

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/12/13

Title: 12th Infantry Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-23/12/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 66

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

17th Bde Hqrs.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bresle	1/3/17		Left Becourt Camp 9.30 a.m. & marched to new billets as under. Bde Hq. 45 th Pm + 46 th Pm to BRESLE. 47 th Bn to BRAZIEUX. 48 th Bn, 12 th MG Coy + 12 th ALTMB. to HENENCOURT, WOOD. Order for move attached Evacuated sick: 10 th Pm (Capt Davey FL) Casualties, nil. 47 th Pm 10.0R.	Appendix I.
Bresle	2/8/17		Training & reorganization commenced & orders for week issued Weather dull & cold. Evacuated sick 10 th 12.0R. Casualties nil	Appendix II.
Bresle	3/3/17.		Training continued. One Officer - Lieut Short, 48 th Pm attached for duty to 7 th Coy Prisoners of War. Other Ranks reported to A.P.M. 4 th Aus Div for Traffic Control duty. The S.S.O. lectured to officers of the Bde on the question of Supply in the Field at 6 p.m. Sick evacuations 13.0.R. Casualties nil	
Bresle	4/3/17		Training in progress. special orders issued re Brigade Route March on 9 th inst with practices by battalions on 5 th & 7 th insts. Sick evacuated 9.0.R. Casualties nil	Appendix III Appendix IV
Bresle	5/3/17		Heavy fall of snow during night. Training continued. 45 th + 46 th Pm Route march. Anniversary dinner of 48 th Bn held. Sick evacuated 9.0R Casualties nil	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	6/3/17		<p>Snow thawed. Inspection of medical personnel by A.D.M.S. Orders issued for tactical scheme + Brigade in the attack on the 10th int. Appended is list of personnel at Schools. Sick evacuated 1 officer 5. O.R. Casualties. Int. 88 Reinforcements for Bde arrived.</p>	<p>Appx <u>V</u> Appx <u>VI</u> Appx <u>VII</u></p>
BRESLE	7/3/17		<p>Very cold + raw. 47th + 48th Pms route march - Remainder training at 5 pm. Lt-Col Bernard G.S.O. 1. 4th Div lectured to officers of Div on Forward Communications. Sick evacuated. 1 offr (St Grant) 46 Pm) 10. O.R. Casualties Int.</p>	
BRESLE	8/3/17		<p>Extremely cold with frequent snowstorms + periods of sun. Course of 3 days instruction for Intelligence Officers of the Bde commenced. Training throughout morning + reconnaissance of ground for scheme on the 10th int. by parties in the afternoon. C.O. 12th F. Amb. went over ground to with R.M.Os. Sick evacuated 15. O.R. Casualties</p>	
BRESLE	9/3/17		<p>Cold + raw. Route march by whole Brigade. Inspected by Army Commander between Lavièville and Henencourt. Rear Coy of each Battalion put through drill manoeuvres. Turnout good. Lecture on "pigeons" at 4 p.m. Sick evacuated. 20 offrs 12. O.R. Lt M^c Intyre 45th St Anderson 47th</p>	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	10/3/17		<p>Brigade attack carried out. Weather too misty for aeroplane co-operation. Fairly good show, show careful preparation on part of Battalion Commanders. Visual signalling - signallers recklessly exposed themselves as usual. Evacuated sick 16. O.R. Casualties. nil</p>	
BRESLE	11/3/17		<p>Brigade (Divisional?) Church parade 10 a.m. G. O. C. Corps presented medals & Ribbons. Fine day. Major Anderson reported as Bde. Major. but would report to England to stake up clubs with 16th Bde. Sick evacuated 16. O.R. Casualties nil</p>	
Bresle	12/3/17		<p>Inspection of Brigade training area + troops training by the Secretary for State accompanied by Army Corps Commander at 12 noon. Conference of Brigadier + Battalion Commanders at Div. HQ. 3 p.m. Lecture by B.G. G.S. 1st Anzac (B. Gen WHITE. CB) at 5 pm to Officers on training + open Warfare. Evacuated sick 1 officer (Sicut Hall. 46' Am) 12. O.R.</p>	
Bresle	13/3/17		<p>Training carried on, weather good, but ground still very sloppy. Sick evacuated 8. O.R. Casualties nil</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	14/3/17		Wet. Training continued. 4 th Bde carried out attack over 12 th Bde area in morning. Evacuated sick 24. Casualties - nil	
BRESLE	15/3/17.		Fine but cold. Training well in progress. Issued orders for Brigade manoeuvre on 17 th inst. C.O. units reconnoitred terrain for attack at 3 p.m. this afternoon. Sick ^{slight} evacuations 4 injured by premature Bomb explosion (45 th Pm) one by rifle bursting (47 th Pm). Casualties 5.	Appendix VIII
Bresle	16/3/17.		Frosty + misty during day. Training during morning. Afternoon Angac Troupe gave good concert in Engineer's Barn Bresle. Sick evacuation 10 O.R. Casualties nil	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	17/3/17.		<p>Brigade Tactical scheme carried out. Very useful exercise + lessons taught. Left Flank attack on Wood developed very nicely + caused evacuation of Wood. Advancing lines deployed well + took advantage of cover. Orders issued for Signal Exercise on 19th inst. Sick evacuations 10. Day very fine.</p>	Appendix IX
Bresle	18/3/17.		<p>Reconnaissance of ground for 19th inst Signal scheme carried out by Bde + Battalion Staffs + Coy Commanders. Dull in morning but fine afternoon. Marketing officer reported from Army HQ. Lt Dillley Sick evacuations Casualties 1 (Bde Coy by T.M.)</p>	
Bresle	19/3/17		<p>Divisional Signal exercise carried out from 10.30 am to 2. p.m. Good exercise for Sigs + fairly well carried out. Weather cold + bleak. Wet towards evening. Sick evacuation 3. Casualties Nil</p>	
Bresle	20/3/17		<p>Wet + Cold. Training continued. Divisional orders received for move on 23rd inst. Bde Order issued accordingly. Lecture 4 pm on Marketing by Lieut Dillley. Sick evacuations</p>	Appendix X

