

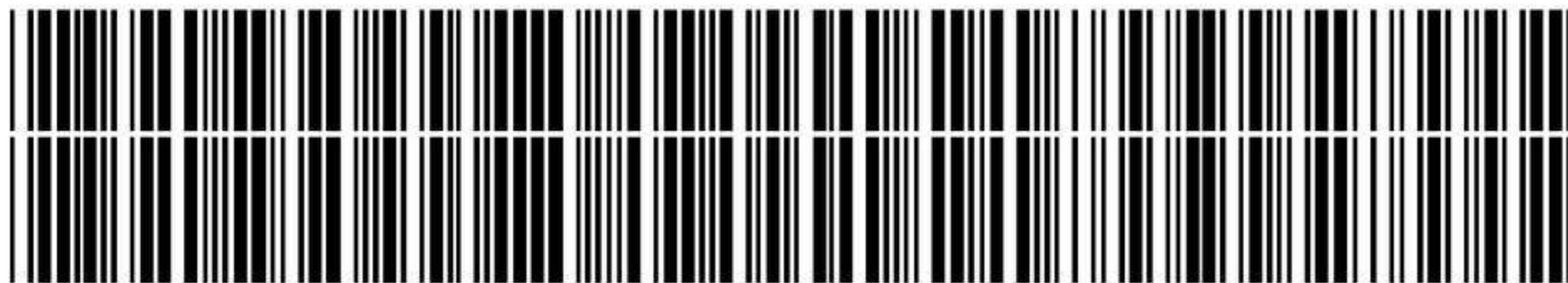
AWM38
Official History,
1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,
Official Historian.

Diaries and Notebooks

Item number: 3DRL606/187/1

Title: Notebook, April - July 1918

Includes sketches, diary entries for 27-28 July 1918 and references to the 9th, 10th and 28th Battalions and No 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.



AWM38-3DRL606/187/1

306

to wells

DADOS

500 Aust Divn

Photo 15 Bde Troopie
at Camp.

Original

DIARY NO. 187

Awm3d

3DEL 606 ITEM 187 [1]

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

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16 Sept., 1946.

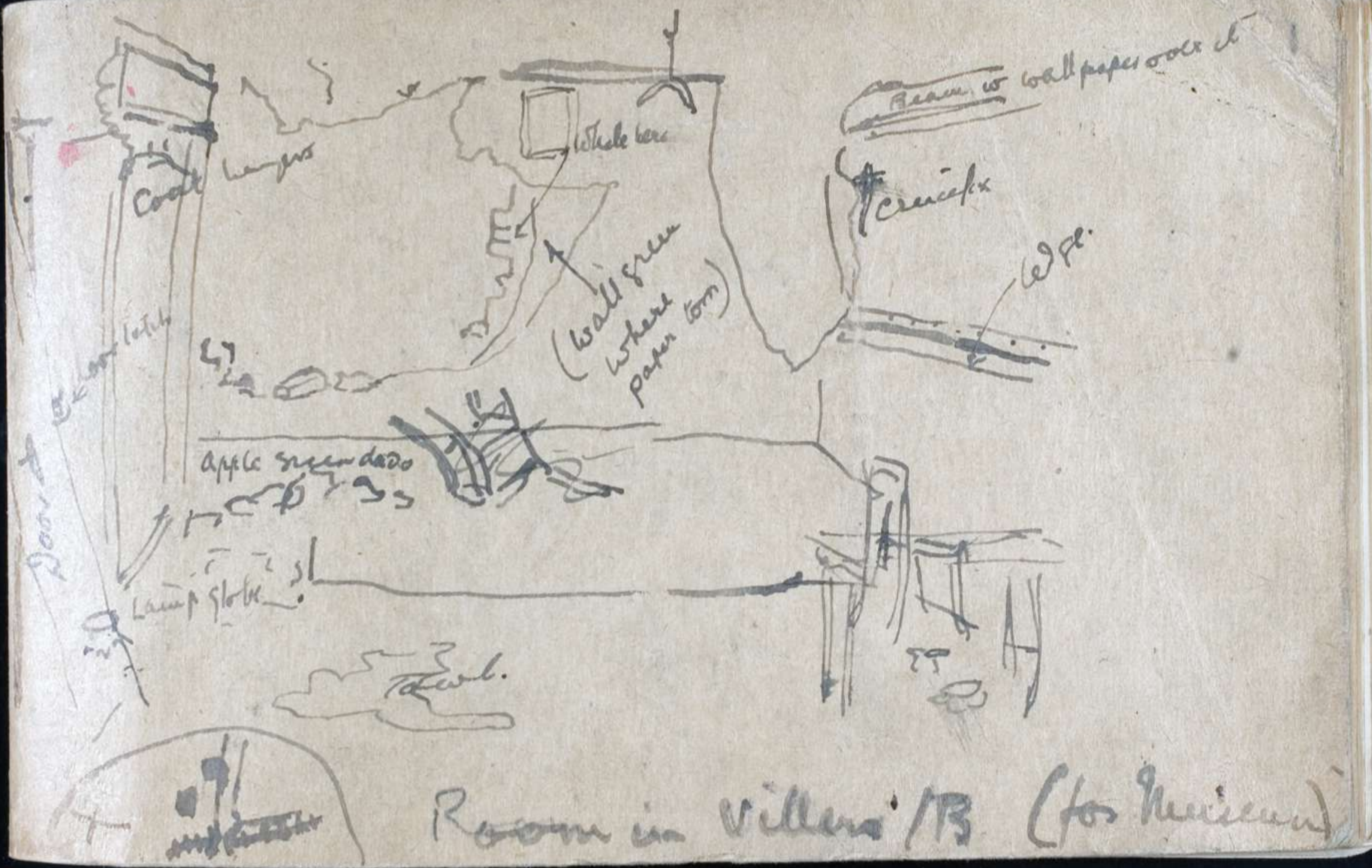
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C. E. W. BEAN.

ACCESS STATUS

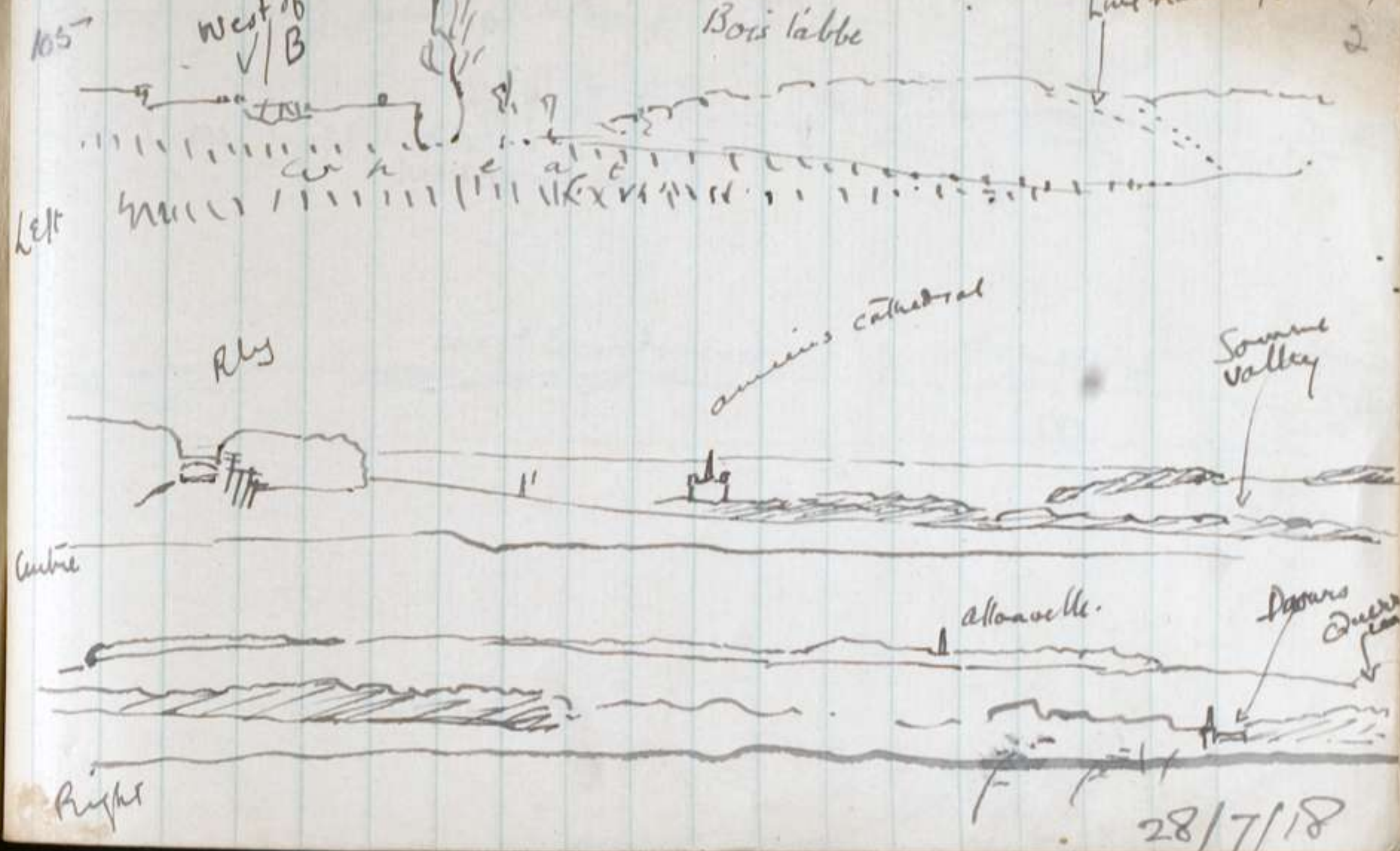
OPEN

Sketches. (on back - Room for Manuscripts)



Room in Villiers' B (for museum)

What the German could see from his position at V/B.



105 From Germ. ^{the G.} position at Hedge junction: - abt 280 yds.
 amies

Hedge 100 yds away

Poplars

Quercus wood behind

Allonville

Beaucourt

Bois d'Escardonneuse

Fauvillers

Lariville

Corbe

Chamney

28/29 July.

