn & took it on to Blue Line where he was killed.

A great no. of men were k.
round Seine & other Pill Boxes
after this battle by whizzbangs -
8 in one morning at Seine.



2 - Capt Gilder. C. Coy. went up rly
(left abt 6.10) wheeled to left by
Cemetery along taped line from NW
corner of Cemetery.

G. day before had reconnoitered
Cemetery at Seine - ^{by Capt Jeffries} Watson were
leading - Stopped Bn abt 200 yds
short of cemetery (as 44 Bn told
them the position of enemy was
uncertain & there was a chance
of walking into them) - So Bn
stopped at entrance to cutting?
G. W. & Jeffries went on - found
a 36 Bn off there who had laid
1 tape - found tape itself,
went back & brought on 1 bn.
Shelling was just beginning to
get lively - one shell landed
right on 1 line (the first to do
so) & 3 signallers during this
halt.

The firing along the tape
was pretty bad, & tape line
blown away at 4 places.

They kept firing till they
touched 40 Bn in wire -

This Coy had just abt settled
down by 3.15 (orders to be on line
(wh they were) by 3 am.)

Then to 5.25 shelling was hot.
^{AE} St. Watson seems to have been hit
at this time & died later. They
got off on the tick of 5.25. Rain had
come down in interval pretty heavily
- ground was heavy & men wet
thru.

Barrage was very thin -
line difficult to tell as it was
also ragged.

There was morass at
Augustus wood. boggy to waist -

you had to get thro' as best
 you cd & it was next to
 impossible to look after your
 Party. M.G. fire soon began
 to come from Belleme way.
 At 6.30, & soon 600 yds from
 top of line, G. was hit by inf. bullet.
 It was hard to say if men
 were on / barrage or
 not. Most of C. Coy
 seemed to reach abt 70
 yds short of Red line &
 dig in - G. & pt of 10
 who were abt 70 yds ahead
 fell back on them - an
 Extension of 40 Bn line appld
 (Capt Blatchford 38 Bn w
 a number of his men was on
 / same line & was collecting
 men to go further left.)

X During this time 36 & 38 Bn were lying up near A & B Coy, but they had been very knocked about before starting - ^{and were very thin} Some were in 34 Bn line others in shell holes etc.

G. saw here 2/8 Bradbury 85 - only other off noticed here. G. shifted post a bit right up to get a better field of fire - Left us all right X

35 & 36 Bn had gone through. A message was recd by Jilder that they were in a bad way & needed support. The 34th line was getting consold by them, so G. went on w a runner (Plt Morgan). They walked over towards the rly line - saw some men moving & followed them across the Rd & found left of 35 & 36 Bn abt 1200 2.5. This was some time after midday - abt 12.30. Abt 10 mins later he was blown up by a shell. He was looking for others - & finally

86
 found 2 oftrs. of 35 Bu (1st 2/15)
 They were facing another
 ridge - they were in linked
 up shellholes w a dip in
 front & a rise further on.
 German planes had been over
 pretty low & his balloon
 was up looking into them.
 An arty liaison oftr was here
 also. They knew they were
 short of their objct. (pretty
 near 35th's objct line)
 & they were on a bit of
 a ridge & decided to dig
 in & hold there.

Their left flank seemed
 to be in 1 air. G. wd have
 brought 34 Bu up to their
 left (where 1 gap was) but
 he was thrown unconscious
 by a S.G shell.

The line at finish was
from Dfby Xing, W of Hillside
Jm. to rear of Aug. Wood,
to Waterfields.

The 3d Bn & Co moved to
Hillside Jm at one time but
had to come back.

↑ ↑ ↑
C B A

D Coy was to give assistance to
10 Bde by wheeling from Rt
round Paschendale. All
their officers were killed.

Serjt Bruce was 1 N.C.O. who brought
the Bn out. He got the D.C.M.
Service Commissioned.

The difficulties were tremendous
w S/Bs. The rly line by the end of the

X alright going in but traffic over it made it most difficult. 8 pro & men got bogged & had to be dragged out. Probly many wd men ~~had to be~~ were drowned. The rly cutting & the road by Hamburg were full of dead. Germans had range of both of them.

89
 tour was terribly difficult. 6 men on a stretcher took half a day to get a wd man out.

The 18 pdrs behind hill 40 on Oct 12 (evening) cd find no other ground where they cd move except 1 road from Bde H Qrs in the bend, to the hilltop near 1 crossing, wheel to wheel.