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	21 st		Training unshetly, weather cold, showery, and snow Sick evacuations 5 O.R.	
-	22 nd		Training unshetly very cold snow, rain & hail Showers. 2 off (Capt. E. G. Sawyer 12 th M. G. Coy and Lieut. J. K. Hall 46 th Pn) and 5 O.R. evacuated sick Sick evacuations	
SHELTER WOOD	23 rd		Brigade moved to SHELTER WOOD Camp 11 am; halted at the BRICKFIELDS near ALBERT for dinner & arrived in camp 3 pm. Sick evacuations 5 O.R.	
	24 th		Intelligence officers & recruiting parties sent out to the San Warlement accident to my son Robertin pulled off his horse Lt Col Henry assumed command of the brigade weather fine Sick evacuations 3 O.R.	
	25 th		Some severe weather fine. Sick evacuations 8 O.R.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Stellenbos	26 th		weather wet, order NO 131 issued. units haining	appdx. XI
	27 th		showery & cold	
Warlemont le Sam Arcu	28 th		Company moved to WARLENCOURT - LESARS area in Divt reserve	
	29 th		very wet, units working on road repair & salvage	
	30 th		units working on road repair & salvage	
	31 st		units working on road repair & salvage order 132 issued	appdx. XI

W. H. ...

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SECRET.

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE Order No. 125.

Febry. 27th. 1917

Reference Map ALBERT 1:40000.

The 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade will move on 1st instant in accordance with attached TABLE.

2. O.C. Units will be responsible that their respective camps are left thoroughly clean and obtain a receipt from the TOWN MAJOR to this effect.

3. Advanced billeting parties will report to the Staff Captain at the Town Major's Office BAIZIEUX at 6 p.m. on 28th. instant.

4. Strict march discipline will be maintained throughout march.

5. Officers commanding are responsible that there is uniformity of dress throughout the Brigade on marching out.

6. Units will maintain the usual intervals previously laid down.

7. Further administrative instructions regarding the move will be issued tomorrow.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. Hales Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 45th. Battn.
- 5 - 46th. "
- 6 - 47th. "
- 7 - 48th. "
- 8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
- 10 - 4th. Aust. Div. "G"
- 11 - 4th. Aust. Div. "Q"
- 12 - 12th. Bde. Supply Officer
- 13 - A.D.M.S. 4th. Aust. Div.
- 14 - Staff Captain
- 15 - G.O.C. 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade
- 16 - Bde. Sig. Officer
- 17 & 18 - Spare.

--- T I M E T A B L E. ---

Date	Unit	From	To	Route	Remarks
1st. Feby.	12th. Bde. Hqrs.	BECOURT	ERESLE	Via ALBERT	
	45th. Battalion	"	"	" "	
	46th. Battalion	"	"	" "	
	47th. Battalion	"	BAIZIEUX	ALBERT-MILENCOURT -HENENCOURT.	
	48th. Battalion	"	HENENCOURT WOOD	ALBERT-MILENCOURT -HENENCOURT	
	12th. M.G. Coy.	"	"	" "	
	12th. A.L.T.L. Btty.	"	"	" "	

First Unit to be clear of BECOURT CAMPS by 9-30 a.m.
Remainder to follow at proper intervals.

War diary

Appx II

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Appendix No. 3
Copy No. 3

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

TRAINING ORDERS No. 91

2nd. March 1917.

1. Information shows it is very probable that before long, the present system of trench warfare will be replaced by open warfare. C.O. Units will therefore ensure that steps are taken to increase the efficiency of their Units in all branches. There will be a certain amount of "Stickiness" at first due to the influence of long period of stationary warfare, but this can be overcome by constant work of the officers in encouraging and smartening their men, and in not overlooking faults however small, till slackness has given place to efficiency.

2. The Training will be progressive commencing with Section and Platoon Drill, followed by Company and finally Battalion and Brigade work.

3. Tactical training will be carried out on throughout the whole period and must on no account be omitted. The tactical handling of a platoon is just as important as that of a Battalion. Men should have the general special ideas of schemes explained to them and at the conclusion of tactical operations, a short criticism emphasizing mistakes and lessons learnt, should be delivered by the Officers.

4. C.O. Units will arrange for a system of short lectures to be given to junior Officers, on at least three nights in every week. A series of tactical lectures to Company Commanders on tactical phases of open warfare is being arranged and syllabus will be issued later.

5. Specialists. The training of specialists is most important. For the first week, specialists will train separately, and after that in conjunction with their Units for all tactical schemes. To ensure their thorough training, C.O's will institute schools as follows. Syllabus of training for each branch to be sent to Brigade Headquarters by 5 p.m. 3rd. March.

(a) Signalling :-

All Battalion Signallers (including Company Signallers) under Regimental Signalling Officer for one week's course. Visual signalling particular attention being paid to aeroplane work with ground sheets and panels.

(b) Lewis Gun School. One week's course with practice of firing when in motion. Ranges are available.

(c) Scouts. All scouts will work direct with the Intelligence Officer and will be practised in reconnaissance, map reading and field sketching.

(d) Bombers. Practice with bombs and rifle grenades under Bombing Officer.

Brigade Staff Officers are available for technical advice and supervision.

6. Supplies. C.O's. will pay particular attention to the reorganization and training of their transport section and of their Quartermasters department. It must be remembered that the whole feeding of the Battalion may at

(2)

times be wholly dependent on the efficiency of its transport. Proper transport drill will be taken in hand, and all equipment thoroughly overhauled and renovated. Transport lines to be inspected regularly by a member of Battalion Staff. Quartermasters should get in touch with Captain Walsh, 26th. A.S.C., for technical advice.

7. Weekly programmes of training will be issued each Friday.

8. Training areas are allotted as follows :-
45th. and 46th. Battalions as pointed out to Intelligence Officers.
47th. 48th. Battalions, 12th. M. G. Coy., and 12th. A.L.T. Battery will be notified later.

9. M. G. Coy. and A.L.T. Battery will carry on training as per approved syllabus.

10. As a general principle every effort should be made to achieve absolute discipline and physical fitness in the men and thorough efficiency in Officers and N.C.O's.

Shrondell
Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - G.O.C.
- 5 - Brigade Major
- 6 - Staff Captain
- 7 - 4th. Aust. Division
- 8 - 45th. Battalion
- 9 - 46th. "
- 10 - 47th. "
- 11 - 48th. "
- 12 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 13 - 12th. A.L.T. Battery
- 14 - Spare.

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12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING for Week ending 9th. March 1917.