53. 1.25 am.
2 plms 430

29
53.
Some 25
pvt
German
2 min
ours.
232 Rest.

29 Bn left
32 R.

In one part 2nd line is within 75 yds. at least
one part tackled by 29 w/s str. pt.
3 mins barrage before 2nd left 2nd + it was a fine
barrage - v. heavy. Art & T.M.S
a lot of 2nd bolted under 1st barrage before
our men left 1st line.
Some waited in 1st 2nd & made a bayonet fight

232 Rest. 227 RIR.

Side step party
w/ + Bailey out
2/3 carrying
Rations

2 lat 72 min 16 on 17 mps 4
53. Have touch. 14/57 20 mps
29 Bn " " "
29 Bn 21 to present.

> abt 500 yds on left 400 yds on rt.
Zero 12.30. Dark - moon later.

German reply fltble on 3 area
but heavier further back. He k. some of his
A/Co 15 mins the barrage - for again -
Guns just on hill.
There is a sap now thro to 3 line within
1 1/2 hrs. By 2.30 Enfs had a sap thro.

20
Shell

abt 1 am. Germans made a attack
20 to 30 Germans came up valley
from Moorlan court valley.
They trained 2 L.S. on them
wh got them.

Some offrs rallied Germans
abt SA 82.

One eny offr w only a
stick took 3 G's x sub had a German
revolver.

12.15 Y. + Rose of G's x

v-u-s-x-2-u-4-2-5

What ✓ G's sd of 3p : MM TMC.

1-2-1-7-0-7-0-2p!

30. Morris. Went up to see Nelson
sent wire. Returned went up to meet
w Glasgow.

28. July. Walk thru V/B

Americans

Handled by TMs

& cheerful sept.

arranged for uniforms

29. 29 Ba scrap.

This' st' venant.

"The Pak & Beans" (off w 157)

Look for Lat - Kappel, Rifle &

Bombs (4 w - 1 x

V. Conservative - Ross also heard it

12.15 Y. - Ross of Co x

v - v - v - v - v - v - v - v

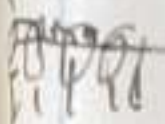
What v' Be sd of 3p : MM TMC.

1 - 1 - 7 - 17 - 20 - 3p!

30. Merris. Went up to see Nelsonian
sent wire. ~~Returned~~ went up to meet
w Glasgow.

105

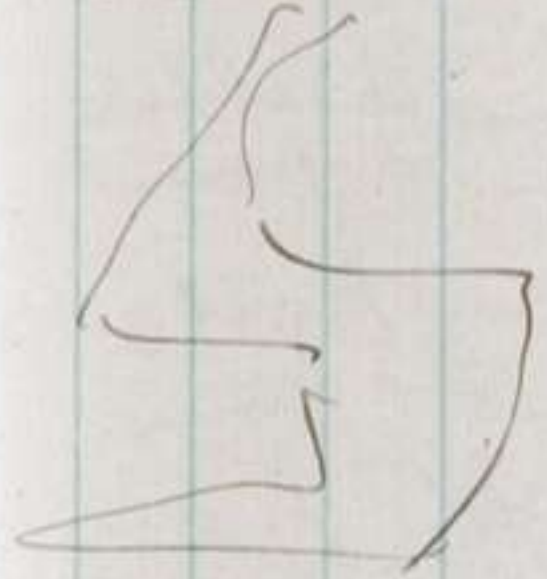
outerstems



Some of our posts
in these trees.

Morris

Strangely



This is the
Old Goat Ranch
running S.
(at 15 (5:3)
9th. (Part B.
23.6.28)

Sketch made from Meteren with
See Glasgow, 3.15 pm. July 30th 1918 - day
Morris was taken by 10 Bn.
(

Patrol
July 11th

1st Bn

No 2 Post: Gaskell saw a man stand up in front of him in 1 night (before July 11 - 10/11)

Front was being patrolled from dawn onwards.

Corporal went out from 3am till 5. from No 2 post

there is a hedge on S. side of rly. The Corp.

kept a lookout from there w glasses
The pln commd from whom they took over had shell holes

(house was occupied) Gaskell & Corp. went out at 3am. & from

a shell hole under 1 hedge alt 50 yds in front
of post threw rifle grenades around 1 house.

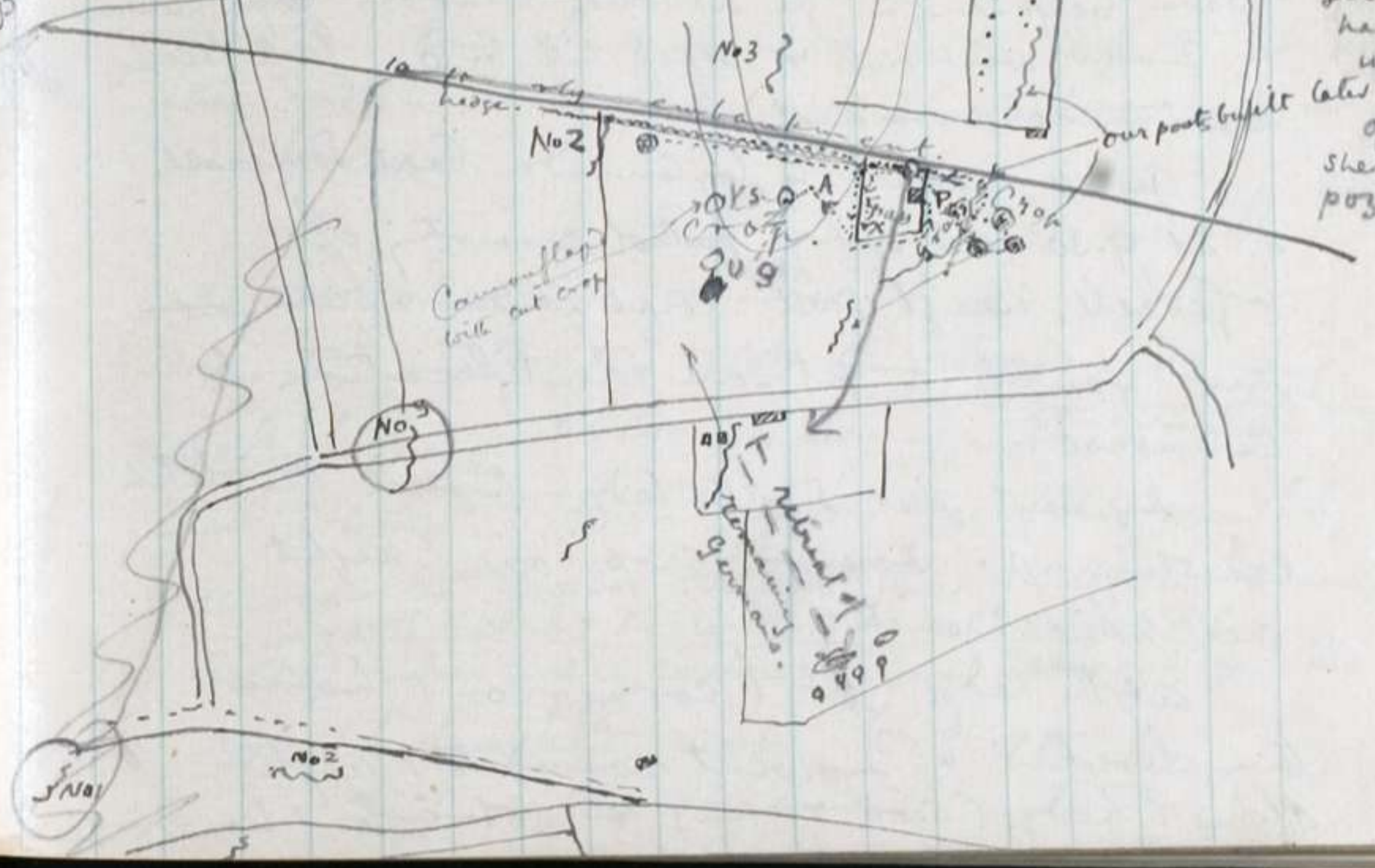
at 8am Lt Bradley of No 3 post told G. that
they had seen Germans getting out of 1 house.

He decided G. to send a patrol out.

After Corp came in Sgt went out (each had
man w them). He went to 1 same place as Corp.

The ~~the~~ view from No 2 Post was bad + they cant see from
here.

so close that he thought he was almost on him. He told Seryt Scott
who went out but told him there was no trace of a man. Doubtless the 9
serman had got into one of the shell hole
pozies.



serman had got into one of the shell hole pozies.

When Sgt came in the 3rd Patrol went out. Cpl. London & 2 men went out & stopped till 8.30. (All these reported no movement).

Gaskell reported to Coy Comd. Capt Somerset & at 9.30 took out a patrol consisting of Gaskell, Sgt. Scott, Cpl. London & one man. They wanted to get some identification from the house.

They went just S. of the hedge through the ditch crawling up. There was crop on (right) shellholes thro' it.

at the hedge at corner of house they divided & 2 went round to right along hedge (Scott & man) & got into house

from back. The other 2. (Gaskell & London) covered them from the hedge ind. N of the house. (They had 4 bombs each, 2 or 3 bandoliers each & a rifle each).

The house had been occupied recently - they only found a number of old cards.

S. instructed Scott to clear 2 or 3 big shell holes just beyond house ^{wh. could be seen from where they were.} They crawled thro' crop & found no one there. (They crawled across the grass to reach these shell holes & into ^{The ground was dark & the embankment prevented view from NE} crops). They were covered from same place. The shellholes had never been occupied.

They came as marked to X

& lay up at the corner of hedge, Scott
 keeping a look out to S, & G. to W. They
 thought they saw a post at Z. There was thrown
 up earth & they almost at 1 same time
 not earth thrown up on either side of it.

