

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/2/12 Part 2

Title: General Staff, General Headquarters,
British Expeditionary Force

December 1916



AWM4-1/2/12PART2

4286

APPENDIX "A".

1st December, 1916.

Subject.

Time.	To.	Subject.
10.0 a.m.	First, Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Armies, Q, A.A. (O.A.N.5/26).	Daily ammunition allotments from noon Decr. 2nd to ^{noon} Decr. 12th.
11.55 a.m.	Fourth & Fifth Armies, D.A.S. (O.A. 236).	The stationary Pigeon Loft at LAVIEVILLE transferred from Fifth to Fourth Army.
2.55 p.m.	Fourth & Fifth Armies, D.A.S., A.A., R.F.C., French Mission. (O.A. 235).	Fourth and Fifth Armies to perfect a system for giving French Authorities immediate warning by telephone of approach of hostile aircraft on AMIENS.
3.0 p.m.	All Formations and all concerned. (O.A. 414/62).	Revised billeting area map issued.

2nd December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Subject.
11.20 a.m.	First, Third & Fifth Armies, D.A.S. (O.A. 238).	One Canadian Cable Section will move on 4th December from Fifth Army to join First Army (Canadian Corps).
5.10 p.m.	Fourth & Fifth Armies, D.A.S. (O.A. 239).	The control of No. 3 Motor Mobile Pigeon Loft is transferred from Fifth to Fourth Army.

239

3rd. December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Subject.

Time.

To.

12.30 p.m.

French Mission,
R. F. C.
(O.A.240)

Forwarding names of following officers who will attend Conference at PARIS re
co-operation with French against Zeppelins;-
Lt.Col. F.C.N. Holt, R.F.C. in England;
Major E.B.Gordon, G.S. of R.F.C. in France.

12.45 p.m.

Second, Third and
Fourth Armies,
Q.M.G., E. in C.
(O.A.27/6)

Second and Third Armies to place at disposal of Fourth Army an Army Troops Company
for special work for a period of three weeks.
Coy. from Third Army to join Fourth Army on Decr. 8th., re-joins Third
Army 30th. Decr.
Coy. from Second Army to join Fourth Army on Decr. 16th., re-joins
Second Army on Jany. 7th.

3.35 p.m.

Fourth and Fifth
Armies, D. A. S.
(O.A.243)

A wireless subsection formed of Australian personnel will be transferred from
Fifth Army (XIII Corps) to Fourth Army (I Anzac Corps) for allotment to one of
its Divisions.)

4th. December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Subject.
12.15 p.m.	First Army & D.G.T. (O.A. 245).	1st. Canadian Pioneer Battalion (1st. Canadian Division) temporarily withdrawn from its Division and placed at disposal of D.G.T. for special duty on railway work.

5th December, 1918.

Subject.

Time.	To.	Subject.
10.30 a.m.	First & Fifth Armies. (O.A. 246).	Re O.A. 227 of 29/11/18., moves of 167th., 107th. and 165th. Siege Batteries will be carried out by road and not by rail as shown.
7.30 p.m.	Second Army. (O.A. 142/12).	Programme for aircraft bombing raids approved subject to compliance with instructions issued in para. 2 of O.A. 142/7 of 27/11/18.
8.15 p.m.	All Armies. (O.A. 247).	Pointing out importance of several points in connection with underground tunnels across "No Man's Land" brought to notice from the experience of operations against BEAUMONT-HAMEL.
10.15 p.m.	Fourth Army. (O.A. 248)	Use of tactical trains for move of 40th. Division on 9th., 10th., 11th. and 15th. December approved. Entrainment to take place at PONT REMY and LONGPRE. Detrainment between ALBERT and MERICOURT.

6th. December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Subject.
		----- N I L -----

2294

7th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
10.0 a.m.	A.G., D.A.G. Base. (O.A.377/83)	<u>31st. Division</u> should be given priority in reinforcements up to 11,000 amongst Divisions in Fifth Army.
1.10 p.m.	Third and Fifth Armies. Branches concerned. (O.A.252)	72nd and 74th Siege Batteries (8" hows., 28 cwt.) will be transferred from Fifth Army to Third Army. Movements will be carried out by road and will take place between 12th and 17th December.
"	Fourth Army, D. Tn. (O.A.253)	Use of tactical trains for move of personnel of <u>29th and 17th Divisions</u> approved.
3.15 p.m.	Fourth and Fifth Armies, Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/27)	Receipts of 9.2" how. ammunition having been less than was anticipated when present allotments were made, it is necessary to deduct 10,000 rounds from the resources at present notified as available for Fourth and Fifth Armies.
11.30 p.m.	C.-in-C. French Armies. (O.B.1198)	Proposals as regards organization of liaison duties between French and British Armies.

8th. December,....., 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
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9th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.

To.

Action taken.