Date	9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon	2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.
3rd. March	Organization of Sections and Platoons	Kit inspection. Rifle and Gas Helmet inspection.
4th. "	CHURCH PARADE	REST
5th. "	Physical Training and Games. Close Order Drill Sections and Platoons. Bayonet Fighting.	Rifle exercises and Musketry.
6th. "	Platoon Drill. Physical Training. Lecturette Extended Order. Extended Order Drill.	Route March by Companies.
7th. "	Platoon Drill. Company Drill. Physical Training.	Football Match.
8th. "	Company Drill in Extended Order. Rifle Exercises. Company Close Order Drill.	Guards and Sentries. Elementary Musketry instruction.
9th. "	Brigade Route March with all First Line Transport	

Specialists undergo Special Training in accordance with own Syllabus approved by Brigade Headquarters.

N.B. Battalions have each submitted a Syllabus for the week based on the above.

Appendix No. 2

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

TRAINING ORDER No. 92.

March 3rd. 1917.

Reference Map LEHS 1:100000.

1. On the 9th. instant the 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade will carry out a route march with all 1st. Line Transport and in full marching order. The Divisional Commander will be present.

2. Battalions will carry out route marches on the 5th. and 7th. instants as a preparatory for the 9th. instant.

3. March order with dates, times, starting points and routes are attached, see appendix I.

4. (a) Battalions will parade at full strength with the exception of a camp guard of 1 Officer and 10 Men.

(b) Dress. Full marching order without blankets, which will be left in camp. Waterproof sheet folded square in top of pack with bottom showing beneath flap of same. Steel helmet held to pack by pack straps. Equipment to be clean and properly fitted. Hats (turned up) will be worn.

(c) March discipline will be strictly enforced and proper distances maintained (10 yards between Companies) and 20 yards between rear of Battalion and transport.

(d) The order of march of the transport will be as follows :-

- G.S., L.V.
- Officers Mess Cart
- Cookers
- Water Cart
- Maltose Cart
- Spare Horses.

The senior Major will be in rear of the transport. Only authorized gear will be carried. A list of all articles dumped through lack of transport will be made.

(e) A rear guard will be provided.

5. Parade States will reach Brigade Headquarters at 5 p.m. on the dates mentioned.

e. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Glenn D. Wilton
Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - G.O.C. 12th. A.I. Bde.
- 5 - Brigade Major
- 6 - Staff Captain
- 7 - 45th. Battr.
- 8 - 46th. "
- 9 - 47th. "
- 10 - 48th. "
- 11 - 12th. A.I. Bde. Coy.
- 12 - 12th. A.I. Bde. Battery

--- TIME TABLE ---

Units in March Order	Date	Was Starting Point at	Starting Point	Route
45th. Battalion	5th. Mch.	10 a.m.	N.E. Corner BRESLE VILLAGE	LAVIEVILLE - HENENCOURT - BRESLE.
Brigade H. Qrs. 46th. Battalion	5th. Mch.	2 p.m.	N.E. Corner BRESLE VILLAGE	LAVIEVILLE - HENENCOURT - BRESLE.
47th. Battalion	7th. Mch.	10 a.m.	S.E. Corner BAIZIEUX	BRESLE - HENENCOURT - BAIZIEUX.
48th. Battalion 12th. M. G. Coy. 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.	7th. Mch.	2 p.m.	E. Corner HENENCOURT WOOD	BRESLE - LAVIEVILLE - HENENCOURT WOOD.

Appendix No 3

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Brigade Major *Appendix IV*
Appendix No. 4

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Copy No. *5*

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
OPERATIONX ORDER No. 126.

3rd. March 1917.

Reference Map LENS 1:100000.

1. The 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade will carry out a route march on the 9th instant.
2. Starting point - N.E. corner of BRESLE VILLAGE.
Time - Head of the column passes starting point at 10 a.m.
Route - LAVIEVILLE - HENENCOURT - WARLOY - BAIZIEUX - BRESLE. (Units at HENENCOURT WOOD and BAIZIEUX will break off at their billets).
Order of March - Brigade Headquarters
45th. Battalion
46th. Battalion
47th. Battalion
48th. Battalion
12th. M. G. Coy.
12th. A.L.T.H. Battery
and Passage Wagons.
3. 1st. Line Transport, fully loaded will march immediately in rear of each Unit and in same order as detailed in Training Order No. 92.
List of articles to be dumped to reach Brigade Headquarters by 8 p.m. on 8th. instant.
4. Dress as in Training Order No. 92.
5. Normal distances will be maintained except that there will be 200 yards between Battalions.
6. Strict march discipline to be maintained.
7. Parade States to starting point at 10 a.m.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lehrundelto
Major,
A/Brigade Major,
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - G.O.C. 12th. A.I. Bde.
5 - Brigade Major
6 - Staff Captain
7 - 4th. Aust. Division
8 - 45th. Battalion
9 - 46th. "
10 - 47th. "
11 - 48th. "
12 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
13 - 12th. A.L.T.H. Btty.

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12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. Appendix No. 5

OPERATION ORDER No. 127

6th. March 1917.

Reference (ALBERT Combined Sheet 1:40000.
(Attached HEKTOGRAPH.

1. Information shows that line in front of ANZAC Corps is held thinly by war worn troops. A vigorous and general offensive is about to be commenced by us on 10th. instant.

2. On 10th. instant 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade (in conjunction with Brigades on Right and Left) will attack and take the three lines of enemy trench in Sector D.1.d.2 1/2 .3 1/2 . to D.1.c.8.3 1/2 . on Right to D.7.d.7.8 1/2 . to D.7.d.4 1/2 .9 1/2 . on Left, assisted by 4th. Aust. Artillery as in Appendix I.

(a) 48th. Battalion will finally occupy the line from

D.1.c.8.3 1/2 . (inc) to D.1.d.0.C. (exc)
47th. Bn. - D.1.d.0.C. (inc) to D.7.b.2.7. (exc)
46th. Bn. - D.7.b.2.7. (inc) to D.7.b.3.3. (exc)
45th. Bn. - D.7.b.3.3. (inc) to D.7.d.4 1/2 .8 1/2 . (inc)

Zero hour will be notified later.

(b) M. G. Coy. will place 1 mobile gun at disposal of each Battalion Commander to be used if necessary after consolidation and will also arrange to bring indirect fire to bear on following targets, until consolidation has taken place.

- (i) D.7.b.0.3. to D.7.a.0.6.
(ii) D.1.a.6 1/2 .0. to D.1.a.0.C.
(iii) D.7.a.6.7. to D.7.a.1.7.