They all crawled out in file to A &
 then G. left London & the man there to cover
 them & he & Scott went on and took 1
 post. By getting a head above 1 crop you
 could see 1 post. (These 2 men had to look
 out for their rear mostly). By 1 time they

Got there they were sure it was a post
— 1 Germ. had been using 1 crop as
a latrine.

Men G. & Scott crawled up right to
the back edge of the crater without being
seen. When ^GScott put their heads over 1
parapet. they saw 2 Germs & a m.g.
One Germ. supposed to be on guard was
squatting down in 1 post talking to 1
other man who was lying on 1 bottom
of 1 shell hole. G. & S. pointed their revolvers

at 1 German who scrambled up to their feet & held their hands up. The sentry had a revolver strapped on him in a leather case. They were very astonished.

G. asked them where 1 other post were. They had started to call out *Merci merci* & had to be ~~be~~ threatened to stop noise.

They pointed to 1 post at U wh G. was uncertain of till then. The post at X he was certain of because it was camouflaged with cut crop.

15

15

G. took the two prisoners out at back
 of post to the two men who were at
 A. They carried their gun w them & as soon
 as they knew what we wanted were
 very ready to do it.

G. decided to rush the other two
 posts together, he taking one & Scott
 the other. They crept out to S. & G. &
 then G. gave the S. Sgt. a signal by waving
 his hand & they rushed them - abt 10 yds

to go. This time both posts fired a shot. Scott fired a couple of revolver shots + Gaskell 2 others + hit the Sgt mas. thro 1 wrist. There were 4 men + Scott's post + 7 + the C. S. M. in Gaskells.

After that they gave up.

G. didnt throw a bomb as he didnt know who else might be abt - but a shot they wdnt notice.

They hurried these prisoners (most crawling) thro 1 crop into our post.

Our front.



While these prisoners were being taken in 1
 Germans were sniping from 1 houses at T.
 but hit no one. The prisoners were
 then taken over the ridge line to Coy HQ.

The Coy Commander said to all shell
 holes were then to be cleared.

G. took out Scott London & 3 men -

They worked the whole front half way down
 to 1 road - taking 1 shellholes from 1 front - They
 were simply observers etc living in these
 shellholes.

These men were living in shellholes organized like that on 1 previous page & were v. well hidden w a W.P. sheet over the entrance. They were 1 crew o 1 gun & probly stood to.

In each post (Z Y + U) a gun had been found mounted, pointing towards 1 front, L.M. Co.

They got 18 prisoners in this way
end trip - 32 altogether & 3 guns.

10⁵

20

This finished the patrolling. One man
was hit thro the abdomen by a
sniper from the house at T.

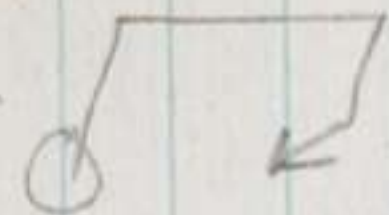
^{London}
~~Scott~~ & 2 men remained at house
to make sure it remained ours.

At 5 pm. 3 guns went up there
from No 2 post.

From there they covered the
flank of attack on the two houses
at T. We worked by No 3 Post

105

As shown



The mig. in house at T. was
only firing in a N W direction ↙

21

June - July 1918.

4th Bn patrols.

went out w Pte Macdonnell
Lieut R.F. Taylor was in charge of first patrol (following
on 2nd Bde patrols). He was I.O. 4th Bn.

He took out a raid at 11 am. next day.

w Pte Macdonnell next day & day after
Lieut. Thomas went out ^{later} at same post.

I was held up by wounding of Sergt w a bullet
(Sergt Grant). Cpt. Pearce went to get ^{the} rest of the row wd too.

Next time in on July 11 they worked from
post to post Lt Barney Allen (original P.O. of O.C. Coy
was standing in post when he was got by exp. thru thigh

2/Lt Diamond & Sergt Inguine (D.C.M.). who deserted
from 4th Bn in England to get here.

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16 Sept., 1946.

C. E. W. BEAN.

28 Bn. July 9. 187

27 Bn had got into 21 N. of Rhy on July 8.

At 7 on morning of July 9 Gen Wisdom met Col. Currie at point where our front line crosses the rhy & told him to be had leave to take 1 Monument Wood.

Col. Currie went back & saw Lt Cockburn, Scout offr. & he sd he was sure 1 thing cd be done. He & 11 souls were to form 1st bombing ply - (each 6 bombs) & Lt Liveday & 6 men the left ply (from Coy Rhy) were to creep out in 1 crop wh goes to within

20 or 30 yds or 1/2 & then rush over the clear space beyond

- zero hour was to be 3 p.m.¹⁰⁵
from 1 way in which men could
walk about there during 1
day it was pretty sure that
this could be done.

The creep was standing
green. They crawled up to
1 edge till Cockburn could see
through - They had to wait
about a minute (at
2.55 the Gun Newtons had
fired a few shots into 1
monument to keep
down 1 heads of any
Germans there in case
they might see).


At 3 p.m. C. gave them
1 word to go.

They jumped into 1
right out 1 m.g. post. ^{U.S.}
They knew 1 post was fairly

close. A limber was ⁷⁰⁵
just there in wire.

The gun was in a bivouac
in a cover. The crew
were just disappearing
down 1 trench towards
1 monument.

Part of the party
went down 1 trench
on 1 left & then to
right down 1 support
trench - the trenches
were clearly heavily
manned at night.

The 2 German left trench
 petered out so
this party came
back to 1 rest. ~~At that~~

The 2 German were still
running, ahead - thro ¹⁰
5

105

a gap in 1 wall -
the Germans in 1 Monument
probably got news of 1
attack from them, for
they ran. There was no
noise at all. The
Germans were seen
some of them running
S. of the Hedge towards
the N. W. corner of it.
Cockburn searched all here
for 1 trench marked on 1
map but found no
trench at all - only
1 ditch behind 1 hedge
into wh 1 Germans had
dug a number of
"bivvies". He ^{had} waved (from the
road) to 1 front line, & 1 ₂

men there on 1 left
came over & occupied
1 German support line as
our front line, at once.

(The left party meanwhile
had been moving down to 1
left, & a party of an
NCO & 4 men came
across 1 rly from 1
left - a little late. They
noticed 1 German sentry
in 1 trench & he noticed
them - but finding the
others coming down 1
trench behind him he
cleared -)

Our right party,
not finding any trench,
ran along behind 1 hedge

105

as fast as it cd &
suddenly a shower of
bombs fell on them
from 1 corner of 1 ledge,
& killed one man.
The Germans also sniped
one of his men. They took
cover & bombed 1 German but 1
German bomb outranged
ours & they took to
ground. ~~They~~
One of 1 rifle party, a
rifle grenadier, who
was pretty well puffed,
came up. A couple of
Germans had been shot by
our men who were lying
on 1 top in 1 short grass
- there were prac. no
shell holes. Luckily 1 German

106

105-

had no m.f. a bomb
from 1 rifle grenade burst
behind them & they ran -
our people followed them
& worked ^{down through} to the tank -
Cockburn put up 1 white
rag - a half a signal flag -
on the tank; this was 1
signal for the rest of the
men in our front line to
come over - wh they did.
Our right party pushed
on down 1 trench & saw
a couple of Germans running
away down it -

Two blocks were
put in about 50 yds past
1 tank. There was any
amount of ammo for L.Gs.
lying abt - & 15 mms of 48⁰⁰

were found & identified ^{on}
by their paybooks.

The white rag was up
on 1 tank within 24
mins of 1 start.

The germ. fired a white
flare N of Rly shortly
after 1 fight began.
This brought 1 germ barrage
down. It began abt 4.30
& lasted till after 6 - on 1
dead ground on our side
of 1 slope (The 4th Aust. 13B
were of course dug
a little on our side. The
german 2y was the summit.)

3 mps. were taken.

Our people went out at
once into 1 Monument

House Souveniring. Patrols were



105

fired on in 1 wood from ⁵ Syria 2 - but 1 ruins hid men going up so far as 1 house.

There were 2 deep dugouts below 1 cellars - the cellars were still intact. There was no telephone in 1 cellars but beds & chairs. It seemed to have been used as an office once - there were two entrances to it & several rooms. one of which contained a piano. The remains of the papers of 1 English H.Q. who once was here, were still in 1 place.

The whole loss was 1 k. 2 wds.

At mid night 1 firmament ⁱⁿ

105-

lined up a composite party to do 1 attack. On 1 night they were reported as a working party & were reported as digging in. A L.G. dispersed them. (A young German was wd & lay out next day till 3pm. When our S/Bs brought him in & we then found out that they were lining up for a 1c/attack & that 1 of rest had run away.

On the road a bomb wounded 1 whole & 1 Garrison of one post near 1 corner of 1 brick wall. This post gave & so did 1 one on its right. Stops were

Serpt Freddie tells me: a chap came along to tell me that the Germans were in 1 trench - he had seen ^{some} men falling back there anyway. ^{- 3 of them} I got two men to come with me & we crawled out - it took us about an hour to go forty yards. When we got to where 1 post was, I ~~called~~ called: Are you there? When no one answered I called again - Who's there?, looedes No one answered still - but we looked up & saw 2 men coming down along the wall - just coming through it - They were coming to cut us off, around our left. They had German helmets - I let them have it, a bomb & then two other bombs to follow. We didnt go in because there was a post of G Coy further along. They always sent a man every hour to keep touch w us & this man hadnt come along at all - so we didnt know if there were not more Germans further along. But in 1 mg they had all gone.

Col. Currie's a/c. (Serpt Freddie is about.)
 put in on either side of them.
 The Serpt ~~of~~ of H Coy Serpt Freddie*, who was coming along without knowing of attack noticed a man standing near his road or hedge. He shouted at him. The man replied in language wh Freddie did not understand. F. threw a bomb & that finished 1 attack - the Germans cleared out & we reestablished our line.
 There were a few more casualties to night.

Morlaucourt 28 Br ¹⁰⁵⁻

3 Coys took part in 1 assault

C D A
Capt Drakely Lt Gaby Capt Hammond.

B carrying
in close supp.

