

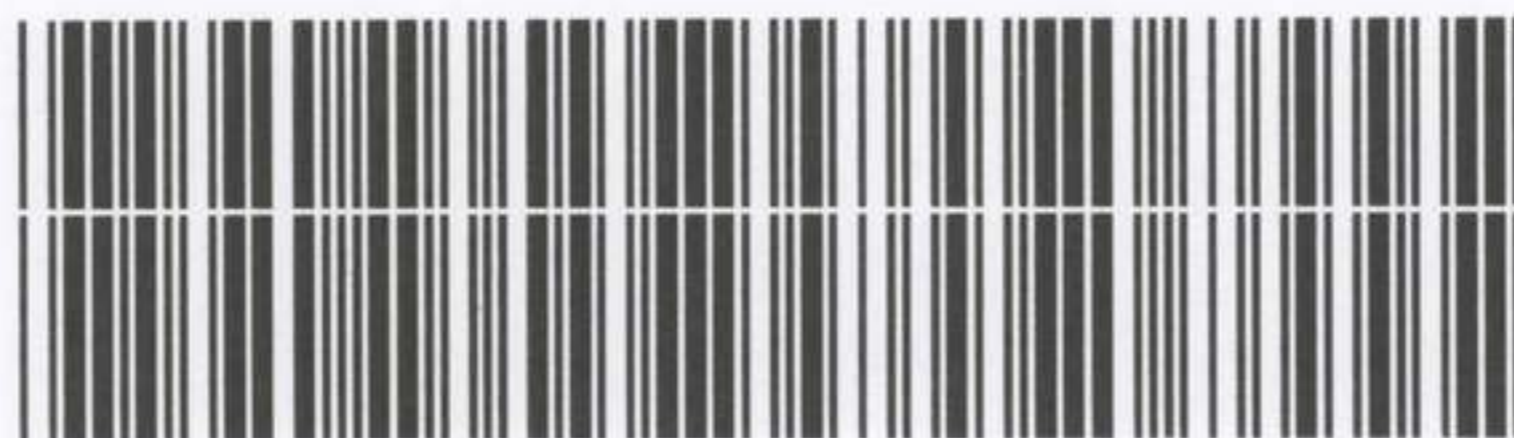
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/13/8

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Army

January 1917



AWM4-1/13/8

SECOND ARMY

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CONFIDENTIAL

SECOND ARMY

WAR DIARY

WITH APPENDICES

Vol XXV.

For the Period 1-31 January

1917

January, 1917

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

G.S. Second Army.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL. Jan. 1 st 1917	<p>(3rd Aust. Div) our patrols entered the enemy trenches at several points EAST of ARMENTIERES. One of our patrols came under searchlight and a heavy machine gun fire. out of one officer and 16 men only six men returned. Patrols were sent out to search for the remainder but no trace of them could be found.</p> <p>at 3.30 am a hostile patrol entered our trenches South of PILKEM. It was at once driven out. one dead german remained in our hands.</p> <p>During the day there was the usual artillery activity in the YPRES Salient, S.W of WYCHAETE and South of MESSINES, and S E of FLEURBAIX.</p> <p>Between 5.30 and 6.30 pm the enemy bombarded the whole front of the 47th Division doing considerable damage to our trenches in the HILL 60 Sector and North of the BLUFF. Our artillery replied until the enemy stopped firing.</p> <p>We carried out a successful bombardment of the enemy's lines last night near the ROULERS Railway (Sheet 28.I.6.C) to which the enemy retaliated fairly heavily.</p> <p>about 11.30 p.m an enemy patrol entered our lines north of WIELTJE (sh. 28.C 21.6) under cover of a heavy bombardment, but was driven off leaving a prisoner in our hands. The hostile party consisted of one officer and about forty men.</p>	
CASSEL Jan 2 nd		<p>10</p> <p>McKinnon Capt</p>

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

CASSEL Jan 2nd 1917

During the day hostile artillery was very active against targets in rear of our trenches on the Southern side of the YPRES Salient. Enemy aeroplanes were active, apparently carrying out registration of our batteries. West of WYTSCHAETE, West of MESSINES, and South East of ARMENTIERS we bombarded the enemy's trenches. The enemy replied vigorously West of WYTSCHAETE, but was silenced by our counterbattery work. About 5pm we blew a camouflet at the "BLUFF".

CASSEL Jan 3rd

A prisoner was captured south of YPRES (sht 28.0.3.C) during the night. During the early part of the morning hostile artillery was very active in the southern half of the YPRES SALIENT. roads and Battery positions in this locality were intermittently shelled during the day. In the RUE DU BOIS Sector our trench mortars bombarded the enemy's trenches and wire.

10

Amstrong
Capt.

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CASSEL. Jan 4 th 1917	<p>^{last night} After a heavy bombardment the enemy attempted to raid our trenches South of the LYS (Sht 36. C-17 C) Raiding party were estimated at fifty, and were driven off leaving one dead German on our wire.</p> <p>Early in the morning two of our raiding parties entered the enemy's trenches West of WYTSCHAETE (Sht 28. N-24) both parties met with strong opposition & no identifications were obtained.</p> <p>During the day there was the usual hostile shelling in the Southern half of the YPRES Salient, to which our artillery replied. East of BOIS GRENIER our trench mortars bombarded the enemy's wire, he replied with artillery.</p> <p>A mine exploded by the enemy north of the BLUFF did us no damage.</p>	<p>OK</p>

M. B. Reynolds
Capt.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL.	Jan 5 th 1917	
	<p>a quiet night - one of our patrols, consisting of an officer and one man, returned to our lines after lying out in "No man's Land" since Jan 3rd near "the BLUFF".</p> <p>Hostile artillery was active during the day - YPRES and VIERSTRAAT were shelled. We bombarded the enemy's trenches in the "HILL 60" sector. East of BOIS GRENIER our artillery silenced enemy guns and Trench Mortars.</p> <p>A hostile aeroplane shot down one of ours near STELOI pilot and observer were killed. Three bombs were dropped near VLAMERTINGHE during the afternoon.</p> <p>We blew a camoufllet at the "BLUFF".</p>	
CASSEL.	Jan 6 th	
	<p>South East of WIELTJE we captured three prisoners early this morning. The Enemy blew a camoufllet at STELOI damaging a part of one of our galleries. Hostile artillery less active than usual in the Southern half of the YPRES Salient.</p> <p>Our trench mortars were active East of ARMENTIERS and East of BOIS GRENIER.</p>	D 5.