(c) A.L.T.M. Battery will arrange with C.O. Battalions to destroy wire in front of enemy Strong Point at D.7.d.6.9. and also deal with enemy H.G.s. at D.7.b.6 1/2 .2. and D.7.b.3.7.

- 3. C.O. 12th. Field Ambulance will arrange for collection and evacuation of casualties.
- 4. Watches will be synchronised 8 a.m. on 10th. instant at Brigade Headquarters.
- 5. Unit Operation Orders to Brigade Hqrs. by 4 p.m. 9th. inst.
- 6. Reports and prisoners to Bde. Hqrs. at 7.9.a.5.0.
- 7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

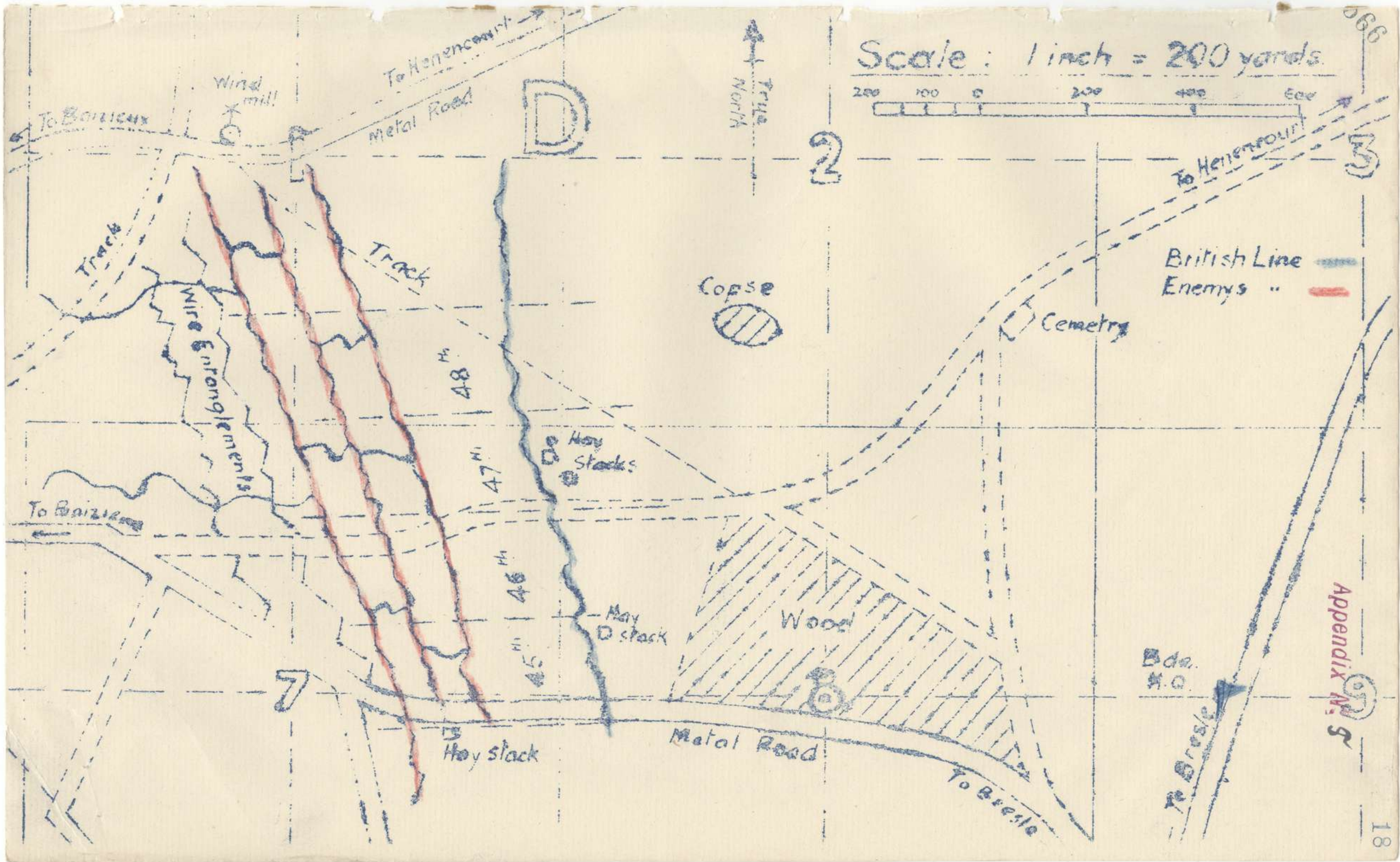
- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 & 5 - 4th. Aust. Div.
- 6 - R.F.C.
- 7 - 45th. Battn.
- 8 - 46th. "
- 9 - 47th. "
- 10 - 48th. "
- 11 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 12 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
- 13 - C.R.A.
- 14 - A.D.M.S.
- 15 - 12th. F. Amb.
- 16 - Right Brigade

Charles H. H. Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

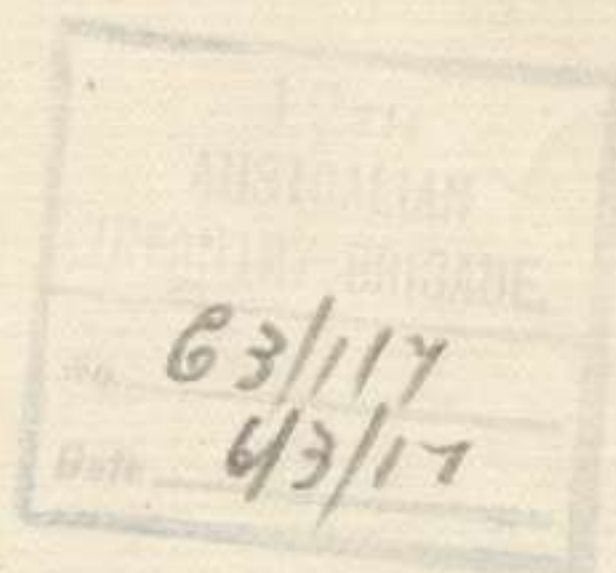
- Copy No. 17 - Left Brigade
- 18 - Major Lee
- 19 - Bde. Sig. Officer
- 20 - Staff Captain
- 21 - G.O.C.
- 22 - Bde. Major
- 23 - C.F.E.
- 24 - 26th. A.A.S.C.
- 25 - Bde. Bombing Off.
- 26 - Bde. Intell. Off.

ARTILLERY TIME TABLE.