A Coy & 1 others were all in
position in 1 front line 24 hours
before 1. attack. C. T. Collins
St.

$\frac{3}{4}$ hr before zero A Coy were
withdrawn from 1 front line
to a J.O. 2 close in rear
so that 1 German Post near
cd come under 1 banay.

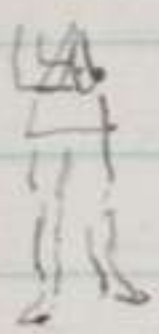
The 6 in & Stokes mortars

barreled⁹ posts around 13⁰⁵⁻ Centh
when 1 barrage opened they
all got out of trench
(states driven in etc) &
went out as close as
possible to 1 arty barrage
wh was very good
on 28 Bn sector (Aust Arty)
-50 or 60 yds from it. They
followed it to 1 obje.

On 1 extreme pt near
1 Bony Corbie Rd there was
some opposition from inf. fire.
Lt Cobbold & 2 or 3 others were
k. The advance was
temply held up. Corps Seymour
& Pt Horton moved round
to a flank & rushed 1 gunner
from 1 rear. They found him
w his gun over 1 parapet ^w
but his head below - ⁸⁰

105-

firing his gun. w his
hand above his head
They k. him. The rest
of Coy under Capt.
Hammond got their objve.

 Hammond went a
long way ahead of his
men & when the
shells fell too close
he put up his hand &
stopped them. He got into
1 German & ~~fell~~ before
his men — swung his revolver
round at 1 German w his
whole arm & all 20 of them
surrendered. ~~He~~

(Meysey # Hammond)

[His arm was paralysed from
a wound at Heris].

Meysey Hammond joined⁰⁵
the bn as a private from
Broom way. He had a
row w his father at 13
over a girl he was fond of
& went to sea - he never
saw his parents again -
he was running a schooner
at Broom & his language
was reminiscent of it.

"Make fast A Coy."
He was an idol to 1 men.

His Coy connected w/
25 Bn on 1 night

Centre Coy overcame
all oppositu & got easily
into positu.

The two left plus of
C Coy overran them
about to extent of several F

105

hundred yds & were
out of touch for some
time. They were afterwards
(before midnight) brought
back onto their obje.
There was a moon (look
this up phase of this)

At 2.30 C. Coy was
withdrawn from front
line & placed in support
acc. to plan. This left
A & D Coys over whole
frontage. They were in
a continuous Y-
German 2nd line.

There were 3 C. attacks:

1. at 12 p.m. The Germans
bombed up a C.T. ^{leaving} into what
was now our front line. F

The leader we shot -
they didn't get past our
block - & 1 rest cleared.
One of our men shot him
& got a M.M.

At 2 am. there was
or 2.30
another - 2 Coys being sent
over top. We didn't
know, till one of 1 prisoners
told us, & it was on. The
Germans didn't come at it.
Only 3 reached us & were
capt. One small German
who was taken gave us
this information.

At Daylight the Germans
were massing for an

attack 500 or 600 yds
away. The LOS was not
put up, but we got
only on to them &
1 attack never came
off. The Germans were
forming abt 1 x Rd
thru 14 B & D.

The 28th Bn in this
included 2 offrs 173 G.I.
in the 2 lines. The Germans
were all crouching down
in 1 trench & our men
were in on them before
they expected - our men
got thro' thro' being so
close to 1 Barrage.
we got 10 m.p. & 2
L.T.M.s Our casualties^F

for the 9 days (5 before
attack & 4 after) were
under 90. The pioneers
dug a C.T. that night.

7 Queensland
- Callaghan Lt. Cobbold keen advance
Lt Blythe N.M. mortally wd
Shortly after Objv reached.
Lt Goullée D Coy sniped dead
at daylight next m.

Lt Macdonald }
Farquharson } C Coy Both wd
in 1 advance
Just before dusk next evg. June 11,
Capt. Hammond was wd
thro 1 abdomen ^{thro liver} when
visiting one of his outposts.
He died a couple of days
later at Vignacourt. As he
was going away he sd to 1
CO. "keep 1 old flay flying, Sir" F
F

to woods of D Coy we wd ⁰⁵⁻
2 or 3 days later.

We got hot cocoa from the
Ymca ^{rooms} in 1 German objective
3 hours after its capture.

The carrying ply had to go down
to Bu H. Ops for these. Carrying
ply of B. Coy under Lt Edmondson.

12 mins after 1 barrage had
lifted from 1 objective the Coy Comdr
of D Coy rang the CO. up from
1 German support line & reported
that he had consolidated his
position.

(PTO)

Capt Meysy Hammond.

9.45pm. Fine weather - just dusk - Sun had just gone down behind our position
 Crop - wheat - for abt 50yds; then grass; then clover before the German trench. There was only a little trip wire. M.H. went over in 1 centre of 1st wave. Most of barrage was shapnel about 50yds away - a little H.E. bursting further back. Very clear evening - no clouds. After passing 1st objective

(posts) The guns put a smoke barrage
on 1 final objective (every other shell
a smoke shell). When near the German
if they cd see the parapet - brownish
Earth thrown up thro the clover -
trip wire. Tho' 1 smoke abt half a
dozen to a dozen Germans cd be seen
running away over the top.
A few German m.g. posts were holding
the trench.

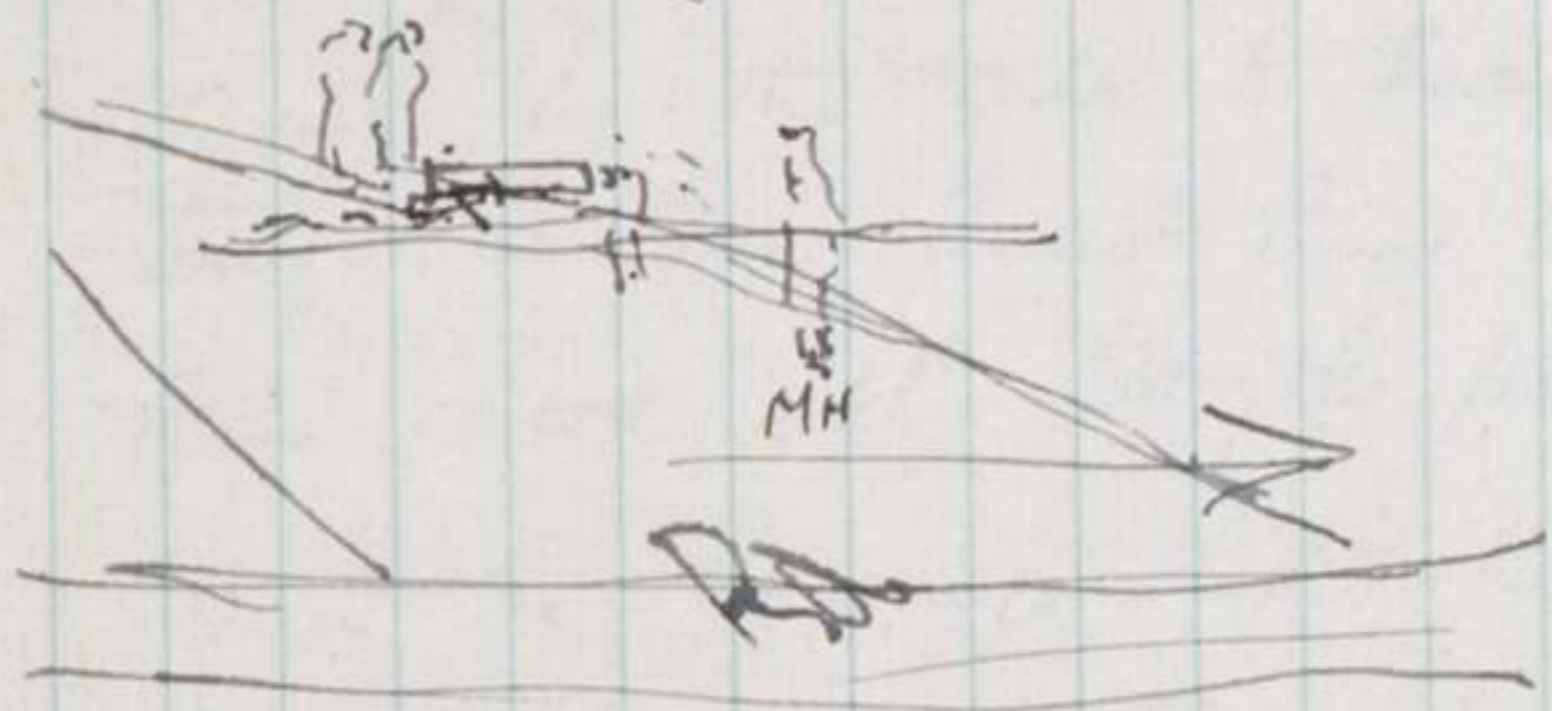
M. Hammond started with a stick
in his left arm wh he carried with
two khaki supporting bands. The
sleeve of his rt arm was rolled
up to 1 elbow - later on he
carried a revolver (taken from 1
Jerns in 1 first post) in his rt
hand.

It was 2 to 10 when they jumped

105-

into 1 final German trench.

49



M.H. stopped 1 line several times!