M. H. Reynolds
Capt

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL. Jan 7 th 1917	<p>Early this morning the enemy shelled our trenches very heavily East of TURCO FARM (Skt 28. C15 c.) and attacked two of our posts which drove them off. Another party, estimated at 40 appears to have penetrated between two other posts & attacked one of them in rear. Three of our men are reported missing. The posts were re-garrisoned at once by reinforcements. YPRES was shelled during the afternoon, and hostile guns were active on our front and support lines in the BOESINGHE sector, also about ST. ELOI., our counter-batteries were successful in silencing the enemy.</p> <p>Early this morning after a short heavy bombardment with trench mortars an attempt was made to raid our trenches near the WULVERGHEM - NYTSCHAEDE Road, which failed. Some casualties were inflicted, a box of explosives & some bombs left behind. Artillery was active on both sides. South east of ARMENTIERS in the afternoon. Our aeroplanes were active all day, and several combats took place. This evening the New Zealand Division carried out a successful raid just south of the BRIDOUX salient.</p>	<p>0 5</p> <p><i>W. H. H. H. H. H.</i> Capt</p>

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CASSEL. Jan 7 th 1917	(Sheet 36 O-1-A). Nineteen prisoners were captured & a number of the enemy killed; our casualties were one killed and three wounded.	
CASSEL. Jan 8 th	A quiet night. Hostile artillery was active all day, East of MESSINES ZILLEBEKE west of MESSINES and East of BOIS GRENIER. YPRES was heavily shelled all day - VOORMEZEELE & VIERSTRAAT & DICKEBUSH were also shelled.	
CASSEL. Jan 9 th	A quiet night. During the day YPRES and our trenches just East of the BOESINGHE-YPRES canal were shelled. Our artillery caused a large explosion in the enemy's line north of WIELTJE. Hostile artillery was active in the HILL 60 area, West of MESSINES and South East of ARMENTIERS. Our artillery and trench mortars bombarded the enemy's defenses south of MESSINES. North of the BLUFF one of our patrols consisting of two other ranks is missing.	02 M. J. ...

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Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

CASSEL. Jan 10

Last night we raided the enemy's trenches South of the LYS destroyed a machine gun killed nine of the enemy & obtained an identification. Just north of the DOUVE (alt 28 v. 8 a) we captured a prisoner.

YPRES and POPERINGHE were shelled during the day & hostile artillery was active South of the YPRES salient. The BOESINGHE Sector was shelled with Lachrymatory shell. We bombarded the enemy's trenches East of NIELTJE and East of PLUGSTEERT, doing considerable damage.

a hostile aeroplane destroyed one of our balloons near LOCRE. After dusk we raided the enemy's trenches East of NIELTJE and obtained identifications but no prisoners, several dead Germans were seen.

CASSEL. Jan 11.

We raided the enemy's trenches in the EPINETTE Sector, but found them unoccupied: no identifications were obtained.

During the day there was some artillery activity South of NIELTJE and East of BOIS GRENIER.

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M. K. Reynolds
Capt

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL Jan 12 th 1917	<p>Quiet night. During the day hostile artillery was active about WIELTJE, South East of YPRES, the PLUGSTEERT Sector, and East of BOIS GRENIER; our reply was effective.</p>	
CASSEL Jan 13 th 1917	<p>North of WIELTJE the enemy opened a heavy barrage on our trenches about 9.15 pm last night. Our artillery reply prevented any action by hostile infantry. In a successful dummy raid West of NUTSCHAETE two prisoners were captured - another said attempted by the same Division (the 16th) a little further south found the enemy on the alert, and no prisoners or identifications were secured. One of our officers is reported missing. YPRES was shelled during the afternoon; our HA engaged enemy traffic near ST. JULIEN. The usual artillery activity is reported East of BOIS GRENIER.</p>	<p>DR</p>

Atkinson
Capt

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL. Jan 15 th 1917	<p>Last night we attempted to raid the enemy's trenches just South of the LYS (skt. 36. C-17 a) but they were found to be full of wire, & our party was unable to enter. No Germans were seen. The enemy heavily shelled our reserve line north of ST JEAN about 5.30pm. During the day artillery on both sides was active about WIELTJE and East of BOIS GRENIER.</p>	
CASSEL. Jan 16 th	<p>Quiet night. During the day hostile artillery was active about WIELTJE and in the Hill 60 sector - to which our artillery replied. East of BOIS GRENIER we bombarded the enemy's trenches. The 38th division relieved the 39th division who relieved the 55th division.</p>	DIP

M. S. Kenyon
Capt

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CASSEL. Jan 16 th 1917	<p>Quiet night. Snow.</p> <p>During the day we carried out a heavy bombardment of the enemy's trenches between Hill 60 and the YPRES-COMINES canal. He retaliated on our front line. Much successful counter battery work was carried out by us.</p>	
CASSEL. Jan 17 th	<p>Quiet night.</p> <p>Continued snowstorms prevented observation most of the day. Our bombardment yesterday damaged the enemy's trenches considerably, & our snipers dealt dealt with some of the enemy running over the open from the bombardment. This afternoon we bombarded hostile trench mortars East of ZILLEBEKE.</p>	D 11

M. J. Hayman
Capt.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL. Jan 18 th 1917	<p>Quiet night. During the day there was some hostile shelling North of YPRES. Our artillery and trench mortars carried out a successful bombardment of the enemy's trenches East of PLUGSTEEERT. The enemy replied feebly. We also bombarded the enemy's trenches East of BOIS-GRENIER, our artillery silenced the enemy's attempt to retaliate.</p>	
CASSEL. Jan 19 th	<p>Quiet night. Some hostile artillery activity north of YPRES during the day, also north of NYTSCHAETE and East of BOIS-GRENIER. Our counter-battery work was successful. We blew a camouflet at MOUNT SORREL in the morning.</p>	<p>Dir</p> <p>Artillery Capt.</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL Jan 20 th 1917	<p>Last night we carried out a successful raid South of the YPRES-COMINES canal at O.3.D.5.9 and captured a prisoner. our casualties were slight. two other ranks missing.</p>	
CASSEL Jan 21 st	<p>Intermittent shelling north and north-East of YPRES during the day. Hostile artillery and minenwerfer were active opposite MESSINES, WITSCHAETE, PLUGSTEERT and East of ARMENTIERS. We carried out successful bombardment of the enemy's trenches south east of BOIS GRENIER.</p> <p>Quiet night. One of our patrols captured two prisoners just South of WIELTJE early this morning.</p> <p>North of YPRES, WEST of WITSCHAETE, and West of MESSINES the enemy's artillery and minenwerfer were active during the day. East of ARMENTIERS and East of BOIS GRENIER we bombarded the enemy's trenches and wire. The enemy retaliated heavily in the former case.</p>	D/P