Time	Nature of Gun	BARRAGE	Rate	REMARKS
Zero - 10 to Zero + 1	18 Pdrs. H.E. and Shrapnel	Enemy Front Line Trenches from D.1.d.3.4. to D.7.d.7.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.	5 rds. per gun per min.	At Zero - 10 moving barrage will be placed 50 yds. in front of Enemy Front line moving back 50 yds. per min. At Zero - 9 it reaches and rests on enemy line for 10 mins. when it lifts and moves back at same rate till it reaches enemy second line at Zero + 3.
Zero + 3 to Zero + 13	18 pdrs. H.E. and shrapnel	Enemy second line trench from D.1.d.1.3 $\frac{1}{2}$. to D.7.d.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Barrage lifts after 10 mins. and moves back at rate of 50 yds. per minute to enemy third line at rate of 50 yds. per minute.
Zero + 15 to Zero + 25	18 pdrs. H.E. and shrapnel	Enemy third line trench from D.1.c.8.3 $\frac{1}{2}$. to D.7.d.4 $\frac{1}{2}$.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Barrage lifts after 10 mins. and moves back at rate of 50 yds. per min. to line D.1.d.2.4. to D.7.d.7.9 where in conjunction with 2nd and 5th. Div. Artillery it forms continuous barrage along front showing to 2 rds. per min. per gun after 5 mins. and remaining on till position is consolidated.
Zero till Consolidation reported	Counter Battery heavy.	Enemy Batteries	1 Rd. per gun per min.	Rate of fire will be increased if desired.
Zero till Zero + 25	4.5 How.	Enemy communications at D.1.c.2 $\frac{1}{2}$.3 $\frac{1}{2}$. D.7.a.2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$. (Communication trench) and D.7.a.0.6.	1 rd. per min. per gun.	Blocks placed on communications until receipt of instructions from Brigade to cease fire.



Appendix No. 5



12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

-- TACTICAL EXERCISE.--

6th. March 1917.

GENERAL IDEA.

Reference ALBERT (Combined Sheet).

RED Force has declared War on BLUE and has invaded the country, advancing about 100 miles till encountering strong opposition, the advance has been checked and trench warfare developed.

During the winter of 1916 - 1917 preparations have been pushed ahead by both sides for a vigorous offensive.

The weather conditions now having improved, BLUE Force determines to commence the offensive early in March and break through RED's Lines from P.7. Central to J.22. Central. Cavalry and Field Artillery being held in readiness to go through behind the lines once the Infantry has broken through.

Appendix No 6

----- SPECIAL IDEA.-----

Reference attached Sketch.

The 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade are holding the line D.1.d.8.4. to D.8.c.2.9. Battalions being disposed as follows :-

48th. Battalion - D.1.d.8.4. to D.1.d.8 $\frac{1}{2}$. $\frac{1}{2}$.

47th. Battalion - D.1.d.8 $\frac{1}{2}$. $\frac{1}{2}$. to D.8.a.0.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

46th. Battalion - D.8.a.0.7 $\frac{1}{2}$. to D.8.a. $\frac{1}{2}$.3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

45th. Battalion - D.8.a. $\frac{1}{2}$.3 $\frac{1}{2}$. to D.8.c.2.9.

Brigade Headquarters - at D.9.a.0.5.

M. G. Coy. and A.L.T. Battery disposed throughout Brigade Front.

On the 10th. March it is decided that this Brigade, supported by the 5th. Brigade on the Right and the 14th. Brigade on the Left, shall take the three lines of REL Trenches immediately in Front.

The 4th. Australian Divisional Artillery will co-operate.

Communication will be maintained by contact aeroplanes and visual signalling.

--- N O T E S. ---

1. In this tactical scheme Battalion Commanders will reconnoitre their Sectors of ground and send in Disposition Reports to Brigade Headquarters by the 8th. instant (Battalion Hqs $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ mile in rear).
Aeroplane Letters will be used to show Brigade and Battalion Headquarters.
2. Artillery barrage will be represented by lines of horsemen moving across the ground - each Battalion will send out 10 horsemen for this purpose, to report to Major LEE.