----- N I L -----

.....10th December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
9.50 a.m.	Fourth Army, G.H.Q. Troops, Branches concerned. (O.A.192/1)	One Section No. 50 Searchlight Co., R.E., (3 lights) will be transferred from G.H.Q. Troops to Fourth Army on 15th December.
10.50 p.m.	British Mission with Belgian Army, E.-in-C. (O.A.333/H/166).	Weekly reports on inundations may now be discontinued.

.....11th December....., 1916.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
7.0 a.m.	All Armies, Q., AA. (O.A.N.5/28)	Daily ammunition allotment to Armies from noon, 12th December, to noon, 22nd December, approved.
3.20 p.m.	Fourth and Fifth Armies, G.H.Q. Troops; branches concerned. (O.A.29/3)	No. 3 Special Co. and two sections No. 4 Special Co., R.E., from Fourth Army and Nos. 1 and 2 Special Co ^s , R.E., from Fifth Army, will be transferred to G.H.Q. troops for training under O.C. Special Brigade at HELFAUT.
4.0 p.m.	First, Third, Fifth, Second, and Fourth Armies; branches concerned. (O.A.257).	<u>37th. Division</u> , less artillery, will be transferred by march route on 14th - 16th December, from Fifth Army, V Corps, to First Army, XI Corps. 37th Divisional Artillery will follow its Division on the 18th December.

12th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
10.40 p.m.	All Armies; branches concerned. (O.A.260)	Attention drawn to the importance of the Defence of entrances and exits of infantry sub-ways leading from deep dugouts or support and reserve trenches, provision of intermediate exits, etc.

200

13th December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
1.10 p.m.	First, Third and Fifth Armies; branches concerned. (O.A.263)	One Cable Section and one Wireless Sub-Section will be transferred as early as possible from Fifth to First Army. (Ref. O.A.257 of 11th December.)

108
301

14th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
1.0 p.m.	First, Second and Third Armies. Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/30).	General instructions governing expenditure of ammunition. Instructions as regards allotment and issue of special instructions from time to time.
*	First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/31)	Instructions as to expenditure of 12" and 15" how. ammunition. Periodical allotments of these natures will cease as from noon, 12th December.
5.50 p.m.	Fourth and Fifth Armies, D.G.T., Q.M.G. (O.A.262).	Fourth and Fifth Armies will each detail one division to be held in G.H.Q. Reserve in readiness to move by rail, the former at 48 and the latter at 27 hours' notice.

302

....., 1916.

15th December,

Action taken.

Time.

To.

5.55 p.m.

First Army, Q.,

A.A.

(O.A.N.5/32)

Special allotment of 25 rounds 12" how. ammunition to First Army approved.

900

18th December, 1916.

Action taken.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
5.0 p.m.	Third and Fourth Armies, D.A.S., A., Q. (O.A.271).	No. 100 Airline Section is posted to Third Army and will move by road from G.H.Q. Troops area on 17th December.
11.0 p.m.	Fourth Army. (O.A.275).	Wireless Telegraph Sub-section relieved by Anzac Sub-section will remain in your Army and will be re-allotted by you.

504

17th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
12.30 p.m.	Q.M.G., D.G.T., (O.A.282/1.)	Divisions detailed for G.H.Q. Reserve are ;- Fourth Army 8th Division, BELLOY-St.-LEONARD Area. Fifth Army 2nd Division, BRAILLY Area.
7.25 p.m.	Q.M.G. (O.A.N.5/35)	No General Staff objection to First, Second and Third Armies establishing Corps and Divisional Ammunition Dumps as Q.M.G. may require up to a certain scale.
- - -	Fifth Army, A.A. (O.A.280.)	To nominate three 6" how. (26 cwt.) batteries for transfer.
- - -	Fourth Army, A.A. (O.A.281.)	To nominate one 6" how. (26 cwt.) battery and one 9.2" how. battery for transfer.
7.40 p.m.	Armies. Branches concerned. (O.A.274.)	Defence of L. of C. areas against hostile aircraft, Addendum to O.A.155, dated 17th December, 1916.
10.25 p.m.	First Army, Special Brigade, D.G.S., A., Q. (O.A.29/5.)	One Section, Special Coy., R.E., will be transferred by road to First Army on the 18th December for temporary duty, and will report to H.Q. 3rd Canadian Division.

305

.....18th..December....., 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
11.0 a.m.	Special Brigade, First Army, D.G.S., A., Q. (O.A.29/6.)	The Section Special Company, temporarily with First Army, will re-join the Special Brigade about the 23rd December. (Ref. O.A.29/5. of 17th December.)
12.45 p.m.	Fourth and Fifth Armies, Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/33)	Resources in ammunition, as detailed, will be withdrawn from Fourth and Fifth Armies for re-allotment amongst First, Second and Third Armies.
---	First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, Q., A.A. (O.A.N,5/34)	Daily allotments of ammunition from Noon, 22nd December to Noon, 21st January, 1917, approved.
7.45 p.m.	Fifth Army, Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/36)	Allotment of 60 rounds 12" how. ammunition for experiments, approved. (Ref. O.A.N. 5/31 of 14th December, and A.A.907/9/2 of 14th November.)
10.20 p.m.	Fourth Army, Q., D.G.T., D.T.N. (O.A.283.)	Use of Tactical Trains on 26th - 29th December, approved.