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL. Jan. 22 nd	<p>Quiet night. Two prisoners were obtained S.W of WITSCHAETLE. Hostile artillery and trench mortars were very active against our trenches East and South East of PLUGSTEERT WOOD during the day and there was the usual shelling by both sides North of YPRES and N.E of ARMENTIERS.</p> <p>After a heavy bombardment the enemy attempted three raids. about 5 pm - all natures of guns and heavy minenwerfer were used in the bombardment.</p> <p>(1) Near STYVES (N.E of PLUGSTEERT WOOD) - which entered our trenches but was at once ejected - a wounded German officer was captured.</p> <p>(2) at the S.E. corner of PLUGSTEERT WOOD - where he was repulsed without reaching our trenches.</p> <p>(3) Just South of the River LYS E of HOUPLINES where he was repulsed leaving one dead German in our trench, & one wounded German brought in, who died. The enemy used Gas shells to support this raid.</p>	
CASSEL Jan 23 rd	<p>Quiet night</p> <p>During the day we carried out a successful bombardment of the enemy's trenches opposite the BLUFF and HILL 60 Sectors. Hostile minenwerfer were active in the BOESINGHE Sector: our reply silenced them. Artillery active on both sides East of BOIS GRENIER.</p>	<p>D /</p> <p>MMK Capt.</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL - Jan 23 rd	<p>Considerable aerial activity all day: one pilot and one observer wounded in combat. We blew a camouflaged in the Railway Wood Sector.</p>	
CASSEL - Jan 24 th	<p>Quiet night. we raided the enemy's trenches East of ZILLEBEKE in J.19.c (Sheet 28) but no prisoners or identifications were obtained as the trenches were found unoccupied. We bombarded the enemy's trenches opposite the HILL. 60 Sector. Hostile artillery was active in the YPAES salient all day. YPAES was shelled. We bombarded the enemy's trenches North of the LYS. Hostile artillery was more active than usual in the BOIS GRENIER Sector. Considerable aerial activity - we brought down two enemy machines - one near ZONNEBEKE and one near GHELUVELT - Two of our pilots were killed, and one wounded. One of our machines is missing, and one was shot down in our lines.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">D/S Mr. Maynard Capt.</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL Jan 25 th 1917	<p>Quiet night Early this morning after heavy bombardment the enemy raided our trenches near the YPRES-ROULERS railway. A raiding party estimated at thirty captured an advanced post of three men. During the day hostile artillery was very active in the South of the YPRES Salient against our back areas and batteries. DICKERBUSEN was shelled. East of PLOEGSTEERT our artillery and trench mortars were active. One of our R.F.C. Reconnaissance brought down a hostile machine, and forced another to land. one of our machines was brought down. There were a number of aerial combats.</p>	<p>D16 [Signature]</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>CASSELⁿ Jan 26 1917</p>	<p>Quiet night. Hostile artillery activity was below normal in the YPRES Salient, but increased against our battery positions West of MESSINES, and our trenches in the HOUPLINES Sector. Considerable aerial activity all day. Two hostile machines were brought down near WESTROOSEBEKE. One of our machines was brought down in flames as a result of a combat near MENIN.</p>	
<p>Jan 27ⁿ 1917</p>	<p>North of the LYS a German patrol was fired on and one wounded prisoner taken during the night. Hostile artillery were active against our trenches north of YPRES and in the HOUPLINES Sector. We successfully bombarded the enemy's trenches between HILL 60 and the YPRES-COMINES canal, and shelled hostile traffic near ZONNEBEKE. The enemy blew a small camouflaged RAILWAY WOOD, but did no damage to our workings. The 34th Division was withdrawn from the line, being relieved by one Brigade of the NEW ZEALAND DIVISION and one of the 3rd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D17</p> <p style="text-align: right;">M. H. Keywood Capt.</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CASSEL Jan 28 th 1917	<p>Quiet night. Our C.T.s and back areas in the North of the YPRES Salient were intermittently shelled during the day, and hostile artillery was more than usually active in the South of the Salient. The 21st Division arrived at NORMHOUDT from 1st Army. We successfully bombarded the enemy's trenches West of NYTSCHAETE. There was some shelling on both sides East of ARMENTIERS. Our artillery dealt effectively with a relief which the enemy were carrying out North of the River LYS. Considerable artillery reinforcements were received by 2nd Army.</p>	
CASSEL Jan 29 th 1917	<p>The 3rd Australian Division carried out a successful raid in Sheet 36. C. 29. a. (East of HOUPLINES). Two parties were held up by wire, the third party penetrated to the enemy's third line blew up some dugouts full of Germans, killed twenty Germans and captured one prisoner</p>	<p>DIP H.M. Thompson Capt.</p>

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<u>CASSEL.</u> Jan 29 th 1917	Hostile artillery was active in the YPRES salient during the day. Our shelling caused a fire at PILCKEM crossroads which burned for one and a half hours. East of ARMENTIERS our trench mortars bombarded the enemy's trenches. There was some hostile shelling near CHAPELLE D'ARMENTIERS. Considerable aerial activity all day, we had one observer wounded in combat.	
<u>CASSEL.</u> Jan 30 th	Between 1.30 and 2.30 am the enemy heavily bombarded portions of our line North of YPRES - to which our artillery replied. The enemy blew two camouflages near Railway wood. During the day we bombarded the enemy's trenches about the YPRES-ROULERS Railway and East of ARMENTIERS, also wood in rear of the enemy's lines East of YPRES. South of YPRES the enemy's guns were less active than usual. North of YPRES and South of PLUGSTEERT hostile artillery was active.	D 19 M. S. [Signature] Capt.

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CASSEL. Jan 31st 1917

Quiet night. One of our patrols entered enemy's front line N.E. of HOUPLINES, but failed to find any Germans. Fire was opened on them from the enemy's second line North of YPRES there was some hostile shelling, South of YPRES the activity was below normal. YPRES and the DICKEBUSCH-YPRES road was shelled. Our artillery bombarded the woods in rear of the enemy's line S.E. of YPRES early in the morning. This evening the enemy heavily shelled "HOBBS' FARM" (I.32. a SU-26) E of ARMENTIERS. with minenwerfer.

Appx. I.
Weekly Summaries of Operations

Appx. II.
Map Showing Dispositions of Troops on 31.1.17.

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Appx I (a)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - SECOND ARMY.

for week ending 6 p.m. January 4th 1917. 021

The period under review has been normal, although the enemy's artillery has been more aggressive in the Southern half of the YPRES Salient and in the neighbourhood of WULVERGHEM. He has been very much on the alert and has been working hard on his front and support lines opposite the area occupied by the X Corps.

Patrols.

1. Our patrols have been very active and much valuable information has been obtained as to the condition of the enemy's wire and trenches. The enemy has shown little enterprise in patrolling and has not shown fight when encountered unless in much superior numbers.

Artillery.

2. The enemy's artillery has been active from the YPRES-ROULERS Railway to the YPRES-COMINES Canal, shelling front line, support trenches, YPRES, RAILWAY WOOD, HILL 60 Sector and the BLUFF. In the neighbourhood of WULVERGHEM he has persistently shelled farms and areas in rear of our front line. Elsewhere he has replied rather less heavily than usual to our trench mortar bombardments.