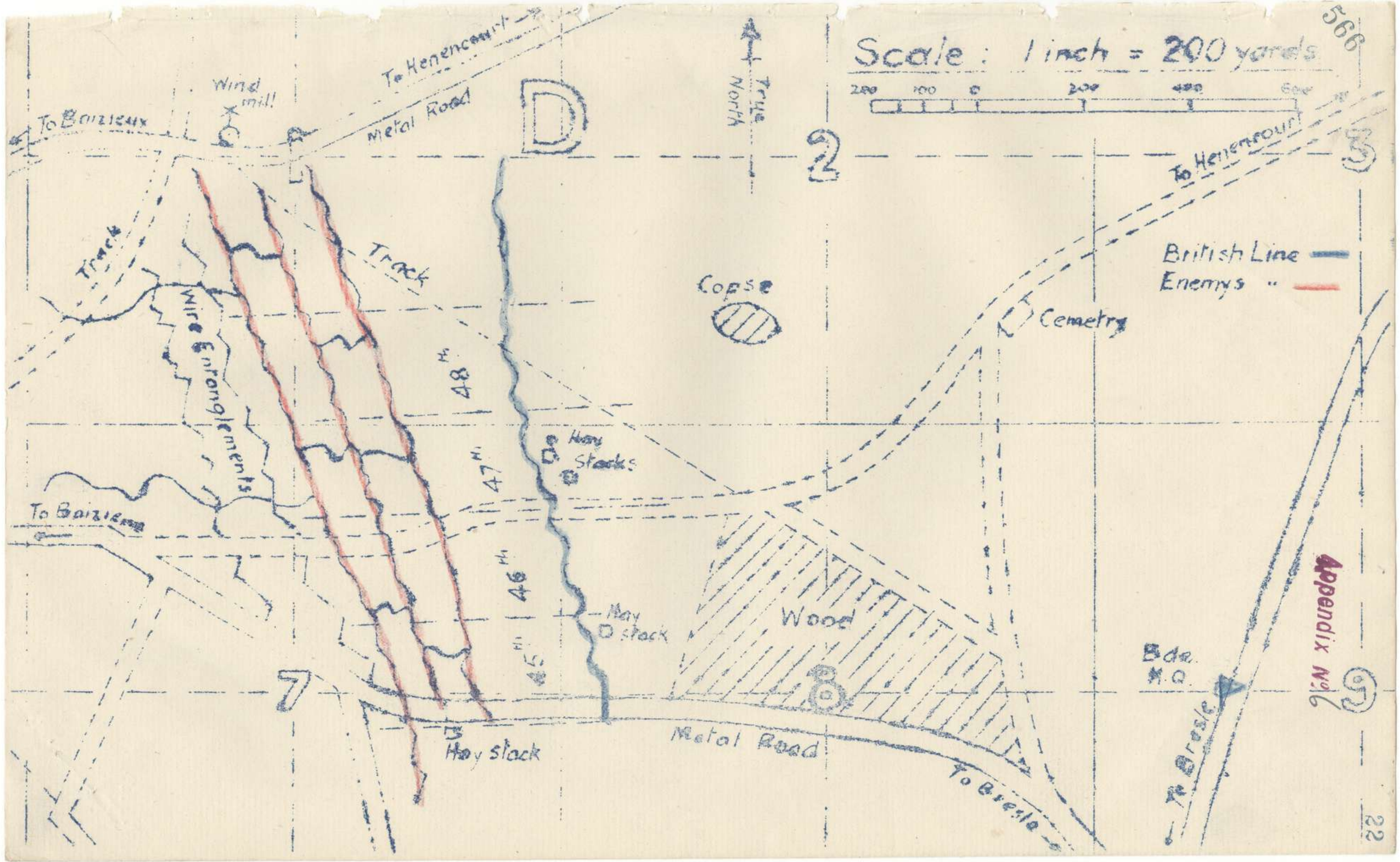
N.B. The barrage will rest for periods of ten minutes on each line of enemy trench - this will be done to give the contact aeroplanes time to receive and deliver messages.
3. Enemy trenches will be represented by flags or posts with perhaps a few riflemen.
Our own front line trench - the jumping off trench also represented by flags or tins.
4. Soon after Zero time the aeroplane will appear and call with Klaxon horn for flares.
Flares will be lit as soon as each objective is reached, when plane will note position on map and return to Brigade Hqs. with report, then again return to line.
5. The attack on the 3rd. Line will be only partially successful and aeroplane will mark line by flares and receiving reasons by signal from Battalion Hqs. will return and report to Brigade.
6. Casualties will be made (about 200 per Battalion) and evacuated. 12th. Field Ambulance will co-operate.
7. Prisoners will be arranged for and passed to rear.
8. Working parties will be organized.
9. Lewis Gunners will establish themselves out in front after final objective has been taken and remain there during consolidation.
10. Operation Order will be issued later.
11. At the conclusion of the operation, mounted officers will assemble near West Corner of WOOD for a discussion.

Copies to -

Copy No. 1 - Office ✓
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 & 5 - 4th. Aust. Div.
 6 - R.F.C.
 7 - 45th. Battn.
 8 - 46th. "
 9 - 47th. "
 10 - 48th. "
 11 - 12th. H. G. Coy.
 12 - 12th. A.L.T.H. Battery

Erundellton Major
7 AM 12 Dec

Copy No. 13 - C.R.A.
 14 - A.D.N.S.
 15 - C.O. 12th. F.A.
 16 - Right Bde.
 17 - Left Bde.
 18 - Major LEE
 19 - Bde. Sig. Off.
 20 - Staff Capt.
 21 - G.O.C.
 22 - Bde. Major
 23 }
 24 } Spare
 25 }



566

~~12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE~~
~~4th. A.T.B.~~

Copy No. 103

Appendix No 8 p. 111

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

TACTICAL SCHEME.

17th. March 1917.

15/3/1917.

Reference ALBERT Combined Sheet

1
40000.

GENERAL IDEA.

ANZAC Corps is advancing in Northerly direction in two columns, 2nd. and 4th. Divisions on Left and 1st. and 5th. on Right.

Enemy has retired from line - EUIRE - RIBEMONT - HEILLY which Sector has been attacked by Corps.

Aeroplane reconnaissance shows he is holding ENGLEBEIMER - HEDAUVILLE - VARENES line in force.

SPECIAL IDEA.

Left column is moving in column of route along roads thus HEILLY - RIBEMONT - DAIZIEUX - WARLOY - HEDAUVILLE.

Advanced Guard consists of 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade, 1 Btty. Artillery, 1 Squadron L.H. and 1 Field Coy. A.E.

(a)

VAN-GUARD.

O.C.
Lt. Col.
DENHAL
46th. Bn.

Nos. 1 & 2 Troops A Squadron 4th. A.L.H. Regt. (Capt. X)
No. 2 Section 12th. A.M.G. Coy. (Lieut. Y)
No. 2 Section 12th. Fld. Coy. A.E. (Lieut. Z)
46th. Battalion A.I.F. less 2 Coys.

MAIN GUARD.

O.C.
Brig.-General
ROBERTSON C.M.G.

A Squadron 4th. A.L.H. Regt. (Loss Nos. 1 & 2 Troops).
12th. Aust. M.G. Coy. (Less No. 2 Section).
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade Hqrs.
12th. Field Coy. A.E. (Less No. 2 Section)
2 Companies 46th. Battalion A.I.F.
23rd. Battery A.F.A.
45th. Battalion.
48th. Battalion.
47th. Battalion.
12th. A.L.T. Battery.
12th. F. Amb. Bearer subd.

As Van Guard passes over rising ground on Road at about D.14.c.S.O. it comes under light artillery fire from direction of D.2. and patrols report that Wood in D.8. is held by enemy. BRESLE is unoccupied. On receiving this report A/Gd. Commander decides to clear up this Wood.

Erundellton

Major.

A/Brigade Major.

12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 4th. Aust. Div.
- 5 - 45th. Battn.
- 6 - 46th. "
- 7 - 47th. "
- 8 - 48th. "
- 9 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 10 - 12th. A.L.T. Btty.

- Copy No. 11 - Lt. Col. DENHAL
- 12 - C.O.C.
- 13 - 12th. Fld. Coy.
- 14 - A Squadron L.H.
- 15 - 23rd. A.F.A.
- 16 - Staff Captain

Appendix No 8

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.OPERATION ORDER No. 129.

15th. March 1917.

Reference - ALBERT Combined Sheet 1:40000.
- Attached Sketch.