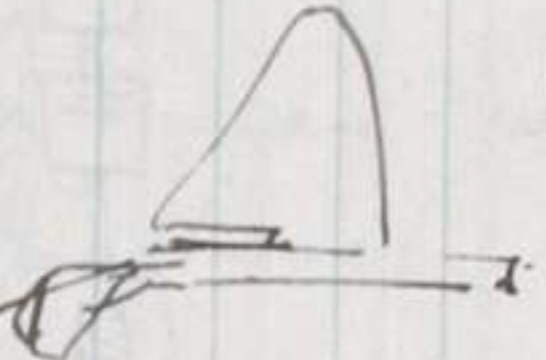
way over - working w his watch in
 his hand & walking w his back
 to 1 German. He held his stick
 high in the air to ~~stop~~ the line
 twice. The last time he stopped
 them was abt 30yds from the objective.
 When the barrage lifted he waved his
 stick & gave them the word to
 charge. The m.f. was firing during

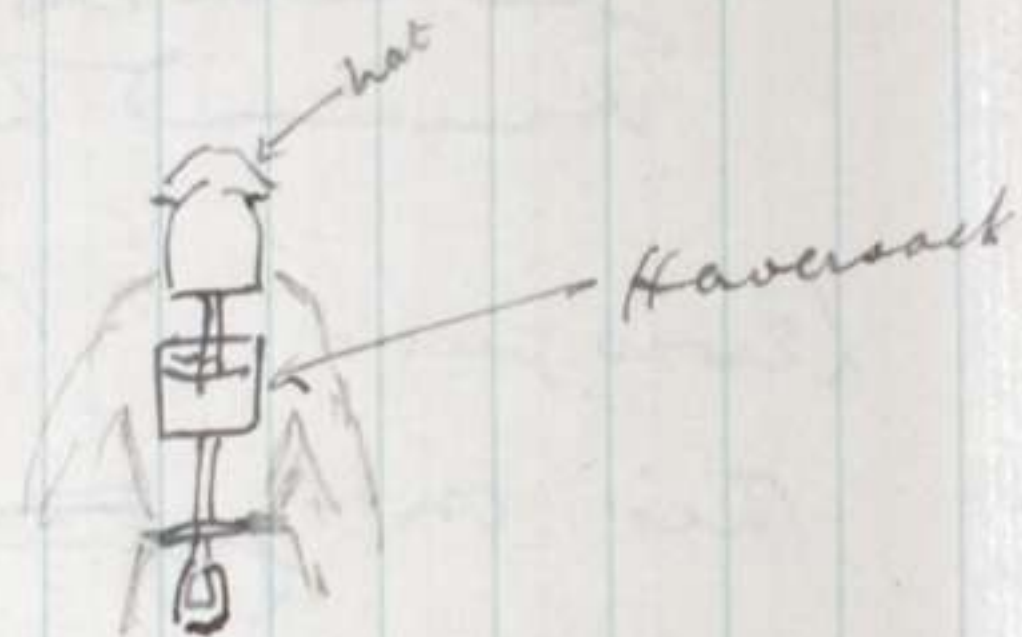
105-

51
The time when he stopped 1 man.
Whenever he stopped 1 line they
got down - M. Hammond stood
up ^{abt 1/2 min.} all 1 time - Just as they got
up to rush the wife gave a burst
& it caught Lt Cobbold who was
on 1 left of Capt Hammond &
5 other men were killed by it.

The guns were then firing
abt 400 yds beyond 1 trench.

52
Gas helmets were at the alert.
Hammond had no glasses.

105-
Lewis guns were carried like
this on  a sling & one
of them just on the rt of Hammond
was firing at the Germans running
away. The men were in battle
order - The rifles were being carried at
the high port - bayonets fixed.



The German baggage was down
on ours by almost midnight after our
men left it.

Each man was carrying either
a pick or shovel exc. L. gunners.
The shovel is slung with the blade
at the back of neck, handle down.
Ind. behind Capt. Hammond were
two signallers with a reel.
They had sandbags strapped onto the

105-

belt behind them. On either side of the
L-gunner wd be 2 or 3 men with panniers
& one man w spare parts. (one in front & one behind)

Signallers wd just have their
boxes over their shoulders, slung.

Germans were putting up red
& white flares well back.

Away to the left might
possibly be seen a bit of the top
of the village. Not burning.

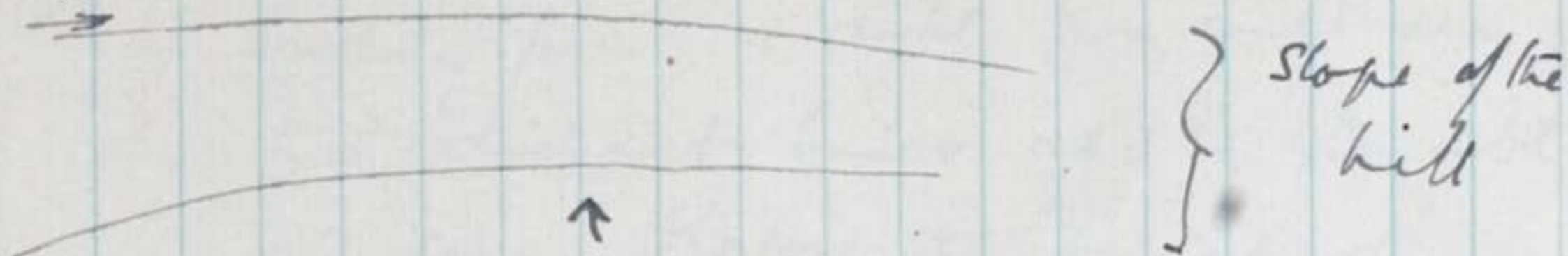


Man w spare
parts is always
next to gun



Carries
them slung
over the
shoulder

So



on the right, abt 200 yds from the
objec, along the Bray Corbie Rd, were
a row of ordinary trees - well knocked
about by artillery.

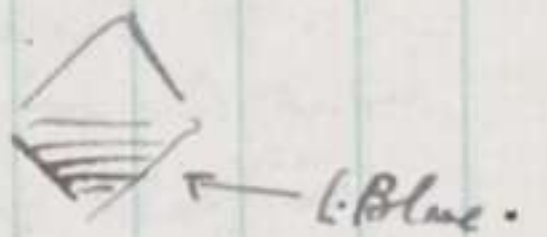
No man at all to night.

There wd be at this time abt a man every 2 yds
- naturally the intervals wd be irregular - some bunched etc

looking from the right you could see
~~two~~ distinct lines at 25 yds abt.
 - 2 coys. Before the final objective
 these were one line. you cd
 also see the trench running
 down hill to left for abt 200 yds.
 trench 2-3 ft wide & abt 2 to 7
 ft deep - abt 6 ft by 2 in 5.

Germans in their steel helmets.
 we had 2 rifle grenadiers to a pln.

All tin hats were covered & they had their colours in many cases on the left side of them. Capt W. Hammond had a diamond on his hat just 1 same (painted on).



No 3 Sqn A.F.C.

4 Blies engaged by impromptu call.

17 Blies neutralised

arty patrols 23.

The dawn contact patrols 3. (1 No/Somme 23)

C-attack patrols 11-4

Plates exposed 108.

140 Bombs dropped — one blew a kitchen

5 Blies 11,800 rd fired.

Zone calls 80.

79 hrs 5 mins in air.

The machine was attacked at 9 am
once by 2 Scouts & later by 3. One was seen to fall
crash & another went down out of control.

1051

At a week ago Lt Gould Taylor came out
seen at a 2 seater & only fired 2 shots at him
- he fell in flames.

61

2/15 Tamm (just promoted) was advancing

of the Bn. (Meleren)
2/15 Tamm (just promoted) was advancing
(On the night Meleren was taken)
from D Coy - just left post
when one of our men dropped
a Mills bomb out of the cup
discharger - he tripped over
a wire. The pin was out
of bomb. Tamm made
a dive at bomb & caught it
& dropped it again - (tripping
over / same wire). He
picked it up again & held
out it on / ground - it
blew his right hand off
& injured his head. None of
others were hurt.

Son of Russell was Corporal grandson of Clark Russell
to Russell (who was afterwards
killed sitting in his dugout shelter
having dinner - hit on head
by a fragment). He went out
a few days before this 5/15

went into an empty G. ¹⁰⁵
 post. He found some
 grenades there; also a G. cap
 discharger & some Mills bombs.
 He took detonators out,
 brought in other grenades -
 & at dusk went out w
 Serp & 2 men to 1 same
 post. Lay up near by but
 as Gp. didn't come Serp & 2
 men were sent off to look
 for them. The Gp came home 1
 back - 10 of them. Russell
 & 2 men tackled them - k. 4
 & rest ran. They got identifying
 found 1 dead man. Russell w/ k Halting
 his dinner. The flight after midday fragment of shell in
 on day 9 down took Mellum 9 Bn got
 101 C. 20 mps. 2 H.T.M. several
 Rifles & cap discharger. his
platoon
etc.
 only 25 men lost at day 5 k 20 used
 140 in course of 3 days (20 passed by our Gp.)

our 1st Divn is now (July 27)¹⁰⁵⁻
holding a One Bde front with
"a penny old Bde" (mostly B class
men) on its left holding a v.
narrow front. They put this old
Bde in for 6 days & relieve it
w another British Bde.

The idea is to let 1st Aust
Divn relieve itself — & so
keep it in the army.

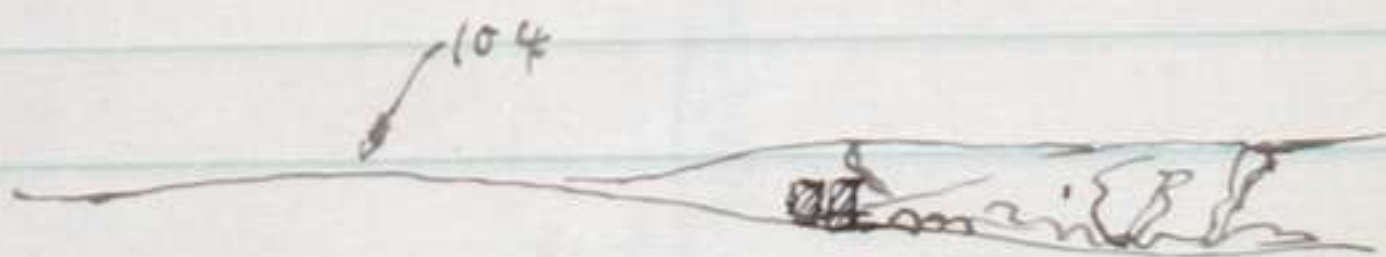
July 27 to 1st Div Russell Bay
July 28. 95
105

to Gallett to V/B.