Our artillery has retaliated for enemy shelling and a combined bombardment of MESSINES was carried out on 31st December, and against enemy's trenches opposite RAILWAY WOOD on the 1st January.

Trench Mortars. 3.

Normal activity on both sides. Our trench mortars have caused considerable damage to the enemy's wire and parapet all along the line. An organized bombardment, in which the heavy artillery co-operated,

022.

was carried out east of YPRES on the 1st January, with considerable success.

Machine Guns. 4. Activity has been normal on both sides.

Snipers. 5. The enemy has been more cautious and his snipers unsuccessful. Our snipers have obtained a number of hits.

Raids. 6. We carried out two small raids. The enemy attempted four, only ~~one~~^{two} of which succeeded in entering our trenches.

Counter Battery. 7. Report attached.

VIII Corps. 8. Patrols.

Our patrols have been very active and continue to maintain their supremacy.

Artillery.

Enemy's artillery active from the MENIN ROAD to WIELTJE. YPRES was shelled on several occasions and our support trenches in RAILWAY WOOD were heavily bombarded on the 28th December, in reply to which we carried out a combined bombardment of his trenches opposite the RAILWAY WOOD Sector with heavy trench mortars, 2-inch trench mortars, Stokes mortars, machine guns and heavy artillery.

Trench Mortars.

Enemy trench mortars have been less active except in supporting two attempted raids. Our trench mortars have been aggressive.

Machine Guns.

Machine gun activity on both sides normal. Ours have carried out their usual work at night.

Snipers.

Enemy has exposed himself less freely and only

four certain hits are claimed by our snipers. ⁰²³

Enemy Raids.

(a) At 3.30 a.m. on January 1st, under cover of a trench mortar and artillery barrage, enemy attempted to raid our Post at C.15.c.45.70 (near MORTELDJE ESTAMINET). They were held up by our wire, but one German got through, who was killed and identified. We had no casualties.

(b) On the same day, an intense bombardment, lasting 25 minutes, was opened by the enemy at 10.50 p.m. on our trenches from C.21.a.9.8 to C.22.c.3.5 (near HILL TOP FARM). About 40 of the enemy attempted to enter our trenches, but only one or two succeeded in doing so. The rest were driven off by rifle fire and one prisoner was captured. The enemy, retiring, came under Stokes Mortar fire, and our artillery barrage, and must have suffered heavy casualties.

X. Corps. 9. General.

Enemy has been working hard on his front and support lines and has erected overhead screens in a number of places. He has been very much on the alert.

Patrols.

Our patrols have been very active and have obtained much valuable information. On one occasion a hostile patrol, out-numbering ours by 6 to 1, showed fight.

Artillery.

The enemy has been very active during the week at the BLUFF, HILL 60 Sector, and BEDFORD HOUSE, and many other points have been heavily shelled. On January 1st considerable damage was done to our trenches, and a considerable number of casualties inflicted, in front of HILL 60 and the vicinity of the BLUFF, the enemy shelling heavily for an hour in

4.
024

the evening.

Trench Mortars.

Hostile mortar activity normal. Our organized retaliation has been successful in stopping his fire.

Machine Guns.

Hostile activity normal. Our guns fired nightly on enemy's dumps, communications, working parties, etc.

Snipers.

Enemy snipers have been active but singularly unsuccessful. Our snipers claimed five hits.

Raids.

On the night of the 2nd/3rd January a strong enemy patrol succeeded in entering our trench at O.36, Sheet 28. One German was captured and one of our men is reported missing.

IX Corps.

10.

The enemy has been busy repairing damage done to his trenches, pumping water out of them, and screening them.

Patrols.

Our patrols have been very active and made a number of useful reconnaissances. Hostile patrols have shown no enterprise.

Artillery.

Hostile artillery has been persistently active in the WULVERGHEM area, shelling farms and localities in rear.

A combined bombardment of MESSINES was carried out on the night of the 31st Dec./1st Jan., three times at intervals of an hour, by heavy howitzers, and 60-pounders and 4.7 guns.

Trench Mortars.

Normal activity on both sides. We have caused considerable damage to the enemy's front line trenches

025

by organized bombardments.

Machine Guns.

Activity normal on both sides.

Sniping.

Enemy has been inactive, while our snipers claim several hits.

Raids.

Two small raiding parties from the 16th Division entered the enemy's trenches west of WYTSCHAETE at 3 a.m. on the morning of the 4th January. A stiff bombing fight ensued, and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Our raiding parties returned safely with only two men wounded.

II Anzac Corps. 11. Patrols.

Only one hostile patrol has been encountered, which withdrew before one of our patrols. Our patrols endeavoured to enter the enemy's lines in several places, but were detected. In one case a searchlight was turned on to them and some casualties inflicted.

Artillery.

Enemy artillery has been active in the GORDONNERIE and LA BOUTILLERIE Sectors. Our artillery has shelled working parties, traffic routes, and tramways.

Trench Mortars.

Considerable damage was done to the enemy's wire and parapet by our trench mortars.

Machine Guns.

Our guns have been very active, firing on the usual targets with satisfactory results. The enemy has been normal.

Snipers.

Our snipers have taken advantage of ^{the} a few opportunities which have been afforded to them.

Raids.

An attempted raid by a party of Germans, estimated at 80, was driven off by the 3rd Australian Division on January 3rd, North of HOBBS FARM (Sheet 36, C.23.a.4.9.)

R.F.C.

12. The weather has been unfavourable for flying during the past week. A number of reconnaissances have been carried out and some useful work done in conjunction with the artillery.

Kite Balloon Wing.

Adverse weather conditions have almost entirely prevented balloon observation.

Mining.

13. We blew a small camouflet at the BLUFF on the 2nd January. The enemy replied with a mine on the 4th which destroyed his gallery immediately in front of his parapet.

We fired another camouflet on the 5th.

026^{8.}

057 7.
Counter Battery
Work.

14. The increased hostile artillery activity noted since the second week in December has been maintained, chiefly on the front line in the neighbourhood of the BLUFF and of the WULVERGHEM sector and of back areas S.W. of YPRES. It would appear that the enemy has rather dispersed his guns, section positions being more common than 4 - gun positions.

Six deliberate shoots were carried out with 6" howitzers and three with 9.2" howitzers, all of which appeared to give good results. One satisfactory shoot was carried out by the Sound Ranging Section and 80 -prs. One 4.5" howitzer battery successfully engaged a hostile battery with visual observation causing several explosions.

Weather conditions have not been good and only on two days was it possible for our balloons to make ascents.

023

Casualties. 15.

Officers.

Other ranks.