On rt Supt Bruce was w A Coy. It was fairly good until the cutting beside 1 cemetery. Then they were shelled w H.V. A Coy was in the cemetery with 36 & 35 Bn behind (probly under distance); for 2 hrs & shelling was very heavy during this time. The 2 Edwards, Monfries & Pittaway

X abt 11 D 9.1.
 X ~~on~~ ~~men~~ ~~to~~ ~~Deck~~
~~was~~ The guy worked too
 far to I left going after it.

certainly survived this. 91
 They started on opening a
 barrage - 5.25.

There is a bit of flat past the
 Cemetery. After this German mps
 opened from in front of 2 dugouts
 (probly one past R in Kersellmarsh
 & other ~~the~~ Hillside). The line
 went straight at these guns & 1
 men in 1 P/Bs were capt'd - abt
 30 Ds were taken. The mud was
 allow 1 men to keep up w 1
 ? ~~bar~~ mud. The mps were rushed too
 quickly to do much damage.

A Coy was working to the left
 & Bruce got w B Coy & Capt Jeffries.
 A concrete pillbox in ~~X 11 D 8.8 X~~
 or thereabouts next began to
 cause a lot of trouble when 1
 line was abt 200 yds away. It

we on the left of A Coy as they began to near 1 top of 1 first big rise. Capt. Jeffries organized a plz of men from shell holes (abt 12 men & 2 N.C.Os (Bruce was w him), worked round on the left of Pill Box & rushed it from 1 rear. Abt 25 or 30 men were got out of this & a couple of mps. w/ they smashed as they cd not take them w them.

They were near 1 Objec then & stopped ~~at road on their right.~~

They halted here - what was left of bn was here. As they halted 35 Bn went thro.

34 were late getting to their Objec & so 35 was late also. A number of men of 34 went w 35.

M.f. fire was coming from P/B on both flanks. The work from now on became one of working out & clearing dug outs.

The pty w Capt Jeffries began to work out after a dugout wh we firing into / rear of 35 Bu advancing. This dugout was ~~to the right of~~ a bit of scrub, between it & the rly line, & almost on / top of a ridge (of / main Paschendaele Ridge) It was entrenching the men on / top of ridge - it was on our extreme rt & shooting towards our left. The pty w Jeffries was trying a rush while this

gun was firing to the right.
 The Germans switched 1 gun
 round & Jeffries was killed.
 At a quarter of an hour
 later when 1 fire slackened
 they worked round this
 dugout & abt 25 or 30 Germans
 were capt. 2 guns were here
 which were both then broken up.

From there Seryt Bruce
 worked up to 1 left towards
 1 village.

[The 35-Bn had a gap on
 their right by 1 ridge but they worked
 down the way].

Up near 1 village there
 were m.guns working from Crest
 Gun direction & from 1 village

They were over / top of / ridge finally, & cd see right down / valley to rt front where abt 7 or 8 guns were firing at them (they cd see / flashes) -

The 4th Divn Bruce did not notice -

B. went back to his line (34 Bn objv).

Later an order came for 34 Bn to support 36 Bn in anyway it cd. They went up onto / top of / ridge to 36 Bn. The 35 Bn had many of them gone right over / hill first thing in / morning & many had bn lost. The rest were in to 36 - 34 now joined in w them & dug in on / Red line or there abt w left flank on Paschendaele village abt 20 or 30 yds from / houses & rt flank down towards the rly.

They hung on there till abt

2.30 pm. At this time orders were recd to drop back on a/c of heavy fire, casualties, & isolation of left flank. They dropped back then onto their first objective, where 10 Bde had started to dig in. They hung on there till nearly dusk when only abt a Coy of 10 Bde was left there.

They were then isolated on left flank of 10 Bde so came back abt another 200 yds to within abt 100 yds of starting pt where they dug in for night. This was 1

positively eventually held.

Coming back everyone was helping some old man, helping them to any empty P/Bs & putting them in there. The mud was worse for 1 people on 1 left.

For 2 days after the S/Bs were scouring 1 hills.

2 days later 2 scripts came in - appthly along the rly.

After the Start Bruce's plz, who had been on the rt was never on 1 rly again. The nearest they were to it was when they went to 1 depot where Jeffries was killed - The rly embankment seemed abt 50 yds away from there. Other guns had been

99

worrying them from 1 ridge - B. doesn't
 know how these were settled.
 It was Capt Richardson who gave
 the order to advance on the 36th.
 He was on top of Ridge - he
 was to the right of B. line.
 B. saw no other officer there of 34th Bn.
 The order to retire from 1 top of
 Ridge seemed to be given by some
 officer on 1 top of 1 Ridge.
 The word was passed down that
 they were retiring.