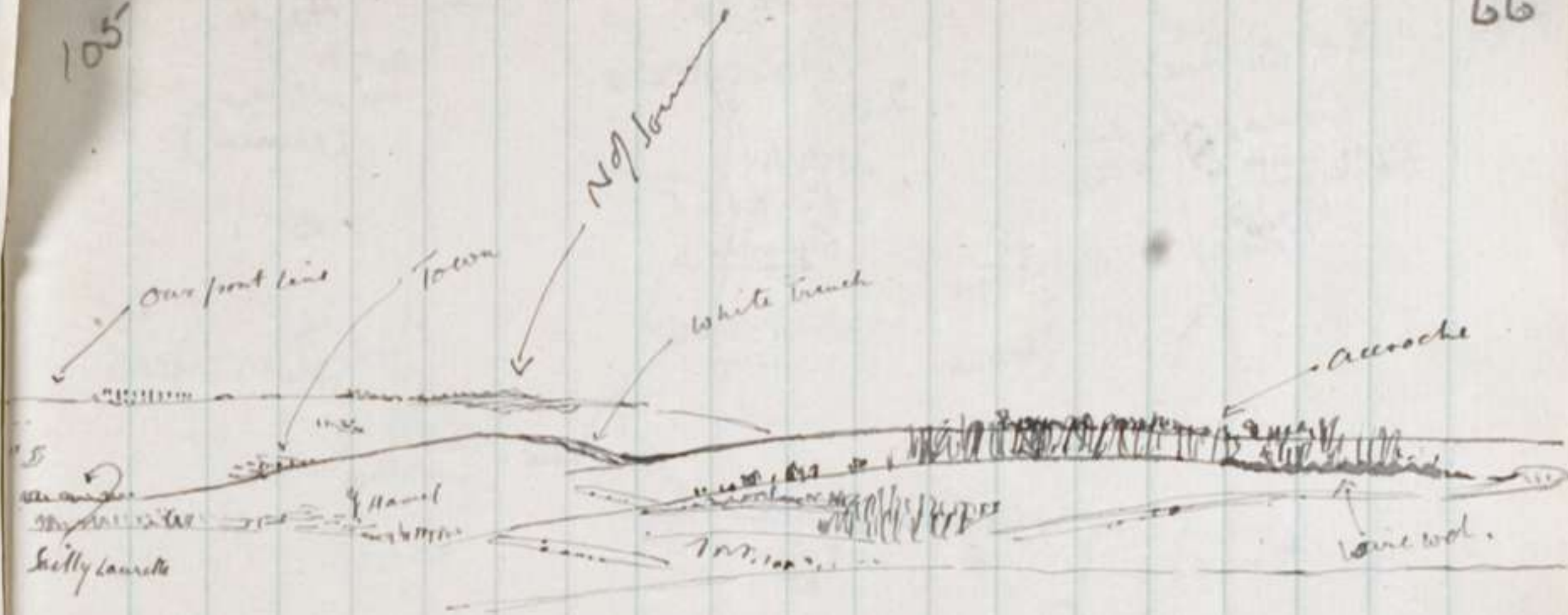
They tell me: 15k
go his attack ^(w/ 14 Bde) suddenly cancelled
in order to preserve troops.

At 4 hrs notice brought on eye
- but as 14 Bde had sideslipped, 8 Bde
was to do whole show.

14 Bde all to attack in order
not to disappoint 53 Bn. who had
originally been going to take part in
the main attack. As they haven't 200 guns
their attack is 3/4 hr later. Men are all keen.
we are to take over a
bit of French line.



Views from Hamel of Corbie:
What Germans see. 95



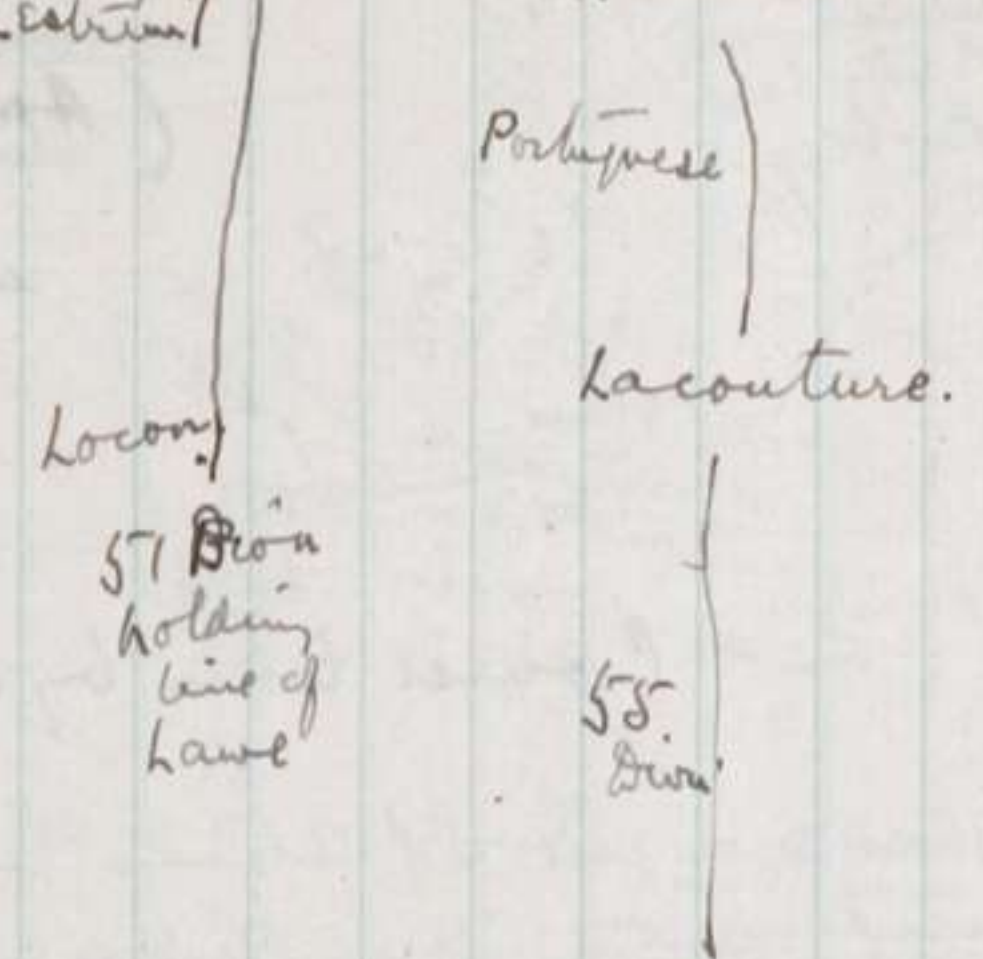
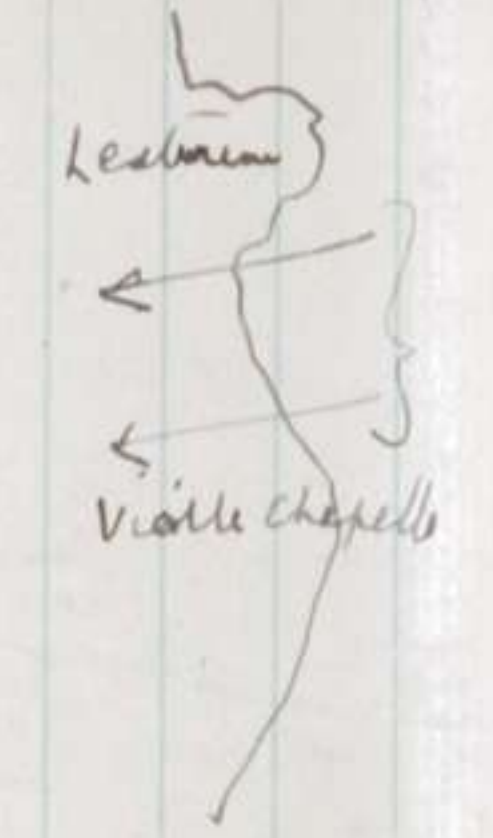
28/7/18.

View from Hill 104 (SE end of it)
looking towards Stamell & N of some



153 Bde in process of being withdrawn.

Demolished two the warwicks.



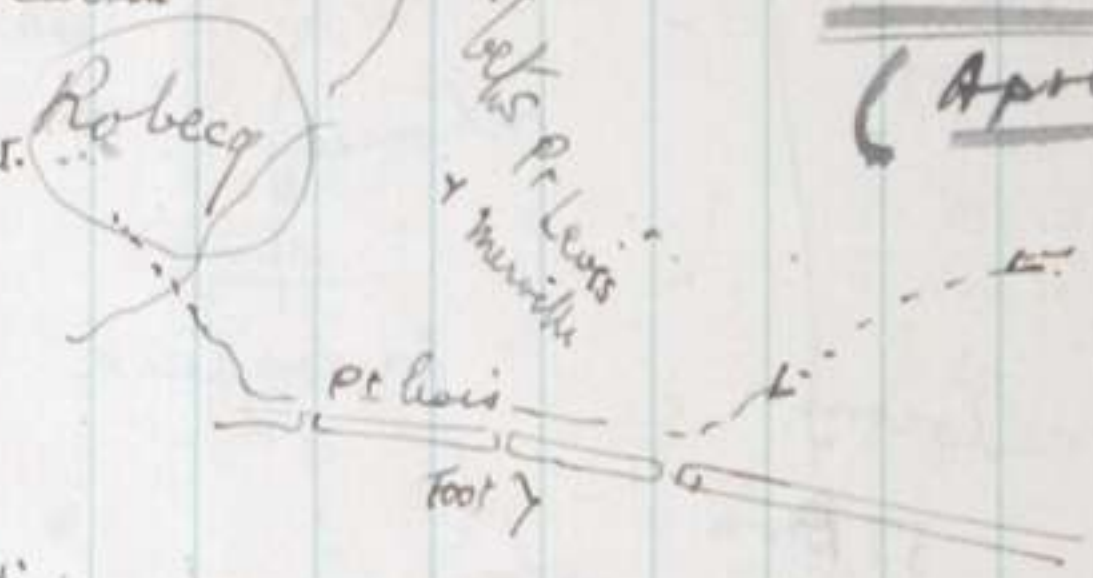
Retreat of British after Portuguese defeat at Laventie.

