

No. of Reconnaissance		Hour Started 10.16 a.m.
Date August 22		Hour Ended
Aeroplane No.		Pilot 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. C. M. Waterfall Observer 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. C. G. G. Bayly
Time	Place	OBSERVATION
10.30	MOUS-BOISWILS road	600 <sup>+</sup> baggage wagon on road moving from THILWALS direction etc.
11.0	EMANICA SORANNE	Car: for 200 <sup>+</sup> in file 4 coy inf in four Apparent 6 four horse team 2 coy inf 4 four horse team Column turning to left to SALLY 6 coy mounted

RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF LIEUTENANT C. G. G. BAYLY

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same report confirmed what had already been seen, the presence of enemy troops moving along the great Chaussée on Soignies. This column was taking advantage of the trees on either side of the road to shield its movements. This was the first day on which a machine failed to return from over enemy territory. Lieutenants V. Waterfall and C. G. G. Bayly, of No. 5 Squadron, started on a reconnaissance in an Avro at 10.16 a.m. and next day were reported missing. It was the bringing down of this machine, no doubt, which gave the Germans their first assurance of the presence of the British forces. The observer's report, so far as he had written it, was picked up near the wreckage of the machine by some Belgian peasants, and eventually found its way to the War Office in London.

Sir John French on the evening of the 22nd held a conference at Le Cateau, whereat the position of the Germans, so far as it was then known, was explained and discussed. At the close of the conference Sir John stated that owing to the retreat of the French Fifth Army, the British offensive would not take place. A request from General Lanrezac arrived at 11.0 p.m., asking for offensive action against the German right flank, which was pressing him back from the Sambre. This could not be undertaken, but Sir John French promised to remain in his position for twenty-four hours.

In his book, *A Staff Officer's Scrap Book*, Sir Ian Hamilton, who was attached to the Japanese army during the Russo-Japanese War, has the following entry: 'The Russians are sending up balloons to our front, and in front of the Twelfth Division. Judging by manœuvres and South African experiences, they should now obtain a lot of misleading intelligence.' Observation from the air, when the war broke out, had still to prove its worth. The Royal Flying Corps,