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.....19th. December,....., 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
2.30 p.m.	A.G. (O.A.377/84.)	All Divisions should be brought up to establishment, plus the extra 100 men per Battalion, as early as possible.
-----	Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, Special Brigade, A., Q., D.G.S. (O.A.29/7)	One Company, No. 2 Battalion, Special Brigade, from Fourth Army, and one Company, No. 1 Battalion, from Fifth Army, will be temporarily transferred to Third Army. Movements will be completed by 28th December, and Third Army will arrange for the two Companies to re-join their respective Armies by 1st February, 1917.
8.0 p.m.	First and Fifth Armies; branches concerned. (O.A.284.)	41st and 108th Siege Batteries (6" how., 26 cwt.) will be transferred by road from Fifth to First Army. Movement will take place between 23rd and 28th December.

101

20th December, 1916.

Action taken.

Time.

To.

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200

..... 31st. December,....., 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
2.0 p.m.	Second Army, Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/37)	Daily allotment of 130 rounds 13 pdr. ammunition from 22nd December approved.

3091

22nd December, 1916.

Action taken.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
8.0 p.m.	First, Third and Fourth Armies; branches concerned. (O.A.292).	Transfer of heavy and siege batteries (4) between First, Third and Fourth Armies approved.
9.30 p.m.	Third Army, Q., A.A.. (O.A.N. 5/38)	Issue of 500 No. 106 fuses for use with 6" hows. approved.

310

23rd December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
7.25 p.m.	Q., A.A. (O.A.N.5/39.)	All 4.7" Lethal and Lachrymatory Shell should be distributed amongst Armies in the following proportions;- First Army - 25% Fourth Army - 40% Fifth Army - 35%.

.....24th December,....., 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
2.30 p.m.	Q.M.G., D.G.T. (O.A.262/2.)	At 12 noon, 25th December, the 29th Division, less artillery, will replace 8th Division as Fourth Army Division in G.H.Q. Reserve.

312

25th December, 1916.

Action taken.

Time.

To.

N I L

213

.....28th December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
8.0 p.m.	First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies; branches con- cerned. (O.A. 249)	Transfer of Siege Batteries (5) between Armies, approved.
10.30 p.m.	Fourth Army, Q., D.G.T., D.TN. (O.A.262/5)	Instructions regarding the entrainment of the Division in G.H.Q. Reserve in the Fourth Army, from 28th December to 4th January, and from 4th January until further orders

.....27th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Action taken.
11.20 a.m.	First, Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Armies, Q., D.G.S. (O.A.295.)	No discharge of lethal bombs from - Projectors, 4" Stokes Mortars, 2" Trench Mortars - will take place without previous reference to and sanction of G.H.Q.
1.45 p.m.	First, Second, Third and Fourth Armies, E.-in-C. (O.A.333/11)	Forwarding remarks on Reports of Defences for November, 1916.
8.15 p.m.	Q.M.G., D.G.T., D.TN. (O.A.262/6)	The 29th Division, less Artillery, and one Divisional Artillery to be detailed by XIV Corps, will be in G.H.Q. Reserve from noon, 28th December, to noon, 4th January, 1917. The 33rd Division, less Artillery and one Divisional Artillery to be detailed by XV Corps, will be in G.H.Q. Reserve from 4th January, 1917, until further orders.

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.....28th December,.....1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Subject.
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316

29th December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.	To.	Subject.
11.20 a.m.	First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, Q., A.A. (O.A.N. 5/40.)	No expenditure of 60 pdr. Lethal and Lachrymatory shell will be made by Armies until further instructions are received from G.H.Q..
11.55 a.m.	Third Army, Q. (O.A.N. 5/41.)	Special allotment of 450 rounds 4.5" how. gas shell approved.
12.40 p.m.	Fifth Army, E.-in-C. (O.A.333/11.)	Forwarding remarks on Monthly Report on Fifth Army Defences.
2.50 p.m.	A.G. (O.A.377/85).	Any reinforcements available for IVth and XIII Corps should be sent to them early in January when they will be withdrawn to rest.

217

30th December, 1916.

Time.	To.	Subject.
9.30 p.m.	First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Armies, Cav. Corps; branches concerned: (O.A. 301).	All Cavalry Pioneer Battalions will be placed forthwith at the disposal of the D.G.T. for construction work.
10.15. p.m.	First and Third Armies; branches concerned: (O.A. 302.)	H.Q. and Corps Troops, XVII Corps, will be transferred as early as possible from First Army, in G.H.Q. Reserve, to Third Army, and will cease to be held in G.H.Q. Reserve from date of transfer.

31st December, 1916.

General Staff (Operations), G.H.Q.

Time.

To.

Subject.

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