9. 5:00 am. First on rail of Canadians.
 10. ordered at 10 noon to move to Langlais. 3:15 pm. 7. 6. → J. went to Berlin for night.
 meet battery walking out here! off Carrin

5:45 when Germans first appeared at HQ.

Apr. 11. at Ham. Rte to St. Div. Head Pacaut some 7-7-2000 near Beauregardles Jm. Robecq put back into work.

Bde brother → Apr. 12.



Course taken by Col Lloyd.

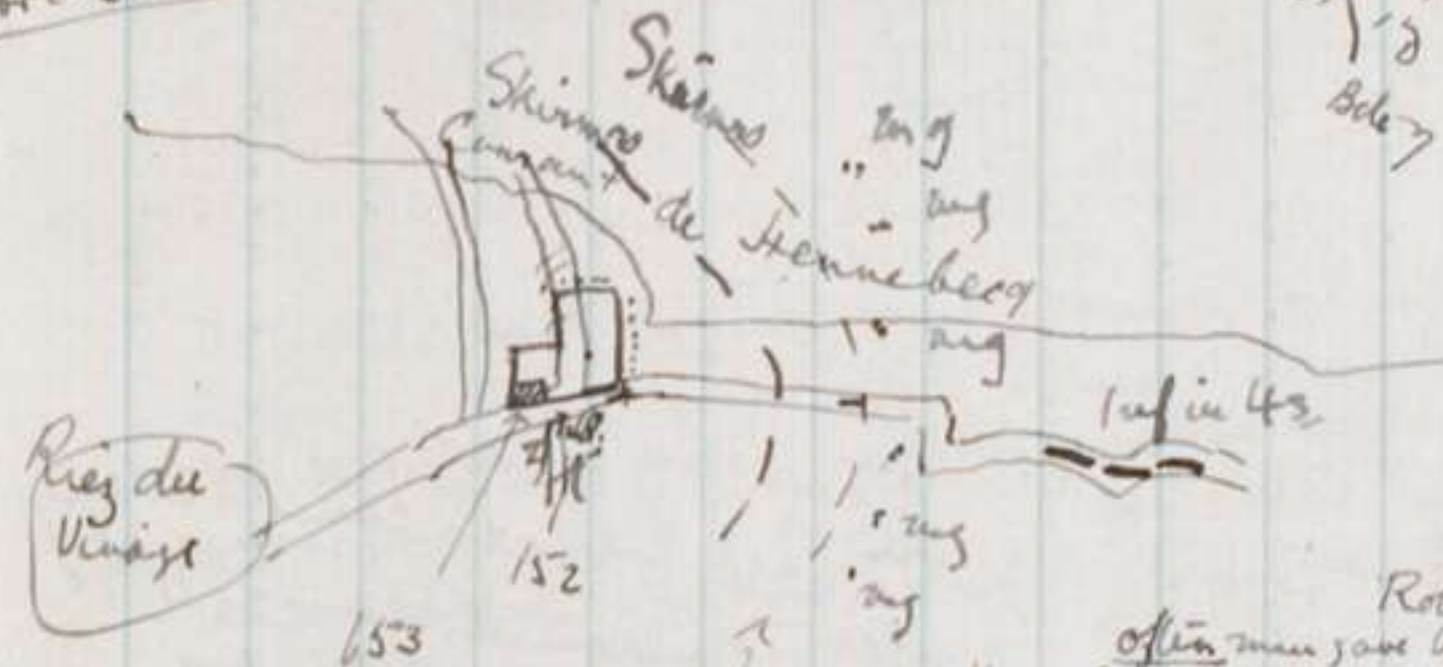
Bde were just S of Abancourt W of river. They rendezvoused in Buissines.

1st went into action at Buissines

Then Chateau de Quessoy. (night of 12 Apr) 13 Apr. moved to Aqueduc à Siphon. Night 14/15. moved into behind Robecq. (Woit). On morning of 15 Apr. Germans all 1st Corps.

11th Army Bde AEA
Under XI Corps!
 (April 1918)

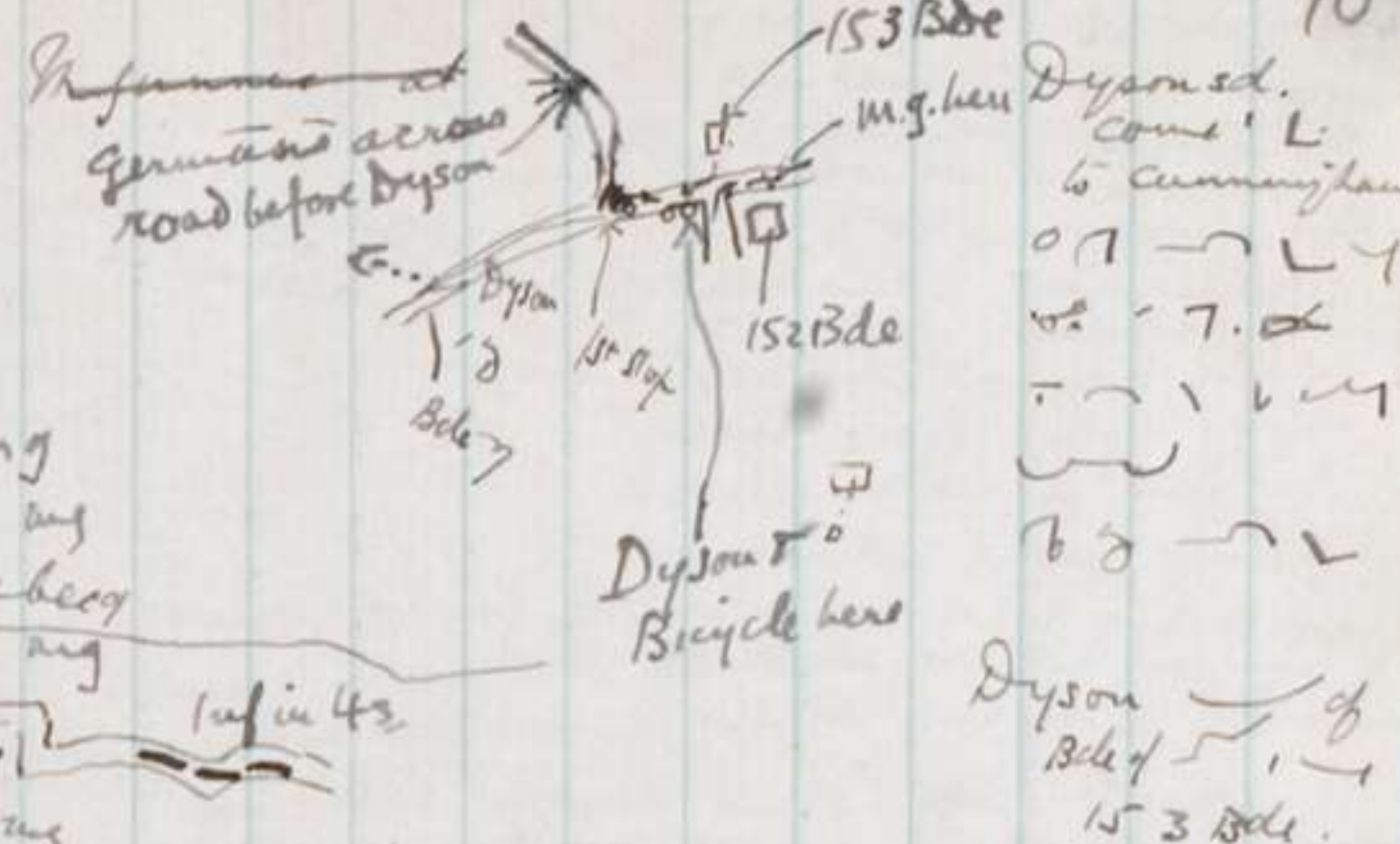
Flashpotting system for self protection.
 4.2 Bde
 4.2 Bde



Position of Bde HQs.

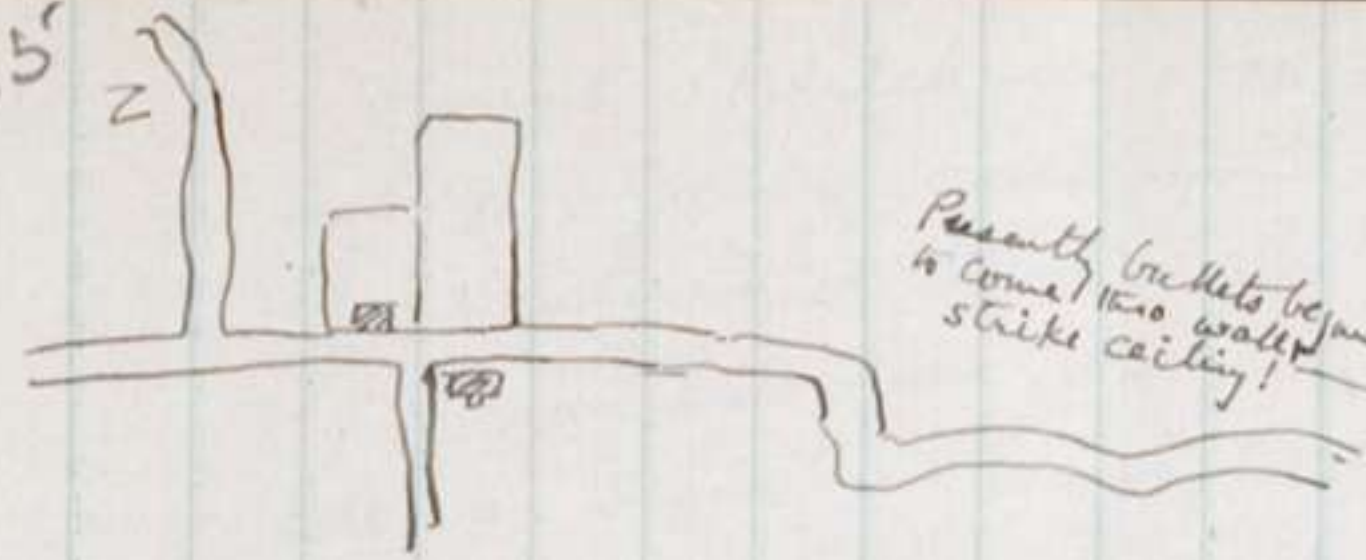
2 long lines of Skirmishers & distinct plies w LMGs a few paces behind. These wd stop & fire at opposite while flanks got on.