	K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.
VIII Corps.	-	3	-	16	75	-
X Corps.	2	6	-	45	183	1
IX Corps.	1	2	1	21	96	-
II Anzac Corps.	2	5	2	38	171	13
	5	16	3	120	525	14

Total Casualties -

Officers	24
Other ranks	659
	<u>683</u>

Appx. I (6)

029

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - SECOND ARMY.

for week ending 6 p.m. January 11th 1917.
=====

The period under review has been normal, with the exception of the increased artillery activity in the YPRES Salient.

Patrols.

1. Our patrols have been very active, although to some extent hindered by the bright moonlight during the past week. The enemy's trenches have been entered, and in one case our patrol remained in the enemy's line from 7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. and worked along for a considerable distance. Few enemy patrols have been met, but three of the enemy were captured on the night of the 5th/6th January, South of WIELTJE.

Artillery.

2. The enemy showed increased artillery activity, particularly in the YPRES Salient, where he shelled areas in rear of our front line, especially YPRES, which has been shelled every day, and especially heavily on the 8th instant. He has also shelled areas in rear of our front line from PLOEGSTEERT WOOD to VIERSTRAAT. With the exception of his artillery preparation for two raids, the shelling of our front line has not increased.

Our artillery have carried out several successful bombardments all along the front.

Trench Mortars.

3. There has been usual activity on both sides, in the southern half of the YPRES Salient and on the IX Corps front. Elsewhere, hostile trench mortars have been less active than usual.

Machine Guns.

4. Our guns have carried out usual night firing and have kept open gaps in the enemy's parapet and wire.

030

Sniping.

5. Our snipers have had a successful week.

Raids.

6. We carried out four raids and one dummy one. The enemy raided our lines twice.

Counter-Battery.

7. Report attached.

VIII Corps.8. Patrols.

On the night of the 5th/6th January, a patrol of the 55th Division captured three of the enemy South of WIELTJE. A patrol of the 39th Division penetrated the enemy's wire, scaled his parapet, and reported on the condition of his trenches at Sheet 28, C.7.d.7.8.

Artillery.

The enemy shelled the BOESINGHE and HILL TOP Sectors more than usual, but has been quieter from WIELTJE to RAILWAY WOOD. YPRES has been shelled daily, and especially on the 8th instant.

Our artillery and trench mortars have been engaged in silencing the enemy and carrying out preliminary bombardment for a raid in the WIELTJE Sector.

Trench Mortars.

Enemy trench mortars have been less active.

Machine Guns.

Activity normal on both sides.

Sniping.

Snipers on the 39th Division front have been successful and claim a number of victims. The enemy's snipers have shown no marked activity.

Raids.

(a) At 3.15 a.m. on the 7th instant the enemy attacked our trenches between Sheet 28, C.15.c.7.5 and C.15.c.3.8, but was repulsed by rifle fire. At the same time a party of the enemy estimated at 40 succeeded in penetrating between two posts and attacked our post

031

at G.15.e.7.5 from front and rear. The garrison of the post were overpowered, three of them being captured and the remainder wounded.

(b) At 5.15 p.m. on the 10th instant we raided the enemy trenches from G.29.a.4.5 to G.23.c.3.3 after a preparation by artillery and trench mortars and under cover of a barrage.

Two infantry parties left our trenches. The southern party found the wire insufficiently cut and were unable to effect an entry. The northern party entered the enemy's trenches and met with determined opposition. A number of the enemy were killed and two concrete dugouts destroyed, identifications being secured but no prisoners taken.

As a feint, the enemy's trenches North of the YPRES-ROULERS Railway were bombarded and a gap cut in the wire. An officer patrol found five enemy dead, but were unable to secure any identification.

X. Corps.

9. Patrols.

Our patrols have obtained useful information concerning the enemy's wire all along the line. Some enemy patrols and covering parties have been seen.

Artillery.

Enemy's artillery activity has been above normal, considerable attention being paid to the back areas and batteries. The road between DICKEBUSCH and YPRES has been frequently shelled, also VOORMEZELE and RIDGE WOOD, the former receiving about 300 shells on the 8th. Our artillery has retaliated effectively on the enemy's front and support lines, and has shelled his tramways and communications at night on several occasions. On January 5th our artillery bombarded the enemy's trenches

4.
032

opposite the BLUFF Sector with good results.

Trench Mortars.

With the exception of some abnormal activity by the enemy's trench mortars on the 9th, there has been nothing unusual to report. Our artillery and trench mortar retaliation has in all cases proved effective.

Machine Guns.

Our guns have been successful in engaging working parties after dawn on two or three occasions.

Sniping.

Our snipers have had a successful week, and with the exception of their activity in the BLUFF Sector the enemy's snipers have shown little enterprise.

Work.

Enemy working parties have been ~~very~~ active at night opposite the ST. ELOI Sector. He has dug a new trench connecting two saps at O.3.b.8.2 and O.3.d.3.8, about 20 yards in front of his own front line.

Raids.

A dummy raid was carried out south of ST. ELOI on the evening of the 9th. The enemy's retaliation was slight.

IX Corps.

10. Patrols.

Our patrols have been active but have located few hostile patrols

Artillery.

Hostile artillery has been more active, and has caused some damage to our trenches. It has also consistently shelled areas in rear of the front line.

On January 9th our artillery bombarded the enemy's front line trenches South of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD, doing considerable damage.

033

Trench Mortars.

Usual activity on both sides. Several bombardments have been carried out and much damage done to the enemy's trenches.

Machine Guns.

Activity normal on both sides.

Sniping.

Our snipers have been active.

Work.

The enemy has been busy endeavouring to repair the damage caused to his front and support lines.

Raids.

On January 7th, after 15 minutes intense bombardment a party of the enemy, estimated at 50, raided our trenches held by the 16th Division, near the WULVERGHEM-WYTSCHAETE Road. Some of the enemy penetrated to our trenches, but retired almost at once, leaving behind a quantity of explosives. Four of our men were reported missing.

II Anzac Corps. 11. Patrols.

Patrols have been active along the whole Corps front. Only one hostile patrol has been seen to start out. It returned in a few minutes.

During the week six of our patrols entered the enemy's trenches and worked along for a considerable distance. One of these patrols remained in the enemy's line from 7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Artillery.

The enemy's artillery was quiet during the early part of the week, but has been more active for the last 3 days. Our artillery has shelled roads in rear, working parties, machine guns, trench mortars, etc.

Trench Mortars.

Hostile trench mortars have been less active. Ours

8.
034

have continued to damage enemy's wire and parapet.

Machine Guns.

Our guns have been active, firing on enemy's communications at night, dispersing working parties, etc. reported by patrols.

Sniping.

Enemy snipers have shown less activity. Ours claim a number of hits.

Work.

Working parties have been reported every day at points along the front, but our artillery has dealt with them effectively.

Raids.