1. Enemy is holding Wood in D.S. and checking advance. Patrols report BRESLE unoccupied.
2. *Adv Gd* will attack and clear Wood in D.S.
3. (a) Light Horse will operate as follows -
No. 1 Troop to protect our Right Flank and envelop East of Wood.
No. 2 Troop to protect Left Flank, work on West of Wood.
- (b) Infantry Battalions each supported by 1 Section M.G. Coy. will clear Wood attacking through following objectives.
45th. Battalion with No. 1 Section M.G. Coy.
D.S.d.9.6. (inc) to D.S.d.3.9. (inc).
46th. Battalion (Less 2 Coys) with No. 2 Section M.G. Coy. and No. 2 Section A.E.
D.S.d.3.9. (exc) to D.S.d.0.9. (inc).
48th. Battalion with No. 4 Section M.G. Coy.
D.S.d.0.9. (exc) to D.S.c.4.9. (inc).
46th. Battalion (Less 2 Coys) will direct a move on a bearing of 360 .
- (c) 23rd. Btty. A.F.A. will support the attack with fire on Wood.
- (d) 47th. Battalion and No. 3 Section M. G. Coy., 2 Coys. 46th. Battalion, A Squadron L.H. (Less 2 Troops) and 12th. Field Coy. A.E. (Less No. 2 Section) will be in Reserve at *N. 14. d. 3. 3.*
4 Bearer Subdiv 12. F Amb.
4. Hour to be notified later. Date 17th. March 1917.
5. Reports to Brigade Headquarters *N. 14. d. 3. 3.*
6. On completion and when enemy has been routed, rising ground ^{to} North will be held by 46th. Battalion (Less 2 Coys) and L.H. until Main Column has passed through. Advanced Guard will reform and continue advance - 47th. Battalion replacing 46th. Battalion.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Elmundelto Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 4th. Aust. Division
5 - 45th. Battn.
6 - 46th. "
7 - 47th. "
8 - 48th. "
9 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
10 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
11 - Lt. Col. DENHAM
12 - G.O.C.
13 - 12th. Field Coy.

Copy No. 14 - A Squadron L.H.
15 - 23rd. A.F.A.
16 - Staff Captain.
17. *GS. Main body*
18. *12. F Amb*

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.NOTES FOR OPERATIONS.

1. In March Order and dispositions both in Special Idea and Operation Order, the following troops will be imaginary.
 - (1) Artillery
 - (2) Light Horse
 - (3) Engineers
 - (4) 47th. Battalion and 2 Coys. 46th. Battalion.
 - (5) The 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery will not carry out the exercise but will train in Camp Area.
 - (6) As 46th. Battalion is 2 Coys. short, its front has less than that of other Battalions.
2. 48th. Battalion will supply 1 mounted bugler to report to Brigade Major at Zero time on 17th. instant.
3. Attention will be paid to Communication.
Battalions will keep other Units informed as to whereabouts of their Headquarters and notify changes.
4. On the rally being sounded by Staff Bugler, all Units will form up on low ground to West of Wood, in Mass facing North. 45th. Battalion on Right, next 46th. Battalion and then 48th. Battalion. Time will be noted of reorganization and reforming.
5. Crops will be avoided during operations.
6. Section of M. G. Company in Reserve will take up positions in Wood and represent enemy (white bands to be worn on hats).
7. Bayonets will not be fixed by attacking troops.
8. Casualties will be simulated during final stages of attack.
9. Umpires will wear white bands on both arms.

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26

Appendix No 8



From Bazieux →

WOOD

D

To Bresle →

To Bresle →

To Bresle

13

14

Eme. St Laurent

Scale

1 inch = 200 yards

19

20

Amiens - Albert Road

SIGNAL EXERCISE.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE TRAINING ORDER No. 94.

17th. March 1917.

Reference (FRANCE 62d 1:40000.
(Sketch).

1. 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade in conjunction with 13th. Aust. Inf. Brigade on Right and 4th. Aust. Inf. Brigade on Left will attack and take three lines of enemy trenches named Objectives 1, 2 and 3.
2. (a) The 46th. Battalion and 1 Company 48th. Battalion at present holding our front line C.24.b.80.45. (inc) to C.18.d.25.45. will take and hold First Objective trenches from D.19.a.3.7. (inc) to C.18.d.7.7. (inc).
 - (b) 48th. Battalion (less 1 Coy.) at present in support from C.24.central (approx) to C.13.c.50.75. (approx) will take and hold enemy second line (2nd. Objective) from FARME St. LAURENT (inc) to D.13.c.60.95.
 - (c) 45th. Battalion at present in reserve at C.23.central approx will take and hold enemy 3rd. line (3rd. Objective) from + roads at D.14.c.6.8. (inc) to road + at D.13.b.9.5. (inc).

Attacks will be timed to work in conjunction with artillery barrage - Time Table - Appendix I.
Zero time to be notified later.
Battalion Commanders will make all necessary arrangements for supplies etc., etc. 48th. Battalion supplying working parties necessary complete with tools

 - (d) After 3rd enemy line has been taken, Brigades on Right and Left will advance further if situation permits.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade will consolidate and hold 3rd enemy line. For this purpose, 48th. Battalion will send on working parties totalling 200 men with 45th. Battalion for consolidation of front line and improving existing communication trenches and also 100 men to work forward from 2nd Objective.
46th. Battalion will be withdrawn into Reserve near D.13.c.central
 - (e) An advanced telephone exchange has been established at C.24.a.6.4.
Telephone communication to Companies will not be used.
 - (f) On completion of advance, Brigade Headquarters will move to D.13.c.6.3. approx.
 - (g) During operations communication trenches are allotted as follows :-
 - (a) SKITTLE ALLEY by 45th. Battalion.
 - (b) PETTICOAT LANE by 48th. Battalion.
 - (c) RYE SAP by 46th. Battalion.

---(?)---

- 3. All troops to be in advance of our present front line by time artillery barrage reaches 2nd. Objective.
- 4. Reports to Brigade Headquarters at C.23.d.0.5.
- 5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Shunelton

Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No.
- 1 - Office
 - 2 & 3 - War Diary
 - 4 - 4th. Aust. Division.
 - 5 - C.R.A. 4th. Aust. Division.
 - 6 - 45th. Battalion
 - 7 - 46th. Battalion
 - 8 - 48th. Battalion
 - 9 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 - 10 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery
 - 11 - A.D.M.S. 4th. Aust. Division
 - 12 - Staff Captain.
 - 13 - Brigade Sig. Officer
 - 14 - G.O.C. 12th. A.I. Bde.
 - 15 - Brigade Major
 - 16 - 19 - Spare.