Robecq 1st first; then St. Venant. 2nd hit 46 & 47. Germans shot between 46 & 47. Often men gave leadings of guns shooting on 46. Knocked a battery away from one of towers where they were spotting. Shoots after 23rd June. 26 & 27 x 6 2/3. No area in front line of Skirmishers.



Dyson of Bde of 153 Bde.

In the first line every other man seemed to be firing white lights as they went



Presently bullets began to come thru walls & strike ceiling!

Apr 11. Lt. joined 153 Bde at HQ
 then Command by Col. Dyson,
 Arty Bde Commandr. Opposite was
 152 Bde under Gen. Cunningham.
 Apr 12. 5.45 am. Germs. att'd.
 Lt. had shaved. Man came up
 w horses. He sent him back.
 Went into Rd. Saw Germs
 abt 150 yds away - 2 lines
 of skirmishers - then a few
 in 400 further along road -

A little parties w m.p. coming behind skirmishers almost a way off
 them. Then went into house. Dyson & he ~~got stuck~~ waited for inf.
 meaning to go back w them - but when went into rd. again Germans
 were at back of hedge. They went across to 152 Bde. Dyson
 knocked at windows rd. Come on Dick. Cunningham from inside
 sd "right" & he cd see him thro 1 window. Then Dyson sd "D. it - I've
 forgotten my stick." Lt. offered to go back for it & did so. As
 he came out he saw 1 Germ just breaking in at back door.
 He stepped into rd & there was a m. gunner 15 yds away
 firing. The man who had stepped out before he was
 lying in rd shot thro body & looking at him appealingly. The
 Serp who left behind him was shot dead - just then Lt's horses
 came up. He waved 1 man away & he turned & 1
 m. gunner switched onto 1 horses inst'd of 400 yds. Lt.

105'

got into 1 ditch on / N. side of / road ran he 43
did so Germs came round / house on S. of
rd - entered it & took whole Bde Staff prisoners.

Dyson had gone on - as he stood outside the
Bde a signaller was just starting on a byke. The sign
sd to a man "Give us a shove off will you?" The
man fired at him at 5 ft. It was a German. The
sign dropped to byke & ran across / rd & got
away wh we were & got clear. Dyson meanwhile
had got away & stumped across / fields - / Germs
were across / road at Z. & so he had to cut
across / fields
A few infy were in

(I have typed an afc of
this in hist. notes)

105

10 Bn Newis.

44

B Coy. lay out in thick wheat crop
just N of Garbedoen Farm. There were
germs at abt 2 a. 5.6 & F.I.B. 70.20.

The banage just cleared the ^{coy} ~~party~~ (abt 70 strong)

They moved to left in single file.

Each plu had 2 men on each flank
(a few yds). They then moved along the road
over a couple of big trees, across

the X road & down the big hedge leading to
 E end of Merris. A party of
 Germans at X rds opened fire but
 a bomb or two caused them to surrender.
 Maccombe sent them straight back
 to No 10 post where his H Q was.
 Three or four other parties of Germans
 fired a shot or two at them & gave

up almost at once. These were mostly
 on E side of hedra - Hurcombe
 was working on 1 West side - a bomb
 or two caused each lot to surrender.
 Lt Pennington led his pln down to 1
 road & there he & a man whom met
 the ~~off~~^{sergt} leading the other pln from the
 S. He ^{there} sent up 1 signal 25 mins
 after 1 start.

103

Starcomber then went out w/ Sgt Major
& 2 runners, wire & bombs. Going betw
2 & 3 posts he saw some movement
in 1 ledge on left & someone shouts
from there. H. knew they were Germans
& called to them to come out & surrender.
They fired on him. H. & part dropped
into a shell hole & leave'd some
bombs (he cd see still German helmet)

77

105'

The two runners had become separated.
 one being wd in back of neck - probly revolver bullet.
 S.M. & Hurcombe ~~went out by flash from hedge~~ ^{went out} to next
 post, got a Sgt w L.G., & another
 man - went back. The Germans
 fired again. L.G. got thro to E. side
 of hedge & fired along it, & others
 attacked from W of hedge w bombs.
 The S.M. . ws wid in 1 face - &
 they heard groans. They rushed

105-

49
1 ledge & got 22 men & 2 m.p.s. There were 6 v. badly wd from the two bombs. The bomb probly got right into the shelter in wh they were.

Our shells were falling in Merrie & some rather close in front. Parties went out in front as far as banage wd let them & in rear to mop up. 15 more ferns were

105

~~mapped~~ found later in 1 hedge

A track led from the monastery
back towards the hedge (above i in Merrie's)
germs. made back along this but
all were either K or capt.

Some, after our barrage eased,
after 1st hour - strolling along - abt
20, from the E ran into our
posts. later a formed party of
abt 30 came up there. Our 1 L.G.

10⁵ team took them for a c-attack & ~~wiped~~
wiped them out. (2 Ls in each post).

Later still, when it was light &
quiet, sniping was heard from NE of
3rd post from N. Sgt Faint
went out from 2nd post & sniped
one of them thru back of head &
rest walked into 3rd Post. Faint
went out & got a m/f. They

105-

had left.

One or two men lay out by side
of main road & as German came
up ~~to~~ out of trees he got 9 of them.
This was in and after the 10th joined
up behind village.

Between 3 & 4 in morning a
German officer walked up quietly right

105-

to a Lewis gun post No 1
 Rd - they let him come on. When
 he saw 1 gun he threw his hands
 up. They certainly did not know
 where we were. ~~the~~ ^{Taso} ~~thermit~~ shells
 seemed to skid off the ground & some of
 posts took it for a new kind of German
 flare. But the third burst in air
 was obvious. Lt Pennington on

10⁵

Road caught 2 runners going back from
 1 village - One of them carried a
 message to 1 ~~school~~ British had
 attacked & 1 situation was very obscure.

The Ofc in the 2nd Post from N
 sent a runner for water
 walked back, abt 2 am. to the hopfields
 near Jarbedoen Fm where I dump
 WS. It was v. misty - you cant see

105-

85

50 yds. The ~~off~~^{man} walked right into
 a German post. They asked him
 if we had ~~alt~~ & where our posts
 were. He made them think he could
 understand them. Half an hour
 later (whole post (10 off + 30
 men) was captured. It was at abt
 F1 B 40.30. The offr sd our people

10 Bn. Celtic wood. Lt Scott was k w 100 other
men at Celtic wood - nothing has been heard
of any of these men - they were 1 picked
N.C.Os - not one is a prisoner - they
fought for 1 1/2 hrs.

Scott's brother was k. on 1 night

When 1 patrol went around Merris. Lieut. R.
Graham Smith at night went right to abt where the 3rd post eventually
was - ~~was~~ ^{look} two heavy Germ. mps. a working ply appeared - a
offr in charge of it. The ~~two~~ Germ. offr was shouting, apply organization
the men to attack. Smith turned one L.G. and two Germ.

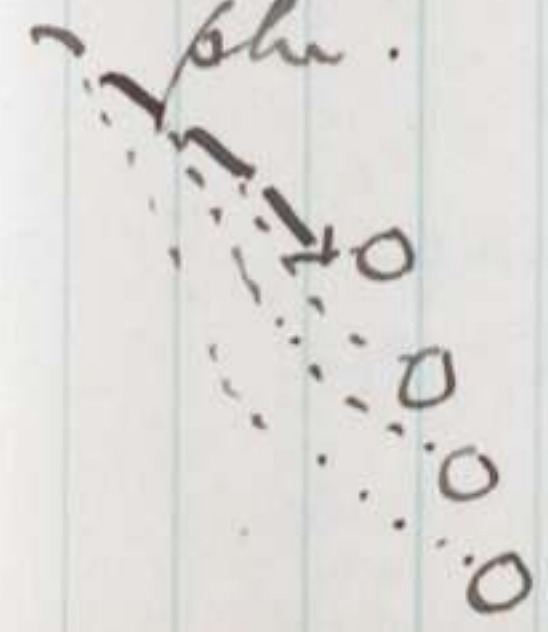
must come out & take them - they
wd get into trouble in ferriway when
they went back.

~~They~~ Our man shouted out to
our people to come across & take
them & they did so.

guns onto them; but he didnt get 1 gun away so
he took 1 locks, & put 2 bombs under them. He had fired
600 - 700 rds at very good targets & must have hit a lot.
They didnt join around 1 town.

10th

No 5 Pln of B Coy astray were going in
 well back happened to get a salvo of
 4 germ shells wh wd Lt Graham Smith & 9
 men & k. one N.C.O. This pln wh wd
 to have bn on 1 right flank of B Coy according
 had to be changed to 1 left flank
 pln.



47 dead were lying in front of
 second post & there must have
 bn 100 dead in front of B Coy
 wh wd sniping all day at least

105-
three fern. ops were capt'd by this Coy.

89
The Stokes mortars had blown to pieces
a number of ferns in the house at
F1 c. 8 p. 85. ^{Blow} ~~Part~~ total casualties
were 2 k 17 wd.

The fern. shelling during 1 after
became heavy w H.E. & gas on our
old front line & the road & later into
Merries & it looked as if he were
firing away all he had in 1 gun

105

pits before taking back his guns. There ⁹⁰
 were a few shells on 1 front posts.
 A few casualties occurred during 1 day
 - 3 or 4 wth their shelling.

The night was not too light - 1
 shells made it misty. The
 hedges kept them straight on 1
 way in.