On the night of Oct 10
 The Bn was camped ~~1 night before~~
 on 1 grass in Cavalry Camp, N. of
 Hellfire Corner. They were supposed
 to have tents but none were there.
 The cookers were bogged & did not
 get up. It was raining - they had to
 rest in 1 long wet grass at night.
 During 1 day they were filling up gear.
 Night of 11/12 they marched up.
 Night of 12/13 they came in.
 Night of 13/14 they marched back
 Hill 40. They got their first rest.

55 Bn.

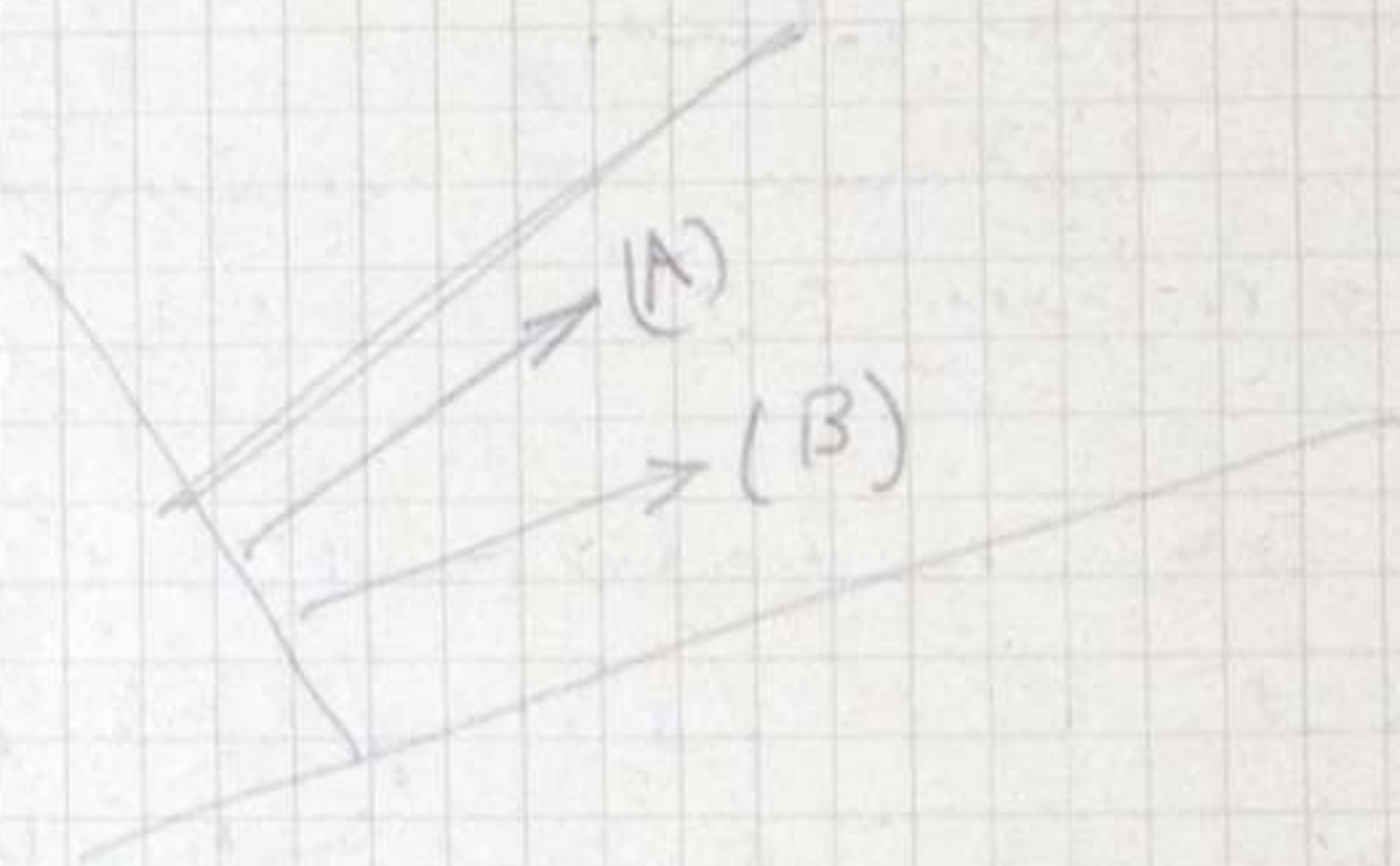
Capt Dixon on rt.