APPENDIX I.FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL - ARTILLERY.HEADQUARTERS,
16th March 1917.BARRAGE TIME-TABLE, ETC.Minus 3 minutes to Zero :-

Intense bombardment of first objective by 90 18-prs.
Ditto of second objective by all 4.5 Batteries, and 54 18-prs.
1 Brigade 18-prs. in onfilade of Southern slopes of position.

Zero to Zero plus 9 minutes :-

18-prs. on first objective lift 100 yards every 3 minutes till
on second objective which will now have all 18-prs. - less
one Brigade - on it.
1 Brigade 18-prs. searches back from prolongation of second
objective to ALBERT-AMIENS Road, as far as square D.20.b.

Zero plus 5 minutes :-

4.5's. lift 100 yards every 4 minutes till on third objective at
Zero plus 20.

Zero plus 12 minutes :-

18-prs. of 3 Brigades lift to 3rd objective between square 7
Central and square 14.c.6.8.
Remainder 18-prs. Batteries lift 100 yards every 4 minutes till
on third objective at Zero plus 36.

Zero plus 31 minutes :-

4.5 Hows. lift 400 yards.

Zero plus 41 minutes :-

18-prs. lift to line shown on map.

Zero plus 41 to zero plus 101 :-

Barrage gradually dies down and ceases when Infantry report
consolidation or changes when Infantry report move forward.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.OPERATION ORDER No. 130.

20th March 1917.

Reference - ALBERT Combined Sheet 1:40,000.

1. 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade (less detached Units will move to J Area in relief of Units of 1st. Australian Division.
2. Date - 23rd instant.
Time - Head of column passes starting point at 11 a.m.
Starting Point - N. of MILLENCOURT. *Road 400' N*
Order of March as per margin.
- 45th. Battn.
46th. Battn.
~~47th. Battn.~~
48th. Battn.
12th. M.G. Coy.
12th. A.L.T.M. Bty.
Bde. Hqrs.
Route. - MILLENCOURT - ALBERT - BECOURT - FRICOURT - SHELTER WOOD CAMP (X 22 c.).
3. (a) Normal march discipline will be maintained.
Distances during March -
200 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Transports and Units.
100 yards between Companies.
(b) A halt of 1 hour will be made for lunch at spot to be chosen by Brigade representative near BRICKFIELDS.
Units will form up in half mass.
4. Billets will be cleaned and receipts taken from Town Majors by Units by 9-30 a.m. An Officer from Brigade Headquarters will inspect.
5. Advanced Billeting Parties will report to Staff Captain at FRICOURT CIRCUS at 11 a.m. 23rd. instant.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Shunabelt
Major.
A/Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battn.
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Bty.
10 - 4th. Aust. Division
11 - Div. Supply Column
12 - 26th. A.A.S.C.
13 - A.D.H.S. 4th. Aust. Division
14 - Staff Captain
15 - Bde. Signal Officer

SECRET.

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. ORDER No. 131.OPERATION ORDER No. 131.

26th March 1917.

Reference Map 1:40000.

The 12th Australian Infantry Brigade, less 47th. Battalion and 2 Companies 46th. Battalion, will relieve the 7th. Australian Infantry Brigade on 28th. instant, in accordance with table overleaf.

2. The 12th. Aust. Field Ambulance (less details) and 26th A.A.S.C. Coy. will move with the Brigade.

3. All troops on roads will march in file with 200 yards between Battalions, 100 yards between Companies and 200 yards between transport and troops.

4. Routes will be reconnoitred at once.

5. Brigade Headquarters will close at SHELTER WOOD at 9-0 a.m. and open at M.C.C.1. on arrival there.

6. Acknowledge.

W. H. Allen
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battrn.
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T. Btty.
10 - 12th. Field Ambulance
11 - 26th. A.A.S.C.
12 - 4th. Aust. Division
13 - 7th. Aust. Inf. Brigade
14 - Edo. Signal Section.

T I M E T A B L E .

UNIT	Starting Point	Time	ROUTE	Destination	Remarks
5th. Battn.	Road Junction X.16.d.7.4.	8 A.M.	POZIERES - LE SARS	Tented Camp M.6.c.8.2.	By Duckwalks.
6th. Battn.	"	8-30 A.M.	"	WARLENCOURT - FAUCOURT M.10.c.	Transport to move by ALBERT - BAPAUME Main Road under orders of Brigade Transport Officer, head of transport reach road junction at LA BOISELLE at 10-0 A.M.
12th M.G. Coy.	"	9 A.M.	"	LE SARS Cutting M.16.c.0.2.	"
12th A.L.T.M. By.	"	9-15 a.m.	"	"	"
18th. Battn.	"	9-30 a.m.	CONTALMAISON - BAZENTIN LE PETIT - MARTINPUICH.	FAUCOURT L'ABBAYE AREA	Transport to follow Unit.
12th Fld. Amb.	Road junction at LA BOISELLE X.13.d.0.0.	10-15 a.m.	POZIERES - LE SARS	Tented Camp M.6.c.8.2.	"
26th A.A.S.C.	"	10-25 a.m.	"	"	"
4th. de H.Q.	"	10-35 a.m.	"	M.6.c.6.1.	"

Appendix No 11

99c

SECRET.

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 132.

Headquarters,
31st March 1917.

Reference Map 1:20,000.

1. The following moves will take place :-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
April 1st.	12th. Aus. Inf. Ede. Hqrs. 48th. Battalion Half 46th. Battn.	M.C.C.O. EAUCOURT L'ABEAYE VARLENCOURT	BAPAUME EIEFVILLERS BAPAUME	Billeting Party to report to Staff Captain at 9-0 a.m. at the Town Hall
April 2nd.	45th. Battalion 12th. Fld. Amb. 12th. M.G. Coy. 12th. A.L.T. Btty.	M.C.C.2.) M.C.C.2.) M.C.C.2.) M.C.C.2.)	N. of BAPAUME about I.22.	Camps for these Units will be selected under instructions from the Division and tents will be brought up from M.C.C.2. by Decauville Railway.

2. No traffic on ALBERT - BAPAUME Road before 10 A.M.

3. Acknowledge.

M. M. M.

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 45th. Battn.
- 5 - 46th. "
- 6 - 48th. "
- 7 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 8 - 12th. A.L.T. Btty.

- Copy No. 9 - Ede. Sig. Officer
- 10 - 12th. Field Ambulance.
- 11 - 26th AASC

Appendix No. 11