A successful raid was carried out on the night of January 7th by a party of the 2nd Battalion, New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade (84 strong) against the enemy's trenches at Sheet 36, O.1.a., South of BOIS GRENIER. 19 prisoners were captured, and it is estimated that 45 Germans were killed. Our casualties were only 1 killed and 3 wounded.

On the night of January 9th/10th, a party from the 39th Battalion, 3rd Australian Division, raided the enemy's trenches at Sheet 36, C.23.c., East of HOURLINES. About 12 of the enemy were killed and a machine gun was destroyed.

The next night, a party from the 44th Battalion, 3rd Australian Division, made a raid further South, but found the enemy trench deserted.

R.F.C.

12. The weather has been against flying during the week, but advantage has been taken of some bright intervals. Some useful artillery work and reconnaissances have been carried out.

Hostile Aircraft

Hostile aircraft have been more active, especially

035

in the YPRES Salient. Bombs were dropped on VLAMERTINGHE from a height of 12,000 feet on the 5th instant, and on the same day, one of our artillery machines was attacked and brought down at Sheet 28. I.S.d., near ST. ELOI, the pilot and observer being killed.

On the 7th instant, another artillery machine was attacked, and the observer was shot, but the hostile plane was driven off by one of our fighting machines.

One of our aeroplanes was brought down in flames as the result of a combat. The pilot was badly burnt, and the observer slightly injured.

Kite Balloon Wing.

The weather during the past week has been consistently bad for observation. On the 10th instant a German aeroplane attacked and set fire to our balloon near LOCRE. The observers made successful parachute descents.

Mining.

13. On the 5th, at the BLUFF, the enemy bored down into his old gallery from the surface and put down a candle. We blew up the gallery.

There has been an interchange of camouflets at ST. ELOI.

On the 10th instant, between 5 and 9 p.m., the water in our old shaft opposite PETITE DOUVE FARM suddenly dropped about 70 or 80 feet. The workings have been flooded for several months, and as had been anticipated, the enemy must have broken into our old gallery, and instantly his system must have been flooded: probably the miners were drowned. The enemy will probably have difficulty in unwatering his system, and will have to start again.

036

Counter-Battery
Work.

14. A considerable amount of successful counter battery work was carried out in spite of patchy visibility. The visibility varies considerably on different parts of the front on the same day.

4 fires were seen in enemy positions, one being accompanied by a series of explosion.

In 3 cases, pits were definitely seen to be much damaged, and timber thrown about.

In two other cases, very large explosions were caused, one being reported as 200 feet high.

A very large number of O.K's were obtained, both during ranging and fire for effect, so probably much more damage was done than was reported.

037

Casualties. 15.

	<u>Officers.</u>			<u>Other ranks.</u>		
	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>
VIII Corps ...	2	9	-	39	190	6
IX Corps ...	1	11	-	19	83	6
X Corps ...	1	10	-	47	192	1
II Anzac Corps ...	4	7	-	35	136	-
	8	37	-	130	601	13

Total Casualties -

Officers	45
Other ranks	744
	789

038

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - SECOND ARMY.

for week ending 6 p.m. January 18th 1917.
 =====

The week under review has been normal, the bad weather having, to a great extent, interfered with artillery activity.

Relief.

1. A triple relief was completed on the 15th instant in the VIII Corps, the 38th Division relieving the 39th, who relieved the 55th. The 55th Division was withdrawn into Corps reserve.

Patrols.

2. Our patrols have been consistently active, but the snow, bright moonlight, and bad going has made their work difficult. A number of hostile working parties have been located and dispersed, and very few enemy patrols observed. South and South-east of ARMENTIERES a number of our patrols entered the enemy's trenches, and in some cases, remained in them for several hours.

Artillery.

3. Hostile artillery has not been so active as during the previous week. The neighbourhood of WIELTJE was heavily shelled on the 12th and 15th. YPRES was heavily shelled on the 14th. IRISH FARM (C.27.a.2.6. Sheet 28) and the "X" line North-east of YPRES were heavily shelled on several occasions. On the remainder of the front the enemy has been paying attention to front, support and reserve lines more than to areas in rear. On the 16th instant, we carried out an organised bombardment of the enemy's trenches, tramway junctions, and other suitable targets between HILL 60 and the YPRES-COMINES Canal, with good results.

039

Trench Mortars.

4. There has been some activity in the OBSERVATORY RIDGE and BLUFF Sectors, but in other parts of the line only the normal shelling. Our trench mortars have done very useful work in retaliation and organised bombardments

Machine Guns.

5. Our machine guns have been more than usually active owing to the enemy's attempt to employ working parties in the recent misty weather.

Snipers.

6. The enemy has shown more enterprise in the BOESINGHE Sector. On the right of the line he has been unsuccessful in his employment of dummy heads. Our snipers have been successful all along the line.

Work.

7. The enemy has been very busy in the misty weather endeavouring to repair his damaged trenches. He also continues to work on his new trench East of ST. ELOI.

Counter-Battery.

8. Report attached.

VIII Corps.

9. Patrols.

Bad weather has rendered patrolling difficult, but several enemy working parties have been discovered and dispersed by Lewis guns.

Artillery.

On the 12th and 15th the enemy bombarded our trenches in the WIELTJE Sector, possibly in retaliation for our raid on the 10th instant. The chief feature on the left of the line has been the frequent shelling of the "X" line and the vicinity of IRISH FARM (C.27.a.2.6. Sheet 28).

Trench Mortars.

Enemy trench mortars have been fairly quiet, beyond co-operation with their artillery in organised shoots. BOESINGHE Sector, FUSILIER and TURCO FARMS received some attention.

Machine Guns.

Our Lewis guns silenced several enemy machine guns in the RAILWAY WOOD Sector.

Snipers.

There is more activity reported on the part of the enemy in the BOESINGHE Sector and just east of the Canal.

X Corps.10. Patrols.

Much useful information has been obtained by our patrols. The enemy continues to work on his new trench East of ST. ELOI. So far our patrols have been unable to enter it. The enemy has been alert, but has done little patrolling.

Artillery.

The enemy has shelled our front, support and reserve lines more frequently than the back areas. Our artillery and trench mortars have replied effectively to this fire on all occasions. Much damage has been done to his trenches and gaps out in his wire.

On the 16th instant the Corps and Divisional artillery carried out a deliberate bombardment of the enemy's trenches and tramways. Considerable damage was done, but owing to poor visibility the exact amount is not yet known. The enemy replied with bursts of fire during the day and kept it up a large part of the night. He no doubt expected to be raided.

Trench Mortars.

The enemy's trench mortars have damaged our trenches in the OBSERVATORY RIDGE Sector, and on the night of the 16th/17th activity was more marked than usual in the BLUFF Sector.

Machine Guns.

Owing to the mist our machine guns have had more targets than usual, and gaps in the enemy's front line have been kept under fire.

Snipers.

D41

A number of hits were obtained by our snipers. During our bombardment of enemy's lines on the 16th our snipers caught several of the enemy running away over the open.