The Rly cuts line from Cavalry
 Camp was v. heavy going. The
 whole Bde marched along it.
 It took $9\frac{1}{2}$ hrs from Cavalry Camp
 to 1 Cemetery. The Cemetery
 was easy to find. They only
 moved at $\frac{1}{2}$ doz steps at a
 time - night was v. back. They
 picked up 1 tape at 1 Cemetery.

On 1 jumping of line they
 were particularly heavily
 shelled - w big stuff. and
 many must have been lost
 here. There were 4 Bn there
 supposed to be one behind 1 other.

The barrage opened at
 5.25 - too early for 1 day wh
 was very dull after heavy rain.

The I.O. line was pretty well at 1st to the Paschendaels Rd. & tended to work in it direct^(A), tho the objve was really (B)



There were only shellholes to lie in and conditions were very bad.

Just at start it was possible to tell 1 barrage from 1 German shelling but not afterwards.

M.G. fire started on them directly they left the I.O. line & many casualties occurred then, esp. amongst 1 Sps. It came from almost straight ahead.

Near 1 Red line on W. side of road was a concrete P/B but m.s. fire was coming from a 2 in rear of it to N of it. The advance was held up there for abt 20 mins. This 2 was finally capt. It had 4 mps in it & abt 30 Gs. The line fired on them for some time & then decided to rush it. It was abt 50 yds away. When 1 German saw our people rushing it they jumped out & held up their hands.

Before this a good many Gs had been sent to rear, from ~~E~~^E of Augustus Wood (30 or 40 of them) from little possies there & shellholes.

(Jefferies fighting was not here - no of 134 Bn was here).

This particular P/B ~~at H28.7~~

was later 36 Bn H.Q. abt 12 c. 1. 9
just NE of 34 Bn line (where 34 Bn
consolidated).

You can't tell where our barrage
was at this time - just odd shells. Most
of the 34 Bn stopped there - 1 line was probly
judged by its distance from J. O. line.
abt 12 Co were capt'd along the Paschendaale
Rd NE of here & many dead & w. were
seen there later.

The other Bns went straight on
irrespective of barrage. Standing on 1 rd
Dixon discussed w a 35 Bn off where 1
barrage was - & none cd tell.

There was no organised opposition
other than shels from Paschendaale Rd
& irregular shelling until near Blue line.
Just past Red line my fire was coming
from direction of Tiber Copse.

Near Tiber Copse abt 12 or 15 Co
were obtained & sent to rear. The my.
fire ceased. A Coy was to be on Dixon's
right, & he (with Centre Coy) just
missed Tiber Copse w his right. The
my. fire ceased as they passed it.

X The offrs who were unhurt here were.

Maj Carr, wd between then & end of fight.

Capt Dixon

Lt Adams (later killed)

Lt Davey - hit by shell debris & knocked silly

Lt D'Arcy - wounded.

Lt Henry reached Blue line but was wd thro' hand & had a bullet groove across his chest.

The remaining casualties occurred on way up.
17 offrs in 1 attack & abt 430 men.

^{killed} Capt Cadell (an exp.)

Capt Amphlett

Lt Elliot

Lt Ditzell (liaison w/ 48 Bn)

Lt Adams

Lt Day

Lt Maine

Lt Levy (m. bel. killed)

Lt Ritchie

Carr

Horne

Prentice

D'Arcy

Henry

Mears

Wyndham

Capt Dixon was 1

only offr who went in who was unhurt

(only 1 heard of from Germans as P.O.W.)

K
W
M

offrs
8
8
1

or
45
208
55

They gradually established their position on approximately the Blue Line - left flank of 36 Bn being on Broodseinde Paschindack Rd (Bns 36 & 35 now mixed) & rt on rly line. I did not notice the old bldgs by grain if there were any. The right got into contact w/ 4th Div on 1 rly line. They reached this spot abt 10 am. They reorganised with 36 Bn on left & 35 Bn on right.

They were now very heavily shelled & were heavily shelled so long as they remained there. X

~~The~~ The Germans could be seen - a good many S. of Rly line & some odd ones N. of it. The Germans were moving abt - I didn't think they were forming for attack. M.g. fire was heavy from S of rly line & some from the Pasch. - Moorslede Rd to left front. I noticed no Germans in P. itself. Abt 2 p.m. after consultation

X On his way back abt 300 yds
to W. of ³⁶Bn Hq he saw a wd
Tommy who had bn shot in 1 leg
& his cap had bn lying in water.
He had bn there for 5 days. He asked
D if he cd do anything for him. Dixon
tried to attract some Snappers
but cdnt. He had to go on - but
they got 1 man next day - by
then he ws practically unconscious.

with Maj. Carr (35 Bn) Capt ^(senior off. 35 Bn) 108
Dixon ws sent back to report to
Maj. MacDowell (acting C.O. 35 Bn) X

On the way to 35 Bn Hq at
Seine House D. met an off. of
10 Bde abt 11 D 7.3 w a
number of men. D asked what he
ws doing there. He sd he had bn
given instrns to retire & take up
anos. positi. D asked him if he
had passed on 1 informant to 9 Bde
on his rt & he sd he had done so.

On arriving at Seine Hq, Dixon
reported this fact to Maj. McDowell
& explained 1 weak positi on
left flank. (Reports had already
bn sent back of the positi by
runner). MacDowell sd he had
reported affairs to Bdier & told
D to wait reply from Bde. Betw.

4.30-5 While D ws waiting Maj Carr

* The men were quite
Exhausted & neither D nor
P cd stand at first this mng.

Oct 3

arrd - abt 4.30 pm. - & informed
Maj. MacDowell th he w his men
had retired from 1 Blue line - [He
sd he saw troops coming back
on his left]

D was instd to go w
Capt Patterson, collect 1 man &
establish a line. Capt P & D.
made ind. towards where they thought
1 man w'd be & arrd just NE (abt
100 yds in advance) of J.A line.
It was then quite dark & they met some
men of 10 Bde & 33 Bn but cd not find
men of 35 Bn. They decided to wait in
a small Sectn of 2, till daybreak
- it was then raining heavily - & cold.
At first dawn^x they collected 1 man mostly
to their right. As far as they cd see they
were 1 only offrs of Bde in 1 line at 1
time - They reorganised 1 line placing

of voluntes to go out w/ Tommy & bring 1 w/ off in. Hot Run & a lot of sent out - we had noticed 1 day before that Germans had been collecting dead & w/ a Red & flag trace Red & find on them. Sullivan was 1 improvised flag above 1 parapet & took 1 stretcher over 1 parapet. He had been sent out to find all 1 h 90 were killed on 1 spot - they went out & brought 1 man in without being fired on. There was a P/B in front from which they used to fire at us. This offi has written 2 or 3 times & is doing well. He had a compound fracture of 1 thigh. One of the 3 offi named Clark of 4th R.S.I. I saw 1st w/ back - since died (4 days out) and 1st offi sent us brought in - since died (4 days out). One orderly who had stayed in 4 weeks got a M.M. 270578 Pte Clark T.W. (Balmory) 1220, 176 Pte Proctor J.H. 8th East Yorks - brought in on Oct 3, w/ 1 other man.

2 35 Bn was now in 4 days. (the reserve men) Capt Connell commanded the portion of 35th in front support (under Maj. Macdonell). The "Morbecque Party" (~~the~~ Nucleus Reserve) was amalgamated w/ 33 Bn. on Oct. 17 in afternoon 4 posts were put out, those on left near the Paschendaele Rd being out near, old Red line - those on right being echeloned back to flank. One w/ man was found.

The night of 18/19 35 Bn was relieved by 5th Yorks & Lancs

On 29/30 Sept, 35 Bn relieved On Oct 2 one of 35 Bn brought an English Tommy to Capt D. He said a man had put his head above a shellhole 100 yds out in C. & word was passed not to fire & the Tommy crawled in. He said his offi. 2/8 am. Yvillie ^{2nd Bn Royal Scots} had been w/ in a stunt 7 days before his leg had been broken & he had been shot into 1 neck. He said an unrecd Tommy had crawled into 1 hole abt 2 days after 1st stunt. They had lived on 1 iron ration of dead man abt them, & had been drinking 1 water of shellhole in which they lived. They had made no attempt to rejoin line as there was a m.g. in a shellhole - one on one side & 1 shellhole on 1 other side was occupied by Germans. Each night at dusk.

I how to bring 1 man in. They got a white handkerchief - pencilled a Red + on it & one of S/Bs named SULLIVAN, F.H. Pte (M.M.) 1921