IX Corps.11. Patrols.

Very few hostile patrols have been encountered or located by our patrols, who have been out every night.

Artillery.

Our artillery has bombarded the enemy's trenches and wire and has silenced his trench mortars. On the 16th January a bombardment was carried out in the evening to interfere with a ^{suspected} relief West of MESSINES.

Trench Mortars.

Usual activity on both sides. Our trench mortars have carried out several effective bombardments and damaged enemy's front line trenches considerably.

Machine Guns.

Usual activity on both sides.

Snipers.

Our snipers have been active and claim a number of hits.

Work.

Enemy has been very busy working on his front line.

Raids.

On the 13th January the 16th Division carried out an unsuccessful raid, but two prisoners were captured in a small enterprise carried out by the same Division two hours before the raid. In the unsuccessful raid, the enemy shelled his front line with field guns and trench mortars.

I Anzac Corps. 12. Patrols.

Enemy wiring parties have been detected by our patrols and dispersed. Seven of our patrols entered the enemy's trenches: two men remained in the enemy's lines a whole morning and gained much information. Other parties remained from 1½ to 3 hours. On one occasion one of our fighting patrols got within 40 yards of a working party with a Lewis gun.

Artillery.

During the last three days the enemy's artillery activity has increased slightly. We have shelled working parties, billets, roads, trench mortar emplacements, etc.

Trench Mortars.

The enemy's Minenwerfer have been comparatively quiet. Our trench mortars continue to cut his wire and damage his trenches.

Machine Guns.

Our machine guns have been active at night and over a dozen working parties have been dispersed.

Snipers.

Our snipers claim to have hit a large number of the enemy, who has been unsuccessfully employing dummy heads.

Work.

Enemy working and wiring parties have been reported along the whole front.

Raid.

On the night of the 13th/14th instant, a party from the 3rd Australian Division attempted to raid the enemy's trenches just South of the LYS (Sheet 36: C.17.a.) but strong wire in the borrow pit prevented our raiding party from entering the trench.

R.F.C.

13. The adverse weather conditions made flying ⁰⁴³ practically impossible, but on the 15th instant a little artillery and photographic work was accomplished. Bombs were also dropped on one of the enemy's dumps.

Kite Balloon Wing.

Only 3 ascents were made during the week.

Mining.

14. With the exception of a camouflet fired by us at MOUNT SORREL on the 19th, there has been no mining activity during the week.

7.
Ditt

Counter
Battery.

Visibility has been very bad during the past week but every opportunity has been taken to carry out Counter Battery work but these opportunities have unfortunately been few. R.F.C. machines stand by to make use of even half an hour's good visibility should it occur.

045

Casualties. 16.

	<u>Officers</u>			<u>Other ranks.</u>		
	K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.
VIII Corps	2	3	-	20	109	1
IX Corps	1	3	1	17	74	5
X Corps	1	7	-	38	163	2
II Anzac Corps	3	2	-	24	91	-
	-----			-----		
	7	15	1	99	437	8
	=====			=====		

Total casualties -

Officers	23
Other ranks	544

	567
	===

Appx I (A)

SECRET.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - SECOND ARMY. 046

for week ending 6 p.m. January 25th 1917.

The period under review has been marked by considerable hostile artillery activity and four hostile raids. We carried out two raids and obtained one prisoner.

Patrols.

1. Our patrols have been active and have gained much useful information. The snow and clear nights have made patrolling difficult, but white patrol suits have been extremely useful. One of our patrols captured two prisoners on the night of the 21st/22nd near SPANBROEKMOELEN.

Artillery.

2. Hostile artillery has been more active in the Northern half of the YPRES Salient and in the BOESINGHE Area. YPRES has been frequently shelled, also Battalion Headquarters and strong points in rear. We bombarded the enemy's trenches in the BOESINGHE Sector on the 23rd instant.

In the Southern half of the YPRES Salient the enemy has retaliated for our bombardment and has paid particular attention to targets in back areas. He has been reported to have used 8-inch shell on several occasions.

Prior to the raid on our trenches in the PLOEGSTEERT Sector, the enemy carried out a very heavy bombardment lasting for over 3 hours. Gas shells were employed in considerable numbers. The enemy has also shown increased activity North and East of ARMENTIERES.

Our Artillery carried out a methodical bombardment of the enemy's position about HILL 60 and East of the BLUFF Sector.

047

Trench Mortars. 3. With the exception of their participation in the preparatory bombardments for raids, the enemy's trench mortars have been less active than ours.

Machine Guns. 4. The usual activity on both sides.

Snipers. 5. Our snipers claim a large number of hits. The enemy has shown little enterprise.

Work. 6. Enemy working parties have been very busy repairing the damage done by our bombardments of his trenches between HILL 60 and the YPRES-COMINES Canal, and our machine guns have had good targets in consequence.

Counter-Battery. 7. Report attached.

VIII Corps. 8. Patrols.

Several enemy working parties have been detected and dispersed by our patrols. No hostile patrols have been encountered.

Artillery.

On the 24th instant YPRES was shelled throughout the day with H.E., and in the evening with gas shells. WIELTJE has also received considerable attention. Our communication trenches have been shelled more than usual, and hostile artillery has been particularly active between WIELTJE and the Canal, IRISH FARM, HILL TOP and BOESINGHE receiving particular attention. We bombarded the enemy's trenches in the BOESINGHE Sector on the 23rd instant and carried out a large amount of successful counter-battery work.

Trench Mortars

Hostile trench mortars inactive, except in the BOESINGHE Sector, where our trenches have been frequently shelled, especially on the 23rd instant, when they

were bombarded from 10 a.m. to noon. DWB

Machine Guns.

Normal. Our Lewis guns have been successful in silencing enemy guns traversing our trenches at night.

Snipers.

Enemy inactive. Our snipers claim several victims.

Raids.

At 5.10 a.m. on the 25th instant, the enemy bombarded our trenches and wire in front of RAILWAY WOOD, and a party of about 30 of the enemy attacked our trenches North of the YPRES-ROULERS Railway. A fight ensued in NO MAN'S LAND and our trenches, and the support Company immediately counter-attacked. Five of our men are still reported missing.

X. Corps.

9. Patrols.

One of our patrols entered the enemy's trench at Sheet 28, 0.7.c.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ and found it unoccupied. Hostile patrols have been encountered on two or three occasions.

Artillery.

Enemy's artillery has been chiefly employed in shelling our batteries and communications in our back areas, paying little attention to our front line, except on the 21st instant, when our trenches in the ST. ELOI Sector were bombarded. BEDFORD HOUSE, BELGIAN CHATEAU, RIDGE WOOD, VIERSTRAAT, VOORMEZEELE and DICKEBUSCH have received special attention. Our artillery have replied vigorously on every occasion, and caused much damage to the enemy's trenches. The Corps Heavy and Divisional Artillery carried out an organised bombardment of enemy's trenches about HILL 60 with success. The enemy's reply was chiefly directed on to our communication trenches.

Dug

Trench Mortars.

The enemy has been generally quiet, with the exception of in the ST. KLOI Sector.

Machine Guns.

Activity normal.

Snipers.

Enemy snipers have become more active. Ours claim several hits.

Work.

Enemy working parties have been very persistent all along his line repairing the damage done to parapets and wire and strengthening the support lines.

Raids.

On the night of the 19th/20th, a raiding party of the 41st Division entered the enemy's trenches in Sheet 28, O.3.d.4.9., captured one prisoner, and secured a valuable identification. The party penetrated for 150 yards along the German front line, and bombed some dugouts.

On the night of the 23rd/24th, a raid was carried out by the 23rd Division at Sheet 28, J.19.c.0.1. Our party entered the trenches and remained in them a quarter of an hour, but were unable to obtain any prisoners or identifications, as the enemy hurriedly evacuated both his front and support line, and heavily bombarded his own trenches.

IX Corps.

10. Patrols.

Our patrols have been active and captured two prisoners on the night of the 21st/22nd in the SPANBROEK Sector.

Artillery.

With the exception of the bombardment in support of the raids on the 22nd instant, the enemy's artillery

has generally been quiet. Ours has been employed in counter battery work and in dealing with enemy trench mortars. D50

On the 24th instant, the 25th Divisional Artillery and trench mortars bombarded the enemy's ~~and~~ trenches and wire with good results.

Trench Mortars.

The enemy employed a very large number of trench mortars on the 22nd instant which did not fire from the usual emplacements.

Machine Guns.

Activity normal on both sides.

Snipers.

Enemy inactive: ours claim a number of hits.

Work.

Enemy has been working on his front and support lines.

Raids.

At 1.45 p.m. on the 22nd instant the enemy commenced a very heavy bombardment of our front line from the River LYS as far North as SEAFORTH FARM (Sheet 36, U.S.d.) Guns of all calibres, as well as trench mortars, were employed, and our trenches were badly damaged.

At 5 p.m. three parties of Germans, each estimated at about 40, attempted the following raids:-

(1) Near ST. YVES (North-east corner of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD) which entered our trenches, but was at once bombed out, leaving a wounded German officer in our hands.

(2) At the South-East corner of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD which was driven off before reaching our trenches.

(3) In conjunction with these raids, the enemy

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051

also raided our trenches just South of the River
LYE in the 2nd Anzac ~~Group~~ Area, where he entered our
trenches, but was driven out, leaving one dead
German in the trench. We lost no prisoners. The
bombardment continued until 6 p.m.; our guns and
trench mortars replied effectively.

II Anzac Corps. 11. Patrols.

No hostile patrols have been encountered by ours,
but a number of wiring parties have been detected.
Patrols of the 34th Division entered enemy's trenches
in Sheet 36, N.11.b.1.9., but found them unoccupied.

Artillery.

The enemy's artillery has shown increasing activity,
which culminated in the 3-hour bombardment prior to his
raid on the evening of the 22nd instant. Our artillery
has been consistently active.

Trench Mortars.

Enemy trench mortars, many of which were firing
from new positions, co-operated in his bombardment in
support of the raid on the 22nd. Ours have fired on
the enemy's wire and parapet throughout the week.

Machine Guns.

Enemy machine guns have been rather less active
than usual. Ours have done a great deal of night
firing, and on one occasion succeeded in driving off
a low flying aeroplane.

Snipers.

Enemy snipers inactive: ours claim 22 hits.

Work.

Enemy's working parties have been busy, especially
beyond RADINGHEM and at FROMELLES Station.

Raid.

After a heavy bombardment on the 22nd instant a large
party of the enemy entered our trenches just South of the

052

River LYS.

R.F.C.

12. During the last three days there has been great aerial activity. ~~The~~ Hostile machines have been very active, particularly on the left of our line.

On the 20th instant, a special patrol flew over the enemy's lines at a few hundred feet, between BOESINGHE and ZONNEBEKE, as no reconnaissances had been possible for some days owing to the mist. A great deal of reconnaissance, artillery, and photographic work has been carried out during the last four days.

On the 22nd instant a contact patrol observed the enemy's wire, prior to a raid, from a height of 200 feet.

Hostile aircraft have been very active. Three enemy machines were brought down, and one was forced to land. Three of our machines were brought down. We had two pilots killed, and ^{two} ~~three~~ pilots and ^{two} ~~one~~ observers wounded.

Kite Balloon Wing.

A number of ascents have been made by day and night, and some useful work carried out.

Mining.

13. With the exception of a camouflet blown by us at RAILWAY WOOD on the 23rd instant, there has been no mining activity during the week.

053

Counter-Battery Work.

14. In spite of clear weather there was a considerable amount of ground mist which interfered with observation.

Eight successful destructive shoots were carried out with air observation, explosions being caused in one hostile battery.

The enemy carried out considerably more counter battery work with air observation than usual, but obtained very little real effect.

His aeroplanes have shown greatly increased activity during the past week, especially in artillery observation.

One of our balloons, in a night ascent, obtained reliable information about hostile batteries.

054

Casualties. 15.

	<u>Officers</u>			<u>Other ranks.</u>		
	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>K.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>M.</u>
VIII Corps	-	2	-	10	75	5
IX Corps	2	9	-	61	161	1
X Corps	1	6	-	31	144	10
II Anzac Corps	2	7	-	37	189	5
	-----			-----		
	5	24	-	139	369	21
	=====			=====		

Total casualties -

Officers	29
Other ranks	729

	758
	=====

055
SECRET

VIII CORPUS

VIII Corps H.Q.

X CORPUS

X Corps H.Q.

IX CORPUS

34th DIVISION
(METEREN AREA)

IX Corps H.Q.

II Anzac H.Q.

II ANZAC

SITUATION IN SECOND ARMY
JANUARY 31st 1917

WAR DIARY COPY

6th Field Survey Co. PE 11691 29/1/17

116 at Douzeville

Boesinghe
Lancashire Fm.
Hill Top
Wieltje
Railway Wd.
Hooge
Observatory Ridge & Mount Sorrel
Hill 60
Canal
St. Eloi
Diependaal
Vierstraat
Wytshaete
Spanbroek
Wulverghem
Messines
Douve
Ploegstaert
Le Touquet
Houplines
EpINETTE
Rue de Bois
Bois Grenier
Boutillerie
Cordonnerie

CASSEL

YPRES

3 NZ

1 NZ

2 NZ

9 AUS

11 AUS

10 AUS

64

110

62

165

118
164

140

119

1107

7

5

108

109

74

48

37

124

142

69

88

116

117

114

113

115

055

10